

URBANWATERS

A Partnership for Restoring Urban Waterways and Revitalizing Communities

Urban Waters Partnership 2019 Planning Meeting January 25

This important annual meeting is an opportunity to review 2018 accomplishments and discuss projects, programs, and partners that can benefit from Urban Waters attention in 2019. Past discussions have resulted in development of the CommuniTree program and workshops to address partners' training needs.



Please join us **January 25th, 9:30 am** at [NIRPC](#) in Portage, and reserve Thursday, January 31st as an alternate in case the weather doesn't cooperate on the 25th.



To help prepare for the meeting, please send a summary of your organization's 2018 accomplishments and 2019 priorities to [Jen Birchfield](#) by January 11. Your updates will provide a starting point for the January 25 meeting discussion. Last year's work plan is available [here](#) for your review.

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.

Environmental Justice Small Grants

The EJSG program awards grants that support community-driven projects designed to engage, educate, and empower communities to better understand local environmental and public health issues and develop strategies for addressing those issues, building consensus in the community, and setting community priorities. Potential applicants are invited to participate in one of several [Informational Pre-Application Assistance Conference Calls](#) scheduled in December and January.

*Award ceiling: \$30,000.

*Applications due: February 15, 2019.

The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program

The program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations



Student volunteers restore a beach as part of the Deadman's Island Restoration Project.
Credit: NFWF

by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds, and the species and habitats they support.

Potential projects include a variety of ecological improvements along with targeted community outreach, education and stewardship.

Award range: \$20,000 - \$50,000

Brownfields Grants

EPA has released application guidance for Fiscal Year 2019 brownfields grant funding. For FY 2019, a total of \$50 million is expected to be awarded to more than 100 recipients. Categories include:

- Multipurpose Grants provide funding to conduct a range of eligible assessment and cleanup activities at one or more brownfield sites in a target area.
- Brownfields Assessment Grants provide funding for brownfield inventories, planning, environmental assessments, and community outreach.
- Brownfields Cleanup Grants provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites owned by the applicant.



Brownfield photo from RethinkCleveland.org

*Applications due: January 31, 2019.

IDNR Lake and River Enhancement

The goal of the Division of Fish & Wildlife's Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) Program is to protect and enhance aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife, and to insure the continued viability of Indiana's publicly accessible lakes and streams for multiple uses, including recreational opportunities. This is accomplished through measures that reduce non-point sediment and nutrient pollution of surface waters to a level that meets or surpasses state water quality standards.

*Applications due: January 31, 2019.

Partners for Places

Partners for Places is a successful matching grant program that creates opportunities for cities and counties to improve communities by building partnerships between local government sustainability offices and place-based foundations. In addition to the general grant program, Partners for Places Round 14 also includes dedicated funding to support green stormwater infrastructure projects that advance water-related sustainability goals. The proposal must consist of a team of these partners: (1) the sustainability director of a city or a county for general applicants, OR a water director of a city, county, or utility (for green infrastructure applicants); and (2) the local, place-based foundation(s).

Award range: \$25,000 - \$150,000 with 1:1 match

Proposals due: January 31, 2019

Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program Research Grants

IISG has up to \$600,000 to invest in promising research projects relevant to southern Lake Michigan and surrounding coastal communities in northeast Illinois and northwest Indiana. All projects should focus on one or more of the following topic areas: Aquaculture, Aquatic Invasive Species, Climate Ready Communities, Fisheries, Great Lakes Cleanup, Healthy Waters, Recreation and Tourism, Stormwater and Green Infrastructure, Sustainable Community Planning, Water Supply. IISG anticipates funding projects that use a variety of experimental techniques, including, but not limited to, field or laboratory studies, social science assessments (e.g., of attitudes or perceptions related to behavior change), economic cost-benefit analyses, and modeling efforts.

*Award ceiling: \$180,000 over two years with 50% match

*Preproposals due: February 4, 2019

Job Opportunities

Lake Michigan Coastal Program Seeks Special Projects Coordinator

The Coastal Program Special Projects Coordinator is based in Chesterton, IN and is responsible for:

- Advancing coastal nonpoint pollution control initiatives
- Managing special projects that will improve and enhance Coastal Program strategies and goals
- Acting as an Indiana DNR representative to the Lake Michigan Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP), which is coordinated by the U.S. EPA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)
- Providing technical assistance to Coastal Program partner organizations and stakeholders related to watershed planning, nonpoint pollution avoidance, and storm water / green infrastructure best management practices



Interested candidates can access the [online application](#).

USFS Seeks Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager

The U.S. Forest Service Northeastern Area may soon be advertising for a full time permanent Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager located in the Eastern Region's headquarters office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Anyone interested in applying for this position is strongly encouraged to reply to this Outreach in the [online database](#) or by emailing the attached form by December 15. There will be a separate process to apply for the position.

Events and Webinars

[Gary Youth Environmental Summit](#)

January 3, 2019

Genesis Convention Center, Gary, 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

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

[Making It Rain: Effective Stormwater Fees Can Create Jobs, Build Infrastructure, and Drive Investment in Local Communities](#)

[Funding Sources, Financing Options and Program Frameworks that Facilitate Implementation of Green Stormwater Infrastructure](#)

[Plastic-Free Great Lakes: An Advocacy Toolkit to Make a Difference in Your Community](#)

[Report: Communicating more effectively about urban forestry](#)

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.