

MAPPING THE GREEN VISION: CHICAGO WILDERNESS HUB AND SUPPORT FOR STRATEGIC CONSERVATION

CHICAGO WILDERNESS

Cafe

• DIVERSE VOICES •
GREEN VISION • UNITED REGION

Goals

- Learn about Chicago Wilderness's Green Vision
- Understand the importance of rights-of-way to conservation opportunities in the Chicago region
- See how the Chicago Wilderness Hub connects to strategic conservation goals
- Be introduced to the *gROWing Chicago Habitat Initiative*

Agenda

12:00 Introduction

12:05 Chicago Wilderness and strategic conservation

12:10 Rights-of-Way and the 30 x 30 initiative

12:15 Chicago Wilderness Mapping Hub demonstration

12:30 The gROWing Chicago Initiative

12:40 Discussion, Q&A and preview of next Cafe

Chicago Wilderness

Chicago Wilderness “Green Vision”

Diverse members working together in the region for *vibrant nature that improves environmental and human health, promotes better quality of life, and benefits our collective home – today and for generations to come.*

Chicago Wilderness Green Vision

Green Vision:

10 million people on
8 million acres of vibrant
nature improving our
collective home



Chicago
Wilderness

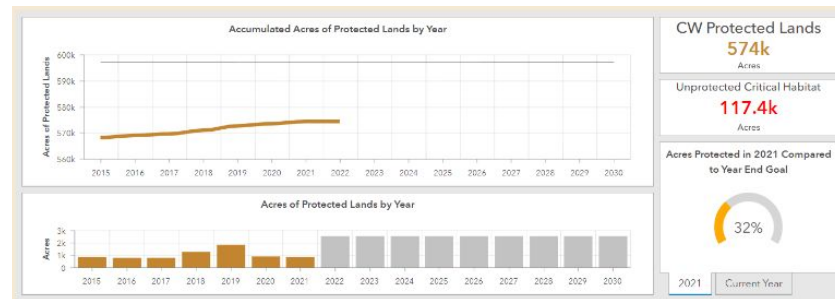


Chicago Wilderness Green Vision & Hub

GREEN VISION - 2025

chicago wilderness

HUB



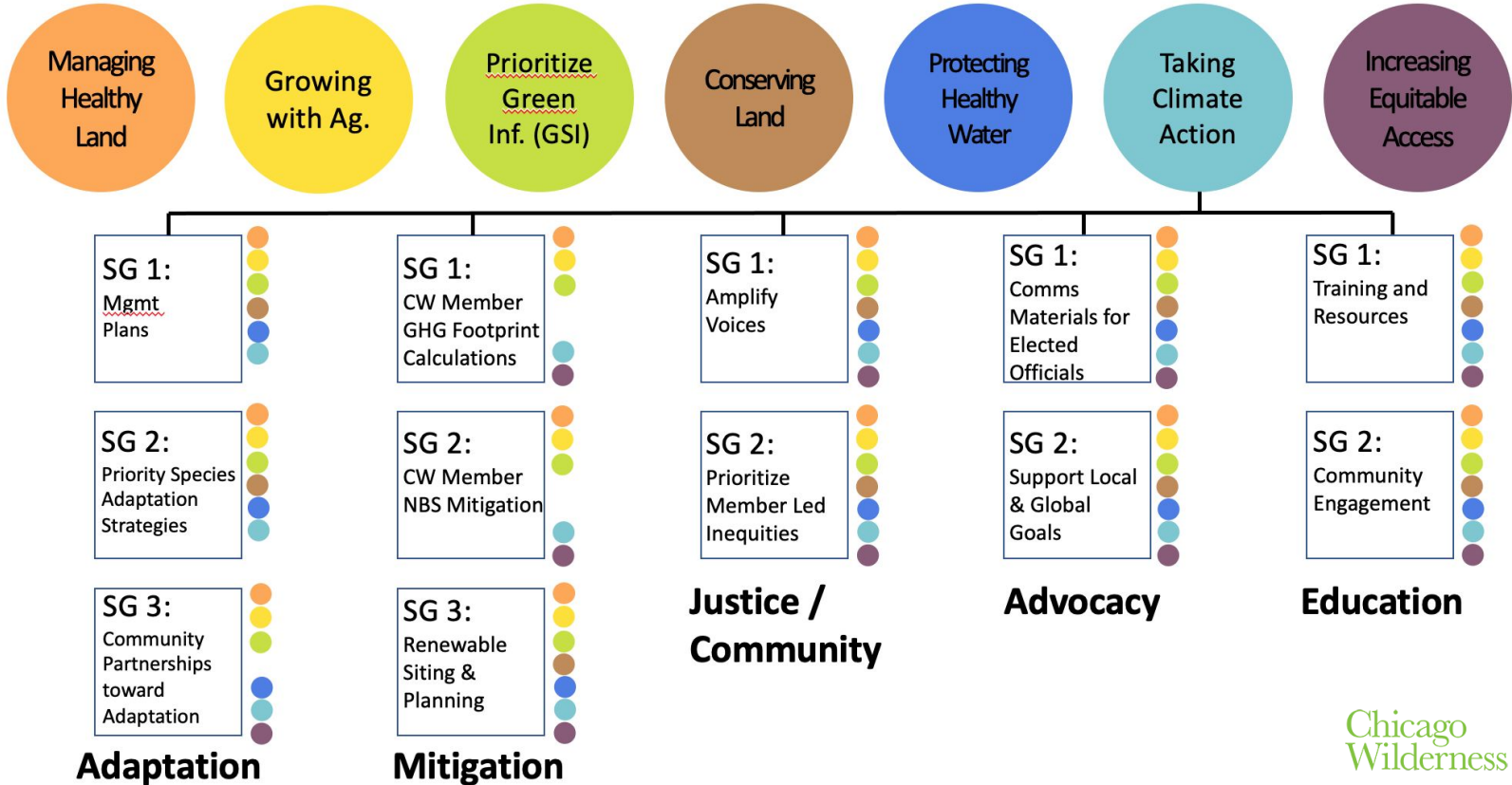
25
years

250+
partners

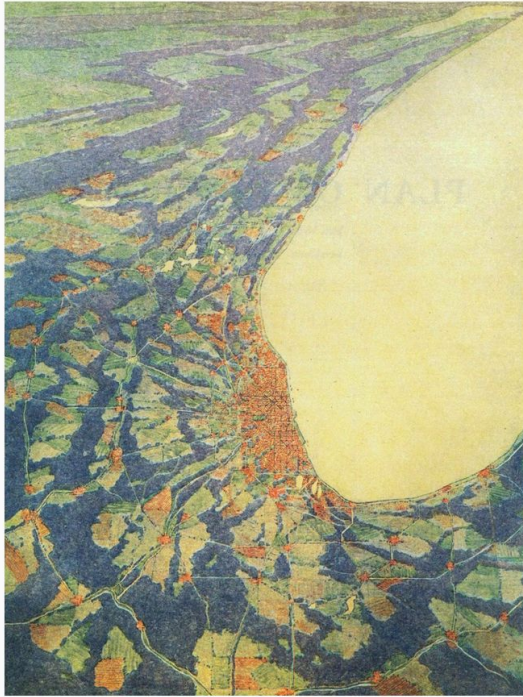
578k
acres protected

7
goals

Chicago Wilderness Green Vision: Behind the Scenes



Chicago Wilderness Green Vision: Enduring History and Legacy

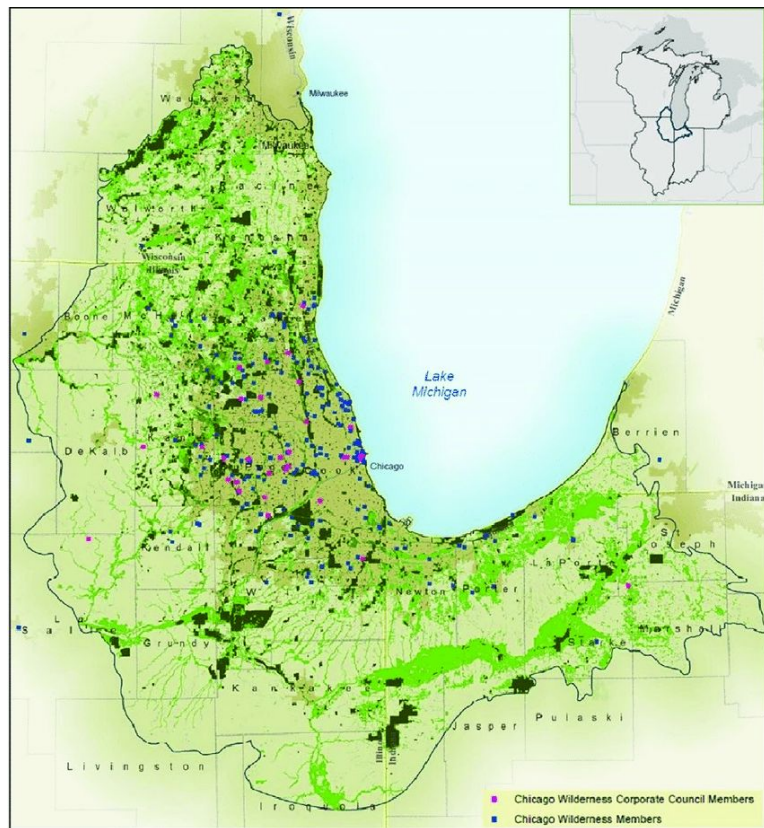
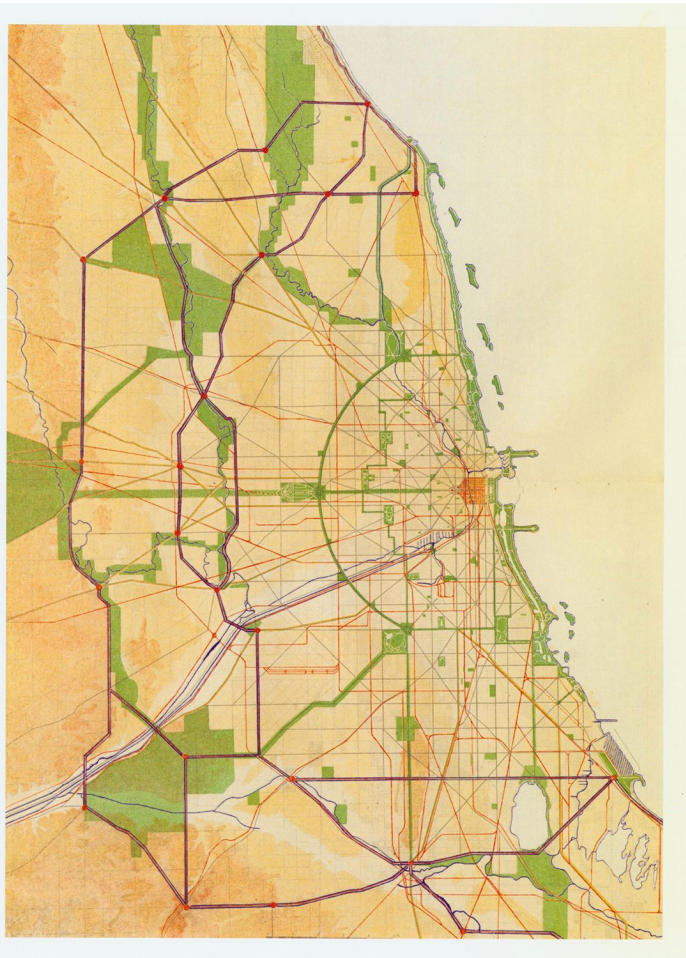


Bird's Eye View, Metro Chicago



CMAP GO TO 2040 illustration

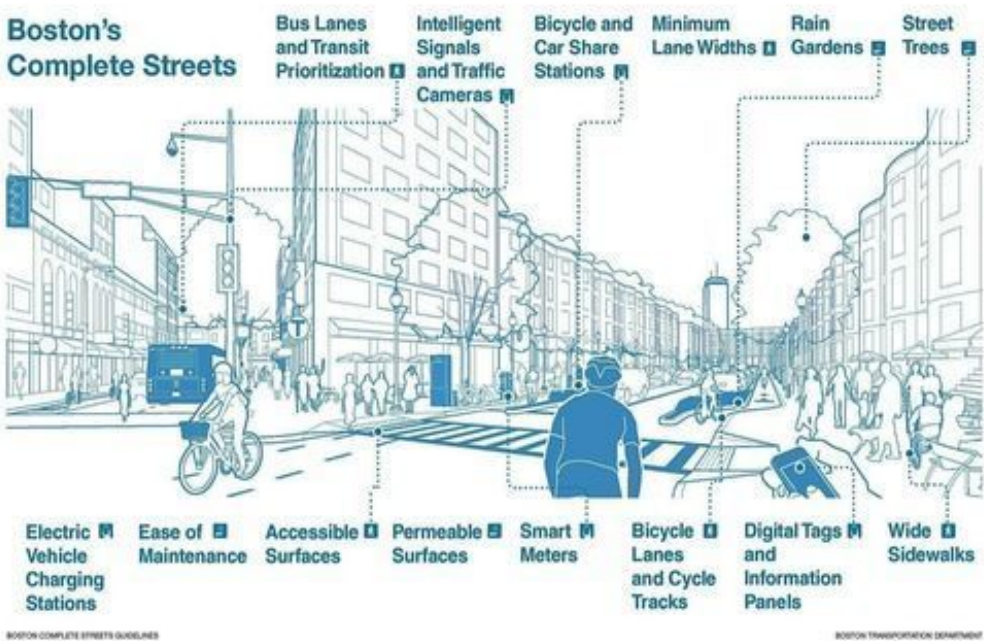
Chicago Wilderness Green Vision: Enduring History and Legacy



