



Chi-Cal Rivers Fund

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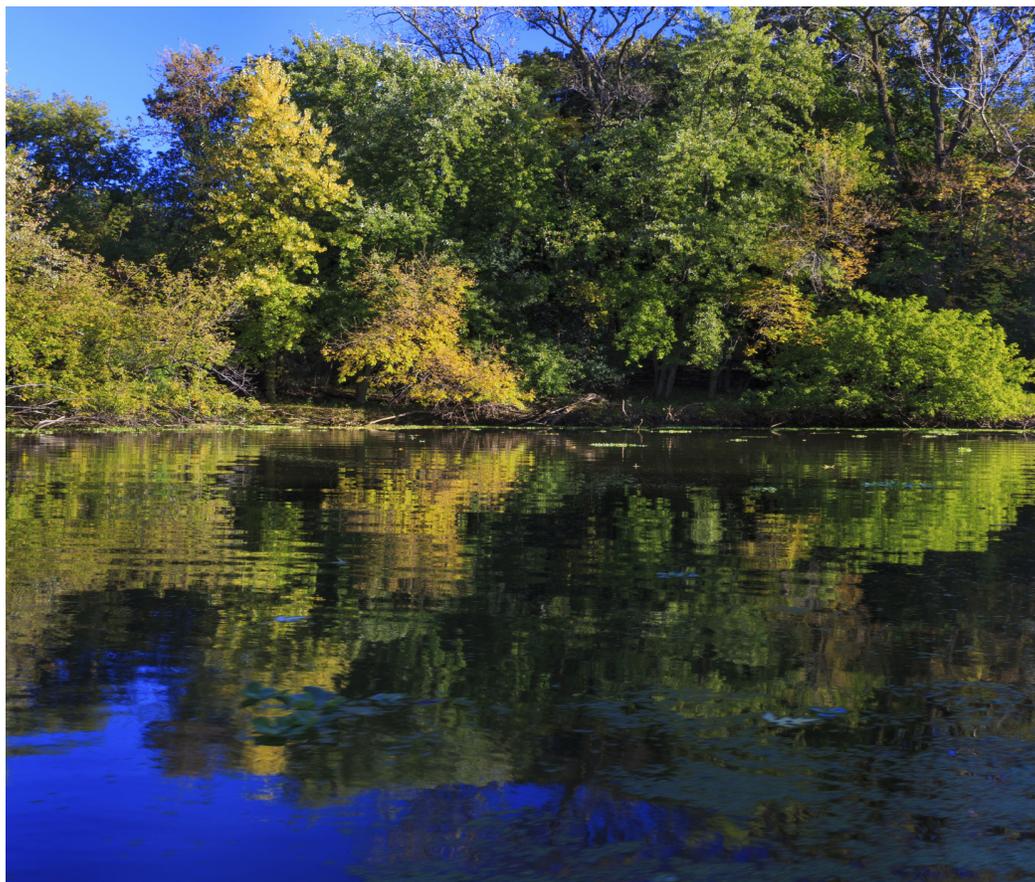
PARTNERS

- BNSF Railway
- Cleveland-Cliffs
- Crown Family Philanthropies
- Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
- The Hunter Family Foundation
- The Joyce Foundation
- Salesforce
- U.S. EPA
- US. 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 20,400 projects and generating a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org



Chicago River

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 (Fund), a public-private partnership among three federal agencies, three corporations and six 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 BNSF Railway, Cleveland-Cliffs, Crown Family Philanthropies, Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, Hunter Family Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, Salesforce, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and the Walder Foundation announced the 10th year of funding for the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund. The Fund received additional support this year from the Bezos Earth Fund. The six grants announced in 2022 were awarded \$1.7 million in funding and will leverage \$2 million in grantee matching contributions, providing a total conservation impact of \$3.7 million.

