



**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 30. 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 30** 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!



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.

Date: 9/30/2020

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Kennett Area Park Authority
Address: PO Box 1121
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Contact Name: Sheila Tekavec
Contact Title: Office Manager
Contact E-mail: AnsonBNixonPark@gmail.com
Fax: n/a
Year Incorporated: 1988

Phone: (610) 444-1416
Web Address: AnsonBNixonPark.org

Have you previously received the Miller Grant Award: Yes ___ No _X_

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

(1) Year: _____ Amt Rec'd: \$ _____ (2) Year: _____ Amt. Rec'd \$ _____
(3) Year: _____ Amt Rec'd: \$ _____ (4) Year: _____ Amt. Rec'd \$ _____

Organizational Information:

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County municipalities served): Anson B. Nixon Park serves the Borough of Kennett Square, Kennett Township and surrounding townships, southern Chester County, and northern New Castle County, DE.

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served: The Park is open daily to residents and visitors of the area. It is difficult to be specific about exact numbers because guests of the park enter through several areas by car and on foot each day. It is estimated that approximately 170,000 people visit the park each year.

Mission Statement: Among other principles that guide the Kennett Area Park Authority (KAPA) is the mission for preservation of an open, natural, and largely passive environment that lends itself to both tranquil and rigorous pursuits, with free access to the general public in Anson B. Nixon Park.

Organization Description:

Annual Budget \$ 234,200 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff 2
70 % of budget for program expenses 14 # of Board Volunteers
27 % of budget for administrative expenses 190 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
3 % of budget for fundraising expenses 2700 # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: The Kennett Area Park Authority receives funding through municipal donations from the Borough of Kennett Square and Kennett Township, cell tower rental agreements with AT&T and Verizon, facility reservations, donations from local businesses and individuals, and annual Trout Rodeo and Rock the Park fundraisers.

Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested: \$__2,500_____ Description of Grant Purpose: KAPA will use this grant to enhance the new walking trail that is replacing the old (currently closed) vehicle entrance to the park from the borough.

**MARJORIE L. AND ARTHUR P. MILLER FUND
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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

The Kennett Area Park Authority (KAPA) was incorporated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in December 1988, as a Joint Municipal Authority between Kennett Township and the Borough of Kennett Square. KAPA's stated purpose is to own and maintain the now 106-acre Anson B. Nixon Park, which straddles both the Borough and the Township. Currently, there are fourteen volunteer board members, appointed by their respective municipalities to serve as stewards of the Park.

Anson B. Nixon Park is unique in the fact that it is one of only two municipal parks in the state, that we know of, *not* under the full jurisdiction and tax-based financial support of a county, town, or borough. The volunteer board is responsible for the day-to-day as well as long-term operations of the Park.

The Park consists of rich natural habitats, including a beech grove containing a specimen estimated to be over 250 years old. Adjacent to the beech grove is a natural area abounding with native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers; included are specimens of umbrella magnolia, a rare plant for this area. Outstanding features include two ponds, totaling 6 acres, the Red Clay Creek and its tributaries. Of historical significance are the remnants of the Borough's waterworks facility which dates back to the early 1900s. There is also the site of the Chambers Family Homestead (Bloomfield, circa 1794 - early 1900s), where many native species of trees were planted, and a now-overgrown meadow is established.

The Park is open to the public every day of the year, sunrise to sunset, with free admission. It features over 2.5 miles of walking trails, six picnic pavilions, an entertainment stage, a top-rated 18-hole disc golf course, tennis and volleyball courts, and athletic fields. The Oreste "Tino" Leto athletic fields are leased to the Southern Chester County Soccer Association.

Since the Park opened in 1993, visitation has grown to over 170,000 annual guests from diverse cultural backgrounds representing the Borough of Kennett Square, neighboring townships, and visitors from the greater Brandywine Valley who enjoy the Park's facilities and seasonal events.

After the initial state and county funding to develop the park between 1988 and 1993, KAPA successfully raised the funds to build the entertainment pavilion, athletic fields, and consult for preparation of a master plan. The Park is continually improving, with the most recent additions of a safer entranceway and dog park. Currently, the board is hard at work with a stream restoration project and plans for a new walking trail that will replace the old vehicle entrance to the park from the Borough. This important trail project will allow safer, easier access and walkability to the Park for recreation and special events.

