

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

Funding Philosophy and Priorities

Our grants support River Health Partners aligning with these principals.

- Communities are the best stewards of their rivers.
- Rivers must be healthy, protected and resilient to risk to best benefit people and wildlife.
- Forever Our Rivers values 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
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
Long-term monitoring and maintenance	High	Monitoring programs alert us to maintenance needs to protect large restoration investments
Riparian restoration	High	Improved streamside wildlife habitats
Functional flows	Medium	Establishing base flows to sustain aquatic and riparian river dynamics
Land conservation supporting river health	Medium	Protecting critical agricultural lands and watersheds from development
In-stream enhancements	Medium	Improved river and wetland aquatic habitats
Monitoring research	Medium	Research helps us understand risk factors and success markers making monitoring efforts more effective
Water quality	Low	Protecting drinking water
Policy	Low	Working to change/influence 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

Forever Our Rivers funding is available only to its registered River Health Partners. To become a partner visit www.foreverourivers.org for more information. Applicants 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:

- Political advocacy or lobbying activities
- Endowment investments & International projects