

# CHI-CAL RIVERS FUND

## Chi-Cal Rivers Fund 2020: Navigating an Abbreviated Application Process



CROWN FAMILY PHILANTHROPIES



THE CHICAGO  
COMMUNITY TRUST  
AND AFFILIATES



GAYLORD AND  
DOROTHY DONNELLEY  
FOUNDATION



**TheJoyceFoundation**



**NFWF**



# WEBINAR AGENDA

- Chi-Cal Rivers Fund Overview
- 2020 Funding Opportunity
  - Changes in 2020
  - Funding Priorities
  - FAQ
- Questions & Answers



# PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

- ArcelorMittal
- BNSF Railway
- Chicago Community Trust
- Crown Family Philanthropies
- Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
- The Joyce Foundation
- Walder Foundation
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service



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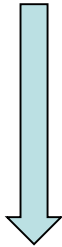


**NFWF**

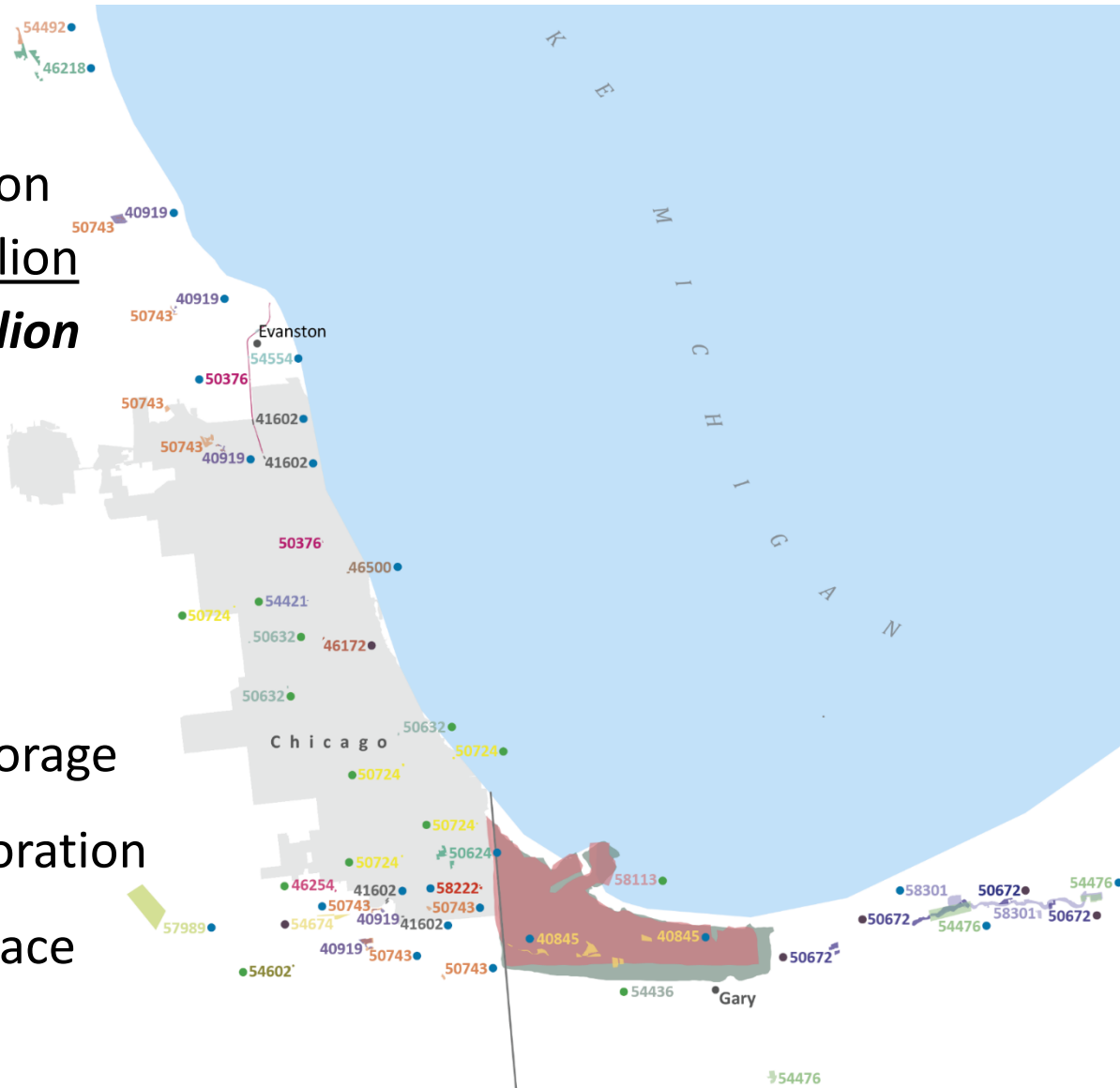


# ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 2013–2019

41 grants: \$8.3 million  
Grantee match: \$20.2 million  
***Total investment: \$28.4 million***



