

2015 Five Star and Urban Waters Projects

Alabama

Project Title: Educating Communities Through Riparian Restoration (AL)

Organization: The Red Mountain Park Fund

Award Amount: \$30,000

Project Location: Red Mountain Park in Birmingham.

Project Description: Establish comprehensive ecosystem restoration programs for three threatened riparian zones on the largest post-industrial greenspace in the nation. Project partners will develop an informed populace that understands the importance of protecting the watersheds that sustain them.

Project Title: Town Creek Watershed Restoration at Auburn University (AL)

Organization: Auburn University

Award Amount: \$46,780

Project Location: The project site on the Auburn University campus and includes the AU Garden of Memory and the Donald E. Davis Arboretum.

Project Description: Add three restorative features and educational signage to the headwaters of a tributary of Town Creek at Auburn University. This wetland restoration and riparian habitat project will provide restorative & educational activities for watershed residents, students and visitors on water quantity, water quality and community engagement.

Alaska

Project Title: Empowering Anchorage's Youth through Outdoor Leadership Development to Bring a Diversity of Perspectives and Citizen Engagement to Conservation of Alaska's Migratory Birds, Wetlands, and National Wildlife Refuges (AK)

Organization: Alaska Geographic Association

Award Amount: \$30,000.60

Project Location: The Kenai, Arctic, Kanuti, and Togiak refuges in Anchorage, Southcentral Alaska

Project Description: Restore 20 miles of Anchorage streams in an already designated Urban Bird Treaty city; provide a continuum of opportunities for urban youth and families to engage with wildlife and conservation; mentor a cohort of urban/rural youth ambassadors to promote shared perspectives and leadership; and engage non-traditional partners to achieve shared conservation and urban community development objectives. Project will connect Anchorage's incredibly diverse urban neighborhoods to their wild backyards, and fostering unity and leadership between future urban/rural conservation leaders.

Arizona

Project Title: Preserving Arizona's Desert Rivers (AZ)

Organization: Arizona Wilderness Coalition

Award Amount: \$41,333.86

Project Location: Two perennial stream reaches in the central Arizona Sonoran Desert, both in the Greater Gila watershed, specifically addressing the Hassayampa River and Arnett Creek (AZ).

Project Description: Restore two perennial stream corridors offering high potential for habitat improvement. Project will provide habitat for Yellow-billed cuckoo and other sensitive species at these valuable streams in the Sonoran Desert.

Project Title: Save Sabino Creek: Community Education and Restoration (AZ)

Organization: Watershed Management Group

Award Amount: \$30,000

Project Location: The project will take place in Tucson, Arizona in the Sabino Creek watershed.

Project Description: Launch an initiative to restore habitat and surface flow to Sabino Creek, located downstream of Sabino Canyon, the most visited natural area in Tucson. Project will create a long-term, multi-faceted program including an educational and awareness program with local residents; on-the-ground restoration efforts in private and public spaces; and partner collaboration to protect and enhance shallow groundwater areas.

California

Project Title: Enhancing Nature and Community through Education and Environmental Monitoring in San Joaquin County (CA)

Organization: Waldo Holt San Joaquin Wildlife Conservancy

Award Amount: \$29,730

Project Location: Calaveras and Mokelumne Rivers

Project Description: Students in San Joaquin County will become stewards of the river running by their school through involvement in monitoring and restoration activities. They will also interact with professional scientists, educators, and various non-profit groups to broaden their career horizons and understanding of the natural world.

Project Title: Forebay Aquatic Center Restoration and Clean Water Science Ambassador (CA)

Organization: Feather River Rowing Club

Award Amount: \$27,949

Project Location: The Forebay Aquatic Center is located on the Oroville Forebay, along highway 70 and the Feather River, one mile north of Oroville California.

Project Description: Restore riparian habitat of the Thermalito Forebay and Feather River and establish an outdoor classroom for disadvantaged schools. Project will educate students about riparian habitats, fish and wildlife, water quality, the importance of stormwater management, and the California State Water Project while engaging students in service-learning projects and water recreation/safety training.

Project Title: Grown In LA: Los Angeles River Native Plant Pipeline and Nursery Network (CA)

Organization: Council for Watershed Health

Award Amount: \$50,000

Project Location: Pilot native nursery sites in Los Angeles

Project Description: Address the critical shortage of native plants needed for local ecosystem restoration projects throughout the Los Angeles River's 834 square-mile watershed by establishing a network of six pilot teaching and research native plant nurseries on vacant and underutilized park land in disadvantaged communities as one part of a pipeline of integrated activities from seed to plant. The nurseries will provide a viable source of locally-collected, locally-grown native plants, and the program's educational outreach and training components will serve as a model for advancing public and private support of community-based conservation projects, job creation, and stimulate community economic development.

