

Streambank Cleanup And Lakeshore Enhancement (SCALE) Program

February 2011

Section 319 ~ Project 3190802

Calendar Years 2009 – 2010



Photo - Friends of the Chicago River - 2009

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The Streambank Cleanup And Lakeshore Enhancement (SCALE) program was started by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) in 2003. Illinois EPA continued support of the SCALE program by providing financial assistance to selected applicants to conduct lakeshore and streambank cleanup events in 2009 and 2010. 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. See the final page for a list of the organizations funded.

Program Goal

This program was designed to support citizen-organized lake and river litter collection events to maintain or improve local water quality. Citizen cleanup events provide hands-on activity for adults and students to connect with their local rivers, streams and lakes. Many of the cleanup participants 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 once they have spent their 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. These efforts are not reported here, as they are not eligible for funding through the SCALE program.

Program Implementation

The contract period for this project was November 30, 2008 through January 31, 2011. Program implementation began in September 2008, when Illinois EPA announced the 2009 SCALE program and application deadline. An identical implementation process and timeline was carried out for the 2010 SCALE program within this same grant.

The application package for the SCALE program was updated in 2009 to allow on-line applications. Illinois EPA did provide paper applications, upon request, to those parties that were not able (or interested) in applying on-line. The program notification was modified to an announcement on the Illinois EPA Web Site and general notice by email. The email list included past SCALE recipients, Section 319 applicants, regional planning commissions and local government offices throughout the state and to others who had expressed an interest in the SCALE program.



Photo - Friends of the Fox River (Troop 13) - 2009

The application package included a brochure and an application. The application asked for a history of the organization's past three cleanup events, including:

- The year it was held,
- The waterbody involved,
- The number of participants, and
- The size of area that had been cleaned (to be reported 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.

Point summary for the ranking criteria used in 2009 and 2010.

- 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 \$1,750.
- Applications with a point score between 40 and 49 qualified for \$1,000.
- Applications with a point score between 20 and 39 qualified for \$500.
- Applications that did not score at least 20 points did not qualify to receive SCALE funds.



Photo - National Great Rivers Research and Education Center - 2009

See the final page for a list of the Recipients and Grant Amounts.

Illinois EPA sent out approval letters, Grant Acceptance Forms, and Tax Identification Number forms to the approved applicants. The Applicants were given 30 days to complete and return the forms to Illinois EPA. Once Illinois EPA received the organization's forms, staff processed an invoice for the Recipient. In most cases, the Recipients received their SCALE grant funds prior to conducting their cleanup event.

Prior to their scheduled cleanup event, Illinois EPA staff forwarded a copy of an Event Reporting Form to each of the grant recipients. The Event Reporting Form was updated into a fill-able PDF format. The Recipients could submit the form electronically or in hard-copy form. Recipients were required to submit the following information within 60 days of holding their event:

- date the event was held
- number of participants
- size of cleanup area (miles or acres)
- the most interesting items found
- estimate of tons collected *
- photos of the event

* With a few exceptions, the litter collected was not weighed. Getting citizen organizations to estimate the number of tons collected has been difficult. Questions such as "wet weight" and "dry weight" came up. Large items like refrigerators and tires also threw off the system.

Recipients that held multiple events could report as the events occurred or could submit one report after all of their events were conducted.

The data was entered into the Excel spreadsheet and many of the photos were scanned and saved.

A total of 31 applications were received for the 2009 SCALE program. All 31 were deemed eligible and were approved for funding for a total cost of \$35,500. In addition to the basic grants, Illinois EPA awarded an additional \$525 to be split between 3 SCALE Recipients. These three Recipients were winners in the 2008 SCALE Photo Contest. The organizations that were awarded Photo Contest awards are marked by an * in the table on the last page of this report.

A total of 39 applications were received for the 2010 SCALE program. Thirty-seven applications were approved for funding for a total cost of \$41,250. Nonpoint Source Unit staff provided assistance to the two applicants that did not qualify for the 2010 SCALE program.

