



# NFWF

## 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 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 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

Grant Amount: .....\$33,937.41

Matching Funds: .....\$42,183.49

Total Project Amount: .....\$76,120.90

Enhance bird habitat along a key migration corridor, expand community tree canopy, improve public open spaces, avert waste from local waterways, and engage the community in environmental stewardship. Project will: 1) establish an urban birding trail at the University of New Orleans (UNO); 2) initiate regular campus bird counts; 3) plant 120 native trees 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

Total Project Amount: .....\$109,767.30

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.

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### 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: .....\$35,708

Matching Funds: .....\$45,000

Total Project Amount: ..... \$80,708

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 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 Environmental 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 northeast 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 Milwaukee (WI)

Grantee: Milwaukee Board of School Directors dba Milwaukee Public Schools

Grant Amount: .....\$49,996

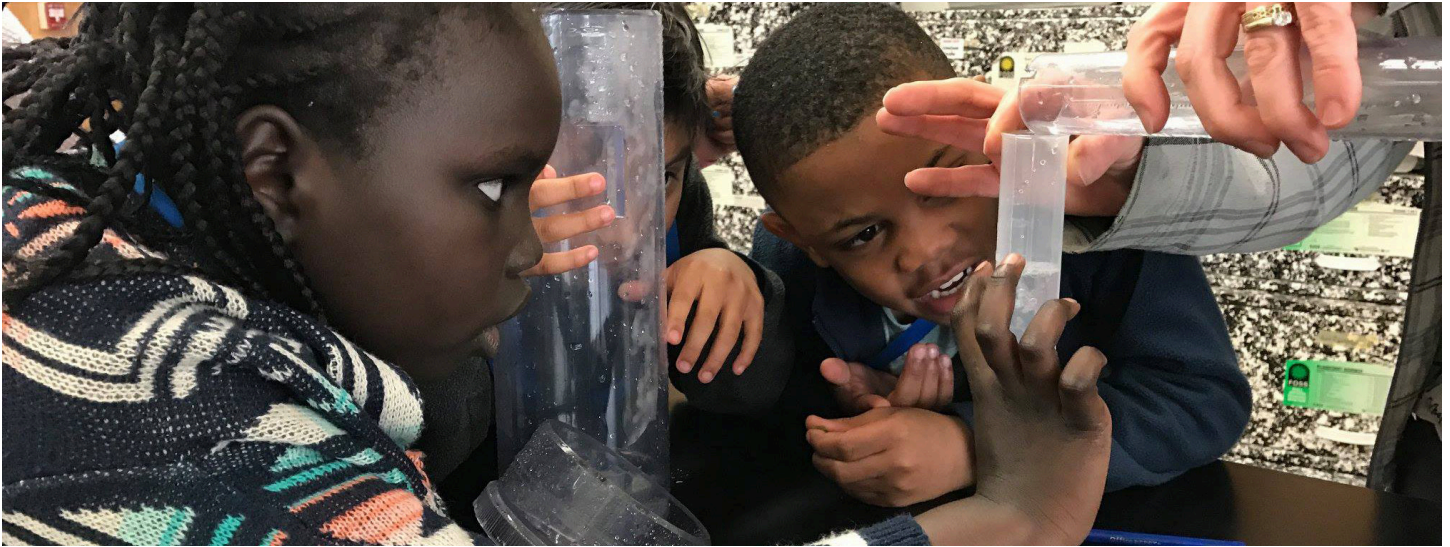
Matching Funds: ..... \$589,300

Total Project Amount: ..... \$639,296

Support the detailed design, permitting, and construction of green infrastructure at five high-need urban schools. Project will: 1) address Milwaukee's stormwater needs and provide education and outreach with local nonprofit water-focused programming; 2) provide support for the development of outdoor classrooms, enhanced recreational facilities and STEAM curricular connections; and 3) plant 90 stormwater trees with educational signage to identify plantings and build awareness.

