

7 watershed resources

Watershed resources include public agencies and private organizations that provide funding and technical assistance to watershed stakeholders seeking to improve watershed resources. These organizations are often willing to cooperate on projects for restoration, environmental education, and other types of projects. Some assistance is provided after an application process selects appropriate and eligible projects, and applicants are often better positioned to be awarded assistance for projects that involve multiple partners, that leverage other funding, and that achieve multiple environmental or community benefits. Almost any land or water conservation project ultimately requires the support of those who live nearby if it is to be successful over the long run. Local neighborhood associations, homeowner associations, and similar groups interested in open space, preventing sprawl or protecting wildlife habitat and scenic vistas, make the best partners for specific projects.

The programs described in the following pages do not include all possible partners and/or sources of available assistance. Rather, they are programs deemed most promising for restoration projects included in the Action Plan. Many watershed stakeholders will perform regulatory roles in implementation of the Watershed Plan, and as such, are excellent starting points for securing assistance.

The following list of potential funding and technical assistance sources is compiled from a variety of sources and is accurate as of 2008. Funding and program availability are contingent upon federal, state, and local budgets and appropriations for the budget year in which funding is being sought. 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/, and 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- 782-9143.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (USEPA) issues federal environmental regulations, enforces federal environmental law, and manages a number of grant programs.

- **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. Programs must relate directly to nonpoint source pollution control. Administered by Illinois EPA.

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

Assistance: Federal cost share at 60 percent maximum.

Website: www.epa.state.il.us/water/watershed/publications/nps-pollution/section-319-clean-water-act.html

Contact: Illinois EPA, 1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois, 62794-9276. Phone: 217-782-3362.

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- **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. IEPA targets SRF funding to point source pollution control, i.e., upgrading wastewater infrastructure, but significant funding has been set aside for non-point source control programs and estuary protection.

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

Assistance: Funds projects at 100 percent at a national average interest rate of 2.1 percent, subject to change.

Website: www.epa.gov/owmitnet/cwfinance/cwsrf/index.htm

Contact: Illinois EPA, 1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois, 62794-9276. Phone: 217-782-2027

- **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 \$10,000 average per project.

Website: www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star/

Contact: USEPA Wetlands Division Room 6105 (4502 T), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC. Phone: (202) 566-1225

Deadline: February 2009

- **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, and national non-profit, non-governmental organizations.

Assistance: \$50,000 to 420,000 grants with 25 percent local match requirement

Website: www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/grantguidelines/

Contact: Illinois Contact: US EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL, 60604.

Phone: 312-353-4378 Email: faulhaber.kristen@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, non-governmental organizations, and individuals.

Assistance: \$30,000 to \$180,000 with no local match requirement, although match offers are considered during evaluation as 10 percent of the ranking.

Website: www.epa.gov/owow/funding.html

Contact: USEPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Phone: 202-566-1300

- **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, conservation districts, and non-profit organizations.

Assistance: Federal-local cost share at 75 percent federal funding.

Website: www.epa.gov/reg5oopa/business/fs-swp.htm

Contact: USEPA Region 5, Water Division, 77 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL 60604. Phone: 312-886-0241. Email: garra.catherine@epa.gov

- The **USEPA Guidebook for Financial Tools** is used for identifying conservation funding source options

Eligibility: anyone can access the guidebook.

Assistance: informational only.

Website: www.epa.gov/efinpage or 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: www.epa.gov/owow/funding.html, www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/ or www.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: Up to \$66,000 annually for assessment and cleanup, up to \$200,000 annually for Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). RLF and cleanup grants require 20% cost-share

Website: www.epa.gov/brownfields/

Contact: US EPA, Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization, Mail Code 5105 T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460. Phone: 202-566-2777

- 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 \$50,000 or less are granted by regional offices, awards up to \$200,000 granted by EPA headquarters in Washington.

Website: www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html

Contact: Call (312) 353-5282 or visit the website for most current information and deadlines.

Deadline: December, see website for details

- The **Environmental Justice Grant Programs** include community-based approaches for environmental protection.

Eligibility: Educational organizations (colleges and universities exempt), private not-for-profit groups.

