℅ Delaware River Greenway Partnership
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2027 Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Mini-Grant Program

The Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic (LDW&S) River Management Council announces the availability of 2027 Wild & Scenic Mini-Grants. Mini-Grants are up to $5,000 and intended for projects in the Lower Delaware river corridor to be completed in 2027. Projects can vary but must support and enhance the goals of the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Management Plan. Applications are due by Monday, **December 21, 2026**.

Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic Management Council Goals:

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.

Who May Apply

Communities and nonprofits that along, or operate in the environs of, the LDW&S are eligible. Entities which actively participate in the Management Council are encouraged to apply and given preference.

The following eligible entities within the LDW&S corridor in New Jersey and Pennsylvania may apply:

- Government entities including municipalities that are members of the Management Council, municipal committees, counties, and the State of New Jersey and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- Community or non-profit 501(c)3 organizations operating within the corridor.

Project Preferences

- New applicants are encouraged. Prior LDW&S mini-grant applicants, including former grantees, may apply. Depending on the number of proposals received and the availability of funds, preference will be given to organizations who are not past recipients of the mini-grant program.
- Applications for any project which meets eligibility requirements and furthers the goals of the LDW&S Management Council will be considered. *Examples* of potential types of projects include:
  - Citizen science
  - Educational/awareness
  - Habitat restoration
  - Recreational resource accessibility and inclusion
  - Stormwater management and climate resilience
  - Water quality monitoring
- 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.

Timing & Funding

Grant applications are typically for $5,000 or less. However, larger grants will be considered for especially compelling projects or those that span multiple years.

Applicants will be notified of award decisions by email on or before January 25, 2027. This date is subject to change.

To begin their projects, grantees must submit a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and an initial invoice for 50% of the award by February 12, 2027. Projects are expected to start in February or March, once both documents have been received.

The final invoice is due September 15, 2027. The remaining 50% will be paid after the invoice is received, provided that all project expenses have been paid and the project is progressing as planned.

All projects must be completed, and final deliverables submitted, by October 8, 2027.

LDW&S reserves the right to recover funds for incomplete projects and reserves the right to not issue 2027 mini-grants pending federal funding decisions/ announcements.

Application Deadline and Submission

Grant applications will be accepted in **PDF format only** through **5:00 PM on Monday December 21, 2026**, via email to LDW&Sgrants@delawarerivergp.org. A completed 2027 application form should be submitted, with any supporting documents. Applications sent by paper mail will not be accepted. Questions about the program or process can also be submitted to LDW&Sgrants@delawarerivergp.org prior to the application due date.

- **Material Submission and Organization.** See the details and instructions on the application sheet with the required information. **Submit a single PDF**. **Applications submitted with more than a single document will not be accepted.**
- **Acknowledgement**. Applicants will receive an email acknowledging receipt of the submission within five business days. LDW&S 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 considered but those that meet multiple criteria will be given a preference. The Steering Committee of the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Management Council will review proposals and determine awardees with the exception of recusals due to potential conflicts of interest.

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/audiences 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 LDW&S Mini-Grant **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** and submit an invoice for 50% of the grant award.
- **Kick-off/Check-ins:** Applicants or representatives must be available for a project kick-off discussion/visit as well as interim check-ins as appropriate.
- **Progress Reports** are due June 11, 2027. Progress reports should include project status, summary of actions and activities, and estimated completion date.
- **Final Invoices** must be submitted by September 15, 2027. While in-kind (e.g. donated or volunteer work) project work can continue beyond this date, in compliance with federal funding practices, all expenses and paid work must be completed by September 15, 2027.
- **Status Reports/Presentations:** Awardees may be contacted for a status report at any time during the project.
- **Deliverables** are due by October 8, 2027. They include**:**
    - Final Report. This document, not to exceed two to four pages, should include project goals, a summary of actions and activities and an overview of impact. Any press releases, products and other pertinent materials should also be submitted. Before and after photos for projects, if applicable, are encouraged. Photos should be high-resolution JPG images and suitable for promotional distribution.
    - Project Overview Video. Awardees are required to produce a 3-6-minute video presentation highlighting the project and its impact (please note this does not need to be a professionally produced video). It is recommended that video footage be taken throughout the project. *Videos should include the name of the project and the year as well as acknowledgment of LDW&S funding.*
    - Awardees may be required to attend the December 2027 LDW&S Management Council meeting to present their projects, see calendar.
- **Communications & Consent:** Awardees must acknowledge and consent to the sharing of all project deliverables through LDW&S/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 LDW&S/DRGP's outreach efforts.
- **Public Grant Acknowledgement:** Awardees must acknowledge Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River grant funding in all organizational communications and grant products related to the project and video. *Failure to do so will result in the return of funds.* 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 LDW&S Logo and website https://www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org.)

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