



Save the Date

The Next NWI Urban Waters Partnership Meeting is January 19th, 2023

**Northwest Indiana (NWI)
Urban Waters
Partnership Meeting
Thursday, January 19th
9:30 - 11:30am (CT)**

Join the Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 959 6689 7614

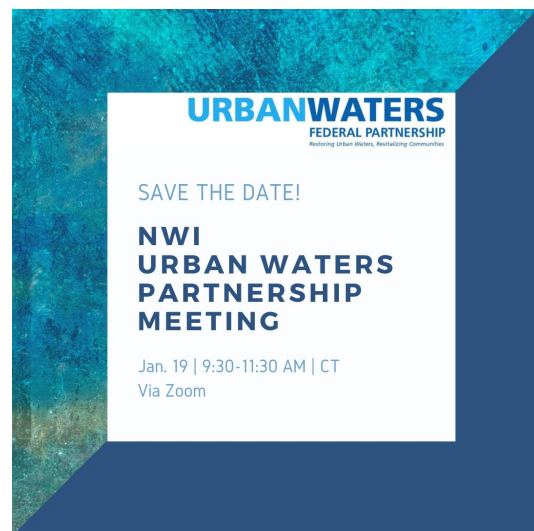
Passcode: 629480

Dial by your location

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)



Save the Dates for all four of the 2023 NWI Urban Waters Partnership Meetings

Thursday, January 19, 9:30-11:30am CT

Thursday, April 20, 9:30-11:30am CT

Thursday, July 20, 9:30-11:30am CT

Thursday, October 19, 9:30-11:30am CT

United States Geological Survey (USGS) Releases Stormwater Reduction Report

Prepared in cooperation with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the USGS recently released their report titled, "Stormwater Reduction and Water Budget for a Rain Garden on Sandy Soil, Gary, Indiana, 2016–18." The report describes the results of a monitoring project at Gary City Hall and is available [here](#).

From the abstract: "Stormwater reduction measures, or green infrastructure, were implemented in the parking area at Gary City Hall, Gary, Indiana, with the intention of

reducing stormwater discharge to the sewers... Before construction of the rain garden in the parking lot of Gary City Hall in 2017, nearly all precipitation was conveyed away from the parking lot by underground drains, discharged to the sewer, and treated as sanitary waste at the Gary Sanitary District's treatment plant or discharged directly to local waterways if stormflow exceeded capabilities of the sewage treatment plant. A goal of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is the reduction of sewer overflows to local waterways to improve the quality of water entering the Great Lakes... The percent reduction in stormwater discharged to the storm sewer after the construction of the rain garden was 80.3 percent, equating to approximately 21,400 and 39,300 gallons of stormwater in 2017 and 2018, respectively."

Stormwater Reduction and Water Budget for a Rain Garden on Sandy Soil, Gary, Indiana, 2016–18



Scientific Investigations Report 2022–5101

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

The Nature Conservancy Awarded Chi-Cal Rivers Fund Grant

[The Chi-Cal Rivers Fund partners announced](#) six projects selected to receive \$1.7 million in grant funding to improve and enhance waterways in the Chicago-Calumet region - including a project to support the work of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Northwest Indiana.

The goal of TNC's project is to conduct restoration activities on at least 500 acres in nature preserves adjacent to or near the Grand Calumet River in Lake County, Indiana. Funding will also be utilized to help

reconnect area schoolchildren and residents to the Grand Calumet River and associated dune and swale habitat through engagement, listening sessions, outreach, education, and hands-on work. A community-informed engagement report will be created for the Roxana Marsh area of East Chicago that would meet the needs of the community.

Photo Caption: The Chi-Cal Rivers Fund grant will help further restoration efforts on 500 acres of habitat, including sites such as TNC's Grand Calumet Preserve and the adjacent Seidner Dune & Swale Nature Preserve owned by Shirley Heinze Land Trust.

Below: Image of an Oak Savannah in the Grand Calumet River Area of Concern focus area.

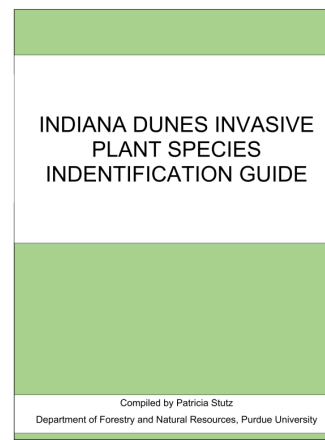


Indiana Dunes Invasive Plant Species ID Guide

Working in collaboration with the Indiana Dunes National Park (IDNP), Patricia Stutz of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue

University recently completed a guide for identifying invasive plant species in the Indiana Dunes region.

The guide is designed to help volunteers at the IDNP identify early detection/rapid response plant species that they might come across. Download a copy of this helpful new resource [here](#).