WILDERNESS



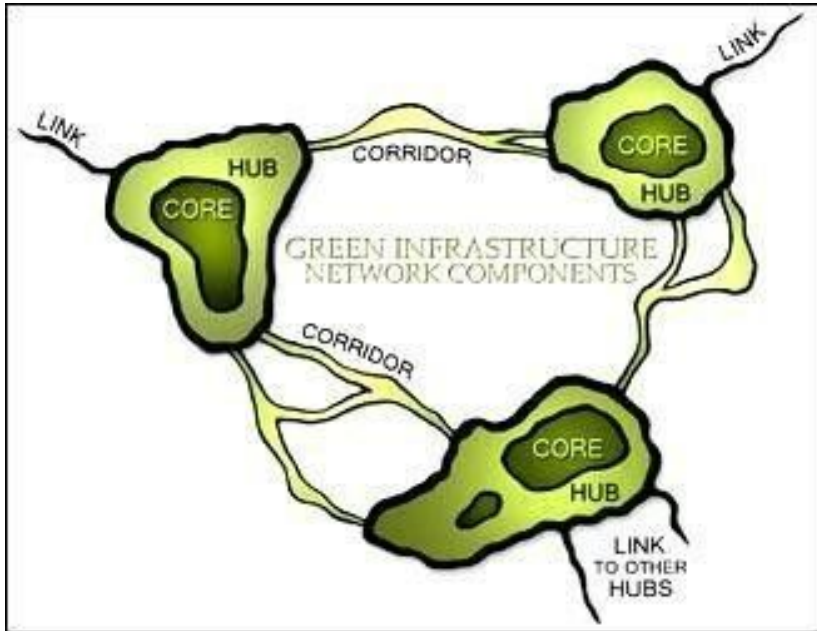
ROW Considerations: Existing Models

Two side-by-side photographs showing street transformations. The left photo shows a street with a wide sidewalk, trees, and a car. The right photo shows a street with a wide sidewalk, trees, and a car. Both photos show a 'Before' and 'After' comparison of the street design.

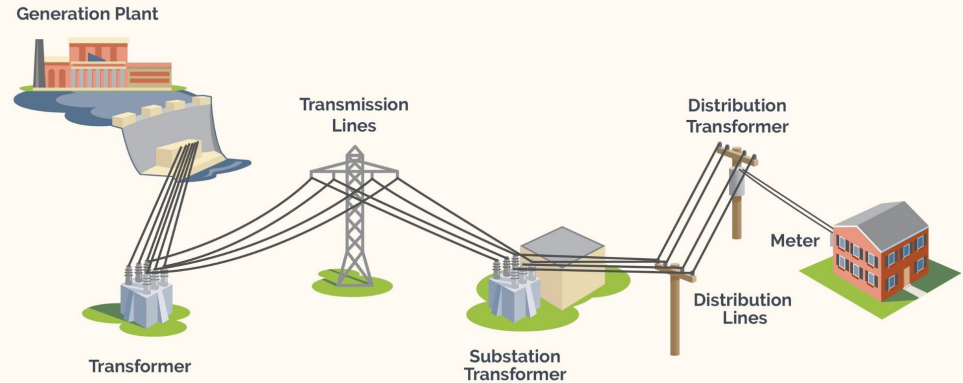
RETHINKING STREETS

An Evidence-Based Guide to 25 Complete Street Transformations

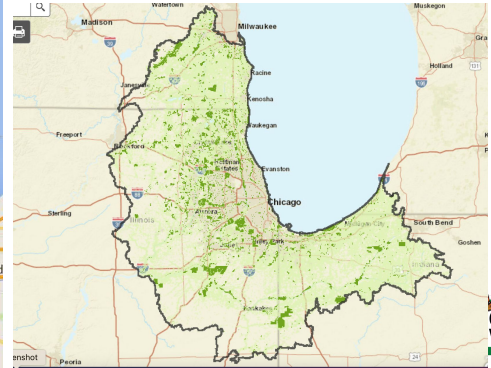
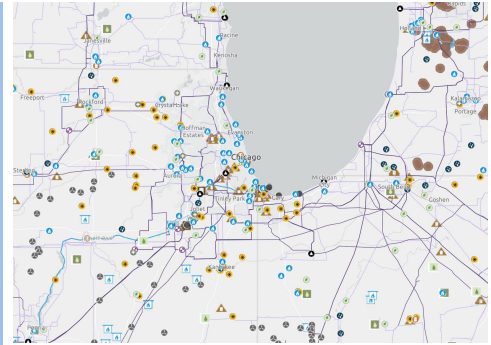
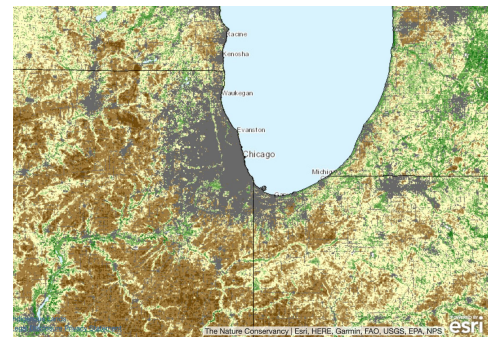
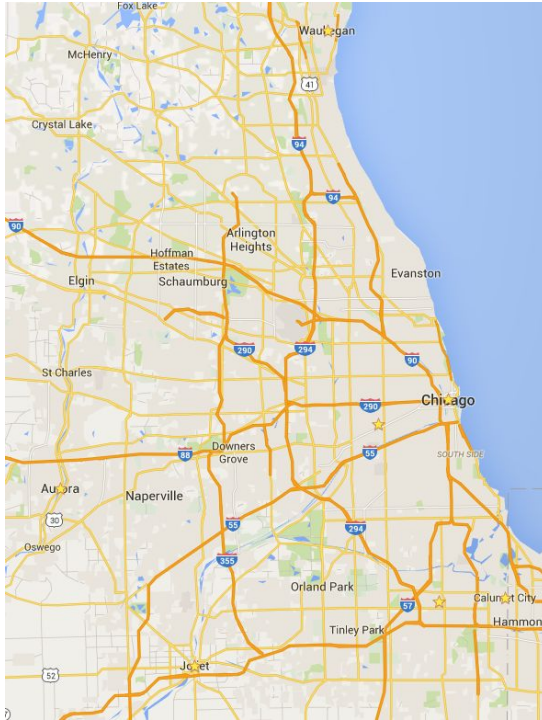
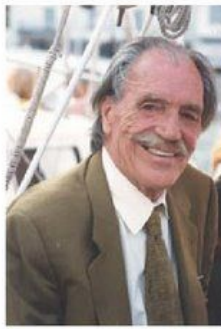
ROW Considerations: Similar Language and Challenges



The Electric Utility Network

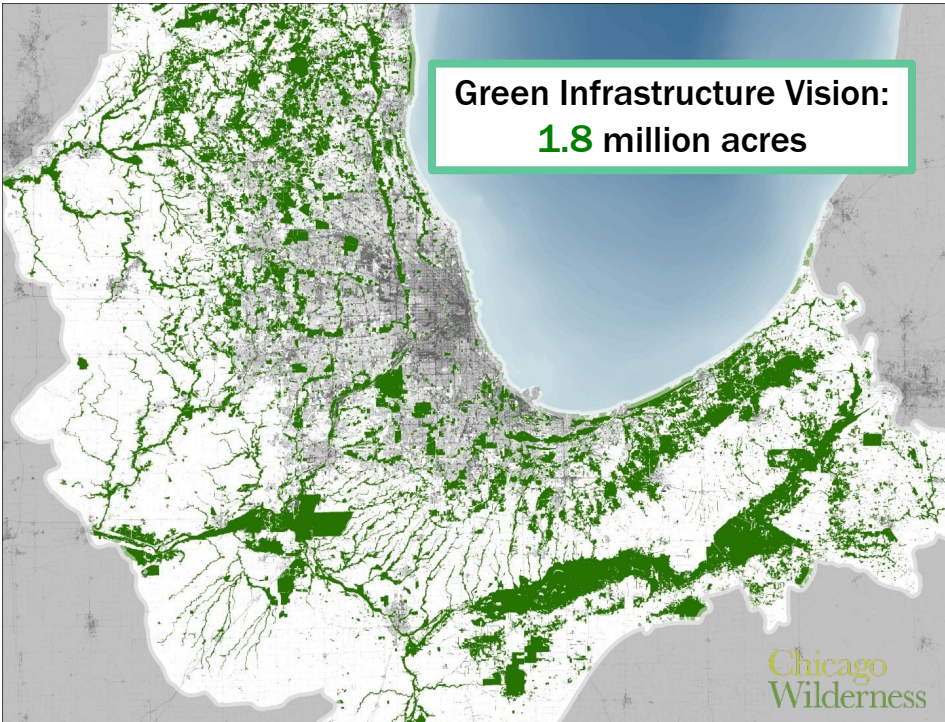


ROW Considerations: Siting/Routing Challenges



The original “Green Infrastructure Vision”

