



Land & Water Conservation Fund

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Agenda

Program Overview
Eligible Applicants & Projects
Pre – Application
Formal Application
Grant Award
Grant & Project Completion



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LWCF Overview - Purpose

- The Land & Water Conservation Fund provides funds to acquire recreation land and to develop or renovate outdoor recreation facilities.
- The LWCF Program is federally funded grant program via the Department of Interior – National Park Service and is administered at the state level.
- Each state receives an appropriation of revenue from oil and gas lease sales on the Outer Continental Shelf.

LWCF Overview - Funding

- LWCF requires a dollar-for-dollar match.
- Maximum Request \$750,000
 - Producing a \$1.5 Million Project
- Minimum Request - \$25,000
 - Producing a \$50,000 Project

2025 – \$11.25 Million
2026 – \$8.38 Million

Funding Available
Over \$19 Million

ALL Eligible Projects

Ways to match the grant

- Cash and Cash Donations
- In-Kind Labor
- Equipment Rental
- Materials
- Labor Donations from Private Organizations or Individuals
- Discounts Recorded as Donations

LWCF Overview - Reimbursement



Reimbursement Program



Pay Expense/Invoice



Submit
Reimbursement
Request



Receive Reimbursement of
50% of Eligible Costs



10 % of grant funding is withheld until the closeout process is complete.

LWCF 2026-2027 Cycle Timeline

June 2026
Educational
Workshops

August 3, 2026
Pre-Application
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Pre-Application
Closes

October – November
Pre-Applications
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POLL QUESTION

Do you **confidently** know how many LWCF grants and LWCF protected sites your city/county has?

Eligible Applicants

- Qualified Local Government Agencies
- Legally Constituted Recreation Authorities & Recreation Commissions
- Only 1 Application per Project

Eligible Projects

Acquisition

Development

Rehabilitation

Eligible Projects - Acquisition

- Undeveloped land for future development
- Recreation land that is not currently available to the public



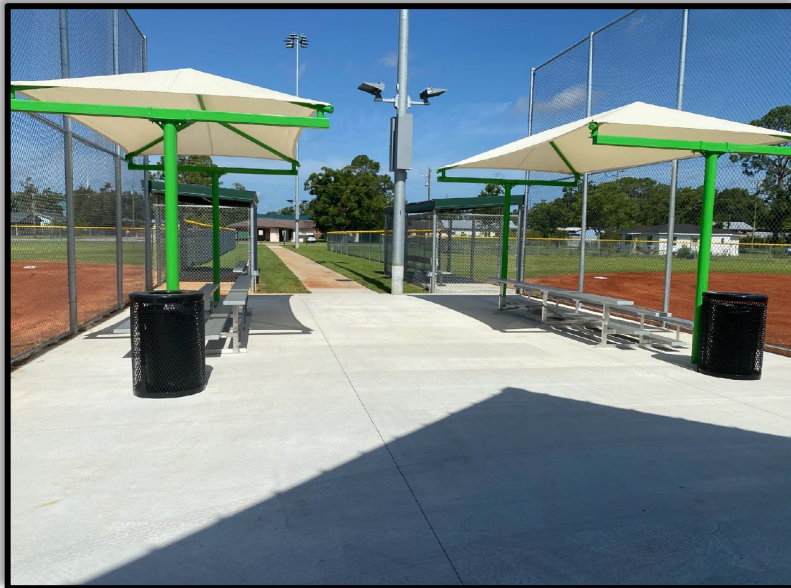
- Eligible Costs – the appraised land value
- Ineligible Costs – appraisals, appraisal reviews, attorney fees, title searches

Eligible Projects - Acquisition

- Appraisals are Required
 - Determine fair market value for projects selected to move to the formal application.
- All Appraisals are Subject to Independent Appraisal Review
 - Appraisal will be submitted to DNR then forwarded to independent reviewer.
- Cost of the Independent Review is the Responsibility of the Applicant
 - Not eligible for reimbursement.

Eligible Projects - Development

Construction of outdoor recreation facilities and support facilities for the public.



