

c/o Delaware River Greenway Partnership

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[www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org](http://www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org)

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## 2024 Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Mini-Grant Program

The Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic (LDWS) River Management Council announces the availability of 2024 Wild & Scenic Mini-Grants. These grants are intended for projects that support and enhance the goals of the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Management Plan.

### Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic Management Council Goals

Projects consistent with the LDWS Management Plan and further Management [Plan](#) goals are eligible.

#### Goal 1: Water Quality

Maintain existing water quality in the Delaware River and its tributaries from measurable degradation and improve it where practical.

#### Goal 2: Natural Resources

Preserve and protect the river's outstanding natural resources, including rare and endangered plant and animal species, river islands, steep slopes, and buffer areas in the river corridor and along the tributaries.

#### Goal 3: Historic Resources

Preserve and protect the character of historic structures, districts, and sites, including landscapes, in the river corridor.

#### Goal 4: Recreation

Encourage recreational use of the river corridor that has a low environmental and social impact and is compatible with public safety, the protection of private property, and the preservation of natural and cultural qualities of the river corridor.

#### Goal 5: Economic Development

Identify principles for minimizing the adverse impact of development within the river corridor and encourage sustainable development where appropriate.

#### Goal 6: Open Space Preservation

Preserving open space as a means of maximizing the health of the ecosystem, preserving scenic values, and minimizing the impact of new development in the river corridor.

### Application Deadline

Grant applications will be accepted by email through **5:00 PM on Monday, December 18, 2023**. Send to [ldwsgrants@delawarivergp.org](mailto:ldwsgrants@delawarivergp.org). Use "W&S Mini-Grant Proposal" in the subject line.

### Award Decisions

The Steering Committee of the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Management Council will serve as the selection committee. Committee members with personal conflicts will be recused from scoring applications. Awards will be announced via email by January 31, 2024. (Date subject to change.)

### Grant Funding

Typical grants awarded are \$5,000 or less, however, larger grants will be considered for especially compelling projects. Fifty percent of the award will be provided prior to the start of the project. The balance will be paid once

the project is completed and final deliverables as well as final invoice are submitted. LDWS reserves the right to not issue 2024 mini-grants pending federal funding announcements.

## Project Timeline

Projects must be completed by November 25, 2024, with final deliverables and invoices due on the same day.

## Who May Apply

Only projects being completed in, and benefiting, the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River corridor will be eligible. See the LDWS [outreach map](#) to verify locations within the boundaries of the corridor.

The following eligible entities within the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic corridor in New Jersey and Pennsylvania may apply:

- Municipal-appointed community committees that have completed the LDWS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- Schools.
- Community or non-profit 501(c)3 organizations operating within the corridor.
- Government entities including municipalities who have completed the LDWS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), municipal committees, counties, and the State of New Jersey and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

## Project Preferences

- New applicants are encouraged. Prior LDW&S mini-grant applicants, including winners, may apply. Depending on the number of proposals received and the availability of funds, preference may be given to organizations who are not past recipients of the mini-grant program.
- Projects part of a partnership benefiting multiple entities will be given preference. However, one entity should be identified as the lead applicant.
- Stronger consideration will be given to proposals that address more than one LDW&S Management [Plan](#) goal as well as projects leveraging outside funding/matching funds.
- Mandated mitigation projects, permit requirement studies, and capital or construction projects are not eligible.
- For the 2024 program, any projects pertaining to Management Plan goals are encouraged. For example, projects which would fall under the water quality and/or natural resource goals could include:
  - The offer and distribution of free/discounted rain barrels and/or creating demonstration rain gardens landowners can replicate.
  - The planting of riparian buffers and/or mediation of past mitigation projects.
  - Naturalizing stormwater basins.
  - Outreach and education projects on storm safety to address the dangers of river use during and after storms and how to determine when the river is safe for recreation.
  - Aquatic organism passage and habitat connectivity.
  - Efforts to plan for climate resiliency.

## Application Deadline and Submission

Grant applications will be accepted in **PDF format only** through **5:00 PM on Monday, December 18, 2023**, via email to [ldwsgrants@delawarerivergp.org](mailto:ldwsgrants@delawarerivergp.org). Applications sent by paper mail will not be accepted. Interested parties must submit a completed 2024 application form (attached) along with required supporting materials. See the application for details.

- **Match.** Those with a project match should attach verification of funds.
- **Material Submission and Organization.** See the details and instructions on the application sheet with the required information. **Submit a single PDF in 8 ½x11 format** to [ldwsgrants@delawarerivergp.org](mailto:ldwsgrants@delawarerivergp.org). Applications submitted with more than a single document will not be accepted.

- **Acknowledgement.** Applicants will receive an email acknowledging receipt of the submission within 5 business days. LDWS is not responsible for missing applications that were not acknowledged.

## Review Criteria

The merits of each proposal will be reviewed based on the criteria listed below. Projects do not have to meet all criteria to be eligible but those that meet multiple criteria will be considered strongly.

1. **Wild and Scenic Outstanding Resources.** Does the proposed project protect, enhance, or promote appreciation of one or more of the river's outstanding resources (cultural, ecological, geological, recreational, and scenic)?
2. **Stewardship.** Will the project strengthen relationships among communities, non-profits, and/or the public that will protect river resources?
3. **Awareness.** Does the project engage diverse partners and/or raise public awareness of the river?
4. **Resources needed for implementation.** Can the project be completed with the funding available and within the timeline proposed?
5. **Long-term benefits.** Can future activities or decisions of the river communities or regional or state entities build on the results of the project?
6. **Sustainability of benefits.** Is there a plan for maintenance or ongoing work (if relevant) after the project is completed?
7. **Leveraging of additional resources.** Are there matching funds or in-kind contributions to the project? These are not required, but strongly recommended.
8. **Measurable results.** How will the effectiveness and impact of the project be measured?
9. **Administrative capacity.** Is there demonstrated capability on the part of the applicant to complete the project?

## Grant Recipient Obligations & Deliverables

- **MOU & First Invoice:** Upon selection, awardees must complete an LDWS Mini-Grant **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** and submit an invoice for fifty percent of the grant amount.
- **Status Reports/Presentations:** Awardees may be contacted for a status report of their project.
- **Deliverables & Final Invoice:**
  - All deliverables and a final invoice for the grant balance is required by November 25, 2024.
  - Awardees are required to produce a 5-minute video presentation (please note this does not need to be a professionally produced video).
  - Awardees may be required to attend the December 2024 LDWS Management Council meeting to present their projects, see [calendar](#).
  - Reports should include a project summary of actions and activities, not to exceed two pages. Any press releases, products and other pertinent materials should also be included. Before and after photos are required, if applicable. Photos must be high-resolution JPG images that are at least 300 dpi and not copyright protected.
- **Communications:** Awardees must acknowledge and consent to the sharing of all project deliverables through LDWS/DRGP communications channels, including but not limited to the organization's website, social media platforms, and promotional materials. Awardees agree to allow their work to be showcased and disseminated as part of LDWS/DRGP's outreach efforts.
- **Public Grant Acknowledgement:** Awardees must acknowledge Wild & Scenic grant funding in all organizational communications and grant products related to the project. *Failure to do so will nullify LDWS's obligation to make final payment.* Acknowledgments should read, *"This project was funded in part/full by the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic Management Council with funds from the National Park Service Wild and Scenic Rivers Program."* (Insert NPS Logo and LDWS Website Address.)