

**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: 9/14/2023

Contact Information:

Organization Name: **Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens**
Address: **631 Berwyn Baptist Road**
Devon, PA 19333

Contact Name: **Stephanie Kuniholm**
Contact Title: **Dir. Of External Relations**
Contact E-mail:

stephanie@jenkinsarboretum.org

Phone: **(610) 647-8870 ext. 114**

Fax: **N/A**

Web Address: **www.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: 2022	Amt Rec'd: \$2,000	(2) Year: 2021	Amt. Rec'd \$3,000
(3) Year: 2019	Amt Rec'd: \$3,000	(4) Year: 2007	Amt. Rec'd \$2,000

Organizational Information:

Geographic Area Served (*If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County municipalities served*): **Greater Philadelphia Region**

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served: **Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens welcomes more than 67,000 visitors and more than 3,000 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: **Open daily with no cost of admission, Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens provides a uniquely accessible natural space in an area of dense suburban development. We garden with our ecosystem in mind, elevating native plants with high ecological value and providing critical habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. In addition to displaying ecological stewardship in the gardens, we offer extensive public programming to connect the community to native plants and the natural world.**

Annual Budget **\$1,490,010**
65 % of budget for program expenses
19 % of budget for administrative expenses
16 % of budget for fundraising expenses
100 % total

10.5 Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
21 Board Volunteers
52 Active Non-Board Volunteers
20,000 Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources: Bill and Sharon Schwarze, Pamela Joy Jensen, Susan and Mark Mintun, 25th Century Foundation, Virginia Cretella Mars Foundation

Proposal Information:

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

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

**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

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens serves as the steward of 48 acres of natural woodlands in an area of dense residential and commercial development. The gardens pair ornamental design with ecological value, celebrating native plants as functional and beautiful solutions to challenging site conditions and a changing climate. We garden in partnership with nature, providing critical habitat for pollinators, nesting and migratory birds, and other wildlife. By building connections with the natural world at Jenkins, our visitors are inspired to become better stewards of their own lands and resources.

The Arboretum acts as a hub for the community to learn about and explore topics related to ecological horticulture, climate resiliency, and environmental art. One prevalent topic we often discuss is how to mitigate stormwater issues. In the last year, we partnered with Tredyffrin Township to secure funding for several large-scale projects that will result in a reduction of stormwater runoff leaving our site. This initiative serves as a powerful public demonstration of both best management practices and of how members of a community can work together to address mutual concerns.

The restoration of our Conservation Woodlands – a site of 20 acres of forested land – will further reduce stormwater runoff in a stream corridor notorious for flash flooding. Thanks to the support of the Miller Fund and other donors, we have continued adding beneficial native plants in areas once overgrown by invasive plant species. We are heartened by early signs of regeneration now that the area is fenced off from deer damage. We look forward to one day opening the area to the public so that visitors can experience the wonder and beauty of a restored Pennsylvania forest.

2. Funding request:

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens respectfully requests a grant in the amount of \$2,500 from the Marjorie L. and Arthur P. Miller Fund in support of our Conservation Woodlands Project. If

granted, funding would support our continued efforts to restore and preserve 20 acres of forest undamaged by invasive plants and the pressures of deer herbivory. Specifically, funding would be reserved for activities and equipment including:

- Two volunteer “Hort. Blitz” days in 2024. These half-day events invite community members to work in the Conservation Woodlands alongside horticulture staff to accomplish a large-scale project such as planting trees and shrubs or removing invasive species.
- 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

Jenkins provides a safe and welcoming natural area for Chester County residents to connect with the landscape and one another. By restoring and opening the Conservation Woodlands to the public, visitors will enjoy expanded access to nature and will learn from the healthy, native, forested habitat that is modeled. In addition, a restored and robust woodlands will help to address the significant environmental issue of stormwater in our county, slowing down and soaking up water along a stream corridor notorious for flash floods.

B. Project impact

Once restored, the Conservation Woodlands will be made open to the public, doubling the amount of land for visitors to explore at Jenkins. In addition to the physical restoration of the site, the story of how our community worked together to reclaim this forested ecosystem will educate and inspire visitors within and beyond Chester County. In the meantime, the project continues to positively impact the health and resilience of our landscape and improves the Arboretum’s ability to serve as the lungs of our neighborhood. Additionally, hundreds of volunteers have contributed their time in the efforts to restore this forest. This project has given many volunteers a sense of pride and accomplishment in a project that betters the community.

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

Restoration of the Conservation Woodlands and expansion of our public gardens is in direct alignment with our founder’s vision to, “preserve natural tranquil woodlands for community enjoyment.” Access to the woodlands would double the size of the gardens and visitors’ opportunities to engage with nature.

D. Why it is important to fund this now

Our community is in desperate need of accessible greenspaces. This large-scale, multi-year project offers a solution, but requires consistent work and funding. The faster we can make progress on this project, the sooner we can consider opening this section of the garden to the public.

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

We will meet the challenge component of this grant through multiple channels of volunteer support, including the assistance of our weekly volunteers, corporate volunteer groups, and community volunteers welcomed during our twice-annual “Hort. Blitz” events. In addition to this 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

In 2024, we anticipate offering two volunteer “Hort. Blitz” days in addition to routine staff and volunteer work in the Conservation Woodlands. By the end of the year, we expect to have made significant strides replacing invasive plant species 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

We would be delighted to take the Millers on a tour of the Conservation Woodlands so they could see the impact of their generosity in action. We will also submit a written report with photographs at the end of 2024 highlighting the year’s progress.

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:
grants@chescocf.org
(610) 696-8045
THANK YOU!***