

# URBANWATERS

*A Partnership for Restoring Urban Waterways and Revitalizing Communities*

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## Reminder: Next Urban Waters Meeting, April 6

### Presentations on Lead in Drinking Water



Above: Photo of tap water.

Join us for the next Urban Waters meeting to be held in conjunction with the NIRPC Environmental Management Policy Committee. The [agenda](#) includes presentations on lead in drinking water from Peg Donnelly of USEPA and Michael Kuss of the Sanitary District of Michigan City.

**Date/Time:** Thursday, April 6, 9 a.m.

**Location:** Lake Michigan Room, NIRPC, 6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN 46368

>[Draft minutes of the January Urban Waters Meeting](#)<

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## A Note from the New Ambassador

### I'm excited to join the Urban Waters team!

Greetings, Partners. The Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership has made significant achievements over the past several years, connecting people to our incredible water resources.

I am inspired by your progress and excited to keep the momentum going to protect and restore our Urban Waters for the betterment of Northwest Indiana.

You can reach me at (219) 989-4156 or [jbirchfield@pnw.edu](mailto:jbirchfield@pnw.edu). I look forward to meeting each of you over the coming months to hear about your work and find ways I can help.



Above: Jennifer Birchfield.

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## Spotlight on Success

### Shirley Heinze Land Trust Earns National Recognition



Above: Shirley Heinze logo.

Congratulations to Shirley Heinze Land Trust for achieving accredited status from The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an entity promoting the highest national standards for ensuring permanence in the conservation of American lands. The Commission, an independent body of the Land Trust Alliance, awards accreditation to land trusts that meet standards for excellence, uphold the public trust, and ensure that their conservation efforts are permanent.

>[More Information](#)<

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## Upcoming Local Events

### Little Calumet River Clean Ups Volunteer Event - This Weekend

The Griffith Chapter of the IWLA is hosting clean ups of the Little Calumet River.

- March 25 and 26 - 9 am to 3 pm (between Burr St. and Clark Rd.)

- April 1st and 2nd - 9 am to 3 pm (between Clark Rd. and Chase St.)

Call (219) 276-6534 for more information.

### Native Plant Workshops Free Workshops - This Weekend

On Saturday, March 25 from 10 to 11 am local plant expert Steve Sass will discuss plant communities.

On Sunday, March 26 from 1 to 2 pm, join Nathanael Pilla, botanist with Save the Dunes, on a historical and botanical journey through the Indiana Dunes flora.

>[More Information](#)<

### Back to Basics Contractor Workshop

LaPorte County Soil and Water Conservation District and LaPorte County MS4 Cooperative are hosting a workshop for registered contractors. Topics include stormwater quality, maintenance strategies for BMPs, charcoal brick dewatering, and inspector responsibilities.

Tuesday, March 28, 9 am - noon

>[Workshop Flyer](#)<

### Tree Planting and Maintenance Free Workshop

The Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission is holding a free tree planting and maintenance workshop in Crown Point, Indiana as part of the CommuniTree Program.

Registration is required.

Thursday, March 30, 9 am - noon

>[More Information](#)<

### Volunteer with SHLT Volunteer Opportunities

Shirley Heinze Land Trust invites volunteers to get outdoors, get some exercise, learn new skills, meet new people and do some volunteer stewardship. Multiple events are scheduled for April, including stewardship work days and a free Hoosier Riverwatch workshop.

>[More Information and Sign Up](#)<

### Friends of Indiana Dunes Plant Sale Native Plant Sale

Purchase native plants at the Friends of Indiana Dunes' 21st Annual Native Plant Sale at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center in Porter. Pre-order forms are available at the visitor center front desk.

Saturday, April 8, 8 am to 1pm

For more information contact [Zella Olsen](#).

### Septic System Certification Training Inspector and Installer Training

Onsite system installers, haulers, soil scientists, designers, and home inspectors are invited to attend this training and certification workshop in Porter County.

