

# Eastern Federal Lands Access Program Project Application

## General Information:

The Federal Lands Access Program was created by the "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act" (MAP-21), continued in the "Fixing America's Surface Transportation" (FAST) Act of 2015 and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) of 2022 to improve state and local transportation facilities that provide access to and through federal lands for visitors, recreationists and resource users.

## Instructions:

Proposed projects or studies must be located on a public highway, road, bridge, trail or transit system that is located on, is adjacent to, or provides access to Federal lands for which the facility title or maintenance responsibility is vested with a State, county, city, township, tribal, municipal, or local government. The federal share for the Access Program in this call-for-projects has been changed to 100 percent based on amended program requirements established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. If there is a shortage of Access Program funds in the state, the PDC may discuss options with the applicant to leverage the match funds towards the project to advance the applied-for scope.

All projects must be submitted using this Eastern Federal Lands (EFL) Access Program Application form. The applicant must be the facility owner, have maintenance responsibility or must supply a letter from the facility owner/maintainer indicating the application is being submitted on their behalf. It is the responsibility of the applicant to supply the necessary information to complete the application to the best of their ability.

Project applications must be sponsored by the appropriate Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) with an application signature and/or letter of support. Attachments such as cost estimates, maps, photos etc. may be included but are limited to 10 pages. Letters supporting the project do NOT count towards the 10 additional pages allowed for application support.

E-mail your completed application package to [Efl.planning@dot.gov](mailto:Efl.planning@dot.gov). If you need assistance in completing this application form or have questions about the program, please contact: Lewis Grimm, PE, FHWA-EFL Planning Team Leader at 703-404-6289 or [Lewis.Grimm@dot.gov](mailto:Lewis.Grimm@dot.gov) or the FHWA PDC member listed on the EFL FLAP web page for the respective state.

## Implementation:

The Programming Decisions Committee (PDC) for each state will review project applications and prioritize them based on weighted selection criteria developed by the PDC. The selection criteria are reflective of needs in that state and Federal regulations and guidelines. Project approval resides with the PDC. The PDC will select a balanced program that maximizes funding and addresses critical needs, in consultation with applicable FLMAs.

Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) may be required depending on FHWA Division providing Stewardship and Oversight (S&O). The project MOA will indicate the project delivery method, funding sources/limitations, scope, schedule, and responsibilities of the project signatories.

Local public agencies that are certified by the State DOT may be permitted to deliver the projects contingent on the joint approval of the FHWA-EFL and the State DOT. Local project delivery will require State DOT S&O.

For partner delivered projects, fund obligations will be requested by phase by the State DOTs following the S&O process. Access program funds will not reimburse work performed prior to execution of the MOA and the PR-2 or FMIS obligation (i.e. Right of Way transfers or Engineering services).

Program goals, eligible activities, application tips and the Call for Projects Standard Operating Procedures (including the selection criteria) for this application are located under the appropriate state on the Federal Lands Highway website. <https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/programs-access>



