

watershed resources



7 watershed resources

Watershed resources include public agencies and private organizations that provide funding and technical assistance to watershed stakeholders seeking to improve watershed resources. These organizations are often willing to cooperate on projects for restoration, environmental education, and other types of projects. Some assistance is provided after an application process selects appropriate and eligible projects, and applicants are often better positioned to be awarded assistance for projects that involve multiple partners, that leverage other funding, and that achieve multiple environmental or community benefits. Almost any land or water conservation project ultimately requires the support of those who live nearby if it is to be successful over the long run. Local neighborhood associations, homeowner associations, and similar groups interested in open space, preventing sprawl or protecting wildlife habitat and scenic vistas, make the best partners for specific projects.

The programs described in the following pages do not include all possible partners and/or sources of available assistance. Rather, they are programs deemed most promising for restoration projects included in the Action Plan. Many watershed stakeholders will perform regulatory roles in implementation of the Watershed Plan, and as such, are excellent starting points for securing assistance.

7.1 WHO TO CALL

The following list provides information on who to contact for a particular watershed related issue or concern.

Municipalities: Beach Park, 847-746-1770; Waukegan, 847-599-2500; Winthrop Harbor, 847-872-3846; Zion, 847-746-4000.

Usually have staff or budget through public works to handle common problems; have authority to enter lands to remove blockages even outside own boundaries. Call when issues relate to: Lot and Neighborhood level drainage concerns; Emergency response: sandbags, evacuation procedures; Construction site soil erosion and sediment control problems in incorporated areas..

Townships: Benton Township Highway Department, 847-746-2070; Waukegan Township Highway Department, 847-662-7280; Zion Township (No Highway Department), 847-872-2811

Sometimes staff is able to reduce local flooding problems by improvements along ROW but is not common; policies vary from Township to Township; not able to assist in areas outside its own ROW. Call when issues relate to: Drainage concerns are within the right-of-way of a township road.

Beach Park Drainage District, 847-623-6661

Provides information, technical assistance; field staff may be available for site visits in cases of severe drainage, soil erosion. Call when issues relate to: Problem associated with drainage ditches and streams within a drainage district.

Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, 847-918-5260, www.co.lake.il.us/smc

The Lake County SMC relies on other governmental units to respond to smaller scale problems; has field staff to investigate drainage complaints and construction-related water quality concerns in non-certified communities; funding available for repair or maintenance of drainage facilities and drainage problems; flood insurance, flood safety, floodplain management and flood hazard maps; compiles drainage data for watershed planning and should be notified by Certified Communities of major problems. Call when issues relate to: Neighborhood, watershed or regional scale problems; Interjurisdictional issues; Involves a violation of the Lake County Watershed Development Ordinance [related to new development and in non-certified communities].

Lake County Planning, Building, & Development Department, Engineering and Environmental Services Division (E&ES), 847-377-2600

The Lake County PB&D has field staff to inspect and respond to drainage and water quality complaints in unincorporated areas; can require remedial activity if in violation of the Lake County Unified Development Ordinance; funding available for repair or maintenance of drainage facilities; provides notification to SMC of regional scale problems. Call when issues relate to: Construction site soil erosion and sediment control problems in Unincorporated Lake County; Complaint is on a parcel located in an unincorporated area; Drainage

7 watershed resources

complaints, erosion control, Site Development Permits; Individual, neighborhood, watershed scale problems; Involves a violation of the Lake County Unified Development Ordinance (related to older or new development).

Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD), 847-367-6640

Handles issues related to Lyon's Woods Forest Preserve, Spring Bluff Forest Preserve, Thunderhawk Golf Course Forest Preserve; Lake County Forest Preserve properties and programs; Technical assistance for vegetative issues in natural areas; Volunteer opportunities.

Lake County Health Department Lakes Management Unit, 847-377-8020

Provides technical and educational services and expertise essential to the management and protection of Lake County surface waters to maintain or improve water quality, promote healthy and safe lake conditions, and protect and improve ecological diversity. Call when issues relate to: Lake Michigan beaches.

Lake County Division of Transportation (LCDOT), 847-362-3950

Maintains all bridges, culverts and ditches within the ROW of county highway signs signified by blue and gold route markers saying Lake County. Call when issues relate to: Bridges, culverts, and ditches located within the right-of-way of county roads.

Lake County Emergency Management Agency (LCEMA), 847-377-7100

Primarily responsible for emergency services in a disaster; works closely with local EMA coordinators during a disaster/flood event. Refer requests for sandbags and evacuation procedures to local municipality or to township; does not distribute insurance claims. Call when issues relate to: Municipal EMA coordinators and township officials coordinate request for sandbags and evacuation procedures.

Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), 847-223-1056

Agricultural, urban, and water body-related technical guidance; Provides technical assistance, education, and

information on cost-share programs; field staff may make site visits to evaluate complex problems, can prepare Natural Resource Inventories for a property; Will do a certified wetland determination on farm land; Conservation planning on private lands; Provides residents with native plants and fish in an annual sale event. Call when issues relate to: Technical assistance on soil erosion and natural resource issues; Educational assistance in the form of workshops, presentations, brochures, pamphlets, and handouts; Federal and state available cost-share programs; Erosion concerns in agricultural and urban areas.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, 217-782-0610 or 847-294-4000

Enforce stormwater pollution prevention plan on development sites greater than 1 acre in size; address contaminant spills, point source discharges, etc. Call when issues relate to: Water pollution problems.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Illinois Beach State Park, 847-662-4811, Region 2 Headquarters, 847-608-3100

Call when issues relate to: State natural areas; Wildlife and fisheries; Regulatory requirements.

Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society, 312-332-3377

Co-founder of Illinois Beach State Park now deals with stewardship and contamination-related issues. Call when issues relate to: Illinois Beach State Park contamination and clean up.

Lake County Land Conservancy, 847-356-6001

Protects and manages natural and open lands in Lake County. Call when issues relate to: open space preservation and conservation easements.

Liberty Prairie Conservancy, 847-548-5989

Preserves open space and restores natural areas in Lake County. Call when issues relate to: open space preservation and conservation easements.

North Shore Sanitary District, 847-623-6060

Manages sanitary sewer lines and pumping stations which collect and convey wastewater from local sewer systems

to wastewater treatment plants. Call when issues relate to: sanitary sewer system problems such as back ups, exposed sewer lines, and over flows / discharges into watershed streams and wetlands.

**Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group,
WaukeganHarborCAG@email.com**

Represents the community and assumes a leadership role in developing a remedial action plan for contamination issues in and around the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern. Call when issues relate to: Waukegan Harbor and surrounding industrial land use area.

Alliance for the Great Lakes, 312-939-0838

Works to conserve and restore the world's largest freshwater resource through policy, education and local efforts aimed at preserving the Great Lakes. Program areas include water quality, water conservation, habitat, land use, clean energy, and education and outreach. Call when issues relate to: Lake Michigan.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 312-353-6400

Requires consultation for activities within most wetlands and may refer some questions to LCSMC. Call when issues relate to: Wetlands.

Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group (CAG)

Box 297, Waukegan, IL 60079, WaukeganHarborCAG@email.com.

Works on issues related to the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern and surrounding areas.

Alliance for the Great Lakes, 312-939-0838

Works on a variety of Great Lakes issues including water quality, water conservation, habitat recovery, land use, clean energy, and education and outreach.

7.2 FUNDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The list of potential funding and technical assistance sources is compiled from a variety of sources and is accurate as of 2007. Funding and program availability are contingent upon federal, state, and local budgets and appropriations for the budget year in which funding is being sought. Contact the program representative for updates or changes to program details.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

Issues federal environmental regulations, enforces federal environmental law, and manages a number of grant programs.

- **Clean Water Act Section 319 Grants** provide funding for implementing corrective and preventative best management practices on a watershed scale, for the demonstration of innovative BMPs on a sub-watershed scale, and the development of information and education non point source pollution control programs. Administered by Illinois EPA.

Eligibility: State and local governments, nonprofits, individuals, businesses.

Assistance: Federal cost share at 60 percent maximum.

Website: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/financial-assistance/non-point.html>.

Contact: Illinois EPA, 1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois, 62794-9276. Phone: 217-782-3397.

- **Clean Water State Revolving Loan Funds (SRF)**, initially designed for wastewater treatment plant upgrades, supports watershed and non-point source control measures. These can include projects such as agricultural and urban runoff control, wet weather flow control including stormwater and sewer overflows, buffers, wetland protection, habitat restoration, and community-based comprehensive watershed management. Currently IEPA targets SRF funding to point source pollution control, i.e., upgrading wastewater infrastructure, but there has been discussion of setting aside some SRF funds for non-point source control programs. Eligibility: State and local governments, nonprofits, individuals, businesses.

Assistance: Funds projects at 100 percent at a national

7 watershed resources

average interest rate of 2.2 percent, subject to change.
Website: http://www.epa.gov/owmitnet/cwf_nance/cwsrf/.
Contact: Illinois EPA, 1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois, 62794-9276. Phone: 217-782-3397.

- **Five Star Restoration Challenge Grants** bring together citizen groups, corporations, youth groups and students, landowners, and government agencies to undertake projects that restore streambanks and wetlands. Projects must include a strong wetland or riparian restoration component, and should also include education, outreach, and community stewardship. Jointly administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the National Association of Counties, and the Wildlife Habitat Council, and mainly funded by USEPA.

Eligibility: Requires at least five or more partnering organizations.

Assistance: \$5,000 to \$20,000 with a 1 to 1 match requirement.

Website: <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/5star-rfp.htm> <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star/>.

Contact: USEPA Wetlands Division, Room 6105 (4502 T), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Email: price.myra@epa.gov.

- **Water Quality Cooperative Agreements** assist public or nonprofit organizations in developing, implementing, and demonstrating innovative that reduce wastewater related pollution. Primarily meant to fund exemplary projects, e.g., new BMPs, that increase and transfer knowledge. Not to be used for land acquisition and development.

Eligibility: States, public agencies, and nonprofit organizations.

Assistance: \$10,000 to \$500,000 with no local match requirement, although match of funds are considered during evaluation.

Website: <http://www.epa.gov/owm/wqca/2004.htm>

Contact: USEPA Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL 60604. Phone: 312-353-4378.

- **Wetland Program Development Grants** support strengthening state comprehensive wetland programs, developing a comprehensive wetland monitoring and

assessment program, improving the effectiveness of compensatory mitigation, and refining the protection of vulnerable wetlands and aquatic resources.

Eligibility: States, local governments, public agencies, and interstate agencies.

Assistance: \$50,000 to \$420,000 grants with 25 percent local match requirement.

Website: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/grantguidelines/>.

Contact: US EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL, 60604. Phone: 312-886-0241 Email: garra.catherine@epa.gov.

- **Assessment and Watershed Protection Program Grants** help to develop innovative approaches to watershed protection, make a contribution to the body of restoration and management techniques, and transfer knowledge.

Application of established techniques may be funded if doing so would contribute to the general understanding of an environmental problem.

Eligibility: States, local governments, public agencies, nonprofit organizations, individuals.

Assistance: \$5,000 to \$80,000 with no local match requirement, although match of funds are considered during evaluation as 10 percent of the ranking.

Website: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/funding.html>.

Contact: USEPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Phone: 202-566-1211, 202-566-1206.

- **Targeted Watersheds Grants Program** (formerly Watershed Initiative) funds projects that demonstrate innovative approaches to watershed restoration with an emphasis on inter-organizational collaboration, market-based techniques, and demonstrable environmental improvement. Does not support activities directly required under the Clean Water Act.

Eligibility: Any public entity, but must be nominated by the state.

Assistance: \$600,000 to \$900,000 with 25 percent local match required.

Website: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative/>.

Contact: USEPA Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL 60604. Phone: 312-886-7742. Email: thomas.paul@epa.gov.

- **State Wetlands Protection Grants** support development of new wetland protection, management, and restoration programs or refine existing programs. Grants can finance monitoring, assessment, and river corridor restoration.

Eligibility: State governments, local governments, and special districts.

Assistance: Federal–local cost share at 75 percent federal funding.

Website: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/business/fs-swpgr.htm>.

Contact: USEPA Region 5, Water Division, 77 West Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL 60604. Phone: 312-886-0241.

- The **Illinois Clean Lakes Program** grant program supports lake owners' interest and commitment to long-term, comprehensive lake management. Detailed diagnostic/feasibility studies scientifically document the causes, sources and magnitude of lake impairment (Phase I). Data generated from these monitoring studies are used to recommend lake protection/restoration practices for future implementation (Phase II).

Eligibility: Lake owners, local units of government, private not-for-profit (501C3) groups.

Assistance: up to \$75,000 for Phase 1, 40% match required; up to \$300,000 for Phase II study costs with 50 percent local match required. Available for publicly-owned lakes larger than 6 acres with public access.

Website: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/conservation-2000/iclp.html>.

Contact: IEPA Bureau of Water – Surface Water Section, Des Plaines Monitoring and Assessment Unit, 9511 West Harrison, Des Plaines, IL 60016. Phone: 847-294-4000. Contact Wally Matsunaga.

- The **Lake Education Assistance Program (LEAP)** supports educational programs on inland lakes and lake watersheds.

Eligibility: local governments, educational organizations, and private not-for-profit groups.

Assistance: Maximum funding of \$500 is reimbursed after completion.

Website: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/financial-assistance/index.html>.

Contact: 217-782-3362.

