



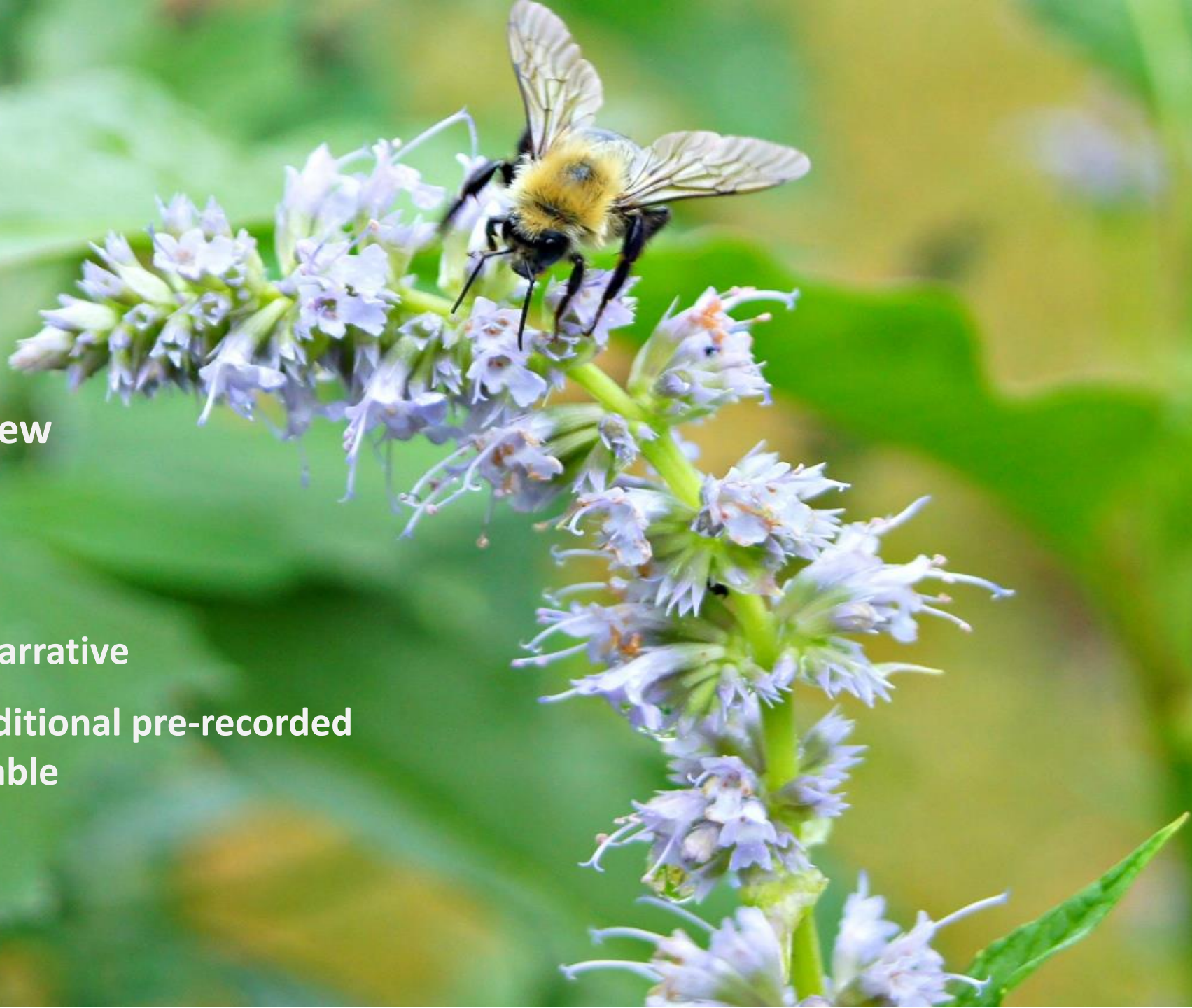
CHI-CAL RIVERS FUND

2023 Webinar for Applicants



WEBINAR AGENDA

- Welcome & Introductions
- Chi-Cal Rivers Fund Overview
- 2023 Funding Opportunity
 - Funding Priorities
 - Maximizing the Project Narrative
 - Applying for a grant – Additional pre-recorded Easygrants webinar available



PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

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

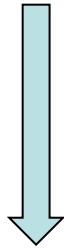


ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2013–2022

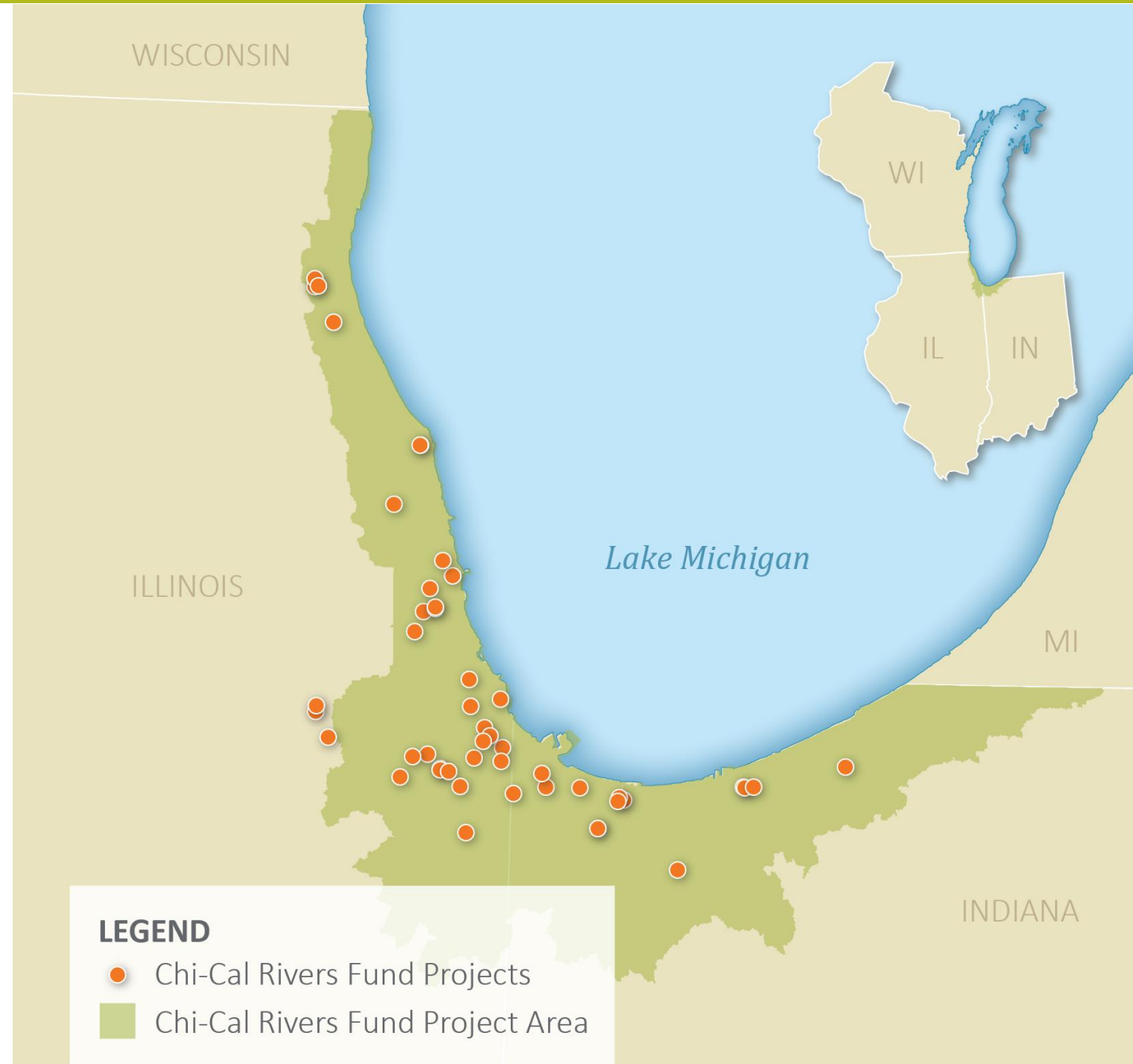
60 grants: \$12.8 million

Grantee match: \$25.8 million

Total investment: \$38.6 million



- 10.4 M gal stormwater storage
- 4,700 acres habitat restoration
- 150 acres public green space added or improved



2023 CHI-CAL RIVERS FUND FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

- Up to \$1.5M available for grants
- Grants range from \$150k to \$400k
- Full Proposals due July 18, 2023

To be eligible for funding, projects must:

- Occur in close proximity to the major waterways of the system and their tributaries
- Demonstrate direct benefits to the major waterways of the system





APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- Eligible applicants
 - ✓ Non-profit organizations
 - ✓ State, tribal, and local governments
 - ✓ Educational institutions
- Ineligible applicants
 - ✓ Individuals
 - ✓ Federal agencies
 - ✓ Private for-profit firms
- *A single organization may submit multiple applications*
- *Unlikely for an organization to receive more than one award per cycle*
- *Grantees with active Chi-Cal Rivers Fund awards are eligible to apply for additional funding*

FUNDING CATEGORIES

1. Habitat Quality
 2. Green Stormwater Infrastructure
 3. Public Access
- ❖ Identify one category that best describes the project. You may also identify any relevant secondary categories
 - ❖ Summaries of previously funded projects can be viewed at:
<https://www.nfwf.org/programs/chi-cal-rivers-fund>



HABITAT QUALITY - PRIMARY STRATEGIES

Support riparian, in-stream, upland and wetland habitat improvements along or near the major waterways of the system to achieve a range of ecological benefits, such as improving water quality, reducing erosion, and increasing the complexity, connectivity and quality of habitat.

