

## GRANT ROUND 2 PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

### APPENDIX A

#### BACKGROUND

The objective of Delco's *Green Ways* grant program is to advance the County's goals of *conserving* green spaces, *connecting* the County with safe places to bicycle and walk, and *enhancing* public parks for people of all ages, interests, and abilities — for a more unified countywide system. As such, the theme of the grant round this year is *Unity*. We encourage you to partner with neighboring municipalities or non-profits and explore innovative ways to show your project demonstrates Unity. The Open Space and Recreation Municipal Grant Program Team will use the criteria on the following pages to evaluate and rank applications.

#### PROJECT TYPES

Under the Green Ways grant program, **each municipality can apply for two grants: one project grant that advances a County Goal: Conserve, Enhance, and/or Connect, and one Planning and Design grant (two grant applications maximum)**. Delaware County encourages multi-municipal applications in which two or more jurisdictions join forces to undertake a project funded by the Green Ways grant program. Non-profits can also apply for a grant in collaboration with the municipality in which the proposed project is located. Multi-municipal projects or projects of non-profit organizations will not count against the project limit for municipalities. Project applications will fall into one of the following categories aligned with County's [2035 Open Space, Recreation and Greenway Plan Goals](#).

1. CONSERVE  
(open space land preservation)
2. ENHANCE  
(capital improvement in parks and open spaces)
3. CONNECT  
(trail development)
4. PLANNING AND DESIGN  
(plans, studies, engineering, & design work) The Planning and Design category will now include funding of Mini-Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plans. A separate application for the Mini Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plans is available on the County's website. These are grants that require no match by smaller communities of under 8,000 population or 1.5 square miles in size.

## Evaluation Description

All applications will be reviewed, scored, and ranked based on the answers to the Criteria Questions listed below, along with your application and the additional items required in the application. You might find it helpful to draft your responses in a Word document first and then copy and paste them into the application, which will be available August 27 – September 13.

## Criteria Questions

Please select and answer the question below that aligns with your project type. Refer to the criteria on pages 3 - 10 to write your project description. Be sure to express how your project will advance the County's [2035 Open Space, Recreation and Greenway Plan](#) goal that relates to your project (Conserve, Enhance or Connect). Use the ranking criteria for that goal as your guide.

1. **What is the purpose of your project and how does it advance Delaware County's goals for *conserving open space*?** (This project type is for land acquisition and conservation easements. Refer to *Conserve Criteria* on page 3.)
2. **What is the purpose of your project and how does your project advance Delaware County's goals for *enhancement*?** (This project type is for the improvement of parks and recreation facilities. Refer to *Enhance Criteria* on page 5.)
3. **How does your project advance Delaware County's goals for *connections*?** (This project type is for the master planning and development of bicycle trails. Refer to *Connect Criteria* on page 8.)
4. **What kind of a planning project do you have?** The type of planning project will serve as criteria (see page. 10).

**Note:** Please know that the criteria are guidelines to help applicants describe their project and how it supports the County's goals for open space conservation, trail connections, and the enhancement of parks and recreation facilities. It's unlikely that any application will be able to address each item listed in the ranking criteria, and the County does not expect that. Choose the criteria elements that best fit your project and do not worry about addressing each one. Strive for an answer that is no more than 1500 words.

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## PROJECT TYPE: CONSERVE

For the protection of undeveloped land in perpetuity. Eligible projects include fee simple acquisition; conservation or trail easements on private land; and other similar conservation methods.

### Ranking Criteria

**Distress of Community** - DVRPC IDP Score: \_\_\_\_\_. (This is a score of potential socio-economic distress in the community. Delaware County Planning Department will assign this score upon submission.)

### Natural Resource Impacts

- Locally significant open space under threat of a land use change
- Natural Heritage Area as shown in the Natural Heritage Inventory of Delaware County or within an Important Bird Area
- Protects important natural landscapes (e.g., steep slopes, floodplains, woodlands, tree canopy, wetlands, meadows, and vistas)
- Delaware Riverfront
- Opportunity for brownfield restoration or reclamation
- Adjoins publicly or preserved lands or trails, including County Primary Trails

### Existing Resource Protection or Expansion

- Expands an existing protected open space
- Protects agricultural land
- Protects important historic and cultural resources
- Protects streams and/or other water bodies

### Greenway Impacts

- Potential use for a segment of a Countywide Primary Trail as shown in the map at the end of the criteria

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- Accessibility to an existing or potential Countywide Primary Trail
- Accessibility to an existing or planned local trail for connection to the Countywide Primary Trail Network

## Benefits

- Environmental
- Economic
- Social
- Health

## Working with Neighbors or Other Partners

- Multi-municipal project
- Other Partners

## Supporting Documentation

- Recommended in a Municipal Comprehensive Plan
- Recommended in a Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan
- Recommended in a Trail Plan
- Letters of Support

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## PROJECT TYPE: ENHANCE

For capital improvements to park and/or recreation facilities. Eligible projects include capital improvements to existing park facilities and regreening efforts (e.g., street tree plantings, green stormwater infrastructure, etc.). Please note indoor recreation facilities will take least priority during evaluation.

