



# 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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Children explore wetland samples with Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound

## BACKGROUND

The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program seeks 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.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The program focuses on the stewardship and restoration of coastal, wetland and riparian ecosystems across the country. Its goal is to meet the conservation needs of important species and habitats, providing measurable and meaningful conservation and educational outcomes.

1. Engage broad coalitions and partnerships for collaborative conservation
2. Increase resources for conservation and community stewardship
3. Support innovative and sustainable community-based solutions
4. Recover and sustain viable and healthy ecosystems including healthy urban rivers and streams
5. Through outreach and education, shape and sustain behavior to achieve conservation goals

(continued)

## RESULTS

Since 1999, the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program has supported nearly 1,000 projects through more than \$13.6 million in federal funding and \$11.9 million in private and corporate funding. These grants have leveraged \$82 million in matching contributions.

These projects are expected to:

- Engage more than 1.7 million community members across the country in conservation efforts
- Restore approximately 65,000 acres of land and wetlands

## PROJECT ELEMENTS

Each Five Star and Urban Waters project incorporates four main elements. These fundamental pieces tie together the cornerstones of sustainable community-based conservation projects.

All projects must have:

- On-the-ground activities such as wetland, river or coastal habitat restoration and/or targeted green infrastructure creation and monitoring
- Community partners united to achieve ecological and educational outcomes
- Integrated education, outreach and training into the restoration project through broad community engagement activities or participation and integration with K-12 environmental curriculum
- Measurable ecological, educational and community benefits

## PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

### Park Restoration through Invasive Plant Management in the Mystic River Watershed (MA)

The Mystic River Watershed Association organized a comprehensive invasive plant assessment and management program along a 4.7-mile stretch of urban park space in the Mystic River Reservation in Medford, Mass. The project brought together state, municipal and organizational partners to identify the most important sites to manage invasives for habitat restoration. Project partners organized volunteer events for the cutting and removal of 25 acres of Oriental bittersweet, planned and executed native plantings, and educated and engaged 678 community members and corporate employees.

### Wolf River Greenway Restoration IV (TN)

The Wolf River Conservancy removed 65 acres of invasives and planted 5,084 trees at four target properties along the Wolf River in urbanized sections of the City of Memphis, Tenn. Project partners contributed manual labor, community organizing, bird expertise, project coordination, financial support and environmental education. A total of 3,776 volunteers assisted the WRC in the restoration work, including WRC members, corporate volunteers and



Volunteer installs native plants with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

students who participated in service projects as part of the environmental stewardship education component of the program. An additional 5,901 community members were engaged through public outreach and education.

### Restoring Endangered Butterfly Habitat and Engaging Youth through Restoration Efforts (CA)

The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and partners improved the ecosystem health of the federally endangered Mission blue butterfly on 9.8 acres of habitat at Milagra Ridge in San Mateo County, Calif. The project engaged 226 volunteers who helped propagate and introduce host and nectar plants resistant to fungal pathogens that threaten the species. The project helped prepare Milagra Ridge for the reintroduction of the butterfly.