



# Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program

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## PARTNERS

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- FedEx
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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 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$8.1 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

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Trail construction in Garden of the Gods, Colorado | Credit: Rocky Mountain Field Institute

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is pleased to announce the 2023 Five Star and Urban Waters grant recipients. Major funding is provided by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Salesforce, FedEx, and Southern Company. This grant program seeks to develop nationwide community stewardship of local natural resources, preserve these resources for future generations and enhance habitat for native wildlife. Grants seek to address water quality issues in priority watersheds such as erosion due to unstable streambanks, pollution from stormwater runoff, and degraded shorelines caused by development. 38 grants totaling nearly \$1.7 million were awarded. The awards announced generated \$4.4 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of more than \$6.1 million.

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**ALASKA****Restoring Ship Creek with Revegetation and Youth Engagement in Anchorage (AK)**

Grantee: Anchorage Park Foundation

Grant Amount: .....\$35,900

Matching Funds: .....\$36,000

Total Project Amount: .....\$71,900

Improve 370 ft. of riparian habitat on Ship Creek, an anadromous stream in Anchorage, Alaska, through revegetation of streambanks with native trees and grasses.

The project will plant 450 trees, restore 10 acres and reach 75 students, bringing together many community partners to engage youth in hands-on outdoor field study activities.

**ARIZONA****Improving Urban Bird Habitat in Santa Cruz through Community Stewardship (AZ)**

Grantee: Tucson Audubon Society

Grant Amount: .....\$31,800

Matching Funds: .....\$36,500

Total Project Amount: .....\$68,300

Provide community and youth engagement opportunities along the rejuvenated Santa Cruz River to create safe passage and habitat for birds in Tucson. The project will build and distribute Lucy's Warbler nestboxes and install window decals to prevent bird collisions at homes and businesses near the river, host volunteer events, monitor 200 sites, remove 2,000 pounds of litter and impact 2,170 acres.

**Monitoring Water Quality in the Verde River Watershed (AZ)**

Grantee: Friends of Verde River Greenway

Grant Amount: .....\$49,900

Matching Funds: .....\$52,900

Total Project Amount: .....\$102,800

Engage volunteers, build stewardship in the community and train community scientists to monitor water quality to identify sites in need of restoration in an expanded area of the Verde Watershed near Cottonwood, Arizona. The project will begin the implementation of the Verde River Watershed Water Quality Monitoring Plan, restore and implement Best Management Practices on 15 acres, and engage 60 volunteers.

**CALIFORNIA****Engaging Youth in Wetland and Coastal Environmental Stewardship and Outdoor Education (CA)**

Grantee: Outdoor Outreach

Grant Amount: .....\$40,900

Matching Funds: .....\$41,500

Total Project Amount: .....\$82,400

Create access points to San Diego Bay and Tijuana River Watersheds (San Diego Border Region) for youth from underserved communities through hands-on environmental education and outdoor conversation programs. The project will engage 140 youth in 12 field-based environmental stewardship and education programs, resulting in the restoration of

over 100 of acres of sensitive wetland and coastal habitats, supporting 16 paid positions for program graduates.

**Planting Trees in the Pacoima Wash Greenway (CA)**

Grantee: TreePeople

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

Matching Funds: .....\$96,100

Total Project Amount: .....\$146,100

Engage volunteers to plant public shade trees and improve recreational usage of the Pacoima Wash Greenway area of San Fernando, California. The project will plant at least 300 trees, distribute 150 free take-home trees, and engage at least 200 community volunteers.

**Restoring Monarch Butterfly Habitats in the San Francisco East Bay Area (CA)**

Grantee: Earth Team

Grant Amount: .....\$37,600

Matching Funds: .....\$28,000

Total Project Amount: .....\$65,600

Conduct monarch habitat restoration and community outreach activities in the several watersheds across the East San Francisco Bay Area. The project will build capacity at four public high schools, employ 56 youth in paid yearlong environmental internships, improve management, engage 100 volunteers and restore 25 acres of land and wetlands.

**COLORADO****Resident-Driven Solutions to Lower Bear Creek Water Quality Impairment (CO)**

Grantee: Groundwork Denver

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

Matching Funds: .....\$116,500

Total Project Amount: .....\$166,500

Lead water quality education and monitoring activities in Colorado's Lower Bear Creek Watershed, leveraging the support of youth employees and community residents. The project will positively impact 1,000 local residents, engage at least 75 volunteers, create or sustain 20 seasonal positions for local youth, monitor 12 sites and restore 50 acres of watershed and four miles of riparian area.

