



City of Foley, AL

407 E. Laurel Avenue
Foley, AL 36535

Signature Copy

Resolution: 25-1319-RES

File Number: 25-0479

Enactment Number: 25-1319-RES

A Resolution to Apply for ADECA's Recreational Trails Program Grant

WHEREAS, the Nature Parks Department requests permission to apply to ADECA's Recreational Trails Program Grant in order to build an elevated fully ADA accessible boardwalk with an observation deck at Wolf Creek Park, and

WHEREAS, the boardwalk will be roughly 115ft linear feet and the observation platform will be roughly 12 feet above ground level, and

WHEREAS, the grant is an 80/20 split, and

WHEREAS, the total project cost is \$225,000 and if awarded, the grant will cover \$180,000 and the city would be responsible for \$45,000, and

WHEREAS, the deadline to submit the grant is Wednesday, September 10, 2025.

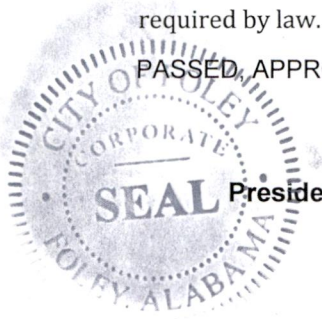
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Foley, Alabama, as follows:

SECTION 1: Approves the grant application to ADECA's Recreational Trails Program and approves the \$45,000 in required matching City funds if the grant is awarded.

SECTION 2: Council authorizes Mayor and other City officials to sign the application and other documents required to submit the grant application.

SECTION 3: This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption as required by law.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 2nd, day of September, 2025.



President Signature

[Handwritten signature]

Date

9-2-25

Attest by Assistant City Clerk

[Handwritten signature]

Date

9-02-25

Mayor Signature

[Handwritten signature]

Date

9/2/25

# ADECA

KAY IVEY  
GOVERNOR

KENNETH W. BOSWELL  
DIRECTOR

## RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FY 2026 FUNDING CYCLE

### GRANT APPLICATION DOCUMENT

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:  
12 NOON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025**

401 Adams Avenue | Post Office Box 5690  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104 | 36103-5690

July 2025

State Administering Agency

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)

Recreational Trails Program

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) was created in 1998 to assist organizations in acquiring, developing, and/or improving trail and trail-related resources. Eligible applicants include federal and state agencies and local units of government.

Matching Requirement

The federal share for the RTP is up to 80% of the total eligible project costs. The non-federal share may come from state, local, or private sources. Other federal grant funds cannot be included as match unless allowed by specific legislation.

A federal agency project sponsor may contribute appropriated funds toward a RTP project up to the point at which the total federal share reaches 95 percent of the total project cost.

Submission Instructions

Applications must be emailed to:

[alabamarecreation@adeca.alabama.gov](mailto:alabamarecreation@adeca.alabama.gov)

A hard copy may also be submitted:

By Mail:

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
Attn: Les Davis, RTP Program Specialist  
Post Office Box 5690  
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5690

By Courier:

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
Attn: Les Davis, RTP Program Specialist  
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 410  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104-4313

Due to new security measures at ADECA, when using the hand delivery method, call Ms. Kim Martin, at (334) 353-3151 upon arrival.

**DEADLINE – 12 Noon on September 10, 2025**

The application must be received by the Federal Initiatives and Recreation (FIR) Division by the time and date above. Applications received on September 10, 2025, will be timestamped upon receipt. You may request a read receipt on your email or confirm with ADECA staff that the application has been received.

### Application Procedures

The application consists of the items listed on the application checklist. In addition, the project application must include the following support documentation, if applicable:

- If the applicant and the landowner are not the same, a signed statement from affected landowners stipulating full support of the proposed use of their land and their support for the project application. The statement must clearly indicate that he/she is willing to provide an easement or other legally binding agreement that ensures public access to the recreational trail improvements funded by the grant (23 U.S.C. Section 206(h)(4)(A) and (B)).
- If applicable, a signed statement that the project is in compliance with 23 U.S.C. Section 206(g)(4) of the RTP which prohibits the use of grant funds to upgrade, expand, or otherwise facilitate motorized use or access to recreational trails predominantly used by non-motorized recreational trail users and on which, as of May 1, 1991, motorized use was prohibited or had not occurred.
- If applicable, a signed statement by the federal agency that the construction of new trails crossing federal lands is in compliance with all applicable laws, including the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.
- If construction of any recreational trail on Bureau of Land Management or National Forest System lands for motorized uses is proposed, a signed statement certifying that the lands have been allocated for uses other than wilderness in the approved agency resources management plan or have been released to uses other than wilderness by an Act of Congress, and such construction is otherwise consistent with the management direction in such approved land and resources management plan.
- If applicable, documentation of compliance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended.