Assistance: No match is required. Up to \$15,000 per non-superfund site, other project grants variable up to \$10,000

Website: www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/index.html

Contact: Call (202) 564-2515 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/>

Contact: Development, Community, and Environment Division (MC 1807T), US Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460
Phone: 202-566-2878, smartgrowth@epa.gov

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. Authorization of this program dates back to the Water Resources Development Act of 1999. However no funding has been authorized to date.

Eligibility: Local governments; study area must be within a floodplain.

Assistance: Federal cost share at 50 percent for studies

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and 65 percent for project implementation. Maximum federal allocation is \$30 million.

Website: Information is available at www.hq.usace.army.mil/hq_exec/index.asp

Contact: For information, HQ, US Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division, 441 G. Street, NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000

Phone: 202-761-0115

- **Continuing Authorities Program** allows the Corps to respond quickly to water resources problems. Some of the environmental legislative authorities of the program include Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (Section 206), Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (wetland creation) (Section 204), and Environmental Restoration (Section 1135). Some of the flood risk management legislative authorities of the program include Flood Damage Reduction (Section 205). See website for full listing.

Eligibility: Local public entities are eligible for studies, planning engineering, construction, design and administration.

Assistance: Federal–local cost share percentages vary depending on the program. Up to \$5 million federal assistance provided.

Website: The USACE Rock Island District provides an overview of the Continuing Authorities www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/projects/index.cfm

Contact: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island, ATTN: PM-F, Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004, Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

Phone: 309-794-5487

- **Planning Assistance to States Program (Section 22)** allows the Corps to provide technical assistance to support preparation of comprehensive water and related land resources development plans, including watershed and ecosystem planning.

Eligibility: Local entities are eligible for studies and planning services. This is not a construction authority.

Assistance: Federal–local cost share percentage is 50/50. Up to \$100,000 in federal assistance provided.

Contact: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island, ATTN: PM-M, Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004, Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

Phone: 309-794-5605

- **Environmental Protection and Restoration.** With specific Congressional authorization the Corps can study and recommend solutions for environmental protection and restoration purposes (Section 103c, Water Resources Development Act of 1986)

Eligibility: The Non-federal sponsor pays 35% of the project cost, provides all lands and right-of-ways for project construction, and operates and maintain the project upon construction completion.

Assistance: Federal 65%, Non-federal sponsor pays 35% which includes the lands and right-of-ways, and credible work-in-kind. No funding limits

Contact: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island, ATTN: PM-M, Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004, Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

Phone: 309-794-5605

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. FEMA approved local hazard mitigation plans are a prerequisite for project funding eligibility.

Eligibility: State agencies, NFIP communities, qualified local organizations, Tribal governments.

Assistance: Federal cost share maximum of 75 percent.

Website: www.fema.gov/government/grant/fma/index.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, post-disaster floodplain building buy-outs are the first priorities. Elevation, relocation, retrofit and demolition on public and private lands may also be eligible.

Eligibility: State and local governments, qualified non-profit organizations, Tribal governments.

Assistance: Federal cost share maximum of 75 percent.

Website: www.fema.gov/government/grant/hmgrp/index.shtm

Contact: Mr. Ron Davis, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, 1035 Outer Park Drive
Springfield, IL 62704. Phone: 217-524-1003, E-mail: ron.davis@illinois.gov

- **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: www.fema.gov/government/grant/pdm/index.shtm

Contact: Mr. Ron Davis, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, 1035 Outer Park Drive
Springfield, IL 62704. Phone: 217-524-1003, E-mail: ron.davis@illinois.gov

- **National Flood Insurance**, 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 flood proofing.

Eligibility: flood insurance policy holders.

Assistance: Federal assistance up to \$35,000.

Website: www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/2005katrina/hmp/nfip_floodplain.shtm

Contact: NFIP Regional Office V, Suite 123, 18008 Wolf Road, Orland Park, IL 60467-5407

Phone: 708-326-3072

US 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: www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/

Contact: NRCS, Deputy Chief for Programs, 14th and Independence Ave., SW., Room 5109-S, Washington, DC 20250 or locally, 3020 East First Avenue, Milan, Illinois 61264

Phone: 202-720-1834 or locally, 309-764-1486

- **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.

