

1028 - Deep River State Trail Feasibility Study for Chatham County

Application Details

Funding Opportunity:		Initial Submit Date:	Nov 12, 2024 9:04 AM
230-Great Trails State Program (GTSP)		Initially Submitted By:	Ben Rippe
Funding Opportunity Due Date:	Nov 12, 2024 5:00 PM	Last Submit Date:	
Program Area:	Great Trails State Program	Last Submitted By:	
Status:	Submitted		
Stage:	Final Application		

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Name*:	Mr. Ben Middle Name
	Salutation First Name
Rippe	
Last Name	
Title*:	Trails & Open Space Planner
Email*:	ben.rippe@chathamcountync.gov
Address*:	964 East Street
	Suite 100
	Pittsboro North Carolina
	City State/Province
27312	
Postal Code/Zip	
Phone*:	(919) 545-8553 Ext.
	Phone
	###-###-####
Fax:	###-###-####

Organization Information

Name*:	Chatham County
Organization Type*:	County Government
Tax Id:	56-6000284
County*:	Chatham
Organization Website:	https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-i-z/parks-recreation?locale=en
Address*:	964 East Street Suite 100
	Pittsboro North Carolina
	City State/Province
27312-	
Postal Code/Zip	
Phone*:	(919) 545-8553 Ext.
	###-###-####
Fax:	###-###-####

GTSP Application Information

Applicant Information

Contact Information

Is the person from the partner organization who will administer the grant contract, if awarded, the same as the Primary Contact listed on the application?

Grant Administrator*: No

Please list contact information.

Grant Administrator: Ricky Silenzi
First Name Last Name
Financial Analyst
Title
Mailing Address: 12 East St
Address Line 1
Address Line 2
Pittsboro North Carolina 27312
City State Zip Code
Email: ricky.silenzi@chathamcountync.gov
Phone: 919-545-8553

Is the Project Manager the same as the Primary Contact listed on the application?

Project Manager*: Yes

If awarded, will the person who signs the grant contract be the same as the Primary Contact listed on the application?

Person Signing Contract*: No

Please list contact information.

Contact Information: Dan LeMontagne
First Name Last Name
Title: County Manager
Title
Email: dan.lamontagne@chathamcountync.gov

Project Overview

Project Name*:

Deep River State Trail Feasibility Study for Chatham County This project title will be used internally and externally.

Describe your project, including how this project would advance your trail network and state your project objectives.

This description will be used to determine your project's overall sustainability as compared to other projects submitted. This statement should be suitable for public review. The text provided in this box will be published internally and externally without editing by Division of Parks & Recreation (DPR) staff. Be concise and discerning with information, covering key components and background, if needed. Narratives are limited in word length as noted below the text box.

Project Description*:

This feasibility study will identify a potential land trail corridor for the Deep River State Trail (DRST) in Chatham County. This 25-mile segment of trail along the southern border of Chatham County represents the southeastern most section and terminus of the planned state trail that totals approximately 125 miles. This study will explore a viable corridor location between Carbondon and the confluence of the Deep and Haw rivers in Moncure, where the Cape Fear River begins.

To date, the majority of land trail development of the DRST has taken place in Guilford and Randolph counties. However, the DRST steering committee has identified this feasibility study for Chatham County as a priority for 2024, and was included in their 2022 5-year plan. This trail corridor concept was also proposed in Chatham County's 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Chatham county is experiencing an unprecedented period of growth and development, as the triangle region is expanding outward into its rural peripheries. In fact, according to the Office of State Budget and Management (OSMB), Chatham County is projected to grow by 17.8% between 2020 and 2023, and 14.9% between 2030 and 2024 adding approximately 27,000 people by 2040. This increase in growth means more people, with a greater demand for increased and diverse outdoor

recreation opportunities in Chatham County. As evidenced in numerous studies and plans conducted throughout the county in recent years, providing more opportunities for recreation and ways to improve citizen health are high priority needs. By conducting this trail study, the county can explore how the Deep River State Trail can provide recreational opportunities while ensuring that some of the rural and historic character of southern Chatham County and the Deep River is highlighted and preserved.

What process will be used for selecting the person or the organization to complete the project? :

This project will be conducted by an outside planning organization with support and guidance from the county's Trails and Open Space Planner.

Upon notification of the grant award and signing of the grant contract, Chatham County will put out an RFQ for the feasibility study. A qualified candidate will be selected based on the firms experience, individual staff qualifications, submittal of a portfolio of similar planning projects and proven successful outcomes. Applicants will be vetted via contacting past clients and satisfactory interview performance. Priority will be placed on firms with proven experience conducting public outreach with an emphasis on equity and inclusion.

Can this project be completed within 3 years of the contract? *: Yes Please attach a detailed timeline below.