- Restore/enhance riparian habitat
 - ✓ Bank stabilization
 - ✓ Invasive species control
 - ✓ Native plant restoration
- Restore/enhance in-stream habitat
 - ✓ Install in-stream structures to improve geomorphological processes and habitat for fish and aquatic organisms



HABITAT

- Competitive projects will:
 - ✓ Improve water quality
 - ✓ Reduce erosion
 - ✓ Add habitat complexity and quality
 - ✓ Increase habitat connectivity
 - ✓ Generate healthier fish and wildlife populations
- Priority to projects that:
 - ✓ Improve native/natural habitat
 - ✓ Benefit species of concern
 - ✓ Encourage biodiversity
 - ✓ Increase resilience of habitats and waterways to climate-related threats, such as increasingly severe and more frequent storm events



GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE - Primary Strategies

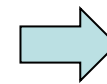
Support green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) projects that that improve stormwater capture and storage to mitigate the impacts of climate change, including reducing runoff, combined sewer overflows, basement backups and flooding through nature-based design.

- Install and maintain GSI
 - ✓ Nature-based solutions (rain gardens, bioswales, etc.)
- Restore urban forests
- Create and enhance constructed or urban wetlands
- Maintain existing GSI via new approaches
 - ✓ Achieve dual benefits – GSI and community



GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

- Competitive projects will:
 - ✓ Be developed through community input
 - ✓ Equitably engage community-level partners throughout the life of the project and beyond
 - ✓ Incorporate planning for increasingly severe and more frequent storm events into project design, location, and/or function
 - ✓ Utilize native or non-invasive, urban-adapted plant and tree species
 - ✓ Connect to a larger green infrastructure plan
 - ✓ Maintenance: outline authority to maintain sites
 - ✓ Be of sufficient size and scope
 - **Projects must add or maintain a minimum 100,000 gallons of stormwater storage capacity annually to be competitive**



- [EPA Stormwater Calculator](#)
- [i-Tree](#)

PUBLIC ACCESS - PRIMARY STRATEGIES

Support the creation of new or enhancements of existing infrastructure that improves public access to and use of natural areas in close proximity to the major waterways of the system.

- Improve public access to natural areas
 - ✓ Construction of trails
 - ✓ Construction of access points
 - ✓ Other infrastructure enabling use of waterways and habitats
- Create/enhance public green space
 - ✓ Create or restore public green space to encourage community use of and access to natural areas and waterways
 - ✓ Improve access to passive and active recreation in underserved neighborhoods



PUBLIC ACCESS

Competitive projects will:

- ✓ Achieve multiple benefits by delivering on-the-ground habitat restoration or GSI benefits coupled with enhancements to public use of natural areas or greenspace
- ✓ Directly benefit low-income communities and communities of color
- ✓ Be developed through long-term engagement efforts and co-designed by underserved communities that will use the public asset developed
- ✓ Incorporate planning for increasingly severe and more frequent storm events into project design, location, and/or function



EQUITY AND INCLUSION

The Fund desires to fund projects that meaningfully engage and benefit low-income and communities of color throughout the greater Chicago region and northwest Indiana.

- Priority will be given to projects that were developed through community input and co-design processes
- Projects should directly engage community-level partners (municipalities, NGOs, community organizations, community leaders) to help design, implement, and maintain projects
- Describe direct community engagement activities and strategies
- Provide demographic data for communities engaged and/or project locations to articulate high need or underserved communities benefiting from and directly engaged in the project



Proposal Narrative – Community Impact

Describe the community(ies) where the project will take place, who will benefit from the project, and how they were or will be engaged in project development and implementation. Provide demographic information on the community(ies), including but not limited to age, race and ethnicity, poverty rates.

Three-part question:

- 1) Describe how the proposed project will engage community-level partners to help design, implement, and maintain projects to secure maximum benefits for communities.
- 2) Describe how communities will be directly engaged in the project and what measurable community benefits will result from the project.
- 3) Provide demographic information for the community(ies) that will be engaged in and/or directly benefit from the project, **including but not limited to age, race and ethnicity, poverty rates, etc.**
 - Applicants are encouraged to incorporate tools, such as the [Social Vulnerability Index](#), [EJ Screen](#), and others, to provide this information





METRICS & MONITORING

- Priority will be given to projects that include a monitoring plan to measure outcomes. This should:
 - ✓ Indicate the metrics used to track progress & quantify outcomes
 - ✓ Outline approach to quantify baseline conditions to allow assessment
 - ✓ Demonstrate plans/resources for post-implementation monitoring
- Describe activities/outcomes in terms of quantitative metrics
 - ✓ Recommended metrics listed in RFP & Easygrants
 - ✓ Specify other metrics as needed
- Grant funding can support monitoring activities
 - ✓ Project may allocate up to 15% of budget
 - ✓ Some projects may warrant a higher percentage

