



NFWF

2014 Five Star and Urban Waters Awards

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is pleased to announce the 2014 ***Five Star and Urban Waters*** recipients. This program is supported by major funders EPA, FedEx, the U.S. Forest Service, Southern Company and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with additional funding support from Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Bank of America and Alcoa Foundation.

The goal of this grant program is to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships for wetland, forest, riparian and coastal habitat restoration, stormwater management, outreach and stewardship with a particular focus on water quality, watersheds and the habitats they support.

Advancing Watershed And Restoration Education (AWARE) (TN) Shelby Farms Park Conservancy

Award Amount: \$25,000

The Shelby Farms Park Conservancy will partner with Clean Memphis, the Wolf River Conservancy, and the University of Memphis Ecological Research Center to connect educational curriculum at Shelby Farms Park with on the ground conservation projects. This project will expand field trip and summer camp programs with updated Naturalist Notebooks and field exploration activities highlighting ongoing watershed and wildlife habitat conservation projects to rehabilitate Patriot Lake, restore upstream wetlands, and reforest several fields bordering the Lake. Project activities include engaging 23,900 students and engaging 25 volunteers.

Living Shoreline - Tybee Island (GA) University of Georgia

Award Amount: \$25,000

The University of Georgia will partner with the City of Tybee Island, the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, 100 Miles, and the Nature Conservancy to construct a living shoreline to allow for greater ecosystem services and for riparian restoration activities. The living shoreline will utilize oyster shell to provide habitat for eastern oysters to settle upon and native plants to halt erosion. It will also provide an opportunity for public education and outreach about the value of living shorelines and the environmental impacts that necessitate them. Project metrics include restoration of 0.05 acres 8,000 people educated.



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Bioswale Maintenance Certification Program (NY)

Gowanus Canal Conservancy

Award Amount: \$49,885.45

Gowanus Canal Conservancy will partner with TreesNY, the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, and MillionTreesNYC to train volunteer stewards and license them to maintain any public right of way bioswale in the city of New York with guidance from Parks. Incorporating citizen stewards into the operations and maintenance of public green infrastructure installations can significantly extend the functional life of such measures, saving tax dollars and empowering community members to become engaged with their local green spaces and infrastructure. Project activities include restoring 1.02 acres of land, planting 10 trees, training 32 people, engaging 128 volunteers, monitoring 7 project sites, and preventing 1,230,000 gallons of stormwater from entering water body.

Groundwork-Walkill Connection:Fostering Urban River Stewards (NJ, NY)

Groundwork Hudson Valley, Inc.

Award Amount: \$35,410

Groundwork Hudson Valley will partner with Walkill Refuge, Yonkers Municipal Housing Authority, Steppin' Up, and Westchester County Youth Bureau to improve access to the Saw Mill River. The project will educate youth, older adults, and Walkill staff about native species, the invasives that destroy them, and the tools to eradicate them. Volunteers will restore riverbanks by removing invasives and plant native trees to strengthen the river banks. Project activities include planting 110 trees, educating 2,000 people, engaging 50 volunteers, and removing 0.4 acres of invasives.

The LA River Rover Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (CA)

Friends of the Los Angeles River

Award Amount: \$24,975

The Friends of the Los Angeles River will partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, Geosyntec, KCET Departures, and the California State Park Service to engage community members through school and public education programming and the Los Angeles River Rover. Cities along the Los Angeles River are some of the most diverse, densely populated, and park-poor regions in the country. This project will educate community members about the valuable resources that the River provides for wildlife and the opportunities for the public to recreate along its banks. Project activities include removing 35,000 pounds of trash, engaging 8,000 volunteers, and educating 10,000 people.



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PSJA Preserving for Future Generations (TX)

Pharr San Juan Alamo ISD

Award Amount: \$45,650

Pharr San Juan Alamo ISD will partner with the National Wild Life Santa Ana Refuge, and the cities of Pharr, San Juan, and Alamo, Texas to restore natural habitats at three elementary campuses. This project will utilize education including formal education, public awareness, and training as a process to promote the importance of the Tamaulipan Brushland ecosystem's natural habitats and species. Project activity includes planting 800 trees, restoring 24 acres, educating 300 people, engaging 300 volunteers, and monitoring 3 project sites.

Bayou Grande Living Shorelines (FL)

Keep Pensacola Beautiful, Inc.

