

---

# URBANWATERS

*A Partnership for Restoring Urban Waterways and Revitalizing Communities*

---

## Next Urban Waters Meeting this Thursday, October 4th!



The next NWI Urban Waters Partnership meeting will be held jointly with NIRPC's Environmental Management and Policy Committee (EMPC) this Thursday, October 4th at [NIRPC](#) in Portage. **EMPC business will begin at 8:30 with Urban Waters business beginning at 9:30.**

The [agenda](#) includes a discussion with EPA on emergency planning in NWI and communicating with communities.

U.S.EPA is working to create the NW Indiana Sub-Area / Geographical Response Plan under the current Region 5 Regional Contingency Plan / Area Contingency Plan. The purpose of this plan is to ensure that all local responders have access to essential area-specific information and to promote inter-agency coordination to improve the effectiveness of responses in the sub-area. One of the ultimate goals of this planning effort will be the generation of an initial Incident Action Plan (IAP) to aid in initiating a timely and effective response to discharges of oil and other hazardous materials into navigable waters in NW Indiana.

---

## Tree Ordinance Workshop

- Friday, October, 19th 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Central Time, Portage, IN
- Space is limited and [registration](#) is required.

This free workshop will include presentations on recommended ordinance components, integration with other city ordinances and codes, and plenty of time to have your questions answered. The workshop will conclude with a panel discussion of local municipal representatives on their experiences adopting and implementing tree ordinances. Attendees will receive resources to help them develop effective ordinances.



Street trees in Michigan City.

This workshop is presented by the Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Federal Partnership, the CommuniTree Program, and IDNR Urban and Community Forestry. For more information, contact [jbirchfield@pnw.edu](mailto:jbirchfield@pnw.edu).

**This workshops is pre-approved for ISA CEUs.**

---

# Purdue Northwest Engagement Session Held



PNW faculty met with NWI UW partners to discuss collaboration on research and learning.

Over a dozen federal and local Northwest Indiana partners met with Purdue University Northwest faculty for an engagement session on September 6th. The group discussed opportunities for connecting Purdue students and faculty with real-world service-learning and research opportunities with local conservation partners. If your organization has potential projects for interns or student research, contact [jbirchfield@pnw.edu](mailto:jbirchfield@pnw.edu).

## LaPorte County SWCD District Featured in UW Learning Network Impact Story

During the 20th Century, the shoreline of Lake Michigan was developed for human use, resulting in drained wetlands, channelized rivers, and inputs from stormwater runoff and industrial pollutants. Because of depleted habitats and poor water quality in the rivers of the Lake Michigan Watershed, access to the natural resources decreased and the water quality of Lake Michigan is threatened. Read the full [impact story](#).



Partners in Northwest Indiana are Leading People to the Water

**Keywords:** community engagement, education, school, public, Federal Partnership, partnerships, planning, watershed & strategic, restoration, water quality

**Organization Name:**  
LaPorte County Soil and Water Conservation District

**About the Organization:**  
The LaPorte, IN, Soil and Water Conservation District provides technical assistance to improve LaPorte County's water resources and improve our soil, water and related natural resources.

**Location:** LaPorte, IN

**Contact Information:**  
District Director  
LaPorte Soil and Water Conservation District  
207 E. 1st St. Suite 10  
LaPorte, IN 46340  
Phone: 219-326-6844 ext. 219  
www.laportecounty.org

**Location:** Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership  
Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership  
10000 N. State Road 130  
Hammond, IN 46426  
Phone: 219-936-6212  
http://www.niup.org

**Partners in Northwest Indiana are Leading People to the Water**  
Students paddle Trail Creek during Trail Creek Week. Photo: Alvin Brossier

**Trail Creek Watershed**  
During the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the shoreline of Lake Michigan was developed for human use, resulting in drained wetlands, channelized rivers, and inputs from stormwater runoff and industrial pollutants. Because of depleted habitats and poor water quality in the rivers of the Lake Michigan Watershed, access to the natural resources decreased and the water quality of Lake Michigan is threatened.

**Trail Creek**, located in Northwest Indiana, drains about 40 square miles of LaPorte, IN, and is a tributary of Lake Michigan at Michigan City. Its early history is marked by agriculture and logging, and in 1991, a management plan for the watershed was created. Improvements were made by separating residential, commercial and agricultural land management practices. However, the river still had an elevated level of sediment, caused by erosion from both point and nonpoint sources along both sides of the watershed.

To further combat water quality issues, the Trail Creek Watershed Partnership has begun testing watersheds in the Northwest Indiana area. It is a voluntary organization that was accepted by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) in 2007. LaPorte County, Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership, and Michigan's Museum of the Heartland are a few of the many partners that have helped the Partnership plan. A lot of love and work has been done to clean and manage watersheds for everyone's protection, so we can all enjoy the public good of protected lands.

