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## Susquehanna Greenway Mini-Grant Guidelines

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### Important Dates

Grant Round 4 Opens	September 2, 2025
Application Deadline	October 31, 2025
Anticipated Award Announcement	December 2025
Contract Period	January 1, 2026 - October 31, 2026
Closeout Due	November 30, 2026

### The Susquehanna Greenway

The Susquehanna Greenway is a connected corridor of trails, parks, conserved lands, river accesses, and communities that follows the Susquehanna River through Pennsylvania. Stretching for over 500 miles, it provides opportunities for outdoor recreation, including hiking, biking, and paddling, while linking people to the river's natural beauty, cultural heritage, and vibrant river towns.

More than just a trail system, the Greenway is a dynamic resource that strengthens communities, improves physical and mental well-being, and fosters environmental stewardship. By enhancing outdoor access and encouraging active lifestyles, it contributes to healthier individuals and more engaged communities. It also serves as a pathway for exploration, offering insight into the river's ecological importance, historical significance, and economic impact on the region.

Though the Susquehanna Greenway is not yet complete, the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) is dedicated to its expansion and improvement. Through thoughtful planning, SGP is creating a lasting network that connects people to the river and ensures its benefits for future generations.

Learn more about Susquehanna Greenway here: [Susquehanna Greenway Partnership](#)

### The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

We envision a vibrant Greenway that weaves together communities, trails, and natural spaces, transforming the Susquehanna River corridor into a place where adventure beckons, connections deepen, and the river's beauty inspires.

Our mission is to work hand-in-hand with local, state, and national partners to complete the Susquehanna Greenway trail corridor and create resources that open the outdoors to everyone, ensuring all can experience the beauty and adventure of the Susquehanna River. ([Click here to read more](#)).

## **Summary**

The Susquehanna Greenway Mini-Grant program advances the vision of the Susquehanna Greenway through funding and support to partner organizations and public entities focused on advancing projects and programs in the Susquehanna Greenway.

Projects and programs must be located within the Susquehanna Greenway corridor and within in any of the 22 counties the river flows through. Proposals outside of the Susquehanna Greenway corridor will not be considered. To determine if your project is eligible, use the Susquehanna Greenway online interactive map ([Click here to access map](#)).

Grant requests can range from \$1 - \$10,000. Only one award will be given to each applying entity; however, more than one application can be submitted for consideration. Projects and Programs must be completed within 10 months of contracting.

Applications must fit within one of the four eligible categories:

1. Education & Outreach
2. Wayfinding & Signage
3. Parks, Land & Water Trails, and Active Transportation
4. Temporary Placemaking

Awarded projects will be required to adhere to all DCNR's grant guidelines and eligible expense policies, and all projects must acknowledge SGP and DCNR on signage, marketing materials and/or media releases. Grant contracts will provide more details to grant awardees.

## **Eligible Applicants**

Applicants must be a public entity (such as a county, municipality, or municipal agency) or a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization eligible to apply for DCNR-supported funding and registered with the Bureau of Charities (BCO). If awarded, entities will be asked to provide certification of your charitable status with the IRS and Pennsylvania Bureau of Charities. ([Click here for more info](#)).

If your group does not meet this eligibility requirement, SGP encourages you to partner with an eligible entity to apply together. In this case, a letter of agreement must be signed by both parties. If you have any questions about this process, please contact the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership.

## **Eligible Projects**

Proposals should support SGP's vision of creating a vibrant Greenway that weaves together communities, trails, and natural spaces, transforming the Susquehanna River corridor into a place where adventure beckons, connections deepen, and the river's beauty inspires. Eligible project categories include:

### **1. Education & Outreach:**

Educational programs or events that build connections along the Susquehanna River, educate people about the Susquehanna Greenway, or inspire people to engage with the outdoors safely and act as stewards for this valuable natural asset; fliers, maps, guides, or brochures highlighting trails, towns, parks, waterways and/or history within the Susquehanna Greenway; media pieces showcasing the Susquehanna Greenway and the opportunities for engagement in the trails, towns, and waterways.

