

## **Who will benefit from the project**

Describe the individuals and groups that will benefit from this project, as well as the age ranges served. Your response should help us understand who the project is designed for and how it meets community needs. You may want to address:

- Primary users and participants (e.g., local families, sports teams, school groups, community organizations, tourists)
- Age groups served (e.g., children, youth, adults, seniors, all ages)
- Any specific populations or underserved groups that will gain improved access.

The project consists of comprehensive improvements proposed for the rodeo grounds at the Tripp County Fairgrounds in Winner. The project will serve all age groups in Tripp County. Many groups will benefit from the project, including local rodeo clubs, 4-H clubs, and the many spectators who enjoy watching rodeo events, which include the high school regional rodeo, playdays, a youth rodeo, a 4-H rodeo, ranch rodeo, the First Responders Benefit Bronc Ride, to name just a few.

The fairgrounds host many regional, high school, and privately sponsored rodeos from spring through fall. In 2025, 75 high schoolers entered the River Region rodeo (one of four regional rodeo events held in South Dakota), 195 youth from across South Dakota entered the 4-H rodeo, 165 entered the Youth Rodeo in the fall, and 50 children from ages 3 to 18 took part in the Play Day series that took place every other week in the summer. The community supports all these activities as it helps their businesses by bringing people to the area.

## **Community impact and geographic reach**

Describe who will benefit from this project and the area it will serve. Your response should help us understand who will be impacted and the scale of that impact. You may want to address:

- Communities or demographic groups (e.g., local residents, underserved populations)
- Any focus on equity or improved access
- Geographic reach (neighborhood, city, region, statewide)

The project will serve Tripp County and the surrounding region, including residents of neighboring Gregory and Todd Counties, neither of which have their own rodeo facilities. The Native American community will be a major beneficiary of the project, given the high percentage of Native Americans living in Winner and the surrounding area. This community is a significant user of the rodeo grounds. Residents of a low-income rental unit located just a few blocks from the fairgrounds will also benefit.

The project will have an especially meaningful impact on the youth. Rodeo is more than just a sport - it teaches responsibility, discipline, and hard work, and leads to greater confidence. A well-maintained arena will provide a safer environment for participants, reduce the risk of injury, and allow youth to focus on developing their skills without unnecessary hazards or distractions.

### **Describe the project scope and proposed action.**

Describe the overall scope of the project and the specific actions that will be taken. Your response should provide a clear picture of what will be built or improved and any alternatives considered. You may want to address:

- Existing facilities that will be renovated or replaced
- New facilities or features that will be constructed
- General site improvements (e.g., demolition, site preparation, landscaping, habitat enhancements).
- Any alternatives considered during planning.

The project involves comprehensive improvements to the rodeo grounds at the Tripp County Fairgrounds. The project will consist of the following specific components:

- Remove existing bucking chutes. Build new chutes to the north, with an added center alley, and move crow's nest so it is over the chutes.
- Add portable pens in back of the chutes for easy clean up.
- Move North roping chute to South arena and add pens behind it.
- Build new crow's nest in small arena area and place to the south for ease in timing events.
- Add permanent seating with handicap accessibility for small arena.
- Add additional covered handicap area with parking and access for viewing in small arena.

A quote for each of these items is included. Matching funds are on hand to enable the project to be completed in 2027.

Alternatives to this project other than doing nothing are attempting to repair some of the items or to eliminate some. The first alternative is not practical, as the structures to be replaced are all at least 35 years old (some are much older) and have reached the end of their useful life. Any repairs that could be done would return limited benefits and would just delay the inevitability of replacement at a higher cost down the road.

### **Public access and recreation**

Explain how the site will be open and accessible for public outdoor recreation use. Your response should describe the key features that make the site welcoming and functional for visitors. You may want to address:

- Signage and wayfinding
- Entry points and parking
- Site improvements for usability
- Allowable activities and amenities

The Tripp County rodeo arena and surrounding properties are open to anyone who wants to practice or just experience the joy of riding and the outdoors. Admission is charged for some of the events held there, while others are free of charge. Access is from 315<sup>th</sup> Avenue (aka South County Road) and West 13<sup>th</sup> Street. A prominent

sign identifying the rodeo arena is located at the northwest corner of the fairgrounds. There is ample space for parking.

Some of the project components will greatly enhance access, safety, and the overall experience. Notably, a new permanent bleacher section with handicapped-accessible seating is proposed for the small arena.

### **Accessibility Compliance**

Describe how the project will meet accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Architectural Barriers Act (ABA). Your response should show how the site will be inclusive for all users. You may want to address:

- Accessible routes and paths
- ADA-compliant facilities, (e.g., restrooms, picnic areas, playgrounds)
- Any additional features that improve accessibility

Most areas of the Tripp County Fairgrounds are accessible to those with mobility limitations. Although the parking area is unpaved, the lot is smooth enough to allow wheelchair usage. Dedicated space for wheelchairs is located at the main rodeo arena, and the concession area and restrooms are also handicapped accessible.

Some of the project components will greatly enhance access, safety, and the overall experience. This will include the new permanent bleacher section with handicapped-accessible seating at the small arena, as well as a covered car port dedicated for those with mobility limitations.

