

2.4.7. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Planning and Design

The TAP includes Planning and Design Funds that are intended to provide recipients with the financial resources to perform work in planning and/or designing a park, trail, open space, or other recreation project. Planning and design projects may also be funded through annual allocation grant programs and select competitive grant programs (see Section 2.1 and Section 2.2).

The descriptions of Planning, Design, Project Types, and Project Requirements below apply to all planning and design projects, regardless of the funding source.

Planning

Planning funds from all sources provide resources to complete a range of planning efforts such as park master plans, feasibility studies, and other site studies required to effectively plan and design a park project. While the 2016 PNA included the identification of priorities for park projects, further examination of community-wide park system and project needs could help agencies and groups refine and expand on the list of priority projects for both competitive grants and annual allocations. Site studies would inform acquisition and development of new parks, and/or additions to existing parks, and could evaluate elements such as physical context and site conditions, land use and zoning compatibility, traffic, safety, and utilities. Planning work related to necessary environmental compliance and permitting required for site acquisition and development may also be funded.

Design

Design funds from all sources provide resources to complete design services and could include preliminary conceptual designs, design development drawings, or construction documents. Design efforts could also include specific tasks such as landscape design, materials selection, design of stormwater treatment elements, or incorporation of best management practices.

Project Types

Below is a non-exhaustive list of planning and design project types that may be eligible for funding through annual allocation grant programs, select competitive grant programs, and the Planning and Design Funds program:

- Park master plans
- Feasibility studies
- Site plans or studies
- Environmental planning/compliance
- Park or trail design development and construction documents
- Park system master plans
- Open Space and Recreation Element updates

Project Requirements

Regardless of the funding source for planning and design projects, applicants must provide proof that the project meets the project eligibility, feasibility, and community engagement requirements listed below.

Project Eligibility

Applicants must provide proof that the project meets *all* of the following Project Eligibility requirements to apply for a grant award:

- The applicant must be registered with RPOSD.
- The proposed project's schedule is a maximum of two years.
- The applicant must not have an open planning/design grant with RPOSD.

Project Feasibility

Applicants must provide proof that the project meets *at least one* requirement in each topic area to apply for a grant award:

Land Access/Tenure

- Applicant has a plan as to how access or tenure will be acquired or arranged.

Permitting and CEQA Compliance

- Applicant has a general timeline and approach as to how and when permitting and CEQA will be completed; or
- If permitting and/or CEQA compliance are not applicable to the project, applicant has an explanation as to why not.

Adverse Site Conditions

- Adverse site conditions are known to exist but have not been characterized. Applicant has plans as to how and when these conditions will be addressed, with appropriate budget contingencies in the project budget; or
- The proposed project seeks to identify adverse site conditions on the project site.

Project Budget and Funding

- Applicant has a budget consistent with the level of planning and design completed to date, as well as a plan for funding to cover the budgeted costs, with appropriate contingencies given the level of planning completed.

Project Schedule

- Applicant has a schedule from fund award receipt to project completion that reflects the level of planning, design, permitting and community involvement that will be necessary for the planning/design project.

