



**Applicant:** Allegheny River Trail in Clarion County, Inc.  
**Project Title:** Hunt Bros. Parcel Acquisition For Bike Trail  
**Grant Program:** Non-motorized Trails  
**Date Submitted:**

**Advisor:** Erin Wiley Moyers  
**Phone:** +1 814-226-2329  
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**Web ID:** 2001991

**Project Introduction**

Web ID	2001991
Project title	Hunt Bros. Parcel Acquisition For Bike Trail
Grant opportunity	Non-motorized Trails
Project type	Community Program - Acquisition (COMM)
Advisor contacted	Erin Wiley Moyers
Attended grant workshop?	Yes

**Applicant Information Details**

Project applicant	Allegheny River Trail in Clarion County, Inc.
Federal ID	82-4293918
Vendor ID	814429
Address line 1	132 ANTON LANDING DR
Address line 2	PO Box 325
City	FOXBURG
State	PA
Postal code	16036
Organization DUNS	117468001
Locality	Clarion

**Applicant Type Details**

Applicant type	Private Non-Profit
501(c)(3) organization name	Allegheny River Trail in Clarion County, Inc.
501(c)(3) organization date	01/29/2018
Charitable organization name	Allegheny River Trail in Clarion County, Inc.
Charitable registration number	1111
Charitable expiration date	08/12/2020

**Project Coordinator Details**

Project coordinator	Robert Jennings, Jr.
Organization	Allegheny River Trail in Clarion County, Inc.
Title	President
Prefix	Mr.
First name	Robert
Last name	Jennings
Suffix	Jr.
Address line 1	132 Anton Landing Drive
Address line 2	P.O. Box 325
City	Foxburg

State	PA
Postal code	16036-0325
Phone	(412) 721-7615
Cell	
Fax	
Email	BobJennings1@embarqmail.com

#### Chief Elected Official Details

Chief elected official	Robert Jennings, Jr.
Organization	Allegheny River Trail in Clarion County, Inc.
Title	President
Prefix	Mr.
First name	Robert
Last name	Jennings
Suffix	Jr.
Address line 1	132 Anton Landing Drive
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#### Project Information

##### Brief project description

Acq. of 1.42 A parcel for \$67,500, next to 33' wide PRR RR ROW owned by ARTinC, to be the Trailhead for the S end of the Emlenton to Foxburg Gap. Parcel along the Allegheny R. on the N edge of the Foxburg Bus. Distr. Later Trail uses to incl. major parking, signage, kiosk and mtg. space, possible Gazebo, and buttressing of RR ROW; Possible re-routing of the bike trail through the 1.42 A, for ADA; slope stability and storm water mgt. needed - opportunities for green tech.; Parcel parallels Mid-Allegheny Wtr. Trail; potential for small community park to share uses.

Is statewide?	No
Is fee acquisition?	Yes
Is conservation easement?	No

##### Describe the negotiations had with the current landowner of the property

ARTinC filed an Action to Quiet Title in Sept. of 2019 to resolve several conflicting claims; Landowner conceded we owned 600' of 33' wide former RR ROW and quitclaimed their interest to ARTinC, but we also wanted to purchase entire 1.42 A they owned as Trailhead to serve the 3.0 mile Gap from Foxburg to Emlenton. Absent the 1.42 A, the trail has no parking, no space to meet or for signage/kiosk, no ability to buttress decaying retaining wall on edge of RR ROW, no access to the All. R for recreation, and no slope stability or storm water management. We negotiated with sophisticated Pittsburgh counsel for defs. for 4 intense months and secured comprehensive settlement at end of Jan. 2020. Present grant request for 50% of purchase price plus acquisition costs needed to close on the proposed purchase.

