



Forest Service

Caring For the Land and Serving People

Forest Service Invests Nearly \$6M for Forest Restoration in Great Lakes Basin

Release Date: Apr 11, 2023

Projects in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Milwaukee, WI (April 11, 2023) – The USDA Forest Service is investing nearly \$6 million to support 49 local restoration projects on nonfederal lands in the Great Lakes basin. The funding is provided through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) under an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Launched in 2010, the GLRI strategically targets the biggest threats to the Great Lakes ecosystem and accelerates long-term restoration goals.

As a result of this collaborative effort, over 880,000 trees have been planted on nonfederal lands since 2010, preventing approximately 12,799,858 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.

Some of the expected outcomes of this year's projects include:

- Planting 195,406 trees.
- Mitigating forest insect and disease impacts with 295 acres of reforestation and protective treatments.
- Supporting local partnerships to treat 2,833 acres for non-native invasive plants.
- Surveying 149,714 acres for invasive infestations.
- Intercepting approximately 723,750 gallons of stormwater annually through six green infrastructure projects.

"This funding is an investment in communities – supporting them and their ability to locally manage and maintain their trees; provide employment, volunteer opportunities and training; and enjoy the economic and health benefits of trees and natural areas," said Bob Lueckel, USDA Forest Service Deputy Regional Forester.

The Eastern Region State, Private, and Tribal Forestry program collaborate with Tribes, states, other federal agencies, landowners and partners to protect, conserve and manage forests and community trees across the 20 Northeastern and Midwestern states and the District of Columbia. We provide leadership, technical support, sound science and financial assistance to help ensure that our forests and trees continue to provide clean water, forest products, wildlife habitat, recreation and other benefits for present and future generations.

2023 Funded Projects

This year's funded organizations, project descriptions and federal funding amounts are listed below. For this round of funding, no match was required.

Illinois

- The Nature Conservancy – \$69,051: Trees and Training for a Healthier South Side, Part 2
- Openlands – \$200,000: Protecting, Sustaining, and Growing Tree Canopy with School Communities
- Greencorps Chicago – \$299,737: Greencorps Chicago Terra Firma – Tree Planting Initiative
- The Morton Arboretum – \$300,000: Increasing Urban Forestry Resilience through Community Stewardship
- Friends of the Forest Preserves – \$199,789: Oak Woodland Recovery and Sustainability along the North Branch of the Chicago River
- Friends of the Chicago River – \$ 195,151: Forest Preserve Restoration at Wampum Lake

Indiana

- Wildlife Habitat Council – \$282,242: Calumet Region Runoff Reduction: Industries and Communities Working for Lake Michigan

Michigan

- Mason-Lake Conservation District – \$50,000: Crossing Public and Private Boundaries to Stop Phragmites Spread from Roads
- Van Buren Conservation District – \$47,737: Maintaining Quality Wetlands throughout the Jones Conservation Corridor
- Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District – \$33,250: Protecting and Restoring Three Shores Cisma's Coastal Islands
- County of Antrim – \$49,500: Expanding CAKE Cisma Phase 2, Activating Citizen Engagement
- Marquette County Conservation District – \$49,981: Addressing Recreational Vectors of NNIP within Lake to Lake Cisma
- St. Joseph County Conservation District – \$48,500: St. Joseph River Watershed Tributary Inventory
- Iron Baraga Conservation District – \$50,000: WePIC CWMA: Control and Prevention of Forest Margin Invasives
- Huron Pines Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. – \$50,000: Working with Communities to Expand Rapid Response Efforts
- Huron Pines Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. – \$50,000: Making Connections between Timber Harvest and NNIS Management
- Grand Traverse Conservation District – \$49,620: Continuing Support for the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network

- Chippewa Nature Center Inc. – \$48,868: Gladwin City Park Invasive Species Management
- Berrien County Conservation District – \$27,400: Restore the Nature at Hall Park
- Michigan Technological University – \$50,000: Goats Managing Buckthorn on Community Recreational Trail System
- The Greening of Detroit – \$197,595: Tree Planting in Detroit Neighborhoods to Mitigate Impacts of Emerald Ash Borer
- The Greening of Detroit – \$283,030: Restoring the Eastside Detroit Urban Tree Canopy to Reduce Runoff
- Superior Watershed Partnership – \$197,052: Lake Superior Coastal and Riparian Forest Connectivity to Further Climate Resiliency
- Conservation Resource Alliance – \$100,000: Reforesting the Marshville Dam Impoundment to Protect Critical Wetlands
- Michigan Technological University – \$200,000: Prioritizing and Restoring Landscapes in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula
- Sustainable Resource Institute Inc. – \$102,880: Conifer Enrichment for a Lake Superior Coastal Wetland Watershed

Minnesota

- Lake County – \$50,000: Coordinated Management of Invasive Plant Species in Lake County, Minnesota
- Cook County – \$25,000: Collaborative Management of Non-Native Invasive Species in NE Minnesota
- Lake County – \$200,000: Restoring Riparian Forests in Priority Lake Superior Watersheds Impacted by Spruce Budworm
- Stewardship Network – \$50,000: Boosting Invasive Species Control Work in the South St. Louis County CISMA

New York

- Hobart and William Smith Colleges – \$49,966: Surveying Finger Lakes National Forest Ponds for Invasive Species
- Onondaga County Soil and Water District – \$80,000: Replanting Trees Lost to EAB in Onondaga County
- Hobart and William Smith Colleges – \$183,019: Hemlock Forest Conservation in Finger Lakes State Parks
- Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District – \$200,000: Reforestation in Response to EAB Ash Tree Decimation
- The Research Foundation for the State University of New York – \$300,000: Syracuse Urban Food Forest Project: Community & Traditional Knowledge Practice to Reduce Runoff

