

Potential Funding Sources for Watershed Projects/Programs

The following list of potential funding sources is compiled from a variety of sources. Funding and program availability are contingent upon federal, state, and local budgets and appropriations for the budget year in which funding is being sought, so changes may have occurred that are not reflected in the list. Contact the program representative for updates or changes to program details.

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.

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 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.aitt.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.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) issues federal environmental regulations, enforces federal environmental law, and manages a number of grant programs.

- **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 offers 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 offers 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/fsswpg.htm>.

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

- 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/efinpage> 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://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 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/tehasst.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.gov/smartgrowth/tehasst.htm/>.

Contact: 217-782-3362.

• **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/5-star-rfp.htm>, <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star/>.

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

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IL EPA) administers state and federal environmental programs and regulations.

• **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/financialassistance/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 recently there has been approximately 20% set aside for nonpoint source control green infrastructure projects.

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

Assistance: Funds projects at 100 percent at a national average interest rate of 2.2 percent, subject to change.

Website: <http://www.epa.gov/owmitnet/cwfinance/cwsrf/>.

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

• 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. State contact: 217-782-3362.

• The **Lake Education Assistance Program** 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/conservation-2000/leap/index.html>.

Contact: 217-782-3362.

• The **Streambank Cleanup and Lakeshore Enhancement (SCALE)** program provides funds to assist groups that have established a recurring stream or lakeshore cleanup. Funds can be used for safety attire, litter bags, event promotion, logistical needs and dumpster or landfill fees.

Eligibility: organizations that have an established streambank or lakeshore cleanup including environmental groups, soil and water conservation districts, park districts and nonprofit organizations.

Assistance: Ranges from \$500 to \$3,500.

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

Contact: 217-782-3362.

• The **Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant (IGIG)** program is available to assist in the implementation of green infrastructure management practices to control stormwater runoff for water quality protection. Funds are limited to the implementation of projects to install best management practices and are awarded based on three categories: Combined Sewer Overflow Rehabilitation, Stormwater Retention and Infiltration, and Green Infrastructure Small Projects.

Eligibility: Any entity that has legal status to accept funds from the state, including state and local government units, nonprofit organizations, citizen and environmental groups, individuals and businesses.

Assistance: Annually \$5 million. Typical grant range: Combined Sewer Overflow Rehabilitation \$300,000-\$3,000,000 (total available \$3 million); Stormwater Retention and Infiltration \$100,000-\$750,000 (total available \$1.8 million); and Green Infrastructure Small Projects \$15,000-\$75,000 (total available \$200,000).

Website: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/financial-assistance/igig.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, Willis Tower, Chicago, IL 60606. email: hludson@cmmap.org.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) administers state and federal environmental programs and regulations

• **Targeted Runoff Management (TRM)** This grant can be used to fund agricultural or urban type practices in the areas of the watershed outside of MS4 permitted areas.

Eligibility: local units of government

Assistance: Small scale projects fund up to \$150,000. Large scale projects fund up to \$1 million, with a typical grant range of \$500,000-\$1 million.

Website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/runoff/grants/trm.htm>.

Contact: Corinne Billings, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 101 S. Webster Street, P.O. Box 7921, Madison WI 53707-7921. email: corinne.billings@wisconsin.gov. Phone: 608-264-6261.

• **Urban Nonpoint Source and Stormwater Grant Program** Grant funds are used to control polluted runoff in urban project areas. Funds are awarded for either planning or construction projects.

Eligibility: An urban project area must meet one of the following criteria: has a population of at least 1,000 per square mile, has a commercial land use, is the non-permitted portion of a privately owned industrial site, or is a municipally-owned industrial site.

Assistance: \$85,000 is allocated for planning projects. For construction projects, eligible costs are cost shared at 50 percent up to a maximum of \$150,000.

Website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/runoff/grants/unps.htm>

Contact: Corinne Billings, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 101 S. Webster Street, P.O. Box 7921, Madison WI 53707-7921. email: corinne.billings@wisconsin.gov. Phone: 608-264-6261.

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.saw.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.

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/fi/ma/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 nonprofit organizations, Tribal governments.

Assistance: Federal cost share maximum of 75 percent.

Website: <http://www.fema.gov/fi/ma/hmgp/>

Contact: Mr. Ron Davis, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, 110 East Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701-1109. Phone: 217-782-8719. E-mail: RDavis@iem.a.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/fi/ma/pdm.shtm>.

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

• **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/nfi/p/icc.shtm>.

Contact: FEMA Region 5, 536 South Clark St., Chicago, IL 60605. Phone: 800-427-4661.

U.S. 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.il.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/>.