Instead of only focusing on ecological restoration in connected green corridors...

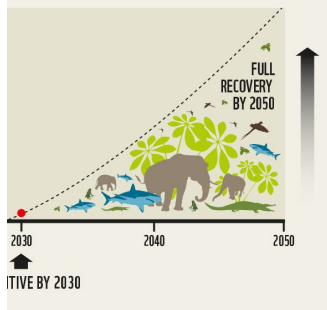


Has been expanded to the “Green Vision”

The focus now includes all sectors and engages people from **all** walks of life as expressed by 7 conservation goals...

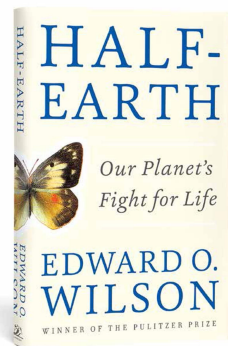


Nature Positive by 2030



Convention on
Biological Diversity

30x30



2021

*A preliminary report to the National Climate Task Force
recommending a ten-year, locally-led campaign to conserve and
restore the lands and waters upon which we all depend, and
that bind us together as Americans.*



Campaign
for Nature

AT LEAST **30** PERCENT OF
TERRESTRIAL AND INLAND WATER
AREAS AND **30** PERCENT OF OCEANS
MUST BE CONSERVED BY **2030**.

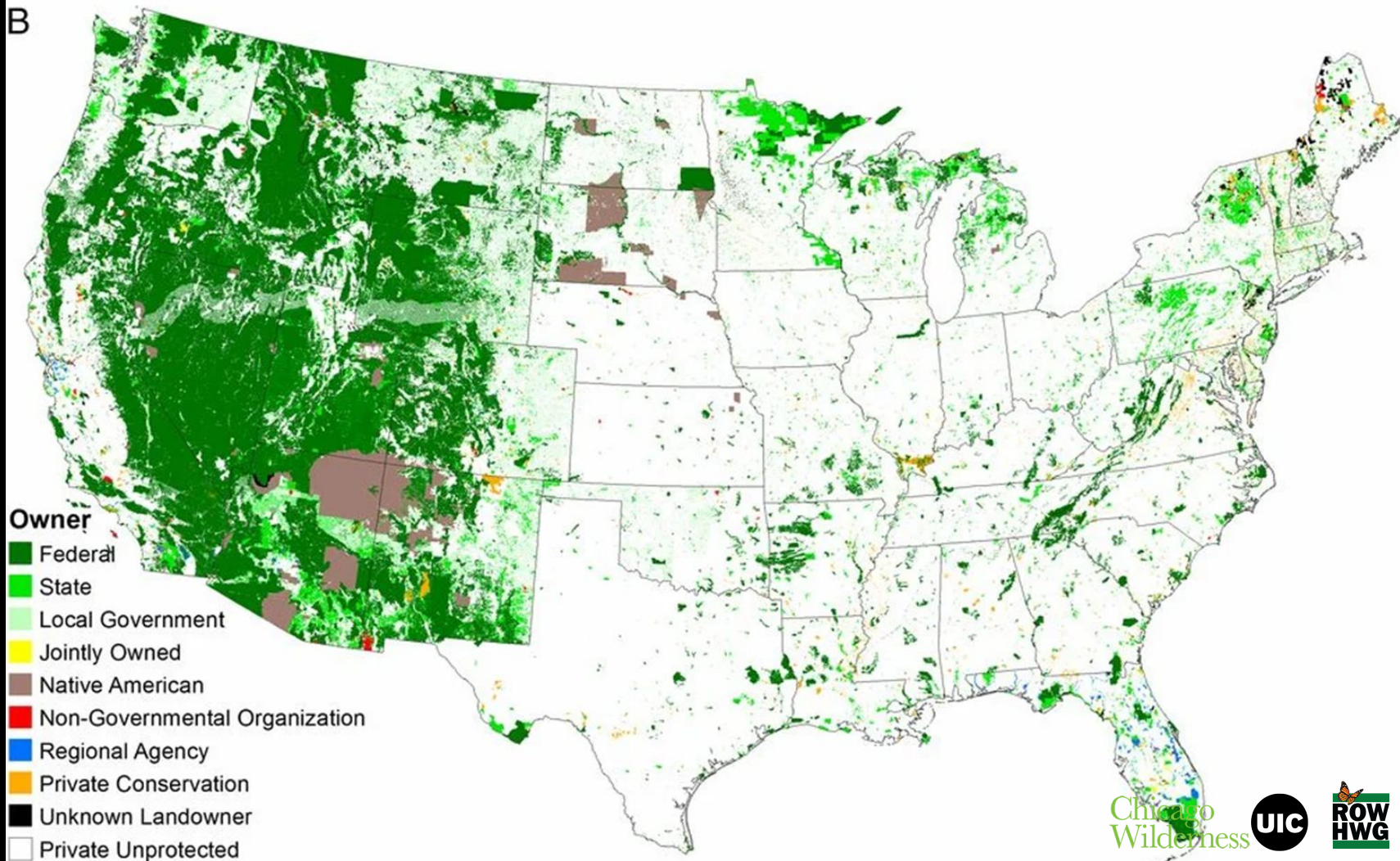
—Joint Statement on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Chicago
Wilderness

