



Delaware River Restoration Fund

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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

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Delaware River in Pennsylvania

BACKGROUND

The Delaware River Restoration Fund (DRRF) is dedicated to improving the water quality and accelerating restoration of habitats of the Delaware River and its tributaries. The fund was launched in late 2013 to help community-based nonprofits, municipalities and landowners efficiently work together to clean up and restore polluted waters and improve habitat in strategic geographies within the Delaware Watershed. Major funding for the DRRF is provided by the William Penn Foundation.

The DRRF awards approximately \$2 million per year in competitive grants for three priority strategies: stewardship of working lands and delivery of agriculture conservation practices; restoration of wetlands, floodplains and stream corridors; and promoting adoption of green infrastructure in urban/suburban landscapes. The fund also commits a subset of resources to grants that propose innovative conservation approaches. In nine years, the fund has invested a total of \$18.6 million in 108 projects, leveraging more than \$28.2 million in conservation resources.

(continued)

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals of the Delaware River Restoration Fund (DRRF) include:

- Increase delivery of agriculture best management practices (BMPs) to reduce nutrient and sediment loads
- Expand conservation outreach to new farmers and landowners
- Restore stream banks, shoreline and wetlands
- Establish, expand and improve riparian buffers
- Promote and install green stormwater infrastructure BMPs and reduce suburban runoff
- Improve municipal policies for green stormwater infrastructure
- Identify and restore priority sites for aquatic habitat
- Reach, train and provide technical assistance to new audiences
- Engage significant numbers of new volunteers

The fund's investments for water quality improvement are targeted primarily to Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI) "Clusters," sub-watersheds within the broader Delaware River Watershed where restoration efforts are expected to realize the greatest return. These geographies also include important habitat for fish and wildlife.

Taken together, projects will restore more than 62 miles of instream and riparian habitat, conserve and enhance over 143 acres of wetlands, prevent 40 million gallons of unfiltered stormwater from entering the watershed, and deliver agricultural conservation best management practices on over 30,000 acres of working lands in the Delaware watershed.



Great blue heron

CONSERVATION IN THE DELAWARE WATERSHED

The fund has invested \$18.6 million in 108 projects (shown as blue dots in the map below) to improve water quality and restore habitats.

