



Sustain Our Great Lakes



NFWF CONTACTS

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

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

Daley Burns
Coordinator,
Regional Programs
daley.burns@nfwf.org
202-595-2440

PARTNERS

- ArcelorMittal
- Careus Foundation
- Crown Family Philanthropies
- Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Walder Foundation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDA Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- NOAA

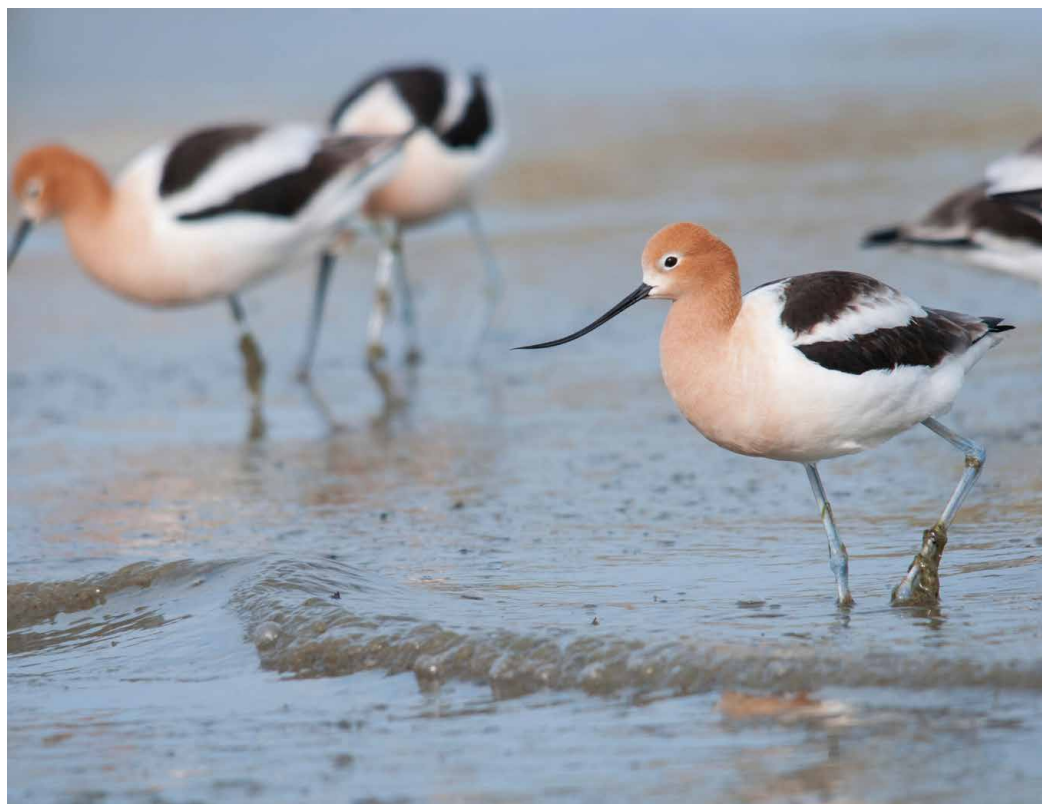
ABOUT NFWF

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

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1133 15th Street, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, D.C., 20005
202-857-0166



Avocets on the shore of Lake Michigan

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 ArcelorMittal, Careus Foundation, the Crown Family, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, Walder Foundation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and USDA 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 2020, 33 grants totaling \$7.4 million were awarded, leveraging approximately \$7.6 million in grantee matching contributions and generating a total on-the-ground conservation impact of \$15 million.

Collectively, the 33 projects receiving grants will:

- Restore more than 35 miles of stream and riparian habitat
- Reopen 150 miles of river for fish passage
- Remove or rectify 20 barriers to aquatic organism passage
- Control invasive species on 4,820 acres of wetland, upland and riparian habitat
- Restore 2,830 acres of wetland habitat
- Prevent more than 730 tons of sediment from entering waterways annually
- Add 6.7 million gallons of stormwater storage capacity each year
- Install more than 43,000 square feet of green stormwater infrastructure

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Hooded merganser duck

Improving Fish Passage by Removing the Pike Dam in the Genesee River Basin (NY)

Grantee: Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District
 Grant Amount:\$125,000
 Matching Funds:\$324,700
 Total Project:\$449,700
 Remove a barrier to aquatic organism passage on Wiscoy Creek in the Genesee River Watershed, and replace it with a grade-control structure that will restore fish passage and enhance aquatic habitat. Project will open and restore 25 miles of stream to benefit brook trout.

