

# Streambank Cleanup And Lakeshore Enhancement (SCALE) Program

April 2009

## Section 319 ~ Project 3190603

Calendar Years 2007 - 2008



*The Harvest* – United Sportsmen’s Youth Foundation, J. Cruse - First Place, ‘08 SCALE Photo Contest

Prepared by:

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

This report was prepared using US Environmental Protection Agency funds under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The findings and recommendations contained herein are not necessarily those of the US Environmental Protection Agency.

The Streambank Cleanup And Lakeshore Enhancement (SCALE) program was started by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) in 2003. The Illinois EPA continued support of the SCALE program by providing financial assistance to selected applicants to conduct lakeshore and streambank cleanup events in 2007 and 2008. The program, funded through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, provides up to \$3,500 to each group to help with their cleanup efforts. The funds are typically used for safety attire, dumpster rentals, landfill tipping fees and promotional materials. SCALE funds are available only to organizations that have already established a recurring streambank or lakeshore cleanup.

### 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 waste disposal make more sense to this audience when they have chosen to spend time cleaning up after others. Many of the SCALE funded events have lead to local participants implementing additional events that include invasive species removal workdays, water quality monitoring, and storm drain stenciling programs.

### Program Implementation



*26<sup>th</sup> Annual Kankakee Iroquois River Clean Up*  
Northern Illinois Angler's Association, J. Chan  
Second Place, '08 SCALE Photo Contest

This project ran from September 1, 2006 through January 31, 2009. Program implementation began in October 2006, when Illinois EPA announced the 2007 SCALE program and application deadline. An identical implementation process was carried out for the 2008 SCALE program starting in October 2007.

An application package was sent to approximately 100 civic and environmental groups. The mailing list included past SCALE recipients, Section 319 applicants, regional planning commissions and local government offices throughout the state and others who had expressed an interest in the SCALE program.

The application package included a brochure and an application to be returned to Illinois EPA by early December. The application asked for a history of the organization's 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.

The information submitted by the applicants to Illinois EPA 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 105 points. Point scores were totaled and a grant dollar amount of \$3,500, \$1,750, \$1,000, or \$500 was applied to the ranked projects.



*Volunteers at Shoreline – Fox Waterway Agency  
J. Schroeder - Third Place, '08 SCALE Photo Contest*

Point summary for the ranking criteria used in 2007 and 2008.

- Applications with a point score of 80 points or more qualified for \$3,500.
- Applications with a point score of 50 – 79 points qualified for \$2,000.
- Applicants with a point score between 40 and 49 qualified for \$1,000.
- Applicants that scored between 20 and 39 points qualified for \$500.
- Applications that did not score at least 20 points did not qualify to receive SCALE funds.

See the Table 1 for the Recipients and Grant Amounts and data reported.

Illinois EPA sent out approval letters and Grant Acceptance Forms to the approved applicants. The Recipients were given 30 days to complete and return the Grant Acceptance Form. Once Illinois EPA received the form, the Illinois EPA staff processed an invoice for the Recipient. In most cases, the Recipients received their SCALE grant prior to conducting their cleanup event.

The SCALE participants found 2008 to be an extremely wet year. A number of the SCALE events had to be postponed until the water levels receded. Participant safety and inability to reach much of the litter was the motivation behind postponing the events. Two organizations, the Friends of Sangamon Valley and the JoDaviess Conservation Foundation, were unable to hold their clean up events due to high water levels. Both of these organizations notified Illinois EPA prior to their 2008 SCALE event date and made arrangements with Illinois EPA to defer their 2008 SCALE event until 2009.

Illinois EPA staff forwarded a copy of an Event Reporting Form to each of the grant recipients. Recipients were required to submit the following information within 60 days of the event date:

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| ● Date the event was held                | ● Number of Participants      |
| ● Size of Clean-up Area (miles or acres) | ● Estimate of Tons Collected* |
| ● the Most Interesting Items Found       | ● 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 was entered into the Excel spreadsheet and many of the photos were scanned and saved.

