



# Chesapeake WILD Grants Program

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## FUNDING PARTNER



## ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

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Salt marsh sparrow

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a 2022 round of funding for the new Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (WILD) projects. Twelve new conservation and restoration grants totaling over \$3.5 million were awarded. The 12 awards announced generated \$4.5 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of over \$8 million.

The new Chesapeake WILD Grants program, authorized in late 2020, supports efforts to sustain natural resources and human communities, build capacity to address shared restoration and conservation priorities, and implement projects to conserve, steward, and enhance fish and wildlife habitats and related values throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

NFWF manages the Chesapeake WILD Grants program in partnership with government agencies and private corporations and in close coordination with the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership and federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program partnership. Major funding for the Chesapeake WILD Grants program is provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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Bog turtle

**MARYLAND**

**Protecting Habitat Migration Corridors Between Blackwater and the Nanticoke River Watershed (MD)**

Grantee: Eastern Shore Land Conservancy  
 Grant Amount:..... \$500,000  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$500,000  
 Complete conservation easements in a critical wildlife habitat and marsh migration corridor between Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and the Nanticoke River watershed. Project will permanently protect 300 acres through strategic landowner outreach efforts and support long-term resilience of wildlife populations and critical ecosystems of the Maryland’s lower Eastern Shore.

**Restoration Planning for Northwest Creek (MD)**

Grantee: Alliance for the Restoration of Northwest Creek (ARNC)  
 Grant Amount:..... \$75,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$30,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$105,000  
 Design and permit a restoration plan for Northwest Creek, a 100-acre tidal inlet on Kent Island that has been plagued with deteriorating water quality and habitat conditions for many years. Project will create new habitat for shallow water fish species and protected breeding grounds for other wildlife via the creation of marsh habitat and living shorelines.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**Implementing Conservation Easements and Resource Management Planning (PA)**

Grantee: WeConservePA  
 Grant Amount:..... \$150,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$210,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$360,000  
 Support local Pennsylvania land trusts in implementing conservation easements and developing resource management plans to inform long-term restoration and stewardship of conserved habitat. Project will permanently protect 980 acres across more than a dozen individual land conservation projects.

**Implementing Forest Management Practices to Promote Resiliency and Habitat (PA)**

Grantee: Indiana University of Pennsylvania Research Institute  
 Grant Amount:..... \$341,200  
 Matching Funds:..... \$85,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$426,200  
 Design and implement crop tree management and variable density thinning practices in young forest stands to improve the resiliency of oak forests and enhance habitat structure for species of greatest conservation need. Project will result in 800 acres of forest stewardship activities, development of management practice guidelines, and outreach and training targeting agency and consulting foresters.

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### **Improving Aquatic Organism Passage on Central State Gamelands (PA)**

Grantee: Western Pennsylvania Conservancy  
 Grant Amount:..... \$500,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$616,300  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$1,116,300  
 Complete aquatic organism passage projects on state game lands to benefit brook trout and other important and at-risk aquatic species. Project will result in 20 additional miles of accessible stream habitat through assessment and design, implementation, and monitoring of culvert replacement projects.

### **Protecting Critical Habitat and Water Quality in Western Tributaries (PA)**

Grantee: Western Pennsylvania Conservancy  
 Grant Amount:..... \$492,700  
 Matching Funds:..... \$556,000  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$1,048,700  
 Permanently protect forestland, wetland, and high-quality riparian corridors that serve as critical habitat for species of greatest conservation need. Project will work with private foundations, state agencies, and landowners to conserve 1,000 acres across central Pennsylvania.

## **VIRGINIA**

### **Establishing a Freshwater Mussel Restoration Plan in the James River Basin (VA)**

Grantee: James River Association  
 Grant Amount:.....\$51,800  
 Matching Funds:.....\$25,000  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$76,800  
 Create a James River Basin Freshwater Mussel Restoration Plan that will serve as an important tool for state government departments, federal agencies, nonprofits, and funders in mussel restoration efforts in the James River. Project will include a proactive restoration plan to guide planting activities, to identify areas for further surveys and investigation, and to establish strategic restoration objectives for the James.

### **Establishing a Plan for Freshwater Mussels (VA)**

Grantee: Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
 Grant Amount:.....\$73,800  
 Matching Funds:.....\$12,000  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$85,800  
 Increase habitat connectivity and quality for at-risk and federally-listed populations of native freshwater mussels by working with partners to create a Mussel Richness Map for Virginia and a Conservation Buffer Layer that will prioritize buffer placement to best enhance mussel habitat. Project will then convene partners to showcase these new tools and resources and facilitate coordination in support of freshwater mussel restoration and ongoing water quality restoration initiatives.

### **Short Hills Indigenous Wetland Assessment and Restoration Plan (VA)**

Grantee: NDPonics  
 Grant Amount:..... \$75,000  
 Matching Funds:.....\$1,125,000  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$1,200,000  
 Develop a wetland assessment and restoration and management plan for an indigenous-owned mountaintop forestland in Rockbridge County, Virginia. Project will provide essential data for critical future implementation efforts aimed at restoring wetland conditions to protect endangered species and migratory bird habitat while also preventing future aquatic ecosystem failure.

### **Waterfowl Management Capacity at the Doe Creek Wildlife Management Area (VA)**

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited  
 Grant Amount:..... \$476,400  
 Matching Funds:..... \$200,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$676,400  
 Enhance water management capabilities at Doe Creek Wildlife Management Area on Virginia's Eastern Shore through new water control structures and resilience improvements. Project will improve management of 147 acres of tidal wetlands for waterfowl and recreational benefit.

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

### **Leveraging Hunt Clubs and Conservation Hubs to Improve Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat (WV)**

Grantee: Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Trust  
 Grant Amount:..... \$275,900  
 Matching Funds:.....\$1,384,500  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$1,660,400  
 Expand wildlife habitat hubs and corridors in West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay watershed through permanent land protection and engagement of hunt clubs. Project will protect 1,000 acres of critical habitat for Eastern brook trout, freshwater mussels, several federally endangered species, and 60 other species of greatest conservation need.

### **Restoring James Spiny mussel Along Potts Creek (WV)**

Grantee: The West Virginia Land Trust  
 Grant Amount:..... \$499,800  
 Matching Funds:..... \$296,800  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$796,600  
 Preserve and restore one of two remaining populations of the endangered James spiny mussel along the South Fork of Potts Creek. Project will permanently protect a 40 acre tract, implement conservation practices, support a variety of wildlife and restore sections of Potts Creek that are critical to the resident James spiny mussel population.