
Chapter 7
Implementation Tools and Funding
Programs

Implementation Tools

The Action Plans includes the implementation priority, partners and funding programs adjacent to the strategies. This enables the partners and the reader to view all of the necessary information on approximately the same page. The following tools and publications may provide additional technical assistance in implementing the Greenways, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan.

Tools for Mercer County

- **Mercer County Agricultural Land Preservation Program** – This program enables Mercer County to purchase agricultural easements from farmland owners to protect these lands from future development.
- **Mercer County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO)** – This ordinance manages the creation and development of new lots and their impacts for those municipalities in Mercer County that have not adopted their own provisions. The current SALDO was adopted in 1995. A revised SALDO is currently under review. The provisions for open space/recreational land dedication in the revised SALDO have been simplified from the 1995 provisions, but still remain optional for the developer. Stronger language to require developers to dedicate land (or pay fees-in-lieu) would assist the county in acquiring the land necessary to protect its green infrastructure.
- **Greener Visions: Making Smart Growth Options Work in Mercer County: A Technical Guide for Municipal Officials with Model Ordinance Text** (*forthcoming*)
- **Mercer County Hotel Excise Tax** – This revenue is directed to the Mercer County Conventions and Visitors Bureau to promote the tourism industry in Mercer County. To the extent that greenways, open space and recreation amenities are shown to bolster tourism, this revenue may be used to make improvements and enhancements to the county's green infrastructure.

Tools for Municipalities

- **Zoning Ordinance** – enables municipalities to manage land use in areas of sensitive environmental features. The zoning ordinance defines what uses are permitted in a given area.
- **Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance** – enables municipalities to manage the creation and development of new lots and their impacts. The subdivision and land development ordinance may require that new development contribute to the recreational and open space network of a community through land dedication or fees-in-lieu of land dedication that are used to acquire land or provide or improve recreational facilities.
- **Official Map** – This tool, authorized by Article IV of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, enables municipalities to identify sites and corridors for future public facilities based upon an officially adopted comprehensive plan, and to hold these land in reserve from private development until such time as is necessary to provide the facilities to meet public needs. These facilities may include
 - public streets, watercourses and public grounds, including widenings, narrowings, extensions, diminutions, openings or closing of same.
 - public parks, playgrounds and open space reservations.
 - pedestrian ways and easements.

- railroad and transit rights-of-way and easements.
- flood control basins, floodways and flood plains, storm water management areas and drainage
- easements.
- various support facilities, easements and other properties held by public bodies undertaking the elements described in section 301 of the MPC.

As stated in Section 404 of Article IV, "The adoption of any street, street lines or other public lands pursuant to this article as part of the official map shall not, in and of itself, constitute or be deemed to constitute the opening or establishment of any street nor the taking or acceptance of any land, nor shall it obligate the municipality to improve or maintain any such street or land. The adoption of proposed watercourses or public grounds as part of the official map shall not, in and of itself, constitute or be deemed to constitute, a taking or acceptance of any land by the municipality." In other words, the transfer of land from the private landowner to the municipality is to take place through land dedication, easement, or outright purchase at fair market value.

- **Membership and Contractual Relationships with the Mercer County Regional Council of Governments** – Membership in the MCRCOG entitles municipalities to certain services. In addition, MCRCOG provides some services, e.g. recreational service guidance and grant assistance, to non-member municipalities on a contractual basis.
- **Intermunicipal Agreements** for provision of services, such as recreation – to outline the roles and responsibilities of the participating municipalities.

Publications

From PA DCNR

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/publications/>

- **Pennsylvania's Greenways - An Action Plan for Creating Connections**
- **Community Recreation and Parks Handbook**
- **Financing Municipal Recreation and Parks**
- **Recreation and Parks Board Handbook**
- **Keys to Success in Community Recreation Initiatives Four Stories in North Central Pennsylvania**

From the PA Greenways Clearinghouse – www.pagreenways.org

- **The Trail Town Handbook and Self Assessment Booklet** are under development by the Allegheny Trail Alliance with support from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This pilot program and documentation (coming soon) will be a valuable resource for Pennsylvania's many Trail Towns.

