Chicago Wilderness 2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Chicago Wilderness is a regional alliance that connects people and nature. We are more than 250 organizations working together to restore local nature and improve the quality of life for all living things, by protecting the lands and waters on which we all depend.

Embedded in one of North America's largest metropolitan regions and stretching from southeastern Wisconsin, through northeastern Illinois, into northwestern Indiana and southwestern Michigan is a network of natural areas that includes nearly 370,000 acres of protected lands and waters. These natural areas are our wilderness, and they are home to a wide diversity of life. Thousands of native plant and animal species live here among the more than 10 million people who also call the region home.

Chicago Wilderness

Connections

Letter from the Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Director

"Chicago Wilderness has shown how to put cities and collaboration back on the conservation map," wrote Curt Meine in 2008. Meine, a conservation biologist, historian, and writer, mused on the fact that it was within our great metropolitan region that conservation was, in a way, reborn. "We can no longer afford (as if we ever could) a fragmented conservation vision that separates and segregates the fate of our remaining wildlands, working agricultural lands, small towns, suburbs, and cities...The future of conservation rests in building healthier connections across that entire spectrum of land use, and recognizing how our most vital natural assets and human needs—healthy food, water, air, climate, and communities—depend on those connections. Chicago Wilderness...is providing

an example to the world of a large metropolis transforming itself."

This year Chicago Wilderness celebrated its 15th anniversary, and our work continues to be both holistic and groundbreaking. Our four strategic initiatives—to Restore Nature to health, to Leave No Child Inside, to implement the Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision and to mitigate Climate Change—reflect the complex interdependency of people and nature, within different contexts and at multiple scales.

To build on our successes and to increase others' capacity, Chicago Wilderness helped form the Metropolitan Greenspaces Alliance (MGA), a group of conservation coalitions that work across extensive natural landscapes and are adept at navigating both



Chicago Wilderness representatives accept the Partners in Conservation Award, presented by Bryan Arroyo, Assistant Director of Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Standing (from left): David Wise, University of Illinois at Chicago; Lynne Westphal, USDA Forest Service; Liam Heneghan, DePaul University; Bryan Arroyo and Janice Engle, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Peggy Stewart, Chicago Park District; Kim Swift, USDI National Park Service/Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; Shawn Cirton and Sean Marsan, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Seated (from left): Aaron Durnbaugh, City of Chicago, Department of Environment; Melinda Pruett-Jones, Chicago Wilderness; John Rogner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Laurel Ross, The Field Museum; Jim Jerozal, Nicor Gas

the complex ecosystem challenges and organizational environments of metropolitan regions. In aggregate, the MGA comprises more than 500 organizations and regions comprised of 23 million people. Because we have brought so many organizations together, we have multiplied our abilities to share knowledge, expertise, and best practices.

Chicago Wilderness strikes at the heart of major issues facing the world today: we are helping keep the air clean and protecting our water supply. We are providing safe places for children to play in nature and educating residents about nature. We are finding effective, efficient, low-impact solutions to infrastructure challenges. We are mitigating the effects of climate change. We are helping people become more active in nature to benefit both ecosystem and human health and to create the next generation of stewards of natural areas.

This scale of strategic approach is one example of why Chicago Wilderness was awarded the US

Department of Interior Secretary's Partners in Conservation Award in 2010. That award recognizes those who make exceptional contributions in achieving conservation goals through collaboration and partnering. Chicago Wilderness members received this award during the November, 2010 Congress, where more than 550 representatives of over 200 organizations, as well as students, volunteers, and conservationists from around the country, joined together to celebrate our shared successes and plan for future regional conservation efforts.

All who live here are part of Chicago Wilderness. We invite you to join us and together we can create a healthy, sustainable region. As Meine said, our future depends on our ability to make connections: between people and nature; across professional disciplines, cultural diversity, and landscapes; bridging organizational and geopolitical boundaries.

Sincerely,

enn n les

Laurel M. Ross, Urban Conservation Director Environment, Culture and Conservation The Field Museum And Chair, Chicago Wilderness

Aaron Durnbaugh Deputy Commissioner, Natural Resources and Water Quality Division, City of Chicago Department of Environment And Vice-Chair, Chicago Wilderness

Melinda Pruett-Jones Executive Director Chicago Wilderness



INITIATIVES

Chicago Wilderness is dedicated to enriching life in our region through four strategic initiatives:

The Green Infrastructure Vision

Leave No Child Inside

Restoring Nature to Health

Climate Change





Initiative 1

The Green Infrastructure Vision

"One of the best things about Chicago Wilderness is that it has brought together a committed group of colleagues, leaders in their fields, to think about natural resource protection issues across jurisdictional, disciplinary, and institutional lines. This expertise, and the collaborative spirit in which it was offered, was critical in helping develop the GO TO 2040 comprehensive plan, which we think is not only CMAP's plan but also the alliance's."

> — Randy Blankenhorn, Executive Director, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

THE CHICAGO WILDERNESS GREEN

INFRASTRUCTURE VISION (GIV) is a tool for communities, land-use planners, and conservation professionals to use to envision and create a region where accessible, interconnected, healthy ecosystems contribute to economic vitality and quality of life for all the region's residents. It identifies 1.8 million acres that can be restored, protected, and connected through conservation and thoughtful land-use planning.

