



NFWF

Chi-Cal Rivers Fund

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PARTNERS

- ArcelorMittal
- BNSF Railway
- Chicago Community Trust
- 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

[Learn more on our website](http://www.nfwf.org)

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

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Chicago 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 48 grants totaling \$9.9 million, drawing an additional \$22.1 million in grantee match for total conservation investment of more than \$32 million. These investments resulted in:

8.6 MILLION GALLONS

of additional stormwater storage capacity

95 ACRES

of new public park space added or improved

2,970 ACRES

of riparian, wetland and upland habitat enhanced

**PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:****Space to Grow**

Grant Recipient: Chicago Public Schools
 Grant Award: \$271,313
 Project Location: Public Schools of Chicago

Through the Space to Grow program, Chicago Public Schools installed green infrastructure and new community space at Virgil Grissom, Theophilus Schmid, Donald Morrill and George Leland elementary schools. The schoolyard plans included artificial turf fields, age-appropriate play structures, outdoor classrooms, vegetable and native gardens, revamped parking, urban agriculture, art and a gateway. Altogether, these installations added 1.2 million gallons of on-site stormwater storage capacity and improved recreational opportunities for local communities by providing 12.7 acres of new park space. By establishing a network of schoolyards with green stormwater infrastructure that serves as new community space, this project provided benefits including reconnecting communities with their local public schools, providing much-needed green space in otherwise heavily urbanized neighborhoods and significantly reducing stormwater runoff across the city.

**PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:****Restoring Indiana's Grand Calumet Area of Concern**

Grant Recipient: The Nature Conservancy - Indiana
 Grant Award: \$156,540
 Project Location: Grand Calumet River
 Area of Concern in Lake County, Indiana

The Nature Conservancy - Indiana created a centralized Restoration Team to develop and implement a cooperative and comprehensive approach to monitor habitat, control invasive species and manage restoration activities on 393 acres in the Grand Calumet Area of Concern. The project enriched biodiversity at Roxana Marsh through activities including removing nearly 2 acres of invasive trees and planting 10 native trees. At Seidner Dune and Swale Nature Preserve, partners removed invasive shrubs from 21 acres, restored oak canopy on 3.25 acres, and harvested, grew and planted 5,000 wild blue lupine plants. Finally, partners planted roughly 400 plants to enhance a riverine wetland on Indiana Department of Natural Resources property along the West Branch of the Grand Calumet River.

