

# Sustaining and Growing Delaware River Communities

A SOURCEBOOK

*Tools and Tips for Protecting Nature and History*



# Sourcebook for National Park Gateway Communities

*Preserving community character,  
promoting park and community health  
and stimulating local economies*

September 2021

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PREPARED BY



Designed by Kelley Albert Design

# Introduction

Situated near America’s national parks, gateway communities benefit from beautiful landscapes, abundant wildlife and proximity to historic sites. As gateways to the parks, these communities experience both the benefits and challenges sparked by visitors and related development.

Vibrant communities offering authentic experiences and demonstrating a sense of place attract travelers who tend to stay longer and spend more. However, gateway community residents face key challenges:

- **Preserving their community’s unique character and quality of life**
- **Promoting their community’s ecological integrity and health**
- **Stimulating the local economy**
- **Balancing the positive and negative impacts of tourism**



**Cover:** Communities including Port Jervis, NY along the Delaware River are rich in human history and culture, natural resources, scenic beauty and recreational opportunities © on Bilous | Dreamstime  
**Above:** Community gatherings, such as the Riverfest in Narrowsburg, NY, create a shared identity among residents. ©Herb Clark | Sullivan County Visitors Association

National Parks Conservation Association has prepared this Sourcebook for use by gateway communities in the Mid-Atlantic region, focusing largely on Delaware River communities between Hancock, New York and Dover, Delaware. These include gateway communities of the:

**Appalachian National Scenic Trail:** New York | New Jersey | Pennsylvania  
**Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River:** New York | Pennsylvania  
**Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area:** New Jersey | Pennsylvania  
**First State National Historical Park:** Delaware | Pennsylvania



The Sourcebook focuses on best practice models and successful approaches for gateway communities to meet the following goals:

- 1 Engaging local entrepreneurs, small businesses, civic groups, government and others in providing a distinctive, authentic visitor experience.
- 2 Highlighting the integrity of place, and respect for local culture and tradition, by emphasizing and promoting local character.
- 3 Creating a nationally and internationally branded travel destination and measuring increasing tourism success not only by numbers of visitors, but also by the quality of their experience, length of their stay, how they spend their money, whether they return and whether they encourage others to visit.
- 4 Fostering inter-state collaboration to promote the region's unique character by preserving natural habitats, heritage sites, scenic and recreational appeal and local culture.
- 5 Encouraging best practices that enhance sustainability and authentic visitor experiences.

We hope this Sourcebook will be useful to residents, municipal staff and others seeking to preserve their community's character, to promote their community's health and that of their national park neighbor and to stimulate their local economy for the benefit of their residents and visitors.

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## Contact Us

We would love to hear from you.  
Share your comments or updates with us at:

### National Parks Conservation Association

Attention: Sharon Davis  
777 Sixth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
800.628.7275

Email: [midatlantic@npca.org](mailto:midatlantic@npca.org)  
*Please type "Sourcebook" in the subject line.*

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# Acknowledgements

This Sourcebook is based on published materials, supplemented and organized thematically. We began with *National Park Gateway Communities: Lessons Learned*, a comprehensive notebook of plans, ordinances, and statutes prepared by T. Destry Jarvis, President of Outdoor Recreation and Park Services, LLC, for the National Parks Conservation Association in August 2012. We are deeply indebted to Destry for his work and generosity in encouraging us to build on his efforts. A second major source was the Conservation Leadership Network's *Reaching the Summit: Balancing Nature and Commerce in the New River Gorge Area* materials for a conference held in October 2010. Collaboration with and guidance by gateway community leaders were essential in these two projects and in producing this Sourcebook. We also are indebted to community leaders (*see next page*) who provided encouragement, comments and suggestions.



**Above:** Local shops like the Village Farmer & Bakery, Delaware Water Gap, PA contribute to community character. ©James Kirkikis | Dreamstime

# Acknowledgements

## Delaware Highlands Conservancy

**Diane Rosencrance** Executive Director

## National Park Conservation Association (NPCA)

**Sharon Davis** Manager, Middle & Upper Delaware River Program  
**Amanda John Kimsey** Manager, Pennsylvania and Delaware Programs (2016-2019)  
**Melanie McDowell** Outreach & Engagement Manager, Mid-Atlantic  
**Sergio Moncada** Northeast Program Manager  
**Halle Van der Gaag** Senior Manager, Pennsylvania and Delaware Programs  
**Cortney Worrall** Senior Director, Northeast Region (2014-2020)

## National Park Service (NPS)

**Sue Abbott** Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program Community Planner  
**Carla Hauser Hahn** Park Ranger, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (retired)  
**Helen Mahan** River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program  
**Corita Waters** Rivers Partnerships Program Specialist

## Northampton County, PA

**Bryan S. Cope** Superintendent of Parks and Recreation

## Warren County, NJ

**Corey Tierney** Director, Land Preservation Department

*Please note: The Sourcebook is intended to provide examples of key tools to preserve community character. Please share any updates or additional examples by emailing us at [midatlantic@npca.org](mailto:midatlantic@npca.org).*

### Principal Authors | Editors

**Greer S. Goldman** Special Projects  
**Joy M. Oakes** Senior Director, Mid-Atlantic Region  
**Hope Wright** Delaware River Fellow

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Family-friendly recreational opportunities contribute to community quality of life.  
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Phillipsburg NJ is working to revitalize its historic riverfront while preserving its character.

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## CHAPTER 1

# State and Regional Protections for Gateway Communities



# State and Regional Protections for Gateway Communities

## State Statutes

### Pennsylvania

#### The Appalachian Trail Protection

**Act,**  as amended in June 2008 by Act 24, authorizes the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources “to enter into such agreements and to acquire such interest as may be necessary to establish, protect and maintain the Appalachian Trail, and providing for the establishment,

protection and maintenance of such trail.” It further provides that a “municipality ... shall have the power and the duty to take such action consistent with applicable law ... to preserve the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the trail and to conserve and maintain it as a public natural resource. Such action shall include the adoption, implementation and enforcement of zoning ordinances as the governing body deems necessary to preserve those values.” The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has published an online resource to assist communities  in these efforts. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission also has developed a guide for county municipalities  regarding zoning and other approaches to implement the statute.



**Previous Page:** Endangered Monarchs migrate along the Delaware River to wintering grounds in Mexico. ©Cwieders | Dreamstime **Top:** The Appalachian Trail welcomes walkers of all ages. ©Michelle Morrison Photo | Istockphoto **Above:** Residents and visitors alike enjoy recreational boating along the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River. ©David B. Soete

**The Historic District Act of Pennsylvania of 1961** ☑ authorizes counties, cities, boroughs, incorporated towns and townships to create historic districts within their geographic boundaries, provides for the appointment of Boards of Historical Architectural Review, and empowers governing bodies of political subdivisions to preserve the distinctive historical character of these districts and to regulate the erection, reconstruction, alteration, restoration, demolition or razing of buildings within historic districts. A model historic district ordinance, further information, and technical assistance are available from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation.

**Pennsylvania Act 115 of 2013** ☑ amends the Open Space Tax incentive program to allow for pooled funds at the local level to be used to maintain and rehabilitate parks, trails and open space areas.



## New Jersey

**The New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act** ☑ aims to protect the highlands region of northern New Jersey. The Act requires a regional master plan to protect the area from adverse development and to protect water quality.

**The New Jersey Local Redevelopment and Housing Law** ☑ was adopted in 1992 to codify and simplify prior statewide enactments relative to local redevelopment and housing, so that legal mechanisms affecting such improvement may be more efficiently employed.

**The New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law of 2009**  guides the development of local zoning ordinances, stating, “Among its purposes are to encourage municipal action to guide the appropriate use or development of all lands in this State in a manner which will promote the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare; to promote the conservation of historic sites and districts, open space, energy resources, and valuable natural resources in the State; and to prevent urban sprawl and degradation of the environment through improper use of land.”

**The New Jersey Registry of Historic Places Act**,  as amended in 1970, establishes rules applicable throughout the State pertaining to historic districts and sites. The rules establish procedures for listing historic properties on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places and protecting those historic properties from encroachment by undertakings of State, county and municipal governments.

**The Garden State Preservation Trust Act**,  adopted in 1999 and administered by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, established a Trust to fund preservation projects relating to historic preservation, open space and farmland preservation.

**The New Jersey Agriculture Retention and Development Act**,  first enacted in 1981 and as amended, provides funds to purchase permanent deed restrictions so that farms will always remain farms, and can never be sold for housing or for non-farming commercial development.



**Above:** Preserving farmland reduces demand for many taxpayer-funded services.  
©Mathew Schwartz | Unsplash

## New York

**New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980**  was established as a counterpart to the National Historic Preservation Act and declares historic preservation to be the public policy and in the public interest of the State. The act created the New York State Register of Historic Places, the official list of sites, buildings, structures, areas or objects significant in the history, architecture, archeology or culture of the State, its communities or the nation. The purpose of the Act is to continue and advance the State's historic preservation programs and activities, to continue the responsibility for the coordination of such programs and activities with the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, to foster consistency of State activities with historic preservation policy, to encourage and assist local governments in local preservation programs and activities, and to encourage and assist private agencies and individuals undertaking preservation by private means. State regulations implement the program.

**New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)**,  amended in 2018, requires all state and local government agencies to consider environmental impacts equally with social and economic factors during discretionary decision-making. Modeled after the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, SEQRA is a “little NEPA,” primarily a procedural statute that requires a stepped process in order to determine whether a proposed governmental action will have an impact on the environment.



## Delaware

**The Delaware Land Protection Act of 1990** ✎ established an Open Space Council to oversee protection of State Resource Areas according to a set of standards and criteria for land preservation in the state.

### Regional Review

#### Delaware River Basin Commission ✎

Created in 1961, the Delaware River Basin Commission is a federal-interstate agency created by an interstate compact signed into law by President John F. Kennedy and the governors of Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. The Compact marks the first time that state and federal governments joined together as equal partners in a regional body with the force of law to bring a unified approach to managing a river basin without regard to political boundaries. The Commission conducts programs to protect water quality, allocate and conserve water supply, reduce and mitigate damage from flooding, prepare for and manage droughts, oversee recreational activities such as fishing, and related matters.



#### Upper Delaware Council ✎

The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. (UDC) was established in 1988 as a formal partnership among local, state and federal governments and agencies to manage the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River pursuant to a “Final River Management Plan” including Land and Water Use Guidelines. [See Chapter II, Comprehensive Plans, for information on the Guidelines.] The UDC’s members include eight New York towns and seven Pennsylvania townships in the Upper Delaware River corridor in NY’s Delaware, Sullivan and Orange counties and PA’s Wayne and Pike counties; the State of New York; the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; the Delaware River Basin Commission; and the Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council. As implemented by the UDC, the Management Plan is based on a shared

commitment to local land use controls and voluntary actions by landowners to protect resources on their own properties. The UDC reviews planned development activities and land use regulations of participating towns and townships to ensure substantial compliance with compatible, conditional, and incompatible land uses listed in the Guidelines. UDC also works in direct, active cooperation with local governments and through technical assistance grants to develop information and programs to advance the goals of the River Management Plan. Funding is appropriated by the U.S. Congress as a line-item in the Department of the Interior's (DOI) annual budget, supplemented by in-kind contributions and external grants.



Flooding from extreme weather may spark deeper setbacks for future riverside construction. **Top Left:** Easton, PA ©Jon Bilous | Dreamstime **Top Right:** Washington Crossing State Park ©Marcello Sgarlato | Dreamstime **Above:** New Hope, PA ©Vadim 777 | Dreamstime

## CHAPTER 2

# Gateway Community Strategies



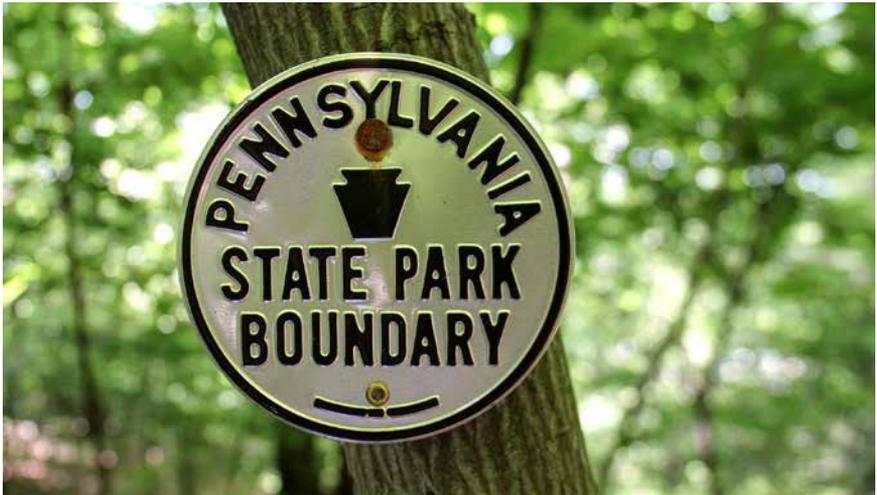
# Gateway Community Strategies

## Zoning

Zoning ordinances are locally adopted rules that define how property in specific geographic zones can be used. They may specify whether zones can be used for residential or commercial purposes, and may also regulate lot size, placement, bulk (or density), structure height, parking, traffic, and advertising signage among other elements. For example, historic districts are commonly zoned to enhance a community's local character by preserving entire neighborhoods in which constraints on renovation and use can be placed on buildings, sites, or landscapes. Zoning overlays are regulatory tools that create special zoning districts, placed over an existing base zone, which identifies special provisions in addition to those in the underlying base zone and applicable only to areas within the overlay. For example, Eldred Township, PA, has adopted an overlay district to preserve the area surrounding the Appalachian Trail. Zoning ordinances and overlays preserve historic, scenic, cultural, and natural resources by requiring development activities to meet prescribed criteria.

