



NFWF

Chesapeake Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants Program

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FUNDING PARTNER

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Altria

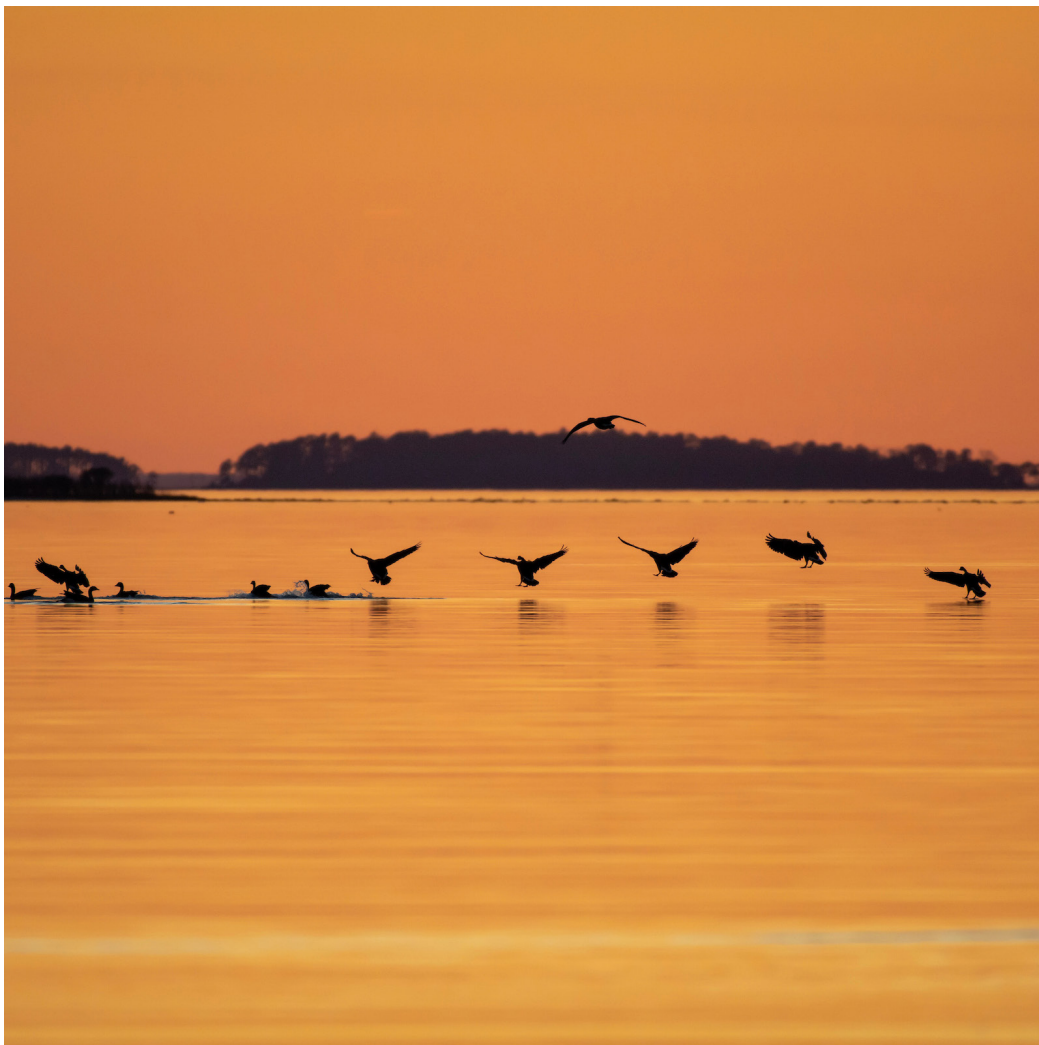
ABOUT NFWF

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 23,900 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of \$12 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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A flock of Canada geese touch down on the Tred Avon River

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Altria announced a new round of funding for the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund's Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction projects. Sixteen new or continuing water conservation grants totaling \$15.6 million were awarded. The 16 awards announced leveraged \$32 million in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$47.6 million.

The 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)



Cows

Accelerating Collaborative Watershed Restoration through Regional Watershed Roundtables (VA)

Grantee: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Grant Amount:\$1,000,000

Matching Funds:\$1,000,000

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

Accelerate water quality implementation of water quality best management practices in the York, Rappahannock, Potomac, Shenandoah, Upper James and Middle James river basins through Virginia's Watershed Roundtable partnerships. Project will enhance the effectiveness of these roundtable partnerships and reinforce community collaboration learning through a "network of networks" approach that grows all six roundtables as a collective community of practice.