Award Amount: \$29,888.36

Keep Pensacola Beautiful will partner with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Escambia County, Ecosystem Restoration Support Organization, Washington High School, and the University of Florida Escambia County to restore over 1 acre of oyster, salt marsh, fish and birding habitat at two locations in the Pensacola Bay System. Restoring these habitats is essential to a healthy watershed, providing nursery and foraging grounds for finfish, shellfish and wading birds, as well as filtering stormwater runoff and stabilizing the shoreline. Metrics include 125 tons of recycled oyster shells collected, 30 oyster reefs constructed and 5,000 people educated.

Restoration at Village Creek through the EcoScape Program (AL)

Birmingham-Southern College

Award Amount: \$28,750

Birmingham-Southern College (BSC), The City of Birmingham, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Southern Research Institute, J3 Urban Farm and others will design and install a bioswale at Village Creek in order to meet the location-specific need for storm water capture and filtration. The EcoScape will also provide educational value through signage provided about the trees, shrubs, herbs, and perennials and their medicinal, nutritional, and environmental value. Outcomes include 15 trees planted and 24,000 square feet of riparian buffer restored. In addition, the project will promote environmental education and community pride. The long-term goals of this project and associated projects described in the Village Creek Park Master Plan are intended to restore conditions for species diversity and overall habitat health in Village Creek.



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Meeker Creek Habitat Restoration (WA)

Pierce Conservation District

Award Amount: \$26,360.50

Pierce Conservation District will partner with the City of Puyallup, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, the Washington State Department of Ecology, and Friends of Clarks Creek to restore a 1,000 foot section of Meeker Creek. This project will improve water quality by reducing untreated stormwater loading to the creek, improve shading to the stream by restoring the riparian vegetation, enhance juvenile salmon rearing habitat by providing in-stream refugia, and enhance spawning habitat for salmon straying from the Clarks Creek hatchery run. Project activities include removing 2.3 acres of invasives, restoring 2.3 acres of land, educating 25 people, engaging 25 volunteers, planting 1,700 trees, and restoring 0.19 miles of riparian area.

Mississippi River Conservation Volunteers (MN)

Mississippi River Fund

Award Amount: \$27,975

The Mississippi River Fund will partner with the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area to remove invasive plants like buckthorn and reed canary grass, plant 1,400 floodplain tree species, and maintain and monitor three restoration sites within the national park. The natural flooding cycle in the upper Mississippi River has been altered causing a disruption to the regeneration of native floodplain tree species. This project will restore habitat and engage volunteers through community groups and educational volunteer experiences. Project activities include engaging 800 youth, engaging 3,000 community volunteers, and planting 1,400 trees.

Raising Dead Man's Hollow through Community Service (PA)

Allegheny Land Trust

Award Amount: \$38,825

Allegheny Land Trust will partner with Duquesne Light Company, the Hillman Foundation, Cycle Forward, Liberty Borough, Dead Man's Hollow Fellowship, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and Public Allies Pittsburgh to restore 440 acres of habitat at Dead Man's Hollow. This project will mobilize resources to implement the Dead Man's Hollow Trail Plan, restore the ecology of the area, and enhance the visitor experience. Project activities include monitoring 25 sites, restoring 440 acres, removing 434 acres of invasives, restoring 1.5 miles of streambank, planting 2,120 trees, educating 10,000 people, and engaging 500 volunteers.



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Centennial Creek Restoration (CA)
Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District
Award Amount: \$30,000

The Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District will partner with the City of Paso Robles, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, One Cool Earth, and Terra Verde to restore 0.72 acres of habitat. This project will achieve awareness through a personalized community based social marketing campaign and teach low impact design techniques to neighboring residents for successful, long-term stormwater maintenance in this densely populated urban area. Project activities include educating 200 people, stabilizing 400 feet of creek bank, removing 0.25 acres of invasive weeds, planting 25 trees, planting 250 shrubs, and removing 25 pounds of trash.

Wild Indigo Urban Naturalist Training (IL)
National Audubon Society, Inc.
Award Amount: \$29,394.04

The National Audubon Society will partner with Audubon Chicago Region, Eden Place Nature Center, the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Preserves of Cook County to undertake innovative community engagement and stewardship work on Chicago's South Side. This project will introduce underserved communities to the sand prairies, sand savannas, woodlands, dune and swale ecosystems, and migratory birds of the Calumet region, and promote habitat stewardship. Project activities include restoring 2 acres of land, removing 31 acres of invasives, planting 20 trees, and educating 1,320 community members.



