



Wisconsin Horse Council Capital Improvement Grant

DESCRIPTION: Promoting and Creating Horse Trails in Wisconsin

- The primary purpose of the Wisconsin Horse Council (WHC) capital improvement grant is to provide funding to increase trail access and amenities for equestrians. ADA compliance is important to keep in mind as a trail or building enters design or construction phases. WHC developed this grant to fund property enhancements, including the building of permanent structures. The Capital Improvement Grant program is not an annual grant, but one that allows the WHC Trails Committee to recognize and support larger projects that will be of benefit to the equestrian community. The Capital Improvement Grant is a 50% matching grant. WHC encourages volunteerism and effectively turns volunteer time and effort into project funds, when a log of volunteers' names and donated hours are maintained and submitted with the Grant Completion Report. *This means that the 50% of matching funds (approximately 175 hours) may be achieved in volunteer time. Volunteer hours are valued at \$29.00/hour.*
- WHC Trails Committee accepts and reviews applications throughout the year. Grant application acceptance or denial is determined within three months of receipt. Approved grant projects requiring multiyear fundraising will receive a pledge of funding. Funds are mailed when work on the project begins.
- To be eligible for the Capital Improvement Grant, projects must be projected to cost over \$50,000. Grant funding is available up to \$10,000.

Eligibility requirements:

Organizations applying for the grant must be a current level II or III member of Wisconsin Horse Council.
Applicants must also be one of the following: a public charity with approved 501(c)(3) exempt status, a federal, state, or local governmental agency, an American Indian nation or tribal community. Individuals, businesses, and private foundations are NOT eligible to apply for the grant.
Projects must support sustainable equestrian trails in Wisconsin that are open to the public.
Funding can only be used for the project referenced in the approved grant application.
Funding must be returned within the calendar year to the WHC if the project is not completed within the timeframe stated on the grant application.
WHC will only consider project expenses incurred after grant application approval.

WHC capital grant is only awarded to a property or organization once. Project expense may include but are not limited to the following:

Trailhead	Bathrooms
New Trails	Well Water
Shelter	Campgrounds
Parking	Exploratory Surveying

What to include with the WHC Capital Improvement Grant Application:

If the property has a master plan, it must reference the proposed project. Include a copy of the relevant pages of the master plan.

Approval from the land manager or government agency confirming support for the project and the organization proposing the project.

A copy of a map indicating the proposed trail or project with a clear description and location of the property and project.

Include copies of written bids for materials, supplies, labor, and equipment to be used to complete the project.

Photographs of the area referenced in the grant application.

The Wisconsin Horse Council thanks you for working to expand trail opportunities and equine experiences in Wisconsin. WHC is committed to help promote volunteers and Friends' groups and will share grant accomplishments on social media channels.

Any questions not addressed in this document can be directed to the WHC office at info@wisconsinhorsecouncil.org Please include the name of the project in the subject line.