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## News Releases from Region 03

### Five Star Urban Waters Grant Awarded to Anacostia Riverkeeper

#### With support from EPA, community-led projects will restore urban waters and streams, address water quality in priority watersheds

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**PHILADELPHIA (August 29, 2019)** – Today, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), announced a \$45,927 grant to the Anacostia Riverkeeper in Washington, D.C. to expand a water quality monitoring program.

The Anacostia Riverkeeper grant was among 46 Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program grants awarded this year, totaling \$1.7 million to restore wildlife habitat and urban waters in 22 states and the District of Columbia. Grantees have committed an additional \$4.4 million in local project support, generating a total conservation investment of more than \$6.1 million. This program supports community partnerships that conserve wildlife and restore river, wetland, riparian, forest and coastal ecosystems.

“EPA is pleased to continue our support for this innovative public-private partnership that encourages community stewardship and incentivizes local solutions to today’s environmental and public health challenges,” **said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler**. “These projects will help local communities improve water quality, restore wetlands, and protect wildlife while creating additional recreational opportunities for the surrounding areas.”

“The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program supports community partnerships that restore and enhance our nation’s fish and wildlife, while at the same time improving water quality and habitat for plants and animals,” said **Jeff Trandahl, executive director and CEO of NFWF**. “The 46 grants announced today will help local communities thrive by increasing resilience, improving green infrastructure and supporting the people and wildlife that call these places home.”

“We are excited to receive this Five Star Urban watershed grant from NFWF to extend our citizen monitoring program into Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties in Maryland, building on our current citizen monitoring program across District waters,” said Suzy Kelly Founding Board Member and Acting President of the Anacostia Riverkeeper.

With this funding, the Anacostia Riverkeeper will expand an existing volunteer water quality monitoring program to include waters in the District of Columbia and Maryland in the Anacostia River watershed. The project will engage 40 volunteers in monitoring water quality with results being shared at community forums.

The grant is awarded through the NFWF’s Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program, which support projects that develop community stewardship of natural resources and address water quality issues in priority watersheds across the country. Support for the 2019 Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program is provided by the Wildlife Habitat Council, and major funding by EPA, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fedex, Shell Oil Company, Southern Company and BNSF Railway.

The 2019 grant winners were selected from a highly competitive pool of more than 190 applications. A full list of 2019 projects are available at: <https://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/home.aspx> .

Since 1999, the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program has supported almost a thousand projects, with more than \$12.8 million in federal funds, \$11.3 million in private and corporate contributions, and \$78.8 million in matching funds at the local level.

For more information about the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant program, visit <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program-2019> .

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