

## FY25 Grant Application Summaries

**Applicant:** Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet

**Project Name:** Acterra Water Education Program

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$150,000.00

**Project Summary:** Through Acterra's Youth Education Program, "You(th) Be the Change" (YBtC), we will create a robust water curriculum focused on water sustainability, conservation, and ecosystems, which will be integrated into our existing climate change curriculum. Providing middle and high school students in Santa Clara County with a comprehensive understanding of how climate change and water sustainability are interconnected. The program also includes classroom lessons, and a field trip to a water facility, where students will observe sustainable practices in action. We will engage schools in the county, from communities experiencing barriers to this kind of program, to empower students to actively participate in local water conservation efforts.

**Applicant:** Canopy

**Project Name:** From Canopy to Creek

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$149,994.67

**Project Summary:** From Canopy to Creek: Exploring Tree and Water Connections with K-12 Students, provides diverse SCC students K-12 from 3 school districts with hands-on classroom lessons and education exploring the connections between trees, water, environmental stewardship, and community health—right from their classrooms and school campuses. The curriculum integrates principles of water quality and conservation, flood protection, urban watershed forestry, and environmental stewardship into 6 new lessons and post-lesson activities. Bilingual lessons will be tailored to the K-4 grade levels and high schoolers and made available for up to 2,000 students over the grant term—augmenting Canopy's current menu of 11 standards-aligned environmental science lessons.

**Applicant:** Community Agency for Resources Advocacy & Services

**Project Name:** Water Wise Community Engagement and Education

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$150,000.00

**Project Summary:** The "Water Wise: Community Engagement and Education" project aims to enhance public awareness and involvement in sustainable water management practices across Santa Clara County. The initiative features a series of 12 interactive workshops and one community project event focused on safe, clean drinking water, flood protection, and environmental stewardship. Participants will engage in presentations, curriculum development, and educational videos designed to empower them with knowledge about local water resources. Pre- and post-surveys will measure knowledge gained, fostering a culture of environmental stewardship. This project specifically targets disadvantaged youth to ensure equitable access and engagement in water sustainability efforts.

**Applicant:** Envision Your Pathway Inc

**Project Name:** EYPEA Envision Your Pathway to Environmental Action

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$100,000.00

**Project Summary:** Our project will empower youth in Santa Clara County to become environmental stewards through education, partnerships, and hands-on civic engagement. We will collaborate with local CBOs and nonprofits focused on environmental justice (Our City Forest, Veggielution, Conservation Corps) to deliver educational webinars and guest speaker sessions to bridge the information gap and practice advocacy as it relates to environmental stewardship, equitable access to water, conservation, and flood preparedness. XX youth participants will co-design and implement stewardship projects, such as park beautification and waterway cleanup. The project will foster community ownership and environmental awareness while building youth leadership skills.

**Applicant:** Escuela Xochitl Tonatiuh Inc

**Project Name:** Sunrise Middle School Water Conservation and Pollution Remediation Project

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$150,000.00

**Project Summary:** This three-year program educates sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students in methods for measuring water pollution, monitoring water-quality over time, testing interventions to improve water quality, interacting with local officials to present and discuss approaches to improving water quality, and for engaging members of the public in water-quality improvement. Coyote Creek and its Arroyo and Miguelita Creek tributaries, are focal points for research, learning, and testing of methods to improve water quality. Teachers will produce a curriculum and make it available to teachers in area schools. Students will gain practical knowledge about pollution remediation and raise public understanding through personal and media presentations.

**Applicant:** Grassroots Ecology

**Project Name:** Native Plant Community Education Project

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$79,821.00

**Project Summary:** The project will educate the community about the importance of native plants through public presentations, hands-on workshops, classroom activities, and nursery education—for a total of 36 events offered at indoor and outdoor locations across Santa Clara County. Reaching an estimated 400 individuals, the project will lead to increased awareness of the benefits of native plants, including pollinator and wildlife habitat, drought and fire resiliency, erosion control, and climate adaptation. As a result, local students and community members will be inspired and empowered to use native plants in their own lawns and gardens, share what they learn with their networks, and volunteer to increase native biodiversity at local parks and preserves.

