



Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategy (NPS-IS) Development Fund Program Guidelines

Purpose

To support the work of agencies and groups involved in conservation programs and projects, water quality issues, and flood reduction and mitigation projects, MWCD has developed the Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategy (NPS-IS) Development Fund. This fund can reimburse up to \$10,000.00 of the cost associated with developing a NPS-IS. This grant opportunity assists local agencies and groups involved in projects that support the conservation and flood control aspects of MWCD's mission.

A NPS-IS is a living document focusing on small-scale watershed planning to resolve environmental issues within a 12-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC-12) watershed. NPS-IS outlines environmental issues, develops goals and initiates a plan to address the issues with conservation practices rooted in the best science available. These plans work by describing the "what" and "where" of specific conservation strategies to best address and reduce the nonpoint source pollution and impairments of the specified HUC-12 watershed. Each watershed is unique and has its own attributes and impairments and as such, each plan will individually address those issues impacting water quality to ensure long-term benefits are achieved.

NPS-IS developed through MWCD's NPS-IS Development Fund will meet the 9 essential elements per the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 Program Guidance to ensure Ohio Section 319 funding eligibility. NPS-IS funded by MWCD will be submitted to, reviewed and approved by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). Once a NPS-IS is approved by OEPA, projects described in a NPS-IS are eligible for Ohio Section 319 funding (offered through OEPA). MWCD is proud to support the OEPA and provide this fund as a catalyst for advancing water quality improvements within the HUC-12 watersheds that make up the Muskingum River Basin.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include political subdivisions of the state, IRS Section 501 organizations, soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), local governments, park districts, and regional councils of government involved in projects related to watershed management and water quality improvements in the Muskingum River Watershed. Strategic alliances, multi-organization groups, or collaborative partners are also eligible.

Eligible Projects

Awarded funds may only be used to cover the costs associated with developing a NPS-IS for HUC-12 watersheds within the Muskingum River Basin. While all HUC-12 watersheds within the Muskingum River Basin are eligible for funding, the 2025-2026 funding cycle will prioritize funding for 100 specified HUC-12 watersheds (see Table 1). These 100 HUC-12 watersheds have been chosen based on the following criteria:

- Serving as a source of public drinking water (surface water only).
- Containing or draining to a direct tributary of an MWCD reservoir.
- Where threatened or endangered aquatic wildlife have been recorded.
- Documented impairments of sediment, nutrients, habitat alteration, and/or dissolved oxygen.
- Having prevalent and documented acid mine drainage impairments.

Application Process

Application materials can be found at www.MWCD.org. In addition to the application, please include a cover letter containing a short description of the agency or group, a resolution from the governing body, IRS Determination Letter (if applicable), and any supporting documentation such as letters of support and commitment of any matching funds.

You may submit your application, without supporting documentation, prior to the deadline for an initial review. Drafts will be accepted for initial review until July 30, 2025. Drafts can be submitted electronically or by mail.

Selection and Evaluation

Applicants who have identified priority watersheds, locations, projects, goals, and partners with justifiable narratives will rank more favorably for funding. Applicants must be able to demonstrate strong partnerships and outline organizations involved in this project as well as any previous projects. Letters of support highlighting partnerships and their level of involvement should be provided.

Matching Funds

While *matching funds are not required* to receive funding, an applicant's provision of matching funds (in-kind or cash match) will be considered favorably in the review process. Any matching funds should be showcased in the application. Please specify the type of funds as either in-kind or cash match.

Deadlines

Electronic copies must be completed and submitted, in PDF format, to the email address listed below by **5:00 p.m., August 8, 2025**. Paper copies will be accepted but must be postmarked on or before August 8, 2025. If submitting paper copies, please ensure four (4) copies are included. It is recommended that mailed applications choose to track the package to ensure delivery to MWCD.

Applications will be reviewed for completeness, technical merit, and adherence to guidelines. **Applicants will be notified of their application status no later than August 29, 2025.** Awarded applicants will be required to execute a grant agreement and provide a grant report within 18 months from the award date.

Agreement

A grant agreement will be executed between MWCD and the awarded applicants. All awarded funds and subsequent NPS-IS will occur with the understanding that MWCD will be the authoring entity of any approved NPS-IS. An authoring entity is the contact for all NPS-IS related correspondence and as being responsible for having stakeholder groups established whereby updates or suggestions for projects can be put through the NPS-IS update process. As the authoring entity, MWCD can capture the magnitude of which these NPS-IS help the watersheds within the Muskingum River Basin.

Applicants are to procure and provide an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency approved NPS-IS to MWCD within 18 months from the award date. Interim progress reports may be requested. A final report, detailing the results of the project will be required within a time period agreed upon by MWCD and the awarded applicant. Reimbursement will only occur with proof of an OEPA approved NPS-IS.

