

## **New Jersey Statewide Dam Removal Partnership**

### **Potential Funding Sources for Dam Removal in New Jersey**

#### **United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): General Investigations (GI)**

<https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Overview/General-Investigation-Program/>

The USACE's General Investigation GI program establishes a process to help communities solve a variety of water resource problems including navigation, flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and storm damage reduction. As such, the GI program is appropriate for large-scale dam removal efforts (*i.e.*, large dams, multiple dams on a river). Under the GI program, the USACE conducts a project study and, if shown by the study to be feasible, constructs a project. GI funds require two types of congressional authority - authorization and appropriations. A Congressional authorization is required to start a new study (feasibility and preconstruction engineering and design). Once authorized, appropriations for GI studies are appropriated as individual line items in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 1974, as amended. A second, separate authorization is required for construction (dam removal). Funding requests must be made 2 years in advance. Local sponsors share study (50%) and construction costs (35%) with the USACE, and usually pay for all operation and maintenance costs. Maximum funding for studies is \$1,500,000, and construction funding is unlimited.

#### **United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): Planning Assistance to the States**

<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Public-Services/Planning-Assistance-to-States/>

Under the authority of Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974, as amended, the USACE can provide states, local governments, non-federal entities, and tribes assistance in the preparation of plans for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources. Typical studies provide assistance for a specific technical item (*e.g.*, sediment transport modeling for dam removal project), and do not include detailed designs for project construction. The program can encompass many types of studies dealing with water resources issues. Types of studies conducted in recent years under the program include the following: water supply/demand, water conservation, water quality, environmental/conservation, wetlands evaluation/restoration, dam safety/failure, flood damage reduction, coastal zone protection, and harbor planning. Sponsors must provide a 50% non-federal match; typical funding ranges from \$50,000 - \$100,000.

#### **NJ Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (NJ-CWRP)**

<http://www.njcwrp.org/>

The New Jersey Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (NJ-CWRP) is an innovative public-private initiative aimed at restoring, preserving, enhancing and protecting aquatic habitats throughout New Jersey. Bringing together corporations, federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations and academia, the NJ-CWRP allows participants to contribute in a fundamental way to crucial projects involving New Jersey's coastal and island wetlands and aquatic habitats. Projects to date have included habitat restoration, marshlands, fish passages, dam removals, species protection, education and outreach and cultural and historic projects. Projects must be located on public lands and have a federal or state partner; sponsors are preferred to match at 75%. Generally, project funding does not exceed \$25,000.

**NJ Department of Environmental Protection Dam Safety (NJDEP – Dam Safety): Green Acres, Clean Water, Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 1992; and Dam, Lake, Stream, Flood Control, Water Resources, and Wastewater Treatment Project Bond Act of 2003**

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/damsafety/engineer.htm>

NJDEP-Dam Safety provides a low interest loan program to assist local governments, private lake associations, or similar organizations to fund dam restoration projects (including dam removals) or inland water projects. Application periods are based upon availability of funds in the program. Projects must bring dams into full compliance with Dam Safety rules.

**NJ Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres (NJDEP-Green Acres): Land Acquisition and Park Development – The Preserve New Jersey Act**

[https://www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres/pdflaunch.html#local\\_app](https://www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres/pdflaunch.html#local_app)

The NJDEP – Green Acres program provides a matching grant program for land acquisition (conservation) and/or development of outdoor recreation areas. The grant program is available as separate applications for: a) nonprofit assistance applicants; and b) local government assistance applicants. Funds may aid dam removal projects through adjacent land acquisition and possibly for dam removal (construction) in the context of conservation. Projects must provide meaningful public access. Nonprofit applicants must provide 50% match, and the local government matching requirement ranges from 25% - 50%. Local government applicants must be eligible to receive state aid pursuant to P.L. 1978, c.14. Available funds vary across fiscal years.

**NJ Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres (NJDEP-Green Acres): NJ Green Acres Stewardship – The Preserve New Jersey Act**

[https://www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres/pdflaunch.html#local\\_app](https://www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres/pdflaunch.html#local_app)

The NJDEP – Green Acres provides a matching grant program for environmental stewardship projects on lands held for public recreation or conservation, including, but not limited to: invasive species control; stream restoration; freshwater wetlands restoration; trails, boardwalks, and interpretive signage; and dam removal as an element of a river/waterway restoration project. The grant program is available as separate applications for: a) nonprofit applicants; and b) local government applicants. Nonprofit applicants must provide 50% match, and local governments must match at 50% (or 75% if the project is located in an eligible Urban Aid Municipality). Available funds typically exceed \$100,000, but availability varies across fiscal years.

