

2016 HOW Awards: Project Descriptions

At the close of this grant period we have reviewed 21 applications and approved the below 17 applications.

Funded by Frey

- Grand Rapids Whitewater to support progress on their Grand River Revitalization project to transform the urbanized reach of the Grand River through Grand Rapids from a uniform channel with several low-head dams, into a river more closely resembling the dynamic ecosystem it once was. This project has been in the planning stages for over six years, and is now at a point where funding is needed to complete final designs and construction drawings. Their HOW award will be used to address the most challenging aspect of the design, which is an adjustable barrier that will prevent sea lamprey from migrating upstream. (NOTE – This award actually went out toward the end of 2015 though it is part of the current Frey grant.) \$15,000
- White Lake Environmental Network, which grew out of the White Lake Public Advisory Council after the delisting of White Lake in 2014 as an Area of Concern. Amongst other things, this group is working to reduced nutrient inputs into White Lake that are essential for addressing remaining eutrophication issues beyond the lake's delisting. Celery farm fields, formerly White Lake coastal marshlands, have recently been acquired and placed into public ownership. The White Lake Environmental Network is working with partners to restore these fields into marshlands by removing excess nutrients and naturalizing wetland functions, which will improve water quality, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and provide public recreation opportunities. Funding from their HOW award will go toward work required prior to applying for federal restoration funds includes obtaining elevations of the entire site, sampling of total phosphorus, metals, PCBs, PNAs and VOCs in the soil and water, and invasive species removal. \$15,000
- Conservation Resource Alliance: Funding will be used for coordination, communications, secretariat, and fiduciary services in 2016 and 2017 for Boardman Dams Project. This landmark project, the largest dam removal project in Michigan's history, has been a priority for GLRI funders under Focus Area 4 (Habitat Restoration), and has garnered consistent funding support from GLRI, state, and local sources since the planning began in 2005. \$5,000
- Duck Creek Watershed Assembly: The lower portion of Duck Creek and Duck Lake (Muskegon County) are suffering from excess sediment loading. Funding will be used to test the hypothesis that the construction of a replacement bridge at the Duck Creek/Nestrom Rd crossing has resulted in increased sedimentation. The goal will be to examine sediment profiles upstream and downstream of the road/stream crossing to determine if the bridge construction is the major source of increased sediment loading,

and if so, identify the most cost-effective approach to remediate the problem. Based on these findings, restoration plans will be developed and funding for implementation will be pursued. \$15,000

- Pere Marquette Watershed Council: For more than 10 years the Pere Marquette Watershed Council (PMWC) has worked to draw attention to a failing railroad embankment located in the heart of the Pere Marquette River. The decreasing stability of the embankment continues to increase the threat of a catastrophic failure sending locomotives and tanker cars including their petroleum byproducts into the river forever altering the delicate cold-water ecosystem. PMWC is seeking grant support to assist with preliminary design, cost estimates, and permitting work in preparation for GLRI proposals that will complete on-the-ground restoration work in the construction phase of the Pere Marquette Railroad stabilization project. \$15,000
- Green Michigan will formalize and launch “Wetlands As A Service” in West Michigan lakes & rivers within the Lake Michigan basin. Funds will be used to implement a pilot project and develop applications for larger sources of funding such as Great Lakes Protection Fund or other GLRI grant opportunities. Specifically, adding the Floating Treatment Wetland (FTW) system to seawalls & hardscaped shorelines transforms them into super ecosystem service providers, while also providing coastal resiliency & improved public access. \$10,000
- Tip of the Mitt: The Village of Boyne Falls borders the Boyne River. The North Branch of the River is designated as a Blue Ribbon Trout Stream. An unpaved road, Church Street, is pouring sediment into the river and causing nuisance conditions. The Watershed Council has been partnering with the Village and Boyne Valley Township for 3 years, applying for grants to get the road paved. We have been unsuccessful, but now have the option of applying for help using the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program. This grant funding will assist us in preparing a SRF Project Plan, which is required to be eligible for SRF Program funding. \$10,000 (NOTE: Tip of the Mitt has notified Freshwater Future that due to permit decision making changes they may not be able to take the funds for the project. As of 1/31/17 we have not learned if these funds will be returned or not.)

