COASTAL AMERICA 2007 PARTNERSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM
Project Summaries

Yokum Brook Restoration
Yokum Brook is a high-quality, cold water stream in western Massachusetts that once provided critical habitat for Atlantic salmon and Eastern brook trout. A determined restoration team of twenty seven local, state and federal partnership organizations along with student and citizen volunteers and the Town of Becket, Massachusetts set out to restore almost 40 miles of river continuity. The project was spearheaded by the Riverways Program in the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game.

In addition to restoring habitat the Yokum Brook restoration effort benefits a range of aquatic organisms through improved water quality and restored natural river processes. The project involved removal of the Silk Mill and Ballou Dams; creation of in-stream habitat and improvement of access to the river for educational and recreational purposes.

The Yokum Brook project exemplifies the creative role that the private partners and non-governmental organizations can play in funding complicated projects with untraditional costs not normally covered by government grants. In particular, the corporate funding through the Massachusetts Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership and the Nature Conservancy helped the project sponsor accomplish key tasks to stay on schedule.

The project was innovative in that it was a watershed approach to restoration that not only provided essential habitat for species of concern, but it helped the Town of Becket remove two aging dams that required significant investment to maintain.

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Coral Rescue, Relocation, Nursery and Beneficial Use Program
Seawall construction and repairs, marina and dock development, and shoreline stabilization projects pose a threat to corals living on and near these structures. Recognizing this threat Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary personnel and partners including government agencies, public and private aquaria, universities, research labs and volunteers have formed the Coral Rescue, Relocation, Nursery and Beneficial Use Program.

Since it's inception in 2003 the Program has rescued more than 7,000 coral colonies which are either relocated to restore depleted areas, used to educate the public, or used for research to protect coral reefs for the future. Some of these specimens have been moved to coral nurseries that will eventually be used to replenish other sites, in other cases corals are used in the development of baseline genetic banks for use in experiments and comparisons of corals from different geographic regions.

Woodlands Trail and Park
The Woodlands Trail and Park project began as an ambitious grassroots regional effort in 1997 to plan for smart growth while preserving, protecting and celebrating the natural beauty and cultural treasures within a 10,000-acre peninsula in the Metropolitan New

Orleans area. Currently recognized as one of three American Heritage Rivers Initiative "Keystone" projects for Louisiana, Woodlands Trail and Park is uniting the river communities of Orleans and Plaquemines Parish with a series of educational, recreational and historical greenways in one of our regions' last stands of bottomland hardwoods.

Preservation of low-lying open space preserves a "natural sponge" that absorbs storm runoff and protects inland areas. The newly created pedestrian trail system allows for increased access to wetlands which provides an "environmental classroom" to educate users of Louisiana's Coast and promote awareness of the value of conserving, restoring, creating and enhancing wetlands in Louisiana.

The Woodlands group is a partnership of 15 local, regional and national groups working with organizations, private citizens, interest groups, corporations and governmental entities as a coalition to discover and celebrate the natural and cultural history of this area

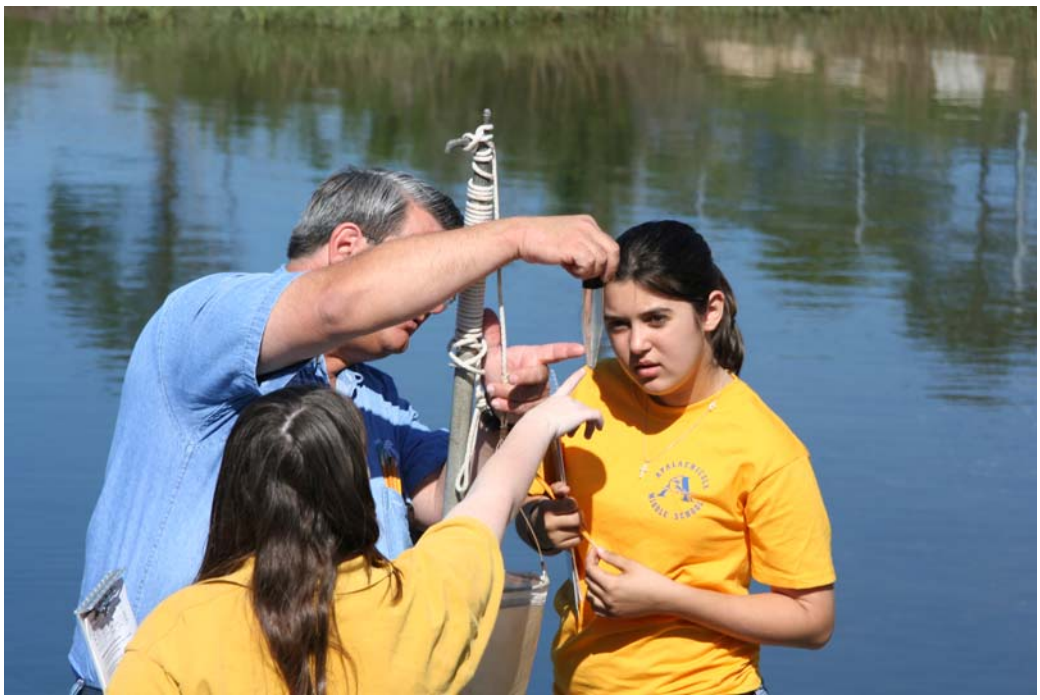
The achievements of the Woodlands Trail and Park project in the wake of Hurricane Katrina are particularly notable. The team has continued to accomplish its mission in an area which sustained significant damage, and in some cases outright destruction, to recreational and environmental educational features.

