



Conservation Partnership with Wells Fargo

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROGRAM • 2017-2020





A student enjoys an outdoor learning space at City Garden School in St. Louis, Missouri, funded in part through an investment by Wells Fargo. ON THE COVER: Children water a plant at Three Bridges Park in Milwaukee, a brownfield revitalized into an outdoor science classroom.

Working together for wildlife, communities and a brighter future

Wells Fargo and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) came together in 2012 to form the **Environmental Solutions for Communities** program, a groundbreaking partnership designed to benefit wildlife and build resilience to natural disasters in communities throughout the United States.

This public-private partnership between the nation's largest private conservation grant-maker and one of the world's top financial institutions would go on to generate \$91 million in total conservation impact and engage nearly 1 million people across the United States, many of whom live in historically underserved, low- and moderate-income communities.

In 2017, Wells Fargo decided to build on this successful endeavor by investing in a new initiative to help communities address the many challenges arising from climate change. The **Resilient Communities Program** supports grantees and projects that benefit wildlife populations while boosting the capacity of communities to prepare for coastal sea-level rise, changes in water quantity and quality, and extended wildfire seasons. The program is on track to generate \$45 million in total conservation impact in its first four years.

Working together, NFWF, Wells Fargo and their many partners across the United States are generating measurable, meaningful and sustainable results for wildlife, people and communities.



Grantees engage communities in West Virginia with projects to benefit eastern brook trout.



2020 Initiative Update

In 2012, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and Wells Fargo created the Environmental Solutions for Communities Program. Over five years, the program supported more than 300 projects in 38 states and the District of Columbia.

From 2012 through 2017, the partnership invested a total of \$15 million from Wells Fargo and \$10 million in other NFWF funding. These investments leveraged an additional \$66 million in matching contributions from grantees to generate a total conservation impact of \$91 million. The grants awarded through the Environmental Solutions for Communities Program restored more than 70,000 acres of habitat and engaged almost 1 million community members.

Building on this success, Wells Fargo and NFWF launched the Resilient Communities Program in 2017. This re-imagined program improves natural resources on coasts,

in forests and in flood and drought prone waterways while helping communities adapt to climate change. The Wells Fargo Foundation supported this four-year initiative through a \$12.4 million contribution. In just four years, NFWF leveraged this contribution with other private and public funds and grantee matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of more than \$45 million.

The program improves fish and wildlife habitat and enhances community resilience. These projects are restoring nearly 180,000 acres of land, planting 70,500 trees and using green infrastructure to prevent more than 3 million gallons of stormwater from flooding local lands and waterways.

In addition to benefitting fish, birds and wildlife habitats, these projects emphasize community inclusion and assistance to traditionally underserved people in vulnerable areas.



Many of the grants awarded through the Resilient Communities Program help communities implement green infrastructure projects. Rain gardens, bioswales and other such features reduce stormwater runoff, improve water quality and mitigate flood risks for local communities.



One of the grants awarded in 2020 will support leaders in six vulnerable communities across the country, including this flood-prone neighborhood in Port Arthur, Texas, to teach volunteers about nature-based practices and install high-visibility projects as a catalyst for broader implementation.

Large regional and national projects invest in cities, developing scalable models to help communities plan, and implement resilience projects.

Throughout both programs, NFWF utilized its unique reach and partnerships to engage a wide audience of grantees in some of the most urban and rural communities, creating a diverse portfolio of projects accomplishing a variety of conservation objectives. This portfolio includes high-quality, impactful projects that attain conservation objectives, engage diverse audiences, develop capacity on the ground and deepen resilience for communities nationwide.

In 2020, NFWF and Wells Fargo added a new focus area: supporting conservation and resilience projects in affordable housing communities and small business districts. These projects invest in innovative green infrastructure projects supporting communities with the highest need.

In particular, the affordable housing category allows the program to take a leadership role in protecting communities that serve low- and middle-income residents by advancing green infrastructure solutions. Low-income communities often lack access to green space, which increases the risk and damage from stormwater runoff, flood events and other disproportionately negative impacts.

