

Community Conservation Partnerships Program 2026 (Round 32) Overview



Bridge Street Crossing Ribbon Cutting, D&L Trail

Bureau of Recreation and Conservation

Mission

- 🌿 To be a leader in establishing partnerships for advancing conservation, stewardship, enhancement and access to Pennsylvania's natural and heritage resources, and for providing inclusive recreational opportunities for all.

How We Do That

- 🌿 Grants and technical assistance
- 🌿 Partnering with YOU!

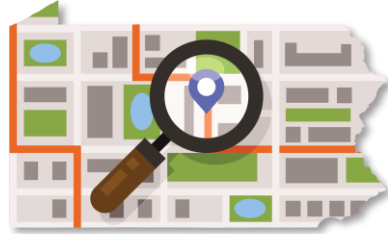


Brightbill Park

What We Fund



*PARK REHAB AND
NEW DEVELOPMENT*



PLANNING



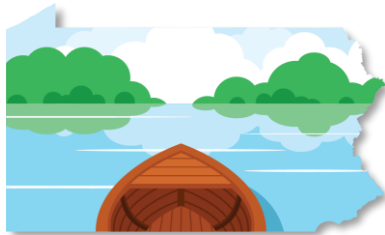
ACQUISITION



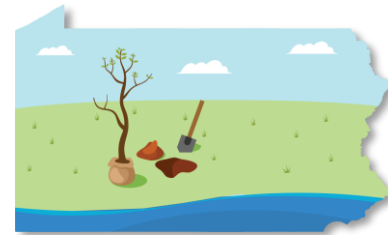
TRAILS



*ATV AND
SNOWMOBILE*



*RIVERS
CONSERVATION*



*COMMUNITY AND
WATERSHED FORESTRY*



*STATE AND REGIONAL
PARTNERSHIPS*

DCNR Grants: 2024 Accomplishments

In 2024, DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation funded more than 300 local projects in Pennsylvania, including:

\$81.5 million
funding awarded



85
local parks
renovated



6,800



acres of land
protected for
habitat and
recreation



25
new parks
built

19
waterways
restored or
access enhanced



50



partnerships
supported



17
parks
planned



284
acres of trees,
buffers, and
meadows planted

Who We Fund



Municipalities

Municipal Agencies

Non-Profit Organizations

Pre-Qualified Land Trusts

For-Profit Businesses*

When We Fund



JANUARY 12, 2026

Grant
Round Opens

SPRING/SUMMER 2026

DCNR Reviews &
Ranks All Applications

JANUARY 2027

Typical Grant
Agreements Begin

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

Grant
Workshop

APRIL 30, 2026

4:00 PM

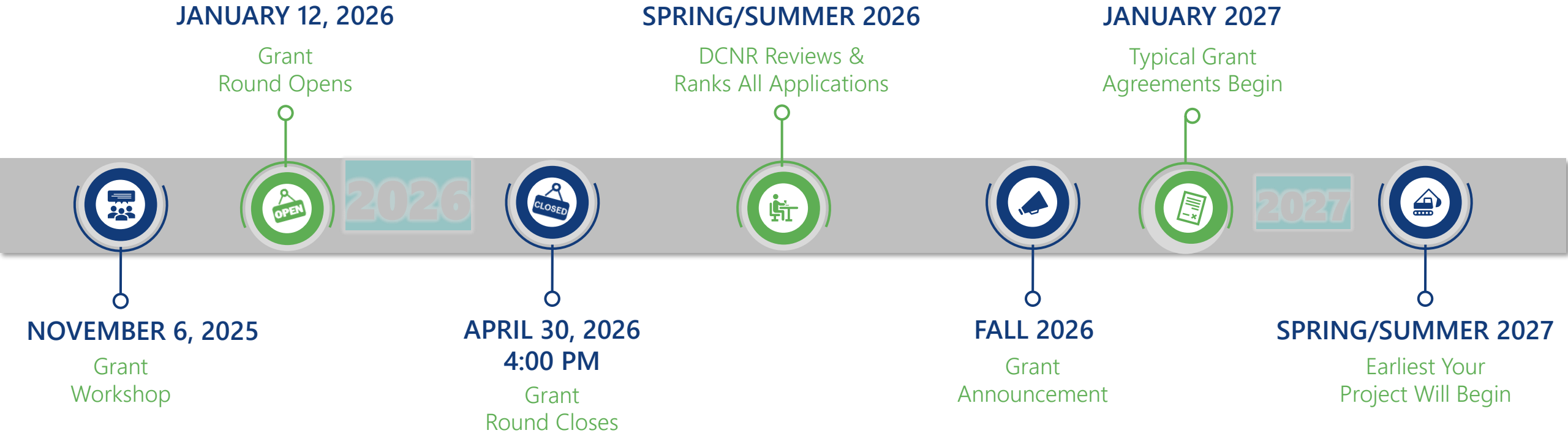
Grant
Round Closes

FALL 2026

Grant
Announcement

SPRING/SUMMER 2027

Earliest Your
Project Will Begin



How We Fund



State



Heritage Area and Other Parks Fund
Snowmobile Restricted Account
ATV Restricted Account
Keystone Tree Fund

Federal



Recreational Trails Program
Highlands Conservation Act
Inflation Reduction Act

Match Requirements

- 🌱 Funding source legislation typically sets match requirements
- 🌱 Most projects require 50/50 Match (\$1 for \$1)
- 🌱 Match must be “secure” with letters of commitment at time of application
- 🌱 Match is not eligible if spent before grant agreement period



Match Sources

CASH

- 🌿 MOST federal funds
- 🌿 MOST local funds
- 🌿 MOST private funds
- 🌿 SOME state funds

NON-CASH

- 🌿 In-house labor
- 🌿 Equipment use
- 🌿 Volunteer time
- 🌿 Donations (goods and services)