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Project Name: <input type="text" value="Gun Creek Recreational Area Project"/>	Route Number: <input type="text"/>																										
Facility Owner: <input type="text" value="U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/RLCD"/>	Facility Maintainer: <input type="text" value="Rend Lake Conservancy District (RLCD)"/>																										
Requested Project Delivery Agency: <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Federal Lands (EFLHD) <input type="checkbox"/> State DOT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="text"/>																											
Functional Classification: <input type="checkbox"/> National Highway System <input type="checkbox"/> Arterial <input type="checkbox"/> Major Collector <input type="checkbox"/> Minor Collector <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Road <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Project Design Standards: <input type="checkbox"/> AASHTO <input type="checkbox"/> State DOT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Lands Highway (FLH)																										
Type of Project Proposed: (Check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Project <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expansion/Enhancement <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Engineering <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental (NEPA Document) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Right of Way <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paving, road base or surface course projects <input type="checkbox"/> Safety enhancements or structures <input type="checkbox"/> Minor drainage <input type="checkbox"/> Major concrete structures <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bicycle/pedestrian facility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction Contract <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Planning/Technical Study or Research <input type="checkbox"/> Other (e.g. Intermodal or transit facilities, ITS, HSIP, environmental mitigation) If Other, specify: <input type="text"/>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Estimated Project Budget</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Preliminary Engineering:</td> <td><input type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Construction Engineering:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$191,274.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Construction Cost:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$2,390,930.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Right-of-Way:</td> <td><input type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Costs:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$107,276.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total Project Cost:</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$2,689,480.00</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Project Funding</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Requested FLAP Funds:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$2,479,006.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner Funds <input type="text" value="Local"/></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$210,474.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other: <input type="text"/></td> <td><input type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total Project Cost:</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$2,689,480.00</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Calculated Partner Percent</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7.8%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Estimated Project Budget		Preliminary Engineering:	<input type="text"/>	Construction Engineering:	\$191,274.00	Construction Cost:	\$2,390,930.00	Right-of-Way:	<input type="text"/>	Other Costs:	\$107,276.00	<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$2,689,480.00</b>	Project Funding		Requested FLAP Funds:	\$2,479,006.00	Partner Funds <input type="text" value="Local"/>	\$210,474.00	Other: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$2,689,480.00</b>	Calculated Partner Percent	7.8%
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Project Location: City: <input type="text" value="Benton"/> County: <input type="text" value="Franklin"/> State: <input type="text" value="Illinois"/> Longitude/Latitude: <input type="text" value="38 4' 40.35 N, 88 55' 12.63" w"=""/> Congressional District(s): <input type="text" value="Illinois 12"/>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Benefiting Federal Land Unit(s)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2"><input type="text" value="Rend Lake"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) managing the above unit(s)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Land Management</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Fish and Wildlife Service</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Forest Service</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> National Park Service</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other (e.g. DOD, )</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">Specify: <input type="text"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Benefiting Federal Land Unit(s)		<input type="text" value="Rend Lake"/>		Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) managing the above unit(s)		<input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Land Management		<input type="checkbox"/> Fish and Wildlife Service		<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Service		<input type="checkbox"/> National Park Service		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers		<input type="checkbox"/> Other (e.g. DOD, )		Specify: <input type="text"/>							
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Specify: <input type="text"/>																											
Project Applicant: Name: <input type="text" value="Keith Thomason"/> Position: <input type="text" value="General Manager"/> Agency: <input type="text" value="Rend Lake Conservancy District"/> Phone: <input type="text" value="618-439-4321"/> E-mail: <input type="text" value="klthomason@rendlake.org"/> Address: <input type="text" value="P.O. Box 907, Benton, IL 62812"/>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">FLMA Signature of Project Acknowledgement &amp; Concurrence</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: bottom;">                             Name: <input type="text" value="Jackie M. Taylor"/>                               Title: <input type="text" value="OPERATIONS MANAGER"/>                               Phone: <input type="text" value="REDACTED"/>                               E-mail: <input type="text" value="jackie.taylor@usac.army.mil"/> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	FLMA Signature of Project Acknowledgement & Concurrence		Name: <input type="text" value="Jackie M. Taylor"/> Title: <input type="text" value="OPERATIONS MANAGER"/> Phone: <input type="text" value="REDACTED"/> E-mail: <input type="text" value="jackie.taylor@usac.army.mil"/>																							
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Print Form

Submit by E-mail

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**Prioritization Factors:**

- FLMA, StateDOT, and facility owner agree that the project is an Economic/Visitation Generator.  Yes    No
- FLMA, StateDOT, and facility owner agree that the project is a priority.  Yes    No
- Project is consistent with the metropolitan, statewide and/or regional planning process.  Yes    No
- Project is consistent with currently adopted agency plans.  Yes    No
- If local delivery is requested, the applicant is certified by the State DOT to administer local agency projects following Federal Highway Administration requirements.  Yes    No

