

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

For more information, please contact Stephenie Stevens, Grants and Outreach Manager at the Chester County Community Foundation at 610-696-0501 or steph@chescocf.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:

Contact Information:

Organization Name: **Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens**
Address: **631 Berwyn Baptist Road**
Devon, PA 19333
Phone: **610-647-8870 x 114**

Contact Name: **Stephanie Kuniholm**
Contact Title: **Director of**
External Relations
Contact E-mail: **stephanie@jenkinsarboretum.org**

Web Address: **jenkinsarboretum.org**

Year Incorporated: **1976**

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: **2019** Amt Rec'd: **\$3,000** (2) Year: **2007** Amt. Rec'd **\$2,000**
(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*): **Chester County and the Greater Philadelphia region.**

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served: **Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens welcomes 70,000+ visitors to the gardens and 1,000+ program participants each year.**

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: **Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens is one of the region's great horticultural and environmental assets. As a botanical garden, Jenkins maintains a collection of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and ferns in a tranquil, naturalistic landscape. In addition, Jenkins engages the community through educational programs for people of all ages.**

Annual Budget \$1,191,457 (2020)	10.5 Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
83 % of budget for program expenses	21 Board Volunteers
10 % of budget for administrative expenses	42 Active Non-Board Volunteers
7 % of budget for fundraising expenses	20,000 Volunteer Hours Annually
<i>100 % total</i>	

Top 3-5 funding sources: **Virginia Cretella Mars Foundation, Pine Tree Foundation, The Arcadia Foundation, Pamela Joy Jensen**

Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested: **\$2,500**

Description of Grant Purpose: **Conservation Woodlands Project**

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GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE**

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

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens is a community-supported, 501(c)(3) botanical garden in Devon, PA. We are open to visitors every single day of the year and have always been free of an admission fee. The gardens opened to the public in 1976 and have since grown to welcome more than 70,000 visitors annually.

In addition to the 12 acres of garden open to the public, Jenkins maintains an additional 20 acres of forest known as the Conservation Woodlands. This portion of Jenkins is being developed and maintained as the site of future garden expansion. The Conservation Woodlands will offer visitors the opportunity to hike through restored Pennsylvania forest while enjoying plantings of native woodland species. With past help from the Miller Fund and other donors, this section of the Arboretum has recently been fenced to prevent damage from deer.

2. Funding Request

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens humbly requests a grant in the amount of \$2,500 from the Marjorie I. and Arthur P. Miller Fund in support of our ongoing Conservation Woodlands Project. This funding would allow our horticulture staff to continue restoring this site for future expansion, offering visitors a chance to hike through a healthy Chester County forest free from invasive plants and the pressures of deer herbivory. More specifically, this funding would be expended on activities and equipment such as:

- Two volunteer "Hort. Blitz" days in 2022. Our "Hort. Blitz" days are half-day opportunities for community members to work in the Conservation Woodlands alongside horticulture staff to accomplish a large-scale project such as planting trees and shrubs or invasive plant removal.
- Purchase of native trees and shrubs for replanting the Conservation Woodlands.
- Tools and materials for general upkeep of the Conservation Woodlands which could include fence maintenance, safety pruning of trees, invasive plant species removal, or managing the growth of regenerating vegetation and young trees.

A. Specific Chester County needs and issues addressed

We are increasingly aware of the benefits of spending time in nature, and Jenkins provides an opportunity for people from all walks of life to access an approachable natural space in their own community. By restoring the Conservation Woodlands and opening to the public, Jenkins will offer expanded space for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the restorative qualities of being immersed in a thriving forest.

B. Project impact

A grant from the Miller Fund would allow Jenkins to continue working towards our goal of opening the Conservation Woodlands to the public. It is a large-scale project that will take several years to complete, so any funding along the way will move us closer to realizing our goal. Once complete, this project will double the amount of garden open to the public.

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

Expansion of the public gardens into the Conservation Woodlands section of Jenkins is in direct fulfillment of our founder's vision to, "preserve natural tranquil woodlands for community enjoyment." Extending the gardens would allow for expanded visitor opportunities to enjoy and connect with nature. While this is an ongoing project, funding from the Miller Fund would allow us to take critical steps towards the goal of expanding the public portion of the garden.

D. Why it is important to fund this now

With help from the Millers, the Conservation Woodlands were fully fenced in 2021 to prevent damage from deer and to allow the forest understory to regrow. Now that the fence is complete, this is the perfect time to work with volunteers to remove invasive plants and replace with native trees and shrubs. Planting now will allow time for trees and shrubs to become established before this area is open to the public for regular visitation.

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

The challenge component of this grant will be met through volunteer support of our Volunteer Hort. Blitz days and our ongoing volunteer crew working in the Conservation Woodlands. In addition to volunteer support, we hope to obtain in-kind services from a professional arborist to help maintain the canopy in the Conservation Woodlands.

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

Although this is an ongoing project, we expect to offer at least two volunteer "Hort. Blitz" days in 2022 along with regularly dedicated staff and volunteer time working in the Conservation Woodlands. By the end of 2022, we expect to have made significant progress in the removal of invasive plant species and will have replanted those areas with native trees and shrubs. This will lay the groundwork for planning trails and opening this area to the public.

4. How impact and results will be demonstrated

A written report along with photos will be provided at the end of 2022 to demonstrate the impact of this grant. Additionally, we would be honored to take the Millers on a tour of the Woodlands to demonstrate the impact of their philanthropy first-hand.