- The **Volunteer Lake Management Program (VLMP)**, administered by the Illinois EPA, serves as an educational program for Illinois citizens to learn about lake ecosystems and utilizes the time and talents of citizen volunteers to gather fundamental information on inland lakes.

Eligibility: Lake owners.

Assistance: technical assistance only.

Website: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/conservation-2000/vlmp.html>.

Contact: Holly Hudson, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 233 South Wacker, Suite 800, Sears Tower, Chicago, IL 60606. email: hlhudson@cmmap.org.

- The **USEPA Guidebook for Financial Tools** is used for identifying conservation funding source options

Eligibility: anyone can access the guidebook.

Assistance: informational only.

Website: <http://www.epa.gov/efnpage> or <http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/>

Contact: see website.

- **USEPA Catalog of Funding Sources for Watershed Protection** is useful for identifying programs that will protect both urban and rural watersheds

Eligibility: anyone can access the guidebook.

Assistance: informational only.

Website: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/funding.html>, <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/> or <http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/>.

Contact: see websites.

- The **Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants** are for the re-use and remediation of brownfield sites throughout Illinois.

Eligibility: local governments, private not-for-profit (501C3) groups, and others.

Assistance: \$2 to \$3 million annually Cleanup grants require 25% cost-share, grants range from under \$15,000 to over \$50,000.

Website: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

Contact: Call 312-886-7576 or 301-589-5318.

- The **Environmental Education Grants Program** funds environmental education activities such as curricula design

7 watershed resources

or dissemination, designing or demonstrating educational field methods for the public, and training educators.

Eligibility: Educational organizations, private not-for-profit groups, and local governments.

Assistance: Minimum of 25% matching funds or in-kind services required. Awards of \$25,000 or less are granted by regional offices.

Website: <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html>

Contact: Call 312-353-5282 or visit the website for most current information and deadlines.

- The **Environmental Justice Grant Programs** include community-based approaches for environmental protection. Eligibility: Educational organizations, private not-for-profit groups.

Assistance: No match is required. Up to \$15,000 per non-superfund site, other project grants variable up to \$100,000.

Website: <http://www.epa.gov>.

Contact: Call 312-886-5993 or 1-800-962-6215.

- **Smart Growth Technical Assistance Opportunities** assist local communities develop in an environmentally-friendly, sustainable manner.

Eligibility: Local governments, private not-for-profit groups, and others.

Assistance: In-kind contributions with assistance preferred.

Website: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/techasst.htm/>.

Contact: Call 202-566-2853.

- The **Priority Lake and Watershed Implementation Program** provides funding to implement protection/restoration practices that improve water quality.

Eligibility: Local governments, private not-for-profit groups. Priority given to publicly-owned and accessed lakes.

Assistance: Funding up to 100%, projects range up to \$40,000.

Website: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/financial-assistance/>.

Contact: 217-782-3362.

- The **Streambank Cleanup and Lakeshore Enhancement (SCALE)** program provides up to \$3,500 in funds for the implementation of a streambank or lakeshore clean up event; specifically for litter collection and disposal. Eligibility: Applicant selection based on event proximity

to Illinois EPA designated priority waters, number of participants, and size of clean up area.

Assistance: Funding up to \$3,500.

Website: www.epa.state.il.us/water/watershed/scale.html.

Contact: 217-782-3362.

- The **Community Based Environmental Protection** program funds projects that use community-based approaches for environmental protection for energy, land use, brownfields, open space and wetlands.

Eligibility: open.

Assistance: 20% match required.

Website: www.epa.gov/ecocommunity/

Contact: 800-621-8431

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works programs involve the planning, design, construction management, operation and maintenance of water resource management and restoration projects to meet flood and storm damage reduction, navigation, environmental restoration, hydropower, recreation and other water related goals.

- **Flood Hazard Mitigation and Riverine Ecosystem Restoration Program ("Challenge 21")** focuses on non-structural, sustainable approach to flood protection, including watershed-based planning, wetland conservation, relocation of buildings out of the floodplain, riparian corridor restoration, and pre-disaster mitigation planning. Funding has not yet been authorized.

Eligibility: Local governments; study area must be within a floodplain.

Assistance: Federal cost share at 50 percent for studies and 65 percent for project implementation. Maximum federal allocation is \$30 million.

Website: Information is available at <http://www.usace.army.mil/floodplain/Challenge%2021.htm>.

Contact: For information, contact USACE (Headquarters) Planning Division, 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20314. Phone: 202-761-4750.

- **Continuing Authorities Program** allows the Corps to respond quickly to water resources problems. Some of the legislative authorities of the program include Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (Section 206), Environmental Dredging (Section 312), and Environmental Restoration

(Section 1135). See website for full listing.

Eligibility: Local public entities are eligible for studies, planning engineering, construction, and administration.

Assistance: Federal–local cost share percentages vary depending on the program. Up to \$5 million federal assistance provided.

Website: The USACE Vicksburg District provides an overview of the Continuing Authorities Program at http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Offices/pp/Projects/Small_Projects_Program/basics.htm.

Contact: USACE Chicago District, 111 N. Canal St, Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60606. Phone: 312-846-5498.

- The **Project Modifications for Improvement of the Environment (Section 1135)** program gives the Corps authority to review water resource projects constructed by the Corps and determine the need for modifications to improve the quality of the environment. The objective is to restore ecosystem structure, function and dynamic processes to a less-degraded, more natural condition.

Eligibility: feasibility studies, planning, engineering, construction and supervision.

Assistance: Federal cost-share of up to \$5 million available. 25% non-federal cost share required.

Contact: Planning Division Chief, Chicago District Corps, 312-846-5330.

- The **Small Flood Control Projects (Section 205)** program gives the Corps authority to develop and construct small flood control projects.

Eligibility: feasibility studies, planning, engineering, construction, supervision and administration.

- Assistance: Federal cost-share of up to \$5 million available. 50% non-federal cost-share required for feasibility study. 35% non-federal cost-share required for project costs.

Contact: Planning Division Chief, Chicago District Corps, 312-846-5330.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

manages a number of programs that assist communities in disaster planning and hazard mitigation.

- **Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)** helps states and communities identify and implement measures to reduce

the risk of flood damage to structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Awards planning grants to assist development of Flood Mitigation Plans and project grants for projects that reduce flood losses, such as elevation, relocation, demolition, acquisition of insured structures and property, flood proofing, and minor structural projects that reduce the risk of flood to insured structures.

Eligibility: State agencies, NFIP communities, qualified local organizations, Tribal governments.

Assistance: Federal cost share maximum of 75 percent.

Website: <http://www.fema.gov/fma/fma.shtm>

Contact: FEMA Region 5, 536 South Clark St., Chicago, IL 60605. Phone: 312-408-5500.

- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)**

implements long-term hazard mitigation measures following a major disaster declaration and, in Illinois, for post-disaster floodplain building buy-outs, elevation, relocation, retrofit, and demolition on public and private land.