Ohio

- The Nature Conservancy – \$50,000: Partnerships, Public Outreach, and Program Development in the Cuyahoga
- Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area – \$200,000: City of Toledo Reforestation Initiative
- Geauga Park District – \$159,360: Cuyahoga River Reforestation: Veterans Legacy Woods

Wisconsin

- Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium Inc. – \$50,000: Collaborating to Restore, Protect and Maintain Lake Michigan's Ecosystem
- Bayfield County – \$50,000: Managing Invasive Species in the Northwoods CWMA of Wisconsin
- Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Inc. – \$46,728: School Forests & County Forests – Combating NNIS in the Lake Michigan Watershed
- Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council Inc. – \$50,000: Collaborative Invasive Species Management in Central Wisconsin
- Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council Inc. – \$50,000: Managing Invasive Species in Northeast Wisconsin
- Glacierland Resource Conservation and Development Council Inc. – \$49,143: LISMA Collaborative Invasive Species Management
- Ozaukee County – \$200,000: Native Tree Planting in the Ozaukee County Coastal Parks Project Area – Phase II
- Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District – \$294,326: A NEW Water Partnership to Reduce Runoff in Brown County, WI
- Lakeshore Naturel Resource Partnership Inc. – \$200,000: Lake Michigan Coastal and Riparian Restoration Project – Phase 4
- Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve Inc. – \$119,969: Woodland Dunes Riparian Forest Restoration
- Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department -- \$50,000: Woody Invasive Species Monitoring in Door County



Forest Service Supports Great Lakes Restoration with \$5.5M in Grants

Release Date: Oct 13, 2021

Milwaukee, WI (October 13, 2021) – The USDA Forest Service is pleased to award over \$5.5 million in grants to support 47 Great Lakes restoration projects in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The projects are funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) under an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Great Lakes form the world's largest surface freshwater system and are the source of drinking water for more than 30 million people while providing many other health, ecological and economic benefits. Launched in 2010, the GLRI strategically targets the biggest threats to the Great Lakes ecosystem and accelerates progress toward long-term restoration goals.

As a result of this collaborative effort of the Forest Service and EPA, over 675,000 trees have been planted on nonfederal lands since 2010, preventing over 38 million gallons of stormwater runoff per year.

Some of the expected outcomes of this year's projects include:

- Planting 118,000 trees
- Mitigating forest insect and disease impacts with 1,200 acres of reforestation and protective treatments
- Supporting local partnerships to treat 1,800 acres for non-native invasive plants and survey 50,000 acres for new infestations
- Supporting climate change resilience on over 1,500 acres of coastal, riparian and shoreline habitats
- Intercepting approximately 9 million gallons of stormwater annually through eight green infrastructure projects

“These forest restoration grants in rural and urban areas are an investment in clean water and climate resilience,” said Bob Lueckel, USDA Forest Service Deputy Regional Forester. “By supporting projects that engage youth, historically underrepresented groups and sovereign tribal nations in restoration, they are also an investment in the people and communities that rely on clean water.”

To learn more about GLRI grant recipients in your area and the Forest Service's GLRI program, visit the [Forest Service Eastern Region grant website](#).

Funded Projects

This year's funded organizations, project descriptions and federal funding amounts are listed below. Each grant recipient provides at least 20% match for this funding, in collaboration with state or local partners, donors or volunteers.

Illinois

- Openlands, \$125,985: Openlands TreePlanters Program V
- The Morton Arboretum, \$194,762: Increasing Canopy and Capacity in Priority Communities after the Emerald Ash Borer
- The Nature Conservancy, \$52,774: Trees and Training for a Healthier South Side
- Friends of the Forest Preserves, \$200,000: Building Resilience through Restoration at Jurgensen Woods

Indiana

- Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, \$120,000: CommuniTree: Community Tree Pass-Through Grant Program

Michigan

- The Greening of Detroit, \$199,930: Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation and Urban Canopy Restoration in Detroit
- City of St. Clair Shores, \$100,000: 2021 Urban Tree Canopy Restoration in St. Clair Shores Michigan
- Wildlife Habitat Council, \$275,634: Building Resilience with Green Corridors in Neighborhoods and Alleyways in Detroit
- City of Detroit, \$300,000: Minock Park Greening Project
- Superior Watershed Partnership, \$216,395: Northern Tribal and Community Green Infrastructure Collaborative
- Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District, \$122,828: Munuscong River Watershed Green Infrastructure and Tree/Shrub Management Project
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources, \$199,035: GLRI More Trees for School Forests
- Grand Traverse Conservation District, \$50,558: Bottomlands Reforestation Post Dam Removal — Boardman River Phase-II
- Antrim County, \$200,000: Restoring Northern Lake Michigan's Resilient Coastal and Riparian Habitats
- Mason-Lake Conservation District, North Country Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA), \$50,000: Prioritizing Control of Invasives to Preserve and Restore Vulnerable Species and Habitats
- Huron Pines Resource Conservation and Development Council (RCDC), Huron Coastal Invasive Species Network (HC ISN), \$50,000: HC ISN — Huron Coastal Mitigation and Evaluation of Inland Recreation Impacts

