

CUMBERLAND TRAILS CONFERENCE  
A Tennessee Non-Profit Corporation

FULL APPLICATION

“PATHWAYS FOR PEOPLE . . . PEOPLE FOR NATURE”  
LAND ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM

FOR THE BENEFIT OF CUMBERLAND TRAIL STATE SCENIC PARK (CTSSP)

This land acquisition grant program is expected to award a maximum of \$100,000 per calendar year, beginning in 2016, and continuing until the approximately \$500,000 in the “Pathways for People . . . People for Nature” land acquisition capital campaign fund has been fully expended. Categories of grant-eligible projects are listed below, ranked in our typical order of priority. A number of grants can be made within a single category, however, each grant is limited to the per grant maximum amount indicated for that category and the total grants awarded each calendar year within all categories are limited to the overall maximum annual amount of \$100,000 for the grant program.\*

*Indicate, by placing an X in the box, the appropriate category for your grant application.*

FUNDING REQUESTED FOR LAND ACQUISITION FOR

- CORE CUMBERLAND TRAIL (Maximum per grant award: \$100,000\*)
- BUFFER LANDS ADJOINING LIMITED WIDTH CUMBERLAND TRAIL CORRIDOR (Maximum per grant award: \$100,000\*)
- BUFFER LANDS ADJOINING CUMBERLAND TRAIL CORRIDOR (Maximum per grant award: \$25,000\*)
- APPROVED COMMUNITY CONNECTOR/RECREATION CORRIDOR (Maximum per grant award: \$25,000\*)

\* In order to preserve maximum flexibility in addressing emerging opportunities, urgent needs, and changed circumstances, the Cumberland Trails Conference (CTC) reserves the right, in its discretion, at any time and from time to time, to make exceptions (to the grant guidelines set forth herein) for any particular grant application and to make any changes in the grant program that it may deem necessary or desirable, including, but not limited to, changing the stated maximum amount of any particular grant, the total value of annual grants, and the grant application timelines.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAILS CONFERENCE

The Cumberland Trails Conference (CTC) was established by its organizers as a Tennessee non-profit corporation in 2015. Cooperation in that endeavor was received from the Tennessee Trails Association (TTA) and from the governing body of TTA’s then Cumberland Trail Conference committee (TTA/CTC) with both groups viewing formation of the non-profit corporation to be a natural progression from the work of the committee to a more effective means of achieving mutual objectives concerning the

Cumberland Trail State Scenic Park (CTSSP). In recognition of CTC's status as the designated successor to TTA/CTC, it was entrusted by TTA and TTA/CTC with the management and disbursement of the approximately \$500,000 of funding remaining from the "Pathways for People . . . People for Nature" Land Acquisition capital campaign that had been undertaken earlier by TTA/CTC. The "Pathways" campaign was for the stated purpose of acquiring private funding "to be used to purchase the Cumberland Trail corridor and associated key recreational, historical, and natural areas, creating a linear park system across Tennessee from the Kentucky/Virginia border in the north, to the Georgia border in the south." Within the "Pathways" capital campaign, some fundraising efforts targeted land acquisition for specific portions of the Cumberland Trail corridor which were subsequently funded and acquired by the State of Tennessee and also some funding for structures such as bridges was received; special considerations apply to the use of these funds by CTC.

The purposes for which CTC was organized include providing financial and volunteer assistance to the State of Tennessee and its Cumberland Trail State Scenic Park (CTSSP), either directly or through cooperative efforts with other entities, with regard to land acquisition, design, construction, and maintenance of the Cumberland Trail in Tennessee; serving as an advocate for the CTSSP and the regions bounding it in order to preserve the natural resources, beauty, and intrinsic value of the region and its cultural, historic and archaeological heritage; assisting local communities and other entities in the planning, land acquisition, design, construction, and maintenance of trails, including, but not limited to, trails such as segments of the Great Eastern Trail (GET) within the State of Tennessee that will connect (and, in the case of the GET, then co-align) with the Cumberland Trail; and promoting educational and recreational opportunities to this system of trails along with public awareness and utilization of such.

In support of Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam's announced goal of substantially completing the Cumberland Trail State Scenic Park (CTSSP) during his term of office, CTC has initiated a grant program for the purpose of expending during the 2016-2020 period the funding remaining from the "Pathways" capital campaign.

Projects involving partnerships and extensive leveraging of funds are desirable.

<b>FULL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS/REQUIREMENTS</b>
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1. Complete the applicant contact form on front of application.
2. All funding sources and commitment must be identified, including dates provided of when these dollars will be secured. It is crucial to the CTC that its capital fund dollars not be tied up for long periods of time waiting for applicants to secure additional funding based on fund-raising, foundation support, federal support, sales of other lands, etc. before the project can move forward. Any funding source not specifically identified or dollars not accounted for can cause a delay or denial of the project being approved and/or moving forward.

