



# Chesapeake Small Watersheds Grants Program

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## FUNDING PARTNER

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

## 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.

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Bald eagle on an oyster reef

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a 2025-year round of funding for the Chesapeake Small Watershed (SWG) Program. Fifty-seven new conservation and restoration grants totaling more than \$23 million were awarded. The 57 awards announced leveraged \$14 million in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of more than \$37 million.

The SWG Program focuses on supporting direct, on-the-ground actions to protect and restore water quality, species and habitats in the Chesapeake Bay watershed (SWG Implementation). Projects funded through this program also work to enhance local capacity to more efficiently and effectively implement future on-the-ground actions through assessment, planning, design and other technical assistance-oriented activities (SWG Planning and Technical Assistance).

NFWF manages the Chesapeake SWG 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 SWG Grants program is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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**SWG PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE****Improving Water Quality and Restoring Habitat by Retrofitting Stormwater Ponds at Fort Lincoln (DC)**

Grantee: District Department of Energy & Environment  
 Grant Amount:..... \$150,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$67,500  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$217,500  
 Retrofit three large regional stormwater ponds in Washington, D.C., to improve the quality of stormwater being discharged to the Anacostia River. Project will advance the restoration of 255 acres of combined drainage area, enhance pond performance for current and future climatic scenarios, and reduce stress upon several species of birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals receiving water downstream.

**Design and Permitting for Living Shoreline Restoration on Kate's Point Farm (MD)**

Grantee: Eastern Shore Land Conservancy  
 Grant Amount:..... \$149,300  
 Matching Funds:..... \$0  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$149,300  
 Design and obtain permits for a living shoreline and marsh habitat improvement at Kate's Point Farm in Trappe, Maryland, that will reduce nutrient and sediment runoff from the agricultural land use of the property, improve water quality and increase local biodiversity through habitat creation. Project will develop a restoration plan to create 1,522 linear feet of hybrid living shoreline, 1 acre of marsh habitat, and nearly 1 acre of forested riparian buffer on Kate's Point Farm in Trappe, Maryland.

**Designing Improved Nature-Based Stormwater Infrastructure in Jones Falls Watershed in Baltimore (MD)**

Grantee: Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)  
 Grant Amount:..... \$150,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$320,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$470,000  
 Advance efforts to transform three underutilized properties of the Maryland Institute College of Art into public accessible space to manage stormwater along Falls Road in Baltimore, Maryland. Project will engage community stakeholders in a collective co-design process alongside engineers and landscape designers to develop comprehensive plans for transforming an urban alleyway, a vacant parcel, and a demolished building site into vibrant and functional nature-based stormwater infrastructure.

**Forest Inventory and Management Plans for the Town of Brentwood and Capitol Heights (MD)**

Grantee: The Neighborhood Design Center  
 Grant Amount:..... \$70,900  
 Matching Funds:..... \$20,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$90,900  
 Complete a community-informed street tree inventory,

assessment, and design process for the Town of North Brentwood and City of Capitol Heights in Prince George's County, Maryland. Project will educate residents to recognize the values of street trees as part of the overall urban forest and offer hands-on workshop to train municipal staff and volunteers to identify key species, recognize tree characteristics and assess general tree condition within neighborhoods.

**Implementing an Agricultural Conservation Educational Program for Communities in Maryland**

Grantee: Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation  
 Grant Amount:..... \$25,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$12,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$37,000  
 Implement a hands-on conservation educational program for communities in Maryland. Project will provide training to 2,000 students, leverage an existing 131 acres of farm to increase conservation literacy, and expand implementation of demonstration conservation practices including agroforestry, farm scaping, land management, permaculture, regeneration and community connections.

**Improving Water Quality in the Severn River through Nature-Based Stormwater Infrastructure (MD)**

Grantee: Severn River Association  
 Grant Amount:..... \$113,200  
 Matching Funds:..... \$15,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$128,200  
 Improve water quality of the Severn River by reducing total nitrogen, phosphorus and total suspended solids flow from stormwater runoff in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Project will collaborate with local communities and other nonprofits to design and construct nature-based stormwater infrastructure, plant native species while removing invasive species to create a pollinator-friendly habitat, and create an outdoor classroom with educational signage to raise environmental awareness.

