

2016 Five Star and Urban Waters Projects

Alabama

Project Title: Long-eared Bat and Darter Habitat Restoration and Education at Turkey Creek Nature Preserve (AL)

Organization: Birmingham-Southern College

Award Amount: \$44,690

Project Location: Pinson, AL

Project Description: The Southern Environmental Center (SEC) at Birmingham-Southern College (BSC) and partners will remove invasive plant species from 9 acres of Turkey Creek Nature Preserve and restore native plant populations. This project will support and conserve the habitat of the only confirmed Alabama colony of threatened northern long-eared bats, recently discovered at the preserve. The trees currently used for roosting by these bats are at risk from encroaching invasive species of Chinese wisteria and English ivy. Selectively removing these vines and replanting native plants will help sustain the northern long-eared bats, along with the preserve's other 5 bat species. Removing Chinese privet and restoring native vegetation along Turkey Creek's stream banks in the project area will also enhance habitat conditions for the endangered Vermilion Darter. Activities at the site include the construction of a classroom pavilion, which will allow Turkey Creek to expand its educational programs. Creation of a bioswale/demonstration garden around the pavilion will reduce stormwater runoff and provide educational opportunities. Funds will also support additional staff to manage educational programs, carry out project data collection and coordinate volunteer projects. Partners include Freshwater Land Trust, the City of Pinson, the Urban Environmental Studies (UES) program at BSC, USFWS, Cawaco Resource and Development Council, Myhand Services, Goat Busters, and Friends of Turkey Creek.

Project Title: Bertram A. Hudson K-8 School Bio-retention System

Organization: City of Birmingham

Award Amount: \$36,780.70

Project Location: Birmingham, AL

Project Description: The City of Birmingham Stormwater Management is partnering with the Birmingham School System, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Engineering, and other City of Birmingham Departments and Divisions to retrofit a portion of Bertram A. Hudson K-8 School with a bio-retention basin and pervious pavers. Hudson K-8 School is located at 3300 F.L. Shuttlesworth Birmingham, AL 35207 in the North Birmingham neighborhood. The neighborhood has experienced dynamic environmental changes and has been placed on the National Priorities Listing of Superfund sites. Additionally, this is a priority area to EPA to address watershed management through established inter-agency work group for North Birmingham. The bio-retention basin will capture the first flush of runoff from a portion of the roof and infiltrate into the ground with an overflow to allow the larger storm events to pass to the exist storm system. This project will reduce pollutant loads and enhance the education of Birmingham City Schools and UAB students.

Project Title: Shoal Creek Stream Enhancement Project

Organization: City of Montevallo

Award Amount: \$26,317.20

Project Location: Montevallo, AL

Project Description: To enhance and protect the section of Shoal Creek which runs through Orr Park in Montevallo, Alabama, the City developed an Erosion & Sedimentation Control plan for dredging the creek, restoring eroded banks, removing invasive plants, clearing dead trees and adding plants to stabilize the banks. The project is supported by the City, Park Board, Arbor Board, University of Montevallo, County, ARGOS and others. ARGOS will supply rock to shore up the banks and provide stone-step, public access to the creek. A University of Montevallo Environmental Science class is developing a plant identification booklet for volunteers and staff doing the restoration and maintenance of the creek. The booklet will also be used to educate students and adults on the various plant types along the bank, how they help to prevent erosion and why it is important that the proper types of plants be promoted in that area. The Arbor Board is funding plantings for the project. In addition, volunteers from the Arbor Board, the UM Green Club, and Park Board will assist city staff, student volunteers and others with plantings. Shelby County will assist with heavy equipment and personnel. The project will not only protect the stream and the species dependent upon it, but will allow the park to continue to be enjoyed by residents and visitors. A key ingredient is our ability, to teach students and adults the importance of maintaining and protecting the creek and the fragile eco-systems dependent upon it.

Arizona

Project Title: What's the Catch: Monitoring and Conservation of Urban Waterways and Recreational Lakes for Native Fishes, Migratory Birds and Local Communities in metro-Phoenix (AZ).

Organization: Arizona State University

Award Amount: \$43,422.26

Project Location: Phoenix, AL

Project Description: Located in the Sonoran Desert, Phoenix's urban ponds, lakes, canals and rivers provide critical habitat for native fishes and migratory birds, and serve as recreational fishing sites for city residents. These precious public aquatic resources are under severe threats from pollution, habitat degradation, and invasive species. Over two-years, 50 volunteers will monitor 8 urban lakes/ponds, including adjacent segments of 3 canals and 2 river systems in the Phoenix-metro area. Members of 2 Girl Scout troops and the Phoenix Zoo ZTCT will partner with undergraduate students from Arizona State University to monitor these sites for 4 native fishes and 2 ESA-protected migratory birds that likely still occur in urban aquatic and riparian habitat. During monitoring, volunteers will also survey and remove invasive crayfish and Quagga mussel species, and assess overall aquatic and riparian habitat quality. Volunteers will also sample and analyse water and recreationally-caught fishes to identify pollutants of concern. All project participants will develop and present educational materials for a wide variety of audiences to increase awareness and promote community stewardship of urban aquatic resources. All results and educational materials will be provided to Arizona Game and Fish for improved aquatic resource management and planning; to Friends of the Sonoran Desert to publicize all results and activities; and to the USFWS in Phoenix to document Urban Bird Treaty activities.

California

Project Title: Rainbow Trout Restoration Project for the Arroyo Seco of Southern California

Organization: Arroyo Seco Foundation

Award Amount: \$50,000

Project Location: Los Angeles, CA

Project Description: Restoring native trout habitat in the Arroyo Seco of Southern California is a vital priority for the conservation of the species and the health of the Los Angeles River watershed. Prior to urbanization, the Arroyo Seco, a major tributary of the LA River, was home to Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss* and its anadromous cousin, the endangered Southern Steelhead Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*. The 25 mile Arroyo canyon provided a corridor for the Steelhead to travel up the LA River from the Pacific Ocean to reach spawning grounds in the San Gabriel Mountains. Since then, two dams and ten miles of channelized stream have degraded habitat and impeded passage, but there are still native Rainbow Trout in the upper watershed. To address these challenges, the Arroyo Seco Foundation and its partners: Concerned Off Road Bicyclist Association, Pasadena Altadena Coalition of Transformative Leaders, Audubon Center at Debs Park, and Altadena Crest Trail Restoration Working Group will educate the public and enhance the habitat of the Arroyo Seco. The project will hold community meetings and volunteer events to restore the Arroyo Seco for trout. Volunteers will improve habitat, remove invasive plant species, conduct water quality testing, assess fish passage in the dams, and evaluate previous restoration efforts for native fish. An educational documentary and report will summarize community efforts to restore native trout habitat.

Project Title: Restoring Endangered Butterfly Habitat and Engaging Youth through Restoration Efforts in Milagra Ridge, San Mateo County

Organization: Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

Award Amount: \$32,791

Project Location: Milagra Ridge, San Francisco, San Mateo County, CA

Project Description: The purpose of the project is to improve habitat for the federally endangered Mission blue butterfly at Milagra Ridge by introducing new nectar and host plants that are resistant to the fungal pathogens that threaten the species. This project will work with partners to lead Oceana High School students in collecting seed, propagating host and nectar plants, planting, caring for, and monitoring the survivorship of lupine host plants. This project is of great importance because the park will be launching a project in 2017 to reintroduce Mission blue butterflies to Milagra Ridge. Diversifying the host plant base will ensure that safe and suitable habitat exists in which the newly translocated butterflies can thrive.

Colorado

Project Title: Urban Refuge Partnership with Denver Natural Resources at First Creek - DEN Open Space

Organization: City and County of Denver

Award Amount: \$50,000

Project Location: Denver, CO

Project Description: The Denver International Airport (DIA) and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (RMANWR) share a common boundary. There is an area of land between the airport's main road (Pena Boulevard) and RMANWR. This area has long been underutilized as Open Space and has received very little attention, but it provides a valuable buffer to RMANWR and receives substantial visitor use from the nearby Montbello and Green Valley Ranch communities. An eight foot fence separates RMANWR from the Open Space property and from the First Creek Trail. In July 2014, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock announced that Denver Parks & Recreation (DPR) would restore nearly 200 acres of habitat located between Pena Boulevard and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (RMANWR). This property has been designated as First Creek - DEN Open Space. Since then, DPR staff have removed large amounts of trash and debris, began intensively managing noxious weed infestations, and constructed a new parking lot located at the southern end of the property. In addition, a non-motorized trail was recently constructed along First Creek that will connect a new transit station to the Buckley Road Trail. We will utilize youth corps and partners to (1) Remove approximately one mile of U.S. Army perimeter fencing; (2) install an addition to the existing First Creek trail; and (3) aggressively manage noxious weeds and seed native grass species.

Project Title: 2017 Institute for Environmental Solutions (IES) Wheat Ridge Greenbelt Restoration and Environmental Education Network (GREEN) Project

Organization: Institute for Environmental Solutions

Award Amount: \$23,320.50

Project Location: Denver, CO

Project Description: GREEN is a sustainable pilot education and environmental improvement project. Its goal is to implement a hands-on ecology science program for at-risk, seriously emotionally disabled elementary students, while reducing stormwater runoff and erosion along Clear Creek and improving the ecology of the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (Wheat Ridge, CO). Students, educators, and parents from Kullerstrand Elementary School's Teaching Responsibility and Independence with Learning Supports (TRAILS) Program, employees from Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department, and community members will attend workshops and a planting day where 50 native trees and 100 native shrubs and grasses will be planted in the Greenbelt.

