



Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program

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PARTNERS

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- FedEx
- Southern Company
- Arconic Foundation

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ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,800 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of more than \$10 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.



Wall building | | Credit: Concrete Couch

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is pleased to announce the 2024 Five Star and Urban Waters grant recipients. Major funding is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, FedEx, Arconic Foundation and Southern Company. This grant program seeks to develop nationwide community stewardship of local natural resources, preserving these resources for future generations and enhancing habitat for local wildlife. Grants seek to address water quality issues in priority watersheds, such as erosion due to unstable streambanks, pollution from stormwater runoff and degraded shorelines caused by development. Forty-three projects totaling \$2.3 million were awarded, leveraging \$6 million in matching contributions from grantees, leading to a total conservation impact of nearly \$8.3 million.

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ALABAMA

Restoring East Side Park into Accessible Greenspace (AL)

Grantee: Ruffner Mountain Nature Coalition
 Grant Amount:.....\$60,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$556,500
 Total Project Amount:.....\$616,500
 Restore 6.5 acres of East Side Park through stormwater management plans and invasive-species removal to benefit the Village Creek watershed. Project will install bioswales, engage six local partners and 50 volunteers to plant 200 trees, remove invasive vegetation, propagate native plants and install ADA-accessible trails.

ALASKA

Connecting Communities to Watersheds through Monitoring, Restoration, Education and Recreation (AK)

Grantee: Alaska Geographic Association
 Grant Amount:.....\$64,200
 Matching Funds:.....\$82,500
 Total Project Amount:.....\$146,700
 Educate residents in watershed stewardship through hands-on restoration projects, outdoor education and fishing activities, and watershed education resources. Project will engage 700 students and over 100 community volunteers, create four internships and restore riparian habitat through plantings.

ARIZONA

Engaging Youth to Restore Riparian Desert Habitat in the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area (AZ)

Grantee: Arizona Sustainability Alliance
 Grant Amount:.....\$49,800
 Matching Funds:.....\$55,200
 Total Project Amount:.....\$105,000
 Restore 50 acres of desert riparian habitat in the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area in Phoenix, Arizona, to benefit the desert pupfish and Gila topminnow, and to provide habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher, Ridgway’s rail and western yellow-billed cuckoo. Project will plant 150 native trees and pollinator shrubs for migratory bird habitat and engage high school youth in conservation-focused internships to foster stewardship and workforce skills.

CALIFORNIA

Developing Oyster Habitat Restoration Plans in Indian Basin (CA)

Grantee: Earth Island Institute/Wild Oyster Project
 Grant Amount:.....\$45,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$33,700
 Total Project Amount:.....\$78,700
 Develop restoration plans for native Olympia oyster habitat in the Indian Basin by engaging community members and partners in the San Francisco Bay area. Project will train community members on nature-based strategies for oyster restorations and host volunteer and outreach events to promote stewardship of subtidal habitat and biodiversity

and contribute to climate adaptive responses to sea-level rise along the San Francisco Bay shoreline.

Engaging Youth in Wetland and Coastal Environmental Stewardship and Outdoor Education II (CA)

Grantee: Outdoor Outreach
 Grant Amount:.....\$40,600
 Matching Funds:.....\$40,500
 Total Project Amount:.....\$81,100
 Create access points to San Diego Bay and Tijuana River Watersheds for youth from underserved communities through hands-on environmental education and outdoor conversation programs. Project will engage over 1,000 individuals in 12 field-based environmental stewardship and education programs, resulting in the restoration of 100 acres of sensitive wetland and coastal habitats and increased awareness with youth in better understanding the scientific and cultural values of their local watershed.

Installing Debris Capture Devices for Stormwater Runoff in Moreno Valley (CA)

Grantee: City of Moreno Valley
 Grant Amount:.....\$60,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$340,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$400,000
 Install full-capture devices in storm drain catch basins throughout the City of Moreno Valley, California, to trap and remove trash from stormwater runoff at street inlets, preventing it from entering the Santa Ana River and eventually the ocean. Project will use 970 devices to collect, manage, and dispose of roadway trash and debris to preserve the health and welfare of natural resources and communities.



