

A Guide to State Funding Opportunities for  
Conservation, Recreation and Preservation Projects

# FINDING THE *green!*



Compiled by the Pennsylvania Growing Greener Coalition



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## *Legend*

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture—AG

Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development  
(Commonwealth Financing Authority)—CFA

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources—DCNR

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection—DEP

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation—PennDOT

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission—PFBC

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission—PHMC

Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority—PENNVEST



## A Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to the 2014 Pennsylvania Growing Greener Coalition's Guide to Finding the Green!

The purpose of this guide is to offer, in a single source, a thorough and accurate rundown of the state funding opportunities for conservation, preservation, and recreation projects throughout the Commonwealth.

As more funding programs are developed and current programs depleted or eliminated, it has become increasingly difficult for non-profit organizations and local governments to understand and access current funding opportunities.

This guide is meant to help.

In the pages that follow, you will find information about funding programs and specific grant opportunities. In addition, we have also organized the grant opportunities by project type to make it easier for you to find grants relevant to your specific funding need.

Every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this guide. However, if you notice information that may be out-of-date, please let us know.

We have also noted the historical funding experiences of some of the larger programs to educate the public on potential funding fluctuations.

A special "thank you" to the state agencies and staff that provided the information needed to paint a complete and authentic picture of what funding opportunities exist in the state.

This has been nearly a yearlong process, and I would like to thank the organizations that provided funding to help make this guide possible:

- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds
- William Penn Foundation

Thank you again for your support.

The Coalition hopes you find this guide useful as a single-source guide for *Finding the Green* for your conservation, recreation, and preservation projects. Feedback on its content, usefulness, and suggestions for improvements are always welcome.

By working together, we will continue to protect and enhance funding opportunities for projects throughout the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,



Andrew Heath





# THE BIG PICTURE Overview of Funding Programs

State dollars for preservation, conservation, and recreation activities are typically allocated among a handful of programs and funds and then disbursed through various grant programs mostly administered by state agencies. The following provides a brief overview of the main funding programs.

## *Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program*

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase program was developed in 1988 to help slow the loss of prime farmland to nonagricultural uses. The program was created through state legislation, Act 149 of 1988, which amended Act 43 of 1981. Act 43, again updated in 2006, enables the state and participating counties to protect farmland by purchasing *agricultural conservation easements* on eligible properties. Last updated in 2013, Act 43 now allows for the biannual monitoring of easements.

The first easements were purchased in 1989.

Fifty-seven participating county programs receive state funds for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements. Counties participating in the program have appointed agricultural land preservation boards with a state board created to oversee this program. The state board is responsible for distribution of state funds, approval and monitoring of county programs, and specific easement purchases.

Farm owners apply to the county program. Farm applications are ranked and then forwarded to the state board for approval after offers have been made. Currently, more than 4,500 farms covering 484,000 acres have been permanently protected. Pennsylvania leads the nation in farmland preservation.

**ADMINISTRATOR:** Department of Agriculture

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us>

**HISTORICAL FUNDING:** In 1993, the easement purchase program was granted a dedicated funding source, 2 percent of cigarette tax revenue. In 2002, provisions were changed and the program now receives a flat amount of \$20,485,000 per year from the tax. Since this is a yearly transfer from the general fund, the Agriculture Conservation Easement Purchase Program has been targeted in prior years to help balance the state budget. However, it remained fully supported in the proposed 2014-2015 budget, but may continue to face similar challenges in future years.

## *Growing Greener Environmental Stewardship Fund*

Growing Greener was established in 1999 when Governor Tom Ridge and the General Assembly committed nearly \$650 million over five years to fund conservation and environmental protection projects—from the creation of greenways, trails, and community parks to wildlife habitat preservation.

In 2002, Governor Mark Schweiker and the General Assembly created a dedicated source of funding for Growing Greener through an increase in the tipping fee—the fee for dumping trash in landfills. The revenue generated by the increase was placed into the Environmental Stewardship Fund for Growing Greener.

In 2005, voters approved Growing Greener II, a \$625 million bond to supplement existing Growing Greener funds. Growing Greener II was approved with 61 percent support statewide. Support was even higher in southeastern Pennsylvania, with 76 percent voter approval.

Over the years, Growing Greener has provided funds to communities and nonprofit organizations to help restore and

protect local watersheds, clean up abandoned mines, preserve and acquire farmlands and open spaces, and lessen nonpoint source pollution from entering waterways.

Growing Greener also provides funds for maintaining our award-winning state park system, for heritage conservation, and for the development of multipurpose trails, greenways, and parks in our communities.

**ADMINISTRATORS:** Department of Agriculture, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.growinggreener.info>

**HISTORICAL FUNDING:** Each year, the Growing Greener Environmental Stewardship Fund struggles for funding—with Growing Greener II bond funds nearly depleted—and a majority of the Growing Greener Environmental Stewardship Fund tipping fees being diverted to pay the debt service on the Growing Greener II bonds.

## Heritage Areas Program

Pennsylvania's Heritage Areas Program has made the Commonwealth a national leader in the heritage areas movement. Pennsylvania is home to 12 state-designated Heritage Areas. Five of these state heritage areas have also been designated as National Heritage Areas. Pennsylvania has more National Heritage Areas than any other state in the country. Established in 1989, the Heritage Areas Program is a smartly built, multifaceted regional strategy to conserve and enhance resources and promote its heritage for tourism development. It is also a key component in the state's second leading industry—tourism.

The program has empowered each of the heritage areas to be an innovator in regional community conservation and revitalization, heritage tourism, greenway preservation, and storytelling. For more than 27 years this program has made possible the building of partnerships across public, private, and nonprofit lines to create projects and programs that foster economic and tourism development.

Through regional partnerships and grassroots planning strategies, historic, cultural, natural, scenic, and recreational resources are preserved and developed to strengthen regional economies through increased tourism, creation of new jobs, and

new investment opportunities. Working on a large landscape scale, this bottom-up approach has become a national model for innovative strategic planning.

The program currently receives a general fund line-item appropriation in DCNR's annual budget. However, general fund support has not been consistent nor guaranteed, so Heritage Areas may also apply for grants through DCNR's Community Conservation and Partnerships Program, which is a competitive grant program.

**ADMINISTRATOR:** Department of Conservation and Natural Resources provides funding to the 12 state-designated, multi-county heritage area regions. The heritage areas pass a portion of these funds in the form of grants to communities, nonprofits and other organizations partnering within the heritage regions.

**WEBSITE:** <http://heritagepa.com>

**HISTORICAL FUNDING:** Although a strong economic driver for the local economy, funding for the Heritage Areas Program has been decreased or eliminated in recent years. The program was completely zeroed out in 2010 and remained that way through 2013. \$2.25 million was restored in the 2013-2014 fiscal year budget, however, the program has again been zeroed out in the proposed 2014-2015 budget.



