

**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@chescof.org](mailto:grants@chescof.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@chescof.org](mailto:steph@chescof.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:**

**Contact Information:**

Organization Name: French & Pickering Creeks Cons. Trust  
Address: P.O. Box 288  
Devault, PA 19432  
Contact E-mail: [bgladden@frenchandpickering.org](mailto:bgladden@frenchandpickering.org)  
Web Address: <https://frenchandpickering.org/>

Contact Name: Bill Gladden  
Contact Title: Executive Director  
Phone: (610) 933-7577 ext. 116  
Year Incorporated: 1967

**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 2019 Amt Rec'd: \$\$2,500

**Organizational Information:**

Geographic Area Served (*If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County municipalities served*): North Coventry, South Coventry, East Coventry, East Vincent, Spring City, East Pikeland, Phoenixville, Schuylkill, Charlestown, West Pikeland, West Vincent, East Nantmeal, Warwick, Elverson, West Nantmeal, Upper Uwchlan

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served: 110,567 population in immediate service geography. Over 1.3 million engagements via social media. Expanded programming through online zoom programs on mission- related topics reached roughly 1,000. We are expanding the number of people served at preserves through additional trails and improvements. We are also working to introduce underserved populations to nature via scheduled guided visits.

Mission Statement: *To preserve, steward, and connect people to the land in northern Chester County.*

Organization Description: *French & Pickering Creeks Conservation is a community-based nonprofit conservation organization. Founded by Sam and Eleanor Morris in 1967, the organization has: ensured the permanent protection of more than 13,500 acres of farms, forests, fields, parks and preserves; created greenways and trails along French & Pickering Creeks (and is beginning to establish a trail network on land it owns and manages); and continues to monitor and defend all protected lands.*

Annual Budget \$ \$942,023

7.5 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

77 % of budget for program expenses

12 % of budget for administrative expenses

11 % of budget for fundraising expenses

100 % total

22 # of Board Volunteers

42 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

400 # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources: *William Penn Foundation, Archie W. and Grace Berry Foundation, Allerton Foundation.*

**Proposal Information:**

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

Description of Grant Purpose: **Construction of Cannon Shelter**

**MARJORIE L. AND ARTHUR P. MILLER FUND  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE**

**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 unpreserved 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:**

In 2022, French & Pickering unearthed four Revolutionary War Cannons on the Thomas P. Bentley Nature Preserve. The organization is working towards interpretive signage and a permanent structure to house the cannons on the publicly accessible Preserve so that these historic treasures may be admired and accessible to all in the community. Without this cannon shelter, French & Pickering cannot make the cannons available for display.

The shelter will make our shared history come alive for the public, young and old. By displaying a cannon at the preserve, it offers a gateway to conservation to an audience that would not otherwise connect to the land relative to conservation. The discovery of the cannons which were made at the preserve and found on the preserve has helped French & Pickering to tell the story of land use over time, the importance of sustainable forest management (to fuel the furnaces and now to store carbon, clean the air, hold soil and clean the water), and how important the land is to our country in the past, currently, and for future generations – just in different ways. We hope that providing this attraction at the preserve will engage more people with conservation helping to expand the connection with nature to a new audience.

A detailed quote was received for the construction of the Cannon Shelter, outlining how the challenge portion of the project would be met and explaining the remaining work that would be needed, totaling \$23,265 (please see attached proposal and drawings).

French & Pickering is committed to displaying a cannon for the public as soon as possible within the 2023 calendar year and your support would enable the project to move forward with greater efficacy.

At such time that the Cannon Shelter has been completed and the cannons relocated, a ribbon cutting ceremony will take place, marking the end of the project.

***Please send completed applications to:***

***[grants@chescocf.org](mailto:grants@chescocf.org)***

***(610) 696-8045***

***THANK YOU!***