



Sustain Our Great Lakes



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PARTNERS

- Careus Foundation
- Cleveland-Cliffs
- Crown Family Philanthropies
- General Mills
- Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation
- Walder Foundation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDA Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Lake Superior shoreline

OVERVIEW

Sustain Our Great Lakes is a public-private partnership that supports habitat restoration in the Great Lakes basin. Administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the program receives funding and other support from Careous Foundation, Cleveland-Cliffs, Crown Family Philanthropies, General Mills, Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, Walder Foundation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, and U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service. Significant program funding is provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a federal program designed to protect, restore and enhance the Great Lakes ecosystem. In 2021, 35 grants totaling \$8.6 million were awarded, leveraging approximately \$12 million in grantee matching contributions and generating a total on-the-ground conservation impact of \$20.6 million.

Collectively, the 35 projects receiving grants will:

- Restore more than 25 miles of stream and riparian habitat
- Reconnect 53 miles of river for fish passage
- Remove or rectify 14 barriers to aquatic organism passage
- Restore 952 acres of wetland habitat
- Prevent more than 2,900 tons of sediment from entering waterways annually
- Add 17 million gallons of stormwater storage capacity
- Install more than 120,000 square feet of green stormwater infrastructure
- Improve management using regenerative agriculture practices on 32,000 acres of farmland

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Aerial view of a Michigan stream

STREAM AND RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION

The following projects seek to improve the quality and connectivity of stream and riparian habitat by restoring aquatic connectivity, naturalizing stream channel configuration, and improving in-stream and riparian habitat. Projects will address barriers to aquatic connectivity, reduce nutrient and sediment runoff, and improve habitat to benefit priority native fish species, such as brook trout and lake sturgeon.

Restoring Stream Passage in the Upper Black River Watershed by Replacing a Degraded Culvert (MI)

Grantee: Huron Pines Resource Conservation & Development Council

Grant Amount: \$175,000
 Matching Funds: \$262,000
 Total Project Amount: \$437,000

Promote sustainable populations of native brook trout and other desirable species in the Upper Black River Watershed while improving road safety and alleviating erosion at two road crossings by replacing aging culverts with appropriately sized road crossing structures. Project will rectify two aquatic organism passage barriers and open 9 miles of stream.

Restoring Stream Passage for Brook Trout in Hockamin Creek by Removing Culverts (MN)

Grantee: Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District
 Grant Amount: \$120,000
 Matching Funds: \$130,000
 Total Project Amount: \$250,000

Restore connectivity to 8 miles of critical native brook trout spawning and wintering habitat and thermal refugia in Hockamin Creek, a tributary to the Baptism River which flows to Lake Superior in Minnesota. Project will remove two culverts acting as fish passage barriers and replace them with a crossing designed for aquatic organism passage.

Improving Aquatic Connectivity within the Crooked River Watershed (MI)

Grantee: Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

Grant Amount: \$101,374
 Matching Funds: \$103,000
 Total Project Amount \$204,374

Rectify two road-stream crossings in the Crooked River Watershed by replacing undersized, perched culverts with channel-spanning culverts. Project will reduce sediment inputs at these crossing sites and eliminate existing fish passage barriers, thereby improving connectivity of these coldwater streams, particularly benefitting brook trout.

Restoring Habitat Connectivity and Cold Water Refugia for Brook Trout in Compeau Creek (MI)

Grantee: Marquette Charter Township

Grant Amount: \$146,000
 Matching Funds: \$146,500
 Total Project Amount: \$292,500

Restore and enhance stream and riparian habitat to secure aquatic connectivity for brook trout and naturalizing stream channels by replacing two severely undersized road stream crossing culverts with bridges spanning the bankfull channel in the Compeau Creek. Project will open 7 miles of brook trout passage, restore stream flows to 0.2 miles of stream and ensure water temperatures stay cold enough to support brook trout.

