The Lake Beat

Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

August 2017

Topics:

- **GEC Intern**
- **Illinois Grant Programs**
  - **604b WQMP Grants**
  - **319 Grants**
  - **SCALE**
  - **PARC Grants**
  - **OSLAD/ LWCF Grants**
- **Picture Profiles**
- **HAB Update Article**
- **Invasive Species**
- **Contact Information**
- **Father's Day Fun on Shabbona**

Illinois Grant Programs of Potential Use in Lake Management and Infrastructure

The Illinois EPA and Illinois DNR continue to manage grant programs which can be used to support lake or watershed management or recreational infrastructure, primarily for public access and public use projects. Look over the following five grant programs to see if any may be of use to your lake-side community. Check IDNR's Grant Administration Page to find application dates and active grant funding.

~Lake Staff

Governor's Environmental Corps (GEC) Intern 'Works Hard for His Money'

Zane Nyhus is the 2017 GEC intern for the Lakes Unit. He is pictured here taking water quality samples at Sangchris in Christian County, near Tovey, Illinois. Zane splits his time between the Lakes Unit, working with Jr. GEC kids, and GEC group training activities which occur at least one day every two weeks.

Zane's UIS undergraduate focus is in environmental studies. He is entering his senior year this fall.

604b Water Quality Management Planning Grants

Grants are available to regional public comprehensive planning organizations and other entities to carry out water quality management planning activities that protect water quality in Illinois. Projects must address water quality issues.

Grant funds can be used to determine the nature, extent, and causes of point and nonpoint source water pollution; develop water quality management plans; develop technical and administrative guidance tools for water pollution control; develop preliminary designs for best management practices to address water quality problems; implement administrative water pollution controls; and educate the public about the impact and importance of water pollution control.

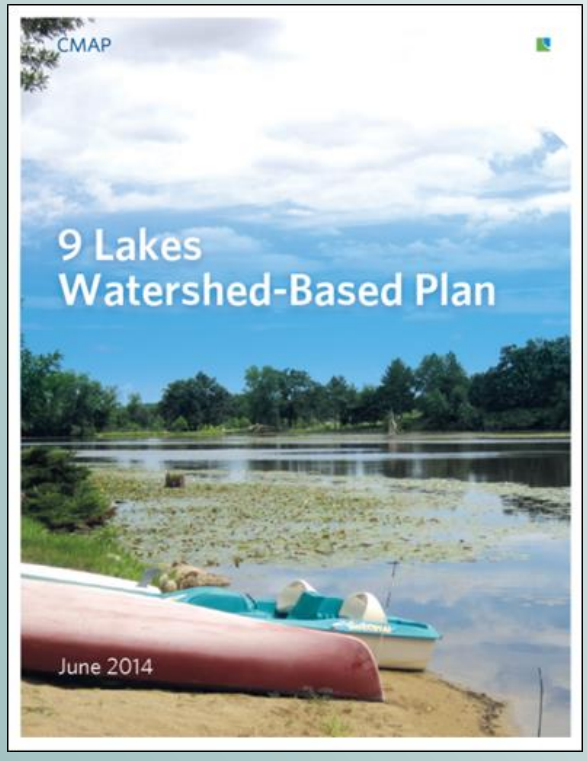
Illinois EPA receives these funds through Section 604b of the Clean Water Act and administers the program within Illinois. The project period is two years unless otherwise approved. This is a reimbursement program.

Applications due by close of business on: December 31

Applications are accepted November 1 through 5:00 p.m. (CST) on December 31, 2017. Applications must be submitted electronically.

Contact Number: (217) 782-3362

Application Web Page: http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/wqmp/grants/index



Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Watershed Management Section
Nonpoint Source Unit
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

319 Grants to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution

319 Grants are available to local units of government and other organizations to protect water quality in Illinois. Projects must address water quality issues relating directly to nonpoint source pollution. Funds can be used for the implementation of watershed management plans including the development of information and/or education programs and for the installation of best management practices.