In a landmark development for the conservation community, two major regional comprehensive plans were adopted that invited and incorporated strategies developed by regional environmental professionals, and used Chicago Wilderness' Green Infrastructure Vision as the foundation for creating livable communities.

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) launched GO TO 2040 in the fall of 2010. Chicago Wilderness members are now working with CMAP to achieve the plan's recommendations of adding 150,000 acres to northeast Illinois' existing green infrastructure in the next 30 years, increasing residents' access to parks, preserves, and open space; and promoting sustainable development principles that protect natural resources. In addition, through a grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, CMAP is working with Chicago Wilderness to refine the Green Infrastructure Vision, adding new levels of detail and critical conservation data that will enable alliance members, communities, and partners to strengthen and maintain our green infrastructure.





In June 2011 the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) adopted its Regional Comprehensive Plan. Designed with the intention of protecting northwest Indiana's "natural treasures" such as the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, the plan proposes a green infrastructure network that builds upon the Chicago Wilderness GIV and supports increasing investment in the green infrastructure of the region within both an ecological and ecosystem services context. NIRPC's comprehensive plan, which also builds on its Greenways and Blueways Plan and the Marquette Plan for Lakeshore Reinvestment, integrates sustainable land use and environmental concerns with transportation issues, economic development, and social equity considerations.

Chicago Wilderness' Sustainable Watershed Action Team (SWAT) is an innovative partnership that delivers sustainable planning principles at the local, community, and regional levels while shaping the planning culture across the metropolitan area to include green infrastructure for the benefit of people and nature. Land-use decisions are made at the local level in our region, and units of government have clearly expressed their need for technical assistance to strengthen their planning infrastructure (plans and ordinances) and to promote sustainable development and protection of natural resources. SWAT brings customized technical assistance services to these decision makers and the residents they serve to develop local plans, adopt protective ordinances, and promote sustainable communities. With generous support from the Grand Victoria Foundation, SWAT is currently assisting Campton Hills, Woodstock, McHenry County, and the communities of Bannockburn, Mettawa, and Lincolnshire in an innovative, multi-community effort to identify

and protect green infrastructure. These areas hold some of the best remnant natural areas in the region, and the County and each of these communities has been progressive in their efforts to protect natural resources.

To measure our success in implementing the GIV, The Field Museum, the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, and a number of alliance members have joined forces to adapt The Field Museum's Index of Conservation Compatibility (ICC) for use in the Chicago Wilderness region. The ICC is an exciting tool that measures incremental progress made towards achieving sustainability for both institutional readiness (e.g., planning, policy and ordinance adoption) and operational change (e.g., specific outcomes such as new plans and revised policies).

"Chicago Wilderness has been groundbreaking in bringing together such a large and diverse group of organizations to address conservation issues, including the Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council. Because the membership is so diverse—including public and private organizations, non-profits, and the business community—the work we do together is that much more effective. By building on each organization's strengths, sharing expertise, and addressing challenges in a collaborative way, we are laying the foundation for a truly sustainable region."

⁻Sara Race, Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist, ComEd





Leave No Child Inside

"Friends of Ryerson Woods seeks to serve as a point of entry for new audiences particularly Lake County's growing Latino population—to engage with nature. By working through the Chicago Wilderness network of organizations, we have been able to develop a collaborative capacitybuilding plan that prioritizes both biological and cultural diversity, and brings the Leave No Child Inside message to minority and underserved residents of our region."

> – Sophia B. Twitchell, Executive Director Friends of Ryerson Woods

OUR CHILDREN NEED NATURE. The benefits of outdoor play and exploration have been widely documented: spending time in nature nourishes their natural curiosity, fosters creativity, promotes emotional well-being, and builds their independent learning and problem solving skills. And as importantly, it lets kids reconnect with themselves, their community and the larger environment.

Through the Chicago Wilderness Leave No Child Inside initiative, alliance members are raising public awareness about the importance of access to safe outdoor spaces for healthy childhood development, and providing opportunities to connect with nature. We are working to create a region where children enjoy and are encouraged to be outside in nature and, as a result, are healthier, have a sense of connection to this place and become supporters and stewards of local nature.



The Chicago Wilderness Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

EVERY CHILD SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO:

- Discover wilderness—prairies, dunes, forests, savannas, and wetlands
- Camp under the stars
- Follow a trail
- Catch and release fish, frogs, and insects
- Climb a tree
- Explore nature in neighborhoods and cities
- Celebrate heritage
- Plant a flower
- Play in the mud or a stream
- Learn to swim



Governor Patrick Quinn and the Illinois legislature have declared June as Leave No Child Inside Month in Illinois in perpetuity, and Chicago Wilderness members are encouraging the same action in other states. Each year, conservation agencies and community organizations, park districts and villages, faith and health coalitions, corporations and cultural institutions offer some of the best outdoor activities in the region. An annual kickoff event hosted by the Chicago Park District at Northerly Island is followed by a variety of events throughout the month in which families enjoy quality time together as they follow trails, build forts, roast marshmallows, and just spend time outside in nature. The coordinated effort has amplified the message that outdoor play and exploration is critical to our children's health. More than 20.000 children and adults have participated in Leave No Child Inside events since Chicago Wilderness launched the initiative in 2007.