Through this new category, the partnership funded two grants to boost the livability and sustainability of affordable



The use of green infrastructure mitigates flood risk in urban areas while also improving water quality for the benefit of wildlife outside of those communities, including fish such as this young brook trout.

neighborhoods while supporting resilient communities and benefiting local waterways, ecosystems and wildlife. Increasing green infrastructure improves air and water quality, reduces urban heat islands, and lowers the use of heating and cooling for residents and small businesses.

Additionally, these green spaces improve community health and wellness and create more vibrant, livable and resilient communities.

Project Spotlights

Green Infrastructure for Affordable Housing Communities

The Conservation Trust for North Carolina is designing and implementing several nature-based stormwater interventions with additional related educational features to increase flood resilience and awareness along the Tar River in eastern North Carolina.

This historic community is the oldest town incorporated by African Americans in the United States. Established by freed slaves after the Civil War and incorporated in 1885, floods devastated the town six times in the 20th century, in addition to flooding in 2016 by Hurricane Matthew. The project utilizes community assets to reduce flooding around the hub of the community, the Princeville Elementary School, which lies directly adjacent to 49 units of affordable rental housing.

This project will engage the town’s 1,000 citizens, implement 16,500 square feet of green stormwater infrastructure, treat 75,684 square feet of impervious surfaces, create 3,000 feet of new trails for recreational opportunities, plant thousands of native plants, and provide a highly visible educational and recreational resource at the hub of the community.

Award Amount:..... \$200,000
Matching Contributions:..... \$403,200

The City of Houston is addressing poor air quality, environmental degradation, flooding, climate change, drought and urban heat island effect through tall-grass prairie ecosystem restoration. This project creates opportunities for nature-based infrastructure jobs through the alignment of these project activities with education, training and workforce development opportunities geared toward local residents.

The project removes a barrier currently preventing the community from accessing nature by creating a green corridor around the New Hope Housing Reed community. In addition to the direct benefits of these efforts, the project will serve as a demonstration on how neighborhoods can have access to open spaces while increasing adaptation to climate change.

The project includes design, outreach and construction as well as training and educational components. Partners will align with adaptation and resilience efforts across the city.

Award Amount:..... \$400,000
Matching Contributions:..... 400,575

Increasing Community Capacity

Spruce Root is building mutually-trusting relationships within and across tribal communities in Southeast Alaska. This project enables all interested parties to participate in decision-making about natural resources and infrastructure that Alaska Native and rural communities rely upon for their livelihoods.

The Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian tribes of Southeast Alaska have a history of resilient economies that stretch back for thousands of years, but have suffered from recent development. Timber extraction in community watersheds has severely impacted the wildlife habitat that residents rely upon for subsistence harvesting. Local economies have declined as villages have lost access to commercial fishing permits. Boom and bust resource development and generational trauma have left communities with diminished economic and social capital and capacity.

Spruce Root is training 20 community catalysts and engaging 60 community members in southeastern Alaska tribes to develop and execute initiatives that use local capacity to collaborate for resilience. This project will help build robust, sustainable economies necessary for reversing deforestation and increasing biodiversity.

Award Amount:..... \$249,925
Matching Contributions:..... \$1,500,000

Regional Adaptation

California Trout is improving forest resilience and decreasing the risk of large-scale, high-intensity wildland fires affecting the June Lake and downstream Grant Lake/ Rush Creek watersheds in central California.

