



# Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund

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## PARTNERS

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- AstraZeneca

## 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 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion.

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

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Cerulean warbler

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a 2022-year round of funding for Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund projects. Thirty-six new or continuing conservation and restoration grants totaling \$13.8 million were awarded. The thirty-six awards announced generated \$14.2 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$28 million. This year's grant slate is the first to include funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which was enacted in November 2021 and includes an historic \$26 million investment in the watershed over five years.

The Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund supports projects that conserve and restore natural areas, corridors, and waterways on public and private lands to support native migratory and resident wildlife and fish, and native plants; and to contribute to the social health and economic vitality of the communities in the Delaware River watershed. These grants address priorities in NFWF's Delaware River Watershed Business Plan. The fund was launched in 2018 to bring together various stakeholders to deliver restoration and conservation efforts throughout the Delaware River Watershed to strategically improve fish and wildlife habitat, grow partner capacity, build networks, and improve project efficiency and focus on a basin-wide scale.

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**DELAWARE****A Pilot for Ecological Management of Wilmington's Riverfront (DE)**

Grantee: Riverfront Development Corporation of Delaware  
 Grant Amount:..... \$75,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$75,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$150,000  
 Pilot a new approach for managing the green spaces owned and managed by the Riverfront Development Corporation along the Wilmington Riverfront in a more ecologically beneficial and river-friendly way. Project will include components of wetland restoration, green infrastructure enhancement, outreach, community engagement, and strategic collaboration.

**Brandywine Shad 2020 Phase III (DE)**

Grantee: Brandywine River Restoration Trust  
 Grant Amount:..... \$500,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$500,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,000,000  
 Complete engineering, hydrological, architectural and archaeological studies required to obtain the permits for the removal or modification of the Brandywine Falls Dam near the Pennsylvania state line in Delaware. Project will set the stage for improved anadromous fish migration and provide upstream and downstream access for numerous resident fish populations in the future.

**Building Capacity for Habitat Restoration and Education in the Caesar Rodney School District (DE)**

Grantee: Caesar Rodney School District  
 Grant Amount:..... \$227,700  
 Matching Funds:..... \$233,300  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$461,000  
 Continue to restore underutilized space on 14 public school campuses within the Caesar Rodney School District through a revitalized, EcoTeam Volunteer Corps, traditional coursework, district professional development, community outreach, and a growing network of community partners. Project will provide benefits to wildlife with increased intent to target listed, at-risk, and priority species' needs while increasing equitable access to authentic place-based learning for students.

**Diadromous Fish Habitat Studies in the Red Clay, White Clay, and Christina Watersheds (DE)**

Grantee: University of Delaware  
 Grant Amount:..... \$174,200  
 Matching Funds:..... \$174,200  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$348,400  
 Conduct surveys of diadromous fish abundance and habitat utilization at three tributaries of the Delaware River, as well as explore the feasibility of providing fish passage at 11 dams along Red Clay Creek. Project will complete the first step to restoring diadromous and resident fish passage to 13 miles and 153 acres of spawning habitat.

**Restoring Upland Habitats in the Blackbird Creek Watershed (DE)**

Grantee: DNREC Coastal Programs  
 Grant Amount:.....\$176,400  
 Matching Funds:..... \$75,000  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$251,400  
 Restore a total of 27 acres of agricultural lands that are no longer in production to upland habitats at the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve, Blackbird Creek Reserve component. Project will create 22 acres of early successional, young forest habitat and 5 acres of early successional, herbaceous meadow habitat to augment poorly buffered riparian corridors and to improve water quality, forest patch size and habitat connectivity.

**Upland Habitat Restoration and Land Protection for Critical Coastal Conservation: Phase II (DE)**

Grantee: Delaware Wild Lands  
 Grant Amount:.....\$279,400  
 Matching Funds:.....\$154,200  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$433,600  
 Restore 83 acres of coastal plain seasonal ponds and contiguous tracts of forest at the Taylors Bridge Land Complex in New Castle County, Delaware. Project will build on recent land conservation and restoration success, creating high value early successional habitat, benefiting water quality of tidal wetlands, and engaging the community in habitat restoration and monitoring efforts.