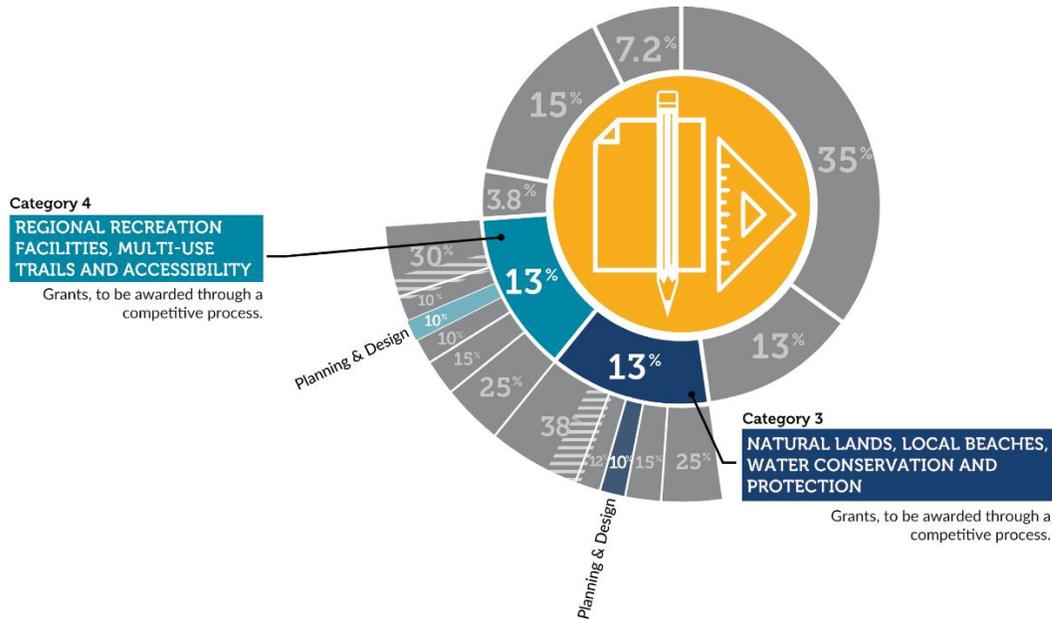
Community Engagement

The program must meet the minimum community engagement requirements described in Section 3.3

TAP Planning and Design Funds

The information below applies only to TAP Planning and Design Funds program.

Funding Amount and Cycle Frequency



Annual Allocation: 10% of the Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection Program (Category 3) and 10% of the Regional Recreation, Multi-use Trails and Accessibility Program (Category 4).

Grant Cycle: The first cycle will occur no less than five years after the launch of the TAP; then annually thereafter.

Recipients: Projects that are located in High-Need or Very-High-Need Study Areas.

Amount: The dollar amount of funds available is updated annually based on the revenue received by September 15th of each year and awarded at intervals as described in the Competitive Grants Calendar (Figure 3-1).

Award Size

Requested grant awards must meet the minimum and maximum grant award size requirements.

- Minimum: \$20,000
- Maximum: \$250,000

Projects that require funding beyond these Measure A limits may seek to leverage supplemental funding from other sources.

Project Specific Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be scored using the following criteria:

Level of Need:

- Every project must serve or benefit residents of High-Need or Very-High-Need Study Areas or provides services to and/or recruits a majority of its participants from High-Need or Very-High-Need Study Areas.

Community Involvement Beyond Minimum Requirements

This is evaluated based on the assessment of submitted community involvement documentation and/or community involvement plan for the proposed project as well as quality of the agency's engagement with the community in past or ongoing projects (in any). Examples include:

- Engaging the community at point(s) in the project when community input could influence the outcome of the project;
- Utilizing multiple inclusive outreach methods that target broad representation of residents and stakeholders;
- Actively seeking to remove barriers to accessing engagement meetings/ events such as scheduling meetings/events in the evenings and/or weekends, providing childcare, providing transportation, and providing refreshments;
- Establishing or leveraging community partnerships with local community-based organizations, citizen advisory groups, and/or school districts to gain support for the project;
- Providing language access services beyond minimum requirements;
- Reflecting community input received during the engagement process in the project's outcome and its components.

Timeliness and Urgency

Whether the initiation and completion of the project is needed and timely in that it builds on, complements, or moves toward implementing high priority acquisitions, connections, and/or habitat protection plans, or water conservation or protection improvement will be assessed for the application evaluation process.

Existing Planning and Design Challenges

This category supports applicants whose planning or project area has a history of planning and design challenges. Relevant planning and/or design are/is needed to guide the development and improvement of future park, trail, open space, or other recreation projects. Existing challenges include having no previous or relevant park or recreation planning or design efforts and having no award of previous planning and design funds.

The evaluation criterion of "Community Beyond Minimum Requirement" will not be applicable to those projects that are more exploratory and/or technical in nature such as adverse site condition assessments or development of construction documents.