

Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program

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PARTNERS

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

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ABOUT NEWF

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

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Volunteers plant trees in Los Angeles, CA | credit: Los Angeles Audubon Society

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is pleased to announce the 2021 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. 43 projects totaling over \$1.8 million were awarded, generating over \$4.1 million in matching contributions from grantees, and providing a total impact of over \$5.9 million.

(continued)



Students plant a tree in the Michigan Lake watershed in Indiana | credit: Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center

Urban Bird Habitat and Environmental Education at The University of New Orleans (LA)

Grantee: University of New Orleans

and shrubs along the trail route; 4) launch UNO participation

in trash cleanup events; and 5) provide 375 educational experiences to UNO students.

YES San Diego: Youth Environmental Stewardship (CA)

Grantee: Outdoor Outreach

Grant Amount:	\$29,419.87
Matching Funds:	\$30,500
Total Project Amount:	\$59,919.87

Create access points to the San Diego Bay and Tijuana River Watersheds for youth from low-income communities and communities of color, engaging youth in hands-on, outdoor conservation programs with impacts both for wetland and coastal habitat restoration and for youth awareness and ownership of those natural resources. Project will engage 140 individuals in environmental education and restoration programs resulting in the restoration of 120 acres of sensitive wetland and coastal habitats.

Maritime Grassland Dune Restoration on Jekyll Island (GA)

Grantee: Georgia Audubon

 Grant Amount:
 \$44,418.3

 Matching Funds:
 \$65,349

Restore and stabilize 3.5 acres of coastal dunes through the establishment of maritime grassland habitat to protect Georgia's valuable salt marshes and interior terrestrial habitats. Project will engage 7 local partners and at least 50 volunteers to install 24,000 plants and 10 pounds of seed and remove 3.5 acres of invasive vegetation, as well as engage at least 900 youth and community members in conservation experiences.

Frazer Forest Restoration (GA)

Grantee: Trees Atlanta

 Grant Amount:
 \$34,514

 Matching Funds:
 \$125,433

Total Project Amount: \$159,947

Restore Frazer Forest, located on the east-northeast edge of the City of Atlanta in DeKalb County and containing old-growth trees and native plant species that indicate it is a remnant of the original forest in Atlanta. Project will improve 9.7 acres of forest through invasive removal, plant 100 trees, and install protective fencing and signage while conducting onsite education and engagement for over 500 people.

Protecting Downstream Water Intake on the Kansas River Through Ecosystem Restoration (KS)

Grantee: Friends of the Kaw

Grant Amount:	\$49,867.18
Matching Funds:	\$112,843.16
Total Project Amount:	\$162,710.34

Restore 21.6 acres of riparian woodland and tallgrass prairie, install bioswales, and conduct outreach to the local community. Project will improve water quality in the Kansas River, and outreach will directly impact at least 1,050 people, resulting in expanded relationships between partners and the community which will support the development of future projects.

Restoring San Leandro and San Lorenzo Watersheds and Associated Shorelines (CA)

Grantee: Earth Team

Grant Amount:\$3	35,708
Matching Funds:\$4	15,000
Total Project Amount:\$8	30,708

Restore up to 100 acres of watershed and shoreline habitats in two major watersheds in the San Francisco East Bay: San Leandro and San Lorenzo and their connected shorelines, Martin Luther King Shoreline and Hayward Regional Shoreline. Project will: 1) engage students to monitor water quality; 2) map, classify and remove land-based litter from creekside locations; 3) restore riparian habitats; and 4) engage 2,000 peer and community members to reduce litter, pet waste and garden pesticides pollution.

Advancing Urban Wetland and Watershed Conservation through Community Stewardship in New York City

Grantee: New York City Department of Parks and Recreation		
Grant Amount:\$47,667		
Matching Funds:\$49,715		
Total Project Amount:\$97,382		
Expand the New York City Department of Parks and		
Recreation Super Steward/Shorekeeper network. Project will		

Recreation Super Steward/Shorekeeper network. Project will care for at least 6 acres of natural area, as well as street trees and rain gardens in six priority watersheds in the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary and Long Island Sound.