GREEN has three conservation outcomes: reduce stormwater runoff and erosion; increase the tree canopy and diversity of vegetation in the Greenbelt; and design and implement a 3-year maintenance program. GREEN has three education outcomes: plan and implement 2 in-class workshops for; plan and implement an educational planting day that brings workshops to life; and create a pilot education program that can be repeated yearly. The final objective is to evaluate the project and create a final report and project video.

GREEN project partners include: Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department, Kullerstrand Elementary School, architectural firm DesignWorkshop, the Sierra Club, Wheat Ridge Girl and Boy Scout Troops, and the Colorado State Forest Service.

Project Title: Community Environmental Stewardship Program: Actively Engaging Youth and Adult Volunteers in the Hands-on Protection of Treasured Natural Landscapes in Southern Colorado

Organization: Rocky Mountain Field Institute

Award Amount: \$30,000

Project Location: El Paso and Saguache Counties, CO

Project Description: The objective of this grant is to request support for Rocky Mountain Field Institute's (RMFI) Community Environmental Stewardship Program, which empowers local 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. Each year, this program actively engages and educates an average of 2,300 youth and adult community volunteers who contribute over 25,000 hours toward the protection of public wildlands, ultimately helping build stronger and more resilient communities, promote an active and healthy lifestyle, protect and restore watersheds, train the next generation of environmental leaders, and cultivate and foster an ethic of environmental stewardship and responsibility. On-the-ground stewardship projects include the closure and restoration of social trails, trail construction and maintenance, removal of noxious species, erosion control, and environmental restoration projects.

Connecticut

Project Title: GreenSkills Training to Benefit the Urban Watershed and Tree Canopy of New Haven, CT

Organization: New Haven Urban Resources Initiative

Award Amount: \$28,714.05

Project Location: City of New Haven, CT

Project Description: Through a strong partnership with City government, URI has had a sole source contract with New Haven Parks to plant trees in the public domain since 2010. URI has leveraged this opportunity to teach green job skills to vulnerable populations while simultaneously meeting the tree planting target through a program called GreenSkills. The program is based on partnerships with two local high schools (Common Ground and Sound School) and EMERGE (a re-entry program for ex-offenders) to provide training in urban forestry to high school students and adult ex-offenders through the planting of the City's trees. URI hires Yale F&ES graduate students to lead the crews by way of providing their clinical training in urban forestry. Most of the trees are requested by New Haven residents who commit to watering the trees weekly.

Through this grant, URI will partner with the City, schools, and EMERGE to plant 500 trees and maintain 17 bioswales as a vehicle for training 12 adult ex-offenders and 36 teens in valuable urban forestry and green infrastructure maintenance skills. URI will create GreenSkills training manuals and materials tailored to different audiences. URI will partner with Yale F&ES to use school and student resources to create new training videos. The training materials and/or videos will cover the following topics: pruning;

tree identification; bioswale maintenance; tree planting; site surveying and species selection. Some will be produced in Spanish.

Project Title: Expanding Urban Oases in the New Haven Harbor Watershed: Community-based Land Stewardship to Benefit Waterways, Wildlife, and Human Health

Organization: National Audubon Society, Inc.

Award Amount: \$49,996.67

Project Location: City of New Haven, CT

Project Description: “Expanding Urban Oases in the New Haven Harbor Watershed,” a designated Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership Project, employs a transformational model of community-based urban land stewardship. This partnership of 11 organizations—NGOs, universities, and federal and municipal agencies—engages multiple stakeholders in restoration of urban green spaces to improve watershed health, provide quality bird habitat, and address critical community needs in the most underserved, overburdened neighborhoods of greater New Haven. Using a GIS decision tool developed with input from community members, we identify hotspots for migrants and watershed health that will help local residents gain equitable access to natural resources. The project will enhance this tool by incorporating data from EJSCREEN, EPA’s environmental justice screening and mapping tool. In addition to work with schools, parks, land trusts, and universities, the partnership will engage homeowners in transforming their yards into healthy habitats through a “Plant It Native” campaign. The project will also expand into neighboring Hamden, building a larger-scale urban refuge partnership. This project will result in: 16 acres of enhanced habitat; IBA plan for 425 acres; 3500 people engaged via outreach; 3500 students with outdoor learning experiences; 1000 students in the Schoolyard Habitat program; 50 teachers trained; 900 volunteers restore habitat; 30 citizen scientists and 26 students employed; and 200 homeowners participate in Plant It Native campaign.

District of Columbia

Project Title: Partnership for Anacostia River Restoration and Urban Bird Education (DC) - a continuation

Organization: Earth Conservation Corps

Award Amount: \$49,987.88

Project Location: Along the Anacostia River in Washington DC

Project Description: DC based partners will continue their passionate work together that has been created through their current grant program with NFWF. This diverse coalition will work together to build upon their efforts to make a further substantial and long-term impact on our community. The project will engage wards 6,7 and 8 and address the Anacostia river’s degraded wetlands by increasing the natural shore line area at Diamond Teague Park by 8500 square feet. Partners will train corpsmembers on important workforce development through water quality sampling and be able to make recommendations based on data collected and will engage 60 members of the community through the program, engage more than 60 students and create critical habitat through the chimney swift program and wood duck box monitoring, conservation education through nature walks, live bird of prey demonstrations and osprey and eagle tracking programs, and will engage 200 volunteers in service

events in Anacostia river restoration throughout the duration of the grant period. A highlight is also going to be the second annual ward 6 bird count. An annual bird count has been taking place at Brent Elementary for six seasons. Through funding from this project the team will be able to grow its vision of opening up the count to all ward 6 schools. Giving young Washington DC residents a chance to learn about conservation and nature in their unique urban environment.

Florida

Project Title: Apple Snail Adoption Program (ASAP)- Teaching Youth About The Effect of Invasives On Natural Ecosystems

Organization: Florida Atlantic University

Award Amount: \$48,419.93

Project Location: Palm Beach County, FL

Project Description: ASAP will promote environmental stewardship, conservation, restoration and education targeting the following outcomes: 1.) The creation of an Elementary School curriculum, consisting of 10 lessons based on the Florida Apple Snail to explore the following: the consequences of introducing invasive and exotic species into natural systems; the interconnectedness of all living things and the importance of protecting natural resources, especially fresh water; the understanding of the food chain and food webs and the impact of anthropogenic activities on them; the intrinsic rewards of giving back to nature as opposed to taking from nature; and the introduction of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) associated with restoration science to younger students, particularly urban youth from historically underserved populations; 2.) The restoration of aquatic wetlands designed to enhance water quality, remove invasive species and support Native Florida Apple Snail populations; 3.) The propagation of Florida Apple Snails in local elementary classrooms throughout South Florida; and 4.) Quality field experiences to release snails, restore wetlands, assist in water sampling, and participate in species population counts (i.e. Bird Counts).

Partners include, ARMLNWR, Grassy Waters Preserve, Local Schools, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Palm Beach County Parks Department, and the Institute for Regional Conservation(see Partner Chart in full proposal).

Project Title: Restoring Oyster Reefs in Choctawhatchee Bay through Community Stewardship (FL)

Organization: Northwest Florida State College Foundation, Inc.

Award Amount: \$39,992.37

Project Location: Choctawhatchee Bay, Okaloosa and Walton Counties, FL

Project Description: Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance of Northwest Florida State College (CBA) will partner with city municipalities, service organizations, local seafood restaurants, school districts, marinas and public grantors to target the decline of oyster habitat in Choctawhatchee Bay. As in estuaries worldwide, the oyster population in the Choctawhatchee Bay is imperiled due to habitat degradation. Together partners will address this by restoring 1 acre of oyster habitat through the construction of an oyster reef at the Bluewater Bay Marina and the construction of an oyster reef at the City of Valparaiso's fishing pier. Reefs will be built from recycled shell collected from local restaurants and will be bagged and placed through volunteer events. CBA will enhance these oyster reefs with living oysters grown through two forms of community involvement—1) Choctawhatchee Oyster Gardeners and 2) Spat On! Youth Outreach. These two programs will harness 300 trained stewards to move their matured oysters to stated restoration sites during Move Your Mollusk community events.

Project Title: Coastal Habitat Restoration in NE Miami Dade County

Organization: Museum of Science, Inc. dba Miami Science Museum

Award Amount: \$25,639.12

Project Location: Miami, FL

Project Description: MUVE (Museum Volunteers for the Environment) is a volunteer-based restoration project based at the Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science. MUVE will work with Oleta River State Park, Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade College, FedEx volunteers and volunteers representing local schools to restore 1.48 total acres of tropical hardwood hammock habitat near Oleta River State Park, in northeast Miami-Dade County. MUVE will engage 300 volunteers over a year who will mechanically remove residual invasive exotic plants and replant 400 trees and shrubs, all native to the tropical hardwood hammock biome. Further, teams of volunteer citizen scientists will employ a series of monitoring protocols to determine the effectiveness of the restoration efforts based on native wildlife surveys that determine whether native flora and fauna are returning to the site post restoration.

Georgia

Project Title: Enota Park and Proctor Creek Restoration

Organization: Trees Atlanta, Inc.

Award Amount: \$49,796

Project Location: Enota Park is located just south of I20 in Southwest Atlanta. It is bound by I20 to the north, Enota Place to the west, Lucile Avenue to the south and Atlanta BeltLine's Westside Trail to the east.

