



Engage communities and activate local solutions to sustain a healthy Lake Huron Forever.

Lake Huron Forever Program Request for Applications

The [Lake Huron Forever](#) initiative was developed in 2019, by a group of partners from around the Lake Huron basin. The goal of this program is to advance water quality protection in communities around Lake Huron.

The Lake Huron Forever Program partners are local place-based community foundations, conservation funding organizations, community conservation groups and technical conservation experts who share a vision to work with coastal communities to protect our shared water resource - Lake Huron. Partners seek to create a unified voice and vision that inspires communities to put Lake Huron first in their resource allocation and city-planning, regardless of what side of the lake they live on.

Protecting water quality, ensuring the diversity of plant and animal life and supporting communities across the region means committing to the long-term protection of Lake Huron. In the coming years, we strive to engage communities and activate collaboration and partnerships to sustain a healthy Lake Huron through the Lake Huron Forever initiative. The following identifies specific focus areas of the partnership and suggests examples of projects and programs that advance each important program area. The examples are only some of the potential project ideas that a community or partner may be thinking about to protect Lake Huron forever.

WATER QUALITY - Protecting water quality for people and wildlife ensures that it's safe for drinking and recreation.

- Assess and manage pollution and flooding caused by excess stormwater runoff.
- Understand existing stormwater management and water quality protection programs and partners.
- Assess current municipal green and gray infrastructure best management practices.
- Raise awareness and implement projects to reduce/prevent impacts of marine debris.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS/GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE - Natural landscapes and alternatives to gray infrastructure can reduce flooding and pollution in lakes and streams that drain into Lake Huron.

- Re-naturalize open and/or abandoned areas to include native plant species
- Complete community assessments to identify and prioritize potential green space projects
- Protect wild places to keep natural habitats intact, support natural filtration systems and limit coastal development.



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- Work with a variety of landowners to identify and move forward both small and large nature-based solutions tailored to individual needs (residential green roofs, rain barrels or agricultural applications to protect water and encourage infiltration)

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - Focusing on the intersection between communities and the environment, or people and place so that projects that protect Lake Huron also focus on improving and protecting human and public health.

- Work with communities to balance access to natural spaces, recreation opportunities and quality of life benefits with long-term stewardship and protection planning.

EDUCATION - Peer-to-peer learning can be used to raise awareness for the challenges and values Lake Huron communities face.

- Improve and adapt programs and management strategies based on shared learning
- Engage people of all ages and backgrounds in hands-on learning and/or skill development.
- Work with youth and schools to create experiential learning/place-based stewardship opportunities connected to understanding and protecting Lake Huron.
- Storytelling initiatives to highlight shared values, celebrate success and broaden perspective.

To begin to understand how our Lake Huron communities (those that are located in the Lake Huron watershed) are addressing water quality and considering nature-based solutions to management, or where communities have identified needs in outreach, education, skill development or funding to implement projects and programming - the Lake Huron Forever Program is accepting applications from interested municipalities, schools, conservation organizations and watershed groups to receive support for their efforts.

Eligible organizations and partners are; civic organizations, business and economic development entities, faith-based organizations (not eligible for direct support of religious activities/programming), local and tribal government, First Nations, nonprofits and educational institutions. For those organizations that do not have a valid Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN), these applications must have an eligible "Sponsor Organization" who is recognized by the IRS, for Michigan-based applicants or the [Canadian Revenue Agency as a qualified donee](#) for Ontario-based applicants.

Why become a Lake Huron Forever Partner?

Using nature-based design, peer-to-peer learning and expanding connections to the Lake Huron network provides communities and technical partners access to more resources, support, communications tools and learning opportunities. The combination of these tools can lead to more green and recreational space, while reducing the burden of excess water flowing into aging sewer



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systems, improving water quality and increasing resilience for communities struggling with high water levels and flooding.

The projects supported by the Lake Huron Forever program can kickstart community conversations and actions to design and complete on-the-ground work to strengthen the health and well-being of residents, as well as our natural resources. Green infrastructure planning is an accessible platform for incorporating broad community perspective, experience and abilities. By focusing on the residents and the resources, Lake Huron Forever aims to integrate Great Lakes stewardship into all aspects of coastal community life.

The Lake Huron Forever Program can support;

- Programs/projects to understand the impacts of stormwater in your community (i.e. stormwater assessments and/or mapping)
- Development of educational programs
- Development and delivery of training opportunities/workshops
- Connection to regional marketing and outreach efforts on stormwater and nature-based solutions
- Access to regional gatherings and peer-to-peer learning opportunities
- Design and implementation of direct on-the-ground nature-based solutions projects

Interested parties are asked to submit the Lake Huron Forever Program application (accepted on a rolling basis). Once submitted, a follow up communication will be sent informing applicants that documents have been successfully received and asking any additional questions if necessary. If you have questions or would like more information on the Lake Huron Forever Program please contact the following Partnership Organizations;

ONTARIO PROJECTS

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MICHIGAN PROJECTS

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