



GRANTING ORGANIZATION: Trust for Public Land  
FUNDING SOURCE: Disney Conservation  
PARTNER ORGANIZATION: Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation  
FUNDING TITLE: Wildlife Corridor Access Improvement  
ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)  
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: TPL-TWDC-FWCF-26-06

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

July 1, 2026	NOFO Opening Date
September 30, 2026	Application Closing Date
October 31, 2026	Initial Award Selections
December 1, 2026	Anticipated Start of Period of Performance for Initial Selections

**DEADLINE:** Application packages will be accepted on a rolling basis until September 30, 2026, at 11:59 PM (Eastern Time) through <https://forms.office.com/r/UHEQwCZm3M>. TPL is unable to consider applications received after the closing date and time.

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## **1. Introduction**

Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national nonprofit that connects everyone to the benefits and joys of the outdoors. As a leader in equitable access to the outdoors, TPL works with communities to create parks and protect public land where they're needed most. Since 1972, TPL has protected more than 4 million acres of public land, created more than 5,500 parks, trails, schoolyards, and iconic outdoor places, raised over \$112 billion in public funding for parks and public lands, and connected nearly 10 million people to the outdoors. To learn more, visit <https://www.tpl.org/our-work/florida-wildlife-corridor>.

Trust for Public Land (TPL) is partnered with the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation (FWCF) to improve access to the Florida Wildlife Corridor (the Corridor). FWCF champions a collaborative campaign to permanently connect, protect, and restore the Corridor. FWCF aligns efforts for conservation of the Corridor's highest priorities, accelerates connectivity by providing tools and resources that elevate partners' work, and celebrates collective successes through storytelling and art. To learn more, visit [floridawildlifecorridor.org](http://floridawildlifecorridor.org).

Disney Conservation Fund is continuing their 30-year commitment to conservation by granting the FWCF funds to support the expansion of access to the Florida Wildlife Corridor, especially in communities where access is limited. FWCF is furthering Disney Conservation Fund's goal by choosing to work with TPL as a trusted partner and leader in equitable access to the outdoors to administer the Wildlife Corridor Access & Trailhead Improvement funding opportunity.

By supporting new trailheads and public entry points, FWCF, Disney Conservation Fund, and TPL hope to make nature more accessible to all Floridians, helping them connect with and appreciate the state's wild beauty found in the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

### **Program Purpose:**

The program aims to grant one award totaling \$150,000 to an Applicant within the Florida Wildlife Corridor for capital improvements that address expanding access to outdoor recreation assets.

### **Program Priorities:**

The Program has four priorities that will be considered during application review. Though these are priorities for the program, a project not meeting one or more of these priorities does not preclude it from potential funding.

1. Wildlife Corridor Commitment: Current or planned activities for education, protection and planning around the Florida Wildlife Corridor geography by Applicant.
  - a. Example: Note of Florida Wildlife Corridor in Comprehensive or strategic plan, dedicated funding for land conservation and recreation, or cultural and Indigenous relationship to geography.
2. Leveraging Funding: Match funds are not required, but the demonstration of additional investments in the proposed project will be considered in application review.

3. **Level of Improved Access:** Improved access can be noted by an increase in variety of user types or the availability of recreational amenities in your region.
  - a. **Example:** A footpath was previously only used by hikers; Improved access: footpath for hikers, bike rack installation for cyclists, creation of waterfront access for fishing, camping site for backpackers, and ADA accessible viewing platform for birders.
4. **Project is Shovel-Ready:** The proposed project is shovel-ready, and the applicant is able to expend all project funds and complete construction of the project no later than December 31, 2027.

## **2. Eligibility**

### **Applicants:**

Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, local governments, and Tribal and Indigenous communities or governments that have a project to create or improve access on land they own in the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

Further applicant eligibility requirements are described below.

1. **Non-profit organizations:** To qualify as a non-profit, an organization must be filed as a 501(c)3 incorporated within the State of Florida. The organization must either own the property included in the project application or be applying in partnership with another eligible applicant within the Florida Wildlife Corridor.
2. **Local governments:** Eligible local government entities include counties, municipalities, cities, towns, school districts, special districts, etc.
3. **Tribal governments:** Federally or State recognized Tribes and Indigenous governments or communities with a nonprofit status are eligible to apply for funding.

### **Eligible Land:**

Eligible applicants must own land within or near and connected to the geographic area of the Florida Wildlife Corridor, which is defined by the Florida Ecological Greenways Network priority 1-3 data layers. This land, and the improvements made through this grant, need to be made publicly accessible to all. Access improvements proposed in an application should be located, either partially or entirely, within the Florida Wildlife Corridor. You can check your location in the Wildlife Corridor by using this online tool (Florida Ecological Connectivity (EcoCon) Planning Viewer):

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/16766dbce8c24722b84210e4c92db35c/page/Map/>

Applications for a project on a parcel(s) that fall out of this definition are not eligible.

