

Greater PHILand Protection Program Land Leadership Cohort & Neighborhood Conservation Grants

July 23, 2026

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HELPING PEOPLE LEAD CHANGE



Welcome & Please Share in the Chat:

- Your Name
- Organization/Affiliation
- Neighborhood/Community You Represent



Today's Goals

- Understand the GPLP program
- Learn about the Cohort and Grants
- Review the SOI process and timeline



Community Agreements

- Stay muted when not speaking
- Use chat for questions and reflections
- Respect different perspectives and approaches

**Outer County effort webinar on Aug. 20*

Greater Philadelphia Land Protection Program



William Penn Foundation

Generous funding support making community-led land protection possible across the region.



OSI & Just Strategies

Open Space Institute partners with Just Strategies to lead outreach, engagement, and cohort development.



Community-Led Conservation

Protecting green spaces and land in Philadelphia and Camden neighborhoods through resident-driven action.

Today's Agenda



Land Leadership Cohort: Peer learning & long-term support



Neighborhood Conservation Grants: Planning & capacity funding



Statement of Interest: Process, questions & submission



Key Dates & Next Steps: Timeline & how to apply

Why a Cohort?

The Land Leadership Cohort brings together 10–15 Philadelphia and Camden organizations to advance permanent land protection, community ownership, and long-term stewardship.

- **Address Real Barriers**

Tackling the legal, financial, organizational, and institutional barriers to community land protection.

- **Build Relationships**

Building cross-neighborhood and cross-sector partnerships through shared knowledge and collaboration.

- **A 10-Year Commitment**

A real investment in community land protection- not a short-term grant cycle.



What the Cohort Will Provide

The cohort is designed to meet organizations where they are — offering support for groups at different stages of readiness, not only those with acquisition-ready projects.



A Trusted Peer Space

A trusted, noncompetitive space to learn, share openly, and solve challenges together.



Strategic Partnerships

Connections to agencies, landholders, and partners that can support your work now and over time.



Technical Knowledge & Tools

Expertise and tools for land acquisition, community ownership, legal structures, and sustainable stewardship.



Lasting Connections

Relationships and resources that sustain community land protection beyond the formal convenings.

Cohort Schedule

Week of Sept 7 - Interviews & Orientation

1

Build relationships, align expectations, and share the long-term vision.

2

Oct 8 — Ground in Place, Trust & Purpose

Build trust and identify shared land protection priorities.

3

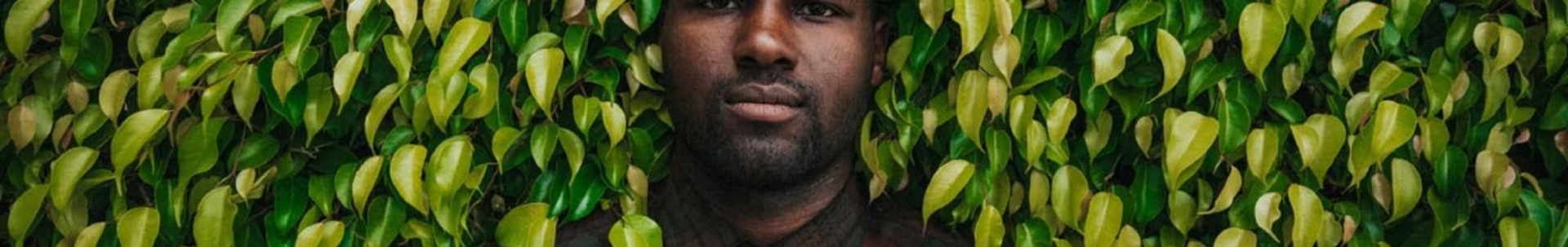
Nov 12 - Moving Ideas Toward Implementation

Develop ideas, partnerships, and implementation strategies.

4

Dec 17 — Refining Pathways & Next Steps

Refine next steps and prepare for potential grant applications.