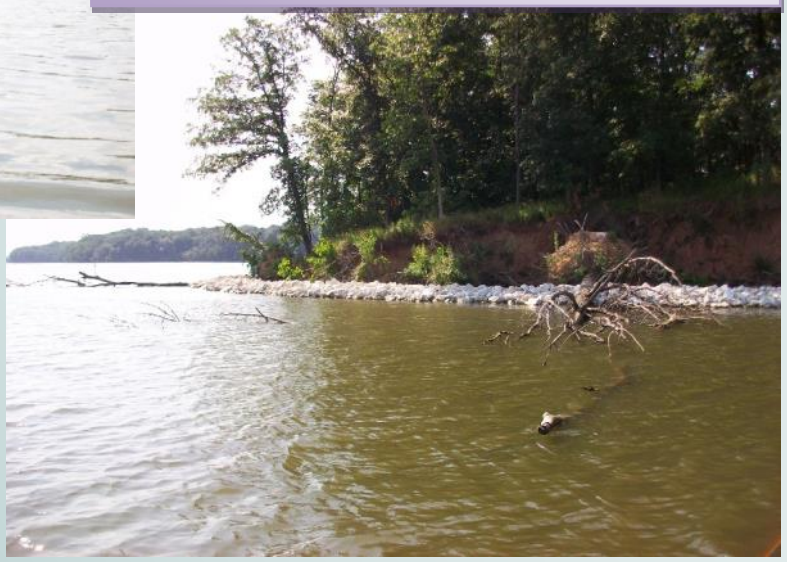
Illinois EPA receives these funds through Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act and administers the program within Illinois. The maximum federal funding available is 60 percent. The program period is two years unless otherwise approved. This is a reimbursement program.

Applications are accepted June 1 through 5:00 p.m. (CST) on August 1. Applications must be submitted electronically.

Contact Number: (217) 782-3362

Application Web Page: http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/forms/water-forms/financial-assistance/index

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Watershed Management Section
Nonpoint Source Unit
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276



Lake Springfield's rip-rap project is a major undertaking for the 4,200 acre lake. This best management practice reduces shoreline erosion.

Streambank Cleanup And Lakeshore Enhancement (SCALE)

The Streambank Cleanup And Lakeshore Enhancement (SCALE) program provides funds to assist groups that have established a recurring stream or lakeshore cleanup. Each group can receive up to $3,500 for implementation of their streambank or lakeshore cleanup events in a calendar year. Funding is provided by Illinois EPA through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

The program funds are available only to organizations that have an established, recurring streambank or lakeshore cleanup. Applications will be selected for funding based on the event's proximity to Illinois EPA's priority waters, the number of people participating in past events, and the size of the event area.

Contact Number: (217) 782-3362

Application Web Page: http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/surface-water/scale/index

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Watershed Management Section
Nonpoint Source Unit
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

(Below)

This joint effort was coordinated by the Illinois River Watch Network and the Upper Sangamon River Conservancy with support from the Illinois EPA's SCALE Grant Program and Republic Services. Volunteers removed an estimated two dry tons of garbage from the Sangamon River, from Lake of the Woods to the I-47 bridge located in Champaign County, in five hours.

Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Grant and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant

The Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Program is a state-financed grant program that provides funding assistance to local government agencies for acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space. The federal Land & Water Conservation Fund program (known as both LWCF and LAWCON) is a similar program with similar objectives. Both are managed in Illinois by the Department of Natural Resources with concurrent application due dates, equal grant maximums and similar general rules.

Projects vary from small neighborhood parks or lots, to large community and county parks and nature areas. The state program is financed by a percentage of the state's Real Estate Transfer Tax. The federal program is financed nationally by revenue from offshore oil and gas leases.

Under both programs, funding assistance up to 50% (90% for distressed communities - OSLAD program only) of approved project costs can be obtained. Grant awards up to $750,000 are available for acquisition projects, while development/renovation projects (OSLAD programs only) are limited to a $400,000 grant maximum.