(continued)



Blanding's turtle basking

GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

The following project seeks to increase on-site stormwater capture and storage and occur in close proximity or otherwise demonstrate benefits to the major waterways in the region. The project will reduce runoff into sewer systems and help to reduce the discharge of contaminants to local waterways by slowing, storing and filtering rainwater through community-based training. The project will also reduce property damage and health risks associated with flooding, reduce municipal costs of managing and treating stormwater, improve aquatic habitats, and promote safe and economically important public uses associated with river systems.

Expanding Tree Canopy to Reduce Stormwater Impacts in Under Resourced Communities (IL)

Grantee: The Morton Arboretum
 Grant Amount:\$337,700
 Matching Funds:\$194,100
 Total Project: \$ 531,800

Expand green stormwater infrastructure by planting 700 diverse, native trees in 11 priority under-resourced communities and neighborhoods located in the Chicago-Calumet Rivers watersheds. Project will provide benefits to mitigate flooding and air pollution, improve wildlife habitat, improve access to green space in three public parks, and provide job trainings.

HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

The following five projects seek to support on-the-ground riparian and in-stream habitat improvements along or near the major waterways of the Chicago and Calumet river

systems. Projects will contribute to healthier fish and wildlife populations by improving wetland habitat, reducing erosion, improving water quality and adding habitat complexity.

Engaging Local Communities in Habitat Improvements in the Calumet Heritage Area (IL)

Grantee: Friends of the Forest Preserves
 Grant Amount:\$350,000
 Matching Funds:\$368,200
 Total Project:\$718,200

Engage local communities in invasive species treatment and retreatment at three forest preserves, Kickapoo Woods, Whistler Woods, and Sand Ridge Nature Center Campus, along or close to the Little Calumet River. Project will restore habitat more than 66 acres and provide job trainings in habitat restoration techniques through a conservation corps program.

Expanding Wetlands, Forest Habitat and Public Access at Powderhorn Lake Forest Preserve (IL)

Grantee: National Audubon Society
 Grant Amount:\$208,900
 Matching Funds:\$117,100
 Total Project:\$326,000

Improve habitat quality and support hydrologic reconnection through invasive species removal, water level management, native plug planting and native seeding at Powderhorn Lake Forest Preserve. Project will build on hydrological-focused restoration across 98 acres of critical wetland and forest habitat, connect people through stewardship, and facilitate concept and build-ready design of public access to the new natural areas.



Virginia rail

In-Stream Habitat Structures and Community Engagement at the North Branch of the Chicago River (IL)

Grantee: Urban Rivers
 Grant Amount:\$342,400
 Matching Funds:\$776,400
 Total Project:\$1,118,800
 Enhance existing engagement of large-scale projects by adding in-stream habitat at the confluence of the North Branch of the Chicago River and the North Shore Channel. Project will utilize artificial floating wetlands as greenspace for native wetland and prairie plants, improve water quality, and fill gaps of significant investments and revitalization at a key point in the Chicago River system.

Restoring Remnant Wetland Habitat at Indian Ridge Marsh North (IL) - Phase III

Grantee: The Wetlands Initiative
 Grant Amount:\$299,900
 Matching Funds:\$382,300
 Total Project:\$682,200
 Implement phase III of habitat restoration and expanded shoreline modification at Indian Ridge Marsh North, a remnant wetland parcel on Chicago’s Southeast Side, to benefit declining wetland-dependent marsh birds and surrounding underserved communities. Project will restore 85 acres to healthy native marsh, wet meadow and upland habitats; complete new shoreline work; and engage area residents with restoration via stewardship workdays.

Improving Wildlife Habitat and Community Engagement in the Grand Calumet River Area of Concern (IN)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Amount:\$193,600
 Matching Funds:\$194,500
 Total Project:\$388,100
 Conduct restoration activities on at least 500 acres in nature preserves near the Grand Calumet River and reconnect residents to the Grand Calumet River and associated dune and swale habitat through listening sessions, outreach, education and hands-on work. Project will create community-informed engagement report and improve habitat for wildlife such as Blanding’s turtles, spotted turtles, Virginia rails, American bitterns and migratory birds.



Bee pollinating chive blossoms, Chicago River