### Ranking Criteria

**Distress of Community** - DVRPC IDP Score: \_\_\_\_\_. (This is a score of potential socio-economic distress in the community. Delaware County Planning Department will assign this score upon submission.)

### Natural Resource Impacts

- Natural Heritage Area as shown in the Natural Heritage Inventory of Delaware County or within an Important Bird Area
- Involves stream protection and restoration
- Green storm water management
- Tree cover improvement project
- Existing Resource Protection or Expansion
- Degree that the project enhances the open space
- Protects important historic and cultural resources

### Components to Meet Community Need

- Park within a ten-minute walk of significant populations
- Rehabilitates aging, deteriorated or outdated facilities
- Provides facilities that connect people with nature
- Provides facilities for building a sense of community
- Provides facilities that support active healthy living
- Indoor recreation facility requests will receive the lowest priority

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## **Greenway Impacts - Development or Substantial Improvement of a Park's Internal Trail System that Will**

- Provide a trailhead, trail destination, or amenities to support trails
- A segment of the countywide Primary Trail Network
- Part of a local trail network that connects to or will connect to the county's Primary Trail Network
- Part of a local [existing or planned] trail network that extends off-site and will not connect to the countywide Primary Trail Network

## **Benefits**

- Environmental
- Economic
- Social
- Health

## **Working with Neighbors or Other Partners**

- Multi-municipal project
- Other Partners

## **Supporting Documentation**

- Recommended in a Master Site Development Plan for the park
- Recommended in a Municipal Comprehensive
- Recommended in a Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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- Multi-municipal project
- Letters of support

## PROJECT TYPE: CONNECT

For master planning, design, and development of trails included on the Countywide Primary Trail Network and development of local trails. Eligible projects include trail master planning, design, or construction of multi-use segments of the countywide Primary Trail Network.

### Ranking Criteria

**Distress of Community** - DVRPC IDP Score: \_\_\_\_\_. (This is a score of potential socio-economic distress in the community. Delaware County Planning Department will assign this score upon submission.)

### Trail Segments in the County Primary Trail Network

(As shown on the County Primary Trail Network Map at the end of this document, page 12.)

For all other trails that are not part of the Countywide Primary Trail Network (local trails), consideration will be given to the following criteria (do not add for Trails in the PTN):

- Links directly to a Primary Trail in the Countywide Primary Trail Network
- Listed in a local trail corridor plan or feasibility study
- Listed in a local trail network plan within a comprehensive municipal parks, recreation, and greenway plan
- Listed in a municipal comprehensive plan
- Gap trail: Provides a missing link between two other trail segments
- Links significant local destinations (man-made resources) with residential areas
- Provides a safe alternative to an unsafe condition (e.g., a project offering an alternative to pedestrians sharing a vehicular route or crossing a busy roadway at grade)
- Links established or protected linear greenway corridors to major hubs or destinations

### Working with Neighboring Communities or Other Partners

- Multi-municipal project
- Other Partners



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- Letters of Support

## Benefits of Completing this Project

- Environmental
- Economic
- Social
- Health

## Supporting Documentation

- Recommended in a Master Site Development Plan for the park
- Recommended in a Municipal Comprehensive
- Recommended in a Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan
- Multi-municipal project
- Letters of support

## PROJECT TYPE: PLANNING AND DESIGN

### Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan

- Multi-municipal Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan
- Municipal Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan
- Mini-Multi Municipal PROSP
- Mini-Municipal PROSP