Website: www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&su

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bject=lown&topic=crp

Contact: USDA Farm Service Agency, 1400 Independence Ave, SW Washington, DC 20250-0506 or locally, 3020 East First Avenue, Milan, Illinois 61264

Phone: 800-457-3642 or locally, 309-764-1486

- **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: NRCS, Deputy Chief for Programs, 14th and Independence Ave., SW., Room 5109-S, Washington, DC 20250 or locally, 3020 East First Avenue, Milan, Illinois 61264

Phone: 202-720-1834 or locally, 309-764-1486

- **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. Unavailable in EQIP, CRP, and WRP priority areas.

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: www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/swca/

Contact: NRCS, Deputy Chief for Programs, 14th and Independence Ave., SW., Room 5109-S, Washington, DC 20250 or locally, 3020 East First Avenue, Milan, Illinois 61264

Phone: 202-720-1834 or locally, 309-764-1486

- **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: www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed/index.html#Watershed_ops

Contact: NRCS, Deputy Chief for Programs, 14th and Independence Ave., SW., Room 5109-S, Washington, DC 20250 or locally, 3020 East First Avenue, Milan, Illinois 61264

Phone: 202-720-1834 or locally, 309-764-1486

- **Wetlands 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: www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/

Contact: NRCS, Deputy Chief for Programs, 14th and Independence Ave., SW., Room 5109-S, Washington, DC 20250 or locally, 3020 East First Avenue, Milan, Illinois 61264

Phone: 202-720-1834 or locally, 309-764-1486

- **Wildlife Habitat In gram (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: www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/

Contact: NRCS, Deputy Chief for Programs, 14th and Independence Ave., SW., Room 5109-S, Washington, DC 20250 or locally, 3020 East First Avenue, Milan, Illinois 61264

Phone: 202-720-1834 or locally, 309-764-1486

- **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: www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/

Contact: NRCS, Deputy Chief for Programs, 14th and Independence Ave., SW., Room 5109-S, Washington, DC 20250 or locally, 3020 East First Avenue, Milan, Illinois 61264

Phone: 202-720-1834 or locally, 309-764-1486

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. Beginning FY08, a higher percentage of funding will be allocated to programs selected on a more competitive basis.

Assistance: Non-federal match of 50% required.

Website: www.fs.fed.us/ucf/

Contact: USDA Forest Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0003. Phone: 800-832-1355

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (USDOE) compiles and distributes a list of monthly funding opportunities relating to energy and the environment. Go to 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.

- **Partners for Fish and Wildlife Programs** assists 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 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.

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

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/partners/>.

Contact: USFWS, Rock Island Ecological Services Office, 1511 47th Ave, Moline, Illinois, 61265, (309) 793-5800

- **National Fish Passage Program** assists in restoration of native fish and other aquatic species to self-sustaining levels by reconnecting habitats that have been fragmented by artificial barriers, where such reconnection results in a positive ecological effect. Funding assistance for removal of barriers such as dams and culverts.

Eligibility: Non-state and non-federal landowners.

Assistance: 1:1 match, match does not have to be for removal but can be for enhancement of area after removal or other related elements of project.

Website: www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/publications/r3-

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fishpassageprgm7-31-07.pdf

Contact: USFWS, Rock Island Ecological Services Office, 1511 47th Ave, Moline, Illinois, 61265, (309) 793-5800

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: 217-782-7481

- **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: 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: 202-354-6900

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: www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/te/overview.htm (Federal) 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)

- **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/pfc/>

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

- **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/programs.htm>

Contact: IDNR Office of Water Resources, One Natural Resources Way, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271. Phone: 217-785-3334

- **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/programs.htm#small>.

Contact: IDNR Office of Water Resources, One Natural Resources Way, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271. Phone: 217-785-3334

- **Riverwatch** is a volunteer-driven effort to collect stream data from Illinois streams and submit the data to the Illinois Natural History Survey.

Eligibility: all Illinois streams.

Assistance: monitoring training, forms, and kits.

Website: <http://www.dnr.state.il.us/orep/ctap/ctapbroc/rivwatch.htm> or www.ngrrec.org/

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: Architecture and Engineering 217-782-2605, Grants 217-782-7481

- **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: varies.

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

Website: <http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildlifeResources/missions.htm>

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

Eligibility: Local governments, individuals, and others.

Assistance: 50% cost share grants and reimbursement up to \$5,000.

Website: <http://dnr.state.il.us/conservation/forestry/>

Contact: 1510, 46th Ave. Rock Island, 788.0419

- **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/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm>

Contact: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Education, Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant Program, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271. Phone 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/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm>

Contact: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Education, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271. Phone 217-524-4126

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (IDA)

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

Eligibility: All organizations and individuals.

