



2025 Water Quality Restoration Grants Public Information Session Part 1

April 15, 2025





Housekeeping Items

- This meeting is being recorded. By participating, you consent to being recorded.
- The recording will be made available on our website and YouTube channel.
- Please introduce yourself in the chat with your name, title, and email address.
- Questions and comments will be addressed after the presentations during Q&A.

Kindly mute your microphone to minimize background noise.

Agenda

Introduction

Overview of Funding Purpose

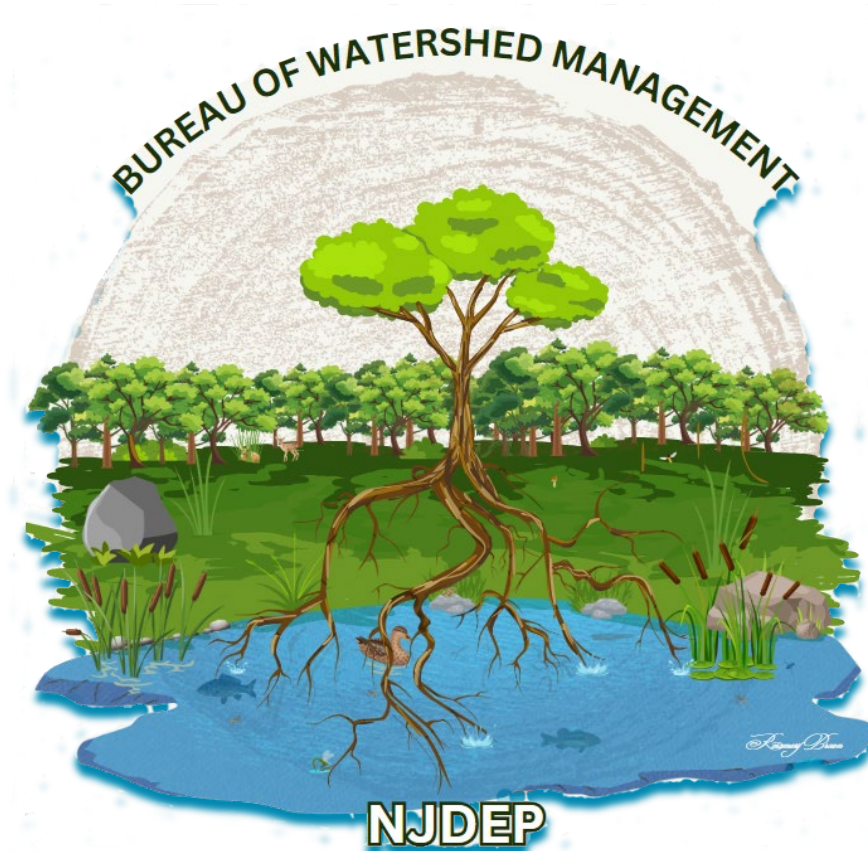
Funding Priorities

Grantee Responsibilities

Project Evaluation Criteria

SAGE

Q&A Session



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Purpose of Funding

The Department has \$13.4 million to award for this grant funding cycle through the 2025 RFP for eligible projects and plans.

Grants proposals should target NPS pollution through watershed restoration, enhancement, and protection strategies.

Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Impaired Waters and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) | US EPA



Restoration of 5,700 miles of Sparta Glen Brook in Sparta Glen Park.

