

Green Infrastructure Municipal Resources and Funding Opportunities

Resources

Chicago Wilderness – Green Infrastructure Vision

Description: The Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision (GIV) paints a bold picture of what our region can look like if we are careful to protect the natural areas, corridors, and open spaces that are critical to our quality of life. It is a call to carefully think about how we can live in and among natural areas in a sustainable way and to mutual benefit, by using tools such as conservation development, conservation easements, and thoughtful land use planning. It is a guide to creating a region where healthy ecosystems contribute to economic vitality and a high quality of life for all residents.

Site: <http://www.chicagowilderness.org/GIV.php>

Site: http://www.chicagowilderness.org/members/downloads/Strategic/Strat_Frmwrk_GIV_10-14-10.pdf

Chicago Wilderness –Sustainable Development Principles for Protecting Nature

Description: Provides principles to guide local governments and developers on the planning and design of new development and redevelopment projects, to protect and enhance nature as an integral part of the development process. The principles are largely focused on the natural resource aspects of sustainable development—land, water, habitat, and soils—and recognize that having healthy nature in communities also creates positive economic and social benefits.

Site: <http://www.epa.gov/greenacres/awards/DESIGNPRINCIPLES1.pdf>

NIPC's Restoring and Managing Stream Greenways: A Landowner's Handbook

Description: The handbook describes some of the important natural functions of stream corridor ecosystems, describes traditional “engineered” approaches to stream management and their consequences, as well as the rationale for using more natural approaches.

Site: Download the Handbook from the Chicago Wilderness website -
http://www.chicagowilderness.org/sustainable/water_greenways.php

NIPC's Sourcebook on Natural Landscaping for Local Officials

Description: This Source Book will explain the basic principles and benefits of natural landscaping, demonstrate the feasibility of using natural landscaping successfully, identify ways to avoid pitfalls that could result in poorly implemented natural landscaping, and more.

Site: <http://www.jrbp.missouristate.edu/rippleffect/pdf/SourcebookonNaturalLandscapingforLocalOfficials.pdf>

USEPA's Green Infrastructure: Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure

Description: Green infrastructure is an approach to wet weather management that is cost-effective, sustainable, and environmentally friendly. Green Infrastructure management approaches and technologies infiltrate, evapotranspire, capture and reuse stormwater to maintain or restore natural hydrologies.

Site: http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=298

USEPA's Sustainable Water Infrastructure

Description: The Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative guides our efforts in changing how the nation views, values, manages, and invests in its water infrastructure. EPA is working with the water industry to identify best practices that have helped many of the nation's utilities address a variety of management challenges and extend the use of these practices to a greater number of utilities.

Site: <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/sustain/index.cfm>

Green Infrastructure: Smart Conservation for the 21st Century

By Mark A. Benedict, Ph.D., Edward T. McMahon, J.D., The Conservation Fund

Description: This document provides an excellent overview of green infrastructure, including definitions, history, case studies, and guiding principles.

Site: <http://www.sprawlwatch.org/greeninfrastructure.pdf>

Green Infrastructure – The Conservation Fund

Description: This site provides a wide range of tools, announcements of courses, events, case studies, and more.

Site: <http://www.greeninfrastructure.net/>

Redfields to Greenfields

Description: This is a public/private effort that will:

- Acquire financially distressed properties (real estate “in the red”)
- Convert them into public parks and adjacent land “banked” for future sustainable development.

Site: <http://rftgf.org/joomla/>

American Rivers and the Green Reserve: Funding Green Infrastructure Solutions

Description: A new report is available *Putting Green to Work: Economic Recovery Investments for Clean and Reliable Water*

Site: <http://www.americanrivers.org/our-work/global-warming-and-rivers/infrastructure/funding-green-infrastructure.html>

Center for Neighborhood Technology – The Value of Green Infrastructure: A Guide to Recognizing Its Economic, Environmental and Social Benefits

Description: This guide distills key considerations involved in assessing the economic merits of green infrastructure practices. It examines the steps necessary to calculate a variety of performance benefits gained by implementing GI strategies and then, where possible, demonstrates simplified illustrative examples that estimate the magnitude and value of these benefits. In clarifying how to assign value to potential green infrastructure benefits, this guide can assist decision-makers in evaluating options for water management. A more clear view of GI's values will help communities decide where, when and to what extent green infrastructure practices should become part of future planning, development and redevelopment.

