

2022 Funding Opportunity Guidance for Applicants



Webinar Agenda

- Sustain Our Great Lakes overview
- Funding opportunity details
 - Information regarding six funding priorities
- Application guidance
- Q&A session After each section
- Housekeeping:
 - Q&A breaks
 - Webinar recording/slides and FAQ document at: www.nfwf.org/greatlakes



Public–Private Partnership

- Cleveland-Cliffs
- General Mills
- Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Caerus Foundation
- Crown Family Philanthropies
- Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Walder Foundation





Program Achievements: 2006–2021

\$210 million

dedicated by SOGL and grantee organizations toward ecological restoration

\$97 million

awarded in grants by SOGL since 2006

\$113 million committed by grantees as match since 2006

2,387 Miles of fish passage restoration **35,566** Acres of wetland restoration

Outcomes

W/2-

438 Miles of stream and

riparian habitat restoration



421M

Gallons of stormwater storage capacity added





2022 Funding Opportunity

- Pre-proposal due date: February 28
- Full proposal due date: April 18
- Eligible applicants
 - Non-profit organizations
 - State, tribal & local governments
 - Educational institutions
- Anticipated funding: up to \$11.2M
 - At least \$1.36M to projects in WI Lake Michigan watershed
- Grant size:
 - \$200,000-\$1M (categories 1-4)
 - \$100,000-\$350,000 (category 5)
 - \$100,000–350,000 (category 6)





Program Priorities

- 1: Restore and Enhance Stream and Riparian Habitat
- 2: Restore and Enhance Coastal Habitats
- 3: Expand Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Great Lakes Communities
- 4: Maintain and Enhance Benefits of Habitat Restoration through Invasive Species Control
- 5: Restore and Preserve Natural Areas and Biodiversity in Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Watershed
- 6: Accelerate Implementation of Conservation Practices and Regenerative Agriculture on Working Lands

Funding Availability

- \$11.2 million total available for awards in 2022
- Projects that occur within US Great Lakes basin
 - \$2.2 million available for Category 1: Stream and Riparian Habitat
 - \$1.1 million available for Category 2: Coastal Habitat
 - \$3 million available for Category 3: Green Stormwater Infrastructure
 - \$2.5 million available for Category 4: Invasive Species Control
- \$1.36 million will be available for Category 5: Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Watershed
- \$1.1 million will be available for Category 6: Conservation Practices and Regenerative Ag on Working Lands
- No funding will be available for projects in Canada in 2022

Funding Category 1: Restore and Enhance Stream & Riparian Habitat

- Improve the quality and connectivity of stream and riparian habitat
- Priority to projects that:
 - ✓ Benefit brook trout and/or lake sturgeon
 - Reduce sediment and nutrient loading to streams and other waters
- <u>Fishwerks</u> tool (see RFP for additional info)
- Sea Lamprey Control Program consultation (kevin_mann@fws.gov)
 - Additional guidance available at <u>www.nfwf.org/greatlakes</u>







Lake sturgeon. Photo: River Alliance of Wisconsin

Brook trout

Stream & Riparian Habitat

Primary Strategies

- Brook Trout Conservation Portfolio <u>web tool</u>
 - Demonstrate value of selected stream sites based on existing regional or organizational strategies and indicate anticipated benefit to brook trout
 - Instructions and details in RFP



Stream & Riparian Habitat

Primary Strategies

- Restore aquatic connectivity
 - Barrier removal
 - Bridge and culvert replacement
 - Passage structures
- Naturalize stream channels
 - Channel realignment
 - Excavation

- Improve in-stream habitat
 - Installation of instream structures
 - Sediment management
- Improve riparian habitat
 - Bank stabilization
 - Phase 1 invasive species control
 - Native plant restoration

- *New in 2021:* Approximately \$500,000 will be available for riparian restoration projects specifically designed to improve water quality and nearshore health.
 - Reduce nutrient and sediment inputs
 - Enhance local or downstream conservation actions
 - Address strategic water quality concerns (e.g. TMDL, 9 Key Element Plans, etc.)

