

APPENDIX G - GRANT INFORMATION SUMMARY FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS

INTRODUCTION

FOR THE LATEST VERSION OF THIS SUMMARY WITH HYPERLINKS, PLEASE VISIT THE USDA-NRCS WEBSITE AT: <http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov>

This summary is intended to assist individuals, groups, and local units of government in search of funding or other financial incentives for community-based conservation projects in Illinois. The list is divided into five categories: federal funding sources, state funding sources, other public/private sources, and private sources. A key has been developed to identify eligible groups for each grant after the title of the grant:

Key to group eligibility:

- “I” individuals eligible
- “G” local units of government
- “O” all organizations eligible to apply
- “P” private not-for-profit (501C3) groups only eligible
- “E” educational institutions
- “U” unknown or eligibility varies, need to contact administrators.

For the purposes of this document, conservation is defined as holistically as possible to include grants or financial incentives that enhance the wise use and management of natural and cultural resources in urban, suburban, and rural communities. Some of these grants may not have conservation as a specific goal, but could be used to achieve multiple objectives that include conservation.

The intent of this document is to provide the reader with examples of what is available in financial incentives. Many other funding alternatives exist, and may better fit local needs. This document is provided as a public service and does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement of any particular grant or program; also note that the absence of any particular grant or program does not constitute a negative endorsement. While an effort has been made to provide an accurate listing, funding information is constantly changing and omissions or errors may occur. Please recycle previous editions. For corrections, comments or additional copies of this summary, please contact:

USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

ATTN: Keith Eichorst, NRCS Community Planner
313-J Plainfield-Naperville Road, Plainfield, IL 60544
Email: Keith.Eichorst@il.usda.gov

Other sources of information should be consulted and evaluated to insure an informed choice is made before actions are taken.

This section was updated in April 2002.

NRCS IL April 2002

urbapp_G.doc

(This page was intentionally left blank)

FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES

The federal government is an excellent place to investigate funding resources for conservation projects. Once you identify your specific requirements, the Catalog of Federal Domestic Grants (CFDA) is the single best place to look for federal funding sources-the catalog should be available at your local library or you can view the CFDA on-line:

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance:

<http://www.cfda.gov>

Web site for federal forms and grant administration procedures:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/index.html>

Web sites of federal agencies may give you more information about individual government programs as well as provide information on other opportunities for assistance:

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Illinois Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):

<http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov>

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

<http://www.fema.gov>

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):

<http://www.hud.gov>

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

<http://www.epa.gov/ogd>

USEPA Catalog of Funding Sources for Watershed Protection

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wtr1/watershed/wacademy/fund/wfund.pdf>

Partners for Fish and Wildlife: O, I, E, G.

- Eligible projects include restoration or enhancement of wildlife habitat, does not fund land acquisition or salaries.
- Need to call for application deadlines.
- Matching or in-kind services preferred, 10-year habitat development agreement required.
- Contact the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) at 847-381-2253 or 309-793-5800 for information.

Northeastern Illinois Wetlands Conservation Account: I, G, O, P, E.

- Eligible projects include restoration, enhancement, and preservation of wetlands. Other eligible projects include those that promote understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of wetlands
- Application deadlines vary. \$5,000-\$150,000 grant range.
- Matching funds preferred but not required. Limited to Northeastern Illinois area.
- Contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 847-381-2253 for information.

Challenge Grant Program: O, I, E, G.

- Purpose for wildlife habitat restoration, streambank stabilization, or education.
- Application deadlines from June to August. Grant ranges vary up to \$10,000.
- 50% Match required.
- Contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 847-381-2253 or 309-793-5800.

US Environmental Protection Agency - Environmental Education Grants: E, P, G.

- Eligible projects include environmental education activities such as curricula design or dissemination, designing or demonstrating educational field methods, and training educators.

- November deadline.
- Requires a minimum of 25% matching funds or in-kind services.
- Contact US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) at 312-353-5282.
<http://www.epa.gov/region5/enved>.

