



Chesapeake Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants Program

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FUNDING PARTNER

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) works with partners to foster sustainable and impactful conservation solutions so that people and nature thrive together. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest conservation foundation. Since its founding, NFWF has funded more than 23,300 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of \$11.3 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org



Dairy cows in Pennsylvania

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service announced a 2025-year round of funding for Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction projects. Fifteen new or continuing water conservation grants totaling \$21.6 million were awarded. The 15 awards announced leverage \$16.4 million in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$38 million.

The Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund's Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Program aims to accelerate the implementation of water quality improvements specifically through the collaborative and coordinated efforts of sustainable, regional-scale partnerships and networks of practitioners with a shared focus on water quality restoration and protection.

(continued)

Accelerating Forested Buffers and Livestock Exclusion in the Lower Susquehanna River Watershed (PA)

Grantee: Stroud Water Research Center

Grant Amount: \$2,000,000

Matching Funds: \$1,351,600

Total Project Amount: \$3,351,600

Accelerate the installation of state-of-the-art forested buffers and livestock exclusion practices in the Lower Susquehanna River basin in Pennsylvania. Project will install buffers on 45 farm sites, resulting in nearly almost 16 miles of new buffers and post-planting care to accelerate long-term buffer performance and success.

Accelerating Stream Restoration and Water Quality Improvements on Cocalico Creek (PA)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$1,600,000

Matching Funds: \$631,100

Total Project Amount: \$2,231,100

Accelerate water quality and community resilience in Pennsylvania's Cocalico Creek watershed through wetland, floodplain and stream restoration. Project will restore over 1,285 linear feet of stream, 5 acres of wetlands and 5 acres of floodplain.

Accelerating Wetland Restoration on the Delmarva (DE, MD, VA)

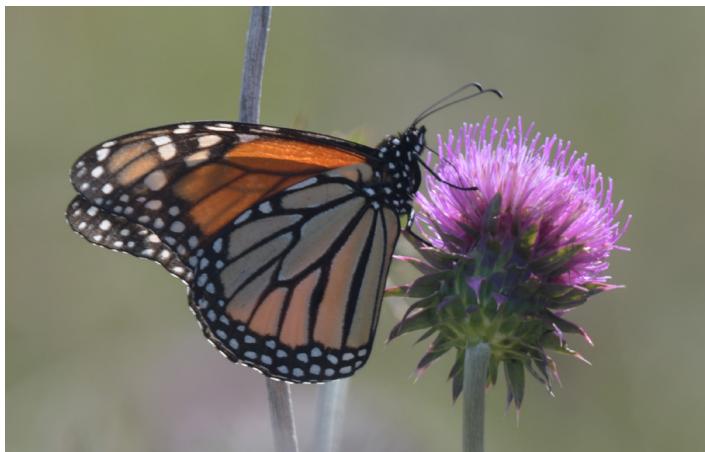
Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount: \$1,163,800

Matching Funds: \$150,000

Total Project Amount: \$1,313,800

Accelerate progress toward collective wetland restoration goals for the Chesapeake Bay watershed by developing and implementing novel restoration practices in priority locations for water quality and resilience. Project will implement 200 acres of wetland restoration and 70 acres of associated buffer habitat in key locations across the Chesapeake Bay portion of the Delmarva Peninsula.



Monarch butterfly along a riparian border whose restoration was funded by NFWF

Advancing the Living Shoreline Collaborative for Coastal Resilience and Improved Water Quality (VA)

Grantee: James River Association

Grant Amount: \$1,925,300

Matching Funds: \$1,938,300

Total Project Amount: \$3,863,600

Expand efforts to promote living shorelines in the James River watershed through partner coordination, training programs, monitoring tools and demonstration projects. Project will install two living shorelines, implement a large-scale agricultural living shoreline, and expand training and monitoring programs.

Advancing Nature-based Infrastructure and Tree Canopy in Rappahannock and York River Watersheds (VA)

Grantee: Friends of the Rappahannock

Grant Amount: \$1,989,500

Matching Funds: \$2,038,700

Total Project Amount: \$4,028,200

Expand partnerships with community organizations and local governments to improve nature-based stormwater and tree canopy in the Rappahannock and York River region. Project will accelerate the rate and scale of high-priority conservation efforts, supporting water quality improvements, community planning workshops, targeted outreach, increased technical capacity, and the implementation of tree canopy best management practices in Virginia.