2. Funding request:

A. Specific Chester County needs and issues addressed

In 2016, with funding from PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and others, KAPA constructed a new, safer vehicular road into the Park and closed the original entrance situated at a location with inherent potential hazards because of the acuteness of the turn off Walnut Road. The original entrance was blocked off to vehicles but remains accessible to pedestrians. Removing the blacktop from this roadway and transitioning to a broad area of lawn in a wooded landscape would greatly reduce runoff into the streams, resulting in a significant environmental improvement. Bordering the new pedestrian access, we plan to create, with funding provided by separate entities, a special area in a wooded glade for people seeking quiet rest and contemplation. These two opportunities will be carried out concurrently with the stream restoration project on the Red Clay Creek, mentioned above.

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

Preservation and protection of the Park's natural resources has been a focus of our mission, including the adoption of a Stewardship Plan in 2007. The stream corridor restoration project on the mainstem and tributaries of the Red Clay Creek which traverse the Park is currently underway, with funding from the PA Department of Environment Protection (Growing Greener Grant) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Removing 8,860 feet of blacktop will significantly reduce runoff into the creek. Creation a safer walking trail will provide better access to visitors from the borough.

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

This project will transition the existing blacktop of the original entrance to a sustainable pervious surface. Approximately 8,860 sq. ft. of blacktop will be demolished, a distance of 295 feet. This blacktop material will be relocated and repurposed to repave the parking lot by the soccer fields in another area of the park, in order to defray costs and prevent materials from ending up in a landfill - minimizing further environmental impact. Soil removed as part of the stream corridor restoration project may be available for use throughout the full distance of the project. *See attached site plan *Please note the revised estimate from R. Keating & Sons Excavating, Inc. no longer shows the removable pipe bollards (\$2,550) and cell-tek grid, infill, stone, and topsoil (\$53,000) since it was determined that emergency vehicle access was no longer necessary from this entrance. There will be an additional cost of \$2,000 - \$3,000 for paver stone on top of the revised estimate from Keating, bringing the total estimated cost of the project to \$21,696.*

D. Why it is important to fund this now

The pedestrian walkway will connect to a townhouse complex proposed off Walnut Road. Future residents from that development will be able to walk from their neighborhood, through Anson B. Nixon Park, and into the Borough of Kennett Square. It will also connect to the proposed sidewalk along Walnut Road as part of the "Kennett Area Safer Transportation Routes" project, funded by the transportation alternative set-aside through PennDOT and scheduled for construction later this year or early next year. The completion of this new trailway in the park would coincide with that in spring of 2021.

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

The Borough of Kennett Square supports this project. A grant from the E. Kneale Dockstader Foundation is being used toward this project. While not specifically part of this project, the contemplation garden located adjacent to the walking trail described above will be supported by Kacie's Cause and Longwood Rotary. Kacie's Cause is a non-profit organization devoted to preventing drug abuse and supporting families who have been impacted by drug abuse.

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

Pedestrians walking from the nearby YMCA, Kennett Library, and other Borough locations will easily use the Park via this new entrance. This roadway crosses over a major tributary of the Creek. 4,400 linear feet of stream and tributaries flow through the Park, as measured for the stream restoration project currently underway. Removing blacktop and increasing the pervious surface will increase groundwater infiltration, contribute to stream base flow, and improve water quality. The expanded wooded landscape will naturally enhance soil condition. The health of the Red Clay Creek will be enhanced in the long term by less runoff and greater groundwater infiltration.

4. How impact and results will be demonstrated

While quantifiable units of this project cannot be measured, the former entrance road lies directly over a significant tributary of the Red Clay Creek. Removing 8,860 feet of blacktop will significantly reduce runoff into the creek. As the existing blacktop road slopes down from Walnut Road, this runoff is substantial, carrying debris, automotive residue, and other elements harmful to the water quality. A cleaner Red Clay Creek will be a benefit for the environment and water quality throughout the watershed. This project provides additional opportunities to enhance the Park with a new contemplation garden - more open green space for our visitors that was not possible with the former adjacent roadway.

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!***