



2017 Every Day Event Grant Awardees

1. Athens Land Trust, Athens, GA

Public Land Site: Beech Haven

Event 1: Beech Haven Restoration Day (fall)

Athens Land Trust's new event series, Beech Haven Restoration Days, will occur twice a year during the spring and the fall seasons and will provide community members a chance to learn about the unique natural resources of the Beech Haven site while restoring the floodplain, wetland, and riparian corridor of the Middle Oconee River.

Event 2: Beech Haven Restoration Day (spring)

Community members will return to Beech Haven to view the success of the previous workday's restoration work and to continue restoring the floodplain, wetland, and riparian corridor of the Middle Oconee River. Participants will once again remove invasive species like privet and eleagnus (invasive olive) and replant riparian habitat plants. There will be educational components incorporated into the event including historic and ecological site tours led by Athens Land Trust, Athens-Clarke County Sustainability Office, and the Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission.

Event 3: Beech Haven Field Trip with Clarke Central High School

In the summer of 2018, Athens Land Trust will begin the Athens Youth Conservation Stewards (AYCS) program, employing youth from historically underserved communities to research and restore the Beech Haven public land site. In April 2018, Athens Land Trust will launch this exciting new program by partnering with Athens-Clarke County and Clarke Central High School to bring high school classes to Beech Haven.

The educational event will feature opportunities for students to identify aquatic insects and fish, identify plants, and participate in natural and cultural history tours offered by the Rowland Family, the original owners of the Beech Haven property.

2. CREW Land & Water Trust, Estero, FL

Public Land Site: Flint Pen Trails

Event 1: Flint Pen Clean-up

CREW Trust staff, volunteers, and community volunteers will use tools purchased with grant funding to remove garbage from lands surrounding the newly-installed parking lot where several trails will later be mapped out. Project managers anticipate filling at least one dumpster with televisions, appliances, used buckets, engines, car parts, tires, toilets, sinks, cables, wires and bags of small trash like bottles and cans. This will be the larger of the two planned clean-ups and will serve as preparation for the second event which will focus on trimming trees and paths.

Event 2: Flint Pen Trail Clean-Up II

The second clean-up event will recruit additional volunteers and community members, including students from Florida Gulf Coast University, to remove any additional or newly added debris from the project site. In addition, volunteers will use pruners, loppers, trimmers, weed whackers to clear newly-mapped trails in preparation for the site's Grand Opening in January 2018.

Event 3: Community Day at Flint Pen

In celebration of the hard work of participating volunteers, there will be a celebration at the newly-opened Flint Pen trails. Volunteer naturalists and staff will lead interpretive tours for the public, as well as recognize volunteers and showcase the progress made during the first two cleanup events at Flint Pen.

3. Environment for the Americas, Boulder, CO

Public Land Site: Lagerman Agricultural Preserve (Boulder County Open Space); Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat

Event 1: International Migratory Bird Day: Walk in the Wild

Held annually since 2010, *Walk in the Wild* is a free, one-day birding and educational event that draws more than 300 participants to Walden Ponds to learn about bird conservation, bird identification, and the individual's role in protecting native habitats and wildlife. Activities will include more than 10 educational stations and guided, bilingual bird walks. Proceeds raised through event donations and a silent auction will support habitat restoration at Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat. Grant funding will be used to provide transportation to and from the event for families coming from Longmont, and to increase outreach and engagement with the Latino community surrounding the land site.

Event 2: Family Fishing Day at Lagerman Reservoir/ Día de Pesca Familiar en el Embalse de Lagerman

This family-oriented fishing day will provide an outdoor space close to the Longmont community, where Longmont Latino families can partake in nature-based opportunities in a familiar setting. Participants will learn about the local flora and fauna during a

bilingual nature walk on the Lagerman Loop Trail that winds through wetland habitat. Following the guided walk, instruction will be provided to all attendees interested in fishing, with fishing tackle and bait provided for the participants. The outdoor picnic area at the reservoir will provide a space for participants to gather, chat, and eat. Grant funding will be used to provide transportation from Longmont to Lagerman reservoir, purchase food for attendees, and acquire any additional fishing poles beyond the 12 owned by EFTA.

Event 3: Habitat Restoration at Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat

Funds from the first event, *Walk in the Wild*, will be used to subsidize a volunteer workday at Walden Ponds. During the course of the workday, volunteers will address Walden Ponds most pressing restoration needs while learning about native plants, how to effectively use tools for restoration work, and the importance of improving and conserving habitat for wildlife. Involving Longmont community members in restoration efforts will impart a sense of ownership of the public lands in participants and encourage families to continue to visit Walden Ponds and other open spaces in Boulder County.

4. Friends of Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Roswell, NM **Public Land Site: Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge**

Event 1: Dragonfly Festival

The Dragonfly Festival is an annual festival that has been held since 2001 that educates the public about the unique dragonfly habitat at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The day is filled with free family-friendly activities like dragonfly tours, birding tours, arts and crafts, a treasure hunt, and presentations by agencies and organizations focused on conservation and land stewardship. The event typically attracts up to 1,500 attendees from surrounding areas. Grant funding will be used to bring in additional speakers and enhance advertising and promotion to surrounding counties including West Texas, Arizona, and southern Colorado.

