



# NFWF

## 2015 Five Star and Urban Waters Awards

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is pleased to announce the 2015 ***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 & Electric Company and Bank of America.

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.

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### **Pascagoula River Audubon Marsh Mitigation (MS) Jackson County Board of Supervisors**

Jackson County Board of Supervisors and partners will develop and provide first-hand educational experiences to public and private land managers about practical tidal wetland mitigation methods and practices. The project will also provide opportunities for engagement and interaction among local, state, and federal natural resource agency partners that together will direct large-scale marsh restoration. Products developed include a printed manual that highlights the key elements of tidal marsh restoration and suggested means of monitoring success, as well as interpretive signage to support outreach and citizen engagement. Partners include Pascagoula River Audubon Center, City of Moss Point, The Nature Conservancy, and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

### **Wetland Stewardship in the Bronx (NY) Friends of Van Cortlandt Park**

Friends of Van Cortlandt Park will partner with GrowNYC, Manhattan College, NYC Parks, and USGS to immerse youth and community members in practical projects that respond to locally identified priorities in wetland restoration and watershed maintenance. The overall goals for this project are to develop a baseline for the current status of the wetlands in Van Cortlandt Park, implement an ongoing wetland restoration curriculum with local schools, implement a monthly Wetland Restoration Crew and seasonal wetland tours for the general public, study the impacts of various wetland restoration techniques on the health of the wetlands, and identify potential sites for green infrastructure. This project will increase the amount of water being absorbed by the wetlands therefore reducing the amount entering the sewers. Sources of potential pollution of the wetlands will be determined and methods will be tested to try to reduce the amount of pollution entering from these sources, including suggesting sites for green infrastructure. Restoration projects



will remove non-native invasive plants and replace them with native plants that are healthier for the entire ecosystem. Outcomes will include planting 400 trees, engaging 400 volunteers, and restoring 2 acres of wetland habitat.

**Urban Ecology Center Implementation of the Strategic Urban Forestry Plan in the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum (WI)**  
**Urban Ecology Center, Inc.**

Urban Ecology Center will partner with New Horizons Charter School, Milwaukee Riverkeeper, and local volunteer groups to maintain the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum as an urban oasis with diverse native Wisconsin plant communities. The Arboretum faces threats from emerald ash borer (EAB) and invasive species such as lesser celandine and garlic mustard. Outcomes will include the removal of 400 ash trees of 5-16cm diameter at breast height in the Arboretum by February 2016; land restoration work, including invasive species removal, along one mile of riparian shoreline; strategic planting of native Wisconsin trees; increased educational awareness of EAB among Center staff, project partners, and the public at large; increased educational awareness on sustainable land stewardship practices; and improved Arboretum habitats.

**Student-led Coastal and Estuarine Restoration in the Choctawhatchee Watershed (FL)**  
**Northwest Florida State College Foundation, Inc.**

The Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA) will spearhead a student-led restoration initiative that combines on-the-ground, community-based habitat restoration with educational outreach tools to achieve maximum watershed benefits. CBA will engage 3,000 K-12 students in Okaloosa and Walton School Districts through its hands-on science education programs, Grasses in Classes (GIC) and Dunes in Schools (DIS). After receiving educational lessons throughout the school year, students will replant 1.2 acres of salt marsh habitat and restore 1.3 acre of dune habitat. Students in both programs will produce educational tools that will reach at least 310,000 citizens. Partners include Okaloosa County Schools, Walton County Schools, the Dugas Family Foundation, Northwest Florida Water Management District and Live Oak Production Company.

**Habitat Restoration and Citizen Science Based Bird-Building Collision Monitoring and Reduction in Pittsburgh (PA)**  
**Carnegie Institute**

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History will partner with the American Bird Conservancy, National Aviary, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Allegheny Land Trust, and Animal Rescue League to accelerate bird conservation in western Pennsylvania and serve as a



model of cooperative effort and cross-training in bird conservation. The partnership will address two of the greatest threats to bird conservation: habitat loss and bird-building collisions. This project will restore mixed-hardwoods forests in a 434-acre suburban conservation area in McKeesport, PA, Dead Man's Hollow Conservation Area (DMH). At least 50 volunteers will plant 300 native seedlings and remove 14 invasive plant species identified in DMH management plan as posing a significant threat to native habitats. The project will also assist homeowners with backyard habitat improvement at 100 homes and the installation of innovative window treatments to reduce bird-window collisions at 200 homes. Partners will engage citizens to monitor bird-building collisions throughout Allegheny County and at 100 residential homes. The partnership will host multiple Centennial Migratory Bird Treaty Celebrations culminating with an Urban Bird Treaty for Pittsburgh.

### **Chattahoochee River Wetland Restoration and Watershed Education Program at the Chattahoochee Nature Center (GA) Chattahoochee Nature Center**

The Chattahoochee Nature Center and partners will restore 4 acres of wetlands along the banks of the Chattahoochee River and create hands-on educational learning opportunities and programs for students aged Kindergarten through college. In addition, the program will create testing plots to monitor and demonstrate best practices as partners remove invasive species and re-plant over 2,500 native plants in an environmentally sensitive area. Educational signage will provide self-guided educational opportunities regarding the importance of proper wetlands management for water quality. Partners include Kennesaw State University, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, City of Roswell, Wilderness Inquiry and State Botanical Gardens.

### **Educating Communities Through Riparian Restoration at Red Mountain Park (AL) The Red Mountain Park Fund, Inc.**

The Red Mountain Park Fund and partners will restore riparian habitat on 15 acres at Red Mountain Park, one of the largest urban green spaces in the state, including two tributary streams and an ephemeral wetland. The project will restore three vital habitats on the mountain, establish a long-term volunteer base, and promote a home restoration initiative led by partnering organizations. Over 2,000 visitors and volunteers will be engaged through a community-based approach that teaches replicable skills and promotes awareness of Birmingham's watersheds. Partners include Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Girl Scout Troop 93, the City of Birmingham and Birmingham Universities.



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### **Bringing the Prairie Back to Houston (TX) Houston Wilderness**

Houston Wilderness will partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Trees for Houston, Katy Prairie Conservancy, Houston Audubon, and Houston Museum of Fine Arts to create a model native prairie demonstration project on two City Parks that will also serve as a source for a native seed bank. This project will replace the use of exotic grasses with native grasses and wildflowers for the benefit of pollinators, migratory birds, and resident/migratory species. The partnership will engage the public in habitat restoration, environmental education and outreach.

