

Appendix G

Funding Sources

Overview

When considering possible funding sources for the Ecusta Rail Trail, it is important to remember that not all construction activities will be accomplished with a single funding source. It will be necessary to consider several sources of funding that, when combined, would support full project construction. Acquiring funding for projects and programs is considerably more likely if it can be leveraged from a variety of local, state, federal, and private sources. In addition, it is likely that many on-road bicycle facilities will be built as part of future roadway restriping, widening, and reconstruction projects in which the direct funding necessary may be minimized. This section identifies potential matching and major funding sources and their criteria for bicycle and pedestrian projects and programs.

State and Federal Funding Sources

Federal funding is typically directed through state agencies to local governments, either in the form of grants or direct appropriations. State budget shortfalls may make it extremely difficult to accurately forecast available funding for future

project development. The following is a list of possible federal and state funding sources that could be used to support construction of the Ecusta Rail Trail. Federal funding usually requires a local match; however, recent stimulus money does not require a match.

Department of Energy (DOE)

The Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) may be used to reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions and for improvements in energy efficiency. Section 7 of the funding announcement states that these grants provide opportunities for the development and implementation of transportation programs to conserve energy used in transportation, including development of infrastructure such as bike lanes, pathways, and pedestrian walkways. Although, this grant period has passed, more opportunities may arise. More information can be found at <http://www.eecbg.energy.gov/>

NC Department of Transportation and SAFETEA-LU

The most likely source of funding for the Ecusta Rail Trail would come from the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the federal funding program called the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). Some of the sub-programs within SAFETEA-LU and within



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NCDOT follow:

- **State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP):** The STIP provides funding for various transportation divisions of NCDOT, including: highways, aviation, enhancements, public transportation, rail, bicycles and pedestrians, and the Governor's Highway Safety Program. STIP is the largest single source of funding within SAFETEA-LU and NCDOT.
- **NCDOT Discretionary Funds:** The Statewide Discretionary Fund consists of \$10 million and is administered by the Secretary of the Department of Transportation. This fund can be used on any project at any location within the state. Primary, urban, secondary, industrial access, and spot safety projects are eligible for this funding. The city would have to make a direct appeal to the Secretary of NCDOT to access these funds.
- **NCDOT Contingency Fund:** The Statewide Contingency Fund is a \$10 million fund administered by the Secretary of Transportation; funds are sought by appealing directly to the Secretary.
- **NCDOT Enhancement Funding:** Federal Transportation Enhancement funding is administered by NCDOT and serves to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the state's intermodal transportation system. Transportation Enhancement (TE) funding is awarded through NCDOT. The state typically will make a Call for Projects, and each project must benefit the traveling public, and help communities increase transportation choices and access, enhance the built or natural environment, and create a sense of place.

- **NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Project:** Funds for bicycle and pedestrian projects come from several different sources. Allocation of funds depends on the type of project or program and other criteria. Projects can include independent and incidental projects.

Safe Routes to School Program (managed by NCDOT, DBPT)

The NCDOT Safe Routes to School Program is a federally funded program that was initiated by the passing of SAFETEA-LU in 2005, which establishes a national SRTS program to distribute funding and institutional support to implement SRTS programs in states and communities across the country. SRTS programs facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools. The Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation at NCDOT is charged with disseminating SRTS funding.

The state of North Carolina was allocated \$15 million in Safe Routes to School funding for fiscal years 2005 through 2009 for infrastructure or non-infrastructure projects. In 2009, more than \$3.6 million went to 22 municipalities and local agencies for infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects. All proposed projects must relate to increasing walking or biking to and from an elementary or middle school. An example of a non-infrastructure project is an education or encouragement program to improve rates of walking and biking to school. An example of an infrastructure project is the construction of sidewalks around a school. Infrastructure improvements under this program must be made within two miles of an elementary or middle school. The state requires the completion of a

competitive application to apply for funding. For more information, visit www.ncdot.org/programs/safeRoutes/ or contact DBPT/NCDOT, (919) 807-0774.

