

## 2012 Five Star Grants Recipients

### Alabama

**Project Title:** Dog River Watershed Habitat Restoration and Education (AL)

**Organization:** Dog River Clearwater Revival

**Award Amount:** \$23,389.40

**Project Location:** Dog River Watershed is located in Mobile, Alabama. It is an estuarine waterway that flows into the Mobile Bay which connects directly into the Gulf of Mexico. Dog River is about 95 square miles.

**Project Description:** Plant 12,000 native plants ultimately restoring two acres of emergent fresh and saltwater wetlands. Project will also remove approximately 5,000 pounds of debris and transplant aquatic vegetation, improving water quality and revitalizing healthy habitats for the Alabama Red Bellied Turtles and West Indian Manatee.

**Project Title:** Stream Bank Restoration at Turkey Creek Preserve (AL)

**Organization:** Freshwater Land Trust

**Award Amount:** \$24,991

**Project Location:** Turkey Creek is located near the City of Pinson in northern Jefferson County, Alabama.

**Project Description:** Remove a small poured concrete dam located within a 226 acre preserve on Turkey Creek, providing an additional half mile of habitat to the vermilion darter and other aquatic life. In addition, project will revegetate .25 acres with 500 native trees, shrubs and grass plugs to stabilize the streambanks and provide important riparian and forested habitat.

**Project Title:** Water Conservation and Native Habitat Restoration in Atlanta (GA)

**Organization:** Atlanta BeltLine

**Award Amount:** \$30,000

**Project Location:** Project will be located in the Adair Park and Capital View neighborhoods within the city of Atlanta (GA).

**Project Description:** Create a drainage/rainwater retention system, recycle water, restore native habitat and provide community involvement and education in a formerly contaminated site plagued by erosion and depleted soil.

## California

**Project Title:** Abalone Cove Coastal Sage Scrub Restoration (CA)

**Organization:** Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

**Award Amount:** \$65,200

**Project Location:** The Abalone Cove Reserve, in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, Los Angeles County.

**Project Description:** Restore, through invasive plant eradication and plantings, three acres of coastal sage scrub habitat. Through outdoor volunteer days, 120 community volunteers will gain an understanding of the ecological value of coastal sage scrub and its importance as habitat for rare and endangered species.

**Project Title:** Colorado Lagoon Community Wetland Restoration (CA)

**Organization:** Friends of Colorado Lagoon

**Award Amount:** \$25,000

**Project Location:** Eastern portion of the City of Long Beach, California

**Project Description:** Restore and enhance three acres of tidal salt marsh habitat, planting 3,500 native plants with the help of 2,000 volunteers.

**Project Title:** Heal the Bay's Stream Team Program (CA)

**Organization:** Heal the Bay

**Award Amount:** \$39,997.25

**Project Location:** Within the Malibu Creek Watershed in the Santa Monica Mountains, Los Angeles County (CA).

**Project Description:** Restore healthy ecological functioning and improve water quality and natural wildlife habitats by conducting riparian restoration; habitat and water quality monitoring; and stream barrier removals in the Santa Monica Mountains.

**Project Title:** Malibu Creek Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Restoration (CA)

**Organization:** Mountains Restoration Trust

**Award Amount:** \$77,994.9

**Project Location:** Malibu, Las Virgenes and Cold Creeks, three major tributaries in the Malibu Creek sub-watershed of the Santa Monica Bay Watershed, Los Angeles County, California.

**Project Description:** Further efforts to remove invasive plants from 17 acres of state parkland resulting in a net gain of three acres of restored habitat. Project will conduct at least 15 community restoration events for up to 150 participants who will learn about the effects invasive species have on the biological integrity of riparian systems.

**Project Title:** Marsh Creek Floodplain and Riparian Restoration (CA)

**Organization:** Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed

**Award Amount:** \$25,000

**Project Location:** This project will take place in Oakley, CA, in Contra Costa County.

**Project Description:** Restore critical habitat for Chinook salmon and other species while facilitating long-term stewardship of Marsh Creek Watershed through community involvement.

**Project Title:** Northern California Coho Salmon Habitat Restoration (CA)

**Organization:** Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District

**Award Amount:** \$34,352.93

**Project Location:** Southwestern Sonoma County, California, along private roads and on private land within the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District.

**Project Description:** Implement a rural road improvement project along 4.58 miles of ranch roads by replacing five culverts and installing erosion control measures to increase habitat for migrating fish.

