

# URBANWATERS

*A Partnership for Restoring Urban Waterways and Revitalizing Communities*



Above: Forget-me-nots

## Partnership Meeting Next Week

**January 27 9:30am - Noon Central Time**

[Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission](#), Lake Michigan Room

**Agenda: 1. Urban Waters Ambassador Transition; 2. What Do We Want to Get Done in 2017?; 3. Updates and Announcements**

## Spotlight on Success

### Brenda Scott-Henry Recognized for Greening Gary

Congratulations to Brenda Scott-Henry, Director of Gary's Department of Green Urbanism and Stormwater, who was recently featured in the USDA's [Profiles in Conservation](#). The five-page article describes Brenda's journey from community activist to environmental champion.

Brenda opens up about her past, what greening means to her and what she thinks it means for Gary's future. She describes key projects from the last few years such as demolition of the derelict building that used to tower over City Hall. She also talks about the challenges of her position, the push to improve community involvement, and her efforts to build trust and credibility with local residents.



A True Champion of All Things Green. Photo courtesy of the Gary Department of Green Urbanism and Stormwater via Facebook.

## Legalese

### Need Pro Bono Legal Work?

The national Urban Waters program has entered in to an agreement to match Urban Waters partners with environmental, energy, and resources lawyers who are willing to work for free. Through the American Bar Association's [Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources](#) (SEER), attorneys are available for legal advice related to leases, contracts and project grants. For more information and to describe your legal needs, please contact [Cherie Fisher](#) by **January 27**.



Above: Scale.

## More Kudos

### Chi-Cal Rivers Fund Awards Grants for Northwest Indiana Projects

In December, the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation announced that two major northwest Indiana projects were awarded [Chi-Cal Rivers grants](#). Save the Dunes will receive \$281,918 to build trails, install water-permeable parking lots, restore bur oak savanna, and



Above: Save the Dunes Logo

improve bird habitat along Deep River and the Little Calumet River.



With another Chi-Cal grant for \$127,418, the Student Conservation Association will hire 4 local youths and coordinate volunteers to plant 1000 trees in the Grand Calumet watershed. Municipalities will help select planting locations with the goals of restoring riparian habitat and increasing urban tree canopy.

Congratulations to The Student Conservation Association, Save the Dunes and their many local partners!

## Items of Interest

### Give Me the Numbers: How trees and urban forests really affect stormwater runoff

#### Free Webinar

Learn how current research can help managers estimate tree function as part of a green stormwater infrastructure treatment train.

February 8, noon-1:15 pm (CST)

[>More Information<](#)

### Guidance for Making Decisions about Removing Obsolete Dams

#### Report

EPA has released a document to help non-government organizations, state and local officials, and private landowners make decisions about removing obsolete dams.

[>More Information<](#)

### EPA and FDA Issue Final Fish Consumption Advice

#### Report

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently issued final advice regarding fish consumption for women and parents of young children.

[>More Information<](#)

### Proposed USEPA Rule for CSO Public Notification Requirements

#### News

EPA is proposing a rule to establish public notification requirements for communities with combined sewer overflows (CSOs) to the Great Lakes Basin. This will affect about a dozen northwest Indiana communities.

[>More Information<](#)

## Grant Opportunities



### In Case You Missed It..

A [special funding-focused version of this e-newsletter](#) went out on January 10.

Reminder: Urban Waters federal partners are always willing to help develop and write funding proposals. Contact [Cherie Fisher](#) for more information.

*The Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership focuses on the Lake Michigan watershed in Lake, LaPorte and Porter Counties, Indiana.*

*Urban Waters works to connect urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies and state and local partners. The goals are to improve the Nation's water systems and to promote their economic, environmental and social benefits.*