Community Orchards and Environmnetal Education in the Blue River Watershed (MO)

Grantee: Kansas City Community Gardens	
Grant Amount:	\$26,160.50
Matching Funds:	\$33,097.72
Total Project Amount:	\$59,258.22

Plant community orchards, engage volunteers and provide environmental education at locations along the Blue River watershed in urban Kansas City, Missouri. Project will: 1) plant a 35-tree orchard on Kansas City's historic Municipal Farms site; 2) plant a 32-tree expansion to the Kauffman Legacy Park Orchard; and 3) engage students in the Kansas City Community Garden Demonstration Orchard through STEM-based lessons on environment and nutrition.



Volunteers inspect marine debris in Hudson River Park, New York City | credit: Friends of Hudson River Park

Engaging Residents to Promote Green Infrastructure in the Jersey Creek Watershed (KS)

Grantee: Groundwork Northeast Revitalization Group	
Grant Amount:\$38,727	
Matching Funds:\$67,357	
Total Project Amount: \$106,084	
Promote green infrastructure in the Jersey Creek watershed	
of notheast Kansas through engagement with local residents.	
Project will: 1) conduct workshops focusing on the benefits	
of establishing native plants and trees; 2) collaborate with	
local residents on the installation and maintenance of green	
infrastructure; 3) document stories with local residents and	
research related to Oak Grove and Turtle Hill; and 4) conduct	
a second year water quality testing at Jersey Creek.	

Implementing Green Infrastructure to Reduce Stormwater Runoff from Schoolyards in Milwaulkee (WI)

Grantee: Milwaukee Board of School Directors dba Milwaukee Public Schools

awareness.



Students participate in educational programming in Portland, OR | credit: Confluence Environmental Center

Little River Watershed Restoration (AL, GA)

Community Forestry for Green Jobs and Resilience in Somerville and Cambridge (MA)

Restoring, Enhancing, and Maintaining Coastal Habitats in South Florida's Coastal Watershed

vulnerability to heat and flooding by planting trees.

Fostering Stewardship to Improve Urban Wildlife Habitat in Seattle (WA)

Los Angeles Pocket Wildlife Refuges (CA)

known as pocket wildlife refuges, within existing parks and recreational areas in the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek watersheds. Project will connect communities back to national wildlife refuges and create engaging biodiversity hotspots, as well as restore habitat for native flora and fauna.

Urban Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement in Elizabeth, New Jersey

Restore up to one mile of stream bank, mitigate flooding, remove and treat three acres for invasive plants, install a rain/pollinator garden, and plant six types of indigenous species in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Project will enhance local wildlife habitat and attract up to 500 volunteers to perform park restoration and watershed management.



Students maintain a newly planted tree in Chicago | credit: The Morton Arboretum

Riparian Restoration and Water Quality Monitoring Along Riparian Tree Planting in the Lake Pontchartrain the Merrimack River (MA)

Grantee: Merrimack River Watershed Council
Grant Amount:\$39,850
Matching Funds:\$59,129
Total Project Amount:\$98,979
Restore and open public access to eleven acres of riparian
and wetland habitat on a neglected riverine island, and
monitor and improve nearby water quality. Project will train
community members to design and implement the project
alongside trained local youth "Green Team" restoration crews,
and benefit benefit shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon,
blueback Herring and American eel.

Riparian Restoration of Barnaby Run/Oxon Cove Through Community Engagement (DC. MD)

community Engagement (De, MD)
Grantee: Earth Conservation Corps
Grant Amount:\$38,097
Matching Funds:\$38,775
Total Project Amount:
Engage community youth and local organizations in the
removal of a half mile of invasive species and restoration of
riparian habitat through trash removal in Barnaby Run, a
tributary to Oxon Cove and the Potomac River. Project will
plant fifty native bald cypress trees and 1 acre of wild rice
plants in Oxon Cove, a vital urban wildlife habitat to a myriad

of migratory bird species.

Watershed (LA)

Grantee: Sustaining Our Urban Landscape (SOUL)
Grant Amount:\$50,000
Matching Funds:\$88,441.86
Total Project Amount:
Engage 600 community volunteers to plant 700 large, native
trees in order to restore 457 acres of urban forest. Project will
mitigate stormwater runoff into Lake Pontchartrain, enhance
habitat for urban bird species, and increase the Pontchartrain
Park community's access to nature.

