



## Chi-Cal Rivers Fund Public Use Project Examples

The following 5 projects are public use projects that have been supported by the Fund over the past five funding cycles.

**Illinois Conservation Foundation** received \$165,600 to create native prairie habitat for pollinators and improve public access to Wolf Lake at the William W. Powers State Recreation Area. Project will implement community-prioritized improvements to the site, enhancing habitat quality and public access to this important natural resource and recreation area. This location includes six miles of shoreline and 420 acres of Wolf Lake. Important wetlands support rare and diverse plant and animal species. Grantee work will build on current momentum and enhance the Wolf Lake area habitat by improving habitat for pollinators at sites located in the park and increasing public-use and community involvement.

**Chicago Park District** is using a \$259,000 grant to develop a new 4-acre riverfront park along the south branch of the Chicago River. The new park will be located in the Bridgeport community, which is in need of additional park land. The goal of the project is to improve river access, recreational opportunities, and stormwater management to create a waterway that is accessible and desirable for recreation. The project will create a variety of visitor amenities, including a boat launch, dock, pathways, benches, lighting, and landscaped areas for activities such as picnicking and field sports. The new park will also include 25,000 square feet of stormwater management features such as rain gardens, bio-retention areas, permeable surfaces, and native plantings. As part of the network of new riverside developments, the new park will enhance the existing foundation for a working Chicago River blueway system.

**Save the Dunes Conservation Fund** received a \$205,959 grant to increase and enhance public-use and riparian habitat on four properties along the Little Calumet River in Northwest Indiana. New canoe and kayak launch sites will be constructed at three properties and 1.7 miles of interpretive trails will be created at two sites. The project will also install new pervious surface parking lots at two sites, which will reduce the amount of stormwater runoff entering the river while providing access to the boat launch sites and hiking trails. Finally, the project will enhance 189 acres of riparian habitat on three of the properties through control of invasive plants, prescribed burning and replanting areas with native species. Expected project outcomes include increased visitation and usage of local parks, natural areas and waterways, as well as improved habitat for many fish, birds and other wildlife.

**City of Blue Island** received a \$300,000 grant to complete the final two miles of Blue Island's west segment of the Cal-Sag Trail, connecting users to the Cal-Sag Channel and providing views of the waterway. In addition to trail-building, Blue Island will improve 12.8 acres of currently vacant land for public greenspace use, restore an acre of riparian habitat along the Cal-Sag Channel with native upland prairie plants, and plant 50 trees along the trail. Completion of the west segment of the Cal-Sag Trail, with the access to public greenspace and restored habitat, will be an important catalyst for the continued creation of high-quality greenspaces along the Cal-Sag Channel.

**Shirley Heinze Land Trust, Inc.** received a \$141,956.38 grant to restore 25 acres of wetlands and riparian habitat within the Little Calumet Conservation Corridor. Access and amenities improvements will also be made along the corridor through the addition of 0.25 miles of hiking trail, the clearing of a minimum of 5 miles of water trail, a universally accessible kayak launch, and informational signage with partners Shirley Heinze Land Trust, Town of Porter Parks Department, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Save the Dunes Conservation Fund, and Northwest Indiana Paddling Association.