Sustain Our Great Lakes

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PARTNERS

- Caerus Foundation
- Cleveland-Cliffs
- Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest 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 6,800 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of more than $10 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

Black-crowned night heron

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Cleveland-Cliffs, Caerus Foundation, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service announced the 2024 round of funding for the Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) grant program. Thirty-three new or continuing habitat restoration grants totaling $13.8 million were awarded. These 33 awards announced leverage $12.1 in nonfederal matching contributions, providing a total conservation impact of more than $25.9 million.

SOGL is a public–private partnership designed to sustain, restore and protect fish, wildlife and habitat in the basin by leveraging funding, building conservation capacity and focusing partners and resources toward key ecological issues. The program achieves this mission, in part, by awarding grants for on-the-ground habitat restoration and enhancement.

The grants support projects that will:

- Add **43 MILLION GALLONS** of stormwater storage
- Restore **5,728 ACRES** of wetland and upland habitat
- Plant **133 ACRES** of trees for increased stormwater storage and habitat
- Install more than **1.8 MILLION SQUARE FEET** of green infrastructure
- Restore more than **268 MILES** of stream and riparian habitat

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ILLINOIS

Restoring Wetlands to Benefit Migratory and Breeding Marsh Birds in Illinois
Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
Grant Amount:..... $641,200
Matching Funds:..... $730,200
Total Project Amount:..... $1,371,400
Continue invasive species treatment in persistent, core areas of previously well-established invasive populations at five wetland sites to benefit breeding wetland birds and migratory birds. Project will use herbicide, mowing, mechanical removal, prescribed fire and subsequent seeding targeting to re-treat 134 acres of wetland.

INDIANA

Restoring 40 Acres in Hobart Nature District to Create Environmental Resilience and Greenspace (IN)
Grantee: Delta Institute
Grant Amount:..... $610,900
Matching Funds:..... $180,000
Total Project Amount:..... $790,000
Restore 40 acres at an abandoned site in Hobart Nature District to benefit native habitat and create a recreational area with new connections to existing trailheads. Project will capture more than 6 million stormwater gallons annually, restore 5 acres of permanent wetland and 30 acres of mesic oak savanna, engage the community to add publicly accessible greenspace across 2 acres and remove invasive species across 40 acres.

Wetland Creation at Meadowbrook Nature Preserve in the Moraine Conservation Area (IN)
Grantee: Shirley Heinze Land Trust
Grant Amount:..... $292,200
Matching Funds:.....$86,000
Total Project Amount:..... $378,200
Treat 25 acres of reed canary grass, re-create wetlands and stream habitat by dismantling drain tiles, and enhance biodiversity by planting native vegetation to support forest-dependent bird species. Project will enhance a minimum of 25 acres of emergent marsh, create a 1,000-foot intermittent stream and create 2 acres of open water to store 800,000 gallons of floodwater.

MICHIGAN

Empowering Communities to Improve Aquatic Habitat and Water Quality in Lake Huron (MI)
Grantee: Huron Pines Resource Conservation & Development Council
Grant Amount:..... $716,700
Matching Funds:..... $586,300
Total Project Amount:..... $1,303,000
Partner with two coastal communities in northeast Michigan to protect Lake Huron water quality and expand green infrastructure practices. Project will add 1,196,000 gallons of stormwater storage capacity and remove 52,000 square feet of impervious surface to improve water quality, reduce flooding and enhance community greenspace.

Osprey building its nest at a NFWF project site

Enhancing the Galien River Watershed to Benefit Migratory Wildlife in Southwest Michigan
Grantee: Chikaming Open Lands
Grant Amount:..... $259,800
Matching Funds:..... $117,200
Total Project Amount:..... $377,000
Enhance habitat throughout the Galien River watershed by controlling invasives, reintroducing disturbance regimes and propagating native plants across 15 protected natural areas to benefit pollinators, marsh birds, herptiles and grassland birds. Project will partner with the community to re-treat 438 acres and expand treatment into nearly 1,100 acres including priority wetland habitat.

