

TRAIL Projects (Motorized and Non-Motorized)

This section provides grant information and guidance for the planning, acquisition of land, development, rehabilitation, maintenance, the purchase or lease of equipment, and development of educational programs related to land trails and facilities for motorized and non-motorized recreational activities.

Definitions:

- *Trail*: A designated route on land or water with public access for recreation and/or alternative transportation opportunities such as walking, jogging, hiking, fitness, backpacking, cross country skiing, bicycling, mountain biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, four-wheel driving, all-terrain off-road vehicles, canoeing, kayaking, etc. for users of all ages and abilities.
- *Trailhead*: An access point to a trail or trail system often accompanied by various public facilities; parking areas, restrooms, pavilions, concessions, directional and informational signs, etc.
- *Trail Amenities*: Elements used to enhance the user's experience and comfort along a trail or at a trailhead; interpretive signs, benches, kiosks, tables, etc.

For DCNR grant application purposes, a trail project must have at least 75% of the total project cost related to trail and/or trail-related facilities. Projects that involve the development of trails or internal walkways within parks are not considered trail projects.

Grant opportunities are available for the following motorized and non-motorized Trail Project types:

- Trail Planning
- Trail Acquisition
- Trail Development (including Rehabilitation & Maintenance)
- Trail Equipment Purchase
- Trail Educational Programs

For each Trail Project type, this guidance provides:

- *Ready-To-Go Checklist* – Applicants should use the appropriate Trail Project type checklist to determine if the project is “Ready-to-Go”. Applicants should contact their DCNR Regional Advisor to discuss the elements outlined on the checklist before submitting an application for funding.
- *General Information and Funding Conditions* – Applicants should carefully review the general information for the appropriate Trail Project type and contact their DCNR Regional Advisor to discuss the funding conditions and requirements.
- *Project Types & Sample Project Descriptions* – Trail projects fall into several categories and can be funded with various state and federal funding sources. This section briefly outlines Trail Project categories and provides corresponding sample project descriptions that the applicant is required to provide in their application. The brief project description is a summary of the scope of work that will be developed if selected for funding.
- *Guidance Documents & Bureau Policies* – A list of guidance documents and Bureau policies with webpage links is provided to help applicants develop their Trail Project application.

TRAIL PLANNING Projects

Trail Planning Projects examine the feasibility of developing land trails and trail-related facilities for motorized and non-motorized recreational activities, as well as provide a road map to make the trail a reality. A thorough trail study will provide local decision-makers with enough information to help them decide whether or not to pursue trail development.

Ready-To-Go Checklist

This Checklist is to be used by the applicant to ensure the Trail Planning Project is “Ready-To-Go”. The items below need to be addressed, included and/or uploaded in the application. It will be used by DCNR in the grant application evaluation process. Only projects that are Ready-To-Go will be given consideration for grant awards. If you have questions regarding this Checklist, please contact the [DCNR Regional Advisor](#) assigned to the region in which your project is located.

*** Ready-to-Go Status is worth 15 points. It is essential to provide high quality, well-defined and/or detailed information for these items.**

Yes	Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contacted Regional Advisor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligible Applicant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appropriate Applicant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligible project
*	<input type="checkbox"/> For a Trail Study containing preliminary designs: Applicant owns or controls project site through a lease or easement (minimum 25 years)
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Match secured
	<input type="checkbox"/> Letters of match commitment from entities other than applicant uploaded
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Detailed list of eligible cash/non-cash match included
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Realistic, accurate, and detailed cost estimate/budget included
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear, concise and detailed scope of work included
	<input type="checkbox"/> For a Trail Study containing preliminary designs: PA Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Receipt uploaded
	<input type="checkbox"/> Accurate project site location map(s) uploaded (if applicable)
	<input type="checkbox"/> County/Municipal Notification Letter(s) uploaded
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed the Sample Planning Project Timeline and agree that the project can be completed within 3 years from date of grant award.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of lease or easement uploaded (if applicable)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Properly completed Resolution Page uploaded