Project Title: Oak Woodland and Coastal Scrub Restoration on Yerba Buena Island (CA)

Organization: City and County of San Francisco

Award Amount: \$40,000

Project Location: The project is in San Francisco on Yerba Buena Island (YBI), which is just offshore Downtown.

Project Description: Manage an unique bayside pygmy oak woodland on Yerba Buena Island, by removing invasive plants and restoring habitat for native plant species, such as the fiesta flower, a beautiful purple wildflower that only grows on the island within San Francisco County. Project will involve and integrate island residents in the management and ecological stewardship of Yerba Buena Island.

Project Title: One Tam Stewardship Program: Managing Mount Tamalpais as an Integrated Whole (CA)

Organization: Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

Award Amount: \$30,000

Project Location: Mount Tamalpais in the San Francisco Bay Area

Project Description: Support conservation, stewardship, and public enjoyment of the nearly 10 square miles of local, state, and national parklands that encompass the Mount Tamalpais (Mt. Tam) region.

Colorado

Project Title: Community Flood Restoration and Dam Removal on the North Fork Big Thompson River (CO)

Organization: Wildlands Restoration Volunteers

Award Amount: \$49,766.64

Project Location: Reach encompasses 2.5 mi. river & 2.3 acres meadow adj. to USFS land and approx. 9 mi. E of Rocky Mountain National Park & 20 mi. upstream of the City of Loveland.

Project Description: Engage at least 300 volunteer-days to implement flood-plain reconnection, soft armor/bioengineering techniques (re-vegetation, encapsulated fill, large wood structures), fisheries improvements, and redirective measures where appropriate throughout a 2.5-mile riparian area. Project will integrate community engagement and low-income youth education with fish passage reconnection, aquatic and riparian habitat enhancement for trout, water quality protection, greenback cutthroat trout reintroduction, and post-flood restoration for hazard reduction.

Project Title: Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield Riparian Restoration (CO)

Organization: Denver Botanic Gardens Inc.

Award Amount: \$35,000

Project Location: Chatfield, a 700 acre site in Jefferson County, Colorado

Project Description: Restore 5.5 acres of degraded riparian habitat at their Chatfield location, which lies approximately 15 miles south of the Denver metro area in an area of great biodiversity – the Chatfield Basin. Project will take place along Deer Creek - a tributary to the impaired South Platte River which flows to the northeast through the city of Denver - and an integral component of this restoration is the involvement of underserved youth, a citizen science initiative that will monitor water quality and invasive species following project completion, and an interpretive trail that will provide a focal point to educate visitors about the importance of native ecosystems and restoration.

Project Title: Fountain Creek Watershed Fire Restoration Initiative (CO) - II

Organization: Rocky Mountain Field Institute

Award Amount: \$32,101.30

Project Location: This project will take place within fire scarred landscapes located in and around Colorado Springs

Project Description: Complete fire restoration and flood mitigation work in both the Waldo Canyon Fire burn scar and the Black Forest Fire burn scar. Work will promote healthy ecosystem recovery and community involvement.

Project Title: New Stewards for Conservation at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (CO)

Organization: Groundwork Denver

Award Amount: \$28,238.52

Project Location: The project will take place in Commerce City Colorado and at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

Project Description: Work with project partners to better engage the low-income Spanish-speaking population of Commerce City Colorado with the resources available at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Project Title: Building Cultural and Environmental Learning Opportunities on the Colville Indian Reservation (WA)

Organization: Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Award Amount: \$23,918.66

Project Location: Project activities will occur on the Colville Indian Reservation in north-central Washington State.

Project Description: As part of a management plan to convert a former agricultural ranch of 334 acres to a cultural and environmental learning space, staff, students and volunteers will restore riparian vegetation and install beaver dam support structures and hawk perches to improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and hydrologic function. The project also includes development of the Reservation's first interpretive trail, which will describe natural and cultural features at the site and promote long-term community engagement in restoration activities.

Connecticut

Project Title: Urban Oases for Migrating Songbirds in the New Haven Harbor Watershed (CT)

Organization: National Audubon Society

Award Amount: \$49,993.90

Project Location: City of New Haven, CT

Project Description: Employ an innovative model of community-based land stewardship that engages multiple stakeholders in restoration of urban green spaces to provide quality stop-over habitat for migratory songbirds while also addressing critical community needs in the most underserved neighborhoods of New Haven. Project will identify important hotspots for migratory songbirds that are also areas of greatest community need that would benefit from increased access to natural areas, particularly for New Haven's children and youth.

