

# Protect, Preserve and Expand our Green Legacy: Hack-ma-tack National Wildlife Refuge



Ray Mathis

## 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

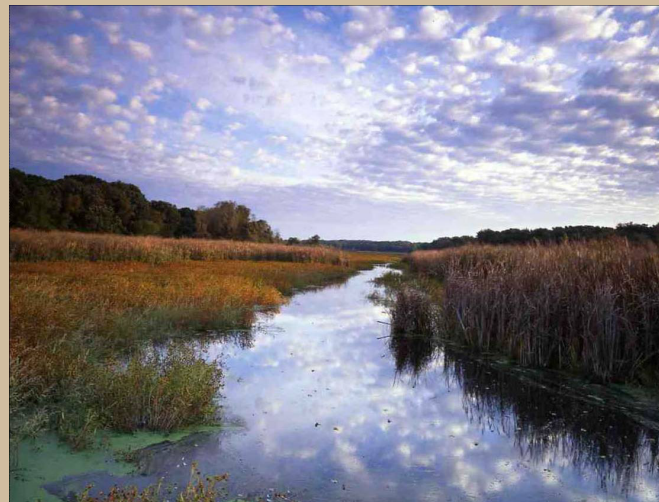
One of the priority goals of the Burnham Plan Centennial is to make real progress in closing important gaps in the region's green infrastructure, and to build momentum for creating the nation's greenest region during the next 100 years. Across the metropolitan area, the Burnham Plan Centennial and the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

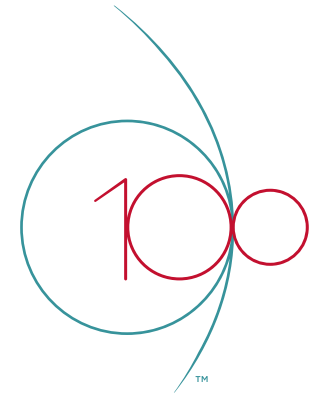
## HACK-MA-TACK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Creating a new national wildlife refuge of up to 10,000 acres spanning the Illinois-Wisconsin state line in the rapidly developing northwest part of the metropolitan area would dramatically advance the Green Legacy goal of preserving regionally significant open space. This bi-state area is home to a dramatic glacial landscape and to an extraordinary collection of diverse aquatic and terrestrial communities. The Hack-ma-tack project in northern McHenry County, Illinois and southern Walworth County, Wisconsin would protect a wildlife refuge for future generations, and would also strategically link with existing preserves and trail connections.

The hope is that the two neighboring states will approach the U.S. Department of the Interior and request national wildlife refuge designation for Hack-ma-tack. Openlands and the Trust for Public Land have been guiding the process of acquiring an ecologically critical parcel and engaging local and state leadership. A feasibility study considering Hack-ma-tack's recreational, biological and economic development potential is already underway.



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THE BURNHAM PLAN  
CENTENNIAL

Presenting Sponsor for the Environment

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The Hack-ma-tack National Wildlife Refuge partners include Friends of Hack-ma-tack, Trust for Public Land and Openlands. 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
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- Existing and Proposed Trails
  - Water Trails
  - Green Infrastructure

