



DELAWARE STATE PARKS

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Outdoor Recreation, Parks & Trails Program

Fact Sheet

The Outdoor Recreation, Parks & Trails (ORPT) Program, formerly known as the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund (DTF), is a matching grant program assisting with public park land acquisition and outdoor recreation facility development in Delaware. The Program was established in June, 1986 with annual deposits from real estate transfer tax to grow the Trust. Trust-generated income is used to fund the ORPT Program. Since 1988 when the first grants were awarded, the ORPT Program has provided over \$34 million in matching grant assistance to eligible local, county and state governments throughout Delaware.

Eligible Grant Sponsors

Eligible Grant Sponsors County and municipal governments and park districts are eligible to apply for matching financial assistance. Up to 50% funding is available for project sponsored by municipalities or counties; up to 75% funding is available for park districts, municipalities that have not received ORPT funds in the past, and projects located in or serving Census Tracts identified as highest vulnerability by the CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI score range 0.75 – 1.00). The CDC Social Vulnerability Index for Delaware can be found at <https://myhealthycommunity.dhss.delaware.gov/locations/state/topics/climate-change/svi>. A project sponsor must provide a source of match which may come from the sponsor's budget, other grants the sponsor has secured, donations, or other sources.

Grant Application

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Division of Parks and Recreation administers the ORPT Grant Program. Annually, all eligible agencies are invited to submit a proposal (ORPT Pre-Application) on a secured website. After proposals are examined for eligibility and readiness, grant applications are forwarded to Sponsors. Application due dates are specified at that time.

Eligible Projects

ORPT assistance is available for parkland acquisition, planning and outdoor recreation facility development projects. Sponsoring agencies must agree to dedicate the park to public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity and assume responsibility for continued operation and maintenance of the area. ORPT grants can fund the purchase of land for new parks, conservation areas or additions to existing parkland. Funds may also be applied to the development of playgrounds, ballfields, trails, picnic pavilions, and other active outdoor recreation facilities and supporting amenities. Funds for indoor projects or park operations and maintenance are not eligible for ORPT Program assistance.

Technical Assistance

Staff from the DNREC Division of Parks and Recreation is available to assist eligible agencies with determining community outdoor recreation needs; park design; facility development; and operational and maintenance recommendations.

For more information about the ORPT Program, visit the website at <https://de.gov/ORPT>.

Contact Information

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