

SOUTH SUBURBAN CALUMET AREA OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE



A Project of

**South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
and
Openlands Project**

In cooperation with
**Burnham, Calumet City, Calumet Park, Dolton, Harvey,
Lansing, Riverdale, South Holland and Thornton**

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Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation

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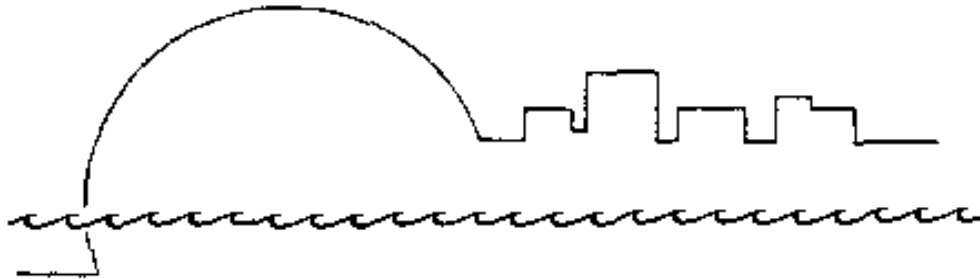
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On the cover: Tourists enjoy the peaceful calm of a boat ride along the Calumet River in the early 1900's.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The *South Suburban Calumet Area Open Space Initiative* is a special project of the **South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association** and **Openlands Project**, funded by the **Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation**.

The **South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA)** is an intergovernmental agency providing technical and joint services to 43 municipalities representing a population of over 625,000 in southern Cook and Will counties. SSMMA members work cooperatively on land use, transportation, legislation, economic development, stormwater and open space planning, education, recycling, public safety, housing, solid waste management, infrastructure, purchasing, risk management, human resources, and finance issues.

Openlands Project (Openlands) is an independent, non-profit organization that protects, expands, and enhances public open space – land and water – to provide a healthy natural environment and a more livable place for people in the Chicago metropolitan region. Founded in 1963, the organization addresses the full spectrum of open space issues: advocacy, planning, implementation, education, and community involvement. Since its establishment, Openlands has played a leadership role in nearly every major open space initiative in northeastern Illinois.

SSMMA and Openlands Project wish to thank the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation for funding this regional open space planning effort that addresses and complements the City of Chicago's plan for its Open Space Reserve.

Eubanks & Associates, Inc. served as a special consultant to South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and the Project Team, providing open space site analyses, landscape architecture services, technical writing services, and public meeting and tour facilitation.

We wish to recognize the leadership of the mayors and staff members of the communities, as well as the Park Districts and/or Park Departments serving the communities featured in this study: Burnham, Calumet City, Calumet Park, Dolton, Harvey, Lansing, Riverdale, South Holland and Thornton.

We wish to thank Robinson Engineering for preparing the GIS-based open space opportunity / land use maps appearing in this Plan. Also, executive staff from the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau helped us formulate strategies related to using open space and associated facilities for enhanced tourism, economic development, and quality of life within the southern suburbs. We also thank the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service for allowing us to reprint its summary of conservation funding sources in its entirety (Appendix C).

South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and Openlands Project created this plan with the support and assistance from many people and organizations. The sixteen-month long planning effort was truly collaborative and participatory, which in our view is the best way to address and identify the open space land use issues. Many volunteer hours were sustained throughout the project to produce this report, which reflects a diversity of excellent ideas – ideas and recommendations tailor-made for improving both the built and natural environment throughout the Calumet area of the south suburbs.

The many individuals, communities, and organizations participating in this effort are listed on the following pages.

SOUTH SUBURBAN MAYORS AND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

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Department of Parks &
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Calumet: Region in Transition



The high-quality Thorn Creek Watershed in Thornton.

The history of the Calumet region is at once storied and troubling, a distinct portrait of a land and its people continuously influenced, and recently overtaken by changing times and boom and bust market values. Yet, despite what amounted at times to unrelenting urban pressures, *Nature* — prairies, wetlands, woodlands and savannas — has persevered in Calumet, with remnant rare plants, animals and ecosystems of nationwide significance. What lies before us is the potential to create a world class open-space system, a jewel that would complement the dignity of daily living and connect people with a sense of place.

Early settlers quickly identified the area, with its vast, fertile marshes and sloughs, as an almost limitless supply for the burgeoning fur and feathers trade. Later, the general unsuitability of the land for residential settlement facilitated massive industrial development after the Civil War that would forever change the character and orientation of the region. The turn of the century found Chicago bursting with a new-found muscle, the epicenter of which was the city's South East side, along with bordering towns like Riverdale, Dolton and Harvey. Immigrants toiled long hours in blast furnace steel operations and heavy industry, living in tight-knit ethnic communities and company towns like Pullman where hard-working character was more than an abstraction. Rails formed a grid over which ceaselessly rolled the Nation's commodities, while barge and freighter traffic plied factories with the raw materials they needed. All of these and other advancements throughout the early 1900s combined to make Calumet the industrial capital of the Chicagoland area, and, at times, of the Midwest and the U.S. at large.



Many rails still traverse the Calumet region



Industry along the Grand Calumet River in Burnham

While the mills and factories were busy, times were good. First-generation immigrant families became homeowners and the American dream truly seemed accessible for anyone willing to work. Gradual degradation of marshlands and waterways was seen as a natural progression that went hand in hand with industrialization and the creation of jobs.

Problems in the region became manifest in the 1970s and 1980s, when several large manufacturers and steel companies packed up their operations and moved from the Midwest. In many cases, these abandoned plants still exist, great rusted beasts that lend an eerie, superhuman scale to the Calumet landscape and act as an allegory to visitors. The area has continued its economic decline into today, with leaders struggling to find solutions to the problem that will satisfy all stakeholders.

Open Space and Smart Growth

Today, it is widely understood that economic development and conservation of natural resources and open space are not mutually exclusive endeavors; great potential now exists in the Calumet region to embrace both, providing sustainable, intelligent economic growth that stay the tests of time.

In 2000, Illinois Governor George Ryan and Chicago Mayor Richard Daley committed \$34 million to do just that, creating the Calumet Sustainable Growth Initiative, which would help secure a bright future for both the residents and rich natural resources of the Calumet area.

Following suit, the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) has partnered with Openlands Project to facilitate a similar effort for the surrounding southern suburbs that, along with the City of Chicago, make up the Calumet region. The product is this document, the ***South Suburban Calumet Area Open Space Initiative***, which reflects the ideas and recommendations of an Advisory Council, nine suburban governments, community stakeholders and an exhaustive Technical Council of open space experts.

South Suburban Calumet Area Open Space Initiative

The Initiative hoped to highlight the unique natural conditions and resources possessed by the suburban Calumet region, enriching similar studies by the City of Chicago. Economic and social variables were placed on equal footing with environmental considerations, such that findings could be used to help jump-start the region's economic engine. Investigations were divided into two primary categories: Sites and Trail Corridors of Statewide Significance, and Locally Important Open Space and Recreational Opportunities. With these identified, team members could hope to uncover sites with a "universal" appeal or value, but also those with a more intrinsic, community value that might not immediately be apparent.

After interviews and meetings with national, state and local authorities, stakeholders and experts, it soon became clear that the Calumet area has numerous sites that would fall under both categories. Examples include the Thornton quarry, reputed to be the third-largest commercial stone operation in the world, and a host of natural areas like the Burnham Prairie and Volbrecht Road Woods, characterized by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as being among the highest-quality remnant ecosystems in the state.



Local leaders and stakeholders visited significant south suburban sites during an Initiative bus tour in October, 2003

Abandoned rail beds and river corridors, in great evidence throughout the region, offer the intriguing potential of an interlocked trail network that simultaneously functions as a corridor for biota to safely traverse the area.

Upon the identification of sites with potential, efforts were made to meld stakeholder interests into a common vision. Several potential themes emerged that might aid in the process:

- A Greenway System of Multi-use trails
- Living History Farms: A Decentralized System of Sites Connected by a Greenways and Trail System
- Educational and interpretive Programs for Historic and Archeological Stories
- Open Space Features Weaved into Tourism
- Open Space Features Used as an Economic Development Tool
- Forest Preserve Facility Upgrade for South Suburban Calumet area

Moving forward, steps were taken to establish a vision for the Calumet region. What materialized were several categories that consistently surfaced throughout the process as worthy of further exploration:

- Remnant Natural Areas with High Concentrations of Biodiversity that Rank as Illinois Natural Area Inventory (INAI) sites and/or Illinois Nature Preserve (INP) Sites
- Forest Preserve District of Cook County Lands not on the Illinois Natural Area Inventory List
- River and Creek Corridors
- Rail, Road and Utility Greenway Corridors
- Cultural and Geological Sites
- Bicycle Trail Network



Historic Paarlberg Farmhouse in South Holland

Once this unified vision was born, the project team created an Action Plan for each of the sites and categories, relying on broad community and expert participation. On each, lead agencies were identified along with action steps and implementation timelines that range from 1 to 10 years. Recommendations varied from the relatively simple—establishing interpretive signage at a prairie remnant—to the more involved—development of a Master Plan for a Brownfield site.

Regardless of size, however, all projects require funding and active ecological or technical stewardship, and no single entity possesses the means to undertake all of the projects as detailed in the Initiative; thus, a mosaic of governments and civic partners are identified in a matrix detailing cooperative endeavors. Such intergovernmental and civic cooperation will require leadership and long term commitment. SSMMA and Openlands Project are prepared to lead the Initiative through an Advisory Council that will guide implementation. These and other issues related to funding wrap up the Plan, presenting potential involvement from SSMMA, Openlands Project and the communities themselves.

The New Calumet

The team sincerely hopes that ideas discussed within the South Suburban Calumet Area Open Space Initiative can begin what will undoubtedly be an involved and challenging effort towards constructing a bright future for the region. Years ago, People built Calumet, raising an industrial superpower out of a vast marshland and driving development in the United States. Times have changed, proving the old ways no longer viable. Let us put Calumet back on the map by ushering in a new era characterized by sustainable economic growth and a restored natural landscape.



MISSION

The goal of the ***South Suburban Calumet Area Open Space Initiative*** is to develop an open space preservation and restoration plan for the Calumet Area's south suburban region that will enhance the beauty and livability of the region and provide communities with a blueprint for preserving unique natural areas of statewide and national significance and lands rich in recreational value. The plan is intended to define an organizational structure to help fund and implement an exciting open space vision for the south suburbs. Finally, the plan intends to define a myriad of potential open space opportunities that may be lost if action is not taken today.

This report is a sub-regional plan that will focus on networks of natural habitat and recreational opportunities. It will especially focus on cross-border opportunities for open space protection and restoration through collective efforts among local governments, not-for-profit organizations and private landowners.

The ***South Suburban Calumet Area Open Space Initiative*** will complement the City of Chicago's open space planning efforts in the Calumet region. While the Calumet region stretches from 95th Street in Chicago to beyond the Indiana border and embraces twelve Chicago neighborhoods and all or portions of Burnham, Calumet City, Calumet Park, Dolton, Harvey, Lansing, Riverdale, Thornton and South Holland, this study will only examine opportunities that exist within the Illinois communities outside the City of Chicago.

BACKGROUND



The Calumet area is rich in jobs and industry

The Calumet Region is a complex and challenging area that crosses municipal and state boundaries. Once a major industrial center and transportation hub, the region has suffered serious economic decline in recent decades. Today the area is a patchwork of developed land, vacant industrial properties and natural areas. In terms of natural areas, the region harbors ecological treasures that stand as remnants of highly endangered ecosystems – wetlands, prairies, and oak woodlands – that support an impressive array of birds and provide habitat for rare plants, animals, and fish. Over 200 species of birds are known to visit the Calumet region annually.

After decades of neglect and disinvestments, the Calumet region is once again coming into the public eye. Its large tracts of vacant industrial land and thousands of acres of open space create an opportunity to revitalize the region that is commanding the attention of

planners, business and civic leaders, and elected officials. In the summer of 2000, Governor Ryan and Mayor Daley announced the Calumet Sustainable Growth Initiative to guide the region to a balanced, healthy future. Together, they committed \$34 million to fund a joint plan for sustainable growth and to protect the region's unique natural resources. Although the initiative was spearheaded by the city, the state recognized that the suburban portion of the region needed to be included as well. Openlands, who has been working with community groups and environmental organizations in the Calumet region since 1995, played a key role in facilitating this landmark agreement between the city and the state.

To provide a blueprint for future land use in Chicago's Calumet region, the City's Department of Planning and Development (DPD) embarked on the development of the Calumet Area Land Use Plan in 1999. DPD invited Openlands to partner in that endeavor. The Plan identified 1,000 acres available for industrial use and over 4,000 acres that would become the Calumet Open Space Reserve. Chicago and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) have already started that Plan's implementation and have taken steps to acquire Van Vliessen Prairie, Hegewisch Marsh, Hyde Lake and Indian Ridge Marsh. CorLands, which is Openlands land acquisition affiliate, is assisting the City and IDNR in acquiring some of these properties.

Recognizing that the suburban portion of the Calumet region did not have a similar plan that would provide a framework for land preservation efforts, SSMMA and Openlands hosted a series of meetings with some of the Calumet area suburbs to discuss an open space initiative. Local public officials identified a number of potential open space and park projects within their communities, but the need to develop a detailed analysis of open space opportunities, a shared vision, and a strategy for involving appropriate state and local agencies for funding and implementation soon became apparent.

The ***South Suburban Calumet Area Open Space Initiative*** provides the tools for the south suburbs to preserve the rich natural resources of their region and to take advantage of funding by the State of Illinois for the preservation of natural areas. In addition, it offers several benefits relating to maintaining the viability and attractiveness of existing communities already served by utility, transit, rail, and public works infrastructure. Parks and protected open space improve the quality of life in a region. They can be used to attract new businesses close to where people live, reducing travel times and energy consumption.

Demographically, the South Suburban Calumet Area covers approximately 50 square miles and is home to 130,000 residents. Although nine communities are the key participants in this planning process, the plan – once realized – will directly benefit all the residents of the 43 municipalities in the south suburban region and many residents living in southeast Chicago. The nine suburbs featured in this planning process generally represent older communities with

An Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) publication begins:

Nature has always made life appealing along Thorn Creek in northeastern Illinois – first to itinerant hunters and fur traders, later to farmers, all of whom found riches as well as beauty in its streams and woods and soils. Most recently, homebuyers have been drawn to Thorn Creek's green views and open space.

(IDNR, **Thorn Creek: An Inventory of the Region's Resources**, p. 1)



diversified economies, most of which are undertaking revitalization of their shopping, residential and industrial zones. Several of these suburbs have created tax increment financing districts for these purposes, such as Lansing, Thornton, and Riverdale. South Holland makes successful use of tax incentives to attract new business.

Besides focusing on economic revitalization projects, the participating suburbs also recognize the value of existing open space and trails. Indeed Cook County forest preserves offer attractive views into some 2,500 acres of natural preserves that offer prairies, fishing lakes, river and stream access, picnic groves, golf courses, and many miles of paved and unpaved recreation trails. Suburban marketing efforts to attract new business and industry clearly reference the forest preserves and other open space amenities such as marinas and historic sites.

The ***South Suburban Calumet Area Open Space Initiative*** complements the Calumet effort undertaken by the City of Chicago and State. This plan includes recommendations for protecting the suburban half of the Calumet Region's ecosystem. Natural resources and waterways do not follow jurisdictional lines. This Initiative creates a plan to preserve high quality natural areas in suburbs that are part of the Grand Calumet River and Little Calumet River watersheds and, at the same time, parallel Chicago's efforts to protect its high quality natural resources. Taken together, these initiatives will provide a catalyst for revitalization of the entire region.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION / PUBLIC PROCESS

The Project Team has explored how open space opportunities and needs fit together. The team has analyzed properties along the Calumet River to determine their potential for open space as well as looking at Brownfield sites in the River Corridor. The team also explored the extent to which the region's natural assets can be used as a focal point for economic development, creating an incentive for communities to provide protection to these natural areas. Communities and their representative park districts were involved in the planning process to make sure that the final plan reflects and addresses their needs and values. The final step in the planning process will be a formal resolution of support for the plan from each community that participates in the project.

The project looked at all major vacant areas of land associated with the Grand Calumet and Little Calumet Rivers, rail and utility corridors and parcels isolated by such corridors, the glacial Lake Chicago Beach Ridge, and the Burnham Greenway. It has analyzed the open space potential of abandoned industrial lands, brownfield sites, and road and expressway rights-of-way and their adjoining lands. The project does not focus on small parcels of land, but instead assesses opportunities for community and regional open space. The project examines how these resources relate to each other and how they fit together to create an open space system.

The Project Team has collected information from four different sources: (1) conversations with stakeholders, meetings with advisory groups and community workshops; (2) existing open space plans for the area; (3) aerial photographs; and (4) field reconnaissance.

The Project Team has established an **Advisory Council** and has met with them several times throughout this planning process. A **Technical Council** was also formed and has met to provide a technical review of the project findings.

The **Advisory Council** is comprised of mayors or an appointed delegate of the participating municipalities. Representatives of the Calumet Memorial Park District and the Lan-Oak Park District also serve on the Advisory Council. The first Advisory Council meeting was held on February 19, 2003 and provided a forum for the stakeholders to give their input during the planning process. Subsequent meetings were held on July 9 and October 16. Involvement of the elected officials from the very beginning was deemed critical to the success of the Open Space Initiative.

Many of the communities that are part of the Open Space Initiative are also participating on the Calumet Corridor Planning Council (CCPC), which is comprised of 15 municipalities adjacent to I-94, I-394 and the Southeast Service commuter line. The CCPC is developing a comprehensive plan focusing on economic development issues. The Advisory Council worked with the CCPC, exchanging information, sharing ideas and coordinating the recommendations of the two plans.

The **Technical Council** consists of representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Department of Agriculture / Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFW), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC), Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC), National Parks Service (NPS), the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC), the Calumet Ecological Park Association (CEPA), CorLands, City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development, Chicago-Calumet Underground Railroad Effort, and other agencies that are interested in the process. The Technical Council provided technical expertise and advice to the Project Team. (See Acknowledgements for listing of individuals.) Project staff held individual meetings with members of the Technical Council as well as a joint meeting on July 30, 2003. A phone conference call meeting was also held on December 2nd to discuss the draft plan. Other individuals from various organizations were also interviewed, including executive staff from the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Early in the project, individual meetings were held with each municipality and park district to explain the project, learn about the open space opportunities from a local perspective, and identify community members who would be interested in participating in a set of workshops after the initial identification of open space opportunities has taken place. A summary of these meetings appears in the next section of the report entitled: "Project Team Findings".

During the summer and autumn, a public outreach process was undertaken. Two workshops were held and were well attended by over 50 participants, comprised of suburban mayors, public officials, technical experts, various civic and open space groups, and citizens with interests in historic preservation, bicycle trails, natural areas, river and stream restoration, and forest preserve improvements. The participants reviewed the Project Team's initial findings and recommendations and a public feedback session was held to seek additional comments and suggestions. In addition, on October 3, 2003, a guided bus tour of the open space sites was held and 27 key participants and decision-makers spent the day viewing the open space opportunities throughout the suburban Calumet area. *The Star* newspaper published a positive feature story about the event and the potential benefit of this Plan (October 9, 2003).

Approximately 3,000 copies of a summary brochure will be printed and distributed to the participating communities. Copies of this report will be widely disseminated and can be obtained from the SSMMA office or through the SSMMA website at www.ssmma.org.

The final step in this planning process is to seek adoption of a resolution of support for the plan -- with its numerous recommendations, maps, and concept drawings -- from all of the participating communities by early 2004.

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PROJECT TEAM FINDINGS

The Project Team collected data – with information broken down into two overarching findings -- that form the planning framework for the South Suburban Calumet Area Open Space Initiative.

FINDING 1: Sites and Trail Corridors of Statewide and National Significance

The south suburban region has a large number of sites that are of state or national significance due to their biological diversity and integrity, their geological or glacial landscape, their archaeological or cultural history, or their location on a national or statewide trail system. ***There appears to be no other area of similar size in the Chicagoland suburban region with such a high concentration and diversity of open space and trail landscape elements with statewide and national significance.*** While the area has a rich concentration of opportunities and assets, most of the associated sites are not publicly accessible, or interpreted well, or understood and appreciated by local residents, much less identified for the larger metropolitan, state, and national markets of cultural, recreational, and ecology focused tourists and visitors. The Project Team inventoried and assessed the areas by spending time in the field visiting the sites and speaking to local, state and national experts. The goal was to develop a strategy of how these national and state assets can be connected to local planning efforts so that local public officials and residents can raise the visibility and significance of their projects.

FINDING 2: Locally Important Open Space and Recreational Opportunities

The Project Team interviewed staff and elected officials in each of the communities to discuss their present park and open space initiatives as well as to brainstorm with them regarding other needs and opportunities. The goal of the interviews was to uncover local opportunities not commonly recognized, for example, cross-border opportunities and partnerships between municipalities (e.g. for land preservation, trail creations).

Accordingly, the findings presented in this section are organized first as landscapes or sites of statewide and even national significance, followed by local opportunities for open space and recreation.

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I. Sites and Trail Corridors of Statewide and National Significance

The Thornton Quarry

This limestone quarry, reputed to be the third-largest commercial stone operation in the world, encompasses an area that is one and a half mile long, a half mile wide and 400 feet deep. While it has been continuously mined since 1836, its natural history dates back over 425 million years. The Village of Thornton has recognized the great tourism potential inherent in such a treasure and is exploring the creation of an educational center at the Thornton Quarry Overlook that will attract visitors from nearby I-80. Additionally, the quarry will play an increasing role in floodwater management, serving as a composite reservoir under the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) administered by the MWRDGC.



A view of the impressive Thornton Quarry

The American Discovery Trail

The American Discovery Trail (ADT) is a recreational trail that will stretch across 6,356 miles and 15 states. The south suburbs could be a part of the American Discovery Trail once a connection is made from the Old Plank Road Trail north through the Thorn Creek Forest Preserves to the Lansing Greenway, which is now being developed in Lansing by the Lan-Oak Park District. This connection could be accomplished within the next 2 to 5 years.

The Burnham Greenway/Lansing Greenway/ Grand Illinois Trail

The Burnham Greenway stretches from Indianapolis Boulevard under the Chicago Skyway in the City of Chicago to the proposed Lansing Greenway in Lansing. It is a key segment of the Grand Illinois Trail, a 500-mile trail and rural road bicycling/hiking loop around northern Illinois. The 360-mile trail component of the loop is 85% completed. The Grand Illinois Trail is expected to become a major tourism attraction both for Illinois residents as well as national and international visitors to the Chicagoland area.

The Burnham and Lansing Greenways follow an abandoned Conrail rail corridor. The Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Calumet Memorial Park District, and the Chicago Park District collaborated on building 5 miles of the Burnham Greenway in the late 1990's. Three sections are unfinished as of 2003.

1. A one-mile stretch in Chicago owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and Commonwealth Edison.
2. A one-mile stretch in Burnham next to the Burnham Prairie involving significant bridging over rail tracks and the Calumet River. #1 and # 2 are estimated to cost approximately \$2.5 million in total to complete.
3. A two-mile stretch in Lansing which will become the Lansing Greenway. The Lan-Oak Park District is building this trail within the next year.

High Quality Natural Areas

Below is a list of the region's high quality prairies, extraordinary examples of Illinois' pre-settlement landscape. They are all sites recognized the IDNR as the highest quality, remnant natural areas in Illinois. For botanists, naturalists, ecologists, and eco-tourists these sites collectively represent natural areas of national and statewide significance. Although all of these sites, with the exception of Dolton Prairie, have already been protected, the Project Team has evaluated whether there are opportunities to buffer them from the impact of adjoining land uses.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Riverdale Quarry | Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burnham Prairie | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dolton Prairie | Ashland Chemical Company |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calumet City Prairie | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sand Ridge Nature Preserve | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wentworth Prairie | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Superior Street Prairie | Calumet Memorial Park District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volbrecht Road Woods | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wampum Lake Seepage Area | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thornton Lansing Road Nature Preserve | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jurgensen Woods Nature Preserve | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Markham Prairie (East) | The Nature Conservancy |

Archeological Sites

There are two significant Native American historical events that may have occurred in the South Suburban Calumet region. The first is a site associated with one of the skirmishes battles between Midwestern nations and the Illinois nation after Pontiac was assassinated by a member of the Illinois nation. This warfare led to the annihilation of the Illinois nation at Starved Rock. It is possible that the South Suburban Calumet region was also associated with the last significant battle between the Iroquois from the New York area and local tribes who were defending their homeland. The 1687 fight was the last large scale Iroquois attempt in Illinois to control the French-Canadian fur trade that was just taking hold in the Midwest.

