



Save the Date! The Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Federal Partnership is scheduled to meet on January 18, 2024

Northwest Indiana (NWI) Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 2024
9:30-12:00am CST

[Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 258 104 178 036

Passcode: QJ4Guk

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

773-352-2023

Phone Conference ID: 413 740 598#



Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Overview of Grant Databases, Technical Assistance Resources and Funding Opportunities
4. Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Federal Partnership Work Plan Working Session: 2023 Accomplishments and 2024 Goals
5. Partner Updates & Announcements

Questions? Please reach out to [Victoria Wittig](#),
the Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador.

Save the Dates for all four of the 2024 NWI UWFP Meetings

Thursday, January 18, 9:30-12:00pm CST

Thursday, April 18, 9:30-11:30am CDT

Thursday, July 18, 9:30-11:30am CDT

Thursday, October 17, 9:30-11:30am CST

Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Federal Partnership Work Plan: 2022
Accomplishments and 2023 Goals

"NIPSCO's Commitment to Biodiversity" Presentation from the October 2023

Northwest Indiana Partners Receive National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant Funding

[The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#) (NFWF) recently announced 2023 grant awards for the [Chi-Cal Rivers Fund](#), [National Coastal Resilience Fund](#) and [Sustain Our Great Lakes](#) grant programs.

Congratulations to partners in Northwest Indiana that received awards to advance their work in the region!



Above Image Caption: Five hands giving a thumbs up with sparkles in the background. (Stock Photo)

Chi-Cal Rivers Fund
Shirley Heinze Land Trust (\$425,300)
Restoring Greenspace and Engaging Residents in Conservation Efforts in Northwest Indiana

The Wetlands Initiative (\$844,200)
Expanding Native Planting and Improving Wetlands in the West Branch of the Little Calumet River

National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF)
The Wetlands Initiative (\$429,300)
Community-Driven Assessment and Design for Wetland Restoration in the Little Calumet

Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL)
Delta Institute (\$880,300)
Restoring Oak Savanna at Oak Ridge Prairie and Oak County Trail

Shirley Heinze Land Trust (\$944,100)
Restoring and Enhancing Nature Preserves of Northwest Indiana

[View Full Chi-Cal Grant Slate](#)

[View Full NCRF Grant Slate](#)

[View Full SOGL Grant Slate](#)

[Sign Up to Receive NFWF Funding Announcements](#)

Grant Writing, Databases & Technical Assistance Resources

The unprecedented level of grant funding available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act is a game changing situation for many partners to the NWI Urban Waters Federal Partnership... *but* finding the right opportunity, technical assistance to access the funding and support for grant writing can present overwhelming challenges.

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership has recently developed a helpful database to break down some of these barriers. The database includes 1. Resources for Grant Writing, 2. Federal Funding Databases and 3. Technical Assistance Resources. Click below to access this new database and be sure to join the January 18, 2024 NWI Urban Waters Federal Partnership Meeting for an overview of key features.



Above Image Caption: Question mark made out of bundles of dollars. (Stock Image)

[Click Here to View Funding Resource Database](#)

Spotlight Funding Opportunity: US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants

Goal: Activities to be performed under the grants are expected to fall under:

- Climate resiliency and adaptation.
- Mitigating climate and health risks from urban heat islands, extreme heat, wood heater emissions and wildfire events.
- Community-led air and other (including water and waste) pollution monitoring, prevention and remediation.
- Investments in low- and zero-emission and resilient technologies and related infrastructure.
- Workforce development that supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants.
- Reducing indoor toxins and indoor air pollution.
- Facilitating the engagement of disadvantaged communities in state and federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings and other public processes.

Funding availability: Approximately \$2 billion in funding is available. The Community Change Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is administered through the EPA Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights.

Application Deadline: The NOFO will be open until November 21, 2024, and EPA will review applications on a rolling basis, allowing applicants to use technical assistance to prepare submissions, and possibly resubmissions. EPA encourages applicants to apply as early as possible.

For more information about this opportunity, click [here](#).

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](mailto:Victoria.Wittig@nwiwp.org) to discuss your projects and ways we can help.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, Community and Forestry Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Grants

Indiana DNR Division of Forestry, Community & Urban Forestry has \$1.8 million in grant funds available through the USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program through the IRA. Eligible projects include on the ground work that takes place in defined areas of disadvantaged/underserved or “under-canopied” communities as determined by the [Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool](#). There is no match required for this grant opportunity. To learn more about how to apply, click [here](#).

***Applications due December 22, 2023**

USDA Forest Service Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, State, Private and Tribal Forestry, is requesting applications for the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (Community Forest Program or CFP). CFP is a competitive grant program that provides financial assistance to Indian Tribes, local governments and qualified conservation non-profit organizations to establish community forests through the fee simple acquisition of private forest land. To apply, interested local government and nonprofit applicants must submit applications to the State Forester where the property is located. To learn more about how to apply, click [here](#).

***Applications due January 12, 2024**

NFWF Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program

NFWF is soliciting proposals through the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program. This program seeks to develop nationwide community stewardship of local natural resources. Projects should seek to address water quality issues in priority watersheds, such as erosion due to unstable streambanks, pollution from stormwater runoff, and degraded shorelines caused by development. Approximately \$2 million is available. To learn more about how to apply, click [here](#).