NC Department of Environment – Recreational Trails and Adopt-A-Trail Grants

The State Trails Program is a section of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation. The program originated in 1973 with the North Carolina Trails System Act. It is dedicated to helping citizens, organizations, and agencies plan, develop, and manage all types of trails ranging from greenways and trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding to river trails and off-highway vehicle trails. The Recreation Trails Program awards grants up to \$75,000 per project. The Adopt-A-Trail Program awards grants up to \$5,000 per project.

North Carolina Division of Water Quality - 319 Program Grants

By amendment to the Clean Water Act Section in 1987, the Section 319 Grant program was established to provide funding for efforts to curb non-point source (NPS) pollution, including that which occurs through storm water runoff. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides funds to state and tribal agencies, which are then allocated via a competitive grant process to organizations to address current or potential NPS concerns. Funds may be used to demonstrate best management practices (BMPs), establish Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for a watershed, or to restore impaired streams or other water resources. In North Carolina, the 319 Grant Program is administered by the Division of Water Quality of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Each fiscal year North Carolina is awarded nearly \$5 million to address non-point source pollution through its 319 Grant program. Thirty percent of the funding supports ongoing state non-point source programs. The remaining seventy percent is made available through a competitive grants process. At the beginning of each year (normally by mid-February), the NC 319 Program issues a request for proposals with an open response period of three months. Grants are divided into two categories: Base and Incremental. Base Projects concern research-oriented, demonstrative, or educational purposes for identifying and preventing potential NPS areas in the state where waters may be at risk of becoming impaired. Incremental projects seek to restore streams or other portions of watersheds that are already impaired and not presently satisfying their intended uses.

State and local governments, interstate and intrastate agencies, public and private nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions are eligible to apply for Section 319 monies. An interagency workgroup reviews the proposals and selects those of merit to be funded. Website: http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/nps/Section_319_Grant_Program.htm

North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP)

Clean water, clean air, and thriving natural habitats are fundamental indicators of a healthy environment. Protecting North Carolina's ecosystems is critical to maintaining the state's quality of life, continuing its economic growth, and ensuring the health and well-being of its citizens. According to the three-party Memorandum of Agreement that established the initiative's procedures in July 2003, the mission of the Ecosystem Enhancement Program

is to "restore, enhance, preserve and protect the functions associated with wetlands, streams, and riparian areas, including but not limited to those necessary for the restoration, maintenance and protection of water quality and riparian habitats throughout North Carolina."

EEP provides:

- High-quality, cost-effective projects for watershed improvement and protection
- Compensation for unavoidable environmental impacts associated with transportation infrastructure and economic development;
- Detailed watershed planning and project implementation efforts within North Carolina's threatened or degraded watersheds

Website: <http://www.nceep.net>

North Carolina Wetlands Restoration Program (NCWRP)

Established by the General Assembly in 1996, the North Carolina Wetlands Restoration Program (NCWRP) is an innovative, non-regulatory initiative to restore wetlands, streams, and non-wetland riparian areas throughout the state. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Division of Water Quality oversees the program. The goals of NCWRP are:

- To restore functions and values lost through historic, current, and future wetland and stream impacts
- To achieve a net increase in wetland acres, functions and values in all of North Carolina's major river basins
- To provide a consistent approach to address mitigation that may be required by law when dredging or filling wetlands - or altering of

streams - is authorized

- To increase the ecological effectiveness of required wetlands and stream mitigation.
- To promote a comprehensive approach to the protection of natural resources

The NCWRP actively seeks land owners who have restorable wetland, riparian and stream sites.

Website: <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us>

Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program

Urban and Community Forestry begins to address the stewardship of urban natural resources where 80 percent of the nation lives. Important connections exist between the quality of life in metropolitan areas and land consumption associated with sprawl. In addition, there is a strong economic case for conservation of green open space to guide growth and revitalize city centers and older suburbs. The Urban and Community Forestry Program responds to these needs by maintaining, restoring, and improving the health of urban trees, forests, greenspaces, and sustainable forest ecosystems for more than 70 million acres of America's urban and community forest resources. Through these efforts, the Program encourages and promotes the creation of healthier, more livable urban environments across the Nation. The Program will continue to expand partnerships with non-governmental organizations to restore natural resources in older, declining cities and towns.

Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/>

Water Resources Development Grant Program

This program is designed to provide cost-share grants and technical assistance to local

governments throughout North Carolina. Applications for grants are accepted for seven purposes: General Navigation, Recreational Navigation, Water Management, Stream Restoration, Beach Protection, Land Acquisition and Facility Development for Water-Based Recreation, and Aquatic Weed Control. There are two grant cycles per year. The application deadlines are January 1st and July 1st.

Contact John Sutherland, Jeff Bruton, or Darren England for additional information.

Website: http://www.ncwater.org/Financial_Assistance/

Powell Bill Funds

Annually, state street-aid (Powell Bill) allocations are made to incorporated municipalities which establish their eligibility and qualify as provided by G.S. 136-41.1 through 136-41.4. Powell Bill funds shall be expended only for the purposes of maintaining, repairing, constructing, reconstructing, or widening of local streets that are the responsibility of the municipalities, or for planning, construction, and maintenance of bikeways or sidewalks along public streets and highways.

Community Development Block Grant Funds

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are available to local municipal or county governments for projects that enhance the viability of communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environments and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low- and moderate-income. State CDBG funds are provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to the state of North Carolina. Some urban counties and cities

in North Carolina receive CDBG funding directly from HUD. Each year, CDBG provides funding to local governments for hundreds of critical community improvement projects throughout the state. These community improvement projects are administered by the Division of Community Assistance and the Commerce Finance Center under eight grant categories. Two categories might be of support to the Ecusta Rail Trail: infrastructure and community revitalization.

Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has historically been a primary funding source of the US Department of the Interior for outdoor recreation development and land acquisition by local governments and state agencies. In North Carolina, the program is administered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

North Carolina's Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF)

North Carolina's Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) receives a direct appropriation from the General Assembly in order to issue grants to local governments, state agencies, and conservation non-profits to help finance projects that specifically address water pollution problems. The 21 member, independent CWMTF Board of Trustees has full responsibility over the allocation of moneys from the fund.

CWMTF funds projects that:

- Enhance or restore degraded waters
- Protect unpolluted waters
- Contribute toward a network of riparian waters

Website: <http://www.cwmtf.net>

N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)

The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) provide dollar-for-dollar matching grants to local governments for parks and recreational projects to serve the general public. Counties, incorporated municipalities, and public authorities - as defined by G.S. 159-7 - are eligible applicants.

A local government can request a maximum of \$500,000 with each application. An applicant must match the grant dollar-for-dollar (50% of the total cost of the project) but may contribute more than the grant amount. The appraised value of land to be donated to the applicant can be used as part of the match. The value of in-kind services, such as volunteer work, cannot be used as part of the match. http://www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/partf_main.php

North Carolina Farmland Preservation Trust Fund

The North Carolina Farmland Preservation Trust Fund supports the purchase of agricultural conservation easements, including transaction costs. Fund public and private enterprise programs that will promote profitable and sustainable farms by assisting farmers in developing and implementing plans for the production of food, fiber, and value-added products; agri-tourism activities; marketing and sales of agricultural products produced on the farm; and other agriculture-related business activities. The legislation also established a Trust Fund Advisory Committee to advise the Commissioner on the prioritization and allocation of funds, the development of criteria for awarding funds, program planning, and other areas for the growth and development of family farms in

North Carolina.

Website: <http://www.agr.state.nc.us/paffairs/farmlandpreservation.htm>

North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund

The North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund provides funding to select state agencies for the acquisition and protection of important natural areas, to preserve the state's ecological diversity and cultural heritage, and to inventory the natural heritage resources of the state. The trust fund is supported by 25% of the state's portion of the tax on real estate deed transfers and by a portion of the fees for personalized license plates. These sources now generate about \$19 million each year. Since its creation, the trust fund has contributed more than \$136 million through 345 grants to support the conservation of more than 217,000 acres.

Website: <http://www.ncnhtf.org/>

Local Government Funding Sources

Local funding sources that would support bike facility project construction will most likely be limited but should be explored.

