Funding for Community Recreation and Conservation Projects

November 29, 2012

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Tom Corbett, Governor

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Bureau of Recreation and Conservation

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Today’s Agenda

I. Introduction

II. DCNR’s Recreation and Conservation Grant Program

III. Funding Guide for Recreation and Conservation Projects

IV. Q & A Session
DCNR’s Bureau of Recreation and Conservation 2013 Grant Program

“Develop and sustain partnerships with communities, non-profits and other organizations for public recreation and conservation related projects and purposes.”

BRC’s Recreation and Conservation Grant Program:

• Key 93
• Environmental Stewardship Fund
• PA Snowmobile/ATV fund
• Federal LWCF
• Federal PA Recreational Trails
Eligible Applicants

- Municipalities
- Municipal Agencies
- Pre-qualified Land Trusts
- Appropriate/Authorized Organizations
- 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit registered with PA Bureau of Charitable Organizations
  Mission similar to DCNR
Environmental eGrants and eGrants Customer Service Center

- Shared eGrants use by DCNR and DEP
- Applications accepted electronically only
- Manual and supporting documents online (no hard copy manual)
- Some documents require lead time to complete
- FAQ’s

Environmental eGrants Customer Service Center phone number
1-800-326-7734

https://www.grants.dcnr.state.pa.us/index.aspx
How do I apply?

Each project type requires completion of various forms:

- Download and save to PC, fill out, and upload to application
- “Ready-To Go” Documents
- Can’t submit application without completing “required” documents
eGrant Instructions and Guidance documents
Project Types and “Ready-to-Go” Documents

Project Types:

- Planning
- Land Acquisition
- Development
- Trails---category of Planning, Acquisition, and Development
- Partnership

“Ready-to-Go” Checklists available on Egrants
Planning Projects

- Comprehensive Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans
- Conservation and Management Plans
- Greenways and Open Space Network Plans
- Feasibility Studies, Master Site Development Plans
- Rivers Conservation Plans
Planning Projects: “Ready to Go” Requirements

- Eligible Applicant—Municipal applicants eligible for most funding sources
- Develop Scope of Work—samples available
- Budget/Cost Estimate—detailed; get quotes from qualified consultants
Planning Projects: “Ready to Go” Requirements

- Match- Secured
- Ownership and Control of Property--project specific
- PNDI Receipt (signed)- project specific
Land Acquisition Projects

- Natural Areas, Open Space, and Critical Habitat
- Community Park and Recreation Areas
Land Acquisition Projects: “Ready to Go” Requirements

- Appraisals done by **State Certified General Real Estate Appraiser in a Self Contained Report**
- Eligible Applicant
- Budget/Cost Estimate - detailed
Land Acquisition Projects: “Ready to Go” Requirements

- Match- Secured
- PNDI Receipt (signed)
- Public Value and Use Form
Development Projects

- Park Rehabilitation and Development (PRD)
- Small Community (SC)
- Rivers Conservation
Development Projects: “Ready to Go” Requirements

- Eligible Applicant
- Develop Scope of work- accurate, appropriate & eligible
- Budget/Cost Estimate- detailed and accurate
- Match-Secured; typically 50/50 (exceptions some trail projects and small community projects)
Development Projects: “Ready to Go” Requirements

- Ownership and/or Control of Property
- Site Development Drawing - developed by licensed professional (check list available on DCNR Website)
- PNDI receipt (signed)
- Project site must be open to the public
- Land Donation: Appraisal & Public Value & Use Form needed
Trail Projects

• Definition-75% of the project costs include trail and trail facilities

• Trail Planning: Feasibility studies, Master site plans, etc.

• Trail Acquisition: fee simple, easement

• Trail Development: design and construction of trail facilities, restrooms, parking lots, etc.

• Equipment
Trail Projects
“Ready to Go” Factors

- Eligible Applicant
- Develop Scope of work- accurate, appropriate & eligible
- Budget/Cost Estimate- detailed and accurate
Trail Projects
“Ready to Go” Factors

- Match-Secured: 50/50 and 80/20 options
- Trail Supplemental Form, PNDI signed receipt
- Acquisition projects: Appraisals done by State Certified General Real Estate Appraiser in a Self Contained Report
- Ownership and/or Control of Property
  - Exception: Feasibility Study
Partnership Grants:

- Eligible applicants: Statewide and regional non-profit recreation, conservation and greenway organizations, and Pennsylvania’s 12 designated heritage areas
- Municipalities developing regional recreation organizations
- Matching funds secure — project specific
- Proposed scope of work, deliverables, budget, and timeline
How do we determine who is awarded funding?:
Project Narrative/Selection Criteria

- Points are assigned based on your answers to criteria questions
- Review and ranking done by committee
- Criteria questions: Needs and Benefits, Planning/Public engagement, Partnerships and Commitment, Economic Benefits, Sustainable and Green Practices, etc.

