



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. EPA
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Walder Foundation

ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,800 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of more than \$10 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org



Kayakers in Chicago

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 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 restoration and activating habitat and greenspace through community engagement and public access improvements.

IMPACT

Since 2013, the Fund has awarded 72 grants totaling \$16.4 million, drawing an additional \$30 million in grantee match for total conservation investment of more than \$46.4 million. Since its founding 11 years ago, the program has achieved the following:

- Added 22.4 million gallons of stormwater storage capacity
- Added or improved 180 acres of public green space
- Enhanced 5,812 acres of riparian, wetland and upland habitat
- Planted 15,000 trees
- Installed 500 habitat structures

(continued)

2024 GRANTS

Expanding Native Plantings and Community Engagement at Beaubien Woods Forest Preserve (IL)

Grantee: Openlands
 Grant Amount:.....\$364,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$144,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$508,000
 Reduce habitat fragmentation and increase climate resiliency through native plantings and facilitation of open space in Beaubien Woods and Altgeld Gardens in Chicago, Illinois. Project will create and improve 20 acres of greenspace, develop 7 miles of trails, install 13,000 square feet of green infrastructure and reach at least 750 people.

Improving Biodiversity and Increasing Resilience at Greenbelt Forest Preserve (IL)

Grantee: Lake County Preserve District
 Grant Amount:.....\$400,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$135,700
 Total Project Amount:.....\$535,700
 Conduct woody invasive clearing and herbicide treatment at



Bee pollinating chive blossoms in Chicago

Greenbelt Forest Preserve in Waukegan, Illinois, to protect biodiversity, increase resilience to climate change and improve water quality in a diverse, economically challenged area. Project will restore 96.81 total acres, plant 400 trees and produce 1,000 volunteer stewardship hours.

Phase II Restoration, Outreach, and Engagement at Powderhorn (IL)

Grantee: National Audubon Society
 Grant Amount:.....\$238,500
 Matching Funds:.....\$179,900
 Total Project Amount:.....\$418,400
 Improve habitat quality and build on past success at Powderhorn Complex through invasive-species management, native species seed collection and planting, and bilingual community events. Project will sustain 24 jobs, reach 300 people and restore 246 acres of wetland habitat.

Restoring Streambank Function in Thorn Creek (IL)

Grantee: Friends of the Chicago River
 Grant Amount:.....\$352,500
 Matching Funds:.....\$50,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$402,500
 Improve stream hydrology and habitat at two sites on Thorn Creek through bank stabilization, seeding, planting and installing a sediment basin in Schubert’s Woods and King’s Grove in Cook County, Illinois. Project will restore over 0.5 miles of creek, remove 318,200 pounds of sediment and significantly improve water quality in this urban system.

Restoring Wetland Habitat to Improve Water Quality for Chicago’s Southeast Side Communities (IL)

Grantee: Delta Institute
 Grant Amount:.....\$400,000
 Matching Funds:.....\$400,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$800,000
 Create stormwater wetlands to improve water quality, reduce flooding, provide habitat for native wildlife and provide valuable greenspace for underserved community use. Project will create wetlands on 11.7 acres, capture 2.45 million gallons of stormwater annually, and create three new public access points to engage in natural areas.

Improving Public Access to Greenspace at Deep River in New Chicago (IN)

Grantee: Shirley Heinze Land Trust
 Grant Amount:.....\$364,400
 Matching Funds:.....\$38,400
 Total Project Amount:.....\$402,800
 Improve waterside access, community engagement and accessibility at Deep River in New Chicago to build trust and capacity for long-term community stewardship and enhancement of restored habitat. Project will construct two access points to enable river and natural area access, reach 100 people, and engage volunteers in 300 hours of site activation programming and stewardship.