

**TEAM  
KENTUCKY.**

ENERGY AND  
ENVIRONMENT CABINET



## Recycled Tires in Kentucky

Tire Recycling Conference 2024 – Atlanta, GA

Brittany Woodward

# Waste Tire Trust Fund

- 1990 – General Assembly passed HB 32
  - Created the waste tire control program and established the Waste Tire Trust Fund
    - KRS 224.50-878
- \$2 fee on all new motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer tires sold in Kentucky
  - Was \$1 until 2018
  - Retailer retains 5% handling fee for admin costs
- Funds waste tire collection events, “off-site” cleanups, market development, \$4,000 grant to counties for tire collection/disposal, Rubber Modified Asphalt Grant and Crumb Rubber/Tire Derived Products Grant

# Waste Tire Collection Events

- Three-day event on a three-year rotating period in each county
- Informal meetings with a signed contract between counties and DMW
- State covers hiring contractor and transport of tires
  - Contracted with Liberty Tire (Marion, KY) since 2012
- Events advertised and staffed by county
- Over 20 million tires collected since inception in 1998

# Nearly 100,000 tires collected from just two counties in Spring 2022



# Offsite Collections

- State works with counties to get these cleaned up
- Minimum of 1500 tires in one location before consideration for use of grant funds and state assistance



# Waste Tire Grant Program

- \$4,000 grant county governments can use to properly dispose of waste tires in their area
- Over 2 million waste tires since 2013
- 85% of counties apply for this funding each year
- Non-competitive grant program with no match required
- Only actual costs associated with disposal are eligible



# Rubber Modified Asphalt Grant Program

- New uses for recycled tires – keeping them out of landfills
- Began 2016 with chip seal to test performance
- Thin overlay added following year
- Connects contractors, suppliers, and counties
- Gather performance data for KYTC and DWM



# RMA Grant Program Specifics

- Open to counties and metro governments only
  - About \$500,000 available yearly
- Grant covers the cost of the installation (via reimbursement) of the RMA
- Counties are required to pay for and pave an equal amount of conventional asphalt on a road with similar use for comparison
- Two reports are required as a condition of the grant
- Applications due April 1 of each year
  - Decisions out by early June
  - First Report due January 31 of following year



