

NYSG administers a small grants program in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to advance NY's Great Lakes Basin Action Agenda priorities.

2021 NY Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Underwrite Outreach to Engage Youth Audiences

Since its inception in 2015, the New York Great Lakes Basin (NYGLB) Small Grants Program has awarded more than \$1.2 million to projects that address the needs and issues identified by New York's Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River watershed communities. Grants of up to \$25,000 have been awarded to projects in partnership with not-for-profit organizations, municipalities, county and local government or public agencies, regional planning and environmental commissions, and educational institutions.

Each Small Grant-recipient project is focused on the implementation of Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) concepts and principles that encompass the entire ecosystem, versus a single issue/single species focus and incorporates stakeholder participation. Funding priorities were identified and selected from New York's Great Lakes Basin Action Agenda (GLAA) and through discussions with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Great Lakes Sub-basin Work Group meetings that identified regional and basin-wide collaborative actions and priorities.



This living shoreline demonstration area is an example of a project made possible by a NY Great Lakes Basin Small Grant to Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper (BNW). BNW has received a 2021 grant to support a Buffalo Young Environmental Leaders Program. Photo: BNW

The 2021 call for NYGLB Small Grants proposals was unique in that it specifically called for projects focused on engaging youth (under 21) in either formal or informal educational experiences. The 2021-2022 funded projects are:

- Building Capacity for The Water and Habitat on the Indian River Lake (WHIRL): Clarkson University
- Buffalo Young Environmental Leaders Program: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
- Developing and Implementing Environmental Education Programming in the Niagara River Gorge: Western NY Land Conservancy
- Environmental Ambassadors Workforce Development Program: Genesee Land Trust
- Great Lakes Data Jam & Environmental Justice Stewards Project: Friends of Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve
- LOOOP into Education: Upstate Freshwater Institute
- Plastic Pollution in Lake Ontario; Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences (MWEE) for In and Out of School Settings: Rochester Institute of Technology
- Youth for Water & Climate Action in NYS Great Lakes Basin: Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart & William Smith Colleges.

To learn more, see www.nyseagrant.org/gsmallgrants.

Project Partner: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

NYSG Focus Areas for this project: Resilient New York Communities and Economies, Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development in NY.

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.
Contact: New York Sea Grant Extension, 112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; www.nyseagrant.org.

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