

Protect, Preserve and Expand our Green Legacy: Northeastern Illinois Water Trails



Jerry Attere

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

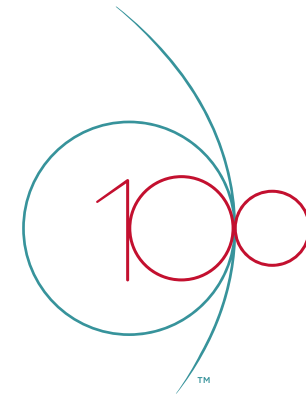
LITTLE CALUMET RIVER TRAIL

The Little Calumet River Trail is part of a 500-mile Northeastern Illinois Water Trails Plan, a decade-old, seven-county water trail system — the first of its kind for a large metropolitan area. The water trails are designated specifically for non-motorized boating on ten of northeastern Illinois' waterways. The Centennial-year completion of the Little Calumet River Trail commemorates the Northeastern Illinois Water Trails Plan that was developed by Openlands, Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, Illinois Paddling Council and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The Little Calumet River Trail marks the Water Trails Plan as 90-percent completed.

Water trails provide educational, recreational and research opportunities, habitat for wildlife, water quality enhancements, and even financial benefits by improving community image and quality of life. Connecting us to our rivers and streams is a core Green Legacy principle. On June 14, Openlands, in cooperation with the Village of South Holland, Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), Chicago River Canoe and Kayak and the Illinois Paddling Council sponsored a paddling event in South Holland on the Little Calumet River to celebrate.



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THE BURNHAM PLAN
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The Northeastern Illinois Water Trails is a project developed by Openlands, Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, Illinois Paddling Council and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 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

- Existing and Proposed Trails

- Water Trails

- Green Infrastructure

