



NFWF

Five Star Program

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PARTNERS

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- UBS Optimus Foundation
- FedEx
- Southern Company
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) works with partners to foster sustainable and impactful conservation solutions so that people and nature thrive together. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest conservation foundation. Since its founding, NFWF has funded more than 23,300 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of \$11.3 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.



Hyacinth removal

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) today announced the award of \$2.8 million in grants to 52 projects across the nation through its Five Star Program. These grants will leverage nearly \$4 million in matching contributions from grantees to generate a total conservation impact of nearly \$6.8 million. Major funding for the Five Star program is provided by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, UBS Optimus Foundation, FedEx, Southern Company, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Five Star program seeks to develop nationwide community stewardship of local natural resources, preserving these resources for future generations and enhancing habitat for local wildlife. Grants seek to address water quality issues in priority watersheds such as erosion, stormwater runoff and degraded shorelines.

(continued)

ALABAMA**Reducing Sediment in the Cahaba River through Channel Construction and Bank Stabilization (AL)**

Grantee: Freshwater Land Trust

Grant Amount:.....\$60,000

Matching Funds:.....\$269,100

Total Project Amount:.....\$329,100

Restore a significantly eroded and incised tributary to the Cahaba River by blocking off the existing channel, and excavating a new channel with stream banks that are gradually sloped and stabilized with rocks and vegetation. Project will reduce erosion and sedimentation into the Cahaba River, which is habitat for seven federally protected species, and provide educational programs, litter cleanups and recreational opportunities to the community.

Restoring Native Shoal Spider Lily at the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge (AL)

Grantee: Cahaba River Coalition

Grant Amount:.....\$49,000

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

Total Project Amount:.....\$159,000

Design and implement a program to protect and restore the largest remaining stand of the native Shoals spider lily at

the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge while collecting data to create a plan for the sustainability of the species. This project will determine the feasibility of restoring other stands of the shoals spider lilies on the Cahaba River and make its collected data publicly accessible to share with other teams working across the Southeast to conserve this iconic species.

ALASKA**Restoring Cheney Lake to Support Native Wildlife in Anchorage, Alaska**

Grantee: Anchorage Park Foundation

Grant Amount:.....\$44,400

Matching Funds:.....\$43,900

Total Project Amount:.....\$88,300

Restore 300 feet of eroding banks to enhance riparian habitat at Cheney Lake, a vital freshwater ecosystem in Anchorage, Alaska, supporting nesting and migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds and other wildlife. Project will regrade eroding shorelines, plant willows, and restore essential habitat with native plants while providing controlled recreational access to the lake that protects sensitive shoreline areas and educational signage to raise awareness about preserving wildlife habitat.

CALIFORNIA**Enhancing School Gardens and Cultivating Healthy Habitat in Oakland (CA)**

Grantee: Alameda County Resource Conservation District

Grant Amount:.....\$59,800

Matching Funds:.....\$0

Total Project Amount:.....\$59,800

Enhance school gardens, establish bird and pollinator habitat, incorporate age-appropriate pollinator curriculum, and provide locally sourced produce. Project will support biodiversity, promote hands-on nutrition and conservation education, improve conservation awareness, and create more sustainable spaces filled with native vegetation that benefit both wildlife and communities in the San Francisco Bay Area watershed.

Removing Invasive Species and Restoring Native Vegetation in West Campus Creek (CA)

Grantee: Concerned Resource and Environmental Workers

Grant Amount:.....\$60,000

Matching Funds:.....\$98,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$158,000

Restore riparian and upland habitats by removing invasive species, replanting native vegetation, and removing trash while advancing youth education and workforce development in West Campus Creek in the Ventura River Watershed. Project will improve water quality, enhance habitat for species like the southern steelhead trout and least Bell's vireo, and boost ecological resilience, serving as a model for conservation and community engagement.



Monarch butterfly in California

(continued)

Restoring Migratory Bird Habitat through Youth Engagement (CA)

Grantee: Earth Team

Grant Amount:.....\$40,600

Matching Funds:.....\$43,500

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

Engage youth from four public high schools through hands-on education at Pacific Flyway sites. Project will engage 56 paid interns in bird surveys, habitat restoration across 56 acres in three watersheds, and trash removal using new citizen-science technology, while leading outreach efforts to educate 5,000 students and community members.

