

Iroquois Awards Final LEAF Grants

Program brought environmental and recreational opportunities to local communities for 12 years.

“If it weren’t for LEAF, we wouldn’t have been able to work on our towpath...address the serious needs of our town park...[or] get additional funding from other agencies...” These comments reflect the appreciation expressed by successful applicants to Iroquois’ Land Enhancement and Acquisition Fund—better known as LEAF.

Launched in 1995 as a successor to Iroquois’ Land Preservation and Enhancement Program (LPEP), LEAF has provided funding to communities along Iroquois’ pipeline route for the enhancement of open space or park

properties, as well as for projects beneficial to the environment. Communities and environmental organizations submitted proposals and competed for funding on an annual basis. Designated to be a ten year program, LEAF was extended for an additional two years to further assist our communities in preserving the environment and enhancing their quality of life.



Meeting the Program Goal

When the LEAF program was developed, Iroquois had hoped that many of the communities along its route would apply for funding—and they did! Seventy-five percent were

successful in receiving 108 grants totaling more than \$1 million. The final grants, announced in this edition of the *Iroquois Report*, were awarded to create nature trails, boardwalks and playgrounds as well as to provide environmental education and enhance open space accessibility.

Continuing Our Community Involvement

The results of a 2005 survey indicated that LEAF has been a major benefit to our communities, but that there are also many projects that do not conform to the LEAF guidelines that they would like to see funded. Iroquois is exploring these suggestions and is working to develop a program with more flexibility to address the needs of our communities. Information on this new program will be available soon at www.iroquois.com.

2006/2007 LEAF Grant Recipients

Town of Monroe
Fairfield County, CT
Funding for improvements to the Chalk Hill Nature Trail.

Naromi Land Trust (NLT)
Fairfield County, CT
www.naromi.org
Funding for Phase II of Sherman Trails Enhancement Initiative.

Roots for Newtown
Fairfield County, CT
www.newtownforestassociation.org
Funding for trees and other plantings along Deep Brook at

Dickenson Town Park as part of a major bank restoration project.

Town of New Milford
Litchfield County, CT
www.newmilford.org
Funding for enhancements to the town’s Sega Meadows Park.

The Nature Conservancy
Eastern NY Chapter
Columbia County, NY
www.nature.org/newyork,
“Eastern”
Funding for permanent improvements to the boardwalk

and the construction of a canoe/kayak launch at the Lewis A. Swyer Preserve at Mill Creek.

Town of Norway
Herkimer County, NY
Funding for enhancement and upgrading of equipment at the town’s Recreation Park.

Village of Lyons Falls
Lewis County, NY
Funding for improvements to the Canal Turning Basin Park for use as a passive recreational facility.

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Employee Committee Reviews Local Charity Requests

Iroquois' Community Outreach Committee meets monthly to determine awards

"How many communities will benefit?" "Will our donation make a difference?" "How much of the money goes to the people who need it?" These are among the questions considered at the monthly meeting of Iroquois' Community Outreach Committee (COC).

Sandwiches and chips dot the conference table as employees discuss the merits of each request at this lunchtime meeting. With a set budget and a desire to make the most of the dollars available, committee members carefully weigh the requests with the benefits and make awards ranging from \$50-\$500.

How the Review Process Works

Prior to the meeting, committee members research the organization's request they've been assigned. At the meeting, each employee presents his or her case for or against the funding request. The committee discusses each request and comes to a consensus.

Allocation decisions are based on:

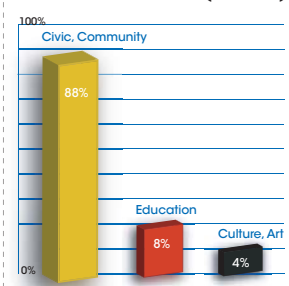
- the committee's overall budget
- the potential benefit to the community
- the organization's mission

Who Is Eligible For Funding

Any 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving the communities along our pipeline route may submit a request for funding. Funding decisions center around three categories:

- **Education.** Organizations and programs that provide educational opportunities to young people in local communities which will prepare them for their future careers.
- **Culture and the Arts.** Organizations and programs that enhance the quality of the arts and that bring the arts to the community.
- **Civic and Community.** Organizations and programs interested in the welfare and the economic and social development of local communities.

COC Contributions (5 Years)



What Is Not Eligible

- Donations to individuals
- Donations to religious or political organizations
- Donations to paid solicitors
- Courtesy program advertising

How to Apply for Funding

All applications must be made in writing and should include:

- a profile of the organization, its history, and its goals
- the key people involved, including contact information (phone, e-mail, website)
- the contribution requested
- the project's objectives and its expected impact on the community

COC requests can take up to two months to review and process. *Submit your requests to Ann Marie Wheeler, PR & Corporate Communications Specialist, Iroquois Pipeline Operating Company, One Corporate Drive, Suite 600, Shelton, CT 06484.*

LEAF Continued

Town of Boonville Oneida County, NY

Funding to complete the last three miles of the towpath trail that runs alongside the Black River Canal.

Town of Trenton Oneida County, NY

Funding to improve public and handicapped access to the Trenton Falls Gorge.

Town of Duanesburg Schenectady County, NY

Funding for the development of a playground at the Robert B. Shafer Memorial Town Park.

Schoharie County Soil and Water Conservation District Schoharie County, NY

www.nysenvirothon.org

Funding for "Energy Exploration Day," a one-day program that is part of the North American Envirothon being hosted by New York State. Designed to educate high school students about alternative and renewable energy.

Schoharie County Soil and Water Conservation District Schoharie County, NY

www.nysenvirothon.org

Funding for "Fuel Up the Excitement in the Environment," an initiative of Albany, Schenectady, and Schoharie SWCDs to increase participation in the yearly Capital Region Envirothon competition.

Village of Canton St. Lawrence County, NY

Funding to develop improved recreational access for two municipal parks—Willow Island and Bend in the River.