

THE ENDLESS MOUNTAINS HERITAGE REGION'S 2026 PARTNERSHIP/MINI-GRANTS PROGRAM



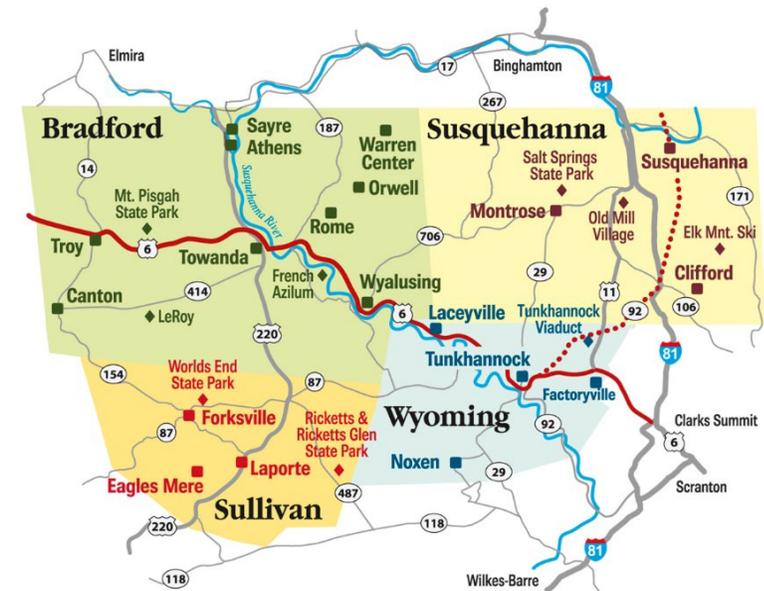
WHAT IS THE EMHR?

- The EMHR was established in 1998 as a 501c3 non-profit, membership-based organization and is one of 12 current Heritage Areas in Pennsylvania designated by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The Heritage Region serves a 2,850-square mile area encompassing Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties.
- We are committed to historical and cultural preservation, outdoor recreation development, educational programming, and the management of the Susquehanna River North Branch Water Trail.
- Through the DCNR's financial support and its Mini-Grants Program, the EMHR has brought well over \$3 million in state funding (matched by another \$3 million+) into the region to perform projects related to heritage preservation, outdoor recreation and conservation (parks, greenways and water trails), scenic enhancements (murals and overlook projects), educational programming, as well as certain agricultural support initiatives and building rehabilitations for museums and historical societies.



Endless
Mountains
Heritage Region

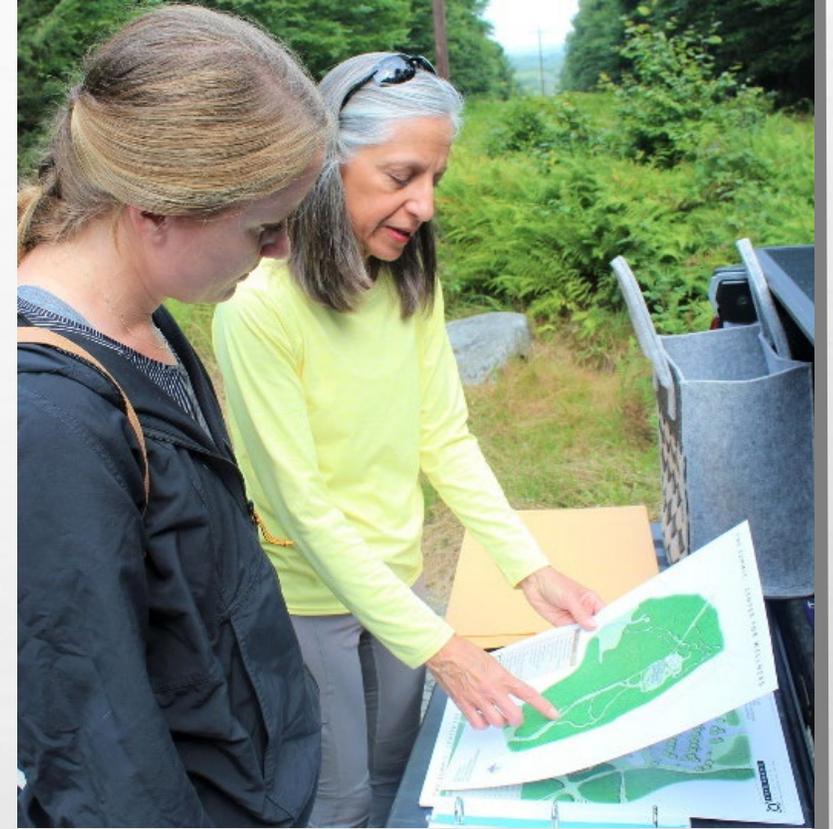
Susquehanna River North Branch Water Trail