Written applications must be submitted to IDNR between May 1 and July 1 of each calendar year, with grant awards typically announced by December or January. Only those local government agencies having statutory authority to acquire and develop land for public park purposes are eligible to apply for and receive assistance under the OSLAD and LWCF grant programs.

(Left) Fishing pier at Lake Charleston Reservoir of Charleston.

(Right) One of the five fishing piers at Century Park in Vernon Hills. This one is on Big Bear Lake.

Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Grant and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant (Continued)

Applications are evaluated and prioritized for funding assistance based upon recreation priorities and criteria identified in the Department's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Lands acquired with OSLAD or LWCF funds are required to be operated and maintained in perpetuity for public outdoor recreation.

Examples of eligible projects include:

1. Acquisition of land for new park sites or park expansion, water frontage, nature study, and natural resource preservation.
2. Development/Renovation of:
    - picnic and playground facilities;
    - outdoor nature interpretive facilities;
    - sports courts and play fields;
    - swimming pools, beaches and bathhouses;
    - campgrounds and fishing piers;
    - winter sports facilities;
    - park roads and paths, parking, utilities and restrooms; and

    architectural/engineering (A/E) services necessary for proper design and construction of approved project components.

You can download the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Program Manual or the Land and Water Conservation Manual and Application. Applications **must** be completed and submitted in paper format. *The Online Application System is currently not available. Go to https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/AEG/Pages/OpenSpaceLandsAquisitionDevelopment-Grant.aspx for more information. Application time runs May through June, exact times posted on their webpage.*

(Right) Fishing Pier at Vernon Hills.

Park and Recreational Facility Construction Program

What is it? The Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act (PARC) was created by Public Act 096-0820 effective November 18, 2009 to provide grants to be disbursed by the DNR to eligible local governments for park and recreation unit construction projects. A park or recreation unit construction project means the acquisition, development, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvements, architectural planning, and installation of capital facilities consisting, but not limited to, buildings, structures, and land for park and recreation purposes and open spaces and natural areas.

Who may apply for the grants? Units of local government that are authorized by Illinois law to expend public funds for the acquisition and development of land for public indoor/outdoor park, recreation or conservation purposes are eligible to apply for funding assistance. School districts are not eligible.

What types of projects are eligible for grants? "Bondable" or "brick and mortar" projects for capital expenditures may include, but are not limited to, demolition in preparation for additional indoor/outdoor recreation purposes, site preparation and improvements for indoor/outdoor recreation purposes, utility work for indoor/outdoor recreation purposes, reconstruction or improvement of existing buildings or facilities for indoor/outdoor recreation purposes, expansion of buildings/facilities for indoor/outdoor recreation purposes, and new construction of buildings/structures.

Land acquisition projects for public park recreation and conservation purposes include, but are not limited to, acquisition of land for the following: to construct new public indoor/outdoor recreation buildings, structures and facilities; to expand existing public indoor/outdoor recreation buildings, structures and facilities; general park purposes such as regional, community and neighborhood parks and playfields; frontage on public surface waters for recreation use; open space/conservation purposes to protect floodplains, wetlands, natural areas, wildlife habitat and unique geologic and biologic features, and additions to such areas.

Please note that the priority of the program is the renovation or construction of indoor recreation facilities since they are not eligible under other IDNR grant programs.

(Left) Galesburg beach at Storey Lake.

(Right) Crystal Lake Beach and Recreation Center in Crystal Lake.

Park and Recreational Facility Construction Program (Continued)

Can a local sponsor submit more than one application per grant cycle? Yes. There is no limit on the number of applications one agency may submit per grant cycle.

What are the funding limits? The DNR may limit any one single project to a maximum of no more than 10% of the amount released for any fiscal year. The maximum grant amount available per project for the FY14 grant cycle is 2.5 million. Of the total amount of PARC projects awarded statewide, 20% shall be awarded to the Chicago Park District, provided that the Chicago Park District complies with the provisions of State law and PARC rules, and 80% shall be awarded to local government units outside of the City of Chicago. The PARC program shall operate on a reimbursement basis providing up to the following maximum percentages for funding assistance: the State will provide up to 75% of approved project costs, with the exception of those local governments defined as "disadvantaged", which will be eligible for up to 90% funding.

