



Backgrounder

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SMALL WATERSHED GRANT AWARDEES and PROJECTS

Thirty-four projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed have received more than \$3.4 million in grants from the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund's 2010 Small Watershed Grants program. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund partners with the Chesapeake Bay Program to strategically invest in conservation actions to restore the Chesapeake Bay. Descriptions of each project, by state, are below:

MARYLAND PROJECTS

- The *Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection & Resource Management* will use its \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Altria to educate homeowners about the benefits of planting trees, to promote tree planting as an efficient and cost-effective way to manage urban stormwater, and to provide incentives to motivate tree purchases.
- The *Center for Watershed Protection, Inc.* received \$150,000 from settlement funds to utilize advanced training and testing to increase the efficiencies of Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) programs in *Salisbury, Cambridge, Cumberland and Montgomery County*. IDDE is an effective best management practice (BMP) that can achieve significant stormwater pollutant reduction benefits in aging communities.
- The *Center for Watershed Protection, Inc.* also received \$134,149 from settlement funds to implement early action stormwater projects in the *St. Mary's River watershed in southern Maryland*. The watershed plan is being developed for the second fastest growing county in Maryland, as 70 percent of future growth is slated for the watershed.
- The *Corsica River Conservancy* will use a \$50,000 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant to install rain gardens on residential properties to manage stormwater runoff in the *Corsica River watershed in Queen Anne's County*.
- The *Maryland Association of Conservation Districts* received \$156,965 from settlement funds for a project restoring 670 feet of the headwaters of *Plumtree Run in Bel Air*. A natural stream/wetland system will be restored using innovative measures to improve water quality and wildlife habitat.
- The *Scenic Rivers Land Trust* received a \$65,858 grant from the EPA and the USFS to advance the *South River Greenway Project's* goal to protect 3,000 acres of high priority land along the *South River Greenway near Annapolis*. This project will be concurrent with the launch of a similar effort in the *West/Rhode watershed in Galesville and Shady Side*.
- The *Spa Creek Conservancy* will use \$141,648 from the EPA and settlement funds to do a stormwater retrofit in partnership with the Rich Morton Lincoln-Mercury dealership on *West Street in Annapolis*. The site has been identified as a priority retrofit site by the Center for Watershed Protection.
- The *Town of Forest Heights* will use a \$150,000 EPA grant to develop and implement a community greening initiative. The project will reduce the impact of stormwater runoff pollution to *Oxon Run and Oxon Cove, as well as the Potomac River in Prince George's County*.

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- *Wings Over America* will use a \$50,000 EPA grant for a project along 3.4 acres of the *Patuxent River in Anne Arundel County that is leased by the District of Columbia*. The project will restore buildings to demonstrate LEED green design and construction methods, low-impact development (LID) and conservation landscape practices. The project will also engage at-risk youth, bringing environmental topics and ethics to the youth by the youth.

VIRGINIA PROJECTS

- The *Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District* will use a \$33,150 grant from the EPA and USFS for a project designed to make wetlands accessible to all in the community of *Culpeper County*. The project aims to restore, enhance and maintain a palustrine emergent wetland, a riparian buffer and wildlife habitat, and creates an outdoor classroom that can be used by all members of the community.
- The *Elizabeth River Project* will use \$150,000 from the EPA, USFS and Altria to restore 29 acres of forested riparian buffer while showcasing how to reclaim urban lands for public access. The project will remove invasive species at *Paradise Creek Nature Park on the Elizabeth River in Portsmouth*.
- The *Friends of the Rappahannock* will use a \$30,000 EPA grant to implement a model LID offsite compliance trading system to yield 50 percent greater runoff reduction in the *city of Fredericksburg and the surrounding counties*. An intensive two-month social marketing campaign will also be launched to reduce fertilizer use.
- The *James River Association* received a \$50,000 EPA grant for an “Extreme Stream Makeover” in the *Newport News area*. The weeklong effort to restore a local degraded stream and watershed will engage the entire community.
- The *Longfellow Middle School PTA* received \$20,000 from the EPA to create a rain conservation garden and rainwater harvest system in *Falls Church* to demonstrate best management practices in low impact development for the health of the Chesapeake Bay.
- *Loudoun County* will use \$80,000 from the EPA for a multifaceted watershed restoration project with 11 specific tasks in *Leesburg and Loudoun Counties*. Some of the tasks include: residential downspout disconnection, stream restoration, wetland creation and riparian planting.
- *Mary Baldwin College* and the *City of Staunton* received \$75,000 from the EPA to implement a series of stormwater management retrofits in conjunction with a social marketing campaign to reduce runoff in a *Lewis Creek subwatershed*.
- The *Northern Neck Land Conservancy* received \$78,284 from the USFS and Altria for a project designed to increase individual conservation actions through land conservation easements to protect watershed, habitat and water quality in *Richmond and Westmoreland Counties, as well as Northern Neck*.
- The *Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District* received \$100,000 from the EPA and Altria to initiate a campaign that will result in 20 small coastal farmers converting from surface application to nitrogen injection to reduce nitrogen runoff to the Chesapeake Bay in *seven Virginia counties, including: Essex, King William, King & Queen, Richmond, Northumberland, Lancaster, and Westmoreland*.

