



# 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
- FedEx
- Southern Company
- Apex Clean Energy
- BNSF Railway

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 more than 1,000 projects through more than \$13 million in federal funding and \$11.9 million in private and corporate funding. These grants have leveraged \$84 million in matching contributions.

These projects are expected to:

- Engage more than 1.6 million community members across the country in conservation efforts
- Restore approximately 64,000 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

### Lower Delaware Watershed Habitat Restoration (PA)

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) built on the work and partnerships developed through its TreeVitalize watersheds program, a 10+ year effort in partnership with Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection and other partners, to improve the riparian environment and reduce stormwater volume in Southeastern Pennsylvania. PHS restored high value habitat to three important sites within the lower Delaware watershed area by planting native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants and seed mixes in the inner northeastern suburbs of Philadelphia. With partner support, this project restored four acres of riparian buffer, planted 788 trees and 259 shrubs, and safely engaged 38 volunteers to improve watershed health.

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

Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) engaged community volunteers and local partners in habitat protection, riparian restoration, post-wildfire restoration, trail construction and maintenance, removal of noxious species, erosion control, and environmental education. RMFI's programming provides opportunities for active community engagement with on-the-ground restoration and stewardship projects that enhance watershed health and function. Throughout the project, the grantee and partners safely engaged 189 volunteers and



A volunteer works on trail maintenance in southern Colorado  
credit: Rocky Mountain Field Institute

47 students along with seasonal crews to restore 120 acres through habitat restoration activities, removed one mile of invasive species, completed one mile of riparian restoration, and completed a 9-mile trail network.

### Virginia Key North Point Extension Habitat Enhancement (FL)

Museum of Science restored a unique subtropical wetland and dune ecosystem on Virginia Key through the removal of invasive vegetation and replanting of native plants. The grantee along with local partners engaged 424 volunteers in restoring 2.8 acres and planting 612 native plants. The project sought to make the wetland and dune ecosystems more accessible for educational and ecological purposes to serve the local community while ensuring the continued protection and preservation of critical, unique and essential natural resources. This restoration project improved habitat for unique flora and fauna including, but not limited to: American Bald Eagle, Common Yellowthroat, Woodstork, American Crocodile, Loggerhead Sea Turtle, Burrowing four-o'clock, Beach Jacquemontia, and West Indian Manatee.