

# **STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAMS**

## **for Friends Groups and Nonprofit Conservation Organizations to Develop and Restore State Property**

**Authorization:** s. 23.098, Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 51, Wis. Admin. Code

**Budget:** \$250,000 each fiscal year

**Objective:** Provide grants for (a) capital development and (b) habitat restoration on state properties.

**Eligibility:** Friends groups that are organized to raise funds for a DNR property and have a signed agreement with the DNR, and that are non-stock, nonprofit corporations described under section 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Nonprofit Conservation Organizations that have bylaws, charter or incorporation papers that reflect as a purpose of the organization the acquisition of property for conservation purposes, and that are nonprofit corporations, charitable trusts or other nonprofit associations that are described in section 501 (c) (3) of the internal revenue code and are exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the internal revenue code.

**Level of Assistance:** 50% matching grants up to \$20,000.

**Priorities:**

- Projects where the stewardship grant leverages other funding in addition to the 50% sponsor match.
- Projects that expand recreation opportunities.
- Projects that address public health, environmental, safety, or security problems.
- Capital improvement projects that expand or improve environmental education, interpretation programs, or outdoor skills development.
- Habitat restoration projects that are consistent with approved plans governing the management of the property.

**Eligible Types of Projects:** Trail development and wetland restoration.

**Applications:** Application forms are available from Lavane Hessler.

**History:** The Warren Knowles –Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program originally authorized as the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship 2000 Program with strong bipartisan support, the Program was renewed for an additional 10 years through June 30, 2020. Over 50 Friends groups received funding in the first 10 years of the program.

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