

# Chapter 8 - Funding Opportunities

In general, City of Carlsbad has funded the majority of its trail systems by way of private developer dedications and conditional permit requirements. Although this approach will continue into the future, the ultimate number of new developments is finite and other sources of funding will be needed, especially for existing built areas of the city. This chapter identifies a broad range of funding sources and grant programs that could assist to the City of Carlsbad and its expanding trail system.

## 8.1 General Funding Framework

Under current competitive grant programs, it is imperative that organizations seeking grants look well beyond the traditional recreational trail grant sources. Many organizations and agencies try to stretch their general development funds through grant funding. The competitive nature of grant awards these days, requires a project that will deliver multiple benefits. The following pertinent categories or criteria are listed in the funding matrix table (see Table 8.1 “Federal Funding Grant Sources”, Table 8.2 “State Funding Grant Sources”, and Table 8.3 “Regional / Local Funding Grant Sources”) and are represented by the following terms and icons:



### Urban Forestry:

The types of grants that can be obtained require the applicant to show how the project and its elements can use trees to improve air quality, shade, urban heat island reduction, traffic calming, water quality improvements, runoff control, windbreaks and the protection of pedestrian environments.



### Building Healthy Communities:

Facilities that allow for exercise for the general public to improve their overall health, including both physical and mental health benefits.



### Nature Education:

Trail projects that improve access to nature, appreciation of undisturbed habitat and the encouragement of activity in natural settings fall under this category.



### Habitat Protection:

Trail projects that are part of a preserve system that can serve to protect, preserve, enhance, restore or provide education about the city's habitat preserves are included in this category.



### Water Quality:

Trail projects that include protection of watersheds, creeks, streams, rivers, wetlands and the city's three lagoons fall into this category. This category includes water conservation as well as water quality improvements.



### Active Transportation:

Transportation projects that address congestion, reduction of auto trips, greenhouse gas emissions, bike use, bike safety, bike education, pedes-

trian facilities, pedestrian safety and education, as well as improved connections with bike or walking facilities.

## **8.2 Federal Funding Opportunities**

Federal funding is sometimes administered through the state (Caltrans and the State Resources Agency) and regional planning agencies. Many of these funding programs are oriented toward transportation, with an emphasis on reducing auto trips and providing inter-modal connections. Federal funding is intended for capital improvements safety education programs, and projects related to the transportation system. Some of the most relevant federal grant programs have been listed below. Not all grants listed on the tables at the end of the chapter have been included in the text descriptions below.

In July 2012, Congress passed a transportation bill: Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). Since October 2012, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) activities have been eligible to compete for funding alongside other programs, including the Transportation Enhancements program and Recreational Trails program, as part of a new program called Transportation Alternatives.

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

This program (LWCF) provides grants for planning and acquiring outdoor recreation areas and facilities, including trails. LWCF is administered by the National Parks Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation and has been reauthorized until 2015. Cities, counties and districts authorized to acquire, develop, operate and maintain park and recreation facilities are eligible to apply. Applicants must fund the entire project and will be reimbursed for fifty percent of costs.

Eligible project must meet two specific criteria. The first is that projects acquired or developed under the program must be primarily for recreational use and not transportation purposes, and the second is that the lead agency must guarantee to maintain the facility in perpetuity for public recreation. Applications are considered using criteria such as priority status within the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The State Department of Park and Recreation will select which projects to submit to the National Park Service (NPS) for approval. Final approval is based on the amount of funds available that year, which is determined by a population-based formula. Trails are the most commonly approved project. The grant process for local agencies is competitive, and 40 percent of grants are reserved for northern California.

### **Federal Lands Highway Funds (FLH)**

This program's (FLH) funds may be used to build bicycle and pedestrian facilities in conjunction with transit, roads and parkways on federal or Indian lands. The projects must be transportation-related and tied to a plan adopted by the state and local metropolitan planning organization. FLH funds may be used for planning and construction.

### **Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)**

Administered by Caltrans, these program funds are intended to help achieve a

significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on public roads. HSIP requires Caltrans to develop and implement a Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) that identifies improvements. Caltrans sets aside funds for construction and operational improvements on high-risk rural roads and may use the remainder of funds for bicycle and pedestrian pathways or trails and education and enforcement. Previous application deadlines have been in October.

