



DELAWARE & LEHIGH NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

TRAIL ALLIANCE

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D&L TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS GRANT

Guidelines and Instructions for D&L Trail Owners

The D&L Trail Alliance is a partnership of more than 100 federal, state, municipal, non-profit, and private stakeholders that share in the management and promotion of the 165-mile D&L Trail. The Ownership Council (formerly Stewardship Council) of landowners shares best practices and coordinates policy for the D&L Trail. Three regional councils (Anthracite, Lehigh Valley, Delaware Canal) provide technical assistance to the D&L Trail Alliance and attend to regional trail issues, volunteer trail maintenance, programming, and promote the general benefits of the trail connections/networks. The collective goal of the Alliance's four arms is long-term vision planning and sustainable stewardship of the D&L Trail and the dozens of intersecting trails that form eastern Pennsylvania's trail network.

The D&L is pleased to open the 2018 D&L Trail Alliance Trail Improvements Grant Program, a reimbursement grant program funded in partnership with the William Penn Foundation and administered by the D&L Trail Alliance. The purpose of the Trail Improvements Grants are to help close existing trail gaps and to make improvements to specific areas of the trail in order to improve the user experience of the D&L Trail.

This is a single round grant with a total \$90,000 available. The grants will be disbursed with 50% of the funding available at the start of the grant period and the final 50% available at the close of the project. Invoices for all funds expensed will be required for final reimbursement.

2018 Trail Improvement Grant Priorities:

- Connect 165 miles of D&L Trail by eliminating trail gaps
- Create universally accessible recreation opportunities for residents and visitors of the D&L corridor
- Connect people to the history, pathways, and waterways that makes the D&L Trail unique and important to our region

Eligibility:

Who is eligible?

Any entity, organization, or municipality that owns a section of trail and is an active member of the D&L Trail Alliance Ownership Council may apply. Partnership applications, between a member of the Ownership Council and a supporting organization, will be entertained with the submission of a cooperative agreement.

What type of project is eligible?

The intent of this grant is to help close **gaps** in the D&L Trail. As a multi-use trail, the D&L Trail conditions should match those outlined in the [Universal Access Trails and Shared Use Paths](#) guidelines published by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association. For this grant, a gap may be a physical obstruction, an unimproved section, or a section that has deteriorated (due to storm water washout or other unforeseen circumstance) such that it no longer meets the definitions of shared use path or multi-use trail. Areas that may be confusing to trail users and would benefit from wayfinding signage installation and pavement markings would also qualify as a gap, but may necessitate coordination with PennDOT for permitting. Questions regarding trail conditions that qualify can be clarified during an annual maintenance inspection scheduled with D&L Trail staff.

ALL project funds should be expensed by September 30, 2019.

Application:

To apply, please submit an application that includes the following by March 23, 2018 at 3:00pm:

- Clearly identify the proposal with the gap that will be addressed
- Name, date(s), and organization applying and conducting the work
- Amount of funding requested (between \$10,000 and \$30,000) and match sources
- Funding commitment letters from cash or in kind match sources
- Timeline detailing how and when the funding will be disbursed within the grant timeline
- Cooperative agreement, if the project will involve organizational partnership
- Support letters from interested organizations, local businesses, trail users, etc.
- Relevant supporting documents: maps, photos, plans, etc.