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

### **Little River Watershed Restoration (AL, GA)**

Grantee: One World Adventure Company

Grant Amount: .....\$37,288.46

Matching Funds: .....\$38,000

Total Project Amount: .....\$75,288.46

Implement best management practices for storm water using green infrastructure on 20 acres and restore 20 miles of riverbanks and major streambanks in the Little River Watershed. Project will engage 40 volunteers to mitigate sediment and stormwater runoff with native plants and grasses.

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

Grantee: Groundwork Somerville

Grant Amount: .....\$49,428

Matching Funds: .....\$85,150

Total Project Amount: .....\$134,578

Create and run a program to engage residents of Cambridge and Somerville, Massachusetts in collective urban forestry management. Project will train young people in the science and skills of urban forestry, providing a meaningful introduction to green jobs while also reducing both cities' vulnerability to heat and flooding by planting trees.

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

Grantee: Museum of Science

Grant Amount: .....\$34,196

Matching Funds: .....\$55,960

Total Project Amount: .....\$90,156

Restore, enhance and maintain three separate coastal habitats in South Florida's coastal watershed: 1) The City of Miami's Virginia Key North Point Beach Park Coastal Hammock; 2) Crandon Park Beach Dune; and 3) Haulover Beach Park Dunes. Project will engage 1,400 volunteers directly during 28 workday events, and plants a total of 10,000 dune plants and coastal hammock trees.

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

Grantee: Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Grant Amount: .....\$41,974

Matching Funds: .....\$42,000

Total Project Amount: .....\$83,974

Develop and implement a sustainable community engagement model to foster long term restoration of the City of Seattle's Parks and Natural Areas. Project will improve urban native tree canopy and understory, and improve habitat for the endangered Chinook salmon, while fostering connections with underrepresented communities.

### **Los Angeles Pocket Wildlife Refuges (CA)**

Grantee: National Wildlife Refuge Association

Grant Amount: .....\$50,000

Matching Funds: .....\$80,000

Total Project Amount: .....\$130,000

Develop and implement five small native habitat areas, 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**

Grantee: Groundwork Elizabeth

Grant Amount: .....\$38,858

Matching Funds: .....\$55,500

Total Project Amount: .....\$94,358

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.

(continued)





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

#### **Riparian Restoration and Water Quality Monitoring Along 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)**

Grantee: Earth Conservation Corps

Grant Amount: .....\$38,097

Matching Funds: .....\$38,775

Total Project Amount: .....\$76,872

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.

#### **Riparian Tree Planting in the Lake Pontchartrain Watershed (LA)**

Grantee: Sustaining Our Urban Landscape (SOUL)

Grant Amount: .....\$50,000

Matching Funds: .....\$88,441.86

Total Project Amount: .....\$138,441.86

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.

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### **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

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)**

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 habitat restoration work.

### **Restoring Habitat in Kawainui Marsh for Endangered Waterbirds (HI)**

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: .....\$106,508

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: .....\$125,340

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.

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Nisqually Delta, Washington

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

Grantee: Rocky Mountain Field Institute

Grant Amount: .....\$30,000

Matching Funds: .....\$90,000

Total Project Amount: .....\$120,000

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)**

Grantee: Capitol Hill Housing Foundation

Grant Amount: .....\$40,000

Matching Funds: .....\$40,050

Total Project Amount: .....\$80,050

Engage at least 50 volunteers to support the implementation of a habitat enhancement guide for a habitat corridor along 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)**

Grantee: Houston Advanced Research Center

Grant Amount: .....\$50,000

Matching Funds: .....\$50,000

Total Project Amount: .....\$100,000

Establish and communicate conservation priorities for wildlife habitat in the growing Greater Houston Region and restore 9.5 acres of riparian habitat in three underserved urban parks. Project will plant 2,175 native trees and create a 0.25 acres native pocket prairie for families with little access to nature, and disseminate the State of the Birds analyses, report and data tools via community events and education programs.

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

Grantee: Nisqually River Foundation

Grant Amount: .....\$42,166

Matching Funds: .....\$92,121

Total Project Amount: .....\$134,287

Empower 1,300 local students to become stewards of natural 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.

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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: .....\$328,029

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 Riverkeeper

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 Funds: .....\$110,000

Total Project Amount: .....\$160,000

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.

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