### **Transportation Alternatives Grant Program (TA)**

In July 2012, Congress passed Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). Since October 2012, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) activities have been eligible to compete for funding alongside other programs, including the Transportation Enhancements program and Recreational Trails program, as part of a new program called Transportation Alternatives.

The RTP provides funds annually for recreational trails and trails-related projects. The RTP is administered at the federal level by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and at the state level by the California State Parks and Recreation Office of Grants and Locals Services (OGALS). MAP-21 did not directly amend the RTP as a program, but authorized its funding as a set-aside of the new Transportation Alternatives Program (TA).

Funding for the Transportation Alternatives program is derived from a number of former programs previously funded under the Transportation Enhancements, Recreational Trails and Safe Routes to School programs under SAFETEA-LU. Under MAP-21, states sub-allocate 50 percent of their Transportation Alternatives (TA) funds to MPOs and local communities to administer grant programs and to distribute funds for projects. States can use the remaining 50 percent for TA projects or can spend these funds on other transportation priorities.

### **Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)**

This program (RTCA) is a National Park Service program that provides technical assistance via direct staff involvement to establish and restore greenways, rivers, trails, watersheds and open space. The RTCA program provides planning assistance only. Projects are prioritized for assistance based upon criteria that include conserving significant community resources, fostering cooperation between agencies, serving a large number of users, encouraging public involvement in planning and implementation and focusing on lasting accomplishments. Federal agencies may be the lead partner only in collaboration with a non-federal partner.

### **Various Grants from Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

HUD grant programs change from year to year depending on congressional funding levels. Sometimes these programs are in conjunction with Federal EPA and the Department of Transportation. They have included such sources and grant titles as Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants; Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program, and the Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities Act.

### **ACHIEVE, Communities Putting Prevention to Work**

Chronic diseases are among the most common and costly of all health problems in the United States, but they also are among the most preventable. Lack of

physical activity and poor nutrition—two modifiable risk factors for obesity—and tobacco use are responsible for much of the illness, suffering, and death related to chronic diseases. To help address these health issues, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) created Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW), which is led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Through CPPW, communities—including urban, small, rural, and tribal areas—are implementing environmental changes to make healthy living easier, such as improving means for safe active transportation for pedestrians, bicyclists, and mass transit users; ensuring provision of healthy food and beverage options in schools; limiting exposure to secondhand smoke; and increasing available tobacco cessation resources.

### **8.3 State Funding Opportunities**

State funding for trail projects comes from a variety of sources, including federal allocations to state governments and voter-approved bonds. State of California agencies typically charged with administering these funds include Caltrans and State Parks Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS).

#### **Statewide Park and Community Revitalization Program**

This program provides competitive grants for new parks and recreational facilities for the most under served communities in California. Neighborhood and regional trails are eligible for the grant program. Grants from \$100,000 to \$5,000,000 are awarded and no local matching funds are required. This grant is administered through the California Department of Parks and Recreation through OGALS.

#### **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

This California Parks and Recreation grant typically allocates \$3-4 million statewide awarded annually for trail projects that benefit public land and water conservation projects. A maximum award request is for projects of \$2,000,000 or less.

#### **Habitat Conservation Funds (HCF)**

Authorized by the California Wildlife Protection Act in 1990, Habitat Conservation Funds can be used for the construction of trails for the purpose of protecting wildlife corridors. The program allocates \$2,000,000 per year to the California Department of Parks and Recreation to administer to public agencies. This program sunsets in FY 2019/20. Eligible projects include nature interpretation programs to bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas, protection of various plant and animal species, and acquisition and development of wildlife corridors and trails.

#### **California Park Propositions**

The following proposition based initiatives are administered through the California Department of Parks and Recreation:

On March 7, 2000, voters passed Proposition 12 by 63.2 percent, the \$2.1 billion “Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000” (2000 Bond Act). As passed, this bond act provided funds for local assistance grants.