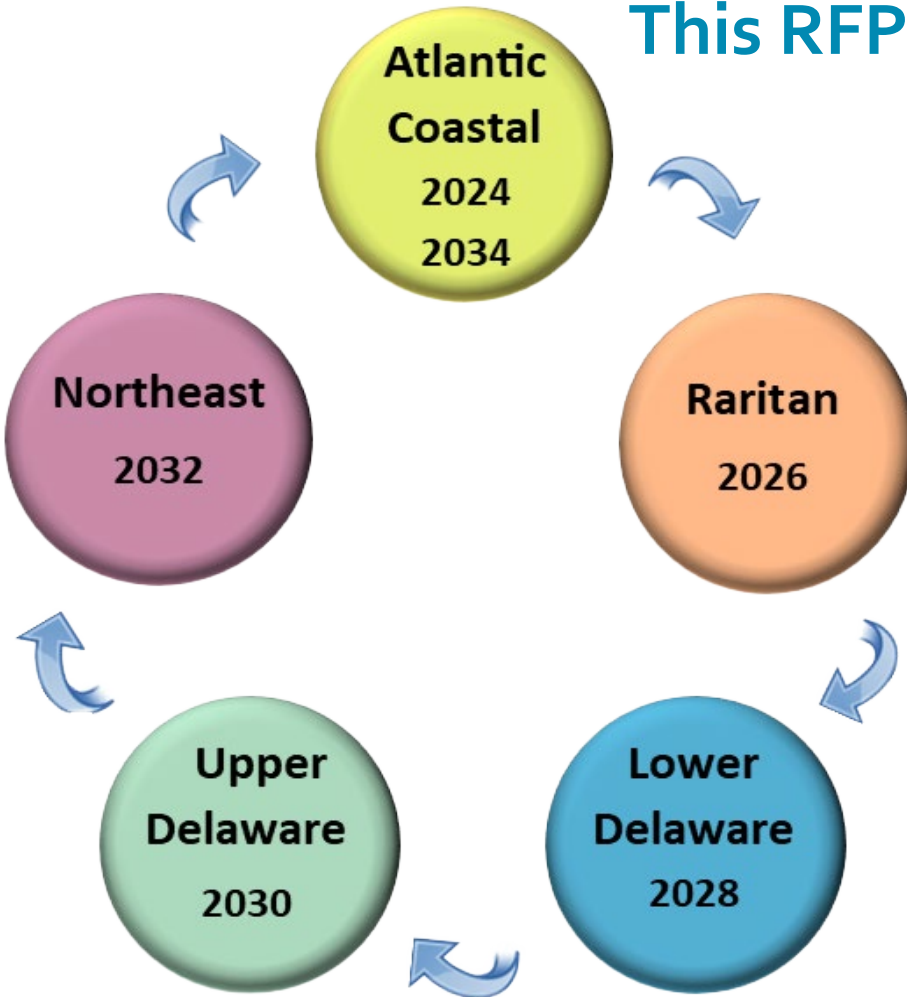


Funding Priorities

This RFP is for qualified projects in the Atlantic Coastal and the Northeast Water Regions.

The Department utilizes a rotating basin approach across New Jersey's five water regions. This approach:

- Facilitates the development of strategies to restore, maintain, and enhance water quality, ensuring effectiveness and efficiency while addressing the unique needs of each region.
- Funding will be awarded to eligible applicants to implement targeted water quality restoration and protection projects as outlined in this RFP.



Project Type	Source	Amount
Planning proposals only	604(b) Base	\$1,709,625.74
	604(b) BIL General Supplemental	\$2,534,000
	BIL Emerging Contaminants*	\$215,000
		Total: \$4,458,625.74
Planning and/or Implementation proposals	319(h)	\$8,968,002.24
		Total: \$8,968,002.24
		Grand Total: \$13,426,627.98

Funding Amounts

Funding Priorities continued

Development of Watershed Based Plans

- Development of Watershed-Based Plans (Appendix J) OR updates to existing plans
- Saddle River Watershed: Development of a plan for the Saddle River and its subwatersheds, including areas in New York, supporting TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) initiatives in the Northeast water region
- Lake Watershed-Based Plans:
 - Creating or updating plans to address nutrient inputs contributing to Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).
 - Focus on lakes with shallow, poorly maintained residential wells at risk from HAB toxins and surface contaminants.
 - Public engagement and Education
- Extreme Weather Resilience: development of extreme weather resilience and assessment plan that integrate communities faced with adverse environmental and public health stressors which assess the effects and ways to mitigate potential impacts from extreme weather and improve resilience.
- Emerging Contaminants Plan: Development of a plan to reduce or eliminate emerging contaminants as defined by the USEPA. Priority given to Cozy Lake.