**Applicant:** Guadalupe River Park Conservancy

**Project Name:** Empowering Community Ownership Through Nature Awareness and Creativity

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$140,000.00

**Project Summary:** Guadalupe River Park Conservancy (GRPC) is the City of San Jose's nonprofit partner for the development and activation of the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens (GRPG). We seek two years' funding to implement public environmental education and awareness programs to engage the community with the park's natural resources consisting of: 4 River Park Tours, 6 animal and nature encounters, and 4 workshop and learning sessions to deepen environmental understanding. GRPC will train and support Community Activators, empowering local leaders to host 16 community-led programs. This Project will foster ecological awareness and community connection, leading to knowledge of and passion for improving water quality and environmental stewardship.

**Applicant:** Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful

**Project Name:** Coyote Creek Watershed Wonders Program

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$150,000.00

**Project Summary:** We will develop and deliver two watershed-specific projects that engage children in grades K-5 that connect them to nature, thereby safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment. Creek Quest is for after-school programs to take students on exploratory walks to nearby parks with creeks, providing a unique opportunity to observe nature, and learn about local watersheds. Scout's Adventure to Coyote Creek is a multi-sensory, interactive and dynamic experience that fosters discussion, exploration, curiosity and discovery. These dynamic learning activities will align with California NGSS educational standards.

**Applicant:** Latinos United for a New America

**Project Name:** Watering Our Roots

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$139,576.62

**Project Summary:** Latinos United for a New America (LUNA) proposes Watering Our Roots, an education-focused initiative that aligns with Valley Water's mission and the Safe, Clean Water Program priorities by empowering local residents with knowledge and resources related to water conservation, and environmental stewardship. Through the development of culturally relevant educational materials, hands-on workshops, public awareness campaigns, and leadership training, the project will equip monolingual Spanish-speaking residents with practical solutions to improve water management, vegetation cover and environmental resilience in their neighborhoods.

**Applicant:** Marine Science Institute

**Project Name:** Discover Our Bay

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$150,000.00

**Project Summary:** Marine Science Institute inspires environmental stewardship through hands-on learning and exploration of San Francisco Bay ecosystem. MSI's primary activity is our in-school education program, Discover Our Bay, which serves an average of 56,000 Northern California pre-K through college level students each year. The Discovery Voyage is a 4-hour exploration of the San Francisco Bay aboard our 90' research vessel Robert G. Brownlee. Students participate in 4 learning stations where they work in a cooperative setting using industry-standard science equipment. Students are placed in direct contact with the natural environment and engage in problem solving and gain confidence with positive role models.

**Applicant:** Marshmallow Minds

**Project Name:** Flight-Flow-Future

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$69,114.00

**Project Summary:** In the past 5 years, with Valley Water grant support, we have brought our water-related environmental STEAM education lessons on migratory birds and salmon to more than 1600 students in the Franklin McKinley School District (FMSD). Our new initiative, Flight, Flow, and Future: Teacher Training for Migratory Conservation and Clean Water Solutions, focuses on sustainability and expanding access. Through this project, we provide professional development for 7th and 8th-grade teachers in FMSD, equipping them to directly deliver our highly-rated, standards-aligned environmental STEAM and Design Thinking lessons. This approach ensures district-wide access to hands-on, engaging education that supports conservation and clean water awareness.

**Applicant:** Our City Inc

**Project Name:** Community Eco Adventure Day

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$150,000.00

**Project Summary:** We will host 15 free community events to connect East San Jose residents to local waterways during the summer months in the next three years to highlight the benefits of clean and safe water in our environment. Each event will include a BioBlitz walk to see native plants/animals, hands-on activities such as fishing lessons, and a water filtration activity. Free transportation and/or parking passes will be provided to remove financial and access barriers for low-income and minority families. The event will conclude with supportive resources for families and signing a pledge to conserve water. These events aim to foster a connection to nature and inspire conservation efforts in their homes and neighborhoods, serving at least 525 residents.

**Applicant:** RAFT - Resource Area For Teaching

**Project Name:** Making Good Stewards with the RAFT Maker Mobile

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$150,000.00

**Project Summary:** Through the proposed project, RAFT's education team will develop environmental literacy-based, hands-on STEAM educational activities with a focus on water, leveraging creative reuse materials that engage students in environmental science and engineering concepts relevant to their communities. This will be achieved by designing pre-visit activities, hands-on experiments, and post-visit classroom lesson plans and at-home activities. Created for implementation in Title 1 schools, this project will be implemented by RAFT's professional education staff through our Maker Mobile that brings STEAM field trips directly to schools. Each participant will engage in approximately three hours of exploration tailored to grade bands K-8.

