



Save the Date for the Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership Meeting on July 13th!

Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership Meeting

Wednesday, July 13
9:30 - 11:30am (CT)

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 983 1838 1282

Passcode: 157368

Dial in #: (312) 626-6799

[Or find your local number](#)



Please join us for the quarterly meeting of the Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership! The agenda includes:

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Partner Presentation: "*Collaborative Marsh Restoration and Community Engagement Along the West Branch of the Little Calumet River*" Daniel Suarez, Audubon Great Lakes and Harry Kuttner, The Wetlands Initiative
3. Partner Presentation: "*Chicago Wilderness Mapping Hub: A Resource for Northwest Indiana Partners*," Mark Bouman, The Field Museum
4. Partner Updates & Announcements

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

Congratulations on your retirement, Lynne Westphal!

A Message from Lynne

Well, it's been quite the decade hasn't it? A little over 10 years ago, we started working together on Urban Waters and the local Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership.

But the time has come for me to exit stage left. I will be retiring in July, after over 30 years with the US Forest Service and working in and around Calumet on a variety of projects.

It has been a pleasure to work with you all on projects important for NW Indiana that improve water ways and access to the joys of paddling, fishing, wading, and watching in the waters of the region. You all led, and we supported, important work like: opening the East Branch to paddling, figuring out ways to address high bacteria levels at Jeorse Park Beach, planting to replace trees lost to the emerald ash borer, and so much more. Your dedication and commitment to the region, its people, and the environment are inspiring. Thanks for letting me be a part of the team.



Lake Michigan Coastal Program 2023 Grant Funding Priorities Survey

The Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP) is gathering public input on 2023 funding priorities for the Coastal Grants Program through a survey that will be live until July 13th.

The information collected will be used by the Indiana Department of Natural

Resource's LMCP and its Coastal Advisory Board (CAB) to inform their decision-making process regarding funding priorities for the 2023 Coastal Grants Program grant cycle. Survey responses are voluntary and will only be shared among LMCP staff and CAB members. Funding priorities drawn from these data will be announced publicly in early August 2022.

Survey submissions will be accepted until July 13, 2022. For optimal results, please submit your input on a desktop computer. If you have any questions or need assistance submitting the survey, please contact the LMCP grant specialist [Katherine Balkema](#).

Click [here](#) for more information about the State of Indiana's privacy and data collection policy.



Please Take the LMCP Survey Before July 13th

A Survey Request from Chicago Wilderness for Northwest Indiana Partners

Chicago Wilderness (CW) is assessing its partner engagement and

communications programs and invites your participation in a survey that will be live until June 24th. The ultimate goal is to better understand your perceptions and experiences with Chicago Wilderness including the kinds of offerings, programs and efforts that you find most meaningful as a partner.

Chicago Wilderness would greatly value input, honest opinions and thoughts from Northwest Indiana agencies and organizations. Please consider completing this short (10-minute) anonymous survey and sharing it with other staff, volunteers and board members at your organization. There is no correlation between survey responses and e-mail addresses.

An executive summary of the survey will be shared with partners at the CW Executive Council meeting in July and incorporated in to the CW Green Vision that will be launched at the CW Congress this fall. If you have any questions and/or need assistance accessing the survey, please email [Laura Reilly](mailto:Laura.Reilly@chicagowilderness.org).

GREEN VISION - 2025

chicago wilderness

HUB



Please Take the Chicago Wilderness Survey by June 24th

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@nwiwp.org) to discuss your projects and ways we can help.

[National Fish and Wildlife Foundation \(NFWF\) America the Beautiful Challenge](#)

NFWF recently announced the 2022 Request for Proposals for the America the Beautiful Challenge, a public-private grant program designed to support locally-led, voluntary ecosystem restoration projects. Four project categories include 1. Implementation Grants, 2. Planning, Collaboration and Engagement, 3. Buffering Public Lands, 4. Private Land Grants. Each project category has specific criteria on eligibility, match, duration and funding available. View the [quick reference guide](#) or [FAQ page](#) for more information.