In addition to these two events, the South Suburban Calumet region represents one of the richest areas of prehistoric culture in the Midwest. The region had diverse plant and animal habitats in the wetlands, streams, ridges, forests and savannas and forests, important for foods, medicines, and cultural use. Because the South Suburban Calumet area is located at the southern tip of Lake Michigan, the migrations of many different prehistoric cultures over more than 10,000 plus years of migration across the interior Midwest of North America were concentrated there. Much research still needs to be accomplished to understand the prehistorical significance of the South Suburban Calumet region.

The Underground Railroad

Because of the South Suburban Calumet area's location at the southern tip of Lake Michigan many fugitive slaves traveled through this region along one of the major migration corridors of the Underground Railroad that headed north to northern Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and other destinations. While the routes are still being discovered, researchers have identified several farms and other nearby way stations.

Hubbard's Trace, a pre-1830's trail route from the Danville and Wabash River area of east central Illinois and generally followed Vincennes Road through Thornton, South Holland, Harvey and Calumet Park, and probably was one of the principal routes. Michigan City Road, extending from Indiana through today's Calumet City and Dolton, probably was as well. As the South Suburban Calumet area was settled by farmers in the 1840's and 1850's, new river ferries and bridges came into being, establishing additional routes.

Hubbard's Trace and Michigan City Road have rich histories of their own aside from their potential roles in the Underground Railroad. Hubbard's Trace was established by Gordon Saltonsall Hubbard, a key early figure in Chicagoland's settlement. Much the initial migration into northeastern Illinois of settlers from the east occurred along Michigan City Road.

The Illinois Central Railroad Corridor: Black Migration, and the Emergence of Jazz and Blues



**Illinois Central Steam Engines in 1920's Chicago
(courtesy of Illinois Central Historical Society)**

The Illinois Central Railroad corridor, through Harvey and Riverdale, carried Great Migration, as blacks left southern states for better economic and social opportunity in the northern states. While there are many cultural, economic, and political success stories that resulted from this migration, one of the better known stories relates to jazz and blues. The evolution of jazz as an indigenous American art tradition occurred when musicians left their New Orleans/Storeyville roots beginning in 1919, through the 1920's. They relocated to Chicago and their music stylistically evolved into a nationally accepted musical art form. Even

earlier, rural southern acoustic blues also began moving into northern cities, via the Illinois Central from the 1910's thru the 1950's and evolved into the urban electric blues for which Chicago is so internationally recognized. After hundreds of miles of rural train travel, a view of the well-developed industrial communities of Harvey and Riverdale would have been the first indications to migrating blacks that they had arrived at their Chicagoland destination.

II. Locally Important Open Space and Recreational Opportunities

This part of the report distills the main perceptions from interviews conducted with local public officials and staff.

Village of Burnham:

- The Grand Calumet River and the Little Calumet River should be enhanced throughout Burnham, accomplishing economic development goals for the Village as well as open space and environmental goals. Public open space and economic development can be designed in tandem to create successful residential or commercial areas near the river.



The Grand Calumet River

- A governmental body or authority should be made responsible for cleaning up abandoned boats in the river (currently an eyesore in the river) and for dredging operations. Currently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Illinois share responsibility for the Calumet River.
- Economic development is needed within the Village; open space goals should complement efforts to increase the tax base.

City of Calumet City and the Cal Memorial Park District:

- The Little Calumet Riverfront should be enhanced wherever possible with open space trails, easements, or set-backs.
- Some type of nature center or interpretive / educational facility should be constructed given the number of unique natural areas.
- Redevelopment plans for the Brownfield sites located in floodplain areas should incorporate the community's need for more recreational facilities,

Village of Calumet Park:

- This is an older community that is built out with little open space left.
- A strategic sidewalk / trail system would enhance safety for access to schools and parks and reduce dangerous cross lights on streets.
- Cedar Park Cemetery was historically an important open space for the community.

Village of Dolton:

A meeting with the Village will be scheduled during the implementation stage. The following data is based on a general review of the Village of Dolton's geographic location.

- Dolton is located in the center of the South Suburban Calumet communities that are participating in this study, and plays a critical role in providing trail and greenway linkages and continuity to the potential overall system, as well as local Dolton neighborhoods.
- Community parks, rail corridors, expressway frontage, and three separate frontages on the Little Calumet River provide excellent opportunities for the Village of Dolton to capitalize on its recreational and open space assets.

City of Harvey:

- The opportunity to link community parks, schools, neighborhoods, adjoining forest preserves and natural areas with a greenway or trail system should be pursued.
- The City works closely with the Harvey Park District making joint open space initiatives possible.
- Interest exists in providing access to the proposed Little Calumet water trail system.

Village of Lansing and the Lan-Oak Park District:

- Public open space amenities for senior citizens need to be developed.
- The gaps within the Grand Illinois Trail need to be addressed since this will be a good community trail system as well as offering regional and statewide benefits.

Village of Riverdale:

- Riverdale is a "Green Belt" or "Greenway" community that is almost completely surrounded by Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) lands and facilities.
- The Forest Preserve District of Cook County should work with Riverdale cooperatively in improving the vast FPDCC holdings, making them safer and better maintained.
- The Forest Preserve District can improve the management of its land and enhance the public's accessibility to the Forest Preserves with trail linkages, forestry management, and ecological restoration efforts.

Village of South Holland:

- Forest Preserve District bicycle trails should be brought across I-80 in order to connect miles of previously constructed trails within the Thorn Creek holding.
- The Forest Preserve District needs to create better bicycle/pedestrian connections to its regional trail system within South Holland.
- A trail linkage should be built that would extend to South Suburban College.
- South Holland has created a water trail along Thorn Creek with boating facilities and would like to see the area's waterways made more accessible for paddlers by expanding boat landings beyond the Village.

Village of Thornton:

- The limestone quarry is a major landscape feature that presents an opportunity to develop an overlook facility and interpretive center serving the Village and the region.
- A water trail of canoe/kayak landings and facilities should be developed along Thorn Creek on publicly-accessible land, linking at a minimum Glenwood and South Holland to Thornton.
- A linkage should be made between the Village's on-road bike trail system and the regional bike trail system.

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OPEN SPACE THEMES

The Project Team conducted an extensive public outreach process that included meeting with each community and the representative park districts as well as with the Advisory Council, Technical Council, and with the public via workshops. This careful outreach process revealed how potential project sites and recommendations corresponded to a number of themes. Below are the main open space themes that emerged:

Greenway System of Multi-use Trails



This theme weaves together new and existing trails beyond those identified in previous planning efforts. These greenways and trails are both land and water based offering a diversity of recreational and educational activities such as: hiking, bicycling, paddling, birding, cross-country skiing, enjoying historic sites, nature observation, and other educational activities. They also serve as a valuable non-motorized transportation corridor alternative connecting people with to the places they wish to travel.

Trail opportunities abound in the South Suburbs

Living History Farms: A Decentralized System of Sites Connected by a Greenways and Trail System

This theme weaves together a number of smaller scale farm sites that demonstrate historical epochs of farming practices since Native American times through the early 20th century. Paarlberg Farm in South Holland is one such site. There are a large number of single site living history farms throughout the country, but the creation of a network of sites, building on already existing programs and facilities, is an uncommon approach. The sites could also be integrated into a community gardening program to grow produce for local use or farmer's markets in the various communities participating in this study.

Educational and Interpretive Programs for Historic and Archeological Stories

The south suburbs in the Calumet region reveal many stories dating back in "archeological" time as well as in recent history. Special historic or cultural moments can be interpreted in the form of "stories" related to the landscape – stories, for example, about the Civil War and Underground Railroad, the Thornton Quarry with its unique geology, the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP or "Deep Tunnel") project, the African-American Migration via the Illinois Central Railroad, the introduction of Jazz and Blues to Chicago, the introduction of European farming methods, as well as other themes.

Open Space Features weaved into Tourism

This theme involves local day trips by residents of the region and visitors from out of the region who wish to enjoy the trail system and open spaces, and their associated cultural and ecological features as envisioned by this plan. Given the large number of unique ecological areas associated with dune and swale prairies, oak woodlands, and wetlands which could be visited, and the opportunity to interpret the cultural and historic themes, it is possible to market the Lake Calumet region to visitors interested in longer visits with overnight stays in local hotels and motels.

Open Space Features used as an Economic Development Tool

This theme uses protected open space and the trail network of the South Suburban Calumet area as a major quality of life feature to encourage new corporate, residential and commercial development. Conservation development should be encouraged. As an example, the Village of Homewood's Washington Park redevelopment that successfully and attractively combines prairie and wetland restoration with trails in the midst of a multi-use development. In addition, businesses often spring up or expand along bike trails such as restaurants, bicycle stores, home businesses, senior citizen centers, and office buildings.

Forest Preserve Facility Upgrade for Southeastern Cook County

The plan outlines a number of new projects such as trails and picnic groves that can be undertaken by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. The Forest Preserve District was very visionary in the early 1900's when it acquired very important natural areas and remnant glacial landscapes. In recent years it has acquired additional dune and swale prairie remnants at several sites along the Burnham Greenway. The management and maintenance demands on the District on all of these sites are extensive. Local communities can be supportive through intergovernmental initiatives, and can creatively participate in assisting the District's funding efforts to undertake new projects ranging from land acquisition to ecological restoration to trail development. This plan recommends a number of actions related to these needs.

PLAN ELEMENTS FOR AN OPEN SPACE VISION

The network of important open spaces in the South Suburban Calumet Area is characterized by elements that, taken together, define a new open space vision for the southland:

Remnant Natural Areas with High Concentrations of Biodiversity that Rank as Illinois Natural Area Inventory (INAI) Sites and/or Illinois Nature Preserve (INP) Sites

These sites have survived with relatively intact habitats even though surrounding lands have developed with industry, commerce, homes, landfills, roads, and railroads. They were inventoried by the State of Illinois in 1979 and categorized as Illinois Natural Area Inventory (INAI) sites. Several sites are dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves (INP), a special recognition by the State of the unique and invaluable natural resources that are present. Illinois Nature Preserve status for a site affords the highest level of protection against development intruding onto the site or creating stresses which may deteriorate its ecological values.

Forest Preserve District of Cook County Lands not on the Illinois Natural Area Inventory List

These lands were acquired by the Forest Preserve District but as of 1979 were not included in the INAI listing. The public more actively uses some of these sites as mowed picnic grounds and meadows. Some of these sites, if inventoried again, especially after natural area restoration activity, could increase their habitat values and may even be added to the INAI listing.

River and Creek Corridors

“Rainwater falling in the area drains into one of three waterways. The shade of the land and the flow of water define the boundaries...[not] political boundaries.”

“The Little Calumet River Watershed covers 213 square miles.”

-Excerpts from the **South Suburban Stormwater Strategy: A Plan for Watershed Management** (Produced by the SSMMA)

This suburban study area is defined by the Calumet river system, including its primary tributaries, the Grand Calumet River, the Little Calumet River, the Calumet Union Drainage Ditch, and Thorn Creek. The Cal Sag Channel is in a sense, a backwards tributary that was engineered to work in concert with the O'Brien Dam to drain the river system west to the Mississippi River. The Cal Sag Channel was dug to expand the Calumet Feeder of 1849 which supplied water to the I & M Canal. The Cal Sag was part of the nationally known engineering feat which reversed the flow of the Chicago River.

Most of the 100-year floodplain of the rivers and creeks of this area were fully developed in the 20th century, giving rise to major flooding problems, only recently substantially solved by the Deep Tunnel project of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Relatively small remnants of the original floodplain and stream corridor habitat remain. Portions of the remaining natural floodplain are privately owned and for sale. Other portions

are in parkland and forest preserve; and still other portions are represented within industrial brownfield sites. These stretches of open space along the rivers and creeks provide a major opportunity to create a network of attractive greenways and trail corridors throughout the area for local residents and as a quality of life feature to attract new investment and redevelopment to the south suburbs.

Rail, Road and Utility Greenway Corridors

The area, being at the south end of Lake Michigan, is a crossroads for many rail lines, interstate highways, and large electrical transmission lines. These corridors include long uninterrupted open space zones that can provide valuable opportunities for trail development and natural landscaping – a way to connect activity centers while enhancing habitat and aesthetics with a variety of wildflowers. These utility and transportation corridors are extensive but under-utilized, being focused on their single utilitarian purpose. They could provide an infrastructure of enhanced greenways with many public and natural benefits.

Cultural and Geological Sites

Few other suburban areas contain the rich history and prehistory of the South Suburban Calumet Area. The extensive story of native Americans in the area, French Canadian exploration and trading, the engineered reversal of river flow, 19th century settlers, 20th century industrialization, the Underground Railroad, the Black migration, jazz and blues, limestone mining on an enormous scale, railroad history -- incomparable cultural richness is represented. But, while a number of cultural and geological sites are interpreted with minor facilities, the overall story is well hidden from statewide, national, and even local public awareness. A significant new economy can be brought into the area if important cultural sites and their landscape context can be protected, if the right support organizations can be created, and if facilities to interpret the stories are developed.

Bicycle Trail Network

The Burnham Greenway and the Thorn Creek Trail are key components of the almost completed 500-mile Grand Illinois Trail that loops around northern Illinois. They provide examples of the area's potential for additional trail development utilizing active and abandoned rail lines, utility corridors, industrial brownfield sites, and stretches of river and creek. Bike trails provide multiple benefits to the residents of the area. Their use as a non-motorized transportation option to work, shopping, and recreation and other places people want to go to is the most obvious. But they also play an important role in enhancing a community's identity, and in attracting new investment and development. In addition they offer health benefits to the community. Recent medical data has underscored the importance of a half-hour of daily walking or bicycling activity and its effect on lowering rates of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and osteoporosis.

ACTION PLAN

Recommended Open Space Sites with Steps for Preservation, Restoration, or Enhancement

This section creates an **Action Plan** based on the open space elements presented above, in order to: describe specific local sites or larger open space features; define actions to preserve, protect, restore, or enhance each site or feature; provide a context for implementation of the recommended actions, such as potential agencies or partners to pursue action(s); and a projected timeframe for the recommended action(s). Note: Timeframes are described as short, where implementation can range from 1 to 2 years; medium, which ranges from 3 to 5 years; and long which ranges from 6 to 10 years.

While most of the recommendations for Action Steps in the following chapter identify the lead local agencies for implementation, it is understood that participation by state and federal agencies in terms of technical and financial assistance is a necessary element. The scope of recommendations within this plan cannot be achieved solely through local government sponsorship. The sheer number of sites and corridors with statewide and national significance in the South Suburban Calumet area establishes the need for a local, state, and federal partnership focused on implementation of the recommended action steps.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois Division of Tourism, the Illinois Historical Preservation Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the National Park Service, the U.S Forest Service, and the U.S Environmental Protection Agency are invited to be co-implementers of this plan.

In like manner, there are a number of local initiatives and organizations focused on or adding support to the environmental and cultural heritage of the larger Calumet region. They are ready and willing to assist and participate, and will add great value as well as local leadership to implementation efforts. These groups include: the Calumet Ecological Park Association, the Calumet Heritage Partnership, the Little Calumet River-Galien River Watersheds Tri-State Coordinating Committee, the Chicago Southland Convention and Tourism Bureau, the Lake Calumet and Thorn Creek Ecosystem Partnerships, South Suburban College, the Volunteer Stewardship Network, as well as a number of historical societies, underground railroad initiatives, the South Suburban Illinois Association for the Advancement of Archaeology chapter, and other organizations. The City of Chicago's Department of Planning and Development and the Department of Environment will assist in coordinating actions along the Suburban/City borderline.

Sites for the **Action Plan** are organized under the following open space elements:

- I. Remnant Natural Areas with High Concentrations of Biodiversity;**
- II. Forest Preserve District of Cook County Lands not on the Illinois Natural Areas List;**
- III. River and Creek Corridors;**

IV. Rail, Road and Utility corridors;

V. Cultural and Geological Sites; and

VI. Bicycle Trail Network.

The site information presented in this section also appears in Table form as a summary matrix. (See **Appendix A.**)

I. Remnant Natural Areas with High Concentrations of Biodiversity that Rank as Illinois Natural Area Inventory Sites (INAI) and / or Illinois Nature Preserve (INP) Sites

These sites are natural areas of statewide significance on an individual basis and of nationwide significance collectively. Nowhere else in the nation is there such a grouping of natural areas with the rare collection of species representing original pre-settlement flora and fauna of the Chicago Glacial Lake Plain. None of these sites is a duplicate of the other. Only 70% of the species in one site is typically seen in one of the others.

These sites relate to a number of open space themes. A number of these sites represent habitat nodes within a broader greenway system. They are not sites that are typical locations for paved bicycle trails, but are conducive to hiking trails and adjoining interpretive/educational signage or facilities. They are key sites for day-trip tourism visits from people in the metro region as well as for attracting overnight visitors from out of the region.

These sites are of the highest conservation value. Areawide actions related to ecological restoration activities should focus on managing these sites first and foremost. Local and regional support for recruiting volunteers, attracting restoration funds, and educating the public about the value of the areas natural resources should be directed towards these sites as a first priority.

Each of the following natural area sites is detailed on the following pages:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dolton Prairie | Ashland Chemical Company |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MWRDGC Riverdale Quarry | Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Powderhorn Lake | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burnham Prairie | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calumet City Prairie | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wentworth Prairie | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Superior Street Prairie | Calumet Memorial Park District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sand Ridge Nature Preserve | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sand Ridge Nature Center | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volbrecht Road Woods | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wampum Lake Seepage Area | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thornton Lansing Road / Zanders Woods | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jurgensen Woods | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Markham Prairie (East) | The Nature Conservancy |

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County has recently created a new Volunteer Resource Center which will coordinate expanded restoration initiatives for individual forest preserve sites. A Preserve Keepers Corps has been established which will focus on streams and rivers, grove edges, lake and pond shorelines, and trails. Volunteers who join this program will be able to adopt-a-preserve so that they can focus their efforts over time and become personally responsible for helping to restore ecological health to the natural habitats for which the forest preserves are so renowned. A dedicated core of local residents helped to enhance the ecological integrity of some of the natural area sites in past decades, but a comprehensive program for volunteerism guided by the forest preserve district was not

available until now. It provides a very timely and strategic opportunity for schools, neighborhoods, organizations, and local governments in the South Suburban Calumet area to become involved in the majority of the sites listed above.

An area-wide strategy needs to be developed for involving these local constituencies with the forest preserve district's volunteer program and with other stewardship efforts focused on the non-forest preserve sites.

Dolton Prairie

Description

Dolton Prairie is an INAI site in Calumet City, privately owned by Ashland Chemical Company -- a company that is cooperating with the "Calumet in My Backyard" project that brings local school kids to the site for restoration activities and educational projects.

Action Steps

For long-term preservation and restoration of the site, Dolton Prairie may benefit from these actions:

- A governmental agency with an open space focus should acquire the property to insure protection and preservation of the site in perpetuity.
- Alternatively, Ashland Chemical should consider donating a conservation easement on the prairie portion of its property to a non-profit land trust or public agency – an action that may result in tax advantages for the company.
- Substantial restoration of the prairie on a large scale through grant(s).

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Land Trust
Local Stewardship Group

Implementation Issues

INAI sites such as Dolton Prairie and the Riverdale Quarry and buffers of other natural areas listed in this category have been targeted for land acquisition by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC). However, for the last decade or more, the FPDCC has lacked major funding to pursue many of these opportunities. This plan can help focus the need of the FPDCC to secure land acquisition funds, particularly if SSMMA can offer strong local support. The acquisition timeframe can be short (1 to 2 years) if political support can be developed.

Regarding restoration of the Dolton Prairie, the cost of seed, materials, and labor will be significant. Grants to pay these costs are unlikely to be awarded unless long-term protection of the site can be guaranteed. Ashland Chemical should be encouraged to establish a conservation easement or sell the Dolton Prairie to a conservation-based agency, which would open the door for additional funding and restoration activities. A conservation easement would require the participation of an appropriate public agency or conservation land trust. Volunteer stewardship groups can help ease the labor cost while restoration grants may help purchase seed and materials. A medium timeframe (3 to 5 years) is likely.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago - Riverdale Quarry

Description

Riverdale Quarry is an INAI site in Riverdale owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC) and is reserved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to function as a potential storage site for dredging materials from the Calumet River. However, the site currently serves as a key habitat for uncommon migratory and nesting birds. Formal policy changes would be necessary to change the ultimate use of this MWRDGC site to a conservation purpose on the part of both the U.S. Army Corps and the MWRDGC Board.

Action Steps

The MWRDGC has a long history of demonstrating sensitivity to preserving the region's natural resources and meeting its open space needs. It already leases over 2,000 acres of MWRDGC land to park districts, municipalities, and forest preserve districts for recreation and conservation purposes. The key issue with this site is whether or not the land will remain the preferred dredging material deposit site, given its high quality habitat values. A high level policy meeting is needed with both the MWRDGC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to explore the feasibility of changing the site's designation from dredging depository to conservation site. The Initiative's **Advisory Council** – with facilitation by South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and Openlands Project -- should determine how to affect such a policy change and open space preservation strategy. Once the site is protected, it is possible that the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, with fundraising assistance from Audubon or similar groups, could restore the wetland and terrestrial habitat, install trails and parking, and add a bird watching station. (See **Appendix B** for a conceptual design of the site.)

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
Audubon
Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Land Trust
Local Stewardship Group

Implementation Issues

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County evaluated and targeted this site as a potential land acquisition opportunity in their *1994 Land Acquisition Plan* because it was an Illinois Natural Area Inventory site. In the past, the FPDCC has entered into long-term leases with the MWRDGC to develop bicycle trails and recreational facilities. If the MWRDGC was convinced to find other dredging spoil sites, this parcel could become a premier open space site, perhaps stimulating the local economy and adjacent TIF (Tax Increment Financing) District of Riverdale. Given the involvement and negotiation among several public agencies e.g., MWRDGC, FPDCC, and Riverdale, the timeframe for this open space project is likely medium (3 to 5 years).

Powderhorn Lake

Description

Powderhorn Lake is an INAI site that is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and located partly in the Village of Burnham and partly in the City of Chicago. It includes a high quality marsh, dry-mesic sand prairie, wet sand prairie, and dry-mesic sand savanna. Habitat restoration programs by volunteer steward groups are somewhat active. Prescribed prairie burns, seed collection, and weed control are some of the activities undertaken by the FPDCC and volunteer stewards.

Action Steps

Several actions could benefit the ecological health and public enjoyment of this forest preserve gem. The FPDCC should:

- Acquire additional forest preserve buffer lands on the east and west sides of the property.
- Undertake additional habitat restoration through expansion of the FPDCC Preserve Keeper Corps with assistance from schools and residents of the South Suburban Calumet communities.
- Work with SSMMA to identify a public or private funder to design and install an interpretive station and bird observation platform on the District property south of the prairie near Powderhorn Lake such that observers can see both open water and prairie species.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Audubon
South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association

Implementation Issues

Recruiting more volunteer stewards may be possible in the short timeframe of 1 to 2 years as this is a site which already has some stewardship activity. Additional volunteers should become part of the District's Preserve Keeper Corps. A grant or donation may be pursued for implementing the bird observation platform within a short (1 to 2 years) to medium timeframe (3 to 5 years).

