

Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application

Name of Organization **Hunter/Arthur JPA Park Board**

Federal Tax ID# **Applied for, see attached IRS Correspondence**

Contact Person/Title **Bridgette Readel, Secretary**

Address **PO Box 98**

City **Arthur**

State **North Dakota**

Zip Code **58006**

E-mail Address **bmreadel@dow.com**

Phone **(701) 799-4906**

Fax # **(701) 874-2270**

MAJOR Directive:

- Directive A.** Provide access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;
- Directive B.** Improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and to support other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;
- Directive C.** Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and
- Directive D.** Conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

Additional Directive:

Directive A. Provide access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;

Directive B. Improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and to support other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

Directive C. Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

Directive D. Conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

Type of organization:

State Agency

Political Subdivision

Tribal Entity

Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation, as described in United States Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. § 501 (c))

Project Name

Northern Cass Pass

Abstract/Executive Summary.

The City of Hunter and the City of Arthur Park Districts formed the Hunter/Arthur JPA Park Board in 2013 upon the decision of BNSF Railway to abandon their railway corridor between Hunter and Arthur. The JPA pursued the acquisition of this corridor through the Rails to Trails program and in fact successfully acquired the corridor in 2013. The objective of this acquisition is to build a multi-use, non-motorized path entitled Northern Cass Pass from the south edge of Arthur, north to the City of Hunter with the project ending at the Elm River Bridge: adjacent to the Hunter elevator. This corridor parallels ND Highway 18 with a total length of approximately 6 miles. The ultimate goal of the JPA is to construct a hard surface

trail with an estimated total project cost of \$2,221,465. This Rails to Trails project is anticipated to be a multi-year project with several phases planned. The Northern Cass Pass project has recently been notified that it received a \$66,604 grant from the ND RTP (with a local match of \$16,652 bringing the total cost to \$83,256) for the enhancement of the existing bridges on the corridor (to make the bridges safe for pedestrian and other non-motorized uses).

The goals of the JPA with Northern Cass Pass, is to create a separated, non-motorized corridor to provide safe passage between the cities of Hunter and Arthur for residents of the area as well as a destination location for specific community events. Additional benefits of this corridor include preservation of the 100 year history of the Great Northern Railway and BNSF as well as improving the quality of the existing wetlands which receive water from the large Right of Way, improving the wildlife habitat throughout this corridor and finally buffering agricultural lands and other natural resources from State Highway 18. The addition of a tree line along the western edge of the corridor will enhance the wildlife features, enrich the existing water quality benefits created by existing vegetation, provide additional wind erosion benefits for the adjacent agricultural lands and finally, provide an added benefit of a living snowfence for State Highway 18.

The construction of the sustainable trail will provide a series of end results including recreational opportunities for local persons as well as visitors to the area, protection of existing wildlife habitats and natural resources, access to private and public lands for sportsmen, improvement of water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity and animal systems and finally conserving the natural areas by protecting the established former Railway Right of Way. Also included in this project will be the construction of three separate trailheads (one at each end and one in the middle) which will provide kiosks which will be used to memorialize the Outdoor Heritage Fund, the Great Northern Railway and the history of the project.

Amount of Grant request \$ 138,876 (Phase 1 + Phase 2)

Total Project Costs \$ 185,171 (Phase 1 + Phase 2)

Amount of Matching Funds

\$ 46,295 (cash)

Source(s) of Matching Funds

The Hunter/Arthur JPA will bond the amount for all local matching funds. To date, the Northern Cass Pass has received the following, with grant amount indicated as well as the local share committed.

Secured funding sources are as follows:

Grant Received:

ND RTP:	Grant amount...\$66,604.00
	Local match.....\$16,652.00

Certifications

XX I certify that this application has been made with the support of the governing body and chief executive of my organization.

XX I certify that if awarded grant funding none of the funding will be used for any of the exemptions noted on Page 1 of this application.

Narrative

Organization Information –

The cities of Hunter and Arthur ND have had their respective park boards for many years as a service to their communities. These boards are comprised of elected residents who direct the improvements, maintenance and safety of the city parks. In the summer of 2011, BNSF announced plans to abandon the railroad track between Hunter and Arthur. The park boards convened jointly to discuss the potential of converting the railroad bed to a non-motorized pedestrian trail. In April 2013, the two park boards signed a joint powers agreement and subsequently created a joint park board to further the efforts of the trail.

