Livable Landscapes Grant Program
Opportunities 2020

Livable Landscapes Grant workshop
March 25, 2020
Major Partnerships

- Lehigh Valley Greenways
- THE LINK – Lehigh Valley Trail Network
- 9/11 National Memorial Trail Alliance
- Scenic Wild Delaware River

Livable Landscapes Action Plan recommendations:
- Conserve, restore, and enhance the natural resources
- Provide & maintain an exemplary park, trail, and recreation system
- Conserve, restore, and enhance a greenways & blueways network
- Preserve historic, cultural, and scenic resources and landscapes

Northampton County Division of Parks & Recreation website, grant information click here
Livable Landscapes Natural Resources

Natural Resources Plan

Floodplains + Wetlands

- Very High Conservation Priority
- High Conservation Priority
- Western Conservation Priority

Wetland

100-Year Floodplain
2006-2019 Accomplishments

- Preserved 3,265 acres of natural areas
  - Total investment $5.60 million
- Awarded 96 municipal park grants
  - Total investment $8.7 million
- Selected in 2004 by DCNR top pilot new conservation landscape initiative – Lehigh Valley Greenways
- 160-acre Gall Farm Preserve Master Site Development Plan adopted
- Regional trails are built
- Large conservation projects
Livable Landscapes Grant Program 2020

All applicants & grantees need to follow the Livable Landscapes Grant Program Guidelines 2019

- To complete a grant application
- To complete grant administration, if a grant is awarded

Northampton County Division of Parks & Recreation webpage, Grant Information, click here

Direct link to access the Livable Landscape Grant Program Guidelines 2019, click here
Livable Landscapes Grant Program 2020

To protect the County’s important natural features by assisting municipalities and organizations to acquire, restore, and enhance permanently protected lands to conserve natural resources and provide outdoor recreation for future generations

Section II - Eligible Applicants

- Municipality
- Council of Governments within Northampton County
- Authorized Organizations (501c3 & Charitable)
- Institution of Higher Education
Section II - Eligible Project Categories

1. Land Preservation
2. Ecological Restoration
3. Planning, Education, and Outreach
4. Municipal Park Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Development

*need to be consistent with the Action Plan & Goals of the Livable Landscapes Plan
Section II - Eligibility of Funds

- **Acquisition administrative costs** (surveys, appraisals, etc.)
  - No more than 5% of the County grant award

- For **land preservation**, maximum grant request no more than 50% of the appraised value or $300,000, whichever is less

- For **construction projects**, no more than 15% of the County grant award may be used for engineering, professional services, permitting

- **Comply with public bidding** process – professional services, consultants, and purchases

- **MAY NOT be used to acquire structures** of significant monetary value
Applicant Cost Share

- 100% reimbursement grant
- 50% match required by the grantee of the total project cost

For development projects – local match can be cash and/or in-kind match

- Labor and/or equipment can be in the 50% match
- Up to 35% of the match is allowable

Detailed letters of commitment are required (unit cost/value)

- In-kind/donated labor
- In-kind/donated materials
- In-kind/donated equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cash match</th>
<th>In-kind match</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 tons crushed limestone delivered – cost of $500 per ton</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crushed limestone spread on trail using Twp. front end loader 1,000 ft. - $50.00 /hr. x 10 hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolled crushed limestone using Twp. Roller 1,000 ft. - $50.00/hr. x 10 hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Information used for example purposes only*
Section III - Program Requirements

- **Eligible total project costs** effective by
  - County Resolution and County Grant Agreement
  - Complete scope of work
  - Compliance with local, state, and federal guidelines
  - Approved final inspection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant award</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town Hall Roof Replacement</td>
<td>$ 5,725.00</td>
<td>$ 5,725.00</td>
<td>$ 11,450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Park Fencing</td>
<td>$ 10,927.50</td>
<td>$ 10,927.50</td>
<td>$ 21,855.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra costs</td>
<td>$ 1,231.56</td>
<td>$ 1,231.56</td>
<td>$ 2,463.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeastern Swing set</td>
<td>$ 4,551.50</td>
<td>$ 4,551.50</td>
<td>$ 9,103.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of Equipment</td>
<td>$ 1,270.00</td>
<td>$ 1,270.00</td>
<td>$ 2,540.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Hall Park Exercise Stations</td>
<td>$ 13,568.50</td>
<td>$ 13,568.50</td>
<td>$ 27,137.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of Equipment</td>
<td>$ 4,051.50</td>
<td>$ 4,051.50</td>
<td>$ 8,103.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland Hills Trail/Boardwalk</td>
<td>$ 52,346.50</td>
<td>$ 52,346.50</td>
<td>$ 104,693.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland Hills Plantings</td>
<td>$ 39,078.56</td>
<td>$ 39,078.56</td>
<td>$ 78,157.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polk Valley Park Paving</td>
<td>$ 20,183.59</td>
<td>$ 48,148.50</td>
<td>$ 68,332.09</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment Usage</td>
<td>$ 41,583.03</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 41,583.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>$ 17,308.72</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 17,308.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$ 211,825.96 $ 180,899.12 $ 392,725.08
Section III – Planning and Permit Requirements

