

# Protect, Preserve and Expand our Green Legacy: Deer Grove Preserve



Mary Stedman

## 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

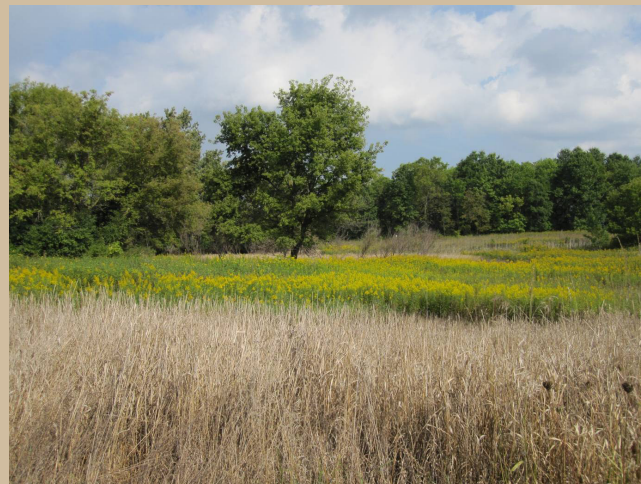
One of the priority goals of the Burnham Plan Centennial is to make real progress in closing important gaps in the region's green infrastructure, and to build momentum for creating the nation's greenest region during the next 100 years. Across the metropolitan area, the Burnham Plan Centennial and the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

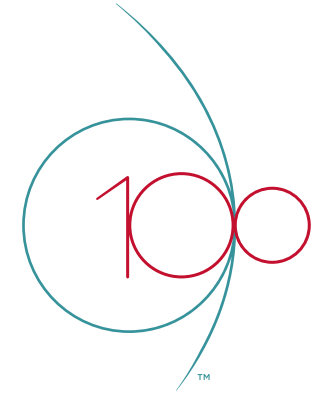
## DEER GROVE PRESERVE

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County was created, in part, to carry out the Burnham Plan's call for protecting valuable natural areas for future generations. The very first land acquired in 1916 was 500 acres of the west side of Deer Grove Forest Preserve. By the time of the Plan's Centennial in 2009, the Preserve had expanded to include 1,800 acres of mixed upland savanna, grassland and wooded wetlands. Also in 2009, the west side of Deer Grove — in recognition of its important contribution to the preservation of biodiversity — received the highest level of state protection when it was dedicated as the 500th site in the Illinois Nature Preserve system.

The history of this site, from the original preserve to the addition of more land to the east and now to a comprehensive restoration project reflects the evolution of our understanding of conservation in the past century. Today, protection is only the first step; restoration of native species and processes and continued land management are critical to realizing the potential of a place like Deer Grove. The improvement of the habitat for many rare native plant and animal species will contribute greatly to our regional ecological health. At Deer Grove a new sustainable ecological restoration project involving volunteers and wetlands technology will soon be underway.



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THE BURNHAM PLAN  
CENTENNIAL

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The Deer Grove Preserve partners include the Forest Preserve of Cook County, Openlands and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 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

