



# NEWS RELEASE

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## US Forest Service Releases \$3.75M in Forestry Grants to States

The US Forest Service Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry released a total of \$3,750,056 in EPA grants to seven Midwest and Northeast states.

The grants were part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The projects were divided into five focus areas: urban and community forestry; brownfields (toxic substances); emerald ash borer (EAB); cooperative weed management; and payments for ecosystem services. FY 2011 funds were distributed to 22 city, county, state and non-governmental organizations through a competitive grant process.

Some highlights of the GLRI include the "Forest Restoration of the Detroit River Gateway", a Brownfield restoration project to restore fish and wildlife habitat in the industrial heartland of the Detroit metropolitan area. The "Menomonee Valley Urban Habitat Restoration project which will remove toxins from a 24-acre brownfield in the Milwaukee estuary. The site had known persistent contaminants and will be cleaned up and transformed into part of the State of Wisconsin's trail system. Other brownfield restoration projects will be implemented in Detroit, Toledo, Buffalo, and other communities in Wisconsin and Michigan.

"Assessing Milwaukee's Urban Forest" will use remote sensing to identify areas to plant trees and increase tree canopy to provide wildlife habitat and to improve ecosystem and Great Lakes health. Other urban reforestation and storm water projects will be carried out in Chicago, Green Bay and other communities in Wisconsin and Indiana

"Chicago EAB Urban Watershed Restoration" and other projects will restore trees lost to the EAB in Cleveland, Grand Rapids, and other communities in Michigan, Illinois, and Ohio.

The following is a state-by-state breakdown of the individual grants:

### **Wisconsin:**

The Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources received \$31,627 for the Expansion of First Down for Trees Program. The City of Milwaukee received \$100,000 to assess the city's urban forest. Memononee Valley Partners received \$74,875 for stormwater treatment. Landen Consulting received \$220,000 for the

Turnkey Green Infrastructure project. Door County **SWC** Dept. and Southeast Wisconsin received \$24,500 and \$48,871 respectively for non-native invasive plant species control.

**Michigan:**

The Genesee Conservation District received \$60,658 for restoration of Flint's urban forest and street trees. The Downriver Community Conference received \$113,700 for forest restoration at the Detroit Refuge Gateway. Greening of Detroit received \$473,020 for the city's model project using trees to clean up toxins in soil and water. The Delta Institute received \$203,733 for its project to use hybrid poplar tree farms to reduce toxics in the environment. The City of Grand Rapids received \$210,000 in grant funding for its emerald ash borer recovery project. The Calhoun Conservation District received \$99,960 for forest restoration. The Alliance of Rouge Communities received \$374,980 to restore trees in the urban watershed.

**Illinois:**

Openlands received \$50,000 in grants for habitat tree planting in Chicago parks. The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus received \$500,000 for Illinois urban forest restoration projects. The City of Chicago received \$72,020 to help restore urban forests impacted by the emerald ash borer.

**Ohio:**

The Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources received \$498,276 to help clean up brownfields in Toledo. The Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization received \$73,040 to restore forest habitats impacted by the emerald ash borer.

**Indiana:**

The Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources received \$50,000 for its use of existing urban forestry tools.

**New York:**

The Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper received \$397,396 to reforest parts of Riverbend and Griffon Park. The New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation received \$24,500 to help control non-native invasive plant species.

**Pennsylvania:**

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy received \$48,900 to help control non-native invasive plant species.

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