2020 ROOTS FOR RIVERS REFORESTATION GRANT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM









Presenters



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ROOTS FOR RIVERS

An Introduction to Floodplain Reforestation & Steps For Implementing A Reforestation Project In Your Watershed

Presented by: Michelle DiBlasio, Watershed Restoration Coordinator (TNC-NJ)





FRESHWATER RESOURCES IN NEW JERSEY





- * FLOODPLAINS are low-lying areas next to rivers that can experience flooding during significant periods of rain.
 Forested floodplains naturally help slow and absorb floodwaters and are home to a diversity of native animals.
- * **RESTORATION** refers to the action of returning something back to its historical or former conditions.

Floodplain Restoration by Reforestation is designed to restore degraded streamside (riparian) habitat, reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality by reestablishing native tree and shrub species in the floodplain.











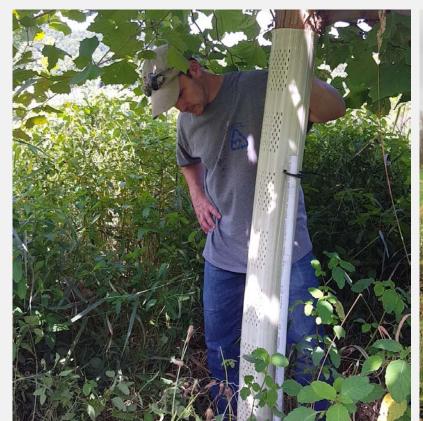
WHY TREES, WHY RIVERS?

- Provide canopy cover to cool the water and regulate in-stream temperatures for aquatic macroinvertebrate and fish species.
- Provide a root system to stabilize stream banks and filter out excess nutrients and pollutants from stormwater runoff.

✓ Provide extra storage for flood waters.

✓ Supply **food and habitat** for a variety of in-stream and riparian wildlife.









100,000 Trees Planted in NJ's Floodplains by 2020!



Roots for Rivers Projects in New York **New Jersey's Watersheds** Tree Planting Locations **NJDEP-Watershed Management Areas** Arthur Kill Barnegat Bay Central Delaware Lower Passaic and Saddle Lower Raritan, South River, and Lawrence Maurice, Salem, and Cohansey Millstone Monmouth North and South Branch Raritan Pompton, Pequannock, Wanaque, Ramapo Rancocas Upper Delaware Upper Passaic, Whippany, and Rockaway Wallkill Pennsylvania Maryland Delaware

ROOTS FOR RIVERS









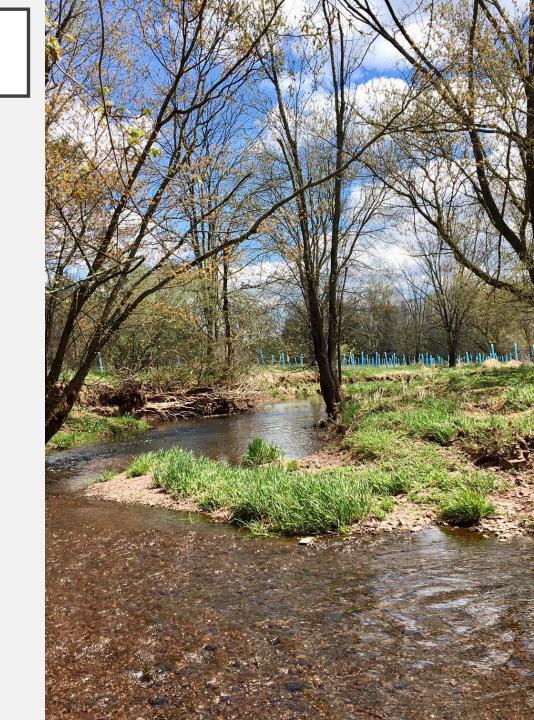
PROGRAM RESULTS AS OF JUNE 30TH, 2019

# of Applications/Projects Funded	56
# of Organizations	28
# of Counties	15
# of Watersheds	15
# of Trees & Shrubs Planted in the Floodplain	28,674



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN TODAY

- ✓ How to Develop a Roots for Rivers project proposal
 - ✓ Steps for Identifying Priority Sites for Reforestation
 - ✓ Creating Planting and Implementation Plans
 - √ Effective Methods for Stewardship
- ✓ Available Resources for Technical and Financial Assistance
- **✓** How to Apply and Get Involved in the Program













