



# Sustain Our Great Lakes 2018 Grant Slate

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Least bittern

## OVERVIEW

Sustain Our Great Lakes is a public-private partnership that supports habitat restoration in the Great Lakes basin. Administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the program receives funding and other support from ArcelorMittal, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. Significant program funding is provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a federal program designed to protect, restore and enhance the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Sustain Our Great Lakes offers funding annually, with grant awards ranging from \$100,000 to \$1 million. Eligible recipients include nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and state, tribal and local governments.

The work funded in 2018 includes improving passage for fish and other aquatic organisms, controlling invasive species, permanently protecting important habitat, restoring wetland hydrology and habitat, improving stream habitat, increasing green stormwater infrastructure and reducing nutrient and sediment input to the waterways.

Collectively, the funded projects will:

- Restore 72 miles of stream and riparian habitat
- Remove or bypass 12 barriers to aquatic organism passage
- Control invasive species on more than 1,422 acres
- Restore more than 1,400 acres of wetland habitat

## ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

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**Improving Fish Passage at Central Creek Crossing (MI)**

Grantee: Keweenaw County Road Commission  
 SOGL Award: ..... \$110,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$110,000  
**Total Project: ..... \$220,000**

Replace a perched culvert impeding aquatic connectivity for priority native brook trout. Project will improve the road stream crossing by installing a concrete structure, widening and naturalizing the stream bed and resulting in the reconnection of more than 1.57 miles of high-quality habitat, including potential spawning areas.

**Restoring Total Aquatic Connectivity Within the Carp Lake River (MI)**

Grantee: Conservation Resource Alliance  
 SOGL Award: ..... \$300,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$500,000  
**Total Project: ..... \$800,000**

Rectify and restore the three remaining aquatic species passage barriers within the entire Carp Lake River. Project will restore aquatic organism passage for brook trout and other coldwater species, improve degraded riparian habitat benefiting species such as the federally endangered Hungerford's crawling water beetle, and reduce sediment loading up to 15 tons per year.

**Enhancing Brook Trout Habitat in the Pigeon River (MI)**

Grantee: Huron Pines Resource Conservation and Development Council  
 SOGL Award: ..... \$225,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$225,000  
**Total Project: ..... \$450,000**

Install a timber bridge structure to restore natural river function, reduce aquatic organism passage-impeding flow velocities and enhance the recreational capacity of the Pigeon River. Project will reconnect 55 upstream miles of aquatic habitat and decrease sediment loading by 0.5 tons annually.

**Restoring Aquatic Connectivity in Fredenberg Creek (MN)**

Grantee: Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District  
 SOGL Award: ..... \$100,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$371,400  
**Total Project: ..... \$471,400**

Reconstruct a road stream crossing and railroad crossing on Fredenberg Creek, a tributary to the Two Island River 1.5 miles from Lake Superior. Project will restore access to nearly 2 miles of high-quality coldwater habitat for brook trout and reduce sediment and phosphorus inputs into the waterway.



Eastern brook trout

**Strategic Hemlock Preservation to Sustain Ecological Function and Protect Species of Special Concern (NY)**

Grantee: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
 SOGL Award: ..... \$130,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$159,034  
**Total Project: ..... \$289,034**

Protect eastern hemlocks in New York state parks from the invasive hemlock woolly adelgid to preserve this unique riparian habitat and preserve stream quality. Project will expand on remediation actions being employed across the East Coast and protect more than 40 acres of riparian hemlock forests.

**Restoring Riparian Forest Resilience in Minnesota's North Shore Watersheds (MN)**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy  
 SOGL Award: ..... \$249,419  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$377,330  
**Total Project: ..... \$626,749**

Restore forest cover, diversity and resilience along 55 miles of priority riparian forests adjacent to Lake Superior and its priority North Shore tributaries. Project will help maintain and restore habitat strongholds for brook trout and other priority coldwater fish.

**Restoring Bayou Connectivity and Grand River Shoreline Stability at Riverside Park, Ottawa County (MI)**

Grantee: County of Ottawa

SOGL Award: ..... \$184,113

Matching Funds: ..... \$188,559

**Total Project: ..... \$372,672**

Restore the hydrologic connection between the 26-acre Kirby Bayou and the Grand River, and stabilize 500 feet of riverbank to reduce sediment and improve water quality. Project will reconnect access to rare bayou habitat for species of greatest concern such as lake sturgeon, northern pike and the snuffbox mussel.