**Applicant:** SACRED HEART COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Project Name:** SHCS La Mesa Verde Environmental Education Initiative

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$145,000.00

**Project Summary:** This 18-month environmental education program is focused on utilizing native plants to teach students about water conservation, sustainability, and ecosystem health. The project involves a California native plant community garden, which serves as a demonstration learning environment. Curriculum modules will be developed to integrate environmental topics into classroom learning, and community engagement activities will foster environmental stewardship. The program will help promote reduced water usage, enhanced biodiversity, and a deeper understanding of sustainability. Additionally, we will support low-income families by encouraging water efficient food production through gardening and increasing their involvement in food systems change.

**Applicant:** Santa Clara County Construction Careers Association S4CA

**Project Name:** Water Conservation

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$75,800.00

**Project Summary:** The full title of this project is Water Conservation: Promoting Sustainable Practices in Our School Communities. This project will acquaint at least 500 next generation water users of the importance of water conservation and recruit at least 50 students who will become champions and ambassadors for water conservation. The project will engage students from two school districts (Milpitas and East Side) who will participate in three applicable activities (Project Exhibition, Virtual Design, and Summer Internship) from research to design to presentation to practical application. Students will also inform community residents on research and strategies to become more water efficient. This project is one year in duration.

**Applicant:** Saved By Nature

**Project Name:** Headwaters to the Bay

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$150,000.00

**Project Summary:** We will host six outreach events in Santa Clara County, focusing on underserved neighborhoods to inform residents about upcoming events. The project goal is to engage around nine hundred people of all ages from diverse, underrepresented communities in 30 trips to parks and preserves within the county's watersheds. These educational guided nature hikes will teach participants about local watersheds, focusing on pollution prevention and natural processes that improve water quality in nearby creeks and rivers. By involving the community in caring for these watersheds, the project aims to empower participants to become stewards of local watersheds and instill a sense of ownership and responsibility for local water resources and conservation.

**Applicant:** SConnect Corporation

**Project Name:** Water Conservation and Environmental Education Initiative

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$150,000.00

**Project Summary:** Our project aims to educate Santa Clara County residents on water conservation, environmental stewardship, and flood preparedness through interactive and engaging learning experiences. We will develop a curriculum that aligns with Valley Water's Safe, Clean Water Program priorities and implement it through school-based programs, community workshops, and digital educational resources.

**Applicant:** Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action

**Project Name:** Youth Powered Clean Water Outreach

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$149,512.50

**Project Summary:** Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action (SVYCA) proposes to launch a youth-led education effort to promote the importance of safe and clean water, water conservation and environmental stewardship. We will provide at least 5 workshops to over 150 student leaders annually to help them develop their knowledge and community organizing skills to create youth-led videos on the importance of safe and clean water, water conservation, and environmental stewardship. The videos will be promoted through school districts, community partners and elected officials to create maximum outreach. In year 1, the outreach effort will be on safe and clean water. Year 2 will focus on water conservation. Year 3 will focus on environmental stewardship.

**Applicant:** USGBC California

**Project Name:** Green Homes Silicon Valley

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$149,995.00

**Project Summary:** USGBC California's (USGBC-CA) Green Homes California (GHC) program promotes water conservation and sustainable housing in frontline communities.

Through education, resources, and direct support, GHC helps homeowners, tenants, and property managers lower utility costs, improve health, and reduce emissions. In partnership with Valley Water, GHC will engage communities in water conservation, demonstrating practical, low-cost solutions. Additionally, USGBC-CA will provide education on specific improvements and behavior changes residents can make to reduce water use, along with connections to rebates. It also proposes to pilot Namara's smart water management system, highlighting water pressure control to prevent leaks and cut consumption.

