

# FY 2013-2016 STIP

STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

AUGUST 2014 Quarterly Revision

## STATEWIDE PROJECTS

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

State Trail Improvements



August 2014

Action

Recreation Trails Grant Funding

May 22, 2014

**I. Executive Summary:** This item is to award federal funds allocated under the National Recreational Trail Grants for trail construction, renovation and acquisition projects. This item obligates federal National Recreational Trail Funds to eligible trail projects based upon the recommendations of the Texas Statewide Trails Advisory Committee.

**II. Discussion:** The National Recreational Trails Fund (NRTF) comes from a portion of the federal gas tax generated by gasoline purchases to utilize off-road recreational vehicles, such as off-road motorcycles and four-wheelers. The purpose of the NRTF is to provide funding for projects that create new and maintain existing motorized and non-motorized recreational trails. These federal funds are administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and distributed to states via a formula that takes into account state population and sales of fuel for off-road recreational vehicles. Nationwide, the program was appropriated \$85 million for the current federal fiscal year (FY2014); Texas' share of these funds is \$3,954,874. Seven percent of the state's apportionment (\$279,638) is utilized to cover costs to administer the program, leaving \$3,675,236 to fund projects. Year before last, the FHWA reviewed their funding distribution formula and discovered an error that underfunded the Texas apportionment from 2009 through 2011. This error has been corrected with additional funding authorized for Texas. A number of projects funded in previous years were completed under budget and three projects were cancelled, creating another \$500,000 available for re-allocation this year. The Department has been utilizing the re-allocated funding to fund trail improvements in state parks. The result is a total of \$5,775,236 of federal funding available to fund eligible trail construction projects.

The program has an annual deadline of February 1 for local sponsors to submit trail funding proposals. 82 projects were submitted for funding consideration requesting \$13,437,892 in funds. Projects were evaluated and scored by the Texas Trails Advisory Board. Recommendations are to fund 38 of the projects totaling \$5,253,655 of federal funding assistance.

The Act that created this fund stipulates that states must have a trails advisory board made up of various trail user group representatives to be eligible to receive the federal funds. The purpose of the trails advisory board is to provide guidance in the distribution of these funds. The nine member Texas Statewide Trails Advisory Committee met in March 2014 to review the submitted trail project proposals and develop a list of recommended projects for funding. Each project was reviewed by the advisory committee and scored based on the quality of the project, its cost effectiveness, its impact on recreational trail opportunities, and geographic distribution of funds. Exhibit A contains the list of submitted projects, with funds requested, project scoring and funding recommendations made by the advisory committee and a description of each project.

A federal requirement of the NRTF is that 30 percent of the funds be spent on motorized recreational trail projects, 30 percent on non-motorized trail projects, with the remaining 40 percent discretionary. Because few public park entities in Texas provide opportunities for motorized trail riding, it is typically difficult to generate enough motorized trail proposals to meet the 30 percent motorized trail mandate. As such, the grant funding limit for motorized proposals is \$400,000 per project versus \$200,000 for non-motorized proposals. Funding recommendations in Exhibit A include 8 motorized trail projects that satisfy the 30 percent motorized trail requirement.

**III. Recommendation:** The staff recommends the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopt the following motion:

"Funding for 38 projects recommended in Exhibit A in the amount of \$5,253,655 and state park trail improvements in the amount of \$500,000 is approved."

Attachments – 1

1. [Exhibit A – Project Listing and Funding Recommendations](#)