Project Description: The focus of our project is the 12 acre site called Enota Park located in southwest Atlanta along the future Atlanta BeltLine Westside Trail (currently under construction). Enota Park includes one of 3 major headwaters for Proctor Creek, which manages a watershed of over 60 acres. The park includes approximately 600 feet of open channel creek.

Mature hardwood trees, which cover much of the site, are considered a significant asset particularly because they represent a historic grove in a part of the city where tree canopy is spotty. They also provide a buffer to the adjacent I-20 highway which is a border to the north. Unfortunately, invasive species have overtaken much of the area, including high concentrations of privet, kudzu and English ivy. Working with key partners, Trees Atlanta seeks to remove 6 acres of invasive species and trash, replant native species to stabilize slopes and streambanks prior to the full buildout of the park, and highlight the project through adult and youth education programming. In addition, Atlanta BeltLine Inc. will work on a redesign of the portion of Proctor Creek that flows through the site and complete a full park design. Each of the restoration elements have been outlined in the Atlanta BeltLine Subarea 1 Master Plan, a comprehensive park vision completed in 2010. This project capitalizes on the proximity and timing of the Atlanta BeltLine Westside Trail (Enota Park Portion) project set for completion by the end of 2017.

Project Title: Proctor Creek Rain Garden Partnership

Organization: Emerald Corridor Foundation

Award Amount: \$49,940

Project Location: Proctor Creek Watershed is a 16 square mile part of the City of Atlanta, Georgia, that stretches west from downtown to the Chattahoochee River through 32 neighborhoods. This project will focus on protecting a central tributary in the Oak Grove Neighborhood near Pierce Avenue.

Project Description: The Proctor Creek Watershed was designated by the federal government as an Urban Waters Federal Partnership site in recognition of the complex and severe issues that impact this urban area. Proctor Creek is notorious for flooding and has over the years created housing abandonment and dislocation of surrounding communities. Sewage contamination in the creek occurs and large volumes of stormwater rush over impervious surfaces carrying trash and pollutants into the creek. Stormwater has caused erosion and in some areas has flooded streets and homes. The proposed restoration effort will form a demonstration project showcasing how green infrastructure and land stewardship are tools for urban watershed restoration and conservation. A rain garden will be constructed using native vegetation and drainage techniques that will demonstrate how to restore ecosystem function to an upper riparian buffer zone. The rain garden will restore habitat, support natural hydrology, and reduce stormwater runoff flows. It will also serve as a demonstration model, providing an opportunity to educate on the role of buffer zones in healthy urban watersheds. Partners in this effort aim to introduce the site and its concepts to the broader Proctor Creek community. Partners will use the site as an educational field-demonstration tool with interpretive signage, and link it to an established community engagement and capacity building program designed and led by the Proctor Creek Community Partnership.

Project Title: Restoring Bird-friendly Habitat in Peachtree Creek Watershed

Organization: Atlanta Audubon Society

Award Amount: \$35,554.78

Project Location: The project work will take place in two locations: Deepdene Park located within DeKalb County, one of Atlanta's seven Olmstead Linear parks along Ponce De Leon Avenue; and Friendship Forest located in the City of Clarkston, also located within DeKalb County along Ponce de Leon Avenue.

Project Description: According to the State of the Birds Report (2014) and the Audubon Climate Report (2014), common bird species are in steep decline. Atlanta Audubon will create two urban, bird-friendly communities, areas where the needs of birds and people meet, using a scale-able model we developed to address both areas of local conservation and education. With local, state, and national partners, Atlanta Audubon will restore bird habitat in the urban watershed of Peachtree Creek and begin regular inventory of birds from which more informed conservation decisions can be made. As a USFWS Urban Bird Treaty City, our project goals align with this program's objectives to (1) protect, restore, and enhance urban/suburban habitats for birds, (2) educate and engage citizens in monitoring, caring about, and advocating for birds and their conservation, (3) foster youth environmental education with a focus on birds, (4) manage invasive species to benefit and protect birds, and (5) increase awareness of the value of migratory birds and their habitats. Atlanta Audubon will collect a year of bird data for each site, create a report of inventory methods, data analysis, and recommendations, remove invasive plants and install bird-friendly native plants on 15 acres, engage 125 community volunteers, and educate 500 people of various ages. This project will double our local impact on bird habitat, and contribute to the nationwide "bird sanctuary" being created through National Audubon's native plant initiative.

Project Title: Cay Creek Wetland Demonstration Landscape II (Liberty County, GA): Building Ecotones for Pollinators and People

Organization: Coastal WildScapes

Award Amount: \$40,000

Project Location: Cay Creek Wetland Park belongs to the City of Midway, Liberty County, Georgia.

Project Description: Provide coastal community and visitors with a model for restoring wetland floral and faunal species diversity, with an emphasis on pollinators, at the intersection of natural communities and urbanized areas. Construction of a Wetland Demonstration Garden in a degraded wetland at Cay Creek Wetland Park is under way and was supported by a 2014 5 Star award. This project, phase II, focuses on improving numbers and diversity of native plants that provide host plants and nectar for pollinators (bees, butterflies, hummingbirds) in the demonstration garden site. The garden site represents the larger context of the "Ecotone" where natural communities are bordered by urbanized areas in this fast growing area of coastal Georgia, as it links the upland parking area to healthy freshwater wetlands that flow into salt marsh and a brackish tidal creek.

Project Title:

Organization:

Award Amount: \$

Project Location:

Project Description:

Idaho

Project Title: Lapwai Nature Park

Organization: Nez Perce

Award Amount: \$49,793.78

Project Location: The project site is located on the southeast edge of the city of Lapwai, Idaho, on the Nez Perce Indian Reservation in north-central Idaho.

Project Description: The Nez Perce tribe will partner with Idaho Fish and Wildlife, Lapwai School district, Culdesac School district, the University of Idaho, the Nez Perce Soil Conservation District, Northwest Indian College and the Clearwater Basin Conservation Corp. Building off of work completed in 2014, this second phase of the project will restore additional wetland areas and extending the interpretive trail. The wetlands have been overrun by 18 species of noxious weeds and have been heavily impacted by past grazing activities. This project will work toward restoring a healthy wetland area will serve as an educational tool for local schools and has cultural importance for the Nez Perce People. Additionally this project will re-vegetate riparian buffers providing shade to streams, resulting in cooler water temperatures, and will improve water quality and habitat to benefit multiple salmonid species used by the Nez Perce people for subsistence fishing. The specific project activities include eradicating five acres of invasive weeds; continuing weed managing on 7.5 acres initiated in phase one; restoring 0.25 miles of streambank; planting over 150 trees, 300 shrubs; educating over 950 tribal community members and over 450 nonmembers; engaging over 362 student volunteers to implement restoration measures; build an additional 1,800 feet of trail, install two foot bridges, create a beaver dam playground, and a wetland observation platform.

Illinois

Project Title: Little Prairie on the Campus- Prairie Restoration on UIC's West Side

Organization: University of Illinois at Chicago

Award Amount: \$36,657.03

Project Location: The University of Illinois campus is situated on approximately 240 acres on two sites just southwest of downtown Chicago.

Project Description: *Little Prairie on the Campus* is located on the West side of the University of Illinois at Chicago campus, in the Chicago River North Branch watershed. It engages five external partners and one internal partner. One quarter acre of prairie will be restored by high school volunteers, UIC interns and others led by a Biological Sciences prairie restoration expert. Signage at the site will be visible to thousands of UIC staff, visitors, and hospital patients. The UIC interns will be trained and gain hands on experience in restoration activities. Undergraduate interns will work with a UIC professor to expand the campus storm water management plan, Urban Transformations, to the west and south portions of campus. UIC project managers will learn about natural plantings management, understanding benefits of green infrastructure, and how to incorporate these into campus planning. The program expands UIC's capacity and engages new and existing partners.

Indiana and Ohio

Project Title: Mill Creek Healthy People/Healthy River Program

Organization: Groundwork Cincinnati/Mill Creek

Award Amount: \$37,500

Project Location: 1) Multiple sites within the Mill Creek riverine-riparian corridor, in the Lower Mill Creek Watershed, located in the City of Cincinnati. 2) Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge located near Seymour Indiana.

Project Description: The proposed program will engage 860 middle & senior high school students & 100 adult volunteers in restoring a total of 17 acres of wetland & riparian habitat at Muscatatuck Wildlife Refuge in Indiana & within the Mill Creek riverine-riparian corridor in Cincinnati. Groundwork will use the Lower Mill Creek Watershed as a living laboratory for teaching youth about their urban environment. Green Team youth will go on fieldtrips for stream surveys & water monitoring & will participate in service learning fieldwork at the chosen restoration sites. Students will participate in a Mill Creek Student Congress & Green Career Fair. Conservation & restoration fieldwork will include preparing sites, removing invasive species, planting native hardwood trees, & planting edibles to provide food & habitat for diverse wildlife, including the Black-crowned Night Heron & the Indiana Bat. Groundwork will complete a restoration plan for an additional 30 acres of riparian habitat. USFS at Wayne National Forest & USFWS at Muscatatuck conservation professionals will visit Cincinnati twice for a total of 4 days each to train Groundwork staff, Green Team youth & volunteers. The USFS & USFWS staff will participate in the Student Congress/Green Career Fair. The USFWS will also provide training for 12 Green Team youth in Groundwork's summer employment program. Local partners: 3 property owners, Easter Seals Work Resource Center, Cincinnati Public Schools & education/environmental agencies.