HOW TO DEVELOP A REFORESTATION PROJECT

- ✓ Step I Identify a Site
- ✓ Step 2 Develop a Planting Plan & Project Team
- ✓ Step 3 Implementation & Stewardship



STEP I - IDENTIFYING PRIORITY PROJECT SITES

Criteria for Site Selection

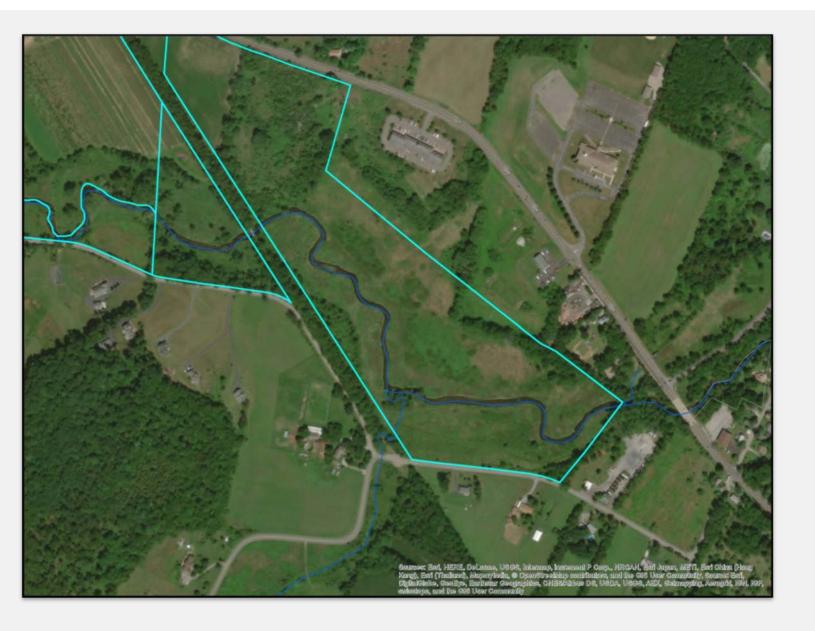
- ✓ No woody vegetation or sparsely planted woody vegetation
- √ Mowed lawns or impermeable pavement
- ✓ Invasive or non-native grasses (reed canary grass, loosestrife, etc.)
- √ Signs of erosion
- √ Close proximity to paved roads

^{**} If the property is on state land, you will need to obtain written permission and approval form the state