Local Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and Rural Planning Organization

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are federally required regional transportation planning organizations. MPOs are responsible for planning and prioritizing all federally funded transportation improvements within an urbanized

area. Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs) are organized and tasked in a manner very similar to MPO's, but Rural Planning Organizations are grounded in state law and are intended to address and improve rural area transportation planning processes. Among other duties, an RPO develops and prioritizes suggestions for projects that the organization believes should be included in the state's Transportation Improvement Program.

The French Broad River MPO serves Henderson County. It is a partnership between local and state government that makes decisions about transportation planning in urbanized areas and meets planning re-quirements established by federal authorizing legislation for transportation funding. The French Broad River MPO works cooperatively with the NCDOT to develop transportation plans, travel models, transit plans, and bicycle and pe-destrian plans. The MPO works with the state on funding issues for transportation improvements, project planning issues, and other issues, such as environmental and air quality concerns. The MPO also works with local governments to coordinate land use and transportation planning. In addition to the priority needs list, the MPO produces a Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), which is a seven-year schedule of transportation projects for the planning area. The MPO also produces a Long Range Transportation Plan, - which presents a 25-year plan for transportation improvements in the area - and cooperates with the NC Department of Transportation on a jointly developed, long range comprehensive transportation plan. Website: <http://www.fbrmpo.org/>

The Land-of-Sky RPO serves Transylvania County. The Land-of-Sky RPO is a voluntary

organization of local governments that plans rural transportation systems and advises the NC Department of Transportation on transportation policy and funding priorities. The core duties of the RPO are to:

- Develop transportation plans in cooperation with the NCDOT
- Provide a forum for public participation in the transportation planning process
- Develop and prioritize suggestions for projects that the organization believes should be included in the state's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Provide transportation-related information to local governments and other interested organizations and per-sons

These duties and other objectives are accomplished through the coordinated work of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), with support from the staff of Land-of-Sky Regional Council. Website: http://www.landofsky.org/planning/p_ruraltrans.html

It is suggested that local municipalities work closely with the MPO and RPO on getting Ecusta Rail Trail projects listed on the TIP since this may be the primary source of funding for the project. Typically, projects on this list require a 20% local match.

Municipal Capital Improvement Programming and Reserve Funds

The Cities of Hendersonville and Brevard may have funding available to support some elements of construction or repair. It will be important to meet with City Council representatives and City Managers to judge the availability of this funding.

Local Bond Measures

Local bond measures, or levies, are usually general obligation bonds for specific projects. Bond measures are typically limited by time based on the debt load of the local government or the project under focus. Funding from bond measures can be used for right-of-way acquisition, engineering, design, and construction of pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

System Development Charges/ Developer Impact Fees

System Development Charges (SDCs), also known as Developer Impact Fees, represent another potential local funding source. SDCs are typically tied to trip generation rates and traffic impacts produced by a proposed project. A developer may reduce the number of trips (and hence impacts and cost) by paying for on- or off-site pedestrian improvements that will encourage residents to walk (or use transit, if available) rather than drive. In-lieu parking fees may be used to help construct new or improved pedestrian facilities. Establishing a clear nexus or connection between the impact fee and the project's impacts is critical in avoiding a potential lawsuit.

Street User Fees

Many cities administer street user fees through residents' monthly water or other utility bills. The revenue generated by the fee can be used for operations and maintenance of the street system, and priorities would be established by the Public Works Department. Revenue from this fund can be used to maintain on-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities, including routine sweeping of bicycle lanes and other designated bicycle routes.

In Lieu of Fees

Developers often dedicate open space or

greenways in exchange for waiving fees associated with park and open space allocation requirements in respect to proposed development. These types of requirements are presented within local municipal codes and ordinances.

Utility Lease Revenue

This tool provides a method to generate revenues from land leased to utilities for locating utility infrastructure on municipally owned parcels. This can improve capital budgets and support financial interest in property that would not otherwise create revenue for the government.

Local Improvement Districts (LIDs)

Local Improvement Districts (LIDs) are most often used by cities to construct localized projects such as streets, sidewalks or bikeways. Through the LID process, the costs of local improvements are generally spread out among a group of property owners within a specified area. The cost can be allocated based on property frontage or other methods such as traffic trip generation.

