



Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund

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PARTNERS

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- William Penn Foundation
- 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 \$8.1 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Blue heron with shad

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a 2023-year round of funding for Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund projects with additional funds provided by the William Penn Foundation and AstraZeneca. Thirty-six new or continuing conservation and restoration grants totaling \$14.9 million were awarded. The 36 awards announced leveraged \$20 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of nearly \$35 million. This year's grant slate is the second year 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.

(continued)

DELAWARE**Community Rewilding on the Brandywine: Urban Flood Resistance in Wilmington Neighborhoods (DE)**

Grantee: Green Building United

Grant Amount:..... \$94,500

Matching Funds:..... \$25,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$119,500

Design, deliver and evaluate a program to engage the Northeast Wilmington community in natural flood mitigation techniques. Project will conduct community outreach and education, implement flood resistance solutions through community rewilding and improve habitat for priority species including Atlantic sturgeon and American shad.

Enhancing the City of Wilmington's Urban Pollinator Corridor and Food Resilience Efforts (DE)

Grantee: Delaware Nature Society

Grant Amount:..... \$202,100

Matching Funds:..... \$225,300

Total Project Amount:..... \$427,400

Install 27 community garden and pollinator habitat projects alongside a series of educational workshops and activities, developing the next generation of urban gardeners and stewards in Wilmington, Delaware. Project will increase urban pollinator habitat, improve public access and build resiliency to climate change using community gardens as an integrated food network.

Habitat Enhancement and Water Quality Improvement in Banning Regional Park (DE)

Grantee: New Castle County

Grant Amount:..... \$230,200

Matching Funds:..... \$230,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$460,200

Initiate transferable and ecologically focused restoration and land management methods that will be applied on 4,330 acres of undeveloped open space on county park lands at Banning Regional Park in New Castle County, Delaware. Project will provide critical invasive plant control on 75 acres of contiguous mature forest, convert 4 acres of existing turfgrass lawn to forest on the east side of the park, and enhance 2.6 acres of wetland and riparian forest.

Habitat Restoration and Outdoor Education in the Red Clay Consolidated School District (DE)

Grantee: Red Clay Consolidated School District

Grant Amount:..... \$228,300

Matching Funds:..... \$235,400

Total Project Amount:..... \$463,700

Restore underutilized space on six public school campuses within New Castle County, Delaware, through student-led Green Teams, classes, district staff and a network of community partners. Project will provide benefits to wildlife and water quality, as well as meaningful outdoor learning opportunities for teachers, students ranging from preschool through 12th grade and parents.

Implementation of Kalmar Nyckel Living Shoreline and Riparian Habitat Restoration (DE)

Grantee: Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

Grant Amount:..... \$227,900

Matching Funds:..... \$228,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$455,900

Implement a 300-foot living shoreline and riparian habitat restoration project as part of the Christina Brandywine Remediation Restoration and Resilience Initiative's (CBR4) Plan. Project will create final design and permitting of proposed installations, implementation of a living shoreline at the Kalmar Nyckel site, including a freshwater mussel demonstration installation, and restoration of a wooded riparian wetland swale and adjacent shoreline, via invasive removal and native plantings.

NEW JERSEY**Assessment of the Ironcolor Shiner and co-occurring Species to Inform Conservation Planning (NJ)**

Grantee: Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University

Grant Amount:..... \$274,900

Matching Funds:..... \$274,900

Total Project Amount:..... \$549,800

Address the need for data collection and assessment for Ironcolor Shiner through the formation of a work group, compilation of historical records, an assessment of 250 sites using environmental DNA, field surveys, and an assessment of restoration opportunities. Project will provide data that will inform and support conservation planning and restoration efforts in New Jersey for at-risk species.



Red knot

(continued)

Building Technical Capacity for the Delivery of Voluntary Conservation Programs and Outreach (NJ)

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount:\$415,900
 Matching Funds:\$125,000
 Total Project Amount:\$540,900

Create a working lands biologist position and partner with the New Jersey Natural Resources Conservation Service to work one-on-one with private landowners and agricultural producers. Project will provide conservation technical assistance and best management practice planning, facilitate enrollment and participation in voluntary conservation programs and implement agricultural best management practices on 10,000 acres in southern New Jersey.

