

**2020 Public Parks and Recreation Grant Cycle**  
**Virtual Application Workshop**  
**Questions and Answers Follow-up**

Please note, the questions below were submitted to [Rec.Services@tn.gov](mailto:Rec.Services@tn.gov) after the virtual workshop and by the September 10, 2020 deadline to be included in this reference document. Questions that addressed specific projects have been excluded from the content and/or have been reworded to be generalized in format.

- Can the requirement for a "Parks & Recreation Systemwide Master Plan" that was created or updated in the last 5 years, be met by an NPS General Management Plan or otherwise?
  - An NPS General Management Plan would meet the content requirements for the Parks and Recreation Systemwide master plan as it involves public input and as long as it meets the creation or updating requirement of less than 5 years and includes the application project scope.
- Can Federal funds be matched with other federal funds? Not asking if we can use other fed funds as the grant match. Asking if we can use the matched & awarded federal funds as part of our match to the site's federal funds.
  - If NPS were to be the lead applicant, and the project was selected for award utilizing RTP funds, 5% of the total project cost would be required to be a non-federal source. If the 501c3 organization was the lead applicant, NPS would be required to be a partner, but the 5% requirement would not be there as the expenses for the project and reimbursement would be to and by the 501c3.
- If a site is currently under construction by building the amenities, would it qualify for funding? Can you provide additional information on what qualifies as a trail head or trail side amenity for RTP funds?
  - If a site is currently under development, the current development would not be applicable for any grant reimbursement as expenditures would have occurred prior to a grant contract if the project was selected for award. A site would need to be in close proximity to the trail and contain trail head or trail side amenities to meet RTP funding requirements. Trail head and trail side facilities are generally limited to parking and restroom facilities to meet RTP requirements.
- Can an organization have 2 primary contacts?
  - From TDEC Grants- Organizations can only have 1 primary contact

- As far as public input - would that be site-specific for the scope of this grant?
  - The Public and Civic Group Meetings are conducted specifically for the application project scope.
  
- Are parking lots for trailheads an eligible project for LPRF or Trail grants? If so, does it need to be listed in the Master Plan?
  - Yes, parking is eligible for all funding sources, it would be best for it to be in the Master Plan and if other components of a park were included in an application.
  
- The awarding of grants will not be until 2022?
  - Award dates were not discussed as the award information is released from the Governor's office. RES anticipates two separate award announcements based on the two application deadlines.
  
- Can you give me another rundown of the due dates of Pre-Application if we have to update our Master Plan?
  - Applicants that do not have a current, within the last 5 year for creation or updated Parks and Recreation Systemwide Master Plan will have to meet the following deadlines to be eligible for 2020 funding:
    - Submission of Pre-Application by 6 pm central on October 8, 2020,
    - Re-submission of Pre-Application by 6 pm central on August 3, 2021 with newly created master plan
    - If all items in re-submission of Pre-Application are accepted, submission of Application by 6 pm central on September 28, 2021
  
- I am with a nonprofit Friends group for a local government that has an open LPRF grant. Does that mean that they can't apply for the LWCF grant since it's not a combined application?
  - The local government would have to complete the open project by the Open Project Completion Deadlines to be able to submit an application in the 2020 cycle. While the application has changed to an All-in-One format, the aspect of not being able to apply for grants administered by RES with and open project has not changed from the last cycle. If the Friends Group is a 501c3 organization, they could apply for a trail project on public property with the public property owner as Joint/Partner Applicant and providing the required documentation as noted in the workshop and the GMS.

- What should we do if we have a Parks and Recreation Systemwide Master Plan that has been recently created, but is not scheduled to be adopted by City Council until October 8, 2020?
  - Include what you have for the plan in the Pre-Application as well as the pages that include items in the application scope. In addition to the plan, include a letter from the Mayor addressing the time frame associated with Council's approval/acceptance of the plan. We will review the content and let you know if we have any questions by Oct 30.
  
- Can more than one government in a county apply for the grant cycle?
  - Each governmental agency in the county can submit an application as long as they meet closing the open project if they have one open. The lead applicant is the property owner and an organization can only be the lead applicant on one application. Funds are awarded based on the application and multiple governments in the same county are applicable for an award.
  
- Can TVA be a lead applicant for an RTP?
  - The 2020 cycle does not have specific funding source requests as part of the application, but TVA is eligible to awarded RTP funds. If they are selected for the award, they would be required to have 5% of the total project cost from a non-federal source.
  
- Do the pre-applications require resolutions and match commitments on October 8th?
  - RES evaluated the resolution(s) requirement based on a Chat question and has made changes to the Power Point slide and in the GMS to allow a letter for the Pre-Application followed by a resolution in the Application stage.
  