Training Youths in Environmental Stewardship in the Blue River Watershed (KS)

Grantee: Heartland Conservation Alliance
Grant Amount:\$49,609.30
Matching Funds:\$50,000
Total Project Amount:\$99,609.30
Train 18 youth and employ a crew of five to seven youth who
will steward 220 acres of land in the Blue River Watershed.
Project will address needs for improved watershed health,
improved community health, and lack of natural resource
management workforce.

Alta Fish River Preserve Habitat Restoration and Outreach (AL)

Grantee: South Alabama Land Trust

Grant Amount:	\$25,500
Matching Funds:	\$37,000
Total Project Amount:	\$62,500

Restore 60 acres for public access and outdoor recreation in Baldwin County, Alabama. Project will improve a property for public access and volunteer opportunities, including invasive plant removal, native plantings, prescribed burning, trail maintenance/construction, as well as nature hikes and environmental ecosystem educational field trips to engage 200 community members.

Installing Trash Barriers in Village Creek Lake Arlington Watershed and Fort Worth Parks (TX)

Grantee: Trinity River Authority of Texas

Grant Amount:	\$39,600
Matching Funds:	\$87,000
Total Project Amount:	\$126,600
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Purchase, install, and maintain multiple trash barriers at highly visible and heavily littered locations within Village Creek Lake Arlington (VCLA) Watershed, and the City of Fort Worth Parks. Project will aid in the expansion of the UpSpire Waterways litter prevention program as well as increase community engagement in addressing root causes of litter by restoring 21,128 acres of VCLA watershed and 807 acres within the City of Fort Worth through removal of up to 1,332 lbs of trash per month.

Community-Based Habitat Restoration along the White River (IN)

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Grantee: Keep Indianapolis Beautiful
Grant Amount:\$20,401
Matching Funds:\$87,214
Total Project Amount: \$107,615
Collaborate with Reconnecting to Our Waterways, the City
of Indianapolis, and community partners to restore 4 acres
of native habitat in Riverside and Ravenswood Overlook
Parks along the White River in Indianapolis, Indiana. Project
will restore native habitat for local flora and fauna, train
and employ 10 college students and young adults through
the Urban Naturalist program, and enlist 100 volunteers in

Restoring Habitat in Kawainui Marsh for Endangered Waterbirds (HI)

habitat restoration work.

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Grantee: Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Grant Amount:\$43,278
Matching Funds: \$150,592
Total Project Amount: \$193,870
Clear 10.4 acres of invasive vegetation and install 3,000 native
plants in Kawainui Marsh, involving 1,600 volunteers and 2,300
K-12 students. Project will restore 1.3 wetland acres and 2.5
upland acres to create habitat for three species of endangered
waterbirds and begin the transition to a community-based
management model for parts of Kawainui Marsh.



Volunteers remove debris from a beach in San Diego, CA. credit: Outdoor Outreach

Youth and Community-Driven Environmental Stewardship in New Orleans East (LA)

Grantee: Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation
Grant Amount:\$50,000
Matching Funds:\$56,508
Total Project Amount:

Train students and teachers in New Orleans East to design, implement and monitor small-scale restoration projects in underserved communities with a focus on sustainability, accessibility, and community input. Project will engage community partners, students, teachers, and community members in restoration projects, educating over 10,000 community members via outreach efforts and creating 2 acres of highly-accessible public open space with restored habitat and enhanced tree canopy.

Improving Bird Safety in the Portland Metropolitan Area (OR, WA)

Grantee: Portland Audubon
Grant Amount:\$50,000
Matching Funds:\$75,340
Total Project Amount:
Reduce various detrimental urban impacts to birds in Oregon
and Washington. Project will: 1) expand the Bird Safe/Dark
Skies program; 2) educate architects and design professionals
about bird safe design; 3) coordinate with the City of Portland
and Multnomah County to embed bird friendly building
standards into green building plans; 4) develop window

demonstration projects; 5) organize public events; and 6) integrate Bird Safe elements into habitat restoration projects.



Nisqually Delta, Washington

Addressing Public Land Stewardship Needs in the Pikes Peak Region of Southern Colorado

Engage community members, youth conservation corps members, and professional trail crews in the completion of critical stewardship projects on public lands in Southern Colorado involving trail construction, trail maintenance, riparian restoration, forest mitigation, and environmental education. Project will engage at least 1,000 community volunteers and will support 100 acres of forest mitigation and restoration, one mile of riparian restoration, and monitoring of 22 project locations.

