



New green infrastructure development adds a rain garden to roadway to mitigate flooding.
Photo Credit: Jon Clark, SEMCOG

Roadway Green Infrastructure

The City of Rochester Hills, Michigan in Metro Detroit completed a reconstruction of the Auburn Road roadway. As part of this construction project, the city installed small rain gardens along the roadway between Culbertson and Hessel, to help mitigate flooding through stormwater best management practices. The City of Rochester Hills staff planted the vegetation and will maintain the rain gardens. The whole project manages 2,900,000 gallons of stormwater annually.

Share your thoughts on the Great Lakes and consider the following questions.

- 1 What are your thoughts about the focus for green infrastructure projects in underserved communities?
- 2 In addition to small-scale traditional urban green infrastructure projects, should we expand our focus to include larger landscape level projects?
- 3 How do we best incorporate climate resiliency in project designs?

Stormwater Runoff

Overview

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding supports green infrastructure projects in Great Lakes communities to reduce untreated stormwater runoff and to improve nearshore water quality. These green infrastructure projects provide the added benefit of increasing greenspace in urban areas and providing habitat for pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

Collectively, the projects have prevented more than 500 million gallons of untreated urban stormwater runoff from entering the Great Lakes. Under GLRI, more than 300 local watershed projects were supported and implemented in Great Lakes communities and protected more than 60 miles of streams and shoreline.

Leveraging GLRI dollars in geographic-focused programs such as Sustain Our Great Lakes, the Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund and the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund exemplifies the strength of public-private partnerships. They amplify GLRI investments in communities, especially historically underserved communities, delivering on-the-ground projects where they make a difference.

In the next five years, GLRI federal agencies and partners intend to continue to accelerate implementation of green infrastructure projects, with a focus on work in underserved communities. These projects will capture or slow the flow of stormwater runoff and filter out sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants before they enter Great Lakes tributaries, beaches and nearshore waters. These green infrastructure projects reduce the amount of stormwater that flows into overburdened sewer systems.

GLRI will continue to support watershed management projects, such as restored floodplains and built wetlands, that slow down, soak up, filter stormwater runoff and reduce streambank erosion as well as protect streambanks and improve and protect water quality. These larger projects are developed to improve the entire watershed and are strategically implemented to provide maximum protection of the waterways and improved water quality. All projects will be designed for future conditions so that they are resilient to climate change.



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