

NY Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program Supports Community-Based Projects

Since its inception in 2015, the New York Great Lakes Basin (NYGLB) Small Grants Program has awarded more than \$1.2 million to projects addressing the needs and issues identified in New York's Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River watershed communities. Grants up to \$25,000 have been awarded to 38 projects in partnership with more than 29 distinct not-for-profit organizations, municipalities, county and local government or public agencies, regional planning and environmental commissions, and educational institutions.



*A NY Great Lakes Basin Small Grant funded the installation of this ADA-compliant kayak launch ramp along Lake Ontario.
Photo: Maxine Appleby, Wayne County SWCD*

Each project is focused on the implementation of Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) concepts and principles that encompass the entire ecosystem, versus a single issue/single species focus and incorporates stakeholder participation. Funding priorities were identified and selected from New York's Great Lakes Basin Action Agenda (GLAA) and through discussions with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Great Lakes Sub-basin Work Group meetings that identified regional and basin-wide collaborative actions and priorities.

NYGLB Small Grants Program funding priorities have focused on four of the GLAA goals thus far:

- control sediment, nutrient and pathogen loading so drinking water quality is protected, desired aquatic biotic communities flourish, humans and wildlife are protected from coastline health hazards, and natural processes are sustained;
- conserve and restore native fish and wildlife biodiversity and habitats to achieve and sustain resilient ecosystems and vibrant communities;
- enhance community resiliency and ecosystem integrity through restoration, protection, and improve resource management; and
- secure additional access to local waterways for swimming, boating, shore fishing, and other recreational activities.

Several of these community-based projects have also led to larger projects that are carrying forward the results and actions started as part of this grant program: www.nyseagrant.org/glsmallgrants.

Project Partners:

- New York Sea Grant
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Funding: NYS Environmental Protection Fund Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Program

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is New York Resilient Communities and Economies.

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

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