



# NFWF

## Five Star and Urban Waters 2019 Grant Slate

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### PARTNERS

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

### ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

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Volunteers remove debris from a park in Miami-Dade County, Florida | Credit: Phillip and Patricia Frost

### OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is pleased to announce the 2019 Five Star and Urban Waters grant recipients. Major funding is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FedEx, Southern Company, Shell Oil 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. Forty-six projects totaling \$1.7 million were awarded, leveraging \$4.4 million in matching contributions from grantees, and generating a total impact of more than \$6.1 million.

#### Restoring Urban Riparian Corridor at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve in Atlanta, GA Grantee: Blue Heron Nature Preserve

Restore 1.5 acres of riparian corridor and 500 feet of creek in the Mill Creek Watershed in Atlanta, Georgia by removing invasive plant species along the creek, supplementing the area with appropriate native plantings, and connecting with two other Five Star restored areas. Project will create 2,200 feet of contiguous restoration and engage 135 community volunteers through seasonal plant surveys and regular trash pickup in the watershed.





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Community members learn about local bird species in Boise, Idaho | Credit: Land Trust of the Treasure Valley

### **Habitat Restoration, Monitoring and Community Conservation in the Middle Fox River Watershed (WI)**

Grantee: Waukesha County Land Conservancy  
Restore 150 acres of wildlife habitat, in-stream habitat and river frontage while improving overall management practices on 1,468 acres Middle Fox River watershed. Project will engage 350 volunteers to improve water quality, habitat and species diversity across eight protected preserves.

### **One Tam Roving Ranger Project: Connecting the Public to Natural Resource Education (CA)**

Grantee: Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy  
Dispatch a mobile information center that connects the public to natural resource education and disseminates information directly to community members in public spaces as a “mobile trailhead.” Project will reach 1,200 visitors through educational service projects and monitor two preserves using the iNaturalist app.

### **Milwaukee Urban Waters Community Education and Outreach Program (WI)**

Grantee: Groundwork Milwaukee  
Engage community members in education and outdoor activities to improve understanding of damaging trash and litter impacts in local waterways that affect community health and local economies. Project will engage 2,500 community members in outreach and education and also through the Green Team job training program.

### **Community-Based Habitat Restoration along Pogue’s Run and Pleasant Run (IN)**

Grantee: Keep Indianapolis Beautiful  
Work with Indianapolis city and community partners to restore 23.46 acres of native habitat along the Pogue’s Run and Pleasant Run waterways. Project will restore native habitat, train and employ 10 college students and young adults through Keep Indianapolis Beautiful’s Urban Naturalist program, enlist 300 volunteers in habitat restoration work, and engage 1,675 Indianapolis residents.

### **Herring Monitoring in Horn Pond (MA)**

Grantee: Mystic River Watershed Association  
Engage public stewards, educate area youths, make on-the-ground improvements and document the herring run size at Horn Pond in Woburn, Massachusetts. Project will expand herring spawning ground by 102 acres, which will have a significant and lasting impact on herring populations.

### **Community Centered Conservation of Important Bird Habitats in Philadelphia (PA)**

Grantee: National Audubon Society  
Convert vacant lots in targeted southwestern Philadelphia communities into gardens, pocket parks and pollinator corridors that will increase and improve habitats for birds, pollinators and other wildlife. Project will engage 1,500 volunteers to restore 10 acres through invasive plant removal and expanded native plantings, and restore 2 miles



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of riparian habitat to reduce erosion and improve water quality.

### **Improving Greenspace in Capitol Hill through Impairment Reduction (WA)**

Grantee: Seattle Audubon

Work toward eliminating or significantly reducing herbicide and toxic rodenticide use at Cal Anderson Park. Project will engage and train 50 community volunteers as park stewards to maintain the park without herbicides and create a vegetation plan for a habitat corridor that would link approximately 60 acres of currently isolated pervious greenspace.