Iowa

Project Title: Postville Public Private Partnership for Citywide Urban Conservation

Organization: Resource Conservation and Development for Northeast Iowa, Inc.

Award Amount: \$33,760.30

Project Location: At two strategic locations in Postville, Iowa, both in the headwaters of Williams Creek.

Project Description: The stormwater runoff from the project areas flow into Williams Creek, which is a cold water trout stream and tributary to the Yellow River, Iowa's longest cold water trout stream. The Yellow River flows to the USFW Upper Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Refuge, through Yellow River State Forest once of Iowa's largest public forests as well as Effigy Mounds National Monument, Iowa's only National Monument. Given the significance of the surface waters associated with Postville's stormwater runoff and the challenges that the city has had with storm water runoff volume and water quality, public and private partners began working together in 2015 to identify opportunities to decrease storm water runoff and improve water quality and habitat through implementation of public and private stormwater BMPs at highly visibility, strategic locations in the community. Specific BMPs that will be undertaken in this project will restore 1.8 acres of stream and riparian habitat, and replacement of 0.55 acres of

impermeable parking areas and sidewalks with permeable pavers, an infiltration trench/bioswale, and native prairie and tree plantings. The project will also develop/install 3 bilingual kiosks. RC&D will partner with the City of Postville, IDNR Fisheries, IDNR State Revolving Loan Sponsored Projects Program, IDNR REAP, U Iowa College of Engineering, U Iowa Office of Outreach and Engagement, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and the Turkey River Watershed Management Authority.

Kansas

Project Title: Wetland Restoration at the Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita, KS

Organization: Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Award Amount: \$30,033.66

Project Location: The project is located within the boundaries of the Great Plains Nature Center in northeast Wichita KS.

Project Description: The Great Plains Nature Center has 20 years of experience providing opportunities to the public to learn about natural resources of the Great Plains Region, providing educational experiences that impart the importance of wise stewardship of natural resources, serving as a community resource for conservation and related informational materials, with emphasis on the importance of urban habitats to wildlife and people, serving as a resource for environmental education with school districts, youth organizations, colleges and universities, conservation organizations, and other groups and providing environmental educational services for and accommodate the physically challenged, senior citizens and other special needs groups. An existing wetland will be renovated through dredging and installation of a water control structure to provide enhanced management ability. The partnership will involve volunteers and staff who will be trained in restoration, monitoring and maintenance. The ability of GPNC to deliver wetland and habitat education, enhance habitat on the property will be improved, and the project will help implement two existing plans. GNPC is part of the Wichita park system and has prairie, woodland, lentic and lotic habitats within it, and this project will greatly enhance the lentic and prairie habitats immediately adjacent to the facility building, where they can be readily appreciated and explored by visiting students.

Louisiana

Project Title: The natural classroom: Sustainable restoration and monitoring of Bayou Duplanier, Baton Rouge, through community participation and curricula engagement by the adjacent Lee Magnet High School

Organization: The Water Institute of the Gulf

Award Amount: \$39,970.79

Project Location: The project location is 26 acres of wetland in Baton Rouge Louisiana on Lee Drive, along Bayou Duplanier. It is on the property of the newly constructed Lee Magnet High School (opening fall 2016).

Project Description: This project will deliver sustainable restoration and monitoring of 26 acres of urban cypress wetland in Bayou Duplanier, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, (on the new Lee Magnet High School Campus), using the wetland as a 'natural classroom'. The project will survey native and invasive plants as well as water quality and sediment, and fitting out of laboratory space for hydroponics growth, by students, of native wetland plants. Native trees and grasses will then be grown from seed and planted out (180 trees and 1080 grasses) into the Bayou. Prior to planting, invasive plant species will be removed from the 26 acre wetland (100 volunteers, through Forum35). All survey data will be compiled into GIS layers as baseline data, and a long term monitoring plan will be developed for new water quality sites (6). Students will be involved in all stages of the project (400 during the project and 300 per year post project), ensuring that the restoration efforts and wetland monitoring are sustained into the future (developed curricula activities). A scientific expert panel, including from Louisiana State University Ag Center, LSU College of Agriculture, US Forest Service, LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Southern University Agriculture Department, will be facilitated by the Water Institute of the Gulf to ensure that restoration, monitoring and developed Lee Magnet High School curricula, are grounded in accurate and up to date science.

Project Title: Marsh Restoration for the Birds and Us

Organization: University of New Orleans

Award Amount: \$47,213.53

Project Location: Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge and Big Branch National Wildlife Refuge; University of New Orleans Coastal Education and Research Facility; Greater New Orleans, Louisiana.

Project Description: The project combines on-the-ground marsh restoration with service-learning activities. The restoration work will help restore approximately 25 acres of freshwater – intermediate marsh by planting salt-tolerant species in two National Wildlife Refuges near New Orleans that are critical habitat for migratory waterfowl. The youth education component targets approximately 400 underserved middle and high school students from the urban center of New Orleans who will cultivate plants used in the project and monitor the restoration through innovative use of aerial photography facilitated by Public Lab. Nine partners are included in the project, contributing volunteer time, expertise and other assets. This project allows the existing nationally recognized Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership between Bayou Sauvage NWR and UNO Coastal Education and Research Facility to continue and grow.

Maryland

Project Title: Baltimore's Birds, Habitat, and People: Creating Advocates for Migratory Birds through Citizen Science

Organization: Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound, Inc.

Award Amount: \$49,992.80

Project Location: Gwynns Falls Leakin' Park in Baltimore

Project Description: Baltimore's Birds, Habitat, and People: Creating Advocates for Migratory Birds through Citizen Science involves three major activities: 1) Engage Students in Citizen Science; 2) Expand Demonstration Area; and 3) "Celebrate Baltimore Birds Day". Outward Bound will expand the invasive removal demonstration area from one acre to three acres using 625 volunteers to remove invasives. 100 highschool and college students will be engaged by monitoring biological data at the site. A BioBlitz event will be held to involve the community in their local greenspace and encourage their appreciation for migratory birds and other wildlife. The Celebrate Baltimore Birds Day will be held in May 2017 to align with International Migratory Bird Day, these two events will engage 300 people. These activities will all be held in Gwynns Falls Leakin Park in Baltimore, Maryland in partnership with the National Aquarium, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Green Street Academy, and Towson University.

Project Title: The Monarch Butterfly Community Conservation Program

Organization: National Aquarium in Baltimore, Inc.

Award Amount: \$40,312.09

Project Location: The project will take place at the following locations in Baltimore City (inside Baltimore County): Masonville Cove Urban Wildlife Refuge; a wetland adjacent to Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine; schools and community green spaces within Brooklyn/Curtis Bay and west Baltimore City.

Project Description: The National Aquarium, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Chesapeake Bay Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Patuxent Research Refuge, National Wildlife Federation, National Park Service, and Living Classrooms Foundation will partner on a two year program to engage community members in increasing monarch butterfly habitat in underserved communities in Baltimore City. In the first phase they will work with three schools in Baltimore City to install a habitat garden on their campus and provide in-class programming to complement the plantings. The project will also install a habitat garden at both Masonville Cove Urban Wildlife Refuge, and at the wetland adjacent to Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. These gardens will be incorporated into environmental education programming at these sites. In its second phase, the program will be expanded into the communities of each of the three schools. The partners will provide educational programming and help community members install a habitat garden in a pocket park in each school's neighborhoods. Through the program, the six partner organizations will plant approximately 600 native plants to create less than one acre of pollinator habitat. Approximately 120 total volunteers (60 students and 60 adults) will assist with the pollinator habitat garden installations, and approximately 800 people, both students and community members, will be reached through the program.

Massachusetts

Project Title: Beaver Dam Brook Stream Restoration & Education Program

Organization: Town of Framingham

Award Amount: \$23,825

Project Location: The Town of Framingham, Massachusetts is located in MetroWest Boston. This project focuses on the stream segment along Mary Dennison Park, a 17-acre Town park.

Project Description: Restoration activities and an education program will be conducted in the Beaver Dam Brook watershed in Framingham, Massachusetts. Partners include the Town, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, OARS watershed group, the Boys & Girls Club of MetroWest, Lake Cochituate Watershed Council, and Metropolitan Area Planning Council. The goal of the project is to engage the local community in appreciating, enhancing, and preserving stream habitat and riparian buffers to provide a sustainable resource for conservation and recreational use. Due to urbanization, habitat and stream buffers were reduced and pollution increased. The program will consist of: 1) restoration, 2) community outreach, 3) education workshop, and 4) art workshop. Approximately 800 linear feet of riparian buffer and 1 acre of invasive species will be restored. Approximately 10% of the local community, about 600 people, will be engaged. Workshops will teach principles of ecology and sustainability through interactive and innovative approaches. Artwork developed at the workshops by local youth will be incorporated into educational signs to be installed along the riparian buffer at Mary Dennison Park.

Project Title: Restoration Invasion at Magazine Beach: A Stormwater Management and Habitat Stewardship Project

Organization: Charles River Watershed Association

Award Amount: \$34,026.94

Project Location: Magazine Beach Park is part of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Charles River Reservation. It is located in the City of Cambridge, MA, which is part of Middlesex County and the Charles River watershed.