Previous Grant or Similar Project Experience

Previous

Grant / Similar Amount of

Project Name Project Project Objective Was your grant or project successful?

Haw River Trail Study for Chatham County	\$100,000.00	Determine feasibility of developing the Haw River trail in Chatham County.	This study was successfully carried out in 2023 by an outside planning firm and has served as a road map for developing the trail in Chatham County. It spawned the development of a number of committees which focus on various aspects of the study; land and easement acquisition, funding and trail construction and maintenance.
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Project Justification

What are the expected outcomes and benefits from this project? Please include:

- How the trail provides or would provide connectivity to daily destinations?
- How the trail is designed or would be designed to increase access to trails (first trail in a community, fills a trail-type need, etc.)?
- How the proposed project would eliminate a gap in an existing trail or in funding?

All acquisition applications should include urgency of acquisition.

- **What is the approximate length, width, and surface type?**

Maintenance applications should include when the trail was originally built and previous maintenance (what was done and when it was completed).

Project Justification*:

The scope of work for this project is as follows:

- **Explore the physical and legal feasibility of developing a multi-use land trail corridor along the Deep River in Chatham County.**
- **Capture the existing conditions along the river corridor, identifying opportunities, potential constraints, and perceived gaps.**
- **Review relevant past plans and reports that pertain to the study area to inform the existing conditions for the project.**
- **Identify stakeholders and engage these parties in the planning process through a study steering committee, project partner interviews and community input opportunities.**
- **Engage the local community in outreach and educational efforts which ensure the trail is planned and developed in an accessible and equitable manner.**

- Analyze the unique challenges and circumstances impacting local underserved populations, such as mobility, safety, and connectivity barriers, and identify feasible solutions to mitigate such challenges.
- Conduct a benefits analysis of the proposed trail corridor to highlight health, economic, and ecological benefits of the project.
- Provide actionable steps for developing the trail corridor, identifying near-term, mid-term and long-term opportunities.
- Provide accurate cost estimates for development of proposed trail segments and trail amenities.
- Identify locations for historic and cultural interpretation along the proposed trail corridor such as dam and mill sites, mines, and historic bridges.

The outcomes of this study will include:

- Identifying and engaging community and project partners in the ongoing planning process for the trail.
- Providing a road map for trail implementation.
- Generating community support for the trail concept.

Chatham County continues to compete with nearby municipalities and counties in the Triangle, Greensboro, and Moore County areas for diverse and unique tourism opportunities as they relate to outdoor recreation. Expanding our outdoor recreation portfolio to include trail networks such as the Deep River State Trail, will make our county more competitive in attracting local, nearby, and out of state visitors - building upon our local tax base, creating more jobs, and building upon our already growing outdoor recreation industry.

Certification and Approval by Governing Body

A signed copy of the certification and approval by the governing board must be attached at the bottom of this section.

I hereby certify the information Yes
contained in this application is true
and correct and the required
matching funds will be available
during the project period. This
application has been approved by
the governing body. *:

Applicant Attachments

Named Attachment	Required	Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
<i>If application has multiple sponsoring agencies, please attached a W-9 for each organization in a single combined file.</i>						
Organization W-9	✓	Chatham County 2024 W-9	Chatham County W-9 2024.pdf	pdf	497 KB	10/28/2024 04:16 PM
<i>Please provide a detailed project timeline. Be sure to include when any pending or unsecured matches will be available.</i>						
Detailed Project Timeline	✓	A visual outline of the proposed project's timeline.	DRST Feasibility Study Timeline GTS.pdf	pdf	160 KB	10/28/2024 04:17 PM
<i>Please upload the signed certification and approval by the governing board. A template of this certification is included in the application guide. Electronic signatures are acceptable.</i>						
Signed Certification & Approval by Governing Board	✓	Certification and Approval of this grant application by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners.	Certification Governing Board.pdf	pdf	125 KB	11/07/2024 12:03 PM

Project Information

Project Details

Enter decimal degrees only.
(Example: 35.774596, -78.843835)

Project Location: Latitude (00.00000) Longitude (-00.00000)

Select the county or counties in which the project will take place.

County/Counties*: **Chatham**

Enter the Center for Disease Control/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Social Vulnerability Index level of vulnerability for the census tract in which the majority of the proposed project will take place.

In order to view census tract level of vulnerability for a proposed project location, toggle the Geographic Comparison to Statewide, select North Carolina, zoom into the County in which the proposed project will take place, and toggle the Geographic Unit to Census Tracts. Click on the census tract containing the proposed project.

Project Census Tract Social Vulnerability Index*: **Low-Medium**

Please attach the attorney's certification of site control below. A template is provided in the application guide.

