NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Fish and Wildlife: Grant Opportunities

Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program and Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant (NPG)

April 21, 2026

Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning & MS4 Mapping Grant (NPG)



Overview

- Grants to help pay for:
  - Planning reports needed for nonpoint source projects
  - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) mapping
- Up to $3 Million Available
- 10% local match required
- Applicants may submit up to 5 applications for planning reports

Nonpoint Source Planning Reports

- Eligible Applicants:
  - Municipalities (*ECL §56-0101)*, including Indian Nations
  - Soil and water conservation districts

- Maximum awards:
  - Up to $50,000 for planning reports ($75,000 for comprehensive stream corridor studies)

Nonpoint Source Planning Reports Cont'd

- Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Facilities for Failing On-Site Treatment Systems
- Green Infrastructure
- Stormwater Retrofits
- Streambank/Shoreline Stabilization
- Comprehensive Stream Corridor Assessment
- Stream Sediment and Debris Management Plans
- In-Waterbody Controls for Nutrients
- Bathing Beach Restoration
- ***Stream Culvert Repair & Replacement***
- Berm Removal
- Floodplain Creation/Restoration/ Reconnection
- ***Wetland Creation/Restoration***
- Coastal Storm and Erosion Risk Management
- Dam Safety Repair/Rehabilitation and Dam Removal
- Winter Road Maintenance
- Sanitary Survey for Alternative Waste Management*
- ***Riparian Corridor Restoration and Enhancement****

***New in 2025**

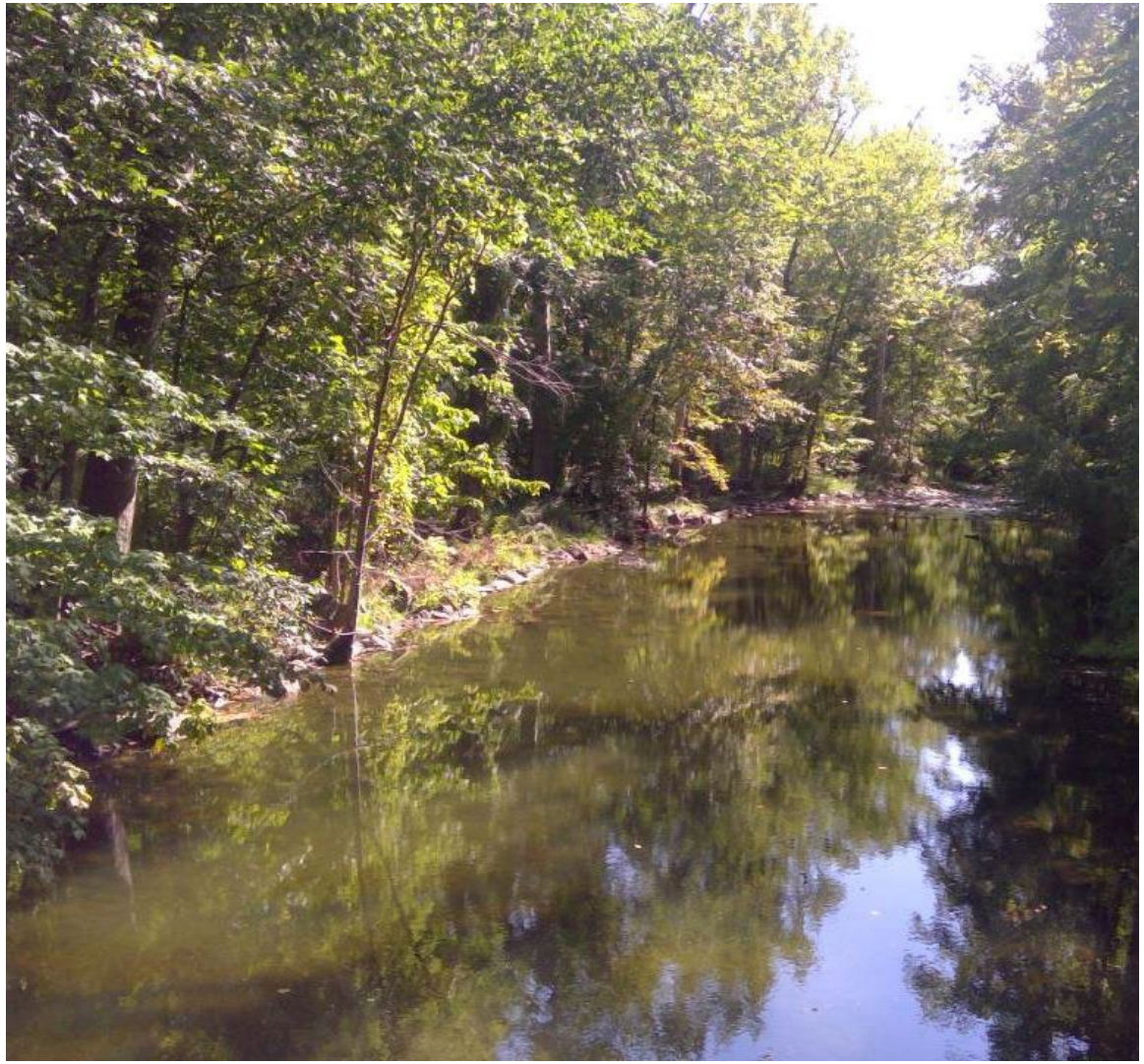
Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program



