2021 Applicant Webinar Small Watershed Grants

Accelerating local implementation of innovative, sustainable, and cost-effective strategies to restore and protect water quality and vital habitats within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

NFWF — NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Will Parson, CBP

SG [3]1   add slides about match and PoP, awarding grants outside of priority areas, MS4 requirements, and min implementation acreage
Sydney Godbey, 2/16/2021

Agenda

1. Webinar Instructions
2. Overview of Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund
3. Review of 2021 Small Watershed Grants RFP
4. How to Submit a Proposal Using Easygrants

Jake Reilly,
Program Director

Stephanie Heidbreder,
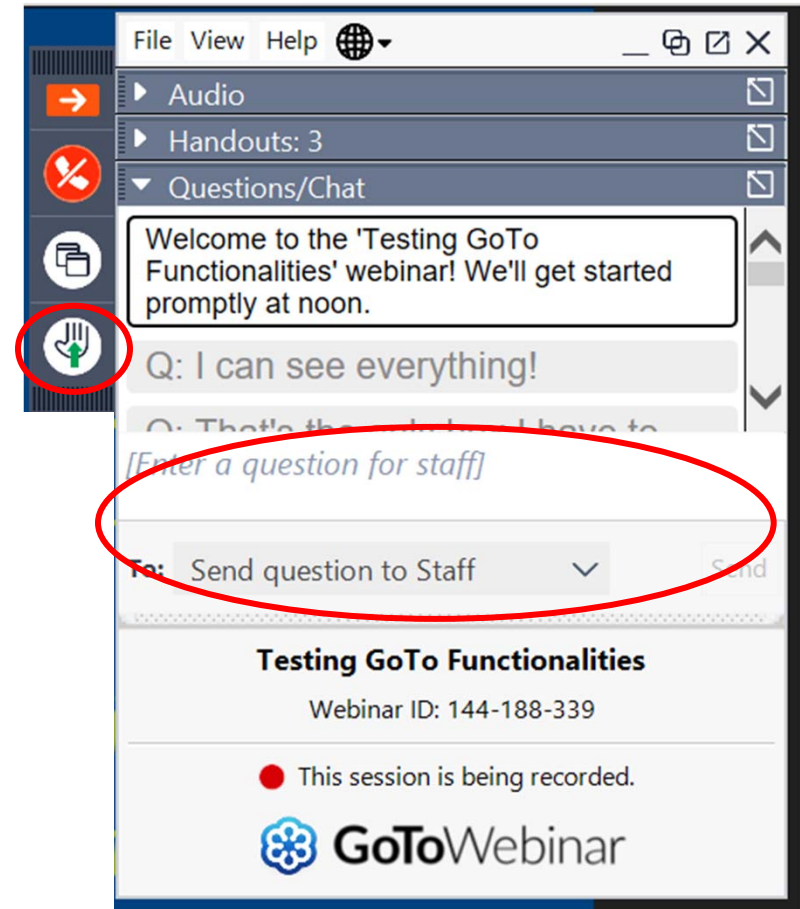Program Manager

Sydney Godbey,
Program Coordinator

1. Webinar Instructions

- To improve sound quality, all participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar. To ask a question:

    1. Enter your query where it says "Enter a question for staff" and click send. Syd will type a response or read your question aloud when we pause for Q&A. OR

    2. Write it down and contact us after the webinar.

- We may ask you to raise your "hand" in the webinar dialogue box to confirm participants can hear us.

- If you experience a technical glitch, please type it into the question box, since we can't hear you. (We may not know about the glitch unless you say something!)