Restoring Brook Trout Passage through Jordan River and Deer Creek (MI)

Grantee: Conservation Resource Alliance

Grant Amount: \$270,000
 Matching Funds: \$350,000
 Total Project Amount: \$620,000

Restore three culvert road-stream crossings on the Jordan River and its tributary, Deer Creek, by constructing bankfull spanning structures that accommodate aquatic passage and return natural stream morphology. Project will restore

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Piping plover

floodplain connectivity, reduce stream velocities and temperatures, improve the natural movement of substrate and instream wood, restore and improve connectivity through more than 20 miles of stream, and halt excess sedimentation.

Reconnecting Coldwater Habitat in Brook Trout Streams (MI)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount: \$156,912

Matching Funds: \$180,000

Total Project Amount: \$336,912

Improve aquatic organism passage and habitat in Northern Michigan coldwater streams through the implementation of three road-stream culvert upgrades, one culvert removal and three stream habitat restoration and enhancements. Project will reconnect and restore more than 15 miles of high quality cold water stream habitat to benefit brook trout and other native communities and restore natural stream ecosystem processes.

Removing Brook Trout Passage Barrier and Restoring Stream Habitat in the Upper Tonawanda Creek (NY)

Grantee: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper

Grant Amount: \$256,455

Matching Funds: \$132,475

Total Project Amount: \$388,930

Address impairments to habitat for native and naturalized Eastern Brook Trout and to improve the conditions of the surrounding riparian forest corridor by installing riparian plantings within the floodplain, replacing an undersized and degraded culvert with climate-adaptive culvert and installing stream grade controls. Project will restore passage and expanded spawning habitat for brook trout and other aquatic species and enhanced 3.7 miles of riparian habitat.

COASTAL HABITAT RESTORATION

The following projects seek to improve the quality and connectivity of Great Lakes coastal habitat by restoring aquatic connectivity, improving wetland habitat, and controlling invasive species. Projects will restore critical habitat to benefit species of conservation concern including migratory shorebirds, waterfowl, and marsh-spawning fish such as northern pike.

Restoring Coastal Wetland Habitat for Migratory Birds at the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve (WI)

Grantee: Ozaukee Washington Land Trust

Grant Amount: \$229,009

Matching Funds: \$230,000

Total Project Amount: \$459,009

Improve biodiversity and safeguard coastal habitat by restoring wetlands, planting diverse tree and shrub species, replacing impervious surfaces with native vegetation, and controlling invasive plants. Project will restore and enhance 116 acres of permanently protected Lake Michigan shoreline at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve.

Restoring Coastal Wetlands for Birds and People in the Grand River Coastal Corridor (MI)

Grantee: National Audubon Society

Grant Amount: \$499,376

Matching Funds: \$544,795

Total Project Amount: \$1,044,171

Restore coastal wetland habitat in the Grand River Coastal Corridor located in Ottawa and Muskegon Counties of Michigan. Project will build on a successful partnership to restore 42 acres of high priority marsh while advancing structured systems of monitoring, engagement and stewardship that sustain these improvements for local communities of people, focal fish and bird species.

Restoring Coastal Wetland Habitat for Migratory Birds in Erie Marsh Preserve (MI)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$490,817

Matching Funds: \$631,775

Total Project Amount: \$1,122,592

Construct a dike, improve water control, and treat invasive plants to enhance degraded coastal wetland in Monroe County, Michigan, thereby expanding on past large-scale restoration and invasive species control at Erie Marsh Preserve. Project will improve hydrology for and treat or retreat invasive plants to improve habitat quality, structure, and diversity of the wetland and benefit species of conservation concern, including migratory waterfowl.

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Great Blue Heron on the shore of Lake Erie

GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

The following projects seek to reduce urban stormwater runoff and flooding to improve Great Lakes nearshore health and water quality. Projects will increase stormwater storage capacity and infiltration by installing green stormwater infrastructure, enhancing native habitat, restoring urban forests and improving public green space.

Capturing Stormwater and Restoring Habitat by Planting Trees on Public Recreation Sites (MI)

Grantee: Conservation Resource Alliance
 Grant Amount: \$125,000
 Matching Funds: \$150,000
 Total Project Amount: \$275,000
 Restore historic farmland converted to wetlands, local parks and riparian habitat by planting trees to capture stormwater runoff and reduce flooding, property damage, and sediment and nutrient loading while educating, engaging, and serving the surrounding communities. Project will plant 8,000 trees and shrubs in riparian and wetland corridors to capture more than 140,000 gallons of stormwater runoff annually.