## *Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund*

Established in 1993 with an overwhelmingly approved voter referendum, a 48-0 vote in the Pennsylvania Senate and a 196-3 vote in the House, the Keystone Fund automatically receives 15 percent of the state's realty transfer tax. This regular revenue has effectively and efficiently created permanent and lasting assets for the people of Pennsylvania by improving the livability of our communities and providing irreplaceable recreational and educational opportunities to all.

Each dollar of Keystone Fund community grants typically leverages more than two dollars in direct private and local investments in our parks, trails, community green spaces, libraries, and historic places. These investments in turn generate hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity, ranging from recreational purchases and wages to increased values of properties.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources receives 65 percent of the Keystone Fund and awards grants to project types including Community Recreation Grants for planning,

development, and land acquisition; Rivers Conservation Plans and Projects; Land Trust Projects; and Rails-to-Trails Projects.

The Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission receives a portion of the Keystone Fund and awards grants to support projects that identify, preserve, promote, and protect historic and archaeological resources in Pennsylvania for both the benefit of the public and community revitalization.

Two types of grants—project and construction—are available for historic resources in Pennsylvania listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. Applicants may apply for only one type of grant.

**ADMINISTRATORS:** Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.keystonefund.org>

**HISTORICAL FUNDING:** The Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund has been a target for depletion and elimination in prior years to help balance the budget, however, the fund remains fully supported in the proposed 2014-2015 budget.

## Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund

The Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund was established through the enactment of Act 13 of 2012 to provide distribution of unconventional gas well impact fees to counties, municipalities, and Commonwealth agencies. The fee revenue will be used for statewide initiatives in the areas of acid mine drainage abatement, watershed restoration, gas well management and plugging, development and rehabilitation of greenways and recreational trails, sewage treatment projects, and replacement and repair of deteriorated bridges in municipalities with unconventional gas wells.

Receipts deposited into the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund come from transfers from the Unconventional Gas Well Fund and the Oil and Gas Lease Fund.

In 2013-2014, this fund dispersed more than \$186 million, of which more than \$56 million went toward environmental, conservation, and recreation projects with another \$27.8 million being transferred to the Growing Greener Environmental Stewardship Fund.

Each county, regardless of whether gas extraction takes place within its borders, receives a portion of the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund for the planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, natural areas, community conservation and beautification projects, community and heritage parks, and water resource management. The county's population determines the county's portion of funds.

**ADMINISTRATOR:** The Public Utility Commission provides for the transfers from this fund to the Commonwealth Financing Authority, county governments, and state agencies that administer the Growing Greener Environmental Stewardship Fund.

**HISTORICAL FUNDING:** The Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund is one of the more stable state funds; however, due to recent legal uncertainty with Act 13 of 2012, the entire Act may be at risk. As long as the Act remains in place, the funding should remain intact.

## *Oil and Gas Lease Fund*

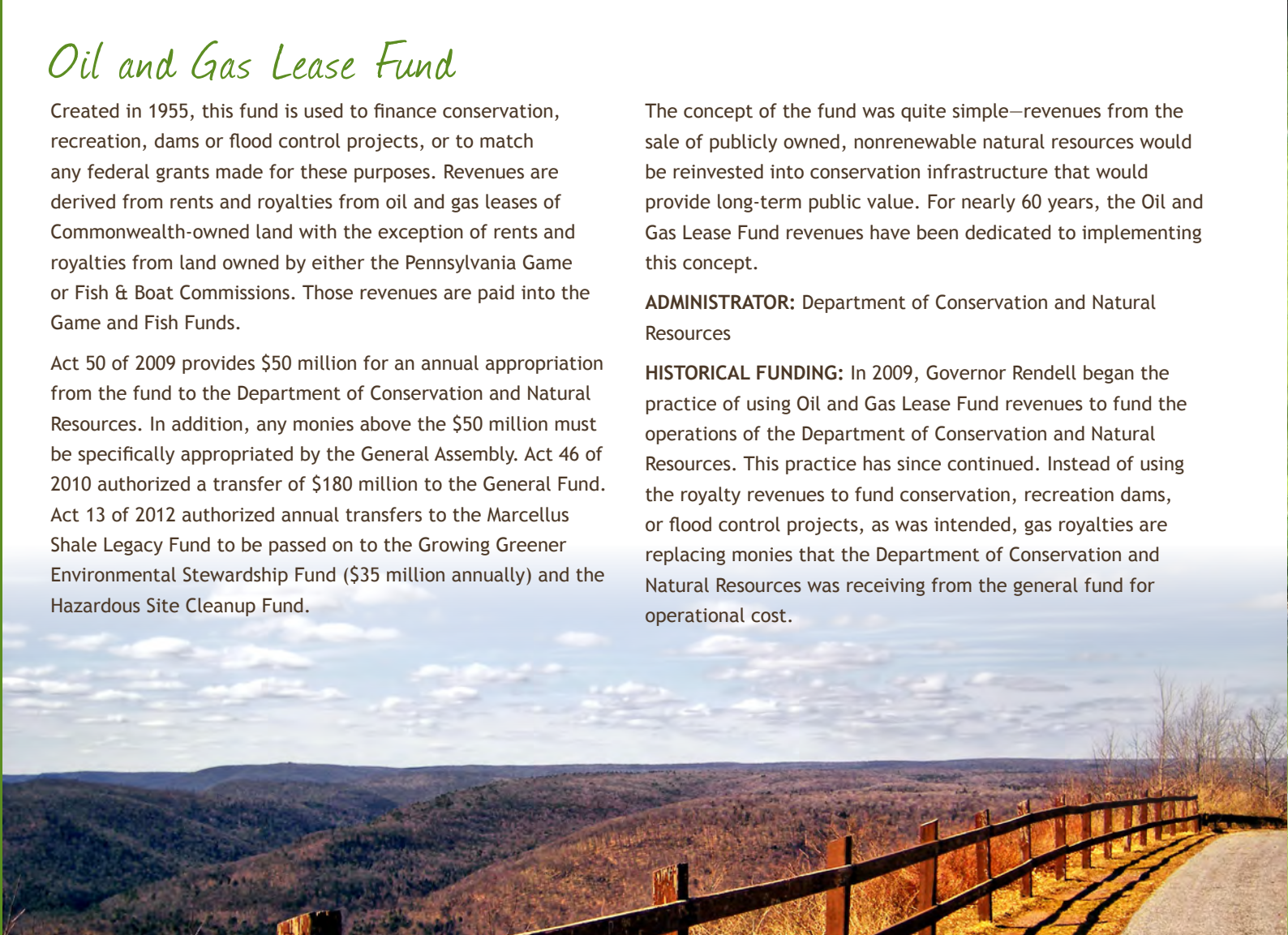
Created in 1955, this fund is used to finance conservation, recreation, dams or flood control projects, or to match any federal grants made for these purposes. Revenues are derived from rents and royalties from oil and gas leases of Commonwealth-owned land with the exception of rents and royalties from land owned by either the Pennsylvania Game or Fish & Boat Commissions. Those revenues are paid into the Game and Fish Funds.

