

2026 RTP Scoring Criteria

Question

Version 1 - New Trails

Sect. B Project Need		24 possible			
15.	Degree of Need (select from range)	Point Range	Points		
	Severity of need	0-4			
<i>Max. points: 4</i>					
16.	Nature-based Recreation Access Model/ParkServe or Water-based Recreation Access Model need (select one)	Point Range	Points		
	Project area has demonstrated need for new recreation based on the DCR Nature-based Recreation Access Model or Trust for Public Land ParkServe Model (land trails) OR Water-based Recreation Access Model (water trails)	0-3			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate, High, or Very High (3 pts) Low (2 pts) Very Low or None (0 pt) Very Low but will serve area of at least moderate need (up to 2 pts) 				
<i>Max. points: 3</i>					
17.	New Public Access and ConserveVirginia (select one)			Point Range	Points
	Project will provide public access to a property that was not previously open to the public	0-3			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, and project area intersects at least one ConserveVirginia layer (3 pts) Yes, but project area not within ConserveVirginia (2 pts) No (property previously open to the public), but project provides new public access to a significant feature (1 pts) No (property previously open to the public), and project does not provide new public access to significant features (0 pts) 				
<i>Max. points: 3</i>					
18.	Local or regional plan need (select one)			Point Range	Points
	Project need demonstrated in local and/or regional plans	0-4			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project fulfills a general need or meets a general goal of a local or regional plan (1 pt) [for example, "increase access to natural areas" or "develop new trails in county"] Project fulfills a specific need or specific goal of a local or regional plan (2-3 pts) [for example, "develop multi-use trails at Riverside Park"] Project is specifically identified by location, layout, and features in a local or regional plan (4 pts) [for example, "complete section IV of Riverside Greenway from Main Street to River Ave."] 				
<i>Max. points: 4</i>					
19.	Virginia Outdoors Plan needs (select from range for each)	Point Range	Points		
	Project is listed as (2 pts) or connected to (1 pt) a regional feature project in the VOP (2024)	0-2			
	Degree to which project meets Recreation for All project prioritization recommendations of the 2024 Virginia Outdoors Plan (Section 2.1.6) (includes projects on publicly owned lands, expanding recreation programming, increasing access for people with disabilities, serving historically underserved communities, improving safety, contributing to health and wellbeing)	0-3			
<i>Max. points: 5</i>					
20. & 21.	Close to home trails (select from list or range for each)	Point Range	Points		
	Close to home trails (select from range)	0-3			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project will create a new close to home trail for a community within a city, urban area, or tribal land that does not currently have access to public trails within a 10 minute (1/2 mile) walk (3 pts) Project will create a new close to home trail for a non-city or rural community that does not currently have access to public trails within a 15 minute drive (3 pts) Project doesn't meet either condition above but is still underserved by public trail opportunities; applicant has provided sufficient detail to justify the need (1-2 pts) Project area is already served by public trail opportunities (0 pts) 				
	Project creates a community linkage (for example: between neighborhoods, to/from community features, between parks)			0-2	
<i>Max. points: 5</i>					

Sect. C Public Involvement and Impact		26 possible		
22. - 24.	Public participation & collaboration (select from range for each)	Point	Points	Total
	Degree of public involvement in the project	0-3		
	Degree of collaboration between agencies, land managers, users, and/or community stakeholders	0-3		
	Project has a workforce development component, such as utilizing youth or training corps, or includes youth group volunteers	0-3		
<i>Max. points: 9</i>				
25. & 26.	User benefits (select from range for each)	Point Range	Points	Total
	Degree of positive impact on trail users	0-3		
	Degree to which project will benefit or expand access to new, disadvantaged, and/or underserved users	0-3		
	Degree of positive local economic or tourism impact	0-2		
	Use of trail will not require an entrance fee (2 pts) or fee-free and reduced options available (1 pt)	0-2		
<i>Max. points: 10</i>				
27.	Access for people with disabilities (select from list or range for each)	Point Range	Points	Total
	Project will contain specific design elements to provide an equitable experience for trail users with sensory (including visual), cognitive, neurological, and/or mental health disabilities	0-2		
	Project will contain specific design elements to provide an equitable experience for trail users with disabilities impacting mobility (including surface, slope, width, resting areas)	0-5		
	• Project will exceed accessibility standards (5 pts)			
	• Project will meet accessibility standards (4 pts)			
	• Some but not all project elements will meet accessibility standards, other elements fall under an allowable exception or are not covered by standards (2-3 pts)			
	• Application contains insufficient information to verify project will meet minimum accessibility requirements or minimum requirements not met (0-1 pts)			
<i>Max. points: 7</i>				