COLORADO

Restoring Creek Habitat to Prevent Erosion and Improve Water Quality (CO)

Grantee: Friends of the Front Range Wildlife Refuges

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

Matching Funds:.....\$37,400

Total Project Amount:.....\$77,400

Plant native trees, conduct pollinator surveys, and remove invasive plants along First Creek in the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge to establish riparian habitat, prevent erosion of the creek bed, create contiguous tree canopy and improve water quality in the South Platte watershed. Project will engage 125 community members in restoration activities to remove 1.75 miles of locust thickets and Russian olive trees, seed 1.5 miles of native plants, remove 288 acres of noxious weeds and conduct pollinator surveys.

DELAWARE

Establishing a Pollinator Garden and Forest Habitat at the South Wilmington Wetlands Park (DE)

Grantee: Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

Grant Amount:.....\$59,300

Matching Funds:.....\$64,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$123,300

Build on the successfully restored South Wilmington Wetlands Park by planting trees and installing a native pollinator garden to provide native habitat benefits and increase community education opportunities. Project will plant 135 trees, create a 240-square-foot native pollinator demonstration garden, and provide community outreach and engagement.

FLORIDA

Restoring Biscayne Bay's Coastal Habitats through Community Education, Engagement and Service (FL)

Grantee: Biscayne Bay Waterkeeper dba Miami Waterkeeper

Grant Amount:.....\$59,800

Matching Funds:.....\$128,900

Total Project Amount:.....\$188,700

Restore 20 acres of protected coastal hammock, dune and mangrove wetlands by removing invasive plant species, planting native trees and removing 2,500 pounds of marine



Water sampling in Colorado

debris across five ecologically-important areas in Miami, Florida. Project will engage 800 volunteers, 650 youth, and 13 partners in habitat restoration and debris cleanup events that will improve habitat for native plant, bird and wildlife species while increasing community knowledge of Biscayne Bay and its ecosystems.

GEORGIA

Eradicating Invasive Trees and Engaging Community Members on Rose Dhu Island (GA)

Grantee: Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia

Grant Amount:.....\$55,200

Matching Funds:.....\$83,200

Total Project Amount:.....\$138,400

Eradicate invasive Chinese tallow tree and continue citizen-science early detection and rapid response monitoring on Rose Dhu Island. Project will treat 100 acres of invasive Chinese tallow tree, monitor 200 acres, and educate 150 local youth and community members through hands-on experiential learning opportunities, a week-long stewardship residential camp, patch programs and community day events.

Restoring Habitat and Providing Access to Nature on Atlanta's Proctor Creek (GA)

Grantee: West Atlanta Watershed Alliance

Grant Amount:.....\$60,000

Matching Funds:.....\$64,200

Total Project Amount:.....\$124,200

Restore 6 acres of impaired creek watershed in the upper headwaters of Proctor Creek in Atlanta, Georgia, to improve water quality, habitat and community access. Project will engage 14 partners, seven interns, and 120 volunteers to implement a restoration plan, monitor water quality, host educational opportunities for 200 students, reach 150 people with community activities and provide workshops for 100 citizen scientists.

(continued)

Restoring Meadow, Forest and Wetland Habitat in Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (GA)

Grantee: Georgia Audubon

Grant Amount:.....\$51,100

Matching Funds:.....\$41,700

Total Project Amount:.....\$92,800

Engage the community in stewardship and education to ensure long-term conservation benefits in 23 acres of critical habitat at the Cochran Shoals Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. Project will restore 4 acres of meadow and 19 acres of riparian forest and wetland habitat impacted by invasive species and improve habitat quality for high priority species of migratory birds while supporting pollinators and biodiversity.

ILLINOIS

Planting Trees to Improve Stormwater Management and Benefit Migratory Birds in Chicago

Grantee: Wood St. Collective

Grant Amount:.....\$50,800

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

Total Project Amount:.....\$100,800

Implement nature-based stormwater management tools to reduce flooding and surface runoff, create habitat to support migratory birds and pollinators, and increase publicly available natural space in Chicago. Project will convert two vacant lots in Chicago into 1.1 acres of fruit tree orchards, plant 450 trees and install 50 rain barrels.

