

Protect, Preserve and Expand our Green Legacy: Calumet Open Space Reserve



Mike Jeffords

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

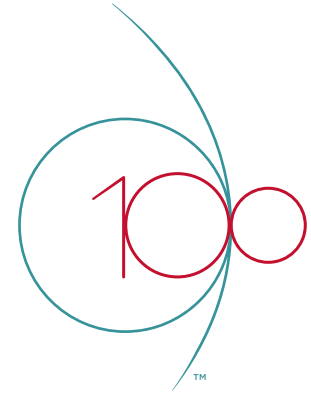
One of the priority goals of the Burnham Plan Centennial is to make real progress in closing important gaps in the region's green infrastructure, and to build momentum for creating the nation's greenest region during the next 100 years. Across the metropolitan area, the Burnham Plan Centennial and the 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 OPEN SPACE RESERVE

Chicago's Calumet Open Space Reserve Plan is a blueprint for habitat restoration, recreation and trail connections on Chicago's southeast side, covering 4,800 acres of one of the largest and most diverse natural wetland complexes in the Midwest. It intends to reverse decades of disinvestment and pollution in an urban location where high quality natural areas contrast with the "edgy" landscape of the region's industrial past. More than 2,200 species have been identified living in the reserve area, including 200 species of birds known to nest in it or migrate through it.

Governor Pat Quinn led the effort as Lieutenant Governor to obtain Illinois' first-ever National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. That grant was combined with state and local funds to restore the Hegewisch Marsh, which is the site of about 120 acres of forest, Calumet River banks, wetlands and uplands where the Ford Calumet Environmental Center will be built. It will also connect to the Burnham Greenway, making for an uninterrupted system of bike and pedestrian trails from the north side of Chicago to the Calumet region. The Governor's Office, Chicago Department of Environment, and many other governmental entities are working with environmental organizations and volunteers to support the restoration of this long-threatened ecological area.



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The Calumet Open Space Reserve partners include the City of Chicago. 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
 Openlads 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