Project Description: Restoration Invasion at Magazine Beach: A Stormwater Management and Habitat Stewardship Project in Cambridge, MA will create a model for parks in our region that integrates green infrastructure implementation and community stewardship. Major activities include organizing: 1) five volunteer events to control invasive common reed, false indigo, and purple loosestrife and replant the wetland with native plants; 3) training for volunteers to maintain rain gardens; 4) four days of educational programming for after-school groups; 5) a restoration showcase event to reintroduce the public to Magazine Beach Park at the end of the project. Partners include the Charles River Watershed Association, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, The Magazine Beach Committee of the Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association, the City of Cambridge, and Mass Audubon, with volunteer support provided by Charles River Conservancy, Cambridge Public Schools, Riverside Boat Club, Troop 56 scouts, and others. Final products include a project report that quantifies site conditions pre- and post-restoration and outlines the process used to develop community stewardship and education around the site, interpretative signage for the site, volunteer training materials for rain garden maintenance, and educational activity guides that will be made available to the public.

Project Title: Springfield Urban Bird Treaty

Organization: Regreen Springfield, Inc.

Award Amount: \$47,840

Project Location: Springfield, located in southwestern Massachusetts sits within the southern half of the 7.2 million acre Connecticut River Watershed and is the urban core of the 5th largest metropolitan area in New England. This project is located in the heart of the Springfield metropolitan area.

Project Description: This project envisions a sustained, interdisciplinary approach to engage Springfield, MA, residents in citizen-science and stewardship-related activities to increase their knowledge and appreciation of bird conservation issues. Activities will be completed under the auspices of the Sustainable Springfield Urban Refuge Partnership. Restoration and habitat improvements for resident and migratory birds will span the metropolitan area, comprising a network of "Neighborhood Habitat Refuges" in strategic locations. These include showcase refuges at Renaissance Expeditionary School and STEM Middle School, and a wildlife garden at the Springfield Science Museum. The refuge projects will enable students to participate in habitat restoration, curricula-based bird education, population monitoring, and bird conservation awareness. The wildlife garden will demonstrate features to improve bird habitat at home. The project will enhance delivery of the Smithsonian's Neighborhood Nestwatch program, establish a birding trail, incorporate interpretive signage in underserved neighborhood parks informing the public of the value of such places for birds, and improve visitor infrastructure. Activities will be complemented through youth employment opportunities such as the "Community Greening Steward" program. Efforts will strengthen relationships among schools, community groups, residents, and private organizations committed to enhancing Springfield's natural areas and conserving bird habitat.

Project Title: Renewing Urban Habitat: Park Restoration through Invasive Plant Management in the Mystic River Watershed

Organization: Mystic River Watershed Association Inc. (MyRWA)

Award Amount: \$49,974.79

Project Location: The project is located in the Mystic River Reservation, Middlesex County, MA. This land is owned by the MA-DCR and includes Torbert MacDonald Park, Medford.

Project Description: The parks of the Mystic River are crucial corridors of urban habitat and key sites for residents to connect to the natural world. And yet these habitats have been degraded by invasive plants. MyRWA will work to restore habitat in these important urban park spaces through invasive plant management planning and events. MyRWA in concert with ecologists and others will create an assessment and prioritization plan for a sustainable effort to manage invasives. Partners in planning will include the Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, City of Medford, MA, and landscape architect, Herbert Nolan, Solomon Foundation. Volunteers from local cities and corporations will assist in invasive plant removal through community stewardship events, assisted by staff from MA-DCR and volunteers from the Friends of the Mystic River. In addition, youth from Groundwork Somerville will help map out areas of invasive infestation and evaluate where removing invasive vegetation could create viewsheds of the river, encouraging more people to connect with the river. Outcomes include reduction of the damage caused by invasive plants; increased community awareness of the importance of habitat protection; and increased public stewardship of the river and parks. Deliverables include 4.7 miles of riverside park assessed, 25 acres of bittersweet removed, 25 events for corporate and community volunteer groups, and one comprehensive plan for sustainable invasive management.

Michigan

Project Title: Maheras Gentry Native Island Restoration and Youth Education

Organization: The Greening of Detroit

Award Amount: \$41,881

Project Location: The Greening of Detroit's proposed project location is Maheras Gentry Park, a City of Detroit park located on the waterfront of the Detroit River in Wayne County, Michigan.

Project Description: The project will capitalize on increased partner capacity to provide outreach and education to 725 community members including 240 Detroit Public School youth in grades 4th through 8th. 285 volunteers including 120 youth will engage directly in hands-on community stewardship activities in order to restore one acre of native prairie riparian habitat through invasive species removal and management in addition to replanting activities on Maheras Gentry's native island along the Detroit River waterfront. Planned restoration includes removal of invasive species, Adopt-A-Beach clean up events, establishment of prairie habitat and installation of native plant gardens and trees in order to maximize ecological and community benefits. The project will occur from September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2018 with Detroit Audubon providing an additional two years of bird monitoring and The Greening of Detroit providing ongoing assessment of project success and invasive species management after project completion. Other project partners are committed to ongoing project support and outreach within the community to achieve goals. Project partners are: The Greening of Detroit, Detroit Audubon, Alliance for the Great Lakes, Detroit Eastside Community Collaborative and the City of Detroit request.

Minnesota

Project Title: Canoemobile: Discovering our Urban Wildlife Refuges

Organization: Wilderness Inquiry

Award Amount: \$29,971.92

Project Location: The majority of activities will take place on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, with a few off-site to increase visibility. The restoration project is located in Bloomington, MN at the terminus of Old Cedar Avenue and Long Meadow Lake (Old Cedar Avenue Bridge area).

Project Description: Wilderness Inquiry, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Minneapolis and Saint Paul public schools, Saint Paul Right Track, and other partners will elevate the profile of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge as a valuable community asset, connect youth with their urban refuge, and package a national model for urban refuges across the country. Outcomes include: 600 urban youth will paddle and explore on the Minnesota Valley National Refuge, engaging in place-based education connected to their school curriculum; 400 urban youth will participate in place-based education off the refuge site, with expertise from refuge rangers; 150 urban youth and families will visit the Minnesota Valley National Refuge as part of a community event; 50 urban youth will participate in habitat restoration in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Old Cedar Avenue Bridge area, enhancing a 15-acre site to improve the health of the watershed and restore native plants; 2 urban

youth will complete an internship along the refuge, applying technical skills learned through this project; and 1 Youth Employment Coordinator will train and mentor urban youth, preparing them for internships and jobs in the outdoor industry.

Missouri

Project Title: CPR: Communities Protecting Rivers

Organization: Blue River Watershed Association

Award Amount: \$50,000

Project Location: CPRs three project sites and the two target communities are located within the Urban Waters Federal Partnership area of the Middle Blue River Watershed Basin in Kansas City, Missouri, HUC12.

Project Description: CPR, Communities Protecting Rivers, is a process for neighborhoods to stop stormwater pollution at their doorstep. CPR works with two urban communities, Marlborough Community Coalition (Troost & Hwy 71, Gregory & 87th St.) and Seven Oaks Neighborhood Association (Linwood & 39th St, Cleaver Blvd. & Jackson Ave.) and helps recognize environmental issues to the Middle Blue River Watershed. Once issues are identified, residents receive guidance and assistance in the implementation of self-determined mitigation projects that result in long-term, sustainable improvements. Each community removes dumpsites and repurposes three vacant lots into useful and community-used common areas. These actions also improve the Blue River. CPR continues work already gained by the Blue River Watershed Association's EPA Urban Waters Small Grants award in 2014-2016; and, as a partner to Heartland Conservation Alliance (HCA) in their Five Star Urban Waters Restoration Grant infilling vacant lots. Partners such as, HCA, Urban Rangers (UR), (nonprofits) Kansas City Missouri Conservation Corps (KCCC) (city government) and Home Depot (retail) assist with lot cleanups and infilling. Further, HCA and UR assist with charrettes, KCCC, UR, and Kansas City Missouri Water Services (city government) assist with water quality monitoring. Home Depot offers discounts for materials for repurposed lots. University of Missouri, Kansas City (Missouri University) offers teachers modeling and workshop opportunities.

New Jersey

Project Title: Greenway Renewal Along Elizabeth's Urban Waters

Organization: Groundwork Elizabeth

Award Amount: \$24,500

Project Location: This project will take place along the City of Elizabeth's urban waters, namely the Elizabeth River and the Travers Branch tributary. The City of Union and the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is partially included in both waterway locations.

Project Description: Groundwork Elizabeth's work with the Elizabeth River is an ongoing restoration and citizen education project with expansion plans to include the Travers Branch tributary. Partnering with the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge will improve the efficacy of programming in Elizabeth, while also attracting a more diverse, urban population to the refuge 14 miles away. Building a partnership with the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge reinforces Groundwork Elizabeth's Green Team programming by providing technical and interpretive assistance, as well as greater opportunities for public engagement on a variety of public lands. Great Swamp staff will make 3-4 visits to Elizabeth to assess the habitats along the Elizabeth River and Travers Branch tributary; to recommend habitat improvements for native aquatic species, insects, and animals; and to work with youth to remove invasives and plant species that better support riparian habitats. GWE Green Team members will join at Great Swamp for greater conservation training in habitats not found in Elizabeth. Training will improve the Green Team members' ability to identify plants and animals; determine plantings for the enhancement of wildlife value and aesthetics; and implement interpretive design for enriched programming for Elizabeth students, schools, and residents.

New Jersey and New York

Project Title: Fish and Wildlife Youth Conservation Training Program

Organization: Groundwork Hudson Valley, Inc.

