

URBANWATERS

A Partnership for Restoring Urban Waterways and Revitalizing Communities

NWI Urban Waters 2020 Meetings

Don't miss our meeting this week!

Thursday, January 23, 9:30 am - noon Central
Purdue Northwest Meeting Facility (in the NIRPC building)
[6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN](#)

The [agenda](#) will focus on reviewing 2019 accomplishments and gathering partner input on the [2020 NWI Urban Waters work plan working draft](#)

Please review the draft, and send additions, corrections, and suggestions to jbirchfield@pnw.edu. In an effort to save paper, only limited copies will be provided; please print and bring a copy if you wish.

While we strongly prefer to see you in person, it is possible to join remotely:

By Adobe Connect

<https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/nrs9-15/>

Conference Number(s): 888-844-9904

Participant Code: 844 1550#

By Telephone

Line: 888-844-9904 Code: 7951647#

Mark your calendars for the rest of our 2020 partnership meetings:

April 16, July 9, and October 8 at 9:30 Central.



Join us to celebrate
National Pie Day!

CommuniTree Accepting Applications for Spring 2020

The CommuniTree Program partners are happy to announce that community applications are now being accepted for the Spring 2020 tree planting Season. Trees must be planted in public spaces such as parks, schools, churches and along public roadway easements within northwest Indiana's Lake Michigan Watershed.



CommuniTree workshop participants get hands-on practice in proper tree planting.

For complete details please visit our [Community Application page](#) or

contact jexl@nirpc.org.

*Application deadline Friday, February 21st

*Anticipated notice of award by Friday, March 20th

*Anticipated tree planting & care workshop & tree pick up Wednesday, April 1st

Congratulations to Partner, Geof Benson On Tufford Award!

Congratulations to Geof Benson on receiving the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC)'s Norman Tufford Award "for exceptional dedication and service to NIRPC". The award recognizes NIRPC Commissioners and staff who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to the region. Geof, a Town Councilman from Beverly Shores, has served as a NIRPC Commissioner since 2008 and as Chair of the Commission in 2012 and again in 2018. He recently served as President of the National Association of Regional Councils.

Urban Waters partners may know Geof best for his invaluable contributions as Executive Director of Dunes Learning Center, helping young people experience and appreciate Northwest Indiana's natural assets and waterways.

Congratulations, Geof!



Geof Benson (center) receives the Tufford award from NIRPC

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.

Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program

The program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds and the species and habitats they support. Projects include a variety of ecological improvements along with targeted community outreach, education and stewardship.

*Award Range: \$20,000 to \$50,000 with 1:1 match

*Proposal Deadline: January 30th, 2020

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Program

The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program provides funding to support community-based organizations in their efforts to collaborate and partner with local stakeholder groups as they develop and implement community-driven solutions that

address environmental and/or public health issues for underserved communities.

*Award ceiling: \$120,000 with no match required or considered

*Applications due: February 7, 2020

Sustain Our Great Lakes

Sustain Our Great Lakes is soliciting proposals to benefit fish, wildlife, habitat and water quality in the Great Lakes basin. Funding funding will be awarded in four categories:

- Restore and Enhance Stream and Riparian Habitat
- Restore and Enhance Coastal Wetlands
- Expand Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Great Lakes Communities
- Maintain and Enhance Benefits of Habitat Restoration through Invasive Species Control

*Award range: \$100,000 to \$1,000,000. Projects with 1:1 match will be more competitive.

*Pre-proposals due February 11

Great Lakes Fishery Trust Habitat Protection and Restoration Program

The Great Lakes Fishery Trust (GLFT) is now accepting proposals under its Habitat Protection and Restoration grant program. Grants awarded through this RFP are intended for:

- * Protection, enhancement, and/or restoration of valuable fisheries habitat
- * Restoration of Great Lakes wetlands
- * Removal of dams or barriers to restore fish passage
- * Field inventories that identify road-stream crossings and barriers
- * Targeted acquisition of land or easements to protect essential habitat

*This RFP will be used for the disbursement of up to \$500,000 with match not required, but encouraged.

*Requests due February 21, 2020

GLRI Trash Free Waters

USEPA is seeking applications under a newly developed GLRI grant program focused on keeping trash out of the Great Lakes. Eligible projects include:

- Great Lakes beach and shoreline cleanup projects, which could include funding for single entities to organize clean ups in multiple communities. The maximum grant amount is \$300,000 per project.
- Great Lakes harbor and river cleanup projects, which could include the purchase of trash collection and removal equipment capable of operating in water. The maximum grant amount is \$500,000 per project.

*Award ceiling \$300,000-\$500,000 depending on category, no match required.

*Application deadline February 14, 2020

2020 National Fish Passage Program

The National Fish Passage Program is a voluntary program that provides direct technical and financial assistance to partners. Activities that restore fish passage also support the modernization of country's infrastructure such as road culverts, bridges and water diversions. Example project types include dam removals, culvert replacements, and the installation of fishways.

*Award range: \$500 - \$2,000,000 with 1:1 match on a regional basis not necessarily project basis

*Applications due: September 30, 2020

Events, Webinars, and Opportunities

[Webinar: Water, Water, Everywhere . . . But Is It Affordable?](#)

Jan 22, 2020 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CST

[Webinar: Smart Water Innovations](#)

Friday, January 31, at 2:00 PM ET

[Seminar: Beyond the Basics Stormwater Management: Designing For An Uncertain Future](#)

February 27th, 2020, 8am to Noon

Glen Ellyn, IL

[CRTI / CMAP Trees & Green Infrastructure Ordinance Workshop](#)

February 18, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Central

Chicago

[Natural Shoreline Professional Training \(Michigan Certification\)](#)

March 3-4, 2020

Kellogg Conference Center, East Lansing, MI

Registration Cost: \$375 - includes two days of classroom instruction, lunches, reference manual, exam and one-day field training.

[TNC Hiring Grand Calumet River Restoration Crew Member](#)

[USFS Hiring Great Lakes Resource and Communication Assistant](#)

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.