

# TENNESSEE RIVER BASIN NETWORK

## TENNESSEE SHADE YOUR STREAM GRANT APPLICATION

Non-point source pollution poses many threats to aquatic and human life across the Tennessee River Basin. Jointly, in 2020, partners of the Tennessee River Basin Network voiced their concern over non-point source pollution and the need to collectively increase their capacity to address this threat. During facilitated virtual sessions, partners discussed directing efforts to restore degraded streambanks through effective riparian restoration projects that a landowner, or community, could plan and implement on their own. Healthy riparian buffers intercept sediments and nutrients thus acting as filters of non-point pollutants. Providing outreach on a cost-effective, user-friendly riparian restoration technique will increase the conservation footprint of our partners to include the footprint of individuals and their communities.

In response to TRBN collective priorities and partner input, the Tennessee River Basin Network announces the availability of financial and technical assistance for watershed and community organizations across the Tennessee River Basin within the state of Tennessee to implement a Shade Your Stream project. Shade Your Stream is a riparian education concept that uses an extremely cost-effective method to restore riparian buffers through soft-touch restoration techniques, also known as livestaking. More detailed information about the Shade Your Stream program 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:** \* \$42,000 | 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 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 more on

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.

**Implementation Requirements:**

- A. Grant recipients will be required to take part in 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. All planting materials must be species that are native to the project area's watershed.
- C. The source of planting materials (livesakes) must be reviewed with TRBN. TRBN can provide several suggestions of where to purchase high quality livesakes 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. 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 can not 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 [State](#) or [Federally](#) listed as Threatened or Endangered Species or Species of Greatest Conservation Need? (list of SGCN can be found in Appendix C of the State Wildlife Action Plan [HERE](#))
- (3) Does the project area occur in a Conservation Opportunity Area (more information on COA's can be found [HERE](#)) OR [Aquatic Habitat Priority Area](#)?
- (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 match (not a requirement but highly encouraged)?

**Timeline:**

Release of Request for Proposals: April 29, 2021  
Proposal submission deadline: 11:59pm EST June 15, 2021  
Awardees announced: July 19, 2021  
Final Reports due: One year from project start date

Please note – The most effective time to livestake 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) Street Address, City, State and Zip Code
- (3) Contact Person Name
- (4) Title
- (5) Email Address
- (6) Telephone Number
- (7) Please tell the TRBN about your proposed Shade Your Stream project. Please include project budget and project map that includes the name of stream(s) and county(s) 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)