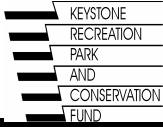


COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
BUREAU OF RECREATION AND CONSERVATION

**COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM  
GRANT APPLICATION FORM**



**SECTION I - IDENTIFICATION OF APPLICANT AND PROJECT COORDINATOR**

Legal Name of Applicant: Borough of Blossburg Federal Employer ID Number: 246000571 County Tioga  
 Applicant Official Mailing Address (Street/P.O. Box, City/Town): 245 Main St., Blossburg (Zip Code) 16912 (Telephone Number) (570) 638-2452  
 Name and Title of Chief Elected Official or Executive Officer: Jerome Ogden  
 Applicant Classification:  Municipality  Municipal Agency  Appropriate/Authorized Organization  
 Pre-qualified Land Trust  Other \_\_\_\_\_ (must complete Section IX)  
 Local Project Coordinator (Person in Charge of Project): Jill Nickerson Title: Vice Preident, Blossburg V.I.B.E.  
 Local Project Coordinator's Mailing Address (Street/P.O. Box, City/Town): PO Box 126, Blossburg (Zip Code) 16912 Telephone Number (Daytime): (570)638-3459  
 Local Project Coordinator's Email Address: toddleru@epix.net FAX Number: 570-638-2049

**SECTION II – GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project Title: Blossburg Skate Park  
 Project Address / Location (if located in more than one County, Township, etc., please list all) Island Park, Blossburg  
 County Tioga Borough, City, Town or Township Blossburg  
 Is Project Property Leased?  Yes  No. Project Property is Owned By: Borough of Blossburg  
 Project Type (Check One)  Planning  Acquisition  Technical Assistance  Development  Education and Training  Small Community Development  
 Category (Check One)  Park and Recreation Areas  PA Recreational Trails  Snowmobile and ATV Trails  Rails-to-Trails  Greenways and Trails  Rivers Conservation  Natural and Critical Habitat Areas

**SECTION III – PROPOSED PROJECT BUDGET**

To accurately estimate a project's cost, applicants must visit DCNR's website or talk to their Regional Advisor to develop a realistic / eligible scope of work, determine consultant fees and qualifications, verify ADA access requirements and clarify any public participation that is required.

\$ 60,000 Total Project Cost  
 — \$ 48,000 (minus) Grant Amount Requested (50% maximum)<sup>1,2</sup>  
 = \$ 12,000 Local Match\*  
**ALL COST FIGURES SHOULD BE ROUNDED TO NEAREST \$100**

**Check box below if a Small Community or PA Recreational Trail Project**

<sup>1</sup> The **Small Community Development** project type is an 80/20 matching grant with a total project cost up to \$60,000, maximum grant of \$48,000. 100% funding for total project cost of up to \$20,000. Only Municipal applicants with a population of 5,000 or less are eligible for this project type. **Please indicate the Population of Applicant** 1,490

<sup>2</sup> **Pennsylvania Recreational Trails and S/ATV** funding provides 80% funding and requires a 20% match except for Acquisition which is a 50/50 match.

*\*For all projects, list all Public and Private cash and/or non-cash matching contributions that comprise the local match indicated above. Please use the worksheets with the Summary Cost Estimate Form to determine and document these costs.*

SOURCES	CASH AMOUNT	NON-CASH VALUE
Blossburg Improvement Association	\$5,000	
Carol J. Tama	\$2,500	
Ward Manufacturing	\$2,500	
Blossburg V.I.B.E.	\$1,000	
Tioga County Housing Authority	\$1,000	
First Citizens National Bank	\$ 500	

**SECTION IV – PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

We encourage you to discuss your proposed project scope of work with the appropriate DCNR Regional Recreation Advisor prior to submission of the application. Check the appropriate box, review the sample scopes and provide the scope of work for your project where indicated on the form.

