



Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund

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PARTNERS

- Cleveland-Cliffs
- Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation
- The Kresge Foundation
- Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) works with partners to foster sustainable and impactful conservation solutions so that people and nature thrive together. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest conservation foundation. Since its founding, NFWF has funded more than 23,300 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of \$11.3 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org



Volunteers planting

OVERVIEW

Cleveland-Cliffs, the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation, the Kresge Foundation, the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced the 2025-year round of funding for the Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund projects. These grants received a total of nearly \$1.5 million in grant funding and leveraged \$2 million in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of more than \$3.5 million.

The Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund is a public-private partnership working to help increase the resilience of communities and natural resources in Southeast Michigan through the following three categories:

EXPANDING NATURE-BASED STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND IMPROVING PUBLIC SPACE

Improve stormwater capture and storage to reduce runoff, combined sewer overflows, basement backups and flooding.

ENHANCING HABITAT QUALITY, CONNECTIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Improve the quality and connectivity of in-stream, riparian, upland, and wetland habitats throughout Southeast Michigan. The fund seeks to award grants that achieve multiple benefits, focusing investments on projects that meaningfully engage and benefit communities.

ACTIVATING RESTORED HABITATS

Activate spaces that have been restored through habitat enhancements and improvements, including those previously funded by Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) or NFWF, by increasing community engagement, public access and long-term stewardship of those sites.

(continued)

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

In the first seven years of the fund, 44 total projects were selected to receive approximately \$10.6 million. The grants awarded leveraged \$13.5 million in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of more than \$24.1 million. These investments resulted in:

- **25.3 million gallons** of stormwater storage added
- **63,750 people** reached through engagement
- **63,196 trees** planted to improve air and water quality
- **995 acres** of wildlife habitat restored or enhanced
- **103 public access points** to natural areas developed or improved

The 2025 grants will support projects that also will:

- **Add 4.3 million gallons** of stormwater storage
- **Plant 396 trees** for increased stormwater storage and habitat
- **Restore 55 acres** of habitat
- Help restore the quality and connectivity of the region’s unique habitats
- Improve quality of life by increasing public access to natural areas and parks through **48 new access points**

2025 GRANTS

Improving Access to Natural Habitat in Ypsilanti with Nature-based Stormwater Infrastructure (MI)

Grantee: Washtenaw County

Grant Amount:..... \$300,000

Matching Funds:..... \$78,900

Total Project Amount:..... \$378,900

Install rain gardens and plant trees at public locations in Ypsilanti to increase access to nature and mitigate flooding risks. Project will install four rain gardens, plant 36 trees,



Bee on flower

and add 2 acres of nature-based stormwater infrastructure in public locations to capture more than 3 million gallons per year of stormwater.

Restoring Meadows to Support Birds and Pollinators in Detroit (MI)

Grantee: Detroit Bird Alliance

Grant Amount:..... \$200,000

Matching Funds:..... \$241,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$441,000

Improve and maintain 70-acres of meadow habitat made up of native flowers and grasses at parks within Detroit to support migratory birds and pollinators and create a welcoming natural space for Detroit community members and visitors. Project will improve 70 acres of natural areas, restore 35-acres through invasives removal, and install more than 1 million square feet of nature-based infrastructure.

Expanding Nature-based Infrastructure and Enhancing Public Space at Ecorse Creek (MI)

Grantee: Downriver Community Conference

Grant Amount:..... \$356,400

Matching Funds:..... \$159,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$515,400

Construct nature-based infrastructure at Heather Lane Park in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, to reduce stormwater runoff and flooding, improve water quality and enhance riparian habitat. Project will add 257,090 gallons of stormwater storage and install 22,000 square feet of nature-based infrastructure.

Restoring Grassland Habitat to Benefit Rare Birds in Superior Township (MI)

Grantee: Superior Township Parks & Recreation Commission

Grant Amount:..... \$249,400

Matching Funds:..... \$1,470,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,719,400

Reduce soil erosion into the Huron River to benefit Eastern Massasauga rattlesnakes, Blanding’s turtles, amphibians and rare grassland bird species. Project will acquire 162-acres, add two public access points and restore 16 acres of farmland to grassland habitat.

Installing Native Prairie to Improve Ecological Health and Provide Recreational Opportunities (MI)

Grantee: Rescue MI Nature Now

Grant Amount:..... \$362,100

Matching Funds:..... \$89,900

Total Project Amount:..... \$452,000

Create vibrant natural spaces in the Nolan neighborhood of Detroit that enhance ecological health and engagement with nature. Project will plant 360 trees, establish 11.8 acres of native prairie, develop more than a mile of trail, and install eight access points to add 765,000 gallons of stormwater storage through nature-based infrastructure.