Trail Planning: General Information & Funding Conditions

1. All projects must serve a public purpose and help advance [DCNR goals](#) and [priorities](#).
2. All facilities/sites must be open for use by the general public.
3. Applicants may submit more than one application per funding period. A separate application must be submitted for each trail planning project unless the projects are substantially related.
4. If your project is selected for funding, the Bureau will review the proposed cash and non-cash values and work items to determine their eligibility. Adjustments may be made to those values and work items.
5. Match is required for all projects and varies based upon the grant award funding source. The local match may be cash, non-cash, or a land donation value.
6. Cash match contributions provided by other organizations should be transferred to the applicant/grantee. In cases where an outside organization/agency wishes to expend funds on behalf of the applicant/grantee, a formal agreement must be executed between all parties to define roles and responsibilities. Draft agreements should be provided to the Bureau for review and approval prior to execution.
7. The Bureau requires that trail planning project consultants be selected using a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process.
8. Consideration of green/sustainable practices and energy saving technologies and are encouraged in all planning projects.
9. For trail planning projects that include preliminary designs, the applicant must control the property through fee simple ownership, permanent easement, or long-term lease agreement (minimum of 25 years).
10. Grantees are required to utilize a qualified design professional(s) (architect, landscape architect or engineer licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania) to prepare drawings and/or specifications for all trail planning projects. All drawings and/or specifications should be sealed and signed by the appropriate design professional(s).

General Information

Planning projects generally entail the use of specialized consultants and expert professionals to work with local citizens and organizations to develop a community or regional-based plan and planning study report.

The Bureau requires that the planning project or process includes substantial public participation, that project consultants are selected using a competitive request for proposal (RFP) process and that at least two public meetings are held.

Municipalities and non-profit organizations are encouraged to work together to form partnerships to develop regional plans. The Bureau places a greater priority for funding on regional projects than on a planning project for one municipality. For regional, multi-municipal conservation, watershed, greenways or trails plans, applicants need to work with county government planning organizations to integrate new plan findings and recommendations into existing comprehensive plans and existing planning policy documents. County and local planning entities must be invited to participate in the planning process through, for example, work on study committees.

Trail Planning: Project Types

1. Trail Study

Trail planning efforts target a specific linear corridor of open space that may have been identified in a greenways, trails, and open space network plan or other local/regional planning effort. It may include a plan to create trail-based greenways, convert an abandoned rail corridor to a trail, or develop a motorized trail facility.

All trail studies begin with assessing the feasibility of developing and maintaining a trail. The degree of effort required to determine the feasibility is dictated by the specific needs and ownership status of the trail. Once determined feasible, effort will be spent determining the physical layout of the trail and the necessary steps to develop and maintain the trail.

Successful trail studies include relevant data, background research, analysis, and provide an implementation strategy to effectively develop a sustainable trail for motorized or non-motorized activities. Establishing ownership patterns and support of landowners is a key work task. The plan should recommend protection options, roles, potential cost estimates, and how best to acquire, develop, and maintain the greenway or trail corridor.

State funding sources are available to municipalities and non-profit organizations for Trail Study projects. However, non-profit organizations are encouraged to partner with a municipal entity to develop and execute a trail study since a significant portion of our funding sources are only available to municipal entities. If you need assistance identifying or developing these partnerships, please contact your BRC regional advisor.

Sample Project Description:

Prepare a Trail Study to evaluate options to connect the Chester Valley Trail to the Struble and Brandywine trails in Downingtown Borough, Chester County; Caln, East Caln, East Bradford, West Bradford, and West Whiteland townships, Delaware County. Work to include an electronic written, bound report.

2. Master Site Development Plan

For recreation sites such as Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Parks, a Master Site Development Plan (MSDP) is required. The planning process includes a research and public input and analysis process that leads to a size, type, and location plan for the full development or redevelopment of a site. The plan should meet all generally accepted design standards and identified recreation and/or conservation needs and priorities of the community to the extent possible. There must be enough detail developed during the process and provided in the plan narrative report and on the Site Development Drawing(s) to ensure that the facilities meet all applicable standards, can be built on the site while protecting and/or enhancing the natural resources, and that development costs can be accurately estimated.

State funding sources are available to municipalities and non-profit organizations for Master Site Plan projects. Project and applicant eligibility as well as the required grant match is dependent on funding source requirements.