Restoring Vacant Lots to Urban Green Space (OH)

Grantee: Western Reserve Land Conservancy
 Grant Amount: \$309,750
 Matching Funds: \$310,810
 Total Project Amount: \$620,560
 Create a public gathering space with a green infrastructure outdoor classroom from a paved, impervious surface to improve water quality in Lake Erie by removing hundreds of

thousands of gallons of stormwater runoff annually, and to create more biodiverse habitat and a restored tree canopy in the urban core. Project will restore vacant lots in four Cleveland neighborhoods through clean-ups, soil remediation and the planting of 328 native trees as well as other native grasses and perennials.

Restoring Habitat along the Cuyahoga River and Reducing Stormwater Runoff through Tree Planting (OH)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Amount: \$278,000
 Matching Funds: \$278,000
 Total Project Amount: \$556,000
 Recruit and manage volunteers to implement a community forest restoration on 40 acres along the headwaters of the Cuyahoga River to reduce stormwater runoff and improve habitat. Project will control invasive species and capture 543,000 gallons of stormwater annually, stabilize soils, filter pollutants, and connect to larger forest habitat by planting 5,200 trees.

Installing Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Chicago’s Historically Underserved Public Schools (IL)

Grantee: Chicago Public Schools, District 299
 Grant Amount: \$440,000
 Matching Funds: \$1,600,000
 Total Project Amount: \$2,040,000
 Install green stormwater infrastructure on public schools in Chicago to address water quality and flooding issues for Chicago’s combined sewer system and waterways. Project will

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Bumble bee on clover flower

restore approximately 70,000 square feet using stormwater best management practices with a designed retention capacity of 600,000 gallons and annual infiltration of 2 million gallons.

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

The following projects seek to improve water quality, soil health, biodiversity and working land resilience by providing technical assistance to landowners with a focus on accelerating the planning and adoption of regenerative agriculture principles. Regenerative agriculture is a systems-approach to farming and ranching that integrates multiple principles of agricultural management for improving ecosystem function and resilience.

Accelerating a Holistic Approach to Conservation on Working Lands in Mason and Lake County (MI)

Grantee: Mason-Lake Conservation District
 Grant Amount: \$137,550
 Matching Funds: \$147,000
 Total Project Amount: \$284,550
 Accelerate the implementation of conservation practices and provide local producers in western lower Michigan with a holistic regenerative agriculture approach to working lands. Project will improve soil health and reduce sediment and nutrient runoff into the Lincoln and Sable watersheds while also educating landowners on regenerative agriculture.