### Special Procedures for Projects that Require Permits or Other Approvals

- Crossing of Public Roads - Project applicants must include a statement or copies of letters certifying that the appropriate officials having jurisdiction over the public road to be crossed have reviewed the project and that the proposed crossing meets their approval. For state road crossings, contact the appropriate Alabama Department of Transportation District Office. For all other classified roads, contact the street or highway department of the jurisdiction.
- Railroad, Gas Line, Power Line, and Other Utility Rights-of-Way - Project applicants must include documentation indicating that appropriate officials from the railroad company and/or utility company have reviewed the project and that the proposed crossing meets their approval.

- Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit (including wetlands) - Project applicants planning to construct, operate, maintain, enlarge, or abandon any obstruction (bridge, channel change, etc.) that will affect a watercourse; its 100-year floodway; or any lake, pond, reservoir, swamp, marsh, or wetland must contact ADECA or the applicable federal agency. Examples of work requiring a permit include changing a stream channel; dredging for crossings; building or modifying a bridge, dock, culvert, or pier; installing or changing an intake or outfall structure; working on bank protection, including fill, levees, dikes, bulkheads, and flood walls; or placing an aerial crossing, such as a power line, over a navigable stream. Any state or local government agency or public utility working in a 100-year flood plain, which has been identified by the National Flood Insurance Program, must also consult with ADECA before proceeding with its application.
- Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan - Project applicants may be required to prepare an erosion and sedimentation control plan for stream crossings or general construction activities. Therefore, project applicants must notify the appropriate County Soil Conservation District Office of the project. The district office will advise the applicant accordingly.
- Building Permits - Follow existing procedures for compliance with local building codes.
- Health Department Permits

#### Project Site Property Requirements

The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4601 et seq. (Uniform Act) provides important protections and assistance for people affected by federally funded projects. The governmentwide regulation implementing the Uniform Act is title 49 CFR Part 24. The Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act (STURAA) (Pub. L. 100-17) of 1987 designated the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) as the Federal Lead Agency for the Uniform Act. The DOT has delegated these responsibilities to the FHWA at 49 CFR 1.85(d)(7).

#### Public Employee and Equipment Costs

Work performed by project sponsor staff, whether administrative or construction, may not be reimbursed with RTP funds. Project sponsor staff time (hourly rate of pay and FICA percentage only), or equipment usage as appropriate, may be counted as sponsor in-kind match when properly documented and included in the budget.

#### Maps

##### Project Location/Vicinity Map

The project location/vicinity map must display the location of the project in relation to the city or county area and the surrounding highway/road network. **This map must be sufficiently detailed so that State and Federal officials can visit the site without local assistance.** Please note that maps must be clear, concise, and 11"x17" in size.

### Preliminary Site Plan

The site plan should give a general layout of the park or area to be developed and include the following items:

- Project sponsor name and dated signature of the chief elected official
- Proposed facilities and development included in the phase for which RTP assistance is being requested
- Delineation of the boundary of the property to be developed
- Public access points
- Existing facilities regardless of funding source
- Future development--if known
- Location of any existing power lines or other utilities within the site boundary area
- Location and measurements of any easements or rights-of-way
- Location of floodplain if applicable
- Site acreage to the nearest tenth of an acre
- Title block information including the title of the project, north arrow, scale, and date prepared and the signature of the person that prepared the map

Maps and drawings must be clear, legible, and 11"x17" in size.

Upon project completion, a final site map will be required for all RTP assisted projects. The project sponsor should inform the architect/engineer of this requirement prior to entering into a contract for services.

### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines

All projects are required to be planned/designed to comply with the "American Standard Specifications for Making Buildings and Facilities Accessible to, and Usable by, the Physically Handicapped". The Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design can be located at <https://www.ada.gov/law-and-regs/design-standards/>.