LONG-TERM OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE


- ≥5 year plan required
- Plan elements:
 - ✓ Actions needed
 - ✓ Access to or ownership of supplies needed
 - ✓ Cost estimates
 - ✓ Likely sources of funding
 - ✓ Responsible parties
 - ✓ Training needs
 - ✓ Capacity for long-term stewardship
- If applicable, describe long term invasive species management and EDRR protocol
- Portion of grant funding may be used for plan development
- Plan must be completed prior to grant end date



COMPETITIVE PROJECTS

- Applicants must demonstrate capacity & experience commensurate with the scale and funding request of the project
- Occur near or otherwise directly benefit the major system waterways
- Align with & demonstrate how projects will complement and connect to other existing regional strategies
- Shovel-ready (project can begin shortly after grant is awarded)
- Apply most ($\geq 70\%$) grant funding to on-the ground improvements
- Include long-lasting benefits, as demonstrated by provisions for long-term (5-year) maintenance, operation, and management plans
- Meaningfully engage and benefit low-income and communities of color

FULL PROPOSAL PROCESS

- No pre-proposal stage
- Full Proposals due July 18 in Easygrants (easygrants.nfwf.org)
 - ✓ Longer narrative (5 pages max.) 
 - ✓ Project map
 - ✓ Metrics
 - ✓ Line item budget
 - ✓ Matching contributions
 - ✓ Letters of support required
 - ✓ Financial documents required
- Additional guidance documents available
- Contact us if you have questions or concerns



Chi-Cal Rivers Fund 2022 - Full Proposal Project Narrative

Instructions: Save this document on your computer and complete the narrative in the format provided. The final narrative should not exceed 6 (six) pages; font should be 12-point Times New Roman. Do not delete the text provided below. Once complete, upload this document into the on-line application as instructed.

1. **Funding Category:** Highlight the Funding Category that best describes the proposed project: 1) *Habitat Quality*; 2) *Green Stormwater Infrastructure*; 3) *Public Access*.
2. **Context:** Briefly describe the project context in terms of current conditions, existing challenges, and opportunities for improvement. Explain how the proposed work would complement and connect to previous and ongoing efforts and plans to restore the health, vitality, and accessibility of the waterways of the region. Indicate any expected benefits to low-income and communities of color. Applicants with existing Chi-Cal Rivers Fund grant(s) should provide a brief status update for active project(s).
3. **Activities and Outcomes:** Describe the project activities proposed and the timeline for project implementation. Discuss how these activities will generate direct, measurable benefits (metrics) to the priority waterways. Explain how the project will improve community and/or habitat resilience in the face of climate change. Share anticipated outcomes in terms of metrics (e.g., acres restored, gallons stormwater storage added, etc.) relevant to the project activities.
4. **Tracking Metrics and Monitoring:** Indicate how the project will monitor/assess progress on the metrics and outcomes identified previously in the application. Note any challenges or limitations anticipated with tracking metrics. Where relevant, applicants are encouraged to monitor biological outcomes related to fish, shorebirds and waterfowl, marsh nesting birds and other species of conservation concern. If the proposed project is expected directly benefit priority species, describe how project activities will achieve species benefits and plans for species monitoring.
5. **Long-Term Operation and Maintenance:** Indicate how project benefits will be sustained through time. Refer to any relevant existing long-term operation and maintenance plan(s) or describe anticipated efforts to develop a long-term plan. Plans should include expected long-term efficacy of project activities, including projected or anticipated performance over 5 years, anticipated useful life of project elements (GSI construction, habitat restoration/management practices) and required maintenance over time to sustain function.
6. **Project Team and Partnerships:** List the individuals who will lead the project and describe their qualifications and experience. Describe additional project partners and their role in the proposed project. Describe how the proposed project will engage community-level partners (e.g., municipalities, NGOs, community organizations, community leaders) to help design, implement, and maintain projects to secure maximum benefits for communities and ensure public use of project sites, maintenance, and sustainability post-grant award if relevant.
7. **Equity and Inclusion:** 1) Describe community benefits that will result from the project. Provide demographic information for the community(ies) that will be engaged in and/or directly benefit from the project, including but not limited to age, race and ethnicity, poverty rates, reduced school lunch information, etc.



PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

- Start date should be no earlier than November 11, 2023
- Duration typically 2 years (or two full field seasons)
- Matching contributions must be spent or applied between project start and end dates

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

- Match is not required
- Ratio of matching contributions to grant funding requested is considered during the review process and projects that offer match and are cost effective are more competitive
- May be federal or non-federal
- Match eligibility
 - ✓ Verifiable from the grantee's records
 - ✓ Not included as contributions for any other award
 - ✓ Necessary & reasonable to accomplish project or program objectives
 - ✓ Not paid by the Federal government under another Federal award except when authorized by Federal statute (applicable to Federal match only)
 - ✓ Are allowable under OMB Cost Principles (applicable to Federal match only)
 - ✓ Committed directly to the project and must be used within the period of performance