**How will grant be used?**

**Planning and Technical Assistance** – Planning projects lay the groundwork for future acquisition, development and/or management of parks, recreation facilities, open space, natural areas, greenways, rails-to-trails, and river/watershed corridors. Technical assistance projects attempt to meet statewide and local needs for building professional capacity and for educating the public on recreation and conservation opportunities. If this application is for Planning and Technical Assistance project, check the appropriate project type:

PLANNING	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
<input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plans <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Plans <input type="checkbox"/> County Natural Area Inventories <input type="checkbox"/> Feasibility Study <input type="checkbox"/> Greenways and Trails Plans <input type="checkbox"/> Rails-to-Trails Plans <input type="checkbox"/> Master Site Plans <input type="checkbox"/> Rivers Conservation Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Training and Implementation <input type="checkbox"/> Circuit Rider <input type="checkbox"/> Peer-to-Peer

Describe, in the space below, the scope of work for your above checked project in the space provided below. For example, if you checked the Master Site Plan box, the project description should be similar to the following:

**Develop a Master Site Plan for the recently acquired 17±acre Owen tract. The plan will be based on recommendations contained in the Township's Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan completed in 2000 and the existing site constraints.**

**Acquisition** – Describe, in the space below, the area to be acquired in terms of size, number of parcels, natural and man-made features, nature of surrounding land use, relation to existing public parkland, trails, conservation areas, and future proposed facilities. Indicate interest to be acquired if other than fee simple proposed public access and use of the property. For example, the project description should be similar to the following:

**Acquisition of the 17± acre Owen tract adjacent to the Township's Evergreen Nature Preserve and located along State Route 61. The acquisition will provide a buffer between the Preserve and the impending development of Evergreen Heights as well as a green corridor connection for the County Trail. The property will be open to the following public uses: (List)**

**Development / Small Community Development** – Describe your project scope of work in terms of facilities, conservation areas, etc. to be developed/rehabilitated in the space below. If you intend to use "Hometown Streets/Safe Routes to Schools" or "TEA 21" as a match for our funding, please indicate how our funds are going to be used and what PennDOT is funding. Please include the cost estimate form required by PennDOT with this application. For example, the project description should be similar to the following:

**Further development of Owen Park. Work to include construction of an access road and parking area; installation of play equipment, safety surfacing, ADA access, pavilion, and site utilities.**

**Provide the scope of work for your proposed project in this space -**

Create a skateboarding and in-line skating facility at Island Park, the community's sports and recreation complex. Work to include the following items: grade/excavate area, pave area with asphalt, pave two ADA-accessible parking spaces and walkway, install equipment, landscape surrounding area.

**Did you discuss your project with your Regional Recreation Advisor?**  Yes  No  
 If yes, please indicate who. M. Wesley Fahringer

**SECTION V – PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA**

Legal Name of Applicant: Borough of Blossburg

Project Title: Blossburg Skate Park

DCNR uses seven criteria as a standard to evaluate, rate, and rank grant applications for funding consideration. Each of the criteria has a statement and a commentary further explains the statement and provides guidance to help the applicant provide a concise response to each statement. Refer to the Application Manual, Section III, Selection Criteria for the statements and commentaries. Use the space provided on this form; attach additional pages if necessary.

**1. Needs and Benefits Assessment** – Points: Maximum of 20. Criterion: List and describe the recreation, park and conservation needs that exist in the community, region, or statewide that make this project an important priority. Further, list and describe the immediate and future long term benefits that will be realized if the proposed project is completed. Attach additional pages if necessary.

Approximately 25.7 percent of Blossburg Borough residents are under the age of 18 (U.S. Census, 2000). Many are involved in team sports, including football, basketball, baseball, volleyball and track & field, all of which are supported at Island Park, the site of the proposed park. However, there is a lack of funding and facilities directed toward individual sports, especially for youth. The proposed skate park will provide non-school-based individual recreational opportunities for up to approximately 60 youth, primarily boys, who often do not participate in team and school-based sports.

The skate park will provide a safe environment for skateboarding and rollerblading with a new smooth surface and professionally designed skateboard elements including ramps, quarterpipes, grindboxes and rails. Youth currently skate in several unsafe locations in the borough; creating a skate park will help reduce the risk of injury from uneven surfaces and motor vehicles. The equipment is estimated to last 15-25 years.

A recent article in the New York Times described the obesity problems in our local schools, "As Obesity Fight Hits Cafeteria, Many Fear a Note From School" (Kantor, Jan. 8, 2007). The skate park is another way to reduce obesity in our youth in the short and long term.

Finally, the community-wide visioning process conducted by Blossburg V.I.B.E. in 2004 indicated the need for more youth-oriented facilities, and more recreation facilities in Blossburg (see 4C below).

**2. Partnerships / Intergovernmental Cooperation** – Points: Maximum of 20. Criterion: Describe how the project involves partnership efforts among governmental, nonprofit or other public and private organizations. Attach additional pages if necessary.