ADA Accessibility Guidelines (**ADAAG**) can be found at <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/ada-standards/chapter-10-recreation-facilities>. The Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Guidelines (**ABAAG**) for Recreation Facilities can be found at <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-aba-standards/aba-standards>. The following questions and answers cover the highlights of the trail guidelines:

#### **First, what exactly is a trail according to ADA regulations?**

A trail is "a route that is designed, designated, or constructed for recreational pedestrian use or provided as a pedestrian alternative to vehicular routes within a transportation system."

**What kinds of trails are subject to the ADA accessibility guidelines?**

The accessibility guidelines apply to those trails which are designed and constructed for pedestrian use. These guidelines are not applicable to trails primarily designed and constructed for recreational use by equestrians, mountain bicyclists, snowmobile users, or off-highway vehicle users, even if pedestrians may occasionally use the same trails. However, a multi-use trail specifically designed and designated for hiking and bicycling would be considered a pedestrian trail.

**Does that mean an urban bikeway is a “pedestrian trail”?**

Accessibility guidelines apply to trails used as non-motorized transportation facilities for bicyclists and skaters as well as pedestrians. However, the AASHTO Guide (2012), requires a greater level of accessibility than the ADA trail guidelines.

The AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities is the primary guidebook for facilities built with transportation funds. The Guide (available at [https://nacto.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/AASHTO\\_Bicycle-Facilities-Guide\\_2012-toc.pdf](https://nacto.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/AASHTO_Bicycle-Facilities-Guide_2012-toc.pdf)) generally provides a greater level of accessibility than the ADA trail guidelines. To view a comparison please visit <https://www.access-board.gov/prowag/rulemaking/comparison-to-aashto-guide/>.

**Will we have to bring existing trails up to ADA standards?**

No; the proposed guidelines require all areas of newly designed or newly constructed and altered portions of existing trails to comply. However, for entities covered by Title II of ADA, “program accessibility,” may require accessibility to be provided on existing trails. “Program accessibility” generally means that the major elements in a recreation program need to be accessible.

**Must we improve accessibility when trail maintenance is done?**

Routine or periodic maintenance or repair of existing trails or trail segments is exempt. Maintenance and repair are defined as work that is not an alteration: it does not change the original purpose, intent, or design of the trail.

**Can we be required to allow vehicles on our non-motorized trails to accommodate accessibility?**

No; while a variety of mobility-enhancing equipment can be used on trails, the necessity of protecting the environment and maintaining the appropriateness of the setting might exclude ATVs or other off-highway vehicles.

**Does an accessible trail have to be paved?**

No; as long as the surface is “firm and stable”.

**What about new trails that are nowhere near a road or an accessible trailhead?**

The requirements apply only to trails that “connect to an accessible trail” or “designated trailhead”. Where new trails connect to an existing trail that is not accessible, the technical provisions do not apply. Nor do they apply where the new or altered portion is not connected to a designated trailhead.

**What if building a trail to an accessible standard just isn't logical, or desirable, or even possible?**

Departures from the guidelines are permitted for any portion of the trail where compliance would:

- cause substantial harm to cultural, historic, religious, or significant natural features or characteristics
- substantially alter the nature of the setting or the purpose
- require construction methods or materials that are prohibited by Federal, State, or local regulations or statutes
- not be feasible due to terrain or the prevailing construction practices

For a summary of accessibility standards for Federal outdoor developed areas, please visit: <https://www.access-board.gov/files/aba/guides/outdoor/outdoor-guide.pdf>.

Guidance to help project sponsors meet RTP requirements and provide best practices for trail accessibility and trail design, construction, and maintenance can be found at [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/guidance/accessibility\\_guidance/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/guidance/accessibility_guidance/).

**Thresholds**

Prospective applicants are not eligible to apply if the applicant has an open Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) or RTP grant as of September 10, 2025.

Prospective applicants may be determined ineligible to apply if the applicant:

- has unresolved compliance issues from a previous LWCF or RTP grant
- did not respond in writing to an LWCF or RTP inspection report that contained deficiencies or has not developed and received approval of a Corrective Action Plan addressing the correction of previous compliance issues

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please use this checklist to ensure all required application documents are included prior to submitting to ADECA.