**Nature-Based Stormwater Infrastructure Technical Assistance with the Maryland Municipal League**

Grantee: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay  
 Grant Amount:..... \$150,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$35,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$185,000  
 Improve the delivery of technical assistance to small towns in Maryland to drive implementation of nature-based solutions for managing upland urban runoff. This project will fill a key capacity gap by providing direct nature-based stormwater infrastructure technical assistance through the Maryland Municipal League, a trusted local government network, in order to accelerate progress toward meeting clean water goals.

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### Planning and Technical Assistance for Coastal Agriculture Easements (MD)

Grantee: University of Maryland

Grant Amount:..... \$149,900

Matching Funds:..... \$30,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$179,900

Provide planning and technical assistance in collaboration with scientists, local landowners, nonprofits and government agencies for the development of coastal agricultural easements, designed to be adaptive to coastal inundation and saltwater intrusion while maintaining conservation and agricultural production values. Project will pilot the program on a 300-acre farm in Dames Quarter, Maryland, adopt nature-based solutions, and enhance habitat for species such as American black duck.

### Planning and Technical Assistance for Oyster Reef Restoration in the Upper St. Mary's River (MD)

Grantee: St. Mary's River Watershed Association

Grant Amount:..... \$53,000

Matching Funds:..... \$15,900

Total Project Amount:..... \$68,900

Develop designs that incorporate feedback from at least 30 stakeholders and submit all required permit applications to restore one to two acres of three-dimensional oyster reefs in the upper St. Mary's River in Maryland. Project will conduct pre-restoration surveys and prepare technical plans for building and deploying 250 reef balls while involving 300 community members to enhance oyster habitat and improve water quality.

### Providing Technical Assistance for Conservation Easement Projects on Maryland's Eastern Shore

Grantee: Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$50,000

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$50,000

Assist regional land conservation efforts on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Project will provide technical assistance in managing current and future easement projects, outreach and

education to landowners, due diligence contracting and legal document drafting of 10 new conservation easements.

### Strengthening the Langford Watershed Alliance (MD)

Grantee: Washington College

Grant Amount:..... \$150,000

Matching Funds:..... \$211,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$361,000

Advance capacity building, partner coordination, stakeholder engagement and technical planning for restoration implementation for and by the Lanford Watershed Alliance. Project will formalize governance and structure for the Langford Watershed Alliance, engage one-on-one with landowners to gauge interest in common conservation strategies that have proven successful elsewhere, and develop a community-informed watershed-wide plan for future conservation and restoration actions.

### Tolchester Beach Living Shoreline Design (MD)

Grantee: National Wildlife Federation

Grant Amount:..... \$150,000

Matching Funds:..... \$38,900

Total Project Amount:..... \$188,900

Design a living shoreline at Tolchester Beach in Maryland to reduce erosion, flood risk and enhance nature-based features like oyster reefs and native vegetation. Project will complete planning and design for a 1,200-foot living shoreline with multiple co-benefits, including reduced flood risk and erosion, increased oyster habitat, enhanced community resilience and new educational opportunities.

### Updating the National Wetland Inventory to Support Wetland Restoration Planning in Maryland

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount:..... \$149,800

Matching Funds:..... \$20,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$169,800

Build capacity for landscape-scale wetland protection and restoration by updating the regional wetland maps for the National Wetland Inventory in Montgomery, Howard, and Carroll counties, Maryland. Project will use LiDAR, up-to-date imagery, ancillary data, and mapping techniques to improve wetland conservation and restoration planning and prioritization.

### Implementing Nature-Based Stormwater Infrastructure in Elmira, New York

Grantee: Chemung County

Grant Amount:..... \$148,700

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$148,700

Implement nature-based stormwater infrastructure in Elmira, New York. Project will mitigate overflow events by retrofitting a representative area of the existing urban streetscape with permeable pavers and street trees and providing underground basins for infiltration.



Brook trout

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**Developing Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans for Preserved Farms in Lancaster County (PA)**

Grantee: Lancaster Farmland Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$100,000

Matching Funds:..... \$115,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$215,000

Develop comprehensive nutrient management plans to help scale agricultural conservation practice implementation in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Project will support the development of 20 comprehensive nutrient management plans on preserved farms across Lancaster County, setting the stage for future implementation projects that will deliver reduced nutrient and sediment pollution to the Chesapeake Bay.

