Parks Grants List

LA County Regional Park Open Space District (RPOSD): Competitive Grant Programs
Deadline: October 30th, 2025
Amount:

- Planning and Design: $100k-$500k
- Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation And Protection: $500k-$4M
- Regional Recreation, Multi-Use Trails & Accessibility Competitive Grant Program: $500k-$4M

Match: No
Eligibility: LA County based public agencies, non-profits, and public or non-profit schools
https://rposd.lacounty.gov/2025competitivegrants/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=
Planning and Design: The Planning & Design Competitive Grant Program supports early-stage work that leads to Measure A-eligible, shovel-ready projects under Category 3 (Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation & Protection) and Category 4 (Regional Recreation, Multi-use Trails & Accessibility). The program helps applicants advance their projects to a stage where they are eligible and competitive for future development funding—from RPOSD or other funders. This includes pre-construction efforts such as design, permitting, environmental review, feasibility analysis, and meaningful community engagement. All work funded through this program must directly support the creation or improvement of a Measure A-eligible development project and be in line with policies outlined in the GAM.
Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation And Protection: The Category 3 Competitive Grant Program funds shovel-ready development projects that protect, restore, or enhance natural lands, water resources, and open space throughout Los Angeles County. Eligible projects must result in the development, improvement, or restoration of multi-benefit parks, trails, and open space that provide meaningful public access while promoting community health, clean local water supplies, habitat protection, biodiversity, and environmental resilience. Priority will be given to projects offering the greatest regional benefit or serving the greatest regional need.
Regional Recreation, Multi-Use Trails & Accessibility Competitive Grant Program: The Category 4 Competitive Grant Program supports shovel-ready capital projects that expand or improve regional recreation, multi-use trail systems, and public accessibility to parks and open space across Los Angeles County. Projects must demonstrate regional significance by serving diverse populations across multiple communities, enhancing multi-jurisdictional trail systems, or delivering substantial recreational improvements that benefit the county at large. Regional projects often connect jurisdictions, serve destination users, or represent a unique resource of countywide value.

Yamaha's Outdoor Access Initiative
Deadline: Rolling
Amount: Varies
Eligibility: Anyone with land stewardship
Must be supported by local Yamaha dealer

Through this program, Yamaha has directly and indirectly supported thousands of miles of motorized recreation trails, maintained and rehabilitated riding and hunting areas, improved staging areas, supplied agricultural organizations with essential OHV safety education, built bridges over fish-bearing streams and partnered with local outdoor enthusiast communities across the country to improve access to public lands.
The Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative has contributed more than $6 million in funding and equipment across more than 470 projects over the past 15 years to assist outdoor recreationists working to protect and improve access to public land and educate the public on its safe, sustainable recreational use. For those who rely on access to public land for work and play, the Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative has proven to be the industry's most reliable partner and a significant resource.
The following are examples of appropriate projects for a Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative grant:

- Trail development, restoration and/or maintenance (i.e. purchasing materials, hiring contractors, renting equipment, purchasing tools and safety gear).
- Trail signage (i.e., purchasing signs, equipment, installation tools, etc.).
- Stage area renovation/facilities (i.e., renting equipment, purchasing materials, hiring contractors, etc.).
- Protecting environmentally sensitive areas from illegal or inadvertent OHV use (fencing, bridges, hardscape, etc.).
- Adopt-a-Trail (renting equipment, purchasing tools and safety gear, volunteer coordination, etc.).
- Trail mapping/Map production (GPS equipment purchase, production and printing, etc.).
- Safety and Education (educational materials, signage, safety gear, events, etc.).
- Wildlife and habitat maintenance and management.
- Land management projects that increase the diversity of use of land for recreational activities. - Establishing, increasing and/or maintaining access to land for outdoor recreation (including but not exclusively limited to motorized recreation).
- Note: Outdoor Access Initiative grants will not be awarded for the purpose of purchasing Yamaha vehicles and the program is not able to donate vehicles outright.

California State Parks: Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grants Program
Estimated Deadline: TBD 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.

~~**California Department of Parks and Recreation: Outdoor Equity Grant Program (Round 2)**~~
~~**Estimated Deadline:** TBD December 2026 (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)

Estimated Deadline: TBD Spring 2026
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.

California Department of Parks and Recreation: Habitat Conservation Fund
Estimated Deadline: 2026
Amount: No minimum or maximum grant request
Match: Yes - 1:1
URL: 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 Department of Parks and Recreation: Recreational Trails Program
Estimated Deadline: 2026
Amount: No minimum or maximum grant request
Match: Yes - 12%
Eligibility: Cities, counties, districts, state agencies, federal agencies and nonprofits with management responsibilities of public lands
URL: 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.

Arts in California Parks Grant Program
Estimated Deadline: TBD March 2026
Information Webinar: February 25, 2025, at 3:00 PM PT (Register on resources page: https://artsincaliforniaparks.org/resource-hub/grants-program-resources-hub/)
Amount: TBD – Opens 2/18/25 *(Last year's solicitation was $15,000 minimum)*
Match: TBD – Opens 2/18/25 *(No match required in last year's solicitation. Match was "encouraged" for implementation projects)*
Eligibility: 501(c)3 organizations, California Native American Tribes, Native 7871 Organizations, Land Trusts, Fiscally Sponsored Community Organizations, Community Foundations, and Government Agencies (excluding California State Parks and Federal Lands).