- Huron Pines RCDC, Huron Heartland Invasive Species Network, \$50,000: Huron Heartland Pathways Assessment, Phase Two
- Michigan Technological University, Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area (KISMA), \$50,000: Continuing KISMA Priority Invasive Species Control and Outreach with Partners and Community
- Arenac Conservation District, Saginaw Bay Cisma, \$50,000: Invasive Species Strike Team in Saginaw Bay
- Dickinson Conservation District, Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (ISC), \$49,994: Wild Rivers ISC: Protecting Natural Habitats through Establishment of Invasive Species Buffer Zones
- Antrim Conservation District, CAKE (Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska and Emmet) Cisma, \$50,000: Expanding CAKE Cisma
- Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District, Three Shores Cisma, \$49,553: Protecting the Borders of the Hiawatha National Forest from Non-native Invasive Plants
- Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy, Lake St. Clair Cisma, \$50,000: Restoring Resiliency at Red Run Drain in Macomb County, Michigan
- Upper Peninsula RCDC, Lake to Lake Cisma & Three Shores Cisma, \$50,000: Managing Non-native Phragmites across the Hiawatha National Forest
- Jackson County Conservation District, Jackson Lenawee Washtenaw (JLW) Cisma, \$17,584: Tree of Heaven Survey and Management Efforts at Hidden Lake Gardens and within JLW Cisma Priority Areas

Minnesota

- Minnesota Land Trust, \$200,000: Planting for Habitat Resiliency in Ash-dominated Coastal Forest
- South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District, \$115,000: Miller Creek: Restoration of a Ditched Trout Stream
- The Stewardship Network, Duluth Cisma / Carlton County CWMA, \$50,000: Duluth Cisma and Carlton County CWMA — Teaming Up to Combat Terrestrial Invasive Species

New York

- Owasco Watershed Lake Association, \$138,750: Owasco Lake Watershed 2022-2023 Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Suppression
- Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District, \$80,000: Mitigating the Impacts of Emerald Ash Borer in Onondaga County
- Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District, \$110,000: Niagara County Tree Planting for Emerald Ash Borer Damage
- Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District, \$50,000: Managing Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in Ontario County
- Onondaga Environmental Institute, \$137,323: Reducing Runoff in a Polluted Urban Watershed Using Green Infrastructure
- The Research Foundation for The State University of New York, \$299,999: Urban Food Forest for Green Infrastructure: Infiltrating Water and Restoring Neighborhoods

- Wyoming County SWCD, Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, \$25,740: Invasive Japanese Knotweed Management on East Koy/Wiscoy Creek

Ohio

- Ohio Department of Natural Resources, \$300,000: Lake Erie Green Infrastructure Grant Program

Wisconsin

- Ozaukee County, \$200,000: Native Tree Planting in the Ozaukee County Coastal Parks Project Area
- Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, \$198,000: Mitigating the Impact of Emerald Ash Borer within Lake Michigan Coastal Counties — Phase 3
- Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, \$200,000: Lake Michigan Coastal and Riparian Restoration Project — Phase 3
- Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve, \$184,890: Woodland Dunes Coastal Forest Restoration
- The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, \$97,192: Restoring Coastal Forest Habitat at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve
- County of Door, Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST), \$50,000: Door County Invasive Species Team: Priority Invasive Species Control in Door County
- Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium, \$50,000: Promoting Ecological Resiliency in the Lake Michigan Watershed
- County of Bayfield, Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area, \$45,000: Invasive Species Management within the Lake Superior Basin of Wisconsin
- Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council (RCDC), Timberland Invasives Partnership (TIP), \$49,517: Continued Watershed Protection by TIP through Invasive Species Management
- Lumberjack RCDC, Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership, \$32,222: Preventing the Spread of Invasive Species at Public Access Points in the Wisconsin Headwaters of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior
- Glacierland RCDC, Lakeshore Invasive Species Management Area (LISMA), \$50,000: LISMA Collaborative invasive Species Mapping and Control

FY 2020 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funded Projects by Program Area

Program Area 1: Forest Insect and Disease Mitigation

Applicant Organization	Project State	Project Title	Federal Funding
Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area	OH	Lucas County Reforestation Initiative	\$200,000
Ozaukee County	WI	Native Tree Planting in the Ozaukee County Hawthorne Hills County Park Project Area	\$200,000
Ottawa Conservation District	MI	Continuing Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Management in Michigan	\$200,000
Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership	WI	Mitigating the Impact of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) within the Manitowoc-Sheboygan River Watershed	\$200,000
Openlands	IL	Openlands TreePlanters Program IV	\$199,569
Ottawa National Forest	MI	Ontonagon County Black Ash Wetland Planting	\$10,000
The Morton Arboretum	IL	Reforesting Under-Resourced Communities after the Emerald Ash Borer	\$142,306
Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District	NY	HWA Treatment in Skaneateles and Otisco Lake Watersheds	\$50,000
Finger Lakes National Forest	NY	2021 Gorge/ Sawmill Creek HWA Suppression Project	\$68,200
City of Milwaukee	WI	Replacing Ash Trees to Fight Climate Change	\$100,000
The Greening of Detroit	MI	EAB Mitigation and Urban Canopy Restoration in Detroit	\$130,000

Program Area 2: Reduce Runoff from Degraded Sites with Green Infrastructure

Applicant Organization	Project State	Project Title	Federal Funding
Wildlife Habitat Council	IL	Calumet Industries and Communities Working Together to Reduce Runoff	\$118,613
Western Reserve Land Conservancy	OH	Reforesting the Forest City – Reducing Runoff from Cleveland to Lake Erie	\$110,035
Alliance of Rouge Communities	MI	Reducing Runoff in the Rouge River Area of Concern	\$261,780
The Morton Arboretum	IL	Increasing Green Infrastructure in the Little Calumet River Watershed	\$260,758
Michigan Department of Natural Resources	MI	Prioritizing Urban Forest Systems as Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Southeast Michigan	\$100,000
Chagrin River Watershed Partners	OH	Planting Trees to Reduce Runoff – Central Lake Erie	\$215,933