**Project Title:** Presidio Coastal Bluffs Restoration and Community Engagement (CA)

**Organization:** Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

**Award Amount:** \$51,700

**Project Location:** Oceanside Drainage Basin; Western Coastal Watershed; Presidio of San Francisco; Presidio Bluffs; California

**Project Description:** Restore 1.75 acres of land at the Presidio Bluffs site at Golden Gate National Park, removing ninety percent of invasive grasses and Cape Ivy and planting 5,500 trees. Educational opportunities will include volunteer workdays and naturalist-led walks.

**Project Title:** Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) - Restoring Riparian Habitat on the Mokelumne River (CA)

**Organization:** Center for Land-Based Learning

**Award Amount:** \$23,750

**Project Location:** This project is located in the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed at the Natural Resources Conservation Service Lockeford Plant Materials Center in Lockeford, CA .

**Project Description:** Partner with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to enable high school youth to plan and implement a riparian restoration project on the Mokelumne River.

**Project Title:** Wild! Oysters - Community-based Native Oyster Restoration Program (CA)

**Organization:** The Watershed Project

**Award Amount:** \$40,000

**Project Location:** Pt Pinole Regional Shoreline in Contra Costa County, California

**Project Description:** Engage scientists, volunteers, and students in the restoration of .04 acres of subtidal habitat. Project will benefit many species, including anadromous salmonids.

## Colorado

**Project Title:** Garden of the Gods Restoration Project (CO)

**Organization:** Rocky Mountain Field Institute

**Award Amount:** \$25,000

**Project Location:** Garden of the Gods Park, City of Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Southern Colorado. Owned and managed by the City of Colorado Springs.

**Project Description:** Mitigate erosion and soil loss and restore the most degraded sectors of Garden of the Gods Park through hands-on projects with high community involvement.

**Project Title:** Garden of the Gods Restoration Project (CO) - II

**Organization:** Rocky Mountain Field Institute

**Award Amount:** \$25,000

**Project Location:** Garden of the Gods Park, Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Southern Colorado.

**Project Description:** Restore 550 linear feet of social trails, construct steps, risers, and retaining walls to stabilize 600 feet of eroding trails to provide structure and protect the surrounding areas; and stabilize nearly eight acres of gullies and drainages with a native seed mix. 900 community volunteers will participate in restoration over 45 workdays.

**Project Title:** Youth Voices for Westerly Creek (Denver & Aurora, CO)

**Organization:** Earth Force

**Award Amount:** \$14,535

**Project Location:** Project watershed is in 2 cities, 3 counties (Arapahoe, Denver, Adams) & 3 school districts (Cherry Creek, Aurora, Denver)

**Project Description:** Train urban youth to duplicate a baseline water quality study from 1997. Their findings, and recommendations, will inform implementation of the Westerly Creek Greenway Master Plan.

## Florida

**Project Title:** Bayou Texar Oyster Reef and Marsh Grass Restoration (FL)

**Organization:** Keep Pensacola Beautiful

**Award Amount:** \$20,397.96

**Project Location:** Bayou Texar, a 388 acre urban, residential bayou within the Pensacola Bay System, Pensacola, Florida

**Project Description:** Collect approximately 84 tons of oyster shell from local partner restaurants to be used as substrate to establish 79 oyster reefs (0.073 acres) along 1,200 linear feet of shoreline on the Bayou Texar in the Florida Pensacola Bay System (PBS). In addition, 4,520 square feet of native emergent marsh grasses will be planted to restore intertidal habitat.

**Project Title:** Oleta River State Park Hardwood Hammock Restoration (FL)

**Organization:** Museum of Science dba Miami Science Museum

**Award Amount:** \$157,116

**Project Location:** Oleta River State Park is located on Biscayne Bay in the Miami metropolitan area.

**Project Description:** Restore coastal habitats at Oleta River State Park, Virginia Key and R. Hardy Matheson Preserve in Miami-Dade County.

## Georgia

**Project Title:** Alcovy River Greenway Restoration and Education (GA)

**Organization:** Georgia Wildlife Federation

**Award Amount:** \$19,573.30

**Project Location:** Primary work site is on 115 acres along the Alcovy River off Hazelbrand Road and 17 acres along the River off East End Road.

**Project Description:** Construct two rain gardens and remove invasive species from approximately 25 acres and plant 200 native plants in the riparian zone of Cornish Creek. Project will update the Alcovy River Greenway Registry landowner database which will be used to contact and educate landowners who are uniquely positioned to make positive, private conservation impacts.