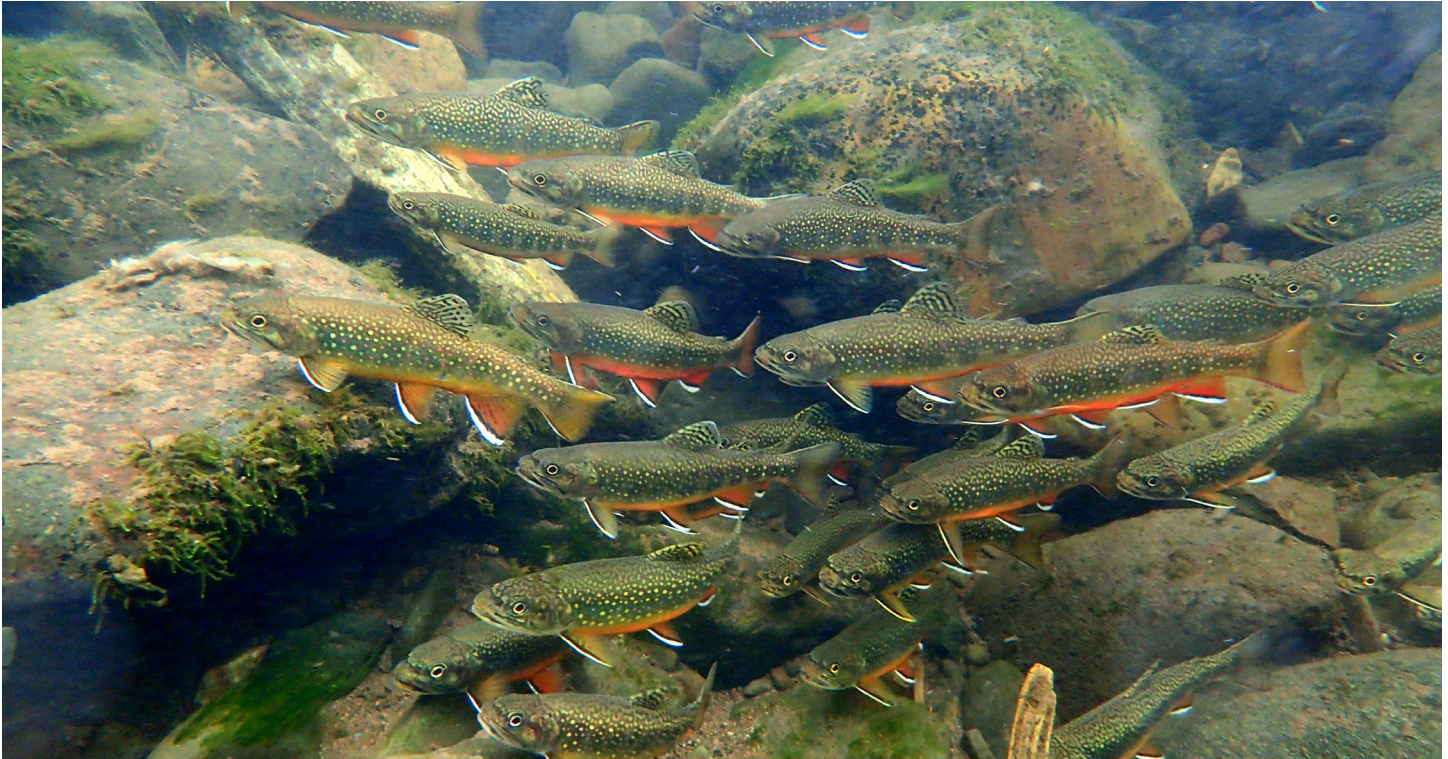
Providing Technical Assistance to Farmers for Cover Crop and No-Till Practices in Brown County (WI)

Grantee: Brown County Land and Water Conservation Department
 Grant Amount: \$130,000
 Matching Funds: \$166,269
 Total Project Amount: \$296,269
 Build off the momentum of the Fox Demonstration Farms by providing an opportunity for other farms to try soil health practices (cover crops, no-till planting) on their farm which will significantly reduce the non-point sediment and phosphorus pollutants that impair the Fox River, Bay of Green Bay, and Lake Michigan. Project will implement Best Management Practices on 1,000 acres of farmland, preventing 290,000 pounds of sediment runoff pollution from entering the watershed annually.

Fostering Technical Assistance to Advance Regenerative Agriculture in the Lake Michigan Basin (WI)

Grantee: Sand County Foundation, Inc.
 Grant Amount: \$300,000
 Matching Funds: \$340,000
 Total Project Amount: \$640,000
 Hire a technical assistant to integrate a performance-based conservation incentive system, based on quantified environmental outcomes and promoted within farmer networks in existing watershed-based projects, to accelerate the adoption of regenerative agriculture and leverage conservation funding for farmers. Project will assist 25 farmers with whole-farm conservation plans and outcomes modeling on 15,000 acres of new regenerative agriculture practices.

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Brook trout

Increasing Technical Assistance to Farmers Implementing Regenerative Agriculture Practices (MI)

Grantee: Pheasants Forever

Grant Amount: \$274,739

Matching Funds: \$275,000

Total Project Amount: \$549,739

Create new technical assistance capacity in Southern Michigan through the hiring, training, and work of a Regenerative Agriculture Specialist and increase awareness of the benefits of integrating regenerative agriculture into an array of agricultural operations. Project will work directly with at least 30 farmers to identify opportunities to simultaneously provide environmental benefits and positive economic return through implementation of regenerative agriculture practices on 6,000 acres of farmland.