**FLORIDA****Restoring, Enhancing and Maintaining Coastal Habitats in South Florida's Coastal Watershed (FL)**

Grantee: Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science

Grant Amount: .....\$43,700

Matching Funds: .....\$59,700

Total Project Amount: .....\$103,400

Serve the local community by making high-quality natural areas accessible for educational, recreational and ecological purposes in Miami-Dade County, Florida. The project will enhance three coastal ecosystems, plant 350 trees, restore 4.6 acres, remove 2,000 pounds of litter, and host community engagement events with 1,000 volunteers.

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**GEORGIA****Community Restoration of Crayfish Creek (GA)**

Grantee: Chattahoochee National Park Conservancy  
 Grant Amount:.....\$50,000  
 Matching Funds:.....\$67,300  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$117,300  
 Restore at least 2 acres of riparian area through removal of invasive plant species, reinforce vulnerable streambank sections with native trees and perennials and continue to engage a group of volunteers and youth in meaningful environmental stewardship on Crayfish Creek in Georgia. The project will continue previous work, restoring 1,000 linear feet of streambank, planting 200 native trees and engaging 150 volunteers.

**Engaging Youth and Community to Cultivate Environmental Stewardship at Girl Scout Camp Low (GA)**

Grantee: Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia  
 Grant Amount:.....\$49,000  
 Matching Funds:.....\$110,600  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$159,600  
 Eradicate 100 acres of invasive Chinese tallow trees while providing a community science early detection rapid response monitoring experience on 200 acres in Savannah, Georgia. The project will engage at least 150 local youth in hands-on experiential learning opportunities through an environmental stewardship camp and multiple environmental community day events, allowing for a greater knowledge of the local flora and fauna and providing natural resource management experience.

**Restoring Bird-friendly Habitat in the South River Watershed (GA)**

Grantee: Georgia Audubon  
 Grant Amount:.....\$45,600  
 Matching Funds:.....\$48,800  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$94,400  
 Restore 10 acres of habitat to protect the South River Watershed for the benefit of birds, pollinators, and other wildlife in southern DeKalb County, Georgia. The project will engage 8 local partners and at least 50 volunteers to install 5,400 bird- and pollinator-friendly native plants and 40 pounds of seed, and remove 10 acres of invasive vegetation, as well as engage at least 460 community members, including at least 300 students, in conservation experiences.

**Restoring Emma Millican Park through Reforestation and Invasive Species Removal (GA)**

Grantee: Trees Atlanta  
 Grant Amount:.....\$52,400  
 Matching Funds:.....\$79,300  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$131,700  
 Address the prevalence of invasive species threatening the forest health of Emma Millican Park in Atlanta's Capitol View Manor neighborhood. The project will remove invasive species and reforest 9.25 acres, replant 100 native shrubs and



Dune restoration in Miami, Florida | Credit: Philip and Patricia Frost  
 Museum of Science

200 native trees, engage over 300 community volunteers and increase forest biological diversity.

**Riparian Habitat Restoration and Community Awareness Through Stormwater Education (GA)**

Grantee: Phinizy Center for Water Sciences  
 Grant Amount:.....\$32,800  
 Matching Funds:.....\$41,500  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$74,300  
 Provide water quality and stormwater education, monitoring, and removal of invasive species and trash in Butler Creek (Savannah River Basin) in Richmond County, Georgia. The project will improve water quality and bring together diverse group of community partners to restore and monitor 15 acres of bottomland hardwood swamp and engage students in 44 local schools on the importance of clean water and a healthy environment with hands-on inquiry-based educational experiences.

**Young Conservation Stewards Memorial Park Restoration and Education (GA)**

Grantee: Athens Land Trust  
 Grant Amount:.....\$48,400  
 Matching Funds:.....\$49,500  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$97,900  
 Create an impactful restoration and education experience by removing invasive plants, restoring healthy native vegetation, and communicating the importance of invasive removal to visitors of a highly visible park in Athens, Georgia. The project will provide teens from an underserved community with employment experience and leadership skills while restoring 5+ acres of riparian and Oak-Hickory-Pine habitat in an important local park in their community.