The webinar will be available for download within 48 hrs at NFWF.org/Chesapeake

2. Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund
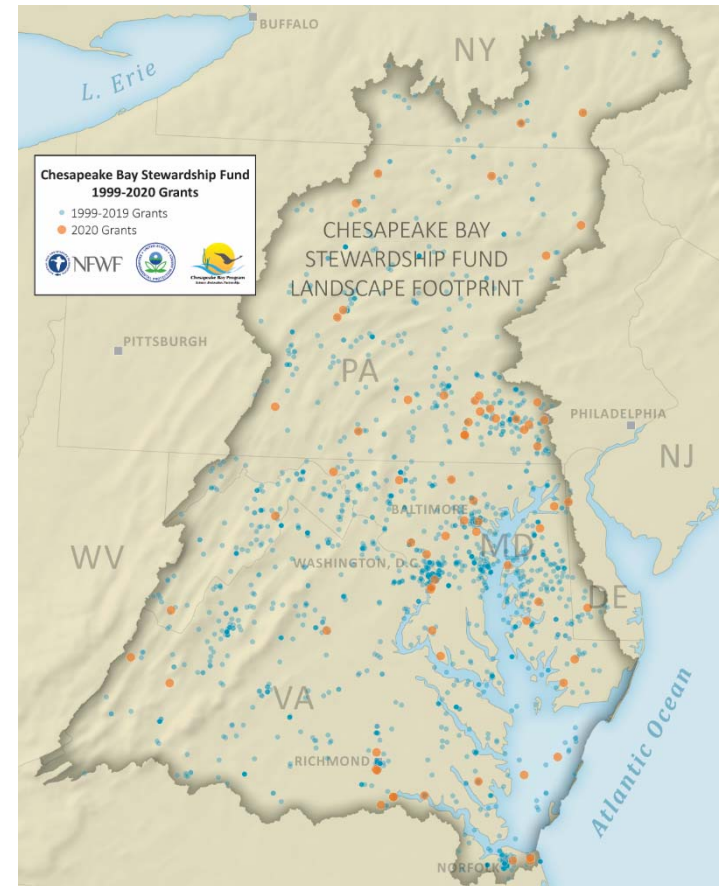
Purpose and History

- Accelerate local restoration actions and spur innovation in watershed restoration
- Delivered in partnership with EPA and the Chesapeake Bay Program
- 1,200+ grants totaling roughly $176M and leveraging $260M in additional local matching funds since 1999

Outcomes

- 25+ million pounds of nutrients pollution prevented
- 830,000+ acres of BMPs
- 40 acres of impervious surfaces removed
- 3 million+ citizens engaged
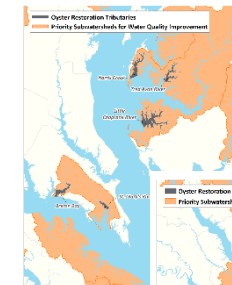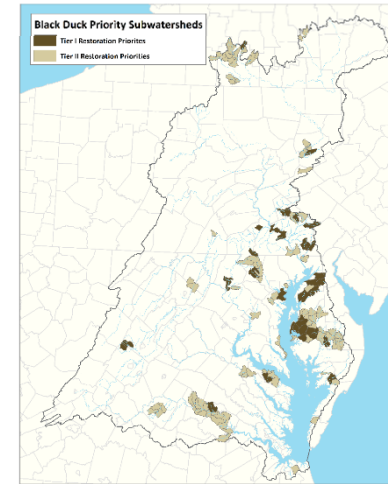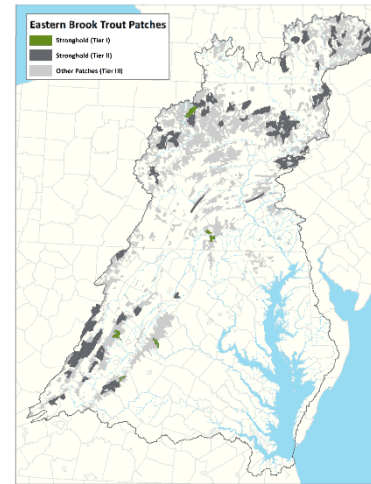
Chesapeake Bay Business Plan

- Provides a concise blueprint of NFWF's targeted conservation outcomes for the Chesapeake Bay
- Articulates NFWF's measurable contributions to goals and outcomes of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership

Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund
1999-2020 Grants
• 1999-2019 Grants
• 2020 Grants
NFWF

CHESAPEAKE BAY STEWARDSHIP FUND LANDSCAPE FOOTPRINT

2. Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund

Geographic Focus

- **Water Quality:** Priority sub-watersheds with significant opportunity to reduce nutrient and sediment loading, specifically from agricultural and urban sources

- **Species and Habitat:** Areas where species-specific interventions can help to improve habitat and restore populations for:

    - **Eastern brook trout**

    - **Eastern oysters**

    - **American black duck**

    - **River herring**

- NFWF will continue to fund efforts outside of priority subwatersheds

- Visit NFWF mapping portal for more info

Funding Partners

Agenda

1. Webinar Instructions
2. Overview of Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund
3. **Review of 2021 Small Watershed Grants RFP**
4. How to Submit a Proposal Using Easygrants