WQIP Overview

- Competitive, statewide implementation grant
  - Improves water quality or habitat
  - Promotes flood risk reduction, restoration, and enhanced flood and climate resiliency
  - Protects a drinking water source
- Over $200 million awarded for 2025 round
- 25% match required
- Applicants may submit up to 5 applications for different projects

WQIP Program Requirements



Projects must:

- Meet a WQIP goal
- Include implementation
- Include all attachments and meet project type requirements
- Meet minimum score
- Meet match requirements
- Seek funds for costs within 5-year contract period
- Previously funded projects: no additional funding for the same scope of work

Eligible Applicants

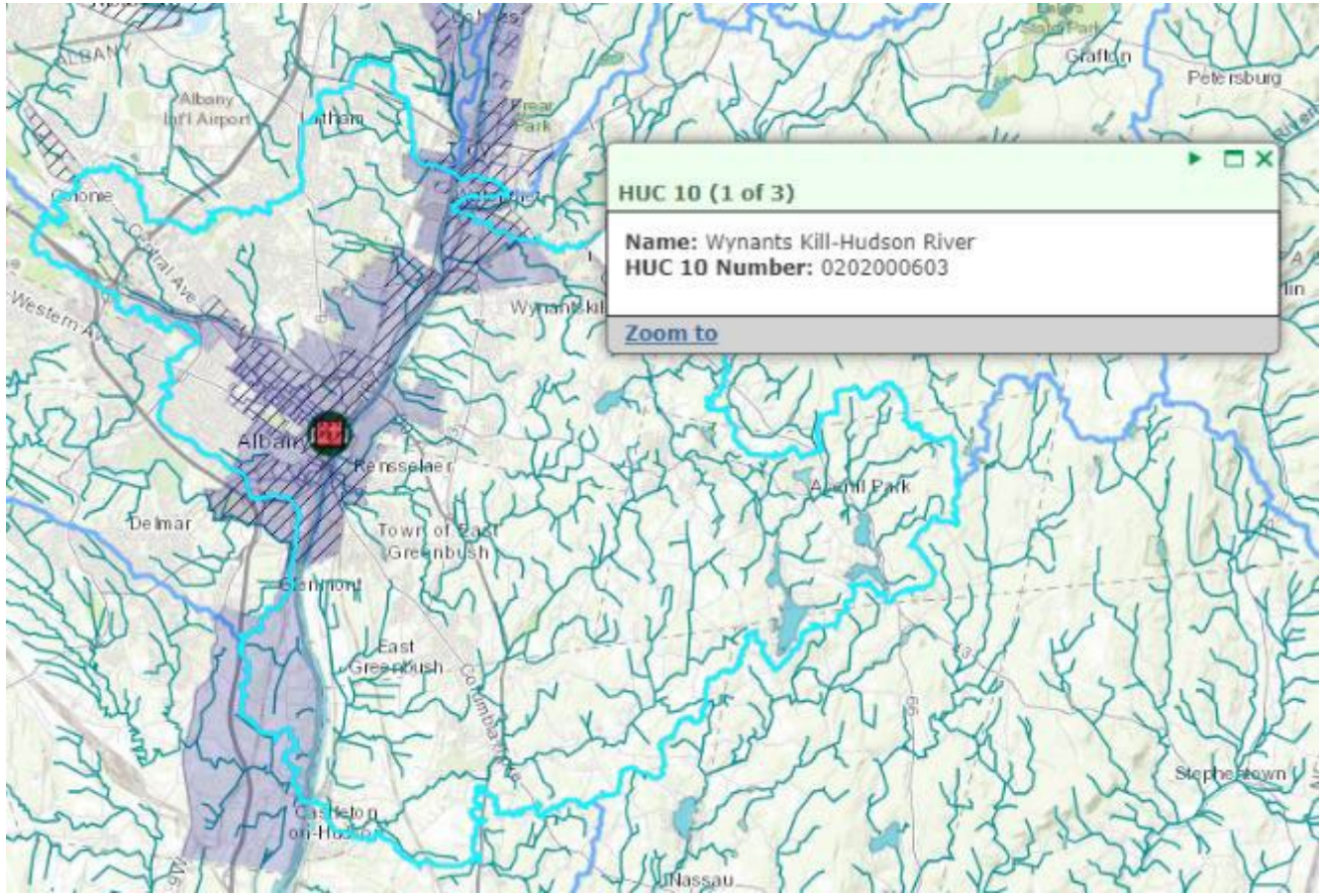
- Municipalities (*ECL §56-0101)*
  - Includes municipal corporations and Indian Nations
- Soil and water conservation districts
- Not-for-profit corporations
  - Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection, Dam Safety Repair/Rehabilitation and Dam Removal, Aquatic Connectivity, Marine District Habitat Restoration, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Enhancement

Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act

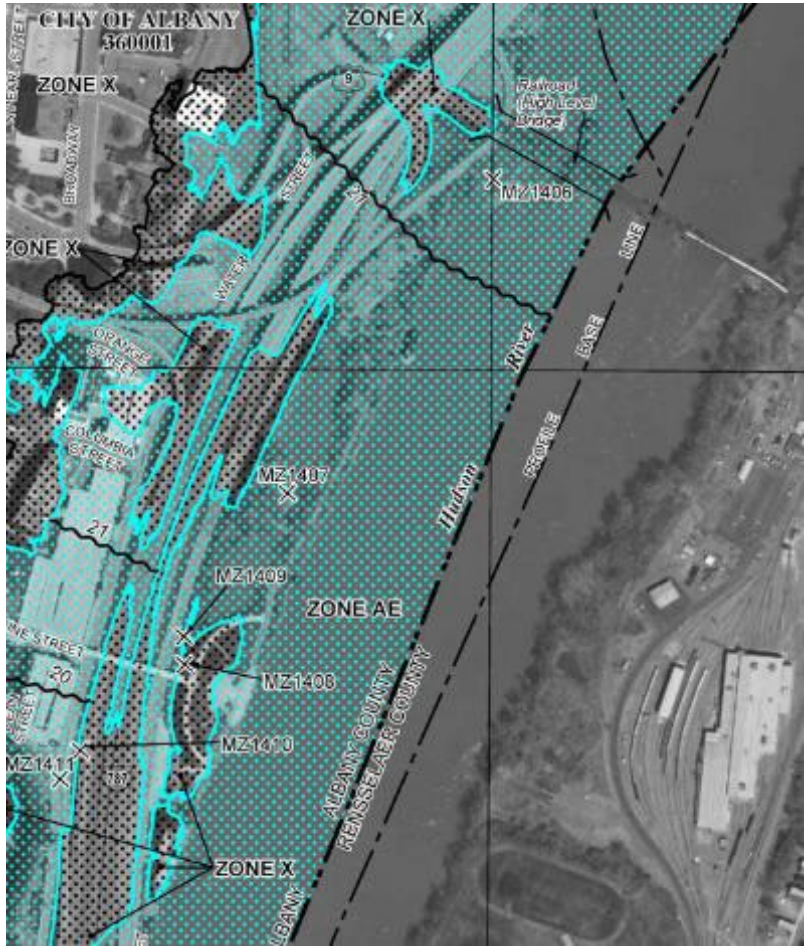
Investing $4.2 Billion in New York's Environment and Communities

