

Potential Funding Sources for Land Acquisition

Grant	Application Deadline	Eligible Applicants	Funding Available	Competitive	Requirements	Match Ratio	Eligible Match
USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Grant	June	DNREC- Division of Fish and Wildlife	\$1,000,000	Nationally Competitive	Must benefit coastal wetland resources (nationally declining wetlands, coastal forest communities, habitat that supports coastal fish and wildlife e.g. migratory birds, anadromous fish etc.)	75:25 greater proportion of non-federal funds awarded more points in ranking process.	Cash and land purchased with non-federal funds in the same area (same WMA, adjacent parcels) with similar habitats protected. Must have a recent appraisal done to federal standards.
USFWS State Wildlife Grants Program		DNREC- Division of Fish and Wildlife	Varies		This funding first and foremost is used to pay natural heritage employees and research. It has only been used for acquisition and restoration in rare cases when there is excess funding available.	65:35 or 50:50 depending on the fiscal year of appropriation.	Cash and land purchased with non-federal funds in the same area (same WMA, adjacent parcels) with similar habitats protected. Must have a recent appraisal done to federal standards.
USFWS Sport Fish Restoration Program		DNREC- Division of Fish and Wildlife	Varies	Annually Appropriated	This funding is used first and foremost by the Fisheries Section for operation (to support salaries, supplies and equipment) and research and monitoring to guide management decisions. It has only been used for acquisition in rare cases when there is excess funding available.		

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USFWS Wildlife Restoration Program		DNREC- Division of Fish and Wildlife	Varies	Annually Appropriated	This funding is used first and foremost by the Wildlife Section for operation (to support salaries, supplies and equipment) and research and monitoring to guide management decisions. It has only been used for acquisition in rare cases when there is excess funding available.	75:25	Cash and land purchased with non-federal funds in the same area (same WMA, adjacent parcels) with similar habitats protected. Must have a recent appraisal done to federal standards.
North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)	March and June	U.S., Canada, Mexico	\$1,000,000	Internationally Competitive	Must protect wetland habitat and benefit migratory birds and support or contribute to goals of regional conservation plans NAWMP, PIF, BCR etc.	75:25	Cash and land purchased within the last three years with non-federal funds. Must be in same area and protect similar habitats. Must have a recent appraisal done to federal standards.
USFWS Section 6 Endangered Species Grant	January or August	DNREC- Division of Fish and Wildlife	Varies	Nationally Competitive	Not currently occupied habitat for endangered species	75:25	
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) - Acres for America (private foundation)	April 1 and September 1; pre-proposal June 1		Varies	Nationally Competitive	Protects properties of high conservation value.	1:1	

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National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund	On-going	DNREC- Divisions of Parks & Recreation, Fish & Wildlife DDA- Delaware Forest Service State- Historical & Cultural Affairs	Varies	Appropriated (not always annually)	Acquisition, planning and development of public outdoor recreation sites and facilities.	1:1	Cash and land purchased within the last year with non-federal funds. Must have a recent appraisal done to federal standards. Can settle after grant approval with a waiver of retroactivity; up to 1 year earlier with approval.
NOAA Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP)	May	Coastal States, Counties and cities with approved Coastal Zone Management Plan and approved CELCP Plan	Varies	Nationally Competitive	Funding to protect coastal and estuarine lands with significant ecological, conservation, recreational, historic or aesthetical value. Project must be within designated coastal zone, coastal watershed boundary or other boundary consistent with CELCP guidelines.	1:1	Cash, qualifying in-kind contribution and land purchased up to 3 years prior to grant start date with non-federal funds. Must have a recent appraisal done to federal standards.

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USFWS Section 6 Grants - Recovery Land Acquisition Grant	Varies		Varies	Nationally Competitive	Must benefit a federally endangered/listed/candidate species. Species must be documented on site to be competitive.	75:25	Cash, third party in-kind and land purchased with non-federal funds in the same area with similar habitats protected. Must have a recent appraisal done to federal standards.
USFS Forest Legacy Program	Varies	DDA- Delaware Forest Service	Varies	Nationally Competitive	Program encourages the protection of forest lands through purchase of fee or conservation easements on lands within designated forest legacy areas.	75:25	Non-federal public/private cash or land interests purchased with non-federal funds in a forest legacy area. Must have a recent appraisal done to federal standards.
DOT- FHWA Recreational Trails Program	Ongoing	Federal, State & Local Public Agencies	Varies	Annually Appropriated with subgrants to eligible agencies	Program funds trail land acquisition, construction and maintenance. Most of funding is used for trail planning and construction.	80:20	Cash or land value, in-kind services and Federal Transportation Enhancement funds.
USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service							
USDA- Rural Development Assistance							

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Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration Program		NRDA Trustees	Varies		Must restore/protect injured resource.		
Open Space Program	Ongoing	DNREC- Divisions of Parks & Recreation, Fish & Wildlife; DDA- Delaware Forest Service; State- Historical & Cultural Affairs	\$9,000,000 (typically)		Must permanently protect parkland, fish and wildlife areas, forests, nature preserves, and/or cultural sites.		
Clean Water Statewide Revolving Fund Land Conservation Loan Program	Ongoing	County and Local governments	Varies	Limited by amount of funding availability	Funding is a low interest loan for qualifying governments to acquire fee simple or conservation easements on approved conservation lands	None	No required match; variable interest rate provides no additional cost to purchaser
State Land & Water Conservation Trust Fund	Ongoing	DNREC- Division of Parks & Recreation	Varies- depends on requests from local governments		Must permanently protect outdoor recreation sites	1:1	Unrestricted, non-matched land or cash