

Please describe the proposed project, addressing the questions/topics in the 5 categories below. Applicants are asked to supply answers using no more than 3 single pages of narrative (12 point font). Ensure that the narrative is thorough but concise, follows the format below and that high quality maps, photos and drawings are attached as supplemental materials to support the narrative where appropriate. When references are made to pertinent state and local plans, the plans do not need to be attached or included with the grant application. Please note that your application will be rated and ranked based on the specific answers you provide to these questions.

1. Project Benefits - (Points: Maximum of 30)

Describe your project, identifying the need, urgency and justification for this project. In your description, include the following:

- ? What needs, issues, problems or opportunities will be addressed by the proposed project. Indicate critical needs or urgencies related to this project.
- ? How does this project advance local, county or statewide plans? Identify plans and/or specific reports by title and date, i.e. county and local Open Space Plans, Recreation & Parks Plans, Comprehensive Plans, County Greenway Plans, Natural Heritage Inventories, Rivers Conservation Plans, etc. Include the relationship and priority of your project and describe how your project implements these plans.
- ? How has or will the public be involved?
- ? What are the short and long term community, recreation and/or conservation benefits of this project? For example, for acquisition projects, will the project protect critical wildlife habitat, provide new trail access, or protect open space or cultural landscapes? For development projects, will recreational opportunities be provided to underserved residents?

2. Keystone, Green and Sustainable Project Principles - (Points: Maximum of 30)

The Keystone Principles & Criteria for Growth, Investment & Resource Conservation were adopted by the Economic Development Cabinet and are incorporated in this criterion. Please reference the Grant Program Requirements and Guidelines section for additional information on the Keystone Principles.

The Bureau is encouraging grant applicants to incorporate sustainable site concepts into projects submitted for funding. The Bureau has developed a project assessment tool – the Environmental Scorecard <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/indexgreen.aspx> to assist you in evaluating how well you have incorporated sustainable site practices into your project. You may want to use your responses on the Scorecard to help write your narrative response about how your project integrates the green and sustainable principles listed below. ***You do not need to attach the Scorecard to your application.***

Describe how your project addresses the 5 principles below and what specific green practices your project integrates. Note that the bullet points below are examples of practices you might want to incorporate into your project:

A. Site Compatibility

- ✍ Repairs damaged ecosystems.
- ✍ Protects critical habitat and biodiversity.
- ✍ Reuses a brownfield site or previously developed site.
- ✍ Has minimal impact on the existing landscape to the extent possible given the project objectives. For example, site topography, trees, soils, etc.
- ✍ Has no negative impact on significant architecture and historic resources or buildings, or adaptively reuses historic structures, etc.
- ✍ Is consistent with a county or multi-municipal plan/municipal plan and/or ordinances adopted and implemented by county and local government.

B. Manage Stormwater Naturally- (Scorecard Section 1 relates to this Principle)

- ✍ Contains natural stormwater management features (rain gardens, swales, rain barrels, etc.).
- ✍ Protects, enhances or repairs wetlands, floodplain functions, seasonal pools, headwaters, riparian areas/wetland buffers and/or streams.
- ✍ Promotes groundwater infiltration and eliminates runoff through the use of permeable surfaces.

C. Maintain and Enhance Trees and Natural Landscaping- (Scorecard Section 2 relates to this Principle)

- ✍ Plants trees, native shrubs.
- ✍ Protects existing tree cover and native plants.
- ✍ Removes and/or manages invasive species.
- ✍ Creates native wildflower and warm season grass meadows in place of traditionally mowed areas.

D. Conserve Energy/Integrate Green Design and Construction Practices- (Scorecard Section 3 relates to this Principle)

- ✍ Uses alternative sources of energy and reduces the amount of energy used.
- ✍ Integrates green design and construction practices through the use of "LEED" guidelines.
- ✍ Has minimal impact on the existing landscape to the extent possible given the project objectives. For example, site topography, trees, soils, etc. will be protected during site design, construction, and for the proposed use.
- ✍ Incorporates an equipment maintenance plan that ensures machinery is operating efficiently.

E. Connect People to Nature- (Scorecard Section 4 relates to this Principle)

- ✍ The site is connected by walkways, bikeways and greenways to key places in the community.
- ✍ The site educates or builds visitor awareness of the outdoors (interpretive signage, environmental education programs, etc.).
- ✍ Provides opportunities for passive recreation and interaction with nature (interpretive trails, viewing areas, sensory gardens, etc.)

3. Partnerships - (Points: Maximum of 20)

List all partners and include roles, responsibilities, services and contributions to be provided; include all participating governmental agencies, organizations, committees, etc. Please upload letters of commitment from key partners, especially those providing a match as outlined in your application.

4. DCNR's Action Plan – (Points: Maximum of 15)

Describe how your project relates to, promotes and advances the goals of DCNR's Action Plan.

DCNR Action Plan Summary

A. Build and maintain sustainable and attractive communities

- ? Empower county governments and regional planning entities to conserve natural and heritage resources and promote recreational activities through cooperative planning.
- ? Make reinvestment in our established communities a priority by targeting DCNR programs and leveraging other state and federal agency program activity.
- ? Advance projects and planning that demonstrate sustainable growth and green infrastructure network development and conservation. Example: Create and enhance greenways, especially greenway projects that will connect or link already established segments of greenways.

B. Promote statewide land conservation

Example: Exemplify sound land use planning and practices.

- ? Help communities manage growth and reduce the loss of open space.
- ? Provide information and educational programs to help protect important ecological lands, wildlife habitat, geologic features and recreational lands.
- ? Provide educational, technical and financial assistance to protect and sustain privately owned working forests.
- ? Work with private landowners and others to encourage responsible stewardship on lands with significant conservation value.
- ? Continue to acquire lands that:
 - ? Protect and enhance existing state parks and forests, large forested watersheds and riparian corridors.
 - ? Conserve biologically important areas. Example: Maintain bio-diversity and protect critical natural areas, particularly wetlands and ecological landscapes with rare, threatened or endangered species. Protect important bird and mammal areas, protect and restore the health of forests from adverse impacts of overabundant deer, protect riparian buffers, protect flood plains, implement Chesapeake Bay Program priorities, etc.
 - ? Create connections with other public lands, open spaces, and outdoor recreation and education opportunities.
 - ? Expand outdoor recreation and outdoor learning opportunities on state park and forest lands.

C. Create outdoor connections for citizens and visitors

- ? Increase citizens' and visitors' ability to experience the outdoors. Example: Implement recommendations of management action plans and priority projects of Governor designated State Heritage Areas.
- ? Increase citizens' awareness and knowledge of natural resources and create inspiring experiences in the outdoors to inform their decisions on important conservation issues.
- ? Bring our stewardship expertise and educational programs to urban and suburban communities.

5. Project Schedule/Timeline - (Points: Maximum of 5)

Identify the major tasks/activities and milestones that will be needed to complete your project. The project timeline should not exceed a three year time frame, and it should be as comprehensive as possible with the understanding that things can change as you implement your project. Make sure to include the process for securing and contracting with a consultant(s), if applicable, acquiring the necessary permits for your project and/or gaining regulatory approvals.