



Grants range from \$2,000 - \$20,000

\$40,000 available in total

Grant Description

The Susquehanna Riverlands Mini-Grant Program provides targeted funding opportunities in the form of small competitive grants, ranging from \$2,000 to \$20,000, towards projects that advance the mission of the Susquehanna Riverlands Conservation Landscape (SRCL) and focus on the following areas: (1) habitat and trail connectivity, (2) sustainable public access to the Susquehanna River and its surrounding natural lands, (3) community partnership and collaboration, and (4) ecosystem health. Projects that can demonstrate the greatest benefit and overlap between two or more of these areas are more likely to be funded. Mini-grant projects that are directly aligned with the mission and goals of the strategic plan will be given the higher scores in the project ranking and evaluation process.

Mini-grant funding is financed by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

To view past project examples, go to this URL:
<https://www.lancasterconservancy.org/engaging-our-community/minigrants-about/>

Eligibility Summary

Eligible applying organizations must meet the following requirements:

- 501(c)(3) non-profits registered with the PA Bureau of Charities, municipalities, local government agencies, or some educational entities
- Projects must benefit residents of and visitors to the SRCL without discrimination
- Full eligibility details can be found at
<https://www.lancasterconservancy.org/engaging-our-community/minigrants-about/>.



Information Meeting

April 15, 2025

10 am – 11 am

Location: Zoom

Scan the

QR code to register:



Application Process

1. Email Jenn Teson (jteson@lancasterconservancy.org) with a brief description of your project and, if eligible, to get the application link.
2. Applications drafts submitted by 6/3/25 are eligible for review and feedback before final submission.
3. Complete the full application by the final deadline 7/1/25.

Grant Timeline

- Application opens 03/11/25
- Draft applications due for staff feedback (optional) 06/3/25
- Final applications due 07/1/25
- Award notifications (yes or no) 08/29/25
- Grant funding period: 18 months

Grant Specifics

- **We want your innovative and creative ideas!** Some project categories include, but are not limited to:
 - Site plan for a new public facility in the SRCL
 - Development and installation of interpretive signage with an educational component
 - Community-led implementation of conservation practices
 - Partnership development
 - Public/private collaborations
- A 50% match is required, and at least 25% of the match must be in cash. Non-cash match can include donated materials, professional time, volunteer time, and services conducted in-house for which the grantee organization does not receive compensation.
- After signing a grant agreement, funds can be requested on a reimbursement basis.

Evaluation Criteria

- **Ready to Go.** Does the applicant adequately describe a well-planned overall project including match, work plan, budget, and access?
- **Partnership & Collaboration.** Does the applicant incorporate meaningful collaboration or partnerships with other organizations (such as municipalities or local conservation groups)?
- **SRCL Mission Alignment.** Does the project advance one of the four focus areas of the SRCL?
- **Project Need.** Is project need, including equity, clearly described. Is scope of work realistic and in alignment with project goals?
- **Results.** Does the application articulate the expected impact on the community including reasonable, measurable community results? Measurements of success should have quantifiable outcomes.
- **Budget and Match.** Is the budget thorough and complete with matching funding immediately available?
- Please note that our team of partner organizations score each application and then meet to discuss which applications to fund using the criteria listed above. While scores drive the decision-making process, the final decision is made by the team as a collaborative group.

Application Questions

- Project Summary - Summarize the purpose and how your project will advance the mission of the Susquehanna Riverlands Conservation Landscape.
- Describe why your project is needed and who it will impact. What are your organizational aspirations and current challenges regarding racial equity and inclusion, and/or social justice? Does this work relate to your project? If so, describe.
- Project Timeline
- What are potential barriers to this project's completion?
- List any partners you are collaborating with to implement this project directly. Describe how this partnership enhances the project or will contribute to its success. Support letters from partners are encouraged.
- Budget (fill out template).
- Please describe any matching funds (required) and provide documentation of commitment.
- How will you know if you achieved your goals? Describe the qualitative and quantitative goals of this project. Include specific metrics.
- How will your planned project or program continue beyond this grant term? Please describe what staff time, tasks, maintenance, or monitoring will be required and who will be doing it.
- Required Attachments:
 - Match Commitment Letter/s
 - Detailed budget
 - Maintenance Plan (for implementation projects).
 - Additional attachments can be included, such as support letters, photos, maps, site plans, etc.



Managed by Jenn Teson

VP of Operations & Conservation
Lancaster Conservancy
jteson@lancasterconservancy.org
(717) 392-7891 x 204

