



# Backgrounder

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## SMALL WATERSHED GRANT (SWG) and INNOVATIVE NUTRIENT AND SEDIMENT REDUCTION (INSR) GRANTS

### 2012 AWARDEES and PROJECTS

Forty-one projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed received \$9.22 million in grants from the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund, which is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

The Small Watershed Grants (SWG) Program awarded \$2.4 million to 20 nonprofit organizations and local governments working to improve the condition of their local watersheds.

The Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction (INSR) Grants Program awarded \$6.8 million to 21 innovative and cost-effective projects that dramatically reduce or eliminate the flow of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution into local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. Descriptions of each project, by grant and state, are below:

#### **MULTI-STATE PROJECTS**

##### **INSR GRANTS**

- *Chesapeake Bay Foundation* (\$398,700) will target assistance to farmers in the Shenandoah Valley and Potomac River headwaters to restore riparian buffers and wetlands and adopt stream fencing and grazing practices. The project will reduce polluted runoff and improve coldwater fish habitat.
- *Stroud Water Research Center* (\$200,000) will evaluate cost-effectiveness of methods for forest buffer restoration. The project will demonstrate alternatives to planting seedlings, such as natural regeneration, direct seeding and live staking.
- The *Potomac Conservancy, Inc.* (\$200,000) will engage absentee landowners in agriculture conservation programs in targeted communities in Virginia and West Virginia. An on-the-ground landowner advisor will help landowners identify opportunities and connect them to technical and financial resources.

##### **SWG GRANTS**

- The *Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy* (\$130,000) will provide targeted technical assistance to farmers in the Choptank watershed. The project will create a five-acre wetland to address the single largest source of pollution to the river.

#### **DELAWARE PROJECTS**

##### **SWG GRANTS**

- The *Town of Greenwood, Del.* (\$35,000) will remove nearly 1,000 feet of channelized tax ditches and transform them into natural systems through wetlands and forest buffer restoration projects.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROJECTS

### INSR GRANTS

- *Community Resources, Inc.* (\$200,000) will build green stormwater infrastructure at three D.C. public schools in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, reducing 90 percent of the nutrient pollution from stormwater runoff at these sites.
- The *District of Columbia Department of the Environment* (\$400,000) will restore 1,400 feet of urban stream, which will improve water quality, stream and wetland habitat, and mitigate flood hazards. The project will restore the floodplain, replace a culvert and install a trash trap.

### SWG GRANTS

- The *Anacostia Watershed Society* (\$200,000) will restore tidal wetland habitat in the Anacostia watershed by removing invasive plant cover, vegetating five acres of wetland habitat with native plants, and establishing a riparian buffer.
- The *Earth Conservation Corps* (\$159,900) will expand the wetlands at Diamond Teague Park on the Anacostia River. The project will engage the community using a unique service learning model.
- The *William Penn House* (\$20,000) will install a green roof on the historic William Penn House. With the addition of the green roof at this high-profile location, the site will capture and treat nearly 100 percent of stormwater on site.

## MARYLAND PROJECTS

### INSR GRANTS

- *Blue Water Baltimore, Inc.* (\$400,000) will educate 5,000 residents about how to reduce polluted runoff from their properties by providing stormwater assessments and cost-share for rain gardens, rain barrels and green roofs.
- The *Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education at the University of Maryland Baltimore County* (\$324,000) will address institutional barriers to innovative stormwater practices in Maryland while working with Maryland's Transit Administration and Highway Administration to adopt pervious concrete and subsoiling. The work includes a demonstration project to replace an existing parking lot at the Maryland Science Center with pervious concrete.
- The *Columbia Beach Citizen's Improvement Association, Inc.* (\$200,000) will install a series of innovative projects to reduce polluted stormwater runoff throughout the community, including the installation of bioswales and infiltration trenches and the restoration of upland marsh.
- The *Maryland Department of Natural Resources* (\$398,100) will develop targeting tools to maximize the benefits of forest management practices for water quality and cold-water fisheries. The project will restore 55 acres of forest buffer and re-forest turf lawns.
- The *Potomac Conservancy, Inc.* (\$213,000) will assess the codes and ordinances in 12 counties and cities to determine how they can more effectively promote low impact development. The project targets localities in Maryland's Potomac River drainage.
- The *Town of Forest Heights* (\$200,000) will reduce polluted runoff by implementing green infrastructure projects such as pervious pavement, tree boxes and rain gardens on a residential street within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area.
- *Trout Unlimited, Inc.* (\$200,000) will conduct stream bank and wetland restoration projects on 11 farms within Deer Creek watershed. The project will leverage Farm Bill funding and benefit sensitive species, including eastern brook trout.