Sample Project Description:

Develop a Master Site Development Plan for an approximately 340-acre parcel of land for off-highway recreation vehicles in Perry Township, Greene County. Work to include an electronic written, bound report.

3. Design Only (Design & Engineering without Construction)

Includes preparation of engineering, final design, specifications, bid documents and permitting in order to prepare projects for construction bidding. Design only grant requests will be accepted through a pre-approval process and approved on a case-by-case basis when and if a formal application is submitted. Contact your DCNR Regional Advisor about the process for Design only projects. A 50% cash match is required for these types of projects.

Municipalities, Nonprofit organizations and For-profit organizations are eligible applicants for Design Only project types.

Sample Project Description:

Design for the development of approximately 2 miles of the Jordan Creek Greenway in South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County from Cedar Crest Boulevard to Wehr Mill Road. Work to include drawings, specifications and related documents.

Trail Planning: Guidance Documents & Bureau Policies

The following information may be helpful in developing a DCNR grant application.

Guidance Documents:

[Bureau eLibrary link for Planning Documents:](#)

- Consultant Qualifications – Planning Grant Projects
- General Information & Scope of Work Guidelines for Trail Study
- Public Participation Guide
- RFP Guidelines
- RFP Template

Other Resources:

- [Pennsylvania Trail Design & Development Principles](#)
- [Pennsylvania Trail Design Manual for Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles](#)
- [Trails for All People, Guidance for Accessibility and Inclusive Design](#)
- [Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines \(PROWAG\)](#)
- [2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design \(2010 Standards\).](#)
- [Trail & Path Planning: A Guide for Municipalities](#)
- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy [Trail User Survey Workbook](#)
- WeConservePA [Model Trail Easement Agreement and Commentary](#)
- [Rails-to-Trails Conservancy](#)
- [American Trails](#)
- [Federal Highway Administration Bicycle & Pedestrian Publications](#)
- [Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies](#)

Bureau Policies:

[BRC Policies:](#)

- ADA Policy
- Competitive Bidding/Purchasing Procedures Policy
- Greening Policy
- Ownership and Control Policy
- Planning Eligible and Ineligible Grant Project Activities/Costs Policy
- Planning Project Management Process Policy
- PNDI Policy

TRAIL LAND ACQUISITION Projects

Trail Acquisition Projects involve the purchase of fee simple title or perpetual easement to real property for subsequent development of motorized and non-motorized trails and trail-related facilities.

Ready-To-Go Checklist

This Checklist is to be used by the applicant to ensure the Trail Land Acquisition Project is “Ready-To-Go”. The items below need to be addressed, included and/or uploaded in the application. It will be used by DCNR in the grant application evaluation process. Only projects that are Ready-To-Go will be given consideration for grant awards. If you have questions regarding this Checklist, please contact the [DCNR Regional Advisor](#) assigned to the region in which your project is located.

*** Ready-to-Go Status is worth 15 points. It is essential to provide high quality, well-defined and/or detailed information for these items.**

Yes	Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contacted Regional Advisor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligible Applicant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appropriate Applicant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligible project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Property has no known environmental hazards
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Match secured
	<input type="checkbox"/> Letters of match commitment from entities other than applicant uploaded
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Detailed list of eligible cash match and/or donated land value
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Realistic, accurate and detailed cost estimate/budget included
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear, concise and detailed project scope of work
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Description of negotiations your organization has had with the landowner
	<input type="checkbox"/> PA Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Receipt uploaded
	<input type="checkbox"/> Accurate project site location map(s) and identification of parcel(s) being acquired, including acreage and boundaries, uploaded
	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of current deed(s) for the property(ies) uploaded
	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft sales agreement or letter of acknowledgment from landowner uploaded
	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft easement agreement uploaded (if applicable)
	<input type="checkbox"/> County/Municipal Notification Letter(s) uploaded
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearly describe the specific rights to be acquired and any rights severed from the property by past or proposed transactions
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Appraisal Report by a state certified General Real Estate Appraiser for the land defined in the project scope, including any donated parcels. Appraisal must be ordered by and prepared for the applicant. Review the DCNR Requirements for Property Appraisals for more information.
	<input type="checkbox"/> When circumstances warrant a “Waiver for Retroactivity” - the applicant has submitted a formal written request to the DCNR Central Office
	<input type="checkbox"/> Properly completed Resolution Page uploaded
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed the Sample Land Acquisition Project Timeline and agree the project can be completed within 3 years from date of grant award.

