

GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

- The Chester County Community Foundation **connects people who care with the causes that matter**, so their philanthropy makes a difference **Now & Forever**.
 - We are a **collection of Field of Interest & Donor Advised Funds** with **\$5M + granted annually** to nonprofits in Chester County & beyond.
 - **99%** of our grants are made by our generous Fund Advisors, who make grant decisions all year.

Nonprofits can submit proposals for 2 types of grants:

Field of Interest & Donor Advised Funds (No Deadline)	Fund for Chester County Capacity Building Grants (Due 9/15)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Grants focus on Chester County causes & issues, but are not limited to Chester County. ◇ Charitable nonprofits working in all fields of interest are considered for grant awards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - arts, culture & heritage - community improvement - education - environment - health - human services - religion ◇ General operating grants are encouraged. Nonprofits should be specific about their mission, goals, & measurable outcomes. ◇ Proposals can be submitted anytime all year. ◇ Grant decisions are made intermittently all year, as Fund Advisors desire. ◇ Grant awards typically range from \$500-\$7,500. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ For eligibility in this grant program, nonprofits must be located in & serve Chester County. ◇ Nonprofits budgets must be \$500,000 or less. ◇ The goal of capacity building grantmaking is to strengthen the effectiveness of NPO's serving the Chester County region, in areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mission, Vision & Strategy ○ Governance & Leadership ○ Partnerships & Collaborations ○ Operations & Technology ○ Fundraising, Development & Marketing ◇ Proposals must be submitted by September 15 to be eligible for consideration. ◇ Grant awards typically range from \$500-\$5,000, with monies distributed by February.

- Use this form @ www.chescocf.org to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
- **Email proposals to grants@chescocf.org**
- Proposals are considered "complete" when CCCF has **confirmed** receipt of the **Grant Proposal Summary Sheet, Narrative & Attachments**.
- Proposals are shared electronically and online with Fund Advisors, Donors & Grant Panels.
- Per IRS Regulations, applicants **must be** charitable, tax exempt organizations with 501(c)(3) certification & **cannot** be individuals.

Please contact Grants Administrator **Kevin Baffa** at **(610)-696-8211** or grants@chescocf.org with any questions.

**I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET**

Contact Information

Organization Name:	ED Name: Bill Gladden
French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust	ED E-mail: bgladden@frenchandpickering.org
Address: P.O. Box 288, 4030 S. Whitehorse Road	Board Chair: Jen Trachtman
Devault, PA 19460	Board Chair Approval: X
Website: www.frenchandpickering.org	Primary Contact Name: Kersten Appler
Year Incorporated: 1967	Contact E-mail: kappler@frenchandpickering.org
FEIN: 23-6429095	Phone: (610) 933-7577 ext. 112

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arts, Culture & Humanities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environment/Animal Welfare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion

Mission: The mission of French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust is to preserve, steward, and connect people to the land in northern Chester County.

Geographic Area Served: The geographic impact of French & Picking Creeks Conservation Trust is vast. By protecting high-value watersheds including the Great Marsh, French Creek, Pickering Creek and the Schuylkill River, the direct impact of our work reaches from the Schuylkill Highlands to as far south as Wilmington, Delaware.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: While all people residing in northern Chester County are the organization's direct target population, many more enjoy the benefits of land preservation, stewardship, and programming. Chester County is a recreational, historic, and cultural destination for people residing in neighboring counties and the natural resources transcend political boundaries. French & Pickering continues to remain locally focused while reaching out to a broader base within a neighbor based local approach. Over 15 million people downstream benefit from our work.

Annual Budget \$942,023

77 % of budget for program expenses	<u>7.5</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
12 % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>22</u> # of Board Volunteers
11 % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>42</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
	<u>400</u> # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources: William Penn Foundation, Berry Foundation, Blue Sky Family Foundation

Is this grant proposal for: General Operating X

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$10,000

Proposal Summary: French & Pickering is seeking grant funding to support General Operations. Operating support is critical to French & Pickering's work to secure conservation easements, protect watersheds, develop trail networks, manage public preserves, defend easements, deliver programs and educational activities, work towards a sustainable financial base, and promote an ethic of land stewardship within the community.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

1. NONPROFIT'S HISTORY, GOALS, KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & DISTINCTIVENESS

History

French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust was founded in 1967 by Sam and Eleanor Morris. The organization is recognized as a land conservation leader and has protected over 13,500 acres of farms, fields, forests and park lands through collaboration with individual landowners, local, county and state governments, and partner conservation organizations. French & Pickering works to ensure land is preserved within the northern Chester County watersheds, which contain some of the most scenic and environmentally sensitive lands in Pennsylvania.

Goals

Land Preservation and Stewardship, Community Engagement, Environmental Education, Public Access, Sustainability, Physical and Mental Health through Nature, Water Quality Improvements, Air Quality Improvements, Wildlife habitat.