Letter on entity letterhead signed by the Chief Elected Official	
Resolution adopted by the applicant authorizing the submission of the application and committing all matching funds required to complete the proposed project	
Application Cover Sheet (Page 9)	
A narrative description of the proposed project and responses to each of the application rating criterion (Pages 10-13)	
Project Cost Estimate (Page 14)	
Detailed project budget with descriptive narrative	
Schedule of project activities necessary for project completion to include measurable milestones (18-month period beginning January 2026)	
Location/vicinity map	
Preliminary site plan	
Verification of SAM.gov registration	
Environmental Screening Form and Environmental Checklist (Pages 15-20)	
Concurrence from the Alabama Historical Commission	
Concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	
Concurrence from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	
Environmental Assessment (if applicable)	
Concurrence from the Alabama Department of Emergency Management (if applicable)	
Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (if applicable)	
Approval to cross a public highway or a public utility right-of-way (if applicable)	
Water obstruction & encroachment permit (if applicable)	
Other permits (if applicable)	
Categorical Exclusion Form	
Copy of deed to property, plat, and/or legal description of the property proposed for purchase and/or development	
<p><b>NOTE:</b> If real property is to be acquired with grant funds, the acquisition must comply with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (The Uniform Act). Implementation regulations for The Uniform Act are found in 49 CFR Part 24. <b>You may not acquire property through donation or purchase until after the grant agreement has been executed and consultation with ADECA staff has occurred.</b></p>	
Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies of 1970, as amended compliance documentation (if applicable)	
Hazardous materials survey if real property is to be acquired with grant funds	
Bureau of Land Management or National Forest System lands certification statement (if applicable)	
Federal agency signed statement of compliance with applicable laws (if applicable)	
Signed statement of compliance with 23 U.S.C. Section 206(g)(4) (if applicable)	
Signed statement from landowner expressing support (This is applicable if the applicant and landowner are <b>not</b> the same. <b>A recorded easement allowing trail construction will be required from the landowner before construction begins.</b> )	

Letters of endorsement, support, and commitment; other documentation of citizen participation and public comment period	
Any other supporting documentation	

You must include a copy of this completed checklist with your application. Please see the following website for electronic versions of the forms:  
<https://adeca.alabama.gov/trails/rtp-information-and-application-documents/>.

### Application Cover Sheet

Applicant's Name (Organization): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ZIP+4:

\_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

FEI Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Park Name, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Park (project location) Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ZIP+4:

\_\_\_\_\_

Latitude and Longitude  
(deg/min/sec): \_\_\_\_\_

Congressional District  
(for project location): \_\_\_\_\_

State Senate District  
(for project location): \_\_\_\_\_

State House District  
(for project location): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Contact Person and  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Grant Administrator or Other  
Contact, Title, and Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Descriptive Narrative**

Provide a brief, yet informative, description of the proposed project and address each evaluation criterion on the following pages (provide additional information and documentation as may be needed to support your response to each evaluation criterion).

**Project Information**

Name of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Trail Length in Linear Feet (L.F.): \_\_\_\_\_ Trail Width: \_\_\_\_\_

Trail Surface Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Type:  Non-motorized for a Single Use  Motorized  
 Non-motorized for Diverse Use

Type of Applicant:  City/Town  County  
 State  Other

Total Estimated Project Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Grant Amount Requested \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Local Match \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Cash Match \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
In-Kind Match \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description of the Project:

**Please address all evaluation criteria (100 Total Available Points).**

- 1. Describe the degree to which the project’s scope and feasibility meet the project area’s recreational needs. (Key Consideration: Does the project appear to be feasible and incorporate a good project design with consideration given to the natural and cultural environment in which the project is located, and appropriate consideration given to identified needs and project benefits?) 10 Points Available**
  
- 2. Describe the ways in which the project provides for the greatest number of compatible recreational purposes. (Key Consideration: An important concern is that the project will enhance the quality and quantity of recreational trail opportunities available in the community or region. Points will be given to projects with connectivity to other trails and/or parks, environmental education and preservation, and economic development opportunities.) 10 Points Available**