2025 General Scoring Criteria

- Reasonableness of cost
- PEJA and DAC benefits
- DAC



2025 General Scoring Criteria (continued)



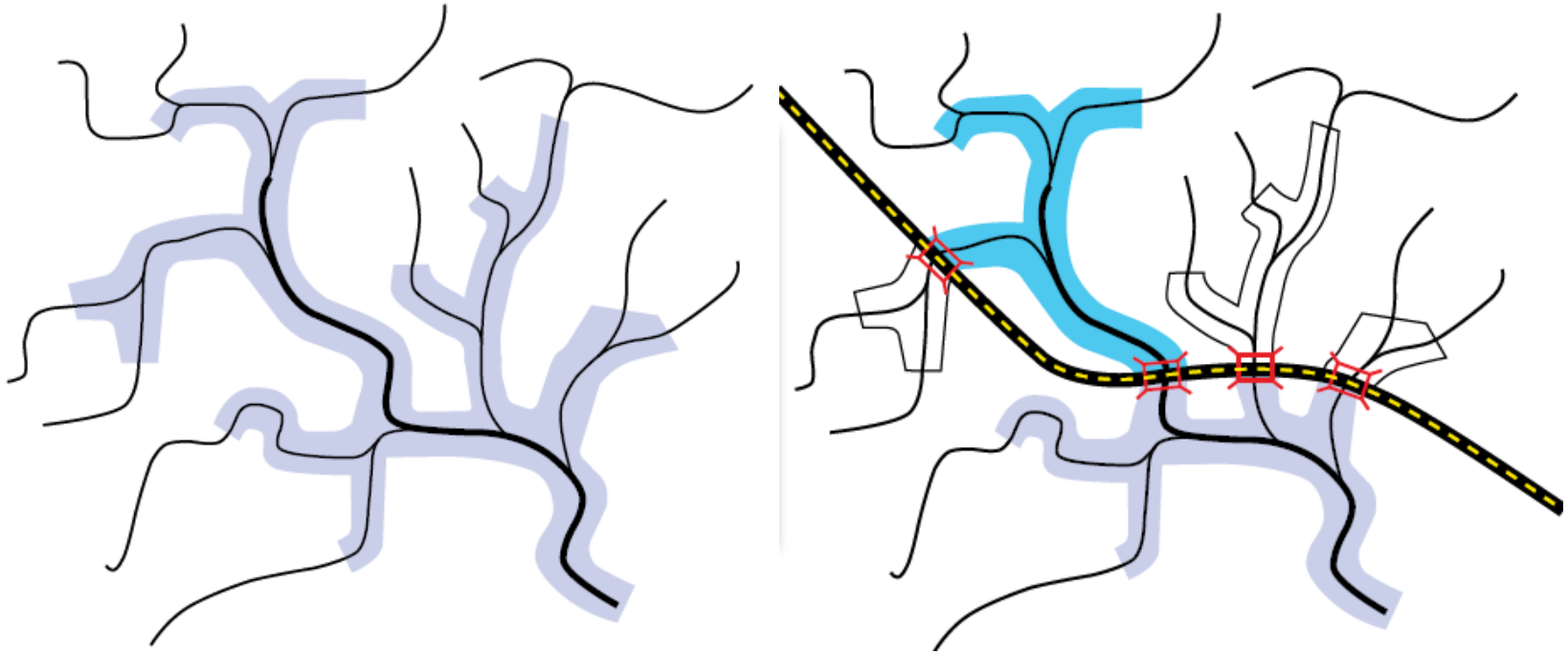
- Project Readiness
- Experience and Ability
- Climate Resilience
- Flood Resilience