Willow flycatcher

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Restoring Habitat through Community Engagement and Education in the Los Angeles River Watershed (CA)

Grantee: Friends of the Los Angeles River
 Grant Amount:.....\$47,800
 Matching Funds:..... \$500,900
 Total Project Amount:..... \$548,700
 Engage communities in the Los Angeles River Watershed to complete habitat restoration, river cleanups and interactive environmental education for all ages. Project will mobilize 3,000 volunteers to remove invasive vegetation from 3 acres at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve and clean 2.9 miles of the LA River and serve 700 local students with place-based environmental education.

COLORADO

Improving and Restoring Lower Shooks Run through Community Engagement (CO)

Grantee: Concrete Couch
 Grant Amount:.....\$47,700
 Matching Funds:..... \$207,700
 Total Project Amount:..... \$255,400
 Improve and restore riparian and land habitat in Colorado Springs by engaging local communities with volunteer opportunities and youth education activities. Project will plant 200 trees, restore 2 acres of habitat through the removal of invasive species, and conduct outreach with community members and partners for increased environmental stewardship.

Restoring Mixed-Grass Prairies in the First Creek Floodplain (CO)

Grantee: Friends of the Front Range Wildlife Refuges
 Grant Amount:.....\$60,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$49,800
 Total Project Amount:..... \$109,800
 Restore 38 acres of mixed-grass prairie and create a site-scale green infrastructure greenway in the First Creek floodplain to reduce flood damage to local communities and wildlife habitat. Project will engage 175 community members in invasive species removal and seed collection, reduce the amount of sediment entering First Creek, and improve the quality of grazing for bison and habitat for bald eagles.

Restoring Urban Wetland Habitat in Dartmouth Gulch Park (CO)

Grantee: Denver Parks and Recreation
 Grant Amount:.....\$60,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$60,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$120,000
 Restore over 3 acres of degraded urban wetland, riparian and upland habitats in Denver, Colorado, while increasing community access and education resources. Project will plant 40 trees such as willows and cottonwoods and perform habitat restoration through mechanical removal, chemical control, native plantings and seeding.



Community garden planting | Credit: Concrete Couch

CONNECTICUT

Growing Education and Restoration Impact of the New Haven Harbor Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (CT)

Grantee: New Haven Ecology Project/Common Ground
 Grant Amount:.....\$60,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$57,300
 Total Project Amount:..... \$117,300
 Restore and bring Best Management Practices to 26 acres of schoolyard habitats, urban greenspaces, city parks, riparian zones and urban neighborhoods across the city of New Haven. Project will expand 29 urban oasis sites at schoolyards and greenspaces by removing invasive species and improving habitat along riparian corridors and city parks and increasing the tree canopy in neighborhoods through the engagement of 865 students.

FLORIDA

Restoring Biscayne Bay’s Coastal Habitats through Community Education and Engagement (FL)

Grantee: Miami Waterkeeper
 Grant Amount:.....\$49,800
 Matching Funds:..... \$187,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$236,800
 Restore 14 acres of protected coastal hammock, dune and mangrove wetland habitats across five Biscayne Bay coastal parks and endangered habitat areas. Project will remove invasive vegetation and 2,000 pounds of marine debris, plant and maintain native trees and seedlings, and engage 500 volunteers and 440 youth in habitat restoration and debris cleanup events and hands-on youth environmental education activities.

