Protect, Preserve and Expand our Green Legacy: Calumet-Sag Trail



Diane Bant

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

CALUMET-SAG TRAIL

Federal, state and local intergovernmental collaboration and community support crystallized for the 26-mile Calumet-Sag Trail during the Burnham Plan Centennial. The trail runs through 14 communities in Chicago's south and southwest suburbs following the Cal-Sag Channel, a major shipping route connecting the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal with Calumet Harbor and Lake Michigan.

The completed Calumet-Sag Trail will link a number of local trails, as well major regional and national trails. From the Burnham Greenway and the Chicago Lakefront Trail on the east to the Centennial and I & M Canal Trails on the west, this trail will ultimately serve as the connector between two major federal projects – the I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Providing new recreation potential unequaled in the southland, this trail will also create an east-west alternative transportation route for over 200,000 residents to train stations along six suburban commuter rail lines. Trail engineering and master planning are moving ahead at a fast pace. Public and private fund-raising are underway for construction and implementation of the master plan. The trail is being sponsored by many agencies and organizations that form the Calumet-Sag Trail Coalition, with additional public support from the Friends of the Calumet-Sag Trail and the National Park Service.



THE BURNHAM PLAN

Presenting Sponsor for the Environment



The Calumet-Sag Trail partners include the Calumet-Sag Trail Coalition and the National Park Service. 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 GRFFN I FGACY 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 Engelwood New ERA Trail

PROTECT OUR SHORELINE

Lake Michigan Water Trail 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 Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rock Run Greenway

Existing and Proposed Trails

Green Infrastructure