Event 2: Cranes and Cocoa

The Cranes and Cocoa event has been held since 2011 as a way to engage the public with the Refuge during the cooler fall season. The event is held the weekend after Thanksgiving while visitors are in town spending time with loved ones for the holidays. It is a free, family-friendly event in which volunteers and staff serve refreshments like hot chocolate and cookies to attendees. After a presentation on the migration of the Lesser Sandhill Cranes, participants drive to a prime overlook on the refuge to watch the cranes fly in for the evening. Revenue from the event will also help to fund the Visitor Center's Nature Store.

Event 3: Earth Day Adopt-a-Highway

The Earth Day Adopt-a-Highway event has been held annually for more than seven years and celebrates Earth Day via a massive cleanup of the entrance to Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Grant funding will help to purchase tools and to pay a speaker to provide more context about Earth Day and the importance of natural resource conservation.

5. Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park, Colorado Springs, CO **Public Land Site: Cheyenne Mountain State Park (CMSP)**

Event 1: No Child Left Inside

No Child Left Inside encourages children to get unplugged and experience the outdoors. The event's festivities will include 12-14 different activities for children at staged-stations throughout Cheyenne Mountain State Park's open areas and trails. The event typically attracts Military Families from the neighboring Fort Carson, home to over 25,000 soldiers. Many stations have "make and take" items children can keep like a makeshift "passport" that has a map of all the activities. Participants receive a prize if they go to a majority of the activities. Sample stations include: Animal Track ID, Archery, Bug Hunt, Build a Nest/Hatch a Chick, Branding and Horseshoe Craft, Geo-caching and "Pretty, Prickly & Poisonous Plants."

Event 2: The Cheyenne Mountain Run

The third annual Cheyenne Mountain Run (CMR) will be a 3 and 10 mile race. Cheyenne Mountain State Park is currently in the process of building a trail to the top of Cheyenne Mountain and the race will take place on the completed portion of the trail. The race will be an opportunity for families, as well as dedicated runners and hikers, to have access to a trail that is not yet open to the public. The length of the Trail Run will increase each year as the trail is completed.

Event 3: Photo Contest

A photo contest, open to contestants of all ages, will encourage spending time outdoors and appreciating local landscapes and animals. Photos will be judged according to five categories: landscape, birds, wildflowers, insects, and landscapes. Prior to the contest, respected photographer, John Fielder will teach a class on outdoor photographer skills which will include a guided hike during which participants can take photos.

Event outreach will target the artistic community and will emphasize the artistic values of nature. The goal is to encourage those who may not utilize the park on a consistent basis.

6. Friends of Congaree Swamp, Columbia, SC

Public Land Site: Congaree National Park

Event 1: Congaree National Park Field Trip I

Congaree National Park has partnered with Carrie Sinkler-Parker of the National Council of Negro Women the past two years to provide educational programs to students in Title One schools, primarily located in the I-95 corridor. The partnership facilitates activities at local libraries (via the Forest Ranger Reading Program) as well as 10 field trips to Congaree National Park. Grant funding will help to expand the program and offer a total of 25 field trips. While on field trips, students will participate in the Junior Ranger program and experience typical park interpretive activities, including a visit to the park's visitor center museum and a guided hike.

Event 2: Congaree National Park Field Trip II

Students will participate in a second field trip to Congaree National Park in October, 2017. Grant funding will help subsidize transportation and meals for the students for three of these trips, which school districts would not otherwise be able to provide.

Event 3: Congaree National Park Field Trip III

Students will participate in a second field trip to Congaree National Park in spring, 2017.

7. Friends of the Desert Mountains, Palm Desert, CA

Public Land Site: Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument and Coachella Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Event 1: The Coachella Valley Wildflower Event

The Wildflower Festival is Friends of the Desert Mountains' signature event and is an opportunity to celebrate conservation, outdoor recreation, and public lands as well as to appreciate the beautiful spring wildflowers that transform the desert each year. Friends of Desert Mountains aims to attract new attendees each year and to give them a new appreciation for the wonders of the desert and the importance of its preservation.

Event 2: Night Adventures in the Monument

Night Adventures is a family event where staff and volunteers lead guided night tours of the desert. Participants search for scorpions, bats, geckos, and other nocturnal creatures and set up telescopes for stargazing. The target audience is families in the Coachella Valley and is meant to offer an opportunity for attendees to experience desert wildlife in a safe and controlled environment and to ultimately reduce the stigma associated with many desert creatures.

Event 3: Pulling Together to Protect Dune Habitat

Volunteers will spend the workday removing invasive weeds, especially Saharan mustard, from the Coachella Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge protects several threatened and endangered species on some of the last remaining sand dune habitat in the Coachella Valley, including the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, Coachella Valley milkvetch, and flat-tailed horned lizard. The dunes are threatened by invasive weeds, which destabilize active sand areas, out-compete native plants, and are detrimental to native animals.

8. Friends of Dyke Marsh, Alexandria, VA

Public Land Site: Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve

Event 1: Workshop on Dyke Marsh for High School Teachers

During a day-long workshop, National Park Service education specialists and Friends of Dyke Marsh (FODM) volunteers will introduce 10 biology and environmental science teachers to the issues facing marshland and wildlife habitat. Topics to be covered include: habitat loss due to erosion and human disturbance; damage and destruction caused by invasive plants and insects; methods of identifying, protecting and maintaining native trees and shrubs; species diversity in a freshwater marshland; and other environmental concerns specific to Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. The workshop will also provide an overview of the \$25 million restoration project funded by the Department of the Interior and conducted by the NPS and US Army Corp of Engineers (Baltimore District) to rebuild a protective promontory and restore some of the eroded areas of Dyke Marsh. A FODM volunteer will conduct training on using the iNaturalist app to enhance, record, and share their students' explorations.