**Project Title:** Dunwoody Nature Center Meadow Restoration (GA)

**Organization:** Dunwoody Nature Center

**Award Amount:** \$19,701.82

**Project Location:** This project will occur in Dunwoody Park, located in the City of Dunwoody, in DeKalb County, Georgia.

**Project Description:** Re-grade the meadow area and develop a linked system of rain gardens for storm water collection in Dunwoody Park. The results of this project will be the restoration of a 1.5 acre riparian buffer to the creek; development of an experiential teaching facility for students to learn about the effects and prevention of erosion; and creation of a demonstration area to educate an adult community on how to create a similar project on their property.

**Project Title:** Peachtree Creek Confluence Restoration (GA)

**Organization:** The South Fork Conservancy

**Award Amount:** \$20,720

**Project Location:** Atlanta, Georgia at the headwaters of Peachtree Creek

**Project Description:** Fence off highway trash for approximately 800 feet, control three acres of non-native invasives, restore three bioswales to catch highway stormwater, and re-establish a bio-diverse buffer along .22 miles of creek. Biologists and educators will lead 30 adult and 60 student volunteers and neighbors in stream restoration and low-impact trail creation.

**Project Title:** Walnut Creek Invasive Plant Control and Native Reintroduction (GA)

**Organization:** Elachee Nature Science Center

**Award Amount:** \$10,000

**Project Location:** Walnut Creek Watershed, Upper Oconee River Basin, Chicopee Woods Area Park, Elachee Nature Science Center, City of Gainesville, Hall County GA.

**Project Description:** Control 27 acres of *Microstegium* in the floodplains of the upper Walnut Creek Watershed and plant 480 native seedlings over 516 square feet of test plots to determine the success of native seedlings in controlling re-invasion when planted at high and low densities. 100 volunteers will assist with mapping, invasive control and plantings; over 200 students will participate in hands-on activities to learn about riparian habitats and exotic invasive plants; and over 120 landowners will participate in invasive plant ID and control workshops.

## Illinois

**Project Title:** Youth Restoration of the South Shore Beach and Sanctuary (IL)

**Organization:** Alliance for the Great Lakes

**Award Amount:** \$20,203

**Project Location:** South Shore Nature Sanctuary on Lake Michigan

**Project Description:** Work with partner schools and groups to remove non-native plant species on 0.25 acres at South Shore Beach/Sanctuary and replant 1.4 acres of native vegetation on the dunes and other areas on the edges of the site. Project will conduct six Adopt-a-Beach visits at South Shore Beach where volunteers will remove litter and will engage 109 youth to participate in stewardship activities.

## Indiana

**Project Title:** Fall Creek Watershed Community-Based Habitat Restoration (IN)

**Organization:** Keep Indianapolis Beautiful

**Award Amount:** \$24,999

**Project Location:** The north side of Indianapolis.

**Project Description:** Remove invasive species over 10 acres and plant more than 365 trees in the Fall Creek watershed. Approximately 200-500 community members will be educated through meetings; and residents and volunteers will learn about tree planting and care, and stewardship of the watershed.

## Iowa

**Project Title:** City of Elliott Wetland Restoration and Outdoor Classroom (IA)

**Organization:** City of Elliott

**Award Amount:** \$24,472

**Project Location:** City of Elliott in Montgomery County, Iowa

**Project Description:** Restore a 1.5 acre wetland and replant more than 21 acres of native grass area with the help of 135 students and 19 adult volunteers. Project will include extensive educational components such as an Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant walkway with an interpretive panel about wetlands, and a platform for outdoor classes.

## Maine

**Project Title:** Frenchman Bay Eelgrass Restoration (ME)

**Organization:** Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory

**Award Amount:** \$25,266

**Project Location:** Frenchman Bay, in the waters off Hadley Point, Berry Cove, and Thomas Island in the Gulf of Maine

**Project Description:** Engage citizens as scientists in expanding eelgrass restoration to 140 acres. Project will address threats to eelgrass through stakeholder engagement.

## Massachusetts

**Project Title:** Charles River Invasive Weed Removal Program

**Organization:** Charles River Watershed Association

**Award Amount:** \$25,000.01

**Project Location:** Charles River Lakes District in the suburbs of Boston, Massachusetts

**Project Description:** Restore river habitat through invasive weed removal. Project will mobilize hundreds of volunteers and conduct on-going research on the efficacy of the program.

