

# Conservation Funds Help Communities Provide Outdoor Places, Opportunities

By: Josh VanBrakle, DCNR Recreation and Conservation Advisor

HARRISBURG - At the start of the new year, Governor Tom Wolf announced an investment of \$70 million for 317 recreation and conservation projects across Pennsylvania. The grants supported a range of projects (PDF) including public parks, open space protection, and trail building.

DCNR also is accepting applications for another round of funding in 2022 through April 6, 2022.

All these grants are part of DCNR's Community Conservation Partnerships Program. The program combines several state and federal funding sources into one.



## Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Fund

Commonly called the Keystone Fund Opens In A New Window, this is DCNR's largest source of grant dollars. About two-thirds of Community Conservation Partnerships Program grant funding in 2021 came from the Keystone Fund -- around \$48 million.

Outdoors, people, playground, equipment, building, nature, trees, mulch

A Keystone Fund grant recently helped the City of Lancaster install new play equipment at Milburn Park. The park serves more than 9,000 residents within a 10-minute walk.

The Keystone Fund gets its money from the Realty Transfer Tax. Every time a piece of real estate is sold in Pennsylvania, a small portion of the purchase price goes to the Keystone Fund.

That money in turn supports local community projects, among them: Local park and trail improvements, Recreational water access, State park and forest infrastructure Historic preservation, Library construction and renovation.

The Keystone Fund has supported more than 6,000 projects across Pennsylvania since its creation in 1993. It's funded projects in every Pennsylvania county. One in three Pennsylvania local parks have received Keystone Fund support.

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For more info go to:

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/GoodNatured/Pages/Article.aspx?post=194>



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