IDENTIFYING PROJECT SITES - ONLINE

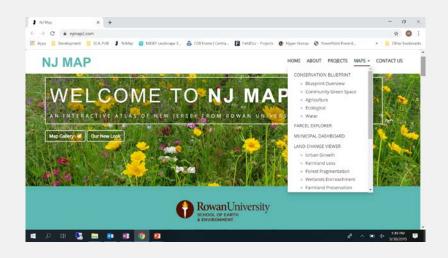


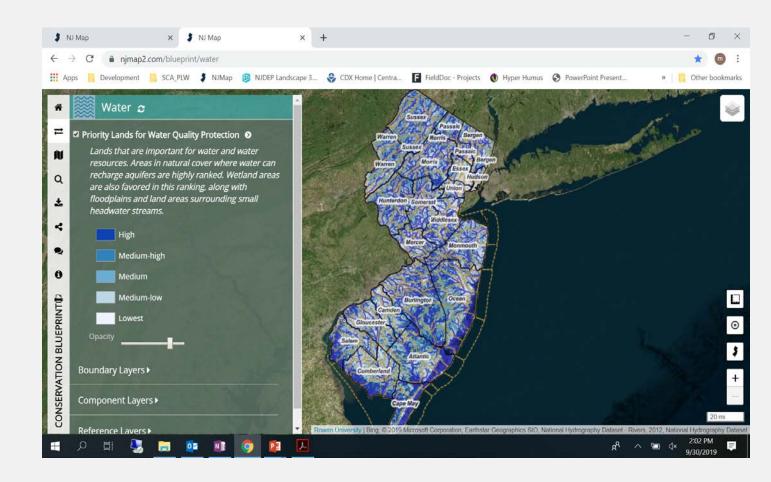




IDENTIFYING PROJECT SITES - ONLINE

NJ MAP - Conservation Blueprint



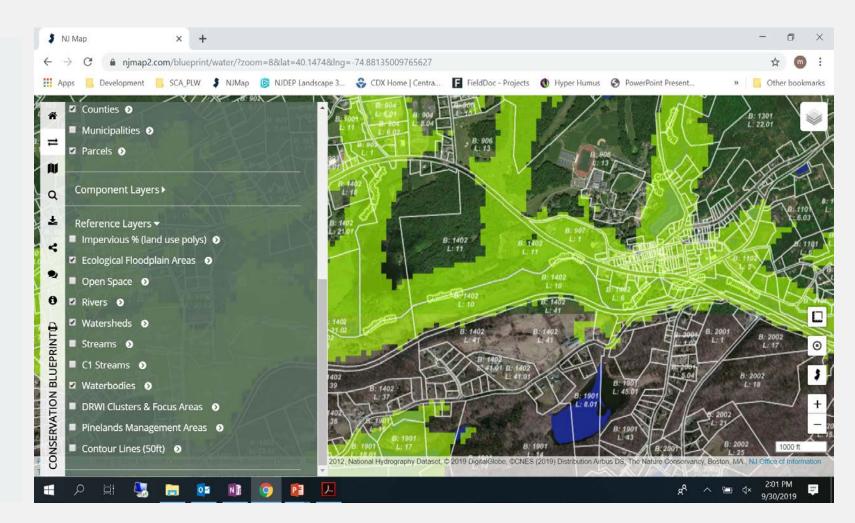




NJ MAP - CONSERVATION BLUEPRINT

Applicable Layers

- Rivers/Streams
- Watersheds
- Priority Areas for Water Quality Protection
- Rare Species & Natural Communities
- Parcel & Municipal Boundaries
- Ecological Floodplain Area (EFA)

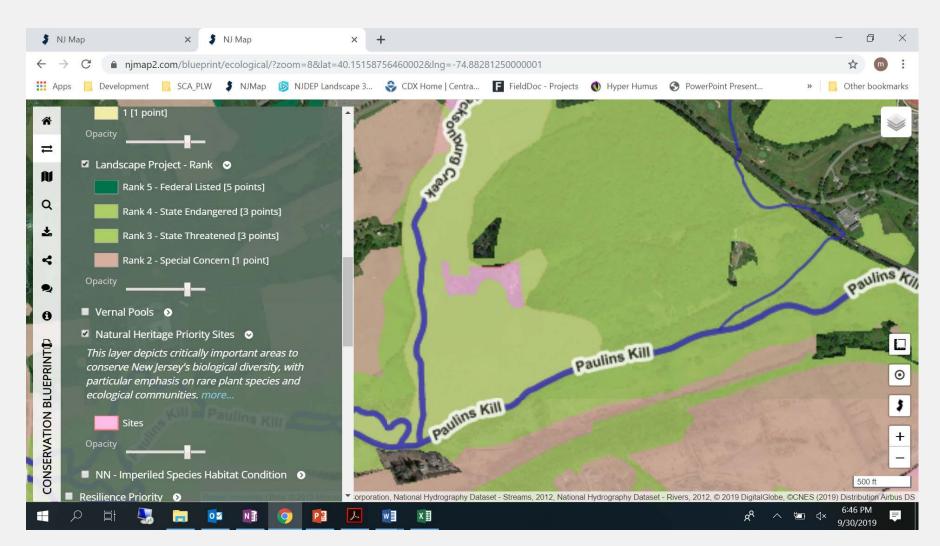




NJ MAP - CONSERVATION BLUEPRINT

EcologicalConditions:

- Presence of Rare
 Species and Natural
 Communities
- What Landscape Project ranking(s) number is present (Rank #I - #5)?
- Natural Heritage Site













Questions to Consider

- Who will plant?
- What will you plant?
- Where will you plant?
- When will you plant?
- How will you maintain plantings?









