



OUR MISSION

OUR MISSION: Helping local communities clean up and restore polluted rivers and streams in the Chesapeake Bay region

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, along with its grantees and partners, is pleased to celebrate another year of this public-private Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund partnership. With seed funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction and Small Watershed Grants programs, the Foundation leverages corporate and federal dollars from partners including Altria Group, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Forest Service, CSX, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The result: support for local restoration projects from the headwaters of New York down to the tidewater of Virginia — and everywhere in between.

Together, we protect and restore imperiled species, promote healthy local streams, improve working landscapes for wildlife, advance sustainable fisheries and conserve water for wildlife and people.

ON THE COVER A blue crab hides in eel grasses in the Honga River, Maryland.

This year, the fund awarded \$12.6 million to 44 new projects, leveraging an additional \$17.7 million in grantee match. Each project contributes a small but vital piece to the overall restoration of the Bay watershed. With work plans that span diverse fields, from urban stormwater, to agricultural best practices, to habitat restoration for native species, this year's awards represent the best and most innovative partnerships in restoration efforts.

We are proud to lead one of the widest collaborations across the region, one which has made significant strides toward restoring and protecting the Bay, its rivers and streams, and the lands that surround them.

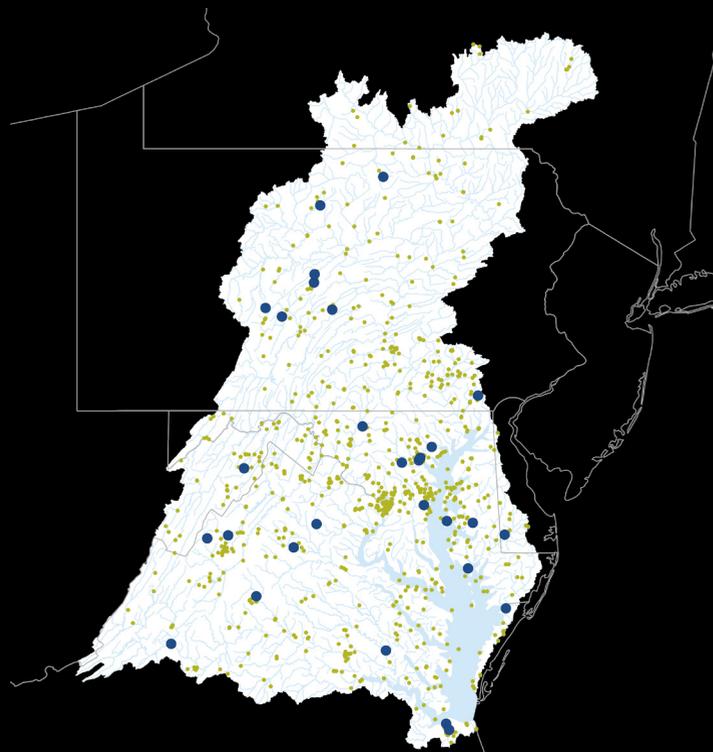
RIGHT PHOTO Celebrating with our partners at an award announcement event.



