

Dear PRPS Members and Friends,

I write to you today to request an immediate response to the 2012-2013 Pennsylvania state budget that was presented by Governor Corbett last week. In this budget the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, that many of you have been fortunate to receive grants from over the last 18 years, is being transferred in full (30 million) to the General Fund. This amounts to **70%** of the grant funding that DCNR has awarded to help local governments meet their goals. Out of this funding, **80%** has gone to municipalities.

What does that mean to you? Do you take your children to a local playground? Know someone who participates or participated in youth sports? Have you done park rehabilitations? Has your community or county acquired open space? Have you received a RecTAP Grant from PRPS? Were you able to develop a comprehensive park and recreation plan? Did you finally get those ballparks and parking areas improved?

Here's a highlight of funding recipients this year:

Marshall Township
Pittsburgh City
Scott Township
West Deer Township
Armstrong County
Washington Township
Beaver County
Brighton Township
Everett Borough
Berks County
Fleetwood Borough
Reading City
Altoona City
Yardley Borough
Butler County
Butler Township
Clay Township
Eau Claire Borough
Carrolltown Borough
Johnstown City
Middle Taylor Township
Centre Regional Recreation Authority
Ferguson Township
Gregg Township
Harris Township
East Marlborough Township
London Grove Township
New London Township
Newlin Township
North Coventry Township
Thornbury Township

West Nantmeal Township
Clearfield County
Lawrence Township
Karthaus Township
Westover Borough
Flemington Borough
Lower Allen Township
Upper Allen Township
Delaware County
Media Borough
Radnor Township
Jones Township
Millcreek Township
Springfield Township
Uniontown City
Columbia Borough
Mount Joy Township
West Earl Township
Enon Valley Borough
Annville Township
Jackson Township
Northern Lebanon Recreation & Parks Commission
Allentown City
Lehigh County
Lower Macungie Township
North Whitehall Township
Salisbury Township
South Whitehall Township
Upper Saucon Township
Wildlands Conservancy
Nanticoke City
West Wyoming Borough
Barrett Township
Eldred Township
Jackson Township
Monroe County
Smithfield Township
Stroud Region Open Space & Recreation Commission
Cheltenham Township
Hatfield Township
Horsham Township
Limerick Township
Lower Merion Township
Montgomery County
Schwenksville Borough
Towamencin Township
Upper Hanover Township
Bethlehem City

East Allen Township
Lower Saucon Township
Kulpmont Borough
Northumberland County
Delaware River Waterfront Corporation
Philadelphia City
Pike County
Trust for Public Land
Cass Township
Foster Township
Mahanoy City Borough
Tamaqua Borough
Middleburg Borough
Franklin City
Oil City
Warren City
South Strabane Township
Wayne County
Latrobe-Unity Parks & Recreation Commission
Monessen City
Factoryville Borough
Dillsburg Borough
East Prospect Borough
Glen Rock Borough
Hellam Township
York City
Red Lion Borough

Pretty impressive list, right? **This list will be non-existent should the Keystone Funding be eliminated.**

What can you do about it? This Thursday at 3 p.m. there will be a budget hearing for DCNR. We are asking each of you to contact at least one legislator on the Senate Appropriations Committee before Thursday and tell them how this program has benefitted you. How will DCNR be able to provide grant opportunities for local government, non-profits, and recreation, park and trail commissions? What do you say to members of your community who are requesting new ballfields or for outdated playground equipment to be updated? **HOW DO YOU PLAN FOR THE FUTURE?** Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee are:

Officers

[Corman, Jake](#), Chair
[Tomlinson, Robert M.](#), Vice Chair
[Hughes, Vincent J.](#), Minority Chair
[Ferlo, Jim](#), Minority Vice Chair
[Pileggi, Dominic](#), ex-officio
[Costa, Jay](#), ex-officio

[Scarnati, Joseph B., III](#), ex-officio

Majority

[Argall, David G.](#)
[Baker, Lisa](#)
[Brubaker, Mike](#)
[Gordner, John R.](#)
[Greenleaf, Stewart J.](#)
[Mensch, Bob](#)
[Pippy, John](#)
[Rafferty, John C., Jr.](#)
[Smucker, Lloyd K.](#)
[Vance, Patricia H.](#)
[Waugh, Michael L.](#)
[White, Mary Jo](#)

Minority

[Blake, John P.](#)
[Boscola, Lisa M.](#)
[Farnese, Jr., Lawrence M.](#)
[Fontana, Wayne D.](#)
[Tartaglione, Christine M.](#)
[Wozniak, John N.](#)
[Yudichak, John T.](#)

If you contact any of these committee members please let us know of the correspondence. In addition, start contacting your local representative's and explain the value that the Keystone Funding has given you or your local community and the value it has on health and wellness, economic prosperity and recreation. If you are unsure of who your representative is, go to: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/#address>. This will search by your address.

Please visit <http://KeystoneFund.org>, an educational site on the Keystone Fund that can provide you with information and success stories related to the funding.

Thank you for your diligence in reaching out to the legislative body. It is our jobs to fight for the funding that directly supports parks and recreation.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Woodward, CPRP
Executive Director
PA Recreation & Park Society