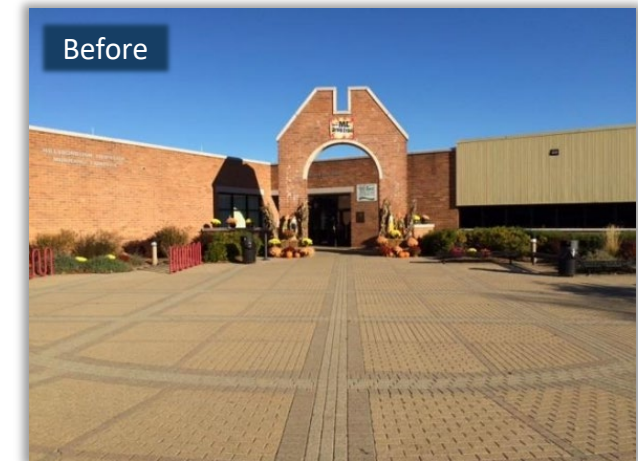
Metedeconk River Watershed Study Area

[Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters | US EPA](#)

Funding Priorities continued

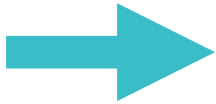
Implementation Projects

- Extreme Weather Resilience: Projects using Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) to reduce the impacts of Extreme Weather. NBS utilize natural features to address erosion, reduce flooding, and improve or maintain water quality.
- Construction of Green Infrastructure (GI) projects, including green roofs, rain gardens, and pervious paving systems, to manage stormwater at its source. GI treats stormwater runoff by:
 - Infiltrating into the subsoil
 - Filtering through vegetation or soil
 - Storing runoff for reuse – Priority will be given to areas connected to combined sewer systems (CSOs) and projects in communities faced with adverse public health and safety stressors. All projects must follow New Jersey's [Stormwater Best Management Practices \(BMP\) Manual](#).
- Projects that were identified in approved Watershed-Based Plans or projects that address water quality impairments and TMDL allocations. Priority is given to projects located in the Northeast or Atlantic Coast Water Regions or those targeting impairments in watersheds listed in Appendix K, identified using EPA's Recovery Potential Screening Tool.



WM15-016; Implementation of green infrastructure projects to reduce Total Phosphorus and Total Suspended Solids in the Royce Brook watershed

Timeline Overview



RFP is currently
open

1st Public Info Session
April 15, 2025 (today)

2nd Public Info Session
April 30, 2025

Proposal Due June 2,
2025



NJDEP Scoring

Funding
Recommendations
September 30, 2025

Grant Agreement
Drafting

Grant Execution!

Proposal Submission

- **SUBMISSION DEADLINE: June 2, 2025**
- **FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS: September 30, 2025**
- Expenditures by the grantee outside the grant period are not be eligible for reimbursement.
- Applicants eligible to apply for funding under this RFP include:
 - State, regional, and local government units within New Jersey
 - Designated water quality management planning agencies
 - State universities, and colleges
 - Interstate agencies of which New Jersey is a member
 - Section 501(c)(3) watershed and water resource associations and other local nonprofit organizations authorized to operate in the State of New Jersey

Proposal Submission continued

Eligibility Requirements

- Sufficient staffing and other resources with the capability, expertise, and environmental experience to perform the proposed project.
- The ability to establish and maintain partnerships to ensure project implementation as well as long-term operation and maintenance/management.
- Authority to implement the proposed project(s) and property or other access rights to construct the project.
- In addition to meeting the specifics of the grant opportunities described, eligible projects must be:
 - Well-designed to achieve the project goal of NPS pollution reduction and presented in the proper sequence of events (goal/objective/task).
 - Consistent with existing local, state, and federal requirements and can obtain permits needed to implement the project.
- Viable and readily implementable (shovel-ready).
- For proposals that do not include construction (e.g. planning, outreach and education), the proposal must include deliverables such as schedules, reports, training/outreach products, and inventories.
- Able to be completed within the agreed upon timeframe identified in the grant agreement.
- Located on public property or on private property with an executed agreement with the property owner sufficient to allow for the project to be completed as proposed, including the required monitoring and evaluation element.