**Evaluation and Design of Watershed Restoration Practices in Southeastern Pennsylvania Watersheds**

Grantee: Brandywine Conservancy &amp; Museum of Art

Grant Amount:..... \$149,000

Matching Funds:..... \$60,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$209,000

Evaluate opportunities and develop designs for nature-based watershed restoration practices within the Octoraro Creek, Elk Creek and Northeast River watersheds, Pennsylvania. Project will develop designs for projects that not only manage stormwater effectively but also enhance air quality, regulate temperature, provide wildlife habitat, and reduce energy and water consumption.

**Expanding Community Schoolyards Program as Nature-Based Solutions in Northeastern Pennsylvania**

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land

Grant Amount:..... \$150,000

Matching Funds:..... \$25,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$175,000

Cultivate partnerships with municipalities and school districts across northeastern Pennsylvania to expand the Community Schoolyard model as a landscape-scale, nature-based solution for more communities in the Susquehanna and Lackawanna river watersheds. Project will conduct outreach to assess local feasibility and partner capacity and support site selection and project design for expanding this innovative approach across the region.

**Feasibility Study and Alternatives Analysis for Dock Street Dam in the Susquehanna River (PA)**

Grantee: American Rivers

Grant Amount:..... \$150,000

Matching Funds:..... \$100,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$250,000

Develop an alternative analysis for improving fish passage at Dock Street Dam on the Susquehanna River at Harrisonburg,

Pennsylvania. Project will use stream gage data and National Flood Insurance Program data, together with in-kind match data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, to analyze alternatives for addressing aquatic organism passage at the dam, including full dam removal, partial dam removal, a fish bypass alternative and others to be identified.

**Moving Toward Implementation of the First Fork Sinnemahoning Assessment and Management Plan (PA)**

Grantee: Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$131,000

Matching Funds:..... \$25,500

Total Project Amount:..... \$156,500

Develop implementation-ready designs and restoration plans under the First Fork Sinnemahoning Assessment and Management Plan. Project will complete municipal and private landowner outreach for nutrient and sediment reduction practices, complete design and permitting for stream restoration and aquatic organism passage projects, and sustain local biological and water quality monitoring efforts.

**Building Community Capacity for Coastal Restoration and Protection in Virginia's Historic Triangle**

Grantee: University of Virginia

Grant Amount:..... \$149,900

Matching Funds:..... \$59,600

Total Project Amount:..... \$209,500

Build local capacity to plan and act on community-driven priorities to protect and restore water quality and critical Chesapeake Bay habitats in Virginia's Historic Triangle. Project will partner with local governments, nonprofits and community members to identify and advance six locally selected priorities to install riparian buffers, coastal ecosystems and wetlands throughout the Historic Triangle in the tributaries of the James and York Rivers.

**Establishing a Process-Based Restoration Working Group in Virginia**

Grantee: American Climate Partners

Grant Amount:..... \$63,500

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$63,500

Create a Virginia working group of experts and stakeholders to identify opportunities, impediments and solutions for advancing process-based stream restoration efforts in Virginia. Project will hold four regional meetings, provide workshops focused on advancing river and floodplain ecosystem restoration approaches that require minimal corrective interventions.

**Renovating the River Star Homes Program (VA)**

Grantee: The Elizabeth River Project  
Grant Amount:..... \$149,700  
Matching Funds:..... \$0  
Total Project Amount:..... \$149,700  
Conduct an evaluation of the River Star Homes program to improve outreach in areas with poor water quality. Project will modernize the program’s restoration project database and management systems to improve efficiency and explore new funding strategies for long-term stewardship of restoration practices.

**Stony Run Watershed Plan (VA)**

Grantee: Town of Ashland  
Grant Amount:..... \$144,900  
Matching Funds:..... \$34,400  
Total Project Amount:..... \$179,300  
Develop a watershed plan for a 4-mile stretch of Stony Run to assess watershed conditions affecting water quality, backwater conditions and flooding in the Town of Ashland, Virginia. Project will help the Town of Ashland meet its clean water goals by engaging local students and businesses to complete a watershed plan that provides a holistic assessment of Stony Run ecosystem, provides recommended enhancements, including stream restoration, forested buffer, flood attenuation and stormwater retrofits.

