

Financial & Technical Resources

Compiled by the National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program, Vermont Field Office.
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Connecticut River Partnership Program Grants of \$500 to \$5,000 to support innovative, community-generated projects that address the Connecticut River Valley's economic and conservation challenges in ways that are compatible with its historic, scenic and natural resources. Applications are due early spring. Contact: *Connecticut River Joint Commissions, P.O. Box 1182, Charlestown, NH 03603 Tel: 603-826-4800 or visit their web site @:* <http://www.crjc.org>

Patagonia's Conservation Alliance Grants A group of 62 outdoor businesses who donate 100% of their membership dues to support grants to grassroots groups for direct citizen action to protect and enhance our natural resources for recreation. Web Site: www.conservationalliance.com/grantcriteria Grant questions should be directed to: *Lisa Pike, 259 W. Santa Clara St., Ventura, CA 93001 E-mail: lisa_pike@patagonia.com*

Jobs and Training Youth Employment Program Youth 14-21 years' old may be employed to work a limited number of hours per week (up to 40 hours/week in the summer) in recreation programs as activity leaders, maintenance or clerical staff, etc. JTPA funds may pay up to 100% of student training stipends. For more details go to web address www.det.state.vt.us. Contact: Your local Department of Employment & Training Office.

Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) This federal program may be available to train economically disadvantaged individuals in recreation-related occupational areas. Specifically designed summer youth programs are available as well as year-round programs for both youth and adults. Youth are defined as those who are 14-21 years of age. All or part of their training stipends or wages may be paid with JTPA funds. Contact: (for summer programs) your local Department of Employment and Training Office, local high school guidance offices/Summer Youth Employment Program Representatives, or the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. Contact: http://www.thinkvermont.com/workforce/fed_job.cfm

Lake Champlain Basin Program Local Implementation Grants

Grants support local community involvement in the implementation of the comprehensive management plan, *Opportunities for Action: An Evolving Plan for the Future of the Lake Champlain Basin*. Three grant categories are offered: Organizational Support Grants (to build organizational capacity for watershed groups, up to \$5,000); Partnership Grants (for smaller projects emphasizing community partnerships, up to \$5,000); Annual Priorities Grants (for larger projects addressing implementation priorities, up to \$10,000). April deadline. LCBP, PO Box 204, 54 West Shore Road, Grand Isle, VT 05458 Tel: 800-468-LCBP Web Site: <http://www.lcbp.org/grants.htm>

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation Grants Historic Preservation grants are available to assist municipalities and non-profit organizations in restoring important historic buildings; and Certified Local Government matching grants are available for local preservation projects. Contact: *Eric Gilbertson, Division for Historic Preservation, National Life Building, Drawer 20, Montpelier, VT 05620-0501, telephone: 802/828-3043 Or visit their web site @:* <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/dhp/financial>

New England Grassroots Environment Fund Small grants of \$500 to \$2,500 are available to both non-profit and ad hoc groups to increase engagement and participation in grassroots environmental initiatives and to build and connect healthy sustainable communities in New England (including communication needs, capacity building, advocacy campaigns, conferences).

Jan 15/May 1/Sept 15 deadlines. *Contact: NEGEF, PO Box 1057, Montpelier, VT 05601; Tel: 802-223-4622 Web Sites: www.grassrootsfund.org info@grassrootsfund.org*

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Provides technical support to community improvement projects through technical and financial resource coordination. In Northern Vermont, Contact - Executive Director, Northern Vermont RC&D, 617 Comstock Road, Suite 2, Berlin, VT 05602-8927, Tel: (802) 828-4595; FAX (802) 223-6163; E-mail: beth_ann.finlay@vt.usda.gov In Southern Vermont, Contact: Executive Director, George D. Aiken RC&D, 22 Main Street, Suite 2, Randolph, VT 05060, telephone: (802) 728-9526; FAX (802) 728-5951.

