

THE BICENTENNIAL NATURE TRUST

Program Guidelines



"I have asked [the Bicentennial Commission] to oversee a Bicentennial Nature Trust, a statewide project to protect still more of our most precious natural spaces. On our 100th birthday, Indiana launched its state park system. A statewide conservation initiative is a fitting sequel and bequest from our second century to our third. The Trust is intended to inspire others, and to match their donations of land or dollars in a continuing statewide surge of conservation. The Commission joins me in challenging citizens, businesses, and in particular our unique network of county community foundations, to identify and fund local projects that will safeguard places of beauty for future generations."

Former Governor Mitch Daniels, State of the State Address, January 10, 2012

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR BICENTENNIAL NATURE TRUST (BNT) FUNDING?

The primary Intent of BNT is property protection/acquisition that will become part of the public trust for all Hoosiers to enjoy. Project types eligible for funding under the BNT include the acquisition of property for conservation. ALL projects will be scored and ranked by several factors (see Appendix).

WHAT ARE THE MINIMUM GUIDELINES THAT A PROJECT MUST MEET? **

There are minimum guidelines in place that will encourage public/private partnerships and ensure projects are located within every region of the State. They are:

- The maximum amount of money from BNT for any single project proposal is \$300,000.
- Projects will have a 1:1 match. So for every dollar requested from BNT there will be at least one dollar of non-BNT fund match within the project.
- Projects will need to obtain ½ of the maximum 53 points in the scoring sheet to minimally qualify for funding.

WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES OR PROJECTS ARE INELIGIBLE FOR BNT FUNDING?

BNT funds are not intended to be used for stewardship, capital improvement projects, staff, construction of structures, removal or remediation of hazardous substances, or wastewater treatment.

WHO CAN PROPOSE PROJECTS?

Projects proposed for funding from the BNT will generally come from two sources. However, all applications will be accepted and reviewed.

- The general public which includes, for example: nonprofit organizations, corporations, individuals, etc.
- Governmental organizations with strong local encouragement and support.

WHO WILL RECOMMEND PROJECTS FOR FUNDING?

Anyone can recommend a project for funding.

REVIEW PROCESS FOR PROJECTS:

A guiding principle is that all proposed projects, from whatever sources, are subject to the same criteria and the same review process.

All proposals shall first be referred to the coordinator of BNT for correctness of form, structure and completeness and for communication with applicants to correct any deficiencies.

The projects shall be scored and ranked according to specific criteria.

The projects will be reviewed by DNR technical staff for substance.

The projects will be reviewed by the Project Committee and referred to the Bicentennial Commission for approval.

No project will be placed on the Project Committee's agenda for review until the application has been reviewed by the coordinator of BNT and DNR and appropriately scored to make sure the project meets the minimum criteria. The applicant will be informed if the project that they have outlined is ready for the Project Committee's consideration. Readiness should include a determination of the property owner(s) willingness to sell or donate their property.

If your project qualifies, you will be notified of the date, time, and place when your project will be reviewed by the Project Committee. You are requested to come to Indianapolis for the review so that you can discuss the merits of the project with the Project Committee and answer any questions the committee may have.

If the Project Committee recommends your project for funding, it will be sent to the Bicentennial Commission. Notification of acceptance or rejection of the proposed project by the Bicentennial Commission will be made by mail.

WHERE TO SEND PROJECT PROPOSALS AND DEADLINE SCHEDULE:

Complete project proposal forms and documentation must be delivered to the Bicentennial Nature Trust, 402 W. Washington St., Executive Office, Room W-256, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2748 or postmarked by the deadline date. Project proposals received after the deadline will not be considered for that proposal period but can be resubmitted for the next one.

Deadlines for submission of project proposals to the Project Committee are: **February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1.** The Project Committee meets quarterly to consider project proposals for recommendation to the Bicentennial Commission.

OPEN MEETINGS:

All meetings of the Project Committee are open to the public. Proposers of pre-qualified projects will be informed of the date on which their project will be considered by the Project Committee. The proposer is expected to present the project in a brief and concise manner. Photos and maps are encouraged. If you have any questions you may contact:

Nick Heinzelman at (317) 233-1002 or by e-mail at nheinzelman@dnr.in.gov

** The Bicentennial Commission may waive or alter guidelines throughout the life of the program.

<p>L. The project addresses needs in an "under served" county as defined by the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan as "deficient" (page 54), or "critical" (page 58). If under served area 3 POINTS</p>							
<p>M. The project maximizes partnerships: If 2 Partners each contribute 10% of the required match 2 POINTS More than 2 Partners each contribute 10% of the match ... 4 POINTS</p>							
<p>N. The project maximizes partnerships between BNT and other public and private agencies Applicant partners with 2 public or private agencies 1 POINT Applicant partners with 3 or more public or private agencies 2 POINTS</p>							
<p>O. The project maximizes the use of external (non-BNT) funding External funding ratio meets or exceeds 1.5:1 1 POINT External funding ratio meets or exceeds 2:1 2 POINTS External funding ratio meets or exceeds 3:1 4 POINTS</p>							
<p>P. If the project is the first for a county 1 POINT</p>							
<p>Q. The project is endorsed by County officials 2 POINTS</p>							
<p>R. The project is endorsed by the County Community Foundation 2 POINTS</p>							
<p>S. The project contains funding provided by the Community Foundation Community Foundation contributes 5% of the project cost....2 POINTS Community Foundation contributes 10% of the project cost....4 POINTS</p>							
<p>TOTAL POINTS: <i>(priority given to the highest ranking projects in each application period based on funds available)</i></p>							

Special Recognition: