



# NFWF

## Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program

### NFWF CONTACTS

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### PARTNERS

Major funding for the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program is provided by:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- BNSF Railway
- FedEx
- Southern Company

To learn more, go to  
[www.nfwf.org/fivestar](http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar)

### ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Volunteers at a work day with Confluence Environmental Center in Portland, OR

### OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is pleased to announce the 2020 Five Star and Urban Waters grant recipients. Major funding is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FedEx, Southern Company and BNSF Railway. 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, as well as stormwater management, outreach and stewardship with a focus on water quality, watersheds and the habitats they support. Thirty-six projects totaling more than \$1.4 million were awarded, generating more than \$3.2 million in matching contributions from grantees, and providing a total impact of more than \$4.6 million.

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Riparian zone on the Rio Grande River in New Mexico

#### **Habitat Restoration and Trail and Park Visioning around Merrimack River (MA)**

Grantee: Northern Middlesex Council of Governments  
Restore nearly 2 acres of degraded riverine habitat in a highly urbanized section of the Merrimack River. Project will engage 150 volunteers to remove invasive plants and replace with native flora of high habitat value and remove trash from 2 miles of riverfront for the benefit of riparian ecosystems and native bird species.

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#### **Stormwater Management Green Infrastructure at Milwaukee Schoolyards (WI)**

Grantee: Milwaukee Public Schools  
Design and construct green infrastructure projects, including asphalt removal, porous pavement installation, bioswales and rain gardens at five Milwaukee schoolyards on 11 acres to address local stormwater needs. Project will plant 57 trees, engage 2,335 students and 175 teachers in stormwater based curriculum and the development of outdoor classrooms and engage 50 volunteers through site maintenance opportunities.

#### **Aquatic Education, Clean Up and Restoration at the East Fork Chisholm Creek (KS)**

Grantee: Friends of the Great Plains Nature Center  
Restore 5 acres of riparian habitat and perform water quality monitoring and trash removal on a mile of East Fork Chisholm Creek. Project will use professional naturalists and volunteers to lead aquatic education with 900 high school students and use 100 volunteers to collect 2,000 pounds of trash and debris and remove five acres of invasive bush honeysuckle in the riparian area surrounding the creek.

#### **Chattahoochee River Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Project on Crayfish Creek (GA)**

Grantee: Upper Chattahoochee Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Restore and stabilize 500 feet of impaired streambank at Crayfish Creek to improve water quality and wild trout habitat. Project will engage 300 volunteers to remove trash and debris, including two abandoned culverts, restore riparian forest by removing invasive plant species, plant 1,000 native trees and shrubs, and engage 150 K-12 students in educational programming.

#### **Activating a Community for the Middle Rio Grande (NM)**

Grantee: National Audubon Society  
Empower local river stewards to restore and enhance riparian habitat in the Middle Rio Grande for birds and people. Project will recruit 125 community members, students and teachers to plant 200 native trees, shrubs and plants on 6 acres of riparian habitat and engage 11,000 people in storytelling through digital media.

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### **Wetland Restoration, Community Engagement and Citizen Science at Watersmeet Woods Forest Preserve (IL)**

Grantee: Friends of the Forest Preserves

Remove invasive species on 40 acres of habitat for birds, amphibians and wetland plants at Watersmeet Woods forest preserve in the Chicago River watershed to improve regional water quality. Project will engage 50 volunteers and support five Conservation Corps interns in invasive plant removal and train 10 citizen science leaders to monitor plants and animals at the project site.

### **Wallkill-Saw Mill Riparian Restoration Partnership (NJ, NY)**

Grantee: Groundwork Hudson Valley

Improve riparian conditions along two tributaries to the Hudson River by restoring 7 acres of habitat pursuant to management strategies outlined in the National Wildlife Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Project will engage 50 youth and 300 volunteers and create 15 jobs for students recruited from Yonkers public schools to revegetate the riparian corridor with 1,200 willow species, sycamores, silver maples, dogwood shrubs and button bushes and to remove invasive vines on 2 acres.

### **Community Care of Urban Forest Patches: Preparing for Preservation in Baltimore (MD)**

Grantee: Baltimore Green Space

Lead neighborhood efforts to plant perennials, shrubs, and trees and remove invasive plants and trash from three community forests in Baltimore City to help communities demonstrate their capacity to steward the land and strengthen native habitat and stormwater management functions. Project will engage 300 community members in educational programming and 100 volunteers in restoration activities to plant 38 trees and coordinate care on 3 acres.

### **Connecting Anchorage Residents to their Watershed through Monitoring, Restoration and Education (AK)**

Grantee: Alaska Geographic Association

Remove 20 acres of invasive European bird cherry from the Anchorage Bowl Waterways, providing opportunities for urban youth and families to connect and become better stewards of local natural resources through recreation and restoration. Project will help break down barriers for Anchorage's diverse urban neighborhoods to access the waters by engaging 700 volunteers and 350 students through environmental education and training activities while addressing priority habitat restoration.

### **Cutler Bay Wetland Habitat Restoration (FL)**

Grantee: Town of Cutler Bay

Create an environmental learning lab along the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands within the Town of Cutler. Project will engage 40 volunteers to improve and enhance the 2 acre upland area with native trees, plants and shrubs in addition to establishing a walking path with educational signage promoting the conservation of the adjoining wetlands, pine rocklands and the sensitive ecology of Biscayne Bay.



Burrowing owl

### **Creating Habitat for Burrowing Owls in Powers Butte (AZ)**

Grantee: National Audubon Society

Mobilize volunteers to build homes for burrowing owls on an Arizona Game and Fish Department Wildlife Area located west of Phoenix called Powers Butte. Project will install artificial burrows in an area encompassing about 5 acres adjacent to the Gila River. Project will build 100 new burrows and re-home 50-60 burrowing owls, as well as focus outreach efforts on high schools located in Phoenix's West Valley, adjacent to the new owl site.

### **A Partnership Approach to Watershed Restoration and Community Engagement (CT, NY)**

Grantee: Highstead

Restore 10 acres of urban watershed habitat and prevent 1,200 pounds of trash from entering waterways in efforts to improve watershed, wildlife and community health. Project will engage 2,100 community members, volunteers and students in stewardship opportunities and reach 10,000 people through outreach events, workshops, and online communications with information, opportunities for action and exchange of best practices in watershed restoration.

### **Southeast Clarke Park Restoration and Education Project (GA)**

Grantee: Athens Land Trust

Remove invasive plants and restore 3 acres of native oak-hickory-pine habitat in a community park. Project will include direct outreach to at least 16,780 individuals on habitat restoration and employ 16 Young Conservation Stewards and Crew Leaders to work over two summers to eradicate invasive plants on 15 acres of highly visible public greenspace and build a .25-mile trail that will increase educational and outdoor recreation opportunities for the community.

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### **Community Science and Restoration for a Wildlife-friendly City (NY)**

Grantee: New York City Audubon Society

Restore 3 acres of Jamaica Bay coastline to support bird and horseshoe crab habitat with a native plant meadow, fishing line disposal bins and educational signage. Project will provide shorebird migration data, support state and region-wide horseshoe crab conservation, enhance a total of 15 acres of habitat and involve 775 youth and adults in hands-on conservation.

### **Whatcom Stream Stewards Program (WA)**

Grantee: Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

Restore 15 acres of riparian habitat to improve water quality and habitat for Chinook salmon, bull trout and steelhead salmon in Puget Sound and Whatcom County. Project will engage five local resource management partners and 2,000 volunteers to plant 5,000 trees and remove 6 acres of invasive vegetation.

### **South Bend Park Restoration (GA)**

Grantee: Trees Atlanta

Restore 5 acres within South Bend Park, a 78-acre City of Atlanta park in southeast Atlanta. Project will remove 5 acres of heavily invasive kudzu and plant 400 trees and ground layer perennials to improve and protect restored natural areas and help prevent streambank erosion, as well as promote volunteerism by engaging 415 volunteers and engaging 5,125 members of the public through outreach and education.

### **Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Recreation in Urban Communities of Rhode Island**

Grantee: Partnership for Providence Parks

Restore 2 acres of habitat to promote conservation efforts of New England cottontail while reaching over 900 youth with schoolyard habitat implementation and outdoor programs. Project will engage more than 2,000 people throughout the state in outdoor experiences, including fishing and birding programs, and ensure students engage in learning outdoors utilizing public parks or schoolyard habitats.