Accelerating Cumberland County Water Quality Improvements through Rapid Stream Delisting (PA)

Grantee: County of Cumberland

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

Matching Funds:.....\$1,587,600

Total Project Amount:.....\$2,587,600

Apply a data-driven approach in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, to focus financial and technical assistance resources in catchments where focused implementation can deliver rapid improvements to local stream health. Project will expand and formalize the Clean Water Cumberland coalition to provide coordination, implementation, maintenance, and outreach capacity to restore 25 acres of riparian forest buffers and treat 300 acres of develop lands to reduce stormwater runoff.

Accelerating Engagement and Watershed Restoration through the Lower Susquehanna Partnership (PA)

Grantee: The Pennsylvania State University

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

Matching Funds:.....\$2,326,800

Total Project Amount:.....\$3,326,800

Enhance collaborative capacity for watershed restoration across five Lower Susquehanna watersheds by supporting strategic planning, watershed dashboards and development of a robust network of technical assistance providers. Project will restore almost 4 miles of riparian forest buffers, implement 4,625 acres of agricultural nutrient management and soil health practices, and improve stormwater management across 50 acres of developed lands.

Building Capacity and Efficiency for Agricultural Conservation Technical Assistance (PA)

Grantee: Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts

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

Matching Funds:.....\$2,066,700

Total Project Amount:.....\$3,066,700

Expand technical assistance capacity for agricultural conservation practice implementation in Pennsylvania through increased training and certification for technical assistance professionals, improved systems and processes for deploying technical assistance capacity, and additional engineering and planning positions. Project will deliver 150 shovel-ready practice designs, certify 24 new technical assistance professionals and reduce timelines to practice implementation by up to 30 percent.

Data-Driven Watershed Restoration and Regional Capacity Building in the Heart of Maryland (MD, PA)

Grantee: Catoctin Land Trust

Grant Amount: \$996,800

Matching Funds:..... \$11,310,000

Total Project Amount: \$12,306,800

Accelerate stream health improvements in the Antietam Creek, Monocacy River, and Catoctin Creek watersheds of central Maryland by strengthening long-term collaborative capacity through new staff, formalized watershed teams, and improved digital infrastructure. Project will restore 100 acres of riparian and upland forests and expand biological monitoring into Pennsylvania headwaters.

Expanding Riparian Forest Buffers and Forest Cover on Private Lands in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (MD, PA, VA, WV)

Grantee: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Grant Amount: \$750,000

Matching Funds: \$750,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$1,500,000

Expand adoption of riparian forest buffers, upland tree planting, forest stewardship, and other water quality improvement practices on private lands across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Project will result in nearly 300 acres of riparian forest buffers restored and 20 acres of upland tree planting.

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Growing the Rivanna Forest Restoration Partnership (VA)

Grantee: Rivanna Conservation Alliance

Grant Amount:..... \$999,900

Matching Funds:.....\$1,037,800

Total Project Amount:.....\$2,037,700

Accelerate riparian forest restoration and stormwater management along the Rivanna River through improved management of riparian forests, expanded stormwater management practices, and restoration of eroding stormwater outfalls. Project will invest in the strategic growth of the Rivanna Forest Restoration Partnership to deliver improved management of 30 acres of riparian forests, planting nearly 3,000 trees and shrubs, and installing 90 rain gardens and conservation landscaping practices.

Holistic Watershed Restoration in Watts Branch through Agency and Community Partnerships (DC)

Grantee: Department of Energy and Environment

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

Matching Funds:..... \$200,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$1,200,000

Implement nature-based stormwater management practices, correct residential sewer connections, and strengthen agency and community partnerships to improve water quality and resilience across the Watts Branch watershed in the District of Columbia. Project will effectively capture and treat stormwater runoff from nearly 6 acres of contributing drainage area, while cultivating community-led engagement that provides youth education, career training, and workforce development opportunities.

Producer-led Collaboration to Manage Agricultural Runoff in the Upper Choptank Watershed (MD, DE)

Grantee: Shorersivers

Grant Amount:..... \$999,900

Matching Funds:.....\$2,415,000

Total Project Amount \$3,414,900

Implement a new producer-led program to accelerate implementation of agricultural erosion control, nutrient management practices, and riparian buffers throughout the Upper Choptank watershed in Maryland and Delaware. Project will result in 1,800 acres of nutrient management, 9,000 acres of cover crops, 230 acres of riparian buffers and erosion control, and more than 360 acres of improved agricultural drainage management.

Rappahannock River Working Landscapes Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration (VA)

Grantee: Friends of the Rappahannock

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

Matching Funds:.....\$1,086,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$2,086,000

Lead targeted outreach to landowners and agricultural producers in the Rappahannock River watershed to support enrollment in agricultural and forestry cost-share programs and pilot a new approach for wetlands and meadow

restoration. Project will advance collaboration across more than 100 conservation partners to restore 60 acres of riparian forest buffers and improve grazing management and meadow restoration for nearly 1,000 acres.