Eligible Projects - Development

Eligible Facilities

Ballfields

Courts

Trails

Splash Pads

Restrooms

Picnic Pavilions

Ineligible Facilities

Gymnasium

Senior Centers

Professional or Semi-Professional
Arenas

Eligible Projects – Rehabilitation

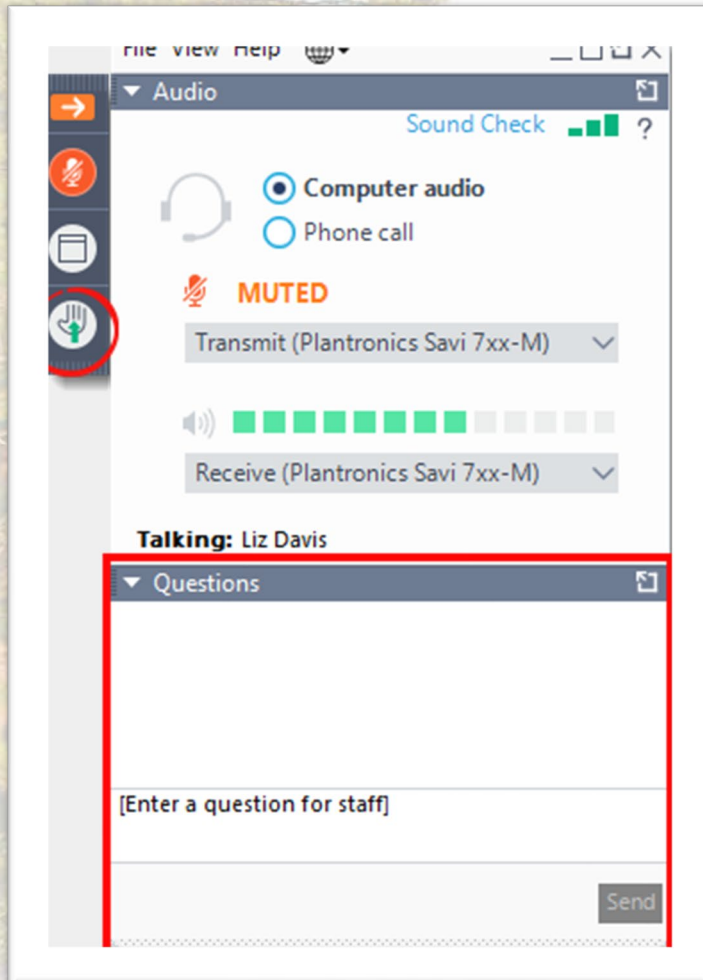
- Renovation of existing outdoor recreation facilities to the same or new facility.



Ineligible Items / Elements

- Design Only Projects
- Purchase or Maintenance of Heavy Equipment
- Roadwork Outside of Park Boundary
- Indoor Recreation Facilities
- Travel and/or Meals
- Expenses Prior to the Full Execution of the Grant Agreement

Pause for Questions



Your Participation

- Please continue to submit your questions and comments using the Questions Box
- Please raise your hand to be unmuted for verbal questions.