Event 2: Learning about Compliance in a Wildlife Refuge

National Park Service field archaeologists, Cultural Resource Specialists and Friends of Dyke Marsh volunteers will hold a half-day session to teach approximately 40 high school students from T.C. Williams High School (Alexandria) and H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program (Arlington) about the Federal Compliance process as it relates to the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) in a National Park. Topics to be covered will include: why compliance is legally required for projects on Federal land; why it is important as part of the planning for resource management; and how compliance is conducted. Students will participate in compliance-related activities, including identification of artifacts and determination of historically significant findings, as well as an archaeology scavenger hunt (i.e., trash vs. treasure, natural vs. culturally significant artifacts). Embedded in the activities will be lessons about the long and rich human history of Dyke Marsh.

Event 3: Planting Native Trees and Shrubs to Help Restore a Wildlife Preserve

Under the guidance and supervision of National Park Service Rangers and Friends of Dyke Marsh volunteers, 40 students from T.C. Williams High School and H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program will engage in an end-of-year service program by spending a half-day in Dyke Marsh and participating in native tree and shrub planting. The event will take place in an area of the marsh that NPS staff will have cleared of invasive plants and where diseased and endangered trees were removed in 2016-2017, leaving bare soil that will be the target of new invasive species if not replanted. The new plantings will also help provide more habitat for native bird, insect, and other species whose numbers have been decreasing in recent years.

9. Friends of Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Los Fresnos, TX **Public Land Site: Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge**

Event 1: Bike the Bahia Grande Open House

During this event, members of the public will be given access to the Bahia Grande Unit of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge to ride bicycles on a 5-mile stretch of gravel road. Bikers will be able to view scenic saltwater bays, prairie and wildlife, and learn about the area at interpretive stops. Grant funding will be used to install improved signage (since the location is hard to find) and better advertising for the event via an ad in the Brownsville Herald.

Event 2: Family Fishing Camp I

Friends of Laguna Atascosa NWR's Family Fishing Camp will partner with Fishing's Future, a local non-profit dedicated to reconnecting youth to nature through recreational angling. The organization teaches participants about how fishing can be a way to reconnect families and strengthen familial bonds. At the Family Fishing Camp, participants will go through several learning stations about fishing including bait and tackle, rods and reels, casting, fishing regulations and fish habitat. Participants will practice the fishing techniques they learn while guided by experienced anglers and then conduct an environmental stewardship project.

Event 3: Family Fishing Camp II

A second session of the Family Fishing Camp will occur with the help of Fishing's Future about two weeks after the first event.

10. Friends of Letchworth State Park, Castile, NY **Public Land Site: Letchworth State Park**

Event 1: Native American Heritage and Pioneer Day

Native American Heritage and Pioneer Day is a longstanding event at Letchworth State Park. The event features Native American dancers and storytelling, pioneer living exhibits, craft demonstrations and a variety of vendors. Friends of Letchworth State Park (FLSP) will augment this event for the fall of 2017 by beginning the day's festivities with an hour-long presentation on the history of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois).

Although the event will be open to the public, it will specifically target educators, museum staffers and other professionals who may be able to receive professional development credit for attendance. Since Native American history is part of the 4th grade curriculum in New York State (NYS), programming will support the NYS Every-Kid-in-a Park 4th Grade Free Entry Program.

Event 2: Volunteer Stewards of Letchworth Day

This event is designed to recruit and retain volunteer stewards through informational presentations on topics relating to stewardship tasks like invasive species control and the importance of trail maintenance. This training will provide volunteers with a greater understanding of the value of their efforts while simultaneously increasing their effectiveness.

Event 3: Fourth Annual Teddy Bear Picnic

The Teddy Bear Picnic is the only event at the park designed to appeal to young visitors and their families. In the past, this event has included games, crafts, artistic performances, storytelling, face painting, and a popular storybook-themed hike. For 2018, FLSP proposes to add a wildlife education and appreciation component using raptors exhibited by Wild Wings, Inc., a local non-profit organization. In addition to rehabilitating and housing injured birds, they provide educational programs for children,

Grant funds will be used to bring Wild Wings' two-hour long Meet and Greet program to the Teddy Bear Picnic. This will allow the children and their families to see the birds up close and ask questions of the birds' handlers in an informal setting. The birds to be shown include many that fill the skies above Letchworth State Park.

11. Friends of Organ Mountains Desert Peaks, Las Cruces, NM **Public Land Site: Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks National Monument**

Event 1: Night Sky Program

In partnership with local universities, participants in the Night Sky Program will be given the opportunity to visit Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks National Monument to appreciate the night sky via presentations on astronomy, cultural history, as well as an interactive telescope viewing of celestial objects. Participants will gain greater appreciation of dark sky protection and the importance of cycles of dark and light for animals and humans alike.

Event 2: Junior Ranger Day

On Junior Ranger Day, children will participate in a variety of hands-on activities, games, and projects to learn more about Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks’ rich environment and cultural history. Geared toward kids of all ages, participants will pick up an activity card and rotate through stations. New Junior Rangers can return to the starting station to take the Junior Ranger Oath and receive their official Junior Ranger Badge. Families will also receive information on future programs, outings, and hikes available in the Monument in order to build connections and inspire future visits.