### **Stream Corridor Restoration and Community Education in Wolf Creek Watershed (VA)**

Grantee: Canaan Valley Institute

Establish warm-season grasses and forbes to improve upland habitat for birds and pollinators and stabilize streambanks and improve instream habitat conditions for freshwater fish, mussels, and hellbenders along Wolf Creek and Town Creek. Project will restore 3.6 acres of stream corridor and engage 600 community college students in planning, implementation, and monitoring and will impact over 3,000 people through outreach events.

### **Kahuku Point Coastal Strand Restoration: Engaging Community in Stewardship (HI)**

Grantee: North Shore Community Land Trust

Initiate the restoration of 10 acres of coastal strand ecosystem to create nesting habitat for Laysan albatross, Hawaiian monk seals, hawksbill and green sea turtles and native seabirds on the north coast of Oahu, Hawaii. Project will engage eight local resource management partners and 600 volunteers to plant 3,000 native coastal plants and 75 native trees, and remove 5-10 acres of invasive ironwood trees and other weeds.

### **Cultivating Community Advocates through Restoration and Citizen Science in Galveston Bay (TX)**

Grantee: Galveston Bay Foundation

Increase organizational capacity through a partnership between the Get Hip to Habitat education program and their citizen science Water Monitoring Team to more effectively serve students and residents around the Houston-Galveston region. Project will directly engage 800 students and 15 teachers in environmental education activities, restore 1.3 acres of wetland habitat, oversee 70 volunteers in monthly water quality monitoring and inform over 4,000 residents of local water quality issues.

### **Improving the Urban Tree Canopy in the Chicago Region through Increased Community Capacity (IL)**

Grantee: The Morton Arboretum

Provide education and outreach to under resourced communities in the Chicago region using regional data to identify communities with the lowest canopy, highest percent of impervious surfaces, flooding, heat island and air pollution. Project will plant 50 native trees in five communities increasing habitat for migrating birds and other wildlife and will work in the communities to protect and preserve trees and green infrastructure and train community members to care for trees on their properties.

### **The Puget Sound Stewards Program (WA)**

Grantee: Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

Restore 15 acres of riparian habitat to improve water quality and habitat for Chinook salmon, bull trout and steelhead salmon in Puget Sound and Whatcom County. Project will engage 5 local resource management partners and 2,500 volunteers to plant 5,000 trees and remove 6 acres of invasive vegetation.

### **Rio Fernando Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Restoration and Education (NM)**

Grantee: Taos Land Trust

Restore 7 acres of riparian habitat and wetlands and remove 20 acres of noxious weeds and trees in the Rio Fernando de Taos watershed. Project will engage 250 youths and community members and six collaborative partners to remove 350 Russian olive trees and plant 500 native trees and shrubs, creating a public demonstration for wetlands and ecological restoration at the Rio Fernando Park.

### **Restorative Experiences in Conserving the Passaic and Elizabeth Watersheds (NJ)**

Grantee: Groundwork Elizabeth

Carry out conservation work projects on public lands along the Passaic River and Elizabeth watersheds, which are connected urban watersheds. Project will engage 1,200 volunteers, restore 10 acres of wetland habitats and improve 10 miles of riverbanks through invasive plant removal and introduction of native plant species.

### **YES San Diego: Youth Environmental Stewardship (CA)**

Grantee: Outdoor Outreach

Engage 180 individuals, including 140 urban youths, in the restoration of 32 acres of land/wetland in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated National Wildlife Refuge and adjacent areas in San Diego, California. Project will support 13 youth-led environmental restoration and stewardship activities including invasive species removal, reestablishment of native species and debris removal from beach and coastal habitats.





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Volunteers install fencing for to protect a new tree in Milwaukee, Wisconsin | Credit: Urban Ecology Center

### **Restoring Migratory Songbird Habitat at Atlanta's Cascade Springs (GA)**

Grantee: Atlanta Audubon Society  
Restore urban bird habitat by removing exotic, invasive plants and installing native, bird-friendly plants and conduct bird surveys in Cascade Springs Nature Preserve located in the Utoy Creek watershed in southwest Atlanta, Georgia. Project will result in 12 acres of restored bottomland forest, one year's worth of bird population data, interpretive signage and a series of educational programming with the local community.