Burnham Prairie

Description

Burnham Prairie is an INAI site in the Village of Burnham recently purchased by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. The Forest Preserve District of Cook County has applied for funding from the Army Corps of Engineers to undertake some restoration activity on this site. The Burnham Greenway/Grand Illinois Trail (BG/GIT Trail) that will be built along a Com Ed corridor east of the Prairie will open up access and interpretive opportunities for visitors.

Action Steps

Several actions should be undertaken by the Forest Preserve District to benefit the ecological health and public enjoyment of this forest preserve gem:

- Acquire or lease additional prairie and buffer land on radio tower property adjoining to the west and floodplain areas on the adjoining Waste Management property.
- Undertake additional habitat restoration through an expanded volunteer stewardship program through the District's Preserve Keeper Corps.
- Restore better habitat to a large wetland in the 100-year floodplain of the river, owned by Com Ed located east of the prairie and Com Ed utility corridor, to provide greater plant diversity, aquatic bird habitat, and water quality benefits.

The Village of Burnham should be the lead agency and work with the Calumet Memorial Park District, and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County to accomplish the following projects:

- Develop a Village of Burnham *Master Plan* for the property north of the Prairie, a brownfield still owned by Waste Management Inc. While most of this site is apparently within the 100-year floodplain of the Calumet River, there may be opportunity for some development in the northwest corner, and a riverwalk or trail along the river with associated recreational uses that could link the east and west neighborhoods of Burnham.

The Village of Burnham should be the lead agency and work with the Calumet Memorial Park District, Audubon and other environmental organizations, and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

- Develop bird observation stations along the proposed Burnham Greenway/GIT trail.
- Consider development of an indoor, year-round interpretive facility near the Prairie and the future BG/GIT Trail route. It could possibly utilize an existing structure in Burnham, or be developed on Calumet Memorial Park District property.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Village of Burnham
Calumet Memorial Park District
Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Audubon

Implementation Issues

Adjacent to the FPDCC-owned Burnham Prairie lies privately-owned lands and a brownfield site – all of which present an open space opportunity to both buffer the ecologically-sensitive prairie and provide public access to the Calumet River.

A *Master Plan* for the Village of Burnham could be developed for these properties with a comprehensive assessment of the open space and development opportunities. The Village of Burnham has long desired to expand their tax base through additional commercial and residential development. While lands in the 100-year floodplain should be preserved as open space, the privately owned uplands, including portions of the brownfield site out of the floodplain, could be examined for their economic development potential.

A master planning process could explore such issues, such as how environmentally sensitive housing could be developed that capitalizes on having large expanses of open space outside “your door” – the vast wetland, prairie, and potential riverwalk features of Burnham. Proximity to preserved open space is a great marketing tool for new homes or commercial space. Riverwalk and trail connections can promote public access to Burnham’s neighborhoods and businesses and stimulate new service stores and restaurants. A master plan process can begin in a short timeframe (1 to 2 years) with implementation taking longer (6 to 10 years).

Calumet City Prairie

Description

Calumet City Prairie is an INAI site in the City of Calumet City owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. It is traversed by the Burnham Greenway / Grand Illinois Trail.

Action Steps

The Forest Preserve District has just completed a five-year planning and monitoring effort funded by the USEPA. The USEPA has also provided funding for 5 years of management and volunteer recruitment for stewardship purposes. By focusing on this site, the District hopes to encourage a stronger volunteer presence in the South Suburban Calumet area. Audio-visual programs developed in conjunction with this project should be transferable for use at other prime District natural area sites.

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County, working with Calumet City and the Calumet Memorial Park District, should undertake the following actions to benefit the Calumet City Prairie and provide access to the Burnham Greenway/ Grand Illinois Trail:

- ❑ While an interpretive station with educational signage exists on the south end of the prairie, trailhead parking and support facilities need to be created, preferably within a close biking/hiking distance to restaurants and facilities on Sibley and Burnham Avenues.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Calumet Memorial Park District

Implementation Issues

The restoration of the Prairie will foster an increase in the number of local volunteers willing to participate in natural area management throughout the South Suburban Calumet area. The Forest Preserve District's new volunteer initiative, Preserve Keepers Corps, provides the organizational structure for local citizens to become trained and involved. Its success is critical in insuring that the image and regional recognition of the forest preserves of the South Suburban Calumet area are elevated to the high quality that this rare collection of habitats deserves. Ideally local schools, businesses, and neighborhoods will, in effect, adopt a nearby forest preserve site, and provide local support and volunteerism to help fast-start the Preserve Keepers Corps so that the South Suburban Calumet area becomes the most active sub-region of the Forest Preserve District countywide.

South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and Openlands Project could provide initial organizational support towards expanding outreach to new volunteers through Chicago Wilderness, local schools, municipal and park district newsletters, and through other agencies. This should be accomplished in the short term (1 to 2 years), with continuing efforts through the medium and long term.

Wentworth Prairie

Description

Wentworth Prairie is an INAI site in Calumet City partially owned by the Calumet Memorial Park District. The remainder of the natural area is being acquired by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County who has contracted with CorLands for its purchase. It is bordered on the west by the Burnham Greenway/Grand Illinois Trail, on the northwest by a trailhead parking facility, and on the west by an active use park operated by the Calumet Memorial Park District. Commonwealth Edison also owns a major portion of the prairie.

Action Steps

Working with the local school district, the Calumet Memorial Park District and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County should undertake the following actions to benefit Wentworth Prairie:

- Develop an interpretive station with educational signage.
- Expand its Preserve Keepers Corps to help restore the site.
- Engage Wentworth Intermediate School, located immediately adjacent to the Prairie, in a curriculum-based stewardship program by the students.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Calumet Memorial Park District

Implementation Issues

Regarding curriculum-based stewardship, teaching resources for ecological restoration are becoming more abundant. To name a few, for example, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources offers an “Eco-Watch” program for natural areas and SSMMA has developed a educators guide for teachers and librarians on stormwater management that includes many applicable references for appropriate curricula. Encouraging Wentworth Intermediate School to “adopt” the prairie as a teaching resource could begin in a short timeframe (1 to 2 years), given encouragement and support from the FPDCC. A school adjacent to a natural area can become a long-term steward supplying a steady source of student volunteers who can be taught to not only identify plants and animals, but also collect and disperse native seed and control invasive weeds. Community support and appreciation for Wentworth Prairie would be greatly enhanced by implementing a student-based program.

Superior Street Prairie

Description

Superior Street Prairie is both an INAI site and an Illinois Nature Preserve “Land and Water Reserve” owned by the Calumet Memorial Park District. The BG/GIT Trail borders the site on the west.

Action Steps

The Calumet Memorial Park District should undertake the following actions:

- Develop an interpretive station and habitat restoration, through an effective volunteer stewardship program.
- Engage Thornton High School North, which adjoins the site, in a curriculum-based stewardship program by the students.
- Work with the Forest Preserve District’s Preserve Keepers Corps or other volunteer groups identified by SSMMA and Openlands Project in order to obtain stewardship assistance to maintain the prairie.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Calumet Memorial Park District
Local Stewardship Group

Implementation Issues

Calumet Memorial Park District has joined the ranks of other progressive park districts in the region that hold ecologically significant landscapes and are expanding their traditional recreational role through conservation activities and programming. Often times it is challenging for park districts to move into the role of ecological land management. However, park districts throughout the Chicago region are hiring naturalist staff or outside experts to help restore natural areas under their jurisdiction. Some park districts, such as the St. Charles and Crystal Lake park districts, have implemented robust volunteer stewardship programs.

The Calumet Memorial Park District recognizes the importance of Superior Street Prairie but is challenged financially to hire staff to develop and supervise ecology programs that involve Thornton High School students as well as adult volunteers. In the short term, SSMMA and Openlands could provide initial organizational support to identify new volunteers through Chicago Wilderness, local schools, and other agencies. The Park District may be able to find funding for a part-time naturalist to develop a stewardship program or engage assistance from conservation agencies.

Sand Ridge Nature Preserve

Description

Sand Ridge is an Illinois Nature Preserve site owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. It includes a high quality dry-mesic sand prairie, dry-mesic sand savanna, sedge meadow, wet prairie, and marsh. The Burnham Greenway/Grand Illinois Trail borders it on the east.

Action Steps

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County should undertake the following actions:

- Develop an interpretive station along the Burnham Greenway
- Expand the activities of the Preserve Keepers Corps to assist in restoration activities of the Nature Preserve.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Forest Preserve District of Cook County

Implementation Issues

Sand Ridge Nature Preserve was one of seven South Suburban Calumet area natural sites that local volunteers worked on throughout the late 80's and into the 90's. It has a history of volunteerism which has helped to sustain its high quality. Directly across the Burnham Greenway from the Superior Street Prairie and the Wentworth Prairie, it is part of an interconnected high quality natural landscape. The site also benefits from its proximity to the Sand Ridge Nature Center. A special unit of Preserve Keepers Corps of the Forest Preserve District could take responsibility for these rare habitats if a significant number of new volunteers and trained restoration leaders could be identified. Wentworth Intermediate School and Thornton High School could be an important source of volunteers. Implementation should begin to occur in the short range (1 to 2 years), but continue through the medium and long term as well.

Sand Ridge Nature Center



Visitors peruse educational exhibits at the Sand Ridge Interpretive Center

Description

More than half of the acreage within the Sand Ridge Nature Center is listed as an INAI site. It includes high quality marsh, sedge meadow, and wet-mesic prairie. The Burnham Greenway/Grand Illinois Trail borders it on the east. A well-developed interpretive facility -- renovated in 1994 -- is located on site offering extensive nature education programs and events. The facility and staff provide one of the major existing opportunities in the South Suburban Calumet Area from which to enhance program offerings locally, and partnership opportunities with the *Calumet Open Space Reserve* of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the City of Chicago.

Action Steps

The Cook County Forest Preserve District should take the following actions to benefit the Sand Ridge Nature Center and its surrounding lands:

- Expand the activities of Preserve Keepers Corps to assist in restoration activities of the Nature Preserve.
- Explore additional open space acquisition of a number of vacant lots and public land holdings (west of Sand Ridge) to provide greenway and trail opportunities that would connect Sand Ridge to South Holland park facilities. Acquisition of some of these should also be explored by the Village of South Holland.
- Develop a trail linkage from the Burnham Greenway/Grand Illinois Trail to the Nature Center.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Village of South Holland

Implementation Issues

Forging safe trail connections between forest preserves and park facilities is a desirable goal. Accomplishing the goal takes intergovernmental coordination and funding to undertake land acquisition, trail construction, and intergovernmental agreements for long-term trail maintenance and security. Trail access to Sand Ridge Nature Center from South Holland and other nearby communities will take a medium to long timeframe (3 to 10 years). Restoration activities should be initiated in the short term.

Volbrecht Road Woods

Description

Volbrecht Road Woods is an Illinois Natural Area Inventory (INAI) site owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. It is home to high quality mesic prairie, wet-mesic sand prairie, and a dry-mesic sand savanna. It is a 29-acre parcel somewhat isolated from the rest of the nearby natural areas by the I-80/I-94 interchange and a railroad.

Action Steps

The Cook County Forest Preserve District should take the following action to benefit the Volbrecht Road Woods:

- Develop an interpretive station.
- Expand the Preserve Keepers Corps to assist in restoration activities in the INAI site.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Forest Preserve District of Cook County

Implementation Issues

Volbrecht Road Woods, because of its proximity to the interstate highways may be especially prone to salt spray and other highway related pollutants. The scientific community represented by universities, the Illinois Natural History Survey, the Nature Conservancy, and forest preserve biologists should assess not only Volbrecht Road Woods, but also the other nearby natural areas along the interstate highways, to determine their long term sustainability issues and management needs. This should be accomplished in the short term (1 to 2 years). Improved natural area management is dependent on adequate forest preserve staff and volunteers, and should also be initiated in the short term (1 to 2 years).

Wampum Lake Seepage Area

Description

The Wampum Lake seepage area is an INAI site owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and is a unique landscape feature represented by hydro-geological processes that underlie a rare plant habitat. Groundwater flows over, and possibly out of the limestone bedrock lying just below the thin soils of this site, creating a soil chemistry in a wooded area very different than all of the other natural areas in the South Suburban Calumet Area. A number of springs were historically known in this area, each with a different water chemistry and related natural community of flora and fauna.

Action Steps

The Wampum Lake Seepage Area can benefit from these actions:

- Develop an interpretive station with educational signage.
- Expand the activities of the Preserve Keepers Corps to assist in restoration activities in the INAI site.
- Engage Thornwood High School, located near the site, in a curriculum-based stewardship program by the students.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Forest Preserve District of Cook County

Implementation Issues

All of the above-mentioned action steps should be initiated in a short timeframe (1 to 2 years.)

Thornton-Lansing Road / Zanders Woods

Description

The Thornton-Lansing Road / Zanders Woods site is an INAI site partially dedicated as an Illinois Nature Preserve. The site is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. It includes high quality sand flatwoods, shrub prairie, mesic sand prairie, sedge meadow, marsh, dry-mesic sand savanna, and swamp. It is an important habitat, not just because of its biodiversity, but also because of its size, approximately 500 acres, which allows for a greater chance of long-term sustainability.

Action Steps

The Thornton-Lansing Road/Zanders Woods site can benefit from these actions:

- Develop an interpretive station with educational signage.
- Expand the activities of the Preserve Keepers Corps to assist in restoration activities in the INAI site.
- Engage Thornwood High School, located near the site, in a curriculum-based stewardship program by the students.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Forest Preserve District of Cook County

Implementation Issues

All of the above-mentioned action steps should be initiated in a short timeframe (1 to 2 years).

Jurgensen Woods

Description

Jurgensen Woods is an Illinois Nature Preserve site owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and is one of the first forest preserves acquired by Cook County, in 1918. North Creek, which cuts through the property, was originally called Crab Creek at the turn of the 19th century. The site includes shrub prairie, sand flatwoods, and oak/basswood mesic woodlands. Its 120 acres is separated from the larger Thornton-Lansing Road / Zanders Woods site only by 183rd Street.

Action Steps

- Develop an interpretive station with educational signage.
- Expand the activities of the Preserve Keepers Corps to assist in restoration activities in the Nature Preserve.
- Engage Thornwood High School in a curriculum-based stewardship program by the students.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Forest Preserve District of Cook County

Implementation Issues

All of the above-mentioned action steps should be initiated in a short timeframe (1 to 2 years).

Markham Prairie (East)

Description

Markham Prairie East, located in Markham but isolated from it by the I-294 Tollway, is an INAI site bordered by neighborhoods in Harvey. The Prairie is owned by The Nature Conservancy and includes a mesic prairie and sedge meadow. It is also considered to be part of the much more extensive Indian Boundary Prairie complex in the northern part of Markham.

Action Steps

Markham Prairie East can benefit from these actions.

- Develop an interpretive station with educational signage.
- Assist The Nature Conservancy in its habitat restoration activity by developing an effective volunteer stewardship program.
- Engage the Harvey Park District, Thornton Township High School and the local grade schools and middle schools in Harvey in a curriculum-based stewardship program by the students.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

The Nature Conservancy

Implementation Issues

All of the above-mentioned action steps should be initiated in a short timeframe (1 to 2 years).

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II. Forest Preserve District of Cook County Lands not on the Illinois Natural Area Inventory List

The Forest Preserve District has substantial holdings in the Calumet region that are not listed as unique state natural areas. Several of these sites could represent important habitat restoration opportunities, which would expand the number of high quality habitats in the South Suburban Calumet Area. A habitat inventory should also be carried out to help in locating several of the bike/hike trails recommended in this report with minimal habitat disturbance.

The Forest Preserve District's Preserve Keepers Corps is focused on INAI and Nature Preserves. These "unlisted" sites should be restored in a later medium to long term range unless important habitat is found, or surrounding community and school groups wish to focus on these preserves.



There are a number of recommendations in this section with regard to interpretive signage and associating nearby schools and their environmental and geographic curriculum with local forest preserve sites. The interpretive signage is important in the context of an overall "way-finding" initiative for not just local residents, but also visitors from the broader region and out-of-state. South Suburban Mayors and Managers and the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau should assist in identifying grants that would help in developing this way-finding system.

Engaging local schools in their nearby forest preserve sites is also an effort that will take a coordinated approach among a number of local school districts and is not solely a Forest Preserve District responsibility.

Each of the following Forest Preserve District of Cook County sites is detailed on the following pages:

- Wentworth Woods
- Calumet City Playfield
- Whistler Woods
- Kickapoo Playfield
- Calumet Woods
- Thorn Creek Lowlands

Wentworth Woods

Description

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County owns Wentworth Woods. It borders the state line south of Michigan City Road and exhibits the dune and swale topography evident in the INAI and Illinois Nature Preserve sites. There is no published inventory of its flora. Hognose snakes were reported from these woods in the 70's and 80's. It is also reported that Professor Cowles from the University of Chicago, the "father of modern ecology" began to evolve his theories about plant succession by studying the structure, location, and diversity of species in the Wentworth Woods before the theories were finally confirmed in his work at the Indiana Dunes. If true, this would make Wentworth Woods nationally significant as a historic site.

Action Steps

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County should undertake the following actions:

- Inventory and publish the biota of Wentworth Woods and publish the findings.
- Develop an interpretive station with educational signage.
- Pursue active habitat restoration strategies through an expanded Preserve Keepers Corps.
- Engage the local elementary and middle schools in the surrounding neighborhoods in a curriculum-based stewardship program by the students.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Local School District

Implementation Issues

All of the above-mentioned action steps should be initiated in a short timeframe. (1 to 2 years). Since restoration strategies are dependent on a broadly successful Preserve Keepers Corps effort, the medium to long term range (3 to 10 years) is probably more likely.

Calumet City Playfield Forest Preserve

Description

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County owns Calumet City Playfield, north of River Oaks Road, between Wentworth and Burnham Avenues. The site is partially wooded but also includes a large open field, which is currently mowed and minimally used except for dog-walking, informal picnicking, and ball-playing. The dune and swale topography is still present beneath the mowed grass, providing an opportunity for native prairie restoration on at least a portion of the 30-acre open field. Walking trails could still be maintained.

Action Steps

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County should undertake the following actions:

- Create a restoration plan that re-establishes native prairie on the dune and swale topography, but still provides local trails and picnicking opportunities.
- Pursue active habitat restoration strategies in the woodlands and in the prairie restoration through the Preserve Keepers Corps.
- Engage the local grade schools and middle schools located near the site in a curriculum-based stewardship program by the students.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Local School District

Implementation Issues

A restoration plan, the engagement of local schools, and habitat restoration of the site should occur in the medium timeframe.

Whistler Woods

Description

Whistler Woods is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and is located on the south bank of the Little Calumet River west of the old Acme Steel plant. It is dominated by cottonwoods and may have the tallest average tree canopy (120 to 135 feet) in all of the holdings of the Forest Preserve. It's non-woody plant species are reportedly dominated by monocots. It provides excellent wooded bird habitat with neo-tropical warblers, wood thrush, great horned owls, veery, and various hawks. The extension of the Major Taylor bike trail from the north side of the Little Calumet River will utilize the east edge of Whistler Woods.

Action Steps

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County should accomplish the following actions:

- Inventory the biota of Whistler Woods and publish its finding.
- Develop an interpretive station with educational signage.
- Pursue active habitat restoration opportunities through the Preserve Keepers Corps.
- Engage the local elementary and middle schools in the surrounding neighborhoods in a curriculum-based stewardship program by the local students.
- Relate habitat and trail improvements at Whistler Preserve to the larger greenbelt of adjoining preserves including the Joe Louis Golf Course, Calumet Woods and Kickapoo Woods.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Local School District

Implementation Issues

All of the above-mentioned action steps should be pursued in a short time frame (1 to 2 years), except for habitat restoration activities, which are dependent on the success of the Preserve Keepers Corps and additional funding sources and trail improvements, both of which should be pursued in the medium (3 to 5 years) to long (6 to 10 years) timeframes.

Kickapoo Playfield

Description

Kickapoo Playfield is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and is located north and south of the Little Calumet River between I-57 and Halsted Street. It includes a large open field as well as extensive wooded areas. Picnic facilities in the main part of the preserve need additional maintenance. The northeastern corner of Kickapoo Meadows was once a nesting area for Green Snakes, but the habitat was lost when the area was reforested.

Action Steps

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County should undertake the following actions:

- Create a restoration plan which removes invasive shrubs and re-establishes prairie on portions of the property most conducive to this habitat.
- Pursue active habitat restoration strategies on the wooded and riverfront portions of the property through the Forest Preserve District's Preserve Keepers Corps.
- Engage the local grade schools and middle schools located near the site in a curriculum-based stewardship program by the students.
- Re-evaluate public activity areas and provide improved support facilities for public use.
- Develop an interpretive station with educational signage.
(See recommendations under The Calumet Area Water Trail, and Bicycle Trail Network).

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Local School District

Implementation Issues

Engaging the local schools, improving public support facilities, and developing interpretive signage should be pursued in a short time frame (1 to 2 years). The restoration activities are substantially dependent on the success of volunteer recruitment into the Preserve Keepers Corps and should be pursued in the medium (3 to 5 years) to long (6 to 10 years) timeframes. Kickapoo Playfield also would benefit greatly from the creation of a local citizen-based "Friends of Kickapoo Playfield" who could work through the District's Preserve Keepers Corps program to assist in maintenance efforts.

Calumet Woods

Description

Calumet Woods is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and is located between the Calumet River and Ashland Avenue. It is wooded and lies in a potentially historic location across from Blue Island where reportedly a battle between Native Americans occurred following the death of Pontiac in 1769. It also is located where the Little Calumet River flows into the Sag Valley, the now-drained and channelized 12-mile long wetland valley that connected the Calumet and Des Plaines Rivers. Thus it represents an important glacial landscape.

Action Steps

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County should undertake the following actions:

- Develop an interpretive station with educational signage.
- Inventory the biota of Calumet Woods.
- Pursue habitat restoration strategies through the Preserve Keepers Corps when its capacity builds to a level that allows such work to be accomplished.
- Engage the local elementary, middle schools and Pace High School in a curriculum-based stewardship program by the students.
- See recommendations under the Bicycle Trail Network chapter.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Local Stewardship Group
Local School District

Implementation Issues

All of the above-mentioned action steps should be pursued in a short term (1 to 2 years), except for restoration activities and bike trail development in a medium term (3 to 5 years) to long term (6 to 10 years).

Thorn Creek / Little Calumet River Lowlands

Description

The Thorn Creek / Little Calumet River Lowlands are partially owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and by the Calumet Memorial Park District. A number of privately owned floodplain parcels are interspersed throughout this area. Some are still actively farmed. The Thorn Creek/Little Calumet River Lowlands lie on both sides of Thorn Creek and the Little Calumet River between I-80 on the south and River Oaks Drive (U.S. Rte 6) on the north.

Action Steps

The Thorn Creek/Little Calumet River Lowlands can benefit from the following actions:

- Protect the last remaining undeveloped parcels of land in this corridor through acquisition by public open space agencies.
- Create a restoration plan and pursue active habitat restoration strategies through an effective volunteer stewardship program on the riverine habitats on the park district lands, as well as through the Preserve Keepers Corps of the Forest Preserve District.
- Engage the local elementary and middle schools near the site, as well as Seton Academy High School, in a curriculum-based stewardship program by the students.
- See recommendations under the Calumet Area Water Trail and Bicycle Trail Network chapters.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Calumet Memorial Park District
Local Stewardship Group
Land Trust
Local School District

Implementation Issues

All of the above-mentioned action steps should be pursued in the short term (1 to 2 years) except for restoration activities and the Bicycle Trail in a medium term (3 to 5 years) to long term (6 to 10) years.

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III. River and Creek Corridors

River and creek corridors present natural greenway opportunities and excellent open space opportunities for trails (water- or land-based), habitat restoration, floodplain protection, and recreation. Since rivers and creeks typically pass through multiple municipal boundaries, any actions affecting the waterway or floodplain often become the concern of multiple jurisdictions and federal, state, and local regulations may apply. This section first provides a description of the river and creek corridors followed by general recommendations. For a listing of the numerous action steps by river/creek corridor with lead agency involvement and timeframes, refer to **Appendix A. Matrix Table**.