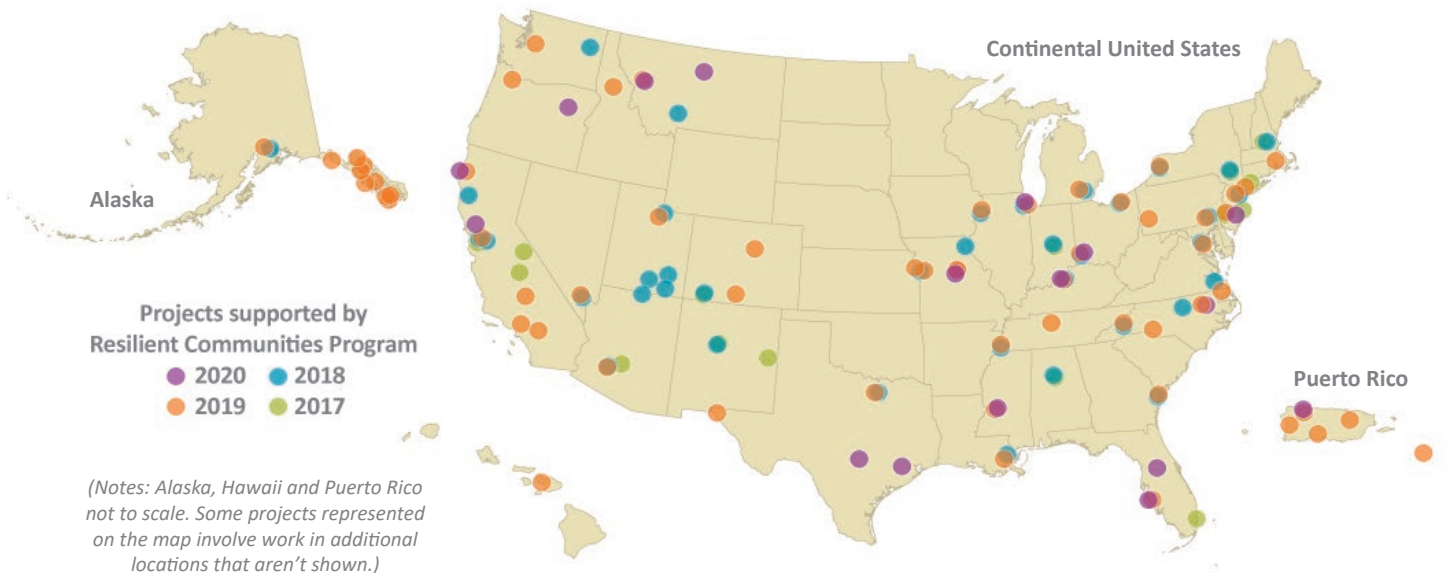
Over 70 years of fire exclusion, combined with periods of extended drought in California, have resulted in unnaturally dense, stressed forested stands with high levels of bark beetle activity. This resulted in excessive standing dead and downed trees that provide fuel for fires, which are a risk to wildlife habitat and a threat to nearby communities.

This project uses a phased approach to implement on-the-ground resilience measures on 110 acres of habitat in the Inyo National Forest that will benefit wildlife such as mule deer. These areas are critical to watershed health, habitat and forest resilience. In addition, the project is strategically located atop a ridgeline in order to impede the spread of a wildfire ignition in the area. These 110 acres are part of the much larger June Mountain Ski Area Vegetation Management Planning Project.

Award Amount:..... \$797,644
Matching Contributions:..... \$513,930



RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS, 2017-2020



Grant awards, 2017-2020

2020 GRANTS

In 2020, NFWF and Wells Fargo awarded the fourth round of funding for Resilient Communities projects. Eleven new or continuing resilience grants totaling \$3.6 million were made. The eleven projects are generating \$4.5 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$8.1 million.

Sonoma Valley Wildlands: Fire Resiliency for Communities and Natural Habitats (CA)

Grantee: Sonoma Land Trust
Grant Amount:\$319,364
Matching Funds:\$820,000
Total:.....\$1,139,364
Perform vegetation management and fuel reduction activities throughout 18,000 acres of protected lands and implement a countywide public education campaign to increase wildfire resilience in Sonoma County, California. Project will treat 720 acres of wildlands to reduce risk to life, land and property and increase health and wildfire resilience of forest habitat.

Addressing Flooding and Stormwater in Burlington County (NJ)

Grantee: Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Grant Amount:\$204,000
Matching Funds:\$302,700
Total:.....\$506,700
Provide homeowners and municipalities with expert advice and financial assistance to create rain gardens and other nature-based infrastructure projects that capture polluted stormwater and prevent it from entering lakes and rivers. Project will reach 1,000 community members and 500 volunteers and offer a technical assistance workshop where Rutgers University engineers will design rain gardens for homeowners and municipalities will get one-on-one assistance and designs for large-scale projects.