INDIANA

Growing Sustainable Agriculture at Unity Park in Indianapolis (IN)

Grantee: Felege Hiywot Center

Grant Amount:.....\$53,900

Matching Funds:.....\$0

Total Project Amount:.....\$53,900

Promote sustainable agricultural practices that support pollinator habitats, natural resource conservation and community gardening at Unity Park in Indianapolis, Indiana. Project will enhance 1.5 acres of land at Unity Park by installing five educational signs, planting at least 200 native plants, engaging 450 volunteers, expanding partnerships, and promoting stewardship and community conservation practices that protect and recover natural resources.

IOWA

Creating Community Gardens and Restoring Native Pollinator Habitat in Des Moines, Iowa

Grantee: Iowa State University

Grant Amount:.....\$60,000

Matching Funds:.....\$0

Total Project Amount:.....\$60,000

Convert a former municipal park, residential site and elementary school grounds into community gardens that will increase biodiversity, support monarch butterflies, improve ecological conservation, and deliver educational programs in

Des Moines, Iowa. Project will establish Sweet Tooth Farm as a People's Garden, restore 1 acre of native prairie grasses and forbs, and engage volunteers to remove invasive species and increase ecosystem services for a dense city area.

KANSAS

Creating and Restoring Native Pollinator Habitat and Grasslands in Wichita (KS)

Grantee: Grassland Groupies

Grant Amount:.....\$48,300

Matching Funds:.....\$24,300

Total Project Amount:.....\$72,600

Promote perennial natural spaces and habitats that conserve limited water resources in Wichita, Kansas, by creating and restoring native plants and grassland spaces. Project will expand native prairie habitat to the benefit of pollinators and other native wildlife, and will connect residents with critically endangered grasslands in the local community through education and outreach.

Supporting Pollinators and Communities with Volunteer-led Gardens (KS)

Grantee: Meadowlark Extension District

Grant Amount:.....\$52,800

Matching Funds:.....\$0

Total Project Amount:.....\$52,800

Design, plant and maintain three community gardens to support wildlife and pollinator populations through the Master Gardener Program. Project will serve as a public educational tool to demonstrate ecological stewardship practices that benefit at-risk pollinators, reduce water use, improve soil health and strengthen the surrounding community.



Invasive plant species removal

(continued)

LOUISIANA**Engage Community Members in Planting Native Species to Restore Wetlands in Bayou Bienvenue (LA)**

Grantee: Common Ground Relief

Grant Amount:.....\$37,100

Matching Funds:.....\$32,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$69,100

Plant 4,000 native marsh grasses and 1,000 Louisiana irises along the shoreline of Bayou Bienvenue in southeast Louisiana to restore and fortify 10 acres of critical wetlands. Project will engage 100+ students and volunteers in hands-on restoration activities that enhance conservation and provide storm protection, wildlife habitat and water quality benefits.

Stormwater Management and Education at Galvez Garden in New Orleans (LA)

Grantee: NOLA Artist Incubator

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

Matching Funds:.....\$49,100

Total Project Amount:.....\$99,100

Restore habitat for wildlife and stormwater management, expand growing capacity, and provide outreach, education, technical assistance and stewardship opportunities to the community. Project will serve as a nature-based stormwater management site and demonstrate water conservation methods to reduce flooding in the community, offer workshops on agriculture practices that benefit wildlife, and contribute to the long-term health of the local watershed.

MARYLAND**Reclaiming Farmland through Hands-On Stewardship in Bladensburg, Maryland**

Grantee: Engaged Community Offshoots

Grant Amount:.....\$60,000

Matching Funds:.....\$0

Total Project Amount:.....\$60,000

Reclaim farm land in Bladensburg, Maryland, for vegetable production through the use of best management practices for stormwater management, including the installation of tile drainage and bioretention swales to mitigate runoff, and the planting native pollinator habitat. Project will engage private, public and community-serving organizations in hands-on stewardship in remediating soil health and protecting surrounding waters.

MASSACHUSETTS**Centering Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health in Regenerative Agriculture (MA)**

Grantee: Tufts University

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

Matching Funds:.....\$0

Total Project Amount:.....\$50,000

Improve soil health, water quality and pollinator habitat by restoring 1 acre of land with native plants and pollinators, planting 50 shrubs, and enhancing sustainable agriculture practices across 20 acres of farmland. Project will ensure



Tree planting in New York

the long-term health of local ecosystems and inspire greater involvement by actively engaging 500 participants through farm tours, volunteer days and educational sessions in a demonstration garden.