Jake Reilly,
Program Director

Stephanie Heidbreder,
Program Manager

Sydney Godbey,
Program Coordinator

3. Review of 2021 SWG RFP

SWG – Implementation	SWG – Planning/Technical Assistance
Grant Size: Between $50,000 and $500,000	**Grant Size:** Maximum of $50,000
Matching Funds: Non-federal match equal to one-third of grant request required	**Matching Funds:** No match contribution required
Eligibility: Non-profits, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal Governments and organizations, and K-12 educational institutions	**Eligibility:** Non-profits, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal Governments and organization, and educational institutions
Duration: ~2 years	**Duration:** <1 year
Outcome: On-the-ground implementation toward priority conservation outcomes	**Outcome:** Planning and technical assistance support to support future on-the-ground implementation efforts

Priority Outcomes

Focus	Outcome	Activity	Geographic Focus
Water Quality	Reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams	- Improve water quality in agricultural areas by implementing best management practices to reduce polluted runoff - Improve water quality in urban and suburban areas by implementing green stormwater infrastructure practices to treat, capture, and/or store stormwater runoff - Restore riparian forest buffer and associated riparian habitat in order to continually increase the capacity of forest buffers to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed - Improving the health and function tributary rivers and streams	Priority Subwatersheds for Water Quality Improvement
Eastern Brook Trout	Maintain and increase Eastern brook trout populations in stronghold patches	- Increase habitat integrity in stronghold patches through protection and restoration of riparian areas, stream restoration, nonpoint source pollution controls and land use protections	Eastern Brook Trout Patches (Tier I and II)
American Black Duck	Increase wetland habitat and available food to support wintering black duck populations	- Create, restore, or enhance the function of tidal and non-tidal wetlands to increase black duck carrying capacity through improved food resources - Increase available food resources	Black Duck Priority Subwatersheds (Tier I and II)
River Herring	Restore access and use of high quality migratory river and stream habitat	- Implement high priority, cost-effective connectivity enhancement projects through culvert replacement, fish passage improvements, and dam removal	Priority Culverts for River Herring
Eastern Oyster	Restore oyster populations in priority Chesapeake Bay tributaries	- Restore native oyster reefs in targeted tributaries through spat production and reef construction	Oyster Restoration Tributaries
Capacity and Planning	Motivate individuals in the watershed to adopt behaviors that benefit water quality, species, and habitats	- Enlist individuals in local volunteer events to restore local natural resources and providing hands-on education and skill-building for individual action - Develop or improve conservation, watershed, or habitat management plans that provide guidance to landowners, organizations, or local governments on how to manage properties and communities for improved conservation outcomes	N/A

NFWF
NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Priority Funding Strategies

1. Managing Agricultural and Urban Runoff

2. Riparian and Freshwater Habitat Restoration, Conservation, and Management

3. Estuarine and Tidal Habitat Restoration, Conservation, and Management

4. Building Capacity for Landscape-Scale Watershed and Habitat Outcomes

5. Watershed and Habitat Planning, Prioritization, Design, and Permitting

Will Parson, CBP

1. Managing Agricultural and Urban Runoff

o Managing upland agricultural runoff through farm-scale conservation systems and solutions.

o Managing upland urban runoff through Green Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements (GSI).

o Accelerating innovation in watershed management.

Matt Rath, CBP

2. Riparian/Freshwater Habitat

o   Restoring riparian habitats through forested buffers, floodplain and wetland reconnection, and stream restoration and habitat improvements

o   Increasing habitat integrity for eastern brook trout

o   Improving riparian management via livestock exclusion

o   Conserving high-quality riparian corridors

Will Parson, CBP

3. Estuarine/Tidal Habitat

o Restoring large-scale oyster reefs

o Restoring River Herring habitat connectivity

o Restoring and conserving wetland and tidal marsh habitat for American Black Duck