OUR INVESTMENTS

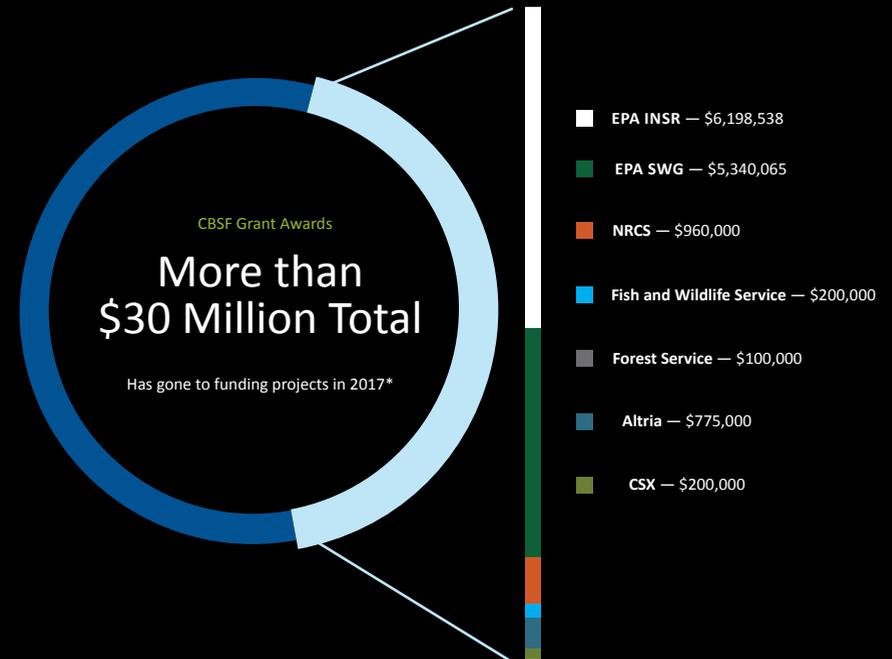
NFWF's Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund includes a portfolio of grant programs designed to help local communities clean up and restore polluted rivers and streams in the Chesapeake Bay region. Through a partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Stewardship Fund advances cost-effective and creative restoration solutions.

Local Water Quality Investments



- Location of 2017 Stewardship Fund Implementation Grants
- Previous Stewardship Fund Implementation Grants

2017 Project Funding Snapshot



- Local Match — \$17.7Million
- Stewardship Fund Grant Awards — \$12.6 Million

* This chart reflects grant awards only

OUR IMPACT

Through grants awarded in 2017, the Stewardship Fund will achieve significant impacts towards a healthier Chesapeake Bay watershed by working to restore local rivers and streams.

2017 Highlights

- Awarded \$1.1 million to 25 grants through the Technical Capacity Program for planning and design work that enhances local capacity for restoration.
- Awarded \$12.6 million to 44 grants through the Small Watershed and Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction grants programs to implement restoration projects in the Bay.
- Supported the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forum, Stormwater Partner's Retreat, and three regional Agricultural Networking Forums to promote networking and information sharing across the Bay.
- Supported the Capacity Building Initiative in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Trust, and the Land and Waters Initiative in partnership with the Land Trust Alliance, to build capacity new for restoration.

2.13 Million
Pounds

Of Nitrogen Reduced Annually

116 Thousand
Pounds

Of Phosphorus Reduced Annually

4.1 Million
Pounds

Of Sediment Reduced Annually

157
Miles

Of Riparian Habitat Restored

194
Acres

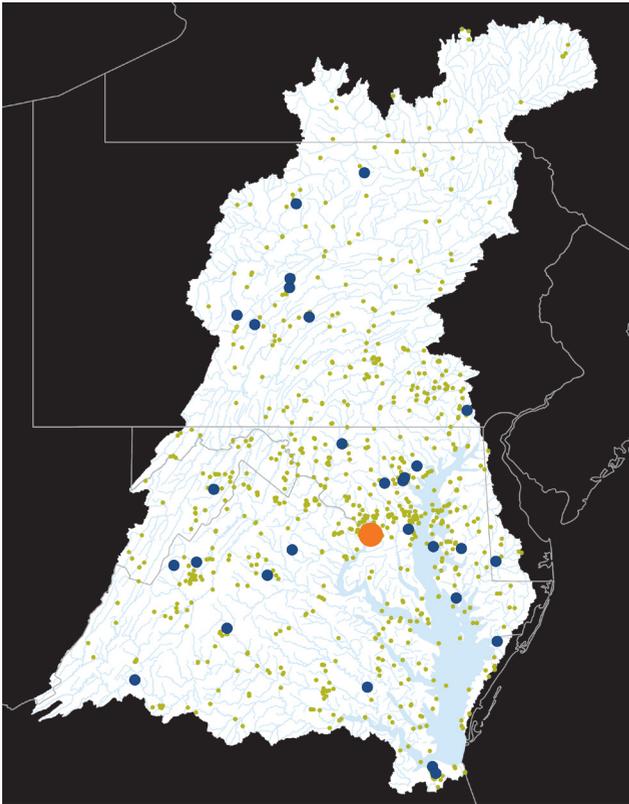
Being Treated For Stormwater Runoff

4,164
Citizens

Of the Watershed Volunteering in Restoration and Stewardship Activities

OUR PROJECTS

Neighborhood Stream Restoration



In 2017, the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) in Washington, D.C., completed its Alger Park stream restoration project, which restored 1,541 feet of degraded urban stream; planted 382 native trees and 5,000 native plants, and reached more than 250 residents through outreach efforts.