### **SWG GRANTS**

- The *Oyster Recovery Partnership* (\$200,000) will restore over ten acres of oyster reefs in Harris Creek by planting over 40 million oyster spat and expanding the region's oyster shell recycling program.
- The *Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, Inc.* (\$89,100) will motivate 700 residents to implement conservation projects at home, such as rain gardens and native landscaping by using social science research to develop outreach strategies.
- The *Town of Centreville* (\$161,700) will restore fish passage in Gravel Run in the Town of Centreville. The project will restore the floodplain and open access to 13 miles of high quality habitat for herring, perch, and American eel.
- The *Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Council* (\$199,300) will restore a 1,000-foot reach of the Savage River by stabilizing and replanting the stream bank, thereby reducing erosion and restoring eastern brook trout habitat.

### **PENNSYLVANIA PROJECTS**

#### **INSR GRANTS**

- The *Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Inc.* (\$200,000) will initiate a campaign in Franklin County to increase riparian tree planting in rural and urban areas and convert turf to trees on private property. The project will restore 6,400 feet of streamside buffer.
- The *City of Lancaster, Pa.* (\$500,000) will pilot an innovative business model to privately finance urban stormwater retrofits, accelerating implementation and improving cost-effectiveness of stormwater retrofits on private land.
- The *Stroud Water Research Center* (\$500,000) will accelerate streamside buffer protection under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. The project will use an innovative strategy to leverage farmers' interests in other conservation practices.
- The *Pennsylvania State University* (\$378,100) will accelerate riparian buffer and green infrastructure restoration through an innovative public/private partnership that will engage private consultants and residents to sustain projects.

#### **SWG GRANTS**

- The *Capital Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, Inc.* (\$79,600) will improve the long-term success of riparian buffer projects on farmland. This project will test an innovative approach to buffer maintenance, working with landowners and private landscapers in Franklin County.
- The *Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Inc.* (\$200,000) will provide outreach and technical assistance to accelerate first-time enrollment of new riparian buffers through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. The project will create 368 acres of forest buffers and restore 57 acres of wetlands.
- The *Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Inc.* (\$69,800) will restore 600 feet of eroding stream bank along Spring Creek, reducing upstream runoff, establishing 1.5 acres of buffer and improving water quality and fish habitat in this cold water system.
- The *Nature Conservancy* (\$161,200) will implement conservation practices that will improve water quality and brook trout habitat in the Juniata, Lower Susquehanna, and Potomac River watersheds by planting six miles of forested riparian buffers, establishing eight acres of early successional forest habitat, and restoring 15 acres of wetlands.
- *Trout Unlimited, Inc.* (\$191,700) will improve eastern brook trout populations and habitat in the Kettle Creek watershed by strategically implementing stream corridor restoration projects and reducing runoff from dirt and gravel roads.

## **NEW YORK PROJECTS**

### **INSR GRANTS**

- The *City of Binghamton* (\$200,000) will create an incentive program for landowners to implement green infrastructure practices. The project will serve as a professional and public education tool as the City ramps up its stormwater program.

## **VIRGINIA PROJECTS**

### **INSR GRANTS**

- The *Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Inc.* (\$500,000) will develop and demonstrate a replicable stormwater audit and incentive program for private landowners drawing on best practices from the region. Models will be tested in Richmond, Va. and Falls Church, Va.
- The *City of Lexington, Va.* (\$200,000) will integrate green stormwater infrastructure into a new, mixed-income neighborhood. The project is built upon a unique partnership among advocates for affordable housing and advocates for conservation.
- The *Virginia Department of Health* (\$750,000) will provide cost-share for homeowners to upgrade septic systems, targeting homeowners in a region where failures are common and waivers have been granted from upgrade requirements.
- The *Virginia Polytechnic Institute* (\$219,100) will demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of farm-based water quality improvement plans, assess the water quality improvements attributable to a whole-farm, targeted watershed approach.

### **SWG GRANTS**

- *Arlington County, Va.* (\$80,000) will expand its incentive program for private property owners to install innovative stormwater management practices. The County will work with at least 80 residents to install projects at home.
- The *City of Richmond, Va.* (\$176,800) will demonstrate how multiple city agencies and partners can work together to restore urban habitats that benefit not only water quality and fish and wildlife, but also create healthful lifestyles for residents.
- *Clarke County, Va.* (\$141,600) will improve water quality and restore eastern brook trout habitat in Spout Run by working with farmers and residential landowners to stabilize stream banks, install fencing and convert turf to trees.
- *John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District* (\$49,600) will stabilize over 25,000 feet of stream bank, and plant over 20 acres of riparian buffer. The project will train 150 volunteers to conduct plantings in the Rappahannock and Goose Creek watersheds.
- *Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District*, (23,800) will develop a cost-share program for residential stormwater practices in four central Virginia Conservation Districts. Landowners will plant 2,000 feet of riparian buffers and convert 10,000 square feet of turf to trees.

## **WEST VIRGINIA PROJECTS**

### **SWG GRANTS**

- *Trout Unlimited, Inc.* (\$74,000) will restore a 1,200-foot reach of Seneca Creek, reconnecting the stream to its floodplain, restoring 50 acres of riparian habitat, and providing outreach to over 10,000 residents and visitors.