

FUNDING SOURCES

Several agencies provide grants to assist in providing financial resources to implement design and construction of facilities similar to those proposed for Mitchell Park. Some offer grants to implement educational or recreational programs in concert with these facilities. Assistance can also be acquired in the form of technical help, information exchange, and training.

Given the competition for grant funding, submission of a thorough application is required. Strategies for improving the chances of receiving a grant include:

- Being well-prepared by knowing the funding agency (contact persons, addresses, phone numbers); ensuring your organization or municipality and the project are eligible; and submitting a complete and accurate application ahead of the specified deadline.
- Clearly indicating the funding agency's vision and plans in the application, to portray how your project furthers their goals. Describe how matching funds such as private contributions and other grants will leverage the available funding. Describe how maintenance of the site will be accomplished to help justify the request for a grant award. Show past successes such as how past recreation or planning projects were funded and built, and how this project will follow those successes.
- Contacting the funding agencies by personally meeting with them to show your commitment to the project.

The following is a list of known potential funding sources as previously listed, along with descriptions and program requirements, and contact information:

❖ ***Community Conservation Partnerships Programs (C2P2)***

Agency: Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

Program Goals: To develop and sustain partnerships with communities, non-profits and other organizations for recreation and conservation projects and purposes. The Bureau of Recreation and Conservation is responsible for fostering, facilitating and nurturing the great majority of these partnerships through technical assistance and grant funding from the Community Conservation Partnerships Programs.

Program Restrictions: See DCNR grant application manual for the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, as program restrictions vary by type.

Use of Funds:

1) Planning and Technical Assistance: Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plans; County Natural Area Inventories; Feasibility Studies; Greenways and Trails Plans; Rails-to-Trails Plans; Master Site Plans; River Conservation Plans; Education and Training; Peer-to-Peer Consultation and Circuit Riders (temporary employment of a full-time Park and Recreation Practitioner);

2) Acquisition Projects: Park and Recreation Areas; Greenways, Trails, and Rivers Conservation; Rails-to-Trails; Natural and Critical Habitat Areas;

3) Development Projects: Park and Recreation Areas; Park Rehabilitation and Development; Small Community Development; Greenways and Trails; Rails-to-Trails; Rivers Conservation; Federally Funded Projects; Lands and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Projects; Pennsylvania Recreational Trails

Contact: Kathy Frankel, PA DCNR, Southwest Field Office,
1405 State Office Building, 300 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: (412) 565-7803

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

❖ ***Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)***

Agency: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Program Goals: To provide a flexible source of annual grant funds for local governments nationwide: funds that they, with the participation of local citizens, can devote to the activities that best serve their own particular development priorities, provided that these projects either 1) benefit low and moderate income persons; 2) prevent or eliminate slums or blight; or 3) meet other urgent community development needs.

Program Restrictions: Low and moderate income persons (generally defined as members of a family earning no more than 80% of the area's median income) benefit most directly and most often from CDBG funds for activities that principally benefit low and moderate income persons.

Use of Funds or Support: Building public facilities and improvements, such as streets, sidewalks, sewers, water systems, community and senior citizen centers, and recreational facilities. There are other possible uses of funds that do not relate to parks and recreation.

Contact: Westmoreland County, Department of Planning and Development,
2 North Main Street, Suite 601, Greensburg, PA 15601

Phone: (724) 830-3614 (William E. Mitchell II) or (724) 830-3650 (Bert Getto)

❖ ***Community Improvement Grants***

Agency: Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Department

Program Goals: Focus is to support "greening" partnerships linking grassroots organizations, local community groups, and natural resource experts in support of community resource and natural resource management.

Use of Funds or Support: Encourages partnerships with and between diverse organizations and groups. Supports local improvement projects, tree planting projects in parks, greenbelts, schools, and community public spaces.

Contact: Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences,
Cooperative Extension in Westmoreland County
Donohoe Center, R.R. 12, Box 202E, Donohoe Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

Phone: (724) 837-1402

Fax: (724) 837-7613

Email: WestmorelandExt@psu.edu

Website: <http://westmoreland.extension.psu.edu>

❖ ***Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)***

Agency: Natural Resources Conservation Service

Program Goals: Designed to reduce erosion on sensitive lands, CRP also improves soil and water, and provides significant wildlife habitat.