Site Assessment: Identify Site Specific Characteristics

- Soil Moisture/Soil Texture
- Depth to Water Table
- Areas Prone to Flooding
- Dominant Vegetation Type (tree, shrub, grass?)
- Species Diversity (Native or Non-Native?)
- Site Accessibility



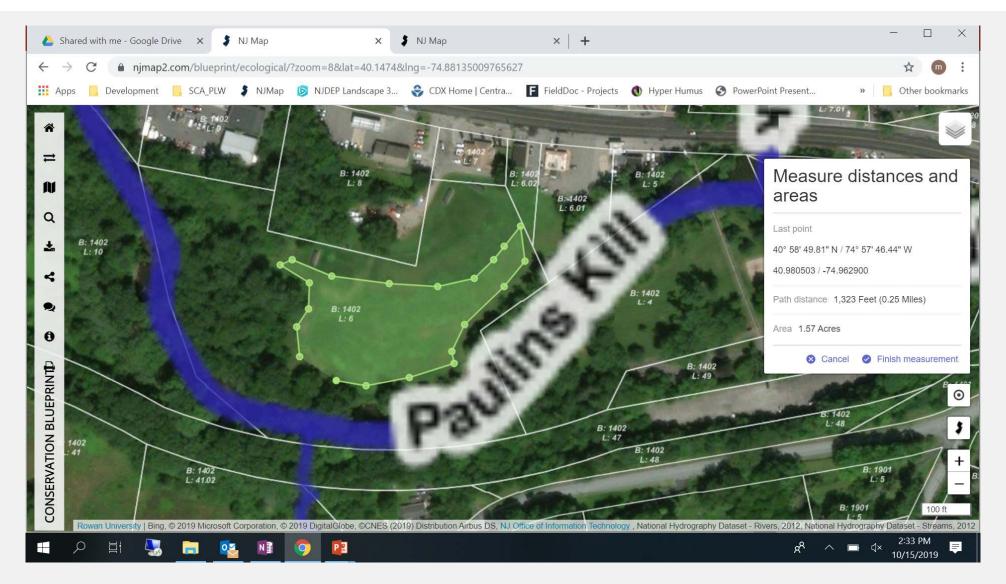




Define your Planting Area

- Refer to the Ecological Floodplain Area (EFA) layer
 https://www.njmap2.com/blueprint/water/
- Buffer widths can range from 10 to 500 feet
- Site conditions, landowner preferences and/or staff capacities may limit availability of planting area.
- As a rule of thumb: The wider the buffer, the better!















- Determine Species Selection& Density
 - Pinelands Nursery reserved native stock
 - Wetland Indicator Status (USDA-NRCS)
 - Densities ranging from 220-320 stems/acre or maintain a 6-ft to 10ft spacing plan











STEP 3 – IMPLEMENTATION & STEWARDSHIP



STEP 3 - IMPLEMENTATION & STEWARDSHIP

Annual stewardship activities include:

- Visual inspection of plant and protection materials (tree tubes and stakes) for damage or mortality
- Securing tree tubes properly around the tree/shrub
- Straightening support stakes
- Removing vines or debris away from the tree tube











HOW TO GET INVOLVED













USE OF FUNDING

✓ Native Woody Plants (trees and shrubs)

Protective Tubes and Support Stakes

✓ Up to Two Delivery Fees



REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIVE WOODY PLANTS

Trees and shrubs can only include:



Tublings



The total number of trees/shrubs, tubes, and stakes should be the same





Other supplies (gloves, shovels, etc.)



Equipment (mower, auger, etc.)



Labor or Contractor Costs



Alternative protection materials (fencing, weed mats, etc.)



Non-native or ornamental plants



Plants sizes larger than 2 gallon pot



Additional delivery fees associated with project implementation



GRANT REQUIREMENTS

ALL plants must be protected using eligible protection materials (tree tube and support stake)

Project budgets must maintain a \$12 average or less per plant, tube and support stake

Funding requests accepted for projects between \$1K - \$20K

Grant Recipients will be required to re-submit final project budget prior to purchasing materials

ALL materials must be planted and protected by July 1st, 2020

Long term stewardship of plantings are required for up to 4 years after initial planting