### **Alice Branch Creek Green Infrastructure (TX)**

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land  
Transform Alice Branch Creek in Dallas, Texas from its currently degraded condition into a safe and attractive community asset. Project will remove invasive species on 3 acres, implement buffer strips of native plants on 0.25 miles along the creek, and engage 500 students and

residents through volunteer days and educational sessions.

### **Connally Nature Park Forest Restoration (GA)**

Grantee: Trees Atlanta  
Restore a segment of Connally Nature Park in East Point, Georgia. Project will improve 4 acres of forest and stream buffer through invasive removal, native replanting, improving and expanding a walking trail, adding educational signage and engaging the community.

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

Grantee: Museum of Science  
Restore a unique subtropical wetland and dune ecosystem on Virginia Key through the removal of invasive vegetation and replanting of native plants. Project will engage 700 volunteers in restoring 2.8 acres and planting 4,000 native plants.

### **Ballona Creek Watershed Coastal Restoration and Youth Leadership Project (CA)**

Grantee: Los Angeles Audubon Society  
Engage under-served youth and community volunteers in educational and habitat restoration activities throughout the Ballona Creek watershed from the uplands in Baldwin Hills/Culver City to where the creek discharges into the Santa Monica Bay at the Pacific Ocean. Project will reach 3,500 community members to restore two acres of coastal sage scrub and 7.7 acres of beach habitat, benefiting wildlife and improving watershed health.

### **Marine Conservation Corps for the Long-term Stewardship of Jamaica Bay (NY)**

Grantee: Rockaway Waterfront Alliance  
Train 40 young people to restore 11.5 acres of a critical coastal environment to improve water quality and habitat for endangered and priority species. Project will engage local private and public partners and 600 volunteers through community stewardship efforts to plant 10,000 sprigs of grasses, remove 1,500 pounds of shoreline debris and invasive species along 11.5 acres, and monitor oysters reefs to monitor water quality.

### **Aquatic Connectivity, Shoreline Stabilization and Restoration at Sugar Creek (IL)**

Grantee: Elmhurst Park District  
Stabilize 2,400 linear feet of shoreline at Sugar Creek. Project will improve aquatic connectivity, convert turf grass to native plants, implement stream re-meandering on 819 linear feet, construct wetlands on 0.5 acres, convert an inlet area into a sediment forebay, plant native species on 1.8 acres and build five rock riffle structures on the restored stream channel.



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### **Rio Vista and Rangeline Preserves Restoration and Outreach (AL)**

Grantee: Weeks Bay Foundation

Enhance two Foundation-held properties for public access opportunities, including invasive plant removal, native plantings and trail construction. Project will restore 90 acres to provide public access on both sides of Mobile Bay, where visitors can learn about coastal habitat, waterway health and land conservation.

### **Restoring Wetlands and Educating Youth within Willamette Basins Watersheds (OR)**

Grantee: Ecology in the Classroom and Outdoors

Restore 23 acres of wetlands within Willamette Basins watersheds, located in the greater Portland urban area. Project will engage 560 students from high-need urban schools and 21 teachers, who will carry out on the ground wetland restoration and participate in classroom and field-based conservation education.

### **Building Capacity for Public Participation in Stormwater Management in Toledo (OH)**

Grantee: National Wildlife Federation

Establish native plant habitat and rain gardens in community spaces and at residences throughout the broader community. Project will reduce local flooding and stormwater overflows and improve water quality in the Western Lake Erie basin. The project also will engage 4,500 people to build a self-sustaining network of community members committed to environmental improvement.