From the Pennsylvania Greenways Partnership and The Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC)

- **Creating Connections: The Pennsylvania Greenways and Trails How To Manual**

From the Heritage Conservancy

<http://www.heritageconservancy.org/news/publications/>

- **Land Conservation Strategies: A Guide for Landowners** (online publications)
 - Landowner's Options for Protecting Family Lands
 - Conservation Easements -- Questions and Answers
 - Resource Protection Glossary of Terms
- **Opportunity Knocks: Open Space as a Community Investment** by Michael Frank the Heritage Conservancy, 2003. This publication compares the cost of investing in open space to the cost of servicing new development with public education, safety and other government services.
- **Public Finance for Open Space: A Guide for Pennsylvania's Municipalities**, Gary Gordon, the Heritage Conservancy. "This publication is intended to be a guide for local leaders and municipal officials who wish to raise public funds for open space."
- **Using Conservation Easements to Preserve Open Space A Guide for Pennsylvania's Municipalities**, the Heritage Conservancy, 2002. "This guide is designed to provide Pennsylvania's municipalities and their advisory groups, such as environmental advisory councils and open space committees, with an overview of conservation easements."
- **Growing With Green Infrastructure**, Karen Williamson, 2003.

From the National Park Service

- **Economic Impacts of Protecting Rivers, Trails, and Greenway Corridors: A Resource Book**, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance, National Park Service, 1995.

From the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

- **Rail-Trail Maintenance and Operations**, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Northeast Regional Office, July 2005

From Sprawl Watch Clearinghouse www.sprawlwatch.org

- **Building Green Infrastructure: Land Conservation as a Watershed Protection Strategy**, James R. Marshall, The Trust for Public Land, 1999.
- **The Economic Benefits of Parks and Open Space: How Land Conservation Helps Communities Grow Smart and Protect the Bottom Line**. Steve Lerner and William Poole, The Trust for Public Land, 1999.

Local Funding Mechanisms¹

Taxes

Greenways can be funded through sales tax revenues. One example of a community that is using sales tax dollars to fund bicycle and pedestrian facilities is Cobb County, Georgia, where citizens voted to implement a one percent local sales tax to provide funding for transportation projects. Over four years, Cobb County Department of Transportation will receive \$3.8 million of this sales tax revenue for bicycle improvements alone, to be used as a match for federal dollars. Another example is Oklahoma City, where voters approved a temporary \$0.01 sales tax, which generated millions of dollars for greenway acquisition and development.

Impact Fees

Impact fees are monetary one-time charges levied by a local government on new development. Unlike required dedications, impact fees can be applied to finance greenway facilities located outside the boundary of development. These fees can be levied through the subdivision or building permit process to finance greenways.

Bond Referendums

Communities across the state have successfully placed referendums on local ballots to support greenway development. Salisbury Township, Bucks County passed four referendums that generated more than \$40 million for open space. Since bonds rely on the support of the voting population, an aggressive education and awareness program will need to be implemented prior to any referendum vote.

Capital Improvements Program

Some local governments have initiated a yearly appropriation for greenway and trail development in the capital improvements program. In Raleigh, North Carolina, greenways continue to be built and maintained, year after year, due to a dedicated source of annual funding that has ranged from \$100,000 to \$500,000, administered through the Parks and Recreation Department.

Private Sector Sources

Many communities have solicited greenway funding from a variety of private foundations, corporations, and other conservation-minded benefactors. As a general rule, local foundations and businesses will have a greater interest in and be more likely to fund local projects. These local sources should be approached first, before seeking funds outside the community.

Local Businesses

Local industries and private businesses may agree to provide support for development of greenways through:

Donations of cash to a specific greenway segment

Donations of services by corporations to reduce the cost of the greenway implementation, including equipment and labor to construct and install elements of a trail
Donations in the cost of materials purchased from local businesses which support greenway implementation and can supply essential products for facility development.

¹ Local Funding Sources as listed at <http://www.pagreenways.org/funding-local.htm>.

This method of raising funds requires a great deal of staff coordination. One example of a successful endeavor of this type is the Swift Creek Recycled Greenway in Cary, North Carolina. A total of \$40,000 in donated construction materials and labor made this trail an award-winning demonstration project. (Some materials used in the "recycled trail" were considered waste materials by local industries!)

Trail Sponsors

A sponsorship program for trail amenities allows for smaller donations to be received both from individuals and businesses. The program must be well planned and organized, with design standards and associated costs established for each amenity. Project elements which may be funded can include wayside exhibits, benches, trash receptacles, entry signage, and picnic areas. Usually, plaques recognizing the individual contributors are placed on the constructed amenities or at a prominent entry point to the trail.