Proposal Submission continued

Required Elements For A Complete Proposal

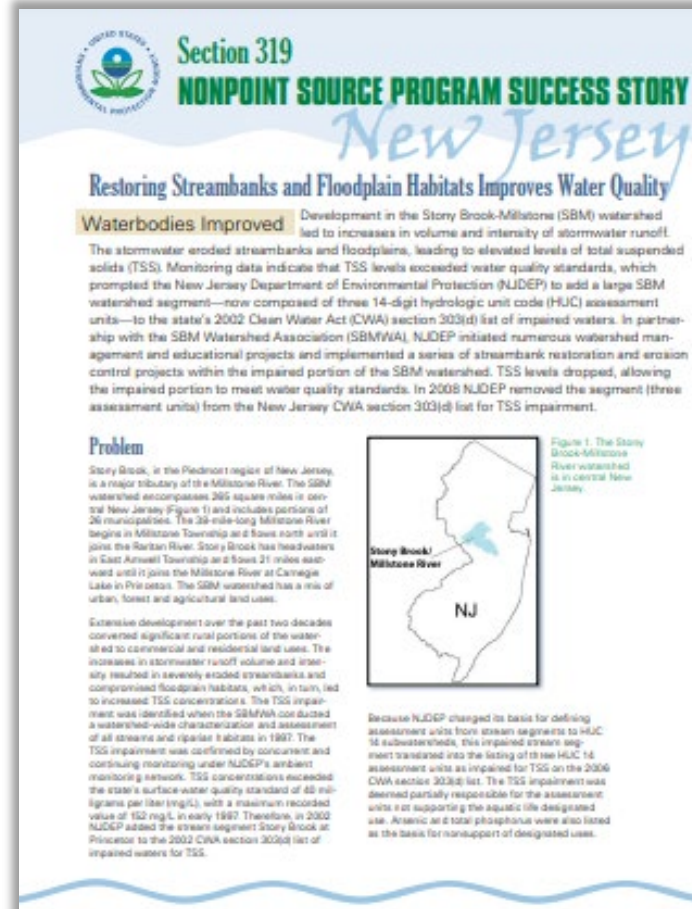
Project Background Summary Information	A description of the problem as it relates to the priorities in the RFP.
Project Description	Explain the project and how it will address the problem and priorities in the RFP. Must contain your goals, objectives, and tasks to complete the project.
Applicant Description	Demonstrate that the eligibility requirements outlined in Section 4 are met.
Monitoring and Evaluation Information	A description of how attainment of project objectives will be measured or demonstrated.
Implementation Schedule and Budget	A description of the implementation schedule and budget by objective and task that includes project deliverables and the responsible party.
Budget Details	A description of the budget details as it pertains to the Personnel Costs (Salaries and Benefits), (Sub)Contractors, Supplies, Monitoring, Training, Travel, Audit, Indirect Costs and Matching/Additional Funding.
Supplemental Information	Are letters of resource commitment with the amount of match funds listed, site plans, maps, blueprints, etc.

Grantee Responsibilities

- **Quarterly Progress and Financial Reports** – required to be submitted to the Department every 6-months to provide an update and explanation of the project status.
- **Spreadsheet Tool for Estimating Pollutant Loads** – after the completion of each BMP project, a grantee is responsible for calculating the load reductions and reporting them to the Department.
- **Monitoring Data** – grantee must get an approved QAPP before any monitoring, measurements, or data generation is initiated. In addition, data must be submitted to the Department and to the EPA through the USEPA Grant Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS).
- **Completion of a Project** – grantee is responsible for the project being completed on time and providing a final report summarizing the project and highlighting the results.
- **Ownership/Proprietary Rights; Data and Geographical Information System (GIS) Requirements** – grantee must provide the Department with all information generated during the grant, return all equipment purchased with grant funds and ensure that GIS data follows the NJ DEP GIS Standards.

