



Raritan Woods & Waterways Grant Program 2024 Application

Informational Webinar:	April 25, 12-1:30pm
Application Due Date:	June 7, 2024
Recipient Notification:	June 20, 2024
Planting Dates:	Sept – Oct 2024

For questions regarding the application process:

Robert Lucas
Restoration Coordinator, Raritan Headwaters
rlucas@raritanheadwaters.org
Office: (908) 234-1852 ext. 317

Table of Contents

- A. Project Background
- B. Eligibility Requirements
- C. Selection Process
- D. Grant Application
- E. Grantor Agreement
- F. Grantee Agreement
- G. Appendix 1—Pinelands Nursery & Supply Reserved Species List
- H. Appendix 2—RHA List of Potential Restoration Sites
- I. Appendix 3—Site Maintenance Proposal

A. Project Background

Raritan Headwaters (RHA), a regional non-profit environmental organization, has worked to protect and restore water quality in the North and South Branch Raritan Watershed Region (Upper Raritan; WMA 8) in New Jersey since 1959. However, many stream segments in the Upper Raritan are not meeting New Jersey's Surface Water Quality Standards and are considered impaired. A recent trend analysis of benthic macroinvertebrate stream monitoring data collected by RHA between 1992 and present indicates the North Branch and South Branch Raritan River and several of their tributaries have experienced declines in water quality over time despite regulations protecting these headwater streams.

Forested riparian areas serve critical ecosystem functions in protecting water quality, habitat, and biodiversity in streams. While the state regulatory requirements for stream buffers in the region range from 150 – 300 feet, RHA's GIS analysis of buffers indicates many of the Upper Raritan waterways have long segments where forested buffers have been removed or are unsustainable due to dead or dying trees, lack of tree regeneration, and a predominance of invasive vines and shrubs. Raritan Headwaters is conducting a major riparian buffer restoration effort along the river with a goal of establishing and maintaining 10,000 native trees and shrubs and restoring at least 8 miles of stream buffer over the next 2 years; partnerships with municipalities and other public landowners will make this possible.

The Raritan Woods & Waterways Grant will support municipal governments, school districts, registered 501(c)(3) non-profits, and private landowners in tackling these challenges and work to restore riparian buffers along the North Branch or South Branch and any of their tributaries. The grant will cover the costs of native trees and shrubs, proper tree protection from deer browse, and technical assistance from RHA. We look forward to engaging with your community to protect the headwaters region and restore these habitats for many future generations to come.

Raritan Woods & Waterways Informational Webinar Wednesday, April 25th, 12pm – 1:30pm

- Why riparian buffer restoration is needed and what is involved
- Who is eligible and how participants in the grant program will be chosen
- What type of assistance the grant will offer
- How to apply and be part of the program

Register for the informational webinar [here](#). If you're not able to make the webinar, there will be a recording that gets shared with all registrants, as well as being posted on RHA's website [here](#).

B. Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for this grant program, an applicant must:

- Be a New Jersey municipal government, school district, registered 501(c)(3) non-profit, or private resident.
- Planting location must be within 100 feet of the North Branch or South Branch Raritan River and/or their tributaries and must also be a minimum of 300 feet in length along the stream's edge.
- Use the materials provided to improve riparian buffers on the North Branch or South Branch of the Raritan River and/or one of its tributaries.

C. Selection Process

Applicants will be screened using the following criteria:

- Site selection based on expected improvements in water quality and habitat quality
- Ability to assist in site preparation prior to planting
- Strength of site maintenance proposal and follow up over next 5 years
- Commitment to annual site visits and reporting to RHA over the next 5 years

D. Grant Application

Instructions:

Please fill out this application form and submit before the application due date of **June 7, 2024**. You can fill out the application form via this PDF and email it back to Robert Lucas (rlucas@raritanheadwaters.org).

Please fill out one application per proposed project site. If you have multiple proposed project sites, please submit a separate application for each additional proposed project.

Please make sure that the required attachment (Appendix 2: Site Maintenance Proposal) has been completed and submitted as well.

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

Your Name:

Title:

Organization:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

Email:

Organization Website (if available):

2. PROPOSED PROJECT SITE INFORMATION

Landowner Name:

Street Address (closest known):

GPS coordinates (Latitude, Longitude):

Land Ownership Type: Non-Profit State County Municipal Private

Tax ID Parcel Number (Block, Lot):

Stream Name:

Please describe project site:

What is the current cover at the project site? Trees Shrubs Grasses Bare

List any native tree or shrub species present:

Are there any streambanks eroding? Yes No

If yes, please describe further:

Are there any invasive plant species present?
If yes, which species and percent coverage?

Yes

No

Unknown

Has the project site been known to flood in the past?
If yes, please describe further:

Yes

No

Will any site preparation be necessary before the planting?
If yes, please explain further:

Yes

No

PHOTOS (Attach a minimum of 2 site photos):

E. Grantor Agreement

With each approved project, the Grantor (RHA) agrees to the following conditions:

1. Purchase and provide all approved native plants and protection materials, including delivery of all materials to the project site.
2. Provide technical assistance to grantee, including site selection and project planning, determining necessary site preparation prior to planting, ordering site appropriate plants and protection materials, and coordinating delivery of materials.
3. Oversight from RHA staff that ensures project meets all federal, state, and local regulations, RHA's mission, and adheres to grant funds agreed to under the Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Superfund Settlement and its Trustees.
4. Help promote each planting and actively recruit volunteers through RHA's existing networks, including social media and press releases.
5. Be on site during the planting to provide instruction and safety guidelines to volunteers and help raise awareness on the importance of riparian buffers and freshwater conservation efforts.
6. Provide some, but not necessarily all planting tools required for volunteers on planting days, including shovels and gloves.
7. Obtain and provide certificates of insurance for all planned planting days.
8. Periodically monitor project sites through annual visits, as well as ongoing data collection on tree mortality and water quality.