➤ UTILIZE PROJECT SPECIFIC GRANT NARRATIVE GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

- Stay tuned---more details presented at 2013 Statewide Grant Workshops
Green and Sustainable Parks: Resources

“Greening Parks and Sustainable Practices” eGrants web page: On-Line Resources
Best Management Practices (BMP) for Green and Sustainable Park and Recreation Projects

**Top 10 Stormwater BMP’S for Park Projects:**

- Rain Garden
- Pervious Pavement
- Enhanced Riparian Areas
- Vegetative and Naturalized Infiltration Swales
- Floodplain and Wetland Restoration
- Reforestation
- Green Roofs
- Warm Season Meadows
- Runoff Recapture and Reuse
BRC’S Recreation and Conservation 2013 Grant Program: Approximate Timeline

- Mid-January 2013: eGrant materials available online
- April 10, 2013 – Applications Due
- Staff Review Process Complete – Mid-July
- Recommendations being formulated – Late Summer
- Fall 2013 Announcement
  - Note: In most cases, expenses incurred prior to executed grant contract (typically early winter are not eligible for reimbursement)
BRC Recreation and Conservation Grants: Application Countdown

Online Application Deadline Countdown: on eGrants

Applications must be submitted on-line by

April 10, 2013 by 4:00pm
BRC’s Recreation and Conservation Grant program: Summary

- Contact your Regional Adviser as you develop your project and application
- Review Grant Application Requirements for each project type (“Ready to Go“ Checklists)
- Register for 2013 Statewide Winter Grant workshops (February)

➢ 2013 C2P2 materials available mid-January 2013
Funding Guide for Recreation and Conservation Projects

- Sources of matching funds for DCNR’s grants
- New funding sources available
- State, Federal and Private sources

Funding Resources – Act 13

- **County and Local Government Impact Fees (those with wells)** – uses include “Environmental Programs” including planning, design, construction, land acquisition for trails, parks and recreation, open space, as well as flood plain management, conservation districts and ag preservation.

- **Statewide Fees to all Counties** – uses are only for planning, acquisition, development, rehab and repair of greenways, rec trails, open space, natural areas, community conservation and beautification, community and heritage parks and water resource management.

  NOTE: There is a separate funding stream for bridges and roads.
Funding Resources – Act 13

Commonwealth Financing Authority CFA)

• Eligible projects: planning, acquisition, development & repair greenways, trails, open space, parks and beautification projects

• Not eligible match to DCNR funds

• Expect open application period in 2013
Funding Resources – Act 13

- County and Local Government Fees
- State Fees to Counties
  - Both can match DCNR grants
  - Contact your local officials

“Funding Available for Recreation and Conservation Projects through Act 13”

• **MAP 21: Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century** new Surface Transportation Act for next two years

• **Major Changes from Past**
  - New Transportation Alternatives Pot – Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to Schools, environmental mitigation, some road construction
  - Recreational Trails same as before – DCNR’s C2P2 program
  - VERY COMPETATIVE: $800M total nationwide
    (formally $1.2B for TE, Safe Routes and Rec Trails combined)
Funding Resources - PENNVEST

- Sewer, Stormwater, Drinking Water Projects
- *DCNR/PENNVEST “Green” Partnership*
  Incorporate “green design” in park and trail infrastructure that reduce storm water runoff from trails, parking and access roads
  - Porous pavement courts, sidewalks, parking lots
  - Filtration basins and cisterns under fields
  - Riparian buffers, rain gardens, tree planting
Funding Resources – DCED Industrial Site Reuse Program (ISR)

- DCNR acquisition project requirement: land needs to be “clean”
- DCED coordinates the ISR program for DEP
- Environmental Assessments of Brownfield sites – up to $200k for Phase I & Phase II site investigations
- Site Remediation – up to $1M for site clean-up
Funding Resources – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

- Federal HUD funds available to communities
- Capital improvements: sidewalks around parks, ADA access to pools, Main Street connectors to trails, etc.
- Community engagement and planning
- Park infrastructure
Funding Resources – National Park Service, Rivers and Trails Assistance Program

Staff assistance to communities for:

- Trail Planning
- Greenway Planning
- Master Site Planning and Community Engagement
- Downtown riverfront planning
- Stream restoration
Funding Resources – The Open Space Institute

- Open Space Acquisition and Easements (grants and loans) – with funding from the William Penn Foundation
- Uses – conserve wildlife habitat, provide outdoor recreational access, protect clean water, preserve forestlands.
- Funds
  - Bayshore Highlands Fund in Southeast PA
  - New funds to be set up in Susquehanna and Delaware River Watersheds
Summary and Questions

- DCNR’s Recreation and Conservation Grant Program deadline April 10, 2013
- Other Funding Sources for Recreation and Conservation Projects
- Contact your Regional Adviser
- Review Grant Application Requirements
- Register for 2013 Statewide Winter Grant workshops (February)

➡️ QUESTIONS?