

2013 Coastal Grant Project Descriptions

LOW-COST CONSTRUCTION

Accessible Route and Kayak Launch System on Trail Creek in Hansen Park – City of Michigan City

LMCP Share - \$ 44,715; Applicant Share - \$ 44,715

This project will increase public access to Trail Creek by constructing an ADA accessible route and installing an ADA launch system, compliant with the 2010 ADA standards, at Hansen Park in Michigan City, Indiana.

Fedder's Alley Secondary Dune Habitat Restoration – City of Michigan City

LMCP Share - \$20,000; Applicant Share - \$20,000

The purpose of this project is to complete the restoration efforts at Fedder's Alley that are ongoing by the Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department on approximately 9 acres of Lake Michigan coastal secondary dune habitat. The Park Department, in cooperation with the Urban Forester, has performed an extensive invasive species removal project on this property, leaving a clean slate for the installation of native dune species. This project will install native grasses and forbs to these 9 acres.

Michigan City Old Lighthouse Museum Lantern Room Reconstruction – City of Michigan City

LMCP Share - \$37,100; Applicant Share - \$37,100

The purpose of the project is to reconstruct a historically accurate 1858 replica of the lantern room that is currently attached to the roof of the Michigan City Old Lighthouse. This will replace an aging 1858 replica lantern room built in 1973 which is deteriorating and leaking. The lighthouse is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Iron Enhanced Rain Garden for Education and Research – City of Valparaiso

LMCP Share - \$21,000; Applicant Share - \$21,000

The City of Valparaiso will design and construct two 53' long by 6' wide rain gardens on Central Elementary School property. One rain garden will have an iron enhanced sand filter between the compost layer and supporting gravel layer for the purpose of capturing dissolved phosphorus. The second rain garden will be a conventional design without the iron enhanced sand filter layer, and the performance of the two rain gardens will be compared. Educational outreach activities will also be geared for local elementary students, citizens, and stormwater management professionals.

Krueger Middle School Pathway to Wetlands – Michigan City Area Schools

LMCP Share - \$98,875; Applicant Share - \$98,875

The goal of this project is to construct an educational pathway and boardwalk through wetlands on Krueger Middle School's property. This project provides a direct connection between the public and the unique natural resources of our Lake Michigan Watershed. Project includes invasive plant control and habitat restoration for sensitive areas on the KMS campus, in addition to the development of environmental education curricula, fully compliant with State of Indiana educational standards, for three new experiential education opportunities in the areas of wetlands, tree identification, and butterfly study.

Sunset Hill Farm County Park Pond and Prairie Restoration – Porter County Parks and Recreation
LMCP Share - \$31,500; Applicant Share - \$31,500

The goal of the project is to restore two areas within Sunset Hill Farm County Park. The project consists of a wetland delineation and restoration of shoreline vegetation to a 3-acre pond, and a former farm field to a 28-acre prairie.

PLANNING/COORDINATION/MANAGEMENT

"The Lakes of South County" - A Recreational and Green Link Corridor Vision – City of Crown Point
LMCP Share - \$25,000; Applicant Share - \$25,000

Will assess options to create a recreational and green link corridor plan to link Crown Point's downtown with existing trails such as the Erie Lackawanna and American Discovery Trail, and the planned Veteran's Memorial Trail, with nearby resources such as the Lake County Fair Grounds, Lemon Lake County Park, the Town of Cedar Lake, and the planned southward Kankakee River corridor. Project will create a strategic planning document to develop intended trail routes.

A Livable Broadway: Mobility Analysis for Urban and Suburban Broadway – Gary Public Transportation Corporation
LMCP Share - \$50,000; Applicant Share - \$50,000

The Livable Broadway project will assess barriers to, and opportunities for, improved non-automobile travel on Broadway, from I-90 in Gary to US 231 in Crown Point, with an emphasis on how to marry appropriate transit solutions to fit the growth forecast for the corridor. The plan will propose strategies to make Broadway a Complete Street corridor, while identifying transit and green projects for implementation.

