



SOGL – Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan Watershed

NFWF CONTACTS

Aislinn Gauchay
Program Director,
Great Lakes
aislinn.gauchay@nfwf.org
612-564-7284

Traci Giefer
Senior Program Manager,
Great Lakes
traci.giefer@nfwf.org
612-564-7296

Minna Wong
Coordinator,
Regional Programs
minna.wong@nfwf.org
202-595-2657

to learn more go to
www.sustainourgreatlakes.org

PARTNERS

- Caerus Foundation
- Crown Family Philanthropies
- Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Walder Foundation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife 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 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org



Lake Michigan coast in Wisconsin

OVERVIEW

Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) is a public-private partnership that supports habitat restoration in the Great Lakes basin. In 2020, a new partnership formed under the SOGL program to support projects in Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan Watershed. The additional funding is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and supported by Caerus Foundation, Crown Family Philanthropies, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, Walder Foundation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with additional support this year from the Bezos Earth Fund. In 2022, eight grants totaling \$1.8 million were awarded, leveraging approximately \$2.2 million in grantee matching contributions and generating a total on-the-ground conservation impact of \$4 million.

These grants will support projects across Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan watershed to restore and preserve habitats and natural landscapes and improve water quality. The projects will enhance the quality and connectivity of streams habitat, control invasive species, restore wetland habitat, and improve nearshore health and water quality through green stormwater infrastructure to enhance biodiversity and safeguard habitat for critical species.

Collectively, the eight projects receiving grants will:

- Control invasive species on **400 ACRES** of wetland, upland and riparian habitat
- Add **18 MILLION GALLONS** of stormwater storage capacity
- Install more than **46,000 SQUARE FEET** of green stormwater infrastructure
- Create or improve **45 ACRES** of green space
- Plant more than **4,700** trees for green infrastructure and habitat benefits



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Brook trout

2022 GRANTS

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 habitat quality in Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Watershed.

Renewing Urban Canopy to Improve Community Health and Climate Resiliency (WI)

Grantee: Milwaukee Water Commons

Grant Amount:..... \$340,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$310,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$650,000

Collaborate with partners to implement an urban canopy renewal program in the vulnerable Sherman Park neighborhood to plant at least 250 trees, maintain at-risk trees, and plant whips in nearby riparian areas of the Milwaukee River watershed. Project will add 45,000 gallons of stormwater storage annually, and build community engagement for long-term equity environmental, health, and economic benefits and climate resiliency.

Improving Bird Habitat, Water Quality and Research in Diverse Lake Michigan Communities (WI)

Grantee: Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory

Grant Amount:..... \$231,200
 Matching Funds:..... \$321,100
 Total Project Amount:..... \$552,300

Plant native plants, install rain gardens, educate community members, and expand the Motus Wildlife Tracking System in Lake Michigan communities of Wisconsin. Project will plant approximately 4,400 trees and support bird and pollinator habitat, water quality, research infrastructure, and community needs by implementing multi-faceted projects at eighteen locations near the Lake Michigan Coast.

Facilitating Biodiversity and Education at Mequon Nature Preserve through Wetland Restoration (WI)

Grantee: Mequon Nature Preserve

Grant Amount:..... \$160,900
 Matching Funds:..... \$80,100
 Total Project Amount:..... \$241,000

Restore agricultural fields to historic wetlands and prairies, control non-native, invasive plant species threatening high-quality native habitat, and educate Milwaukee Metropolitan youth at Mequon Nature Preserve. Project will restore roughly 10 acres of wetland and 25 acres of upland habitat, reduce the coverage invasive plant species across 358 acres, engage various local school groups in restoration and monitoring, and increase stormwater storage.

Increasing Green Infrastructure throughout Milwaukee's 30th Street Corridor (WI)

Grantee: Clean Wisconsin

Grant Amount:..... \$200,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$188,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$388,000

Work with residents to install small-scale green infrastructure practices such as rain barrels, rain gardens, and trees on homes and community areas by partnering with underserved neighborhoods in Milwaukee's 30th St. Corridor. Project will facilitate leadership roles for community members to develop solutions for reducing stormwater runoff pollution and flood risk while improving pollinator habitat and strengthening engagement to implement community-driven plans for climate resilience.

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Green heron

Restoring Reclaimed Urban Parks and Access to Green Space Across Milwaukee (WI)

Grantee: Urban Ecology Center

Grant Amount:..... \$213,100
 Matching Funds:..... \$214,700
 Total Project Amount:..... \$427,800

Engage neighborhood volunteers to help maintain three public parks in Milwaukee as an urban oasis with diverse native plant communities by removing invasive species and planting plugs of native species. Project will increase biodiversity of new prairie, oak savanna, wetland, ephemeral ponds and a variety of forest ecosystems and facilitate environmental education and community access to green space.

Improving Wetland Habitat and Stormwater Storage in Shagbark Recreational Area (WI)

Grantee: Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network

Grant Amount:..... \$117,800
 Matching Funds:..... \$147,800
 Total Project Amount:..... \$265,600

Restore the Shagbark Recreational Area in the City of Kenosha and underserved Lake Michigan watershed by replacing underperforming, mowed turf grass with climate resilient and native species boosting vegetation. Project will improve management of 44 acres to support habitat for endangered species such as the monarch butterfly, rusty-patched bumble bee, Blanding’s turtle, increase stormwater storage, and develop outdoor classroom activities.

Rehabilitating a Bioretention Facility to Improve Water Quality in the Menomonee River (WI)

Grantee: City of Milwaukee

Grant Amount:..... \$350,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$458,400
 Total Project Amount:..... \$808,400

Rehabilitate a 17-year-old 1-acre bioretention facility, test the performance of several pilot soil amendments, and plant pollinator-friendly plants in the tributary to the Menomonee River in Milwaukee. Project will improve water quality by mitigating stormwater runoff and restoring on-site sediment filtration and provide valuable feedback in designing future bioretention facilities.

Transforming an Urban Lot into an Educational Community Greenspace in Sheboygan (WI)

Grantee: Visit Sheboygan STEAM

Grant Amount:..... \$211,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$475,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$686,500

Transform a degraded asphalt parking lot in downtown Sheboygan, on the Sheboygan River, into an educational community greenspace with green infrastructure, restored wildlife habitat, and integrated public access features. Project will turn an urban space with 200 feet of riverfront shoreline into a recreational area with public access to greenspace, provide canopy in an urban heat island, and add approximately 764,700 gallons of stormwater storage annually.