### Eldred Township, PA

To provide a buffer from incompatible uses and structures along the Appalachian Trail, Eldred Township and other AT communities have adopted the “Appalachian Trail Overlay District” that includes the area within 1,000 feet on each side of the AT's centerline. Residential, commercial, and industrial uses are prohibited within this corridor. Open space and passive recreational uses are permitted.



## Milford Township, PA

In June 2017, Milford Township amended its Zoning Ordinance to (among other purposes): (a) provide for safe, decent, sanitary housing and living environments, with the maximum range of choice in type and location for all families and individuals; (b) and maintain large areas of the Township as permanent open space to meet future recreation and water supply and other community needs.

## Plainfield Township, PA

In 2019, Plainfield Township adopted zoning ordinances to protect the AT from negative impacts of energy development projects. The new ordinances create a buffer that will prevent projects such as natural gas pipelines, wind turbines, solar panels or cellular towers from being constructed near the AT or, when appropriate, conceal or camouflage towers near the Trail. The new ordinances also address water and mineral extraction.

## Purchases of Land from Willing Sellers

Purchasing land  in “fee simple” provides a permanent form of land preservation and public access. While it reduces the tax base when the land is dedicated to a public purpose, it also reduces demand for many costly public services such as schools and public water and sewer facilities, to the extent the purchase restricts development. Local jurisdictions may purchase land to set it aside, or a local land trust may facilitate the purchase by conservation-oriented buyers to pool enough resources to purchase land. The University of Pennsylvania’s Department of City and Regional Planning published a useful summary of state programs in New York,  New Jersey,  and Pennsylvania  that foster purchases of land for preservation, entitled “Land Preservation in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania: Strategy, Funding, and Cooperation are Key”  (December 2005).

## Warren County, NJ

Warren County developed a detailed, comprehensive farmland plan in 2008. The plan outlines the current state of Warren County farming, resources available to farmers and farming pressures. It serves as an all-inclusive guide to farming in the county and how to preserve farms for future generations.



**Above:** Multiple programs can help preserve farmland, support local food production, and preserve rural character like this beautiful NJ farm ©Nicholas | Wikimedia Commons

## Easements and Other Governmental Incentives

Government incentives may take many forms. For example, local jurisdictions may provide significant tax benefits to landowners who develop their property consistent with local objectives, such as historic preservation, or who donate a conservation easement or land to a land trust or public agency. Land trusts promote and facilitate purchase or donation of conservation easements relating to private land where the land trust holds the easement. Conservation easements preserve valuable natural and scenic resources by permanently restricting the type, location, and density of future land development while still allowing landowners to retain ownership of their property. Variations on the

conservation easement are scenic and viewshed easements, which provide for maintaining a use that is compatible with resource conservation and consistent with zoning. Easements are attractive to landowners because they can include tax deductions, credits, or other financial benefits, and they can be attractive to local jurisdictions because they leave the land on the tax rolls albeit at reduced taxable value.



### Northampton County, PA

The Northampton County Farmland Preservation Easement Purchase Program provides compensation to farmers for easement values of farmland preserved for long-term agricultural use. By selling conservation easements, the farmer receives the easement value of the property without having to sell it for non-farm development. Purchasing agricultural conservation easements provides a long-term, permanent solution to farmland conversion.

### Delaware Aglands Preservation Program

Delaware Department of Agriculture established this program in 1991 allowing landowners to voluntarily preserve their farms. The two-phase process pays landowners to sell their farm's development rights and ends in an Agricultural Conservation Easement.

## Sussex County, DE

Sussex County has published a short guide to programs available in the county for landowners who wish to preserve their farmland, woodlands and wetlands (or other qualifying tracts).



## New Jersey's Farmland Preservation Program

New Jersey's Department of Agriculture offers a variety of economic incentives for owners of agricultural lands to preserve the agricultural character of their property, from fee simple sales to easements and other voluntary restrictions.

## Purchases and Transfers of Development Rights

Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) programs provide compensation to owners of agricultural property for their willingness to accept a permanent deed restriction (through a conservation easement) on their land. Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) programs allow landowners to sell development rights from their land to a developer or other interested party who then can use these rights to increase the density of development at another designated location. Thus, a TDR program aims to direct growth from sensitive lands to areas that have been identified as suitable for development. The development potential of the land may be sold or traded. TDR generally works in concert with zoning regulations by limiting the development density and potential of one area in favor of allowing higher density in another area.

## PDR and TDR Program in Chester County, PA

- Chester County created its **Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program**  in 1989.

This program provides for the county to purchase from farmland owners agricultural conservation easements in partnership with state and municipal governments, and qualified non-profit organizations. Rather than selling development rights, the landowner retains all other rights and responsibilities of private land ownership including the right to farm the land.



- Several municipalities in Chester County have successfully established TDR programs.  The Planning Commission has catalogued these programs, including a discussion of the potential benefits of these programs for the landowners and the community.

Preserving farmland benefits local residents and attracts visitors who value scenic beauty.

**Top:** Western Highlands Scenic Byway, NJ ©Jeff Stoveken **Above:** Chester County, PA farmland ©Jean-francois Guignard | Dreamstime

## TDR Program in New Castle County, DE

In 1998, New Castle County adopted TDR provisions to encourage preservation of farmland and historic properties. Detailed requirements apply.

## Pinelands Development Credit Program in Pinelands National Reserve, NJ

The Pinelands Development Credit (PDC) Program is a regional transfer of development rights program designed to preserve important agricultural and ecological land. PDCs are allocated by the Pinelands Development Commission to landowners in designated places, which are the sending areas. PDC credits can then be purchased by property owners and developers who are interested in developing land in Pinelands Regional Growth Areas, which serve as the receiving areas. Typically, PDCs are used to increase residential densities in Regional Growth Areas. Once PDCs are “severed” from a sending area property, that property is permanently protected by a conservation or agricultural deed restriction. The credits associated with that property can then be sold. Credits are bought and sold in one-quarter credit units called “rights.”



### Guidelines

Guidelines help preserve scenic, historic, cultural and natural resources and at the same time foster creative development that contributes to a community’s gateway character. They may be part of a formal planning process that requires any new development to obtain review and approval, as is required under the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River’s Land and Water Use Guidelines administered by the Upper Delaware Council and the NPS, discussed below. In contrast, voluntary guidelines may encourage or suggest (rather than prohibit and restrict) how structures should be designed, located and built.

**Above:** At 1.1 million acres, the NJ Pinelands provide the largest open space between Richmond, VA and Boston, MA, host dozens of rare plants and animals and protect precious water resources.  
©Julie Feinstein | Dreamstime

## Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Management Plan, including Land and Water Use

- In 1978, Congress designated the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River as a unit of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System to protect, conserve and enhance the free-flowing character, exceptionally high water quality, and the scenic, recreational, ecological, cultural and geologic values of the “river corridor.” The National Park Service was assigned federal responsibility for assuring implementation of the law and the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) was established to coordinate implementation. Stakeholders



in the Upper Delaware community collaborated to: (1) identify a final “River Corridor;” (2) develop a “River Management Plan” including Land and Water Use Guidelines; (3) and establish a framework for assuring that no actions contrary to the values that Congress identified will be taken within the Corridor.



- The UDC reviews planned development activities and land use regulations of member towns and townships to ensure “substantial conformance “with respect to the list of Compatible, Conditional, and Incompatible Land Uses set out in these [Land and Water Use] guidelines, and with the substance of each of the principles and objectives set out in these guidelines, so as to carry out the intent of the Upper Delaware legislation.” The NPS is responsible for reviews in non-participating towns and townships. The Plan states that: “Local governments which adopt land use regulations based on these guidelines will be deemed to be in substantial conformance.”

## Comprehensive Plans

Comprehensive plans may be prescriptive or suggestive, as the discussion below demonstrates. Comprehensive planning is often a critical first step to identifying core values for a community and assuring that those values are preserved and encouraged for the future. Among the challenges are engaging the participation of stakeholders in the community, developing a key set of principles based on shared values, creating coordinating structures to work within a community and neighboring communities, and ensuring that specific actions are taken to implement the identified values and principles.

### Lehigh Valley Comprehensive Plan, PA

Lehigh and Northampton counties formed the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission in 1961 to create a comprehensive plan to guide orderly growth in the counties. LVPC has developed model ordinances to assist communities in addressing community development and environmental concerns.



### Pinelands National Reserve, NJ

Congress created the Pinelands National Reserve (PNR) in southeastern Pennsylvania through the passage of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978. The first National Reserve in the nation, the PNR is approximately 1.1 million acres and spans portions of seven counties and all or part of 56 municipalities. Occupying 22% of New Jersey's land area, the Reserve is the largest open space on the Mid-Atlantic seaboard between Richmond and Boston. In 1979, New Jersey formed a partnership with the federal government to preserve, protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources of this area and created the New Jersey Pinelands Commission to implement the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. Toward that end, the Commission administers the Pinelands Development Credit (PDC) Program, a regional transfer of development rights (TDR) program, designed to conserve the Pinelands by maintaining the region's unique ecology while permitting compatible development. As of June 2020, 55,391 acres in the Pinelands Area had been permanently preserved through the PDC Program. See the TDR section for a description of the Pinelands TDR program.



**Top:** Municipalities can guide development that also preserves clean water and open space.

**Above:** The Pinelands National Reserve (NJ) offers a model for preserving open space in exchange for development elsewhere. ©Olivier Le Queinec | Dreamstime

## Phillipsburg Riverfront Redevelopment Plan, NJ

The town of Phillipsburg, New Jersey has adopted a comprehensive redevelopment plan to foster the revitalization of the riverfront district, in particular the historic downtown. The plan encourages good design, accommodating quality business enterprises and creating new housing opportunities; encourages highlighting of the Delaware River, and encourages utilizing the Town’s railroad/canal heritage as a major attraction and focal point to build and support its eco/heritage tourism industry.



## Education and Recreation Programs

Education about natural and cultural resources fosters stewardship among visitors and residents. It instills community pride and can strengthen a sense of place, thus promoting stewardship of local resources. Educational and recreational activities and approaches include visitor centers, study tours, reenactments, demonstrations, informational displays, festivals and celebrations, video and audio guides, presentations and lectures, interpretive markers and messages, integrated trail systems and public art.

## Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area, NJ

Crossroads of the American Revolution interprets the Revolutionary War via fourteen storylines representing the war’s events and impacts across the heritage area, with personal stories of perseverance, entrepreneurship, dedication, loss, and victory—experiences that shaped our society today.

## Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor is a multi-use trail spanning 165 miles between northeast Pennsylvania’s mountains and Bucks County via the Lehigh Valley, providing educational and recreational opportunities. Its mission is to interpret 19th century American canal life and technology through tours of the National Canal Museum and rides on a 110-passenger canal boat.



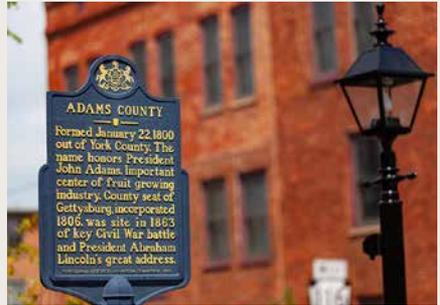
## Eagle Watch, Lackawaxen, PA

The Eagle Watch field office, a free program provided by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, offers detailed information and eagle experts on guided bus tours to view eagles in the Upper Delaware. They also provide interpretive displays, educational films, an eagle sighting map, eagle etiquette instructions and self-guided eagle tours. Located on the NPS Zane Grey Museum campus, the field office is open only on winter weekends.



## Gettysburg, PA 📍

Site of the bloodiest battle 📍 of the U.S. Civil War, Gettysburg links the entire town to its historic past through a variety of interpretive sites, including statues, restored historic buildings and signage denoting buildings extant at the time of the battle.



## Lackawanna Heritage Valley National and State Heritage Area, PA 📍

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley reflects a partnership among governments, businesses, civic organizations and individuals dedicated to developing the region's historic, cultural economic, and natural resources through preservation, education and promotion of the region's heritage.

