



2026 Wisconsin Coastal Grant Awards

COASTWIDE: ALL COASTAL COUNTIES

Project Name	A Collective Framework for Tree Planting Programs on Wisconsin Lake Michigan Coast
Applicant	Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc. (Sweet Water)
Grant Amount	\$27,013
Category	Great Lakes Education

Sweet Water will develop a capacity-building framework to increase collective tree planting and forest restoration across Wisconsin's Lake Michigan coastal zone through workshops and virtual sessions.

Project Name	J. Philip Keillor Coastal Management Fellowship
Applicant	The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System
Grant Amount	\$33,228
Category	Natural Hazards

The Wisconsin Sea Grant College Program will sponsor a one-year fellowship focused on tackling science and policy challenges related to increasing coastal community resilience across the Great Lakes region.

Project Name	Michigami Basin Mayom* -Wild Rice - Education Project
Applicant	The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System
Grant Amount	\$100,666
Category	Great Lakes Education

UW-Madison will hire an outreach specialist to develop tribally-led, educational materials to increase manoomin literacy in Brown and Milwaukee Counties.

Project Name	Stewarding Wisconsin's Shore
Applicant	Wisconsin Counties Association
Grant Amount	\$90,750
Category	Great Lakes Education

Wisconsin Counties Association, in partnership with Discover Wisconsin, will create a Great Lakes Stewardship Series including a 30-minute Into the Outdoors (ITO) episode, a Discover Wisconsin (DW) original short, and a broadcast television commercial.

BAY-LAKE REGION: BROWN, DOOR, KEWAUNEE, MANITOWOC, MARINETTE, OCONTO, AND SHEBOYGAN COUNTIES

Project Name	Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission Technical Assistance
Applicant	Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission
Grant Amount	\$30,000

Category Technical Assistance/Outreach

Bay-Lake RPC will provide public information and outreach on issues affecting coastal resources by providing information, presentations, support, newsletter articles, social media posts, and technical assistance.

Project Name	City of Two Rivers Resilient Waterfront Parkland Public Access & Restoration – Final Design Engineering
Applicant	City of Two Rivers
Grant Amount	\$47,700
Category	Public Access

The City of Two Rivers will develop final design engineering for improved public access amenities and nature-based stormwater management infrastructure at four sites along the 3.2-mile Mariners Trail corridor adjacent to the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Project Name	Comprehensive Natural Resources and Interactive Environmental Education for the Bay Lake Region
Applicant	Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission
Grant Amount	\$37,335
Category	Land Use & Community Planning

Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission will update the Natural, Cultural, and Agricultural Resources section of the Bay-Lake Regional Comprehensive Plan.

Project Name	Fish Cleaning Station at Brown County's Bay Shore Park
Applicant	Brown County Parks
Grant Amount	\$40,000
Category	Cumulative & Secondary Impacts:Nonpoint

The Brown County Parks Department will install a new fish cleaning station at Bay Shore County Park, designed to improve coastal water quality, and public access and user convenience for anglers.

Project Name	Great Lakes Literacy for Middle School: Data Collection and ROV Experiences
Applicant	Science On a River, Inc.
Grant Amount	\$26,527
Category	Great Lakes Education

Science on a River (SOAR) will develop a progressive series of Great Lakes literacy programs for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in the Sheboygan Area School District which will include hands-on field experiences.

Project Name	Improving Access to East Twin River for Educational Programming at Mishicot School District
Applicant	Mishicot School District
Grant Amount	\$41,200
Category	Public Access

Mishicot School District will complete a construction-ready design plan for improved access to the East Twin River for classroom activities.

Project Name	Peninsula State Park Multimodal Trail & Trailhead Green Infrastructure
Applicant	Friends of Peninsula State Park (FPSP)
Grant Amount	\$53,422
Category	Public Access

The Friends of Peninsula State Park (FPSP) will design a critical connective segment of multimodal trail and improvements at key trailhead parking areas within Peninsula State Park.

Project Name	Stream Stories: Restoration and Monitoring of the Lower Fox River, Green Bay, and tributaries
Applicant	The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System
Grant Amount	\$13,013
Category	Great Lakes Education

UW-Green Bay will hire a communications and outreach specialist to create digital StoryMaps that showcase the educational and ecological accomplishments of UW-Green Bay and its partners' freshwater outreach programs.

Project Name	Update and Redesign of WI Lake Superior Byway Map and Guide
Applicant	City of Washburn
Grant Amount	\$9,250
Category	Great Lakes Education

The Scenic Byway Council will update, print, and distribute the Lake Superior Scenic Byway brochure and map.