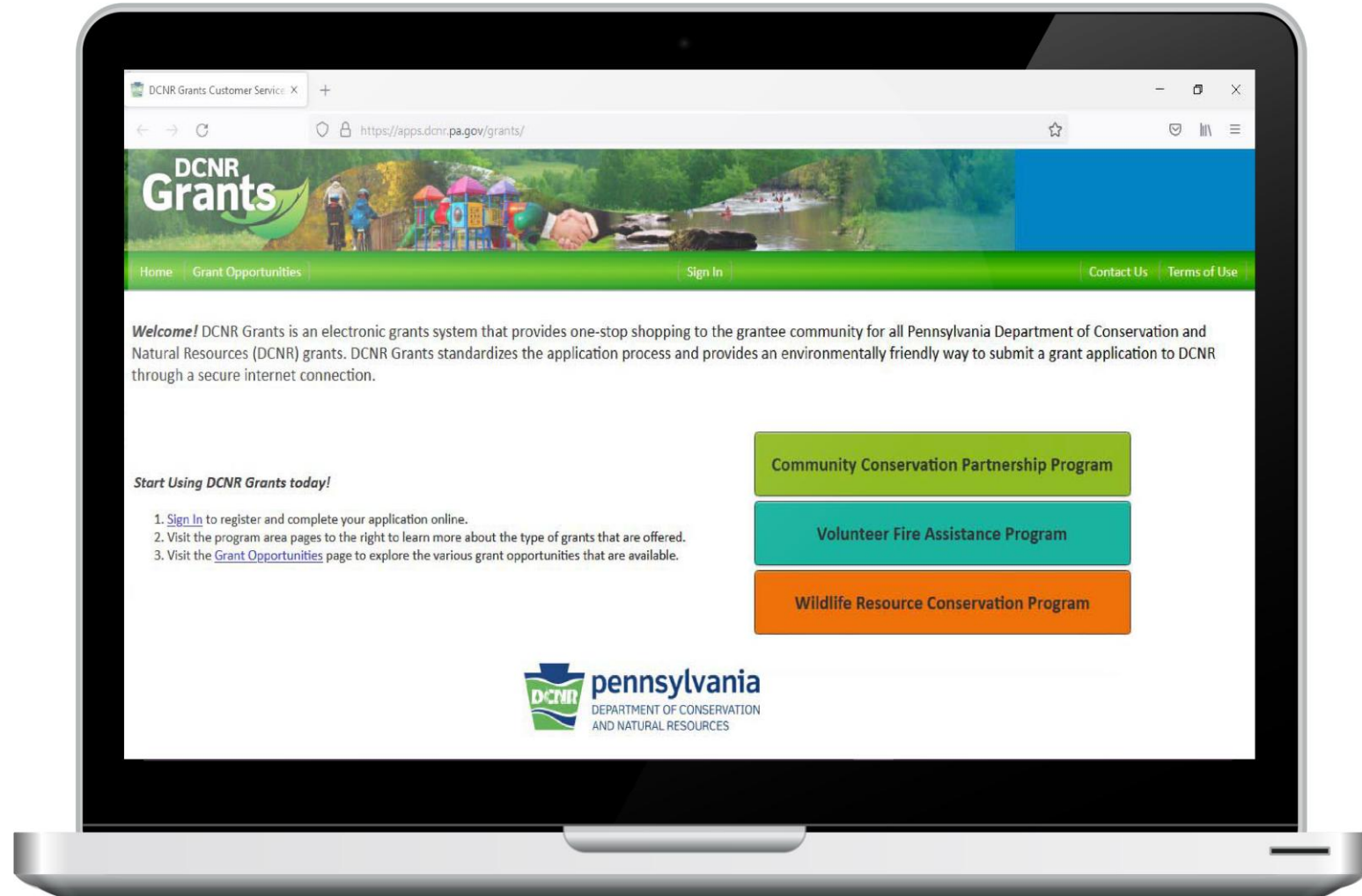
Regional Advisors



Grants Customer Service Portal



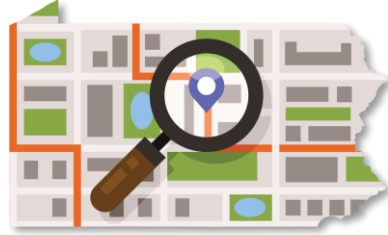
- 🌿 apps.dcnr.pa.gov/grants
- 🌿 One-stop shop for applying for and managing all DCNR grants
- 🌿 Portal walkthrough videos on DCNR's YouTube channel: youtube.com/PennsylvaniaDCNR



Project Types



*PARK REHAB AND
NEW DEVELOPMENT*



PLANNING



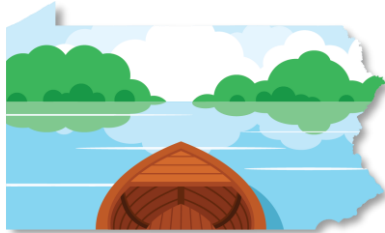
ACQUISITION



TRAILS



*ATV AND
SNOWMOBILE*



*RIVERS
CONSERVATION*



*COMMUNITY AND
WATERSHED FORESTRY*



*STATE AND REGIONAL
PARTNERSHIPS*



PLANNING

- Comprehensive park, recreation, open space, and greenway plans
- Master site development plans
- Swimming pool complex and indoor recreation facility feasibility studies
- Land conservation and stewardship plans
- Typical award: \$25,000 - \$75,000



Carlisle Borough---Fairground Avenue Park





PARK REHAB AND NEW DEVELOPMENT

- Rehabilitation and/or new development of outdoor recreation and park facilities that are open to the public
 - Playgrounds
 - Skate parks
 - Sport fields, courts, rinks
 - Swimming pools
 - Splash pads
 - Pavilions and comfort stations
 - Indoor recreational facilities



Carlisle Borough---Fairground Avenue Linear Park

- Typical award: \$100,000 - \$250,000



PARK REHAB AND NEW DEVELOPMENT (SMALL COMMUNITIES)

- Lower-match option for municipalities with population of 5,000 or less
- Rehabilitation and/or new development of basic outdoor recreation and park facilities that are open to the public
- Grant requests of \$60,000-\$100,000

Grant Request	Match Required
\$60,000	\$30,000
\$70,000	\$40,000
\$80,000	\$50,000
\$90,000	\$60,000
\$100,000	\$70,000



Penbrook Borough---Elm Street Park

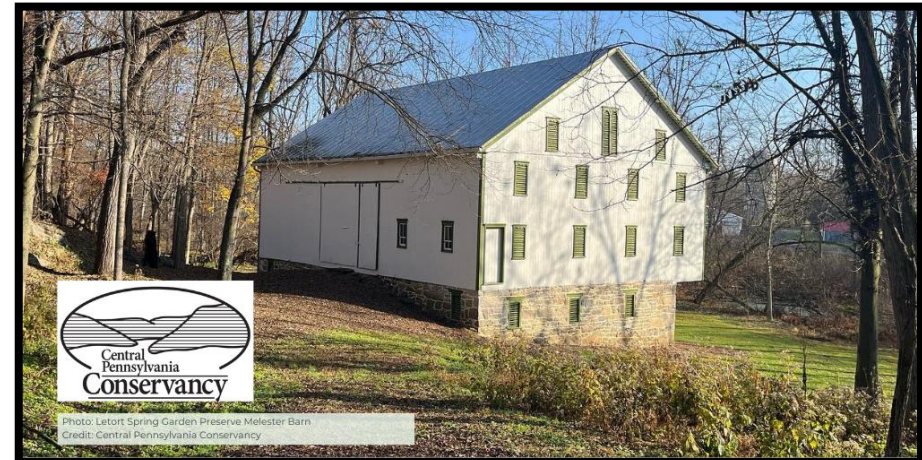


ACQUISITION

- Helps communities and non-profits purchase land and conservation easements for:
 - Critical habitat areas and/or natural areas
 - Park and recreation areas
 - Greenways and open space
- Typical award: \$150,000 - \$500,000
- Property acquired and developed with state/federal funds must be protected from conversion