Little Calumet River

While the Little Calumet River below Fays Point in Blue Island and Thorn Creek flow through much of their original river and creek beds, they have been drastically altered in terms of the volume of stormwater runoff they carry, the loss of adjoining wetlands, construction on adjoining floodplains, direct-discharge pollution from industry and pollution from stormwater runoff and channelization. Industrial discharges have been substantially eliminated. The portion of the Deep Tunnel Project of the MWRDGC, along much of the Little Calumet River system, promises to drastically lessen the levels of storm flow and pollutants via the capture of combined sewer overflow. A final connection from the Deep Tunnel to the 7.9 billion gallon composite reservoir in the Thornton Quarry in 2014 will complete the Tunnel and Reservoir Project (TARP) and provide the entire flooding and stormwater cleanup aspects of the project that it was designed to accomplish.

The Little Calumet River above (east of) Fays Point in Blue Island has been drastically altered as an industrial working river, known for a large amount of barge traffic and an increasing number of powered recreational boats. Here the Little Calumet River has been widened, deepened, channelized, and dammed in order to function well for industrial boat traffic. The O'Brien Lock and Dam maintain its fairly constant elevation so that it flows backwards (west) into the Cal Sag Channel, and then to the Sanitary & Ship Canal, the Illinois River, and finally the Mississippi. While stormwater pollutants will be cleaned up by the TARP project, polluted sediments will continue to be suspended by the prop wash of barges and boats. These sediments are remnants of the previous hundred plus years of industrial discharges into the river.

Grand Calumet River

The Grand Calumet River combines with the Little Calumet River at Torrence Avenue, below the O'Brien Dam, to form the Calumet River, which flows 9 miles north and enters Lake Michigan. Pollutants have heavily impacted the Grand Calumet River that flows through very heavily industrialized sections of Gary, East Chicago, and Hammond. However, large-scale pollution cleanup projects are in progress or being initiated in these Indiana communities. The lower reach of the Grand Calumet River as it flows through Burnham and Calumet City is to a degree a backwater (periodically low flow river) especially when Lake Michigan is at a high elevation. Thus it gains some water quality benefits under these conditions and has seen an improvement in fishing at the very lower reaches. The river is too shallow for most

powerboats in this reach, which limits the prop wash suspension of sediments. As a result, aquatic birds inhabit stretches of the river. The Army Corps estimates that to remove the sediments in this stretch of the river is a \$15 to 20 million project. The sediment removal may not greatly improve the navigability of the river.

Thorn Creek

Thorn Creek is the largest tributary to the Little Calumet River, draining much of the South Suburban area in Bloom, and portions of Rich and Crete Townships. While the lower stretches of the creek flow through extensive forest preserves, much of its watershed is developed or developing. MWRDGC's Transitional Reservoir in Thornton Quarry captures much of Thorn Creek's flood overflow and will open up the opportunity to treat the water quality. Communities in the Butterfield Creek sub-watershed of Thorn Creek, upstream and beyond the borders of the South Suburban Calumet Area, have embarked on a plan to improve habitat, lessen flooding, and acquire public open space.

Calumet Union Drainage Ditch

The Calumet Union Drainage Ditch predates the 1920's and was built to drain the flat soils of the glacial lake plain at the base of the Tinley Moraine, for farming purposes. The communities of Markham and Harvey subsequently built up substantial neighborhoods and industrial parks in this farming area unaware of the flooding impacts. Later, a major secondary discharge of the ditch flowing north from the east side of Dixie Highway at Damen Avenue was storm-sewered underground. The Commonwealth Edison greenway along Winchester and Robey Avenues was created atop of this buried drainage. The remaining drainage ditch was widened and deepened in the 1980's, designed to handle a 100-year storm event in association with Structure 53, the Edward C. Howell Reservoir, completed in 1988. It is now a trapezoidal concrete-walled ditch with a 10-20 foot side yard along much of its length, creating an opportunity for bike paths to link the 7 parks and schools which adjoin it as it flows two miles through Harvey and South Holland. It has little in-stream habitat today, although prior to the 1980's reconstruction fish surveys turned up green sunfish, fathead minnows, sunfish, and largemouth bass.

The Calumet Area Water Trail



This water trail was recommended as one of the ten sub-regional water trails of Northeastern Illinois in a plan adopted by NIPC in 1999. Segments of the Calumet Area Water Trail are located outside of the South Suburban Calumet region in Chicago, Blue Island and Alsip. But a stretch of the Little Calumet River in Lansing, South Holland, Dolton, Harvey, Riverdale and Calumet Park provides key components of the Calumet Area Water Trail. Veterans Park, Gouwens Park, Kickapoo Meadows, and the Little

Calumet Boat Ramp are designated as access points to this sub-regional trail in the regional plan. Coordinated signage, the removal of tree obstructions, and several canoe access “put-ins” will be needed before the trail becomes a reality. These 4 locations, once improved, will complete a major regional trail segment that will open up the opportunity for local government park sponsors to add additional access points.

Thorn Creek also presents an opportunity to expand this water trail system if access points can be designated, signage added, and obstructions removed. Thorn Creek may be a seasonal water trail when water elevations are high enough. It would provide a high quality paddling experience however due to the significant number of environmental and cultural features along its shorelines. Access points could be developed on its west bank at Margaret Street in Thornton, a cultural landing could be established at the Paarlberg Farmhouse, and another access point could be developed just north of 170th Street.

The Grand Calumet River in Burnham and Calumet City could also become a key local water trail especially if associated with a riverwalk and related open space, shoreline recreation, and new development. Even without the riverwalk, the Grand Calumet River could be paddled today if access points were established at the base of the Torrence Avenue bridge and at the City park on the west side of Mackinaw Avenue.

Action Steps

General recommendations that apply to all of the tributary creeks and rivers in the Calumet River system include the following:

- Support federal and state efforts to clean up sediments and improve the overall water quality of the creeks and rivers. As part of the flood control improvement projects implemented in the 1980’s by federal and state agencies, local communities committed to annual channel maintenance practice such as debris and sediment removal, and bank stabilization. These commitments should be revisited and a strategy developed which is achievable by local communities on a consistent basis.
- Create local strategies to clean up non-point stormwater runoff into the river.
- Acquire a greenway corridor, under public ownership or access easement, along the river as opportunities arise, such as when non-water transportation related development occurs on riverfront parcels.
- Achieve regional water trail status and expand additional local water trail opportunities with more signage, access points, and expansion into Thorn Creek and the Grand Calumet River. (See the Calumet Area Water Trail).
- Improve stream edges and riparian habitat by eliminating structural shorelines where possible and restoring aquatic emergent vegetation, shoreline wetland edges, and streambank native plantings. Pull storm sewer discharges back from the shoreline by removing sections of storm sewers that discharge directly into streams.

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IV. Rail, Road, and Utility Corridors



Rail corridors crisscross the South Suburban Calumet region. Many road crossings are at grade, while many others are grade-separated using viaducts with sidewalks. The long stretches of rail lines with no road crossings present opportunities for long parallel trails, but are problematic because they can be very expensive to cross with bicycle bridges or tunnels. Thus trails need to use existing street crossings where possible, even if they are not in the most strategic locations. The railroad bridges at the rivers and creeks open up opportunities for trails to cross

under rail lines. There are also opportunities to attach trail bridges over the wider portions of rivers on existing rail bridges. (The rail bridge over the Little Calumet River north of the old Acme Steel Plant in Riverdale was retrofitted several years ago to provide an easier attachment of a trail bridge to the Major Taylor Trail when the trail corridor south of the bridge is determined.) Trails have already been built along active rail lines in several locations in northeastern Illinois with no known negative effects.

Several rail corridors have been abandoned in recent years. These corridors should be acquired quickly, before they are lost to other developments. The loss of a rail corridor results in more expensive retrofitting of trails into the already developed landscape.

The road corridors in the area present their own set of opportunities and challenges. Many experienced bicycle riders are comfortable riding on the existing street system. But signalization, crossing striping, signage and other bicycle friendly improvements should be added in order to develop a more functional and safer bicycling network. The Bicycle Trail Network proposed in this plan is primarily a network of proposed off-road trails, but in certain locations where trails can't be built, connections between trails need to utilize the on-road network. On-street bicycle connections can be made to the off-road trails using signage, bike lanes and, in some cases, minor widening of road shoulders, easily achieved when road resurfacing projects take place given proper planning.

The Bicycle Trail Network recommended in this plan should be adopted as an amendment to the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association *Bikeway Plan* adopted in July 2001 and the Chicago Area Regional Bike/Pedestrian Plan (Soles and Spokes) when it is updated.

The overhead electric utility corridors represent long corridors of open space under single ownership. The electrical towers do not provide an aesthetically pleasing riding experience as compared to forest preserve district routes or routes on abandoned rail lines, but the utility corridors often traverse neighborhoods which can bring many local riders to a trail for recreation, healthy exercise, shopping, or commuting to work or school.

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V. Geological and Cultural Sites

Geological Sites

Thornton Quarry

Description

This quarry is a limestone quarry reputed to be the third-largest commercial stone quarry in the world. It is 1.5 miles long, 0.5 miles wide and 400 feet deep. While it continues to be mined commercially, its natural history dates back 425 million years and its history as a quarry begins in 1836. The quarry will play an increasing role in floodwater management, serving as a composite reservoir under the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) administered by the MWRDGC.

Action Steps

Short term and long term action steps for Thornton Quarry can provide benefits as follows:

- ❑ The Thornton Quarry has provided significant opportunities in past years for visitors to enter the quarry on a limited basis for the study of fossils and geology. In the short-term, this activity should be continued, and if possible, expanded.
- ❑ A visitors' policy should be developed in a framework acceptable to the private industries that operate the various sections of the quarry. An agency, such as the Illinois Geological Survey, needs to be identified to become the chief sponsor of visitors and researchers to allow more frequent access to the quarry at times acceptable to industry.
- ❑ The Quarry Overlook site in Thornton could become the site of a premier visitor center that explains both the limestone outcroppings as well as the surficial glacial geology of the South Suburban Calumet Area. It could garner broad support across the area for state or federal funding. The Chicago Southland Convention and Visitor's Bureau could sponsor a series of meetings to define the project with the Village of Thornton and identify sources of potential financial support.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Village of Thornton
South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau

Implementation Issues

An expanded visitors' policy should be pursued and accomplished in the short term (1 to 2 years). The Visitors Center concept needs a broad base of financial support that could be explored and determined in the short term, while development of such a facility should be pursued in the medium term.

Archeological Sites and Native American Culture

Description

The Calumet River and Thorn Creek bottomlands provided a place for Native American settlements for thousands of years. The rivers were large enough to canoe, and because of their location at the southern tip of Lake Michigan, many Native American tribes traveled through the region over a 10,000 year period representing the paleo, archaic, woodland, and Mississippian cultures. In the 17th and 18th centuries French-Canadian traders and missionaries entered the area, followed by the British and Americans as the land changed jurisdictions.

At least two major historic Native American events are known to have occurred in or close to the region. In the 1670's the Iroquois from the Lake Ontario area swept into the area to gain control before the fur trade arrived, driving away the local tribes, until the Iroquois were defeated in a battle with the Miami in the area in 1687. This was the last attempt by the Iroquois to enter the Illinois area. The fur trade over the following 130 years was influenced by very different groups of Native American nations that had allegiances to the French Canadians, British, and Americans.

The other historic event was marked by the killing of Pontiac in 1769 by the Illinois. Pontiac, several years before had organized a large area of Native American resistance to settlers moving into the Midwest. Some historians believe a skirmish between Pontiac's followers and a band of Illinois occurred in the South Suburban Calumet Area, prior to a major battle near Starved Rock.

Action Steps

General recommendations with regard to the Native American heritage include:

- Protect remaining archeological sites.
- Encourage university and professional archaeological research.
- Develop and staff a major interpretive center.
- Encourage Native American organizations and tribes to participate with local public landowners in defining a vision for the area.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Forest Preserve District of Cook County
South Suburban Calumet Area municipalities and park districts
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
National Park Service
Illinois Association for the Advancement of Archaeology
Archaeological Conservancy
Universities
Illinois State Museum

Implementation Issues

An interpretive / research center should be established, funded by state, federal, corporate, and foundation funds. Funding for the construction and staffing of one new interpretive center will take a concerted political effort. Funding multiple interpretive centers may be impossible in the short-term. Therefore, a concerted and coordinated planning effort will be needed to determine a list of candidate sites (such as the Thornton Overlook and other sites) and build consensus behind the best suitable location. This timeframe is projected to be medium (3 to 5 years) to long (6 to 10 years) in the making.

Leadership should be defined through a series of exploratory meetings sponsored by South Suburban Mayors and Managers with various individuals, agencies, and potential funding sources with a special interest in furthering awareness of lower Lake Michigan prehistory.

Cultural Sites

19th and Early 20th Century Agriculture / “Living History Farms” Concept



One of many historic structures that could be integrated into a Living History concept.

Description

The South Suburban Calumet region became a rich farming area because of the easily tillable sands and silts of the glacial lake plain soils. Early immigrants arriving in Chicago traveled through the area on the early wagon roads. The area became especially known in the early 20th century for truck farming a variety of vegetables. A number of early historic sites are preserved in the area such as the Paarlberg and Oostenbrugge Farmhomes in South Holland, and the 1830's Schrum Cabin in Calumet City. Active farming still occurs at several parcels in South Holland and Lansing. The opportunity remains to create a series of interpretive sites, coordinated under the theme of farming and agriculture, utilizing these properties and historic structures.

Action Steps

General recommendations with regard to 19th and early 20th century agriculture include:

- Create a number of “Living History Farm” sites on the local level, which could be tied together as a decentralized system rather than attempting to create one large facility. The proposed trail system may provide bicycle linkages to a number of history farms created in the south suburbs.
- Acquire at least two additional 15 to 20-acre parcels, currently being farmed or suitable for restoration to historic farming activity.
- Coordinate these two parcels with the Paarlberg, Oostenbrugge and Schrum sites to show the history of farming in the South Suburban Calumet region, representing: 18th century Native American agriculture; 1830's first settlement and Breaking the Prairie Sod, 1860's Dutch Agriculture, 1880's Tiling and Tilling the Wetlands, and 1920's Vegetable and Truck Farming. All of the decentralized sites could be tied into a local community gardening network to supply local residents and weekend farmers markets.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Historical Societies
South Suburban Calumet Area municipalities and park districts

Implementation Issues

The possibility of establishing a Historic Agriculture Land Trust should be explored. It could have several goals and primary responsibilities: (1) to acquire parcels of land to show the history of farming practices in the area; (2) to coordinate management, marketing, and interpretation of the sites once they are all established; (3) to manage the guidelines under which the farm sites would also serve as local community gardens; and (4) to raise funds to ensure the quality and continued viability of the farm sites. Federal and state agencies – such as the National Park Service and Illinois Historic Preservation Agency – can offer excellent technical assistance as can the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Forming a land trust will take considerable research, time, and effort.

The Underground Railroad

Description

The geographic location of the South Suburban Calumet region was strategic for the Underground Railroad. The region was located at the tip of Lake Michigan, where major midwestern roads from the south funneled together, heading for Chicago, Ottawa, the Fox River communities and other key stations on the Underground Railroad as it headed on to Wisconsin. A number of known and potential sites, some with structures, still exist in and near the South Suburban Calumet region. Much research needs to be accomplished, but increasing national interest in the Underground Railroad has resulted in a number of new books focused on Illinois' role.

Action Steps

General recommendations with regard to the Underground Railroad include:

- Support additional historical and archaeological research into sites related to the Underground Railroad in the South Suburban Calumet region.
- Preserve sites associated with the Underground Railroad.
- Support efforts of the South of Chicago Freedom Trail Project, and the Chicago / Calumet Underground Railroad Effort.
- Designate one continuous north-south bike trail/bike route as the Freedom Trail.
- Develop a comprehensive local and national tourism marketing initiative focused on the Underground Railroad in the South Suburban region.

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

South Holland Historical Society
South of Chicago Freedom Trail Project
Chicago-Calumet Underground Railroad Effort
South Suburban Calumet Area municipalities and park districts
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Proposed Historic Agriculture Land Trust
Illinois State Museum

Implementation Issues

It is vital to continue participation by local governments, organizations, and individuals in the two sub-regional efforts, namely: the South of Chicago Freedom Trail Project, and the Chicago-Calumet Underground Railroad Effort. Similar to the Living History Farm concept, technical assistance could be provided by federal, state, and local agencies or historic societies. The timeframe is projected to be medium (3 to 5 years) to long (6 to 10 years) in the making.

The Illinois Central Corridor

Description

The Illinois Central was the primary railroad line responsible for transporting several million Black Americans from the South to northern states during the Great Migration of the 1910's and into the 1950's. This event greatly changed the demographics of the nation and was a forerunner to the Civil Rights era of the 1950's and 1960's. Also, the Illinois Central was the transportation route responsible for bringing north to Chicago King Oliver's Band in 1919 after the Storeyville District of New Orleans was shut down. Louis Armstrong followed in 1921 and jazz evolved as a uniquely American music through the 1920's in the Chicago clubs. As the great Migration gained steam, acoustic blues musicians from the south headed north on the I.C. as well. In the 1940's and 1950's, they plugged in their guitars in neighborhood bars and created the other unique American musical style, rhythm and blues, which led to rock and roll.

Action Steps

General recommendations with regard to the Illinois Central Corridor include:

- Designate two bike routes on the east and west sides of the Illinois Central Corridor -- utilizing portions of the rail line right-of-way where possible, other parallel trails, and on-street routes where necessary. One route designated as "The Great Migration Trail" and the other, "Jazz and Blues Trail."

Potential Lead Agency / Agencies

Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau
Village of Riverdale
Ivanhoe Park District
City of Harvey
Harvey Park District

Implementation Issues

Harvey and Riverdale as well as the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau could sponsor a series of meetings that would define this project further, identify initial project areas for murals, and historical interpretation, and identify sources of state and local funding. The project will take research, time, and effort.

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VI. Bicycle Trail Network

Significant opportunities remain in the South Suburban Calumet Area to develop a broad network of off-road bicycle/pedestrian paths. The Burnham Greenway, the Lansing Trail and the Thorn Creek Trail, key components of the 500-mile Grand Illinois Trail, provide the regional and statewide trail framework to which South Suburban Calumet communities can link, loop, and connect their own local trail systems. Trails in Homewood, Hammond, Chicago, and Blue Island are being planned or already have been built close to the borders of the South Suburban Calumet region. The 6,356-mile "coast-to-coast" American Discovery Trail links into the South Suburban Calumet Area at its southern portion. These long distance trails, once completed, will have a positive economic impact from visitors and tourists using local restaurants, shops, and overnight lodging, as well as creating new businesses to service enhanced tourism.

Bicycling, walking, running, rollerblading, and the like are no longer seen as simply recreational activity. Such forms of non-motorized movement provide alternatives to driving and take cars off the roads -- whether as trips to work, shopping, or recreational sites. Bike trails, especially community loops, enhance the sense of community and enrich the individual identity of each municipality. Trails provide connections to schools, parks, civic centers, neighborhood shopping, and places people want to go.

The role of trails to encourage active healthy lifestyles has received substantial support of the medical community because of recently released studies. Overweight and inactive adults have been linked to 200,000 to 300,000 premature deaths per year nationwide due to cardio-vascular disease, diabetes, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure. This rate suggests that of the 175,000 citizens living in the South Suburban Calumet Region, approximately 120 to 180 premature deaths would occur every year. Youth obesity rates are rising rapidly and indicate the depth of this health problem.

Besides improving one's diet, walking or biking for at least ½ hour daily is listed among the easiest exercise options recommended by the medical industry. One of the other major diseases in our country, osteoporosis, is treatable with regular physical activity when combined with appropriate drug therapy and calcium intake. National averages indicate that approximately 15,000 residents in the South Suburban Calumet Area are affected by osteoporosis.

The health benefit associated with the South Suburban Calumet Trail System demands attention and immediate action to plan, fund, engineer, and build this trail system. Potential trail linkages could be lost every day to real estate changes and alternative land-uses. Many parcels are on the market; local government commitment to the trail system is needed to capture today's opportunities before trail options are foreclosed.

The overall trail system -- described on the enclosed map and presented more fully below -- is a combination of individual trail loops and trail segments, each with their own unique set of challenges, but each is reasonably achievable. For example, the South Suburban Calumet Trail System envisions crossing under or over the I-80 expressway in three locations to achieve full neighborhood access among many communities. Many trail systems have been built throughout the region and country that have resolved engineering and cost issues no more difficult than represented in the South Suburban Calumet Area. The proposed system attempts to locate a trail within ½ mile of every neighborhood

Regional trails are considered first followed by local trail connections needed within each community.

Regional Trails

For a detailed listing of the action steps for each regional trail with lead agency involvement and timeframes, refer to **Appendix A. Matrix Table**. The discussion below presents the major challenges to be addressed for each trail.

The Grand Illinois Trail (GIT)

The Grand Illinois Trail's 500-mile loop is approximately 85% complete. Once completed it is expected to attract visitors from around the country as well as international visitors to the Chicago region. Three major disconnections to the overall route exist in the South Suburban Calumet region.

In Burnham, the Burnham Greenway is disconnected between the Hegewisch South Shore Station and State Street. Approximately \$2.5 million is needed to build a trail primarily along a Com Ed corridor and build several bridges over railroad tracks and the Grand Calumet River. An appropriation of \$600,000 had been set aside for the project, but the State of Illinois recently took dollars out of this fund for other projects. The project is the most critical and difficult of the three disconnections and needs to be funded as a priority project as it will provide continuity to the existing sections of the Burnham Greenway.

In Lansing a three-mile gap exists from the little Calumet River to the Indiana border. The Village of Lansing has recently acquired title to the underlying rail corridor, and the Lan-Oak Park District will construct a trail by 2005. A one-mile connection between this trail segment and the existing Thorn Creek Trail, along a Com Ed corridor, will probably be achieved by 2007 if funding is identified. This one-mile connection is a critical project to accomplish.

The third gap skirts the edge of the South Suburban Calumet region and involves a difficult linkage between the Thorn Creek Trail trailhead near 183rd and Cottage Grove Avenue and the north end of the CSX corridor recently acquired by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County at Glenwood Road. Approximately one and one-half miles in length, this route needs to cross an active rail line. A grant to identify a preliminary route needs to be applied for and obtained by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County before the cost of this project can be determined.

The American Discovery Trail (ADT)

While successful accomplishment of the entire coast-to-coast ADT will take at least several decades, the trail could conceivably be accomplished across northern Indiana and Illinois much sooner. Lake County, Hammond, and Munster in Indiana are actively pursuing the development of a number of trail corridors that will link to the Burnham Greenway. Of the 250 miles of trails necessary to cross Illinois, 230 are in place, represented by the Hennepin Canal Trail, the Illinois & Michigan Canal Trail, and the Old Plank Road Trail. There is still some uncertainty by organizers of the ADT as to where it should link into Illinois from Indiana. Intergovernmental efforts should be focused on insuring that the ADT, at a

minimum, links in to Illinois at the Munster/Lansing border. A better crossing would be from the Hammond Trail system to the Burnham Greenway, at Burnham or even Chicago's East Side neighborhood, and then down to Lansing and the Thorn Creek Trail. This route would have a greater economic impact on the South Suburban Calumet region.

Community Trails and Linkages

Route recommendations can be seen on the enclosed maps.

VILLAGE OF BURNHAM

Recommendation

Create a trail along the Grand Calumet River to link the eastern and western neighborhoods of Burnham. This trail should be designed as a component of a riverwalk associated with conservation-oriented redevelopment in Burnham that may involve residential, commercial, river-oriented recreational, or office land uses. Opportunities for such redevelopment are most probable near Torrence Avenue, on portions of the Waste Management Brownfield above the 100-year floodplain, and west of Mackinaw Avenue. Trail links on the west to Calumet City and Dolton generally along the Little Calumet River should be developed. Trail linkage to Hammond (a possible ADT route) along the Grand Calumet River should also be developed in coordination with Calumet City and the Calumet Memorial Park District. Burnham should explore a relationship with the Calumet Memorial Park District to acquire and develop active park sites along the river that add vitality to a riverwalk.

