



Niagara Bottling and Wildlife Habitat Council Partner to Plant Next Microforest in Stockton, Calif.

Innovative Microforest Initiative Boosts Local Ecosystems and Reduces Carbon Emissions

Stockton, Calif. (Nov. 9, 2023) - Niagara Bottling and Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) have teamed up to plant a microforest in Stockton, Calif., creating a space dedicated to native plants to support local wildlife, capture carbon, and improve air and water quality. Importantly for this region, the plants are drought resistant and will help recharge underground aquifers. Located between two of the company's plants in Stockton, this is the fourth microforest Niagara Bottling has planted.

Helping to restore biodiversity and bolstering the local tree population, microforests demonstrate the positive impact small-scale ecosystems have on the environment. At the Stockton site, the 600 plants there include 17 different species, which is expected to:

- create a home for more than 500 species of insects and animals,
- reduce carbon particulate emissions by 10%,
- reduce the local temperature by 6 degrees fahrenheit,
- sequester about 101.4 kg of CO₂ per year, and
- replenish more than 133,000 gallons of water per year into the aquifer through better stormwater management.

“Niagara believes in supporting our communities in every way possible, including by bringing key sustainability initiatives to our plants to improve the surrounding ecosystems,” said John Cook, Sr. Director of Sustainability at Niagara. “By creating a direct benefit to the local sites and recruiting volunteers from the local teams in the design and planting, the microforest initiative demonstrates our commitment to environmental conservation, sustainability and community engagement.”

Planting took place from Nov. 7-9 when Niagara Sustainability team members and WHC experts worked closely with the Stockton teams to bring this microforest to life, laying out the selected location, choosing plants and recruiting volunteers to help. The finished site includes local species of trees, shrubs and flowers such as California Buckeye, Toyon, Wild Lilac, Western

Redbud, California Aster, California Buckwheat, California Wildrose, California Poppies and many others. Once fully established, minimal maintenance will be required.

Niagara Bottling has also planted microforests in areas near facilities in Kansas City, Mo., Seguin, Texas, and Temple, Texas. In addition to the microforest initiative, Niagara leads the bottling industry in reducing materials and energy used in their products, using more renewable energy, and in achieving TRUE Zero Waste certification for many of their U.S. plants.

Learn more about Niagara sustainability practices at www.niagarawater.com/sustainability.

Niagara Bottling, LLC has been family owned and operated since 1963. Headquartered in Diamond Bar, Calif., Niagara operates bottling facilities throughout the U.S. and Mexico. As a leading beverage manufacturer in the U.S., Niagara Bottling works closely with some of the largest beverage brands, retailers, grocers, and club and convenience stores throughout the country. Niagara produces a variety of beverages including bottled water, sparkling, vitamin and flavored water, teas, sports drinks, ready-to-drink coffee, protein drinks, and non-dairy milk products. For more information, visit www.niagarawater.com.

Niagara Cares is the philanthropic arm of Niagara Bottling, LLC, and is the heart of what we do and who we are. We believe in supporting the communities where we live and work through a spirit of giving back in ways both big and small. Making a meaningful difference for our Team Members, consumers and communities through volunteering, product donations, disaster relief and other actions has been our priority for over 60 years. For more information, visit www.niagarawater.com/niagara-cares.

About WHC

WHC (Wildlife Habitat Council) has been working at the nexus of business and biodiversity for 35 years and is the only international NGO focused exclusively on enabling private sector action for nature. WHC builds strategies and frameworks for companies to integrate nature with climate, equity and engagement to support sustainable ecosystems and healthy communities. WHC's corporate members represent some of the leading national and multinational corporations. WHC-certified programs can be found in 19 countries and 48 U.S. states. Learn more at www.wildlifehc.org.

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