MICHIGAN**Establishing Native Forests to Benefit Migratory Birds in Detroit, Michigan**

Grantee: Wayne State University

Grant Amount:.....\$60,000

Matching Funds:.....\$46,800

Total Project Amount:.....\$106,800

Transform vacant lots into native forests to benefit local and migratory birds by reducing flooding, heat and degraded habitats. Project will engage 150 volunteers to restore 0.24 acres through the removal of invasive species, planting of 300 trees and woody shrubs, and installation of over 400 native perennials for stormwater retention and improved habitat quality.

Expanding and Improving Habitat with Community Stewards in Detroit (MI)

Grantee: Sidewalk Detroit

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

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

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

Expand and improve native habitat on more than 35 acres of publicly accessible natural areas in Northwest Detroit. Project will treat 28 acres of existing upland, riparian, meadow and prairie habitats to remove invasive species and create an additional 8 acres of meadow habitat while building long-term community stewardship to improve the ecological health of the Rouge watershed.

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MINNESOTA**Improving Water Quality in the Twin Lakes Chain by Removing Pollution, Litter and Invasive Species (MN)**

Grantee: Twin Lake Association

Grant Amount:.....\$60,000

Matching Funds:.....\$7,800

Total Project Amount:.....\$67,800

Improve water quality and wildlife habitat while increasing community engagement in managing public water in the Twin Lakes Chain located in and around Minneapolis, Minnesota. Project will reduce trash and phosphorus entering the lakes, reduce invasive weeds and create educational media regarding community stewardship of public waters.

MISSISSIPPI**Restoring the Bayou Bernard Watershed through Invasive Species Removal and Native Plantings (MS)**

Grantee: Mississippi State University

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

Matching Funds:.....\$37,800

Total Project Amount:.....\$87,800

Leverage community resources and expertise to address stormwater runoff and water quality by removing invasive species and reintroducing native vegetation in the Bayou Bernard Watershed. Project will improve water quality, promote biodiversity, and engage the community through education and collaborative stewardship efforts spanning more than 1,400 linear feet of waterway and over 3 acres of habitat buffering the bayou.

MONTANA**Engaging Community Members in Soil and Water Quality Improvement in Lodge Grass, Montana**

Grantee: Mountain Shadow Association

Grant Amount:.....\$60,000

Matching Funds:.....\$72,900

Total Project Amount:.....\$132,900

Engage community leaders, students, and volunteers to improve soil and water quality and create a lasting culture of responsible watershed management. The project will restore 7 acres of degraded land to grow approximately 33,250 pounds of fresh produce each year and remove between 12,000 and 15,000 pounds of trash accumulated in illegal open dumping sites, establishing composting infrastructure, and implementing a sustainable waste management system.

NEVADA**Enhancing a Community Farm Using Pollinator Gardens and Conservation Practices (NV)**

Grantee: The Obodo Collective

Grant Amount:.....\$55,000

Matching Funds:.....\$0

Total Project Amount:.....\$55,000

Enhance a community-driven farm by implementing drought-adaptive farming techniques, native plant restoration and hands-on education in sustainable cultivation and



Restoring public outdoor spaces in Minnesota

land stewardship. Project will install native plants, create pollinator-friendly habitats, and enhance land management through regenerative agriculture while engaging 2,500 community members.

NEW YORK**Growing Pollinator Habitats and Youth Education in New York**

Grantee: YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County

Grant Amount:.....\$55,400

Matching Funds:.....\$0

Total Project Amount:.....\$55,400

Increase wildlife and pollinator-friendly habitat while growing food and educating youth at a community garden in New York. Project will replace 6,500 square feet of invasive plants with 150 native saplings and shrubs and 60 native plants and engage 290 youth, children and adults in harvesting 5,000 pounds of produce.

Restoring Riparian Habitat in the Upper Black Creek Watershed in East Bethany, New York

Grantee: Genesee County Parks

Grant Amount:.....\$54,600

Matching Funds:.....\$48,600

Total Project Amount:.....\$103,200

Restore 140 linear feet of riparian habitat in the headwaters of the Upper Black Creek watershed at Genesee County Park and Forest in East Bethany, New York, using nature-based solutions to address erosion and create a living, healthy shoreline. Project will engage 50 adult volunteers and 250 students in hands-on educational experiences at each step of the restoration process, including pre-restoration site assessments, implementation, and post-restoration monitoring that will empower them to understand, implement, and monitor the restoration project.