APPLICATION SECTIONS

Basic Applicant Background Information & Contacts		
Eligibility Screening		
I. SPECIFIC TO APPLICATION PORTAL (SJ or TWI)		
Grant Proposal		
I. Grant Funding Requested	6. Map of Project Site	
2. Project Title & Brief Description	7. 2-3 Current Photos of Project Site	
3. Information on Project Site	8. Stewardship Commitment	
4. Condition of Project Site	9. Project Team Members and Duties	
5. Ecological Conditions	10.Action Plan and Timeline	
Attachments		
I.Authorization to Submit Application (SJ APP ONLY)	3. Landowner Support	
2. Project Budget	4. Optional Information	

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

- Project budget
 - Information on the cost of materials and eligible uses of funding is included in each Application Information Packet
- Evidence of landowner support
 - If the land is owned by a government unit other than the municipality, school district, or a partner non-profit organization, written permission is **required**
 - Project sites on private land are NOT allowed.
- Optional Information
 - Letters of commitment or support or more detailed project information







ACTION PLAN AND TIMELINE

- Includes steps for planning, invasive species removal (if applicable), implementation, community engagement, and stewardship and reporting steps
- Also includes space to discuss plans for project promotion including ribbon cutting ceremonies and press events
- Invasive species removal can occur before funding is received so that it does not prevent the trees from being planted by July I











Springfield Mayor Richard Huber, Committeeman Chris Capodice and Township staff and Union County Parks staff joined the volunteers on June 8th and 9th.

Volunteers from Springfield Environmental Commission, Gardening Club, and Rahway River Watershed Association, May 12, 2018

More photos on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/pg/sp ringfieldtownshipni/photos/?ref=





Project budget is within the allowable grant amount (\$1,000 -\$20,000)



Grant funds are only being requested for eligible expenses (native trees/shrubs, tree tubes, stakes)



Average cost per plant (including tube and stake) is \$12.00 or less



Other funding sources, in-kind contributions, and donations are identified (if applicable)



Accuracy and completeness of project tracking and location table



Map and photos of site are used to enhance reviewers' understanding of project.



The relative impact of the proposed project on restoring floodplains and protecting water resources.



Likelihood of success as demonstrated the strength of the project team and action plan.



GRANT TIMELINE & DELIVERABLES

Informational Webinar: Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Application Due Date: Friday, December 13, 2019

Recipient Notification: Friday, January 24, 2020

First Payment Disbursed: Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Project Complete: Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Final Report Due: Friday, July 31, 2020

Final Report Approval: Friday, August 21, 2020

Final Payment Disbursed: Tuesday, September 1, 2020













TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, RESOURCES & SUPPLIERS

- TNC Staff Field Training upon request
- Online Resources
 - USDA-NRCS Wetland Indicator Status
 - NJDEP Landscape 3.3 Viewer
 - NJDEP's NJ-GeoWeb
 - NJ MAP
- Nurseries Pinelands, NJ State Nursery or other Local Nurseries
 that carry <u>native</u> seed stock
- NJDEP's-AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassador Program
- Protection Materials Plantra, Tree Protection Supply



MUNICIPALITIES AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS



SUSTAINABLE JERSEY

- Sustainable Jersey is a certification program with designed specifically for municipalities and public schools in New Jersey.
- Identifies actions to help towns and schools become more sustainable
- Provides tools, resources, and guidance to make progress
- Provides access to grants and funding for municipalities and schools

Learn more at:

SustainableJersey.com

SustainableJerseySchools.com







PARTICIPATING DISTRICTS & SCHOOLS



SUSTAINABLE JERSEY CERTIFICATION





Bronze certification requires:

- Establishment of mandatory green team
- Implement 2 of 12 priority actions
- Complete actions in 6 of 18 categories
- · Total of at least 150 points

Silver certification requires:

- Establishment of mandatory green team
- Implement 3 of 12 priority actions
- Complete actions in 8 of 18 categories
- Total of at least 350 points

TURN PROJECTS INTO POINTS

Completing a Roots for Rivers
 Reforestation project can get your
 municipality I0 points in the
 Sustainable Jersey certification
 program via the <u>Tree Planting</u>
 <u>Programs action</u> available under the
 Natural Resources, Tree & Woodlands
 Management action category.

Tree Planting Programs 10 Points

Why is it important?

Who should lead and be involved with this action?

