The Chicago Wilderness Region

Embedded in one of North America’s largest metropolitan regions and stretching from southeastern Wisconsin, through northeastern Illinois, into northwestern Indiana and southwestern Michigan is a network of natural areas that includes more than 370,000 acres of protected lands and waters. These natural areas are our wilderness, and they are home to a wide diversity of life. Thousands of native plant and animal species live here among the more than 10 million people who also call the region home.

The Chicago Wilderness Alliance

Chicago Wilderness is a regional alliance that connects people and nature. We are more than 260 organizations that 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. Our four key initiatives—to restore the health of local nature, to protect green infrastructure, to mitigate climate change, and to leave no child inside—reflect our commitment to using science and emerging knowledge, a collaborative approach to conservation, and a caring for both people and nature, to benefit all the region’s residents.

The members of Chicago Wilderness include conservation organizations, cultural and education institutions, volunteer groups, local, state and federal agencies, municipalities, corporations, and faith-based groups.
We are approaching the 20th anniversary of the Big Idea that became Chicago Wilderness.

In the beginning, thoughtful conservationists in our region came together with the realization that no one entity can protect the rare and significant biodiversity of the Chicago region alone. We must work together across our broad landscape, mindful of the fact that nature doesn’t recognize geopolitical or institutional boundaries.

And with that realization came another: that people are as integral to our landscape and its conservation as any other component. In an urbanized environment, we can not restore disrupted ecosystems, conserve biodiversity, and create a sound, sustainable region without the support of concerned residents who act as stewards and advocates.

But when the seed for Chicago Wilderness was first planted, it didn’t sprout right away. What seems obvious to us now—that nature in metropolitan environments is significant, that a collaborative, landscape-scale approach to conservation is critical, and that urban residents have a great role to play in the protection of our natural resources—were all new concepts. Today, that has changed and our alliance is considered a model to replicate; our leveraging of partnerships is considered the best way to work. For those who were involved in the conceptualization of Chicago Wilderness and its official launch in 1996, and for those of us who are newer to the alliance, it is amazing to realize how far we have come.

We are still innovating. Our multi-scale approach to greening infrastructure is unique to this region. Our holistic approach to climate mitigation and adaptation across a metropolitan region is on the leading edge of conservation science. Our restoration practices reflect the best known science, experience, and emerging technologies. And we have continually been at the lead of the national movement to connect people—especially children, our future stewards—to nature.

So what’s next? This year’s annual report is not just a collection of recent successes. While we want to take time to celebrate achievements like the Metropolitan Greenspaces Alliance, the Climate Change Update to the Biodiversity Recovery Plan, the release of a refined Green Infrastructure Vision and an ever-expanding Leave No Child Inside presence—this report is also a challenge for determining what comes next, as we recommit to that first Big Idea.

The hallmark of Chicago Wilderness’ leadership has been our ability to work on multiple levels at once: regional, community, neighborhood, and site. But our future success lies in our ability to also make a difference on the national scene as we partner with other cities and federal agencies to shape the emerging era of urban conservation. There is a growing recognition among policy makers and the public that urban conservation is an important national priority.

Chicago Wilderness helped create—and now chairs—the Metropolitan Greenspaces Alliance (MGA). The MGA is a national network of urban conservation coalitions whose members include
over 550 private, nonprofit, and public organizations from seven U.S. metropolitan regions that together are home to 30 million people. As the only such network in the U.S., the MGA is a national leader in efforts to advance the goals of urban conservation.

Through our origin in grassroots networks, our growth into regional-scale work, and now our national partnerships with other metropolitan areas, we can further ensure that our work contributes to global biodiversity conservation. And this is the continued legacy of the founders of Chicago Wilderness: that with our foundation in scientific excellence and personal commitment, combined with continued innovation, we not only protect Chicago’s wilderness, we now have a national voice and can build an ethos for people to take action to protect their wilderness, wherever they may be.

Sincerely,

Arnold Randall
General Superintendent, Forest Preserve District of Cook County and Chair, Chicago Wilderness

Laurel M. Ross
Urban Conservation Director, Environment, Culture and Conservation (ECCo), The Field Museum, and Chair, 2009 – 2012, Chicago Wilderness

Aaron Durnbaugh
Director of Sustainability, Loyola University Chicago and Vice Chair, Chicago Wilderness

Melinda Pruett-Jones
Executive Director Chicago Wilderness

Expanding the Movement

President Obama launched the America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative to develop a 21st century conservation and recreation agenda. AGO is based on the premise that lasting conservation solutions should rise from the American people—that the protection of our natural heritage is a non-partisan objective shared by all Americans.

The Initiative recognizes that many of the best ideas come from outside of Washington and looks to communities for local, grassroots conservation solutions. It calls for reworking policies and making the federal government a highly effective partner with local communities.

As the hub for urban conservation with a rich legacy of restoration successes, Chicago Wilderness is looked to by our federal agency partners to implement the AGO Initiative, maximize the great conservation work that is already underway in our region, and continue to pioneer collaborative, landscape-scale approaches to urban conservation.

Four of the national priorities are located in the Chicago Wilderness region. The Millennium Reserve: Calumet Core and the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge are being advanced through AGO resources, as are the Lake Michigan water trails along the southeast shore of Wisconsin and the Indiana shoreline. Chicago Wilderness members have been presenting our message of urban conservation through collaboration and multiple high-level conferences and meetings.
“Northwest Indiana and the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission have benefited greatly from the Chicago Wilderness partnership. We were able to build upon and integrate the Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision into both the Greenways and Blueways Plan and the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan for Northwest Indiana, with a recognition that a healthy natural environment is critical to the quality of life of our region’s residents.”

John Swanson, Executive Director, Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
The **Green Infrastructure Vision** is truly a hallmark of Chicago Wilderness’s nationally-recognized conservation leadership.

The Vision is a tool that alliance members and communities across the region can use to inform land-use planning. The Vision identifies a network of lands and waters that can be restored, protected, or connected through conservation and thoughtful, sustainable development practices. The goal is to create an accessible, interconnected network of healthy ecosystems that contribute to economic vitality and quality of life for all the region’s residents.

We believe that to achieve lasting results, greening infrastructure must be done on multiple scales: regional, community, neighborhood, and site. By participating in large-scale regional planning and site-specific shovel-ready projects, real work is done where people can see it. Chicago Wilderness pioneered this multi-scale, integrated approach and we are now sharing it with others across the country.