The joint park board consists of three representatives from each community's park board and officers are elected within those ranks. Each position is a nonpaid. Our officers include:

President: Ola Anderson, Arthur
Vice President: Jen Brayton, Hunter
Secretary: Bridgette Readell, Hunter
Treasurer: Donna Porter, Hunter
Member: Dale Shields
Member: JJ Degerness

Additional community's volunteers are available to help when needed for labor and construction projects including local FFA chapter, church youth groups and others.

Purpose of Grant –

The trail has been named the Northern Cass Pass (NCP) to coincide with the name of the local school district. Due to ever increasing heavy truck traffic on ND Highway 18, the mission of the NCP will be to provide safe passage between Hunter and Arthur for non-motorized uses and community events. Examples include, community 5k or 10k events, high school cross country practice/events, leisure walking, jogging or bicycle use, promotion of healthy living and an opportunity for citizens to enjoy the outdoors. The trail will be an asset to the communities and will be the first trail to connect two rural communities in Cass County, ND.

The Northern Cass Pass project is a new project to be constructed on an old BNSF Railway bed that has been acquired through the Rails to Trails program. This project will conserve the natural recreation and environmental corridor between Hunter and Arthur by providing a non-motorized trail for pedestrians, bikes, and the occasional equestrian traffic. This project will also preserve the natural environment that has been established over the past 100 years that the railway right of way has been there. The planting of a tree line along the west edge of the right of way, along with proper storm water protection devices, will create an environment that benefits area wildlife as well as providing erosion control (both wind erosion and water erosion) to the surrounding agricultural lands.

It is the intent of the Hunter/Arthur JPA to begin this project immediately upon acquiring funding. The first item of business will be to hire a Civil Consulting Engineering Firm to provide plans, specifications, bidding services, construction staking and construction administrative services for the project.

Management of Project –

The Hunter/Arthur JPA will hire a ND DOT pre-qualified Engineering consulting firm upon receipt of funding. This firm will design and bid the project followed by construction administration (which includes surveying, inspection of construction, completing all necessary Federal, State, County and Local documentation requirements). The Hunter/Arthur JPA will continue to be intimately involved with the progress of all phases of this project

Evaluation – Describe your plan to document progress and results.

As part of the Management of the Project, the Consulting Engineering Firm will provide monthly progress reports to the Hunter/Arthur JPA (as well as the Industrial Commission). This monthly reporting is required to produce monthly incremental pay requests as well as a method to track all progress.

Financial Information

ATTACHMENT: Project Budget – (Phase1 + Phase 2)

Project Expense	OHF Request	Applicant's Match Share (Cash)	Applicant's Match Share (In-Kind)	Applicant's Match Share (Indirect)	Other Project Sponsor's Share
Trail Grading & Prep (Item #1)	\$63,051	\$21,018	\$	\$	\$
Storm water & Erosion Control (Item #2)	\$7113	\$ 2372	\$	\$	\$
Trees (Item #3)	\$ 6,600	\$ 2,200	\$	\$	\$
Topsoil & Seeding (Item #4)	\$22,998	\$ 7666	\$	\$	\$
Trailheads (Item #5)	\$21,000	\$ 7,000	\$	\$	\$
Contingency & Engineering	\$18,114	\$ 6039	\$	\$	\$
Total Project Costs	\$138,876	\$ 46,295	\$	\$	\$

- #1. Subgrade prep, Borrow excavation, Traffic control and signing
- #2. Silt fence, Erosion checks, Ditch checks, storm water management and cleaning equipment for SWPP requirements
- #3. Trees, weed barrier
- #4. Topsoil, seeding and hydro-mulch
- #5. Includes parking area, information kiosks, benches, trash receptacles

XX I certify that a project budget will be sent to the Commission

Sustainability –

This project will be sustained by the Hunter/Arthur Park Boards through the Hunter/Arthur JPA. The Hunter/Arthur JPA has committed to the development and ongoing maintenance of this project.

Partial Funding –

The project would continue as a series of phases if it was the Advisory Boards' desire to award a smaller grant (the current request is for Phase 1 and Phase 2 items):

Phase 1 would include the installation of all storm water management items, planting of the tree line/living snow fence and installation of three separate trailheads for a total cost of \$52,078 (Grant amount of \$39,058 and local match of \$13,020).

Phase 2 would include the regrading/reshaping of the slopes, preparing the slopes with topsoil and seeding/hydro mulching of the project for a total cost of \$133,093 (Grant amount of \$99,818 and a local match of \$33,275).

