



**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 13, 2024. 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 13** to: 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 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: 9/13/2024

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Kennett Area Park Authority (KAPA),
Friends of Anson B. Nixon Park

Contact Name: Sheila Tekavec
Contact Title: Manager of
Operations & Administration

Address: PO Box 1121, Kennett Square, PA 19348

Contact E-mail:

Phone: 610-444-1416

Sheila@AnsonBNixonPark.org

Website: www.AnsionBNixonPark.org

Year Incorporated: 1988, 2020

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*): Anson B. Nixon Park serves the Borough of Kennett Square, Kennett Township and surrounding municipalities in southern Chester County, and northern New Castle County, DE. We are aware that people travel from Philadelphia, Delaware, New Jersey, and Maryland to participate in the annual Trout Rodeo.

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served: Calculating an accurate number of people served in Anson B. Nixon Park is not possible. The park is open to the public, free of charge, 365 days of the year. There are multiple pedestrian entrances and 3 vehicular entrances. KAPA is working to quantify the number of program participants for KAPA sponsored events, programs we collaborate on with other organizations, as well as events that outside groups host in the park.

Mission Statement: The Kennett Area Park Authority (KAPA) is guided by the following principles:

- Preservation of an open, natural, and largely passive environment that lends itself to both tranquil and rigorous pursuits, with free access to the general public;
- Promotion of recreational interaction among the community's diverse ethnic, social, age, and economic groups by providing a safe outdoor venue that offers facilities compatible with a multitude of social, cultural, spiritual, and sporting endeavors;
- Collaboration with other established community educational, cultural, civic, and recreational organizations and institutions to further the principles of this mission statement;

- Establishment of an endowment that will ensure the financial stability of the park for generations to come.

Organization Description: The Kennett Area Park Authority was incorporated as a Municipal Authority by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in December 1988, with the sole purpose of owning and operating the almost 110-acre Anson B. Nixon Park. In 2020, Friends of Anson B. Nixon Park, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, was formed to support KAPAs strategic goals and fundraising efforts.

Annual Budget \$	320,750.00		2	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
	70	% of budget for program expenses	23	# of Board Volunteers
	27	% of budget for administrative expenses	200	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
	3	% of budget for fundraising expenses	1200+	# of Volunteer Hours
	100	% total		

Top 3-5 funding sources: KAPA’s income is comprised of voluntary contributions made by the Borough of Kennett Square and Kennett Township. KAPA also receives a portion of income from cell tower leases with AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon that are managed by the Borough of Kennett Square. Those 3 streams of income make up less than half of the annual operating expenses in Anson B. Nixon Park. KAPA and Friends of Anson B. Nixon Park apply to various grant programs to cover expenses for special projects. Other income is received from individual donations during an annual fundraising appeal and nominal fees for plot rental in the Community Garden, athletic facilities use fees from outside groups, and private pavilion reservation fees.

Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested: \$ 2,500.00 Description of Grant Purpose:

The purpose for this grant will be to cover the cost of repairs or replacement of an aerator system in the ponds. Aeration is important to the eco-system in ponds because it reduces muck, improves water quality, boosts dissolved oxygen levels, eliminates thermocline, and reduces fish kill. All of these factors are crucial to the health of a pond. Enhancement of this system will nurture an existing habitat that not only supports the wildlife it is home to but additionally provides a rich source of passive and active recreation to the local and surrounding communities.

This is part of a larger effort to improve the ponds and the area around the ponds in Anson B. Nixon Park. Last fall, a local boy scout raised funds and supervised a team of volunteers to design, construct and install new life saver stations around the perimeter of the ponds. Earlier this year, the Friends of Anson B. Nixon Park received a \$5,000 grant to replace aging and deteriorating safety equipment to stock those stations with new life saver flotation devices and cabinets, poles, and ropes.



The Kennett Area Park Authority collaborates with several local organizations to provide programs that engage the community around two ponds in Anson B. Nixon Park. For almost 30 years, KAPA has worked with the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance to co-host the annual Trout Rodeo, which hundreds of people attend each spring. The Kennett Consolidated School District's After-the-Bell mentorship program hosts a fishing clinic in the park each week during the spring and fall seasons - teaching youth about water safety, environmental stewardship, instilling a love of the outdoors, respect for wildlife, and good sportsmanship. This past spring, KAPA worked with Legacy Land & Water Partners and the Brandywine Conservancy's Diverse Community Outreach Committee to offer multiple community fishing events with the purpose of educating and engaging with underserved youth in the community. Leading up to the first event participants were invited to educational events in the new Kennett Library where they could learn more about water safety, types of fish, fishing, and practice dry-casting techniques in a safe, fun, family-friendly environment. Youth who are served by several local organizations like La Comunidad Hispana (LCH), Kennett Area Community Service (KACS), and Mighty Writers attended the events along with their families. More than 200 participants attended the first community fishing day, which was offered as a free program in Anson B. Nixon Park.

This use of funds from the Marjorie L. and Arthur P. Miller Fund would provide environmental enhancement and preservation of an existing recreation resource that offers both public school-based environmental education and involves collaboration with environmental agencies & organizations with a common goal to protect our resources, educate the public, and provide opportunities for free recreation.

**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.

Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

The Kennett Area Park Authority was incorporated as a Municipal Authority by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in December 1988, with the sole purpose of owning and managing the almost 110-acre Anson B. Nixon Park.

Anson B. Nixon Park is unique in the fact that it is one of very few parks in Pennsylvania that is operated as a Municipal Authority, *not* under the full jurisdiction and tax-based financial support of the state, a county, or local municipality. A volunteer Board of Trustees is responsible for the day-to-day operations in the Park.

