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# URBANWATERS

*A Partnership for Restoring Urban Waterways and Revitalizing Communities*

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## **Next Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Meeting:**

October 3rd, 2019 - 9:30am to 12:00pm Central  
[NIRPC, 6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN](#)

The tentative agenda includes presentations on the Great Lakes One Water partnership and the LaPorte County Health Department's point of sale septic system ordinance.

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## **IDEM and DNR responding to reported fish kill**

August 15, 2019. INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (IDEM) - The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are currently responding to a reported fish kill in the East Branch of the Little Calumet River in Portage, Ind.

IDEM has learned that ArcelorMittal experienced exceedances of the daily maximum limit for total cyanide and ammonia-nitrogen. These exceedances appear to be the cause or a significant contributing factor to the mortality of the fish observed on the East Arm of the Little Calumet River. IDEM has requested that the facility initiate a spill response along with increased monitoring of its outfalls to the Little Calumet River. IDEM and DNR ask residents to continue to avoid this area while cleanup and mitigation efforts are ongoing.

## **Some Indiana beaches along Lake Michigan closed after spill**

August 16, 2019. PORTAGE, Ind. (AP) - Some beaches along northwestern Indiana's Lake Michigan shoreline are closed after authorities say a chemical spill in a tributary caused a fish kill. The National Park Service said Thursday it closed the Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk beach areas at Indiana Dunes National Park as well as waters out to 300 feet (91 meters). The Indiana Department of Environmental Management says ArcelorMittal's Burns Harbor plant released excess amounts of cyanide and ammonia-nitrogen into the Little Calumet River's east branch, causing a fish kill noticed this week. ArcelorMittal says in a [statement](#) it's investigating and will "continue to work closely with the agencies involved." The city of Ogden Dunes also closed its beach. Officials say the city's drinking water wasn't affected, but its filtration plant restricted water intake as a precaution.

More information on the National Park Service's closure can be found [here](#).

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**Congratulations to NIRPC and Partners on Brownfields Grant**



Brownfield redevelopment has been identified by Northwest Indiana business and community leaders as a critical economic development focus. (Stock image)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded a grant through their Brownfields Program that will improve areas in Gary, Hammond, and East Chicago. The grant was awarded to a coalition that includes the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC), the Northwest Indiana Forum Foundation, and the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA).

The \$600,000 grant award will be used to conduct environmental site assessments, prepare cleanup plans, and implement community outreach activities. In general, the EPA Brownfields Program aims to allow states, communities, and stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields.

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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.*

### **2019 Urban Forestry Assistance Grant**

The Indiana DNR, Division of Forestry offers Community and Urban Forestry Assistance grants that help improve, protect, maintain, and increase the number of trees in Indiana communities. Local government agencies and non-profit organizations can apply for funding to enhance their urban forests. Grantees must match grant funds dollar for dollar with an in-kind and/or monetary match. Grants funds are made available to Indiana communities for public tree inventories/ management planning, tree planting (public property), and education and outreach

\*Applications due September 2, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. ET.

\*Award range: \$1,000 - \$20,000 with 1:1 match

### **IDNR - Lake Michigan Coastal Program Request for Proposals**

The purpose of Lake Michigan Coastal Program Grants Program is to support projects that seek to improve the connection between the public and communities and the natural, cultural, and/or historical resources of Indiana's Lake Michigan watershed as well as projects that assist communities and organizations in the coordination and planning for the management or restoration of these resources in the coastal area.

\*Pre-proposal Deadline: Monday September 16, 2019, 5:00 p.m. CT

\*Maximum request: Depending on project category from \$50,000 to \$150,000

\*Non-federal match: 50% of the total cost of the project.

\*Project Period: Beginning no earlier than August 1, 2020 and less than 18 months in duration.

## **Brownfields Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grant**

The EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization is soliciting proposals from eligible entities to conduct research and provide technical assistance to new, existing, and/or prospective EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) grantees. In addition to providing on-going technical assistance throughout the project period, the successful applicant will be responsible for developing an annual meeting to facilitate peer-to-peer networking and provide training to the EWDJT grantees.

\*Applications due September 20, 2019

\*Award Ceiling: \$200,000

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## **Events, Webinars, and Resources**

### **September Adopt-a-Beach Cleanups**

Multiple dates and locations throughout Northwest Indiana

### **Indiana Land Use Summit**

August 28, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm Eastern  
Danville, IN

### **Real Estate Development Academy for Communities Webinar Series**

Dates & time: September 13, October 18, and November 8, 2019. 1-3pm ET

- [September 13 Webinar: Redevelopment Process: The Intersection of Real Estate and Brownfields](#)
- [October 18 Webinar: Peering into the Crystal Ball: How the Market Decides Future Use!](#)
- [November 8 Webinar: Pulling Back the Curtain: How Developers Make Money!](#)

### **Partners in Community Forestry Conference**

November 20-21, 2019  
Cleveland, OH

### **USFS Paper: Resident-led beautification of vacant lots that connects place to community**

*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.*