**Enhancing the Milwaukee River Mequon-Thiensville Dam Fishway for Lake Sturgeon Passage (WI)**

Grantee: Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

SOGL Award: ..... \$200,000

Matching Funds: ..... \$200,000

**Total Project: ..... \$400,000**

Enhance the operation and function of the nature-like fishway which provides aquatic organism passage around the Mequon-Thiensville Dam on the Milwaukee River. Project will build upon existing lake sturgeon reintroduction efforts by improving passability for lake sturgeon and other larger fish and increasing overall performance of the fishway.

**Improving Brook Trout Habitat and Water Quality on Twelve Mile Creek (ON)**

Grantee: Nature Conservancy of Canada

SOGL Award: ..... \$85,000

Matching Funds: ..... \$85,000

**Total Project: ..... \$170,000**

Improve water quality, stream flow and temperature on Twelve Mile Creek near Hamilton, Ontario by removing impoundments from natural springs, restoring riparian habitat and reinforcing a passage structure. Project will improve and protect critical stream and riparian habitat for brook trout on the headwaters of the last remaining cold water stream in the Niagara Peninsula.

**Restoring Wetland Habitat in the West Basin of Mentor Marsh (OH)**

Grantee: Cleveland Museum of Natural History

SOGL Award: ..... \$120,778

Matching Funds: ..... \$172,115

**Total Project: ..... \$292,893**

Improve habitat complexity and resilience through native plant reseeding, invasive control and habitat creation in Mentor Marsh. Project will restore 42 acres of wetland habitat for priority shorebirds and waterfowl, improve hydrology to 50 acres of shallow emergent marsh, restore 10 shallow pools and install a fish shelf to improve fish spawning habitat.



Northern pike

**Sustaining Birds of the Great Lakes: Phase II (MI, NY)**

Grantee: National Audubon Society

SOGL Award: ..... \$593,476

Matching Funds: ..... \$600,485

**Total Project: ..... \$1,193,961**

Restore critical habitat for migratory shorebirds and waterfowl across 449 acres of some of the highest priority coastal wetland complexes in the Great Lakes region. Project will leverage the resources of 10 partner organizations to implement landscape scale restoration activities including invasive species control, native plantings and improvement of water control capacity.

**Enhancing Wetland Habitat in Oconto Marsh (WI)**

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

SOGL Award: ..... \$210,839

Matching Funds: ..... \$211,000

**Total Project: ..... \$421,839**

Enhance a 234-acre impoundment and restore 25 acres of adjacent wetland habitat while creating a northern pike spawning marsh. Project will improve critical wetland habitat through water control management to benefit blue-winged teal, black tern and priority fisheries in the Green Bay area.

**Restoring Calumet Coastal Wetlands through Collaborative Restoration and Management (IL, IN)**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy  
 SOGL Award: ..... \$219,340  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$773,500  
**Total Project: ..... \$992,840**

Control invasive species and enhance coastal wetland habitat at five sites in the bi-state Calumet Region. Project represents the third phase of a successful regional restoration partnership and will restore 123 acres of hemi-marsh, dune swale, wet prairie and emergent marsh habitats to benefit target migratory bird species, such as least bittern, king rail and pied-billed grebe.

**St. Louis River Estuary Coastal Wetland Revegetation (MN)**

Grantee: Minnesota Land Trust  
 SOGL Award: ..... \$95,192  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$100,000  
**Total Project: ..... \$195,192**

Restore and enhance native riparian and emergent coastal wetland vegetation communities on up to 200 acres in the St. Louis River estuary. Project will integrate revegetation practices with grading and excavation of aquatic habitat to accelerate comprehensive habitat restoration outcomes and improve stopover and breeding habitat for Canada warbler, blue-winged teal and common tern.

**Presque Isle Priority Wetland Restoration II (PA)**

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited  
 SOGL Award: ..... \$907,696  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$1,039,876  
**Total Project: ..... \$1,947,572**

Restore 800 acres of coastal wetland habitat at Presque Isle State Park through comprehensive invasive species remediation and revegetation of native plant communities. Project will build upon the success of previous habitat restoration and invasive species control efforts to restore critical habitat for numerous shorebirds, wading birds and waterfowl species, including piping plover and least bittern.

**Creating Greener, Healthier Schoolyards (WI)**

Grantee: Milwaukee Public Schools  
 SOGL Award: ..... \$440,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$1,206,500  
**Total Project: ..... \$1,646,500**

Renovate four Milwaukee schoolyards by creating unique outdoor play spaces designed to provide up to 4.7 million gallons of stormwater storage annually. Project will install green stormwater infrastructure best practices to create green recreational facilities that provide improved environmental, social and economic health benefits to students and communities.

