



# Delaware River Restoration Fund

## NFWF CONTACTS

### Rachel Dawson

Program Director,  
Delaware River Program  
rachel.dawson@nfwf.org  
202-595-2643

### Claire Flynn

Manager,  
Northeastern Region  
claire.flynn@nfwf.org  
202-595-2449

### Erin Lewis

Coordinator,  
Regional Programs  
erin.lewis@nfwf.org  
202-595-2413

## PARTNERS

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- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service

To learn more, go to  
[www.nfwf.org/Delaware](http://www.nfwf.org/Delaware)

## ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

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

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1133 15th Street, NW  
Suite 1000  
Washington, D.C., 20005  
202-857-0166



Delaware River

## BACKGROUND

The Delaware River Restoration Fund (DRRF) is dedicated to improving the water quality and accelerating restoration of habitats of the Delaware River and its tributaries. The fund was launched in late 2013 to help community-based nonprofits, municipalities and landowners efficiently work together to clean up and restore polluted waters and improve habitat in strategic geographies within the Delaware Watershed.

The DRRF awards approximately \$2 million per year in competitive grants for three priority strategies: stewardship of working lands and delivery of agriculture conservation practices; restoration of wetlands, floodplains and stream corridors; and promoting adoption of green infrastructure in urban/suburban landscapes. The fund also commits a subset of resources to grants that propose innovative conservation approaches. In six years, the fund has invested a total of \$14.7 million in 90 projects, leveraging more than \$23.36 million in conservation resources.

Additionally, NFWF's DRRF houses the Delaware River Watershed Working Lands Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), a partner-driven program

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administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. In 2015, partners in the Delaware Watershed were awarded one of the first RCPP designations, providing a total of \$13 million in financial and technical assistance resources for delivery of agriculture conservation practices to producers and landowners in the watershed. To date, partners have assisted and supported more than 66 producers in delivering 39 different conservation practices — from cover crops to manure storage — across the watershed.

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals of the Delaware River Restoration Fund (DRRF) include:

- Increase delivery of agriculture best management practices (BMPs) to reduce nutrient and sediment loads
- Expand conservation outreach to new farmers and landowners
- Restore stream banks, shoreline and wetlands
- Establish, expand and improve riparian buffers
- Promote and install green stormwater infrastructure BMPs and reduce suburban runoff
- Improve municipal policies for green stormwater infrastructure
- Identify and restore priority sites for aquatic habitat
- Reach, train and provide technical assistance to new audiences
- Engage significant numbers of new volunteers

The fund's investments for water quality improvement are targeted primarily to DRWI "Clusters," sub-watersheds within the broader Delaware River Watershed where restoration efforts are expected to realize the greatest return. These geographies also include important habitat for fish and wildlife.

The strategy for restoration in these places is determined by a team of local partners with on the-ground knowledge of conservation needs and opportunities. The DRRF awards grants to projects that address these strategies. Taken together, projects will restore more than 60 miles of riparian habitat, conserve and enhance nearly 190 acres of wetlands, prevent 27.6 million gallons of unfiltered stormwater from entering the watershed, and deliver agriculture conservation best management practices on over 23,500 acres of working lands in the Delaware watershed.

