

**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 . **Subject:** Marjorie L. and Arthur P. Miller Fund Grant Application

For more information, please contact Beth Harper Briglia, Vice President of Philanthropy Services at the Chester County Community Foundation at 610-696-8045 or at beth@chescofc.org. Thank you!

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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 to obtain an electronic version of this application.

Contact Information:

Date: 8/29/2019

Organization Name: Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens
Address: 631 Berwyn Baptist Road, Devon, PA 19333
Phone: 610-647-8870 X152
Web Address: [www. Jenkinsarboretum.org](http://www.Jenkinsarboretum.org)
Fax: 610-647-6664

Contact Name: Janet Bauman
Contact Title: Director of Development
Contact E-Mail: janet@jenkinsarboretum.org
Year Incorporated: 1976

Have you previously received the Miller Grant Award: Yes X No __

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

(1) Year: 2006 Amt Rec'd: \$2,500 (2) Year: 2007 Amt. Rec'd \$2,000

Organizational Information:

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

All of Chester County, Delaware County, Montgomery County primarily, yet we also serve visitors from all over the states of Pennsylvania, N.J., & Delaware as well as from the entire nation.

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served:

We serve all visitors, always FREE of admission from early morning to dusk, with no discrimination. We serve local visitors as well as visitors from around the country and the world.

Mission Statement:

The mission of Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens is to *preserve natural tranquil woodlands for community enjoyment, to showcase native plants and a world class collection of rhododendrons and azaleas, and to promote environmental horticulture through learning, research, and conservation.*

Organization Description:

A 501 (c) (3) not for profit organization in Devon is one of Pennsylvania started in 1976 with a major horticultural collections and remnant natural landscape in the quickly urbanizing Chester County. We are an educational model for best plants, naturalistic garden practices, and ecological land stewardship. A place of great beauty, Jenkins is a place for the whole community to escape urban life to explore and immerse in naturalistic designed woodland.

Annual Budget: \$1,176,061

80% of budget for program expenses

11% of budget for administrative expenses

9% of budget for fundraising expenses

8 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

21 # of Board Volunteers

45 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

approximately 20,000 # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Haas Trusts

Karla Herr

Arcadia Foundation

Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested: \$2,500 as a matching grant

Description of Grant Purpose: ***RESTORATION OF THE CONSERVATION WOODLANDS***

Installing a deer-exclusion fence around the perimeter of the Conservation Woodlands (native remnant forest) allows excluding the over-populated deer from heavy herbivore devastation on native plant populations. The native understory of herbs, shrubs, and trees will return; providing opportunities for the public to visit (expanding our visitor area almost by 50%) and education about the value of conserved forestland and critical ecological services.

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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

Opened as a public garden in 1976, Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens ("Jenkins") is today one of eastern Pennsylvania's noteworthy horticultural and environmental resources; a true living museum and habitat for great plants. As an arboretum & gardens, we preserve 48 acres of Chester County's rapidly disappearing native greenspaces. The grounds host nationally and internationally significant ericaceous botanical collections of plants for scientific study (well-known species being rhododendrons, azaleas, mountain laurels, and blueberries), along with a substantial diverse northeastern native plant collection of trees, shrubs, perennials, and spring ephemerals in a naturalistic garden design aesthetic.

Through our property management of the diverse natural habitats found here along with the living plant collections, Jenkins is a boundless resource and model for children and adults about ecosystem stewardship: striving to protect the untouched aged forests with some areas of protected healthy understory growth that all contribute to promoting clean ground water. The property is the origin of Trout Creek which flows through many suburban communities eventually into the Schuylkill River and is thus on the divide between the Lower Schuylkill River basin and the Darby/Crum Creek basin. We have worked to improve the riparian plant health of this stream by removing non-native invasive plants and replacing them with regional natives. At Jenkins, visitors observe many varieties of wildlife, such as green herons, foxes, kingfishers, red-tail hawks, owls, flying squirrels, turtles and over 110 identified bird species. These animals would not be here if not for the native plants in abundance of plant biodiversity and the clean water created because of this emphasis on native plantings and land stewardship.

Our educational programs are offered throughout the year and have been for many years, engaging youth and adults interested in observing, experiencing, and engaging with the natural world of great plants. (Our program brochure can be viewed on our website www.jenkinsarboretum.org). We host the Hamilton Educational Fellowship, a program supporting two advance professional students in environmental horticulture each year. These Fellows gain hands-on learning within our gardens and conservation lands.

