Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund, 2019 Grants

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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**

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Red knots

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) recently announced the 2019 round of funding for the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund. Twenty-nine new conservation and restoration grants totaling $4.63 million were awarded, leveraging $5.75 million in match from the grantees, to generate a total conservation impact of $10.38 million.

The Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund aims to 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 Watershed Conservation Fund 2019 Grant Slate

Bog turtle | Credit: Gary Peeples, USFWS

Improving Spawning and Rearing Habitat for Alosines in the Delaware River Basin (DE, NJ, NY, PA)
Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
Grant Award:. $175,101
Matching Funds: $176,000
Total Amount:. **$351,101**
Advance a targeted in-depth assessment to improve aquatic connectivity for American shad and river herring in the Delaware River Basin. Project will evaluate barriers and habitats throughout the watershed to identify key sites for shad and river herring restoration, resulting in a "Restoration Road Map" which will provide recommendations on meeting funding needs and feasibility and opportunity for potential phasing projects.

Restoration and Habitat Enhancement of Bushkill Creek (PA)
Grantee: Wildlands Conservancy, Inc.
Grant Award:. $98,006
Matching Funds: $138,000
Total Amount:. **$236,006**
Restore approximately 2 miles of High Quality Coldwater Fishery designated Bushkill Creek in Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Project will conduct instream channel corrections, banks stabilization plantings, and aquatic habitat improvements to support native brook trout populations.

Streambank and Riparian Forest Restoration in the Pennypack Creek (PA)
Grantee: Delaware River City Corporation
Grant Award:. $150,000
Matching Funds: $162,000
Total Amount:. **$312,000**
Restore 600 linear feet of eroded streambank and the adjacent riparian forest to improve habitat for fish and wildlife along the Pennypack Creek near its confluence with the Delaware River in Northeast Philadelphia. Project will expand on current, local restoration efforts to remove invasive tree species and replace them with native canopy and understory trees, helping to create a varied and sustainable ecosystem while providing community access to the riverfront.

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Watershed Restoration and Habitat Improvement in the Brodhead Creek Watershed (PA)
Grantee: Pocono Heritage Land Trust
Grant Award:. $250,000
Matching Funds: $845,447
Total Amount:. $1,095,447
Improve habitat for fish and wildlife in up to six locations in the Brodhead Creek Watershed. Project will leverage public and private partnerships, combining the efforts of private fishing clubs, a regional water authority, a local university and volunteers to benefit fish, wildlife and people in the greater Delaware River Watershed.

Characterization of Algal Composition and Dissolved Oxygen in the Delaware Estuary (DE, NJ, PA)
Grantee: Delaware River Basin Commission
Grant Award:. $88,854
Matching Funds: $90,000
Total Amount:. $178,854
Perform algal composition and dissolved oxygen characterization of Delaware Estuary to better understand existing and potential fish habitat quality. Project will inform the propagation of important species populations such as Atlantic sturgeon and striped bass and improve the eutrophication model of the tidal Delaware River and Bay.

Restoring Dynamic Forest Structure for Priority Birds in the Delaware River Watershed: Phase III (PA)
Grantee: American Bird Conservancy
Grant Award:. $250,000
Matching Funds: $250,000
Total Amount:. $500,000
Develop and implement a comprehensive forest management strategy in six Dynamic Forest Restoration Blocks totaling more than 25,000 acres in northeast Pennsylvania. Project will target long-term availability of diverse forest age classes and structural complexity benefitting the entire reproductive cycle of golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler, and wood thrush.

Designing Bartram's Mile Fishing Pier (PA)
Grantee: Schuylkill River Development Corporation
Grant Award:. $50,000
Matching Funds: $60,000
Total Amount:. $110,000
Develop shovel-ready design plans to rehabilitate an abandoned industrial pier into an accessible recreational site on the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia, a tributary of the Delaware River. Project will lead to shoreline improvements aimed to enhance water quality and wildlife habitat, as well as improve recreational opportunities and river access consistent with local conservation efforts.

Improving Resiliency at the Town of Highland River Access Point (NY)
Grantee: Sullivan County
Grant Award:. $250,000
Matching Funds: $305,345
Total Amount:. $555,345
Reconstruct the Highland Access Point on the Upper Delaware River by restoring native plants and installing bioswales and pervious pavement. Project will replace the river access point with a more gently sloping and stabilized path, provide educational information about the on-site best management practices, and install facilities for temporary boat and bicycle storage.

Tidal Marsh Restoration at Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (NJ)
Grantee: Ducks Unlimited
Grant Award:. $53,070
Matching Funds: $53,400
Total Amount:. $106,470
Advance wetland planning at Supawna Meadows National Widlife Refuge to enhance 430 acres of critical tidal marsh habitat. Project will complete restoration design plans and obtain permits to conduct restoration at the Refuge.