Chicago Wilderness is also supporting efforts to change the culture of formal education in the region to use local natural resources more effectively in science courses. The Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council supported the development of the Teaching Academy, a pilot program that provides a comprehensive professional development experience for teachers and meaningfully integrates information about local ecosystems, hands-on experiences in nature, and knowledge from local resource professionals into a high school curriculum. The overwhelmingly positive feedback received from the first 15 teachers who participated suggests that the Teaching Academy can grow into an innovative partnership program that improves the level of environmental literacy and engagement.

"The power of partnerships, cooperation and collaboration can not be understated in conservation and outdoor education. Illinois DNR's involvement in Chicago Wilderness is one such partnership, and we are proud of our affiliation with Chicago Wilderness and the important accomplishments we have achieved together."

> — Marc Miller, Director, Illinois Department of Natural Resources



June is Leave No Child Inside Month in Illinois, although partners across three states celebrate each year with special events and programs for families. This year was a tremendous success, with more organizations, families and children participating than ever before:

- More than 70 organizations offered outdoor events and programs
- Over 15,000 adults and children participated
- More than 10,000 Leave No Child Inside Passports were provided for families to use in exploring Chicago parks, Cook County forest preserves and the Calumet region
- New program offerings for Spanish-speaking families
- New event components for children with special needs

More than 50 partners

- Arts organizations
- Community environmental groups
- Corporations
- Faith organizations
- Health coalitions
- Libraries
- Historical Societies
- Native American groups
- Schools
- Village governments

21 Leave No Child Inside Event Hosts

- Barrington Park District
- Cantigny
- The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
- Chicago Botanic Garden
- Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events
- Chicago Park District
- City of Evanston's Parks Division
- Cuba Township Road District
- Forest Preserve District of Cook County
- Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
- Forest Preserve District of Will County
- Friends of Ryerson Woods
- Glenview Park District
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Lake County Forest Preserves
- Oakbrook Terrace Park District, Lake View Nature Center
- McHenry County Conservation District
- Pringle Nature Center
- US Department of Energy, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
- USDI National Park Service/Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
- Village of Homer Glen



Initiative 3

Restoring Nature to Health

"Shirley Heinze Land Trust has been a Chicago Wilderness member for some time. The opportunities for networking that Chicago Wilderness provides are a real benefit for us and have led us into partnerships, including grant applications, which have been invaluable, especially in implementing and greatly expanding our Mighty Acorns program and in stewardship programs on our lands in the Calumet area. We chose to become an Executive Council member more recently in recognition of the increasing benefits we derived from our affiliation and our desire to contribute more to the accomplishment of Chicago Wilderness' objectives."

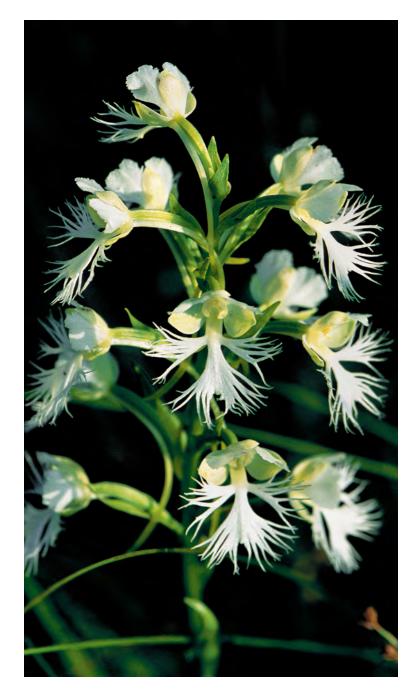
> – Kristopher Krouse, Executive Director, Shirley Heinze Land Trust

HEALTHY NATURAL SYSTEMS GIVE US SO

MUCH, including opportunities for recreation, discovery, and spiritual renewal. And like all other living things, we are completely dependent on those systems for our most fundamental needs—clean air, clean water, food, medicines. Yet nature faces many challenges: breaks in the natural land and water connections; pollution; invasive species; and imbalances in plant and wildlife populations. To address these challenges, Chicago Wilderness members actively work to restore and manage the natural areas of our region, to keep them healthy and sustainable, for the benefit of people and nature.

Recently, with generous support from HSBC and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago Wilderness members—partnerships of public, private, nonprofit, and corporate entitiesimplemented much needed restoration work at three natural areas determined to be of regional conservation significance based on their connections to the larger landscape and the native species they hold. One of the sites is a privately-owned sedge meadow located near Waukegan, Illinois, which provides habitat for the federally-threatened eastern prairie fringed orchid. Chicago Wilderness members launched a multi-year restoration effort to control the invasive brush and cattails which were threatening to choke out the orchid.

At another high-priority site, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County implemented the second phase of a restoration project targeting 127 acres at the Waterfall Glen Preserve near Darien, Illinois. That preserve provides habitat for more than 600 native plant species and serves as an important corridor connecting to nearby natural areas in the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. At a third high-priority area—the Bur Oak Woods Nature Preserve near Hobart, Indiana—the Shirley Heinze Land Trust completed the restoration of 55 acres of savanna habitat. Bur Oak Woods Nature Preserve is home to a wide variety of native plants and woodland birds, as well as the blue-spotted salamander, a species of special concern in Indiana.





