2023 GRANT SLATE

Chesapeake WILD Grants Program

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FUNDING PARTNERS
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Altria

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 $8.1 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

OVERVIEW
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a 2023 round of funding for the Chesapeake Watershed Investments to Landscape Defense (WILD) projects. Twenty-five new conservation and restoration grants totaling more than $7.4 million were awarded. Twenty-five awards announced generated $12 million in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of more than $19.4 million.

The Chesapeake WILD program aims to accelerate direct on-the-ground conservation, stewardship, and enhancements of fish and wildlife habitats and related conservation values in the Bay watershed, while also enhancing the capacity of local and regional partners to implement future on the ground actions through community-based assessment planning, design, and other technical assistance-oriented activities.

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.

(continued)
2023 GRANT SLATE

- 2023 WILD awards
- Historic WILD projects
- Chesapeake Bay landscape footprint

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MARYLAND

Collaborating with Bowie State University in Natural Resource Management Planning and Habitat Restoration (MD)
Grantee: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
NFWF Subtotal: ................................. $579,600
Matching Funds: .............................. $682,000
Total Project: ................................... $1,261,600
Collaborate with partners to restore degraded habitat for imperiled species and develop a natural resources master plan for Bowie State University-owned woodlands and wetlands and Maryland Park Service-owned natural resource management areas adjacent to the university's main campus. Project will engage students through internships and entry level jobs, guided field experiences, and course integration.

Creating an Upstream Design Plan to Promote the Passage of Anadromous Fish Species and Prevent the Spread of Invasive Fish Species (MD)
Grantee: Maryland Department of Natural Resources
NFWF Subtotal: ........................................ $75,000
Matching Funds: .................................... $101,200
Total Project: ....................................... $176,200
Develop a technical design document that will highlight the infrastructure needed for researching risk-based conservation strategies. Project will result in a plan that will support the upstream passage of anadromous fish species and prevent the upstream spread of invasive fish species.

Developing a Conservation Management Plan for Wood Turtles (MD)
Grantee: Susquehannock Wildlife Society
NFWF Subtotal: ........................................ $75,000
Matching Funds: .................................... $13,500
Total Project: ....................................... $88,500
Use radio telemetry monitoring surveys of current wood turtle populations to better understand their habitat use and range. Project will host events to educate the public and develop a conservation management plan using collected data to highlight important habitat features and how they may be improved.

Eden Mill Dam Eel Ladder and Aquatic Connectivity Outreach (MD)
Grantee: Harford County
NFWF Subtotal: ........................................ $80,000
Matching Funds: .................................... $80,500
Total Project: ....................................... $160,500
Increase American eel populations beyond the Eden Mill Dam in Deer Creek and serve as a hands-on community outreach tool to educate the public about the importance of fish passages. Project will design and install an eel ladder that will result in opening over a 110 miles of American eel habitat.

Engaging Underserved Communities to Enhance Habitat for Imperiled Pollinator Species (MD)
Grantee: Baltimore Green Space
NFWF Subtotal: ........................................ $75,000
Matching Funds: .................................... $30,600
Total Project: ....................................... $105,600
Expand habitat for imperiled pollinators and gather data on bumble bees as an indicator species across 12 properties in Baltimore City. Project will engage underserved communities in this work by providing site leaders, community partners, and other stakeholders with education and technical assistance to support pollinator habitats.

Establishing a Conservation Initiative within a High Priority Area of Wetland Habitats (MD)
Grantee: Ducks Unlimited
NFWF Subtotal: ........................................ $125,000
Matching Funds: .................................... $75,000
Total Project: ....................................... $200,000
Deliver three wetland restoration projects totaling at least 20 acres in coordination with multiple landowners. Project will lay the foundation for a strong, targeted conservation initiative in a high priority area that is primed for protection and restoration.

Expanding Community Engagement and Habitat Connectivity in Baltimore (MD)
Grantee: National Aquarium
NFWF Subtotal: .................................... $232,700
Matching Funds: .................................... $169,500
Total Project: ....................................... $402,200
Partner to implement a co-creative community engagement plan focused on habitat restoration, stewardship, community science and meaningful education programming. Project will establish an 8,000-square-foot floating wetland habitat featuring a live oyster reef and pilot a network for native seed collection in support of Maryland’s 5 million trees initiative.
Restoring and Enhancing the Nepali American Cultural Center’s Green Infrastructure (MD)
Grantee: Nepal American Cultural Center of Baltimore
NFWF Subtotal: ............................................ $75,000
Matching Funds: ........................................... $44,700
Total Project: ............................................. $119,700
Develop a comprehensive plan that will restore and enhance the Nepal American Cultural Center’s green infrastructure and resilience. Project will create designs for stormwater management facilities, underground cisterns for rainwater harvesting, reforestation, meadows, a native tree nursery and removal of impervious surfaces.

Utilizing Partnerships to Restore the Noonan’s Run Tributary of the Little Patuxent River (MD)
Grantee: Earth Conservation Corps
NFWF Subtotal: ............................................ $74,900
Matching Funds: ........................................... $0
Total Project: ............................................. $74,900
Work with partners to restore 2,500 feet of an unnamed tributary, commonly known as Noonan’s Run, of the Little Patuxent River. Project will enhance habitat for several species of endangered birds, dragonflies, and freshwater mussels and also work with AmeriCorps members to provide underserved youth with hands-on experiences and pathways to pursue green careers.