LAND LEADERSHIP COHORT

Who We Are Seeking

Organization Profile

- Rooted in or accountable to Philadelphia and Camden communities
- Addressing disinvestment, displacement, or inequitable land access
- Interested in permanent land protection or community ownership
- At any stages of development — not only acquisition-ready organization

Intentional Diversity

- **Neighborhoods**
Representation across communities
- **Strategies**
Many approaches to land protection
- **OrgSize**
Large and small groups welcome
- **Experience**
All levels of readiness considered

Participation Expectations

The cohort works because every member shows up - for themselves and for each other.

Participation requires a genuine commitment to shared, collaborative learning.

→ Designate Consistent Representatives

Identify one or two individuals from your organization who will participate across all convenings and activities.

→ Share Openly and Generously

Bring your real experiences, questions, and challenges. Engage with organizations of different sizes, strategies, and levels of experience.

→ Attend Orientation and All Three

Convenings Full participation — including preparation and follow-up — is essential to getting the most from the cohort experience.



Contribute to a Collaborative Environment

Help identify opportunities for partnership. Approach the cohort as a noncompetitive learning community where everyone's knowledge matters.

Why Neighborhood Conservation Grants?

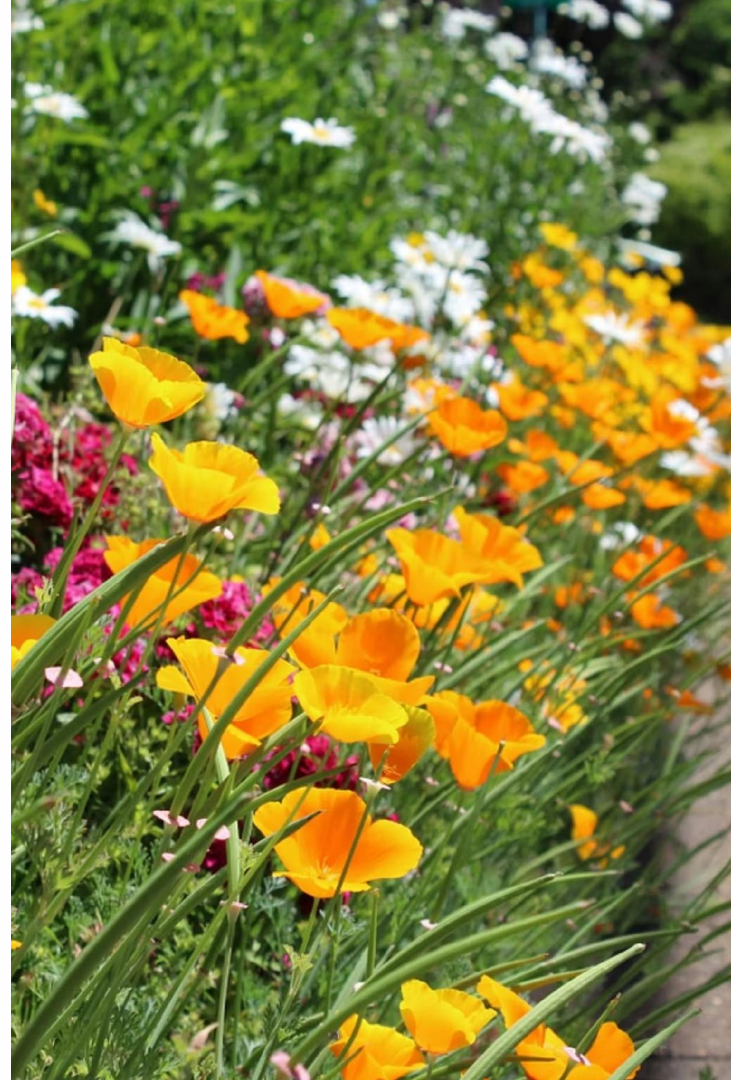
The Gap Between Vision & Acquisition

- Many organizations have identified land and project priorities, but legal, financial, and organizational barriers stand in the way.
- Planning and capacity support must come before—or alongside—capital funding.