### **Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield Riparian Restoration (CO) Denver Botanic Gardens Inc.**

Denver Botanic Gardens will partner with Audubon Society of Denver, Jefferson County, and local officials, volunteers and landowners to restore 5.5 acres of degraded riparian habitat containing the creek channel, functional floodplain, riparian cottonwood regeneration, and forest understory along Deer Creek, which bisects the main Chatfield property. The restoration will raise the creek bed up using a series of boulder steps and will include riffle structures, composed of cobble and boulders, to create natural, stable riffle/pool sequences in the reach upstream of the boulder steps. The riffle/pool sequences dissipate energy and provide habitat for fish and macroinvertebrates. Education and outreach activities will include an interpretive trail at the restoration site to guide visitors through the restoration process, workshops in partnership with the Audubon Society of Greater Denver, and interpretation in the Gardens' Science Pyramid, which reaches an estimated 120,000 each year at the Gardens' urban location. Wildlands Restoration Volunteers will oversee the involvement of underserved youth in restoration activities.

### **Empowering Anchorage's Youth through Outdoor Leadership Development (AK) Alaska Geographic Association**

Alaska Geographic Association will partner with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage schools, Boys and Girls Club, the Municipality of Anchorage, the State Department of Fish and Game, Friends of Alaska Refuges, and Anchorage Waterways Council to connect under-represented urban populations with both their wild backyard (Anchorage) and several Refuges (Arctic, Kanuti, Togiak, and Kenai). This project will engage urban youth in wetland explorations, habitat restoration, and mentorship opportunities. Expected outcomes include 30 miles of riparian habitat restored, water quality monitoring, and 300 volunteers engaged.



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## **Urban Bird Treaty Revival: Better for Birds, Habitat, and People (MN) National Audubon Society, Inc.**

National Audubon Society will partner with the City of St. Paul, Conservation Corps of Minnesota, Minnesota Valley Trust, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and Audubon Minnesota to create an environmentally-aware citizenry dedicated to transforming the places they live and work into habitats where birds thrive. Birds are an important part of a healthy, functioning ecosystem. This project will mobilize citizens and public officials to implement sound conservation practices that make Minnesota communities healthier for birds. The partnership will implement a successful recognition program (Bird City Wisconsin) into Minnesota to educate municipal leaders and engage citizens in bird conservation, engage at-risk youth to restore three acres by removing invasive plants and restoring an array of beneficial native species, and supply under-served youth organizations with birding supplies, helping them discover birds in their community and introducing them to Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

## **School Gardens: Strengthening Conservation and Education in North Texas REAL School Gardens**

REAL School Gardens will partner with local school districts, Rain Ranchers, and the United Way of Dallas to establish three school-based learning gardens in North Texas. Each garden will be designed and constructed to meet the particular needs and conservation priorities for the physical school campus as well as the school's instructional and community engagement needs. Long-term outcomes include establishing diverse plant and wildlife habitat to support native plant and animal habitat; conservation of more than 1,600 gallons of rainwater annually to promote responsible garden maintenance and wise resource stewardship; and engaging thousands of children in the active use of gardens for learning about a range of topics including native plants, organic vegetable cultivation, and water conservation, preparing them to become the next generation of environmental stewards.

## **Cleaner. River. Faster. Bi-state Interpretive Clean Water Trail (ID, WA) University of Idaho**

The University of Idaho will partner with North Idaho College, city and county officials, and local non-profit organizations to treat stormwater pollution with native plant raingardens and wetland swales. 21 partners along 60 miles of Lake Coeur d'Alene and the Spokane River in two states will provide coordinated, impactful clean water educational programming. This project will plant, construct, and/or enhance stormwater treatment wetland/bioinfiltration swales, raingardens, and riparian buffers as demonstration projects in highly visible areas along the corridor to demonstrate the beauty, usefulness, and ecosystem services they provide. At least 12 regionally coordinated interpretive signs describing the importance of native plants and stormwater treatment processes will be



installed. The partners will construct a universally accessible outdoor classroom adjacent to a stormwater swale, the Centennial Trail, and the two College campuses. Area high school and North Idaho College students will be engaged in service-learning planting/water quality research projects as STEM workforce development.

**Save Sabino Creek: Community Education and Restoration (AZ)  
Watershed Management Group, Inc.**

Watershed Management Group will partner with American Rivers, Community Water Coalition, University of Arizona, Pima County Flood Control, and the Western Institute of Leadership Development will restore 4 acres of habitat and surface flow to Sabino Creek. Through a long-term, multi-faceted program, Watershed Management Group will incorporate educational programming with on-the-ground restoration efforts. Project activities will include organizing presentations and events to engage residents, businesses, and interest groups; facilitating a stakeholder group to create a restoration plan; implementing 7 watershed restoration projects in the targeted area through educational workshops; and launching educational programming with 4 high schools and the greater community to inspire individual action. Outcomes will include the development of a restoration plan through a stakeholder process that will serve as a concrete guide for long-term restoration programming, the restoration of 4 acres of habitat in the target shallow groundwater area that will serve as demonstration sites for future restoration and community engagement, and the engagement of more than 2,000 local residents in educational efforts to Save Sabino Creek.

**Chicago Urban Treaty Alliance (IL)  
Forest Preserve District of Cook County**

Forest Preserve District of Cook County will partner with local land managers, scientists and volunteers to improve migratory landbird habitat at two critical locations: LaBagh Forest Preserve on the north side of Chicago and Burnham Greenway on the south side of Chicago. LaBagh Woods is a key stopover site and is recognized as an important refuge for migrating birds, but invasive shrubs, as well as the loss of trees to Emerald Ash Borer, threaten this site. 22 acres of habitat will be improved by replacing invasive plants with clumps of native shrubs and small trees along the banks of the Chicago River. This same restoration activity will be conducted on 16 acres at the Chicago Park District's Burnham Wildlife Corridor, a site designated as an Important Bird Area and one of Illinois' best places for migratory landbirds. An additional two acres will be improved by enhancing three former makeover sites in nearby neighborhoods on Chicago's South Side. This project will develop a citizen science protocol for monitoring migratory birds that can be used to inform adaptive management practices. Community outreach and education efforts will promote healthy bird habitat to 830 people, and the partners will engage 143



volunteers to participate in restoration workdays, bird monitoring activities, and becoming leaders for bird walks and other nature field trips.

**Urban Bird Conservation Project (TX)  
City of McAllen**

The City of McAllen will partner with local volunteers and nonprofit groups to conserve the Tamaulipan Brushland ecosystem, largely supported by the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo watershed. Approximately 95 percent of the native vegetation in the region has disappeared and been significantly altered due to agriculture and urban development. The project will restore 3.75 acres of field area mixed with Texas Ebony and Mesquite back into a native forest through the planting of 100 trees and 600 shrubs, the provision of equipment for an International Migratory Bird Day celebration, binoculars for community participants during programming, printing of native plant brochures aimed to raise awareness amongst local citizens, and the purchase of materials to create Nature Discovery backpacks to be used at area recreation and nature centers.