Key Achievements

Founded in 1967, French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust has had many land preservation achievements including:

- * The permanent protection of more than 13,500 acres of agricultural, natural, and park lands through donated and purchased conservation easements and public/private partnerships including additions to the State Game Lands, Warwick County Park, Brightside Farm Park (Charlestown Township) and French Creek State Park.
- * Establishment of Greenways and more than 10 miles of trail right of ways along the French and Pickering Creeks.
- * The monitoring and advocacy for sound stewardship practices on all lands protected by French & Pickering conservation easements.
- * Accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance, a designation awarded only to land trusts meeting the highest national standards for excellence and conservation permanence.

To help meet the increased demand for public access during the Covid-19 pandemic, French & Pickering expanded and enhanced public access to lands that it owns. This increased public access was made possible in part with funding administered by the Community Foundation and the Chester County Commissioners. Since then, the organization has maintained a robust educational program and consistently improved the Preserves through enhanced trail networks. Several of the milestones along the way include:

- * In September of 2019, French & Pickering opened its first publicly accessible preserve, the Thomas P. Bentley Nature Preserve. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, French & Pickering opened a second 550 acre preserve, the Great Marsh Preserve in 2020 and tripled the parking capacity in 2021.
- * In 2020 French & Pickering transitioned Third Thursday Talks program to an online platform. These programs highlight locally- relevant environmental topics such as Owls, bird migrations, and invasive pests. Attendance regularly exceeds 100 with the most popular (so far) at 332.

* In 2022, French & Pickering unearthed four Revolutionary War Wea Cannons on the Thomas P. Bentley Nature Preserve. The organization is working towards interpretive signage and permanent structure to house the cannons on the publicly accessible Preserve.

Distinctiveness

French & Pickering is the only community-based land trust working exclusively in northern Chester County and serves the public by preserving and restoring land, providing public access, creating awareness and appreciation of nature, and fostering a sense of community through lectures and programs.

In addition to increased visitation and program participation, land development pressures have increased in recent years. While higher density living and less property maintenance was becoming popular, the pandemic was a catalyst for renewed interest in larger residences (to provide work at home opportunities), in less populated areas, with ready access to natural areas, trails and general outdoor recreational opportunities. In fact, pressure to develop unreserved lands is increasing while complex finances that create delays and challenges to completing conservation easement transactions are also on the rise. In response, French & Pickering is doing more owner outreach and engagement and working hard to identify funds for additional preservation staff.

2. FUNDING REQUEST

Key Initiatives

Initiative I: Land Preservation and Stewardship

- Strategic and focused land preservation projects. French & Pickering is performing an inventory of unreserved lands within 100 feet of French Creek and Pickering Creek, to generate a list of top 40 preservation priorities.
- Generate a diverse, consistent, robust volunteer network and meet with townships to discuss preservation priorities.
- Increase trails with public access. With over 4 miles of publicly accessible trails under management, additional funds will enable us to expand that network and improve maintenance of existing trails as they experience unprecedented popularity.
- Monitor and defend preserved lands. We continue to invest time and money holding up our responsibility to ensure the resources landowners have entrusted us to preserve remain out of harm's way.

Initiative II: Community Engagement

- Expand the number and diversity of people engaged with the organization and the land.
- Build community and connections among easement owners, donors, and French & Pickering.
- Connect community partners to each other and to our mission.
- Responsibly re-engage volunteers to provide hands on opportunities for land management.

Specific Needs and Issues to be Addressed

Solutions for Land

- Preserve the most *ecologically sensitive land*.
- Identify and partner with willing landowners to create easements and continue to monitor 7,754 acres.
- Ecologically steward the *889 acres owned by French & Pickering* and connect people to land.

Solutions for Our Water

- Maintain the purity of the water 54,000 people depend on (and hundreds of thousands more downstream).
- Add to over 23,490 feet of creek-side property already protected.

Why it is Important to Fund this Now

Impending development:

- Record homebuilding is driving commercial demand for exploitable open space.
- Attempts to circumvent zoning, grab open space, and reduce set-asides is escalating.
- 11,735 new households **projected in French & Pickering area by 2025...** *will we preserve our special places?*

Challenges to Our Water

- Growth in the wrong places would threaten 90% of residents who drink well water and all of us who depend on clean water.
- Requires constant vigilance to produce downstream water cleaner than from headlands.

Challenges our People Face

- Stewardship-*All* easements require reporting, monitoring, and funder coordination *annually, and the relationship with landowners is critical*. Every easement added and new owner requires more staff time.
- ***It now costs 10 times as much, takes 3 times as long*** and requires twice the paperwork to execute an easement as it did just a decade ago. With sufficient operating funds, our generous public partners have awarded French & Pickering millions of dollars to secure permanent preservation in local communities throughout northern Chester County.

How We Measure Impact

- Number of acres preserved each year.
- Length of stream frontage protected.
- Number of trail miles open to the public.
- Water quality assessments.
- Number of individuals served in educational programs and outreach.
- Funding leveraged for conservation easement and fee land purchases.
- Participants reached through programs (virtual and in person)

III. ATTACHMENTS

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 & financial statement, audited if available
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year & 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.