In 2011, at the request of residents in the Hillcrest neighborhood in Southeast Washington, staff from DOEE met with community members to tour the stream that runs through Alger Park. Streams throughout the District of Columbia are experiencing severe erosion due to the effect of impervious surfaces in the watershed. This means that sediment is running downstream into the Anacostia River.

The stream restoration portion of the project took seven months to complete and involved the filling of a deeply incised stream channel to bring the stream bed back to an elevation where floodplain reconnection could be achieved. The project will prevent more than 100,000 pounds of sediment from being lost each year due to bank erosion and will provide valuable wetland, in-stream, and riparian habitat for native fish and wildlife within Alger Park.

Work continues on other streams within the District of Columbia. An additional grant for the Fort DuPont watershed in Southeast Washington DC is slated to become “the District’s first healthy watershed” once the planned “upstream-to-downstream” watershed-focused approach is fully implemented.

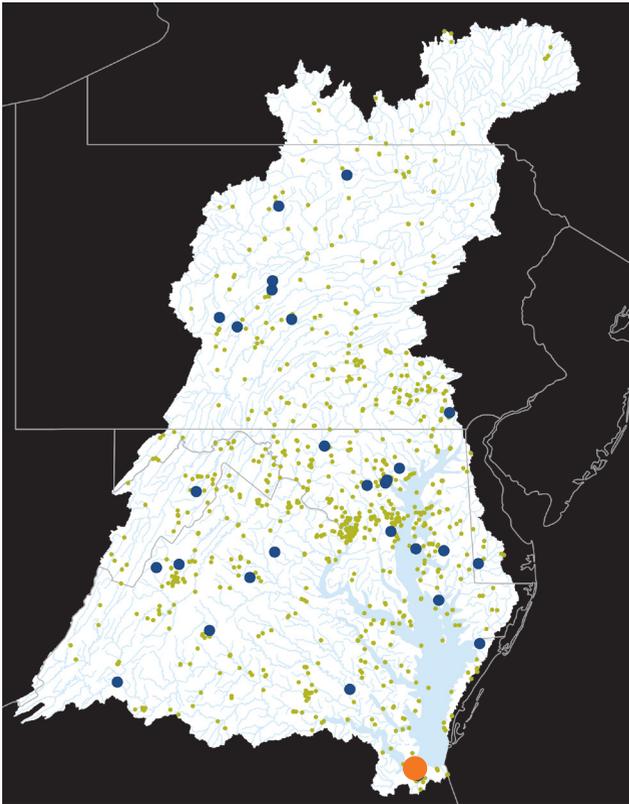
“It is gratifying to see the results of conservation that reaches deeply into a specific community,” said Josh Burch, environmental protection specialist with the DOEE: “We are looking forward to achieving Fort Dupont’s healthy watershed designation that will spur interest and serve as a model for outreach and stormwater remediation in other urban centers, too.”

PHOTO (NEXT PAGE) The restored stream in Alger Park



OUR PROJECTS

Restoring oysters in the Lafayette River



In 2017, the Stewardship Fund awarded two new grants that together will support a milestone in Virginia oyster restoration efforts: making the Lafayette River the first fully restored tributary in Virginia, as defined by the 2014 Bay program watershed agreement.

For more than two decades, the Chesapeake Bay Program has identified the urban Elizabeth River, of which the Lafayette is a tributary, as one of the three toxic hot spots on the Chesapeake Bay. These grants will address the historic depletion of native oyster populations in the Hampton Roads region due to the effects of decades of overharvesting, habitat destruction, poor water quality and disease.

