

Preston Trail Towns Partner Program

Preston Trail Towns, an economic development program of Friends of the Cheat, is excited to announce its 2021 Partner Program! At Preston Trail Towns, we see Preston County's future is right in front of us -- friendly neighbors in some of the nation's best scenery sharing themselves with visitors from all over the region. We are committed to revitalizing Preston County by getting people outside to enjoy our mountains and the stunning Cheat River Valley.

And it's time to get to work! We are looking for Project Partners across Preston County, working in and around our first four Trail Towns: Kingwood, Tunnelton, Rowlesburg, and Albright. As a Project Partner, you will receive collaborative support, guidance, and energy from the Trail Towns Team and Friends of the Cheat. You will also get some costs associated with your community projects covered by our Trail Towns Program.

We are eager to hear your ideas for supporting a vision of vibrant, thriving Trail Town communities in Preston County. Apply to our Partner Program today! For more information, contact Kelley Burd-Huss, Community Development Coordinator, at kelley@cheat.org or 304-276-9956.

1. Criteria for applying to be a Project Partner:

We encourage anyone with a plan to improve livability and/or outdoor recreation in the Kingwood, Tunnelton, Albright, or Rowlesburg areas to apply. Additional selection criteria include:

- a. You're working on enhancing the livability of your community.
- b. You're enhancing community amenities, public art, and/or outdoor recreation opportunities.
- c. You're working collaboratively with other community partners.
- d. You're looking for support to help implement projects.

Who Can Apply:

Community Groups, Town Governments, Town Parks, and Small Businesses. Individuals must be working together as a team to receive funding. The more community connections your project has, the more excited our committee will be about your project!

What will this Program Pay for?

Just about the only limit to Partner Program funding is your imagination! The Partner Program will pay for supplies and itemized costs for community improvement projects, public art, and

outdoor recreation infrastructure in any of the four current Preston Trail Town areas: Albright, Kingwood, Rowlesburg, and Tunnelton.

Some great examples of costs that can be covered by the Partner Program include:

- Paying web designers or graphic designers for branding and marketing upgrades for your business or organization
- Paying for bike or boat trailers for a shuttle service
- Designing, building and installation of signage, benches, and park/trail amenities
- Funds to develop and engineer podcasts or Social Media on local history, wildlife, flora, etc. on the Trails
- Funds for a bike loan program, based in the schools or the Community
- Funds to hire artists to create murals or public art on Trails or in Town

If you have questions as to whether your idea would be a good Project Partner fit, contact Kelley at kelley@cheat.org.

The reimbursement cannot be used for: Buying real estate, debt servicing, political ads, and/or costs not associated with the Project Partner goals. Construction materials used in projects must be American-made, whenever possible. There are other specific restrictions on construction materials and durable equipment that may apply to your Project. We will discuss these restrictions if they apply to your project plan.

2. Amount of Project Partner award:

Reimbursement of expenses related to your Project, up to \$3000.

3. Timeline For Projects:

During this round of Project Partner funding, projects are to be completed between March and June, 2021. If there are challenges related to this timeline, please note it in your application, and contact Kelley Burd-Huss, administrator of this program.

Application

Project Title:

Project Contact Person:

Organization, Group, or Business Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Preston Trail Town Where your project will happen:

Amount requested for this project:

Organizations and People Involved in Planning this Project (Names and phone numbers/email):

Describe the project. Where will this project happen? What resources do you need to complete this project?

How will this project move your community towards a vision of a vibrant Trail Town?

Briefly describe the organizations and people working together on this project. What are these organizations' interests and activities? How does your experience fit into the project?

What Extra Help will you need to complete this project (Volunteers, technical support, etc.)?

What is the Budget for your project? Be as detailed as possible. Google searches are great resources for pricing materials you need for your project. Use a spreadsheet or another page if necessary.

What is the timeline for completion of this Project? With technical assistance from PTT, can you complete the Project by June 30, 2021?

How will you measure success with this project? What specific and measurable goals do you hope to meet because this project happens? Here are some questions to help you think about the goals you can set for your project:

- Will this project create temporary (paid) work for people?
- Will this project create any permanent jobs?
- Does this project help expand or start a small business?
- Does this project enhance or restore outdoor recreation infrastructure?
- How many communities are affected or improved by this project?
- How many households are touched by the improvements in this project?
- How many visitors does this project attract?