



Project Summary 2009

SB-2009-ME-55697: **Blackwoods Byway Trailheads**

State Submission Date

Feb 20, 2009

Division Submission Date

not submitted

State Priority

0

This application must be completed online at <http://www.bywaysonline.org/grants/>, and submitted electronically and in printed form.

Project Category

Which category best describes the location of this project?

- Project that is associated with a highway that has been designated as a National Scenic Byway, All-American Road, or one of America's Byways.
- Project along a State or Indian tribe scenic byway that is carried out to make the byway eligible for designation as a National Scenic Byway, an All-American Road, or one of America's Byways.
- Project that is associated with the development of a State or Indian tribe scenic byway program.

Choose from the following categories of eligible work the type that best fits your project.

- Byway Programs
- Corridor Management
- Safety Improvements
- Byway Facilities
- Access to Recreation
- Resource Protection
- Interpretive Information
- Marketing

Is this application a resubmission of an unfunded project from a previous year?

- Yes (resubmission of SB-2008-ME-55202)
- No

Project Location

State(s) involved in project:

Maine

Indicate the byway's regional location within the State. Reference prominent landmarks such as parallel major highways, natural features, counties, or large cities, that makes the byway(s) easy to locate in a road atlas.

The Blackwoods Scenic Byway is located in eastern Maine along State Route 182 between the historic towns of Franklin (Hancock County) and Cherryfield.

Briefly describe the project's location(s) on the byway using references to route numbers, byway gateway communities, project location communities and landmarks so any reviewer can identify the project sites.

This project establishes multiple trail heads on the Blackwoods Byway. The proposed trail heads will be located in Township 10 SD in Hancock County and Cherryfield in Washinton County. A map is provided.

Associated Byways

State	Byway Name
ME	Blackwoods Byway

Is this project consistent with the Corridor Management Plan(s) for the byway(s) involved?

- Yes
- No / CMP not available

Congressional Districts

State	District	Representative (at time of application)
ME	2	Michaud, Michael H.

Abstract

Project Description

Complete the sentence "This project will..." before adding remaining information.

This project will create or improve multiple trail heads on the Blackwoods Scenic Byway. Each Trail head will provide limited parking for vehicles, informational, directional and interpretive signage.

Byway Benefits

Complete the sentence "This project benefits the byway traveler by..." before adding remaining information.

This project benefits the byway traveler by providing easy access to the extensive hiking and paddling trail system that exists along the Blackwoods Scenic Byway. This trail system offers the only structured overnight backpacking and paddling opportunity in eastern Maine. Visitors will, for the first time, have a clearly designated parking area with adequate information for the adventure that lies ahead. Some trail heads will include hand launches for canoes and kayaks while others are primarily for hikers. Local users, including scout troops and senior walking clubs will have improved access for natural, outdoors recreation.

Narrative

Project Summary

Completely describe all the major elements of your proposed project in a concise but complete summary.

The major elements of this proposal are: 1. to create or enhance multiple trailheads for hiking, paddling and other recreational uses along the Blackwoods Byway. 2. each trailhead will provide: a. a modest number of parking space (ranging from 3 to 20) b. informational/instructional signage with trail maps, appropriate uses, leave no trace, carry-in/carry-out and other requested practices c. interpretive signs - discussing sustainable woods management practices, local wildlife, historical points of interests like early mining operations and recreational opportunities d. directional signage - to permit safe access and egress from the trailheads

The Blackwoods Byway Corridor Management Committee is working with the Hancock County Planning Commission, the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, the Nature Conservancy, the Sunrise Trail Coalition and several local land trusts and conservation groups to create a sustainable hiking and paddling trail system over an area of approximately 25,000 acres of mountains, lakes and streams. The byway cuts right through the center of this emerging natural recreational area, and is the primary means by which visitors access the region.

This partnership has solicited funding from a variety of public and private sources in order to combine enhanced conservation of ecological preserves with new recreational opportunities in this large and growing area.