Implementing Green Stormwater Management Initiatives in the New Jersey Highlands
Grantee: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Grant Award:. $175,363
Matching Funds: $175,651
Total Amount:. $351,014
Improve and maintain water quality to support fish and wildlife in the New Jersey Highlands. Project will provide local municipalities with stormwater management plans to reduce flooding and improve water quality in the region.

Advancing Restoration of Horseshoe Crab and Shorebird Habitat in Cape May and Cumberland County (NJ)
Grantee: American Littoral Society
Grant Award:. $250,000
Matching Funds: $250,000
Total Amount:. $500,000
Advance the conservation and restoration of bayshore beach habitat in the Delaware Bay for horseshoe crabs and shorebirds by utilizing strategies to reduce erosion and increase coastal resiliencey to storms. Project activities will take place at six different sites identified as vulnerable areas, spanning 30 miles of shoreline along Cape May and Cumberland Counties of New Jersey, with the goal of restoring and sustaining the ecological function of important coastal habitats.

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Eastern brook trout

Reduction of Off-Road Vehicle Impacts to Protect Wildlife and Waterways in the Rancocas Watershed (NJ)
Grantee: Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Grant Award:. $63,150
Matching Funds: $70,667
Total Amount:. **$133,817**
Reduce impacts of off-road vehicles to restore waterways, and wetland and upland habitats in the Rancocas Watershed. Project will advance efforts of local conservation groups, municipalities and state agencies to limit off-road vehicle access at key sites on public lands in Burlington County, New Jersey.

Restoring Shallow Water Wetland at Delaware's National Wildlife Refuges
Grantee: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Grant Award:. $100,000
Matching Funds: $100,000
Total Amount:. **$200,000**
Restore 90 acres of shallow freshwater ephemeral marsh and managed wetlands at the Coastal Delaware National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Project will finalize conceptual design plans and secure permits to initiate habitat restoration efforts.

Creating a Web-Based Habitat Model for the Upper Delaware River (NJ, NY, PA)
Grantee: Delaware River Basin Commission
Grant Award:. $128,750
Matching Funds: $136,480
Total Amount:. **$265,230**
Enhance previously developed models for measuring habitat changes resulting from regulated flow and temperature mitigation efforts in the Upper Delaware River. Project will upgrade current models and provide an easily accessible, web-based system to accommodate new research, additional species, and expanded spatial domain.

Implementing Green Infrastructure to Protect the Maurice River (NJ)
Grantee: Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and Its Tributaries, Inc. (CU Maurice River)
Grant Award:. $69,356
Matching Funds: $151,231
Total Amount:. **$220,594**
Implement green infrastructure in Millville, New Jersey to engage the general public with principles of stormwater management and habitat restoration. Project will install a series of demonstration projects to promote infiltration and filtration of water, as well as create habitat to provide a model on the community benefits of green infrastructure.

Improving Shad Passage in the White Clay Creek (DE)
Grantee: University of Delaware, Institute for Public Administration, Water Resources Agency
Grant Award:. $72,848
Matching Funds: $72,848
Total Amount:. **$145,696**
Remove one impedement to fish passage on the White Clay Creek and build a rock ramp around another impedement to open primary streambed for shad and anadromous fish. Project will improve water quality and recreational opportunities in the White Clay Creek.

Enhancing Forest Habitat in the Northern Delaware River Watershed- Phase II (PA, NJ)
Grantee: Wildlife Management Institute
Grant Award:. $248,948
Matching Funds: $250,000
Total Amount:. **$498,948**
Implement forest management plan activities on private lands in the northern Delaware River Watershed. Project will aid in the creation of young forest habitat, the enhancement of middle-aged and mature forest habitat, the control of native and exotic invasives, as well as expand partnerships to enhance work in northwest New Jersey.

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Improving Trout Habitat Connectivity in the Town of Delhi (NY)
Grantee: Trout Unlimited, Inc.
Grant Award:. $249,758
Matching Funds: $250,000
Total Amount:. **$499,758**
Remove and replace two antiquated culverts in the Town of Delhi, New York. Project will be designed to allow trout access to 3 miles of high-quality habitat. Project will addtionally stabilize a streambank in the town that is causing excessive sedimentation.

River Stars: Improving Aquatic Habitat Connectivity in the Towns of Deposit and Colchester (NY)
Grantee: Trout Unlimited, Inc.
Grant Award:. $239,509
Matching Funds: $240,000
Total Amount:. **$479,509**
Replace a failing town culvert in the Town of Colchesher and stabilize ecologically significant streambanks along a local road in the Town of Deposit. Project will support the goals of the Upper Delaware River Stream Corridor Management Plan in New York to restore habitat for high-quality trout streams.

Enhancing the New York-Pennsylvania Joint Fisheries Investigation Plan
Grantee: Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc.
Grant Award:. $249,998
Matching Funds: $302,586
Total Amount:. **$552,584**
Expand the New York-Pennsylvania Joint Fisheries Investigation Plan through integration of high definition stream survey data. Project will improve this regional plan to inform future fisheries management and restoration decisions in the Upper Delaware River Tailwaters.