Enhancing Capacity of Farmer-led Organizations to Expand Conservation Delivery in Virginia

Grantee: Sustainable Chesapeake

Grant Amount: \$1,999,100

Matching Funds: \$1,999,000

Total Project Amount: \$3,998,100

Increase capacity of farmer-led organizations to help dairy and row crop farmers access conservation resources across Virginia's Chesapeake Bay watershed. Project will support 10 dairy farmers in adopting whole-farm conservation plans, expand manure injection on 1,000 acres and provide incentives for 2,500 acres of cover crops.

Enhancing Shoreline Restoration Outcomes in Virginia through Mosaic Living Shorelines

Grantee: The Elizabeth River Project

Grant Amount: \$1,984,700

Matching Funds: \$695,900

Total Project Amount: \$2,680,600

Accelerate the implementation of mosaic living shorelines that integrate shellfish reefs, tidal marshes and upland buffers. Project will create 20 mosaic shorelines and work with regional partners and universities to improve erosion control and nitrogen reduction, enhance wetland plant economy and host community workshops and education programs.

Filling Technical and Capacity Gaps for the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (MD, NY, PA)

Grantee: Susquehanna River Basin Commission

Grant Amount: \$488,800

Matching Funds: \$672,000

Total Project Amount: \$1,160,800

Lead efforts to fill technical and capacity gaps in priority implementation areas for the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (CWIP). Project will hire a coordinator to provide focused oversight of CWIP activities and add capacity to apply for funding, implement projects, and assist in project tracking and reporting, with the goal to accelerate water quality improvements in the Susquehanna River Basin.

Implementing Forest Buffers and Livestock Exclusion at State Farm (VA)

Grantee: Virginia Department of Corrections

Grant Amount: \$553,900

Matching Funds: \$0

Total Project Amount: \$553,900

Accelerate livestock exclusion, restore riparian forest buffers, and support conservation education and workforce development in the James River watershed. The project will install 5.2 miles of cattle exclusion fencing and restore 48 acres of riparian forest buffer at the State Farm facility operated by the Virginia Department of Corrections.

Implementing On-the-ground Forest Restoration Support in New York and Pennsylvania

Grantee: Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District

Grant Amount: \$1,906,400

Matching Funds: \$1,906,400

Total Project Amount: \$3,812,800

Accelerate the implementation of tree planting practices across New York and Pennsylvania within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Project will focus on riparian restoration and the expansion of buffers in floodplains and underutilized fields, aiming to enhance canopy cover, reduce surface water temperatures, and provide outreach and training for afforestation efforts.

Improving On-farm Nitrogen Management Decision-making (DE, MD, NY, PA, VA)

Grantee: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Grant Amount: \$901,600

Matching Funds: \$901,600

Total Project Amount: \$1,803,200

Deploy improved nitrogen management support tools to reduce agricultural nitrogen loading and enhance water quality. Project will update and implement an existing nitrogen management support tool developed by the Pennsylvania State University on approximately 60,000 acres, aiming to reduce applied nitrogen fertilizer applications across the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Improving Sustainability Outcomes on Dairy Farms in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (MD, NY, PA)

Grantee: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000

Matching Funds: \$1,000,000

Total Project Amount: \$2,000,000

Improve water quality, ecological resilience and biodiversity outcomes through enhanced adoption of conservation practices on dairy farms. Project will support farmers and landowners in installing riparian forest buffers and implementing best management practices that provide water quality, climate and biodiversity outcomes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed portions of New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

Improving Tree Canopy Within Communities in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (PA)

Grantee: Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Grant Amount: \$2,000,000

Matching Funds: \$1,000,000

Total Project Amount: \$3,000,000

Address urban tree canopy loss in communities across Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay watershed by promoting tree planting and care on private properties. Project will engage residents to plant 16 acres of new urban forest, support around 4,800 homeowners by enhancing natural areas, improving air and water quality and creating a sustainable model for community forestry that can be replicated across the region.

Leveraging Regional Coordination to Accelerate Watershed Restoration in Virginia

Grantee: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000

Matching Funds: \$1,000,000

Total Project Amount: \$2,000,000

Leverage regional coordination to accelerate implementation of watershed restoration practices. Project will accelerate the implementation of non-agricultural BMPs and strategies to meet local area planning goals based on local conditions, knowledge and needs, improving water quality throughout Virginia's Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Scaling Up Biochar Partnerships in the Chesapeake Bay (DC, DE, MD, NY, PA, VA, WA)

Grantee: Center for Watershed Protection

Grant Amount: \$1,153,500

Matching Funds: \$1,153,600

Total Project Amount: \$2,307,100

Accelerate the rate and scale of biochar application in urban and agricultural landscapes across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Project will increase nutrient and sediment reduction through best management practice implementation with biochar, improving runoff reduction and water quality, and through technical assistance promotion, hosting agricultural roundtables, training, biochar testing, creating specifications, and hosting a community of practice.