Trail Land Acquisition: General Information & Funding Conditions

1. All projects must serve a public purpose and help advance [DCNR goals](#) and [priorities](#).
2. Applicants may submit more than one application per funding period. A separate application must be submitted for each trail acquisition project unless the projects are substantially related.
3. All awarded Trail Land Acquisition grant funds must be equally matched. The local match MUST be cash or donated land value.
4. Grants may be used for purchase of **fee simple title** to real property or a less than fee interest such as a **perpetual easement**. Applicants need to clearly indicate the interests/rights proposed for Land Acquisition. If some interests/rights will reside with another party post-acquisition, the applicant must disclose this. *Please note: If any rights have or will be severed, this information must be disclosed to the appraiser and addressed in the appraisal report.*
5. Appraisals must be performed by a **state certified General Real Estate Appraiser** and must meet the Appraisal Guidelines provided at the following link: https://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=1753374&DocName=d_001269.pdf. These guidelines should be provided to the appraiser preparing your report.
6. All deeds or easement agreements acquired with DCNR grant funding will be required to contain a clause restricting the transfer and change of use of the property as per the Grant Agreement. The DCNR required restriction should not be included in a deed or easement until a grant has been awarded for the project and purchase of the property or easement has been approved by the Bureau.
7. All sales agreements and deeds must be reviewed by the Bureau before being executed.
8. All trail easement agreements must be reviewed and approved by the Bureau before being executed. Trail easements funded by DCNR must follow [WeConservePA's Model Trail Easement Agreement](#).
9. Copies of all current existing leases shall be submitted with the grant application.
10. Title search/insurance will be required prior to project completion and closeout.
11. Land or an interest in land (such as an easement) acquired with grant assistance is restricted solely to those uses permitted by the statute under which the grant funding is awarded.
12. When assisting with the acquisition of an easement, DCNR is seeking as much public value as possible, while retaining flexibility to address special site conditions and respond to local needs on a case-by-case basis. This often translates into significant public access to the property; however, this public access is balanced against environmental, historical, cultural, safety, water quality and other considerations to arrive at an optimal solution.
 - The need to protect critical habitat can override the interest in providing public access.
 - Public access should be considered in a multi-dimensional fashion involving various portions of the property, for various activities at various times and levels.
 - Reasonable restrictions on the time and manner of public access, as well as temporary limitations on public access for protecting or restoring the land, are acceptable.
 - The Department reserves the right to determine the percentage of participation in an easement project at its sole discretion.

13. Grants are awarded to assist with projects to be undertaken **after** the award of the grant, rather than to retroactively pay (reimburse) for projects already begun or completed before the award of the grant. Therefore, grant funds generally may not be applied to project costs incurred before the date of the grant award.
 - In special situations, the Bureau may permit grant funds to be applied to project costs incurred **before** the date of the grant award. Refer to the [Bureau Policy-“Waiver for Retroactivity”](#).
14. Only pre-qualified Land Trusts are eligible to receive Keystone Land Trust funding. Organizations that are not pre-qualified may obtain a [pre-qualification form and instructions](#) from the DCNR website.
15. Grant applications from Non-Municipal applicants must include evidence that the municipality(ies) and county where the property is being acquired have had the opportunity to comment on the project proposal. *As a general policy, the Department **will not approve grant funding in areas where local elected officials have expressed opposition to the proposed project.***

Trail Land Acquisition: Project Types

1. Fee Simple

Grants are awarded for the purchase of fee simple title to real property for subsequent development of motorized and non-motorized trails and trail-related facilities. Fee simple purchase of a parcel(s) of land transfers full ownership of the property, including the underlying title, to another party.

State funding sources are available to municipalities, non-profit, and for-profit organizations for the purchase of fee simple title for Trail Acquisition projects. Project and applicant eligibility is dependent on funding source requirements. An equal match is required for all projects and must be cash or donated land value.

Sample Project Descriptions:

Payment toward the fee simple acquisition of approximately 107.55-acre corridor between Neville Borough and Carlisle Borough, Cumberland County to provide approximately 8.25 miles for the eastern extension of the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail.

