

**MARJORIE L. AND ARTHUR P. MILLER FUND  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
FUND FOR OPEN SPACE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Across Chester County, local citizen groups are emerging as stewards of their local land resources while other organizations with an environmental focus are forming as issue groups, non-profit agencies, and municipal land trusts. Other non-profits serve as stewards for important parcels of land being used in creative ways for education and demonstration purposes. Each community has valuable resources that are worthy of being preserved— streams, wetlands, green space, areas important to wildlife, scenic vistas, and areas of historic or community significance.

The Chester County Community Foundation is now accepting applications for the Marjorie L. and Arthur P. Miller Fund. **One challenge grant of up to \$2,500** is available each year to support a non-profit organization which provides creative solutions to open space preservation and the wise use of environmental resources. The challenge portion of this grant can be met through such diverse means as new forms of in-kind donations and volunteer support and/or new grant dollars. The Miller grant can be used for the following:

- **The creation of a park, trail, or recreation area**
- **A public or school-based environmental education effort**
- **Research and publication about an important environmental issue**
- **Environmental enhancement and preservation of a significant site**
- **Volunteer and leadership development**
- **A demonstration project with wide-use application**

Successful projects will be those that:

- **Involve collaboration with environmental agencies & organizations**
- **Demonstrate high impact relative to the dollars expended**
- **Are of a lasting nature.**

Programs with a significant educational component are encouraged.

Proposals will be accepted until September 15. Upon review of the initial proposals, a site visit may be conducted of the finalists. The grant will be awarded in November.

Please use the attached Grant Proposal Format to apply for the grant. Please explain how you will meet the challenge component in your grant proposal narrative. Grant applications should be submitted no later than 5:00 P.M., **September 15** to: [grants@chescofc.org](mailto:grants@chescofc.org) . **Subject:** Marjorie L. and Arthur P. Miller Fund Grant Application

For more information, please contact Beth Harper Briglia, Vice President of Philanthropy Services, Chester County Community Foundation at 610-696-8045 or at [grants@chescofc.org](mailto:grants@chescofc.org). Thank you!

**MARJORIE L. AND ARTHUR P. MILLER FUND  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**SUMMARY SHEET (One page only) Note: If Philanthropy Network Common Grant Application is used, this Summary Sheet MUST accompany application. Please visit our website at [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org) to obtain an electronic version of this application.**

**Date: 8/23/18**

**Contact Information:**

Organization Name: Green Valleys Association of SEPA Inc	Contact Name: Rebecca Schulze
Address: 1368 Prizer Road, Pottstown, PA 19465	Contact Title: Volunteer Coordinator/Educator
Phone: 610-469-4900	Contact E-mail: rebecca@greenvalleys.org
Web Address: <a href="http://www.greenvalleys.org">www.greenvalleys.org</a>	Fax: 610-469-4990
	Year Incorporated: 1964

**Have you previously received the Miller Grant Award:** Yes  No

If "Yes", please indicate date and amount of each grant, if any, received from the Foundation:

(1) Year: <u>2006</u> Amt Rec'd: <u>\$2,500.00</u>	(2) Year: <u>2007</u> Amt. Rec'd <u>\$1,000.00</u>
(3) Year: <u>2013</u> Amt Rec'd: <u>\$1,000.00</u>	(4) Year: <u>2018</u> Amt. Rec'd <u>\$2,500.00</u>

**Organizational Information:**

Geographic Area Served (*If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County municipalities served*):

Green Valleys primarily serves northern Chester County in the townships of North, East, and South Coventry, East and West Vincent, East and West Pikeland, Schuylkill, Tredyffrin, East Whiteland, Charlestown, Upper Uwchlan, East and West Nantmeal, and Warwick; and the boroughs of Elverson, Spring City, and Phoenixville.