Phase 3 would consist of the installation of the geotextile filter fabric and the 6 inches of crushed for a total cost of \$1,074,956 (Grant amount of \$806,216 and a local match of \$258,740).

Ultimately, *Phase 4* would consist of the construction of a bituminous on the entire project length for a total cost of \$961,338 (Grant amount of \$721,003 with a local match of \$240,335).

Ongoing efforts will continue by the Hunter/Arthur JPA to locate and apply for applicable grants for the construction of this project.



IRS Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

P.O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI OH 45201

In reply refer to: 9999999999
Dec. 02, 2013 LTR 3367C S0
46-2092983 000000 00

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BODC: TE

JOINT ARTHUR AND HUNTER PARK
DISTRICT
PO BOX 98
ARTHUR ND 58006

1044

700

Employer Identification Number: 46-2092983
Tax Form: 1023
Document Locator Number: 17053-324-31901-3
For assistance, call: 1-877-829-5500

Dear Applicant,

We received your application for exemption from Federal income tax and your user fee payment.

During the initial review process, applications for exemption are separated into three groups:

1. Those that can be processed immediately based on information submitted,
2. Those that need minor additional information to be resolved, and
3. Those that require additional development.

If your application falls in the first group or second group, you will receive your determination letter stating that you are exempt from Federal income tax or a request for information via phone, fax, or letter. If your application falls within the third group, you will be contacted when your application has been assigned to an Exempt Organizations specialist for technical review. You can expect to be contacted within approximately 90 days from the date of this notice.

IRS does not issue "tax exempt numbers" or "tax exempt certificates" for state or local sales or income taxes. If you need exemption from these taxes, contact your state or local tax offices.

General information about the application process and tax-exemption can be found by visiting our website, www.irs.gov/eo. If you are unable to locate the information needed, you may call our toll free number shown above Monday through Friday. When communicating with us, please refer to the employer identification number and document locator number shown above.

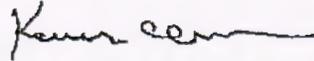
Sign up for Exempt Organizations' EO Update, a regular e-mail newsletter that highlights new information posted on the Charities pages of irs.gov. To subscribe, go to www.irs.gov/eo and click on "EO Newsletter."

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JOINT ARTHUR AND HUNTER PARK
DISTRICT
PO BOX 98
ARTHUR ND 58006

For other general information, tax forms, and publications, visit
www.irs.gov

Sincerely yours,



Kenneth Corbin, Acting Director
Exempt Organizations

CASS COUNTY
GOVERNMENT



Board of County
Commissioners

Scott Wagner
Fargo, North Dakota

April 16, 2012

Vern Bennett
Fargo, North Dakota

Ken Fawcett
Fargo, North Dakota

Shari Murray, President
Hunter Park Board
PO Box 301
Hunter ND 58048-0301

Dale Shields, President
Arthur Park Board
PO Box 72
Arthur ND 58006-0072

Darrell W. Vawter
West Fargo, North Dakota

Robert S. Smith
Hebron, North Dakota

RE: Rails to Trails Project

Dear Ms. Murray and Mr. Shields:

The Cass County Park Board met on April 2, 2012, and heard a presentation from Bridgette Readel regarding the Rails to Trails project being pursued by your park boards.

The county applauds your efforts to improve your city parks with the addition of a recreational trail. The Cass County Commission and Cass County Park Board support the Hunter Park Board and Arthur Park Board in your pursuit of this opportunity.

Sincerely,


Scott Wagner, Chairman
Cass County Commission


Chad Peterson, Chairman
Cass County Park Board

Heather Worden
Commissioner Assistant

Fax 701-241-5728
211 North Street, South
Fargo, North Dakota 58105

701-241-5609
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www.casscountynod.gov

CITY OF HUNTER

P.O. BOX 56 • HUNTER, NORTH DAKOTA 58048

March 31, 2014

North Dakota Industrial Commission
Outdoor Heritage Fund
State Capitol 14th Floor
600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

RE: Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application
Northern Cass Pass

Dear Sir/Madam:

On behalf of the City of Hunter, ND, please accept this letter as our support for the Northern Cass Pass Rails to Trails project. The improvement of this corridor will provide unique recreational opportunities for the citizens of Hunter and surrounding areas. Not only will the trail provide a safe pedestrian corridor between the communities of Arthur and Hunter, it will preserve the natural environment that has been developed over the past 100 years with the Railway Right of Way.