Building Resilience with the Aaniiih and Nakoda Nations (MT)

Grantee:.....Climate Conservation
Grant Amount:\$261,470
Matching Funds:\$273,500
Total:.....\$534,970
Increase ecological resilience in the Little Rockies by applying adaptive management techniques to restore ponderosa pine forests and protect irreplaceable cultural sites. Project will restore 300 acres and engage 450 community members through collaborative learning and outreach to encourage the community and regional leaders to prioritize adaptive management across all programs, with forest restoration serving as a visible example of resilience and opportunity.



Volunteers restore wetlands at Rainier Beach in Seattle, Washington.

Restoration of Sweet Woods Forest Preserve of Cook County (IL)

Grantee: Forest Preserve Foundation
Grant Amount:\$324,994
Matching Funds:\$325,000
Total:.....\$649,994
Restore 180 acres of native uplands ecosystem in Sweet Woods Forest Preserve, a high-priority conservation area for the Forest Preserves of Cook County. Project will be conducted by professional restoration contractors, as well as a 21 person restoration crew from Greencorps, a program which provides conservation work and training for adults facing barriers to employment.



A grant awarded in 2020 will help Native Americans boost resilience to devastating forest fires in the Pacific Northwest.

**Pacific Northwest Forest Collaboratives
and Indian Tribes Restoration Initiative (OR, WA)**

Grantee: Sustainable Northwest
Grant Amount:\$349,470
Matching Funds:\$850,610
Total:.....\$1,200,080
Partner with Indian Tribes and Forest Collaboratives to implement and monitor fuels and wildfire risk reduction projects with forest restoration and wildlife habitat enhancement on three Pacific Northwest landscapes. Project will improve rural and Indigenous community protection against fire and restore forests, resulting in more than 430,000 acres managed for strategic fuel reductions and long-term conservation outcomes in Oregon and Washington.

Green Infrastructure for Resilience (Nationwide)

Grantee: Anthropocene Alliance
Grant Amount:\$494,758
Matching Funds:\$715,020
Total:.....\$1,209,778
Convene six community-based organizations in disaster-prone neighborhoods to engage local partners to train volunteers and teach residents about nature-based practices and install six high visibility projects as a catalyst for broader implementation. Project will reach 600 community members and successes will be shared with peer flood survivors around the country through a network of 48 leaders in 22 states.

**Building Equitable Futures
for Our Communities Program (TX)**

Grantee: Austin Area Urban League
Grant Amount:\$300,000
Matching Funds:\$300,000
Total:.....\$600,000
Create opportunities for individuals to attain sufficient knowledge, skills, resources, and self-efficacy to enable them to become Resiliency Ambassadors. Project will provide educational programming on preparedness to 196 community members and offer youth Environmentalist Ambassador jobs to 20 collegiate students who will have access to capacity building education before they are eligible to act as Career Services Ambassadors within the local community.

**Seeding Resilience Through Restoration and Education
in Princeville (NC)**

Grantee: Conservation Trust for North Carolina
Grant Amount:\$200,000
Matching Funds:\$203,200
Total:.....\$403,200
Design and implement nature-based stormwater interventions and related educational features to increase flood resilience and awareness along the Tar River in eastern North Carolina. Project will engage the town’s 1000 citizens, implement 16,500 square feet of green stormwater BMPs to treat 75,684 square feet of impervious surfaces,



Another grant awarded in 2020 will improve the resiliency of important horseshoe crab spawning sites in New Jersey.

create 3,000 feet of new trails and plant thousands of native plants, while providing a visible educational and recreational resource at the hub of the community.

Urban Prairie Project (TX)

Grantee: City of Houston
Grant Amount:\$400,000
Matching Funds:\$400,575
Total:.....\$800,575
Integrate principles of resilience within an affordable housing development that consists of two components: restoring a prairie ecosystem and developing a green corridor within existing gas line easement for community growth. Project will reach 200 community members, restore up to 8 acres of land and serve as a demonstration for how best to integrate green stormwater infrastructure and incorporate an urban prairie ecosystem that prepares the community to be more resilient.