There are currently 75 acres of coastal reef on the Lafayette, including natural and added reef structures. These new grants will enable the Elizabeth River Project and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to construct 5.5 additional acres of oyster reef, providing habitat for oysters, finfish, crabs and mussels, and feeding grounds for birds. It's also an opportunity to engage the Tidewater community in volunteer projects, including shell recycling in partnership with local restaurants.

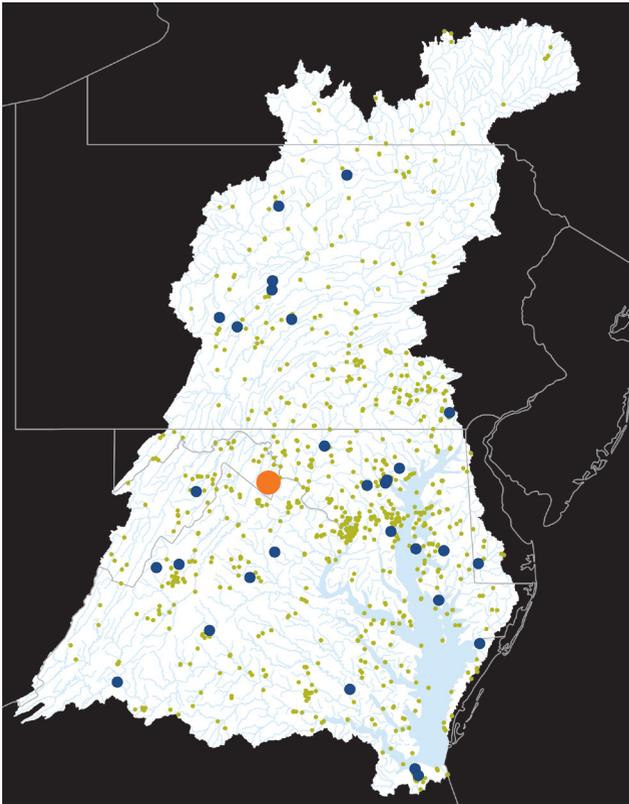
“I can’t think of anything more wonderful than to be able to say this corner of the Bay, once written off as dead, will be fully restored for the native oyster,” said Marjorie Mayfield Jackson, executive director of the Elizabeth River Project.

This past year, the Lafayette River was removed from the state of Virginia’s Impaired Waters list for bacteria.



OUR PROJECTS

Working at the Local Level in West Virginia



In 2017, the City of Charles Town, West Virginia, kicked off work on a 2016 award at Evitt's Run, the site of a newly planned green infrastructure park. The city has already conducted preliminary engineering for the site and is getting down to work. "Our vision is to make Evitts Run a centerpiece of our recreation and nature system for the whole community," said then-Mayor Peggy Smith.

The wider initiative in Charles Town will include the community's former drinking water reservoir and a site formerly operated by a gas company. Charles Town is launching a bold effort to turn this area into a major community park and recreational area.

The design provides for stormwater management at Evitt's Run by catching and filtering stormwater runoff through an installed rain garden, meaning cleaner water is sent downstream for the benefit of both species and citizens. The rain garden will also create space for more greenery and include diverse native plant species at the site.

The series of green spaces create an attractive amenity and have become an overarching theme in Charles Town. This initiative has been a catalyst for renewal in the community as a whole.

In June of 2017, federal and local officials attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new site, which will be a community asset for many years to come.

PHOTO (NEXT PAGE) Tree planting in Ranson, West Virginia, near the Evitts Run restoration site.



