

URBANWATERS

A Partnership for Restoring Urban Waterways and Revitalizing Communities

Urban Waters in Final Four for Sammies People's Choice!

Dear Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partners,

I'm excited to share the news that the **Urban Waters Team has advanced to the final four** for the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America (Sammie) People's Choice Award! As the "Oscar of public service", this achievement means a great deal, and it reflects the hard work I see on the ground every day here in Northwest Indiana.

Continue [voting daily here](#) through **September 15**. After casting your votes, share your favorites with your social media network and tell your friends and colleagues.

In just six months as your Urban Waters Coordinator, I've been amazed by your hard work, innovation, and passion for improving our urban waterways to better our communities. I feel exceptionally proud of Northwest Indiana and our partnership, and I thank you for letting me be a part of it.

I'm inspired to see my calendar packed with opportunities to



Above: The SCA tree team plants a tree in East Chicago.

Sammie medal in the Science and Environment category, in addition to being in the final four for a People's Choice Award. Surabhi has been quick to point out that this honor is for all of our Urban Waters Partners working across the country.

It's really your work that has led to



Above: Lake Michigan shoreline photo courtesy of NPS

connect our communities to our waterways - from Canoemobile adventures to CommuniTree plantings. I know the expertise and resources that make our partnership work will continue to lift up our projects and catalyze new ones.

Read the [finalist profile](#) for Surabhi Shah and the Urban Waters team, nominated for a

this national recognition, and this award is an honor for all of us.

So thank you, congratulations, and keep up the great work!



Above: Surabhi Shah, Director of the Urban Waters Program.

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.