

RTP Scoring Guide

Objective scores calculated directly from the application

Objective Points
Weighted

Project Classification		20%
New Trail/Greenway Construction	5	20
Trail renovation/relocation to improve sustainability	4	16
Trail/Greenway Facilities (including signage)	3	12
Trail tools/equipment	2	8
Permitting/Design (10% of total project budget maximum)	2	8
Land acquisition for trail development	1	4

Combination: ratio of points based on project*

Does not fall into any of above categories
Project Disqualified

Recreational Trails Program Category/Surface Type		10%
Diverse-use: Natural Surface OR Paddle Trail	5	10
Single-use: Natural Surface	4	8
Diverse-use: Paved Surface	2	4
Single-use: Paved Surface	1	2

Trail Designation/Location		10%
Authorized National Scenic or Historic Trail	5	10
Authorized State Trail	5	10
Designated National Recreation Trail/Water Trail	4	8
Trail located on State or Federal Lands	3	6
All other trails	2	4

Economic Need		5%
Tier 1 County	5	5
Tier 2 County	3	3
Tier 3 County	1	1

Management & Maintenance		10%
Full-time dedicated Parks and Recreation staff OR Organized volunteer group w/ MOU/MOA	5	10
Full-time staff (e.g. - public works or other department staff)	4	8
Part-time/contractual staff	3	6
Organized volunteer group	2	4
Other	1	2
No management or maintenance agreement	0	0

Trail Location		10%
Public Land - Fee Simple	5	10
Public Land - Easement in Perpetuity	4	8
Private Land w/ Public Use Rights	3	6
Private Land - Potential for Acquisition	2	4
No public use agreement in force/No documentation of public use rights		Project Disqualified
Public use not permitted or agreement for less than 10 years		Project Disqualified

Trail Connectivity		10%
Provides a new connection to OR is an existing connection to a National or State Authorized Trail*	5	10
Connects Existing Trail(s)	4	8
Extension (extends an existing trail)	3	6
Addition to Trail Network (user specific system)	3	6
Park/School/Community Trail	3	6
Stand-alone Trail	1	2

Trail Design Standard		10%
Trail design is completed to IMBA, USFS, AASHTO, or NOHVCC or combination of these standards	5	10
Trail design will be planned to IMBA, USFS, AASHTO, or NOHVCC or combination of these standards	4	8
Other published design standard	3	6
No published design standard followed	0	0

Public Support		10%
Documented public support by multiple trail user groups	5	10
Documented public support	4	8
No public support/No public support documentation	0	0

ADA Compliance/Accommodations		5%
Trail project is fully ADA accessible and compliant	5	5
Trail project is partially ADA accessible/compliant where feasible	3	3
Trail has no ADA accessible features or is not compliant	0	0

Subjective Scale
suggested factors to meet these scores on the Definitions and Guidelines sheet

5	Exceptional
4	Great
3	Good
2	Fair
1	Low
0	Not Allowable/Disqualified

Definitions and Guidance	
Project Classification	
New Trail: new trail concept and design that provides a new connection, destination, or purpose.	
Trail Renovation/Relocation: trail project that improves an existing trail or relocates the tread to a more sustainable design	
Trail/Greenway Facilities: trailhead development, stand-alone trail structures (i.e. - bridge), parking, signage, etc.	
Trail Tools/Trail Equipment: tools specifically used for trail development and/or maintenance, trail equipment purchased or rented specifically for trail development and/or maintenance	
Permitting/Planning/Design: fees associated with professional trail planning services, project design, or permitting fees pertaining to RTP project request. Applicant is limited to 10% of their total requested RTP funds for permitting, planning, and design fees. Must be part of a combination project.	
Combination scoring: applicants should select the classification descriptor that matches the primary objective for their project for the pre-application. For the final application, this ratio will automatically score based off their budget item classifications.	
Recreational Trails Program Category/Surface Type	
<i>Applicant should select the option that best matches the specifics of the project they are seeking RTP funds for. For special scenarios like bridges or land acquisition, applicant should select the option that best matches the overall existing trail character or trail to be constructed. For tools or equipment, applicant should select the option that best matches the trail(s) the equipment will primarily serve.</i>	
Trail Designation	
Authorized National Scenic or Historic Trails (located within NC): Appalachian Trail, Overmountain Victory Trail, Trail of Tears NH Trail (designated section or authorized under managing agency's trail master plan)	
Authorized State Trail: Mountains-to-Sea Trail, Fonta Flora State Trail, Hickory Nut Gorge State Trail, Yadkin River State Trail, Deep River State Trail, French Broad River State Trail (designated section or authorized under managing agency's trail master plan)	
Designated National Recreation Trail/Water Trail: one of the 27 currently designated trails in the NRT database (American Trails)	NRT Database
Trail located on State or Federal Lands: project located on lands managed by State or Federal agencies	
All other trails: any trail that does not fall into the above categories	
Economic Need	
Economic need: determined by NC Dept. of Commerce's annual county distress rankings. Applicant should select county in which the greatest majority of their project to be RTP funded lies.	2019 County Distress Rankings

