

**Application: REVISED**

**Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority  
Application for Financial Support  
General Instructions**

The RDA Board requires that every applicant for funding submit this application form. There are no minimum and maximum length requirements to any question or to the form as a whole. Brevity though is always appreciated, as long as the response is complete. Answers should be detailed and specific as well as focused.

Support materials (e.g. studies, plans, reports, etc.) in general should be referred to and the findings summarized in the answers, with the unabridged supporting materials attached to or submitted with the completed application.

The Board or its staff may request clarification and / or supplements to any given answer.

The applicant may submit any additional responses and / or materials it wishes. These should be given after the last response to the Board's questions and identified as supplemental information, materials, etc.

**Date of Filing:** October 9, 2008

**Applicant:** Town of Burns Harbor  
**Contact Person:** Cliff Fleming, Redevelopment Commission President  
**Mailing Address:** 1240 North Boo Road  
Burns Harbor, Indiana 46304  
**Phone:** 219.787.9413  
**E-Mail:** cliff@flemingentities.com

**Applicant's Legal Status:** Municipality

- Attach cites to any statutes, ordinances or other laws and rules that specifically establish the applicant, controls its activities, and documents its capacity to receive and spend funds.
- Attach a copy of any Articles of Incorporation, by-laws, rules, ordinances, specific government pacts, and related documents.

**Project Description – Executive Summary (500 words)**

- Attach extended description

SEE PAGES 4

**Economic Impact Statement – Executive Summary (250 words)**

SEE PAGE 5

**Quality of Life Statement – Executive Summary (250 words)**

SEE PAGE 6

**Funding Request and Financial Analysis**

**Total project cost: \$200,000.00**  
**Funds requested from RDA: \$50,000.00**

**Total funds from other sources, both received and requested.**

**Federal:**

**State: \$100,000.00 (Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Lake Michigan Coastal Program) - Committed**

**Local: \$50,000.00 (Town of Burn Harbor) - Pending**

**Private investment:**

- Attach a detailed explanation of the request from the board. Is the request for a specific part of a larger project and if so, define the specific project. Is the request for an outright grant, loan, an investment to be repaid. Indicate the required flow of funds (single year / multiple years). If bonds are to be issued, are they to be issued by the applicant, the RDA or a third party? Indicate the terms of guarantees and repayment by Applicant by year.

SEE PAGE 7

- Attach a detailed explanation of the funds from other sources. The amount of financing received or promised from each source, its nature (bonds, loans, grants, ...) and full payment information.

SEE PAGE 8

**Project Timeline** SEE PAGE 9

- Identify the start date, completion date and significant milestones for the specific project.

**Supporting Materials** SEE PAGE 10

- Attach unabridged copies of all studies, reports, surveys, and other documents supporting this application.
- Attach a statement of the relationship, if any, between this project and any other existing or proposed economic development project for Northwest Indiana.
- Attach any disclosure statements regarding relationships you may have with RDA board members or employees.
- Attach a copy of the ethics guidelines to which the applicant adheres.

- With respect to projects undertaken by the Authority, the applicant shall set a goal for participation by minority business enterprises of fifteen percent (15%) and women's business enterprises of five percent (5%), consistent with the goals of delivering the project on time and within the budgeted amount and, insofar as possible, using Indiana businesses for employees, goods, and services. The complete citation can be found in IC 36-7.5-2-8(b) (<http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title36/ar7.5/ch2.pdf>)

## **Project Description:**

The Town of Burns Harbor is seeking funding to develop the **Marquette Greenway Trail Sub-Area Master Plan**. The Plan will guide future development along the Marquette Greenway Trail as it extends through Burns Harbor. The Plan will be the result a highly participatory public planning process that will consider alternative trail routes, various development types and strategies to preserve, enhance and highlight the extensive natural systems - systems within the boundaries of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, within the jurisdiction of the Burns Harbor Park Department, and currently held by private interests. Additionally, the Plan will look outside the corporate limits of the Town of Burns Harbor to identify a trail alignment that meets the expectations and requirements of the communities and private interests along the trail corridor.