The enclosed letters of support for the Blossburg skate park demonstrate the broad range of community interest and participation in this project, from elected officials on the county, state and federal levels (Tioga County commissioners, Pa. Rep. Matthew E. Baker, Pa. Sen. Joseph Scarnati, U.S. Rep. John E. Peterson), to surrounding boroughs and townships (Mansfield Borough, Ward Township, Richmond Township), to the local school district. The grant application, construction and maintenance of the skate park is a joint project of the Borough of Blossburg and Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business & Entertainment). Blossburg V.I.B.E. is a 501(c)(3) organization established in 2004 to improve the quality of life for those who live, work, play or attend school in Blossburg, a constituency of approximately 2,300 people. The Borough of Blossburg and Blossburg V.I.B.E. collaborated on the Department of Community and Economic Development's Main Street facade grant program.

Our funding commitments also demonstrate the cooperative nature of this project. The Blossburg Improvement Association, a 501(c)(3) organization, has committed \$5,000. Ward Manufacturing, one of the largest employers in the borough, has committed \$2,500. Other funders include the local bank, the county housing authority, and a private citizen.

See enclosed letters for contact information.

**3. DCNR Action Plan** – Points: Maximum of 24. Criterion: Describe how the proposed project will contribute to the advancement of the DCNR Action Plan. A) - Build and maintain sustainable and attractive communities – 8 points; B) - Promote statewide land conservation – 8 points; C) - Create outdoor connections for citizens and visitors – 8 points. See page 14 for details. Attach additional pages if necessary.

A. Island Park is at the heart of Blossburg, both geographically and socially. Maintaining and enhancing Island Park is a community priority to improve the quality of life for those in the borough and in the surrounding communities. According to the DCNR Action Plan for 2004-2008, "Improving the quality of life in our developed communities with established recreation and conservation initiatives is directly tied to addressing Pennsylvania's growth patterns and governance structures." (p. 19) In combination with the Department of Community and Economic Development's Main Street program, of which Blossburg is an affiliate, the DCNR Small Communities Development grant for Blossburg's skate park will further the Key Actions of Recommendation 11: "Allocate funding to invest in and maintain green infrastructure and recreation facilities in established communities..." Blossburg is also a part of the newly designated I-99 Corridor Enterprise Zone, which helps further the second action, "Work with other state and federal agencies to identify opportunities for project collaboration so financial investments are coordinated to maximize impact." (p. 21) Finally, Recommendation 12, Key Action 3 suggests DCNR work with other agencies to "...build public and institutional support for community design policies and projects that increase opportunities for physical activity close to home." (p. 21)

B. According to the Action Plan, Recommendation 6, "DCNR should be a leader... by targeting its grant funding and technical assistance to support the quality of life in established communities." The Blossburg skate park project is clearly a quality of life issue for its residents, particularly youth. According to the Tioga County Comprehensive Plan, there is a significant drop in the number of residents ages 25-34. Blossburg V.I.B.E. is dedicated to making Blossburg a great place to live, including for youth and those in the slightly older 25-34 age range, when economic activity is strong and building.

C. In this age of video games, youth spend more time indoors than maybe ever before. While Tony Hawk's Underground exposes kids to skating, only by getting on a skateboard outdoors will kids gain appreciation for and connection to the outdoors, and the dedication that a demanding sport like skateboarding requires. The skate park increases citizens' and visitors' ability to experience the outdoors in Blossburg, as Recommendation 13 urges. The proposed skate park is the only one in Tioga County, increasing the likelihood of visitors and tourists to Island Park.

**4. Planning** – Points: Maximum of 20. NOTE: This Criterion has 3 parts

**Part A** - Describe how the project is generally consistent with local, multi-municipal or county comprehensive planning and zoning by answering the following questions:

- 1. **Does this project involve the funding of infrastructure or facilities?**  Yes  No
- 2. **Is there a Comprehensive Plan?**
  - Local  Yes  No
  - County  Yes  No
  - Multi-municipal / Regional  Yes  No
- 3. **Date of Plan(s)** Local: 1995; County: 2005
- 4. **Is the project generally consistent with a Comprehensive Plan?**
  - Local  Yes  No  N/A
  - County  Yes  No  N/A
  - Multi-municipal / Regional  Yes  No  N/A
- 5. **Is there a zoning ordinance?**
  - Local  Yes  No
  - County  Yes  No

What is it zoned? S-1 Public

**Part B** – Also describe how the project is consistent with other local, regional, state, or federal plans, or will produce a plan that addresses local, state or federal recreation and conservation priorities. Attach additional pages if necessary.