Applicant Organization	Project State	Project Title	Federal Funding
Cleveland Metroparks	OH	Euclid Creek Soil Decompaction and Green Infrastructure Project	\$193,500
Michigan Department of Natural Resources	MI	Trees for School Forests	\$254,134
Superior Watershed Partnership	MI	Lake Superior Coastal Run-Off Reduction Project (Marquette, MI)	\$116,268
Lake Superior State University	MI	St. Marys River Green Stormwater Demonstration Project	\$250,000

Program Area 3: Protect and Restore Coastal Wetlands through Healthy Tree Cover

Applicant Organization	Project State	Project Title	Federal Funding
Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership	WI	Lake Michigan Coastal Wetland Project – Phase 2	\$300,000
Cleveland Museum of Natural History	OH	Mentor Marsh Coastal Wetland Restoration Planting Project	\$187,468
Ohio Department of Natural Resources	OH	Headlands Dunes State Park Coastal Wetland Restoration	\$113,711

Program Area 4: Restore Resilient Riparian and Shoreline Forests

Applicant Organization	Project State	Project Title	Federal Funding
The Nature Conservancy	MN	Restoring Riparian Forests along Lake Superior's North Shore	\$200,000
Trout Unlimited	MI	Enhancing Shoreline and Riparian Forests for Climate Resilience in West Michigan	\$200,000
Ozaukee Washington Land Trust	WI	Restoring Forested Riparian Corridors along the Milwaukee River	\$107,867

FY 2019 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funded Projects by Program Area

Forest Insect and Disease Mitigation

Applicant Organization	Project State	Title	Federal Funds Requested
Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area	OH	Reforestation in the Expanded Secor Metropark	\$200,000.00
Michigan Department of Natural Resources	MI	Michigan State Park Eastern Hemlock Protection	\$200,000.00
American Bird Conservancy	MN	Diversifying Minnesota Black Ash Forests to Mitigate EAB Impacts	\$68,771.24
Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership	WI	EAB Mitigation in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin	\$200,000.00
Ottawa Conservation District	MI	Survey and Treatment of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in Four West Michigan Counties	\$200,000.00
The Nature Conservancy	OH	Protecting Hemlock in the Central Lake Erie Basin	\$200,000.00
City of Milwaukee	WI	Improving Resiliency of Milwaukee's Street Trees	\$200,000.00
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation And Historic Preservation	NY	Strategic Preservation of Critical Hemlock Forest Communities	\$150,000.00

Reduce Runoff from Degraded Sites with Green Infrastructure

Applicant Organization	Project State	Title	Federal Funds Requested
Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District	WI	A NEW Water Partnership to Reduce Stormwater Runoff in Brown County, Wisconsin	\$171,122.00
Calvin College	MI	Trees to Heal the Plaster Creek Watershed	\$176,647.00
Grand Valley Metro Council	MI	Grand River Green Schools	\$125,428.00
Superior Watershed Partnership	MI	Restoring Critical Habitat; Degraded Lands Adjacent to Mining	\$175,620.00
ReLeaf Michigan	MI/IN	A Community Based Approach to Improve Water Quality in the St. Joseph River Watershed of Michigan and Indiana	\$130,000.00
Muskegon Conservation District	MI	Tree Planting to Reduce Runoff in the White River Watershed	\$105,179.00
The Greening of Detroit	MI	Reduce Runoff from Degraded Sites through Green Infrastructure	\$273,132.00

Milwaukee Public Schools	WI	Milwaukee Public Schools Vincent High School Hardwood Forest	\$350,000.00
Muskegon River Watershed Assembly	MI	Muskegon River Watershed Runoff Reduction Using Green Infrastructure	\$301,507.57

Enhance Wetland Filtration

Applicant Organization	Project State	Title	Federal Funds Requested
Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership	WI	Lake Michigan Coastal Wetland Filtration Project	\$350,000.00
Chicago Park District	IL	Supporting Southeast Chicago's Coastal Habitat Resiliency	\$219,002.40
Michigan Technological University	MI	Replanting the Pilgrim River Wetlands to Enhance Ecosystem Function	\$100,264.00

Connecting Vulnerable Habitats: Special Funding for Landscape Connectivity Pilot Area

Applicant Organization	Project State	Title	Federal Funds Requested
Sustainable Resources Institute	MI	Pilgrim River Riparian Restoration	\$132,442.00



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

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News Release



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Great Lakes benefit from more than \$4.5M in US Forest Service grants

Funds for trees and clean water go to projects in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin

October 23, 2017

MILWAUKEE – Water quality in the Great Lakes will get a boost this year, with more than \$4.5M in grants from the U.S. Forest Service. The funds will support local environmental restoration projects across seven states.

"Trees and forest cover are the best way to improve and protect water flowing into the Great Lakes," said Kathleen Atkinson, U.S. Forest Service area director and regional forester. "We're supporting local tree planting activities and open space acquisition for communities and cities, and reclaiming agricultural lands in coastal and riparian areas."

The grants are part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a cooperative effort between federal, tribal, state and local partners. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funding administered by the Forest Service backs local efforts to improve the treatment, storage, infiltration and evaporation of rainfall and storm water.

"Planting trees gives benefits beyond water, air and habitat quality," Atkinson said. "Trees are the largest component of a community's green infrastructure. They strengthen our enjoyment and appreciation of the landscape around us."

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The awardees by state are:

Illinois

\$100,000 – TreePlanters Program II, Chicago, IL

Openlands will plant 600 trees (six acres) over the course of 30 planting events to mitigate the loss of ash trees and build the capacity and resiliency of Chicago neighborhoods within the Great Lakes basin.

