

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN RESILIENCE FUND

2024-2025 Funding Opportunity - Guidance for Applicants



Fred A. and Barbara M.
Erb Family Foundation



RALPH C. WILSON, JR.
FOUNDATION



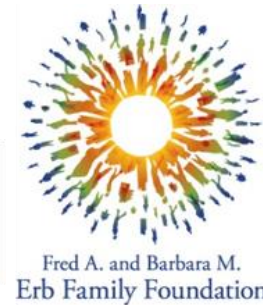
WEBINAR AGENDA

- Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund overview
- Funding opportunity details
 - Funding Priorities
 - ***New Funding Category**
- Application guidance
- Q&A session
- Recording and slides will be posted after the webinar is complete



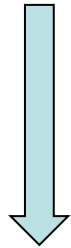
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

- Cleveland-Cliffs
- Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation
- The Kresge Foundation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service



ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 2018-2024

39 grants: \$9.2 million
Grantee match: \$11.5 million
Total investment: \$20.7 million



- 21 M gal stormwater storage
- 940 acres habitat restoration
- 93 public access points to natural areas developed or improved





2024-2025 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

- Available funding: **Approximately \$1.8 million**
- Grant size: **\$150,000 to \$400,000**
- Grant duration: typically **24 months**
- **Full-proposal due date: October 1, 2024 by 11:59 PM ET**

GEOGRAPHIC ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for funding, projects must be located within the seven-county region of southeast Michigan including the following counties:

- St. Clair
- Macomb
- Oakland
- Wayne
- Washtenaw
- Livingston
- Monroe





Healthy Schools Campaign, Space to Grow

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- Eligible applicants
 - ✓ Non-profit organizations
 - ✓ State, tribal, and local governments
 - ✓ Educational institutions
- Ineligible applicants
 - ✓ Individuals
 - ✓ Federal agencies
 - ✓ For-profit businesses
- *A single organization may submit multiple applications*
- *Unlikely for an organization to receive more than one award per cycle*
- *Grantees with active NFWF grants are eligible to apply for funding*

FUNDING CATEGORIES

1. Expanding Green Stormwater Infrastructure and Enhancing Public Space
2. Improving Habitat Quality, Connectivity, and Enhancing Public Space
3. ***NEW – Activating Restored Habitats and Greenspace**

❖ Identify one category that best describes the project. You may also identify any relevant secondary categories



Expanding Green Stormwater Infrastructure and Enhancing Public Space

Support green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) projects that improve stormwater capture and storage to mitigate the impacts of climate change, including reducing runoff, combined sewer overflows, basement backups, and flooding.

Install and maintain GSI – focus on nature-based solutions

- ✓ Rain gardens
- ✓ Bioswales
- ✓ Tree planting in underserved communities
- ✓ Constructed wetlands
- Structural elements must compliment NBS (pervious surfaces, green roofs etc.)
- Improve public green space
 - ✓ Trails/paths
 - ✓ Recreation (benches, play areas, etc.)
 - ✓ Educational signage and community engagement
 - ✓ Community gardens



Expanding Green Stormwater Infrastructure and Enhancing Public Space

- GSI projects must be designed with a dual purpose, to increase stormwater storage capacity while also enhancing the quality of, access to, and/or use of community green space or natural areas.
- Focus on installing and maintaining nature-based GSI or vegetative practices.
- Competitive projects will:
 - ✓ Be of sufficient size and scope to significantly reduce runoff and increase GSI function at a regional scale
 - ✓ Connect to a larger green infrastructure or similar plan or strategy
 - ✓ Maintenance: outline authority and capacity to maintain sites

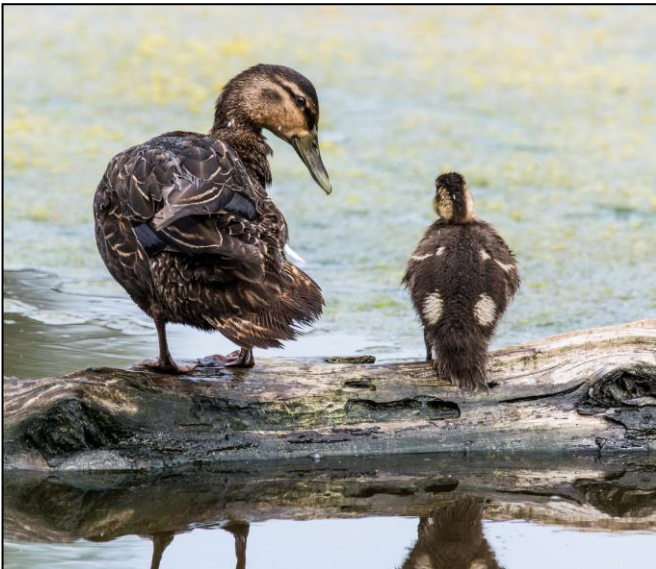


Projects must add or maintain a minimum 100,000 cumulative gallons of stormwater storage capacity annually to be competitive

