

URBANWATERS

A Partnership for Restoring Urban Waterways and Revitalizing Communities

Thanks for attending the April NWI Urban Waters meeting



More than 45 partners learn about the Gary Green Infrastructure Plan at the April meeting.

Thanks to those who joined us at the April NWI Urban Waters partnership meeting, and a special thank you to our presenters, Jack Eskin- Delta Institute and Troy Peters - Audubon. Meeting notes are available [here](#).

Mark your calendar for the next NWI Urban Waters meeting!

Thursday, July 11, 9:30-12 Central at the [PNW Portage Meeting Facility](#)

Note the meeting is being moved from July 18th due to a conflict with the meeting room. The tentative agenda includes a presentation from Amanda Lahners of the LaPorte County Health Department on what has been learned in implementing an ordinance requiring septic system inspection at property transfer.

NWI Partners Certified Paddlesports Safety Facilitators

On May 31st NWI Urban Waters and the National Park Service held an American Canoe Association Paddlesports Safety Facilitator class with funding from USFS. 25 partners representing NPS, EPA, the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association, Shirley Heinze Land Trust, and the Miller Citizens Corp Shoreline Water Safety Committee earned certification. On June 12, NPS hosted a Level 2 Canoe and Level 2 Kayak training. The trainings will build capacity for partners to utilize the many canoe and kayak launches installed across NWI in recent years to safely connect our communities to their waterways.



NWI partners participate in a level 2 kayak and canoe training with NPS.

Congratulations to Indiana Tree Stewards and Master Watershed Stewards!

Indiana Tree Stewards

Congratulations to 24 participants who participated in the Indiana DNR Tree Steward training on June 10-11 in Portage, Indiana. Participants learned about the basics of urban tree care and how to communicate the benefits of urban trees. To become certified Tree Stewards, participants must pass a written exam and complete 15 hours of volunteer service to improve or maintain the urban forest. If your community has urban forestry volunteer opportunities, please send them to [Jen](#) so they can be shared with the Tree Stewards.



IDNR Community & Urban Forestry Outreach Coordinator, Abby Krause demonstrates proper pruning techniques to Tree Stewards.

Indiana Master Watershed Steward

More than a dozen interns participated in the pilot of the Indiana Master Watershed Steward program. The program was developed by Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant with help from many NWI Urban Waters partners. Participants completed 12 weeks of training this spring culminating in a



Leslie Dorworth teaches master watershed stewards about benthic macroinvertebrates.

written exam. Interns must complete 35 hours of stewardship/volunteer time to become officially certified stewards. Please send your organization's watershed-related volunteer opportunities to [Leslie Dorworth](#) so they can be shared with the watershed stewards.

Celebrate Coastal Awareness Month!



June is coastal awareness month, and the Lake Michigan Coastal Program and partners are offering a wide variety of events to celebrate the diversity and beauty of the Lake Michigan Coastal Region. 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 been before. Access the [Coastal Awareness Month event calendar](#).

Calumet Heritage Area Program & Events Calendar Launched

The [Calumet Heritage Area Program and Events Calendar](#) has been launched. This interactive resource is a one-stop shop for events happening in the Calumet that relate to the Heritage Area's themes of nature, industry, and culture. Partners are encouraged to submit events as long as they are in accordance with the Heritage Area's themes and guidelines, and partners can

also share the calendar on their own website. This makes the calendar a resource for the Calumet region, made by the Calumet region.

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.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

Through an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service anticipates that up to \$4.1 million in new funds will be available for tree planting and forest health improvement in the Great Lakes Basin.

*Applications due Friday, June 28th

*Award range: \$50,000 to \$350,000 with 20% non-Federal match

Bank of America Charitable Foundation Economic Grants

Funding is available in the "Economic Mobility and Social Progress Focused on the Needs of the Community" category, which provides support for affordable housing, sustainable development, strong business corridors, the arts and environmental investments. Support is provided for equitable solutions that will help vulnerable communities grow and prosper.

*Applications due June 28, 2019

*Funding generally ranges from \$2,500 to \$50,000.

RTCA Community Assistance

National Park Service staff provide free, on-location facilitation and planning expertise. We draw from project experiences across the country and adapt best practices to a community's specific needs. Project applicants may be state and local agencies, tribes, nonprofit organizations, or citizen groups.

*Applications due June 30

NRCS Conservation Innovation On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials

The purpose of On-Farm Trials is to stimulate the adoption and evaluation of innovative conservation approaches in partnership with agricultural producers. NRCS is implementing On-Farm Trials through eligible entities, which in turn work collaboratively with NRCS and agricultural producers to implement innovative approaches on private lands.

*Applications due July 15

*Award Range: \$250,000 - \$500,000

GLRI Nonpoint Source Projects to Address Agricultural Nutrients and Stormwater Runoff

EPA expects to award a total of approximately \$14 million for about 30 nonpoint source projects addressing agricultural nutrients and stormwater runoff. Categories include: Green infrastructure to reduce stormwater runoff; Manure management to reduce nutrient runoff from farms; accelerating adoption of nutrient management through farmer-led outreach and education; and water quality trading and market-based approaches for nutrient reduction.

*Applications due July 12, 2019

Groundwork USA-Technical Assistance

Groundwork USA, in partnership with NPS and EPA, is accepting letters of interest from communities wishing to apply for Groundwork USA program funding and technical assistance. The selected community will be eligible for up to \$200,000 in funding and technical assistance to plan, establish and build the capacity of a Groundwork Trust organization in their community.

*Letters of interest due July 31, 2019

Great Lakes Emerging Champions Mini-Grant Program

Great Lakes Emerging Champions Mini-Grants are intended to increase green infrastructure (GI) implementation capacity in small to mid-sized communities in the Great Lakes Basin. Grants support community projects that focus on developing strategies to overcome key institutional barriers to implementing GI in communities.

*Applications due July 31st, 2019

*Award ceiling: \$15,000

Webinars, Resources, and Events

Webinar: Using Comprehensive Area-Wide Planning Approaches to Promote Equitable Development

June 18, 2019 (1:00 - 2:30 PM EDT)

Webinar: Understanding how the Money is Supposed to Flow: Water Infrastructure Funding and Finance 101

June 18th, 2019 (1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST)

EPA Grants Award Process Webinar

June 18, 2019 (2:00 - 3:30 PM ET)

Webinar: How Utilities Are Addressing Water Equity

Friday, June 21, 2019 3:00 - 4:00 PM ET

River Network's Drinking Water Guide

U.S. Geological Survey's Point-Source Load Estimation Tool

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.