Funding Category 2: Restore and Enhance Coastal Habitats

- Improve the quality and connectivity of Great Lakes coastal systems and habitats to benefit priority migratory shorebirds, waterfowl and breeding marsh birds.
- Projects that request funds to install or maintain jetties, breakwalls or other grey infrastructure will not be considered for funding.
- Priority to projects:
 - On non-federal lands that restore wetlands monitored by the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program
 - That benefit populations of shorebirds, breeding marsh birds and waterfowl
 - Priority will be given to projects that have been planned, designed or informed by shorebird, waterfowl and/or breeding marsh bird monitoring efforts
- CWMP Priority wetland map: <u>www.greatlakeswetlands.org/map</u>



Coastal Habitat

Primary Strategies

 All coastal habitats/systems eligible, not just wetlands

- Improve habitat structure
 - Phase 1 invasive species control
 - Native plant restoration
 - Benefit priority species

- Improve or maintain hydrology and sediment dynamics
 - Water control techniques
 - Sediment management
- Restore aquatic connectivity
 - Passage structures
 - Removal of hard structures
 - Sediment removal









Piping plover

Virginia rail

Funding Category 3: Expand Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Great Lakes Communities

- Improve green stormwater infrastructure in Great Lakes shoreline cities to increase storm water storage and capture
- Priority to projects:
 - Add more than 100,000 gallons of stormwater storage capacity (include calculation for volume of runoff captured annually)
 - Demonstrate water quality benefits to the Great Lakes or connecting channels
 - Utilizing native plant and tree species that improve pollinator habitat and urban canopy
- Calculate gallons of stormwater storage added:

EPA Stormwater Calculator i-Tree



Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Primary Strategies – New in 2022

- **GSI in Western New York**: A minimum of \$500,000 for the following counties: Allegany, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming.
- Urban Forestry in Underserved Communities: Approximately \$700,000 will be available to support urban green infrastructure that focuses on urban forests and tree planting, especially in underserved communities.
 - Priority to projects planting 500 trees or more



Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Primary Strategies

- Install green infrastructure
 - Rain gardens
 - Bioswales
 - Riparian buffers
 - Green roofs

at at a G

Pervious surfaces

- Create and enhance urban wetlands
 - Construct/improve wetlands
 - Improve wetland habitat
- Restore urban forests
 - Strategic native tree installation

Funding Category 4: Maintain and Enhance Benefits of Habitat Restoration through Invasive Species Control

- Support phase 2 invasive species control efforts needed to sustain or enhance the benefits of previous habitat restorations
- Priority to projects:
 - Directly protects, reinforces, or enhances value of restoration projects previously funded by GLRI or SOGL
 - Of sufficient size, scope, or unique ecological value
- Non-competitive projects:
 - New or untested technologies
 - Exclusive focus on early detection and rapid response (EDRR)
 - Control invasive fish or other animals
 - On-off efforts to treat new acres, not connected to previously funded restoration
 - If project includes new/phase 1 invasive control efforts or EDRR, apply to categories 1-4 or 5 and include in restoration





Invasive Species Control

Primary Strategies

- Re-Treat or Manage Acres to Control Invasive Species
 - Acres that have received initial treatment to further control primary invasive species target(s) and management of secondary invasives appearing postinitial treatment. This retreatment is called phase 2 invasive species control.
- Expand Existing Invasive Control Efforts
 - Treat or manage invasive species on new/previously untreated acres adjacent or strategically connected to existing control efforts to protect restored habitat from secondary invasives and encroachment.





Funding Category 5: Restore and Preserve Natural Areas and Biodiversity in Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Watershed

- \$1.36 million will be available for projects proposed in Wisconsin's Lake Michigan watershed
- Grant size: \$100-350k
- Grant duration: 2 to 4 years
- Match not required
- Fund for Lake Michigan provide up to \$400k in matching funds
- Projects must include on-the ground implementation – 50% of budget
- Additional eligible activities:
 - Enhancing public greenspace
 - Improving public access to natural areas
 - Project design and engineering
 - Pre and post implementation monitoring



- > Applied research
- Maintenance and vegetation establishment
- Education and Outreach

Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Watershed

Primary Strategies

- Restore and preserve of a wide variety of habitats and natural landscapes
 - prairies
 - grasslands
 - oak savannas
 - upland and lowland forests
 - wetlands and ephemeral ponds
 - beaches and dune systems
 - hearshore and shoreline
- Improve range of ecological benefits
 - Increase complexity, connectivity and quality of habitat of natural areas
 - Improve habitat and community resilience
 - Enhance biodiversity and project habitat critical for species





Which Funding Category Should You Choose?