To address the challenge that invasive plant species pose in our region, in 2010, supported by funds from the USDA Forest Service through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Chicago Wilderness members launched the Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership (NIIPP), a Cooperative Weed Management Area for northeast Illinois. This regional partnership enables diverse stakeholders to pool resources and to more effectively combat the threat of invasive plants; to date more than 40 organizations have pledged to work together as NIIPP. In its first year, NIIPP has delivered numerous workshops on invasive species; initiated regional public outreach efforts; and helped to implement an aquatic invasive species education program targeting recreational boaters in Illinois and Indiana.

Just as resource managers must control invasive plants, so too must they pay attention to populations of wildlife. In the absence of natural predators, white-tailed deer have increased in numbers recently, often to the detriment of the habitats on which they and other species depend. Recognizing the threat of over abundant deer to the long-term sustainability of our natural communities—and the health of the deer herds— Chicago Wilderness members developed a position statement outlining the conservation community's consensus on best practices with regard to deer management.

Another challenge confronting natural area managers is the extremely high numbers of feral domestic cats. Domestic cats kill millions of native birds and other wildlife each year. Chicago Wilderness developed a position statement outlining the impact of feral and free-roaming cats on biodiversity and the rationale for why trap, neuter and release programs are not effective. The diverse experts that collaborated on the position paper—professionals from the fields of public health, ecology, veterinary science, population biology and government relations—will next work together to launch a regional education and outreach program on this important issue.



"Since its inception, Chicago Wilderness has developed a remarkable model for regionwide collaboration on conservation issues. Especially compelling is its Biodiversity Recovery Plan, which provides a blueprint for restoring the rich array of natural habitats and uniting the region's thousands of volunteer stewards—a nature recovery army like no other!"

> Wendy Paulson, Life Trustee and former Chair of The Nature Conservancy – Illinois, and Chair Emerita of Rare Conservation



Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership

As of September 2011, the following organizations have pledged to work together on the management of terrestrial and aquatic invasive plants in northeast Illinois.

- Algonquin Township Road District
- Alliance for the Great Lakes
- Boone County Conservation District
- Bradburne, Briller & Johnson Environmental Consultants and Engineers
- Campton Township
- Cardno ENTRIX, Inc.
- Chicago Botanic Garden
- Chicago Park District
- Chicago Wilderness
- City of Chicago, Department of Environment
- Fermilab Natural Areas
- The Field Museum
- Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
- Forest Preserve District of Will County
- Frankfort Square Park District
- Friends of the Forest Preserves
- GRAEF
- The Friends of the Indian Boundary Prairies, Markham, IL
- Hey and Associates, Inc.
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program
- Integrated Lakes Management, Inc.
- Joliet Park District
- Kendall County Forest Preserve District

- Lake County Health Department Environmental Health Services
- Lake County Division of Transportation
- Lake County Forest Preserves
- The Land Conservancy of McHenry County (TLC)
- McHenry County Conservation District
- McHenry County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Metropolitan Water Reclamation
 District of Greater Chicago
- Midwest Groundcovers, LLC
- The Morton Arboretum
- The Nature Conservancy Illinois
- North Cook County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Openlands
- Park District of Highland Park
- Pizzo and Associates, Ltd.
- Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium
- Tallgrass Restoration, LLC
- Upland Design, Ltd.
- USDA Forest Service Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
- Village of Algonquin
- Village of Glenview
- Village of Lincolnshire
- Winnebago County Forest Preserve District





Initiative 4

Climate Change

"Forty-four species of birds are at risk of disappearing from Illinois in the near future as a result of climate change, including black-capped chickadees, bobolinks and rose-breasted grosbeak. Only nine new species will become established here during that same period, including some relatively common ones such as the boat-tailed grackle and western kingbird. This adds up to a startling shift of avian diversity."

> —Douglas Stotz, Conservation Ecologist/Ornithologist, The Field Museum

CHICAGO WILDERNESS MEMBERS HAVE BEEN

WORKING TOGETHER to address major threats to biodiversity for 15 years, but we now face a new challenge: climate change. Climate change exacerbates existing threats to our region's nature, and requires us to recognize and adapt to changing circumstances.

In 2010, Chicago Wilderness released the Climate Action Plan for Nature, the first regional analysis of how to navigate the complexities of conservation in a world with a changing climate. The plan identifies three main strategies. The first is to mitigate the future impacts of climate change by reducing the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Within Chicago Wilderness, this means promoting the invaluable role that natural areas play in sequestering carbon.

The plan's second strategy is to make our region's natural areas resilient in the face of inevitable climate change impacts, for example by promoting and maintaining larger landscapes for biodiversity resiliency with connectivity of green space. The plan's third strategy is to engage the Chicago Wilderness community in action, marshalling the alliance's vast network of conservation practitioners to create local solutions that have global impact.

The Climate Action Plan for Nature also recommends the sharing of information and best practices. This year, Chicago Wilderness members developed and led a series of five "Climate Clinics" for natural resource managers and environmental educators, each focusing on the specific adaptation information and climate science education needs of these groups. These were critical first steps that will enable alliance members to develop the tools and strategies to integrate and implement the best science and natural resource management techniques across our landscape, and facilitate continued public outreach and education on this important issue.