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**ILLINOIS****Restoring Grassland Habitat in Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge (IL)**

Grantee: Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge  
 Grant Amount:.....\$48,000  
 Matching Funds:.....\$350,000  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$398,000  
 Restore habitat for eastern prairie fringed orchid, rusty-patched bumble bees and a suite of grassland- and wetland-dependent birds with the support of volunteers and students in the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge. The project will remove invasive woody species on 24 acres of wetland and create 26 acres of grassland habitat.

**Restoring the South Branch of the Chicago River through Community Science and Engagement (IL)**

Grantee: Shedd Aquarium Society  
 Grant Amount:.....\$45,200  
 Matching Funds:.....\$50,000  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$95,200  
 Restore and monitor a 41-acre zone of the Chicago River Watershed's South Branch through the establishment of a community science program. The project will monitor water quality and aquatic and terrestrial wildlife presence, engage volunteers to enhance wetland habitats, and increase access to nature, environmental literacy, and stewardship.

**LOUISIANA****Restoring and Protecting Marsh Habitat in Bayou Bienvenue (LA)**

Grantee: Common Ground Relief  
 Grant Amount:.....\$30,600  
 Matching Funds:.....\$30,600  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$61,200  
 Re-establish 10 acres of marsh habitat along the shoreline of the Bayou Bienvenue Central Wetland area in Southeast Louisiana. The project will yield significant environmental, safety, economic and cultural benefits, as well as enhance the environmental literacy of over 100 students and volunteers.

**MASSACHUSETTS****Belle Isle Marsh Conservation, Stewardship and Education (MA)**

Grantee: Mystic River Watershed Association  
 Grant Amount:.....\$43,100  
 Matching Funds:.....\$45,500  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$88,600  
 Support and expand monitoring of the Saltmarsh Sparrow in Belle Isle Marsh, the last remaining salt marsh in Boston Harbor, contributing to vital efforts to preserve the species in the face of extinction caused by sea level rise. The project will remove invasives on 2 acres, engage 200 volunteers and support educational programs with 480 students to build awareness of salt marsh ecology.

**Restoring Merrimack River Trail Habitat through Stewardship and Youth Education (MA)**

Grantee: Groundwork Lawrence  
 Grant Amount:.....\$25,800  
 Matching Funds:.....\$89,700  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$115,500  
 Remove invasive species, implement green infrastructure on 3 acres to intercept stormwater runoff, and develop an interpretive nature trail connection to the Merrimack River Trail in Riverfront State Park on the Merrimack River watershed in Lawrence, Massachusetts. The project will improve habitat; plant native trees, shrubs, and wetland plants; install interpretive signage; and reduce erosion along the trail and riverbank with the introduction of a green infrastructure rain garden.

**MICHIGAN****Community Greenspace and Meadow Restoration for Birds and Pollinators (MI)**

Grantee: Detroit Audubon Society  
 Grant Amount:.....\$50,000  
 Matching Funds:.....\$61,400  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$111,400  
 Transform unmaintained Detroit city parks into community greenspaces with meadow habitat consisting of native flowers and grasses beneficial to birds and pollinators. The project will continue outreach and education in the communities around each Detroit Bird City park and create 23.6 acres of meadow habitat, providing ecological functions such as pollination, stormwater capture, carbon sequestration, and air and water pollution mitigation.



Saltmarsh sparrow

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**MINNESOTA****Engaging Saint Paul Youth in Meaningful Restoration Work (MN)**

Grantee: Urban Roots MN

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

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

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

Restore three public green spaces in Saint Paul, Minnesota, through non-native species removal, supporting the endangered rusty-patched bumble bee, bald eagle, and other waterfowl. The project will hire 32 youth interns who will work with 300 volunteers and hired restoration crews to restore 24.5 acres and plant 150 trees and shrubs.

**MISSISSIPPI****Mississippi Sandhill Crane Education and Habitat Restoration (MS)**

Grantee: Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain

Grant Amount:.....\$49,400

Matching Funds:.....\$53,400

Total Project Amount:.....\$102,800

Install an educational low-impact walking trail, maintain pine savanna restoration work, correct pond hydrology and install a weir to better control water flow during rain events in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. The project will implement best management practices on 40 acres, remove invasive species on 4 acres, engage 50 volunteer community members and remove 100 pounds of trash and litter.