*Capital grants are anticipated in future phases of the program.

What These Grants Are Designed To Do

- Address barriers identified directly by community partners
- Strengthen project and organizational readiness
- Support strategies that lead to future acquisition
- Catalyze durable land protection outcomes in later program phases



NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION GRANTS

Grant Overview

\$220K

Round 1 Funding

Total available for the first
grant round

\$40K

Max Award

Individual grants range
from \$15,000 to \$40,000

18mo

Grant Period Approximately

12–18 months of supported
activity

Project Lenses: 1. Ecological Value, 2. Climate Resilience, 3. Equitable Access.

Highly Collaborative

Build meaningful
partnerships across
organizations or
communities

Broad Impact

Support outcomes
beyond a single parcel or
site

Replicable Models

Create structures, tools,
or frameworks that can
be sustained or replicated

NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION GRANTS

What Does "Neighborhood Scale" Mean?

Applicants define what "neighborhood" means for their own work. The program will **not** impose outside definitions of neighborhood boundaries or size.

Scale Is **NOT** Limited To:

Parcel size or number of parcels

Number of gardens or specific sites

Geographic footprint alone

Scale May Also Reflect:

- Community impact and reach
- Number or diversity of people engaged
- Strength and breadth of partnerships
- Replicability of the approach
- Contribution to long-term land protection infrastructure

Eligible Activities

Grants support the work that happens before and alongside acquisition — the planning, research, partnership-building, and infrastructure that makes lasting land protection possible.



Community-Driven Planning

Land protection planning, activation of existing community plans, neighborhood restoration planning, and stewardship planning for land intended for permanent protection.



Equity & Feasibility Work

Equity and anti-displacement assessments, research and feasibility studies, and development of community land ownership models.



Partnership & Infrastructure

Partnership and coalition development, and the creation of systems, policies, or tools that support sustainable, long-term land protection.

SOI Walk-Through

The Statement of Interest is an interest assessment - not a traditional grant competition. Strong writing is not the primary consideration. What matters most is clarity, community connection, readiness, and potential contribution to the cohort.

You Will Be Asked To Share:

- Your organization & community you serve
- Your interest in land protection or community ownership
- Current opportunities, barriers, or priorities
- What your organization hopes to learn — and contribute
- Your ability to participate in full cohort experience

Where to Find Materials: greater-philadelphia-mapping-resource-center-osiny.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cohort

- Cohort and grant information
 - Eligibility requirements
- Convening Schedule
 - Dates, locations, and session descriptions
- SOI Questions & Submission
 - Full question list and submission instructions

KEY DATES

Timeline at a Glance

LandLeadership Cohort

- SOI Due August 7
- Review Period August 8 - 31
- Interview Notification by August 31
- Interview/Orientation by September 10
- Convening 1
Ground October 8
- Convening 2
Equip & Develop November 12
- Convening 3
Move December 17

Neighborhood Conservation Grants

- Application Period Nov 1 - Jan 31
- Office Hours & Support Jan 1 - 31

Additional grant dates and detailed application instructions will be shared before the application period opens. Stay connected with the GPLPP team for updates.

Quick Recap

Two Connected Opportunities

The Land Leadership Cohort and Neighborhood Conservation Grants are connected - but separate - opportunities. You may apply to either or both.

No Project Required

Organizations may join the cohort without having an acquisition-ready project. Community knowledge, relationships, and planning capacity are valued equally.

Next Step: Apply by August 7

Review the materials and submit your Statement of Interest. Contact the GPLPP team with any eligibility or application questions.



Questions & Discussion

We want to hear from you! Use the tools below to participate.



Raise Your Hand

Use the **Raise Hand** feature to ask a live question during the session.



Send a Message

Type your question in the **Chat** anytime — we'll address as many as we can.



Keep the Conversation Going

Questions we can't get to today will be included in **follow-up materials**. Feel free to email as well.



The formal session runs 60 minutes. An optional 15–30 minute open discussion follows for those who wish to stay.



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