



NEWS RELEASE

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State and Private Forestry
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\$3.7 million in grants available to protect Great Lakes

The USDA Forest Service seeks proposals for tree planting and clean water projects in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

DURHAM, NH - The U.S. Forest Service has made \$3.7 million available for nature-based solutions that improve water quality in the Great Lakes watershed. The funds will support local projects addressing invasive species, nonpoint source pollution, and habitat restoration.

The grants will help recover from the loss of trees to the emerald ash borer and improve natural processes to filter and slow rain water runoff. Targeting runoff lessens the volume of sediment and excessive nutrients polluting the lakes.

Projects proposals are sought in three themes:

- restore tree canopy lost to infestation by emerald ash borer,
- create or improve green infrastructure through the planting of trees and other vegetation as part of a local management strategy to maintain and enhance urban watersheds, and
- restore the structure and function of coastal wetlands and lake-affected riparian areas through planting of native trees and diverse vegetation.

The window to submit proposals opened April 22, 2016 and will close on June 21, 2016.

Funding for these grants administered by the Forest Service comes from the Environmental Protection Agency, through the collaborative Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. State and community governments, housing authorities, non-profits and others are eligible to apply.

For more information, see http://www.na.fs.fed.us/watershed/gl_restore_initiative.shtm, or search "GLRI" at www.grants.gov.

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