There is so much good work happening across the CW region. Learn more at the virtual July Executive Council Meeting next Wednesday!

**Join us in wishing Vice-Chair Jim Jerozal the best as he embarks on his new adventure!**

Jim recently announced that he is stepping away from his job at Nicor Gas and on the Chicago Wilderness Steering Committee to become the International Impact Pastor at Christ Community Church. Jim describes this as his "dream job" and we are so happy for him! Jim has been a guiding light for CW for many years, and we will miss his wise leadership and enthusiastic participation. Wishing you and your family all the best on this next adventure, Jim!

**Seeking Nominations for a Vice Chair and At-Large Steering Committee Member in 2023**
We are seeking nominations to fill the Vice-Chair position and one At-Large position on the Chicago Wilderness Steering Committee. We are elated that expiring first term Steering Committee members Michelle Carr, The Nature Conservancy and Leslie Dorworth, IL-IN SeaGrant have expressed an interest in continuing on for a Second Term. Positions become effective January 1, 2023 and have a term of three years.

Nominate yourself or a colleague by September 20, 2022.

Growing with Ag Field Day in Will County

On June 24, 2022, more than 50 people joined Chicago Wilderness partners to visit agroforestry, organic, and conventional farms around the county that are committed to sustainable and regenerative farming practices and food production. Along the way, they met farmers, conservationists, and people who are committed to a growing healthy and productive food system in the Chicagoland area.

Read a story about the event in the Iroquois County Times-Republic.

Read a story about the event from the Forest Preserve District of Will County.

Chicago Wilderness is working on agricultural issues as part of our Green Vision. Learn about the Growing with Agriculture goal, including opportunities to get involved.
gROWing Chicago: Prioritization Mapping of Chicago Wilderness' Built Infrastructure

Wednesday, July 20
12:30 pm CT

This session continues the Mapping cafe series with Iris Caldwell, Caroline Hernandez, and Tegha Obire, UIC; Mark Bouman and Mark Johnston, Field Museum; and Ted Haffner, CW Taking Climate Action Team Chair.

We will explore the use of mapping to prioritize habitat efforts across the Chicago Wilderness region, with a focus on energy and transportation lands. Highlighting current mapping and prioritization efforts from several partners across the region, this working session will engage vegetation managers and GIS specialists on next steps to creating a prioritization strategy for habitat on rights-of-way and other energy and transportation lands.

Climate Mitigation and Chicago Wilderness

Wednesday, July 27
12 pm CT

Join Chicago Wilderness Climate Goal lead Ted Haffner, Anthony Tindall of the Forest Preserves of Cook County, and Rachel Novick of the Morton Arboretum to discuss how local groups have implemented organizational sustainability plans and carbon footprint goals. Learn more from the experts about the available resources so that your organization can establish a plan to meet critical climate metrics.

JEDI Roadmap
Your input is helping to inform our next steps in creating our Justice, Equity and Diversity Roadmap

The Alliance is in Phase 3 of our JEDI Project with Cream City Conservation: Roadmap Development. Based on the results of our Culture Assessment and internal knowledge, we have identified a few key areas for internal improvement and to increase the Alliance's capacity to serve its partners and increase support across the region. A working group has identified initial areas of focus and a survey has generated preliminary feedback to inform our next steps. The survey will remain open through July to continue to capture feedback.

Public Relations Campaign Update from PCI

In May, Chicago Wilderness Alliance began a new partnership with Chicago-based communications agency Public Communications Inc (PCI) to evaluate CWA's marketing and communications and develop a strategy that will amplify awareness of the bold new Green Vision while inspiring increased trust, awareness, and engagement of members, attracting new members and advancing strategies for increased participation and diversity of membership across the four-state region.

PCI's work to date includes auditing and evaluating CWA's current communications channels and tactics as well as benchmarking current member perceptions, motivations, and obstacles to participation. The PCI team has been meeting with Green Vision goal leaders and surveying members as part of this process. Thank you to everyone who has participated to date providing honest and valuable input.

PCI is developing a new message framework for CWA to help us better communicate who we are, what we do, why it matters and how, together as an alliance, we'll achieve our Green Vision by 2030. They will be delivering a communications strategy that will help us advance our mission during this critical time as we band together to save biodiversity and develop a more climate resilient region.

Bold Bison to Assist with Green Vision and Congress 2022
Chicago Wilderness has engaged **Bold Bison Communications and Consulting** to add capacity for the **Green Vision Goal Teams**. This fall, each Goal team will prepare guidance documents to identify goals, metrics, and milestones around both the team's work and model projects. The teams will focus on actionable steps to incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice principles into their work; recruiting new members; and establishing timelines.

The work will help the teams prepare for Congress in November and identify ways to engage all of Chicago Wilderness into the Goal Teams' work as we celebrate the public launch of the revised Green Vision. Bold Bison is also adding capacity for the team planning Congress.

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**UPCOMING CW EVENTS**

**Open to all-Join us!**

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Save the date for the 2022 Chicago Wilderness Congress. The event will be in-person at the UIC Pavilion in Chicago on Thursday, November 3, 2022.

Be a part of the planning committee. Contact [Laura.reillycw@gmail.com](mailto:Laura.reillycw@gmail.com)

Stay tuned for more details coming soon!
CW HUB Team Meeting  
7/18/2022

Chicago Wilderness Executive Council Meeting  
7/20/2022

CW Cafe: gROWing Chicago: Prioritization Mapping of Chicago Wilderness' Built Infrastructure  
7/20/2022

CW Steering Committee/Goal Lead Monthly Meeting  
7/25/2022

CW Taking Climate Action (Goal #6) Committee Meeting  
7/25/2022

Managing Healthy Landscapes (Goal #1) Team Meeting  
7/26/2022

CW Cafe: Climate Mitigation and Chicago Wilderness  
7/27/2022

CW Taking Climate Action (Goal #6) Committee Meeting  
8/8/2022

Growing with Ag (Goal #2) Team Meeting  
8/9/2022

CW HUB Team Meeting  
8/15/2022

CW Resources

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

MWRD assistance to help manage stormwater

Municipalities and public agencies are urged to apply for funding assistance from the MWRD to support local green infrastructure projects that mitigate flooding, protect area water quality and enhance public spaces. Due 9/5/2022

Biota Awards Program now open

The Biota Awards funds early-career researchers who seek to restore, protect and conserve biodiversity in the Chicago region and around the world. Due 10/3/2022

View full list of opportunities below and add your opportunities here.

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.

Download the Annual Report 2021
Support the Green Vision: Renew your Membership, Become a Partner or Donate Today

If you would like to unsubscribe: @@unsubscribe_url@@