Volunteer Work

Community volunteers may help with trail construction, maintenance, fund raising and a whole host of other activities. Potential sources of volunteer labor could include local bicyclists, local historical groups, neighborhood associations, local churches, conservation groups, school groups, and local civic clubs such as Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions Clubs.

A good example of a volunteer greenway program is Cheyenne, Wyoming, which generated an impressive amount of community support and volunteer work. The program has the unusual problem of having to insist that volunteers wait to begin landscaping trails until construction is completed. A manual for greenway volunteers was developed in 1994 to guide and regulate volunteer work. The manual includes a description of appropriate volunteer efforts, request forms, waiver and release forms, and a completion form (volunteers are asked to summarize their accomplishments). Written guidelines are also provided for volunteer work in 100-year floodplains.

To better organize volunteer activity, Cheyenne developed an "Adopt-a-Spot" program. Participants who adopt a segment of trail are responsible for periodic trash pick-up, but can also install landscaping, prune trail-side vegetation, develop wildlife enhancement projects, and install site amenities. All improvements must be consistent with the Greenway Development Plan and must be approved by the local Greenway Coordinator. Adopt-a-Spot volunteers are allowed to display their names on a small sign along the adopted section of greenway.

"Buy-a-Foot" Programs

"Buy-a-Foot" programs have been successful in raising funds and awareness for trail and greenway projects across the country. Under local initiatives, citizens are encouraged to purchase one linear foot of the greenway by donating the cost of construction. An excellent example of a successful endeavor is the High Point (North Carolina) Greenway "Buy-a-Foot" campaign, in which linear greenway "feet" were sold at a cost of \$25 per foot. Those who donated were given a greenway T-shirt and a certificate. This project provided an estimated \$5,000 in funds.

Developer Dedications

Cary, North Carolina, has used a dedication program to acquire land for its greenway program. Other communities have used such programs to build facilities, such as sidewalks, trails and other amenities, as part of new development. The developer typically fronts the cost of these improvements and passes the costs along to home buyers.

American Greenways DuPont Awards

The Conservation Fund's American Greenways Program has teamed with the DuPont Corporation and the National Geographic Society to award small grants (\$250 to \$2,000) to stimulate the planning, design and development of greenways. These grants can be used for activities such as mapping, conducting ecological assessments, surveying land, holding conferences, developing brochures, producing interpretive displays, incorporating land trusts, building trails, and other creative projects. Grants cannot be used for academic research, institutional support, lobbying or political activities.

State and Federal Funding Programs

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AUDIENCE	CONTACT
Pennsylvania State Agencies			
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - DCNR			
<p>DCNR currently directs most of its recreation and open space investment funding through the Community Conservation Partnership Program. However, DCNR periodically reviews and modifies its funding programs. Interested applicants should contact the Northwest Regional Office or visit DCNR's website (www.dcnr.state.pa.us) for current program information.</p> <p>DCNR Northwest Regional Office, 100 State Street, Suite 205, Erie PA 16507, or 814-871-4190.</p>			
Community Conservation Partnership Program	Funding program for the acquisition, development, planning, implementation, and technical assistance projects from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation (Keystone) Fund, the Growing Greener Fund, and the PA Recreational Trails Fund.	Local governments, community groups, nonprofit conservation, watershed, greenway and trail organizations.	Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (717) 787-7672
Pennsylvania Recreation Trails Program	Provides funds to develop and maintain recreation trails and trail related facilities for motorized and non-motorized recreation trail use.		www.dcnr.state.pa.us
Department of Environmental Protection - DEP			
Conservation District	County conservation districts provide a local resource for implementation of environmental programs by promoting conservation and sound land use practices.	Conservation districts and local governments.	Chief Division of Conservation Districts and Nutrient Management Bureau of Water Quality Protection (717) 783-7577
Growing Greener	County conservation districts provide a local resource for implementation of environmental programs by promoting conservation and sound land use practices.	Conservation districts and local governments.	www.dep.state.pa.us
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation - PennDOT			
Transportation Enhancement Greenways Partnership Program	An initiative to promote the use of greenways among local, state and federal agencies and develop a statewide network of greenways.	Local, county and regional governments, and the Citizens of Pennsylvania	Transportation Enhancement Program Manager (717)-783-2258
Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission - PHMC			
Historic Preservation Grants	Grant program to fund historic preservation projects, including planning and policy development, public outreach and archaeological activities.	Non-profit organizations and local governments.	Division of Preservation Services Bureau for Historic Preservation (717) 783-9918