- 5.7 M gal stormwater storage
- 2,900 acres habitat restoration
- 92 acres public green space added or improved



# 2020 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY



- Request For Proposals & Project information at:  
[www.nfwf.org/programs/chi-cal-rivers-fund](http://www.nfwf.org/programs/chi-cal-rivers-fund)
- Available funding: **\$1 million**
- Grant size: **\$100,000–\$300,000**
- Grant duration: **24 months/2 field seasons**
- Funding cycle timeline:
  - **Full-proposals due - July 9**
  - Grant awards announced - **November**
  - Grant agreements developed - **November - January**

# CHANGES IN 2020

- No pre-proposal application
- Full proposals due July 9 – anyone can apply if eligible
  - Shorter narrative (6 pages) →
  - Detailed, line-item budget
  - Financial documents required
- Additional guidance documents available
- Awards will still be made in November, no other delays expected



## Chi-Cal Rivers Fund 2020 - Full Proposal Project Narrative

**Instructions:** Save this document on your computer and complete the narrative in the format provided. The final narrative should not exceed six (6) pages; font should be 12-point Times New Roman. Do not delete the text provided below. Once complete, upload this document into the on-line application as instructed.

1. **Funding Category:** Highlight the one primary Funding Category that best describes the proposed project: 1) *Habitat Quality*; 2) *Green Stormwater Infrastructure*; 3) *Public Access*. If the project is expected to yield benefits in multiple categories, indicate relevant secondary categories.
2. **Context:** Briefly describe the project context in terms of current conditions, existing challenges, and opportunities for improvement. Explain how the proposed work would complement and connect to previous and ongoing efforts and plans to restore the health, vitality and accessibility of the waterways of the region. Indicate any expected benefits to underserved communities. Applicants with existing Chi-Cal Rivers Fund grant(s) are encouraged to provide a brief status update for active project(s).
3. **Activities and Outcomes:** Discuss how project activities will generate direct, measurable benefits to the priority waterways listed in the "geographic focus" section of the request for proposals (RFP). Elaborate on project activities and associated outcomes with reference to the metrics selected previously in the application; discuss what makes the project and its outcomes achievable and important. Explain how the project will improve community and/or habitat resilience in the face of intensifying environmental stressors, particularly related to climate.
  - a. *Additional Guidance for Habitat Quality:* If your project activities include invasive species control, include the following outcomes as relevant to your project: 1) acres of invasive species controlled (total project acreage); 2) acres of new treatment; 3) acres of re-treatment. Also, please line-item this work to differentiate it from other restoration proposed in the budget and proposal narrative. It needs to be clear how much money will be spent on invasive control.
  - b. *Additional Guidance for GSI:* Include anticipated outcomes in terms of gallons of stormwater storage capacity added (design retention capacity) and provide a projection for the volume of stormwater runoff captured and infiltrated per year (gallons/year). Describe the size and land use of the drainage area that will be served by the GSI, including soil type.
  - c. *Additional Guidance for Public Access:* Describe the current and anticipated public-use of the site(s) your project will address, including public perception of the site(s) and the demographics of the intended beneficiaries/communities served by the new public use asset.
4. **Tracking Metrics:** Indicate how the project will monitor/assess progress on the metrics and outcomes selected previously in the application. At a minimum, the description should: 1) indicate the metrics that will be used to track progress and quantify outcomes; 2) outline the approach for establishing baseline conditions against which post-implementation conditions will be compared; and 3) demonstrate plans and resources for post-implementation monitoring. Note any challenges or limitations anticipated with tracking the metrics. Additional guidance to assist applicants in selecting and reporting metrics and project outcomes is available at [www.nfwf.org/chi-cal](http://www.nfwf.org/chi-cal).
5. **Long-term Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring:** Indicate how project benefits will be sustained through time. Refer to any relevant existing long-term operation and maintenance plan(s) or describe anticipated efforts to develop a long-term plan. Plans should include expected long-term efficacy of project activities, including projected or anticipated performance over 5 years, anticipated useful life of

# APPLICATION GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

www.nfwf.org



CONSERVATION PRIORITIES PARTNERSHIPS STRATEGY & RESULTS ABOUT NFWF

Annual Reports **Apply for a Grant** IDEA Accounts Donate



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## Apply for a Grant

**Application Information** Recipient Information Grants Library



## Application Information

In This Section:

**Required Financial Documents**

Budget Instructions

Indirect Cost Policy

Indirect Cost Calculator

Transparency Act Requirements

/ [Apply for a Grant](#) / ...



