



**Reminder: The Quarterly Meeting of the
Northwest Indiana Urban Waters
Federal Partnership
is tomorrow, Thursday, October 19, 2023**

**Northwest Indiana Urban Waters
Federal Partnership Meeting
Thursday, October 19, 2023
9:30-11:30am CST**

This meeting will be held in-person with a virtual call-in option available as per the details below.

[Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion](#)

100 Riverwalk Dr, Portage, IN 46368
View location on the map [here](#).

Parking fees will be waived for meeting participants



[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 914 4655 0596

Passcode: 054879

Dial by your location

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Find your local number: <https://purdue-edu.zoom.us/j/91446550596>

*WIFI connectivity may be unstable on the Lakefront. Please consider joining in-person if you are able to!

[Agenda](#)

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Partner Presentation: "Biodiversity Goals and Pollinator Habitat on NIPSCO Right-of-Ways," Steve Barker, Environmental Principal, NIPSCO
4. Partner Presentation: "Application of Environmental DNA (eDNA) in Restoration and Conservation Ecology," Murulee Byappanahalli, Research Microbiologist, US Geological Survey Great Lakes Science Center
5. Partner Updates & Announcements

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

Volunteer Plug Planting Opportunity at Highland Rookery Wetland

Please join The Wetlands Initiative, The Nature Conservancy, Lake County Parks & Rec., and Audubon Great Lakes in the planting of several thousand native sedges and wildflowers at Highland Rookery Wetland!

This is a family friendly event.

Register [here](#).

When: Thursday, October 26, 2023
from 1:00 – 3:30 pm

Where: 8445 Liable Rd, Highland, IN
46322



*Parking is available at the southwest corner of the site, along Liable Road.

Student Conservation Association Volunteer Tree Planting Opportunities

[Student Conservation Association \(SCA\) Tree Planting Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Calling all tree stewards, advocates and CommuniTree supporters! The SCA is hosting four volunteer tree planting opportunities throughout the month of October. Register for one or all of the dates via the links below.

- Oct. 7 - <https://bit.ly/48eYUYy>
- Oct. 14 - <https://bit.ly/3sXquJT>
- Oct. 21 - <https://bit.ly/3LlySZF>
- Oct. 28 - <https://bit.ly/3sXvspX>



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](#) to discuss your projects and ways we can help.

[US Army Corps of Engineers Section 165\(a\) Pilot Program for Water Resources Projects for Small or Disadvantaged Communities](#)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is launching a pilot program to fully fund small water resources projects for economically disadvantaged communities. Project proposals under this pilot program are for projects under the Continuing Authorities Program that allow the Corps to plan, design, and implement water resources projects without additional project specific congressional authorization. To learn more, click [here](#).

*Award Range: \$500,000-\$12.5 million
*Project Proposals Due: October 20, 2023

[USDA Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative \(GLRI\) Forest Restoration Grant](#)

The GLRI was launched in 2010 to accelerate efforts to protect and restore one of the largest systems of fresh surface water in the world—the Great Lakes. As one of 16 GLRI regional working group members, the US Forest Service awards competitive grants to assist organizations and communities who are taking creative approaches to improve habitats and water quality. The US Forest Service is anticipating awarding more than 5 million in new funds for mitigating forest insect and disease impacts, reducing runoff from degraded sites through green infrastructure and restoring and connecting coastal and riparian forest habitats in the Great Lakes Basin. To learn more, click [here](#). To view the RFA, click [here](#).

*Award Range: \$50,000-\$300,000
*Applications Due: October 23, 2023

[USDA Forest Service GLRI Cooperative Weed Management Grant](#)

The Forest Service anticipates that \$1.25M in new funds are expected to be available for the Fiscal Year 2023 GLRI Cooperative Weed Management Areas grant program. The goal of this program is to detect, prevent, eradicate, and/or control invasive plant species to promote resiliency, watershed stability, and biological diversity on Federal, State, or other public or private land. To view the RFA, click [here](#).

*Award Range: \$25,000-\$100,000
*Applications Due: October 23, 2023

[USBR WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects](#)

The USBR Drought Response Program invites eligible applicants to submit proposals for projects that can increase water management flexibility as part of preparing for and addressing the impacts of drought and water supply shortages. To view the NOFO, click [here](#).

*Award Range: \$25,000-\$5,000,000
*Applications Due: October 31, 2023

[US EPA Environmental Education \(EE\) Grants](#)

Under the EE Grants Program, EPA seeks applications from eligible entities to support environmental education projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment. This grant program provides financial support for projects that design, demonstrate or disseminate environmental education practices, methods or techniques. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations. To learn more about eligibility and how to apply, click [here](#).