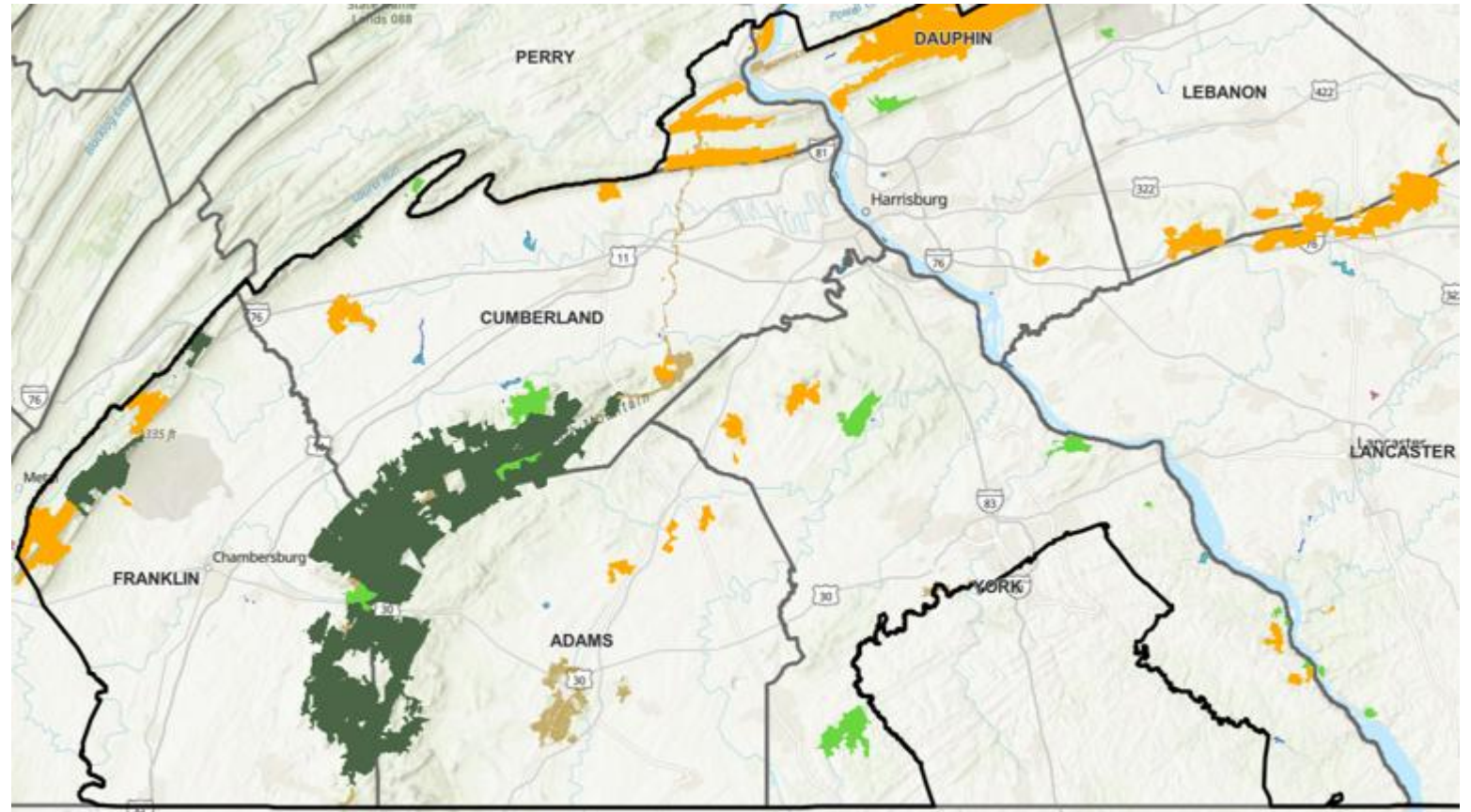
Central Pennsylvania Conservancy – Letort Nature Preserve



Highlands Conservation Act Funds



- **Eligible Projects**
 - Land Acquisitions
 - Conservation Easements
 - In PA Highlands
- **Eligible Applicants**
 - Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 - Counties
 - Municipalities
- **Application Details**
 - No funding cap
 - All applications are submitted to USFWS through DCNR
 - Applications are competitively by scored and awarded by USFWS



TRAILS



- ✔ Funds planning, acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of trails and trail facilities
- ✔ Can also support trail education programs and equipment purchases
- ✔ Costs should emphasize trails and trail facilities
- ✔ Trails can be motorized or non-motorized
- ✔ Typical award: capped at \$500,000



Cumberland Valley Rail-Trail



ATV AND SNOWMOBILE

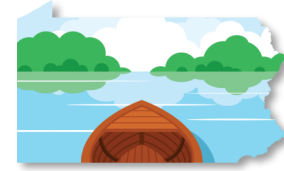
- ✔ Funds planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and equipment purchase for ATV and/or snowmobile trails and facilities
- ✔ Can also support ATV/snowmobile educational programs
- ✔ Funded through ATV and snowmobile registration fees
- ✔ Typical award: \$50,000 - \$200,000
- ✔ Match not required but encouraged
- ✔ Unique: 2 rounds
 - ✔ Spring: February 3 – March 31
 - ✔ Fall: August 1 – September 30



Clinton County ATV Trail Connector



Camp Hill Borough--Seibert Park



RIVERS CONSERVATION

- 🌿 Funds water-based recreation and conservation projects such as:
 - 🌿 Stream/wetland restoration
 - 🌿 Small dam removal
 - 🌿 Boat launches
 - 🌿 Boardwalks
 - 🌿 Fishing access
 - 🌿 River/watershed conservation plans and master site development plans
- 🌿 Typical award: \$30,000 - \$250,000