Today, the Town of Burns Harbor's residents, like many residents in northwest Indiana, do not have direct public access to Lake Michigan. The Town is bisected by both man-made and natural systems. Five major east-west transportation corridors including the South Shore RR, US 12, Interstate 94, US 20 and the Norfolk Southern (Porter Branch) extend through the Town. The Little Calumet River Corridor (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore) and the Salt Creek Corridor also extend through the Town. The Town's lakefront is dominated by ArcelorMittal Steel - a fully integrated steel mill that opened in 1964 as Bethlehem Steel. While the extensive transportation network and vast industrial complex serve as barriers to public access to Lake Michigan, the natural systems, both the Little Calumet River and Salt Creek Corridors, and man-made systems, including utility easements and public rights-of-way, provide opportunities to connect Burns Harbor's residents, neighboring communities and visitors to northwest Indiana to Lake Michigan and other open space systems throughout the region.

The Town of Burns Harbor recognizes that direct municipal access to Lake Michigan is a long-term vision. As a community, it is Burns Harbor's intention to provide what it can to ensure the economic viability of Indiana's newest intergrated steel mill. Like communities to the west of Burns Harbor, the Town will continue to work with the mill's owners to identify opportunities for acquisition when consolidation is in the best interest of all parties. In the short-term, the Town considers the **Marquette Greenway Trail** as its connection to Lake Michigan.

**Economic Impact Statement:**

Communities across the Great Lakes region are capitalizing on the economic opportunities associated with their waterfronts. In addition to investing along their shorelines, communities are also looking for ways to connect their residents to the waters' edge. For example, Chicago, Milwaukee and Detroit, are all leveraging millions of dollars in public and private investment to develop new parks, to promote real estate development and to preserve and enhance both natural and man-made corridors. Most recently in northwest Indiana, the communities of Whiting, East Chicago, Gary and Portage have partnered with the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority to take advantage of the Lake Michigan lakefront and to connect their residents to the waters' edge.

It is estimated that three million visitors come to northern Porter County every year to recreate along the shores of Lake Michigan. In a destination audit commissioned by the Porter County Convention, Recreation, and Visitors Center it is reported that the average stay of these visitors is only between two and four hours. The report continues by estimating that nearly \$20 million dollars could be generated if only five percent of the visitors extended their stay to two nights.

Burns Harbor believes that the Marquette Greenway Trail Sub-Area Master Plan and the other planning initiatives under way in the communities all serve as the necessary first steps toward realizing the full economic development potential of Burns Harbor and Porter. Having plans in place provide focus – ensure that investments made are in concert with one another. The Town of Burns Harbor believes the RDA's investment in the Town's planning will ensure this focus and the results sought by the RDA Board – the development of a better northwest Indiana.

**Quality of Life Statement:**

“Sweeping changes will not come overnight. Nor can they be dictated by one person or one governmental body. We in Northwest Indiana must sit together as a unified community and reach a consensus on our future. We need to establish firm priorities and we need to adhere to them in all our decisions whether they be changes in zoning, ordinance, major development, plans, or improved government operations.”

Congressman Pete Visclosky  
The Marquette Project (June 1985)

The vision to connect the east and west units of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, whether along natural or man-made corridors, has long been discussed by residents of Burns Harbor and northwest Indiana alike. Most recently, The Marquette Plan: The Lakeshore Reinvestment Strategy (January 2005), The Marquette Plan – Phase II: A Vision for Lakeshore Reinvestment (February 2008), and the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) Ped and Pedal Plan (2005) all restated and reemphasized this vision.

To realize this shared vision, the Town of Burns Harbor feels compelled to actively pursue a course of action that will, in the end, result in the development of a plan that will identify and take full advantage of all the leveraging opportunities available. As a first step toward consensus building, the Town of Burns Harbor has engaged the stakeholders along the corridor. Communities and private interests along the corridor have all committed to working together to develop the Marquette Greenway Trail Sub-Area Master Plan.