Award Amount: \$36,291.43

Project Location: Saw Mill River watershed in Yonkers, Hastings and Dobbs Ferry, NY. Also Wallkill National Wildlife Refuge, NJ in Sussex, NJ; Gorton High School, Yonkers, NY; School 13, Yonkers NY.

Project Description: In this project Groundwork Hudson Valley, Inc. and its partners will restore more than a quarter-mile of urban river habitat along the Saw Mill River in Westchester County, NY, building upon more than 15 years of work to renew this vital stream as it flows through the environmental justice communities of Southwest Yonkers. It will be carried out as part of a new program in the Yonkers School System that prepares students from elementary to high school for careers in fish and wildlife restoration. Major partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, Yonkers Public Schools, and the New York State Department of Education.

New Mexico

Project Title: Continuing Restoration along Torreon Wash

Organization: Rio Puerco Alliance

Award Amount: \$24,951.92

Project Location: Along Torreon Wash in the Ojo Encino and Torreon Chapters of the Eastern Navajo Nation, in Sandoval and McKinley Counties, New Mexico.

Project Description: The Rio Puerco Alliance will partner with the community, the Sierra Club, and the Ojo Encino Chapter Workforce Students to plant 1,000 cottonwoods, plus approximately 1,000 willows, in the Spring of 2017 along selected sections of Torreon Wash and Penistaja Arroyo in the Ojo Encino and Torreon areas. The Rio Puerco Alliance will also install a mile of fencing to protect the plantings from livestock and wildlife, using our Summer Youth Crew. This area has the lowest level of vegetative cover, with riparian vegetation almost non-existent, and the highest level of bare ground and erosion in the Rio Puerco Watershed.

New York

Project Title: Wetland Internship for a Healthier Bronx

Organization: Friends of Van Cortlandt Park

Award Amount: \$28,286.88

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: This project will immerse local high school students and community members in practical projects that respond to locally identified priorities: wetland restoration and watershed maintenance. The overall goals for the project are to: hire a group of high school students to lead efforts in Tibbetts Wetland; continue FVCP's ongoing water testing of various sites throughout the wetland to monitor and identify potential sources of pollution; introduce aquatic macroinvertebrate analysis into monitoring to help analysis wetland health; continue wetland restoration efforts to remove invasive species and plant native species; study the impacts of various wetland restoration techniques on the health of the wetlands and involve the community in efforts by interns leading wetland tours and volunteer days. Through the restoration efforts of this project, the following local environmental and climate resiliency results will be achieved: restoration projects will increase the amount of water being absorbed by the wetlands therefore reducing the amount entering the sewers; sources of potential pollution of the wetlands will be determined and methods will be tested to try to reduce the amount of pollution entering from these sources, including suggesting sites for green infrastructure and restoration projects will remove non-native invasive plants and replace them with native plants that are healthier for the entire ecosystem

Project Title: Restoration, Stewardship, and Monitoring to Benefit Shorebirds in the Jamaica Bay Watershed

Organization: New York City Audubon Society, Inc.

Award Amount: \$35,114.34

Project Location: Jamaica Bay, including the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and its East and West Ponds and marsh islands, Rockaway Peninsula, Broad Channel, Big Egg Marsh, Breezy Point, Sheepshead Bay, Plumb Beach, Arverne, Dead Horse Bay, North Channel Beach.

Project Description: The habitat enhancement will not only benefit migratory and nesting shorebirds, many in serious decline, but will contribute to the health and resiliency of the bay itself. By educating local youth and engaging NYC residents to become stewards of their beaches and the shorebirds that share them, we hope to increase awareness of and decrease disturbance to nesting birds, as well as foster a sense of stewardship over the Jamaica Bay watershed. NYC Audubon will also continue its citizen science monitoring program for shorebirds, which has been in place since 2009. NYC Audubon plans to improve its methods, expand the program into fall migration, and get full coverage of important sites in Jamaica Bay. In this project NYC Audubon also plan, for the first time, to engage the birdwatching community in 2 “Shorebird Blitzes”, one in spring and one in fall, to get a snapshot over a 1-day period of where shorebirds are throughout New York City. Partners include Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, American Littoral Society, Sadhana, New York University’s Wallerstein Collaborative, Audubon New York, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, and New Jersey Audubon.

Ohio

Project Title: Cherry Street Legacy Neighborhood Conservation Engagement Project

Organization: Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center

Award Amount: \$26,526

Project Location: The Cherry Street Legacy neighborhood is located in downtown Toledo, Ohio, in Lucas County, on the shores of the Maumee River. The region is part of the Western Lake Erie Basin.

Project Description: The Cherry Street Legacy Project is an urban neighborhood revitalization project initiated by Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center, a Level III trauma and tertiary care hospital located in downtown Toledo, Ohio, situated on the Maumee River, part of the Western Lake Erie Basin. The Cherry Street Legacy Project will engage community partners and leverage existing and new resources to restore one acre of inner city degraded land, establish a rain garden that filters storm run off from the arboretum, plant a pollinator garden to support urban agriculture, establish a rain barrel program for residents, educate residents about water quality issues, and implement a tree canopy plan that will be developed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources urban arborist in April 2016. CSL will provide direct support to 20 neighborhood youth interns and two youth leaders; provide rain barrels and soil and water testing to 40 residents, engage seven partner organizations and 25 volunteers, and provide education to at least 50 residents on water and soil quality issues and engage 100 households in a dialog about water and soil quality issues.

Project Title: For the Benefit of All: Restoring Lower Abram Creek at NASA-Glenn Research Center

Organization: Rocky River Watershed Council

Award Amount: \$31,527.10

Project Location: The project will take place at the NASA-Glenn Research Center in Brook Park, OH.

Project Description: Project partners, including Rocky River Watershed Council, NASA-Glenn Research Center, Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, Berea-Midpark High School, Fairview High School and Ohio Wetlands Association will restore and enhance 1.25 acres of floodplain wetland/vernal pool habitat adjacent to a headwater tributary of Abram Creek located on NASA-Glenn Research Center property in Brook Park, OH, and enhance habitat along 750 lineal feet of the same headwater tributary. This will be accomplished by minor streambank grading, small areas of floodplain excavation, the addition of large woody debris to the stream channel, planting native floodplain and wetland trees and shrubs and sowing native vernal pool and floodplain seed mixes. 250 lineal feet of bioswale will be installed (also on NASA-Glenn Research Center property) to treat stormwater runoff from a roadside ditch and neighboring steep hillslope, totaling ~ 2 acres, which drain directly to Abram Creek. Approximately 24-30 students from each school will assist with project monitoring and on the ground restoration activities, such as installing trees, shrubs and native seed. Partners will incorporate a lead team of students into the project management team in order to expose them to environmental careers and provide project management and problem solving experience. Volunteers from NASA and the other partner organizations will also participate in a service day to complete the project's on-the-ground restoration component.

Project Title: Cascade Park Cuyahoga River Streambank Restoration

Organization: City of Akron

Award Amount: \$30,000

Project Location: The project is located in the Cascade Valley Metro Park at 1061 Cuyahoga St between Peck Rd and Sackett Ave. The project is located within and along the Cuyahoga River near river mile 43 just downstream of the Gorge Dam.

Project Description: Akron and its partners will restore 375 feet of eroding streambank on the main stem Cuyahoga River using natural restoration techniques. Located in the ultra-urban Cascade Valley Metro Park at river mile 43, large storm events have denuded an 8-foot tall segment of the bank. If restoration is not performed, the bank will continue to erode, introducing tons of sediment into the river, reducing habitat and potentially disturbing the adjoining high quality wetlands. The project will layback the bank with tiers, install toe rock armoring, tree root wads, trees, live stakes, log weirs and native vegetation. The City plans to hold a volunteer event where up to 100 volunteers can plant live stakes and perennials along the bank and upland areas. Logs have naturally floated to this river mile which will be armored in place with supplemental logs to divert stream velocities away from the restored bank until vegetation is established. Stabilizing the bank will provide ecological, social and recreational benefits for this popular urban regional park by protecting the existing sports field, improving fishing and increasing bird watching. The City intends to continue their ecological partnership with Summit Metro Parks, NEFCO, National Park Service, and other groups through watershed education and community engagement. During the project, the City will publish information on their web site and install permanent sign interpreting natural streambank stabilization techniques.

Pennsylvania

Project Title: Meeks Run Restoration Project

Organization: Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest

Award Amount: \$18,950.10

Project Location: The Meeks Run project site is part of the Montour Woods Conservation Area in Moon Township, PA. Meeks Run is a tributary of Montour Run.

Project Description: Tree Pittsburgh and the Hollow Oak Land Trust will partner to continue restoration work along the Meeks Run Trail in the Montour Woods Conservation area, a 240 acre land preserve 30 minutes northwest of Pittsburgh. The two organizations will work together to improve trail conditions, remove invasive species and plant 300 native trees over three planting seasons. 25-50 volunteers from nearby FedEx headquarters will provide regular volunteer support, and 25 students from Operation Better Block's Jr. Green Corps will participate in four service-learning activities to not only learn about forest ecology, but also gain hands-on experience in forest restoration by removing invasive species, improving trail conditions, and planting trees. In addition, Chatham University's Falk School of Sustainability will provide support to develop a forest health monitoring protocol for the team to utilize both on this project as well as restoration efforts throughout Allegheny County.