- A. Local: The Blossburg V.I.B.E. visioning process detailed in Part C demonstrates how the skate park is highly consistent with, and an outgrowth of, the local plan. The skate park is also consistent with the Blossburg Comprehensive Plan (1995).
- B. County: From the Tioga County Comprehensive Plan (2005) In Chart 4-4 on page 4-29, Priorities for Planning our Future, recreation for children and families had a mean score of 3.73 out of 5, ranking it ninth on the list of over 30 items. Community recreation had a score of 3.54, which put it twelfth on the list. In addition, Goal #2 is "Develop and sustain an appropriate level of community facilities and services... including roads, sewer and water systems, ambulance service, fire protection, community center, recreation, and day care." Obviously, the skate park coordinates well with the county plan.
- C. State: As described in section 3, the skate park helps further DCNR's Action Plan (2004-2008). In addition, the Commonwealth's Recreation Plan(2004-2008) articulates several areas with which the proposed skate park corresponds, including on p. 97 where it explicitly states, "In 2003, the greatest needs have swung to a new set of developed facilities: sledding and ice skating areas, indoor pools, and skateboarding and rollerblading areas." Again on p.101, skateboarding and in-line skating areas were identified as facilities residents want near their homes (51 percent).

**Part C** – Describe the level of public participation in the planning process. Attach additional pages if necessary.

Public participation in the planning process for the skate park has been extensive, starting with community-wide visioning sessions in 2004. Led by a trained volunteer facilitator, the sessions resulted in a cataloging of community strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT). This project is an outgrowth of those sessions, as is the overall Blossburg V.I.B.E. organization. In addition, community support and interest were further gauged by a public meeting March 5, 2007 that had 23 attendees and elicited the community members' perceptions of the benefits of the skate park. The meeting attendees also developed a draft set of rules for the skate park.

Specifically, the skate park addresses the following issues uncovered during the SWOT analysis:

- Strength: Island Park
- Weakness: Lack of activities for youth and adults
- Opportunity: Build on existing outdoor activities
- Threat: Losing youth to opportunities elsewhere

During the March 5, 2007 public meeting, community members described the following potential benefits from creating a skate park: increased use of Island Park; increased social, recreational and physical activity options; lower obesity rates; greater connection with the outdoors; and increased tourism.

For additional information about Blossburg V.I.B.E. and the visioning process, visit [www.blossburg.org/vibe](http://www.blossburg.org/vibe).

5. **Site Compatibility and Keystone Principles for Growth, Investment and Resource Conservation (Maximum of 20 points).** A) Site Compatibility – 5 points. **Criterion:** Discuss the reasons why the proposed site was chosen and why is it appropriate for the proposed project. Discuss the impact of the proposed project on the existing environmental conditions of the site. B) - **Keystone Principles for Growth, Investment and Resource Conservation – 15 points. Criterion:** Discuss how the proposed projects addresses, relates to or integrates with the “Principles”. See pages 16-18 for details. Attach additional pages if necessary.

**A. The proposed site, Island Park, is a 62-acre sports and recreation complex that the borough has owned since 1910. The park includes the school district's football stadium and track & field area, a baseball diamond, a Little League field, a softball field, tennis courts, a basketball court, a sand volleyball court, pavillions, playgrounds and the community swimming pool. The skate park would enhance these facilities by adding a new individual sport area for skateboarders and in-line skaters. The site is part of the floodplain of the Tioga River; the river is approximately 100 yards away.**

**B. The proposed project fills in and uses an empty area at Island Park (principle 1.c.), and enhances and diversifies the use of the existing infrastructure by adding two ADA-accessible parking spots, a walkway and the skate park facility inside the boundaries of Island Park (principles 2.a., 5.a.). The project supports goals of the Tioga County Comprehensive Plan (April 2005) by implementing a project that increases recreational opportunities for children and families, and community recreation, priorities identified as important to planning Tioga County's future by respondents to a county planning survey. The county plan is available at [http://www.tiogacounty.pa.us/tioga/lib/tioga/planning/tioga\\_co.\\_comprehensive\\_plan\\_2005.pdf](http://www.tiogacounty.pa.us/tioga/lib/tioga/planning/tioga_co._comprehensive_plan_2005.pdf)**

DCNR will also use the following criteria to rate the project. Applicants DO NOT answer criteria 6 and 7. For additional details, see Section III, page 18 of the Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grant Application Manual.

