

Recommendation
Board of Supervisors

Meeting Date: November 4, 2020

Prepared by: Christina Norland

Recommended Motion: Motion to authorize the application to the 2020 PECO Green Region Open Space Program for the development of the western portion of the Kennett Greenway

Background:

Kennett Township is committed to securing the health, safety and welfare of local residents and the general public through the establishment and maintenance of trails and sidewalks. To that end, Kennett Township has been developing the Kennett Greenway, which is a 14-mile trail loop designed to connect township residents to each other and to nature. The Greenway will connect residents to the assets of five municipalities, including Kennett Township, Kennett Borough, New Garden Township, East Marlborough Township and New Castle County, Delaware. Over ten parks and preserves will be connected on the Greenway loop, providing taxpayers with safe, walkable and bikeable access to the Township's open space investments.

On November 14, 2017, Kennett Township was awarded a CFA MTF Grant in the amount of \$1,700,000 for the Greenway project, and specifically for improvements to the Chandler Mill Bridge, Chandler Mill Road Trail, Parrish and Whittle Trails, South Street Path and Penns Manor Trail (the "Trail Segments"). The Township match for this grant is approximately \$900,000. Costs covered by this grant must be incurred by June 30, 2021.

Current Matter:

Recognizing that open space in our communities is crucial to the quality of our lives, PECO is committed to supporting municipalities, recreational authorities, and non-profits in southeastern Pennsylvania with their ongoing efforts to preserve, protect, and improve public spaces. PECO designed the PECO Green Region Open Space program to assist local communities in these efforts. Eligible expenses include improving municipal, organizational or authority-owned open spaces, including habitat improvements such as installing or improving meadows, woodlands and riparian buffers. The plans also may include the installation of capital improvements for passive recreation such as trails, boardwalks, and kiosks. Grants will be awarded in amounts up to \$10,000 and may be used to fund up to 50% of a project. The municipality, recreational authority, or non-profit organization must have a source of funds to match the amount requested from the PECO Green Region Program. The grant deadline is November 17, 2020.

As part of the current development of the Trail Segments, native riparian vegetation will be installed along the Chandler Mill Road Trail. While design and detailed cost estimates are

currently in progress, this native riparian vegetation will include approximately \$16,000 in soil and \$28,000 in plantings to ensure the trail contributes to the ecological habitat and sustainability of this part of Kennett Township.

The proposed resolution would authorize Kennett Township to apply to the PECO Green Region Open Space Grant for \$10,000 towards this native riparian vegetation project. In terms of the match, no additional funds would be needed to be budgeted for this project. Rather, the previously awarded Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal Transportation Fund grant would serve as the matching funds.



October 29, 2020

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Over the years, numerous municipalities, regional recreational authorities, and nonprofits in southeastern Pennsylvania have undertaken a variety of open space projects. Recognizing the importance of these initiatives, PECO is partnering with Natural Lands to provide grants to assist in these efforts. Eligible applicants include municipalities and regional recreational authorities within PECO's suburban service territory, which includes portions of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and York Counties. Within the City of Philadelphia, incorporated nonprofit organizations are also eligible.

Through the PECO Green Region Open Space Program, PECO provides grant awards up to \$10,000. A committee composed of county officials, conservation professionals, and PECO representatives review proposals and awards the grants annually. The grants must be used with funding from other sources and may cover expenses such as consulting fees, trail construction, land acquisition, habitat improvement, and/or the cost of creating and implementing an open space plan. PECO Green Region grant applications are only accepted through the online portal, which can be found at <http://www.natlands.org/greenregion>. **The REVISED application submission deadline for 2020 grant round funding requests is 5:00pm, Tuesday, November 17, 2020.**

Since PECO Green Region's inception in 2004, over \$2.3 million has been awarded across the region for a wide range of open space projects. If you are undertaking an open space project, we hope you'll consider applying for a PECO Green Region grant. We hope that PECO Green Region funds will make a real difference as you work to preserve and protect farmland, watersheds, parks, and trails for this and future generations.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Estelle Wynn Dolan, administrator of the PECO Green Region Open Space Program, by calling 610-353-5587 ext. 213, or by email at edolan@natlands.org. We look forward to the opportunity to support your conservation efforts.

Romona Riscoe Benson
Director, Corporate and Community Relations
PECO

Estelle Wynn Dolan
PECO Green Region Program Administrator
Natural Lands

**KENNETT TOWNSHIP
CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-18

A RESOLUTION OF KENNETT TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION TO THE 2020 PECO GREEN REGION OPEN SPACE PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WESTERN PORTION OF THE KENNETT GREENWAY.

WHEREAS, Kennett Township desires to undertake the continuation of the western portion of the Kennett Greenway; and

WHEREAS, Kennett Township desires to apply to the PECO Green Region Open Space Program for a grant for the purpose of carrying out this project; and,

WHEREAS, Kennett Township has received and understands the 2020 PECO Green Region Open Space Program Guidelines.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Kennett Township Board of Supervisors hereby approves this project and authorizes application to the PECO Green Region Open Space Program in the amount of \$10,000; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT, if the application is granted, Kennett Township commits the use of a previously awarded Commonwealth Financing Authority (“CFA”) Multimodal Transportation Fund grant in the amount of One Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,700,000.00) as one source of matching funds for the Project.

ADOPTED and **RESOLVED** this 4th day of November, 2020.

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
KENNETT TOWNSHIP**

Eden Ratliff, Manager

Richard L. Leff, Chairman

Whitney S. Hoffman, Vice-Chair

Scudder G. Stevens, Member