



Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Inc.  
Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape Initiative  
Implementation Block Grant Application 2011

## INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES

The Implementation Block Grant (the grant) program is a reimbursement funding program through the Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape Initiative (LVG), which is funded by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and administered by the Delaware & Lehigh (D&L) National Heritage Corridor.

**\* There will be a pre-application meeting on Thursday, November 18, 2010 9:00-11:30 AM, in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor education room, Emrick Technology Center, Easton. This is your opportunity to discuss your potential project. Please respond your attendance to Sherry Acevedo, Resource Conservation Specialist at [sherry@delawareandlehigh.org](mailto:sherry@delawareandlehigh.org) or 610-923-3548 ext.226. \***

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Lehigh Valley Greenways block grants is to provide funding to support smaller projects that support the overall goals of LVG and advance strategic approaches to conservation and connections to the most valued natural resource sub-landscapes in the Lehigh Valley. Multiple organizations, local and county governments, state agencies, and non-profits are part of the LVG partnership advancing land conservation, trail and greenway connections, revitalizing communities and urban areas, and providing sound land use practices. **This information is important for the successful completion of your grant application.**

**Vision of the Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape Initiative:** By 2015, greenways and trails connect natural and cultural resources across the Lehigh Valley linking urban areas to outdoor experiences, protecting watersheds, and retaining the character of the landscape, the region's heritage and the community.

### Lehigh Valley Greenways Overall Goals:

- **Goal 1 Land Conservation & Restoration** - Conserve and connect at least 25% of the natural areas with high conservation value to preserve the Lehigh Valley's remaining unprotected significant natural areas and watersheds
- **Goal 2 Outdoor Recreation & Trail Connections** - Create greenways and trail connections that connect people and outdoor recreation experiences in core communities to valued natural, recreational, and cultural resources
- **Goal 3 Community Revitalization** - Revitalize core communities of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton by integrating green infrastructure into riverfront development, greenways and trails, and neighborhood revitalization projects
- **Goal 4 Local Education & Outreach** - Increase the understanding and use of smart growth land use practices to create more livable and sustainable communities for quality of life

**Priority Sub-Landscapes within Northampton and Lehigh Counties (context of area):**

1. **Two Rivers Area** – Bushkill Creek Watershed; Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center; Two Rivers Area Trails; confluence of Lehigh and Delaware Rivers;
2. **Kittatinny Ridge (Blue Mountain)** – Northern boundary of the Lehigh Valley on the Blue Mountain; Lehigh Gap Nature Center;
3. **Lehigh Valley Highlands** – Southern boundary of the Lehigh Valley; South Mountain; Lehigh Mountain;
4. **Martins Jacoby Watershed** – Martins and Jacoby Watersheds; Greater Minsi Lake Corridor; Delaware River;
5. **Jordan Creek Greenway** – Jordan Creek watershed; Trexler Nature Preserve
6. **D&L Trail** – Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and D&L Trail; the historic transportation route of former railroad beds and canal towpath

**\* cities of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton are part of multiple sub-landscapes above and municipalities within each sub-landscape are part of the targeted areas**

**I. Eligibility for LVG Grants**

*A. Who is eligible?*

Eligible applicants consist of all municipalities, county, and non-profit organizations with tax-exempt 501c (3) status working within the LVG sub-landscapes listed above. Indicate the project manager who will be administering the grant if grant is awarded with appropriate contact information. A partner is defined as an individual, municipality, or organization, providing funding, technical assistance or other services.

*B. What kind of projects are eligible?*

**2011 Priorities**

- ▶ Amend and adopt LVPC environmental regulations
- ▶ Establish stronger and more consistent zoning regulations on Kittatinny Ridge – following LVPC recommendations to implement Appalachian Trail legislation
- ▶ Trail improvements and enhancements
- ▶ Conservation education, trainings, and workshops
- ▶ Restore riparian buffers along streams and greenway corridors using native vegetation
- ▶ Implement municipal open space, watershed conservation, and greenway plans

**General Eligibility**

- ▶ Projects within, along, or impacting the Lehigh Valley Greenways sub-landscapes in Northampton and Lehigh Counties: Two Rivers Area, Kittatinny Ridge, Lehigh Valley Highlands, Martins-Jacoby Watershed, Jordan Creek Greenway, and the D&L Trail
- ▶ Projects that support and advance the LVG vision and goals
- ▶ Projects that are consistent with local, county, and regional plans, such as land use, open space, greenway, recreation, watershed conservation, or rivers conservation plans

**II. Intent and Grant Guidelines**

*A. What is the intent of LVG Grants?*

The intent of the block grant is to provide funding for smaller projects to advance implementation of local greenway, watershed, and park, recreation, & open space plans. The intent is to support projects that advance the Lehigh Valley Greenways Goals and implement conservation, recreation, education, and sound land use in a proactive strategic approach.

