

2015 Coastal Grant Project Descriptions



ACQUISITION

Land Acquisition Along White Ditch – Town of Michiana Shores
LMCP Share - \$21,500; Applicant Share - \$21,500

The project involves the purchase of 12 non buildable, vacant wooded lots, equivalent to approximately 2.12 acres, along the south side of White Ditch between Oak Dale Drive and Meadow Drive. The Town of Michiana Shores currently owns 19 of the 32 total lots located in the project area. This project will acquire an additional 12. The lots are located within the floodplain of White Ditch, a tributary flowing into Lake Michigan. The 12 lots provide limited housing possibilities due to their location in the floodplain; however, they are ideal for the development of a natural park and trail. New construction is prohibited in this area, and the Park Board of Michiana Shores has targeted this area for preservation as green space and associated public use and is actively engaged in acquiring land bordering the stream.

LOW COST CONSTRUCTION

Lake George Fishing Pier and Canoe/Kayak Access – City of Hobart
LMCP Share - \$50,000; Applicant Share - \$50,000

The City of Hobart wishes create recreational access to Lake George for fisherman, canoeists and kayakers in the City's most heavily visited Festival Park, near downtown Hobart. The city is in the process of completing a Lake George shoreline stabilization project, funded by the DNR's Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) program. The installation of a fishing pier, and an ADA-compliant kayak and canoe launch in Festival Park will offer an enhanced location for people to visit and utilize the natural resources the people of Hobart are so fortunate to have within their city.

Milroy Covered Bridge Historic Restoration– Lake County Board of Commissioners
LMCP Share - \$100,000; Applicant Share - \$100,000

The Lake County Fairgrounds' Milroy Covered Bridge is the only covered bridge in northwest Indiana and one of only 90 such bridges remaining in the entire state. The goal of the proposed Milroy Covered Bridge Historic Restoration Project is to restore the bridge to its historic appearance and its previous function as a bridge. Funds will be used to repair structural deficiencies, and to make improvements to restore the historic structure to its original appearance and functionality.

PLANNING/COORDINATION/MANAGEMENT

Marquette Action Plan – Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority
LMCP Share - \$40,000.00; Applicant Share - \$40,000.00

The Marquette Action Plan (MAP) is a study geared towards implementing the open space and access goals of the Marquette Plan 2014 through parcel analysis. It is a planning project focused on identifying

land across Northwest Indiana's lakefront that can be feasibly transformed into new publicly-accessible areas for conservation, recreation, amenities, and livable communities. The Marquette Action Plan will define different categories of access across the lakefront and rivers, and identify a means for accommodating those different uses on a region-wide level. The plan will provide recommendations for expanding and improving public access on a sub-area by sub-area level, and, in addition, will identify finance and maintenance structures that can be employed to preserve the coastal areas' various assets. This project will result in (1) a published report, (2) public access survey data, and (3) an internal parcel database.

Early Detection Network for Invasive Plant Species – The Nature Conservancy
LMCP Share - \$25,262.40; Applicant Share - \$25,262.40

The purpose of this project is to advance proactive invasive control efforts in the high-biodiversity Coastal region by planning and developing an early detection network that will engage the public as well as professional natural resources staff. This network would also provide crucial management data and information to natural resource managers that can then be used in future planning efforts. The project seeks to build a network of people who want to learn how to identify and prevent invasive species in, or adjacent to, managed natural areas. These people would then report the invasive species to an existing on-line and/or smart phone-based program that is user-friendly and has been adopted by the State of Indiana. This network will be built through a well-planned and executed marketing and outreach campaign, as well as by training targeted to interested landowners and professional staff. After the project is completed, the data collected will be used to help plan future control efforts that can be executed collectively, or by a single entity.

EDUCATION/OUTREACH

Protecting Water Quality Protects Our Quality of Life – City of East Chicago Multimedia Division
LMCP Share - \$15,739.00; Applicant Share - \$15,739.00

The goal of the City of East Chicago Multimedia Division's "Protecting Water Quality Protects our Quality of Life" outreach project is to raise public awareness of important water quality protection issues and motivate residents to practice environmental stewardship. The project will accomplish this goal by developing eight (8) water quality topic segments to raise public awareness about water quality issues and provide demonstrations of "simple steps" individuals can take to protect water quality. The public has been involved in project development by requesting more information about what they can do to protect the local environment and their families from toxic threats.

Ecology Education for Monitoring Biodiversity Coffee Creek Watershed – Purdue University Calumet
LMCP Share - \$43,062.00; Applicant Share - \$45,337.00

A sustainable monitoring workforce is needed for long-term monitoring to evaluate the effect of tree-planting in the EAB-infested areas and to develop a long-term conservation and management plan of the Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve at no or minimum cost. This project will provide such workforce through training local college/university students and volunteers. The competency of the student trainees and volunteer workshop attendees for wetland monitoring will be evaluated by Prof. Young Choi of Purdue University Calumet at the end of the training and workshops. The evaluation

will be conducted by written and/or oral interviews with the student trainees and workshop attendees.

Virtual 3D Model of Septic System – Purdue University Calumet

LMCP Share - \$24,998.00; Applicant Share - \$24,998.00

In this project, a virtual three-dimensional simulation of a septic system will be developed and the system performance, with various different maintenance scenarios, will be demonstrated. This tool will be very helpful for the planners and managers to educate the public and create awareness about the importance of septic system maintenance. Using this education tool, water quality issues which could be caused by improperly maintained septic systems can be well demonstrated. In addition, in partnership with the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, Lake County's existing septic system database will be updated.