### **Creating a Trash Free Mystic River (MA)**

Grantee: Mystic River Watershed Association

Enhance 66 acres of the Torbert Macdonald Park in the lower basin of the Mystic River by engaging 200 community volunteers, educating 10 teachers and providing stewardship opportunities to an additional 200 youth. Project will include land surveys to gather data on density of trash, removal and categorization of trash, and public events such as using canoes to keep urban waterways and riverfronts clean.

### **Right-of-Way Restoration and Maintenance in the Wolf River Watershed (TN)**

Grantee: Heights Community Development Corporation

Improve water quality in the Wolf River watershed by removing invasive plants, trash and debris and installing bioswales that will act as nature-based infrastructure

on 8 miles of urban roadways. Project will mobilize 450 volunteers as well as engage 220 students and ten teachers to accomplish these outcomes which will prevent 20,000 pounds of trash and debris entering the river each year.

### **Creating an Alabama Forest Classroom (AL)**

Grantee: Birmingham-Southern College

Install a rainwater harvesting system, plant 30 native trees and shrubs and create a 0.3 mile "Return of the Natives" Trail on the 466-acre Turkey Creek Nature Preserve. Project will complement the addition of a 120-seat Turkey Creek Classroom, with new systems to channel rainwater from the roof to a 14,000 gallon cistern and drip irrigation system, filtering rainwater to protect the critically endangered vermilion darter.

### **Cultivating River Stewards of the French Broad Basin (NC)**

Grantee: Haywood Waterways Association

Conduct riparian buffer improvements and site-specific and media-based education efforts to diverse audiences throughout the five watersheds of the French Broad River basin. Project will engage 130 community members in live-staking workshops, 350 students in educational programming and 150 volunteers in the removal of invasive species on 5 acres and plant native species on riparian habitat.

### **Engaging Community Volunteers in the Stewardship of Public Lands in Southern Colorado (CO)**

Grantee: Rocky Mountain Field Institute

Engage community volunteers in habitat protection, riparian restoration, post-wildfire restoration, trail construction and maintenance, the removal of noxious species, erosion control and environmental education. Project will engage 2,300 volunteers and 800 students to restore 100 acres through various habitat restoration activities, remove a mile of invasive species and complete a mile of riparian restoration.

### **Otay River Watershed Bird and Habitat Restoration Project (CA)**

Grantee: The Ocean Foundation

Restore 3 acres within the Otay River watershed, including mapping native and non-native plants, invasive plant species removal, litter abatement and native plant revegetation. Project will reach 700 students, 25 teachers, 50 parents and 10 volunteers in habitat restoration and environmental education, including classroom activities and outdoor excursions.

### **Tree Planting and Community Outreach in Kaimuki (HI)**

Grantee: Trees for Honolulu's Future

Train volunteers to inventory urban tree canopy, plant trees on streets and in parks, and educate people on the benefits of trees. Project will plant 361 trees and receive commitments of adjacent landowners to help maintain them, and engage 5,000 community members, 275 students and 12 teachers in education and outreach.

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Heliconia flower in Hawaii

### **Green Jobs Corps: Growing the Urban Refuge Partnership (CT)**

Grantee: New Haven Ecology Project

Engage a diverse group of high school students to restore and bring best management practices to schoolyard habitats, urban greenspaces, coastal preserves and National Wildlife Refuge land across the City of New Haven and surrounding communities. Project will engage 8,610 students through outdoor days and teacher-led lessons and hire 59 student interns to plant 40 street trees and restore 3 acres through invasive removal, native plantings and improved management practices.

### **Eagle River Preserve Riparian Restoration and Environmental Stewardship Pathways Program (CO)**

Grantee: Walking Mountains Science Center

Restore and protect the riparian habitat of the half-mile stretch of the Eagle River running through the Eagle River Preserve and train high school interns living in affordable housing communities to work with volunteers. Project will hire eight interns who will engage 30 volunteers to restore half a mile of riparian habitat through planting and seeding native vegetation, establishing formal fishing access points and implementing erosion control methods to protect new vegetation.

