

Recreation Fee Nationwide 20% & Recreation Fee Regional 20% FY2012-FY2015 Funding Eligibility Requirements and Rating Criteria

All projects will be evaluated qualitatively and quantitatively. For a project proposal to be considered for rating and ranking for potential funding through the Recreation Fee Nationwide 20% or Recreation Fee Regional 20% funding sources it must first meet the following requirements:

1. Be complete in PMIS, with each component phased/laid out programmatically to ensure full obligation within 12 months; in addition, the project must meet the park's mission and have an articulated project schedule detailing the work schedule including the planned end date
2. Have a direct visitor connection
3. Address one or more of the following objectives:
 - **Stewardship** (respond to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy and water efficiency, reducing and recycling wastes of visitor services, and installing renewable energy sources to power visitor facilities; restore wildlife habitat important to the visitor experience, restore native species, remove invasive species, and protect cultural resources integral to the park mission and visitor experience; repair, replace, alter or relocate visitor facilities and supporting infrastructure to meet changing visitor needs; improve visitor facilities/resources to protect visitor life, health and safety)
 - **Relevance** (increase and enhance opportunities for learning about and enjoying the parks; develop interpretive programs and publications focused on youth, diverse audiences and underrepresented groups not currently reached to engage them in the park experience; improve park websites to provide virtual tours of park resources, expand on-line trip planning and deliver other visitor services; host commemorative and cultural events to engage new audiences in the park story; improve the accessibility of visitor programs and facilities to fully meet accessibility requirements; provide additional accessible recreational facilities; upgrade interpretive media and programs to be fully accessible to visitors with disabilities)
 - **Education** (renovate and upgrade interpretive exhibits and media, and provide new interpretive media to address current park themes; use new technology to better engage the public, and improve the condition of park exhibits; develop technology to enhance publications, websites and programs to better educate the public about the park and its contribution to our nation's heritage)

CRITERION #1: IMPROVE YOUTH AND NEW AUDIENCE INVOLVEMENT – The project involves relevance and education, but can also include all other objectives. Youth is defined as any park visitor or volunteer up to 25 years of age. New audiences are park visitors and volunteers discernable by age, race, ethnicity, language, economic status, education level, geography or

other common characteristic that are not being reached by current park programs. The youth component includes interaction with the park. Youth may also be part of a new audience. The project description should be clear as to the estimated numbers of people reached by the project (youth, new audiences) and how that estimate was arrived at. It should also be clear as to the communication/outreach method being used to accomplish the project.

What percentage of the project relates to this criterion: ____%

Choose the description, below, that best fits the project:

- ____ Youth and/or new audiences will be engaged in and complete project work including learning new skills, receiving academic credit or organizational recognition, and receive a formal program about the NPS mission, the park, their relevance
- ____ Youth and/or new audiences would be engaged through a combination of outreach, in-park, and targeted communications activities that actively seek to break down barriers to their involvement with the park and receive a formal program about the NPS mission, the park and their relevance
- ____ Youth and/or new audiences would be engaged in project work and receive a formal program about the NPS mission, the park and their relevance
- ____ Youth and/or new audiences receive an informal orientation about the NPS, the park, and their relevance

Choose the involvement below that best fits the project:

For what percentage of the time necessary to perform the project would youth or new audiences be actively engaged in its performance? This should be estimated by the time spent by youth or new audience performing hands-on project work or actively receiving a formal program presentation as part of the project. A youth group actively participating in a formal program as the total project, for example, would be 100%. An outreach to new audience needs to be able to estimate or measure the response or result.

- ____ Over 75% of the time involved in the project consists of youth or new audiences engaged or performing the project
- ____ Over 75% of the project involves outreach that breaks down barriers to communication and education for new audiences and has a method of measuring results
- ____ Between 25% and 75% of the project involves time that youth or new audiences are engaged in performing the project or involves outreach that breaks down barriers to communication and education for new audiences
- ____ Less than 25% of the project involves time that youth or new audiences are engaged in performing the project or involves outreach that breaks down barriers to communication and education for new audiences

CRITERION #2 – IMPROVE VISITOR EXPERIENCE – The project changes the visitor experience by improving services, programs, natural or cultural resource conditions, or facilities available for visitor enjoyment. The change in visitor experience needs to be defined in the project and include the estimated number of visitors that the project will affect. This criterion is specifically targeted to things that the visitor has their “hands on” or will read or learn from. Accessibility is specifically covered in another criterion and the percentage of the project that is directly attributable to accessibility should be shown in that criterion. Health and Safety is intended to prevent accidents by repairing a documented risk analysis (RAC 1, 2, 3, or 4) situation that directly affects the visitor such as putting up a barricade in high incident areas or posting or giving out information on things like thermal pool or wildlife hazards. Educational programs, signage or facilities will include replacing/improving exhibits, films, educational presentations, and educational outreach. Visitor improvements can also include replacing or adding a comfort station, trails, or benches in high traffic areas, or improving/changing a visitor use facility. Restoring geologic features, wildlife habitat, vegetation, animal populations and distributions, and other natural resources to their desired condition can both directly or indirectly improve the visitor experience. Physical improvements, including cultural resource work, directly in the visitor’s view linked to their experience may be improving the appearance of an historical building, or taking care of a deteriorated resource viewed by visitors. It also may include replacing visible utility infrastructure. The items of a non-resource nature that are seen by the visitor may be other buildings exterior appearance, road-side issues, etc.