ACCEPTED MATCH SOURCES

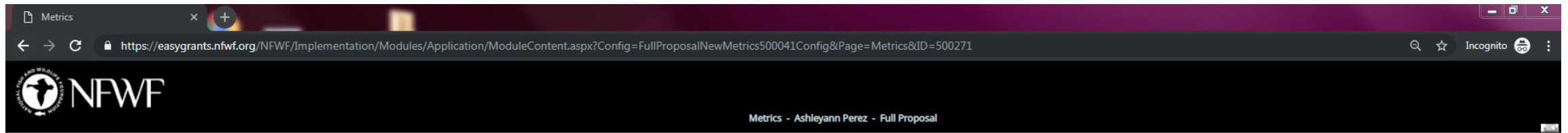
- Cash
- In-kind contributions of staff
- Materials and services donated
- Volunteer time
- Cost of land acquisition/easement
- Allowable indirect costs not covered by grant funding
- Other tangible contributions to project goals

METRICS

- All possible outcome metrics are listed in Easygrants & selected during the Full Proposal application process
**example of metrics listed in the RFP shown on the right*
- Only metrics relevant to the proposed project should be selected
- Grantees will be required to report progress toward project outcomes in terms of the metrics selected

<i>Funding Category</i>	Recommended Metrics <i>*Required metric</i>	Additional Guidance
<i>Habitat Quality</i>	Riparian restoration – miles restored	Enter the number of riparian miles restored, including riparian buffers. In the NOTES section, specify the landcover type prior to planting (barren, cropland, grassland), the dominant vegetation being planted (Broadleaf, Conifer, Shrub, Grass, Marsh, Wet meadow, Swamp), and the average width of the riparian buffer. Indicate the miles of riparian habitat restored along priority waterways. Include miles of invasive species control, bank stabilization, and native vegetation restoration.
	Floodplain restoration – acres restored	Enter # of floodplain acres restored. In the NOTES, indicate % of vegetation on the pre-project site (0-20%, 21-40%, 41-60%, 61-80%, 81-100%) and the dominant vegetation being restored (Broadleaf, Conifer, Redwood, Shrub, Grass, Marsh, Wet meadow, Swamp).
	Erosion control - lbs sediment avoided (annually)	Enter the amount of sediment prevented from entering system annually
<i>Green Stormwater Infrastructure</i>	Volume stormwater storage added annually	Enter the volume (in gallons) of stormwater storage added through green infrastructure improvements (measured as design retention capacity for a 100-year 24-hour storm). For GSI maintenance projects, enter volume (gallons) of stormwater storage maintained via this metric. In comments, include projection of gallons of stormwater captured or infiltrated annually.
	Square feet of green infrastructure installed	Enter square feet of GSI installed. For GSI maintenance projects, enter square feet of GSI maintained via this metric
	Number of trees planted	Enter the number of trees planted.
<i>Public Access</i>	Green Infrastructure - miles trails developed/improved	Enter the number of miles of trails or riverwalks developed or improved.
	Green Infrastructure - access pts developed/improved	Enter the number of public access points developed or improved.

METRICS



Home

Main

Contact Information

Organization Information

Project Information

Project Location

Map

Uploads

Metrics

Budget

Matching Contributions

Permits and Approvals

Review and Submit

FAQ

Help

Log Out

Project Information

Due: **4/25/2019 11:59 PM ET** *Test* Easygrants ID: 65193
Perez, Ashleyann | (TEST ORGANIZATION)
Grants | Fishing for Energy Fund | Fishing for Energy 2019

Instructions

Follow the steps below to provide NFWF with metrics for showing progress on your project's primary activities and outcomes. More detailed instructions, screenshots, and examples are provided in the Metrics Help page displayed when you click **Help**. You may save and return to this page as often as needed to complete your metrics.

- To view and select the available metrics, click **Select Metric**. A page will display all of the available metrics. If the list of available metrics is long, you can filter the list by clicking on the *Show*: options - **Templates** and/or **Strategies**: Templates allows you to filter on metric templates, if there is more than one; Strategies allows you to filter on a single Strategy, e.g., Habitat Management - *Show All* is the default for both. For more details on each metric, "mouse-over" the question mark icon.
- To select your metrics, check the box in the *Add* column for the metrics on which you will report, and click **Add Selected**. The table below will refresh and display the metrics. You must select and report on at least one metric on this page, and the Foundation's strong preference is for projects to contain a limited number of metrics for showing progress.
- For each of your selected metrics, enter both *Starting Value* (i.e., the actual number at the start of your project), and a *Target Value* (i.e., the projected number at the completion of your project) amounts. Notes may be added to a metric by clicking the sheet icon to the right of the Completion number.
- Click **Save** intermittently to save your data. The system will timeout after 60 minutes of non-use, and any unsaved data will be lost.
- To remove a metric after you've selected it, click the red X to the right of the line item. To delete several metrics at once, click the checkbox to the left of each metric name and click **Delete Selected** at the bottom of the page. The system will request confirmation before deleting Metrics, and the page will refresh with the remaining metrics. All metrics remaining on the page must contain values before final submission.
- When you are finished providing values, click **Save and Continue** to save your metrics and move to the next page.