Children will participate in a field-ready lesson that teaches them how to identify what to carry when hiking in the desert, as well as stations focused on different topics like fire safety, archeology, paleo, and pelts and skulls.

Event 3: Community Bio Blitz

The Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks BioBlitz will be a 12-hour event in which teams of volunteer scientists, families, students, teachers, and other community members will work together to find and identify as many species of plants and animals as possible in the Dripping Springs Natural Area. Visitors of all ages will work alongside local scientists, experts and volunteers to conduct surveys of birds, small mammals, arthropods (insects and arachnids), plants and wildflowers, geology and rocks, herptiles (snakes and lizards), and bats. A BioBlitz is a form of citizen science and is an opportunity for scientists and naturalists to involve the public in their hands-on fieldwork and approach to experiencing, observing, and understanding the natural world.

12. Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River, Yankton, SD

Public Land Site: Missouri National Recreational River

Event 1: Get Wild on the Missouri River

On Day 1 of the Roscoe Junior Ranger Club, new members will explore the river wildlife on a guided tour led by a National Park Service ranger. This event is the first in a series of six that will introduce participants to the natural and cultural story of the Missouri National Recreational River. Participants will record findings in nature journals and learn to identify trees and birds by sight and sound. The target audience is local young people ages 10-15.

Event 2: Wildlife Is EVERYWHERE!

Day 2 of Junior Ranger Club members will allow participants to hike, explore, play, and learn about the wildlife found within the forest and river-edge habitats. Day campers will participate in activities focused on the mammal and bird species native to the region while they acquire a Birding Wildlife Badge. They will continue to add entries into a nature journal and to reflect on their experiences and observations. Visits to schools in the spring will also include an invitation for students to register for the Roscoe Junior Ranger Club. This grant will enable the organization to expand their roster for the summer 2018 day camp program. Funds will also be used to purchase additional binoculars, bird books, badges, other supplies for outdoor activities.

Event 3: River Rendezvous

On Day 3, participants will set a course to Green Island from the boat ramp for a day on the Missouri River. Jr. Rangers will paddle their kayaks using skills learned during the previous programming. The paddle trip offers participants an on-the-water experience which they may not otherwise have had the opportunity to enjoy. Funds will be used to purchase more paddling supplies, whistles, life jackets, rescue ropes, and other supplies to provide more participants the opportunity to learn about the recreational value of having a national park in their region.

13. Friends of Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, Prairie City, IA

Public Land Site: Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge

Event 1: National Wildlife Refuge Week: Seed Collection Day

During this field event, which will take place during National Wildlife Refuge Week, volunteers will walk through the prairie collecting specific seed types. After the seed collection, volunteers will discuss their findings during a luncheon. The event is important as seed collection activities on the Refuge have saved over \$55,000 in seed purchase costs in 2016 alone. Friends of Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge (NSNWR) hopes to increase participation by offering "Prairie Schooner" narrated vehicle tours through the Refuge as part of the event. Target audiences are current members of the organization as well as the members of the surrounding community, especially those who have never been to the Refuge.

Event 2: Earth Day on the Prairie

At the NSNWR, Earth Day is traditionally celebrated by holding a volunteer workday during which volunteers complete Oak Savannah restoration work and the Friends host a luncheon. This year’s event will be expanded to include narrated tours of the Refuge by Prairie Schooner vehicle for new volunteers and first-time visitors. Grant funds will be spent on the rental of the Prairie Schooner for the day, any sound broadcasting needs, and materials needed for the Friends-sponsored luncheon. The event will help connect the efforts already underway at the Refuge with residents of the greater metro area and nearby communities of Prairie City, Monroe, Runnells, Altoona, Mitchellville, Colfax, Pella and Knoxville. The additional volunteers and contacts gained from the event will enable the refuge and Friends Group staff to expand volunteer efforts to include greenhouse maintenance and invasive plant monitoring and marking throughout the prairie.

Event 3: Bison Day

Bison Day has become the Friends' most popular event. For the past three years, approximately 500 to 700 participants have attended the event to enjoy activities like hands-on flint napping, rope weaving, pottery making, a buffalo chip toss and archery. All activities are followed by a thematic luncheon. For Bison Day 2018, the Friends will expand the narrated tours to a full day, with 4 tours, 2 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon, ultimately serving as many as 200 people. The target audience for these tours are senior visitors who cannot easily negotiate the trails at the Refuge.

14. Friends of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Springville, TN

Public Land Site: Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge

Event 1: Milkweed and Monarchs

Friends of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge (TNWR) will present an exclusive and detailed program which will offer meaningful opportunities for people of all ages to contribute to conservation efforts of the Monarch butterfly. The program will educate and empower participants by providing hands-on activities including: milkweed seedling plantings, monarch tagging demonstrations, and an overview of seed collecting. The program will take place on a single day for 4-6 hours and will also provide opportunities for children and teens to rotate through stations where they will plant and label seedlings according to a planting diagram.

Event 2: Removing Ramp Refuse

There are 14 public boat launching ramps on TNWR lands that are scattered across several Tennessee counties. These launch areas experience high usage during the spring season. Friends of TNWR will organize a half-day cleanup of these areas. Lead volunteers will be assigned a crew to supervise at each launch area. Participants will be supplied with gloves, safety vests, trash grabbers, trash bags, and specific instructions for that area. They will retrieve and dispose of or recycle trash; install or repair fishing line collection containers; and apply labels detailing the importance of these collection containers.