### **Eligible Activities/Costs:**

Eligible activities for this grant are capital improvements to expand access to new and current users of the land in the Florida Wildlife Corridor. The funding should be directed towards increasing access to, and diversity of, recreational opportunities at large, either through

improvements to existing access points or the construction of new and/or additional access points. Capital improvements must be located in, or within a half mile of and connected to, the Florida Wildlife Corridor and must be made permanently accessible to the public.

Examples of eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

1. Trail-head improvements/creation
2. Trail extension/rehabilitation
3. Parking lots and bike racks
4. Campground creation/improvements
5. Observation platforms

### *Eligible Costs*

This grant funds capital improvement projects only, with the exception of a groundbreaking event and a grand opening event that are required to include in the grant budget. Grant funds must be used for necessary costs associated with implementing approved capital projects that expand access to recreational opportunities on lands located within the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Eligible costs may include the following:

1. Materials and supplies
2. Labor and rented equipment
3. Recreational amenities (benches, bike racks, way-finding signs, etc.)
4. Other required capital costs
5. Required to include in the grant budget:
  - a. Costs for a groundbreaking celebration event
  - b. Costs for a grand opening ceremony/celebration event

All costs must be outlined in the application budget.

*Ineligible costs* include but are not limited to:

1. Staff pay (other than staff pay for the construction of access improvements)
2. Operating costs
3. Overhead costs
4. Promotional costs
5. Acquisition of land (neither within, nor outside of, the Florida Wildlife Corridor)
6. Planning and design
7. Permitting and compliance
8. Support costs such as appraisals or title work

*Match:* No cost sharing or matching is required as a condition of eligibility under this program. Leveraging grant funding is a priority for this program. If the project plans to leverage other funds, this will be outlined in the Narrative and the Project Budget.

### **3. Project Timeline & Reporting**

The award agreement will be executed between October 2026 and November 2026. Project work will commence in December 2026. Key milestones:

- A groundbreaking celebration will be required when project work begins. FWCF and TPL will assist in planning the groundbreaking celebration.
- Project funds must be expended no later than December 31, 2027.
- A grand opening ceremony will be required no later than December 2027. FWCF and TPL will partner on the opening ceremony.

Reporting and invoicing dates:

- Throughout the project period, quarterly reports and invoices showing project expenditures with backup documentation will be required.
- A final report and invoice will be due on January 31, 2028.

### **4. Application Instructions and Documents**

#### **Application Instructions**

The application involves two steps that are to be completed in the following order:

1. Fill out this form <https://forms.office.com/r/UHEQwCZm3M> with the Applicant's narrative materials. The Applicant will receive a submission number and confirmation of the form's submission over email. If the Applicant does not receive this email, please check the spam inbox of the email listed in the application and then email [Florida-Access-Grant@tpl.org](mailto:Florida-Access-Grant@tpl.org) if the confirmation was not received.
2. Reply to the email sent from [Florida-Access-Grant@tpl.org](mailto:Florida-Access-Grant@tpl.org) following the form submission and submit the 5 attachments outlined on page 7. Ensure that the attachments follow the naming conventions below as well as that the subject line includes your submission number. Submission of attachments must also be completed by 11:59 pm ET on September 30, 2026.

It is suggested to draft the application outside of the form and enter answers in the form at the end as it does not save. Please note **the application is not complete until both steps one and two are completed** and the Applicant receives the second email from [Florida-Access-Grant@tpl.org](mailto:Florida-Access-Grant@tpl.org) confirming the receipt of the attachments.

#### **Application Documents**

Narrative (35 points):

*Executive Summary (5 points)*

1. Entity/Organization Name
2. If applicable, please provide a URL for the Entity/Organization

3. Proposed Project Site Information
  - a. List the proposed improvement(s) discussed in the Narrative (max 50 words).
  - b. Provide the address(es) or GPS coordinates of the proposed improvement(s) proposed in the Narrative.
  - c. Please briefly discuss the existing conditions of, and what outdoor recreation asset(s) exist on the project site in a few words. Ex: trail, parking lot, lookout tower, etc. (max 150 words).
4. Contacts
  - a. Project Director: Provide the name, phone number, email address, and mailing address of the Project Director assigned to this proposed project. This person should be the main point of contact for the project and should be the person responsible for the project's day-to-day operations.