Expanding Technical Assistance for Regenerative Agriculture Practices in the Fox-Wolf Basin (WI)

Grantee: Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance

Grant Amount: \$299,913

Matching Funds: \$192,518

Total Project Amount: \$492,431

Hire a regional regenerative agriculture coordinator and provide training to local land conservation departments throughout the Fox-Wolf Basin in Northeast Wisconsin. Project will implement best management practices for cover crop, no-till, manure management and rotational grazing 6,000 acres of farmland, preventing 1,500 pounds of phosphorus and 450,000 pounds of sediment runoff pollution from entering the watershed annually.

INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL

The following projects seek to protect and enhance the quality of previously restored habitat through strategic invasive species control. Terrestrial and coastal invasive plants will be treated or removed through chemical and manual methods throughout the Great Lakes basin. The strategic retreatment and initial treatment of invasive species conducted by these projects is critical for control efforts to be effective in the long term and will enable the successful establishment of native plants.

Controlling Invasive Species to Enhance and Maintain Habitat in Springfield Township (MI)

Grantee: Springfield Township

Grant Amount: \$100,000

Matching Funds: \$100,000

Total Project Amount: \$200,000

Project Summary: Enhance and maintain critical habitat to benefit the federally-endangered Poweshiek skipperling and federally-threatened eastern massasauga rattlesnake by implementing invasive species control, prescribed fire, and native plant augmentation. Project will enhance and maintain 200 acres of habitat, install 3,000 native plants and monitor changes in structure and composition of fen vegetation.

Controlling Invasive Species to Enhance and Maintain Habitat in the Tolleston Dunes (IN)

Grantee: Save the Dunes Conservation Fund

Grant Amount: \$328,501
 Matching Funds: \$337,100
 Total Project Amount: \$665,601

Conduct invasive species re-treatment work within a ecologically significant unit of Northwest Indiana- Tolleston Dunes to protect and enhance remnant black oak savanna and wetland habitat. Project will treat 310 acres to control invasive species to augment simultaneous and collaborative work, and leading to greater impact and sustainability across the landscape.

Controlling Invasive Species to Enhance Wetland Habitat at Presque Isle State Park (PA)

Grantee: Regional Science Consortium

Grant Amount: \$784,645
 Matching Funds: \$883,798
 Total Project Amount: \$1,668,443

Restore and enhance 400 acres of wetland habitat at Presque Isle State Park through invasive species control, plant propagation, seed bank collections, and wildlife monitoring. Project will include: 1) the re-treatment and expanded treatment of invasives; 2) propagation and installation of head-started native plants; 3) plant success assessment, 4) seed bank development, and 5) the monitoring of plants, macroinvertebrates, freshwater mussels, fish, amphibians, bats, and bird populations.

Controlling Invasive Species in Prairie and Oak Savanna Habitat at the Grand River Fen Preserve (MI)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$100,000
 Matching Funds: \$100,000
 Total Project Amount: \$200,000