District of Columbia

Project Title: Partnership for Water Quality and Urban Bird Education (DC)

Organization: Earth Conservation Corps

Award Amount: \$50,000

Project Location: Along the Anacostia River in Washington DC

Project Description: Create water quality improvement and restoration programs focused on the Anacostia River. Partners will work together to inspire conservation in our communities through hands-on urban bird programming.

District of Columbia/Maryland

Project Title: Chesapeake Bay Trash Trawl (MD,DC)

Organization: Alice Ferguson Foundation

Award Amount: \$30,600.13

Project Location: Sampling will occur in the main stem of the Chesapeake Bay between the Patapsco River and Point Lookout in Maryland, and the Anacostia River in Washington, DC.

Project Description: Use a manta trawl to sample the surface of the Chesapeake Bay to collect samples of microplastics, to better understand the level of plastic pollution in the watershed. Project will engage advocates, media, and other stakeholders in both the sampling and the subsequent communications strategy to expand our reach in public education and policymaking to reduce and prevent trash pollution.

Florida

Project Title: Student-led Coastal and Estuarine Restoration in the Choctawhatchee Watershed (FL)

Organization: Northwest Florida State College Foundation

Award Amount: \$39,999.99

Project Location: Project encompasses coastal and estuarine regions of Okaloosa and Walton Counties in the Choctawhatchee Watershed of Northwest Florida. Project consists of 4 salt marsh restoration sites at public parks on Choctawhatchee Bay and 3 dune restoration sites at public parks on the Gulf of Mexico.

Project Description: Educate and train 3,000 K-12 students in Okaloosa and Walton County School Districts. Students will restore 1.3 acres of dune habitat and 1.2 acres of salt marsh habitat in the coastal and estuarine areas around the Choctawhatchee Watershed and use their newfound knowledge of coastal and estuarine habitats to create educational outreach tools with guidance from outreach experts.

Project Title: Virginia Key North Point Maritime Hammock Restoration (FL)

Organization: Miami Science Museum

Award Amount: \$24,382.24

Project Location: Virginia Key is an uninhabited 1,000-acre barrier island located a mile off the coast of downtown Miami in southeast Florida. The island is bordered on the west by Biscayne Bay and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean.

Project Description: Engage 500 volunteers in restoring three acres of maritime hammock at Virginia Key, an uninhabited barrier island located off the coast of downtown Miami. Volunteers will also participate as citizen scientists in measuring habitat health based on water quality, marine debris and biodiversity.

Georgia

Project Title: Chattahoochee River Turkey Creek Restoration Education Area (GA)

Organization: Conservation Legacy

Award Amount: \$30,160

Project Location: Along the Chattahoochee River south of Atlanta in the Turkey Creek Wetland.

Project Description: Restore floodplain wetlands to create a conservation and education venue for residents of western Georgia by removing invasive plants and planting bird-attractant species, building two spur trails for wildlife viewing, and increasing existing accessibility to the area for education opportunities. Partners will utilize this natural resource for education activities through interpretive hikes, field trips, and signage and brochures.

Project Title: Chattahoochee River Wetland Restoration and Watershed Education Program at the Chattahoochee Nature Center (GA)

Organization: Chattahoochee Nature Center

Award Amount: \$40,000

Project Location: The wetland in the Chattahoochee River watershed

Project Description: Restore 4 acres of wetlands along the Chattahoochee Nature Center's river boardwalk and establish teaching plots to demonstrate best practices for safely and efficiently removing invasive species from an environmentally sensitive area. Project partners will remove invasive species, restore native plants, create test plots, and deliver education programs.

Project Title: Community Outdoor Education Area at Fannie Askew Williams Park (GA)

Organization: Golden Triangle RC&D

Award Amount: \$23,706.75

Project Location: Fannie Askew Williams Park in Blakely, Early County Georgia.

Project Description: Foster conservation stewardship through creating a new outdoor education area, providing watershed training, and recruiting committed community volunteers. The project will engage and educate the community on natural resource issues and provide local citizens an outlet for self exploration of nature.

Project Title: Creating Bird-friendly Communities in Atlanta's Urban Tributaries (GA)

Organization: Atlanta Audubon Society

Award Amount: \$25,607.21

Project Location: Restoration will take place at Emma Wetlands in Blue Heron Nature Preserve and at the Confluence of the North and South Forks of Peachtree Creek. Bird monitoring sites will include these areas plus five additional areas along the creeks.

