

Protect, Preserve and Expand our Green Legacy: Openlands Lakeshore Preserve



Charles Westerman

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

Openlands Lakeshore Preserve

The Openlands Lakeshore Preserve on Lake Michigan at the former Fort Sheridan in Highland Park opened to the public for the first time in a century in September 2009. Because Illinois has only 60 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, adding a 3/4 mile long ravine and a mile of undeveloped lake bluffs and shoreline — both with spectacular views — is a major milestone for our region's permanent green infrastructure. When completed, the Preserve will provide access via a bluff trail for hiking, biking and wheelchair access, a shoreline walk and a ravine trail.

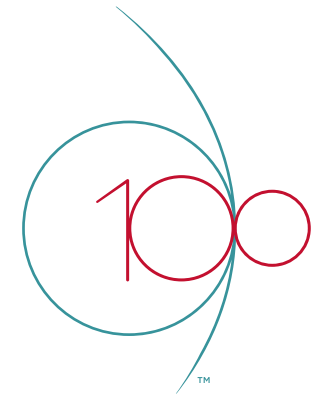


Richard Mariner



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Because it had been closed to the public for a century, the Lakeshore Preserve remained one of the last intact ravine/bluff ecosystems in the Chicago region. With a \$4 million grant from the Grand Victoria Foundation, Openlands has begun an ecological restoration program. In the first phase of the project, Bartlett Ravine was restored. It will be followed by restoration of the bluff and two other ravines. Preserving regionally significant open space and protecting our shoreline are two Green Legacy goals exemplified by the Openlands Lakeshore Preserve, the success of which helps build momentum throughout the region to complete our trail system, to expand neighborhood green spaces, to connect us to our rivers and streams, and to restore and steward our native habitats.



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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**
 - 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