Site Control*:

Not Applicable (Planning & Feasibility, Design & Engineering Applications, & Acquisition Only)

Select all that apply.

If Other Site Control, please explain:

:

Please indicate all permissible uses of this project*: **Bicycle,Equestrian,Hike-Walk**
Select all that apply.

If other, please list:

Has the trail design been completed?* **N/A**

Why was this trail design standard chosen? :

Obtained approved waiver for land acquisition?* **N/A**

Trail Facilities Provided by the Project

The applicant will be building its first trail project.*: **N/A**

The project will provide new trail facilities*: **N/A**

The project will add trail facilities on an existing trail *: **N/A**

The project will provide major renovation of an existing trail*: **N/A**

The project will provide a trail connection to existing recreation area(s), school(s), downtown businesses, and/or communities.*: **N/A**

Suitability of the Site for the Proposed Project

The site is suited for the proposed development with minimal adverse impact to the environment.*: **N/A**

The project enhances public's access to a trail. *: **N/A**

The project is enhanced by the adjacent property uses*:

N/A

The site is free from limitations, conditions, encumbrances, or other intrusions. *:

N/A

Management and Maintenance

Site Operation and Maintenance.

Please choose from the following:

*The applicant has a full-time parks and recreation department that will manage the project site to provide programming and ensure adequate operation and maintenance.

*The applicant has a full-time staff, such as public works, who will manage the project site and ensure adequate operation and maintenance.

*The applicant will manage the project site with part-time staff or by contractual agreement to ensure adequate operation and maintenance.

*An organized volunteer group, such as a civic group or youth sports association will operate and maintain the site.

Site Operations & Maintenance*: Full-Time Parks and Recreation Department

*must be owned / managed by a public entity or land conservation partner. If the applicant is not going to operate the site with full-time staff, describe how and when the site will be open to the public.

Who will maintain this trail? *:

This will likely be Chatham County parks and Recreation, however other partner organizations may be identified in the planning process.

What is your emergency management plan?:

This will be determined during the planning process. Often we just let county emergency management know we are building a trail and trail heads and how they can access the trail.

For Maintenance Applications only, N/A
is this trail considered high use? :

For Maintenance Applications only,
please explain high use and how
use is documented: :

Project Information Attachments

Named Attachment	Required Description Name	File		Upload
		Type	Size	Date
<i>This certification MUST be attached for all construction and maintenance applications to be eligible for consideration.</i>				
Attorney's Certification of Site Control				
Trail Design Documentation				
Land Acquisition Waiver				
<i>Optional if additional explanation is needed.</i>				
Site Suitability Supporting Documentation				
<i>Please attach additional information regarding the emergency management plan if necessary.</i>				
Emergency Management Plan				
Maintenance Applications - Documentation of Trail Use				
Maintenance Applications - Previous Trail Maintenance Records				

Site Information

Plans & Maps

Named Attachment	Required Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
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Include the following items on the site plan:

- Title: Name of project and applicant
- Acreage
- Address and Start/Finish Longitude/Latitude in decimal degrees
- Date the map was prepared
- Connection to state trail
- Existing trail
- Planned trail
- Existing facilities
- Future facilities
- Legend
- North arrow
- Scale

Site Plan	✓	This overview map of the Deep River study corridor shows existing conservation properties, public parks and trails within 3 miles of the river.	DRST Feasibility Study Corridor Map.pdf	pdf	873 KB	11/12/2024 08:47 AM
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Include the following items on the site vicinity map:

- Title of the project
- The name of the road or trail a visitor uses to get to the trail entrance.
- The closest major highway/road
- Legible street names
- North arrow
- Physical address (such as a street address)
- Latitude/longitude coordinates of the central point in the site

Site Vicinity Map

Provide a detailed map of the proposed trail project with topographic lines or basemap. Bodies of water and other natural features should be visible on this map as well.

Topo Map

In addition to the legal description, acquisition-only projects must submit a copy of a conceptual plan showing the property to be acquired and future development for public recreation. See Application Guide for an example

Conceptual Plan for
Acquisition Only
Applications

Land Acquisition

Does your project involve land acquisition?*: No

List of Properties to be Acquired (if applicable)

Description	Will the property be	Current Owner	Number	Acreage	Land	Improvements for Trail Purposes	Proposed Purchase Price
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No Data for Table

Legal Description of Property to be Acquired

Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
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No files attached.