Jenkins has a great reputation of sensible and efficient vision and expediting of projects closely related to our mission. We depend on foundations, individual donors, and our members to help sustain our organization in our mission of environmental horticulture, nature exploration, and native plant research while we provide access to positive experiences for everyone at our engaging arboretum and gardens. We would be honored to gain the support of the Marjorie L. & Arthur P. Miller Fund for the coming year to help us preserve this treasured arboretum and botanical garden.

The new Executive Director, Thomas Smarr, is embarking on a new era at Jenkins to promote positive community living through healthy experiences in gardens and nature. We want the Marjorie L. & Arthur P. Miller Fund to be part of this experience. We ask for a matching gift for our Conservation Woodlands Project and Deer Exclusion Fencing. Your help will enable us to bring this woodland conservation project to fruition, preserving both our native forest and our wildlife habitat.

2. Funding request:

A. Specific Chester County needs and issues addressed

Approximately 25 of Jenkins' 48 acres is currently undeveloped forested land that we refer to as the Conservation Woodlands. Unlike the public garden, which is well-maintained for public access and

enjoyment, the Conservation Woodlands are low-managed, non-designed forest stands, allowed to go through natural ecological processes. Dead trees and branches, and fallen woody debris play an important ecological role in soil building and species support that cannot be replicated in the public garden. These dead trees and such are sanctuary for red-tailed hawks, screech owls, pileated woodpeckers, and even great horned owls nest. Insects and amphibians take respite under fallen logs and branches, and foxes have created dens. Unfortunately, though, the forest is not as healthy as it once was.

White-tailed deer have caused significant damage to forested ecosystems across the country; this is especially true in the suburbs of Philadelphia. Deer overpopulation has eliminated the forest structure leaving large, over-story trees, yet with the exception of unpalatable invasive species, no forest regeneration. With the help of various groups of volunteers, Jenkins has begun the process of reclaiming parts of these woodlands by removing invasive plants and replanting with valuable native trees and shrubs. Some trees are individually fenced. We also have a small portion of our Conservation Woodlands fenced and that has shown significant regeneration of native plant regeneration with some subsistence of native plantings.

We distinguish ourselves through our welcoming FREE admission policy for all and by virtue of the fact that we are indispensable to our community. Think of the Arboretum as the lungs of the neighborhood by taking in carbon dioxide to be sequestered in the forest and producing oxygen for the entire community.

Total project cost is \$125,000. We received a generous gift from The McLean Contributionship as a matching challenge grant. Subsequently, we have received gifts for the project from the Haas Trusts and the Huston Foundation. Your help will bring us closer to fruition for this initiative. We continue to seek another \$60,000.

B. Organizational impact (for general operating proposals) or project impact (for project proposals)

If we can fence the entire land area in need of protection, we will be able to accomplish restoration of the Conservation Woodlands project and open up this 20 acres for nature exploration through educational programming, walking, and hiking. This will be a huge asset to Chester County community offered as an open area for all to enjoy, seeing a different environment within the county boundaries.

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

We already have engaged groups of volunteers working to remove invasive plants in the Conservation Woodlands. More groups are scheduled. We have had a property survey conducted, received an estimate for the deer exclusion fencing, secured partial funding, and now we wait to secure total funding to complete the project.

D. Why it is important to fund this now

We are in the midst of a Site Master Plan process that concludes in early 2020. The master planning includes this area as a means to expand our public exploration and educational offerings. We would like to install the expansion of this fencing by 2020 or at the latest 2021.

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

Some funding has already been secured. Meanwhile we will diligently continue to seek funding from other foundations and individual donors passionate about providing this opportunity.

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

We would like to have the project completed and the conservation woodlands open to the public in 2021 or 2022. As mentioned above, planning is progressing now.

4. How impact and results will be demonstrated

Already we see a growing popularity with our programming surrounding conservation. We will continue to assess success with public interest to our programs and successful establishment of the native flora. Most likely we will host a public opening event to celebrate and the results of the work will be empirical. On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff, volunteers, and members, we thank you for the opportunity to submit this grant application to the Marjorie L. & Arthur P. Miller Fund as well as for your consideration of our request.

ATTACHMENTS

Please attach the following 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. Itemized project budget (if applying for project-specific grant)

Note: The Philanthropy Network Common Grant Application may be submitted with CCCF Summary Sheet.

Please visit our website at www.chescocf.org to obtain an electronic version of this application.

E-mail applications are strongly encouraged.

Please send completed applications to:

Beth Harper Briglia, Vice President of Philanthropy Services

Chester County Community Foundation

28 West Market Street

West Chester, PA 19382

grants@chescocf.org

(610) 696-8045

THANK YOU!