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# Appendix D: Funding Sources

Some Federal programs offer financial aid for projects that aim to improve community infrastructure, transportation, housing and recreation. Some of the Federal programs that could be used to support the development of Rolesville open space and greenways include:

## The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA)

The primary source of federal funding for greenways is through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). This money is targeted at greenway projects that serve a transportation purpose, and is administered through the state Department of Transportation. All funded projects must meet certain design standards set forth by the state, which may add to the cost of the project. Therefore, this funding source should be investigated carefully before an application is completed. There are many sections of the Act that support the development of bicycle and pedestrian transportation corridors. Those sections that may be of particular interest to Rolesville include:

## Section 1302: Symms National Recreational Trails Fund Act (NRTFA)

A component of ISTEA, the NRTFA is a funding source that assists with the development of non-motorized and motorized trails. The Act uses Highway Trust Fund fees from non-highway recreation fuel used by off-road vehicles and camping equipment. States can grant funds to private and public sector organizations. NRTFA projects are 80 percent federally funded; grant recipients must provide a 20 percent match. Projects funded must be consistent with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

## Surface Transportation Program (STP) Funds

These funds can be used for bicycle and pedestrian facility construction or non-construction projects such as brochures, public service announcements, and route maps related to bicycle safety. The projects must involve bicycle and pedestrian transportation and must be part of the Long Range Transportation Plan.

## Federal Government Funding Sources

### •STP Transportation Enhancements Program

Ten percent of North Carolina's annual STP funds are available for transportation enhancements, which include projects such as scenic byways, historic transportation preservation, landscaping and the development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. These funds are available to all cities and counties in the state. There are several key requirements that projects must meet in order to receive these funds. Contact the State Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for more information.

### Community Development Block Grant Program

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) offers financial grants to communities for neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improvements to community facilities and services, especially in low and moderate-income areas. Several communities have used HUD funds to develop greenways, including the Boscobel Heights' "Safe Walk" Greenway in Nashville, TN.

### Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants

This Federal funding source was established in 1965 to provide "close-to-home" parks and recreation opportunities to residents throughout the United States. Money for the fund comes from the sale or lease of nonrenewable resources, primarily federal offshore oil and gas leases along with surplus federal land sales. LWCF grants can be used by communities to build a variety of park and recreation facilities, including trails and greenways.

LWCF funds are distributed by the National Park Service to the states annually. Communities must match LWCF grants with 50 percent of the local project costs through in-kind services or cash. All projects funded by LWCF grants must be used exclusively for recreation purposes, in perpetuity.

### Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention (Small Watersheds) Grants

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides funding to state and local agencies or nonprofit organizations authorized to carry out, maintain and operate watershed improvements involving less than 250,000 acres. The NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to eligible projects to improve watershed protection, flood prevention, sedimentation control, public water-based fish and wildlife enhancements and recreation planning. The NRCS requires a 50 percent local match for public recreation, and fish and wildlife projects.

### Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program

The USDA provides small grants of up to \$10,000 to communities for the purchase of trees to plant along city streets, greenways and parks. To qualify for this program, a community must pledge to develop a street-tree

inventory; a municipal tree ordinance; a tree commission, committee or department; and an urban forestry-management plan.

### **Small Business Tree Planting Program**

The Small Business Administration provides small grants of up to \$10,000 to purchase trees for planting along streets and within parks or greenways. Grants are used to develop contracts with local businesses for the planting.

### **Design Arts Program**

The National Endowment for the Arts provides grants to states and local agencies, individuals and nonprofit organizations for projects that incorporate urban design, historic preservation, planning, architecture, landscape architecture and other community improvement activities, including greenway development. Grants to organizations and agencies must be matched by a 50 percent local contribution. Agencies can receive up to \$50,000.

### **North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)**

NCDOT is the state agency that administers federal funding from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991. Along with the federal requirements for this money, NCDOT has application policies and procedures. Contact the state Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for more details.

### **North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation**

The state Division of Parks and Recreation currently offers limited funding for greenway projects. The Adopt-a-Trail program provides funding (approximately \$135,000 annually) to trail projects, with priority given to volunteer groups. There is also a state trails program that offers technical assistance in the planning, design and maintenance of trails.

### **North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission**

The Commission, through small grants, annually funds projects that increase wildlife habitat or improve public access and education related to wildlife. This money can be used for interpretive signage on local wildlife habitat along greenways.

### **North Carolina Department of Corrections**

Low security prison labor can be used to construct and maintain greenways. Amenities such as picnic tables, signs and benches can be constructed using prison labor. An example of where this has been successful is in Guilford County, where prisoners regularly maintain the Bicentennial Greenway.