**Reclaiming the Mystic: Community Invasive Water Chestnut Removal on the Mystic River (MA)  
Mystic River Watershed Association, Inc.**

The Mystic River Watershed Association will partner with 11 groups including the Cities of Medford and Somerville, local yacht clubs, and Friends of the Mystic River to eradicate the water chestnut from the Mystic River. The chestnut now covers 35 acres of the river with impacts on native vegetation, aesthetics and navigation. 2,000 volunteers will be recruited to assist with handpulling events. The events include a safety and technique training, handpulling by canoes, transport to dumpsters and a celebratory lunch at the end. In addition to the handpulling and mechanical removal of water chestnut, MyRWA will complete a restoration assessment of stream banks of the Mystic River to restore native plants, reduce erosion and engage more people on shore.

**Enhancing Nature and Community Through Education and Environmental Monitoring in San Joaquin County (CA)  
Waldo Holt San Joaquin Wildlife Conservancy**

Waldo Holt San Joaquin Wildlife Conservancy will partner with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, local friends groups, local schools, and the Boy Scouts to engage local students in river monitoring and restoration activities. This project will enable under-served students to provide useful data on water quality and on restoration actions. The first consistent, high quality data on the Calaveras River will be made accessible to the public and to regulators, and students will learn skills to help them in school and in future careers. The Calaveras



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River Appreciation Day will educate students more fully about the ecology of riparian forests and riverine systems, and in particular, the life cycle of threatened Central Valley Steelhead Trout. Expected outcomes include the removal of invasive weeds from 8.9 acres of habitat, engagement of 30 volunteers, outreach to 270 students, and monitoring of 15 sites.

### **Grown In LA: Los Angeles River Native Plant and Nursery Network (CA) Council for Watershed Health**

Council for Watershed Health will partner with the City of Los Angeles, California State Parks, the Nature Conservancy, Audubon, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, North East Trees, and the Council for Watershed Health to establish a network of six pilot teaching and research native plant nurseries on vacant and underutilized park land in disadvantaged communities as one part of a pipeline of integrated activities from seed to plant. This project will address the critical shortage of native plants needed for local ecosystem restoration projects throughout the Los Angeles River's 834 square-mile watershed. The nurseries will provide a viable source of locally-collected, locally-grown native plants, and the program's educational outreach and training components will serve as a model for advancing public and private support of community-based conservation projects, job creation, and stimulate community economic development. Project outcomes will include establishing 6 nurseries, growing 20 species of plants native to the Los Angeles River Watershed, delivering green vocational training for 48,000 people, and providing experiential STEM education for 40 schools and youth organizations.

### **DC Partnership for Water Quality and Urban Bird Education Earth Conservation Corps**

Earth Conservation Corps will partner with Environment for the Americas, DC Audubon, Brent Elementary School, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, City Wilderness project, and Anacostia Watershed Society will engage the community and expand the Anacostia river's degraded wetlands with native plants. The partnership will install protective goose fencing around 8,500 square feet of natural shore line, train young people on important workforce development through water quality sampling, and create critical habitat through the chimney swift program and wood duck box monitoring. This project will engage more than 60 students in conservation education through nature walks, live bird of prey demonstrations and osprey and eagle tracking programs and create a meaningful and dynamic centennial celebration of the Urban Bird Treaty in 2016.



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## **Who's Home on the Confluence? (GA)**

### **The South Fork Conservancy, Inc.**

The South Fork Conservancy will partner with Park Pride, Trees Atlanta, the Atlanta Audubon Society, Atlanta Botanical Garden, the Georgia Aquarium, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to provide youth employment and promote community education and recreational enjoyment of the urban watershed. The partnership will bring scientists and trained volunteers together to establish protocols for monitoring and recording population data on birds, fish, frogs and invertebrates at the Confluence. The data will be shared through newsletters, field trips, and school and youth group activities, increasing awareness and support for conservation and improved biodiversity along the creek. Expected outcomes include the engagement of at least 15 volunteers.

## **Oak Woodland and Coastal Scrub Restoration on Yerba Buena Island (CA)**

### **City and County of San Francisco**

City and County of San Francisco will partner with Golden Gate Audubon Society, the Yerba Buena Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, the Treasure Island Development Authority, the Treasure Island Museum Association, the Treasure Island Homeless Development Initiative, and San Francisco Environment Green Jobs to remove invasive plant species, particularly the ehrharta, to diversify the oak woodland understory and prevent the loss of the fiesta flower. The native plant communities of Yerba Buena Island are under duress from invasive plants, such as South African rice grass and Cape ivy. Native plants such as the oak woodland and adjacent coastal scrub provide important habitat for resident and migratory birds. Oak woodland is also the habitat for the fiesta flower, which does not grow anywhere else in San Francisco County. This project will install interpretive signage to education residents of the island about the unique natural resources and initiate a locally-based community stewardship project, involving the residents of the island. Expected outcomes from this project include engaging 20 community volunteers and removing 5 acres of native plants.

## **Sustainable Collierville Project (TN)**

### **Town of Collierville, Tennessee**

The Town of Collierville will partner with Wolf River Conservancy, local schools, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and the Boy Scouts to teach community members the importance of water quality and preserving natural habitat through hands-on activities and workshops. The partnership will create schoolyard habitats, conduct habitat and bird counts, and perform water quality testing. Along the Nonconnah Creek Greenway, local scout troops will conduct stream clean-up and restoration activities including the removal of invasive species, trash/debris removal, planting native species, and constructing wildlife and bird housing. W.C. Johnson Park will



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be the site for a large volunteer event hosted by the Town of Collierville and Wolf River Conservancy. Activities will include trash/debris removal, reestablishing native vegetation at Wolf River Overlook, and constructing wildlife and bird housing. Green infrastructure workshops will also be provided at no cost to attendees. Participants will be educated on the benefits of these best management practices (BMPs) and how to utilize them at their homes and in their neighborhoods. Each workshop will include the construction of a rain garden or individual rain barrels. Expected outcomes include restoring 480 acres of wetland habitat and educating 8,000 community members.

### **A Resilient Community Transformation: Supporting Watershed Protection and Walkability through the Use of Permeable Pavers and an Urban Tree Canopy Assessment (TX)**

#### **El Paso Community Foundation**

El Paso Community Foundation will partner with local government groups and local businesses to use trees and porous pavement to naturally filter stormwater and recharge the groundwater supply. Through this project, El Paso Community Foundation will contract with Texas Trees Foundation to conduct an Urban Tree Canopy Assessment for Downtown and surrounding neighborhoods, and support a downtown permeable pavement demonstration project. This project will redefine how residents can use tree planting strategically to shape the environment by assessing benefit/cost of tree plantings related to energy savings, storm water management, water quality and public health improvements or heat island mitigation. Expected outcomes will include engaging 25 local volunteers and planting 500 trees.