Other local funding options

- Taxes
- Exactions
- Tax increment financing
- Partnerships

Private Sector Funding Sources

Many communities have solicited greenway funding assistance from private foundations and other conservation-minded benefactors. Following are several examples of private funding opportunities available.

Bikes Belong Grant Program

The Bikes Belong Coalition of bicycle suppliers and

retailers has awarded \$1.2 million and leveraged an additional \$470 million since its inception in 1999. The program funds corridor improvements, mountain bike trails, BMX parks, trails, and park access. It is funded by the Bikes Belong Employee Pro Purchase Program.

The Eat Smart, Move More NC Community Grants Program

The Eat Smart, Move More NC Community Grants Program supports local health departments in North Carolina in their efforts to develop community-based interventions that encourage, promote, and facilitate physical activity and healthy eating. The purpose of the program is to provide funding to local communities to implement strategies that advance the goals and objectives of North Carolina's Obesity Prevention Plan. If funding for the grants continues after the 2011-2012 round of grants, trail planning is an acceptable expense. If federal funds are used for the grants program, then asphalt is not an accepted expense. Check the program's website to see if funding for the grants continues after the 2011-2012 round of grants. Website: <http://www.eatsmartmovemorenc.com/>

The Golden LEAF Foundation

The Golden LEAF Foundation was formed under a charter established by the North Carolina General Assembly. According to the charter, the Golden LEAF Foundation "shall promote the social welfare and lessen the burdens of government [by using its funds] to provide economic impact assistance to economically affected or tobacco-dependent regions of North Carolina in accordance with the Consent Decree [between the state of North Carolina and cigarette manufacturers]." Activities supported include public works and industrial recruitment to local governments for upgrading

utilities, transportation, and other public service infrastructure to attract new businesses or for more general economic development purposes. The Golden LEAF Foundation funds economic development projects that focus on creating and retaining jobs, attracting new business to North Carolina, expanding industries, and training new workers. Primarily, these grants are meant to create, expand, or improve business activity in tobacco-dependent, economically distressed, or rural communities. Public infrastructure improvement projects that are tied to specific job creation and retention opportunities are included in this category. Website: <http://www.goldenleaf.org/>

Fit Community

To address the growing obesity epidemic, commissioners of the Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) created a comprehensive program that would promote and help implement proven and innovative interventions to increase people's physical activity and improve nutrition choices. HWTF partnered with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina to launch Fit Together in 2004, a statewide campaign designed to raise awareness around the dangers of unhealthy weight and to equip individuals and communities with the tools they need to address this serious health concern. In 2005, Fit Together unveiled Fit Community, a program to recognize and reward municipality and county efforts to promote physical activity, healthy eating, and tobacco-free programs, policies, environments, and lifestyles.

Fit Community designation awards recognize and reward North Carolina municipalities and counties that currently excel in supporting physical activity, healthy eating, and tobacco-use prevention in the community, schools, and workplaces. Fit

Community designations are awarded at four levels: Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Benefits of being designated a Fit Community include:

Platinum-level recipients:

- The Platinum award sets a very high standard. HWTF will ensure special, highly visible recognition and opportunities for exclusive media coverage for applicants who attain this distinction.

All recipients:

- Highway signage for the entrance to their community
- A Fit Community plaque to be hung in the Mayor's or County Commissioner's office
- Recognition in statewide media and on the Fit Community website
- The Fit Community designation logo for use at the recipient's discretion
- Brochures to distribute to community residents and others

Website: <http://www.fitcommunitync.org/default.aspx>

Land for Tomorrow Campaign

Land for Tomorrow is a diverse partnership of businesses, conservationists, farmers, environmental groups, health professionals and community groups committed to securing support from the public and General Assembly for protecting land, water, and historic places. The campaign is asking the North Carolina General Assembly to support issuance of a bond for \$200 million a year for five years to preserve and protect its special land and water resources. Land for Tomorrow will enable North Carolina to reach a goal of ensuring that working farms and forests;

sanctuaries for wildlife; land bordering streams, parks, and greenways; land that strengthens communities and promotes job growth; historic downtowns and neighborhoods; and more will be there to enhance the quality of life for generations to come. Website: <http://www.landfortomorrow.org/>