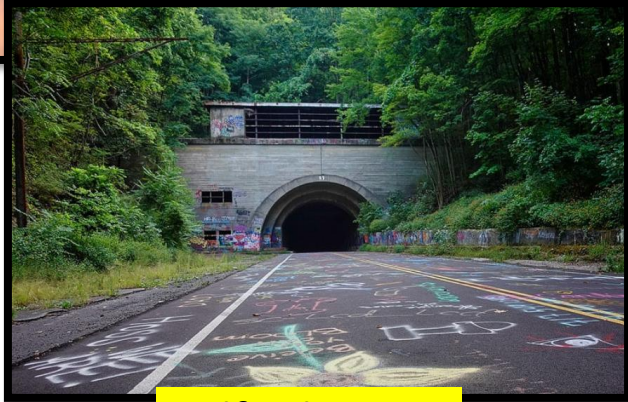


COMMUNITY AND WATERSHED FORESTRY

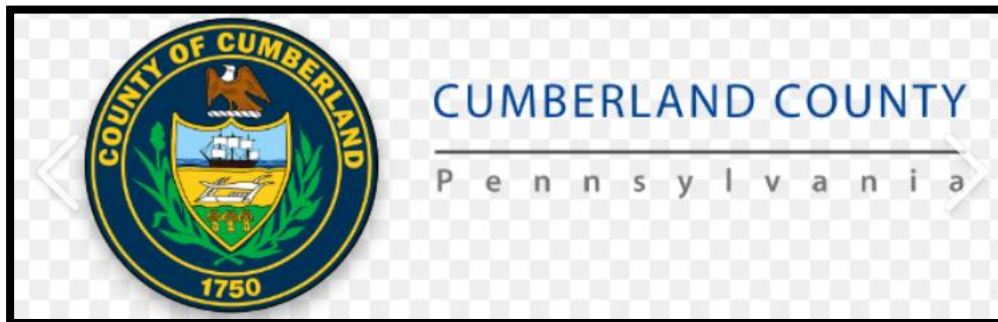
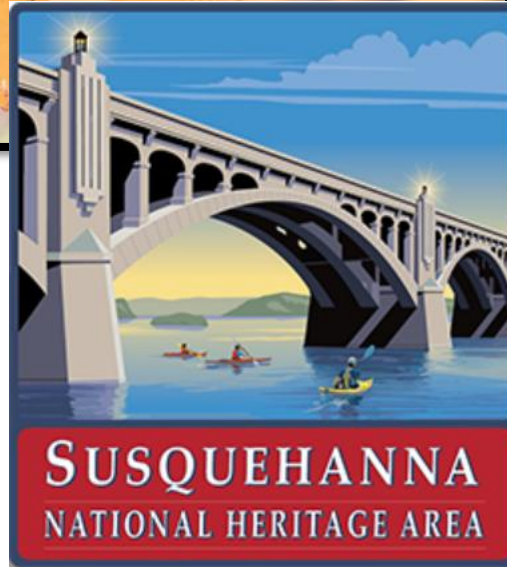
- 🌿 Riparian forest buffers
- 🌿 Lawn to habitat projects
- 🌿 Urban and community tree planting
- 🌿 One application can support multiple installations and project types
- 🌿 Minimum grant: \$50,000
- 🌿 Match: 20% of total project cost



**Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Riparian Buffer Planting**



Bedford County



STATE AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



- Supports statewide and regional initiatives such as:
 - Convening, education, and training
 - Special purpose planning
 - Implementing a previously completed plan
 - Mini-grant programs
- One application can support multiple items
- Typical award: \$150,000 with \$300,000 cap
- Smaller local capacity-building grants available through Peer and Circuit Rider Programs

Application Tips

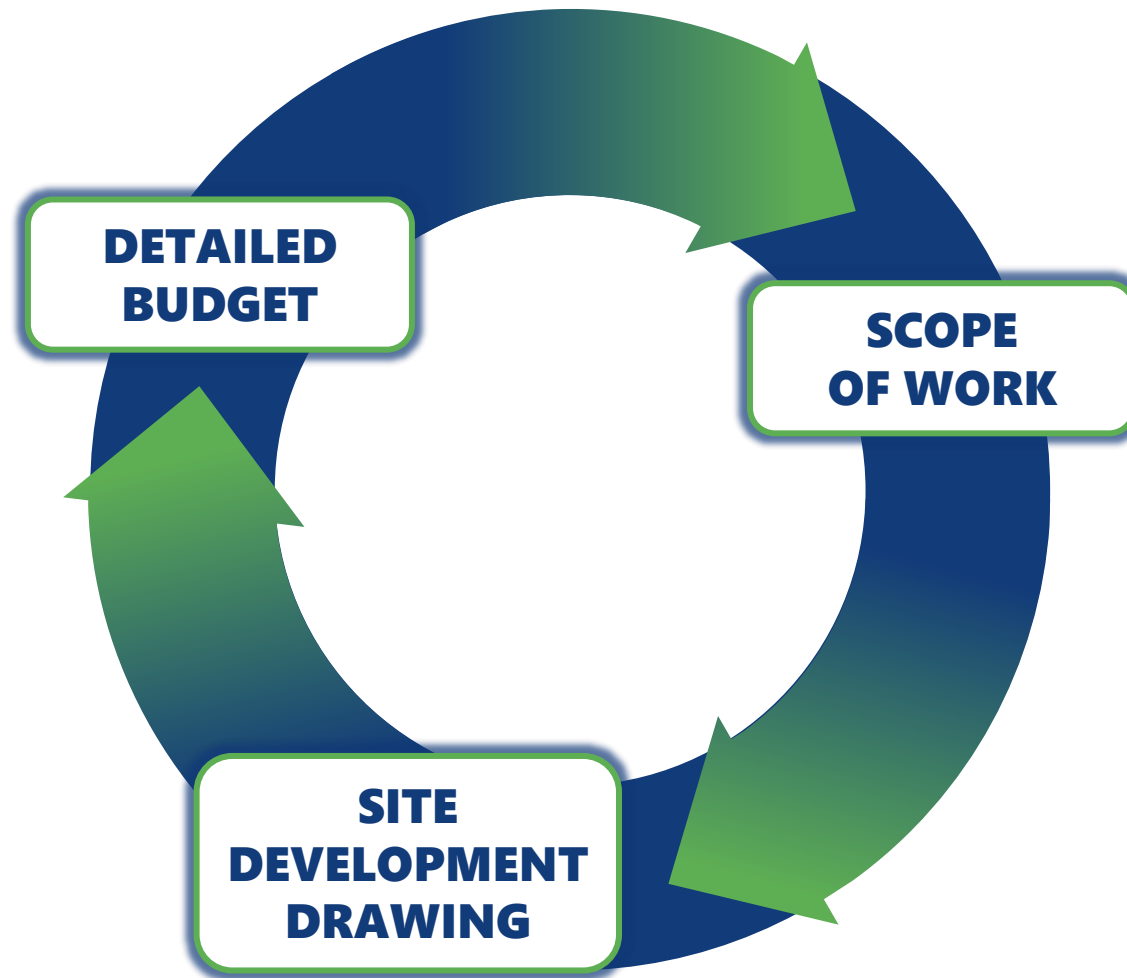


- 🌱 Call or set up a site visit with your regional advisor (never too soon!)
- 🌱 Examine the whole application early
- 🌱 Work with a professional to design your project and develop accurate cost estimates
- 🌱 Write with the reviewer in mind
- 🌱 Answer the questions based on your specific scope of work