OUR 2017 GRANTS

The Stewardship Fund is working to achieve the shared goals of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership on issues critical to sustained restoration success

MULTISTATE

**Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Mid-Atlantic 4R Nutrient Stewardship Association**
Increasing Farmer Adoption of Nutrient
Stewardship Practices (DE, MD, PA)

Accelerate the implementation of 4R nutrient stewardship practices (right nutrient source applied at the right rate, at the right time, and in the right place) in key watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay.
\$401,424

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Strengthening the Impact of Riparian Forest Buffers on Water and Habitat Quality (MD, PA, VA, WV)
Improve outreach and management of forest buffers and natural filters in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, capitalizing on the region's networks and providing focused leadership to advance landscape-based implementation and community outreach. Project will plant more than 200 acres of trees through the implementation of forest buffers, backyard buffers, and community tree planting.
\$325,273

Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Farm Stewardship Program for Increased Agricultural Best Management Practices (MD, WV)

Work one-on-one with farmers of the Upper Potomac watershed in Maryland and West Virginia to provide technical assistance and support to increase adoption of agricultural best management practices that improve water quality, increase productivity of farming operations, and enhance wildlife habitat. Project will install forested riparian buffers and stream exclusion fencing, stabilize streambanks, restore pastures and wetlands, and convert cornfields to grazing pastures.
\$200,000

American Farmland Trust
Women for the Land: Voices for Soil and Water Conservation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (PA, VA)
Provide direct on-farm technical assistance to graduates of American Farmland Trust's Women for the Land's Learning Circles for conservation of the Chesapeake Bay. Project will provide one-on-one assistance to 20 women landowners, implement nutrient and pasture management plans and 10 livestock exclusions.
\$195,056

DELAWARE

The Nature Conservancy
Restoration Practices for Water Quality and Habitat Improvements on the Nanticoke River

Increase and improve forest habitat and water quality through technical assistance to the agricultural community in Delaware's portion of the watershed and reforestation at the Middleford North Preserve. Project will reforest approximately 73 acres of lands ranked as high-priority areas for both water quality and wildlife habitat under the Nanticoke River Watershed Restoration Plan.
\$198,275

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Low Impact Development Center
Incorporating Green Infrastructure into Urban Agriculture Programs
Develop a comprehensive nutrient and sediment control program in Washington, D.C., that promotes the integration of green infrastructure best management practices with sustainable urban agriculture programs. Project will install 0.2 acres of best management practices that will annually avoid 770 pounds of sediment, 0.8 pounds of phosphorus and 7.1 pounds of nitrogen from entering local waters annually.
\$199,249

OUR 2017 GRANTS

MARYLAND

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Healthy Waters Round Table: Improved Water Quality Through Rural Regional Collaboration

Assist local governments on Maryland's rural Eastern Shore to develop increased stormwater management capacity and implement best management practices that help meet mandated goals for improved water quality.

\$316,003

Civic Works

Installing Urban Rain Gardens and Training Stormwater Stewards for Stormwater Management

Install rain gardens that impact three acres of urban surfaces in community spaces, train stormwater stewards to maintain the spaces, and provide ongoing training, stipends, support, and resources to increase community engagement in Baltimore City stormwater management and increase water quality of local waters running to the Chesapeake Bay.

\$196,621

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

Envision the Choptank: Coordinating Efforts for a Healthy Choptank River

Coordinate various organizations, agencies and community groups to develop collaborative, evidence-based solutions that enhance the health and productivity of native oyster reefs and provide

a swimmable and fishable Choptank River. Project will provide the nutrient and stormwater reductions equivalent to 50 rain barrels and five rain gardens.

\$80,778

Gunpowder Valley Conservancy

Mobilizing Communities to Enhance Stream Restoration Projects for Stormwater Treatment

Install stormwater best management practices, including rain barrels, rain gardens, micro-bioretenion practices, conservation landscaping and forest buffers, and mobilize communities to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff, manage stormwater and restore forests and streams in the Middle River, Tidal Gunpowder, Bird River and Lower Gunpowder Falls watersheds.

\$200,000

Howard EcoWorks

Soak It Up: Reducing Stormwater Runoff in Ellicott City

Engage up to 500 residents and businesses to implement up to 66 best management practices and construct 8,550 square feet of rain garden, 32,500 square feet of conservation landscape and 1,000 linear feet of forest buffer to reduce stormwater runoff in Ellicott City.