*Award Range: \$50,000-\$100,000
*Applications Due: November 8, 2023

[US Department of Transportation Thriving Communities Program](#)

The Thriving Communities Program (TCP) provides technical assistance, planning and capacity building support to teams of community partners that may lack the staffing or technical expertise to scope, fund and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. TCP will provide two years of deep-dive assistance and three years of facilitated peer learning support to selected communities to help them plan and develop a pipeline of comprehensive transportation, housing and community revitalization activities. Interested applicants must identify community partners and together submit a [Letter of Interest](#). To learn how to apply, click [here](#).

*Award Range: \$1,000,000-\$5,000,000
*Letter of Interest Due: November 15, 2023

[NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants](#)

Projects selected through this funding opportunity will have a transformative impact for coastal communities and tribes across the country. They will help sustain our nation's

fisheries, make significant strides in the recovery of threatened and endangered species, and help protect coastal communities and ecosystems from the impacts of climate change. They will support efforts such as reconnecting rivers to their historic floodplains, outplanting corals to rebuild reefs, building living shorelines that protect coasts from erosion and sea level rise, and more. To view the NOFO, click [here](#).

*Award Range: \$1-\$25 million

*Applications Due: November 17, 2023

[NOAA Climate Ready Workforce for Coastal and Great Lakes States, Tribes and Territories Initiatives](#)

NOAA's Climate Program Office, Office for Coastal Management and National Sea Grant Office will assist communities in coastal and Great Lakes states, territories and tribes so they may form partnerships that train workers and place them into jobs that enhance climate resilience. This opportunity is open to state, tribal, territorial and local governments, institutions of higher education, and non-profit organizations in coastal states or territories. To learn more about eligibility and the application process, click [here](#).

*Award Range: \$500,000-\$5 million

*Letters of Intent Due: November 30, 2023

[USBR WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program \(CWMP\)](#)

The USBR 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. To view the program factsheet, click [here](#).

*Award Range: \$10,000-\$300,000

*First Round Applications Due: December 5, 2023

[NOAA Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities](#)

\$45 million in funding is available for projects that will advance the coastal habitat restoration and climate resilience priorities of tribes and underserved communities under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. Through this funding, NOAA will help support community-driven habitat restoration and build the capacity of Tribes and underserved communities to more fully participate in restoration activities. To learn more about eligibility and the application process, click [here](#).

*Award Range: \$75,000-\$3,000,000

*Applications Due: December 19, 2023

[USDA Forest Service Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program](#)

This competitive grant program provides financial assistance to Indian Tribes, local governments and qualified conservation non-profit organizations to establish community forests through the fee simple acquisition of private forest land. To apply, interested local government and nonprofit applicants must submit applications to the State Forester where the property is located. To view the RFA, click [here](#).

*Award Maximum: \$600,000

*Applications Due: January 12, 2023

[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. To learn how to apply, click [here](#).

*Award Range: \$150,000-\$1 million

*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.

*Award Maximum: \$30,000

*Rolling application window open

Partner Resources

[Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\) Exchange Funding Navigator](#)

The HUD Exchange Funding Navigator provides a listing of funding opportunities under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and others across federal agencies to support efforts to enhance climate resiliency, energy efficiency, renewable energy integration, healthy housing, workforce development and environmental justice in HUD supported communities, programs and properties. Search funding opportunities via the user-friendly website [here](#).

[Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy](#)

If you're interested in water quality and watersheds, consider applying for the 2024 Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy. The Academy, organized by Purdue University with support from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and other Indiana conservation agencies and organizations, gives participants the chance to:

- Engage with watershed topics covering leadership principles, watershed science, organization and communication, technology and GIS, stakeholder involvement techniques and policy skills
- Meet, learn from, and engage with others who work in watershed management
- Interact with topic experts
- Gain strategies, skills, and resources for successful watershed management
- Earn a Professional Certificate in Watershed Management

The enrollment deadline is November 3rd. For more information, contact Sara Peel, speel@purdue.edu or visit the Academy website [here](#).

[Tribal Engagement Training for Conservation Practitioners in North America](#)

The Nature Conservancy is partner to an opportunity to help conservationists work better with Native American tribes and other Indigenous Peoples. The result of this collaboration is a tuition-free, self-paced training for learners interested in gaining foundational knowledge to use in working and collaborating with tribes. Access the "Indiana Country 101" Curricula [here](#).

[White House Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Technical Assistance Guide](#)

The White House Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Technical Assistance Guide includes a list of over 65 technical assistance resources and programs across the federal government to help communities deliver infrastructure projects. The guide is organized by types of infrastructure investments such as transportation, clean energy and power, high-speed internet, water, resilience, and environmental remediation.

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.

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