Project Description: Create bird-friendly communities in two green spaces along urban tributaries of the Chattahoochee River watershed. Project will provide on-the-ground restoration and citizen science opportunities for the local community as well as educational programs that bring awareness to bird conservation and the importance of providing quality habitat to residential and migratory birds.

Project Title: Hahn Forest Restoration at South Peachtree Creek (GA)

Organization: Trees Atlanta

Award Amount: \$25,080

Project Location: Adjacent to 898 Houston Mill Road, Atlanta, Dekalb County, Georgia.

Project Description: Restore two acres of forest and 750 linear feet of creek bank within the Hahn Forest at Emory University through invasive plant removal and native tree planting. Project will also promote public education through a school-assisted tree propagation project, volunteerism and a specialized tree walk.

Project Title: Who's Home on the Confluence? (GA)

Organization: The South Fork Conservancy

Award Amount: \$28,910

Project Location: Headwaters of Peachtree Creek, the Confluence of the North and the South Forks, near Lindbergh Drive just east of Piedmont Road, Atlanta.

Project Description: Collect and analyze data on plant and animal populations and water quality at the degraded confluence of the South and North Forks of Peachtree Creek. Project will build appropriate creek access and engage underserved communities in monitoring and sustaining current restoration and green infrastructure efforts.

Project Title: Wildcat Creek Restoration (GA)

Organization: Dunwoody Nature Center

Award Amount: \$40,000

Project Location: The city of Dunwoody in DeKalb County, Georgia.

Project Description: Eliminate stream bank erosion in Wildcat Creek by replacing a failed weir and restoring the downstream portion of the creek using Natural Channel Design (NCD) principles. Project will restore approximately 350 linear feet of creek, resulting in a living classroom for park visitors and program participants to learn about the natural world.

Idaho/Washington

Project Title: Bi-state Interpretive Clean Water Trail (ID, WA)

Organization: University of Idaho

Award Amount: \$36,736.42

Project Location: The Lake Coeur d'Alene/Spokane River Corridor, including (but not limited to) Cities of Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls, ID; Kootenai County, ID; Cities of Spokane Valley, Spokane, Liberty Lake, WA; Spokane County, WA; Centennial National Historic Trail; Rathdrum Prairie-Spokane Valley Aquifer.

Project Description: Build an urban interpretive trail, themed around clean water and stormwater (non-point source) pollution prevention. The project will allow planting riparian native plants as several demonstration stormwater swale and riparian buffer demonstration projects, developing an outdoor classroom and demonstration area for K-12 and college/university students, and connecting community clean water-based projects in a cohesive, multi-media educational and outreach campaign.

Illinois

Project Title: Chicago Urban Treaty Alliance (IL)

Organization: Forest Preserve District of Cook County

Award Amount: \$50,000

Project Location: LaBagh Forest Preserve spans 160 acres on the northside of Chicago, IL; the North Branch of the Chicago River winds through the wooded area dotted with sedge meadows and savannas. Burnham Park Greenway spans 100 acres on the southside of Chicago.

Project Description: Restore 22 acres of migratory bird habitat in LaBagh Forest Preserve on the northwest side of Chicago, as well as 16 acres in the Burnham Wildlife Corridor along south Lakeshore Drive on the shores of Lake Michigan, and enhance three small community stopover habitat sites surrounded by urban development on the South side of the city. Project will host a series of events that introduce people to birding and nature, including International Migratory Bird Day events, and will create a citizen science tool to monitor migratory birds' habitat use.

Indiana

Project Title: Advancing Watershed Education, Action, and Attitude Change in Underserved Communities in the Lake Michigan Watershed (IN)

Organization: Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center

Award Amount: \$50,000

Project Location: The project will take place in Lake County, Indiana in the cities of Gary, Hammond, and Hobart.

Project Description: Provide environmental education programs to 4,500 students and 400 community members that foster community connections to local waterbodies. Project will support the expansion of place-based outreach programs that will occur at Wolf Lake, Marquette lagoons, and Lake George of the Lake Michigan watershed of Northwest Indiana where a total of 114 field trips will be held and will support grade levels 4-12, creating experiential learning opportunities that improve the water quality and the habitats supported by urban watersheds throughout the Calumet Region.

Project Title: Reconnecting to our Indianapolis Waterways: Community-Based Habitat Restoration along Pleasant Run (IN)

Organization: Keep Indianapolis Beautiful

Award Amount: \$49,400

Project Location: This project will take place along Pleasant Run waterway and in the Pleasant Run watershed, in urban areas in southeast Indianapolis.