### **Environmental Sustainability and Longevity**

Explain how the project will ensure long-term durability and environmental stewardship. Your response should highlight design elements that protect resources and extend the life of facilities. You may want to address:

- Features that improve site resiliency (e.g., erosion control, stormwater management)
- Sustainable materials or practices
- Anticipated lifespan of funded facilities
- Design elements that preserve natural resources and enhance recreation quality.

The project will have a negligible impact on the environment, but it will greatly extend the useful life of the fairgrounds. Most of the structures being replaced, including the bleachers, chutes, panels, and crow's nest, are made of wood and will be replaced with metal structures. With proper maintenance, they will provide many decades of use.

### **Site Characteristics and Desirability**

Describe what makes the site suitable and appealing for public outdoor recreation. Your response should highlight positive features and note any concerns. You may want to address:

- Existing resources and natural features that enhance recreation.
- Current site conditions that support project goals
- Any elements that detract from the experience (e.g., visual issues, safety hazards)

The Tripp County Fairgrounds is a major center of activity for Tripp County from spring through fall. It serves as a central gathering place for residents and visitors alike, hosting rodeos and other equine events that strengthen community ties and support local economic activity. In addition to the many rodeos that take place, other activities at the fairgrounds include the Tripp County Fair that typically attracts approximately 200 exhibitors with over 1,400 separate exhibits in late summer.

The rodeo grounds are not only a venue for entertainment, but also a space where traditions are preserved and passed down to future generations. The facility is clean, well-maintained, and laid out with safety in mind, including secure fencing, clear spectator areas, and appropriate footing in the arena. It is a safe, well-organized environment where young participants learn horsemanship, sportsmanship, responsibility, and teamwork.

The project is particularly important because there are no other riding arenas open to the public anywhere in the region. The nearest rodeo grounds are located in Burke (35 miles away) and White River (55 miles away), but neither is open to the public. Since the 1960s, the Tripp County rodeo arena has served as a central gathering place for Tripp County residents, especially for youth who are passionate about agriculture, livestock, riding, and rodeo events.

### **Relationship to other projects and community planning**

Explain how this project fits into broader plans for the park or community. Your response should show how the project aligns with long-term strategies. You may want to address:

- Connection to phased development or other planned improvements.
- Alignment with city or regional master plans
- Contribution to long-term community recreation goals.

The Tripp County Fairgrounds is part of a larger recreational complex in Winner that includes the adjacent Bailey Sports Complex, which consists of three ballfields and a playground area, and a camping area with space for ten camping vehicles that is open year-round. Although summer is the busiest time at the fairgrounds and in the park, the area is used year-round, in part because of a walking trail that runs around the perimeter of the complex. During the summer months, the complex is busy most days with little league games, softball games, and children using the playground. In a typical week during the summer there will be four to six games taking place at the park.

By upgrading the rodeo grounds, this project will greatly enhance the center of recreational activity in Tripp County. It will make the entire area more attractive for visitors, especially adding to its visual appeal, and will help keep the area a long-term recreation destination for area residents.

### **Existing and Planned Uses**

Describe any non-recreation or non-public uses that will continue or are planned within the park boundary. Your response should identify potential conflicts with LWCF requirements. You may want to address:

- Existing non-recreational uses on the site
- Planned uses that may affect public access or recreation quality
- Any uses that should be excluded from LWCF boundary.

The Tripp County Fairgrounds is entirely dedicated to outdoor recreation. There are no private or non-recreation uses on the site.

### **Project Need and Goals**

Describe why this project is needed and what goals it aims to achieve. Your response should explain its importance to the community. You may want to address:

- The specific problem or gap in the project addresses.
- Key objectives and intended outcomes
- Why this project is a priority for the community

The Tripp County rodeo grounds are a great facility and have provided decades of service to area residents. The Tripp County Fair Board, which is responsible for the grounds, has done its best over the years to maintain the facilities but it is undeniable that major enhancements are needed. In fact, no significant improvements have been made since 1991.

Due to age and wear, key areas of the facility—specifically the bleachers, crow's nest, and livestock pens—are now in need of significant upgrades. The current condition of the facility no longer meets the standards needed to safely and effectively support today's competitors and spectators.

The bleachers in the main arena are old and wooden. They are very difficult for older people to climb up them as they have no stairs. They are open on the back and little children are not safe on them. The small arena on the east side has no permanent bleachers and nothing at all for handicapped spectators. The chutes in the main arena have been used and abused for many years and have reached the end of their rodeo life.

Improvements to these structures will greatly enhance safety, accessibility, and overall functionality. Updated bleachers will provide safer and more comfortable seating for attendees, a renovated crow's nest will improve event operations and visibility, and upgraded livestock pens will ensure better handling and care of animals.

### **Outdoor Recreation Benefits**

Explain the short-term and long-term benefits this project will provide for outdoor recreation. Your response should show how it improves access and enhances recreation opportunities. You may want to address:

- How the project will create new or expand existing recreation opportunities.
- Benefits for public access and quality of experience
- Why these opportunities are significant for the community.