Timeframe

Project costs and resource needs

What to do, and how to do it ("How to")

What to submit to earn points for this action

Spotlight: What NJ municipalities are doing

Resources

Print Action Description

Download PDF Version

Pre-Requisite: Community Forestry Management Plan and NJUCF Accreditation

Tree Planting Programs are an important component of maintaining and expanding the municipal tree canopy. Tree Planting Programs can focus on expanding street tree coverage, creating new canopy cover around municipal buildings and schools, enhancing parks and recreation sites, establishing forest cover on municipal open space, and reducing heat island impacts in urban settings.

Once a community has completed the Community Forestry Plan and Tree Cover Goal, instituting a **Tree Planting Program** can earn a municipality 10 points under the Sustainable Jersey program.

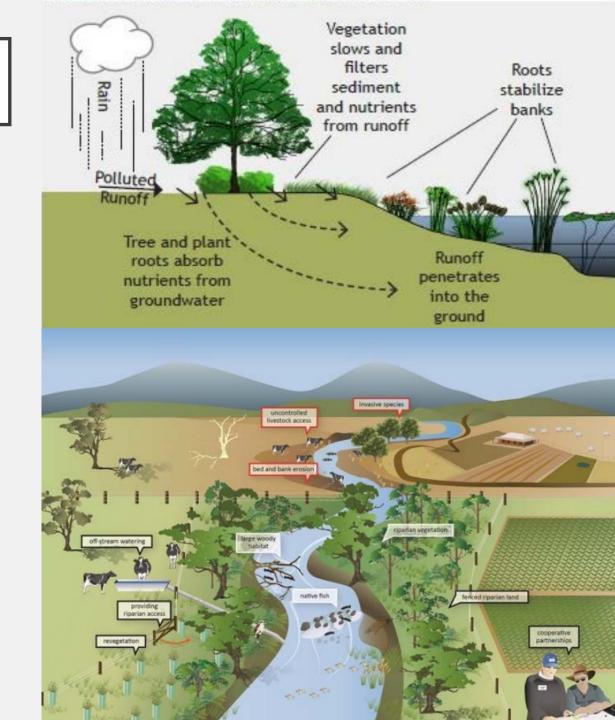
Why is it important?

More and more communities are beginning to recognize the very tangible benefits that trees provide in the urban environment. Healthy trees reduce air and noise pollution, provide energy-saving shade and cooling, furnish habitat for wildlife, enhance aesthetics and property values, and are important contributors to community image, pride, and



TURN PROJECTS INTO POINTS

- Sustainable Jersey is working to launch their new Gold Star Standard in Water
 - Hope to be released by June 2019
 - New actions that will address a range of water resources including drinking water, stormwater, surface, ground and wastewater
 - Riparian Buffer Ordinance
 - 2018 Sustainability Summit Session On the Road to Water Gold: Pathways For Protecting and Enhancing Community Water Resources
 - View the presentation <u>here</u>
 - Also includes more information on NJ Maps and available green infrastructure resources





We are pleased to announce that The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is partnering with Sustainable Jersey and The Watershed Institute to offer another round of the Roots for Rivers Reforestation Grant and Technical Assistance Program. The program will support municipal, school district, and local nonprofit and conservation organization efforts to undertake their own floodplain reforestation initiatives. Program participants will receive technical assistance to design restoration projects and funding to cover the material costs of tree/shrubs, tree protection tubes, and stakes. Projects costing between \$1,000 and \$20,000 are eligible

Program

Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program

Regional Hubs

Resource Opportunities

Roots for Rivers Reforestation



Roots for Rivers Reforestation Grant and Technical Assistance Program Funded by The Nature Conservancy



2020 Application Information Package

Announcement Date: Friday, September 27, 2019 Informational Webinar: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 Application Due Date: Friday, December 13, 2019 Recipient Notification: Friday, January 24, 2020

Link to Application: On the Grants and Resources section of sustainablejersey.com

For questions regarding the application and online portal:

Kaitlyn Vollmer: Email grants@SustainableJersey.com or call 609-771-3189

For project related questions contact:

Michelle DiBlasio: Email michelle.diblasio@tnc.org or call 908-955-0342

A.	Background2
В.	Municipality and School District Eligibility Requirements
C.	Use of Grant Funding
D.	Purchasing Project Materials
E.	Project Development

