



February 1, 2024

Dear National Sea Grant Office,

The Southbridge Civic Association, Southbridge Community Development Corporation, and the South Wilmington Planning Network are pleased to support Pennsylvania and Delaware Sea Grant Programs' proposed project, "Delaware River Clean Coastal Communities Coalition" for the FY 2024-2025 National Sea Grant BIL Marine Debris Community Action Coalitions funding opportunity.

Marine debris often starts out as land-based litter. Reducing litter in our local communities through the proposed project activities has the potential to not only make public spaces more user-friendly but also to foster stewardship of local parks and green spaces, as well as reduce flood risk by keeping storm drains clear.

Pennsylvania and Delaware Sea Grant Programs will reduce litter in Southbridge in the short term, providing supplies for and leading the organization of two litter clean-ups over the three-year project period. These clean-ups may reduce flood risk and improve air quality in the community through the clearing of storm drains, as well eliminate litter buildup in public spaces -- all documented community needs. Pennsylvania and Delaware Sea Grant programs will provide stipends for community participants taking part in community clean-ups, listening sessions, and the task force. A stipend will also be supplied to a designated point of contact from within the community. This person will work alongside these Sea Grant programs to organize clean-ups taking place in their community.

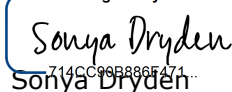
This project will benefit communities along the Delaware River and its tributaries by strengthening local capacity, increasing awareness, and generating solutions to address issues of litter that lead to marine debris. By cultivating the proposed inclusive discussions and task force groups around the needs and challenges associated with litter, community groups, governmental agencies, non-profits, and others will be well-positioned to work together to find equitable solutions.

We look forward to supporting the proposed project by promoting participation in listening sessions, task force groups, and community clean-ups among our membership. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at: [SouthWilmingtonPlanningNetwork@gmail.com](mailto:SouthWilmingtonPlanningNetwork@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

A stylized signature of Sonya Dryden in black ink.

2/2/2024

Sonya Dryden

President, Southbridge Civic Association



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*Hanifa Shabazz* 2/1/2024

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Hanifa Shabazz

Interim Executive Director, Southbridge Community Development Corporation

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*Britt Salen* 2/1/2024

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Britt Salen

Co-Chair, South Wilmington Planning Network