Photo - Keep Rock Island Beautiful - 2009



Photo - Friends of the Sangamon Valley - 2009

Photo - Neighborhood Watch in Lyons - 2009

Program Schedule

The program period ran from November 30, 2008 through January 31, 2011.

Year One ~ 2009

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Program Announcement | September 15, 2008 |
| Application Deadline | November 30, 2008 |
| Project Selection | January 2009 |
| Hold Events | January 15 – October 31, 2009 |
| Event Reporting Complete | December 31, 2009 |

Year Two ~ 2010

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Program Announcement | July 1, 2009 |
| Application Deadline | November 30, 2009 |
| Project Selection | January 2010 |
| Hold Events | January 15 – October 31, 2010 |
| Event Reporting Complete | December 31, 2010 |

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Project Report | January 31, 2011 |
|----------------|------------------|

Program Budget

A total of \$100,000 was originally budgeted for project 3190802. A total of \$75,513 was distributed to the SCALE Recipients for their use to implement their cleanup events. No matching funds were documented for this program.

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 2009 Grant Funds Expended | 35,500 |
| Photo Contest Funds | 525 |
| 2010 Grant Funds Expended | 41,250 |
| Total | 75,513 |

In 2009, two organizations conducted cleanup events with funds provided in 2008. These organizations are marked by a **. Their original cleanup events were postponed due to excessive rainfall.

Results

During 2009 and 2010, SCALE participants removed over 400 tons of trash from almost 1,700 miles of streams and 2,500 acres of lakes in Illinois. Over 28,850 people participated in cleanup events!

- The Northern Illinois Angler's Association reported the most litter collected at 55 tons (2009).
- ORSANCO reported the largest area covered at 168 miles (2010).
- The Friends of the Chicago River reported the greatest number of participants with 4,000 during a one-day event (2010).