What are the major evaluation priorities of the PARC grant program? The primary priorities for evaluating PARC projects include, but are not limited to, the following criteria: (1) useful life of existing facilities and improvements in comparison to the Department's schedule of Useful Life of Parks and Recreation Facilities; (2) address public health and safety needs; (3) sponsor has high economic need; (4) correct accessibility deficiencies as defined by the Americans With Disability Act; (5) projects that provide the greatest benefit in terms of cost per capita within the applicant's jurisdictional boundaries; and (6) land acquisition.

Can other State/Federal funds be used to match the PARC program? No.

Is there any application deadline when I must apply? Opening date for applications are set near the end of January and deadline date for applications is set at or around March 10th at 5:00 PM. The Opening and Deadline dates will be posted on their webpage.

How can I receive more information regarding the PARC grant program?

Illinois DNR
Division of Grant Administration
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
(217) 782-7481
dnr.grants@illinois.gov
(217) 782-9599 (fax)

Volunteer Lake Pictures and Profiles

Devils Kitchen

Williamson County

Lake Code RNJ

Max Depth 100 feet

Ave Depth 36 feet

Surface Area 810 acres

2017 Volunteer Don Johnson

Galena

Jo Daviess County

Lake Code RMM

Max Depth 60 feet

Ave Depth 20 feet

Surface Area 227 acres

2017 Volunteers Steve Birkbeck and Madelynn Wilharm

Homer

Champaign County

Lake Code RBO

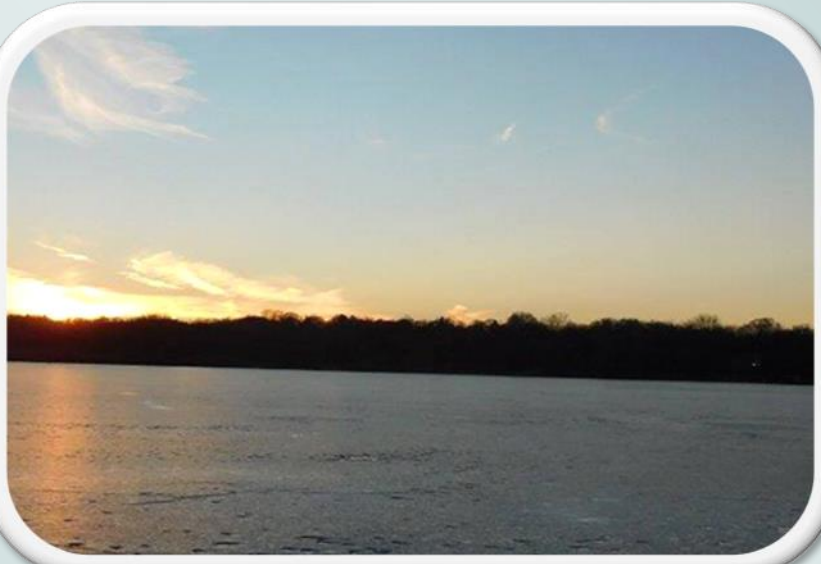
Max Depth 21 feet

Ave Depth 11 feet

Surface Area 102 acres

2017 Volunteer Brad Nelson

Volunteer Lake Pictures and Profiles (Continued)



Killarney

McHenry County

Lake Code RTZV

Max Depth 22 feet

Ave Depth 6 feet

Surface Area 80 acres

2017 Volunteer Neil O'Brien

Lake of Egypt

Williamson County

Lake Code RAL

Max Depth 45 feet

Ave Depth 19 feet

Surface Area 3500 acres

2017 Volunteers Joanne Malacarne, and Leroy & Lori Pfaltzgraff

Mattoon

Shelby, Coles, and Cumberland Counties

Lake Code RCF

Max Depth 35 feet

Ave Depth 10 feet

Surface Area 765 acres

2017 Volunteers Heather McFarland and Dave Basham

Volunteer Lake Pictures and Profiles (Continued)