### **Creating Bird-friendly Communities in Atlanta's Urban Tributaries (GA)**

#### **Atlanta Audubon Society**

The Atlanta Audubon Society (AAS) and partners will create two bird-friendly communities along urban tributaries of the Chattahoochee River watershed at Blue Heron Nature Preserve and the Confluence of North and South Forks of Peachtree Creek. AAS will remove invasives and re-plant native species on 5 acres of bird habitat and conduct regular inventory of birds to create baseline data that will inform conservation decisions. Citizen engagement efforts will involve 80 community members in volunteer work and educate over 500 people on topics including migratory birds and their habitats. Partners include Blue Heron Nature Preserve, The South Fork Conservancy, US Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Audubon Society.



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## **Stormwater Pollution Solutions in My Neighborhood (WA) EarthCorps**

EarthCorps will partner with 20 organizations in the Green-Duwamish and Edmonds Marsh Watersheds including two school districts in two different counties, combining academic rigor, service learning, and measurable improvements in community conditions, to create a model program for regional replication in watersheds. The partnership will coach secondary level teachers to integrate stormwater education using real-world content, outdoor classrooms, field investigations, community stewardship campaigns, water quality monitoring, and salmon habitat restoration activities. Twelve teacher leaders selected as Ambassadors within their respective school districts will engage a combined total of at least 600 students in learning about local stormwater pollution issues and green infrastructure solutions in the context of salmon recovery. Students will participate in high quality habitat restoration activities, including installing 1,000 native plants in key sites along the Duwamish River and Edmonds Marsh. They will conduct meaningful citizen science through water quality monitoring, implementing on-the-ground restoration projects that advance watershed restoration goals, stewarding school parking lot bioswales, conducting neighborhood campaigns to encourage rain gardens and cisterns, establishing Green Neighborhood Maps to benchmark progress, and making public presentations to regularly update community stakeholders and local policy makers.

## **Restoring the Ridge: A New Orleans Maritime Forest Habitat Restoration Project at Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge (LA) Friends of Louisiana Wildlife Refuges, Inc.**

The Friends of Louisiana Wildlife Refuges will partner with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission, Louisiana Master Naturalists, Orleans Audubon Society, Tulane University, the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, Common Ground Relief, City Park New Orleans and media partner WWNO to engage 300 underserved urban students and community members in service learning activities focused on restoring the maritime forest at Bayou Sauvage NWR. Participants will become citizen scientists as they plant 5,000 trees, monitor their growth, and assess the development and succession of the forest for long-term progress. The USFWS and grant partners will foster a new generation of stewards through educational birding programs on the refuge, in urban schools, parks, and at the indoor/outdoor laboratory at the University of New Orleans Coastal Education and Research Facility. These activities will highlight this restoration effort and provide a catalyst for meaningful connection. The programs will explore the vital link between human influence and healthy native habitats for the 340 bird species found in this area. Participants will gain a profound understanding of Louisiana's wetlands, specifically those surrounding New Orleans, and the connection between this urban center and the natural areas on Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge.



**Youth, Community, and Partners Engaged in Environmental Education and Restoration (MA)**  
**Regreen Springfield, Inc.**

ReGreen Springfield will partner with 15 agencies and organizations to engage 300 Springfield teachers, students and volunteers in assessing and mapping public infrastructure and invasive plants, monitoring water quality in the Chicopee River, identifying high erosion areas, employing natural measures to slow down water flows in storm water events and planting native trees. Mentored by teachers and partners, Renaissance students will participate in the habitat restoration effort and engage in curricula that applies stream monitoring, invasive species management, and wetland restoration concepts at the field site. Teachers will be supported through skill-based workshops led by field experts. These studies will be further complimented through voluntary student participation in the summer restoration ecology program at Mt. Holyoke College and youth employment opportunities with the USFWS's Youth Conservation Corps. The community will be engaged in habitat restoration, site improvements and cleanups, and outreach at Abbey Brook, which has been degraded by storm-water runoff. The overarching vision is to build long-term collaborative partnerships between schools, community organizations, public agencies, and private organizations committed to restoring Springfield's natural areas.

**Bird-Friendly Portland (OR)**  
**Audubon Society of Portland**

The Audubon Society of Portland will partner with a diverse coalition of agencies, schools and private entities propose a 2-year "Bird-Friendly Portland" campaign with the goal of raising awareness of migratory birds and the bird strike hazards they face in Portland Oregon's metropolitan region. Portland sits along the Pacific Flyway bringing over 200 bird species into our airspace. Birds in the urban environment are susceptible to window & building strikes. Project partners will directly engage 250 architects and developers by holding at least 12 presentations (6/year) to architectural and development community and hold a final symposium or conference in 2016. In addition, the partnership will work with building owners to join a "light out" program, develop bird-friendly education curricula and implement at five Portland public schools, community centers and camps. The project will conduct outreach to the public via demonstration projects including at least 2 high-profile "bird-friendly" demonstration projects with one in a high visibility area in Portland where bird strike risk is relatively high along the Willamette River downtown and the other in an underserved area of Portland to reach at least 1,500 local community members.



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## **Urban Landfill Restoration as Garry Oak Savanna and Forest in Portland (OR) Northwest Zen Sangha**

Northwest Zen Sangha will partner with Friends of Trees, Dharma Rain, Portland State University, Madison High School, and Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors to restore a 14 acre urban site as a vital part of Portland's green infrastructure and wildlife matrix. The project site has been overgrown with invasive plant species. The invasives will be cleared, and over 3,000 native plants will be planted, mulched and tended by Friends of Trees. Two distinct habitats will be created: an oak savanna (once the dominant ecosystem for the area, of which 1% is left), and a mixed deciduous/coniferous forest. Several small wetland areas will be created to diversify the habitat available and improve the stormwater management on site. Over 4,000 hours of volunteer labor will be used to accomplish these ecological goals. Work parties will draw from the local neighborhood and at-risk populations with help from Groundwork Portland, and educational activities are included at each event, contributing to the equity and educational value of the project. The project will bring students to the site for life and earth science classes, providing place-based, service learning, and applied science components for their education and collecting valuable data for maintaining, monitoring and evaluating the effects of the restoration project.

## **Wildcat Creek Restoration (GA) Dunwoody Nature Center, Inc.**

Dunwoody Nature Center and partners will reduce stream bank erosion along 350 linear feet at Wildcat Creek, restoring 3.9 acres and resulting in a living classroom for park visitors and program participants that will educate up to 25,000 people annually. The project will replace a failed weir and restore the downstream portion of the creek using Natural Channel Design (NCD) principles that reduce stress on stream banks. The design will also include a bankfull bench on both sides of the stream and a series of flood plain terraces that will serve as an amphitheater for the living classroom. Partners include the City of Dunwoody, Georgia Environmental Restoration Association, DeKalb County Master Gardeners and Spalding Garden Club.