\$198,091 – Chicago Communities Plant Trees to Mitigate Stormwater, Chicago, IL

The Student Conservation Association and its partners will plant 625 trees to treat nearly 37,000 gallons of stormwater each year in the communities of Midlothian, Blue Island, Calumet City, Calumet Park, Dolton, Riverdale and Robbins in the Little Calumet River Watershed, a Great Lakes area of concern.

Indiana

\$100,000 – Growing the Northwest Indiana CommuniTree Program, Portage, IN

The Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission and its project partners will continue to implement the CommuniTree competitive sub-award program that will provide 729 native trees (7+ acres) to mitigate loss of ash trees in eight communities within the Lake Michigan watershed.

Michigan

\$100,000 – Restoring Tree Canopy in the Rouge River AOC, Canton, MI

The Alliance of Rouge Communities in Southeast Michigan will plant nearly seven acres with 680 trees to mitigate the loss of ash trees and reduce soil erosion and loss of habitat in the Rouge River watershed.

\$200,000 – Rouge Watershed Partnership to Mitigate Storm Water Runoff, Detroit, MI

The Southwest Detroit Business Association and its project partners (Friends of the Rouge, PEA Inc. & Greening of Detroit) will reduce annual storm water runoff in a degraded corridor along the Iron Belle Trail by planting 300 trees to treat 88,500 gallons in their first five years.

\$100,000 – Initiative to Rebuild Tree Canopy Impacted by EAB, Sterling Heights, MI

This project will leverage the city of Sterling Heights' proactive community forest management program and Green Macomb Urban Forest Partnership's strategic goal to increase tree canopy lost to emerald ash borer, by planting 1,400 trees on 14 acres in the watersheds of the Clinton River, Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie.

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\$200,000 – Lake Michigan Coastal Zone Reforestation, Muskegon, MI

The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission will plant 3,515 trees in the coastal zone counties of Muskegon, Oceana, and Mason. With multiple partners the project is expected to improve 468 acres of land impacted by emerald ash borer and treat 207,583 gallons of water annually to prevent runoff and improve nearshore health.

\$200,000 – Green Macomb Urban Forest Partnership Expansion, Mount Clemens, MI

This project leverages the Green Macomb Urban Forest Partnership's strategic planning, mapping and partnership building efforts to plant 1,200 trees and treat more than 70,000 gallons of storm water annually in targeted areas of the Clinton River watershed of Lake St Clair.

\$100,000 – Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation Plan, Flint, MI

The city of Flint and the Genesee Conservation District will plant 330 trees to replace ash trees lost on more than three acres near the Flint River and its tributaries, per the city's 2015 Street Tree Inventory and Management Plan.

\$200,000 – Tobico Marshland Revitalization, Bay City, MI

This project will provide plantings for approximately 21.5 acres of coastal wetland areas, primarily at Tobico Marsh, which is a well-documented impaired marshland flowing into Saginaw Bay – an internationally recognized Area of Concern. More than 2,500 native trees and shrubs will be planted to enhance filtration and reduce clogging issues from runoff due to nearby agricultural lands adjacent to the marsh, as well as providing additional habitat creation.

\$163,602 – Tribal Partners Enhancing Lake Superior, Marquette, MI

The Superior Watershed Partnership in cooperation with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community will utilize their summer Conservation Corps members to plant 3,000 trees on 15 acres in two high-priority coastal wetland areas located within the L'Anse Reservation (Sand Point Wetland and Assinins Area Wetland). The project will enhance wildlife habitat and help filter out sediments, nutrients, mining contaminants, pathogens, and other pollutants prior to entering Lake Superior by reducing 885,000 gallons of untreated urban runoff over the first 5 years.

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Minnesota

\$190,762 – Engaging Citizens for Strategic Stormwater Management, Saint Paul, MN

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will work with the University of Minnesota and the city of Duluth in training and utilizing community volunteers to plant and maintain 500 diverse urban trees along the St. Louis Bay and St. Louis River that will treat more than 147,000 gallons of storm water in the first five years.

\$100,000 – EAB Mitigation in Miller Creek Watershed, Duluth, MN

This project of Community Action Duluth will mitigate the loss of 25 acres of ash trees in the Lincoln Park neighborhood by planting 8,750 trees using Stream Corps members living within the Miller Creek watershed. Previously impacted by June 2012 flooding, Lincoln Park is at increased risk due to ash die-off along the impaired trout stream's riparian corridor.

New York

\$199,732 – Akwesasne Urban Forest Restoration, Hogansburg, NY

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe will implement a watershed protection project within the Mohawk Territory of Akwesasne located in Northern New York. The Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment will plant 1,200 trees to mitigate loss of ash trees and treat 70,800 gallons of storm water runoff into the St. Lawrence River in the first year of the project.

\$175,234 – Ellicott Creek Reforestation, Buffalo, NY

The Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper will engage 300 volunteers to plant and maintain 700 native trees, reducing stormwater runoff to Ellicott and Tonawanda Creeks. The project will result immediately in 50,000 gallons of runoff avoided and 750 linear feet of shoreline protected.

\$100,000 – Tree Planting for EAB Mitigation, Rochester, NY

Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will work with state and local partners to mitigate the effects of emerald ash borer by planting 21,120 trees and treating a total of 357 acres in six parks, including: Oatka Park, Black Creek Park, Churchville Park, the Genesee Valley Greenway Trail, Hamlin Beach State Park, and Van Lare Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Ohio

\$99,993 – EAB Mitigation at Homecoming Park, Wauseon, OH

This project in the Maumee Watershed will mitigate 33.5 acres of woodland habitat devastated by emerald ash borer and invasive species such as honeysuckle, privet, and wild grape vine. Fulton Soil and Water Conservation District volunteers and partners will plant and care for a total of 3,400 bare root saplings on the site that will be managed as a public park by city of Wauseon after the project ends.