GEORGIA**Community-Driven Restoration, Environmental Stewardship and Conservation at Pendleton King Park (GA)**

Grantee: Pendleton King Park

Grant Amount:.....\$54,300

Matching Funds:.....\$40,900

Total Project Amount:.....\$95,200

Restore 15 acres of degraded urban bottomland and wetland plant communities for birds and wildlife at Pendleton King Park by engaging with the local community to remove invasive plant species and integrate native plants, wildlife structures and ADA-accessible infrastructure. Project will engage 65 volunteers from at least five different professional and academic organizations in the area to remediate invasive plants and establish native wildflowers, shrubs and trees.

Restoring Migratory Bird Habitat by Planting Native Flora (GA)

Grantee: Georgia Audubon

Grant Amount:.....\$48,400

Matching Funds:.....\$39,600

Total Project Amount:.....\$88,000

Promote biodiversity and ecosystem resiliency by planting and supporting native flora, removing nonnative invasive species and providing habitat for migratory birds. Project will restore 19 acres of Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve at the historic Wilburn Farm, contributing to the larger watershed restoration.

ILLINOIS**Litter Removal and Community Building at Canal Origins Park (IL)**

Grantee: Friends of the Chicago River

Grant Amount:.....\$43,800

Matching Funds:.....\$52,900

Total Project Amount:.....\$96,700

Restore riparian habitat along the Bubbly Creek tributary streambank through community-led litter removal in Canal Origins Park. Project will engage over 240 volunteers, including youth, to remove over 3,600 pounds of litter from 3 acres of park space and 1,000 linear feet of river-edge shoreline, empowering environmental stewardship within the community.

Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement on the South Branch of the Chicago River (IL)

Grantee: Shedd Aquarium Society

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

Matching Funds:.....\$37,500

Total Project Amount:.....\$87,500

Restore and monitor over 11 acres of the Chicago River watershed in Ping Tom Memorial Park by engaging, educating and training local community members in native riparian planting, turtle, bat and bird habitat installations, litter removal, and scientific monitoring. Project will increase local community members' access and connection to nature,

environmental literacy, and stewardship while improving water quality, habitat quality and ecosystem management for key fish and wildlife species.

INDIANA**Restoring Riparian Habitat Pogue's Run Waterway through Community Stewardship (IN)**

Grantee: Keep Indianapolis Beautiful

Grant Amount:.....\$70,000

Matching Funds:.....\$1,022,200

Total Project Amount:.....\$1,092,200

Restore and enhance 2.6 acres on Pogue's Run waterway in Brookside Park, Indianapolis, through removal of invasive species, litter removal and community engagement. Project will remove invasive species and spread seed to restore riparian habitat, educate 250 community and corporate volunteers and train 10 college students in hands-on environmental work.

LOUISIANA**Fortifying Bayou Bienvenue II (LA)**

Grantee: Common Ground Relief

Grant Amount:.....\$32,200

Matching Funds:.....\$32,700

Total Project Amount:.....\$64,900

Establish 10 acres of marsh habitat and protect 1,500 recently planted trees in Bayou Bienvenue Central Wetland area in southeast Louisiana by planting over 6,000 native grasses. Project will engage 100 students and volunteers in educational and hands-on, site-based restoration activities, fostering environmental awareness and stewardship.



Water monitoring | Credit: Shedd Aquarium Society

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MARYLAND

Restoring Riparian Habitat through Education and Community Stewardship (MD)

Grantee: NeighborSpace of Baltimore County
 Grant Amount:..... \$60,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$55,700
 Total Project Amount:..... \$115,700
 Restore riparian habitat through volunteer activities and community education in Baltimore County. Project will plant 190 native broadleaf tree species, engage 200 volunteers in restoration activities, remove invasive species across 29 acres, and build capacity in local communities to sustainably monitor and steward restoration sites.

MASSACHUSETTS

Improving Food Access through Community-Led Urban Agriculture (MA)

Grantee: GreenRoots
 Grant Amount:..... \$60,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$175,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$235,000
 Expand urban agriculture to benefit food access programming and initiatives in Chelsea, Massachusetts. Project will revitalize and manage six urban growing spaces, engage 2,000 residents in community gardening, urban farming and hydroponic growing, promote climate resilience by creating more greenspace and tree canopy cover, and increase community access to locally grown and culturally relevant produce and greenspace.