## **Urban Oases for Migrating Songbirds in the New Haven Harbor Watershed (CT) National Audubon Society, Inc.**

National Audubon Society will partner with the City of New Haven, USFWS, local NGOs, universities, and New Haven Public Schools to employ an innovative model of community-based land stewardship that engages multiple stakeholders in restoration of urban green spaces to provide quality stop-over habitat for migratory songbirds while also addressing critical community needs in the most underserved neighborhoods of New Haven. With the aid of an innovative GIS decision support tool that is being developed with input from local



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community stakeholders, this project will identify hotspots for migrants that are also areas of greatest community need. The project provides opportunities for students and their families, neighborhood groups, and the general public to participate in habitat restoration, citizen science, development of interpretive signage, and green job skills training as they learn about the value of urban green spaces for wildlife and watershed health. This project addresses the goals of the Urban Bird Treaty City Program and will result in 4.2 acres of enhanced habitat; IBA plan for 426 acres; 3,000 people reached; 2,780 students with outdoor learning experiences; 820 students in the Schoolyard Habitat program; 41 teachers improve capacity to teach outdoors; 1,315 volunteers engaged in habitat restoration, 90 citizen scientists and 26 students employed.

## **Clean Your Streams: Restoring Clean Streams in Toledo Partners for Clean Streams**

Partners for Clean Streams will partner with the City of Toledo, City of Oregon, Lucas County, The Olander Park System, and the University of Toledo to plan, organize, and oversee Clean Your Streams Day and a new prevention program called Trash Amnesty Weeks. Trash Amnesty Weeks will provide roll off bins, free trash disposal, and educational materials in targeted zones around Toledo, enabling residents to intercept trash before reaching the rivers and streams. Through these programs to prevent and clean up stream litter, Partners for Clean Streams will involve 850 volunteers in cleaning at least 25 miles of rivers and streams in northwest Ohio, removing at least 15,000 pounds of stream litter in the urban communities in and around Toledo. Partners for Clean Streams will also educate at least a thousand people on the importance of clear, clean and healthy rivers and riparian areas, including proper disposal of litter.

## **Watershed Students and Stewards (NY) Trout Unlimited, Inc.**

Trout Unlimited (TU) will partner with NYC Department of Environmental Protection, NYC Department of Education, Westchester County Parks Department, NYC Department of Environmental Conservation and Catskill Watershed Corporation. Trout Unlimited will work with 50 classrooms to study and raise trout eggs in their classroom aquaria from October to May. These wild animals help to spark student's curiosity in learning while introducing complex concepts such as riparian buffer zones, water quality testing, and watershed stream ecology. Students will then travel to the NYC watershed headwater streams to experience and understand what makes a healthy stream and forest environment. They will release the trout which they have raised for 8 months in their classroom into the stream. During the spring trout releases, students and volunteers and local TU Chapters will work together to restore a total of 5 acres of stream habitat. The Cross River will be the primary location for trout release for NYC schools as it is an important stream supplying water to more than 9 million residents in NYC. Additional site



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restoration will involve litter and invasive plant removal from the streams, planting of native plants and stream bank stabilization to support a healthy ecosystem.

## **Building Cultural and Environmental Learning Opportunities on the Colville Indian Reservation (WA) Confederated Tribes of the Colville**

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) will partner with Colville Tribal Range Program, Nespelem Elementary School, Keller Elementary School (4H), CTCR Fish and Wildlife, Grand Coulee Hardware, ACE Hardware of Omak, CTCR Diabetes Program, CTCR Parks and Recreation, and the local Washington State University Extension office to promote culturally relevant environmental stewardship through community activities to improve water quality, fish and wildlife and hydrologic impairments in Mill Creek. 150 student and community volunteers will be engaged through four events to restore riparian vegetation along 2,400 feet of bare stream bank and enhance an additional 2,800 feet of stream vegetation. Beaver dam support structures will be installed to improve wildlife habitat, hydrologic function and sediment retention. This project will also develop the first interpretive walking trail for the Colville Indian Reservation and will promote long-term engagement of 900 local residents and 8,000 Reservation residents through interpretive displays describing the diverse restoration activities applied at the site.

## **New Stewards for Conservation at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (CO) Groundwork Denver, Inc.**

Groundwork Denver will partner with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Anythink Library Commerce City, Commerce City Parks and Recreation, San Creek Regional Greenway Partnership and the Boys and Girls Club to restore 80 acres of watershed, 3 miles of riparian area and create four acres in the South Platte River Watershed at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Project partners will engage 240 people as volunteers, 1,000 people in educational activities and 12 low-income youth employees who will serve as team leaders on volunteer days. The community engagement will focus on low-income Spanish-speaking residents of Commerce City, which is the gateway community to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (“the Arsenal”). The project will also develop habitat for the monarch butterfly as part of a broader effort to protect the species from extinction nationwide by planting milkweed. Partners will also restore and improve the riparian habitat near the bald eagle roosting sites.



### **Community Outdoor Education Area at Fannie Askew Williams Park (GA) Golden Triangle RC&D**

Golden Triangle RC&D and partners will restore 1 acre at Fannie Askew Williams Park through invasive plant removal and native re-plantings to control erosion run-off and provide additional wildlife habitat. The project aims to re-engage the community about natural resources and pollution prevention and provide an outlet for self-exploration of nature. The project will engage 500 or more citizens of the community through volunteer workdays, river clean-ups and Adopt-A-Stream trainings, along with self-guided interpretative panels along the ecological nature trail. Partners include Early County Road Department, Early County Elementary and local Boy Scout troops.

### **Forebay Aquatic Center Restoration and Clean Water Science Ambassador Project (CA) Forebay Aquatic Center**

The Forebay Aquatic Center will partner with The Stream Team, California State Parks, Feather River Parks and Recreation and the Butte County Office of Education to restore 3 acres of habitat, increase stewardship actions by engaging 1,800 students and 600 volunteers at three project sites on the Feather River. Project partners will also implement low-impact design projects to decrease runoff pollution while tracking water quality to assess project effectiveness. A Clean Water Science Ambassador Program will provide experiential learning environments where students interact with peers, university interns, and adults in an outdoor classroom, utilizing learning strategies documented in literature to enhance learning. The project will provide students an opportunity to work side-by-side with professionals while exploring science career pathways. This mixed group interaction will link academic goals with resource management efforts to provide an opportunity for youth to translate academic knowledge into public service utilizing the natural environment. Project partners will monitor the restored sites to ensure project sustainability after the students complete their work.