Porter County Dunes Kankakee Trail Planning and Engineering – Porter County Plan Commission
LMCP Share - \$15,000; Applicant Share - \$15,000

The goal of the project is to create a plan and construction document for the portion of the Dunes Kankakee Trail joining the Town of Chesterton and the City of Valparaiso's current pathway and trail plans. The funding provided by the grant will allow the Commission to hire a firm to facilitate a series of public meetings, conduct right of way easement research, collate GIS data and prepare the necessary collateral for educating the public and elected officials about this project.

Beaver Dam Ditch and Pond Natural Habitat Restoration Planning Project – City of Crown Point
LMCP Share - \$24,500.00; Applicant Share - \$24,500.00

The City of Crown Point recently acquired a 22-acre area near the northwest corner of Indiana 53 (Broadway) and 101st Avenue in Crown Point. Based on this stakeholder and public input process, the City will commission a plan that will provide a blueprint that identifies water quality protection and low-impact development best-management practices (BMPs), as well as public access and recreational opportunities for the site.

Westchester Liberty Trail Planning Phase 2 – Town of Chesterton
LMCP Share - \$25,000; Applicant Share - \$25,000

The Town of Chesterton will utilize the funding from the Lake Michigan Coastal Program to design the second phase of the Westchester-Liberty Trail. The design of Phase 2 will enable the Town to obtain additional grant monies for construction of this project. The Westchester-Liberty Trail will improve the Town's local and regional multi-use pathway interconnectedness.

EDUCATION/OUTREACH

The Indiana Great Lakes Innovative Stewardship through Education Network – Indiana University Northwest
LMCP Share - \$47,841; Applicant Share - \$47,841

This project will pioneer the creation of the GLISTEN (Great Lakes Innovative Stewardship through Education Network) in the Little Calumet Watershed Corridor, which will be documented by site-specific signage and as a GIS-based map of the region with the location of long-term water monitoring sites that will be “sponsored” by a school (e.g. Deep River Environmental Center).

Educational 3D Modules to Demonstrate the Movement of Contamination due to Underground Fuel Pipeline Failure – Purdue University
LMCP Share - \$21,962; Applicant Share - \$21,962

This education and outreach project proposes developing simple, user-friendly, immersive virtual 3D visualization modules for understanding the complex process of contaminant movement within ground water when an underground fuel pipeline failure occurs and the contamination joins a surface water stream. These modules can be downloaded and used in all computer systems and can be used for regional planning and coastal improvement.

Improvement in Collection and Dissemination of Real-Time Data from Lake Michigan (Michigan City, IN) – Purdue University
LMCP Share - \$40,684; Applicant Share - \$40,684

In 2012, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant (IISG) and Purdue University acquired a real-time monitoring buoy which was placed approximately 4 miles off of Michigan City, Indiana. The buoy transmits data, such as wind speed and wave height, every ten minutes to a website maintained by IISG. Funds will be used to improve the utility of the buoy by adding real-time temperature sensors that collect surface water temperatures and temperatures at depth. Classroom- based activities that make use of the buoy data will be developed, and this buoy and related activities will be promoted as a useful resource to classroom teachers. This project will greatly improve the utility of the buoy for many end users.

APPLIED RESEARCH

An Iron Enhanced Rain Garden for Dissolved Phosphorus Removal – Valparaiso University
LMCP Share - \$39,681; Applicant Share - \$39,681

This project will test the performance of two rain gardens, one with a sub-surface iron enhanced sand filter layer and one without. The results of the project may lead to an improved rain garden design that has the ability to remove dissolved phosphorus from stormwater runoff. Education and outreach activities will also be geared for students, citizens, and stormwater management professionals.

EMERGING ISSUES

Taltree's Organic Produce: Teaching Children Sustainable and Organic Farming Practices
- Taltree Arboretum and Gardens
LMCP Share - \$41,034; Applicant Share - \$41,034

The primary goals of Taltree's Organic Produce (TOP) are to develop curriculum to teach school children in grades K-8 concepts relating to 1) sustainably and organically grown produce, 2) farming as an integrated system of related component, and 3) demonstrating the positive consequences of these sustainable practices on the broader Northwest Indiana region.