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation was established as a national philanthropic organization in 1972 and today it is the largest U.S. foundation devoted to improving the health and health care of all Americans. Grant making is concentrated in four areas:

- To assure that all Americans have access to basic health care at a reasonable cost
- To improve care and support for people with chronic health conditions
- To promote healthy communities and lifestyles
- To reduce the personal, social, and economic harm caused by substance abuse: tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs

For more specific information about what types of projects are funded and how to apply, visit

www.rwjf.org/applications/.

Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

This Winston-Salem-based foundation has been assisting the environmental projects of local governments and non-profits in North Carolina for many years. They have two grant cycles per year and generally do not fund land acquisition. However, they may be able to offer support in other areas of open space and greenways development. More information is available at

<http://www.zsr.org/>.

Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc.

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation is one of the largest in the nation. The primary grants program is called Neighborhood Excellence, which seeks to identify critical issues in local communities. Another program that applies to trails is the Community Development Programs, specifically the Program Related Investments. This program targets low- and moderate-income communities and serves to encourage entrepreneurial business development. Visit the website for more information: www.bankofamerica.com/foundation.

Duke Energy Foundation

Funded by Duke Energy shareholders, this non-profit organization makes charitable grants to selected non-profits or governmental subdivisions. Each annual grant must have:

- An internal Duke Energy business “sponsor”
- A clear business reason for making the contribution

The grant program has three focus areas: Environment and Energy Efficiency, Economic Development, and Community Vitality. Related to this project, the Foundation would support programs that support conservation, training, and research around environmental and energy efficiency initiatives. Website: <http://www.duke-energy.com/community/foundation.asp>.

American Greenways Eastman Kodak Awards

The Conservation Fund’s American Greenways Program has teamed with the Eastman Kodak Corporation and the National Geographic Society to award small grants (\$250 to \$2,000)

to stimulate the planning, design and development of greenways. These grants can be used for activities such as mapping, conducting ecological assessments, surveying land, holding conferences, developing brochures, producing interpretive displays, incorporating land trusts, and building trails. Grants cannot be used for academic research, institutional support, lobbying or political activities. For more information visit The Conservation Fund’s website at: www.conservationfund.org.

Foundation for the Carolinas

The foundation provides strategic leadership in the community by convening stakeholders on critical issues related to the civic, social, environmental and economic health of the region. It also assists community leaders in better understanding the challenges confronting the region and helps find solutions to many of our most pressing community issues.

Website: <http://www.fftc.org/affiliates/community/nc/charlotte/>

North Carolina Community Foundation (NCCF)

The North Carolina Community Foundation serves philanthropic donors and supports not-for-profit organizations throughout North Carolina. The NCCF makes grants from charitable funds established by individuals, families, corporations, and non-profit organizations. Donors make grants from over 800 funds that serve the following areas of interest:

- Arts and Humanities
- Community Service
- Education

- Environment
- Health
- Historic Preservation
- Religion
- Science
- Social Services
- Youth

Website: <http://www.nccommunityfoundation.org/>

National Trails Fund

American Hiking Society created the National Trails Fund in 1998 - the only privately supported national grants program providing funding to grassroots organizations working toward establishing, protecting, and maintaining foot trails in America. 73 million people enjoy foot trails annually, yet many of our favorite trails need major repairs due to a \$200 million backlog of badly needed maintenance. National Trails Fund grants help give local organizations the resources they need to secure access, volunteers, tools, and materials to protect America’s cherished public trails. To date, American Hiking has granted more than \$240,000 to 56 different trail projects across the U.S. for land acquisition, constituency building campaigns, and traditional trail work projects. Awards range from \$500 to \$10,000 per project.

Projects the American Hiking Society will consider include:

- Securing trail lands, including acquisition of trails and trail corridors, and the costs associated with acquiring conservation easements.
- Building and maintaining trails which will result in visible and substantial ease of access,

improved hiker safety, and/or avoidance of environmental damage

- Constituency building surrounding specific trail projects, including volunteer recruitment and support

Website: www.americanhiking.org/alliance/fund.html.