Note: The metrics provided here are those selected by the Foundation. If you would like to report on additional metrics, please include these in your project narrative.

Applicant Submission Version

Filter By: FFE Metrics | Show All Strategies Select Metric

Metric	Strategies	Required	Starting Value	Target value
<input type="checkbox"/> FFE - Tool development for decision-making - # tools/ techniques tested	Planning, Research, Monitoring	Recommended	10.00 # tools/ techniques tested	10.00 # tools/ techniques tested

Viewing Records 1 - 1 of 1

Page size 25 | First | Previous | Next | Last | **Show All**

Select All **Delete Selected**

Save **Save and Continue**

Add notes to selected metrics provided.

Filter By:

[Select Metric](#)

Metric	Strategies	Required	Starting Value	Target value	
<input type="checkbox"/> FIF - Building institutional capacity - # FTE with sufficient training	Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Optional	<input type="text"/> # FTE with sufficient training	<input type="text"/> # FTE with sufficient training	
<input type="checkbox"/> FIF - Monitoring - # vessels in monitoring program	Planning, Research, Monitoring	Optional	<input type="text"/> # vessels in monitoring program	<input type="text"/> # vessels in monitoring program	

Viewing Records 1 - 2 of 2

Page size [First](#) | [Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Last](#) | [Show All](#)

Select All [Delete Selected](#)

[Save](#) [Save and Continue](#)

Notes

Metric : FIF - Monitoring - # vessels in monitoring program

Note

[Save And Close](#) [Close](#)

Uploads - Applicant Demographic Information Form

- The information you provide will not be shared with proposal reviewers and will not be considered when making grant decisions.
- The Foundation will not share identifying information about any particular entity or project.
- While the form is a required upload, applicants can opt out of providing the information within the form itself
- The information provided on this excel form will be kept confidential, the Foundation may share its anonymized aggregate findings as appropriate with its staff, Board of Directors, funding partners, and publicly on its website or through other media.

AutoSave **Off** NFWF Applicant Demographic Information Form_Pilot_1-26-21 - Excel

File Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Help

Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles

B18 date

1 **APPLICANT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

2 *As part of NFWF's goal to encourage and support diversity across the conservation projects we fund, we would like to better understand the existing diversity in our grantmaking community and in the local communities in which we fund.*

3 *To accomplish this task, we are asking organizations that we fund to assist us by providing basic information about their workforce demographics on this form.*

4 *As part of this effort to support diversity, we also desire to understand how our grantees engage with the communities where the projects take place and who in those communities might benefit from them. We ask for this information in your application narrative.*

5 *The information provided on this excel form will be kept confidential, although the Foundation may share its aggregate findings as appropriate with its staff, Board of Directors, funding partners, and publicly on its website or through other media.*

6 *Foundation will not share identifying information about any particular entity or project.*

7 *These anonymized aggregate data will be used by NFWF to better understand the demographic profiles of the organizations that we fund.*

8 **The information you provide will not be shared with proposal reviewers and will not be considered when making grant decisions.**

9

10 **Instructions:** Complete all pertinent fields *shaded in green*. Your Human Resources Department may have some of the information requested readily available. If you do not know an answer, use the "don't know/not sure" option. If a section does not apply to your organization you may skip it. Do not make any other changes to this form.

11

12 You may opt out of providing this information to NFWF; however, you still **must upload this form to Easygrants** with your application.