## Nurture Nature Center, Easton, PA

Founded in 2007 following multiple Delaware River floods, the Nurture Nature Center began as a center for flood education and outreach. While flood risk education remains a core focus, the Center also provides a range of ongoing programs, including science and art presentations and workshops, documentary films, garden programming, community dialogue forums and youth activities and field trips. Home to the “Science on a Sphere® globe” and other educational science exhibits, several art galleries and an urban recycling garden, the Center hosts many thousands of visitors each year.

## Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators

Founded in 1977 and now one of the oldest state environmental education groups, PAEE connects and strengthens its diverse network of organizations by: facilitating regional communication through monthly e-newsletters; hosting an annual conference; maintaining a calendar of professional development events; recognizing excellent educators, programs and organizations; administering a professional certification for environmental educators; facilitating trainings through Project WET, Project Learning Tree and EE Capacity; and representing Pennsylvania as the official state affiliate of the North American Association for Environmental Education.

## Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry, PA

Located in the Pocono Mountains within driving distance of New York City and Philadelphia, this independent nonprofit advances environmental education, sustainable living and appreciation for nature through residential and other programs at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. PEEC is an official NPS partner.



**Above:** PEEC’s activity center (©Nic Lehoux) minimizes its environmental footprint while maximizing its functionality. PEEC’s education programming includes day camps and interpretive hikes. ©PEEC

## Wildlands Conservancy, Emmaus, PA

With the committed support of Robert “Bob” Rodale, a local champion of organic farming and then chairman of Rodale Press, the Lehigh Valley Conservancy was formed in 1973 as a land protection organization based in Bethlehem, PA. Two years later, Rodale’s friend and Air Products founder Leonard Parker Pool bequeathed his 72-acre wildlife sanctuary to the Conservancy to preserve it “in its natural state for its open space, aesthetic and wildlife values and the enjoyment of those values by the public.” After the Conservancy moved its main office and education headquarters to the Pool Wildlife Sanctuary property in Emmaus, PA, the organization expanded its education offerings to emphasize the need to engage and nurture future environmental stewards through educational programs for children. To better reflect the broadened scope of its mission, the name was formally changed to Wildlands Conservancy.



**Above:** The Delaware River watershed provides habitats for diverse wildlife including river otters (©Dejavu Designs | Dreamstime), wood ducks (©Harry Collins | Dreamstime) and the elusive bobcat (©Chris Lorenz | Dreamstime)

## CHAPTER 3

# Best Practices Models/Approaches for Gateway Communities



# Best Practices Models/ Approaches for Gateway Communities

## Historic Preservation

Historic buildings and sites are irreplaceable assets that distinguish a particular area from all others. Preserving historic assets including cultural sites is one of the most critical steps a community can take to maintain its distinct identity and economic vitality. Furthermore, the unique character of historic buildings, particularly commercial buildings, may provide a marketing advantage. Local governments can restrict development of historic assets through zoning ordinances and creating historic districts, and they can encourage property owners to rehabilitate historic buildings by offering incentives, including technical assistance, regulatory relief, and financial support.



**Previous Page:** Grey Towers National Historic Site in Milford, PA preserves the home of Gifford Pinchot, first Chief of the US Forest Service. ©Daniel Case | Wikimedia Common **Top:** ©Hotel Bethlehem **Above:** Preserving historic structures like the Hotel Bethlehem in PA contributes to a town's unique sense of place. ©PDiscover Lehigh Valley, PA | Wikimedia Commons

Districts, sites, buildings, structures, landscapes and objects of historic significance (generally older than 50 years) may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Some states also have established a state register of historic places. Administered by the NPS, the National Register is the federal government's official list of properties and areas deemed worthy of preservation for their historical significance. A property listed on the National Register, or located within a National Register Historic District, may qualify for tax incentives  derived from the total value of expenses incurred preserving the property.

### City of Easton, PA

The Easton City Council passed the Local Historic District (LHD) Ordinance in August 2005 to protect and preserve Easton's historic buildings and streetscapes. The Historic District Commission is the oversight body that recommends to the City Council the approval of Certificates of Appropriateness for any exterior work within the LHD.



### Phillipsburg, NJ

In 2017, the Town of Phillipsburg, New Jersey created a Historic Preservation Plan as part of its Master Plan and an Historic Preservation Commission “to promote the Town’s historic and architecturally significant properties” and “to provide impetus for the revitalization of the Town’s economic base and for the resulting increase in property values.” Its purposes include: to prepare and regularly update the survey of historic sites in the town and recommend sites for preservation; to prepare supporting documentation for nominating eligible properties for designation to the State and/or National Registers; to prepare and maintain guidelines for appropriate architectural designs applicable to the exterior appearance of new construction and for the renovation of structures; and to make recommendations to the Planning Board on the historic preservation plan element of the master plan.

## Street Design

Street design can have a profound effect on community character by making the community more attractive for residents and visitors. Some communities have found ways to encourage or require developers to reflect the landscape through their street design standards in order to preserve open space and scenic views. Other approaches include building sidewalks and working with utility companies and developers to bury utility lines. The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association has created a comprehensive guide [✎](#) for street and sidewalk design.

In 2012, the New Jersey Department of Transportation published its New Jersey Historic Roadway Design Guidelines, [✎](#) developed in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration. The guidelines offer recommendations to avoid or minimize adverse effects to significant historic roadways.

### Delaware County, PA [✎](#)

In April 2016, Delaware County’s Planning Department published a “Complete Streets Planner’s Portfolio.” “Complete Streets” are designed to accommodate all users on roadways, including cyclists, walking, and public transportation.

### City of Newburgh and City of Port Jervis, NY [✎](#)

Two cities in Orange County, New York adopted a Complete Streets plan in 2016. The plan outlines existing roadway conditions, design alternatives and cost estimates for implementing city-wide complete streets.



### Milford, PA [✎](#)

Milford Borough has an extensive Street System guide built into its town Design Standards code. The guide outlines best practices for cul-de-sacs, street widths, street alignments, street grades, intersections and storm drainage. Furthermore, the guide lays out specific parameters for residential and commercial development to maintain the character of the town.

## Landscape and Tree Design

Trees are a basic component of our natural infrastructure and a major factor in contributing to community pride, quality of life and economic development. Trees absorb noise and air pollution, provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, reduce runoff and can decrease stormwater management costs.

### City of Port Jervis, NY

Port Jervis created a Shade Tree Commission in 2011 to “study, investigate, develop and/or update annually and administer a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees, shrubs and bushes in parks, along streets and in other public areas.”



## Signage

Sign regulations are one of the most powerful actions a gateway community can take to make an immediate, visible change in its physical environment. Properly drafted and enforced, sign controls can reinforce the distinctive character of a community—especially important for communities seeking to increase tourism. Attractive, clear signage is a critical element in creating a positive first impression for visitors.



**Top:** Preserving historic structures and large trees supports community character. ©Brian Logan Photography | Shutterstock **Above:** Attractive, clear signage creates a positive impression for visitors. ©Georgesheldon | Dreamstime

## Montgomery County, PA

In 2014, the Montgomery County, Pennsylvania Planning Commission created a model sign ordinance. The ordinance is intended to provide a comprehensive approach to sign regulations by incorporating best practices from communities around the country, appropriate federal and state statutes, and provisions based on leading court decisions involving signage.



## Lighting

### East Greenwich Township, NJ

East Greenwich developed an Outdoor Lighting ordinance that requires all proposed outdoor lighting plans to meet specific guidelines. Included in the ordinance are stipulations for light orientation, security lighting, and use after dark.

### Union Township, NY

Union Township established lighting regulations to minimize undesirable effects of excessive illumination, with a long-term goal of eventually establishing uniform lighting levels across the community.

## Transit

### Monroe County, PA

Monroe County's Transit Authority created the "Pocono Pony" system to enhance the mobility of the people who live or work in Monroe County for the purposes of offering access to quality-of-life activities, including but not limited to, health care, shopping, education, recreation, public services and employment. Pocono Pony includes vehicles with fixed routes as well as ride sharing and services for seniors and the disabled. This service includes stops at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area's visitor centers.



## Growth and Development

### Lehigh Valley, PA

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission developed “Future LV: The Regional Plan” that outlines how the region can embrace the farming industry while directing economic growth to existing population and job centers. The plan highlights the importance of designing an accessible transportation network and strengthening local economies through job training. The vision outlined reaches to 2045, but many of the takeaways are intended to be longer-term.



### Warren County, NJ

Warren County Board of Freeholders created a Strategic Growth Plan in 2005 to provide guidance to municipalities. The Strategic Growth Plan helps coordinate local planning activities such as investment in transportation networks and enhancement of public facilities alongside the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan.

## Adaptive Reuse

### SteelStacks Arts and Cultural Campus, Bethlehem, PA

The SteelStacks Arts and Cultural Campus was created on the footprint of the former Bethlehem Steel campus, now restored, adapted and transformed into an arts and cultural campus. The site features: preserved blast furnaces and other historic steel mill buildings; an elevated walkway/trestle that offers up-close views of the blast furnaces; a visitor/exhibit center in an historic building; parks and outdoor plazas; an outdoor performing arts pavilion; an office building; and production studios for the local public broadcasting station. In addition, the ArtsQuest Center  is devoted to performing arts of all types. In 2014, this project earned an Urban Land Institute “Global Award for Excellence.”

## Ledges Hotel, Hawley, PA

Located in the Pocono Mountains, the historic O'Connor Glass Factory  has been repurposed as the Ledges Hotel. Located along the natural stone ledges of the Wallenpaupack Creek, the hotel offers luxury accommodations, an award-winning restaurant and stunning views of the river gorge. This rustic chic facility seamlessly integrates modern design with historic preservation and adaptation.



## Callicoon Depot, Callicoon, NY

Callicoon's historic 1896 train station has been revived as the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway visitor center and town commons. The Callicoon Business Association signed a long-term lease with the Central New York Railroad Corporation to implement grant-funded improvements and turn the station into a public space. Tours of the repurposed historic depot started in April 2021.



Preserving and re-purposing historic structures like former factories and public buildings contribute to a town's unique sense of place. **Top:** Ledges Hotel, Hawley, PA. ©Jumping Rocks **Middle:** Train Depot, Callicoon, NY ©Laurie Ramie **Bottom:** Train Depot, Callicoon, NY ©Evan Eisenberg

## Residential Development

### West Manchester Township, PA

West Manchester Township's zoning code creates two Open Space Residential Zones in order to: maintain the rural, natural and scenic qualities of the township; provide open space areas; and maintain the development potential of the zone. The code restricts development size and density and requires a minimum percentage of open space.

## Scenic Corridors and Open Space

Scenic corridor design standards and open space guidelines seek to maintain and upgrade the scenic quality of the views of gateway communities from roads and highways and within the communities.



### Upper Delaware Scenic Byway

Located in New York's Orange, Sullivan and Delaware counties, the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway was legislatively designated in 2002 as a component of the New York State Byways System. The highway itself is the main attraction, with scenic vistas, access to the Delaware River and unique communities drawing thousands of visitors each year. In 2015, readers of USA Today voted the Byway as the #2 Best Autumn Scenic Drive in the entire country and #1 in the northeast, a view long held by readers of the River Reporter, a local weekly.



Preserving open space, river access and scenic corridors benefit residents and visitors alike.

**Top:** Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River, NY/PA ©National Park Service **Above:** Hawk's Nest Overlook, Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, NY ©Brian Logan | Dreamstime

### **Stroud Township, PA**

In 2011, Stroud Township in Monroe County adopted an Appalachian Trail Scenic Overlay District zoning ordinance, creating a 2,000’ buffer zone along the AT. The 500’ closest to the AT, “The Primary Conservation Zone,” preserves open space; the next 1,500’, “The Secondary Conservation Zone,” permits construction subject to strict design standards.

### **Monroe County, PA**

In 2001, Monroe County adopted its Open Space Plan, a comprehensive guide to preserving open space throughout the county, including an action guide to preserving and enhancing Monroe County’s green infrastructure.

### **West Manchester, PA**

West Manchester has adopted residential zoning restrictions to maintain its rural, natural, and scenic qualities, provide larger open areas, and maintain the development potential of residential zones.

### **Northampton County, PA**

In 2015, Northampton County Council adopted “Livable Landscapes: An Open Space Plan for Northampton County.” The plan lays out goals, policies, and implementation strategies for the county.



### **Warren County, NJ**

Warren County’s Land Preservation Department works with the county’s Agricultural Development Board, Board of Recreation Commissioners, and Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund Committee to administer the county’s Farmland, Historic, and Open Space Preservation Programs. This includes the Open Space Trust Fund, funded by a property tax. Trust funds are used to preserve farmland and parkland, to support open space and historic preservation projects and to acquire additional county parkland.

## Viewshed

Beyond the confines of the downtown sections of gateway communities, large structures such as cell towers, wind turbines and high voltage electrical lines can degrade the environment and a community's unique historic and scenic character. Many communities have adopted standards to prevent such structures from marring the beauty of their surroundings.

