



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND
WATERSHED PROTECTION GRANT APPLICATION
1999-2000

This form is to be used to apply to the Department of Environmental Protection for a grant to support activities directed at restoring and protecting watersheds and environmental stewardship within the Commonwealth. Projects will be supported by state funds through Pennsylvania Growing Greener and/or federal funds. See Supplemental Guidance and Additional Instructions and Conditions on Reverse.

PROJECT AND APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. Project Title: AMD&ART in Vintondale: Tapping Interpretive Potential
2. Watershed: South Branch of Blacklick Creek Township: Jackson County: Cambria
(Include an 8 1/2 x 11 copy of a USGS 1:24000 scale topographic map with project boundaries indicated)
3. Name of Applicant Organization: The Borough of Vintondale is submitting in partnership with:
Address: AMD&ART, Inc.
411 Third Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15906
Phone: (814) 539-5357 Fax: (814) 539-4345
E-Mail: amdart@gte.net
Contact Person: Ellen Micoli

4. Type of organization:
 Conservation District Non-profit School Government _____ (specify)
 If your group is incorporated as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, you need to provide your Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN) or Tax Number: 25-1814169

If your group is not incorporated as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization or a local government entity, you need to identify a local government entity or incorporated non-profit 501(c)(3) organization such as a Conservation District or RC&D Council, Sportsmen's Group, Trout Unlimited, etc. that will administer the finances for the grant.

Organization's Name: _____
 Organization's Contact Person: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: () _____
 _____ Fax: () _____
 Organization's Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN) or Tax Number: _____

5. Watershed Protection organization of a watershed group;
 Project Type: watershed assessments and development of watershed restoration or protection plans
 implementation of watershed restoration or protection projects;
 demonstration/education project/outreach.

Does your project address abandoned mine drainage pollution? Yes No

Project Duration (months): 6 months

6. Funding Requested:	Salaries/Benefits	\$19,000	Construction	- - 0 -
	Travel	\$3,000	Total Grant Request	\$115,000
	Equipment and Supplies	\$50,000	Match	\$321,500
	Administration	\$3,000	Total Project Cost	\$436,500
	Contractual	\$40,000		

7. Do you intend to subcontract any of this work? Yes No
8. Will your project implement recommendations of an existing watershed or river conservation plan? Yes No
 If yes, identify the plan and responsible organization: The South Branch of Blacklick Creek Watershed Restoration Plan
Responsible Organizations: Blacklick Creek Watershed Org., Cambria County Cons & Rec Auth., Cam City Cons. District,
DEP/BAMR, US ACOE, AMD&ART, Inc., Ebensburg Power Company - a partnership was formed to create plan.

Please provide a detailed project summary. Describe why the project should be funded. Explain how the project fits with other projects, plans or studies already completed or underway. Explain what problems the project will address and how the work will be done. List project partners and specific project goals. For watershed assessments/plan development, explain your assessment process schedule and detail the types of costs and activities involved. For implementation activities, provide an implementation schedule that includes a list and description of project tasks, milestones, expected completion dates and measurable environmental results. For demonstration/education projects, fully describe how others will be informed and participate in your project and provide a schedule. (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

GRANT PROGRAM CONDITIONS

- Your application will be evaluated based on the data provided. Completeness and accuracy is important. Should you have any questions regarding this application, please contact the DEP Regional Watershed Coordinator.
- All projects must contain a letter of acknowledgment from the County Conservation District where the project is located. Enclose other letters of support as appropriate.
- Successful applicants will be required to:
 - Execute a contract with DEP in order to receive the grant.
 - Comply with appropriate Commonwealth and/or federal requirements, including obtaining necessary permits, in the implementation of the grant.
 - Submit additional information as requested for execution of the contract.
 - Prepare and submit interim and final performance reports.
- Project sites will be subject to visits by DEP staff.
- There is no limit to the number of applications that may be submitted by each applicant.

CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

I certify that the information in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Submitted By: AMD&ART, Inc. and the Borough of Vintondale 2-11-2000
Organization Date
Ellen Micoli ellen p. micoli AMD&ART Project Co-Coordinator
Name Title

GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS

Three copies of the completed Grant Application must be postmarked (if mailed), or received (if hand delivered) by 4:30 p.m. on February 11, 2000 at the following address:

Department of Environmental Protection
Growing Greener Grants Center
9th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street, P.O. Box 8776
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8776
Telephone: (717) 705-5400 or 1-877-PAGREEN

NO FAXES

For electronic submission, visit DEP's website at www.dep.state.pa.us/growgreen/

AMD&ART in Vintondale: Tapping Interpretive Potential

Abandoned mine drainage (AMD) is not only Appalachia's worst environmental problem, it is Appalachia's worst economic and social problem. Dead streams are the orange, silent signatures of many dying communities in Pennsylvania. AMD&ART recognizes the larger problems of abandoned mine drainage and is working outside traditional lines to solve them. We are reclaiming the damage wrought by AMD by creating passive treatment systems that do more than clean the orange out of the water—we engage local citizens in cleaning the orange out of communities. Through interdisciplinary intervention and public participation, our treatment systems become recreational sites, art parks, educational centers, and historical exhibits that reach people, as well as heal nature.

