

URBANWATERS

A Partnership for Restoring Urban Waterways and Revitalizing Communities

Next NWI Urban Waters Partnership Meeting July 20th!



Save the date for the next NWI Urban Waters Partnership quarterly meeting July 20, 2018 at 9:30 am Central at the [Purdue Northwest Meeting Facility](#) in Portage.

Celebrate Coastal Awareness Month in June!



Coastal Awareness Month is a chance for Hoosiers to celebrate northwest Indiana's unique natural resources and the region's importance to the rest of the state.

[View the full lineup of Coastal Awareness Month activities](#)

Events include guided hikes, festivals, concerts, cruises aboard the W.G. Jackson research vessel, a conference on the environment, paddling excursions, fishing derbies, Washington Park Zoo's 90th anniversary celebration, a fun run 5K through Ogden Dunes, historical tours and talks, classes and workshops, volunteer days, and more.



Above: Visitors enjoy fun nature activities as part of Dunes Learning Center's Get Outdoors Day, a Coastal Awareness Month activity.

"Coastal Awareness events throughout June offer opportunities for fun, learning and adventure," said Kathryn Vallis, outreach and education assistant for the DNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program. "Whatever your interests may be, there are events for you."

The Lake Michigan Coastal Program and its partners administer Coastal Awareness Month each year. Contact [Kathryn Vallis](#) for more information.

Featured Events:

Community Tree Planting this Saturday in East Chicago!



Above: Volunteers plant trees with the SCA.

Join the Student Conservation Association (SCA) in planting 100 native trees in East Chicago **this Saturday, June 2nd, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.**

Park in the Lakeside Gardens Apartments lot off of McKinley St. and Pennsylvania Ave. *Walk south to the paved trail behind the apartment buildings, look for the SCA work truck!*

Please wear long pants and closed-toe shoes and bring a reusable water bottle to stay hydrated. All project supplies (tools, gloves, water) are provided. Planting will take place rain or shine!

[Visit the Eventbrite page for more information or to register.](#)

Trail Creek Watershed Partnership Meeting and Planting

The Trail Creek Watershed Partnership will hold their monthly business meeting at [Krueger Memorial Hall](#) on June 13th from 8:30 to 10:00 am.

Immediately after the meeting, partners will meet at [Hansen Park](#) and plant native species at the pollinator habitat being created by the Michigan City Wolves Environmental Restoration Team.

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.

The deadline for the survey on Vision + Needs has been extended to June 3, 2018!

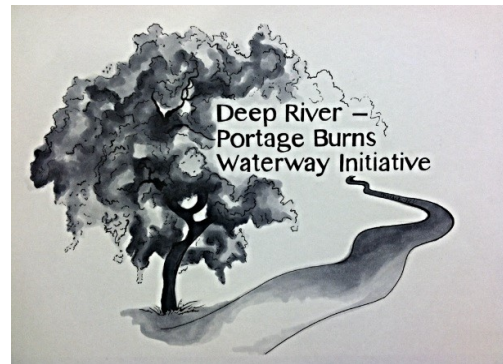
- **[Complete the 2050 Plan Survey](#)**

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.

[Deep River Watershed Initiative Cost-Share Program](#)

Applications are now being accepted for the Deep River Watershed Initiative Cost-Share Program to implement projects that improve water quality within critical and priority preservation areas. Funding is available for agricultural and urban practices that reduce sediment, nutrient, and pathogen loading to streams and manmade waterways. Practices that also address hydromodification and stream habitat impacts as part of their overall design are encouraged.



Above: Deep River Initiative Logo

Approximately \$200,000 will be available in 2018 cost-share program funding. There is a 1:1 non-federal match requirement. In-kind contributions are eligible as match. Maximum cost-share dollars for each practice or project area will be determined on a case-by-case basis dependent upon available funds, project costs, and estimated load reductions achievable by project implementation.

[Water Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act \(WIFIA\) Credit Assistance](#)

The WIFIA program is currently soliciting letters of interest from prospective borrowers seeking loans from EPA. This selection round, EPA has up to \$5.5 billion available for loans. WIFIA authorizes EPA to provide federal credit assistance in the form of secured (direct) loans or loan guarantees for eligible water infrastructure projects. The WIFIA program's mission is to accelerate investment in our nation's water and wastewater infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost, supplemental credit assistance under customized terms to creditworthy drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects of national and regional significance.

- Deadline Extended: Letters of Interest due July 31 at 12:00 pm ET
- **[Webinar: Overview of the WIFIA Program & 2018 Selection Round](#)**
 - Monday, June 4, 2:00 pm- 3:30 pm ET

[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.

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

*Applications due September 14, 2018

Upcoming Events and Webinars

June is Coastal Awareness Month!

There are far more events than we can list here, [view the full event calendar](#).

[Michigan City Conference on the Environment](#)

June 8, 2018

[Construction Site Inspectors Training Certification](#)

June 11-12

West Lafayette, IN

[Webinar: Promoting Urban & Community Forestry through Staffing, Volunteer Groups, Tree Boards, & Ordinances](#)

June 12, 2018 1:00 pm US/Eastern.

[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

[One Water Summit](#)

July 10-12, 2018

Minneapolis, MN

[EPA Engaging and Revitalizing Communities Through Cleanup and Reuse Training \(CIT\) Program Community Involvement Training Program](#)

July 18-19, 2018

Kansas City, MO

Resources and Reports

[Purdue Indiana Climate Impacts Assessment Reports](#)

Scientists and decision makers from across the state are working together to develop a series of easily understandable reports that shows how a changing climate will affect state and local interests. Led by the Purdue Climate Change Research Center (PCCRC), the Indiana Climate Change Impacts Assessment (IN CCIA) provides the latest scientific research to help Hoosiers understand and prepare for the impacts of a changing climate. Two new reports have been released: Indiana's Future Forests and Maintaining Indiana's Green Spaces

[EPA Five-year Review of the 2012 Recreational Water Quality Criteria](#)

The review report describes the state of the science since the release of the 2012 Recreational Water Quality Criteria (RWQC), related to the protection of human health in water bodies designated for primary contact recreation (e.g., swimming) in these areas: health studies; indicators and performance of qPCR methods; microbial source tracking; RWQC implementation tools; and criteria adoption by states, territories and authorized tribes.

[EPA Storm Smart Cities: Integrating Green Infrastructure into Local Hazard Mitigation Plans](#)

In this report, EPA offers guidance on how green infrastructure could be incorporated into local hazard mitigation plans. The guide is built around a case study of green infrastructure integration efforts in the City of Huntington, West Virginia and the West Virginia Region 2 Planning and Development Area. The green infrastructure described addresses stormwater, and how it will improve water quality and address flooding challenges - bringing greater resilience to climate impacts.

[Online Grants Management Training](#)

The Office of Management and Budget initially developed the Grants 101 Training for Federal government employees, but now these eLearning modules are available as a resource for the public. The grants training is comprised of five modules, most of which contain multiple online lessons including, 1) Laws, Regulations, and Guidance; 2) Financial Assistance Mechanisms; 3) Uniform Guidance Administrative Requirements; 4) Cost Principles; and 5) Risk Management and Single Audit.

[Environmental Justice FY2017 Progress Report](#)

The report commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) and highlights the Agency's progress toward advancing environmental justice (EJ). An overarching focus of the report is demonstrating tangible results in minority, low-income, tribal, and indigenous communities. The report details the measures EPA developed for addressing national EJ challenges, as well as national results for enforcement actions and the environmental benefits of such actions in areas with potential EJ concerns.

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.