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Department of Community and Economic Development - DCED			
Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)	Funding program for housing rehabilitation, public services, community facilities, infrastructure improvement, development and planning.	Low and moderate income persons	Community Development and Housing Office (717) 787-5327
Community Revitalization Program	Funding program for the acquisition, development, planning, implementation, and technical assistance projects from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation (Keystone) Fund, the Growing Greener Fund, and the PA Recreational Trails Fund.	Local governments, community groups, nonprofit conservation, watershed, greenway and trail organizations.	Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (717) 787-7672 www.inventpa.com
Shared Municipal Services Program	This program provides matching grants for multi-municipal projects ranging from combined police records administration to joint ownership of equipment to shared operations or services.	Local governments	Center for Local Government Services 1-888-223-6839 www.inventpa.com
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture			
Land Trust Reimbursement Program	This program reimburses qualified land trusts up to \$5,000.00 for expenses incurred in the acquisition of agricultural conservation easements	Eligible land trusts	PA Department of Agriculture Sandra Robinson 2301 North Cameron Street Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408 (717) 783-3167

Implementation Tools and Funding Programs

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AUDIENCE	CONTACT
Federal Agencies			
U.S. Department of Agriculture - USDA			
<p>Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program</p>	<p>Also known as the "Small Watershed Program", this program provides technical and financial assistance to address resource and related economic problems on a watershed basis. Projects related to watershed protection, flood prevention, water supply, water quality, erosion and sediment control, wetland creation and restoration, fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, and public recreation are eligible for assistance. Technical and financial assistance is also available for planning and installation of works of improvement to protect, develop, and use land and water resources in small watersheds. Local or state agency, county, municipality, town or township, soil and water conservation district, flood prevention/flood control district, Indian tribe or tribal organization, or other subunit of state government with the authority and capacity to carry out, operate, and maintain installed works of improvement are eligible for this program. Projects are limited to watersheds containing < 250,000 acres. Technical assistance and cost sharing (amount varies) for implementation of NRCS-authorized watershed plans, and technical assistance on watershed surveys and planning is provided under this program. Although projects vary significantly in scope and complexity, typical projects entail \$3.5 million to \$5 million in federal financial assistance.</p> <p>http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.html http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/cfda/p10</p>	<p>States, Counties and Local Governments</p>	<p>Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service P.O. Box 2890 Washington, DC 20013-9770 (202) 720-3534</p>
<p>Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)</p>	<p>The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was established to provide a single, voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers to address significant natural resource needs and objectives. Nationally, it provides technical, financial, and educational assistance, half of it targeted to livestock-related natural resource concerns and the other half to more general conservation priorities. EQIP is available</p>	<p>Farmers and Ranchers</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service P.O. Box 2890 Washington, DC 20013-9770 (202) 720-1873</p>

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PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AUDIENCE	CONTACT
	<p>primarily in priority areas where there are significant natural resource concerns and objectives. Non-federal landowners (including American Indian tribes) engaged in livestock operations or agricultural production are eligible for this program. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pasture, forestland, and other farm and ranch lands. Assistance provided includes: Cost sharing: Up to 75 percent of costs of certain conservation practices Incentive payments: Up to 100 percent for 3 years, paid at a flat rate Maximum \$10,000 per person per year and \$50,000 over length of contract</p> <p>http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/cfda/p10912.htm http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/NRCSProg.html</p>		
<p>Forestry Incentives Program</p>	<p>The Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) is intended to ensure the nation's ability to meet future demand for sawtimber, pulpwood, and quality hardwoods. FIP provides cost-share monies to help with the costs of tree planting, timber stand improvements, and related practices on nonindustrial private forestlands. In addition to ensuring a future supply of timber, FIP's forest maintenance and reforestation projects provide numerous natural resource benefits, including reduced soil erosion and wind and enhanced water quality and wildlife habitat. FIP provides no more than 65 percent of the total costs, with a maximum of \$10,000 per person per year. Private landowner of at least 10 acres and no more than 1,000 acres of nonindustrial forest or other suitable land. Individuals, groups, Indian tribes or other native groups, associations, and corporations whose stocks are not publicly traded might be eligible provided they are not engaged primarily in the business of manufacturing forest products or providing public utility services.</p> <p>http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/OPA/FB96OPA/FIPfact.html http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/cfda/p10064.htm</p>	<p>Land must be suitable for conversion from nonforest to forestland, for reforestation, or for improved forest management. Land must be capable of producing marketable timber crops and must meet productivity standards.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service P.O. Box 2890 Washington, DC 20013 (202) 720-6521</p>

