



The Mississippi Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund is currently accepting applications for grant funding to state agencies, municipalities, and non-government organizations for wildlife and fisheries conservation projects and nature-based outdoor recreation projects.

The Mississippi Outdoor Stewardship Act ([House Bill 606, 2022 Regular Session](#)) was passed to establish a funding mechanism to encourage investment in outdoor recreation and conservation projects to state agencies with responsibilities therefor, and to expand the availability of these projects to counties, municipalities and nongovernmental entities, as defined by the Act.

The Act established the Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund, from which the Board of Trustees may disburse monies to qualifying counties, municipalities, state agencies and nongovernmental entities.

Monies from the Fund may only be used and expended for the following:

1. Improvement of state park outdoor recreation features and trails;
2. Acquisition and improvement of parks and trails by counties and municipalities, if such parks and trails lie within the jurisdiction of such counties and municipalities;
3. Restoration or enhancement projects to create or improve access to public waters and lands for public outdoor recreation, conservation education, or the safe use and enjoyment of permanently protected conservation land;
4. Restoration or enhancement on privately owned working agricultural lands and forests that support conservation of soil, water, habitat of fish and wildlife resources;
5. Restoration or enhancement of wetlands, native forests, native grasslands and other unique habitats important for Mississippi's fish and wildlife; and
6. Acquisition of critical areas for the provision or protection of clean water, wildlife, hunting, fishing, military installation buffering or natural resource-based outdoor recreation.

**Notice:** As mentioned in [House Bill 606](#), Outdoor Stewardship Trust funding is NOT applicable for land acquisitions until July 1, 2024.

**Deadline for application submissions is October 31, 2023.**

Applicable entities interested in submitting an application should visit the [MOSTF Home Page](#) to review the Notice to Applicants and the [MOSTF Scoring Criteria](#) . If your entity meets the criteria and wishes to submit an application, go to the MOSTF Home Page and register to open a MOSTF Account to begin working on your application.

Entities that have submitted in a previous application period will need to submit a NEW application for this application cycle.

There have been a few modifications since the previous application cycle:

- The appearance of the application has been reformatted.
- Once you have registered for a MOSTF Account, you will be able to “save your work as you go” and return multiple times to work on your application prior to submission.
- There are additional locations throughout the application to upload supportive documents and photos, as needed.
- The Scoring Criteria are available for your review, including weights for each criteria .

**Please visit the MOSTF Page for more information. We hope you will register and submit an application.**

HELPFUL APPLICATION TIPS:

- Review the “Notice to Applicants” on the webpage to understand MOSTF priorities for acceptable projects
- Review the Scoring Criteria to further understand the priorities for acceptable projects
- Provide a clear and concise project narrative in your application that clearly describes your project scope, its purpose, and benefits.
- Provide an itemized budget sheet that clearly indicates overall project costs and which items are being requested for funding from MOSTF
- Do not provide information that is not directly related to your project proposal
- Seek outside matching source funding. MOSTF does not provide matching source funds (this is the responsibility of the applicant).
  - [Federal Funding Resource List](#)

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