

**Pilot “Streambank Cleanup And Lakeshore Enhancement” Program
SCALE**

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Section 319 ~ Project 9823



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The Pilot Streambank Cleanup And Lakeshore Enhancement (SCALE) program provided financial assistance to selected applicants to conduct lakeshore and streambank clean-up events in 2003 and 2004. Local organizations that have previously conducted a lakeshore or streambank clean-up event were eligible to apply. The local sponsors used the SCALE funds for event promotion, event equipment and litter disposal fees.

Program Goal

This program was designed to sustain and improve citizen organized lake and river litter collection events to maintain or improve water quality and wildlife habitat. Citizen cleanup events provide hands on activity for adults and students to connect with our local rivers, streams and lakes. Many of those that participate in a clean up event reevaluate their day-to-day activities as they help to clean up their local water resources. Example, recycling and proper household hazardous waste disposal make more sense to this audience when they have chosen to spend time cleaning up after others.

Program Implementation

Illinois EPA announced the 2003 pilot SCALE program in December 2002. An application package was sent to approximately 100 civic and environmental groups. The mailing list included Section 319 applicants, regional planning commissions and local government offices throughout the state and citizen organizations that were known to have already held a clean up.

The 2003 application package included a brochure and a post card application to be returned to Illinois EPA by February 7, 2003. The post card asked for a history of the organizations past three clean-up events, including:

- the year it was held,
- the waterbody involved,
- the number of participants, and
- the size of area that had been cleaned in acres or miles.

A total of 38 organizations submitted applications to participate in the 2003 pilot SCALE program. One organization withdrew their name from consideration due to problems securing an organizer to conduct their event at the local level.

The information submitted by the applicants 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). Using the Excel spreadsheet, a ranking criterion was developed that gave points according to the numbers reported. There was a maximum of 100 points. Point scores were totaled and a dollar amount of \$2,000, \$1,000, or \$500 was applied to the ranked projects.

- Applications that had 70 points or more qualified for \$2,000.
- Applicants with a point score between 69 and 35 qualified for \$1,000.
- Applicants that scored between 10 and 34 points qualified for \$500.

See the Table 1 for the Recipients and Grant Amounts.

A total of \$33,500 was committed for SCALE events in 2003. This exceeded the \$25,000 originally proposed by \$8,500. Illinois EPA sent out approval letters and Grant Acceptance Forms to the remaining 37 applicants. The Recipients were given 30 days to complete and return the Grant Acceptance Form. All of the applicants returned the Grant Acceptance Form to participate in the program. Once Illinois EPA received the form, the Illinois EPA staff processed an invoice for the Recipient. In most cases, the Recipients received their SCALE grants prior to their cleanup event being held.

Illinois EPA staff forwarded a copy of a Program Survey with the report reminder to each of the grant recipients. Recipients were required to submit the following information within 90 days of the event date:

- Event Date,
- Number of Participants,
- Size of Clean-up Area (miles or acres),
- Estimate of Tons Collected*,
- the Most Interesting Items Found, and
- Photos of the Event.

* In most cases, the actual tons of litter collected were not weighed. Getting the citizen organizations to estimate the number of tons collected was difficult at best. Questions such as “wet weight” and “dry weight” came up. Large items like refrigerators and tires also threw off the system.

The data submitted was entered into the Excel spreadsheet and the photos were scanned and saved on CD. A summary report for the 2003 SCALE events was generated in June 2004.

Program Implementation – Year 2

The 2004 program was implemented as defined above with minor changes as described below. See Table 1 for Recipients and Grant Amounts.

Using the 2003 program surveys for guidance, the 2004 SCALE program was modified as follows:

- The application deadline was moved to November 30, 2004. This was done in an attempt to get SCALE funds to all grant recipients prior to the event.
- An Event Reporting Form was developed and provided to the grant recipients with the program survey prior to their event being held.
- The Event Reporting Form and Program Survey were forwarded to the Grant Recipient by email. One recipient did not have email, so their copy was sent by mail.

Other changes made to SCALE for 2004:

- The brochure was updated for 2004. The post card application morphed into a one-page application. The mailing list increased to 140 hard copies sent.
- The program was announced on Illinois EPA's website.
- The ranking criterion was adjusted to better fit the 2004 application data.
- Applicants that overlapped another larger clean-up event (same waterbody on the same day) were not funded.
- The word "Pilot" was removed from the program name. Illinois EPA committed to applying for additional funds to maintain the program through 2006.

A total of 50 applications were received for the 2004 SCALE program. Forty-two applications were recommended for funding for a total cost of \$38,000. Eight applications were not recommended for funding for the following reasons:

- One did not include the required information and therefore could not be ranked. Several attempts to contact the applicant by phone were made, none of the Illinois EPA messages were returned.
- One requested the use of the funds for activities not covered by the SCALE program.
- Six applicants had project areas that overlapped at least one other SCALE application area and event date. The applicant with the higher point total (according to the modified criteria) was recommend for the SCALE funds.

Program Schedule

The program period ran from May 1, 2002 through January 31, 2005.

Year One ~ 2003

Program Announcement	December 1, 2002
Application Deadline	February, 7 2003
Project Selection	March, 2003
Hold Events	April – October, 2003
Event Reporting	June – December, 2003

Year Two ~ 2004

Program Announcement	October 1, 2003
Application Deadline	November 30, 2003
Project Selection	February, 2004
Hold Events	April – October 2004
Event Reporting	June – December 2004

Project Report	January, 2005
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Program Budget

A total of \$50,000 was originally committed to the program. Due to the overwhelming response to the program, an additional \$21,500.00 was secured to cover as many clean up events as possible. One hundred percent of the project funds were distributed to organizations for the implementation of clean up events. No matching funds were documented for this program.

2003 Grant \$ Expended	33,500.00
2004 Grant \$ Expended	38,000.00
Total	71,500.00

Program Future

Illinois EPA decided to continue the program and requested an additional \$100,000 in Section 319 funds to implement the program in FY05 and FY06. USEPA has approved this request.

2003 and 2004 SCALE Program Results

SCALE Recipients	2003					2004				
	Grant Amount	People	Miles	Acres	Tons	Grant Amount	People	Miles	Acres	Tons
Boone County Conservation District	500.00	17	4	0	0.5	500.00	18	4	0	0.5
Chicago Cares	1,000.00	100	2	6	2.0	500.00	412	6	0	3.0
Chicagoland Canoe Base	500.00	42	2	0	2.0					
DesPlaines River Watershed Alliance	1,000.00	20	1	0	1.0	-	-	-	-	-
Dixon Park District	-	-	-	-	-	500.00	37	2	3	8.0
Elgin Community Network/Friends of Tyler Ck	500.00	35	2	0	10.0	500.00	20	1	0	2.0
Elgin High School	500.00	59	2.5	0	2.0	-	-	-	-	-
Embarras River Management Association	-	-	-	-	-	500.00	0	0	0	0.0
Flora Chamber/BSA Troop 282	500.00	20	5	0	0.5					
Forest Preserve District of Cook County	-	-	-	-	-	1,000.00	311	10.5	0	7
Fox Waterway Agency	1,000.00	84	60	0	5.0	-	-	-	-	-
Friends of Critters & Salt Creek	500.00	14	0.5	0	0.5	-	-	-	-	-
Friends of the Chicago River	2,000.00	2,700	100	0	38	2,000.00	3,000	100	0	39.0
Friends of Clinton Lake	-	-	-	-	-	1,000.00	32	4	0	1.0
Friends of the Fox River	1,000.00	162	10	0	2.5	1,000.00	200	10	0	5.0
Friends of the Illinois River	2,000.00	1,183	116	0	40	2,000.00	1,404	157	0	42.0
Friends of Kinkaid Lake, Inc.	-	-	-	-	-	1,000.00	24	42	0	1.5
Friends of Morthon Grove Forest Preserve	-	-	-	-	-	1,000.00	62	1.5	0	1.0
Friends of Sangamon Valley	-	-	-	-	-	500.00	21	5	0	5.0
Glenview Friends of Nature	500.00	48	1	0	1.5					
Great Rivers Land Trust	500.00	17	3	0	1.0	500.00	12	2	0	1.0
Heartland Water Resources Council	500.00	12	2	0	4.0					
Hegewisch Chamber of Commerce	-	-	-	-	-	1,000.00	125	4.5	0	6.0
Hyde Park Elementary School (WAG)	500.00	50	0.5	0	1.0	500.00	50	0.5	0	1.5
Illinois Smallmouth Alliance	500.00	34	3	0	2.0	500.00	30	6	0	1.0
Izaak Walton League of America	500.00	30	1	0	1.0	1,000.00	15	.5	0	1.0
JoDaviess Conservation Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	1,000.00	120	1.5	0	4.0
Keep Salem Beautiful	1,000.00	200	2	40	1.0	500.00	300	2	0	2.0
Kennedy Canoe Club	500.00	9	6	0	1.0	500.00	8	1	0	0.5
Lake Forest Open Lands Association	1,000.00	25	0.5	0	0.5					

