

URBANWATERS

A Partnership for Restoring Urban Waterways and Revitalizing Communities

Plant Trees with the SCA Calumet Tree Conservation Corps!

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) and partners invite you to two volunteer tree plantings this week. Please wear long pants and closed-toe shoes and bring a reusable water bottle to stay hydrated. All project supplies are provided. Plantings will take place rain or shine.

Tomorrow! [April 27th Planting in East Chicago](#)

- MacArthur Golf Course, 139th St and Indianapolis Blvd, East Chicago, IN
- Friday, April 27th, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

This Saturday! [April 28th Planting in Hammond](#)

- Erie Lackawanna & Monon Trails, 5429 Lyman Avenue Hammond, IN
- Saturday, April 28th, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.



Above: Volunteers plant trees with the SCA Team.

Featured Funding Opportunities for Land Acquisition

NEW [Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program](#)

This is a competitive grant program whereby local governments, qualified nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes are eligible to apply for grants to establish community forests through fee simple acquisition of private forest land from a willing seller. The purpose of the program is to establish community forests by protecting forest land from conversion to non-forest uses and provide community benefits. Eligible lands for grants funded under this program are private forest that is at least five acres in size, suitable to sustain natural vegetation, and at least 75 percent forested. The lands must also be threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.

*Local government and nonprofit applicants must submit applications to the State Forester by June 29, 2018.

NEW [Land and Water Conservation Funds \(LWCF\) Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program](#)

Grants to acquire and/or develop public lands for outdoor recreation purposes consistent with the purposes of the LWCF. Lands should be located within or serve jurisdictions delineated by the Census Bureau from the 2010 Census as "urbanized areas," and located in or directly accessible to communities that are underserved in terms of parks a

nd recreation resources and where there are significant populations of people who are economically disadvantaged.

*Applications due September 14, 2018



Above: Aerial image of forested land

Michigan City Receives EPA Brownfields Grant

Congratulations to Michigan City, one of six Indiana communities to receive a Brownfields grant from the USEPA. The grants provide communities with funding to assess, clean up and redevelop underutilized properties, while protecting public health and the environment.

Michigan City Sanitary District will receive \$600,000 to conduct environmental investigations of properties throughout the city. The grant is made in partnership with the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission to continue the redevelopment of recreational areas near Trail Creek and promote job creation by reclaiming former industrial properties in the Monon Corridor.



Above: Aerial image of Trail Creek in Michigan City.

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

Provide Input for NIRPC's 2050 Long-Range Plan!

NIRPC is currently developing its next long-range plan to 2050. The plan will address the environment, economic development, and transportation. NIRPC will hold ten public meetings in April and May to listen to region residents, businesses, and stakeholders on their thoughts on what the vision and needs are for 2050. There are several ways to provide input:

- [View public meeting locations, times, and details.](#)
 - [Complete the 2050 Plan Survey](#)
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NIRPC Greenways + Blueways

NIRPC's [Greenways + Blueways 2020 Plan](#) was adopted on March 15, 2018, marking a significant milestone for NIRPC as the first such planning effort at any Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) level nationwide!



Above: Greenways + Blueways 2020 Plan logo.

Submit Events for Coastal Awareness Month!



June 2018 is Coastal Awareness Month in the State of Indiana. The Lake Michigan Coastal Program and partners are working together to develop a wide variety of events to celebrate the diversity and beauty of the Lake Michigan Coastal Region. Events highlight natural, cultural, and historic resources in the Coastal Region of the Indiana: Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties. The goal is to increase public awareness of these coastal resources and engage people in fun and educational activities that take them places they may have never seen before.

Submit your Coastal Awareness Month events by Friday, May 18 by submitting [the event form](#) to coastal@dnr.in.gov.

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.

[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.

[Chi-Cal Rivers Fund 2018 Request for Proposal](#)

With a focus on the major waterways of the Chicago and Calumet region, the program will award grants to reduce stormwater runoff with green infrastructure, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and improve access to and use of natural areas.

- *Pre-Proposal Due Date: Tuesday, May 15 by 10:59 PM Central Time
- *Full Proposal Due Date: Thursday, July 19 by 10:59 PM Central Time
- *Typical award range: \$100,000 to \$300,000

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.

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.

Upcoming Events and Webinars

Webinar: Using the EcoService Models Library

May 10, 3-4 pm ET

Webinar: Storm-Resilient Urban Forests: Response Resilience, Are You Prepared to Respond?

May 23, 2018 1:00 pm US/Eastern

Training on Early Detection of Invasive Plant Species

May 31, 2018

Indiana Dunes Visitor Center

Contact Susan Mihalo at 219-981-9183 or smihalo@tnc.org

Michigan City Conference on the Environment

June 8, 2018

Construction Site Inspectors Training Certification

June 11-12

West Lafayette, IN

7th Annual Hobart Water Festival

June 16, 10 am - 4 pm

Purdue Rainscaping Workshop

June 19-20, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (CST)

Lake County Government Center, Crown Point, IN 46307

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.