Restoring Prairie Fen Wetland and Upland Habitat by Removing and Managing Invasive Species (MI)

Grantee: Kalamazoo Nature Center
 Grant Amount:\$137,427
 Matching Funds:\$234,783
 Total Project:\$372,210
 Support land managers in the removal and management of invasive species in Southwest Michigan’s Kalamazoo River watershed to restore prairie fen wetland habitats. Project will remove invasive species, reintroduce historical fire regimes, conduct annual monitoring and perform outreach activities to restore 1,500 acres of wetland.

Restoring Riparian, Wetland and Forest Habitat along the Grand River (OH)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Amount:\$226,692
 Matching Funds:\$57,225
 Total Project:\$283,917
 Restore coastal, riparian, wetland and forest habitats in the Grand River Corridor and Northeast Ohio Coastal areas to improve habitats for native plants and wildlife. Project will restore 714 acres and improve habitat resiliency by controlling invasive species.

Treating Invasive Species along the Niagara River Gorge (NY)

Grantee: Western New York Land Conservancy
 Grant Amount:\$150,000
 Matching Funds:\$150,000
 Total Project:\$300,000
 Build on a previously successful grant to monitor and conduct follow-up control activities on invasive plant species on habitat that was previously restored along the Niagara River Gorge. Project will control invasive species on 115 acres which will result in increased nesting songbird diversity and a 90 percent reduction in invasive cover.

Reconnecting Coldwater Habitat and Monitoring Brook Trout Response (WI)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited
 Grant Amount:\$345,107
 Matching Funds:\$351,700
 Total Project:\$696,807
 Replace at least seven barriers to aquatic organism passage in and adjacent to the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, reconnecting at least 30 miles of coldwater habitat. Project will survey brook trout population dynamics and movement at project sites before and after construction and reconnect important brook trout habitat in northern Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan watershed.

Removing and Managing Woody and Herbaceous Invasive Species Around Duff Lake (IN)

Grantee: LaGrange County Community Foundation
 Grant Amount:\$139,800
 Matching Funds:\$173,450
 Total Project:\$313,250
 Build on a previously successful grant to control invasive herbaceous and woody plant species through re-treatment efforts on ecologically-unique, restored fen, prairie, and oak savanna habitat around Duff Lake in LaGrange County, Illinois. Project will reinforce the effects of the original project and protect the acquired effects by controlling invasive plant species on a total of 208 acres of habitat.



Northern pike

(continued)

Restoring and Enhancing Wetlands at the Margery Gallogly Nature Sanctuary (NY)

Grantee: Western New York Land Conservancy

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

Restore coastal wetlands and adjacent riparian and upland habitats at the Margery Gallogly Nature Sanctuary in New York. Project will improve 90 acres of habitat for populations of species of conservation need, including nesting birds, migratory waterfowl and spawning fish.

Opening Coldwater Habitat for Brook Trout in the Pigeon River (MI)