**Creating Stormwater Wetlands and Improving Flood Resilience in Schlitz Audubon Nature Center (WI)**

Grantee: Friends of Schlitz Audubon Nature Center  
 SOGL Award: ..... \$116,632  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$289,280  
**Total Project: ..... \$405,912**

Create new, and improve existing, wetlands to add 463,383 gallons of annual stormwater storage capacity and restore forested ravine habitat to improve flood resilience and reduce sediment runoff. Project will combine green stormwater infrastructure best practices and habitat restoration to improve the resilience, function and quality of these unique habitats for species of concern including the blanding's turtle and rusty patched bumble bee.

**Reducing Stormwater Runoff and Improving Riparian Habitat in the Cuyahoga River Watershed (OH)**

Grantee: Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
 SOGL Award: ..... \$266,272  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$264,260  
**Total Project: ..... \$530,532**

Install green stormwater management systems to reduce erosion and stormwater runoff and improve habitat with invasive species management. Project will reduce stormwater runoff by 121,000 gallons annually and restore 29 acres of habitat.

**Reducing Flooding and Improving Water Quality through Green Infrastructure in Hamilton, Ontario**

Grantee: Hamilton-Wentworth Green Venture  
 SOGL Award: ..... \$122,201  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$57,906  
**Total Project: ..... \$180,107**

Install a series of nine green stormwater infrastructure projects throughout Hamilton's Dundas neighborhood to increase stormwater storage by more than 130,000 gallons annually. Project will remove impervious surface, install rain gardens, and engage the community to reduce significant flooding and the input of contaminants through stormwater runoff into Spencer Creek and Hamilton Harbor.

**Sterling Relief Drain Daylighting and Green Infrastructure Retrofit (MI)**

Grantee: Macomb County Public Works Office  
 SOGL Award: ..... \$602,183  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$1,064,000  
**Total Project: ..... \$1,666,183**

Redesign and retrofit 1 mile of the Sterling Relief Drain corridor in Macomb County as green infrastructure in order to daylight, store and infiltrate stormwater from the 1,870-acre urban drainage district. Project will create more than 50 acres of diverse native habitat, plant 5,000 trees



Blandings turtle

and intercept 28 lateral storm drains to add more than 10 million gallons of urban stormwater storage capacity.

**Farmer-led Approach to Reduce Sediment and Nutrient Loading in the Lincoln and Sable Watersheds (MI)**

Grantee: Mason-Lake Conservation District

SOGL Award: ..... \$188,423

Matching Funds: ..... \$199,200

**Total Project: ..... \$387,623**

Improve the health of the Sable River and Lincoln River watersheds by reducing sediment and nutrients inputs through the implementation of Farm Bill conservation practices. Project will expand landowner technical assistance capacity to implement priority conservation practices, such as cover crops, field borders, filter strips and improved nutrient management practices on 10,000 acres of farmland.

**Landowner Technical Assistance in Michigan's Central Upper Peninsula**

Grantee: Marquette County Conservation District

SOGL Award: ..... \$236,457

Matching Funds: ..... \$69,250

**Total Project: ..... \$305,707**

Hire a soil conservationist for a three-year term to increase private, non-industrial landowner participation in forest management planning and implementation of recommended conservation practices within the central Upper Peninsula.

**Assistance Initiative for the Maple River Watershed (MI)**

Grantee: Clinton Conservation District

SOGL Award: ..... \$189,600

Matching Funds: ..... \$49,000

**Total Project: ..... \$238,600**

Increase the availability of technical assistance to landowners in the Clinton County area of the Maple River watershed. Project will engage landowners through outreach programs, assist in the development of conservation plans and implement conservation practices aimed at improving soil health and water quality.

**Landowner Technical Assistance in Saginaw Bay (MI)**

Grantee: Huron Conservation District

SOGL Award: ..... \$184,844

Matching Funds: ..... \$46,275

**Total Project: ..... \$231,119**

Provide planning and technical support to improve soil health and water quality in the high-risk and need Saginaw Bay watershed. Project will provide planning and technical support to landowners to facilitate the timely installation of soil health and water quality best management practices.

**Protecting Middle and West Michigan Soil and Water Resources**

Grantee: Kent Conservation District

SOGL Award: ..... \$198,000

Matching Funds: ..... \$49,500

**Total Project: ..... \$247,500**

Hire a full time qualified engineer or civil engineering technician to be based out of the NRCS Area 3 Grand Rapids, Michigan field office. Project will address significant gaps in landowner technical assistance capacity by installing contracted conservation practices that will help prevent thousands of pounds of nutrients and sediment from entering Lake Michigan tributaries annually.