



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact: Lucy Hutcherson**

**[Lucy.hutcherson@chicagowilderness.org](mailto:Lucy.hutcherson@chicagowilderness.org)**

### **CHICAGO WILDERNESS ALLIANCE WELCOMES NINE NEW MEMBERS**

CHICAGO – The Chicago Wilderness alliance is pleased to welcome nine new members: **Clarke, EcoMyths, Hey and Associates, Inc., Liberty Prairie Foundation, Midewin Tallgrass Prairie Alliance, Prairie School of DuPage, Student Conservation Association, Sterling Lumber Company and Tryon Farm Institute.**

“We are delighted to welcome these eight organizations to our regional alliance as new partners in our collaborative efforts to protect and restore the interconnected lands and waters of our metropolitan landscape,” said Melinda Pruet-Jones, Executive Director of Chicago Wilderness. “Their dedication to our region and its natural resources is evidenced by their commitment to environmental sustainability, and now their membership in the Chicago Wilderness alliance.”

Much like the more than 300 Chicago Wilderness alliance organizations, these nine organizations have committed themselves to advancing environmental education, conservation and sustainability initiatives. Their membership will broaden the scope of the Chicago Wilderness alliance and further deepen the alliance’s collective conservation efforts.

- **Clarke** is a global environmental products and services company. The company’s mission is to make communities around the world more livable, safe and comfortable. This is achieved by pioneering, developing and delivering environmentally responsible mosquito control and aquatic services to help prevent disease, control nuisances and create healthy waterways. The Clarke Cares Foundation, a 501(3)(c) not-for-profit, aims to save lives and reduce suffering from mosquito-borne illnesses for those with critical needs around the world. [www.clarke.com](http://www.clarke.com)
- **EcoMyths Alliance NFP** is a consortium of 21 institutional partners. The organization creates environmental content that is fun, colloquial, and grounded in science. EcoMyths works with its scientific partners to debunk common ecological myths through publishing articles and public events. Their goal is to make science approachable and accessible to

those who want to make sustainable choices in their everyday lives.

[www.ecomythsalliance.org](http://www.ecomythsalliance.org)

- **Hey and Associates, Inc.** is a consulting firm with expertise in water resource-related issues including watershed and stormwater engineering and planning, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and wetland delineation and management. Their multi-disciplinary staff of scientists, engineers, and landscape architects brings fresh ideas and creativity to projects while considering clients' regulatory, design, construction, and long-term management requirements. [www.heyassoc.com](http://www.heyassoc.com)
- **Liberty Prairie Foundation** is a private operating foundation nationally recognized for its ability to develop local food systems that compliment natural landscapes. The foundation assists communities with agricultural land use and management. With headquarters located at the organic Prairie Crossing farm in Grayslake, IL, Liberty Prairie Foundation influences not only Lake County but also the Chicagoland area. The organization helps people connect to their food, land and community. <http://www.prairiecrossing.com/libertyprairiefoundation>
- **Midewin Tallgrass Prairie Alliance's** mission is to restore the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie with native wildlife and plants and to educate the public about prairies. The alliance has supported the restoration of the Midewin prairie since its designation as the first tallgrass prairie in the United States. <https://sites.google.com/site/midewinalliance>
- **Prairie School of DuPage** works to cultivate a sense of the natural world in children along with developing their reading, writing, math and science skills. By offering children a holistic education, the Prairie School encourages children to have a strong sense of self, compassion and respect for others, and a deep connection to their environment. The school has incorporated parts of Chicago Wilderness' Leave No Child Inside initiative to help parents and community members understand the importance of outside play.
- **Sterling Lumber Company** is a vertically-integrated company built around six decades of consistency, quality and customer service. Incorporating modern technology, inventory and adaptability with the company's core values of pride, hard work and trust, Sterling Lumber has become a reliable and long-term asset to the companies who purchase Sterling's Crane Mats, Access Mats and Construction Timber. [www.sterlinglumber.com](http://www.sterlinglumber.com).
- **Student Conservation Association (SCA)** is a national conservation corps whose members strive to protect and restore national parks, marine sanctuaries, cultural

landmarks and community green spaces. The association inspires and engages young people to lead a life of environmental stewardship. The SCA Chicago program engages local students (ages 15-19) in community conservation projects in the region. Students provide hands-on service doing meaningful environmental work projects such as trail building and restoration, invasive plant removal, revegetation projects, construction, and also participate in weekly environmental education activities. [www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org)

- **Tryon Farm Institute** is an Indiana chartered non-profit land trust and education organization. Through promoting habitat diversity and sustainable land use, Tryon Farm Institute connects human and natural communities. To further their mission of environmental education, the Institute partakes in several different restoration projects. [www.tryonfarm.com](http://www.tryonfarm.com)

### **About Chicago Wilderness**

Chicago Wilderness is a regional alliance that connects people and nature. We are more than 300 public, private and corporate organizations work together to restore local nature and improve the quality of life for all who live here, by protecting the lands and waters on which we all depend. The four key initiatives of Chicago Wilderness—to restore the health of local nature, promote green infrastructure, combat climate change, and leave no child inside—reflect our commitment to using science and emerging knowledge, as well as a collaborative approach to conservation, to benefit all the region’s residents. For more information, visit [www.chicagowilderness.org](http://www.chicagowilderness.org).

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