



STATE OF MICHIGAN
 DEPARTMENT OF
 ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
 LANSING



GRETCHEN WHITMER
 GOVERNOR

PHILLIP D. ROOS
 DIRECTOR

VIA EMAIL

TO: Members of the Michigan Legislature

FROM: Phillip D. Roos, Director 

DATE: February 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Report on Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund for Calendar Year 2023

In accordance with Section 324.32910(1) of Part 329, Great Lakes Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA), attached is the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) report on the Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund (MGLPF) for calendar year 2023. The MGLPF is a designated source of funding to support projects that meet EGLE's strategic goals and that are consistent with Part 331, Regional Great Lakes Protection Fund, of the NREPA.

If you need further information, please contact Emily Finnell, Great Lakes Senior Advisor and Strategist, Office of the Great Lakes, at 517-599-1330 or Finnelle@Michigan.gov; or you may contact me at 517-614-6873.

Attachment

- cc/att: Kathryn Summers, Director, Senate Fiscal Agency
 Mary Ann Cleary, Director, House Fiscal Agency
 Jennifer Flood, Director, State Budget Office
 Patti Tremblay, Director of Legislative Affairs, Governor's Office
 Marc Rehmann, Policy Director, Governor's Office
 Jonah Houtz, Senate Fiscal Agency
 Austin Scott, House Fiscal Agency
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 Sydney Hart, Legislative Liaison, EGLE
 Paul McDonald, EGLE
 Dale Shaw, EGLE
 Lisa Root, EGLE



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Legislative Report

MICHIGAN GREAT LAKES PROTECTION FUND REPORT

Report Period:
Calendar Year 2023

Authority:
Section 324.32910(1) of Part 329, Great Lakes Protection,
of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act,
1994 PA 451, as Amended

If you need this information in an alternate format, contact EGLE-Accessibility@Michigan.gov or call 800-662-9278.

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This document and its contents are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and may be released to the public.

The mission of the Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund (MGLPF) is to provide funding for innovative research and demonstration projects that advance knowledge about Great Lakes ecosystems and their interactions with Michigan communities. Funded projects support and inform work to ensure a healthy environment, strong economy, and high quality of life for the people of Michigan. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's Office of the Great Lakes (OGL) manages the MGLPF.

In calendar year 2023 the OGL awarded one new grant under the MGLPF for \$79,990.

The OGL awarded a grant for \$79,990 to The Regents of the University of Michigan (Michigan Sea Grant) to support the Ox Creek Collaborative Partnership in the development and implementation of the Ox Creek Restoration and Revitalization Strategic Plan. The Ox Creek Collaborative Partnership was formed by city of Benton Harbor leaders and local, county, regional, academic, state, and federal partners – including the OGL, the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, and the University of Michigan to support efforts to revitalize and restore the creek in the city and township. The Partnership is a new model that supports and advances the city's vision for a vibrant, healthy Ox Creek corridor with biking/walking trails and bridges, commercial development, housing opportunities, and more. This project also advances several of Michigan's priority objectives, including protecting and restoring the Great Lakes, creating vibrant communities, addressing environmental justice and equity, and promoting water stewardship. The Ox Creek Restoration and Revitalization Strategic Plan will provide a high-level overview of the vision, goals, and objectives and strategies for long-term funding, capacity building and governance, and stewardship of the corridor that will support and institutionalize existing and planned projects. Michigan Sea Grant will serve on the steering committee for the strategic planning process, participate in strategic planning meetings, and gather input and feedback from stakeholders to develop content for a draft high-level strategic plan document for review, input, and finalization by project team members. In addition, Michigan Sea Grant will facilitate follow-up virtual meetings to invite and obtain feedback from stakeholders and the project team on the draft plan and review and incorporate comments into a final plan. Michigan Sea Grant will also provide communications support to the larger Ox Creek Restoration and Revitalization project.

#	Grantee	Title	County	Grant \$
1	The Regents of the University of Michigan (Michigan Sea Grant)	Strategic Planning and Communications Support for Ox Creek Restoration Project	Washtenaw	\$79,990

In addition to the new grant awarded in calendar year 2023, the OGL actively participated in the projects funded by the existing, multi-year grants totaling \$724,682 in funding.