At the regional scale, Chicago Wilderness is partnering with regional planning agencies to promote green infrastructure as the foundation for large-scale land use planning. The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission built upon the Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision for its Greenways and Blueways Plan and the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan for Northwest Indiana, knowing that natural resource conservation is a strong component of ensuring an ecologically and economically sustainable region.

Chicago Wilderness is also partnering with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) in its Sustainable Cities grant to implement the green infrastructure strategies of CMAP’s GoTo 2040 plan. GoTo 2040 is the comprehensive regional plan to help seven counties and 284 communities in
The Morton Arboretum is committed to scientific research that improves trees in urban and natural forests, engaging communities in their management and care, and helping people understand their economic, societal, and environmental benefits.

Chicago Wilderness provides essential opportunities for collaboration with key partners on such regional initiatives. By connecting the science of trees and plants with these efforts, together we achieve mutual conservation goals.

Gerard T. Donnelly, PhD, President and CEO, The Morton Arboretum
Implementing SWAT

The Chicago Wilderness Sustainable Watershed Action Team (SWAT) is an innovative partnership that delivers customized, cost-effective technical assistance to help communities implement sustainable development practices. The SWAT model is an effective way to implement our Green Infrastructure Vision.

Currently funded through grants from Grand Victoria Foundation and The Boeing Company, SWAT has provided assistance to numerous communities in northeast Illinois. In 2010, SWAT began working with McHenry County, Campton Hills, Woodstock, Bannockburn, Mettawa, and Lincolnshire. In 2012, SWAT began work within the Kishwaukee River Corridor Planning Area, Kane County and with multiple communities in the Midlothian Creek watershed area.

SWAT in Action: Campton Hills

Incorporated in 2007, the Village of Campton Hills brought to its work with SWAT an uncommon commitment to base the new village’s planning on green infrastructure. Through almost entirely volunteer committees, passionate community residents took on the task of planning a village from the ground up.

With SWAT assistance, Campton Hills produced detailed mapping of their natural resource areas, culminating in a Green Infrastructure Report. In the final year the Village engaged the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning to lead the community through its first comprehensive planning process. The resulting draft comprehensive plan for Campton Hills uses green infrastructure as a unifying principle.
**SWAT in Action: McHenry County**

In 2010, McHenry County became the first county in Illinois to engage SWAT in a green infrastructure planning process to provide a countywide framework for protecting and enhancing the County’s unique, environmentally significant landscapes and water resources. The goal was to create a plan that would serve as the foundation for green infrastructure planning and implementation at every level—from the county, municipalities, and park districts to the neighborhoods, streets, and individual lots.

During the year and a half planning process, the team of planners, County, municipal and township officials, and environmental experts used a sophisticated GIS tool to develop a comprehensive look at the county’s environmental resources. The resulting maps were then refined to identify the natural connections that already exist between environmentally valuable areas, as well as opportunities for new connections. **In 2012, the McHenry County Green Infrastructure Plan received the Illinois American Planning Association Award for Best Strategic Plan.**

McHenry County also committed to provide planning help and the GIS resource layers to all County communities, and is currently working with the City of Woodstock and SWAT on Woodstock’s green infrastructure planning process.
LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE 2012
“We at the Waukegan First Baptist Church have become convinced that a holistic spirituality, based in nature, is a necessary component to being fully human, fully alive, and fully responsible as stewards of family, community, and planet. Through the support of Chicago Wilderness and our collaboration with environmental, community renewal, and faith-based organizations, we have been able to establish programs - such as the Cool Learning Experience nature-based summer learning program for school-age children - that allow Waukegan residents to gain essential access to nature. These collaborative programs allow residents to work as a community to improve the health, development, and spirituality of their neighbors and surrounding neighborhoods.”

Keith Cerk, Senior Pastor,
First Baptist Church of Waukegan
Research shows that childhood experiences in the outdoors, coupled with the presence of an adult role model, are key to developing a lifelong concern with the well-being of the environment.

Nature experiences are also crucial to every aspect of childhood development, from physical well-being, to cognitive development and social and emotional growth. But the latest national surveys indicate that American children and families are engaged with camping, hiking, fishing, and other nature-based activities less and less often. Furthermore, many children simply do not have access to safe green spaces where they can connect with nature.

Chicago Wilderness supports collaborations between conservation organizations and community partners that leave no child – regardless of his or her background – inside. We believe that all children should be able to experience what it’s like to wade through the tall grasses of a prairie, explore a forest, play in a stream, or simply chase fireflies on a warm midsummer night. The Chicago Wilderness Leave No Child Inside initiative raises awareness about the importance of nature play and exploration, and provides opportunities for generations of families to connect with nature.

June’s Leave No Child Inside Month is the centerpiece of the initiative, but outdoor programs and events happen year-round as Chicago Wilderness members inspire new generations of healthy children, who we hope will become passionate conservationists.
**15,000 Participate Annually in Leave No Child Inside Month**

The Chicago Wilderness alliance celebrates June as Leave No Child Inside Month, and in 2011 and 2012 more than 15,000 of our region’s children and adults participated in a wide array of family-friendly events organized by 70 Chicago Wilderness member organizations and their community partners. During the events, families were able to climb trees, paddle in canoes, view wildlife, catch and release fish and insects, play in the mud, and join in many more activities designed to nurture children’s sense of wonder and discovery.

In northwest Indiana, Chicago Wilderness also partnered with community-based organizations such as Boys & Girls Clubs, schools, and women’s shelters to enable families of diverse backgrounds to celebrate Leave No Child Inside Month and to continue to explore the outdoors throughout the summer at sites managed by the National Park Service, Dunes Learning Center, Shirley Heinze Land Trust, Save the Dunes, and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. Sponsored by BP America, Inc., Chicago Wilderness was able to provide free transportation to the events for families from communities across northwest Indiana.

**Engaging Diverse Communities**

Chicago Wilderness members are making it a priority to engage ethnically and economically diverse communities in all four of the alliance’s key initiatives, and in particular within Leave No Child Inside. Latinos are now the largest and fastest-growing minority in the United States, where nearly one out of every four children is of Hispanic or Latino origin. In 2011, led by Friends of Ryerson Woods, Chicago Wilderness members and partner organizations serving the Waukegan area worked with Cultural Strategies, an Austin-based marketing firm, to uncover the individual and systemic barriers that prevent Latinos from participating in Leave No Child Inside programs. Partnering with Chicago Wilderness, the Harold M. and Adeline S. Morrison Family Foundation supported this crucial analysis and helped bring diverse stakeholders from the community together.

