

2023 Pre-application: GA Ground - Mercury Motorized Trail

Georgia Off-highway Vehicle Trails

Applicant Organization

GA Ground

Applicant Organization's Address

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive

City

Atlanta

State

Georgia

Zip

30334

Applicant Federal Employer Identification Number

00000000

Applicant Type (check one)

Qualified Local Government

Main Point of Contact

Desmond Model

Phone

4044631779

Email Address for Main Contact

desmond.model@example.org

Applicant's Chief Elected Official, Director, or President

Barry Golden

Phone

404415223

Email

barry.golden@example.org

Additional Contact(s): Please include phone numbers and email**Trail Site Address**

2 Grace Highway

City

Glory

State

Georgia

Zip

30215

County or counties where the OHV trail will be located

Pilgrim

DUNS Number for Trail Site

52555585353

Project Information

Project Title

Mercury Motorized Trail

Project Narrative - Provide an general overview of your proposed project.

The City is proposing to construct a year-round, 11+ mile, multi-use motorized trail to full ATV standards. Twelve looped trails and one 3.24-mile collector trail will be installed on a vacant, wooded, 157-acre city parcel in northeast Hogansville. The riding trails will have differing degrees of difficulty, to create a unique experience for each visit. The park entrance, gravel parking lot, gatehouse and restroom building will be located in an undeveloped section of the City's Lincoln Street maintenance shop property to the immediate southwest. Construction will include clearing and compacting existing soil to a width of 8' for the collector trail and 5' for the riding trails to provide a sustainable surface for motorized use. The gravel parking lot will have ADA, car-and-trailer accessible spaces and entrances. Accessible concrete sidewalk will connect the parking spaces to the restroom building, trail start-point and any common use areas. From there, the trails will extend northward to a City-only access entrance on Blue Creek Road. A fifty-foot natural buffer between the trail system and adjacent residential properties has also been incorporated to improve privacy, enhance the natural experience, and filter out any noise during park operation. These trails will provide a challenging, safe ride that utilizes natural topography while minimizing impacts to the site and surrounding forested parcels. Project elements will also include erosion control and drainage measures, trail signage and security fencing. The proposed park is modeled after the successful Bone Valley OHV park in Polk County, Florida.

Vehicles Allowed on Trail (check all that apply)

UTVs/Side-by-Sides

Total Project Cost

\$250,000.00

Funds Requested

\$200,000.00

Your Match Commitment

50000

Percent (%) Matching Funds Calculation

0.20

Criteria

Criterion #1 - Project Scope (30 points)

a) Describe your project. Include the scope of your trail, including all trail elements. Explain why you are building this trail. How will this proposed trail enhance outdoor access and outdoor recreation?

With nearly two million acres of public land and diverse terrain, Georgia is a great place to explore ATV parks. Moderate winter weather makes Georgia a year-round adventure destination. With ATV facilities in the north, south and eastern regions of the state, an ATV park in western Georgia is past due. The City of Hogansville is applying for RTP matching funds to create a motorized recreational park in West Central Georgia. This will be the first municipally owned and operated OHV park in the state and the first OHV park -- public or private -- south of Cedartown, Georgia.

The proposed project will involve two City-owned parcels. The park's trails will be located on a 157-acre parcel the City obtained in 1960. A 17.39-acre portion of this site served as a sanitary landfill for some years and officially closed in 1992. The site was then used as an inert landfill for leaves and brush, and has seen no improvements in nearly three decades. Cognizant and respectful of land use restrictions and challenges associated with the site's closed landfill status, the City plans to install an 11.31-mile recreational trail system on this property. The proposed project will include 12 motorized riding trails of differing lengths and difficulty, and one 3.24-mile collector trail encircling the property and connecting the riding trails. The park will be year-round and multi-use, designed to full ATV standards. Construction will include clearing and compacting existing soil to a width of 8 feet for the collector trail and 5 feet for the riding trails to provide a sustainable surface for motorized use.

Entrance the site will be at the property's southwest corner along Lincoln Street. Here, the second City-owned parcel -- the Hogansville maintenance complex -- will contribute undeveloped land for the project's entry gate, gatehouse, parking lot and public restrooms. The parking lot will be permeable gravel-- with ADA accessible parking for car-and-trailer spacing and concrete ADA walkways throughout. From there, the trails will extend northward to a City-only entrance on Blue Creek Road.

A fifty-foot natural buffer and fencing between the trails and adjacent residential properties will improve privacy, enhance the natural experience and filter out noise during park operation. The trails have been pre-designed to provide a challenging, safe ride that uses the natural topography while minimizing impacts to the site and surrounding forested parcels. In addition to the cost of labor and professional services (engineering, architectural, environmental), project elements will include: paving for parking areas; erosion control and drainage measures, trail signage; restrooms, and security fencing.

b) Upload the site plan.