This grant compliments other resource by providing access to our emerging nature-based recreational network. A critical need in the larger scheme is to provide visitors with a safe place to park for day and overnight visits. Two trail heads have been established at the heart of the byway, but additional sites are needed. These sites will require landscaping for parking, informational, directional and interpretive signage, weather proof trail information and a voluntary means for hikers to sign-in. Our goal is to make each trail head an educational opportunity as well as a safe and convenient point of embarkation.

Our preference for multiple small trailheads over a few large trailheads is part of our vision for providing a range of hiking and paddling opportunities, from highly accessible short trips, to interconnected, multi-day hikes and paddles. We are already using our website to promote several of these venues, but are concerned that the trailheads are not adequate to meet even modest increases in use.

Benefit to Byway Traveler

Describe how the proposed project will benefit a byway traveler, add to their travel experience or fulfill an important objective of your CMP.

Currently visitors to the Blackwoods Scenic Byway are missing many of our unique and rustic outdoor opportunities. This heavily wooded and mountainous area has great places to paddle, hike, fish and hunt, but much of it remains behind a veil of trees. In order to introduce this backwoods adventure to visitors, we need to provide better places for them to get off the road, learn more about recreational opportunities and we hope take a hike.

This project will provide visitors with more than a place to leave their cars. Travelers will gain a better understanding of how this landscape has accommodated lumbering, mining, ice cutting, and recreation. Interpretive panels will highlight deep history through our participation in Maine's Ice Age Trail, and sustainable forestry that seeks to use the products of the Maine woods while retaining their beauty and ecological significance.

We want travelers to enjoy the scenic byway dictum to "come closer", that is to get out of their cars and hike our green mountains and paddle in our clear lakes. We want our residents to join in this outdoor experience and to use these natural gifts to regain mental and physical well being.

This grant will help us to accomplish this, by providing better access and better information.

Prior Projects

Describe any relationship between this project and previously funded National Scenic Byways Program grant projects. In addition, discuss how the proposed work relates to any multi-year work plan byway leaders have developed.

The 2006 Byway Planning and Management Grant has enabled Hancock County Planning Commission staff to work with the Blackwoods Byway Corridor Management Committee, the Bureau of Parks and Lands and other local organizations to create a vision for outdoor recreation. This grant will help us to implement that vision.

Project Coordinator

Please provide contact information for a person responsible for this project.

Name: James Henry Fisher

Title: Senior Planner

Organization: Hancock County Planning Commission

Address: 395 State Street
Ellsworth, ME 04605

Phone: (207) 667-7131

Fax: (207) 667-2099

E-mail: jfisher@hpcme.org

Work Plan

Milestone/ Task	Start Date	Duration	Responsible Party	Justification
Establish funding agreement with State	AAD*			
Planning and Administration	AAD + 1 day*	18 months	Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission	<p>This task accounts for the back office and field worked planned for creating the trail network, trail heads, informational and interpretive signage required to make this project a success. HCPC will provide planning and coordination with support from the Bureau of Parks and Lands, the Nature Conservancy, the Maine Conservation Corps and other organizations. The time and effort going into the step are provided through partnership agreements and are not charged to this grant.</p> <p>HCPC will lead the effort for public participation in planning and implementing this grant, including press communications, public meetings, work days and coordination of donated materials and services.</p>
Site Analysis	AAD + 6 months*	6 months	Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission	<p>Planning is expected to take approximately six months in order to define the parameters necessary to verify preferred locations for one or possibly two new trail heads. Each of these sites will require additional environmental assessment, including GIS mapping, wetlands delineation, soils analysis and highway entrance permitting. Some of the likely sites present few difficulties in this regard while others are more challenging. This step will result in simple site plans for each trailhead, including parking areas, location of directional, informational and interpretive signs.</p>
Information and Interpretation	AAD + 6 months*	12 months	Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission	<p>Each trail head will have one to two interpretive panels highlighting geological history, working forests, and natural resources. The sites are relatively remote, so the panels will be simple and sturdy in construction, but will conform to Maine Scenic Byway standards.</p> <p>In addition to interpretive panels, each site will have a durable all weather panel with a map of the byway, the location of that site and nearby trails. Additional information and direction signage will be included in this step to provide drivers with adequate warning of trail head locations and promoting “leave no trace” practices.</p>

