

## **WWRP Trails Program Policy Change**

**“Expanded definition of trail eligibility and requirements for trail separation from a roadway.”**

**Adopted by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board**

**February 9, 2016 (Item 6, Attachment G)**

**Resolution #2016-08 as amended**

Grants in this category provide for projects whose primary intent is to acquire, develop, or renovate pedestrian, equestrian, bicycle, or cross-country ski trails. Projects may include land and/or facilities, such as trailheads; parking; rest, picnic, or view areas; and restrooms that directly support an existing or proposed public trail. These trails, their landscapes, signage, amenities, and barriers must conform to applicable federal, state and/or local codes and regulations. Trails funded through this program may have either hard or natural surfacing, or a combination thereof.

The intent of this funding source is to acquire, develop or renovate statewide, regional, and community-oriented recreational trails that provide linkages between communities or other trails, or provide access to destinations of interest to recreationists. Trails in this category are routes constructed for recreational use and may be used as an alternative to other forms of transportation.

Trails in this category must be for non-motorized use and cannot be part of a city street or county road (“roadway”) such as a sidewalk or unprotected road shoulder, or any other area on the roadway such as a designated bike or combination bike and pedestrian lane.

Trails adjacent to a roadway must be separated by space and potentially physical barriers to ensure a quality recreational experience.

Where a trail funded in this category is wholly or partially along a roadway, that portion of the trail along the roadway must:

1. Be separated from the roadway by a pervious strip of land no less than 10 feet wide (or run length), or
2. If less than 10 feet, be separated from a roadway by no less than 3 feet of pervious land as long as a contiguous barrier exists between the roadway and trail.

Barriers may include:

- guardrails, curbs, fence, jersey barriers, or a contiguous row of thick shrubs,
- a grade change of 3 feet or more between a roadway and trail.

Barriers need not be contiguous where needed to allow drainage, create trail or pedestrian connections, to allow room for utilities such as a light pole, or create access for emergency or maintenance services.

A strip of land separating a trail from a roadway may not be required at or approaching a road crossing, if the trail needs to be located on a bridge or in a tunnel, or in other areas that have severe spatial limitations due to geography or landownership. In these instances, a barrier other than a curb is still required.

A pathway or access route developed primarily to connect elements, spaces, or facilities within a site is not a trail.

The RCO Director may waive non-statutory requirements.