Based on our findings, the Waukegan Leave No Child Inside partnership is implementing new engagement strategies, including establishing a Latino Advisory Committee and developing a Nature Navigator position to connect Latinos to Leave No Child Inside programs. The Waukegan Leave No Child Inside partners are now working with Cultural Strategies on a similar study that targets North Chicago’s and Waukegan’s African American communities.
Villages Encourage Families to Play Outside

Two villages, South Barrington and Lake Zurich, joined the campaign to get children away from the TV and videogames by passing proclamations that encourage residents to instead camp under the stars, follow a trail, and explore nature in their neighborhoods. The proclamations refer to research that demonstrates that outdoor play helps children manage stress and become more resilient. It also stimulates children’s imaginations and fosters creativity.

“Our society today is full of demands for the attention of young people, from sports and school to music lessons and spending too much time texting,” said Mayor Frank Munao of the Village of South Barrington, a long-time supporter of Leave No Child Inside. “But a whole new world unfolds before the eyes of boys and girls enrolled in our nature programs.”

Both villages are longtime supporters of the Barrington and Lake Zurich Area Leave No Child Inside initiative, a cross-community effort to foster awareness of the importance of nature-based activities for healthy childhood development. Members of the initiative include organizations as diverse as the Barrington School District 220 Parent Teacher Organization, the Ela and Barrington Area Libraries, the Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, and Citizens for Conservation.

Chicago Wilderness drafted the language of the proclamations in 2009, when the Illinois legislature and Governor Patrick Quinn passed a resolution declaring June to be Leave No Child Inside Month in Illinois.
Chicago Wilderness Members Connect Science Teachers with Local Biodiversity

Three Chicago Wilderness member organizations – the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum – worked with teachers from five high schools to design and implement a science curriculum that integrates local biodiversity and hands-on experiences in nature with classroom learning. Funding for the program’s pilot year was provided by the Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council. The program, called the Teaching Academy, involved a series of six forest ecology workshops throughout the spring, summer, and fall of 2011. Eleven teachers, from 10 different high schools, completed the six-day program.

Youth-Led Partnership Connects Students with Nature

A group of young leaders represented Chicago Wilderness at the 2011 Outdoor Nation Youth Summit in Minneapolis, and received a seed grant to implement Campus Clubs Chicago, a student-to-student mentorship program that connects urban youth with the outdoors through a series of expeditions at Forest Preserve District of Cook County sites. During the 2012-2013 school year, members of Loyola University’s Ramble Outdoors Club will work with REI, the Bronzeville Historical Society, and the Forest Preserve District to facilitate hiking, birding, fishing, and other outdoor activities with students at the Chicago Academy High School in Portage Park. The program strives to increase students’ knowledge of the local environment as well as their comfort level with outdoor recreation.

Playing with Sticks and Mud at the Lake County Forest Preserve’s Kids Nature Fun Fest
“Hauntingly beautiful images of nature - and nature together with people - are a hallmark of Chicago Wilderness. These images serve as poignant reminders of the natural world that graces and defines our region. I submit that this natural world also enriches our lives in ways that we can scarcely yet understand or value. Today, our collective challenge is to bequeath to future generations a natural world that instills the same sense of wonder and one that is genuinely valued by all. I believe Chicago Wilderness and its alliance members provide the best means of doing just that!”

Steven Byers, Field Representative, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and Co-Chair, Chicago Wilderness Natural Resource Management Team
Chicago Wilderness members are dedicated to protecting nature and enriching life. Healthy nature gives us opportunities for recreation, discovery, and spiritual renewal. And like all other living things, we are completely dependent on healthy nature for our most fundamental needs—clean air, clean water, food, and medicines. Our region is rich with these resources, but will only remain so with persistent and energetic restoration action.

In an urban environment, where natural systems are disrupted and disconnected, we know that natural communities need to be actively managed and conserved based on scientific principles and best management practices. Through the four key initiatives of Chicago Wilderness, we are working to keep the region’s natural systems healthy and sustainable for the benefit of people and nature. Chicago Wilderness members actively work to repair breaks in natural land and water connections, reduce pollution, remove invasive species, and correct imbalances in plant and wildlife populations.

Because so many Chicago Wilderness members dedicate their efforts to on-the-ground restoration projects, the alliance focuses its work on big picture efforts that will help them succeed. By leveraging resources to develop long-term plans, building relationships, and adding capacity, Chicago Wilderness advances regional restoration goals.

The Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council coordinates an annual Day of Service to offer residents a chance to help protect and restore the region’s natural areas. Each year volunteers cut brush, collect seeds, mulch, build trails, remove invasive plants, and cleanup sites around the region. Since the program launched in 2009, more than 640 volunteers have participated at 47 sites.

Excellence in Ecological Restoration

This year, Chicago Wilderness developed the Excellence in Ecological Restoration Program to recognize and celebrate best management practices in ecological restoration, based on the principles outlined in the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan. The program identifies professional standards of excellence in natural resource management, and recognizes best management practices through a voluntary, comprehensive assessment process.

Beyond promoting excellence in restoring the ecological health of a site, the program will raise awareness of the outstanding work of the agencies and organizations throughout the region that are responsible for caring for public lands, and the need for consistent resources for them to carry out this critical work.
“One of the things we’re really pushing for our industry is sustainability. We link to that through Chicago Wilderness because it’s all related—the sustainability and restoration efforts. It’s really a whole new awareness of what’s going on and what’s important in the world.”

Anna Ball, President & CEO, Ball Horticultural Company

**Burning to Restore**

Naturally occurring fires historically helped maintain native habitats of the Chicago Wilderness region. Today, controlled burns are used to keep natural areas healthy by reducing invasive vegetation and stimulating the germination and growth of many native plant species. The Chicago Wilderness Midwest Ecological Prescription Burn Crew Member Training course provides participants with the background necessary to safely join the crew of a prescribed burn. These trainings are necessary, but the long-term success of restoration programs requires both trained personnel and significant planning.

One such planning opportunity is the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, a Chicago Wilderness project led by the Lake County Forest Preserve District in collaboration with a number of other alliance members and partners. When completed at the end of 2012, the plan will facilitate relationships between firefighters and land managers to create safe burn situations that also advance restoration goals. The plan’s maps and recommendations will build managers’ capacity to use technology and work within existing infrastructure and services. The goal is to produce a formal plan for Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois. In addition, a template will be available so other counties can develop their own tailored plans.