##### Specific rights to be acquired and any rights severed from the property

Fee simple general warranty deed to be provided upon closing. There is no likelihood that oil, gas or coal interests were severed post 1922, since Fox Heirs owned land from 1796 up to 1922, they controlled all oil and gas extraction pre-1922, and when land was deeded in 1922 to predecessors of current owners, any oil or gas leases thereafter voided deed transfer, thus were highly unlikely, and there is no historical evidence of oil or gas development post 1922 based on old PA Geological Maps.

Improvements or structures?	Yes
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An overgrown decaying tin roofed wooden and concrete block storage building, holding old lumber, lawn furniture and Christmas decorations (of the Hunt Bros. who have a local family camp on the opposite side of the Allegheny River) is an attractive nuisance, and will be demolished by ARTinC as soon as possible after closing due to its present hazards to children. ARTinC is not permitted to demolish prior to closing. There are 100+yr. old concrete block retaining walls and storage bins, that support the edge of the 600' RR ROW, that engineering analysis will want to study and probably be buttressed against collapse.

**Any environmental hazards?** No

Phase I Environmental Assessment has been reported and there are no red flags, or suspicions of hazards. Since prior to 1918, the site was home to a large building supply and hardware store, with no apparent dumps, waste piles, or other industrial or commercial activity. The building supply business folded in 1969, and the 1.42 acres have not been used for any commercial activity since that time, with the exception of several years in the 1990s for a part-time canoe/kayak rental business.

**Waiver for retroactivity?** No

**Trail Information**

<b>Name of trail</b>	Allegheny River Trail, part of Erie to Pittsburgh Trail
<b>Part of larger trail system</b>	Erie to Pittsburgh Trail, part of broader Industrial Heartlands Trail Coalition
<b>Type of trail</b>	Significant Regional Greenway
<b>Length of new construction</b>	
<b>Length of trail rehabilitation</b>	
<b>Total length of trail</b>	0.00
<b>Length of trail system</b>	270.00
<b>Length of trail acquired</b>	0.00
<b>Length of trail equipment serve</b>	
<b>Number of people educated</b>	
<b>Closes trail gap?</b>	Yes
<b>Gap number</b>	96
<b>Is rail-trail?</b>	Yes
<b>Is rail banked under NTSA?</b>	No
<b>Is public land?</b>	No
<b>Is private land?</b>	Yes

<b>Infrastructure Elements</b>	<b>New Construction</b>	<b>Rehabilitation</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bridge	0	0	0
Tunnel	0	0	0
Trailhead	0	0	0
Comfort facility	0	0	0
Parking area	0	0	0

**Is river project?** No

**Project Locations**

**Hunt Bros. Parcel Acquisition**

<b>Description</b>	north end of rt. 58 bridge in foxburg pa	<b>Leased</b>	No
<b>Site ID</b>	1	<b>Owner</b>	Robert and Raymond Hunt
<b>Parcel #</b>	09-010-011 and 09-010-012	<b>Latitude</b>	-62.04586325
<b>Address 1</b>	Railroad Street	<b>Longitude</b>	45.21419825
<b>Address 2</b>		<b>Acres</b>	1.42
<b>City</b>	Foxburg		

State PA Length 0.1600000000  
Zip Code 16036 Other Agr? Yes

**Project Criteria Questions**

**Briefly describe your project needs, benefits, and urgencies and how they will be addressed through your proposed scope of work.**

This 1.42 A acquisition is critical for the success of closing the Emlenton to Foxburg gap. Foxburg lacks adequate parking, and there is no other space for a trailhead. Parking will serve bikers, but equally important, not overwhelm the town with biker related cars that would take space needed for local businesses. This acquisition demonstrates that real progress is being made in addressing the 3 mile trail gap, which has languished for over 20 years before ARTinC began tackling the issue 2 years ago. The site previously was an overgrown eyesore; now, it can be developed as a jewel at the entry into Foxburg. If no purchase, it continues to sit as an eyesore. The success in negotiating a purchase for the benefit of the public shows that ARTinC can get things done, and this has not been lost on landowners to the north with whom we also are negotiating.

