

OVERVIEW

2016 FIVE STAR & URBAN WATERS GRANT PROGRAM

January 7, 2016
NIRPC EMPC Meeting

Program Overview

Nationwide grant program to support on-the-ground, community-based conservation, outreach and education/training that fosters connections/improvements to water resources

Grant Size

- Average grant is \$30,000, with award amounts ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

Grant Length

- Projects should be completed in 1-2 years and start in summer 2016.

Funding partners

- EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW)
- EPA Office of Water
- Urban Waters Federal Partnership
- Southern Company
- Fish and Wildlife Service Urban Refuge Program
- Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Birds Program
- Bank of America
- Alcoa Foundation



Program Overview

Each project must have:

- ❑ On-the-Ground Restoration and Planning
- ❑ Partnerships
- ❑ Environmental Outreach, Education, and Training
- ❑ Measurable Results
- ❑ Sustainability



Geographic Focus and Funding Availability

- ❑ \$2,450,000 available nationwide for projects meeting program priorities
- ❑ Geographic focus varies depending on funding partner priorities
- ❑ **Applicants submit one proposal for all sources of funding**

Funding Details:

Urban Waters Federal Partnership



- Approximately \$475,000 available from EPA and the US Forest Service to support projects in urban areas *throughout* the United States.

- Preference will be given in the evaluation process to projects in **Urban Waters Federal Partnership Locations and/or source water protection areas.**

Northwest Indiana is located in both



Funding Details: EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds



- Approximately \$180,000 available from EPA to support projects throughout the United States.
- Funds are available nationwide for projects in any size community.



Program Guidelines

Eligibility

- Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Indian tribes and educational institutions
- Individuals, Federal agencies and for-profit corporations make great partners but should not be applicants

Grants

- \$20,000 -\$50,000 each, but **most grants will be closer to \$30,000**

Match

- Minimum 1:1 non-federal match of cash or in-kind goods and services is required
- You can backdate match up to one year (July 2015 on)

Restrictions

- No political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, terrorism or litigation
- Not to implement legal requirements (mitigation, permit conditions, etc.)
- May enhance or improve upon baseline compliance efforts

Due to Easygrants.nfwf.org February 3, 2016



On-the-Ground Restoration

- Restore and/or create wetlands, coastal or riparian areas
- Restore, design and/or create forest habitat and/or community tree canopy leading
- Manage stormwater or address water scarcity by designing and/or implementing green infrastructure, using best management practices. Engage residents in restoration at significant sites used by the community.
- Collect and analyze local waterway samples that could be used to determine the effectiveness of current restoration and green infrastructure efforts
- Implement strategies to prevent and reduce the amount of trash entering waterways.

Community Partnerships

- Must involve five or more diverse partners (including the applicant)
- Demonstrate that the project will advance existing local planning and development for resilient communities and/or propose to foster new collaborations to coordinate a diverse stakeholder partnership that develops new plans

Example Partnership Table

PARTNER	QUALIFICATIONS	CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ VALUE
Jones County Master Gardeners COMMUNITY GROUP	Restoration coordination, horticultural training	Training and coordinating volunteers for restoration	\$1,000.00
US Fish and Wildlife Service FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	Horticulture	Providing seedlings for restoration	\$3,000.00
Lincoln Financial Group CORPORATION	Volunteers	Restoration project will be part of Lincoln's volunteer workday program	\$750.00
Calhoun Middle School EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION	Volunteers	Students will plant seedlings during one day of restoration	\$800.00
Jones County Parks Department LOCAL GOVERNMENT	Property Owner	Donating supplies, technical support and meals	\$1,500.00
CA Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation NGO	Grant funding	Funding to cover site planning and design	\$5,000.00

Environmental Outreach, Education & Training

- Must integrate meaningful outreach, education and training into the proposed on-the-ground activities
- Engage the public – particularly youth – in hands-on, outdoor conservation experiences
- Establish or advance a citizen science or water quality monitoring program that involves community members and/or addresses community issues and priorities.
- Provide job training, placement and job performance follow-up for green infrastructure installation, operation and maintenance
- Projects designs to lead to behavior changes related to the prevention of trash entering rivers and other aquatic ecosystem

Measurable Results

- Must result in specific, measurable ecological, educational and community benefits
- Identify measurable activities and metrics which clearly link to watershed and community outcomes
- Document a high level of community engagement

Example Metrics

Project Activity	Recommended Metric	Additional Guidance
Restoration of lands	Acres restored	Provide # and type of habitat restored. If different types of habitat to be restored, provide # acres and list each individual type. This includes wetlands, springs, saltwater marshes and beach habitat.
Removal of invasives	Acres restored	Provide # acres restored and type of invasives removed
Restoration planning/design/permitting	Acres restored	Provide # acres impacted directly by plan
Riparian restoration	Miles restored	Provide # miles riverbank planted (decimals are okay)
Land, wetland restoration	# Trees Planted	Identify the type of tree(s) planted, approximate age and caliper of the trees
BMP implementation for stormwater runoff	Acres with BMPs	Provide # acres implemented with best management practices. This should include the type of green infrastructure being implemented.