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\$100,000 – EAB Mitigation in Tinker's Creek Watershed, Cleveland, OH

Cleveland Metroparks and its volunteers will restore 900 native trees and shrubs to nine acres impacted by emerald ash borer in the Tinker's Creek watershed, a tributary to the Cuyahoga River.

Wisconsin

\$100,000 – Mitigating EAB Impacts, Green Bay, WI

The Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission and partners will offer a competitive subaward program to municipalities, counties, and tribes to plant native trees within Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Fox River/Green Bay, and the St. Louis River areas of concern. Approximately ten communities will be selected to plant 740 trees to mitigate canopy loss from EAB, resulting in over 7 acres of trees planted and subsequent annual treatment.

\$200,000 – Statewide Partnership to Reduce Runoff from Degraded Sites, Green Bay, WI

This project proposes an innovative partnership between Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions, Wisconsin DNR, communities, and tribes to create and improve green infrastructure through planting approximately 1,700 native trees (annual treatment of 100,423 gallons of stormwater) in communities throughout the Wisconsin Great Lakes Basin. Trees and subawards will be selected through a Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission advisory team to ensure proper tree selection and maintenance for proposed planting locations.

\$100,000 – Beating EAB through Biodiversity, Milwaukee, WI

The city of Milwaukee will plant 600 non-host shade trees on 24 acres, partnering with Milwaukee Community Service Corps Inc. and Walnut Way Conservation Corp for tree installation. This project emphasizes targeting ash street tree removals to minimize the loss of tree canopy benefits and planting diverse trees to maintain healthy, functioning tree canopy that reduces, treats, and cools stormwater runoff to protect water quality.

\$100,000 – Native Tree Planting in Mee-Kwon County Park Phase II, Port Washington, WI

The Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department will continue mitigating the impacts of EAB in the Mee-Kwon County Park Project Area in the city of Mequon by planting 5,200 native trees on 35 acres of land (Phase II). These trees will provide shading along waterways and wetlands for fish and aquatic, filter stormwater, mitigate EAB impacts to the woodlands, and support volunteer activities.

-MORE-



\$100,000 – Ulao Swamp/Creek Habitat Restoration, Port Washington, WI

The Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department will mitigate the impacts of EAB in the Ulao Swamp/Ulao Creek Habitat Restoration Project Area in the Town of Grafton by planting 5,200 native trees on 50 acres of land. Adding a diversity of native trees in the project area will preserve, protect and restore the local ecology in the Ulao Lowland Forest, a significant natural area (NA-3) and protect significant restoration investments made nearby on Ulao Creek.

\$116,500 – Expansion of Agricultural Land Conversion, Mequon, WI

Mequon Nature Preserve, Inc., will plant 4,000 native trees and shrubs on 59 acres as part of a master plan to convert agricultural land into historical hardwood, mesic forest, and wetlands treating more than 88,400 gallons draining into the Menomonee and Milwaukee Rivers.

\$200,000 – Green Playgrounds, Milwaukee, WI

The city of Milwaukee will plant 800 trees to treat 47,200 gallons a year on city-owned and maintained recreational facilities and to re-activate play spaces through the use of green infrastructure and stormwater best management practices.

\$400,000 – Keweenaw Peninsula Coastal Community Forest, WI

The Superior Watershed Partnership and Land Trust will acquire the Keweenaw Peninsula Coastal Community Forest property, located at the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan, eight miles southeast of the community of Copper Harbor and 55 miles northeast of the city of Houghton. The parcel includes 110 acres of northern forest and coastal wetlands bordered by 1,100 feet of Lake Superior shoreline. Approximately 25% (or 27 acres) of the parcel is comprised of forest/shrub or freshwater emergent coastal wetlands.

\$133,825 – Coastal Wetland Restoration in Samuel Myers Park, Racine, WI

Through this project, the city of Racine will restore 4.5 acres of coastal habitat, planting 289 trees in addition to other native plants in Samuel Myers Park on the shores of Lake Michigan. Site modifications are improving water quality, capturing stormwater runoff, promoting infiltration, increasing accessibility & restoring coastal habitat (wetland, dune, dry prairie & upland) in a migratory bird flyway.

-MORE-



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\$107,170 – Woodland Dunes Coastal Wetland Enhancement, Two Rivers, WI

The Woodland Dunes Nature center and Preserve will plant 4,225 native trees and shrubs in coastal ridge and swale wetland near the Lake Michigan shoreline. This project will improve filtration capacity on 50 acres of wetland habitat which is considered to be globally significant. These wetlands connect to Lake Michigan via the West Twin River estuary to the north as well as Forget Me Not Creek to the south, which drains directly to Lake Michigan.

\$200,000 – Amsterdam Dunes Coastal Restoration, Sheboygan, WI

This coastal wetland filtration project from Sheboygan County will plant over 3,600 trees to restore 18.2 acres adjacent to the western shore of Lake Michigan in southeast Wisconsin. The property consists of a mix of natural ridge-and-swale systems, wooded ravines, forested wetlands, and degraded upland old field and agricultural land, including three Lake Michigan tributaries.

\$162,580 – Growing the Next Generation of Forest and Steward, Ashland, WI

In this project, the Bad River Watershed Association will work with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to maintain coastal wetland habitat by planting 320,000 long lived conifers on 356 acres in strategic areas to reduce overland flow and to improve and protect downstream coastal wetland habitats. Reducing runoff from contributing watersheds will reduce heavy sediment loads that deposit and smother habitat in low gradient wetlands.