The Conservation Alliance

The Conservation Alliance is a non-profit organization of outdoor businesses whose collective annual membership dues support grassroots, citizen action groups and their efforts to protect wild and natural areas. One hundred percent of its member companies' dues go directly to diverse, local community groups across the nation - groups like Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Alliance for the Wild Rockies, The Greater Yellowstone Coalition, the South Yuba River Citizens' League, RESTORE: The North Woods and the Sinkyoone Wilderness Council (a Native American-owned and operated wilderness park). For these groups, who seek to protect the last great wild lands and waterways from resource extraction and commercial development, the Alliance's grants are substantial in size (about \$35,000 each) and have often made the difference between success and defeat. Since its inception in 1989, The Conservation Alliance has contributed \$4,775,059 to grassroots environmental groups across the nation, and its member companies are proud of the results. To date, the groups funded have saved over 34 million acres of wild lands, and 14 dams have been prevented or removed - all through grassroots community efforts.

The Conservation Alliance is a unique funding source for grassroots environmental groups. It is the only environmental grant maker whose

funds come from a potent yet largely untapped constituency for protection of ecosystems - the non-motorized, outdoor recreation industry and its customers. This industry has great incentive to protect the places in which people use the clothing, hiking boots, tents, and backpacks it sells. The industry is also uniquely positioned to educate outdoor enthusiasts about threats to wild places and engage them to take action. Finally, when it comes to decision-makers - especially those in the Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management - this industry has clout, an important tool that small advocacy groups can wield.

The project should be focused primarily on direct citizen action to protect and enhance our natural resources for recreation. The Alliance does not look for mainstream education or scientific research projects, but rather for active campaigns. All projects should be quantifiable - with specific goals, objectives, and action plans - and should include a measure for evaluating success. The project should have a good chance for closure or significant measurable results over a fairly short term (one to two years). Funding emphasis may not be on general operating expenses or staff payroll.

Website: www.conservationalliance.com/index.m.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is a private, nonprofit, tax-exempt organization chartered by Congress in 1984. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation sustains, restores, and enhances the Nation's fish, wildlife, plants, and habitats. Through leadership conservation investments with public and private

partners, the Foundation is dedicated to achieving maximum conservation impact by developing and applying best practices and innovative methods for measurable outcomes.

The Foundation awards matching grants under its Keystone Initiatives to achieve measurable outcomes in the conservation of fish, wildlife, plants and the habitats on which they depend. Awards are made on a competitive basis to eligible grant recipients, including federal, tribal, state, and local governments, educational institutions, and non-profit conservation organizations. Project proposals are received on a year-round, revolving basis with two decision cycles per year. Grants generally range from \$50,000-\$300,000 and typically require a minimum 2:1 non-federal match.

Funding priorities include bird, fish, marine/coastal, and wildlife and habitat conservation. Other projects that are considered include controlling invasive species, enhancing delivery of ecosystem services in agricultural systems, minimizing the impact on wildlife of emerging energy sources, and developing future conservation leaders and professionals. Website: <http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Grants>

The Trust for Public Land

Land conservation is central to the mission of the Trust for Public Land (TPL). Founded in 1972, the Trust for Public Land is the only national nonprofit working exclusively to protect land for human enjoyment and well being. TPL helps con-serve land for recreation and spiritual nourishment and to improve the health and quality of life of American communities. TPL's legal and real estate specialists work with landowners, government agencies, and community groups to:

- Create urban parks, gardens, greenways, and

riverways

- Build livable communities by setting aside open space in the path of growth
- Conserve land for watershed protection, scenic beauty, and close-to-home recreation
- Safeguard the character of communities by preserving historic landmarks and landscapes

The following are TPL's Conservation Services:

Conservation Vision: TPL helps agencies and communities define conservation priorities, identify lands to be protected, and plan networks of conserved land that meet public need.

Conservation Finance: TPL helps agencies and communities identify and raise funds for conservation from federal, state, local, and philanthropic sources.