**Grandfathers of the Midwest**

In the early nineteenth century, oaks covered tens of thousands of acres across contiguous areas throughout the Chicago Wilderness region. The beautiful and ecologically rare habitats have suffered staggering losses and oaks are not regenerating sufficiently to out-compete other opportunistic species. The loss of these oaks will result in profound environmental ramifications. Oaks are considered “keystone” species in the Chicago Wilderness region, and provide a critical role in the ecosystems they share with thousands of other species. To understand what has been lost from our oak communities, what we are in danger of losing, and determine what we can do about it, Chicago Wilderness members initiated a sweeping Oak Ecosystem Mapping & Recovery Project.

Chicago Wilderness will directly address the oak crisis by launching a coordinated, regional-scale recovery effort for the oak ecosystems, starting in northeastern Illinois. The genesis for the project came in 2005 when the McHenry County Conservation District mapped existing oak communities in that county and compared them temporally and spatially with records reaching back to the 1800s. Using funds from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, a team replicated this mapping project for Lake County, Illinois. Now, with a grant from the USDA Forest Service, Chicago Wilderness members are working to expand the project. All of this information will be used to develop a regional plan and strategy for protecting and recovering the oak ecosystems of Chicago Wilderness.
“Climate change will impact every species, habitat, and community within the Chicago Wilderness region in various forms and magnitude. The many challenges that climate change brings to conserving biodiversity has to be addressed in an interdisciplinary, collaborative fashion. The ever expanding diverse and dedicated partnership of Chicago Wilderness empowers us with the knowledge and expertise to address challenges that we face now and will have to address in the future in our region. The Climate Action Plan for Nature and the recent Climate Change Update to the Biodiversity Recovery Plan not only serve as guides but also as examples of our shared commitment to work together to meet the challenge.”

Kristopher Lah, Endangered Species Coordinator, US Fish and Wildlife Service—Chicago Ecological Services Field Office
Climate change exacerbates existing threats to our region’s nature – such as habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive species and pollution – and requires us to recognize and adapt to changing circumstances.

Chicago Wilderness’ Climate Action initiative represents the efforts of Chicago Wilderness members to share resources and expertise to guide our region through the complexities of conservation in a changing climate.

Just as all things in nature are connected, the coordinated, strategic actions we take through Chicago Wilderness’ other initiatives also advance our climate action goals. By restoring the health of the region’s natural areas, Chicago Wilderness members are making our lands and waters, and the plant and animal communities they hold, more resilient.

By connecting preserves and creating a network of green (and blue) corridors, Greening Infrastructure will help native plants and wildlife live, migrate, and survive in a changing environment.

By encouraging and developing a new generation of passionate, conservation-minded children, Leave No Child Inside sets future generations up for success in a world that could be very different from the one in which we now live.

In 2010, Chicago Wilderness members developed the Climate Action Plan for Nature. The plan identifies strategies that organizations can implement to help humans and nature respond and adapt to changes in our climate. It is the first regional plan for navigating the complexities of conservation in a world with a changing climate.

Since then the Chicago Wilderness Climate Change Task Force, led by The Field Museum, engaged natural resource managers, scientists and researchers in a series of “Climate Clinics” to garner on-the-ground knowledge of what is happening now in the region’s natural communities, and build the collective capacity of resource managers to implement adaptation strategies.

The result is a Climate Change Update to the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan; a roadmap for natural area conservation and restoration from a climate change perspective. The Update represents two and a half years of collaborative work and input from more than 100 experts on the expected climate impacts on the region’s plants and wildlife. It focuses on habitat-specific adaptation strategies, and highlights research questions that will help inform climate-smart management. The Update is a web-based resource; a living document that will be continually updated as new knowledge emerges (climate.chicagowilderness.org).
Climate Action in Your Neighborhood

Thanks to The Field Museum and a collection of community partners, there is now a helpful companion document to the Chicago Wilderness Climate Action Plan for Nature that provides communities with concrete actions they can carry out in their neighborhoods. The Chicago Wilderness Community Climate Action Toolkit provides more than 60 multimedia tools, available in English and Spanish, to help residents take climate action in their communities.

The toolkit (climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org) includes strategies designed to assist individuals and communities in lessening the future impacts of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as helping plants and animals adapt to climate change.

Respecting Nature’s Boundaries

Natural habitats, bird migrations and weather patterns ignore human-made boundaries. State lines have zero effect on where climate change will disrupt plant and animal life. Therefore, to develop solutions for and mitigate effects of climate change in our real-world situation, the Department of the Interior, other federal agencies, states, and nonprofit organizations have developed 22 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs). LCCs are landscape-scale partnerships designed to build organizations’ shared capacity to integrate science, natural resource management and conservation to sustain key fish and wildlife species in the face of climate change and other environmental threats across the continent.

The Chicago Wilderness model of collaborative conservation clearly mirrors the rationale behind the LCCs, and because our alliance has been working on these issues for years, scientists are looking to us for examples of how to apply climate science in on-the-ground projects that work for people as well as nature. Chicago Wilderness climate clinics, plans, and toolkits provide examples that LCCs here and in other regions can replicate and build on. We’ve shown what works across four states in urban, exurban, suburban, and rural environments that include endangered species, rare habitats and millions of people.

Our region sits in the overlapping landscape of two LCCs: Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers and Upper Midwest and Great Lakes. Chicago Wilderness is in a unique position to help these LCCs be effective in articulating common goals, identifying conservation priorities, building shared scientific capacity, and facilitating information sharing. Our region is also a great testing ground for how to coordinate partnerships among federal, regional, and local entities in order to make a difference for people and nature.
Thank you to the organizations, foundations, and individuals that supported the efforts of Chicago Wilderness and its members through financial contributions and in-kind support.

The Chicago Wilderness Alliance
Revenues to the Chicago Wilderness Trust

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<th>Revenues</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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**Combined Revenue**    **$791,791**

How the Alliance Invested its Revenue During the 2011 – 2012 Fiscal Year

Chicago Wilderness operates efficiently, leveraging the capacity of its diverse member organizations. This year, 87% of its expenses went directly into the collaborative projects and programs of the alliance.

