



# Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund

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## PARTNERS

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- AstraZeneca
- 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.

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

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Delaware River

## BACKGROUND

The Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund (DWCF) addresses near-term and long-range issues identified by the Delaware River Basin Restoration Partnership and Program Framework, for measurable gains for fish and wildlife conservation, clean water, access to outdoor recreation, and other values and natural and economic benefits for people living in the basin. Major funding for DWCF is provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with additional funding provided by AstraZeneca and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The fund was launched in 2018 as a first step toward bringing together various stakeholders invested in restoration and conservation efforts throughout the Delaware River watershed to address different strategic program areas and cross-program activities, build networks, and improve efficiency and focus at a basin-wide scale.

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## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### The strategic program areas of DWCF include:

- Sustain and enhance fish and wildlife habitat restoration and conservation activities
- Improve and maintain water quality to support fish and wildlife, as well as habitats of fish and wildlife, and drinking water for people
- Sustain and enhance water management for volume and flood damage mitigation improvements to benefit fish and wildlife habitat
- Improve recreational opportunities for public access in the basin consistent with the ecological needs of fish and wildlife habitat

### Cross-program activities include:

- Engage the public through outreach, education and citizen involvement to increase capacity and support for coordinated restoration and protection activities in the basin
- Facilitate strategic planning to maximize adaptive potential of natural systems in changing watershed conditions
- Increase scientific capacity to support planning, monitoring and research activities necessary to carry out coordinated restoration and conservation activities in the basin
- Provide technical assistance for restoration and conservation activities
- Conserve areas of regional significance

Projects under the fund are implemented entirely within the Delaware River watershed. DWCF's investments target areas of regional significance for restoration and conservation in order to support ongoing efforts, increase capacity, and facilitate maximum adaptive potential in changing watershed conditions.

Covering 13,539 square miles of land and water, the Delaware River watershed is home to native brook trout, red knots, river herring, freshwater mussels, oysters and many other species that are economically, ecologically and culturally important to the region. Headwaters and streams located in rural, forested and agricultural areas play a major role in the entire ecosystem, as do urban and suburban waterways such as those in Trenton and Philadelphia.

DWCF awards grants to projects that address these strategies. Since 2018, the Fund has awarded \$85.5 million to 270 projects, which generated over \$120 million in match, for a total conservation impact of \$205.6 million. These projects will collectively restore nearly 30 miles of riparian habitat and over 79 miles of stream habitat, conserve and enhance 983 acres of wetland habitat, restore 129 acres of floodplain, improve 36,053 acres of forest habitat and open 9,879 acres for public access.