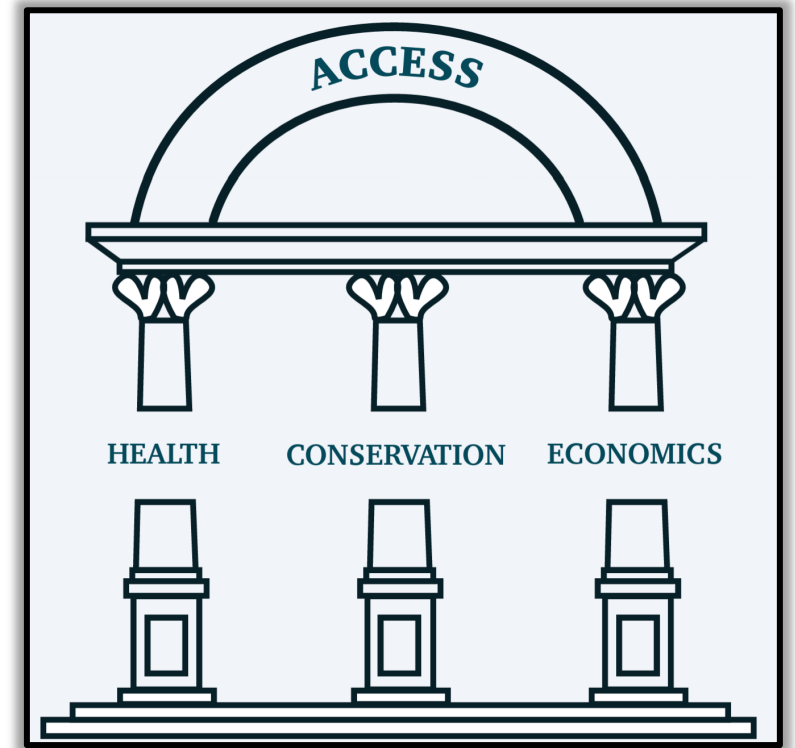


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Pre-Application

- Composition of criteria questions and documents.
- The basis for selecting projects that will complete formal applications for NPS approval.
- Ranking criteria derived from Georgia's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).
 - Conserve Natural Resources
 - Enhance Economic Vitality
 - Promote Health, Fitness, and Livability of Communities
 - Improve Awareness, Accessibility, and Inclusion



Pre-Application – Administrative Criteria

every application MUST address these criteria questions/prompts

- Park System *Inclusion Strategy* #6
- Past Grants & LWCF Inspection History
- Unresolved Issues
- SHPO Review

Pre-Application – Project Details

every application MUST address these criteria questions/prompts

- Recreation Type *Conservation Strategy #4*
- Connect & Educate *Conservation Strategy #4*
- Economic Opportunities *Economic Strategy #5*
- Identify Barriers
 - Addressing Barriers *Inclusion Strategy #3*
 - ADA *Inclusion Strategy #2*
 - Disadvantaged Area *Economic Strategy #5*

Pre-Application – Planning Efforts

every application MUST address these criteria questions/prompts

- Planning *Conservation Strategy #2*
- Identify Users *Economic Strategy #1*
- Census & Demographics *Health Strategy #3*
- Collaboration *Inclusion Strategy #4*
- Healthy Community *Health Strategy #4*
- Return on Investment *Economic Strategy #1*

Pre-Application – Financial Criteria

every application MUST address these criteria questions/prompts

- Match Source
- Financial Partners *Economic Strategy #2*

Pre-Application – Acquisition Project Criteria

- Description of Acquisition
- Land Type *Conservation Strategy #3*
- Land Use
- Acquisition Proximity to People *Health Strategy #1*

Pre-Application – Development Project Criteria

- Description of Development
- Need for Development *Health Strategy #3*
- Development Proximity to People *Health Strategy #1*
- Development within existing LWCF Boundary
- Development of Trails *Health Strategy #1*

Pre-Application – Rehabilitation Project Criteria

- Description of Rehabilitation
- Need for Rehabilitation *Health Strategy #3*
- Rehabilitation Proximity to People *Health Strategy #1*
- Rehabilitation within existing LWCF Boundary
- Rehabilitation of Trails *Health Strategy #1*

POLL QUESTION

Which project type are you planning to apply for?

- Acquisition
- Development
- Rehabilitation
- A Combination

Pre-Application Required Documents

- Transmittal Letter
- Current Resolution
- Narrative
- Budget / Cost Estimate
- Boundary Map
- Location Map
- Development Map / Plan
- Comprehensive Plan or any additional information

Pre-Application Required Documents – Transmittal Letter

Rochelle Robinson
Mayor

Marcia Hampton
City Manager

Vicki L. Acker
City Clerk



CITY COUNCIL
Mark Adams
Dr. LaShun Burr-Danley
Sam Davis
Howard M. Estes
Nycole N. Miller
Terry S. Miller
Coach Chris Watts

LWCF Transmittal Letter

June 5, 2023

Land and Water Conservation Fund
Georgia DNR Grants Unit
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Suite 1352
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Land and Water Conservation Fund:

Pre-Application Required Documents – Resolution

RESOLUTION

(example)

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF RUTHERFORD

WHEREAS, at the regular meeting of *City of Freebush* of *Rutherford* County, Georgia, held on October 1, 2020, a motion was made and duly seconded that the *City of Freebush* agrees to submit a Pre-application for funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The *City of Freebush* further agrees that in the event the *City of Freebush's* pre-application is recommended for funding by the Department of Natural Resources, the *City of Freebush* certifies and assures that it has the ability and intention to finance their 50 percent of the total project cost and will move forward with due diligence to prepare, or have prepared, appropriate documentation required for a formal LWCF application.