Improving Habitat Quality, Connectivity and Enhancing Public Space

Support habitat restoration projects, including in-stream, riparian, upland, and wetland habitat, that improve the quality and connectivity of habitats

- Restore/enhance habitat quality
 - ✓ Pollinator habitat
 - ✓ Invasive species control
 - ✓ Native plant restoration
 - ✓ Streambank stabilization and instream restoration
- Increase access to/use of natural areas
 - ✓ Trails/paths
 - ✓ Public access points
 - ✓ Waterway access infrastructure
 - ✓ Passive/active recreation



Improving Habitat Quality, Connectivity and Enhancing Public Space

- Competitive projects will:
 - ✓ Improve water quality in Great Lakes and other waterways
 - ✓ Reduce erosion
 - ✓ Add habitat complexity and quality
 - ✓ Increase habitat connectivity
 - ✓ Encourage biodiversity
- Priority to projects that:
 - ✓ Improve native/natural habitat
 - ✓ Improve habitat for multiple species of concern
 - ✓ Meaningfully engage/benefit underserved communities



NEW - ACTIVATE RESTORED HABITATS AND GREENSPACE

Activate restored habitats and greenspace, including those previously funded by GLRI or NFWF, by increasing community engagement, public access, and long-term stewardship of those sites.

- Projects must engage communities and enhance access to nature and strategically advance multiple priorities
- Engagement strategies should enhance community participation, ownership and agency in natural spaces. These may include:
 - Public education programs and experiences in natural areas
 - Conservation-oriented workforce development programs
 - Enhancing volunteerism and long-term stewardship
 - Training the next generation of conservationists and nature enthusiasts
 - Removing barriers for community access to nature



NEW - ACTIVATE RESTORED HABITATS AND GREENSPACE

Projects may also include the following priorities as complimentary to site activation through community engagement:

1. Creation of new or enhance existing public-access infrastructure
 - Trails, green space, nature-based or nature compatible recreation, public access points, infrastructure enabling use of waterways and habitats, such as paddle craft launches, wildlife viewing areas, gathering spaces etc
2. Improvement of habitat stewardship
 - Adaptive management, invasive species control, habitat restoration to improve habitat quality and enhance resilience of restored project sites

**These priorities must complement community engagement and will not be competitive as stand-alone requests.*



Washtenaw County - Skatepark

NEW - ACTIVATE RESTORED HABITATS AND GREENSPACE

All applicants submitting a proposal under this funding category should reach out to NFWF staff to discuss proposed activities prior to submitting a proposal



Project Considerations:

- Span up to 3 years or 3 field seasons to increase sustainability and long-term success.
- Projects should be of sufficient size, scope, or unique ecological value to necessitate a strategic re-investment in the previously restored habitat.
- Projects should not request funding to support: long-term transportation to sites, stand-alone parking lots or other infrastructure that is not required for project success, planned or sustained site maintenance activities such as cleaning, mowing, annual repairs to existing infrastructure etc.

COMPETITIVE PROJECTS

- Applicants must demonstrate capacity & experience commensurate with the scale and funding request of the project
- Utilize established partnerships with other organizations to increase capacity, improve project design and outcomes and enhance community engagement
- Align with and demonstrate how projects will complement and connect to local, regional, or other existing strategies or plans
- Shovel-ready (project can begin shortly after grant is awarded).
- Apply most ($\geq 70\%$) grant funding to on-the ground activities (cat 1&2)
- Technically sound and feasible. Proposal sets forth a clear, logical and achievable work plan and timeline.