On March 5, 2002, voters passed Proposition 40 by 56.8 percent, the \$2.6 billion “California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002” (2002 Resources Bond). The passage of Proposition 40 provided funds for local assistance grants.

### **Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP)**

This program (EEMP) provides grant opportunities for projects that indirectly mitigate environmental impacts of new transportation facilities. Projects should fall into one of the following three categories: highway landscaping and urban forestry, resource lands projects or roadside recreation facilities. The local Caltrans district must support the project. The program is administered by SANDAG.

### **Public Access Development Program**

This program handled through the California Wildlife Conservation Board funds land acquisitions that preserve wildlife habitat or provides recreational access for hunting, fishing or other wildlife-oriented activities. Up to \$250,000 is available per project with applications accepted quarterly. Eligible projects include interpretive trails, river access and trailhead parking areas. The state must have a proprietary interest in the project. Local agencies are generally responsible for the planning and engineering phases.

### **Coastal Conservancy Grants**

To achieve its goals, the Coastal Conservancy awards grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations. Some examples of the kinds of projects the Coastal Conservancy funds include trails and other public access to and along the coast, natural resource protection and restoration in the coastal zone or affecting coastal areas, restoration of coastal urban waterfronts, protection of coastal agricultural land, and resolution of land use conflicts.

### **California River Parkway and Urban Streams Restoration Grant**

The goal of this program is to provide recreational, wildlife, flood management, water quality and urban waterfront revitalization benefits to communities along river corridors. The grant is administered by the CA Dept. of Water Resources. Trail-related projects are a strong component of the program by achieving recreation, interpretation and potentially conversion of abandoned industrial lands goals. Public access is a fundamental requirement of the program.

### **Sustainable Communities (Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants)**

This fund, administered by Caltrans, provides funding for innovative planning projects that exemplify livable community concepts including bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects. Eligible applicants include local governments, metropolitan planning organizations and regional transportation planning agencies. A 10 percent local match is required and projects must demonstrate a transportation component or objective. Statewide, \$3 million is available annually.

### **Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA)**

Caltrans administers the Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA), state funding for local planning and construction projects that improve the safety and convenience of bicycling for transportation (e.g., bikeways accessing schools, employment centers and transit). Applicants must have an approved Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP)

and their project must meet Caltrans Highway Design Manual (HDM) Chapter 1000 requirements and California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD) standards.

### **Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Funding Update**

Recently, the Governor signed legislation that creates the new Active Transportation Program (to be administered by Caltrans), and enables a portion of the RTP funding to remain with the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

### **Active Transportation Program (ATP)**

The State of California created the Active Transportation Program (ATP) with Senate Bill 99 and Assembly Bill 101. This program is intended to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation and consolidates various federal and state transportation programs, including the Transportation Alternatives Program, Bicycle Transportation Account, and State Safe Routes to School into a single program. Program funding will be awarded both in a statewide and regional competition.

Approximately \$360 million statewide has been budgeted for the ATP over three years, beginning with FY 2014. Approximately \$60 million per year will be competitively awarded for projects selected by the California Transportation Commission. Of this, \$24 million per year is available for Safe Routes to School, with at least \$7.2 million for non-infrastructure grants.

## **8.4 Regional Funding Sources**

Local sources for trail implementation come from local and state sales tax revenues that are administered locally through regional governments such as SANDAG or local districts such as Caltrans District 11. Other sources of local funding include private investments from developers or public investments from the City of Carlsbad.

### **Transportation Development Act**

Transportation Development Act Article III funds are state block grants awarded monthly to local jurisdictions for transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects in California. Funds for pedestrian projects originate from Local Transportation Funds (LTF), which are derived from a quarter percent of the general state sales tax. LTF are returned to each county based on sales tax revenues. Article 3 of the Transportation Development Act sets aside two percent of LTF for bicycle and pedestrian projects. Eligible trail projects include construction and engineering for capital projects, maintenance of bikeways and development of comprehensive bicycle or pedestrian facilities plans. This program is administered through both SANDAG and Caltrans.