Logo DNR.png

Criterion #2 - Project Planning (20 points)

a) Describe your project planning to date. How do you plan to complete the work? What permits will be needed and what permits have already been obtained?

This project will be built on vacant, thickly vegetated City-owned land. No local permits are needed. NEPA environmental permits will be needed. Project design will count toward City match and will start when City receives Second Level application invitation. The project designer will assist with environmental permitting. The proposed OHV park is modeled after the Bone Valley OHV Park in Polk County, Florida. Polk County has shared complete information about the history, design, operation and maintenance of their park with Hogansville staff, who have visited that Florida facility.

Construction will take place after Georgia DNR's final approval and Notice to Proceed. The construction phase will begin with competitive contractor selection. A four-month construction period is envisioned. This schedule was derived from previous City infrastructure projects, including four federal RTP projects, five Community Block Grant projects, GEMA and FEMA awards, and others.

City workers will help with sign installation and water and sewer hookups, under force account arrangement. The Project Engineer will provide overall direction for the force account work. Force account labor will count toward City match.

The completed park will require three new city workers: gatekeeper, park caretaker and park manager. Projected annual budget for the park is \$240,000. Salary and benefits will comprise at least 70% of that cost.

b) Upload a proposed timeline to complete all trail work.

Logo DNR.png

c) Project cost estimate showing all costs and cash matching funds.

Logo DNR.png

Criterion #3 - Statewide Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail Needs (30 points)

a) Will this project create one or more new OHV trails?

yes

Describe how many miles of new OHV trail will be created.

Project will create 11.31 miles of new OHV trails. In addition to attracting outside riders, the 13 new riding trails will provide alternatives for local riders now trespassing and/or damaging public and private lands. The park will also provide a safe alternative to riding OHVs on highways.

b) Will this project create out-and-back OHV trail(s) or OHV loop trail(s)?

out-and-back

c) Is there currently a publicly owned OHV trail in the county where your proposed trail will be built?

yes

Criterion #4 - Accessibility (10 points)

a) Upload the Georgia DNR Accessibility Form Here

Logo DNR.png

b) Will this trail exceed minimum accessibility expectations under the ADA?

yes

Describe how this trail will exceed minimum accessibility expectations under the ADA.

Provide information about how the project will exceed the minimum accessibility expectations.

Criterion #5 - Trail Maintenance (30 points)

a) Does your agency have an approved Trail Maintenance Plan?

yes

Upload your approved Trail Maintenance Plan here.

Logo DNR.png

b) Do you have dedicated funding for ongoing trail maintenance?

yes

b.1) If you have a formal resolution of support for long-term maintenance, upload here.

b.2) Identify the number of permanent staff members dedicated to trail maintenance and the titles of their positions.

50 staff members and contracts with maintenance contractors to assist with maintaining the trail for long-term use.

b.3) List any group(s) that assists with trail maintenance and the frequency of their trail work.

Criterion #6 - Local Support and Regional Needs (10 points)

Is this specific trail or trail system identified as a need in a currently adopted regional or local planning document? This may include a comprehensive plan or recreation master plan, county or regional master plan, trail system plan, capital improvements plan or land use/management plan adopted by the appropriate authority.

yes

Name of the plan, date adopted, and authorizing body.

"City of Mercury 2021-2040 Comprehensive Plan", adopted March 15, 2021 by the Hogansville Mayor and Council. The plan solicited input through public hearings in 2019 and 2021, steering committee meetings, digital distribution for comments, and public meetings held in the City's Mill Village for "feeder plans" such as the "2018 Downtown Master Plan" and "2019 Hogansville Corridor Redevelopment Plan." This proposed OHV project has also been publicized through Facebook and a public meeting for the OHV project held October 28, 2021 (See Public Meeting Flyer, attached).

Upload the appropriate sections of the document to demonstrate the inclusion of this specific trail. We do not need the entire document and including a lengthy document may make it impossible for the reviewers to find the references to your specific trail.

Logo DNR.png

Criterion #7 - Demonstration of Public Financial Support (10 points)

Does this project have financial support from beyond your government in the form of cash commitments and/or in-kind pledges of materials, professional services, and/or volunteer hours?

yes

Upload public support letter(s) that includes a financial commitment.

Logo DNR.png

Criterion #8 - Economic Development Opportunities (10 points)

We know from national studies and surveys that trail related trips provide economic benefits to local communities. What specific economic benefits can your community gain from this trail project?