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Support Migratory Birds and Pollinators by Restoring Habitat at Ridgewood Reservoir (NY)

Grantee: NYC H2O
Grant Amount:.....\$58,800
Matching Funds:.....\$95,000
Total Project Amount:.....\$153,800
Restore 2 acres of degraded wetland and forest habitat to enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, and foster stewardship by removing invasive species and planting native vegetation to support migratory bird populations and pollinators. Project will remove 80,000 square feet of invasive vegetation, plant 20 native trees and 100 shrubs, and maintain 0.6 miles of public trails to improve habitat quality and stormwater retention while engaging 18 student interns and more than 200 volunteers.

OREGON

Improving Water Quality through Habitat Restoration and Plantings with Students (OR)

Grantee: Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors
Grant Amount:.....\$58,400
Matching Funds:.....\$56,200
Total Project Amount:.....\$114,600
Restore 18 acres of riparian, wetland and upland habitat across multiple sites through invasive species removal and native vegetation planting to improve water quality and promote habitat health. Project will engage more than 700 students, educators, and community members in hands-on conservation and education to enhance biodiversity, mitigate stormwater runoff, and foster long-term stewardship.



Managing invasive plant species in New York

Restoring Land, Improving Biodiversity and Fostering Stewardship (OR)

Grantee: Bird Alliance of Oregon
Grant Amount:.....\$60,000
Matching Funds:.....\$1,330,600
Total Project Amount:.....\$1,390,600
Transform more than 4 acres of degraded brownfield into oak savannah, wildflower meadows, and mixed conifer forests, creating critical habitat for species such as the Savannah sparrow and white-breasted nuthatch. Project will improve biodiversity, water quality and resilience in the Willamette River watershed while fostering community science, education and youth workforce development.

PENNSYLVANIA

Connecting Natural Areas and Gardens to Communities in Southwest Philadelphia (PA)

Grantee: John Bartram Association
Grant Amount:.....\$60,000
Matching Funds:.....\$45,000
Total Project Amount:.....\$105,000
Leverage trusted partnerships to support publicly accessible natural spaces and a community farm at America’s oldest surviving botanic garden. Project will build on the program’s successful model of community-centered programming to connect residents to the land and natural resources.

Restoring Forest Ecosystems and Watershed Health with Community Engagement in Emerald View Park (PA)

Grantee: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
Grant Amount:.....\$53,700
Matching Funds:.....\$40,300
Total Project Amount:.....\$94,000
Restore 50 acres of Emerald View Park in Pittsburgh through invasive species removal, native tree and herbaceous plantings, and community-driven cleanups to benefit forest ecosystems and watershed health. Project will engage 205 volunteers, 40 students and 18 workforce development participants in improving the ecological health and natural beauty of this regional park.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Constructing Community Gardens on Waccamaw Tribal Grounds (SC)

Grantee: Coastal Carolina University
Grant Amount:.....\$64,800
Matching Funds:.....\$0
Total Project Amount:.....\$64,800
Construct community gardens on Waccamaw tribal grounds that incorporate traditional and modern ecological practices, including two rain/pollinator gardens, one medicinal garden and one three-sisters garden. Project will improve water quality, expand wildlife habitat and biodiversity, supply traditional foods and medicine, and enhance conservation education for youth and the public, aligning with conservation goals in the Little Pee Dee watershed plan.

Restoring Natural Spaces to Increase Biodiversity and Community Educational Opportunities (SC)

Grantee: Palmetto Learning Academy of SC

Grant Amount:.....\$54,600

Matching Funds:.....\$0

Total Project Amount:.....\$54,600

Transform 2 acres of degraded land in Columbia, South Carolina, into a biodiverse public garden space featuring habitat for native pollinators and sustainable growing methods. Project will engage 1,500 residents through educational programming and conservation-focused community and volunteer activities.

TENNESSEE

Restoring Floodplain Habitat and Engaging Community Members in the Wolf River Watershed (TN)

Grantee: Wolf River Conservancy

Grant Amount:.....\$48,000

Matching Funds:.....\$121,500

Total Project Amount:.....\$169,500

Restore 15 acres of floodplain in the Wolf River watershed in Memphis, Tennessee, provide conservation education for adults and students, and engage stewardship volunteers. Project will work with partner organizations to remove 15 acres of exotic invasives, plant 1,500 trees, remove trash and coordinate volunteer habitat restoration projects.