Eligibility: State and local governments, qualified non-profit organizations, Tribal governments.

Assistance: Federal cost share maximum of 75 percent.

Website: <http://www.fema.gov/fma/hmgrp/>

Contact: Mr. Ron Davis, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, 110 East Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701-1109. Phone: 217-782-8719. E-mail: RDavis@iema.state.il.us.

- **Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (formerly Project Impact)** implements the pre-disaster mitigation program for states and communities to reduce risk to the population, the costs and disruption caused by severe property damage and the cost to all taxpayers of Federal disaster relief efforts. Eligible projects include: acquisition, relocation, elevation, and strengthening of structures, development of standards to protect structures from disaster damage, and drainage improvement projects.

Eligibility: State and local governments, universities, Tribal governments.

Assistance: Federal cost share maximum of 75 percent with a \$3 million cap.

Website: <http://www.fema.gov/fma/pdm.shtm>.

Contact: FEMA Region 5, 536 South Clark St., Chicago, IL 60605. Phone: 312-408-5500.

7 watershed resources

- **National Flood Insurance, Increased Cost of Compliance Program** provides flood insurance policyholders with flood damaged homes and businesses in high-risk areas, also known as Special Flood Hazard Areas, with assistance to help pay the costs to bring their home or business into compliance with their community's floodplain ordinance, including building elevation, relocation, demolition, or floodproofing.
Eligibility: flood insurance policy holders.
Assistance: Federal assistance up to \$30,000.
Website: <http://www.fema.gov/nfip/icc.shtm>.
Contact: FEMA Region 5, 536 South Clark St., Chicago, IL 60605. Phone: 800-427-4661.

US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the successor agency to the Soil Conservation Service, partners with state conservationist offices and provides funding and technical assistance to landowners to promote soil and water conservation.

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** provides incentive payments and cost-shares to implement conservation practices.
Eligibility: Non-federal landowners engaged in farming or ranching.
Assistance: Federal share maximum of 75 percent, \$450,000 aggregate cap on EQIP contracts. Beginning farmers and ranchers, as well as limited resource producers, may qualify for a 90 percent cost-share.
Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/>.
Contact: 500 C Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20472. Phone: (202) 566-1600.
- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** offers annual rental payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost-share assistance to remove highly erodible cropland or sensitive acres from crop production. Program encourages farmers to plant long-term resource conserving vegetative covers to improve soil, water, and wildlife resources. Eligible practices include riparian buffers along streams, ditches, lakes, wetlands, and ponds, grass or contour filter strips, and windbreaks. Funds also may be used to retire agricultural floodplain land. Program is administered by the Farm Service Agency.

Eligibility: Non-federal landowners engaged in farming or ranching.

Assistance: Farmers receive compensation, based on agricultural rent, for retiring sensitive land over a multiyear contract.

Website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crp.htm>.

Contact: USDA Farm Service Agency, 1400 Independence Ave, SW Washington, DC 20250-0506 Phone: 800-457-3642.

- **Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)** provides assistance to reduce hazards to life and property in watersheds from erosion and flooding due to severe natural events. May be used to establish vegetative cover, open restricted channels, repair diversions and levees, and purchase floodplain easements on flooded land in non-urban areas.

Eligibility: Public and private landowners with a project sponsor, i.e., a state or local government or special government district. Applications must be submitted within 60 days of disaster or 10 days in an emergency.

Assistance: Up to 75 percent federal cost-share for projects.

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ewp/>.

Contact: USDA, NRCS, Financial Assistance Programs Division, 14th and Independence Ave., SW, Room 6103A-S, Washington, DC 20250. Phone: 202-690-0793.

- **Soil and Water Conservation Assistance** program provides cost share and incentive payments to farmers and ranchers to voluntarily address threats to soil, water, and related natural resources, including grazing land, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. Requires a conservation plan and certification of eligible conservation practices by state conservationist.

Eligibility: Farmers and ranchers who own or control land.

Assistance: 5 to 10 year contracts with NRCS, 75 percent federal cost share, \$50,000 maximum benefit.

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/swca/>.

Contact: USDA, NRCS, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250. Phone: 202-720-1873.

- **Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program**

(PL 83-566) includes the Watershed Surveys and Planning program as well as the Watershed Operations program. The latter provides funding for installing conservation practices in small watersheds for flood prevention, erosion and sediment control, water quality, habitat enhancement, wetland creation and restoration.

Eligibility: Sponsorship by a state/local government or special government district, watershed less than 250,000 acres.

Assistance: Project grants.

Website: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed/index.html#Watershed_ops.

Contact: USDA, NRCS, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250. Phone: 202-720-8770.

- **Wetlands Reserve Program** provides funds to purchase permanent or 30-year easements and restoration agreement, or assist in a cost-share agreement with landowners, to restore wetlands and floodplain habitat on private land.

Eligibility: Individual landowners who have owned land for at least one year. Eligible lands must be restorable, contribute significantly to wetland functions and values, and be suitable for wildlife habitat

Assistance: Permanent easement purchased by USDA with 100 percent of restoration funded by federal government; thirty year easement purchased by USDA with 75 percent of restoration funded federally; or restoration cost-share only with USDA contributing 75 percent of cost.

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/>.

Contact: USDA, NRCS, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250. Phone: 202-720-1062.

- **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)** provides funding and technical assistance for private landowners to develop and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Eligibility: Private lands and some federal, state, and local government lands.

Assistance: Cost-share agreements up to 75% depending on landowner commitment, increased assistance for agreements longer than 15 years.

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/index.html>

Contact: USDA NRCS, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250. Phone: 202-720-1062.

- The **Streambank Stabilization Restoration Program**, administered by the Soil and Water Conservation District, goals are to develop and demonstrate vegetative, stone structure and other low-cost bio-engineering techniques for stabilizing streambanks and to encourage the adoption of low-cost streambank stabilization practices by making available financial incentives, technical assistance and educational information to landowners with critically eroding streambanks.

Eligibility: All landowners and project sites (rural and urban) in each Illinois county.

Assistance: check with the Lake County SWCD for details.

Website: <http://www.lakeswcd.org/>.

Contact: Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, 100 N Atkinson Rd, Suite 102A, Grayslake, IL 60030 Phone: 847-223-1056. Email: lcswcd@sbcglobal.net.

- The **Conservation Security Program (CSP)** promotes the conservation of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life located on working lands.

Eligibility: Individuals, organizations, and others. Contact administrator for details.

Assistance: check with the county-based USDA Service Centers for application deadlines and most current information. In-kind services or operations are required.

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/index.html>.

Contact: USDA, NRCS, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250. Phone: 202-720-1062.

- The **Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)** is intended to permanently preserve prime farmland or protect lands with historical and archeological resources.

Eligibility: local units of government, private not-for-profit (501C3) groups, educational institutions, and others.