- 3. Describe the ways in which the project provides a new, unique, or more effective means for making trail opportunities available to the public. (Key Consideration: This criterion includes projects of national, regional, and local demonstration value. The most important concern is whether the grant recipient is committed to trying an approach that is new at the local level. Additional points are awarded for nationwide applicability and statewide or regional value. The applicant must commit to documenting the results of the demonstration and identify the method to be used in documenting the results.) 10 Points Available**
- 4. Describe the ways in which the project facilitates the access and use of trails by persons with disabilities, older adults, economically disadvantaged, and other special populations or groups. (Key Consideration: Whether the project will expand recreation opportunities for special populations with recreation deficiencies.) 10 Points Available**
- 5. Describe the ways in which the project creates opportunities for new partnerships between trail users, private interest groups, and public agencies within the project area. (Key Consideration: The major concern is that the project is a component of an integrated effort to enhance economic revitalization and community conservation. Points will be given to applicants providing evidence of cooperative efforts with trail user groups and/or multiple public meetings.) 10 Points Available**
- 6. Describe the ways in which the project uses the grant funds to leverage other public or private investments (in the form of services and materials as well as dollars). (Key Consideration: The major concern is whether actual leveraging is assured or the potential for leveraging is good, outside of any funds committed for the initial grant match. Points will be given for applicants committing double the minimum local match or higher. Supporting documentation must be included in the application.) 10 Points Available**
- 7. Describe the degree of commitment to continue operation and maintenance of the project. Include an operation and maintenance plan detailing the amount of money needed to operate and maintain the trail/facility after project completion and identify who will be responsible for these activities. (Key Consideration: Whether the grant recipient is willing to commit to continue the maintenance and operation of the facilities and whether the applicant provides a realistic operation and maintenance plan/budget. Additional points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating innovative funding measures for trail maintenance.) 10 Points Available**
- 8. The degree to which community involvement is addressed: i.e., (A) Project idea originated with trail users or a community group that has substantial knowledge, and (B) The private sector (including individual citizens, community groups, and/or local business enterprises) has participated in the development of the proposed idea and has made commitments of labor, money, or materials to support project implementation. (Key Consideration: The objective is to determine if the project is responding to citizen-identified needs. The priority of the project to users is evidenced by citizen support for the idea. Points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating that the project concept was originally proposed at the grassroots level**

and, especially, for extensive citizen or private organization involvement in project development and support in project implementation as well as applicants demonstrating extensive involvement and participation from citizens and interest groups during all phases of application development and commitments beyond. Supporting documentation must be included in the application.) **10 Points Available**

**9. Describe in detail how the trail will be managed. Include a discussion on season length, hours of operation, limitations on use, enforcement provisions, and scheduling. 10 Points Available**

**10. Identify and describe the service area of the project. Approximately how many people do you propose to serve with this project? Identify other trail resources in the service area by trail type (motorized, non-motorized, multi-use), distance, location in relation to the proposed trail, and ownership. (Key Consideration: The RTP was created to address trail needs in the urban and rural areas of the state. In order to assess the need for additional trails it is first necessary to identify the quantity and location of existing resources within the service area. It is also necessary to establish a service area – either population or resource based. For example, a population-based service area could be a neighborhood, school district, or political jurisdiction whereas, a resource-based service area might be defined along a linear greenway, water course, or unique natural/cultural area. However, in both instances, an estimate of the number of beneficiaries should be provided. Please identify how the project service area was determined.) **10 Points Available****

**NOTE: Property acquired with RTP funds must remain open to the public in perpetuity. Should the property cease to be open to the public for trail use, the applicant must repay the RTP 80% (or the federal percentage share) of the fair market value of the property at the time of the change in use. If the project is located on an easement or on leased land, the minimum timeframe for the easement or lease is 25 years. The project must remain open for public access for the use for which the RTP funds were intended during that time. For development projects on applicant owned property, the project must remain open for public access for the use for which the RTP funds were intended for a minimum of 25 years.**

Total Project Cost: \_\_\_\_\_ Funds Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

**Important Note:** The maximum grant amount by trail type is **\$200,000** for non-motorized, single-use trails; **\$400,000** for non-motorized, diverse-use trails; or **\$524,937** for motorized trails.