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Jones Swamp Wetland Preserve Patton Restoration (FL)

Escambia County Board of County Commissioners

Award Amount: \$40,000

Escambia County Board of County Commissioners, the Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Group, Keep Pensacola Beautiful, the Bay Area Resource Council, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife, and the Muscogee Creek Indians will restore 35 acres of a riparian wetland buffer along Jones Creek, a 303(d) impaired waterbody. Rutting and ditching on 3 acres will restore the natural hydrological sheet flow of this threatened ecosystem. The restoration will improve the system's buffering capacity, slowing nutrients and sediment loading into the impaired waterway. Invasive plants will be reduced by 90%, opening up areas to replant native species and increasing plant and wildlife species diversity. Project will also increase public outdoor visitorship through outdoor educational programs, volunteer stewardship events, upgrading 2,500 linear feet of trail and adding resting/viewing areas and educational signage. The site will serve as an educational example of sustainable land management and the benefits of riparian ecosystems.

Urban Oases in New Haven, Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (CT)

National Audubon Society, Inc.

Award Amount: \$39,888.24

The National Audubon Society will partner with the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS Southern New England Coastal Program, the City of New Haven, Urban Resources Initiative, Yale Peabody Museum, Southern Connecticut State University, local neighborhood groups, and public schools to establish a network of habitat oases for migratory songbirds on private and public lands throughout New Haven. This project will educate students, their families, neighborhood groups, and the general public about the value of urban green spaces for watershed health and native wildlife, and demonstrate how to reduce pesticide use, create riparian buffer habitat, and provide quality habitat for Species of Concern. Project activities include creating 8 jobs, training 32 teachers, engaging 200 volunteers, removing 3.14 acres of invasives, engaging 800 students, educating 1,000 people, planting 206 trees, planting 916 shrubs, and restoring 3 acres of land.



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Coastal Dune Lakes Monitoring and Restoration in Walton County (FL)

Northwest Florida State College Foundation, Inc.

Award Amount: \$33,375.68

The Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance of Northwest Florida State College will partner with Florida LAKEWATCH, Topsail Hill Preserve State Park, Grayton Beach State Park, Dugas Family Foundation and Northwest Florida Water Management District to lead a community-based restoration initiative that builds upon previous monitoring and restoration success in south Walton County. Work will focus on Walton County's coastal dune lakes, which are designated by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory as globally rare and critically imperiled. Citizen-scientist volunteers will conduct 17 months of comprehensive water quality monitoring on the lakes and invasive plants will be treated across 140 acres. In addition, a strong educational component will increase capacity to foster a community of environmental stewardship for Walton County. Outreach will include coastal dune lakes tours for residents and visitors in addition to the distribution of print, web and social media materials.

Planting for the Future: Community Based Riparian Restoration (CA)

Mattole Restoration Council

Award Amount: \$29,900

The Mattole Restoration Council will partner with the Mattole Salmon Group, the Mattole Unified School District and the Bureau of Land Management to restore 1.7 acres of habitat along the Lower Mattole River. This project is part of a larger ongoing project in the Lower Mattole River and Estuary with the goal to restore riparian habitat and enhance in-stream habitat for steelhead, coho, and Chinook. This project will engage local K-12 students in a variety of activities including hands-on restoration and lessons about native plant ecology, seed collection, plant propagation, and riparian and estuarine restoration. Project activities include the collection of 100 lbs. of native seed, propagation of 15,000 plants in our local native plant nursery, plantings of all plants in the project area, invasive plant removal, and monitoring of these sites.



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West Valley City Stormwater Treatment/Wetland Restoration (UT)

Jordan River Commission

Award Amount: \$49,564

Jordan River Commission will partner with the Utah Conservation Corps, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, West Valley City, the University of Utah, Granite School District, Utah Water Watch, and the Utah Division of Water Quality to restore 2.6 acres of habitat. This project will improve habitat and water quality through environmental education and citizen science water quality testing. Project activities include engaging 20 students, educating 2,000 people, managing 2.6 acres of habitat, delivering 4 presentations, restoring 2.6 acres, removing 50 invasive trees, planting 100 trees, collecting 24 water quality monitoring samples, removing 1,000 pounds of trash, engaging 600 volunteers, planting 300 plants, monitoring 2 project sites, removing 2.6 acres of invasives, disbursing 250 pounds of native grass seed, and training 15 community volunteers.

Lake Sammamish Kokanee: A Model for Urban Stewardship (WA)

Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery

Award Amount: \$31,614.62

Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery will partner with the U.S. Forest Service, the Snoqualmie Tribe, Mountains to Sound Greenway, Trout Unlimited, the Clean Boating Foundation, and King County to support kokanee recovery and overall watershed health within the Lake Sammamish Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership. The project will contribute to riparian zone recovery through volunteer projects and educational programming. Project activities include engaging 300 volunteers, removing 20,000 linear feet of invasives, engaging 2,500 community members, engaging 700 students, installing 2,000 native plants, and maintaining 20 acres of riparian habitat.