\$153,761

Lower Shore Land Trust

Targeting Conservation Lands on Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore for Improved Bay Health

Accelerate restoration and permanently protect critical conservation lands through targeted mapping

and landowner outreach in Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester counties. Project will hold multiple landowner workshops, develop and disseminate outreach materials about Farm Bill programs, and deliver gains for water quality benefits by permanently protecting 1,000 acres in priority watersheds.

\$179,628

Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy

Restoration through a Conservation Drainage Program

Create a regional conservation drainage program that tests new agricultural best management practice technologies that have great potential to reduce nutrient and sediment entering the Chesapeake Bay. Project will retrofit old and failing drain tile lines with the latest conservation practices and create a drainage water management plan to maximize the benefits of the new system.

\$451,959

National Audubon Society

Increasing the Health of Transitional Tidal Marsh for Enhanced Wintering Waterfowl Bird Habitat

Extend the head of a small tidal creek in order to alleviate chronic waterlogging and halt and reverse marsh erosion in 100 acres of high marsh and enhance tidal exchange and ecosystem function in newly transitioned marsh and halt and reverse the fragmentation and erosion of high marsh, bringing back lost habitat for birds like the American black duck at Farm Creek Marsh, a tributary of Fishing Bay.

\$149,266

OUR 2017 GRANTS

Oyster Recovery Partnership

Improving Oyster Restoration Siting to Maximize Available Habitat and Environmental Benefits

Develop tools to improve understanding of where suitable oyster bottom occurs and the habitat characteristics associated with those bottom types and repopulate and monitor 15 acres of oyster reefs with 60 million oysters deployed on bottom habitat identified from modeling and underwater images.

\$200,000

Pigtown Main Street

Washington Boulevard Green Infrastructure Project

Install green infrastructure, stormwater and pedestrian enhancements along Washington Boulevard in Pigtown, a neighborhood of Baltimore. Project will replace impervious surfaces with native plants and vegetation.

\$149,893

Smithsonian Institution

Rhode to Restoration: Collaboration to Restore Rhode River's Water Quality

Restore the water quality and habitat of the degraded Rhode River through catalyzing a new collaborative network of stakeholders to identify and carry out solutions. Project will construct two acres of restored oyster reef in the Rhode River and increase citizen participation and education in restoration efforts.

\$199,510

The Washington College Center for Environment and Society

Natural Lands: Installing Buffers and Restoring Wetlands to Reduce Runoff

Install native warm-season grass buffers for the benefit of bobwhite quail and restore wetlands to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff from agricultural land in the identified high priority zones of the upper and middle Eastern Shore. Project will establish 285 acres of native grass buffers and 16 acres of wetlands.

\$499,955

NEW YORK

Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District Building Upon an Integrated Watershed Approach

Integrate efforts across the watershed focusing on three key implementation focus areas, agriculture, streams and wetlands. Project participants will work with a suite of modeling tools to identify areas for buffers, wetland restoration and floodplain enhancement work in riparian corridors based on high-resolution land cover data.

\$877,210

PENNSYLVANIA

Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County

Partnership for Accelerated Water Quality Efforts in Lancaster County

Facilitate a public-private partnership to accelerate nutrient loading reduction in Lancaster County's

waters, the region contributing Pennsylvania's highest nutrient loadings to the Chesapeake Bay. Project will create a focused, concentrated and accelerated effort to address water quality in Lancaster County by bringing partners and programs into collaboration resulting in a county collaborative with enhanced efforts, resources and framework that will have a greater impact on water quality.

\$750,000

Kettle Creek Watershed Association

Kettle Creek Nonpoint Source Sediment Reduction and Riparian Reforestation

Construct two streambank stabilization projects and one riparian planting project along Kettle Creek. Project will utilize designs and permits completed by Trout Unlimited.

\$43,662

Lancaster Farmland Trust

Long-term Pollution Reduction via Permanent Protection of Farmland and Conservation Practices

Place 310 acres under long-term easement and annually remove 127,900 pounds of sediment, 9,611 pounds of phosphorus and 36,988 pounds of nitrogen from local waters through enhanced nutrient management. Project will implement an innovative approach to water quality improvement that couples two proven strategies: the permanent protection of farmland and the implementation of conservation practices on farmland.

