



# ILLINOIS-INDIANA SEA GRANT



January 2020

Illinois-Indiana (IL-IN) Sea Grant is one of 34 Sea Grant college programs and is a collaborative program between the University of Illinois and Purdue University.



Workshop attendees share their community values as part of a Sea Grant-led workshop about the city's future.  
Credit: Abigail Bobrow

## Two communities use Tipping Point Planner tool to improve natural resource decision making

In 2018, IL-IN Sea Grant collaborated with two communities to improve land-management decision making and restoration. They led community programs to facilitate use of the IL-IN Sea Grant Tipping Point Planner, which is a web-based decision-support tool. Using the tool, 113 program participants explored policy and management interventions that could keep their aquatic ecosystems functioning stably. The two communities used the tool to develop action plans that will guide conservation and management of ecological resources in their community. In 2018, IL-IN Sea Grant also upgraded the planner and redesigned the website.

[tippingpointplanner.org](http://tippingpointplanner.org)

10,992

Acres of coastal habitat protected, enhanced or restored



22,469

K-12 students reached

3,519

Workshop and conference participants



Metrics reported to National Sea Grant Office in June 2019 for work completed February 2018 to January 2019



RESEARCH

EXTENSION

EDUCATION

## Outreach increases community commitment to environmental stewardship and support of Great Lake Legacy Act cleanup efforts



Students developed a greater “sense of place” by learning about the Grand Calumet River ecosystem.  
Credit: Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant

IL-IN Sea Grant kept communities informed as local waterways, identified as Areas of Concern, were cleaned up through the Great Lakes Legacy Act. Before the cleanup of a contaminated wetland in Michigan, IL-IN Sea Grant interviewed nearby residents, bringing to light their questions and concerns. The cleanup process, completed in 2018, was adjusted to address these concerns, as was communication to the community. IL-IN Sea Grant was also active in other Great Lakes cleanup efforts—providing an opportunity for 40 students to learn about a nearby newly-cleaned Indiana river and creating a video about cost-sharing partnership needs for future cleanups. The video, viewed more than 1,000 times by key audiences, inspired an industry summit planned by the EPA Great Lakes National Program Office.

**“[The Grand Calumet River stewardship day event] is learning at its finest. We get to impart our passion and joy for nature to the future stewards of the Grand Calumet River. This place becomes special to them.”**  
- Caitie Nigrelli, Environmental Social Scientist at Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant

### Improving science education with Hydrolab



IL-IN Sea Grant coordinates the Limno Loan program, which allows educators to borrow water monitoring equipment (Hydrolab) used by scientists for classroom and field use. Educators also have access to Hydrolab training and online resources. In 2018, 22 educators took part, reaching over 1,283 students, improving their motivation to learn and their ability to interpret and graph data.

### Keeping unwanted medicine out of waterways



Since 2008, IL-IN Sea Grant helped communities keep 118 tons of medicine from polluting waterways. In 2018, IL-IN Sea Grant helped establish four new collection programs for unwanted medicine, and in total have helped establish 55 collection programs across the Great Lakes region. In 2018 alone, these programs collected and disposed of nearly 25,000 pounds of medication.

### Reducing runoff to prevent flooding and water pollution



IL-IN Sea Grant’s work on green infrastructure has led to reduced runoff, which can prevent flooding and pollution from entering waterways. In 2018, they led four workshops that provided training and hands-on experience in building community rain gardens. During the workshops, participants installed demonstration rain gardens, which have the capacity to reduce runoff by nearly 320,000 gallons.