o Managing shoreline erosion and marsh loss

Will Parson, CBP

4. Building Capacity to Achieve Outcomes

o Regional-Scale Partnership Development

o Improving delivery of outreach and technical assistance

Will Parson, CBF

5. Planning, Prioritization, Design

o Assessing local watershed and habitat restoration needs and opportunities

o Designing and permitting watershed and habitat improvements

Will Parson, CBP

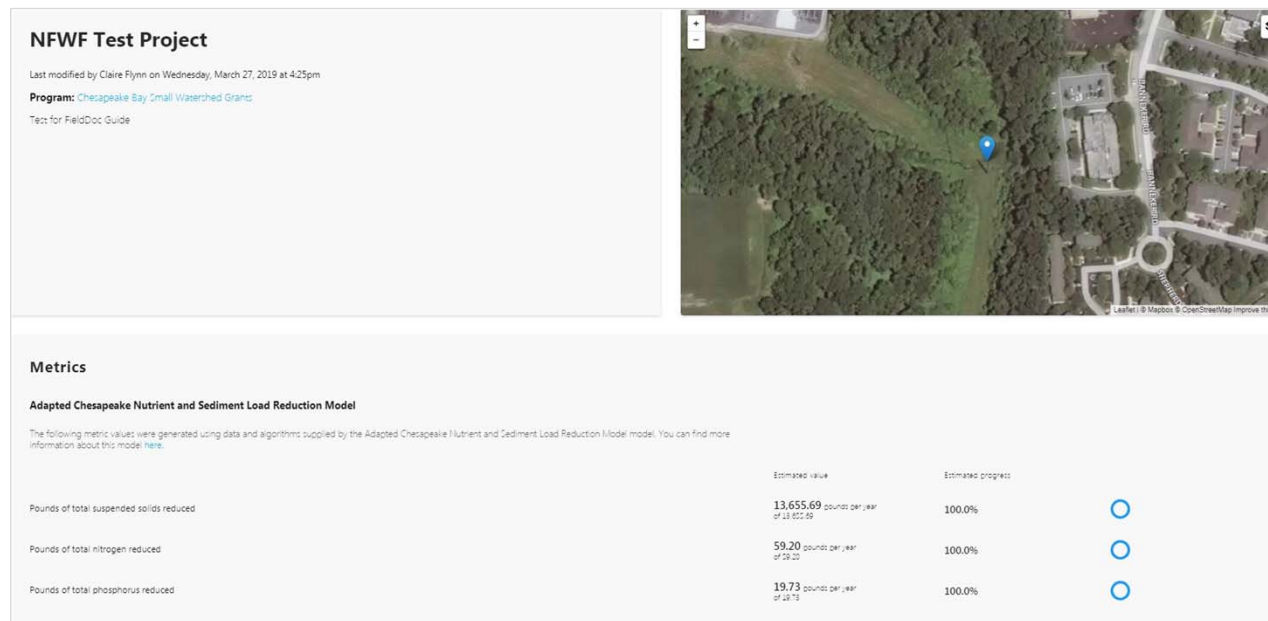| Strategy	Recommended Metric
Managing Agricultural and Urban Runoff (all applicable projects)	• CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Lbs N avoided (annually)* • CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Lbs P avoided (annually)* • CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Lbs sediment avoided (annually)*
Managing Agricultural and Urban Runoff	• CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with BMPs* • CBSF - BMP implementation for stormwater runoff - Acres with BMPs* • CBSF - BMP implementation for stormwater runoff - Volume stormwater prevented • CBSF - Green Infrastructure - number of trees plans
Riparian and Freshwater Habitat Restoration, Conservation, and Management	• CBSF - Riparian restoration - Miles restored* • CBSF - Instream restoration - Miles restored* • CBSF - Erosion control - Miles restored* • CBSF - BMP implementation for livestock fencing - Miles of fencing installed* • CBSF - Stream restoration - Miles restored* • CBSF - Floodplain restoration - Acres restored • CBSF - Wetland restoration - Acres restored* • CBSF - Land, Wetland Restoration – Number of trees planted
Estuarine and Tidal Habitat Restoration, Conservation, and Management	• CBSF - American oyster - Marine habitat restoration - Acres restored • CBSF - Fish passage improvements - Miles of stream opened • CBSF - Wetland restoration - Acres restored* • CBSF - Erosion control - Miles restored*
Building Capacity for Landscape-Scale Watershed and Habitat Outcomes	• CBSF - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people reached • CBSF - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people with changed behavior • CBSF - Volunteer participation - # volunteers participating
Watershed and Habitat Planning, Prioritization, Design, and Permitting	• CBSF - Management or Governance Planning - # plans developed • CBSF - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people reached • CBSF - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people with changed behavior

* Selected Easygrants metrics should be consistent with data entered into and/or derived from FieldDoc.org.

FieldDoc

NFWF has partnered with Chesapeake *Commons* to develop [FieldDoc](), a user-friendly tool that allows consistent planning, tracking, and reporting of selected water quality improvement activities and associated nutrient and sediment load reductions from proposed grant projects.

