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Great Lakes watershed restoration grants awarded to reduce phosphorus runoff and sediment pollution

Ann Arbor, Mich. – The Great Lakes Commission and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are pleased to announce the awarding of 12 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) watershed grants under the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program (GLSNRP).

GLSNRP, formerly known as the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, is a cooperative state-federal nonpoint source pollution partnership administered by the Great Lakes Commission (GLC). Funding for this program is provided by the GLRI under a cooperative agreement between the GLC and NRCS.

Under the current agreement, GLRI funding of more than \$1.7 million was provided by NRCS to reduce phosphorus runoff and sediment pollution in priority watersheds in the Great Lakes basin. The projects being funded are:

Sponsor	State	Title	Amount Awarded
LaGrange County Soil & Water Conservation District	IN	Pigeon River Phosphorus and Sediment Reduction	\$250,000
The Nature Conservancy	IN	Removing Dissolved Phosphorus from Agricultural Drainage	\$170,856
Saginaw Bay Resource Conservation and Development	MI	Cass River Streambank Stabilization and Fish Habitat	\$30,000
Hillsdale Conservation District	MI	Phosphorus Reduction of the St. Joseph River/Lake Erie	\$113,126
Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance	NY	Phosphorus Control in the Lake Ontario Basin	\$199,878
Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District	NY	West Cazenovia Creek Sediment and Nutrient Control Project	\$30,000
Conservation Action Project	OH	Subsurface Soil Incorporation of Phosphorus Fertilizer	\$193,180
Seneca Soil & Water Conservation District	OH	Phosphorus Reductions in Wolf Creek	\$235,949
Wood Soil & Water Conservation District	OH	Reducing Agricultural Sources of Phosphorus in the Maumee Watershed	\$244,413
Putnam Soil & Water Conservation District	OH	Sediment and Phosphorus Reduction in the Miller City Cutoff	\$247,763
Blanchard River Watershed Partnership	OH	Sediment and Phosphorus Reduction in the Middle Riley Creek	\$29,930
Fulton Soil & Water Conservation District	OH	Tiffin River Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Initiative	\$29,500

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Great Lakes Commission

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Every year, tons of phosphorus and sediments enter the Great Lakes basin, causing economic and environmental losses and damages. The GLSNRP strategically addresses this problem with a unique, targeted grass-roots approach that awards grants to nonfederal agencies and nonprofit organizations to implement sediment control practices in priority sediment-producing watersheds throughout the Great Lakes region.

“Implementing projects in priority areas is a great step in furthering our efforts to reduce phosphorus and sediment from entering the Great Lakes,” said GLC Acting Chair Jon Allan, director of Michigan’s Office of the Great Lakes. “Along with our federal partner, NRCS, these GLRI funds will invest much-needed resources at the local level to install conservation practices in critical Great Lakes watersheds.”

The GLRI funding builds on and accelerates ongoing efforts to reduce erosion to the Great Lakes. The GLC has been involved in reducing nonpoint source pollution, specifically sediment reduction, since 1988. In 1991 the GLC established the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, which became GLSNRP in 2015 to recognize the program’s increased emphasis on phosphorus reduction.

“This funding allows the Great Lakes Commission and NRCS to take an already effective partnership to the next level of reducing phosphorus runoff and sedimentation into the Great Lakes,” said Tim Eder, GLC executive director. “This expanded investment in conservation on the region’s working lands will yield significant dividends for taxpayers and communities in the form of decreased pollution and better water quality.”

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*The **Great Lakes Commission**, led by acting-chair Jon W. Allan, director of the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality Office of the Great Lakes, is an interstate compact agency established under state and U.S. federal law and dedicated to promoting a strong economy, healthy environment and high quality of life for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region and its residents. The Commission consists of governors’ appointees, state legislators and agency officials from its eight member states. Associate membership for Ontario and Québec was established through the signing of a “Declaration of Partnership.” The Commission maintains a formal Observer program involving U.S. and Canadian federal agencies, tribal authorities, binational agencies and other regional interests. The Commission offices are located in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Learn more at www.glc.org.*