PRESERVATION PARKS OF DELAWARE COUNTY (PPDC)
COMMUNITY PARK & TRAIL GRANT PROGRAM

Preservation Parks' Mission

To protect and conserve the natural and historical features of Delaware County and to inspire outdoor exploration and learning.

Program Summary

The Preservation Parks Board of Park Commissioners has allocated $100,000 in the Park District's 2026 budget to support a local grant program benefiting community park and trail projects. This funding will assist with the development and maintenance of public outdoor recreation facilities and trails throughout Delaware County. The program aims to enhance quality of life, connect residents with nature, promote active lifestyles, and support the sustainability of green spaces.

Eligible Applicants

Cities, villages, townships, and non-profit organizations (in partnership with cities, villages, townships, or other public entities) whose project boundaries are completely within the geographical boundary of Delaware County, Ohio.

Eligible Projects

Projects must be located within a park or trail that is publicly owned or held under a minimum 15-year lease by the applicant. The site must also be open and accessible to the public. Examples of Eligible projects include:

- Construction of outdoor recreation facilities, such as, but not limited to: picnic areas, playgrounds, shelters, sports fields/courts, spray parks, trails, natural areas, water access, parking lots, restrooms, benches, water fountains, bike racks, park signs, etc.
- Native landscaping, rain gardens, community gardens, reforestation
- Design and engineering directly related to project construction.
- Maintenance and repairs of existing outdoor recreation facilities.

Ineligible Projects

Projects may not include temporary elements, equipment, or broad planning initiatives / surveys / studies. Examples of Ineligible Projects include:

- Purchase of maintenance equipment.
- Park master planning.
- Temporary facilities (porta john, special event tent, etc.)
- Portable items (kayaks, basketballs and similar sport equipment, etc.)
- Project administrative costs and general operating expenses.

Grant Amounts

Applicants may request up to $50,000 per project. No local match is required.

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Grant Program Schedule

April 30..... PPDC Park and Trail Grant Program available on PPDC website
April 30-September 30..... PPDC staff available for questions
October 1 .....Applications due by 3:00 PM (one PDF and one hard copy)
Mid-November..... Park Board meeting to award grants (date TBD)
By December 1, 2026..... Notification of awarded grants
December 31, 2028..... Deadline to submit final report/expenditures for reimbursement

Grant Requirements

- If funded, the grantee will enter into an agreement with PPDC describing the terms of the project and grant.
- The grantee must pay all project costs up front (contractor/materials/services), then submit receipts for reimbursement after the project is complete.
- Upon project completion, the grantee much submit a final report including an explanation of how the funds were used, copies of invoices and cancelled checks for the grant portion of the project, and photos of the completed project including the PPDC provided sign recognizing the sources of grant funding.
- The grantee must comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws including non-discrimination, prevailing wage legislation, public bidding requirements, applicable permits, building codes, health regulations, conflict of interest laws, ADA standards, and other similar matters.
- Grantee will install and maintain a PPDC-provided sign at the project site identifying the project as having received funding from PPDC's Park and Trail Grant program.

Selection of Grant Awardees

All grants will be reviewed by a committee who will make recommendations to the Board of Park Commissioners. Award recommendations will be based on responses in the application including, but not limited to: the justification of need for the project, community resources, community support for the project, site suitability, accessibility, ability to operate and maintain the project, prior funding through this grant program, and completeness of the application, among others.

Additional Program Information

- Applications are limited to one per agency.
- Grant requests may be only partially funded, depending on the availability of funds.
- If a request is denied in one year, the applicant may resubmit the project again the following year.
- Projects may not begin until final grant approval is provided by PPDC. Project that begin prior to approval risk grant cancellation.
- All expenses and payments are subject to state audits.
- Grant funds must be utilized for the project; no alterations may be made to the project unless approved in writing by PPDC.
- Grant funds as allocated by Preservation Parks are final; any additional costs are the responsibility of the applicant.
- Failure to comply with these criteria will be taken into consideration for any future requests and could jeopardize an award.
- If a project is awarded and the grantee cannot complete their project in the required timeframe, subsequent applications from the organization will not be considered until the project is completed.

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2026 Application Instructions

Complete Sections 1-4, using as much space as needed to fully describe the project. Include attachments and additional relevant information as appropriate. Please feel free to contact Matt Simpson msimpson@preservationparks.com prior to submitting your application if you have questions.

Applications (one pdf and one hard copy) shall be no more than 26 single sided pages or 13 double sided pages and must be received by 3:00 PM on October 1, 2026 at the address below:

Matt Simpson
Preservation Parks of Delaware County
2656 Hogback Road
Sunbury, OH 43074
msimpson@preservationparks.com
Ph:740.524.8600 x 102