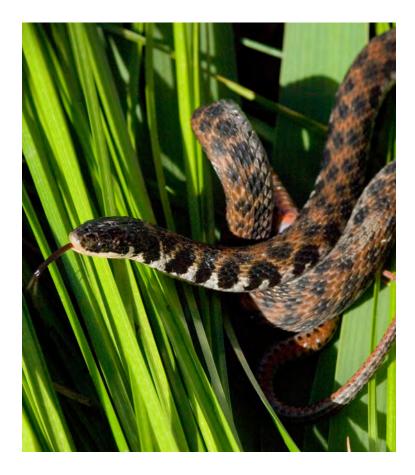


Another innovative approach to conservation that addresses climate change and other environmental stressors is the development of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs). LCCs are landscape-scale partnerships designed to build organizations' shared capacity to integrate science, natural resource management and conservation to sustain key fish and wildlife species in the face of climate change and other environmental threats across the continent.

There are currently 21 LCCs operating in different regions of the U.S. Chicago Wilderness was recently invited to help develop an Upper Midwest and Great Lakes LCC. Because of our extensive network of partners and long history of conducting collaborative conservation at a regional scale, Chicago Wilderness is uniquely positioned to help create an LCC that will be effective in articulating common goals, identifying conservation priorities, and building shared scientific capacity.

Once fully established, the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes LCC, like Chicago Wilderness, will provide a venue for members of the conservation community to apply the best known science to protect, restore, and manage our shared resources even in a changing environment. "The Department of the Interior's 'America's Great Outdoors' initiative seeks to connect all Americans to their natural heritage and to empower all Americans to restore and protect our lands and waters to leave a healthy, vibrant outdoor legacy for generations to come. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is fortunate to have in Chicago Wilderness a grassroots partnership that brings together others who share this mission and demonstrates what people working together are able to achieve."

> —Louise Clemency, Field Supervisor, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago Ecological Services Office



Financial Report Fiscal Year 2010–2011 (May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011)

Thank you to the organizations, corporations, foundations, government agencies, and individuals that supported the efforts of Chicago Wilderness and its members through financial contributions and in-kind support.

The Chicago Wilderness Alliance

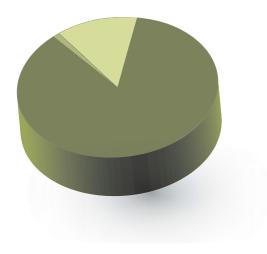
Revenues to the Chicago Wilderness Trust

Combined Revenue \$1,014,208
Government Grants
Corporate and Foundation Grants
Contributions
Chicago Wilderness Members
Corporate Council Members116,79

How the Alliance Invested its Revenue During the 2010 - 2011 Fiscal Year

Chicago Wilderness operates efficiently and effectively to leverage the capacity of its diverse members. In this year, 86% of its expenses went directly into the collaborative projects and programs of the alliance.

86%	Program		\$643,171
13%	Managemer	nt & General	\$97,223
1%	Fundraising		\$7,479
Total E	xpenses		\$747,873



Donors

Corporations, Foundations, Organizations and Government Agencies

Alphawood Foundation Ball Horticultural Company **Bobolink Foundation** BP America, Inc. Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. Cardno ENTRIX, Inc. Cardno JFNew The Care of Trees Chicago Area Combined Federal Campaign Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture The Civic Consulting Alliance ComEd Cowhey Gudmundson Leder, Ltd. Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation The Field Foundation First Congregational Church of Wilmette **Fogelson Foundation** Grand Victoria Foundation Hamill Family Foundation Hitchcock Design Group Martin J. and Susan B. Kozak Fund at The Chicago Community Trust Man Investments Inc. The McCance Foundation Trust McKesson Foundation Harold M. and Adeline S. Morrison Family Foundation National Science Foundation North Shore Unitarian Church Pasquesi Home and Gardens Sonnenschein, Nath and Rosenthal LLP The Taproot Foundation Unilever United States Foundation USDA Forest Service US Fish and Wildlife Service Velasco & Associates

Individuals

Biodiversity Guild Charles Haffner III, George Rabb, Louis F. Schauer

Wilderness League Mary G. Wilson

Conservation Circle

Duane Ehresman, Edward Lyons and Jean Sussman, Gregory Mueller, Martha and Zink Sanders

Habitat Club

Jo Ellen Anderson, Andrea Cross, Meredith Kerns Cywinski, Louise Egerton-Warburton, Michele A. Gillett, Hall and Ann Healy, Marguerite J. Jensen, Allison Margolies, John and Judith McCarter, Debra Moskovits, Neal J. Ney, Stephen and Melinda Pruett-Jones, David L. Thomas, Nancy G. Wallace, Michael Zarski

Friends of Chicago Wilderness

Anonymous (36), Robert and Sally Bacon, Mary B. Berkowicz, Mary Byrne, A.P. Capparella, Susan R. Casey, Robyn S. Chamberlain, Prasenjeet R. Chaudhuri, Cheryl D. Corley, Rebecca Couch Pride, Jennifer A. Cudahy, Peter E. Doris, Erwin Epstein, Kirsten M. Ganschow, Kristine Garrigan, Glenn L. Green, Roger Griffin, David J. Hall, Daniel Hamingson, Jacob Hartle, Marian Hofherr, Lisa Jaburek, John and Nan Jenkins, Mark Johnson, Sandra Johnson, Lloy Johnston, Nadine Kadus, Karra Kallen, Cynthia Klein-Banai, Bruce G. Koprucki, Sara Jane Leonard, Barbara Leskie, Vicky Lessard, Mitchell Levin, Michael B. Ludtke, Michelle Maton, Karen V. Maurer, Katherine M. Maurer, Jane Mikulski, Ute O'Malley, Steve Pohl, Hillary Pranga, Therese Radke, Clayton D. Root III, Aron Silverton, John Gelston Smith, Elvira A. Steele, Robert H. Stracke, Kathleen L. Taylor, David Wachtel, Frances S. Vandervoort

2010-2011 Projects

Chicago Wilderness implemented the following projects during its 2010 – 2011 fiscal year.