Fountain Creek Watershed Fire Restoration Project (CO)

Rocky Mountain Field Institute, Inc.

Award Amount: \$30,000

The Rocky Mountain Field Institute will partner with the U.S. Forest Service, El Paso County, AmeriCorps, and local school and community groups to restore 216 acres of land in Fountain Creek Watershed. The water quality of Fountain Creek, home to three native fish species and an essential source of Colorado Springs' drinking water, is negatively impacted by sediment from forest fires. This project will construct hillslope stabilization structures to minimize erosion and sediment movement downstream and will seed native species to encourage native plant community establishment. Project activities include engaging 768 volunteers, removing 6 acres of invasives, and maintaining 0.05 miles of trail.



NESt (Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship) (PA)

National Audubon Society, Inc.

Award Amount: \$29,999

The National Audubon Society will partner with the USFWS John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, the Student Conservation Association, Outward Bound Philadelphia, Philadelphia Park and Recreation, and local schools to implement a multifaceted community engagement project. This project will implement hands-on programming at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, at schools, and in neighborhoods to increase the quality of habitat for birds and create better communities. Project activities include educating 8,000 people, restoring 150 acres, removing 3 acres of invasives, engaging 275 volunteers, and restoring 0.5 miles of riparian habitat.

Stream Stewards (MD)

Anacostia Watershed Society, Inc.

Award Amount: \$35,000

The Anacostia Watershed Society will partner with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and local schools in Prince George's County to implement low-impact development strategies in the Anacostia Watershed. 400 students will participate in a three-part meaningful watershed education experience through which they will learn about issues facing the Anacostia watershed, participate in a field study of the river, and implement low-impact development strategies (such as painting and installing rain barrels and creating rain gardens) at their schools. Project activities include preventing 1,375,796 gallons of water from entering the watershed, monitoring 2 project sites, educating 410 people, improving 2 acres of habitat, planting 150 trees, and engaging 410 volunteers.

Muir Beach Stewardship and Community Engagement (CA)

Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

Award Amount: \$37,500

The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy will partner with the National Park Service, Trout Unlimited, and local schools to plant native species and remove invasives in the 3.8 acre Redwood Creek Watershed. This project will provide a valuable, hands-on environmental education experience while also accomplishing critical habitat restoration tasks. Project activities include engaging 750 community members, engaging 100 youth, restoring 3.8 acres of habitat, and planting 3,000 native plants.



Habitat Enhancement for the Watercress Darter (AL)

Freshwater Land Trust

Award Amount: \$30,000

The Freshwater Land Trust (FWLT), City of Birmingham, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Geological Survey of Alabama (GSA), Birmingham-Southern College and the Birmingham Zoo will engage in on the ground restoration for the watercress darter at Roebuck Springs. The watercress darter is restricted to four spring areas in the Black Warrior River system including Roebuck Springs. In 2008, over 12,000 watercress darter were killed when the spring pool was improperly altered. This project will help repair damage to the habitat from that incident and increase education on-site and in the community to prevent another incident. Partners will work with the GSA to perform a robust study of the spring that will be used to develop a more comprehensive plan for the management of Roebuck Springs. The project will also remove part of an impervious parking lot that runs within feet of the spring run and install bioswales, which will help control stormwater runoff and increase available habitat for the watercress darter. In addition, Birmingham Zoo will install a kiosk to highlight the endangered and endemic species of Alabama, engaging a widespread and diverse audience.

Habitat Is Where It's At (LA)

University of New Orleans

Award Amount: \$42,188.08

The University of New Orleans will partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Friends of Louisiana Wildlife Refuges, the Student Conservation Association, the Louisiana Master Naturalist Program of Greater New Orleans, LSU Coastal Roots, and local schools to create 250 feet of living shoreline on Chef Menteur Pass and create ridge and swale habitat at the Coastal Education and Research Facility. The project will allow under-served urban students and volunteers will gain a better understanding of the value of the wetlands surrounding the urban center of New Orleans through hands-on activities. Project activities include engaging 200 volunteers, planting 415 trees, restoring 8.75 acres of land, and educating 800 people.