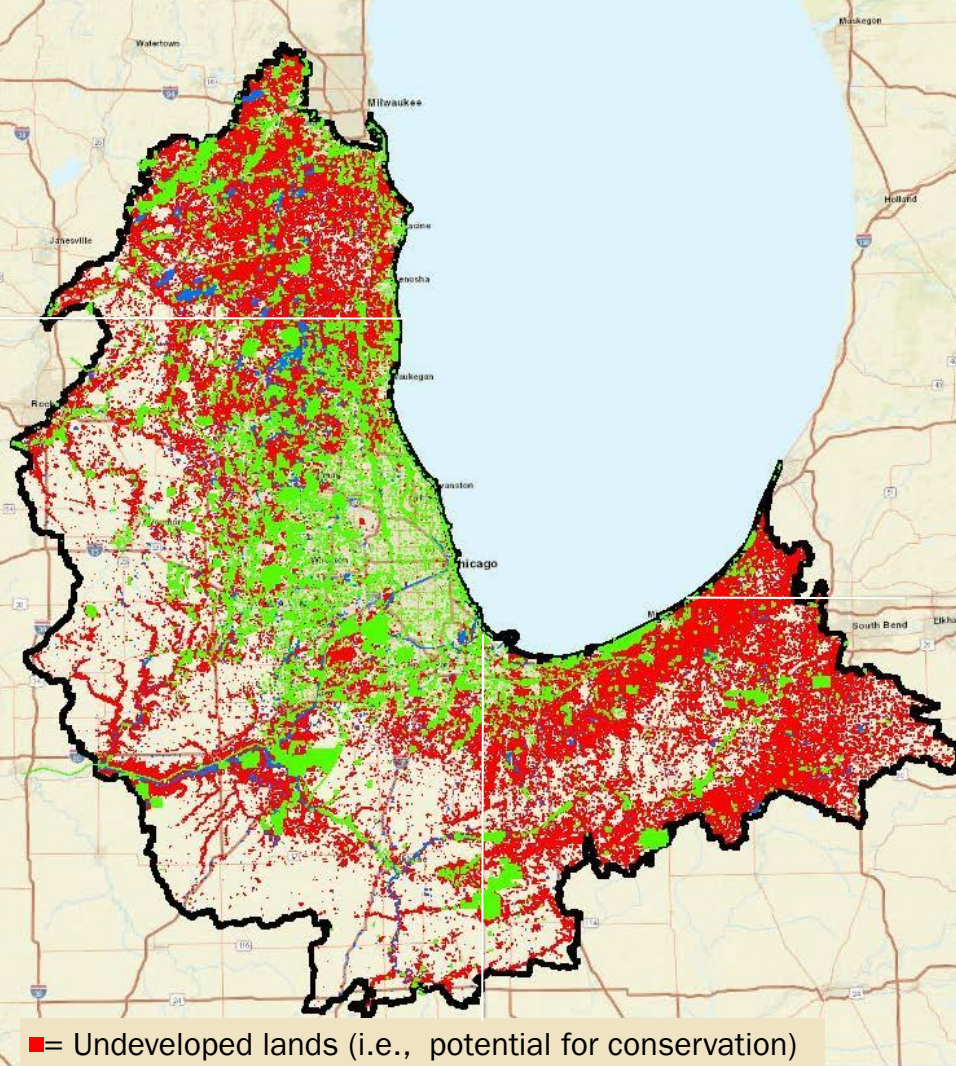


FIE
LD.

B



Chicago Wilderness 30x30 Acreage

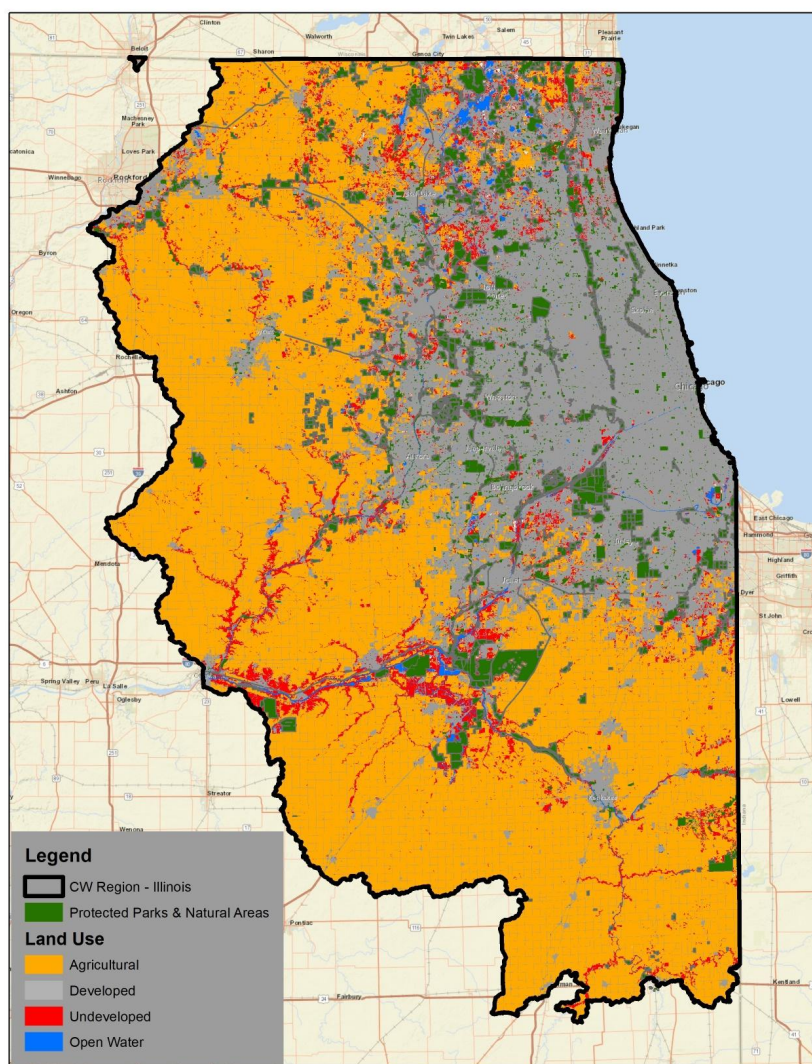


TOTAL AREA	7,970,000 acres
30% of Total Area	2,391,100 acres
Conservation & Parks (current)	579,000 acres
+ Conservation needed (protection only)	1,812,000 acres
+ Conservation needed (<i>all</i> land types contributing)	225,300 acres

Chicago
Wilderness



Chicago Wilderness Illinois Portion



TOTAL AREA

4,770,000 acres

30% of Total Area

1,431,000 acres

Conservation & Parks
(current)

375,000 acres

+ Conservation needed
(protection only)

1,056,000 acres

+ Conservation needed
(*all* land types
contributing)

55,500 acres

Chicago
Wilderness



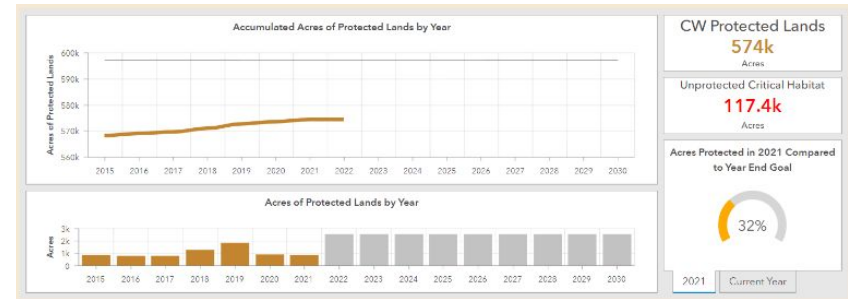
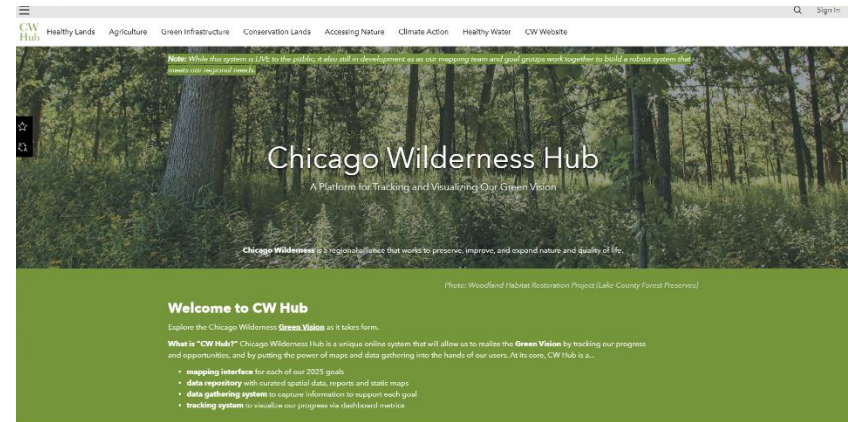
CW-IL 30x30: 30% Across the Illinois Portion of the Chicago Wilderness Region

