



Café

Chicago Wilderness Alliance's Public Funding Initiatives June 6th, 2023

Presenters:

- Brandon Hayes (Bold Bison Communications & Consulting)
- Ted Haffner (Chicago Wilderness Climate Committee Chair)
- Ellicia Sanchez (The Nature Conservancy in Illinois)



Café

With Appreciation

Because trees are important to equity as well as to human health, this CWA Café is supported by the [US Forest Service](#) and the [Illinois Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Program](#).

The funding supports workshops and trainings so the Alliance can help more communities improve urban tree canopy forests across the region, including through participation in [Tree City USA](#).

These institutions are an equal opportunity provider.



AGENDA

i.

Setting the Stage

ii.

Reviewing the Resources

iii.

Progress and lessons learned

iv.

Breakout sessions

v.

Report back

Setting the Stage

Great American Outdoors Act



- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- \$900 m/yr

Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act



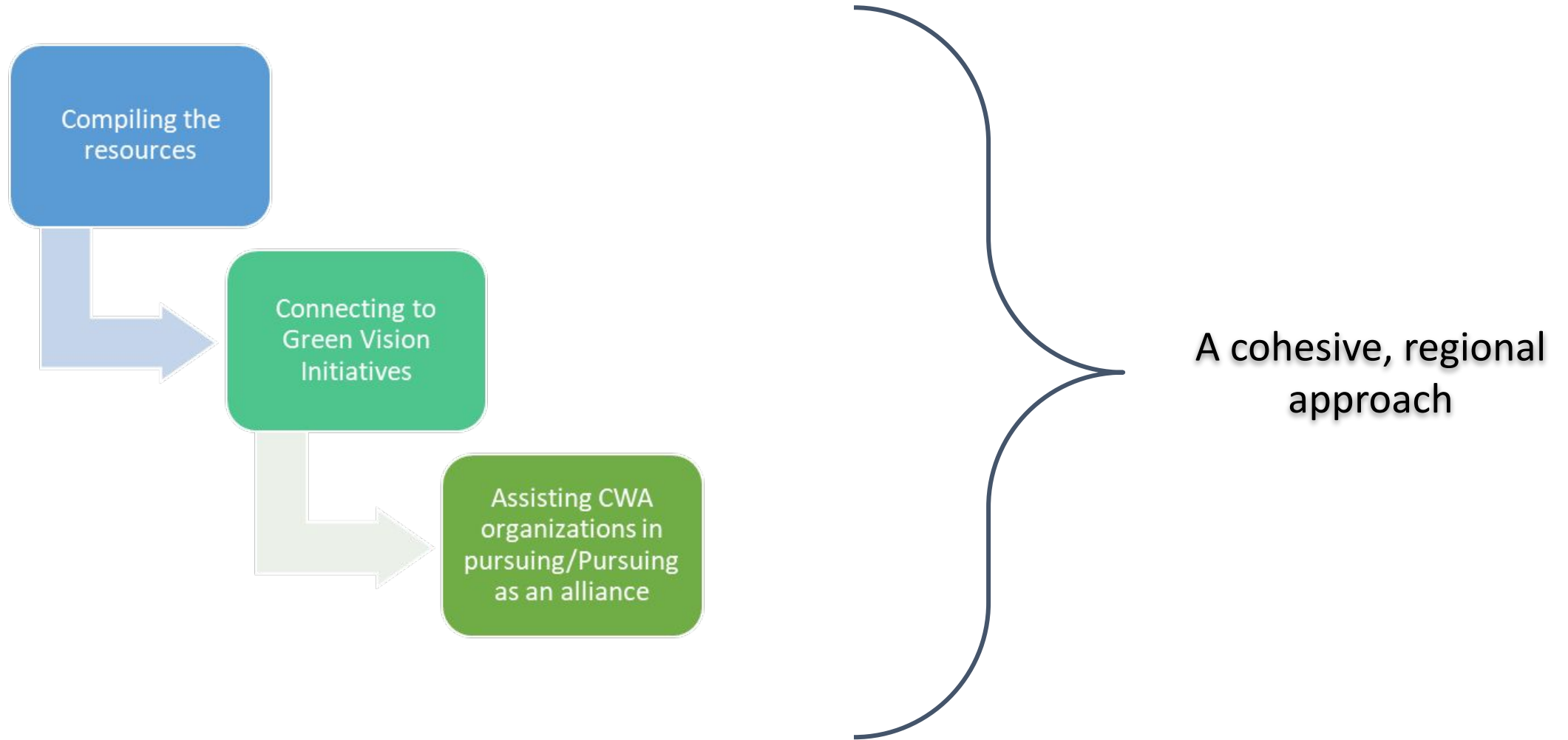
- \$550 b in new programs
- Mostly formula