**Applicant:** People for Open Spaces dba Greenbelt Alliance

**Project Name:** Resilient Sunnyvale Community Preparedness Environmental Stewardship

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$74,677.84

**Project Summary:** Greenbelt Alliance, in partnership with the Sunnyvale Library, seeks funding to implement a community-driven initiative in the Lakewood neighborhood to enhance climate literacy and disaster preparedness. Through listening sessions, bilingual workshops, shoreline outings, and clean-ups, residents will gain tools and knowledge to respond to climate risks. The project includes a Sunnyvale Resilience Playbook, a multilingual guide on emergency alerts and flood response. A habitat restoration at Don Edwards and two guided hikes will promote stewardship and understanding of nature-based solutions. This initiative supports climate resilience, water conservation, and equitable engagement in Sunnyvale.

**Applicant:** Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley

**Project Name:** Ripple Effect-Latinas Rising for Environmental Justice

**Grant Category:** Education

**Funding Request:** \$62,452.80

**Project Summary:** Ripple Effect – Latinas Rising for Environmental Justice will integrate environmental justice into LCSV's existing leadership, membership, and civic engagement programs. Through guided creek walks, culturally relevant educational workshops, and learning/healing circles, Latinas will explore the connection between water, wellness, and community power. Participants from programs like Chispanas and ELLA as well as our members, will gain knowledge of water conservation, pollution prevention, and stewardship practices. The project will culminate in community action events like participant led workshops, creek cleanups and awareness campaigns, building a network of empowered Latinas leading local water justice efforts.

**Applicant:** Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet

**Project Name:** Baking Brine Acterra Water RO Concentrate Project

**Grant Category:** Planning

**Funding Request:** \$149,325.00

**Project Summary:** "Baking Brine" would investigate the feasibility of a reverse osmosis (RO) concentrate strategy of dewatering and concentration, solar-based drying and incorporation within a solid waste stream subject to pyrolysis, a self-sustaining, high

heat (up to 1,000 Celsius), low oxygen process that produces biochar as an end product. We would do an extensive literature review of useful research and adjacent projects, interview experts in the field, plan a stepwise approach of a series of lab scale experiments and analysis, facilitate coordination between Valley Water, Silicon Valley Clean Water and equipment maker Bioforcetech staff, and plan and execute pilot scale studies and then document and report on our findings.

**Applicant:** California State University, East Bay Foundation, Inc.

**Project Name:** Development of tracer experimental plan to evaluate groundwater-surface water exchange and spatiotemporal water quality trends

**Grant Category:** Planning

**Funding Request:** \$150,000.00

**Project Summary:** The proposed project will develop a tracer experimental plan to advance the monitoring and maintenance of managed aquifer recharge (MAR) facilities. By analyzing naturally occurring isotopic tracers in groundwater, we will examine the feasibility of using xenon as an introduced tracer, examine surface water-groundwater interactions, and evaluate denitrification potential. The project results will support the planning and design of future MAR operations by Valley Water. This study will focus on Valley Water's recharge ponds and streams in the Llagas Subbasin. These recharge sources provide both water quality and water quantity benefits in a mixed urban-agricultural area and ensure long-term groundwater sustainability.

**Applicant:** California Water Efficiency Partnership

**Project Name:** BMP Database for CII Water Conservation

**Grant Category:** Planning

**Funding Request:** \$75,000.00

**Project Summary:** The proposed project aims to design and develop a BMP Database for CII Water Conservation that will serve as a strategic planning tool for Santa Clara County water agencies. The project will develop a centralized database that compiles and organizes existing BMPs for CII water users that allows filtering by resource constraints, program categories, and implementation feasibility. This will ensure water agencies have access to resources to meet the state reporting requirements. This project strongly aligns with Valley Water's mission to provide safe, clean water by promoting water conservation as a key strategy for sustainable resource management and addresses the Safe, Clean Water Program priority to advance effective conservation planning.

**Applicant:** City of Morgan Hill

**Project Name:** Llagas Creek And Silivera Lake Trails Plan

**Grant Category:** Planning

**Funding Request:** \$150,000.00

**Project Summary:** The West Little Llagas Creek Trail project in Morgan Hill, is a significant undertaking that intertwines recreational trail development with crucial flood control measures and natural waterways. This project constructs a path that creates a community asset that enhances quality of life, promotes environmental stewardship, and educates the community on flood protection. The proposed grant funding will be

utilized for three components on the next phase of the project, which will occur adjacent to Silveira Lake and Llagas Creek.

- Support completion of the trail system concept design.
- Complete environmental review of the next project phase.
- Design for the first phase of the project, including the bridge over Llagas Creek adjacent to Monterey Rd.