<table>
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<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>1% Fundraising</td>
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<td>12% Management &amp; General</td>
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<td>87% Program</td>
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**Total Expenses**     **$843,465**
### Corporations, Foundations, Organizations and Government Agencies

- Alphawood Foundation
- Applied Ecological Services
- Arabella Investment Advisors
- ArcelorMittal
- Bobolink Foundation
- Boeing Corporation
- BP America, Inc.
- Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.
- Cardno JFNew
- Chicago Area Combined Federal Campaign
- Comcast Foundation
- ComEd
- Conservation Design Forum, Inc.
- First Congregational Church of Wilmette
- Fogelson Foundation
- Friends of Ryerson Woods
- Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
- Geosyntec Consultants
- Grand Victoria Foundation
- Green Earth Organics, Inc.
- Hamill Family Foundation
- Harold M. and Adeline S. Morrison Family Foundation
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Kohl’s
- Martin J. and Susan B. Kozak Fund of the Foundation
- Midwest Groundcovers, LLC.
- MS Graphics and Web, Inc.
- National Audubon Society, Inc.
- New South Equipment Mats
- North Shore Unitarian Church
- Pizzo & Associates
- Serosun Farms
- SNR Denton US LLP
- Tallgrass Restoration, LLC.
- The Outdoor Foundation
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDA Forest Service
- V3 Companies

### Individuals

**Biodiversity Guild**
- Anonymous (1)
- Charles D. Haffner III
- Dr. George Rabb
- Louis F. Schauer

**Wilderness League**
- Dennis and Connie Keller

**Conservation Circle**
- Edwards Lyons and Jean Sussman
- Stephen and Melinda Pruett-Jones
- Martha and Zink Sanders

**Habitat Club**
- Nathalie Alberts
- Tom Beck
- Lisa Bronson
- Peter Chen
- Andrea Cross
- Jodi Delfosse
- John and Michelle Gillett
- Lou Ann and Larry Grabowski
- Allison Margolies
- Kenneth Mathieu
- Dale Shriver
- Peter Taub and Mary Murphy
- Nancy Wallace and David Shiner
- Michael Zarski

**Friends of Chicago Wilderness**
- Karneishia Barnes
- Steve Bartos
- Ann Becker and David Muschler
- Kimberly A. Blaszczyk
- Erwin Epstein
- Jenny Partridge
- Scott Preece
- Aron Silverton
- Anne Valentin
- Mary White
- Michael Wolfson
Chicago Wilderness implemented the following projects during its 2011–12 fiscal year.

### Greening Infrastructure

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<td>Wilderness Region: A Tool for Tracking Progress toward Sustainability</td>
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<td>across Multiple Geographic Scales</td>
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<td>Assisting Communities with Green Infrastructure Planning</td>
<td>Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; City of Blue Island; City of Rockford; City of Woodstock; Conservation Design Forum; Cowhey Gudmundson Leder, Ltd.; Environmental</td>
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<td>Using the Sustainable Watershed Action Team (SWAT) Model</td>
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<td>of McHenry County; SmithGroup JJR, LLC; McHenry County Bicycle Advocates; McHenry County Conservation District; McHenry County Department of Planning and Development;</td>
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<td>Service; Village of Bannockburn; Village of Campton Hills; Village of Cherry Valley; Village of Lincolnshire; Village of Mettawa; Village of New Milford; Weaver Boos Consultants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicago STEW-MAP: The Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project</td>
<td>Center for Neighborhood Technology; The Field Museum; USDA Forest Service</td>
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<td>Developing a Prototype of the Chicago Wilderness Knowledge Base: A Web-</td>
<td>Cardno ENTRIX, Inc.; Chicago State University; Cowhey Gudmundson Leder, Ltd.; Environmental Planning Solutions, Inc.; The Field Museum; Futurity, Inc.; Illinois</td>
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<td>Accessible Data Management System to Support Implementation of the</td>
<td>Department of Natural Resources; Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; Kane County Planning Cooperative; Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnership; Lake County</td>
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<td>Green Infrastructure Vision</td>
<td>Stormwater Management Commission; Lake County Forest Preserves; The Land Conservancy of McHenry County; SmithGroup JJR, LLC; McHenry County Bicycle Advocates; McHenry</td>
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<td></td>
<td>County Conservation District; McHenry County Department of Planning and Development; McHenry-Lake County Soil and Water Conservation Service; Natural Lands Institute;</td>
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<td>Nippersink Creek Watershed Committee; Olson Ecological Solutions, LLC; Openlands; Rockford Park District; Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning; South Suburban</td>
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<td>Mayors and Managers Association; Trotter &amp; Associates, Inc.; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Village of Bannockburn; Village of Campton Hills; Village</td>
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<td>of Cherry Valley; Village of Lincolnshire; Village of Mettawa; Village of New Milford; Weaver Boos Consultants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exploring the Development of an Urban Long Term Research Area (ULTRA)</td>
<td>City of Chicago Department of Environment; DePaul University; The Field Museum; Lincoln Park Zoo; Loyola University; Purdue University; University of Illinois at</td>
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<tr>
<td>for the Chicago Wilderness Region: Connecting the Social and Ecological</td>
<td>Chicago; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; USDA Forest Service</td>
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<td>Sciences with Planners, Managers, and the Public</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementing the US Environmental Protection Agency and Chicago</td>
<td>Burns &amp; McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.; Chicago Botanic Garden; Conserve Lake County: Forest Preserve District of Cook County; Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc.;</td>
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<td>Wilderness Conservation &amp; Native Landscaping Awards Program</td>
<td>Lake County Forest Preserves; The Morton Arboretum; Naperville Park District; The Nature Conservancy – Indiana; Save the Dunes; Shirley Heinze Land Trust; USDA Forest</td>
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<td>Service - Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie; US Department of Energy Argonne National Laboratory; US Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes National Program Office; US</td>
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<td>Environmental Protection Agency Region 5; Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, Ltd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refining the Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision</td>
<td>Applied Ecological Services (AES); Cardno ENTRIX, Inc.; Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; City of Chicago; The Conservation Foundation; The Conservation Fund; The</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Field Museum; Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; Lake County Forest Preserves; US Army Corps of Engineers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation and Environmental Collaboration Initiative in McHenry</td>
<td>Delta Institute; Environmental Defenders of McHenry County; The Field Museum; The Land Conservancy of McHenry County; McHenry-Lake Soil &amp; Water Conservation District;</td>
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<tr>
<td>County and Northwest Indiana</td>
<td>Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission; Save the Dunes; Shirley Heinze Land Trust</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Leave No Child Inside