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The Butterfly Highway: Connecting People and Nature (NC)

The University of North Carolina Charlotte

Award Amount: \$33,673

The University of North Carolina Charlotte will partner with Sustain Charlotte, local neighborhood associations, Bette Rae Thomas community center, and McMillan Greenhouse to create a “Butterfly Highway” in low income urban residential areas. This highway will be comprised of sustainable perennial pollinator gardens that will provide a low cost way to green existing infrastructure in urban neighborhoods, parks and other pockets of under utilized green space. Project activities include educating 500 community members, engaging 400 volunteers, monitoring 40 sites, planting 100 trees, restoring 20 acres of habitat, and removing 5 acres of invasives.

Lake Katherine Pollinator Habitat Improvement Project (IL)

Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens

Award Amount: \$34,004

The Lake Katherine Nature Center will partner with the City of Palos Heights, Trinity Christian College, Notebaert Nature Museum, the Palos Area Chamber of Commerce, the Lake Katherine Natural Resources Management Committee, and local schools to restore 0.33 acres of degraded wetland, prairie, and forest area around Lake Katherine. The project will directly improve habitat and environmental quality at the site, provide hands-on opportunities for involvement in environmental stewardship at Lake Katherine as well as educate visitors, students, and the surrounding communities about restoration at the park. Project activities include monitoring 3 project sites, removing 0.33 acres of invasives, educating 100,605 people, engaging 515 volunteers, and planting 12 trees.

South Peachtree Creek and Veterans Hospital Restoration (GA)

Trees Atlanta, Inc.

Award Amount: \$26,545

Trees Atlanta will partner with the Alcoa Foundation, the Atlanta VA Medical Center, DeKalb County Natural Resources Management Office, the Home Depot Foundation and South Fork Conservancy to restore the 2 acre streambank along the portion of South Peachtree Creek that runs adjacent to the Atlanta Veterans Affairs Medical Center. This project will stabilize the streambank, control erosion, restore wildlife habitat and provide controlled access to the area. Project activities include removing 2 acres of invasives, educating 5,500 people, planting 75 trees, engaging 440 volunteers, planting 1,000 stakes, repairing two significantly eroded drainage outfalls and adding a mulch path.



Canoeing For Clean Water, Charles River (MA)-II
Charles River Watershed Association

Award Amount: \$30,746

The Charles River Watershed Association will partner with the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, Citizens Alliance for Noxious weed Eradication, the Trustees of Reservations Yough Conservation Corps, the Village Bank, the Foundation for Metrowest, and the City of Waltham to remove invasive water chestnut choking the historic Charles River Lakes District. The infestation has altered water chemistry and habitat, and impeded recreation in this heavily-used area. The project will engage citizens of all ages in habitat restoration, mobilizing 700 volunteers in canoes to hand pull weeds, and educate the community about the impacts of invasive species and nutrient pollution on aquatic ecosystems. Project activities include removing 35 acres of invasives, educating 780 community members, engaging 700 volunteers, and monitoring 2 project sites.

Cay Creek Wetland Demonstration Landscape: A Coastal Model (GA)
Coastal WildScapes

Award Amount: \$39,978

Coastal WildScapes will partner with City of Midway, Verdant Entreprises, the Orianne Society, Georgia Department of Natural Resources and others to create an education/outreach demonstration project for learning, replicating and increasing the scale of wetlands restoration and enhancement to increase coastal resiliency. Project will leverage existing park infrastructure at Cay Creek Wetland Park to provide educational outreach that will improve the understanding of wetland natural communities and functions, and provide practical guidelines for sustaining wetland functions, habitats and wildlife in private and community landscapes along the coast of Georgia. The project will provide a tangible example of good stewardship for the difficult transition from natural communities to built landscapes, serve as a creative, protective buffer, and create an outdoor classroom illustrating the influence of human actions on natural wetlands.

Wolf River Greenway Restoration III (TN)
Wolf River Conservancy, Inc.

Award Amount: \$30,000

Wolf River Conservancy will partner with Shelby County Schools, the Arkwings Foundation, and the city of Memphis Park Services to engage students and volunteers in the removal of 15 acres of invasives. This project will provide an environmental stewardship education program for at least 5 schools. Project activities include removing 15 acres of invasives, educating 500 people, planting 3,000 trees, engaging 700 volunteers, and engaging 500 students.



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Restore Wetland into Nature Park for Environmental Education (ID)

Nez Perce Tribe, Water Resources Division

Award Amount: \$44,433.58

The Nez Perce Tribe will partner with Idaho Fish and Game, the University of Idaho, and the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute to restore 30 acres of wetland on the south edge of the city of Lapwai. The wetlands are heavily impacted by 18 species of noxious weeds and occasional trash dumping. This project will revegetate riparian buffers to provide shade to the streams, resulting in cooler water temperatures, and improve water quality and habitat to benefit endangered salmon and other fish used for subsistence fishing. Project activities include removing 7.5 acres of invasives, restoring 1.3 miles of streambank, planting 150 trees, planting 300 shrubs, educating 950 community members, engaging 76 volunteers, removing 1,000 pounds of trash, building 2,800 feet of trail, and installing 15 nest boxes.

