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# URBANWATERS

*A Partnership for Restoring Urban Waterways and Revitalizing Communities*

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## Field Crew Safety amid COVID-19

Many of our partners are considering how to safely resume field work in the time of COVID-19. As we face these challenges, let's share with and learn from our partners! Below is a list of guidelines, examples, and resources from our Urban Waters partners and others. If you have examples or resources regarding field crew safety amid COVID-19, please share them with [Jen Birchfield](#) for distribution to the NWI Urban Waters list.

### [Society for Ecological Restoration Webinar: Field Work in the Time of COVID-19](#)

Wed, May 27, 2020 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CDT

### [USFS Eastern Region COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment Explainer](#)

### [COVID-19 Field Safety Guidelines for The Nature Conservancy Indiana](#)

### [Tree Care Industry Association's Tree Care Best Practices for COVID-19](#)

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## Featured Funding Opportunity: Chi-Cal Rivers Fund



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

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

\*Awards range: \$100,000 to \$300,000 with match not required, but more competitive

The [Chi-Cal Rivers Fund](#) is now accepting proposals for competitive grant funding. Details about this funding opportunity are provided in the [Request For Proposals](#). To reduce the overall level of effort required for applicants to be considered for funding, the Fund has eliminated 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

# COVID-19 & RESPONSIBLE PADDLING

WE ALL WANT TO PADDLE AND WE ALL WANT TO STAY HEALTHY. IN THE CURRENT CRISIS, IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO DO BOTH. IF YOU CHOOSE TO GO PADDLING, HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL TIPS:

## BE SMART



If the activities associated with paddling make it impossible for you to respect local orders and national guidelines it's smarter to stay home and stay healthy.



If you feel sick, or have recently been near someone who is sick - stay home! Contact your doctor for care.

Avoid groups of more than ten people.



## MAINTAIN 6 FT OF DISTANCE



Social distancing applies to paddling as well as shuttling. Walk or bike your shuttle route, or consider alternative paddling options that do not require a shuttle, such as park & play or attaining upstream.





## MAINTAIN STRICT HYGIENE



Wash your hands often, frequently disinfect gear and other surfaces you touch, and do not share equipment, food, water, or other supplies.



## BE CAREFUL

Paddle well below your skill level to reduce risk of injury and potential to find yourself in the hospital and in the proximity of others who are sick.

Don't press your limits - if you need outside assistance, you can put undue strain on local first responders, medical personnel, and increase the risk of exposure for all involved in the rescue.



American Canoe Association (ACA) COVID-19 Responsible Paddling Infographic ([ACA](#))

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## Webinars and Resources

### [EPA's RCRA Public Involvement Toolkit](#)

### [Conference Call: Understanding the Loan and Assistance Programs from the CARES Act](#)

May 21, 11:30 am CT

### [Webinar: Winner of the EPA Advanced Septic System Nitrogen Sensor Challenge](#)

Wednesday May 27, 2:00 - 3:30 pm ET

### [Webinar: Developing a Land Acquisition Strategy](#)

Thursday, May 28 at 1:00 pm CT

\*Hosted by Urban Waters partners, Delta Institute, the Alliance for the Great Lakes, and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant and featuring the recently completed Land Acquisition Strategy for Michigan City, Indiana

### [Webinar: Sustainable Management of the Urban Forest](#)

May 28, 9:00 am ET

### [Webinar: Meeting the Rural Resilience Imperative: Integrating Resilience into Rural Planning & Action](#)

May 28, 2:00 pm ET

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## 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.*

### **Youth River Education Recreation Program**

The National Park Service and River Network announce a grant opportunity for projects that develop and/or expand "on-water" education, recreation, and/or cultural preservation programs for youth and young adults.

\*Applications due June 10

\*Award range \$5,000 to \$25,000 with match not required

### **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

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

\*Proposals due June 26, 2020

### **EPA Environmental Justice Grants Opportunity to Address COVID-19 Impacts**

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. Special consideration to applications aimed at addressing the impacts of COVID-19 in 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.

### **USDA Grants Available for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the availability of \$3 million in competitive grants is available for urban agriculture and innovative production projects through two categories, Planning Projects and Implementation Projects.

\*[Webinar](#), June 3, 2020 from 2 to 4 pm Eastern

\*Applications due July 6

\*Award range: \$100,000 to \$500,000 with no match requirement

### **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, and 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**

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**

Provides direct technical and financial assistance to partners for activities that restore fish passage and support the modernization of country's infrastructure such as road culverts, bridges and water diversions.

\*Award range: \$500 - \$2,000,000 with 1:1 match on a regional 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.

\*Requests considered on a rolling basis through March 2021

*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.*