Growing Detroit's Green Infrastructure Network to Support Resilient Habitats and Communities
Grantee: National Wildlife Federation
Grant Amount:..... $690,000
Matching Funds:..... $268,000
Total Project Amount:..... $958,000
Expand self-sustaining networks of communities and habitats by installing 10 community-driven green stormwater infrastructure projects at anchor institutions within the west River Rouge and Detroit River watershed. Project will result in 12,600 sq. ft. of new rain gardens, capture 81,730 gallons per storm event, plant 30 trees, and host six community workshops to create usable greenspace for wildlife and people.

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Protecting Greenspaces in Rochester Hills Through Long Term Invasive Species Management (MI)
Grantee: City of Rochester Hills
Grant Amount:. $300,000
Matching Funds:. $375,000
Total Project Amount:. $675,000
Utilize invasive species control methods including herbicide, mechanical removal, and prescribed fire to reduce invasives and enhance current natural communities in Rochester Hills and the Clinton River watershed. Project will restore 130 acres of suburban greenspace and permanently preserve woodlands and wetlands around the city while conducting community engagement events such as hikes and volunteer days to connect people to nature.

Providing Habitat and Water Quality Benefits in the Rouge River, Michigan
Grantee: Oakland County Parks and Recreation
Grant Amount:. $300,000
Matching Funds:. $0
Total Project Amount:. $300,000
Reconnect the floodplain, stabilize the shoreline, provide improved flood storage and restore native floodplain canopy in the Rouge River. Project will restore a 4-acre floodplain and improve the watershed by increasing flood storage capacity, enhancing riparian habitats and reducing a significant source of phosphorus and suspended solids to downstream waterbodies.

Reconnecting Aquatic Habitat in Black River Watershed to Benefit Brook Trout (MI)
Grantee: Huron Pines Resource Conservation & Development Council
Grant Amount:. $350,000
Matching Funds:. $350,000
Total Project Amount:. $700,000
Replace problematic road stream crossings in the Black River watershed with appropriately sized and aligned structures to reconnect upstream habitat to benefit native brook trout and other species. Project will replace four undersized culverts and reconnect 26 miles of upstream habitat to reduce inputs of sediment and associated pollution, improve road safety and climate resilience, and reduce flood risks.

Restoring Brook Trout Passage in Lake Superior Watershed (MI)
Grantee: Superior Watershed Partnership
Grant Amount:. $360,000
Matching Funds:. $575,000
Total Project Amount:. $935,000
Restore passage for priority Lake Superior fish species including brook trout by removing two undersized and perched culverts that block fish passage and cause scour of the stream banks, resulting in increased sedimentation to the stream. Project will improve stream connectivity for brook trout by installing a free-span bridge, restoring passage to 20 miles of year-round stream habitat and 115 miles seasonally.

Restoring Habitat on the Pilgrim River to Protect Aquatic and Terrestrial Species (MI)
Grantee: Trout Unlimited
Grant Amount:. $460,000
Matching Funds:. $30,000
Total Project Amount:. $490,000
Improve aquatic organism passage at five road stream crossings in Keweenaw County, Michigan, to restore the natural river channel, lower water temperatures and increase habitat for aquatic communities. Project will reconnect more than 17 miles of high-quality brook trout habitat and restore up to 10 miles of habitat on the Pilgrim River and its tributaries.

Restoring and Reconnecting Aquatic Organism Passage on Cedar Run and Victoria Creeks (MI)
Grantee: Conservation Resource Alliance
Grant Amount:. $300,000
Matching Funds:. $300,000
Total Project Amount:. $600,000
Restore upstream sites at Cedar Run Creek and Victoria Creek in the greater Lake Leelanau watershed by replacing outdated, undersized culverts, naturalizing stream channels, and reducing water temperatures to restore riparian habitat and improve community and pedestrian safety. Project will replace two culverts, restore more than 8 miles of stream, and reduce sediment and nutrient loads by 2,000 pounds annually.