Grantee: Huron Pines Resource Conservation and Development Council

Grant Amount:\$146,763
 Matching Funds:\$302,714
 Total Project:\$449,477

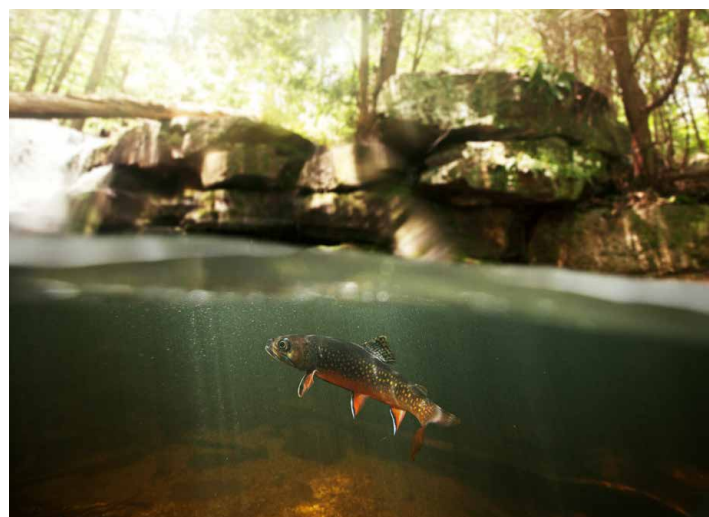
Improve fish passage to coldwater brook trout streams in the upper Pigeon River Watershed, Michigan by replacing four undersized road-stream crossings, which are barriers to fish passage. Project will open 13 miles to benefit brook trout and other aquatic species by fully restoring habitat connectivity and a suite of other natural river processes.

Restoring Coastal Wetland Habitat via Invasive Species Management (NY)

Grantee: New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation

Grant Amount:\$352,113
 Matching Funds:\$352,506
 Total Project:\$704,619

Improve habitat structure through invasive species control and native plant restoration in coastal wetlands in the Lake Ontario Watershed. Project will restore more than 80 acres of wetland habitat to protect rare and significant elements, manage invasive species, and reduce shoreline erosion.



Brook trout

Restoring Biodiversity in the Southern Lake Michigan Watershed through Invasive Species Control (IL)

Grantee: Friends of the Forest Preserves

Grant Amount:\$200,000
 Matching Funds:\$419,000
 Total Project:\$619,000

Remove a barrier to aquatic organism passage on Wiscoy Creek in the Genesee River Watershed, and replace it with a grade-control structure that will restore fish passage and enhance aquatic habitat. Project will open and restore 25 miles of stream to benefit brook trout.

Enhancing Biodiversity and Habitat Complexity in Cheboygan Marsh through Hybrid Cattail Control (MI)

Grantee: Loyola University Chicago

Grant Amount:\$185,215
 Matching Funds:\$456,929
 Total Project:\$242,144

Restore and enhance biodiversity and habitat complexity in the Cheboygan Marsh-Duncan Bay Great Lakes coastal wetland complex by removing invasive cattail from 92 acres. Project will increase diversity of plants, amphibians, macroinvertebrates, fish, and birds within the coastal wetland complex, and result in the removal of 1,850 pounds of elemental phosphorus and 12,125 pounds of elemental nitrogen from the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Improving Fish Passage and Restoring Riparian Habitat along Groat Book and Vigil Creek (NY)

Grantee: Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District

Grant Amount:\$275,000
 Matching Funds:\$280,000
 Total Project:\$555,000

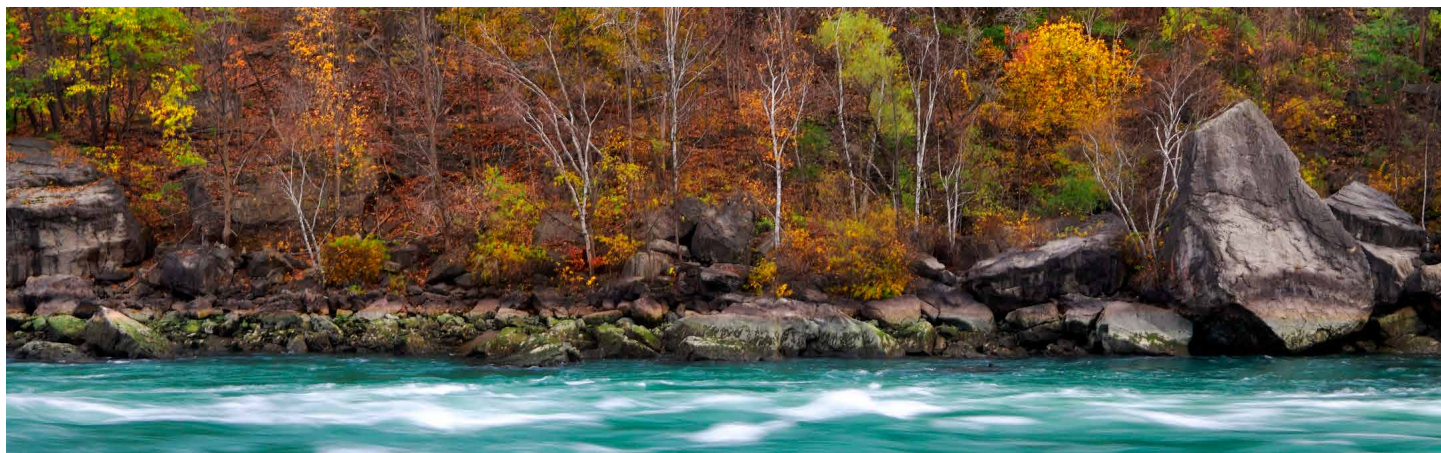
Improve and enhance stream and riparian habitat to benefit fish, wildlife and water quality by completing four stream corridor and riparian habitat enhancement projects to protect and improve important brook trout habitat in Cortland County, New York. Project will prevent more than 530 pounds of sediment and nutrients from entering local waterways annually, rectify four fish passage barriers, and open 6 miles of stream.