Milestone/ Task	Start Date	Duration	Responsible Party	Justification
Construction	AAD + 12 months*	6 months	Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission	<p>The trailheads are intended to be simple gravel parking areas that emphasize information, interpretation and access to trails and waterways. The cost of construction is driven primarily by site characteristics such as slope and soil characteristics.</p> <p>Two larger parking areas with space for more than 10 cars and privies have already been constructed at Tunk Lake and Spring River Lake. We propose to enhance these with signage, interpretive signs and more information about the emerging trail system. New, smaller sites are needed for several other venues, but will require additional landscaping and signage.</p>

* AAD = Actual Award Date (estimated to be August 01, 2009)

Budget

Cost Breakdown

#	Description	Total Cost	Requested	Match
1.	Site analysis	10,000	5,000	5,000
2.	Planning and Administration	10,000	5,000	5,000
3.	Construction	50,000	40,000	10,000
4.	Information and Interpretation	30,000	25,000	5,000
Total		\$100,000	\$75,000	\$25,000

Matching Funds

Source	Type	Description	Amount
Quimby Family Foundation	Cash		15,000
Maine Department of Transportation	Materials (Non-federal)	Landscaping materials	5,000
Friends of Tunk	Services (Non-state or Non-federal)	Volunteer labor and equipment for construction	2,500
Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands	Services (Non-state or Non-federal)	Landscaping materials	2,500
Total			\$25,000

Funding Allocation

Do the byways involved in the project cross any Federal Lands? (Check all that apply)

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- USDA Forest Service

If this project is selected for funding, please indicate your preference for carrying out the project (check one):

- FHWA allocates the funds for the project to the State DOT
- FHWA allocates the funds for the project to one of the Federal Land Management agencies marked above (provide contact information below)
- FHWA allocates the funds for the project to an Indian tribe or tribal government (provide contact information below)

If funding should be allocated to a Federal land management agency or Indian tribal organization, please provide contact information for that organization:

Name:
Title:
Organization:
Address:
Phone:
Fax:
E-mail:

Application Checklist

The following statements are for informative purposes. Please read and check each statement.

- I understand that this is a reimbursement program - funds are not available up-front.
- I have reviewed and responded to the Complete Application statements as outlined in the Grants Guidance.
- I have been in touch with the State scenic byway coordinator and have responded to recommendations or requirements of the State.
- I have verified with the State byway coordinator that this proposed project can receive authorization to proceed from the State and FHWA division before the end of the fiscal year for which the application is made.

Attachments

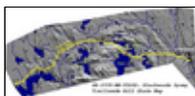
Use this as a checklist to verify that all attachments are provided with your printed application.



- Blackwoods Byway Overview Map**

This map indicates the Blackwoods Scenic Byway location.

Digital version: [blackwoodsbywaymap.jpg](#) (112.1 KB)



- Hillshade map**

Hillshade map indicating hiking and paddling areas.

Digital version: [hillshademap.jpg](#) (56.2 KB)



- Sample Trail Head Information Sign on Donnell Pond**

This sign illustrates one relatively low-tech sign concept currently being used in the Blackwoods area.

Digital version: [DonnellRulesSign25.jpg](#) (98.8 KB)



□ **Tunk Lake Trail Head**

This illustrates one of the existing trail heads which provides a boat launch onto Tunk Lake. An informational sign appears in the center.

Digital version: [tunkinfosign.JPG](#) (62.3 KB)



□ **Bureau of Parks and Lands Donnell-Tunk Trail Map**

This maps depicts existing designated trails in the region of the Blackwoods Scenic Byway. Additional trails are being considered now. Note that the map depicts of rail line that is 50% converted to trail use. The section in this map will be a trail in 2009.

Digital version: [BPL_TrailMap.pdf](#) (1.0 MB)

Signatures

Application Completeness

I certify that this application is complete and correct, and is eligible for National Scenic Byways funding. (This should be completed by the State's scenic byways coordinator.)

Please print name:	Title:
Signature:	Date:

Matching Funds Certification

I certify that the matching funds for this project are available for use at the time of application.

Please print name: Duane Scott	Title: State Byway Coordinator
Signature:	Date: