



# 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 quarter century 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. The Keystone Fund has supported approximately:

- 161,500+ acres of green space for county and municipal parks, greenways, wildlife habitat and other open space uses;
- 3,700+ community park development projects, including ballfields, playgrounds, pools, picnic areas and recreation centers;
- 720+ historic preservation projects;
- 645+ trail projects;
- 385+ 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.