

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date: 11/20/2018

Contact Information

Organization Name: Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Inc. Executive Director Name: Jennifer Adkins
Address: 110 S. Poplar St., Suite 202, Wilmington, DE 19801 Executive Director Email: jadkins@delawareestuary.org
Phone: 302-655-4990, ext. 102 Board of Directors Chair Name: Roy E. Denmark
Website: www.delawareestuary.org Primary Contact Name: Kate Hutelmyer
Year Incorporated: March 21, 1996 Primary Contact Email: khutelmyer@delawareestuary.org

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes No Not Sure
Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes No Not Sure
 Donor Advised Fund(s) Fund for Chester County Don't know/Not sure

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities Environment/Animal Welfare Education
 Health (clean water) Human Services Religion

Organization Information:

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

The geographic area covered under the mission of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary includes all lands that drain to the tidal portion of the Delaware River and Bay. This includes portions of Pennsylvania (including most of Chester County), New Jersey, and Delaware (see attached map for target geography).

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

PDE works to protect and promote clean water, healthy habitats, and strong communities for the roughly six million people who live within the Estuary region.

Mission:

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary leads science-based and collaborative efforts to improve the tidal Delaware River and Bay, which spans Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey.

Proposal Summary:

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary requests \$7,200 to support the development of conceptual and engineering designs for a large rain garden in the Lionville area of Uwchlan Township to address stormwater issues in Pine Creek.

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

Mission, Vision & Strategy Governance & Leadership Strategic Relationships
 Fundraising & Development Technology Other: _____

Annual Budget \$ <u>3.4 Million</u>	<u>23.9</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>82</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>18.0</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>14</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>350</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>4</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>1500</u> # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the William Penn Foundation, the Philadelphia Water Department, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$7,200

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary works to restore the health of the Delaware River and Bay – an environment upon which millions of people, wildlife, and plants depend. We are the only organization that focuses on the entire environment affecting the River and Bay. With an emphasis on science and collaboration, and a focus on the entire Estuary region (where fresh water and salt water mix), we are uniquely positioned to develop and implement programs that are improving the Estuary environment to levels not seen in many decades. Working with and through the Partnership, concerned individuals, businesses, academia and governmental agencies can amplify their impact on protecting a natural resource at the center of our region's quality of life.

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE) was established as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to serve as the education, outreach, and fundraising non-profit for the Delaware Estuary Program (DELEP). DELEP is one of 28 congressionally designated estuaries of national significance throughout the coastal United States, and PDE has served as the host organization for DELEP since 2004. In addition to PDE, core partners of the program include the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regions 2 and 3; the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, through its Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP); the State of New Jersey, through its Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP); the State of Delaware, through its Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC); the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC); and the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD).

PDE's primary goal is to protect and restore the water quality and environmental resources of the Delaware Estuary, which includes parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. PDE works in partnership with many organizations, agencies, and individuals to improve the health of the Estuary by:

- Sustaining momentum of current successful science-based activities and initiating new high-priority activities;
- Engaging the public, community, and key stakeholders;
- Continuing to increase visibility, profile, and organizational capacity;
- Raising and leveraging financial resources for PDE and partners to implement innovative on-the-ground projects.

Thanks to collaboration between many partners, the urban Delaware River is cleaner today than it has been in decades. PDE's achievements have contributed to this success story and include:

- Revision of the 1996 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the Estuary. This long-term plan (coming winter 2018) will characterize the priority problems in the Estuary (or *Delaware River Watershed* – take out surrounding watersheds) and surrounding subwatersheds and identify actions and partners to address these problems.
- Leading the Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) to keep pollution out of our drinking water sources. Over the past 15 years, SAN partners have worked together on hundreds of projects, investing over \$400 million. These include over 175 projects on farms in Berks County, nearly 45 projects to address abandoned mine drainage in Schuylkill County, and over 200 project to reduce stormwater runoff pollution in Montgomery, Chester, and Philadelphia Counties.
- PDE has partnered with local nonprofits to implement green infrastructure projects on school properties and in residential communities within Chester County. Most recently, PDE was awarded a PA DEP Growing Greener grant to install a rain garden at Phoenixville Area Middle School and to naturalize a

stormwater basin at West Vincent Elementary School. For both of these projects, Green Valleys Watershed Association (GVWA) was the local non-profit partner working with the schools, teachers, and students.

- Between 2014 and 2016, PDE conducted outreach to home owner associations (HOAs) in northern Chester County to identify ways to better manage stormwater in these communities. Based on the results of this preliminary research, PDE and GVWA naturalized one of the stormwater basins on the Weatherstone HOA property in West Vincent Township and developed a management plan for the other basins.

2. Funding request

Description of key initiatives

The overarching goal of this project is to support engineering design work for a large rain garden (or bio-retention facility) along the headwaters of Pine Creek in Lionville, PA. This work is part of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative's (DRWI) geographic and solutions-driven focus to restore and protect water quality throughout the region. The project will be completed by qualified environmental engineers in collaboration with PDE staff, the Schuylkill Action Network's (SAN) Stormwater Workgroup, the DRWI Schuylkill Highlands partner organizations, and the local landowner.