Indiana Dunes Protection Guide for Residents – Save the Dunes

LMCP Share - \$38,850.00; Applicant Share - \$38,850.00

The purpose of the full-color "Indiana Dunes Protection Guide for Residents" of nearshore dune communities is to help residents identify invasive species and control them on their own properties. It will also suggest which native plants to use in their landscapes based on specific site characteristics, as well as provide guidance for choosing a local nursery or other seed and plug source. The brochure will also highlight tips for how to protect the Indiana Dunes ecosystem from other stressors caused by residential land use and opportunities to help reduce impacts to the dunes and water quality. The guide will also point residents to additional resources for helping them plan their projects.

Hobart Water Festival – City of Hobart

LMCP Share - \$5,000; Applicant Share - \$5,000

This project is the promotion and securing of events for the Fifth Annual Hobart Water Festival. The Festival is held during Coastal Awareness Month in June and the third Saturday of June. The festival is geared toward environmental and storm water activities that appeal to all age groups and families. Exhibitors from State, & Federal Agencies, the National Lakeshore, non-profit groups, local clubs, and the Boy Scouts will provide water conservation, pollution prevention, and water safety activities. A 4 kayak race and tour of Lake George will be sponsored by our Local Dive Shop and the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association. The "Dumpster Drummers" will provide a recycling message & water conservation program with partial funding by the Lake County Solid Waste District. "Silly Safari" will provide a program with aquatic animals and their habitats. Fishing instruction will also be offered. Advertisement for the Water Festival will utilize billboards, flyers, posters, and the HSD newsletter that goes out to 10,500 households.

Livable Broadway and Transit Benefits Outreach – Gary Public Transportation Corporation

LMCP Share - \$5,000; Applicant Share - \$5,000

Gary Public Transportation Corporation is creating materials highlighting impacts (quantitative, quality of life, possibly historical) of transit and mobility on the Broadway corridor and in NWI. Designed to highlight mobility and transportation choice, the focus is on environmental benefits (including land use

and walkability) both in GPTC's service area and the region, w/particular attention made to the Broadway corridor (a previous LMCP project) and regional transit expansion.

Open Water Rescue Training – Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project Inc.
LMCP Share - \$5,000; Applicant Share - \$5,000

Open Water Surf Lifeguard In-service Training – Hazardous Currents Recognition and Open Water Surf Rescue Intensive Training for Lifeguards The Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project will perform two eight-hour workshops for at least 50 certified lifeguards, who are summer 2016 employees at Indiana's Lake Michigan beaches. These workshops will provide classroom instruction and in-water intensive training that are not currently provided in Red Cross Lifesaving certification training programs. Great Lakes Water Safety and Rescue Training for First Responders – "Best Practices" for Drowning Victim Resuscitation for EMS Personnel The Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project will conduct two two-and-one-half-hour training sessions for Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel currently employed by EMS agencies that respond to drowning situations. These workshops will provide classroom and in-water training to convey "best practices" for drowning victim resuscitation. Current EMT and paramedic certification programs do not include this training.

Michigan City's 4th Annual Trail Creek Week – LaPorte County Soil and Water Conservation District
LMCP Share - \$5,000; Applicant Share - \$5,000

Trail Creek Week is scheduled for October 3-8, 2016. The purpose of Trail Creek Week is to provide a week of educational programming to 1000 Michigan City Area School students and their families utilizing hands-on, interactive activities that demonstrate these four key topics. The water quality of Trail Creek and & how to keep it healthy, the threat of invasive species to our native fisheries, water safety, and natural history of the area and & how it shaped our current culture and economy.

Public Workshops on Recreational Fishing in Southern Lake Michigan – Purdue University
LMCP Share - \$4,529; Applicant Share - \$4,529

This project will organize and host a public workshop to bring together stakeholders and resource users to discuss recreational fishing in the Indiana waters of southern Lake Michigan. The goals of the project are to provide a history of recreational fishing in the region, outline past and current research and monitoring activities, identify potential impediments and discuss opportunities for the enhancement of the fishery. The intended audience is resource users, specifically recreational anglers and charter boat captains, as well as the general public interested in the coastal region.

APPLIED RESEARCH

Northwest Indiana Well Water Testing Program – Purdue Water Institute
LMCP Share – \$47,793.00; Applicant Share – \$47,793.00

The purpose of the Northwest Indiana Well Water Testing project is to establish a well water testing program to sample and test various wells in the northwestern Indiana region for microbiological compounds, inorganics, secondary contaminants, volatile organic chemicals and other common water

quality parameters following National Drinking Water Contaminants list. The results will be used to determine the quality of groundwater in northwestern Indiana aquifers. A concentration location map (CLM) that will show the level of various contaminants in wells as a function of spatial coordinates will also be developed. A comprehensive well water quality analysis report will be provided to interested parties, as well as access to sampling data, to help local government, facilities and residents to manage potential ground water quality-affecting activities.

Smart-Phone Based Device for Monitoring Chemical Pollutants in Water – Purdue Water Institute
LMCP Share - \$46,256.00; Applicant Share - \$46,256.00

In this proposed project, a Smartphone-based online monitoring system will be developed for remotely testing for selected target chemical contaminants present in well water samples, as well as water being treated at drinking water treatment plants. The project would encompass the evaluation of the performance of the device by testing of selected contaminants on a frequent basis, and comparing the result with data obtained using standard analytical instruments.