*Proposals due July 21, 2022

*Implementation Grants Award Range: \$1-5 million

*Planning, Collaboration and Engagement Award Range: \$200,000-1 million

*Buffering Public Lands Award Range: \$200,000-1 million

*Private Land Grants Award Range: \$200,000-500,000

[National Fish and Wildlife Foundation \(NFWF\) Chi-Cal Rivers Fund](#)

The Chi-Cal Rivers Fund (Fund) is inviting applications for competitive grant funding. With a focus on the major waterways of the Chicago and Calumet region, the program will award grants to reduce stormwater runoff with green infrastructure, enhance fish and wildlife habitat and improve public access to and use of natural areas. Major waterways in Northwest Indiana eligible for this funding include the Grand Calumet River, the West Branch of the Little Calumet River and the East Branch of the Little Calumet River. The Request for Proposals is available [here](#).

*Proposals due July 25, 2022

*Award Range: \$150,000-350,000

*Click [here](#) to register for the applicant webinar on Thursday, June 23, 1:00-2:00pm CT

[Indiana's Next Level Conservation Trust](#)

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has announced the formation of the new Next Level Conservation Trust (NLCT). The \$25 million funding for the NLCT will be largest single infusion of state dollars into conservation in the state's history. The NLCT has been created to preserve and protect important conservation, recreation, and historic areas throughout Indiana through new property acquisitions. Click [here](#) for program guidelines or contact [Tom Laycock](#) for more information.

*Proposals due August 1, 2022

*Minimum Funding: \$100,000; 3:1 match required

[Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grants \(UAIP\) from the United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)

UAIP grants are divided into two categories: planning and implementation projects. Planning projects may target areas of food access; education; business and start-up costs for new farmers; and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production. Implementation projects accelerate existing and emerging models of urban, indoor, and other agricultural practices. View the [webinar](#) or click [here](#) to learn more.

*Proposals due August 2, 2022

*Award Range: \$50,000-300,000, No match required

[National Science Foundation \(NSF\) Disaster Resilience Research Grants](#)

With this joint solicitation, the NSF and the U.S Department of Commerce (DOC) National Institute for Standards and Technology call for proposals for research to advance fundamental understanding of disaster resilience in support of improved, science-based planning, policy, decisions, design, codes, and standards. For more information, click [here](#).

*Applications due August 19, 2022

*Award Range: \$200,000-400,000, No match required

[Composting and Food Waste Reduction \(CFWR\) Pilot Projects from the USDA](#)

The Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is soliciting applications for CFWR pilot projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans. View the [webinar](#) or click [here](#) to learn more.

*Applications due September 1, 2022

*Available Funding: \$45,000-300,000, Match required

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program 2022](#)

This voluntary, community-based program provides technical and financial assistance to coastal communities, conservation partners, and landowners to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands. Ideal Coastal Program habitat improvement projects will strive to increase coastal resiliency by improving the ability of coastal ecosystems to adapt to environmental changes and supporting natural and nature-based infrastructure projects to protect and enhance coastal habitats.

* Deadline: September 22

* Award ceiling: \$200,000; No match required

[Indiana Clean Water State Revolving Fund \(CWSRF\) Loan Program](#)

Indiana's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Loan Program provides low-interest-rate financing to construct water quality protection projects, including sewer line extensions to existing unsewered properties. Click [here](#) to access the application. Contact Jacob Schmicker for more information by email (jschmicker@ifa.in.gov) or phone (317) 232-4396.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Resources and Opportunities

[Background and Purpose](#)

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) was signed into law on Nov. 15, 2021, to improve and modernize the nation's aging infrastructure. The legislation will deliver \$550 billion of new federal investments over the next five years, including money for roads, bridges, mass transit, rail, airports, ports and waterways. Tens of billions of dollars are authorized toward improving water systems.

[The White House released a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Guidebook](#) to let stakeholders know what to apply for, whom to contact and how to get ready to rebuild.