### Lafayette, NJ

Lafayette Township in Sussex County adopted a Ridgeline and Hillside Viewshed Protection Area in 2010. This ordinance stipulates, “ridgeline and hillside viewsheds and vistas are valued assets of the landscape which require protection from destruction, diminution and loss that can result in visually undesirable impacts of development.” The ordinance outlines development regulations within the protection area in order to protect community character, which is defined by scenic vistas of the township's mountains.



### Tompkins County, NY

In December 2010, Tompkins County produced “Protecting Our Scenic Resources,” a plan to inform municipalities how to protect and preserve important scenic resources. The plan recognizes that protecting scenic views benefits environments and economies and emphasizes the importance of maintaining them. A town's aesthetics can deeply affect people and thus where businesses are willing to locate.

## Stormwater

### Lancaster, PA

Lancaster has adopted a comprehensive program of stormwater management, including regulating development and other activities that accelerate erosion, and installing green infrastructure to slow and absorb stormwater runoff.



**CHAPTER 4**

**Grants and Funding Opportunities  
for Gateway Communities**

# Grants and Funding Opportunities for Gateway Communities



## STATE-LEVEL

### Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

#### Surface Water Matching Planning Grants

Helps plan projects to manage water pollution, both from specific sources and from many different sources.

#### Eligibility

- State, county, or municipal governments
- Government agencies
- Governmental subdivision or program
- Non-profit organizations
- Educational institutions
- Community organizations
- Homeowner's associations



**Previous Page:** PA's Fulmer Falls in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area @Svecchiotti | Dreamstime **Above:** Clean water in Brandywine Creek as it flows through First State National Historical Park (DE/PA) depends in part on upstream forest preservation and stormwater management. ©NPCA | Joy Oakes

## Community Water Quality Improvement Grants

Designed to help DE non-profit organizations, local conservation districts, community organizations and/or homeowner's associations implement projects or programs within Delaware's developed landscape to improve water quality

## Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Trails Program

- Formerly the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund, this is a matching grant program assisting with public parkland acquisition and outdoor recreation facility development.

**Eligibility:** Counties, Municipalities, Park districts



## Community Environmental Project Fund

Provides funding for environmental restoration in communities damaged by environmental pollution

### Eligible Community Projects

- Pollution mitigation
- Environmental enhancement
- Recreational opportunity



**Above:** Preserved wetlands such as those at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge (©Steven Fine | Wikimedia Commons) in DE help protect clean water, mitigate flooding and provide wildlife habitat (©WMarissen | Istockphoto)

## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

DNREC is part of a state and federal partnership aiming to add up to 10,000 acres of DE agricultural land to the USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Participating land owners receive funding to support land conservation practices

**Eligibility:** At least 80% of a producer's eligible land must be within the Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay, or Inland Bays watersheds

## Delaware Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund

Provides low-interest loans and grants to municipalities, private organizations, nonprofit organizations and private individuals for projects to improve water quality



## Delaware Heritage Commission

### Purnell Challenge Grant

Program provides matching funding between \$250-\$1500 to encourage permanent heritage projects such as historic markers, posters, videotapes, printed listings of archival holdings, and books

**Eligibility:** Groups that raise matching funds



### McKinstry Award Grant

Awards between \$500-\$3,000 for historical research to aid regional travel, obtain materials, photocopy and other fees at libraries and archives, and prepare materials for publication.

**Eligibility:** Individuals

## Delaware Historical & Cultural Affairs

### Certified Local Government (CLG) Program

- Strengthens local preservation efforts by providing technical and financial assistance, while encouraging successful preservation programs and practices
- CLG grants provide up to 60% of project funding, applicant provides the remaining 40%

**Top:** Maintaining streamside access preserves a valuable community asset. ©Casarsa Guru | lstockphoto **Above:** Fort Christina in Wilmington, DE tells stories from early colonial history. ©Joe Sohm | Dreamstime

## Delaware Division of Small Business

### Encouraging Development, Growth & Expansion (EDGE) Grant

- Gives qualified small businesses an edge by offering access to significant capital
- STEM-based companies can receive up to \$100,000
- Non-STEM businesses can receive up to \$50,000

### Brownfield Assistance Program

Offers matching grants to property owners and developers to encourage redevelopment of environmentally stressed sites



## Preservation Delaware

### Small Grants Program

- Mini grants for those who would not normally qualify for other forms of financial assistance
- Corporations, partnerships, individuals, non-profit and religious organizations, and governmental entities within DE are eligible
- Most grants are maximum \$1,000. In exceptional cases, amounts up to \$4,000 have been granted

# COUNTY-LEVEL

## New Castle

There do not appear to be any current grants available from the county

### Delaware Community Foundation

#### Capital Project Grants

Grants of up to \$20,000 support construction, renovation or repair of buildings, and/or land purchases to help nonprofits statewide operate as efficiently and effectively as possible

#### Nanticoke Rotary Club

Grants support any nonprofit organization, including any qualified school on the Delmarva Peninsula



## Kent

### Community Event Promotional Grant Program

Provides up to \$750 to municipalities to defray expenses associated with promoting small events

#### Qualifying Events Include:

- Community festivals
- Parades
- Fireworks displays
- Educational programs
- Similar events

### Delaware Downtown Development Districts Program

Matching grant incentive available to any Kent County Downtown Development Districts approved by the Office of State Planning Coordination



## Sussex

### Council Grant Program

Provides grants to non-profit agencies to support programs or capital purchases that benefit Sussex County residents

### ExciteSussex Fund

Discover Bank and The Grow America Fund partnered to launch this fund, which features longer loan terms and below market interest rates for loans between \$250,000 and \$1 million

**Eligibility:** Existing businesses in operation for at least 2 full years with 10 to 500 full-time employees

### Delaware Downtown Development Districts Program

Matching grant incentive available to Sussex County Downtown Development Districts approved by the Office of State Planning Coordination

## MUNICIPAL-LEVEL

## Wilmington

### Wilmington Strong Small Business Fund

- \$1,000 grants to small businesses in the City of Wilmington
- Covers specific expenses such as rent payments, mortgage payments, utility and supplier bills, and digital marketing costs



**Above:** Multiple revitalization efforts in Wilmington, DE seek to build community and ecological health. ©Jin | Adobe Stock

# Grants and Funding Opportunities for Gateway Communities



## STATE-LEVEL

### Department of Environmental Protection

#### Dam Restoration & Inland Water Projects Loan Program

Dam restoration, flood control, water pollution control, or water-related recreation and conservation projects

#### Eligibility

- Local government units
- Private lake associations or similar organizations
- Owners of private dams as co-applicants with a local government unit



**Above:** The Red Mill Museum Village in Clinton, NJ preserves and interprets centuries of local history. ©Siogio | Dreamstime

### **Clean Communities Program Grants** ✎

- Provides \$4,000 or more in financial assistance to implement litter abatement programs in eligible municipalities and counties
- Grant amounts are based on population, housing units, road mileage, etc.

### **Green Acres Grants & Loans** ✎

Assists municipalities and counties in acquiring open space for recreation and conservation purposes and developing outdoor recreation facilities

### **Green Acres Nonprofit Acquisition** ✎

Provides 50% matching grants to acquire open space for recreation and conservation purposes statewide, and to develop outdoor recreational facilities in certain urban or densely populated municipalities and counties

### **Eligibility**

Any tax-exempt, non-profit organization that qualifies as a “charitable conservancy”



### **Historic Preservation Certified Local Government Grants** ✎

- Provides financial and technical assistance to support local government participation in the national historic preservation program, aiming to enrich, develop, and help maintain local historic preservation programs in cooperation and coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer
- Qualifying municipalities may receive between \$9,000 and \$24,999

## National Recreational Trails Program

- Provides financial assistance to develop and maintain trails and trail facilities. Trails can be for non-motorized, multi-use and motorized purposes
- Max grant for non-motorized trail project is \$24,000

### Eligibility

- Government agencies
- Nonprofit organizations

## Urban and Community Forestry Program

To assist local governments in developing and implementing a Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP), an action plan for communities to establish and maintain healthy, safe, and sustainable urban and community forests

**Eligibility:** Municipal and county governments



## Water Quality Restoration Grants

Provide grants to reduce water quality impairment through implementing nonpoint source pollution control projects

### Eligibility

- State, regional, and local government agencies or units
- County planning departments or boards
- Health departments
- Designated water quality management planning agencies
- State universities and colleges
- Interstate agencies of which New Jersey is a member
- Watershed and water resource associations and other local nonprofit organizations

### **Recreation Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities**

Provides up to 80% of funding for local short-term special events and for comprehensive recreational services for individuals with disabilities

### **Small Cities Community Development Block Grant**

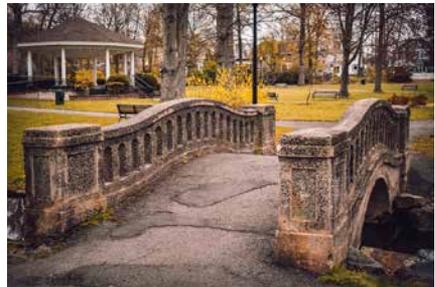
Provides funds for economic development, housing rehabilitation, community revitalization and public facilities designed to benefit people of low- and moderate-income or to address recent local needs for which no other source of funding is available

### **Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Aid**

Provides all municipalities with property tax relief, pursuant to various state funding formulas

### **Capital Preservation Grants**

Provides matching grants for construction expenses related to the repair, preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of historic properties and associated architectural, archeological and engineering expenses



### **Cultural Trust Capital Preservation Grants**

Aids nonprofit history and humanities organizations to construct, expand, renovate, plan for, repair, rehabilitate, restore, adaptively reuse, purchase, replace, relocate, or otherwise improve cultural and historical properties and facilities

### **Discover New Jersey History License Plate Fund Grants**

- Aids nonprofit organizations, including tourism providers and agencies of government, with initiatives to train and/or foster heritage tourism
- Program prioritizes projects that create, coordinate and promote tourism linkages between two or more resources

**Above:** Preserving historic structures contributes to a region's sense of place. For example, **(left)** at Kittatinny Valley State Park, Andover, NJ (©Lynn K. Groves) and **(right)** Lake Mindowaskin Park, Westfield, NJ (©Logan Swenson | Dreamstime

## Historic Site Management Grants

Provides 3:1 matching grants for non-construction expenses for preservation planning, historic register nominations, heritage tourism and fundraising plans, interpretive materials, and media or devices to help disabled visitors

## Revolving Loan Fund

Provides financing to preserve, improve, restore, rehabilitate and acquire historic properties, and for certain ancillary non-construction activities

## Preservation Easement Program

- Offers permanent legal protection for a wide range of historic properties including residences, commercial structures, farmsteads and historic landscapes
- Easement donors may realize significant tax benefits for their charitable donations

## Department of Transportation

### Municipal Aid Programs

- Bikeway programs primarily support construction of new bikeways
- Quality of life programs enhance beautification, environmental mitigation, economic development, or historic preservation
- Roadway safety programs support initiatives such as guide rails, signage warning devices and striping

### Transit Village Program

- Creates incentives for municipalities to redevelop or revitalize areas around transit stations using transit-oriented development (TOD) design standards
- TOD helps municipalities create attractive, vibrant, pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods where people can live, shop, work and play without relying on motor vehicles



Above: Bike trails benefit residents and attract visitors. ©Sergey Novikov | Dreamstime

## Bikeways Grant Program

- Provides funds to counties and municipalities to promote bicycling as an alternate mode of transportation
- Primary objective is to support the State's goal of constructing 1,000 new miles of dedicated bike paths



## COUNTY-LEVEL

### Warren

#### Warren County Department of Land Preservation, Division of Cultural & Heritage Affairs

**Art Grants:** Over \$51,000 available in 2021 

#### Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund Committee

##### Open Space & Farmland Preservation

Prioritizes lands for recreation and conservation purposes and farmland for farmland preservation purposes

##### Historic Preservation

To preserve or acquire historic properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas or objects for historic preservation purposes



**Top:** Bike share systems such as in Princeton NJ can provide a transportation option for work or play. ©Askoldsb | Dreamstime **Above:** Millbrook Village, Hardwick, NJ is preserved in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. ©Millbrook Village

# MUNICIPAL-LEVEL

## Trenton

### I Am Trenton Community Foundation

This foundation raises funds directly and disburses them in an annual citywide grant cycle

### Trenton Historic Development Collaborative (THDC)

- Funded through New Jersey's Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit program
- Supports activities to benefit the THDC neighborhood and its residents (West State, Willow, Bellevue, Rutherford, and Hermitage)



Historic preservation contributes to many NJ communities' sense of place, including in Trenton. **(Top)** ©aimintang | Istockphoto **(Above Left)** ©Paul Brady | Dreamstime **Above Right:** The Delaware & Raritan Canal offers outdoor recreation and open space in Hopewell Township, NJ. ©Tomwsulcer | Wikimedia Commons

# Grants and Funding Opportunities for Gateway Communities



## STATE-LEVEL

### Department of Environmental Conservation

#### Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program

Competitive, reimbursement-based grant program that funds projects that directly address documented water quality impairments or protect a drinking water source