### **Regional Grants from SANDAG**

SANDAG, as the local metropolitan planning organization for San Diego County, is responsible for several grant programs that have some relevance for trails used for transportation purposes. Beyond Transnet based program funding in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and the Smart Growth Incentive Program, SANDAG administers the Active Transportation Program and the Healthy Works / Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) grant program. Also, depending on the project type, trails and hab-



itat restoration projects could qualify under the Transnet Environmental Mitigation Program.

## 8.5 Local Funding Sources

A variety of local funding sources has been listed under the City of Carlsbad or through the development review and approval process involving local landowners and developer. A special consideration for Carlsbad is Proposition “C”. In 2002, voters passed Proposition C, which allowed the City Council to exceed a \$1 million amount on four projects: the City of Carlsbad Safety Training Center, a new swimming pool complex (Alga Norte Community Park), an extension of Cannon Road, and acquisition of open space and trails. Proposition C did not direct the City Council to spend a specific amount of money on open space and trails by a certain time. Instead, it provided voter authorization to spend more than the \$1 million limit if one or more properties became available and the city felt it was in the taxpayers’ best interest to purchase it for open space/trails purposes. Another funding source for trail development in coastal zone is Agricultural Conversion Mitigation Fee. This grant is formed from “mitigation” fee paid by developer for turning farmland into homes and commercial buildings.

## 8.6 Non-Traditional Resources

### American Greenways Program

Administered by The Conservation Fund, this program provides funding for the planning and design of greenways and unpaved trail development. Eligible applicants include local, regional or statewide non-profit organizations and public agencies. Grants are small. The maximum award is \$2,500, but awards typically range from \$500 to \$1,500.

### Bikes Belong Grant

Bikes Belong is an organization sponsored by bicycle manufacturers with the intent to increase bicycle riding in the United States. Bikes Belong provides grant opportunities of up to \$10,000, with no required match, to organizations and agencies seeking to support bicycle facility and advocacy efforts. Eligible projects include paved bicycle paths, rails-to-trails and mountain bike trails.

### Health Care Organizations

Health care organizations have been partnering with public agencies and municipalities for funding projects that provide opportunities and facilities that encourage people to engage in more physical activity. An example is Kaiser Permanente’s Community Benefit program, which provided over \$634 million in 2010 funding and grants for programs to support healthy people and healthy living.

### California Conservation Corps (CCC)

California Conservation Corps (CCC) is a public service program employing youth in natural resource work that occasionally provides assistance on construction projects. The CCC may be written into grant applications as a project partner, but to utilize CCC labor, project sites must be public land or be publicly accessible. CCC labor cannot be used to perform regular maintenance, but it can perform annual maintenance, such as the opening of trails in the spring.

### 8.7 Funding Matrix

The following three tables show how the various funding sources may be applicable for park lands acquisition, trail development or the maintenance and operations of trails. The table also ranks the grants based on the planning and transportation trends that many of these grants strive for in their application ranking process. There are many more sources than shown on these tables and some may or may not be applicable for trails. The relevance will depend on if the trails have a transportation component to them, if they will improve environmental conditions, public safety or the general health of the community.







CARLSBAD TRAILS MASTER PLAN		FUNDING USES								
		TYPICAL APPROACHES			ATYPICAL APPROACHES					
FUNDING SOURCE	FUNDING ORIGIN	Park Land Acquisition	Trail Development	Maint. & Operations	Urban Forestry	Building Health Communities	Nature Education	Habitat Protection	Water Quality	Active Transport
										
<b>Federal Funding Sources</b>										
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LCWF)	U.S. National Park Service/California Dept. of Parks & Rec.	✓					✓	✓	✓	
Federal Lands Highway Funds	U.S. FHWA		✓							✓
Highway Safety Improvement Program-Transportation Alternatives Grant	U.S. FHWA		✓			✓				✓
Recreational Trails Program- Transportation Alternatives Grant	U.S. FHWA		✓				✓			
Safe Routes to School, Mini-grants-Transportation Alternatives Grant	National Center for Safe Routes to School & Caltrans / U.S. FHWA		✓			✓				✓
Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program	U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓
Urban Revitalization & Livable Communities Act	U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ACHIEVE, Communities Putting Prevention to Work, Pioneering Communities	Center for Disease Control & Prevention			✓		✓	✓			✓