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

Organization: National Audubon Society

Award Amount: \$49,973.96

Project Location: Work will take place in Philadelphia, focusing on three watersheds within the Delaware River Watershed. These watersheds are the Tookany-Tacony-Frankford creeks; Cobbs Creek; and Darby Creek (Heinz National Wildlife Refuge).

Project Description: Audubon will partner with the Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, Student Conservation Association, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, Philadelphia Water, PowerCorps, friends groups, schools and others to implement a multifaceted conservation project, which will enhance habitat for birds and improve watershed health while engaging residents in environmental projects. The project will focus on the Cobbs Creek, Darby Creek and Tacony Creek watersheds in Philadelphia with the goal of increasing the quality and quantity of habitat. This work will also increase the quality of the water directly through reducing stormwater runoff by increasing native trees and shrubs that will absorb it. This project supports the citywide effort Green City, Clean Waters. The project will increase the public's awareness of the importance of habitat for the health of the watershed, wildlife and people; and inspire a sense of stewardship of the natural areas within the city. The projects will increase the quality of the riparian habitat, increase the amount of native vegetation in the ground, reduce sedimentation and decrease water temperatures by providing greater shade.

Puerto Rico

Project Title: Restoration, Stewardship and Monitoring Caño Boquilla Wetland System at the Rio Grande de Añasco Watershed, Puerto Rico

Organization: Dewey University

Award Amount: \$31,621.70

Project Location: Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, Caño Boquilla Wetland System (CBWS) Rio Grande Añasco Watershed (RGAW).

Project Description: Dewey University (DU) will partner with three community-based organizations, the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) and the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, to restore six kilometers (3.6 miles) of coastal wetlands, beach habitat and 0.4 mile of riverine banks in the CBWS, a 120-acres natural reserve. The project has 3 main goals: 1.- Wetland and Riparian Restoration: planting 500 coastal trees in a six kilometers of linear coast from DU to the River “Río Grande de Añasco”, removing trash and marine debris and rehabilitation of riverine banks with erosion controlling species; 2.- Education and Stewardship: engage 300 community members and students (girls and boys scouts) throughout 24 outreach and educative activities to enhance community knowledge and commitment to protect the natural habitats and species of the CBWS; and 3.- Create a Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Program: by training 25 volunteers that will monitor two water bodies of the CBWS (“Caño Maní” and “Caño Boquilla”).

Rhode Island

Project Title: Revitalizing Urban Green Spaces Through Environmental Education, Creating Healthy Habitats and Developing Vital Stewardship Within the Communities of Providence, Rhode Island

Organization: Partnership for Providence Parks

Award Amount: \$49,988.08

Project Location: Providence, RI.

Project Description: The officially designated Providence Parks Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership is a collaboration of The Partnership for Providence Parks, the Department of Providence Parks and Recreation, the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuges and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program. The urban refuge presence engages the City's diverse neighborhood parks and the State's conservation organizations to leverage funds and technical support for wildlife habitats, environmental education, natural resource protections, nature trails, interpretive signs and support for the Urban Refuge Conservation Program Coordinator. This work will build on existing conservation partnership's projects that fosters an understanding of wildlife conservation and incorporate effective ways to leverage and in-kind services to reach more families and produce more outcomes to connect urban communities to nature. As a result, with this urban partnership, we will be able to create a schoolyard habitat, provide a successful teacher institute that reaches over 1,200 students with repeat visits annually, offer afterschool programs and nature camps at neighborhood parks, hire urban youth, all connecting families in an under-served population in their own backyard.

Tennessee

Project Title: Wolf River Greenway Restoration IV

Organization: Wolf River Conservancy, Inc.

Award Amount: \$29,531.83

Project Location: All of the project sites are located in Memphis, Tennessee. Three of them: the Lucius Burch State Natural Area, Lovitt Woods and the Gower property are located near the intersection of Germantown Road and Wolf River Boulevard. The fourth site is Kennedy Park at 4575 Raleigh-LaGrange Road.

Project Description: The Wolf River Greenway Restoration Program will provide an environmental stewardship education program for public and private schools and involve students and adult volunteers in stewardship events and service projects to remove privet and other non-native, invasive plants from four sites in the Wolf River watershed: the Lucius Burch State Natural Area and adjacent trailhead, the Lovitt Woods property owned by the WRC, the adjoining Gower property, on which the WRC holds a conservation easement and Kennedy Park, a public facility in the Raleigh neighborhood of Memphis. Other activities include site cleanup, including removal of tires and other debris and constructing bird nest boxes to be placed on Wolf River properties throughout the watershed. The Wolf River Conservancy has set a goal to engage 400 students in classroom presentations, field trips and service projects on the Lucius Burch site.

Texas

Project Title: Houston Regional Urban Riparian Restoration

Organization: Houston Wilderness

Award Amount: \$50,000

Project Location: Greater Houston Metropolitan Area

Project Description: The Greater Houston region is uniquely diverse in its multitude of ecoregions and myriad of waterways running through a large urban core. Known as the Bayou City, Houston is within the fourth largest metropolitan area of the United States with a current population of more than six million. The Greater Houston Region contains over 2,500 miles of waterways in the form of creeks and bayous. The diverse ecology along and near these riparian water bodies allows for a variety of ecosystem services that provide a thriving habitat for the abundance of wildlife, migratory birds and butterflies in the region, and provide improved air and water quality, flood control, recreation and erosion control to millions of residents. But the fast growth and development in the region places these waterways and their critical ecosystem services at risk. This proposal will continue and extend a 2-year effort to restore multiple acres of prairie land along and near threatened riparian corridors and other green spaces in this region. This third stage of the Houston Urban Water Restoration Plan has been designed to build upon and support the efforts of the non-profit organizations and environmental groups, businesses and government interests that have a foundation in place and, with some initial assistance, are prepared to take a leadership role in wildlife conservation within the Houston region.

Project Title: The Montopolis Wetland and Creek Rehab Project

Organization: Ecology Action of Texas

Award Amount: \$46,338.28

Project Location: The project location is in the Country Club Creek East Watershed of Southeast Austin, Texas. Specifically, the project will target the Montopolis Wetland occurring in the Circle Acres Nature Preserve which is owned by Ecology Action and an adjacent one mile section of Country Club Creek East.

Project Description: The Montopolis Wetland and Creek Rehab Project will implement a multi-faceted program to rehabilitate and revitalize 10 acres of neglected riparian and wetland habitat in the Country Club Creek East Watershed in Southeast Austin, Texas, all while engaging, educating, and empowering the surrounding underserved community of Montopolis as a vital part of achieving and sustaining the project's stated goals. This program will pull together a network of vested partners to bolster said watershed's health by: monitoring and testing stormwater runoff into the Montopolis Wetland; designing a low impact biofiltration infrastructure in the Montopolis Wetland to buffer against contamination, litter influx, and erosion; and restoring the integrity of Country Club Creek East upstream of the Montopolis Wetland through invasive species removal and native plantings. The Montopolis Wetland and Creek Rehab Project will have tangible and measurable impact on the East Country Club Creek (CCCE) Watershed while providing service learning opportunities for the immediate Montopolis neighborhood and student populations. This project will increase the native diversity and stability of the watershed's habitat along the underperforming CCCE as well as increase the watershed's capacity to withstand and more efficiently filter water and subsequent contamination during rain and flood events at the Montopolis Wetland located in the Circle Acres Nature Preserve. Ecology Action (EA) will work

with Myco Alliance (MA) and Austin Youth River Watch (AYRW) to install and monitor measurement gauges at two major stormwater access points into the Montopolis Wetland. These monitoring sites will provide stormwater samples, from which MA and EA will test mycofiltration as a scalable remediation solution. This collected data will inform the design of a biofiltration system feasible for the Montopolis Wetland. In concert with the remediation and mitigation work at the Montopolis Wetland, EA will work upstream on the integrity of a roughly one mile section of CCCE, with the help of Keep Austin Beautiful, Austin Parks Foundation, and the Austin Community College-Riverside Campus, through invasive species removal and native riparian plantings provided by TreeFolks, Inc. and AYRW.

Utah

Project Title: Escalante Watershed Restoration: Healthy Watersheds for Healthy Communities

Organization: Grand Staircase Escalante Partners

Award Amount: \$29,440

Project Location: Utah, Garfield County, Escalante Watershed, communities of Escalante and Boulder and within Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and within Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, managed by the National Park Service.

Project Description: Grand Staircase Escalante Partners proposes to restore and maintain the natural ecological conditions of the Escalante River and its watershed and involve local communities in promoting and implementing sustainable land and water use practices. 46 acres of riparian habitat would be restored as part of the watershed wide goal to restore 597 acres in 2016. GSEP plans to reduce Russian olive and other woody invasive species in the watershed to minimal levels thereby allowing native plants and animals to thrive and historical riparian process to function, such that riparian areas become more sustainable and resilient to change. A healthy watershed provides many ecosystem functions including, but not limited to: nutrient cycling, carbon storage, erosion/sedimentation control, increased biodiversity, soil formation, wildlife movement corridors, water storage, water filtration, flood control, recreation, and reduced vulnerability to invasive species, the effects of climate change, and other natural disasters. A healthy watershed also creates more opportunities for tourism tied to recreation and travel as well as economic development in local communities including increasing the economic value and ecological value of restored private lands.

Project Title: Role of Wetlands: Jordan River Ecology, Water Quality, and Community

Organization: Jordan River Commission

Award Amount: \$29,550

Project Location: This project is located at 1033 High Creek Drive in Riverton City, adjacent to the Jordan River Parkway. The education curriculum will target west-side schools, adjacent to the river in Salt Lake City, West Valley City, and South Salt Lake.