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Project Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Wilderness Teaching Academy: Connecting High Schools to Local</td>
<td>The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum; Chicago Botanic Garden; Deerfield High School; Lake County Forest Preserves</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cool Learning Experience: Fostering Career Awareness Through Community</td>
<td>First Baptist Church of Waukegan; US Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partners</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### PROJECTS continued

| Engaging Latino Families in Leave No Child Inside | First Baptist Church of Waukegan; Friends of Ryerson Woods; Green Youth Farm (Chicago Botanic Garden); Lake County Forest Preserves; Lake County Health Department; Lake Forest Open Lands Association; Waukegan Park District; Waukegan Public Library |
| Mighty Acorns: A Regional Conservation Stewardship Education Program | Bensenville Park District; Chicago Park District; The Conservation Foundation; Dunes Learning Center; Elgin High School; The Field Museum; Forest Preserve District of Cook County; Forest Preserve District of DuPage County; Forest Preserve District of Kane County; Friends of the Forest Preserves; Girl Scouts of Chicago; Girl Scouts of Fox Valley; Girl Scouts of Rock River Valley; Iron Oaks Environmental Learning Center; Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District; Lake County Forest Preserves; Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation; McHenry County Conservation District; Northbrook Park District; Prairie Club Conservation Fund; Springbrook Nature Center; Spring Valley Nature Center; USDA Forest Service - Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie; USDA National Park Service/Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore |
| Next Generation of Conservation Leaders | Alliance for the Great Lakes; Associated Colleges of Illinois; Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum; Chicago Botanic Garden; Chicago Park District; Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo; Dunes Learning Center; The Field Museum; Forest Preserve District of Cook County; Friends of the Forest Preserves; Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; Lake County Forest Preserves; USDA National Park Service/Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore |
| Open Spaces Sacred Places: Establishing a Healing Green Space in Downtown Waukegan | First Baptist Church of Waukegan; Health and Human Landscape Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Lake County Forest Preserves; Parkland College |
| TogetherGreen: Building Partnerships to Connect Chicago Families to the Outdoors | Chicago Park District; The Field Museum; Illinois Department of Natural Resources |

### Restoring the Health of Local Nature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
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<tr>
<td>Advancing the Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership</td>
<td>Cardno ENTRIX, Inc.; Chicago Botanic Garden; The Field Museum; Forest Preserve District of Cook County; Lake County Forest Preserves; Lake County Health Department; The Morton Arboretum; USDA Forest Service - Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessing the Oak Resources of Northeast Illinois and Implementing a Cooperative Strategy to Restore Oak Dominance to the Region’s Tree Canopy</td>
<td>Barrington Area Conservation Trust; Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership; Cardno ENTRIX, Inc.; Citizens for Conservation; The Conservation Foundation; Conserve Lake County; The Field Museum; Forest Preserve District of Cook County; Forest Preserve District of DuPage County; Forest Preserve District of Kane County; Forest Preserve District of Will County; Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; Kendall County Forest Preserve District; Lake County Forest Preserves; The Land Conservancy of McHenry County; McHenry County Conservation District; Openlands; The Morton Arboretum; USDA Forest Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Wilderness Land Management Research Program: 100 Sites for 100 Years</td>
<td>Center for Humans and Nature; Chicago Botanic Garden; DePaul University; The Field Museum; Forest Preserve District of Cook County; Forest Preserve District of DuPage County; Lake County Forest Preserves; McHenry County Conservation District; University of Illinois at Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region</td>
<td>Beach Park Fire Department; Forest Preserve District of Cook County; Forest Preserve District of DuPage County; Forest Preserve District of Kane County; Forest Preserve District of Will County; Grayslake Fire Department; Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Illinois Fire Service Institute; Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; Lake County Forest Preserves; McHenry County Conservation District; The Nature Conservancy – Illinois; Pleasant Prairie Fire and Rescue; USDA Forest Service; USDA National Park Service/Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; Wildfire Management &amp; Training Specialists; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing the Chicago Wilderness Excellence in Ecological Restoration Program</td>
<td>The Field Museum; Forest Preserve District of Cook County; Forest Preserve District of DuPage County; Forest Preserve District of Kane County; Forest Preserve District of Will County; Illinois Department of Natural Resources; McHenry County Conservation District; US Environmental Protection Agency Region 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing a Chicago Wilderness Position Statement on Feral and Unattended Domestic Cats Outdoors</td>
<td>Audubon-Chicago Region; Bird Conservation Network; Chicago Ornithological Society; Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo; Forest Preserve District of Kane County; Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Lake County Forest Preserves; Lake County Health Department; McHenry County Conservation District; US Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing a Regional Strategy for Grassland Bird Conservation</td>
<td>Audubon-Chicago Region; Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.; The Field Museum; Forest Preserve District of Kane County; Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Illinois Natural History Survey; Lake County Forest Preserves; The Nature Conservancy – Indiana; US Army Corps of Engineers; US Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Midwest Ecological Prescription Burn Crew Member Training Program
Bartlett Park District; Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo; Conserve Lake County; Forest Preserve District of Cook County; Forest Preserve District of DuPage County; Prairie Crossing Charter School; The Morton Arboretum

Alliance for the Great Lakes; Biodiversity Project; Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.; Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Northwater Consulting

## RESTORE (Rethinking Ecological & Social Trends of Restoration Ecology): Evaluating the Biodiversity and Social Outcomes of Different Models of Restoration Planning in the Chicago Wilderness Region
DePaul University; The Field Museum; Loyola University; University of Illinois at Chicago; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; USDA Forest Service

## Restoring Sites of Regional Significance in Chicago Wilderness
Cardno ENTRIX, Inc.; Fields of Cambridge Homeowners Association; Forest Preserve District of DuPage County; Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; Integrated Lakes Management, Inc.; Conserve Lake County; Shirley Heinze Land Trust; US Fish and Wildlife Service

## Climate Change

### Project
### Project Partners

**Chicago Climate-Ready Checklist for Natural Areas and Green Spaces**
Chicago Botanic Garden; City of Chicago Bureau of Forestry; City of Chicago Department of Environment; City of Chicago Department of Streets & Sanitation; City of Chicago Department of Transportation; Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; Chicago Park District; Chicago Public Schools; Chicago Transit Authority; The Field Museum; Forest Preserve District of Cook County; Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago; The Nature Conservancy - Illinois; Public Building Commission of Chicago; University of Notre Dame.