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PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AUDIENCE	CONTACT
Value-Added Producer Grants (VAPG)	Grants may be used for planning activities and working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy. Eligible applicants are independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, agricultural producer groups, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.		USDA Rural Development One Hollowcrest Complex Tunkhannock, PA 18657 (570) 836-5111, ext. 119
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	<p>CRP is a voluntary program that offers long term rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving cover on environmentally sensitive cropland or, in some cases, marginal pastureland. The protective cover reduces soil erosion, improves water quality, and enhances or establishes wildlife habitat. Increased rental payments are available on certain land areas (e.g., land within a wellhead protection area may receive an additional 10 percent payment. Assistance provided under this program includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · (1) Annual rental payments to each participant of up to \$50,000 per fiscal year (2) Payment to participant of up to 50 percent of the cost for establishing cover (3) Incentive payments for wetland hydrology restoration equal to 25 percent of the cost of restoration (4) Land must be owned or operated for at least 12 months. Land must have a minimum acceptable erodibility index, be located in an approved conservation priority area, have evidence of scour erosion damage, be a cropped wetland or cropland associated with noncropped wetlands, be land enrolled in the Water Bank Program (WBP) in the last year of the WBP agreement, or contain other environmentally sensitive land. <p>http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/pubfacts.htm http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/cfda/p10069.htm</p>	Individuals, partnerships, associations, Indian tribal venture corporations, estates, trusts, other business enterprises or legal entities, a state, state political subdivisions, state or local agencies owning or operating land might be eligible to participate	Headquarters: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency Conservation Reserve Program Stop 0513, Washington, DC 20250-0513 (202) 720-6221 info@fsa.usda.gov

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PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AUDIENCE	CONTACT
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service - USDA NRCS			
Wetlands Reserve Program	<p>This voluntary program provides landowners with financial incentives to restore and protect wetlands in exchange for retiring marginal agricultural land. Landowners may sell a conservation easement or enter into a costshare restoration agreement. Landowners voluntarily limit future use of the land, but retain private ownership. Landowners and the Natural Resources Conservation Service develop a plan for the restoration and maintenance of the wetland. Easement participants must have owned the land for at least 1 year. Owners may be an individual, partnership, association, corporation, estate, trust, business, or other legal entity; a state (when applicable); a political subdivision of a state; or any agency thereof owning private land, and the land must be restorable and be suitable for wildlife benefits. WRP provides three options to the landowner: (1) Permanent Easement: USDA purchases easement (price is lesser of the appraised agricultural or raw land value, payment cap, or amount offered by the landowner). USDA pays 100 percent of restoration costs. (2) 30-year Easement: Easement payment will be 75 percent of what would be paid for a permanent easement. USDA pays 75 percent of restoration costs. (3) Restoration Cost-Share Agreement: Agreement (min. 10 yr) to restore degraded wetland habitat. USDA pays 75 percent of restoration costs.</p> <p>http://www.wl.fbnet.org http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/cfda/p10072.htm</p>	Land owners	Natural Resources Conservation Service Watersheds and Wetlands Division P.O. Box 2890 Washington, DC 20013 (202) 690-0848
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program	<p>Technical assistance is provided in designing, and installing watershed works of improvement. Financial assistance is provided for sharing costs of measures for watershed protection, flood prevention, agricultural water management, and sedimentation control, public water based fish, wildlife, and recreation; and in extending long term credit to help local interests with their share of the costs. Watershed area must not exceed 250,000 acres. Capacity of a single structure is limited</p>	Any State agency, county or groups of counties, municipality, town or township, soil and water conservation district, flood prevention or flood control	Watersheds and Wetlands Division, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture P.O. Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013 (202) 720-3534