Improving the Resiliency of Horseshoe Crab and Shorebird Habitat (NJ)

Grantee: American Littoral Society
Grant Amount:\$500,000
Matching Funds:\$522,440
Total:.....\$1,022,440
Improve the resiliency of 0.34 linear miles (5.8 acres) of important horseshoe crab spawning and red knot foraging beach habitat at Fortescue beach located in Downe

Township, New Jersey by creating up to 1,200 linear feet of hybrid living reef breakwaters that will minimize sand loss during winter storms. Project will engage eight local partners, 250 volunteers and reach 2,500 people through our existing outreach programs to include horseshoe crab tagging and re-sighting.

Leadership in Community Resilience Program (III)

Grantee: National League of Cities Institute
Grant Amount:\$498,432
Matching Funds:\$30,000
Total:.....\$528,432
Expand the Leadership in Community Resilience program with a cohort of eight additional cities throughout the United States, for a total of 33 cities nationwide, providing additional technical assistance and peer learning to complete a local resilience project in each city. The project will make 16 staff site visits, complete eight local implementation or demonstration projects, host a national Resilient Cities Summit and deliver new education and leadership training workshops for dozens of additional cities beyond the cohort.

2019 GRANTS

In 2019, NFWF and Wells Fargo announced that 11 new or continuing resilience grants totaling \$2.9 million had been awarded, leveraging \$5.8 million in match from the grantees, generating a total conservation impact of \$8.6 million.

Parking Lot to Dunescape Conversion (CT)

Grantee: SoundWaters

Grant Award:..... \$347,371

Matching Funds: \$740,000

Total Amount:..... \$1,087,371

Remove a 40,000-square-foot, waterfront parking lot at John J. Boccuzzi Park and replace it with a dunescape of naturally resilient sea grass and other native species. Project will engage 300 diverse community volunteers to help plant the new dunescape and restore 3 acres.

Building Community Resilience through Collaboration in Native Villages in Southeast Alaska (AK)

Grantee: Spruce Root

Grant Award:..... \$249,926

Matching Funds: \$1,500,000

Total Amount:..... \$1,749,926

Increase collaboration by building relationships within and across tribal communities in Southeast Alaska to give all interested parties a voice when making decisions about the natural resources and infrastructure that Alaska Native and rural communities rely upon for their livelihoods. Project will train 20 community catalysts and engage 60 community members in the Hoonah, Hydaburg, Kake, Kasaan, Klawock, Sitka and Yakutat tribes.

Rattlesnake Creek Stream Restoration for Fish, Flood and Drought Resilience (MT)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Grant Award:..... \$315,540

Matching Funds: \$700,000

Total Amount:..... \$1,015,540

Protect public safety, improve native fish habitat, restore natural floodplain processes and enhance public recreation opportunities through improving fish passage, stream restoration and water management. Project will result in more than 10 miles reconnected for native fish, 15 acres of wetland and floodplain restoration and preservation, 0.5 miles of stream habitat reconstruction, 45 acres of new open space, and 20 cfs of protected water rights for improved streamflow and stream temperatures.

Enhancing Forest Reserve Resiliency through Fuels Management in Pohakea Watershed (HI)

Grantee: Maui Nui Marine Resource Council

Grant Award:..... \$300,000

Matching Funds: \$430,478

Total Amount:..... \$605,478

Establish and improve fuel breaks in strategically placed corridors to mitigate the pervasive cycle of wildfire and protect 3,414 acres of Forest Reserve in Ma'alaea. Project will engage more than 10 partner organizations and community volunteers to create fuel breaks and establish fire resistant plants.

Community Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience in the San Bernardino Mountains (CA)

Grantee: American Forests

Grant Award:..... \$202,072

Matching Funds: \$205,000

Total Amount:..... \$407,072

Accelerate resilience focused forest restoration and engage vulnerable communities in planning and decision-making surrounding managing wildfire risk while building local capacity. Project will use a participatory process to develop a regional conservation plan, plant 80,000 drought- and fire-resilient trees, restore 100 acres impacted by wildfire and engage 400 community members.

