

Protect, Preserve and Expand our Green Legacy: Last Four Miles



Richard Mariner

REGIONAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Our region's communities are connected through a network of open spaces and natural areas — greenways and trails, wetlands, parks and forest preserves — from southeastern Wisconsin through Illinois to northwestern Indiana.

A century ago, Daniel Burnham and Edward Bennett unveiled their Plan of Chicago, a framework for growth in the greater Chicago area. Their vision included a network of forest preserve districts, open spaces and trails that laid the foundation for the green infrastructure that so enriches the quality of life in our three-state Chicago metropolis.

GREEN LEGACY PROJECTS

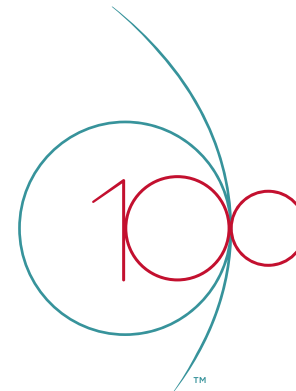
One of the priority goals of the Burnham Plan Centennial is to make real progress in closing important gaps in the region's green infrastructure, and to build momentum for creating the nation's greenest region during the next 100 years. Across the metropolitan area, the Burnham Plan Centennial and the nonprofit organization Openlands have identified more than 20 "Green Legacy" projects that close some of these critical gaps. When completed, these projects will help to:

- Complete Our Region's Trail System
- Connect Us to Our Rivers and Streams
- Expand Neighborhood Green Space
- Protect Our Shoreline
- Preserve Regionally Significant Open Space

LAST FOUR MILES

With extensive community participation and solid technical support, Friends of the Parks has developed and proposed an award-winning, visionary, and practical plan for completing the last four miles of gaps in Daniel Burnham's vision of uninterrupted public access along Chicago's entire 30-mile shoreline from Evanston to Indiana. This strategic, long-term project will achieve four of the five Green Legacy goals: completing our region's trail system, expanding neighborhood green space, protecting our shoreline, and preserving regionally significant open spaces. The Last Four Miles proposal details shoreline park and beach improvements tailored to the very different challenges of the two-mile gap north of Hollywood and the two-mile gap south of 71st Street.

First steps are already underway for transforming former industrial sites on the south side with almost 400 acres of new parks and beaches. And on the north lakefront nearly 100 acres of new park land would connect currently isolated small parks and beaches. The new parkland will improve the environment by reducing air pollution, creating habitat for wildlife and protecting the shoreline from storms and erosion. When Burnham and Bennett published their proposal for a continuous green lakefront in their Plan of Chicago in 1909 only 6 miles of lakefront were public. It took decades of public support and civic will to literally build from scratch today's 26 miles of public lakefront parks and beaches. During the Plan's 100th anniversary, Friends of the Parks is moving Chicago toward completing that vision.



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The Last Four Miles partners include the Friends of the Parks. All of the Burnham Plan Centennial Green Legacy Projects build on many years of hard work by civic organizations, community residents, foundations and government. They are the enduring legacy of Daniel Burnham's Plan of Chicago, are critical to the long-term health of the region, and serve as catalysts for improving our quality of life over the next 100 years.

For more information about the Burnham Plan Centennial and its Green Legacy Projects visit

burnhamplan100.org

BURNHAM PLAN CENTENNIAL GREEN LEGACY PROJECTS

- **COMPLETE OUR REGION'S TRAIL SYSTEM**
 Burnham Greenway
 Calumet-Sag Trail
 Fox River Trail
 Kankakee Riverfront Trail
 Marquette Greenway Trail
 Old Plank Road Trail

- **CONNECT US TO OUR RIVERS AND STREAMS**
 Chicago Riverwalk
 Little Calumet River Water Trail

- **EXPAND NEIGHBORHOOD GREEN SPACE**
 Bloomingdale Trail
 Englewood New ERA Trail

- **PROTECT OUR SHORELINE**
 Lake Michigan Water Trail
 Last 4 Miles
 Marquette Plan
 Openlands Lakeshore Preserve
 Waukegan Lakefront

- **PRESERVE OPEN SPACE**
 Calumet Open Space Reserve
 Deer Grove Preserve
 Hack-ma-tack Reserve
 Kankakee Sands
 Lockport-Joliet Heritage Park
 Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie
 Rock Run Greenway

- Existing and Proposed Trails

- Water Trails

- Green Infrastructure

