



Onondaga County Greenways + Blueways Grant Program



January 2025

Dear Onondaga County Greenways and Blueways Community:

In recognition of the role that greenways and blueways play in our local economy, quality of life, and environmental health, I am pleased to share the Onondaga County Greenways and Blueways Grant Program. Onondaga County is seeking to partner with the local community to protect and expand greenways and blueways to provide unique recreation and ecological health opportunities.

Greenways and blueways are defined as corridors of open space or waterways that incorporate diverse natural, cultural, and scenic features. Specifically:

- **Blueways** are a navigable water body which creates the opportunity for recreational water routes.
- **Conservation greenways** protect natural resources by conserving natural corridors and sensitive ecosystems, protecting watersheds, and preserving scenic resources including views of farmland.
- **Recreation greenways** are established for public recreation, providing opportunities to interact with the natural environment and spend time outdoors.

These grants may be used to cover a variety of projects to grow and enhance greenway and blueway systems. Funds may be used for projects or programs such as greenways and blueways plans for your community, installing, expanding or diversifying greenways and blueways, improving safety and ease of access, or adding new programming. Applicants are encouraged to be creative. Your submissions will help us to know what your needs, and the needs of the local community are. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, until funds run out. The maximum award per project is \$50,000, unless the project is of regional significance to the community and its residents for which the maximum award is \$150,000. There is a minimum 20 percent local match on each award.

Attached you will find an application form to submit a project. An electronic version of this application can also be found at <https://plan.ongov.net/greenways-blueways/>.

The Onondaga County Department of Planning is coordinating the grant program. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our Planning team at (315) 435-2611 or countyplanning@ongov.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Ryan McMahan, II".

J. Ryan McMahan, II
County Executive

Onondaga County Greenways + Blueways Grant Program Project Application

Eligible Entities:

Municipalities in Onondaga County, NY
Not-for-Profit Organizations

Applicants from private entities must have documented approval/ support from the municipality(ies) in which the project is proposed.

Name of Project: _____

Primary Contact Name: _____

Primary Contact Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Eligible Project Types:

- **Conservation Greenway/Blueway:** Funds may be utilized for projects that protect and enhance natural resources, preserve wildlife and plant species, provide for habitat restoration of areas, water quality improvements, and prevent habitat fragmentation. Conservation Greenways do not have a robust public recreation element built into them as they are meant more to protect the ecological assets of the Greenway. The funds may be used for, among other things, land acquisition, habitat restoration, water/soil quality improvements, education and programming and similar projects, that seek to protect the well-being and raise awareness of the Conservation Greenway.
- **Recreation Greenway/Blueway:** Funds may be utilized for projects that provide opportunities for public recreation and access to allow for interaction with the natural environment, including trails for transportation and recreation. Funds may also be used for acquisition, land or water-based trail development, infrastructure improvements that enhances public access (including ADA accessibility), connectivity, safety, planning, design, maintenance, and signage and wayfinding.

Please describe the components of the project, the work that needs to be completed, who will be responsible for doing the work, what the end product will look like.

Please explain how the proposed project is consistent with the themes and goals of the **Plan Onondaga County Comprehensive Plan** (<https://plan.ongov.net/the-plan/>), municipal comprehensive plans, or other relevant plans:

Is the proposed project part of an **existing blueway or greenway** as identified in Plan Onondaga? Or will the project provide connectivity to an existing blueway or greenway? If yes, please list. If this project is part of a larger project to provide connectivity to other greenways or blueways please identify these connections. (See Plan Onondaga Greenways + Blueways map):

Plan Onondaga Greenways + Blueways Map:



Please describe the **current use of land and any important features**. Is the land currently vacant? Are there any existing trails or public access located on the land? Etc.

Please describe land ownership. If not publicly owned, describe how permanent public access will be guaranteed for any recreational greenway or blueway.

Please fill out the table below for the parcels that will be affected by the project:
(Attach additional pages as necessary)

Tax ID(s):

Municipality(ies):

Property Owner(s):

Acreage:

Upon project completion, who will be responsible for, and what funding sources will be used, for **maintenance and upkeep**?

Please describe the **project timeline**, including any limitations on project commencement or completion dates, anticipated duration of project, and any other relevant information (project must be completed within 18 months of award):

Please describe the anticipated total **project costs**. Include a description of local matching funds and resources, and status of funding (committed, anticipated, etc.). If available, also include estimated budget details as an attachment.

There is a minimum of a twenty (20) percent local cash match on each award which can either be cash, in-kind or a combination thereof. If the match is in-kind, please note and provide an estimated value of services. Include additional information as appropriate in comments section.

Total Project Cost	\$	Status of Funding
Requested County Share	\$	(pending county award)
Applicant Contribution	\$	
Other Funding (identify)	\$	
Other Funding (identify)	\$	
Other Funding (identify)	\$	
Other Funding (identify)	\$	
Additional Comments:		

Notes:

The maximum award per project is \$50,000 unless the project is of regional significance to the community and its residents for which the maximum award is \$150,000. There is a minimum of a twenty (20) percent match requirement on each award. Projects must be completed in no more than eighteen (18) months.

Applicants are encouraged to submit any additional materials as part of the submission process. Such materials may include but are not limited to:

- Any plans or renderings, if available
- Map detailing the site's location and Tax ID's
- Photos

Applicants from NFP entities must submit documentation showing support from the local municipality(ies) where the project is proposed. Please attach a letter from support from the municipality(ies).

Onondaga County reserves the right to request further documentation and/or clarification as part of application review. Failure to provide the information requested on a timely basis may delay the review process and/or awards. The applicant, if awarded funding, shall adhere to the Standard Terms and Clauses for Onondaga County contained in the grant disbursement agreement.

Awardees will enter into agreement with Onondaga County and be expected to provide required reporting and documentation of work performed to the Onondaga County Department of Planning, to ensure consistency with the approved application details and scope. Further details will be provided upon award.

Any work that will be completed on private land will require an easement or other legal right of public access prior to the work being performed to guarantee that the property will be able to be used as part of a greenway/blueway in perpetuity.

Application Certification:

I certify and affirm by my signature below the information contained in this application or otherwise supplied as part of this application is complete and current to the best of my knowledge. I further understand that intentional misrepresentation of facts may be the basis for a denial.

Also, it is understood and agreed to the following (please initial):

_____ All taxes on properties owned are current and up to date or on a tax agreement with Onondaga County.

_____ Business and property owners are in good standing with the Code Enforcement Office.

Preparer:

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Preparer:

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Owner(s)(if different from preparer):

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Include all owner signatures

Completed applications should be sent by email or mail . Staff will email or call the primary contact to confirm receipt.

Mail To: Onondaga County Department of Planning
335 Montgomery Street
Syracuse, NY, 13202

Email To: countyplanning@ongov.net

Thank you for your efforts to enhance Onondaga County’s blueway and greenway system!



Plan Onondaga
<https://plan.ongov.net/>