Contact: 500 C Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20472. Phone: (202) 566-1600. State: 217.353.6600. In Lake County, contact Erika Turner, Acting District Conservation, McHenry County Woodstock Field Office, 1648 S. Eastwood Drive, Woodstock IL 60098. Email: erika.turner@il.usda.gov. Phone: 815-338-0099 ext. 3. In Kenosha County, contact Brandi Richter, District Conservationist, Union Grove Service Center, 1012 Vine Street, Union Grove WI 53182-1047. Phone: 262-878-1243.

- **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, usually 10-15 years.

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

Contact: USDA Farm Service Agency, 1400 Independence Ave, SW Washington, DC 20250-0506 Phone: 800-457-3642. State office: 217-353-6600. In Lake County, contact Erika Turner, Acting District Conservation, McHenry County Woodstock Field Office, 1648 S. Eastwood Drive, Woodstock IL 60098. Email: erika.turner@il.usda.gov. Phone: 815-338-0099 ext. 3. In Kenosha County, contact Brandi Richter, District Conservationist, Union Grove Service Center, 1012 Vine Street, Union Grove WI 53182-1047. Phone: 262-878-1243.

- **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. State: 217.353.6600. In Lake County, contact Erika Turner, Acting District Conservation, McHenry County Woodstock Field Office, 1648 S. Eastwood Drive, Woodstock IL 60098. Email: erika.turner@il.usda.gov. Phone: 815-338-0099 ext. 3. In Kenosha County, contact Brandi Richter, District Conservationist, Union Grove Service Center, 1012 Vine Street, Union Grove WI 53182-1047. Phone: 262-878-1243.

- **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. In Lake County, contact Erika Turner, Acting District Conservation, McHenry County Woodstock Field Office, 1648 S. Eastwood Drive, Woodstock IL 60098. Email: erika.turner@il.usda.gov. Phone: 815-338-0099 ext. 3. In Kenosha County, contact Brandi Richter, District Conservationist, Union Grove Service Center, 1012 Vine Street, Union Grove WI 53182-1047. Phone: 262-878-1243.

- **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. In Lake County, contact Erika Turner, Acting District Conservation, McHenry County Woodstock Field Office, 1648 S. Eastwood Drive, Woodstock IL 60098. Email: erika.turner@il.usda.gov. Phone: 815-338-0099 ext. 3. In Kenosha County, contact Brandi Richter, District Conservationist, Union Grove Service Center, 1012 Vine Street, Union Grove WI 53182-1047. Phone: 262-878-1243.

• **Wetland 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. State contact: 217-353-6600. In Lake County, contact Erika Turner, Acting District Conservation, McHenry County Woodstock Field Office, 1648 S. Eastwood Drive, Woodstock IL 60098. Email: erika.turner@il.usda.gov. Phone: 815-338-0099 ext. 3. In Kenosha County, contact Brandi Richter, District Conservationist, Union Grove Service Center, 1012 Vine Street, Union Grove WI 53182-1047. Phone: 262-878-1243.

• **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. State contact: 217.353.6600. In Lake County, contact Erika Turner, Acting District Conservation, McHenry County Woodstock Field Office, 1648 S. Eastwood Drive, Woodstock IL 60098. Email: erika.turner@il.usda.gov. Phone: 815-338-0099 ext. 3. In Kenosha County, contact Brandi Richter, District Conservationist, Union Grove Service Center, 1012 Vine Street, Union Grove WI 53182-1047. Phone: 262-878-1243.

• 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/McHenry County SWCD for details.

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

Contact: Lake/McHenry County Soil and Water Conservation District, 1648 S. Eastwood Drive Woodstock, IL 60098 Phone: 815/338-0099

• 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. In Lake County, contact Erika Turner, Acting District Conservation, McHenry County Woodstock Field Office, 1648 S. Eastwood Drive, Woodstock IL 60098. Email: erika.turner@il.usda.gov. Phone: 815-338-0099 ext. 3. In Kenosha County, contact Brandi Richter, District Conservationist, Union Grove Service Center, 1012 Vine Street, Union Grove WI 53182-1047. Phone: 262-878-1243.

• 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/farmland/index>.

Contact: USDA, NRCS, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250. Phone: 202-720-1062. In Lake County, contact Erika Turner, Acting District Conservation, McHenry County Woodstock Field Office, 1648 S. Eastwood Drive, Woodstock IL 60098. Email: erika.turner@il.usda.gov. Phone: 815-338-0099 ext. 3. In Kenosha County, contact Brandi Richter, District Conservationist, Union Grove Service Center, 1012 Vine Street, Union Grove WI 53182-1047. Phone: 262-878-1243.

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.

• **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 nonprofit 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** assist 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 10-15 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, individuals, local government, and non-government organizations.

Assistance: Project grants at 50-60 percent local cost share with matching or in-kind services preferred, but not required.

Website: <http://ecos.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.

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 nonprofit 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.

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)

• **Partners for Conservation (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.

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.