### **Philly Wild: Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship and Action (PA) National Audubon Society, Inc.**

National Audubon Society will partner with the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, Student Conservation Association, Outward Bound, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, neighborhood groups, schools and others to implement the Philly Wild program throughout Philadelphia. Philly Wild is a multifaceted community conservation engagement project, which enhances habitat for migrating songbirds and improves watershed health while engaging the community in environmental learning, citizen science and stewardship. This project will educate students, their families, neighborhood groups, and the public about the value of urban green spaces for watershed health and wildlife. The



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city-wide program will build on existing efforts in targeted areas in the city. With two Important Birds Areas, Fairmount Park and National Wildlife Refuge, located in the city, the partnership will increase the quality of habitat for birds and create better communities for people. The program will encourage increased support and participation in conservation at the refuge and beyond. It will attract new participants from underserved communities, specifically youth in conservation of the urban environment.

### **Green Infrastructure Demonstration for Urban Wildlife Refuge (RI) Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council**

The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council will partner with the Olneyville Housing Corporation, eDesign Dynamics, Horsley Witten, Providence Dept of Planning and Development, Green Infrastructure Coalition, William D'Abate Elementary, the Partnership for Providence Parks and Tremco to create a green infrastructure (GI) demonstration and tour for 100 community members in and around an Urban Wildlife Refuge (Riverside Park). Project partners will conduct three tours of storm water and green infrastructure retrofits in private homes, a local elementary school and in Riverside Park. These green infrastructure practices will demonstrate how small measures can reduce flooding and pollution in our waterways. The project will engage local green job crews and provide teacher training to local educators to support these green infrastructure practices that benefit species and habitat in the Woonasquatucket River Watershed.

### **Project Underway: Green Infrastructure, Local Jobs, and Community Stewardship for a Healthier Jamaica Bay Watershed (NY) Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, Inc.**

Rockaway Waterfront Alliance will partner with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, NYS Department of Conservation, Arverne by the Sea, L&M Partners and other partners to alleviate pollution of Jamaica Bay Watershed and Atlantic Ocean from stormwater runoff and trash debris by engaging 400 residents and 1,500 local K-12 youth through educational programs, events and plantings. Project partners will lead efforts to collect and separate 10,000 cubic feet (250 tons) of site debris annually into trash and recycling, filter and retain 100,000 gallons annually of stormwater runoff and monitor storm water and trash collection. The project brings together range of public expertise in green infrastructure with an embedded community organization to deliver measurable ecological, educational and community benefits to the Rockaways. Community engagement, education and stewardship events will accompany each aspect of the project to deepen community awareness and protection of the Jamaica Bay Watershed from stormwater runoff and trash pollution.



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### **Reverend Evers Park and Newton Creek: Riparian Corridor Restoration and Green Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements (NJ) Delaware Riverkeeper Network**

Delaware Riverkeeper Network will partner with Morgan Village Circle Community Development Corporation, New Jersey Tree Foundation, Coopers Ferry Partnership, City of Camden, Camden County, Newton Creek Watershed Association and private partners to restore the ecological aspects and support community improvement in Reverend Evers Park located along Newton Creek in the Morgan Village section of the City of Camden, New Jersey. Project partners are working to convert a grassed stormwater swale into a bio-swale using diverse 135 native trees as well as shrubs, grasses and perennials to slow and clean the stormwater runoff. The .9 acre planting w and 1.77 acre site redesign will directly connect with the woodland to widen the stream corridor. The Network will also incorporate job training during the tree planting, as part of the New Jersey Tree Foundation's program and engage 155 residents including local k-12 students from the local community to work together during volunteer days.

### **Advancing Watershed Education, Action, and Attitude Change in Underserved Communities in the Lake Michigan Watershed of Northwest Indiana (IN) Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center**

The Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center will partner with the Hammond Port Authority, Gary Parks Department, The Field Museum, City of Hammond, City of Gary, Wilderness Inquiry and private partners to provide outdoor education that fosters connections to local Indiana waterbodies. This project will engage over 4,500 students over two years, from the communities of Gary, Hammond, East Chicago and Hobart. The project will expand the Dunes Learning Center curriculum into area schools, and support implementation of watershed education activities such as collecting seeds from native plants, inventorying plants and planting native seedlings on the project site, collecting water samples from local waterways and engaging 400 community members in understanding stewardship efforts and the importance of healthy waters in the Lake Michigan Watershed.

### **Urban Youth-Driven Fish Habitat Restoration Initiative (OR) Black Educational Achievement Movement**

The Black Educational Achievement Movement (BEAM) will partner with the Oregon Department of Transportation, Roosevelt High School, DRC Learning Solutions and the City of Portland's Water Pollution Control Laboratory to increase involvement of underrepresented minority community members in current conservation efforts within the Columbia Slough Watershed of Portland, Oregon. Project partners will provide education to empower the youth to remove invasive plants and plant native vegetation on 3 acres, At



least 12 youth will participate intensively in the project by restoring habitat in and around the Willamette River, designing and conducting a sampling plan to gauge water quality and design green roof test plots for the roof of Roosevelt High School. The project will also include a volunteer campaign to reach out to community members about the importance of healthy and clean water, providing the participants with experience in engaging the public through presentation and public speaking.

### **Virginia Key North Point Maritime Hammock Restoration (FL) Miami Science Museum**

The Miami Science Museum's Museum Volunteers for the Environment (MUVE), will partner with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Palmer Trinity School, Miami Dade College, Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management and the City of Miami to clear and grub all exotic vegetation and the plant a total of six acres of maritime hammock in Virginia Key, a barrier island located near downtown Miami that hosts a myriad of endangered subtropical habitats. Five hundred volunteers will plant 1,150 native trees on the site. Project partners will collect habitat restoration data including bird and butterfly monitoring with transect walks, ground-dwelling wildlife monitoring with camera traps and water quality monitoring using a volunteer-built buoy. The hammock restoration project will improve habitat for bird and wildlife resources and the museum will display all citizen science data collected in a volunteer-designed Museum exhibit.

### **Fountain Creek Watershed Fire Restoration Project (CO)-II Rocky Mountain Field Institute, Inc.**

The Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) will partner with the USDA Forest Service, El Paso County, Amercorps, Mile High Youth Corps, Pikes Peak Community Foundation and other private partners to alleviate the effects of the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest Fires by constructing hillslope stabilization structures to minimize erosion and sediment movement downstream. Because wildfires negatively impact water quality, reducing sediment movement is a major focus area for this project and for the protection of Fountain Creek. Project partners will seed the project sites with native species to establish native plant communities. RMFI and its partners will host 36 workdays within the fire scars, engaging youth crews and 450 community volunteers to complete hands-on fire restoration work. Fifty students will participate in education talks and field tours and restore 60 acres of fire scarred land by the conclusion of this project.