Promoting Stewardship of Wildlife Habitat in the Capitol Hill Neighborhood of Seattle (WA)

11th Avenue in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Seattle. Project will work to form a more resilient community around the corridor, linking approximately 60 acres of previously isolated greenspace with the goal of: 1) enhancing urban habitat for birds; 2) reducing hazards to birds; and 3) educating and engaging urban communities in conserving birds and their habitats.

Establishing Conservation Priorities and Restoring Urban Habitat in the Greater Houston Region (TX)

Recovering Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Through Riparian Restoration and Water Quality Testing (WA)

resources, particularly Steelhead and Chinook salmon, through riparian restoration projects, civic engagement and community science. Project will engage 750 students to share the results of water quality monitoring and stewardship actions including planting 4,500 trees and restoring 11 acres of riparian habitat while advancing local watershed conservation plans by convening diverse stakeholders.



Crew members plant shoreline grasses in New Orleans, LA credit: Friends of City Park

Lower Bear Creek Water Quality Education, Outreach, and Neighborhood Improvement Activities (CO)

Grantee: Groundwork Denver

Grant Amount:	.\$49,650
Matching Funds: \$	133,139
Total Project Amount:	182,789

Lead water quality education, activities, and monitoring in the Lower Bear Creek Watershed, focusing efforts on the last eight miles of Bear Creek before it feeds the South Platte River. Project will monitor 15 sites along the eight-mile section of Lower Bear Creek, restore 50 acres of the watershed and four miles of riparian area, capture 36,360 gallons of stormwater through stormwater improvements, and reduce runoff by 14,625 gallons through sprinkler improvements.

Restoring the Bakersville Creekwalk with Natural Design and Native Vegetation (NC)

Grantee: Blue Ridge Resource Conservation and Development Council

Grant Amount:	\$45,000
Matching Funds:	\$386,728
Total Project Amount:	\$431,728

Restore and stabilize a 900 linear foot section along the right descending bank and a 1400 linear feet section along the left descending bank of Cane Creek using natural channel design methods and native vegetation plantings. Project will reduce pollution impacts due to stormwater run-off and associated sedimentation, and restoration of stream corridors will provide important habitat during fish and wildlife migrations.

Campbell Creek Streambank and Wildlife Habitat Restoration Project (AK)

Grantee: Municipality of Anchorage: Parks and Recreation
Grant Amount:\$49,979
Matching Funds: \$278,050
Total Project Amount:
Rehabilitate streambank habitat along Campbell Creek in
Anchorage, Alaska to benefit salmon habitat, migratory birds and
other wildlife. Project will install 150 linear feet of root wads,
revegetate 2.5 acres of streambank at three sites, and plant over
550 native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants to replace trees
lost along the creek corridor to spruce beetle infestation.

Urban Ecological Restoration in the Vernon River (GA)

Grantee: Ogeechee Riverkeeeper

Grant Amount:	\$46,000
Matching Funds:	\$47,200
Total Project Amount:	\$93 200

Perform targeted sampling on 16 streamsites with 85 volunteers to analyze, plan restoration and engage a diverse, multigenerational community to implement data-driven management practices that reduce pathogen loading and litter in an impaired water body in Savannah and Chatham County, Georgia. Project will improve ecological health and specific habitat for endangered sturgeon, diamondback terrapin, and sea turtles in the Vernon River.

Building an Urban Orchard Community Park in the City of South Gate (CA)

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land

Grant Amount	:	 	 \$50,000
Matching Fund	ds:	 	 \$110,000
Total Project A	mount:	 	 \$160,000
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Create a 7 acre park for recreation and community engagement within a post-industrial lot located along the Los Angeles River in Southeastern Los Angeles. Project will implement a design developed through community engagement to include a large constructed wetland to extract and clean runoff, an education garden, fruit orchard, nature-based playground, community buildings and artwork, as well as other amenities.

Engaging Local Community Members in Restoring and Conserving Hickory and Shoal Creek Confluence (MO)

Grantee: Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition (DBA Stream Teams United)

 Grant Amount:
 \$49,962

 Matching Funds:
 \$56,734

 Total Project Amount:
 \$106,696

Plan, plant, and monitor the success of a streambank and wetland aquatic habitat restoration project at the confluence of Hickory Creek and Shoal Creek at Neosho, Newton County, Missouri. Project will train students and volunteers in habitat conservation practices and monitoring protocols for water quality and species diversity, plant over 2,200 native trees at the site and monitor success through tree survival assessment, water quality sampling, and species diversity indexing.