Act 50 of 2009 provides \$50 million for an annual appropriation from the fund to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. In addition, any monies above the \$50 million must be specifically appropriated by the General Assembly. Act 46 of 2010 authorized a transfer of \$180 million to the General Fund. Act 13 of 2012 authorized annual transfers to the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund to be passed on to the Growing Greener Environmental Stewardship Fund (\$35 million annually) and the Hazardous Site Cleanup Fund.

The concept of the fund was quite simple—revenues from the sale of publicly owned, nonrenewable natural resources would be reinvested into conservation infrastructure that would provide long-term public value. For nearly 60 years, the Oil and Gas Lease Fund revenues have been dedicated to implementing this concept.

**ADMINISTRATOR:** Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**HISTORICAL FUNDING:** In 2009, Governor Rendell began the practice of using Oil and Gas Lease Fund revenues to fund the operations of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This practice has since continued. Instead of using the royalty revenues to fund conservation, recreation dams, or flood control projects, as was intended, gas royalties are replacing monies that the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources was receiving from the general fund for operational cost.







# THE BIG QUESTION Which Programs for Which Projects?

Now that you know the range of available grant programs that exist, the big question is which is the best for your projects. Arranged by area of interest, this list of specific funding programs administered by state agencies should provide a good start.

## *Acid Mine Drainage*

CFA Abandoned Mine Drainage Abatement and Treatment Program

CFA Watershed Restoration Protection Program

DEP Abandoned Mine Drainage Set-Aside Grant Program

DEP Environmental Education Grants Program

DEP Growing Greener Watershed Protection Grants

DEP Nonpoint Source Implementation Program Grants

DEP Nonpoint Source Pollution Educational Mini-Grants

DEP Watershed Education Grants

PENNVEST Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program

## *Agriculture Preservation*

AG Farmland Preservation Easement Purchase Program

AG Land Trust Reimbursement Grant Program

## *Community Parks, Recreation, Trails and Greenways*

CFA Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program

CFA Flood Mitigation Program

DCNR Community Conservation and Partnerships Program (C2P2)

DEP Coastal Management

DEP Environmental Education Grants Program

PennDOT Transportation Alternatives Program

PFBC Boating Infrastructure Grant Program

PFBC Erie Access Improvement Grant Program

PFBC Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed Restoration Grant Program

PFBC Valley Creek Watershed Grant Program



## *Habitat Restoration and Protection*

CFA Watershed Restoration Protection Program  
CFA Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program  
CFA Flood Mitigation Program  
DCNR Community Conservation and Partnerships Program (C2P2)  
DEP Coastal Management  
DEP Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program  
DEP Environmental Education Grants Program  
DEP Growing Greener Watershed Protection Grants  
DEP Nonpoint Source Implementation Program Grants  
DEP Nonpoint Source Pollution Educational Mini-Grants  
DEP Watershed Education Grants  
PennDOT Transportation Alternatives Program  
PFBC Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grant Program  
PFBC Pumpout Grant Program  
PFBC The State Wildlife Grants Program  
PFBC Tulpehocken & Quittapahilla Watershed Grant Program  
PENNVEST Brownfield Remediation  
PENNVEST Growing Greener Grants

## *Historic Preservation and Heritage Area Conservation*

CFA Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program  
CFA Flood Mitigation Program  
DCNR Community Conservation and Partnerships Program (C2P2)  
DEP Environmental Education Grants Program  
PennDOT Transportation Alternatives Program  
PHMC Certified Local Government Grant Program  
PHMC Historic Preservation Project Grants  
PHMC Historic Preservation Construction Grants  
PENNVEST Brownfield Remediation



## *Land and Water Conservation*

CFA Watershed Restoration Protection Program  
 CFA Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program  
 CFA Flood Mitigation Program  
 DCNR Community Conservation and Partnerships Program (C2P2)  
 DEP Coastal Management  
 DEP Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program  
 DEP Environmental Education Grants Program  
 DEP Growing Greener Watershed Protection Grants  
 DEP Nonpoint Source Implementation Program Grants  
 DEP Nonpoint Source Pollution Educational Mini-Grants  
 DEP Watershed Education Grants  
 PennDOT Transportation Alternatives Program  
 PENNVEST Brownfield Remediation  
 PENNVEST Drinking Water, Wastewater, Stormwater  
 and Nonpoint Source Loans & Grants  
 PENNVEST Growing Greener Grants  
 PFBC Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grant Program  
 PFBC Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed Restoration  
 Grant Program  
 PFBC Valley Creek Watershed Grant Program

## *Stormwater Management and Sewer Infrastructure*

CFA Watershed Restoration Protection Program  
 CFA Flood Mitigation Program  
 DEP ACT 101 County Planning Grants  
 DEP Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program  
 DEP Enactment of Ordinances and Implementation  
 of Stormwater Management Plans  
 DEP Environmental Education Grants Program  
 DEP Growing Greener Watershed Protection Grants  
 DEP Nonpoint Source Implementation Program Grants  
 DEP Nonpoint Source Pollution Educational Mini-Grants  
 DEP Watershed Education Grants  
 PennDOT Transportation Alternatives Program  
 PENNVEST Drinking Water, Wastewater, Stormwater  
 and Nonpoint Source Loans & Grants  
 PENNVEST Growing Greener Grants  
 PFBC Valley Creek Watershed Grant Program





## *Watershed Restoration*

CFA Watershed Restoration Protection Program

CFA Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program

CFA Flood Mitigation Program

DCNR Community Conservation and Partnerships Program (C2P2)

DEP Coastal Management

DEP Abandoned Mine Drainage Set-Aside Grant Program

DEP ACT 101 County Planning Grants

DEP Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program

DEP Environmental Education Grants Program

DEP Growing Greener Watershed Protection Grants

DEP Nonpoint Source Implementation Program Grants

DEP Nonpoint Source Pollution Educational Mini-Grants

DEP Watershed Education Grants

PennDOT Transportation Alternatives Program

PENNVEST Brownfield Remediation

PENNVEST Drinking Water, Wastewater, Stormwater  
and Nonpoint Source Loans & Grants

PENNVEST Growing Greener Grants

PFBC Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grant Program

PFBC Erie Access Improvement Grant Program

PFBC Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed Restoration Grant Program

PFBC Valley Creek Watershed Grant Program

## *Other Opportunities*

CFA Baseline Water Quality Data Program

CFA Orphan or Abandoned Well Plugging Program

PFBC Unassessed Waters Initiative





# DIGGING DEEPER A Cross Reference to Specific Grant Opportunities

Within the state's main funding programs are various grant opportunities targeted to meet specific conservation, preservation, and recreation projects. The following is a selected list of current funding opportunities provided by state agencies with a brief description and links to application information.

## *AG Farmland Preservation Easement Purchase Program*

Farm owners apply to the county farmland preservation program. Farm applications are ranked and then forwarded to the state board for approval after offers have been made.

Website: <http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us>

## *AG Land Trust Reimbursement Grant Program*

An individual grant will reimburse a qualified land trust up to \$5,000 of expenses incurred in acquiring an "agricultural conservation easement," as defined in the Agricultural Area Security Law. Expenses include appraisal costs, legal services, title searches, document preparation, title insurance, closing fees, and survey costs.