## **2. Wayfinding and Signage:**

Wayfinding and signage along the Susquehanna Greenway and its network of trails, parks, or water trail accesses, interpretive panels, or other signage that support informed exploration of the outdoors. Please note, signage to be located at a water trail access must utilize the new Susquehanna River Water Trail Wayfinding and Branding and acknowledge SGP and DCNR.

## **3. Parks, Land & Water Trails, and Active Transportation:**

This category includes planning, engineering, feasibility studies, improvements, implementation, and construction related to parks, water trail accesses, land trails and active transportation projects.

## **4. Temporary Placemaking:**

Placemaking is the process of creating quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in. It is a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design, and management of public spaces. Placemaking capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that improve community vitality and promote people's health, happiness, and well-being. Temporary Placemaking can be the inexpensive, low tech, flexible and temporary bridge between the existing and the future. It is an opportunity to try something different without a long-term commitment or big investment, to demonstrate positive aspects of an idea before it is implemented, building support and interest, to foster increased community engagement and feedback, and can lead to better understanding of proposed plans and more clarification for permanent project development. Some examples of projects in this category include projects related to trails, parks, accesses, bikeability, walkability, signage, community engagement, road holidays, safe routes to school, or others.

DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation and SGP encourage grant applicants to incorporate "green and sustainable" practices into their proposals. The term "green and sustainable" refers to practices that offer environmental benefits or that reduce the impacts of human activities on the environment such as using recycled paper, hosting virtual meetings to reduce driving, utilizing sustainable materials, or choosing environmentally responsible contractors. More information can be found here:

<https://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=3427914&DocName=Climate%2cGreenandSustainableBMPs.pdf>

## **Ineligible Grant Activities:**

Grants may not fund the purchase of operations (computers, camera, etc.) and maintenance equipment (lawn mowers, chainsaws, etc.). Grants cannot fund political activities, legal disputes, lobbying, or fundraising activities. Funding cannot be used for property easements or acquisition activities. Funding cannot be used for food, drinks, or other hospitality items related to the general promotion of the grantee organization or not related to overnight travel expenses.

## **Funding**

SGP has a total of \$40,000 to award during this funding round. Grant requests can range in value with a cap of \$10,000 per request. All requests require a 50/50 match. Successful applicants will be eligible to request 80% of the grant funding when the grant contract has been fully executed. The

remaining 20% will be awarded upon completion of the project and the approval of the final reporting and budgetary information by an SGP representative.

The Susquehanna Greenway Mini-Grant Round 4 is supported with grant funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (DCNR) Environmental Stewardship Fund (ESF) and supporting funding from the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership. All projects must acknowledge SGP and DCNR on signage, marketing materials and/or media releases.

### **Grant Match**

A 50/50 or 1:1 match is required of this grant. Matching funding may consist of cash or non-cash (in-kind) funding, or a combination of the two. A non-cash match can include donated materials, professional services, volunteer time, and services conducted in-house for which the grantee organization does not receive compensation from this grant.

Match funds cannot originate from other DCNR funds. Additionally, the Mini-Grant cannot be used to fulfill match requirements for other DCNR funded grant projects.

Match funding cannot be expended prior to the date of contracting. Match funding may be secured prior to the contract date, but it cannot be spent (cash) or acquired (volunteer time) before the start date of this contract.

If your project is collaborative with another entity or organization who is providing a level of match (cash or noncash) funding, a letter of support from that entity that specifically outlines their contributions to your project is highly encouraged.

Applicants will be asked whether the match is secured or unsecured. If it is unsecured, please provide an explanation and/or timeline associated with securing it on your application. Every effort should be made to secure match prior to the contract date if awarded.