Scaling Green Infrastructure Investments in Cities (IL)

Grantee: CDP North America

Grant Award:..... \$250,000

Matching Funds: \$330,000

Total Amount:..... \$580,000

Build capacity of communities in an additional 15 cities across the United States to help them implement sustainable infrastructure for stormwater management, urban wildlife habitats and tree canopy improvement. Project will perform targeted outreach to cities to increase knowledge of sustainable infrastructure financing, develop cities' use of online tools to document green infrastructure and habitat benefits and facilitate knowledge-sharing and capacity-building across cities.

Restoring Great Dismal Swamp to Improve Flood Resilience and Wetland Habitat (NC)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Award:..... \$250,000

Matching Funds: \$263,515

Total Amount:..... \$513,515

Restore forested wetlands within a portion of Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge which were previously ditched and drained for logging roads to increase precipitation storage capacity and slow the runoff rate towards communities after storm events. Project will restore 12,000 acres and improve the hydrologic conditions supportive of the once-diverse wetlands while simultaneously improving the resilience of adjacent, low elevation agricultural and residential areas to flooding.

Nez Perce Tribe Restoration of Wet Meadows (ID)

Grantee: Nez Perce Tribe

Grant Award:..... \$201,300

Matching Funds: \$238,939

Total Amount:..... \$405,839

Protect, restore and inventory culturally and ecologically important wet meadow habitat in the Lolo Creek watershed to benefit unique vegetation communities and improve water quality. Project will restore 70 acres through invasive species management and stream buffer enhancements and provide sustainable management education opportunities to youth in five different schools within underserved communities.



Nature Works Summer Youth Corps interns remove invasive weeds in Forest Park in St. Louis, Missouri.

Rio Grande Riparian Restoration Project (CO)

Grantee: Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
 Grant Award:..... \$200,000
 Matching Funds: \$275,373
Total Amount:..... \$475,373

Improve the health and resilience of the Rio Grande in Alamosa County, CO by restoring stream banks and riparian areas and removing noxious weeds, thereby reducing sediment load to the river, improving riparian and aquatic habitat, reconnecting the river to its floodplain and revitalizing riparian wetlands. Project will restore 25 acres through noxious weed removal, restore 1.2 miles of instream habitat and plant 1380 willows and cottonwood trees.

Hanning Flat Acquisition Project (CA)

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land
 Grant Award:..... \$400,000
 Matching Funds: \$1,047,703
Total Amount:..... \$1,447,703

Increase resilience to wildfire for rural communities in Kern County, California by conserving a 3,806-acre block of forest and grassland and developing a management plan that enhances fire resilience, ecological health and

outdoor recreation. Project will improve the health of native imperiled species, enhance opportunities for outdoor recreation, working lands and other local industries and disseminate the lessons of a fire resilient approach to land conservation and management.

Leadership in Community Resilience Program (III)

Grantee: National League of Cities Institute
 Grant Award:..... \$249,161
 Matching Funds: \$110,000
Total Amount:..... \$359,161

Expand the Leadership in Community Resilience program with a cohort of eight additional cities throughout the United States, providing additional technical assistance and peer learning to complete a local resilience project in each city. The project will make 16 staff site visits, complete eight local implementation or demonstration projects, host a national Resilient Cities Summit and deliver new education and leadership training workshops for dozens of additional cities beyond the cohort.



Many projects supported by the Resilient Communities Program give young people a chance to learn about conservation and connect with nature.

2018 GRANTS

In 2018, NFWF and Wells Fargo announced that eight new or continuing resilience grants totaling \$2 million had been awarded. The eight awards announced generated \$7.6 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$9.6 million.

Integrating Watershed and Urban Tree Canopy Restoration Practices with Workforce Development (NM)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy of New Mexico
 Grant Award:\$200,008
 Matching Funds:\$245,480
Total Amount:\$445,488

Perform in-stream restoration activities along 2 acres of Tijeras Arroyo River tributaries to enhance watershed health, plant native trees in neighborhoods in Albuquerque's South Valley to alleviate heat vulnerability and drought while partnering with a local tree nursery and greenhouse to benefit the local workforce. Project will train and employ approximately 33 local youth to plant over 200 trees.