**Chicago Community Climate Action Toolkit**
Angelic Organics Learning Center; Boy Scout Troop 626; Bronzeville Alliance Green Team; Bronzeville Community Garden; Casa Michoacán; Center for Neighborhood Technology; Centers for New Horizons; The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum; Chicago Architecture Foundation; Chicago Botanic Garden; Chicago Conservation Corps; Chicago Cultural Alliance; Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; Chicago Public Art Group; City of Chicago and Global Philanthropy Partnership; Claretian Associates; Community Media Workshop; Delta Institute; El Hogar del Niño; Eden Place Nature Center; Energy Action Network at the Citizens Utility Board; G Studio; Gabrielle Environmental Services; Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance; Generation To Generation Church; Girl Scout Troop 20804; Global Alliance of Artists Chicago Arts and Environment XChange; Green City Landscaping; Institute of Cultural Affairs; Local Initiatives Support Corporation; Majani Catering; NeighborSpace; Openlands; Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization; Sauganash Chamber of Commerce; Sauganash Community Association; South Chicago Art Center; South Chicago Retrofit Project; Spanish Coalition for Housing; The Student Conservation Association; Urban Juncture; The Zone (Southeast United Methodist Youth & Community Center)

**Chicago Wilderness Climate Clinics for Natural Resource Managers and Environmental Educators**
The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum; Chicago Botanic Garden; City of Chicago Department of Environment, The Field Museum; University of Illinois Extension; US Fish and Wildlife Service

**Climate Change Update to the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan**
Alliance for the Great Lakes; Cardno ENTRIX; Cardno JNew; Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum; Chicago Botanic Garden; Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; Chicago Park District; The Field Museum; Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant; Illinois Natural History Survey; Lake County Health Department; The Morton Arboretum; The Nature Conservancy - Illinois; Purdue University; University of Illinois at Chicago; University of Notre Dame; USDA National Park Service/Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; USDA Forest Service; US Department of Energy Argonne National Laboratory; US Environmental Protection Agency Region 5; US Fish and Wildlife Service; WRD Environmental
The alliance gratefully acknowledges the institutional representatives who have most recently served on the Chicago Wilderness executive Council:

**Audubon—Chicago Region**  
Stephen Packard, Justin Pepper, Judy Pollock

**Biodiversity Project**  
Jennifer Browning

**Center for Humans and Nature**  
Brooke Hecht, Gavin Van Horn, Anja Claus

**Center for Neighborhood Technology**  
Harriet Festing, Bill Eyring

**The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum**  
Deborah Lahey, Rafael Rosa

**Chicago Botanic Garden**  
Greg Mueller, Bob Kirschner

**Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning**  
Randy Blankenhorn, Jesse Elam

**Chicago Park District**  
Adam Schwerner, Peggy Stewart, Zhanna Yermakov

**Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council**  
James Jerozai (Chair, Corporate Council)

**Chicago Wilderness Trust**  
Dale Engquist (President, Chicago Wilderness Trust)

**Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo**  
Stuart Strahl, David Becker, Jo-Elle Mogerman

**City of Chicago**  
Karen Weigert, Aaron Joseph

**DePaul University, Environmental Science Program**  
Liam Heneghan, Barbara Willard

**The Field Museum**  
Laurel Ross, Doug Stotz

**Fishin’ Buddies!**  
John Kidd Jr., John Kidd III

**Forest Preserve District of Cook County**  
Arnold Randall (Chair, Chicago Wilderness), Cathy Geraghty, Mary Laraia

**Forest Preserve District of DuPage County**  
Dave Guritz, John Oldenburg, Bill Weidner

**Forest Preserve District of Kane County**  
Monica Meyers

**Forest Preserve District of Will County**  
Marcy DeMauro, Ralph Schultz

**Friends of the Chicago River**  
Margaret Frisbie, John Quail

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources**  
John Rogner, Lynn Boerman, Nancy Williamson

**Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board**  
Dan Gooch

**Illinois Natural History Survey**  
Brian Anderson, Geoff Levin

**Illinois Nature Preserves Commission**  
Steven Byers

**John G. Shedd Aquarium**  
Jim Robinett

**Kendall County Forest Preserve District**  
Jason Pettit, Megan Andrews

**Lake County Forest Preserves (IL)**  
Andrew Kimmel, Gina Lettiere

**Lincoln Park Zoo**  
Steven Thompson, Kevin Bell, Rachel Bergren

**Loyola University Chicago, Center for Urban Environmental Research & Policy**  
Aaron Durnbaugh, Nancy Tuchman, Gina Lettiere

**McHenry County Conservation District**  
Elizabeth Kessler, Kevin Ivers

**McHenry County Conservation Foundation**  
Nancy Williamson, Yvonne Semel

**Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago**  
David St. Pierre, Allison Fore, Manju Sharma

**The Morton Arboretum**  
Gerard Donnelly, Nicole Cavender, Suzanne Malec-McKenna

**The Nature Conservancy—Illinois**  
Bob Moseley, Susan Donovan

**Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission**  
John Swanson, Kathy Luther

**Northwestern University Environmental Policy & Culture Program**  
Yael Wolinsky, Paul Friesema

**Openlands**  
Gerald Adelmann, Lenore Beyer-Clow

**Purdue University Calumet**  
Edward Pierson, Diane Trgovcich Zacok

**School of Environmental Education**  
Riverside Brookfield High School

**Shirley Heinze Land Trust**  
Kristopher Krouse, Dale Engquist

**Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter**  
Jack Darin

**University of Chicago—Civic Knowledge Project**  
Bart Schultz

**University of Illinois at Chicago**  
David Wise, Mary Ashley, Joel Brown, Henry Howe

**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
Lynne Whelan

**US Department of Energy, Argonne National Laboratory**  
John Krummel, Casey Sullivan

**US Fish and Wildlife Service**  
Louise Clemency, Shawn Cirton, Kris Lah

**USDA Forest Service**  
Barbara Tormoehlen, Tom Dilley, Lynne Westphal

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
Rand Briggs, Don McCallon

**USDI National Park Service/Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore**  
Costa Dillon, Kimberly Swift, Garry Traynham

**Village of Lincolnshire**  
Jennifer Hughes

**Waukegan Citizen’s Advisory Group**  
Susie Schreiber, Sharon Thieszen

**The Wetlands Initiative**  
Paul Botts

**Honorary Member**  
George Rabb, President Emeritus, Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo
MEMBERS OF CHICAGO WILDERNESS

262 Members as of July 2012

Alliance for the Great Lakes
Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative
Audubon – Chicago Region
BackYard Nature Center
Barrington Area Conservation Trust
Barrington Area Council of Governments
Batavia Plain Dirt Gardeners
Benedictine University
Biodiversity Project
Bird Conservation Network
Blacks in Green (BiG)
Bolingbrook Park District
Boone Creek Watershed Alliance
Bronzeville/Black Chicagoan Historical Society
Buffalo Grove Park District
Butterfield Creek Steering Committee
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Calumet Environmental Resource Center at Chicago State University
Campton Historic Agricultural Lands, Inc.
Campton Township
Canal Corridor Association
Caretakers of the Environment International/USA
Cary Park District
Center for Humans and Nature
Center for Neighborhood Technology
The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
Chicago Audubon Society
Chicago Botanic Garden
Chicago Cultural Alliance
Chicago Herpetological Society
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Chicago Ornithological Society
Chicago Park District
Chicago Wilderness Trust
Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo
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Chicagoland Councils of the Boy Scouts of America
Chicago’s Green City Market
Chiwaukeo Prairie Preservation Fund, Inc.
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City of Elgin Parks & Recreation Department
City of Park Ridge
City of Rolling Meadows