North Park Riparian Buffer Restoration and Streambank Rehabilitation (PA)

Grantee: Allegheny County Parks Foundation
Grant Amount:\$49,751
Matching Funds: \$141,928
Total Project Amount:

Restore 2.1 acres of riparian buffer and 2,000 linear feet of streambank of North Fork Pine Creek in Allegheny County to mitigate stormwater impacts and improve soil health, water, and air quality while providing food and habitat for wildlife. Project will stabilize eroded stream bank with stone armoring and vegetation, remove invasive species, and plant native species of trees, shrubs and meadow mix while providing monitoring and engagement opportunities for local students and residents.

Wolf River Greenway Restoration VI (TN)

along the urban sections of the Wolf River.

Grantee: Wolf River Conservancy
Grant Amount:\$38,837
Matching Funds: \$121,456
Total Project Amount:
Remove 25 acres of invasives, plant 1,500 trees and clean
up trash and debris from key locations along the Wolf River
in urbanized sections of the City of Memphis, Tennessee.
Project will engage 800 residents to protect and restore
the watershed features and hydrological functions of sites
currently impacted by invasive plant species, stormwater

Engaging Youth to Restore Desert and Riparian Habitat in the Robbins Butte Wildlife Area (AZ)

runoff, erosion, pollution and illegal dumping, especially

Grantee: Arizona Sustainability Alliance		
Grant Amount:\$40,986		
Matching Funds:\$60,742		
Total Project Amount: \$101,729		
Restore 1,110 acres of riparian and floodplain habitat in the		
Robbins Butte Wildlife Area in Maricopa County, Arizona		
to benefit the desert pupfish and galia topminnow, and to		
provide habitat for the couthwestern willow flygatcher		

provide habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher, ridgway rail, and western yellow-billed cuckoo. Project will engage high school youth from low-income communities in conservation-focused internships to restore critical areas at the Robbins Butte Wildlife Area in the Rio Reimagined corridor of the Gila River.

Restoring Wetlands and Building Community at Possum Hollow Woods (IL)

Hollow Woods (IL)	
Grantee: Friends of the Forest Preserves	
Grant Amount:\$40,000	
Matching Funds:\$78,300	
Total Project Amount:	
Engage volunteers, Conservation Corps members, and high	
school students to restore 38 acres of habitat for birds,	
amphibians, and native plants at Possum Hollow Woods	
forest preserve. Project will improve regional water quality,	

plant native seeds, increase habitat for rare species through



Volunteers restore coastal mangrove habitat in Miami, FL credit: Hands on Broward

invasive species management, and engage urban stewardship communities to benefit the riparian corridor of Salt Creek in Cook County, Illinois.

Urban Coastal Conservation and Monitoring of Leatherback Turtles Through Public Participation (PR)

Grantee: Scuba Dogs Society Grant Amount:\$36,555 Matching Funds:\$79,256 Restore three beaches with leatherback nesting habitat in

San Juan, Puerto Rico. Project will develop a solid waste and marine debris prevention program, collect beach water and microplastic samples, and implement monitoring and educational outreach for the leatherback nesting season.

Lower Eld Inlet Conservation and Education (WA)

Grantee: Northwest Youth Corps

Grant Amount:\$31,575
Matching Funds:\$42,179
Total Project Amount:
Restore up to 20 acres on the Lower Eld Inlet and the McLane
Creek Estuary through invasive vegetation removal, native
plant installation, and mulching. Project will use trained
citizens and volunteers to create a shoreline buffer to
absorb storm surge and rising sea levels and enhance water
quality and habitat for migratory and resident bird species.

Increasing Stewardship of the Trinity River and Adjacent Wetlands (TX)

Grantee: Trinity Park Conservancy

mammals, amphibians, and chinook salmon.

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Grant Amount:\$47,774
Matching Funds:\$82,833
Total Project Amount:
Cultivate community stewardship of riparian and wetland
habitats in Dallas, Texas. Project will increase outreach to
marginalized neighborhoods and youth programs and utilize
an array of partnerships to improve the environmental health

along the Trinity River and its adjacent wetlands.