



December 16, 2024

Regarding: Notice of Funding Opportunity: Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program

Dear Potential Grant Applicants,

On behalf of the Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, I am pleased to announce a new funding opportunity, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP). This grant program is funded through the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. The ORLP Grant was created in 2014 as a complement to the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant program. The national competitive ORLP program provides matching grants to cities for park projects in underserved communities. These investments enable urban communities to create new outdoor recreation spaces, reinvigorate existing parks, and form connections between people and outdoors.

For the years of 2025 thru 2029, the National Park Service (NPS) has issued a five-year recurring Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the ORLP Grant. These five years of ORLP grants will be based on funds made available by Congress in the current and future fiscal years. Unused funds from prior years, if available and subject to Congressional action, may provide additional funds to the overall available amount. Each year, the total anticipated number of recommended projects nationwide are 25-40 projects. NPS will be accepting application for the ORLP grant twice a year. Please be advised that the NPS anticipates a minimum of a three-month review process before a project is recommended for funding. To remain eligible for funding, selected projects must submit a full ORLP application to the NPS for final review within one year of the project award announcement. Upon NPS's final review and approval of the full application, the project will be awarded funds. Eligible applicants include state agencies and local governments such as cities, counties, and special purpose districts, such as park districts, located within a community having a population of 25,000 or more in the 2020 Census and located within a community that is determined to be underserved.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks has been designated the lead funding agency in Missouri. The department is currently accepting ORLP project applications. The maximum funding amount that a project can request is \$15 million, with a minimum funding request of \$300,000. **Project applications must be submitted to the Division of Missouri State Parks by March 25th and August 19th of each year.** If a project is selected for funding, the Grants Management Staff will work with the applicant to compile and complete an ORLP application. The department will submit the application on the applicant's behalf to the National Park Service.

For submission of a project application, please review the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). For your convenience, an application checklist has been provided (also attached) to ensure that you submit the required information. Everything in the notice of funding opportunity needs to be completed, except the letter of recommendation from the State Liaison Officer (if selected we will provide this documentation). Applications will be scored using the criteria outlined in the Application Review Information Section starting on page 18 of the NPS NOFO.

Application questions and application should be submitted to mispgrants@dnr.mo.gov.

For your awareness, if the application is larger than 8 MB, please send an email to mispgrants@dnr.mo.gov requesting a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) link. If the applicant has a server that is able to share files, please email mispgrants@dnr.mo.gov for awareness that a ORLP application is being submitted and who the application is coming from.

Applicants are encouraged to refer to the existing 2018-2022 Missouri's Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plan for guidance. A revised version of the SCORP will be available in late 2025. The 2018-2022 SCORP and can be located at : https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/2018-2022%20Show%20Me%20the%20Great%20Outdoors_SCORP_Final.pdf.

The City Parks Alliance hosted an ORLP informational webinar which can be viewed using the following link: <https://cityparksalliance.org/event/urban-park-grant-opportunity-orlp-technical-assistance-nov-2024/>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you!

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