Requirements: This year features a streamlined grant application process. Applicants are asked to complete a letter of intent to determine eligibility and assess fit before requiring a full application. All letters of intent will be reviewed, and selected applicants will be invited to submit a complete application.

- In order to qualify for this grant program, projects must:
  - Integrate art and nature as a catalyst for community connection in local parks.
  - Be free and open to the public.
- Projects must involve a collaborative partnership between:
  - Nonprofit(s)
  - Artist(s)
  - Local public park manager(s)
  - Eligible partners may include nonprofit organizations, fiscally sponsored community organizations, California Native American tribes, Native 7871 organizations, foundations, land trusts, and/or local government agencies.

URL: https://artsincaliforniaparks.org/grants-program/

Summary: The Arts in California Parks Grants Program revitalizes local parks with diverse experiences that foster creativity, community connection, and transform them into vibrant hubs of art, culture, and nature. In 2024, more than $2.8 million was invested to support 31 grant recipients across California. These innovative programs will bring art and cultural activities to local parks, transforming them into dynamic spaces that celebrate California's cultural heritage and provide memorable experiences for visitors and residents alike.

Regional Approach:

Parks California will use a regional approach to support equitable distribution of grant funds.

At least two projects will be funded per region shown on the 2025/26 Grants Program Regional Map. Proposals will be ranked within their region before moving to the next stage. This process will focus efforts on traditionally underrepresented regions, including the North Coast, Sacramento Valley, Sierra Nevada, Central Coast, Central Valley, Inland Desert, and Tribal lands. The final selection process will ensure that recommendations represent regions across the state.

CPRS Healthy Play Grant

Estimated Deadline: Summer 2027

Amount: $40k minimum

Match: 1:1

Eligibility: CPRS Members who have attended an education event in California in April or May 2025

https://www.gametime.com/cprs

Terms and Conditions

- Funding assistance provided by GameTime must be used towards the purchase of a qualified playground structure.
- Other freestanding play products are available at our best pricing through Omnia Partners.
- Representatives from CPRS, GameTime, and PlayCore will select qualifying projects to be considered for funding assistance.
- Orders must be installed by December 2025 through GameTime's exclusive representatives in California.
- Funding can only be applied to additional GameTime playground equipment purchases and only in conjunction with the original purchase.
- GameTime standard policies and warranties as listed in the 2025 Playground Design Guide apply.
- Freight, installation, surfacing, material surcharges, and applicable sales tax are extra and not included as part of the funding program.

- To qualify for 100% matching funding assistance, the list price of the qualifying playground system must exceed $40,000 and be purchased with cash with the order.
- GameTime funding is subject to rounding rules and may vary based on qualified purchases.
- For award recipients who wish to bring fitness to their communities, separate funding assistance will be available for GT Challenge Course with the funding amounts dependent on the course selected.
- Preconfigured adult outdoor fitness packages are also available to receive funding assistance based on the packages selected.
- Contact your California GameTime representative for a list of qualifying adult outdoor fitness packages.
- Freestanding playground products are available through the GameTime Omnia Partners contract.
- No other offer, discount, or special programs can be used with this funding program.
- All applications must be validated by the project administrator. GameTime reserves the right to decline any application for the CPRS funding initiative.
- Matching funds offer applies to PowerScape® (including Spire®, Altus® and Aventus® Towers), PrimeTime® (including the Odyssey®), Xscape®, and Modern City®, and The Stadium® play systems only. Up to 50% matching funds for select outdoor fitness equipment, including THRIVE®, Challenge Course, and The Stadium®.

Parks California: Route to Parks Grant
Estimated Deadline: Summer 2026

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 Natural Resources Agency: Youth Community Access Grant Program
Estimated Deadline: TBD August 2026
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.

California Department of Parks and Recreation: Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
Estimated Deadline: Summer 2027
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
URL: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21360
Acquisition of lands, wetlands, and waters for public outdoor recreation, including new areas or additions to existing parks, forests, wildlife management areas, beaches, and other similar areas dedicated to public outdoor recreation, as well as physical connections among them (e.g., trails, waterways, land between recreation areas, wildlife habitat corridors) may be eligible for assistance.
Development should encompass essential public outdoor recreation activities and the necessary support facilities for public use. Projects could involve a combination of land acquisition and site development. These projects can cater to a diverse range of public outdoor recreation activities and facilities required to enhance the use and enjoyment for the public. These include, and are not limited to:
• Community Parks
• Campgrounds
• Playgrounds
• Sport fields and Courts
• Picnic Areas and Open-air Pavilions
• Trails and Tracks for Hiking, Walking, Skating, or Biking
• Water based Recreation Facilities for Swimming or Boating
• Fishing and Hunting Facilities
• Pools and Splash Pads
• Publicly Accessible Nature Preserves or Conservation Areas
• Community Gardens
• Spectator Facilities such as Amphitheaters or Bandstands
• Renovations of Existing Facilities
• Interpretive Signage