Project Description: Engage a diversity of Indianapolis residents in restoring habitat along Pleasant Run waterway. This project will improve water quality and increase habitat for native plants and wildlife, creating a beautiful, healthy asset to revitalize the city, and to reconnect neighbors to their waterways.

Louisiana

Project Title: Restoring the Ridge: A New Orleans Maritime Forest Habitat Restoration Project at Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge (LA)

Organization: Friends of Louisiana Wildlife Refuges

Award Amount: \$44,958

Project Location: Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge within the city limits of New Orleans

Project Description: Coordinate a series of restoration projects, in conjunction with service learning activities, to restore and renew the once vibrant maritime forest at Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. Project will reforest 15 acres of the maritime forest on the ridge will provide habitat for generations of migratory and resident birds that use this area for food, shelter, and rest.

Maine

Project Title: Salt Marsh Creation in the York River (ME)

Organization: Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

Award Amount: \$35,000

Project Location: York River in York, Maine.

Project Description: Create 5.5 acres of salt marsh habitat by restoring tidal flow to an area impounded since the 1890's involving six organizations in a new public / private partnership.

Maryland

Project Title: Baltimore's Birds, Habitat, and People: Essentials for a New Urban Bird Treaty City (MD)

Organization: Outward Bound Baltimore

Award Amount: \$35,000

Project Location: Gwynns Falls Leakin' Park in Baltimore

Project Description: Restore forest and shrub habitat, reduce collision hazards for birds, and create awareness for migratory birds in the City of Baltimore.

Project Title: Hispanic Environmental Awareness and Action at Masonville Cove Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (MD)

Organization: Living Classrooms Foundation

Award Amount: \$36,110

Project Location: Masonville Cove on the southern side of the Baltimore Harbor on the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River in Baltimore, Maryland

Project Description: Connect with local Baltimore City church leaders and engage the local Hispanic church congregations in education and conservation activities centered on urban watershed issues and the Monarch butterfly and its habitat.

Massachusetts

Project Title: A Coalition of Action: Youth, Community, and Partners Engaged in Environmental Education and Restoration (MA)

Organization: Regreen Springfield

Award Amount: \$39,126

Project Location: This project is located in the East Springfield neighborhood of Springfield, located in southwestern Massachusetts

Project Description: Students and community members will engage in environmental education and urban restoration projects which seek to create a network of conserved habitats in the Connecticut River watershed.

Project Title: Reclaiming the Mystic: Community Invasive Water Chestnut Removal on the Mystic River (MA)

Organization: Mystic River Watershed Association

Award Amount: \$50,000

Project Location: In communities of Medford, Somerville, Everett and Malden along the Mystic River in Massachusetts.

Project Description: Engage 2,000 volunteers from membership, clubs, teams and businesses to paddle and remove the invasive water chestnut from the Mystic River in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Project will seek 95% removal of water chestnut from 4 miles of river and renewed community engagement of the river.

Minnesota

Project Title: Revisiting, Reviving, Expanding and Sustaining Urban Bird Treaty Goals (MN)

Organization: National Audubon Society

Award Amount: \$35,000

Project Location: In the Twin Cities (Minneapolis / St. Paul).

Project Description: Complete a restoration project, pilot an urban education program with the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), and create a municipal recognition program for bird-friendly communities. Project will engage at-risk youth to remove invasive species and create bird habitat in the Mississippi River corridor, pilot an Urban Birding Program with the Refuge to engage at-risk youth to discover birds in their neighborhoods and to discover the Refuge, and celebrate municipal efforts to educate citizens about birds while implementing sound conservation practices. It will also provide guidance on future actions, creating Bird Cities that are better for birds and people too.

Mississippi

Project Title: Coastal Streambank and Wetland Habitat Restoration at Weeks Bayou (MS)

Organization: Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain

Award Amount: \$30,000

Project Location: Ocean Springs, Jackson County.

Project Description: Offer the coastal community a restored green space for scientific and educational activities that will ultimately improve the environment and quality of life in the community. Project will provide opportunities to educate and inspire community youth through environmental stewardship.

Project Title: Crosby Arboretum Quaking Bog Educational Exhibit (MS)

Organization: The Crosby Arboretum Foundation

Award Amount: \$21,938

Project Location: Within the 104-acre Interpretive Center at The Crosby Arboretum in Picayune, Pearl River County, Mississippi.

Project Description: Create a Quaking Bog wetland exhibit and environmental educational program to serve as an outdoor classroom for area schools and the visiting public. Visitors will experience the feeling of a quaking bog through an ADA-accessible floating bridge that will be designed over the exhibit.

