



**Rappahannock
River Roundtable**

Blue Ridge to the Bay

Regional Grant Funding Announcement
Rappahannock River Roundtable
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Rappahannock River Roundtable is pleased to announce a new grant award of \$60,996 from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (WILD) grant program.

This Chesapeake WILD grant program plays a critical role in preserving and enhancing the health of the bay's ecosystems and landscapes. The main objective is to build capacity for land conservation and public access in the Rappahannock River watershed, through the development of a conservation and public access workgroup facilitated by the Rappahannock River Roundtable.

Currently, there has yet to be a comprehensive plan in place for the acquisition and protection of land at a landscape scale within the Rappahannock River Basin. This project provides the opportunity to unify all organizations and partners involved in land conservation and public access initiatives across the Rappahannock River Basin. Over twenty partners will be engaged during this regional planning project. This includes federally recognized tribes, state and federal agencies, local governments, land trusts & watershed groups, all of whom work in the Rappahannock Watershed to protect and restore priority landscapes, historic and cultural resources, wildlife habitat, and public access.

"We're eager to work with our colleagues in the Rappahannock watershed to create a shared roadmap that balances our communities' needs for growth with strategic goals to protect our lands, water, and way of life in the future." Said Lisa Biever, Executive Director of Northern Neck Land Conservancy.

The strategic planning process will comprise a series of workshops and partner meetings that lay out “Our Common Agenda” into two significant components: a report on land conservation priorities and opportunities and a report on public access priorities and opportunities.

“This is an exciting opportunity to pursue a strategic partnership with a variety of partners to catalyze landscape-scale conservation from the Blue Ridge to the Bay.” Said Maggi Blomstrom, Rappahannock-Rapidan Conservation Initiative Coordinator with the Piedmont Environmental Council.

Post completion of the two reports, the Rappahannock River Roundtable will support the development of multiple collective grant proposals to support the Rappahannock Tribe, regional land trusts, and conservation partners to gain access to large funding programs to advance high-priority land protection, public access, and on-the-ground restoration projects.

The Rappahannock River Roundtable is a strategic partnership of stakeholders dedicated to land and water conservation, community outreach and education, and capacity building throughout the entire Rappahannock River Watershed.

For more information, and to get involved, please follow us on [Facebook](#) or visit us at www.rappahannockroundtable.org

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