



## Lake Michigan Fisheries Workshop

Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Purdue Extension, Purdue Forestry and Natural Resources, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are hosting Dr. Peter Euclide for a free Fisheries Workshop from 6:00-8:30pm (CST) on Wednesday, November 16.

Learn about lake trout spawning reef structure, fish assemblages, new efforts to rebrand Asian carp as Copi, and the latest Indiana DNR report on fish populations in Southern Lake Michigan.

This is a hybrid event that will be held both online and in-person at the Whiting Public Library. To learn more and register click [here](#).



## NIRPC Invites NWI Communities to Complete Natural Hazards Resiliency Needs Assessment

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) invites local municipal and county governments in Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties to complete a needs assessment to evaluate potential impacts of natural hazards and to identify planning and mitigation actions that help increase resilience by December 30, 2022.

More information about the needs assessment and its many benefits is available [here](#). Download the PDF assessment tool [here](#).

An in-person "Lunch & Learn" will be offered on Tuesday, November 15th between 11:30-2:00 (CST) in the Lake Michigan Room at NIRPC on 6100 Southport Rd, Portage, IN.

Respondents are encouraged to reach out to Jen Birchfield at [jbirchfield@nirpc.org](mailto:jbirchfield@nirpc.org) or (219) 254-2511 with questions, for guidance on completing the assessment and to submit completed forms by the deadline on December 30, 2022.

Below: Three images showing 1. flooded streets, 2. coastal erosion from wave action and 3. river bed erosion in a wooded area.



# Indiana Dunes National Park Conducts Prescribed Burns to Bolster Biodiversity & Manage Natural Areas

Prescribed fire is a critical land management tool in conservation areas across Northwest Indiana and beyond. Meticulous planning is required for highly-trained burn technicians to conduct a prescribed burn and even then, weather conditions must be perfect to ensure the protection of surrounding communities and natural areas in order for plans to be given the green light.



A wildland firefighter lights leaves on fire during a controlled burn Nov. 7 at the Indiana Dunes National Park. John J. Watkins, The Times

This was the case at the Indiana Dunes National Park recently and was the [front page story in an article by Molly Devore in the Sunday edition of the Times of NWI titled, "Why wildland firefighters set flame to thousands of acres of national park land every year."](#)

Interested in connecting with the experts to learn more about prescribed burns? Please reach out to the NWI Urban Waters Ambassador, Victoria Wittig (vwittig@pnw.edu) to set up a meeting.

## 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.*

### [The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission \(NIRPC\) Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#)

NIRPC recently released their NOFA for projects focused on improving safety for roadway users, carbon reduction, transit-oriented development, and infrastructure resiliency. Applicants are encouraged to call **219-763-6060** to schedule a meeting with NIRPC staff to address questions and/or to discuss possible projects. View a recent informational workshop [here](#). Applications are available for download [here](#).

\*Applications due November 18, 2022

### [US EPA Brownfields Grants](#)

Grants offered by the Brownfields Program may be used to address sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. To learn more click [here](#).

\*Applications due November 22, 2022

\*Award range: \$500,000 to \$2 million

### [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](mailto:jmoeur@cns.gov)) or click [here](#) for more info.

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

### [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](mailto:jschmicker@ifa.in.gov)) or phone (317) 232-4396.

## Partner Opportunities & Resources

### [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](#).

\*Registration Opens November 15, 2022

### [Presentation: The Gem of Chicago Wilderness: Ecology & Restoration of One of the Greatest Ecological Regions in the U.S.](#)

This presentation will cover how our NWI became such an ecological gem with a look at inspiring habitats and the need for ongoing restoration. This free program will be held at Gabis Arboretum of Purdue University Northwest from 2:00-4:30pm CST on Saturday, November 19th. Register [here](#).

## Save the Date

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

**Northwest Indiana  
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)

Thank you for  
joining the  
October  
meeting!

Save the Date for the first  
partnership meeting of 2023 on  
January 19th from 9:30-11:30am CST

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

October NWI Urban Waters

Thursday, January 19, 9:30-11:30am  
Thursday, April 20, 9:30-11:30am  
Thursday, July 20, 9:30-11:30am  
Thursday, October 19, 9:30-11:30am

Partnership Meeting Notes

*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

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