What are the Outdoor Active Recreation Grants?
The Trust’s Outdoor Active Recreation Grants Program (the Program) supports community efforts to create low-barrier outdoor recreational facilities that encourages residents to live more active, healthy lifestyles.

Basin residents have indicated that affordable outdoor physical activity is important to them. The Program supports community well-being which is a priority in the Columbia Basin Management Plan: Strategic Priorities 2020–2023.

Who can apply?
Eligible applicants include registered non-profits, local governments and First Nations in the Columbia Basin Trust region (ourtrust.org/map).

When is the application deadline?
September 13, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. PT / 3:00 p.m. MT.

What types of projects are eligible?
Eligible projects include the following:

- the development or enhancement of outdoor recreation facilities such as in-place exercise equipment, multi-purpose courts and fields, disc golf courses, bike parks and pump tracks, skate parks, rinks, pools, and playgrounds;
- adapting outdoor recreation facilities to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- installing or upgrading amenities to enhance safety or user experience such as shade structures, bike racks and washrooms; or
- upgrades that enhance existing facilities for multi-sport or multi-purpose use;

Individual project eligibility is determined by the Trust at its sole discretion.

What types of projects are not eligible?
Ineligible projects include the following:

- fee for service facilities;
- indoor facilities (rinks, arenas, sports domes);
- requests deemed to be regular/routine maintenance or repair;
- requests focused on trails;
- projects on school properties, unless there is clearly demonstrated use by the public and demonstrated support from the community at large for non-school use; or
- projects that primarily benefit the applicant itself or the members of a membership-based organization.

What types of costs are eligible?
Eligible project costs include:

- geotechnical work, engineering and design costs;
- capital purchases and costs for new construction and/or substantial upgrades to existing facilities;
• permanently installed equipment; or
• other costs that are direct and necessary for the successful implementation of the project.

What types of costs are not eligible?
Ineligible project costs include:
• underground infrastructure to connect utilities to local government services such as water main hookups, septic tanks, and electrical;
• infrastructure costs that are a responsibility of government including roads, sidewalks, and streetlights;
• retroactive costs (costs that have already been incurred prior to funding approval);
• routine operating and maintenance upgrades;
• portable sports equipment (e.g. balls, bats, skis, bikes, protective equipment or jerseys); or
• recreation programming.

How much will the Trust fund?
The maximum amount of Trust funding for any one project is $250,000.

• For applicants from incorporated communities with populations greater than 3,000, **up to 60 per cent of total project costs can be requested** from the Trust.

• For applicants from unincorporated communities, rural areas, First Nations Communities, or incorporated communities with populations of less than 3,000 **up to 75 per cent of total project costs can be requested** from the Trust.

Projects showing broad community support and confirmed cash contributions from additional sources are more likely to receive funding.

How does the Trust select projects for funding?
The Trust uses the following selection criteria to prioritize funding:
• the project demonstrates it meets the program eligibility listed above;
• the project demonstrates community support, indicated by activities like fundraising, financial commitments, First Nations Communities, and local government support; and partnerships;
• the project shows it is ready to move forward in the stated timelines;
• there is a long-term plan to operate and maintain the facilities;
• there is a project budget that demonstrates cost-effectiveness with proof of quotes;
• the Trust strives to distribute program funds across communities, organizations and project types and will consider this as part of the adjudication process; and
• additional consideration may be given to projects that incorporate:
  o Indigenous perspectives or partnerships with Indigenous Peoples;
  o climate change mitigation practices; or
  o employment creation or workplace training.
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.

Prior to approval, Trust staff may contact you during the evaluation phase to request additional information. To finalize funding, both parties will sign a Contribution Agreement. Funds will be received after both parties sign the Agreement.

When can a project begin?
Funds can only be used for approved project expenses that occur after Trust approval of funding has been received and the Contribution Agreement has been signed.

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.

Depending on the nature of the project, applicants may have to obtain specific permits and approvals prior to receiving Trust funds.

Ready to apply?
Applicants are encouraged to contact Trust staff to discuss projects.
1. Review the instructions in the next section of this Program Guide to learn how to complete the online application form.
2. Download and review the Application Worksheet for direction and advice on how to complete the application form and to develop the application offline, if preferred.
3. Complete the online application form at https://forms.ourtrust.org/outdoor-active-recreation-program/.

If you prefer to submit a paper application, or if you have any questions about the application process, please contact Trust staff at outdooractive@ourtrust.org or 1.800.505.8998.