PENNSYLVANIA PROJECTS

- The *Adams County Conservation District* received \$39,420 from the EPA and USFS to provide technical assistance to streamside landowners in the county. The project will assess nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment concerns, leading to the development of a plan to fix the concerns to improve local water quality in *Mummasburg Run, Quaker Run, Beaverdam Creek and Swift Run in Adams County*.
- The *Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Inc.* received \$150,000 from EPA and USFS for stream restoration and stormwater education in the *Paxton Creek watershed in and around Harrisburg*. The project will implement a permitted design to stabilize 640 feet of badly eroded banks of an unnamed tributary of Paxton Creek within a heavily used park and community center.
- *American Rivers, Inc.* will use a \$75,000 grant from the EPA and USFS for the removal of the Rosegarden Dam and restore riverine habitat in *Yellow Breeches Creek near Grantham*.
- The *Center for Watershed Protection, Inc.* will use \$100,000 from the EPA for stormwater retrofits in rural, urban and karst areas of *Lancaster County*. The grant will provide funds for inventory, training and implementation of these projects.
- The *Lancaster Farmland Trust* will use \$100,000 from the EPA and Altria to establish a successful streambank-fencing program on Amish farms targeted by the EPA in the *Mill Creek watershed in Lancaster County*.
- The *Western Pennsylvania Conservancy* received a \$50,000 EPA grant to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution in *Kishacoquillas Creek in Mifflin County*. The project will combine BMPs to address agriculture and streambank erosion.
- *Western Pennsylvania Conservancy* received a \$40,000 EPA grant to secure the brook trout population of *Kettle Creek in Tioga, Potter and Clinton Counties*. The WPC will work to protect key private lands in the Kettle Creek watershed with conservation easements and fee acquisitions to protect and maintain forests and encourage habitat and water quality restoration.

WEST VIRGINIA PROJECTS

- The *Mountain Institute* received \$75,000 from the EPA and USFS to provide citizen-based watershed stewardship and education activities that improve local watersheds within the *Potomac headwaters* and excite participants into daily action.
- The *Pinchot Institute* will use \$120,000 from the USFS for eastern brook trout habitat credits. The project will purchase credits for protection and enhancement of coldwater stream eastern brook trout habitat in the *Cacapon/Lost River watershed in Hardy, Hampshire and Morgan Counties*.

NEW YORK PROJECTS

- The *Sidney Center Improvement Group, Inc.* received \$92,996 from the EPA for Carr's Creek Comprehensive Watershed Management. The towns of *Sidney and Franklin and Delaware County* will prepare a watershed plan to restore and sustain ecological functioning of *Carr's Creek/Willow Brook*. Local resources will be used to implement and maintain the plan.
- The *Tioga County Conservation District* will use a \$200,000 EPA grant for an enhanced nutrient management approach in New York. The nutrient loads from 40 dairy farms will be reduced through precision feed benchmarking and nitrogen testing. The nutrient studies will be initiated on grazing farms.

DELAWARE PROJECTS

- The *Delaware Department of Natural Resources* received \$100,000 from the EPA for Chesapeake Bay stormwater retrofits in the *Nanticoke, Chester and Choptank watersheds*. The DNR will work with federal, state and local partners to reduce nutrients and sediment from urban and rural nonpoint sources. The project will provide outreach and technical assistance to landowners in targeted subwatersheds, restore up to 10 acres of freshwater wetlands, and validate reduction efficiencies for implemented conservation practices.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROJECTS

- *Community Resources, Inc.* received \$225,000 from the District Department of the Environment settlement funds and the EPA for the project called "A Capitol Idea: Greener Schools, Cleaner Rivers." The project will install stormwater management retrofits and innovative low impact development technologies at elementary and middle schools in Washington, D.C.

MULTI-STATE PROJECTS

- The *Anacostia Watershed Society* received a \$146,060 grant from the EPA and settlement funds to implement environmental site design (ESD) projects in the District of Columbia as well as Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, Md. The Potomac-Anacostia-Patuxent Watershed Stewards Academy program will train community-based stewards to facilitate implementation of additional ESD projects using resources of the Academy, local governments, businesses and foundations.
- The *Defenders of Wildlife* will use \$75,000 from the EPA for land trust capacity building throughout the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed. The project will use a partnership-driven landscape-scale model for conservation planning to build the capacity of land trusts working in the most vulnerable and ecologically important areas of the watershed.
- The *Sassafras River Association, Inc.* received \$200,000 from the EPA and settlement funds for community outreach programs to reduce nutrient loads in the Sassafras River in *Kent and Cecil Counties, as well as New Castle County, Del.*

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