



2026 Schuylkill Highlands Mini-Grant Project Selection Criteria

The Schuylkill Highlands Mini-Grant Program is an annual competitive grant program that provides funding to partners for projects that support and advance the goals of the Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Landscape.

The Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Landscape is a public-private partnership that drives strategic investment and actions around sustainability, conservation, community revitalization, and recreational projects across all of Berks County and portions of Bucks, Chester, Lancaster, Lebanon, and Montgomery Counties. The Schuylkill Highlands partnership and the Schuylkill Highlands Mini-Grant Program are funded in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnership Program under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. The Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Landscape and the Schuylkill Highlands Mini-Grant Program are administered by Natural Lands, a 501(c)3 land conservation organization.

The Selection Committee will evaluate mini-grant applications according to the following criteria:

1. Project Details – 43 points

- Project scope of work is clear – 5 points
- The project description is clear – 10 points
- The project fills a need and provides tangible benefits – 15 points
- The project has a unique concept – 3 points
- Project deliverables are clear – 5 points
- The timeline is reasonable for project completion – 5 points

2. Project Consistency with Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Landscape Goals – 8 points

- The project clearly advances the primary goals of the Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Landscape – 8 points

3. Project Budget – 14 points

- Project expenses are reasonable – 5 points
- Match is secured – 4 points
- The project budget is presented clearly – 5 points

4. Overall Project Presentation – 10 points

- Application information is complete – 5 points
- The project is well-planned with attainable goals – 5 points

TOTAL: 75 points