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## **One Tam Stewardship Program: Managing Mount Tamalpais as an Integrated Whole (CA)**

### **Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy**

The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy will partner with the Marin Municipal Water District, the National Park Service, California State Parks, Marin County Parks and private partners to support conservation, stewardship, and public enjoyment of the nearly 10 square miles of local, state, and national parklands that encompass the Mount Tamalpais (Mt. Tam) region. Project partners will develop a holistic stewardship program, the One Tam Stewardship Program, which will remove invasive plants, support the efforts of the native plant nursery, protect and clear trash and other debris to support spotted owl habitat in Baltimore Canyon Open Space Reserve and Deer Park Trail. These efforts will build sustainability in the park by engaging 1,000 volunteers to provide education on the effects of invasive plants and debris on water quality in the San Francisco Bay and to support efforts of the park to protect and restore land for critical habitat.

## **Negley Run Watershed Coalition and Community Outreach Project (PA)**

### **The Kingsley Association**

The Kingsley Association will partner with the Larimer Green Team, EvolveEA, Penn State Center, eDesign Dynamics, Green Infrastructure Network, Landbase Systems, Allegheny Land Trust and the City of Pittsburgh Public Works to protect the health and water quality in the Negley Run Watershed by engaging 70 volunteers and 125 community members who will install an additional 100 rain barrels and 5 additional bioswales that will filter and retain storm water and pollutants within public rights-of-way before they enter the waterways. Project partners will host a series of four community water workshops to engage and educate the local community about ways that homeowners can limit stormwater by utilizing these types of small green infrastructure tools. The project will create collaboration to expand clean water within the watershed and support clean water in the Negley Run Watershed.

## **Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge Wetland and Native Riparian Habitat Restoration to Improve Migratory Bird Habitat (NM)**

### **WildEarth Guardians**

WildEarth Guardians will partner with the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, Friends of the Valle do Oro Refuge, Ducks Unlimited and Rio Grande Return to restore 228.9 acres of agricultural land within the Refuge in urban Albuquerque to a mosaic of natural habitats. Project partners will improve habitats by reestablishing wetland habitat, playas and mudflats, riparian habitat, grassland habitat, forested bosque and open woodland to benefit multiple wildlife species. This restoration will also benefit migratory and resident birds that utilize habitat along the Rio Grande corridor. After the partners restore natural



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drainage patterns and water quality infrastructure, they will plant native vegetation associated with recreated habitats to further improve these ecosystems' services and benefits. Education and outreach will be a significant component of this project and more than 250 volunteers will participate in the planting and restoration activities, providing an educational experience about the benefits of these habitats for wildlife and people within urban communities.

### **Community Flood Restoration on the North Fork Big Thompson River (CO) Wildlands Restoration Volunteers**

Wildlands Restoration Volunteers will partner with the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Opal Ranch, Alpine Anglers Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Eco-Hydro, Flywater, Kirk's Flyshop, Estes Valley Land trust and other partners to address water quality concerns resulting from flooding in 2013. Project Partners will engage at least 300 volunteers to help with flood-plain reconnection, bioengineering techniques including re-vegetation, encapsulated fill, large wood structures, fisheries improvements and other measures where appropriate throughout a 2.5-mile reach of the Lower North Fork on the Big Thompson, across five different land-ownerships including state and county land.

### **Chesapeake Bay Trash Trawl (DC, MD) Alice Ferguson Foundation**

Trash Free Maryland will partner with 5 Gyres Institute, The Story of Stuff Project, Chesapeake Bay Trust, University Lab and the National Aquarium to address trash pollution in the Chesapeake Bay by removing trash from the Bay, collecting and studying water samples to study water quality and record the impacts of trash removal for clean water. Project partners will engage 60 volunteers and reach out to over 300,000 community members in an online public education campaign about the impacts of microplastics and trash on the Chesapeake Bay.

### **Hispanic Environmental Awareness and Action at Masonville Cove Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (MD) Living Classrooms Foundation**

The Living Classrooms Foundation will partner with the Hispanic Access Foundation, the National Aquarium, the Maryland Port Authority, Friends of Masonville Cove, Filbert Street Garden, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ben Franklin High School at Masonville Cove and Hispanic Templo de Alabanza Y Restauracion Church of God to engage 1,000 Baltimore City community members with education and conservation activities centered on urban watershed issues and habitat to support the Monarch Butterfly. Participants will plant



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approximately 5,000 milkweed plants, pick up over 300 lbs. of trash from the local community and waterways, and stencil four local storm drains with preventative warnings for dumping oil and other pollutants into the drains. Project partners will provide additional information on steps that the community can take to protect clean water and support critical habitat for the Monarch and other species.

## **Preserving Arizona's Desert Rivers Arizona Wilderness Coalition**

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition will partner with the US Bureau of Land Management, the Tonto National Forest, Friends of the Tonto National Forest, Prescott College, Arizona Trail Association and Back Country Horsemen to restore 2.5 miles of stream in Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness and Arnett Creek, both of the greater Gila Watershed in central Arizona. The project engage 60 volunteers and focus on removal of invasive plant species while bolstering educational, recreational and economic resources for a rural community. Project partners will also rebuild native vegetation structure through planting of trees and riparian vegetation, while implementing grazing management to foster healthy native vegetation. The project will also install interpretative signs along Arnett Creek to enhance visitors' understanding of natural resource management issues, explaining about invasive plants in river and stream areas and including information about the project.

## **Salt Marsh Creation in the York River (ME) Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve**

The Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve will partner with the Landholm Trust, York Rivers Association, York Tennis and Golf club and Civil Consultants to create 5.5 acres of salt marsh habitat by restoring tidal flow to an area impounded since the 1890's. Project partners will engage 1150 community members by engaging volunteers as well as through newsletters, interpretive tours and social media. This project is another step in a community driven effort to protect the York River and builds upon a 15-year regional conservation collaboration, the Mt Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative, that has to date protected 13,246 acres in a 48,000 acre focus area with a goal of 19,000 acres protected by 2032.

## **Town Creek Watershed Restoration at Auburn University (AL) Davis Arboretum at Auburn University**

The Davis Arboretum at Auburn University (AU) and partners will lead restorative and educational activities at the AU Garden of Memory and the Donald E. Davis Arboretum in order to benefit the Town Creek Watershed. The project will restore a headwater wetland,



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remove invasive species on a combined 2.25 acres and restore 4.6 acres. Outcomes include wetland function restoration at the headwaters and reduction in sediment loading, turbidity, and nutrient enrichment in Town Creek and its receiving waters. In addition, outreach activities will engage and educate watershed residents, students and visitors on water quantity, water quality and related topics. Partners include Alabama Clean Water Partnership, Alabama Water Watch and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

### **Crosby Arboretum Quaking Bog Educational Exhibit (MS) The Crosby Arboretum Foundation**

The Crosby Arboretum Foundation and partners will construct a unique 900 square foot Quaking Bog wetland exhibit at The Crosby Arboretum Interpretive Center in Picayune, Mississippi. The project site is located within a young wet flatwood that previously served as agricultural and forestry land and has been designated by the Arboretum's nationally award-winning master plan for pitcher plant bog restoration. Visitors will experience the feeling of a quaking bog through an ADA-accessible floating bridge that will be designed over the exhibit. Partners include Mississippi State University Extension Service, Mississippi Master Naturalists, Mississippi Native Plant Society, and Mississippi Master Gardeners.

