



## Prioritizing Green Infrastructure

### What You Need to Know

Healthy, ecologically valuable habitat isn't just for nature preserves. Opportunities to improve our quality of life by expanding natural habitats are bountiful throughout the Chicago Wilderness Alliance four-state region and are often found in unexpected places such as on roofs or school campuses, in utility rights-of-way or detention ponds, and even in our own backyards.

### Strategies

- Increase the number of businesses and corporations engaged with the Chicago Wilderness Alliance and together identify new opportunities to develop healthy habitats throughout the region.
- Engage with additional rights-of-way owners, such as railroads and highway transportation departments, to join the efforts of ComEd and Nicor Gas to transform their properties to pollinator habitats.
- Support municipalities and counties as they use an updated EPA- approved 9-elements Watershed Plan to identify, prioritize, and estimate the cost of green infrastructure.
- Engage more school districts and universities to commit to creating pollinator gardens, which can beautify campuses and provide spaces for hands-on learning and research.



### What Motivates Us

Natural spaces enhance the quality of life for people and wildlife. Working in partnership across the region and connecting communities and wildlife are essential in creating spaces where people and nature can thrive together despite a changing climate.

### Get Involved

Prioritizing Green Infrastructure has three sub-teams that need support from volunteer professionals with a variety of skillsets and expertise: 1. Corporate/Industrial/Schools/University Campuses; 2. Rights-of-Ways; 3. Municipalities and Residential. Contact the initiative leaders:

- Maggie Soliz, Kane-DuPage County Soil & Water Conservation District and Association of IL Soil & Water Conservation Districts, [mag1022@comcast.net](mailto:mag1022@comcast.net).
- Sara Race, ComEd, [sara.race@comed.com](mailto:sara.race@comed.com).

