NFWF

Sustain Our Great Lakes

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

Naomi Attaway
Senior Coordinator,
Regional Programs
naomi.attaway@nfwf.org
202-595-2496

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

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 23,900 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of more than $12 billion.

Learn more at **www.nfwf.org**

Blanding's turtle

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Cleveland-Cliffs, the 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 2025-year round of funding for the Sustain Our Great Lakes Fund (SOGL) projects. Twenty-six new or continuing habitat restoration projects totaling $8.8 million in grant funding were awarded. These 26 awards announced will leverage $11.7 in matching contributions from grantees to generate a total conservation impact of more than $20.5 million.

SOGL is a public–private partnership designed to sustain, restore and protect fish, wildlife and habitat in the Great Lakes 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 will support projects that also will:

- Add **12 MILLION GALLONS** of stormwater storage
- Restore **2,102 ACRES** of wetland and upland habitat
- Plant **4,289 TREES** for increased stormwater storage and habitat
- Install more than **3 MILLION SQUARE FEET** of nature-based infrastructure
- Restore more than **19 MILES** of stream and riparian habitat

(continued)

Brook trout

ILLINOIS

Activating Public Space at Heritage Quarries Recreation Area (IL)

Grantee: The Forge Charitable Adventures, NFP
Grant Amount:..... $300,000
Matching Funds:..... $227,500
Total Project Amount:..... $527,500
Manage unique habitats and restore natural areas through invasive species control, monitoring and mapping of plants and wildlife, and native plantings in the heritage quarries recreation area in Lemont, Illinois. Project will restore 16 acres of upland and prairie habitat, 10 acres of wetlands, and 5 miles of riparian habitat while increasing access to and engagement in this unique natural area.

Expanding and Enhancing Riverfront Natural Area for Community and Wildlife Benefits (IL)

Grantee: Chicago Park District
Grant Amount:..... $227,600
Matching Funds:..... $228,900
Total Project Amount:..... $456,500
Restore degraded habitat and engage volunteers in habitat stewardship, wildlife monitoring and restoration activities to increase engagement in and access to nature within park 538 on Chicago's northwest side. Project will improve 18 acres of previously restored prairie and woodland habitat to benefit birds, butterflies and local residents.

INDIANA

Enhancing Habitat for Flora and Fauna at Indiana Dunes National Park (IN)

Grantee: Save the Dunes Conservation Fund
Grant Amount:..... $350,000
Matching Funds:.....$25,800
Total Project Amount:..... $375,800
Reinforce past restoration efforts through the re-treatment of persistent invasive plant species across a savanna-wetland complex habitat at Indiana Dunes National Park. Project will restore 660 acres of upland habitat and 140 acres of wetland habitat.

Restoring Ecosystems and Furthering Habitat Connectivity in the Grand Calumet River (IN)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
Grant Amount:..... $450,000
Matching Funds:..... $1,522,200
Total Project Amount:..... $1,972,200
Treat invasive species on 1,217 acres to improve wildlife habitat in the Grand Calumet River area of concern in the cities of Hammond, East Chicago and Gary, Indiana. Project will perform initial invasive species treatment on 40 acres and re-treatment across 1,177 acres, develop 1 mile of trail and restore 683 acres of wetland.

MICHIGAN

Activating Conservation for Rare Lake Huron Ecosystems (MI)

Grantee: Huron Pines Resource Conservation & Development Council
Grant Amount:..... $250,000
Matching Funds:..... $129,000
Total Project Amount:..... $379,000
Restore rare, protected habitat along the shoreline of Lake Huron through habitat stewardship and invasive species control, while creating opportunities to engage with nature at this unique site in northeast Michigan. Project will improve 997 acres of habitat, develop engagement opportunities for all users and protect habitat vital to imperiled species such as piping plover and Pitcher's thistle.