The Park consists of rich natural habitats, including a beech grove – home to The Kennett Beech, a specimen estimated to be 300-400 years old. Adjacent to the beech grove is a natural area with an abundance of native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers - including Umbrella Magnolia and Kentucky Coffee

trees. Outstanding features of the Park include two ponds totaling almost 6 acres and 4400 linear feet of the recently restored Red Clay Creek and its tributaries. Of historical significance are the remnants of the Borough's water works facility dating back to the late 1800s. A portion of the Park is located on the site of the former Chambers Family Estate (Bloomfield, circa 1794 - early 1900s), where many native species of trees were planted.

The Park is open to the public from dawn to dusk, every day of the year. Most of the amenities are available to Park guests free of charge on a first-come, first-serve basis. The Park features more than 2 & 1/2 miles of walking trails, six picnic pavilions, an entertainment stage, a top-rated 18-hole disc golf course, basketball, pickleball, tennis, and volleyball courts, a dog park, and 2 multi-purpose athletic fields.

Since the Park opened in 1993, visitation has grown over the years and annual guests are now estimated at more than 200,000 from diverse cultural backgrounds representing the Borough of Kennett Square, Kennett Township, neighboring municipalities, and visitors from the greater Brandywine Valley who enjoy the Park's facilities and regularly scheduled special events. These include the Red Clay Valley Clean Up with the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance every March, the annual Trout Rodeo (also in collaboration with the BRC), the Free Summer Concert Series, and other events organized by outside groups: The Kennett Run, Juneteenth Poetry Slam, and Hispanic Heritage Celebration.

After the initial state and county funding was used to develop and open the park between 1988 and 1993, KAPA successfully raised funds to build the entertainment pavilion, restrooms, athletic fields, and develop a master plan and strategic goals. The Park is continually improving, with additions of a safer entranceway and dog park, a complete 2-phased stream restoration project, refurbishment of 2 multi-purpose athletic fields, and a new walking trail that replaced the old vehicular entrance to the park from the Borough. Two forestry projects are underway with major grant funding from Chester County, the Brandywine Conservancy, Giant Food Stores Keep PA Beautiful and PECO Green Region grant programs. KAPA will begin installation of a new playground this spring, funded by a grant from the DCNR.

The Park is maintained by a full-time Manager of Operations & Administration, a full-time Facilities Manager, a part-time Groundskeeper, and a part-time Mechanic, with support from the volunteer Board of Trustees and engagement with local organizations like the Longwood Rotary Club, PECO, Constellation, Chatham Financial, Kennett Trails Alliance, and other individuals who lend their time and talents.

In 2020, Friends of Anson B. Nixon Park, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, was formed to support KAPAs strategic goals and fundraising efforts.

Funding request:

A. Specific Chester County needs and issues addressed

A grant award will allow KAPA to enhance and preserve an existing environmental feature that promotes recreational interaction among the community's diverse ethnic, social, age, and economic groups by providing a safe outdoor venue compatible with a multitude of social, cultural, educational, and sporting endeavors.

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

The Kennett Area Park Authority operates the 110-acre Anson B. Nixon Park with very limited staff on a no-frills budget. A grant award would assist with completion of this project will ease budget constraints that have prevented necessary improvement of the aeration systems in the pond in prior years. The benefits to water quality and aquatic eco-system will prolong the life of the ponds, nurture a bio-diverse habitat, and enhance public enjoyment of this important environmental and recreational resource.

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

Focusing on the health of the ponds in Anson B. Nixon Park is integral to the KAPA's mission for preservation of an open, natural, and largely passive environment that lends itself to both tranquil and rigorous pursuits, while collaborating with other established community educational, cultural, civic, and recreational organizations and institutions to further these principles. Healthier ponds allow KAPA to work with other local organizations to offer a variety of educational and recreational programs that enhance the experience in Anson B. Nixon Park while serving needs of the community.

D. Why it is important to fund this now

It is important to fund this now as KAPA moves into the fall and winter in Anson B. Nixon Park. The grass has slowed down and there are fewer organized events in the park. That allows KAPA's limited staff to focus on facilities maintenance and upgrades to amenities in the park while we plan ahead for programming in 2025.

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

The challenge portion of this grant will be met by collaborating with local organizations who share the goals and missions of KAPA to provide outdoor recreation, to improve and preserve open space. KAPA currently works with several organizations like the Longwood Rotary, Chatham Financial, The Giant Company, PECO, and others who provide in-kind donations and volunteer support. Other aspects of the overall effort to improve conditions in and around the ponds have been addressed by collaboration with local boy scouts to install new life saving stations. The Friends of Anson B. Nixon Park received a grant award from the Mushroom Festival, Inc. that funded the purchase of new life-saving equipment to stock those stations. Proceeds from this past spring's trout rodeo would be used toward the costs of the repairs or replacement of the existing aerator system that exceed any grant award.

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

A new aerator will be purchased and installed to supplement the current system, or repairs will be made to the current system late this fall or prior to the annual Trout Rodeo next spring. The anticipated outcome will be a healthier eco-system and enhanced water quality conducive to higher fish populations and overall enjoyment of the ponds in Anson B. Nixon Park.

How impact and results will be demonstrated

Impacts will be demonstrated with data shared by the PA Fish and Boat Commission when they conduct their next survey to monitor water quality, invasive species, pests, and predators in addition to surveying the fish population. After the last survey they conducted, we understood that making improvements to water quality is the best course of action toward improving our fishery. KAPA will also document the number of participants at future programs and events around the pond to demonstrate impact on the community.

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!***