Sangchris

Christian and Sangamon Counties

Lake Code REB

Max Depth 33 feet

Ave Depth 15 feet

Surface Area 2321 acres

2017 Volunteers Jacob Sherrell

Springfield

Sangamon County

Lake Code REF

Max Depth 26 feet

Ave Depth 13 feet

Surface Area 4,200 acres

2017 Volunteers Michelle Nicol and Dan Brill

Vermilion

Vermilion County

Lake Code RBD

Max Depth 27 feet

Ave Depth 8 feet

Surface Area 608 acres

2017 Volunteer Bert Nicholson

Be Alert !

While Recreating on Illinois Lakes and River this Summer

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency wants to remind residents to use caution while recreating in or on Illinois lakes and rivers this summer. Weather conditions are favorable for growth of cyanobacteria (also known as blue-green algae). There have been several reports of cyanobacteria blooms across the state already this summer.

Cyanobacteria are microscopic organisms that naturally occur in lakes and streams. Rapid growth of cyanobacteria is referred to as a "bloom." Some cyanobacteria can produce potent toxins called cyanotoxins. While most blooms do not contain toxins, when toxins are present, the bloom is known as a harmful algae bloom (HAB). Exposure to a HAB can result in adverse health effects to humans and animals. Cyanotoxins are released into the water as cyanobacteria grow and die. Toxin concentrations can become elevated, particularly during a bloom event, and can persist in the environment after a bloom is over. Human exposures can occur even after the visible signs of a bloom are gone or have moved downstream.

Adverse health effects attributable to cyanobacteria toxins can occur from direct skin contact, swallowing contaminated water, or inhaling water droplets in the air. Symptoms of exposure to cyanotoxins include rashes, hives, diarrhea, vomiting, coughing, or wheezing. More-severe symptoms may result from longer or greater amounts of exposure. The very young, the elderly, and people with compromised immune systems are most at risk.

Lake Louise, IL (6/21/17) Photo by Alana Bartolai

U.S. EPA has identified draft recommended concentrations for two of the cyanotoxins (microcystins and cylindrospermopsin) to protect human health while swimming or participating in other recreational activities in and on the water (Table 1). Because children spend more time in the water and ingest more water per body weight while recreating, EPA derived these recommended criteria based on children's recreational exposures.

Please be alert and if your plans include lake or river activities, avoid contact with water that:

- looks like spilled, green or blue-green paint
- has surface scums, mats, or films
- is discolored or has green-colored streaks
- has greenish globs suspended in the water below the surface

Be Alert !

While Recreating on Illinois Lakes and River this Summer (Continued)

Table 1. Draft Recreational Guidelines for Cyanotoxins

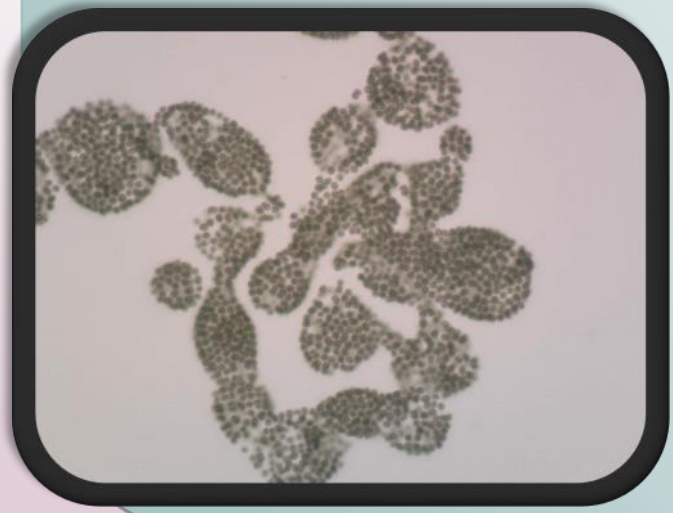
Microcystins	Cylindrospermopsin
4 µg/L [a, b]	8 µg/L [a, b]

A) Swimming Advisory: not to be exceeded on any day
B) Recreational Criteria for Waterbody Impairment: not exceeded more than 10 percent of days per recreational season up to one calendar year.