Stream cleaning | Credit: NeighborSpace of Baltimore County

Invasive Plant Management in the Charles River Watershed (MA)

Grantee: Charles River Watershed Association
 Grant Amount:..... \$59,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$110,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$169,000
 Restore 1,060 acres of aquatic and forested habitat by removing invasive plant species in the Charles River watershed. Project will engage community members in direct habitat restoration and develop watershed-scale plans and resources for invasive species management.

MICHIGAN

Restoring Forests and Streambanks through Planting Native Species along the Kalamazoo River (MI)

Grantee: City of Battle Creek
 Grant Amount:..... \$50,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$39,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$89,000
 Restore areas adjacent to the Kalamazoo River in Battle Creek, Michigan, disturbed by harvest activity. Project will plant 5,100 trees using an oak-seedling mix and remove 4 acres of interfering and adjacent invasive vegetation with the help of 150 community volunteers.

MINNESOTA

Restoration through Volunteering and Recreation on the Mississippi River (MN)

Grantee: Friends of the Mississippi River
 Grant Amount:..... \$49,700
 Matching Funds:..... \$132,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$181,700
 Enhance upland forest, prairie, wetland, and riverine habitat and water quality through a combination of prescribed burns, woody invasive plant removal, and supplemental seeding to diversify habitat and increase resilience along the Mississippi and Vermillion rivers in the Twin Cities Metro Area. Project will engage schools, community groups and youth to restore 11 acres of land, provide educational and on-water recreational opportunities and enhance community stewardship.

MISSISSIPPI

Establishing Hydric Pine Savanna Habitat and Community Education Trail in Bayou Bernard (MS)

Grantee: Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain
 Grant Amount:..... \$50,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$37,400
 Total Project Amount:..... \$87,400
 Restore over 16 acres of hydric pine savanna and create an educational walking trail with signage to increase wetland habitat and public access of Bayou Bernard in Gulfport, Mississippi. Project will remove invasive species to restore critical coastal habitat and provide hands-on educational experiences to promote local stewardship through field trips and community volunteer workdays.

Establishing Pollinator Gardens to Connect Habitat and Community Stewardship (MS)

Grantee: Mississippi State University

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

Matching Funds:.....\$45,200

Total Project Amount:.....\$105,200

Construct three pollinator gardens to connect woodland and riparian habitat for native pollinators and provide coastal communities with recreation greenspace in Gulfport, Mississippi. Project will engage community members in native vegetation planting events, litter clean-ups to prevent debris from entering waterways, invasive species removal and regular water monitoring in Coffee Creek to foster environmental stewardship.

Installing an Outdoor Classroom for Pollinator Habitat and Sustainable Stewardship (MS)

Grantee: Jackson Public School District

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

Matching Funds:.....\$37,500

Total Project Amount:.....\$87,500

Install a garden for pollinator habitat and urban agriculture to serve as an outdoor classroom space that will integrate classroom curricula to enhance environmental education for students and the community in Jackson, Mississippi. Project will create 16 raised garden beds to support pollinator and migratory bird habitats, plant fruit-bearing saplings, and establish a compost area and irrigation system to engage local youth in stewardship and sustainable practices.

MISSOURI

Creating Urban Agricultural Space in St. Louis (MO)

Grantee: New Roots Urban Farm

Grant Amount:.....\$74,900

Matching Funds:.....\$0

Total Project Amount:.....\$74,900

Convert a vacant city lot into an urban agricultural space that will support pollinator habitats, mitigate urban heat islands and manage stormwater runoff in St. Louis, Missouri. Project will restore 2.5 acres, plant 300 trees, install 50 educational signs and engage 1,000 volunteers in restoration activities to promote stewardship and community conservation practices that protect and recover natural resources.