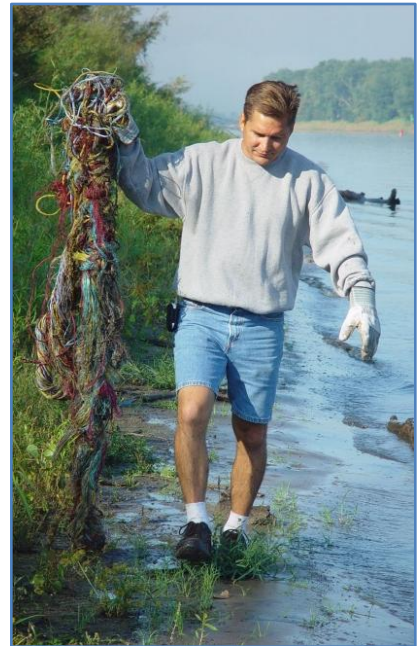


Photo - Illinois River Sweep - 2009

| SCALE Recipients | 2009 | | | | | 2010 | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Grant | People | Miles | Acres | Tons | Grant | People | Miles | Acres | Tons |
| Alliance for the Great Lakes | 1,750 | 2,502 | 34 | 0 | 5 | 1,750 | 3,143 | 68 | 0 | 5.5 |
| Batavians for a Healthy River | - | - | - | - | - | 1,000 | 130 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| Below the Surface | - | - | - | - | - | 1,000 | 40 | 0 | 55 | 1.5 |
| Boone County Conservation District | 500 | 18 | 4 | 0 | 0.5 | 500 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 0.5 |
| Dixon Park District | - | - | - | - | - | 500 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0.5 |
| Fox Waterway Agency | 1,850* | 60 | 60 | 0 | 5 | 1,750 | 108 | 45 | 0 | 6 |
| Friends of Morton Grove Forest Preserve | 500 | 38 | 1.5 | 0 | 0.5 | 500 | 18 | 0 | 80 | 0.3 |
| Friends of the Chicago River | 3,500 | 3,800 | 100 | 0 | 28 | 3,500 | 4,000 | 100 | 0 | 29 |
| Friends of the Fox River | 1,750 | 423 | 20.5 | 0 | 7 | 1,750 | 62 | 3.0 | 3 | 0.5 |
| Friends of the Illinois River | 3,500 | 919 | 60 | 0 | 4 | 3,500 | 75 | 12 | 0 | 1 |
| Friends of the Parks | 1,750 | 1,750 | 11 | 0 | 4 | 1,750 | 2,000 | 0 | 2,000 | 5 |
| Friends of Sangamon Valley | 0** | 55 | 10 | 0 | 6 | 500 | 35 | 10 | 0 | 3 |
| Hegewisch CoC/Wolf Lake Rod & Gun Club | 500 | 35 | 0.5 | 4 | 1 | 500 | 400 | 0.5 | 0 | 0.1 |
| Illinois Smallmouth Alliance | 1,000 | 50 | 35 | 0 | 2 | 1,000 | 112 | 50 | 0 | 3 |
| Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation | 0** | 70 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 500 | 60 | 6 | 0 | 4.6 |
| Keep Rock Island Beautiful | 1,000 | 371 | 5 | 10 | 6.5 | 1,750 | 305 | 20 | 10 | 5.5 |
| Keep Salem Beautiful | 500 | 55 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 500 | 40 | 2.5 | 0 | 0.5 |
| Kinkaid Area Watershed Project, Inc. | 500 | 72 | 60 | 0 | 4 | 500 | 53 | 60 | 0 | 1.5 |
| Lake Yaeger Homeowners' Association | 500 | 90 | 0 | 24 | 8 | 500 | 78 | 0 | 210 | 2 |
| Living Lands & Waters | - | - | - | - | - | 1,750 | 1,433 | 42 | 0 | 51 |
| Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc. | 1,000 | 12 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 500 | 22 | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Madison County | 1,000 | 21 | 8 | 0 | 13 | - | - | - | - | - |
| National Great Rivers Research and Ed. Center | 1,000 | 40 | 3 | 0 | 0.5 | 1,750 | 160 | 10 | 0 | 0.5 |
| Neighborhood Watch in Lyons | 500 | 65 | 0 | 25 | 1 | 500 | 65 | 00 | 75 | 2 |
| Northern Illinois Anglers Association | 1,925* | 660 | 100 | 0 | 55 | 1,750 | 604 | 100 | 0 | 30 |
| ORSANCO | 3,500 | 1,000 | 140 | 0 | 7.5 | 3,500 | 896 | 168 | 0 | 15 |
| River Forest Park District | 500 | 265 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 500 | 200 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Round Lake Management Commission | 500 | 18 | 4 | 0 | 0.5 | 500 | 20 | 4 | 0 | 0.5 |
| Santa Fe Prairie Volunteers | 500 | 200 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 500 | 112 | 2.5 | 0 | 1.2 |
| The Conservation Foundation | 1,750 | 534 | 35 | 0 | 5.5 | 1,750 | 565 | 40 | 0 | 7 |
| Thorn Creek Restoration Coalition | 1,000 | 11 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 1,000 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0.5 |
| Tri-Shark Triathlon Club | 500 | 25 | 0.5 | 0 | 0.5 | 500 | 15 | 0.5 | 0 | 0.5 |
| United Sportsman's Youth Foundation | 750* | 125 | 50 | 0 | 2 | 500 | 100 | 90 | 0 | 4 |
| Valley of the Fox Group/Sierra Club | 500 | 74 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 500 | 84 | 8 | 0 | 0.5 |
| Vermilion County SWCD | 500 | 20 | 10 | 0 | 3 | 500 | 21 | 10 | 0 | 1 |
| Village of Lake Ka-Ho Board of Trustees | 500 | 24 | 0 | 27 | 3 | 500 | 9 | 0 | 26 | 1.5 |
| Village of Melrose Park Silver Creek Watershed | - | - | | | | 500 | 95 | 1.6 | 0 | 8 |
| Youth Conservation Corp. | 1,000 | 182 | 15 | 0 | 1 | 1,000 | 190 | 40 | 0 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 36,025 | 13,584 | 784 | 108 | 199 | 41,250 | 15,268 | 914.6 | 2,459 | 205.2 |