Expanding Stream Restoration in the Red Clay Creek (PA)
Grantee: Brandywine Red Clay Alliance
Grant Award:. $249,556
Matching Funds: $313,000
Total Amount:. **$562,556**
Restore 4,400 feet of the Upper East Branch Red Clay Creek and an unnamed tributary using stream-bank stabilization with native grasses and wildflowers, in-stream structures, stream bank grading, and the addition of trees and shrubs to the riparian areas where needed. Project will reduce sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorous to the stream and improve water quality toward the goal of achieving unimpaired status for fish, wildlife and people.

Golden-winged warbler

Managing Invasive Knotweed for Habitat Enhancement in the Upper Delaware River (NY, PA)
Grantee: Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc.
Grant Award:. $249,994
Matching Funds: $251,411
Total Amount:. **$501,405**
Develop a collaborative and strategic management plan with demonstration sites in public, regionally significant areas of the Upper Delaware River Watershed to limit further spread of invasive knotweed to restore native riparian habitat. Project will include outreach efforts to streamside landowners to encourage invasives species management.

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Implementing the Upper Delaware River Stream Corridor Management Plan: Phase II (NY)
Grantee: Trout Unlimited, Inc.
Grant Award:. $249,072
Matching Funds: $156,000
Total Amount:. $405,072
Guide targeted instream and riparian restoration to increase habitat quality and diversity for thermal refuge, spawning, feeding and cover for native and wild trout. Project will advance a fiberoptics thermal technology study in the Upper Delaware River and develop a management plan to address priority sites, including a survey of 541 stream crossings, to inform final designs that will address strategic needs.

Examining the Effects of Modifications in the Delaware River on Sturgeon Populations (DE, NJ, PA)
Grantee: University of Delaware
Grant Award:. $46,658
Matching Funds: $46,658
Total Amount:. $93,316
Develop new bottom sediment maps for segments of the Delaware River using high-resolution, side-scan sonar imagery. Project will address areas of the Delaware River navigation channel that have recently been deepened, potentially impacting habitats for Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon.

Floodplain Restoration and Monitoring at Beatty's Mill (NJ)
Grantee: Musconetcong Watershed Association
Grant Award:. $96,400
Matching Funds: $96,750
Total Amount:. $193,150
Restore floodplain at Beatty's Mill by removing a 4-foot stone and rubble structure, followed by streambank stabilization and riparian restoration. Project will reduce total suspended solids, improve floodplain storage and infiltration, and improve water quality and aquatic habitat.

Developing a Site-Based Decision Tool for Targeted Implementation of Living Shoreline Strategies (DE, NJ)
Grantee: Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
Grant Award:. $181,501
Matching Funds: $144,616
Total Amount:. $326,117
Refine and test a wetland decision support tool to prioritize sites for living shoreline construction in Delaware and New Jersey. Project will quantify site-specific wetland conditions to develop a decision tool that will identify and prioritize intervention efforts to maximize conservation outcomes for living shorelines and resolve crucial data gaps to ensure living shoreline success.

Riparian and Habitat Restoration at Pequest Wildlife Management Area (NJ)
Grantee: North Jersey RC&D Area Inc.
Grant Award:. $221,993
Matching Funds: $603,514
Total Amount:. $825,507
Enhance instream and wildlife habitat on 1.3 miles of stream within the Pequest River Wildlife Management Area, New Jersey. Project will restore important ecological function and resiliency to an area of regional significance, as well as improve outdoor recreational and educational opportunities within a 90-area wetland on protected public lands. Project results will be shared with conservation professionals and the public, serving as a model for a successful and collaborative restoration.

Designing a Waterfront Schoolyard at Mastery High School (NJ)
Grantee: The Trust for Public Land
Grant Award:. $125,000
Matching Funds: $126,000
Total Amount:. $251,000
Design an 11-acre waterfront schoolyard park, including 1,200 feet of riverfront at Mastery Schoolyard in Camden, New Jersey. Project will advance a plan to transform the currently fenced-off waterfront area into a learning landscape with water access, resulting in a publicly accessible community space that provides new habitat, reduces flooding, improves opportunities for recreation, and provides green job opportunities for the city.

Improving Trout Habitat and River Access in the Upper Delaware River Watershed (NY)
Grantee: Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc.
Grant Award:. $249,998
Matching Funds: $250,042
Total Amount:. $500,040
Implement four stream restoration and enhancement projects, install habitat improvement structures, provide stream bank stabilization and floodplain reconnection, and improve stream side fishing access with the construction of a publicly accessible boat launch. Project will improve water quality, improve trout spawning habitat, enhance flood mitigation, and create new public access points and recreational opportunities for fishing and boating.