## Detailed Explanation of the Request:

On June 26, 2008, the Town of Burns Harbor received correspondence from Jenny Orsburn, Indiana Department of Natural Resources - Lake Michigan Coastal Program, that indicated the Town of Burns Harbor had been selected to receive a \$100,000.00 grant to update the community's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

The Lake Michigan Coastal Program grant requires a one-to-one local match. On August 8, 2008, the Town of Burns Harbor submitted an Application for Financial Support to the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority seeking the local match (\$100,000.00). The local match, sought by the Town, was to fund the development of the Marquette Greenway Trail Sub-Area Master Plan and the Burns Harbor Town Center Sub-Area Master Plan.

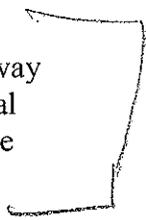
During the August 19<sup>th</sup> RDA Board Meeting, the Board voted to accept the application submitted by the Town of Burns Harbor. Prior to the vote members of the Board expressed concerns about the Town Center portion of the request. A few weeks later (Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>), representatives of the Town met with the working group assigned to review the application. During the meeting, working group members expressed their tentative support for the Marquette Greenway Trail Sub-Area Master Plan and restated their concerns regarding the Town Center portion of the application. The Working Group meeting concluded with a recommendation to the Town that their application be revised to remove the Town Center portion of the funding request and to focus on the Marquette Greenway Trail Sub-Area Master Plan detailing how the community would take the trail from planning through construction.

Following the Working Group meeting, the Town began deliberations on how best to address the concerns and recommendations of the Working Group. During the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Town of Burns Harbor Redevelopment Commission, the decision was made to revise the Application for Financial Support submitted on August 8, 2008. The revised application removes the Town Center portion. The new request seeks \$50,000.00 for the purposes of developing the Marquette Greenway Trail Sub-Area Master Plan. (Note: The Town did consider the Working Group's request to detail how the community would take the trail from planning through construction but feels it is unable to commit the Town to such an endeavor until a plan has been developed – a consensus plan that identifies the costs to the taxpayer.)

To complete the Burns Harbor Town Center Sub-Area Master Plan (which includes the US 20 Corridor and Exit 22), the Town has committed \$50,000.00 of its own resources. Additionally, the Town of Burns Harbor and the Town of Porter have come together to expand the study limits of the Plan into the Town of Porter. (Note: This arrangement will be formalized by a Memorandum of Understanding.)

**Detailed Explanation of Funds:**

This application seeks \$50,000.00 for the purposes of developing the Marquette Greenway Trail Sub-Area Master Plan. The \$50,000.00 will serve as a portion of the required local match to the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program commitment of \$100,000.00. The Town of Burns Harbor has committed the remaining match requirement (\$50,000.00).



Following completion of the Marquette Greenway Trail Sub-Area Master Plan, the Town of Burns Harbor and the project stakeholders will aggressively pursue funding sources to construct the trail. Identified funding sources include:

- The Transportation Enhancement program;
- The Porter County Government;
- The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority;
- The National Park Service;
- The Town of Burns Harbor;
- Other project stakeholders; and
- Other grant dollars (i.e. ArcelorMittal Foundation, Porter County Community Foundation).

**Project Timeline:**

- Task A. Develop the Marquette Greenway Trail Sub-Area Master Plan in conjunction with the update the Town of Burns Harbor Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance and the Burns Harbor Town Center Sub-Area Plan.
- Start Date: November 1, 2008  
End Date: May 31, 2009

**Supporting Materials:**

- 1. IDNR – LMCP Commitment Letter (dated June 26, 2008)**
- 2. Town of Burns Harbor Ethics Guidelines – Letter from Jane Jordan (dated August 6, 2008)**
- 3. Ordinance Incorporating the Town of Burns Harbor**