Inflation Reduction Act:



- \$369 b in climate and clean energy programs
- Mostly competitive

Meeting the Moment: Securing Public Dollars



Phase 1: Compiling the resources

Establishment of informal CWA Grants team

- Meetings once a month, Thursdays
- *Seeking additional capacity!*

New ChicagoWilderness.org funding page

- Organized by level of government
- *In progress*

Chicago Wilderness Alliance Community Calendar

- Grant deadline and Associated Webinar postings
- Dates/Times posted on the calendar as they come to our collective attention
- Partners can set up email notifications via the CWA Community Calendar

Informal Networking for Information

- Funding conversations, reconnaissance, and coordination are occurring at the Initiative team level
- In progress

Funding Opportunities

[Collaborate](#) » [Funding Opportunities](#)

[More in this Section...](#) ▾



We've gathered information about funding opportunities for environmental programs and initiatives. If you have funding information to add to this list, please [email Laura Reilly, Alliance Coordinator](#). Learn more about the [Government Relations Community](#) and advocacy.

General Funding Information

- [White House Inflation Reduction Act Guidebook/White House IJA Guidebook](#)
- [30x30 Initiative](#)
- [Congressional Services Report: Federally Supported Projects and Programs for Wastewater, Drinking Water, and Water Supply Infrastructure](#)
- [USA Nature-Based Solutions](#)

Federal (Infrastructure Bill and Others) Funding Opportunities

- [Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects](#)

Phase 2: Connecting to the Green Vision Initiatives

Project tracker

- *In progress*
- Spreadsheet connecting potential project ideas to CWA goals
- Includes information on specific grant streams
- Modeled after similar regional approaches

Two track approach:

1. Assisting
individual CWA
member orgs

2. Pursuing as
an Alliance

Phase 3: Pursuing Public Dollars

Letters of Support

- Increase competitiveness of CWA member proposals
- Demonstrate regional support
- CWA is a named partner in many federal agency documents - highlighting this relationship and how you plan to leverage it is key
- Available on:

<https://www.chicagowilderness.org/page/Advocate>

First Name *	
Last Name *	
Email Address *	
Organization *	
Phone	
Professional Title	
1. Please select the Chicago Wilderness Alliance Green Vision Initiative(s) relevant to this request *	☐ Managing Healthy Landscapes ☐ Growing with Agriculture ☐ Prioritizing Green Infrastructure ☐ Protecting Landscapes for Biodiversity Conservation ☐ Increasing Equitable Access to Nature ☐ Taking Climate Action ☐ Protecting Healthy Water
2. How does this issue impact the community, nature, wildlife, etc of the Chicago Wilderness Region? *	
3. Summary of info on issue or policy action requested; include bill number	
Upload/attach suggested text for action alert or letter of support for public funding opportunity	Choose File No file chosen
Link to an online action alert or more information	
Date for action to be completed by	
4. What type of action are you requesting? *	☐ Share info with CWA partners working on this issue ☐ Share on CWA social media and other internal channels ☐ Share action alert via CWA eblast ☐ Create CWA Cafe on this topic/issue ☐ Request CWA Partners write or sign on to letters of support ☐ Request letter of support for public funding opportunity

SUBMIT

Phase 3: Pursuing Public Dollars

Leveraging the CWA Action Alert System

- Flag timely funding opportunities
- User-friendly submission form
- Available on:

<https://www.chicagowilderness.org/page/Advocate>



Chicago
Wilderness
Alliance

Action Alert: Seeking Public Comments on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

The Inflation Reduction Act contains \$369 billion in climate and clean energy investments. This includes the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The \$27 billion investment is meant to support nonprofits, schools, states, and other community-based organizations with competitive grants to reduce emissions and enact clean energy projects. The EPA is seeking public comment on core design aspects of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. They will be accepting comments until December 5th, 2022.