Restoring Urban Tree Canopy to Improve Bird and Pollinator Habitat at the Detroit Zoo
Grantee: Detroit Zoological Society
Grant Amount:. $1,000,000
Matching Funds:. $728,900
Total Project Amount:. $1,728,900
Improve stormwater storage on a 7-acre parcel of the Detroit Zoo campus to promote water filtration, retain stormwater runoff and improve habitat for native birds and pollinators. Project will plant 90 trees, install 26,650 square feet of green infrastructure and add 170,000 gallons of annual stormwater storage capacity.

Restoring Wetlands in the Maple River Watershed (MI)
Grantee: Conservation Resource Alliance
Grant Amount:. $200,000
Matching Funds:. $200,000
Total Project Amount:. $400,000
Retore wetland habitat in the Maple River watershed to improve water quality, reconnect aquatic organism passage and protect the endangered Hungerford's crawling water beetle. Project will restore more than 8 acres of wetlands, reduce sedimentation by more than 100 pounds, and conduct native plantings across 5 acres.

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Spiny softshell turtle

MINNESOTA

Restoring Connectivity in Chalberg Creek to Benefit Brook Trout (MN)

Grantee: South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District
Grant Amount:..... $250,000
Matching Funds:..... $290,000
Total Project Amount:..... $540,000
Reconnect Chalberg Creek to a significant cold-water spring and benefit native species by providing a thermal refuge against climate change impacts. Project will install eight culverts, add 300 feet in stream length and restore 5 acres of floodplain to slow floodwaters, increase infiltration and benefit brook trout.

Restoring Riparian Habitat to Benefit Brook Trout and Water Quality in Lake Superior (MN)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
Grant Amount:..... $500,000
Matching Funds:..... $500,000
Total Project Amount:..... $1,000,000
Plant trees and clear areas of brush and dying trees in Lake Superior's North Shore to improve climate resilience and tree species diversity. Project will restore 50 miles of riparian habitat to benefit brook trout and other coldwater species in response to the invasive spruce budworm outbreak.

NEW YORK

Enhancing Dune Habitat to Benefit Fisheries and Biodiversity at Fair Haven Beach State Park (NY)

Grantee: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
Grant Amount:..... $210,600
Matching Funds:..... $133,200
Total Project Amount:..... $343,800
Continue and expand priority conservation targets by managing invasive species and restoring impacted coastal ecosystems at Fair Haven Beach State Park. Project will survey more than 400 acres of aquatic and terrestrial priority areas, restore 215 acres and preserve habitat for rare and threatened species such as spiny softshell turtles.

Improving Water Quality and Habitat at Tifft Nature Preserve (NY)

Grantee: Tifft Nature Preserve
Grant Amount:..... $238,300
Matching Funds:..... $332,500
Total Project Amount:..... $570,800
Improve water quality and habitat at the east canal in Tifft Nature Preserve by reducing sediment, creating an emergent aquatic vegetation zone and improving the canal's riparian buffer through invasive species removal and plant restoration. Project will plant 2,860 trees across 17 acres, restore 63 acres through invasive species control and restore 0.6 miles of streambank through aquatic planting to provide habitat for state-listed species.

Reconnecting Habitat in the South Moose River Watershed (NY)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited
Grant Amount:..... $289,900
Matching Funds:..... $290,000
Total Project Amount:..... $579,900
Expand connectivity in the South Moose watershed by developing and implementing a monitoring plan and reconnection strategies to remove and replace culverts. Project will remove or replace four fish passage barriers, open 7.5 miles of stream and expand outreach and work with municipalities to create plans for future projects in the watershed.