NEW YORK
Assessing Habitat and Enhancing Resiliency for Brook Floater Mussel Populations in the Susquehanna (NY)
Grantee: The Research Foundation for SUNY on behalf of SUNY Oneonta
NFWF Subtotal: ............................................ $73,700
Matching Funds: ........................................... $0
Total Project: ............................................. $73,700
Address current scientific knowledge gaps and assess potential habitats needed to rebuild brook floater mussel populations. Project will develop a plan to evaluate alternative sites and conduct habitat assessments that consider stream character, substrate compositions and water quality.

VIRGINIA
Building Collaborative Capacity for Conservation and Public Access in the Rappahannock River (VA)
Grantee: Friends of the Rappahannock
NFWF Subtotal: ............................................ $61,000
Matching Funds: ........................................... $2,500
Total Project: ............................................. $63,500
Build capacity for the Rappahannock River Roundtable to lead a partnership-based conservation and public access workgroup that will operate on a landscape-scale. Project will host a series of strategic planning workshops and partner meetings to establish guiding principles following a collective impact model.

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Collaborating with Partners to Conserve and Improve Public Access to the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (VA)
Grantee: Friends of the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
NFWF Subtotal: ........................................ $582,200
Matching Funds: ........................................ $695,000
Total Project: ........................................ $1,277,200
Collaborate with partners to restore, conserve and improve access to the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Project will execute an action plan that will conserve the refuge’s ecosystems and make it more accessible and enjoyable for the public and traditionally underserved communities.

Creating a Model for Urban Habitat Restoration within the Elizabeth River Watershed (VA)
Grantee: The Elizabeth River Project
NFWF Subtotal: ........................................ $650,000
Matching Funds: ........................................ $185,000
Total Project: ........................................ $835,000
Collaborate with over 20 partners to create a model for urban habitat restoration. Project will co-create additional habitats, reconnect habitats, improve water quality, and engage approximately 16,000 individuals from underserved communities while also improving their access, recreation and education.

Developing Best Management Practices for Enhanced Landowner Participation in Eastern Box Turtle Conservation (VA)
Grantee: Smithsonian Institution
NFWF Subtotal: ........................................ $75,000
Matching Funds: ........................................ $0
Total Project: ........................................ $75,000
Develop the technical capacity needed to inform the selection of best management practices for eastern box turtle populations on private lands. Project will then work with private landowners to co-develop said practices for diffusion and adoption across a private lands conservation network.

Establishing an Indigenous Conservation Council for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (VA)
Grantee: Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia
NFWF Subtotal: ........................................ $183,000
Matching Funds: ........................................ $485,000
Total Project: ........................................ $668,000
Establish a Chesapeake Bay watershed conservation council led by federally recognized indigenous tribes. Project will provide access to the rivers and land previously denied to this underserved population, rebuild fish and wildlife habitats, and protect cultural resources that are being lost to development and sea level rise.

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Improving Aquatic Recreation Access and Opportunities at Four Mile Run Park (VA)
Grantee: Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation
NFWF Subtotal: ......................................... $75,000
Matching Funds: ......................................... $75,000
Total Project: ............................................ $150,000
Create a public ADA-accessible kayak and canoe launch site.
Project will result in the opening of 1.5 miles of Four Mile Run and provide the first such access to the Run and to the Potomac River Water Trail within the entire Washington, DC metro area.

Introducing a Companion Mussel Species to Serve as a Biomarker for Future Brook Floater Survivability (VA)
Grantee: Northern Virginia Regional Commission
NFWF Subtotal: ........................................... $75,000
Matching Funds: ........................................... $55,600
Total Project: ............................................. $130,600
Select and introduce a companion mussel species to serve as a biomarker for future brook floater introduction. Project will evaluate stream conditions and closely monitor the companion species’ success in order to determine if the brook floater can survive in the same habitat.

Permanently Protecting Wildlife Corridors in the Shenandoah Valley (VA)
Grantee: Valley Conservation Council
NFWF Subtotal: ......................................... $749,500
Matching Funds: ......................................... $2,620,000
Total Project: ............................................. $3,369,500
Expand the permanent protection of wildlife corridors across 15 properties totaling over 2,000 acres. Project will prevent additional development in the area, require the adoption of best management practices, and lay the groundwork for future green infrastructure work that will benefit several plant and animal species in high elevation wetlands.

Piloting an Engagement-Based Approach in Underserved Communities to Protect and Restore Tidal Marshes and Blue Crab Populations (VA)
Grantee: Criminal Injustice Reform Network
NFWF Subtotal: ........................................... $75,000
Matching Funds: ........................................... $0
Total Project: ............................................. $75,000
Pilot an engagement-based approach to protect and restore tidal marshes and blue crab populations. Project will provide underserved communities with the education and agency needed to participate in decision-making processes directly impacting their resilience.

Restoring Freshwater Mussel Communities and Riparian Buffers to Enhance the James River Watershed (VA)
Grantee: James River Association
NFWF Subtotal: .......................................... $748,500
Matching Funds: .......................................... $748,500
Total Project: ............................................. $1,497,000
Restore freshwater mussel communities and 60 acres of riparian buffers to enhance the James River watershed. Project will establish a greater understanding of the connection between riparian buffer maturity and the condition of the associated instream habitat and its ability to support freshwater mussels.

Reacquiring Ancestral Lands on the Rappahannock River to Restore Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitats (VA)
Grantee: Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia
NFWF Subtotal: .......................................... $750,000
Matching Funds: .......................................... $2,850,000
Total Project: ............................................. $3,600,000
Acquire over 700 acres of ancestral homelands along the Rappahannock River and apply the Rappahannock Tribe’s traditional knowledge of sustainable stewardship. Project will enhance the purchased land by reforesting and conserving aquatic and terrestrial habitats to improve biodiversity and