-USDA-

The U.S. Forest Service manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live. For more information, visit www.fs.fed.us.



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Northeastern Area State and
Private Forestry

Web: <http://na.fs.fed.us/>



News Release

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US Forest Service awards more than \$3.5M in grants to protect Great Lakes

Funds for trees and clean water go to projects in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin

NEWTOWN SQUARE, PA – Water quality in the Great Lakes will get a boost this year, with more than \$3.5M in grants from the U.S. Forest Service. The funds will support local environmental restoration projects across five states.

"A good, thick tree cover is one of the best ways to protect clean water," said Jim Barresi, director of the Forest Service's Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry. "We're supporting plantings in communities and cities, and reclaiming barren industrial lands."

The grants are part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a cooperative effort between federal, tribal, state and local partners. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funding administered by the Forest Service backs local efforts to improve the collection, storage, infiltration, and evaporation of rainfall and storm water.

"Planting trees gives benefits beyond water and air quality," Barresi said. "Trees are the largest component of a community's green infrastructure, strengthening our connections to the landscape."

The awardees by state are:

Illinois

\$199,061 - Historic Coastal Woodland Restoration at Van Vliissingen Prairie, Chicago

The Chicago Park District will restore more than 12 acres of wooded coastal wetland habitat at Van Vliissingen Prairie, which is located in the historic Lake Michigan watershed in the Calumet region of southeast Chicago. This restoration work will include the installation of more than 60,000 native herbaceous and woody plants, including 735 trees, invasive species control, and general ecological maintenance that will provide critical ecosystem services in the form of stormwater management and pollutant filtration.

\$100,000 - Openlands TreePlanters Program, Chicago

Openlands, Inc., will plant 600 trees over the course of 30 planting events with a minimum of 750 participants to restore lost canopy and improve the City's green infrastructure, while building more resilient and connected communities and neighborhoods.

\$100,000 - Restoring Urban Forest Services After Emerald Ash Borer in Illinois

The Morton Arboretum will partner to plant about 300 native trees in response to EAB-related losses in the communities of Chicago Heights, Des Plaines, Frankfort Square, Hazel Crest, Homewood/Flossmoor, Mundelein, Niles, Park Forest, Skokie, Tinley Park, Waukegan and Zion.

\$180,550 - Urban Forestry Solutions to Coast Areas of Lake Michigan

The Wildlife Habitat Council will work to advance ecological restoration of industrial lands in the coastal zone of Lake Michigan. This project will treat 172 acres in the South Deering and East Chicago area with 1000 native trees and green infrastructure to reduce untreated runoff from working lands, and enhance 158 acres of coastal wetland habitat in the region.

Indiana

\$100,000 - City of Fort Wayne Tree Canopy Restoration

To address the loss of nearly 25% of its trees due to the EAB and reduce overflow events of its combined sewer system flowing to Lake Erie, the City of Fort Wayne will plant 550 trees in the Northside neighborhood and the Maumee and St. Joseph River watersheds.

\$100,000 - Northwest Indiana Regional Urban Forestry EAB Recovery Program

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission and partners will implement a competitive sub-award program that provides native trees to qualifying municipalities, counties, and non-profits located within the Lake Michigan Watershed. A minimum of four recipients will be selected for planting approximately 729 trees, on seven acres to mitigate canopy loss from emerald ash borer.

\$68,500 - Urban Select Bare-root Nursery Stock Project, Indiana DNR

The Indiana Division of Forestry and Vallonia State Tree Nursery will grow 5,000 native trees for planting in the Great Lake communities of Gary, Hammond, East Chicago, Whiting and other urban areas impacted by EAB.

Michigan

\$100,000 - Grand Rapids Emerald Ash Borer Recovery Project III

The City of Grand Rapids will address the loss of ash trees by planting 1,300 trees within City rights-of-way, parks, and other target areas. This will greatly enhance capacity to intercept stormwater runoff and filter out pollutants before they enter the Grand River and ultimately Lake Michigan.

\$188,000 - Green Macomb Urban Forest Partnership Implementation, MI

Macomb County will support the planting of 1,000 trees on public property in areas of the Clinton River watershed protecting Lake St Clair. The Clinton River Watershed Council and ReLeaf Michigan will plant trees in high impact areas for water quality determined through GIS analysis.

\$200,000 - Innovation Park Remediation at Century City, Milwaukee

The Northwest Side Community Development Corporation will plant 1,000 trees in a three acre brownfield site at Innovation Park to divert untreated runoff from flowing into Lincoln Creek, a tributary to the Milwaukee River. The trees also will treat shallow groundwater for benzene and other petroleum volatile organic compounds.

\$200,000 - Planting to Reduce Runoff into the Rouge River, Detroit

Greening of Detroit will install a green buffer of 1,250 trees to reduce runoff into Rouge Park, Detroit's largest remaining natural area. The trees will capture 368,750 gallons of untreated runoff over five years and relieve an antiquated combined-sewer overflow system, which frequently exceeds capacity during wet weather events.

\$200,000 - Reducing Runoff at Chevy Commons: Phase III

The Genesee County Land Bank Authority will continue efforts with County Parks and the City of Flint to reduce contamination and install a soil and vegetative green “cap” at the blighted urban riverfront once called Chevy in the Hole. The new “Chevy Commons” site will be a 60 acre community green space on the Flint River with grasslands, woodlands and wetlands interlaced with trails. Phase III redevelopment will include planting 369 trees to capture and slow stormwater runoff, continuing the application of phytoremediation and green infrastructure principles that have successfully reduced runoff into the Flint River and improved the quality of soil and groundwater at the site.

