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National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Delaware River Restoration Fund | 2015 Award Descriptions

<p>Sands Creek Restoration Project- West Branch of the Upper Delaware River (Innovation)</p> <p>\$99,954</p>	<p>Friends of the Upper Delaware</p>	<p>NY</p>	<p>The Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc. (FUDR) will help improve water quality and aquatic habitat in one of the most productive trout spawning tributaries of the Upper Delaware River. Sands Creek is a tributary to the West Branch of the Upper Delaware River located just north of the Village of Hancock in Delaware County, New York. The restoration project will enhance recreational angling opportunities, stabilize the stream bank to reduce erosion and sediment pollution, and mitigate the flooding impacts. Restoration work will include stream bank stabilization, placement of woody material, and gravel bar repair in strategic locations of the project.</p>
<p>Jenkintown Creek Restoration Project: McKinley Elementary School Stream Restoration (Upstream Suburban Philadelphia)</p> <p>\$54,251</p>	<p>The Tookany/ Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership</p>	<p>PA</p>	<p>The Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF) will enhance a 20,000 square foot area along 300 feet of the Jenkintown Creek headwaters stream by installing soil lifts and live staking along the streambanks. The riparian corridor will be cleared of invasives and planted with native trees and shrubs. Two additional vernal pools will be created to provide floodplain storage opportunities. The project will protect the watershed and create outdoor activities for the students' curriculum.</p>
<p>Wissahickon Headwaters Stream & Riparian Restoration (Upstream Suburban Philadelphia)</p> <p>\$190,000</p>	<p>Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association</p>	<p>PA</p>	<p>The Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association (WVWA) will prepare concept and construction plans for restoring 4,300 feet of the headwaters of Wissahickon Creek. The restoration would reconnect the stream to the adjacent floodplain and riparian habitat to improve hydraulic capacity of the floodplain and reduce sedimentation. WVWA will engage restoration experts to conduct investigations, prepare construction drawings, and apply for permits for the first of three phases of restoration construction for a reach of 1,775 feet. The restoration will take place within the PECO utility corridor and in cooperation with Upper Gwynedd Township, as they also implement best management practices within the Wissahickon Watershed.</p>



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<p>Green Infrastructure and Stream Buffer Restoration in the Wissahickon Watershed Headwaters (Upstream Suburban Philadelphia)</p> <p>\$300,000</p>	<p>Upper Gwynedd Township</p>	<p>PA</p>	<p>Upper Gwynedd Township will improve the quality of runoff at multiple discharge locations within the Wissahickon headwaters micro-watershed. The project will include the following: bioretention and riparian restoration between Grannery Lane and Elbow Avenue; a raingarden along Ivy Lane near Hancock Street; and a constructed wetland near Sumneytown Pike and Dickerson Road. Collectively, the projects will capture an estimated 6.28 ac-ft of runoff; reduce nitrogen load by 101.2 lb/yr; reduce phosphorous load by 56.4 lb/yr; and reduce sediment load by 24,974.8 lb/yr. Additionally, Upper Gwynedd Township will restore riparian corridors along the creek to maximize reductions.</p>
<p>Expanding Water Quality Improvements in the Brandywine/Christina Basin (Brandywine-Christina)</p> <p>\$80,000</p>	<p>Brandywine Valley Association</p>	<p>PA</p>	<p>The Brandywine Valley Association will focus on the upper west branch Brandywine and upper east branch Red Clay, which are quite different watersheds. The Brandywine is mostly agriculture, primarily dairy farms, while the Red Clay is largely urban/suburban land uses. The Brandywine activities will include stream restoration, livestock crossings and fencing, and a tree/shrub buffer. In the Red Clay, a 1,300 foot stream restoration will be completed which will combine with an existing 2,000 foot restoration immediately downstream to reduce sediment and nutrients in this impaired stream and accelerate the recovery process. Ongoing monitoring by Stroud Water Research Center will document improvement toward the goal of unimpaired streams. Partners in this project are Chester County Conservation District and Kennett Area Park Authority.</p>
<p>Bridgeton Community Aquifer Initiative Project (Kirkwood-Cohansey)</p>	<p>American Littoral Society</p>	<p>NJ</p>	<p>The American Littoral Society's Bridgeton Community Aquifer project will improve stormwater management and best practice implementation in Bridgeton, NJ (and surrounding area) and engage underserved communities in education and volunteer opportunities. Specifically, the project will coordinate with US Fish Wildlife Service for the design and creation of high visibility bioretention systems (rain gardens/swales) at 2 to 3 schools in the community. The project will engage students in Bridgeton, an at-need Abbott school district, in installation of the green infrastructure projects. Students will learn how stormwater behaves in</p>