COMPETITIVE PROJECTS

- Include long-lasting and sustainable benefits to communities and natural resources, as demonstrated by provisions for long-term (5-year) maintenance, operation, and management and/or monitoring plans
- Incorporate planning for climate change into their design, location, and/or function. Identify existing and anticipated impacts of climate change on target communities and/or ecosystems and wildlife identified as the intended beneficiary of the grant funded work.
- Demonstrate potential to catalyze additional efforts in communities or settings throughout Southeast Michigan where it has not been broadly deployed, including underserved or traditionally excluded communities
- Seek to improve regional collaboration and advance or establish regional strategies

Full Proposal Application Process

- No pre-proposal stage
- Full Proposals due October 1 in Easygrants (easygrants.nfwf.org)
 - ✓ Longer narrative (5 pages max.)
 - ✓ Project map
 - ✓ Metrics
 - ✓ Line item budget
 - ✓ Matching contributions
 - ✓ Letters of support required
 - ✓ Financial documents required
- Additional guidance documents available
- Contact us if you have questions or concerns



Full-Proposal Project Narrative

Instructions: Save this document on your computer and complete the narrative in the format provided. The final narrative should not exceed five (5) pages; font should be 12-point Times New Roman. Do not delete the text provided below. Once complete, upload this document into the on-line application as instructed.

1. **Funding Category:** List the Funding Category that best describes the proposed project.
2. **Context:** Briefly describe the project context in terms of current conditions, connection to current or previous on-the-ground work, existing challenges, and opportunities for improvement. Applicants with existing Chi-Cal Rivers Fund grant(s) should provide a brief status update for active project(s) and discuss how the existing grant is connected to the proposed project.
3. **Activities and Outcomes:** Detail the project activities proposed and the timeline for project implementation. Discuss how these activities will generate direct, measurable benefits to the priority waterways. Explain how the project will improve community and/or habitat resilience in the face of climate change. Share anticipated outcomes in terms of metrics (e.g., acres restored, gallons stormwater storage added, etc.) relevant to the project activities.
4. **Tracking Metrics and Monitoring:** Indicate how the project will monitor/assess progress toward the metrics and outcomes identified in the application. Note any challenges or limitations anticipated with tracking metrics. If the proposed project is expected directly benefit priority bird, fish or wildlife species, describe how project activities will achieve these benefits and plans for species monitoring.
5. **Long-Term Operation and Maintenance:** Indicate how project benefits will be sustained through time. Detail existing long-term operation and maintenance plan(s) or describe efforts to a maintenance plan during the grant period. Plans should include projected or anticipated investment performance over at least 5 years, anticipated useful life of project elements (GSI construction, habitat restoration/management practices) and required maintenance over time to sustain function.
6. **Project Team and Partnerships:** List the individuals who will lead the project and describe their qualifications and experience. Describe additional project partners and their role in the proposed project. Describe how the proposed project will engage community-level partners (e.g., municipalities, NGOs, community organizations, community leaders) to help design, implement, and maintain projects to secure maximum benefits for communities and ensure public use of project sites, maintenance, and sustainability post-grant award if relevant.
7. **Equity and Inclusion:** 1) Describe how the proposed project will engage community-level partners to help design, implement, and maintain projects to secure maximum benefits for communities. 2) Describe how communities will be directly engaged in the project and what measurable community benefits will result from the project. 3) Provide demographic information for the community(ies) that will be engaged in and/or directly benefit from the project, **including but not limited to age, race and ethnicity, poverty rates**, etc. Using the Table below, provide demographic information on the community(ies) and target audiences. Applicants are encouraged to utilize census data and/or tools such as EJ Screen to complete this section. If using EJ screen (<https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>), please attach a copy of your report as an "Upload" to your grant application and indicate you've done so in this section.



Full Proposal Upload - Applicant Demographic Information Form

- The information you provide will not be shared with proposal reviewers and will not be considered when making grant decisions.
- The Foundation will not share identifying information about any particular entity or project.
- While the form is a required upload, applicants can opt out of providing the information within the form itself
- The information provided on this excel form will be kept confidential, the Foundation may share its anonymized aggregate findings as appropriate with its staff, Board of Directors, funding partners, and publicly on its website or through other media.