UW Impact Story

## Lake Station kayak launch now afloat

Congratulations to many Northwest Indiana organizations who worked together to install Lake Station's first accessible kayak and canoe launch at Veterans Park along Deep River this month! The Legacy Foundation provided \$25,000 in funding and the city and support groups raised the balance of the \$31,000 project. Several partners, including Lake Station FIGHT (Friends in Gratitude Helping Together), Dunes Learning Center, United Steelworkers of America Local 2003, NorthShore Health Center, Lake Station Lions Club, Northwest Indiana Buildings Trades Council, Ace Electric, and Cause for Change, assisted in securing the grant and matching funds.



Attendees celebrate the opening of a canoe launch on Deep River.

Read more in a [Post Tribune article](#).

## Study shows every dollar spent on the GLRI will produce at least \$3.35 of additional economic activity

A new report shows that every federal dollar spent on Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) projects from the program's launch in 2010 through 2016 will produce an additional \$3.35 of additional economic activity in the Great Lakes region through 2036. The study - which estimates only some of the GLRI benefits - shows that in certain communities, the longer-term impact will be even greater: every dollar spent in Buffalo and Detroit, for example, will produce more than \$4 of additional economic activity. [Read the full story.](#)

---

### 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.*

#### **National Association of Realtors Smart Growth Action Grant**

This grant supports a range of land-use and transportation-related activities. These activities must support Realtor engagement in land-use and/or transportation-related community issues with the primary goal of affecting public policies that support development and meets one or more of 10 Smart Growth principles.

\*Applications due October 15

#### **\*NEW\* Local Foods, Local Places Technical Assistance**

Federal agency partners invite communities to apply for technical assistance to help revitalize their economy, improve health, and protect the environment. Local Foods, Local Places helps communities revitalize neighborhoods through development of local food systems.

\*Applications due October 22, 2018

#### **\*NEW\* NOAA FY19 Marine Debris Removal**

Projects awarded through this grant competition will create long-term, quantifiable ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources through on-the-ground marine debris removal activities, with priority for those targeting derelict fishing gear and other medium- and large-scale debris. Projects should also foster awareness of the effects of marine debris to further the conservation of living marine resource habitats, and contribute to the understanding of marine debris composition, distribution and impacts.

\*Award range: \$50,000-\$250,000

\*Applications due October 25, 2018

#### **Conservation Alliance Public Lands Defense Fund**

Grants will be awarded in support of projects that seek to secure quantifiable and permanent protection of a specific wildland or waterway.

\*Nominations due November 1, 2018

### **\*NEW\* [DHS FEMA FY 2018 Pre-Disaster Mitigation](#)**

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program makes available Federal funds to State, Local and Tribal Governments to implement and sustain cost-effective measures designed to reduce the risk to individuals and property from natural hazards, while also reducing reliance on Federal funding from future disasters.

\*Applications due January 31, 2019

### **[DHS FEMA FY 2018 Flood Mitigation Assistance](#)**

The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program makes available Federal funds to State, Local and Tribal Governments to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

\*Applications Due: January 31, 2019

### **[2019 Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program RFP](#)**

The primary focus for applicants should be protection and stewardship of land in the watershed, not restoration of degraded habitats or projects with a strictly water quality improvement outcome.

\*Award Range \$50,000 - \$250,000

\*[Webinar](#)- Wednesday, October 24, at 2 p.m. EST

\*Applications due February 1, 2019

---

## **Upcoming Events and Webinars**

### **[Webinar: Discovering Designs for Green Infrastructure in Midwestern Communities](#)**

October 3rd from 1 - 2 PM CT

### **[Volunteer Tree Planting](#)**

Saturday, October 6th; 9 AM-Noon

Amoco Park- 2801 White Oak Ave., Whiting, IN

### **[Great Lakes Water One Webinar: Water Equity and Inclusion Webinar](#)**

October 12, 2018 3:00 AM ET

### **[Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Restoration Conference](#)**

October 17-18, 2018

Detroit, MI

### **[River Rally 2019](#)**

June 21-24, 2019

Cleveland, OH

### **[Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy](#)**

January to May, 2019

Enrollment deadline: November 3, 2018

## **One Water Action Forum**

December 11-13, 2018  
Indianapolis, Indiana

## **The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Great Lakes Public Forum**

June 17-19, 2019  
Milwaukee, WI

## **River Rally 2019**

June 21-24, 2019  
Cleveland, OH

---

## **Resources and Items of Interest**

**[Aquatic Ecosystems in a Shifting Indiana Climate: A Report from the Indiana Climate Change Impacts Assessment](#)**

**[National Municipal Stormwater Alliance State of Stormwater Report](#)**

**[Webinar: Creative Placemaking on Vacant Properties: Lessons Learned from Four Cities](#)**

**[Growing Safe Streets Series: How Street Design Can Be Calmed by Nature](#)**

**[Recognizing the Connections between Land Use and Health](#)**

**[Video: A Seat at the Table: The Great Lakes Legacy Act](#)**

*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.*