Environmental Justice Small Grants: E, P.

- Projects include those that use community-based approaches for environmental protection.
- Project grants shall not exceed \$20,000.
- Contact USEPA at 1-312-353-1440 or 1-800-962-6215.
<http://www.epa.gov/seahome/resources>

Community based Environmental Protection for Communities: U

- Purpose is to provide place-based approaches to address community and environmental approaches to slow the loss of open space, habitat, and wetlands.
- Matching share required.
- Need to call for deadlines
- Contact USEPA at 312-886-4856
<http://www.epa.gov/ecocommunity>

Section 1135 Project Modifications for the Improvement of the Environment: G, P, U.

- Federal funds and technical assistance available for studies, planning, engineering, construction and administration.
- Cost-share up to \$5 million plus non-federal match, 25% for project costs.
- Contact Army Corps of Engineers at 312-353-6400, 309-794-5590 or 314-331-8404.

Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration: G, P, U.

- Projects include funding and assistance to carry out ecosystem restoration and enhancement that is documented to be in the public interest, will improve the environment, and is cost effective.
- Federal cost-share of up to \$5 million is available, 35% non-federal cost-share required.
- Contact the Army Corps of Engineers at 312-353-6400, 309-794-5590 or 314-331-8404

Scenic Byway Program: U.

- Purpose is to create or preserve treasured American byways or roads.
<http://www.byways.org>

Federal Tax Incentives for Conservation: I, O, U.

- Owners of environmentally sensitive land that has been donated for conservation purposes, or has been placed in a conservation easement, may qualify for significant federal tax deductions.
- Reference is the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code [170(h)].
- Contact the IRS or your federal tax advisor for more information.

STATE FUNDING SOURCES

The State of Illinois administers numerous programs for community-based conservation. Some of the money for these programs originates at the federal level and is “pass-through” funding, but much comes directly from the State.

Useful State websites:

Catalog of State Assistance to Local Governments:

<http://www.legis.state.il.us/commission/igcc/catalog1999.pdf>

Illinois Dept of Natural Resources (IDNR):

<http://www.dnr.state.il.us/finast.htm>

Education grants:

<http://www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/classrm/grant>.

Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA):

<http://www.agr.state.il.us>

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA):

<http://www.epa.state.il.us/>

Illinois FIRST Program: U

-Conservation purposes include brownfield cleanups and construction of trails and parks.

-Contact your local state legislative office for application details.

<http://www100.state.il.us/state/ilfirst>

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program: G.

-Governments must be enrolled and in good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

-Eligible initiatives for projects include acquisition of insured structures and underlying real property for open space uses.

-Provides up to 75% of project costs, 25% match required.

-Contact is the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) at 217-782-8719.

<http://www.state.il.us/iema>

Non-point Source Management Program (Section 319 grants): G, O.

-Eligible projects include controlling or eliminating non-point pollution sources.

-Application deadline is August.

-Requires 40% matching funds or in-kind services.

-Contact Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) at 217-782-3362.

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

Illinois Clean Lakes Program: G.

-Financial assistance available for lakes over 6 acres that are publicly-owned with public access.

-Application deadline is Aug. 31 (pre-approval) and Oct. 31 (final approval).

-Requires 40% match for phase I, 50% local match for phase II.

-Contact IEPA at 217-782-3362.

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

Lake Education Assistance Program: G, E, P.

-Eligible projects include educational programs on inland lakes and lake watersheds.

-Maximum funding of \$500 is reimbursed after completion. Deadlines are Sept. & Jan.

-Contact IEPA at 217-782-3362.

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

Priority Lake and Watershed Implementation Program: G.

-Eligible projects include funding to implement protection/restoration practices that improve water quality prioritized publicly-owned lakes.

-Funding up to 100%, projects range from \$5,000 to \$30,000.

-Contact IEPA at 217-782-3362.

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

Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Program & Open Lands Trust Grant Program: G.

