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**2020 Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Mini-Grant Program Summary**

The Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic (LDWS) River Management Council announces the availability of 2020 Wild & Scenic Mini-Grants. These grants are intended for projects that support and enhance the goals and policies of the LDWS Management Plan. Grants are for projects that can be completed by December 31, 2020.

**Application Deadline**

Grant applications will be accepted only via email through 5:00 PM on Monday, March 30, 2020. Send to ldwsgrants@delawarerivergp.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. Awards will be announced via email by April 30, 2020.

**Grant Funding**

Typical grant funding is expected to be up to $4,000 but special projects over $4,000 will be considered. Fifty percent of the grant award will be provided prior to the start of the project. The balance will be paid once the project is completed and a final report and invoice are submitted.

**Project Timeline**

Projects must be completed by December 31, 2020. Final reports also must be submitted by this date.

**Who May Apply**

Reference the LDWS outreach map or the LDWS management plan for the geography of LDWS corridor found at <https://www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org/>. The following eligible entities within the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic corridor in New Jersey and Pennsylvania may apply:

* Municipal appointed community committees.
* Schools.
* Community or non-profit 501(c)3 organizations that operate within the watershed.
* Government entities including municipalities, counties and the States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Projects including partnerships or in-kind matches will be given preference. Prior grant winners may apply.

**Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic Management Council Goals and Policies**Projects consistent with the LDWS management plan and that further management plan goals are eligible (<https://lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org/index.php/resources/documents/lower-delaware-wild-and-scenic-management-plan>).

[**Goal 1: Water Quality**](https://www.delrivgreenway.org/index.php/publications/lower-delaware-wild-and-scenic-publications/ldw-s-management-committee-action-plan-2007-to-2011#waterquality)

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

[**Goal 2: Natural Resources**](https://www.delrivgreenway.org/index.php/publications/lower-delaware-wild-and-scenic-publications/ldw-s-management-committee-action-plan-2007-to-2011#naturalresources)

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**](https://www.delrivgreenway.org/index.php/publications/lower-delaware-wild-and-scenic-publications/ldw-s-management-committee-action-plan-2007-to-2011#historicresources)

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

[**Goal 4: Recreation**](https://www.delrivgreenway.org/index.php/publications/lower-delaware-wild-and-scenic-publications/ldw-s-management-committee-action-plan-2007-to-2011#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 with the preservation of natural and cultural qualities of the river corridor.

[**Goal 5: Economic Development**](https://www.delrivgreenway.org/index.php/publications/lower-delaware-wild-and-scenic-publications/ldw-s-management-committee-action-plan-2007-to-2011#economic)

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

[**Goal 6: Open Space Preservation**](https://www.delrivgreenway.org/index.php/publications/lower-delaware-wild-and-scenic-publications/ldw-s-management-committee-action-plan-2007-to-2011#openspace)

Preserve 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.

**Eligible Projects**

Mandated mitigation projects, permit requirement studies and capital or construction projects are not eligible. Possible project ideas include but are not limited to:

* Conservation, restoration or enhancement of fish, wildlife, riverine ecology, water quality, historic or recreational resources
* Protection of land along the river or its included tributaries
* Public education about the river and its resources and importance
* Research studies that increase understanding and lead to improved management of river resources
* Promotion of recreation to encourage people to use and protect the river
* Invasive species management
* Water conservation education and implementation
* Protection of natural river flow regimes
* Projects that engage students in the arts and sciences related to river resources
* Efforts to plan and manage for climate resilience

**Application Process**

* **Deadline and Documents:** Grant applications will be accepted through 5:00 PM on Monday, March 30, 2020 via email to ldwsgrants@delawarerivergp.org. Use “W&S Mini-Grant Proposal” in the subject line. Mailed applications will not be accepted. Interested parties must complete the 2020 application form along with supporting materials. The submission should not exceed eight pages including the application form and project budget.
* **Review Criteria:** Proposals must address the review criteria.

**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, however more consideration will be given to proposals that address the following:

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

**Grant Recipient Obligations**

* **MOU & First Invoice:** Upon selection, awardees must complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and submit an invoice for fifty percent of the grant amount.
* **Status Reports/Presentations:** Awardees may be contacted later in the year for a status report of their project and may be required to attend a LDWS Management Council meeting to present their projects.
* **Final Report & Invoice:** A final written report and final invoice for the grant balance is required by December 31, 2020. 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.
* **Public Grant Acknowledgement:** Awardees must acknowledge Wild & Scenic grant funding in all organizational communications related to the project.