

# Adams County Parks, Recreation and Green Space Grant Program Summary

The Adams County Green Space Grant Program Guidelines have been thoroughly vetted over the course of seven years and were revised to accommodate the new Act 13 funding allocations. **The current Act 13 funding** will be utilized for park, recreation and trail projects in contrast to agricultural and open space preservation projects. The guidelines' revisions incorporating this change include the following:

- The name of the program shall be the “**Adams County Parks, Recreation and Green Space Grant Program**” (“**PRGS Program**”);
- The Adams County Parks, Recreation and Green Space Advisory Committee shall include members with knowledge and expertise of preservation of farmland and open space lands as well as park land acquisition and/or park and recreational infrastructure development;
- The Program Goal is to provide funding for the preservation of agricultural lands, open space, parklands, historical and cultural resources and the development of recreational and trail projects. (Note: the Adams County Agricultural Land Preservation Program is a separately managed program funded per Act 43.)

## Eligible Applicants:

- Any municipality in Adams County
- Not-for-profit organizations with tax exempt organization status
- Existing Recreation Authorities

## Eligible Projects include the following:

- **Land** - Conservation Easement or Fee Simple Land Acquisition Projects
- **Park and Recreation** - Park and Recreation Facilities or Trails Development Projects

## Land Preservation Projects include:

- **Agricultural Land Preservation** - lands which sustain the agricultural economy of Adams County and a local municipality (Method of Preservation: Conservation Easement Acquisitions).
- **Open Space Land Preservation** - lands that protect our forest economy, water or other natural resources or provide wildlife habitat (Method of Preservation: Conservation Easement or Fee Simple Acquisitions).
- **Parkland, Active or Passive Recreational Land or Lands for Trails Preservation** - lands such as sub-regional Parks, community Parks and neighborhood Parks or lands that provide Active or Passive recreational opportunities and trails for current and future generations (Method of Preservation: Conservation Easements on an Existing Park or Trail and Fee Simple Acquisitions for a New Park or Trail).
- **Historical or Cultural Resources Land Preservation** - lands listed in or deemed eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Other lands that are determined by the

Committee to be historically or culturally significant may also be considered eligible for Program funds. (Method of Preservation: Conservation Easements or Fee Simple Acquisitions).

**Park and Recreation Projects include:**

- Park and Recreation Facilities or Trail Development
  - New Park and Recreation Facilities Development
  - Upgrades or Facilities Development to Existing Park and Recreation Facilities
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- Master Site Plan or Site Design Projects
- Park or Trail Design and Development Projects

**Application Procedures:**

- Grant Application Announcements shall be made as the Adams County Commissioners determine funding availability;
- A ‘Pre-Application’ meeting shall take place with the PRGS Program Coordinator to discuss the scope of work and intent of the proposed project before submitting an application;
- After the pre-application meeting, the proposed project will be reviewed by the Comprehensive Planning Division of the Adams County Office of Planning and Development for consistency with the **Adams County Vision for Parks, Recreation and Open Space Study, the Adams County Greenways Plan and any other pertinent county plans or policies, as well as a Municipalities Recreation Plan if one exists.**
- A scope of work which includes a project timeframe shall be submitted with the application. If a project is not completed within the established timeframe, funds must be returned to the County. A project extension may be granted (on a case by case basis);
- **Applicants must provide a match.** Match may include funds generated internally by the applicant, grant funds from state and federal agencies, donated land value or Conservation Easement value, funds from funding partners such as public or private organizations and foundations, and similar sources of funds. Documentation and proof of certified cash match must be provided at time of application;

**In-Kind contributions shall not be considered as an eligible match for a Conservation Easement or Fee Simple Acquisition project;** however, they may be considered as an eligible match on a case by case basis for Park, Recreation Facilities or Trail Development projects (*See: Section 5.9.3*);

If the application is utilizing a certified match, the deadline for Project completion will be three years from the date of application to implementation of the proposed project; however, an extension may be requested. (*See: Section 8.3 Project Extension Request*)

- Partnering with other entities such as neighboring Municipalities or Non-Profit Organizations is encouraged.

Project Type	Required Match	Cash	In-Kind	Land or Easement
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<b>Conservation Easement Purchase or Land Acquisition Project</b> (Does not apply to Existing Projects)	50% (Single Applicant) 40% (Multiple Applicants)	X		X
<b>Easement Acquisition on Existing Parks and Recreational Lands or Lands for Trails Project</b>	70% (Single Applicant) 60% (Multiple Applicants)	X		X
<b>NEW Park and Recreation Facilities or Trail Development</b>	50%	X	X	
<b>EXISTING Park and Recreation Facilities or Trail Development</b>	70%	X	X	
<b>Master Site Plan or Site Design</b>	70%	X	X	
<b>Park or Trail Design and Development</b>	70%	X	X	

**Project Ranking:**

- The Program is a competitive grant program. Awards shall be made based upon a project’s merit and consistency with the review criteria. The Program Coordinator, with assistance from the Technical Sub-Committee, shall rank each project according to adopted ranking criteria previously approved by the Committee. These criteria, definitions and ranking worksheets are set forth in **Appendix “B1-6”:** **Adams County Parks, Recreation and Green Space Grant Program Project Ranking Criteria.** Rankings shall not be considered final, and grant awards shall not be recommended to the ACC prior to Committee review, approval and action

**Grant Awards and Project Implementation**

- Grant awards shall be publicly announced when Project Funding Recommendations are approved by the ACC;
- Generally the maximum Grant Award for a Park and Recreation Project will be \$25,000; however, exceptions may be granted by the ACC upon recommendation by the Committee and based upon the availability of funds and the benefit of the proposed project.
- **There is a grant award cap of \$25,000 for Master Site Plan or Site Design projects, no exceptions.**