Hogansville is located along I-85, between Atlanta and Columbus. Within a 40-minute drive of Hogansville there are 270,000+ people, with significant disposable incomes, who will travel that distance for memorable experiences. The 2018 Hogansville Market Study recommended that Hogansville focus on destination tourism, to bring visitors to town, improve quality of life for residents, and reduce downtown vacancies. While the market plan focused on downtown, the study's destination tourism recommendations also hold true for Hogansville's corridors and gateways. This proposed OHV project is in Hogansville's Eastern Corridor, near a gateway point between I-85 and nearby downtown.

If 7% of the total population operate OHVs (See "Iowa OHV Operations, Operators, Expenditures and Economic Impacts," 2019 by Regional Strategic Ltd), this could mean 18,900 potential off-road riders within 40 minutes of Hogansville. OHV visitors will spend money on prepared food, groceries, shops, fuel and other expenses, all of which Hogansville can offer. Accommodations produce hotel-motel taxes. Sales taxes from OHV visitors will benefit Troup County as a whole, including Hogansville, through the 5-year Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. SPLOST and hotel-motel taxes relieve pressures on resident taxpayers and the City budget, thereby making more General Fund dollars available for community improvements.

Do you need space to upload document(s) related to economic development?

no

Criterion #9 - Leverage of Grant Funds (20 points)

Congress requires that grantees pay for at least 20% of the total project cost. Additional points are awarded for applicants who commit to providing more than 20% project match. What match percentage is your agency committed to providing for this grant?

21% to 29.99%

Criterion #10 - Recent Motorized Trail Grants (20 points)

Has your agency received grant funding from GADNR for a motorized trail the past ten years?

no

Criterion #11 - Other Criteria (10 points)

a) What surface or surfaces will your completed trail feature?

All trails -- including the 12 looped riding trails and the 3.24-mile collector trail -- will have a permeable compacted earth surface. The parking lot will have a permeable gravel surface. Trailhead walkways will be made of concrete to meet ADA requirements.

b) Will your trail project be completed by a Youth Service and Conservation Corps?

no

Uploads

Letter authorizing the grant application on official letterhead signed by the chief elected official. This letter must also include: (1) acknowledgement that this is a reimbursement grant; (2) grant term cannot exceed 24 months; (3) applicant expressly commits to the percentage of match throughout the application.

Logo DNR.png

Photos of the site with photo key.

Logo DNR.png

Project Location Map with sufficient detail for visiting the site.

Logo DNR.png

Will this project include any form of property acquisition (fee simple, easement, etc.)?

no

Will the trail, in whole or in part, be constructed on land not owned by the Applicant?

no

Upload the deed(s), lease(s) and/or easement(s) for all parcels where the proposed trail will be built.

Logo DNR.png

Upload plat/parcel map(s) with legal description of all parcels where the proposed trail will be built.

Logo DNR.png

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) application for a Section 106 Review.

Logo DNR.png

Supporting Material if needed (pictures, examples, drawings, letter of support, etc.)

Additional Supporting Material if needed (pictures, examples, drawings, letter of support, etc.)

Additional Supporting Material if needed (pictures, examples, drawings, letter of support, etc.)

DNR Use Only

File Upload

Linked to Org Profile (DO NOT DELETE)

2023 Pre-application: File Attachments

b) Upload the site plan.

Logo DNR.png

b) Upload a proposed timeline to complete all trail work.

Logo DNR.png

c) Project cost estimate showing all costs and cash matching funds.

Logo DNR.png

a) Upload the Georgia DNR Accessibility Form Here

Logo DNR.png

Upload your approved Trail Maintenance Plan here.

Logo DNR.png

Upload the appropriate sections of the document to demonstrate the inclusion of this specific trail. We do not need the entire document and including a lengthy document may make it impossible for the reviewers to find the references to your specific trail.

Logo DNR.png

Upload public support letter(s) that includes a financial commitment.

Logo DNR.png

Letter authorizing the grant application on official letterhead signed by the chief elected official. This letter must also include: (1) acknowledgement that this is a reimbursement grant; (2) grant term cannot exceed 24 months; (3) applicant expressly commits to the percentage of match throughout the application.

Logo DNR.png

Photos of the site with photo key.

Logo DNR.png

Project Location Map with sufficient detail for visiting the site.

Logo DNR.png

Upload the deed(s), lease(s) and/or easement(s) for all parcels where the proposed trail will be built.

Logo DNR.png

Upload plat/parcel map(s) with legal description of all parcels where the proposed trail will be built.

Logo DNR.png

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) application for a Section 106 Review.

Logo DNR.png