The applicant certifies that the data contained in the application is true and correct; the application has been duly authorized; and the applicant understands that incorrect or incomplete information may cause the application to be rejected.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Chief Elected Official's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Project Cost Estimate

The Recreational Trails Program provides **80/20 matching** fund grants. That is, the RTP will fund up to 80 percent of the project cost and the grant recipient must provide at least 20 percent in the form of cash, in-kind, and/or donated contributions.

Eligible Costs

1. Design, engineering, and construction oversight services (**may not exceed 10% of the total construction cost**)
2. Direct labor
3. Special tradesmen secured under a service purchase contract
4. Rental of equipment
5. Construction contracts
6. Project materials
7. Signage<sup>1</sup>
8. Land acquisition
9. Professional project administration (grant consultant) (**may not exceed 5% of total project cost**)

**PROJECT DEVELOPMENT BUDGET**

BUDGET ITEM	TOTAL	RTP SHARE	MATCHING SHARE
Acquisition			
Construction Contracts			
Equipment Rental			
Labor			
Signage			
Supplies/Materials			
Administration			
Engineering			
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>			

<sup>1</sup> Signs which function as traffic control devices must conform with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Part IX of the MUTCD, Traffic Controls for Bicycle Facilities, covers the bicycle related signs, pavement markings, and signals which may be used on highways or bikeways. Part IX is applicable to shared use paths (non-motorized multiple-use trails which may provide a transportation purpose). The publication Standard Highway Signs has the detailed drawings for the highway signs prescribed in the MUTCD. These documents are available for purchase from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Signs which do not function as traffic control devices are not subject to the MUTCD. However, informational signs and kiosks must take into consideration the needs of various users, such as: people who are blind or who have low vision, people who use wheelchairs, and children.

### Environmental Screening Form (ESF)

This is a working tool for planners and decision-makers to use to identify the degree of potential impacts to resources that may occur as a result of federal approval of the proposal. It also serves as the administrative record documenting the applicant's efforts to identify and consider impacts during proposal development. Your ESF responses may change as the planning process refines the proposal that will ultimately be submitted along with the final completed ESF for federal review and decision.

As early as possible in your planning process, consider how your proposal/project may have direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on the human environment. Early identification of possible environmental resource impacts can be used during proposal development and assist in identifying ways to lessen impacts. Initiating or completing environmental analysis after a decision has been made is contrary to both the spirit and letter of the law of the National Environmental Policy Act.

The ESF should be completed with input from resource experts and in consultation with relevant local, state, tribal, and federal governments, as applicable. The interested and affected public should be notified of the proposal and invited to provide input as well. At a minimum, a site inspection of the affected area must be conducted by individuals who are familiar with the type of affected resources, possess the ability to identify potential resource impacts, and know when to seek additional data when needed.

At the time of proposal submission, the completed ESF should reflect the applicant's final determination of the extent to which the proposal will impact the list of resources on the form. The results of the completed ESF will assist in the identification of the appropriate NEPA pathway to be followed, i.e., categorical exclusion (CE), environmental assessment (EA), environmental impact statement (EIS). Also, the completed ESF will identify the resource topics and issues that should be presented and analyzed in an EA or an EIS, if required.

The ESF contains two parts that must be completed, Part A. Impacts to Environmental Resources and Part B. Mandatory Criteria.

**Part A:** For each environmental resource topic, choose an impact estimate level (none, negligible, minor, exceeds minor) that describes the degree of potential negative impact that may occur directly, indirectly, and cumulatively as a result of federal approval of your proposal. These impact levels should be used to estimate specific impact levels on each separate resource and must be accompanied with a brief explanation of how the resource might be affected, how the impact level was determined, and why the chosen impact level is appropriate. If an environmental review has already been conducted on your proposal, is still viable, and it includes planned mitigation, explain this for each applicable resource and choose an impact level as mitigated. If the resource does not apply to your proposal, mark NA in the first column. Add any relevant resources (see A24) if not included in the list.

Use a separate sheet to explain all potential adverse impacts (negligible, minor, and those exceeding minor) as well as to indicate the type of data that still needs to be determined for each of the applicable resources listed below. Describe direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, as well as any planned mitigation, already addressed in previous environmental reviews.

**Part B:** This is a list of mandatory impact criteria that preclude the use of categorical exclusions. If you answer “yes” or “maybe” for any of the mandatory criteria, you must develop an EA or EIS regardless of your answers in Part A. Explain all “yes” and “maybe” answers on a separate sheet.