## 2014 Recreational Trail Projects for STIP Inclusion

Sponsor	Project Name	County	Funds Requested	Funds Recommended	Project Description
City of Childress	ATV & Moto Park Improvements	Childress	\$193,144	\$193,144	New 13 mile trail, road repairs, fencing, maintenance area, erosion control
City of Graham	Graham ATV and Moto Park	Young	\$188,400	\$188,400	New 8 mile trail, access road, staging area, planning
City of Canton	City Lake Park Trail	Van Zandt	\$97,168	\$97,168	New 0.66 mile trail, signing, bridges, benches
Greenbelt Alliance of Denton County	Lake Ray Roberts Equestrian Trail	Denton	\$132,313	\$132,313	Renovate 10 mile trail, bridge, signing
Hill Country Conservancy	Violet Crown Trail	Travis	\$200,000	\$200,000	New 0.9 mile trail, bridge, low water crossing, signing
City of Brownwood	Camp Bowie Walking Trail	Brown	\$200,000	\$200,000	New 2 mile trail, crosswalks, benches, signing
City of Hico	Hike & Bike Trail Extension	Hamilton	\$117,567	\$117,567	New 0.3 mile, renovate 0.4 mile asphalt trail, benches, signing, fountain
City of Tyler	Faulkner Park Lake Trail	Smith	\$98,300	\$98,300	New 0.5 mile trail, observation deck, signing, benches, tables
East Texas Arboretum	Trail Enhancements	Henderson	\$10,000	\$10,000	Signing, drinking fountain, tree trimming, benches
Texas A&M University - Texarkana	Bringle Lake Trail Renovation	Bowie	\$199,500	\$199,500	Renovate 2.5 mile trail, benches, signing
City of Canyon	Canyon Parks Bike/Jog Trails	Randall	\$73,168	\$73,168	New 3.1 mile trail
Texas Motorized Trail Coalition	Barnwell Mountain Recreation Area	Upshur	\$235,571	\$235,571	Renovate 30 mile trail, maintenance building, trailhead shelters, parking
Village of Surfside Beach	Bluewater Trail, phase III	Brazoria	\$153,593	\$153,593	New 1.75 mile trail, bridge, fitness stations
Caddo Trail Riders Association	Caddo Grassland Equestrian Trails	Fannin	\$65,800	\$65,800	Renovate 27 mile trail, signs, water, hitching posts
Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council	Big Reef Interpretive Trail	Galveston	\$136,000	\$136,000	New 1.5 mile trail, observation deck, signing, benches, parking
City of McAllen	McAllen Motocross Park	Hidalgo	\$400,000	\$240,000	New 2.5 mile motorized riding area, restroom, fencing, signing
City of Rockport	Memorial Park Hike/Bike Trail Restoration	Aransas	\$50,400	\$50,400	Resurface 1.6 mile trail, signing, benches, water fountain
City of Bridgeport	Northwest OHV Park	Wise	\$28,960	\$28,960	Trail tools, maintenance vehicle, signing, radios
Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition	Bradfield Park	Harris	\$98,280	\$98,280	New 0.4 mile trail, signing, parking, benches, bike rack
Lasara ISD	Lasara Community Nature Trail	Willacy	\$96,803	\$96,803	New 1 mile trail, benches, bridge, signing, observation deck, tools
City of Breckenridge	Breckenridge Park Walk/Jog Trail	Stephens	\$71,680	\$71,680	New 0.57 mile trail, bridges, benches
City of Olney	Olney Walking Park	Young	\$89,796	\$89,796	New 0.33 mile trail, bridge improvements, lighting, signing, benches
City of Rusk	Rusk Recreational Trail	Cherokee	\$164,305	\$118,830	New 0.8 mile trail, benches, signs, parking area
City of Bridgeport	Northwest Hike & Bike Park	Wise	\$67,040	\$67,040	New 6 mile trail, restroom, fencing, signing, benches, tables
City of Kilgore	Kilgore Recreational Trail	Gregg	\$199,510	\$199,510	New 1.7 mile trail, bridge, benches, signing
National Park Service	Lake Meredith NRA - S. Turkey Creek Trail	Moore	\$148,260	\$148,260	New 10.6 mile trail
City of Port Isabel	Galvan-Bejarano McFarland Trail	Cameron	\$200,000	\$200,000	New 1.4 mile trail in TxDOT ROW
Sam Houston National Forest	Multi-use Trail Rehabilitation	Walker	\$336,000	\$336,000	Renovate 10 miles dirt trail, bridges, trailer, training
City of Horseshoe Bay	Horseshoe Bay Trail	Burnet	\$110,334	\$110,334	New 2.2 mile natural surface trail, signs
City of Levelland	Levelland Trail Expansion	Hockley	\$27,594	\$27,594	New 0.18 mile trail, benches
Mission Bend Greenbelt Association	Bayou Hike & Bike Trail Extension	Fort Bend	\$96,640	\$96,640	New 0.7 mile trail, signing, access ramps, gates
Friends of Trinity Strand	Trinity Strand Trail	Dallas	\$33,984	\$33,984	Water fountains, bike racks, benches, signing
Town of Little Elm	McCord Trail, Phase II	Denton	\$200,000	\$200,000	New 0.7 mile trail, bridge
San Diego ISD	San Diego Nature & Fitness Trail	Duval	\$155,870	\$146,520	New 0.4 mile trail, benches, signs

### 2014 Recreational Trail Projects for STIP Inclusion

Sponsor	Project Name	County	Funds Requested	Funds Recommended	Project Description
Town of Trophy Club	<b>Trophy Club OHV Park Improvements</b>	Denton	<b>\$144,000</b>	<b>\$144,000</b>	<b>Parking, signs, fencing, visitor shade shelters</b>
City of Raymondville	Raymondville Sports Park	Willacy	\$48,500	\$48,500	New 0.33 mile trail, singing, water fountain, benches
City of San Bonito	Heavin Trail Expansion	Cameron	\$200,000	\$200,000	New 2.75 mile trail
<b>Texas Motorized Trail Coalition</b>	<b>Escondido Draw OHV Recreation Area</b>	<b>Crocket</b>	<b>\$558,832</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>Electric and water to site, entrance gate, signing, erosion control</b>
	* Bold = Motorized Project*		<b>Total Funded =</b>	<b>\$5,253,655</b>	