The project will provide significant and long-lasting benefits to the people of Tripp County, as well as the many residents of Gregory and Todd Counties who visit the Tripp County Fairgrounds. It will greatly improve the experience for both rodeo participants and spectators and will also improve access for spectators.

These benefits are important given the ongoing popularity of rodeo and riding events for local residents. It is no exaggeration to say that the majority of Tripp County residents go to the fairgrounds at least once a year either as a participant in the various activities that take place there or as a spectator at rodeo events. Most of these people make multiple visits during the year.

### **SCORP Priorities and Local Planning Alignment**

Identify strategies from the 2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) that support your project and demonstrate how you project aligns with both statewide priorities and local planning efforts. Your responses should show clear connections between SCORP strategies and community needs. You may want to address:

- Specific SCORP strategies that apply
- How each strategy connects to your project's goals
- Examples of how your project advances these priorities
- References to your Local Needs Assessment or Community Master Plan, explaining how these local plans informed your project and complement SCORP priorities.

### **I'LL HAVE TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION LATER**

Rodeo is South Dakota's state sport, and it is certainly a very popular activity for both participants and spectators in Tripp County. Evidence of this is the fact that Winner is host to the River Region rodeo, one of only four regional rodeo events held in South Dakota. This project is clearly important on more than just a local level.

According to the survey conducted for the 2023 SCORP.....

Under Strategy # \_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ ...) on page \_\_\_\_.  
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## **Public Involvement and Planning**

Describe how the project was developed and how the public was involved in the process. Your response should demonstrate community engagement and planning alignment. You may want to address:

- Public involvement methods (meetings, surveys, workshops)
- How feedback influenced the project design
- Alignment with local or regional plans (e.g., city master plan, park system plan)
- How planning processes prioritized this project

A considerable amount of planning has gone into this project, spearheaded by the Tripp County Fair Board. Although its monthly board meetings are not typically advertised, the group has such broad membership in the community that the public has been well informed about the board's plans for the rodeo grounds. Minutes of the board meetings are available for public review at [www.trippcounty.us/tripp-county-fair-board.html](http://www.trippcounty.us/tripp-county-fair-board.html).

## **Describe the planning process that led to this proposal.**

Explain how the project was identified, prioritized, and prioritized, and shaped through planning efforts. Your response should demonstrate community engagement and planning alignment. You may want to address:

- Public involvement methods (meetings, surveys, workshops)
- How feedback influenced the project design
- Alignment with local or regional plans (e.g., city master plan, park system plan)
- How planning processes prioritized this project

Proposals to upgrade the fairground facilities have been in the planning stage for years. A serious fundraising effort for this project began on October 1, 2025, which has thus far raised over \$98,000, which includes a \$25,000 grant that was received in December 2025 from the Winner Community Foundation.

A draft of this application was posted on the Tripp County Fair Board website on April 16, 2026 ([www.trippcounty.us/tripp-county-fair-board.html](http://www.trippcounty.us/tripp-county-fair-board.html)). Copies of the application also were made available at the Tripp County commission's April 14, 2026 meeting. No comments from the public concerning the project or the application were received prior to the application being submitted.

## **Cost Estimates**

Explain how the cost estimate and budget were developed. Your response should show that the budget is reasonable, well-supported, and based on accurate information. You may want to address:

- Basis for cost estimates (engineer's estimate, vendor quotes, historical data)
- Breakdown of major cost categories
- Contingency considerations
- Assumptions or constraints used in budgeting

Quotes for the various components of the project have been obtained, all of which are current. Since most of the quotes assume construction will occur this year, actual costs for 2027 may be somewhat higher. See attached budget for an itemization of the expected project costs.

### **Management and Operations**

Describe who will manage and operate the site following project completion and their responsibilities. Your response should demonstrate the managing entity's capacity and the commitment to long-term operations. You may want to address:

- Naming of managing entity
- Roles and responsibilities for operations and maintenance
- Staffing and resource capacity
- Funding Sources for ongoing management
- Partnerships or agreements supporting operations.

The Tripp County Fair Board is responsible for operating the fairgrounds, including scheduling events, providing ongoing maintenance, and making small improvements as funds allow. The president of the board is the individual primarily responsible for maintenance. The board's annual budget is sufficient to operate the fairground facilities.

After construction, the president of the board will inspect the work regularly during the warranty period for any signs of problems. After the warranty period, inspections will continue, including regular spring and fall inspections.

### **BUDGET - Describe the applicant's need for grant funding and explain what would happen to the project if an award is not made.**

Funds are requested because the Tripp County Fair Board does not have enough funds on hand to undertake the project. Budget revenue averages \$31,400 per year, much of which is received from Tripp County and the City of Winner. Event fees and donations also bring in revenue. The money received is sufficient for maintenance and ongoing operational expenses, but not for major expenses. The fair board's current balance is approximately \$21,000.

Part of the problem is that the fairgrounds are predominantly used by youth who are not charged a fee for usage and therefore funds are lacking for major improvements. If an award is not given, the project will not be able to be completed as proposed at this time. In such case, the project will either be scaled back or additional fundraising efforts will be needed.