

## Forever Our Rivers Foundation River Health Partnerships - Grant Making Guidelines - External

### Funding Philosophy and Priorities

Our grants invest Cause Marketing earnings to support River Health Partners whose work aligns with these beliefs,

- Communities are the best stewards of their rivers.
- Rivers must be healthy, protected and resilient to risk to best benefit people and wildlife.
- Projects must include long-term monitoring, maintenance, and learning to perpetuate river health.



As river health experts, Forever Our Rivers is far more than a grant funder. We vet nonprofit partners, working only with organizations that have proven their ability to reach and maximize river health goals by leveraging resources, honestly evaluating their success, and remaining accountable to their funders. Our grant program fills important funding gaps and contributes to collaborative funding efforts. We outline our current priorities in the table below. Visit the [Strategic Plan](#) for more details on our vision, mission and approach.

| River Health Issue   | Current Priority | Outcome   |
|--|------------------|---|
| Long-term monitoring and maintenance   | High             | Monitoring programs alert us to maintenance needs to protect large restoration investments over time                                  |
| Connecting communities to their rivers; e.g., river trails, boat launch, education | High             | Increased awareness of and respect for the services rivers provide; e.g., drinking water, food security, recreation, wildlife habitat |
| Riparian restoration   | Medium           | Improved streamside wildlife habitats   |
| Functional flows   | Medium           | Establishing base flows to sustain aquatic and riparian river dynamics  |
| Land conservation to support river health  | Medium           | Protecting critical agricultural lands and watersheds from development  |
| In-stream enhancements   | Medium           | Improved river and wetland aquatic habitats   |
| Monitoring research  | Low              | Research will help us understand risk factors and success markers to make monitoring efforts more effective                           |
| Water quality  | Low              | Protecting drinking water and aquatic habitat   |
| Advocacy   | Low              | Working to change policies and/or legislation at the local, regional or national level  |

Note: Funding for organizational capacity may be approved on a case-by-case basis.

### Grantee Eligibility

Grantees must be a recognized 501(c)(3) organization or other tax-exempt charitable entity (such as a local government or educational institution). Forever Our Rivers will not fund:

- Politically divisive or lobbying activities
- Endowment investments

- International projects

## Application Process

Forever Our Rivers funding is available only to its registered River Health Partners. To become a partner visit [www.foreverourivers.org](http://www.foreverourivers.org) for more information. All River Health Partners are invited to submit a letter of interest, with full applications accepted only upon invitation.

Letters of interest are accepted on a rolling basis, should be one-page in length, and include a,

- Brief description of the project, intended outcomes, and dates/time parameters.
- Brief description of the lead organization, primary personnel assigned to the project, and any additionally-participating organizations and collaborators.
- Total project budget, amount requested of Forever Our Rivers, and discussion of secured or anticipated matching funds/resources.