



COUNTY OF ERIE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Erie County Receives Over \$200,000 for Coastal Projects

Pennsylvania's Coastal Resources Management (CRM) Program has awarded Erie County over \$200,000 for coastal projects. These grants, largely funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), were awarded to nonprofit and government entities that conduct work in Erie County that border Pennsylvania's 76 miles of coastal lands or have a direct impact on water quality in our area.

"Our coastal zones are important environmental, economic, and community resources for the Commonwealth," said DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "Each year, the diverse projects of the Coastal Zone Grant recipients help us take a comprehensive approach to ensuring their ecological health."

The following organizations have been awarded FY 2016 CRM funds for projects in Erie County:

- Erie Times-News in Education – \$38,760 for a recurring Newspaper in Education weekly page on coastal zone environmental issues.
- Girard Township – \$49,955 to improve the eroded conditions of the Lake Erie Community Park West Trail and provide safe access to Lake Erie and the shoreline.
- National Audubon Society Inc. – \$44,475 to assess bird use during migration and to determine ecological habitat quality within the Lake Erie coastal zone.
- Pennsylvania State University – \$34,000 to host the 2017 Children's Water Festival, which will share science-based water resources information with about 1,000 local students in the Lake Erie watershed.
- Regional Science Consortium – \$47,652 to collect and analyze water samples from Lake Erie, Presque Isle Bay and surrounding waters to learn more about the characteristics of harmful algal blooms.
- Texas Tech University – \$32,495 to continue study of bat migration corridors between Erie and Canada.

"The Coastal Resources Management program is an invaluable resource to those organizations in our region that are the stewards to the Lake Erie watershed," said Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper. "These funds will help to preserve Erie County's precious natural, recreational and educational resources."

More on the grants: www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/NewsRoomPublic/articleviewer.aspx?id=21099&typeid=1.

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