#### Eligibility

- Municipalities
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts



Easements preserve farmlands and clean water along the Delaware River's headwaters.  
**Above:** NY's Pepacton Reservoir on the river's East Branch. ©Colin Young | Dreamstime

## New York State Conservation Partnership Program Grants

- Helps local land trusts sustain and expand community and landowner outreach initiatives and develop an array of conservation, stewardship, and education programs
- Advances regional economic and development goals by strengthening partnerships with local and state governments and advancing locally supported efforts to protect farmland, enhance public access and recreation opportunities and conserve private lands

### Grants Awarded in 5 categories

- Professional Development
- Conservation Catalyst
- Conservation Transaction
- Stewardship and Resource Management
- Conservation Capacity & Excellence



### Urban and Community Forestry

- Aims to improve urban and community forest health and to increase forestry program sustainability
- Eligible projects include tree inventories, management plans, tree planting and maintenance and education programming for caretakers of community trees

### Eligibility

- NY municipalities and quasi-governmental entities
- Nonprofit corporations



## Environmental Justice Community Impact Grant Programs

To support and empower communities as they develop and implement solutions that significantly address environmental issues, harms and health hazards, build community consensus, set priorities and improve public outreach and education

### Eligibility

Nonprofit organizations (501c3)

## Climate Smart Communities Grants

- Provides 50/50 matching grants to cities, towns, villages and NY counties
- Funds support implementation and certification of eligible climate mitigation and adaptation projects



## Invasive Species Grant Program

- Supports projects targeting aquatic and/or terrestrial invasive species
- Grants require a 25% match and range from \$11,000 - \$100,000

### Eligibility

- Municipalities
- Academic Institutions
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporations



## Department of State

### Environmental Protection Fund

#### Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

Provides competitive matching grants to eligible villages, towns, cities and counties located along NY's coasts or designated inland waterways for planning, design and construction projects to revitalize communities and waterfronts

#### Parks, Preservation, and Heritage Program

Provides matching grants to acquire, plan, develop and improve state parks, historic properties and heritage areas

## Appalachian Regional Commission

Appalachian states recommend projects for federal ARC assistance

### Five investment goals:

- Economic Opportunities
- Ready Workforce
- Critical Infrastructure
- Natural and Cultural Assets
- Leadership and Community Capacity

## Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

### Recreation Trails Program

Matching grants up to \$250,000 to acquire, develop, rehabilitate and maintain trails and trail-related projects

#### Eligibility

- Nonprofit corporations
- Municipalities

### Connect Kids to Parks Transportation Grant Program

Reimburses costs associated with field trips for K-12 students to eligible NYS parks and historic sites

### Snowmobile Trail Grant Program

Allocates funds to local governments that develop and maintain snowmobile trails designated as part of the State Snowmobile Trail System

### Boating Infrastructure Grant Program

This DOI/US Fish and Wildlife Service program supports developing and maintaining facilities for transient non-trailerable recreational vessels



**Above:** Grants support trails for walkers like this Appalachian Trail boardwalk in Pawling Swamp, NY (©Jason Ondreicka | Dreamstime) and snowmobile trails as in Old Forge, NY (©Toni Farina | Dreamstime)

## LWCF Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program

Part of the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund, this urban-focused grant program provides \$300,000 - \$1 million for projects to create or reinvigorate parks and other outdoor recreation spaces to encourage people to connect or re-connect with the outdoors

**Eligibility:** Must be a state or county authority, represent at least 50,000 residents AND be situated in the boundary of the urbanized areas delineated by the 2010 census



## Park and Trail Partnership Grants

Enhance preservation, stewardship, interpretation, maintenance and promotion of state parks, trails, historic sites and public lands

### Eligibility

Nonprofit corporation that is classified as a 501(c)(3)

### Four types of competitive grants:

- Capacity and Organizational Effectiveness
- Step Up
- Professional Development
- Stewardship and Public Access



**Top:** Hikers enjoy the High Peaks Wilderness Area, Adirondack State Park, NY. © Zhukovsky | Dreamstime **Above:** Preserving historic infrastructure such as stone walls and bridges contributes to a community's sense of place. ©Jeffrey Hutchinson | Dreamstime

# COUNTY-LEVEL

## Delaware

### Delaware County Economic Development

- Tourism Promotion and Development Grant Program has dedicated funding to promote and develop the tourism industry within Delaware County and stimulate economic growth

### Eligibility

- Municipalities
- Nonprofit corporations
- Certain not-for-profit entities



## Orange

### Mid-Hudson Small Business Development Center

Works with small business to identify funding sources, invest in the area's economy and create or save jobs

### Hudson Estuary Trees for Tribes

Helps protect and restore streamside buffers by offering free native trees and shrubs for qualifying planting projects

## Conservancy Trail Grants

Hudson River Valley Greenway Conservancy Trails Grant Program funds recreational trail projects, including:

- Trail construction, planning, and design
- Trail rehabilitation or improvement
- Trail education or interpretation

## Hudson River Valley Greenway Grant Program

Greenway communities are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 to develop plans or projects, with higher amounts awarded for intermunicipal projects



## Sullivan

## Sullivan Renaissance

### Beautification Grants

**Eligibility** (except for Business Assistance Grant)

- Non-profit organizations
- Community groups
- Religious institutions
- Schools
- Municipalities

### Mini Grants

- Provide up to \$500
- Garden Grants
- Provide up to \$1,500 for new beautification projects at a single location

## Community Beautification Grants

Provide up to \$2,500 for community-wide beautification projects at multiple locations



## Maintenance Support Grants

Provide up to \$500 and/or volunteer and horticultural support to maintain and/or refresh gardens at a single location that were previously funded by Sullivan Renaissance

## Business Assistance Grants

Provide up to \$2,500 to businesses for projects to enhance curb appeal, including landscaping, signage, façade improvements and outdoor seating

## Capital Improvement Grants

Provide up to \$1,500 for current or past Sullivan Renaissance Beautification projects

## Community Development Grants

Offers a range of grants for revitalization projects that involve planning and/or incorporate beautification into a larger community context

**Eligibility:** Municipalities

## Community Impact

Provide \$200,000 - \$400,000 for a capital project that would help transform a community; require \$1 match for every \$8 granted

### **Municipal Partnership**

Provide up to \$20,000 in matching funds to local governments to care for public spaces, enhance code enforcement, build healthy communities or engage in environmental stewardship

### **Neighborhood Revitalization**

Provide up to \$2,500 for neighborhood beautification, block revitalization, and community engagement projects

### **Healthy Community Initiatives**

**Eligibility:** Municipalities, non-profit organizations, schools

#### **Healthy Community**

- Provide up to \$500 for educational programs or events that promote healthy habits or physical activity such as fun runs, bike rides, public yoga, litter clean-up events, or wellness programs
- Provide up to \$2,500 for tangible improvements or the purchase of goods and materials including trail improvements, recreational equipment or tree planting

### **Catskill Edible Garden Project**

Design edible gardens as living, outdoor education, and gathering spaces

**Eligibility:** Community organizations and schools



**Above:** Farmers' markets connect residents and local farmers—and help keep farmlands in agricultural production. ©Arne9001 | Dreamstime

### **Microenterprise Assistance Program**

- Targets downtown “Main Street” business districts and agricultural-related businesses
- Provides much-needed working capital for start-up ventures or expansion of existing businesses
- Qualified businesses are eligible to receive \$5,000 - \$35,000 grant funding

## **REGION SPECIFIC**

### **Upper Delaware Council**

#### **Grant Program**

- Grants to UDC member governments and affected counties for research, planning, or other assistance in plan implementation (not for capital projects)
- Proposals must relate to the Upper Delaware River Management Plan

### **Upper Delaware Scenic Byway**

#### **Promoting Monarch Butterflies on the Byway**

- UDSB has a \$5,000 pool for programs to promote butterfly habitat, including advertising, supplies for seed balls, etc.
- Organizations may apply for grants of up to \$1,500



#### **Signage Along the Byway**

Provides up to \$500 in matching funds for businesses and non-profit organizations physically located near the Scenic Byway that are considering signage

# Grants and Funding Opportunities for Gateway Communities



## STATE-LEVEL

### Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

#### Eligible Applicants

- Counties
- Municipalities
- Municipal agencies
- Nonprofit organizations
- State Heritage Areas
- Prequalified land trusts
- For-profit enterprises (for some types of grants)
- Most programs require the applicant to provide cash or noncash matching contribution equal to 50 percent of project cost

**DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation**  offers a series of informational webinars for grantees



**Above:** Riverside parks including seating like New Hope, PA's City Park provide valuable neighborhood amenities. ©Anjelagr | Dreamstime



### **Community Recreation and Conservation Planning Funding**

Supports planning for future land acquisition, development, and/or management of parks, recreational facilities, critical habitat, open space, natural areas, greenways and river/watershed corridors

### **Park Rehabilitation and Development Funding**

Supports rehabilitation and development of public parks, recreation facilities, greenways and river conservation projects

### **Land Acquisition and Conservation Funding**

Supports purchase and/or donation of land for parks and recreation areas, greenways, critical habitat areas or open space

### **Motorized and Non-Motorized Trail Funding**

Supports acquisition, planning, development, rehabilitation or maintenance of designated routes on land or water for motorized and non-motorized recreation activities

**Eligibility:** Applicants must work with the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation’s regional advisors to determine eligibility



## Trail funding sources

- Keystone Recreation, park and Conservation Fund
- Environmental Stewardship Fund
- Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program
- Snowmobile Management Restricted Account
- All-Terrain Vehicle Management Restricted Account



## State and Regional Partnership Funding

### Funding and support:

- Convening, education, or training
- Special purpose and planning studies, e.g. economic assessments, marketing plans, preservation plans
- Implementation projects, e.g. construction, public outreach, program facilitation
- Mini grants to develop small grant programs that empower grassroots organizations

## Peer and Circuit Rider Funding

- Supports projects to help municipalities, counties, multi-municipal partnerships and councils of government increase local capacity for recreation, parks and conservation
- Up to \$10,000 to assist municipal entities with hiring a peer as a professional consultant to study specialized small-scale issues
- Circuit Rider program provides grant funds for county or regional organizations to hire a professional, full-time staff person





### Rivers Conservation Grants

Focus on protecting and enhancing conservation or recreation values of state waterways

#### Examples include:

- Acquire land to protect a sensitive water resource
- River conservation plan
- River access development
- Water trail management

### Riparian Forest Buffers

Provides financial assistance to identify locations in need of riparian forest buffers, and to design, establish, monitor and provide short-term maintenance

### Small Community Development Funding

- Pennsylvania municipalities with 5,000 or fewer residents are eligible for grants to rehabilitate and/or develop basic outdoor recreation and park facilities that provide a high level of recreational value, such as ADA-accessible playgrounds and pavilions
- Eligible municipalities may request \$50,000 - \$70,000 in grant funds



### **Boating Facility Grant Program**

Provides grants for the planning, acquisition, development, expansion and rehabilitation of public boating facilities

### **Boating Infrastructure Grant Program**

Provides grants for transient moorage (tie-ups) serving recreational motorboats 26 feet and longer

### **Clean Vessel Act (Pumpout Grant Program)**

Helps fund construction, renovation and maintenance of pumpout and dump stations to service pleasure boats

### **Coldwater Heritage Partnership**

Provides leadership, coordination, technical assistance and funding support to evaluate, conserve and protect Pennsylvania's coldwater streams

### **Cooperative Nursery Grants**

Provides funds for new construction, additions, improvements and equipment to existing nurseries within the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Cooperative Nursery program

### **R3 Education Grant Program**

Provides funding to support R3-related educational programs delivered by our partners. Supporting partners in their efforts to deliver such programming significantly increases the number of learning opportunities provided to current, past, and future anglers and boaters

### **Ralph W. Abele Conservation Scholarship Fund**

A continuing memorial, the Fund helps deserving students learn more about the conservation of our precious natural resources

### **State Wildlife Grant Program**

Provides federal monies for high-priority conservation projects for endangered, threatened and at-risk species across PA



## Transportation Alternatives Program

- Provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities and environmental mitigation, trails that serve a transportation purpose and safe routes to school projects
- Construction costs must be between \$50,000 and \$1 million



## Multimodal Transportation Fund

Stabilizes funding for ports and rail freight, increases aviation investments, provides dedicated funding for bicycle and pedestrian improvements and allows targeted funding for priority investments in any mode



### Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program

Allocates up to \$250,000 grant funds with a 15% match of total project cost for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks and beautification projects in the program

#### Eligibility

- For profit businesses
- Municipalities
- Councils of governments
- Authorized organization
- Institution of higher education
- Watershed organization



### The Marcellus Legacy Fund

The Marcellus Legacy Fund allocates funds to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for several programs:

#### Eligibility

- Municipalities
- Councils of Governments
- Authorized Organizations
- Institutions of Higher Education
- Watershed Organizations
- For-Profit Businesses



### Abandoned Mine Drainage Abatement and Treatment Program

For abandoned mine drainage, abatement, and treatment. AMD is one of the largest sources of stream impairment in PA. Eligible projects cost less than \$1 million and provide a minimum 15% match.