The BIL's investment in clean water is a generation-defining opportunity that deserves unique strategic planning, innovative thinking and quick action to maximize the impact of these funds in Urban Waters communities. Below is a compilation of key resources to help inform NWI Urban Waters stakeholders on BIL including how to plan and apply for projects.

[Urban Waters Federal Partnership Agency Infrastructure Landing Pages](#)

[U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)

[Department of Agriculture](#)

[Department of Energy](#)

[Department of the Interior](#)

[Department of Transportation](#)

[Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Federal Emergency Management Agency](#)

[EPA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Fact Sheets](#)

These fact sheets include information on SRFs, investments in Tribal Nations and their communities and investments on Superfund sites from BIL funding.

[Implementation of the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Provisions of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)

The EPA released its guidance on implementation of the funding and policy changes included for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). This guidance, which takes the form of a memo to states, will guide collaborative implementation with state, territorial, local, and Tribal partners of \$43 billion in SRF investments through the BIL.

[Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Resources from the River Network](#)

This webpage includes a video recording of the peer call "What's in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for Water" with downloadable presentation slides, as well as multiple resources from the water community and federal government.

[Competitive Infrastructure Funding Opportunities for Local Governments Factsheet](#)

This fact sheet offers 25 infrastructure funding opportunities for local governments, organized by the following categories: transportation; climate, energy and environment; broadband, cyber and other programs; and other opportunities. It concludes with six steps cities can take to begin to coordinate across their departments and with metropolitan planning organizations to apply for these opportunities.

[EPA Solicitations for Brownfield Funding](#)

This webpage offers solicitation notices and guidance for competitive and non-competitive funding opportunities offered by the Brownfields Program.

Employment Opportunities

[Lake County Parks & Recreation Seasonal Stewardship Technician](#)

The Lake County Parks and Recreation Department seeks a Stewardship Technician for restoration, invasive species management and park maintenance at Gibson Woods and for the Little Calumet River Corridor.

[Indiana Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Director](#)

The Urban Forestry Director manages and directs the statewide Community and Urban Forestry Program (CUF). The Director will develop program initiatives that meet the needs of various communities while educating others about responsible use of natural resources. Although the Director serves in the Division of Forestry, they will collaborate with other divisions and agencies to ensure program success.

[LaPorte County Soil & Water Conservation District Education Coordinator](#)

The Education Coordinator for the LaPorte County Soil & Water Conservation District is responsible for providing educational programs to the people of LaPorte County, industries/businesses, public/private organizations and local government.

Other Useful Resources

[EPA EJScreen: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool](#)

The environmental justice (EJ) mapping and screening tool from EPA is based on nationally consistent data and an approach that combines environmental and demographic indicators in maps and reports. To learn more about how to use EJScreen, click [here](#).

[U.S. Geological Survey Water Data for the Nation](#)

U.S. Geological Survey investigates the occurrence, quantity, quality, distribution and movement of surface and underground waters and disseminates the data to the public, state and local governments, public and private utilities and other Federal agencies involved with managing our water resources. To view the publicly available data on areas like water quality and water use, click [here](#).

[International Water Association \(IWA\) Climate Resilient Water Safety Planning Webinar](#)

Water Safety Plans are recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and IWA as the most effective means of ensuring the safety and acceptability of drinking water supply. Addressing climate hazards using a Water Safety Plan enables utilities to increase flexibility and become more responsive to hazardous events such as floods and drought before they threaten the water supply. Panelists in this webinar from WHO and IWA discuss how to integrate climate information into water safety planning. To view the webinar, click [here](#).

[Rising Waters: Climate Change Impacts and Toxic Risks to Lake Michigan's Shoreline Communities](#)

This report and companion [fact sheet](#) from the Environmental Law & Policy Center identifies twelve areas, including two in Northwest Indiana, where high lake levels and strong storms could impact industrial facilities, contaminated sites, and communities along Lake Michigan.

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.