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

[AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps \(NCCC\)](#)

What could you accomplish with a team of young adults for 6-8 weeks? NCCC teams address community needs including land and water conservation and climate resiliency projects. Contact Jeff Moeur (jmoeur@cns.gov) or click [here](#) for more info.

*Applications due January 5, 2023; March 2, 2023; May 5, 2023

[Great Lakes Fishery Commission Research Program](#)

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is accepting pre-proposals for its Fishery Research Program and Sea Lamprey Research Program. Individual awards are typically between \$35,000-100,000 per year. Click [here](#) for more info.

*Pre-proposals due January 15, 2023

[Great Lakes Fishery Trust \(GLFT\) Stewardship Proposals](#)

The goal of the GLFT's Great Lakes Stewardship grants are to increase awareness and understanding of the ecology of the Great Lakes so residents can be stewards and advocates for strategies that support long-term sustainability of the Great Lakes fisheries. Apply [here](#).

*Proposals due Tuesday, January 17, 2023

[National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program](#)

The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program focuses on the stewardship and restoration of coastal, wetland and riparian ecosystems. Its goal is to meet the conservation needs of important species and habitats, providing measurable and meaningful conservation and educational outcomes. Learn more and download the Request for Proposals [here](#).

*Full Proposals due January 31, 2023

[Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant \(IISG\) College Program](#)

IISG anticipates having \$800,000 to invest in promising research projects relevant to southern Lake Michigan and surrounding coastal communities in northeast Illinois and northwest Indiana. Investigators from educational or research institutions including universities, museums, and NGOs, are eligible to serve as PI for these funds. Learn how to apply [here](#).

*Applications due February 6, 2023

[River Network Community-Led Research \(CLR\) projects and Leadership Development \(LD\) programs](#)

River Network is launching new CLR projects and LD programs in partnership with local organizations. Selected organizations receive up to \$8,000 in funding and direct technical assistance to advance their project. Priority is given to applicants who are: 1. working to advance climate resilience, 2. focused on equitable outcomes and a credible stakeholder with communities that are at greatest risk, and 3. able to leverage or contribute to existing climate resilience initiatives. For more information, contact Hannah Mico at hmico@rivernetwork.org or click [here](#).

Partner Opportunities & Resources

[Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\) Guidebook](#)

The IRA provides grant programs, loan programs and other investments for clean energy and climate action. Billions of dollars of federal funding has been specifically allocated to "Harnessing Nature-Based Solutions and Climate-Smart Agriculture to Deliver Economic, Climate, and Resilience Benefits," as outlined on page 129. Download the IRA Guidebook [here](#).

[National Wildlife Federation \(NWF\) Nature-based Solutions Funding Database](#)

The NWF has developed a comprehensive and interactive database of federal funding and technical assistance opportunities. Access the database [here](#).

[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\) Call for Nominations to New Marine and Coastal Area-based Management Advisory Committee](#)

NOAA has announced the establishment of a new Marine and Coastal Area-based Management Advisory Committee to advise the agency on science-based approaches to area-based protection, conservation, restoration, and management in coastal and marine areas, including the Great Lakes. The scope of the Committee's advice will include, but not be limited to, efforts consistent with the America the Beautiful initiative.

*Nominations due January 17, 2023

[Chicago Wilderness Alliance \(CWA\) Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion \(JEDI\) Audit](#)

The CWA JEDI Audit will help inventory and amplify JEDI work across the CWA region and find ways to better support and connect partners to further this work. The JEDI Audit is also a useful tool to help organizations take stock of JEDI practices and identify areas for improvement. Questions? Contact Dani Abboud at dabboud@brushwoodcenter.org

*Audits due January 18, 2023

[10,000 Trees Taking Root in the Calumet Region](#)

The December column by The Nature Conservancy's Susan Mihalo in the Times of Northwest Indiana.

[Climate Change Yields Uncertain Future for Great Lakes Water Levels](#)

Scientists say communities around the Great Lakes should prepare for swings in high and low water levels to boost their resilience in the face of climate change. A multi-agency panel of scientists discussed the uncertainty surrounding the effects of climate change on the Great Lakes Monday during the American Geophysical Union's fall meeting in Chicago.

[Calumet Voices, National Stories Exhibition, The Field Museum](#)

The *Calumet Voices, National Stories* exhibition is now open at The Field Museum. A collaborative effort of the Field Museum and the Calumet Curators, a group of over 15 local museums and history centers, the exhibition showcases this unique region through the collections and stories of those who know it best. Learn more, take a virtual tour or plan your in person trip [here](#).

[Wild Things 2023 Conference](#)

Scheduled for February 25, 2023, the Wild Things brings together a community of 3,000 volunteers, conservationists, and natural resource professionals to learn about the flora, fauna, and natural history of the Prairie State and beyond. Preview the program and learn how to register [here](#).

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.

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

[Unsubscribe vwittig@pnw.edu](mailto:vwittig@pnw.edu)

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

Sent by vwittig@pnw.edu powered by



Try email marketing for free today!