

What are the Accessible Recreation Grants?

Accessible Recreation Grants support improvements to existing indoor public recreation spaces and the acquisition of adaptive equipment to increase accessibility of physical activity for people with diverse abilities.

Accessible Recreation supports the Trust's focus on healthy and resilient communities, helping communities take action to continue to be incredible and vibrant places. It addresses the specific action to help communities support diversity, equity and inclusion as outlined in the [2024-2034 Columbia Basin Management Plan](#).

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants include local governments, First Nations and registered non-profit societies that own, operate, rent or lease public recreation facilities and recreational spaces that provide safe, low financial barrier, inclusive access to recreation in the Columbia Basin Trust region (ourtrust.org/map).

When is the application deadline?

November 5, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. PT / 3:00 p.m. MT.

What types of project costs are eligible?

Project Development and Design (up to \$10,000)

- Costs associated with engaging people with diverse abilities who will access and enjoy the recreation facility and/or adaptive equipment, their caregivers, as well as local organizations that support people with diverse abilities.
- Costs associated with contracted services for technical design and/or engineering.
- Costs associated with obtaining necessary permits and permissions.

Adaptive Equipment and Training

- Adaptive equipment designed to enable individuals with diverse abilities to participate in physical activities, including sports equipment.
- Reasonable and directly relevant training for the facility operators in the use of adaptive equipment supported through the Grant.

Accessible Infrastructure Improvements

- Improve accessibility and safety by removing mobility barriers and creating more inclusive, navigable environments.
- Enhance facility accessibility and usability by improving inclusive amenities, seating, and accessible controls for people with diverse abilities.

For infrastructure improvements, you must show ownership of the property OR provide a long-term use/lease agreement (minimum term of five years) and a letter of support from the building owner.

What types of costs are not eligible?

Ineligible projects include:

- costs incurred prior to receiving project approval;
- those that take place outside the Basin;
- upgrades not directly associated with recreation facilities;
- core operational expenses of the organization, including but not limited to wages, rent and utilities;
- activities on private land;
- advocacy and/or lobbying;
- legislated responsibilities of public sector organizations under the *Accessible British Columbia Act*, including the requirements to establish an accessibility committee and development of an accessibility plan; or
- other accessibility requirements under relevant local government plans, bylaws and policies.

How much will the Trust fund?

Up to 100 per cent of total project costs can be requested from the Trust. It is expected that the cumulative maximum amount of Trust funding for any one project is \$100,000. There may be a requirement for applicants to contribute toward project costs, and this will be assessed on an individual project basis and communicated to applicants.

Submitting detailed plans and quotes for planned infrastructure improvements and adaptive equipment acquisition is encouraged and will strengthen the application.

How does the Trust select projects for funding?

The Trust often receives requests for more funding than what is available and will prioritize requests from Applicants that demonstrate:

- the organization meets the program eligibility listed above;
- the project is ready to move forward in the stated timelines;
- the improvements supported will provide low financial barrier opportunities that benefit individuals with diverse abilities of all ages;
- the organization demonstrates an understanding of the need to maintain the project long term, which can be shown by an asset management plan for ongoing and scheduled maintenance or repairs and funding sources;
- the project supports small and rural areas that do not have abundant recreation facilities; and
- the application and project incorporates the perspectives of people with lived experience.

The Trust strives to distribute funds across communities, organizations and project types and will consider this as part of the adjudication of all applications.

When will organizations hear the results?

The review process usually takes up to eight weeks. Trust staff may request additional information during the evaluation phase.

Organizations will be contacted by email, at the address provided on the application form, to confirm if the project application has been approved for funding.

To finalize funding, both parties will sign a Contribution Agreement.

When can a project begin?

Funds can only be used for approved project expenses that occur after a Contribution Agreement has been signed.

How long can my project be?

Projects must aim to be completed within two years of the date of the signed Contribution Agreement.

What else to keep in mind?

Even if a project meets eligibility criteria, it may not be selected for funding as the Trust often receives requests for more funding than what is available. The Trust retains the right to determine project eligibility and the amount of funding allocated to each project; this may be all or part of what was requested.

Ready to apply?

1. Review the [Program Guide](#).
2. If you would like to work offline, download the application worksheet [here](#). The worksheet contains direction and advice on how to complete the application.
3. Complete the online application form at [Accessible Recreation Grant](#).