

Funding Sources to Help Fix Road Stream Crossings (March 2020)



This document summarizes funding sources to help improve municipal road crossings with flooding, water quality, and stream connectivity problems. This document, with active weblinks, can be found under the “Learning” tab at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Sectors/Transportation.html>.

Tips for Success

- ✓ A road crossing inventory is an important first step to find the highest priorities.
- ✓ Cooperative efforts that align the priorities and expertise of municipalities and conservation stakeholders are often the most competitive.
- ✓ Emphasize the public benefit of the improved road crossing from a broad range of perspectives including: flood resiliency, public safety, reduced maintenance, longer culvert lifespan, reduced stream impacts, long-term cost savings, etc.
- ✓ Partnerships can often result in assistance with grant application development, project documentation, and timely reimbursement.
- ✓ Projects with a preliminary design and budget prepared at the time of the grant application are more likely to stay on time and budget.

DNR Transportation Liaisons

Transportation Liaisons can assist with road stream crossing evaluations, provide training for inventory efforts, and help identify local partners active in road stream crossing improvement projects.

Culvert Funding

WDNR Surface Water Grants

River Planning Grants are available for watershed inventories of road stream culverts to identify barriers and priorities for replacement. ***River Management Grants*** are for river restoration activities including the replacement of high priority road crossings that are barriers to stream connectivity.

WDNR Municipal Flood Control Grants for property acquisition and removal of structures for permanent open space or flood water storage, acquisition of vacant land or flood water flowage easement to facilitate more efficient flood flows to the water body, floodproofing and flood elevation of public & private structures in the 100 year flood plain, flood water control detention pond, riparian restoration project on a watercourse, and flood mapping

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The National Fish Passage Program (NFPP): A cooperative conservation program that provides funding and technical assistance to conduct inventories and/or to replace high priority barriers. To begin the application process, contact the fish passage biologist for your area.

Opportunities that are now closed often have a similar timeframe each year. For corrections, additions, or comments, please contact Maureen Millmann at: Maureen.millmann@wisconsin.gov.



Culvert Funding (continued)

County Conservation Departments & Dept. of Agricultural, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP):

Technical design assistance and cost share of culvert replacements may be available. To be eligible, the project needs to be sponsored and coordinated through the local County Conservation Department. An important eligibility standard is to identify road crossings with negative water quality impacts that can be corrected by erosion control, culvert sizing, and other stabilization methods to reduce sediment loads in streams. A directory of County contacts can be found at [Wisconsin Land and Water](#).

[WisDOT Road and Bridge Assistance Programs](#): There are several programs to assist local governments with needed improvements to local roads, highways and bridges.

[US Forest Service \(USFS\)](#): Municipal roads that are located within or adjacent to the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest may be eligible to receive technical design assistance and cost share for road stream culvert replacements. Contact the Forest Engineering Section for information.

[National Fish and Wildlife Foundation \(NFWF\)](#): Provides funding on projects that sustain, restore, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats. Two NFWF grant programs that could potentially help fund road stream connectivity projects include:

- [Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant](#) proposals are generally due at the end of January.
- [Bring Back the Natives Program](#) proposals are generally due at the end of July.

Federal Funding

U.S. DOT - [BUILD Transportation Grants](#): Funding to address transportation infrastructure needs through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program. State, local, and tribal governments are eligible to apply. Surface transportation infrastructure projects may be awarded grants on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact and can support roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports or intermodal transportation.

Trout Stream Funding

[WDNR Trout Stamp Funds](#): Are available for addressing problem road crossings on high priority trout waters. A cost share is often required and the funding focuses on crossings that go above and beyond the minimal permit requirements. Contact the DNR fisheries biologist for more information.

[Trout Unlimited \(TU\)](#): Local TU volunteers may be able to assist with culvert inventories and assessments. Local chapters can also provide cost-share. Grant funding is available to TU chapters through the Embrace-A-Stream program and the Trout and Salmon Foundation.

- [TU Conservation Funding](#)
- [Trout and Salmon Foundation](#)

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Great Lakes Watershed Funding

TU Great Lakes Stream Restoration Program: TU has a Stream Restoration Specialist and Manager on staff that may provide technical design assistance and/or cost-share for road crossings on cold water ecosystems within the Great Lakes basin.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC): Supports research and development of assessment and prioritization tools in priority watersheds.

Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP): Grants are available for coastal wetland protection and habitat restoration including road stream connectivity projects, within the state's coastal zone (all counties adjacent to Lakes Superior and Michigan, with their 1,000 miles of shoreline).

Fund for Lake Michigan: Supports projects that improve the water quality of Lake Michigan through habitat restoration, pollutant reduction, stream restoration, or improvements to coastal areas in Wisconsin. Previously funded projects have included culvert replacements.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Sustain Our Great Lakes Program is a public–private partnership designed to address these threats and improve the ecological health of the Great Lakes basin. Funding priorities for this program include aquatic connectivity.

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (GLFWRA): The program provides federal grants on a competitive basis to states, tribes and other interested entities to encourage cooperative conservation, restoration and management of fish and wildlife resources and their habitat in the Great Lakes basin.

Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition: There are a number of [funding opportunities](#) for federally funded projects or that have received project funding, but that need help with the development or implementation of on-the-ground work, as well as funding to organizations that want to be involved in federally funded restoration activities in their communities.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: These funds require partnerships with, and are administered by, federal agencies (i.e. Federal Highway Admin., U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, etc.).

Lakes Funding

WDNR Lake Management Grants are available if a culvert improvement would have a beneficial impact to fish movement and water quality at lakes. For planning and assessment work, ***Small Scale Planning*** grants of up to \$3,000, ***Large Scale Planning*** grants of up to \$25,000, and ***Lake Protection*** grants of up to \$100,000 are available.

Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) is for projects that benefit fish habitat in midwestern lakes and the Driftless Region. Funding is through the National Fish Habitat Partnership & U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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Streambank and Shoreline Protection

US Army Corps of Engineers: Funding is available for streambank and shoreline erosion that has the potential to threaten the integrity of public infrastructure such as bridges and roads. A feasibility study up to \$100,000 is 100% federally funded.

Useful Grant Websites

WI DNR maintains links to a wide variety of state and federal agency grants.	http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/Links.html
Federal Grants database	http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/home.html
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin (NOAA)	http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/funding/index.html
Upper Midwest and Great Lakes Landscape Conservation Cooperative	https://lccnetwork.org/lcc/upper-midwest-and-great-lakes
RA Smith National provides a monthly grant newsletter.	http://www.rasmith.com/grants/

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