### **Anacostia Watershed Water Quality Monitoring (DC, MD)**

Grantee: Anacostia Riverkeeper

Expand an existing volunteer water quality monitoring program, currently isolated to DC waters, further into Maryland and the Anacostia River watershed. Project will engage 40 volunteers in monitoring dissolved oxygen, temperature and conductivity and reach 500 community members at community forums and through sharing monitoring data results.

### **Lower Delaware Watershed Habitat Restoration (PA)**

Grantee: Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Restore high-value habitat to three important sites within the lower Delaware watershed area by planting native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants and/or seed mixes in the inner northeastern suburbs of Philadelphia. Project will work with partners to restore 4.37 acres of riparian buffer, plant 690 trees and 360 shrubs, and contribute 900 hours of volunteer time toward watershed health.

### **Lake Sammamish Stewardship: Expanding the Vision for a Connected Watershed (WA)**

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Expand and diversify the current U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Lake Sammamish Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership by leveraging resources to increase community reach and depth of engagement. Project will restore 3 acres through invasive species removal, and will engage 6,000 community members through community work days, outreach events and educational programming.

### **Nature Play Connections Project (CO)**

Grantee: Institute for Environmental Solutions

Increase soil stability, restore native vegetation, and reduce stormwater runoff along Clear Creek in Wheat Ridge. Project will include two classroom workshops and two planting events, planting 50 trees, restoring 0.5 acres and engaging 2,500 community members and students.

### **Oyster Restoration and Education on the Elizabeth River (VA)**

Grantee: The Elizabeth River Project

Deploy the latest technologies for creating oyster habitat in the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River to create 5 acres of robust habitat for the keystone species of the Chesapeake Bay, the native oyster. Project will add 86 cubic yards of material ranging from "oyster castles" to a new design for "oyster discs" that mimic natural reefs along with 50 cubic yards of oyster shell.

### **Fostering Stewardship of Monarch Habitat in Urban Communities (NV)**

Grantee: Outside Las Vegas Foundation dba Get Outdoors Nevada

Restore 14 acres of habitat for monarch butterflies and other local pollinators, owls, migratory birds and desert tortoise through 18 native habitat education programs, six field experiences, two community workshops, and six community service projects throughout the Las Vegas Valley watershed. Project will provide increased public access to native habitats and engage 830 community members.

### **Using Goats in City Parks for Invasive Plant Management and Landscape Restoration (PA)**

Grantee: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

Use innovative methods to target invasive plants on three acres in the woodland of Frick Park as part of an integrated invasive plant management plan. Project will provide community members and students with educational programming focusing on the negative impact of invasives, volunteer training and citizen science monitoring of plants and birds as well as develop and publish guidelines to assist city and park managers considering similar programs elsewhere.





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Volunteers restore riparian habitat in Whatcom County, Washington | Credit: Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

### **Hudson River Park Plastic Marine Debris Removal and Education Program (NY)**

Grantee: Friends of Hudson River Park

Restore 400 in-water acres of the Hudson River that are encompassed and maintained by Hudson River Park. Project will reach 900 community members through an established community volunteer marine debris cleanup program, which has developed a plastic marine debris curriculum that is offered among the Park's K-12 environmental education programs.

### **Tijeras Creek Watershed Protection through Stewardship Education (NM)**

Grantee: Talking Talons Youth Leadership

Restore and protect the Tijeras Creek Watershed by

providing watershed protection education through classroom sessions, field trips, teacher workshops and stewardship sessions. Project will remove invasive species such as Siberian elm and toadflax on 5 acres, plant 75 trees and engage 955 youth, teachers and community members.

### **Union River Watershed Restoration (ME)**

Grantee: Frenchman Bay Conservancy

Respond to public demand for a renewed focus on the Union River by restoring shoreline, building public trails, conserving green space and establishing meaningful community connections that get people outside and into nature. Project will conserve 900 acres of high priority wildlife habitat, plant 500 native trees and remove invasives on 100 acres.





