



Reminder: The Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Federal Partnership will meet in-person, tomorrow, Thursday, April 18

**Northwest Indiana (NWI)
Urban Waters Federal
Partnership (UWFP) Meeting**
Thursday, April 18, 2024
9:30-11:30 am CT

Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk
100 Riverwalk Dr, Portage, IN 46368

Join the NWI UWFP for an engaging in-person quarterly partnership meeting at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk to learn more about the work underway across the region. In addition to bringing the NWI UWFP work plan to life, this meeting will offer opportunities for networking, learning, and exploring ongoing or potential new collaborations with partners in the region.



Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Networking & Engagement Session
4. Partner Updates & Announcements

2024 NWI UWFP Meeting Schedule

Thursday, April 18, 9:30-11:30am CDT (in-person meeting)
Thursday, July 18, 9:30-11:30am CDT (hybrid meeting)
Thursday, October 17, 9:30-11:30am CST (hybrid meeting)

Special Funding Announcement: New round of funding available from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Community and Urban Forestry Department

totaling \$2 million are available to fund urban forestry projects throughout Indiana. This grant funding is made available through the Inflation Reduction Act allocation to the United States Forest Service (USFS) Urban & Community Forestry program.

Eligible grant projects include tree planting, tree inventories with management plans, urban tree canopy assessments, storm response planning, public and/or staff education, program outreach, and the establishment and strengthening of local urban forestry programs. Funds are awarded on a reimbursable basis, and no match is required.

Communities interested in applying should note that grant awards are available for a minimum \$20,000 and a maximum \$250,000, only areas that have census tracts that meet federal requirements are eligible and applications are due on July 12, 2024.

All application materials are available for download at [here](#). Additional information is available from Jacob Roos, Community and Urban Forestry Director, DNR Division of Forestry, 317-234-4386, jroos@dnr.IN.gov.



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding from the USFS awarded to CommuniTree Partners

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) and the Student Conservation Association (SCA) were awarded funding from the USFS-GLRI to continue their ground-breaking urban and community forestry programs in NWI.



NIRPC received \$300,000 for community pass through grants to provide high-quality trees to communities in the Lake Michigan watershed. SCA was awarded \$298,984 to fund their Calumet Urban Forestry Corps - a group of passionate and dedicated young professionals that exceed all expectations when it comes to planting and maintaining trees in communities of the Calumet Region. Both NIRPC and SCA are core partners of NWI's CommuniTree program which provides a platform for coordination, collaboration and strategizing how to sustain and diversify a healthy and equitable urban forest.

Congratulations to NIRPC and the SCA!

[View Full List of GLRI-USFS Grant Recipients](#)

Submit Your Proposal for the Chicago Wilderness Alliance Congress

Every two years, the Chicago Wilderness Alliance hosts a Congress to bring together people across the Alliance region of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin to learn from and inspire each other. Purdue University Northwest is hosting this year's conference at



Chicago
Wilderness
Alliance

their Hammond, Indiana campus on Friday, November 15. The theme is "Stronger Together: Building A Resilient Region Through Partnerships" and includes opportunities to spotlight work undertaken in the Calumet Region. Northwest Indiana partners are encouraged to submit a proposal to share their work at the event! **The deadline for submissions is May 3rd.**

Learn more about Congress and how to submit a proposal [here](#). Learn how to get involved in planning an inspiring and successful Congress [here](#). For additional information, contact Laura Reilly, Managing Director of the Chicago Wilderness Alliance at laura.reillycw@gmail.com

Funding Opportunities

The Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership may be able to provide assistance to advance your initiatives by exploring grant opportunities, building partnerships, and helping you develop competitive proposals. Email [Victoria Wittig](#) to discuss your projects and ways we can help.

NFWF America the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC)

NFWF ATBC grants support projects that conserve, restore and connect habitats for wildlife while improving community resilience and access to nature. These projects will enable states, Tribal Nations, U.S. territories, nonprofits, academic institutions, and other grantees to develop and implement multijurisdictional, high-priority restoration projects on both public and private lands. Read more about how to apply [here](#).

**Pre-proposals due April 20, 2024*

EPA Coastal Ecosystems Climate Resilience Funding Opportunity

EPA as part of its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, aims to promote scientific progress toward the understanding of coastal ecosystem resilience by seeking applications proposing research about resilience for various types of coastal ecosystems and develop methods and approaches to advance economic valuation of resilience benefits provided by coastal ecosystems. To learn more about this funding opportunity, click [here](#).

**Applications due May 1, 2024*

EPA FY 2024 – FY 2025 P2 Grant Program

EPA is announcing a two-year competitive funding opportunity for awards to eligible entities to provide technical assistance (TA) to businesses to encourage the development and implementation of source reduction practices also known as pollution prevention or "P2." EPA requires recipients to develop at least one P2 case study and one P2 success story during the grant period. This funding opportunity is announced under the authority of the Pollution Prevention Act and is funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The award ceiling for this P2 grant is \$700,000. To learn more, click [here](#).

