



Chi-Cal Rivers Fund

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PARTNERS

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

ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Calumet River in Chicago

OVERVIEW

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, a public-private partnership among three federal agencies, two corporations and four private foundations, was created to address these stressors by improving 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.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and ArcelorMittal, BNSF Railway, Crown Family Philanthropies, Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service and the Walder Foundation announced a seventh year of funding for the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund. Five new green stormwater infrastructure, habitat restoration, and public use improvement were awarded, and additional funding was directed to two ongoing projects in support of long-standing program investments. The seven grants announced in 2020 have been awarded \$1.6 million in funding and will generate \$1.9 million in matching contributions, providing a total conservation impact of \$3.5 million.

(continued)

Restoring Wetland Habitat and Improving Public Access to Deadstick Pond (IL)

Grantee: National Audubon Society

Grant Amount:\$262,178
 Matching Funds: \$85,152
 Total Project:\$347,330

Restore and develop public access to Deadstick Pond and adjoining riverfront trail, greatly expanding marshbird habitat, greenspace connectivity, and recreational access in the Calumet Region. Project will restore 24 acres of high quality hemimarsch and 25 acres of wet prairie habitat by designing and installing a new water control structure, regrading the channel to maximize water control and treating invasive species.



Least bittern

Collaborative Restoration and Community Engagement in Calumet Marsh Bird Conservation Area (IN)

Grantee: The Wetlands Initiative

Grant Amount:\$299,393
 Matching Funds:\$399,029
 Total Project:\$698,422

Restore a floodplain corridor along the West Branch of the Little Calumet River in northwest Indiana to benefit rare wetland-dependent birds and the surrounding underserved communities. Project will manage invasive species on 142 acres, restore hydrologic wetland function and collaborate with local community groups on connected community beautification efforts that will amplify the conservation impact of the project.

Restoring Hydrology in Prairie Wolf Forest Preserve to Benefit Marsh-Dependent Species (IL)

Grantee: Lake County Forest Preserve District

Grant Amount:\$177,260
 Matching Funds:\$183,960
 Total Project:\$361,220

Improve hydrologic function and habitat diversity along the North Branch of the Chicago River by removing or disabling more than 5,000 linear feet of drain tile and clearing invasive species across 146 acres of Prairie Wolf Forest Preserve. Project will restore diverse habitat for multiple species of conservation concern, create or enhance 23 acres of wetland and store an estimated 2 million gallons of stormwater annually.

Improving Stormwater Management by Installing Green Stormwater Infrastructure in South Chicago (IL)

Grantee: NeighborSpace

Grant Amount:\$300,000
 Matching Funds:\$645,764
 Total Project: \$945,764

Install green stormwater infrastructure at the Calumet River Gateway Garden in South Chicago. Project will install bioswales, rain gardens, and an artificial river to retain 810,560 gallons of stormwater annually, improve water quality in the Calumet watershed and educate local residents about the purpose and importance of stormwater management and resiliency.

Leveraging Green Stormwater Infrastructure by Establishing a StormStore Credit Trading Market (IL)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:\$247,000
 Matching Funds:\$247,000
 Total Project:\$494,000

Install green stormwater infrastructure to help establish a regional stormwater credit trading market, StormStore, to incentivize stormwater trading and encourage stormwater infrastructure in locations where it would provide the greatest environmental, social and economic impact for communities in Cook County, Illinois. Project will install green infrastructure and reinvest recouped funding from sold credits into the construction and maintenance of future green infrastructure projects across the Chi-Cal watersheds.

THE CHI-CAL RIVERS FUND IS ALSO CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR TWO EXISTING GRANTS:

Calumet Tree Conservation Corps (IN)

Grantee: The Student Conservation Association

Grant Amount:\$140,000
 Matching Funds:\$140,000
 Total Project:\$280,000

Reduce stormwater runoff and create urban habitat by planting 500 new trees in northwest Indiana. Project will build upon previous investments and continue to improve water quality at a regional scale while engaging the community and volunteers.

Expanding the Centennial Volunteers Program to Increase Forest Preserves Conservation (IL)

Grantee: Friends of the Forest Preserves

Grant Amount:\$196,000
 Matching Funds:\$348,534
 Total Project:\$544,534

Fortify and expand the Centennial Volunteers program at seven forest preserves to increase invasive species control work and improve restoration management. Project will restore 80 acres along the North Branch of the Chicago River and the Little Calumet River through outreach and engagement of over 750 people.