- Comply with federal, state, and local regulations; PNDI, ADA accessibility
  
- Applicant to secure all necessary planning & permitting approvals
  - Submit documentation of approvals prior to construction
  
- Document in grant close-out report all applicable bidding, design, engineering, and permitting was conducted
  - Evidenced by a letter from the appropriate agency, engineer, and/or solicitor
Section III – Grant Requirements

- **County Review**
  - Applications must be complete with all necessary information
  - The County reserves the right to reject applications

- **Ownership of Land**
  - Applicant needs to own or have control of property for at least 25 years or perpetuity

- **Professional Services**
  - Must be by a qualified individual, firm or organization
  - PA licensed engineer, landscape architect
    - Need to prepare plans and specifications
    - Construction certification letter
Section III – Grant Requirements

- **Project Records**
  - Grantee must maintain full & accurate records

- **Phase I Environmental Assessment (if applicable)**
  - May need to be conducted

- **Final Close-out Report - for grants awarded at project completion; need to submit:**
  - Cover letter and one page summary of work completed
  - Before & after photographs
  - Summary of total cost expenditures and breakdown
    - Copies of:
      - paid invoices & receipts
      - cancelled checks
      - in-kind expense sheets of itemized hours, equipment use, and labor costs
  - Secured permits, design, specifications, and compliance with bidding
  - Construction certification letter
Grant Administration

- Use of grant funds only for projects in Northampton County

- For eligible reimbursement, grantee will need to:
  - Expend 100% of eligible total project costs
  - Cash and/or in-kind match
  - 50% local match provided by grantee (1:1 ratio)

- Changes to match commitment needs to be submitted with new letters and revised budget

- Grants shall not exceed $300,000
  - Acquisition is up to 50% of the appraised land value or up to $300,000

- Eligible contract time period = contract start and end date
  - In the County Resolution and/or Grant Agreement
2020 Grant Program Priorities

- **Land Conservation:**
  - Fee simple acquisition or conservation easement
  - Critical habitat
  - Natural areas
  - Agricultural Lands
  - Forest
  - Lands threatened by development
Is REQUIRED for all projects*

Address the following:
- Type of uses – multi-use as appropriate for the land
- How will the property be accessed
- When can the property be accessed
- Who will have access

*Considerations on limits of public access
- Clearly identify a safety hazard
- Need to protect critical habitat and/or endangered species
- Reasonable restrictions for protecting or restoring land are acceptable
Conservation Priorities

- Identify if land is within the Natural Heritage Inventory
- Preserve flora, fauna, native ecological systems, trails, open space, scenic features, etc.
- Preserve habitat for rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species
- Ecological or natural communities at risk of destruction or degradation
Creative Conservation

- Parcels with Joint Conservation Efforts
  - Parcels that would fit into farmland and conservation easements

- Create linkages to additional farmland and/or conservation easements

- Parcels would not qualify totally under farmland preservation and/or conservation easements
2020 Grant Program Priorities

- Ecological Restoration:
  - Riparian buffers
  - Stream stabilization
  - Habitat improvements
  - Native grass & wildflower meadows
  - Rain gardens
  - Climate change adaptations
Streambank Stabilization & Riparian Buffer
2020 Grant Program Priorities

- **Education and Outreach:**
  - Adopt environmental regulations to protect:
    - Natural resources
    - Open space
    - Riparian corridors
    - Greenways
    - Trails

PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP APPALACHIAN SCENIC TRAIL PROTECTION ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT AND ZONING OVERLAY MAP
2020 Grant Program Priorities

- Municipal Park Development & Rehabilitation:
  - Recreation and trails
  - Including:
    - Green infrastructure
    - Best management practices (BMPs)
    - Stormwater management strategies
Compliance with ADA Accessibility
Municipal Park Development & Rehabilitation Examples
Municipal Park Development & Rehabilitation Examples
Grant Application Checklist

Appendix IV – Grant Application Checklist

**Documentation to be submitted with a grant application:**

- [ ] Completed Grant Application Form - Appendix I
- [ ] Completed Supplemental Information – Appendix II
- [ ] Supporting documents that relate to Appendix II
- [ ] Adopted Resolution – Appendix III
- [ ] Letter(s) of local match commitment (cash and in-kind contributions)
- [ ] Letter(s) of support
- [ ] Real Estate appraisal for fee simple acquisition or conservation easement
- [ ] Copy of Sales agreement (if completed)
Grant Application Form