-Eligible projects include money for acquisition and development of public parks for passive recreation/open space.

-Application deadlines vary. Conservation easement required with both programs.

-Funding is reimbursable up to 50% of project costs, reimbursable up to \$2 million for the Trust Grant.
-Contact Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR) for both programs at 217-782-7481.
<http://dnr.state.il.us/ocd/>

Greenways and Trails Planning Assistance Program: G.

-Eligible units of government include counties and communities > 10,000
-\$20,000 maximum awarded, 50% in-kind contribution required.
-Must follow a planning process
-Contact IDNR at 217-782-3715
<http://www.dnr.state.il.us/gnthome.htm>

Illinois Trail Grant Programs: G,P,O.

-A collection of various trail programs where eligible projects include acquiring or constructing non-motorized bicycle and snowmobile paths and facilities.
-Deadline is March and May.
-0%-50% match required, depending upon which type of trail grant.
-Contact IDNR at 217-782-7481.
<http://dnr.state.il.us/ocd/gaoutnew.htm>

Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program: G.

-Purpose is to create or enhance local forestry programs in communities with a local forestry ordinance.
-May deadline.
-50% match required, reimbursement up to \$5,000.
-Contact IDNR at 217-782-2361.

Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund (Small Project Program): I, O, U.

-Eligible projects include those that deal with management, site inventories or on-going education programs.
-Deadline is April.
-Funding up to \$1,000 per project, match preferred but not required.
-Contact IDNR at 217-785-8774.

Small Projects Fund: G.

-Provides assistance to smaller communities for alleviating locally significant drainage and flood problems.
-Provides funding for planning and implementation of flood control projects in accordance with an adopted plan.
-Grants and technical assistance awarded up to \$100,000.
-Contact IDNR-OWR at 217-782-4637.

Schoolyard Habitat Action Grants: E, O.

-Eligible projects include enhancement of wildlife habitat, with emphasis on youth involvement and education.
-Project must involve a trained WILD educator or facilitator, Maximum funding to \$600.
-Application deadline is October.
-Contact the IDNR at 217-524-4126.
<http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/CLASSRM/grants>

Conservation 2000 -- Ecosystems Program: O.

-Eligible projects include habitat protection or improvement, technical assistance, and education.
-The Ecosystems Program provides financial and technical support to groups (ecosystem partners) which seek to maintain and enhance ecological and economic conditions in key watersheds of Illinois.
-February deadline, contact IDNR at 217-782-7940.
<http://dnr.state.il.us/c2000>

Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program: G.

-Eligible projects include those that support alternative modes of transportation and that preserve visual and cultural resources, including historic preservation and landscaping beautification.

- Planning is encouraged to be completed now for new disbursements.
- Local 20% match required for projects, 50% match for land acquisition.
- Contact Illinois Dept. of Transportation (IDOT) at 1-800-493-3434.
<http://www.dot.state.il.us>

Learn & Serve Illinois: E.

- Eligible projects include those that combine conservation with hands-on learning in public schools.
- Grades K-12 and regional education offices only eligible, similar program exists for colleges/universities.
- Contact is at 312-814-3606 ggreene@isbe.net
<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/learnserve>

Certified Local Government Program [for historic preservation]: G.

- Eligible projects include historical surveys, education and historical preservation planning.
- October deadline, 40% match required.
- Contact the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency at 217-785-5042.
<http://www.state.il.us/hpa>

Illinois Heritage Grants [for historic preservation]: G, O.

- Eligible projects are those that entail historical construction.
- 40% match required.
- Contact the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency at 217-785-5042
<http://state.il.us/hpa>

State Tax Incentives for Conservation: O, I.

- Urban land that is environmentally sensitive may qualify for significant property tax reductions:
 - 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.
 - 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, not applicable in Cook County.
 - 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.

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 the Open Space Assessment and Preferential Assessment of Common Areas.