Program Restrictions: Applications are for 10 and 15 year contracts.

Use of Funds or Support: The CRP offers annual rental payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost-share assistance to establish approved groundcover on eligible cropland.

Contact Info.: RR#12, Box 202 C, Greensburg, PA 15601-9271

Phone: (724) 834-9063 ext. 3 Fax: (724) 837-4127

Website: www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/

❖ ***Kodak American Greenways Awards Program***

Agency: The Conservation Fund and Eastman Kodak Company

Program Goals: Provide seed money to stimulate greenway planning and design. Supports pioneering work in linking the nation's natural areas, historic sites, parks, and open space.

Program Restrictions: Grant recipients are selected according to criteria that include: importance of the project to local greenway development efforts; demonstrated community support for the project; extent to which the grant will result in matching funds or other support from public or private sources; likelihood of tangible results; capacity of the organization to complete the project.

Use of Funds or Support: Planning, Implementation

Contact: Leigh Anne McDonald, American Greenways Coordinator, The Conservation Fund,
1800 North Kent Street, Suite 1120, Arlington, VA 22209

Phone: (703) 525-6300

Email: lmcDonald@conservationfund.org

❖ ***Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants***

Agency: LWCF

Program Goals: To provide park and recreation opportunities to residents throughout the United States, to allow communities to acquire and build a variety of park and recreation facilities, including trails. Funds are annually distributed by the National Park Service through the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

Program Restrictions: Communities must match LWCF grants with 50% of the local project costs through in-kind services or cash. All projects funded by the LWCF grants must be exclusively for recreation purposes, into perpetuity. Grants are administered through the DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2).

Use of Funds or Support: Planning and investment in an existing park system.

Contact Info.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Recreation Programs Room, MIB-MS 3622, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240

Phone: (202) 565-1200

Website: <http://www.nrc.nps.gov/lwcf/>

❖ ***National Recreational Trails Fund Act (NRTFA)***

Agency: PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) - administered through the Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2)

Program Goals: The recreational trails program provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails for motorized and non-motorized recreational trail use. The program funding represents a portion of the revenue received by the Federal Highway Trust Fund from the federal motor fuel excise tax paid by users of off-road recreational vehicles.

Program Restrictions: A component of TEA21, matching requirements for the Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program Grants are 80% federal money, up to a maximum of \$150,000, and 20% non-federal money. However, acquisition projects will require a 50/50 match. "Soft match" is permitted from any project sponsor, whether private or public money. ("Soft match" includes credit for donations of funds, materials, services, or new right-of-way).

Use of Funds or Support: The department must distribute funding among motorized, non-motorized, and diverse trail use as follows: 40% minimum for diverse trail use, 30% minimum for non-motorized recreation, and 30% minimum for motorized recreation. The Commonwealth may also use up to 5% of its funds for the operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection related to the use of recreational trails. The department will also consider projects that provide for the redesign, reconstruction, non-routine maintenance, or relocation of recreational trails to benefit the natural environment.

Contact: Kathy Frankel, PA DCNR, Southwest Regional Field Office, 1405 State Office Building, 300 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: (412) 565-7803

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

❖ ***Pennsylvania Conservation Corps***

Agency: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

Program Goals: This program provides work experience, job training, and educational opportunities to young adults while accomplishing conservation, recreation, historic preservation, and urban revitalization work on public lands.

Program Restrictions: The project sponsors receive the services of a Pennsylvania Conservation Corps crew, fully paid, for one year. Sponsors can also receive up to \$20,000 for needed materials and contracted services. Sponsors must provide a 25% cash match on material and contracted services costs.

Use of Funds or Support: Funds may be used for materials and contracted services needed to complete approved projects.