- If a community has an open grant and will be finished after the existing closeout date BUT they will have to do a master plan...could they go ahead and submit a pre-application in October with plans to have a complete project and a master plan by August so they can do a full application?
  - The open grant would be required to meet the grant closing requirements listed in the Power Point to be considered for 2020 funding, those requirements are the same for organization with a Parks and Recreation Systemwide Master Plan that meets the 5 year specifications or organizations that do not presently have a Parks and Recreation Systemwide Master Plan.

- Will having a total project of more than \$250,000 exclude a project from being eligible for RTP?
  - Applications are based on the maximum and minimum total project costs as presented and the grant request is to be calculated as 50% of the total project cost. Projects that meet RTP eligibility and score within funding range will be eligible for RTP funding as long as RTP funds remain to be awarded. Those projects will require additional follow-up from RES with the Applying Organization regarding match amount and scope.
  
- What happens to a community that submits a pre-app for \$100K for a playground, then pays for a system wide plan, and ultimately changes their grant request to \$200K for a restroom? How much flexibility will there be for change of scope and change of project cost?
  - Applying Organization that do not have a Parks and Recreation Systemwide Master plan that meets the 5-year specifications will be held in Pre-Application status to allow creation of a Parks and Recreation Systemwide Master Plan. If the application project scope does not align with the new plan, RES will consider certain items in the initial Pre-Application to be requested to be changed to reflect the plan. The initial Pre-Application costs should reflect the initial Pre-Application project description. If that project is not feasible to continue as the application scope because it is not included or is toward the bottom in/of the results of the new Parks and Recreation Systemwide Master Plan, the organization will be allowed to rework the Pre-Application scope and more than likely the grant request amount within reason.
  
- Do you have to submit a pre-application October 8, 2020 in order to be eligible to submit another pre-application and application in August of 2021 (after completing a masterplan, of course)?
  - yes
  
- When will awards be made?
  - There will be two award announcements and timing, as always, is contingent upon release from the Governor's Office. Funding amounts were not, and have historically not been, discussed during application workshops.
  
- Would a 501c3 be eligible to apply for more than a \$250,000 RTP project with the possibility of being funded (if adequate RTP funds are available through RES)?
  - Amounts specified in the workshop and Pre-Application are 2020 cycle amounts.

- What are the timing requirements regarding updates to master planning documents if a community or county has a system wide plan (completed in the past 5 years), but needs to be updated in one way or another (addition of activities and priorities), does it have to be done by October 8th, or December 7th, or ultimately does that exclude them to have to wait for full application next August?
  - If the Parks and Recreation Systemwide Master Plan has been created or updated in the last 5 year, why specifically would the organization be looking at an update and when was the plan created or updated. An update should not be done for the purpose of trying to get the scope of the application included in the plan to be able to meet application requirements.
  
- Will RES work with communities and 501c3's after pre-application and application to get the project within RTP requirements and eligibility?
  - 501c3 organization are only applicable to apply for trail projects as detailed in the workshop. If there was something the applicant thought met the trail requirements, but in the end did not and the project was selected for RTP funds, RES would have a conversation with the organization to remove the ineligible items and associated costs from the award.
  
- Are there any deadlines for holding Civic Meetings?
  - The Civic meeting are required to be conducted before the December 7, 2020 Application submission deadline for those that are moved to the Application stage in 2020. For those that are held in the Pre-Application stage, the Civic meeting would be conducted after the plan is developed and the application scope is confirmed, but before the Application deadline.
  
- Can you provide us with additional information on the public meetings via Social Media?
  - Social Media type Public Meeting must be conducted within the specified date range and include screenshots of all the comments in a single document referencing the type of meeting in the name when uploading it in the Application stage.
  
- Can the project and scope be listed on the agency website and/or FB page with encouragements for comments to be provided by day/time?
  - The Project Proposal Presentation, or a link to it, would need to be included in the post for reference and to obtain relevant comments. Including the Project Proposal Presentation addresses your project scope question as it would be included in the presentation. A deadline for comments can be listed.

- Can zoom/WebEx mtgs qualify as a public meeting for the 2020 grant cycle?
  - Public notice of receiving comments can be placed on the organization's website. All the received comments would need to be included in a single document referencing the type of meeting in the document name when uploading in the Application stage.
  
- If an agency does not meet the Parks and Recreation Systemwide Master Plan requirement, but will meet this requirement by early 2021, can the agency resubmit the application before August 3, 2021?
  - Please remember, a Pre-Application must be submitted by 6 pm central on Thursday, October 8, 2020 for an organization to be considered for the 2020 cycle funding. If an organization does not have a Parks and Recreation Systemwide Master Plan meeting the Pre-Application criteria, the organization would be held in the Pre-Application stage to allow creation of a plan meeting criteria. If the crated Parks and Recreation Systemwide Master Plan was completed by early 2021 as indicated in your email, the organization could submit the Pre-Application at any time before the deadline and RES would review and provide comments in a time frame similar to the initial Pre-Application comment deadline. If the Pre-Application met all that is needed, it would be moved to the Application stage. Any Application stage submissions will not be reviewed until after the Application deadline.