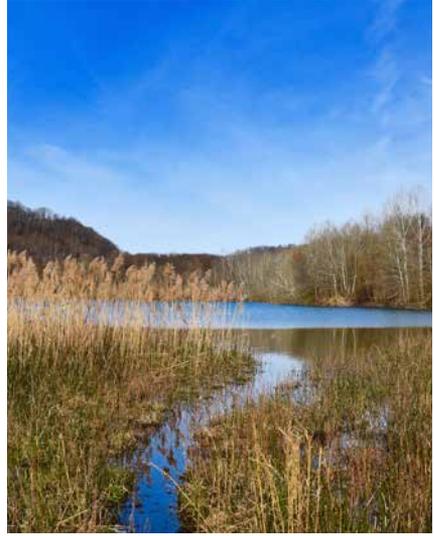


### Baseline Water Quality Data Program

Supports statewide initiatives to establish baseline water quality data on private water supplies, with up to \$250,000 for grants and requiring a minimum 15% match

## Flood Mitigation Program

Supports statewide initiatives to assist with flood mitigation projects; \$500,000 maximum grant also requires a 15% match



## H2O Pennsylvania—Flood Control Projects

Provides between \$500,000 - \$20 million in single-year or multi-year grants to the Commonwealth, independent agencies, municipalities, or municipal authorities for flood control projects

## Waterfront Development Tax Credit Program

Provides tax credits to businesses that contribute to organizations undertaking a waterfront development project

## Watershed Restoration and Protection Program

Provides up to \$300,000 with a 15% required match to restore and maintain restored stream reaches impaired by uncontrolled nonpoint source polluted runoff and ultimately remove these streams from DEP's Impaired Waters list

### Eligibility

- Municipalities
- Councils of government
- Authorized organizations
- Institutions of Higher Education
- Watershed Organizations
- For-Profit Businesses

**Above:** Managing stormwater volume and flow by installing “green infrastructure,” (left ©Guzzardo Partnership | Wikimedia Commons), preserving wetlands (right ©Kwselcer | Dreamstime) and other methods is critical to community vitality and resilience.

## Department of Environmental Protection

### Environmental Education Grants Program

For educational projects in climate change, environmental justice, water quality and other areas

#### Eligibility

- Public schools and school districts
- Incorporated private schools
- Incorporated conservation and education organizations and institutions
- Universities and colleges
- County conservation districts
- Incorporated nonprofit organizations
- Businesses



### Small Business Advantage Grant

- For energy efficiency, pollution prevention or natural resource protection
- Program offers small businesses (100 or fewer employees) a 50% matching, reimbursement grant of up to \$7,000



**Top:** Park Ranger interacting with children at Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River  
©National Park Service **Middle:** March for Science in New York City, NY ©Cpenler | Dreamstime  
**Above:** Nurture Nature Center's Urban Recycle Garden in Easton, PA ©The Nature Center

## Coastal Zone Grant

- For protecting water quality and shorelines in the Delaware Estuary and Lake Erie Coastal Zone
- Includes hazards, wetlands, public access, intergovernmental coordination, ocean resources, and nonpoint pollution



### Eligibility

- Local government, counties, and municipalities
- Area-wide agencies—county and regional planning agencies
- Incorporated non-profits
- Educational institutions—school districts, intermediate units, universities and colleges
- Incorporated Conservation and Educational organizations
- State agencies
- Conservation districts, port authorities, and public authorities

## Growing Greener

For reducing nonpoint source water pollution

### Eligibility

- Incorporated watershed association
- County or municipality
- County conservation district
- Council of governments
- Educational institution
- Municipal authority
- Other authorized organizations



# COUNTY-LEVEL

## Monroe

### Local Share Account (LSA)

LSA funds may be used for economic development, community development and public interest projects in Monroe County and contiguous counties



## Northampton

### Grow NORCO Program

A flexible source of capital to assist Northampton County municipalities and not-for-profit organizations in advancing the county's economic prosperity and quality of life

**Eligibility:** Non-profit organizations with less than \$3,000,000 in gross receipts in the calendar year

### Hotel Tax for Tourism

County awards competitive grants from revenues generated by 4% Hotel Room Rental Tax on hotel guests to support tourism and community development initiatives

#### Eligibility

- Non-profits
- Municipalities

## Preservation of Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Northampton County Open Space/Natural Areas Program protects the county's important natural features by assisting municipalities and nonprofit organizations to acquire and permanently preserve related lands

### Eligibility

- Municipalities
- Non-profit land agencies
- School districts

## Pike

### Greater Pike Community Foundation

Grants support projects tailored to Pike County

### Pike County Scenic Rural Character Preservation Program

- Marcellus Mini-grant
- Provides up to \$25,000 with a 50% required match for eligible development projects located in Pike County that are supported by the municipality

### Development projects should meet one or more of the following

- Park and recreation development
- Greenways & Trails Enhancement
- River access improvements



### Municipal Planning Initiatives

Covers municipal projects such as the development of new or updated Comprehensive Plans; Open Space, Greenways, and Recreation Plans; and municipal land use ordinances that accommodate natural resource protection and scenic rural character preservation goals

### Eligibility

- Pike County municipalities
- Pike County Conservation District

## Easements and Acquisitions

Eligible projects include significant open space identified in Open Space Plans, lands important to protecting water quality or drinking water supplies, significant natural areas, parklands, greenways and trails

### Eligibility

- Pike County municipalities
- Pike County Conservation District
- Pike County municipal authorities

## Wayne

### Tourism Project Disbursement Allocation Program

- Hotel Tax funding promotes events that generate overnight stays in Wayne County
- Monies are then made available to eligible non-profit organizations in the county for tourism-related projects

### Wayne County Community Foundation

Funds a broad variety of programs and projects



**APPENDIX A**

**National Parks and Gateway Counties  
Highlighted in this Sourcebook**



# National Parks and Gateway Counties Highlighted in this Sourcebook

## Appalachian National Scenic Trail

### New Jersey

Sussex County  
Warren County

### New York

Dutchess County  
Putnam County

### Pennsylvania

Berks County  
Carbon County  
Lebanon County  
Lehigh County  
Monroe County  
Northampton County  
Schuylkill County

## Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

### New Jersey

Sussex County  
Warren County

### Pennsylvania

Monroe County  
Northampton County  
Pike County



## First State National Historical Park

### Delaware

Kent County  
New Castle County  
Sussex County

### Pennsylvania

Chester County  
Delaware County

## Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River

### New York

Delaware County  
Orange County  
Sullivan County

### Pennsylvania

Pike County  
Wayne County

## APPENDIX B

# Best Practices Examples from States Outside the Delaware River Watershed



# Best Practices Examples from States Outside the Delaware River Watershed

## Regional Review

### North Carolina's Blue Ridge Parkway Land-of-Sky Regional Council ✎

North Carolina's Land-of-Sky Regional Council is a multi-county/local government planning and development organization created to “foster desirable social, economic, cultural and ecological conditions” in the member counties. The Council created the Regional Green Infrastructure Network of lands and waters that are valuable for their ecological systems and services and contribution to regional and local economies.



## Land Purchases

### Boulder, CO

Boulder County including its constituent cities have multiple programs to preserve and protect open space, ✎ mountain views, greenways, and farm and ranch lands, including an acquisition program ✎ for land that meets any of the following criteria: threatened by development near or adjacent to existing open space; prime agricultural land; wildlife habitat; riparian and scenic corridors; and land that could provide trail connections. These programs are generally funded through sales taxes.

**Previous Page:** To protect its unique sense of place for both residents and visitors, Park City, UT works to preserve its stunning views. ©Sean Pavone | Dreamstime **Above:** Blue Ridge Parkway leaders seek to preserve the park's ecological health as well as its scenic beauty. ©Margaret619 | Dreamstime

## Governmental Incentives including Easements

### Fredericksburg, VA

Fredericksburg encourages rehabilitation of historic buildings by granting property owners who renovate buildings in the city's historic district a seven-year grace period from any property tax increases.

### Maryland's Preservation Programs

Several state preservation programs such as the Maryland Environmental Trust provide incentives, primarily through easements, for the preservation of land, historic structures, open space, and agricultural properties. Maryland counties also provide land preservation opportunities through local programs operated to complement state programs.

### King County, WA

King County offers incentive programs for tax relief designed to benefit owners of forest lands who preserve forest resources by keeping their land in forestry use.



## Purchases and Transfers of Development Rights

### TDR Programs in Maryland

Maryland's Department of Planning works with counties to develop and implement TDR programs. Through these voluntary programs, developers buy development rights from rural landowners within designated "sending areas" identified for preservation by county governments. Then a perpetual conservation easement is placed on the property. Developers can use their purchased development rights to build more residences, increase commercial square footage or gain other marketable features in "receiving areas," located where development and infrastructure are planned and desired. A 2010 study of five Maryland counties  with TDR programs surveyed programs' pluses and minuses.



## TDR Program in King County, WA

King County’s TDR Program enables owners of private property to buy and sell residential development rights where it benefits the general public. Qualifying lands include forests, open space, regional trails, designated urban separator lands and habitat for threatened or endangered species. Landowners receive financial compensation without selling their land and the public receives permanent preservation of land having high public interest values.

## TDR Program in Boulder, CO

Boulder’s TDR program allows an owner to transfer residential development rights from an approved agricultural property to an approved receiving site. The county receives a conservation easement over the sending property.



## Comprehensive Plans

## Maryland Green Infrastructure Planning Program

In 2000, Maryland released the Atlas of Greenways, Water Trails and Green Infrastructure, including a Green Infrastructure Assessment (GIA) of state lands. The GIA identified sensitive landscapes such as wetlands and the presence of important indicator species and is used to evaluate potential land acquisition opportunities. Building on the state’s work, several Maryland counties have developed their own green infrastructure planning programs.

## Washington County, UT

Washington County, including the city of St. George and the Zion National Park gateway town of Springdale, adopted a Vision Dixie 2035 Land Use and Transportation Plan that provides a single cohesive vision for growth within the county and proposes a countywide commitment to protect signature landscapes that define the area’s character.



## Sedona, AZ

To preserve its “sense of place,” Sedona adopted a comprehensive community plan and a Design Review Manual that sets forth a broad vision for the community, including sketches of encouraged and discouraged design.



## Hudson Village, OH

As a gateway community of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, in 2016 Hudson Village adopted and updated its comprehensive plan to protect and improve key entryways into the community through design controls and similar tools, among other objectives.

## State Assistance Programs

### Maryland Heritage Areas Program

The Maryland Heritage Areas Program is governed by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) and administered by the Maryland Historical Trust. MHAA provides targeted financial and technical assistance within 13 locally designated Heritage Areas, each of which represents a unique aspect of Maryland’s character. Together, MHAA, the Heritage Areas and local partners support the economic well-being of Maryland’s communities by promoting, sustaining and creating place-based experiences for visitors and residents alike.



## Historic Preservation

### Nevada City, CA

- In 1968, Nevada City adopted its first historic preservation ordinance,  which remains in effect. In addition to providing an historic structures inventory and outlining the historic preservation district's boundaries, the ordinance seeks to prevent destruction of historic buildings, and to ensure architectural review of new construction and alteration of existing structures. Design and display of signs in the historic district are a key focus.
- In 2015, the town adopted a revised set of design guidelines  to refine its historic standards and require architectural review of new structures.



### Fort Scott, KS

In the 1990s, city leaders aimed to transform their downtown  by designating it as a historic district where exterior remodeling would require approval from a municipal panel. To encourage private action and with help from the NPS which manages Fort Scott National Historical Site, the city redesigned sidewalks and streetlights, sparking increased tourist trade, services, and amenities.

## Landscape and Tree Design

### Guilford, CT

Guilford adopted a tree ordinance to regulate planting, maintenance and removal of trees and shrubs on public property. The Town Tree Warden enforces the rules, removes unapproved signs and advertisements placed on trees and shrubs on public land, and removes trees and shrubs when necessary, after public notice. The tree ordinance established a Tree Advisory Board to assist the Tree Warden.



King County's zoning code prescribes landscape design for specified areas and encourages the use of native species in landscaping.

### Signage

### Jacksonville, OR

- As part of its oversight regarding historic preservation, Jacksonville controls signage.
- See Title 18, Chapter 18.13 and Chapter 18.15



### Springdale, UT

A gateway to Zion National Park, Springdale adopted a color palette to guide colors used in new structures and signage. In general, the town allows a wide range of hues while prohibiting bright, saturated or very light colors. The specific standards are based on the Munsell Book of Color.