Assistance: matching and in-kind match required. Check website for details.

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/index.html>.

7 watershed resources

Contact: USDA, NRCS, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250. Phone: 202-720-1062.

- The **Illinois Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)** program provides incentive payments and technical assistance to farm owners who plant grasses and trees, restore wetlands to reduce top soil loss, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat in the Illinois River basin.

Contact: 217-785-8774.

United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USDA-FS) manages programs that promote forestry and natural enhancement of urban areas through urban forestry programs.

- **Urban and Community Forest Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program** helps establish and support urban and community forests and forestry activities. Eligibility: local governments, educational organizations, individuals, and others.

Assistance: Non-federal match of 50% required

Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/>.

Contact: USDA, Forest Service 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-0003. Phone (202) 205-8333.

United States Department of Energy (USDOE) compiles and distributes a list of monthly funding opportunities relating to energy and the environment. Go to <http://www.eere.energy.gov/> and click on financial opportunities.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) manages programs to protect wildlife and habitat by means such as issuing rules for hunters and anglers, administering the Endangered Species Act, and awarding grants for environmental restoration.

- **Coastal Program** provides grants for habitat restoration and other purposes. Eligibility: Individuals, state and local governments, universities, non-profit organizations. Assistance: Project grants at 50 percent local match. Award

typically varies between \$5,000 and \$50,000.

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/cep/cepcode.html>.

Contact: USFWS, Branch of Habitat Restoration, Room 400, 4401 N. Fairfax Blvd., Arlington VA 2220 Phone: (703) 358-2201 USFWS Region 3 Office, 2651 Coolidge Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823. Phone: (517) 351-8470.

- **Challenge Cost Share Program** provides grants for conservation practices, ecosystem protection, and enhancement of wildlife and plant habitat. Eligibility: Individuals, businesses, federal, state, and local governments, universities, and non-profit organizations. Assistance: Grants at 50 percent local match. Average award is about \$7,800. Website: See Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (15.642), <http://www.cfda.gov>. Contact: USFWS National Wildlife Refuge System, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 670, Arlington, VA 22203. Phone: 703-358-1744.

- **Private Stewardship Program** provides cost share funding for conservation practices by private landowners or community groups that benefit threatened, endangered, and at-risk species. Eligibility: Individuals, businesses, private non-profit organizations, local or county governments. Cooperating private landowners must be identified in proposals. Assistance: Project grants at 10 percent local match. Average award about \$70,000. Website: http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private_stewardship/index.html. Contact: USFWS Region 3, One Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4056. Phone: 612-713-5343.

- **Partners for Fish and Wildlife Programs** assists private landowners in restoring habitat in accordance with USFWS goals, including, for example, restoration of wetland hydrology, use of prescribed burns, and planting with native vegetation. Wetlands are the primary focus of the program in Illinois. Landowners enter into at least a 10 year agreement to refrain from returning the land to its former use or otherwise nullifying the restoration. Eligible projects include restoration or enhancement of transient waterfowl habitat, improve water quality, flood protection, and groundwater recharge.

Eligibility: Non-state and non-federal landowners.

Assistance: Project grants at 50 percent local cost-share with matching or in-kind services preferred, but not required.

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/partners/>.

Contact: USFWS, Branch of Habitat Restoration, Room 400, 4401 N. Fairfax Blvd., Arlington VA 2220 Phone: (703) 358-2201 USFWS Region 3 Office, 2651 Coolidge Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823. Phone: (517) 351-8470.

- **Northeastern Illinois Wetlands Conservation Account** is intended for restoration, enhancement, and/or replacement of wetland functions and values which have been degraded or destroyed as a result of activities conducted in violation of the Clean Water Act or the Rivers and Harbors Act. Also funds activities that promote understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of wetlands. Eligibility: Governmental agencies, non-profit conservation organizations, and private home owner associations. Assistance: Project grants up to \$150,000. Matching funds preferred but not required. Website: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/chicago/neiwca2004rfp.htm>. Contact: USFS Chicago Illinois Field Office, 1250 South Grove Ave., Suite 103, Barrington, Illinois 60010. Phone: 847-381-2253.

- **North American Wetlands Conservation Act** Eligibility: Eligible on-the-ground projects include acquisition, restoration, creation and/or enhancement of wetlands and wetland-associated uplands. Partnerships are encouraged. Conservation easements are required. Assistance: Requires 1:1 non-federal match, maximum grant amount is \$50,000. Contact: Contact Small Grants Coordinator, N. American Waterfowl & Wetlands Office, USFWS, at 703-358-1784.

- **Flexible Funds** provides relatively small amounts of funds from up to five separate programs to good projects on private lands to restore fish and/or protect wildlife habitat. Eligibility: Governmental agencies, non-profit conservation organizations, and private home owner associations. Assistance: A 1:1 match is preferred. Contact: Steve Kufrin at 612-713-5447

National Park Service (NPS) manages the nation's system of national parks, historic sites, etc. and serves as a conduit for some recreation-related conservation funding.

- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** provides funds to states and localities for park and recreational land planning, acquisition, and development. Public access must be granted in perpetuity. Funds are awarded through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, which also manages a similar program, using state funding, called the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Program. Points are generally awarded for applications that place natural resources in protection.

Eligibility: Local government agencies with authority to develop land for parks.

Assistance: Up to \$750,000 for acquisition projects, with 50 percent match required.

Website: <http://dnr.state.il.us/ocd/newoslad1.htm>.

Contact: Illinois DNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702. Phone: 217-782-6302.

- **Challenge Cost-Share Program (CCSP)** provides matching funds for a variety of projects relating to conservation, natural area enhancement, and recreation, but tends to fund projects on or near lands managed by the National Park Service.

Eligibility: State and local governments, private non-profit organizations.

Assistance: Up to \$30,000 with 50 percent match.

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/ccsp/index.htm>.

Contact: National Center for Recreation and Conservation, NPS, 1849 C Street NW (Org. Code 2220), Washington, DC 20240. Phone: 202-354-6912.

- The **Rivers and Trails Program** provides technical assistance to help local communities achieve conservation objectives. It provides no direct funding. Contact: Contact Mark Weaver at 414-297-3617.

7 watershed resources

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

NOAA guides the conservation and management of coastal resources through a variety of mechanisms, including collaboration with the coastal resource management programs of states and US territories.

- **Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP)** assists states in implementing Coastal Zone Management programs approved by NOAA. Generally supports large and small projects by local governments and non-profit organizations through the Coastal Zone Enhancement Grants Program (Section 309, Coastal Zone Management Act). Funding for watershed projects in Illinois is expected in upcoming years, following program adoption and establishment by the State of Illinois.
- **Coastal Services Center Cooperative Agreements** provide technical assistance and project grants through a range of programs and partnering arrangements, all focused on protecting and improving coastal environments. Eligibility: Varies by program, but includes state and local governments, universities, non-profit corporations, and others. Assistance: Project grants and cooperative agreements. Website: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/funding/>. Contact: 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Charleston, SC 29405-2413. Phone: 843-740-1200.