Project Description: The Jordan River Commission, along with project partners, Riverton City Parks & Recreation, Utah Conservation Corps, Utah Society for Environmental Education, Utah Division of Water Quality, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands, and the NatureWorks Alliance, will restore wetlands in Riverton City, a key component in regional water quality. This project will have three components: 1) Riverfront Communities Best Practices Series – Wetland Ecology: A professional training series that will bring a renown Wetland Ecologist to teach an in-class lesson on Wetland Ecology, as well as a field training focused on the Riverton wetlands, creating a practical solution for its future to improve its functionality, as well as its appeal to surrounding neighbors; 2) Jordan River Teaching Toolkit – “Role of Wetlands”: An educational curriculum, with a classroom and field component, that focuses on water quality and the role wetlands play in regional hydrology and water quality improvement engaging students from underserved communities, facilitating their support for similar projects along their stretch of river; 3) Riverton Ponds Restoration: On-the-ground restoration of these wetlands utilizing expertise from the Best Practices Series participants and the Division of Water Quality to design a functional solution, as well as meaningful field work from school children and a series of public volunteer events to remove invasive species and plant native vegetation. This project seeks to restore a 10-acre dewatered and non-functioning wetland in Riverton City to improve water quality along the Jordan River. This highly visible project will remove invasive species, phragmites, Russian olive, tamarisk, and Scotch thistle, establish critical native riparian species and wetland grasses, and work to design and implement a functional project solution to mitigate local residents concerns, while continuing to retain nutrients, infiltrate stormwater, and mitigate flooding potential.

Washington

Project Title: Building Capacity for Community Stewardship in South Park

Organization: Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/Technical Advisory Group

Award Amount: \$39,139

Project Location: The project will take place in the South Park neighborhood of Seattle, located in what is called the Duwamish Valley. It sits adjacent to the Duwamish River.

Project Description: Hands-on training and capacity building in the South Park neighborhood of Seattle focused on on-going restoration and stewardship of native habitat. Located alongside the Duwamish River Superfund Site, this project will support the habitat health of Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Trout as well as the local air and water quality issues. DRCC/TAG proposes to collaborate project partners to build the capacity of community stewardship activities in the Duwamish Valley neighborhood South Park, supporting stormwater pollution management and benefiting the health of native habitat for humans, birds, fish, and wildlife. Throughout the project, 250 diverse, multilingual community members will be engaged in on-the-ground restoration work and training, guided by 2 to 10 paid community leads. These community members will participate in three to five neighborhood stewardship and restoration events to plant 50 trees, maintain eight rain gardens, and restore habitat at multiple sites throughout South Park, impacting at least 4.5 acres. Alongside these activities, DRCC/TAG will develop community-friendly outreach information in multiple languages around proper tree-maintenance, stormwater pollution prevention, and native flora and fauna. Combined, this work will ensure sustainable community knowledge, empowering these individuals to ensure the long-term health of these restoration sites.

Project Title: Puget Sound Starts at My School!

Organization: Snohomish Conservation District

Award Amount: \$49,057.07

Project Location: Instillation of rain garden projects on all four Everett School District High Schools in the cities of Mill Creek and Everett, WA.

Project Description: Puget Sound Starts at My School is a two-year collaborative initiative between Snohomish Conservation District, City of Everett Public Works, City of Mill Creek Stormwater Management Department, Everett School District STEM administrators and high school teachers, and Washington State University Extension Master Gardeners. Puget Sound Starts at My School will work directly with high school students in Environmental Systems Design Classes at all four Everett School District High Schools. Schools will receive classroom lessons that challenge students to help plan, design, and maintain rain garden projects. Student activities will include a campus stormwater audit with a stormwater engineer, a project feasibility rubric activity, a site analysis and stormwater diversion calculation activity, a planting plan, hands-on installation, and creation of a maintenance plan. This program will embody environmental place-based learning; education will go beyond textbooks as students apply knowledge and critical thinking to address local stormwater problems at their school while working alongside stormwater engineers. Puget Sound Starts at my School will involve over 1,000 students, staff and families in the design, installation and maintenance of four rain garden projects on four high school campuses in Everett and Mill Creek, WA. An estimated total of 250,000 gallons of

stormwater will be diverted annually into rain gardens where it would otherwise flow unfiltered into storm drains and salmon-bearing waterways. This proposal will form a nexus between STEM and local, place-based environmental education, NPDES permit requirements, and Puget Sound Starts Here Regional Campaign objectives and will address local urban recommendations set forth in the Snohomish Basin Protection Plan. With the impacts of polluted stormwater threatening our water quality, and educational Next Generation Science Standards calling for rigorous and authentic applied learning opportunities for students, this project meets a critical need in the community.

Project Title: Lake Sammamish Kokanee Restoration

Organization: Trout Unlimited, Inc.

Award Amount: \$47,628.18

Project Location: The project area encompasses the Lake Sammamish watershed, which is located approximately 10 miles east of Seattle, Washington.

Project Description: TU's Kokanee Project will provide essential capacity to advance ongoing efforts to restore imperiled kokanee salmon in the Lake Sammamish watershed near Seattle, WA. The three key elements of this project are: habitat and fish passage restoration; community partnerships, outreach, and youth education; and a citizen science initiative. Through close coordination with our partners in the Kokanee Workgroup (KWG), TU will work to reconnect and restore aquatic habitat that historically supported a robust kokanee population in the Lake Sammamish watershed, which was designated as an Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership by USFWS in 2013. TU will expand the KWG's existing community outreach efforts to raise the profile of kokanee and teach area residents and visitors about the inextricable connections among watershed health, kokanee, and human activities. Outreach efforts will emphasize cultivation of strong and diverse community partnerships to grow a solid volunteer base and resources to sustain kokanee restoration efforts in the long term. TU's youth education work will include development of indoor and outdoor classroom curricula to engage students, particularly underserved youth, and provide them with knowledge and tools to contribute to the restoration of the iconic fish species that was once abundant in this now urban watershed. TU will also develop a citizen science initiative to assist with monitoring and evaluation of kokanee populations and restoration activities.

Project Title: Tolt River Riparian Habitat Restoration Phase 2

Organization: Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Award Amount: \$50,000

Project Location: The project is a portion of a 20-acre site located at the confluence of the Tolt River and the mainstem of the Snoqualmie River, near the city of Carnation in rural King County, WA.

Project Description: Working in partnership with the Snoqualmie Tribe, local students, King County, Carter Subaru, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust will restore 4 acres of riparian floodplain by removing 2 acres of invasive weeds, planting 1,000 native conifers and 2,000 native shrubs, engaging 250 volunteers, and working with local elementary schools to achieve community-based restoration success and education. Both rivers provide critical spawning habitat for Chinook salmon, a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Tolt River is also a major source of drinking water for the City of Seattle and adjacent cities. Project work will improve approximately four acres of land within a 20-acre main river floodplain riparian forest buffer area on the left (south) bank of the Tolt River from its mouth where it converges with the main-stem Snoqualmie River. The Greenway Trust has worked with the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe to identify a priority portion of this overall section, which is a

continuation of efforts the Snoqualmie Tribe has undertaken just upstream and on the other side of the Tolt River.

Wisconsin

Project Title: Milwaukee River Beerline Woodland Restoration

Organization: River Revitalization Foundation

Award Amount: \$30,636.40

Project Location: The project is located along the Milwaukee river within the city of Milwaukee.

Project Description: The project is located within the city of Milwaukee, adjacent to the Milwaukee River and is part of over 800 acres of urban greenway along the river. Major activities will consist of engaging participants in a youth jobs skills training program and college students in removing invasive species including buckthorn, burdock, garlic mustard, and Japanese knotweed and planting with native trees and herbaceous plants. The primary outcome will be increased woodland habitat quality. The resulting woodland will provide better stabilization to the bluff, reducing sediment in the Milwaukee River. Secondary outcomes include educating urban youth and university students on principles of ecological restoration through hands on training and work. The wider community will be engaged through enhanced outreach to recruit volunteers and raise awareness about issues of urban conservation and restoration.

Project Title: Restoring Wildlife Habitat: Phase 2

Organization: Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, Inc.

Award Amount: \$48,741.66

Project Location: This project will take place on fifteen different properties within the Milwaukee River Watershed and along Lake Michigan in Washington and Ozaukee Counties.

Project Description: The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust (OWLT) will be implementing the second phase of a large initiative to restore and enhance critical natural habitats in southeastern Wisconsin. Phase two will focus on the monitoring and maintenance of previously completed restoration efforts, but also extend habitat restoration and enhancement efforts to five newly acquired sites. The recently acquired sites will be the focus of phase two as they are in the initial stages of land management analysis and implementation. The project will take place on several properties along Lake Michigan and within the Milwaukee River Watershed in Ozaukee and Washington counties. Across the project area, five target properties (approx. 393 acres) have been identified for major habitat restoration, wildlife monitoring and water quality improvement projects. An additional 823 acres are included for natural habitat enhancement. Each of the 15 properties are important resources of native habitat and for improving local water quality. Several of the properties feature designated "natural areas", as defined by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. OWLT's continual efforts are critical to the water quality of the Milwaukee River. Strategic partnerships with a youth job skills training program, a university, and the County Parks Department make this urban restoration project an ideal opportunity to restore the ecology of the woodland and foster greater connection to this natural space.