**Applicant:** Climate Resilient Communities

**Project Name:** Community-led Vulnerability Assessment in Alviso California

**Grant Category:** Planning

**Funding Request:** \$150,000.00

**Project Summary:** Two community-based organizations, led by Climate Resilient Communities (CRC) and Alviso in Action (AIA), propose a community-led vulnerability assessment in the underserved and highly vulnerable Alviso neighborhood. This project identifies climate change and flood risks via bilingual focus groups and workshops, engaging diverse residents. CRC and AIA have worked to build Alviso's a group called United Alviso for Change (UAC). UAC is a grassroots collection of motivated residents facilitating community education for flood preparedness and educational resources. Our vulnerability assessment prioritizes nature-based adaptation strategies, like flood sensors and rain gardens, empowering residents to co-create equitable adaptation strategies.

**Applicant:** Regents of the University of California

**Project Name:** Bioswale Designs for Flood Protection and Water Quality

**Grant Category:** Planning

**Funding Request:** \$88,255.90

**Project Summary:** This project will design two bioswales for Martial Cottle Park in San Jose, addressing localized flooding and improving water quality, while following ReScape's 8 principles for regenerative landscapes. Building on previous research at Veggielution, the bioswales will be designed to test the effectiveness of biochar in pollutant removal. The project will enhance flood protection, reduce pollutants in the local watershed, increase knowledge about biochar applications, and educate the public on stormwater management. We will leverage two University of California Cooperative Extension programs, the Master Gardeners and 4-H Youth Development, to increase public outreach and education about stormwater, clean water, and environmental stewardship.

**Applicant:** The Regents of the University of California, Santa Cruz

**Project Name:** Waterway Biodiversity Survey with Citizen Science and eDNA

**Grant Category:** Planning

**Funding Request:** \$150,000.00

**Project Summary:** The proposed project aims to improve biodiversity monitoring in Santa Clara County's waterways through environmental DNA surveys with community members. It will accomplish the following: assess biodiversity using eDNA sampling and DNA sequencing, engage community members and students in citizen science activities

for hands-on learning in the form of a BioBlitz, and ensure public access to the data via eDNA Explorer. The project will enhance STEM education by training participants in molecular biology while establishing a framework for ongoing water quality and biodiversity monitoring. This approach supports rapid responses to environmental threats and fosters environmental stewardship. See "1.0 Project Summary" in Grant PDF file

**Applicant:** Talon Ecological Research Group

**Project Name:** Burrowing Owl Recovery for Guiding Watershed Enhancement

**Grant Category:** Planning

**Funding Request:** \$135,030.00

**Project Summary:** We propose to advance our understanding of a special status species to inform restoration and preservation on public lands that will also benefit native wildlife species by combining cutting-edge DNA metabarcoding methods to analyze Burrowing Owl pellets to reveal prey preferences, and diet with surveys to assess prey availability. These results will inform predator-prey-plant associations which can be vital for guiding habitat restoration, increasing biodiversity, and assisting with species conservation in the watersheds of Santa Clara County. This research will support the goals of Valley Water by better understanding how to increase biodiversity, promote special status species, and support more resilient ecosystems within the watersheds.

**Applicant:** City of Morgan Hill

**Project Name:** Drought Tolerant Gardens Showcase Project

**Grant Category:** Stewardship

**Funding Request:** \$120,530.00

**Project Summary:** The Drought Tolerant Gardens Showcase Project will transform passive drought tolerant landscapes at popular community facilities into welcoming garden spaces that celebrate the benefits and opportunities of drought tolerant landscaping through installation of six engaging interpretive signs, a Play Sign distribution of helpful brochures in English and Spanish, art, plant labelling, bioswale refurbishment, and garden enhancements. The goal of this project is to leverage existing drought tolerant landscaped spaces to inspire and inform residents of resources available to them should they want to consider drought tolerant landscaping or water protection projects at their own properties.

**Applicant:** City of San Jose

**Project Name:** San Jose Community Creek Stewardship Project

**Grant Category:** Stewardship

**Funding Request:** \$150,000.00

**Project Summary:** The City of San José's Watershed Protection Division, in partnership with Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful (KCCB) and South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition (SBCCC), proposes a volunteer-driven creek stewardship and cleanup initiative for key waterways, including Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and Los Gatos Creek. This project will engage and educate the community, including the historically underserved through hands-on watershed stewardship activities, reducing pollution and

preventing contaminants from entering. By combining volunteer cleanups, outreach events, and strategic partnerships, this initiative will enhance water quality, restore habitats, and foster long-term stewardship, aligning with Valley Water's Safe, Clean Water Program priorities.