**NEW JERSEY****Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring and Outreach Campaign for the Paulins Kill Watershed (NJ)**

Grantee: Foodshed Alliance A NJ Nonprofit Corporation  
 Grant Amount:.....\$131,700  
 Matching Funds:..... \$50,000  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$181,700  
 Expand outreach and education on protecting the Paulins Kill Watershed to municipalities, schools, community groups, nonprofits, and local residents, and institute a citizens' water-quality monitoring program. Project will support the promotion of science-based water quality decision-making and management.

**Creating Watershed Community Through a Science-Based Educational Collaborative (NJ)**

Grantee: Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association  
 Grant Amount:.....\$152,700  
 Matching Funds:.....\$138,300  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$291,000  
 Support the collaboration of two nonprofit environmental groups to simultaneously offer StreamWatch Schools, River-Friendly Schools, and Eco-Schools to partnering schools in the historically under-resourced districts in and around Trenton, New Jersey. Project will work with partners to engage teachers and students from historically excluded groups and connect them with their watershed neighbor-schools throughout the Assunpink watershed.

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### **Dam Removals for Habitat Restoration and Water Quality for Native Wildlife on the Pequest River (NJ)**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount: .....\$266,100  
 Matching Funds: .....\$269,500  
 Total Project Amount: .....\$535,600

Complete engineering, permitting and construction needed to fully remove the No Name and Cedar Grove dams, the third and fourth blockages on the Pequest River. Project will amplify the impact that removal of the two most downstream dams will have on restoring aquatic connectivity and improving water quality for the benefit of Delaware River Basin priority species.

### **Developing Management and Restoration Strategies for American Oystercatcher in the Delaware Bay (NJ)**

Grantee: Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey

Grant Amount: .....\$125,400  
 Matching Funds: .....\$125,500  
 Total Project Amount: .....\$250,900

Systematically survey and monitor American oystercatchers breeding on the beaches along the Delaware Bay in New Jersey for productivity and risk factors to reproductive success. Project will result in the development of a quantitative habitat characterization based on comprehensive assessments at active nest sites and the incorporation of the habitat needs of this priority at-risk species into larger beach restoration projects along the Delaware Bay in the future.

### **High Marsh Habitat Management for Nesting Black Rail and Saltmarsh Sparrows in the Delaware Bay (NJ)**

Grantee: New Jersey Audubon Society

Grant Amount: .....\$190,300  
 Matching Funds: .....\$200,000  
 Total Project Amount: .....\$390,300

Conserve critical black rail and saltmarsh sparrow high marsh habitat in Delaware Bay at an unimpounded site currently farmed for salt hay. Project will work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to modify existing practice scenarios that integrate salt marsh conservation into their incentive programs, which will allow the landowner to maintain some farming while providing critical habitat for at-risk marsh birds.

### **Introducing the Landscape Makeover Program to the Delaware River Watershed Communities (NJ)**

Grantee: Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Grant Amount: .....\$443,800  
 Matching Funds: .....\$463,600  
 Total Project Amount: .....\$907,400

Implement the Landscape Makeover Program along the Delaware River Watershed communities. Project will transform lawns into pollinator habitats that reduce stormwater and localized flooding by providing homeowners and municipalities and other institutions funding and technical assistance to install green stormwater infrastructure under one umbrella with multiple partners.



American oystercatchers

### **Restoring the Stream-Community Connection in East Trenton (NJ)**

Grantee: Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Grant Amount: .....\$116,700  
 Matching Funds: .....\$30,100  
 Total Project Amount: .....\$146,800

Invest in local knowledge and capacity to connect to the Assunpink Creek and East Trenton community. Project will expand the StreetLeader program to hire two youth leaders each year to be environmental specialists for the community and build a training program to sustain these positions into the future. This project will also monitor water quality and ecological integrity through continuous sensors and discrete water quality and biological surveys.