Scaling Green Infrastructure Investments in Cities

Grantee: CDP North America
 Grant Award:\$200,000
 Matching Funds:\$642,500
Total Amount:\$842,500

Build capacity of communities in 18 cities across the United States to help them implement sustainable infrastructure for

stormwater management, urban wildlife habitats and tree canopy improvement. Project will perform targeted outreach to cities to increase knowledge of sustainable infrastructure financing as well as develop cities' use of online tools to document green infrastructure and habitat benefits.

Enterprise Resilience Learning Collaborative

Grantee: Enterprise Community Partners
 Grant Award:\$250,000
 Matching Funds:\$450,000
Total Amount:\$700,000

Create and lead the CARES Learning Collaborative of Community Development Corporations from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Project will deepen up to eight local organizations' understanding of resilience through developing business continuity, engage 5,000 residents in readiness planning for local communities and rebuild with resilience in mind to reduce the impact of future disasters and events.

Leadership in Community Resilience Program

Grantee: National League of Cities Institute
 Grant Award:\$249,638
 Matching Funds:\$110,000
Total Amount:\$359,638

Expand the Leadership in Community Resilience program with a cohort of seven additional cities throughout the United States, providing additional technical assistance and peer learning to complete a local resilience project in each city.

Project will make 14 staff site visits, complete seven local implementation or demonstration projects, host a national Resilient Cities Summit and deliver new education and leadership training workshops for dozens of additional cities beyond the cohort.

Building Fire Resistance and Healthy Wildlife Habitat (WA)

Grantee: Spokane Tribe
Grant Award:\$225,000
Matching Funds:\$275,000
Total Amount:\$500,000

Improve fire resilience by thinning overstocked trees on the Spokane Reservation for a healthier, fire resistant habitat, while creating browse and essential cover for deer, elk, moose and numerous bird species. Project will reduce fuel loads and enhance wildlife habitat on approximately 550 acres of land.

Native American Youth Restoring Ecological Balance in Colorado River Watershed (AZ, UT)

Grantee: Grand Canyon Youth
Grant Award:\$202,845
Matching Funds:\$203,020
Total Amount:\$405,865

Perform invasive species management and stream buffer enhancements along the Colorado, Escalante, San Juan and Dirty Devil Rivers. Project will engage Native American youth from the Southwest Conservation Corps Ancestral Lands Program to restore 15 acres of stream buffer zones, develop conservation and employment skills, and cultivate an understanding of Leave-No-Trace principles.

Building Adaptive Shorelines in Tidewater, Virginia

Grantee: James River Association
Grant Award:\$400,113
Matching Funds:\$745,400
Total Amount:\$1,145,513

Develop a pilot living shoreline program in the Tidewater region of Virginia’s James River watershed resulting in visible demonstration projects and readily available training and technical resources. Project will hold three workshops, perform targeted outreach and engage 100 volunteers while installing sills and oyster shell bags and planting marsh grasses.

Brushy Mountain Conservation Easement (CA)

Grantee: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Grant Award:\$275,000
Matching Funds:\$5,000,000
Total Amount:\$5,275,000

Permanently protect 26,144 acres of private forestland and rangeland within California’s wildland-urban interface through the acquisition of a conservation easement. Project will assist Mendocino County in wildfire preparedness by limiting residential housing and viticulture development between U.S. Route 101 and the Mendocino National Forest.



Though many conservation projects unfold in remote areas, grants awarded through the Resilient Communities Program often support projects in urban and suburban areas.

2017 GRANTS

NFWF and Wells Fargo partnered to create the Resilient Communities program and, in its first year, announced eight new or continuing resilience grants totaling \$2 million. The 2017 grants generated \$11.6 million in matching funds from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$13.6 million.

Restoring Iowa’s Wetlands to Improve Water Quality, Flood Resilience and Wildlife Habitat (IA)

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited
Grant Amount:\$250,000
Matching Funds:\$250,000
Total Project:\$500,000

Ducks Unlimited will restore 152 acres of wetlands to reduce nutrient runoff, improve water quality, mitigate local and downstream flooding, and provide waterfowl and wildlife habitat in 37 north-central Iowa counties. Project will improve wetlands and restore shallow lakes with turbid or algal conditions that are overrun with invasive fish and vegetation.