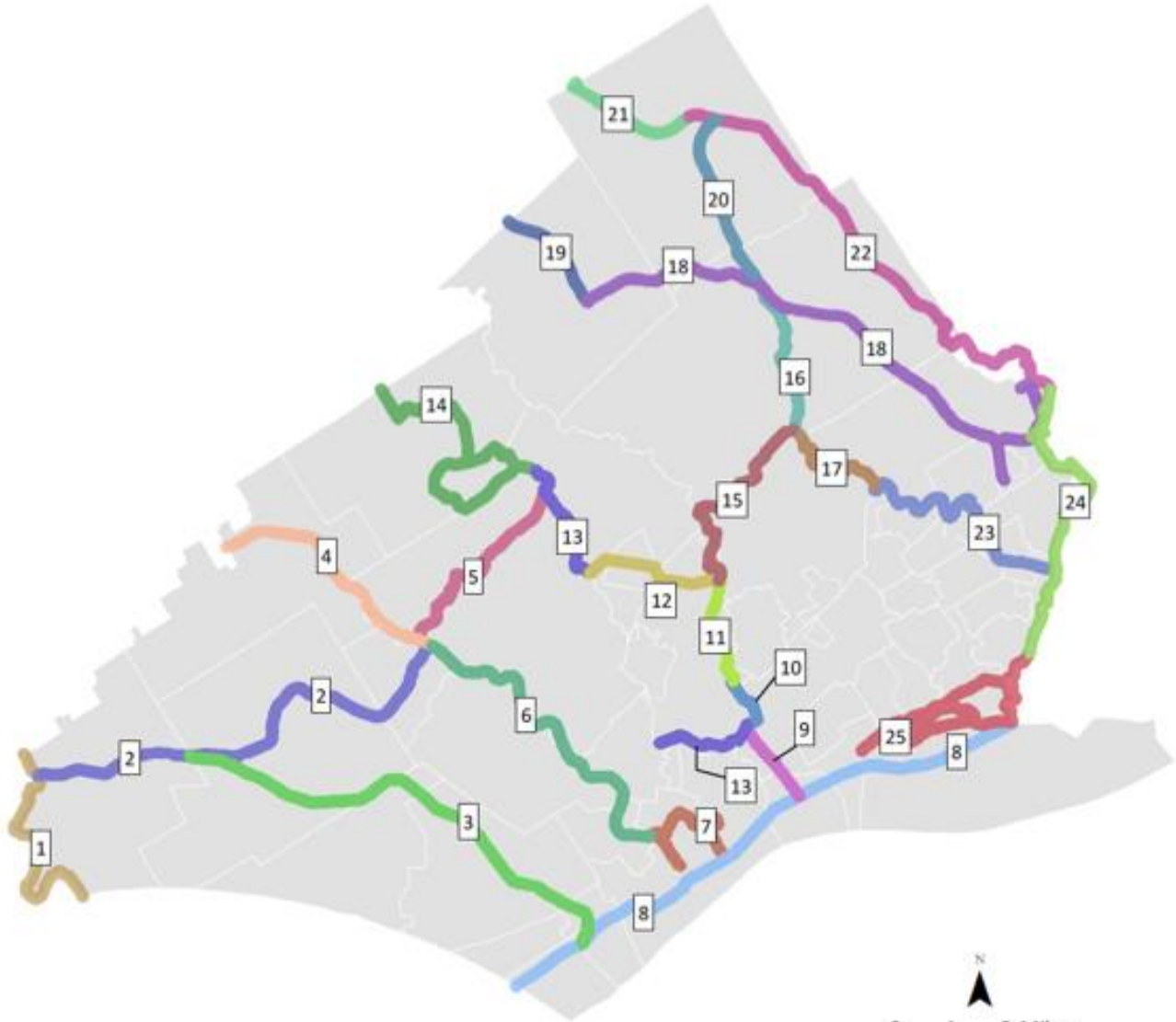
### Other Types of Plans

- Trail Plan for Primary Trail
- Trail Plan for all other local trails
- Park master plans (one park master plan or a park system plan)
- Feasibility for recreation facilities
- Feasibility for trails
- Natural Resource Management Plan
- Maintenance Plan
- Appraisals
- Title research
- Other

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## Delaware County's Primary Trail Network



- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1 - Brandywine Creek Greenway                                 | 10 - Blue Route Bikeway - Leiper to Kinder Connector | 19 - Route 252 Bicycle Route                       |
| 2 - Octoraro Rail Trail                                       | 11 - Blue Route Bikeway - Leiper-Smedley Trail       | 20 - Blue Route Bikeway - Ithan-Darby Creek Valley |
| 3 - PECO Right-of-Way Trail                                   | 12 - Media-Smedley Connector Trail                   | 21 - Radnor Trail                                  |
| 4 - Chester Creek Trail - North Extension                     | 13 - Ridley Creek Greenway (North & South Sections)  | 22 - Forge to Refuge Trail                         |
| 5 - Rocky Run Trail   | 14 - Ridley Creek State Park Trails                  | 23 - Darby Creek Stream Valley Park Trail          |
| 6 - Chester Creek Trail                                       | 15 - Blue Route Bikeway - Smedley to Darby Creek     | 24 - Cobbs Creek Trail                             |
| 7 - Chester Creek Trail - East Coast Greenway (ECG) Connector | 16 - Darby Creek Trail - Haverford Township          | 25 - Heinz Refuge Trails                           |
| 8 - East Coast Greenway                                       | 17 - Darby Creek Trail - Drexel Hill Connector       |  |
| 9 - Blue Route Bikeway - East Coast Greenway (ECG) Connector  | 18 - Newtown Square Branch Rail Trail                |  |