

# **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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*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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# **SOUTH SUBURBAN CALUMET AREA OPEN SPACE IO**

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



## Technical Council

Calumet Ecological Park Association  
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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 2(e)-kn .00cet

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 the 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.





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 Tw(home to )-5.5(1m1e and c0.3929.0014 T)-6.1( alrea -1o( of m1ehe too2e Calumi-5

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.



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](http://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 Needs and Opportunities

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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.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| £ Riverdale Quarry                      | Metropolitan Water Reclamation District<br>of Greater Chicago |
| £ Burnham Prairie                       | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County                          |
| £ Dolton Prairie                        | Ashland Chemical Company                                      |
| £ Calumet City Prairie                  | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County                          |
| £ Sand Ridge Nature Preserve            | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County                          |
| £ Wentworth Prairie                     | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County                          |
| £ Superior Street Prairie               | Calumet Memorial Park District                                |
| £ Volbrecht Road Woods                  | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County                          |
| £ Wampum Lake Seepage Area              | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County                          |
| £ Thornton Lansing Road Nature Preserve | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County                          |
| £ Jurgensen Woods Nature Preserve       | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County                          |
| £ 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.

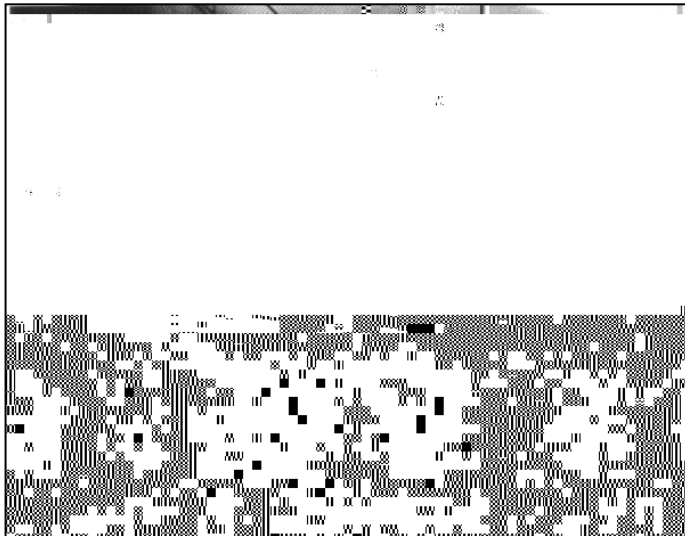
## ***The Underground Railroad***

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)**

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.

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

## **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.
- £ 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







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### ***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 20<sup>th</sup> 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







- IV. Rail, Road and Utility corridors;**
- V. Cultural and Geological Sites; and**
- VI. Bicycle Trail Network.**

## **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:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| £ Dolton Prairie                        | Ashland Chemical Company                                      |
| £ MWRDGC Riverdale Quarry               | Metropolitan Water Reclamation District<br>of Greater Chicago |
| £ Powderhorn Lake                       | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County                          |
| £ Burnham Prairie                       | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County                          |
| £ Calumet City Prairie                  | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County                          |
| £ Wentworth Prairie                     | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County                          |
| £ Superior Street Prairie               | Calumet Memorial Park District                                |
| £ Sand Ridge Nature Preserve            | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County                          |
| £ Sand Ridge Nature Center              | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County                          |
| £ Volbrecht Road Woods                  | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County                          |
| £ Wampum Lake Seepage Area              | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County                          |
| £ Thornton Lansing Road / Zanders Woods | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County                          |
| £ Jurgensen Woods                       | Forest Preserve Dist. of Cook County                          |
| £ 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 boigrTJC sheef527.46 u n

## **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).

|                        |
|------------------------|
| <b>Burnham Prairie</b> |
|------------------------|

**Description**

Burnham Prairie is an INAI site in the Village of Burnham recently purchased by the Forest

### **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).





## 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 I







## **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.

## **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.)





## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 183<sup>rd</sup> 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.
- £

## Markham Prairie (East)

### **Description**

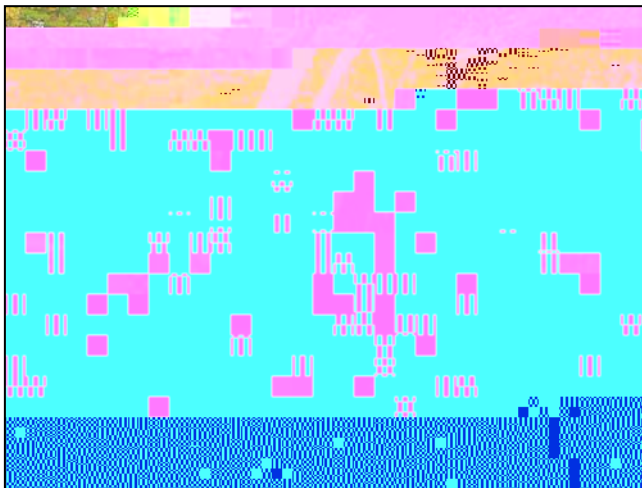
Markham Prairie East, located in Markham but isolated from it by the I-294 Tollway, is an INAI site bordered by neighborhoods in Harvey. The Prairie is owned by The Nature Conservancy and includes a mesic prairie and

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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.