Step 1: Will your project

- Align with the strategies of funding categories
 1-4 (including benefits to priority species)
- Request between \$200k-\$1M
- Be completed within 2 years (or 2 field seasons) from start date
- ~70% budget/level of effort to on-the-ground work
- Take into consideration 1:1 match from nonfederal sources tend to be most competitive

If YES to all - apply under Funding Categories 1-4

If NO to any of the bullets under Step 1 apply under Funding Category 5

Step 2: Consider these criteria unique to Funding Category 5

- Improve biodiversity, water quality, habitat quality, public greenspace and/or access to natural areas
- Request between \$100-\$350K
- Be completed within 4 years (longer project duration justified with significant pre-and-post implementation activities)
- Match not required but encouraged
- At least 50% budget/level of effort to on-the ground work

Funding Category 6: Accelerate Implementation of Conservation Practices and Regenerative Agriculture on Works Lands

- Improve soil health, water quality and biodiversity by providing technical assistance to landowners to strategically apply soil health and regenerative agriculture (RA) conservation practices
- Grant size: \$100-350k
- Grant duration: 2 to 3 years
- 1:1 non-federal match required
- ~\$800,000 to projects engaging growers and dairies in MI lower peninsula, the Lake Michigan watershed of IN and the western Lake Erie watershed of IN, OH and MI
- Applicants encouraged to engage producers and orgs that identify as belonging to one or more NRCS' <u>Historically Underserved</u> and <u>Special Emphasis</u> categories



Conservation Practices and Regenerative Agriculture on Working Lands

Primary Strategies

- Improve soil health, water quality and biodiversity through technical assistance
 - Soil health and RA practices
 - Cover crops
 - Riparian buffers and wetlands
 - Drainage and tillage practices to reduce S and nutrient losses and improve habitat

- Engage landowners in conservation and RA planning and peer to peer learning
 - Landowner outreach coordination and implementation of conservation systems and RA principles
 - Convene farmer-led groups to engage in discussion, planning and knowledge sharing to advance regional adoption of RA principles



Conservation Practices and Regenerative Agriculture on Working Lands

- Requirements:
 - > At least 1:1 match ratio required
 - All applications must report anticipated outcomes in terms of acres with BMPs applied to reduce nutrient or sediment loads and pounds of sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus inputs avoided annually
 - Grantees required to submit additional field-level data to NFWF to help measure anticipated benefits of RA practices in terms of greenhouse gasses, carbon and/or water benefits
- Priority to projects that:
 - Build upon established relationships with landowners through previous local work or by engaging local partners
 - Support landowners in advancing a holistic approach to managing working lands that build soil productivity and enhance the ecosystem
 - Interest in projects that monitor benefits to priority aquatic and avian species

Questions?



Metrics and Monitoring

- Applicants may use grant funding to support monitoring
- Metrics to track progress toward project completion
 - Miles/acres restored
 - Passage barriers rectified
 - Lbs P reduced annually
- Monitoring plan
 - Metrics
 - Baseline and post-implementation
 - Resources
- Monitoring biological outcomes
 - Improvements to priority fish, breeding marsh birds, shorebirds and waterfowl, pollinators etc.
 - ✓ Contact NFWF for guidance







Guidance for Metrics Reporting and Monitoring

- Additional instructions for metrics and monitoring
 - Fish passage improvements
 - Stream/channel restoration
 - Riparian restoration
 - Brook trout habitat improvements
 - Wetland reconnection
 - Wetland hydrology improvements
 - Wetland habitat improvements
 - Green stormwater infrastructure
 - Invasive species control



SOGL 2018 Applicant/Grantee Metrics Guidance

Required Upload – Full Proposal

Outcome and Metric Tracking Document

- Full proposal upload requirement download template from Easygrants
- Objective: provide additional data/details for metrics and outcomes to enhance full proposal narrative
- Fill out sections corresponding to funding category
 - Streams
 - Coastal Systems
 - > GSI
 - Invasive Species
 - Regenerative Ag
 - > WI Lake MI Watershed (Category 5) Fill out sections relevant to project activities
- Provide additional priority species data, approaches to calculating metrics/outcomes, and other relevant info