Lake Michigan Federation	2,000.00	1,208	30	0	4.0	2,000.00	1,323	30	0	4.0
Living Lands & Waters	2,000.00	110	20	0	12	1,000.00	26	3	0	3.0
Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc.	1,000.00	70	18	0	4.0	1,000.00	150	14	0	9.0
Mackinaw Canoe Club	500.00	14	3.5	0	1.0	1,000.00	27	20	0	4.0
Medinah Homeowners Association	-	-	-	-	-	500.00	35	2	0	1.5
MWRDGC	-	-	-	-	-	1,000.00	4	4	0	6.0
Northern Illinois Anglers Association	1,000.00	360	100	-	75.0	2,000.00	375	100	0	52.0
ORSANCO	2,000.00	500	133	-	40.0	2,000.00	500	133	0	20.0
City of Park City	-	-	-	-	-	500.00	23	0	2	2.0
Piasa Creek Watershed Education Team	1,000.00	800	20	20	2.5	1,000.00	350	20	0	1.0
River Forest Park District	1,000.00	74	2	0	0.5	1,000.00	61	0	499	1.0
Salt Creek Watershed Network	1,000.00	52	1.5	10	2.5	500.00	75	1	0	1.0
Salt Fork River Partners	500.00	194	8.5	0	5.0	1,000.00	278	15	0	12.5
Sierra Club/Valley of the Fox Group	-	-	-	-	-	500.00	120	2	0	2.0
Southwestern Illinois RC&D	2,000.00	120	0.5	0	7.0	-	-	-	-	-
The Conservation Foundation	1,000.00	500	30	0	11	2,000.00	500	36	0	6.0
Thorn Creek Restoration Coalition	-	-	-	-	-	1,000.00	121	1.25	0	5.0
Vermilion County SWCD	-	-	-	-	-	1,000.00	13	10	0	1.0
Vermilion River Beautification Project	500.00	20	6	0	4	500.00	9	0	1	1.5
Village of Brookfield	500.00	26	0.5	0	0.5	-	-	-	-	-
Village of Northbrook	500.00	65	5	0	1.5	-	-	-	-	-
Wildwood Nature Center	500.00	30	1.5	0	0.5	500.00	25	1.5	0	0.5
Wooster Lake Conservation & Control Assoc.	-	-	-	-	-	500.00	12	0	100	3
Youth Conservation Corp.	-	-	-	-	-	1,000.00	0	0	0	0
	33,500.00	9,004	704	76	288.0	38,000.00	10,205	754	605	269

A Portion of the Program Participant Comments ~ 2003 SCALE Survey

Please list one or two things that your organization liked about SCALE:

- The ease of application
- It helped us buy additional waders for the cleanup – unfortunately the water was too high for the wading part of the cleanup.
- Equipment can be used throughout the year when needed to work along the river.
- That we were able to double the number of participants from the previous year.
- The minimal paperwork is much appreciated.
- SCALE provided funds to improve activities that we had been paying for out of our own pockets as volunteers. This allowed far better support for the river cleanup event.
- The grant covered some expenses we did not have a budget for.
- The SCALE Program provides organizations with very limited budgets with much needed funds to provide outreach opportunities for its members and the community at large.
- The SCALE Program was extremely well organized and the program operation was extremely smooth.
- The fact that the grant was even offered! Good Work!
- Participants were able to set their own program and work in the areas they considered to be most in need.
- Financial support has helped us expand our program
- It is the first time a state agency has offered us financial support for this type of cleanup project.
- SCALE provided the funds necessary to purchase postcards. These post cards advertised our event and greatly increased citizen participation.
- The SCALE grant process was very well organized and easy to complete. Some grant processes are very confusing and tedious, but I found the process perfect.
- Our students were very proud of their clean up event. Having the SCALE money meant that they could purchase enough supplies for all participants and that other monies they raised through out the year to fund the clean up could be utilized else where in our Environmental Science Service Learning Program Budget.
- IEPA was very, very helpful. Having a person to advise you through a grant and the organization of an event puts worries to rest. I hope that SCALE continues to have a person, a grantee can call for assistance.
- The use of email to keep our organization informed was very helpful.

Please list anything that your organization disliked about SCALE:

- Nothing – A Great Program!
- The information that the SCALE Program asks its participants to collect is not always easy to collect. It was difficult to get coordinators of clean-ups to determine the number of miles covered on the cleanup or the tons of litter collected. However, if at the beginning of the cleanup organizers are told what information to collect, it may be easier to provide it to the IEPA after the event has taken place.
- I wish more money could have been provided
- Our organization found all requests for documentation reasonable. We found the program to be well organized and user friendly. I really don't have any "dislikes" at this point.

Please describe any changes to SCALE that your organization would recommend:

- More available funds would always be nice
- To increase the budget so more organizations could become involved in clean-up efforts.
- I would recommend that SCALE consider developing a data collection sheet that is to be filled out at each cleanup site. This would make it easier for organizations with multiple cleanup sites to report results of the event to the IEPA.
- I would also recommend that SCALE consider providing educational information about the IEPA and how citizens can get more involved that can be distributed at the cleanup sites. Many participants may want to know more about how they can do their part to protect the environment after their participation in a cleanup.

- It would be helpful to received funds prior to our cleanup project date. It would also be helpful if a contact person (IDOT) would be provided for the pickup of garbage collected. Each year this task of contacting the “right person” becomes more difficult. It gives great piece of mind to know that this is taken care of. In earlier years of our cleanup we had to haul trash away ourselves and assume the expense as well.
- Provide final report page (i.e. this one) with original application.
- Basically – It is an excellent program!
- Support larger well established groups at a higher rate than new groups.
- Keep up the good work
- I truly feel the process used by SCALE was wonderful. This money provided many opportunities to our organization. This year our clean up felt more professional because we had the funding to support all of our needs.

Please describe anything about SCALE that your organization would like to see kept the same:

- Simple application process
- Garbage bags are an issue; I went back and got a heavy gauge that didn’t tear so easily. This was the first time that I participated
- Secondly, saw some handled picker-uppers that would make it easier.
- The application and report process was very simple and did not take a lot of time to complete. This is a very helpful feature of the grant application process.
- Ease of operation
- Quickness of response
- How easy it was to apply.
- Any support that we can get is appreciated!
- Overall, the SCALE program is excellent. Minor adjustments as described above would enhance an already excellent program.
- Simplicity of application. Prompt response and communication. Continuation of this program because it enables small groups to maximize efforts and ability.
- Ease in application, announcement – good coordination between agency and recipient.
- Freedom to work in the areas we feel are most needy.
- SCALE is addressing a serious issue. Please continue to fund.
- Application format using postcard made applying easy; also appreciate succinct format of this survey
- The friendly nature and efficient ways should be kept the same.
- Keep having funds available for cleanups. Keep the process for receiving funds as easy and simple as it was.
- Funding level
- The application process was quick and easy.
- The reporting process was also very fair for the money provided.
- The email up dates kept our committees up on events and requirements.
- Having a single person, who recognizes our organization, was very helpful.
- Grant amount



Waukegan River Cleanup ~ 2004



Chicago Cares Cleanup ~ 2004



Dixon Park District Cleanup ~ 2004



Friends of Chicago River ~ 2003



Illinois River Sweep ~ 2003



MISCELLANEOUS DEBRIS FILLS TRUCK #2.

Fox Waterway Cleanup ~ 2003