



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Chesapeake Stewardship Fund

Chesapeake Small Watersheds Grants

The Small Watersheds Grants (SWG) program, delivered in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency and Chesapeake Bay Program, promotes voluntary, community-based efforts to protect and restore the diverse and vital habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. The priorities of the SWG program include:

- Managing agricultural and urban runoff.
- Improving water quality and stream health through riparian restoration and conservation.
- Enhancing and protecting freshwater habitat for the Eastern brook trout.
- Enhancing and protecting tidal and estuarine habitat, enhancing nature-based resilience for human communities.
- Building capacity for landscape-scale watershed and habitat planning, design and implementation.

The SWG program has two distinct tracks:

- Implementation: Grants of \$75,000-\$500,000 for projects that result in direct on-the-ground actions to protect and restore water quality, species and habitats in the Bay watershed.
- Planning and technical assistance: Up to \$75,000 for projects that enhance local capacity to implement future on-the-ground actions consistent with the priorities above, community-based assessment planning, design and other technical assistance-oriented activities.

Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants

The Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction program will catalyze, strengthen and mature regional-scale partnerships based on evidence that collaboratives of this scale are effective mechanisms for achieving and sustaining water quality improvements by inspiring engagement, improving capacity and advancing impact over time. It is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Program.

The Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction program has two distinct tracks:

- Partnership Grants: Projects that simultaneously cultivate the growth and enhancement of existing regional-scale partnerships that are working on watershed restoration, while accelerating the geographic scale and/or rate of measurable implementation for priority water quality improvement practices identified through the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load and associated Watershed Implementation Plans. Additionally, cultivating partnership growth and enhancement, accelerating the scale and/or rate of water quality improvements, managing upland agricultural runoff farm-scale conservation systems and solutions, managing upland urban runoff through green stormwater improvements, restoring stream health and riparian forested buffers, floodplain and wetland reconnection, and habitat improvements, and conservation finance and market development to accelerate water quality improvements.

- Infrastructure: Through funding provided by the Investment Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IIJA) NFWF will competitively award funds for projects that specifically accelerate the scale of implementation for one or more of these watershed restoration infrastructure practices, including riparian forest buffers, including associated livestock exclusion fencing, nontidal wetland restoration, creation or enhancement., floodplain restoration that reconnects incised streams to their floodplains and floodplain wetlands, shoreline management and urban tree planting.

Pennsylvania Most Effective Basins

The intent of the Pennsylvania Most Effective Basins program is to assist the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in achieving its 2025 water quality goals for the agricultural sector under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL) and Pennsylvania's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). The Pennsylvania Most Effective Basins program will fund projects that accelerate implementation of cost-effective agricultural best management practices in selected basins of the Chesapeake Bay watershed of Pennsylvania. Eligible practices are based on the demonstrated ability to yield relatively low-cost reductions in agricultural nitrogen loading. Notably, these eligible practices include both annual practices that require ongoing implementation to yield creditable load reduction benefits in future years, as well as structural practices that, once implemented, generate multiple years of credible load reductions based on their continued performance on the landscape. It is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Chesapeake WILD

The Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (WILD) Grants program is delivered in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support efforts that improve the condition and connectivity of habitats for at risk and federally listed species. Chesapeake WILD supports efforts to conserve, steward and enhance fish and wildlife habitats, along with related conservation values in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The five pillars of Chesapeake WILD include:

- Fish and Wildlife Habitats.
- Clean Water.
- Climate Change.
- Public Access.
- Community Partnership.

The program has two distinct tracks:

- Implementation: Grants of \$75,000-\$750,000 for projects that result in direct on-the-ground conservation, stewardship and enhancements of fish and wildlife habitats and related conservation values in the Bay watershed.
- Planning and Technical Assistance: Grants up to \$75,000 for projects that enhance the capacity of local and regional partners to implement future on-the-ground actions consistent with the priorities above, through community-based assessment planning, design and other technical assistance-oriented activities.

For more information: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/chesapeake-bay-stewardship-fund>