• **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)** cooperative effort between landowners, state, local and federal agencies designed to enhance the Illinois River by protecting water quality and land in the Illinois River Watershed. Landowners

who take environmentally sensitive land out of agricultural production in the Illinois River Watershed will receive financial incentives, cost-share incentives and technical assistance for establishing long-term, resource conserving covers. Supported practices include: tree planting, habitat, wetlands, filter strips, and buffers. Terms may be 15, 30, or 50 years or permanent.

Eligibility: Individuals, corporations, non-governmental organizations.

Assistance: varies by practice and type of land.

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

Contact: IDNR Region 2, 2050 W. Stearns Road, Bartlett, IL 60103. Phone: 847-608-3100. State: 217.785.8287.

- **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 **Illinois Habitat Fund** The Illinois Habitat Fund is one of three programs funded through the purchase of a State Habitat Stamp. For the Illinois Habitat Fund Grant Program, eligible projects are limited to those seeking to preserve, protect, acquire or manage habitat (all wetlands, woodlands, grasslands, and agricultural lands, natural or altered) in Illinois that have the potential to support populations of wildlife in any or all phases of their life cycles.

Eligibility: not-for-profit organization or government agency that has the expertise, equipment, adequate staff/workforce and permission from the landowner (if applicable) to develop and/or manage habitat.

Assistance: projects designed to protect, preserve, acquire, or manage habitat. Contact program administrator for assistance amounts.

Website: http://www.dnr.state.il.us/grants/Special_Funds/WildGrant.htm.

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

- The **Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD)** Program 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.

The federal **Land & Water Conservation Fund** program (known as both LWCF and LAWCON) 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: individuals; landowner must have an approved management / conservation plan.

Assistance: Seedlings provided at no charge. Shipping costs paid by grantee.

Contact: IDNR 217-785-2361.

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

Eligibility: Local governments, individuals, and others.

Assistance: varies by program; 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.

Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA)

• **Streambank Stabilization & Restoration Program (SSRP)** is designed to support naturalized stream bank stabilization practices in rural and urban communities. 10 year program term.

Eligibility: All organizations and individuals.

Assistance: 25% match required.

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

Contact: 217-782-6297, 800-864-7311, or contact the local Soil & Water Conservation District that serves 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, conserve soil, protect the environment, and maintain profitability.

Eligibility: Individuals, corporations, local governments. Landowner must have an approved management/conservation plan.

Assistance: Grants awarded up to \$10,000 per individual; \$50,000 per unit of government, or other eligible organization. 60% cost-share; 10 year term.

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

Contact: 217-782-6297, 800-864-7311, or contact the local Soil & Water Conservation District that services your county.

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 120/1et 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 30/1et.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.
- **Non-Clear Cut Assessment** (P.A. 91-907, Property Tax Code Sec. 10-153): land is valued at 1/12th of its productivity index equalized assessed value as cropland if it is within 15 yards of waters listed by IDNR as navigable and has not been clear cut of trees; incentive is not applicable in jurisdictions with populations greater than 500,000.
- 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.

Lake County

- **Lake County SMC Watershed Management Board (WMB) 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, 500 W Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois, 60048. For information on WMB program contact Christine Gaynes at 847.377.7706 or cgaynes@lakecountyil.gov

Other Sources

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,*c4, etc.) corporate status.

- The **Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation** supports projects that enhance natural areas, increase renewable energy, or improve energy efficiency. Can be used to purchase land.

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.

- The **Illinois Conservation and Climate Initiative (ICCI)** is a joint project of the State of Illinois and the Delta Institute that allows farmers and landowners to earn greenhouse gas emissions credits when they use conservation tillage, plant grasses and trees, or capture methane with manure digesters. Program term runs through 2010.

Eligibility: individuals and corporations.

Assistance: contact the Delta Institute for details.

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

Contact: The Delta Institute, 312-554-1909.

- **Riverwatch** is a volunteer-driven effort to collect stream data from Illinois streams and submit the data to the Illinois Natural History Survey. This former IDNR program is now being administered by The National Great Rivers Research & Education Center.

Eligibility: all Illinois streams.

Assistance: monitoring training, forms, and kits.

Website: http://ngrrec.org/river_watch.htm.

Contact: Nate Keener, RiverWatch Coordinator, (618) 468-2782 or nkeener@lc.edu.

- **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: lcswcd@sbcglobal.net.

- The ***National Fish and Wildlife Foundation General Matching and Special Grant Programs*** supports habitat restoration and protection on private lands.

Eligibility: varies.

Assistance: Sample grant sizes in Illinois range from \$3,000 to over \$100,000.

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

Contact: 202-857-0166.

- ***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/5-star-rfp.htm>, <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star/>.

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

- 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.

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-your-selves," local grant data collection centers are available throughout Illinois.

- ***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>.

- ***Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance*** <http://www.nextstep.state.mn.us/>

- ***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.