Sustainability

- ❑ Must include a plan for maintenance and care of the project beyond the grant period
- ❑ Reflect a commitment to community strength and long-term capacity to remain engaged as partners
- ❑ Directly connect outcomes to community benefits of watershed restoration such as clean water, public health benefits, local economic development and jobs
- ❑ Fulfill or advance priorities identified through local planning efforts, including watershed plans, climate resilience plans and/or sustainability plans

Advancing Watershed Education, Action, and Attitude Change in Underserved Communities in the Lake Michigan Watershed of Northwest Indiana (IN) Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center

The Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center will partner with the Hammond Port Authority, Gary Parks Department, The Field Museum, City of Hammond, City of Gary, Wilderness Inquiry and private partners to **provide outdoor education that fosters connections to local Indiana waterbodies. This project will engage over 4,500 students over two years**, from the communities of Gary, Hammond, East Chicago and Hobart. The project will expand the Dunes Learning Center curriculum into area schools, and support **implementation of watershed education activities such as collecting seeds from native plants, inventorying plants and planting native seedlings on the project site, collecting water samples, and engaging 400 community members in understanding stewardship efforts and the importance of healthy waters.**



Urban Ecology Center Implementation of the Strategic Urban Forestry Plan in the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum (WI) Urban Ecology Center, Inc.

Urban Ecology Center will partner with New Horizons Charter School, Milwaukee Riverkeeper, and local volunteer groups to maintain the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum as an urban oasis with diverse native Wisconsin plant communities. The Arboretum faces threats from emerald ash borer (EAB) and invasive species such as lesser celandine and garlic mustard. **Outcomes will include the removal of 400 ash trees of 5- 16cm diameter at breast height in the Arboretum by February 2016; land restoration work, including invasive species removal, along one mile of riparian shoreline; strategic planting of native Wisconsin trees; increased educational awareness of EAB among Center staff, partners, and the public at large; increased educational awareness on sustainable land stewardship practices; and improved arboretum habitats.**



Chattahoochee River Wetland Restoration and Watershed Education Program at the Chattahoochee Nature Center (GA)

Chattahoochee Nature Center

The Chattahoochee Nature Center and partners will **restore 4 acres of wetlands along the banks of the Chattahoochee River and create hands-on educational learning opportunities and programs for students aged Kindergarten through college.** In addition, the program will create testing plots to monitor and demonstrate best practices as partners remove invasive species and re-plant over 2,500 native plants in an environmentally sensitive area. Educational signage will provide self-guided educational opportunities regarding the importance of proper **wetlands management for water quality.** Partners include Kennesaw State University, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, City of Roswell, Wilderness Inquiry and State Botanical Gardens.



Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield Riparian Restoration (CO) Denver Botanic Gardens Inc.

Denver Botanic Gardens will partner with Audubon Society of Denver, Jefferson County, and local officials, volunteers and landowners to **restore 5.5 acres of degraded riparian habitat containing the creek channel, functional floodplain, riparian cottonwood regeneration, and forest understory along Deer Creek, which bisects the main Chatfield property.** The restoration will raise the creek bed up using a series of boulder steps and will include riffle structures, composed of cobble and boulders, to create natural, stable riffle/pool sequences in the reach upstream of the boulder steps. The riffle/pool sequences dissipate energy and provide habitat for fish and macroinvertebrates. **Education and outreach activities will include an interpretive trail at the restoration site to guide visitors through the restoration process, workshops in partnership with the Audubon Society of Greater Denver, and interpretation in the Gardens' Science Pyramid, which reaches an estimated 120,000 each year at the Gardens' urban location.** Wildlands Restoration Volunteers will oversee the involvement of underserved youth in restoration activities.

Extra Tips

- If you've never used Easygrants before, create your login **TODAY** and familiarize yourself with the system.
- If you aren't new to Easygrants, check and make sure your login is working and that your organization's record is up to date in our system.
- Start the application *at least* a week before it is due to minimize last minute Easygrants trouble.
- Spend time building your partnership. This program is about investing in partnerships, so the partnership should be central to the project.
- Be creative with your outreach activities and who your target group is. It does not have to be K-12.

Some Urban Waters Federal Partners can provide technical assistance with project/proposal development.

Ask for assistance today!



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