The land trust must be a tax-exempt institution under section 501(c)(3) and include the acquisition of agricultural conservation easements or other conservation easements in its stated purpose. An eligible land trust seeking reimbursement grants under the program shall register with the State Agricultural Land Preservation Board.

Website: <http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us>



## *CFA Abandoned Mine Drainage Abatement and Treatment Program*

Projects that involve the reclamation of Abandoned Mine Well(s), construction of a new AMD site, remediation and repair of existing AMD project sites, operation and maintenance, maintaining current AMD remediation sites, establishment of trust fund to ensure ongoing maintenance is achieved, and monitoring of water quality to track or continue to trace nonpoint source load reductions resulting from AMD remediation projects.

Grants shall be awarded to eligible applicants for projects that do not exceed \$1,000,000. The grant requires a least a 15 percent match of the total project cost.

*Website: <http://www.newpa.com/AMDATP>*

## *CFA Watershed Restoration Protection Program*

Projects that involve the construction, improvement, expansion, repair, maintenance, or rehabilitation of new or existing watershed protection Best Management Practices (BMPs).

There is a maximum of \$300,000 for any project. A 15 percent match of the total project cost is required.

*Website: <http://www.newpa.com/WRPP>*

## *CFA Orphan or Abandoned Well Plugging Program*

Projects that involve the cleaning out and plugging of abandoned and orphan oil and gas wells, stray gas mitigation systems, and well venting projects.

There is a maximum of \$250,000 for any project.

*Website: <http://www.newpa.com/OAWP>*

## CFA Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program

Projects that involve development, rehabilitation, and improvements to public parks, recreation areas, greenways, trails, and river conservation.

Grants shall be awarded to eligible applicants for projects that do not exceed \$250,000. Most projects require a 50 percent local match of the total project cost. Applications from municipalities with a population of fewer than 5,000 require a 20 percent match of the total project cost. Match may be cash or noncash and must be directly related to the approved scope of work.

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/GTRP>



## CFA Flood Mitigation Program

Projects authorized by a flood protection authority, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or identified by a local government for flood mitigation are eligible for the program.

Grants shall not exceed \$500,000 for any project. Eligible projects will have a total project cost of \$50,000 or more and a maximum cost of \$1,000,000. A 15 percent match of the total project cost is required. Match may be cash or noncash and must be directly related to the approved scope of work.

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/FMP>

## CFA Baseline Water Quality Data Program

Projects that involve practices for water sample collection and analysis to document existing groundwater quality conditions on private water supplies.

Grants shall be awarded to eligible applicants for projects that do not exceed \$250,000. The grant requires at least 15 percent match of the total project cost.

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/BWQDP>

## DCNR Community Conservation and Partnerships Program (C2P2)

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (DCNR) Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (BRC) provides a single point of contact for communities and nonprofit conservation agencies seeking state assistance through its Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) in support of local recreation and conservation initiatives. This assistance can take the form of grants, technical assistance, information exchange, and training.

The demand for DCNR's C2P2 funds has been steadily increasing as communities and conservancies seek to meet the recreation and conservation needs of residents, increase their access to outdoor recreation and natural areas, enhance quality of life, and preserve critical landscapes.

All of DCNR's funding sources are combined into one annual application cycle, and there is a single application format and process with one set of requirements and guidelines. Some C2P2 applications are selected for funding through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund or the Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program, which require some supplemental information to address federal requirements.

*Website: <https://www.grants.dcnr.state.pa.us/GrantPrograms.aspx>*

Below is a list of the state-funding components contained within the C2P2 program:

- **DCNR Community Recreation and Conservation Program**

Grants are awarded to municipalities and authorized nonprofit organizations for recreation, park, trail, and conservation projects. These include the rehabilitation and new development of parks, trails, and recreation facilities (development projects); land acquisition for active or passive parks; trails and conservation purposes (acquisition projects); and planning for feasibility studies, trail studies, conservation plans, master site development plans, and comprehensive recreation, park, open space, and greenway plans. Most projects require a 50 percent match except for some technical assistance grants and projects eligible as small community development projects. The small community development project provides municipalities with populations of 5,000 or less an alternate method of funding. These projects focus on playground rehabilitation to meet current safety and accessibility standards with a total project cost \$60,000 or less.

- **DCNR Land Trust Program**

Grants are awarded to prequalified land trusts and conservancies to fund projects for open space and natural areas planning and acquisition. Priority is given to protecting critical habitat. These grants require a 50 percent cash match and/or land donation noncash value.

*(C2P2 continues on the following page.)*

- **DCNR Partnerships Program**

Grants are awarded to statewide and regional partners to assist with building professional capacity and educating the public on the benefit and value of recreation, conservation and heritage in Pennsylvania. To better develop and manage recreation and park facilities and to promote the conservation of natural and heritage resources through plan implementation, education, and training.

- **DCNR Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program**

Grants are awarded to federal and state agencies, local governments, nonprofit and for-profits organizations to assist with the construction, renovation, and maintenance of trails and trail-related facilities for motorized and non-motorized recreational trail use, the purchase or lease of equipment for those purposes, and construction and development of education materials and programs. These grants require a minimum 20 percent match.

- **DCNR Rails-to-Trails Program**

These grants help plan for, acquire, or develop rail-trail corridors. Eligible applicants include municipalities and nonprofit organizations established to preserve and protect available abandoned railroad corridors as trails. A 50 percent cash or in-kind match is required, except for acquisition projects that require a cash or land donation match.

- **DCNR Rivers Conservation Program**

Grants are awarded to municipal entities to develop or implement watershed/river-corridor conservation plans. Priority is given to projects that implement plan recommendations in watersheds that are recorded on the Pennsylvania Rivers Registry. A 50 percent match is required, which can include a combination of cash and/or noncash values.

- **DCNR Snowmobile/All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Program**

Grants are awarded to assist with the planning, land acquisition, construction, renovation, and maintenance of areas and facilities for snowmobile and ATV use, the purchase or lease of equipment for trail construction/maintenance and the development of educational materials and programs. These grants require a minimum 20 percent match, which can include a combination of cash and/or non-cash values. Land acquisition projects are the exception and require a 50 percent cash or land donation noncash value as match.

- **DCNR Peer-to-Peer Program**

Grants are awarded to help municipalities improve their park, recreation, and conservation services through a collaborative process. Projects are accomplished through contracts with experienced park, recreation, and conservation professionals from nearby communities working

*(C2P2 continues on the following page.)*



closely with local leaders. The applicant must provide at least a 10 percent local cash match. Noncash match is not accepted for Peer-to-Peer projects.

- **DCNR Circuit Rider Program**

Grants are awarded to initiate new programs and services for county(ies), Council of Governments and/or multi-municipal entities when individuals do not have the financial resources to hire a professional full-time staff person. The intended result of this project is to increase the ability of grantees to more efficiently and effectively meet their recreation, park, greenway, open space, and/or natural resource conservation needs. Grantees will be responsible for the long-term financial commitment and maintenance of this professional position.