Aquatic Connectivity: Bridges, Culverts and Dams



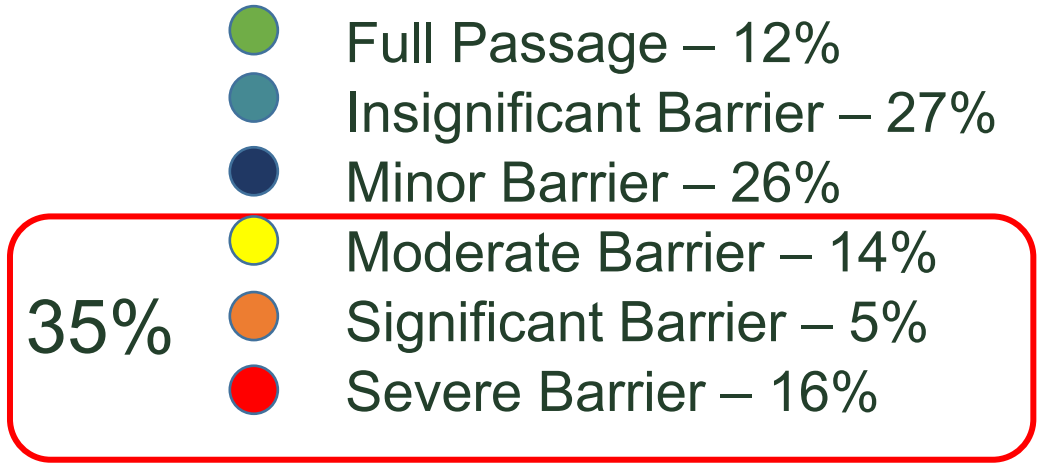
Importance of Streams & Connectivity

"Long, linear ecosystems"
USFS Stream Simulation Manual



North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative

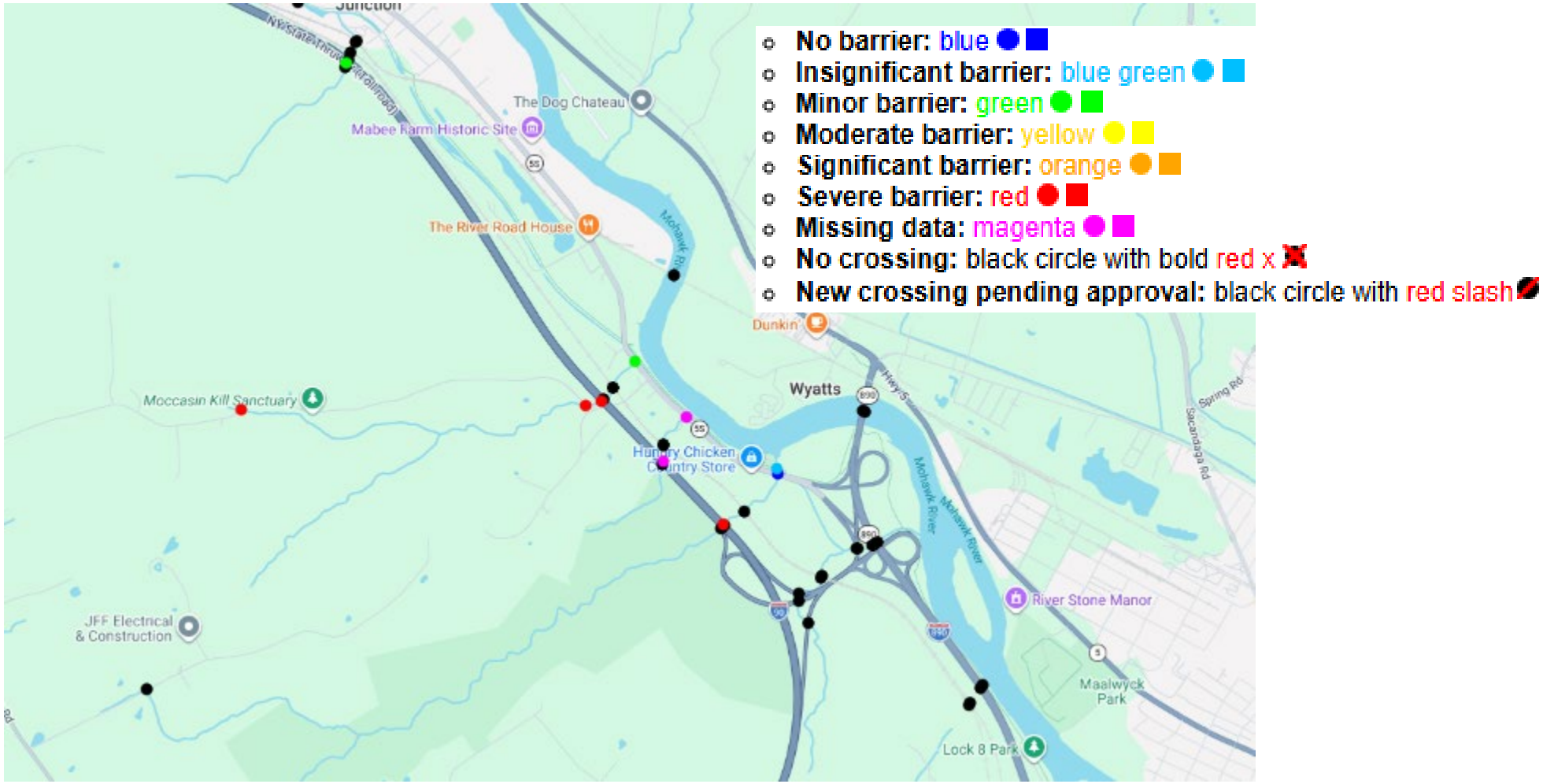
- **Standardized methodology for culvert assessments**
- **Provides AOP and barrier scores based on collected data**



