



## Northwest Indiana (NWI) Urban Waters Partnership Meeting Thursday, July 20

**NWI Urban Waters  
Partnership Meeting  
Thursday, July 20, 2023  
9:30-11:30am CDT**

**[Indiana Dunes Visitor Center](#)**

1215 IN-49, Porter, IN 46304  
View on map [here](#).

**[Join Zoom Meeting](#)**

Meeting ID: 923 2469 6114

Passcode: 630183

Dial by your location

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Find your local number: <https://purdue-edu.zoom.us/j/92324696114>



**This meeting will be held in-person with a virtual call-in option available.**

We hope you will join us in person if you are able - we'll enjoy networking and a tour of the Indiana Dunes Indigenous Cultural Trail after the meeting!

**Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Partner Presentation: "Indiana Dunes Indigenous Cultural Trail Project," Christine Livingston, [Indiana Dunes Tourism](#)
4. Partner Presentation: "Our Once and Future Wetlands: Art, Ecology and Engineering," Lindsay Olson, Artist-in-Residence at [The Wetlands Initiative](#)
5. Partner Updates & Announcements

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

**Save the Date for the final NWI Urban Waters Partnership Meeting of 2023**

Thursday, October 19, 9:30-11:30am CST at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk

**Conservation Action Planning in the Calumet  
Region Report Available**

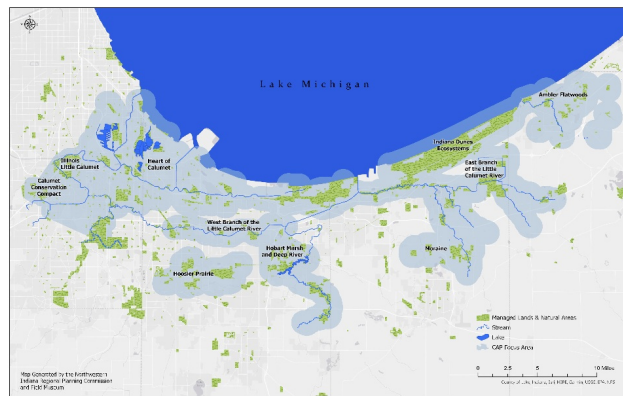
The Calumet Land Conservation Partnership (CLCP) has completed a series of "Conservation Action Plans," or "CAPs," describing conservation focus areas across the Calumet region. Within each CAP, details on conservation targets, human well-being targets, conservation threats and conservation strategies are described.

The most recent report, "Conservation Action Planning in the Calumet Region," includes CAPs for the bi-state "Heart of Calumet" focus area, the Ecosystems of the Indiana Dunes, Hobart Marsh & Deep River and the East Branch of the Little Calumet River. Previous CAPs have been completed for the West Branch of the Little Calumet River, the Illinois Little Calumet River, Hoosier Prairie, Moraine and Ambler Flatwoods. CLCP partners involved in the creation

of these CAPs include Save the Dunes, The Field Museum, Shirley Heinze Land Trust, Openlands, Audubon Great Lakes, The National Park Conservation Association, The Wetlands Initiative and a variety of stakeholders from across the region. You may access the reports by clicking on the buttons included below or visiting [savedunes.org/resources](https://savedunes.org/resources).

## CONSERVATION ACTION PLANNING in the CALUMET REGION

A project of the Calumet Land Conservation Partnership



### Executive Summary

Across the Calumet region of Northwest Indiana and Southeast Chicagoland, conservation partners have undertaken dedicated work for many years in ten focus areas that represent diverse ecosystems, river corridors and the impressive biodiversity they collectively support. Unique combinations of partners and stakeholders have produced "Conservation Action Plans," (CAPs) for nine of these focus areas to strategically advance their work toward shared conservation goals. In this document, the CAPs developed for the nine focus areas are aligned around a shared framework to facilitate comparison, coordination and broad regional impact.

Conservation action planning provides a globally recognized framework for engaging in conservation work to benefit people and the environment (1-3). Utilizing this framework, a CAP was developed for the West Branch of the Little Calumet River, Hoosier Prairie, Moraine, Ambler Flatwoods and the Illinois Little Calumet River using traditional workshops and partner engagement strategies (4-6). CAPs for four focus areas including the Heart of Calumet, Ecosystems of the Indiana Dunes, the East Branch of the Little Calumet River and Hobart Marsh & Deep River are presented for the first time in this document. These four CAPs were developed

by identifying key conservation action planning elements from existing planning documents, strategic frameworks, workplans, reports, presentations and personal communications.