The first of three AMD&ART project sites, Vintondale offers a manageable discharge central to the community, with high visibility thanks to the heavily traveled rail-trail that borders the site. A remarkable 10% of Vintondale's population have been working regularly with AMD&ART's artists, historians, and scientists to design their community park. Interest in this new kind of community place is broad and growing, with young people in schools and clubs working with retirees and community activists. With this venue already available, we propose to enhance the educational and interpretive content on the Vintondale site. We also propose to enhance the greater public knowledge of this new process of community driven AMD remediation by completing a broadcast-quality documentary.

AMD&ART has already acquired funding for the construction of the treatment system and the wetlands, and a minimal amount of funding has been accumulated to begin the educational, interpretive, and recreational aspects of the program. However, additional funding is needed to completely take advantage of the site's potential for learning, inspiration, and healing. The AMD&ART project in Vintondale offers the Department of Environmental Protection a safe, exciting opportunity to be the final cap on an already highly successful project.

The proposed interpretive program for the site will be the overall blanket that visitors will see. The elements will go beyond typical signage, and will be visual, as well as textual. Embossed photos, drawings, and sculptures will communicate environmental and historical concepts. For example, limestone markers, inscribed with text and drawings about AMD treatment, will invite visitors to wander through the treatment system's crushed limestone walkways. Trails throughout the site will be host to interspersed signs, embossed with photos and inscribed with historical quotes about miners' experiences of life underground. Listening to birds chirp as they wander through the wildlife uplands, visitors will be confronted with the contrasting descriptions of the Blacklick valley under a shadow of coal oven smoke. Information about habitat created by native vegetation will be sandblasted into limestone markers, with leaf drawings and tree descriptions. Markers and artistic elements such as these will tie together the other three focal points.

This program has three large components, and each will provide a different teaching point about passive treatment, acid mine drainage, and the history within the park. The first element will be located immediately adjacent to the Ghost Town Trail and will be the

beginning of the historical explanation. A large-scale, historically accurate Sanborne map mosaic will represent the layout of the buildings of the Vinton Colliery, once located on this 35-acre site. Ten feet away on the opposite side of the trail, at the historic mine opening to Mine No. 6, visitors will encounter a miner's memorial. The memorial will involve maps, photographs, and a timeline, which will collectively reconstruct the proud history of hard work and the devastating impact of the environmental, social, and economic downfall that followed. Visitors will not only see acid mine drainage being cleansed, but will learn what happened to bring it about.

The second teaching point will begin at the acid pool, at the head of the treatment system. Before the metals-laden water enters the wetland cells and SAPS pond to be treated, the water is collected in a settling basin. In this limestone-coated pool, the sides of the basin will turn vibrantly red-orange, as metals precipitate out. This pool, along with pH meters in each pond, wetland cells, crushed limestone walkways between the ponds, and the final settling basin, will comprise a "learning center" for school groups and visitors. The components of passive AMD treatment--dissolved metals, pH, vegetation, and mine pools--will already be present and visible. To enhance the educational potential for the treatment system, we propose to include limestone for spillways and walkways, pH meters, and interpretive signage to more clearly and effectively communicate these scientific concepts.

The third interpretive segment of the Vintondale site is the release channel for the treated water. After a trip through the treatment system, the water enters a clarification marsh and a polishing wetland. Finally, the water is returned to the South Branch of Blacklick Creek, eventually joining the Kiski-Conemaugh river system, Pennsylvania's River of the Year. An essential element of this interpretive environmental art and water treatment park will be the culmination of the water's movement through the site. This point of return is a place for celebration, reflection, and education. A limestone spillway designed to enhance the sounds of splashing and gurgling will celebrate the return of now clean water back into the creek. This point, part of the larger whole, will represent the efforts of the community in reclaiming an industrial wasteland and cleaning their despoiled river. Using forms recalling the history of coal, hydrological patterns, chemical transformations, and descriptions of the water's journey from mine to treatment, the spillway completes the interpretive efforts made to make environmental concepts visible.

In the near future, kids will play ball and families will picnic on the now-dead land. Walking interpretive trails, visitors will gain new perspective on the resilience of nature and the ability of humans to work successfully together to create a new place, a renewed center of community life. The past economic heart of the community, now abandoned, will be transformed into the new center for the community. Tourism will increase and enhance business life as well as civic life, bringing dollars, pride, and improved value to local residents. With a successful program in Vintondale nearing spring construction, AMD&ART and the citizens of Vintondale want to share the news with the rest of Pennsylvania and the Appalachian region.