Payment toward the fee simple acquisition of approximately 2 acres of land located along Reading Drive and Bingen Road in Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County for trailhead access to the Saucon Rail Trail.

Payment toward the fee simple acquisition of approximately 1,243 acres off of Route 1030 in Pine and Boggs townships, Armstrong County for the development of an Off-Highway Vehicle Park.

2. Trail Easement

Grants are also awarded for the purchase of perpetual trail easements for subsequent development of motorized and non-motorized trails and trail-related facilities on private property. A trail easement allows a landowner to provide access to their land for a public trail without losing ownership or control of the land.

State funding sources are available to municipalities, non-profit, and for-profit organizations for the purchase of perpetual trail easements for Trail Acquisition projects.

Project and applicant eligibility is dependent on funding source requirements. An equal match is required for all projects and must be cash or donated land value.

Sample Project Description:

Payment toward the acquisition of a trail easement on approximately 8.9 miles of the Turtle Creek Industrial Railroad corridor in Trafford Borough in Allegheny and Westmoreland counties, Murrysville Borough and Penn Township in Westmoreland County, and Municipality of Monroeville in Allegheny County.

Trail Land Acquisition: Guidance Documents & Bureau Policies

The following information may be helpful in developing a DCNR grant application.

Bureau Policies:

[Bureau Policies:](#)

- Acquisition Grant Administrative Instructions and Process Policy
- Acquisition Eligible and Ineligible Grant Project Activities/Costs Policy
- Ownership and Control Policy
- Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI)
- Public Value and Use Policy
- Requirements for Boundary Surveys and Title Work
- Requirements for Property Appraisals
- Sign Policy

Other Resources:

- [Pennsylvania Trail Design & Development Principles](#)
- [Pennsylvania Trail Design Manual for Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles](#)
- [Trail Easement Agreement & Commentary](#)

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT Projects

Trail Development Projects construct new and rehabilitate and maintain existing land trails and trail-related facilities for motorized and non-motorized recreational activities.

Ready-To-Go Checklist

This Checklist is to be used by the applicant to ensure the Trail Development Project is “Ready-To-Go”. The items below need to be addressed, included and/or uploaded in the application. It will be used by DCNR in the grant application evaluation process. Only projects that are Ready-To-Go will be given consideration for grant awards. If you have questions regarding this Checklist, please contact the [DCNR Regional Advisor](#) assigned to the region in which your project is located.

*** Ready-to-Go Status is worth 15 points. It is essential to provide high quality, well-defined and/or detailed information for these items.**

Yes	Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contacted Regional Advisor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligible Applicant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appropriate Applicant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligible project
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant owns or controls project site through a lease or easement (minimum 25 years)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Project site is open to the public
	<input type="checkbox"/> Property has no known environmental hazards
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Match secured
	<input type="checkbox"/> Letters of match commitment from entities other than applicant uploaded
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Detailed list of eligible cash match and non-cash match included
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Development Drawing(s) by a licensed design professional and consistent with the DCNR Trail Development Drawing (SDD) Checklist uploaded
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Realistic, accurate, and detailed cost estimate/budget included, including any land donation value, uploaded
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear, concise, and detailed scope of work included
	<input type="checkbox"/> PA Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Receipt uploaded
	<input type="checkbox"/> Accurate project site location map(s) uploaded
	<input type="checkbox"/> County/Municipal Notification Letter(s) uploaded
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed the Sample Development Project Timeline and agree that the project can be completed within 4 years from date of grant award.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Copies of lease or easement uploaded (if applicable)
	<input type="checkbox"/> If Land Donation is part of the match: Upload a Full Appraisal Report by a state certified General Real Estate Appraiser for the land defined in the project scope and any donated parcels. Appraisal to be ordered by and prepared for the applicant. Review the DCNR Requirements for Property Appraisals for more information.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Properly completed Resolution Page uploaded