3. All CTC funded projects are to be protected in perpetuity through deed restrictions or covenants whether by fee simple purchase, conservation and/or trail easements or other similar means. It is necessary to share in the application that this will happen and in what manner and to name the entity/entities that will hold the land and/or easements. Evidence of their willingness to hold the land and/or easements should be provided with the application.
4. **Applications will be accepted throughout the calendar year, however, when the \$100,000 allocated for the year has been fully committed through grant awards, unless CTC exercises its reserved discretion (see \* text on the initial page), the grant program will close for the remainder of that year.**

Please submit your application so that it is received by CTC on or before:

December 1<sup>st</sup> for consideration in January  
March 1<sup>st</sup> for consideration in April  
June 1<sup>st</sup> for consideration in July  
September 1<sup>st</sup> for consideration in October

All applications must be mailed or delivered to:

Cumberland Trails Conference  
409 Thurman Avenue, #102  
Crossville, Tennessee 38555

Cumberland Trails Conference  
“Pathways for People . . . People for Nature”  
Land Acquisition Capital Fund

Calendar Year 2016 Funding Cycle

***APPLICATION PACKET***

***For Consideration during:***

- \_\_\_\_\_ January review
- \_\_\_\_\_ April review
- \_\_\_\_\_ July review
- \_\_\_\_\_ October review

Contact:

Marianne Mailhiot – Office Manager  
Cumberland Trails Conference  
409 Thurman Avenue, #102  
Crossville, Tennessee 38555  
Phone: 931-456-6259  
Fax: 931-456-4934  
[ctcoffice2014@gmail.com](mailto:ctcoffice2014@gmail.com)

Cumberland Trails Conference “Pathways” Land Acquisiton Capital Fund  
Full Application

Calendar Year 2016 Funding Cycle

**COVER FORM**

(This form **MUST** be completed and attached to all applications)

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please note that the contact name should be the project manager. Only one project manager acts as the point-of-contact.)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Partnership Application**

Is this a partnership application between two or more agencies or nonprofit conservation organizations? If yes, please describe or list partners here (attach additional pages, if necessary):

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

[Maximum of two (2) pages]

Provide a discussion of the purposes of the acquisition, existing and future uses, existing and proposed physical improvements, natural and historic resources, and resource protection and enhancement activities. Please specify the following:

1. How the project fits into existing Cumberland Trail State Scenic Park plans and/or local and/or regional planning efforts;
2. The intended use of the property;
3. The intended ultimate owner of the property;
4. The entity that will be responsible for managing the property;
5. The funding source for the cost of ongoing management.

## **Explanation of the Project Evaluation Process**

Initially, the projects will be grouped by CTC's Review Committee into the following categories which are listed in our typical order of priority for funding:

1. Core Cumberland Trail
2. Buffer lands adjoining limited width Cumberland Trail corridor
3. Buffer lands adjoining Cumberland Trail corridor
4. Approved community connector/recreation corridor

Then within each such applicable category, the projects will be prioritized in accordance with the criteria set forth under the heading "Core Criteria" below.

The objectives of this project evaluation process are to:

- Provide a clear and defensible ranking process that can be articulated easily to program participants and partners; and
- Ensure fair, equitable and thorough review of all projects by the Review Committee.

If the Review Committee believes that circumstances require that a project included in a lower-ranked category be given priority over a project in a higher-ranked category, it may, with explanation provided, vary from the typical ranking order in its recommended list of projects to receive funding. The outcome from the Review Committee will be a ranked and prioritized list of projects for submission to the Cumberland Trails Conference Board for consideration of funding. The Cumberland Trails Conference Board has discretion to accept or reject the recommendations of the Review Committee in making decisions regarding project funding.

## **PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA**

### **CORE CRITERIA**

#### **1. Cumberland Trails Conference “Pathways” Capital Fund Goals**

**Note: Provide a response that outlines your project's consistency with the mission and purpose of the Cumberland Trails Conference “Pathways” Land Acquisition Capital Fund. Limit your written response to no more than 1 page.**

**Points will be awarded according to the scale: Partial points: 1-10; Maximum points: 20.**

Mission: The Cumberland Trails Conference “Pathways” Land Acquisition Capital Fund seeks to assist the State of Tennessee with land acquisition supporting the creation of the Cumberland Trail State Scenic Park.

Purpose: To assist the State in permanently conserving and preserving tracts of land and easements within the State of Tennessee for the purpose of establishing the Cumberland Trail State Scenic Park thereby creating a linear park system across Tennessee from the Kentucky/Virginia border in the north, to the Georgia border in the south, by strategically partnering with landowners, government agencies, non-profit organizations, for-profit companies and others.

## 2. Importance

This section includes the environmental, social, and economic public benefits gained from the protection and management of the property. More points will be given to projects that demonstrate multiple public benefits. This criterion reflects the ecological assets and the economic and social values conserved by the project and the scale of people's interest in its protection. It is meant to assess the attributes to be conserved and who is receiving those benefits.