What percentage of the project relates to this criterion: ____%

Choose the description below that best fits the project:

- ____ Visitor health and safety issues are corrected
- ____ Provides or restores educational programs, exhibits, or facilities and/or provides new programs/exhibits dealing with climate change and related resource issues
- ____ Provides improvements to resources linked to the visitor experience
- ____ Provides improvements to facilities that are utilized or seen by the visitor

Choose the percentage of visitors whose park experience would be affected by the project:

- ____ 75% to 100%
- ____ 50% to 74%
- ____ 25% to 49%
- ____ less than 25%

CRITERION #3: IMPROVE SUSTAINABILITY – The project improves sustainable practices in park operations, facilities, and practices. Many of projects in this category will fall into the category of Stewardship, although Education will also be a part of many projects. The main measure of climate change and Executive Orders has been in the Carbon Dioxide Equivalents of Greenhouse Gas emissions, so that will be the measure of many of these types of projects. This can be accomplished in many different ways, including reducing existing energy; replacing existing energy with alternative energy; reducing water usage; reducing solid waste production; upgrading electronic media for non-travel meetings and events; building LEED rated structures above the minimum requirement; and removing energy utilizing equipment and buildings. Accurate measurements will be required to validate the sustainability improvement realized and the project description should include metering and reporting on the project after implementation so that the actual measurement exists. These sustainability projects need to take place in areas that directly affect the visitor, so the improvement also needs to be visible or have an education component involved. It may be on an entire park system but it must be interpreted and messaged to the visitor. Any new structures or features should also indicate how many additional people will be required to operate the facility.

What percentage of the project relates to this criterion: ____%

Choose the description below that best fits the project:

- ____ Project provides for a primary visitor use facility that is any of the following:
 - Net-Zero carbon footprint
 - Reduces solid waste production/disposal by over 25%
 - Reduces water use by over 25%
 - Reduces operation costs, including staffing, by 25%

- ____ Project provides for a visitor use facility that is any of the following:
 - LEED Platinum construction or rehabilitation
 - Reduces energy use by 15% to 24%
 - Reduces water usage by 15% to 24%
 - Reduces solid waste production/disposal by 15% to 24%
 - Reduces operations costs, including staffing, by 15% to 24%

- ____ Project provides for a visitor related facility that is any of the following:
 - LEED Gold construction or rehabilitation
 - Reduces energy use by 5% to 14%
 - Reduces water usage by 5% to 14%
 - Reduces solid waste production/disposal by 5% to 14%
 - Reduces operations costs, including staffing, by 5% to 14%

- ____ Project promotes energy efficiency in a visitor related facility at 0% to 4%

Choose the percentage of Greenhouse Gas production that best applies:

- ____ Greater than 25% reduction in park wide Greenhouse gas emissions
- ____ 15% to 24% reduction in park wide Greenhouse gas emissions
- ____ 5% to 14% reduction in park wide Greenhouse gas emissions
- ____ 0% to 4% reduction in park wide Greenhouse gas emissions

CRITERION # 4: IMPROVE PHYSICAL AND PROGRAMMATIC ACCESSIBILITY – All parts of the project that relate to accessibility, whether it is making exhibits, public buildings, trails, etc. physically accessible or replacing media such as films, webcasts, or other productions up to code with programmatic accessibility for subtitles, languages, etc. The standard is the Universal Design Principles for the Federal Government. The projects in this category relate directly to Stewardship, Relevance, and Education.

What percentage of the project relates to this criterion: ____%

Choose the description below that best fits the project:

- ____ Removes all remaining barriers to physical and/or programmatic accessibility to an entire park's visitor facilities and media
- ____ Removes all remaining barriers to physical and/or programmatic accessibility to a major park development of multiple visitor facilities and media
- ____ Removes all remaining barriers to physical and/or programmatic accessibility to a single visitor facility or for a single program
- ____ Partially removes remaining barriers to physical and/or programmatic accessibility to a single visitor facility or for a single program

Choose the percentage of visitor's using the park that will be directly affected by the project:

- ____ 75% to 100% of the visitors will use/see the project
- ____ 50% to 74% of the visitors will use/see the project
- ____ 25% to 49% of the visitors will use/see the project
- ____ Less than 25% of the visitors will use/see the project

CRITERION #5: IMPROVE RESOURCE CONDITION - The project will improve the physical state of natural, cultural, or wilderness resources or knowledge of natural, cultural, or wilderness resources. The measurements include references to Fundamental Resource Values (FRV), Other Important Resource Values (OIRV), wilderness values (WV), National Historic Landmarks (NHL), and nationally significant properties listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) to determine the relative importance and resource vulnerability for different projects. The direct visitor connection will be extremely important in these types of projects. Any physical damage caused to the resource is also part of this segment of the project.

What percentage of the project relates to this criterion: ____%

Choose the description below that best fits the project:

- ____ Prevents complete and total loss to a primary park resource such as Fundamental Resource or Value (FRV), National Historic Landmark (NHL), or Wilderness Value of the park within 3 years as per an approved planning document
- ____ Prevents irretrievable damage to a primary park resource such as FRV, NHL, OIRV, WV, or nationally significant NRHP of the park within 5 years as per an approved planning document
- ____ Prevents repairable damage that will extend the long-term life of a park resource such as FRV, NHL, OIRV, WV, or nationally significant NRHP of the park per an approved planning document
- ____ Prevents repairable damage that will provide a short-term fix for extending the life of a park resource such as FRV, NHL, OIRV, WV, or nationally significant NRHP of the park per an approved planning document

Choose the percentage of use that best fits the project:

- ____ The resource is experienced or actively used by, or interpreted to more than 75% of the park's visitors
- ____ The resource is experienced or actively used by, or interpreted to more than 25% and less than 75% of the park's visitors
- ____ The resource is experienced or actively used by, or interpreted to less than 25% of the park's visitors
- ____ The resource is experienced by but is not interpreted to the park's visitors