Project Development Status

	Not Started	In Progress	Completed	N/A	Completion Date/Comments
Project on TIP/STIP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
Right of Way	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
Preliminary Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
NEPA Document	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
Permits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
Anticipated Delivery Calendar Year:	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="2023"/>				<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
Latest Possible Delivery Calendar Year:	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="2024"/>				<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>

**Resource Protection:**

Please identify any impacts to known natural, cultural or physical resources associated with this project. (Check all that apply)

Negative Impact      Positive Impact

- Negative    Positive   Wetlands/Water Resources
- Negative    Positive   Threatened & Endangered Species
- Negative    Positive   Species of concern/state listed
- Negative    Positive   Other biological resources (fisheries, rookeries)
- Negative    Positive   Wild & Scenic River (or other state classifications)
- Negative    Positive   Non-attainment areas (air quality)
- Negative    Positive   Historic & archeological resources
- Negative    Positive   Native American areas/concerns
- Negative    Positive   Wilderness or roadless areas
- Negative    Positive   Parks & recreation areas/wildlife refuge [Section 4(f) 6(f)]
- Negative    Positive   Hazardous materials/contamination site
- Negative    Positive   Air, noise, and/or visual impacts

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## 1. Project Description

Please provide a summary of the purpose and need for the proposed project. Provide a detailed description of the project activities that would be funded with Access Program funds. Describe the overall design concept, any unusual design elements, design standards, and any work affecting structures (bridges and major culverts). Include widths, surfacing type, earthwork needs or roadside safety features. Include options and funding breakdown for scaling/phasing the project, if applicable.

Authorized by the Flood Control Act of October 23, 1962, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built Rend Lake. This 18,900 acre reservoir is jointly occupied by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Rend Lake Conservancy District. In partnership, many improvements have been made to enhance the natural beauty of the area promoting tourism, recreation, and economic growth. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rend Lake Field Office has reported that Rend Lake is the nation's 5th most visited lake managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Gun Creek Recreational Area is one of seven U.S. Army Corp of Engineers recreational areas at Rend Lake. This area is part of a major complex that offers camping, lodging, dining, golfing, boating, bike trails, fishing, and hunting. In 1973, significant investments were made by the District preparing the northern portion of the Gun Creek Recreational Area for further private and public investment. Major improvements were made installing electrical, water, sewer, paved streets, 2 parking lots and a boat ramp. Over the years, the District has maintained these improvements, but predominately this area has remain underutilized.

The focus for this project is to revitalize the existing infrastructure, build the improvements originally envision in the Rend Lake Master Plan, and create an anchor destination off Interstate 57. We are proposing to make the following investments at the Gun Creek Recreational Area: (1) Construct a 1,200 sq. ft. lakeside building that will serve as a resting area, provide ADA accessible public restrooms, and concessions; (2) Construct a picnic area featuring an 800 sq. ft. pavilion; (3) Construct a 745 sq. ft. ADA accessible fishing pier; (4) Construct a new 120' long by 60' wide boat ramp with a 100' courtesy dock; (5) Construct a 100' long by 60' wide kayak boat launch with a 30' courtesy dock; (6) Extend a 4' wide sidewalk 1,500 linear ft. linking the building, boat ramp, docks, pier, picnic area and kayak launch; (7) Install 1,125 linear ft. of floating dock providing access to 50 boats with plans for a future expansion of the dock to serve 100 boats; (8) Resurface the 156,000 sq. ft. Larry E. Foster Rd. parking lot with a 2" overlay and paint striping; (9) Patch, oil, and chip 11,400 sq. ft. of existing access roads; (10) Construct 32,950 sq. ft. of new access roads extending to the boat ramp and kayak boat launch; (11) Install a new transformer and switchgear to re-energize and expand power to this area; (12) Retro-fit 5 existing streetlights with LEDs and install 15 new LEDs streetlights; (13) Install two new bike trail gates and rededicate Wren Way Rd. as an expansion of the bike trail; (14) Clear 8,000 linear ft. of hiking trail; (15) Petition IDOT to install a pedestrian crosswalk and a 4-way stop at the intersection of Larry E. Forster Rd. and Illinois Rout 154; (16) To improve the ecosystem, we will clear out invasive species such as Autumn Olives, Burning Bushes, Bradford Pear Trees, Common Reeds, Multiflora Roses, and others then plant native trees and grass; (17) To protect the ecosystem from invasive aquatic hitchhikers, we will designate an area to provide free access to spray off boats and trailers before they are launched into the lake.

