

URBANWATERS

A Partnership for Restoring Urban Waterways and Revitalizing Communities

NWI Urban Waters 2020 Meetings



Thanks to more than 40 partners who provided input at the January Urban Waters meeting **April 16, July 9, and October 8** at 9:30 Central at the Purdue Northwest Meeting Facility.

The tentative agenda for the April 16th meeting includes presentations on green infrastructure projects in the City of Hobart and the Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework.

Become an Indiana Tree Steward!

Gabis Arboretum, Valparaiso, IN

May 15-16, 2020

[Registration and \\$35 payment](#)



The tree steward program is a two-day course for adults who wish to learn about the disciplines of forestry in an urban setting. The program focuses on a broad range of topics related to the urban forestry discipline. The course includes lecture and hands on learning opportunities both indoors and outdoors. Participants receive the Indiana Community Tree Steward Manual filled with information from each topic in the course. Those who complete the course, pass the required exam, and complete 15 hours of service, will receive a certificate signed by the State Forester, a lapel pin, and a copy of 101 Trees of Indiana.

Registration Open for IN Master Watershed Steward Program

The Indiana Master Watershed Steward Program (IMWSP) will provide community members with knowledge about their surrounding water bodies and how to keep them healthy. Each program participant will apply knowledge gained from the IMWSP to complete a local watershed stewardship project, such as assisting with streambank restoration or riverside cleanups. Continuing Education Units are available for educators.



Classes begin March 17 and end May 26, 2020. They will be held every Tuesday from 5:30-8:00 p.m. CT in Chesterton.

Applications are due February 27, 2020. The registration fee is \$95. For registration materials, email [Leslie Dorworth](mailto:Leslie.Dorworth@epa.gov) or call (219) 989-2726.

EPA orders hazardous waste investigation at former Cities Service Refinery, East Chicago

CHICAGO (February 10, 2020) - USEPA today announced that Citgo Petroleum Corp. and Oxy USA have agreed to investigate and address hazardous waste releases at the former Cities Service Refinery, 2500 E. Chicago Ave., East Chicago, Indiana. EPA's administrative orders on consent under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act require the companies to determine the nature and extent of hazardous waste releases at the former refinery and tank terminal and clean up any releases that may pose a risk to human health or the environment.

Read the full EPA [press release](#).

Record High Water Levels to Continue in 2020

DETROIT (February 6, 2020) - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, announces that January 2020 water levels were higher on all lakes than they were in January 2019 and are expected to continue that trend into the spring and summer. According to Corps records, lakes Michigan and Huron both set new record high January levels, previously set in 1987. Lake Superior set new record high January levels previously set in 1986.



Waves wash over the pier at St. Joseph Harbor in Michigan (USACE Detroit District Website, Peter Brown)

"It is likely that water levels on lakes Michigan and Huron will set new monthly mean record high levels over the next six months," said John Allis, chief of the Great Lakes Hydraulics and Hydrology Office, Detroit District. "This sets the stage for coastal impacts and damages in 2020 similar to, or worse than, what was experienced last year."

Read the full ACOE [news release](#).

Public Comment Sought on Statewide Forest Action Plan Draft

The DNR Division of Forestry is working with conservation groups and forest stakeholders to update the 2010 Forest Action Plan, a 10-year strategic document that considers the conditions and trends of forest resources in the state and provides long-term strategies to address threats. A [draft update of the plan](#) is available for public comment until March 27. The final plan will be released early this summer. A series of public meetings will be scheduled to discuss the draft. Dates and locations will be posted online when available. More information about the Forest Action Plan update process and engaging Indiana's forest stakeholders is available on the [Forest Action Plan webpage](#).

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.

Quick Impact Placebased (QuIP) Grant

This grant is designed to fund the type of space enhancement and community transformation that sparks community wide conversation and creativity. Placemaking involves a working partnership with local governments, residents, community groups, and organizations as well as business and community agencies. OCRA encourages these projects to be community unique and locally inspired.

*Award Range: \$2,500 - \$5,000 with \$.50 match for every dollar requested.

*Application deadline: Friday, March 6

USDA Forest Service National Forest Resiliency Innovation Challenge Cost Share Grant Program

The Forest Service seeks to establish sustainable urban and community forests by encouraging communities of all sizes to manage and protect their natural resources to improve the public's health, well-being, economic vitality, and create resilient ecosystems for present and future generations. Funds are to support national urban and community forestry projects on non-federal public land that have a national or multi-state impact and application.

*Matching Requirements: All grant funds must be matched at least equally (dollar for dollar) with non-Federal source funds.

*Application Deadline: March 30th, 11:55 PM

American Water Environmental Grant Program

The Environmental Grant Program offers funding for innovative, community-based environmental projects that improve, restore or protect the watersheds, surface water and groundwater supplies in our local communities. Projects must be located within an American Water service area, completed between May and November of the grant funding year, and be a new or innovative community initiative, or serve as significant expansion to an existing program.

Award ceiling: \$10,000

Proposal deadline: March 31, 2020

NIPSCO Environmental Action Grants

NIPSCO is accepting applications for its environmental action grant to support local nonprofit organizations with environmental initiatives. The program aims to provide funding for environmental restoration and education projects throughout northern Indiana. Creating opportunities for volunteerism is an important part of the grant.

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

*Application deadline: April 3

[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

[Minnesota Stormwater Seminar Series: Bioretention and Treatment Media: A Phosphorus Story](#)

February 27, 10 am - 12 pm ET

[Webinar: Creating Monarch Habitats for Schools and Communities](#)

March 10, 2 - 3 PM ET

6th Annual Indiana Clean Marina Roundtable

Save the Date- Thursday, March 19, 2020

Portage, IN

[Webinar: Soil Management for Community Trees](#)

March 25, 2020, 9:00 am CST

[Michigan City Spring Tree Planting Event](#)

March 28th, 9am CST

[2020 Indiana MS4 Annual Meeting](#)

May 12

Indianapolis, IN

Resources

[Career Pathways Action Guide: Achieve Tree Equity through urban forestry jobs training](#)

[Finding Federal Assistance and Resources for Environmental Justice Efforts Guide](#)

[Green Readiness, Response and Recovery: A Collaborative Synthesis](#)

[The River Access Planning Guide](#)

[Groundwork USA's New Climate Safe Neighborhoods Guide](#)

[NRDC and Blacks in Green: The Sustainable Square Mile in Practice Handbook](#)

Survey on barriers and opportunities to wide-spread use of green stormwater infrastructure across the state of Michigan

[Closing the Water Access Gap in the United States - A National Action Plan](#)

[Urban Waters Learning Network Webinar Series - A Recipe for Effective River and Watershed Organizations](#)

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.