



WATERWAYS GRANT-IN-AID FOR PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Waterways Grant-In-Aid for Preliminary Engineering is provided to local units of government (cities, villages, townships, and counties) and public universities for contracted preliminary engineering studies of recreational boating facilities. This includes both marinas/harbors (primarily transient facilities) and boating access sites.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

The Waterways Program was created through enactment of state of Michigan Public Act 320 of 1947, which created the Michigan State Waterways Commission (MSWC). This program is administered through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

GRANT GUIDELINES

Grant assistance is provided at a base level of 50% of the estimated project cost. Requests for less than 50% state funding may be given additional preference in the selection process. Any funding requests above 50% state funding are determined based on a formal review by DNR staff of the community's certified financial audits filed with the Department of Treasury for the past three years. A preliminary engineering study grant can include items such as conceptual layout, topographic and hydrographic surveying, soil borings, wave studies, littoral drift studies, environmental and historical studies, feasibility studies, permitting, and preliminary engineering and design. Any preliminary engineering study is to be performed by a professional, licensed in the state of Michigan, whose place of business is located in the state of Michigan. This may include an engineer, a landscape architect, or an architect, depending on the scope of work to be engineered.

Applications for funding are accepted at all times but must be received by the program manager by 5 PM EST, APRIL 1 of the application year, for funding consideration. Grant applicants must exhibit satisfactory performance on past Michigan DNR grants for proposal consideration.

GRANT PROCESS

Upon receipt of an inquiry from a local unit, the program manager discusses with or visits the local unit and reviews the proposed project to determine available assistance. The local community then submits a grant application for preliminary engineering to the Michigan DNR, Parks and Recreation Division. After the April 1 deadline, a standard facility tier review occurs. If the proposed project complies with planning goals for the program, and is approved by the Parks and Recreation Division, the program manager discusses the next step with the local unit. Project funding proposals are taken to the MSWC typically during the spring of each year. If approved, preliminary engineering studies are conducted by the local unit with matching grant monies. State and federal permits are obtained during the study process. All projects funded through the MSWC must comply with the most recent provisions of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and all other applicable state and federal requirements. Based on the preliminary engineering study, a determination is made by the local unit of its ability to participate in the construction portion of the project.

FUNDING SOURCE

The restricted Waterways Fund consists of revenues derived from 1.6% of state gasoline taxes and 51% of watercraft registration fees. The level of funding available varies from year to year.

PROGRAM CONTACTS:

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