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulates the federally mandated metropolitan planning process and administers federal transportation funding.

- **Transportation Enhancement Program (TEA-21)** funds projects that may include, among others, control technologies to prevent polluted highway runoff from reaching surface water bodies, scenic easements, pedestrian and bicycle trails, and wetland mitigation efforts including mitigation banking, wetland preservation and restoration, wetland planning, and natural habitats. Projects must relate to surface transportation and fall into one of twelve eligible categories. Funding is disbursed through State of Illinois.

Eligibility: Local government units with taxing authority. Assistance: 80 percent federal share of project costs in general, 50 percent for acquisition. Awards up to \$2 million. Website: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/te/overview.htm> (Federal), <http://www.dot.il.gov/opp/itep.html> (Illinois). Contact: Illinois DOT, 2300 S. Dirksen Pkwy., Springfield, IL 62764. Phone: 217-782-7820.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

- **Conservation 2000** supports nine conservation programs across three state agencies and provides financial and technical support to groups (ecosystem partners) which seek to maintain and enhance ecological and economic conditions in key watersheds of Illinois. Eligibility: Varies by program. Eligible projects include habitat protection or improvement, technical assistance, and education. Funds may be applied for through the Lake Michigan Ecosystem Partnership. Assistance: Project grants, varies by program. Website: <http://dnr.state.il.us/orep/c2000/>. Contact: IDNR Region 2, 2050 W. Stearns Road, Bartlett, IL 60103. Phone: 847-608-3100.
- **Urban Flood Control Assistance** involves initial study process and determination of appropriate flood control solutions. Funding depends on General Assembly appropriations for tributary studies and project feasibility investigations, focused on structural flood control solutions. Eligibility: Local sponsorship, positive net benefit formally shown by benefit-cost analysis, membership in good standing in National Flood Insurance Program. Assistance: Varies with appropriation. Website: http://dnr.state.il.us/owr/OWR_programs.htm. Contact: IDNR Office of Water Resources, One Natural Resources Way, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271. Phone: (217) 782-4637.
- **Small Projects Fund** provides direct assistance to rural and small urban communities statewide to reduce stormwater related flood damages by alleviating localized, significant drainage and flood problems. Eligibility: Local government sponsorship, membership in good standing in National Flood Insurance Program.

Assistance: Maximum of \$100,000 per locality.
 Website: http://dnr.state.il.us/owr/OWR_programs.htm.
 Contact: IDNR Office of Water Resources, One Natural Resources Way, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271.
 Phone: (217) 782-4637.

- The **Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Program** is a state-funded grant program that provides funding assistance to local government agencies for acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space. The federal Land & Water Conservation Fund program (known as both LWCF and LA WCON) is a similar program with similar objectives.

Eligibility: Local governments having statutory authority to acquire and develop land for public park purposes.
 Assistance: Under both programs, funding assistance up to 50% of approved project costs can be obtained. Grant awards up to \$750,000 are available for acquisition projects, while development/renovation projects are limited to a \$400,000 grant maximum.

Website: <http://dnr.state.il.us/ocd/newoslad1.htm>.
 Contact: IDNR Office of Office of Architecture, Engineering and Grants, One Natural Resources Way, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271. Phone: 217/782-6302.

- The **Division of Wildlife or Resource Protection and Stewardship Trees, Shrubs and Seedlings at No Cost** program is intended to encourage landowners to reforest land, increase wildlife, and control erosion.

Eligibility: varies.
 Assistance: Seedlings provided at no charge. Shipping costs paid by grantee.
 Contact: IDNR 217-785-8774.

- The **Forestry Assistance Grant Programs** are intended to create or enhance landowner or local forestry programs.

Eligibility: Local governments, individuals, and others.
 Assistance: 50% cost share grants and reimbursement up to \$5,000.
 Website: <http://dnr.state.il.us/conservation/forestry/>.
 Contact: 217-782-2361.

- **Schoolyard Habitat Action Grants** support

enhancement of wildlife habitat, with emphasis on youth involvement and education.

Eligibility: Educational organizations and others. Project must involve a trained Project WILD educator or facilitator.

Assistance: Maximum funding to \$600.

Website: <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm>.

Contact: 217-524-4126.

- **Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grants & Free Educational Materials** supports field trips for students to visit natural areas, natural history museums, and other natural resource related activities. Conservation education materials, including lesson plans, can be used separately.

Eligibility: Educational organizations and others.

Assistance: funding for field trips up to \$500 per class, per project.

Website: <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm>.

Contact: 217-524-4126.

- The **Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program** goal is to create or enhance local forestry programs in communities with a local forestry ordinance.

Assistance: 50% match required.

Contact: IDNR Regional Administration at 815-625-2968.

- The **Division of Wildlife Resources Special Funds Application (Habitat, Furbearer, and Pheasant Funds)**

provides assistance for habitat improvement or land acquisition/protection projects funded by Habitat Fund, Furbearer Fund or Pheasant Fund. Projects must preserve, protect, acquire or manage wildlife for future generations – by benefiting wildlife either directly or indirectly.

Eligibility: Habitat, research, or education projects are considered.

Assistance: Cost-share not required, but preferred.

Website: <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm>.

Contact: Office of Resource Conservation – Special Funds 217-782-2602.

- The **Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Fund** provides for the acquisition of public lands and/or the

7 watershed resources

development of habitat to attract and support waterfowl. Eligible projects must directly or indirectly benefit waterfowl hunting in Illinois.

Eligibility: Projects involving education or research are not eligible.

Assistance: Cost-share not required, but preferred.

Contact: specialfunds@dnrmail.state.il.us for information.

- **Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund**

Eligibility: projects include those that deal with habitat enhancement, endangered and threatened species.

Assistance: Match preferred but not required.

Contact: Contact IDNR at 217-785-8774.

- The **Private Land Wildlife Habitat Management Fund**

is a technical assistance program for private landowners that provide plans, field equipment, plant materials, and labor to develop, implement and maintain wildlife habitat management practices that require specialized training, equipment or resources which would otherwise be unavailable to landowners.

Eligibility: Eligible land is privately owned and is at least 0.25 acre in urban areas and 1 acre in rural areas.

Contact: IDNR at 217-782-6384.

- The **Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program** provides financial assistance to eligible government agencies for the acquisition, construction and rehabilitation of public non-motorized bicycle paths.

Eligibility: Habitat, research, or education projects are considered.

Assistance: 50% match required.

Contact: IDNR at 217-782-7481

- The **Illinois Trails Grant Program** provides funding to acquire, develop, and maintain trails for public recreational uses.

Assistance: 50% match required.