A large rain garden in this particular location would capture, filter, and manage polluted runoff from five acres in the heavily urbanized Lionville area along the Route 100 corridor in Uwchlan Township. Additionally, it would serve as a cornerstone project in a broader initiative to address the issues (water quality issues) plaguing Pine Creek stream, laying the groundwork for future restoration projects.

PDE is eligible to apply for grant funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Delaware River Restoration Fund to support the physical installation and maintenance of this rain garden. In order to make that application more competitive, a preliminary project design is crucial. As such, PDE requests \$7,200 to work with Meliora Design LLC, an environmental engineering company, to develop the conceptual and engineering designs for this rain garden. This work would also involve collaboration with partners in the SAN Stormwater Work Group, including Aqua PA and the Philadelphia Water Department, to ensure that the project serves to improve water quality, create habitat, and serve as an educational green infrastructure demonstration site for the public.

Specific needs and issues to be addressed

Pine Creek is a native trout stream and a tributary of the Pickering Creek, which serves as a source of drinking water for more than half a million customers in Chester and Montgomery Counties. Polluted stormwater runoff threatens the stream's ability to meet the needs of the people, flora, and fauna who depend on it for clean and safe water. According to the Department of Environmental Protection's 2016 Pennsylvania Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report, the headwaters of Pine Creek are officially impaired (heavily polluted). The cause of impairment is listed as urban runoff and storm sewer discharges during rainstorm events.

According to a Source Water Assessment Public Summary document prepared by Aqua PA (then the Philadelphia Suburban Water Company), "Long-term protection efforts should be focused on mitigating stormwater runoff from urban and residential areas of Corner Store, Bull Tavern, Eagle, and Lionville. These will have the greatest overall impacts on protecting and improving source water quality and the Pickering Creek." A rain garden installed on the Lionville Medical Arts property would help to manage stormwater runoff from the heavily populated Lionville area along the Route 100 corridor. The stormwater from this area would normally wash straight into the headwaters of Pine Creek, causing flooding, erosion, and water pollution. Installing this feature would prevent more than 1,000 lbs. of sediment from entering the stream each year.

Why it is important to fund this now

The partner organizations of the DRWI Schuylkill Highlands recently completed a large collaborative planning effort identifying key water quality and community stressors. The headwaters of Pine Creek were highlighted in that plan as a critical area for restoration to improve water quality. A willing and engaged landowner has been identified at the Medical Arts Building property, and a project has been scoped out.

Large grant opportunities are on the horizon, and having the design work and the calculations for the rain garden's capacity already completed (not to mention a grant that can be used as matching funds) will make our applications to those funding programs significantly more competitive. Some of those grant opportunities, like the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation program, are only guaranteed to be available for the next two years.

Additionally, Chester County municipalities are currently working on plans to address their stormwater management obligations through the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) permit program. A technicality in Pennsylvania's impairment listings means that, although Pine Creek has been identified as a stream impaired by stormwater runoff, municipalities are not obligated to fund improvement projects in the watershed through this round of MS4 permitting. While Uwchlan Township is supportive of improvements in Pine Creek, the nature of their permit obligations has directed investment and attention to other watersheds within the municipality's boundaries. This means that, if private landowners and other concerned groups don't step in, this area might not receive any help to address its stormwater pollution issues. As weather patterns are shifting and the region is experiencing heavier, more frequent storm events, it's critical that we aggressively work to manage polluted stormwater runoff to help prevent pollution and mitigate flooding.

3. How impact and results will be demonstrated

The first demonstrable impact from this grant will be positioning us to submit large grant applications to funders like the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund. These funders would support project installation and implementation based upon the design work funded by the Chester County Community Foundation. This, in turn, would lead to the successful installation of a large rain garden on the property on the Lionville Medical Arts Building.

Beyond installation, PDE would work with partner organizations to monitor the rain garden to assess its functionality and ability to successfully manage stormwater runoff. Monitoring would also be done downstream of the project to assess the impact to and improvement of water quality over time. Finally, results would be demonstrated through positive press and public awareness (achieved through traditional and social media, project signage, etc.) about the project and its impact on local water quality.

III. ATTACHMENTS – LP TO HANDLE

E-mail or mail this support information

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter
2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations
3. Most recent annual report and financial statement, audited if available
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year and current fiscal year to date
5. If capacity building initiative, itemized budget (including external consultant's proposal, if applicable)
6. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why.

If Philanthropy Network of Greater Philadelphia's Common Grant Application is used, the Community Foundation's Summary Sheet MUST accompany application. Available at www.chescocf.org

E-mail completed proposals to grants@chescocf.org

Please contact Kevin Baffa or Beth Harper Briglia at (610) 696-8211 or grants@chescocf.org if you have any questions. Thank you.

Chester County
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

*Connecting people who care with causes that matter,
so their legacies make a difference.*

E-mail completed proposals to grants@chescocf.org

Please contact Kevin Baffa or Beth Harper Briglia at (610) 696-8211 or grants@chescocf.org if you have any questions. Thank you.