**NJ Department of Environmental Protection Office of Natural Resource Restoration (NJDEP-ONRR)**

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/nrr/>

The New Jersey Office of Natural Resource Restoration has the primary responsibility within the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for responding to discharges and other sources of pollution that trigger the DEP's obligations as the trustee for all of New Jersey's natural resources for the benefit of all of its citizens, now and in the future. This effort includes working with the persons responsible for conducting the remediation to return such natural resources to their pre-discharge quality, quantity, function, and value, and to implement restoration projects to compensate New Jersey citizens for

the lost interim value or for the permanent loss of their natural resources. Compensatory restoration projects may include dam removal and fish passage. This program has no cost share requirements. However, use of funds is subject to the requirements of the New Jersey Spill Compensation and Control Act, the New Jersey Water Pollution Control Act, and other applicable law.

### **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF): Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund**

<https://www.nfwf.org/delaware/Pages/home.aspx>

NFWF's Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund was launched in 2018 to conserve and restore natural areas corridors and waterways on public and private lands that support native fish, wildlife and plants, and to contribute to the vitality of the communities in the Delaware River watershed. The fund provides matching grants to implement restoration and conservation projects that achieve the goals of the Delaware River Basin Restoration Partnership and Program Framework, including: sustaining and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat; improving and maintaining water quality for fish, wildlife and people; sustaining and enhancing water management to benefit fish and wildlife; and improving outdoor recreational opportunities within the Delaware River watershed. Projects are geographically restricted to the Delaware River watershed. Funding ranges from \$50,000 to \$500,000; applicants must provide 50% non-federal match.

### **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF): Bring Back the Natives**

<https://www.nfwf.org/bbn/Pages/home.aspx>

The Bring Back the Natives matching grant program invests in conservation activities and research that restore, protect, and enhance native populations of sensitive or listed fish. The program emphasizes coordination between private landowners, federal agencies, tribes, corporations, and states. Priority landscapes and species include: native fish of eastern US Rivers, especially river herring and American shad in the Chesapeake and Delaware watersheds, and resilient populations of eastern brook trout throughout their range. Funding typically ranges from \$25,000 to \$100,000, but projects greater than \$100,000 are considered; applicants must provide 50% non-federal match.

### **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF): National Coastal Resiliency Fund**

<http://www.nfwf.org/coastalresilience/Pages/home.aspx>

The National Coastal Resilience Fund is a national program with a regional focus on restoring, increasing and strengthening natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural hazards and enable them to recover more quickly, while also enhancing habitats for fish and wildlife. Projects are geographically restricted to coastal watersheds, see the most recent application package for a detailed map. Funding typically ranges from \$250,000 for design and permitting, and between \$1,000,000 and \$3,000,000 for construction. Applicants must provide 50% non-federal match.

### **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF): Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program**

<https://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/home.aspx>

The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration grant program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing modest financial assistance to diverse

local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds, and the species and habitats they support. Projects include a variety of ecological improvements along with targeted community outreach, education and stewardship. Ecological improvements may include one or more of the following: wetland, riparian, forest and coastal habitat restoration; wildlife conservation; community tree canopy enhancement; water quality monitoring; and green infrastructure best management practices for managing run-off. Funding typically ranges from \$20,000 to \$50,000. Projects are preferred to have five or more partners, and have a nexus to an urban and/or underserved community. Applicants must provide 50% non-federal match.

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/>

NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural and forestry producers and private landowners to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat. Maximum available project funding is \$450,000; applicants must cost share at 10% to 50%, dependent on the EQIP contract.

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/rcpp/>

NRCS's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand the Agency's collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Through RCPP, NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address. Potential RCPP partners should propose projects that generate conservation benefits by addressing specific natural resource objectives in a state/multistate area, or address one or more priority resource concerns within an NRCS-designated critical conservation area (CCA – not applicable in NJ). The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized RCPP and made substantive changes that may undergo policy/implementation changes over the next several years. The RCPP provides both financial and technical assistance; funding ranges from \$250,000 to \$10,000,000. Applicants typically provide 50% match.