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			<p>rural or undeveloped settings, as well as in urban settings. The American Littoral Society will develop a webpage detailing green infrastructure efforts in the area, including a web map where people can find the various public installations of green infrastructure. In addition, the NJDEP website, SJ Watersavers, and YouTube website will host Public Service Announcement on rain barrels and stormwater management and informational signage will be installed on targeted locations. The American Littoral Society expects this program to serve as a model for other similar communities facing water-quality issues.</p>
<p>\$120,654</p> <p>Leveraging USDA Funds for Water Quality in Middle Schuylkill Cluster (Middle Schuylkill)</p>	<p>Stroud Water Research Center</p>	<p>PA</p>	<p>The Stroud Water Research Center will leverage USDA funding from sources including Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program and others to implement agriculture best management practices (BMPs) on a whole farm basis, including forested buffers. Delisting of agriculturally-impaired streams will require load reductions through whole farm agriculture BMPs, and the stream habitat conditions provided by streamside forests. This project will provide resources to maximize the delivery of USDA programs for agriculture BMP implementation while advancing forested buffers for stream delisting. Stroud and partners will conduct robust outreach to increase farmer participation in USDA programs, provide technical assistance to farmers to plan and implement agriculture BMPs (especially through RCPP), inform, invite and incent farmers to install forested buffers, and take an active role as a partner in RCPP to assure its full utilization.</p>
<p>\$299,984</p> <p>Going Beyond Early Adopters: Increasing Commercial Property Investment and Adoption of Green Stormwater Infrastructure in the Philadelphia Metropolitan Region (Innovation)</p>	<p>Pennsylvania Environmental Council</p>	<p>PA</p>	<p>The Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Inc. (PEC) will partner with the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the International Facilities Management Association (IFMA-GFC) to improve water quality benefits, enhance habitat, and reduce pollutant loadings to streams through the engagement of new commercial landowners to adopt Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) on existing properties. In Partnership with IFMA-GFC, PEC will develop a GSI education program to reach a potential audience of over 400 members. The project includes development and implementation</p>



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\$52,301			<p>of four education programs promoting the use of GSI, consultation and evaluation of six properties for potential GSI enhancements, and technical assistance to advance two projects to preliminary design. The project will create methods to engage commercial property owners in the practice of stormwater management as part of their routine property investments, building awareness through education and outreach events, building capacity via targeted technical assistance, and sharing through peer to peer learning and interaction.</p>
<p>Burlington County Soil Conservation District And Camden County Soil Conservation District Agricultural Soil Health Initiative (Kirkwood-Cohansey)</p>	<p>Burlington County Soil Conservation District</p>	<p>NJ</p>	<p>The Burlington County Soil Conservation District (District) will increase awareness in the farming community about the benefits of soil and water conservation programs available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, with a goal of increasing the acreage of farmland applying conservation practices. The District will increase the knowledge base of staff in available conservation practices and create an outreach program to provide information to enrolled and unenrolled farmers that could benefit from the application of conservation practices. Outreach will include mailings, emails, phone canvassing, face to face interaction, field demonstrations, and classroom style seminars hosted at the District's offices. The District will administer and disburse mini grants to provide demonstration plots for various soil health conservation practices and will support the implementation of conservation practices not funded by NRCS but practices that meet NRCS standards and specifications.</p>
<p>\$50,000</p>	<p>The Tookany/ Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership</p>	<p>PA</p>	<p>The Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF) will install a bioretention area downstream of the previous restoration project at the Abington Friends School near the Abington Meeting House. During the last cycle of funding, TTF was awarded a grant to install a rain garden and 500' of riparian buffer at the Friends School. The next phase of restoration will be downslope of the athletic fields. The bioretention area will filter runoff from the fields which show indications of high concentrations of Canada geese. A riparian buffer will continue an additional 350' beyond the already installed 500'. Below the parking lot at the Meeting House, TTF will install a rain garden to capture runoff from the impervious area.</p>
<p>\$75,601</p>			