Closson Site Restoration in the Delaware River Basin (NJ)

Grantee: City of Lambertville

Grant Amount:\$322,200
 Matching Funds:\$325,900
 Total Project Amount:\$648,100

Manage the effects of increasing storm intensity through riparian restoration and creation of new wildlife habitat on a 4.6-acre undeveloped parcel in the City of Lambertville, New Jersey. Project will increase resiliency by improving management of 5.7 million gallons of stormwater annually, improve and create new wildlife habitat, engage the community through education and volunteer opportunities and enhance public access and recreation opportunities.

Creating Accessible Pinelands Communities (NJ)

Grantee: Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Grant Amount:\$207,800
 Matching Funds:\$224,000
 Total Project Amount:\$431,800

Address the need for the development of resources that enhance accessible nature opportunities. Project will create an Access Nature Forum for community-building and engagement, develop the AccessNatureNJ.org website as a resource for planning visits to accessible parks and preserves, establish eco-tour programming at accessible sites and improve the accessibility of existing natural areas.

Developing a Water Trail and Recreational Programming in Camden - Phase II (NJ)

Grantee: Upstream Alliance

Grant Amount:\$688,700
 Matching Funds:\$1,359,500
 Total Project Amount:\$2,048,200

Establish hands-on recreational programming, hire local youth, support increased public access on the previously inaccessible Cooper River and perform preliminary work restoring wild celery in Camden, New Jersey. Project will engage over

3,000 members of the Camden community, create job opportunities for local youth, collect baseline data for future fish habitat improvements and support engagement through aquatic habitat restoration and community-based science.

Ecological Uplift of the Former Culver Lake Golf Course in the Upper Paulins Kill Watershed (NJ)

Grantee: Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority-Wallkill River Watershed Management Group

Grant Amount:\$274,800
 Matching Funds:\$510,700
 Total Project Amount:\$785,500

Restore and enhance 20 acres of floodplains, wetlands and headwater tributary corridors through riparian reforestation and floating treatment wetland installation on the former Culver Lake Golf Course in the Upper Paulins Kill Watershed. Project will provide best management practices that will improve water quality, enhance forested habitat connectivity for threatened and endangered species documented on site, and increase outdoor recreational opportunities.

Restoring Suitability for Spawning Horseshoe Crabs and Critical Habitat for Red Knots (NJ)

Grantee: American Littoral Society

Grant Amount:\$1,000,000
 Matching Funds:\$1,000,000
 Total Project Amount:\$2,000,000

Advance the comprehensive conservation and restoration of Bayshore beach habitat critical for horseshoe crabs and shorebirds by using strategies to further reduce erosion and increase resilience to storms and climate change. Project will restore two vulnerable and highly valuable sites to both horseshoe crabs and shorebirds in Delaware Bay New Jersey and will include 4 hybrid breakwater structures and the restoration of 3,000 linear feet of shoreline across Fortescue Beach and Thompsons Beach.

Strategic Planning for Equitable Access and Resilient Habitat on New Jersey Audubon's Sanctuaries (NJ)

Grantee: New Jersey Audubon Society

Grant Amount:\$398,700
 Matching Funds:\$401,400
 Total Project Amount:\$800,100

Create a comprehensive plan to prioritize wildlife habitat restoration actions on focal nature sanctuaries that ensure the greatest conservation impact while ensuring equitable access to recreational activities for all people of diverse backgrounds, cultures and abilities. Project will create a strategic plan for 16 properties spanning 1,105 acres within the Delaware River Watershed for wildlife habitat enhancements, natural resource protections and improved access to all people.



Delaware River

NEW YORK

Creating a Recreation and Open Space Plan for the Town of Tusten (NY)

Grantee: Town of Tusten

Grant Amount:..... \$75,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$75,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$150,000

Create an open space and recreation plan for the town of Tusten, New York, using New York State’s online inventories of species and habitats of concern. Project will develop GIS maps to update the inventory alongside a planning process which will engage the public, identify areas and tools for protection, and set forth an implementation framework including timelines, strategies and actions, responsible parties and resources.