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program**

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/wfpo/>

NRCS offers financial and technical assistance to federal, state, local and tribal government partners, and private entities for: erosion and sediment control; watershed protection; flood prevention; water quality improvements; rural, municipal and industrial water supply; water management; fish and wildlife habitat enhancement; and hydropower. Dams eligible for removal or restoration under this program must be designated as PL-566, or a small watershed (less than 250,000 acres) under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954, Public Law 83-566, and the dam must also be assigned a high hazard

classification. This program has no cost share requirements. Applicants must have a federal, state, or local government sponsor.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Wetlands Reserve Easement Program (WRE)**

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/nj/programs/easements/acep/?cid=stelprdb1248941>

NRCS's Wetlands Reserve Easement (WRE) Program is a voluntary program that provides private landowners with financial assistance to enhance wetlands or restore or enhance wildlife habitat in exchange for retiring their marginal land from agricultural production via easement. NRCS pays all costs associated with recording the easement; eligible land must be privately owned. NRCS and the landowner jointly determine the restoration plan for enrolled land; the landowner may implement the plan with NRCS financial assistance, or NRCS may contract directly for the restoration of an acquired easement property. This program has no cost share requirements.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Emergency Water Protection Program (EWP)**

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/>

NRCS's Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) helps local communities recover after a natural disaster. The program offers technical and financial assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural disasters that impair a watershed. EWP does not require a federal or state disaster declaration, but partial funding must be provided by the state legislature. The EWP program offers assistance through two options: a) EWP-Recovery; and b) EWP-Floodplain Easements. EWP-Recovery provides financial and technical assistance for various restoration activities; and EWP-Floodplain Easements may purchase floodplain easements instead of trying to recover damaged floodplain lands if this action is determined to be cost effective. This program cannot address problems that existed prior to the disaster and cannot improve the level of protection above the existing level at the time of the disaster. Available funds are dependent on state and federal disaster allocations; applicants are typically local governments; applicants typically cost share at 50%.

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): Community-Based Restoration Program – Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Grants**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/coastal-and-marine-habitat-restoration-grants>

NOAA's Restoration Center implements the Community-Based Restoration Program, which supports restoration projects that use a habitat-based approach to rebuild productive and sustainable fisheries, contribute to the recovery and conservation of protected resources, promote healthy ecosystems, and yield community and economic benefits. The goal of these projects is to recover and sustain fisheries - particularly those species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, or those managed by NOAA. Funding typically ranges from \$75,000 to \$3,000,000; applicants must provide 50% non-federal match.

### **Trout Unlimited (TU): Embrace a Stream (EAS)**

<https://www.tu.org/get-involved/volunteer-tacklebox/fundraising-resources/grants-corporate-fundraising/embrace-a-stream/>

Embrace a Stream (EAS) is a matching grant program that awards funds to TU chapters for coldwater fisheries conservation. Available funding is \$10,000 maximum; TU chapter applicants are required to provide 50% match.

### **US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): National Fish Passage Program (NFPP)**

<https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/fish-passage.html>

The USFWS provides a matching grant program that identifies and collaboratively implements projects within Regional priority areas. Project work plans are developed strategically, in coordination with partners, and with substantial involvement from USFWS Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program (FAC) staff. Projects must advance the NFPP mission, promote biological diversity, and be based upon sound scientific biological principles. FAC and Fish and Wildlife Service strategic plans inform the types of projects funded under this opportunity. Applicants seeking funding under this program should review the program strategic plan and also contact the regional NFPP Coordinator for local FAC contacts prior to submitting an application for funding. Funding is typically \$70,000, but there is no maximum. Funding is subject to availability. Preferred applicants provide 50% match.

### **US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Partners Program**

<https://www.fws.gov/northeast/njfieldoffice/landowners.html>

The USFWS's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program offers technical and financial assistance to private (non-federal, non-state) landowners to voluntarily restore wetlands and other fish and wildlife habitats on their land. Restoration projects include reestablishing fish passage for migratory fish by removing barriers to movement. Funding is typically less than \$25,000; no match is required. Projects must be located on private land (non-federal, non-state).

### **US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Coastal Program**

<https://www.fws.gov/delawarebay/>

The USFWS's Coastal Program works with partners to identify, restore, and protect regionally important habitat in the Delaware River drainage basin and the Delmarva Peninsula area. Funding is typically less than \$50,000; no match is required. Projects must be located in the Delaware River basin.

