Chi-Cal Rivers Fund 2018 Grant Slate

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FUNDING PARTNERS

- ArcelorMittal
- BNSF Railway
- Chicago Community Trust
- Crown Family Philanthropies
- Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
- The Joyce Foundation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- US. Forest Service
- U.S Fish and Wildlife Service

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at **www.nfwf.org**

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Calumet River in Chicago, looking eastward towards Gary, Indiana | Credit: H. Michael Miley

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and ArcelorMittal, BNSF Railway, Chicago Community Trust, Crown Family Philanthropies, Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service announced a sixth year of funding for Chi-Cal Rivers Fund projects. Six new green stormwater infrastructure, habitat restoration, and public use improvement grants totaling $1.25 million were awarded. The six awards announced generated $5.6 million in matching contributions, providing a total conservation impact of $6.8 million.

The Chicago and Calumet watersheds comprise a highly engineered system of waterways that provide many benefits to the people and wildlife in the region. Despite these services, the waterways have been degraded by many stressors that have significantly reduced the ecological, economic and community values of the system.

The Chi-Cal Rivers Fund is a public-private partnership working to improve the health, vitality and accessibility of the waterways in the Chicago and Calumet regions by supporting green stormwater infrastructure, habitat enhancement, and public-use improvements.

(continued)

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Calumet Tree Conservation Corps (IL)
Grantee: Student Conservation Association
Grant Award:. $152,748
Matching Funds: $200,401
Total Amount:. **$353,149**
Reduce stormwater and sediment runoff and restore degraded habitat in the Grand Calumet and Little Calumet rivers. Project will add 72,275 gallons of stormwater storage capacity by strategically planting 1,000 native trees in riparian zones and offer training in basic arboriculture to residents across the region to build capacity and sustain project impact through long-term maintenance.

The Robbins Renewal Project (IL)
Grantee: OAI
Grant Award:. $300,001
Matching Funds: $4,382,500
Total Amount:. **$4,682,501**
Install green stormwater infrastructure across 10 acres of degraded urban space to reduce stormwater runoff and create habitat and accessible public greenspace in the Village of Robbins, Illinois. Project will build on a multiphase effort to mitigate significant flooding and restore community vitality in Robbins by establishing native wetland and prairie plants to slow and store stormwater runoff on 10 acres adjacent to the Cal-Sag Channel.

Centennial Volunteers Network Restoration along the Chicago River (IL) - IV
Grantee: Friends of the Forest Preserves
Grant Award:. $114,930
Matching Funds: $294,000
Total Amount:. **$408,930**
Continue to build on the success of Centennial Volunteers program at five new Cook County forest preserves, including preserves adjacent to the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and Cal Sag Channel. Project will create new and fortify existing volunteer stewardship communities that will manage and conduct habitat restoration activities, including invasive species control, to advance the Forest Preserves of Cook County's goals.

Enhancing Habitat Quality at Crooked Creek (IL)
Grantee: Friends of the Chicago River
Grant Award:. $242,689
Matching Funds: $250,000
Total Amount:. **$492,669**
Improve habitat quality at the headwaters of Crooked Creek through invasive species remediation and removal and native plantings. Project will restore 81 acres of Cook County forest preserve land to improve infiltration provided by deep-rooted native plants and enhance habitat for wildlife within Crooked Creek and the surrounding watershed.



Least bittern

Establishing the Little Calumet Marsh Bird Conservation Area (IN)
Grantee: National Audubon Society
Grant Award:. $294,697
Matching Funds: $380,000
Total Amount:. **$674,697**
Restore habitat in northeast Indiana on the largest and most critical marsh habitat in the Little Calumet region. Project will restore 350 acres through invasive species control to support species such as black-crowed night heron, least bitterns, and black tern and help establish the Little Calumet Marsh Bird Conservation Area.

Restoration and Access Improvements Within the Little Calumet River Conservation Corridor (IN)
Grantee: Shirley Heinze Land Trust
Grant Award:. $141,957
Matching Funds: $88,000
Total Amount:. **$229,957**
Restore 25 acres of wetland and riparian habitat and improve public access to the Little Calumet River. Project will amplify multi-partner efforts to the Little Calumet Conservation Corridor by improving critical habitat for wildlife and providing safe public access opportunities through the addition of 0.25 miles of hiking trail, installation of an accessible kayak launch and clearing of a minimum of 5 miles of water trail within the Little Calumet.