

US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Grant Programs to Address Threats to Coral Reef Resources

Five Star Restoration Program

1. Overview/Summary

a. Agency contact information:

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b. Description of Grant Program as it Relates to Coral Ecosystem Conservation

The Five Star Restoration Program was established so the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can work with its partners for education through community-based wetlands restoration projects in watersheds across the U.S. The National Association of Counties, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Wildlife Habitat Council have joined together with EPA for this effort. Funding for the program is provided by EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, and by the National Marine Fisheries Service's Community-based Restoration Program for selected projects in coastal areas.

The Five Star Challenge Grants Program develops knowledge and skills in young people through restoration projects that involve multiple and diverse partners, including local government agencies, elected officials, community groups, businesses, schools, youth organizations, and environmental organizations.

c. Eligibility

i. Who is/is not eligible?

Non-government organizations

ii. What projects are eligible?

Projects that engage five or more partners to contribute funding, land, technical assistance, workforce support or other in-kind services that match the program's funding assistance.

iii. What is fundable/ what is not fundable?

Consideration for funding is based upon the project's educational and training opportunities for students and at-risk youth, the ecological benefits to be derived, and the project's social and economic benefits to the community.

d. Grant Schedules/Cycles

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Proposals for Five Star Restoration Grants are due in early March each year. Grant applicants are notified in late May-early June each year.

- e. List - History (recent) of projects titles/abstracts that have been funded. To date, over 300 projects have been funded through the Five Star Program. Click above to find projects funded in your state. For complete descriptions of Five Star funded projects, see projects for FY 1999 thru FY 2005 at www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star/
- f. List – History (recent) of project titles/abstracts rejected and reasons why.
- g. Matching Fund Requirements.
- h. Specific Criteria on How Proposals are Scored

2. Supplemental Information

- i. Grant Application or FFO
Five Star Restoration Grant applications can be downloaded from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation site at:
<http://nfwf.org/programs/5star-rfp.htm>
- j. Samples of successful grant proposals that were funded:

Tennessee

Project Name: Lost State Wetlands and Riparian Restoration
Five-Star Funds: \$10,000
Grant To: Town of Jonesborough
Project Location: Jonesborough, Tennessee

The Town of Jonesborough will restore approximately three acres of wetlands located in an area of Jonesborough dedicated to the historic preservation on the town. The town will also restore riparian buffers of Barkley Creek, which bisects the wetlands and is a major hydrological element of the site. The Town of Jonesborough will also utilize this area as a springboard for grassroots environmental protection efforts throughout the region. This project will include various partnerships including NRCS who will conduct soil surveys to determine appropriate sites for sensitive plants and animals. Several community organizations will provide volunteers and assist in public outreach efforts to teach the local community and visitors about the role wetlands play in aquatic conservation. Lastly, this site will become part of Tennessee's Lost State Scenic Walkways.

Texas

Project Name: Shadowlake Marsh Enhancement
Five-Star Funds: \$10,000
Grant To: Woodlands Community Association, Inc.
Project Location: Montgomery County, Texas

The Woodlands Community Association, in partnership with the Cochran's Crossing Village Association, the Native Plant Society of Texas, local schools and Eagle scouts, propose to

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restore marshland and stabilize shoreline adjacent to a pond within the development, introduce several species of fish into the pond, conduct educational programs on the site, and partner with community schools to create outreach programs for area children. Local schoolchildren will participate in cleanup activities near the pond and in the marsh area. Parks and Recreation Department staff will work with a local Eagle Scout to flag and remove invasive species, and the area will be monitored on a regular basis. Educational signs will be purchased and erected along a previously established trail, and a formal education program will developed by the Woodlands Community Association's Environmental Services Department in cooperation with local schools.

Project Name: Cedar Hill State Park Restoration
Five-Star Funds: \$10,000
Grant To: Concerned Citizens of Dallas
Project Location: Cedar Hill, Texas

Concerned Citizens of Dallas, along with Dallas County Courts, the Dallas Challenge Truancy Center, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Fitness Intervention Technologies, and Texas Master Naturalists Association are implementing the Cedar Hill Site Restoration Project. The project will restore six acres of land to its native habitat and reach out to a diverse group of community members to show the importance of environmental awareness and protection. 240 local at risk youths assigned by the Dallas County Courts will participate in clearing invasive species and construct pools to increase the amphibian breeding in the area. They will work with environmental experts as well as other members of the community to learn how to be stewards of the land around them. Residents of Cedar Hill will be able to tour the newly restored site and know that the site was restored by at risk youth that have invested time and effort to lend to the benefit of the environment.

U.S. Virgin Islands

Project Name: Protect Lameshur Bay Mangrove Forest
Five-Star Funds: \$16,080
Grant To: Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service
Project Location: Lameshur Bay, St. John, Virgin Islands

The Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service (VIMAS) at the University of the Virgin Islands will provide elementary school children on St. John and St. Thomas islands with an opportunity to learn about the ecological and socio-economic values of mangrove ecosystems through interactive and critical thinking activities, targeted educational materials, and a workshop series/tour of the restoration area. As part of this project, mangrove seedlings will be propagated and monitored on Lameshur Bay. Schoolchildren will then have an opportunity to tour the areas and view the restoration in process; educational materials will be provided to the students in the form of comic and coloring books. The project is part of a larger effort initiated by the U.S. National Park Service. According to the Park Service, Lameshur Bay is considered to be the core area for the Virgin Islands Biosphere Preserve. The VIMAS, in partnership with the U.S. National Park Service, the Virgin Islands Environmental Resource Station, the Department of Education and local school districts, the Ocean Conservancy, and the University of Puerto Rico Sea Grant Program will partner together in this effort. Partial funding for this project is provided by the NOAA Fisheries Community Based Restoration Program.