Renewed and Reinvigorated
Chicago Wilderness Alliance
The "Word" for 2023 is ACTION

In 2022, we formally changed our name to the Chicago Wilderness Alliance. The name better reflects the reality - together our partners are purpose driven, active and oriented around the most urgent conservation issues facing the world. We are renewed and reinvigorated and ready for action in 2023!

As an Alliance, our most important work is to identify the needs and be a place for partners to coordinate and collaborate across the four-state region. Our 250 partners in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin are a collective, passionate, informed people who make a much bigger impact together than any organization or individual can do on their own.

We know you share our commitment to identify and implement nature-base solutions that will make the whole region healthier for people and wildlife.

The work of the Alliance - your collective actions - are guided by seven Green
Vision Initiatives and their related goals. We encourage you to get involved with one or more of the initiatives. All skills and skill levels are needed. Follow the link to learn more and GET INVOLVED.

We are grateful to our partners across the region who are making a difference and giving of their time and talents to shape the livability of our region. We are counting on you and your colleagues within your organization to get involved or get more deeply involved in 2023 and the years that follow.

We look forward to seeing you at our next Executive Council Meeting on January 18, 2023 (see information below).

On behalf of the Chicago Wilderness Alliance, thanks for your support and all that you do to contribute to a thriving Alliance and region. May the new year be naturally wild and wonderful!

Yours in Conservation,

Elizabeth S. Kessler, Chair, Chicago Wilderness Alliance
Executive Director, McHenry County Conservation District

Justice, Equity Diversity and Inclusion

Organizations and Businesses: Take the JEDI Roadmap Audit to help inventory and amplify this important work across the region.

The JEDI Cafe last month was a huge success and we got some amazing feedback from our breakout groups. To continue from discussion into action, we are launching the JEDI Partner Audit to be completed by each partner organization no later than Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

The Audit will help us inventory and amplify JEDI work across the CWA region and find ways to better support and connect folks to further this work. This Audit is also a useful tool to help your organization take stock of JEDI practices and identify areas for improvement.

Want to get involved? We need "audit ambassadors" as well as help with analytics and resource-sharing strategies. Email Dani Abboud to get connected.

Learn more at the Increasing Equitable Access to Nature Quarterly Meeting on Friday, January 27th.

In solidarity,

Dani Abboud (they/them/their), JEDI Roadmap Co-Chair
**Raquel Garcia-Alvarez** (she/her/ella), JEDI Roadmap Co-Chair

Please complete JEDI Audit survey by January 18

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**Executive Council Meeting on January 18**

Please join us for the Chicago Wilderness Alliance Executive Council Meeting. As a partner, you are invited and welcome to participate, discuss and to ask questions on all topics. We will welcome new steering committee members Mark Bouman and Ted Haffner, set the course for activities in 2023, and highlight the progress made advancing the Green Vision Initiatives.

Wednesday, January 18, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM CST via zoom.

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**Prescribed Burn and the Creation of a Cooperative Weed Management Area**

January 17, 2023 1 - 3 PM CST

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**Taking Climate Action Cafe: What's Next and How Your**

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Register for zoom link
Organization Can Get Involved

January 27, 2023  12 - 1 PM CST

The City Nature Challenge Is Coming, and Your Organization Should DEFINITELY Participate

Whether in-person virtual, the City Nature Challenge is an easy and high-impact way to connect people with the plants and animals of our region.

Add your event here to be listed and promoted on the Chicagoland Region website.

GreenVision Initiatives

Team Updates

Managing Healthy Landscapes Team Quarterly Meeting

1/24/2023
Agenda coming soon! Join us virtually to learn more about work across the region and find out how you can get involved. Contact Pati Vitt with questions.

**Growing with Agriculture Team Meeting**  
1/17/2023

The team normally meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 1 PM CST. Join us via zoom for our special time on **January 17**.

**Corporate Council/Prioritizing Green Infrastructure Meeting**  
2/9/2023

Join partners for networking and highlight advances in the transformation of non-nature reserve lands on private, corporate, and public properties across the four-state region.

Working to add protected lands and waters, which are essential to increasing biodiversity, improving...
quality of life and building climate resiliency across the four-state region. Contact Cathy Geraghty to learn more.

Quarterly Meeting 1/27/22

Learn about the JEDI Roadmap Audit and how your organization can participate. Brandon Hayes of Bold Bison will lead this strategy session!

Register for zoom link

Taking Climate Action Team Quarterly Meeting 1/31/2023

Join our quarterly meeting to work in collaboration with all Chicago Wilderness Alliance initiative teams to ensure climate resiliency is at the forefront of all efforts to support thriving biodiversity throughout the four-state region.

Time: Meeting time TBA

Creating a regionalized baseline index to

Learn more
contribute to and comprehensively measure improvements to watershed health. Contact Matthew Santagata to learn more.

The Green Vision Initiatives: The HUB Mapping team meets every other Monday at 3:30 PM CST via zoom. Join us for the next meeting.

**Green Vision Initiative HUB Team Meeting**

**1/16/2023**

- Register for zoom link to HUB meetings
- Learn more about the Green Vision Initiatives

RESOURCES
CHECK OUT OUR JOB BOARD! Find and Share Jobs, Internships and Resources

Meetings, Regional Events, Programs, Awards, and Funding Opportunities

Are you an Alliance partner organization with an issue you want shared with the region? Learn how we can help.

Contact Laura Reilly to talk through your Cafe session idea.