



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Bureau of Recreation and Conservation

Stewardship. Partnership. Service.

The Bureau of Recreation and Conservation's goal is to connect citizens and the outdoors through recreation, conservation, and community revitalization projects.

The bureau achieves this goal by partnering with communities across Pennsylvania to provide grants and technical assistance for local recreation and conservation projects. These projects include:

- Park rehabilitation and new development
- Recreation and conservation planning
- Land acquisition and conservation
- River access and conservation
- Community and watershed forestry
- Trail planning and construction
- ATV and snowmobile projects
- Statewide and regional partnerships

The bureau provides its grants through the Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2), which combines several funding sources into one program.

In 2023, the bureau awarded more than 225 grants totaling more than \$50 million to local recreation and conservation projects all across Pennsylvania.

To learn more about bureau grants, and to apply, visit the DCNR Grants Customer Service Portal at apps.dcnr.pa.gov/grants.



Before

After

A \$150,000 bureau grant helped turn the abandoned Kaiers Brewery into a thriving park and playground.



Learn when grants are announced, see examples of finished projects, and more by signing up for the bureau e-newsletter, the [DCNR Grants News](#). Scan this QR code to sign up.

Bureau Mission:

"To be a leader in establishing community conservation partnerships for advancing the greening of Pennsylvania, for protecting and enhancing the commonwealth's natural and heritage resources, and for providing recreational opportunities for all Pennsylvanians and visitors to enjoy."

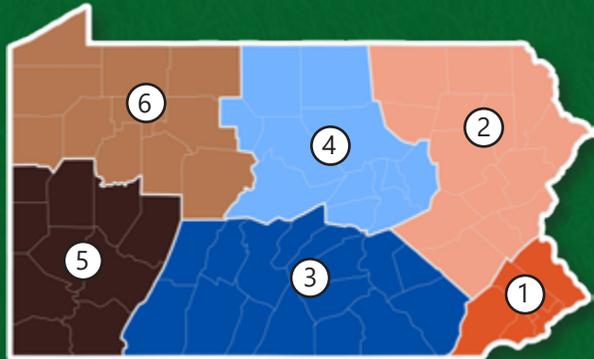
Offices and Assistance

DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation staff have provided technical and grant assistance for over 50 years. A staff of about 40 professionals with expertise in parks, recreation, conservation, and environmental planning are available to help advance community and regional projects.

In addition to a central office in Harrisburg, six regional offices are staffed with advisors who are available for onsite and virtual meetings.

Regional staff are the first point of contact for bureau grant programs and services. They provide technical assistance and assist with project development and competitive applications.

See the bureau's [map of regional advisors](#) for contact information.



Scan this QR code to view the latest regional advisor contact information.



Safe Harbor Trestle Bridge



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Bureau of Recreation and Conservation

Program Areas



Community Parks and Recreation

- Assists communities in planning public parks, recreation facilities, and conservation areas.
- Assists communities in the rehabilitation and new development of sustainable public parks, recreation facilities, and conservation areas.



Land Conservation and Stewardship

- Helps communities and non-profit organizations acquire land and conservation easements for parks, recreation areas, critical habitat, and open space protection.
- Administers and stewards the federal Highland Act Program and Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program.
- Assures that property acquired and developed with state and federal grant funds is protected from conversion to non-recreation or non-conservation purposes.



Greenways and Trails

- Supports development of a statewide network of trails and greenways.
- Coordinates trail funding to close priority trail gaps and advance Pennsylvania's goal of a trail within 10 minutes of every Pennsylvanian.
- Designates and supports Pennsylvania's Major Greenway Corridors and Trail of the Year.



ATV and Snowmobile

- Supports the development and expansion of motorized recreation opportunities.
- Provides semi-annual grant opportunities with no required match.



Riparian Buffer Planting
at Historic Poole Forge



Rivers

- Coordinates development of water-based recreation and conservation projects.
- Preserves waterways through the Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers Program.
- Connects communities to local waterways by supporting Pennsylvania's water trails, paddling sojourns, and River of the Year.



Community and Watershed Forestry

- Helps communities and non-profits design, establish, and steward riparian forest buffers, lawn conversions, and community tree planting.
- Contributes to Pennsylvania's interstate conservation efforts, including the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Program.



Statewide and Regional Partnerships

- Advances cultural, natural, and recreation initiatives within a statewide or regional area.
- Supports Pennsylvania's 12 designated Heritage Areas and eight Conservation Landscapes.
- Provides training and resources to help recreation and conservation providers manage Pennsylvania's public lands.
- Helps municipalities build capacity to develop and manage recreation and conservation projects through peer and circuit rider grants.



Statewide Planning

- Oversees development and implementation of Pennsylvania's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- Analyzes close-to-home outdoor recreation access and need to identify priority areas for future investment.