**NEW YORK****Restoring Hutchinson River Shoreline with Education, Community Interaction and Active Cleanups (NY)**

Grantee: Hutchinson River Restoration

Grant Amount:.....\$39,900

Matching Funds:.....\$44,200

Total Project Amount:.....\$84,100

Identify areas and causes of shoreline pollution and determine administratively and practically how the areas can be best restored along New York's Hutchinson River. The project will engage 50 volunteers, remove 500 pounds of trash, increase active participation in debris clean-up activities along the river and expand public awareness of the polluted shorelines through community meetings and collaboration and information exchanges with like-minded groups.

**OHIO****Engaging Students and Local Communities in Habitat Restoration and Stormwater Management (OH)**

Grantee: Coventry Local School District

Grant Amount:.....\$48,600

Matching Funds:.....\$49,800

Total Project Amount:.....\$98,400

Engage local youth, teachers, residents and FedEx employees to restore habitat, remove asphalt and manage stormwater

runoff on land located in Summit County, Ohio. The project will restore approximately 12 acres of habitat by managing invasive plants, removing tons of accumulated debris, reforestation with native trees, shrubs and understory species, as well as removing an acre of pavement and replacing it with native tallgrass prairie to reduce stormwater runoff and create an outdoor learning space.

**OREGON****Underserved Student Engagement in Migratory Bird Education and Conservation (OR)**

Grantee: Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development

Grant Amount:.....\$40,400

Matching Funds:.....\$85,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$125,400

Bring nature and wetland education, as well as habitat restoration, to students in underserved Portland neighborhoods, educating 255 youth in watershed health, habitat restoration, climate change and bird migration. The project will restore 6 acres, reach 1,500 community members and deliver ecology programming to students to better connect ecological concepts to the effect they can have on their communities.

**PENNSYLVANIA****Improving Wildlife Habitat and Assessing Water Quality in the Lower Delaware River Watershed (PA)**

Grantee: Lower Merion Conservancy

Grant Amount:.....\$42,900

Matching Funds:.....\$43,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$85,900

Address challenges presented in two suburban tributaries of the Lower Delaware River watershed by assessing the impacts of increasing riparian buffers within the watersheds at two project sites. The project will establish a wireless long-term water quality monitoring network in 4 acres of the study region and work with more than 900 students, improving understanding of the timing and magnitude of stormwater runoff and its contaminants.

**Restoring Fern Hollow Valley in Frick Park (PA)**

Grantee: Nine Mile Run Watershed Association

Grant Amount:.....\$49,900

Matching Funds:.....\$212,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$261,900

Restore the corridor around Fern Hollow Creek where it flows through Frick Park in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in the aftermath of the 2022 Fern Hollow Bridge collapse. The project will engage over 200 volunteers from nearby communities to restore a 5-10 acre corridor along the creek through litter cleanups, invasive species removal, habitat restoration and provide educational opportunities for 150 local school students.

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**RHODE ISLAND****Providing Healthy Habitats and Nearby Nature Access (RI)**

Grantee: Partnership for Providence Parks

Grant Amount:.....\$49,600

Matching Funds:.....\$59,600

Total Project Amount:.....\$109,200

Restore and create 1.5-acre schoolyard habitat through invasive species removal in Providence, Rhode Island, and host outreach opportunities to connect urban residents with nature, with a focus on community stewardship. The project will reach over 750 students and engage more than 2,000 people in outdoor programs that highlight the natural resources within the state of Rhode Island.

**TENNESSEE****Wolf River Greenway Restoration VII (TN)**

Grantee: Wolf River Conservancy

Grant Amount:.....\$49,900

Matching Funds:.....\$121,400

Total Project Amount:.....\$171,300

Restore the floodplain of the urban Wolf River watershed in Memphis, Tennessee, to provide environmental education for adults and students and to involve volunteers in stewardship events. The project will engage 800 volunteers and an additional 400 students to plant remove 10 acres of invasive species, plant 2,500 native trees, remove trash and tires at targeted sites, plant native species, and build and install nest boxes for birds and bats, among other activities.

**TEXAS****Increasing Stewardship of the Trinity River & Adjacent Wetlands II (TX)**

Grantee: Trinity Park Conservancy

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

Matching Funds:.....\$72,500

Total Project Amount:.....\$122,500

Increase outreach to local neighborhoods and youth programs and utilize an array of partnership to improve the environmental health along Dallas' Trinity River and its adjacent wetlands. The project will nearly double the number of volunteers actively engaged in stewarding the riparian and wetland habitats of the Trinity River, organize communities to restore the beauty in their own backyards and remove 12,000 pounds of litter and trash.