13

14 If you are opting out, click on the green box to select a reason from the dropdown list:

15

16 **GENERAL**

17

18 Date Completed date

19 Easygrants project # from your grant application EZG #

20 Grant program name shown on the RFP grant program name

21 Project Title from your grant application project title



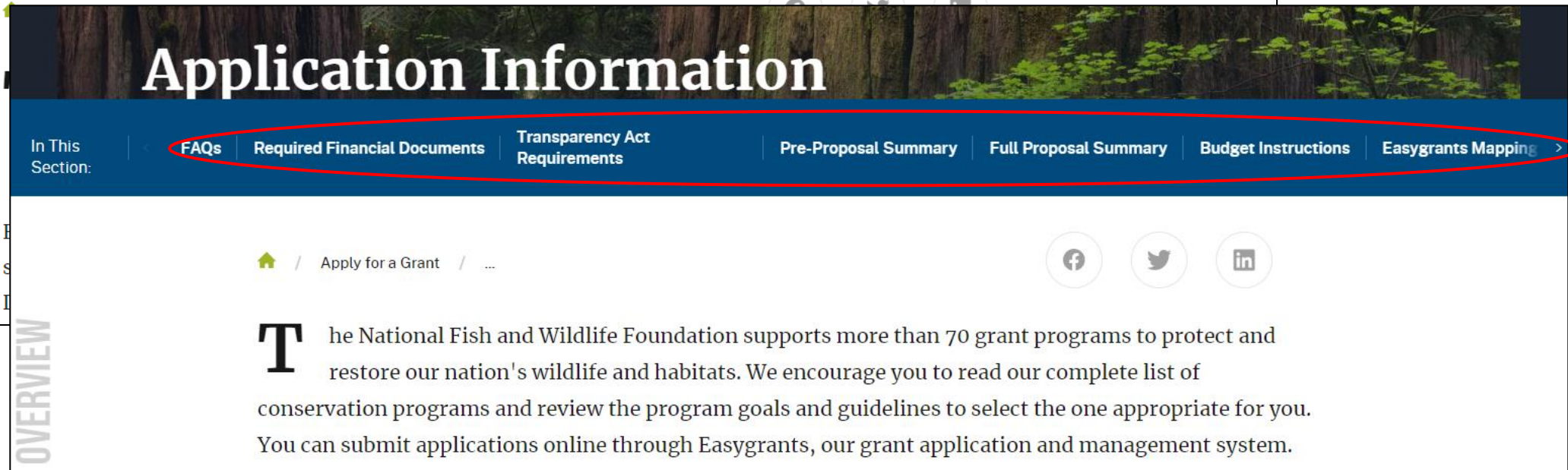
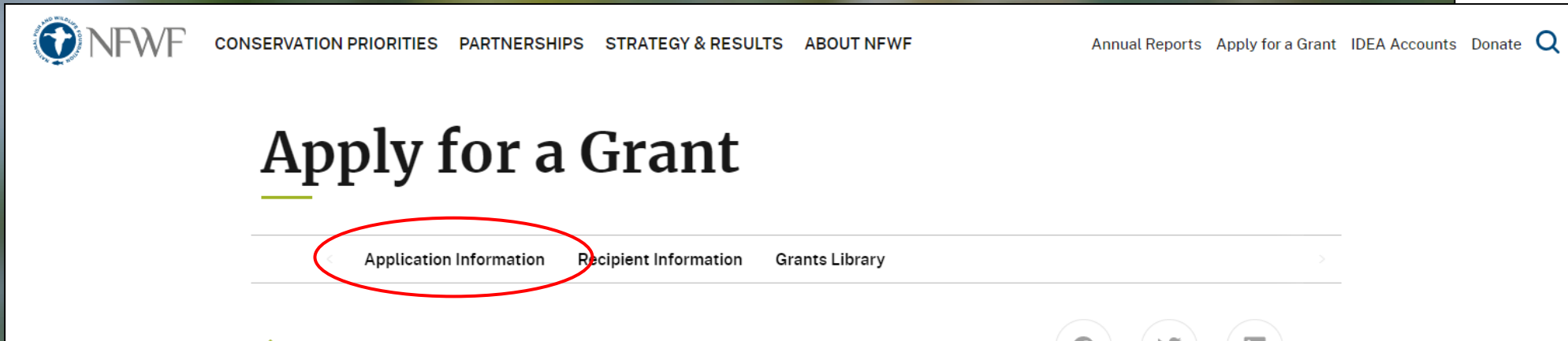
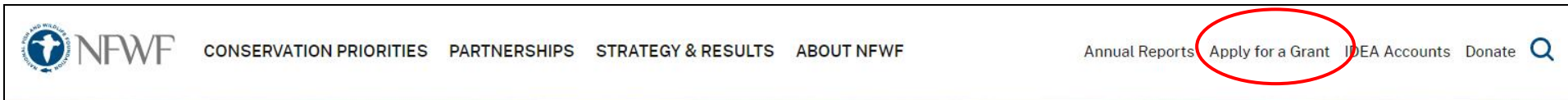
APPLICATION ASSISTANCE – REFERENCE SHEET

Supporting Documents:

1. [Chi-Cal Rivers Fund 2023 RFP webpage](#)
 - a. [Tip Sheet](#)
 - Step-by-step proposal guidance
 - b. [Easygrants Instructional Webinar](#)
 - Step-by-step video tutorial on how to start and complete a proposal in [Easygrants](#)

2. [NFWF Application Information](#)
 - a. [Budget instructions](#)
 - Download the [Detailed Budget and Narrative Guide](#)
 - *For the Full Proposal Budget section, please provide a respective budget narrative describing the purpose of each line item towards the project.
 - b. [Required financial documents](#)
 - Financial documents must be for the same fiscal year and **no more than 2 years old**
 - c. [Indirect Cost Policy](#)

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE – NFWF WEBSITE (WWW.NFWF.ORG)



APPLICATION ASSISTANCE – EASYGRANTS TIPS

- If you've never used Easygrants before, create your login at easygrants.nfwf.org TODAY and familiarize yourself with the system. **View the [pre-recorded instructional webinar](#).**
- Turn off your browser's pop-up blockers.
- Download the “Tip Sheet” (available on the RFP webpage) and use it as a reference to complete each field of the proposal.
- Refer to the RFP and metrics instructions in Easygrants for required metric notes.
- DO NOT mail physical letters of support to NFWF, upload digital copies into the online proposal.
- Provide a phone number in your Easygrants account. Keep your email and proposal contact information up-to-date.