North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative
NAACC

http://streamcontinuity.org

Using NAACC data to identify replacement sites



NAACC.org

Barriers to Aquatic Organism Passage











Aquatic Connectivity: Primary Priority

Removal of aquatic barriers (right-sized replacements of undersized road/stream crossing structures, dam removals)

Maximum award amount:
$2 million (per project)







Aquatic Connectivity: Secondary Priority

Replacement of road/stream crossing structures in poor condition

Maximum award amount:
$2 million (per project)







Aquatic Connectivity: Scoring Criteria

- Barrierity
- Species of Management Concern
- Upstream Miles

Severe	0.19 or less
Significant	0.20 – 0.39
Moderate	0.40 – 0.59
Minor	0.60 – 0.79
Insignificant	0.80 – 0.99
No barrier	1.0

Project Example: Trout Unlimited





Fish & Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Enhancement



Fish and Wildlife Habitat Project Goals

Primary goal must be to ***restore and/or enhance*** impaired, degraded, or marginal ***fish and wildlife habitat*** by directly addressing factors that are compromising the habitat's value and function for one or more species of fish or wildlife of conservation concern or interest.

Durable Outcomes –
1) Benefits must persist >20 years without maintenance **OR**
2) Project or site must have a dedicated management plan in place or in development

Scoring criteria are available in the Program Overview and reward projects that involve ***impaired resources*** for ***at-risk species*** in ***developed landscapes.***

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Project Details

- Eligible applicants –***Municipalities, SWCDs, Non-profit environmental orgs***
- Focus is ***implementation***, not coordination and planning
- Maximum award – ***$2,000,000*** (2025)
- Match requirement – at least **25%** of funding request (2025)

Project Subtypes

- Wetland Restoration and Enhancement
- Riparian Corridor Restoration and Enhancement





Wetland Restoration and Enhancement

Projects must improve habitat conditions of current and/or historic wetlands – e.g., marshes, swamps, bogs, fens, wet meadows, etc.

Wetland Benefits:

- Flood and storm water control
- Surface and groundwater protection
- Erosion control
- Pollution treatment and nutrient cycling
- Public enjoyment
- Fish and wildlife habitat



Wetland Restoration and Enhancement

Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Removal of historic fill
- Revegetation of degraded wetland habitats and buffers
- Restoration of wetland hydrology
- Management of invasive or native plant species and replanting with native species
- Reestablishment or enhancement of benthic/littoral zone topography to create shallow-water vegetated habitats (e.g., SAV beds)
- Other actions that enhance wetland habitat functions and values









Riparian Corridor Restoration and Enhancement

Projects must improve habitat conditions in riparian corridors including stream and river channels (bed and banks) and the associated buffer

Riparian Corridor Benefits:

- Streambank stabilization and erosion/sediment control
- Filtration of nutrients and pollutants
- Flood control
- Shade for streams
- Fish and wildlife habitat



Riparian Corridor Restoration and Enhancement

Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Installation of in-stream/in-channel habitat structures, features, and improvements
- Using natural channel design principles including rock or wooden deflectors, cribbing, lunkers, rock vanes, rock piles, engineered log jams, gravel bars, step pools, etc.
- Restoration or enhancement of natural channel sinuosity
- Installation of fish passage structures
- Restoration or enhancement of riparian buffers through planting or other means of revegetation to provide shading, overhead cover, terrestrial habitat connectivity, etc.
- Other actions that enhance riparian corridor habitat functions and values





