

Our River, Our Future - Thunder Bay Watershed

Rediscovery of a watershed, Strengthening community,

Building the next generation of Great Lakes stewards

A B-WET Great Lakes Region Grant

What is B-WET Great Lakes?

(B-WET stands for BAY-WATERSHED EDUCATION & TRAINING)

NOAA B-WET is an environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, experiential learning for K-12 school students. B-WET administers a competitive funding process that promotes Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences that

- are investigative or project oriented
- are an integral part of the instructional program
- are part of a sustained activity
- considers the watershed as a system
- are enhanced by NOAA products, services, or personnel, where appropriate

Through NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the Great Lakes B-WET program offers competitive grants to support existing environmental education programs that focus on the K-12 audience, fosters the growth of new watershed education programs, and encourages the development of partnerships among environmental education programs across the Great Lakes watershed. Projects funded through B-WET are aimed at promoting "Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences."

What is *Our River, Our Future*?

Our River, Our Future - Thunder Bay Watershed is one of the proposals awarded funding by the B-WET Great Lakes region for 2012. Who submitted the proposal? The Community Foundation of Northeast Michigan submitted the proposal working with partners from: Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, Michigan Sea Grant, and Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Our River and Our Future - Thunder Bay Watershed Proposal seeks to:

Establish a partnership among schools and City, State, Federal and not-for-profit organizations committed to the betterment of Northeast Michigan through Great Lakes Literacy, school improvement and ecologically conscious economic development. To this end, the grant will fund activities to:

- Engage teachers and students in meaningful watershed experiences
- Connect teachers and students with community partners to learn about and steward the Thunder Bay River and Lake Huron as part of their school-supported curriculum
- Share Thunder Bay River/Lake Huron focused lessons and projects with other teachers and students across the region
- Support student-led projects that contribute to Great Lakes Literacy and contribute meaningful watershed data for community partners
- Support ways for students to communicate their findings to the broader community

Our River, Our Future will help cultivate the next generation of Great Lakes stewards and empower young people with the tools for translating small scale projects into a meaningful, long-term stewardship ethic.