Partners in the Learning in Florida's Environment (LIFE) Program
One of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FL DEP) strategic priorities is to increase diversity and involvement in environmental science. In an effort to meet this priority, the FL DEP's Office of Environmental Education has developed the Learning in Florida's Environment (LIFE) program. The LIFE program targets under-represented middle school students and seeks to integrate all subjects in an outdoor field

experience to teach not only hands on science, but also mathematics, language arts and social science.

To date, nine LIFE program sites have been established on public lands in six state parks, two national estuarine research reserves, one national forest, and one national wildlife refuge**.** Each of these programs is a collaborative effort between the Office of Environmental Education, the host site, a partner school, volunteers and partners. By partnering with the LIFE program, these sites help the State address diversity priorities by expanding their capacity to educate the surrounding community. Partnering schools include low performing facilities, small rural districts and schools with a high percentage of ethnicities that are under-represented in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The LIFE program benefits educators by combining the student program with teacher professional development. Because each LIFE program is a long-term partnership, teacher professional development activities can be applied, supported and monitored during the implementation of field labs with the students. The LIFE program uses multiple field visits which allow students the opportunity to practice science, experience field work, and gain a sense of familiarity and appreciation for the natural area that serves as their outdoor classroom.



Bolsa Chica Wetlands

The Bolsa Chica wetlands of Orange County California are a surviving remnant of a former tidal salt marsh ecosystem. After 25 years of public debate over the fate of the Bolsa Chica wetlands, a partnership of eight state and federal resources agencies was formed to acquire and restore the degraded wetland habitats. Beginning in 1996, combined efforts of these partners led to the acquisition of approximately 948 acres of the

Bolsa Chica Lowlands in Orange Country. The Bolsa Chica Wetlands Restoration Project effort that followed is the largest, most complex, coastal wetland restoration project in southern California.

From concept through acquisition, planning, design, permitting, oil field cleanup and removal, to completion of wetland construction, the purpose of the project is to provide for the most ecologically appropriate restoration of the wetlands in the lowlands. The Bolsa Chica Wetlands Restoration project management model facilitates the application of each agency's strength, reinforces public support, increases efficiency and consistency of implementation actions, and successfully resolves individual differences through a consensus process. No one agency is more important than another in this model and the Steering Committee provided leadership so that all participants could support and act in concert with one another.

To make the restoration of Bolsa Chica possible 948 acres of private property were acquired into public ownership at a cost of $26.5 million; 64 oil wells purchased and removed at a cost of $11.8 million; environmental and construction engineering was conducted at a cost of $91.5 million; and $17.5 million was reserved for future required operation and maintenance activities and to also facilitate future wetland restoration when existing oil operations cease.

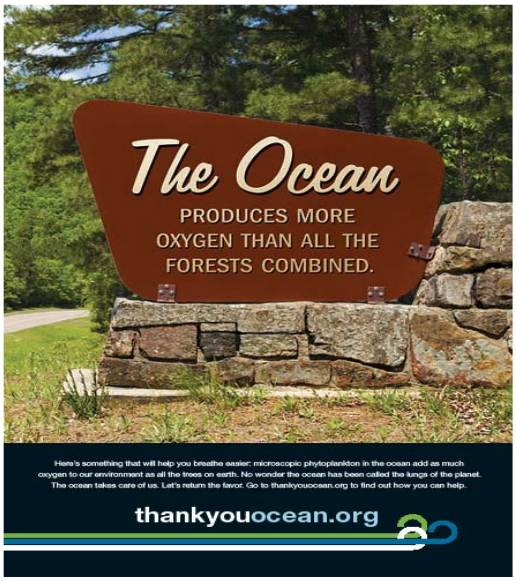
Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project Taken Aug-26-2006

Thank You Ocean Campaign

The California public ocean awareness campaign, “Thank You Ocean”, is a statewide campaign organized by NOAA’s National Marine Sanctuary Program and the State of California Resources Agency. It is supported by the California Ocean Communicators Alliance, a network of 300 California communications specialists from ocean-related agencies, organizations and business. The Ocean Communicators Alliance, also organized by the National Marine Sanctuary Program and the California Resources Agency, is a grass roots effort representing ocean interests throughout the state.