Sustainable Water Supply for Clovis Through Community-based Playa Restoration (NM)

Grantee: Playa Lakes Joint Venture
Grant Amount:\$250,000
Matching Funds:\$419,294
Total Project:\$669,294

Playa Lakes Joint Venture will partner with residents, farmers and ranchers to proactively address a declining municipal water supply by restoring part of the Ogallala Aquifer through playa restoration and protection, reduced use of irrigation-based agriculture, and better surface water management. The project will work with 120 members of the community

to develop workshops to assist producers in learning how they can restore playas resulting in an estimated 700 acres of wetland and thousands of upland acres.

Improving Shoreline Community Resilience and Beach Habitat Management (NJ)

Grantee: Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Grant Amount: \$200,000
Matching Funds: \$136,000
Total Project:.....\$336,000

Pinelands Preservation Alliance will promote natural revegetation, sediment accretion and dune formation along the fore dune areas on shorelines to protect 66 miles of back beach area from beach raking and off-road vehicles. This will allow a portion of the beach to function as habitat and begin the process of dune formation to protect communities during storm events and sea level rise. The project will engage 16 volunteers throughout the program.

Demonstrating Coastal Resilience in Greater Miami and the Beaches (FL)

Grantee: Museum of Science dba Miami Science Museum
Grant Amount: \$287,749
Matching Funds: \$392,711
Total Project:..... \$680,460

Museum of Science will partner with a suite of local nonprofits, schools and municipalities to restore 17 acres of coastal wetland and dune habitats at three different public land sites in Miami-Dade County. The project will involve highly visible models, which will resonate across the region and progress toward a goal of 100 successful climate adaptation sites over 10 years throughout greater Miami and the beaches.

Leadership in Community Resilience

Grantee: National League of Cities Institute
Grant Amount: \$248,112
Matching Funds: \$40,000
Total Project:.....\$288,112

National League of Cities Institute will conduct a series of demonstration projects by extending the Leadership in Community Resilience pilot program to an additional seven cities. The project will provide \$10,000 pass-through grants to support a resilience focused community event, staff support to plan, attend and execute the event, as well as 12 months of on-going technical support leading up to and following each event to ensure that the desired local goals and outcomes are achieved.

Greening Affordable Housing for Nature, Community Resilience and Human Well-being (AZ, CT, NM, PA)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
Grant Amount: \$250,000
Matching Funds: \$9,533,799
Total Project:.....\$9,783,799

The Nature Conservancy will create demonstration projects in three cities to address community resilience and improve green infrastructure by creating an urban forest and greenspace in Albuquerque, New Mexico, creating green stormwater infrastructure in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and de-paving surfaces and plant trees in Phoenix, Arizona. The projects will



All of NFWF’s initiatives, including the Resilient Communities Program, are designed and managed with a goal of producing real-world, measurable results for wildlife and people.

plant 270 trees and reach out to 950 people to implement green infrastructure and develop supportive communities.

Project Name: June Mountain Ski Area Whitebark Pine Restoration Project (Phase 1) (CA)

Grantee: California Trout
Grant Amount: \$207,500
Matching Funds: \$490,144
Total Project:.....\$697,644

California Trout will restore whitebark pine forests within the June Mountain Ski Area by removing standing dead trees, while promoting regeneration of whitebark pine and reducing wildfire threats to local communities and watersheds. The project will restore a total of 518 acres of predominately whitebark pine forest at the conclusion of all project phases.

McKenzie Ridge Fuel Treatment and Prescribed Fire Project (CA)

Grantee: Terra Fuego Resource Foundation
Grant Amount: \$305,000
Matching Funds: \$0
Total Project:.....\$305,000

Terra Fuego Resource Foundation will reduce wildfire risk, improve ecological values and protect communities by using prescribed fire to protect an additional 486 acres of wildland-urban interface at the gateway to Sequoia National Park. The project will improve community resilience by using prescribed fire to reduce fuels and improve habitat to directly benefit the communities and summer camps around Dunlap, California, Sequoia National Monument and Sequoia National Park.



One of the first grants awarded through the Resilient Communities Program helped reduce the risk of wildfire for communities around the famed Sequoia National Park in California.

Middle school students
explore Chaparral habitat in
San Bernardino, California



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