Contact: IDNR at 217-782-7481

- The **Recreation Trails Program** provides financial assistance to federal, state and local government agencies and not-for-profit organizations for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and maintenance of public

motorized and non-motorized recreational trails.

Assistance: Minimum 20% non-federal match.

Contact: IDNR at 217-782-7481

- The **Office of Water Resources Small Projects Fund** provides assistance to rural and smaller urban communities to reduce stormwater related damages by alleviating local significant drainage and flood problems. The Office of Water Resources Division of Planning does initial surveys and makes recommendations for flood control or acquisition projects for local flood problem areas. If a project is warranted, the Division coordinates planning and funding and provides project design.

Assistance: Can contribute up to \$75,000 financial assistance on small projects.

Contact: IDNR Office of Water Resources (IDNR-OWR) at 217-782-4637

- The **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** is a state-financed grant program that provides funding assistance to local government agencies for acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space. It is similar to OSLAD.

Contact: www.dnr.state.il.us/ocd/newoslad1.htm.

- The **Open Land Trust Fund Grant (OLTF)** makes grants available to local governments to acquire land from willing sellers for open space and resource based outdoor recreation.

Contact: IDNR at 217-782-7481 or www.dnr.state.il.us/ocd/newolt2.htm.

- The **Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Programs (INPC)** assists private and public landowners in protecting high quality natural areas and habitats of endangered and threatened species in perpetuity, through voluntary dedication or registration of such lands into the Illinois Nature Preserves System. The Commission promotes the preservation of these significant lands and provides leadership in their stewardship, management and protection.

Contact: <http://dnr.state.il.us/INPC/programs/programstest.htm>.

Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA)

- **Streambank Stabilization & Restoration Program (SSRP)**

is designed to support naturalized stream bank stabilization practices in rural and urban communities.

Eligibility: All organizations and individuals.

Assistance: 25% match required.

Website: <http://www.agr.state.il.us>.

Contact: 217-782-6297, or contact your local Soil & Water Conservation District that services your county.

- **Sustainable Agriculture Grant (Conservation 2000)**

Program supports projects include those that carry out research, education, and on-farm demonstration projects that support sustainable agriculture, protect the environment, and maintain profitability.

Eligibility: Individuals, all organizations, local governments.

Assistance: Grants awarded up to \$10,000 per individual; \$50,000 per unit of government, or other eligible organization.

Website: <http://www.agr.state.il.us>.

Contact: 217-782-6297 or contact the local Soil & Water Conservation District that services your county.

Illinois State Geological Service (ISGS)

- Created in 1905, the ISGS provides scientific information to government, business, and the public. Research and service programs encompass geologic mapping, water and mineral resources, environmental and engineering geology, geochemistry, and education. Geological mapping and other forms of technical assistance and advice are available from ISGS on topics such as: preliminary environmental assessments of chosen sites; locating and protecting groundwater resources; locating and conserving mineral and energy resources, including limestone, sand and gravel, oil and gas or coal; avoiding geological hazards such as landslides or abandoned underground mines; protecting existing wetlands and developing new ones, and understanding the relationships between geology and natural and man-made habitats. Depending on the level of assistance needed, cost reimbursement may be required. Contact www.isgs.uiuc.edu/isgsroot/isgshome.html.

Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)

- Useful website to search for educational grants at <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/grants/default.htm>.

State of Illinois Tax Incentives for Conservation are available for organizations and individuals. See <http://dnr.state.il.us/OREP/C2000/Incentives.htm> for details.

- **Real Property Conservation Rights Act** (765 ILCS 120/1 et seq.): if land is qualified by having a conservation easement, it may be assessed at 8 1/3 fair market value.

- **Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act** (525 ILCS 30/1 et seq./17 Ill. Adm. Code: if land is qualified by being designated as an Illinois Nature Preserve, it may be assessed at \$1/year in perpetuity.

- **Preferential Assessment of Farmland (Property Tax Code**, Sec. 1-60 (Definitions.) Sec. 10-110 et seq.: if qualified, assessments are based on Cropland as 33 1/3% of the agricultural economic value; Permanent Pasture as 1/3 of its value of cropland; other farmland at 1/6 of its value as cropland; and wasteland without a contributory value to farmland at zero.

- **Open Space Assessment** (Illinois Property Tax Code Sections 10-155): a lower use evaluation is used for land in open space; 10 acre minimum area.

- **Preferential Assessment of Common Areas** (Illinois Property Tax Code Sections 10-35): Purpose is to encourage open space in residential developments; if qualifying, assessment is reduced to \$1/year.

- Other tax incentives may also apply. Contact IDNR regarding the Real Property Conservation Rights Act and the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act at 217-785-8774. Contact your local township or county assessor to determine eligibility under other incentives.

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

- Provides technical assistance for lake monitoring and protection, watershed protection, stream stabilization, stormwater management planning, hydrologic modeling, and

7 watershed resources

greenway planning. Also prepares Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping and analysis and offers GIS training. Develops model ordinances and manuals of best practices for stream and wetland protection, soil erosion and sediment control, stormwater drainage and detention. Contact www.nipco.org.

Lake County

- **Lake County SMC Watershed Management Board Fund**

Eligibility: Watershed Management Board members in good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program and comply with SMC policies.

Assistance: Cost-share at least 50% with funds or in-kind services or a combination of both. Approximately \$100,000 to \$150,000 is available each year for planning, engineering analysis, alternate solution evaluation, design, capital construction, maintenance and repairs projects.

Website: <http://www.co.lake.il.us/smc/projects/wmb/>.

Contact: Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, 333 Peterson Road, Libertyville, Illinois, 60048. For information on Des Plaines River and North Branch of the Chicago River WMBs, call Tony Wolff, 847.918.5264 or email twolff@co.lake.il.us. For information on Fox River and Lake Michigan WMBs, call Rostislav Razda, 847.918.7696 or email rvrazda@co.lake.il.us.

- **Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District Technical Assistance**

Provides site-specific natural resource information for parcels undergoing annexation, subdivision, zoning change, variance, conditional use, or special use permit (NRI reports) and technical site assessments and recommendations for natural resource management. Prepares Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping and provide aerial photographs. Conducts soil borings to determine the suitability of septic systems, practicality of basements, etc. Contact <http://www.lakeswcd.org/>.

Other Sources of Assistance and Funding

Project funding sources that could potentially qualify as federal/state matching funds may come from a variety of local government, private, or community trusts or foundations that

support initiatives reflecting organizational policies. Eligibility criteria are as varied as the donors. Most of these sources require a Not-For-Profit (501c3, etc.) corporate status.

- The **Illinois Clean Energy Foundation** supports projects that enhance natural areas, increase renewable energy, or improve energy efficiency.

Eligibility: private not-for-profit organizations, educational organizations, local governments.

Assistance: call for details, which change year to year.

Website: <http://www.illinoiscleanenergy.org>.