PENNSYLVANIA

Building Capacity for Cobbs Creek Watershed Coalition Efforts (PA)

Grantee: Clean Air Council

Grant Amount:..... \$266,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$67,500
 Total Project Amount:..... \$334,000

Develop a formal support structure for the Cobbs Creek Watershed in the form of a coalition to build capacity and better coordinate efforts that improve the watershed and reduce barriers to residents accessing Cobbs Creek Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Project will engage residents through community-led programming, activities, and stewardship of the watershed leading to increased use of the park, reduced pollution and improved water quality.

Building Capacity for Expanding Pennsylvania’s Woods and Meadows (PA)

Grantee: Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Grant Amount:..... \$1,200,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$1,200,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$2,400,000

Create a Watershed Forestry Specialist position to capitalize

on landowner interest in Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) riparian restoration programs in the Delaware Watershed. Project will provide necessary technical assistance and capacity to implement 100 acres of riparian forest buffers and lawn conversion projects, plant 6,000 trees and support urban forests and pollinator habitat.

Designing and Planning for the South Philadelphia Wetlands Park (PA)

Grantee: Delaware River Waterfront Corporation

Grant Amount:..... \$150,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$150,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$300,000

Complete the environmental assessments and permitting activities needed to advance the conceptual South Philadelphia Wetlands Park into final construction documents. Project will lay the groundwork for an innovative park that will feature restored wetlands set amidst disused pier structures in the heavily urbanized Upper Estuary of the Delaware River, which will offer a test bed for new ecological restoration techniques in a hardened and heavily modified urban waterfront context.

Developing an Engaging Plum Run Trail at the Plum Run Preserve (PA)

Grantee: East Bradford Township

Grant Amount:..... \$250,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$900,900
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,150,900

Construct a 0.25-mile segment of accessible trail and accompanying outdoor interpretive center at the Plum Run Preserve in West Chester Borough, opening up 12 new acres for public access. Project will improve outdoor recreational access to a recently restored section of Plum Run, educate the public on the importance of Alosine migration and spawning habitat, and complete reforestation of 2.6 acres of riparian buffer along Plum Run through the planting of 500 native trees.

Developing a Public Trail and Link to the Lehigh River through Penn Haven (PA)

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land

Grant Amount:..... \$1,500,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$1,611,500
 Total Project Amount:..... \$3,111,500

Protect and restore the Penn Haven property consisting of 1,140 acres in the Black Creek Gorge of Carbon County, Pennsylvania. Project will allow the Borough of Weatherly to develop a public trail connecting the town with Lehigh Gorge State Park and the 165-mile Delaware & Lehigh Trail, which will increase recreation opportunities and public access to the watershed in addition to providing conservation value as a focal area for Eastern Brook Trout and forest bird habitat.

Engaging Community Stakeholders to Reduce Road Salt Burden to Local Streams (PA)

Grantee: Lower Merion Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$186,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$197,300
 Total Project Amount:..... \$383,800

Complete an analysis of the understudied behavioral drivers behind municipal and non-municipal road salt application through the engagement of stakeholders. Project will provide a cost-benefit analysis for municipalities to consider environmentally sensitive alternatives to salt and provide a model for other watershed partners wanting to implement similar projects.

Improving Public Access and Recreation in the Pennsylvania Portion of the Delaware River - III (PA)

Grantee: The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Grant Amount:..... \$1,000,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$1,000,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$2,000,000

Provide grants to public entities, including townships, boroughs, municipal and county governments as well as nonprofit groups for the planning, acquisition, development, expansion and rehabilitation of boating facilities located in the Pennsylvania portion of the Delaware River Watershed in order to improve public fishing and recreation access. Project will ensure that boaters and anglers in the Delaware River watershed have safe, clean, and updated boating facilities.