### **Restoring the Delaware Bay Stopover for Red Knots through Monitoring and Protection (NJ)**

Grantee: Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey

Grant Amount: .....\$239,200  
 Matching Funds: .....\$239,200  
 Total Project Amount: .....\$478,400

Further current management and monitoring efforts to recover the rufa red knot and other shorebirds as well as horseshoe crab through disturbance protection and monitoring of population status. Project will support the maintenance of effective, established, volunteer-based population monitoring programs in the region.

(continued)





Brook trout

**Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Tidal Marsh Restoration Implementation Phase II (NJ)**

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited  
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,461,100  
 Matching Funds:..... \$2,200,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$3,661,100

Restore and enhance 430 acres of existing and lost critical tidal freshwater marsh habitat at Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey. Project will facilitate natural hydrologic regime through removal of excess rock in key channels, enhance marsh resilience via enhancing existing breakwaters along the Refuge border, and conduct marsh elevation enhancement via dredge material placement.

**NEW YORK**

**Building Capacity in the Willowemoc with the Climate Corps to Support Recovery and Resiliency (NY)**

Grantee: Friends of the Upper Delaware River  
 Grant Amount:..... \$463,700  
 Matching Funds:..... \$198,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$661,700

Build the technical and community capacity in the Upper Delaware to accelerate restoration and improvement projects that will benefit eastern brook trout recovery and community resiliency. Project will form an Upper Delaware River Climate Corps, which will supply a conservation workforce needed in the region.

**Callicoon Riverside Park Restoration (NY)**

Grantee: Sullivan County  
 Grant Amount:..... \$317,300  
 Matching Funds:..... \$405,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$722,300

Purchase and clean up 38 acres of land in the town of Delaware, New York. Project will perform site remediation at a former RV Campground including removal of debris build-up, invasive species removal, installation of welcome signs and development of rustic trails for public use.

**Community Infrastructure Improvement Project in the Upper Delaware River (NY)**

Grantee: US Fish & Wildlife Service  
 Grant Amount:..... \$635,500  
 Matching Funds:..... \$293,500  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$929,000

Implement nature-based solutions to support prioritized aquatic organism passage projects in the Upper Delaware River. Project will replace three culverts, reconnecting over four miles of stream for brook trout while also completing a dam removal feasibility study, setting the stage for reconnecting over 15 miles of the East Branch Delaware River.

**PENNSYLVANIA****Acoustic Monitoring of Focal Bird Species in Dynamic Forest Restoration Block in Delaware River - II (PA)**

Grantee: University of Pittsburgh

Grant Amount: ..... \$173,200

Matching Funds: ..... \$175,700

Total Project Amount: ..... \$348,900

Use automated acoustic recorders to monitor populations of golden-winged warbler, wood thrush, cerulean warbler, and other species in dynamic forest restoration blocks in the watershed. Project will estimate species occupancy and abundance at each site using statistical models and holding technical training workshops to support future analysis of bioacoustic recordings.

**Building Capacity for More Equitable Green Infrastructure in Delaware and Montgomery Counties (PA)**

Grantee: Pennsylvania Resources Council

Grant Amount: ..... \$293,700

Matching Funds: ..... \$341,500

Total Project Amount: ..... \$635,200

Strengthen the partnership of four organizations in Delaware and Montgomery County, Pennsylvania by combining several programs together under one umbrella program, Growing Greener Communities. Project will streamline stormwater work and increase the partners' capacity to respond to increasing requests within their service areas while building technical tools and resources for other organizations and communities to replicate it.

**Bushkill Stream and Fish Passage Restoration Project (PA)**

Grantee: Wildlands Conservancy

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

Matching Funds: ..... \$1,049,200

Total Project Amount: ..... \$2,049,200

Complete fish passage and stream restoration through the removal of the first three dams in the Bushkill Creek in the City of Easton, Pennsylvania. Project will include dam removal, installation of instream habitat structures, stream bank stabilization, riparian buffer plantings, continued stream monitoring, and community outreach.