Landscape Type (Land Use)	IL Acreage in CW Region	30% of Land Type	CW Goal**	30x30 Opportunity in CW-IL
Conservation Land	312,000	93,600	1, 6, 7	acres restored
Local Parkland	63,000	18,900	3, 5	acres benefiting plants, wildlife, and people
Undeveloped Land*	185,000	55,500	4, 5, 7	acres added to conservation lands and waters
Agricultural Land	2,690,000	807,000	2, 7	acres in vibrant, regenerative agriculture
Built Land	1,520,000	456,000	3, 5	acres in green infrastructure (e.g. native plantings in yards, campuses, ROWs, gardens, green roofs, etc.)
Chicago Wilderness Total	4,770,000	1,430,000	1-7	acres in vibrant health, improving quality of life for all

*=not in agriculture or built-up (ie, potential for conservation) **= primary CW Goal (Climate mitigation is throughout)

Chicago Wilderness Green Vision & Hub

GREEN VISION - 2025 chicago wilderness HUB



25
years

250+
partners

578k
acres protected

7
goals

Purpose of “CW Hub”

- Organize around key conservation goals
- Getting GIS in the hands of the public/stakeholders
- Track our regional progress
- Landing pages for each conservation goal
(w/ Interactive maps, map galleries, and resources)
- One stop shop for regional conservation

Nature Boardwalk
Lincoln Park
Zoo

Chicago
Wilderness



Quick Demo

Data Repository
GIS and
Goal Tracking

hub.chicagowilderness.org

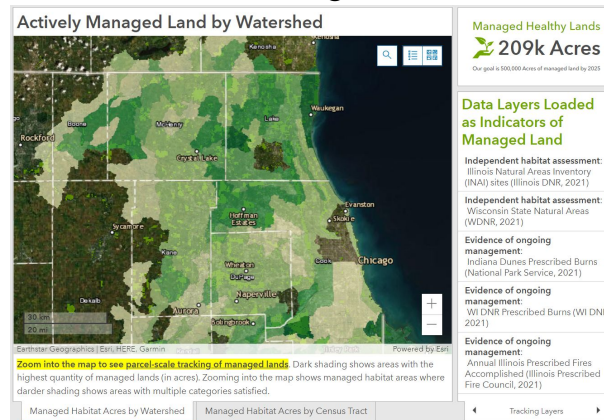
```
graph TD; User((User)) --> Upload[Upload a dataset or PDF]; Upload --> DS((Data Shepherds)); DS --> DR[(DATA REPOSITORY)]; DR --> IM[Interactive Maps]; DR --> DC[Data Catalog];
```

The diagram illustrates a data workflow. It begins with a **User** icon pointing to a box labeled **CW Repository Upload**. Inside this box is a green button that says **Upload a dataset or PDF**. An arrow leads from this box to a **Data Shepherds** icon. From the **Data Shepherds** icon, an arrow points to a cylinder labeled **DATA REPOSITORY**. From the bottom of the **DATA REPOSITORY**, two arrows branch out: one pointing to **Interactive Maps** and another pointing to **Data Catalog**. Below **Interactive Maps** is a screenshot of a web-based map application showing a map of Chicago with various colored overlays. Below **Data Catalog** is a screenshot of a web interface showing search results for datasets, including 'Flood Susceptibility Index CMAP 2017 WTL1' and 'Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) sites (Illinois DNR, 2021)'.



Tracking & Data Capture System (Healthy Lands Example)

Dashboard Tracking



Field Maps S123 & Quick Capture

Restoration Work

survey123.arcgis.com
CW Restoration Work

This application captures ecological restoration work as a shared resource for individuals and organizations. New users have access to this application after creating a free account on CW Hub (hub.chicagowilderness.org).

You are logged in as "Mark_J_community." Data you enter will be associated with this account. Log out and log back in if you want to user another account.

You can associate your data with an organization (optional).
Select an existing organization, or add a new one to the list by first selecting "Other."

Date when this work or observation occurred*

Restoration Areas (1)

Invasive Plant Observations

Invasive plant species ...

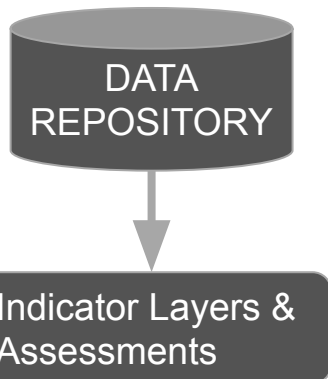
Invasive Species Observed

- Buckthorn (*Rhamnus* spp)
- Bush Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp)
- Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)
- Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
- Common reed (*Phragmites* spp)
- Other

Reference Images

Invasive Plants Guide for Illinois

GPS accuracy 18 ft



Next Steps

1. Update goal landing pages with a clear vision of the problem and how it will be addressed!
2. Create tracking systems & dashboards for each goal
3. Deploy more data capturing systems (e.g. field apps)
4. Add thematic interactive maps