*Narrative Criteria/Questions (30 points)*

1. Project Summary: Describe the purposes of the project, existing and future uses, existing improvements, natural and historic resources, and resource protection and enhancement activities. What is the outdoor recreation asset that will be improved or created? Provide a description of the existing conditions of the land and resources that are already there. Who are the current users of the existing asset(s)? (400 word maximum, 5 points)
2. Improvement Strategy: Describe the proposed physical improvement in detail. What is the planned improvement for the outdoor recreation asset? Does the planned improvement build upon existing infrastructure or is it a new outdoor recreation asset? (300 word maximum, 5 points)
3. Community Need & Engagement: Discuss the improved access to recreational assets that the community will receive. Use Trust for Public Land's Impact Report Tool (<https://gis.tplgis.org/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=35a1ed898dcd41ffb7f47a4dbbfad36> \*\*) to look at statistics for improved access to recreational assets. Save the 10-Minute Walk & 20-Minute Drive Impact Reports from the Impact Report Tool to attach to the application (*See: Map & Photos #3*). (250 word maximum, 5 points)  
*\*\*Please note that the initial pop-up to this website includes detailed usage instructions\*\**
4. Community Benefit & Partnership: Discuss the community that will benefit from this outdoor recreation asset and the way(s) in which they may do so. Describe any partnerships, community planning, or engagement that contribute to the project. (300 word maximum, 5 points)
5. New Users: Who are the new users of the outdoor recreation asset? How will this project invite new users? (300 word maximum, 5 points)

6. Project Readiness: Discuss the level of planning and development that has already occurred or is upcoming for the project. Highlight and describe the ability to meet the proposed project timeline. (300 words maximum, 5 points)
7. Timeline Certification: I certify that my project can be reasonably completed in the project period, with all funds expended and project completed by December 31, 2027. (0 points, mandatory for award consideration as outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity's timeline)

Attachments (40 points):

*Map & Photos (10 points)*

1. Please attach a map of the property. Please include on the map the location of the project site where the improvements will take place. Label the attachment: Project\_Name\_Map.
2. Upload one file (.doc or PDF) showing up to 5 images with a description of the site and planned future improvements. Label the attachment: Project\_Name\_Photos.

*ParkServe Tool: 10-Minute Walk & 20-minute Drive Impact Report (10 points)*

3. Please attach *both* (2) [Project Impact Report](#) reports. These include the two-page PDF reports created using The Trust for Public Land's ParkServe Tool to show the 10-Minute Walk and the 20-Minute Drive Impact Reports. These reports are associated with *Narrative Criteria/Questions #3* above. Label the attachment: Project\_Name\_Report.

*Workplan and Timeline (10 points)*

4. Please provide a timeline, no longer than one page, ranging from October 2026 to December 2027. Make note of key milestones and requirements, including any permits needed for construction. If additional funds are being sought to complete the project budget, also make note of any decision deadlines. You may use your own format, but please upload it as a pdf. Label the attachment: Project\_Name\_Timeline.

*Budget and Cost Effectiveness (10 points)*

5. Upload the budget for the project. See section 2. *Eligibility* with questions regarding eligible expenses. Though match/leveraged funds are not a requirement, they are a priority of this program. If you have matching/leveraged funds, put them in the budget in the appropriate sections. See the budget template in the application package. Label the attachment: Project\_Name\_Budget.

## **5. Scoring and Evaluation**

Applications will be scored by a panel of reviewers from the Trust for Public Land, The Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation, and Disney Conservation Fund. Applications will be reviewed out of 100 points, as broken down below.

- Narrative (35 points):
  - Executive Summary (5 points)
  - Narrative Criteria/Questions (30 points)
    - Project Summary (5 points)
    - Improvement Strategy (5 points)
    - Community Need & Engagement (5 points)
    - Community Benefit and Partnership (5 points)
    - New Users (5 points)
    - Project Readiness (5 points)
    - Timeline Certification (0 points, mandatory for award consideration as outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity's timeline)
- Attachments (40 points)
  - Map and Photos (10 points)
  - ParkServe Tool: 10-Minute Walk & 20-minute Drive Impact Report (10 points)
  - Workplan and Timeline (10 points)
  - Budget and Cost Effectiveness (10 points)
- Overall Alignment with Program Priorities (25 points)
  - Wildlife Corridor Commitment (8 points)
  - Leveraging Funding (5 points)
  - Level of Improved Access (7 points)
  - Project is Shovel-Ready (5 points)

If you have further questions, contact [Florida-Access-Grant@tpl.org](mailto:Florida-Access-Grant@tpl.org).