

June 24, 2014

I would like to share with you news of \$12.2 million in grants approved by the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation at its first two board meetings this year.

One of our goals is to promote green infrastructure as a way to eliminate untreated sewage discharges into the Detroit River while beautifying vacant land in the city.

A new, [\\$2 million partnership](#) will engage residents with community organizations, academics, engineers, government and others to repurpose large tracts of vacant land on Detroit's near east with specially designed landscape treatments known as "green infrastructure." These landscapes will absorb rain water and keep it out of the combined sewer system (helping to eliminate "combined sewer overflows" or "CSOs") while also beautifying the lots and in some cases providing other co-benefits such as reclaimed water for irrigation. The Erb and Kresge foundations will each contribute \$500,000, leveraging a \$1 million [EPA Great Lakes Shoreline Cities grant](#). Partners include the Detroit Economic Growth Association, Detroit Future City, Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, EPA, Greening of Detroit, Lawrence Technological University's Stormwater Management Institute, LEAP, RecoveryPark, and SEMCOG.

The Shoreline Cities grant was made possible, in large part, by the four years of grassroots planning we have supported through the [Lower Eastside Action Plan \(LEAP\)](#). LEAP will continue to explore and implement creative and productive uses of vacant land on Detroit's east side with the assistance of a fifth year of Erb support in the amount of \$100,000.

Additional Foundation goals are to encourage local and federal policies, development practices, and individual actions to maximize our freshwater resource as a valuable asset, eliminate negative environmental impacts on public health and promote environmental justice. A total of \$515,000 in continued payments for nine other projects will help coordinate volunteers on Belle Isle, broadcast Great Lakes Week 2014 while honoring Peter Wege, educate policymakers how to eliminate lead and other toxins to improve public health, support a network of community gardens in Detroit, and more.

In addition to these specific goals, the Foundation occasionally will participate in extraordinary "special opportunities" that help improve the region in unique ways.

The [Detroit Zoo](#) will install an anaerobic digester to process manure into energy and organic compost through a \$625,000 Erb grant. A portion of the grant will also subsidize free reusable water bottles for low income families to advance the Zoo's effort to install water refilling stations and eliminate its sale of bottled water.

[RecoveryPark](#) has launched a "proof of concept" farm to grow produce in a high tunnel (hoop house) and repurposed industrial building for local restaurants and provide supported employment for persons recovering from substance abuse. This was done with the third year \$250,000 payment on a four year Erb grant, and is a critical step towards developing a larger scale urban agriculture project that will promote productive and

sustainable land use and jobs.

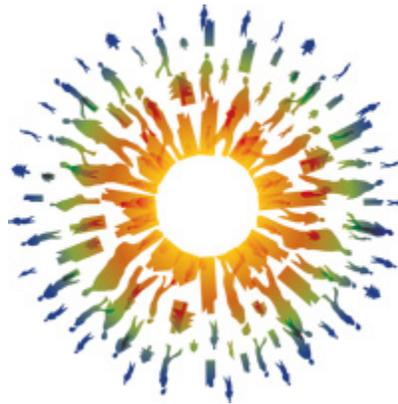
The Foundation also conditionally approved \$10 million payable over 20 years towards an historic effort, commonly referred to as the "[Grand Bargain](#)," which will create an \$816 million trust to help the city better honor its commitments to its retirees and preserve the collection of the Detroit Institute of Arts, as part of the overall larger "Plan of Adjustment" settling Detroit's bankruptcy.

Please click [here](#) for our complete grants list.

The Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation's mission is to nurture environmentally healthy and culturally vibrant communities in metro Detroit, and support initiatives to restore the Great Lakes basin. The Foundation is focused on improving water quality, especially in the watersheds impacting metro Detroit and Bayfield, Ontario; promoting environmental health and justice; and supporting the arts as a means to strengthen the metropolitan Detroit region. For more information, please visit erbff.org

Thank you for your continuing interest,

John M. Erb, President



[Fred A. and Barbara M.
Erb Family Foundation](#)