Overall, the total investment for this project will be \$2,689,480.00. Rend Lake Conservancy District will contribute an in-kind match of \$210,474.00 by providing labor, equipment, and material as defined in the budget. Attached is the proposed budget for this project.

Our plans for future improvements will be to resurface the Wren Way Rd. parking lot, expand the floating boat dock to serve 100 boats, and to expand the bike trail to along Larry E. Foster Rd. creating a continuous loop of the proposed dedicated Wren Way Rd. Bike Trail.



# Eastern Federal Lands Access Program Project Application

## 2. Safety Benefits

Please describe how this project addresses issues related to safety. Will the project improve safety for all users (pedestrians, bicycles, motor vehicles, etc.)? Will this project improve identified crash sites or hazardous conditions (road safety audits or engineering assessments)?

To expand the Gun Creek Bike Trail across Illinois State Route 154, Rend Lake Conservancy District will request IDOT to install a pedestrian crosswalk with the appropriate signage. The District will also request a 4-way stop to be added at the intersection of Larry E. Foster Rd. and Illinois State Route 154 for public safety.

As part of rededicating Wren Way Rd. as a bike trail, new gates will be installed to serve as barriers to prevent motor vehicle traffic from entering. When closed these double gated entrances will have a 6' opening allowing unrestricted access to pedestrians and bicycles. Appropriate signage will be installed to convey the proper safety precautions and restrictions for pedestrian, bicycle, and motor vehicle traffic. The trail will provide a safer alternative to sharing the roads with motor vehicles.

Additionally, this trail will benefit visitors of all ages and mobility as they experience the beauty of Rend Lake.

Lastly, re-energizing the area and installing new streetlights will increase visibility, improve safety, and promote a sense of security for our visitors.

## 3. Accessibility and Mobility Benefits

Please describe how the proposed project routes are connected to a FLMA inventory route. Describe how the project addresses the need on FLMA plan, State or County Comprehensive Plan. Describe how the proposed project will fill missing links in the network, remove travel restrictions and bottlenecks. How will the plan improve mode choice, explore and enhance transit system (i.e. operation and maintenance of transit facilities, etc.)? Will the plan reduce traffic congestion; enhance visitor mobility and accessibility?

In 1973, Rend Lake Conservancy District in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approved the development of the Gun Creek Recreational Area. As part of the master plan, this area offers camping, lodging, golfing, boating, fishing, and hunting. Investments were made by expanding roads and utility infrastructure into the northern portion of this recreational area (north of Illinois State Route 154) for future development. In this northern expansion, Larry E. Foster Rd. and Wren Way Rd. terminate at two large parking lots (each with a capacity of 200 cars) fitted with storm drainage and street lighting. One boat ramp was built at the Wren Way Rd. parking lot, but the Larry E. Foster Rd. parking lot remains undeveloped. The master plan for this area envisioned additional lodging, boat ramps, and a marina. In the past 10 years, the District has taken steps to revitalize this area by building cabins and expanding utilities. This development has been successful and has proven to generate enough revenue to maintain this area. With this proven success, the District is ready to broaden our focus for further expansion. This application is our proposal to carry on that vision and continue to improve the area as originally intended.

