



# Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund

Established in 1993 with near unanimous legislative support (48-0 in the Senate and 196-3 in the House), and overwhelming bipartisan voter approval, the Keystone Fund has a 24-year record of success in making thousands of tangible improvements in communities across all of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. No state funding program has had a more lasting impact on local communities than the Keystone Fund.

- The Keystone Fund primarily supports *capital projects* with few funds going to administration or planning.
- Since 1994, Keystone supported over \$500,000,000 in community parks and recreation projects, trail projects, and land trust conservation projects.
- Act 50 of 1993 directs 15% of the state Realty Transfer Tax to the Keystone Fund. Keystone, with its long-lasting capital improvements, supports the real estate market, and the market supports Keystone.
- Keystone's investments in turn generate *hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity*, ranging from recreational purchases and wages to increased values of properties. (see the numerous economic impact studies at ConservationTools.org.)
- Demand is high. Nearly 40% of projects submitted to DCNR went unfunded last year, including projects that DCNR evaluates to be high value projects.
- DCNR evaluates and ranks requests for Keystone Fund grants using objective and transparent criteria.
- DCNR allocates a *fair share* of funding to small and rural communities so they are not forced to compete with counties and large cities for the funding.
- Without Keystone funding as an incentive, many local investments in conservation and recreation would dry up.
- The Keystone Fund is DCNR's primary source of funding for recreation and conservation grants, funding over 4,500 projects.
- Keystone Funds are not used for general government operations.
- Keystone funds capital improvements to our state parks and forests. In 2010, Pennsylvania's state parks alone hosted 37.9 million visitors who spent \$839 million on their trips.

Each Keystone Fund dollar typically leverages **\$3.13** in **DIRECT** local investments in our parks, trails, and community green spaces.

## A Legacy of Success

The Keystone Fund helps communities help themselves. As of early 2017, the Keystone Fund has supported approximately:

- 117,400 acres of green space for county and municipal parks, greenways, wildlife habitat and other open space uses;
- 2,400+ community park development projects, including ballfields, playgrounds, pools, picnic areas and recreation centers;
- 570 historic preservation projects;
- 300+ trail projects;
- 212 improvements and repairs to community libraries in 48 counties; and
- state park and forest improvements including construction and rehabilitation of restrooms, parking lots, roads, bridges, visitors' centers, water fountains, sewage treatment and other facilities.

Visit [KeystoneFund.org](http://KeystoneFund.org) to learn more.