

# Press Release

## SAP&DC Announces Grant Awards for the Regional Greenways Mini-Grants Program

ALTOONA, Pa. – The Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAP&DC), with support from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), has awarded nearly \$70,000 in grant funding to six local communities in the Southern Alleghenies region. This funding was provided through the Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Mini-Grants Program, which aims to provide funding for projects that support implementation of the overall purpose and goals identified in the Southern Alleghenies Greenways and Open Space Network Plan. This is the first time SAP&DC has offered the Mini-Grants Program in the region. Funding for this program was provided by DCNR through the Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Fund (Key 93).

The Mini-Grants Program was open to planning, technical assistance, and development projects located within the Southern Alleghenies Region. Eligible projects were required to support the goals of the region's Greenways and Open Space Network Plan, including: conserve important natural resources, expand recreation opportunities, celebrate cultural heritage, bolster economic development, increase pedestrian and bicycle mobility, and promote healthy lifestyles. Any municipality, council of government, conservation district or redevelopment authority was eligible to submit an application. Applications for proposed projects were received this past fall.

Awards were granted to projects within Cambria, Huntingdon, and Somerset Counties. The selected projects will create additional recreation opportunities to the region, explore the feasibility of existing greenway corridors for future trail development, upgrade and improve community park facilities, and expand tourist activities and amenities that highlight the region's unique history and culture. The following projects have been awarded:

- **Brownstown Borough Community Park Expansion; \$25,000**  
Brownstown Borough, Cambria County: Expansion of recreational opportunities including installation of a new batting cage, golf area and hitting net, park benches, picnic tables, signage for a new nature trail, and updated ADA compliant parking. This project will also include upgrades to the existing baseball field fence.
- **Huntingdon Borough Walking Tour Map and Brochure; \$4,500**  
Huntingdon Borough, Huntingdon, County: Development of a walking tour brochure highlighting both significant historic sites and public art installations in the Historic District of Huntingdon. This project also includes the development of publically accessible internet throughout the Borough in order to link physical brochure destinations with informational websites online.
- **Municipal Park Shelter Replacement; \$12,486**  
Mount Union Borough, Huntingdon County: The construction of an additional park shelter, including the installation of electricity and a water fountain.
- **Smithfield Riverside Park Improvements; \$4,950**  
Smithfield Township, Huntingdon County: Improvements to Riverside Park including the reconstruction of an existing walking path, additional playground mulch, and the replacement of restroom fixtures for ADA compliancy.
- **Improvements to Rockwood Community Grove; \$12,092**  
Rockwood Borough, Somerset County: Improvements to the park including the resurfacing of an existing path, replacement of a stone path, and an upgrade to recycled rubber mulch surrounding playground areas.
- **Somerset County Trail Plan; \$10,000**  
Somerset County: Completion of a trail plan analyzing local greenways corridors to determine the greatest potential for trail development.

SAP&DC hopes to offer future rounds of funding for the program as additional funding becomes available.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this announcement, please contact Katie Kinka, SAP&DC's Regional Planner, by phone at (814) 949-6532 or by email at [kkinka@sapdc.org](mailto:kkinka@sapdc.org).

For more information on the Greenways and Open Space Network Plan or Greenways Mini-Grants Program, please visit [www.sapdc.org](http://www.sapdc.org).