### **US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)**

<https://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act.php>

NAWCA grants increase bird populations and wetland habitat, and support hunting, fishing, bird watching, and family farming through easements/land title donations, restoration, enhancement, and wetland establishment. Wetlands protected by NAWCA provide flood control, reduce coastal erosion, improve water and air quality, and recharge groundwater. The program provides matching grants to wetlands conservation projects through a competitive Standard and a Small Grants Program. The program operates in 2 cycles per year, where eligible proposals are ranked and reviewed by the NAWCA Council

and/or Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. The Council may directly approve Small Grants, but recommends Standard Grants to the Migratory Bird Commission for approval. Standard grants typically don't exceed \$1,000,000, and Small Grants may not exceed \$100,000; applicants are required to provide 50% non-federal match. Projects must have a nexus to migratory birds or their wetland habitats.

### **US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Eastern Brook Trout Venture**

<https://easternbrooktrout.org/funding-opportunities>

The Eastern Brook Trout Venture (EBTJV) focuses on restoring habitat that will support healthy and productive populations of wild brook trout. The EBTJV is funded by the USFWS through the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Funding can only be used for on-the-ground habitat conservation and improvement projects and related design and monitoring activities. Projects are ranked by how well they meet EBTJV Habitat Objectives, Conservation Priorities, Priority Subwatersheds, Common State-Level Objectives, and aid USFWS Priority Species. Projects must be developed in collaboration with the nearest USFWS Sponsoring Office. Maximum available funding is \$50,000; applicants must provide 50% match.

### **US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP)**

<https://www.atlanticfishhabitat.org/funding-opportunities/>

The Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) funds on-the-ground habitat conservation and restoration projects that support habitat for coastal, estuarine dependent, and diadromous fish species. Projects should meet conservation objectives described in the ACFHP Conservation Strategic Plan ([https://www.atlanticfishhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/ACFHPStrategicPlan\\_2017.pdf](https://www.atlanticfishhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/ACFHPStrategicPlan_2017.pdf)). Maximum available funding is \$50,000; applicants must provide 50% match.

### **US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Fish Passage Engineering**

<https://www.fws.gov/northeast/fisheries/fishpassageengineering.html>

The USFWS Fisheries Program maintains a cadre of experienced civil and hydraulic engineers working in the fields of fish passage and protection. This Fish Passage Engineering team collaborates with USFWS field offices, other Federal programs, state resource agencies, and stakeholders. The Fish Passage Engineering Program provides technical assistance in the planning, design, and evaluation of technical and nature-like fishways, culverts and stream crossings, hydroelectric facilities, and dam removal projects to support better conservation outcomes throughout the Northeast Region. The Program is typically engaged by the nearest USFWS office.

### **US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): National Coastal Wetlands Grant**

<https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/grantprograms/CW/CW.htm>

The primary goal of the National Coastal Wetlands Grant Program is the long-term conservation of coastal wetland ecosystems. The Program provides eligible State agencies with grants to protect and restore valuable coastal wetlands resources. Projects can include: 1) acquisition of a real property interest (e.g., conservation easement or fee title) in coastal lands or waters (coastal wetlands ecosystems) from willing sellers or partners for long-term conservation; 2) restoration, enhancement, or management of coastal wetlands ecosystems; or 3) a combination of acquisition, restoration, enhancement, and management. All projects must ensure long-term (at least 20 years) conservation of coastal resources.

Applicants are restricted to State government agencies; funds are administered through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

**US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) / National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) / State of New Jersey (NJDEP): Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR)**

<https://www.doi.gov/restoration>

The mission of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program (NRDAR Program) is to restore natural resources injured as a result of oil spills or hazardous substance releases into the environment. In partnership with affected state, tribal and federal trustee agencies, the NRDAR Program conducts damage assessments which are the first step toward resource restoration and used to provide the basis for determining restoration needs that address the public's loss and use of natural resources. Once the damages are assessed, the NRDAR Program negotiates legal settlements or takes other legal actions against the responsible parties for the spill or release. Funds from these settlements are then used to restore the injured resources at no expense to the taxpayer. This program has no cost share requirements, however, the use of restoration funds is subject to the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Oil Pollution Act (OPA), the National Contingency Plan (NCP), and other applicable law.

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dam Grant Program**

<https://www.fema.gov/rehabilitation-high-hazard-potential-dam-grant-program>

Section 5006 of FEMAS National Dam Safety Program (33 U.S.C. 467f), Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams, provides technical, planning, design, and construction assistance in the form of grants for rehabilitation of eligible high hazard potential dams. High Hazard Potential is a classification standard for any dam whose failure or mis-operation will cause loss of human life and significant property destruction. Funding can be used for repair; removal; or structural/nonstructural rehabilitation. Eligible applicants include non-federal governments (i.e., State, local) and nonprofits. The state's Dam Safety agency must approve projects.