FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program

Apply for funding to conserve New York State's diverse fish and wildlife by restoring and enhancing important habitats. Municipalities (including Indian Nations), non-profit organizations, and soil and water conservation districts can receive state money to restore and enhance wetlands and riparian corridors that serve as critical locations for native fish and wildlife to nest, spawn, forage, migrate, and overwinter.

Program Overview

The Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) program is a competitive, statewide, reimbursement New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) grant program. One project type offered through WQIP is for Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Enhancement. This project type provides funding for projects that will, as their primary goal, restore and/or enhance impaired, degraded, or marginal fish and wildlife habitat by directly addressing one or more factors that are compromising the habitat's value. Projects will improve a habitat's ability to serve as a high-quality spawning, nursery, wintering, migratory, nesting, breeding, or foraging environment for fish and wildlife. Projects should prioritize species of conservation concern or interest, including state-designated Species of Greatest Conservation Need. By restoring habitats that are essential for behaviors such as foraging and breeding, projects can help address one of the most significant threats to the state's fish and wildlife—habitat loss and impairment.

- **Project Subtypes: Wetlands and Riparian Corridors**
- **Eligible project costs:** equipment and materials; salary and fringe benefits; travel; contractual services; planning, design, administrative, and construction oversight costs (not to exceed 20% of total project costs); construction inspection; reconstruction, revitalization, and rejuvenation activities; restoration and enhancement activities.

For full grant details view the WQIP Program Overview at https://dec.ny.gov/get-involved/grant-applications/wqip-program.

Why Should You Apply?

- Recreational and intrinsic value of fish and wildlife
- Co-benefits that include flood risk reduction
- Reduction of out-of-pocket costs with available grant funding
- Healthy habitats benefit local communities

KEY POINTS

- $1,000,000 maximum grant amount
- Required 25% match

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Municipalities (including Indian Nations)
- Not-for-profit organizations
- Soil and water conservation districts

How to Apply

- Review the 2025 Program Overview when it is available (May 2025), prior to applying
- WQIP is part of the New York State Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). To apply, visit https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/cfa.

SCAN ME

CONTACT INFORMATION

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