**Advancing a Pay-for-Success Riparian Forest Buffers Outcome Fund (MD, PA, VA)**

Grantee: Environmental Policy Innovation Center  
Grant Amount:..... \$149,400  
Matching Funds:..... \$50,000  
Total Project Amount:..... \$199,400  
Conduct stakeholder engagement and deliver technical assistance about innovative models for financing riparian forest buffers in Maryland and other Chesapeake Bay states across multiple stakeholder groups. Project will increase knowledge of buffers across the regulated stormwater community and prospective voluntary investors in buffer restoration and finalize a Pay-for-Success Riparian Forest Buffers Outcome Fund to increase the pace and scale of riparian forest buffer acres installed across the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

**Building Momentum for Dam Removal in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (MD, NY, PA, VA, WV)**

Grantee: American Rivers  
Grant Amount:..... \$150,000  
Matching Funds:..... \$50,000  
Total Project Amount:..... \$200,000  
Build momentum for voluntary dam removal in the Chesapeake Bay watershed through support of communities of practice, development of priority prospective and active dam removal project lists, and development of dam removal state-level strategies. This project will enhance collaboration, thoughtful planning, and coordinated initiatives to advance



American black duck

the practice of dam removal in Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

**Bundling Producer-Led Agricultural Conservation Practices (DE, MD)**

Grantee: Shorersivers  
Grant Amount:..... \$149,700  
Matching Funds:..... \$215,000  
Total Project Amount:..... \$364,700  
Engage agricultural producers in an innovative producer-led approach to create implementation plans for high-priority agricultural conservation practices in the Upper Choptank watershed in Maryland and Delaware. Project will engage 40 producers in the planning of 40 acres of grassed buffer restoration, 10 acres of wetland restoration, 1,000 acres of enhanced nutrient management, 100 acres of drainage water management and 50 acres of erosion control measures.

**Mentorship Program for Sustainable Grain Farming in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (DE, MD, NY, PA, VA)**

Grantee: Sustainable Chesapeake  
Grant Amount:..... \$150,000  
Matching Funds:..... \$28,000  
Total Project Amount:..... \$178,000  
Support two integrated strategies to reduce nutrient and sediment loss from farmland across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Project will provide intensive mentorship for Virginia farmers on no-till grain production and facilitate continued collaboration among Chesapeake Bay Land Grant University nutrient management leaders on multiple priority projects related to soil health and nutrient management.

**Piloting a Producer-Led Watershed Restoration Program (DE, MD)**

Grantee: Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
 Grant Amount:..... \$146,800  
 Matching Funds:..... \$0  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$146,800  
 Pilot a program to fund two producer-led groups in Maryland and Delaware to work in small watersheds, exploring innovative strategies to improve water quality. Project will empower participating producers with the flexibility to pursue a variety of strategies, including cost-share or insurance for innovative practices, education and outreach, soil testing, monitoring, on-farm trials or demonstrations, and other activities that will advance the implementation of conservation in their watersheds.

**SWG IMPLEMENTATION****Accelerating Nature-Based Stormwater Management Implementation in Communities of Faith (MD)**

Grantee: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay  
 Grant Amount:..... \$600,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$29,300  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$629,300  
 Engage four congregations in Maryland to implement nature-based stormwater management practices. Project will construct nature-based stormwater infrastructure projects on congregational campuses to treat stormwater runoff from a total of 11.5 acres, develop customized maintenance programs for each congregation, and engage of congregational members and other stakeholders through experiential learning opportunities.

**Cultivating Workforce Development and Nature-Based Solutions in Central Maryland**

Grantee: Howard EcoWorks  
 Grant Amount:..... \$256,500  
 Matching Funds:..... \$222,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$478,500  
 Implement nature-based stormwater solutions and workforce development programming in communities vulnerable to flooding and other natural hazards. Project will engage 750 people, create 25 jobs to advance the implementation of nature-based stormwater solutions, and improve more than 7 acres of natural areas by planting 350 trees, installing 7,500 square feet of native conservation landscapes, managing 5 acres of woodlands and installing 3,500 linear feet of beaver dam analogs.

**Enhancing Farmer Engagement in Agricultural Cost-Share and Incentive Programs in Maryland**

Grantee: University of Maryland  
 Grant Amount:..... \$250,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$0  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$250,000  
 Implement educational programs across Maryland

through classroom instruction, hands-on training and facilitated networking. The project will expand outreach and engagement among Maryland farmers to increase participation in federal and state agricultural cost-share and incentive programs.

