Streambank Cleanup And Lakeshore Enhancement (SCALE) Program

January 2013

Section 319 ~ Project 3191000
Calendar Years 2011 - 2012

Photo – Alliance for the Great Lakes

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The Streambank Cleanup And Lakeshore Enhancement (SCALE) program was started by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) in 2003. Illinois EPA continued support of the SCALE program by providing financial assistance to selected applicants to conduct lakeshore and streambank cleanup events in 2011 and 2012. The program, funded through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, provides up to $3,500 to each group to help with their cleanup efforts. The funds are typically used for safety attire, dumpster rentals, landfill tipping fees and promotional materials. SCALE funds are available only to organizations that have already established a recurring streambank or lakeshore cleanup. See the final page for a list of the organizations funded.

Program Goal

This program was designed to support local community and citizen-organized lake and river litter collection events to maintain or improve local water quality. Citizen cleanup events provide hands-on activity for adults and students to connect with their local rivers, streams and lakes. Many of the cleanup participants reevaluate their day-to-day activities as they help to clean up their local water resources. Example, recycling and proper household waste disposal make more sense to this audience once they have spent their time cleaning up after others. Many of the SCALE funded events have lead to local participants implementing additional events that include invasive species removal workdays, water quality monitoring and storm drain stenciling programs. These efforts are not reported here, as they are not eligible for funding through the SCALE program.

Program Implementation

The contract period for this project was November 30, 2010 through January 31, 2013. Program implementation began in July 2010, when Illinois EPA announced the 2011 SCALE program and application deadline. An identical implementation process and timeline was carried out for the 2012 SCALE program within this same grant.

The application process for the SCALE program includes an on-line application form. Illinois EPA could provide paper applications, upon request, to those parties that were not able (or interested) in applying on-line. There were no requests for paper applications. The program notification was modified to an announcement on the Illinois EPA Web Site and general notice by email. The email list included past SCALE recipients, Section 319 applicants, regional planning commissions and local government offices throughout the state and to others who had expressed an interest in the SCALE program.

Photo – Boone County Conservation District

The application package included a brochure and an application. The application asked for a history of the organization's past three cleanup events, including:

- The year it was held,
- The waterbody involved,
- The number of participants, and
- The size of area that had been cleaned (to be reported in acres or miles).

The information submitted by the applicants to Illinois EPA was entered into an Excel spreadsheet. Illinois EPA staff reviewed the data range for the number of participants, area covered and whether the waterbody was listed as an impaired water body (303d list). There were four levels of grant assistance; $3,500, $1,750, $1,000, or $500. The larger grants had events on impaired waters that included 500 or more people and 50 miles of stream protected. The majority of the smaller grants went to events that either had low numbers of participants or a small area cleaned.

Photo - Openlands

See the final page for a list of the Recipients and Grant Amounts.

Illinois EPA sent out approval letters, Grant Acceptance Forms, and Tax Identification Number forms to the approved applicants. The Applicants were given 30 days to complete and return the forms to Illinois EPA. Once Illinois EPA received the forms, staff processed an invoice for the Recipient. In most cases, the Recipients received their SCALE grant funds prior to conducting their cleanup event.

Prior to their scheduled cleanup event, Illinois EPA staff forwarded a copy of an Event Reporting Form to each of the grant recipients. The Event Reporting Form was updated into a fill-able PDF format. The Recipients could submit the form electronically or in hard-copy form. Recipients were required to submit the following information within 60 days of holding their event:

- date the event was held
- number of participants
- size of cleanup area (miles or acres)
- the most interesting items found
- estimate of tons collected *
- photos of the event

* With a few exceptions, the litter collected was not weighed. Getting citizen organizations to estimate the number of tons collected has been difficult. Questions such as “wet weight” and “dry weight” came up. Large items like refrigerators and tires also threw off the system.

Recipients that held multiple events could report as the events occurred or could submit one report after all of their events were conducted.

The data was entered into the Excel spreadsheet and the photos were saved electronically. Photos were either submitted electronically or were scanned and saved.

A total of 35 applications were received for the 2011 SCALE program. Thirty-four applications were deemed eligible and were approved for funding for a total cost of $42,500.

A total of 35 applications were received for the 2012 SCALE program. Thirty-five applications were approved for funding for a total cost of $36,500.

Photo – National Great Rivers Research and Education Center

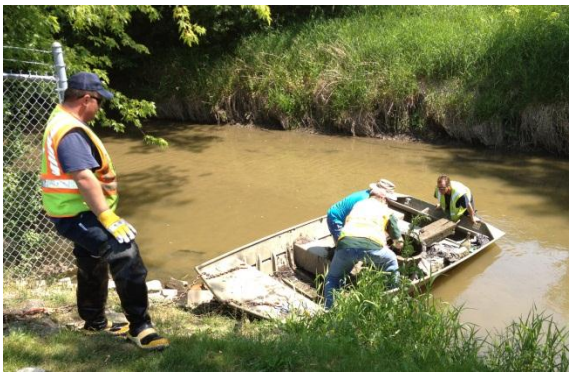

Photo – The Conservation Foundation

Photo – Alliance for the Great Lakes

Photo – Friends of the Fox River

Photo - ORSANCO

Program Schedule

The program period ran from November 30, 2010 through January 31, 2013.