PROJECT SPONSOR

BY: _____
(Official Authorized to Sign)

(Signatures of Council/Commission, if required)

Pre-Application Required Documents – Narrative

- One page limit
- Sections
 - Background – explain the history and /or previous developments at the site
 - Need – describe the need for the project
 - Request – explain the grant amount request and match source(s)
 - List each element / line item in the budget
 - Any work not included in the project, but constructed concurrently, list separately.

Imagination Park Project Narrative
Background The 40-acre Imagination Park was developed in 1990. Current facilities at the park include: 1 football field; 4 baseball fields; a concessions/restroom building; paved parking; and a maintenance area. All fields are lighted.
Need We received many citizens comments over the last years that the facilities are nice but dated. We need to meet the needs of our existing and new users. Renovations at Imagination Park will be completed in phases. Phase 1 was the replacement of all fencing and was completed in 2022.
Request Phase 2 of Imagination Park renovation project will consist of demolition of the existing concessions/restroom building and construction of a new 2 story concessions/restroom building. The upper level of the building will be used for coaches' meetings, umpire area and scorekeeping station. The project will be funded with \$100,000 from the County SPLOST funds and with \$100,000 from LWCF funds.

Pre-Application Required Documents – Budget / Cost Estimate

- Include all eligible project elements
- Larger Project = More Detail

Cost Estimate

City Park- trail improvements and renovations

Trail renovations

Henderson Park:

Bridge/Boardwalk construction (Red Trail)	\$50,000.00
Trail improvements (steps, clearing, grading)	\$12,000.00
Trail improvements (site preparation – work groups/maintenance crews)	\$5,000.00

Kelly Cofer Park:

Bridge/Boardwalk construction	\$7,000.00
Trail improvements (clearing, grading)	\$5,000.00
Trail improvements (site preparation – work groups/maintenance crews)	\$5,000.00

Smoke Rise Park:

Bridge/Boardwalk improvements	\$8,000.00
Trail improvements (clearing, grading)	\$4,000.00
Trail improvements (site preparation – work groups/maintenance crews)	\$5,000.00