## **State Funding Sources**

## Local Funding Sources

### North Carolina Division of Water Resources

Greenway projects involving stream restoration or recreation can receive money from the Water Resources Development Grant Program, administered by the Division of Water Resources.

- **PL 566—Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act**

Local communities can receive funding for greenway projects that incorporate flood prevention and watershed protection through this Act.

### Local Private-Sector Funding

Local industries and private businesses may agree to provide support for development of Rolesville open space and greenways through:

- donations of cash to a specific greenway segment or open space parcel;
- donations of services by large corporations to reduce the cost of greenway implementation, including equipment and labor to construct and install elements of greenways;
- reductions in the cost of materials purchased from local businesses which support open space preservation/ greenway implementation and can supply essential products for facility development.

One example of a successful endeavor of this type is the Swift Creek Recycled Greenway in Cary, NC. A total of \$40,000 in donated construction materials and labor made this trail an award-winning demonstration project. This method of raising funds requires a great deal of staff coordination. (Note: Some materials used in the “recycled trail” were considered waste materials by local industries!)

### Greenway Sponsors

A sponsorship program for greenway amenities allows for smaller donations to be received both from individuals and businesses. The program must be well planned and organized, with design standards and associated costs established for each amenity. Project elements which may be funded can include wayside exhibits, benches, trash receptacles, entry signage, and picnic areas.

### Volunteer Work

Community volunteers may help construct open space or greenway facilities, as well as conduct fund-raisers. Individual volunteers can be recruited, as well as those from local organizations such as church groups, civic groups, scout troops, and environmental groups.

A case in point is Cheyenne, Wyoming’s volunteer greenway program. The

Greater Cheyenne Greenway has motivated an impressive amount of community support and volunteer work. The program had to insist that volunteers wait to begin landscaping the trail until construction is completed. A manual for greenway volunteers was developed in 1994 to guide and regulate volunteer work. The manual includes a description of appropriate volunteer efforts, request forms, waiver and release forms, and a completion form (that asks volunteers to summarize their accomplishments). Written guidelines are also provided for volunteer work in 100-year floodplains.

To better organize volunteer activity, Cheyenne developed an “Adopt-a-Spot” program. Participants who adopt a segment of trail are responsible for periodic trash pickup, but can also install landscaping, prune trail-side vegetation, develop wildlife enhancement projects, and install site amenities. All improvements must be consistent with the Greenway Development Plan and must be approved by the local Greenway Coordinator. Adopt-a-Spot volunteers are allowed to display their names on a small sign along the adopted section of greenway.

### “Buy-a-Foot” Programs

“Buy-a-Foot” programs have been successful in raising funds and awareness for trail and greenway projects within North Carolina. Under local initiatives, citizens are encouraged to purchase one linear foot of the greenway by donating the cost of construction. An excellent example of a successful endeavor is the High Point Greenway “Buy-a-Foot” campaign, in which linear greenway “feet” were sold at a cost of \$25/foot. Those who donated were given a greenway T-shirt and a certificate. This project provided over \$5,000 in funds.

Many communities have solicited funding from a variety of private foundations and other conservation-minded benefactors.

### Walking Magazine Trail Restoration Fund

Walking Magazine, hoping to encourage more volunteer efforts among trail users, established this fund for the restoration of urban, suburban or rural walking trails. The magazine provides small grants, generally from \$200 to \$500, to help walking clubs and other groups purchase trail maintenance equipment or supplies.

### Coors Pure Water 2000 Grants

Coors Brewing Company and its affiliated distributors provide funding and in-kind services to grassroots organizations that are working to solve local, regional and national water-related problems. Coors provides grants, ranging from a few hundred dollars to \$50,000, for projects such as river cleanups, aquatic habitat improvements, water quality monitoring, wetlands protection, pollution prevention, water education efforts, groundwater protection, water conservation and fisheries.

## Private Foundations and Corporations

## World Wildlife Fund Innovative Grants Program

This organization awards small grants to local, regional and statewide nonprofit organizations to help implement innovative strategies for the conservation of natural resources. Grants are offered to support projects which:

1. Conserve wetlands;
2. Protect endangered species;
3. Preserve migratory birds;
4. Conserve coastal resources; and
5. Establish and sustain protected natural areas.

Innovation grants can help pay for the administrative costs for projects including planning, technical assistance, legal and other costs to facilitate the acquisition of critical lands; retaining consultants and other experts; and preparing visual presentations and brochures or other conservation activities. The maximum award for a single grant is \$10,000.