



Greenways Mini-Grants Awarded



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Through \$125,000 of funding available by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnership Grant Program (C2P2), **Round 5** of the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission's (SAP&DC's) **Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Mini-Grants Program** has awarded funding to the following 5 projects totaling \$124,851:

- Fort Fetter Community Design Project - Township of Blair
- Reservoir Park Basketball Court Renovation - Tyrone Sports Association
- PA Avenue Pedestrian Walkway - Mount Union Borough
- Somerset Lake Nature Park Trail Development Project - Somerset County
- Stonerstown Recreational Park Improvement Project - Liberty Township

This round, we received a total of eight applications and were able to fund five of the eight. We encourage any non-profit or municipality to apply to the program, which opens every spring around April. You can read the guidelines for the program at the link below.

[Greenways Mini-Grants](#)

Broadband Taskforce Update

Southern Alleghenies Regional Broadband Taskforce:



SAP&DC submitted a \$50,000 grant application to the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) on April 10, 2019, with \$50,000 local match from eight participating counties, to complete a Broadband Feasibility Study. In late July 2019, ARC awarded the \$50,000 grant to complete the study. The counties to be covered are Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fayette, Fulton, Huntingdon, Somerset, and Westmoreland.

The next step the Regional Broadband Task Force will take is to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for individuals or businesses to submit proposals for the eight-county Broadband Feasibility Study. The feasibility study will address:

1. Unserved and underserved areas;
2. Level of service being provided, the needs of local businesses and the reliability of the current services being provided;
3. Provide an inventory of broadband assets already in place;
4. Assess community broadband requirements for bandwidth needs;
5. Determine best technologies to meet the coal impacted community needs; and
6. Provide cost estimates for different deployment strategies.

The RFP will be out for bid in October 2019 with hopes for a final completion of the study in approximately eight months timeframe.

Appalachian Regional Commission

In July 2019, SAP&DC was notified of two 2019 grant application awards: the Center for Metal Arts (CMA) in Johnstown and Saint Francis University (SFU) in Loretto.

CMA was awarded \$21,430 for their program of a community of metalsmiths, entrepreneurs and students exploring new skills or mastering advanced techniques in the metal arts through an array of workshops. Upgrades will be made to the CMA facility located in the historic Lower Works of the Cambria Iron Company in downtown Johnstown. These upgrades are needed to provide students the most up to date, quality learning experience during their time at CMA. Additional lighting, tongs, hammers and additional forging tools will be added. A total of 270 students will be served and 8 additional jobs will be created.



SFU was awarded \$150,000 for the new Health Sciences Experiential Learning Commons. The equipment will be used by healthcare students and professionals to develop their clinical decision-making abilities and improve their confidence to manage similar real-life situations in a safe, non-threatening environment. The equipment purchased will include new simulators and simulation-related equipment such as cameras, microphones, and cables to compliment the new facility. A total of 900 students will be served through advanced simulation training and 250 EMS/emergency responders will be served through the new equipment.

On August 2, 2019, SAP&DC submitted the FY 2020 Investment Package to ARC with a total of four projects for our six-county region totaling \$2,030,375.00. The projects ranged from water system upgrades and planning grants to roadway projects. SAP&DC staff will meet with ARC in September regarding the projects and final decisions will be made by December 2019 for funding.

Information Sessions and Trainings



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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Salt & Snow Management
Blair County, Altoona, PA
September 17, 2019 8:00AM - 3:00 PM

**Asphalt Roads Common
Maintenance
Problems**
Bedford County, East St. Clair Township
September 18, 2019 8:00AM - 12:00 PM

Equipment & Worker Safety
Somerset County, Berlin Borough
September 19, 2019 8:00AM - 12:00 PM

Speed Limits & Speed Management
Somerset County, Conemaugh
Township
October 2, 2019 8:00AM - 12:00 PM

You can register for courses by creating an account on the [LTAP](#) and enrolling OR by contacting Janice Streightiff at (814) 949-6523 or streightiff@sapdc.org.



Federal Financing & Briefing

Hosted by Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson,
Indiana County Development Corporation and
Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development
Commission.

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Ebensburg Borough Building, Community Room

300 West High Street, Suite #1

Ebensburg, PA 15931

(814) 472-8780

RSVP to:

andrea.verobish@mail.house.gov

(814) 419-8583

Bedford County Grant Information Session

Hosted by the Bedford County Commissioners and
Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development
Commission.

Thursday, September 26, 2019

8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Lunch Provided

Bedford County Courthouse, Commissioners Office
Center for Rural PA, DCED, DCNR, PennDOT, USDA and
more!



Register at:

[Bedford County Grant Session](#)

or call Stacy LoCastro at (814) 949-6510

September 911 Trail



SEPTEMBER 11TH
NATIONAL MEMORIAL
TRAIL ALLIANCE®

Make History on Saturday, September 7, by Riding in the Inaugural 911 Trail Challenge

We've been making tremendous progress toward creating the Trail of Remembrance to honor those who gave their lives for freedom on September 11, 2001. To help make our vision a reality, we will be holding the first-ever 911 Trail Challenge on Saturday, September 7, from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The 24-mile round trip ride will begin in the parking lot of Berlin Brothersvalley High School in Berlin, PA. The route will wind its way through Berlin and Shanksville, PA, to the Flight 93 National Memorial and back to Berlin.

Register online and learn more about sponsorships at:

[911 Trail Challenge](#)

PA WalkWorks

WalkWorks is pleased to provide financial assistance to communities to develop plans that will, when implemented, improve walking, bicycling and transit connections to everyday destinations within the community and increase safe and accessible opportunities for residents to be physically active. This funding opportunity, by increasing opportunities for physical activity, aims to address major risk behaviors that contribute to chronic disease. This announcement marks the third time WalkWorks has been able to offer this opportunity. Below is the website for the funding opportunity:

[Active Transportation Plan and Funding Opportunity](#)



The Bricktown Unity Trail is a 1.65 mile route in Mount Union, PA established through the WalkWorks program, which is a collaboration between the PA Department of Health and the University of Pittsburgh to increase opportunities for physical activity and improve the overall health of communities. It creates a loop that showcases some points of interest and the rich heritage of the town. By implementing this route, Mount Union is

able to provide a great opportunity to encourage recreational and physical activities to its community. Please click below to see more information about the trail:

[Bricktown Unity Trail Route](#)

ArcGIS Online

SAP&DC is committed to publishing maps depicting planning and transportation initiatives to the public, so they are available to see what projects are occurring within the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) four-county region. ArcGIS Online (AGOL) is a cloud-based mapping and analysis solution that is allowing SAP&DC to expand our data and map sharing capabilities. AGOL contains all the capabilities of GIS with the advantage of being able to share data through interactive, easy to understand maps. Visit our AGOL homepage (link below) to view our mapping resources, (i.e. legislative district boundaries and local bridge inventories, trail counts) as well as, maps of recently completed and future projects which will benefit our area.

[AGOL Homepage](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAP&DC)
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