

Nonmotorized Trail for National Lakeshore

Grant Type: *Dollar and staff time*

Grant Amount: *\$12,500*

Organization: *Americana Foundation*

What was the objective of your grant or initiative?

To plan the development of a 27-mile nonmotorized trail along Lake Michigan through the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, three villages, and one county.

What was your approach?

Americana Foundation was asked to be an early funder. I discussed possibilities and walked with the National Park Service staff and the nonprofit group along much of the 27 miles that had potential. We became the second grant for the engineering plans and negotiations.

Because we got in early, we had no idea that this would turn into a multimillion dollar project and raise support and some opposition, possible funding, and the need for agreement from at least 10 units of government. The nonprofit and National Park Service made strong commitments and started the work.

What were the outsized results?

Eleven miles of the 27-mile trail are finished and in use. The layout of the trail and initial engineering were incentives for local, regional, state, and national funding—all led by Friends of the Sleeping Bear Dunes, National Park Service, and TART Trails.