Event 3: Back to the Old 23rd

Tennessee's 23rd District community was displaced by the federal government in 1944. The governmental occupancy of these lands has engendered resentment among the displaced families. A small cemetery and historical church continues to exist on the public lands and is maintained by the families of the deceased along with Friend's volunteers and TNWR staff. The Friends of TNWR has held a gathering three times in the last eight years as a goodwill gesture to the families that once lived on this peninsula which has included a potluck meal, speakers, and wagon tours of the area. This year's gathering will once again offer these festivities as a way to acknowledge the history of the old 23rd District. In addition, the Friends will produce a motor tour brochure which will illustrate the homes and history of the families that once occupied the twelve homestead sites.

15. Friends of the Ravines, Columbus, OH

Public Land Site: Glen Echo Park

Event 1: Winter Ravine Stewardship

The Winter Stewardship event will take place in Glen Echo Park in honor of the Martin Luther King Day of Service. The event will be open to the public and Friends of the Ravines (FOR) will solicit The Ohio State University "Pay-It-Forward" volunteer program and Environmental Engineering students for volunteer recruitment. Workday tasks will include: removal of invasive plants from the parkland, harvesting of willow from existing streamside plantings for use in new erosion-control projects, and other tasks that are best completed during winter dormancy. This stewardship project will be approved by the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, as required by an existing Memo of Agreement between FOR and the agency.

The goal of the event is to prune one section of willow to renew environmental function of the area as well as to remove invasive Winter Creeper from a designated ravine slope.

Event 2: Spring Plant Walk

Friends of the Ravines has held an annual Spring Plant Walk at various public-land ravines in central Ohio for the past 16 years. These walks encourage participants to get outside to exercise and explore while appreciating the spring flowers in bloom at Glen Echo Park. Guided by a local naturalist, the 2018 Spring Plant Walk will highlight the successes of the recent bridge rehabilitation as well as other recent environmental restoration efforts. The tour will emphasize the historical connection between the ravine and the Underground Railroad as well as the native plants found along the way.

Event 3: Water Sentinel Training for Ravine Rovers

Participants will be trained to measure basic water-quality parameters in streams using hand-held meters and will report quarterly measurements for their monitoring locations according to the existing Sierra Club Water Sentinels program. Participants will also learn to install and monitor a trail camera in order to remotely observe wildlife in area ravines. The event is open to the public, but will target ravine homeowners and university students. The training class can accommodate 12-15 participants.

Grant funds will be used to purchase water-quality meters and calibration supplies. Friends of the Ravines will also purchase a trail camera to be used to monitor the recently established vernal pool in Glen Echo ravine, and then the camera will be made available to interested persons to monitor wildlife in ravines close to where they live.

16. Lincoln Park Conservancy, Chicago, IL
Public Land Site: Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool, North Pond Nature Sanctuary

Event 1: Native Habitat Planting at Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool

During a volunteer workday at Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool, 30 local volunteers will help to plant, mulch, and water native Midwestern trees, shrubs, and wildflowers that will replace trees that were lost due to Emerald Ash Borer or that have been overcome by invasive species. Event volunteers will also cut and pull invasive species to reduce competition for rainwater and soil nutrients. Grant funds will be used to purchase native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers specific to the original 1936 Caldwell planting plan.

Event 2: 18th Annual Earth Day at North Pond Nature Sanctuary

Lincoln Park Conservancy's Annual Earth Day at North Pond Nature Sanctuary will invite approximately 200 volunteers to participate in the following activities:

- plant native trees, grasses and flowers;
- collect litter;
- clear winter weeds from native prairies;
- mulch park trees and nature trails;
- paint park fences and benches;
- And remove early-season invasive species.

Grant funding will enable the Conservancy to expand outreach for the event in an effort to attract a more diverse group of volunteers from the surrounding area.

Event 3: Restoration Workday at Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool

The third volunteer workday is designed to enable up to 50 volunteers to help install native Midwestern plants and grasses in a large, weedy area along the east fence-line of the Lily Pool, a National Historic Landmark.

The Chicago Park District will prep the area by removing invasive species. Volunteers will then plant native grasses, flowers and shrubs, and add a thick layer of mulch around the new plants. The result will be a healthy, native area that will be inviting to visitors.

17. Our City Forest, San Jose, CA
Public Land Site: Martial Cottle Park

Event 1: Arboretum Tour and Volunteer Workday

A certified arborist will lead a tour of the young arboretum and share their expertise about the challenges urban trees face and the city's policies to address them. Attendees will participate in hands-on activities while on a guided walk to learn about urban forestry and native tree identification. The group will also get an overview of common native plants and tour some of the established shrubs growing on the property. Afterward, the staff will lead the group in a volunteer workday which will include prepping the area for a native plant garden.

Event 2: Native Plant Workshop Part I: Edible Landscapes

Martial Cottle Park will host the first of two native plant workshops on edible landscapes and local urban ecosystems. Our City Forest's focus is to preserve the heritage of agriculture in Santa Clara County. To this end, the workshop will focus on native edible plants and will educate residents about how native people used to live off the land. It will include a 30-45 minute talk by a native plant specialist which will illuminate the benefits of planting a variety of native species. During the 2-hour workshop, staff will work alongside the participants, educating them on best planting practices and providing technical advice that will ultimately help them to plant their own edible gardens.