Table 8.1: Federal Funding Grant Sources



CARLSBAD TRAILS MASTER PLAN		FUNDING USES								
		TYPICAL APPROACHES			ATYPICAL APPROACHES					
FUNDING SOURCE	FUNDING ORIGIN	Park Land Acquisition	Trail Development	Maint. & Operations	Urban Forestry	Building Health Communities	Nature Education	Habitat Protection	Water Quality	Active Transport
<b>State Funding Sources</b>										
Statewide Park & Community Revitalization	CA Dept. of Parks & Rec. (OGALS)	✓					✓	✓	✓	
Land and Water Conservation Fund	CA Dept. of Parks & Rec. (OGALS)	✓					✓	✓	✓	
Habitat Conservation Funds	CA Dept. of Parks & Rec. (OGALS)	✓	✓				✓	✓		
Proposition 12- 2000 Parks Bond Act	CA Dept. of Parks & Rec. (OGALS)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Proposition 40- 2002 Resources Bond	CA Dept. of Parks & Rec. (OGALS)	✓	✓				✓	✓		
Recreational Trails Program	CA Dept. of Parks & Rec. (OGALS)		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
Proposition 117- Habitat Conservation	CA Dept. of Parks & Rec. (OGALS)	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Watershed Program	CA Dept. of Parks & Rec. (OGALS)	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	
Stormwater Flood Management Prop. 1E	CA Dept. of Water Resources		✓		✓		✓		✓	
Environmental Enhancement & Mitigation Program (EEMP)	State Resources Agency / Natural Resources Agency / Dept. of Water		✓				✓	✓	✓	
Public Access Development Program	Wildlife Conservation Board	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
Coastal Conservancy Grants	CA Coastal Conservancy	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
California River Parkway & Urban Streams Restoration Grant	California Natural Resources Agency / Department of Water Resources		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Sustainable Communities (STPC)	Caltrans		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Statewide Active Transportation Funding	Caltrans		✓			✓				✓
Bicycle Transportation Account	Caltrans		✓			✓				✓
Traffic Safety Grants	Office of Traffic Safety		✓			✓				✓
Sustainable Communities Planning, Regional SB 375	Strategic Growth Council/ Dept. of Conservation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓

Table 8.2: State Funding Grant Sources

CARLSBAD TRAILS MASTER PLAN		FUNDING USES								
		TYPICAL APPROACHES			ATYPICAL APPROACHES					
FUNDING SOURCE	FUNDING ORIGIN	Park Land Acquisition	Trail Development	Maint. & Operations	Urban Forestry	Building Health Communities	Nature Education	Habitat Protection	Water Quality	Active Transport
<b>Regional Funding Sources</b>										
Transportation Development Act	SANDAG / Caltrans		✓							✓
Transnet Sales Tax Transportation Funding- Environmental Mitigation	SANDAG		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Smart Growth Planning & Construction Grants	SANDAG		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
Active Transportation Grants	SANDAG		✓			✓				✓
Healthy Works / Communities Putting Prevention to Work	SANDAG		✓			✓	✓			✓
<b>Local Funding Sources</b>										
Agricultural Conversion Mitigation Fee	City of Carlsbad	?	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓
Proposition "C"	City of Carlsbad	?	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓
Utility Easement Agreements / Revenues	City of Carlsbad	?	✓	✓		✓				✓
General Fund	City of Carlsbad	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Land / Facilities Dedication	City of Carlsbad / Developers	?	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓
Right of Way / Easement Dedications	City of Carlsbad / Developers		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Park Dedication Fees	City of Carlsbad / Developers	?	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Park Impact Fees	City of Carlsbad / Developers	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Private Development Agreements & Easements	City of Carlsbad / Developers	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Non-Traditional Sources</b>										
American Greenway Program	The Conservation Fund	?	✓	✓			✓			✓
Bikes Belong Grant	Bicycle Manufacturers of America		✓			✓	✓			✓
Health Care Organizations	Varies					✓				✓
California Conservation Corps Labor Grants	California Conservation Corps			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	

Table 8.3: Regional / Local Funding Grant Sources