Additional Reporting Requirements – Modeling and Monitoring

- As part of the application process, applicants will be required to submit additional county-level data on expected project activities (practice/acre).
 - Funding Category 6 (Regenerative Agriculture): Grant recipients will be required to submit additional field-level data in interim and final project reports.
- NFWF will use this information to estimate and track anticipated and actual project outcomes in terms of greenhouse gases, carbon and water benefits and species response to conservation actions.
- Grantees may be contacted to support species monitoring activities conducted by NFWF and our sub-contractors.
 - Requests for support may include, but are not limited to, requests for species monitoring data where available, support for project site access and approval for monitoring activities, clarification on project timeline and/or scope.

Eligible Grant Expenses: Categories 1 - 4

- ≥70% of each grant to go toward on-the-ground habitat work
- Option to use remaining funds (≤30%) for
 - Planning
 - Permitting
 - Final design
 - Engineering
 - Monitoring
 - Outreach/Education



Brown Bridge Dam removal. Photo: Conservation Resource Alliance

Matching Contributions

- Projects with minimum 1:1 non-federal match ratio most competitive
 - Indicate federal match to demonstrate partner investment in project
- Match sources
 - Cash
 - In-kind contributions of staff
 - Materials and services donated
 - ✓ Volunteer time
 - Cost of land acquisition/easement
 - ✓ Allowable indirect costs not covered by grant funding
 - ✓ Other tangible contributions to project goals



Matching Contributions

- Categories 1-4: Projects with minimum 1:1 non-federal match ratio most competitive
 - Indicate all match sources non-federal and federal to demonstrate partner investment in project
- Category 5: Match not required, but encouraged (non-federal and federal sources of match/leverage)
 - Indicate all match sources non-federal and federal to demonstrate partner investment in project
- Category 6: 1:1 match required
 - Projects are required to provide at least a 1:1 match ratio with contributions from non-federal sources to be considered for funding

Match and Period of Performance

Match

- Match must be spent between project start and end dates
- Backdating not an option

Period of Performance

- Start date should be no earlier than September 1, 2022*
- Duration typically 2 years (or two full field seasons)
 Category 5: up to 4 years
- May include a third year as needed to complete:
 - > Planning
 - Permitting
 - Final design
 - Engineering
 - > Implementation
 - Baseline Monitoring
 - Post-Restoration Monitoring



Additional Application Requirements

- Applicants proposing removal or modification of **fish passage barriers**
 - Consultation with Sea Lamprey Control Program (Program)
 - Pre-Proposal: Initiate consultation with Program
 - Full-Proposal: Provide evidence that barriers have been approved/reviewed by program
- Applicants proposing **phragmites control**
 - Demonstrate consideration of Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework (PAMF) to inform control practices and long-term maintenance
 - To learn more, visit: <u>http://www.greatlakesphragmites.net/pamf/</u>
 - To connect with PAMF/ask questions, email: pamf@glc.org



Uploads - Applicant Demographic Information Form

- The information you provide will <u>not</u> be shared with proposal reviewers and will <u>not</u> be considered when making grant decisions.
- The Foundation will <u>not</u> share identifying information about any particular entity or project.
- While the form is a required upload, applicants can opt out of providing the information within the form itself
 - If your organization does not collect this information or if you have provided NFWF with this information in the last 12 months, you can opt out.
- The information provided on this excel form will be kept confidential, the Foundation may share its anonymized aggregate findings as appropriate with its staff, Board of Directors, funding partners, and publicly on its website or through other media.