OTHER PUBLIC/PRIVATE SOURCES

Community Development Assistance Program (Community Development Block Grant): G.

- Eligible projects must include activities that improve community welfare, specifically in moderate or low-income areas. Conservation-related projects can possibly include the acquisition of real property (e.g., flood-prone areas), construction of water or sewer facilities, and initiatives for energy conservation. Funding competition is intense.
- Application deadlines vary; no match required.
- Money originates at the federal level as the Community Development Block Grant and is administered directly to “entitlement” communities such as the urbanized counties in Northeastern Illinois and selected municipalities such as the City of Chicago. In other areas, municipalities and other units of local government should contact their county government to apply for funds from the state under the Community Development Assistance Program. Community groups should work through their local municipality in incorporated areas and the next level of local government (i.e. township or county) in other areas.

Conservation 2000 -- Streambank Stabilization & Restoration Program (SSRP): G, O, I.

- Eligible projects include naturalized stream bank stabilization practices in rural and urban communities.
- Application deadlines are January, May and September.
- 25% match required, 20% for qualified watershed planning areas.
- Contact the local Soil & Water Conservation District that services your county. Offices are listed in the phone book under "local government."

Habitat Restoration Fund for the Fox and Kishwaukee River Watersheds: I, O, E, G.

- Eligible projects include native plantings, upland habitat & wetland restoration.
- Deadlines in March and August.
- 75% cost-share, up to \$5,000.
- Contact the Lake, Kane-DuPage, DeKalb, Boone, McHenry or North Cook Soil and Water Conservation Districts for more information.

Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control: U.

- USDA-sponsored projects include protection of Great Lakes Water Quality by controlling erosion and sedimentation (only available in Lake, Cook, and Will Counties). Typical grant amount around \$25,000.
- Application deadline in January.
- Contact the Great Lakes Commission at 734-665-9135.
- <http://www.glc.org/basin/RFP.html>

Chicago Wilderness Small Grants: U.

- Eligible projects include natural areas enhancement, education, and research that focus on biological diversity of northeastern Illinois, northwestern Indiana, and the southeastern Wisconsin region.
- Application deadlines vary, need to call
- 1:1 matching funds or in-kind services required.
- Contact the Chicago Wilderness at 312-346-8166 ext. 30 for information.

Wetland Restoration Fund: G, U.

- Eligible projects include wetlands and other aquatic ecosystem restorations, projects must be in the six-county Chicago metropolitan area and have either a conservation easement or be owned by a government agency.
- Deadline is March and October
- No match required, project site must have a conservation easement, projects range from \$5,000-\$100,000
- Contact Corelands at 312-427-4256, ext. 241.

River Network's Watershed Assistance Grants Program: U.

- Eligible projects include community-based partnerships that conserve or restore watersheds.
- Deadlines are February 18 and June 15
- Grant amounts range from \$1,500-30,000.
- Contact River Network at 503-241-3506 ext. 47.
- <http://www.rivernetwork.org> wag@rivernetwork.org

Community Tree Planting & Partnership Enhancement Monetary Grant Program: P.

- Eligible projects include community tree plantings with seedlings and grants to organizations for urban areas.
- Seedlings are donated directly to organizations conducting the plantings or monetary grants.
- Seedlings must be maintained and reports required for two years after grant award.
- Contact the National Tree Trust at 202-628-8733/Fax-8735 for more information on both these programs.
- <http://www.nationaltreetrust.com>

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grants: U.

- Eligible projects include habitat restoration and protection on private lands
- Deadlines vary per individual program
- Sample grant sizes range from under \$5,000 to \$75,000.

-Contact is at 202-857-0166
<http://www.nfwf.org>

North American Lake Management Society: U.

-Grant Programs and other incentives periodically offered to enhance the protection of lake watersheds.
<http://www.nalms.org/>

America the Beautiful Fund: U.

-Free seeds provided in support of USDA-sponsored initiative
-Phone is at 202-638-1649
<http://www.america-the-beautiful.org>

Illinois Conservation Foundation: P, G.

