

# Protect, Preserve and Expand our Green Legacy: Bloomingdale Trail



Trust for Public Land

## 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

## BLOOMINGDALE TRAIL

The Bloomingdale Trail is one of only a handful of innovative projects in the world that create new open space in a dense urban neighborhood on abandoned elevated rail lines. Only the second project of its type in the nation and the first in Chicago, the trail runs from the Chicago River to Ridgeway Avenue. Design and engineering are underway on this 2.8-mile linear park located on an above-grade right-of-way on Chicago's northwest side.

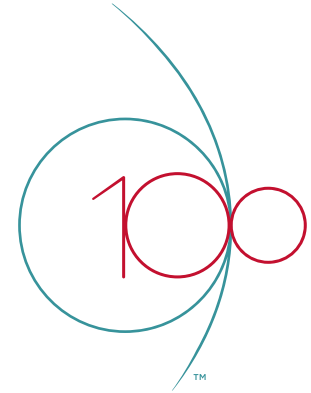


Elina Viele



Elina Viele

Trail access facilities that double as neighborhood parks are being acquired and developed along the route, and fund raising is ongoing. This adaptive re-use of industrial infrastructure takes a pioneering approach to the Green Legacy goal of expanding neighborhood green space that will provide recreation, off-road connections across neighborhoods with non-motorized transportation, and an "escape to nature" in the heart of the city. Partners in the project include the Trust for Public Land, City of Chicago, and the Friends of Bloomingdale Trail.



THE BURNHAM PLAN  
CENTENNIAL

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The Bloomingdale Trail partners include Trust for Public Land, the city of Chicago and Friends of the Bloomingdale Trail. 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](http://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