CITY OF CALUMET CITY

Recommendation

The above-mentioned Grand Calumet River riverwalk link to Hammond should be developed in Calumet City as well. Such a trail should be a key part of infrastructure investment and Brownfield remediation accomplished up front to induce high quality development on the sites between Hammond and Burnham Avenue. A trail should be developed along the Michigan City Road corridor to connect eastern Calumet City neighborhoods to the Burnham Greenway/Grand Illinois trail. A trail should be developed as a joint effort of the Calumet Memorial Park District and the Lan-Oak Park District along the upper reach of the Little Calumet River from the Indiana border to the Burnham Greenway/Grand Illinois Trail.

VILLAGE OF CALUMET PARK

Recommendation

A trail should be developed along the north bank of the Cal Sag Channel linking to the terminus of the Major Taylor Trail. Local schools, parks, and the Cedar Park Cemetery should be linked by a community trail loop with the addition of stoplights at important street crossing points.

VILLAGE OF DOLTON

Recommendation

The remaining undeveloped portion of the Greenwood Avenue rail abandonment south of Pulaski Street (154th) should be developed as a trail linking on the south with the north-south proposed Thorn Creek Trail and the east-west River Oaks Trail, as well as the South Holland Trail system. North of Pulaski Street (154th), a 10-foot trail should be retrofitted along the Greenwood Avenue corridor to Main Street, and then extended north, partially as an on-street route to the proposed Calumet River South Bank Trail, which links past the old Acme Steel facility to the existing Major Taylor Trail.

CITY OF HARVEY

Recommendation

Good opportunities exist in Harvey to develop a north- south trail system combining a proposed Lathrop Ave Trail with an on-street route that would link the major parks and schools in the City north to City Hall, the Metra station, and the proposed “greenbelt” trail system on the north end of the community that links into Riverdale (see Riverdale below). A neighborhood trail should be developed along the Com Ed corridor paralleling Winchester that could be connected by a designated on-street route east to the other core route just described.

VILLAGE OF LANSING

Recommendation

A trail should be developed along the Com Ed easement from approximately 170th Street southwest, over I-80 on a proposed bridge directly west of the Torrence Avenue (Rt. 83) interchange. Once south of the I-80 expressway, this connector trail would link with the Thorn Creek/Grand Illinois Trail just south of 186th Street. This community trail link is important to achieve over the long-term because it would connect otherwise isolated neighborhoods in South Holland and Lansing with the regional trail system.

VILLAGE OF RIVERDALE

Recommendation

The large greenbelt of forest preserve holdings that virtually surrounds Riverdale (on its north, west, and south boundaries) provide an excellent opportunity to develop a long trail route with important sub-regional connecting points. Elevated road and railroad bridges near the Calumet River provide good opportunities to cross under these transportation routes – routes that otherwise form barriers throughout most of Riverdale. Within the core of the Village, the Com Ed corridor provides a good connection to link Riverdale neighborhoods to the proposed “greenbelt” trail. The Village and Forest Preserve District should work together to achieve support of the concept of linking trails that encircle the Village and connect to other communities to the north, south, and east. The Forest Preserve District and Riverdale’s “greenbelt” trails – once developed – could promote the rich concentration of cultural history in the Riverdale area.

VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND

Recommendation

South Holland has already begun the development of a community trail system along the south bank of the Little Calumet River. The Village is interested in creating a trail linkage over or under I-80 on its south end to link to the Thorn Creek and Grand Illinois Trail regional trail systems. The opportunity exists to develop a continuous community loop trail. It would have a western section north-south trail that connects South Suburban College and Thornwood High School, and an eastern section north-south trail that extends the existing trail at Pacesetter Park along the I-94 corridor south to I-80. Both of these trails could potentially cross I-80 at the restaurant overpass. Here it could connect into an on-road route through the historic Village of Thornton. Alternatively but more expensively, an alternate route could go under I-80.

VILLAGE OF THORNTON

Recommendation

Thornton is strategically located as a historic town, surrounded by large quarry operations, forest preserves, Thorn Creek and I-80, all of which are assets for significant economic development potential through tourism. A Thorn Creek Trailhead lies less than a mile to the southeast. A trail corridor along Thorn Creek Road would provide one option to connect the Village to this regional system. The need for a connection between this trailhead and the CSX corridor in Glenwood south of Glenwood Road was described in the Grand Illinois Trail section. Once this routing is established, it will open up another opportunity if the Thorn Creek Road route does not work out. An extension of the CSX route north to the abandoned Illinois Central corridor could be an option. Because of the very rare natural areas and cultural sites, and significant topography, prevalent throughout this area, bike trail routes need to be carefully selected to avoid both construction disturbance and the creation of unintended mountain biking trails.

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PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING STRATEGIES

This section presents the broader implementation and funding strategies for this plan to become reality.

The Role of South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and Openlands Project

The myriad of open space opportunities, the complexity of the issues, the need for consensus and intergovernmental cooperation to pursue funding – all point to the continued leadership and long-term involvement of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association in terms of driving the overall implementation of this Plan. SSMMA provides such a leadership and coordination role on a variety of issues: transportation, public works, land use, economic development, legislation, solid waste management and many more issues.

SSMMA has recently demonstrated its strong commitment to stormwater management planning – through the ***South Suburban Stormwater Strategy Plan*** – which includes many recommendations for wetland restoration and floodplain protection. SSMMA has sponsored a number of open space demonstration projects that have led local governments into the ecological restoration arena, valuing the ability of natural areas to help reduce stormwater damage while improving water quality. The ***Stormwater Strategy Plan*** is being implemented in incremental stages as funding for special projects becomes available. SSMMA's member communities and municipal staff also implement recommendations from this Plan as they can.

It is a logical expansion of SSMMA's work agenda to take the ***South Suburban Calumet Area Open Space Initiative*** into the future. However, such a commitment will require significant staff time and budgetary support. SSMMA's member communities would need to assign a priority to this effort among the Association's other important projects. Finding additional funding sources for this initiative is vital.

Openlands Project has made a significant contribution to developing the plan, contributing to both the technical content of this document and the planning process as well as helping SSMMA obtain the funding for this effort. Openlands Project has worked in the Calumet region on numerous trail and greenway projects, advocacy issues, and land acquisitions. It has a strong commitment to seeing the ecological and open space improvement throughout the Lake Calumet region – both in Chicago and throughout the south suburbs.

It is logical to request the continued involvement of Openlands Project to help make this Plan a reality. Again, like SSMMA, Openlands long-term commitment on a major level will take funding. Both SSMMA and Openlands are not-for-profit organizations that depend on a variety of funding sources to undertake special projects.

Both SSMMA and Openlands will need to discuss continued leadership and involvement. The partnership of these two organizations has worked exceedingly well. SSMMA's political leadership and Openlands' open space expertise has merged into a strong team.

Even more important, however, is the interest and support of the municipalities that participated in the planning process. Their commitment to achieve these goals will make the difference in the long run.

Assuming this Plan moves forward into the implementation stage, the roles of the **Advisory Council** and **Technical Council** need to be defined. Membership on the Advisory Council could be expanded to include relevant partnerships and organizations: for example, the Thorn Creek Ecosystem Partnership, Thorn Creek Restoration Coalition, and Butterfield Creek Steering Committee.

To sustain the strong interest and momentum of this open space planning process, the Project Team recommends that, at a minimum, the **Advisory Council** meet on a *quarterly basis* to develop continued participation and public/private partnerships. A well-organized and concerted effort over a 10-year period of time will be needed due to the complexity of issues, the multiple jurisdictions, and the need to strategically plan, engineer, and fund a comprehensive open space and trail system for the South Suburban Calumet Area. Complete implementation is expected to take up to 20 years or more depending on availability of funding.

As the **Advisory Council** begins implementation, it is envisioned that priority projects will emerge depending on the public agenda, political will, and funding. The Council will move from a planning entity to a decision-making group that has to consider expanding membership and adopting projects to pursue. A committee structure is likely to emerge beyond the **Technical Council**. For instance, a **South Suburban Calumet Area Trail Committee** should be formed and staffed by the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association given SSMMA's strong role in transportation planning and coordination among its member communities. A representative appointed by the mayor or park district board chairman of each of the local governments in the area could become members of the Committee.

Finally it is recommended that the **Advisory Council** develop a legislative package to advocate outside funding from federal, state, and local sources.

High Quality Natural Areas

Regarding high quality natural areas, the south suburbs contain ecological wonders of statewide significance. These natural areas need long-term protection and stewardship. The need to buffer natural area sites with additional land acquisition is vital in order to ensure the viability of the indigenous habitat. Each natural area presented in the plan is to varying degrees under stress from adjacent development and roads. Natural areas are affected by the quality of stormwater runoff, salt spray from passing autos and trucks, litter, and other urban issues.

Increasing restoration activities is also important. While volunteer groups are attempting to manage some of these natural areas – by removing invasive species, collecting and dispersing native seed, and conducting prescribed burns -- the large number of sites is substantially beyond the scale at which volunteer groups can be effective. Large numbers of new volunteers are needed, which will require a broader commitment from the conservation agencies owning the properties.

It is recommended that SSMMA and Openlands Project sponsor a meeting or brainstorming workshop with “Chicago Wilderness” members – such as the FPDCC, Nature Conservancy, IDNR, federal conservation agencies, and many other groups -- for the purpose organizing a much larger stewardship program in the south suburbs.

Open Space Land Acquisition

The Plan details many sites besides natural areas that should be acquired for other types of open space usage, such as trail corridors, canoe landings, historic farmland, and archeological or cultural sites. Land acquisition is extremely time sensitive with immediate action often necessary to capture these open space opportunities. Many tools beyond fee-simple purchase should be explored such as: conservation easement; long-term lease; gifts of property; intergovernmental agreement; public/private agreement; and land trusts.

The Plan calls for the creation of a local land trust similar to land trusts in place throughout northeastern Illinois and exploring the feasibility of establishing an Agricultural Land Trust, similar in structure to the Garfield Farm Land trust in Kane County. Another alternative that could be pursued would be for an existing local 501(c)3, that already has a conservation purpose, to expand its mission to focus on the wide range of projects recommended in this plan. Such a strategy is important, given the relative scarcity of public land acquisition dollars by public agencies and the need to move quickly before key parcels of property are lost.

Moreover, the creation of a local land trust could be aided by consulting with a national resource called the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), which is a leader within the private land conservation movement. LTA promotes voluntary land conservation across the country and provides training to the nation’s 1,200-plus nonprofit land conservation organizations.

Gateway Center and Plan Promotion

The **Advisory Council** recommends that a Gateway Center be pursued to promote the existing and proposed open space sites inherent in the Plan. This idea is tied to creating an **educational, promotional, and interpretive system** about treasures of the South Suburban Calumet Area.

“Most [ecological] restoration work relies heavily on well-conceived post-project maintenance, primarily to discourage weeds from populating the site. Restored sites are often quite disturbed, making them ideal candidates for weed colonization. Included in such an effort would be components of burning, mowing, herbicide application and general upkeep.”



(Taken from **The Comprehensive Ecological Training Manual**, prepared by the SSMMA with financing from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

This effort can start small with development of a simple signage system that creates a unified image of existing open spaces, placed judiciously at trail heads, parks, picnic groves and other high-visibility locations. Moreover, the I-80 Tollway Oasis, now undergoing renovations, could incorporate an information kiosk complete with a brochure to introduce visitors, tourists, and local residents to the many open space amenities waiting their arrival. The Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau offers excellent technical assistance with such ideas and has certain funds available to subsidize the cost of developing and printing brochures. Brochures can also be printed and distributed at local libraries, schools, and forest preserve and park facilities.

Funding

SSMMA and the communities that have participated in this study should meet with the Governor and his staff to introduce him to the Initiative and discuss previous funding commitments made to the to the Lake Calumet region. A presentation should also be made to the Calumet Sustainable Growth Advisory Committee. In addition, briefings should be given to senior officials at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and the Illinois Department of Agriculture. State funding should be considered a primary goal, with a legislative package developed to garner support from members of the Illinois General Assembly. This legislative package can also be used to develop partnerships with federal and county government.

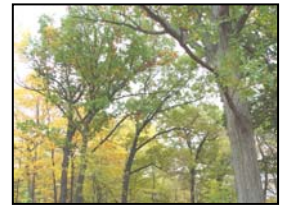
Another strategy for securing funding in the current economic climate is to tap into funding sources earmarked for transportation, stormwater management, and even urban development. For example, the federal transportation funding program – Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA and TEA21) – has been used over the past decade to fund hundreds of miles of paved bicycle trail throughout Illinois. Flood prevention funding can be sought not only for sewer projects but also for wetland restoration. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts can incorporate native landscaping into industrial redevelopment. These are only a few ways to strategically pursue open space funding. Finally, local suburbs can adopt progressive model ordinances for stormwater management and landscaping that furthers the planning goals discussed throughout the document.

The development of a broader volunteer base could also augment available staff and open space funding. A coordinated and expanded volunteer program could become a priority project of the **Advisory Council**. The time is now for the theme of volunteerism to become linked across ecological, historic, cultural, farming interests tied into the vision behind this plan.

The Matrix Table in **Appendix A**. offers many potential projects and action steps that can be pursued immediately by any number of lead agencies. **Appendix C**. presents an extensive list of open space funding sources. Open space agencies such as the Forest Preserve District and local Park Districts routinely apply for grants and often receive them. This Plan, once adopted by the local suburbs, should be used and referenced by them in grant applications to strengthen their requests. State funding for bicycle trails often depend on systematic linkages. This Plan shows both the regional and statewide connections.

CONCLUSION

The ***South Suburban Calumet Area Open Space Initiative*** attempts to preserve, protect and enhance the remaining ecological, cultural, and historic treasures found throughout the southland. This area holds true ecological wonders – such as oak savanna with dune and swale topography -- some sites protected under public ownership and others needing perpetual preservation and management. The area boasts many miles of bicycle trails that could be connected into a network of statewide and national trails that allow residents of the south suburbs to embark on non-motorized travel from coast-to-coast. The time to move on this vision is now; if action is not taken today, the potential for this plan to be realized may be foreclosed within another decade. There is great potential to not only take care of our open space assets, but also improve the socioeconomic conditions of this region. Health benefits, historic benefits, economic, and an enhanced quality of life are promised by the implementation of this plan and the future work of the Calumet Area Open Space Initiative.



APPENDIX A
Matrix Tables

LEGEND FOR MATRIX TABLES

NAME (SITE LOCATION)	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
INAI site = Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site INP site = Illinois Nature Preserve site		CMPD = Calumet Memorial Park District FPDCC = Forest Preserve District of Cook County LOPD = Lan-Oak Park District IDNR = Illinois Department of Natural Resources IEPA = Illinois Environmental Protection Agency IHPA = Illinois Historic Preservation Agency MWRDGC = Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago NRCS = Natural Resource Conservation Service USACE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers USEPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Short = 1 to 2 years Medium = 3 to 5 years Long = 6 to 10 years

HABITAT SITES

NATURAL AREAS

NAME (SITE LOCATION)	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
Dolton Prairie – INAI site (Calumet City)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Public acquisition or conservation easement 2) Restoration 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) FPDCC or land trust 2) FPDCC or volunteer group 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Short 2) Short / Medium
MWRD Riverdale Quarry – INAI site (Riverdale)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Protection through public agency transfer or long-term lease 2) Access 3) Bird observation platform 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) FPDCC, MWRDGC and land trust 2) MWRDGC and land trust 3) Land trust and local stewardship group 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Medium 2) Medium 2) Medium
Powderhorn Lake – INAI site (Burnham)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Interpretive station 2) Natural area restoration 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) FPDCC 2) FPDCC and local stewardship group 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Short 2) Short / Medium
Burnham Prairie – INAI site (Burnham)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Interpretive facility at CMPD on west side of prairie or at Burnham Park on north site of prairie 2) Natural area restoration 3) Bird observation platform 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) CMPD 2) FPDCC and local stewardship group 3) FPDCC and Audubon 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Short 2) Short / Medium 2) Medium
North Burnham Prairie and Riverfront (Burnham)	<p>Brownfield site with surface habitat and wooded riverfront</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) develop a master plan which incorporates public riverfront protection and a riverwalk with habitat protection and enhancement, and recreation in the floodplain, balanced with redevelopment on adjoining properties in the northwest corner and new development of non-floodplain land 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Burnham, CMPD, FPDCC or land trust 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Short (master plan Medium / Long (implementation))
East Burnham Prairie Wetlands and Grand	Brownfield, wetlands, and underdeveloped property		

NAME (SITE LOCATION)	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
Calumet Riverfront (Burnham and Calumet City)	1) develop a master plan which incorporates public riverfront protection, wetland restoration, a riverwalk extending into Calumet City and Hammond balanced with the redevelopment of the brownfields and property between the Mackinaw Avenue and the Grand Calumet River	1) Burnham, Calumet City, CMPD, FPDCC or land trust	1) Short (master plan) Medium / / Long (implementation)
Calumet City Prairie – INAI site (Calumet City)	1) Interpretive station 2) Natural area restoration	1) FPDCC 2) FPDCC and local stewardship group	1) Short 2) Short / Medium
Wentworth Prairie – INAI site (Calumet City)	1) Interpretive station 2) Natural area restoration	1) FPDCC 2) FPDCC and local stewardship group	1) Short 2) Short / Medium
Superior Street Prairie – INAI site (Calumet City)	1) Interpretive station 2) Natural area restoration	1) CMPD 2) CMPD and local stewardship group	1) Short 2) Short / Medium
Sand Ridge – INAI and INP site (Calumet City)	1) Trail access to Nature Center facility 2) Natural area restoration	1) FPDCC 2) FPDCC and local stewardship group	1) Medium / Long 2) Short / Medium
Wentworth Woods (Calumet City)	1) Trail connection to Burnham Greenway 2) Natural area restoration	1) FPDCC 2) FPDCC and local stewardship group	1) Medium / Long 2) Short / Medium
Calumet Park FPD (Calumet City)	1) Trail connection to Burnham Greenway 2) Partial natural area restoration of open field, full restoration of woods	1) FPDCC 2) FPDCC and local stewardship group	1) Medium / Long 2) Medium
Volbrecht Road Woods – INAI site (Unincorporated)	1) Interpretive station 2) Natural area restoration	1) FPDCC 2) FPDCC and local stewardship group	1) Short 2) Short / Medium
Wampum Lake Seepage Area – INAI site (Unincorporated)	1) Interpretive station 2) Natural area restoration	1) FPDCC 2) FPDCC and local stewardship group	1) Short 2) Short / Medium

NAME (SITE LOCATION)	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
Thornton Lansing Road – INAI and INP site (Unincorporated)	1) Interpretive station 2) Natural area restoration	1) FPDCC 2) FPDCC and local stewardship group	1) Short 2) Short / Medium
Jurgensen Woods – INAI and INP site (Unincorporated)	1) Interpretive station 2) Natural area restoration	1) FPDCC 2) FPDCC and local stewardship group	1) Short 2) Short / Medium
Markham Prairie East (Harvey)	1) Protection of strategic parcels 2) Interpretive station 3) Trail access 4) Natural area restoration	1) Land trust 2) Land trust 3) City of Harvey 4) Land trust and local stewardship group	1) Short 2) Short 3) Medium 4) Short / Medium
Whistler Woods (Riverdale)	1) Trail linkage 2) Interpretive station 3) Natural area restoration	1) FPDCC (see trail matrix) 2) FPDCC 3) FPDCC and local stewardship group	1) Medium 2) Short 3) Short / Medium
Kickapoo Meadows (Riverdale)	1) Trail linkage 2) Interpretive station 3) Water trail access and signage 4) Restoration	1) FPDCC 2) FPDCC 3) FPDCC (see water trail matrix) 4) FPDCC and local stewardship group	1) Medium / Long 2) Short 3) Short 4) Short / Medium
Calumet Woods (Riverdale)	1) Trail linkage 2) Restoration	1) FPDCC 2) FPDCC and local stewardship group	1) Medium / Long 2) Short / Medium
Thorn Creek Lowlands (South Holland)	1) Protection and public acquisition 2) Natural area restoration 3) Potential living history farm site	1) FPDCC and CMPD 2) FPDCC and local stewardship group 3) CMPD or land trust	1) Short 2) Medium 3) Medium

NAME (SITE LOCATION)	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
	4) Interpretive station	4) FPDCC and CMPD	4) Short

RIVER CORRIDORS

NAME (SITE LOCATION)	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
Little Calumet River <i>(Burnham, Calumet City, Dolton, Riverdale, Harvey, South Holland, Lansing)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Clean up river sediments 2) Improve water quality of river 3) Clean up non-point stormwater discharges into the river 4) Acquire a public greenway corridor along the river as opportunities arise 5) Develop access and signage to achieve regional water trail status 6) Develop access and signage to expand local water trail potential 7) Remove log jams 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) USACE, USEPA, and IDNR 2) MWRDGC, USEPA, IEPA, IDNR 3) All local governments, public and private property owners 4) All local municipalities and park districts 5) FPDCC (Joe Louis and Kickapoo Meadows), and CMPD (Veterans) 6) South Holland (State St./Indiana Ave. and south bank of river), Lan-Oak Park District (east of Torrence and south bank of river) 7) IDNR and all local governments 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Medium / Long 2) Medium / Long 3) Short / Medium / Long 4) Short / Medium / Long 5) Short 6) Short 7) Short / Medium
Thorn Creek <i>(Thornton, South Holland)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Improve water quality of creek 2) Clean up non-point discharges into the creek 3) Remove log jams 4) Manage riverfront woods to minimize future tree falls, stabilize creek banks, and improve habitat 5) Develop access and signage to expand local water trail potential 6) Protect remaining open space parcels in the Thorn Creek lowlands north of I-80 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) MWRDGC, IEPA 2) Thornton, South Holland, public and private property owners 3) Road jurisdictions, railroads, FPDCC, Thornton, South Holland, park districts 4) CMPD, FPDCC, South Holland, Thornton, private property owners 5) CMPD (north of 170th, east of creek), FPDCC (east of Margaret St. bridge) 6) FPDCC, CMPD, local land trust 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Medium / Long 2) Short / Medium / Long 3) Short / Medium 4) Short / Medium / Long 5) Short 6) Short
Calumet Drainage Ditch <i>(Harvey, South Holland)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Clean debris 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Calumet Drainage Ditch District, Cook County, NRCS, property 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Short

NAME (SITE LOCATION)	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Landscape corridor 3) Utilize as a bike trail corridor (see trail matrix) 4) Improve water quality 5) Clean-up non-point stormwater discharges into the ditch 6) Improve habitat values 	<p>owners, Harvey, South Holland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2) NRCS, Harvey, South Holland 3) Harvey, South Holland 4) Calumet Drainage Ditch District, IEPA, NRCS 5) Calumet Drainage Ditch District, private and public property owners in drainage area 6) NRCS, Harvey, South Holland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Medium 3) Medium / Long 4) Medium / Long 5) Short / Medium / Long 6) Medium / Long
<p>Grand Calumet River (Burnham, Calumet City)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Clean up sediments 2) Improve water quality of the river 3) Clean up non-point stormwater discharges into the river 4) Acquire and develop access and signage to achieve local water trail potential 5) Develop a master plan which incorporates public riverfront protection, wetland restoration and recreational land use along the river edge and in floodplains to increase fishing habitat and clean the river's waters, a riverwalk extending east into Hammond and west to Torrence Ave. All of these features should be balanced with redevelopment of the non-floodplain brownfields. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) USEPA, USACE, IDNR 2) MWRDGC, USEPA, IEPA, IDNR 3) Burnham, Calumet City, all local public and private property owners 4) CMPD 5) Burnham, Calumet City, CMPD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Long 2) Medium / Long 3) Short / Medium / Long 4) Medium 5) Short (master plan); Medium / Long (implementation)