\$490,713

OUR 2017 GRANTS

Mifflin County Conservation District

Increased Implementation of Comprehensive Riparian Buffer Models in the Juniata River Basin

Install riparian-specific best management practices through innovative methods and a diversity of programs to improve water quality in the Juniata River Basin. Project will reach new audiences to implement 2.5 miles of riparian restoration through livestock exclusions fencing, instream habitat restoration and riparian forest buffer installations.

\$173,971

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Stream ReLeaf: Reinvigorating the Replanting of Pennsylvania's Streamsides

Formalize the Riparian Forest Buffer Advisory Committee, a collaborative effort of more than 40 organizations in Pennsylvania, in order to realize efficiencies in riparian forest buffer outreach, technical assistance and implementation. Project will dramatically increase riparian forest buffer implementation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Region of Pennsylvania, resulting in significant reductions of nutrient and sediment pollution flowing from Pennsylvania into the Chesapeake Bay.

\$750,000

Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Improve Water Quality and Aquatic Habitat in Spring Creek Watershed

Implement restoration projects at three sites throughout the Spring Creek Watershed, restoring 1.12 miles of streambank and 4.29 acres of riparian

habitat. Project will restore the habitat needed to support a self-sustaining, wild eastern brook trout and brown trout fishery in the watershed and improve downstream water quality.

\$160,700

Stroud Water Research Center

Partnering for Accelerated Agricultural Best Management Practices in South-Central Pennsylvania

Partner with major nongovernmental organizations and the private agricultural services sector to deliver agricultural best management practices in south-central Pennsylvania, prioritizing subwatersheds in Lancaster and Chester counties, to improve local and Chesapeake Bay water quality. Project will result in 24 farms installing nearly 200 best management practices, including 14.6 acres of forested buffers.

\$749,945

Sustainable Chesapeake

Pennsylvania Subsurface Application of Manure Initiative

Demonstrate an innovative financing strategy that incentivizes custom applicators to invest in new equipment and encourage manure injection to reduce nutrient loss to streams in the Chesapeake Bay watershed in the South Central Susquehanna Basin.

\$199,031

The Trust for Tomorrow

Restoring the Impaired Headwaters of a High-Quality Trout Stream

Improve water quality and Eastern brook trout habitat in Plum Creek on agricultural lands in Pennsylvania

through the implementation of stream and wetland restoration, agricultural best management practices, riparian buffer restoration and nutrient management planning. Project will result in reduced agricultural pollution, restored high quality aquatic habitat and targeted technical assistance to landowners.

\$196,209

Tioga County Conservation District

Bringing Back Eastern Brook Trout Through Bank Stabilizations

Implement bank stabilization projects for a minimum of 2,000 feet and install a minimum of two acres of riparian buffer to reduce sediment and nutrient transport downstream of the Canoe Camp Creek. Project will lead to the recolonization of the eastern brook trout.

\$84,330

Trout Unlimited

Aquatic Connectivity and Nonpoint Source Pollution at Road-Stream Crossings

Collaborate among partnering agencies and organizations to successfully and cost-effectively increase aquatic connectivity for eastern brook trout and reduce sediment pollution and road-stream crossings. Project will open 15 miles of brook trout habitat by replacing three culverts.

\$195,418

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Protection of Critical Habitat and Water Quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Permanently protect 750 acres of land, with signifi-

OUR 2017 GRANTS

cantly higher acreage numbers possible, to protect critical habitat and water quality through conservation easements and fee acquisitions within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed in Pennsylvania, an impaired area due to agricultural operations.

\$199,173

VIRGINIA

Center for Watershed Protection Advancing Green Infrastructure

Expand the use of green infrastructure in Fauquier County to improve water through demonstration projects. Project will install a stormwater wetland, reducing input of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment.

\$187,951

Chesapeake Bay Foundation Oyster Restoration in the Lafayette River

Establish 3.25 acres of new oyster reef in the Lafayette River, a tributary of the larger Elizabeth River system, in Norfolk, enhance the population of native Eastern oysters in the Lafayette River and engage the watershed community in oyster restoration projects.

