Redeveloping vacant land as green infrastructure in Great Lakes cities

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Cleveland Botanical Garden
Cleveland Botanical Garden: Green Corps
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Green Corps: Agricultural urban work study
• est. 1996
• 6 learning farms, 1 – 10 parcels each
• 300 students
Great Lakes Protection Fund (GLPF)

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- Geri Unger & Sandra Albro, Cleveland Botanical Garden
- Rumi Shammin, Oberlin College
- Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
- William Shuster, US EPA

1-year planning grant
- Can we justify large-scale green infrastructure projects?
Great Lakes Protection Fund (GLPF)

- A permanent environmental endowment
- Funding priorities:
  - collaborative, regional projects
  - tangible ecosystem improvements
  - ecological and economic health

[Image of the Great Lakes]
Project Background

1. Widespread water contamination
   - Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and stormwater treatment bypasses
   - 24 billion gallons untreated water per year
   - 18 of 20 largest Great Lakes cities within AOCs
   - US EPA: Clean Water Act
Project Background
2. Abundance of vacant urban land
Project Background

3. Revitalization efforts in Great Lakes cities
   - local
   - small scale
   - variable

Large-scale, regional revitalization: Does it make sense?
   - triple bottom line: social, environmental, economic
   - justification
Project Overview

1-year planning grant

A. Analysis: Triple bottom line
   • Post-doctoral research opportunity

B. Regional dialogue: 3 in-person meetings
   • Current GI efforts
   • Barriers
   • Key questions

C. Product: A 5-year action plan
   • Can we justify large-scale green infrastructure projects?
     • 4 – 6 projects to answer critical questions
       • Installation & maintenance costs
       • Hidden costs/benefits (social & environmental)
   • Potential funding sources
Project Overview

Focal cities:
- Duluth, MN
- Milwaukee, WI
- Chicago, IL
- Gary, IN
- Flint, MI
- Detroit, MI
- Cleveland, OH
- Toledo, OH
- Erie, PA
- Hamilton, ON
- Toronto, ON
- Windsor, ON
- Buffalo, NY
- Rochester, NY
Project Overview

How you can be involved:
• Feedback
• Participation
• Recommend contacts
• Introductions

What we can offer:
• Regional networking
• Tie-in to local projects
• Input into future funding decisions
• Collaborative funding opportunities
Contact Us

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