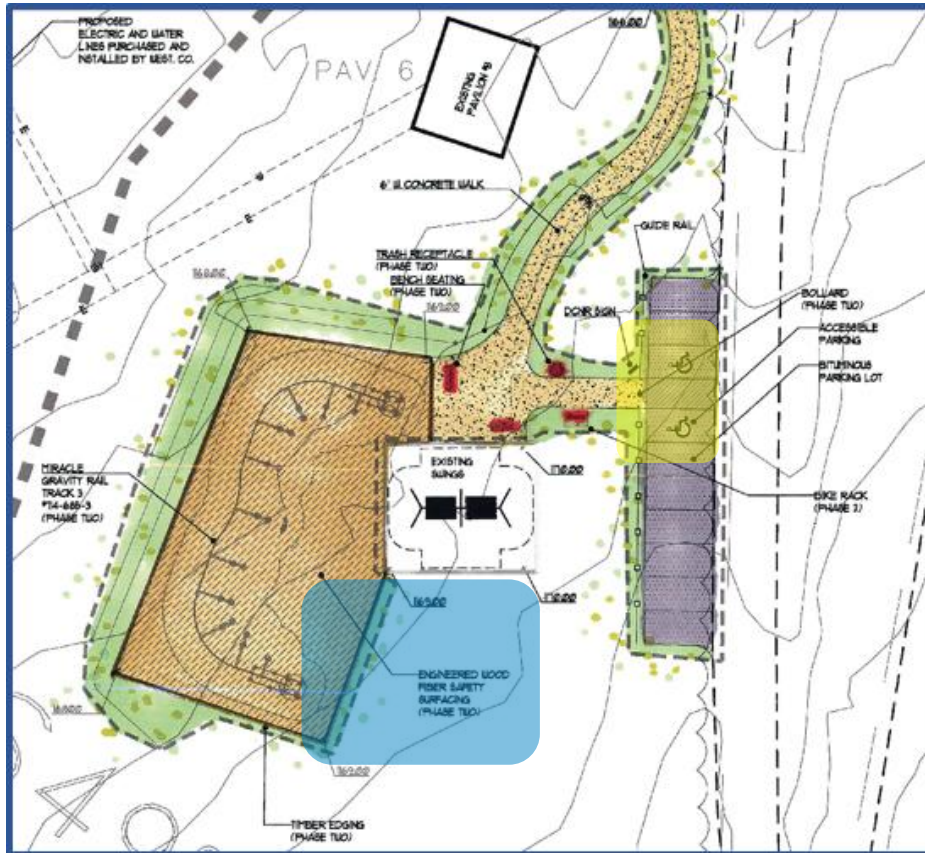


- 🌱 Don't start an application at the last minute (it takes time to build a strong application)
- 🌱 Don't reuse answers from other/previous applications (be specific to this project's scope of work)
- 🌱 Don't use generic form letters for partners (show quality, engaged partners over quantity)
- 🌱 Don't assume we know details about you or your project (your regional advisor may or may not be one of your scorers)

Tell the Same Story



Tell the Same Story




Work Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total
1 Site Clearing	1	I.s.	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
2 6' Wide ADA Concrete Sidewalk	4,570	s.f.	\$ 13	\$ 59,410
3 Access Path Cut/Fill	350	c.y.	\$ 13	\$ 4,550
4 Rip-Rap	1	I.s.	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
5 Fine Grading/Lawn Seeding	4,750	s.f.	\$ 1	\$ 4,750
6 Rain Gardens	1,500	s.f.	\$ 1	\$ 1,500
7 Rain Garden Soil Mix	80	c.y.	\$ 25	\$ 2,000
8 Bituminous Parking Lot with 2 ADA Spaces	127	s.y.	\$ 45	\$ 5,715
9 6" Perf. Underdrain	270	I.f.	\$ 10	\$ 2,700
10 Type 'M' Inlet	1	ea.	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
11 12" CPP	100	I.f.	\$ 35	\$ 3,500
12 Parking Lot Cut/Fill	75	c.y.	\$ 13	\$ 975
13 Topsoil Stripped	250	c.y.	\$ 13	\$ 3,250
14 Topsoil Spread	250	c.y.	\$ 13	\$ 3,250
15 On-Site Septic System	1	ea.	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000
16 Prefabricated ADA Flush Restroom	1	ea.	\$ 113,000	\$ 113,000
17 Prefab Restroom Installation	1	ea.	\$ 31,257	\$ 31,257
18 Restroom Concrete Pad	250	s.f.	\$ 13	\$ 3,250
19 Permeable Drip Edge at Restroom Pad Edge	120	s.f.	\$ 8	\$ 960
20 1" Water Line	75	I.f.	\$ 35	\$ 2,625
21 Electrical Service	95	I.f.	\$ 25	\$ 2,375
22 Low Profile Fence	90	I.f.	\$ 15	\$ 1,350
23 Parking Lot Striping including Handicapped Symbol and Hatching	1	ea.	\$ 500	\$ 500
24 Handicap Parking Signs	2	ea.	\$ 250	\$ 500
25 DCNR Acknowledgement Sign	1	ea.	\$ 230	\$ 230
26 Playground Excavation	150	c.y.	\$ 13	\$ 1,950
27 4" Perf. Underdrain	125	I.f.	\$ 15	\$ 1,875
28 Pavilion 6 Gravity Rail	1	ea.	\$ 16,934	\$ 16,934
29 Pavilion 6 Gravity Rail Installation	1	ea.	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
30 Two-Bay Arch Swing	1	ea.	\$ 6,800	\$ 6,800
31 Engineered Wood Fiber Safety Surfacing	150	c.y.	\$ 19	\$ 2,850
32 Timber Edging	274	I.f.	\$ 15	\$ 4,110
33 Upper Lake Playground - Play Equipment Replacement	1	ea.	\$ 47,324	\$ 47,324
34 Upper Lake Playground - Poured-In-Place Surfacing	1	ea.	\$ 27,676	\$ 27,676
35 Trash Receptacles (w/Conc. Pad)	2	ea.	\$ 750	\$ 1,500
36 Bench	3	ea.	\$ 1,050	\$ 3,150
37 Removable Bollards	1	ea.	\$ 650	\$ 650
38 Bike Rack (w/Conc. Pad)	1	ea.	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800
39 Project Permitting	1	ea.	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
SUBTOTAL:				\$ 415,766
Design Fees				\$ 16,234
GRAND TOTAL PAVILION #6:				\$ 432,000

Rehabilitation and further development of Twin Lakes County Park, Unity Township, Westmoreland County. Work to include construction of new parking area; comfort station; on-lot septic system; rain gardens; installation of playground equipment with required safety surfacing; ADA access; landscaping, project acknowledgement sign and related site improvements.