Link to Appendix I – Grant Application Form, click here
Supplemental Form

Link to Appendix II – Supplemental Form, [click here](#)
Adopted Resolution*

*under the current circumstances, the Resolution can be submitted after the grant is due; submit a letter commitment
Commitment of Local Match
- Cash Match
- In-Kind Match or Contribution
- Description of contribution - relates to the scope of work
- Municipal contribution – cash and/or in-kind services
- Breakdown of unit cost value for any in-kind services
  - Example - Parks Dept. Maintenance Worker $25.00/hr. x 8 hours x 2 days = $400.00 to clear and grub the trail surface area
  - Example – Local nursery donates 10 native dogwood trees (2” diameter) at a value of $100.00/tree = $1,000
- Note if it is a confirmed or pending
Letters of Support

- Acknowledges support for the project
- Project partners committed to help implement the project

September 18, 2019

Northampton County Livable Landscapes Grant Committee:

I am writing in reference to Pen Argyl Borough’s application for the Livable Landscapes grant program for Whee Park upgrades. Whee Park is located in the heart of the Slate Belt and serves as a source of recreation for families throughout the area. Offering activities for all ages, the park is a hub for sports, outdoor festivals, community gatherings, and service opportunities.

Funds from the Livable Landscapes grant would enable the borough to make the necessary upgrades to continue to serve our community safely and completely. As a community organization within the Slate Belt Community, the Y’s love supporting the improvements requested by the grant committee. We have taken our summer day campers on trips to the park, as well as participating in community events held at the park and realizing its importance to the community. Residents and community agencies such as the Y rely on the borough and its facilities to help us deliver programs and offerings to best serve our residents and enhance their quality of life. I ask that you consider this request on behalf of Pen Argyl Borough and the residents of the Slate Belt.

If you have any questions or would like additional information for consideration in this matter, feel free to reach out to me at 610-981-6470. Thank you for your consideration of this upgrade to Whee Park in Pen Argyl Borough.

Sincerely,
Jennifer DeLong
Branch Executive Director
Land Conservation – Additional Content

- Real estate appraisal for fee simple acquisition or conservation easement
- Copy of Sales Agreement (if applicable)
Provide a thorough description of the project (up to 3 pages):

- Detailed scope of work & project timeline
- Current site conditions
- Project need
- Expected results & benefits
- Implements Livable Landscapes Plan goals
- Plan consistency of recommendations
- Implement practices to promote sustainability
- Restore waterways or lands for natural habitat
- Regional impact

Link to Appendix II – Supplemental Form, click here
Detailed cost estimate of the total project cost:

- Cash
- In-kind match contribution

For municipal park rehabilitation and development projects:

- Detailed cost estimate to be prepared by a professional engineer or landscape architect licensed in PA
Supplemental Information – Map of Site Location

Provide:
- Color coded map detailing the location of the project
- Pictures of the project site
- Color-coded map of regional connections
Provide:

- Photographs that identify the existing project location
- Note the photography’s subject, date, and location
- Renderings of proposed project may be submitted also

Options:

- Around the Band

Supplemental Information – Photographs of Site Location

Livable Landscapes
Northampton County

Pinefield Township Municipal Building Park Picnic Area (September 29, 2019)

Option A

Sausage Stand
Weona Park
May 31st, 2019

Counter to be lowered to ADA-compliant height

Exterior View of the Building — showing some of the existing window covers to be replaced with safer, rolling door covers — in addition to the roof that needs replacement, but will be replaced with metal roofing compatible in design to be consistent with the other park facilities.

Pinefield Township Municipal Building Picnic Bar (September 29, 2019)
Supplemental Information – Survey Plan/Site Plan

Survey or site plan detailing:
- The project scope of work
- Natural resources
- Improvements
- Location of existing structures
- Renderings of proposed projects may be submitted also
Supplemental Information – Phased Survey Plan/Site Plan
Funding commitment letters
Adopted resolution
Non-profit organizations to document:
  - tax exempt status under 501c(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
  - Registration with the Bureau of Charitable Organizations
  - Be in existence for three consecutive years
Grant Review Evaluation

- Evaluated on competitive basis and availability of funding
- Completeness of the application
- Consistency with the Livable Landscapes Plan and other plans
- How well the project aligns with the 2020 Priorities
Please contact Sherry to set-up a conference call or teleconference to discuss your project.

Good luck with your application!

GRANTS ARE DUE:
April 30, 2020 by 3 PM –
electronic submission only by
date & time

Email complete application & supplemental documents to:
Sherry Acevedo
Conservation Coordinator
Northampton County Parks & Recreation
sacevedo@northamptoncounty.org