Conservation Transactions: TPL helps structure, negotiate, and complete land transactions that create parks, play-grounds, and protected natural areas.

Research and Education: TPL acquires and shares knowledge of conservation issues and techniques to improve the practice of conservation and promote its public benefits.

Since 1972, TPL has worked with willing landowners, community groups, and national, state, and local agencies to complete more than 3,000 land conservation projects in 46 states, protecting more than 2 million acres. Since 1994, TPL has helped states and communities craft and pass over 330 ballot measures, generating almost \$25 billion in new conservation-related funding. For more information, visit www.tpl.org/.

BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina Foundation (BCBS)

Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) focuses on programs that use an outcome approach to improve the health and well-being of residents. The Health of Vulnerable Populations grants program focuses on improving health outcomes for at-risk populations. The Healthy Active Communities grant concentrates on increased physical activity and healthy eating habits. Eligible grant applicants must be located in North Carolina, able to provide recent tax forms, and - depending on the size of the nonprofit - provide an audit.

BlueCross BlueShield of NC Foundation
P.O. Box 2291
Durham, NC 27702
919-765-7347
<http://www.bcbsncfoundation.org/>

The Cinergy Foundation

The Cinergy Foundation places special emphasis on projects that help communities help themselves. The Foundation supports local community, civic and leadership development projects. The Cinergy Foundation also views community foundations as positive vehicles for sustaining the long-term health of a community and promoting philanthropic causes. Infrastructure needs by a community will not be considered.

The Cinergy Foundation supports health and social service programs which promote healthy life styles and preventative medical care. United Way campaigns are included in Health and Social Services funding.

Website: <http://www.cinergy.com/foundation/categories.asp>

The Rails to Trails Conservancy

The Rails to Trails Conservancy is a non-profit organization whose mission is to create a nationwide network of trails from former rail lines. The Conservancy provides technical assistance and training to local trail builders, works to advocate policy in favor of rail trails at the national and state levels, and encourages trail use through information, maps, and resources. This organization is the leader in protecting and increasing the Federal Transportation Enhancements program, which is the largest source of funding nationally for trail development.

<http://www.railstotrails.org>

Local Trail Sponsors

A sponsorship program for trail amenities allows smaller donations to be received from both individuals and businesses. Cash donations could be placed into a trust fund to be accessed for certain construction or acquisition projects associated with the greenways and open space system. Some recognition of the donors is appropriate and can be accomplished through the placement of a plaque, the naming of a trail segment, or special recognition at an opening ceremony. Types of gifts other than cash could include donations of services, equipment, labor, or reduced costs for supplies.

Corporate Donations

Corporate donations are often received in the form of liquid investments (i.e. cash, stock, bonds) and in the form of land. Municipalities typically create funds to facilitate and simplify a transaction from a corporation's donation to the given municipality. Donations are mainly received when a widely supported capital improvement program

is implemented. Such donations can improve capital budgets and/or projects.

Other Sources

Volunteer Work

It is expected that many citizens will be excited about the development of the Ecusta Rail Trail. Individual volunteers from the community can be brought together with groups of volunteers from church groups, civic groups, scout , and environmental groups to work on greenway development on special community workdays. Volunteers can also be used for fundraising, maintenance, and programming needs.

Private Individual Donations

Private individual donations can come in the form of liquid investments (i.e. cash, stock, bonds) or land. Municipalities typically create funds to facilitate and simplify a transaction from an individual's donation to the given municipality. Donations are mainly received when a widely supported capital improvement program is implemented. Such donations can improve capital budgets or projects.

Fundraising / Campaign Drives

Organizations and individuals can participate in a fundraiser or a campaign drive. It is essential to market the purpose of a fundraiser to rally support and financial backing. Oftentimes, fundraising satisfies the need for public awareness, public education, and financial support.

Land Trust Acquisition and Donation

Land trusts are held by a third party other than the primary holder and the beneficiaries. This land is oftentimes held in a corporation for facilitating the transfer between two parties. For conservation

purposes, land is often held in a land trust and received through a land trust. A land trust typically has a specific purpose such as conservation and is used so land will be preserved as the primary holder had originally intended.

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