**Note: Check the appropriate attributes and provide a response to each of the following criteria that apply to the project. Limit your written responses to no more than 1 page. Points will be awarded according to the scale provided.**

- Outstanding/Exceptional value – 30 points – The project's attributes are of national or multi-state interest;
- Very Good – 20 points – The project's attributes are of state interest;
- Medium/Average – 10 points – The project's attributes are of local interest; or
- Low – 0 points – The project's attributes are unclear or unspecified.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Threatened or Endangered Species Habitat** – The site has known individuals and/or habitat for federally designated rare, threatened or endangered plants and animals. In most cases, federally listed species will be given more consideration than state-only listed species.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Fish, Wildlife, Plants, and Unique Forest Communities** – The site contains unique forest communities and/or important fish or wildlife habitat as specified by a wildlife conservation plan or strategy.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Water Supply Protection** – Contiguous riparian area, forested wetlands, shorelines, river systems, sensitive watershed lands, buffer to public drinking water supply or an aquifer recharge area.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Public Access / Public Trail Access** – The property has full or limited access, and may include specific use restrictions. If the property provides core Cumberland Trail corridor or community connector corridor, please state that.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Scenic** – The site is located within a viewshed of a formally designated scenic feature or area (such as trail, river, or highway)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Historical/Cultural/Archaeological** – Formally documented cultural, historical or archaeological features are located on site.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Mitigation of Environmental Issues** – The acquisition of property will assist in resolving current environmental issues that exist on site.



### 3. Threatened

**This section estimates the likelihood for conversion, transfer or change of use of the property and your narrative should consider the following:**

- The degree of legal protections that currently exists on the property (e.g. current zoning or existing easements) and if these protections remove the threat of conversion.
- Landowners circumstances (e.g. good land steward interested in conserving land, property held in an estate, aging landowner and future use of property by heirs is uncertain, property is up for sale or has a sale pending, landowner has received purchase offers, public or other in holdings, etc.)
- Adjacent land use changes (rate of development growth and conversion, rate of population growth, rate of change in ownership, etc).
- Type of land (i.e. sensitive forest lands, farm land, etc.)

**Note: Check the appropriate situation that currently exists with this project and provide a response. Limit your written response to no more than 1 page. Points will be awarded according to the scale provided.**

Conversion/Transfer/Change of use is:

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Imminent/Likely** – Circumstances indicate conversion may occur soon (0-3 years) or in the somewhat distant future: land has a subdivision plan, landowner has received offers from developers, landowner has sold off subdivisions of the property, land is located in a rapidly developing area, landowner(s) are aged or nearby comparable land has been recently sold for development. 30 points
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Possible** – Circumstances indicate conversion could occur within 10 years: Land is in an attractive location for development such as waterfront or an outdoor recreation area. 15 points
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Unlikely any time soon** (beyond 10 years) – 0 points

*NOTE: If property has been acquired by a third party at the request of the state, threatened will be evaluated based on the situation prior to the third party acquisition.*

#### 4. Strategic

This section reflects the project's relevance or relationship to conservation efforts on a broader perspective. The project fits within a larger conservation plan, strategy, or initiative as designated by either a government or non-governmental entity and is strategically linked to enhance previous conservation investments and/or ensure acquisition of natural areas or open space through public acquisition.

**Note: Check the appropriate strategic direction for your project and provide a response. Limit your written response to no more than 3 pages (max). For the criteria that are furthered by a specific planning document cite no more than five (5) relevant objectives or policies in your response. Points will be awarded according to the scale provided.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ A key property in a formally developed national or multi-state conservation effort. 30 points
2. \_\_\_\_\_ A key property in a formally developed state plan or focused protection strategy. 20 points
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Will lead to additional conservation action locally. 10 points
4. \_\_\_\_\_ It is an isolated tract with no known connection at this time. 0 points

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#### 4.a.) – **Additional attachment:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Map(s) which illustrate the strategic components of the property  
(Please check here if specific maps are attached to support this section)

#### 4. b.) **Bonus Points (5pts):**

- Has this project been scored previously in another funding/grant program? If YES, please give specific date, program, score and result of the application below.

## **ADDITIONAL CRITERIA**

### **5. Budget/Funding Information**

Attach a one page description of the proposed land acquisition project budget including:

- existing or future cash from the applicant
- the source of all funding partners (including all other sources whose funds have been requested)
- description of the details of any donation, if applicable
- value of real property owned by the applicant in a qualified pre-acquisition
- description of any other sources of funding including federal, state, municipal or nonprofit organizations

### **6. Applicant Financial Information**

**Any entity applying for a grant or loan from CTC's "Pathways" capital fund to acquire an interest in real property shall provide a copy of the organization's most recent audited annual financial statements. Such statements must have been prepared within two (2) years of the date of this grant application.**

\_\_\_\_ Attached

### **7. Resources [Note: this list needs to be updated to show current versions of plans]**

<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/>

- 2003-2008 Tennessee State Recreation Plan
- 2001 Greenways and Trails Plan
- The Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor Feasibility Study
- Southern Appalachian Greenways Alliance (SAGA) Plan
- State Assessment of Land Needs

**Contact additional state agencies and non-profit conservation organizations or land trusts for additional planning documents or reference materials.**

<http://www.tnwf.org/>

<http://www.nature.org/>

<http://www.state.tn.us/twra/>