

# STEWARDSHIP LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

## Urban Rivers (URGP) Program

**Authorization:** s. 30.277, Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 51, subchapter XIV, Wis. Admin. Code

**Budget:** 20% of the funds appropriated for the Stewardship Local Assistance Grants as follows:

Fiscal Year 2011-2012: \$1,600,000

Fiscal Year 2012-2013: \$1,600,000

**Objective:**

1. Improving the quality of urban waterways and riverfronts through preservation, restoration, or enhancement, which will encourage economic revitalization and expanded nature-based outdoor recreational opportunities. Shoreline enhancements include development or habitat restoration projects that serve public recreation or resource conservation purposes and are dependent on being on a shoreline.
2. Preserving and revitalizing historical, cultural, or natural areas.

**Eligibility:** Counties, cities, villages, towns, Indian tribes, and nonprofit conservation organizations as defined in s. 23.096, Wis. Stats. The county, municipality, or Indian Tribe must have an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

**Level of Assistance:** Up to 50% matching grants.

**Priorities:** Acquisition of land in urban areas. Projects that provide access for the greatest number of potential users and provide the greatest opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation.

**Eligible Types of Projects:** Acquisition, development, or restoration of urban riverfront land that meets the objectives listed above and is part of an outdoor recreation plan adopted by the local unit of government. Projects that are specifically identified in a river corridor plan for economic revitalization and outdoor recreation.

**Applications:** Application information and forms are available from [DNR regional Community Service Specialists](#) and are due in the appropriate DNR regional office by May 1 of each year.

**History:** The Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program was originally launched in 1990 and in its first 10 years was an outstanding success story in achieving its conservation and recreation goals by providing funding for

land and easement acquisition and development of recreational facilities. With strong bipartisan support, the Stewardship program was renewed for an additional ten years as part of the 1999-01 Wisconsin State Budget, and renewed again through June 30, 2020 as part of the 2007-09 Wisconsin Biennial Budget. The URGP Local Assistance grant program was introduced as part of the original Stewardship Program. The source of funds is through general obligation borrowing. The state of Wisconsin sells bonds to investors now to raise the funds, then pays back the debt over the next 20 years.

**Contacts:** [DNR regional Community Service Specialists](#)

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