- **DCNR Heritage Areas Program**

Pennsylvania's Heritage Areas Program has made the Commonwealth a national leader in the heritage areas movement. Pennsylvania is home to 12 state-designated Heritage Areas. Five of these state heritage areas have also been designated as National Heritage Areas. Pennsylvania has more National Heritage Areas than any other state in the country. Established in 1989, the Heritage Areas Program is a smartly built, multifaceted, regional strategy to conserve and enhance those resources and promote its heritage for tourism development. It is also a key component in the state's second leading industry—tourism.

The program has empowered each of the heritage areas to be an innovator in regional community conservation and revitalization, heritage tourism, greenway preservation, and storytelling. For more than 27 years, this program has made possible the building of partnerships across public, private, and nonprofit lines to create projects and programs that foster economic and tourism development. Through regional partnerships and grassroots planning strategies, historic, cultural, natural, scenic, and recreational resources are preserved and developed to strengthen regional economies through increased tourism, creation of new jobs, and new investment opportunities. Working on a large landscape scale, this bottom-up approach has become a national model for innovative strategic planning.

The essence of the program is to provide a catalyst for diverse groups within a region to join together to develop a unified strategy. Strong planning guidelines assess the values of the region to be promoted and engage its residents. Representatives from the public, private, and nonprofit sector are involved in the planning and implementation stages. As a result, community vitality is strengthened, residents and visitors are educated, and heritage tourists are attracted and engaged.

The program is guided by five interrelated goals including economic development, partnerships, cultural conservation, recreation and open space, and education and interpretation.

## DEP Act 101 County Planning Grant

County Planning Grants provide reimbursement to counties in Pennsylvania for up to 80 percent of the approved cost for preparation of waste management plans and studies required by the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act, also known as Act 101. The maximum grant amount cannot exceed \$75,000. All counties in Pennsylvania currently have in effect a municipal waste management plan developed and approved under Act 101.

*Website: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/financial\\_assistance/14065/home/589531](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/financial_assistance/14065/home/589531)*

## DEP Coastal Management

Coastal Management provides funding to implement its policies and focus areas in the Delaware Estuary and Lake Erie Coastal Zone, including hazards, wetlands, public access, intergovernmental coordination, ocean resources, and nonpoint pollution. Typical projects funded through grant awards range from studies, planning, design, and research to land acquisition and minor construction projects. Activities must take place within the Coastal Zone boundaries of Pennsylvania.

Generally, any coastal municipality, county government entity, public authority, state government agency, incorporated nonprofit organization, school district, or institution of higher learning is eligible to apply for most types of projects.

*Website: <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/river/grants/crmgrants/crmgrants.htm>*

## DEP Abandoned Mine Drainage Set-Aside Grant Program

This grant program is for the abatement of abandoned mine drainage (AMD) and/or treatment of AMD through treatment facility system construction. Grants may also be awarded for treatment system design or operation and maintenance of existing passive and active treatment systems. Projects must be located in Qualified Hydrologic Units as defined by the federal SMCRA under the 2006 reauthorization.

Counties, municipalities, authorities, school districts, nonprofits and conservation districts are eligible to apply. Applicants should apply through the Growing Greener grants process.

*Website: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/growing\\_greener/13958](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/growing_greener/13958)*

## *DEP Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program*

The program provides \$28 million annually to reduce sediment pollution and runoff from Pennsylvania's unpaved and low-volume paved public roads. Program administration is through the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission. Funds are provided at the local level, through Pennsylvania's 66 county conservation districts.

Public road-owning entities, such as townships, municipalities, and state agencies, are eligible to apply and should apply to the local county conservation district for consideration of funding for individual road projects.

*Website: <http://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu>*

## *DEP Enactment of Ordinances and Implementation of Stormwater Management Plans*

Grants are available to reimburse municipalities for costs incurred in the adoption or revision of ordinances or regulations and other administrative, enforcement, and implementation costs incurred in complying with the Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act, Act 167, and the companion regulation governing stormwater management grants and reimbursements.

There is currently no appropriation for this program; however, applications submitted will be held in the event funding is made available.

*Website: <https://www.portal.state.pa.us/siteminderagent/forms/login>*

## *DEP Environmental Education Grants Program*

This grant supports and strengthens environmental education in Pennsylvania. The EE Grants were established by the Environmental Education Act of 1993 and mandate that 5 percent of all pollution fines and penalties the DEP collects annually be set aside for environmental education.

Public and private schools, colleges and universities, county conservation districts, nonprofit organizations and associations, conservation and education organizations, municipalities, municipal authorities, and businesses are eligible.

*Website: <http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/Get/Document-97824/0350-BK-DEP4266%20combined.pdf>*

## DEP Growing Greener Watershed Protection Grants

This grant provides state monies from the Growing Greener Environmental Stewardship Fund to clean up nonpoint sources of pollution throughout Pennsylvania. Examples of projects include acid mine drainage abatement, mine cleanup efforts, abandoned oil and gas well plugging, and local watershed-based conservation projects. The average grant amount is approximately \$150,000 and the match requirement is 15 percent coming from non-DEP funds.

Website: [http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/growing\\_greener/13958](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/growing_greener/13958)

## DEP Nonpoint Source Implementation Program Grants

Provides funding to assist in implementing Pennsylvania's Nonpoint Source Management Program. This includes funding for abandoned mine drainage, agricultural and urban runoff, and natural channel design/streambank stabilization projects.

Counties, municipalities, authorities, school districts, nonprofits, conservation districts, and watershed groups are eligible.

Website: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/nonpoint\\_source\\_management/10615](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/nonpoint_source_management/10615)

## DEP Nonpoint Source Pollution Educational Mini-Grants

The Nonpoint Source Educational Mini-Grants were created for the purpose of informing and educating people about the causes, consequences, and clean-up of nonpoint source water pollution.

Conservation districts are eligible.

Website: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/nonpoint\\_source\\_management/10615](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/nonpoint_source_management/10615)

## DEP Watershed Education Grants

Through the Water Resources Education Network (WREN) Project, the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund accepts proposals for watershed education projects sponsored by community-based partnerships that educate, build awareness, and promote water-sustaining public policies and/or behavior change. Projects should be designed to encourage individual or collective action that will protect and improve local water resources.

Counties, municipalities, authorities, school districts, nonprofits, conservation districts, and other entities are eligible.

Website: <http://wren.palwv.org/grants/local.html>

# PennDOT Transportation Alternatives Program

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) introduced fundamental changes to the administration of local programs, including those that previously existed as separate programs in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) legislation.

Transportation Enhancements (TE), Safe Routes to School (SRTS), Scenic Byways (Byways), and the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) are now consolidated into the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). With the exception of the RTP, which takes funding “off the top,” the current eligible activities from the SAFETEA-LU programs compete against each other for funding.

Transportation alternatives projects build pedestrian and bicycle facilities, improve access to public transportation, create safe routes to school, preserve historic transportation structures, provide environmental mitigation, and create trails projects that serve a transportation purpose, while promoting safety and mobility.

The list below describes the 10 general project categories eligible for funding through the statewide application process.

