

URBANWATERS

A Partnership for Restoring Urban Waterways and Revitalizing Communities

Reminder: Urban Waters Meeting **Tomorrow** April 5, 2008

The next NWI Urban Waters Partnership meeting will be held jointly with NIRPC-EMPC on Thursday April 5, 2018 at 9:00 am at the [Purdue Northwest Meeting Facility](#) in Portage, IN. The [agenda](#) includes a presentation on IDNR's Stream and Wetland Mitigation Program. We hope to see you there!



Partners at the January Urban Waters meeting.

Community Tree Planting In Gary this Saturday!



Volunteers planting a tree.

Join the Student Conservation Association and the City Of Gary in planting over 50 native Indiana trees along Broadway Avenue adjacent to the Indiana University Northwest campus on April 7th, 9 a.m. to Noon. Meet at the corner of 33rd Ave. and Broadway, east of the Savannah parking lot. Planting will be followed by spoken word and arts entertainment in the Moraine Student Center. For more information, view the [event flyer](#).

Nicole Messacar Wins Learning Network Expert Award

Congratulations to our Partner Nicole Messacar on winning the Learning Network Expert Award for Environmental Education! This award is given to an individual who *"demonstrates creative ways of educating youth and/or communities in environmental science in order to promote civic engagement and outcomes that protect the environment."*



Nicole Messacar with students

US Steel Consent Decree for 2017 Chromium Spill

The United States, together with the State of Indiana, announced April 2 that U. S. Steel Corporation has agreed to resolve alleged violations of the Clean Water Act

and Indiana law by undertaking substantial measures to improve its wastewater processing monitoring system at its steel manufacturing and finishing facility, known as the Midwest Plant, in Portage, IN.

The settlement agreement, which is memorialized in a consent decree lodged in federal district court in the Northern District of Indiana, requires U. S. Steel to pay more than \$600,000 as a civil penalty and to reimburse the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Park Service (NPS) for response costs incurred as a result of an April 2017 spill of wastewater containing hexavalent chromium that entered a waterway that flows into Lake Michigan. U. S. Steel will also pay costs to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for assessing natural resource damages due to the April 2017 spill. In addition, U. S. Steel will pay damages to NPS resulting from the closure of several beaches along the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore due to the spill. U. S. Steel will also resolve allegations under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) by implementing a detailed protocol to notify relevant state and local authorities about any future spills from its Portage facility to the ground or water.

For more information :

- [Read the Department of Justice media release.](#)
- [View the consent decree or to submit a comment.](#)

Lake Michigan Coastal Program Hiring Coastal Planner

The Coastal Resources Planner position is responsible for providing coastal management coordination, resources, and assistance to nongovernmental organizations and local, state, and federal stakeholders to ensure long-term sustainability of coastal communities.

Candidates can access the online application at: <http://www.in.gov/spd/careers/>
Enter Job Opening ID: 614953

Applications due April 18th.

Funding Opportunities

The Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership may be able to provide assistance to further your initiatives by exploring grant opportunities, building partnerships, and helping you to developing competitive proposals. Contact [Jen Birchfield](#) to discuss your projects and ways we can help.

[EPA Environmental Education Grants](#)

Locally-focused environmental education projects that increase awareness and knowledge about environmental and conservation issues

- \$50,000-\$300,000 with 25% match
- Deadline Extended - Due April 11, 2018

[Legacy Foundation Neighborhood Improvement Projects](#)

Neighborhood improvement projects in 4 "Spotlight" communities: Miller, Gary -

Downtown/Emerson, Griffith, and Hobart NW, and the Choice Neighborhood community of University Park East.

*Award range: \$500-\$5,000

*Applications due April 20.

National Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program

Grant category: Prepare for Pests, Threats, Natural Disasters & Associated Changes & Risks. Projects should clearly broaden the base of participation through the involvement of non-traditional partnerships and the inclusion of underserved communities with applicable local, state and/or national urban forestry contacts and address national or multi-state, multi-tribal land urban and community forestry issues.

- Applications due April 30, 2018

Groundwork USA Funding and Technical Assistance Opportunity

Groundwork USA, in partnership with NPS and EPA, is now accepting Letters of Interest from communities wishing to begin the process of applying for Groundwork USA program funding and technical assistance and to join the Groundwork Network.

- Letters of Interest due April 30

Forest Service GLRI Grants

Program Areas include Mitigate Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Impacts, Reduce Runoff from Degraded Sites through Green Infrastructure, and Enhance Coastal Wetland Filtration

*Award Range: \$50,000-\$200,000 with 20% match

*Applications due May 11th.

Webinar Thursday, April 5th - 1:00 PM Central

Adobe Connect: <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/na-500/>

Phone: 888-844-9904 (access code 6611078#)

Quick Impact Placebased Grants

Designed to fund the type of space enhancement and community transformation that sparks community wide conversation and creativity. Examples include: alley activation, enhancement of public assets into a new or usable space, interactive life-size games for public use, pop-up public gathering spots, transforming vacant store fronts, and unique signage.

*Award Range: \$2,500 and \$5,000 and a local match of 50%

*Applications due June 1.

NPS Challenge Cost-share

Project Goals include: 1. Improve recreation opportunities, access and infrastructure; 2. Protection and restoration of trails or rivers/riverside lands; 3. Stewardship through public engagement; or 4. Increasing public use and awareness. Eligibility limited to specific NPS-administered areas. The NPS staff will submit the application, and the partner organization will receive and make use of the funds awarded for the proposed project.

*Maximum award - \$25,000 with 1-to-1 by non-federal match
*Applications due May 25.

Upcoming Events and Webinars

[Great Lakes Water Safety Consortium](#)

April 26-27
Evanston, Illinois

[Webinar: Community Food Forests: Fruitful and fire-smart](#)

April 11, 1:00 - 2:15 ET

[LMCP Public Input Meeting](#)

April 18, 6:30 PM CDT
Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 1000 Riverwalk Drive, Portage, IN

[River Rally](#)

April 29 - May 2, 2018
Olympic Valley, CA

[Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference](#)

May 15-17, 2018
Milwaukee, WI

[One Water Summit](#)

July 10-12, 2018
Minneapolis, MN

[EPA Engaging & Revitalizing Communities Through Cleanup & Reuse Training](#)

Kansas City, MO
July 18-19, 2018

Resources, Tools, and Reports

[Step-by-Step Guide to Integrating Community Input into Green Infrastructure Projects](#)

[EPA Free Online Grants Management Training](#)

[Smart Growth America 2017 Federal Financing Toolkit](#)

[Introducing the Water Funds Toolbox!](#)

[Protecting Drinking Water in the Great Lakes: a Primer on Existing State Policies and Using the Safe Drinking Water Act](#)

[Microplastics Expert Workshop Report](#)

[The Green Heart Project: Studying the Impact of Trees and Green Space on Cardiovascular Health Recorded Webinar](#)

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.