



Chi-Cal Rivers Fund

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PARTNERS

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

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) works with the public and private sectors to sustain, restore and enhance the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats for current and future generations. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest private conservation grant-maker, funding more than 20,400 projects and generating a total conservation impact of \$8.1 billion.



Green heron

OVERVIEW

The Chicago and Calumet watersheds comprise a highly engineered system of waterways that provide many benefits to the people and wildlife in the region. Despite these services, the waterways have been degraded by many stressors that have significantly reduced the ecological, economic and community values of the system. The Chi-Cal Rivers Fund (Fund), a public-private partnership among three federal agencies, three corporations and six private foundations, was created to address these stressors by improving the health, vitality, and accessibility of the waterways in the Chicago and Calumet regions by supporting green stormwater infrastructure, habitat enhancement, and public-use improvements.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and BNSF Railway, Cleveland-Cliffs, Crown Family Philanthropies, Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, Hunter Family Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, Salesforce, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service and the Walder Foundation announced the 11th year of funding for the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund. The six grants announced in 2023 were awarded \$1.85 million in funding and will leverage \$1.7 million in grantee matching contributions, providing a total conservation impact of \$3.55 million.

(continued)

Expanding Marsh Bird Habitat and Greenspace Connectivity in Southeast Chicago

Grantee: National Audubon Society

Grant Amount:..... \$286,200
 Matching Funds:..... \$94,600
 Total Project Amount:..... \$380,800

Expand marsh bird habitat, greenspace connectivity, and recreational access on the Southeast Side of Chicago. Project will restore 55 acres of wetland habitat and engage with volunteers to support threatened and endangered marshbirds through invasive species management, prescribed burning, and native plug and seed planting.

Improving and Maintaining Green Stormwater Infrastructure in the Calumet Region (IL, IN)

Grantee: OAI

Grant Amount:..... \$297,100
 Matching Funds:..... \$264,700
 Total Project Amount:..... \$561,800

Reduce runoff, sewer overflows and localized flooding while preventing pollution from entering Chi-Cal priority waterways. Project will maintain and improve more than 14 acres of greenspace in underserved communities and communities of color in the Calumet Region in Illinois, Northwest Indiana and South Side of Chicago, maintaining 3.4 million gallons of stormwater storage capacity.

Increasing Habitat Quality and Community Engagement along the South Branch of the Chicago River

Grantee: Shedd Aquarium Society

Grant Amount:..... \$319,200
 Matching Funds:..... \$194,700
 Total Project Amount:..... \$513,900

Install floating wetlands, remove debris, monitor fish and macroinvertebrate responses, and enhance public access to the river and conservation education. Project will restore two miles of instream habitat, install over 40 floating wetlands with 5,000 plants to create 1,300 square feet of quality habitat in the south branch of the Chicago River to benefit local fish and wildlife species.

Installing Nature-Based Infrastructure on a Formerly Vacant Lots in Southwest Chicago

Grantee: Academy for Global Citizenship

Grant Amount:..... \$202,200
 Matching Funds:..... \$596,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$798,200

Install nature-based stormwater management solutions utilizing native plants, engineered stormwater wetlands, and rain gardens to benefit regional water quality in an underserved community in Chicago. Project will plant 75 trees, add 3.9 acres of greenspace, and install 20,500 square feet of green infrastructure.

Restoring Greenspace and Engaging Residents in Conservation Efforts in Northwest Indiana

Grantee: Shirley Heinze Land Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$346,100
 Matching Funds:..... \$79,200
 Total Project Amount:..... \$425,300

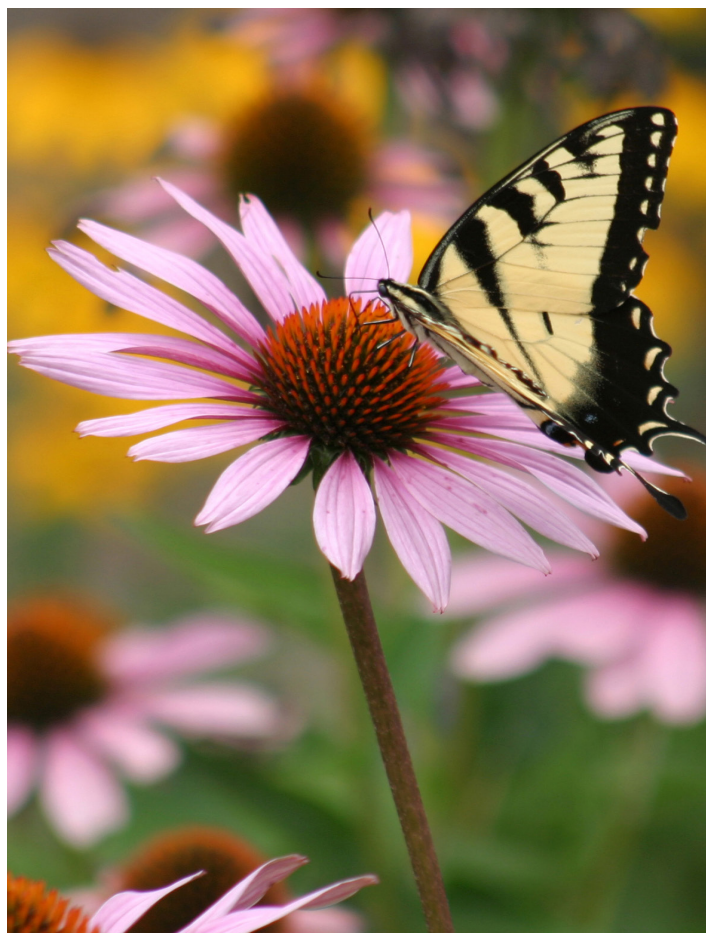
Conduct ecological restoration near the Indiana Dunes National Park to improve greenspace and recreation opportunities and remove invasive species. Project will improve over seven miles of water trail and .15 miles of hiking trails and restore 22 acres of publicly accessible land through invasive species control and seeding of native pollinator habitat.

Expanding Native Planting and Improving Wetlands in the West Branch of Little Calumet River (IN)

Grantee: The Wetlands Initiative

Grant Amount:..... \$399,200
 Matching Funds:..... \$445,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$844,200

Expand native planting and invasive management efforts in the west branch of the Little Calumet River floodplain to benefit rare marsh birds and improve urban flood control. Project will restore 188 acres with invasive species control and reestablish native wetland plant communities across more than 400 acres.



Swallowtail butterfly