

VILLAGE OF PHILMONT

Funding Strategy & Recommendations for Canal Street Aken Mill Pond Site

This funding matrix outlines potential funding sources from federal, state, and philanthropic sources to support and implement the Village of Philmont priorities for the Canal Street Aken Mill Pond Site and History Plaza as a winner of a 2025 SARANY Design Award of Excellence; and a 2024 AIA WHV Citation Award for Design Excellence. The resources below will be layered and leveraged to help fund the implementation associated with the Philmont [DRI / NY Forward Downtown Rising Vision](https://philmont.org/downtown-revitalization-initiative/) <https://philmont.org/downtown-revitalization-initiative/>

Proposed 2.78 acres project features include:

- Accessible, exploratory nature trails.
- Leverages the site's status as a 48-space green sustainable municipal parking lot.
- Connects visitors to Philmont's history and natural surrounds restoration of historic watercourse mill holding pond with overlook to conservatory public lands.
- Existing traffic island at site's entry point is joined to the wooded bulk of the site to create a new peninsula planted with a grove of flowering trees that shelter and define a new nature/history plaza, visible from Main Street.
- A massive stone block anchors the plaza, provides seating, and features a large embedded informational graphic mapping out Philmont's historic mills and associated waterways, including the former Aken Mill, Agawamuck Creek sluice, and Mill Pond.



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- A new double wythe brick ground graphic where visitors can trace the full extent of the old Aken Mill #3 building across the site.
- Accessible paths and boardwalks slope up to provide overlooks of the Mill Pond area. Seating and graphic panels weave into the landscape a layer of information about the pond and natural surrounds, which are the extended backyard to High Falls Conservation area.
- Future small business opportunity to re-adapt an old mill building owned by the Village of Philmont.

The Village of Philmont seeks to build on these ongoing revitalization plans sponsored by the 2019 NYS DOS Designated Brownfield Opportunity Area plan and project specific 2024 approved concept designs & Magnitude of Cost estimates of \$5,733,457 for the Canal Street Aken Mill Pond.

To move the designs forward we are seeking \$2M in DRI / NY Forward funds to be allocated through the opportunity to complete a Strategic Investment Plan (SIP), and \$3,733,457 from the following potential funding agencies as follows:

Pre-development engineering – funding requests completed 2025 including:

Program	Scope	Amount	Local Match	Date	Status
2025 CREDC/CFA – DOS BOA Pre-development Activities program	Pre-construction engineering and geo-tech, NEPA, Feasibility Study, existing cost estimates for allocation to construction phases	\$81,000	\$9,000 – PBInc	7/28/2025	AWARDED
Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR)	Ongoing assistance with brownfield & public parks development questions	n/a	n/a	2019 - current	ongoing
EPA – NJIT TAB Program – Region 2	Assistance with identification of applicable state funding	n/a	n/a	2/1/2025	approved
Sustainable Strategies DC Matt Ward	Assistance with identification of applicable federal funding			12/1/2025	Contract negotiation

Funding Roadmap – sample selection

Funding Opportunity	Amount & Match	Program Description - meeting scope	Deadline	Project scope
Environmental Facilities Corp – Green Innovation Program GIGP	Up to \$3M match from 10%-60%	Green stormwater solutions including design and construction of porous pavement if project meets SPADES	Usually, March using CFA portal	Construction parking porous surface & walkways, bio-swales
DOT – Rural & Tribal Assistance RTA Pilot program	Up to \$100,000 no match required	Planning & funding of consultant TA	Usually NOFO in August – rolling	Funding consultant
DOT - BUILD	Minimum \$1M up to \$25M	Construction as component to Complete Streets	Usually, February	Parking lot & connector streets
NYS Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)	Min of \$500,000 -Up to \$7 million; 20% match required	It can be used for design and construction of on-road and off-road facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists and non-motorized transportation	When available – March – grant webinars December	Construction of walkways/bikeways, park, overlook, plaza
EPF Parks, Preservation (OPRHP)	Up to \$675,000 50% match required	Improvement of parks, & historic properties Canal St lots are listed as “contributing” in Philmont Historic District	Usually end July - NYS CFA	Improvement of park areas
USDA Community Facilities Representatives Appropriations	Up to 50% of cost Varies - project dependent	Low interest loan & grant / community facilities 19 th District / Representative Josh Riely Philmont discussions in motion since 2024	Rolling January for proposal submission	Parking area /streets Gap / match funding request