Restoring Wetland Habitat by Removing Invasive Phragmites in the Saginaw Bay Watershed (MI)

Grantee: Arenac Conservation District

Grant Amount:\$530,100
 Matching Funds:\$172,531
 Total Project:\$702,630

Remove invasive phragmites from Saginaw Bay coastal wetlands previously treated and in surrounding wetlands that will receive initial treatment. Project will restore more than 1,500 acres by controlling invasive phragmites through an adaptive management strategy that uses pre- and post-treatment remote sensing and in-field monitoring.



Fall color on the Niagara River

Maintaining and Enhancing Coastal Dune and Swale Habitat by Removing Invasive Species (IL, WI)

Grantee: Lake County Forest Preserve District

Grant Amount:\$250,000
 Matching Funds:\$251,800
 Total Project:\$501,800

Maintain and enhance previous restoration efforts through continued, targeted use of the invasive plant strike team to identify, map and eradicate or contain invasive species in Lake County, Illinois and Kenosha County, Wisconsin. Project will restore and retreat 200 acres of high-quality coastal dune and swale habitat which provides habitat for three federally and 63 state-protected species.

Improving Aquatic Organism Passage on the East Branch Maple River (MI)

Grantee: Conservation Resource Alliance

Grant Amount:\$285,000
 Matching Funds:\$485,000
 Total Project:\$770,000

Restore fish passage barriers with channel spanning timber bridge structures, in-stream habitat and channel restoration to restore aquatic organism passage for brook trout, lake sturgeon, and other coldwater species, and improve degraded riparian habitat benefiting species such as the federally endangered Hungerford's crawling water beetle. Project will open 8 miles of stream, reduce sediment loading by 200 tons annually and rectify two passage barriers.

Restoring Wetland Hydrology and Controlling Invasive Phragmites on Pelee Island (ON)

Grantee: Nature Conservancy of Canada

Grant Amount:\$100,000
 Matching Funds:\$111,000
 Total Project:\$211,000

Improve ecological health of wildlife and habitat on Pelee Island in Lake Erie by restoring wetland hydrology, treating invasive phragmites and restoring native vegetation. Project will restore 62 acres of wetland and 20 acres of upland habitat.

Adding Woody Habitat Structures to the Upper Manistee River to Improve Habitat for Brook Trout (MI)

Grantee: Michigan Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount:\$150,000
 Matching Funds:\$180,000
 Total Project:\$330,000

Add varied types of woody habitat in areas of the Upper Manistee River with a documented lack of habitat heterogeneity and quality wood to improve habitat for brook trout and macroinvertebrates. Project will install 50 woody structures and restore 7 miles of stream.

Implementing Nature-Based Solutions to Improve Water Quality in Coastal Communities (MI)

Grantee: Huron Pines Resource Conservation & Development Council

Grant Amount:\$301,638
 Matching Funds:\$154,360
 Total Project:\$455,998

Build community capacity to enable four coastal communities in Michigan (Rogers City, Alpena, East Tawas and Au Gres) to implement on-the-grounds green infrastructure projects that have been identified and supported by city leaders and active community members. Project will add 500,000 gallons of stormwater storage annually and replace 0.4 acres of impervious surfaces with 0.7 acres of green infrastructure.