***Applications due January 31, 2024**

Department of the Interior WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for FY24 and FY25

This opportunity provides funding for small-scale on-the-ground projects that seek to conserve, better manage or otherwise make more efficient the use of water supplies. It is open to States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, water districts and other organizations with water or power delivery authority to leverage their money and resources. The award ceiling is \$100,000. To learn more about this funding opportunity, click [here](#).

***Applications due January 16, 2024**

Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Environmental Justice Community Innovator Challenge

HHS is creating a national competition to identify innovative and effective approaches to enhance community-driven efforts to address the health consequences of communities burdened by environmental and climate change-related hazards. Desired outcomes include the development of community-driven strategies and application of data-driven tools to advance health equity and address environmental hazards including those related to climate change, and the cumulative impacts of environmental and other stressors. Participants will have access to a technical assistance opportunity in each phase of the Challenge. Total cash prizes equal \$1 million. To learn more about the Challenge and apply, click [here](#).

***Applications due January 30, 2024**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Great Lakes Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program

Every year, the NOAA B-WET program supports environmental education programs for thousands of students and teachers. These programs engage youth in meaningful watershed educational experiences (MWEEs) that provide memorable hands-on, experiential learning that are not typically available within traditional classrooms. The

MWEE educational framework can directly foster climate knowledge, skills and competencies to address climate change, climate impacts and the opportunities to contribute to climate solutions in their own communities. Eligible applicants, including nonprofits, can be awarded up to \$150,000. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

***Applications due February 29, 2024**

USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry 2024 Challenge Cost Share Grant Program

The USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program is the only dedicated urban forest program in the federal government. It is a technical, financial and educational assistance program. The program works in partnership to restore, sustain and manage more than 140 million acres of urban and community forest lands for the benefit of communities in the United States. Through the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), the Forest Service is seeking proposals to address the National Ten Year Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan (2016-2026). To view the Ten Year Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan and NOFO, click [here](#).

***Applications due February 29, 2024**

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program

Each year, FEMA publishes a funding opportunity for the Flood Mitigation Assistance grant program. Awards made under this funding opportunity will be funded, in whole or in part, with funds appropriated by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The funding priorities for this application cycle are Capacity and Capability Building Activities, Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects and Individual Flood Mitigation Projects. To learn more about eligibility and apply, click [here](#).

***Applications due February 29, 2024**

FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructures and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program

The BRIC grant program makes federal funds available to states, U.S. territories, federally recognized Tribal governments and local governments for hazard mitigation activities. It does so with a recognition of the growing hazards associated with climate change and of the need for natural hazard risk mitigation activities that promote climate adaptation and resilience with respect to those hazards. These include both acute extreme weather events and chronic stressors which have been observed and are expected to increase in intensity and frequency in the future. For FY23, FEMA will distribute up to \$1 billion for the BRIC program. To learn more about BRIC, click [here](#).

***Applications due February 29, 2024**

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**

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 Resources

Spotted Lantern Fly Alert

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has issued an alert regarding recent Spotted Lantern Fly observations in NWI. Please review the resources provided [here](#) to learn more about this invasive insect including how to report sightings.

Environmental Protection Network (EPN) 6-Step Application Process for EPA's Community Change Grant

To help applicants submit applications for EPA's Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants, EPN has created a suggested 6-step application process for Track I and Track II, including a suggested timeline. To view the suggested processes, click [here](#).

EPN Community Change Grants Program Partner and Assistance Survey

EPN created a survey which organizations can use to find partners and share information about the EPA Community Change Grants, including whether they can give or would like assistance completing the application. This survey is NOT an EPA survey and EPA did not assist with its development. To complete the survey or view responses, click [here](#).

EPA Water Reuse Information Library

EPA's Water Reuse Information Library is an interactive library designed to help water reuse practitioners access relevant and important resources, including reports and publications, fact sheets, webinar recordings and webpages. The library primarily features outputs from National Water Reuse Action Plan activities. To access the library, click [here](#).

EPA Fireside Chats

EPA hosted special guests for inspiring conversations about environmental and climate justice issues and opportunities for communities to confront and overcome pollution and climate change challenges. Each Fireside Chat discusses how the Inflation Reduction Act and other new Investing in America programs can fund solutions to address today's pressing environmental issues. EPA hopes these chats help cultivate ideas to explore these funding and technical assistance opportunities. To view the chats, click [here](#).

Tree Vitalize Common Tree Species, Planting Initiatives, and Diversity Analysis

Tree Vitalize analyzed over 5 million urban trees in 63 cities. The top 10 and 50 most frequently observed trees were identified for each city, as were local tree-planting initiatives aimed at increasing canopy cover. To view the analysis, click [here](#).

White House Fifth National Climate Assessment

The Fifth National Climate Assessment is the government's preeminent report on climate change impacts, risks and responses. It is a congressionally mandated interagency effort that provides the scientific foundation to support informed decision-making across the United States. To view the report, click [here](#).

USDA Forest Service Webinar: Growing Next Generation Scientists and Advocates for Nature in Cities

Forest Service scientists and educators, along with local practitioners and youth corps members shared how the "moss method" in Seattle's Duwamish Valley has advanced community priorities. The engagement of community leaders—both adults and youth—in data collection, analysis and communications has supported mutual-learning opportunities and resulted in urban planting, restoration and advocacy for more trees and green space as a public health solution. To view the webinar, click [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

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

[Unsubscribe vwittig@pnw.edu](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by vwittig@pnw.edu powered by



Try email marketing for free today!