EW

**T**he National Fish and Wildlife Foundation supports more than 70 grant programs to protect and restore our nation's wildlife and habitats. We encourage you to read our complete list of

# GRANT ELIGIBILITY

## Eligible projects:

- ✓ Must occur in close proximity and demonstrate direct benefits to the major waterways of the system and their tributaries

## Eligible applicants:

- ✓ Non-profit organizations
- ✓ State, tribal, and local governments
- ✓ Educational institutions

## *Ineligible* applicants:

- ✓ Individuals
- ✓ Federal agencies
- ✓ Private for-profit firms





# FUNDING CATEGORIES

1. Habitat Quality
  2. Green Stormwater Infrastructure
  3. Public Access
- ❖ Identify one category that best describes the project. You may also identify any relevant secondary categories
  - ❖ Summaries of previously funded projects can be viewed at:  
<https://www.nfwf.org/programs/chi-cal-rivers-fund>



# HABITAT QUALITY

## Primary Strategies

Support on-the-ground riparian and in-stream habitat improvements along or near the major waterways of the system

- Restore/enhance riparian habitat
  - ✓ Bank stabilization
  - ✓ Invasive species control
  - ✓ Native plant restoration
- Restore/enhance in-stream habitat
  - ✓ Install in-stream structures to improve geomorphological processes and habitat for fish and aquatic organisms



# GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

## Primary Strategies

Support green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) projects that improve stormwater capture and storage to reduce runoff, improve water quality, and improve aquatic environments

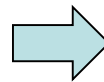
- Install and maintain GSI
  - ✓ Rain gardens
  - ✓ Bioswales
  - ✓ Green roofs
  - ✓ Pervious surfaces
- Restore urban forests
- Create and enhance urban wetlands
  - ✓ Construct/improve wetlands
  - ✓ Improve wetland habitat
- Maintain existing GSI
  - ✓ Maintain and/or improve function



# GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Competitive projects will:

- ✓ Incorporate planning for increasingly severe and more frequent storm events into project design, location, and/or function
- ✓ Connect to a larger green infrastructure plan
- ✓ **Maintenance: outline authority to maintain sites and strategic approach**
- ✓ Be of sufficient size and scope
  - ✓ **Projects must add or maintain a minimum 50,000 gallons of stormwater storage capacity annually to be competitive**



- [EPA Stormwater Calculator](#)
- [i-Tree](#)

# PUBLIC ACCESS

## Primary Strategies

Support improvements in public access and the use of natural areas, trails, and community green space in close proximity to major waterways

- Develop/construct public access points to natural areas
  - ✓ Construction of trails
  - ✓ Construction of access points
  - ✓ Other infrastructure enabling use of waterways
- Create/enhance public green space
  - ✓ Create or restore public green space to encourage community use of and access to natural areas and waterways
  - ✓ Improve access to passive and active recreation in underserved neighborhoods



# LONG-TERM OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

- ≥5 year plan required
- Plan elements:
  - ✓ Actions needed
  - ✓ Cost estimates
  - ✓ Likely sources of funding
  - ✓ Responsible parties
  - ✓ Capacity for long-term stewardship
- If applicable, describe long term invasive species management and EDRR protocol
- Portion of grant funding may be used for plan development
- Plan must be completed prior to grant end date



# CHI-CAL FAQ: ELIGIBILITY AND MATCH

- A single organization may submit multiple applications
- Unlikely for an organization to receive more than one award per cycle
- Grantees with active Chi-Cal Rivers Fund awards are eligible to apply for additional funding
- Projects that meet or exceed 1:1 match ratio tend to be more competitive, but **match is not required**
- Match may be federal or non-federal
- Match must be verifiable from the grantee's records and applied/expended during grant POP

# CHI-CAL FAQ: PROJECT DESIGN

- Applicants must demonstrate capacity & experience commensurate with the scale and funding request of the project
- Competitive projects will improve habitat and/or community resilience to climate-driven threats
- Projects should be shovel-ready (project can begin shortly after grant is awarded)
- Projects should apply most ( $\geq 70\%$ ) grant funding to on-the ground improvements
- Projects should include long-lasting benefits, as demonstrated by long-term (5-year) maintenance, operation, and management plans (plan development is an eligible grant expense)
- Provide monitoring and evaluation plans to measure outcomes of the project beyond the grant period (monitoring and evaluation are eligible grant expenses)



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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