TEXAS

Constructing Wetland Habitat to Improve Agricultural Runoff and Irrigation (TX)

Grantee: Recipe for Success Foundation

Grant Amount:.....\$56,600

Matching Funds:.....\$118,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$174,600

Construct wetland habitat to filter brine discharge from a reverse-osmosis system constructed in response to increasingly brackish well water at Hope Farms in Houston, Texas. Project will increase the quality of irrigation water to maximize food production, create a diverse ecosystem with native plants naturally filtering agricultural wastewater, provide critical habitat for migratory birds along the Gulf Coast flyway, establish an inspiring environment for learning about sustainable water management, and foster community engagement in water stewardship.

Creating Pollinator Habitat Focused on the Recovery of the Monarch Butterfly in Texas

Grantee: National Wildlife Federation

Grant Amount:.....\$60,000

Matching Funds:.....\$0

Total Project Amount:.....\$60,000

Create five pollinator gardens on school campuses in Channelview and Houston to support the recovery of the monarch butterfly and other pollinators. Project will engage 500 students, 15 teachers, and 85 community volunteers to design, build, and maintain 2,000 square feet of native

habitat, supporting biodiversity and connecting fragmented habitat corridors in developed areas.

Establishing Agroforestry Sites in Texas to Benefit Watershed Health and Native Pollinators (TX)

Grantee: The Giving Grove

Grant Amount:.....\$58,500

Matching Funds:.....\$58,300

Total Project Amount:.....\$116,800

Establish and enhance five agroforestry sites spanning 6 acres by planting native shade, nut and fruit trees to expand the tree canopy; implement understory cover cropping for soil health; and create pollinator and bat habitat. Project will engage preK-12 students, college students and military veterans in conservation efforts, resulting in increased stormwater retention and air quality improvements.

Nature-based Solutions to Improve Wildlife Habitat and Water Quality in San Antonio (TX)

Grantee: Gardopia Gardens

Grant Amount:.....\$58,000

Matching Funds:.....\$43,500

Total Project Amount:.....\$101,500

Implement nature-based solutions that improve soil health, increase groundwater recharge and reduce stormwater pollution in the San Antonio River basin. Project will restore 4 acres of land by establishing native pollinator gardens, rain gardens, and tree canopies across 25 sites to absorb excess runoff, stabilize soil, and enhance riparian buffers that filter pollutants before they reach local waterways.



Annual tree planting in Tennessee

(continued)



Planting riparian buffer plants in Washington

WASHINGTON

Community Garden and Native Forest Restoration (WA)

Grantee: World Relief Seattle
Grant Amount:.....\$60,000
Matching Funds:.....\$219,900
Total Project Amount:.....\$279,900
Work with local partners, youth and families to restore native forest around the Paradise Parking Plots Community Garden, providing educational and career development opportunities. Project will expand the garden’s impact by removing invasive plants and planting native species on 0.25 acres of land, support 30 families in accessing space to grow gardens, and provide community members with classes and community event offerings.

Designing Community Garden Spaces that Support Trees and Wildlife (WA)

Grantee: Tilth Alliance
Grant Amount:.....\$54,300
Matching Funds:.....\$64,000
Total Project Amount:.....\$118,300
Utilize ecological design to support wildlife habitat, increase tree canopy and improve local environmental conditions, including air and water quality. Project will plant 120 fruit trees and 600 other plants at 12 partner sites resulting in 4 acres of ecologically functional landscapes.

Enhancing Soil Health and Restoring Native Habitats in the Wenatchee River Watershed (WA)

Grantee: Tierra Learning Center
Grant Amount:.....\$43,500
Matching Funds:.....\$0
Total Project Amount:.....\$43,500
Restore 2 acres within a 30-acre organic farm in Sunitsch Canyon to enhance soil health, conserve water and restore native habitats. Project will use sustainable practices such as composting, cover cropping and pollinator habitat restoration to strengthen the local ecosystem and engage more than 300 participants and volunteers in hands-on education and stewardship.