**6. Grant Project Administration** – Points: Maximum of 5.

**7. Previous Bureau Funding** – Points: 0, 1, 2, or 3.

### SECTION VI - CERTIFICATION

By signing this grant application, I certify that to the best of my knowledge the above information provided on this form and related attachments is true, correct and that:

1. To the best of the applicant's knowledge, the property to be acquired/developed has not been used for storage/disposal of toxic chemicals/waste and is not affected by such a site.
2. To the best of the applicant's knowledge, any wetland areas located on the property to be acquired/developed have been identified and will be protected in accordance with applicable state/federal laws and regulations.
3. To the best of the applicant's knowledge, it is not under suspension or debarment by the Commonwealth or any governmental entity, instrumentality, or authority.
4. To the best of the applicant's knowledge, it is not delinquent in the payment of any Commonwealth obligation, including taxes.
5. To the best of the applicant's knowledge, the proposed project is not in violation of the Governor's E.O. 2003-2 for preservation of prime agricultural lands.
6. The applicant has assessed what administrative, cash, and/or non-cash needs will be required to provide the local match for the requested grant herein applied and affirms that the match is available and the applicant has the capacity to proceed with the project.
7. If the applicant is an “authorized organization” as defined in Section II, page 5 of the Application Manual, the applicant shall not directly or indirectly, preclude access to or use of any forested land for the practice of sustainable forestry and commercial production of timber or other forest products. (Refer to the Program General Provisions and Appendix A of the Grant Terms and Conditions in the Application Manual).
8. If in-kind services are used as a portion of the required match, the in-kind service rates do not exceed the organization's normal billing rates and do not include food, drinks, gifts, and other hospitality items related to the general promotion of the organization or the promotion of any projects that the organization is involved in; and, costs related to fund raising and/or lobbying government officials for the benefit of the organization in general or for any projects that the organization is involved in.
9. Grant funds will not be used for any fund raising activities.

**SECTION VII – ACCEPTANCE OF FEDERAL LWCF FUNDING IF AVAILABLE**  
**NOT Applicable to any Projects under \$200,000 in Total Project Cost**

The applicant has read and understands the “Strings Attached” provisions (pages 46 through 49 of the application manual) that relate to the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. It is understood that additional application documentation (see page 90) will have to be completed and returned to DCNR with the Grant Application for submission to the National Park Service (NPS) for project approval. This will expedite the federal review and approval process. As a reminder, a cash match is required for LWCF projects and grant fund disbursement is by reimbursement only. LWCF funding is available to only municipalities and school districts with a total eligible project cost in excess of \$200,000.

- I will accept federal funding for this project.                       I will not accept federal funding for this project.

**SECTION VIII –VERIFICATION OF 501 (C) (3) STATUS (to be completed by appropriate / authorized organizations only)- NOT BY MUNICIPALITIES**

By program definition, an eligible **Appropriate / Authorized Organization** is an entity involved in research, restoration, rehabilitation, planning, acquisition, development, education or other activities, which furthers the protection, enhancement, conservation, preservation, or enjoyment of this Commonwealth’s environmental, conservation, recreation or similar resources. The organization must be **both tax exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Charitable Organizations** and involved in the above activities. In order for DCNR to verify your status and eligibility, please complete the following two questions in their entirety (**this section does not apply to Municipalities or Pre-qualified Land Trusts**) and attach a copy of each approval letter to your application:

1. Please print your organization’s name exactly as it appears on your approval letter from the Internal Revenue Service, provide the date of approval.  
 ORGANIZATION’S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_, and DATE: \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Please print your charitable organization’s name as it appears on the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Charitable Organizations Certificate of Registration, provide the registration number and the date of certificate expiration. Applicants not required by the Department of State’s Bureau of Charitable Organizations regulations may nonetheless do so voluntarily. **Registration with the Department of State, Bureau of Charitable Organizations is a legislative mandate for DCNR’s funding of non-profit organizations.**  
 ORGANIZATION’S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_, REGISTRATION NO: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE OF CERTIFICATE EXPIRATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach additional sheets if necessary.