

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.

Proposals submitted by nonprofits are considered for 2 types of grants:

Field of Interest & Donor Advised Funds (No Deadline)

- ◇ 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. (I.e. arts, culture, & humanities; education; community improvement; environment; religion; health; & human services)
- ◇ **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**.

Fund for Chester County Capacity Building Grants (Due 9/13)

- ◇ 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 grants is to **strengthen the effectiveness of NPO's serving the region**, see page 4 for more details on the areas including:
 - Mission, Vision & Strategy
 - Governance & Leadership
 - Partnerships & Collaborations
 - Operations & Technology
 - Fundraising, Development & Marketing
- ◇ Proposals submitted between **July 1 - Sept. 13** are 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)-698-8211** or grants@chescocf.org with any questions.

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

One page only. This page will be shared electronically with Grant Panel Members & Fund Advisors.

*Note: If Philanthropy Network's Common Grant Application is used, CCCF's **Summary Sheet MUST accompany application.***

Date: May 28, 2024

Contact Information

Organization Name: Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation
Address: 704 Lisburn Road, Suite 102, Camp Hill, PA 17011
Phone: 717-236-7644
Website: <https://paparksandforests.org>
Year Incorporated: 1999
FEIN: 25-1859016

ED/CEO Name: Marci Mowery
ED/CEO E-mail: mmowery-ppff@pa.net
Board Chair Name: Tina Molski
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Marci Mowery
Primary Contact E-mail: mmowery-ppff@pa.net

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities Environment/Animal Welfare Education
 Health Human Services Religion

Mission: The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation's (PPFF) mission is to inspire stewardship of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

Geographic Area Served: Our organization serves all of Chester County as well as all of Pennsylvania.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: PPFF serves the entire population of Pennsylvania as well as the tens of thousands of out-of-state visitors to the commonwealth's state parks and forests. We annually serve more than 100,000 people through our programs, volunteering opportunities, and other activities.

Annual Budget \$ 562,000	4	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
95.4 % of budget for program expenses	14	# of Board Volunteers
3.3 % of budget for administrative expenses	3,402	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
1.3 % of budget for fundraising expenses	41,671	# of Volunteer Hours
<small>100 % total</small>		

Top 3-5 funding sources: PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Mellon Foundation, Individual donors

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building or General Operating ? NO

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

Mission, Vision & Strategy Governance & Leadership Partnerships & Collaborations
 Fundraising, Development & Marketing Technology Other: _____

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 6,000

Proposal Summary: The Welsh Baptist Church cemetery dates to the early 1700s and contains the graves and headstones of many of the earliest settlers, including the founders of the Welsh Baptist Meetinghouse, founders of London Britain Township, several veterans of the American Revolutionary War, and home to the legend of the ticking tomb; the boy who swallowed Mason's chronometer when Mason & Dixon were surveying the Mason/Dixon Line. The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is working with staff and volunteers from White Clay Creek Preserve State Park in Landenberg, Chester County, to preserve and restore grave markers within the historic cemetery.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

1. Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness

History

Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF) is the only statewide nonprofit organization that provides a voice for the Commonwealth's 124 state parks and 2.2 million acres of forest land. With PPFF, citizens can donate or bequeath money to state parks and forests, become active and involved volunteers in the park and forest system, and find some fun and educational opportunities. PPFF's status as a registered charity allows chapter friends groups to operate on our public lands for the benefit of everyone.

Goals

PPFF's mission is to inspire stewardship of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests. Our vision is to be the trusted voice and advocate to sustain and enhance Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

PPFF began in 1999 and has grown the organization to include 47 friends groups, or chapters, functioning under our nonprofit umbrella. These chapters are geographically dispersed throughout the Commonwealth. These local, public-private partnerships build bridges between the community and their neighboring state parks and forests, take on tasks and projects that would not otherwise be accomplished, and engage the public in active recreation and the opportunity to contribute to the places they know are important.

