

URBANWATERS

A Partnership for Restoring Urban Waterways and Revitalizing Communities

Webinars Tomorrow, May 13th

[Addressing Loss of Tree Cover in Urban Watersheds: The Importance of Local Codes and Policies](#)

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 | 1:00-2:15pm ET

[Preparing for the Cascade of Federal Funding: Catch the Wave](#)

Wednesday, May 13th, 2020 | 11:00am PST/2:00pm EST

COVID-19 has pushed us all off course and that goes for all norms for setting federal appropriations. The CARE Act has already allocated \$1.5 billion for the U.S. Economic Development Administration to plan and implement economic recovery strategies in response to the coronavirus pandemic, and other stimulus funding may follow.

This session spotlights federal grants, loans and technical assistance to support brownfield activities throughout all stages of the redevelopment process. We will hear how EPA is working to expand the brownfields redevelopment sandbox by coordinating with other federal agencies. We will also learn what's new with Opportunity Zones and how to layer funding with other federal agencies and programs including EDA, HUD, USDA, USDOT, Community Development Block Grants, and Clean Water Funds.

CommuniTree: A Model for Engaging Communities in Tree Planting and Maintenance Projects

In case you missed it, the CommuniTree: A Model for Engaging Communities in Tree Planting and Maintenance Projects [webinar recording](#) is available.

In the presentation, USDA Forest Service specialist Drew Hart laid out the challenges and principles of community/corporate partnership and workforce development, gathered from years of practice and study. Daiva Gylys with the Student Conservation Association introduced their proven strategy for developing a skilled and diverse workforce, which has resulted in thousands of new trees planted and maintained.



The SCA tree team. Credit: Drew Hart, US Forest Service

Resources mentioned in the webinar

[CommuniTree Tree Care Maintenance Agreement](#)

This is the volunteer and tree care agreement that new tree stewards are asked to sign. It outlines care requirements for the newly planted tree.

[CommuniTree: Partnerships for tree planting and research in NW Indiana](#)

This is a complementary presentation about CommuniTree by Dr. Jess Vogt of the Lab for Urban Forestry in the Anthropocene (LUFA) at DePaul University.

[A transdisciplinary, mixed methods research agenda for evaluating collective impact for tree planting: The CommuniTree initiative in northwest Indiana](#)

This draft manuscript (in review) describes the theory and research design for CommuniTree, which is attempting to alleviate some of the social and ecological issues experienced by post-industrial Rust Belt communities

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.

EPA Children's Healthy Learning Environments Grant Initiative

EPA is seeking grant applications from states, federally recognized tribes, universities, local governments, non-profits, and other groups to support children's environmental health in schools and childcare settings. These grants advance children's environmental health by providing education, training, tools and capacity building.

*EPA anticipates awarding two grants of approximately \$145,000 each for up to a two-year funding period.

*Applications due June 1, 2020.

USDA Urban Agroforestry

The USDA National Agroforestry Center is requesting proposals to substantially expand and accelerate the availability of information to support decisions on the adoption and design of urban agriculture that includes agroforestry practices. The intent of this grant opportunity is to expand the available resources on how urban agriculture systems can include perennials and/or agroforestry practices. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, units of local government, Tribal governments, and any school that serves kindergarten through grade 12.

*Award Range: \$25,000 and \$50,000 with no financial match

*Applications due June 1, 2020

FY2020 USFS Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Competitive grants in four program areas:

- *Forest Insect and Disease Mitigation
- *Reduce Runoff from Degraded Sites through Green Infrastructure
- *Protect and Restore Coastal Wetlands through Healthy Tree Cover
- *Restore Resilient Riparian and Shoreline Forests

*Award range of \$50,000 to \$300,00 with 20% match

*[Webinar](#) May 12, 9 am Central

*[StoryMap highlighting past U.S. Forest Service GLRI projects](#)

*Proposals due June 26, 2020

[EPA Environmental Justice Grants Opportunity to Address COVID-19 Impacts](#)

EPA is making \$1 million in grant funding available to states, local governments, tribes, and territories for projects to improve the health and welfare of low income, minority, tribal and indigenous communities. EPA will give special consideration to those applications aimed at addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic communities with EJ concerns.

Informational Pre-Application Assistance Calls:

Thursday, May 21, 2020 (LIVE) 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (ET)

Tuesday, June 2, 2020 (LIVE) 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (ET)

*Full Application Due Date: Tuesday June 30, 2020 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time

*EPA anticipates issuing 5 grants of approximately \$200,000 each for a two-year funding period.

[Chi-Cal Rivers Fund: 2020 Funding Opportunity](#)

The Chi-Cal Rivers Fund will offer approximately \$1 million in competitive grant funding in 2020. To reduce the overall level of effort required for applicants to be considered for funding, the Fund will eliminate the pre-proposal phase in 2020 and request applicants submit a streamlined full proposal. Grant funding in 2020 will be awarded in three categories:

- Habitat Quality
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure
- Public Access

*RFP to be Released May 20, 2020

***[Webinar for Applicants](#)**: Wednesday, June 10, 10:00 - 11:30 AM Central

*Full Proposal Due Date: Thursday, July 9 by 10:59 PM Central

[NPS Land & Water Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership](#)

Eligible U.S. state and local government agencies and federally recognized Indian tribes are invited to submit proposals for matching grants to support projects that would acquire or develop public land for outdoor recreation purposes located within or serving Census-delineated "urbanized areas": places with a population of 50,000 or more people that are densely settled.

*Award range: \$300,000 to \$1,000,000 with 1:1 match

*Applications due: July 10, 2020

[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

[NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program](#)

RTCA is accepting applications for community assistance. National Park Service staff provides free, on-location facilitation and planning expertise. Project applicants may be state and local agencies, tribes, nonprofit organizations, or citizen groups. National Parks and other Federal agencies may apply in partnership with other local organizations.

*Requests considered on a rolling basis through March 2021

Webinars and Resources

[Global Swimways Webinar Marathon](#)

May 14, all day

[Virtual River Rally](#)

May 18 - June 7, 2020

[Registration](#) (\$279)

[Webinar: Low cost passive biofilters for onsite wastewater nitrogen removal](#)

May 20th at noon Eastern Time

[Arbor Day Foundation's Partners in Community Forestry Conference -](#)

Louisville, KY - November 18-19, 2020

[River Network Recorded Webinar - Best Practices for Fundraising Roundtable](#)

[EPA Brownfields Fact Sheet on Opportunity Zones and Brownfields Redevelopment](#)

[Urban Water Quality and Public Health Story Map on Urban Waters Projects](#)

[The Wilson Center Policy Brief - Filling Data Gaps: A Citizen Science Solution](#)

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.