



## 2023 SHADE YOUR STREAM GRANT PROGRAM

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Non-point source pollution poses many threats to aquatic and human life across the Tennessee River Basin. In 2020, Tennessee River Basin Network partners voiced their concern about this growing threat and the need to collectively increase capacity to address it. In response, the Tennessee River Basin Network launched a Shade Your Stream grant program in 2021. This program supports individuals and organizations that empower people and their communities to effectively safeguard their watershed's aquatic and human life through outreach and a hands-on, cost-effective, user-friendly riparian restoration technique.

The Tennessee River Basin Network announces a third year of financial and technical assistance for watershed and community organizations, municipalities, academic organizations, and non-profits across the Tennessee River Basin (see map under eligibility) to implement a Shade Your Stream project.

This year's grant cycle is made possible by:



Shade Your Stream is a riparian education model that uses an extremely cost-effective method to restore riparian buffers through light-touch restoration techniques, also known as live staking. More information about Shade Your Stream and how it has been implemented in North Carolina and Georgia can be found at [www.shadeyourstream.org](http://www.shadeyourstream.org). It is highly advised to visit the Shade Your Stream website before drafting a proposal.

**Total Funding:** \* \$26,000 | Awards between \$5,000 - \$10,000 (higher amounts may be considered with justification).

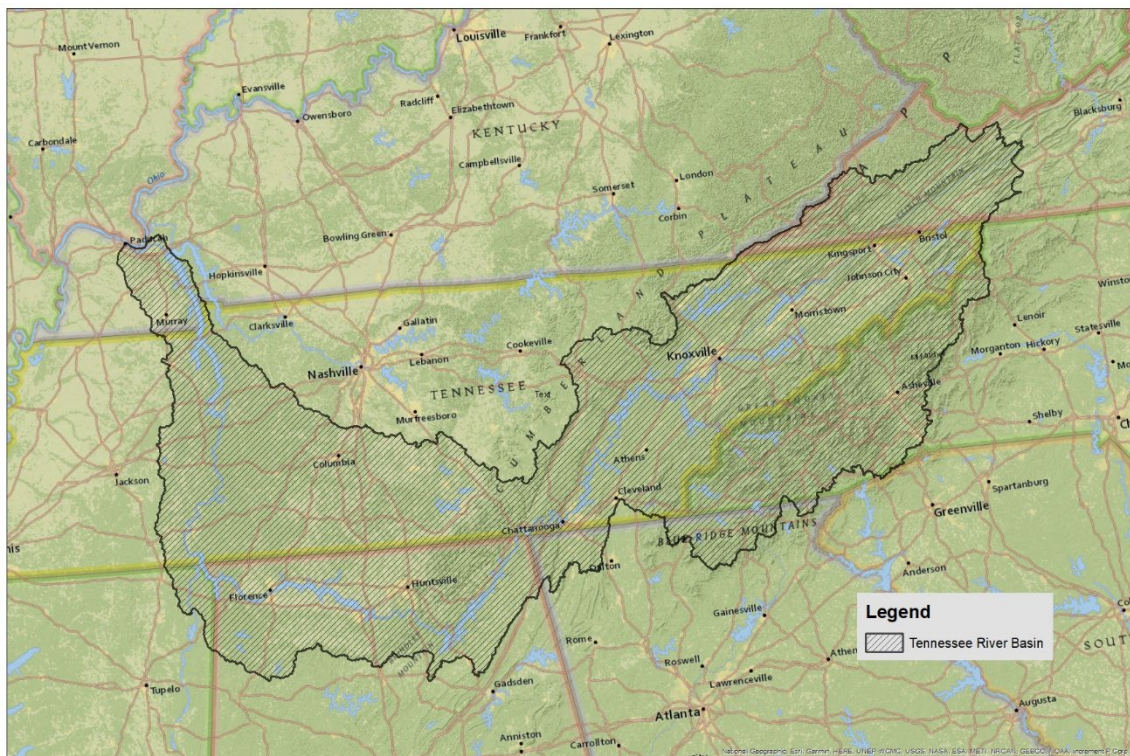
\* No more than 20% of project budget should be allocated for outreach/educational components.

## **Eligibility:**

As this funding program was created to address a priority of Tennessee River Basin Network partners, applicants (or a partner involved in the proposed project) must be a partner of the Tennessee River Basin Network. A list of current partners can be found [HERE](#). If you are not yet a partner, you can submit your request to join the Network [HERE](#) or email [gbee@trbnetwork.org](mailto:gbee@trbnetwork.org) to learn how to join and what partner requirements include.