Project Title: Pascagoula River Audubon Marsh Mitigation (MS)

Organization: Jackson County Board of Supervisors

Award Amount: \$15,000

Project Location: This project is located on the site of the Pascagoula River Audubon Center, near the mouth of Rhodes Bayou: an urban watershed that drains about 600 acres within the City of Moss Point, Mississippi.

Project Description: Develop and provide first-hand educational experiences to public and private land managers about practical tidal wetland mitigation methods and practices. The project will also provide opportunities for engagement and interaction among local, state, and federal natural resource agency partners that together will direct what is expected to be large-scale marsh restoration associated with RESTORE funding.

Missouri

Project Title: Kansas City Municipal Farm Restoration and Stewardship (MO)

Organization: Heartland Conservation Alliance

Award Amount: \$49,802.50

Project Location: Project will take place on the west 254 acres of 442-acre Municipal Farm owned by Kansas City, 62 acres lies at the Brush Creek/Blue River confluence. Also located in the Blue River Valley and HUC12.

Project Description: Restore habitat and establish compatible and productive use of land significant to the health of the Blue River Watershed. Project will support and build capacity for partners, engage and educate youth and neighbors in habitat stewardship and create detailed plans to guide restoration and care for habitat today and for the next generation.

New Jersey

Project Title: Reverend Evers Park and Newton Creek - Riparian Corridor Restoration and Green Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements (NJ)

Organization: Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Award Amount: \$36,541.44

Project Location: Reverend Evers Park, Morgan Village Neighborhood, along Newton Creek.

Project Description: Planning and installation of riparian woodland restoration including bio-swales adjacent to the riparian woodland; job-training; community outreach and involvement; volunteer events; increased urban tree canopy; a watershed issues presentation/tour for school children; integration of upstream and downstream communities; and improved park aesthetics, for the benefit of this distressed community.

New Mexico

Project Title: Rio Grande Riparian Corridor Ecology Education and Restoration (NM)

Organization: Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District

Award Amount: \$44,090

Project Location: The project will be implemented on City of Albuquerque Open Space property, in Bernalillo County, within the Albuquerque basin of the Rio Grande watershed.

Project Description: Restore 10-18 acres of Southwestern Willow Flycatcher habitat in the Rio Grande riparian corridor over two years, in partnership with City of Albuquerque Open Space. Project will give young citizens a broad understanding of how the restoration effort fits in with larger watershed issues through classroom education.

Project Title: Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge Wetland and Native Riparian Habitat Restoration to Improve Migratory Bird Habitat (NM)

Organization: WildEarth Guardians

Award Amount: \$49,980

Project Location: The project is located in the USFWS Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, located in urban, south Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Project Description: Reestablish natural ecosystems and processes to benefit migratory and resident birds, wildlife and their associated habitats. Project will construct a series of trail systems for recreation opportunities, so that visitors may view wildlife in natural environments in close proximity to an urban setting and provide an educational component.

New York

Project Title: Project Underway: Green Infrastructure, Local Jobs, and Community Stewardship for a Healthier Jamaica Bay Watershed (NY)

Organization: Rockaway Waterfront Alliance

Award Amount: \$46,754

Project Location: Far Rockaway, Queens on the Rockaway Peninsula.

Project Description: Mitigate the pollution of Jamaica Bay Watershed and Atlantic Ocean from stormwater runoff and trash debris through maintenance and community stewardship of upland areas. Project will bring a range public agency expertise in green infrastructure with an embedded community organization to deliver measurable ecological, educational, and community benefits to the Rockaways. Community engagement, education, and stewardship events will accompany the project to deepen community awareness and protection of the Jamaica Bay Watershed from stormwater runoff and trash pollution.

Project Title: Three Rivers Public Pathways (NY)

Organization: Groundwork Hudson Valley

Award Amount: \$30,000

Project Location: Project locations include downtown Yonkers and downtown Newburgh, as well as the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge

Project Description: Engage youth from low-income, minority communities in environmental projects that tangibly improve local streams and invest youth in their communities. This project will build stewardship around and improve access to amenities along the Muchattoes Lake and Quassaick Creek for the pleasure, recreation, and spiritual and physical health of the communities around it.

Project Title: Watershed Students & Stewards (NY)

Organization: Trout Unlimited

Award Amount: \$32,817.10

Project Location: New York City and the New York City Watersheds, including Croton Watershed in Westchester County.

