

2016 Coastal Grant Project Descriptions



LOW COST CONSTRUCTION

Winding Creek Cove BMPs Demonstration Project – Phase 2 Bank Stabilization – City of Michigan City
Department of Parks and Recreation
LMCP Share - \$50,200; Applicant Share - \$50,200

This project will stabilize and restore approximately 175 feet of the south bank of Trail Creek at Winding Creek Cove Park, improving water quality by reducing sediment runoff. The bank will be stabilized by a vegetated bioengineering method integrating live native plant materials to create a living system capable of stabilizing the stream bank, providing erosion, sediment and flood control while providing landscape restoration and improving wildlife habitat. Proposed methods may include J-Hook or cross vanes, soil encapsulated lifts, rip rap with glacial stone and live plantings, root wad with boulder technique, coconut fiber rolls with live plantings. Specific methods may vary depending on permitting approvals. Using the US EPA's Region 5 Load Estimation Spreadsheet Model, this project will result in an estimated annual reduction of nearly 72 tons of sediment and 72 pounds of associated phosphorus being delivered to Trail Creek.

ACQUISITION

Gilliana Property – City of Hobart
LMCP Share - \$16,700; Applicant share - \$16,700

This project is to acquire approximately 6 acres of high quality woodland, including more than 1,300 feet of shoreline along Lake George. The parcel is located in an urban setting, adjacent to a municipal park and primary arterial road.

Extension to Brincka Cross Land Acquisition - Porter County Parks
LMCP request - \$58,125; Applicant Share - \$58,125

This project is the fee simple acquisition of 15.5 acres of woodlands, adjacent to another recently-purchased 46 acre parcel in Pine Township. Purchase of this property would allow for the extension of the existing trail system at Brincka Cross Gardens.

PLANNING/COORDINATION/MANAGEMENT

City of Hobart Storm Water Master Plan – Ross Township Element – City of Hobart
LMCP Share - \$50,000; Applicant Share - \$50,000

The project will identify locations where storm water issues negatively impact the function of septic systems. By identifying, prioritizing, and scheduling necessary improvements, the City will reduce septic effluent reaching Lake George. The study will also identify appropriate locations for two-stage ditch

systems and other best management practices to reduce sedimentation in the Ross Township portion of Hobart and the North Central Turkey Watershed in Merrillville. With these improvements, water quality in Lake George and tributaries will improve, providing an incentive for increased recreational access.

City of Hobart Tree Inventory Program – City of Hobart Sanitary/Storm Water District
LMCP Share - \$15,000; Applicant Share - \$15,000

The scope of this project is to inventory City-owned trees, evaluate the existing conditions of those trees, and review the data collected. An engineering consultant will work in cooperation with the DNR Division of Forestry's Urban Forester to analyze the data and create a report identifying the current status of city-owned trees. The results of the tree inventory would be input into the City of Hobart GIS data base and maps would be created for use by city staff and the public. The information would be shared with the public through the use of public forums to assist in fostering stewardship among local groups such as neighborhood associations, schools and private organizations.

Highland Community Tree Inventory & Management Plan – Town of Highland Parks & Recreation Department
LMCP Share - \$40,000; Applicant Share - \$40,000

The purpose of the proposed project is to collect and analyze tree inventory data to develop and implement an urban forest management plan for the Town of Highland. A complete inventory, analysis, and plan will allow all departments within the Town of Highland to collaborate and more effectively manage urban trees for a variety of municipal purposes, such as (but not limited to) increasing canopy cover, reducing stormwater impacts, and increasing residential safety and residential quality of life.

Cheney Run Drainage Area Plan – Michigan City Sanitary District
LMCP Share - \$45,000; Applicant Share - \$45,000

This is an implementation plan to restore natural hydrology, create open space corridors, and improve the quality of the water that enters Trail Creek. The Plan will include an identified sustainable peak flow rate goal for the water draining from the Cheney Run watershed's into Trail Creek and recommended locations for implementation of specific stormwater best management practices on public parcels, public right-of-ways, private large parcels, and private right-of-ways. Stormwater best management practices will be recommended based on design calculations that estimate the stormwater best management practice's ability to achieve the peak flow rate goal, reduce the volume of water entering the Cheney Run drainage area from the Kintzele ditch drainage area and create connected open space corridors, thereby achieving the long term goals of restoring natural hydrology and improving the quality of water entering Trail Creek.

Portage Public Marina Master Plan – City of Portage Marina Commission
LMCP Share - \$50,000; Applicant Share - \$50,000

The Portage Public Marina, because of aging infrastructure and fluctuating water levels of Lake Michigan, is in need of a master plan to identify, prioritize, and provide recommendations for the facility. The marina is located less than one mile from Lake Michigan on the Burns Waterway. The proposed master plan will include a bathymetric survey, as well as an assessment of the condition of

existing structures, boat slips, ramps, sea walls, roads and sidewalks. Also included in the plan will be recommendations for improvement, increased public access, and cost estimates.

