

**BOROUGH OF KENNETT SQUARE
COUNTY OF CHESTER, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-XX

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF KENNETT SQUARE, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, EXPRESSING ITS SUPPORT FOR THE RED CLAY PARK AND CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT, AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION TO THE STATEWIDE LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT (LSA) PROGRAM AS THE APPLICANT AND GRANTEE, REQUESTING GRANT FUNDING FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY AND DESIGNATING OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE ALL ASSOCIATED GRANT DOCUMENTS.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Borough of Kennett Square, Chester County, Pennsylvania (the “Borough”) desires to advance the Red Clay Park and Creek Restoration project (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Project involves the creation of an urbanized park in the Borough, focused on an initial 33,000 square foot area between Cypress and Dalmatian Streets including invasive species removal, streambank stabilization, creek access, reforestation, trailways construction and associated recreational features intended to provide aesthetically pleasing recreational amenities for the greater Kennett Square community; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has determined that implementing the Project will benefit the greater Kennett community and wishes to work collaboratively with stakeholders to advance this Project; and;

WHEREAS, the LSA program requires a resolution formally requesting the grant, defining the project, designating officials to execute all documents, and identifying the grant amount requested; and

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to act as the Applicant and Grantee for the purposes of the LSA grant application.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Kennett Square, as follows:

1. The above recitals are incorporated herein by reference.
2. The Borough hereby supports the Project and authorizes the preparation and submission of a LSA grant application for the Project, whereby the Borough will serve as the Applicant and Grantee.
3. The Borough hereby requests a LSA grant in the amount of Four Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand, Seven Hundred and Twelve dollars (\$462,712.00) from the CFA’s LSA program to be used towards advancing the Project.

4. The Borough hereby designates the Borough Council President and Borough Manager as officials authorized to execute all documents and agreements between the Borough, the CFA and any other financial contributors to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested LSA grant.
5. The provisions of this resolution shall be severable, and if any of its provisions shall be held unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality, or invalidity shall not affect the validity of any of the remaining provisions of this resolution.
6. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.
7. All other resolutions or parts of resolutions inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

ENACTED AND APPROVED this 9th day of February, 2022.

J. Douglas Doerfler
President, Borough Council

ATTEST:

Rachel J. Berkowitz
Borough Secretary

CERTIFICATION

I, _____, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Council for the Borough of Kennett Square at a meeting held February ____, 2022.

Rachel J. Berkowitz, Borough Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT FACTS

Location: Kennett Square Borough
Chester County, Pennsylvania

Overview: A transformative urban trail, park and ecological restoration project connecting the heart of Kennett Borough.

LSA Request: \$467,712

BACKGROUND

Substantial revitalization efforts are underway in Kennett Square – a town that celebrates community and connections that are deeply rooted in the past and carefully committed to the future. The region has a rich history, as it was once part of the Underground Railroad, and has strong agricultural character, long recognized as a leader in mushroom production, and renowned for its world-class horticulture. With a continuous merging of the past and present, Kennett Square has long upheld the cultural, historical, and natural essence of the region, which makes its renaissance truly unique.

A key component of the region’s revitalization is a continued emphasis on improving recreational facilities to create a more beautiful, accessible, and equitable community. Over the past decade, the Borough of Kennett Square (Borough), in partnership with several other municipal partners, has advanced the Kennett Greenway (Greenway). The Greenway is a planned, 14+ mile pedestrian and bicycle loop carefully designed to connect the greater Kennett community to everyday destinations, the area’s natural beauty, employment centers, services and amenities and various other points of interest. This network of trails linking Kennett’s preserved open spaces, recreational facilities, and other community assets has been advanced through a phased approach, with strong community support and local government cooperation. Portions of the Greenway stretch throughout the Borough, Kennett Township, East Marlborough Township, New Garden Township, and across the state border into Delaware. Once complete, the Greenway is slated to connect more than 1,500 acres of open space - nearly 1,100 of which have already been reserved for preservation.

The Greenway will run through approximately 30 acres of urbanized, degraded riparian landscape along the east branch of the Red Clay Creek in the center of Kennett Borough. The Borough is proposing a transformative urban green space, trail and ecological restoration project in the heart of the community. Currently called “Red Clay Park”, the project re-centers what has been a leftover, forgotten “backyard” space into a key community green space within Kennett Square, as well as creating a new jewel on the overall Greenway. The project vision includes environmental restoration, greenway trail connectivity, and new community programming as equal drivers for this multifaceted space.

RED CLAY PARK AND CREEK RESTORATION

The Red Clay Park and Creek Restoration (Project) is a community-led planning initiative, spearheaded by the Kennett Trails Alliance, to advance substantial improvements and create a central green space in the Borough. The Project area is nestled within urbanized riparian landscape that links community assets from

RED CLAY PARK AND CREEK RESTORATION

KENNETT SQUARE BOROUGH

the community's beloved Anson B. Nixon Park and the Kennett YMCA in the north, to the High School in the south. Additionally, the proposed Project area will beautify and facilitate to connection to key proximate destinations such as the Kennett Senior Center, public pool, sports fields, local businesses and the future public library site.

Although the site has the capacity to become the connective tissue between social and educational assets in an already tightknit and diverse town, today it is a largely underutilized space, with access limited to a narrow gravel trail along the East Branch of Red Clay Creek. The creek unfortunately endures typical urban waterway challenges, including incised channels and bank erosion, widespread invasive species, and increasing flooding due to regional impervious cover and larger storm events.

The Borough, in partnership with the Kennett Trails Alliance, has identified a 33,000 square foot area consisting of the stream corridor with some uplands, northern boundary of Cypress Street and southern boundary of the existing Cypress Street Bridge as a priority section for improvement. Targeted improvements include invasive species removal, streambank stabilization, and reforestation to stabilize eroding banks throughout this reach. In addition, the project will include construction of creek access and new portions of trailways and associated recreational amenities.

LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT (LSA) REQUEST

The Borough wishes to advance this transformative park and creek restoration project and is seeking \$467,712 in LSA funds to complete the Red Clay Park and Creek Restoration project.