

Streambank Cleanup And Lakeshore Enhancement (SCALE) Program

February 2016

Section 319 ~ Project 3191200

Calendar Years 2013 - 2015



Photo – Living Lands & Waters

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Photo – Living Lands & Waters

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 2013, 2014, and 2015. 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 in 2013, 2014, and 2015.

Program Goal

This program was designed to support local community and 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 originally November 30, 2012 through January 31, 2015. The contract period was extended to January 31, 2016. Program implementation began in July 2012, when Illinois EPA announced the 2013 SCALE program and application deadline. A similar implementation process and timeline was carried out for the 2014 and 2015 SCALE program within this same grant.

The application process for the SCALE program includes an on-line application form. Illinois EPA could provide paper applications, upon request, to those parties that were not able (or interested) in applying on-line. There were no requests for paper applications. 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 – Alton Main Street

The application package included a fact sheet 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). This review generated the levels of grant awards; 2013, 2014, and 2015 had four levels of grant assistance; \$3,500, \$1,750, \$1,000, or \$500. The larger grants had events on impaired waters that included 500 or more people and 50 miles of stream protected. The majority of the smaller grants went to events that either had low numbers of participants or a small target area.

See the final page for a list of the recipients and grant amounts.

Illinois EPA sent out Grant Acceptance Forms, and Tax Identification Number (IRS W-9) 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 forms, staff processed an invoice for the Recipient. In most cases, the Recipients received their SCALE grant funds prior to conducting their cleanup event.



Photo – Friends of the Illinois River

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 is a fill-able PDF. 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 submitted was entered into the Excel spreadsheet. Photos were either submitted electronically or in hard copy.

A total of 38 applications were received for the 2013 SCALE program. All thirty-eight applications were deemed eligible and were approved for funding for a total cost of \$37,000. A total of 35 applications were received for the 2014 SCALE program. All thirty-five applications were approved for funding for a total cost of \$38,750. A total of 30 applications were received for the 2015 SCALE program. All thirty applications were approved for funding for a total cost of \$34,500.

In an effort to better comply with U.S. EPA’s updated Section 319 guidance, grant applicants that were approved for funding in 2014 also received approval for funding in 2015. However, the 2015 grant was dependent upon the recipient’s successful completion of the 2014 program requirements and written confirmation that they planned to hold an event in 2015.



Photo – Boone County Conservation District



Photo – Keep Rock Island Beautiful



Photo – Living Lands & Waters



Photo – Friends of the Sangamon Valley/C. Young



Photo – Illinois Paddling Council

Program Schedule

The program was announced ahead of time and the project period originally ran from November 30, 2012 through January 31, 2015. The project period was extended to January 31, 2016 to include the 2015 SCALE clean up events.

	2013	2014	2015
Program Announcement	July 2012	July 1, 2013	July 1, 2014
Application Deadline	November 30, 2012	November 30, 2013	November 30, 2014
Project Selection	January 2013	January 2014	January 2015
Hold Events	January 15 – November 15, 2013	January 15 – November 15, 2014	January 15 – November 15, 2015
Event Reporting Completed	December 31, 2013	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2015
Project Report			January 31, 2016

Program Budget

A total of \$75,250 was originally budgeted for project 3191200. The budget was increased by \$37,750 to cover the 2015 SCALE events. A total of \$113,500 was distributed to the SCALE Recipients for their use to implement their cleanup events. No matching funds were documented for this program.

2013 Grant Funds Expended	37,000
2014 Grant Funds Expended	38,750
2015 Grant Funds Expended	37,750
Total	113,500

Results for 2013, 2014, and 2015

During 2013, 2014, and 2015, SCALE participants removed over 580 tons of trash from over 2,050 miles of streams and almost 12,000 acres of lake shoreline in Illinois.

Almost 32,000 people participated in cleanup events!