"Conservation partners," including conservation organizations, land managers, planning organizations and other stakeholders contributed to the development of the fundamental aspects of each CAP including: a conservation vision, geographic scope, focus area map, conservation targets, human well-being targets, conservation threats and conservation strategies.

One goal of the CAPs is to facilitate communications with new and existing conservation partners, community stakeholders, potential funding bodies and more. As with all conservation work, conservation action planning is never truly finished; the CAPs provide a shared framework to enable conservation partners to adjust the targets, threats and strategies according to new information and opportunities as they arise, including the development of collaborative workplans, grant-funded projects and community engagement initiatives. In this way the CAPs become living documents that can help guide conservation progress across the bi-state Calumet region for years to come.

Conservation Action Planning in the Calumet Region Report

West Branch of the Little Calumet River CAP

Hoosier Prairie, Moraine & Ambler Flatwoods CAP

Illinois Little Calumet River CAP

## Partner Spotlight: Rahim Evans, Community Outreach Coordinator for IDEM

Rahim Evans is the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM) Community Outreach Coordinator for Lake Michigan Programs and the Grand Calumet River Area of Concern (AOC). Evans started with IDEM in July of 2022. Since that time, he has been enjoying learning about

and visiting sites that have been undergoing restoration in the AOC communities. His favorite site to visit is Gibson Woods Nature Preserve which includes globally rare dune and swales ecosystems. Evans is passionate about connecting others to opportunities to advance work in the AOC and extends an open invitation to partners interested in meeting to discuss their projects and initiatives. He may be reached by email at: [rpevans@idem.in.gov](mailto:rpevans@idem.in.gov)



## Push for Regional Recognition as Calumet National Heritage Area

The Calumet Heritage Partnership, One Region and The Field Museum have been spearheading a push to get the bi-state Calumet region federal recognition as a National Heritage Area. The designation would boost the Calumet region's stature, help highlight its unique assets, draw visitors, improve placemaking, strengthen residents' sense of connection to their home, and attract new residents and



businesses. On a recent tour with local leaders, Mark Bouman, Chicago Region Program Director of the Keller Science Action Center of The Field Museum said, "The Calumet region landscape is naturally diverse and way more than you would think in the middle of the Midwest. It's where the prairie, forest, boreal forest and other habitats come together in a compelling way. Industry sparked a labor response and people came from around the world. It spans two states, six counties and 75 municipalities. It has a lot to say about what's great about the country and the challenges the country faces and the question of how do we make it better." Visit [calumetheritagearea.org](http://calumetheritagearea.org) to learn more. Read a recent article in The Times of Northwest Indiana [here](#). Contact Mark Bouman directly at: [mbouman@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:mbouman@fieldmuseum.org)

## 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.*

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

NFWF is inviting applications for the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund. 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. View the RFP [here](#). View the Applicant Webinar [here](#).

\*Award Range: \$150,000 - \$400,000

\*Proposals Due: July 18, 2023

#### [Unity Foundation Power for Good Grants](#)

Power for Good grants are available on a competitive basis to qualified nonprofit organizations, governmental bodies, and teachers serving La Porte County. Applicants may submit one application and are encouraged to contact The Unity Foundation prior to completing their application. Learn more [here](#).

\*Award Maximum: \$5,000

\*Proposals Due: July 21, 2023

#### [NFWF Conservation Partners Program](#)

The Conservation Partners Program will fund projects that provide agricultural producers with technical assistance to adopt regenerative agriculture systems and conservation practices on their working lands, including within the Great Lakes Basin. Read the RFP [here](#). View the Applicant Webinar [here](#).

\*Award Range: \$100,000 - \$600,000

\*Proposals Due: July 26, 2023

#### [USDA Technical Assistance and Construction for Innovative for Innovative Regional Wastewater Treatment Solutions](#)

The Technical Assistance and Construction for Innovative Regional Wastewater Treatment Solutions (TAC-RWTS) Grant Pilot Program has been established for the study, design or construction of innovative treatment solutions of regional wastewater systems for historically impoverished communities that have had difficulty installing traditional wastewater treatment systems due to soil conditions. Learn more [here](#).