Assistance: 25% match required.

Website: www.agr.state.il.us/Environment/conserv/index.html.

Contact: Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation, 3020 East First Avenue, Milan, Illinois 61264. Phone: 309-764-1486

- **Sustainable Agriculture Grant (Conservation 2000) Program** supports projects include those that carry out research, education, and on-farm demonstration projects that support sustainable agriculture, protect the environment, and maintain profitability.

Eligibility: Individuals, all organizations, local governments.

Assistance: Grants awarded up to \$10,000 per individual; \$50,000 per unit of government, or other eligible organization.

Website: www.agr.state.il.us/Environment/conserv/index.html.

Contact: State of Illinois Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 19281, State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL 62794. Phone: (217) 782-2172

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (ISBE)

- Useful website to search for educational grants at www.isbe.net/grants/

STATE OF ILLINOIS TAX INCENTIVES FOR CONSERVATION are available for organizations and individuals. For additional information, www.ilga.gov/

- **Real Property Conservation Rights Act (765 ILCS 120/1 et 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 30/1 et 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.

Local Foundations

- **American Water Environmental Grant Program** Applicants are asked to address a source water protection need in the local community or a project that improves, restores or protects one or more watersheds.

Eligibility: Open

Website: www.amwater.com/iaaw/ensuring-water-quality/

environmental-grants-programs.html

Deadline: Ongoing

- **Bechtel Trust** Variety of community based programs supported.

Eligibility: Open

Contact: 563-328-3333; R. Richard Bittner, Tr.

Deadline: Ongoing

- **Moline Foundation** Variety of community based programs supported.

Eligibility: 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit

Website: www.molinefoundation.org/funding.htm

Deadline: January 15, April 15, & August 29

- **Rock Island County Foundation** (primarily for Rock Island metro area) Variety of community based programs supported.

Eligibility: 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit

Website: www.ricf.org/request.html

Deadline: June 30, annually

- **Community Foundation of the Great River Bend** Variety of community based programs supported.

Eligibility: 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit

Website: www.ricf.org/request.html

Deadline: June 30, annually

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 Foundation** supports projects that enhance natural areas, increase renewable energy, or improve energy efficiency.

Eligibility: private not-for-profit organizations, educational organizations, local governments.

Assistance: call for details, which change year to year.

Website: www.illinoiscleanenergy.org

Contact: Illinois Clean Energy Foundation, 312-372-5191.

- **The Protecting Water Quality in Urban Centers of Illinois Mini-grant Program** addresses nonpoint source water quality issues in urban areas. Funding is available for protection of waterways from urban development and preservation of aquatic and wildlife species and habitats.

Eligibility: All Illinois Soil and Water Conservation districts.

Assistance: \$5000 maximum funding request (reimbursement only) with 40% match required.

Website: www.aiswcd.org/soilandwater/htdocs/GRANTS/GRANTS.html

Contact: Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts 4285 N. Walnut Street Rd., Springfield, IL 62707

Phone: 217/ 744-3414

- **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: www.nfwf.org.

Contact: 202-857-0166

- **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: www.tpl.org. Click on local programs-North Central Region.

Contact: 312-427-1979

- **Kodak American Greenways Program** Eastman Kodak, The Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society provide small grants to stimulate the planning and design of greenways in communities throughout America.

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Eligibility: Individuals, organizations, corporations, & public agencies

Website: www.conservationfund.org/node/245

Deadline: June 30,

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-yourselfers,” local grant data collection centers are available throughout Illinois.

- **Environmental Grantmaker’s Association** provides a list of environmental grant foundations. www.ega.org.
- **The Foundation Center**
79 Fifth Avenue/16th Street, New York, NY 10003-3076,
Phone: 212-620-4230. www.foundationcenter.org
- **Sonoran Institute**
Look for Conservation Assistance Tools (CAT) at www.sonoran.org.
- **Illinois Department of Natural Resources**
IDNR has a very comprehensive grant search engine at: www.dnr.state.il.us/grants/
- **The Donor’s Forum of Chicago**
Donors Forum, 208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1540,
Chicago, IL 60604 Phone: 312.578.0090
www.donorsforum.org
- **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, www.ecivis.com