### **Selection of Grant Recipients**

Projects will be ranked on criteria by a committee composed of active Susquehanna Greenway partners and DCNR. The committee reserves the right to request additional proposal information if they feel such information is crucial to the review process. The committee will take into consideration:

- Concise project summary with clear alignments to the organization's mission and realistic benefit to the surrounding community.
- Well-thought-out and outlined scope of work with a realistic timeline.
- Clear alignment and support of the SGP's mission & vision
- Incorporation of Green and Sustainable Practices
- Partner collaboration
- Realistic and researched budget
- Identified and secured match
- Bonus: Grant Proposal's geography is located in a designated Susquehanna Greenway River Town or on a designated Susquehanna Greenway Trail ([Click here to see a list of designated River Towns](#))

## Application Submittal Information:

Please submit your application by online form at the following link:

<https://susquehannagreenway.org/mini-grant-program-application/>

If you are unable to submit your application online, please submit applications by email to [info@susquehannagreenway.org](mailto:info@susquehannagreenway.org) or mail to:

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership  
Attn: Grant Committee  
301 Market Street, Unit #649  
Lewisburg, PA 17837

## Grant Contact

[info@susquehannagreenway.org](mailto:info@susquehannagreenway.org)

570-478-0178

## Resource Links

- <https://susquehannagreenway.org/about-sgp/who-we-are/>
- <https://susquehannagreenway.org/online-interactive-map/>
- <https://susquehannagreenway.org/river-towns/>
- <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Recreation/PAOutdoorRecPlan/Pages/default.aspx#:~:text=DCNR%20presented%20%20draft%20recommendations%20and%20close%20to,to%20guide%20outdoor%20recreation%20programs%2C%20policies%2C%20and%20projects>
- <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/GreenwaysPlanning/Pages/default.aspx>
- [https://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/PDFProvider.ashx?action=PDFStream&docID=1753382&revision=1&docName=DCNR\\_003322&nativeExt=pdf&PromptToSave=False&Size=1169347&ViewerMode=2&overlay=0](https://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/PDFProvider.ashx?action=PDFStream&docID=1753382&revision=1&docName=DCNR_003322&nativeExt=pdf&PromptToSave=False&Size=1169347&ViewerMode=2&overlay=0)
- <https://www.dos.pa.gov/BusinessCharities/Charities/Pages/default.aspx>

## **Application Instructions**

Information below is for clarification of some of the questions on the application as needed.

### **Alignment to the Susquehanna Greenway Vision:**

SGP holds a vision for a Greenway that weaves together communities, trails, and natural spaces, transforming the Susquehanna River corridor into a place where adventure beckons, connections deepen, and the river's beauty inspires.

How could your project further the SGP vision? Examples of how different project types achieve this include:

- New signage could alleviate navigation barriers so that a diverse user group can engage and explore recreational assets and discover connecting trail systems.
- An outreach booklet or app could provide needed information to users to help inspire recreation within the Susquehanna Greenway.
- Workshops could educate the public on a new skill that helps facilitate recreation within the Susquehanna Greenway and link them to an existing park along the Susquehanna River.
- An outdoor paddling program could highlight the recreation activities within communities along its route and convey additional opportunities to inspire return trips to the area.

If you are unsure of how your project aligns with the Susquehanna Greenway Vision, please contact us.

### **Green & Sustainable Practices:**

There are a host of green and sustainable practices that can be incorporated into your project or program. These can range from small practices like printing your brochures on recycled paper, to large practices like selecting signage materials that do not leach chemicals into the environment and can withstand future climate impacts. Be creative and think through the entirety of your project.

Some examples of green and sustainable practices include:

- Invasive species control, native plant and tree use, decreased impact on biodiversity, etc...
- Creating walkable and bikeable links between community assets, close to home recreation opportunities
- Material selection that can withstand climate impacts, erosion and sediment control, sustainable construction techniques, selecting recycled materials for printing or fabrication
- Utilizing materials that are non-toxic and eliminate VOCs
- Selecting a vendor that utilizes clean energy or biodegradable materials, when possible. (check their website to see if they note this within their practices)
- Utilizing suppliers that follow sustainable forestry practices or utilizing local materials to minimize travel emissions
- Waste reduction, reduced energy, or use of renewable energy sources,
- Utilizing online meeting platforms for planning meetings to reduce driving impacts
- Utilizing a shuttle to move your event participants to minimize individual travel impacts.
- Shifting registration and event waivers to an online platform to reduce printed materials.

More thorough descriptions can be found here:

<https://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=3427914&DocName=Climate%2cGreenandSustainableBM.Ps.pdf>