

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.**

To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit www.chescocf.org

Date 8/14/2025

Contact Information

Organization Name: Tyler Arboretum
Address: 515 Painter Road, Media, PA 19063
Phone: 610-566-9134
Website: tylerarboretum.org
Year Incorporated: 1944
FEIN: 23-1417540

ED/CEO Name: Kathryn Ombam
ED/CEO E-mail: kombam@tylerarboretum.org
Board Chair Name: Heather Saunders
Board Chair Approval (check here): X
Primary Contact Name: Sarah Thompson
Primary Contact E-mail:
sthompson@tylerarboretum.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: The mission of Tyler Arboretum is to conserve our historic landscapes and connect people to the natural world.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): Tyler Arboretum serves the greater Southeastern Pennsylvania area. We welcome over 60,000 visitors a year for outdoor recreation, education, and environmental programming, a large proportion of whom hail from Chester County. Our environmental education field trip program welcomes over 2,000 schoolchildren per year, many coming to us from schools in Chester County.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

Annual Budget \$ 2,986,349 _____ ☐ 25 _____ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
☐ 79 _____ % of budget for program expenses ☐ 17 _____ # of Board Volunteers
☐ 16 _____ % of budget for administrative expenses ☐ 118 _____ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
☐ 5 _____ % of budget for fundraising expenses ☐ 12,771 # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

- Foundation for Delaware County
- West Pharmaceuticals Foundation
- PA DEP
- PA DCNR
- Individual Donors

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building ☐ or General Operating ☒ ?

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: \$7,500 _____

Proposal Summary:

Tyler Arboretum is a 650 acre property located in the heart of Southeastern Pennsylvania. Originally a Quaker family homestead, the Arboretum was established to preserve this historic green space featuring significant tree and plant collections, managed gardens, native meadows, and natural woodlands. Over 60,000 visitors annually come to Tyler for recreation, education, and environmental programming. In recent years, Tyler Arboretum has dealt with increasing impacts from climate change, including frequent extreme weather events and damage from invasive species, increasing the challenge of caring for our landscapes and planning for the future. Additionally, more natural spaces are developed for residential or commercial real estate in our greater community each year, highlighting the importance of our preserved landscapes for their contribution to air and water quality and preservation of important habitats. We are committed to the protection of our ecosystems and landscapes so that our natural green space can continue to thrive and be enjoyed by the community for generations to come. Tyler Arboretum respectfully requests the support of the Chester County Community Foundation to support our operations to further our mission to preserve our historic landscapes and connect people to the natural world.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

The mission of Tyler Arboretum is to conserve our historic landscapes and connect people with the natural world. Tyler fulfills its mission through high quality educational programs, extensive horticultural collections and displays, preservation of its historic buildings and stewardship of 650 acres of woodlands, meadows and stream valleys.

Tyler Arboretum's history dates to 1681, when Thomas Minshall, an English Quaker, bought property in Pennsylvania from William Penn. By 1825, descendants Minshall and Jacob Painter began the systematic planting of more than 1,000 plants for study and enjoyment. Their collection became locally known as the Painter Arboretum. John J. Tyler inherited the family homestead in 1914 and, upon his death, John's wife Laura Tyler arranged for the property to be left in trust as the John J. Tyler Arboretum. In 1946, the renowned horticulturist Dr. John C. Wister became Tyler Arboretum's first director. Dr. Wister planted the collections magnolias, cherries, crabapples, lilacs, conifers, and rhododendrons we see today. He also laid out the routes of the hiking trails.

Tyler has made many strides that further our mission since its establishment in the mid-20th century. Between 1997 and 2013, the Stopford Family Meadow Maze, deer exclusion fence, Scenic Loop, pathways, tree houses, and Pollinator Preserve were installed. Lucille's Garden was opened in 2019 as an educational edible garden, the harvest of which is donated to local food banks – over 2,000 pounds of produce a year! These features improve accessibility to nature for a wider audience and provide interactive ways for visitors to engage with the natural world.

2. Funding request

With 650 protected acres of beautiful woodland, charming meadows, managed gardens, and a lively program of programs, events, and activities, Tyler Arboretum is a delight for nature lovers, birders, botanists, and those who want discover the natural world. Our horticultural, environmental, and educational programming builds awareness and knowledge of the natural world and appreciation for its protection across the greater Southeastern Pennsylvania region. Tyler Arboretum has many programs, including:

- Guided hikes and educational nature walks
- Environmental lectures and hands-on learning opportunities
- Lucille's Garden, an edible garden for teaching and learning. Harvests of fresh, healthy fruits, vegetables, and herbs are donated to local food banks, over 2,000 pounds a year!
- Wellness programs, such as outdoor yoga
- Environmental field trips for students from the greater community, serving over 2,000 students a year (and growing!)
- Managed collections, for example, our Painter Tree collection, Rhododendron Collection, Cherries, Lilacs, Fragrant Garden, Crabapples,
- And so much more!

Tyler Arboretum can only preserve this land and stay open for our community through charitable support. Unlike many other public gardens/arboreta in the area, Tyler Arboretum has a small endowment, in part due to our humble beginnings as a Quaker family homestead. As such, Tyler Arboretum is tasked with raising over 82% of our budget each year in order to fund normal operations and programs. We rely on memberships, program revenue, charitable donations, and rental income to fund our budget.

These past five years have been particularly challenging for our organization. First, the covid-19 pandemic closed our Arboretum for visitation for several months, resulting in lost visitor, program, and event revenue. As we were recovering from the closures of the pandemic, Tyler was impacted by an environmental crisis caused by the invasive emerald ash borer beetle. This invasive species infected our ash trees, sickening them and creating tree fall hazards. Unfortunately, Tyler Arboretum had to remove 1,600 ash trees that presented hazards to our staff and visitors. In these cases, our community rallied for Tyler to allow us to weather these storms.

Now, Tyler Arboretum is focused on regrowth and revitalization. We have brought back programming that was shut down during the pandemic and have a robust calendar of guided hikes, history tours, environmental education, and more! Environmental education field trips and summer camps are booming, enriching the experiences of thousands of area children per year and inspiring the next generation of environmentalists. We are replanting natural areas ravaged by the emerald ash borer and extreme weather events and making plant selections that will be well-suited for future conditions in our area as the climate continues to change.

This growth would not be possible with the past support of our community, but we need additional support to further our goals of a more climate-resilient Arboretum. Support from the Chester County Community Foundation would be put to work toward the continued care for our landscapes and ecosystems, expansion of our programs, and planning for the future.

There are a variety of ways that Tyler measures impact. Key performance indicators for Tyler are the number of memberships sold, number of visitors, and number of program participants annually. We also track program-specific data, such as pounds of produce donated from Lucille's Garden to local food banks, number of field trip students, number of field trips offered at a reduced-rate or free of charge to schools with financial need, and incidents of path/trail closures due to environmental hazards caused by storm damage or invasive species impact. Tyler Arboretum is open to reporting on these and any other metrics of interest to CCCF in relation to grant support. It is our sincere goal to continue to be a resource for the greater community to connect with and appreciate the natural world.