

2008 – 2009 Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program

1. Project: Carpinteria Creek Mouth Native Plant Restoration
Grantee: South Coast Habitat Restoration
Award: \$25,000
Total Cost: \$42,480

The project will increase the habitat and ecological value of the mouth of Carpinteria Creek by removing non-native flora and planting native flora along the banks. The project will also allow for volunteers and visitors of the Carpinteria State Beach to learn about habitat restoration and the importance of the Carpinteria Creek Watershed. The project will use primarily volunteers to implement habitat restoration. Participants will include members of the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition, Carpinteria Creek Committee, Carpinteria Middle School, Carpinteria High School, Cate School, and volunteers from Channel Islands Restoration volunteer pool.

2. Project: Las Positas Creek Restoration at Adams School
Grantee: City of Santa Barbara
Award: \$20,000
Total Cost: \$117,000

The Adams School project combines the restoration of 800 linear feet of a highly degraded stream channel with over 300 elementary school students in collaborative, hands-on learning activities. Asphalt and non-native plants will be removed, the channel will be regraded and native wetland/riparian plants and trees will be planted. Students will learn about wetland ecology and stewardship while restoring this stream on their campus. Due to heavy machinery use, the initial stages of the project will be carried out under contract, but students and community members will participate in the final stages of grading and rock placement, all of the planting efforts, and some of the maintenance.

3. Project: Santa Cruz Island - Canada Del Puerto Creek Restoration and Education
Grantee: Growing Solutions
Award: \$26,400
Total Cost: \$59,695

This project will engage four student groups in an experiential creek restoration on Santa Cruz Island. Growing Solutions has constructed a native plant nursery to be used for island restoration projects. This grant will be used to test run the nursery and educate students by implementing a restoration project on the banks of Canada Del Puerto, the main watershed on the island. Lessons learned through this project will help with the bigger restoration project at the mouth of the creek which listed on the Wetlands Recovery Project's Work Plan.

4. Project: Once Upon A Watershed
Grantee: Ojai Valley Land Conservancy
Award: \$29,400
Total Cost: \$66,400

The project targets 4th, 5th and 6th graders for a watershed scale education program and accompanying restoration activities. Students will learn about restoration and stewardship of local wetland and riparian habitat, then participate in a variety of on-the-ground (hands-on) restoration activities such as native planting, invasive plant removal and creek, estuary and beach cleanups within the Ventura River watershed. The Once Upon A Watershed program will fulfill the critical need to integrate education with restoration initiatives, due to the fact that there are currently no educational programs or centers in the Ventura River watershed area.

5. Project: Adopt-the-Creek: Community Stewards for Stream Restoration in Calabasas
Grantee: Mountains Restoration Trust
Award: \$29,300
Total Cost: \$43,800

The Calabasas community through the Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT) and the Steeplechase Homeowners Association will build community stewardship while restoring wetland and riparian habitat along Las Virgenes Creek, Calabasas, and the Malibu Creek watershed. The project will include volunteers, community leaders, and MRT staff to improve the conditions of the creek and to educate community members and organizations about the importance of the habitat.

6. Project: Colorado Lagoons Champions Curriculum
Grantee: Friends of Colorado Lagoon
Award: \$29,800
Total Cost: \$43,900

The project entails the removal of iceplant invading the Lagoon, as well as the salvaging of native salt marsh plants, by initiating a community-oriented program focused on service learning and supported by the City of Long Beach. The project creates an opportunity to set a precedent for public contribution and education. The title "Colorado Lagoon Champions Curriculum" is designed to exemplify the conjunction of restoration and education initiatives.

7. Project: Oak Restoration Service Learning
Grantee: Back to Natives Restoration
Award: \$2,000
Total Cost: \$3,000

This project involves Back to Natives Restoration, students from Earthroots Field School, and volunteers from the Center for Spiritual Living partnering to perform a service

learning project to restore Oak Woodland in Caspers Wilderness Park in the upland area of San Juan Creek. During the course of this project, participants will visit Casper's Wilderness Park to monitor the site before and after planting to determine which animal species use the area as habitat. Back to Natives staff will assist the students in collecting wildlife data and in performing belt transects to measure the success of their plantings. The plantings will be completed this year and monitoring will continue for 5 years.

8. Project: Big Canyon Bluffs Restoration
Grantee: Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends
Award: \$18,600
Total Cost: \$27,330

The Big Canyon Bluffs restoration project seeks funding to remove non-native, invasive species from the bluffs area immediately upslope from the separate Big Canyon Creek Restoration Project. Removal of the non-native species and replacement with natives appropriate to the coastal sage scrub community as well as other native, non-invasive species will enhance the flora in Big Canyon Creek, provide additional habitat acreage for native and endangered species and improve water quality in Big Canyon Creek and Upper Newport Bay.

9. Project: Starr Ranch Sanctuary Riparian Invasive Weed Removal
Grantee: Audubon California (Starr Ranch Sanctuary)
Award: \$28,400
Total Cost: \$83,000

This project engages volunteers and staff from Starr Ranch, plus the Orange County Conservation Corps, to remove invasive non-native plants from the riparian corridor along Bell Creek to improve habitat for native fauna. The primary plant to be removed is the *Vinca major* (periwinkle) plant, which was introduced to California in the 1700s and is particularly invasive. Currently the *Vinca major* plant is only found along Bell Creek at Starr Ranch but prevention of further infestation is critical, as is the restoration of currently infested areas.

10. Project: Carmel Valley Road Salt Marsh and Wetland Buffer Restoration
Grantee: Los Penasquitos Lagoon Foundation
Award: \$20,000
Total Cost: \$30,000

The project seeks to restore functional native salt marsh habitat that has been displaced by invasive vegetation and to improve water quality currently impacted by urban encroachment along lagoon boundaries. A main objective is to increase the native species diversity in the project site to the approximate richness and abundances of other undisturbed portions of Los Penasquitos lagoon. Furthermore, the project will include a community outreach component that will connect diverse groups of people through improved awareness and education of lagoon management needs and provide

access to light, hands-on work to improve lagoon habitats in areas not typically accessible to the public.

11. Project: The Chollas Walk Education and Restoration
Grantee: Groundwork San Diego - Chollas Creek
Award: \$16,000
Total Cost: \$54,250

Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek (GWSDCC), in partnership with the city of San Diego, the Sierra Club, Coastkeepers, and San Diego City Schools, will restore 2.5 acres of Chollas Creek. This effort will be supported by the implementation of a student propagation center, a community education and habitat and water quality monitoring effort, long-term maintenance plans, and long-range sustainability initiatives. This project proposes to build upon a current \$72,000, Groundwork-managed non-native removal and long-term weed control project. The work will be completed by the Urban Corps, and weed control by a combination of Sierra Club volunteers, City Parks and Recreation, and SEDC.

12. Project: Restoration of Riparian Habitat in Buena Vista Ecological Reserve
Grantee: Preserve Calavera
Award: \$30,000
Total Cost: \$50,100

This project will restore riparian habitat on a parcel that was previously farmed. The objectives of this project include: monitoring and reducing synthetic chemicals from years of farming that now wash into Buena Vista Creek, increasing citizen participation in restoration and monitoring of wetland habitat in north coastal San Diego County, enhancing opportunities for educational programs conducted at the preserve, and developing the capacity of Preserve Calavera to plan and implement wetlands restoration projects.