Ready-to-Go Checklist



 <p>READY-TO-GO CHECKLIST DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS</p> <p>COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA www.dcnr.pa.gov</p>	
DCNR-2021-C2P2-13	
<p>This Checklist is to be used by the applicant to ensure the Development Project is "Ready-To-Go". The items below need to be addressed, included and/or uploaded in the application. It will be used by DCNR in the grant application evaluation process. Only projects that are Ready-To-Go will be given consideration for grant awards. If you have questions regarding this Checklist, please contact the DCNR Regional Advisor assigned to the region in which your project is located.</p>	
<p>* Ready-to-Go Status is worth 15 points. It is essential to provide high quality, well-defined and/or detailed information for these items.</p>	
Yes	Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contacted Regional Advisor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligible Applicant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appropriate Applicant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligible Project
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant owns the project site or controls through a lease (minimum 25 years)
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Project site is open to the public
	<input type="checkbox"/> Property has no known environmental hazards
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Match secured
	<input type="checkbox"/> Letters of match commitment from entities other than applicant uploaded
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Detailed list of eligible cash match and non-cash match included
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Development Drawing(s) completed by a licensed design professional and consistent with the DCNR Park Site Development Drawing (SDD) Checklist uploaded
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Realistic, accurate, and detailed cost estimate/budget, including any land donation value, uploaded
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear, concise, and detailed scope of work included
	<input type="checkbox"/> PA Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Receipt uploaded
	<input type="checkbox"/> Accurate project site location map(s) uploaded
	<input type="checkbox"/> County/Municipal notification letter(s) uploaded
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed the Sample Development Project Timeline and agree that the project can be completed within 4 years from date of grant award.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of lease or easement uploaded (if applicable)
	<input type="checkbox"/> If Land Donation is part of the match: Upload a Full Appraisal Report by a state certified General Real Estate Appraiser for the land defined in the project scope and any donated parcels. Appraisal to be ordered by and prepared for the applicant. Review the DCNR Requirements for Property Appraisals for more information.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Properly completed Resolution Page uploaded

Grant Criteria Questions



15 POINTS

READY-TO-GO REQUIREMENTS

25 POINTS

1

NEEDS, BENEFITS & URGENCIES

10 POINTS

2

CLIMATE RESILIENCY, GREEN & SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

5 POINTS

3

ACCESS FOR ALL & ADA ACCESSIBILITY

5 POINTS

4

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

15 POINTS

5

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

5 POINTS

6

OPERATION, MAINTENANCE & STEWARDSHIP

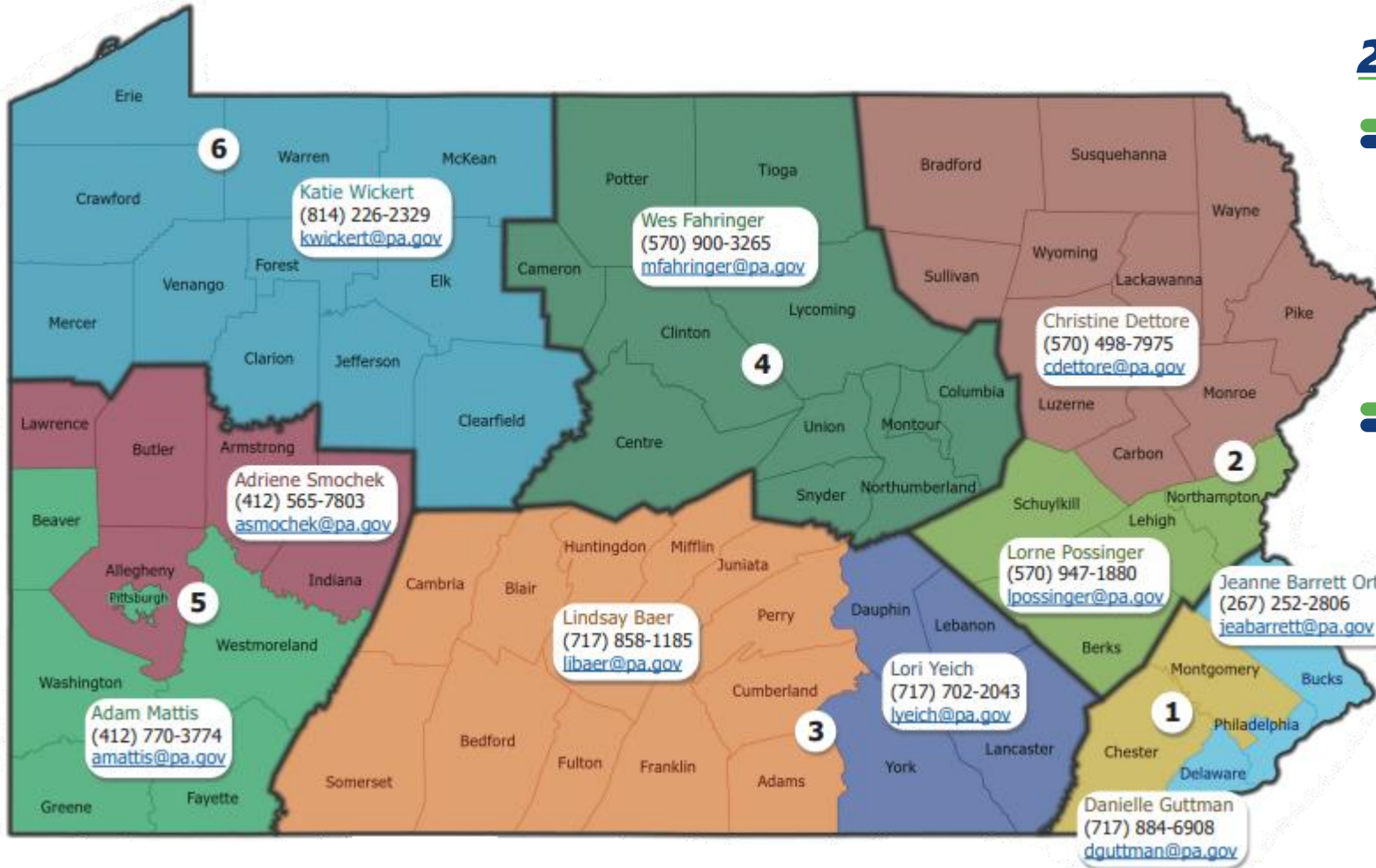
10 POINTS

LOCAL, COUNTY, & REGIONAL PLANS

10 POINTS

PARTNERS

Review



2026 GRANT ROUND OPENS ON

JANUARY 12, 2026

apps.dcnr.pa.gov/grants

APPLICATION DEADLINE

APRIL 30, 2026 @ 4:00PM

- 🌿 Contact your regional advisor early!
- 🌿 This presentation is available on DCNR's YouTube channel
- 🌿 Grants Portal issues? Customer service number is 1-800-326-7734



Outdoor Recreation Economy Case Study:

NorthWest River Trail
& Columbia Crossing
Trail Center

Columbia Riverfront Park and Trail Services Building Funding Partners:

Riverfront Park Rehabilitation: Phase 1 (Completion 2010)

Lancaster County	\$290,000
PA DEP	\$290,000
PA Fish and Boat Commission	\$235,000
PA DCNR	\$454,000

Total: \$1,270,000

Park & Trail Services Building: Phase 2 (Completion 2016)

