Delaware River Restoration Fund

OVERVIEW
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced its seventh round of funding for Delaware River Restoration Fund (DRRF) projects. Ten new restoration grants totaling $1.84 million were awarded, generating $1.78 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of $3.62 million in 2020.

As part of the broader Delaware River Watershed Initiative, the William Penn Foundation provided $6 million in grant funding for NFWF to continue to administer competitively through the DRRF in targeted regions across the Delaware River watershed for a three-year period encompassing 2018-2020. These grants also address priorities in NFWF's Delaware River Watershed Business Plan. Delaware River Restoration Fund grants are multistate investments to implement practices and restore habitats that ultimately improve and protect critical sources of drinking water.

(continued)
TARGETED WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

Green Stormwater Infrastructure and Riparian Improvements at Overlook Elementary School (PA)
Grantee: Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association
Grant Amount: ........................................ $50,000
Matching Funds: ........................................... $22,085
Total Project: ............................................. $72,085
Install green stormwater infrastructure to better manage stormwater volume and filtration prior to discharge to the Sandy Run. Project will facilitate high-visibility improvements on school district properties to concurrently implement water quality improvements and allow for hands on environmental education at the schools.

Implementing Agricultural Best Management Practices in the Kirkwood Cohansey Aquifer IV (NJ)
Grantee: New Jersey Audubon Society
Grant Amount: ............................................ $159,108
Matching Funds: ........................................... $160,000
Total Project: ............................................... $319,108
Minimize agricultural impacts to water resources in the Kirkwood Cohansey Cluster geography of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative by targeting preserved farms and those with a diversity of crop types through the Healthy Land and Waters Grant program. Project will address key stressors to the Kirkwood Cohansey aquifer from agricultural and forested landscapes by implementing 250 acres of best management practices and 5 acres of wetland restoration.

Implementing Data-Driven Agriculture Conservation Practices in the Lower-Middle Musconetcong (NJ)
Grantee: North Jersey RC&D Area Inc.
Grant Amount: ............................................. $243,110
Matching Funds: ........................................... $435,500
Total Project: ............................................... $678,610
Increase implementation of agricultural best management practices in the Lower-Middle Musconetcong watershed in the New Jersey Highlands Cluster geography of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative. Project will utilize environmental data to target technical and financial assistance toward conservation practice implementation on over 1,000 acres, achieving the greatest positive impact on water quality.

Agricultural Best Management Practices and Buffers in Chester County Focus Areas (PA)
Grantee: Stroud Water Research Center
Grant Amount: ............................................. $242,906
Matching Funds: ........................................... $198,462
Total Project: ............................................... $441,368
Implement agricultural best management practices and forested buffers in the Brandywine-Christina Cluster of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative. Project will treat at least 1,516 acres with agricultural best management practices, including stormwater runoff controls for barnyards, mushroom compost processing areas, and grassed waterways on five to seven farms.

Push Back the Lawn - Incentivizing Landowners to Protect their Streams (NJ)
Grantee: Musconetcong Watershed Association
Grant Amount: ............................................. $175,000
Matching Funds: ........................................... $103,940
Total Project: ............................................... $278,940
Simplify and incentivize riparian buffers by conducting a community-based initiative within the Lower-Middle Musconetcong Watershed. Project will establish new or improved riparian buffers along 2 miles of the Musconetcong River through targeted outreach and planning with public and private river and tributary front landowners in the watershed.

Pocket Park Green Stormwater Infrastructure in the Cohansey Watershed (NJ)
Grantee: American Littoral Society
Grant Amount: ............................................. $95,632
Matching Funds: ........................................... $37,000
Total Project: ............................................... $132,632
Improve stormwater retention potential of a stormwater “pocket park” by installing tree trenches and increase the permeability of the park’s compacted soils with the use of deep rooted, native grasses. Project will reduce paved impervious surfaces and improve management of 30 pounds per year of total suspended solids in runoff that flows directly into Indian Field Branch.
Implementing Agricultural Best Management Practices in the Middle Schuylkill Cluster (PA)
Grantee: Berks Nature
Grant Amount: ....................................... $250,000
Matching Funds: .................................. $450,000
Total Project: ........................................ $600,000
Install whole-farm agricultural best management practices on farms located in priority focus areas within the Middle Schuylkill Cluster geography of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative. Project will play a role in a larger watershed approach addressing a critical mass of agriculture restoration initiatives by managing 614 acres with best management practices, resulting in an estimated 24,210 pounds of nitrogen reduced annually.

Fulmor Heights Green Stormwater Infrastructure Phase 1 (PA)
Grantee: Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust
Grant Amount: ....................................... $183,199
Matching Funds: .................................. $109,681
Total Project: ........................................ $292,880
Facilitate a phased plan to manage stormwater runoff, eroded creek-side slopes, and re-purpose a degraded stream corridor into a biodiverse and sustainable landscape that will re-establish the Pennypack Creek strategic geography as the community’s “green spine” and central recreational amenity. Project will connect the three largest landowners in the focus area through water quality improvement projects, reducing sediment load by nearly 2,400 pounds per year.

Water Quality Interventions in the Brandywine-Christina Watershed (PA)
Grantee: Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art
Grant Amount: ....................................... $100,000
Matching Funds: .................................. $140,000
Total Project: ........................................ $240,000
Restore water quality in the Delaware River Watershed by implementing water quality improvement projects that include agricultural best management practices, innovative nutrient reduction practices, and watershed-scale water quality interventions. Project will build on prior success to implement traditional and innovative best management practices known to improve water quality resulting in improved management.

CORNERSTONE GRANTS
Chester County Agricultural Best Management Practice Operation and Maintenance Initiative (PA)
Grantee: Chester County Conservation District
Grant Amount: ....................................... $324,450
Matching Funds: .................................. $115,868
Total Project: ........................................ $440,318
Provide operation and maintenance education, technical assistance, and financial assistance for previously installed agricultural best management practices within the Brandywine-Christina and Schuylkill Highlands focus areas of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative Clusters. Project will implement or repair at least 42 best management practices, including grassed waterways and roof runoff on an estimated 12 farms.