



# Raccoon Creek Benefit Fund Grant Program Guidelines

## 1. Introduction

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Funding through this grant program will support projects that promote the restoration, preservation, protection, or provide other beneficial impacts on water quality in the Raccoon Creek watershed. This Fund was established through a Consent Decree that resolved alleged unauthorized discharges of pollutants in the Raccoon Creek Watershed.

The Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds is a grantmaking foundation and nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation and protection of Pennsylvania's water resources. Founded in 1994, FPW invests in projects that protect the best and restore the rest of Pennsylvania's streams and watersheds. FPW works closely with local communities, government agencies, and conservation organizations to identify and address the most pressing issues facing PA's watersheds.

Through FPW's grantmaking, assistance is provided to small and large conservation organizations to achieve their restoration goals, while ensuring enough clean water for future generations of Pennsylvania children, families and wildlife.

### 1.1 Funding Priorities for Projects

- Improve water quality and aquatic habitat in Raccoon Creek and its tributaries.
- Address pollution sources, including legacy and ongoing impacts.
- Advance AMD/AML remediation, stream restoration, riparian buffers, and green infrastructure.
- Support monitoring, data collection, and evaluation tied to restoration outcomes.
- Strengthen local organizational capacity to deliver and sustain restoration work.
- Protect land for conservation or public access purposes through acquisitions or easements.

- Engage stakeholders through outreach, education, and communications that will help protect or improve the Raccoon Creek watershed.

## 2. Grant Programs & Eligibility

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### 2.1 Eligible Applicants

FPW welcomes requests from the following types of applicants:

- Nonprofit organizations
- Watershed organizations and friends groups
- Conservation districts
- Municipal or government entities
- Higher educational institutions

If your organization type is not listed above, contact FPW to verify eligibility prior to submitting your application. FPW seeks applications from organizations new to the environmental sector as well as organizations experienced in environmental restoration, outreach, and knowledge building. All applicants, particularly new applicants, are encouraged to contact the FPW for assistance.

### 2.2 Eligible Projects

Projects should benefit water quality in the Raccoon Creek and surrounding watersheds. Project types include, but are not limited to, riparian planting, stream restoration, land conservation, water quality monitoring, public education and outreach, and AMD treatment. Projects that require upfront monitoring or planning to leverage state or federal dollars are also eligible.

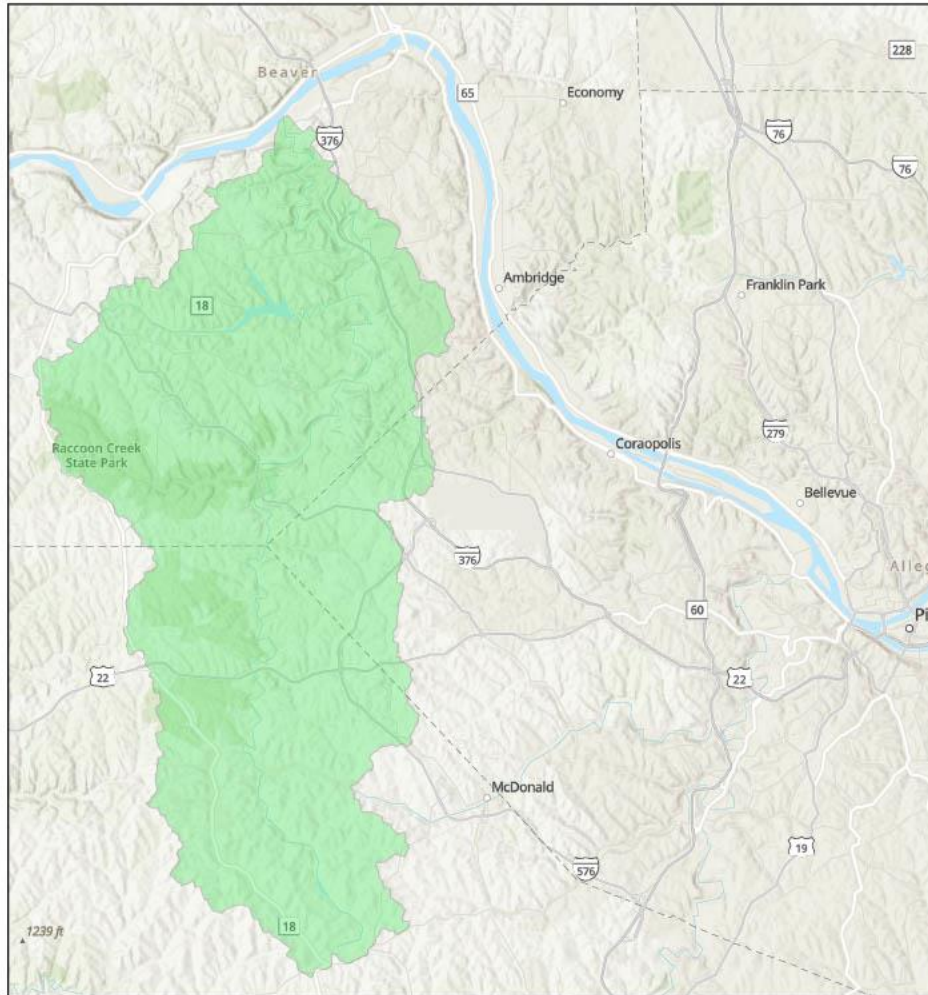
### 2.3 Eligible Project Locations

To direct funds from the consent decree back into impacted communities, projects must occur in the Raccoon Creek watershed or proximate locations. A map showing the Raccoon Creek watershed is included below. Contact FPW with any questions regarding watershed location and eligibility.