Green Infrastructure Vision	Project Partners
Adapting the Index of Conservation Compatibility (ICC) to the Chicago Wilderness Region: A Tool for Tracking Progress Toward Sustainability Across Multiple Geographic Scales	Cardno ENTRIX, Inc.; Chicago State University; Environmental Planning Solutions, Inc.; The Field Museum; Friends of Hackmatack; Futurity, Inc.; Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; McHenry County Conservation District; Village of Lincolnshire
Assisting Communities with Green Infrastructure Planning Using the Sustainable Watershed Action Team (SWAT) Model	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; City of Woodstock; Conservation Design Forum; Cowhey Gudmundson Leder, Ltd.; Environmental Defenders of McHenry County; Environmental Planning Solutions, Inc.; Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; Lake County Stormwater Management Commission; The Land Conservancy of McHenry County; JJR, LLC; McHenry County Conservation District; McHenry County Department of Planning and Development; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Village of Bannockburn; Village of Campton Hills; Village of Lincolnshire; Village of Mettawa
Chicago STEW-MAP: The Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project	Center for Neighborhood Technology; The Field Museum; USDA Forest Service
Developing a Prototype of the Chicago Wilderness Knowledge Base: A Web-Accessible Data Management System to Support Implementation of the Green Infrastructure Vision	Cardno ENTRIX, Inc.; Chicago State University; Cowhey Gudmundson Leder, Ltd.; Environmental Planning Solutions, Inc.; The Field Museum; Futurity, Inc.; Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; Kane County Development Department; Village of Lincolnshire
Exploring the Development of an Urban Long Term Research Area (ULTRA) for the Chicago Wilderness Region: Connecting the Social and Ecological Sciences with Planners, Managers, and the Public	City of Chicago, Department of Environment; DePaul University; The Field Museum; Lincoln Park Zoo; Loyola University Chicago; Purdue University; University of Illinois at Chicago; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; USDA Forest Service
Leave No Child Inside	
Building a Strategy for Bringing the Leave No Child Inside Program to Latino Communities in the Chicago Wilderness Region	First Baptist Church of Waukegan; Friends of Ryerson Woods; Lake County Forest Preserves; Lake Forest Open Lands Association Waukegan Park District; Waukegan Public Library
Chicago Wilderness Teaching Academy: Connecting High Schools to Local Biodiversity	The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum; Chicago Botanic Garden; Deerfield High School; Lake County Forest Preserves
The Chicago Wilderness Atlas of Biodiversity, 2011 Revision	Center for Neighborhood Technology; Chicago Zoological Society/ Brookfield Zoo; The Field Museum; Forest Preserve District of Cook County; Kent Fuller; Arthur Melville Pearson
Cool Learning Experience: Fostering Career Awareness Through Community Partnerships	First Baptist Church of Waukegan; Illinois Department of Natural Resources; US Fish and Wildlife Service; Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group

Leave No Child Inside, continued	Project Partners
Expansion of the Mighty Acorns Conservation Stewardship Education Program in DuPage County	Forest Preserve District of DuPage County; The Field Museum; Indian Prairie School District 204; Unilever
Mighty Acorns: A Regional Conservation Stewardship Education Program	Bensenville Park District; Chicago Park District; The Conservation Foundation; Dunes Learning Center; Elgin High School; The Field Museum; Forest Preserve District of Cook County; Forest Preserve District of DuPage County; Forest Preserve District of Kane County; Friends of the Forest Preserves; Girl Scouts of Chicago; Girl Scouts of Fox Valley; Girl Scouts of Rock River Valley; Iron Oaks Environmental Learning Center; Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District; Lake County Forest Preserves; Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation; McHenry County Conservation District; Northbrook Park District; Prairie Club Conservation Fund; Springbrook Nature Center; Spring Valley Nature Center; USDA Forest Service - Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie; USDI National Park Service/Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
Restoring Nature to Health	
Chicago Wilderness Land Management Research Program: 100 Sites for 100 Years	Center for Humans and Nature; Chicago Botanic Garden; DePaul University; The Field Museum; Forest Preserve District of Cook County; Forest Preserve District of DuPage County; Lake County Forest Preserves; McHenry County Conservation District; University of Illinois at Chicago
A Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region	Beach Park Fire Department; Forest Preserve District of Cook County; Forest Preserve District of DuPage County; Forest Preserve District of Kane County; Forest Preserve District of Will County; Grayslake Fire Department; Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Illinois Fire Service Institute; Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; Lake County Forest Preserves; McHenry County

Developing and Advancing the Northeastern Illinois Cooperative

Midwest Ecological Prescription Burn Crew Member Training

Weed Management Area

Program

Conservation District; The Nature Conservancy – Illinois; Pleasant Prairie Fire and Rescue; USDA Forest Service; USDI National Park Service/Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; Wildfire Management & Training Specialists; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Cardno ENTRIX, Inc.; Chicago Botanic Garden; The Field

