



Northeast Council Of Governments (605)-626-2595

March 2011

RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM

The South Dakota Division of Parks and Recreation is now accepting applications for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). This federal-aid program provides funding to help states provide and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized uses.

Eligible projects include constructing new trails, rehabilitating existing trails, developing trail-related facilities and educational programs that specifically address recreational trail issues. Sidewalks and street repair are not eligible.

Eligible applicants are non-profit organizations, units of local government, state agencies, federal agencies, and tribal entities. The grant will provide up to 80% of funds needed for the project. The remaining 20% must come from a local match in the form of cash, in-kind work, materials, loans, or another grant. Applications are due around April 8, 2011.

DOT GIS ROAD PROJECT

During February, NECOG finished mailing over 350 letters and maps to towns, townships, and counties in our region on changes to their local road system. We are currently receiving responses back in the mail. The information returned to us will allow staff during the months from May to July to make updates to the existing road layers and to forward that information on to the DOT. We would like to thank everyone who has received a letter from us and has responded to our request. We will begin following up soon with a courtesy reminder for those entities we have not yet heard from.

VOICES FOR CHILDREN INSERT

At the September 2010 NECOG Council meeting SD Voices for Children and SD Kids Count provided information addressing children's needs and critical issues that affect their welfare. As a follow up to this meeting, they have provided our office with information specific to the NECOG region and have asked us to pass along the information to our members, which has been included with this mailing.

SDHDA ANNOUNCES INTEREST RATES

SDHDA has announced that effective with loan commitments dated February 18, 2011 or later that the 1% discount point will be waived. Also effective immediately are interest rates for the following loan options: Step-Rate, Fixed Rate, Fixed Rate Plus, and Fixed Rate with an Advance Tax Credit (ATC) Second Loan Program (for members of the Armed Services only).

The Step-Rate Option has an interest rate that increases over the life of the loan. Starting at 3.125% for the first year, 3.625% for the second year, 4.125% for the third year, 4.625% for the fourth year, and capping at 5.125% for the remaining life of the loan.

The Fixed Rate Option and Fixed Rate Plus Option are 4.125% and 4.625% respectively. The Fixed Rate with ATC is at 4.250%. This option is not available with PMI insured first mortgages.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY & IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Originally a religious holiday to honor St. Patrick, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into a celebration for all things Irish. The world's first St. Patrick's Day parade occurred on March 17, 1762, in New York City and has become an annual event. Congress proclaimed March as Irish-American Heritage Month in 1995, and the President issues a proclamation commemorating the occasion each year.

36.9 million:

The number of U.S. residents who claimed Irish ancestry in 2009. This number was more than eight times the population of Ireland itself (4.5 million). Irish was the nation's second most frequently reported ancestry, trailing only German.

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Number of places in the United States named Shamrock, the floral emblem of Ireland. Mount Gay-Shamrock, W.Va., and Shamrock, Texas, Shamrock Lakes, Indiana and Shamrock, Oklahoma.

26.1 billion and 2.3 billion

U.S. beef and cabbage production, respectively, in pounds, in 2009. Corned beef and cabbage is a traditional St. Patrick's Day dish.



These facts were found on the www.census.gov website under the facts for features section.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Many of you have attended briefings discussing the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the funding that is available for mitigation projects. Municipalities and Counties are eligible to apply for funding; however it is important to check your local Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plans to ensure that your projects are compatible with the goals and projects identified in your local mitigation plan. If you are interested in the program, please contact NECOG staff as soon as possible to discuss your project and to determine its eligibility for the program.

UPCOMING NECOG MEETING

The next NECOG meeting will be held on March 30th at 7:00 pm at the NECOG office. We plan to have a guest speaker discussing the States Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and a speaker providing a recap of economic development issues that took place during the 2011 legislative session.

NECOG WEBSITE

Come and visit the new website for the Northeast Council of Governments (NECOG) and the NECOG Development Corporation (NECOG-DC) at www.necog.org. While we've launched our new website, it's still evolving. If you've any suggestions or comments we would like to hear from you.

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