**Expanding Buffers to Improve Habitat and Water Quality across Maryland's Eastern Shore**

Grantee: Shorerivers  
 Grant Amount:..... \$453,800  
 Matching Funds:..... \$0  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$453,800  
 Expand riparian buffers to improve habitat and water quality across four agriculturally dominated watersheds on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Project will leverage existing programs and offer incentives to both landowners and leased land operators with a goal of implementing 20 acres of forest buffers and 105 acres of grass buffers.

**Expanding Flood Mitigation and Forestry Care Strategies in Baltimore (MD)**

Grantee: Baltimore Green Space  
 Grant Amount:..... \$356,700  
 Matching Funds:..... \$196,800  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$553,500  
 Improve forestry efforts in Baltimore through coordinated forest management efforts, community outreach and educational workshops, training and application of cutting-edge forest monitoring techniques. Project will engage 3,000 Baltimore residents through outreach and 600 volunteers in forestry programming at six urban forest sites.

**Improving Watershed, Habitat and Community Health in the Anacostia River Watershed (MD)**

Grantee: Nature Forward  
 Grant Amount:..... \$311,300  
 Matching Funds:..... \$194,100  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$505,400  
 Improve, protect, and conserve water quality and habitats around the Northwest and Northeast Branches of the Anacostia River. Project will engage 400 people in hands-on watershed education, design and installation of nature-based stormwater management practices, and ongoing habitat monitoring efforts.

**Lower Shore Grassland Restoration Initiative (MD)**

Grantee: Lower Shore Land Trust  
 Grant Amount:..... \$309,200  
 Matching Funds:..... \$50,300  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$359,500  
 Engage private landowners and faith-based institutions to promote grassland restoration practices across Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore. Project will install 60 acres of native grassland habitat on private and congregational lands in Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset counties, Maryland.





Saltmarsh sparrow

### Restoring Tidal Wetlands and Enhancing Habitat for Saltmarsh Sparrow at Irish Grove Sanctuary (MD)

Grantee: National Audubon Society

Grant Amount:..... \$610,600

Matching Funds:..... \$115,900

Total Project Amount:..... \$726,500

Implement tidal wetland restoration using runnels to repair the hydrology of waterlogged and ponded marsh at Irish Grove Sanctuary in Somerset County, Maryland. The project will restore 73 acres of salt marsh to improve habitat conditions for breeding saltmarsh sparrows and reduce flood and erosion risk for local transportation infrastructure.

### Riparian Buffer and Upland Restoration and Land Conservation in the Antietam Watershed (MD)

Grantee: Catoctin Land Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$595,300

Matching Funds:..... \$2,228,400

Total Project Amount:..... \$2,823,700

Advance strategic habitat restoration and conservation priorities of the Heart of Maryland Collaborative. Project will plant 30 acres of riparian buffers and 10 acres of upland trees and conserve 500 acres of habitat along Antietam Creek in Washington County, Maryland.

### Watershed Approach to Stormwater Management through Environmental Restoration (MD)

Grantee: Blue Water Baltimore

Grant Amount:..... \$997,900

Matching Funds:..... \$564,900

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,562,800

Partner with congregations, neighborhood associations, and local government agencies to engage local communities in the design, implementation, and long-term stewardship of nature-based stormwater management efforts in Baltimore City and Baltimore County, Maryland. Project will treat runoff from 2 acres of impervious surface, remove 5,000

square feet of impervious surface, plant more than 700 trees and distribute an additional 1,000 trees to more than 350 households across 17 neighborhoods.

### Wylie Brook Watershed Habitat Improvement Initiative (NY)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount:..... \$401,600

Matching Funds:..... \$250,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$651,600

Launch the Wylie Brook Watershed Habitat Improvement Initiative to improve brook trout habitat in New York's Upper Susquehanna region. Project will implement large wood structures and riparian plantings to enhance thermal refuge, spawning habitat, water quality, and floodplain connectivity, and remove two barriers to restore almost 5 miles of upstream habitat for brook trout.

### Closing Agricultural Conservation and Management Gaps in Priority Pennsylvania Watersheds

Grantee: Stroud Water Research Center

Grant Amount:..... \$1,000,000

Matching Funds:..... \$1,694,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$2,694,000

Address gaps in agricultural management and conservation implementation in small headwater catchments in Pennsylvania that have already received significant outreach and investment in order to achieve local stream water quality improvement. Project will restore more than 10 acres of riparian forest buffers and implement more than 1,200 acres of watershed restoration practices.

