

Delaware Land & Water Conservation Trust Fund

Grants for Park, Greenway and Trail Projects

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The Delaware Land & Water Conservation Trust Fund (DTF) is a matching grant program whose function it is to assist with park land acquisition and outdoor recreation facility development. The Trust Fund was established in June, 1986 as an investment of State funds keeping the Trust's principal intact. Trust-generated income is divided equally between Park and trail projects. Also, annually \$1 million of Real Estate Transfer Tax is deposited into the Trust.

Eligible Grant Sponsors

County and municipal governments and park districts are eligible to apply for matching financial assistance. Up to 50% funding is available for project sponsored by municipalities or counties; up to 75% funding is available for park districts. A project sponsor must provide a source of match which may come from the sponsor's budget, other grants the sponsor has secured, in-kind sources and donations.

Grant Administration

The Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control administers the DTF grant program. Every year, all eligible agencies are contacted requesting that they send the Division project proposals. After proposals are examined for eligibility and categorized as a greenway or park project, grant applications are forwarded to eligible agencies. Application due dates are specified at that time.

Eligible Projects

DTF assistance is available for parkland, open space or greenway acquisition, planning and outdoor recreation facility development projects. Sponsoring agencies must agree to dedicate the project site to public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity and assume responsibility for continuing operation and maintenance of the area.

DTF grants have been applied to the purchase of new parks or conservation areas or additions to these existing lands. Funds may also be applied to the development of playgrounds, ballfields, trails, picnic pavilions, and other active outdoor recreation facilities. Funds for indoor projects or park operations and maintenance are may not be funded through this program.

Technical Assistance

Staff from the Division of Parks and Recreation is available to assist eligible agencies in numerous ways: determining outdoor recreation needs within a specific community; park design; facility development; and operational and maintenance recommendations.

For more information about the DTF Program, visit our website at <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/parks/Services/Pages/Grants.aspx>

Contact Information

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