APPLICANT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION						
As part of NFWF's goal to encourage and support diversity across the conservation projects we fund, we would like to better understand the existing diversity in our grantmaking community and in the local communities to a community of a community and in the local community of a community of the second s						
As part of this effort to support diversity, we also desire to understand ho The information provided on this excel form will be kept confidential, alt! not share identifying information about any particular entity or project.	w our grantees engage with the communities where the projects take place and who in those communities might benefit from them. We ask fo hough the Foundation may share its aggregate findings as appropriate with its staff, Board of Directors, funding partners, and publicly on its . These anonymized aggregate data will be used by NFWF to better understand the demographic profiles of the organizations that we fund.					
The information you provide will <u>not</u> be shared with p	proposal reviewers and will <u>not</u> be considered when making grant decisions.					
Instructions: Complete all pertinent fields shaded in green . Your Hu If you do not know an answer, use the "dan't know/not sure" option inste You may opt out of providing this information to NFWF; however, you sti	iman Resources Department may have some of the information requested readily available. Please be sure to complete the General Informatio ad of guessing. If a section does not apply to your organization you may skip it. Do not make any other changes to this form. III <u>must upload this form to Easyarants</u> with your application and complete the first section of the form.					
All applicants must complete this section, even if you	have provided this data to NFWF in the past 12 months or are opting out for another reason.					
If you have provided this data to NFWF in the past 12 months you do not Easygrants project # from your grant application: Grant program name shown on the RFP:	need to provide it again but you must still complete this top section of the form and submit it with your proposal.					
i you are opting out, select a reason you	n the unopution has in the green box.					
General Information						
Date completed:						
Organization Full Name						
Organization Fills						
Organization Type:	Click on the arean has to select from the drandown list					
Organization Size (number of employees)	Click on the green box to select from the dropdown list					
PART 1: APPLICANT ORGANIZATION - ALL EMPLOYEES (if applicable)						
Please provide the following demographic information about all of you						
r reuse provide the johowing demographic injornation about <u>an</u> of you	r organization's employees, <u>including senior leaders</u> .					
1 University of the policy of	r organization's employees, <u>including senior leaders</u> .					
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How many people currently work for your organization? (<i>Include temp</i> Total Number: 2. How many of your employees identify as each gender?	r organization's employees, <u>including senior leaders</u> . porary and part-time employees in your response but <u>do not include contractors</u>)					
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Regulatory Compliance

- Required for most grants
 - National Environmental Policy Act
 - Endangered Species Act
 - National Historic Preservation Act
 - EAGL (annual progress updates and supporting documentation)

Questions?



Application Assistance – Reference Sheet

Supporting Documents:

- 1. <u>SOGL 2022 RFP Webpage</u>
 - a. <u>Tip Sheet</u>
 - Step-by-step pre- to full proposal guidance
 - b. <u>SOGL Metrics Guidance</u>
 - Guidance for metrics reporting and monitoring
 - c. <u>Easygrants Applicant Tutorial</u>
 - Step-by-step video tutorial for how to start and complete a proposal in <u>Easygrants</u> (<u>https://easygrants.nfwf.org/</u>)
- 2. <u>NFWF Application Information</u>
 - a. <u>Budget instructions</u>
 - For Full Proposals, download the <u>Detailed Budget and Narrative Guide</u>.
 - *For the Full Proposal Budget section, please provide a respective budget narrative describing the purpose of each line item towards the project.
 - b. <u>Required financial documents</u>
 - Financial documents must be for the same fiscal year and **no more than 2 years old**
 - c. <u>Indirect Cost Policy</u>

https://www.nfwf.org/programs/sustain-our-great-lakes-program



https://www.nfwf.org/apply-grant

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Timeline

Pre-Proposal Due Date: Monday, February 28th, 11:59 PM ET

Invites to Full Proposal: Late-March 2021

Full Proposal Due Date: Monday, April 18th, 11:59pm ET

Awards Announced:

September 2022



Contacts

Programmatic Questions

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Traci Giefer

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Application/Easygrants Questions

Minna Wong Regional Coordinator Phone: 202-595-2657 Email: <u>Minna.Wong@nfwf.org</u>

Technical Assistance / Easygrants Helpdesk:

- Email: Easygrants@nfwf.org
- <u>Voicemail:</u> 202-595-2497
- <u>Hours:</u> 9:00 am to 5:00 pm ET, Monday-Friday.
- <u>Include:</u> your name, proposal ID #, e-mail address, phone number, program you are applying to, and a description of the issue.

SUSTAIN OUR GREATLAKES



www.nfwf.org/greatlakes