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

Morton Arboretum

Museum; Forest Preserve District of Cook County; Lake County Forest Preserves; Lake County Health Department; The Morton Arboretum; Park District of Highland Park; USDA Forest Service -

Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo; Forest Preserve District

of Cook County; Forest Preserve District of DuPage County; The

2010 Projects, continued

Restoring Nature to Health, continued	Project Partners
RESTORE (Rethinking Ecological & Social Trends of Restoration Ecology): Evaluating the Biodiversity and Social Outcomes of Different Models of Restoration Planning in the Chicago Wilderness Region	DePaul University; The Field Museum; Loyola University Chicago; University of Illinois at Chicago; University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign; USDA Forest Service
Restoring Sites of Regional Significance in Chicago Wilderness	Audubon-Chicago Region; Cardno ENTRIX, Inc.; Fields of Cambridge Homeowners Association; Forest Preserve District of DuPage County; Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; Integrated Lakes Management, Inc.; Liberty Prairie Conservancy; Shirley Heinze Land Trust; Tallgrass Restoration, LLC; US Fish and Wildlife Service
Climate Change	
Chicago Wilderness Climate Clinics for Natural Resource Managers and Environmental Educators	The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum; Chicago Botanic Garden; The Field Museum; University of Illinois Extension; US Fish and Wildlife Service

Chicago Wilderness Executive Council

The alliance gratefully acknowledges the institutional representatives who have most recently served on the Chicago Wilderness Executive Council:

Audubon – Chicago Region Stephen Packard, Justin Pepper, Judy Pollock

Biodiversity Project Jennifer Browning

Center for Humans and Nature Brooke Hecht, Gavin Van Horn, Anja Claus

Center for Neighborhood Technology Bill Eyring, Steve Wise

The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum Deborah Lahey, Rafael Rosa, Donna Gustafsson

Chicago Botanic Garden Greg Mueller, Bob Kirschner

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Randy Blankenhorn, Jesse Elam

Chicago Park District Adam Schwerner, Peggy Stewart, Zhanna Yermakov

Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council James Jerozal (Chair, Corporate Council), Dennis Dreher (Vice Chair)

Chicago Wilderness Trust Dale Engquist (President, Chicago Wilderness Trust)

Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo Stuart Strahl, David Becker, Jo-Elle Mogerman **City of Chicago, Department of Environment** Aaron Durnbaugh (Vice Chair, Chicago Wilderness), Suzanne Malec-McKenna

DePaul University, Environmental Science Program Liam Heneghan, Barbara Willard

The Field Museum Laurel Ross (Chair, Chicago Wilderness), Doug Stotz

Fishin' Buddies! John Kidd

Forest Preserve District of Cook County Arnold Randall, Cathy Geraghty, Mary Laraia, Steve Bylina

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County John Oldenburg, Bill Weidner

Forest Preserve District of Kane County Monica Meyers

Forest Preserve District of Will County Marcy DeMauro, Ralph Schultz

Friends of the Chicago River Margaret Frisbie, John Quail

Geneva Lake Conservancy Lynn Ketterhagen, Joseph McHugh

Chicago Wilderness Executive Council, continued

Illinois Department of Natural Resources John Rogner, Lynn Boerman, Leslie Sgro, Nancy Williamson, Deborah Stone

Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board Dan Gooch

Illinois Natural History Survey Brian Anderson, Geoff Levin

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Steve Byers

John G. Shedd Aquarium Cheryl Mell, Melanie Napoleon, Jim Robinett

Kendall County Forest Preserve District Jason Pettit, Megan Andrews

Lake County Forest Preserves (IL) Andrew Kimmel, Jim Anderson

Lake County Parks & Recreation Department (IN) Robert Nickovich, Joy Bower

Land Trust Alliance Johanna Garsenstein

Lincoln Park Conservancy Susan Fargo, Steven Zelner

Lincoln Park Zoo Steven Thompson, Kevin Bell, Rachel Bergren Loyola University Chicago, Center for Urban Environmental Research & Policy Nancy Tuchman, Gina Lettiere

Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation Traci Brandenburg, Michelle Groves

McHenry County Conservation District Elizabeth Kessler, Kevin Ivers, Kim Hankins

McHenry County Conservation Foundation Nancy Williamson, Yvonne Semel

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago David St. Pierre, Manju Sharma, Richard Lanyon

The Morton Arboretum Gerard Donnelly

The Nature Conservancy – Illinois Leslee Spraggins, Bob Moseley, Susan Donovan

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission John Swanson, Kathy Luther

Northwestern University Environmental Policy & Culture Program Yael Wolinsky, Paul Friesema

Openlands Gerald Adelmann, Lenore Beyer-Clow **Purdue University Calumet** Edward Pierson, Diane Trgovcich-Zacok

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School of Environmental Education, Riverside Brookfield High School Tim Scanlon, Jame Holt, Laura Drzonek

Shirley Heinze Land Trust Kristopher Krouse

Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter Jack Darin

University of Chicago – Civic Knowledge Project Bart Schultz

University of Illinois at Chicago David Wise, Mary Ashley, Joel Brown, Henry Howe

