February Newsletter 2022

Celebrate our collective accomplishments and shared successes

Chicago Wilderness completed a truly momentous year in 2021. Together, our members achieved much important work, thanks to your commitment to improve the quality of life for all living things.

The deep engagement of the more than 250+ partner organizations and hundreds of people across Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin who make up the Chicago Wilderness Alliance reflects our region's commitment to a bold new Green Vision.

Some of our 2021 highlights:

- Advancing collaborative Green Vision goals for the region
- Providing a forum for colleagues to share ideas, pose questions, and find out what's happening around the region
- Helping partners understand and implement changes to increase justice, equity, and diversity in our workplaces and communities
• Providing leaders with free tools and expertise through peer-learning sessions with the Institute for Conservation Leadership

• Recognizing conservation heroes at the 2021 Chicago Wilderness Awards and Member Event (pictured below)

**CW HUB Goes Live!**

Chicago Wilderness is happy to announce a new resource and set of tools called the "CW Hub." It's completely open and free to the public. It now has an easy to remember address on our website: [hub.chicagowilderness.org](http://hub.chicagowilderness.org). This online platform and data collection system will allow us to realize our Green Vision goals by tracking our progress and opportunities, and by putting the power of maps and data decision making into the hands of all of you! CW Hub has a mapping interface for each of our 2025 goals; it has a data repository
with curated spatial data, reports and static maps; it provides a way to gather information that supports each goal, and it will provide a tracking system to visualize our progress via dashboard metrics. This resource has been built with help from the CW community, especially the goal groups and mapping team.

**We're still far from done!** That's where we could use your help. If you're not involved in a goal team consider joining one or more to share your voice, ideas, and expertise. If you're on a team, help us to get further along to advance our progress, to help define what we will track and how, and how we can organize our outreach and ultimately affect changes on the ground. **If you're not a member of Chicago Wilderness**, or you've let your dues lapse, please support all these efforts by joining or renewing your dues! We will work with any organization no matter the size to help you become members.

**We've heard you!** Many goal teams and individuals have provided feedback, not all of which has been fully incorporated into this current build, but we're working on it. Please keep providing your feedback, support, and help out where you can to get this awesome new resource as good as it can be!

---

**Prescribed Burn Training Opportunities in February and March**

**CW Prescribed Burn Crew Training at Morton Arboretum**, Feb 27-28: Register by Feb 22.

**CW Prescribed Burn Crew Training at McHenry County Conservation District**, March 19.

**S130 Basic Wildland Firefighter Training (Field Day only)**, March 10.

**S219 Ignition Operations Training** on March 24-25.
Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles (UAVs) and Public Land

Wednesday, March 2
10-11:30 am CST

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), or drones, play useful roles in gathering data, showcasing conservation work, and in responding to emergency situations, but they also pose a potential threat to wildlife, public safety, and may impact peoples' wilderness/nature experience. Join this conversation to learn how UAVs are being used on behalf of conservation and outdoor recreation and how public land agencies are implementing the federal and state rules regarding UAVs and ensuring the responsible use of drones in the airspace above their lands.

Moderators:

Ellicia Sanchez, The Nature Conservancy of Illinois
Michelle Uting, Forest Preserves of Cook County

Co-hosts/Speakers

Anthony Tindall, Forest Preserves of Cook County Policy & Sustainability Manager

Garret Wais, Forest Preserves of Cook County GIS Specialist

John Buehler is the NPS Aviation Branch Chief.

Kristin Swoboda is National Park Service (NPS) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program manager
TEAM UPDATES:
WORKING TOWARDS THE GREEN VISION

GREEN VISION - 2025

Upcoming CW Workshops, Team Meetings and Events

**CW Mapping Hub Team Meeting**
2/7/2022

**CW Taking Climate Action Team Meeting (Goal#6)**
2/14/2022

**CW Growing With Agriculture Team Meeting (Goal#2)**
2/15/2022

**Chicago Wilderness Workshop with Cream City: Foundations of Internalized Racism**
2/17/2022
Join a CW Team or Working Group. Login to the CW Partner portal to join. Watch this short training video. Add members of your staff to the CW portal so that they can get involved. Send Laura Reilly their name and email address.

CW Resources

Please share your events, jobs, internships and opportunities with us so that we can help connect

Funding Opportunities

2022 Biodiversity Conservation Grant: Enhancing Pollinator Habitats Due 2/17/2022
View full calendar below and add your opportunities [here](#).

**Trees Forever Illinois community forestry program, Recover, Replant, Restore** Due 2/25/2022

**2022 ComEd Green Region Grants** Due 3/25/2022

**Arbor Day 2022 Call for Proposals** Due 4/1/2022

**USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry 2022 Challenge Cost Share Grant Program** Due 4/8/2022

---

**Career Center**

Find and share job and career resources in the region.

---

**Policy Action Request**

Are you a CW partner organization with an issue you want shared with the CW community? Review our [Government Relations Community Legislative Priorities and Principles](#) and fill out this form for consideration or post directly to your [SocialLink feed](#).

---

**Equity and Inclusion Resources**

These resources from Chicago Wilderness Partners and others can guide thinking and action on justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in the conservation field. [Contact us](#) if you
If you would like to unsubscribe: @@unsubscribe_url@@

www.chicagowilderness.org