

Protect, Preserve and Expand our Green Legacy: Old Plank Road Trail

OLD PLANK ROAD TRAIL

In the works for years, the 21-mile Old Plank Road Trail into Joliet was finally completed during the Centennial by the Forest Preserve District of Will County. It connects to Joliet's municipal bikeway system, which, in turn, connects to the Illinois & Michigan Canal Trail. This exemplifies the Green Legacy approach by closing a critical gap in the Grand Illinois Trail, thereby giving Joliet and many other neighborhoods and communities new connections to rivers and streams and better access to nearby forest preserves and parks.

The trail passes through rare railroad prairie (Dewey Helmick Nature Preserve) and a wetland habitat with more than 200 native plants and 160 species of birds. The creation of the Old Plank Road Trail is the result of more than 20 years of the inter-governmental cooperation, involving state and local government and many citizen volunteers.



Courtesy of Openlands



Courtesy of Openlands

REGIONAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

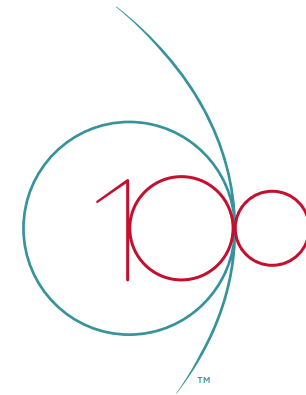
Our region's communities are connected through a network of open spaces and natural areas — greenways and trails, wetlands, parks and forest preserves — from southeastern Wisconsin through Illinois to northwestern Indiana.

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



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The Old Plank Road Trail is a project of the Forest Preserve District of Will County. 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

