

URBANWATERS

A Partnership for Restoring Urban Waterways and Revitalizing Communities



Next NWI Urban Waters Meeting January 26!

Location TBA

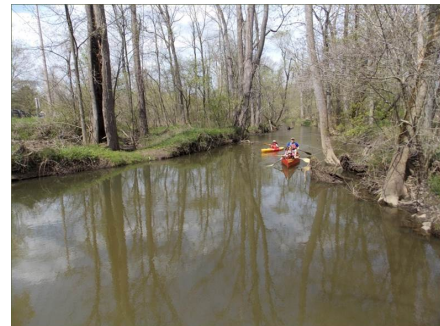
Your participation at the annual partnership meeting is critical to ensuring that our 2018 work plan reflects NWI urban waters partners' priorities and needs.

Chi-Cal Rivers Fund 2017 Grants Awarded

Congratulations to our partners on these [2017 Chi-Cal Rivers Fund grant awards](#) for projects in Northwest Indiana!

Enhancing Habitat & Public Access on the East Branch of the Little Calumet River

Save the Dunes and partners will restore habitat and enhance public use along the East Branch of the Little Calumet River. The project will restore over 200 acres and enhance restoration efforts by incorporating 262 acres into landscape-level conservation planning to guide restoration projects along the River.



Above: East Branch of the Little Calumet River.

Calumet Tree Conservation Corps

The Student Conservation Association will reduce stormwater and sediment runoff and restore degraded riparian habitat in the Grand Calumet and Little Calumet river watersheds. The project will increase stormwater storage capacity by strategically planting 1,225 native trees in riparian zones, including portions of the EPA-designated Grand Calumet Area of Concern, and offer training in basic arboriculture to residents across the region to build capacity and sustain project impact through long-term maintenance.



Above: SCA tree team members planting a tree.

Featured Funding Opportunity

2018 Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program

The 5 Star and Urban Waters Program [Request for Proposals](#) is open.

Eligible projects include a variety of ecological improvements along with targeted community outreach, education and stewardship. Ecological improvements may include one or more of the following: wetland, riparian, forest and coastal habitat restoration; wildlife conservation, community tree canopy enhancement, water quality monitoring and stormwater management. Projects should also increase

access to the benefits of nature, reduce the impact of environmental hazards and engage local communities, particularly underserved communities, in project planning, outreach and implementation.

Approximately \$2,000,000 is available nationwide for projects meeting program priorities. There is one round of full proposals annually for this program. Awards range from \$20,000 to \$50,000 with an average size of \$30,000 and 40-50 grants awarded per year. Grants should span 12 to 18 months in length with a start date in July 2018. Applications requesting more than \$30,000 should propose projects longer than twelve months.

Proposals due January 31, 2018 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time.

Urban Waters Partners Plant Trees at Hammond Civic Center



Above: Cherie LeBlanc Fisher, Lynne Westphal, and Drew Hart plant trees at the Hammond Civic Center after the October NWI Urban Waters meeting.

After the October 27th NWI Urban Waters Partnership meeting, partners learned about the Student Conservation Association Calumet Tree Conservation Corps' 2017 accomplishments then helped to plant trees at the Hammond Civic Center. View the draft [meeting minutes](#). Thank you to the Hammond Parks Department for meeting space and to Cathy Martin of Save the Dunes for presenting on the East Branch Little Calumet River restoration and public access work.

Spotlight on Success

Dunes Learning Center Earns ACA-Accredited Camp Status



Above: ACA logo.

Congratulations to Dunes Learning Center on earning American Camp Association (ACA)® - Accredited Camp status! Following a rigorous review and evaluation, the ACA acknowledges Dunes Learning Center as a camp operating in compliance with up to 300 industry-established health and safety standards, all recognized by courts of law and government regulators as the standards of the camp industry.

Funding Opportunities

[Community Food Projects Grants](#)

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture requests applications for the Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program. The Program funds two types of grants, Community Food Projects and Planning Projects.

Applications due December 4

[Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training \(EWDJT\) Grants](#)

EPA's EWDJT grants are to develop environmental programs that train and place residents of communities affected by brownfields and environmental contaminants.

Applications due December 15

[The Five Star and Urban Waters](#)

[Cooperative Weed Management Grants](#)

Eligible projects include a variety of ecological improvements along with targeted community outreach, education and stewardship.

Award range: \$20,000 to \$50,000

Proposals due January 31, 2018.

USFS announces approximately \$600,000 expected to be available for Cooperative Weed Management Areas in the Great Lakes Basin.

\$15,000 to \$40,000, 20% match of

Proposals due January 5, 2018,

[CitSci Fund Citizen Science Grants](#)

USFS announces the CitSci Fund for citizen science projects. Each project will have one USFS Project Lead and one Partner Project Lead, and demonstrate meaningful volunteer involvement.

Up to \$25,000

Applications due January 31, 2018

[Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grants](#)

The Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program goal is to accelerate strategic protection of healthy, freshwater ecosystems and their watersheds.

Award range: \$50,000- \$250,000

Proposals due February 1, 2018

Upcoming Events and Webinars

[Green Infrastructure Seminar for MS4 Communities](#)

Naperville, IL
November 29, 8:00 am - 11:45 am CT

[Calumet Stormwater Collaborative Meeting](#)

December 1st, 10:00 am to noon
Metropolitan Planning Council, Chicago

[Webinar: Improving Tree Selection for Challenging Urban Sites](#)

November 30, 2017, 1:00 pm CT

[Podcast: Are You More Concerned with Being Right or Doing the Right Thing?](#)

Items of Interest

[Lake Michigan LAMP 2017 Report](#)

The Lake Michigan Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) is an action plan for restoring and protecting the Lake Michigan ecosystem. This report highlights accomplishments and progress during the past year including outreach, monitoring, and protection and restoration actions.

[Water Equity Clearinghouse](#)

The U.S. Water Alliance clearinghouse is an online database showcasing innovative and promising practices in equitable water management. It highlights the work of utilities, community-based organizations, government agencies, philanthropic organizations, researchers, and more.

[Green Infrastructure: Engineering to Benefit Business and Biodiversity](#)

A Wildlife Habitat Council white paper on Living solutions to environmental challenges on corporate lands.

[Blue Accounting Website](#)

The new website will provide information to help Great Lakes leaders assess how their actions affect economy and natural resources in the Great Lakes region.

[Green Infrastructure Plan Checklist](#)

An ESRI infographic and checklist for implementing a successful green infrastructure plan.

[Funding Trees for Health](#)

An analysis by The Nature Conservancy on finance and policy actions to enable tree planting for public health.

**Graduate Assistantship in
Environmental Science**

Ohio State University's School of Environment and Natural Resources invites applicants for graduate student assistantships for PhD or MS level studies in Environmental Social Sciences with a focus on promoting pro-environmental behavior in the context of the energy transformation.

**2018-19 Great Lakes Commission -
Sea Grant Fellowship**

The selected Fellow will work to advance the environmental quality and sustainable development goals of the Great Lakes states. The Fellow will be located at the Great Lakes Commission offices in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Deadline: Feb. 16, 2018, 5 pm CT

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.