

RIVER talk

New Opportunity for Grant Seekers

This December UDPREP will offer a new service for municipalities, individuals, businesses, and others who may want to apply for a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Conservation 2000 Program (C2000). Potential applicants are invited to make a brief, verbal presentation of their project idea to UDPREP's panel of experts on Wednesday, December 14, 2005. Based on their extensive knowledge of the watershed and the C2000 funding process, the panel will offer direction and feedback to help applicants develop strong proposals. To secure

a time slot at the December 14th meeting, RSVP to upperdesplainsriver@yahoo.com by December 9th.

UDPREP will also offer its pre-proposal review service this year. Applicants are welcome to email draft proposals to upperdesplainsriver@yahoo.com by 5 p.m. on January 17, 2006. UDPREP's panel will review the pre-proposals and meet with applicants to offer suggestions.

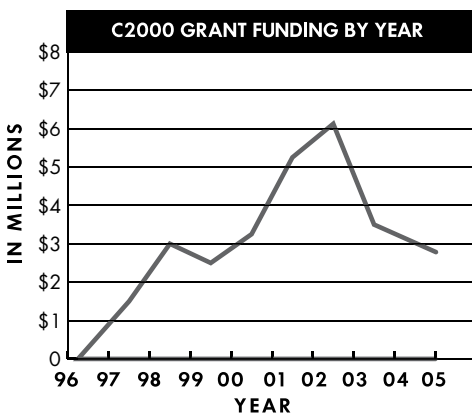
Since 1996 the C2000 Program has awarded over \$29.5 million in grants for habitat restoration, land acquisition, planning, research, and outreach projects across Illinois. While anyone may apply for funding, C2000 grants are very competitive. Applicants should carefully read the request for proposals (RFP) to ensure that their project is compatible with C2000's goals. In addition, C2000 favors projects that include multiple partners and a cost "matching" component. The matching component refers to the percentage of the total project cost covered by the applicant and project partners (financial and/or in-kind contributions). FY'07 grants will likely be awarded in the fall of 2006.

The C2000 RFP is now available at www.upperdesplainsriver.org/C2000RFP.pdf. To receive a copy by mail or email, send your request to upperdesplainsriver@yahoo.com.

WINTER 2005-6

FUNDING GUIDELINES NOW AVAILABLE

The C2000 Grant Program funding guidelines are now online at www.upperdesplainsriver.org/C2000RFP.pdf. See related story at left to learn more.



Since 1996 the IDNR's C2000 Program has awarded over \$29.5 million in grants and leveraged an additional \$31.5 million in matching funds from local partners.

STORY ON P. 2 ▶



Tony Wolff (left) and Sean Wiedel of the Lake Co. Stormwater Management Commission prepare to demonstrate creek inventory techniques.

New Watershed Councils Meet to Discuss Cook Co. Stormwater Ordinance

In October, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), in cooperation with local Councils of Government (COGs), organized meetings of "Watershed Planning Councils" to begin the process of developing a new stormwater management ordinance for Cook County. Under Public Act 093-1049 passed last November, MWRD now has authority over stormwater management in the county and must create a minimum of seven Watershed Planning Councils that will serve as MWRD's advisors. Council membership is limited to chief elected officials (or their designees) of municipalities in each watershed. Unincorporated areas are represented on the

councils by county board members. Local COGs are expected to play a major role in organizing and facilitating future council meetings.

The Cook County portion of the Upper Des Plaines River Watershed is covered by, confusingly, the "Lower Des Plaines Watershed Planning Council." About half of the municipalities in the watershed sent representatives to the October meeting. MWRD has stressed that early participation in the process will help ensure that each municipality's needs are taken into account. A list of the towns assigned to this council is available at www.mwrddgc.dst.il.us under the "Stormwater Management" link.

While council meetings are open to the public, citizens are encouraged to participate by letting their elected officials know about local stormwater issues that should be addressed at council meetings. In addition, the MWRD will be developing a countywide stormwater management plan, which will be open for public review and comment.

The COGs representing the Des Plaines River Watershed are The Northwest Municipal Conference and West Central Municipal Conference. Learn more about them on the web at www.nwmc-cog.org and www.westcook.org respectively.

It's All Creek To Me

UDPREP's second annual watershed tour, "Three Creeks: Projects and Perspectives," was a great success with over 40 attendees viewing three sites in Lake and Cook counties.

On a sunny October morning, participants met on the eastern banks of the Des Plaines River at Oakton Community College to learn more about naturalist Ken Schaefer's work to control erosion and restore habitat on campus.

Next on the itinerary was an exploration of two projects at Ethel's Woods in Lake County. At the first project site, participants learned how Lake County Forest Preserves (LCFP) staff and the Youth Conservation Corps have been restoring wetlands, prairies and woodlands on the east side of Ethel's Woods. Heading to the western edge of the property, LCFP specialists Jim Anderson and Jennifer Filipiak explained how the District is assessing the possible removal of the dam between Rasmussen Lake and North Mill Creek, re-establish the creek's natural corridor, and restore the surrounding upland and wetland habitats.

Patty Werner of the Lake Co. Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) introduced participants to the last site on the tour: Bull Creek. Patty described the creek's natural history and the important watershed planning efforts currently underway. SMC's Sean Wiedel and Tony Wolff demonstrated how a creek is inventoried—a crucial step in the watershed planning process. And Chris Geiselhart of the Liberty Prairie Area Homeowners' Association spoke about the challenges local homeowners face in their efforts to restore the creek and protect their property values.

Many thanks to the speakers, volunteers, and participants who helped make this year's tour a big success!



Above, Patty Werner of the Lake Co. Stormwater Management Commission (facing camera, in white) talks about Bull Creek.



At left, Jim Anderson and Jennifer Filipiak (both right) of the Lake Co. Forest Preserves describe woodland and upland restoration efforts at Ethel's Woods.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 14, 2005

Potential C2000 applicants are invited to present project ideas to UDPREP's panel of experts for feedback. (See related story on reverse.) Please RSVP by December 9 to upperdesplainesriver@yahoo.com to receive a time slot and more information.

JANUARY 17, 2006

Deadline to submit draft proposals for feedback. Time: By 5 p.m. Location: Email pre-proposals to upperdesplainesriver@yahoo.com

JANUARY 23, 2006

Panel meets with applicants who submitted pre-proposals. Time: 9:30 a.m. Location: One Olde Half Day Rd., Lincolnshire, IL.

FEBRUARY 28, 2006

Deadline for electronic submission of final proposals to C2000.

THANK YOU!

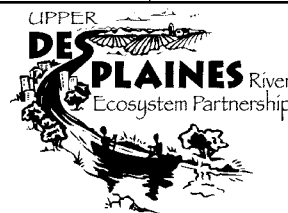
UDPREP is grateful to the following contributors for their recent in-kind and financial support.

Jim Anderson, Lake Co. Forest Preserves
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Upper Des Plaines River
 Ecosystem Partnership
www.upperdesplainesriver.org

UDPREP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
 Donations are tax-deductible.



UDPREP works to preserve, protect, and enhance the Upper Des Plaines River watershed through stakeholder education, collaboration, and technical assistance.