Benches \$10,000.00

Trash Receptacles \$4,000.00

Total budgeted costs: \$100,000.00

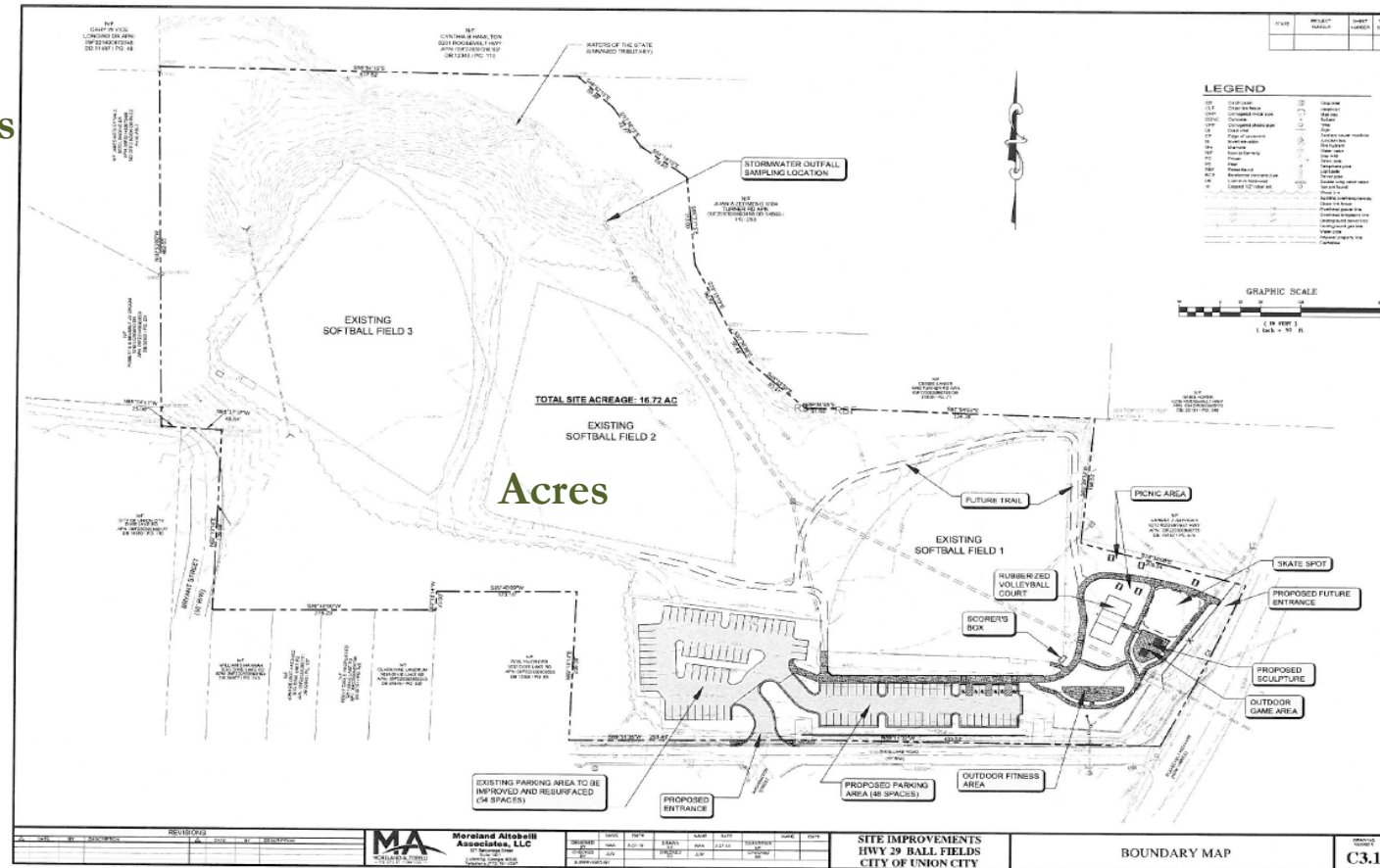
Total “in-kind” costs: \$15,000.00

TOTAL Project Cost: \$115,000.00

Pre-Application Required Documents – Boundary Map

North Arrow

Meets & Bounds

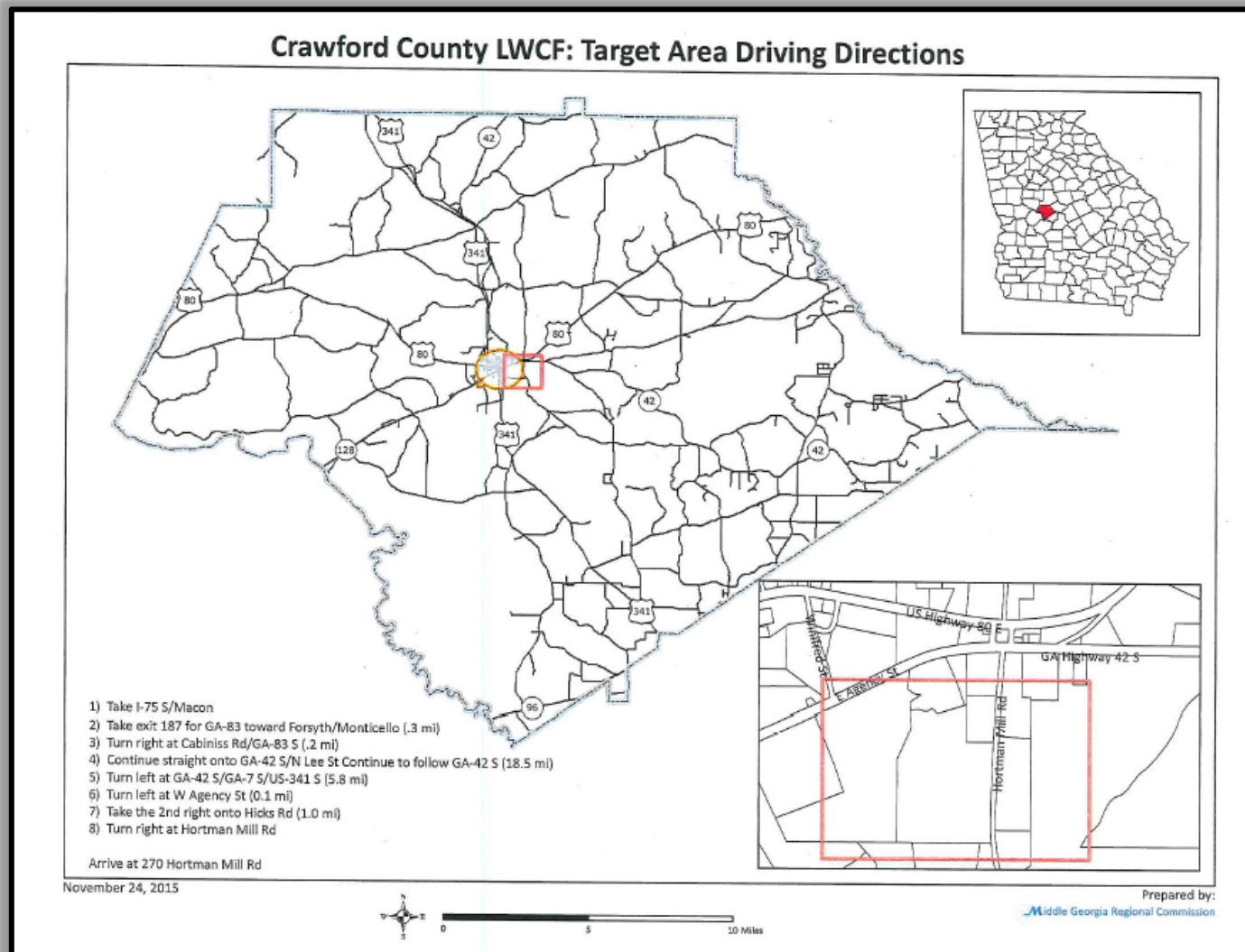


Scale

Ingress / Egress

Site Name

Pre-Application Required Documents – Location Map



A Zoom In View

- State View
- County View
- City View