Event 3: Native Plant Workshop Part II: Create your own native plant garden

To facilitate the second workshop, grant funds will be used to purchase materials needed to complete an interpretive and educational native plant garden. The garden will be designed according to the water needs of different zones within the space as well as the needs of the plant varieties. Our City Forest's native plant specialist will teach attendees about multiple species that grow in California, including trees, shrubs, and grasses. Additionally, the 30-minute walk-and-talk will include a recap of the edible section, which was planted in the previous workshop. Attendees will then help to complete the installation of a variety of edible species within the 3000 sq. ft. garden on-site.

18. Partners in Conservation, Moapa, NV
Public Land Site: Logandale Trails

Event 1: Cleanup & Native Plant Landscaping, Post Installation of 2 New Restrooms at 2 Trailheads

Earlier this year, Partners in Conservation received grant funding to replace both of the 25-year-old restrooms at Logandale Trails. This volunteer workday will accomplish a clean-up of the two locations where the restrooms will be installed, as well as their trailheads. Volunteers will also help with the clean-up of two additional construction sites, which will involve the removal of construction debris, raking, touch-up painting, and planting of native plants. Volunteers will also assist with the removal of safety fencing and rehabilitation of parking areas to pre-construction condition.

These activities will adequately prepare the areas for the installation of the restrooms in September and October 2017.

Event 2: Jr. Ranger Kick-Off Day

During the Jr. Ranger Kick-Off Day, parents and youth will have the opportunity to learn about and sign up for the Jr. Ranger Program. The all-day event will include educational booths (such as Nevada's OHV Registration Program and Tread Lightly) and workshops to help youth complete the Jr. Ranger requirements and earn their certificates. There will also be an educational hike and volunteer clean-up event as both are required activities to qualify as a Jr. Ranger. For those that complete all Jr. Ranger requirements during the event, there will be an official 'swearing in ceremony' where the new Jr. Rangers will be presented with their certificates and other prizes. Grant funding will be used to purchase supplies for activities and workshops, volunteer and safety supplies, and recognition items.

Event 3: Campsite Clean Up

This year's event will be a continuation of last year's campsite clean-up and will involve more volunteers and vehicles that can transport participants to additional campsites (there are 75 total) in the Logandale Trails area. There will be maps with the campsites numbered and 5-10 volunteers will be assigned to each campsite to clean out fire rings, pick up trash, rake areas, pull invasive or noxious weeds, trim vegetation, mark edges of campsites with rocks, and more. As groups finish a campsite and deposit trash in the dumpster, they can 'leapfrog' to another campsite. Budget items include dumpster rental, trash bags, gloves, safety equipment, hand tools, water, nourishment, and Facebook advertising.

19. RiverLink, Asheville, TX

Public Land Site: Penland Creek, Craven St. Green infrastructure, & French Broad River Greenway

Event 1: New Belgium Sustainability Tour

Environmental professionals from RiverLink, the City of Asheville, and Equinox Environmental will lead a sustainability tour of the stormwater management infrastructure around the New Belgium campus. Tour highlights will include: a large scale creek restoration, a stormwater wetland, green infrastructure for parking lots and roadsides, and a riverside greenway. Attendants will learn important information about maintaining waterway buffers and minimizing the impact of development on stormwater and the watershed as a whole.

The target audience for this event will be city planners, contractors, developers and other professionals with significant impact on the evolution of public lands. RiverLink aims to showcase the methods used on this property as a model to be replicated throughout the French Broad River watershed and beyond. Money from this grant will enable the organization to increase marketing efforts for the event to draw in more influential professionals. This event can accommodate about 40 people per tour and will optimally host multiple tours in a single day.

Event 2: French Broad River Greenway Preservation

This workday will involve removal of invasive plant species from the river and creek banks of a one-mile stretch of the greenway. Volunteers will work to remove invasive plant species like English Ivy, Japanese Knotweed, Garlic Mustard, Johnson grass, and more from the river and creek banks. These species include English Ivy, Japanese Knotweed, Garlic Mustard, Johnson grass and more. This event will continue those efforts and work to replace certain banks with native wildflowers to stabilize the soil and attract more pollinators. Some areas from past service days will be revisited for maintenance while other new sections of invasive plants will be addressed for the first time.

Event 3: French Broad River Clean Up

The last step of maintaining this greenway and riverbank is to remove any trash that has floated downstream. The third event will be a river clean-up in collaboration with two other river stewardship groups in Asheville: Mountain True and Asheville GreenWorks. Approximately 60 people will travel down the river in canoes and kayaks while removing trash, tires, and other waste out of the water as they go. Past events of this nature have removed up to 1,700 lb. of trash from the river.

Between the three river stewardship groups' networks, as well as the City of Asheville, RiverLink will be able to fill every spot of this clean-up with community members that wish to gain a deeper connection to their river.

20. Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers, Basalt, CO

Public Land Site: White River National Forest, Hanging Lake, & Spouting Rock Trail

Event 1: Hanging Lake / Spouting Rock Trail Project

Volunteers will remove graffiti from rocks, benches and bridges found along the stream. They will also install stone steps to provide better footing and to encourage visitors to stay on the trail. Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers (RFOV) anticipates an increase in volunteer numbers in response to the increased amount of graffiti and vandalism found along the trail this past spring as reported by local news outlets.