1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities
2. Bicycle and Pedestrian Education (grades K-8 only)
3. Conversion of Abandoned Railway Corridors to Trails
4. Construction of Turnouts, Overlooks, and Viewing Areas
5. Outdoor Advertising Management
6. Historic Preservation and Rehab of Historic Transportation Facilities
7. Vegetation Management
8. Archaeological Activities
9. Stormwater Management
10. Wildlife Mortality Mitigation

Each program has its own eligibility and match requirements. Visit the website for more information.

*Website: <http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/Bureaus/CPDM.nsf/TAPHomepage>*

*Note: Recreational Trails Program—This program will continue to be administered by DCNR. See page 23 for more details.*



## PFBC Boating Infrastructure Grant Program

The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program provides grants for transient moorage (tie-ups) serving recreational motorboats 26 feet and longer. Transient means passing through or by a place, staying 10 days or less. The program is administered in Pennsylvania by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, in cooperation with U.S. Department of Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Grants may be made to public and private operators of open-to-the-public boating facilities: municipal agencies, state agencies, and other government entities.

Project sponsors must provide at least 25 percent of the resources needed to complete the project. Availability of these resources must be confirmed before project approval. Resources used for the match may come from a variety of sources, including: appropriations, bond issues, agency labor, and donations (including cash, labor, materials, and equipment). Project sponsors do not receive grant funds at the time of funding approval. Rather, reimbursement takes place after the sponsor certifies that expenditures have been made.

*Website: [http://fishandboat.com/promo/grants/boat\\_infra/00big.htm](http://fishandboat.com/promo/grants/boat_infra/00big.htm)*

## PFBC Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grant Program

The purpose of the Coldwater Heritage Partnership (CHP) is to provide leadership, coordination, technical assistance, and funding support for the evaluation, conservation and protection of Pennsylvania's coldwater streams.

The CHP is composed of Pennsylvania Trout (PATU), the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and the PA Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC). The CHP grant program is administered by PATU under contract with DCNR, and receives funding assistance from DCNR, PFBC, and the Western PA Watershed Program (WPWP).

In addition to providing information and technical assistance, the CHP administers a grant program to develop Coldwater Conservation Plans for the purpose of conserving and protecting coldwater streams. Coldwater Conservation Plans are useful in building local awareness and support for the long-term stewardship of coldwater streams and their surrounding watersheds. The plans are meant to identify potential problems and opportunities for stream conservation, and may often also lead to more detailed watershed studies or projects, ultimately improving the health of coldwater ecosystems. The Coldwater Heritage Partnership awards grants of up to \$5,000 annually to nonprofit organizations such as watershed groups, conservation districts, municipalities, and local chapters of Trout Unlimited.

*Website: <http://fishandboat.com/promo/grants/coldwater/00coldwaterheritage.htm>*

## PFBC Erie Access Improvement Grant Program

The Erie Access Improvement Grant Program was made possible by Act 159 of 2004, which created a new Lake Erie stamp (required for anglers fishing in the Lake Erie watershed) and a Combination Lake Erie Trout/Salmon stamp. The Act stipulates that the proceeds from the sale of Lake Erie permits are to be deposited into a restricted account within the Fish Fund to “be used to provide public fishing access on or at Lake Erie and the watersheds of Lake Erie.”

Government entities and other nonprofit, sporting and conservation organizations may identify acquisition and development needs in the Erie watershed and request Commission funding to assist in addressing these needs. Eligible projects include acquisition of lands and property rights including easements, and/or development of lands to improve and/or maintain angler access.

The Commission initiated this grant program to ensure that anglers in the Erie watershed have the highest quality access to fishing opportunities. The opportunities afforded by Lake Erie and its tributary streams are unique, and we want to work with partners to improve the existing situation.

Note: This is a region-specific grant program.

Website: [http://fishandboat.com/promo/grants/erie\\_access/00erie\\_access.htm](http://fishandboat.com/promo/grants/erie_access/00erie_access.htm)

## PFBC Pumpout Grant Program

The grant program helps fund the construction, renovation, and maintenance of pumpout and dump stations to service pleasure boats.

Grant funds are available to both the public and private sector. This includes all local governmental entities and private businesses that own and operate boating facilities. To participate in this program, the pumpout stations must be open to the general boating public.

The grant will reimburse recipients for up to 75 percent of the installation cost of pumpout and dump stations. This includes the cost of new equipment, or the renovation or upgrading of existing equipment, as well as necessary pumps, piping, fitting, lift stations, on-site holding tanks, pier or dock modifications, signs, permits, and other miscellaneous equipment needed for a complete and efficient station.

Grant recipients are responsible for at least 25 percent of the installed costs of the pumpout and dump station facilities provided under the grant program. This 25 percent match can be cash, the fair market value of any labor or materials provided, or a combination thereof.

Website: [http://fishandboat.com/promo/grants/cleanvessel/00clean\\_vessel.htm](http://fishandboat.com/promo/grants/cleanvessel/00clean_vessel.htm)

## PFBC Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed Restoration Grant Program

With money received from a settlement agreement with Norfolk Southern for a train derailment in 2006, the PFBC is funding projects that benefit fishing, boating, and the aquatic resources of Cameron, McKean, Elk, or Potter County.

To be eligible, projects must occur on lands owned by the applicant in fee simple or where the applicant has a long-term lease or other agreement with the landowner for the site. The nature and the duration of the applicant's interest in the property will be determined by the project type. As a condition of a grant, the PFBC will require that the project site be kept open and accessible to the public at reasonable hours and times of the year consistent with the nature and intended use of the site.

**Note:** This is a region-specific grant program.

**Website:** <http://fishandboat.com/promo/grants/sinn/00sinn.htm>

## PFBC State Wildlife Grant Program

Program provides federal money to every state and territory for cost-effective conservation aimed at preventing wildlife from becoming endangered. This program continues the long history of cooperation between the federal government and the states for managing and conserving wildlife species, going back to landmark laws such as the 1937 Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the 1950 Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act.

State Wildlife Grants provided to the PFBC have been used by the PFBC, other agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and researchers at various institutions.

**Website:** <http://fishandboat.com/promo/grants/swg/summary2013swg.pdf>





## PFBC Tulpehocken & Quittapahilla Watershed Grant Program

Tulpehocken and Quittapahilla Creek Watershed grants are given for stream restoration, habitat enhancement, and recreational enhancement activities on streams located in the Tulpehocken & Quittapahilla Creek watersheds. This funding is available through a settlement agreement between the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and PPL Ironwood, L.L.C. related to the operation of an electric generation facility located in South Lebanon Township, Lebanon County.

Only project proposals located within the Tulpehocken and/or Quittapahilla Creek watersheds are considered. The monies can be used for stand-alone projects or to supplement other funding for larger projects that are designed to improve aquatic habitat, water quality, or recreational use. Examples of acceptable activities include fishery habitat restoration or enhancement; fish stocking; fishing access; maintenance or creation of facilities to encourage, improve, or expand recreational use of the fishery; or studies related to these issues.

Note: This is a region specific-grant program.