Budget

Project Type

Type of Project*: Planning + Feasibility

Project Costs

Project Element	Unit Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Item Cost
Planning Feasibility Study	1	Each	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
				\$150,000.00
				\$150,000.00

Planning, Feasibility, Design, and Engineering Costs

Project Element	Cost
Feasibility Study	\$150,000.00
	\$150,000.00

Acquisition Costs

Parcel Number	Acres Acquired	Land Acquisition Cost
No Data for Table		

Non-State Match

Type of Match	Amount of Match	Source of Match	Availability
Cash	\$75,000.00	County General Fund	immediately available

Budget Summary

Total Project Cost:	\$0.00
Total Non-State Match:	\$75,000.00
Total Grant Request*:	\$150,000.00 May not exceed \$500,000

Match Summary

What county or counties will the project be located in? *:	Chatham
What is the Tier designation of the county? If the project is in multiple counties, the match shall be based on the lowest wealth county. Tier designation can be verified here.*:	Tier 3

Partners & Community Support

Partnerships & Community Support Attachments

Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
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Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
No files attached.				

Partnerships & Community Support

Is the trail supported by the community where it will be built?*: N/A

Please explain*:

While the concept of the trail has general support from the public as shown in Chatham County's 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the feasibility study will explore this further by conducting public input sessions and some online surveys. Our hope is that the study will help garner more local support and help identify other partnerships to help champion the trail effort.

The concept is supported by a number of regional and state partners as evidenced in the attached letters of support.

Has the applicant held a public meeting within the last 24 months to discuss the trail project and obtained comments? Is the public supportive of the project?*: No

Is the trail supported by other organizations or partners?*: Yes

Please explain*:

NC State Parks, local conservation partners such as Piedmont Land Conservancy, Triangle Land Conservancy and the Conservation Fund, The Chatham Conservation Partnership and the Rocky River Heritage Foundation support the concept of this trail segment through southern Chatham County.

Has the applicant used another way to gain & document support of the trail project?*: No

No

Environmental Review

Impact

Describe in detail the existing or proposed property including the acreage (for land and water), topography, streams, lakes, and any significant natural resources that are on or adjacent to the site.

Site Description*:

NA

What are the past and/or current uses of the property?

Examples: Urban/developed, forest, agricultural, industrial site, landfill, water, or wetland.

Important: If the property has been contaminated (examples: brownfield sites), all cleanup actions must be completed before a GTSP contract is executed and the project can begin. Use this space to describe any cleanup actions that are in progress or proposed. The GTSP program recommends that local governments wait until cleanup is completed before applying.

Past/Current Property Use*:

NA

Describe any wetland areas on the site including the acreage. Describe any disturbance of wetlands needed to develop the proposed project. Please state if no wetlands exist on the site.

Wetlands*:**NA**

Describe any floodplain areas within or adjacent to the site and delineate floodways.

Floodplains*:**NA**

Describe the predominant tree and wildlife species on or adjacent to the site.

Tree and Wildlife Species*:**NA**

List any known archaeological or historical sites within the project site or in the vicinity of the site. Has the area been surveyed by an archaeologist? If so, when and by whom? **Please note additional review will be required if ground disturbance will occur within study list or historic district (per HPOWEB), if federal funds will also be used, or if a 404 permit is needed.**

Archaeological or Historical Sites*:**NA**

List all existing recreational facilities and other structures on the site, regardless of their age. Indicate if any structure is more than 50 years old. Provide a photograph and pertinent historical information about the structure(s) which are 50 years or greater. Indicate whether any existing structure(s), regardless of age, will either be demolished or renovated for recreational use by the proposed project?

Existing Structures*:**NA**

Describe any existing utility easements within the site; including the width and length. Also, describe the existing water, sewer, and road systems at the site. Describe any water, sewer, or road systems included in the proposed project.

Utilities*:**NA**

How many acres are to be disturbed and/or cleared for the proposed development?

Ground Disturbance / Site **0.00**

Clearing*: acres

Is a new trail support indoor facility being proposed? Examples include restroom facilities, bathhouses, or equipment rental facilities.

New Trail Support Facility*: **No**

Environmental Review**Review Requirement****Attachment****Wetlands**

**Env review DRST
GTS.pdf**

National Wetlands Inventory

Attach a copy of the map of the trail corridor from the National Wetlands Inventory.

Streams on Site

**Env review DRST
GTS.pdf**

NC Surface Water Classifications

Attach a copy of the map of the trail corridor from this NC DEQ Surface Water Classifications resource.

Floodplains

**Env review DRST
GTS.pdf**

NC Flood Risk Information System

Attach a copy of the map of the trail corridor from the NC Flood Risk Information System.

Review Requirement

Archaeological or Historic Sites

NC HPOWEB 2.0

Attach a copy of the map of the trail corridor from the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office GIS Web Service. Note: Any project with federal funding component requires review regardless of HPOWEB results.

Attachment

Env review DRST

GTS.pdf

Comments

Comments:

Application Supporting Documentation

Application Attachments

Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
?	DRST GTS application review.pdf	pdf	14 KB	11/12/2024 09:02 AM