We are working with Brent Conrad, of Vivicon Productions, to create a documentary to be aired on national television to give hope and inspiration to other Appalachian communities suffering from the economic, environmental, and social effects of AMD. We plan publicly broadcast the documentary on the Discovery channel and the History channel. The

community design process AMD&ART has created to design AMD treatment systems that not only cleanse the water, but also instill pride and hope in the citizens, is a process that we hope will be inspiring to many Appalachian communities. This video is our primary vehicle for this larger, regional outreach to other coal-impacted watersheds. The beginning of this project, a five-minute video, has accompanied this application.

AMD&ART's efforts in Vintondale provide the opportunity for those behind Growing Greener to catch a train headed for success. We are re-creating the sense of place that once existed across the creek from the small town of Vintondale, and creating anew a place of healing, for the land, the water, and the people. People will visit, and as they meander through the site, they may learn something, or be changed, or inspired. The AMD&ART site in Vintondale presents the opportunity to take a project with enormous interpretive and educational value to a higher level. We are ready to build now, and with support from the Growing Greener legislation, we can realize this interpretive potential. We look forward to the possibility of working with the Department of Environmental Protection this summer and fall to ensure that this potential is met as completely as possible.

Work Plan

Prior to Acquisition of Growing Greener Funds:

September-October 1999 – Begin Documentary

Acquire historical site footage, film current site and Vintondale residents, prior to site construction this spring.

March-April 2000 – Refine Designs

Work with community members and artists to refine the designs for the markers, mosaic, spillway, and mine memorial

Following Acquisition of Funds:

May-August 2000 – Installation

Concurrent with the necessary construction phases, many of the interpretive elements will be installed on-site. Acid basin markers will be installed with the construction of the basin.

Crushed limestone walkways and adjacent markers will be installed with the construction of the treatment ponds and berms. The river return limestone spillway will be installed concurrently with the wetlands.

August-September 2000 – Further Installation

Install pH monitors, Sanborne map mosaic, and mine memorial.

September-October 2000 – Plant and Sandblast

Vintondale community members and AMD&ART staff will plant the vegetation—trees, shrubs, and grasses. Artists will sandblast inscriptions in the limestone. Vegetation markers will be installed and inscribed after the vegetation is planted.

October 2000 – Grand Opening of the Vintondale Site!

--Further budget materials available if needed.--

Environmental Stewardship/Watershed Protection Grant

Detailed Budget

(Please Type or Print Legibly)

1. Sponsor Salaries/Benefits

Individual	Position	Hourly Rate	Hours	Total
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Benefits				_____
_____				_____
_____				_____
Subtotal				<u>0</u>

2. Travel

Mileage	<u>4,923</u> miles @ .325/mile	=	<u>1600</u>
Meals	<u>15</u>	=	<u>150</u>
Lodging	<u>10</u> nights @ \$ <u>75</u> /night	=	<u>750</u>
Subtotal			<u>2,500</u>

3. Equipment and Supplies

<u>signs</u>	<u>17,500</u>
<u>sign mounts</u>	<u>2,000</u>
<u>pH meters</u>	<u>900</u>
<u>photo film & paper</u>	<u>200</u>
<u>Videotape</u>	<u>100</u>
Subtotal	<u>20,700</u>

4. Administration (2% maximum)

<u>office support</u>	<u>800</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
Subtotal	<u>800</u>

5. Contractual

Design and survey <u>sign design</u>	<u>4,000</u>
Water sample analyses	_____
Permitting costs (i.e. PNDI reviews, historical reviews, wetland encroachments, stream crossings and encroachments, utility easements, E & S permits, Chapter 105 dam permits)	_____
Other (describe) <u>- video production</u>	<u>12,000</u>
Subtotal	<u>16,000</u>

6. Construction

Materials (i.e. rock fill, smooth and perforated pipes, spent mushroom compost, river rock drain fill, geotextiles, valves and fittings, water-level control structures, trees, plants, etc.)	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Road construction	_____
Grubbing/clearing	_____

Mobilization/demobilization	_____
Revegetation	_____
Excavation and earthfill	_____

Construction personnel

Individual	Position	Hourly rate	Hours	Total
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
			Subtotal	<u>0</u>

7. Other

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
			Subtotal	<u>0</u>

Project Total 40,000

Environmental Stewardship/Watershed Protection Grant

Simplified Budget
(Please Type or Print Legibly)

1. Sponsor Salaries/Benefits	<u>0</u>
2. Travel	<u>2,500</u>
3. Equipment and Supplies	<u>20,700</u>
4. Administration	<u>8,000</u>
5. Contractual	<u>16,000</u>
6. Construction	<u>0</u>
7. Other	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	<u>40,000</u>