Please submit your signed application by either mail or email (in **PDF** format) and direct all inquiries to:

Rome Marinelli
Watershed Coordinator
Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District
1319 Third St. NW
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663
Phone: (330) 343-6647 ext. 2707
Email: Rmarinelli@MWCD.org

Table 1. MWCD's prioritized funding for the 2025-2026 NPS-IS Development Fund

Watershed Name		12-digit HUC
Tuscarawas River Basin	1. Hudson Run	050400010103
	2. Headwaters Chippewa Creek	050400010201
	3. Hubbard Creek-Chippewa Creek	050400010202
	4. Little Chippewa Creek	050400010203
	5. River Styx	050400010204
	6. Tommy Run-Chippewa Creek	050400010205
	7. Red Run	050400010206
	8. Silver Creek-Chippewa Creek	050400010207
	9. Nimisila Reservoir-Nimisila Creek	050400010302
	10. Lake Lucern-Nimisila Creek	050400010303
	11. Fox Run	050400010304
	12. Town of Canal Fulton-Tuscarawas River	050400010305
	13. Headwaters Newman Creek	050400010306
	14. Town of North Lawrence-Newman Creek	050400010307
	15. Sippo Creek	050400010308
	16. West Sippo Creek-Tuscarawas River	050400010309
	17. Headwaters Upper Conotton Creek	050400010701
	18. Irish Creek	050400010702
	19. Dining Fork	050400010703
	20. Headwaters Middle Conotton Creek	050400010704
	21. North Fork McGuire Creek	050400010705
	22. McGuire Creek	050400010706
	23. Headwaters Lower Conotton Creek	050400010707
	24. Cold Spring Run-Indian Fork	050400010801
	25. Pleasant Valley Run-Indian Fork	050400010802
	26. Thompson Run-Conotton Creek	050400010803
	27. Huff Run	050400010804
	28. Dog Run-Conotton Creek	050400010805
	29. Spencer Creek	050400011301
	30. Headwaters Stillwater Creek	050400011302
	31. Boggs Fork	050400011303
	32. Buttermilk Creek-Stillwater Creek	050400011304
	33. Skull Fork	050400011401
	34. Brushy Fork	050400011402
	35. Craborchard Creek-Stillwater Creek	050400011403
	36. Clear Fork	050400011501
	37. Standingstone Fork	050400011502
	38. Middle Little Stillwater Creek	050400011504
	39. Lower Little Stillwater Creek	050400011505

Mohican River Basin	40. Marsh Run	050400020101
	41. Headwaters Black Fork Mohican River	050400020102
	42. Headwaters Rocky Fork	050400020203
	43. Outlet Rocky Fork	050400020204
	44. Charles Mill-Black Fork Mohican River	050400020205
	45. Honey Creek-Clear Fork Mohican River	050400020401
	46. Possum Run	050400020402
	47. Slater Run-Clear Fork Mohican River	050400020403
	48. Pine Run	050400020404
	49. Switzer Creek-Clear Fork Mohican River	050400020405
	50. Honey Creek	050400020801
	51. Town of Perrysville-Black Fork Mohican River	050400020802
	52. Big Run-Black Fork Mohican River	050400020803
	53. Negro Run-Mohican River	050400020805
54. Flat Run-Mohican River	050400020806	
Walhonding River Basin	55. Little Apple Creek	050400030601
	56. Shreve Creek	050400030603
	57. Jennings Ditch-Killbuck Creek	050400030604
	58. North Branch Salt Creek	050400030605
	59. Salt Creek	050400030606
	60. Paint Creek	050400030701
	61. Martins Creek	050400030702
	62. Honey Run-Killbuck Creek	050400030703
	63. Black Creek	050400030704
64. Bucklew Run-Killbuck Creek	050400030805	
Lower Muskingum (L.M.) River Basin	65. Robinson Run-Muskingum River	050400040301
	66. Village of Adams Mills-Muskingum River	050400040302
	67. North Branch Symmes Creek	050400040303
	68. South Branch Symmes Creek-Symmes Creek	050400040304
	69. Blount Run-Muskingum River	050400040305
	70. Valley Run	050400040401
	71. Headwaters Jonathon Creek	050400040402
	72. Turkey Run	050400040403
	73. Buckeye Fork	050400040404
	74. Kent Run	050400040405
	75. Thompson Run	050400040406
	76. Painter Creek-Jonathon Creek	050400040407
	77. South West Branch Wolf Creek	050400040901
	78. Headwaters South Branch Wolf Creek	050400040902

L. M. Basin	79. Plumb Run-South Branch Wolf Creek	050400040903
	80. Big Run	050400041201
	81. Rainbow Creek	050400041202
	82. Cat Creek-Muskingum River	050400041203
Wills Creek Basin	83. Headwaters Seneca Fork	050400050101
	84. Beaver Creek	050400050102
	85. Gladys Run-Seneca Fork	050400050103
	86. Depue Run-Seneca Fork	050400050104
	87. Opossum Run-Seneca Fork	050400050105
	88. Chapman Run	050400050206
	89. Trail Run-Wills Creek	050400050207
	90. North Crooked Creek	050400050501
Licking River Basin	91. Lake Fork Licking River	050400060201
	92. Clear Fork Licking River	050400060202
	93. Dog Hollow Run-North Fork Licking River	050400060203
	94. Dry Creek	050400060204
	95. Log Pond Run-North Fork Licking River	050400060205
	96. Muddy Fork	050400060401
	97. Headwaters South Fork Licking River	050400060402
	98. Ramp Creek	050400060407
	99. Dutch Fork	050400060408
	100. Beaver Run-South Fork Licking River	050400060409