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<p>Leveraging Farm Bill Funds for Water Quality in the Brandywine-Christina Cluster (Brandywine-Christina)</p> <p>\$200,000</p>	<p>Stroud Water Research Center</p>	<p>PA</p>	<p>The Stroud Water Research Center will leverage USDA funding from sources including Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program and others to implement agriculture best management practices (BMPs) on a whole farm basis, including forested buffers. Delisting of ag-impaired streams will require load reductions through whole farm agriculture BMPs, and the stream habitat conditions (temperatures, organic inputs, substrate conditions) provided by streamside forests. This project will provide resources to maximize the delivery of USDA resources including RCPP for agriculture BMP implementation while advancing forested buffers for stream delisting. Stroud and partners will conduct robust outreach to increase farmer participation in USDA programs, provide technical assistance to farmers to plan and implement ag BMPs (especially through RCPP), inform, invite and incent farmers to install forested buffers, and take an active role as a partner in RCPP to assure its full utilization.</p>
<p>Enhancing a Model for Local Green Infrastructure Practices and Inspiring Land Stewardship Practices in the Kirkwood-Cohansey Watershed (Kirkwood-Cohansey)</p> <p>\$90,000</p>	<p>Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissioners</p>	<p>NJ</p>	<p>The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissioners (ANJEC) will increase the capacity of local government to adopt green infrastructure and accelerate adoption of such practices on private lands. ANJEC will educate municipal officials on best management practices for stormwater and how they can implement them in their communities. In partnership with local officials, ANJEC will install green infrastructure that serves as a model for private landowners and municipalities throughout the Kirkwood-Cohansey Cluster. ANJEC will also educate and mobilize property owners to improve water quality through enhanced stewardship practices for fertilizer application, primarily by educating officials and residents on responsible lawn fertilizer use with the goal of reducing nitrogen non-point source pollution runoff. In partnership with Environmental Commissions, ANJEC will develop materials to educate private landowners about how they can protect and restore local water quality through responsible use of lawn fertilizer and backyard stewardship.</p>



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<p>Agricultural Best Management Practices for the Kirkwood-Cohansey Cluster Focal Areas-Phase II (Kirkwood-Cohansey)</p> <p>\$107,391</p>	<p>New Jersey Audubon Society</p>	<p>NJ</p>	<p>The New Jersey Audubon Society (NJA) will build on the success, momentum, and lessons learned from its current (Phase I) project, and continue to conduct outreach and enroll landowners and producers in the implementation of agricultural best management practices (BMPs). NJA has engaged in ongoing close consultation—and has created a Memorandum of Agreement—with state and local NRCS and FSA staff to share information, and will do the same with farmers, county ag boards, and extension agents in the focal areas. In the current round of funding, NJA has so far provided outreach to at least 40 prospective NRCS customers, and has committed funding or is in the process of developing plans for more than 170 additional acres of soil- and water-conserving BMPs. With this foundation laid, in phase II NJA will focus on landowner education and targeted outreach. NJA will also make adjustments to the payment schedule to attract more producers to important but expensive projects such as grassed waterways.</p>
<p>2015 Schuylkill Action Network/Middle Schuylkill Agriculture Best Management Practices (Middle Schuylkill)</p> <p>\$300,000</p>	<p>Berks County Conservancy</p>	<p>PA</p>	<p>The Berks County Conservancy will install agriculture best management practices (BMPs) on farms to reduce nutrient transport to surface, ground, storm, and drinking waters. BMPs will be developed in conjunction with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Conservation and Nutrient Plans for nutrient recycling utilizing soil health and crop production over multiple substantial farm acreages; in Inventory and Evaluation outreach; and in engineered designs. BMPs include full suite of NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) practices including manure storage; decommissioning of failed practices; stormwater, barnyard, silo, and milk house controls; grazing and streambank fencing; stream crossings; riparian buffers and cover crops. Project monitoring for reduction of nutrients includes chemical, macro, and drinking water supply sampling as outlined in Middle Schuylkill Monitoring Plan.</p>



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<p>Off-Road Vehicle Restoration in Wharton State Forest (Kirkwood-Cohansey)</p> <p>\$77,500</p>	<p>Pinelands Preservation Alliance</p>	<p>NJ</p>	<p>The Pinelands Preservation Alliance will mitigate damage caused by illegal off road vehicles (ORVs) with increased enforcement, restoration of damaged sites and improved local polices. Illegal off-road vehicle use threatens preserved open space; off-road vehicles compact soils, disturb wetlands, destroy vegetation and cause sedimentation and erosion in waterways. The vehicles access areas that are not patrolled by law enforcement or traveled by the general public for activities such as birding, and hiking. This high-intensity recreation is responsible for damage to innumerable acres of open lands in the Pinelands, throughout the Delaware River Watershed and even throughout the country. PPA will work with nearly 30 partners to begin the restoration process by cleaning up trash, blocking access to and restoring at least 22 (totaling 22 acres) of 46 ORV damaged sites we monitored in Wharton State Forest. This project will create and manage volunteer monitoring and a work group to carry out these actions.</p>
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