Contact: Illinois Clean Energy Foundation, 312-372-5191.

- **Habitat Restoration Funds for Northeastern Illinois River Watersheds** supports wetland restoration and aquatic wildlife habitat projects.

Eligibility: individuals, all organizations, educational organizations, local governments.

Assistance: 25% cost share.

Website: <http://www.lakeswcd.org>.

Contact: Lake County SWCD, 100 N. Atkinson Road, Suite 102-A, Grayslake, IL 60030-7805.

Phone: 847-223-1056. E-Mail: lcsbcd@sbcglobal.net.

- The **Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control** supports projects that protect Great Lakes Water Quality, such as by controlling erosion and sedimentation,

Eligibility: Educational organizations, local governments, and not-for-profit organizations in Lake, Cook, and Will Counties.

Assistance: Grant amounts awarded for small-scale (\$30,000) and large-scale (\$100,000) projects.

Website: <http://www.glc.org/basin/>.

Contact: Great Lakes Commission, Eisenhower Corporate Park, 2805 S. Industrial Hwy., Suite 100, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6791. Phone: 734-971-9135.

- The **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation General Matching, Challenge Grants, and Special Grant Programs**

support habitat restoration and protection on private lands.

Eligibility: varies. Priority areas are: wetland conservation, conservation education, fisheries, neotropical migratory bird

conservation, conservation policy, and wildlife and habitat. Assistance: Sample grant sizes in Illinois range from \$3,000 to over \$100,000. Requires minimum 1:1 non-federal match.

Website: <http://www.nfwf.org>.

Contact: 202-857-0166.

• The **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Wildlife Links Program** funds cutting edge research, management and education projects that will help golf courses become an important part of the conservation landscape. Areas of interest include: management and design techniques for increasing biodiversity on golf courses; management guidelines for specific species; research to determine habitat characteristics that serve as corridors or barriers on golf courses; monitoring research to determine habitat characteristics that serve as corridors or barriers on golf courses, monitoring wildlife habitat conservation programs on golf courses; effects of golfer and maintenance activities on wildlife. The United States Golf Association provides \$200,000 annually to fund these grants. Eligibility: requires golf courses as formal partners. Assistance: Maximum request \$25,000/year multi-year proposals accepted. Website: <http://www.nfwf.org>. Contact: 202-857-0166.

• The **Trust for Public Lands (TPL)** works with local organizations to conserve lands for a variety of uses, to include farms, ranches, natural lands and lands of historic importance. Eligibility: local government, private not-for-profit organizations, educational organizations, and others. Assistance: technical and informational assistance to identify lands to be protected and assist in financing and land transactions. Website: <http://www.tpl.org>. Click on local programs-North Central Region. Contact: 312-427-1979 & 314-436-7255.

• **Ducks Unlimited MARSH (Matching Aid to Restore State Habitats) Program** goal is to restore or enhance wetland habitat for waterfowl conservation in the Midwest.

Eligibility: local government, private not-for-profit organizations, educational organizations, and others.

Assistance: Requires 1:1 matching funds.

Website: <http://www.tpl.org>. Click on local programs-North Central Region.

Contact: Eric Schenck at 309-647-5651.

• **River Network Watershed Assistance Grants Program**

Eligibility: community-based partnerships that conserve or restore watersheds.

Assistance: Grant amounts range from \$4,000-30,000.

Website: <http://www.tpl.org>. Click on local programs-North Central Region.

Contact: River Network at 503-241-3506 or www.rivernetwork.org.

• The **Lake Michigan Ecosystem Partnership** provides funding, technical and field assistance for educational, research, habitat protection or habitat improvement projects in Illinois that cover at least one IEPA watershed. Contact: <http://dnr.state.il.us/orep/c2000/ecosystem>.

• **Chicago Wilderness**

Eligibility: natural areas enhancement, education, and research that focus on biological diversity to the Chicago region. Projects must include two or more Chicago Wilderness Partners.

Assistance: Required 1:1 matching funds or in-kind services.

Contact: 312-346-8166, ext. 30 for information.

• **Riverwatch** is a volunteer-driven effort to collect stream data from Illinois streams and submit the data to the Illinois Natural History Survey. Run by the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center.

Eligibility: all Illinois streams.

Assistance: monitoring training, forms, and kits.

Website: <http://www.ngrec.org/>.

Contact: Vera Bojic, RiverWatch Coordinator, 618-468-4870 or vbojic@lc.edu.

• There are a number of **Federal Tax Incentives** for Conservation for owners of environmentally sensitive land that has been donated for conservation purposes, or has

7 watershed resources

been placed in a conservation easement, or simply managed for conservation. Individuals, organizations, and others are all eligible. Information can be found at www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr, www.irs.gov/, www.ailt.org/irs.htm, and <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-04-41.pdf>. You can also contact the Illinois EPA, 1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois, 62794-9276. Phone: 217-782-3397.

Reference Sources

Several grant search engines and organizations exist to help identify funding sources. Fees for services or products may be charged by these organizations. When searching, be sure to clarify whether charges will be incurred. For “do-it-yourselfers,” local grant data collection centers are available throughout Illinois.

- **The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA)**
is the single best place to search all federal funding sources. The catalog should be available at local libraries and can also be accessed on the CFDA website on-line at: <http://www.cfda.gov>. The website lists all federal funding programs available, including those for conservation. Federal agency websites will provide more detailed information about federal programs and provide information on other opportunities for assistance. All organizations applying for federal funding must have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) identification number.

- **Resources for Global Sustainability**
RGS publishes a yearly catalog called “Environmental Grantmaking Foundations”. P.O. Box 3665, Cary, NC 27519. Phone: 1-800-724-1857. <http://www.environmentalgrants.com>.

- **Environmental Grantmaker’s Association**
Provides a list of environmental grant foundations. <http://www.ega.org>.

- **The Foundation Center**
79 Fifth Street, New York, New York 10003. Phone: 212-620-4230. <http://www.fdncenter.org>.

- **Sonoran Institute**
Look for Conservation Assistance Tools (CAT) at <http://www.sonoran.org>.

- **Illinois Department of Natural Resources**
IDNR has a very comprehensive grant search engine at: <http://dnr.state.il.us/orep/c2000/grants/>

- **The Donor’s Forum of Chicago**
208 S. LaSalle St., Suite 735, Chicago, IL 60604. Phone: 312-578-0175. <http://www.donorsforum.org>. E-mail: info@donorsforum.org

- **Metropolitan Association for Philanthropy**
1320 Olive Street St. Louis, MO. <http://www.mapstl.org>. Phone: 314-621-6220.

- **eCivis Grants Network**
Assistance for local governments to improve their grants success through expert grant research, information, grant training, and technology. eCivis, Inc. 3452 E. Foothill Blvd, Floor 9, Pasadena, CA 91107. Phone: 877-232-4847. Email info@ecivis.com.