GEOLOGICAL SITES

NAME (SITE LOCATION)	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
Thornton Quarry (Thornton)	<p>3rd largest limestone quarry in the world, prehistoric coral reef well known for fossils, observation point</p> <p>1) develop a more active visitors' policy for both geologist/ fossil researchers and those with a general interest in accessing the Quarry, working with industry.</p> <p>2) develop a visitors center that explains the quarry and unique glacial geology of the South Suburban Calumet region</p>	<p>1) Illinois Geological Survey, Thornton</p> <p>2) Thornton, SSMMA, Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau</p>	<p>1) Short</p> <p>2) Medium / Long</p>

CULTURAL SITES

LIVING HISTORY FARM NETWORK

NAME (SITE LOCATION)	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
Native American agriculture (South Holland)	Native American farming practices during the Mississippian and 18 th century proto-historic period 1) Acquire remaining Thorn Creek farmed floodplain parcels which are rich in archaeological material. 2) Recreate native American farming practices	IHPA, FPDCC, a proposed Historic Agriculture Land Trust to own newly acquired parcels and coordinate management of the other sites with local historical societies and the South Holland Park Dept.	1) Short 2) Medium
Schrum Cabin, 1840's 1 st settlement (Calumet City)	Breaking the prairie sod/subsistence farming of the first settlers 1) Dedicate at least 2 acres of Veteran's Memorial Park north of the cabin to develop into historic agricultural field with early hunting and gathering represented in the adjoining woods along the Little Calumet River. 2) Link the cabin site into a system of living history farms also active as community gardens.	CMPD, IHPA, proposed Historic Agriculture Land Trust	1) Short / Medium 2) Short / Medium
Paarlberg/Oostenbrugge Living History Farm, 1860's Dutch farming (South Holland)	19 th century Paarlberg and Oostenbrugge farmhomes. Both are very near active farm fields adjoining Thorn Creek. 1) Acquire one or more of the nearby Thorn Creek parcels to show 1860's Dutch agricultural practices. 2) Link these farmhomes & fields into a system of living history farms also active as community gardens.	South Holland Historical Society, South Holland Park Dept., IHPA, proposed Historic Agriculture Land Trust	1) Short 2) Medium
1880's Tiling and Tilling the Wetlands (Location in Lansing, South Holland, or Harvey to be determined)	1880's began the era of tiling wetlands for rich productive farmland 1) Acquire a 15-20 acre farmed parcel and restore it to 1880's farming practices	CMPD, South Holland Park Dept., Harvey, Harvey Park Dist., IHPA, proposed Historic Agriculture Land Trust	1) Short / Medium

NAME (SITE LOCATION)	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
	2) Link this site into a system of living history farms, also active as community gardens.		2) Medium
1920's Truck Farm <i>(Location in Lansing, South Holland, or Harvey to be determined)</i>	<p>During the early 20th century the area was well known for its truck farms</p> <p>1) Acquire/designate a 15-20 acre parcel and restore it to 1920's farming practices.</p> <p>2) Link this site into a system of living history farms, also active as community gardens.</p>	CMPD, South Holland Park Dept., Harvey, Harvey Park District., IHPA, proposed Historic Agriculture Land Trust	<p>1) Short / Medium</p> <p>2) Medium</p>
21 st Century Community-Based Garden Farm(s) <i>(Location(s) in Lansing, South Holland, or Harvey to be determined)</i>	<p>Grow specialty crops for the broader market, and local demand crops for community use.</p> <p>1) Acquire as many 5-10 acre parcels as desired by each community.</p>	Lansing, South Holland, Harvey, South Holland Park District, Harvey Park District, Lan-Oak Park District	1) Short / Medium

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

NAME (SITE LOCATION)	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
Structures and sites associated with the Underground Railroad <i>(Locations throughout the South Suburban Calumet region, yet to be determined through additional research)</i>	<p>Protect and interpret structures and sites associated with the Underground Railroad</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increase research effort 2) Establish private commitments to protection or publicly acquire identified sites and structures 3) Link these sites into the regional, state, and national networks currently evolving which protect and interpret these sites. 	South Holland Historical Society, South of Chicago Freedom Trail Project, Chicago-Calumet Underground Railroad Effort, South Suburban Calumet area municipalities and park districts, IHPA, proposed Historic Agriculture Land Trust	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Short / Medium 2) Short / Medium / Long 3) Short / Medium / Long

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

NAME (SITE LOCATION)	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
Many sites associated with the prehistoric archaeological sites in the area representing paleo, archaic, woodland, Mississippian, and proto-historic cultures, as well as possible historic sites associated with the invasion of the Iroquois into Illinois in 1687, and 1760's death of Pontiac <i>(Throughout the South Suburban Calumet region)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increase research effort 2) Acquire unprotected archaeological sites 3) Establish an interpretive center which is focused on the 10,000 years of prehistoric and proto-historic cultures of the area and their local, state, and national significance 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) IHPA, National Park Service, universities, Illinois Association for the Advancement of Archaeology 2) FPDCC, Archaeological Conservancy, proposed Historic Agriculture Land Trust 3) National Park Service, IHPA, FPDCC 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Short 2) Short / Medium / Long 3) Medium / Long

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD CORRIDOR

NAME (SITE LOCATION)	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
The Illinois Central Railroad (the "IC Line" was one of the most important routes in American history. It was responsible not only for the Great Migration of blacks from	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Acquire and maintain as much open space along the corridor as possible to allow for the following: 2) Create a bike trail(s) which parallels the Illinois 	Riverdale, Ivanhoe Park District, Harvey, Harvey Park District	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Short / Medium 2) Medium / Long

<p>the rural south to the industrialized north in the 1920's through the 1950's, but also for being the corridor which relocated the early forms of jazz as a regional musical style of New Orleans to the nationally popularized American music it became, and for transporting southern rural acoustic blues to a new urban, electrified setting where it evolved into rhythm and blues and rock and roll. <i>(Riverdale and Harvey)</i></p>	<p>Central corridor as best as reasonably possible (see bike trail matrix).</p> <p>3) Provide interpretive sites, murals, and other cultural features along the corridor which focus on the three major themes of the Great Migration, Jazz, and Blues.</p>		<p>3) Short / Medium / Long</p>
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TRAIL CORRIDORS

Note: All trail names are proposed and could be named by local jurisdictions with more meaningful names.

NAME (SITE LOCATION)	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
Grand Illinois Trail (Burnham, Calumet City, Lansing)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Build trail from Grand Calumet River south to State Street 2) Build trail from Little Calumet River south to Wentworth Ave. 3) Build trail from Wentworth to Burnham Ave. on Com Ed corridor 4) Build trail through Oakwood park and Lansing Woods 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) IDNR, FPDCC 2) Lan-Oak Park District 3) Lan-Oak Park District 4) Lan-Oak Park District, FPDCC 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Short / Medium 2) Short / Medium 3) Short / Medium 4) Medium
South Holland Trail Loop (South Holland)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering 2) Property acquisition 3) Final engineering and build trail 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) South Holland 2) South Holland 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Short / Medium 2) Medium / Long
I-80 Trail Crossings (South Holland, Lansing)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Illinois Toll Highway Authority study (at restaurant bridge) 2) Phase 1 engineering 3) Build or adapt existing restaurant/bridge crossing and related bridge/tunnels at entry lanes 4) Accomplish Phase 1 engineering study (at Com Ed crossing) 5) Com Ed lease, final engineering and build I-80 crossing 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) ISTHA 2) ISTHA, South Holland, SSMMA 3) ISTHA, South Holland 4) Lan-Oak Park District 5) Lan-Oak Park District 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Short 2) Short / Medium 3) Medium 4) Medium 5) Medium / Long
Thornton Trail (Thornton)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Accomplish Phase 1 engineering 2) Final engineering and build trail 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Thornton, FPDCC 2) Thornton, FPDCC 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Medium 2) Medium
Lansing/South Holland Connector Trail (Lansing, South Holland)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Accomplish property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Lan-Oak Park District, South Holland 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Medium

NAME (SITE LOCATION)	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
	2) Property acquisition, final engineering, and build trail	2) Lan-Oak Park District, South Holland	2) Medium / Long
Little Calumet River Trail (Riverdale, Harvey)	1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering 2) Property acquisition, final engineering, and build trail	1) FPDCC, Harvey Park District 2) FPDCC, Harvey Park District	1) Medium 2) Medium / Long
Greenwood Trail (Calumet City, South Holland, Dolton)	1) Acquire remaining sections of the abandoned rail corridor 2) Phase 1 engineering 3) Final engineering, build trail	1) CMPD, land trust 2) CMPD, land trust 3) CMPD, and agency to be identified	1) Short 2) Short / Medium 3) Medium
North Bank Grand Calumet River Trail (Burnham, Calumet City, Dolton)	1) Engineer and build as part of the final closing of the landfills at this location	1) FPDCC, or agency to be identified	1) Long
Grand Calumet Riverwalk (Burnham, Calumet City)	(previously described under Natural Areas - Burnham Prairie) 1) Land acquisition 2) Master Plan and Phase 1 engineering 3) Final engineering, build trail	CMPD, Burnham, Calumet City	1) Short / Medium 2) Short 3) Medium / Long
Greenwood/Burnham Connector Trail (Burnham, Calumet City, Dolton)	1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering 2) Land acquisition 3) Final engineering, build trail	1) SSMMA 2) CMPD, Dolton, or agency to be identified 3) CMPD, Dolton, or agency to be identified	1) Short / Medium 2) Medium 3) Medium / Long
Calumet Park Trail Loop and Major Taylor Connector (Calumet Park)	1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering 2) Land acquisition 3) Final engineering, build trail	1) Calumet Park 2) Calumet Park 3) Calumet Park	1) Short / Medium 2) Medium / Long 3) Medium / Long
Winchester Trail (Harvey)	1) Phase 1 engineering	1) Harvey, Harvey Park District	1) Medium

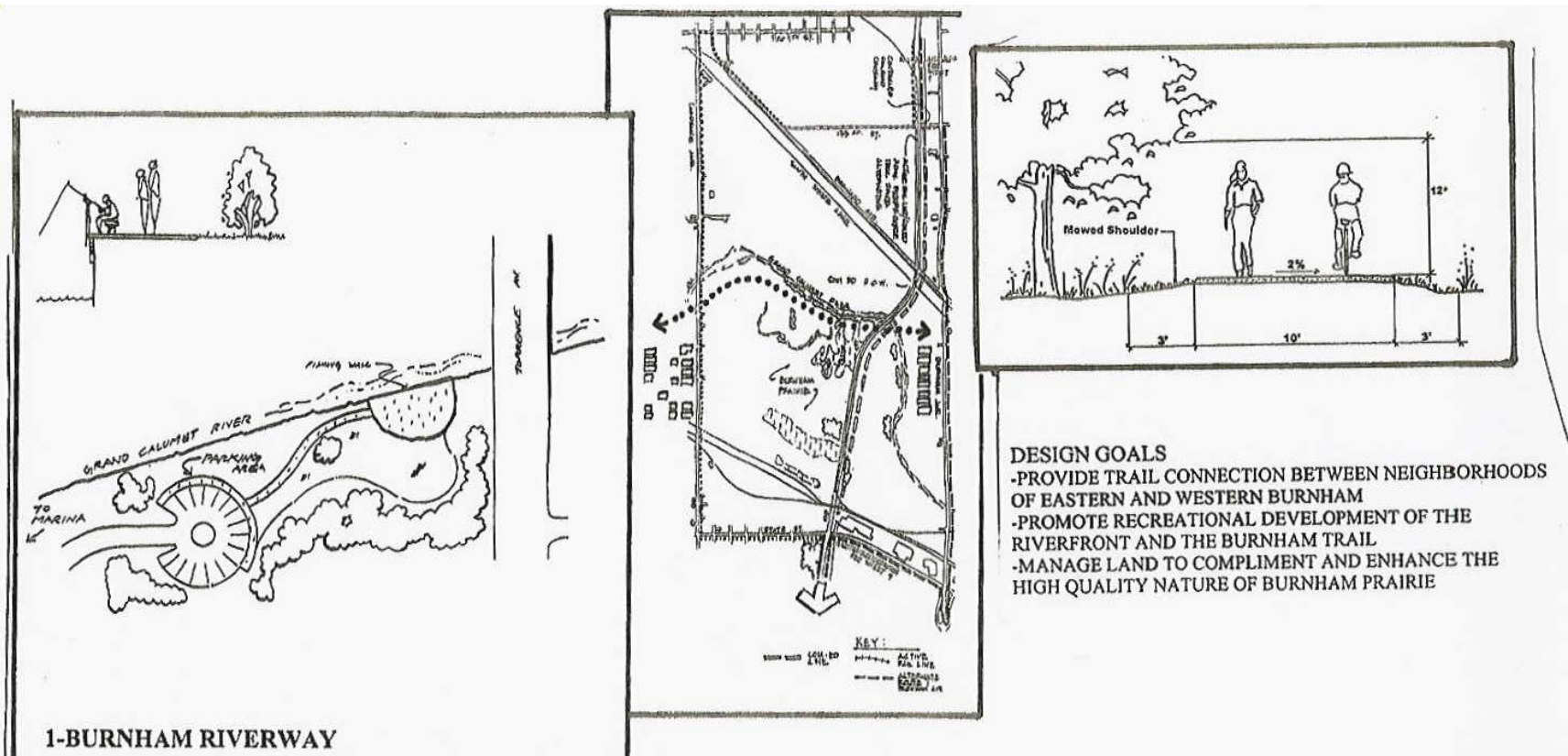
NAME (SITE LOCATION)	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
	2) Com Ed easement	2) Harvey, Harvey Park District	2) Medium
	3) Final engineering, build trail	3) Harvey, Harvey Park District	3) Medium

PROJECT AREA BORDER ISSUES

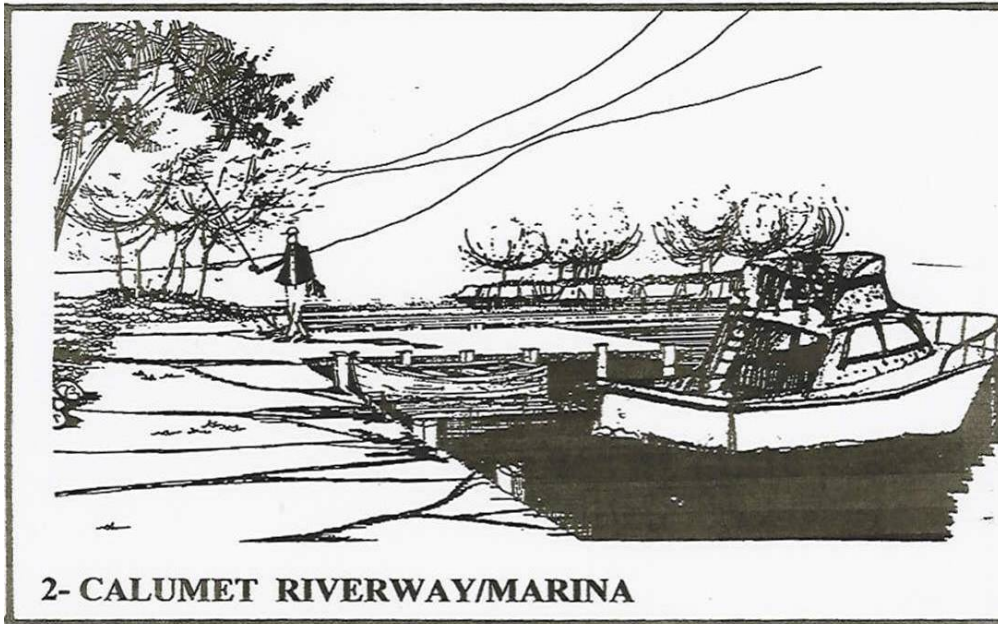
NAME (SITE LOCATION)	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
Calumet Union Trail <i>(Harvey, South Holland)</i>	1) Phase 1 engineering 2) Calumet Union Drainage District easement 3) Final engineering, build trail	1) South Holland, Harvey, Harvey Park District 2) South Holland, Harvey, Harvey Park District 3) South Holland, Harvey, Harvey Park District	1) Medium 2) Medium 3) Medium / Long
Lathrop Trail <i>(Harvey)</i>	1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering 2) Property acquisition 3) Final engineering, build trail	1) Harvey, Harvey Park District 2) Harvey, Harvey Park District 3) Harvey, Harvey Park District	1) Short / Medium 2) Medium 3) Medium / Long
Jazz and Blues Trail <i>(Harvey)</i>	1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering 2) Property acquisition 3) Final engineering, build trail	1) Harvey, Harvey Park District 2) Harvey, Harvey Park District 3) Harvey, Harvey Park District	1) Short / Medium 2) Medium 3) Medium / Long
Great Migration Trail <i>(Riverdale, Dolton)</i>	1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering 2) Property acquisition 3) Final engineering, build trail	1) Riverdale, Ivanhoe Park District, Dolton 2) Riverdale, Ivanhoe Park District, Dolton 3) Riverdale, Ivanhoe Park District, Dolton	1) Short / Medium 2) Medium 3) Medium / Long
South Suburban College Connector Trail <i>(Harvey, South Holland)</i>	1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering 2) Property acquisition 3) Final engineering, build trail	1) Harvey, South Holland 2) Harvey, South Holland, South Suburban College 3) Harvey, South Holland, South Suburban College	1) Short / Medium 2) Medium 3) Medium / Long

NAME (SITE LOCATION)	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
Little Calumet/Greenwood Connector Trail (South Holland, Dolton)	1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering 2) Property acquisition 3) Final engineering, build trail	1) South Holland, Dolton 2) South Holland, Dolton 3) South Holland, Dolton	1) Short / Medium 2) Medium 3) Medium / Long
Greenwood/Riverdale Connector Trail (Dolton, Riverdale)	1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering 2) Property acquisition 3) Final engineering, build trail	1) Riverdale, Dolton 2) Riverdale, Dolton 3) Riverdale, Dolton	1) Short / Medium 2) Medium 3) Medium / Long
Sand Ridge Connector Trail (Calumet City)	1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering for west section 2) Phase 1 engineering for remainder 3) Property acquisition 4) Final engineering, build trail	1) CMPD 2) FPDCC 3) CMPD 4) FPDCC, CMPD	1) Short 2) Short 3) Short / Medium 4) Medium
Upper Little Calumet River Trail (Lansing, Calumet City)	1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering 2) Property acquisition 3) Final engineering, build trail	1) CMPD, Lan-Oak Park District 2) CMPD, Lan-Oak Park District 3) CMPD, Lan-Oak Park District	1) Medium 2) Medium / Long 3) Medium / Long
Michigan City Road Trail (Calumet City)	1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering 2) Property acquisition 3) Final engineering, build trail		1) Short 2) Short / Medium 3) Medium / Long

APPENDIX B
Site Drawings



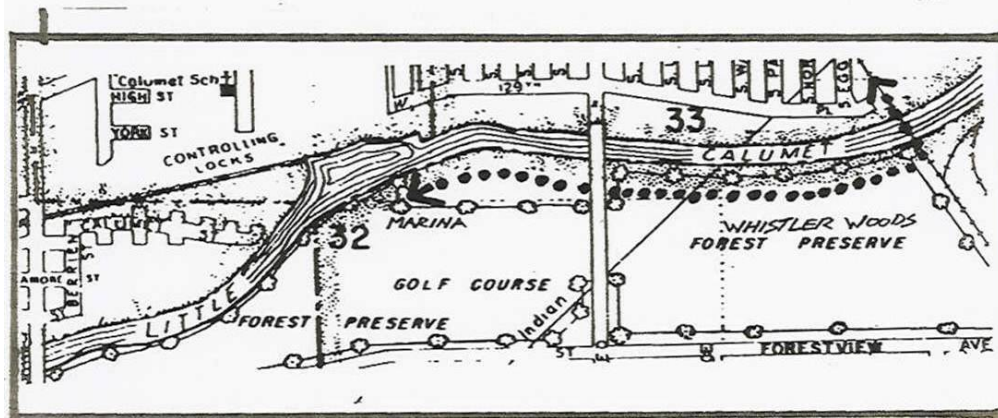
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			SHEET:	1 of 1
			DATE:	9/29/00
			DES. BY:	SCA
Eubanks & Associates, Inc. Environmental Consulting		DRAWN BY: 		
<small>1050 DEARLONE, UNIT D, GLENVIEW, IL 60045 Phone: 847-824-8320 E-mail: Eubank@aol.com Fax: 847-824-8320</small>				



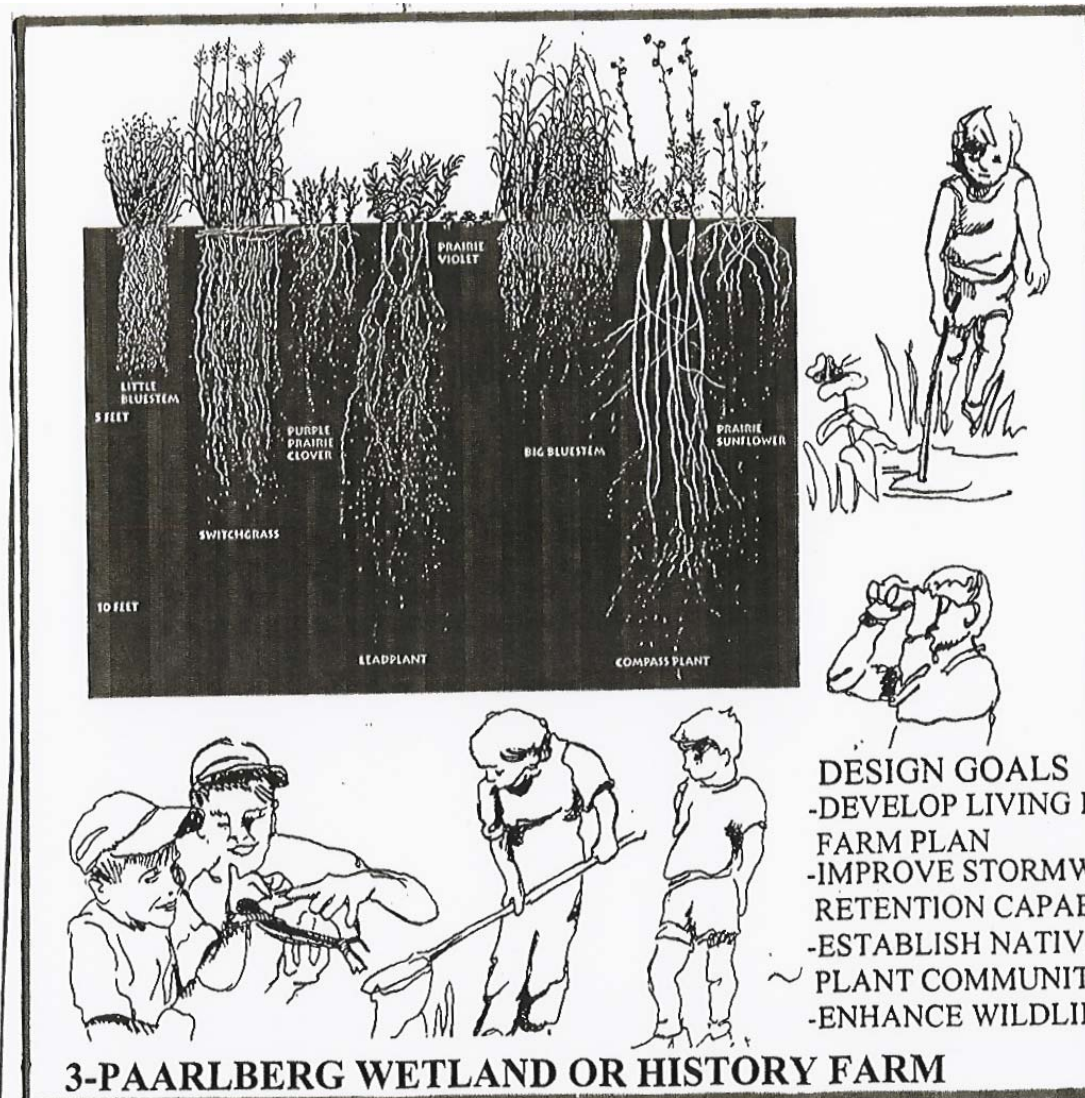
2- CALUMET RIVERWAY/MARINA

DESIGN GOALS

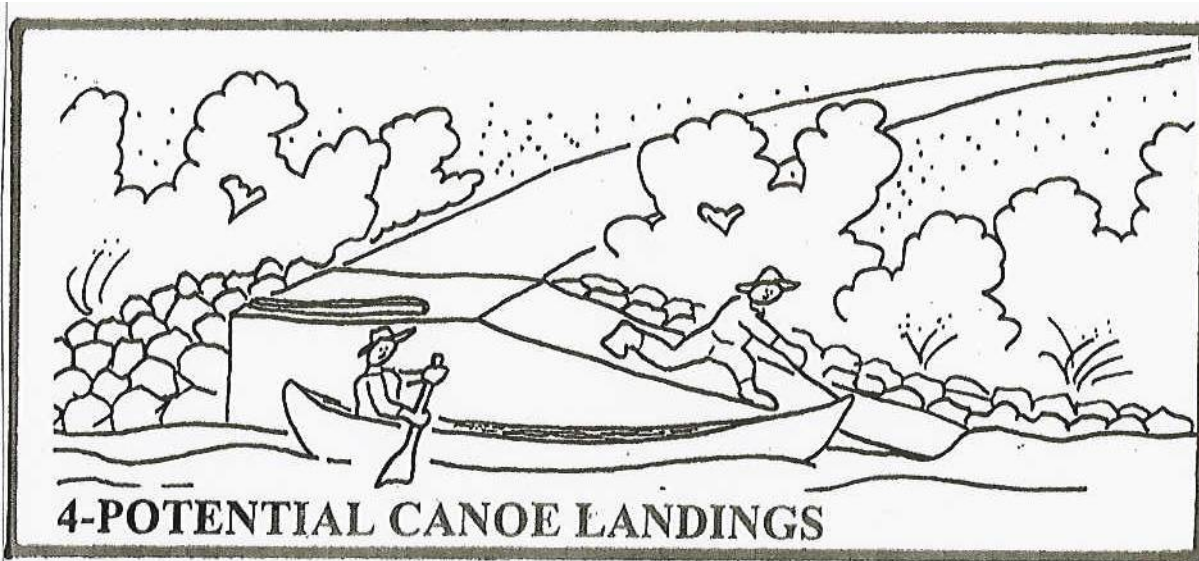
- PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCESS TO RIVERFRONT
- PROMOTE RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF RIVERFRONT
- PROVIDE TRAIL CONNECTION TO DAN RYAN WOODS TRAIL THROUGH WHISTLER WOODS