NFWF is hosting a demonstration webinar for FieldDoc on Thurs, February 18th at 1 PM EST.

Registration for the webinar can be found on NFWF's RFP page at: nfwf.org/chesapeake

Additional Details

- All applicants with **active grants from NFWF must be in good standing** in terms of reporting requirements, expenditure of funds, and QAPPs (if required).

- Applicants will be required to indicate the status of all permits required to comply with federal, state or local requirements.

- If projects involve significant environmental monitoring or data collection/generation, applicants will be asked to develop Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) as part of their grant. Applicants should budget time and resources to complete this task if appropriate.

- When procuring goods and services, NFWF recipients must follow documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable laws and regulations.

Eligibility

Small Watershed Grants – Implementation

✓ Eligible applicants include non-profits, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations, and K-12 educational institutions.

✕ Ineligible applicants include U.S. federal government agencies, state government agencies, institutions of higher education, businesses, unincorporated individuals, and international organizations.

Small Watershed Grants – Planning and Technical Assistance

✓ Eligible applicants include non-profits, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations, and educational institutions.

✓ Applications submitted by state governments agencies, and post-secondary educational institutions must *document support and/or request for proposed activities* by appropriate non-profit organizations, local and municipal governments, Indian tribes and K-12 education institutions.

✕ Ineligible applicants include U.S. federal government agencies, unincorporated individuals, for-profit entities, and international organizations.

Ineligible Uses of Funds

x   Projects that seek funding for land or easement *acquisition*, political advocacy, lobbying or litigation are **NOT** eligible.

x   Ongoing efforts to comply with legal requirements (except to improve on baseline compliance, or develop cost-effective programs to implement MS4 permit requirements).

Note regarding policy on indirect:

Grantees may only use grant funds for indirect costs if:

1) The grantee organization has a federally-approved indirect rate; OR

2) They can take the de minimus 10% indirect cost rate without an approved NICRA

Direct administrative expenses are allowed.

NFWF
Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Evaluation Criteria

NFWF will utilize the following evaluation criteria in determining full proposal invitations, formally evaluating submitted full proposals, and making final award decisions:

- **Conservation Outcomes**

- **Budget**

- **Technical Merit**

Will Parson, CBP

Evaluation Criteria: Conservation Outcomes

- **SWG-I:** Project will clearly and demonstrably result in meaningful **on-the-ground implementation of conservation and/or restoration actions** that contribute to priority outcomes of CBSF and the Watershed Agreement, supporting multiple priority outcomes where possible.

- **SWG-PTA:** Project will result in the delivery of **planning and technical assistance products and services** that meaningfully advance potential conservation or restoration implementation efforts.

- **All:** Project supports new and existing partnerships working to advance conservation and restoration actions in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

- **All:** Project incorporates plans and approaches to implement, verify and sustain conservation and restoration actions and outcomes beyond the timeframe of the grant.

- **All:** Project conveys a clear plan to transfer and disseminate project-related information to appropriate audiences and relevant stakeholders within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, with the goal of expanding adoption of successful approaches.

Evaluation Criteria: Budget

- The **quality and level of detail** in the budget and budget narrative provide a clear and detailed understanding of the proposed funding request.

- Proposal demonstrates **cost-effectiveness** in achieving its proposed outcomes, **considering both direct and indirect costs** in the proposed budget.

- Proposed **costs are reasonable** based on the work plan, local or regional costs for similar activities, and commensurate with project outcomes.

- **Budget clearly indicates the degree of partnership** in conducting the proposed work.

- Proposed funding request is well leveraged by the partners and other contributors through cash, in-kind, and other match.

Evaluation Criteria: Technical

- Proposal provides **specific goals** that correlate with a clear, logical, and achievable work plan, milestones, and timeline.

- Proposed **project team has the core competencies necessary** to implement the proposed activities and achieve the proposed outcomes as well as the commitment to engage technical experts necessary to ensure activities are scientifically and technically sound and feasible.

- Proposal demonstrates an **understanding of necessary permitting** and environmental compliance requirements and the ability to obtain necessary approvals consistent with the proposed work plan and timeline.

- Applicant organization has **demonstrated an ability to manage and implement similar projects** on time and within budget.