Website: [http://fishandboat.com/promo/grants/tulpe\\_quitta/00tulpe\\_quitta.htm](http://fishandboat.com/promo/grants/tulpe_quitta/00tulpe_quitta.htm)

## PFBC Valley Creek Watershed Grant Program

The Valley Creek Trustee Council, comprising the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission and the National Park Service, oversees a grant program to provide funding for restoration of the Valley Creek Watershed in Chester County, PA.

The goal of this funding is to improve trout habitat and angler access through implementation of projects related to stormwater management, streambank stabilization, implementation of environmentally sensitive land practices, and projects that directly improve angler access.

Note: This is a region-specific grant program.

Website: [http://fishandboat.com/promo/grants/valley\\_creek/00valley\\_ck.htm](http://fishandboat.com/promo/grants/valley_creek/00valley_ck.htm)



## PFBC Unassessed Waters Initiative

The Unassessed Waters Initiative provides the opportunity to expand the number and miles of streams surveyed each year, beyond the time-constraints of PFBC staff. This is achieved through the examination of waters that have not been inventoried to date using qualified universities, research entities, and conservation organization partners to lead the surveys, in addition to PFBC staff. The outside groups sample previously unassessed waters using PFBC sampling protocols and are directed to work in watersheds determined to be “high priority.” The previously unassessed waters found to have wild trout are then proposed to PFBC for official listing and protection.

*Website: <http://fishandboat.com/unassessedwaters.htm>*

## PHMC Certified Local Government Grant Program

Program provides funds in the areas of cultural resource surveys, national register nominations, technical and planning assistance, educational and interpretive programs, and staffing and training. Only municipalities that are designated by the Commission and the National Park Service as a “Certified Local

Government” may apply for funding under this program. This funding is provided through the federal government via the Commission’s allocation from the Historic Preservation Fund.

*Website: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/grants/3794/certified\\_local\\_government\\_grant\\_program/417950](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/grants/3794/certified_local_government_grant_program/417950)*

## PHMC Keystone Historic Preservation Construction Grant Program

Program provides funding in the categories of preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation to nonprofit organizations and local governments for capital improvements on historic resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Grant requests may be from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and require 50/50 matching funds. All applicants must complete an e-grant application accessed through the PHMC website. The grants are administered on a competitive basis and the awards are made annually based on a peer review process.

*Website: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/grants/3794/keystone\\_historic\\_preservation\\_construction\\_grant\\_program/417951](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/grants/3794/keystone_historic_preservation_construction_grant_program/417951)*

## PHMC Keystone Historic Preservation Project Grants

Program provides funding to support projects in the categories of Cultural Resource Surveys, National Register Nominations, Planning and Development Assistance, and Archaeology. Applicants are limited to nonprofit organizations and local governments for historic resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Grant requests may be from \$5,000 to \$25,000 and require 50/50 matching funds. All applicants must complete an e-grant application accessed through the PHMC website. The grants are administered on a competitive basis and the awards are made annually based on a peer review process.

*Website: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/grants/3794/keystone\\_historic\\_preservation\\_project\\_grants/426654](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/grants/3794/keystone_historic_preservation_project_grants/426654)*

## PENNVEST Brownfield Remediation

Low-interest loans to developers or other private entities, municipal or county governments, or an affiliated industrial or economic development or redevelopment entity for the remediation of sites that have been contaminated by past industrial or commercial activity and pose a threat to local groundwater or surface water sources.

*Website: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/programs/9322/non-point\\_source\\_projects/541851](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/programs/9322/non-point_source_projects/541851)*



## *PENNVEST Drinking Water, Wastewater, Stormwater and Nonpoint Source Loans & Grants*

Low-interest loans and grants to communities or private firms for designing, engineering, and constructing publicly and privately owned drinking water distribution systems, wastewater collection and treatment systems, stormwater management systems, and nonpoint best management practices.

*Website: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/available\\_funding/11211/drinking,\\_waste\\_and\\_storm\\_water\\_loans/560726](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/available_funding/11211/drinking,_waste_and_storm_water_loans/560726)*

## *PENNVEST Growing Greener Grants*

Under this initiative, PENNVEST has grant funds available for drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and nonpoint source projects. These are the same types of projects that PENNVEST has always funded. At this time, PENNVEST will be using these grant funds in its normal funding process.

Any municipality, authority, or private entity that is eligible under a PENNVEST project will be considered for the Growing Greener grant funds automatically.

*Website: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/available\\_funding/11211/growing\\_greener\\_grants/560729](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/available_funding/11211/growing_greener_grants/560729)*



# HELPFUL HINTS

The following are general tips for applying for funding through various departments and programs. For more information about specific programs, visit the program's website.

Regardless of where you are applying, follow the directions provided, seek assistance if you have questions, and make sure the application and paperwork is 100 percent complete so as not to ensure the delay or outright rejection of the application.

And don't forget to say "thank you." Once a year, take the opportunity to thank the agency for the grant programs it administers. Not only is this the right thing to do, but it serves as a reminder of how critical these programs are to conservation, preservation, and recreation activities across the Commonwealth.

It is also important to thank the General Assembly and Administration for providing these dollars each and every year. Pennsylvania's budget negotiations can be difficult, but thanks to bipartisan support, funds continue to keep Pennsylvania growing greener.

## *AG Land Trust Reimbursement Program:*

- Applications are required to be submitted within 60 days of settlement.
- Applications must include a soils report. A minimum of 50 percent must be in soils on classes 1-4.
- Include a recorded copy of the conservation easement.
- Include a map of where the property is located.
- Keep presentations to the board crisp, clear, and to the point.
- Illustrate how the property ties into other preserved lands.

## *CFA:*

- Keep applications straightforward and concise. Follow directions, including the instructions for the number of copies to be provided and the format.
- Notify the county and municipality where the project is located. Demonstrated public support is helpful.
- Demonstrate project readiness and financial need. Include benefit-to-cost ratio.

- Show how many communities, residents, and businesses will benefit from the project.
- Demonstrate a need for the project.
- Explain how the project fits into local, county, and state plans.
- Use CFA staff as a resource. Staff can walk you through the application process.

## DCNR:

- Consult your DCNR regional advisor, who can provide technical assistance to ensure your application meets the requirements.
- Applications should demonstrate that projects have public involvement and public support. The Department will, in general, give priority consideration to those proposed land acquisition projects that provide the most public value.
- Projects should have a strong sustainability component. Incorporation of greening principles and energy-saving technologies are encouraged.
- All municipal recreation land acquisition projects must be open to public uses consistent with purposes for which the land was acquired. Public access is NOT required for Land Trust (as defined in the Keystone legislation) acquisition projects (fee simple or easement) but it is encouraged.