## Lighting

### Bar Harbor, ME

- Surrounded by Acadia National Park, Bar Harbor established requirements for outdoor lighting that increase visibility and public safety by controlling glare and preventing intrusive lighting into adjacent buildings and the natural environment. The requirements include limits on lumens and on heights. Recommended voluntary best practices promote energy conservation and preserve the town's night sky, a natural resource and valuable component of the town's character.
- See Section 125.67, Z (Bar Harbor)



## Transit

### Acadia National Park and Gateway Communities, ME

Accessible to visitors and residents, the propane-powered Island Explorer bus system links hotels, inns and campgrounds with sites and attractions in Acadia National Park and neighboring village centers. The popular system is funded by state and federal governments plus grants from LL Bean, Friends of Acadia, local towns and businesses and by passenger donations.



**Above:** In order to preserve the area's scenic, historical and ecological integrity, Acadia National Park, ME and its many small town neighbors work together on matters from outdoor lighting (Luckydoor | Dreamstime) to mass transit (©National Park Service)

## Larimer County and Estes Park, CO

Rocky Mountain National Park, Larimer County, and Estes Park's regional transportation plan features an integrated shuttle system through the town and into the park.

## Murray, UT

To promote development that enables people to walk to transit, Murray created a Transit Oriented Development Zone, where vehicle parking is subject to strict controls.

## Adaptive Reuse

### McDonald's in Freeport, ME

In 1984, McDonald's repurposed the Gore House, an historic Victorian mansion near downtown Freeport. The town's leaders and strict building design codes encouraged the company to develop its new restaurant while supporting the town's aesthetic, resulting in a careful agreement and an excellent redesign. Two other colonial-style McDonald's can be found in New Hyde Park, NY and Independence, OH.



## Growth and Development

### Maryland's Smart Growth Initiative

In 1997, Maryland launched the Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation Initiative to use state funds as incentives to direct growth. The program aims to: enhance existing communities and locally designated growth areas; identify and protect the state's most valuable farmland and other natural resources; and avoid costly new taxpayer-funded infrastructure to support poorly planned development. The initiative is an innovative way for state governments to combat the ills of sprawling development and protect natural resources while retaining local land use control. A part of the Smart Growth Initiative, the Rural Legacy Program  permits local governments and local land trusts to purchase conservation easements on designated areas that encompass large blocks of working agricultural lands.



## Retail Development, Including “Big Box” and Retail Chains

**Fort Collins, CO:** 📍 Fort Collins adopted a comprehensive set of standards and guidelines for large retail establishments that require a basic level of architectural variety, aesthetics, compatible scale, pedestrian and bicycle access and mitigation of negative impacts.

**Rosslyn, VA:** 📍 Rosslyn promotes context-sensitive design as part of its urban landscape. For example, in 2017 McDonald’s opened a “high-tech” restaurant near the Rosslyn Metro stop with a context-sensitive storefront unlike its standard design.

**Sedona, AZ:** 📍 Sedona developed comprehensive design review standards to promote compatible, desirable development. The design review manual covers everything from prohibiting pseudo-western styles to promoting natural color schemes. Denny’s, McDonald’s, Texaco, and Wendy’s each have constructed buildings compatible with those standards.

**Cannon Beach, OR:** 📍 In the 1980s, Cannon Beach enacted a zoning ordinance that remains in existence that prohibits “formula food restaurants,” defined as restaurants with standardized menus, ingredients, food preparation, interior or exterior design.

**Jacksonville, OR:** 📍 Jacksonville controls building design of commercial structures through its zoning ordinances. See Title 18, Ch. 18.13 of its zoning ordinances.

**Bozeman, MT:** 📍 A gateway community for Yellowstone National Park, Bozeman adopted guidelines that promote commercial and retail business design “compatible with Bozeman’s character,” adhere to transit-oriented development principles, provide for pedestrian accessibility and support opportunities for economic activity.

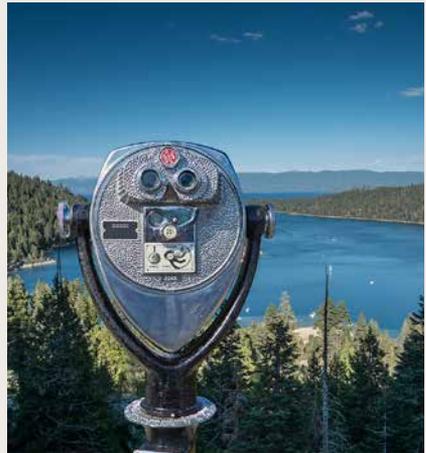


**Above:** Cannon Beach, OR preserves its unique sense of place by prohibiting standardized restaurants. ©4FR | Istockphoto

## Scenic Corridor and Open Space

### Lake Tahoe Region, California and Nevada

The Lake Tahoe Regional Planning Agency adopted guidelines (including sketches of acceptable design) applicable to projects within scenic highway corridors as part of its broad guidelines for maintaining the Lake Tahoe region's character.



### Boulder, CO

To protect mountain views and preserve community character, since 1971 Boulder has prohibited buildings taller than 55 feet, with the potential to consider exemptions.

## Viewshed

### Bar Harbor and Mount Desert, ME

- In order to protect scenic views, Acadia National Park's gateway communities of Bar Harbor and Mount Desert have adopted restrictions to control the location and height of cell towers.
- See Section 125.69T (Bar Harbor)

### Harpers Ferry, WV

In historic Harpers Ferry, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church's renovated steeple artfully conceals cell tower technology.



### San Ramon, CA

San Ramon's Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church has a cell tower integrated into its steeple.

### Park City, UT

To preserve significant scenic sight lines, Park City adopted guidelines intended to avoid creating a development silhouette against the skyline or a mountain backdrop.

## Stormwater

### Montgomery County, MD

Montgomery County's stormwater municipal permit program significantly reduces stormwater runoff within the county.

**Above:** To protect historic character, cell communications technology is designed as part of church steeples in Harpers Ferry, WV (shown) and on Seminary Rldge in Gettysburg, PA.  
©Cvandyke | Dreamstime

# APPENDIX C

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## Resources



# Resources

## NPS Community Assistance Programs

In support of its mission, NPS administers numerous national and regional programs to assist state, local, and tribal governments; nonprofit organizations; businesses; educational institutions; and the general public regarding resource conservation and outdoor recreational projects.

### The **Healthy Parks, Healthy People National Program**

was established by NPS to reframe the role of parks and public lands as an emerging, powerful health improvement strategy. 



### The **National Heritage Areas Program**

supports community stewardship of our nation's nationally important landscapes. Following strong community support, the U.S. Congress designates National Heritage Areas as places where historic, cultural, and natural resources combine to form cohesive, nationally important landscapes. The program promotes sustainable economic



**Previous Page:** Cold water fishing in the Upper Delaware's clean water generates hundreds of millions of dollars annually in economic activity. ©Garth Lenz **Top:** ©National Park Service **Above:** Many communities promote the region's industrial/transportation history, including Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, PA. ©Jiawangkun | Dreamstime

development, a healthy environment and healthy people, improved quality of life, education and stewardship, and community engagement and pride. Unlike most national parks, National Heritage Areas are large lived-in landscapes. NPS does not assume ownership of land inside the boundary of a National Heritage Area, nor does a National Heritage Area designation trigger NPS-required development restrictions. Rather, NPS partners with community leadership to provide technical assistance and distribute matching federal funds from Congress to National Heritage Area coordinating entities. As of 2021, the program included 55 National Heritage Areas across the country, including the Delaware and Lehigh Valley National Heritage Corridor and the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area.

**The National Register of Historic Places**  supports public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and preserve America’s historic and archeological properties. The office provides guidance and reviews nominations submitted by states, tribes, and federal agencies  for inclusion on the National Register.



**The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program**  promotes programs and partnerships that commemorate the Underground Railroad, preserves sites and other resources associated with the Underground Railroad, and educates the public about the historical significance of the Underground Railroad. The office provides grant funds and technical assistance for activities such as preserving and restoring buildings and providing interpretative programs.

**The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program**  helps to preserve rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values, such as parts of the Delaware River, in a free-flowing condition. An entire river system, its tributaries, or a portion of a river may be included by an act of Congress or through a state governor’s request to the Secretary of the Interior.

**Above:** The State of NY hosts many civil rights related sites such as the North Star Underground Railroad Museum in Ausable Chasm, NY (**left** ©Zhukovsky | Dreamstime) and Harriet Tubman’s final home in NY (**right** ©Debra Millet | Dreamstime).

**The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program**  provides technical assistance and support for community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreational projects across the country. RTCA assists communities  in defining project goals, identifying key issues and opportunities, engaging collaborative partners and stakeholders, setting priorities, and identifying funding strategies, among other purposes. RTCA assistance is provided on an annual basis. Applications are due every year on June 30 for the following fiscal year, which begins October 1. RTCA has been working with communities along the Delaware River for more than 25 years.

**The State Historic Preservation Program**  assists the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories as partners in preservation. NPS and State Historic Preservation Officers work together on preserving places linked to the country's cultural heritage.

**The Urban Lights Program**  works in partnership with community organizations to revitalize urban areas, for example, the Philadelphia LGBTQ Heritage Initiative, a partnership between William Way LGBT Community Center and NPS.



**Above:** Port Jervis, NY features the historic Erie Hotel. ©Brian Logan | Dreamstime

## State Assistance Programs

### New York Heritage Areas Program

The New York Heritage Areas System (formerly known as the Urban Cultural Park System) is a state-local partnership established to preserve and develop areas that have special significance to New York State. Its four core goals are: preservation of significant resources, education that interprets lessons of the past, recreation and leisure activities, and economic development for sustainable communities. From the Great Lakes to the eastern tip of Long Island, Heritage Areas encompass some of the state's most significant natural, historic, and cultural resources. Grants are available to acquire, preserve, rehabilitate or restore lands, waters or structures.



### Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Program

The Pennsylvania Heritage Area Program, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, is a multi-tiered approach to the conservation, development and promotion of the Commonwealth's heritage. The program assists communities in meeting their economic development goals and aims to ensure that a region's legacy and its natural, educational, recreational, and cultural assets are preserved. Pennsylvania has 12 designated Heritage Areas, of which six are also National Heritage Areas.

### Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Plan, 2018-2023

Using federal and state funding, Pennsylvania's Historical and Museum Commission has created a series of statewide plans. The current version, Community Connections: Planning for Preservation in Pennsylvania, encourages all communities within the State to develop and carry out local plans to promote and preserve historic resources.

## Delaware Historic Preservation Plan, 2018-2022

This updated Historic Preservation Plan outlines common interests for stakeholders working to protect Delaware’s heritage. The plan is part of the state’s strategy for growth and positive change. Funds for this plan came in part from the NPS.



## New Jersey Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan, 2013-2019

Prepared to provide a renewed vision for historic preservation in New Jersey, this plan recognizes historic properties as assets and calls for preservation of these resources as a critical part of the State’s economic growth strategy.

# Voluntary Initiatives

## EAST COAST

### Appalachian Trail Initiatives

- **Appalachian Trail Communities.**  In partnership with the NPS, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy can designate a gateway community as a “Trail Community.” Benefits can include increased community viability and economic health; increased community environmental stewardship; increased sense of place and cultural sustainability; and trail-friendly promotion through ATC-assisted marketing. Trail Communities must agree to implement specific practices identified by the ATC. Trail Communities in this region include Delaware Water Gap, PA; Wind Gap, PA; and Blirstown, NJ.



**Top:** Dover Green, site of DE’s historic Capitol, is part of First State National Historical Park. ©Robin M Coventry | Dreamstime **Above:** Blirstown, NJ is one of three “Appalachian Trail Communities” near the Delaware River. ©Cynthia Montes

- **Conservation Guidebook for Communities Along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.**  Created by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Guidebook includes a history of the Trail and identifies seven characteristics of communities that are most likely to be effective in addressing issues associated with the Trail. Known as the “Seven Principles,” those characteristics comprise a suggested checklist for municipalities to assess how well the Trail experience is conserved in their community. In addition to the checklist, the Guidebook offers sample zoning standards and other resources that municipalities can use to incorporate Trail and natural resource protections into their ordinances.



- **ATC Conservation Assistance Mini-Grant Program.** This program helps local municipalities and partnering nonprofit organizations preserve and promote community character and the natural and cultural assets within the AT landscape in Pennsylvania. Funds for the mini-grant come to the ATC from the National Park Service’s AT office. Using grant funds, Plainfield Township in Pennsylvania  developed new zoning ordinances that protect the AT from the negative impacts of energy development projects. The new ordinances are designed to create a buffer that will prevent projects—such as natural gas pipelines, wind turbines, solar panels or cellular towers—from being constructed near the AT or, when appropriate, conceal or camouflage them. The ordinances also address water and mineral extraction.

### **Trail Towns Program, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Maryland**

The Progress Fund created the Trail Towns Program to revitalize rural communities and support natural resource conservation and economic growth with outdoor tourism across Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Maryland. The program works with communities to become bike-friendly destinations with amenities along a trail’s entire stretch and encourages towns to work together on projects.