MINI-GRANT GUIDELINES

- \$70,000 in grant funding available in Round 31.
- Grant requests must be between \$500 and \$10,000.
- Total project cost cannot exceed \$50,000.
 - (This can be a completed and usable phase of a larger overall project.)
- All grants must be matched at a minimum of 20-percent of the total project cost.
- Eligible matches include cash matches, in-kind matches (volunteer time) or a combination of the two.
- **MUST** arrange a virtual or in-person meeting with Executive Director or Grants Coordinator to discuss your proposed project prior to submitting an application.





MINI-GRANT GUIDELINES

- All applicants **MUST** be paying members of the EMHR (Forms are available at: emheritage.org/membership).
- Each applicant is limited to submitting two grant applications.
- Contracts issued June 8, 2026. All projects should be completed by Sept. 3, 2027.
 - Extensions are available, if necessary



ELIGIBLE MINI-GRANT APPLICANTS

- 501(c)3 Non-profit organizations (Must have BCO #).
- The four counties we serve.
- Municipalities and municipal agencies.
- Public education institutions.
- Project must be based within or serve the EMHR's four-county region.



SUITABLE PROJECTS

- The EMHR seeks to fund projects pertaining to:
 - Historic preservation (must be a public venue)
 - Outdoor recreation development (parks, greenways, land and water trails, scenic overlooks, etc.)
 - Special purpose studies for regional trails, parks, museums, historic sites, etc.
 - Educational programming pertaining to nature, agriculture, outdoor rec, regional history, etc.
 - Environmental conservation initiatives
 - Certain building rehabilitation projects for museums, historical societies, etc.
 - Interpretive and wayfinding signage for outdoor rec sites





SUITABLE PROJECTS

- Projects should further the EMHR's mission and goals outlined in its newly updated and adopted 2022-26 Management Action Plan (MAP). All found on application cover page available at www.emheritage.org/grant-forms
- Mission:
 - "To celebrate, preserve, and enhance the rural character and culture of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region."
- Goals:
 - Attract visitors to the Region's communities, heritage sites, outdoor recreation opportunities, and downtowns to strengthen the local economy.
 - Protect and enhance our heritage assets, cultural landscapes and natural features where the Heritage Region's stories can be told.
 - Engage residents and visitors with the Region's culture and heritage through educational programming, events and tourism promotion.
 - Offer a wide range of heritage and outdoor recreation destinations and activities for all ages and abilities.
 - Preserve and promote agricultural growth and deliver authentic experiences of "Living with the Land" in the Endless Mountains.