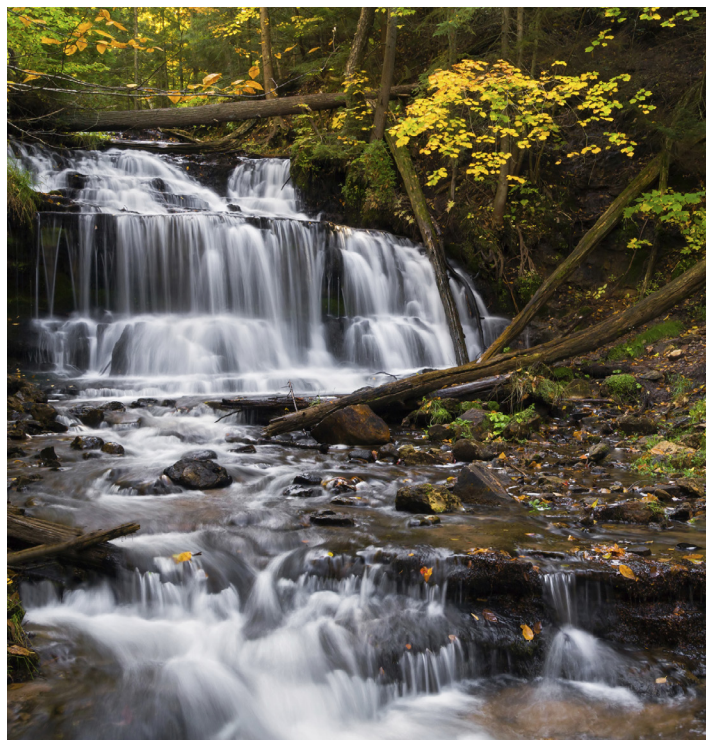
Control populations of invasive species at Grand River Fen Preserve to help restore and maintain prairie fen and oak savannas ecosystems, directly benefitting endangered Mitchell's satyr butterfly and the federally threatened Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake. Project will enhance more than 200 acres of habitat through invasive species control with the use of cut-stump treatments and select foliar spraying throughout specific parcels.

Controlling Invasive Species in the Calumet Region through Strategic Retreatment (IL, IN)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$543,449
 Matching Funds: \$947,121
 Total Project Amount: \$1,490,570

Enhance and intensify prior restoration efforts on 540 acres of wetland communities at six sites in the bi-state Calumet region of southern Lake Michigan, including marsh and hemi-marsh, dune and swale, and wet prairie habitat through invasive species control. Project will employ herbicide and



A clear stream in Michigan

prescribed fire practices to sharply reduce remaining invasive patches, halting expansion, removing seed sources that cause re-invasion, and improving overall habitat conditions.

Expanding Invasive Species Control in Coastal Dune Habitats (MI)

Grantee: Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$121,802
 Matching Funds: \$61,117
 Total Project Amount: \$182,919

Expand invasive species treatment on Great Lakes dunes and coastal forest ecosystems in northwestern lower Michigan. Project will treat at least 250 acres of high-priority species across public and private land to protect rare and threatened species, improve habitat, and increase the resiliency of imperiled natural communities.

Implementing a Regionally Cohesive Invasive Species Management Plan in Coastal Wetland Habitats (MI)

Grantee: Huron Pines Resource Conservation & Development Council

Grant Amount: \$198,737
 Matching Funds: \$230,000
 Total Project Amount: \$428,737

Implement a regionally cohesive invasive species management plan across five coastal counties in Michigan from the Saginaw Bay to the Mackinac Bridge. Project will maintain 550 acres and restore an additional 200 acres of imperiled dune and swale wetland complex, bedrock glade, coastal fen, marsh and rich conifer swamp habitat.

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Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Expanding Invasive Species Control in the Greenbelt Forest Preserve (IL)

Grantee: Lake County Forest Preserve District
Grant Amount: \$100,000
Matching Funds: \$120,608
Total Project Amount: \$220,608

Improve the ecological health of Greenbelt Forest Preserve by increasing the abundance and diversity of the preserve’s native plants and animals, reducing stormwater runoff, and reducing sediment and pollutants entering Lake Michigan. Project will re-treat invasive plants across 187 acres previously restored habitat and address untreated buckthorn thickets on 43 adjacent acres that threaten the previously restored areas.

WISCONSIN SPECIAL INITIATIVE

The following projects seek to restore and preserve of a wide variety of habitats and natural landscapes in the region, including but not limited to prairies, grasslands, oak savannas, upland and lowland forests, wetlands and ephemeral ponds, beaches and dune systems. Projects will protect, restore and support both urban biodiversity and biodiversity and habitat quality in Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan Watershed.

Restoring Urban Biodiversity and Riparian Habitat Quality in Honey Creek (WI)

Grantee: City of Greenfield
Grant Amount: \$225,000
Matching Funds: \$895,300
Total Project Amount: \$1120,300

Improve habitat resilience to development and nonpoint source pollution as well as enhance and safeguard critical habitat for native species within the headwaters of Honey Creek. Project will protect, restore and support urban biodiversity and habitat quality through floodplain/riparian wetland restoration, fish passage improvement, main channel re-meandering, in-stream restoration, improved green space and community access.