- For recreational trails grants additional consideration will be given to projects that:
  - Provide for the redesign, reconstruction, nonroutine maintenance or relocation of recreational trails to benefit the natural environment, or to mitigate and minimize the impact to the natural environment
  - Provide enhanced recreational access for people with disabilities
  - Use qualified youth conservation or service corps for the construction and maintenance of recreational trails
  - Are on National Scenic Trails, Natural Historic Trails (provided the project provides a recreational purpose) and trails designated as National Recreational Trails or Millennium Trails
- Maps, photos, and detailed site drawings are encouraged.
- Municipalities and nonprofit organizations are encouraged to work together to form partnerships to develop regional plans. The Bureau places a greater priority for funding on regional projects than on a planning project for one municipality.
- For questions or assistance, contact your regional coordinator.

## DEP:

- Describe the project benefits clearly and quantitatively, and adequately explain the problem or situation to be addressed and how the work will be conducted.
- Proposals should demonstrate community partnership, support, and involvement.
- Be sure to include a detailed budget worksheet and demonstrate a need for funding.
- If subcontractors are needed, preferential scoring will be given to those projects that use Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for contractual services and/or competitive bidding for construction.
- Projects that include evidence of supporting major DEP priorities will be treated preferentially in scoring.
- Detail realistic, measurable, environmental results and benefits.
- For watershed protection grants:
  - Preference will be given to applicants who can administer projects involving the implementation of BMPs at multiple sites in priority watersheds.
  - Preference will be given to applicants proposing projects that address the Commonwealth Investment Criteria that increase job opportunities and foster sustainable businesses.

- Preference will also be given to applicants proposing projects in designated environmental justice communities.
- Consult your DEP regional advisor, who can provide technical assistance to ensure your application meets the requirements.

## PennDOT:

- Clearly describe the statewide or regional significance of the project.
- Develop local governments as strong land use partners and be sure the project is consistent with and supportive of local and regional plans and initiatives.
- Projects should be ready for implementation within one to two years.
- Leverage funding from other state agencies, local governments, and community organizations.
- Explain how the project demonstrates best practices and can educate other municipalities and implementers on issues such as sound land use policy.
- Demonstrate support for the project and identify a project champion who can keep the project on track.
- Further scoring criteria can be found on the PennDOT website as an appendix to the application materials.



## PFBC:

- Use PFBC staff as a resource. Contact information can be found on the website or FAQ documents associated with each grant program.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications will be reviewed for completeness, clarity, feasibility, projected environmental results, and budget size.
- Some PFBC grant programs require a match in resources that may come from a variety of sources including appropriations, bond issues, agency labor, and donations (including cash, labor, materials, and equipment). Donated land value is an eligible match for acquisition projects.
- When necessary, applicants will be required to obtain environmental and building permits from appropriate local, state, and federal agencies.
- For the Valley Creek Watershed Grant Program, an option exists for organizations or individuals to submit a letter of inquiry to the Valley Creek Trustee Council to find out if their project qualifies for funding.

## PHMC:

- Applications are scored from 1 to 10 in the following five categories, 10 being the highest, for a possible total 50 points.
- Application—Application should be accurate, complete and clearly presented. Supporting documents should be relevant to the application.
- Planning—Applicant must demonstrate adequate project planning to successfully manage and complete the project. This includes realistic timelines, detailed budgets, and basic information about personnel and consultants assigned to the project.
- Project—Project should be consistent with the categories of support outlined in the grant guidelines. Does the project contribute to the understanding or mission of the resource or organization? Will it assist in the future work of the organization or provide a distinct work product?
- Community—Project should demonstrate benefit to the community. Applications should provide evidence of community support or awareness of the project as well as public promotion. Letters of support from local school groups, education organizations, elected officials, and community groups are encouraged.
- Commonwealth—Application should demonstrate that the project is a worthwhile investment of state funds and meets the agenda of the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Plan.

# PENNVEST:

- Consult your PENNVEST regional project specialist who can provide assistance to ensure your application meets the requirements.
- Applications should demonstrate that projects have a water-quality benefit.
- Projects should have strong job creation and public health benefits components.





# WHO TO CALL?

Even in the age of Google, sometimes it's best to pick up the phone and talk to a real person. There are a number of dedicated men and women who truly care and have a heart for keeping Pennsylvania growing greener. Many have assisted in the creation of this document and for their help we are very appreciative.

If assistance is needed with a grant or project, here's a list of key contacts:

## PENNSYLVANIA GROWING GREENER COALITION

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## PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*Commonwealth Financing Authority*  
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## PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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## DCNR REGIONAL OFFICES

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## *Southwest Region*

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*Southwest Region*

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**PENNSYLVANIA FISH & BOAT  
COMMISSION**

*Boating Infrastructure Grant Program*  
*Erie Access Improvement Grant Program*  
*Pumpout Grant Program*  
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*Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grant  
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*State Wildlife Grant Program*

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*Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed  
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# ABOUT THE PENNSYLVANIA GROWING GREENER COALITION

## *Our Mission*

The mission of the Pennsylvania Growing Greener Coalition is to enhance the health and well-being of communities across the Commonwealth by advocating for funding to conserve, protect and restore land, water and wildlife; to preserve farms and historic places; and to provide well-managed parks and recreational areas throughout the state.

## *Our History*

The Pennsylvania Growing Greener Coalition comprises local, regional, and statewide conservation, recreation, and preservation groups that have come together to build awareness and educate the public and elected leaders about the critical need for continued conservation, recreation, and preservation funding.

Loosely formed in January 2008, a small group of organizations initially led by DCNR joined forces to develop a strategy for addressing the inevitable depletion of the Growing Greener II bond program that was slated to end in 2010.

Within a year of the first meeting, the Renew Growing Greener Coalition was born and the group grew in size and influence, hiring its first full-time executive director in 2010.

From 2010 to 2012, the Coalition focused its efforts on increased funding for the Growing Greener Environmental Stewardship Fund—bringing together more than 240 organizations, 115 municipalities, and 37 counties to support its efforts.

In 2012, the Coalition changed its name to the Pennsylvania Growing Greener Coalition and expanded its mission in response to the growing threat to a range of state preservation, conservation, and recreation programs.

The Coalition was instrumental in ensuring that a portion of the state's impact fee on natural gas include funding for conservation and recreation efforts. Because of this new revenue stream, the Coalition supported the passage of Act 13 of 2012, which has provided more than \$140 million in new conservation and recreation funding between 2012 and 2014.

Whether it is educating the public, meeting with elected officials to develop new funding streams, or defending funding programs during the yearly budget negotiations, the Coalition continues to be the voice in Harrisburg for conservation, recreation, and preservation funding.

For more information, or to make a donation to the Pennsylvania Growing Greener Coalition, go to [www.PaGrowingGreener.org](http://www.PaGrowingGreener.org). Be sure to follow us on Facebook @paggc and Twitter @PaGrowGreener!





## *Pennsylvania Growing Greener Coalition Partners*

Audubon Pennsylvania

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds

GreenSpace Alliance

HeritagePA

Lancaster Farmland Trust

Montgomery County Lands Trust

Natural Lands Trust

Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Pennsylvania Land Trust Association

Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation

Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society

Philadelphia Department of Recreation

Preservation Pennsylvania

The Conservation Fund

The Nature Conservancy

Trust for Public Land

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

## *Sponsors*



**CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION**  
*Saving a National Treasure*



**Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds**

