

c/o Delaware River Greenway Partnership

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

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ldwsgrants@delawarerivergp.org

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**2021 Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Mini-Grant Program**

The Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic (LDWS) River Management Council announces the availability of 2021 Wild & Scenic Mini-Grants. These grants are intended for projects that support and enhance the goals of the LDWS Management Plan. Projects must be completed by September 30, 2021 with the submission of a final report and invoice by October 31, 2021.

**Application Deadline**

Grant applications will be accepted only by email through 5:00 PM on Monday, March 29, 2021. 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. Committee members with personal conflicts will be recused from scoring applications. Awards will be announced via email by Monday, April 26, 2021. (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 a final report and invoice are submitted. LDWS reserves the right to not issue 2021 mini-grants pending federal funding announcements.

**Project Timeline**

Projects must be completed by September 30, 2021 with final reports and invoices due by October 31, 2021. No extensions will be granted for the completion deadline.

**Who May Apply**

Only new projects being completed in and benefiting the LDWS corridor will be eligible. (See the Outreach Map at [www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org](http://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 who have completed LDWS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are eligible
* Schools
* Community or non-profit 501(c)3 organizations operating within the watershed
* Government entities including municipalities who have completed LDWS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), counties and the States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania

**Project Preferences**

* Prior LDWS mini-grant winners may apply. However, preference will 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 a preference. One entity should be identified as the lead agency.
* Stronger consideration will be given to proposals that address more than one Management [Plan](https://lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org/index.php/resources/documents/lower-delaware-wild-and-scenic-management-plan) goal as well as projects leveraging outside funding.

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

[**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 responsible 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

**Deadline and Documents**

Grant applications will be accepted through 5:00 PM on Monday, March 29, 2021 via email to ldwsgrants@delawarerivergp.org. Applications sent by snail mail will not be accepted. Interested parties must submit a completed 2021 application along with supporting materials as follows:

* **Match.** Those with a project match should attach verification of funds.
* **Material Submission, Organization, Size Limitation.** See the details and instructions in the application sheet with the required information. Organize your replies in the order as found in the application. Submit a single PDF in 8 ½ x 11 format to ldwsgrants@delawarerivergp.org. A total of 8 pages is permitted.
* **Acknowledgement**. Applicants will receive an email acknowledging receipt of the submission.

**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.

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?
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 a broad range of 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 this project?

**Grant Recipient Obligations**

* **MOU & First Invoice:** Upon selection, awardees must complete a LSWS Mini-Grant Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and submit an invoice for fifty percent of the grant amount.
* **Status Reports/Presentations:** Awardees may be contacted later for a status report of their project and will be required to attend a LDWS Management Council meeting to present their projects.
* **Final Report & Invoice:** A final report and final invoice for the grant balance is required by October 31, 2021. 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 and grant products related to the project. Failure to do so will nullify LDWS’s obligation to make final payment. Acknowledgements should read, *“This project was funded in part/full by the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic Management Council with support from the National Park Service.* *(Insert NPS Logo and LDWS Website Address.)*