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) RSVP is part of Senior Corps, a network of national service programs that provides older Americans the opportunity to apply their life experience to meeting community needs. To learn more how you can tap into a pool of committed volunteers willing to offer their business and professional skills in a diverse range of non-profit organizations, public agencies, and faith-based groups, *contact your local Office on Aging or visit their web site @: <http://www.seniorcorps.org/joining/rsvp>*

Surplus Property State and local public recreation agencies are eligible to receive federal and state surplus supplies and equipment. *Contact: Central Surplus Property Agency, 50 Packard Rd., Suite 2, East Montpelier, VT 05651 Tel: (802) 828-3394 Or web site: <http://www.bgs.state.vt.us/gsc/surplus/index>.*

US Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants The Vermont Department of Education conducts grant competitions for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCSC) program seeking to enhance students' academic achievement and to foster lifelong interests in the arts, recreation and other areas through high-quality, out-of-school learning opportunities. Grant amounts: \$50,000 - \$250,000. *Contact: Ed Hagggett, Vermont Department of Education, 120 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2501; Tel: 828-5400 or visit the web site @: <http://www.state.vt.us/educ/new/html>*

The Department of Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs New Directions Grants

Grant Amounts: \$5,000 - 40,000 to support coalitions as they initiate or enhance alcohol and other drug abuse prevention efforts in their community. *Contact: Melissa Liebig, New Directions Coordinator, 108 Cherry Street, P.O. Box 70, Burlington, VT 05402-0070; Tel: 802/786-5979 or visit <http://www.state.vt.us/adap>*

Chittenden Bank Community Fund Chittenden Bank Community Fund directly supports programs and projects which encourage and demonstrate private and public sectors working together to solve problems and initiate positive change. Contact: Cynthia Gubb @ 802/660-1367 or Tracie Adrian @ 802/258-4069

Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTRANS):

Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

The VT Agency of Transportation (VTrans) works with the states, 11 regional planning commissions and the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization each year to identify bicycle and pedestrian facility projects (multi-use

paths, sidewalks, and rail-trails) that can be funded through the Local Transportation Facilities Program. A 10% local match is required. Early April deadline. Projects must have completed a conceptual alignment analysis or equivalent feasibility study. Contact: Amy Bell, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, or Jon Kaplan, Asst. Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator, VTrans, National Life Building, Drawer 33, Montpelier, VT 05633-5001, telephone: (802) 828-5799 or (802) 828-0059. Web site: www.aot.state.vt.us/projdev/sections/ltf/ltf.htm
Email: amy.bell@state.vt.us or jon.kaplan@state.vt.us

Enhancements Program

Funding is available for transportation enhancements including: provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites, scenic or historic highways programs, landscaping and other scenic beautification, historic preservation, rehabilitation and operation of historic structures or facilities, preservation of abandoned railway corridors and conversion to bicycle trails, control and removal of outdoor advertising archeological planning and research, mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff, reduction of vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining wildlife habitat connectivity, tourist and welcome centers, and transportation museums, safety and education for pedestrians and bicyclists. Coordination with your Regional Planning Agency is strongly encouraged. September letter of intent. November Deadline. Contact: Sandy Aja at the VT Agency of Transportation, National Life Building, Drawer 33, Montpelier, VT 05633-5001, telephone: 828-2544. Web site: www.aot.state.vt.us/projdev/sections/LTF/Enhancements

Public Lands Highways

Funding for projects that are on, adjacent to, or providing access to federal public lands (e.g. Green Mountain National Forest, Army Corps, National Park Service). In Vermont, PLH funding has been used for the West River Trail, protection of scenic properties along highways, and visitor improvements at Quechee Gorge. April application deadline. Contact Scott Fortney at 802-828-0057, Scott.Fortney@state.vt.us (VT Agency of Transportation, National Life Building, Drawer 33, Montpelier, VT 05633)

Scenic Byways Program

For projects including acquisition, development and planning along designated scenic byways. May application deadline. Contact Scenic Byway Coordinator Warren Vail, 802-828-0451, warren.vail@state.vt.us (VT Agency of Transportation, National Life Building, Drawer 33, Montpelier, VT 05633)

Vermont Council on the Arts Funds are available through the Council's Grant programs and initiatives for the creation, presentation, and development of cultural arts programming (dance, music, theater, literature, visual arts, etc.). Grant amounts vary but all require at least a 50/50 match. Contact: Heather Pipino, Grants Manager, Vermont Council on the Arts, 136 State Street, Drawer 33, Montpelier, VT 05633-6001, telephone: (802) 828-5425, email at Info@vermontartscouncil.org, and web site at www.vermontartscouncil.org.