Indicate potential for **adverse** impacts.

A. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES	No Impacts or Not Applicable	Negligible Impacts	Minor Impacts	Impacts Exceed Minor EA/EIS required	More Data Needed to Determine EA/EIS required
1. Geological resources: soils, bedrock, slopes, streambeds, landforms, etc.					
2. Air quality					
3. Sound (noise impacts)					
4. Water quality/quantity					
5. Streamflow characteristics					
6. Marine/estuarine					
7. Floodplains/wetlands					
8. Land use/ownership patterns; property values; community livability					
9. Circulation, transportation					
10. Plant/animal/fish species of special concern and habitat; state/federal listed or proposed for listing					
11. Unique ecosystems, such as biosphere reserves, World Heritage sites, old-growth forests, etc.					
12. Unique or important wildlife/wildlife habitat					
13. Unique or important fish/habitat					
14. Introduce or promote invasive species (plant or animal)					
15. Recreation resources, including parks, open space, conservation areas, rec. trails, facilities, services, opportunities, public access, etc.)					
16. Accessibility for populations with disabilities					
17. Overall aesthetics, special characteristics/features					
18. Historical/cultural resources, including landscapes, ethnographic, archeological, structures, etc.					
19. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure					
20. Minority and low-income populations					
21. Energy resources (geothermal, fossil fuels, etc.)					
22. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies					
23. Land/structures with a history of contamination/hazardous materials even if remediated					
24. Other important environmental resources that should be addressed					

B. MANDATORY CRITERIA If your proposal is approved, would it...	Yes	No	To be determined
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?			
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (E.O. 11990); floodplains (E.O 11988); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?			
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)]?			
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?			
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?			
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?			
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office? (Attach SHPO/THPO Comments)			
8. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?			
9. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?			
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?			
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?			
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?			
<b>C. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CRITERIA</b>			
13. Is the area previously disturbed and unlikely to result in any excavation beyond surface disturbance possibly impacting archaeology?			
14. Is the area regularly mowed and therefore unlikely to contain endangered species?			
15. Is there any surface water within direct proximity to the project which would require protection from construction impacts?			

**Environmental Reviewers**

The following individual(s) provided input in the completion of the environmental screening form. **List all reviewers including name, title, agency, field of expertise.** Keep all environmental review records and data on this proposal in state compliance file for any future program review and/or audit. **There must be at least one person listed here.**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

The following individuals conducted a site inspection to verify field conditions. **List name of inspector(s), title, agency, and date(s) of inspection. There must be at least one person listed here.**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Chief Elected Official here:

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

Environmental Checklist for Recreational Trails Program Project

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Sponsor/Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Concurrence from Alabama Historical Commission attached?	Yes	No
Concurrence from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services attached?	Yes	No
Concurrence from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers attached?	Yes	No
Tribal Consultation attached?	Yes	No
Was the property acquired before January 1971?	Yes	No
If "No" explain property acquisition process (Use additional sheets if necessary):		

Note: If you have not received the concurrence letters by the application deadline, submit copies of the request letters. Concurrences over three (3) years old cannot be used and new concurrences must be obtained. **Please provide a copy of the request for concurrence sent to each agency along with any attachments thereto.**

Required Letters of Concurrence and Release of Conditions

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

<b>Mobile District Corps of Engineers</b>	<b>Nashville District Corps of Engineers</b>
Chief, Regulatory Division	Western Regulatory Field Office
Post Office Box 2288	2424 Danville Road, SW, STE N
Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001	Decatur, Alabama 35603-4219
Phone: 251-690-2658	Phone Number: 256-350-5620

**Alabama Historical Commission**

Ms. Amanda McBride  
 Environmental Review Coordinator  
 The Alabama Historical Commission only accepts Section 106 projects by email. Instructions and the required form can be found on their website at <https://ahc.alabama.gov/section106.aspx>.

**US Fish and Wildlife Service**

Mr. Bill Pearson  
 Field Supervisor  
 US Fish and Wildlife Service  
 1208-B Main Street  
 Daphne, Alabama 36526-4419  
 Phone Number: 251-441-5181  
 E-mail: [bill\\_pearson@fws.gov](mailto:bill_pearson@fws.gov)  
<https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>