Contact: Lou Scott, Director, 1304 Labor and Industry Building, 7th and Forester Streets, Harrisburg, PA 17120

Phone: (717) 783-6385

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

- ❖ ***Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA21)***
Agency: TEA21 / ISTEA
Program Goals: The primary source of federal funding for greenways and trails is through the Transportation Equity Act of 1998 (TEA21), formerly the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). ISTEA provided millions of dollars in funding for bicycle and pedestrian transportation projects across the country and will provide millions more as TEA21. There are many sections of TEA21 that support the development of bicycle and pedestrian corridors. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) can utilize funding from any of these subsets of TEA21 and should be contacted for further details.
Use of Funds or Support: Safety and Transportation Enhancements
Contact: Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Phone: (412) 391-5590
Website: (Federal Highway Administration) <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21/>

- ❖ ***Wal-Mart - Good Works***
Agency: Wal-Mart Foundation
Program Goals: Allows local non-profit organizations to hold fundraisers at their local Wal-Mart or Sam's Club. Wal-Mart and Sam's Club can elect to match a portion of the funds collected, up to \$1,000. Events held on the premises are eligible for funding when a Wal-Mart or Sam's Club Associate is actively involved in the event. Additionally, once the Wal-Mart or Sam's Club Associate has met certain criteria in the Matching Grant Program each year, a second source of funding is awarded to the store / club to use in the community. These funds do not require a fundraiser to be held, instead the funds can be awarded directly to a deserving organization.
Program Restrictions: Organizations that may qualify to receive funding through the Matching Grant Program are 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations or organizations that are exempt from needing 501(c)(3) status, such as public schools, faith-based institutions such as churches (must be conducting a project that benefits the community at large), and government agencies.
Use of Funds or Support: Community Improvement Projects.
Contact: Community Involvement Coordinator at your local Wal-Mart or Sam's Club store.
Website: www.walmartfoundation.org/wmstore/goodworks

- ❖ ***Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation***
Program Goals: Education. Community improvement projects such as projects at parks and other public areas, housing for underprivileged citizens, and innovative environmental issues.
Program Restrictions: Organizations that may qualify to receive funding through the Matching Grant Program are 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.
Contact: The Foundation only accepts grant applications submitted online through the website.
Website: <http://www.easy2.com/cm/lowe/foundation/intro.asp>

- ❖ ***Single Application Grants***
Agency: Pennsylvania Center for Local Government Services, Department of Community and Economic Development
Program Goals: Through one application form, applicants can apply for financial assistance from the Department's various funding sources.
Program Restrictions: Applications can be submitted to request 100% of funding for the proposed project. However, applications that can show some match in the form of dollars or services are more likely to be successfully awarded. Funds are allocated to this program annually and are distributed quarterly. Applications can be submitted at any time.
Use of Funds or Support: This program funds a wide variety of municipal projects, including recreational facility improvements and development.
Contact: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 325 Forum Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120
Phone: 717-787-8169 or 1-888-223-6837
Website: <http://www.inventpa.com>

- ❖ ***Home Depot-KaBOOM! Challenge Grants***

Agency: The Home Depot and KaBOOM!, a national non-profit organization supporting play spaces

Program Goals: Empowering communities with the tools, knowledge and inspiration necessary to create great places to play for the children in their communities.

Program Restrictions: Applications can be submitted by governmental subdivisions (states, counties, municipalities) or non-profit organizations in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Applicants must be committed to purchase between \$15,000 and \$35,000 of new playground equipment. Applicants must agree to purchase your playground equipment from one of the following five equipment manufacturers through their designated regional representatives:

- BCI Burke: <http://www.bciburke.com>
- Gametime, Inc.: <http://www.gametime.com>
- Landscape Structures: <http://www.playlsi.com>
- Park Structures: <http://www.parkstructures.com>
- Playworld Systems Inc.: <http://www.playworldsystems.com>

Use of Funds or Support: This program provides \$4,500 in grant assistance, a \$500 Gift Card to the Home Depot, and a training scholarship to attend a KaBOOM! University of Play (U Play) Workshop (valued at \$600). Funds are available only for community-built play spaces, including playgrounds, field refurbishments, ice rinks, and skate parks.

Contact: KaBOOM!, 4455 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite B100, Washington, D.C. 20008

Phone: (202) 659-0215

Website: www.kaboom.org