LAKE SUPERIOR REGION: ASHLAND, BAYFIELD, DOUGLAS, AND IRON COUNTIES

Project Name	Brule River Protection Plan
Applicant	Northwest Regional Planning Commission
Grant Amount	\$25,000
Category	Land Use & Community Planning

Northwest Regional Planning Commission proposes to develop the Bois Brule River Watershed protection Plan to identify priority areas for conservation, evaluation of stressors, and recommend strategies for maintaining the watershed's hydrology, water quality, and habitat.

Project Name	Lost Creek Falls Trail Addition and EMS Access
Applicant	Bayfield County
Grant Amount	\$25,000
Category	Public Access

Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Department will construct a new trail and improve EMS Access at Lost Creek Falls. The proposed project will improve user experience and public accessibility to property that was previously acquired with help from WCMP.

Project Name	Maxwell Forest Project
Applicant	Bayfield County
Grant Amount	\$180,774
Category	Public Access

Bayfield County will purchase the Maxwell Forest property from Northland College to protect and expand public access to approximately 132 acres of unfragmented forest land, shoreline, and river bluffs in the White River watershed straddling Ashland and Bayfield Counties.

Project Name	Northwest Regional Planning Commission Technical Assistance
Applicant	Northwest Regional Planning Commission
Grant Amount	\$30,000
Category	Technical Assistance/Outreach

Northwest Regional Planning Commission will provide technical assistance to the Wisconsin Department of Administration in the implementation of the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program.

Project Name	Sioux River Big Rock Acquisition
Applicant	Bayfield County
Grant Amount	\$50,000
Category	Public Access

Bayfield County will acquire 11.59 acres of land along the Sioux River and adjacent to Big Rock County Park and Campground.

SOUTHEAST REGION: KENOSHA, MILWAUKEE, OZAUKEE, AND RACINE COUNTIES

Project Name Community-Centered Land Protection Planning 2025-2035
Applicant Ozaukee Washington Land Trust
Grant Amount \$55,353
Category Restoration:Habitat

Restoring Lands: A Wisconsin Land Trust will create a plan for future land acquisitions within the Milwaukee River and Lake Michigan Basins.

Project Name Guiding Wisconsin Coastal Wetland Restoration Priorities Through Water Level and Nutrient Exchange Monitoring
Applicant University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Grant Amount \$100,122
Category Restoration:Habitat

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will evaluate how coastal wetland water levels and connectivity with the Great Lakes influence nutrient retention and export dynamics across Wisconsin's coasts.

Project Name Natural Areas Explorer Webtool Update
Applicant Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Grant Amount \$29,877
Category Restoration:Habitat

The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission will upgrade and expand the Natural Areas Explorer tool to aid in the development of management practices and strategies for Natural Areas and Critical Species habitat sites.

Project Name On-Farm Prairie Strips to Improve Water Quality and Biodiversity Along Lake Michigan
Applicant Sand County Foundation
Grant Amount \$29,568
Category Cumulative & Secondary Impacts:Nonpoint

The Sand County Foundation will work with existing producer-led watershed groups in the Lake Michigan basin to implement a "batch and grow" model to identify interested farmers, provide technical assistance, and develop design plans to scale up farmer adoption of prairie strips.

Project Name Protecting Lake Sturgeon and its Habitat through Riveredge's Watershed Education Program
Applicant Riveredge Nature Center, Inc
Grant Amount \$44,320
Category Great Lakes Education

Riveredge Nature Center will deliver a sturgeon-focused experiential learning curriculum to Title I Milwaukee middle schools to promote awareness about the Great Lakes ecosystem and foster action to protect the sturgeon's habitat.

Project Name Reconnecting the Milwaukee River to Historic Floodplain, Wetlands and Oxbow
Applicant Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department
Grant Amount \$90,000
Category Restoration:Habitat

Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department will implement a riparian floodplain, wetland and oxbow habitat restoration project in the Village of Saukville.

Project Name Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Technical Assistance

Applicant	Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Grant Amount	\$30,000
Category	Technical Assistance/Outreach

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission will assist the Wisconsin Department of Administration in the implementation of the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program by continuing to provide technical assistance, regional analysis, and public outreach services.

Project Name	Sturgeon Protectors: Protecting and Sharing the Journey of the Lake Sturgeon
Applicant	Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Grant Amount	\$30,000
Category	Great Lakes Education

Milwaukee Riverkeepers will support ongoing efforts of the Sturgeon Protectors Program to protect migrating sturgeon through education and raise awareness about the ecological and cultural significance of the sturgeon.

Project Name	Transforming Greener Schools in MPS
Applicant	Milwaukee Board of School Directors
Grant Amount	\$60,000
Category	Cumulative & Secondary Impacts:Nonpoint

Milwaukee Public Schools will develop engineering and design plans that integrate green infrastructure into schoolyards at five Milwaukee Public Schools.