F. Grantee Agreement

In accepting funding, all grantees agree to the following conditions:

1. Obtain necessary permits and/or permissions from state, federal, or local agencies that may be required to implement restoration activities in regulated areas or areas that could affect listed species prior to project final approval by RHA.
2. Use all plants and tree protection within the proposed project site only.
3. Coordinate and perform any and all necessary site preparations prior to the planting, as agreed upon in writing with RHA.
4. Be responsible for assuring all plants are planted prior to October 30, 2024 or another agreed upon date.
5. Be responsible for all maintenance of the plants and protection materials and report to RHA annually using the Reporting Sheet provided by RHA.
 - a. Landowner shall not cut, remove, mow or otherwise disturb planted materials in the project area unless deemed necessary by RHA.
 - b. Landowner shall remove all invasive vines and grasses that would otherwise compromise native plantings and reduce their chance for survival. Removal should be twice per year—early growing season (May-June) and mid-growing season (July-August).
 - c. Landowner shall visit the planting area at least twice annually to inspect trees and protection materials, including post-flood events to ensure materials are still in good condition.
 - d. Under guidance from RHA, landowner shall remove tree protection materials at an appropriate time, so that the trees can continue to grow successfully.
 - e. Landowner shall be responsible for the proper disposal of tree protection materials once they are no longer in use—under guidance from RHA for possible reuse or recycling.
 - f. Landowner will continue maintenance of the planting site for a minimum of 4 years with an intent to maintain the planting into maturity.
 - g. Landowner shall inform RHA of any change in the principal contact(s).
6. Help with recruiting and organizing volunteers to assist on planting and/or maintenance days, including distribution of communications to the community related to the project.
7. With notice, allow RHA access to the project site to periodically inspect and monitor plant material.

Should you be accepted and wish to proceed, a signed MOU will be developed based upon the Grantor Agreement and Grantee Agreement mentioned here.

Please return completed applications to:

Raritan Headwaters
Attn: Robert Lucas
PO Box 273
Gladstone, NJ 07934
Email: rlucas@raritanheadwaters.org
Office: (908) 234-1852 ext. 317

G. Appendix 1: Pinelands Nursery & Supply Sample Reserved Species List

Quantity	Scientific Name	Latin Code	Common Name	Plant Type	Wetland Indicator Status	Height	Protection
50	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	ACSA	Silver Maple	Tree	FACW	50' - 70'	Tube
40	<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	ALSE	Smooth Alder	Shrub	OBL	Up to 20'	Tube
50	<i>Betula nigra</i>	BENI	River Birch	Tree	FACW	40' - 70'	Tube
50	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	CACA	Ironwood / Musclemwood	Tree	FAC	40' - 60'	Tube
40	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	CPOC	Buttonbush	Shrub	OBL	3' - 6'	Cage
40	<i>Cornus amomum</i>	COAM	Silky Dogwood	Shrub	FACW	6' - 10'	Tube
40	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	COSE	Red Osier Dogwood	Shrub	FACW	6' - 10'	Tube
40	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	ILGL	Inkberry Holly	Shrub	FACW	6' - 8'	Tube
40	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	ILVE	Winterberry Holly	Shrub	FACW	6' - 10'	Tube
40	<i>Itea virginica</i>	ITVI	Virginia Sweetspire	Shrub	OBL	3' - 6'	Cage
50	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	LIBE	Spicebush	Shrub	FACW	6' - 12'	Tube
50	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	LIST	Sweet Gum	Tree	FAC	60' - 80'	Tube
40	<i>Photinia pyrifolia</i>	PHPY	Red Chokeberry	Shrub	FACW	5' - 10'	Tube
50	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	PLOC	Sycamore	Tree	FACW	Up to 100'	Tube
50	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	QUBI	Swamp White Oak	Tree	FACW	50' - 60'	Tube
50	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	QUPA	Pin Oak	Tree	FACW	60' - 70'	Tube
40	<i>Rosa palustris</i>	ROPA	Swamp Rose	Shrub	OBL	Up to 8'	Cage
50	<i>Salix discolor</i>	SADI	Pussy Willow	Shrub	FACW	20' - 40'	Tube
50	<i>Salix nigra</i>	SANI	Black Willow	Tree	FACW	50' - 100'	Tube
50	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	SACA	Black Elderberry	Shrub	FACW	6' - 12'	Tube
50	<i>Vaccinium corybosum</i>	VACO	Highbush Blueberry	Shrub	FACW	up to 12'	Tube
40	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	VITR	Cranberry Viburnum	Shrub	FACW	6' - 12'	Tube

H. Appendix 2: Site Maintenance Proposal

Contact Information for Project Lead on Site Maintenance:

Full Name:

Phone:

Email:

Suggested Dates for Annual Site Visits & Maintenance:

Date #1:

Date #2:

Site Maintenance Personnel and Equipment Needs:

-
-
-
-
-

Site Maintenance Task List:

-
-
-
-
-

Site Maintenance Expected Outcomes:

-
-
-
-
-