Lower Meramec Hands-On Stewardship & Watershed Education (MO)

The Open Space Council for the St. Louis Region

Award Amount: \$25,000

The Open Space Council for the St. Louis Region will partner with St. Louis University, the Nature Conservancy, the Missouri Department of Conservation, and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment to restore 500 miles of river on the Meramec, Big, Courtois, Bourbese and Huzzah Rivers. Data will be collected and analyzed from project sites throughout the Lower Meramec Watershed. Project activities include restoring 500 miles of river, monitoring 100 sites, engaging 2,000 volunteers, and educating 600,000 people.

Reforestation the Red (ND)

River Keepers

Award Amount: \$38,522

River Keepers will partner with the City of Fargo, the City of Moorhead, North Dakota State University, and local schools to revitalize 30 acres of urban riparian forest in Fargo, ND and Moorhead, MN. Because of recent flood mitigation efforts, this area has gained over 300 acres of degraded riparian land from the removal of over 325 riverfront homes. This project will remove invasive plants, prepare land for planting, and plant and maintain native shrubs and trees on public land in the urban riparian forest. Project activities include engaging 1,500 volunteers, planting 2,000 trees, and restoring 30 acres of habitat.



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Making Space for Monarchs and Students in Phoenix (AZ)

University of Arizona Board of Regents

Award Amount: \$29,209.40

The University of Arizona Board of Regents will partner with Arizona Project WET (APW), the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department (CPRD) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to restore 595 acres of wetlands and riparian habitat along the Salt River. This project will provide 1,320 students with the opportunity to participate in the Water Investigations Program, a year-long study of water that includes three units of study: Water Resources and Supply, Water Use, and Water in the Environment. Project activities include restoring 4.5 acres of habitat, recruiting 1,495 volunteers, installing irrigation lines, planting 130 trees, installing 100 feet of fencing, and planting 185 shrubs.

Genetta Watershed Restoration and Community Education (AL)

City of Montgomery

Award Amount: \$29,450

The City of Montgomery, Alabama Clean Water Partnership (ACWP), Auburn University, Montgomery Clean City Commission (MCCC) and 2D Studio will add features to Genetta Watershed at Genetta Park by planting 15 trees and removing invasive species and debris on 2.5 acres in the wetland. The project will engage community partners by monthly cleanups of litter hot spots found in areas with high vacancy rates organized by MCCC. Construction now underway at Genetta Park will make it a key state demonstration site of green infrastructure and a constructed wetland. 2DStudio will design and install park signage to explain environmental features. Educational initiatives will include a fall event at the park to engage 6 fifth grade classrooms and 8 high school biology classes. Participating teachers will receive in-service training and water quality curricula to reinforce concepts. Adult residents will be trained in water quality principals and supportive community actions. The city will promote these activities through social media and creation of a Genetta Park website.



Escalante Watershed Restoration–Woody Invasive Control (UT)

Grand Staircase Escalante Partners

Award Amount: \$28,160

Grand Staircase Escalante Partners will partner with Boulder Community Alliance, Utah Conservation Corps, and the Walton Family Foundation to assist in removing invasive Russian olive from 206 acres on public lands. This project is part of a watershed wide restoration effort to increase the number of sustainable, healthy riparian and floodplain communities in the Escalante Watershed. This project will expose young adults to the natural world and to career opportunities in the conservation field. Project activities include monitoring 10 project sites, restoring 16 miles of riparian habitat, creating 66 jobs, removing 3,702 acres of invasives, educating 120 people, and engaging 60 volunteers.

Greening Wilson Elementary School District Project (AZ)

City of Phoenix

Award Amount: \$30,000

The City of Phoenix will partner with Arizona State University and the Wilson School District to implement a neighborhood green infrastructure project and start the process of reshaping the landscape in one of Phoenix's more barren and challenging areas. Phoenix faces complex environmental challenges including a twenty-year drought, a significant urban heat island and the loss of over 90% of its riparian habitat. The project will educate residents about the importance of this riparian habitat and provide them with the knowledge and tools to reintegrate desert riparian habitats back into their neighborhoods. Project activities include planting 15 trees, planting 75 shrubs, restoring 600 linear feet of riparian area, removing 600 linear feet of invasive species, and removing 30 bags of trash.