Sect. D Design, Sustainability, and Environmental Impact		23 possible		
28. - 30.	Design (select from list or range for each)	Point Range	Points	Total
	Design completeness	0-3		
	• Design and construction drawings complete (3 pts)			
	• Construction drawings created, but not 100% complete (2 pts)			
	• Project is beyond concept and feasibility stage, (preliminary designs complete, layout flagged, etc) (1 pt)			
	• Project is in conceptual phase and/or no site designs complete (0 pts)			
	Appropriateness of design and design standards used for the type of trail, usage level, and site conditions	0-4		
	Sustainability and resiliency: Degree to which design minimizes future resource inputs and has built in resiliency against future weather events	0-5		
<i>Max. points: 12</i>				
31.	Environmental quality impact (select from list for each)	Point Range	Points	Total
	During project construction	0-2		
	• Positive or neutral environmental impact (2 pts)			
	• Negative environmental impact that will be reversed or mitigated when construction is complete (1 pts)			
	• Negative impact that will exist after construction is complete (0 pts)			
	After construction	0-3		
	• Improvements to environmental quality in several categories (3 pts)			
	• Improvements to environmental quality in one or two categories (2 pts)			
	• No change to environmental quality from preexisting (1 pts)			
	• Net negative impacts resulting from this project (0 pts)			
<i>Max. points: 5</i>				
32.	Future maintenance (select from range for each)	Point Range	Points	Total
	Appropriateness of planned maintenance tasks and planned frequency to ensure longevity	0-3		
	Adequateness of labor and funding sources	0-3		
<i>Max. points: 6</i>				

Sect. E Project Implementation		19 possible	
33.	Schedule (select from list)	Point Range	Points
	• Detailed schedule that shows understanding of RTP grant requirements and is clear, realistic, and well planned (3 pts)	0-3	
	• Schedule less detailed, missing minor milestones, or shows lack of full understanding of grant procedures (1-2 pts)		
	• Schedule unrealistic or missing major milestones (0 pts)		
<i>Max. points: 3</i>			

34. Budget (select from list)		Point Range	Points				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget itemized, comprehensive, includes reasonable cost estimates, how it was estimated is explained (5 pts) Missing one of the above (3-4 pts) Missing two of the above (1-2 pts) Missing three or more of the above (0 pts) 	0-5						
<i>Max. points: 5</i>							
35. Grant match (select from list for each)		Point Range	Points	Total			
Grant match secured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation provided showing cash or other eligible match items (volunteer labor, donations, administrative labor, etc.) available to cover 20% of costs (3 pts) Some cash or eligible match items for 20% share are still pending (1 pt) Match funding information incomplete or missing (0 pts) 	0-3					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Match includes extraordinary amount of volunteer labor (3 pts) Match includes significant volunteer labor and/or donations (2 pts) Match includes small amount of volunteer labor and/or donations (1 pt) No volunteer labor or donations planned (0 pts) 					0-3		
Grant match leverages community support by including volunteer labor and/or donations							
<i>Max. points: 6</i>							
36. Procurement (select from list)		Point Range	Points				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive methods list provided, demonstrates understanding of requirements, all procurement procedures appear compliant (2 pts) List not comprehensive, does not appear to understand requirements, or lists non-compliant methods (1 pt) Not enough information provided or multiple errors in response (0 pts) 	0-2						
<i>Max. points: 2</i>							
37. Environmental review, permitting, and NEPA (select from list)		Point Range	Points				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already complete (3 pts) Response outlines clear plan and demonstrates understanding of requirements (2 pts) Response shows lack of understanding of full requirements (0-1 pts) 	0-3						
<i>Max. points: 3</i>							

Sect. F Grant Administration		8 possible	
38. Past RTP grant experience (select from list)		Point Range	Points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant has never received an RTP grant (5 pts) It has been at least 20 years since applicant has received an RTP grant (4 pts) It has been at least 15 years since applicant has received an RTP grant (3 pts) It has been at least 10 years since applicant has received an RTP grant (2 pts) Applicant has had an RTP grant in the last 10 years (1 pt) Applicant currently has an open RTP grant (0 pts) 	0-5		
<i>Max. points: 5</i>			
Completeness of application (select from list)		Point Range	Points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All submission requirements are met and sufficient detail is provided to understand the project, all required attachments are included (3 pts) Most submission requirements are met, but missing a required attachment or detail (2 pts) Most submission requirements are met, but missing multiple required attachments or details (1 pt) Critical submission requirements are not met (0 pts) 	0-3		
<i>Max. points: 3</i>			

Total Score: _____
out of 100

Comments:

Committee Discretionary Points		5 possible	
Discretionary Points (scored at committee meeting, committee does not have to award any discretionary points in a grant round)		Point Range	Points
Discretionary point could include but are not limited to: geographical distribution of funds, significant need.		0-5	
<i>Max. points: 5</i>			