[Learn more and submit comments here](#)

The Nature Conservancy in Illinois submitted this action alert request.

Phase 3: Pursuing Public Dollars

- Community calendar
- Curates grant opportunity deadlines from aforementioned sources
- Resources are a combination of notification from listservs & informal networking information that are brought to CWA attention
- Available on:

https://www.chicagowilderness.org/events/event_list.asp

Community Calendar

[Collaborate](#) » [Community Calendar \(Events & Funding\)](#)

All Categories

 Upcoming  Past  Month View

 RSS

Learn about events, funding opportunities, awards, meetings and webinars in our region.

If you have something to share, [please submit your information here](#).

CW Events and team meetings range from working group meetings to professional development opportunities and webinars.

Public programs and events are open to any interested individuals (e.g., hikes, festivals, webinars, volunteer opportunities, etc.). Most public events are hosted by our partner organizations. For additional places to find and post resources, visit the [Chicagoland Environmental Network](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, December 12, 2022

[Finding Funding for Nature-Based Projects](#)

12/12/2022 » 10/6/2023

 [Export to Your Calendar](#)

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

[Nominate the Next Wisconsin Sea Grant Great Lakes Champion Award-Winner](#)

3/28/2023 » 6/14/2023

 [Export to Your Calendar](#)

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

[US EPA Pollution Prevention \(P2\) Grant: Environmental Justice in Communities](#)

6/6/2023

 [Export to Your Calendar](#)

[CWA Cafe: Chicago Wilderness Alliance's Public Funding Initiative](#)

6/6/2023

Time: 12:00 PM

 [Export to Your Calendar](#)  [Register](#)

Phase 3: Pursuing public dollars

Applying Lessons Learned

1. Internal organization and cohesion amongst co-applicants
2. The early bird catches the worm
3. Leverage the available data and scientific reports to establish ecological need and bolster competitiveness
4. Funding has multiple rounds that will get smaller and more competitive
5. Think globally about fit and timing.

Phase 3: Pursuing public dollars

Applying Lessons Learned

1. Lean on local coalitions, alliances and partner organizations for support
2. Identify point of contact from associated government agency
3. Test drive technical application process
4. Avoid duplicative projects
5. Communicate a unified vision for the Chicago region

Breakout sessions

1. Is your organization pursuing **similar grant opportunities**?
2. What **issues are you encountering** when pursuing federal funding?
3. How does this approach of tracking and coordinating grant opportunities land? **How can this be more of a value add?**
4. Do you see room for yourself to participate in Chicago Wilderness' grant initiatives? **Why or why not?**
5. There are similar environmental coalitions also mobilizing to more effectively pursue public funding. **Are you aware of or participating in simultaneous efforts?** Is there anyone Chicago Wilderness should be connecting with?
6. What are we missing?

- 1. Report back**
- 2. Our ask: If you are interested in digging deeper into this body of work with our team, please type your name in the chat or reach out to:**

Laura Reilly, Chicago Wilderness Coordinator

laura.reillycw@gmail.com



Café

CREATE A CAFE!

Are you a Chicago Wilderness Alliance partner with a conservation success story you'd like to share or a topic to introduce and discuss with your peers? We'd love to have you create a Cafe session!

Cafes are conducted via Zoom and typically last 1 hour. Your session should relate to one or more of the [Chicago Wilderness Alliance Green Vision goals](#).

We'll help you decide on a format for your session and can provide template slides or other assistance as needed. We'll also promote your session on social media and in our monthly newsletter.

Download and complete this [Cafe Registration Form](#) to create and hold your CWA Cafe session or contact Laura Reilly to talk through your Cafe session idea. Thanks for sharing your expertise with the Chicago Wilderness network!

Questions?

Laura Reilly, Chicago Wilderness Alliance

Coordinator laura.reillycw@gmail.com



The word "Café" in a white serif font, set against a solid green square background.