Year One ~ 2011	
Program Announcement	July, 2010
Application Deadline	November 30, 2010
Project Selection	January 2011
Hold Events	January 15 – November 15, 2011
Event Reporting Complete	December 31, 2011

Year Two ~ 2012	
Program Announcement	July 1, 2011
Application Deadline	November 30, 2011
Project Selection	January 2012
Hold Events	January 15 – October 31, 2012
Event Reporting Complete	December 31, 2012

Project Report	January 31, 2013

Program Budget

A total of $75,000 was originally budgeted for project 3191000. A total of $78,500 was distributed to the SCALE Recipients for their use to implement their cleanup events. No matching funds were documented for this program.

2011 Grant Funds Expended	42,500
2012 Grant Funds Expended	36,000
Total	**78,500**

Photo – Keep Rock Island Beautiful

Results

During 2011 and 2012, SCALE participants removed almost 450 tons of trash from over 1,650 miles of streams and 6,300 acres of lakes in Illinois.

Almost 28,000 people participated in cleanup events!

SCALE Recipients	2011					2012				
	Grant	People	Miles	Acres	Tons	Grant	People	Miles	Acres	Tons
Alliance for the Great Lakes	3,500	2,870	32	0	4.0	3,500	1,994	26	0	3.5
Alton Marketplace	1,000	98	1	0	3.5	500	92	4	0	3.0
Batavians for a Healthy River	500	100	4	0	0.5	500	85	5	0	1.0
Below the Surface	1,000	15	0	55	0.5	500	22	2	0	0.5
Boone County Conservation District	500	12	4	0	0.5	500	16	4	0	2.0
Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team	-	-	-	-	-	500	25	0	10	0.5
Collinsville Area Recreation District *	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	-
Dixon Park District**	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Waterway Agency	1,750	115	45	0	6.0	1,000	130	45	0	7.0
Friends of the Chicago River	3,500	3,800	100	0	29.0	3,500	3,800	100	0	29.0
Friends of the Fox River	1,750	65	13	0	1.5	1,000	175	29	0	11.0
Friends of the Illinois River	1,750	845	180	0	13.0	1,000	672	35	0	7.0
Friends of the Parks	1,750	2,000	0	3,000	5.0	1,750	1,500	0	2,000	2.0
Friends of Sangamon Valley	500	41	17	0	2.0	-	-	-	-	-
Grayslake Community Park District	-	-	-	-	-	500	65	0	86	1.0
Illinois Smallmouth Alliance	1,000	30	15	0	2.0	1,000	35	25	0	2.0
Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation***	500	0	0	0	0	0	51	5	0	7.6
Keep Carbondale Beautiful	500	19	0	5	0.5	500	25	0	124	1.0
Keep Rock Island Beautiful	1,750	409	15	0	17.3	1,000	537	18	0	11.5
Keep Salem Beautiful	500	150	2	0	1.0	-	-	-	-	-
Kinkaid Area Watershed Project, Inc.	1,000	38	65	0	3.0	500	41	60	0	1.5
Lake County Stormwater Management Comm.	-	-	-	-	-	500	50	1	0	0.1
Lake Forest Open Lands Association	-	-	-	-	-	500	22	1	0	0.5
Living Lands & Waters	3,500	1,256	103	-	66.1	3,500	1,209	49	0	48.5
Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc.	500	10	6	0	3.0	500	6	10	0	0.5
National Great Rivers Research and Ed. Center	1,750	74	2	0	0.1	500	35	3	0	2.0
Neighborhood Watch in Lyons	500	55	0	75	1.0	-	-	-	-	
Northern Illinois Anglers Association	1,750	620	100	0	45.0	1,750	561	100	0	45.0
Openlands	-	-	-	-	-	500	56	7	0	1.0
ORSANCO	3,500	982	129	0	7.0	3,500	876	129	0	2.1
River Forest Park District	1,000	150	2	0	1.0	1,000	150	2	0	1.1
Round Lake Management Commission	500	16	4	0	0.5	500	23	3	0	1.0
Santa Fe Prairie Volunteers	1,000	81	2	0	1.0	1,000	105	3	0	3.0
The Conservation Foundation	1,750	589	40	0	5.0	1,000	618	27	0	9.3
Tri-Shark Triathlon Club****	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper DesPlaines River Ecosystem Partnership	-	-	-	-	-	500	50	0	100	0.1
Vermilion County SWCD	500	20	10	0	1.0	500	22	10	0	2.0
Village of Lake Ka-Ho Board of Trustees	500	30	0	26	4.7	-	-	-	-	-
Village of Melrose Park Silver Creek Watershed	500	65	10	0	4.0	500	49	10	0	0.8
Village of Swansea	-	-	-	-	-	500	15	1	0	0.5
Village of Worth	-	-	-	-	-	500	78	0	54	1.0
Wonder Lake Sportsman's Club (WLA)	500	12	5	0	0.5	500	26	0	830	0.5
Youth Conservation Corp.	1,000	165	40	0	1.5	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	**42,500**	**14,732**	**946**	**3,161**	**230.7**	**36,500**	**13,216**	**712.5**	**3,204**	**210.1**

* Collinsville Area Recreation District will use their 2012 SCALE funds to conduct an event in 2013.

** Dixon Park District held a makeup event (weather delay) that attracted little attendance. The District, with IEPA's approval, used the remaining SCALE funds to install 3 fish line receptacles on District property.

*** JoDaviess County Conservation Foundation postponed their 2011 SCALE event until 2012.

**** Tri-Shark Triathlon Club postponed their 2011 SCALE event until 2012. No report received to date.