**Applications due May 17, 2024*

EPA FY 2024 – FY 2025 Pollution Prevention (P2) Grant Program Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

EPA is announcing a two-year competitive funding opportunity for awards to eligible entities to provide technical assistance (TA) to businesses to encourage the development and implementation of source reduction practices also known as pollution prevention or "P2." EPA requires recipients to develop at least one P2 case study and one P2 success story during the grant period. This funding opportunity is announced under the authority of the Pollution Prevention Act and is funded by Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and is *one of two P2 grants for technical assistance: see the other opportunity below*. The award ceiling for this P2 grant is \$350,000. To learn more, click [here](#).

**Applications due May 17, 2024*

Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) 319 Nonpoint Source (NPS) Grant Program

IDEM is seeking applications for projects that will reduce NPS pollution in Indiana's lakes, rivers and streams, including creating, updating or implementing watershed management

plans. Learn more about how to apply [here](#). For additional information, contact Lindsay Hylton-Adams, IDEM's Northwest Watershed Specialist in the Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch at lhylton@idem.IN.gov

**Notice of Intent due June 3, 2024*

**Applications due September 2, 2024*

Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP)

The CWMP contributes to the WaterSMART strategy by providing funding to watershed groups to encourage diverse stakeholders to form local solutions to address their water management needs. Funding is provided on a competitive basis for watershed group development, watershed restoration planning and implementation of watershed management projects. The award floor is \$10,000 and the ceiling is \$300,000. To learn more about the program, click [here](#).

**Second round applications due September 3, 2024*

Department of the Interior WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I

The Department of the Interior invites states, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, local governmental entities, non-profit organizations, existing watershed groups and local and special districts to submit proposals for Phase I activities to develop a watershed group, complete watershed restoration planning activities and design watershed management projects. The award ceiling for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program is \$300,000 and the floor is \$10,000. To learn more about eligibility and apply, click [here](#).

**Second round applications due September 3, 2024*

EPA Community Change Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity

EPA is accepting applications on a rolling basis for \$2 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funding available to support community-driven projects that build capacity for communities to tackle environmental and climate justice challenges, strengthen their climate resilience and advance clean energy. There will be two tracks of funding under this opportunity. Track I will fund approximately 150 large, transformational community-driven investment grants of \$10 million - \$20 million. Track II will fund approximately 20 meaningful engagement grants of \$1 million - \$3 million. Grants cannot exceed 3-years in duration. To learn more about this opportunity, click [here](#).

**Applications due November 21, 2024*

USDA Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants

The USDA Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants program supports eligible communities prepare, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. Eligible applicants must show a decline in quantity or quality of water that occurred within two years of the date of the application or that a significant decline in quality or quantity of water is imminent. The award range is \$150,000-\$1 million. To learn how to apply, click [here](#).

**Rolling application window open*

USDA Water & Wastewater Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants

The USDA Water & Wastewater Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants program helps eligible low-income communities plan and develop applications for proposed USDA Rural Development water or waste disposal projects. Partnerships with other federal, state and local entities are encouraged, and grants are awarded only when the applicant cannot afford to borrow the needed funds. The award ceiling is \$30,000. To learn how to apply, click [here](#).

**Rolling application window open*

Partner Events

Chicagoland Region City Nature Challenge — April 26-29, 2024 —

Help document biodiversity in the region! Whether you wander through a local park or forest

preserve, explore a nearby river or stream, or look for wildlife in your backyard, you can help create and identify nature observations during the City Nature Challenge. Learn more about how to get involved [here](#).

River Rally 2024 — May 13-16, 2024 —

River Network has hosted River Rally for decades, bringing the network together for an infusion of learning, inspiration and celebration. This year's 25th River Rally will be on the banks of the Grand River in Grand Rapids, Michigan. To register and explore the program, click [here](#).

Indiana Dunes Birding Festival — May 16-19, 2024 —

Birding in the Indiana Dunes is the best the state has to offer. With its rich biodiversity, varying habitats and miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, the Indiana Dunes is a hotspot for migrant birds. The Indiana Dunes Birding Festival celebrates the dunes area's rich biodiversity and bird watching opportunities with the goal of positively impacting visitors and local residents through environmental education, conservation initiatives, and support of the local economy. Learn more [here](#).

Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Community & Urban Forestry Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City Forum — June 4 & July 23, 2024 —

Indiana DNR's Community and Urban Forestry Department will host a forum for recipients of the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City family of programs (Tree City USA, Tree Campus K-12/Higher Ed/Healthcare, and Tree Line USA), and you're invited. This free event is limited to individuals affiliated with groups that have received such recognition. Feel free to pass this invitation along to anyone within your community who is involved with getting your community/school/facility such recognition. Learn more and register [here](#).

The Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership focuses on the Lake Michigan watershed in Lake, Porter and LaPorte 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.

NWI Urban Waters | Northwest Indiana | Lake, Porter, & LaPorte Counties, IN 46360 US

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