B. *What are the grant guidelines?*

- ▶ Grant requests shall be a **minimum of \$1,000** and **not exceed \$20,000**, with a total project cost of at least \$40,000
- ▶ Grant requests exceeding \$20,000 should discuss with Sherry; may need to apply directly to DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) & contact Lorne Possinger, DCNR Regional Adviser. <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/> C2P2 application period opens January 3, 2011 and closes at 4:00 PM April 20, 2011
- ▶ All grants must be matched by the Applicant with cash and/or eligible non-cash (in-kind) contributions at a minimum ratio of 1:1; grant request is matched dollar for dollar
- ▶ For development projects, DCNR allows up to **15% of the total eligible project cost** for preparation of design, construction drawings, specifications, or professional fees
- ▶ Amount of Grant Request (50%) + Local Match (50%) = Total Project Cost (100%)
- ▶ All projects and project related costs and funding must conform to the guidelines outlined in the PA DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program at <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/>

### III. Project Type

Education & Training:

**Funding request not to exceed \$5,000**

Projects that advance conservation education through workshops and trainings. Some examples include conferences, workshops, bus tours, and environmental advisory council educational activities. Previously funded projects include: Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference, LV Sustainable Bus Tour, Easton EAC outreach, brochures

Special Purpose Study:

A concentrated study or plan necessary to document specific goals and implementation strategies. Technical assistance for municipal ordinance amendment and adoption, urban forestry, environmental permitting, trail design concept plans (completed by RLA or engineer), and conservation assistance for preservation (CAP) program for land conservation outreach\*. Examples of projects would be master plans, trail studies, conservation plans, environmental studies, open space plans, municipal ordinance revision and adoption, and watershed or greenway plans.

Previously funded projects are Upper Mount Bethel Township Open Space Plan development and implementation, flood plain ordinance development & adoption, CAP funding to support conservancy staff time for and conservation.

**\* Funding request for Conservation Assistance for Preservation (CAP) not to exceed \$5,000 – this funding is up to 1 year – need to submit list of new land conservation outreach;**

#### Implementation Projects:

Projects that implement recommendations from local, county, or regional plans that involves on-the-ground work. Some examples are trail improvements and enhancements, signage and amenities installation, riparian buffer restoration, streambank restoration, invasive plant removal & native plant restoration.

#### **IV. Selection Criteria**

- ▶ Falls within Lehigh and Northampton Counties priority sub-landscape(s)
- ▶ Consistency with local, county, and/or regional greenway, land use plan, municipal comprehensive plan, open space plan, and/or watershed conservation plan
- ▶ Project supports the intent of the grant and is for the greater good of the LVG
- ▶ Project is prepared to begin and finish in a timely manner
- ▶ Firm match identified and committed
- ▶ Projects that advance Lehigh Valley Greenways Goals:
  - ***Land Conservation and Restoration*** – *conserve and connect high value natural resource areas*
  - ***Outdoor Recreation and Trail Connections*** – *create greenway and trail connections that connect people to outdoor experiences in core communities*
  - ***Community Revitalization*** – *revitalize core communities of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton by integrating green infrastructure*
  - ***Local Education and Outreach*** – *increase the understanding and use of smart growth land use practices*
- ▶ Opportunities for collaboration – other partners, state agencies

#### **V. Responsibility of the Applicant**

- ▶ Identify projects that supports the intent of the grant and goals of LVG
- ▶ Secure local match at a minimum ratio of 1:1, dollar for dollar match
- ▶ Attend the pre-application meeting to present and discuss your project
- ▶ Provide digital photos, maps, and other supporting documentation
- ▶ Submit a completed application with proof of match secured or pending
- ▶ Demonstrate ability to complete project on time and within budget
- ▶ Secure letters of support from partners, local match contributions, when applicable
- ▶ **Grant requests are due via email in both PDF and Microsoft Word (.doc format) and/or mail by 4:00 PM, Thursday, December 23, 2010 to:**  
***Attention: Sherry Acevedo, Resource Conservation Specialist***  
***Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor***  
***2750 Hugh Moore Park Rd.***  
***Easton, PA 18042 or [sherry@delawareandlehigh.org](mailto:sherry@delawareandlehigh.org)***
- ▶ For questions about the application and process, please contact Sherry Acevedo, Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor at (610) 923-3548 ext. 226

#### **VI. Selection Process**

D&L will accept LVG block grant applications from applicants and provide a summary to a review committee. The committee will select projects and D&L will proceed with grant announcements and contracting. \* Please keep Sherry informed on your intent to apply

**For Grant Assistance Contact:**

**Sherry Acevedo, Resource Conservation Specialist  
Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor  
610-923-3548 ext.226 (phone)**

**[sherry@delawareandlehigh.org](mailto:sherry@delawareandlehigh.org)  
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