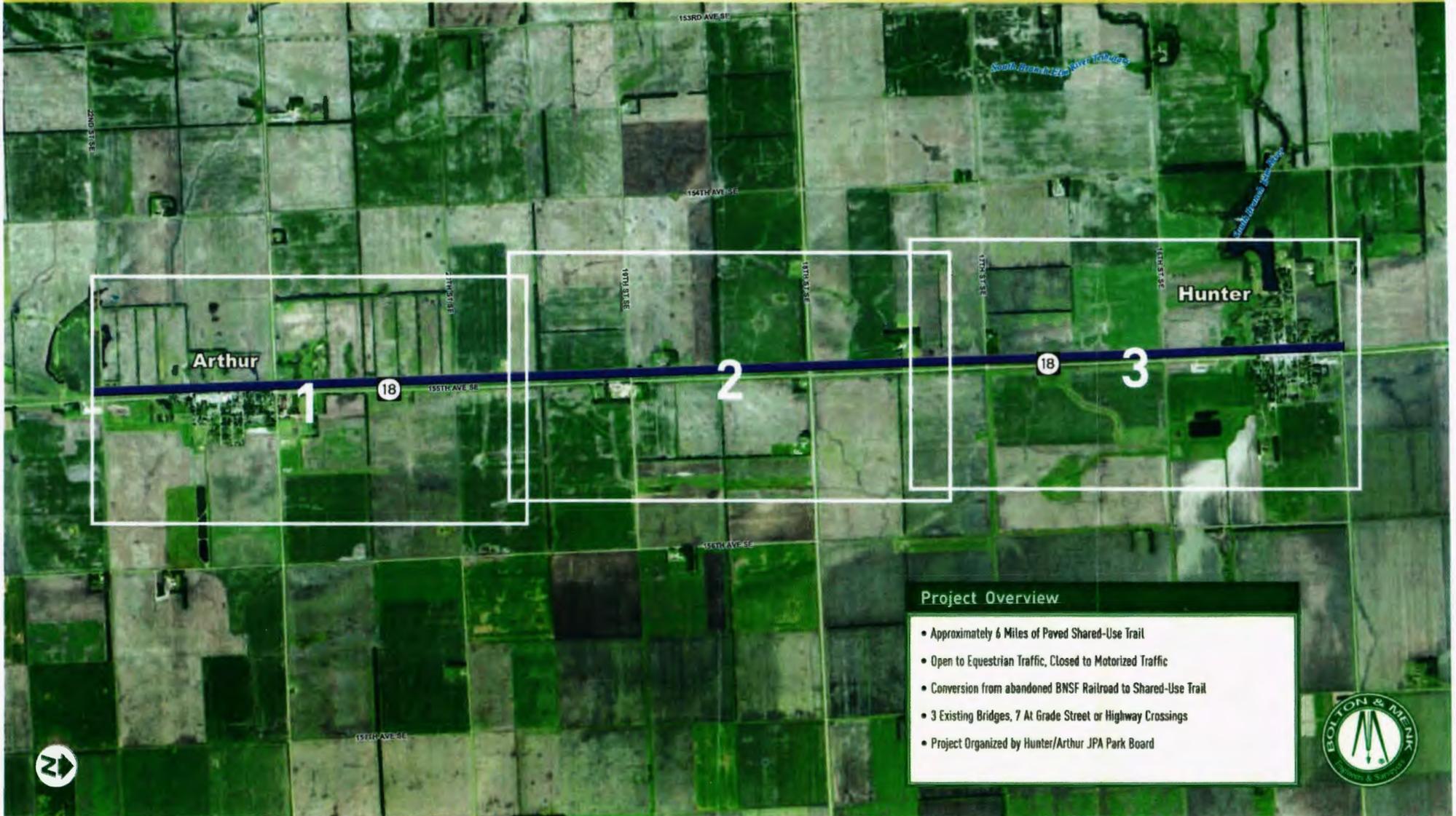
Again, please accept this letter as whole hearted endorsement of the Northern Cass Pass project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mayor Ben Olson
City of Hunter, ND



Project Overview

- Approximately 6 Miles of Paved Shared-Use Trail
- Open to Equestrian Traffic, Closed to Motorized Traffic
- Conversion from abandoned BNSF Railroad to Shared-Use Trail
- 3 Existing Bridges, 7 At Grade Street or Highway Crossings
- Project Organized by Hunter/Arthur JPA Park Board





