



THE FIVE STAR AND URBAN WATERS RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM

About the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant

Program:

Co-sponsored by the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, the US Forest Service, EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, US Fish and Wildlife Service, FedEx, the Alcoa Foundation, Southern Company, and Bank of America, and managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), this public-private partnership seeks to develop community capacity for urban waterway restoration projects.

How it works:

By providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships, EPA and its federal and private partners seek to advance local priorities, particularly in underserved communities, manage stormwater, and address water scarcity in ways that lead to the restoration of waterways, wetlands, forest, and habitat.

PROJECT ELEMENTS	STRATEGIC STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
<p>Each Five Star and Urban Waters project incorporates four main elements. These pieces are the cornerstones of sustainable community-based conservation projects. All projects must have:</p>	<p>The Program focuses on the stewardship and restoration of urban waterways, coastal, wetland, and riparian ecosystems across the country.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-the-ground activities such as wetland, tree canopies, river or coastal habitat restoration and/or targeted green infrastructure creation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage broad coalitions and partnerships for collaborative conservation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated education, outreach and training into the restoration project through broad community engagement activities or participation and integration with K-12 environmental curriculum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase resources for conservation and community stewardship.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measurable ecological, educational, and community benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support innovative and sustainable community-based solutions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community partners united to achieve ecological and educational outcomes. 	

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation was created by Congress in 1984. The Foundation directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds.

To apply, visit www.nfwf.org/fivestar. Learn more about the Urban Waters Federal Partnership at urbanwaters.gov.

BY THE NUMBERS: A HISTORY OF SUCCESS

Since 1999, EPA's **\$6.5 million** investment in these projects has leveraged more than:

- \$3.2** million in other federal funds,
- \$7.9** million in private support, and
- \$67.3** million in anticipated grantee match

For a total impact of **\$85.2** million for **823** projects nationwide.

Since becoming involved in 2013, the Urban Waters program has invested **\$1,369,414** in **95** projects leading to:

- \$1,256,582** million in private matching funds,
- \$1,534,368** million in other federal funds,

For a total impact of **\$4,160,365** million in funding for **115** community-based projects on the ground.



EPA PARTNERS ENGAGE COMMUNITIES, CREATE CHANGE

Integrating Environmental Justice

(CA) – Save the Bay partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, REI, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, East Palo Alto Charter School, and Google to restore 16 acres of habitat along the San Francisco Bay. Many Bay Area shoreline communities are low income neighborhoods disproportionately exposed to poor water quality, trash and risk of flooding due to their location and rising sea levels.

4,500 volunteers, **2,000** students, **40,000** seedlings, **4,000** lbs of trash

Monitoring Water Quality

(GA) – The South Fork Conservancy collected and analyzed data on plant and animal populations and water quality at the degraded confluence of the South and North Forks of Peachtree Creek. This project built appropriate creek access and engaged underserved communities in monitoring and sustaining current restoration and green infrastructure efforts.

15 community members monitoring projects

Stormwater Management

(NY) – Gowanus Canal Conservancy partnered with TreesNY, the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, and MillionTreesNYC to train volunteer stewards and license them to maintain any public right of way bioswale in the City of New York. Incorporating citizen stewards into the operations and maintenance of public green infrastructure installations can significantly extend their functional life, saving tax dollars and empowering community members to become engaged with their local green spaces and infrastructure.

10 seedlings, **32** trainees, **128** volunteers, **7** project sites

Green Infrastructure & Watershed Protection

(TX) – El Paso Community Foundation conducted an urban tree canopy assessment and permeable paver demonstration project as the gateway to sustainably revitalizing downtown El Paso and moving from gray to green infrastructure. This project improved drainage through permeable pavers, reduced flooding damage, increased tree canopy and shade, and recharged groundwater supply.

20 community members implementing projects