

Protect, Preserve and Expand our Green Legacy: Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie



U.S. Forest Preserve

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

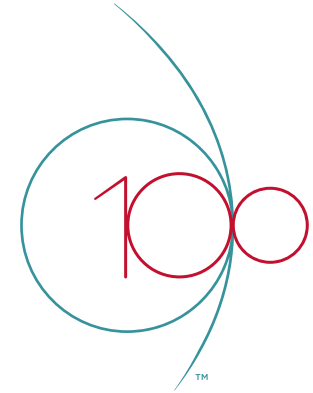
MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

Midwin is the largest protected open space in the Chicago metropolitan region and the largest grassland restoration ever initiated east of the Mississippi River. 19,000 acres of native tall-grass prairie are being preserved and restored. Midwin's sweeping landscape on the former site of the Joliet Arsenal 40 miles southwest of Chicago, is in one of the region's fastest-growing counties. Now owned and managed by the US Forest Service, it will be a tremendous natural asset for neighboring communities and the metropolitan area as a whole. Uninterrupted vistas evoke northeastern Illinois' historic tallgrass prairie landscape, and provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife.

Midwin (mid-AY-win) meets the Centennial Green Legacy goal of preserving regionally significant open space and is finding new ways to make this major anchor for the region's green infrastructure publicly accessible. The Burnham Plan Centennial brought new partners together to help the Forest Service plan interpretive facilities and infrastructure that will enhance access to and appreciation of the reserve including its restored prairie, cultural and industrial history. So now, thanks to the participation of the American Planning Association, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the American Institute of Architects and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), there are several exciting plans for state-of-the-art visitor facilities, and alternative transportation schemes, to help Midwin realize its potential as the Chicago region's newest national prairie park.



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The Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie partners include the Northeast Illinois Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association, the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the U.S. Forest Service, Openlands and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. 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**
 - Bloomington 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
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- Existing and Proposed Trails
 - Water Trails
 - Green Infrastructure