### 2.4 Ineligible Activities

- Lobbying/political work
- Litigation
- General fundraising
- Capital campaigns
- Projects outside defined geography
- For-profit ventures

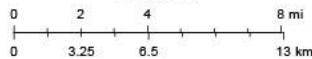
## Raccoon Creek Watershed



4/17/2026

 RaccoonCreek HUC10

1:309,435



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS

## 3. Funding Details

### 3.1 Grant Amounts

This grant program currently has \$475,000 available for projects. While there are no minimum and maximum award sizes, we anticipate funding projects in the \$5,000 to \$50,000 range. We

welcome larger requests but encourage you to discuss the project with FPW before applying. Additional private funds may be available for match through FPW.

### 3.2 Grant Term

We expect most projects to be completed within 12-18 months of award date. Some projects may take longer; include your project timeline in the application. Requests to extend the project period as stated in the application will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### 3.3 Match Requirements

Although no set amount of match is required, some form of match, whether cash or in kind, will improve your project application.

### 3.4 Allowable and Unallowable Costs

Applicants may request funds for any budget item necessary to accomplish the stated project intent, such as staff time, consultants, workshop supplies, printing costs for outreach materials, transportation fees to allow community members access to outdoor experiences or workshop sites, plant material, rental of equipment, and more. Overhead/indirect costs are an allowable expense; however, rates over 25% will not be accepted.

## 4. Application Instructions

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### 4.1 How to Apply

FPW uses an online application process. To apply for a grant, go to [apply.fpwgrants.org](https://apply.fpwgrants.org) and sign into your account or create a new account.

Navigate to the “Opportunities” tab and click “View” next to the Raccoon Creek Benefit Fund Application. Click on “Apply” to begin a new application.

This grant program will open April 21, 2026, and remain open until all funds are disbursed. Applications will be reviewed and awarded following Fall and Spring Conservation Grant cycles.

### 4.2 Application Components

A completed application will contain the following items:

- Project narrative
- Outcomes and measurable outputs
- Budget and funding
- Project partners

- Maps, photos, references (as relevant)

The online grant portal will guide applicants through the creation of these requirements.

### 4.3 Review Criteria

Letters of intent will be reviewed on a rolling basis while full proposals will be reviewed twice a year in the spring and fall. The internal review process involves FPW staff and board members, who evaluate each proposal for the following:

- Alignment with program priorities
- Feasibility and clarity
- Impact and outcomes
- Partnerships and Community Engagement
- Budget reasonableness and match
- Organizational capacity

## 5. Grant Review Timeline

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Letters of intent (LOIs) will be reviewed on a rolling basis; however, full proposals will be reviewed twice a year, in the spring and fall. The full proposal schedule will follow the conservation grants program schedule.

For Fall 2026, the dates are:

- LOIs due: Sept. 18
- Full proposals due: Oct. 16
- Announcement and awards: Mid-December

## 6. Grant Award Requirements

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### 6.1 Grant Agreement

All applicants will receive a letter stating the grant program's decision. An application may be declined, partially awarded, or fully awarded. If approved, FPW will send an award agreement with award conditions and due dates of status, progress, and final reports. FPW's fiscal administrator, the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, will distribute funds via ACH payment or mailed check following completion of the signed award agreement. [See a sample grant agreement here.](#)

## 6.2 Reporting Requirements

A report is due one year after award date. If project is complete at the one-year mark, a final report should be filed. If project is not complete, an interim report should be filed. A final report is due within 60 days of project completion, including a summary, outputs, outcomes, and final budget.

## 6.3 Acknowledgment Requirements

Please use the following language when referring to your project grant:

Grant funding was made possible through the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds (FPW). FPW is a nonprofit, grant-making organization working to protect the best and restore the rest of Pennsylvania's streams.

All FPW logo use must be approved by FPW's executive director.

# 7. Payments & Financial Management

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## 7.1 Disbursement Schedule

Payments for awarded grants will be made following grant agreement acceptance in the online grant portal. Upfront payments for the full amount of the grant will be made through FPW's fiscal administrator, the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies (CFA), either by ACH or check.

## 7.2 Unspent Funds

Following completion of the project, any unspent funds must be returned to the FPW. Please contact FPW for additional instructions.

# 8. Additional Guidance

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Applicants are encouraged to schedule a pre-application meeting with FPW's Executive Director, Deb Nardone, to discuss the project's alignment with the program.

Deborah Nardone, Executive Director  
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