Pachella Gully Restoration and Public Access Improvements (PA)

Grantee: Friends of the Wissahickon

Grant Amount:..... \$569,100
 Matching Funds:..... \$569,200
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,138,300

Restore an actively eroding 500-foot gully through implementation of green stormwater infrastructure in the

Wissahickon Valley Park, Philadelphia. Project will install green stormwater infrastructure that will both improve water quality in Wissahickon Creek and restore access to the Pachella access trail for the park's over 2 million annual visitors.

Planning and Design for the Ecological Restoration of the Riparian Corridor of the French Creek (PA)

Grantee: French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$162,100
 Matching Funds:..... \$508,700
 Total Project Amount:..... \$670,800

Complete planning and design for the restoration of the French Creek riparian corridor along 4,800 feet of impaired, incised stream channel and 246 acres of surrounding protected wetland and upland habitats. Project will incorporate a stakeholder-informed, system-wide approach to generate a mosaic of habitats and increase floral and faunal diversity while addressing regional water quality objectives, improving floodplain resilience and creating opportunities for outreach and community-based science.

Planning and Design for the Fairmount Water Works Floating Water Workshop (PA)

Grantee: The Fund for the Water Works

Grant Amount:..... \$225,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$230,700
 Total Project Amount:..... \$455,700

Complete the planning and design documentation needed to build the 5,400 sq. ft. Fairmount Water Works Floating Water Workshop. Project will create construction bid packets for the Fairmount Water Works Floating Water Workshop, which will serve as a unique waterfront field station and learning center that will improve recreational access and educational opportunities for the community.

Reforestation of Stonehurst Hills (PA)

Grantee: Stonehurst Hills Community Association

Grant Amount:..... \$118,100
 Matching Funds:..... \$91,300
 Total Project Amount:..... \$209,400

Establish a sustained conservation effort to reforest and create green stormwater management infrastructure in the Stonehurst Hills neighborhood of Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Project will plant 100 native trees, design and implement a variety of stormwater management best practices, educate community members on topics that intersect with conservation and stormwater management and create a Community Green Team to recruit neighbors for native tree plantings and lawn conversions.

Restoring Dynamic Forest Structure for Priority Birds in the Delaware River Watershed: Phase 7 (PA)

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$685,700
 Matching Funds: \$759,400
 Total Project Amount: \$1,445,100

Implement a comprehensive and focused approach to forest bird conservation via Dynamic Forest Restoration Blocks (DFRB), by drafting a comprehensive plan and implementing forest management in the new 9,632 acre Long Pond DFRB and revising the existing DFRB plan for SGL 180. Project will diversify stand age classes and increase structural complexity of forests within American Bird Conservancy's Poconos Birdscape to help meet the full breeding season habitat needs of many forest bird species.

Shedbrook Creek Restoration and Sedge Meadow Improvement to Create a Climate-Resilient FDR Park (PA)

Grantee: Fairmount Park Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$1,500,000
 Matching Funds: \$4,822,800
 Total Project Amount: \$6,322,800

Restore and enhance in-stream habitat, establish 6 acres of riparian habitat, increase tree canopy along the stream and convert fragmented, low-quality wetlands into a higher functioning, emergent wetland/sedge meadow ecosystem at FDR park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Project will create and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, provide new public access and opportunities for water-based recreation, and increase the park's flood storage capacity and climate resiliency.



Golden-winged warbler

Stream Restoration at East Branch Red Clay Creek Headwaters (PA)

Grantee: Brandywine Red Clay Alliance

Grant Amount: \$126,500
 Matching Funds: \$160,000
 Total Project Amount: \$295,500

Implement a stream restoration and riparian buffer planting project along 1,360 linear feet of stream that includes 1.1 acres of new forested riparian buffer. Project will address an incised, heavily impacted stream with steeply eroding stream banks by implementing stream bank grading, in-stream structures, and habitat improvements to support restoration efforts on the impaired Upper East Branch of the Red Clay Creek.