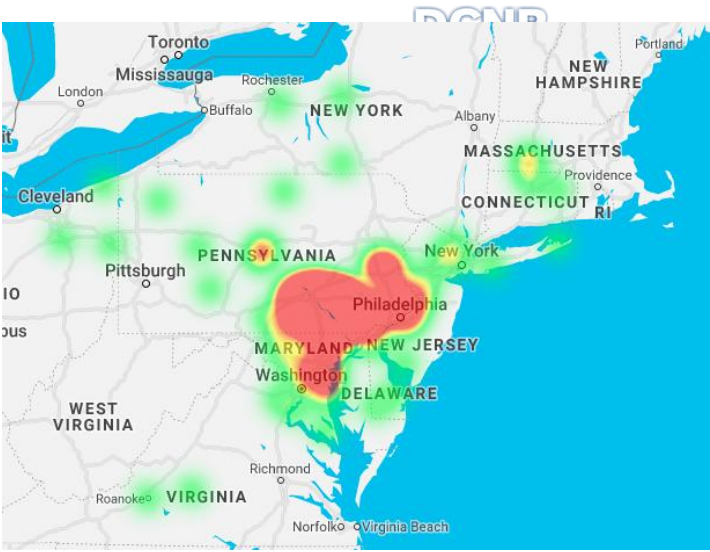
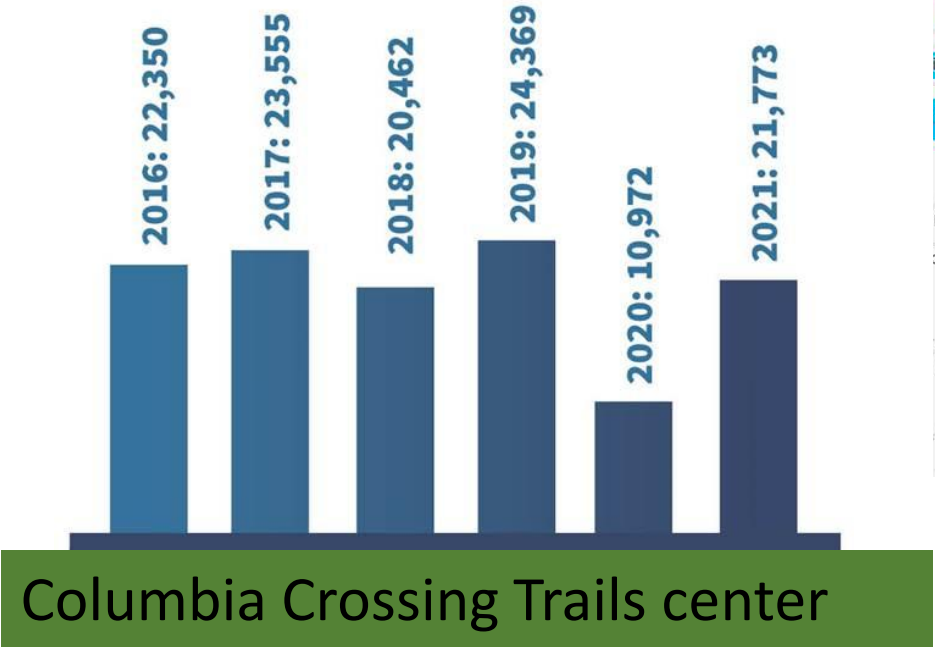
PA DCNR	\$500,000
Columbia Borough	\$375,000
Lancaster's MPO	\$550,000
Federal funding	\$220,000

Total: \$1,650,000

GRAND TOTAL OF PUBLIC INVESTMENT: \$2,290,000



DCNR Investment: \$954,000



SUSQUEHANNA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

JULY'S RANGER HOUR TOPICS

- July 2** - Sustainable Inventions
- July 9** - Candle Making
- July 16** - Global Rocket Launch
- July 23** - The Art of the Atlatl
- July 30** - Compostable Boat Race

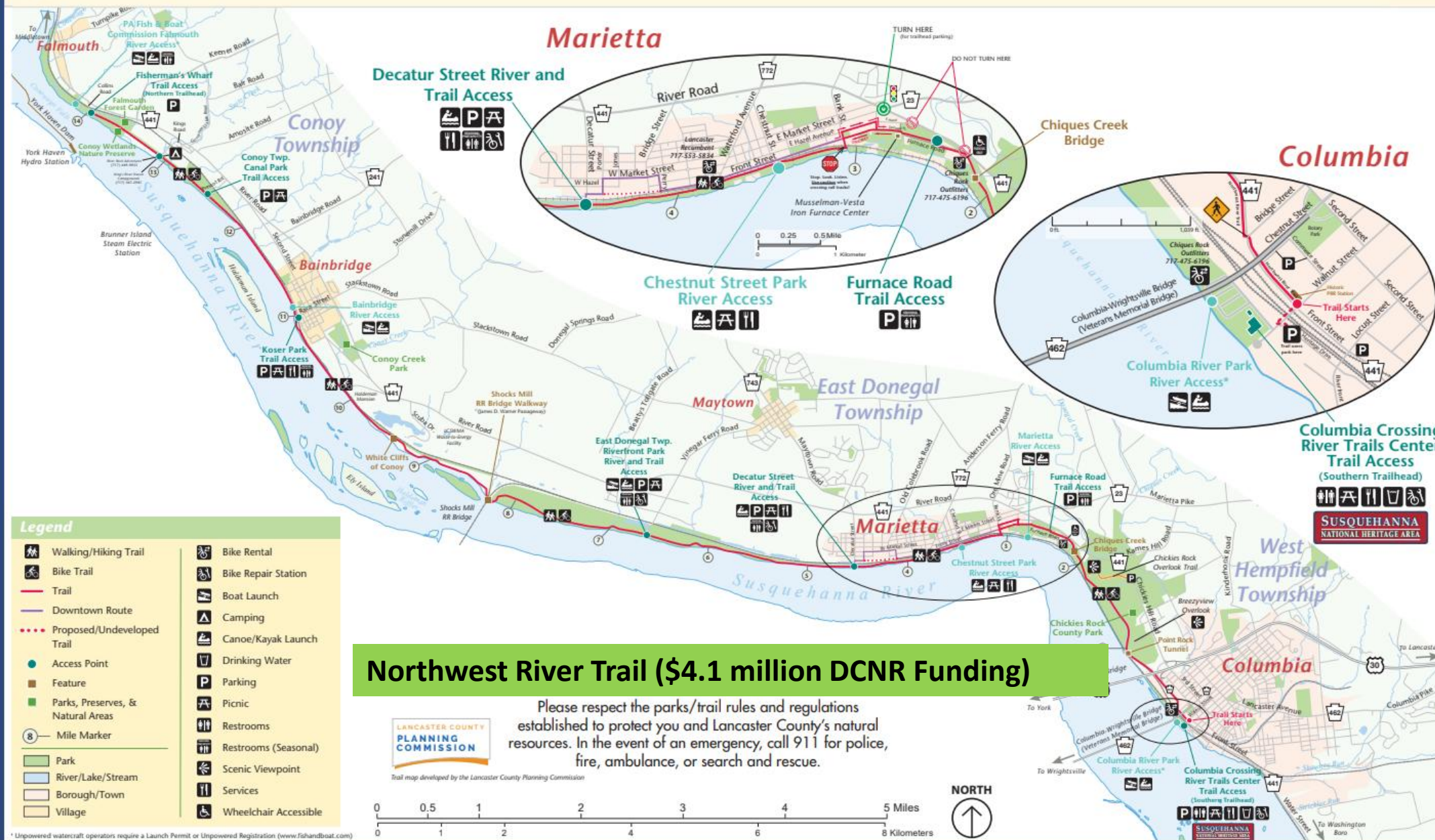
10 AM - 11 AM on the Deck at Columbia Crossing