**Cold Run Habitat Restoration and Agricultural Best Management Practice Implementation (PA)**

Grantee: Berks County Conservation District

Grant Amount: ..... \$146,200

Matching Funds: ..... \$160,900

Total Project Amount: ..... \$307,100

Implement stream and riparian habitat restoration on a 70-acre farm within the Robeston Township in Berks County, Pennsylvania. Project will work with landowners who are committed to install instream habitat structures and transitioning 10 acres of marginal pasture lands along 1,800 feet of floodplain into riparian forest buffer, meadow with pollinator habitat, and enhanced wetland habitat.

**Conway Park Streambank Restoration for Environmental and Community Resilience (PA)**

Grantee: Darby Township

Grant Amount: ..... \$199,000

Matching Funds: ..... \$231,800

Total Project Amount: ..... \$430,800

Restore floodplain connection in Hermesprota Creek and create 1.3 acres of native forested habitat within the Township-owned Conway Park just upstream of the Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Project will help reduce downstream flooding by allowing flood waters to more easily reach the floodplain while creating much needed habitat that will create connections for wildlife in nearby Heinz Refuge.

**Designing the Schuylkill River Trail - Bartram's to Passyunk (PA)**

Grantee: Schuylkill River Development Corporation

Grant Amount: ..... \$90,000

Matching Funds: ..... \$90,000

Total Project Amount: ..... \$180,000

Develop design plans to create a recreational trail and restore approximately 16 acres of riparian buffer along 1,500 feet of the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia, a tributary of the Delaware River. Project will accelerate improvements to the shoreline, water quality, wildlife habitat, and access to recreational opportunities along the river consistent with local conservation efforts.

**Living Shoreline Design and Permitting along an Urban Delaware Riverfront (PA)**

Grantee: Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

Grant Amount: ..... \$96,800

Matching Funds: ..... \$97,300

Total Project Amount: ..... \$194,100

Advance conceptual designs of a shellfish-based living shoreline at the Constellation Generating Station along the Delaware River in Croydon, Pennsylvania. Project will develop formal engineering designs used to obtain federal and state permits for installation and ultimately promote habitat enhancement, water quality improvement, and increased coastal resilience in the region.

**Monitoring Wild Trout Populations in the Unassessed Waters of the Delaware River (PA)**

Grantee: Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds

Grant Amount: ..... \$119,800

Matching Funds: ..... \$680,000

Total Project Amount: ..... \$799,800

Address the lack of assessments and monitoring of wild trout populations in the Pennsylvania drainage of the Delaware River Basin. Project will develop a proven and transferrable private-public partnership between the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

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### Natural Lands Bear Creek Expansion for Preservation Efforts (PA)

Grantee: Natural Lands Trust

Grant Amount:.....\$751,800  
 Matching Funds:.....\$895,000  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$1,646,800

Acquire the 344-acre Bear Creek Preserve Expansion property in Bear Creek Township, Luzerne County, for incorporation into Natural Lands' 3,565-acre Bear Creek Preserve. Project will close the last major gap in a conservation corridor comprised of the 3,565-acre Natural Lands Bear Creek Preserve, the 1,880-acre North Branch Bear Creek Camp easement, and the 21,137-acre Game Lands 91.

### Removal of the Spring Garden Dam on Neshaminy Creek in Bucks County, Pennsylvania (PA)

Grantee: The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Grant Amount:.....\$750,000  
 Matching Funds:.....\$550,000  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$1,300,000

Remove the Spring Garden Dam in Neshaminy Creek in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Project will remove a priority barrier to aquatic organism passage on a waterway designated for migratory fish and restore this reach of Neshaminy Creek to free-flowing conditions, eliminate a public safety hazard, and enhance water-related recreational opportunities in an increasingly urban locale.

### Restoring Dynamic Forest Structure for Priority Birds in the Delaware River Watershed: Phase VI (PA)

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy

Grant Amount:.....\$1,425,800  
 Matching Funds:.....\$1,425,800  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$2,851,600

Create Dynamic Forest Restoration Block (DFRB) comprehensive plans for two new DFRBs and implement forest management activities in eight existing DFRBs and four new DFRBs in Pennsylvania. Project will build upon the management implemented in order to develop and implement a comprehensive forest management strategy targeting long-term availability of diverse forest age classes and structural complexity benefiting the reproductive cycles of golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler, and wood thrush.