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### **Northwest Indiana Urban Wilderness Paddles Water Quality Monitoring**

Grantee: Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center  
Connect 3,500 students and teachers with their local waterways and the Lake Michigan watershed through canoe experiences, guided hikes and volunteering. Project will engage students in restoring 4 acres by removing invasive species, bank stabilization and native seed collection and dispersion.

### **Lower Rio Grande Valley Elementary School Learning Landscapes (TX)**

Grantee: Friends of the Wildlife Corridor  
Guide middle school students in restoring a campus stormwater retention pond to improve water flowing into the Arroyo Colorado and creating 40 new outdoor gardens in public schools to develop stewardship of native habitat among regional youth and their teachers. Project will restore 10 acres on 40 school campuses and will engage 4,280 students.

### **Teaching Students to Install Solar Powered Charging Benches (LA)**

Grantee: Groundwork New Orleans  
Teach students to build, and install solar powered charging benches on or near bus stops in underserved communities which will provide clean energy sources for public transportation users and educate community members. Project will install three solar benches, and engage 290 students and community members through educational workshops.

### **Adopt an Oxbow: Volunteer-led Ecological Restoration on Willow Creek Floodplain (CO)**

Grantee: Headwaters Alliance  
Restore the biological, physical and aesthetic properties of the lower Willow Creek floodplain through collaboration of key partners in support of volunteer work projects focused on revegetation and irrigation infrastructure. Project will engage 66 community members to restore 36.3 acres through planting 13 large oxbows, reseeding native grasses and shrubs and installing a user-friendly, water-efficient irrigation system.

### **Building on Partner Successes to Expand Birding in Diverse Neighborhoods (IL)**

Grantee: Chicago Audubon Society  
Train new field trip leaders and engage the community to restore riparian woodland, prairie, and savanna habitat and address windows that are dangerous to birds. Project will train 25 new field trip leaders, ultimately increasing the number of field trip leaders of color in Chicago, put 9.6 acres of habitat under improved management and engage 300 new people in birding activities.

### **Deploying Smart Technology to Support Sustainable Living Along Barberton's Water Corridor (OH)**

Grantee: City of Barberton  
Deploy remote sensors designed to monitor water levels for flood detection in targeted locations along the Tuscarawas River. Project will engage 100 engineering students to assist the communities ingreen infrastructure, public safety and emergency management while also aiding citizens with early flood detection to mitigate negative impacts of flooding.

### **Engaging Community Volunteers in the Stewardship of Public Lands in Southern Colorado**

Grantee: Rocky Mountain Field Institute  
Empower youth and adult volunteers to play a hands-on role in the conservation and stewardship of public lands and open spaces in Southern Colorado and the Pikes Peak Region. Project will engage and educate 2,300 community volunteers to restore 200 acres through erosion control, hillslope stabilization and trail improvement projects.

### **Expanded Upper Skagit Knotweed Control (WA)**

Grantee: Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group  
Implement a strategic and thoughtful approach to controlling invasive knotweed and implement early detection for noxious weeds in the Upper Skagit watershed. Project will engage 80 volunteers to restore 5,230 acres through treating invasive knotweed and will further survey and map knotweed infestations on another 17,215 acres.

### **Building Youth Leadership in Watershed Restoration in the San Francisco East Bay (CA)**

Grantee: Earth Team  
Develop louth leadership to engage local residents in planning, implementation, monitoring and stewardship of two San Francisco East Bay watersheds. Project will hire 28 local high school students to monitor water quality, remove land-based litter from creeksides, restore 30 acres of riparian habitat through invasive species removal and engage 2,000 community members to reduce litter, pet waste and garden pesticides pollution.

### **Empowering Communities through Bird Outreach in Baltimore (MD)**

Grantee: Baltimore Bird Club  
Empower a community of Bird Buddy neighbors through information and tools in a set of bird-friendly focused workshops and outreach events to residents and businesses. Project will restore a 1-acre pollinator meadow, plant a community demonstration garden, reach 2,500 community members and culminate in a Leakin Park Community Work Day to show that bird-friendly habitats are a vital part of Baltimore.