US Army Corps of Engineers Lynne Whelan

US Department of Energy, Argonne National Laboratory Casey Sullivan, Kate Panek, Anthony Dvorak US Fish and Wildlife Service Louise Clemency, Shawn Cirton, Kris Lah, Cathy Pollack, Janice Engle

USDA Forest Service Barbara Tormoehlen, Tom Dilley, Lynne Westphal, Wade Spang, Renee Thakali

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Rand Briggs, Jon Hubbert

USDI National Park Service/Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Costa Dillon, Kimberly Swift, Garry Traynham

Village of Lincolnshire Lydia Scott, Jennifer Hughes

Waukegan Citizens Advisory Group Susie Schreiber, Sharon Thieszen

Honorary Member George Rabb, President Emeritus, Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo

Committee Chairs and Volunteer Leaders

The following individuals and organizations have given substantially of their time to lead the committees, teams and task forces of Chicago Wilderness during this report period:

Climate Change Initiative

Kris Lah, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Doug Stotz, The Field Museum; Bob Moseley, The Nature Conservancy - Illinois

Communication and Marketing Committees Jennifer Browning, Biodiversity Project; Jack Broughton, Applied Ecological Services

Congress Organizing Committee

Lynn Boerman, Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Johanna Garsenstein, Land Trust Alliance; Tom Dilley, USDA Forest Service

Coordinating Group

Jim Anderson, Lake County Forest Preserves

Education Team

Rafael Rosa, The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum; Jennifer Schwarz Ballard, Chicago Botanic Garden; Peggy Stewart, Chicago Park District; Kimberly Swift, USDI National Park Service/Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Early Childhood Task Force
 Robin Cline, Garfield Park Conservatory
 Alliance; Sean Shaffer, Chicago Park District

Government Relations Committee

Ylda Capriccioso, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; Andy Kimmel, Lake County Forest Preserves; Debra Stone

Green Infrastructure Vision Initiative

Jeff Mengler, Cardno ENTRIX, Inc.; Nancy Williamson, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Leave No Child Inside Initiative Peggy Stewart, Chicago Park District

Nominating Committee John Quail, Friends of the Chicago River

Sustainability Team Lydia Scott, Village of Lincolnshire; Nancy Williamson, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Natural Resources Management Team

Steve Byers, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; Jeff Mengler, Cardno ENTRIX, Inc.

- Aquatics Task Force
 Mike Adam, Lake County Health Department;
 Brook Herman, US Army Corps of Engineers
- Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership Debbie Maurer, Lake County Forest Preserves; Steve Byers, Illinois Nature Preserve Commissions; Jeff Mengler, Cardno ENTRIX, Inc.; Eric Ulaszek, USDA Forest Service
- Wildlife Task Force
 Gary Glowacki, Lake County Forest Preserves;
 Mike Redmer, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Science Team

Liam Heneghan, DePaul University; Lynne Westphal, USDA Forest Service; David Wise, University of Illinois at Chicago

Organizations that Host Chicago Wilderness Staff

We are grateful to the member organizations that have recently served as host institutions for Chicago Wilderness staff:

Benedictine University Chicago Botanic Garden Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo Forest Preserve District of Cook County Illinois Department of Natural Resources The Nature Conservancy – Illinois



Members of Chicago Wilderness

259 Members as of July 2011

Alliance for the Great Lakes Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative Audubon – Chicago Region BackYard Nature Center Barrington Area Conservation Trust Barrington Area Council of Governments Batavia Plain Dirt Gardeners **Benedictine University Biodiversity Project** Bird Conservation Network Blacks in Green (BiG) Bolingbrook Park District Boone Creek Watershed Alliance Bronzeville/Black Chicagoan **Historical Society** Buffalo Grove Park District Butterfield Creek Steering Committee Calumet Ecological Park Association Calumet Environmental **Resource** Center Campton Historic Agricultural Lands, Inc. **Campton Township** Canal Corridor Association Caretakers of the Environment International/USA Cary Park District

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Clarendon Hills Park District

Coffee Creek Watershed Conservancy

College of DuPage

The Conservation Foundation

The Conservation Fund

Conservation Research Institute

Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory at Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Crystal Lake Park District

Deerfield High School

Deerpath Farm Homeowners' Association

Delta Institute

DePaul University, Environmental Science Program

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Dundee-Crown High School

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Kendall County Forest Preserve District

Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District

Kenosha/Racine Land Trust

Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie

Kettle Moraine Land Trust, Inc.

Kishwaukétoe Nature Conservancy

Lake Bluff Open Lands Association

Lake County Forest Preserves (IL)

Lake County Health Department – Environmental Health Services (IL)

Lake County Parks & Recreation Department (IN)

Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District (IL)

Lake County Solid Waste Management District (IN)

Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (IL)

Lake Forest College

Lake Forest Open Lands Association

Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens

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Liberty Prairie Conservancy

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Lincoln Park Zoo

Lincoln-Way Community High School

Long Grove Park District

Loyola University Chicago, Center for Urban Environmental Research & Policy

Lurie Garden: Millennium Park

Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation

McHenry County Conservation Foundation

McHenry County Conservation District

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

The Morton Arboretum

Naperville Park District

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National Parks Conservation Association – Midwest Region Office

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The Wildlife Discovery Center at the Historic Elawa Farm

Wildwood Nature Center

Woodland Savanna Land Conservancy



Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council

33 Members as of August 2011

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