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	to 25,000 acre-feet of total capacity and 12,500 acre-feet of floodwater detention capacity..	district, Indian tribe or tribal organization, or any other nonprofit agency with authority under State law to carry out, maintain, and operate watershed works of improvement may apply for assistance.	
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - US EPA			
Sustainable Development Challenge Grants	<p>Grants are intended to initiate community based projects that promote environmentally and economically sustainable development. The program encourages partnering among community, business, and government entities to work cooperatively to develop flexible, locally oriented approaches that link environmental management and quality of life activities with sustainable development and revitalization. This program challenges communities to invest in a sustainable future that will link environmental protection, economic prosperity, and community wellbeing. These grants are intended to (1) catalyze community-based projects; (2) build partnerships that increase a community's capacity to take steps to ensure long-term ecosystem and human health, economic vitality, and community well-being; and (3) leverage public and private investments to enhance environmental quality by enabling community efforts to continue beyond the period of funding. Grant amounts are for up to \$200,000, and a 20% match is required.</p> <p>http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/cfda/p66651.htm http://www.epa.gov/ecocommunity/sdcg/</p>	Nonprofit organizations and community groups, and federally recognized Indian tribes, state and local governments.	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, SDCG, Office of the Administrator (MC 1306) Ariel Rios Bldg. 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20460 (202) 260-6812

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PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AUDIENCE	CONTACT
<p>Capitalization Grants for Clean Water State Revolving Funds</p>	<p>EPA awards grants to states to capitalize their Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRFs). The states, through the CWSRF, make loans for high-priority water quality activities. As loan recipients make payments back into the fund, money is available for new loans to be issued to other recipients. Although traditionally used to build wastewater treatment facilities, loans are also used for other water quality management and source water protection activities, including (1) agricultural, silviculture, rural, and urban runoff control; (2) estuary improvement projects; (3) wet weather flow control, including stormwater and sewer overflows; (4) alternative wastewater treatment technologies; and (5) landfills and riparian buffers. Loans are made at low interest rates (0 percent to market rate) for up to 20 years. States can use loan funds to refinance previously executed debt obligations, guarantee local debt obligations, buy bond insurance for local debt obligations, or guarantee bonds issued by municipal and inter-municipal revolving funds. States may use up to 4 percent of the federal funds for administrative costs. States may set the criteria for determining which municipalities can access the loans and other fund uses each year. Capitalization grant funds are available to states and Puerto Rico. Territories and District of Columbia receive construction grants for wastewater treatment. States and Puerto Rico lend money to municipalities for wastewater treatment systems and to municipalities, communities, citizens' groups, nonprofit organizations, and citizens implementing NPS and estuary management activities. Loans provided by states to eligible recipients (approx. \$3 billion annually). A 20 percent state match is required.</p> <p>http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/cfda/p66458.htm http://www.epa.gov/owm/finan.htm</p>	<p>Local and Count Governments</p>	<p>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Wastewater Management, SRF Branch, Municipal Support Division (4204) Ariel Rios Bldg. 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20460 (202) 260-7360 srinfo@epa.gov</p>
<p>Environmental Education Grants Program</p>	<p>The purpose of the Environmental Education Grants (EEG) is to provide financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques. Projects</p>	<p>Local, tribal, or state education agencies, colleges and universities, nonprofit</p>	<p>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Environmental Education (1704)</p>

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	<p>must focus on one of the following: (1) improving environmental education teaching skills; (2) educating teachers, students, or the public about human health problems; (3) building state, local, or tribal government capacity to develop environmental education programs; (4) educating communities through community-based organization; or (5) educating the public through print, broadcast, or other media. The funding for this project are project grants (up to \$25,000 regionally; \$25,000 to \$150,000 nationally), a nonfederal government match of 25 percent is required.</p> <p>http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/cfda/p66951.html</p>	<p>organizations, state environmental agencies, and noncommercial education broadcasting agencies are eligible for this program.</p>	<p>Environmental Education Grants Ariel Rios Bldg. 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20460 (202) 260-8619</p>
United States Department of the Interior			
<p>North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants</p>	<p>The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United states, Canada, and Mexico. The act was passed, in part, to support activities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. This plan is an international agreement between the three countries for the long-term protection of wetland/upland habitats on which waterfowl and other migratory birds in North America depend. Both the Standard and Small Grants programs help deliver funding to on-the ground projects through the protection, restoration, or enhancement of an array of wetland habitats. The act requires that U.S. and Canadian partners focus on these three activities; Mexican partners may also develop training, educational, and management programs and conduct sustainable use studies. Project grants range from \$50,000 to \$1 million. Cost-share partners must match grant funds 1:1 with U.S. nonfederal dollars.</p> <p>http://www.fws.gov/r9nawwo/granpro.html</p>	<p>Public or private, profit or nonprofit entities or individuals establishing public-private sector partnerships are eligible for this program.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of the Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office (NAWWO) 4401 North Fairfax Drive Room 110 Arlington, VA 22203 (703) 358-1784</p>