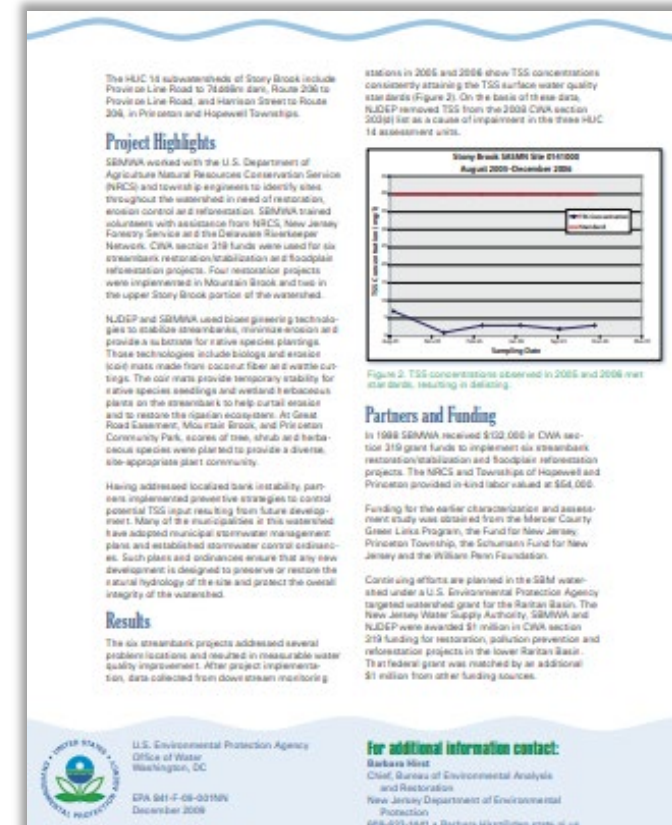
Grantee Responsibilities

- **Coordination of Project Permitting** – the grantee must coordinate all permit activities with the Department's Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration and list BWM as a co-applicant.
- **Maintenance Agreement** – the grantee must submit a Maintenance Agreement before in-the-ground installation of any BMPs.
- **Final Reports** – the grantee must submit a final report in the format outlined in Appendix E of the RFP.
- **Grant Accomplishment Narrative** – the grantee is responsible for submitting a one or two-page NPS Success Story in the format outlined in Appendix E of the RFP. (Shown on the right)



Success Stories about Restoring Water Bodies Impaired by Nonpoint Source Pollution | US EPA

Example of an EPA Success Story



1. Grant funds CANNOT be used to purchase **meals or food**

2. New SAGE Application Pages

- Implementation Details
- Impervious Surface Details
- Co-Benefits
- QAPP
- Permit Readiness Checklist
- Property Owner Certification Form

Guidance for Quality Assurance
Project Plans

3. Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) are required for **any type of monitoring** conducted under the grant, not just water quality monitoring. This includes monitoring related to other environmental parameters, such as habitat assessments, pollutant load reductions, or any other data collection activities, etc.

5. Progress Reports will be required to be submitted every 6-months rather than every 3-months.

6. A valid UEI Number is required at time of proposal submission.

7. There will be a second pre-award info session on **April 30, 2025.**

RFP Key Changes

Project Evaluation Criteria

Category	Max Points
Project Applicability	30
Project Readiness	25
Likelihood of Success	35
Monitoring and Evaluation	10

Key Points
One or more watersheds addressed
Leveraging additional environmental outcomes
Shovel-ready projects
Strong past performance of the applicant
Letters of support and commitment of resources
Long-term sustainable benefits
Implementation of a Watershed Based Plan

Volunteers plant Riparian buffer along Pequest River

There will be a mandatory follow up session for Grantees whose projects are funded.

Next Steps

RFP Proposals



**Attend the 2nd public
information session
to be held on April
30, 2025.**



**Feel free to contact
us if you have
questions.**



**Use available
guidance to prepare
your proposal.**



**Submit your
application!**