Funded by HOW General Funds

- Friends of Detroit River to help move forward necessary actions on two projects. One project, Lake Okonoka Restoration, is “shovel ready” and needs implementation funding. Secondly, the Detroit Upper Riverfront Parks Restoration project is ready for design and engineering. Funding from HOW will go toward labor and expenses associated with preparing GLRI grant applications to move one or both of these projects forward. \$5,000
- Clinton River Watershed Council is in the initial phases of restoring one of the few remaining cold-water designated trout stream systems left in Southeast Michigan, Paint Creek. Native Brook trout historically have been observed in one key tributary to Paint

Creek, Gallagher Creek, until recent years. In efforts with the MDNR and local stakeholders, CRWC use HOW funding to collect baseline data to assist with project development, design, and acquiring future GLRI funding to ultimately restore this rare and valuable resource. \$10,000

- Friends of St. Clair River, with their partner the City of Marysville, have identified an existing creek/stream that was put underground in a pipe many years ago. Their goal is to restore the creek/stream, fish and natural habitat. Healing Our Waters funds will be used to assess data gaps that currently exist including historical data gathering, stream location survey, water quality analysis, as well as public education/outreach and collaboration. This funding will also be used to prepare grant applications to secure funds to make this project goal a reality. \$7,500
- Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper aims to restore Scajaquada Creek, which is an urban waterway highly impaired by land-use development and industrial pollution, as well as being listed a source area of contaminants to the federally-designated Niagara River “Area of Concern (AOC).” Funding from HOW will be used to apply for GLRI funds for this restoration work, as well as work directly with DEC, USACE and EPA to guide the development of regional restoration priorities that result in elevation of the Niagara River AOC as a priority while advancing the timeline for restoration of the Scajaquada Creek sub-basin. \$7,500

Funded by GLFT

- Trout Unlimited, Inc. (TU) and partners are seeking to restore aquatic organism passage (AOP) and stream function by replacing inadequate road/stream crossings in Northwestern Michigan. Trout Unlimited will collect data and information on priority road/streams crossings to help develop restoration plans and culvert replacement designs to improve habitat for trout and other coldwater communities. Funding from HOW will directly support a larger federal project proposal to restore priority coldwater habitat in Northwest Michigan Rivers. \$14,740
- Audubon Great Lakes will develop a Great Lakes conservation map to prioritize critical watersheds for restoration within the Great Lakes Basin. Funding from HOW will be utilized to develop the Lake Michigan basin portion of this map. This project lays the foundation for Audubon’s Great Lakes Conservation Initiative, and the tool will empower Audubon’s expansive network of staff, chapters, members, and nature centers to develop, implement, and sustain Great Lakes Restoration Initiative restoration projects at strategically prioritized sites. Great Lakes coastal wetlands such as Illinois Beach State Park, Galien River Wetland, Ogontz Bay Wetlands, Indian Ridge Marsh and Muskegon River Wetlands serve as critical habitat for both permanent resident fish such as brown bullhead, central mudminnow, and longnose gar; as well as migratory fish that use coastal wetlands as spawning and nursery grounds (such as northern pike, yellow perch, and spottail shiner). The restoration of more diverse, native plant communities, elimination and

control of common carp, and restoration of natural hydrologic management improves conditions not only for birds, but also for migratory and resident fish. \$15,000

- Conservation Resource Alliance will develop preliminary design, cost estimates, and permitting work to prepare for GLRI proposals that will complete on-the-ground restoration work in the next phase of the Benzie River Care Initiative. The restoration work represents a fourth phase of a strategic initiative focused in Benzie County, connecting and improving habitat for brook trout and other native and sport fish important to tribes and Michigan's economy. \$10,000
- Root Pike WIN: In 2010, Root-Pike WIN's Board of Directors enacted a strategic plan that focused on one new goal: incubating and implementing watershed restoration plans for Southeastern Wisconsin's most impaired Lake Michigan tributaries. Since then, they have successfully facilitated the development of three EPA Nine Element Watershed Restoration Plans for the Root River, Pike River, and Wind Point watersheds. Implementation of the prioritized projects in the plans, particularly those located in the headwaters and where pollutant loads are high, is our primary focus. Funding will be used for the operational support needed to write federal grants to implement these recommended projects. \$15,000
- Urban Rivers: Urban Rivers' are implementing floating gardens in the Chicago River for habitat recovery, provide refuge for fish and wildlife and beautify their community. Funds will be used to finalize their research to be used in federal grant application and provide grant writing assistance to secure funding for gardens in the North Branch of the Chicago River. \$15,000
- Schlitz Audubon completed design build project planning in July 2016 for the Stormwater Wetlands & Ravine Restoration Project. This project will address critical stormwater management needs of our community and increase the biological integrity of the Center's land. Activities will include: stormwater detention and remediation to reduce soil runoff directly into Lake Michigan and tributaries; wetland restoration; ravine stream channel restoration; and site accessibility and educational improvements. Healing Our Waters funding will advance our project by allowing us to commence project permitting, make necessary plan modifications, and prepare bid documents, thus greatly increasing our potential to secure federal project funding. \$10,260