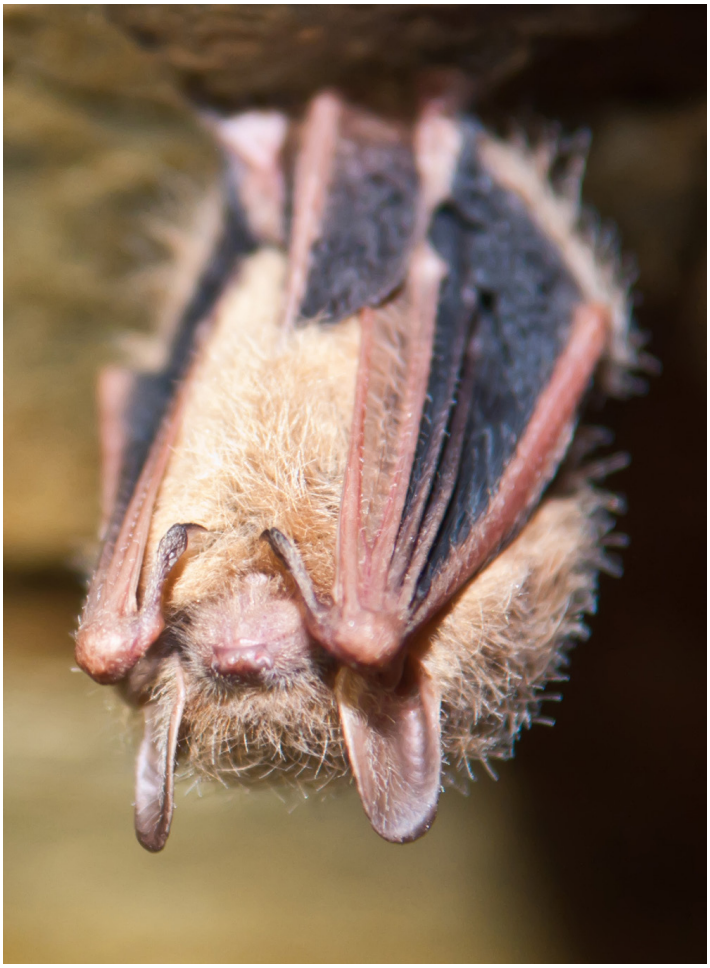
Building Riparian Resilience at Au Sable River Watershed (MI)

Grantee: Huron Pines Resource Conservation & Development Council
Grant Amount:..... $242,100
Matching Funds:..... $208,000
Total Project Amount:..... $450,100
Conduct initial invasive species control and re-treatments across Au Sable watershed in northern lower Michigan. Project will restore 20 acres with native plantings, remove invasives across 380 acres and restore 250 acres of wetland.

(continued)

Enhancing Wetland and Installing Nature-based Infrastructure to Improve Habitat (MI)
Grantee: Superior Watershed Partnership
Grant Amount:. $387,100
Matching Funds:. $14,500
Total Project Amount:. $401,600
Improve habitat conditions and protect lakeshore near Escanaba, Michigan, through hydrology restoration, nature-based infrastructure and rain gardens. Project will enhance 73 acres, plant 2,000 native trees, and capture 245,784 gallons of stormwater annually.

Expanding Tree Canopy to Improve Function of Lake Erie Watershed (MI)
Grantee: The Greening of Detroit
Grant Amount:. $450,000
Matching Funds:. $910,400
Total Project Amount:. $1,360,400
Implement urban forest restoration based on existing tree canopy and conditions, in areas where the most immediate benefits of new trees can be realized. Project will sustain 10 jobs, plant 2,000 trees, install more than 3 million square feet of nature-based infrastructure, and capture 728,733 gallons of stormwater annually.



Tri-colored bat

Improving Fish Passage at Pine River Watershed (MI)
Grantee: Conservation Resource Alliance
Grant Amount:. $300,000
Matching Funds:. $75,000
Total Project Amount:. $375,000
Improve fish passages in Pine River to restore bidirectional fish passage for brook trout and other species in Lake County, Michigan. Project will rectify four fish passage barriers, open 8 miles of stream and restore 9 miles of riparian stream.

Reconnecting and Restoring Penoyer Creek Brook Trout Habitat (MI)
Grantee: Muskegon River Watershed Assembly
Grant Amount:. $350,000
Matching Funds:. $694,700
Total Project Amount:. $1,044,700
Reconnect upstream habitat to protect brook trout in Penoyer Creek, Michigan. Project will rectify one passage, reconnect more than 4 miles of stream, install five instream structures and restore 1 acre of hydrology to improve fish passage.