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Reforestation and Enhancement of Wetland Habitat along Little Sister Creek (NY)
Grantee: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
Grant Amount:..... $423,200
Matching Funds:.....$90,000
Total Project Amount:..... $513,200
Reforest 20 acres of important riparian forested wetland along Little Sister Creek, a tributary to Lake Erie, that has been severely impacted by the emerald ash borer. Project will provide educational experiences for visitors of Cradle Beach, intercept 497,779 gallons of rainfall annually, avoid 104,563 gallons of runoff each year and improve water quality and coastal resilience along Lake Erie to revitalize the forested swamp to benefit migratory birds and the community.

OHIO

Enhancing Globally Rare Oak Openings Wetlands through Invasive Species Management (OH)
Grantee: Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area
Grant Amount:..... $485,000
Matching Funds:..... $0
Total Project Amount:..... $485,000
Remove invasive species and reduce woody encroachment to enhance and maintain Lakeplain Oak Openings wetlands in northwest Ohio. Project will enhance habitat quality on 1,000 acres of Lakeplain Oak Openings wetlands and associated upland habitat by revisiting previously managed sites to apply cutting, mowing and herbicide treatments leading to long-term reductions in invasive species populations and increases in biodiversity.

Restoring Mentor Marsh and Blackbrook Creek to Improve Biodiversity in Mentor, Ohio
Grantee: Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Grant Amount:..... $400,000
Matching Funds:..... $100,000
Total Project Amount:..... $500,000
Improve stream and coastal wetland habitat within Mentor Marsh through restoration of a natural stream channel and invasive species control to benefit hundreds of species of birds, including bitterns, white pelicans and osprey. Project will restore 0.14 miles of stream, reseed 18 acres of wetland with native plants and treat 261 acres for phragmites, lesser celandine, and other invasive species within the riparian buffer of the stream and eastern basin.

PENNSYLVANIA

Restoring Presque Isle State Park to Enhance Coastal Wetland and Protect Piping Plover (PA)
Grantee: Regional Science Consortium
Grant Amount:..... $500,000
Matching Funds:..... $964,900
Total Project Amount:..... $1,464,900
Protect species of concern, such as the piping plover, through invasive species control, native plant propagation and installation, and wildlife monitoring to enhance coastal wetland and improve public access to nature. Project will protect 400 acres through invasive species control and the installation of at least 1,500 native plants.

WISCONSIN

Converting Agricultural Fields to Wildlife Habitat to Benefit Pollinators and Aquatic Species (WI)
Grantee: Milwaukee County Parks
Grant Amount:..... $235,300
Matching Funds:..... $201,100
Total Project Amount:..... $436,400
Reduce sediment and nutrient runoff into the Root River and enhance habitat for several priority species, including the federally endangered rusty patched bumblebee, as well as state-listed or declining species such as prairie crayfish, unicorn clubtail, northern leopard frog and monarch butterfly. Project will restore 90 acres of croplands to native forest and prairie within the riparian habitat zone of the Root River in Franklin, Wisconsin.

Engaging Milwaukee Public Schools and Improving Infrastructure to Create Community Greenspace
Grantee: Milwaukee Board of School Directors dba Milwaukee Public Schools
Grant Amount:..... $1,000,000
Matching Funds:..... $1,000,000
Total Project Amount:..... $2,000,000
Improve the environmental, social and economic health of Milwaukee area schools through community education and nature-inspired landscapes. Project will plant 225 trees, add more than 3 acres of greenspace, add 8 million gallons of annual stormwater storage and hold educational events and volunteer opportunities across five schools in Milwaukee.

Northern leopard frog

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Enhancing Water Quality and Providing Outdoor Educational Opportunities in Mishicot, Wisconsin
Grantee: Glacierland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)
Grant Amount:..... $246,000
Matching Funds:..... $175,000
Total Project Amount:..... $421,000
Install green infrastructure on the Mishicot School District campus to improve stormwater storage and habitat and provide educational opportunities. Project will divert and infiltrate 350,000 gallons of roof and surface runoff, plant 350 trees, and create an interactive outdoor learning space to teach students about watersheds, pollutants and the benefit of native plants.