Northwest Lancaster County River Trail

Trail Access Guide

FOR MORE
INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.NWRT.INFO



Legend

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Walking/Hiking Trail | Bike Rental |
| Bike Trail | Bike Repair Station |
| Trail | Boat Launch |
| Downtown Route | Camping |
| Proposed/Undeveloped Trail | Canoe/Kayak Launch |
| Access Point | Drinking Water |
| Feature | Parking |
| Parks, Preserves, & Natural Areas | Picnic |
| Mile Marker | Restrooms |
| Park | Restrooms (Seasonal) |
| River/Lake/Stream | Scenic Viewpoint |
| Borough/Town | Services |
| Village | Wheelchair Accessible |

Northwest River Trail (\$4.1 million DCNR Funding)

Please respect the parks/trail rules and regulations established to protect you and Lancaster County's natural resources. In the event of an emergency, call 911 for police, fire, ambulance, or search and rescue.



Trail map developed by the Lancaster County Planning Commission



Trail Parking Areas

Fisherman's Wharf
111 Collins Road
Bainbridge, PA

Conoy Twp. Canal Park
Prescot Road
Bainbridge, PA

Koser Park
107 Race St
Bainbridge, PA

East Donegal Twp. Riverfront Park
551 Vinegar Ferry Rd
Marietta, PA

Decatur Street Access
Decatur St
Marietta, PA

Furnace Road Access
29 Furnace Rd
Marietta, PA

Columbia Crossing River Trails Center
41 Walnut Street
Columbia, PA



Funded in part through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Pa Heritage Areas Program

The Northwest River Trail s led to significant reinvestment in local businesses and creation of new businesses that support outdoor recreation.



“We started our outfitting business in Columbia because we bought into the vision of local leaders that the river is a resource that should be protected yet capitalized on to bring people to town and expand the economy through ecotourism,” said Jim Cox, owner of Chiques Rock Outfitters.



“The trail has been a tremendous revenue generator for local communities like Marietta and Columbia,” Domin said. “New restaurants and brew pubs have opened in both communities and existing businesses have expanded dining space as well as business hours.”



Chiques Rock Outfitters



kayakLanCo



Shank's Mare Outfitters



Starrk Moon Kayaks



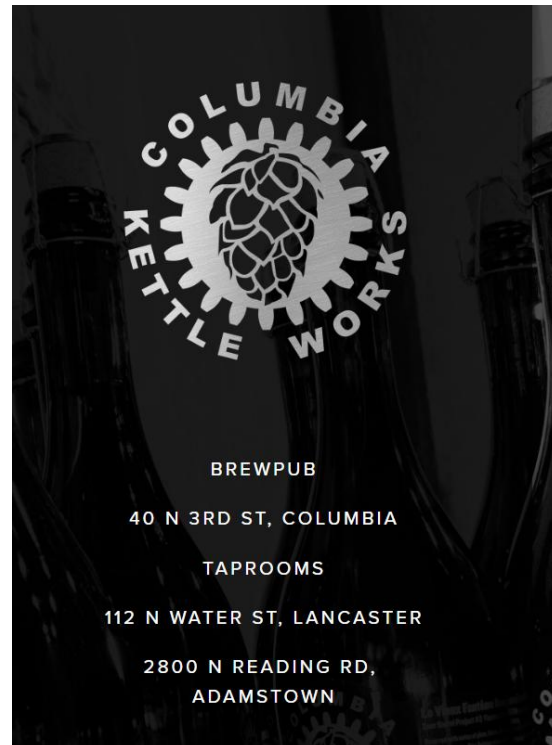
Susquehanna SUP

River Rock Adventures





Coffee and Cream



Historic 1876 FREEDOM HOME by Shops, River, Cafes+

★ 5.0 · 14 reviews · Superhost · [Columbia, Pennsylvania, United States](#)

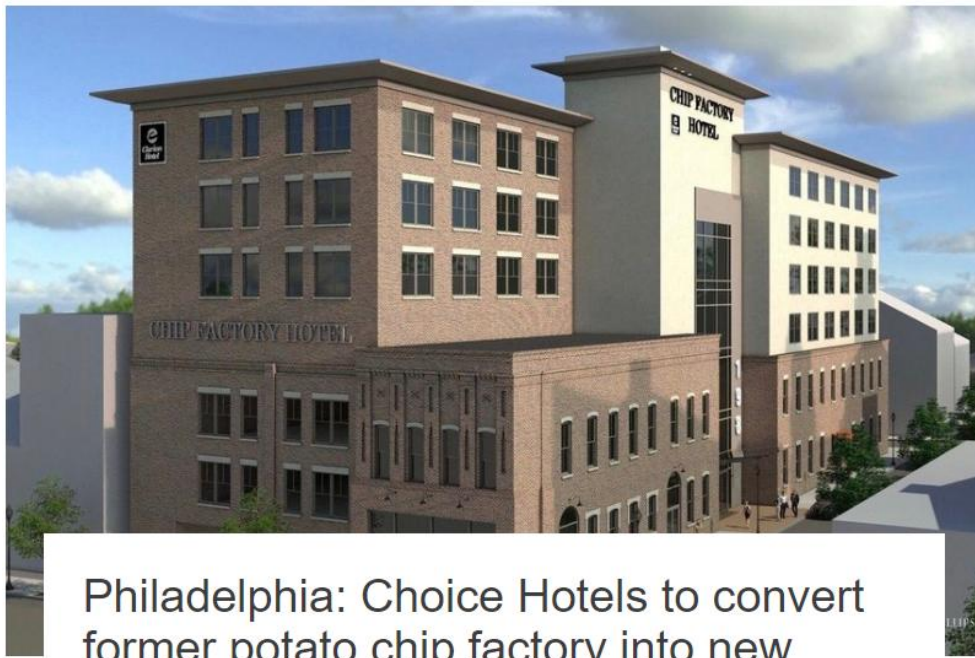
[Share](#) [Save](#)





Lancaster
Recumbent





Philadelphia: Choice Hotels to convert former potato chip factory into new Clarion hotel



**Bike Friendly Comfort Inn hotel ,
Connellsville Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape**



GOVERNMENT ▼ DEPARTMENTS ▼ COMMUNITY ▼ VISITORS ▼ I WANT TO ▼



COLUMBIA ACQUIRES MCGINNESS TRACT

On August 20, 2021, Columbia Borough closed on its purchase of the 58-acre tract of land known as the McGinness Property, a former airport, to support the borough's ongoing economic revitalization plans.





Thank you!

**Lori K. Yeich, B.S., M.S.
Recreation and Conservation
Manager
lyeich@pa.gov / 717-702-2043**