A total of 28 applications were received for the 2007 SCALE program. All 28 were approved for funding for a total cost of \$35,000. In May 2007, the Salt Fork River Partners (Partners) contacted Illinois EPA to withdraw their 2007 application. They had remaining 2006 SCALE funds. They agreed that they would use the remaining 2006 funds to hold their 2007 SCALE event. The 2007 SCALE program total cost was reduced to \$34,000.

A total of 32 applications were received for the 2008 SCALE program. All 32 applications were approved for funding for a total cost of \$34,500.

As in 2005 and 2006, a number of past SCALE recipients have identified that the area that they clean up, is not in need of a cleanup every year. Most of these groups have identified that they have plans to conduct their cleanup events on alternating years.

### Photo Contest

In 2008, Illinois EPA added a photo contest to encourage our SCALE participants to share great photos of their cleanup events. Submission of event photos was already a requirement of the SCALE program, but many of the photos submitted, did not capture the “heart and soul” of the SCALE program.

Illinois EPA will use the photos from this contest in information and outreach materials to help others better understand the importance of the work that is being done to clean up our lakes and streams.

Winning pictures will show the SCALE program at its best: basically people near a lake or stream safely picking up litter and debris. The photos should reinforce safety and common sense. When appropriate, life jackets and other safety equipment should be shown.

The following prizes were awarded for the 2008 photo contest:

First Place	\$250	United Sportsmen’s Youth Foundation
Second Place	\$175	Northern Illinois Angler’s Association
Third Place	\$100	Fox Waterway Agency

Prize funds will be provided as an increase in the winners’ 2009 SCALE grant award. The prize funds will have the same restrictions as the regular SCALE program funds. So, if an organization wins first prize in the photo contest and is approved for a \$1,000 SCALE grant in 2009, they will receive a payment for \$1,250.00 from Illinois EPA to implement their 2009 SCALE event. In the event that a contest winner is not approved for a 2009 SCALE grant, the prize money will be forfeited and given to the next organization in line from the photo contest as determined by Illinois EPA.



*Youth at Work – Gage Park, Friends of the Chicago River ‘08*

## Photo Contest Rules

1. The contest is open to all organizations participating in the 2008 SCALE program.
2. Illinois EPA may use the submitted photos to promote environmental programs and projects.
3. An organization may submit a maximum of three 8 by 10 inch photos depicting their 2008 SCALE event. An electronic copy of each photo must also be submitted to Illinois EPA. This can be done on CD or by email.
4. Photos can be in color or black and white.
5. An organization can win only one prize per year.
6. Photos must be labeled, and include the following information: organization name, location where photo was taken (include lake or stream name), date, photo title, and photographer's name (for credit purposes).
7. Do not frame or mat photos.
8. Contest Deadline—November 1, 2008.
9. The photos submitted for this contest are in addition to the photo documentation requirement of the 2008 SCALE program. Although the photos submitted for the contest may be included as part of the SCALE photo submittal.
10. All prize funds awarded by Illinois EPA will be used to continue implementation or expansion of SCALE stream and lakeshore cleanup efforts.

## Program Schedule

The program period ran from September 1, 2006 through January 31, 2009.

### **Year One ~ 2007**

Program Announcement	October 2006
Application Deadline	November 30, 2006
Project Selection	January 2007
Hold Events	March – December 2007
Event Reporting	May – December 2007

### **Year Two ~ 2008**

Program Announcement	October 2007
Application Deadline	December 9, 2007
Project Selection	February 2008
Hold Events	March – December 2008
Event Reporting	May – December 2008

Project Report	April 2009
----------------	------------

### Program Budget

A total of \$100,000 was originally committed to project 3190603. One hundred percent of the project funds (\$68,500) that were distributed to organizations were used for the implementation of cleanup events. No matching funds were documented for this program.