**Project Title:** Mystic River Water Chestnut Removal (MA)

**Organization:** Mystic River Watershed Association

**Award Amount:** \$45,000

**Project Location:** Areas along the Mystic River in the municipalities of Medford and Somerville, Massachusetts

**Project Description:** Remove 10 acres of the invasive water chestnut from the Mystic River in Massachusetts using canoe-based hand-pulling techniques. Nearly 400 volunteers, including Watershed Association members, clubs, teams and businesses will contribute nearly 3,000 hours of volunteer time toward this effort.

## Mississippi

**Project Title:** Bayou Auguste Restoration (MS)

**Organization:** Mississippi State University

**Award Amount:** \$31,390

**Project Location:** The project location is in a highly visible but underused open space along the southern bank of Bayou Auguste in the Biloxi Housing Authority's Hope VI neighborhood in East Biloxi, Mississippi.

**Project Description:** Enhance .4 acres of urbanized tidal stream in Biloxi through debris removal, streambank reshaping, installation of erosion control materials, and native species planting. The project will engage students, residents, City workers, and volunteers in restoration and educational activities to increase stewardship over Bayou Auguste.

**Project Title:** Invasives Eradication on Wet Pine Savanna Habitat (MS)

**Organization:** Southeastern Wildlife Conservation Group

**Award Amount:** \$25,000

**Project Location:** The site is an overgrown pine savanna in Moss Point, MS.

**Project Description:** Remove invasive and unwanted species such as the popcorn tree and cogongrass from 80 acres of savanna habitat and create a one-mile long trail to educate visitors through signage. Project activities include mechanically or chemically treating degraded and overgrown Pine Savanna habitat; lopping or chopping down unwanted slash pine trees; removing remnants of previous inhabitants; and strategically placing cavity nesting boxes within the area as needed.

**Project Title:** Restoration of Henderson Point Greenway/Blueway (MS)

**Organization:** Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain

**Award Amount:** \$15,000

**Project Location:** Approximately 6.25 acres owned by the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain, Harrison County, Mississippi and approximately .63 acres of adjacent land owned by MS Department of Transportation.

**Project Description:** Restore wetland and upland forest to a pristine natural environment on 6.8 acres in Henderson Point.



## **New Jersey**

**Project Title:** Shale Valley Acquisition and Wetland Restoration (NJ)

**Organization:** Schiff Natural Lands Trust

**Award Amount:** \$12,295

**Project Location:** The Shale Valley property is located on the border of Mendham and Chester Townships.

**Project Description:** Restore the Shale Valley wetland, located in the preservation area of the Highlands in New Jersey, a property critical for wildlife habitat and water quality protection. Activities include eradicating invasive species, reclaiming a heavily disturbed former mining site, and establishing native grasses in wetland and early-successional areas, all while engaging the local community.

## **Oregon**

**Project Title:** Meldrum Bar Restoration and Enhancement (OR)

**Organization:** Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

**Award Amount:** \$24,914

**Project Location:** Portland, Oregon

**Project Description:** Restore three acres of riparian habitat with the help of 300 4th and 5th grade students, 12 teachers, and 24 school volunteers who will receive classroom lessons in environmental topics and apply them by removing invasives and replanting native plants during service learning field trips.

## **Pennsylvania**

**Project Title:** Riparian Restoration in Natrona and Coraopolis (PA)

**Organization:** Friends of the Riverfront

**Award Amount:** \$25,000

**Project Location:** Project will be located at two sites: in Natrona (on the Allegheny River) and in Coraopolis (on the Ohio River).

**Project Description:** Remove a total of 400 square feet of invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed at two sites and plant plants and trees with strong, deep roots, stabilizing 40 linear feet of riverfront. A few events will be hosted at each site, with 25 volunteers expected for each event, who will learn the importance of riparian restoration as well as proper techniques for removing invasives and planting natives species.

**Project Title:** Wissahickon Stormwater Mitigation & Sediment Reduction (PA)

**Organization:** Friends of the Wissahickon

**Award Amount:** \$40,000

**Project Location:** Wissahickon Valley Park, an 1800 acre forest park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Project Description:** Stabilize 350 linear feet of stream by planting native plant species in Wissahickon Valley Park. Project partners will also engage the community through outreach and education on the importance of managing storm water.