The Windham Foundation

Grants are available to support projects that assure the preservation of the rural nature of Vermont, educational activities, other cultural and community projects. Request an application form via phone, mail, fax, or e-mail by contacting: Tuula Ingerson, Grants Administrator; Tel:

802/843-2211 FAX: 802/843-2205; E-Mail: winfound@sover.net Web site:
<http://www.windham-foundation.org>

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR):

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) The LWCF program helps to create and develop high quality recreation areas and facilities and contributes to the protection of outdoor recreation resources. It is a reimbursement grant program that provides for land acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. A minimum of 50% local match is required. Funds are available to municipalities and governmental entities. Contact: Sherry Smecker, Grants Administrator, or Rebecca Brown, Grants Program Assistant, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, 103 South Main Street - 10 South, Waterbury, VT 05671-0601, telephone: (802) 241-3690 or (802) 241-3653. Email: sherry.smecker@anr.state.vt.us or rebecca.brown@anr.state.vt.us. Website: www.state.vt.us/anr/fpr/recreation.

Vermont Recreation Trails Grants

The Recreation Trails Grant Program helps to create and maintain trails and greenways in Vermont and provides up to 80% of the cost of acquisition, development, and maintenance of recreation trails. Funds are available to municipalities and nonprofit organizations. Applications due by 4:30 PM on Friday, January 31, 2004. Contact: Sherry Smecker, Grants Administrator, or Rebecca Brown, Grants Program Assistant, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, 103 South Main Street - 10 South, Waterbury, VT 05671-0601, telephone: (802) 241-3690 or (802) 241-3653. Email: sherry.smecker@anr.state.vt.us or rebecca.brown@anr.state.vt.us. Website: www.state.vt.us/anr/fpr/recreation.

Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program

The U&CF program provides a variety of technical assistance for communities, including trainings/workshops, educational publications, onsite assistance from regional staff, and a quarterly newsletter, the Town Green. Additionally, the program offers a competitive cost-share grant program, "Trees for Local Communities", designed to encourage citizen involvement in creating and supporting long-term and sustainable urban and community forestry programs. For 2005, up to \$60,000 will be available to local governments, community tree volunteer groups, educational institutions, civic groups, or approved nonprofit organizations. The maximum funding for proposals are \$4,000 for Community Planning/Education, Tree Planting and Maintenance grants and \$200 for mini grants. For more information, contact Danielle Fitzko at 802/241-3673 or www.vtcommunityforestry.org

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) VHCB makes grants and loans for the purchase of conservation easements or land to provide public access to trails, water, or greenways, to conserve agricultural land and natural areas, to protect archaeological sites, to acquire historic sites for public use, or for the development of affordable housing. Funding is also available for associated project costs such as appraisals, options, closing costs, or other predevelopment costs. Eligible applicants include municipalities, nonprofit housing and conservation organizations and certain state agencies. Contact: Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, 149 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602, telephone: (802) 828-3250. Their web site, with information on application deadlines and policies, is www.vhcb.org

Vermont Student Employment Financial assistance (up to 50% for a maximum of \$1000 per student) is available to employers to hire college students in municipal recreation departments. Contact: Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, Champlain Mill, P.O. Box 2000, Winooski, VT 05404-2601, telephone: (802) 655-9602, ext. 202, or 1-800-642-3177, and web site at www.vsac.org