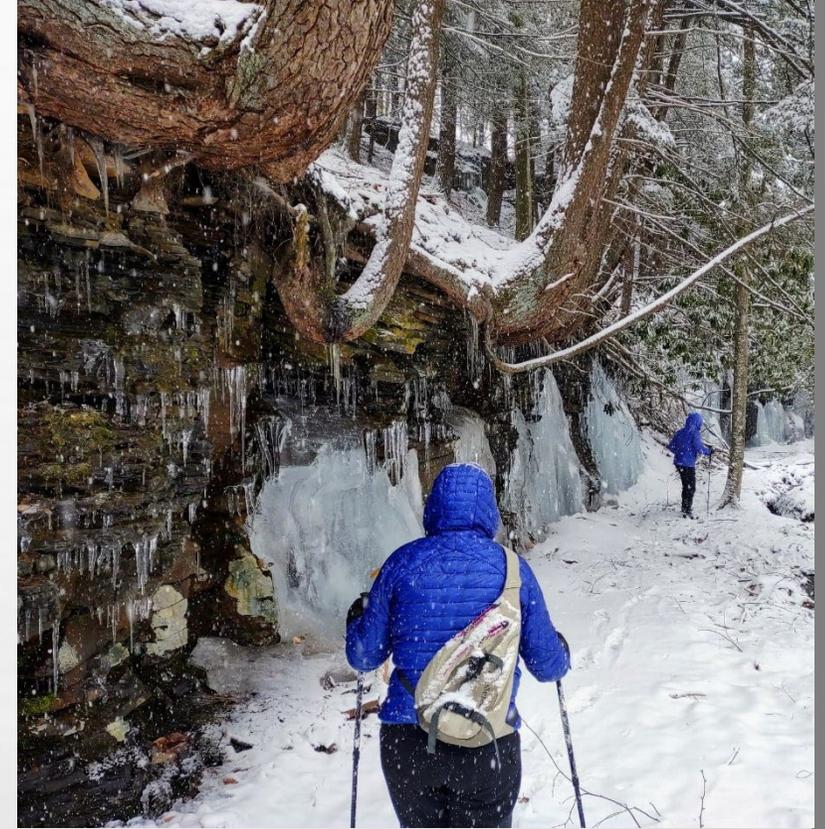
PROJECT CREDIT

- All projects (signage, parks and trails, river access, brochures, exhibits, building improvements, etc.) must include the acknowledgement that they have been funded in part by the EMHR and the DCNR's Community Conservation and Partnerships Program (C2P2).
- Precise language is included in the guidelines/sub-agreement.
- This can be accomplished with a plaque or sign at the project site or a simply acknowledgment on brochures or funded materials.



ELIGIBLE REIMBURSEMENT COSTS

- Contracted/Professional Costs.
- In-House Professional Costs.
- Other Project Cash Costs.
- Only costs accrued within established grant period (not a reimbursement program)

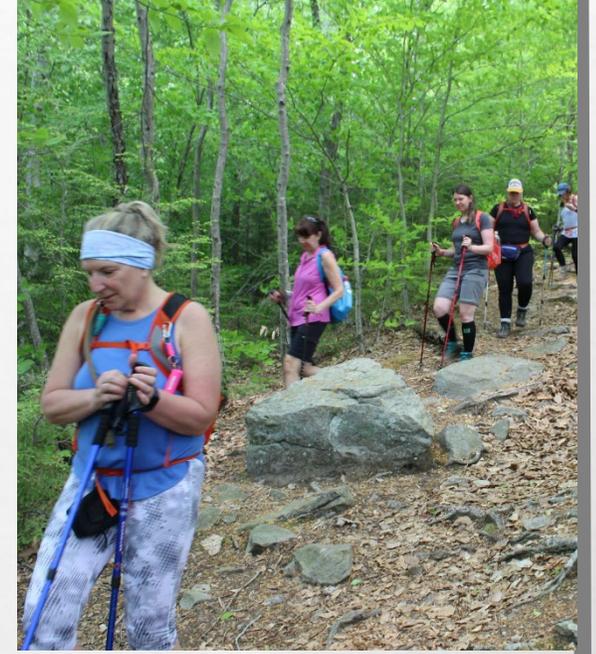


INELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

- Expenses prior to start date of the signed agreement.
- Grants/scholarships/fellowships given to third parties.
- Indirect costs, general operations of overhead not associated with the project.
- Award items, free giveaways, promotional materials.
- Equipment.