AutoSave **Off** NFWF Applicant Demographic Information Form_Pilot_1-26-21 - Excel

File Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Help

Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles

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1 **APPLICANT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

2 *As part of NFWF's goal to encourage and support diversity across the conservation projects we fund, we would like to better understand the existing diversity in our grantmaking community and in the local communities in which we fund. To accomplish this task, we are asking organizations that we fund to assist us by providing basic information about their workforce demographics on this form.*

3 *As part of this effort to support diversity, we also desire to understand how our grantees engage with the communities where the projects take place and who in those communities might benefit from them. We ask for this information in your application narrative.*

4 *The information provided on this excel form will be kept confidential, although the Foundation may share its aggregate findings as appropriate with its staff, Board of Directors, funding partners, and publicly on its website or through other media. The Foundation will not share identifying information about any particular entity or project.*

5 *These anonymized aggregate data will be used by NFWF to better understand the demographic profiles of the organizations that we fund.*

6

7

8 **The information you provide will not be shared with proposal reviewers and will not be considered when making grant decisions.**

9

10 **Instructions:** Complete all pertinent fields shaded in green. Your Human Resources Department may have some of the information requested readily available. If you do not know an answer, use the "don't know/not sure" option. If a section does not apply to your organization you may skip it. Do not make any other changes to this form.

11

12 You may opt out of providing this information to NFWF; however, you still **must upload this form to Easygrants** with your application.

13

14 If you are opting out, click on the green box to select a reason from the dropdown list.

15

16 **GENERAL**

17

18 Date Completed date

19 Easygrants project # from your grant application EZG #

20 Grant program name shown on the RFP grant program name

21 Project Title from your grant application project title



PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

- Start date should be no earlier than **March 13, 2025**
- Duration typically 2 years (or two full field seasons)
- Matching contributions must be spent or applied between project start and end dates



LONG-TERM OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

- ≥5 year plan required
- Plan elements:
 - ✓ Actions needed
 - ✓ Cost estimates
 - ✓ Likely sources of funding
 - ✓ Responsible parties
 - ✓ Equipment access or ownership
 - ✓ Capacity for long-term stewardship
- If applicable, describe long term invasive species management and EDRR protocol
- Portion of grant funding may be used for plan development
- Plan must be completed prior to grant end date



MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

- Match is not required. However, projects offering a 1:1 match ratio may be more competitive. **Match limitations should not discourage applicants from submitting a proposal.**
- May be Federal or Non-federal
- Match eligibility
 - ✓ Verifiable from the grantee's records
 - ✓ Not included as contributions for any other award
 - ✓ Necessary & reasonable for accomplishment of project or program objectives
 - ✓ Are allowable under OMB Cost Principles (applicable to Federal match only)
 - ✓ Committed directly to the project and must be used within the period of performance



ACCEPTED MATCH SOURCES

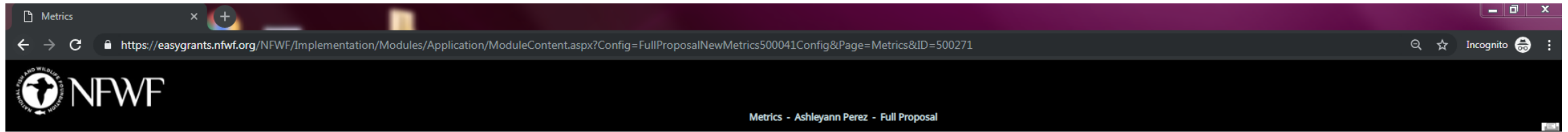
- Cash
- In-kind contributions of staff
- Materials and services donated
- Volunteer time
- Cost of land acquisition/easement
- Allowable indirect costs not covered by grant funding
- Other tangible contributions to project goals

METRICS

- All possible outcome metrics are listed & available in Easygrants during the Full Proposal application process
- Only metrics relevant to the proposed project should be selected
- All starting values should be **zero (0)**
- Grantees will be required to report progress toward project outcomes in terms of metrics selected
- Applicants must identify, track and measure qualitative, long-term diversity, equity and inclusion outcomes in Full Proposal narrative and reporting to NFWF if awarded

