

## FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN TROUT UNLIMITED

The “Friends” program will be a habitat improvement program funded by donations from members and friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. All grants awarded from the “Friends” fund will be awarded for use in habitat improvement projects only.

It is also understood that it is the official policy of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited that neither it, nor its chapters shall engage in stream restoration activities unless the projects shall be publicly accessible via stream corridor land access in perpetuity. Exception to this policy may be made only in rare instances and only upon approval of the WI Council of TU.

It is further understood that use of funding in the “Friends” program must meet the public access requirement described in the above paragraph. “Friends” grants requests are not for use where public access is not legally guaranteed unless permission is obtained from the State Council.

“Friends” grant applications must be made in writing and submitted electronically to the Friends Grants Coordinator. The application should provide a detailed description of the project location, the work to be performed, partners involved in the project, all funding sources for the project, the total cost of the project, and the expected outcome of the project.

Grant applications will be discussed and grants will be awarded annually. Applications for funds will be reviewed and acted upon by a committee consisting of the Regional Vice Chairs and the State Council Vice Chair.

Chapters wishing to have grants considered will need to complete and submit grants according to the following timeline:

A January 15 deadline will be in effect for grants to be considered for use during 2024.

Applications must come from a Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Chapter and funds will only be awarded to a Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Chapter.

Applications originating from sources other than Trout Unlimited chapters must be reviewed and approved by a Trout Unlimited chapter. The chapter must then submit any such request on an official Friends Grant Application Form. In the event that funds are awarded, they will be awarded to the sponsoring chapter, which may then administer the funds. The grant would be considered as a grant request coming from the chapter and would be the single grant awarded to that chapter for the calendar year for which it was awarded.

The following criteria will also be in effect for “Friends” grants:

\*The maximum grant amount will be \$2500.

\*An individual chapter will only be allowed to receive a single grant for no more than \$2500 during any calendar year.

\*Chapters requesting grants must match the amount of the request at a rate of 100%. Matches may be made by cash, labor calculated at the prevailing federal labor rate, or in-kind contributions.

Funding requests will be granted as follows:

1. In the event that sufficient funding exists, such that all requests might potentially be funded, then requests will simply be funded on a “yes” or “no” basis.
  
2. In the event that sufficient funding is not available, such that all requests might not be funded, then requests will first be ranked on a “yes” or “no” basis. In the event that there is still not sufficient funding to fund all of the “yes” requests, the “yes” (approved) projects will be ranked, and those projects ranking highest will be funded until available funds are exhausted.

In the event that ranking is necessary, then projects will be ranked by the committee members using their discretion, and including (but not limited to), the following elements:

- a. Projects having a statewide or regional impact will receive priority over localized projects.
- b. Projects using “Friends” funds to leverage additional funding will receive priority.
- c. A chapter that has not recently received “Friends” funds would receive priority over a chapter that had recently received funding.

d. Geographic distribution of “Friends” funds would also be used as a priority to insure that funds are being disbursed around the state.

Finally, each chapter receiving a Friends Grant will be required to complete the Year End Report Form to account for the use of the Friends funding.