**The Department is a strong proponent of green/sustainable parks, trails, recreation facilities, and conservation areas. Briefly describe the green and sustainable management practices that have been or will be incorporated into your project. You should reference where these green and sustainable practices can be found in the project budget and site plan (as applicable).**

The Trailhead has not been designed, other than we know we want to maximize parking, enhance ADA compliance for the trail, repair the aged block retaining wall, create space for bikers to meet, and an associated overlapping small community park on the bank of the river, with opportunities to fish and if possible, kayak and canoe. Parking areas may be suitable for rain gardens or permeable surfaces. Bioswales are possible on slopes. We will design in green infrastructure for needed storm water management, and slope control of steep banks. There is a local garden club, and they hopefully can be persuaded to install gardens to minimize the need for lawn maintenance, and plant native trees and shrubs. DCNR has elaborate publications on green technology, and ARTinC will assure that engineers and specific planners explore green remedies and the many forms of associated funding.

**The Department is a strong proponent of public access for property acquired with grant funding and/or maintained with equipment acquired with grant funding. Briefly describe the anticipated level of public access for each property/easement to be acquired and/or maintained and what benefits will be realized by the proposed level of access.**

The 1.42 A will be devoted solely to public recreational use- this is an agreed upon condition of the general warranty deed in the Settlement Agreement. The Hunt Bros. have a camp on the opposite side of the river, and they insisted on sole recreational use (as does DCNR), so that they would not face any form of commercial operations on the site. There is no other parkland in Foxburg, thus this site will be a prime magnet for visitors and residents looking to relax, watch the river flow by, fish, bike and otherwise enjoy some well thought out green space. The multiple uses, including access to the Middle Allegheny River Trail, will be the closest thing to a village square possible at this location - which is otherwise developed. The only concern is that the space is only 1.42 acres, and the demands for use could be great, thus meriting considerable professional planning as to ultimate development. This we will do.

**Describe in detail how the public has been and/or will be engaged in the planning, design, implementation, long-term maintenance, and/or stewardship of your project (i.e. - public meetings, press releases, volunteer days, etc.).**

Over the past 2 years, ARTinC has engaged the public through 2 large well publicized public meetings held at the Emlenton Crawford Center, through multiple articles in the local Progress News delivered to 8,000 regional residents, through daily tabling and discussions with the public at the annual Foxburg Fall Festival, through e-mail newsletters to the 170+ individuals that are known allies or have expressed interest in joining our efforts in sign-up sheets and questionnaires, and by meetings with our local allies of the Borough Councils of Emlenton and Foxburg, as well as other elected officials that write support letters for our grant applications. Once we build trail, volunteers will do as much of the work as is possible, including maintenance. 2 of our 3 board members have lived most of their lives locally, know everyone, and with a phone call can and have recruited a team of helpers when needed for any task.

**Explain how your project will implement the Actions in Natural Connections, the 2014-2019 PA Outdoor Recreation Plan. To receive points, you must give a detailed explanation as to how your project will address no more than 3 actions identified in the plan (pages 9-17). Be sure to mention if you are: Closing a trail gap, rehabilitating a community park, implementing a watershed restoration project, or are acquiring lands that enhance landscape connectivity and/or recreational access to existing protected lands.**

This question is addressed in detail in the uploaded "Project and PA Rec. Plans 2014-2019", both as to the PA Statewide Comprehensive Recreational Plan 2014-2019, and the PA Land and Water Trail Network Strategic Plan 2014-2019.