Improving Salmon Habitat through Water Quality Testing, Restoration and Community Engagement (WA)

Grantee: Thurston Conservation District
Grant Amount:.....\$54,500
Matching Funds:.....\$43,800
Total Project Amount:.....\$98,300
Restore 25 acres of riparian habitat along the Nisqually and Chehalis rivers and Puget Sound to benefit threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead. Project will engage 1,380 students and 110 teachers in water quality testing and 180 community members in restoration activities across three watersheds in southwest Washington State.

WASHINGTON, D.C.**Advancing Oxon Run Watershed Conservation with Community Gardening and Environmental Education (DC)**

Grantee: DC Greens
 Grant Amount:.....\$60,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$0
 Total Project Amount:.....\$60,000
 Leverage partnerships with local organizations and government agencies to restore the Oxon Run watershed, promote sustainable gardening and encourage residents to take an active role in conservation efforts. Project will restore and positively impact Oxon Run Park and its surrounding watershed by engaging 500 community members in conservation efforts, including community-led cleanups, composting, and tree planting and by reaching more than 700 youth and community members annually with hands-on education programs.

Demonstrate Best Practices and Support School Gardens at the Washington Youth Garden (DC)

Grantee: Friends of the National Arboretum
 Grant Amount:.....\$50,900
 Matching Funds:..... \$0
 Total Project Amount:.....\$50,900
 Demonstrate best practices and sustainable growing techniques at the Washington Youth Garden, a 1-acre People's Garden on the grounds of the U.S. National Arboretum, through school garden support, teacher training and a high school internship program. Project will grow 6,500 pounds of produce, welcome 1,600 students on field trips, support school garden programs by reaching 60 teachers and offer internships for 14 high school students.

Training Community Members in Regenerative Agriculture and Ecological Stewardship in Washington, D.C.

Grantee: Edgewood Community Garden, Edgewood Community Farm
 Grant Amount:.....\$59,700
 Matching Funds:..... \$5,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$64,700
 Train residents in the District of Columbia on sustainable practices such as planting native species, removing invasive plants, establishing pollinator gardens, and building bird and bat houses. Project will implement micro-initiatives to address watershed health through on-the-ground activities, including creating rain gardens, expanding rainwater harvesting systems, stabilizing drainage ditches, and planting erosion-controlling crops such as strawberries on slopes.

WISCONSIN**Advancing the Quality of Terrestrial and Aquatic Habitats in Milwaukee (WI)**

Grantee: Urban Ecology Center
 Grant Amount:.....\$58,100
 Matching Funds:.....\$66,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$124,100
 Restore, preserve and grow biodiversity in three highly visited and underresourced public parks in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This project will directly enhance these community parks through planting native plants, removing hazardous trees and treating 65 acres of invasive species.

Designing and Constructing Nature-based Solutions to Address Stormwater Challenges in Milwaukee (WI)

Grantee: Milwaukee Board of School Directors dba Milwaukee Public Schools
 Grant Amount:.....\$50,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$258,500
 Total Project Amount:..... \$308,500
 Design, permit and construct nature-based solutions to reduce surface water runoff and provide education and outreach at five schools to address Milwaukee's stormwater challenges. Project will reduce runoff and contaminants that discharge into waterways and Lake Michigan and partner with nonprofits to provide water-focused programming, supporting outdoor classrooms and enhanced recreational facilities.

MULTIPLE STATES**Blue River Watershed Action through Community Stewardship (KS, MO)**

Grantee: Heartland Conservation Alliance
 Grant Amount:.....\$60,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$60,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$120,000
 Restore and improve 166 acres along the Blue River riparian corridor, including 10 acres of invasive species removal, native plantings and riparian restoration. Project will engage more than 100 volunteers while improving water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat and strengthening community resilience.

Restoring Riparian Habitat and Increasing Public Access to South Chickamauga Creek (GA, TN)

Grantee: WaterWays
 Grant Amount:.....\$52,300
 Matching Funds:.....\$50,500
 Total Project Amount:..... \$102,800
 Restore 2,000 linear feet of riparian habitat at four locations on South Chickamauga Creek while providing educational opportunities to students and increasing public access to the creek. Project will remove invasives, plant trees and shrubs, remove 2,000 pounds of litter from the creek, educate at least 300 students and 100 community members, and reduce streambank erosion and sedimentation in this highly biodiverse stream system.