Increasing Vegetative Green Stormwater Infrastructure Installation in Garden Homes (WI)

Grantee: Clean Wisconsin
Grant Amount: \$116,510
Matching Funds: \$890,000
Total Project Amount: \$1,006,510

Install green stormwater infrastructure including trees, bioswales, and rain gardens, to reduce stormwater runoff while also providing cooling, improving air quality, and providing pollinator habitat in Garden Homes, a highly-urbanized neighborhood. Project will plant 100 trees and install vegetative infrastructure to add 9,180,000 gallons of stormwater storage annually.



Least bittern

Restoring Riparian and Oak Savanna Habitat in the Wequiock Creek Natural Area (WI)

Grantee: University of Wisconsin - Green Bay

Grant Amount: \$146,360

Matching Funds: \$0

Total Project Amount: \$146,360

Restore Midwestern oak savanna/wet meadow and riparian forest in a newly acquired natural area along Wequiock Creek, adjacent to the Point au Sable Nature Reserve in lower Green Bay, Wisconsin. Project will control invasive species and restore a native riparian corridor by widening native habitats along a stream corridor adjacent to a natural area with Great Lakes coastal wetlands, hardwood swamp, and oak woodland.

Enhancing the Ecological Integrity and Wildlife Use of Sheboygan Marsh (WI)

Grantee: Sheboygan County

Grant Amount: \$200,000

Matching Funds: \$221,500

Total Project Amount: \$421,500

Improve aquatic and wetland habitat within Sheboygan Marsh and increase public access and educational opportunities. Project will improve up to 400 acres of habitat by restoring marsh and wetland hydrology, improving wildlife habitat, controlling invasive species and developing recreational facilities.

Engaging Local Communities in Restoration and Enhancement of Coastal Preserves (WI)

Grantee: Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve

Grant Amount: \$268,320

Matching Funds: \$360,000

Total Project Amount: \$628,320

Restore native hardwood and coniferous forests, wetlands, and prairie habitats in the Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve and support environmental programming for local school districts. Project will restore or enhance wildlife and migratory bird stopover habitat at a variety of coastal preserve sites.

Increasing Community Resiliency through Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Old North Milwaukee (WI)

Grantee: Quasimondo Physical Theatre

Grant Amount: \$75,000

Matching Funds: \$63,000

Total Project Amount: \$138,000

Expand green stormwater infrastructure in an underserved Milwaukee community, prevent runoff pollutants from entering Lake Michigan, and increase local ecological equity. Project will add 46,000 gallons of stormwater storage annually by installing a native rain garden, bioswales, a stormwater orchard, three permeable pavement mosaics designed by local minority artists, and a green wall.

Conserving and Restoring Stony Creek through a Fee Acquisition in Door County (WI)

Grantee: Door County Land Trust

Grant Amount: \$83,000

Matching Funds: \$83,000

Total Project Amount: \$166,000

Protect 1 mile of stream bank on Stony Creek in Door County, WI, by placing a fee acquisition on 43 acres of land on the Kruswick property. Project will preserve habitat for native animals and plants, especially habitat that supports Lake Michigan fisheries and migratory birds and provide public access to the creek and property for recreational activities such as hiking, fishing, bird watching, hunting and snowshoeing.

Designing and Constructing Green Stormwater Infrastructure at Five Milwaukee Public Schools (WI)

Grantee: Milwaukee Public Schools

Grant Amount: \$600,000

Matching Funds: \$600,485

Total Project Amount: \$1,200,485

Design and construct green stormwater infrastructure at five public schools in Milwaukee to reduce stormwater runoff and engage community youth in environmentally conscious programming. Project will replace asphalt with 26,810 square feet of bioswales, native plantings and other green infrastructure as well as plant more than 100 trees to add 4.3 million gallons of stormwater storage annually. *Funded in part by SOGL GSI