If you or your pet has contact with lake or river water suspected of containing a cyanobacteria bloom, rinse off with clean, fresh water as soon as possible. If you plan to eat fish you catch from water that has a cyanobacteria bloom, rinse all fish parts well in tap water before cooking and eating. Activities near, but not in or on the water, such as camping, picnicking, biking, and hiking are not affected.

If you are concerned you have symptoms that are a result of exposure to algal toxins, contact your health care provider or call the Illinois Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222. If your pet experiences symptoms that may be a result of exposure, contact your veterinarian.

For additional information about harmful algal blooms, please visit http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/monitoring/algal-bloom/index.



(Upper Right) Dolichospermum species and (Left) Microcystis species from Lake Le-Aqua-Na of Stephenson County.

~Photos by Nicole Vidales

~Article by Teri Holland

Stop the Spread!

Follow this checklist to defeat the spread of aquatic exotics:

If you are a boater, angler, water skier, sailor, canoeist or some other type of water enthusiast, there are some important things you can do to help prevent the spread of aquatic exotic species.

- Don't transport water, animals, or plants from one lake or river to another.
- Never dump live fish from one body of water to another.
- Remove plants and animals from your boat, trailer, and accessory equipment (anchors, centerboards, trailer hitch, wheels, rollers, cables, and axles) before leaving the water access area.
- Drain live-wells, bilge water, and transom wells before leaving the water access area.
- Empty bait buckets on land, not in the water. Never dip your bait buckets in one lake if it has water in it from another.
- Wash boats, tackle, downriggers, and trailers with hot water as soon as possible. Flush water through motor's cooling system and any other parts that may have been exposed to lake or river water. If possible, let everything dry for three days (hot water and drying will kill zebra mussel larvae).
- Learn what these organisms look like. Don't purchase exotic species as bait or for ornamental plantings. If you suspect a new infestation of an exotic plant or animal, report it to Illinois EPA's Lakes Unit (217/782-3362), Illinois DNR's Division of Natural Heritage (217/785-8774), Illinois DNR's Natural History Survey at the Havana Field Station (309/543-6000), or the Lake Michigan Biological Station (847/872-6877).
- Consult with the Illinois EPA's Lakes Unit or your local Illinois DNR district fishery biologist for guidance before you try to control or eradicate an exotic "pest." Remember, exotic species thrive on disturbance. Do-it-yourself control treatments often make matters worse and can harm native species!

If you see or suspect a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB), contact EPA.HAB@illinois.gov and your regional VLMP coordinator

Remember

If you find Hydrilla or any new exotic species in your lake, contact your regional VLMP coordinator.

Regional Coordinators:

VLMP Statewide Contact

Greg Ratliff, IEPA, Springfield, 217-782-3362 & greg.ratliff@illinois.gov

Northeastern Coordinator

Holly Hudson, CMAP, Chicago, 312-454-0400 & hhudson@cmap.illinois.gov

Lake County Coordinator

Alana Bartolai, LCHD, Libertyville, 847-377-8009 & ABartolai2@lakecountyil.gov

Southern Coordinator

Tyler Carpenter, GERPDC, Marion, 618-997-9351 & tylercarpenter@greateregypt.org

Fishing on Lake Shabbona, Father's Day, 2017

Louis Vidales, father of Des Plaines Regional Biologist Nicole Vidales, catches the big Large Mouth Bass that got away last year!

Lake Shabbona is located in DeKalb County a couple miles southeast of Shabbona, Illinois. It is a 318 acres impoundment lake built in 1974 with a maximum depth of 40 feet and average depth of 17 feet. It is a state park fishing lake, managed by annual species-specific surveys. Species include bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, hybrid striped bass (wipers), largemouth bass, muskellunge, smallmouth bass, and walleye.