Project Activity	Recommended Metrics <i>*Required metric</i>	Additional Guidance
Expanding Green Stormwater Infrastructure	*Volume stored	Enter the volume (in gallons) of stormwater storage retained annually through green infrastructure - acres of greenspace
	Impervious Surface	Enter the acres of neighborhood green space and habitat created or improved
	Square feet of infrastructure	Infrastructure - miles trails developed/improved
	# of trees planted	Enter the number of miles of trails or river walks developed or improved
		Infrastructure - access pts developed/improved
		Enter the number of public access points developed/improved
Enhancing Habitat Quality	Riparian restored	# of volunteer hours
	Instream restored	Enter the # of volunteer hours in this project
	Instream restored habitat structure	# jobs sustained
	# passage barriers	Provide number of jobs continued or sustained through the grant. Jobs should be directly engaged in project activities, exist prior to the grant period, and be sustained beyond the end of the grant.
	Miles of stream	Improving Public Access & Community Engagement <i>(all proposals should select at least two of these metrics)</i>
	Acres of wetlands restored	
	Acres restored species removed	# jobs created
	Pounds sediment (annually)	Provide number of individuals hired by organization or contractor directly working on the project (non-volunteers) during the project period. This reflects the addition of new jobs to the local and regional economy as the result of the work proposed in the grant.
	Pounds phosphorus prevented from entering (annually)	# people reached
	Pounds nitrogen prevented from entering (annually)	
		Provide total number of people reached by grant activities throughout the period of performance. People reached should reflect the number of community members (volunteers, local groups, residents) meaningfully engaged in the project design, implementation, or who utilize the project's on-the-ground assets post-implementation. If the applicant will be measuring public use of grant investments post-implementation, please indicate the method of measurement to validate the use estimate (e.g. trail counters, volunteer observations, etc.)
		from entering system annually
		Enter the amount of nitrogen prevented from entering system annually

METRICS



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Organization Information

Project Information

Project Location

Map

Uploads

Metrics

Budget

Matching Contributions

Permits and Approvals

Review and Submit

FAQ

Help

Log Out

Project Information

Due: **4/25/2019 11:59 PM ET** *Test* Easygrants ID: 65193
Perez, Ashleyann | (TEST ORGANIZATION)
Grants | Fishing for Energy Fund | Fishing for Energy 2019

Instructions

Follow the steps below to provide NFWF with metrics for showing progress on your project's primary activities and outcomes. More detailed instructions, screenshots, and examples are provided in the Metrics Help page displayed when you click **Help**. You may save and return to this page as often as needed to complete your metrics.

- To view and select the available metrics, click **Select Metric**. A page will display all of the available metrics. If the list of available metrics is long, you can filter the list by clicking on the *Show* options - **Templates** and/or **Strategies**: Templates allows you to filter on metric templates, if there is more than one; Strategies allows you to filter on a single Strategy, e.g., Habitat Management - *Show All* is the default for both. For more details on each metric, "mouse-over" the question mark icon.
- To select your metrics, check the box in the *Add* column for the metrics on which you will report, and click **Add Selected**. The table below will refresh and display the metrics. You must select and report on at least one metric on this page, and the Foundation's strong preference is for projects to contain a limited number of metrics for showing progress.
- For each of your selected metrics, enter both *Starting Value* (i.e., the actual number at the start of your project), and a *Target Value* (i.e., the projected number at the completion of your project) amounts. Notes may be added to a metric by clicking the sheet icon to the right of the Completion number.
- Click **Save** intermittently to save your data. The system will timeout after 60 minutes of non-use, and any unsaved data will be lost.
- To remove a metric after you've selected it, click the red X to the right of the line item. To delete several metrics at once, click the checkbox to the left of each metric name and click **Delete Selected** at the bottom of the page. The system will request confirmation before deleting Metrics, and the page will refresh with the remaining metrics. All metrics remaining on the page must contain values before final submission.
- When you are finished providing values, click **Save and Continue** to save your metrics and move to the next page.

Note: The metrics provided here are those selected by the Foundation. If you would like to report on additional metrics, please include these in your project narrative.

Applicant Submission Version

Filter By: FFE Metrics | Show All Strategies **Select Metric**

Metric	Strategies	Required	Starting Value	Target value	
<input type="checkbox"/> FFE - Tool development for decision-making - # tools/ techniques tested	Planning, Research, Monitoring	Recommended	10.00 # tools/ techniques tested	10.00 # tools/ techniques tested	

Viewing Records 1 - 1 of 1 Page size 25 | First | Previous | Next | Last | **Show All**

Select All **Delete Selected**

Save **Save and Continue**

Add notes to selected metrics provided.

