

**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 Stephenie Stevens, Grants Director and Outreach Officer at the Chester County Community Foundation at 610-696-0501 or [steph@chescofc.org](mailto:steph@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](http://www.chescocf.org) to obtain an electronic version of this application.***

**Date: Sept 14, 2022**

### **Contact Information:**

Organization Name: Willistown Conservation Trust  
Address: 925 Providence Road  
Newtown Square, PA 19073  
Phone: 610-353-2562  
Web Address: [www.wctrust.org](http://www.wctrust.org)

Contact Name: Andrew Kirkpatrick  
Contact Title: Director of  
Stewardship  
Contact E-mail: [ajk@wctrust.org](mailto:ajk@wctrust.org)  
Fax:  
Year Incorporated: 1996

***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: \_\_\_\_\_ 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***): Willistown Township, Malvern Borough, East Goshen Township

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served: We have 3,000 visitors at our preserves, educational programs, and outreach events throughout the year. We serve schoolchildren, high school students, and college students. Local residents come to enjoy our nature preserves and educational and outreach events.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to preserve and manage the open land, rural character, scenic, recreational, historic, agricultural, and natural resources of the Willistown area and nearby communities, and to share these unique resources with people of all ages and backgrounds to inspire, educate and develop a lifelong commitment to the land and the natural world.

Organization Description: Willistown Conservation Trust is a 501c3 non-profit land trust. We have conservation easements protecting 2831 acres of land in the Ridley, Crum, and Darby Watersheds. We have a full time professional staff serving in six main categories of programs and services: Land Protection; Bird Conservation; Habitat Restoration; Community Farm; Watershed Protection and Education and Community Outreach. We operate four nature preserves and run a community supported agriculture program.

Annual Budget \$2,450,977 \_\_\_\_\_ \_18\_\_\_\_\_ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff  
\_11\_\_\_\_\_ % of budget for program expenses \_\_\_\_\_22\_\_\_\_\_ # of Board Volunteers  
\_69\_\_\_\_\_ % of budget for administrative expenses \_405\_\_\_\_\_ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
\_20\_\_\_\_\_ % of budget for fundraising expenses \_4000\_\_\_\_\_ # of Volunteer Hours  
*100 % total*

Top 3-5 funding sources: Contributions and grants, program service revenue, investment income.

***Proposal Information:***

Grant Amount Requested: \$\_2,500 Description of Grant Purpose: Habitat Restoration

**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**

Using the three watersheds as an organizing principle, the Trust program focal area encompasses 28,000 acres in Chester County and portions of Delaware County, and is located approximately 20 miles west of Philadelphia. Despite tremendous growth pressures that have converted many neighboring communities into vast tracts of sprawl development, the Willistown Conservation Trust program area remains largely an oasis of green space. The Trust has worked with the community and local landowners to protect many vulnerable farms and other ecologically important land areas: more than 7,200 acres have been preserved in the Willistown area to date. Most of this land has been protected through the donation of conservation easements by more than 120 local landowners. With the leadership of the Trust, the community conservation ethic has evolved and strengthened over the years.

Approximately 4,000 acres in the Trust's focal area remain vulnerable to development. It is our highest priority to work toward permanent preservation of these remaining lands. Land protection begins with a willing landowner who agrees to permanently protect their land from development, while retaining ownership of the land. With highly qualified staff and technical support from our partners in the community, the Trust identifies strategic properties, works with landowners, prepares proposals, and negotiates agreements to protect those lands. Once the land is protected by a conservation easement, the Trust is legally bound to monitor and enforce compliance with the agreement, in perpetuity. In addition to our land protection efforts, the Trust is also engaged in active stewardship, research, and education around our key program areas: Bird Conservation; Community Farm and Agroecology Studies; Watershed Protection; and Habitat Restoration. Through collaborations with local universities, including the University of Pennsylvania and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, we seek to deepen our understanding of the scientific implications of our land protection efforts. The overall goal being to educate ourselves and our community about why land protection is critical for native plant and wildlife species, and its impact on the human population that lives in this region.

**2. Funding request:**

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

This project provides an educational demonstration area of the importance of native hedgerow plant species and their importance to bird species. Hedgerows in Chester

County are often degraded and filled with invasive plant species. By offering a native plant hedgerow demonstration area, we can educate the community about the importance of this habitat and how to restore it on private properties.

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

Aside from the educational opportunities afforded by this restoration project, the demonstration area will serve as critical habitat to resident and migratory bird species. Rushton Woods Preserve is home to the Trust's Bird Conservation Program and we have data from the last 10 years showing the importance of the preserve as habitat for birds. By restoring this section of hedgerow, we can continue to implement our master plan. In conjunction with this restoration project, we have been awarded \$50,000 in grant funding to install an ADA universal access path adjacent to the hedgerow restoration project. This demonstration area will be accessible to all visitors to the preserve and demonstrate the habitat matrix of farm, field, and hedgerow that is so characteristic of Chester County.

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

We are already in the design phase of the ADA path with Chester Valley Engineers. Plant selection and design will be coordinated between our stewardship and bird conservation departments. We will hire a contractor to perform invasive plant removals. We will work with volunteers for the restoration planting.

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

It is important to fund this project now because we have already received the grant funding to construct the ADA path, which will be completed this fall. With this additional funding, we will be able to extend the amount of restoration work that we have planned. We will be able to plant more trees and shrubs and restore a larger section of the hedgerow.

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

As previously stated, we have already been awarded \$50,000 in grant funding from Chester County and the PA DCNR for the ADA path and partial hedgerow restoration project.

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

The ADA path will be constructed in November 2022. Once the trail is constructed, we will plant the following spring. The new demonstration area will support our education and outreach portion of our mission to engage the public in native habitat restoration and promoting good stewardship practices in the community.

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

The impact of this project will be demonstrated through monitoring of bird species in the hedgerow and compare it to existing data to determine the quality of the habitat improvement. We will also measure the number of visitors that attend outreach events centered on the hedgerow restoration including volunteers for the plant installation.

## 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)

Planting Budget			
Native shrubs	50	\$40.00	\$2,000.00
Native Trees	10	\$50.00	\$500.00
Total			\$2,500.00

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

Please visit our website at [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org) to obtain an electronic version of this application. E-mail applications are strongly encouraged.

***Please send completed applications to:  
[grants@chescocf.org](mailto:grants@chescocf.org)  
(610) 696-8045  
THANK YOU!***