Project Description: Trout in the Classroom students and teacher from underserved NYC schools will travel to the NYC watershed streams to release fingerling trout which they have raised in their classrooms throughout the school-year and participate in stream restoration projects alongside TU volunteers. These projects will include the removal of invasive plant species, replanting of native plants, removal of litter from the riparian areas, and stream bank restoration which will help to protect these fragile headwater streams that provide clean, cool and unfiltered water for more than 9 million NYC residents.

Project Title: Wetland Stewardship in the Bronx (NY)

Organization: Friends of Van Cortlandt Park

Award Amount: \$29,493.67

Project Location: This project will take place in Tibbetts Wetland in Van Cortlandt Park which is located in the Northwest Bronx. Tibbetts Wetland includes the wetland area along Tibbett's Brook, the brook itself and Van Cortlandt Lake which encompasses 56 acres.

Project Description: Reduce the amount of water that flows from Van Cortlandt Lake and Tibbetts Brook into the sewer, thus reducing sewer overflow into local rivers during heavy storm water events. Project will be a combination of classroom study, hands-on participatory group work, and outdoor service projects will stimulate eager students to become involved in planting, invasive removal, and other activities that will benefit Tibbetts Wetland and therefore the Harlem River and East River watersheds.

Ohio

Project Title: Clean Your Streams - Preventing Trashy Drinking Water in Toledo (OH)

Organization: Partners for Clean Streams

Award Amount: \$36,273.33

Project Location: Lucas County and northern Wood County in northwest Ohio, including the City of Toledo.

Project Description: Prevent trashy drinking water in Toledo by continuing to organize more than 850 volunteers to remove more than 15,000 pounds of stream litter from 5 major watersheds across northwest Ohio, which are all tributaries to Maumee Bay, which more than 600,000 people use for their drinking water. Project will also continue educating thousands of people through this program and our new extension, called Trash Amnesty Weeks, where we will provide roll off bins, free trash disposal, and educational materials in targeted zones around Toledo so that trash is intercepted before reaching our rivers and streams.

Oregon

Project Title: Increasing Awareness and Protecting Portland Oregon metropolitan Area Native Birds by Advancing Bird-Friendly Building Design and Lighting Guidelines (OR)

Organization: Audubon Society of Portland

Award Amount: \$50,000

Project Location: Portland Metropolitan region

Project Description: Raise awareness of migratory birds and the bird strike hazards they face in Portland Oregon's metropolitan region. Project will accomplish five strategies: 1) direct engagement with the architecture/developer community; 2) work with iconic building owners to join a "light out" program; 3) Develop bird-friendly education curricula and implement at schools, community centers, and camps; 4) outreach to the general public through demonstration projects, social media, and other sources; and 5) Work with the City of Portland to promote bird-friendly building design and lighting practices through city policy and relevant city plans.

Project Title: Omicron Theta Sigma Urban Youth-Driven Fish Habitat Restoration Initiative (OR)

Organization: The Blueprint Foundation

Award Amount: \$49,691

Project Location: Project location is Saint Johns in North Portland, which is within the Columbia Slough Watershed of the State of Oregon.

Project Description: Educate and empower minority youth toward adoption of fish habitat protection practices within communities previously underrepresented in the green movement. Project will combine onsite competency development and citizen scientist programs to raise conservation awareness in minority communities and promote watershed health.

Project Title: Urban Landfill Restoration as Garry Oak Savanna and Forest in Portland (OR)

Organization: Northwest Zen Sangha

Award Amount: \$30,000

Project Location: The project takes place on a 26-acre brownfield site in Portland, Oregon.

Project Description: Invasive removal, native plantings, stormwater management, pollution control, and extensive community engagement and education will be utilized to restore 3 acres of endangered native oak savanna and 4 acres of a mixed riparian forest at the site of a former landfill in a highly distressed neighborhood. Project will connect two of Portland's largest urban greenspaces, and the restoration project is strongly supporting local communities capacity for, and valuing of, stewardship of urban natural areas.

Pennsylvania

Project Title: Habitat Restoration and Citizen Science Based Bird-Building Collision Monitoring and Reduction in Pittsburgh (PA)

Organization: Carnegie Institute

Award Amount: \$40,000

Project Location: Dead Man's Hollow Conservation Area in McKeesport, PA and throughout Allegheny County, PA.

Project Description: Volunteers and partners will improve backyard habitat at 75 homes and restore mixed-hardwood forests at Dead Man's Hollow Conservation Area in McKeesport, PA. Project will have citizen scientists monitor for bird-building collisions throughout Pittsburgh and assist with the application of collision reducing window treatments at 150 homes.