This proposal expands the existing bike trail, improves public safety, provides ADA accessibility, improves the native ecosystem, provides free public access to the lake and amenities, and will be the closest destination point for travelers exiting Interstate 57. This development is supported by the Rend Lake Conservancy District Board of Trustees (representing Franklin and Jefferson County) and serves the District's mission to create economic development and recreational facilities. We have prepared this proposal in cooperation with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rend Lake Field Office who share in this vision and support this proposal. Specifically, this application takes action on the following items listed in the Rend Lake Master Plan: Extend the bike trail into Gun Creek (Item# 32); Install accessible fish access (Item#26); Develop a Recreation Complex to include a Marina and Lakeside Resort (Item#108); Build a sand area along the shoreline to serve as a kayak launch land incorporate into the water trail (Item#33); and replace native tree species (Item#211).



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## 4. Preservation Benefits

Will this project improve the National Bridge Inventory System (NBIS) deficient bridge rating? How will the project improve surface conditions? Will the project reduce operating costs? How will the project contribute to the protection of specific natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic resources?

A large portion of this project is dedicated to improving the surfaces with new asphalt, oil and chip, and patching the existing access roads and parking lot.

For decades the District has budgeted to maintain this area. Our objective is to continue to develop this area and make improvements that will generate new revenue that will supplement our operational and maintenance costs.

It is Rend Lake Conservancy District's core mission to protect and improve the natural environment and ecosystem of Rend Lake. Specifically, we are proposing to clear out invasive plants, plant new native trees and grass, install a boat wash to mitigate the spread of invasive aquatic hitchhikers, and make improvements that will take advantage of scenic views.

## 5. Economic Development Benefits

Please describe how this project will attract tourism/visitation. Will the project address more than one Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) area? How will this project influence economic development? How will this project address visitor mobility, access, and experience?

In the past 10 years, the District has tested public interest in this area by building cabins that have increased visitation and public interest. With the success of these recent improvements the District is now ready to move forward with further development. This project aims to develop the area that is underutilized and create an environment that will stimulate and promote private investment. The new investments and attractions will benefit the surrounding businesses from the increase in tourism and visitation.

The District uses several marketing strategies to promote the Rend Lake area. Through the Rend Lake Tourism Group, we use bed taxes to promote attractions and events at Rend Lake. The District owns four Interstate 57 billboards near exit 77 that are regularly rotated with new advertisements.

The Gun Creek Recreational Area is located directly off exit 77 on Interstate 57 and offers immediate access to Rend Lake. This area features several existing facilities that continue to thrive. These new improves will compliment those facilities and add to the visitor experience.

## 6. Sustainability and Environmental Quality Benefits

Please describe how the proposed project contributes to the environmental goals and objectives of the Federal Land Management Plan or other applicable land management plan. How will the proposed project avoid/minimize/mitigate potential impacts to environmental or cultural resources? Will the project improve fish passage and/or wildlife connectivity? How does the proposed project contribute to the use of sustainable energy sources for transportation?

As previously mentioned, Rend Lake Conservancy District's core mission is to protect the natural environment and ecosystem of Rend Lake. The District will contribute to the environmental goals of the Federal Lands Management Plan by: (1) Restoring and protecting the surrounding land and shoreline by clearing out invasive plants, planting new native trees and grass, installing a boat wash station to mitigate the transmission of invasive aquatic species, and adhering to erosion control and soil stabilization practices in the development of this project. (2) Taking the proper precautions to protect endangered species and plants identified in the environmental assessment and permitting; (3) Forming a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to achieve a balanced stewardship that benefits the nation's public lands, waters and cultural sites; (4) Expanding hunting, fishing, and other recreation on federal lands; (5) Enhance the enjoyment and appreciation of our natural and cultural heritage by providing access, promoting activities, and making improvements that will take advantage of scenic views; (6) Ensure public safety by rehabilitating the streetlights, installing gates, and providing security patrols.