## **Puerto Rico**

**Project Title:** Restoration of the Pterocarpus Forest at Palmas del Mar in Puerto Rico

**Organization:** Palmas del Mar Homeowners Association

**Award Amount:** \$19,936

**Project Location:** The Pterocarpus Forest is in the Candelero Abajo Ward in Humacao, Puerto Rico.

**Project Description:** Remove more than eight acres of invasive plants and enhance the 50.18-acre Pterocarpus Forest with 520 native plants and trees. Project involvement will engage universities, children's museums, and more than 50 adult volunteers.

## **Rhode Island**

**Project Title:** Save The Bay Volunteer Restoration Opportunities (RI)

**Organization:** Save The Bay

**Award Amount:** \$25,000

**Project Location:** These projects will take place in multiple locations, depending on the project(s) chosen: Westerly, Charlestown or Newport, RI.

**Project Description:** Work with community partners to implement habitat restoration activities and provide meaningful volunteer opportunities to corporations and community groups on priority projects in the Narragansett Bay watershed of Rhode Island.

## **Tennessee**

**Project Title:** Wolf River Greenway Restoration (TN) - II

**Organization:** Wolf River Conservancy

**Award Amount:** \$28,090

**Project Location:** Epping Way is at 2630 Epping Way; Wolf River Greenway is on the east side of Humphreys Blvd. between Shady Grove and Walnut Grove. Lovitt Woods is east of Germantown Pkwy north of the Wolf River.

**Project Description:** Conduct restoration activities (removing debris & non-native species and re-planting native species) with volunteer labor on 3 properties within the urban Wolf River watershed in Memphis, Tennessee.

## Texas

**Project Title:** Fostering Native Plants and Young Environmental Stewards (TX)

**Organization:** REAL School Gardens

**Award Amount:** \$26,555

**Project Location:** This project will take place on the urban schoolyards of 30 high-poverty elementary schools in metropolitan Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas.

**Project Description:** Utilize native plant and wildlife habitats on school campuses as sites for hands-on conservation and education.

## Washington

**Project Title:** Discovery Park Rain Gardens Installation (WA)

**Organization:** Stewardship Partners

**Award Amount:** \$40,000

**Project Location:** The proposed project location is in Seattle, Washington at Discovery Park's North Parking Lot

**Project Description:** Install four 600 square foot rain gardens at Discovery Park which, supported by outreach and education, will establish watershed friendly practices to improve downstream water quality and habitat. Project will involve a demonstration installation workshop/volunteer event and outreach activities to educate Park patrons and neighborhood residents on rain gardens and other watershed friendly practices.

**Project Title:** Duwamish Shoreline Restoration Challenge (WA)

**Organization:** Forterra NW

**Award Amount:** \$24,860.44

**Project Location:** Privately-owned commercial properties along the shoreline of the Duwamish River, between river miles 6 and 9.5, in the City of Tukwila in King County, Washington.

**Project Description:** Restore 2,200 linear feet of degraded shoreline in commercial industrial areas, remove more than two acres of invasive plants and establish 6,000 native plants on-site to provide shade, nutrients, food sources and habitat for Chinook salmon. Project will engage commercial property owners, businesses and their employees as well as community members in stewardship of the shoreline through outreach, education and hands on work.

**Project Title:** Madrona Woods Restoration & Salmon Journey Education (WA)

**Organization:** Friends of the Cedar River Watershed

**Award Amount:** \$15,232.25

**Project Location:** Madrona Woods is located in the City of Seattle, on the shores of Lake Washington.

**Project Description:** Remove and compost 1.5 acres of invasives and plant 700 trees to restore the ecological structure and function of forested wetlands and shorelines, increase biodiversity, and support salmon recovery efforts in the greater Lake Washington Watershed. 300 people will participate in volunteer restoration events and Salmon Journey, which provides high-level training to volunteer naturalists on salmon recovery policy, habitat needs, and salmon biology.

## **Wisconsin**

**Project Title:** Mill Creek Streambank and Balmoral Wetland Restoration (WI)

**Organization:** Wisconsin Waterfowl Association

**Award Amount:** \$5,195.47

**Project Location:** The site is located at the former Balmoral Dam off HWY 193 in the town of Eagle in Richland County.

**Project Description:** Restore 15 acres of wetland to increase species diversity and protect sedge meadow, the most threatened habitat type in Wisconsin. The project site will be utilized as an educational and community project and students will develop restoration plans through surveying, research applicable practices and work with multiple landowners and partners to coordinate restoration.