Barrier-Free Beach 2020 Plan – City of Gary Department of Public Parks
LMCP Share - \$26,500; Applicant Share - \$26,500

The City of Gary-Department of Public Parks is looking to develop the “Barrier-Free Beach 2020 Plan.” The proposed planning project will create a framework to expand ADA-compliant public access to urban waterways in Marquette Park, along the Lake Michigan shoreline, and other nearshore areas. The planning project will identify ADA-compliant public access expansion opportunities on City-owned property or within municipal rights-of-way and easements.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Launch of New Mighty Acorns Curriculum – Dunes Learning Center
LMCP Share - \$15,000.00; Applicant Share - \$15,000

The Northwest Indiana Mighty Acorns Partnership will launch the new Mighty Acorns curriculum in Indiana's Lake Michigan coastal region. During the 2016-17 school year, approximately 2,870 students and 108 teachers will be reached by this program. Each Mighty Acorns teacher will attend a professional development workshop where they will be trained to effectively deliver the new curriculum and receive a printed copy of the new curriculum manual. Additionally, the Northwest Indiana Mighty Acorns Partnership will expand to include 10 new classrooms and teachers.

Family Nature Education Programs – Izaak Walton League of America - Porter County Chapter
LMCP Share – \$5,000; Applicant Share - \$5,000

The Porter County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) will organize “Family Nature Nights,” which will be evening programs in 15 elementary schools in northern Porter County. Each night will serve approximately 200 students and their parents, who are required to attend. Family Stewardship Days will also be organized on the weekends at IWLA properties and Moraine Ridge Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. These could serve up to 200 students and their families. Goals of the program are to teach a concern for nature - high quality air, water, soil, forest, and wildlife habitat. Using the Great Lakes, Project WET, Project WILD, and Project Learning Tree curriculums, the IWLA will partner with organizations such as Master Recyclers, Master Gardeners, Chesterton Feed and Garden, Indiana Steelheaders, The Field Museum, Save the Dunes, Westchester Township History Museum, Dunes Learning Center, and various parks departments.

Protecting Lake Michigan Water Quality Starts with Me! – Lake County Solid Waste Management District

LMCP Share – \$50,000; Applicant Share - \$50,000

The Lake County Solid Waste Management District's "Protecting Lake Michigan Water Quality Starts with Me!" project will promote water quality protection environmental stewardship through experiential and technology-based environmental education at the Hammond Environmental Education Center (EEC). The project will deliver engaging interactive video programming to kindergarten through twelfth-grade students using a multi-screen, wall-mounted "Water Wall" and "hands-on" water quality instruction to raise awareness of water quality threats. The project will also produce a video highlighting Lake Michigan Coastal Program-funded low cost construction projects and offer families and adults self-guided tours of the EEC's Indoor Trout Stream.

"Water Quality Protection Means the World" Initiative – Recycling and Waste Reduction District of Porter County

LMCP Share - \$37,593; Applicant Share - \$37,593

The Recycling and Waste Reduction District of Porter County (RWRDPC) is intending to enhance and expand the organization's water quality protection environmental education and community outreach activities. The project will expand K-8th grade student water quality protection programming to motivate students to practice environmental stewardship. It will also enhance community-based water quality protection outreach to promote rain barrels, rain gardens, bioswales, and native plants in garden and landscaping and train 40 new "Master Recyclers" to conduct community-based water quality protection outreach. Lastly it will create a "Porter County Waterscape" display to conceptually demonstrate nonpoint source pollution.

EMERGING ISSUES

Marsh Bird Conservation Planning in the Calumet Region – National Audubon Society

LMCP Share - \$46,952; Applicant Share - \$46,952

This plan will include a climate change vulnerability assessment, wetland delineated maps and restoration plans, and results from two years of spring surveys (points, acres, bird densities and raw territories) considered indicators of marshland health. In addition, landowner engagement will be measured (number, time, resources committed). The long-term success of the project will be measured in terms of the acres of marshland restored and corresponding increases in marsh birds. Early gains will be assessed in 2018 using results from marsh bird surveys.

City of Gary Green Infrastructure Plan - City of Gary Department of Planning and Redevelopment

LMCP Share - \$35,000; Applicant Share - \$35,000

The City of Gary Green Infrastructure Plan will stand as a technical document and as a planning process, with the specific goals of providing recommendations on suitable green infrastructure measures throughout the City (based on environmental and economic analyses). It will create form-based codes and green infrastructure design guidelines to be amended into the City's zoning ordinance. Design concepts for green infrastructure along the City's corridor and a financial analysis assessing the

feasibility and net benefit for the City from implementing such measures will be created. A prospective capital improvement program for implementing the recommendations of the plan will also be created. This technical document will specifically serve as an overarching resource by city officials for incorporating green infrastructure into its broader land use planning and zoning activities, and will also serve as a road map for the City in working with conservation groups to identify areas that are appropriate for ecological restoration.

Climate Change Action Plan for the Nearshore Indiana Dunes Region - Save the Dunes

LMCP Share - \$46,950.55; Applicant Share - \$46,950.55

Save the Dunes is collaborating with the Field Museum, local, and regional partners to create a Climate Change Action Plan for the Nearshore Indiana Dunes Region (Plan) that will outline localized strategies for climate resiliency and adaptation. Save the Dunes will work with land managers, scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and experts in the climatology field to create an action-oriented plan based on existing research, planning workshops, informed opinions, and present conditions and realities that will increase regional preparedness in climate change adaptation and promote resiliency in natural areas in the nearshore region of the Indiana dunes.