Engaging Communities in Sustainable Urban Agriculture and Green Infrastructure in St. Louis (MO)

Grantee: GRO Health Center

Grant Amount:.....\$74,900

Matching Funds:.....\$0

Total Project Amount:.....\$74,900

Promote sustainable urban agricultural practices and green infrastructure in St. Louis, Missouri. Project will conduct environmental- and biodiversity-community education programs as well as work with local officials to provide financial support for communities to create a more resilient local agricultural landscape.

NEW YORK

Community Stewardship for Reforestation, Stormwater Management and Youth Development (NY)

Grantee: New York Restoration Project

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

Matching Funds:.....\$139,900

Total Project Amount:.....\$199,900

Restore 2 acres and manage 50 acres of urban forest along the Harlem River by removing invasives, reforesting, creating native understory and installing rain gardens. Project will engage five local partners and 730 volunteers to plant 990 native trees and shrubs, restore 2 acres of native understory and install a half-acre of rain gardens to retain stormwater.

Engaging Communities in Bird Conservation through Habitat Restoration, Monitoring and Recreation (NY)

Grantee: New York City Audubon Society

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

Matching Funds:.....\$161,900

Total Project Amount:.....\$221,900

Restore and monitor 3.5 acres of habitat in the Harlem River watershed in the Bronx and conduct community-science collision monitoring to research and remedy hazards for migratory birds. Project will engage 500 adults and students from diverse New York City communities in hands-on stewardship activities to improve wetland and meadow habitat for migratory and nesting birds and support improved stormwater and natural resource management.

OREGON

Improving Riparian and Upland Habitat through Community Engagement (OR)

Grantee: Johnson Creek Watershed Council

Grant Amount:.....\$56,500

Matching Funds:.....\$153,100

Total Project Amount:.....\$209,600

Improve riparian and upland habitat by replacing invasive species with native trees and shrubs in Leach Botanical Garden. Project will restore 3 acres of habitat through the removal of invasives and spot replanting native flora and will engage 160 students and 360 community volunteers.

Restoring Native Trout Habitat on Hunter Creek through Beaver Dam Analogs and Native Plants (OR)

Grantee: Think Wild

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

Matching Funds:.....\$75,600

Total Project Amount:.....\$125,600

Restore natural stream function and connectivity to promote the success of interior redband trout along Hunter Creek on the Burns Paiute Tribe land near Juntura, Oregon. Project will assess current conditions to prioritize specific locations and vegetation necessary for restoration, install beaver dam analogs, and plant native vegetation to enhance native fish and wildlife habitat and promote beaver re-establishment.

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PENNSYLVANIA

Developing Conservation Frameworks to Advance Chimney Swift Conservation (PA)

Grantee: Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania
 Grant Amount:.....\$50,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$38,300
 Total Project Amount:.....\$88,300
 Develop conservation framework and educational materials to inform chimney swift conservation across the eastern United States and southeastern Canada. Project will restore 2.5 acres of habitat through native plantings and construction of two chimney swift towers, educate 490 people and develop a chimney swift conservation framework.

Restoring Public Green Space in Pittsburgh (PA)

Grantee: Allegheny Land Trust
 Grant Amount:.....\$44,600
 Matching Funds:.....\$953,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$997,600
 Convert 3.7 acres from a vacant lot to a public greenspace with recreational trails and green stormwater infrastructure able to manage 3.25 million gallons of yearly rainfall in Pittsburgh. Project will connect local and regional trails, serve as a space for environmental education programming, and plant 374 trees for habitat restoration and urban heat island respite.