\$200,000 - Reducing Runoff into the Muskegon River Watershed, MI

The Muskegon River Watershed Assembly will reduce runoff and improve water quality by planting 1,976 trees at three locations including 1) Clay Cliffs Nature Park in Big Rapids, 2) Bridgeton Township Park Boat Launch in Grant; and 3) in Muskegon coastal wetlands. The trees will contribute to habitat restoration and reduce surface water runoff by 582,920 gallons over five years.

\$199,695 – Three Lakes Coastal Habitat, Upper Peninsula, MI

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will work with Ontonagon, Menominee, and St. Ignace on the Upper Peninsula to plant 3,000 native trees, to improve 15 acres of terrestrial and aquatic habitat in the coastal zones of Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, and Lake Huron respectively. Each community has prioritized sites needing trees and green infrastructure to improve water quality, and reduce runoff and associated beneficial use impairments.

\$100,000 - Urban Canopy EAB Restoration in Detroit

The Greening of Detroit will engage 625 volunteers to assist in planting more than 280 trees at Balduck Memorial Park, which will restore canopy cover, improve infiltration, and slow runoff from the three acre site.

\$100,000 - Urban Canopy Recovery in Marysville, MI

The City of Marysville along the St. Clair River will plant 450 trees targeting low canopy areas of Marysville Park, Morton Park, Gratiot Avenue and residential areas heavily impacted by EAB.

\$100,000 - Urban Tree Canopy Restoration in St. Clair Shores, MI

The City of St. Clair Shores will create eight acres of tree canopy habitat lost to EAB by planting 480 diverse trees to improve water quality flowing into the Clinton River Area of Concern (AOC).

Minnesota

\$119,000 – Engaging Residents to Reduce Runoff into Lake Superior

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will work with the University of Minnesota and the cities of Grand Marais, Silver Bay, and Hermantown, to plant a minimum of 600 trees with community volunteers to reduce runoff along the shore of Lake Superior, the St. Louis Bay and St. Louis River.

\$194,825 - Stream Corps Restoration in the Lake Superior Coastal Zone, Duluth, MN

Community Action Duluth will utilize under- and unemployed urban residents to carry out restoration projects at three sites along the St. Louis River estuary, including the planting of more than 8,000 pollinator friendly trees to restore native plant diversity and habitat structure on up to 34 acres of coastal wetland along a seven mile reach from Chamber Grove to Kingsbury Creek.

Ohio

\$99,937 - Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation in Cuyahoga River Area of Concern, Cleveland

Cleveland Metroparks will plant 630 trees in the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern, specifically in the Big Creek watershed and along the shoreline of Lake Erie in Gordon Park to restore canopy cover for water quality and coastal wetland habitat.

\$100,000 - Mitigating Emerald Ash Borer in Cleveland, OH

The City of Cleveland will plant 150 trees in the two neighborhoods of Cudell and Buckeye-Shaker Square, to mitigate the effects of EAB on Lake Erie. These targets were selected to serve as pilot model blocks for implementation of the Cleveland Tree Plan and help to reduce strain on the combined sewer system and frequency of combined sewer overflows.

\$193,060 - Planting the Forest City's Vacant Lots and Metroparks to Protect Lake Erie, OH

The Western Reserve Land Conservancy and national Student Conservation Association, in partnership with Cleveland Metroparks and the Davey Resource Group will implement reforestation projects on degraded urban sites to significantly reduce stormwater runoff, improve water quality, and increase the urban tree canopy in the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern. Approximately 3,700 trees will be planted where the maximum stormwater and co-benefits of trees can be realized.

\$91,857 - Save Maumee Riparian Buffer II

The Save Maumee Grassroots Organization Inc. (SMGO) will improve the health of the aquatic environment through installation of 3,600 linear feet of riparian buffers in the Trier Ditch, Bullerman Ditch, and Sixmile Creek drainage areas of the Maumee River, which are all considered critical targets for improving headwaters and reducing streambank erosion. The 1,390 native trees to be planted will result in 82,000 gallons/year of storm water captured and a total sediment load and associated nitrogen and phosphorus reduction of 329 tons/year.

\$70,000 - Sherman Preserve Riparian Restoration, Cuyahoga County, OH

The Chagrin River Watershed Partners will plant 3,000 native trees and shrubs across 13 acres of riparian stream habitat on the Sherman Preserve, an old farm field owned by Gates Mills Land Conservancy. Restoration of a forested riparian corridor will reduce an estimated 1.9 tons/year of sediment and capture a projected 885,000 gallons of untreated runoff over five years.

Wisconsin

\$98,757 - Kenosha County Parks Reforestation Program

Kenosha County Parks will help to mitigate the impacts of EAB infestation by planting 317 native trees in Petrifying Springs County Park located in the Pike River Watershed, following the recommendations of the EAB Readiness Plan adopted in 2013.

\$100,000 – Native Tree Planting in the Milwaukee River Watershed

The Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department will plant 5,200 trees to mitigate EAB impact in Mee-Kwon Park. Funding will support the 50 acre initiative including conservation corps members for tree planting to provide shading along Mee-Kwon Creek and adjacent wetlands, and improve fish and aquatic habitat as part of a nationally recognized Fish Passage Program.

\$77,175 – Restoring Hardwood Forest and Wetland to Mequon Nature Preserve, WI

Mequon Nature Preserve will create wetlands and prairie in a 72 acre area, while planting 6,000 native tree and shrub seedlings with the end goal of a hardwood forest habitat that will reduce erosion and agricultural fertilizers from entering the Little Menomonee and Milwaukee rivers. Residents from the Milwaukee area will assist in the restoration efforts resulting in reducing runoff by nearly 1.8 million gallons just in the first few years of establishment.

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