Pre-Application Required Documents – Development Map / Plan

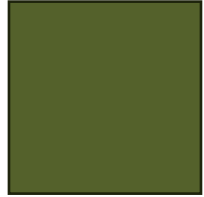
Note the difference of existing and proposed facilities

Boundary and Development Map must correlate

Site Name



Tips for Pre-Application



Answer as best you can – not satisfying every criteria question does NOT equate to the project not being selected.



State just the facts, no fluff!

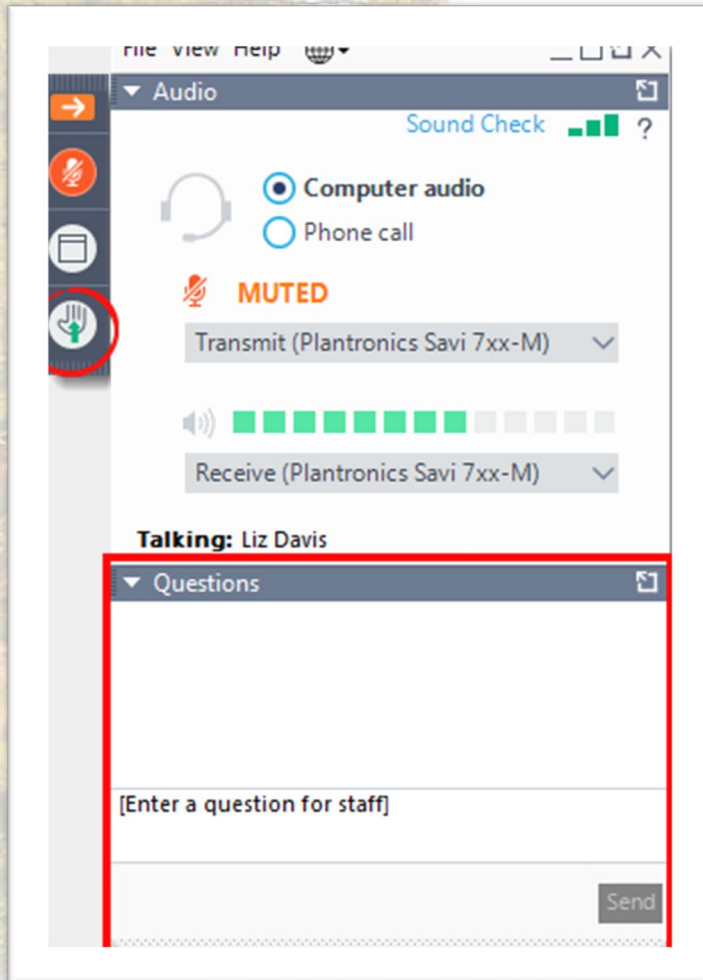


Be consistent throughout.