Photo – ORSANCO

SCALE Recipients	2013					2014					2015				
	Grant	People	Miles	Acres	Tons	Grant	People	Miles	Acres	Tons	Grant	People	Miles	Acres	Tons
Alliance for the Great Lakes	3,500	2,117	26.0	0	3.5	3,500	2,116	26.0	0	3.5	3,500	1,694	26.0	0	2.0
Alton Marketplace/Main Street	500	60	1.5	0	2.5	500	40	1.8	0	1.5	500	63	1.0	0	3.5
Below the Surface*	500	32	0	55.0	0.5	500	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
Boone County Conservation District**	500	16	4.0	0	0.5	500	13	5.0	0	0.5	500	0	0	0	0
Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team	500	50	0	8.0	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Collinsville Area Recreation District ***	0	32	0	5.0	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dixon Park District	500	11	1.0	0	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Elgin Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America	500	60	1.5	0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Valley Park District	500	125	7.2	0	1.0	1000	200	4.7	0	0.5	1,000	50	0	3.0	0.5
Fox Waterway Agency	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	138	45.0	0	8.5	1,000	100	45.0	0	7.5
Friends of the Chicago River	3,500	3,500	100.0	0	29.0	3,500	1,700	100.0	0	16.0	3,500	2,000	156.0	0	20.0
Friends of the Fox River	1,000	35	1.3	0	0.5	1,000	30	4.4	0	2.0	1,000	78	5.5	0	10.0
Friends of the Illinois River	1,000	426	35.0	0	6.0	1,750	402	31.0	0	6.0	1,750	388	27.0	0	6.0
Friends of the Parks	1,750	2,000	0	3,000.0	4.0	1,750	2,000	0	3,000.0	5.0	1,750	4	23.0	0	0.5
Friends of Sangamon Valley	500	27	8.0	0	1.0	500	42	40.0	0	2.0	500	49	28.0	0	2.0
Grayslake Community Park District	500	42	0	6.0	0.5	500	72	0	40.0	0.3	500	50	2.0	0	0.5
Illinois Paddling Council	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	102	9.0	0	2.5	1,000	304	23.0	0	2.0
Illinois Smallmouth Alliance	1,000	47	17.0	0	1.6	1,000	65	27.0	0	2.0	1,000	27	14.0	0	.8
Jacksonville, City of	500	105	3.0	0	3.0	500	114	3.0	0	1.2	500	60	3.0	0	1.0
Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation****	500	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	35	10.0	0	4.0
Keep Carbondale Beautiful	500	24	0.5	0	0.5	500	89	0.5	0	0.5	500	89	0.5	0	0.5
Keep Rock Island Beautiful	1,000	324	11.0	0	12.0	1,750	24	2.0	0	0.5	1,750	73	3.0	0	.8
Kinkaid Area Watershed Project, Inc.	500	47	60.0	0	2.0	500	51	63.0	0	2.3	500	62	70.0	0	2.5
Lake County Stormwater Management Comm.	500	20	1.0	0	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Living Lands & Waters	3,500	1,069	30.0	0	40.0	3,500	633	11.8	0	27.6	3,500	424	19.8	0	26.0
Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc.	500	30	0	40.0	2.5	500	25	0	25.0	5.0	500	12	0	30.0	8.0
National Great Rivers Research & Ed. Center***	0	89	7.0	0	4.5	500	400	2.4	0	1.5	500	29	4.0	0	1.5
Northern Illinois Anglers Association	1,750	480	100.0	0	35.0	1,750	594	100.0	0	35.0	1,750	467	100.0	0	30.0
Openlands	500	38	3.0	0	0.5	500	71	7.0	0	0.5	500	46	7.0	0	0.5
ORSANCO	3,500	875	157.0	0	3.5	3,500	800	30.0	0	30.0	3,500	800	133.0	0	9.0
River Forest Park District	500	60	2.0	0	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	150	2.0	0	0.8
Round Lake Management Commission	500	35	3.2	0	1.0	500	37	3.0	0	1.0	-	-	-	-	-
Santa Fe Prairie Volunteers	1,000	200	7.0	0	2.0	1,000	180	2.5	0	3.0	1,000	120	4.0	0	1.5
The Conservation Foundation	1,000	734	42.0	0	15.0	1,750	700	58.0	0	9.0	1,750	592	97.0	0	7.0
Upper DesPlaines River Ecosystem Partnership	500	119	7.0	0	1.0	500	42	12.0	0	1.0	-	-	-	-	-
Vermilion County SWCD	500	20	10.0	0	3.0	500	22	10.0	0	2.0	500	25	10.0	0	1.5

SCALE Recipients	2013 (cont.)					2014 (cont.)					2015 (cont.)				
	Grant	People	Miles	Acres	Tons	Grant	People	Miles	Acres	Tons	Grant	People	Miles	Acres	Tons
Village of Frankfort	500	80	0	2.0	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Village of Lake Ka-Ho Board of Trustees	500	19	0	32.0	3.0	500	17	0	26.0	5.5	500	26	0	27.0	3.0
Village of Melrose Park Silver Creek Watershed	500	34	10.0	0	1.0	500	35	10.0	0	0.8	500	70	10.0	0	0.8
Village of South Elgin – Parks and Recreation	500	12	0	0.5	2.0	500	18	1.0	0	0.5	-	-	-	-	-
Village of Swansea	500	6	1.0	0	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Village of Worth	500	76	0	75.0	10.0	500	65	0	75.0	0.5	500	62	0	72.0	0.5
Wonder Lake Sportsman’s Club (WLA)	500	26	0	830.0	6.0	500	17	0	830.0	0.5	500	14	0	830.0	1.0
Youth Conservation Corp.	-	-	-	-	-	500	28	1.0	0	0.5	500	18	2.0	0	0.5
TOTAL	37,000	13,102	657.2	6,999.0	260.1	38,750	10,882	610.8	3,996.0	178.6	37,750	7,981	802.8	995.0	147.5

- * Below the Surface did not submit a report for 2014. It is no longer eligible to participate in the SCALE program.
- ** The Boone County Conservation District event was rained out. Event rescheduled for 2016.
- *** These organizations used their 2012 SCALE funds to conduct an event in 2013.
- **** JoDaviess County Conservation Foundation used 2013 SCALE funds for an event in 2015.