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served: We have approximately 1,000 members and serve the roughly 143,000-person population of northern Chester County; 5,000 individuals are engaged in our education programs annually. We work with students & teachers in the Owen J. Roberts, Phoenixville, and Pottstown School Districts; local government officials; and community volunteers.

Mission Statement: To protect, preserve, and restore the natural waterways of northern Chester County. We inspire, educate, and involve our community to make a difference for this generation and for generations to come.

Organization Description: Green Valleys Watershed Association (GVWA) is a non-profit environmental education and watershed protection organization founded in 1964 to protect the five watersheds of northern Chester County: French, Pickering, Pigeon, and Valley Creeks and Stony Run.

Annual Budget <u>\$716,551</u>	<u>5</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>83</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>10</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>9</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>79</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>8</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>avg. 750/yr</u> # of Volunteer Hours
<u>100</u> % total	

Top 3-5 funding sources: grants, corporations, membership, Rodebaugh Trust Fund, fee for service

**Proposal Information:**

Grant Amount Requested: \$2,500.00

Description of Grant Purpose: *To help fund the initiation of a northern Chester County Pennsylvania Master Naturalist training program that will create a corps of active volunteers who can assist with stewardship and outreach at Green Valleys Welkinweir and other non-profit conserved lands in our region.*

**MARJORIE L. AND ARTHUR P. MILLER FUND  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE**

**Please provide the following information clearly and concisely.  
Proposals of 1 or 2 pages are strongly encouraged.**

**1. Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness**

Green Valleys Watershed Association (GVWA) was founded in 1964 to protect the five major tributaries to the Schuylkill River in northern Chester County: French, Pickering, Pigeon, Valley Creeks, and Stony Run. GVWA has a 50-plus-year history of working with residents, government, and community groups to protect the local environment through education, advocacy, and restoration. GVWA's headquarters Welkinweir, was the former home of GVWA founding members Everett and Grace Rodebaugh. Before the Rodebaughs purchased the property in 1935, it was used to supply natural resources for the Reading Furnace, was farmed, and even housed a poultry operation. The Rodebaughs created ponds throughout the property which were fed by a stream from the local valley. An arboretum was created by planting trees and shrubs, and the local forests were restored by planting trees in the barren fields. The once infertile and abused property was now reestablished as a preserve for wildlife and people. After many years of enjoyment, Everett and Grace, founding members of GVWA, placed their beloved Welkinweir under conservation easement, which would protect their property from being developed. The property was deeded to GVWA in 1997, and the association took on the responsibility for maintaining the property and acting as stewards for the environment.

GVWA utilizes Welkinweir for environmental education for people of all ages. The property has such a great diversity of habitats and species that it provides many topics that can be addressed during community nature walks, children's summer camps, scout programs, and field trips for schools, churches, and other organizations. To build a network of stewards who will help care for the property and promote our mission to the public, we are partnering with the PA Master Naturalist (PMN) to hold our first PMN training workshop at Welkinweir in Spring of 2019. This training workshop represents another avenue of education using our property as it was intended, increasing volunteer opportunities, as well as spreading awareness of our partner organizations in the area.

**2. Funding request:**

**A. Specific Chester County needs and issues addressed**

Chester County has a goal to preserve 30% of the county as an open space by 2019. For 2017, it is estimated that the county is currently at 28% protected open space. These protected areas include Federal parks, county parks, state parks, easements and more. In the recent update to Landscapes 3, an emerging issue to how to maintain the preserved open space. Many government and non-government public properties are working on maintaining these lands with a small staff and limited budget. A great way to gain help that does not affect budgeting is having **trained** volunteers to assist in many activities at these sites. The PMN training workshop will attract and train individuals who are interested and willing to volunteer their time with GVWA and our partner organizations.

**Project impact (for project proposals)**

Pennsylvania Master Naturalist is statewide partnership that aims to connect individuals who are interested in natural science with their local ecosystem through conservation work. The program is a twelve-week intensive training course about the local ecosystem including flora, fauna, water, geology, and other related environmental issues. Within the program, trainees must complete 50 training hours through classes and hands on field trips, 20-30 hours of volunteer time per year to

maintain their certification and continue their education with advanced training. Once trainees complete the training they become a certified Master Naturalist.