Trail Development: General Information & Funding Conditions

1. All projects must serve a public purpose and help advance [DCNR goals](#) and [priorities](#).
2. All facilities/sites must be open for use by the general public.
3. Applicants may submit more than one application per funding period. A separate application must be submitted for each trail development project unless the projects are substantially related.
4. Match is required for all projects and varies based upon the grant award funding source. The local match may be cash, non-cash, or a land donation value.
5. If a project is selected for funding, the Bureau will review the proposed cash and non-cash values and work items to determine their eligibility. Adjustments may be made to those values and work items.
6. Cash match contributions provided by other organizations should be transferred to the applicant/grantee. In cases where an outside organization/agency wishes to expend funds on behalf of the applicant/grantee, a formal agreement must be executed between all parties to define roles and responsibilities. Draft agreements should be provided to the Bureau for review and approval prior to execution.
7. The market value of donated land, as determined by a state certified General Real Estate Appraiser, may be used as all or part of the required local match for trail development projects.
 - Donated land must be acquired during the approved project period unless the applicant has an approved Waiver for Retroactivity from the Bureau to acquire the land prior to the date of the grant award.
 - The value of the donated land will only be considered as match for the development of the donated land.
 - Land acquired by mandatory dedication, by court order, or by other state/federal agencies may not be used as a land donation match.
 - Applicants must provide a full appraisal report conforming to Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) by a state certified General Real Estate Appraiser.
 - If selected for funding, a second appraisal may be required for the Bureau to determine and approve the actual land donation value.
 - Appraisal and other costs related to a land donation are not eligible for grant reimbursement on trail development projects.
 - Land accepted for donation must provide both public value and public use.
8. Grant applications must include evidence that the municipality(ies) and county in which the project is located have had the opportunity to comment on the project proposal. As a general policy, the Bureau will not approve grant funding where local elected officials have expressed opposition to the proposed project.
9. Property that is not owned in fee simple must be controlled through a permanent easement or long term lease agreement (minimum 25 years) with terms and provisions acceptable to the Bureau. If the property is currently leased, a copy of all leases shall be included with the grant application. If the property will be leased, the applicant should discuss DCNR requirements with the Regional Advisor. If available, a draft lease should be included with the grant application for review and approval by the Bureau.
10. All facilities renovated or developed with DCNR funding must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended and 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The 2010 ADA Standards can be accessed by using the hyperlink available at the end of

this section. In addition, Bureau staff is available to discuss any concerns you may have relative to your project complying with these regulations.

11. All facilities renovated or developed with DCNR funding must comply with the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act (Act 45 of 1999, as amended) (35 P.S. Sections 7210.101 et seq.), as implemented by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry Regulations, 34 Pa. Code Chapters 401-405.
12. Grantees are required to utilize a qualified design professional(s) (architect, landscape architect or engineer licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania) to prepare drawings and/or specifications for all trail development projects. All drawings and/or specifications should be sealed and signed by the appropriate design professional(s).
13. Construction contracts, material purchases, and construction equipment rental must be publicly advertised, bid, and awarded in compliance with applicable laws. All construction projects with an established project cost of \$25,000 or more must include prevailing wages in accordance with regulations of the Department of Labor and Industry.
14. Upon project completion, the design professional(s) for the project will be required to submit a letter to the Bureau certifying that the final construction was completed in accordance with the approved drawings and specifications. Construction observation or inspection should be included in the design professional's contracted scope of work.
15. The Bureau may permit some or all of the project work to be completed by municipal work force account/in-house services and volunteers rather than by competitive bidding and independent contracting. Additionally, upon Bureau approval, construction equipment owned by the applicant and donations of professional construction services, materials, and equipment may also be deemed eligible as match for the project.
16. The proposed project scope of work must be comprehensive enough to result in a complete and useable facility.
17. All facilities developed or rehabilitated under this program must comply with generally accepted construction practices. Incorporation of green/sustainable practices and energy saving technologies are a Bureau priority and are encouraged in all trail development projects.
18. The Department is actively seeking opportunities to expand motorized recreation on lands not owned by the Commonwealth by fostering public and private partners in strategic locations.

Trail Development: Project Types

1. New Construction and Rehabilitation

Grants are awarded to construct new and rehabilitate existing trails for various recreational trail uses such as pedestrian uses (hiking, running, wheelchair use), bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, or use of other off-road motorized vehicles. Rehabilitation work must be for existing facilities that have safety concerns or have deteriorated due to age and/or use; not as a result of a lack of maintenance on the part of the applicant.