### **Markham Elementary Green Schoolyard Demonstration Project (CA)**

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land

Transform the asphalt schoolyard at Markham Elementary School into a green space with stormwater best management practices, an outdoor laboratory, and other amenities for boosting ecological health and environmental literacy. Project will replace 21,000 square feet of pavement with 67 trees, 1,000 square feet of native landscaping and an 8,500 square foot drought-tolerant grass field and engage 200 volunteers and 350 elementary school students in hands on conservation and education.

### **Dunwoody Nature Center Habitat and Wetland Restoration and Education (GA)**

Grantee: Dunwoody Nature Center

Restore 22 acres of habitat within the Dunwoody Nature Center that includes 3 acres of natural wetlands, 2 miles of streams in the impaired Ball Mill Creek watershed and more than 15 acres of transitioning and old-growth Piedmont slope forests. Project will recruit and train 1,000 community volunteers as eco-stewards through the project's educational focus that will also be leveraged to educate over 15,000 students that come to the grounds yearly.

### **Louisiana Waterthrush Community Conservation in Buffalo Creek (PA)**

Grantee: Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania

Restore a mile of riparian buffer, deliver a series of informal and formal educational programs, and host recycling and household hazardous waste collection events to support clean streams and healthy forests in Buffalo Creek. Project will educate 540 students and 1,290 adults, plant 520 trees, 220 shrubs, and 430 perennials, remove 5 acres of invasive species, prevent 289,800 pounds of waste from entering waterways and monitor 30 sites.

### **Educational Outdoor Laboratories and Hydrology Restoration on the Tchoutacabouffa River (MS)**

Grantee: Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain

Create a restored green space for scientific and educational activities for the community that will ultimately improve ecological health and water quality. Project will restore the hydrology of a 9-acre pond, plant 75 trees, remove invasive plants on 4 acres, and engage 136 volunteers in restoration projects and 250 students at educational field days.

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Wood turtle

### **Re-Wilding the Los Angeles River Through Education and Engagement (CA)**

Grantee: Friends of the Los Angeles River  
Mobilize volunteers to remove invasive plants, plant natives, conduct bird point counts and remove 120 tons of trash from an 11-mile stretch of river from Griffith Park through downtown. Project will engage 7,000 volunteers in the Great LA River Cleanup, remove invasive species on 5 acres of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, educate 3,000 students from Title I schools in Los Angeles and train 75 teachers to use LA River curriculum.

### **Issaquah Creek Riparian Restoration at Lake Sammamish State Park (WA)**

Grantee: Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust  
Engage community members, volunteers, and AmeriCorps members to continue and expand ecological restoration efforts within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Lake Sammamish Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership. Project will undertake 10 new acres of restoration, support restoration on more than 40 acres, plant 4,000 native trees and shrubs, engage more than 500 volunteers, and connect with 600 youth through the organization's outdoor environmental education program.

### **Truckee Meadows Nature Study Area and Wetland Restoration (NV)**

Grantee: Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation  
Restore 40 acres of a decommissioned golf course to return

it to a wetland, riparian and upland system and nature study area in Reno, Nevada. Project will engage 150 volunteers to restore 5 acres of emergent wetland, 27 acres of wet meadow, and 8 acres of upland through invasive species removal, plant 200 trees in riparian areas and provide 500 community member opportunities for recreation and public education.

### **Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition: Water Quality Monitoring and Restoration Volunteerism (AZ)**

Grantee: Friends of the Verde River  
Engage volunteers, build stewardship in the community, and train community scientists to monitor water quality and identify sites in need of restoration along Oak Creek and Spring Creek. Project will engage seven partner organizations and 225 volunteers to install erosion control structures on 2 acres and monitor 10 sites for water quality.

### **Environmental STEM Education in the Lake Michigan Watershed (IN)**

Grantee: Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center  
Deliver a continuum of community-based environmental STEM programs that connect classroom lessons with the Lake Michigan watershed. Project will reach 200 participating teachers and 5,000 Northwest Indiana students with limited access to nature in primarily low-income, urban areas and restore 5 acres through planting 25 trees, removing invasive plants, planting native plugs and spreading native needs.