April 18-20, registration ends April 12

> [Registration Form](#)<

### Green Gary Earth Day Celebration

Celebrate Earth Day at this family-oriented event. Hikes, exhibits and interactive displays for everyone. Live bird presentations.

Saturday, April 29, 10 am to 3 pm

>[More Information](#)<

## Items of Interest

<p><b>Clean Water State Revolving Fund</b> Free Webinar</p> <p>Learn about how the CWSRF can be used as a funding source for green infrastructure and urban forestry projects to reduce combined sewage flooding problems.</p> <p>Wednesday March 29th, 1:30-3:00 PM</p> <p><a href="#">&gt;Webinar Flyer&lt;</a></p>	<p><b>Science to Achieve Results Grants</b> Free Webinar</p> <p>This webcast will feature the work of two STAR grantees. USEPA's STAR grant program funds research in environmental programs, including stormwater management.</p> <p>Wednesday, March 29, 1:00 - 2:30 pm</p> <p><a href="#">&gt;More Information and Register&lt;</a></p>
<p><b>River Rally 2017</b> River Conference</p> <p>River Rally is a national conference, focused on education, inspiration, and celebration with the river and water community.</p> <p>Early registration ends April 7.</p> <p>May 8 - 11, 2017 Grand Rapids, Michigan</p> <p><a href="#">&gt;More information and Register&lt;</a></p>	<p><b>Water Wednesdays Webinar Series</b> Free Webinar Series</p> <p>WaterSense and ENERGY STAR are teaming up to host a Water Wednesday webinar series to help commercial and industrial facilities tackle leaks and reduce water use. Each webinar will cover ways to save water, energy, and money by making changes within different areas of a facility.</p> <p><a href="#">&gt;More Information&lt;</a></p>

## Funding Opportunities

<p><b>Resilient Communities</b></p> <p>The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Wells Fargo have partnered to create the Resilient Communities grant program. Grants of \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 will be awarded to eligible entities working to help communities become more resilient.</p> <p>Proposals due March 30</p> <p><a href="#">&gt;More Information&lt;</a></p>	<p><b>CommuniTree Grants</b></p> <p>Applications are now being accepted from municipalities, counties and non-profits in the Northwest Indiana Lake Michigan Watershed to plant approximately 700 native trees in public places to help offset urban tree canopy loss from emerald ash borer.</p> <p>Applications due March 31</p> <p><a href="#">&gt;More Information&lt;</a></p>
<p><b>Environmental Action Grants</b></p> <p>NIPSCO is accepting applications for its</p>	<p><b>Wetland Program Development</b></p> <p>The USEPA is soliciting proposals from</p>

environmental action grant to support local non-profit organizations with restoration and education projects throughout northern Indiana.

Applications due March 31, 2017

Funding Amounts: \$500-\$5,000

> [More Information](#)<

eligible applicants to develop or refine state/tribal/local government wetland programs. Non-profit organizations are not eligible to compete under this RFP.

Applications due April 20, 2017

Funding Amounts: \$50,000 - \$350,000

> [More Information](#)<

### **Regional Conservation Partnership**

USDA announced funding for approaches to benefit farming, ranching, and forest operations, local economies, and the communities and resources in a watershed or other geographic area.

Eligible entities: State, local, and tribal governments.

Applications due April 21, 2017

> [More Information](#)<

### **319 Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS)**

IDEM is seeking applications for projects that will reduce NPS pollution in Indiana's lakes, rivers, and streams. Funding for selected projects will be provided by Clean Water Act Section 319 NPS Management Program grant funds.

Notice of Intent emails due June 1, 2017

> [More Information](#)<

### **Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Grant**

US Forest Service has funding to support national urban forestry studies or projects on non-federal public land that have a national, regional, or multi-state coverage. Local or individual state urban forestry projects are not eligible.

Applications due May 24, 2017

> [More Information](#)<

### **FWS Coastal Program**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) announced funding to provide direct technical assistance and financial assistance to coastal communities and landowners to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands.

Due September 30

> [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.*