
URBANWATERS

A Partnership for Restoring Urban Waterways and Revitalizing Communities

NWI Urban Waters 2020 Meetings

Don't miss our next meeting!

Thursday, January 23, 9:30 am - noon Central
Purdue Northwest Meeting Facility (in the NIRPC building)
[6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN](#)



The focus of the January 23rd meeting will be reviewing 2019 accomplishments and gathering partner input for the 2020 NWI Urban Waters work plan.

January 23rd is also National Pie Day! Of course, we'll be celebrating!

Mark your calendars for the rest of our 2020 meetings:
April 16, July 9, and October 8 at 9:30 Central.

Also mark your calendars for:

[NIRPC's Environmental Management Policy Committee Meeting](#)

January 9th, 9:00 am; [6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN](#)

While not an official Urban Waters meeting, January's EMPC will feature a presentation on the **EPA Subarea spill plan**, a topic relevant to Urban Waters.

Community & Urban Forestry wants to give you free stuff!



CUF wants to give you free stuff!

Indiana DNR Community and Urban Forestry (CUF) has funds available to purchase forestry resources (ANSI standards, ISA BMP guides, ISA handouts, etc.). View the [ISA Store](#) for reference. Use this simple [survey](#) to let them know what you need. If you need a resource that is not listed, provide a link. Please indicate how much tree board/staff time you spent determining your need, so CUF can document match for the federal grant funding the purchase.

Requests after **noon on January 13** will not be considered unless funds allow.

If you have any questions please contact [Carrie Tausher](#).

Shoreline Erosion in the News

['One major storm away from a disaster.' Porter County seeks state, federal aid amid 'stunning' erosion](#)

East Chicago Recognized by EPA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program

The City of East Chicago was recently nominated by the EPA Drinking Water SRF AQUARIUS Program for implementing a full lead service line (LSL) replacement to assist residents within the USS Lead Superfund Site. Phase I of this project is complete and used \$1.1 million in DWSRF funding for the replacement of 331 LSL, positively impacting the 1,350 residents surrounding the area of construction.



East Chicago Mayor, Anthony Copeland with AQUARIUS recognition

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 Environmental Education Grants

The purpose of the Environmental Education Local Grants Program in Region 5 is to support locally-focused environmental education projects that increase public awareness and knowledge about environmental and conservation issues and provide the skills that participants need to make informed decisions and take responsible actions toward the environment.

*Award Range: \$50,000 to \$100,000 with 25% match

*Application Deadline: January 6, 2020

Community Forestry and Open Space Conservation Grant Program

Grants to establish community forests through fee simple acquisition of private forest land from a willing seller. Eligible lands are located adjacent to coastal wetlands or are hydrologically connected with Great Lake water levels and are private forest, at least five acres, and at least 75 percent forested.

*Award Ceiling: \$600,000 with 50 percent match of the total project cost

*Deadlines: January 6, 2020 (to State Forester), February 6, 2020 (to USFS)

Lake & River Enhancement Program (LARE)

The goal of the Division of Fish & Wildlife's 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.

*Award ceiling varies by project type with 20% match, with at least half cash

*Proposals due January 15

Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program

The program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds and the species and habitats they support. Projects include a variety of ecological improvements along with targeted community outreach, education and stewardship.

*Award Range: \$20,000 to \$50,000 with 1:1 match

*Proposal Deadline: January 30th, 2020

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Program

The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program provides funding to support community-based organizations in their efforts to collaborate and partner with local stakeholder groups as they develop and implement community-driven solutions that address environmental and/or public health issues for underserved communities.

*Award ceiling: \$120,000 with no match required or considered

*Applications due: February 7, 2020

Great Lakes Fishery Trust Habitat Protection and Restoration Program

The Great Lakes Fishery Trust (GLFT) is now accepting proposals under its Habitat Protection and Restoration grant program. Grants awarded through this RFP are intended for:

- * Protection, enhancement, and/or restoration of valuable fisheries habitat
- * Restoration of Great Lakes wetlands
- * Removal of dams or barriers to restore fish passage
- * Field inventories that identify road-stream crossings and barriers
- * Targeted acquisition of land or easements to protect essential habitat

*This RFP will be used for the disbursement of up to \$500,000 with match not required, but encouraged.

*Requests due February 21, 2020

GLRI Trash Free Waters

USEPA is seeking applications under a newly developed GLRI grant program focused on keeping trash out of the Great Lakes. Eligible projects include:

- Great Lakes beach and shoreline cleanup projects, which could include funding for single entities to organize clean ups in multiple communities. The maximum grant amount is \$300,000 per project.
- Great Lakes harbor and river cleanup projects, which could include the purchase of trash collection and removal equipment capable of operating in water. The maximum grant amount is \$500,000 per project.

*Award ceiling \$300,000-\$500,000 depending on category, no match required.

*Application deadline February 14, 2020

*EPA will host a [webinar](#) on January 7, 2020, at 1 p.m. CST

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

Events and Webinars

[2020 i-Tree Academy online course](#)

Registration with \$100 fee due January 10

[Webinar: Stormwater Management: Understanding compliance and green infrastructure practices](#)

January 15, 1:00 pm Eastern

[Earth Day 2020 Teach-in Workshop](#)

January 20, 2020

Paul H. Douglas Center, Gary, IN

[Indiana Arborist Association Annual Conference](#)

Indianapolis, IN

January 21-23, 2020

[Natural Shoreline Professional Training \(Michigan Certification\)](#)

March 3-4, 2020

Kellogg Conference Center, East Lansing, MI

Registration Cost: \$375 - includes two days of classroom instruction, lunches, reference manual, exam and one-day field training.

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.