In addition to our support of volunteer friends groups, we strive to improve the visitor experience through inclusive recreation, events, habitat protection, promotion of parks and forests as tools for improving human health, volunteer experiences and opportunities, improvements and expansion of parks and forests infrastructure, and by being a voice for parks and forests.

We engage with the public through organized events, volunteer opportunities, outreach, and infrastructure improvements (such as our work to improve access for those with disabilities), and through communication pieces and publications.

Current Programs and Key Achievements

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation has a strong history of success to date. While small in staff, we are mighty in our programming. A summary of our work can be found below.

- **Habitat Protection**—habitat can be compromised through many different human and natural conditions—from storm incidences to over-use. PPFF accomplishes such projects as invasive species removal, native tree plantings, rare ecosystem protection, native demonstration gardens, and the training of stewards to ensure these special lands remain special.
- **Safety first**—PPFF work enables such projects as radios and bicycles for rangers, repairs to warming huts, trail signage, lifeguard training and equipment, dock improvements, and safety fencing.
- **Communication**—Building a constituency for parks and forests is critical for protecting, funding, and conserving these assets for future generations. PPFF creates fact sheets (health, quality, outdoor pursuits, etc.), websites, e-newsletters, welcome kits, children's newspaper, videos, and the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation Passport.
- **Accessibility**—PPFF works to ensure a place and experience for everyone in the outdoors. This includes training staff and volunteers on accessible recreation; placing adaptive equipment such as accessible

docks, piers and beach wheelchairs; providing transportation scholarships; providing equipment loans and basic recreation education; interpreting materials, and more.

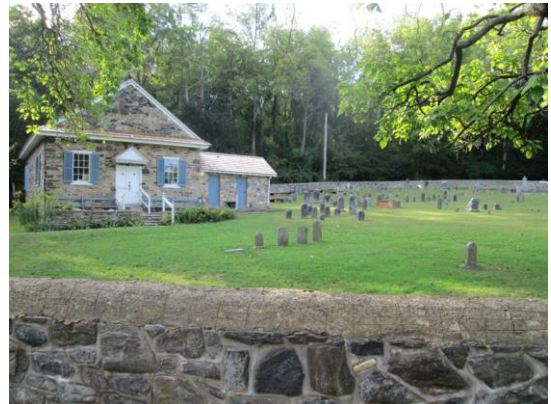
- Volunteerism—Volunteers are the backbone of building, maintaining, and conserving our parks and forests. In 2023, we coordinated more than \$1 million in volunteer labor for our state parks and forests.
- Play—A simple playground provides a child with a tool to not only build imagination, but engage in decision-making, develop problem-solving and leadership skills, and build life-long learning habits.
- Education—Give a man a fish, and he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he eats for a lifetime. Supporting education programs such as teacher workshops, community education, campfire programs, mural projects, and recreation skills development ensures a legacy of conservationists. In 2023, more than 5,000 students participated in PPF-funded programs.
- Recreation—Recreational needs constantly change—and we work on projects large and small. Large, such as a soon to be dedicated biker campground at Ohioyle State Park or the new accessible beach at Gifford Pinchot State Park.
- Cultural Preservation—conserving the history that defines the legacy of state parks and forests.

We will continue to work on all these types of projects throughout the year and look for new ways to improve the experiences of visitors to Pennsylvania’s state parks and forests for generations to come! Learn more about our work at <https://paparksandforests.org>.

