Parks Grants List

California Department of Parks and Recreation: Outdoor Equity Grant Program (Round 2)
Due: December 2024 (est.)
Match: No.
https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30443
The Outdoor Equity Grants Program (OEP) will increase the ability of residents in low income urban and rural communities to participate in outdoor experiences at state parks and other public lands. OEP grants will improve the health and wellness of Californians by connecting underserved communities to natural areas throughout California.

Cal Parks: Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP)
Deadline: January 2025
Amount: Maximum: $15 million per application, Minimum: $300,000 per application
Match: 50%
Eligibility: Cities, Counties, State agencies, Federally recognized Native American Tribes
Joint Powers Authorities where all members are otherwise eligible under LWCF.
Park districts, and special districts with authority to acquire, operate, and maintain public park and recreation areas
https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30578
ORLP focuses on communities with little to no access to publicly available outdoor recreation opportunities. ORLP funds the acquisition and/or development of new parks, or substantial renovations to parks in economically disadvantaged cities or towns of at least 30,000 people.

- Projects must be located in incorporated cities and towns with at least 30,000 people.
- Projects must be located within a Census tract that is determined to be disadvantaged per the Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool at https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov.
- Projects must involve land acquisition or development for outdoor recreation.
- Projects must be outdoor recreation areas and facilities open to the general public and not limited to special groups.
- Projects cannot be within a park/site that has LWCF or ORLP grant funding within the last seven years.

Local Parks Grant Program
Deadline: June 2025
Amount: Min $15,000, max $250,000 in grant awards for the Planning and Development track, and $2,500,000 in grant awards for Implementation Grant track
Match: Not required, but recommended for implementation grants
Eligibility: 501(c)3 organizations, California Native American Tribes, Native 7871 Organizations, Land Trusts, Fiscally Sponsored Community Organizations, Foundations, and Local Government Agencies (City, County, Regional).
Local parks include land that is owned or managed by a local city, county, park or community service district, land trusts, regional park or open space district, non-profit organization or foundation, or any other entity other than federal and state agencies. Both indoor and outdoor spaces can be considered.
https://artsincaliforniaparks.org/local-parks-grant-program/

This new multi-year grant program intends to create local community connections to California's rich and diverse cultural history and natural areas outside of California's state park boundaries. Eligible projects will enhance connections to local cultural history, local parks, open space or natural areas through community events, programming or installations that help to build sustainable community connections, health and well-being. The Local Parks Grants Program will be managed and administered by Parks California.
This program supports the "Outdoor Access for All" initiative led by Governor Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, along with the Natural Resources Agency's "Outdoors for All" initiative, and California State Parks' Reexamining Our Past Initiative.

California Department of Parks and Recreation: Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
Deadline: June 1, 2025
Amount: Up to $6 million
Match: Yes - 50%
Eligibility: Cities, counties, tribal governments, JPAs, park districts, and special districts with authority to acquire, operate and maintain public park and recreation areas
https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21360
Project must be acquisition or development, combination projects are not eligible. Development of recreation features must be for outdoor recreation, not indoor recreation. See the list of recreation features in the application guide.

California Department of Parks and Recreation: Recreational Trails Program
Deadline: July, 2025
Amount: Up to $1.56 million
Match: Yes - 12%
Eligibility: Cities, counties, districts, state agencies, federal agencies and nonprofits with management responsibilities of public lands
https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24324
The non-motorized RTP funds recreation trail projects for pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians that may also serve as non-motorized transportation corridors.

California Department of Parks and Recreation: Habitat Conservation Fund
Deadline: June 15, 2025
Match: Yes - 1:1
https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21361
Purpose: Nature interpretation programs to bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas, protection of various plant and animal species, and acquisition and development of wildlife corridors and trails.

California Natural Resources Agency: Youth Community Access Grant Program
Deadline: August 2025
Amount: $25,000 to $500,000
Eligibility: Local, state, and federal agencies; nonprofit organizations; and federally recognized Native American tribes. Eligible projects must serve youth and directly support access to either natural or cultural resources AND meet the criteria for both low-income AND disadvantaged (not one or the other) communities. (See guidelines for criteria details)
URL: https://resources.ca.gov/grants/youth?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
Summary: Programs such as the Youth Community Access grant program help advance Outdoor for All, CNRA's initiative that is expanding parks and outdoors spaces in communities that need them the most, supporting programs to connect people who lack access, fostering a sense of belonging for all

Californians in the outdoors, and much more.

To be eligible for funding, projects must meet ALL the following program requirements:

1. Projects must serve youth. For the purposes of this program, youth is defined as a person between the ages of birth and 26 years old. 2. Projects must directly support youth access to either natural or cultural resources. 3. Projects must include design features and program elements to promote youth health, safety, well-being, and comfort.

Parks California: Route to Parks Grant

Due Date: August 2025

Amount: Parks California anticipates awarding approximately $1,000,000 with awards averaging $25,000 - 30,000 per grantee.

Match Requirements: No

Eligibility:

- 501(c)3 Organizations
- California Native American Tribes (inclusive of federally and non-federally recognized tribes)
- Native 7871 Organizations
- Fiscally sponsored Community Organizations
- Government Agencies

Link: Route to Parks Grants

Summary:

- Primarily provide transportation to/from California State Parks and beaches;
- Offer a valuable recreational, environmental, cultural, or historical learning experiences;
- Reach underrepresented communities who may face challenges getting to or enjoying parks, and/or lack opportunities to create meaningful connections to nature;
- Address parts of the state with the greatest transportation needs.

Preference will be given to proposals that:

- Include programming and/or experiences at California State Parks that connect people to inland waterways, lakes, rivers, watersheds, and water systems;
- Deliver memorable experiences in nature through collaboration with other stakeholders to build expertise and deliver programs that they alone would not be able to provide;
- Provide participants with multiple meaningful outdoor experiences in parks;
- Strengthen collaboration and partnership with California State Parks;
- Have an innovative and relevant transportation approach for participants.

California State Parks: Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grants Program

Deadline: October 2025

Amount: Up to $10 million, depending on project scope

Match: Generally 25% match required for most projects

Eligibility: Local and federal government agencies, special districts, educational institutions, federally recognized Native American tribes, and nonprofits

OHV Grants Program Link

Summary: The OHV Grants Program supports the management, maintenance, and enhancement of off-highway vehicle recreation areas across California. Eligible projects include ground operations, restoration, law enforcement, and education programs that promote responsible OHV use and environmental protection.