Event 2: Lower Plunge Trail Evening Project

This series of evening projects is RFOV's fourth public project on this popular trail located in the beautiful Hunter Creek Valley. Over the course of four evening projects, volunteers will move two of Lower Plunge Trails' forks out of a wet meadow. The trail along the meadow could not be properly drained or maintained and there is resource damage due trail braiding. Volunteers will reroute the trail onto dry terrain and close and restore the former sections of trail. This trail is very popular and well-loved, and RFOV anticipates a strong volunteer turn-out. Evening projects give people a unique opportunity to volunteer after work or play during the weekday.

Event 3: Crooked Creek Wetlands Restoration Project

This is the third and final phase of the Crooked Creek Wetlands Restoration at the head waters of the Frying Pan River. This project's purpose is to restore a wetland area degraded by human intervention. Volunteers will plant native vegetation including trees and shrubs along a restored and re-graded wetland. Volunteers of all ages will participate in the family-friendly 2-day project. The new wetland provides a much improved wildlife habitat and water quality. During periods of drought, the wetlands will sustain native fish, birds and mammals.

21. South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA **Public Land Site: South Coast Botanic Garden**

Event 1: Earth Day Obstacle Course

The Earth Day Obstacle Course is an innovative Earth Day program, featuring upbeat activities that will inspire guests to care for the Earth through a series of fun and engaging physical challenges and intellectual games of skill.

The obstacle course will take the form of a non-competitive foot-race in the style of the 1980's Nickelodeon TV Show "Double Dare," where multi-generational guests will work together as families to help save the planet. Visitors will run through a recyclables sorting course, conserve "water" by keeping ping pong balls in the "watershed," welcome wildlife into urban habitats by rehabilitating a simulated wilderness area, build a costume from a cardboard recycled area, and even simulate LA's famous Griffith Park Mountain Lion's journey across the freeways in a "ghost cat obstacle."

Event 2: Sounds of the Garden Kids Club

At the Sounds of the Garden event, guests will hike into the innermost trails of the South Coast Botanic Garden and close their eyes to listen to nature and draw a picture of what they hear. They will identify birds by their calls, and craft wind chimes from materials found on a nature walk. Activities are designed to be tactile and engaging, offering open-ended creativity and discovery. The day will conclude with a performance of the Flutesonic orchestra, comprised of members of the esteemed LA Chamber Orchestra.

Event 3: Silent Night – Silent Disco

There will be a silent disco in the heart of the new Rose Garden, where a DJ will spin four different sets that participants can control on their own, giving them the opportunity to dance to the beat of their own drum or to synchronize with fellow revelers by aligning their lighted headphones to the color of the corresponding DJ set.

Flashlight hikes will encourage guests to explore the trails under the cloak of darkness and to listen to the natural sounds of nighttime in the garden. Telescopes will be positioned for a guided tour of the night sky. Festive libations and food trucks will be available for all.

22. Southern California Mountains Foundation, San Bernardino, CA **Public Land Site: San Bernardino National Forest**

Event 1: Cesar Chavez Day on the Mountaintop

The United States observes César Chávez Day each year on March 31st. The day celebrates the birthday of César Estrada Chávez and serves as a tribute to his commitment to social justice. Southern California Mountains Foundation will hold a day of service in tribute to Cesar Chavez during which volunteers will assist the organization, as well as the US Forest Service, in opening up the Big Bear Ranger Station's native plant nursery for the season. Volunteers will have the opportunity to tour the native plant nursery and have a hands-on experience planting and transplanting native seedlings in the greenhouse facility. Participants will be educated on the Tread Lightly curriculum, greenhouse practices, and how to germinate native seedlings.

Event 2: Earth Day Lakeshore Clean Up

For the past 3 years, the Southern California Mountains Foundation has hosted a spring season cleanup of Big Bear Lakeshore's most popular trail, the Alpine Pedal Path. This workday follows the winter season during which large amounts of trash are left behind. The Alpine Petal Path stretches 3 miles along the South Shore of Big Bear Lake and is open to all modes of recreation depending on weather; snow shoe, bikes, walking, hiking, running, and roller blading. This area is also extremely popular with anglers and has two camping areas adjacent to it. The event will also include educational components like the Tread Lightly and Leave No Trace curricula.

Event 3: National Trails Day on the Mountaintop

The Southern California Mountains Foundation will celebrate National Trails Day by hosting a volunteer workday on the second busiest trail system in the United States. The workday's activities will help to accomplish the following:

- bring the trails up to standard before the busy summer season;
- teach visitors trail etiquette and maintenance techniques;
- help to prevent excessive erosion into the Big Bear Lake watershed.

Volunteers will gain valuable knowledge about local ecology, trail work, and sustainable recreation while building, restoring, and maintaining trails. A recreational component - a hike or mountain bike - will be added to the event immediately following trail work and lunch.

23. Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, *Duncans Mills, CA*

Public Land Site: Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve, Sonoma Coast State Park, Willow Creek Watershed

Event 1: Forest to the Sea Summer Day Camp

Forest to the Sea Summer camp is a week-long camp led by trained naturalists. The program invites Sonoma County youth, ages 11-14, to a different state park each day to learn and play in the outdoors. Participants will visit Armstrong Redwoods, Sonoma Coast, Willow Creek and Austin Creek, capped with a night of tent-camping. Activities include forest exploration, investigating tide pools and sand dunes, a beach cleanup, a watershed hike, campfire building, Jr Ranger activities and a talent show. Grant funding will help Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods to expand and improve the camp by covering the cost of additional naturalists and offering fee waivers to low-income youth.

Event 2: Youth Environmental Artist Summit (Y.E.A.S.)