This partnership will help increase the volunteer hours for stewardship within our organization, as well as increase the citizen science project participation and assistance to other local organizations.

**B. Overall strategies to implement the organization's mission (or project)**

By accepting the gift of the property Welkinweir, GVWA agreed to be a steward of the land. Welkinweir supports the GVWA mission serving as our best place to begin educating individuals about nature and stewardship. However, 219 acres can be difficult to maintain with a limited staff and budget and to be able to use the property to its full potential. *The PMN program will help create the dedicated volunteers*, which GVWA is currently lacking for stewarding Welkinweir.

Volunteers can assist in educating the public, for example, as leaders of nature walks or weekend programs, and increase our organization's public presence, by participating in tabling and community events. They can help with the maintenance of the trails, both internal and the regional Horse-Shoe Trail. This fall, Penn Trails LLC is completing a trail assessment within our property. Once the assessment is completed, we will have an idea of the areas that the volunteers are needed.

Another project we need volunteers for is our bird nest box monitoring program, with data submitted to Cornell's citizen science program NestWatch ([www.nestwatch.org](http://www.nestwatch.org)). Our nest box trail has been monitored by a group of volunteers, who have since aged out and stopped participating in the project. We hope this training workshop will bring in new volunteers to assist with the monitoring and data collection of our bird nest box program.

We can utilize volunteers in more citizen science programs, including Pennsylvania Amphibians and Reptile Survey, i-Naturalist, E-bird, Monarch Watch and others.

The goals of the service programs are to increase the number of new individuals participating in our education programs, to increase membership, and to assist us in stewarding open space land.

**Why it is important to fund this now**

Becoming a partner with PMN, we agreed to a three-year contract to hold workshops at Welkinweir. Our plan is for these workshops to be successful and our partnership to continue past the three years required. As trainees graduate from the workshops, their names will be placed on a dedicated volunteer list. This would be a great improvement for GVWA's headquarters Welkinweir, because we are currently lacking dedicated volunteers.

Since it is our first year participating in the PMN program, we have the initial startup costs that this funding would help cover. By making this workshop successful, we can help support our organization and other nonprofits within our area.

**C. How do you intend to meet the challenge component of this grant?**

By partnering with the PMN, they provide us with approximately \$1,000 per full class. The rest of the money will be used from our funds.

**3. Timetable, with anticipated outcomes and their relevance to the nonprofit’s mission**

Activity	Time Period	Anticipated Outcome	Relevance to Mission
Organize workshop: complete paperwork, schedule workshop classes/field trips, and book instructors, Advertise workshop and accept students	Ongoing through winter 2018	Preparation for the beginning of workshop to gain interest and fill class size of 12-20 individuals.	Booking field trips and instructors that will express stewardship in our local the communities.
Complete the 12 weeks of class/trips and graduate as a PA Master Naturalist	Spring 2019 – Summer 2019	Each student will complete 50 hours of training on multiple topics which will give them basic knowledge they may use to give back to their local communities.	The students involved with the program are increasing their knowledge about nature. This is helping them become a steward for the environment. They can then spread the knowledge to others and encourage them to also become stewards.
Utilizing volunteers for projects	Summer 2019 – Summer 2020	Each student who has graduated must complete 30 hours of volunteer time in the first year after completion of the course and 20 hours each year after to maintain certification.	By having volunteers who are dedicated and properly trained to complete projects or tasks that are difficult for an organization to complete due to limited resources.

**4. How impact and results will be demonstrated**

Impact will be demonstrated by the number of volunteers who graduate from the PMN workshop, the steady flow of volunteers available to complete projects and assist with land stewardship, and increased volunteer hours.