APPLICATION INFORMATION PACKET

The application information packet can be downloaded from the Resource Opportunities Page of the Sustainable Jersey or Sustainable Jersey for Schools website

> **Questions:** Kaitlyn Vollmer 609-771-3189

grants@sustainablejersey.com

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Be a New Jersey municipal government or school district.
 Funding may be passed through to a nonprofit, partner organization, or contractor, but the municipality or school district must be the applicant and will be responsible for the reporting requirements. Checks will be made payable to the municipality or school district and sent to its fiscal agent.
- Be registered or certified with Sustainable Jersey or Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification program.

You can apply for this opportunity even if you have an open Sustainable Jersey grant!

Participating Communities



Participating Schools



ADDITIONAL REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

- Documentation that the municipality or district/school is authorized to apply for the grant.
 - Examples: Municipal/School Board resolution, letter from mayor, superintendent,
 B.A., or other designated authority
 - Sample resolutions for <u>schools</u> and <u>munis</u> are in the Application Information Packet.

Resolution of Support from Local Governing Body Authorizing the Sustainable Jersey Grant Application

Some municipalities have requested a sample of the resolution that must accompany their Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program application. The purpose of the resolution is to affirm that the governing body approves of the proposed grant project/activities. A signed and certified resolution should be included with the grant application. Any standard resolution in support of applying for a grant will suffice. We do not require that you use this format.

SAMPLE RESOLUTION [Municipality] **NOTE:** This is **NOT** the same as the resolution to register with Sustainable Jersey or Sustainable Jersey for Schools

Resolution of Support Authorizing the Submission of a Sustainable Jersey for Schools Grant Application

Some school districts have requested a sample of the resolution that must accompany their Sustainable Jersey for Schools Small Grants Program application. The purpose of the resolution is to affirm that the Board of Education approves of the proposed grant project/activities. A signed and certified resolution should be uploaded through the online grant application. Any standard resolution in support of applying for a grant will suffice. We do not require that you use this format.

SAMPLE RESOLUTION [Insert Name of School Board]

ONLINE APPLICATION

The online application is available here:

https://app.wizehive.com/appform/login/2020TNCApp

- Signup for an app
- Autosaves every 5 minutes
- Not same login as certification website



Sustainable Jersey

Roots for Rivers Reforestation

Grants & Technical Assistance Program

Funded by:



Email	
Password	
	Login Forgot Password?
SIGNUP	
Email	
Password	
Confirm Password	
	Signup
	wizehive

2020 Grant Application Form

PLEASE NOTE: This application form is for municipalities and school districts applying through Sustainable Jersey. Other applicants must apply through The Watershed Institute.

For more information about this opportunity, you can review the Application Information Packet here.

Application Due Date: Friday, December 13, 2019 at 11:59PM

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, CONSERVATION GROUPS, AND NJ STATE AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES



OVERVIEW: ROOTS FOR RIVERS GRANTS PROGRAM THROUGH THE WATERSHED INSTITUTE



- About Our Organization:
 - The Watershed Institute
 - The Resource Service Center at The Watershed Institute
- Overview of Our Roots for Rivers Web Application Portal
 - Eligibility
 - Required Information
 - Grant Program Dates



THE WATERSHED INSTITUTE'S RESOURCE SERVICE CENTER



Strengthening, connecting and mobilizing NJ's watershed and conservation organizations to protect and restore the State's watersheds

- Grant Center
 - Small Grants Program





- Watershed Group Locator
- Capacity Building Resources







A FEW HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS: OUR NAME AND PROGRAM SITE