	PROJECT:	SOUTH SUBURBAN CALUMET AREA OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE DRAFT PLAN FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES	SCALE:	N.T.S.
			SHEET:	1 of 1
			DATE:	9/24/03
			DES. BY:	JAN 3/04
Eubanks & Associates, Inc. Environmental Consulting			CHK BY:	[Signature]
<small>1050 DEARBORN, UNIT D, GLENVIEW, IL 60025 Phone: 847-824-8320 E-mail: Eubank@aol.com Fax: 847-824-8320</small>				



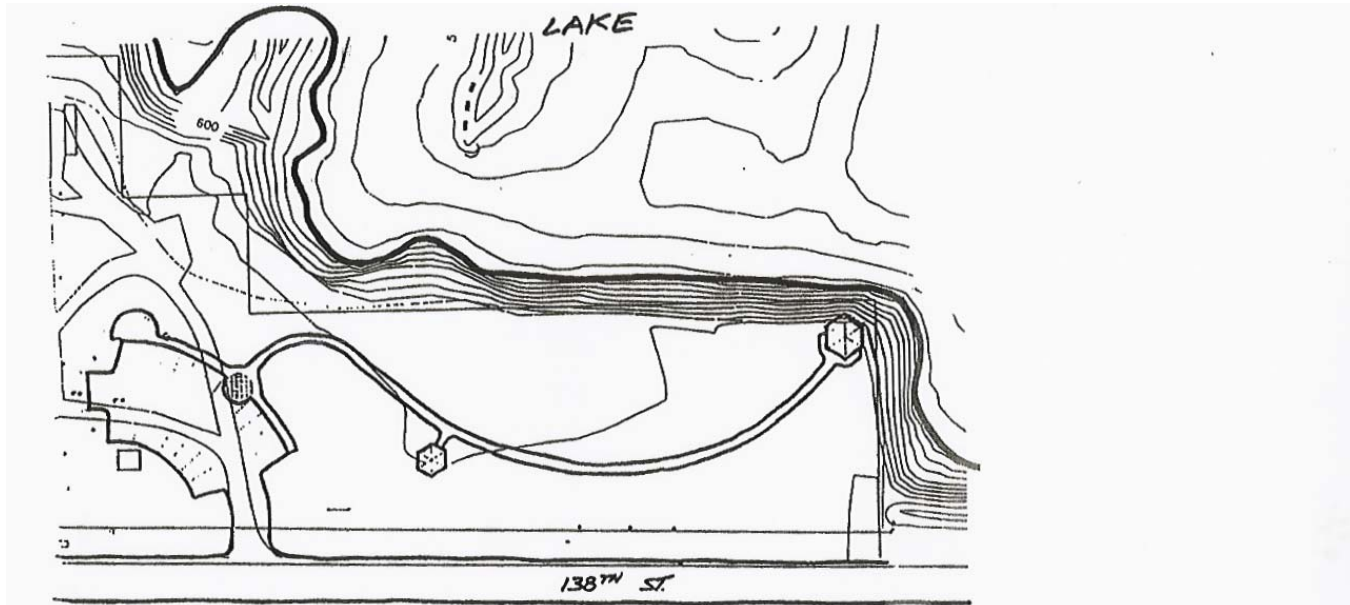
	PROJECT:	SOUTH SUBURBAN CALUMET AREA OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE DRAFT PLAN FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES	SCALE:	N.T.S.
	SHEET:	1 of 1	DATE:	9/25/00
	DESIGNED BY:	JACOB TAYLOR	CHECKED BY:	JACOB TAYLOR
	DATE:	9/25/00	APPROVED BY:	[Signature]
Eubanks & Associates, Inc. Environmental Consulting <small>2020 DEARLONE UNIT D GALEWICK, IL 60005 Phone: 847-624-8330, E-mail: Eubank@earthlink.com Fax: 847-624-8330</small>				



DESIGN GOALS

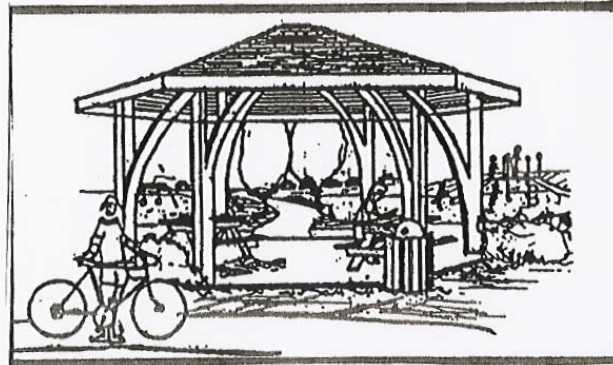
- DEVELOP A WATER TRAIL PLAN FOR THORN CREEK
- EVALUATE POTENTIAL CANOE LANDING SITES


	PROJECT: SOUTH SUBURBAN CALUMET AREA OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE DRAFT PLAN FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES	SCALE: N.T.S. SHEET: 1 of 1
	DATE: 9/29/00	DES. BY: [Signature]
	Eubanks & Associates, Inc. Environmental Consulting	CHK. BY: [Signature]
	<small>1020 DEARLEVILLE, UNIT D, GLENVIEW, IL 60015 Phone 847-824-8330 E-mail Eubankinc@aol.com Fax 847-824-8330</small>	

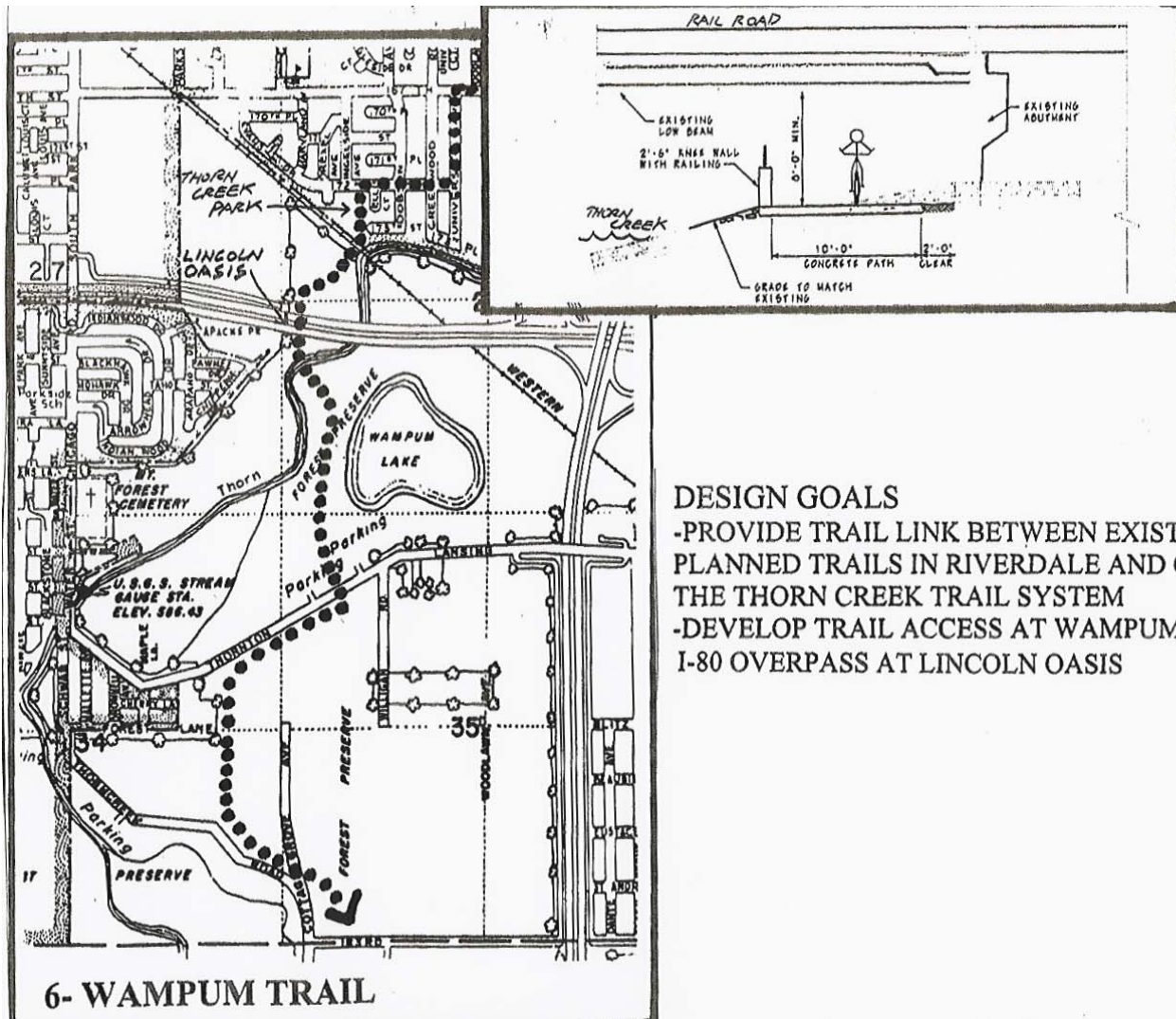


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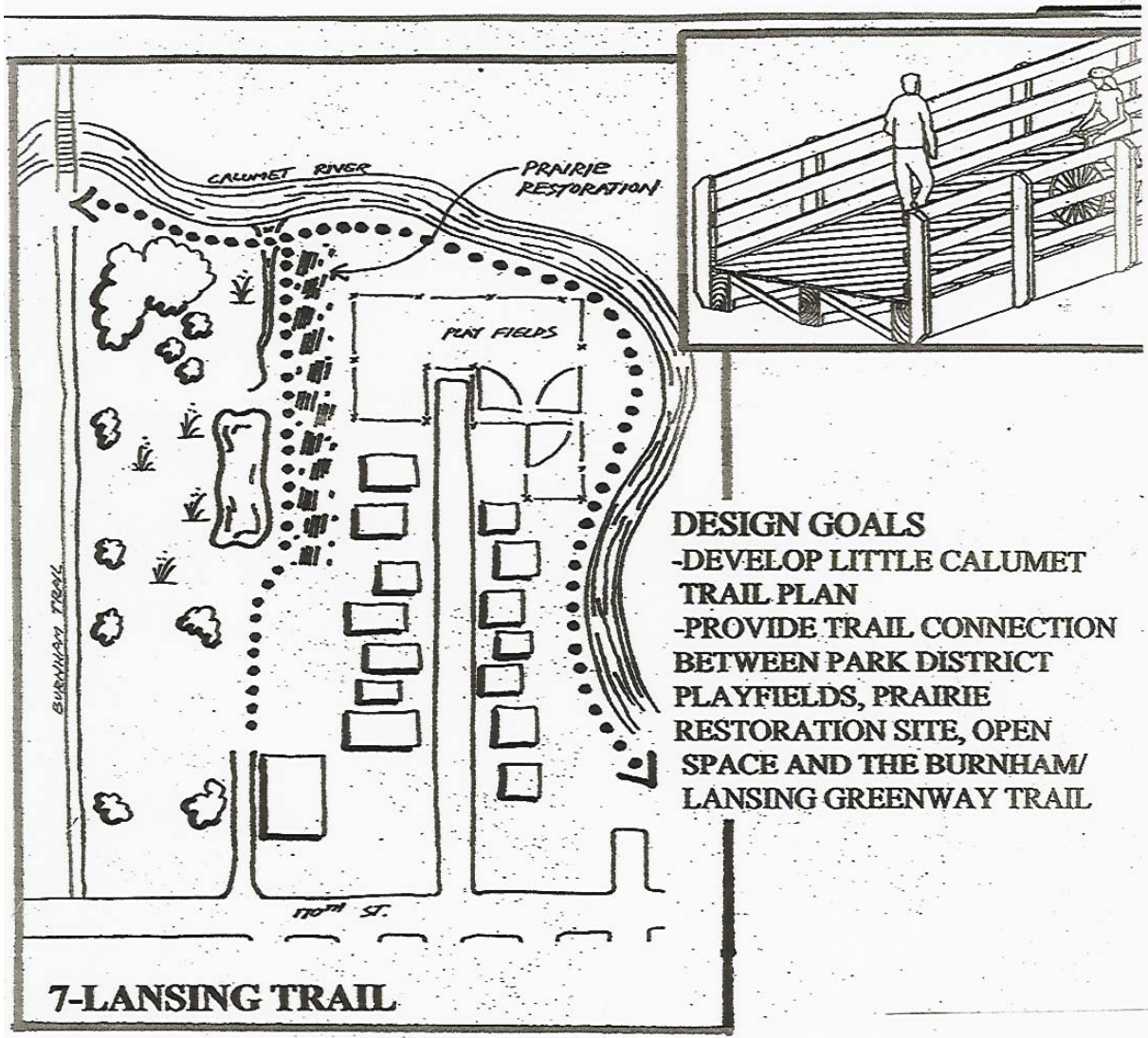
- POTENTIAL DESIGN GOALS
- PLAN FOR COMPATIBLE LONG TERM LAND USE WITH ADJACENT COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT
 - PROVIDE FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING



 <p>Eubanks & Associates, Inc. Environmental Consulting</p> <p>10300 DEARBORN, LUFK D. GLENVIEW, IL 60015 Phone: 847-824-8330, E-mail: Eubank@earthlink.com Fax: 847-824-8330</p>	PROJECT:	SCALE:
	SOUTH SUBURBAN CALUMET AREA OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE DRAFT PLAN FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES	N.T.S.
		SHEET: 1 of 1
		DATE: 9/22/05
	DES. BY: J. P. PEARSON	CHEK BY: J. P. PEARSON

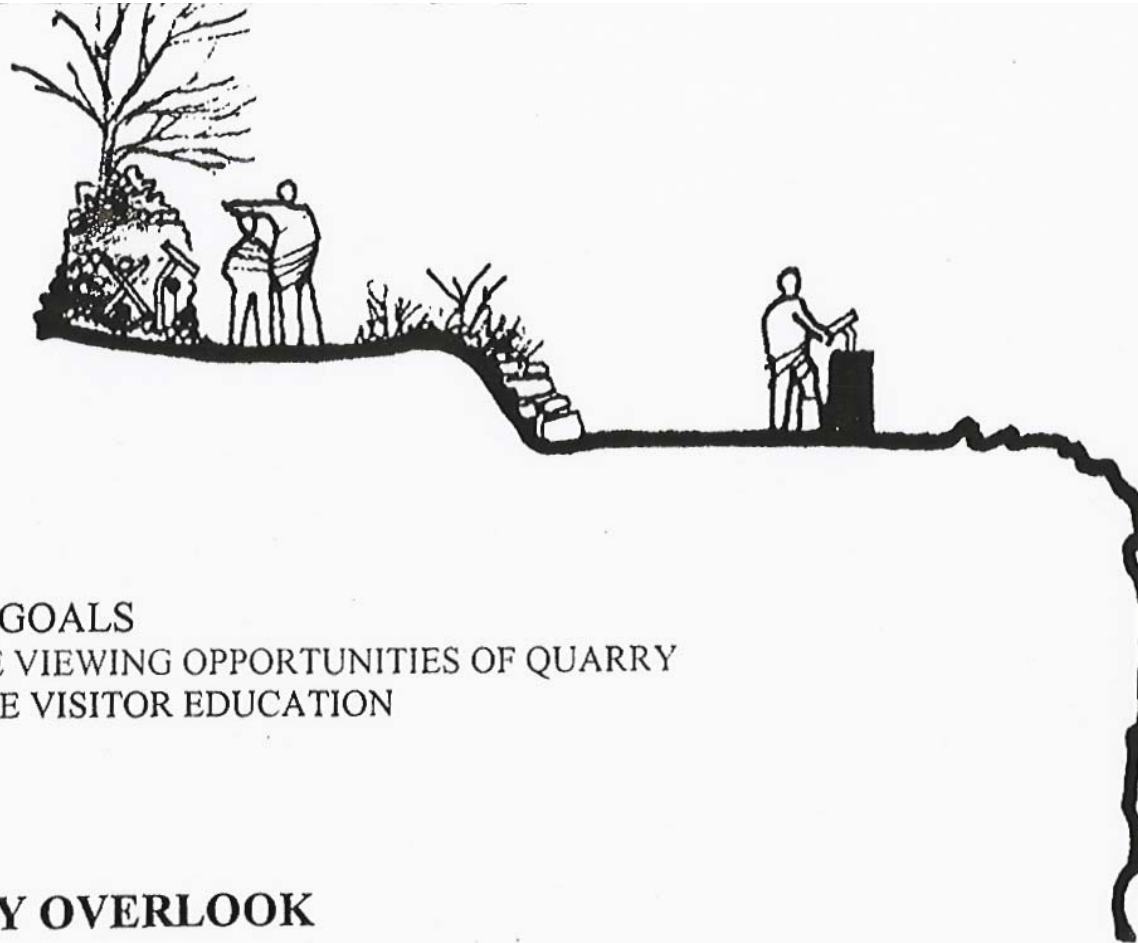


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	DATE:	9/24/03	DRAWN BY:	SCA
	CHECKED BY:	SCA	DATE:	9/24/03
	DESIGNED BY:	SCA	DATE:	9/24/03
Eubanks & Associates, Inc. Environmental Consulting			1650 DEARBORN, SUITE 110, GLENVIEW, IL 60025 Phone: 847-824-8325 E-mail: Eubank@eubank.com Fax: 847-824-8328	





DESIGN GOALS
 -DEVELOP LITTLE CALUMET TRAIL PLAN
 -PROVIDE TRAIL CONNECTION BETWEEN PARK DISTRICT PLAYFIELDS, PRAIRIE RESTORATION SITE, OPEN SPACE AND THE BURNHAM/LANSING GREENWAY TRAIL

	PROJECT:	SOUTH SUBURBAN CALUMET AREA OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE DRAFT PLAN FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES	SCALE:	N.T.S.
	SHEET:	1 of 1	DATE:	9/29/00
	DESIGNED BY:	JANIS TAYLOR	CHECKED BY:	JANIS TAYLOR
	DATE:	9/29/00	APPROVED BY:	[Signature]
Eubanks & Associates, Inc. Environmental Consulting <small>8080 DEARLONE, UNIT D, GLENVIEW, IL 60025 Phone: 847-824-8330, E-mail: Eubank@aol.com Fax: 847-824-8330</small>				



DESIGN GOALS
 -PROVIDE VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES OF QUARRY
 -PROMOTE VISITOR EDUCATION

8-QUARRY OVERLOOK

	PROJECT:	SOUTH SUBURBAN CALUMET AREA OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE DRAFT PLAN FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES	SCALE:	N.T.S.
			SHEET:	1 of 1
			DATE:	9/29/05
			DES. BY:	SCS
1030 DEARLON, UNIT D, GLENVIEW, IL 60045 Phone 847-824-8335 • Email Eubank@eai.com • Fax 847-824-8335		Eubanks & Associates, Inc. Environmental Consulting		CHK. BY: 

APPENDIX C

Open Space Funding Sources



GRANT INFORMATION SUMMARY

FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN ILLINOIS

January 2004

This summary is intended to assist individuals, groups, and local units of government in search of funding or other financial incentives for conservation projects in Illinois. The list is divided into four categories: federal funding sources, state funding sources, other sources, and reference sources. A key has been developed to identify eligible groups for each grant after the title of the grant:

Key to group eligibility:

- “I” individuals eligible
- “O” all organizations eligible to apply
- “G” local units of government
- “P” private not-for-profit (501C3) groups only eligible
- “E” educational institutions
- “U” unknown or eligibility varies, need to contact administrators.

For the purposes of this document, conservation is defined as holistically as possible to include grants or financial incentives that enhance the wise use and management of natural, social and cultural resources in urban, suburban, and rural communities. Some of these grants may not have conservation as a specific goal, but could be used to achieve multiple objectives that would include conservation as a result.

The intent of this document is to provide the reader with examples of what is available in financial incentives. Many other funding alternatives exist, and may better fit local needs. This document is provided as a public service and does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement of any particular grant or program; also note that the absence of any particular grant or program does not constitute a negative endorsement. While an effort has been made to provide an accurate listing, funding information is constantly changing and omissions or errors may occur. Please recycle previous editions. For corrections, comments or additional copies of this summary, please contact:

USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

313-J Naperville-Plainfield Road, Plainfield, IL 60544
ATTN: Keith Eichorst- NRCS Community Planner
Email: Keith.Eichorst@il.usda.gov or keitheichorst@yahoo.com

Other sources of information should be consulted and evaluated to insure an informed choice is made before actions are taken.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance:

<http://www.cfda.gov>

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) is the single best place to look for all federal funding sources- the catalog should be available at your local library, or you can view the CFDA website on-line. On the website, you can locate all 992 federal funding programs available (as of December 2003), including those for conservation.

After October 1, 2003, all organizations applying for federal funding must acquire a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) identification number. Websites that can help you find more information on this requirement as well as help you identify which programs your initiative qualifies for include:

“<http://www.Grants.gov>” and “<http://govbenefits.gov/index.asp>.”

Shortcut website for grant opportunities and request for proposals by federal agency:

“<http://fedgrants.gov/Applicants/index.html>”

Federal agency websites will give you more detailed information about federal programs as well as provide information on other opportunities for assistance:

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

USDA-NRCS Farm and Ranch lands Protection Program (FRPP): G, P, E, U.