-Eligible projects include those that enhance natural resources.
-February deadlines.
-Grants up to \$5,000.
-Contact is at 312-814-7237
<http://www.icf.org>

PRIVATE SOURCES

Private sources of funding for community and urban conservation projects include corporations and individuals that have established foundations for charitable purposes. Many corporate foundations focus their philanthropy in areas near their operations, so local retailers, businesses, or the local chamber of commerce might be a source of revenue for your project. Most, but not all, require that the group applying for funding be sponsored by a not-for-profit [501(c)(3)] corporation. Information about private foundations can be identified through organizations that specialize in grant information research. Fees for services or products may be charged by these organizations, so be sure to clarify if charges will be incurred. For “do-it-yourselfers,” local grant data collection centers are available throughout Illinois and in convenient Indiana and Missouri locations:

Resources for Global Sustainability

P.O. Box 3665, Cary, NC 27519.
1-800-724-1857
RGS publishes a yearly catalog called
“Environmental Grantmaking Foundations”
<http://www.environmentalgrants.com>

The Foundation Center.

79 Fifth Street, New York, New York 10003.
1-212-620-4230
<http://www.fdncenter.org>

Sonoran Institute

Useful web site in identifying resources:
<http://www.sonoran.org/cat/search.asp>

State Of Illinois Grant Data Collection Centers **Foundation Center Cooperating Collections**

The Donor’s Forum of Chicago.

-208 S. LaSalle St., Suite 735, Chicago, IL 60604.
-312-578-0175.
<http://www.donorsforum.org> info@donorsforum.org.

Metropolitan Association for Philanthropy, Inc

1 Metropolitan Square, Suite 1295
211 North Broadway St. Louis, MO 63102
314-621-6220
<http://www.mapstl.org>

Evanston Public Library.

-1703 Orrington Ave Evanston, IL 60201.
-847-866-0305.

Evansville -Vanderburgh County Public Library

-22 Southeast Fifth St., Evansville, IN 47708
-812-428-8218

Rock Island Public Library

-401 -19th St. Rock Island, IL
-309-732-7323
<http://www.rbls.lib.il.us/rip/index.html>

University of Illinois at Springfield (Brookens Library)

-Shepherd Rd. Springfield, IL 62794
-217-206-6633
<http://www.uis.edu/library/fdc.htm>

Vigo County Public Library

-1 Library Sq. Terre Haute, IN 47807
-812-232-1113

Examples of private grant sources for community-based conservation projects include:

Kodak American Greenways Awards Program: P, G.

- Eligible projects include greenway and trail projects.
- Grants range from \$500-\$2,500.
- Contact Greenways Coordinator at 703-525-6300 or <http://www.conservationfund.org>
- leighannemcdonald@conservationfund.org.

Chicago Community Trust: P

222 N. LaSalle St. Ste 1400 (Chicago area only)
Chicago, IL 60601 312-372-3356
<http://www.cct.org> info@cct.org

Exxon-mobile Educational Foundation: U, P.

- Emphasis is on conservation and education.
- Contact is at 1-972-444-1104.
- <http://www.exxon.mobile.com>

Field Foundation of Illinois: P.

- Funding restricted to six-county Chicago metropolitan area.
- Focus is on prevention and reduction of pollution and preservation and protection of the natural environment.
- Call 312-831-0910 for more information.

Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation: U, P.

- Eligible projects primarily conservation. Chicago area only, sample grants from \$3,000-\$50,000 range.
- Contact for deadlines.
- Contact is at 35 E. Wacker Drive, Ste. 2600, Chicago, IL 60601, ATTN: Judith Stockdale.
- Phone is at 312-977-2700.
- <http://www.gddf.org>

Wildlife Links: I, G, O

- Eligible projects include management & education projects for conservation on golf courses.
- Contact National Fish & Wildlife Foundation at 202-857-0166
- <http://www.nfwf.org>