Improving Water Quality and Green Infrastructure through an Urban Forestry Initiative (MI)

Grantee: Friends of Grand Rapids Parks

Grant Amount:\$249,506
 Matching Funds:\$462,262
 Total Project:\$711,768

Plant 1,500 diverse native and urban resilient trees in the Back Hills, Roosevelt Park, Burton Heights, Garfield Park and Alger Heights communities in Michigan to mitigate urban tree canopy losses, improve water quality and decrease stormwater runoff. Project will add 430,355 gallons of stormwater capacity annually and engage local low and middle-income communities.

(continued)



Great Blue Heron on the shore of Lake Erie



Virginia Rail on Lake Michigan

Restoring Riparian and Coastal Wetland Habitat in the Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve (WI)

Grantee: Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve
 Grant Amount:\$191,001
 Matching Funds:\$191,001
 Total Project:\$382,003
 Restore degraded riparian and coastal wetland habitat in the Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve in Wisconsin. Project will improve 33 acres of habitat by restoring hardwood swamp canopy cover, controlling invasive species and developing a plan for realigning and naturalizing Forget Me Not Creek, a tributary to Lake Michigan.

Improving Brook Trout, Atlantic Salmon and American Eel Habitat in Limestone Creek (ON)

Grantee: Halton Region Conservation Foundation
 Grant Amount:\$90,750
 Matching Funds:\$158,790
 Total Project:\$249,540
 Improve riparian habitat for brook trout, Atlantic salmon, American eel, and other aquatic species in the Limestone Creek in Ontario, Canada through strategic woody debris removal. Project will install 2 miles of instream habitat improvements, plant a mile of native riparian vegetation, remove an undersized culvert, open 1.5 miles of stream, and stabilize 50 feet of eroding creek bank.

Restoring Riparian and Coastal Wetland Habitat on the Amsterdam Dunes Preserve (WI)

Grantee: Sheboygan County
 Grant Amount:\$230,000
 Matching Funds:\$230,000
 Total Project:\$460,000
 Protect and enhance ecological integrity of stream and coastal wetland habitat in the Amsterdam Dunes Preserve on the western shore of Lake Michigan by decreasing bank erosion reducing sediment and nutrient runoff, increasing aquatic and terrestrial habitat availability, restoring hydrologic function and controlling invasive species. Project will restore 21 acres of wetland habitat and 0.35 miles of riparian habitat.

Reconnecting Cold-Water Stream Habitat in the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan (MI)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited
 Grant Amount:\$255,000
 Matching Funds:\$320,000
 Total Project:\$575,000
 Improve aquatic connectivity, restore habitat in cold-water streams and increase watershed resiliency in the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Project will rectify three fish passage barriers, open 21 miles of stream and restore 10 miles of instream habitat.

Enhancing Habitat Restoration Benefits through Invasive Species Management in Ozaukee County (WI)

Grantee: Ozaukee County, Wisconsin
 Grant Amount:\$150,000
 Matching Funds:\$112,111
 Total Project:\$262,111
 Support continued improvements to the native local ecology within 14 ecologically diverse Ozaukee County parks, natural areas and environmentally sensitive lands, by controlling aquatic, coastal, and terrestrial invasive vegetation on habitat that was previously restored and treated for invasive species. Project will restore 250 acres through invasive species management, reforestation through native tree and shrub plantings, and stream, wetland and prairie restoration.

Implementing Green Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements in City of Port Washington (WI)

Grantee: City of Port Washington
 Grant Amount:\$400,000
 Matching Funds:\$200,000
 Total Project:\$600,000
 Provide flood storage and improve water quality through implementation of green infrastructure within the Sauk Creek watershed, located in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin. Project will enhance wet meadow habitat by installing vegetative swales and native vegetation including trees and shrubs for improved water quality, adding nearly 1.5 million gallons of stormwater storage annually.

