



## **LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF RECREATION AND CONSERVATION GRANTS**

The Luzerne County Council is pleased to announce that application for the County's new Recreation and Conservation Fund Request for Support Program is open.

*Funding Available: \$65,000*

- Any requested amount less than \$65,000 will be entertained, however the program aims to fund multiple small and large projects across Luzerne County
- Eligible applicants: municipalities and not-for-profit organizations and educational institutions with a current tax-exempt letter from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Matching funds/in-kind will assist proposal, but are not required
- This Request for Support will fund significant maintenance projects as well as projects similar to Conservation Landscape and Pennsylvania DCNR C2P2 grant programs
- Funding from this program can be used to match Conservation Landscape and DCNR C2P2 funding

### **Key Dates and Information:**

Thursday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>: **required** pre-application meeting, 10am or 4:30pm

Friday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>: applications due at 3:00PM

The mandatory, pre-application meetings will be held at 10 am or 4:30 pm at the Pennsylvania Environmental Council office, 175 Main Street, Luzerne.

Please call the Clerk of County Council, Sharon Lawrence, at 570-825-1634 or Email: [sharon.lawrence@luzernecounty.org](mailto:sharon.lawrence@luzernecounty.org) **to make reservations for one of the required pre-application meetings** or if you have any questions

Request for Support Application and Instructions can be found at the Luzerne County Recreational Facilities Advisory Board page of the County Website:

[www.luzernecounty.org/county/boards-authorities/recreational-facilities-advisory-board](http://www.luzernecounty.org/county/boards-authorities/recreational-facilities-advisory-board)

## **Fund and Request for Support Purpose and Information**

The purpose of the Luzerne County Recreation and Conservation Fund is to provide annual financial support for ready-to-go projects in Luzerne County that advance priorities identified in approved local, regional and/or state recreation, conservation and land use plans and/or provide programming for and promotion of the county's outdoor recreation resources; parks, trails and outdoor events that are free and offered for the public benefit. It is funded with the annual Act 13 Marcellus Legacy Fund dollars. Municipalities and non-profit organizations or educational institutions located in Luzerne County may apply for recreation or conservation projects that focus on implementation, education, outreach or promotion or that need to raise a local match for other grants.

Implementation projects are ready-to-go projects that will advance or complete priorities identified in one or more approved local, regional and/or state recreation, conservation and/or land use plans such as open space, greenway, trail, recreation, watershed or rivers conservation plans. Eligible projects can address park and trail improvement, significant maintenance items, playground and other equipment purchase, green infrastructure improvements, materials, storm water management techniques, site amenities, riparian buffer stabilization, in-stream habitat improvements, invasive plant removal and native plant restoration. Education, outreach or promotion projects provide environmental and conservation education outreach and/or programming that is free; that has the ability to reach and serve large numbers of county residents; and that market and promote the county's recreation assets locally. Eligible projects can address signage and way-finding; program provision and materials; efforts to promote the physical; mental and health benefits of recreation/conservation; promote the use of local recreation resources; and training, workshop and meeting expenses.

Projects that must raise matching funds in order to apply for larger grants for projects that meet the prior criteria are also eligible to apply.

**All applicants must attend a required pre-application meeting on Thursday November 5<sup>th</sup> to review the application process and discuss proposed projects. The mandatory, pre-application meetings will be held at 10 am or 4:30 pm at the Pennsylvania Environmental Council office, 175 Main Street, Luzerne.**

Applications will be due by 3:00 pm on Friday, November 20, 2015 and awards will be announced by the end of December 2015. The Recreation and Conservation Fund Request for Support application and instructions are available to download below. Please call the Clerk of County Council, Sharon Lawrence, at 570-825-1634 or Email [sharon.lawrence@luzernecounty.org](mailto:sharon.lawrence@luzernecounty.org) to make reservations for one of the pre-application meetings or if you have any questions.