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Coffee Creek Watershed Conservancy
College of DuPage
The Conservation Foundation
The Conservation Fund
Conservation Research Institute
Conserv Lake County
Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory at Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Crystal Lake Park District
Deerfield High School
Deerpath Farm Homeowners’ Association
Delta Institute
DePaul University, Environmental Science Program
Downers Grove Park District
Ducks Unlimited – Great Lakes/ Atlantic Regional Office
Dundee-Crown High School
Dunes Learning Center
DuPage Birding Club
DuPage County Stormwater Management Division
Eden Place Nature Center
Elmhurst Park District
Emily Oaks Nature Center
Environmental Defenders of McHenry County
Environmental Law and Policy Center of the Midwest
Environmentally Conscious Oswego (ECO) Commission
Evaston Environmental Association
Faith in Place
FamilyFarmed.org
Fermilab Natural Areas
Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve
The Field Museum
The Field Station Cooperative
First Baptist Church of Waukegan
Fishin’ Buddies!
Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District
Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Forest Preserve District of Kane County
Forest Preserve District of Will County
Frankfort Square Park District
Frederick Law Olmsted Society
Friends of Ryerson Woods
Friends of Spring Creek Forest Preserves
Friends of the Chicago River
Friends of the Forest Preserves
Friends of the Fox River
Friends of the Kankakee
Friends of the Morton Grove Forest Preserves
Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory
Friends of the Parks
Friendship Village of Schaumburg
Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.
Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance
Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
Geneva Lake Conservancy
Geneva Park District
Global Alliance of Artists
Go Green Wilmette
GreenTOWN Waukegan, Inc.
The Grove National Historic Landmark
Homewood Izaak Walton League
I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor, Civic Center Authority
Illinois Audubon Society
Illinois Audubon Society, Fort Dearborn Chapter
Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network
Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board
Illinois Environmental Council & IEC Education Fund
Illinois Natural History Survey
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
Illinois Ornithological Society
Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program
Indian Creek Watershed Project
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Indiana University Northwest
Inverness Park District
Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center
Izaak Walton League of America – Illinois Division
Izaak Walton League of America – Indiana Division
John G. Shedd Aquarium
Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum
Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District
Kendall County Forest Preserve District
Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District
Kenosha/Racine Land Trust
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Kishwaukëtoe Nature Conservancy
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The Nature Conservancy - Illinois
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Northbrook Park District
Northeastern Illinois University
Northminster Presbyterian Church
Northwest Indiana Forum Foundation, Inc.
Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
Northwestern University Environmental Policy & Culture Program
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Oakbrook Terrace Park District
Openlands
Palos Park Tree Foundation
Palos-Orland Conservation Committee
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Porter County Plan Commission
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Prairie Crossing Charter School
Prairie Crossing Homeowners Association
Prairie Woods Audubon Society
Prairies Forever
Pringle Nature Center
Protestants for the Common Good
Purdue University Calumet
Red Oak Nature Center
Richardson Wildlife Sanctuary
Ridgeway Park District
Riding Club of Barrington Hills
River Forest Park District
Riverwoods Preservation Council
Roots & Shoots Great Lakes
Safer Pest Control Project
Salt Creek Greenway Association
Save the Dunes
Save the Prairie Society
Scenic Illinois
Schaumburg Park District
School of Environmental Education, Riverside Brookfield High School
Seedling the Snow
Shirley Heinze Land Trust
Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter
Southeast Environmental Task Force
Springbrook Nature Center
St. Charles Park District
Taltree Arboretum and Gardens
Team Green Environmental Network
Thorn Creek Audubon Society
Town Square Condominium Association
Triton College Sustainability Center
Trout Valley Homeowners’ Association
The Trust for Public Lands
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Woodstock
University of Chicago – Civic Knowledge Project
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Illinois Extension, Northeast Region
Upper Des Plaines River Ecosystem Partnership
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Department of Energy, Argonne National Laboratory
US Department of Energy, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
US Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
US Fish and Wildlife Service
USDA Forest Service
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDI National Park Service/Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
Valley Lakes Community Association
Valparaiso Chain of Lakes Watershed Group
Village of Algonquin
Village of Brookfield
Village of Deer Park
Village of Frankfort
Village of Glenview
Village of Hoffman Estates Environmental Commission
Village of Homer Glen
Village of Lake Barrington
Village of Lincolnshire
Village of North Barrington
Village of Oak Park
Village of Orland Park
Village of Riverside
Village of Schaumburg
Warrenville Environmental Advisory Commission
Washington Park Conservancy
Waukegan Harbor Citizen’s Advisory Group
Waukegan Park District
Wayne Park Commission
West Chicago Park District
The Wetlands Initiative
Wheaton Park District
Wild Flower Preservation Society, Illinois Chapter
Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, Ltd.
The Wildflower Preservation and Propagation Committee of McHenry County (The WPPC)
The Wildlife Discovery Center at Elawa Farm
Wildwood Nature Center
Woodland Savanna Land Conservancy
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Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc.
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Nicor Gas, An AGL Resources Company
WRD Environmental

Silver
Applied Ecological Services
Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.
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Roux Associates, Inc.
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Weaver Boos Consultants

Honorary In-Kind
Public Communications Inc. (PCI)
We are grateful to the member organizations that have recently served as host institutions for Chicago Wilderness staff:

Benedictine University
Chicago Botanic Garden
Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo
Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
The Nature Conservancy – Illinois
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Page 8: Savanna; photo by Ray Mathis
Page 10: McHenry County planning meeting; photo by Nancy Williamson
Page 11: Photo by Emilian Geczi
Page 12: Children’s Garden, The Morton Arboretum; photo by Lucy Hutcherson
Page 13: Explorer Day; photo by Emilian Geczi
Page 14: Cook County forest preserve; photo by Crystal Ruiz
Page 15: Kids Fest; photo by Emilian Geczi
Page 16: Fun Fest; photo by Emilian Geczi
Page 17: Nippersink Creek; photo by Ray Mathis
Page 18: McHenry County, Illinois; photo by Contemplative Imaging, Flickr Creative Commons.
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Page 22: Monarch Butterfly; Carol Freeman (CarolFreemanPhotography.com)
Page 23: Coyote; William C. Gladish (Wildlife Photography)
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