Restoring Aquatic Connectivity and Habitat in the Upper Peshekee River Watershed (MI)
Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
Grant Amount:. $245,200
Matching Funds:. $245,200
Total Project Amount:. $490,400
Repair failing and undersized road-stream crossings that present passage barriers to aquatic species in Peshekee River watershed in Baraga County, Michigan. Project will reconnect 12.4 miles of stream and improve stream habitat for brook trout and water quality by significantly reducing stream sedimentation.

Restoring Aquatic Passage and Stream Connectivity at Sanborn Creek (MI)
Grantee: Conservation Resource Alliance
Grant Amount:. $650,000
Matching Funds:. $650,000
Total Project Amount:. $1,300,000
Restore and improve connectivity in the Baldwin River in Lake County, Michigan, to benefit the passage of brook trout and other aquatic species. Project will rectify one instream passage barrier, open 58 miles of fish passage, restore more than 3 acres of floodplain and plant 300 trees.

Restoring Connectivity and Habitat in Northern Michigan Brook Trout Streams (MI)
Grantee: Trout Unlimited
Grant Amount:. $409,900
Matching Funds:. $215,000
Total Project Amount:. $624,900
Improve aquatic organism passage and habitat in northern Michigan coldwater streams through strategic planning and collaborative partnerships. Project will connect 25 miles of high-quality coldwater habitat, implement six culvert upgrades and restore 1 mile of instream habitat.

(continued)

Common loon and chick

Restoring and Conserving Rare Species at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum (MI)
Grantee: The Regents of the University of Michigan
Grant Amount:..... $400,000
Matching Funds:..... $445,100
Total Project Amount:..... $845,100
Conduct monitoring, invasive species management, and natural areas stewardship on 525 previously treated acres in southeast Michigan. Project will create one job, restore 124 acres of floodplain, treat 150 acres for invasives and restore 334 acres of wetland.

Restoring Stream Connectivity to Enhance Aquatic Habitat in Rose City (MI)
Grantee: Huron Pines Resource Conservation & Development Council
Grant Amount:..... $350,000
Matching Funds:..... $1,832,800
Total Project Amount:..... $2,182,800
Restore health and function to the Rifle River watershed through aquatic connectivity and protect critical fish habitat in Rose City, Michigan. Project will open a half mile of stream, restore 1,056 linear feet through planting native species and improve one barrier for fish passage.

MINNESOTA

Restoring Stream Connectivity and Habitat in Berry Creek (MN)
Grantee: North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District
Grant Amount:..... $270,000
Matching Funds:..... $270,000
Total Project Amount:..... $540,000
Restore stream connectivity and habitat in Berry Creek, a coldwater stream in northeastern Minnesota that supports a naturally reproducing brook trout population. Project will reconnect 35 miles of high-quality coldwater habitat, improve two aquatic organism passages and restore 350 feet of valuable brook trout habitat.

NEW YORK

Reconnecting Habitat for Brook Trout in Genesee River (NY)
Grantee: Trout Unlimited
Grant Amount:..... $400,000
Matching Funds:..... $400,000
Total Project Amount:..... $800,000
Replace degraded culverts in the Genesee River to reduce sediment, restore fish passage, mitigate flooding and protect aquatic life. Project will replace two passage barriers, open 7 miles of stream and plant 260 trees.

Restoring Wetland Habitat to Protect Pollinators in North Tonawanda (NY)
Grantee: North Tonawanda Botanical Garden Organization
Grant Amount:..... $271,400
Matching Funds:..... $982,400
Total Project Amount:..... $1,253,800
Install bioretention cells and restore wetland habitat featuring native plants that will treat stormwater runoff and protect pollinators in Niagara County, New York. Project will plant 20 trees, install 10,430 square feet of nature-based infrastructure and add more than 2 million gallons of stormwater storage capacity annually.

