

**LEAP Conservation Fund
Small Grant Program Information
2022-2023 Program Year**



Background:

The Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership (LEAP) for Conservation Fund has been established to fund projects that promote and protect our region's biodiversity. The Conservation Fund is now accepting proposals for projects that meet one or more of the following criteria that align with the goals and mission of LEAP:

- **Preserves** extant populations of globally, state, or federally threatened or rare species or communities within the LEAP region.
- **Protects** habitat needed to support viable populations of globally, state, or federally threatened or rare species or communities. (Important habitat may be on the project site or on a contiguous site with a verifiably high likelihood that these species would then inhabit the project site).
- **Restores** rare species or communities known to have historically existed in the LEAP region or restores important habitat necessary to support key species in the LEAP region.
- **Connects** currently protected natural areas and connects the public to natural areas.

Applicants may request up to \$1,000 per project. Projects may be for on-the-ground restoration, small-scale research, or public programs. The Conservation Fund plans to award 5-8 proposals depending on applicant pool and total funds requested. Priority will be given to current LEAP members and member organizations. An organization may submit more than one application but must prioritize their applications. The project period is 12/1/2022 through 9/30/2023. Funds may not be used for overhead or administrative expenses. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply.

Application Procedure:

- ***The application is due November 1, 2022 by 5:00pm.***
- Please submit the complete application, including signature, by November 1, 2022 to Kristen Trolio at kmt@clevelandmetroparks.com. PLEASE INCLUDE "LEAP CONSERVATION FUND PROPOSAL" in the subject line. You will receive a confirmation email.
- Members of the Conservation Fund Committee will review and score all applications and scores will be averaged. MEMBERS WILL NOT SCORE APPLICATIONS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS.
- Applicants will be notified of award at the LEAP meeting scheduled for November 16, 2022.

Conditions of Award Acceptance:

- A report outlining program/project results and use of funds, including copies of receipts/invoices and pictures must be submitted by 10/31/2023. Quarterly updates may be requested.
- LEAP shall be acknowledged in publications/printed materials or through appropriate signage.
- Information on each funded project will be listed on the LEAP website: www.leapbio.org
- Information gained from the program/project will be made available to all LEAP members and member agencies and the public upon request.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kristen Trolio at (216) 635-3244 or kmt@clevelandmetroparks.com.

**LEAP Conservation Fund
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Project Title:

Project Location:

Applicant Organization:

Organization Contact:

Phone:

E-mail:

Amount Requested:

Is this program/project supported by any other funding? ___ Yes ___ No

If 'Yes', name source (budget, outside organization, grant, etc.):

Please provide brief answers to the following questions. The Conservation Fund will use the information below to score your project.

1. Briefly describe your project.

2. How does your project align with one or more of the above-listed criteria: Preserves, Protects, Restores, Connects? (15 points)

3. Please list 1-3 goals of your project. (5 points)

4. Does the project build upon previous work? Is your project replicable? (3 points)

5. Describe the educational benefits of your project – will your project serve to educate LEAP members? The public? Both? (5 points)

6. Provide a project timeline and identify key staff that will perform the work and make your project happen. (2 points)

Project Budget:

Provide a line-item budget for the amount requested. An example format is below. You do not need to follow this format, but please be specific! Please include back up documentation, if applicable, such as website screenshots or price quotes. Also, include any sources and amounts of any additional funds and tell us whether funding is pending or confirmed. (5 points)

Item:	Quantity:	Price:	Total:	Grant Request:
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I have read and agree to abide by the terms outlined in the application guidelines.

Signature

Date