### Implementing Agricultural Best Management Practices in Lebanon County (PA)

Grantee: Lebanon County Conservation District

Grant Amount:..... \$900,000

Matching Funds:..... \$280,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,180,000

Reduce nonpoint source pollution impacting freshwater streams and riparian habitats in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania through the implementation of agricultural best management practices. Project will install cover crop, manure injection, streambank fencing, and barnyard stabilization practices across more than 2,500 acres.

### Piloting Upland Forest Planting on Agricultural Lands in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (PA)

Grantee: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Grant Amount:..... \$171,500

Matching Funds:..... \$48,200

Total Project Amount:..... \$219,700

Implement forest planting on upland agricultural lands in the Chesapeake Bay watershed portion of Pennsylvania. Project will convert 15 upland acres of marginal agricultural land to forest and will demonstrate the feasibility and efficiency of upland forest planting for meeting water quality goals in Pennsylvania.

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**Reconnecting and Restoring Eastern Brook Trout Habitat in the Kettle and Pine Creek Watersheds (PA)**

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount:..... \$530,200

Matching Funds:..... \$299,500

Total Project Amount:..... \$829,700

Improve habitat for native brook trout within three subwatershed tributaries to Kettle and Pine creeks in central Pennsylvania. Project will remove two barriers on Elk Lick Run to open 4.5 miles of upstream habitat and restore 19 miles of stream habitat through strategic wood addition.

**Watershed Forestry and Freshwater Mussel Research in York County (PA)**

Grantee: Watershed Alliance of York (WAY)

Grant Amount:..... \$847,700

Matching Funds:..... \$70,300

Total Project Amount:..... \$918,000

Advance York County, Pennsylvania's successful Watershed Forestry Program to accelerate riparian forest buffer implementation and local freshwater mussel conservation efforts. Project will work with landowners to survey freshwater mussel community, plant trees and implement 100 acres of riparian forest buffers.

**Accelerating Conservation and Restoration of Riparian Corridors in the Virginia Piedmont**

Grantee: The Piedmont Environmental Council

Grant Amount:..... \$590,600

Matching Funds:..... \$563,800

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,154,400

Collaborate with and assist landowners in accessing technical service providers and federal and state agriculture cost-share programs to accelerate riparian habitat restoration and conservation. Project will restore 60 acres of riparian buffers and 10 acres of upland forest, and conserve 3,750 acres with easements that establish permanent riparian buffers.

**Advancing Water Quality Protection through Agricultural and Agroforestry Practices (VA)**

Grantee: Friends of the Rappahannock

Grant Amount:..... \$824,400

Matching Funds:..... \$850,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,674,400

Advance the adoption of voluntary agricultural conservation and agroforestry practices by working with local soil and water conservation districts and other partners in the Upper York and Rappahannock River watersheds of Virginia. Project will protect 450 acres of buffer with stream exclusion fencing, plant 50 acres of silvopasture, and implement 500 acres of prescribed grazing.

**Farmer-Led Innovations in Cover Cropping (DC, DE, MD, VA)**

Grantee: Sustainable Chesapeake

Grant Amount:..... \$999,500

Matching Funds:..... \$1,004,200

Total Project Amount:..... \$2,003,700

Support farmer-led innovations to improve water quality, soil health and farm profit across the Chesapeake Bay watershed through expanded adoption of cover crop practices. Project will engage 90 farmers and implement 4,050 acres of cover crops and nutrient management practices.

**Hampton Living Shoreline Learning Lab (VA)**

Grantee: Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Grant Amount:..... \$967,300

Matching Funds:..... \$48,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,015,300

Create a living shoreline learning lab to improve water quality and wildlife habitat of the Hampton River watershed and expand the network and expertise of living shoreline practitioners and scientists. Project will restore 1,268 linear feet of shoreline, create nearly 1 acre of new wetlands, nearly 2 acres of riparian buffer and expand nearby oyster habitat.

**Improving Soil Health Management and Clean Water through Farmer-led Mentor Networks (DE, MD, PA, VA)**

Grantee: American Farmland Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$989,700

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$989,700

Cultivate farmer-led mentor networks to promote soil health practices among row crop and grain-rotation farmers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Project will train and deploy a cohort of farmer mentors and service providers to deliver 4,500 acres of cover crops, 3,000 acres of conservation tillage, and 3,000 acres of enhanced nutrient management practices.