Urban Watershed Restoration at Green Valley Nature Preserve (IL)

River Action, Inc.

Award Amount: \$50,000

River Action will partner with the Upper Mississippi Studies Center, Augustana College, Black Hawk College, River Action, the Community Foundation, the Moline Foundation, and the City of Moline to restore 250 acres of a critically important urban watershed in the City of Moline. This project will improve water-quality and wildlife habitat throughout the watershed. Project activities include removing 218 acres of invasives, educating 2,000 people, engaging 150 volunteers, constructing a 1.5 mile trail, restoring 20 acres of prairie, and creating 7 acres of wetlands with adjacent wet prairie.



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Restoring the Milwaukee River Watershed (WI)

Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, Inc.

Award Amount: \$37,324

The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust will partner with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Workforce Development, AmeriCorps, and the Great Lakes Ecological Services to improve the water quality, habitat, and biodiversity within the Milwaukee River Watershed. This project is critical to the health of the downstream reaches of the Milwaukee River and subsequently Lake Michigan, and will assess and improve the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust's management of urban habitats within in the Milwaukee River Watershed. Project activities include removing 560 acres of invasives, planting 800 trees, monitoring 9 project sites, engaging 100 volunteers, restoring 560 acres, restoring 0.5 miles of riparian habitat, educating 75 people, and planting 15 acres of native seeds.

Urban Forest Restoration in I.G. Levy Park (MS)

City of Pascagoula, Mississippi

Award Amount: \$25,000.65

The City of Pascagoula will partner with the Pascagoula River Audubon Center, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Jackson County Campus (MGCCC), William Colmer Middle School, Kiwanis Club of Pascagoula, Church of the Rock, and Mississippi Urban Forestry Commission (MUFC) to restore 1 acre of urban forest, install two rain gardens, and remove one acre of invasive plant species. Human sprawl has instigated the decline of urban forests, limiting the habitat available for birds and other wildlife. Partners and volunteers will mitigate the threats caused by urbanization by removing invasive species and re-planting native species with wildlife value. Projected metrics include six restoration sessions, two education lectures for youth, and the recruitment of over 80 volunteers.

River Cane Restoration Project (GA)

South River Watershed Alliance

Award Amount: \$34,400

The South River Watershed Alliance will partner with the DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management, Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance, Arabia Mountain High School, and Panola Mountain State Park to restore 10 acres of river buffer along the South River. Soil erosion and sedimentation caused by periods of heavy rain are responsible for habitat loss for fish and other aquatic life along sections of the river. Partners and volunteers will address this degradation by reintroducing river cane, a native species, removing privet, an invasive species, and engaging in targeted watershed education and outreach. Metrics include 10 acres restored, 65 volunteers engaged, and 150 students involved.



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Mill Creek Urban Stream and Outdoor Classroom Restoration (AL)

Auburn University

Award Amount: \$39,988.10

Auburn University, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Goodwyn Mills and Cawood, the City of Phenix City, Phenix City Public Schools, Central High School, Mill Creek Project, Chattahoochee RiverWarden, Alabama Water Watch, and the Whitewater Education Committee will restore 400 linear feet of Mill Creek and an outdoor classroom on the Phenix City Intermediate School campus. Intense urbanization in the area has led to steep stream banks, inaccessibility to the stream, and subsequent downstream sedimentation problems in Mill Creek, especially on this campus. A constructed stormwater wetland will help manage runoff leaving the site, further protecting the restoration effort to prevent stormwater “blow outs.” Deliverables include: removing invasive exotics and replanting native streamside vegetation, redirecting stream flow using instream structures and creating scour pools for habitat, reconnecting Mill Creek to a floodplain to dissipate energy, building and planting a stormwater wetland, and renovating the outdoor classroom.

Gladstone Parks Habitat, Education and Job Readiness Project (OR)

Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership

Award Amount: \$41,536.50

The Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership will partner with Wilderness International, the City of Gladstone, Clackamas County Juvenile Justice Department, and local elementary schools to restore 4 acres of habitat at Meldrum Bar Park and Cross Park. This project will educate students and at-risk teens about native habitat restoration while allowing them to participate in a service-learning project such as invasive plant removal or native plant installation. Project activities include removing 3 acres of invasives, educating 648 people, restoring 4 acres of land, engaging 800 volunteers, planting 1,500 shrubs, and providing 48 at-risk teens with life and job skills training.



