

MICHIGAN COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

2023 GRANT AWARDS

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Water Resources Division, Michigan Coastal Management Program (MCMP) is awarding \$249,256 in grant funds to coastal partners for six grant planning projects. The MCMP is committed to provide creative grant funding to support the efforts of coastal communities, non-profit organizations, universities, and Tribal governments to protect, preserve, restore, enhance, and wisely develop our coastal resources along the longest freshwater coastline in the nation.

The MCMP was approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 1978, under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act. The MCMP provides technical and funding assistance to Michigan's coastal communities for land use plans, zoning ordinances, and other local policies and programs that balance community growth with protection of coastal natural and maritime heritage resources, reduces risks from coastal hazards, and encourages commerce and recreation focused on the Great Lakes coast. The MCMP promotes federal, state, and local government coordination.

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Project: Arcadia Beach Park Engineering and Feasibility Analysis

Partner: Township of Arcadia

Grant Amount: \$30,000 grant / \$31,200 match

Location: Township of Arcadia

Project Description: Arcadia Township will develop design and final engineering plans for nature-based solutions to abate coastal erosion through the restoration of the coastal dunes at Sunset Station Park. The township will look at the feasibility to reestablish the dune system to provide long term protection from coastal erosion while maintaining the ecological and coastal processes critical to a healthy coastal ecosystem. The designs will incorporate park amenities that consider movable structures in nearshore areas, controlled public access through designated foot trails and boardwalk, restored dunes through the installation of native plants, and green infrastructure to improve storm water runoff and filtration.

Program Contact: Weston Hillier, HillierW@Michigan.gov, Public Access Coordinator

Project: Weko Beach Boardwalk Design

Partner: City of Bridgman

Grant Amount: \$15,250 grant / \$15,490 match

Location: Weko Beach in the city of Bridgman

Project Description: The city of Bridgman will undertake a design process to replace and enhance the boardwalk at its popular Weko Beach. Exploring a potential connection to Warren Dunes State Park, and adding a viewing/event platform, will be evaluated as a part of the boardwalk enhancement. Exploring the inclusion of shade structures, benches and other amenities will also be considered. Alternative design concepts will be compared to minimize adverse natural resource impacts, notably to on site dunes. The city will participate in a WRD pre-application meeting to ensure design plans are informed by applicable resource protection statutory requirements. Focus will be given to making this a resilient public access structure that can withstand variable Great Lakes water levels. Design considerations will include low-impact development techniques and natural features where possible. Additional work effort will go towards a topographic survey and developing documentation to satisfy historic properties review for future implementation efforts. Boardwalk enhancements will protect the natural environment while supporting coastal tourism by providing residents and visitors safe public access to enjoy Lake Michigan beaches and dunes.

Program Contact: Weston Hillier, HillierW@Michigan.gov, Public Access Coordinator

MICHIGAN COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – 2023 GRANT AWARDS
FRESH COAST BEST COAST

Project: The Lost Settlements of Lake St. Clair

Partner: Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Grant Amount: \$79,006 grants / \$79,006 match

Location: Harrison Township

Project Description: The Macomb County Planning and Economic Development will partner with Noble Odyssey Foundation to survey and document historic settlements containing underwater cultural resources in nearshore waters of Lake St. Clair, between the mouth of the Clinton River and Waterfront Park in Harrison Township and along the southern half of Belvidere Bay just north of the mouth of the river. Both locations are part of the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair Coastal Water Trails. Field investigations will include the use of underwater and aerial drones as well as SCUBA divers to document sites conditions. The information from the investigations will be put into public facing materials, such as a public website and a micro-documentary, to raise awareness and create a culture of stewardship of these unique underwater cultural resources.

Program Contact: Weston Hillier, HillierW@Michigan.gov, Public Access Coordinator

Project: Wyandotte Downtown Green Infrastructure Evaluation

Partner: City of Wyandotte

Grant Amount: \$15,000 grant / \$15,000 match

Location: City of Wyandotte

Project Description: The city of Wyandotte Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will evaluate nature-based solutions such as green infrastructure practices throughout the Wyandotte DDA area. The DDA is currently in the planning stages for a multiyear Capital Improvement Program focused on improving alleys, parking lots, and other place-based infrastructure. This initiative is being coordinated with the redevelopment of several city owned vacant or underutilized parcels within the downtown area.

Preliminary green infrastructure plans will be created and public input on plans will be sought through steering committee meetings. While downtown Wyandotte has made great strides over the past decade in attracting business and improving its streetscape along Biddle Avenue, the city is eager to leverage its proximity to the Detroit River.

Program Contact: Melissa Letosky, LetoskyM@Michigan.gov, Coastal Waters Coordinator

MICHIGAN COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – 2023 GRANT AWARDS
FRESH COAST BEST COAST

Project: Lakeshore Drive Managed Retreat – Site Investigation

Partner: Allegan County Road Commission

Grant Amount: \$100,000 grant / \$100,000 match

Location: Saugatuck Township

Project Description: The Allegan County Road Commission, in partnership with Saugatuck Township, will conduct the second phase site investigation for the managed retreat of Lakeshore Drive. The first phase is underway with a previously awarded 2022 grant to develop a feasibility study of construction alternatives and management strategies to develop preliminary engineering designs. The proposed site investigation project will define a corridor from the feasibility study, collect basic data to comply with potential federal funding requirements, and develop preliminary design drawings. This information is necessary to implement a future mitigation project that will address the long-term threat of coastal erosion to Lakeshore Drive. The site investigation will further define the scope of a potential mitigation project and put the Road Commission in a better position to apply for construction funding from a variety of state and federal sources.

Program Contact: Emily Kirkpatrick, KirkpatrickE@Michigan.gov, Coastal Hazards Coordinator

Project: Burt Township Resilient Master Plan

Partner: Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development

Grant Amount: \$10,000 grant / \$10,000 match

Location: Burt Township

Project Description: The Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development will work with Burt Township to incorporate coastal resiliency principles into the Township's Master Plan. The Burt Township coastline is characterized as steep bluffs, and property loss is of utmost concern to many community members. The Township is currently in the process of updating their Master Plan and has gathered community input on several key topics of concern which include controlling stormwater runoff; consideration for a new sewage treatment system; and protection of the dunes, natural streambanks, and forested areas from erosion caused by Off-Road Vehicles. The community hopes to explore methods for promoting tourism while preserving the natural places that make the Township truly special. The Grantee will explore community key topics of concern, address climate resiliency questions related to these concerns, and formulate a roadmap for sustained coastal resilience through the addition of a coastal resilience Master Plan chapter.

Program Contact: Adam Arend, ArendA@Michigan.gov, Coastal Community Development Coordinator

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For more information, visit Michigan.gov/CoastalManagement.

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