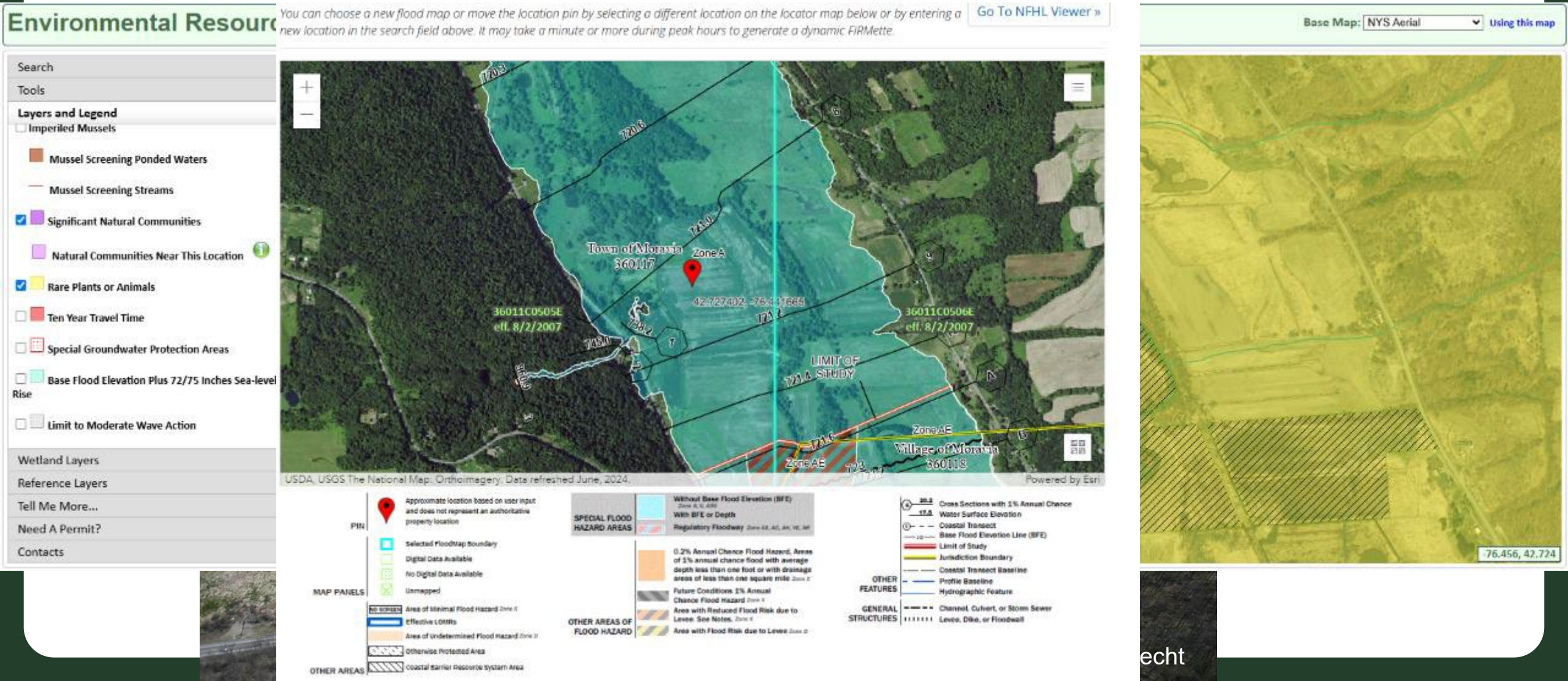


Fish and Wildlife Habitat Scoring Criteria

- Project impact
  - SGCN, T/E
  - Acreage/linear feet
  - Net positive impact
  - Duration

Project Impact – Habitat Value for At-Risk Species *8 to 0 points possible*	**8 POINTS:** Project improves (or could improve) habitat for an endangered or threatened species or high priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). OR Project benefits two or more significant natural communities.	**4 POINTS:** Project improves (or could improve) habitat for an SGCN or Species of Conservation Need (SCN). OR Project benefits one significant natural community.	**2 POINTS:** Project improves (or could improve) habitat for a unique or noteworthy assemblage of common native or naturalized species. OR Project benefits species that are essential to outdoor recreation in NY.	**0 POINTS:** Project does not benefit any species or resources of priority.
Project Impact – Size *5 to 0 points possible*	**5 POINTS:** Project affects more than 50 acres of rural landscapes OR over 10 acres of suburban landscapes OR over 5 acres of urban landscapes. OR Project affects more than 2,000 linear feet.	**3 POINTS:** Project affects 20 to 50 acres of rural landscapes OR 4 to 10 acres of suburban landscapes OR 2 to 5 acres of urban landscapes. OR Project affects 1,500 to 2,000 linear feet.	**2 POINTS:** Project affects 10 to 20 acres of rural landscapes OR 2 to 4 acres of suburban landscapes OR 1 to 2 acres of urban landscapes. OR Project affects 1,001 to 1,500 linear feet.	**0 POINTS:** Project affects less than 10 acres of rural landscapes OR less than 4 acres of suburban landscapes OR less than 1 acre of urban landscapes. OR Project affects less than 1,000 linear feet.
Project Impact – Current Condition *7 to 0 points possible*	**7 POINTS:** Highly degraded or expected to become highly degraded without immediate management action.	**4 POINTS:** Moderately degraded - some primary habitat functions are impaired.	**2 POINTS:** Functional, some stressors or threats are present but do not currently alter habitat functions.	**0 POINTS:** Pristine, no impairments present.
Project Impact – Probability of Net Positive Outcome *8 to 0 points possible*	**8 POINTS:** Project has a high probability of positive outcome (sound, scientifically supported approach and methods **AND** no foreseeable negative impacts).	**4 POINTS:** Project has a moderately high probability of positive outcome (previously successful approach and methods **AND** negative impacts are adequately avoided, minimized, or mitigated).	**2 POINTS:** Project has a moderate probability of positive outcome (experimental or unproven approach and methods, negative impacts are not adequately addressed or are unavoidable, but do not outweigh positive potential).	**0 POINTS:** Project is unlikely to achieve positive outcome (negative impacts outweigh any potential benefits).