Management & Maintenance	
<i>Applicant should submit documentation of management and maintenance commitments to receive applicable points.</i>	
Full-time dedicated Parks and Recreation staff OR Organized volunteer group w/ MOU/MOA: trail project area will be maintained and managed by a full-time parks and recreation staff, where parks and recreation is the maintaining department's primary function. Alternately, the trail will be maintained by an organized and dedicated volunteer organization with a long-term written agreement in accordance with the managing agency.	
Full-time staff (e.g. - public works or other department staff): trail project area will be maintained by a department whose primary function is something other than parks and recreation (e.g. public works, fire department, etc.)	
Organized Volunteer Group: trail will be maintained by a volunteer group who has committed to maintain the project area but does not have a written agreement in force between the organization and land managing agency.	
Varying or Sporadic Volunteer Assignments: trail will be maintained through various volunteer groups, with no primary sponsor or written agreement between the land managing agency and volunteer organizations.	
No management or maintenance agreement: no management/maintenance agreement or plans, or no documentation provided.	
Trail Location	
<i>Applicant should submit documentation of ownership or public access rights to receive applicable points. Public use rights should be guaranteed for a minimum of 10 years to be a qualifying project.</i>	
Trail Connectivity	
Provides a new connection to or is an existing connection to a National or State Authorized Trail*: refers to National Scenic, National Historic, or State authorized trails only. Must be a direct connection to the trail.	*trail project connects
Connects Existing Trail(s): project's objective is to connect existing trail segments or provide critical trail linkage (e.g. - bridge crossing)	
Extension: lengthens existing trail(s)	
Addition to Trail Network (user specific): project lengthens or improves facilities on trail system built for a specific user group (e.g. - MTB system, bridle trail network, paddle trail facilities)	
Connects Parks/Schools/Community Assets: Trail's primary function is to link schools/community assets/park amenities/recreation facilities	
Stand-alone Trail: trail does not connect to other trails or community assets	
Trail Design Standard	
Trail design is <u>completed</u> to IMBA, USFS, AASHTO, NOHVCC, River Management Society Standards or combination of these: project design is completed, with alignment marked in the field.	
Trail design <u>will</u> be planned to IMBA, USFS, AASHTO, NOHVCC, River Management Society Standards or combination of these: project design is not yet completed but will be completed to these published standards.	
Other published design standard: project will be planned to or is planned to a different published design standard	
Public Support	
<i>Applicant must submit documentation to receive points in this section on agency letterhead.</i>	

Governing Body Approval	
<p><i>Applicant must provide documentation of its governing body's support, and that of the managing land agency if different from the applicant. Project should be fully approved by both agencies (e.g. - PRAF completed for State Park projects. This is a qualifying requirement for projects and not objectively scored.</i></p>	
Subjective Scoring Examples	
<p>Exceptional - 5</p>	<p>Exemplary project that may meet a high recreation demand or fulfill a critical gap in trail infrastructure. Project is highly sustainable with no/minimal environmental impacts, is shovel-ready (including permitting), and has a precise and finalized budget. Application clearly and concisely imparts project scope and objectives, with pertinent and well-organized attachments. Has documented approval by governing bodies and diverse support among user groups.</p>
<p>Great - 4</p>	<p>Outstanding project that might resolve a recreation need, represent an underrepresented user-group, area, or socioeconomic group. Project is shovel-ready, is aware of all permitting requirements but may not have them all fully in hand. Has well-developed budget with firm understanding of all project costs. Application is well-written with all necessary attachments. Has well-documented support.</p>
<p>Good - 3</p>	<p>Reasonable trail project with realistic goals and obtainable deliverables. Applicant is aware of all permitting requirements and has means to fulfill their due diligence. Public support is present but may not be widespread among other user groups. Project is shovel-ready or easily implemented. Project is sustainably designed and poses minimal impacts to the environment.</p>

Fair - 2	Project is close to implementation but may be too vague or have unrealistic expectations or unrealized obligations. Project may not have a finalized design or layout. May have some sustainability concerns. Application may be missing details, or attachments may not fully support or describe intended project plan.
Low - 1	Project is allowable under FHWA rules but is not planned well. May have significant sustainability concerns. Application and/or attachments may lack or have insufficient information to adequately impart project. May not have stable land use agreements or governing body approval.
Not Allowable/Disqualified - 0	Project is not allowable under FHWA rules, state RTP guidelines, and/or is wholly unsustainable.