Urban Agriculture and Environmental Education in Allegheny County (PA)

Grantee: Grow Pittsburgh
 Grant Amount:.....\$49,700
 Matching Funds:.....\$50,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$99,700
 Provide environmental education on urban farms within the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio River watersheds, and establish two new community and school gardens in low-income areas. Project will teach regenerative agriculture principles and practices to youth and adults, plant pollinator gardens and restore native pollinator habitat, build healthy soils, conserve stormwater and expand community agriculture to support resilient food systems.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Establishing Riparian Buffers through Student Engagement and Native Plant Propagation (SC)

Grantee: Town of Fort Mill
 Grant Amount:.....\$30,900
 Matching Funds:.....\$23,900
 Total Project Amount:.....\$54,800
 Establish riparian buffers along local creeks featuring native plants to stabilize creek banks and reduce erosion in Fort Mill, South Carolina. Project will engage local high school students to propagate native riparian-zone plants for use in streambank restoration workshops in local public parks and participate in water quality testing before and after the streambank plantings.



Chimney swift

VIRGINIA

Urban Greening and Habitat Restoration to Address Extreme Heat and Stormwater Runoff (VA)

Grantee: Virginia Wesleyan University
 Grant Amount:.....\$60,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$76,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$136,000
 Reduce stormwater-runoff inputs to local estuaries and mitigate urban heat island effects in southeast Virginia and provide native habitat for local species through plantings. Project will restore urban riparian buffers, plant 350 trees and 250 shrubs in areas of heat stress, plant a pollinator meadow and remove 12 acres of invasive vegetation.

WASHINGTON

Education and Outreach on Wetland Stewardship in Seattle (WA)

Grantee: Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association
 Grant Amount:.....\$44,600
 Matching Funds:.....\$43,800
 Total Project Amount:.....\$88,400
 Increase community education and engagement in the Delridge Wetland Park through restoration activities and workshops on wetland hydrology, human impacts and indigenous stewardship. Project will provide environmental justice internships in the conservation field to local youth from underrepresented communities, install educational signage and engage 120 students in hands-on activities.



Community garden in Milwaukee | Credit: Milwaukee Public Schools

Improving Water Quality for Chinook Salmon in the Puget Sound (WA)

Grantee: Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association
 Grant Amount:.....\$49,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$37,600
 Total Project Amount:.....\$86,600

Improve urban water quality and habitat conditions for Chinook salmon, bull trout and steelhead on 20 acres in the Puget Sound. Project will host 40 public Stream Steward events, creating action opportunities for 1,500 volunteers of all ages to plant 4,000 trees.

WISCONSIN

Addressing Milwaukee Stormwater Challenges through Greener Schools and Stronger Communities II (WI)

Grantee: Milwaukee Board of School Directors dba Milwaukee Public Schools
 Grant Amount:.....\$50,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$126,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$176,000

Support the detailed design, permitting and construction of green infrastructure at five urban schools to address Milwaukee’s stormwater challenges. The project will provide education and outreach through partnerships with nonprofit water-focused programming, supporting the creation of outdoor classrooms, enhanced recreational facilities and STEAM curricular connections, as well as plant 225 stormwater trees.

MULTIPLE STATES

Developing Youth Programs to Implement Habitat Restoration in the Blue River Watershed (KS, MO)

Grantee: Heartland Conservation Alliance
 Grant Amount:.....\$59,900
 Matching Funds:.....\$57,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$116,900

Advance a workforce development training program for underserved youth to provide conservation-based training, mentorship and expertise focusing on regional plans to protect and restore the Blue River watershed. Project will restore 40 acres of habitat and 1.5 miles of riverbank through tree plantings and the removal of invasive species by interns and volunteers gaining experience in environmental stewardship and natural resource management.

Restoring Migratory Bird Habitat through Community Engagement in Albuquerque and Phoenix (AZ, NM)

Grantee: National Audubon Society
 Grant Amount:.....\$60,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$45,500
 Total Project Amount:.....\$105,500

Engage local communities in migratory bird habitat restoration on the Rio Grande in Albuquerque and the Salt River in Phoenix. Project will conduct invasive-plant removal and trash pick-up, install native vegetation, and host volunteer and outreach events to educate urban residents in riparian and migratory bird conservation.