



New York Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program 2023 Projects

Small grants produce significant results for Great Lakes region communities

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

New York State has 3,400 miles of diverse coastline and is the only state in the U.S. bordering both the Great Lakes and Atlantic Ocean.

More than 85% of NY's population lives in a coastal region.



New York Sea Grant regional offices provide innovative research, technical assistance, and outreach on such issues as water quality, coastal resilience, marine & freshwater fisheries, invasive species, algal blooms, aquaculture & seafood, coastal literacy, and shoreline community development.

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NYSG Focus Area
for this project summary:
Resilient NY Communities
and Economies

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Since its inception in 2015, the New York Great Lakes Basin (NYGLB) Small Grants Program has awarded more than \$1.8 million to projects addressing the needs and issues identified in NY's Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA). Grants up to \$50,000 have been awarded to more than 60 projects in partnership with 40 distinct not-for-profit organizations, municipalities, county and local government or public agencies, regional planning and environmental commissions, and educational institutions.

Funded projects focus on the implementation of ecosystem-based management (EBM) to balance the needs of people, nature, and the economy through science-based decision-making and stakeholder participation. In 2022 and 2023, funding priorities focused on projects that implemented goals of the GLAA and actions specifically named in locally supported community plans pertaining to water quality, natural resources, or sustainable land use.

Eight projects received grants in the 2023-2024 funding round, totaling \$388,289. The projects aim to apply EBM to implement community-identified actions that will benefit local economic, social, and natural systems:

- Odessa Green Infrastructure Initiative: Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart & William Smith College
- Protection of Lake Ontario Water Quality Through Consumer Education: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County
- Build-Out Analysis Modeling for Scenario Planning: City of Ithaca
- Environmental and Socio-Economic Impact of Community Pier Locations: Village of Sodus Point
- Sediment Transport Modeling at Sturgeon Point Marina: Town of Evans Department of Planning and Community Development
- Lake Erie Watershed Regulation Review: Erie County Dept. of Environment and Planning
- Ellicott Island Park Living Shoreline Restoration: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
- Enhancing the Digital Presence & Outreach Efficacy of Shoreline Associations in a Headwaters Sub-Watershed of the St. Lawrence Seaway: Northern Forest Canoe Trail, Inc.

Summaries of past NYGLB small grants projects are online at <https://nyseagrant.org/glsmallgrants>.

Project Partner:

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Funding: New York State Environmental Protection Fund under the authority of the New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Act



Top: Living shoreline project, Tift Nature Preserve; photo: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper/W. Patterson. Above: Approximately 155 acres of restored native grassland in the 1000 Islands region; photo: Thousand Islands Land Trust