OHIO

Activating Wetland Habitat at Sabroske Marsh in Ottowa County (OH)
Grantee: Friends of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge
Grant Amount:..... $276,800
Matching Funds:..... $368,000
Total Project Amount:..... $644,800
Restore unique wetland habitat and improve access to nature for all users at a newly protected wetland parcel at the convergence of two creeks flowing into Lake Erie in Ottawa County, Ohio. Project will plant 150 trees, restore 25 acres through invasive removal and develop 2,350 feet of nature trails.

Restoring Floodplain at Grand River Casement (OH)
Grantee: West Creek Conservancy
Grant Amount:..... $215,000
Matching Funds:..... $698,600
Total Project Amount:..... $913,600
Restore native riparian forest, wetland and meadow habitat to improve floodplain functionality along 3,960 linear feet of the Grand River in Ohio. Project will restore 45-acres of floodplain, install five instream habitat structures, restore 7 acres of wetlands and remove 28,000 pounds of sediment annually.

(continued)

Least bittern

WISCONSIN

Enhancing Door County's Coastal Ecosystems: A Riparian Invasive Species Control Project (WI)
Grantee: Door County Soil & Water Conservation Department
Grant Amount:..... $200,000
Matching Funds:..... $144,400
Total Project Amount:..... $344,400
Treat and inventory invasive species including phragmites australis, Japanese knotweed, and purple loosestrife found within previous treatment areas and on private lands in Door County, Wisconsin. Project will restore 7 miles through new invasive species treatments, 219 acres through re-treatment, 1 mile of beach and 156 acres of wetland.

Implementing Nature-based Stormwater Solutions at Crescent Beach (WI)
Grantee: City of Algoma
Grant Amount:..... $260,000
Matching Funds:.....$46,000
Total Project Amount:..... $306,000
Implement nature-based solutions to address high-priority stormwater improvements at Crescent Beach in Algoma, Wisconsin, to attenuate stormwater runoff, reduce erosion, address non-point source water pollution, and enhance pollinator and wildlife habitat. Project will restore 1,056 feet of native beach habitat, treat more than 2 million gallons of stormwater annually and restore 1 acre of beach with native planting.

Implementing Nature-based Stormwater Solutions in Sturgeon Bay (WI)
Grantee: City of Sturgeon Bay
Grant Amount:..... $265,000
Matching Funds:.....$84,100
Total Project Amount:..... $349,100
Install nature-based infrastructure to increase floodwater storage, enhance native habitat, improve water quality and develop public natural areas in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Project will add 2 million gallons of stormwater storage annually and plant 300 trees.

Improving Nature-based Infrastructure Across Five Schools in Milwaukee (WI)
Grantee: Milwaukee Board of School Directors dba Milwaukee Public Schools
Grant Amount:..... $700,000
Matching Funds:..... $1,000,000
Total Project Amount:..... $1,700,000
Transform impervious schoolyards to verdant, engaging playspaces with nature-based solutions across five schools in Milwaukee. Project will protect neighborhoods from flood risk, plant 312 trees, create 3 acres of natural areas and add 8 million gallons of stormwater storage annually.

Installing Nature-based Solutions to Restore Ecological Function to Upper Lake Park (WI)
Grantee: City of Port Washington
Grant Amount:..... $375,000
Matching Funds:..... $100,000
Total Project Amount:..... $475,000
Reduce erosion, improve water quality and restore ecological function to Upper Lake Park in Port Washington, Wisconsin, through installation of nature-based solutions at two eroding gullies. Project will install two rain gardens, one bioswale and two bioretention basins, and capture 511,000 gallons of stormwater annually.

Restoring Resiliency and Habitat at Sucker Creek (WI)
Grantee: Ozaukee County, Wisconsin
Grant Amount:..... $200,000
Matching Funds:..... $200,000
Total Project Amount:..... $400,000
Restore natural stream meandering, improve wetland function, and enhance aquatic habitat for native fish species such as northern pike, white sucker and longnose sucker in Sucker Creek watershed. Project will restore 2,357 linear feet of degraded stream channel, reconnect 22.5 acres of floodplain and restore almost 3 acres of wetland.