### Stewarding Philadelphia's Delaware River Watershed through Job Skill Training Partnerships (PA)

Grantee: Delaware River City Corporation

Grant Amount:.....\$253,500  
 Matching Funds:..... N/A  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$253,500

Build capacity for a job skill training partnership in environmental stewardship for the Delaware River Watershed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Project will include start-up costs for nonprofit partners to share resources, train youth in green jobs, and model local non-profit/municipal partnerships to address maintenance needs for expanded restoration of parks and trails.

### Stream Restoration at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center (PA)

Grantee: Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation

Grant Amount:.....\$626,300  
 Matching Funds:.....\$326,600  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$952,900

Restore full stream width along the Bushkill Creek in Pennsylvania by rebuilding the stream bank and armoring public access points. Project will use seeded soil lifts, root wads with vegetated rock protection, and imbricated stone to rebuild the stream bank, provide an additional access point to the stream while refurbishing the two that already exist, and re-establish a vegetated riparian buffer.

### MULTIPLE STATE

### Building Capacity for Conservation Projects through a Mentored Small Grant Program (DE, NJ, NY PA)

Grantee: New Jersey Audubon Society

Grant Amount:.....\$440,000  
 Matching Funds:.....\$92,700  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$532,700

Administer a small grants restoration program to provide peer mentoring opportunities to prospective grantees in the Delaware River Basin. Project will assist organizations and community groups in capacity building through on-the-ground restoration projects with an outcome of a cleaner, healthier, and more equitable and coordinated Delaware River watershed.



Golden-winged warbler

(continued)





Saltmarsh sparrow

**Building Capacity for Urban Waters Federal Partnership Cities through Project Planning (DE, NJ, PA)**

Grantee: Partnership for the Delaware Estuary  
 Grant Amount:..... \$92,500  
 Matching Funds:..... \$25,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$117,500

Expand the capacity of local organizations and decision-makers in the four Delaware River Urban Waters Federal Partnership cities of Camden, Chester, Philadelphia, and Wilmington to plan and implement community-driven habitat and water quality projects. Project will engage community groups and local decision-makers in order to implement community-led projects, such as tree plantings, installing rain gardens and native pollinator gardens, and other habitat improvement projects.

**Building Dam Removal Capacity to Accelerate Habitat Improvement in Delaware River (DE, NJ, NY, PA)**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy  
 Grant Amount:..... \$107,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$27,600  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$134,600

Add capacity and expertise for dam removal project management in the Delaware River Basin by leveraging an existing dam removal collaboration and offering new training opportunities throughout the basin. Project will support efficient habitat restoration, increase recreation, and reduce risk by increasing capacity and expertise among conservation practitioners, fish and wildlife agencies, local governments, and dam safety programs.

**Demonstrating the Utility of Low-cost Salt Marsh Restoration Techniques in Delaware Bay (DE, NJ)**

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited  
 Grant Amount:..... \$388,900  
 Matching Funds:..... \$129,600  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$518,500

Advance a Delaware Bay-wide tidal marsh resilience program based on innovative low cost and disturbance marsh restoration techniques. Project will serve as the beginning of a programmatic approach to investigate the utility of these techniques and scale up the effort to make a more meaningful impact to the coastal wetland conservation within the Bay.

**Water Resource Management Studies across the Delaware River Basin (DE, NJ, NY, PA)**

Grantee: Delaware River Basin Commission  
 Grant Amount:..... \$866,900  
 Matching Funds:..... \$2,124,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$2,990,900

Increase and enhance water security for fish, wildlife, and humans in the Delaware River Basin by advancing research in water resource management through the completion of studies comprising four critical components of water security to understand disparities in water security in overburdened communities and water resiliency. Project will generate findings that will be used for future water security planning efforts.