# **NFWF** Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program

#### **NFWF CONTACTS**

Carrie Clingan Program Director, Community Stewardship and Youth 202-595-2471 carrie.clingan@nfwf.org

#### Zack Bernstein

Program Coordinator Regional Programs zachary.bernstein@NFWF.org 202-595-2433

#### PARTNERS

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

To learn more, go to 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

#### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1133 15th Street, NW Suite 1000 Washington, D.C., 20005 202-857-0166



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.



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

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.

#### **2021 GRANT SLATE**

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

Grantee: Friends of the Kaw

## 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

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



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

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

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

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

Grantee: Milwaukee Board of School Directors dba Milwaukee Public Schools



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

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

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

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

Grantee: Museum of Science

# 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.



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

### 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)

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

Grantee: Heartland Conservation Alliance

# Alta Fish River Preserve Habitat Restoration and Outreach (AL)

Grantee: South Alabama Land Trust

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

Grantee: Trinity River Authority of Texas

# 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)



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	3
Fotal Project Amount: \$106,508	3
Frain students and teachers in New Orleans East to design,	
mplement and monitor small-scale restoration projects in	
inderserved communities with a focus on sustainability,	
accessibility, and community input. Project will engage	
community partners, students, teachers, and community	
nembers in restoration projects, educating over 10,000	
community members via outreach efforts and creating 2 acre	es
of highly-accessible public open space with restored habitat	
and enhanced tree canopy.	

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



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

Grantee: Rocky Mountain Field Institute

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

Grantee: Capitol Hill Housing Foundation

Nisqually Delta, Washington

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

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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



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	1
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 improvement	s,
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

#### 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 Riverkeeeper
Grant Amount:\$46,000
Matching Funds:\$47,200
Total Project Amount:\$93,200
Perform targeted sampling on 16 streamsites with 85
volunteers to analyze, plan restoration and engage a diverse,
multigenerational community to implement data-driven
management practices that reduce nathegon leading and litter

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

#### **Engaging Local Community Members in Restoring and Conserving Hickory and Shoal Creek Confluence (MO)** Grantee: Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition (DBA

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.

#### **2021 GRANT SLATE**

#### North Park Riparian Buffer Restoration and Streambank Rehabilitation (PA)

#### Wolf River Greenway Restoration VI (TN)

Grantee: Wolf River Conservancy

Grant Amount:\$38,837
Matching Funds: \$121,456
Total Project Amount: \$160,293
Remove 25 acres of invasives, plant 1,500 trees and clean
up trash and debris from key locations along the Wolf River
in urbanized sections of the City of Memphis, Tennessee.
Project will engage 800 residents to protect and restore
the watershed features and hydrological functions of sites
currently impacted by invasive plant species, stormwater
runoff, erosion, pollution and illegal dumping, especially
along the urban sections of the Wolf River.

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

Grantee: Arizona Sustainability Alliance

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

Grantee: Friends of the Forest Preserves

Grant Amount:\$40,000
Matching Funds:\$78,300
Total Project Amount: \$118,300
Engage volunteers, Conservation Corps members, and high
school students to restore 38 acres of habitat for birds,
amphibians, and native plants at Possum Hollow Woods
forest preserve. Project will improve regional water quality,
plant native seeds, increase habitat for rare species through



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

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

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#### Lower Eld Inlet Conservation and Education (WA)

Grantee: Northwest Youth Corps
Grant Amount:\$31,575
Matching Funds:\$42,179
Total Project Amount:\$73,754
Restore up to 20 acres on the Lower Eld Inlet and the McLane
Creek Estuary through invasive vegetation removal, native
plant installation, and mulching. Project will use trained
citizens and volunteers to create a shoreline buffer to
absorb storm surge and rising sea levels and enhance water
quality and habitat for migratory and resident bird species,
mammals, amphibians, and chinook salmon.

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

#### Grantee: Trinity Park Conservancy

Grant Amount:\$47,774	
Matching Funds:\$82,833	
Total Project Amount: \$130,607	
Cultivate community stewardship of riparian and wetland	
habitats in Dallas, Texas. Project will increase outreach to	
marginalized neighborhoods and youth programs and utilize	
an array of partnerships to improve the environmental health	
along the Trinity River and its adjacent wetlands.	