EXHIBIT A

Environmental Stewardship/Watershed Protection Grant

Scope of Work

(Please Type or Print Legibly)

1. Project name: AMD&ART in Vintondale: Tapping Interpretive Potential
2. Sponsor: AMD&ART, Inc.
3. Contact person and telephone number: Ellen Micoli, (814) 539-5357
411 Third Avenue
4. Location: Johnstown, PA 15906

5. Briefly identify the specific goals and objectives of the project:

- enhance the Vintondale project's educational and interpretive content _____
- produce a documentary to increase the greater public's understanding of the AMD&ART community-driven remediation process _____

6. Expected measurable environmental results (i.e. acres reclaimed, feet of stream bank protected, miles of stream improved, individuals trained, etc.)

- 13 Clean Stream State Coordinators and over 100 watershed organizations within Appalachia will understand and be able to apply the AMD&ART community-driven remediation process
- The entire Vintondale population, as well as the 70,000 annual users of the Ghost Town Rail Trail will understand the environmental, historical, and artistic layers of the Vintondale project

7. Are any permits required to complete this project? Yes No

If yes, specify.

8. Are any water samples to be collected? Yes No

If yes, identify:

- a. Number of sample points _____
- b. Organization providing sampling personnel _____
- c. Sample collection frequency _____
- d. Laboratory performing analyses _____

If acid mine drainage is present within the project area, water samples upstream and downstream of the drainage must be collected.

EXHIBIT A

9. Are any property easements required? Yes No

If yes, please identify landowner.

10. Will subcontractors be utilized? Yes No

If yes, specify the name and work function of the subcontractor: _____

11. List project deliverables (i.e. report, brochure, wetlands construction, passive treatment, restoration plans, designs, Pennsylvania Stream ReLeaf data entry form, etc.):

- ___ • the Vintondale portion of the AMD&ART documentary _____
- • on-site interpretive program (signs, pH meters, etc.) _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- Final Report

Implementation Schedule

12. Work Schedule (Major tasks)	Completion Date (or anticipated duration)
• refine design of interpretive materials	June-August 2000 _____
• installation of interpretive materials	September-October 2000 _____
• Vintondale grand opening	October 2000 _____
• obtain footage of Vintondale construction	June-October 2000 _____
• edit, assemble summer and fall footage	November 2000-January 2001 _____
• obtain additional post-construction footage	February-October 2001 _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

13. Project partners

US EPA, US OSM, USFS, The Heinz Foundations, PennDOT, Western PA Watershed Protection Program, PA Council on the Arts, DCNR, PA Humanities Council, PA DEP, The Community Foundation of Bedford, Cambria, and Somerset Counties, Vintondale Borough



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Rachel Carson State Office Building

P.O. Box 2063

Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

April 24, 2000

The Secretary

717-787-2814

Ms. Ellen Micoli
The Borough of Vintondale & AMD & ART, Inc.
411 Third Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15906

Re: AMD & ART in Vintondale: Tapping Interpretive Potential

Dear Ms. Micoli:

Congratulations!

On behalf of Governor Tom Ridge, I am pleased to inform you that the above-referenced proposal, submitted to the Growing Greener Grants Center, was selected to receive an Environmental Stewardship and Watershed Protection grant in the amount of \$40,000.00.

The Environmental Stewardship and Watershed Protection program, better known as "Growing Greener," that was signed into law by Governor Ridge, is the largest single investment in environmental restoration in Pennsylvania's history.

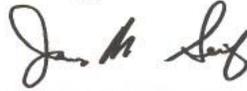
The response to our first round of Growing Greener requests for cleaning up abandoned mines and restoring watersheds has been overwhelming. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) received nearly 800 eligible applications for our portion of the Growing Greener grant program. We are very happy to see all the interest in environmental issues and activities taking place on the local level. It has been a difficult decision to decide which of the many excellent project proposals should receive funding in this first round. Again, we congratulate you on being one of those selected!

Now that the decision has been made, your immediate action is required to move forward. Enclosed are three copies of the proposed grant agreement between DEP and your organization. Please have all three copies signed, provide the other requested information, and return the entire package to us by May 15, 2000. Additional guidance and directions are attached. You will be contacted shortly by a DEP staff member who will assist you with implementing your project. You will also be provided with details regarding regional mandatory grantee training sessions that will be held in late May and early June.

April 24, 2000

We look forward to working with you on this project and wish you well. If you have any questions or if we can be of assistance, please contact the Growing Greener Grants Center at 717-705-5400 or by e-mail at growinggreener@dep.state.pa.us . We also encourage you to visit our website frequently for program information at www.GrowingGreener.org .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Seif". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being the most prominent part.

James M. Seif
Secretary

Enclosures