State and federal funding sources are available to state and federal agencies, municipalities, non-profit, and for-profit organizations for the construction of new and rehabilitation of existing trails for Trail Development projects. Project and applicant eligibility as well as the required grant match is dependent on funding source requirements.

Sample Project Description:

Further development of the Northwest River Trail in Conoy Township, Lancaster County. Work to include the construction of approximately 1.86 miles of trail from Shock's Mill Bridge to Conoy Creek, pedestrian bridge and erosion and sedimentation controls; landscaping; ADA access, project sign and trail signage and related site improvements.

2. Maintenance

Trail maintenance includes non-construction activities such as vegetation management, access control, cleaning of drainage structures, etc. Maintenance of trails and trail facilities can only be funded with Pennsylvania Recreational Trails (PRT). Match requirements are established at a minimum of 20%.

Sample Project Description:

Trail maintenance of Owen Snowmobile/All-Terrain Vehicle Trail in Somerset Township, Somerset County. Work to include maintenance of approximately 5.0 miles of trail; ADA access; project sign and related site improvements.

Trail Development: Guidance Documents & Bureau Policies

The following information may be helpful in developing a DCNR grant application.

Guidance Documents:[Bureau eLibrary link for Development Documents:](#)

- Design Consultant Selection for Development Projects
- (PRD) Preparation of Final Construction Drawings and Specifications
- Sample Estimated Development Project Timeline
- Sample Worksheet – Non-Cash Match Values
- Trail Development Drawing (TDD) Checklist

Other Resources:

- [Pennsylvania Trail Design & Development Principles](#)
- [Pennsylvania Trail Design Manual for Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles](#)
- [Trails for All People, Guidance for Accessibility and Inclusive Design](#)
- [Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines \(PROWAG\)](#)
- [2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design \(2010 Standards\)](#).
- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy [Trail User Survey Workbook](#)
- WeConservePA [Model Trail Easement Agreement and Commentary](#)
- [Rails-to-Trails Conservancy](#)
- [American Trails](#)
- [Federal Highway Administration Bicycle & Pedestrian Publications](#)
- [Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies](#)
- [Green and Sustainable Design](#)

Bureau Policies:[Bureau Policies:](#)

- ADA Policy
- Trail Development Project Management Process Policy
- Development Eligible and Ineligible Grant Project Activities/Costs Policy
- Greening Policy
- Ownership and Control Policy
- PNDI Policy
- Waiver for Retroactivity Policy

TRAIL EQUIPMENT PURCHASE Projects

Equipment Purchase Projects involve the purchase or lease of equipment to be used exclusively for the maintenance or construction of land and water trails and trail-related facilities for motorized and non-motorized recreational activities.

Trail Equipment Purchase: Ready-To-Go Checklist

This Checklist is to be used by the applicant to ensure the Trail Equipment Purchase Project is "Ready-To-Go". The items below need to be addressed, included and/or uploaded in the application. It will be used by DCNR in the grant application evaluation process. Only projects that are Ready-To-Go will be given consideration for grant awards. If you have questions regarding this Checklist, please contact the [DCNR Regional Advisor](#) assigned to the region in which your project is located.

- * **Ready-to-Go Status is worth 15 points. It is essential to provide high quality, well-defined and/or detailed information for these items.**

Yes	Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contacted Regional Advisor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligible Applicant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appropriate Applicant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligible project
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Project site is open to the public
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Match secured
	<input type="checkbox"/> Letters of match commitment from entities other than applicant uploaded
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Detailed list of eligible cash match included
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Realistic, accurate, and detailed cost estimate/budget included (should be based on current price quotes)
*	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear, concise, and detailed scope of work included
	<input type="checkbox"/> Accurate project site location map(s) uploaded
	<input type="checkbox"/> Properly completed Resolution Page uploaded

Trail Equipment Purchase: General Information & Funding Conditions

1. All projects must serve a public purpose and help advance [DCNR goals](#) and [priorities](#).
2. All facilities/sites must be open for use by the general public.
3. Applicants may submit more than one application per funding period. A separate application must be submitted for each trail development project unless the projects are substantially related.
4. Cash match is required for all projects. Minimum match is 20% of the total project cost.
5. Cash match contributions provided by other organizations should be transferred to the applicant/grantee.
6. Equipment that is acquired with DCNR funding is not permitted to be used for purposes other than trail construction and maintenance. No change of use and no transfer of ownership, control, or interest in the equipment may occur; and no encumbrance may be placed on the equipment, without the written consent of DCNR. Every two years during the useful life of the equipment, the grantee is required to provide evidence that the equipment is still in place and being used for its intended purpose.