Electric Transmission



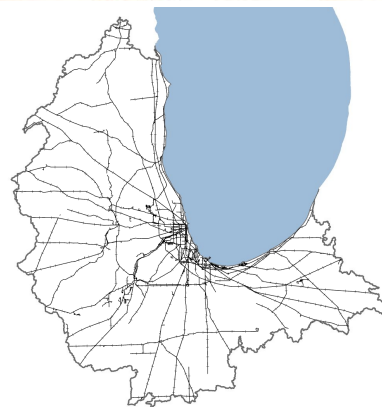
Pipelines



Railroads



Highways



All Major ROWs in CW

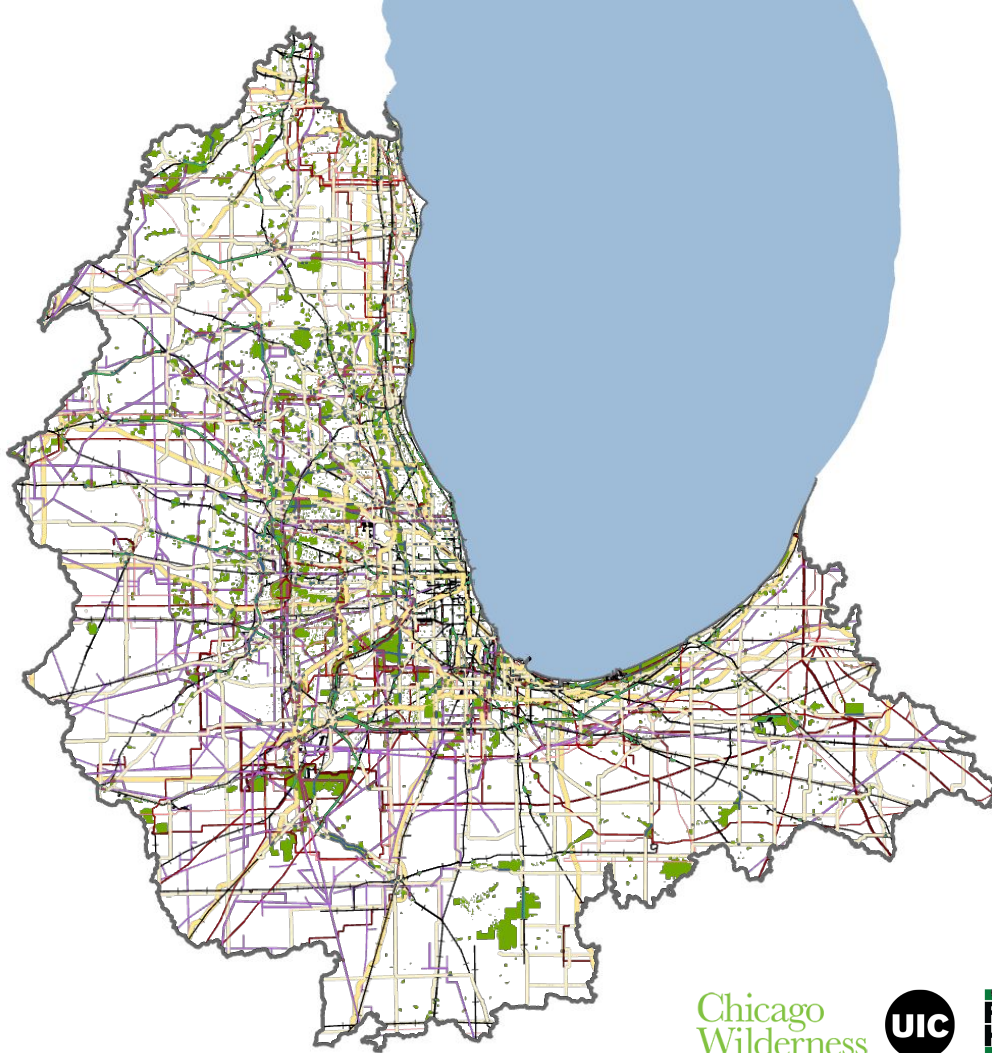
Major ROWs Connecting Protected Lands

Major ROWs Adjacent to Protected Lands (without Protected Lands)

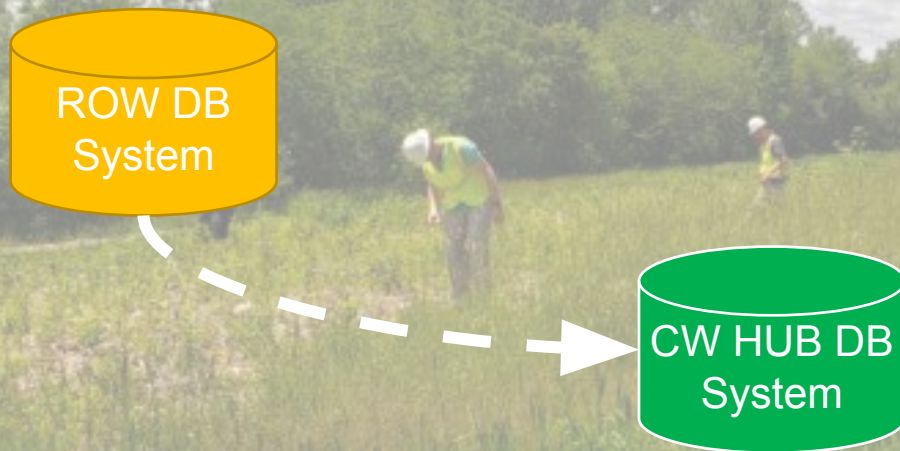
560 mi of Transmission Lines
23 mi of Interstate Highways
605 mi of County Roads
418 mi of Major railways
244 mi of Pipelines

1,850 mi Total in/adjacent to PL's

~ 23,000 Acres



Database Integration (ROW and CW Hub)



A photograph of the Chicago skyline seen from a hillside. In the foreground, there are green bushes and purple flowers. The middle ground shows a grassy slope. In the background, several skyscrapers are visible under a clear blue sky, including the Willis Tower. A white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the text 'growing Chicago Habitat'. The word 'growing' is in a green, lowercase, sans-serif font. The word 'Chicago' is in a larger, bold, green, sans-serif font. The word 'Habitat' is in a smaller, green, sans-serif font. The letters 'R', 'O', and 'W' in 'growing' are replaced with images of a field of yellow flowers, a field of green grass, and a field of green grass, respectively.

growing
Chicago Habitat

gROWing Chicago Habitat Goals



Establish

a network for ROW organizations, public and private landowners, and conservation organizations in the Chicago-area



Build

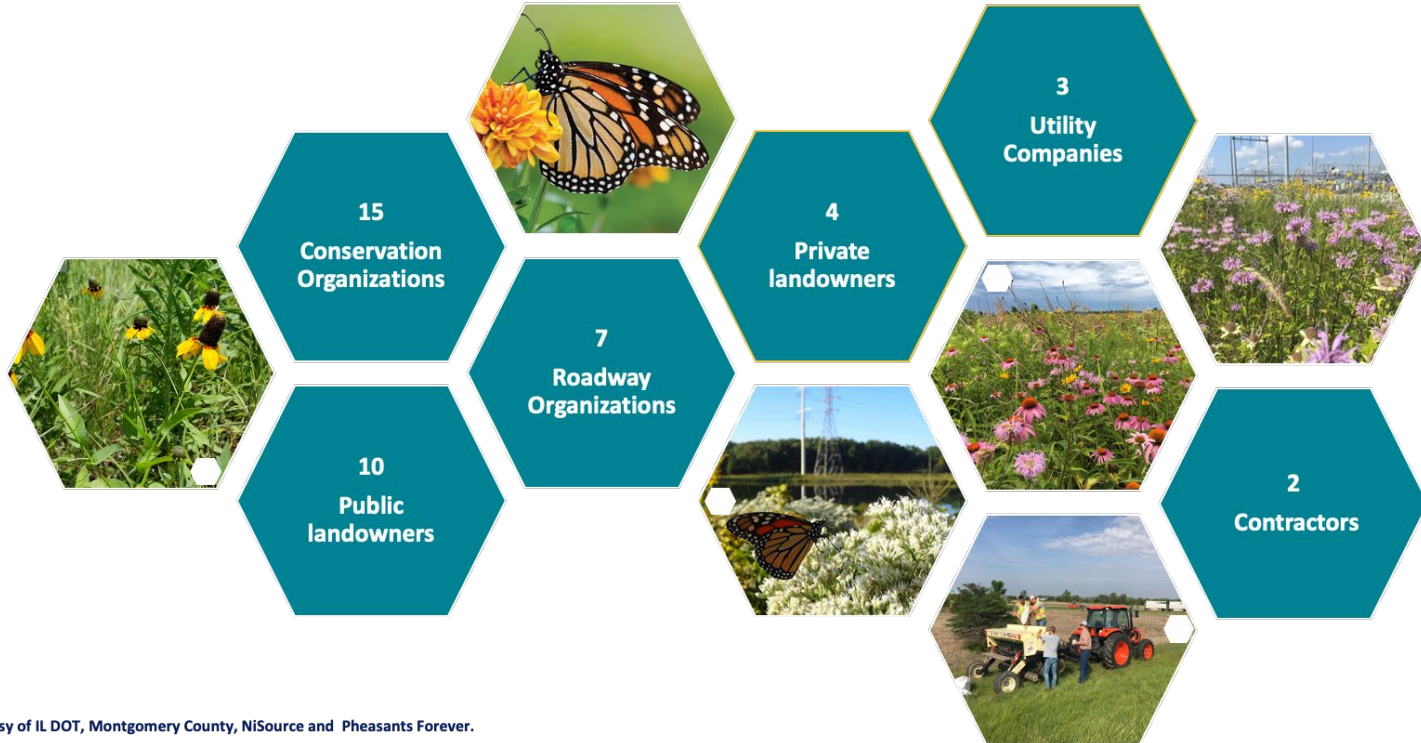
a collaborative platform to share ROW projects, success stories, and coordinate on initiatives