Scaling Up Implementation and Collaboration through the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (NY, PA)

Grantee: Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District

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

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

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

Strengthen the capacity of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition to accelerate local water quality and stream health improvements by increasing engineering and agricultural nutrient management expertise, enhanced partner coordination, and modernized information technology infrastructure. Project will restore 41 acres of riparian forest buffers and 25 acres of wetlands and implement 3,600 acres of agricultural nutrient management and 300 acres of grazing management practices.

Strengthening the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program through Local Delivery Partnerships

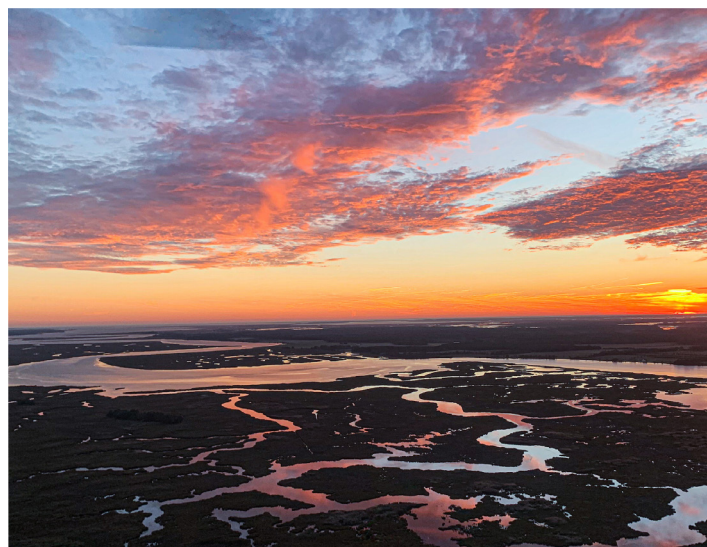
Grantee: Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

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

Matching Funds:.....\$1,940,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$2,940,000

Expand installation of stormwater management practices in Virginia through the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program, which will support proactive mentorship, capacity building, and market development and outreach strategies. Project will spread program tactics through peer-to-peer learning, contractor training, and leadership development, building contractor readiness and community visibility through targeted outreach at schools, parks, and community institutions.



Aerial view of the Vienna River, Maryland

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Supply Chain–Driven Agricultural Conservation in Priority Chesapeake Bay Watersheds (NY, PA, VA)

Grantee: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Grant Amount:.....\$1,000,000
Matching Funds:.....\$6,300,000
Total Project Amount:.....\$7,300,000
Leverage corporate investments from global brands into de-risk conservation for dairy and poultry farms in high-nutrient-loading areas, facilitating installation of manure storage units, barnyard runoff systems, riparian buffers, and soil health improvements. Project will use private and public funding to bypass public program backlogs, accelerating agricultural conservation practice adoption and reducing nutrient and sediment loads through a scalable supply-chain conservation model.

Sustaining Lasting Impact for Riparian Forests in the Upper and Middle James River Watersheds (VA)

Grantee: James River Association
Grant Amount:.....\$1,000,000
Matching Funds:.....\$1,000,000
Total Project Amount:.....\$2,000,000
Expand and deepen collaborative capacity of the Upper and Middle James Riparian Consortium to implement riparian forest buffers through the enhanced coordination across partners, workforce development, and consistent messaging to raise awareness and adoption of riparian forest buffers. Project will restore 200 acres of new riparian forest buffer and assess 1,200 acres of existing riparian forest buffer for long-term maintenance and buffer performance.

Targeted Agricultural and Riparian Restoration through the Lancaster Clean Water Partners (PA)

Grantee: Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County
Grant Amount:.....\$1,000,000
Matching Funds:.....\$1,666,200
Total Project Amount:.....\$2,666,200
Pair targeted, data-driven implementation with strengthened collaborative capacity to achieve local stream health improvements in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Project will restore 81 acres of riparian forest buffers, support agricultural conservation and nutrient management planning, accelerate barnyard runoff and soil health practices, train local watershed leaders, and enhance shared planning tools and a countywide action plan to advance county-wide goals for clean water by 2040.

Utilizing Remote Sensing and Novel Incentives to Improve Cover Crop Performance (VA)

Grantee: Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District
Grant Amount:.....\$991,000
Matching Funds:.....\$3,400,000
Total Project Amount:.....\$4,391,000
Employ satellite remote sensing to assess cover crop biomass and field coverage, inform targeted landowner outreach, and develop a pay-for-performance incentive structure to improve cover crop adoption and performance. Project will result in 2,000 acres of new cover crops and improved cover crop performance on an additional 31,000 acres that will reduce annual nitrogen loading by an estimated 200,000 pounds.



NFWF-funded riparian buffers reduce pollution entering freshwater streams