

# FUNDING AVAILABLE GREAT LAKES NATURE BASED SHORELINE PROJECTS



Division  
of Water

2017

## Is your community looking for funding to repair flood damage? The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) has \$1.5 million to help.

The DEC grant program can provide funding for the following types of activities.

- Build offshore “living” breakwaters, sills or boulders that act to break or weaken wave energy.
- Build constructed wetlands and restore aquatic vegetation to dissipate wave energy.
- Shape, grade, or contour the shoreline to create gentler slopes that can support nature-based enhancements and facilitate the planting and establishment of stabilizing vegetation.
- Establish a natural buffer zone using native grasses, perennials and/or woody vegetation that will protect in-land property.
- Replace sand on eroded beaches and establish native plants to protect the dunes.
- Installation of nature-based shoreline stabilization techniques including joint plantings/ vegetated rip-rap, tree/rootwad/boulder revetments, live crib walls, and vegetated geogrids.

### Eligible Applicants

- Municipalities
- Municipal corporations
- Soil and water conservation districts

\*Please note: Private landowners are not eligible to apply. Municipally led projects located in part on private parcels must demonstrate a clear public benefit.

### Program Description

The grant program will pay for nature-based or “soft engineering” shoreline stabilization projects located along the open shorelines and embayments of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario (including the Niagara River), the St. Lawrence River and the Finger Lakes. The purpose of the program is to reduce erosion, enhance coastal resilience and improve water quality and coastal habitat. Nature based projects that repair damage from the recent floods are also eligible.

Natural shorelines are the undeveloped fringe areas along the edge of a waterbody, which connect the shallow portion of the waterbody with adjacent uplands. These areas provide important environmental functions, such as regulating water quality (including temperature, clarity and contaminants) and sustaining critical habitat for a variety of organisms. They are also beneficial to our communities because they help protect homes and businesses close to the shore from erosion along the shoreline caused by wind, frost action and gravity, as well as precipitation and wave and ice action.

Nature-based shoreline projects restore and preserve natural protective features (e.g., dunes, bluffs, banks, wetland vegetation) using natural materials and when necessary, structural components, to manage erosion and stabilize shorelines, while enhancing aquatic habitat, natural coastal processes and access. These projects may use materials such as erosion control fabrics, fiber/coir logs, locally available sand/soil-filled geotextile containers, wood, rock, native plants, and other natural materials. Information on preferred, nature-based methods of shoreline stabilization is available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/50534.html>.

## How to Apply for the Funding

1. Visit the DEC website for grant details. The funding is available through the Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) grant program and is called *Great Lakes Nature Based Shoreline Projects*. The WQIP Program Overview describing this funding option, plus other water quality programs not directly related to flooding, is on the DEC website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html>.
2. Read the *Great Lakes Nature Based Shoreline Projects* section, which starts on page 11. Think about how this funding matches with projects that you need done in your community. If you have questions you can call Shannon Dougherty, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at (716) 851-7070.
3. Apply for funding. To apply for this funding go to the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) website at <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa> and register to access the system (this is quick and easy). Fill out and submit the application on-line. Applications are due by 4 PM on Friday, July 28, 2017.
4. Register in Grants Gateway. If your municipality is awarded a grant they will do their contract paperwork in the on-line Grants Gateway system, which is different than the CFA system. All municipalities and soil and water conservation districts must register in the NYS Grants Gateway system to be eligible for this grant (<http://grantsreform.ny.gov>). The registration process is multi-stepped so we encourage applicants to start the registration process as soon as they can.

The DEC will score all the applications and grant awards will be made as part of the Governor's Regional Economic Development Council grant award ceremony. The ceremony is typically held at the end of the calendar year.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

On the web: [www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html)

Program Contact:

#### **Shannon Dougherty**

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