**Applicant:** City of San Jose

**Project Name:** Native Garden Installation at San Jose Parks

**Grant Category:** Stewardship

**Funding Request:** \$146,509.60

**Project Summary:** The City of San Jose Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Department seeks to install 10 native gardens in selected city parks. This project strives to use native gardens as habitats through the use of drought-tolerant native nectar and host plants. The plants provide essential habitats for pollinators that protect struggling butterfly and bee species. The project will hire a Native Garden Consultant who will work with volunteers to coordinate plant selection and garden location and hire a part-time Recreation Leader to assist with volunteer recruitment and native garden implementation. Staff will work closely with Xerces Society to complete applications for free native garden kits. Each installation will be accompanied by a volunteer event.

**Applicant:** Empower And Excel

**Project Name:** Thompson Creek Gateway Restoration and Activation

**Grant Category:** Stewardship

**Funding Request:** \$137,500.00

**Project Summary:** Empower And Excel, in collaboration with several key stakeholders, will restore and activate the Thompson Creek Trail to promote environmental sustainability and community well-being. We will beautify entrances to the trails and restore native plants in the area. This area is heavily impacted by blight, environmental deterioration, and neglect, where people feel unsafe. The ultimate goal is to build a community around underutilized infrastructure, promote environmental stewardship, and activate the area. With an increased sense of safety and responsibility to care for the trail, we will see more foot traffic and environmental resilience, contributing to a healthier and more sustainable urban landscape.

**Applicant:** Grassroots Ecology

**Project Name:** Shoup Park Habitat Enhancement Project

**Grant Category:** Stewardship

**Funding Request:** \$149,327.50

**Project Summary:** The proposed project will engage the community to revitalize habitat at Shoup Park in Los Altos—increasing biodiversity, resilience, and connectivity along the Adobe Creek corridor while creating meaningful stewardship opportunities for the public and enhancing the experience of park visitors. Proposed activities include invasive weed removal, maintenance of dead/dying and/or invasive trees, revegetation with beneficial species grown at Grassroots Ecology's Native Plant Nursery, and robust community engagement including workdays for the public and partner organizations.

**Applicant:** Grassroots Ecology

**Project Name:** Vasona County Park Native Garden Project

**Grant Category:** Stewardship

**Funding Request:** \$149,377.50

**Project Summary:** Along Los Gatos Creek in Vasona Lake County Park, the project will engage the community to transform a 6,000 square foot area of invasive weeds and bare ground into a vibrant native plant landscape that enhances biodiversity, pollinator habitat, and ecosystem services. Restoration activities—including weed removal, planting, maintenance, and monitoring—will be leveraged to engage volunteers of all ages in hands-on environmental stewardship and education, enhancing their appreciation of the park and creek. Revegetation with native plants will provide erosion control and habitat for native wildlife including the highly threatened monarch butterfly, and improve the park experience for 500,000+ people who visit Vasona Park annually.

**Applicant:** Guadalupe River Park Conservancy

**Project Name:** Guadalupe River Park Civic Watershed Stewardship

**Grant Category:** Stewardship

**Funding Request:** \$150,000.00

**Project Summary:** Guadalupe River Park Conservancy seeks to strengthen watershed stewardship along the Guadalupe River between Skyport Dr. and Virginia St. through a two-year partnership with Downtown Streets Team and The Trash Punx. This Project aims to reduce pollutants, engage community, and enhance environmental stewardship through (1) regular litter removal service days, (2) volunteer river cleanups, (3) volunteer trail cleanups, (4) weekly site watch patrols for hazard reporting and litter removal, and (5) social media posts to raise awareness. By fostering connections to nature and each other, and improving the quality of our waterways and environments, this Project aligns with Valley Water's mission to improve water quality and protect waterways.