"Thank You Ocean" is a California-wide ocean awareness campaign designed to spur citizen involvement in ocean protection. A phrase from the campaign explains the concept: "The Ocean takes care of us. Let's return the favor." The campaign was brought to life by the professional execution of advertisements, a public service announcement and website that is a “portal” to ocean information. There, Californians may find out about places to experience the ocean, the impacts of daily decisions on ocean life, ocean conservation issues, and what can be done to help the ocean.

By bringing together federal and state agencies, an alliance of NGOs, educators, and marketing specialist, the Thank You Ocean team took a unique approach to communicating the challenges facing our ocean and coastal environments from a visual and content framework.



Duwamish Alive!

The Duwamish River is a highly altered and degraded urban river and estuarine system. The Duwamish estuary historically had over 5,300 acres of intertidal mudflats, marshes, and riparian habitats; today only 2% of its natural habitats remain. Protecting what little habitat remains in the Duwamish and cleaning up and restoring what has been lost are key components to successfully recovering the threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead and improving the health of Puget Sound. Since it began in 2006 the Duwamish Alive! coalition has brought together twenty-seven divergent entities including non-profits, federal, state and local agencies, community groups and corporations that share the goal of protecting and restoring the health and habitat of the Duwamish River for both wildlife and communities. While several of the partner organizations had collaborated in small groups, they had never before come together as one large coalition to engage and educate the public about preserving, protecting and restoring coastal resources including estuaries and salmon.

The Duwamish Alive! coalition is able to draw on the various strengths and resources of its members to support large volunteer events at multiple sites throughout the Duwamish watershed. The collective call for community stewardship and action has enabled this group to engage almost 2,000 volunteers in less than two years. To date, one fall and two Earth Day volunteer events have been held to provide restoration and stewardship at 11 sites throughout the watershed, including two Coastal America restoration sites. At the first event, over 835 volunteers were able to remove 1.4 acres of invasive species, sheet mulch 2,500 sq. ft. with over 60 cubic yards of mulch, plant 718 plants, and remove 325 lbs. of garbage in one four hour period. In addition to their restoration actions, volunteers have also been able to watch performances by Native American groups and learned the importance of coastal habitats. The lessons taught and experiences obtained by volunteers at these events can make a lasting impression and create life-long stewards of our coastal habitats. By forming this unique collaboration the Duwamish Alive! coalition has been able to achieve much more than its members could have accomplished individually.

Salmon in the City

Anchorage, Alaska offers what most big-city residents can only dream about: a chance to view and even catch a king salmon just a short walk from downtown. To sustain these salmon—and the many benefits they bring to the community — Mayor Mark Begich and the Municipality of Anchorage are implementing a multi-agency stewardship initiative called Salmon in the City.

This program is part of a national effort to ensure healthy populations of Pacific salmon. The United States Congress established the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

(PCSRF) in 2000 to support state, local, and tribal salmon conservation and recovery activities. The Recovery Fund is overseen by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and is managed by the states, local communities, and tribes to whom the funding is appropriated.

Working through the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Southeast Sustainable Salmon Fund (SSSF), the Municipality receives funds designated for eligible projects on three of its urban creeks: Ship, Chester, and Campbell Creek.
Salmon in the City is an outstanding example of effective salmon restoration in an urban setting. The initiative aims to build strong public support for rejuvenating and sustaining local salmon populations and enhancing resident and visitor fishing and recreational experiences. A key to its success is the involvement of over two-dozen state and local government and private partners working collaboratively to achieve program goals and objectives.

Several projects are underway to remove barriers to fish passage, maintain and restore riparian habitats, and increase public involvement in salmon and watershed stewardship in Anchorage. In addition to implementing projects with immediate on-the-ground results, Salmon in the City is also working to formalize city policies and procedures to sustain salmon and watershed health for the long term.

For thousands of years, five species of Pacific salmon have been returning to the creeks in the area now called Anchorage, and the local peoples have welcomed their arrival. Today, Salmon in the City draws together diverse perspectives and fosters an integrated understanding of the economic, cultural, and recreational importance of sustaining Anchorage’s salmon legacy. The program provides proactive opportunities for community involvement in the stewardship of wild salmon, watersheds, and natural spaces. In the simplest terms, Salmon in the City builds pride within the Anchorage community as initiative partners work together to protect the wild salmon that uniquely connect local residents to their past, present, and future. For more information: log on to salmoninthecity.muni.org.