- Purpose is to permanently preserve prime farmland or protect lands with historical and archeological resources.
- Need to contact county-based USDA Service Centers for application deadlines and current information.
- Matching and in-kind services required.
- <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farbill/index.html> or call the local USDA field service centers listed in the phone book under “United States Federal Government.”

USDA-NRCS Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP): I, O, U.

- Purpose is to preserve, enhance, or restore grasslands with grazing operations for wildlife habitat, and to improve environmental quality.
- Applications may be filed at anytime. Need to contact county-based USDA Service Centers for current information.
- Funding amount varies depending upon landowner commitment, some in-kind match or services required.
- <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farbill/index.html> or call the local USDA field service centers listed in the phone book under “United States Federal Government.”

USDA-NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP): I, E, G, P, O, U.

- Purpose is to create high quality wildlife habitats that support significant wildlife populations.
- Flexible cost-share agreements up to 75%, depending upon landowner commitment.
- Applications may be filed at anytime. Need to contact county-based USDA Service Centers for current information.
- <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farbill/index.html> or call the nearest county-based USDA field service centers listed in the phone book under “United States Federal Government.”

USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) -Conservation Innovation Grants: I, O, U.

- Purpose is to stimulate innovative approaches to conservation and technology transfer.
- Grants will fund up to 50% of project costs.
- <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farbill/index.html> or call the local USDA field service centers listed in the phone book under “United States Federal Government.”

USDA-NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP): I, O, U.

- Purpose is to restore and protect wetlands with a permanent or 30 year easement and restoration agreement.
- Applications may be filed at any time. Funding from 75% to 100% depending upon long-term commitment.
- Eligible lands must be restorable, contribute significantly to wetland functions and values, and be suitable for wildlife habitat.

-<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmland/index.html> or call the local USDA field service centers listed in the phone book under “United States Federal Government.”

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA)

USDA-FSA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): U.

- Purpose is to reduce soil erosion and agricultural commodity production on environmentally sensitive lands.
- Eligibility generally limited to agricultural producers with marginal cropland and pasturelands.
- Funding is annual rental payments per enrolled acre, based upon soil productivity. 10-15 year contract durations.
- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/> or call the local USDA field service centers listed in the phone book under "United States Federal Government."

United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (USDA-RD):

USDA-RD Rural Cooperative Development: P, E.

- Purpose is to improve economic conditions in rural areas by promoting the development or enhancement of local cooperatives.
- Grants may pay up to 75% of project costs.
- <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> or 202-720-8460.

United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USDA-FS):

USDA-FS Urban and Community Forest Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program: G, E, I, O.

- Purpose is to help establish and support urban and community forests and forestry activities
- February deadlines. 50% non-federal match required.
- More information can be found at 909-585-9268 or <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/>

USDA-FS Urban and Community Forestry Technology Transfer Projects : G, E, O, I.

- Purpose is to facilitate the exchange of urban forestry information among the public.
- Late Fall/early Winter deadlines.
- 50% non-federal match required. Funding limited to \$10,000 per single project.
- information is at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/urbanforestry/ucf.htm> or 651-649-5253.

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):

HUD Brown fields Economic Development Initiative: G.

- Purpose is to support benefit low and moderate income persons and address urgent needs.
- Funds can be used for site remediation as well as a variety of other uses.
- More information can be found at 1-800-HUD-8929, 202-708-0614 ext. 4456, or visit <http://www.hud.gov>.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

USEPA Guidebook for Financial Tools: U.

- Useful document on the USEPA website for identifying conservation funding source options.
- <http://www.epa.gov/efinpage> or <http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/>

USEPA Catalog of Funding Sources for Watershed Protection

- Useful document for identifying programs that will protect both urban and rural watersheds
- <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/>

USEPA Brown fields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants: G,P, U.

- Purposes are for re-use and remediation of brownfield sites throughout Illinois.
- \$100 million for FY2004. 20% cost-share required for Cleanup grants.
- 312-886-7576, 301-589-5318, or <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields> for more information.

USEPA Environmental Education Grants Program: E, P, G.

- Eligible projects include environmental education activities such as curricula design or dissemination, designing or demonstrating educational field methods for the public, and training educators.
- Call or visit website for most current information and deadlines.
- Minimum of 25% matching funds or in-kind services. <\$25,000 awards or less granted by regional offices
- Contact US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) at 312-353-5282 or visit <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html>

USEPA Environmental Justice Grant Programs: E, P.

- sub-programs under this general program include community-based approaches for environmental protection.
- No match required. Up to \$15,000 per non-superfund site. Project grants variable up to \$100,000.
- Contact USEPA at 1-312-886-5993, fax -2737 or 1-800-962-6215; or <http://www.epa.gov/>

USEPA State Wetlands Protection Grants: G, U.

- Purpose is to assist state and local government efforts to develop new wetland protection programs.
- Priorities for wetland/watershed demonstration projects, wetland restoration, and wetland conservation plans.
- 25% matching required.
- Winter deadlines
- Contact USEPA at 312-886-0241 or visit <http://www.epa.gov/owow/>

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

USFWS/IDNR-DWR Partners for Wildlife: O, I.

- Purpose is to restore prairie and wetland habitats on private lands. Eligible projects include restoration or enhancement of transient waterfowl habitat, improve water quality, flood protection, and groundwater recharge, administered through Illinois Department of Resources, Division of Wildlife Services.
- Need to contact for application deadlines.
- Matching or in-kind services preferred but not required, 10-year habitat development agreement required.
- Contact the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) at 847-381-2253, 309-793-5800 or <http://partners.fws.gov> for more information.

USFWS North American Wetlands Conservation Account: I, G, O, P, E.

- Eligible projects include those that acquisition of real property rights for the restoration, enhancement, and preservation of wetlands.
- Application deadlines vary. Up to \$50,000 awarded per project.
- 50% matching funds required.
- Contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 847-381-2253, 703-358-1784 or <http://birdhabitat.fws.gov/NAWCA/grants.htm> for more information.

USFWS Private Stewardship Grants Program: O, I, E, G.

- Purpose is to provide assistance that benefits at-risk, threatened, or endangered species. Grants to be used on private lands for wildlife habitat restoration.
- Application deadlines vary.
- 10% Match required.
- Contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 847-381-2253 or 309-793-5800 or <http://grants.fws.gov/conserv.htm>.

United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

USACE Section 1135 Project Modifications for the Improvement of the Environment: G, U.

- Federal funds and technical assistance available for studies, planning, engineering, construction and administration.
- Federal cost-share up to \$5 million plus non-federal match, 25% local cost-share required.
- Contact Army Corps of Engineers at 509-527-7239, 312-846-5562, 309-794-5590, 314-331-8404 or <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/pub/ap/facts/sec1135.pdf> for more information.

USACE Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration: G, U.

- Projects include funding and assistance to carry out ecosystem restoration and enhancement that is documented to be in the public interest, will improve the environment, and is cost effective.
- Federal cost-share of up to \$5 million is available, 35% non-federal cost-share required.
- Contact the Army Corps of Engineers at 509-527-7239, 312-846-5562, 309-794-5590, 314-331-8404, or <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/pub/ap/facts/sec206.pdf>

United States Department of Transportation (USDOT)

USDOT Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2003 [SAFETEA]:U.

- As of this writing, legislative proposal to replace the "TEA-21" Act which authorizes environmental activities.
- 10% of transportation-related activities may be used for cultural, aesthetic and environmental purposes in conjunction with transportation projects. Implementation likely through Illinois Dept. of Transportation.
- Eligible activities will include pedestrian & bicycle facilities and paths, landscaping, and scenic easements.
- <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/>.

Federal Tax Incentives for Conservation: I, O, U.

- Owners of environmentally sensitive land that has been donated for conservation purposes, or has been placed in a conservation easement, or simply managed for conservation, may qualify for significant federal tax deductions.
- Reference is the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Codes 1.170A-14, [170(h)], 26 CFR CH 1 (4-1-03 edition).
- Web information includes <http://www.access.gpo.gov/cfr>, <http://www.irs.gov>; and <http://www.ait.org/irs.htm>.
- For agricultural producers, soil and water conservation tax assistance is outlined in IRS Publication 225 and can be found on the internet at: http://www.irs.gov/business/small_industries/pub/irs-pdf/p225.pdf.
- Before taking action, contact the IRS or your federal tax advisor for the most current information.

STATE FUNDING SOURCES

The State of Illinois administers numerous conservation programs under various state agencies.

General Catalog of State Assistance to Local Governments:

<http://www.legis.state.il.us/commission/igcc/catalog1999.pdf>

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA):

<http://www.epa.state.il.us/>

IEPA Non-point Source Management Program (Section 319 grants): G, O.

- Eligible projects include controlling or eliminating non-point pollution sources.
- Application deadline is August.
- Requires 40% matching funds or in-kind services.
- Contact Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) at 217-782-3362.
- <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/financial-assistance>

IEPA Illinois Clean Lakes Program: G, P.

- Financial assistance available for lakes over 6 acres that are publicly-owned with public access.
- Application deadline is Aug. 31 (pre-approval) and Oct. 31 (final approval).
- Requires 40% match for phase I, 50% local match for phase II.
- Contact IEPA at 217-782-3362 or <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/financial-assistance/index.html>

IEPA Lake Education Assistance Program: G, E, P.

- Eligible projects include educational programs on inland lakes and lake watersheds.
- Maximum funding of \$500 is reimbursed after completion. Deadlines are Sept. & Jan.
- Contact IEPA at 217-782-3362 or <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/financial-assistance/index.html>

IEPA Priority Lake and Watershed Implementation Program: G, P.

- Eligible projects include funding to implement protection/restoration practices that improve water quality, priority to publicly-owned and accessed lakes.
- Funding up to 100%, projects range from \$5,000 to \$40,000.
- Contact IEPA at 217-782-3362 or <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/financial-assistance/index.html>

Illinois Dept of Natural Resources (IDNR):

<http://www.dnr.state.il.us/finast.htm>. A comprehensive federal, state and local natural resources grant search engine has been made available in January 2004 at: <http://dnr.state.il.us/orep/c2000/grants/>

IDNR (Div. of Wildlife or Resource Prot.) Trees, Shrubs and Seedlings at No Cost: I, U.

- Purpose is to encourage landowners to reforest land, increase wildlife, and control erosion.
- Seedlings provided at no charge. Shipping cost if applicable. Can be used with other incentives.
- Landowners must have an approved management plan.
- Contact IDNR at 217-782-6384 or 217-785-8774.

IDNR Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Program: G.

- Eligible projects include money for acquisition and development of public parks for recreation and open space.
 - Application deadlines vary.
 - Funding is reimbursable up to 50% of project costs, reimbursable up to \$2 million for the Trust Grant.
 - Contact Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR) for both programs at 217-782-6501.
- <http://dnr.state.il.us/ocd/>

IDNR Greenways and Trails Planning Assistance Program: G.

- Eligible units of government include communities > 10,000, but tailored to non-metropolitan communities.
 - \$20,000 maximum awarded, 50% in-kind contribution required.
 - Must follow an established planning process
 - Contact IDNR at 217-782-3715
- <http://www.dnr.state.il.us/gnthome.htm>

IDNR (Planning Division) Trail Grant Programs: G,P,O.

- A collection of various trail programs where eligible projects include acquiring or constructing bicycle and snowmobile paths and facilities.
 - Deadline is March and May.
 - 0%-50% match required, depending upon which type of trail grant.
 - Contact IDNR at 217-782-7481.
- <http://dnr.state.il.us/ocd/gaoutnew.htm>

IDNR (Forestry) Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program: G.

- Purpose is to create or enhance local forestry programs in communities with a local forestry ordinance.
- May deadline.
- 50% match required, reimbursement up to \$5,000.
- Contact IDNR at 217-782-2361.

IDNR (Division of Resource Prot.) Wildlife Preservation Fund (Small Project Program): U.

- Eligible projects include those that deal with management, site inventories or on-going education programs.
- Deadline is April.
- Funding up to \$1,000 per project, match preferred but not required.
- Contact IDNR at 217-785-8774.

IDNR (Office of Water Resources-OWR) Small Projects Fund: G.

- Provides assistance to smaller communities for alleviating locally significant drainage and flood problems.
- Provides funding for planning and implementation of flood control projects in accordance with an adopted plan.
- Grants and technical assistance awarded up to \$100,000. Contact IDNR-OWR at 217-782-4637.

IDNR (Education) Schoolyard Habitat Action Grants: E, U.

- Eligible projects include enhancement of wildlife habitat, with emphasis on youth involvement and education.
- Project must involve a trained WILD educator or facilitator, Maximum funding to \$600.-Application deadline is October, -Contact the IDNR at 217-524-4126 and <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/CLASSRM/grants>

IDNR (Education) Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grants & Free Educational Materials: E,U.

- Eligible projects include field trips for students to visit natural areas, natural history museums, and other natural resource related activities. Conservation education materials, including lesson plans, can be used separately.
- Funding for field trips up to \$500. Conservation Education resources available at no cost.
- Contact the IDNR at 217-524-4126 and <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/CLASSRM/grants>

IDNR (Office of Realty & Env. Planning) Conservation 2000 -- Ecosystems Program: O.

- Eligible projects include habitat protection or improvement, technical assistance, and education.
- The Ecosystems Program provides financial and technical support to groups (ecosystem partners) which seek to maintain and enhance ecological and economic conditions in key watersheds of Illinois.
- February deadline, contact IDNR at 217-782-7940 or <http://dnr.state.il.us/c2000>

Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA)

IDOA (Land & Water) Streambank Stabilization & Restoration Program (SSRP): O, I.

- Eligible projects include naturalized stream bank stabilization practices in rural and urban communities.
- Application deadlines are January, May and September.
- 25% match required, 20% for qualified watershed planning areas.
- Contact IDOA at 217-782-6297 or the local Soil & Water Conservation District that services your county. Offices are listed in the phone book under "local government." <http://www.agr.state.il.us>

IDOA (Land & Water) Sustainable Agriculture Grant (Conservation 2000) Program: I,O,G.

- Eligible projects include those that carry out research, education, and on-farm demonstration projects that support sustainable agriculture, protect the environment, and maintain profitability.
- Grants awarded up to \$10,000 per individual; \$50,000 per unit of government, or other eligible organization.
- Proposals accepted annually in early Fall.
- Contact IDOA at 217-782-6297 or the local Soil & Water Conservation District that services your county. Offices are listed in the phone book under "local government." <http://www.agr.state.il.us>.

Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA):

IEMA Pre-disaster Mitigation Program: G, P.

- Purpose is to acquire property prior to emergency events.
- Eligible land includes flood-prone real property that will be limited to open space uses.
- Contact is at 217-782-8719 or visit <http://www.state.il.us/iema>

IEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program: G, P.

- Governments must be enrolled and in good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- Eligible initiatives for projects include acquisition of insured structures and underlying property for open space use.
- Provides up to 75% of project costs, 25% match required.
- Contact is the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) at 217-782-8719 or <http://www.state.il.us/iema>

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)

IDOT Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program: G.

- Eligible projects include those that support alternative modes of transportation and that preserve visual and cultural resources, including historic preservation and landscaping beautification.
- Planning is encouraged to be completed now for new disbursements, pending federal support legislation.
- Local 20% match required for projects, 50% match for land acquisition.
- Contact Illinois Dept. of Transportation (IDOT) at 1-800-493-3434 or <http://www.dot.state.il.us>

Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)

Useful website to search for educational grants is at: <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/grants/default.htm>.

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO):

DCEO Community Development Assistance Program (Community Dev. Block Grant): G.

-Eligible projects must include activities that improve moderate or low-income areas. Conservation-related projects can possibly include the acquisition of real property (e.g., flood-prone areas), construction of water or sewer facilities, and initiatives for energy conservation. Funding competition is intense.

-Application deadlines vary; no match required.

-Money originates at the federal level as the Community Development Block Grant and is administered directly to "entitlement" communities such as the City of Danville. In other areas, units of local government should contact their county to apply for funds under the Community Development Assistance Program.

-Contact is at 217-785-6142 or visit "http://www.illinoisbiz.biz/bus/gri/grants_bus.html" for more information.

DCEO Community Energy Program: G, P.

-Purpose is to improve local economies through increased energy efficiency.

-Grant awards up to \$80,000 per project.

-Communities targeted should have populations between 5,000 and 150,000.

-Visit "http://www.illinoisbiz.biz/bus/gri/grants_bus.html" for more information.

Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA):

IHPA Property Tax Assessment Freeze & Federal Historic Tax Credit Programs: O, I.

-Eligibility included rehabilitated properties listed or eligible for the national register, or that qualify through an approved local historic preservation ordinance.

-Assessed valuation of qualified properties is frozen for eight years at first year of program under the Freeze Program. Under the Federal Program, property owners may qualify for a 20% tax credit on income.

-For more information, contact the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency at 217-785-4512 or info@ihpa.state.il.us or visit <http://state.il.us/hpa>.

Illinois State Tax Incentives for Conservation: O, I.

-Environmentally-sensitive lands or dedicated open space may qualify for significant property tax reductions:

Real Property Conservation Rights Act (765 ILCS 120/1 et seq.).

--If land is qualified by having a conservation easement, it may be assessed at 8 1/3 fair market value.

Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act (525 ILCS 30/1 et seq)/17 Ill Adm. Code.

--If land is qualified by being designated as an Illinois Nature Preserve, it may be assessed at \$1/year in perpetuity.

Preferential Assessment of Farmland (Property Tax Code, Sec. 1-60 (Definitions.) Sec. 10-110 et seq.

--If qualified, Assessments are based on Cropland as 33 1/3% of the agricultural economic value, Permanent Pasture as 1/3 of its value of cropland, other farmland at 1/6 of its value as cropland, wasteland without a contributory value to farmland: zero.

Open Space Assessment (Illinois Property Tax Code Sections 10-155).

--A lower use evaluation is used for land in open space, 10 acre minimum area, not applicable in Cook County.

Preferential Assessment of Common Areas (Illinois Property Tax Code Sections 10-35).

--Purpose is to encourage open space in residential developments, if qualifying, assessment is reduced to \$1/year.

Non-Clear Cut Assessment (P.A. 91-907, Property Tax Code Sec. 10-153)

--Land is valued at 1/12th of its productivity index equalized assessed value as cropland if it is within 15 yards of waters listed by IDNR as navigable, and has not been clear cut of trees.

Incentive is not applicable in jurisdictions with populations greater than 500,000.

Other tax incentives may also apply, contact IDNR regarding the Real Property Conservation Rights Act and the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act at 217-785-8774. Contact your local township or county assessor to determine eligibility under other incentives.

OTHER SOURCES

Project funding sources that could potentially qualify as fed/state matching funds may come from a variety of local government, private, or community trusts or foundations that support initiatives reflecting organizational policies. Eligibility criteria are as varied as the donors. Most require a Not-For-Profit (501c3, *c4, etc.) corporate status.

Illinois Clean Energy Foundation: P, E, G, U.

- Eligible Projects include those that enhance natural areas, increase renewable energy, or improve energy efficiency.
- Deadlines in February, April, May and July.
- Contact is at 312-372-5191 or <http://www.illinoiscleanenergy.org>.

Habitat Restoration Fund for Northeastern Illinois River Watersheds: I, O, E, G.

- Eligible projects include native plantings, upland habitat & wetland restoration.
- Deadlines are mid-March and mid-August.
- 25% cost-share, cost-share cannot be used for match with federal funds.
- Contact 1-630-584-7961x3 or visit <http://www.kanedupageswcd.org> for more information, or call any of the other Northeastern Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts for current information.

Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control: U.

- USDA-sponsored projects include protection of Great Lakes Water Quality by controlling erosion and sedimentation (only available in Lake, Cook, and Will Counties). Typical grant amount around \$25,000.
- Application deadline in January.
- Contact the Great Lakes Commission at 734-665-9135 or <http://www.glc.org/basin/RFP.html>

Chicago Wilderness Small Grants: U.

- Eligible projects include natural areas enhancement, education, and research that focus on biological diversity of northeastern Illinois, northwestern Indiana, and the southeastern Wisconsin region.
- Application deadlines vary, need to call
- 1:1 matching funds or in-kind services required.
- Contact the Chicago Wilderness at 312-346-8166 or <http://www.chicagowilderness.org> for more information.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation General Matching and Special Grant Programs: U.

- Eligible projects include habitat restoration and protection on private lands
- Deadlines vary per individual program
- Sample grant sizes in Illinois range from \$3,000 to over \$100,000.
- Contact is at 202-857-0166 or <http://www.nfwf.org>

Illinois Conservation Foundation: P, G.

- Eligible projects include those that enhance wildlife habitat and support IDNR programs.
- February deadlines. Contact is at 312-814-7237 or <http://www.ilcf.org>

W.K. Kellogg Foundation: P.

- Foundation supports various initiatives that include improving food systems and rural development.
- Website information can be found at <http://www.wkkf.org/programming/>.

Rural Community Assistance Program: U.

- A network of non-profit organizations that assist rural and low-income communities with pop <10,000.
- Eligible projects include water & waste-water treatment.
- Website is at <http://www.rcap.org>, <http://icaanet.org>, or 217-789-0125.

Wal-Mart Good Works and Community Grants Programs: G, E, P, Veteran and Civic Groups.

- Past funding included environmental grants to schools, nature trails, tree-planting, and water initiatives.
- Coordinate with nearest Wal-Mart or Sam's Store. Info at www.walmartfoundation.org or 1-800-530-9925.

Dominick's, Jewel-Osco, and Target Stores Local Philanthropic-Community Programs: U.

- Guidelines vary. Current focus is on Food & Nutrition, Hunger, Arts, Social Services and Education respectively.
- Website information at www.dominicks.com, www.jewelosco.com, and www.target.com.

REFERENCE SOURCES

Several grant search engines and organizations exist to help identify funding sources. Fees for services or products may be charged by these organizations, so be sure to clarify when searching if charges will be incurred. For “do-it-yourselfers,” local grant data collection centers are available throughout Illinois:

Resources for Global Sustainability

P.O. Box 3665, Cary, NC 27519.
1-800-724-1857
RGS publishes a yearly catalog called
“Environmental Grantmaking Foundations”
<http://www.environmentalgrants.com>

The Foundation Center.

79 Fifth Street, New York, New York 10003.
1-212-620-4230
<http://www.fdncenter.org>

Environmental Grantmaker’s Association

Provides a list of environmental grant foundations
<http://www.ega.org>

Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance

<http://www.nextstep.state.mn.us/>

Sonoran Institute

Look for Conservation Assistance Tools (CAT):
<http://www.sonoran.org>

State Of Illinois Grant Data Collection Centers Foundation Center Cooperating Collections

The Donor’s Forum of Chicago.

208 S. LaSalle St., Suite 735, Chicago, IL 60604.
312-578-0175.
<http://www.donorsforum.org>. info@donorsforum.org.

Metropolitan Association for Philanthropy

1320 Olive Street St. Louis, MO
<http://www.mapstl.org> or 314-621-6220

Evanston Public Library.

-1703 Orrington Ave Evanston, IL 60201.
-847-866-0305.

Evansville -Vanderburgh County Public Library

22 Southeast Fifth St., Evansville, IN 47708
812-428-8218

Rock Island Public Library

401 19th St. Rock Island, IL
309-732-7323
<http://www.rbls.lib.il.us/rip/index.html>

University of Illinois at Springfield (Brookens Library)

Springfield, IL 62794 (follow links to Non-profit
Resource Center)
<http://www.uis.edu/findinfo/grants/index.html>
217-206-6633

APPENDIX D

Project Team Contact Information

PROJECT TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

<p>South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association 1904 West 174th Street East Hazel Crest, IL 60429</p> <p>Phone: (708) 206-1155 Fax: (708) 206-1133</p> <p>www.ssmma.org</p>	<p>Openlands Project 25 East Washington Street Suite 1650 Chicago, IL 60602</p> <p>Phone: (312) 427-4256 Fax: (312) 427-6251</p> <p>www.openlands.org</p>	<p>Eubanks & Associates, Inc. 10350 Dearlove Road Suite D Glenview, IL 60025</p> <p>Phone: (847) 824-8325 Fax: (847) 824-8326</p> <p>www.eubanksinc.com</p>
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