We're here to help!

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Formal Application

- Building on the pre-application & finalizing information for NPS review & approval
- Monthly meetings from January to April

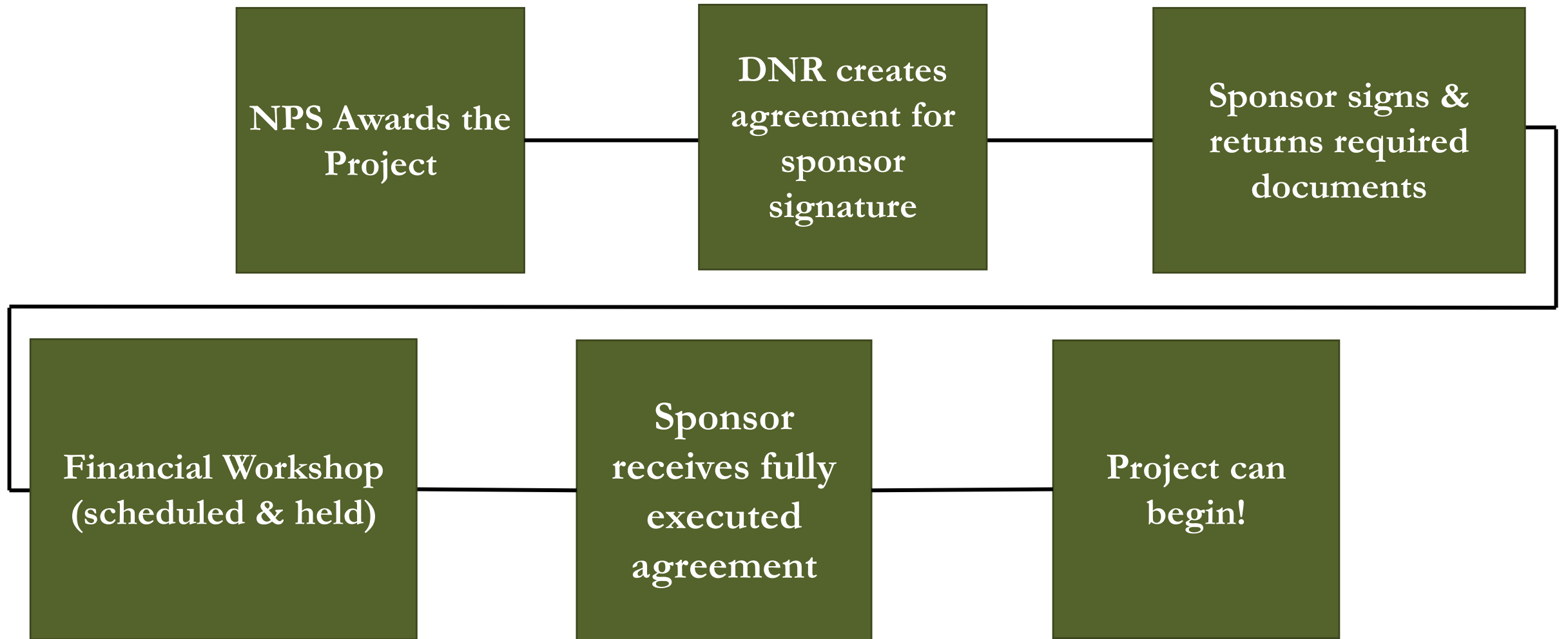
- ☐ NPS Application & Revision Form
- ☐ Proof of Ownership (required for development & rehabilitation projects)
 - ☐ DCA State Historic Preservation Office Review
 - ☐ US Fish & Wildlife IPAC Review
- ☐ Environmental Review (need dependent on NPS initial review & guidance)



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Post Grant Award Process





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Grant & Project Completion

- Submit Final Reimbursement Request & Quarterly Report
 - Submit Limitation of Use Affidavit
 - DNR Completes Final Inspection
 - Post Completion Presentation
- Final 10% of Grant Dollars Released

Grant & Project Completion

- Property must be kept available for outdoor recreation use in perpetuity.
- Property must be properly maintained and kept inviting to the public
- DNR inspects sites routinely.



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