Project Title: Negley Run Watershed Coalition and Community Outreach Project (PA)

Organization: The Kingsley Association

Award Amount: \$40,000

Project Location: The Negley Run Watershed, located in the East End of the City of Pittsburgh, PA

Project Description: The Living Waters of Larimer Project at the Kingsley Association will replicate its community outreach and education program with the other neighborhoods within the watershed. Through a series of four community water workshops and aggressive collaboration, a Negley Run Watershed Coalition will be created that will shepherd the development of a distributed green infrastructure system and develop the skills to maintain and sustain the green infrastructure.

Project Title: Philly Wild, Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship and Action (PA)

Organization: National Audubon Society

Award Amount: \$49,108

Project Location: In Philadelphia in the Delaware River Basin.

Project Description: Implement a community conservation engagement project in Philadelphia, providing innovative programs and habitat restoration work at the refuge, at schools and in neighborhoods.

Rhode Island

Project Title: Green Infrastructure Demo for Urban Wildlife Refuge (RI)

Organization: Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

Award Amount: \$50,000

Project Location: The neighborhood surrounding Riverside Park, part of an urban wildlife refuge in the Olneyville neighborhood of Providence, RI.

Project Description: Create a green infrastructure retrofit demonstration project in the neighborhood surrounding Riverside Park in Providence, RI. Project will study, model and retrofit homes and the elementary school that contribute stormwater to Riverside Park and the Woonasquatucket River and will do so using local green infrastructure installation workforce trainees, D'Abate elementary teachers and students, residents and volunteers.

Tennessee

Project Title: Sustainable Collierville (TN)

Organization: Town of Collierville, Tennessee

Award Amount: \$20,000

Project Location: Collierville, Tennessee is located in the southeast corner of Shelby County.

Project Description: Educate the community about environmental sustainability with hands-on activities directly related to improving water quality and preserving habitat in the Wolf River and Nonconnah Creek watersheds. Project will not only educate the public, but provide measurable improvements to these waterbodies through water testing and habitat assessments.

Texas

Project Title: Bringing the Prairie Back to Houston (TX)

Organization: Houston Wilderness

Award Amount: \$40,000

Project Location: Greater Houston Metropolitan Area

Project Description: Develop sustainable habitat restoration solutions and alternatives to help communities find, value and care for nature.

Project Title: A Resilient Community Transformation: Supporting Watershed Protection and Walkability through the Use of Permeable Pavers and an Urban Tree Canopy Assessment (TX)

Organization: El Paso Community Foundation

Award Amount: \$21,792

Project Location: Downtown El Paso, which falls entirely inside of the Paso del Norte watershed region.

Project Description: Conduct an urban tree canopy assessment and permeable paver demonstration that will be the gateway to sustainably revitalizing our downtown and moving from gray to green infrastructure. Project will improve drainage through permeable pavers, reduced flooding damage, increased tree canopy and shade, and a recharged groundwater supply.

Project Title: School Gardens: Strengthening Conservation and Education in North Texas (TX)

Organization: REAL School Gardens

Award Amount: \$30,000

Project Location: School districts in North Texas

Project Description: Lead a community effort to establish three school-based learning gardens in North Texas in Spring 2016. These gardens will provide much-needed green infrastructure to enhance the environmental and educational impact of neighborhood schools.

Project Title: Urban Bird Conservation (TX)

Organization: City of McAllen

Award Amount: \$35,000

Project Location: The City of McAllen, located in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV)

Project Description: Restore land at the McAllen Nature Center, a 20-acre urban site, in addition to raising awareness of nature spaces and conservation throughout the City of McAllen and surrounding Rio Grande Valley area.

Washington

Project Title: Stormwater Pollution Solutions in My Neighborhood (WA)

Organization: EarthCorps

Award Amount: \$42,000

Project Location: This project takes place in the City of Edmonds/Edmonds Marsh Watershed and in the lower Duwamish River Watershed.

Project Description: Create a model program for regional replication that coaches secondary level teachers on fully integrating stormwater education in the core curriculum, using real-world content, outdoor classrooms, field investigations, community stewardship campaigns, and salmon habitat restoration to drive academic excellence.

Wisconsin

Project Title: Implementation of the Strategic Urban Forestry Plan in the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum (WI)

Organization: Urban Ecology Center

Award Amount: \$27,100

Project Location: The Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum, located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Project Description: Implement the Strategic Urban Forestry Plan which is a cost-effective and community-supported strategy for maintaining the Arboretum as an urban oasis with diverse native Wisconsin plant communities. Project will address the threats of 40% of trees greater than 10 centimeters in diameter at breast height in the 38-acre Arboretum are ash and vulnerable to emerald ash borer (EAB), which has already been detected on the northern end of the Arboretum.