



POLICY ON FEASIBILITY, ENGINEERING, AND DESIGN-ONLY STUDIES

Funding Criteria

Occasionally, feasibility, engineering, and design studies are a necessary precursor to developing an accurate cost estimate for habitat restoration projects or construction of a shore-based fishing access site. To that end, the GLFT may provide funding to conduct engineering, design, and feasibility studies before considering a full construction proposal if the applicant can demonstrate the following:

- **Financial support from the community:** Priority will be given to projects for which matching funds are provided by the host community or agency (e.g., the landowner) that would own and/or manage the site.
- **Community support:** Applicants must clearly demonstrate community support for the proposed project. Priority will be given to projects that have been identified as a community priority through a planning process such as a Five-Year Recreation Plan, Community Master Plan, or watershed management plan. Applicants must provide a resolution from the appropriate governing body (e.g. a township board) indicating support for the project. If the applicant is a state or federal agency, a letter of support from management must be provided.
- **Realistic construction budget and commitment to proceed:** Feasibility studies and the development of engineering and design documents should result in design approaches that are financially achievable for the host community. Priority will be given to projects for which the applicant is willing to pledge local dollars toward construction of the project.

Approved by the Great Lakes Fishery Trust Board of Trustees on August 11, 2020.