**Reducing Plastic Pollution in the Galveston Bay Watershed (TX)**

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy

Grant Amount:.....\$49,500

Matching Funds:.....\$49,800

Total Project Amount:.....\$99,300

Reduce plastic pollution in the Galveston Bay watershed by organizing cleanup events at Houston Parks, State parks, and National Wildlife Refuges while also training a conservation

fellow that will be mentored by USFWS, TPWD, and American Bird Conservancy. The project will reach 200 community members and 100 students, engaging 100 volunteers to remove 500 pounds of trash and litter, reducing threats of plastic entanglement to endangered bird and wildlife species in the Galveston Bay watershed.

**UTAH****Improving Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat within the Weber River Watershed (UT)**

Grantee: Ogden Nature Center

Grant Amount:.....\$49,900

Matching Funds:.....\$51,200

Total Project Amount:.....\$101,000

Construct 15 acres of new wetlands where water from Ogden River enters the nature center property to improve water quality, recharge groundwater and reconnect the floodplain within the Weber River Watershed. The project will remove trash and invasive species, create wildlife habitat, conduct avian research, promote community science and spread awareness on local watershed health and pollution sources with 440 volunteer community members.

**WASHINGTON****Community Stewardship Restoration of the Greater Cowlitz Watershed (WA)**

Grantee: Cascade Forest Conservancy

Grant Amount:.....\$44,600

Matching Funds:.....\$63,800

Total Project Amount:.....\$108,400

Conduct instream and riparian restoration across 48 acres that will benefit anadromous and resident fish, sensitive amphibian communities and overall ecosystem function in three waterways within the southern Washington Cascades and the greater Cowlitz watershed. The project will create in-channel habitat for fish, reengage floodplains for amphibians, and improve the overall quantity and quality of water in the system, while riparian planting will offer shade, bank stability and greater biodiversity.

**Youth and Local Community Restoration of Salmon Habitat in the Green-Duwamish River Watershed (WA)**

Grantee: EarthCorps

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

Matching Funds:.....\$1,222,700

Total Project Amount:.....\$1,272,700

Work with local high school students and community members to remove invasive plants and install native trees and woody shrubs on 1 acre of important habitat for threatened Chinook salmon and other salmon species within the Green-Duwamish River Watershed in the central Puget Sound region of Washington. The project will enhance essential habitat for juvenile salmon rearing, feeding, acclimation and protection from flood events, as well as adult spawning habitat and resting areas for spawning adults.

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Coastal habitat environmental education in San Diego, California | Credit: Outdoor Outreach

**WISCONSIN**

**Addressing Milwaukee Stormwater Challenges through Greener Schools and Stronger Communities (WI)**

Grantee: Milwaukee Board of School Directors dba Milwaukee Public Schools

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

Matching Funds:.....\$651,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$701,000

Support the detailed design, permitting, and construction of green infrastructure at five urban schools to address Milwaukee’s stormwater challenges. The project will provide education and outreach through partnerships with nonprofit water-focused programming, supporting the creation of outdoor classrooms, enhanced recreational facilities and STEAM curricular connections, as well as plant 324 stormwater trees.

**MULTIPLE STATES**

**Engaging Youth and Community for Riparian Restoration and Reforestation (NJ, NY, PA)**

Grantee: Groundwork Hudson Valley

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

Matching Funds:.....\$70,800

Total Project Amount:.....\$120,800

Re-establish native trees in three critical watersheds, those

being the Saw Mill River in New York, the Wallkill River in northern New Jersey and above Cherry Creek in eastern PA. The project will foster eco-forestry skills among youth, plant over 500 trees, improve over 5 acres of riparian habitat, engage over 30 youth and over 50 volunteers.

**Training Youth in Environmental Stewardship in the Blue River Watershed (KS, MO)**

Grantee: Heartland Conservation Alliance

Grant Amount:.....\$49,900

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

Total Project Amount:.....\$99,900

Train 18 youth and employ a crew of five to seven youth who will steward 220 acres of land in the Blue River Watershed. The project will address needs for improved watershed health, improved community health, lack of a natural resource management workforce and plant 500 trees.