(continued)



Brook trout

GRANTS FUNDED BY SOGL'S WISCONSIN'S LAKE MICHIGAN WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

Designing and Constructing Green Stormwater Infrastructure on Milwaukee Schoolyards (WI)

Grantee: Milwaukee Public Schools
 Grant Amount:\$625,000
 Matching Funds:\$625,556
 Total Project:\$1,250,556
 Conduct detailed design, permitting and construction of green infrastructure at five Milwaukee schoolyards to address stormwater needs. Project will plant 57 trees, build more than 87,000 acres of greenspace, remove 11,500 acres of impervious surface and add 4 million gallons of stormwater storage annually. *Funded in part by SOGL

Restoring Forest-Wetland Habitat for the Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee by Removing Invasive Species (WI)

Grantee: Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network
 Grant Amount:\$50,105
 Matching Funds:\$50,105
 Total Project:\$100,210
 Restore prairie, woods, and wetland habitat within the Pike River Watershed to benefit populations of the rusty-patched bumble bee and other pollinators in Wisconsin. Project will remove invasive species, improve water quality and improve public recreation by restoring nearly 30 acres of habitat.

Restoring Prairie Habitat and Engaging the Community to Increase Recovery of Native Wildlife (WI)

Grantee: Hunger Task Force
 Grant Amount:\$107,140
 Matching Funds:\$107,140
 Total Project:\$214,280
 Restore prairie habitat along the Root River in Franklin, Wisconsin to increase habitat availability for wildlife, improve habitat connectivity, increase native species competition, decrease runoff and increase critical populations of rusty-patched bumble bee and other species. Project will restore 20 acres of prairie, 12 of which are crop land being converted back to prairie, and 8 of which will restore remnant prairie habitat.

Transforming a Patchwork of Rural Lands into Wildlife Habitat (WI)

Grantee: Crossroads at Big Creek
 Grant Amount:\$189,438
 Matching Funds:\$247,000
 Total Project:\$436,438
 Manage ecological trajectories to transform a patchwork of past rural and agricultural lands into reconnected, thriving, high-quality forest and meadow habitat at Big Creek estuary in Wisconsin. Project will restore 125 acres of habitat, control invasive species, and improve habitat connectivity and resilience.

(continued)



Lake Michigan in Door County, Wisconsin

Improving Shoreline Habitat and Public Accessibility in Downtown Milwaukee (WI)

Grantee: Harbor District

Grant Amount:\$254,500
 Matching Funds:\$300,000
 Total Project:\$554,500

Improve habitat in downtown Milwaukee, ensuring public accessibility will accompany waterfront development, to improve shoreline habitat. Project will plant 50 trees and restore downtown shoreline habitat to benefit fish, waterfowl, insects, and macroinvertebrates by naturalizing portions of dock walls and providing native vegetation.

Building Green Stormwater Infrastructure to Reduce Pollution and Engage Youth in Conservation (WI)

Grantee: Neighborhood House of Milwaukee

Grant Amount: \$75,000
 Matching Funds: \$68,467
 Total Project: \$143,467

Replace an old infrastructure on Milwaukee’s near west side with green infrastructure components focused on conserving and improving water resources and reducing sewer overflows that impact the Menomonee River. Project will add more than 7,000 gallons of stormwater storage with green stormwater infrastructure and use the green infrastructure components as learning tools for an environmental education program.

Restoring Ecological Function and Reducing Invasives on State Natural Areas (WI)

Grantee: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Grant Amount:\$228,570
 Matching Funds:\$178,835
 Total Project:\$407,405

Conduct ecological restoration through a combination of prescribed fire, selective tree thinning, brush mowing, invasive species control, and revegetation on high-conservation-value state natural areas and surrounding landscapes in Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan Watershed. Project will restore 1,800 acres on public and private properties to form protective buffers around quality habitats to expand available habitat and habitat diversity, control invasives, and improve connectivity.

Converting the Underwood Creek Culvert in Elm Grove into an Ecologically Restored Stream (WI)

Grantee: Village of Elm Grove

Grant Amount:\$300,000
 Matching Funds:\$225,525
 Total Project:\$525,525

Convert an enclosed culvert on Underwood Creek in downtown Elm Grove into a bio-engineered channel with natural hydraulic function, improved fish passage and restored riparian habitat. Project will rectify one fish passage barrier to improve stream ecology with the added benefits of increased recreational value and improved stormwater management.