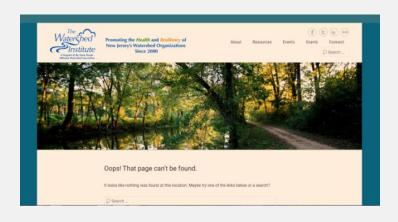
• Name Change: April 23rd, 2018

• 1949-2018: The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association

NOW: The Watershed Institute

 2000-2018: The Watershed Institute Program at SBMWA NOW: Resource Service Center at TWI

thewatershedinstitute.org

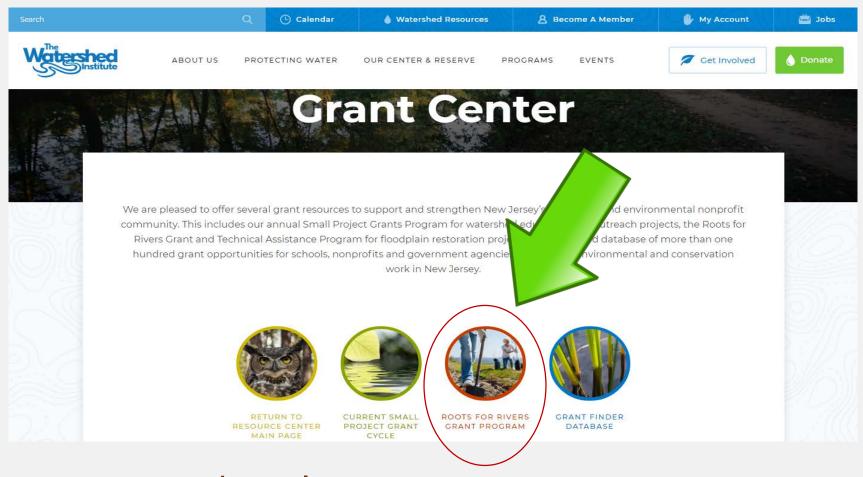






THEWATERSHED.ORG/GRANT-CENTER





Or access directly at: thewatershed.org/grant-center/roots-for-rivers

THEWATERSHED.ORG/GRANT-CENTER/ROOTS-FOR-RIVERS

Application Information

Eligibility requirements to participate in this program through The Watershed Institute include:

- Applicant must be a New Jersey county or state government agency;
 a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization; or a conservation group *
- Project work must be conducted in New Jersey
- Project site must be located within an Ecological Floodplain Area (EFA). Use the Water Conservation Blueprint Map to determine if your site falls within an EFA
- Submissions by private individuals, as well as project sites on private land, are not eligible for funds
- * Applicants representing municipalities and school districts should apply via Sustainable Jersey.

Grant Program Dates

Application Deadline | Dec. 13, 2019 at 11:59 p.m.
Recipient Announcement | Jan. 24, 2020
Project Completion | July 1, 2020
Final Reports Due| July 31, 2020

Application Portal

Carefully review the 2019-2020 Application Information Package for Nonprofits before you begin your application. Prepare your application in a separate document prior to beginning the online web application form.

You will not be able to save incomplete applications in the web form.

You can review the full list of application questions in Section F of the Grant Information Package.

>> BEGIN YOUR APPLICATION <<

APPLYING THROUGH THE WATERSHED INSTITUTE



- Eligibility requirements to participate in this program through The Watershed Institute include:
 - Eligible applicants:
 - New Jersey county or state government agencies
 - 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations
 - Conservation groups
 - Project work must be conducted in New Jersey
 - Submissions by private individuals, as well as project sites on private land, are not eligible for funds



REQUIRED INFORMATION



- (A) Applicant Information
 - Name of applicant organization and principal contact
 - Federal Tax ID Number
 - Scanned copy of the IRS determination letter that confirms 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status (if applicable)
- (B) Grant Funding Request
- (C) Project Title and Description
- (D) Project Site Information
- (E) Condition of Project Site
- (F) Map of Project Site
- (G) Photos of Project Site
- (H) Stewardship Commitment
- (I) Project Team Members and Duties
- (J) Action Plan and Timeline
- (K) Project Budget
- (L) Landowner Support
- (M) Optional Information



REQUIRED FILE UPLOADS



- Scanned copy of the IRS determination letter that confirms your organization's 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status (if applicable)
- Map of Project Site (use Google maps or NJMap)
- Current Photos of Project Site
- List of Project Team Members and Duties
- Action Plan and Timeline (template available in Section F, pg p 9: https://thewatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2019-2020-Application-Information-Package-1.pdf)
- Project Budget (template available in Section C, pg 3: https://thewatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2019-2020-Application-Information-Package-1.pdf)





CONTACT INFORMATION



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The Watershed Institute (609) 737-3735 elandis@thewatershed.org



Sustainable Jersey (609) 771-3189 grants@SustainableJersey.com