Filter By:

[Select Metric](#)

Metric	Strategies	Required	Starting Value	Target value	
<input type="checkbox"/> FIF - Building institutional capacity - # FTE with sufficient training	? Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Optional	<input type="text"/> # FTE with sufficient training	<input type="text"/> # FTE with sufficient training	
<input type="checkbox"/> FIF - Monitoring - # vessels in monitoring program	? Planning, Research, Monitoring	Optional	<input type="text"/> # vessels in monitoring program	<input type="text"/> # vessels in monitoring program	

Viewing Records 1 - 2 of 2

Page size [First](#) | [Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Last](#) | [Show All](#)

Select All [Delete Selected](#)

[Save](#) [Save and Continue](#)

Notes

Metric : FIF - Monitoring - # vessels in monitoring program

Note

[Save And Close](#) [Close](#)

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE – REFERENCE SHEET

Supporting Documents:

1. [Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund 2024-2025 RFP webpage](#)
 - a. [Tip Sheet](#)
 - Step-by-step proposal guidance
 - b. [Easygrants Instructional Webinar](#)
 - Step-by-step video tutorial on how to start and complete a proposal in [Easygrants](#)

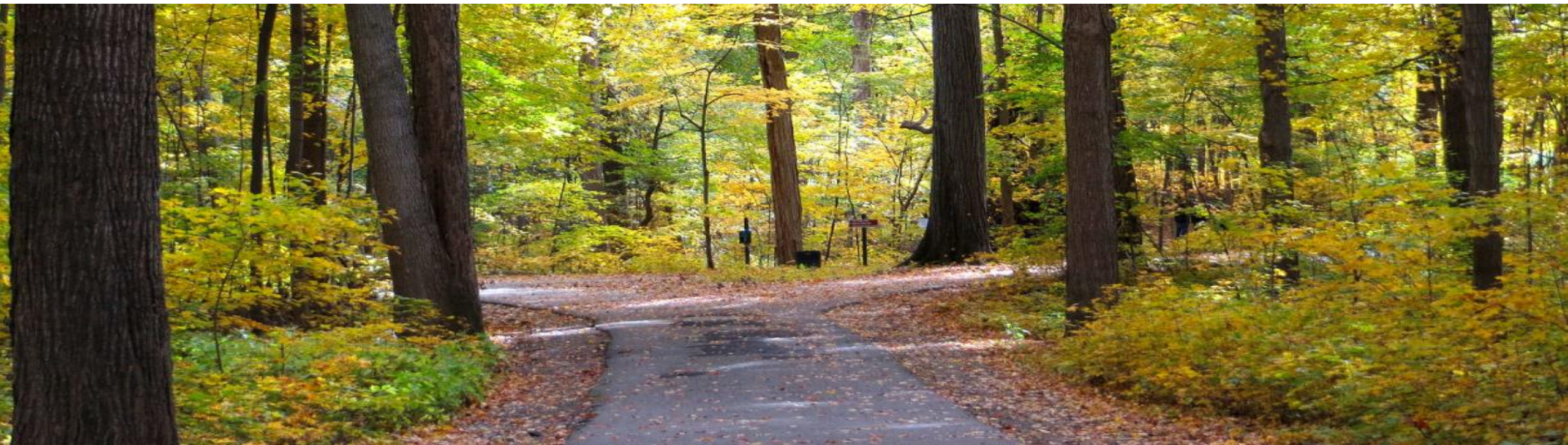
2. [NFWF Application Information](#)
 - a. [Budget instructions](#)
 - Download the [Detailed Budget and Narrative Guide](#)
 - *For the Full Proposal Budget section, please provide a respective budget narrative describing the purpose of each line item towards the project.
 - b. [Required financial documents](#)
 - Financial documents must be for the same fiscal year and **no more than 2 years old**
 - c. [Indirect Cost Policy](#)

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE – EASYGRANTS TIPS

- If you've never used Easygrants before, create your login at easygrants.nfwf.org TODAY and familiarize yourself with the system. **View the [pre-recorded instructional webinar](#).**
- Turn off your browser's pop-up blockers
- Download the [Tip Sheet](#) (available on the RFP webpage) and use it as a reference to complete each field of the proposal
- Refer to the RFP and metrics instructions in Easygrants for required metric notes
- DO NOT mail physical letters of support to NFWF, upload digital copies into the online proposal
- Provide a phone number in your Easygrants account. Keep your email and proposal contact information up-to-date.

TIMELINE

- Full proposals due: **October 1, 2024 by 11:59 PM ET**
- Grant awards announced: **March 2025**
- Grant agreements developed: **March – June 2025**



CONTACT INFORMATION

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