



NFWF

National Wildlife Refuge Friends 2019 Grant Slate

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ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Great blue heron eating an eel at Bombay Hook NWR in Delaware

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced 15 grant awards through the National Wildlife Refuge Friends Program, a collaborative effort between NFWF and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with additional support from Enbridge. The awards were made to 15 National Wildlife Refuge Friends organizations across the country to support on-the-ground projects, capacity building efforts, peer-to-peer conferences and increased hunting and fishing experiences within the refuge system. NFWF awarded more than \$158,000 in grant funding that leverages \$320,000 in matching funds, generating a total conservation impact of more than \$478,000. The National Wildlife Refuge Friends Program provides competitive grants that enable Friends organizations to develop and implement conservation projects, strengthen organizational capacity and skills, meet local refuge challenges, and build community recognition and support.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Developing a Marketing Plan for Delaware Valley Friends Organizations (DE, NJ, PA)

Grantee:	Friends of Heinz Refuge
Grant Amount:	\$13,200
Matching Funds:	\$10,750
Total:	\$23,950

Develop a marketing plan to build membership for the John Heinz, Bombay Hook and Edwin B. Forsythe national wildlife refuges (NWR). Project will raise awareness of the participating Friends organizations and enhance their efforts to acquire and maintain active members and volunteers.

(continued)

Building Organizational Capacity Prior to the Opening of the Refuge Gateway (MI)

Grantee: International Wildlife Refuge Alliance
 Grant Amount: \$14,962
 Matching Funds: \$16,700
 Total: \$31,662
 Provide nature store training for the organization's staff and volunteers, purchase donor management software, and update educational materials for Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Project will increase organizational capacity prior to the opening of the Refuge Gateway, a site that anticipates receiving 100,000 visitors annually.

Membership Recruitment for Friends of Tamarac NWR (MN)

Grantee: Friends of Tamarac NWR
 Grant Amount: \$7,825
 Matching Funds: \$4,058
 Total: \$11,883
 Implement a recruitment and retention process for the group's volunteer and membership base. Project will expand the organization's capacity to support Tamarac NWR by increasing the volunteer base from 25 to 50 volunteers and the active membership base from 135 to 225 members.

Strategic Planning for Friends of Black Bayou (LA)

Grantee: Friends of Black Bayou
 Grant Amount: \$3,125
 Matching Funds: \$750
 Total: \$3,875
 Conduct strategic planning to align the organization's vision and goals with the refuge system mission. Project will determine strategies for engaging the community, addressing conservation issues, and achieving organizational goals.

PEER-TO-PEER

Peer-to-Peer Conference: "Creating Stronger and More Effective Friends Groups in Massachusetts"

Grantee: Friends of the Assabet River NWR
 Grant Amount: \$5,364
 Matching Funds: \$7,950
 Total: \$13,314
 Host a Peer-to-Peer coaching event and convene five Friends groups at Assabet River NWR. Project will focus on increasing organizational capacity, developing mechanisms for sharing resources across refuges, and increasing volunteerism for participating Friends organizations.



Tree swallow at Bombay Hook NWR, Delaware

Peer-to-Peer Conference: "Building a Shared Knowledge Base" (LA, MS)

Grantee: Friends of Louisiana Wildlife Refuges
 Grant Amount: \$14,790
 Matching Funds: \$1,317
 Total: \$16,107
 Host a Peer-to-Peer coaching event and convene 11 Friends groups at the Southeast Louisiana NWRs Complex Headquarters. Project will focus on increasing organizational capacity, enhancing communication between the public and refuge, and increasing volunteerism for participating Friends organizations.

PROJECT SPECIFIC

Boardwalk Installation at Patoka River NWR (IN)

Grantee: Friends of the Patoka River NWR
 Grant Amount: \$10,066
 Matching Funds: \$24,050
 Total: \$34,116
 Extend Buck's Marsh Boardwalk Trail at the Patoka River NWR. Project will expand opportunities for environmental education and increase awareness of the Friends organization.

Friends Environmental Education Program at Trinity River NWR (TX)

Grantee: Friends of Trinity River Refuge
 Grant Amount: \$9,813
 Matching Funds: \$20,960
 Total: \$30,773
 Create and implement the Friends Environmental Education Program (FEED) for grades 6 through 12 at Trinity River NWR. Project will increase appreciation of the refuge's bottomland-hardwood forest ecosystem and increase awareness of the Friends group.

Constructing a Sedge Meadows Observation Deck at Crane Meadows NWR (MN)

Grantee:Friends of Crane Meadows NWR
 Grant Amount: \$14,600
 Matching Funds: \$2,500
 Total: \$17,100
 Construct an educational kiosk, install a granite trail, and build an observation deck overlooking the last intact sedge meadow in Minnesota. Project will educate visitors about the importance of sedge meadows and provide hands-on experiences at Crane Meadows NWR for students from eight local schools.

Constructing an Overlook and Outdoor Classroom for Willapa NWR (WA)

Grantee:Friends of Willapa NWR
 Grant Amount: \$15,000
 Matching Funds: \$36,917
 Total: \$51,917
 Construct an overlook at Willapa NWR. Project will provide an outdoor classroom for the refuge's environmental education program, increase accessible facilities, and raise awareness of the Friends group.

SPECIAL INITIATIVE

Reforestation of the La Sal del Rey Tract at Lower Grande Valley NWR (TX)

Grantee: Friends of the Wildlife Corridor
 Grant Amount: \$15,000
 Matching Funds: \$124,746
 Total: \$139,746
 Plant seedlings and reforest 20 acres of a previously farmed field in the La Sal del Rey Tract of the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR. Project will engage community members and 750 school children in a four-day planting event that supports opening the Sal del Rey Tract to hunting in 2021, doubling youth hunting opportunities on the refuge.

Spurs and Tails: Engaging Hunters at Neal Smith NWR (IA)

Grantee:Friends of the Neal Smith NWR
 Grant Amount: \$10,152
 Matching Funds: \$8,075
 Total: \$18,227
 Host a "Spurs and Tails" pheasant hunting contest, construct an informational kiosk, and sponsor a National Hunting and Fishing Day at Neal Smith NWR. Project will support hunter recruitment, retention, and reactivation efforts and increase awareness of the refuge and its Friends organization.



Blue grosbeak at Bombay Hook NWR, Delaware

Anglers of Tomorrow: Increasing ADA Fishing Access at Ottawa NWR (OH)

Grantee: Friends of Ottawa NWR
 Grant Amount: \$13,485
 Matching Funds: \$51,389
 Total: \$64,874
 Host fishing events for military veterans and people living with disabilities, build an ADA-accessible fishing trail, and create an ADA parking space at Ottawa NWR. Project will increase accessible facilities at the refuge, expand the number of fishing participants, and raise awareness of the Friends group.

ADA-Compliant Dock and Fishing Outreach at Big Oaks NWR (IN)

Grantee: Big Oaks Conservation Society
 Grant Amount: \$6,705
 Matching Funds: \$5,000
 Total: \$11,705
 Build an ADA-compliant dock and host fishing events for the public at Big Oaks NWR. Project will increase accessible facilities at the refuge, increase the number of fishing participants, and raise awareness of the Friends group.

Maintaining Access to Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (VT)

Grantee: ... Friends of Nulhegan Basin Fish and Wildlife Refuge
 Grant Amount: \$4,158
 Matching Funds: \$5,000
 Total: \$9,158
 Re-deck the primary access bridge to the Nulhegan Bay Division of Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. Project will provide continued public access to the refuge for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation activities while raising awareness of the Friends organization and increasing its volunteer base.