# How we rank RMA applications

## Metrics counties can control:

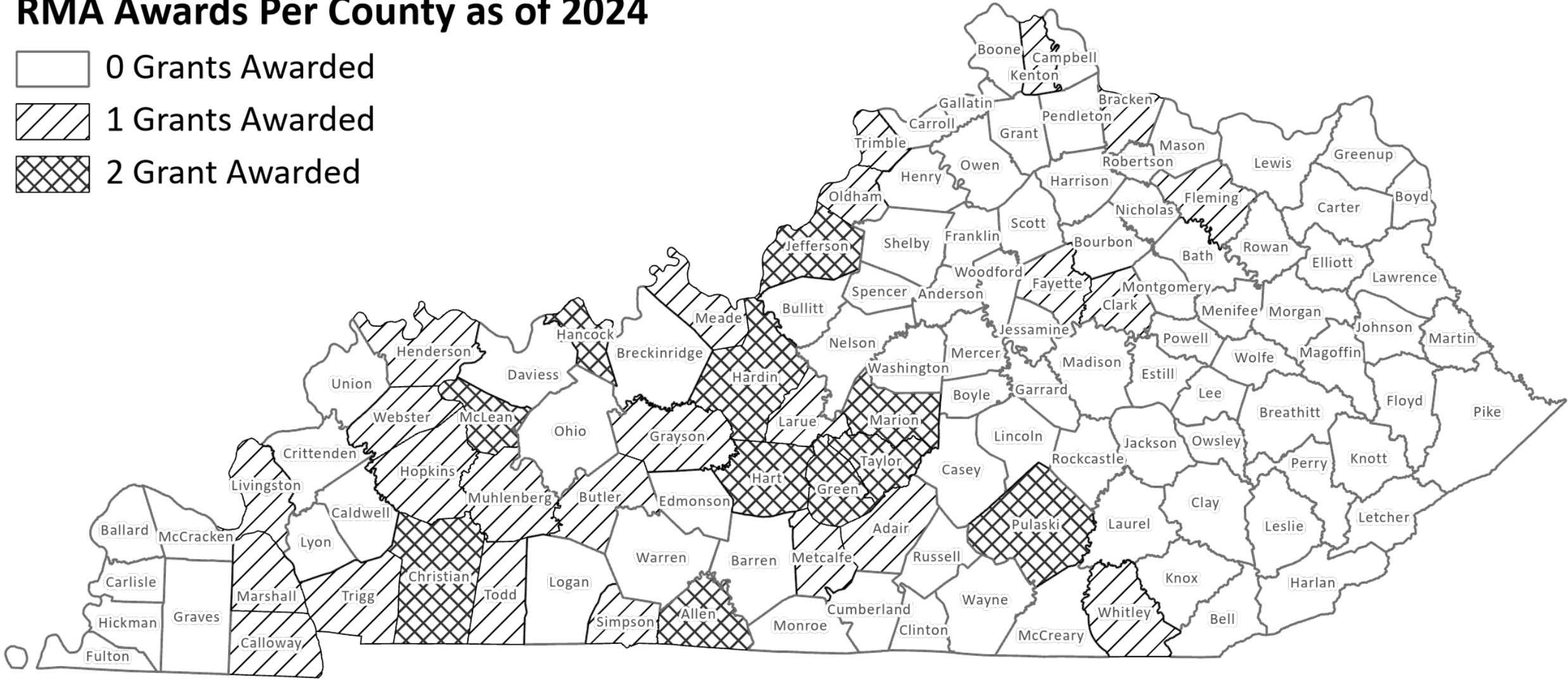
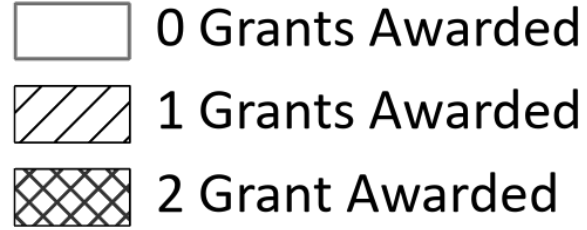
- Roads with higher daily traffic
- Roads with mixed use traffic, including heavy vehicle
- Roads with greater public visibility
- Condition of the proposed road and its base
- Contiguous roads

## Metrics counties cannot control:

- Most benefit and exposure for cost of project typically wins
- Geographical location across Kentucky
- Number of times the applicant has previously received an RMA grant



# RMA Awards Per County as of 2024



# Crumb Rubber/TDP Grant Program

- Began 2004 for use with athletic fields and loose crumb on playgrounds
  - 2015 – Funded projects for landscaping, sidewalks/surfaces, stall mats, and other products
  - 2018 – Fund poured-in-place playgrounds, walking trails, picnic tables and benches, tree rings, and sidewalks
- About \$500,000 available yearly
  - Slight room for more with legislature
  - Highly competitive



JAMES D. BEVILLE PARK  
CITY OF LEITCHFIELD - 2019

## Poured-in-place playgrounds:

- Most popular
- ADA accessible
- Safer
- More appealing
- Last

# Crumb Rubber Grant Program Specifics

- Applications due April 1 of each year
  - Decisions out by June 15
- Open to public and private entities, school districts, city and county governments, public parks and state agencies
- Grant covers the purchase and transport of CR
  - 25% match from the grantee – pays for install, promotion, etc
- Progress reports required
  - Before/after photos, discuss how project is holding up, comments from public, maintenance costs
- Since 2004 – over \$10.4 million awarded towards 636 projects

# How we rank Crumb Rubber applications

- Compliance with: State, EPA, 5- year plans
- Number of grants previously awarded in County & last time
- Number of people expected to be served by the project
- Number of projects in the area already

# The Future of Tires in KY

- Grant programs are in high demand
- Ground rubber applications were KY's largest market in 2023 at 31.3%
- Looking into civil engineering markets for shreds and auto manufacturing



Questions?

5 YEAR  
EXPERIMENTAL ROAD  
SURFACING PROJECT  
3.1 MILE LENGTH  
RUBBERIZED ASPHALT  
& REGULAR ASPHALT

FUNDED BY  
KENTUCKY DIVISION OF  
WASTE MANAGEMENT  
& MARION COUNTY FISCAL COURT



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