Site: <http://www.cnt.org/repository/gi-values-guide.pdf>

Conservation Design

Description: Five documents on conservation design are available to download:

Conservation Design Resource Manual: Language and Guidelines for Updating Local Ordinances

Changing Cost Perceptions: An Analysis of Conservation Development

Conservation Development in Practice

Blackberry Creek Alternative Futures Project

Blackberry Creek Watershed Alternative Futures Fiscal Impact Study

Site: Available at the Chicago Wilderness web site:

<http://www.chicagowilderness.org/sustainable/conservation.php>

Funding Opportunities

Illinois

CMAP'S GO TO 2040 Local Technical Assistance Program

Description: CMAP will be offering planning assistance to municipalities, counties, inter-jurisdictional groups, or nongovernmental organizations within the region.

Examples of areas in which assistance will be provided include, but are not limited to:

- Preparation or updates to a local comprehensive plan, either in whole or in part.
- Studies or specific plans related to important local issues.
- Revisions to ordinances or other land use regulations.

Site: <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/local-planning/call-for-projects>

IEPA's Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant Program for Stormwater Management (IGIG)

Description: Grants are available to local units of government and other organizations to implement green infrastructure best management practices to control stormwater runoff for water quality protection in Illinois. Projects must be located within a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) or Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) area. Funds are limited to the implementation of projects to install best management practices (BMPs).

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

IEPA's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grant Program

Description: Grants for this program, also known as Section 319, are available to implement corrective or preventative projects or develop public education programs about nonpoint source pollution, which occurs when water run-off picks up pollutants and carries the pollutants to lakes, rivers, and groundwater.

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

Illinois Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management Program

Description: In November 2004, Illinois announced it would seek application into the National Coastal Zone Management Program. Illinois is dedicated to protecting and managing the natural and cultural resources along our magnificent 63 mile stretch of Lake Michigan shoreline. The ICMP will initially focus on efforts to address the following program areas which are also outlined in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy. The ICMP will describe desired outcomes, prioritize strategies for achieving them, and suggest site specific projects:

- *Invasive species*
- Habitat, Ecosystems and Natural Area Restoration
- Persistent Bio-accumulative Toxins
- Sustainable Development
- Public Access and Recreation, and more

The IDNR is asking for your input in developing this program. Please go to the IDNR web site below and look over the draft documents. Provide IDNR with your suggestions and comments.

Site: http://www.dnr.state.il.us/owr/CMP_Home.htm

Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Illinois Trails Grant Program

Description: The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) administers five (5) grant programs that can provide funding assistance to acquire, develop and, in some cases, maintain trails for a variety of public recreation uses. These programs can also restore areas damaged by unauthorized trail use activity:

- Bike Path Program
- Local Government Snowmobile Program
- Snowmobile Trail Establishment Fund (STEF) Program
- Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program
- Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Site: <http://www.dnr.state.il.us/ocd/newtrail2.htm>

Illinois State Treasurer's Office – Green Energy Program

Description: The Green Energy program is an initiative that encourages energy efficient development and improvements by offering low-interest loans to businesses, non-profit organizations and local governments in Illinois. The Treasurer's Office secures below-market interest rates for borrowers who finance their purchase or installation of energy efficient and renewable energy equipment at participating lenders. Projects can range from \$10,000 to \$10 million.

Site: <http://www.treasurer.il.gov/programs/cultivate-illinois/green-energy.aspx>

Federal

USEPA's Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure Municipal Handbook: Funding Options

Description: This chapter identifies and discusses the two most common funding options communities are using for green stormwater infrastructure – stormwater fees and loan programs. The amount of grant money currently available on a national basis is only sufficient enough to fund small, local projects, and is not enough to sustain large multi-year wet weather programs.

Site: http://www.efc.unc.edu/publications/pdfs/gi_munichandbook_funding.pdf

USEPA's Green Infrastructure: Funding Opportunities

Description: This site provides information and links to a wide range of funding opportunities, including 319 and Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) grants.

Site: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/greeninfrastructure/fundingopportunities.cfm>

USEPA's Center for Environmental Finance - Guidebook of Financial Tools: Paying for Sustainable Environmental Systems

Description: The 2008 is a reference document for officials with environmental responsibilities. It is designed to assist interested parties with finding mechanisms to finance environmental protection initiatives. This guidebook includes:

- Over 300 financial tools that can be used to pay for environmental systems.
- Ten sections that cover such topics as raising capital, enhancing credit, and financing pollution prevention activities, community-based environmental protection, and brownfields redevelopment.
- A new section, "Tools for Accessing State and Local Financing," that includes many state grant programs.

