



Overview & History

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Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

Legislative History

- The roots of the Keystone Fund began in 1991, original champions of the Keystone Fund included former Lt. Governor Mark Singel, former Senator F. Joseph Loeper, former Rep. William Lloyd and former Secretary of the Department of Community Affairs Karen Miller.
- General Assembly introduced House Bill No. 50 in 1993 to provide a stable source of funding for parks, natural areas, recreation, historic preservation sites, educational facilities, zoos and public libraries. Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund to receive 15% of the state's realty transfer tax for this specialized programming.
 - House of Representatives passed with vote of 196-3
 - Senate vote of 48-0

Where does the Fund come from?

- In November 1993 through a voter referendum, 67% of voters agreed to supplement the Keystone funding stream with a one-time infusion of \$50 million in bond revenues.
- Today, the Keystone Fund relies solely on its share of the Realty Transfer Tax. This tax is collected at a rate of 2 percent on the value of real estate when a property changes ownership. The buyer and seller each pay half of the tax with the state government ultimately receiving half of the total tax revenue.
- 15% of the state share is directed to the Keystone Fund.

Realty Transfer Tax Revenue

- The annual amount of the Fund is tied, in part, to fluctuations in the volume of real estate transactions and real estate values.
- Keystone Fund Share of the Tax
 - 2012-13 - \$50.8 million
 - 2015-16 - \$72.3 million



Who uses the Keystone Fund?

- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
 - Receives 65% of the fund
- Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
 - Receives 13% of the fund
- Department of Education
 - Receives 4% of the fund
- State System of Higher Education
 - Receives 18% of the fund

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

- Bureaus of State Parks and Forestry to rehabilitate and upgrade infrastructure – 30%
 - Rails-to-trails programs
 - Rivers protections
 - Conservation projects
- Local Recreation Initiatives – 25%
 - Ballparks & playgrounds
- Land Trusts – 10%
 - Natural areas & open space acquisition and planning



Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

- Supports capital improvements and combats deferred maintenance at 25 Commonwealth-owned historic sites and museums operated for the public.
- Provides public grants to non-profit organizations and public agencies for capital improvements at historic sites listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Provides funding for cyclical maintenance for and repairs Historical Markers throughout the Commonwealth.



Department of Education

- Provides capital grants to public libraries throughout the Commonwealth.
- Enhances accessibility for patrons of all abilities: ramps, automatic doors and elevators.
- Provides for both new construction and rehabilitation of existing libraries.
- Maintains community libraries as vibrant anchors.



State System of Higher Education

- Targets deferred maintenance projects at the 14 state-owned Universities
- Protects historic resources
- Upgrades building safety systems
- Keeps the state system competitive by attracting top-notch students



Community Impact

- 300+ Trail projects for walking, bicycling, and transportation routes
- Conservation of more than 120,000 acres of open space for county and municipal parks, critical habitat protection and other uses
- 2,400+ community park rehabilitation and development projects including ballfields, playgrounds, pools, picnic areas and recreation centers
- Hundreds of State Park and Forest improvements including construction and rehabilitation of restrooms, parking lots, roads, bridges, visitors' centers, sewage treatment and other facilities
- 722 historic preservation projects ranging from heritage plans, theater restorations, and adaptive reuse of former churches to community centers
- 365 library projects to build new facilities, renovate older buildings, and improve accessibility and safety.