Trail Equipment Purchase: Project Types

Grants are awarded for the purchase or lease of equipment for maintenance or construction of motorized and non-motorized trails. Trail equipment purchases can only be funded with Pennsylvania Recreational Trails (PRT). Match requirements for PRT is established at a minimum of 20% of the total project cost.

Sample Project Descriptions:

Purchase a snowmobile trail groomer to groom 230 miles of snowmobile trails in Lackawanna, Susquehanna and Wayne counties.

Purchase of trail maintenance equipment to construct and maintain approximately 200 miles of trails in the Moshannon State Forest in Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, and Elk counties.

Trail Equipment Purchase: Guidance Documents & Bureau Policies

The following information may be helpful in developing a DCNR grant application.

Bureau Policies:

[Bureau Policies:](#)

- Equipment Purchase Policy and Tracking Form
- Funding OHV Facilities Policy

TRAIL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS Projects

Educational Program Projects involve the development and operation of educational programs that promote safety and environmental protection as those objectives relate to the use of motorized and non-motorized recreational trails.

Ready-To-Go Checklist

This Checklist is to be used by the applicant to ensure the Trail Educational Program Project is “Ready-To-Go”. The items below need to be addressed, included and/or uploaded in the application. It will be used by DCNR in the grant application evaluation process. Only projects that are Ready-To-Go will be given consideration for grant awards. If you have questions regarding this Checklist, please contact the [DCNR Regional Advisor](#) assigned to the region in which your project is located.

*** Ready-to-Go Status is worth 15 points. It is essential to provide high quality, well-defined and/or detailed information for these items.**

Yes	Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contacted appropriate DCNR Regional or Partnerships Division Staff
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligible Applicant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligible scope of work activities
* <input type="checkbox"/>	Match secured
* <input type="checkbox"/>	The applicant does not have any open expired DCNR grant agreements.
* <input type="checkbox"/>	Clear & concise work plan with detailed scope of work items that contain accurate cost estimates
<input type="checkbox"/>	Detailed account of eligible cash and/or non-cash match
<input type="checkbox"/>	Letters of match commitment from entities other than applicant uploaded
<input type="checkbox"/>	Properly completed Resolution Page uploaded

Trail Educational Programs: General Information & Funding Conditions

1. All projects must serve a public purpose and help advance [DCNR goals](#) and [priorities](#).
2. Applicants may submit more than one application per funding period. A separate application must be submitted for each trail planning project unless the projects are substantially related.
3. If your project is selected for funding, the Bureau will review the proposed cash and non-cash values and work items to determine their eligibility. Adjustments may be made to those values and work items.

Trail Educational Programs: Project Types

Grants are awarded to projects that develop, promote, and/or conduct training or educational programs including conferences and workshops; prepare and distribute technical assistance or educational materials, brochures or videos and/or otherwise provide for the training and education of professionals and/or the general public on a local, county, regional or statewide

basis. These projects promote safety and environmental protection as those objectives relate to the use of motorized and non-motorized recreational trails.

Sample Project Descriptions:

Develop a one day "Environmentally Sensitive Trail Maintenance" training curriculum with both a classroom and field component, which will focus on practices to reduce sediment production and long term maintenance costs of trails. Conduct two pilot sessions of the new training course. Work to include a written summary report.

Host approximately 30 Stewardship Educational Workshops throughout the state to train volunteers and agency personnel to layout, construct, and maintain equestrian and non-motorized shared use trails through classroom instruction and hands-on training. Work to include a written summary report.

Trail Educational Programs: Guidance Documents & Bureau Policies

The following information may be helpful in developing a DCNR grant application.

Bureau Policies:

- Partnership Eligible and Ineligible Project Activities/Costs Policy