\$199,665

City of Hopewell Reducing Local Impacts on the Chesapeake Bay through Riverside Park's Stream Restoration

Significantly reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment in the Appomattox River, the James River and the Chesapeake Bay by integrating innovative

stormwater management practices into public greenways. Project will restore an actively eroding stream channel and wetlands supporting a 296-acre urban watershed.

\$451,000

Friends of the Rappahannock Rappahannock Headwater Stream Buffer and Conservation Initiative

Protect and restore healthy riparian buffers in the headwater counties of the upper Rappahannock and Rapidan river watersheds through nutrient and sediment reduction, habitat creation, volunteer engagement, and community outreach. Project will provide technical assistance, materials and labor to property owners to establish riparian buffers on their property.

\$91,965

Pamunkey Indian Tribe Shore Protection and Living Shoreline on Pamunkey River

Address erosion along the shoreline of the Pamunkey Indian Tribe's Reservation to increase water quality in the Pamunkey River in Virginia. Project will create a management plan for 13 miles of shoreline and construct a living shoreline to reduce sedimentation to the river and restore approximately 6,630 square feet of freshwater marsh habitat.

\$199,544

Rivanna Conservation Alliance Rivanna River Restoration Project

Improve water quality through buffer plantings,

obstructions removal, streambank restoration, river access and stormwater retrofit rain gardens. Project will include river monitoring, reporting and volunteer training, fish identification, documentation and restoration and community engagement.

\$199,432

The Elizabeth River Project Oyster Restoration in the Lafayette River

Restore oyster habitat in the Elizabeth River, reducing nitrogen concentrations by oysters filtering algae. Project will construct 2.25 acres of oyster reef, not only providing habitat for oysters, but also for finfish, blue crabs, mussels, and feed grounds for birds.

\$200,000

The Elizabeth River Project Restoring Broad Creek

Improve stormwater management and coastal community health by implementing innovative drainage management solutions in Norfolk's Ingleside community. Project will result in annual pollution reductions of 26.76 pounds of phosphorus, 97.81 pounds of nitrogen and 7,090.86 pounds of sediment.

\$499,999

The Piedmont Environmental Council Bolton Branch Restoration Project

Reconnect 1.38 miles of eastern brook trout habitat and restore riparian buffers along Bolton Branch, a headwater stream of the Jordan River in the Upper Rappahannock watershed. In addition, 100 Upper Rappahannock private and public landowners will be targeted through education and engagement

OUR 2017 GRANTS

activities and habitat restoration opportunities.
\$108,005

Town of Broadway

Reducing Sediment Transport

Reduce sediment and nutrient pollution and improve instream and riparian habitat in Linville Creek Stream by restoring 1,150 linear feet of Linville Creek and 210 linear feet of an unnamed tributary. Project will result in a total of 1,360 linear feet of restoration using natural channel design techniques.

\$200,000

Town of Glasgow

Stormwater Retrofit for Decreased Nutrient, Sediment and Stormwater Volume

Improve downstream water quality, provide flood attenuation for the town of Glasgow, and engage regional partners to provide outreach and promote similar projects in other small localities. Project will result in a constructed wetland and bioretention facility.

\$182,206

Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Stormwater Best Management Practices

Advance a financial cost-share and technical assistance program for voluntary installation of stormwater best management practices that addresses water quality concerns on land where no other cost-share program is available. Project will lead to the installation of approximately 180 stormwater best management practice projects on residential,

commercial, industrial and municipal properties.
\$750,000

WEST VIRGINIA

Eastern Panhandle Planning and Development Council

Manure de Force

Develop a comprehensive poultry manure management program in West Virginia. Project will expand the manure market and increase demand for poultry manure sourced from the Eastern Panhandle and Potomac Valley Regions of West Virginia.

\$200,000

PHOTO A diamondback terrapin in Tangier Sound, Maryland.





FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHESAPEAKE BAY STEWARDSHIP FUND, PLEASE CALL US AT: 202-857-0166. OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.NFWF.ORG/CHESAPEAKE

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