



Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund

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

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation
- Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation
- The Kresge Foundation
- Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation
- 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 \$12 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org



Detroit skyline through the trees

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), 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 announced the 2026 round of funding for the Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund projects. These five new projects will reduce stormwater impact, improve water quality, enhance habitat and increase accessibility and usability of public natural areas. These grants received a total of \$1.6 million in grant funding and leveraged \$1.6 million in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of more than \$3.2 million.

These community-driven investments will strengthen regional resilience by installing nature-based infrastructure, adding more than 4.3 million gallons of stormwater storage, and reducing the threat of flooding and other intensifying environmental stressors. Additionally, projects will restore critical habitat for wildlife and create or enhance public access to and use of natural areas and parks.

The grants will support projects that also will:

- Add 1.6 million gallons of stormwater storage
- Plant 1,220 trees for increased stormwater storage and habitat
- Restore 301 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 five new access points

Since 2018, the Fund has awarded 44 grants totaling \$10.8 million. Together, these projects have added 22.6 million gallons of stormwater storage; restored and enhanced more than 1,241 acres of wildlife habitat; and developed or improved 98 public access points to natural areas and parks.

(continued)



Monarch butterfly

2026 GRANTS

Expanding Nature-Based Infrastructure to Improve Water Quality at Ecorse Creek (MI)

Grantee: Downriver Community Conference
 Grant Amount:..... \$400,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$329,600
 Total Project Amount:..... \$729,600

Implement nature-based solutions at St. John’s Lodge Park in the City of Romulus, Michigan, to reduce downstream flooding, improve water quality and restore ecological function to the North Branch Ecorse Creek watershed. Project will construct a 30,000-square-foot wetland basin system adjacent to Black Creek to intercept and treat stormwater, plant 100 trees and add over one million gallons of annual stormwater storage capacity.

Implementing Reforestation in Detroit Communities to Reduce Impacts of Stormwater (MI)

Grantee: The Greening of Detroit
 Grant Amount:..... \$374,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$234,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$608,000

Implement a forest restoration project in Detroit, Michigan, by planting native trees to improve stormwater storage and enhance natural public areas. Project will sustain four jobs, plant 1,000 trees, improve 37 acres of natural areas and add 364,366 gallons of annual stormwater storage capacity.

Improving Access, Wildlife Habitat, and Management Adaptability at Harsens Island Wildlife Unit (MI)

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited
 Grant Amount:..... \$400,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$130,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$530,000

Install a water control structure, conduct targeted aquatic

invasive species treatment, and install a pedestrian bridge to improve public access and safety at St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area in Clay Township, Michigan. Project will remove one fish passage barrier, restore 825 acres of floodplain, add one access point, conduct invasive species treatment across 300 acres and install one new fish passage.

Improving Pollinator Habitat and Increasing Public Access to Nature in East Side Detroit (MI)

Grantee: Detroit Future City
 Grant Amount:..... \$260,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$687,200
 Total Project Amount:..... \$947,200

Create a network of accessible natural areas across five sites of vacant lots in the McDougall-Hunt neighborhood near East Side Detroit, Michigan. Project will sustain 11 jobs, plant 120 trees, improve three access points to natural areas, improve 74,050 square feet of natural areas, develop 316 feet of trails and conduct invasive species control across 1.7 acres.

Restoring Stony Creek Restoration and Trail to Enhance Stream Health and Access to Nature (MI)

Grantee: Oakland Township Parks & Recreation
 Grant Amount:..... \$197,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$198,300
 Total Project Amount:..... \$395,300

Remove a culvert, restore in-stream and stream bank habitat, and add a pedestrian bridge over the West Branch of Stony Creek at Fox Nature Preserve in Oakland County, Michigan. Project will restore natural flow and reconnect 0.2 miles of currently impounded stream and increase recreational access to the stream and public park land.