Timeline for 2021 Grants

- Proposals Due...............................11:59 PM, April 22nd, 2021

- Grants Announced.................September

- Grant Agreements Issued ....Likely starting in December

Will Parson CBP

Quick Tips for Applicants

✓ If you've never used Easygrants before, create your login *TODAY* and familiarize yourself with the system (easygrants.nfwf.org)

✓ Turn off your pop-up blockers. If you use Internet Explorer, turn them off again and again…

✓ Print the "Tip Sheet" from the Related Content section of the RFP webpage and use it as a reference tool, field-by-field in Easygrants.

✓ Do not mail letters of support to the office – upload electronic copies.

✓ Re-read the RFP. Call us if you're confused.

✓ Talk to people about your project idea. Listen to feedback.

✓ These are competitive grants. Your projects should have a "wow" factor.

✓ Be strategic first, opportunistic second.

✓ Submit your proposal **ON OR BEFORE April 22nd**

✓ Note that NFWF staff will not be in the office at 11:50 pm on April 22nd!

NFWF
Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

QUESTIONS?

(202) 857-0166 | www.nfwf.org/chesapeake

NFWF Chesapeake Staff:
Jake Reilly, Program Director
Jake.Reilly@nfwf.org

Syd Godbey, Program Coordinator
Sydney.Godbey@nfwf.org

Stephanie Heidbreder, Program Manager
Stephanie.Heidbreder@nfwf.org

Easygrants Questions
Easygrants@nfwf.org

Field Liaison Contact	Email	Phone	Sector Expertise
Kristen Saacke Blunk	kristen@headwaters-llc.org	(814) 360-9766	• All Sectors
Kristen Hughes Evans	kristen@susches.org	(804) 544-3457	• Agricultural Conservation
Liz Feinberg	liz.feinberg63@gmail.com	(610) 212-2345	• All Sectors
David Hirschman	dave@hirschmanwater.com	(434) 409-0993	• Stormwater/Urban Sector
Katie Ombalski	katie@woodswaters.com	(814) 574-7281	• Agricultural Conservation • Habitat Restoration

NFWF
Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

4. How to submit a proposal
Step One: Create an Account

NFWF

Enter your login ID and password and click **Log In** below. If you have forgotten your password, click **Forgot your password?** below.
If you are a first time visitor to this system, click **Register here** below.

❓ Frequently Asked Questions

Log In   New User?

Login ID / Email
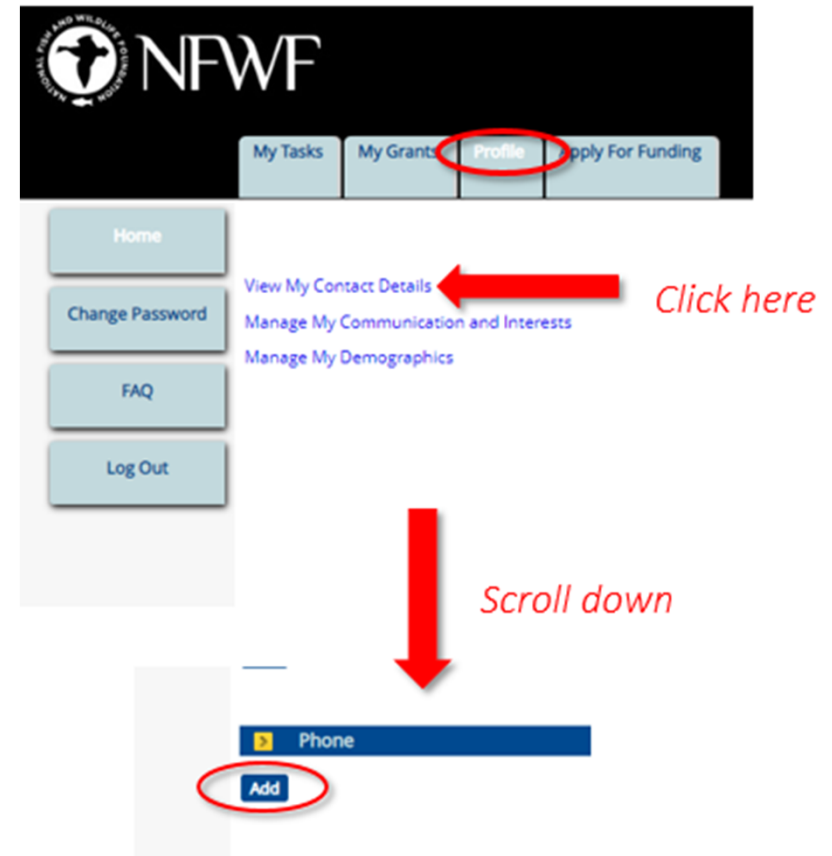
[   ]

Password

[   ]

☑ Remember Me   Forgot Password?