West Wayne Preserve Wooded Wetlands Restoration and Habitat Enhancement (PA)

Grantee: Radnor Township

Grant Amount: \$461,500
 Matching Funds: \$980,000
 Total Project Amount: \$1,441,500

Remove contaminated soils, effectively manage stormwater, and plant over 1,300 trees in the West Wayne Preserve Friends of Radnor Trail Park in Wayne Township, Pennsylvania. Project will restore the ecological function of the wooded wetland and provide water quality improvements over the 44-acre park.

Youth Workforce Development Pilot in Ecosystems Management on the Tidal Schuylkill River (PA)

Grantee: John Bartram Association

Grant Amount: \$251,300
 Matching Funds: \$75,200
 Total Project Amount: \$326,500

Create a one-year pilot of a paid youth workforce development program focused on preparing local high school students for careers in wetland and riparian management, ecology and horticulture. Project will develop a curriculum by professional staff horticulturists in keeping with best practices for managing and maintaining a range of habitats present within Bartram's Garden and other regional ecosystems, including wetlands, riparian buffers, living shorelines and pollinator habitat.

MULTIPLE STATES

Assessing the Factors that Impact Water Quality in the Upper Delaware (DE, NJ, NY, PA)

Grantee: Delaware River Basin Commission

Grant Amount: \$498,200
 Matching Funds: \$500,000
 Total Project Amount: \$998,200

Conduct three water quality studies to collect, assess and evaluate data in support of future monitoring and management efforts. Project will assess contaminants of emerging concern, complete estuary water quality modeling to understand the potential effects of anticipated climate change on fish habitat, and complete research, monitoring, and evaluation of a recreational use in support of safe and equitable recreation access.

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American oystercatchers

Circuit Trails Community Grant Program: Local-led Efforts to Improve Access to the Outdoors (NJ, PA)

Grantee: Pennsylvania Environmental Council
 Grant Amount:..... \$212,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$75,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$287,000

Expand the Circuit Trails Community Grant Program, allowing four current grantees to produce a second year of activities, five new organizations to implement projects, and, through a strategic partner organization, support grantees with fishing and birding outings across the region. Project will provide grants to community-led projects that improve access to nature and outdoor recreation among underrepresented groups in Greater Philadelphia’s 375-mile Circuit Trails network.

Creating a Management Plan for the Invasive Chinese Pond Mussel in the Delaware Watershed

Grantee: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
 Grant Amount:..... \$191,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$191,500
 Total Project Amount:..... \$383,000

Create a management plan and a habitat suitability map for the invasive Chinese Pond Mussel within the Delaware River watershed. Project will create resources for the coalition of partners currently working to eradicate this species before it threatens vulnerable freshwater ecosystems and threatened mussel species throughout the watershed.

Evaluation of the Endangered Dwarf Wedgemussel Population in the Delaware River (NY, PA)

Grantee: National Park Service-Upper Delaware S&RR
 Grant Amount:..... \$86,200
 Matching Funds:..... \$86,200
 Total Project Amount:..... \$172,400

Conduct qualitative and quantitative surveys to characterize

and update knowledge of the current Dwarf Wedgemussel population in the mainstem Delaware River. Project will design a framework that allows for repeated and comparable surveys with the potential for future implementation of a monitoring program.

Informing Coastal Restoration Efforts to Support At-Risk Shorebird Species (DE, NJ)

Grantee: Atlantic Coast Joint Venture / USFWS
 Grant Amount:..... \$157,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$157,900
 Total Project Amount:..... \$315,400

Utilize modeling to inform and implement coastal restoration planning in the Delaware Bay for at-risk species saltmarsh sparrow and American oystercatcher, which use coastal marsh as breeding habitat. Project will update the existing salt marsh vegetation community data set to identify local hotspots for both species as well as identify where both may co-occur.

Transforming Recreational Engagement through Innovative and Inclusive Approaches (DE, NJ, NY, PA)

Grantee: National Wildlife Federation
 Grant Amount:..... \$500,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$500,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,000,000

Engage urban neighborhoods and underserved communities to explore, recreate, and enhance their waterways and trail systems through the removal of barriers, creation of safe spaces, and opportunities for outreach and involvement. Project will increase capacity and support for restoration and protection activities in the basin through meaningful community-based educational and recreational engagement.