**Do you have written operations and maintenance plan or stewardship plan for your park(s), trail(s), property (ies), and/or equipment?**

No

**The Department requires that the site be properly maintained, kept in reasonable repair, and open and accessible to the public throughout its useful life. For equipment purchases, the Department requires that the equipment be properly maintained and kept in reasonable repair throughout its useful life. Please describe your strategy to operate, maintain, and/or provide stewardship to your project.**

We have not reduced our maintenance approach to written form, since we are in the phase of right of way and land acquisition, not actual maintenance of existing trail. Our 3 Board members, however, have been involved in local affairs for decades, including serving on the Boards or volunteering in trail maintenance activities for both the Armstrong Trail and the Allegheny Valley Trail mostly in Venango County. We intend to design storm water management when trail is built to minimize washout risk. We have core volunteers (e.g. Bill Zimmerman) that maintain the large falling tree problem for the Foxburg golf club (Bill cut up and removed 30 major golf course trees over the 2019-2020 winter). Cutting grass on shoulders will be integrated with regular maintenance on neighboring trails, as well as the downtown Foxburg area. Other maintenance scheduling we will pattern on best practices of neighboring trail systems on the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail.

**Project Plans**

Priority	Date	Title
True	05/29/2009	Northwest PA Greenways Plan, DCNR Proj. No. BRC - 12.5.2-2009
The Plan emphasizes that completion of the Emlenton to Foxburg Gap (of which this 1.42 A project is part), should "...continue to be one of the top priorities for the county and the northwest region."		
True	01/13/2010	Clarion County Greenways Plan - 2010 (from clarion County Planning Department website)
The Allegheny River Trail in Clarion County was assigned the highest priority - as 'Exceptional Priority Corridor'. The more detailed discussion of the Emlenton to Foxburg Gap emphasized that this Gap should be a focus for completion, along the regionally significant Erie to Pittsburgh Trail.		
False	02/01/2020	Erie to Pittsburgh - PA wilds Gap Assessment Report - PEC 2020
The entire report focuses on the many benefits of the overall Erie to Pittsburgh Trail, as well as the IHTC. The Emlenton to Foxburg Gap is discussed in detail as Gap Section 19. Early implementation projects were defined as those where ownership was resolved, and could be completed in the earliest amount of time. The Brady Tunnel was given such a designation; the Emlenton to foxburg Gap is only a handful of miles north of the tunnel, and currently is similar to the Tunnel in that it prevents connection of two long trail systems (Armstrong and those in Clarion and Venango Cos.).		

**Project Partners**

Organization	General	Financial	Technical
See uploaded Itemization of Partner Commitments to Date	Yes	Yes	Yes
This is a small rural close-knit community, where everyone knows everyone, and things get done on a project by project basis when asked, not by long term written commitments. Some years ago, I organized a team to construct and with me place 3 large cast iron benches on the Trail just south of Foxburg, bolted to poured in place concrete footers to frustrate vandalism. I assembled a team with equipment and skills to do this over several weekends, and when finished, I sought to give them public credit for their efforts. They promised to hurt me if I did, because they worried that they then would be begged by every small church within 30 miles to help create new steps and sidewalks. The point is, we through relationships can get most things done for free, but not if we ask for written commitments of how many hours someone might be willing to donate 2 years from now. The uploaded itemization identifies those who so far say they will turn out when asked, even though tasks have not yet been defined for them to do.			

**Agricultural Land Policy**

Active agricultural use?	No
Agricultural use in last 3 years?	No
Prime agricultural land?	No
Cause irreversible conversion?	No
Only feasible site available?	Yes

The 33' wide railroad right of way we obtained for the bike trail runs north to south, beginning at the north end of the Rt. 58 bridge into Foxburg. The Hunt Bros. parcel extending 600' along the river is directly to the west, and an active trucking company and residential housing is to the east. The Foxburg business district is to the south. The Hunt Bros. parcel is the only site in town that could serve as a Trailhead, since all other land in the vicinity of the trail is developed, or occupied by the Allegheny River.

**Project Budget**

<b>DCNR Request</b>	38,000.00
<b>Match Amount</b>	38,000.00
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	76,000.00
<b>Percentage of Match</b>	50.00

**Project Authorization**

Appointed Title	President
Signed by	ROBERT JENNINGS JR
Date signed	04/17/2020