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Partners for Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration Program	<p>The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration Program, through partnerships with conservation groups and federal/state/tribal/local government agencies, provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners interested in voluntarily restoring or otherwise improving native habitats for fish and wildlife on their lands. This program focuses on restoring former and degraded wetlands, native grasslands, stream and riparian areas, and other habitats to conditions as natural as feasible. Under cooperative agreements, private landowners agree to maintain restoration projects, but otherwise retain full control of the land. Since 1987, the program has partnered with more than 19,000 landowners to restore over 409,000 acres of wetlands, 333,000 acres of prairie grassland, and 2,030 miles of in-stream aquatic and riparian habitat. In addition, the program has reopened more than 200 miles of stream habitat for fish and other aquatic species by removing barriers to passage. The assistance is project cost-share or service cost-share assistance. (generally limited to less than \$25,000). Technical assistance is also available for habitat assessment and restoration expertise.</p> <p>http://www.fws.gov/r9dhcpfw/index.htm http://www.fws.gov/cep/coastweb.html</p>	Private landowners are eligible for this program, however they must enter into a cooperative agreement for a fixed term of at least 10 years.	U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Branch of Habitat Restoration, Division of Habitat Conservation 4401 North Fairfax Drive Room 400 Arlington, VA 22203 (703) 358-2201

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PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AUDIENCE	CONTACT
United States Department of Transportation - Federal Highways Administration / Federal Transit Administration			
SAFETEA - LU	<p>Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users - the nation's plan for surface transportation investment for 2005-2009. Various funding programs are represented within SAFETEA-LU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds ▪ Transportation Enhancements Program ▪ Transit Enhancements Program ▪ National Recreational Trails Fund Act (NRTFA) ▪ Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) <p>Projects related to bicycle and pedestrian network development and improvement are applicable to these funding streams that typically flow through state and MPO transportation agencies.</p>		Contact the Mercer MPO for details on funding programs and application procedures.
United States - Other			
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program	<p>The National Parks service operates this program aimed at conserving land and water resources for communities. Eligible projects include conservation plans for protecting these resources, trail development, and greenway development.</p> <p>http://www.ncrc.nps.gov/programs/rtca/ContactUs/cu_apply.html</p>		(202) 354-6933
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants	<p>This federal funding source was established in 1965 to provide park and recreation opportunities to residents throughout the United States. Money for the fund comes from the sale or lease of nonrenewable resources, primarily federal offshore oil and gas leases and surplus federal land sales. LWCF funds are used by federal agencies to acquire additions to National Parks, Forests, and Wildlife Refuges. In the past, Congress has also appropriated LWCF monies for so-called "state-side" projects. These "state-side" LWCF grants can be used by communities to acquire and build a variety of park and recreation facilities, including trails and greenways. These funds are distributed by</p>		<p>Pennsylvania Deputy Secretary Conservation and Engineering Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources P.O. Box 8767 Harrisburg, PA 17105 Tel: 717-787-9306</p>

Mercer County Greenways, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan

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	<p>the National Park Service to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. They require a 50 percent match from the local project sponsor. In PA contact DCNR, Recreation and Conservation, 717-783-2659.</p> <p>http://www.ncrc.nps.gov/programs/lwcf/</p>		
<p>Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot Program (TCSP)</p>	<p>The Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP) Program is a comprehensive initiative of research and grants to investigate the relationships between transportation, community, and system preservation plans and practices and identify provide sector-based initiatives to improve such relationships. States, metropolitan planning organizations, local governments, and tribal governments are eligible for discretionary grants to carry out eligible projects to integrate transportation, community, and system preservation plans and practices that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the efficiency of the transportation system of the United States. • Reduce environmental impacts of transportation. • Reduce the need for costly future public infrastructure investments. • Ensure efficient access to jobs, services, and centers of trade. • Examine community development patterns and identify strategies to encourage private sector development patterns and investments that support these goals. <p>The TCSP Program is a FHWA Program being jointly developed with the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Rail Administration, the Office of the Secretary, and the Research and Innovative Technology Administration within the US Department of Transportation, and the US Environmental Protection Agency.</p> <p>http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tcsp/</p>		<p>TCSP Program Manager, Office of Planning Phone: (202) 366-6654 Fax: (202) 493-2198</p>

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