2007 Grant \$ Expended	34,000.00
2008 Grant \$ Expended	34,500.00
Total	\$68,500.00

### Results

- The Northern Illinois Angler's Association collected the most litter at 55 tons (2007).
- The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) covered the largest area – 150 miles (2008).
- The Friends of the Chicago River had the greatest number of participants 3,800 (2008)

In 2007 and 2008, SCALE participants removed over 350 tons of trash from almost 1,500 miles of streams, and 350 acres of lakes in Illinois. Almost 27,000 people participated overall!

**Table 1 - 2007 and 2008 SCALE Program Results**

(2008 – Friends of Sangamon Valley and JoDaviess County Conservation District SCALE Events postponed to 2009 – due to high water levels.)

SCALE Recipients	2007					2008				
	Grant	People	Miles	Acres	Tons	Grant	People	Miles	Acres	Tons
Alliance for the Great Lakes	1,750	1,833	38	0	5	1,750	3,160	36	0	5
Boone County Conservation Distrt	500	24	4	0	1	500	21	4	0	0.5
Dixon Park District	500	21	2	4	2.5	500	14	1	0	1
Fox Waterway Agency	1,750	186	20	0	7	1,750	100	25	0	7
Friends of Morton Grove Forest Preserve	-	-	-	-	-	500	60	1.5	0	0.5
Friends of the Chicago River	3,500	3,600	100	0	26	3,500	3,800	100	0	28
Friends of the Fox River	1,750	418	36	0	8	1,750	490	28	0	8
Friends of the Illinois River	3,500	1,450	115	0	30	3,500	558	18	0	2
Friends of the Parks	1,750	3,000	11	0	4	1,750	1,750	11	0	4
Friends of Sangamon Valley	500	8	3	0	1	500	*	*	*	*
Hegewisch Chamber of Commerce	500	150	4	0	2	500	100	2	0	1
Hofmann Dam River Rats	-	-	-	-	-	500	59	2	0	2
Illinois Smallmouth Alliance	500	30	25	0	1	1,000	70	15	0	2
JoDaviess Conservation Foundation	1,000	60	2	1	5	500	*	*	*	*
Keep Salem Beautiful	500	100	4	0	1.5	500	75	2	0	1
Kennedy Canoe Club	500	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
Kinkaid Area Watershed Project, Inc.	-	-	-	-	-	500	30	40	0	2
Living Lands & Waters	1,750	502	40	0	25	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc.	1,000	22	29	0	2	1,000	12	20	0	1
Neighborhood Watch in Lyons	-	-	-	-	-	500	84	0.5	150	1
Northern Illinois Anglers Association	1,750	500	100	0	55	1,750	402	100	0	35
ORSANCO	3,500	700	133	0	10	3,500	800	150	0	12
Round Lake Management Commission	500	22	4	0	2	500	25	4	0	1.5
Salt Fork River Partners	1,000	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	-
Santa Fe Prairie Volunteers	-	-	-	-	-	500	300	2	0	4
The Conservation Foundation	1,750	375	35	0	7	1,750	375	31	0	5
The National Great Rivers R and E Center	500	280	30	0	1	500	336	60	0	0.5
Thorn Creek Restoration Coalition	1,750	108	4	0	2	1,000	32	8	0	1
United Sportsman's Youth Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	500	100	20	0	5
Valley of the Fox Group/Sierra Club	500	21	2	0	1	500	25	3	0	1
Vermilion County SWCD	500	20	10	0	2.6	500	20	10	0	3
Village of Lake Ka-Ho Board of Trustees	500	21	0	27	4	500	28	0	27	2.3
Village of Northbrook	1,000	100	1	0	0.5	500	108	1.5	0	0.5
Lake Yaeger Homeowners' Associations	-	-	-	-	-	500	88	7	150	4
Youth Conservation Corp.	500	137	3	0	4	1,000	220	26	0	2.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>13,688</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>210.1</b>	<b>34,500</b>	<b>13,242</b>	<b>728.5</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>143.3</b>