



NFWF

Chi-Cal Rivers Fund

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PARTNERS

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

ABOUT NFWF

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 19,700 projects and generating a total conservation impact of \$6.8 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 54 grants totaling \$11.1 million, drawing an additional \$23.7 million in grantee match for total conservation investment of more than \$34.8 million. These investments resulted in:

10.5 MILLION GALLONS

of additional stormwater storage capacity

121 ACRES

of new public park space added or improved

3,170 ACRES

of riparian, wetland and upland habitat enhanced

(continued)



Wadsworth Elementary School



Before invasive species removal at Cranberry Slough project site

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

Space to Grow: Greening Chicago Schoolyards - II

Grant Recipient: Chicago Public Schools
 Grant Award: \$300,000
 Project Location: Public Schools of Chicago

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