Vermont Watershed Grants Funded by sales of Vermont's Conservation License Plates, mini-grants of \$200-\$1,000 and larger grants of \$1,000- \$5,000 are available for a wide range of water-related projects, including developing or enhancing recreational use and enjoyment. Late October deadline. *Contact Vermont Watershed Grants at 802-241-3777 (VT Agency of Natural Resources, Water Quality Division, Building 10 North, 103 South Main St, Waterbury, VT 05671-0408), or visit their web site @: <http://www.vtwaterquality.org/grants.htm>*

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps VYCC crews complete work on public lands, waters, or buildings or on projects that have a clear value to the local community. Since 1985 VYCC, a non-profit organization, has coordinated trail crew work with VT youths in a variety of conservation projects including trail building and wildlife habitat enhancement projects. VYCC provides crew leaders, transportation, trail tools, and crews of 10-12 members, ages 16 - 24 to assist communities with conservation projects. Communities can apply to VYCC for a crew for their project. *Contact: Brian Cotterill, VYCC, 92 So. Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05676 Tel:802/241-4452 E-Mail: brian@vycc.org or visit their web site @ <http://www.vycc.org>*

Other Assistance

Vermont Recreation & Park Association: The VRPA is an organization of professionals and volunteers who work to improve and expand recreation and park services in Vermont. It has many services and programs that will be helpful to people working on park and recreation projects including over 500 resource sheets and manuals, a quarterly newsletter, meetings, educational programs, and a weekly "Recreation Check In" list serve. It also provides Challenge Grants to help communities develop and improve their recreation programs. The grants are typically \$500 and applications are due in February. Applicants must be members of VRPA. Contact: Betsy Orselet 802/878-2077. Email: orselet@adelphia.net.

Foundations and other resources

In addition to state and federal agencies there are many foundations, some located in Vermont, and some located outside of Vermont, that might make grants to appropriate outdoor recreation projects. Other than land protection, parks and recreation are generally not high on the list for funding and often foundations do not give to governmental agencies. It is important with any foundation prospecting to call ahead to discuss your project and request specific guidelines, and to focus on specific project needs that best fit the goals of the foundation's giving program!

To explore grants in Vermont, a great place to start is the **Vermont Directory of Foundations** (\$45, published by CPG Enterprises). The Directory covers foundations incorporated in Vermont as well as those outside of Vermont making regular Vermont contributions, and is the only publication specifically designed for VT grantseekers. You may also be able to borrow a copy from a non-profit organization, regional planning commission, or your local library. To purchase a copy, contact *CPG Enterprises*, 283 Union St., #1, Burlington, VT 05401; Telephone: 802-862-0327 Web site: www.cpgfundraising.org

Another good resource is the Vermont State Library, State Street, Montpelier. This is the most complete development library publicly available in the state, and is affiliated with the national Foundation Center. In addition to printed resources, the library now has the Foundation Center CD-ROM listing of all foundations in the United States.

The Foundation Center (www.fdncenter.org) is a national information center on corporate and private foundations, community foundations, and grantmaking public charities. They publish The Foundation Directory, a national reference with detailed descriptions and giving histories that you can find at most libraries. You can also subscribe to it online at the Foundation Center's website.

You can also check the Environmental Grantmaker's Association Directory. Web site: www.ega.org, Telephone: 212-373-4260.

Vermont Community Foundation (VCF) This is the one foundation you should check out from the beginning. VCF is a public charity providing a number of grants to projects ranging from \$1,000 - \$10,000 that make a significant difference to the state and address a clear community need in the areas of environment, public affairs, community development, social services, education or the arts. April 1 and October 1 deadlines. Contact Betsy Benton at the Vermont Community Foundation, Three Court Street, P.O. Box 30, Middlebury, VT 05753, telephone: 802/388-3355. Check out VCF's Guide for Grantmakers on their web site at: www.vermontcf.org

Federal Funding Opportunities Sources of federal financial and technical assistance are compiled in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (www.gsa.gov/fdac). The Catalog is available at depository libraries nationwide or contact the Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Staff, General Services Administration, 300 7th St. S.W., Washington, D.C., 20407, Telephone 1-800-669-833.

The National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program has information on funding sources at their web site, www.nps.gov/rtca.

EPA hosts an online guide to Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection at www.epa.gov/watershedfunding.