

Chi-Cal Rivers Fund

NFWF CONTACTS

Aislinn Gauchay

Program Director, Great Lakes aislinn.gauchay@nfwf.org 612-564-7284

Traci Giefer

Senior Program Manager, Great Lakes traci.giefer@nfwf.org 612-564-7296

Naomi Attaway

Coordinator, Regional Programs naomi.attaway@nfwf.org 202-595-2496

PARTNERS

- BNSF Railway
- Cleveland-Cliffs
- Crown Family Philanthropies
- Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
- Hunter Family Foundation
- The Joyce Foundation
- Salesforce
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- US. Forest Service
- U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
- Walder Foundation

ABOUT NEWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) works with the public and private sectors to sustain, restore and enhance the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats for current and future generations. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest private conservation grant-maker, funding more than 20,400 projects and generating a total conservation impact of \$8.1 billion.



Calumet River

BACKGROUND

The Chicago and Calumet watersheds comprise a highly engineered system of waterways that provide many benefits to the people and wildlife in the region. Despite these services, the waterways have been degraded by many stressors that have significantly reduced the ecological, economic and community values of the system. The Chi-Cal Rivers Fund is a public-private partnership working to improve the health, vitality, and accessibility of the waterways in the Chicago and Calumet regions by supporting green stormwater infrastructure, habitat enhancement and public-use improvements.

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

Since 2013, the Fund has awarded 66 grants totaling \$14.6 million, drawing an additional \$29.1 million in grantee match for total conservation investment of more than \$43.7 million.

20 MILLION GALLONS

of additional stormwater storage capacity **160 ACRES**

of new public park space added or improved

5,200 ACRES

of riparian, wetland and upland habitat enhanced with 15,000 trees planted and 500 habitat structures installed



Wadsworth Elementary School



Before invasive species removal at Cranberry Slough project site

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

Space to Grow: Greening Chicago Schoolyards - II

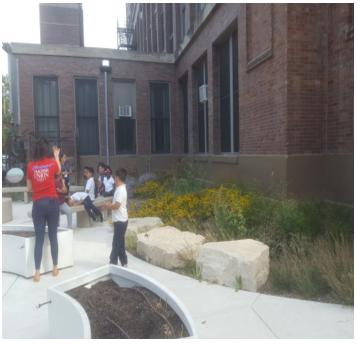
Through the Space to Grow program, Chicago Public Schools renovated Gunsalaus, Corkery, and Wadsworth Elementary Schools with green infrastructure features to capture approximately 585,000 gallons of stormwater and prevent 417,000 gallons of stormwater from entering Chicago's combined sewer system. This project transformed the schoolyards into vibrant green space in urban neighborhoods that help keep water resources clean, contribute to less neighborhood flooding, and benefit students and communities members. This includes opportunity for active play, physical education classes, outdoor learning, gardening and environmental literacy, and engagement with art.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

Enhancing Habitat Quality at Crooked Creek (IL)

Grant Recipient: Friends of the Chicago River
Grant Award: \$242,669
Project Location: Cranberry Slough Nature Preserve

Friends of the Chicago River improved habitat quality at the headwaters of Crooked Creek through invasive species remediation and removal and native plantings at the headwaters of Crooked Creek in the Forest Preserves of Cook County. Degraded areas, choked with invasive species result in bare soils where rain water quickly flows off the land, contributing to erosion and flashy storm events. The project restored 222 acres of Cook County Forest Preserve land to improve natural systems of infiltration provided by deep-rooted native plants and enhance habitat for wildlife within Crooked Creek and the surrounding watershed.



Corkery Elementary School



After invasive species removal at Cranberry Slough project site