

URBANWATERS

A Partnership for Restoring Urban Waterways and Revitalizing Communities

Thanks for attending the October 3 Urban Waters meeting!



Bob Newport of OAI discusses the green infrastructure maintenance shared services project with NWI Urban Waters partners.

The meeting notes are available [here](#).

A special thanks to our presenters whose slides are available below:

[NIRPC's Green Streets and Climate Vulnerability projects](#)

-Joe Exl, Senior Water Resource Planner, NIRPC

[La Porte County Property Transfer Ordinance](#)

-Amanda Lahners, REHS/RS, Environmental Health /Food Supervisor,
LaPorte County Health Department

[Green Infrastructure Shared Services](#)

-Bob Newport, Stormwater Projects, OAI

Mark your calendar!

Next Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Meeting:

Thursday, January 23, 9:30 am - noon Central

Purdue Northwest Meeting Facility (in the NIRPC building)

[6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN](#)

Plant Trees This Saturday with CommuniTree and the SCA!

**WHEN: Saturday, November 9th,
9:00 am to Noon.** Registration at 8:30

WHERE: Glen Ryan Park, 4220 E 6th
Pl, Gary, Indiana. Look for the SCA
trailer and blue tent.

WHAT: Volunteers will plant, mulch,
and water native trees.

BRING WITH YOU: Wear long pants and closed-toe shoes, and bring a reusable water bottle to stay hydrated.

PROVIDED: All project supplies (tools, gloves, etc.) are provided. Drinking water and coffee will be available throughout the event.

REGISTER: at [Eventbrite](#).

Planting will take place rain or shine!



IUN students and SCA planted 25 native fruit trees at the Brother's Keeper garden in Gary.

Students Paddle and Learn about Local Waterways

In its seventh year in Northwest Indiana, Wilderness Inquiry's Canoemobile is going strong. This fall thousands of students and residents experienced their urban waters from the seat of a 24-foot voyageur canoe. Urban Waters partners contributed activities on environmental and cultural topics.



Students enjoy paddling as part of Dunes Learning Center's watershed education experiences.



Students examine benthic macroinvertebrates as part of LaPorte County Soil and Water Conservation District's Trail Creek Week.

EPA Announces New 5-Year Plan to Accelerate Restoration of the Great Lakes

(Oct. 22, 2019) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler and Region 5 Administrator and Great Lakes National Program Manager Cathy Stepp unveiled an updated and aggressive GLRI action plan. The GLRI Action Plan III will guide the actions of federal agencies and their many partners over the next 5 years to protect and restore the Great Lakes - fueling local and regional economies and community revitalization efforts across the basin. The agency also announced \$11

million in funding for grants to support GLRI projects in Michigan.

[Read the full news release](#)



[GLRI Action Plan III](#)

Funding and Support 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.

[River Network's Project Rain Barrel Workshops](#)

River Network's Project Rain Barrel helps communities and homeowners across the U.S. and Canada reduce their water footprints by providing FREE materials, support, and promotion for hosting educational rain barrel-making workshops.

*Application deadline: November 15th, 2019

[Project Accelerator Professional Support](#)

Project Accelerator, an initiative of the WaterNow Alliance, is accepting applications from cities and utilities to help launch water projects or programs. This program offers up to 250 hours of professional support over the course of 3-6 months. Past projects include research and engagement to support water conservation and sustainability, development of a water-efficient landscaping program, and assessing green streets.

*Applications are due November 22, 2019

[McDougal Family Foundation Healthy Water Grant](#)

The McDougal Family Foundation is accepting applications for its Healthy Water Grant Program. The foundation prioritizes efforts that focus on Lake Michigan, and projects must fit one of its three priorities: policy and practice, innovation and equity.

*Applications due November 27, 2019

*Grant sizes vary with an average of \$50,000

[Indiana Tourism Destination Development](#)

The Indiana Office of Tourism Development offers matching grants to entities that demonstrate a financial need and are committed to developing amenities and experiences that increase the tourism appeal of Indiana

destinations. Project proposals that focus on at least one of the following categories will be looked upon favorably: Spectator or participation sports and outdoor recreation, culinary and agricultural activities, heritage and historical experiences, arts and culture

*Applications due December 4, 2019

*Award Range: \$50,000 - \$250,000 with 1:1 match

Community Forestry and Open Space Conservation Grant Program

This is a competitive grant program whereby local governments, qualified nonprofit organizations, Indian tribes are eligible to apply for grants to establish community forests through fee simple acquisition of private forest land from a willing seller. Lands that are eligible for the Community Forest Program and are located adjacent to coastal wetlands or are hydrologically connected with Great Lake water levels are eligible for acquisition. Eligible lands are private forest, at least five acres, and at least 75 percent forested.

*Application Deadlines: January 6, 2020 (to State Forester), February 6, 2020 (to USFS)

*Award Ceiling: \$600,000 with 50 percent match of the total project cost (non-federal, cash or in-kind)

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 and Resources

Great Lakes Coastal & Nearshore Habitat Assessment Workshop

November 14th

LaPorte, Indiana

Great Lakes Regional Sediment Management Workshop

November 18-19

Chicago, Illinois

Factsheet: The Midwest Stream Quality Assessment-Influences of Human Activities on Streams

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.