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods will partner with Raizes Collective to host the third annual 4-day, 3-night camping summit for Sonoma County high schoolers. The trip will be focused on promoting civic engagement, community building, environmental literacy, healthy lifestyles, cultural diversity, social justice, and the arts. Each year Y.E.A.S. includes an inspiring keynote address and action-oriented workshops that focuses on major contemporary political, social, and environmental issues. Participants also engage in a stewardship project and create a collective artwork which in the past have included a bridge mural of the lifecycle of salmon and a mandala sculpture built of recycled materials.

Event 3: Dia de los familias en su parque/ Family Day in Your State Park

This annual bilingual event, targeted to multicultural families in Sonoma County, involves a day of hands-on activities, entertainment and food in the park. There will be presentations about reptile rescues, bird rescues, counting tree rings, making tree cookies, and animal tracks, as well as a guided naturalist hike through Armstrong Redwoods. Horse and carriage rides through the park will also be offered to participants.

24. Ventana Wilderness Alliance, *Santa Cruz, CA*

Public Land Site: Ventana Wilderness

Event 1: Ventana Wilderness Alliance Fall 2017 BioBlitz

This event will celebrate the biodiversity of the amazing public lands of the Big Sur Coast. Members of the public will act as citizen scientists while cataloging species within the Ventana Wilderness. Participants will explore in small groups guided by VWA naturalists and volunteers, who will help them identify species and document their observations in iNaturalist, a publicly accessible database where each observation is peer-reviewed for accuracy. These observations provide a valuable snapshot of biodiversity in the area, including information on the spread of invasive plants and locations of species of conservation concern. The BioBlitz will make science come to life in a fun and interesting way for participants. The data collected will be used by the VWA and US Forest Service to guide management decisions in the wilderness. Participants will look for fall specialties such as migrating whales, marine invertebrates, amphibians and mushrooms.

Event 2: Teaching Visitors to Tread Lightly

The number of visitors to Pine Ridge Trail far exceeds its carrying capacity. Thus, there is a need to educate visitors to "tread lightly on the land." Three USFS-trained Volunteer Wilderness Rangers and a VWA staff member will set up a tabling display at the trailhead of Big Sur Station for a day. Rangers will encourage visitors to become wilderness stewards. They will also impart fire safety and Leave No Trace information, issue campfire and stove permits, and educate visitors about the human impacts on the backcountry. Saturday, March 31 will be the first big Spring Break weekend for many high school and university students in California. Traditionally, hundreds of students on break head to Big Sur to backpack to camps along the Pine Ridge Trail. For many visitors, this is their first wilderness experience. The rangers will greet these visitors at the display to start conversations about responsible use of public lands and engage them with a demonstration of the techniques used to maintain trails in wilderness with traditional hand tools.

Event 3: Ventana Wilderness Alliance Spring 2018 BioBlitz

A second BioBlitz will be held within the 2016 Soberanes Fire burn area, during which participants will learn about fire ecology and document species living in the post-fire environment. Participants will catalog species within the Ventana Wilderness and explore in small groups guided by VWA naturalists. Participants will look for migrating songbirds, wildflowers and reptiles.

25. Yellowstone to Uintas Connection, *Mendon, UT*

Public Land Site: Limber Pine Nature Trail - Logan Ranger District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

Event 1: All-inclusive Scout Troop - Trail Maintenance and Outdoor Education Day

A scout troop will receive a lesson on wildlife connectivity and public land use. They will receive a trail map and descriptions of local flora and fauna before helping with weed control and sign damage along a 1.4 mile trail. Throughout the hike, Yellowstone to Uintas Connection staff and Forest Service partner Lisa Thompson will talk about the placement and educational components of the trail's signage. At the end of the loop, Jeff Bruggink, a Watershed Improvement Program Leader with the Forest Service, will have his interactive 'Water Trailer' to teach scouts about watersheds.

Event 2: Rich High School and Bear Lake High School - Outdoor Education Day

This event will be for students in science classes at Bear Lake and Rich High Schools. Students will arrive at Limber Pine Nature Trail at 9 am and will receive a field guide including maps of the Yellowstone to Uintas Connection (Y2U) wildlife corridor, local public lands, trails and descriptions and pictures of local flora and fauna. The event kicks off with a wildlife connectivity and public land use lesson at the trailhead. Students will then hike the 1.4 mile loop stopping at each of the 11 points of interpretation. Y2U staff and Forest Service partner Lisa Thompson will talk about the content of the signs and reasons for their locations along the trail.

At the end of the hike, The Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art (NEHMA) 'Mobile Art Truck', a box truck with solar panels on the roof that power educational displays, will be featuring interactive public land and wildlife corridor maps on it's solar-powered TV screen. Y2U and NEHMA will give a geography lesson that combines art with wildlife connectivity and public lands. Printed maps will also be on display both inside and outside of the truck.

Event 3: Gear Up, Innovations and Stokes Nature Center Summer Camps - Outdoor Education Day

This event is for students in the Gear Up and Innovations summer programs with Logan High School, as well as summer camps held through the Stokes Nature Center. Y2U staff and Lisa Thompson will lead separate educational tours for each group around the 1.4 mile trail loop with extra staff support provided by the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art. Both Jeff Bruggink's 'Water Trailer' and the NEHMA 'Mobile Art Truck' will be on display at the trailhead following the hike. Students will rotate between these two stations to learn about geography and watershed science.