Site: <http://www.epa.gov/efinpage/guidebook.htm>

USEPA's Green Reserve Funding in 2010

Description: The Green Project Reserve funding must be spent solely on green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency and environmentally innovative projects. In 2010, an estimated \$414 million from the Clean Water SRF and \$273 million from the Drinking Water SRF was to be made available in the form of low-interest loans and grants for these environmentally beneficial projects.

Site: <http://www.americanrivers.org/assets/pdfs/green-infrastructure-docs/apply-for-green-reserve.pdf>

USEPA's Five Star Restoration Program

Description: The Five Star Restoration Program brings together students, conservation corps, other youth groups, citizen groups, corporations, landowners and government agencies to provide environmental education and training through projects that restore wetlands and streams. The program provides challenge grants, technical support and opportunities for information exchange to enable community-based restoration projects. Funding levels are modest, from \$5,000 to \$20,000, with \$10,000 as the average amount awarded per project.

Site: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star/>

USEPA's Technical Assistance Programs for Sustainable Communities

Description: EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities is seeking proposals to create and deliver technical assistance programs to local and tribal governments facing common land use and development challenges. The Request for Proposals (RFP) seeks to fund up to three organizations that will provide technical assistance to multiple communities on the use of standardized, "ready to go" tools that can lead to changes in local policies and development regulations. EPA anticipates awarding up to \$500,000 through one to three cooperative agreements in the current funding cycle.

Site: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/pdf/grants/EPA-OP-OSC-11-01.pdf>

USEPA's Brownfields Program

Description: The EPA has two brownfields grants, assessment and remediation. Illinois has historically been underserved by these grants, mostly due to limited applications. The assessment grants provide up to \$1 million for ESA Phase I and II work, while the remediation grants can provide for actual remediation work.

Site: http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/grant_info/index.htm

NOAA's Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Grants

Description: Can be used for park improvements, habitat corridors, redevelopment of blighted areas into habitat/park. Funding is available up to \$1,000,000.

Site: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=61674>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Water Resources Planning

Description: Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1974, as amended, provides authority for the Corps of Engineers to assist the States, local governments, and other non-Federal entities in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land. Individual studies, of which there may be more than one per State or Tribe per year, generally cost \$25,000 to \$75,000. These studies are cost shared on a 50 percent Federal-50 percent non-Federal basis.

Site: <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/planning/assist.html>

Great Lakes Funding Programs

Description: This web page contains links to a list of over 115 links to funding sources – public and private.

Site: <http://gis.glin.net/habitat/fdb/allprograms.php>

Public-Private Initiatives

Sustain Our Lakes

Description:

The *Sustain Our Great Lakes* program is a bi-national grants program focused on restoring the chemical, biological and physical integrity of the Great Lakes ecosystem. It is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and funded by ArcelorMittal, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. There are two grant programs:

1. Community Grants Program – Supports habitat restoration and enhancement projects that simultaneously: 1) improve local habitat conditions; and 2) build local conservation capacity. Grant awards range from \$25,000 to \$150,000.
2. Stewardship Grants Program – Supports large-scale habitat restoration and enhancement projects that will have enduring and significant positive impacts on the ecological condition of the Great Lakes basin. Grant awards range from \$150,000 to \$1,500,000

Site: <http://www.sustainourgreatlakes.org/Apply.aspx>

Not-for-Profit Organizations

Great Lakes Revolving Loan Fund

Description: In 2002 The Conservation Fund launched its Great Lakes Revolving Loan Fund with a generous grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. Using capital from this source, the Fund provides technical assistance and bridge financing to nonprofit land trusts working to preserve resources within the Great Lakes Basin - the nation's most significant freshwater

ecosystem. By 2007 the Mott Foundation's \$7.3 million gift allowed the Fund and its partners to protect nearly 20,000 acres, valued at nearly \$56 million, across the region.

Site: http://www.conservationfund.org/great_lakes_revolving_fund

Kodak American Greenways Grant

Description: This is a grant program funded by Eastman Kodak, The Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society. It provides small grants to stimulate the planning and design of greenways in communities throughout America.

Site: http://www.conservationfund.org/kodak_awards

National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Green Infrastructure Initiative Grants

Description: In 2010, NARC awarded two grants, in the amount of \$5,000-7,500 each to regional planning organizations to for the promotion of green infrastructure best-practices, programs and projects to their peers through communication projects.

Site: http://www.greeninfrastructure.net/resource/green_infrastructure_initiative_grants

Municipal Guide to Low Impact Development

Description: This brochure provides an overview of the use of low impact development (LID) practices. LID is an ecologically friendly approach to site development and storm water management that aims to mitigate development impacts to land, water, and air.

Site: http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/lid%20articles/Municipal_LID.pdf