Project Example: Ducks Unlimited





Application Resources



Tips for Success

- Attach all required documents – triple check!
- Start early
- Read the program overview
- Self score your application
- Demonstrate how your project fits the project type

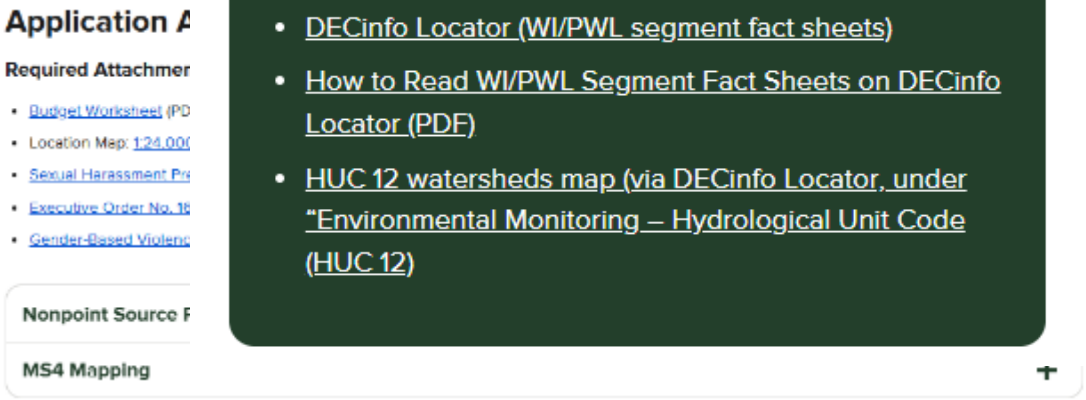
Common Mistakes

- Missing an attachment
- Document(s) missing a signature
- Seeking more funds than the maximum award amount
- Not focusing on project type objectives

Where to Find Application Resources

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  appl

NPG:



PEJA/DAC MAPPING

- Potential Environmental Justice Area and Disadvantaged Community Mapping Tutorial for WQIP and NPG grant applications
- How to identify and create a map of Potential Environmental Justice Areas and Disadvantaged Communities (PDF)
- Maps of Environmental Justice Areas
- Maps of Disadvantaged Communities in New York State

DECinfo Locator

- DECinfo Locator (WI/PWL segment fact sheets)
- How to Read WI/PWL Segment Fact Sheets on DECinfo Locator (PDF)
- HUC 12 watersheds map (via DECinfo Locator, under "Environmental Monitoring – Hydrological Unit Code (HUC 12)

Flood Resources

- Floodplain Map Instructional Guide (PDF)
- Flood Resiliency Requirements for WQIP and NPG grant applications Mapping Tutorial
- FEMA Flood Map Service Center
- Floodplain Development and Floodway Guidance
- Resilient NY Flood Mitigation Reports
- NYS Flood Risk Management Guidance for Implementation of the Community Risk and Resiliency Act

Additional Resources

- Climate Smart Communities Certification Actions

Important Resources

- DEC staff
- WQIP/NPG Program Overviews
- Aquatic Connectivity Fact Sheet
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Factsheet
- Local or regional watershed management, conservation, or land use plans
- Local or regional partners/technical experts



Resources

WQIP on the web:



https://on.ny.gov/wqip

NPG on the web:



https://on.ny.gov/npg

Thank You

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NYS DEC, Division of Water

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Department of Environmental Conservation