San Francisco Bay Community-based Restoration and Education (CA)

Save The Bay

Award Amount: \$30,000

Save the Bay will partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, REI, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, East Palo Alto Charter School, and Google to restore 16 acres of habitat along the San Francisco Bay. Many Bay Area shoreline communities consist of low income neighborhoods that are disproportionately exposed to poor water quality, toxic trash and risk of flooding due to their location and rising sea levels. The increase in wetland habitat from this project will improve the ability of marshes to increase coastal resiliency, expand holding capacity during flood events, re-introduce and re-establish native plant species, control non-native and invasive plant species, and increase native plant biodiversity and higher quality Bay-wide tidal marsh habitat. Project activities include engaging 4,500 volunteers, educating 2,000 students, planting 40,000 seedlings, and removing 4,000 pounds of trash.

Boone Wetland and Native Plant Restoration Project (KY)

Morehead State University

Award Amount: \$22,396.99

Morehead State University will partner with the City of Morehead, Rowan County Fiscal Court, and local schools to re-establish the Triplett Creek riparian wetlands. Documented pollutants in the Triplett Creek watershed include pathogens, nutrients, organic enrichments/low dissolved oxygen and siltation. The reestablishment of riparian zones and other green infrastructure is listed as a top implementation priority within the watershed. Project activities include engaging 110 volunteers, restoring 2 acres of habitat, monitoring 3 project sites, and educating 95 people.

Ballona Creek Watershed Restoration (CA)

Los Angeles Audubon Society

Award Amount: \$39,940

The Los Angeles Audubon Society will partner with the LA Unified School District and California State Parks to restore 9.6 acres of wetland in the Baldwin Hills area. This is one of the largest remaining open spaces in the Los Angeles Basin, the largest intact portion of Coastal Sage Scrub in the Los Angeles Basin, and the only remaining natural habitat in the middle portion of the Ballona Creek Watershed. This project aims to restore native habitat vital to sustaining healthy ecosystems for birds, wildlife and humans. Project activities include planting 1,662 plants, engaging 500 volunteers, planting 80 trees, and restoring 100 linear feet of habitat



Project ACORN (TX)
Northside Education Foundation
Award Amount: \$25,175

The Northside Education Foundation will partner with the Northside Independent School District, Our Lady of the Lake University, Texas A&M Forestry Service, Alamo-Area Master Naturalists, San Antonio Botanical Garden, and San Antonio River Authority to implement biodiversity improvement projects along San Antonio's public creekway park system. In 2011, San Antonio lost approximately 10% of its tree population due to historic drought conditions. This project will engage community members in Community Biodiversity Improvement Events to plant and maintain native trees and vegetation at five sites. Project activities include engaging 200 volunteers, removing 5 acres of invasives, educating 700 people, removing 50 pounds of trash, planting 300 trees, planting 600 native plants, planting 900 native trees, and engaging 2,500 community members.

Japanese Knotweed Control in the Salmon Creek Watershed (WA)
Clark Public Utilities
Award Amount: \$35,848

Clark Public Utilities will partner with Clark County Environmental Services, the Salmon Creek Watershed Council, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Washington Department of Natural Resources to survey 15 stream miles along Cougar Creek, Woodin Creek, and lower Salmon Creek. Together these are the most degraded and densely populated areas in the Salmon Creek watershed. This project will remove knotweed, essential to protecting native riparian habitat, and educate landowners about knotweed eradication. Project activities include restoring 1,000 feet of streambank, planting 2,200 trees, monitoring 175 sites, treating 75 acres of knotweed, surveying 15 stream miles, engaging 150 volunteers, educating 1,500 landowners, and hosting 6 workshops and presentations.



Houston: Wild Urban Connections (TX)

Houston Wilderness

Award Amount: \$50,000

Houston Wilderness will partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Student Conservation Association, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD), the Woods Project, and the Buffalo Bayou Partnership to create opportunities for under-served urban residents to find, value and care for nature in their communities. This project will engage community members through community stewardship days and repeated exposure to National Wildlife Refuges through summer HPARD programs and the Woods Project. Project activities include educating 5,380 people, engaging 50 volunteers, training 10 staff members, and creating 2 jobs.

Community Greening and Restoration Project (CO)

Environmental Learning for Kids

Award Amount: \$30,000

Environmental Learning for Kids will partner with, Denver Parks and Recreation, Denver Public Works, and Denver Public Schools to redevelop a degraded detention pond in an underserved Denver neighborhood into a destination natural area. This project will educate the community about the sources, fate, and threats to the water their communities depend on. Project activities include removing 1 acre of invasives, educating 265 community members, planting 10 trees, engaging 150 volunteers, removing 30 pounds of trash, and educating 200 students.