To address an identified funding gap in the Tennessee River Basin, project proposals should be linked to property owners that do not qualify for traditional federal conservation programs, such as Farm Bill, Clean Water Act, or other federal funding mechanisms.

Project can occur throughout the Tennessee River Basin (see map below).



## **Implementation Requirements:**

- A. Grant recipients will be required to take part in an online training session covering best practices and lessons learned from a partner who is effectively implementing Shade Your Stream programs in North Carolina and Georgia.
- B. All planting materials must be species that are native to the project area's watershed.
- C. The source of planting materials (live stakes) must be reviewed with TRBN. TRBN can suggest where to purchase high quality live stakes if needed.

- D. Property owner of the project area does not need to be the applicant but must take part in the project and agree (in writing) with applicant's proposed methods.
- E. Successful applicants must work in partnership with Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to have an Environmental Review Process completed (led by TVA) on the proposed project area to ensure there are no negative impacts to the human environment. (Please note: There is a possibility that a project will not be funded due to negative environmental impacts or excess cost for additional environmental assessments)
- F. Outreach materials/social media posts should acknowledge the support of Tennessee Valley Authority, Defenders of Wildlife, and Mainspring Conservation Trust (program partners listed on page 1).
- G. A final technical and financial report will be due to the TRBN one year from project start date.

**Assistance provided to successful applicants includes:**

A. Technical:

- a. TRBN will provide an online training session covering best practices and lessons learned from a TRBN partner who is effectively implementing Shade Your Stream programs in North Carolina and Georgia.
- b. The TRBN Coordinator will be available as a point of contact to provide support and guidance, if needed, to successful applicants.
- c. Shade Your Stream outreach materials, including banners, fliers, brochures etc., can be made available to grant recipients to support the outreach component of their projects, if needed.

B. Financial:

- a. Funds can be used to purchase/pay for\*\*:
  - Equipment, materials, and supplies directly related to restoration work.
  - Promotional and volunteer support materials like project advertisement, T-shirts or event day refreshments, and Site work needed to prep project area to ensure live staking will be effective. Please note, costs associated with fencing cannot be covered.

\*\*Other uses of project funding are discouraged but may be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be strongly justified in the project proposal.

**Scoring of proposals will be based on the following criteria:**

- (1) Does the project include a restoration *and* an educational outreach component?
- (2) Does the project positively impact aquatic species that are federally listed (Threatened, Endangered) or Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN can be found in [State Wildlife Action Plans](#))?
- (3) Does the project area occur in a priority area identified in state or regional habitat or resource conservation plans (i.e., State Wildlife Action Plans, the Southeast Conservation Blueprint, the Southeast Aquatic Habitat Plan, the Southeastern Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation Plan)?
- (4) Does the project area occur in an impaired body of water (i.e., 303d stream)?
- (5) Does the proposed project area neighbor a past or current restoration project, or protected land?
- (6) # partners involved
- (7) # people reached
- (8) linear feet of streambank restored
- (9) Does the proposal include a long-term plan to maintain the health of the riparian buffer?
- (10) Does the proposal include a match (not a requirement but highly encouraged)?

**Timeline:**

Release of Request for Proposals: February 22, 2023  
Proposal submission deadline: 11:59pm EST April 11, 2023  
Awardees announced: May 15, 2023  
Final Reports due: One year from project start date

Please note – The most effective time to live stake occurs in the dormant season. This may range depending on your location (October – February)

**Proposal Submission:**

Please submit your proposals in *one single PDF document* that covers the following. Proposals should be no longer than 4 pages total (this includes project map and images):

- (1) Organization Name
- (2) Mailing Address
- (3) Point of Contact: name, email address, telephone number
- (4) Project Title
- (5) Project Location: please provide name of stream(s), county(s), and latitude(s)/longitude(s)
- (6) Project Map
- (7) Please tell us about your proposed Shade Your Stream project. Please include project budget and be sure to include information/images regarding the current state of the project area and the work that will need to be done to correctly prep the site to ensure live staking will be successful. Lastly, please be sure to include a description of how the newly restored streambank will be maintained long-term.

The application (*single PDF*) can be emailed to Gillian Bee (TRBN Coordinator) at [gbee@trbnetwork.org](mailto:gbee@trbnetwork.org)

If you have questions, please contact Gillian Bee at 970-342-6034 or via email at [gbee@trbnetwork.org](mailto:gbee@trbnetwork.org)