**Integrating Nature-Based Stormwater Solutions at the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont (VA)**

Grantee: Botanical Garden of the Piedmont

Grant Amount:..... \$1,000,000

Matching Funds:..... \$1,359,900

Total Project Amount:..... \$2,359,900

Implement a nature-based stormwater management system at the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont to capture and filter runoff from rooftops and paved areas. Project will capture and treat runoff from a 14.7-acre site through nature-based solutions that improve local water quality, enhance and protect native habitat, and engage volunteers, partner organizations, schools and local governments.



### **Mentoring and Capacity Building for Conservation and Community Partners in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed**

Grantee: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Grant Amount:..... \$500,000

Matching Funds:..... \$250,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$750,000

Support education, mentoring, and capacity building among local community groups, small environmental nonprofits, local governments to accelerate Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration efforts. Project will host stakeholder convenings to address technical and organizational capacity needs, grow workforce development and related training opportunities, and provide mentoring support for local organizations.

### **Promoting Manure Injection as Sustainable Best Management Practices on Dairy Farms in Virginia**

Grantee: Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District

Grant Amount:..... \$499,700

Matching Funds:..... \$1,132,500

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,632,200

Expand and promote manure injection coupled with nutrient management as a standard and sustainable application method for manure management on dairy farms in the Piedmont area of the James River watershed in Virginia. Project will reduce nitrogen and phosphorus pollutant loads in five counties by implementing 8,500 acres of manure injection practices.

### **Scaling Community-Led Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Across the Elizabeth River (VA)**

Grantee: The Elizabeth River Project

Grant Amount:..... \$744,800

Matching Funds:..... \$408,800

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,153,600

Expand community-led stormwater solutions and habitat restoration efforts across the Elizabeth River. Project will collaborate with over 60 scientists, engage 14,000 students, 1,000 volunteers and 20,000 residents in field-based learning and citizen science programs to build support for watershed stewardship.



Great blue heron

### **Enhancing Brook Trout Habitat and Connectivity in the North Branch of the Potomac Watershed (MD, WV)**

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount:..... \$812,100

Matching Funds:..... \$370,900

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,183,000

Reconnect and restore aquatic habitat and improve water quality in brook trout strongholds in the North Branch of the Potomac River watershed within West Virginia and Maryland. Project will reach 40 new landowners, install more than 2 miles of agricultural exclusion fencing and riparian plantings, restore 32 acres of riparian forest habitat and implement 250 acres of agricultural conservation practices.

### **Enhancing Innovation and Economic Viability through On-Farm Conservation (MD, PA, VA, WV)**

Grantee: Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Grant Amount:..... \$939,700

Matching Funds:..... \$267,800

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,207,500

Enhance adoption of innovative conservation technologies and improve economic viability through the combination of education, capacity building and targeted case studies that demonstrate agricultural management solutions capable of enhancing economic viability and environmental performance. Project will implement nearly 1,700 acres of agricultural conservation practices, including managed grazing and riparian forest buffers.

### **Growing the Upper Susquehanna Coalition's Water Quality Program Meet Watershed Needs (NY, PA)**

Grantee: Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District

Grant Amount:..... \$500,000

Matching Funds:..... \$411,500

Total Project Amount:..... \$911,500

Expand the Upper Susquehanna Coalition's successful Water Quality Program to include nutrient management and soil health practices, while accelerating implementation of other critical watershed restoration practices. Project will implement 5,000 acres of cover crops, 2,500 acres of reduced tillage, 2,500 acres of manure injection, 8 miles of riparian forest buffer, 240 acres of grazing, 14 acres of agroforestry and 10 acres of wetland restoration.

### **Using Technology to Scale the Adoption of Adaptive Nitrogen Management (DE, MD, PA, VA)**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$989,800

Matching Funds:..... \$240,500

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,230,300

Implement an innovative cover crop sensor technology to map nitrogen credits resulting from the use of multi-species cover crops. Project will reduce the application of 200,000 pounds of nitrogen fertilizer on 10,000 acres in watersheds with high agricultural nitrogen loading across southcentral Pennsylvania, central Maryland, and the Delmarva peninsula.