

## Please mark your calendars! The Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Federal Partnership will meet in-person on Thursday, April 18, 2024

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

### **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 active in the region.



### **Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Partner Presentation: "EPA Environmental Justice Programs," Jesse Cassiano, Senior Community Engagement Specialist of the Environmental Justice, Community Health and Environmental Review Division
4. Networking & Engagement Session
5. 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)

## Indiana Dunes National Park Welcomes New Superintendent, Dr. Jason Taylor

The National Park Service (NPS) has selected Dr.

Jason Taylor (pictured right) as the new superintendent of Indiana Dunes National Park in Porter, Indiana. Dr. Taylor is an experienced resource and land management leader who currently serves as the Director of the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute (ALWRI) for the United States Forest Service (USFS) located in Missoula, Montana. He will assume his new role at Indiana Dunes later this spring.



“I am excited to welcome Jason back to the NPS as the new superintendent of Indiana Dunes,” said NPS Midwest Regional Director Bert Frost. “His ability to manage resources through integrating science and ecology with land use principles will be a great asset to the park and the interdisciplinary team of professionals who steward it.”

Dr. Taylor brings over 15 years of federal service with him to Indiana Dunes National Park. He began his federal career working for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the White River Field Office. He previously worked with the NPS in 2013 as the chief of natural resource management and science at Cape Cod National Seashore before joining the NPS’s Alaska regional chief of natural resources. He would go on to be superintendent at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Skagway, Alaska before joining the U.S. Forest Service. As Director for ALWRI, Dr. Taylor leads an interagency effort dedicated to the development and dissemination of science crucial to the stewardship of nearly 112 million acres of land in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

“Having spent most of my career in faraway places, I am excited to return home to serve the people and resources of the Great Lakes states,” Dr. Taylor said. “I am looking forward to joining the talented park staff and contributing to the exceptional work already happening to care for a place that’s so special, ecologically and culturally, and to the community and partners.”

Dr. Taylor earned a Doctorate and Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environment from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Michigan – Flint. Jason and his wife Jennifer, along with their two young children, will be relocating to the Dunes area in early May. In his personal time, Jason enjoys traveling, photography, woodworking, and spending time with his family exploring the natural world.

Read the full news release [here](#).

## Indiana Department of Environmental Management Seeks Stakeholder Input on Nonpoint Source Management Plan

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is conducting a short online survey to gain input from stakeholders in Indiana as they begin to revise the Indiana State Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Plan. Stakeholder participation will help assist IDEM in the 2024 revision of the Indiana State NPS Management Plan so the program best reflects stakeholder interests. All responses will remain anonymous.

The survey will take approximately five minutes to complete and is available [here](#). To view previous NPS Management Plans click [here](#).



# Chicago Wilderness Alliance Congress 2024 Call for Proposals

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 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!



Learn more about Congress and how to submit a proposal [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@nwipartnership.org) to discuss your projects and ways we can help.*

### **Legacy Foundation Transform Lake County Grant**

Transform Lake County Grants will continue to support Lake County communities with a sharpened focus on the most pressing challenges our community is facing today: systemic racism and racial injustice and the underinvestment and lack of infrastructure in under-resourced and marginalized communities across Lake County. The award range is \$2,000-5,000. Learn more [here](#).

*\*Applications due April 1, 2024*

### **NIPSCO Environmental Action Grant**

Each spring, NIPSCO supports environmental restoration and education projects and programs throughout northern Indiana with funding from the Environmental Action Grant. Grants are available in the amount of \$500 to \$5,000. Eligible organizations must be a 501(c)3 or other non-profit as determined by the Internal Revenue Service with an environmental restoration or education project or program and have a direct impact in the NIPSCO service area. Learn more [here](#).

*\*Applications due April 5, 2024*

### **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) National Coastal Resilience Fund**

NFWF, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, released a request for proposals for the FY 2024 National Coastal Resilience Fund. Funded projects will restore, increase, and strengthen natural infrastructure—the landscapes that help absorb the impacts of storms and floods—to ultimately protect coastal communities and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. This year, the fund will invest approximately \$140 million in projects. Pre-proposals are due Wednesday April 10, 2024. Applicants invited to submit a full proposal will have a Tuesday July 2, 2024, deadline. The complete request for proposals can be found [here](#).

*\*Pre-proposals due April 10, 2024*

### **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Pollution Prevention (P2) Source Reduction (SRA) Grant**

EPA funds SRA grants to support research, investigation, experiments, surveys, study, demonstration, education and training using source reduction approaches (also known as P2 or pollution prevention). EPA is particularly interested in projects that promote practical source reduction practices, tools, and training on P2 approaches to measurably improve

human and environmental health by reducing the use of hazardous substances, reducing toxic pollutants, reducing resource use (e.g., water and energy) and reducing expenditures and liability costs to businesses, non-profit organizations and/or communities. Learn more [here](#).

*\*Applications due April 15, 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*

### **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*

### **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*

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## **Partner Resources**

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### **Indiana Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC) Intake Forms Now Open**

Purdue Extension Community Development is the Indiana partner for the Great Lakes Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC). The TCTAC's mission is to support community organizations in successfully navigating funding opportunities to access the resources they need to lead in the transition to clean energy, pollution clean-up, and green workforce development. We seek to help communities leverage unprecedented state and federal funds to transform their communities for generations to come. Learn more about the TCTAC [here](#). View the Technical Assistance Intake Form [here](#).

### **EPA Informational Webinar: Coastal Ecosystems Climate Resilience Funding Opportunity**

**Program — April 2, 2024** — EPA program experts will lead a presentation to discuss the objectives, research areas and eligibility requirements within the Request for Applications (RFA). The program experts will answer questions during a Q&A session following the presentation. A copy of the webinar presentation will be available to all interested applicants who join the webinar and to those unable to join. Presentation slides will be posted on the Coastal Ecosystems Climate Resilience RFA webpage. To register, click [here](#).

**EPA Trash Free Waters Plastics & Climate: Exploring What We Know, Impacts on Vulnerable Communities, and How to Solve the Problem — April 2, 2024** — During this webinar, three expert panelists will provide information on the effects of plastic consumption and production on climate change and answer questions about this serious problem. Closed captioning will be available during the webinar. To register, click [here](#).

**EPA Informational Webinar: Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program**  
— April 9, 2024 — During this webinar, the EPA WIFIA team will provide an overview of the WIFIA program and describe the various benefits and flexibilities of WIFIA financing. To register, click [here](#).

**EPA Informational Webinar: Overview of FY 2024 – FY 2025 P2 Grant Program**

This webinar will provide an overview of the P2 Grant program and the application submission process to help potential applicants submit high-quality applications to EPA for consideration and to highlight additional resources available to applicants. To register for the April 11 webinar, click [here](#).

**i-Tree Open Academy Spring 2024**

The i-Tree Open Academy virtual learning series is back for spring 2024, with information about the latest i-Tree suite of tools. This seminar-style offering will serve as both a refresher and an introduction to the newest tools and features, with one-hour virtual sessions over a six-week period. There is no fee for the Academy. To learn more and register, click [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](#).

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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 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

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