\*Applications Due: July 31, 2023

#### [U.S. Geological Survey \(USGS\) Urban Waters Federal Partnership](#)

USGS UWFP funded activities include a wide range of water-quality related monitoring, assessment, management practice evaluation, and educational activities. These projects are done in cooperation with municipal, state, and regional partners focused on restoring and revitalizing urban waterways. To learn more about how to apply, contact Dave Lampe at [dclampe@usgs.gov](mailto:dclampe@usgs.gov) or 317-416-7448

\*Award Range: \$75,000 - \$100,000

\*Pre-proposal Due: August 4, 2023

#### [EPA Great Lakes Environmental Justice Grant Program](#)

EPA's newly created Great Lakes Environmental Justice Grant Program will fund implementation of environmental protection and restoration projects that further the goals of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in communities with environmental justice concerns. To learn more about eligibility criteria and the program description, view the RFP [here](#).

\*Award Range: \$2-10 million for regional programs

\*Applications Due: August 11, 2023

#### [U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration - PROTECT Program \(Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation\)](#)

The purpose of the PROTECT Program is to plan for and strengthen surface transportation to be more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters. The vision of the Program is to fund projects that address the climate crisis by improving the resilience of the surface transportation system, including highways, public transportation, ports, and intercity passenger rail. View the Notice of Funding Opportunity [here](#).

\*Award Minimum: \$100,000

\*Applications Due: August 18, 2023

### [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Resilience Regional Challenge](#)

Track One funding can be used to initiate new, regional-scale collaborations or to advance existing partnerships focused on climate resilience with the goal of collectively moving more coastal communities closer to taking action, especially those that are marginalized, underserved, or underrepresented. Track Two provides funding for applicants to implement coordinated adaptation efforts that support a holistic vision for resilience and build the capacity of the communities in a region to sustain efforts into the future, especially those communities that are marginalized, underserved, and underrepresented. View the the grant notice [here](#). View the Notice of Funding Opportunity [here](#).

\*Track One Award Range: \$500,000 - \$2 million

\*Track Two Award Range: \$15 million - \$75 million

\*Letter of Intent Due: August 21, 2023

\*Full Proposal Due: February 12, 2024

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## Partner Opportunities & Resources

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### [Chicago Region Trees Initiative \(CRTI\) Trees and Tacos Arboriculture Career Fair](#)

CRTI partners invite you to join them on Friday, August 25 from 2-5 p.m. at the Thatcher Woods Pavilion in River Forest to get connected to local career and volunteer opportunities. The fair will focus on immersive ways to introduce new people to our dynamic field, with demonstrations and professional equipment, booths hosted by tree care companies and forestry degree programs with open positions and advice, and a taco truck with free tacos for the first 100 attendees. Register [here](#).

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

IISG is asking for your assistance in enhancing the workforce development content on their [website](#) by completing a brief survey [here](#). This survey is designed to gain input regarding natural resources career information and to strengthen the ties between IISG and our partners.

### [Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Announced](#)

EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy are cooperatively funding awards to 14 regional and 3 national Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (EJ TCTAC). The network of centers will provide direct technical assistance, training and capacity building support to communities and organizations to advance environmental and energy justice priorities. This includes two Region 5 grants totaling \$20 million dollars. View the full list of awardees [here](#).

### [EPA Clean Water State Revolving Fund Webinar Series](#)

These recorded webinars feature professionals from around the country sharing their expertise on a range of topics related to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and how the fund can be used for a variety of projects. To view the webinars, click [here](#).

### [EPA Inflation Reduction Act Website](#)

The EPA Inflation Reduction Act website has information about EPA's current and upcoming funding opportunities from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. Explore funding and projects related to environmental justice, climate change and addressing air pollution. To view the website, click [here](#).

### [White House State-by-State Fact Sheets on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)

The White House Infrastructure Implementation Team released new state-by-state fact sheets which outline the progress of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in all 50 states, Washington D.C. and U.S. territories as of January 13, 2023. To view the fact sheets, click [here](#).

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*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

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