2. Funding request

The 17002-era Welsh Baptist Church cemetery, located within what is now White Clay Creek Preserve State Park, is historically significant in many ways. The graves include those of John Evans Jr. and Sr., who both played critical roles in the development of the Welsh Baptist community. These men, who donated this land and meeting house to the community, are buried in this cemetery along with approximately 300 others who died in the 18th and 19th centuries. Information on the gravestone markers in the cemetery provides a historical record of the names of those who settled, governed, prospered, worshiped, and developed this area. The history includes stories of Welsh Baptist migration and settlement, families working, forming London Britain Township, finding religious freedom, and the London Tract Meeting House place of worship. In addition, the Welsh Baptist Historic District is recognized as eligible for National Historic Recognition. A review of the Historic Resource Survey Form for the Welsh Baptist Historic District is a good reference for one to fully understand why cemetery is important. It states that, “The London Tract Baptist Meeting House (LTBMH) is the oldest Baptist house of worship in North America. Some earlier Baptist meeting houses remain in England from the years 1690 to 1725, so they pre-date [this cemetery]. The [cemetery] is the last survivor of a church plan used by Baptists in colonial North America.”

Other notable gravestones mark the burial plots for several veterans, marked with flags and memorial plaques (source: “Revolutionary War participants of the Welsh Baptist Historic District of the WCCP” by Susan Moon). Another famous story associated with the cemetery is that of the “Ticking Time Bomb,” i.e., the boy who swallowed Mason’s chronometer when Mason & Dixon were surveying the Mason/Dixon Line. He is buried in the cemetery too, and is a focal point for many visitors.



In 1984, when the state park lands were transferred from the DuPont Company to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the transfer did not initially include the London Tract Meeting House, London Tract Cemetery, or Sexton House. At a later date, DCNR obtained title to these Welsh Baptist properties. Because of the dwindling membership, the Welsh Baptist Board elected to transfer title of the London Tract Welsh Baptist property to DCNR. Currently, cemetery ground maintenance is performed by park maintenance staff or by volunteers under the direction of the park. This work has included tree removal from an adjacent parking lot, stone fence/wall repair around the cemetery, and other work that is generally characterized as stabilization, preservation, or restoration related, using grant funds provided through the park's Friends Group and the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation.

The cemetery is open to any park visitors and thankfully vandalism has not been an issue since DCNR took over ownership and maintenance of the property. In fact, the cemetery has always been a local attraction. For example, the history of the Welsh Baptist Historic District & Mason Dixon Line was a featured presentation in the Chester County sponsored Town Tours & Village Walks in 2021. Visitor turnout for the historic tour filled the program's time slots and exceeded expectations, especially when considering that COVID restrictions remained in place in many areas. The cemetery was one of seven stops on the walking tour that discussed local history, and the program was well received.

Recently, the park reached out to a preservation specialist (Roth Cemetery Services) to examine the state of the grave markers within the cemetery and create a plan for potential restoration work. This specialist prepared a restoration plan for 100 of the 235 grave markers within the cemetery and divided his proposal into two phases, with the first part being the markers in the worst condition, which will be addressed in part through this grant proposal. Those in the most serious condition and/or likely to fall over will be addressed first. Roth has conducted work at hundreds of cemeteries and conserved thousands of monuments. They use industry-leading materials and practices for their repairs and cleaning. For the headstones that need to be filled or patched, they will use a lime mortar mix material or Jahn Restoration Mortars. In addition, when they need to level, plumb, or straighten, they will use modified crushed stone underneath the base or around the tablet headstones to provide drainage and a level surface. All work will be done to preserve the historical integrity of the site while protecting those interred there.

One of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation's goals is to preserve culturally and historically significant places and structures within our state parks and forests. We are therefore working with staff and volunteers from White Clay Creek Preserve State Park in Landenberg, Chester County, to seek funds to preserve and restore as many grave markers within the historic cemetery as possible. This restoration work will protect these historic headstones so that future generations can continue to learn about the importance of the Welsh Baptist community to this part of the state, to pay their respects to the veterans interred in the cemetery, and to learn more about unique pre-Revolutionary War stories like the "ticking time bomb." Once these headstones weather away, fall and crack, or are otherwise irreparably harmed, the chance to repair them and continue to tell the stories goes away. Therefore, we look forward to the possibility of working with the Chester County Community Foundation to take the next step in restoring some of the most in-need headstones within this historic cemetery.

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. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why.
- Use this form @ www.chescof.org to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
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