TIMELINE

- Full Proposals due: **July 18, 2023 by 10:59 PM CT**
- Grant awards announced: **November 2023**
- Grant agreements developed: **November 2023 – March 2024**



CONTACT INFORMATION

Traci Giefer

Senior Manager, Great Lakes Programs
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
612-564-7296

traci.giefer@nfwf.org

Naomi Attaway

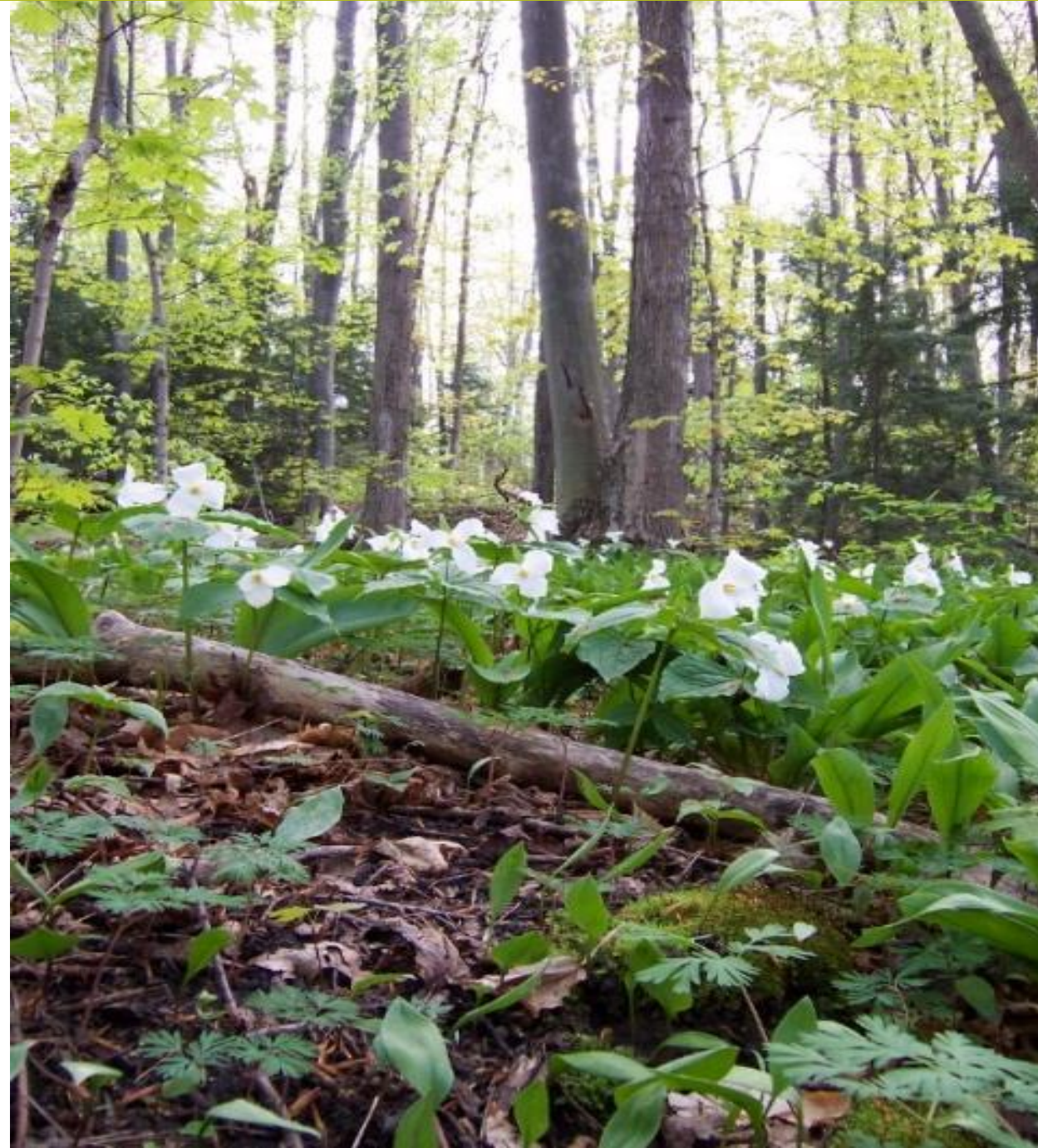
Coordinator, Regional Programs
202-595-2657

Naomi.attaway@nfwf.org

Aislinn Gauchay

Director, Great Lakes Programs
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
612-564-7284

aislinn.gauchay@nfwf.org



Chi-Cal Rivers Fund



CLIFFS



WILDER
FOUNDATION



CROWN FAMILY PHILANTHROPIES



NFWF



GAYLORD AND
DOROTHY DONNELLEY
FOUNDATION

TheJoyceFoundation



**Great Lakes
RESTORATION**



<https://www.nfwf.org/programs/chi-cal-rivers-fund>