Log In

For the optimal Easygrants experience, please:

🏠 Use a Supported Browser   ▣ Enable Pop-ups   💼 Allow Cookies

📁 Only Use One Tab   ⬇ Get Adobe Reader

↪ Log Out and Close Browser for Security

For Technical assistance, please contact us via **e-mail** or phone 202-595-2497.
Download Adobe Reader
Powered by Easygrants™ v9.5.0

Please Add a Phone Number!

- Once you have created your Easygrants log-in and or you log-in as an existing user, please visit review your contact details and make sure that you provide a phone number.

Budget Tips

- **Concise Budget Narrative must be included for *every* line item.**

- Budget should only include the grant amount requested from NFWF

- Must comply with OMB's Uniform Guidance:

- Itemize all costs in appropriate budget categories.

- Avoid lumping costs i.e., All Materials and Supplies: $10,000.

- Total Amount Requested in Project Information section must equal the Budget Grand Total in Budget section

Financial and Other Documents

All financial documentation must:

- Represent the same fiscal year period

- be the most recent financial information available and *less than* two years old

Further details on document requirements and for FAQs visit our website:
https://www.nfwf.org/apply-grant/application-information

Will Parson, CBP

NFWF
NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Let's try it…

Questions?

NFWF Chesapeake Staff:
Jake Reilly, Program Director
Jake.Reilly@nfwf.org
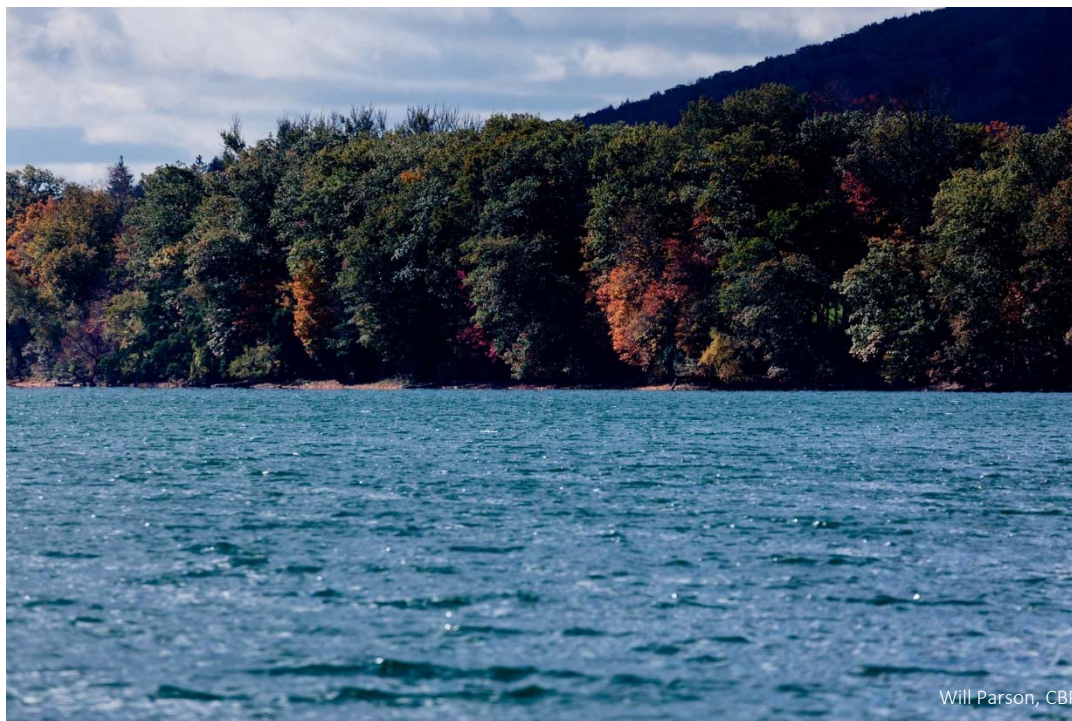
Stephanie Heidbreder, Program
Manager
Stephanie.Heidbreder@nfwf.org

Syd Godbey, Program Coordinator
Sydney.Godbey@nfwf.org

(202) 857-0166
www.nfwf.org/chesapeake

Will Parson, CBP