**Applicant:** Our City Forest

**Project Name:** Water-Wise Gardens for Resilient Communities

**Grant Category:** Stewardship

**Funding Request:** \$149,089.64

**Project Summary:** Our City Forest will install three demonstration gardens at its Urban Forestry Education Center in Martial Cottle County Park. This parcel is located less than two miles from two important watersheds in Santa Clara County- the Guadalupe River and Coyote Creek. The purpose of this project is to provide environmental stewardship education and hands-on learning to community members. This grant will allow OCF to install:

Native Bioswale

Native Pocket Forest

Drought-Tolerant Understory

These demonstration gardens will provide habitat, reduce storm water runoff, increase groundwater recharge, while also allowing for ongoing education on these benefits as well as how community members can replicate these gardens in other places.

**Applicant:** Our City Forest

**Project Name:** Lawn Bust Morgan Hill

**Grant Category:** Stewardship

**Funding Request:** \$145,672.36

**Project Summary:** Our City Forest will convert 6,464 square feet of turf into native gardens on the Charter School of Morgan Hill campus. One garden will be a native bioswale to reduce flooding that occurs on site. The second garden will be a pollinator garden that will create a green space for students to engage with. Both gardens will offer educational opportunities for students. This campus is located directly adjacent to Coyote Creek watershed. The installation of these gardens will not only aid in stormwater capture and reduce flooding but it will also aid in filtering pollutants before they reach groundwater. These projects will utilize the same lawn conversion process that Our City Forest has used for almost a decade.

**Applicant:** SACRED HEART COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Project Name:** Sacred Heart Community Service La Mesa Verde Stewardship Project

**Grant Category:** Stewardship

**Funding Request:** \$150,000.00

**Project Summary:** This project focuses on fostering long-term environmental stewardship through a three-year initiative that integrates native plants with water conservation education. At the core of the program is a native plant garden at History Park in San Jose, designed as an interactive educational space to engage the community in sustainable practices. Each garden bed will highlight native plants that promote water conservation, biodiversity, and soil health, alongside informational displays that demonstrate their role in ecosystem resilience. The initiative will incorporate LMV's promotor model, empowering community members to lead workshops, garden tours, and outreach to share knowledge of sustainable gardening and the importance of native plants.

**Applicant:** San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

**Project Name:** Student Stewards Restoring Alviso's Wetlands for the Future

**Grant Category:** Stewardship

**Funding Request:** \$137,909.16

**Project Summary:** This project will expand on existing habitat restoration projects along the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project's Flood Risk Management (FRM) levee and Alviso Marina County Park (AMCP). Our project's main focus is to grow community engagement by increasing the number of tidal marsh field trip offerings to local Title I schools and making this experience independent of our previous partnership with Marshmallow Minds. This project builds on our past success and expands access to field experiences by: training teachers to facilitate pre-field trip orientations, increasing SFBBO's capacity to host field trips to 1800+ students who will help restore over 1.5 acres of wetland habitat, and adding plant nursery support to grow 1500+ plants.

**Applicant:** Santa Clara County Office of Education

**Project Name:** Student and Family Stewards for School Gardens

**Grant Category:** Stewardship

**Funding Request:** \$149,980.01

**Project Summary:** This project will expand on existing habitat restoration projects along the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project's Flood Risk Management (FRM) levee and Alviso Marina County Park (AMCP). Our project's main focus is to grow community engagement by increasing the number of tidal marsh field trip offerings to local Title I schools and making this experience independent of our previous partnership with Marshmallow Minds. This project builds on our past success and expands access to field experiences by: training teachers to facilitate pre-field trip orientations, increasing SFBBO's capacity to host field trips to 1800+ students who will help restore over 1.5 acres of wetland habitat, and adding plant nursery support to grow 1500+ plants.

**Applicant:** Veggielution

**Project Name:** East San Jose Dig Crew Environmental Stewardship Development

**Grant Category:** Stewardship

**Funding Request:** \$150,000.00

**Project Summary:** The Dig Crew (DC) summer leadership internship empowers low-income youth from gang-impacted communities in East San José to become future environmental stewards. This 100-hour paid program provides hands-on training in job readiness while fostering expertise in climate resilience, pollution prevention, and sustainable agriculture. In partnership with ReScape, participants will be taught about watershed health, water conservation and flood protection, earning continued education units. Additionally, a water catchment system will be installed at Veggielution, serving as an educational demonstration area for practical learning. The Project will inspire the next generation to lead with knowledge and a commitment to their community's climate.