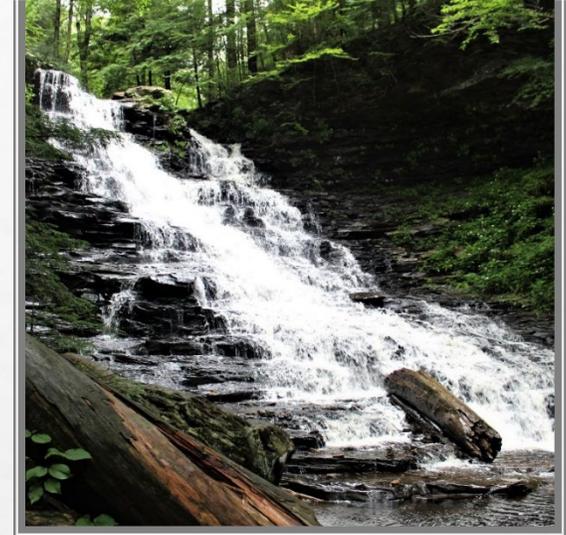
ELIGIBLE FORMS OF MATCH

- Additional Cash Costs.
- Contracted/Professional Services.
- Volunteer and In-House Professional Services.
- Donated Professional Services.
- Donated Equipment.



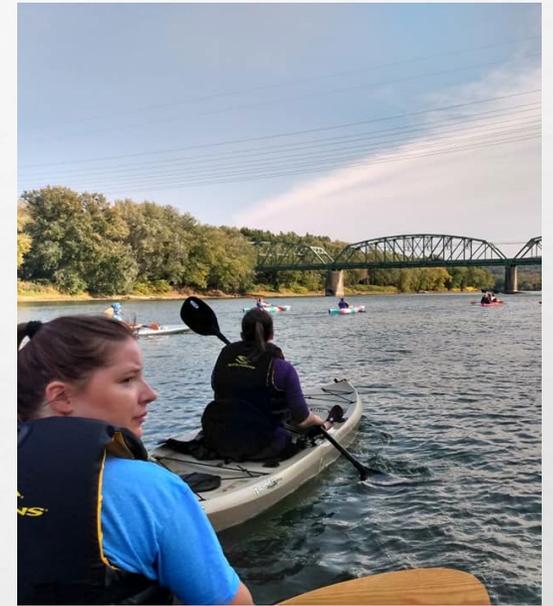
APPLICATION FORM

- Be sure to explain how your project furthers or aligns with the EMHR's mission/goals (found on Cover Page/Guidelines).
- Deliverables or final products from your project should be succinct and measurable.
 - Examples: The project will produce three interpretive signs to be installed at project site OR two educational workshops held with 15 attendees each.



APPLICATION FORM

- List partners committing any type of match (commitment letters).
- List partners supporting the project (letters of support).
- Show your project can be completed prior to the Sept. 3, 2027 deadline.
- Be as specific as possible in the budget section.



GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Our committee looks for certain factors while scoring each application, including:

- ✓ Well thought out and adequately explained projects.
- ✓ Projects to be completed within June 8, 2026 to Sept. 3, 2027 timeframe.
- ✓ Incorporates partner collaboration.
- ✓ Applicant experience.
- ✓ Realistic budget amounts.
- ✓ Match is identified and secured.
- ✓ Supports and advances EMHR goals/priorities.

MINI-GRANTS TIMELINE

- Applications will be accepted beginning Monday, March 30, 2026.
- Applications due by 4 p.m. on Monday, May 4, 2026.
- Awardees to be notified by letter or email no later than Friday, June 5, 2026. Public announcements made shortly thereafter.
- June 8, 2026 – Sept. 3, 2027 → Project timeline



QUESTIONS?

- **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

- Contact@emheritage.org or call (570) 265-1528

Or call or send an email to:

- Vanessa Billings-Seiler, Grants Coordinator
 - vbillings-seiler@emheritage.org
- Marci Dake, Administrative Assistant
 - mdake@emheritage.org

This 2026 Partnerships/Mini-Grants program was financed in part with a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, the Heritage Areas Program Fund, and the Environmental Stewardship Fund under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.



Thank You to Our Presenters and Attendees!

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- Paul Macknosky, Regional Director – Dept. of Community & Economic Development
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- Staci Wilson, Executive Director – Susquehanna County Promotion & Tourism Agency
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