**Above:** The Appalachian Trail Conservancy partners with communities along the AT to preserve and promote their community’s character. **Left:** ©James Kirkikis | Dreamstime **Right:** ©Tetyana Ohare | Dreamstime

# DELAWARE RIVER WATERSHED

## Delaware River Watershed Initiative

Founded in 2014 by the Academy of Natural Sciences, Institute for Conservation Leadership, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Open Space Institute and William Penn Foundation, the Delaware River Watershed Initiative's mission is to "protect the rivers and streams that provide clean water for more than 15 million people across four states." It unites over 50 organizations and numerous residents including landowners to protect forests, farms and clean streams and to promote greener cities and suburbs. Currently, the Initiative is monitoring more than 300 locations across the river basin to determine levels of degradation and strategies for improvement. Long term goals include protecting 30,000 acres of forests and completing 40 restoration projects to reduce polluted runoff and ease flood risk and erosion. Actions to achieve these goals focus on eight landscapes: Pocono Mountains and Kittatinny Ridge; New Jersey Highlands; Upper Lehigh River; Middle Schuylkill River; Schuylkill Highlands; Brandywine and Christina Rivers; Upstream Suburban Philadelphia;; and Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer (comprising New Jersey's Bayshore and Pine Barrens).

## Delaware River Water Trail

The Delaware River Water Trail includes guided access points and day use and/or camping sites for the boating public along the upper, middle, and lower Delaware River. The website provides one-stop trip planning information that considers the river as a whole system, where and how to navigate it safely and appropriately, and ways to help protect river resources including a water trail management plan.



## Scenic Wild Delaware River

The Scenic Wild Delaware River region encompasses river-linked communities within nine counties in three states: Sussex and Warren counties in New Jersey; Delaware, Orange and Sullivan counties in New York; and Monroe, Northampton, Pike and Wayne counties in Pennsylvania. It includes the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the Middle Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Developed in partnership with National Geographic, the Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Program promotes a shared identity that encourages collaboration across boundaries to benefit local communities and the natural environment, and attract visitors seeking an authentic sense of place.



## STATE SPECIFIC

### Conservation Landscapes Initiative of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

The PA DCNR encourages large regions to work together to drive strategic investment and actions around sustainability, conservation, community revitalization and recreational projects. Known as conservation landscapes, these collaborations have been developed where there are strong natural assets, local readiness, local buy-in and state-level investment support. Several state agencies, local governments, funders and non-profits have worked strategically and collaboratively in seven identified landscapes to develop a value-driven, place-based approach to sustainability.



### Clean Energy Communities Programs, New Jersey & New York

New York's Clean Energy Communities Program fosters clean energy actions that save energy costs, create jobs and improve the environment. In addition to providing tools, resources, and technical assistance,  the program recognizes and rewards leadership for the completion of clean energy projects.

## **New Jersey's Clean Energy**

**Program** ☑ promotes increased energy efficiency and the use of clean, renewable sources of energy including solar, wind, geothermal and sustainable biomass. The intended results for New Jersey are a stronger economy, less pollution, lower costs, and reduced demand for electricity. NJCEP offers financial incentives, programs, and services for residential, commercial and municipal customers.

## **Sustainable Communities Programs, New Jersey and Pennsylvania**

**Sustainable Jersey** ☑ provides tools, training and financial incentives to support communities pursuing sustainability programs. By supporting community efforts to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions and improve environmental equity, Sustainable Jersey seeks to empower communities to build a better world for future generations. Sustainable Jersey includes a certification program for municipalities, schools and school districts that meet specified criteria to recognize their achievements.

## **The Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification Program,**

☑ a project of the Pennsylvania Municipal League and Sustainable Pittsburgh, is a voluntary performance recognition program to help municipalities achieve their sustainability goals to save money, conserve resources and encourage innovation. It recognizes municipalities that are applying the policy and practice of sustainability in order to advance community prosperity. Focused on municipal operations, policies and practices, the certification also serves as a mechanism for sharing best practices for creating a more sustainable Pennsylvania.



## Non-profit Organizations

Non-profit organizations play a critical role in preserving natural, cultural and historic resources. Members who are local residents can be a powerful force for resource protection by identifying critical resources, helping to develop management plans, providing political support for conservation measures and generating educational materials to promote a conservation ethic. For example, local land trusts can provide an effective way for a group of residents to acquire, preserve and provide long-term stewardship of natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational lands. They may purchase land outright or secure conservation easements. Furthermore, although not primarily focused on land preservation, roundtables that engage business and development interests in conservation can be effective forums for promoting shared values. For example, South Carolina's Richmond County Development Roundtable near Congaree National Park serves as an informal advisor to the County Planning Commission and is comprised of equal representation from the conservation community, development interests and county staff.

### Appalachian Mountain Club

Created in 1876 to explore and preserve the White Mountains in New Hampshire, Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) has expanded throughout the northeastern U.S., with 12 chapters stretching from Maine to Washington, D.C. The AMC's 150,000 members, advocates and supporters mix outdoor recreation with environmental activism. The AMC operates the Mohican Outdoor Center in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Blairstown, NJ.



### Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC)

In cooperation with the NPS, the ATC manages the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, which runs between Maine and Georgia. ATC hosts workshops and raises funds for planning grants for local governments to advance AT protection, and encourages local action to preserve the AT's scenic and rural character.

## Brandywine Conservancy

The Brandywine Conservancy works in Pennsylvania and Delaware with individuals, municipal governments, county and state government agencies and private organizations to protect and conserve land and water, including natural, cultural and scenic resources; create and strengthen municipal and county plans and regulations that support resource conservation; improve site planning and design to support resource conservation in land development projects; conduct research and analyses of approaches to planning and conservation of natural and cultural resources, and; enhance knowledge of conservation approaches within the Brandywine River watershed and beyond.



## Delaware Highlands Conservancy

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust working with landowners and communities along the Upper Delaware River in New York and Pennsylvania to preserve the region’s natural heritage and rural quality of life. The Conservancy focuses on strengthening the connections among people, healthy lands and waters and strong local economies.

## National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)

The nonpartisan NPCA is the only independent, nonprofit membership organization devoted to advocacy on behalf of the National Park System. Its mission is “to protect and enhance America’s National Park System for present and future generations.” In addition to its headquarters in Washington, DC, it has 27 dispersed offices including two field offices in Pennsylvania and a regional office in New York City.

## Natural Lands

Headquartered in Media, Pennsylvania, Natural Lands is a non-profit land trust dedicated to the management, protection and conservation of eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey’s native forests, fields, streams and wetlands. The organization owns and manages 43 nature preserves and one public garden—totaling more than 23,000 acres—located in 13 counties in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Natural Lands also works with private landowners to establish and enforce conservation easements and provides a range of consulting services to Pennsylvania municipalities, including drafting zoning ordinances regarding open space.



## Open Space Institute

Based in New York, the Open Space Institute promotes and fosters smart land conservation. Over the past 40 years, the Institute has saved over two million acres of land from development through direct acquisition, grants and loans.

## Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Founded in 1970, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) protects and restores the natural and built environments through innovation, collaboration, education and advocacy. PEC promotes the value of partnerships with the private sector, government, communities and individuals to improve the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians. With three regional offices in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Wilkes-Barre, PEC provides services and benefits to the Commonwealth through programs and initiatives in three broad program areas: Trails and Recreation, Watersheds, and Energy & Climate.



## WeConservePA

Formerly the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, WeConservePA has published a series of research articles  exploring the economic benefits of land conservation.

## Pocono Environmental Education Center

See Education and Recreation Programs section of this document, p.27

## The Conservation Fund

The Conservation Fund promotes and supports conservation work throughout the United States. By creating solutions that make environmental and economic sense, the Fund seeks to redefine conservation to demonstrate its essential role in the country's future prosperity. The Fund works in all 50 states to protect more than 7.8 million acres of land since 1985.

## The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy's mission is to "conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends." The Conservancy pursues pragmatic solutions to conservation's challenges, working with partners including indigenous communities, businesses, governments, multilateral institutions and other non-profits. Founded in Arlington, Virginia in 1951, TNC now impacts conservation in all 50 states and in over 70 countries and has over one million members. TNC has protected more than 125 million acres and thousands of miles of rivers worldwide. TNC's offices in the Delaware River region include Milton and Wilmington, DE, Chester, NJ, Keene Valley, NY, and Conshohocken and Long Pond, PA.



## The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land facilitates and funds the creation of parks and protected lands. Since 1972, TPL has been involved with more than 5,300 park and conservation projects in 47 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. TPL's projects bring land into public or protected ownership as parks, trails, natural areas, watersheds, river and waterfront access and productive farms and forests. TPL also oversees planning and construction of city parks and other urban projects and raises local, state, and national funds for conservation. Headquartered in San Francisco, California, TPL maintains more than 30 offices and 300 staff nationwide, including in Morristown, NJ.

## APPENDIX D

# Third Party Funding Opportunities



# Third Party Funding Opportunities



## American Express

### Backing Historic Small Restaurants

Grant program administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation awards a total of \$1 million to 25 historic and culturally significant restaurants throughout the US to help them improve, upgrade and preserve their exterior physical spaces and online businesses.

## National Fund for Sacred Places

Comprehensive program provides training, planning grants, technical assistance, capacity building support and capital grants up to \$250,000 to congregations of all faiths for rehabilitation work on their historic facilities.



## National Park Service

### Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program

To support preservation of historic buildings in rural communities across the country that are listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places

## Underrepresented Community Grant Program

Funded by the Historic Preservation Fund and administered by the NPS, projects include surveys and inventories of historic properties associated with communities underrepresented in the National Register.

### Eligibility

- State Historic Preservation Offices
- Federally recognized Tribes
- Alaska Native Villages/Corporations
- Native Hawaiian Organizations
- Certified Local Governments

## Certified Local Government Program

Administered by the NPS to promote preservation through partnership. Through a certification process, communities make a local commitment to historic preservation. Community certification opens doors to funding, technical assistance and preservation successes.

## Tribal Historic Preservation Grants

Provide annually appropriated funding to Tribes that have signed agreements with the NPS designating them as having an approved Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) to protect and conserve important Tribal cultural and historic assets and sites. Grants assist THPOs in executing the tribe's historic preservation programs and activities.



## African American Civil Rights Grants

- Document, interpret and preserve sites and stories related to the African American struggle to gain equal rights as citizens.
- Grants fund a broad range of planning, development and research projects for historic sites.

**Above Left:** Turtle pendant crafted by Leonard Harmon, Lenape Tribe of NJ and Nanticoke Tribe of Delaware ©National Park Service **Right:** An African American Civil Rights grant supported rehabilitation of historic Hinchliffe Stadium, NJ. ©Parkerjh | Wikimedia Commons

## History of Equal Rights Grants

- Aims to preserve sites related to the struggle of all people to achieve equal rights in America.
- Preservation projects may request \$75,000 - \$500,000, while projects that include only pre-preservation work may request \$15,000 - \$50,000.
- Preservation projects fund physical preservation of a historic site to include:
  - Historic districts
  - Buildings
  - Sites
  - Structures
  - Objects



## Save America's Treasures Grant Program

Administered by the NPS for preservation projects and projects involving collections.

### Eligibility

- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) US organizations
- Units of state or local government
- Federally recognized Indian Tribes
- Educational institutions
- Federal agencies funded by the DOI and related agencies except NPS
- Historic properties and collections associated with active religious organizations



## Tribal Heritage Grants

- Assist Indian Tribes in protecting and promoting their unique cultural heritage and traditions.
- Focus on what tribes are most concerned with protecting—oral history, plant and animal species important in tradition, sacred and historic places and the establishment of tribal historic preservation offices.



Grants can help preserve and interpret historic sites, events and cultural values. **Top:** Civil rights March on Washington ©U.S. National Archives and Records Administration **Middle:** A recipient of a Save America's Treasures grant ©Carol M. Highsmith **Above:** Lenape Indian Festival, Vernon, NJ ©Jessi Paladini

## Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples, Inc.

### Three grants available for lifting up indigenous people

- Community Vitality
- Land Defenders & Water Protectors
- Thriving Women



## US Small Business Administration

### Program for Investors in Microentrepreneurs

Funding for private, nonprofit microenterprise development organizations, microenterprise development programs run by State/Local/Tribal governments, or Indian tribes interested in providing assistance and guidance to disadvantaged microentrepreneurs and/or microenterprise development organizations

## TD Bank

### Community Sponsorships

- Through “The Ready Commitment,” TD Bank is investing in opportunities for diverse groups to come together and get involved in their locality to create shared experiences for people, support arts and culture, help people feel a sense of belonging, elevate the quality of the environment and drive economic well-being.
- For-profit and nonprofit organizations are eligible.

## Natural Lands and PECO Green Region

### PECO Green Region Open Space Program

Awards grants for southeastern Pennsylvania municipal and non-profit (within the City of Philadelphia) efforts to preserve, protect, and improve open spaces.

#### Eligibility

- Any township, borough, city or regional recreational authority within PECO's service territory in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, or York counties
- Within the City of Philadelphia, all incorporated non-profit neighborhood organizations, including Friends groups

#### Not Eligible

- Individuals
- Religious institutions (unless programs are non-denominational)

Grants are awarded in amounts up to \$10,000 and may be used to fund up to 50% of the project