### **Chattahoochee River Turkey Creek Restoration Education (GA) Conservation Legacy**

Conservation Legacy and partners will restore 35 acres of floodplain wetlands to create a conservation and education venue for residents of western Georgia. Volunteers will remove invasive species and re-plant native, bird-attractant species to improve the sensitive wetland habitat and increase wildlife viewing opportunities. The project will also plant two spur trails totaling one mile to provide additional access to the area. Elementary school field trips, interpretive hikes, and educational brochures/signage will provide outreach to park visitors and students, and the project's strong volunteer component will ensure the area's sustainability and effectiveness as an education venue. Partners include Friends of Chattahoochee Bend State Park, Coweta County Schools, Atlanta Audubon Society, and Georgia State Parks: Department of Natural Resources.

### **Coastal Streambank and Wetland Habitat Restoration at Weeks Bayou (MS) Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain**

The Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain and partners will restore approximately 2.3 acres of land in order to provide a community green space for scientific and educational activities at Weeks Bayou in Jackson County. Partners will remove debris and invasive species, construct a small observation deck for water quality sampling access, and assist



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with replanting native trees, shrubs, and grasses on .79 acres to create an outdoor environmental classroom area. In addition, volunteers will provide flyers to 25 local businesses and distribute 500 middle school educational packets. Partners include MS State Gulf Coast Community Design Studio, Gulf Coast Research Lab Marine Education Center, Ocean Springs School System, and Chevron Pascagoula Refinery.

### **Three Rivers Public Pathways (NY) Groundwork Hudson Valley, Inc.**

Groundwork Hudson Valley will partner with the Wallkill Refuge, Westchester County Youth Bureau, and the Newburgh Community Land Bank to restore three riparian sites in Yonkers, Newburgh, and Wallkill. Wallkill staff will make 3-4 visits to Yonkers to assess the habitat of the Daylighted Park; to recommend habitat improvements for native aquatic species, insects, and animals; and to work with youth to remove invasives and to plant species that better support the Park's habitat. They will train local youth as docent naturalists. Groundwork Hudson Valley and Newburgh youth will join at Wallkill for invasive vine removal, bank restoration, and a paddle down the river, gaining through work and pleasure a greater respect for the natural world. Groundwork Hudson Valley will also work with Newburgh youth at sites along the Quassaic. This project will engage youth from low-income, minority communities in environmental projects that tangibly improve local streams and invest youth in their communities, emphasize the vital need for collaboration between national/state parks and urban communities to effectively protect and improve river resources, and build stewardship around and improve access to amenities along the Muchattoes Lake and Quassaick Creek for the pleasure, recreation, and spiritual and physical health of the communities around it. Expected outcomes include engaging 56 volunteers, restoring 2.75 acres of wetland, removing 2 acres of invasive plants, and planting 100 trees.

### **Ciudad SWCD Riparian Ecology Education and Restoration Project (NM) Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District**

Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District will partner with RiverXChange, City of Albuquerque Open Space, Water for People, Albuquerque Bernalillo Water Utility Authority, and New Mexico State Cooperative Extension to teach students about nonpoint-source pollution, municipal and agricultural water use, and the connection between forests, wetlands, and our river's health. RiverXChange students will work with City of Albuquerque Open Space staff to plant swales with native trees and shrubs at their Shining River site in the Rio Grande riparian corridor, providing habitat that will support native species including the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Rio Grande Silvery Minnow, and slowing stormwater runoff. Through participating in authentic restoration and connecting with watershed managers, teachers and students will gain a more personal connection to their own river ecosystem, which motivates them to conserve and protect water. The larger



community will gain awareness and understanding of watershed issues through dissemination of information by teachers and students. Expected outcomes include removing 10 acres of invasive plant species and engaging 1,560 volunteers.

**Hahn Forest Restoration at South Peachtree Creek (GA)  
Trees Atlanta, Inc.**

Trees Atlanta and partners will restore 2 acres of forest and 750 linear feet of streambank at South Peachtree Creek through invasive plant removal, native tree re-planting and walking trail improvement. The project will incorporate several public education components including a local genotype propagation project and a special tree walk highlighting unique species in the forest. The project site represents a key connection point along watershed and will link the efforts of many organizations and citizens who are heavily invested in improving this important Atlanta waterway. Partners include Emory University, the South Fork Conservancy, Cascade Springs Forestry and Beech Hollow Farm.

**Kansas City Municipal Farm Restoration and Stewardship Project (MO)  
Heartland Conservation Alliance, Inc.**

Heartland Conservation Alliance will partner with Boys Grow, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Blue River Watershed Association, Kansas City Wildlands, the City of Kansas City, and the Kansas City Zoo to establish a farm business and training center for urban youth on 10 acres of open, unused city land. This project engages key partners in preparing the land for future productive agricultural use in a manner that will be compatible to supporting healthy surrounding ecosystems including wetlands, riparian corridors, urban forests and urban rivers. This project will result in a detailed restoration plan and establishes a buffer around agricultural activities to protect wetland and forest habitat. Training and leadership will be provided to urban youth and community members who will complete habitat restoration projects.

**Reconnecting to our Indianapolis Waterways: Community-Based Habitat  
Restoration Along Pleasant Run (IN)  
Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc.**

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful will partner with local businesses and nonprofit organizations to engage Indianapolis volunteers in a grassroots effort to restore up to ten acres of riparian corridors along Pleasant Run waterway into native wildlife habitat. The partners will remove invasive plants, replant with native perennials, shrubs and trees, and educate volunteers on the importance of native plants and habitat for our ecosystem. Keep Indianapolis Beautiful will engage 3,500 volunteers, including neighborhood residents and corporate employees, as well as college-aged volunteers and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful



Urban Naturalists youth employees, in this habitat restoration work. This project will engage multiple generations of Indianapolis residents to improve water quality, increase investment in our waterways, and improve our local ecosystem through concerted native plantings.

### **Baltimore's Birds, Habitat, and People: Essentials for a New Urban Bird Treaty City (MD)**

#### **Outward Bound Baltimore**

Outward Bound Baltimore will partner with Lights out Baltimore, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Blue Water Baltimore, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, and friends groups to create an Action plan, establish a demonstration area, reduce migratory bird hazards, and “Celebrate the City of Birds”. The partners will use Gwynns Falls Leakin' Park, a 1,216 acre park, as a launching pad and model for Baltimore becoming a new Urban Bird Treaty City. Outcomes will include engaging 625 volunteers, planting 150 trees, and removing 2 acres of invasive plant species.