

NATURE-BASED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Michigan City, IN Cheney Run and Trail Creek wetland restoration site.

Delta Institute assists communities by integrating natural climate solutions and Green Infrastructure (GI) to reduce climate change impacts by capturing **100 million stormwater gallons** and leveraging **\$100 million in municipal GI investment**. We focus on communities who are disproportionately affected by flooding and climate change, to collaboratively improve their environment, mitigate local impacts of climate change, and strengthen their neighborhoods' resilience to increasingly damaging weather events.

Extreme flooding is on the rise.

The impacts of climate change are accelerating. Cities and regions throughout the Midwest continue experiencing increased flooding, water pollution from stormwater runoff, and degrading infrastructure—all threatening public health, water quality, economic opportunity, and quality of life. Furthermore, stormwater runoff carries oils, grease, pesticides, sediment, and excess nutrients into Great Lakes waterways.

A more comprehensive solution to flooding is needed that aligns traditional infrastructure with innovative practices. For Midwestern communities to viably address their rising stormwater and flooding concerns, an integrated approach is needed to safeguard homes and improve water quality.

Innovative, nature-based solutions are needed now.

Although all Midwestern communities are dealing with the impacts of climate change, Delta Institute is focusing its work with communities who are disproportionately impacted by climate change: environmentally, economically, socially, and historically.

Integrating communities' current infrastructure with natural and green infrastructure—including solutions like rain gardens, stormwater planters, permeable pavements, and bioswales—will help the Midwest address the emerging stormwater management crisis in a more cost-effective manner, while also increasing access to green space. More communities are acting through implementing and scaling GI. However,

many communities face barriers which prevent adoption: planning, design, multi-agency coordination, connecting natural systems with gray infrastructure, funding, procurement financing, maintenance, and monitoring.

Our Work and Goals

Our current and recent Nature-Based Climate Solutions goals and efforts include:

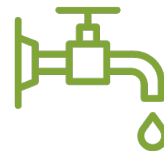
Increase adoption and integration of green and natural infrastructure. Projects include:

Partnering with communities to install GI, ranging from riparian restoration to [wetland creation](#) to [municipal/built stormwater management projects](#) to reduce flooding and improve water quality to grassroots efforts which prioritize biodiversity and economic improvement for Chicago's South Side.

[Sharing our GI designs guide](#), an open-source guide with standard GI techniques for community use; and,

Planting thousands of trees throughout the Midwest to capture as much water as possible—[such as through our recent project in Oceana County, Michigan](#)—while also hosting capacity-building workshops that advance long term forestry management at the local level.

Create an integrated administration program to scale up implementation of green and natural infrastructure. Projects include:



**100 MILLION
GALLONS**



**\$100 MILLION
INVESTED**

Collaborating with a cluster of public and private sector partners through RISC Solutions to provide tools, leverage knowledge, and execute \$10 million in investments for improved water quality and more green neighborhoods; and,

Partnering directly with municipalities to design strategies for implementing GI, such as in our [Gary, Indiana GI plan](#).

In addition to their environmental and climate benefits, these nature-based climate solutions also have positive effects on communities' insurance rates, median income, housing prices, and other economic indicators. Our work also streamlines the process for municipalities to gain access to emerging carbon and water trading markets.

We work every day to create a more resilient region for all our Midwestern family, friends, and neighbors.

Please join our efforts and help us today.



Delta Institute collaborates with communities to solve complex environmental challenges throughout the Midwest.

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Delta Institute



Delta Institute is a 501c3 nonprofit with a 2023 Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar and a Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator for our strong financial health and accountability.