Implementing Nature-Based Solutions for Ecological Restoration and Public Access Improvements (WI)
Grantee: Ozaukee County, Wisconsin
Grant Amount:..... $500,000
Matching Funds:..... $500,000
Total Project Amount:..... $1,000,000
Design and implement restoration of wetlands, prairie, woodland and pedestrian trails and boardwalk to benefit the community and local species such as the short-eared owl in a 134-acre park in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin. Project will plant 15,000 seedlings and 200 native trees, to restore 16 acres of woodlands and 9 acres of wetlands, and also make access improvements.

Implementing Nature-Based Stormwater Solutions and Greenspace Restoration at Olson Park (WI)
Grantee: Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership
Grant Amount:..... $283,000
Matching Funds:..... $272,000
Total Project Amount:..... $555,000
Restore Olson Park to manage runoff, improve water quality, plant native trees and shrubs, and enhance public access through infrastructure improvements to enhance native habitat and species diversity. Project will engage the community to restore 1 acre of greenspace, plant 500 trees, remove 2 square feet of impervious surface and add 200,000 gallons of stormwater storage.

Improving Habitat, Water Quality and Streambank in Pike River Estuary to Benefit Trout (WI)
Grantee: Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network
Grant Amount:..... $298,900
Matching Funds:..... $741,000
Total Project Amount:..... $1,039,900
Install fish habitat with instream structures, restore riparian buffer for native pollinators, reduce sources of erosion with stabilized streambanks, increase shoreline safety with purposeful access trails, improve water quality and advance a sustainable design concept to mitigate fish passage barriers. Project will add 750 linear feet of stabilized shoreline, 1,920 square feet of new fish habitat and 31,400 gallons of stormwater storage.

Installing Bioswales and Native Vegetation to Enhance Biodiversity and Support Pollinators (WI)
Grantee: University of WI - Parkside
Grant Amount:..... $207,400
Matching Funds:..... $115,400
Total Project Amount:..... $322,800
Install a regenerative stormwater conveyance bioswale to receive and infiltrate runoff from the University of Wisconsin Parkside's campus. Project will incorporate student volunteers, add 27,000 square feet of green infrastructure, store 36,700 gallons of stormwater and plant 10 trees to elevate biodiversity, create pollinator habitat, empower students and improve stormwater management.

Planting Trees and Improving Greenspace for Migratory Birds in Urban Wisconsin
Grantee: Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory
Grant Amount:..... $255,400
Matching Funds:..... $268,500
Total Project Amount:..... $523,900
Plant native trees in the areas of Green Bay, Sheboygan and Racine, Wisconsin, to improve stopover habitat for migratory birds. Project will improve stormwater management by adding 485,600 gallons of annual stormwater storage, plant at least 500 trees in each city, provide stopover habitat for migratory birds, improve green space and reach 500 community members.

Restoring Wetland Habitat to Benefit Native Fish in Pigeon Creek (WI)
Grantee: Village of Thiensville
Grant Amount:..... $195,000
Matching Funds:..... $735,000
Total Project Amount:..... $930,000
Improve water quality in the Milwaukee River and Lake Michigan basin to provide critical spawning and nursery habitat for priority species in the 2019 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan. Project will open a half-mile of stream, restore 2 acres of floodplain and add a walking trail to provide nature access for Thiesenville residents.

Restoring Wetland and Planting Trees to Enhance Wildlife Habitat and Create Greenspace in Milwaukee
Grantee: Ducks Unlimited
Grant Amount:..... $801,400
Matching Funds:..... $940,000
Total Project Amount:..... $1,741,400
Restore wetland and plant native trees at seven locations across the Milwaukee area to reduce flooding impacts and capture and filter stormwater to improve water quality. Project will plant 535 trees, add 22.5 million gallons of stormwater storage, and restore 64 acres of wetlands, 7 acres of floodplain, 35 acres of upland, and a half-mile of river to enhance wildlife habitat and create new community greenspace.