Create

a prioritization strategy to focus habitat conservation efforts across Chicagoland ROWs

Current participants



Photos courtesy of IL DOT, Montgomery County, NiSource and Pheasants Forever.

Chicago
Wilderness



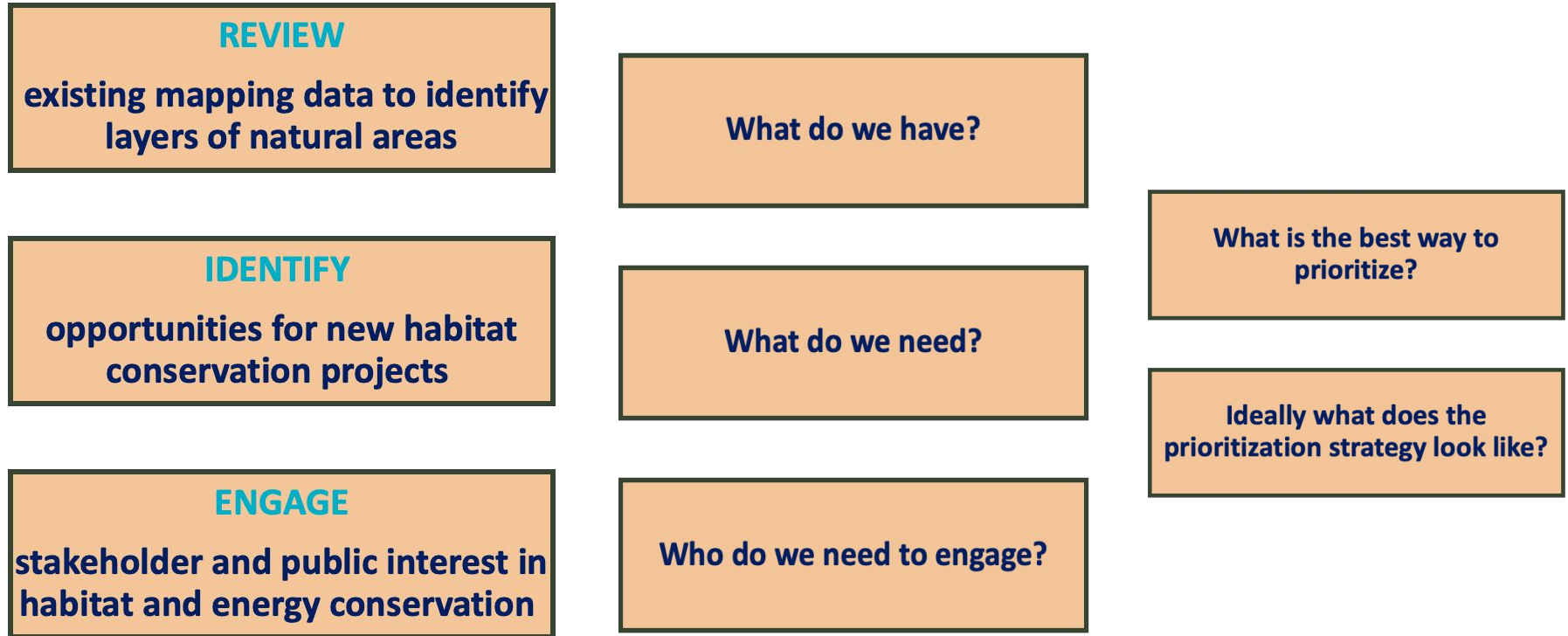
Prioritization Strategy

Collaborative habitat conservation efforts

Identify priority areas for ROW habitat conservation projects throughout Chicagoland

Support the creation and maintenance of habitat through logistical planning, long-term care, and invasive species management

How Will We Do This?



Discussion Questions

- What did you hear today that most interested or surprised you?
- How do you see rights-of-way playing a role in meeting regional conservation goals?
- What is one map you'd most like to see that would best support conservation on or adjacent to rights-of-way?

Up Next: Prioritization Mapping Built Infrastructure

Join us on July 20th at 12:30 - 1:30pm for the next CW Mapping Café

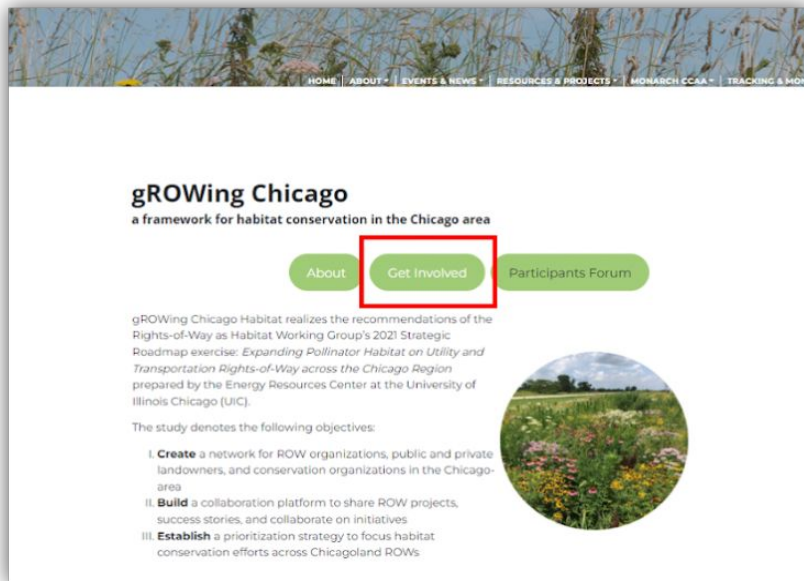
Goal:

Bring together land managers (ROWs, partner orgs) and GIS specialists to begin shaping what a useful prioritization strategy could look like



gROWing Chicago Habitat

Help us spread the word!



<https://rightofway.erc.uic.edu/projects/growing-chicago/>

The screenshot shows a survey form titled "gROWing Chicago-area Habitat". The form is set against a background image of a bee on a flower. The text on the form reads: "This survey is designed to indicate your interest in participating in the Chicago-area working group. This information will be compiled in a contact list for participating working group study holders." Below this text are three input fields: "Name", "Email", and "Organization Name". Each field is represented by a horizontal line with a small vertical bar at the end, indicating where to enter text.