



## Delaware Land & Water Conservation Trust Fund Trails & Pathways Grant Guidance

### Program Summary

The Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund (DTF) was established in 1986 as an investment of state monies to provide an annual source of funding for the acquisition of open space and the development of outdoor recreation projects. Since that time, the Trust Fund has provided over \$17 million in matching grant assistance to local governments throughout Delaware. The DTF Grant Program is administered by the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control.

Annually, Trust-earned interest is split equally between park projects and trail projects. The Grant Program is designed to assist local governments and park districts by providing matching grants for the planning, acquisition, and development of parks, greenways and trails.

### Eligible Applicants

Only county and municipal governments and park districts may sponsor grants and receive DTF grant assistance. Projects sponsored by municipalities and counties may receive up to fifty percent (50%) in DTF assistance of an approved project's eligible costs; park districts are eligible to receive up to seventy-five percent (75%) in DTF assistance of an approved project's eligible costs. The balance of funding of an approved project must be provided by the project Sponsor. The Sponsor may obtain its share through partnerships with other governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and other non-traditional recreation providers. Partnerships with other agencies and organizations are encouraged however, only the municipalities and counties are eligible to apply for DTF assistance.

### Eligible Projects

DTF grant assistance is available for the following types of projects:

- Trail, pathway or riverwalk pre-construction (design and engineering);
- Trail, pathway or riverwalk construction (paved);
- Trail construction (unpaved);
- Development of trailheads and associated facilities and infrastructure (parking, information boards and kiosks, restrooms, composting toilets, electricity, water);
- Pedestrian and bicycle bridges;
- Construction of trail improvements that facilitate access to and use of trails by persons with disabilities;
- Development and installation of trail, pathway, or riverwalk markers or directional signs;
- Water trail planning and development;
- Acquisition of conservation greenway corridor lands for wildlife habitat, stream corridor protection, buffer preservation, forest preservation, and historic or cultural sites;
- Acquisition of fee simple title to property for trail development;
- Educational or interpretive brochures and wayside exhibits related to a specific trail or conservation greenway;
- Trail or greenway corridor maps for information board or kiosks; and
- Municipal or County Comprehensive Greenway Corridor or Trail Plans.

Costs associated with greenway and trail operations and maintenance will not be funded by the DTF Program.

### **Long Term Responsibilities**

When an eligible grant application has received all approvals, the Division of Parks and Recreation will prepare a Project Agreement outlining the project scope and funding that both the State and the Sponsor are providing. The Project Agreement is a contract between the State and the Sponsor and is signed by each. When a Sponsor accepts Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund grant assistance, the Sponsor agrees to dedicate the land acquired or improved with Trust Fund assistance to public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity and assume responsibility for continuing operation, maintenance and stewardship of the area.

### **Grant Match Sources**

The following funding sources may be used to match Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund:

- City/ County cash
- Transportation Enhancement (SAFETA, FHWA)
- Federal grant funds (NERR, NOAA, EPA)
- Community Transportation Funds (CTF)
- Corporate or private donations
- Foundation grants
- Donated materials or labor
- Volunteer or in-kind labor
- Value of land (only if pre- approved by the Division of Parks and Recreation)

A Sponsor's expenses associated with administering and managing an approved DTF grant is not an eligible source of project match nor may the project Sponsor submit administrative costs for reimbursement.

### **Grant Pre-Applications**

Pre-Applications are available on line at <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/parks/Services/Pages/Grants.aspx> or mailed to:

Robert Ehemann  
Grant Coordinator  
Park Resource Office  
DNREC, Division of Parks & Recreation  
89 Kings Highway  
Dover, DE 19901

### **Grant Applications**

After Pre-Applications are evaluated, a Sponsor of an eligible project will be invited to complete a full DTF Grant Application. An application will be mailed to the Sponsor.

Questions or information, contact Bob at [Robert.Ehemann@state.de.us](mailto:Robert.Ehemann@state.de.us) or telephone at 302 739-9241.