**Whistler Woods**

**Kickapoo Playfield**

**Description**







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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 drainmonat198s b,ort sedime96ncheste100-year5.7(d GC'nt-0.assTJ( at1(vTJ(3uTD0.001 Tcmon)l(tru3uTD42 T 53,as but tEds. or





## 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









### **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.











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minimum, links in to Illinois at the Munster/Lansing border. A better crossing would be from



## **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 The 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



## 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.

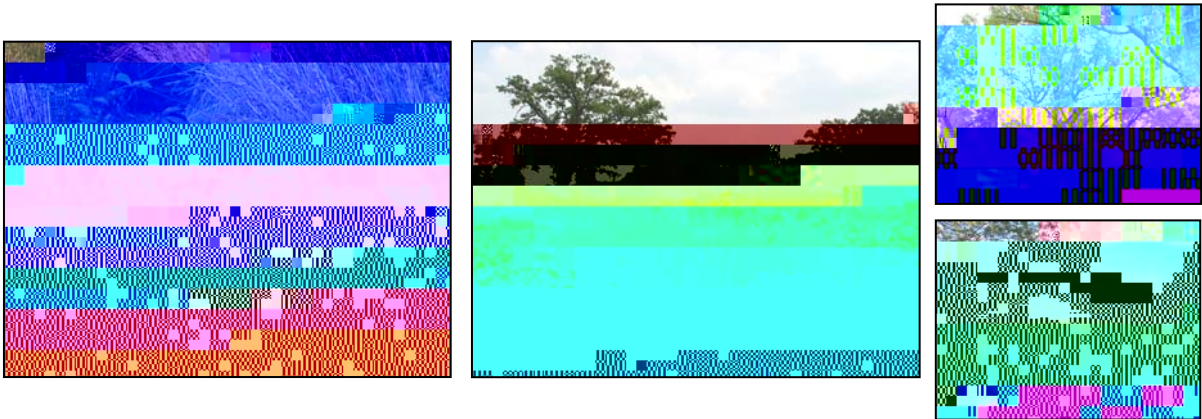
Finally it is recommended that the **Advisory Council** develop a legislative package to





## 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.





## LEGEND FOR MATRIX TABLES

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

## HABITAT SITES

### NATURAL AREAS

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

| <b>NAME<br/>(SITE LOCATION)</b>                         | <b>RECOMMENDED<br/>ACTIONS</b>   | <b>POTENTIAL<br/>LEAD AGENCY</b> | <b>IMPLEMENTATION<br/>TIMEFRAME</b> |
|---|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Calumet Riverfront<br><i>(Burhnam and Calumet City)</i> | 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 | IM6o                             |                                     |



| NAME<br>(SITE LOCATION)                                       | RECOMMENDED<br>ACTIONS                                     | POTENTIAL<br>LEAD AGENCY                         | IMPLEMENTATION<br>TIMEFRAME     |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Thornton Lansing Road – INAI and INP site<br>(Unincorporated) | 1) Interpretive station<br>2) Natural area restoration a c | 1) FPDCC<br>2) FPDCC and local stewardship group | 1) Short<br>2) Short / Medium 7 |
| Jurgensen Woods – INAI and INP site<br>(Unincorporated)       | 1) Interpretive station<br>2) Natural area restoration     | 1) FPDCC<br>2) FPDCC and local stewardship group | 1) Short<br>2) Short / Medium   |

Markham Prairie East  
(Harvey) (Unincorporated) (CC) (U79-7.336.98 625 or 4(C) 5d0004 -t) (7) (2) road – INAI

| <b>NAME</b><br><i>(SITE LOCATION)</i> | <b>RECOMMENDED</b><br><b>ACTIONS</b> | <b>POTENTIAL</b><br><b>LEAD AGENCY</b> | <b>IMPLEMENTATION</b><br><b>TIMEFRAME</b> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
|                                       | 4) Interpretive station              |  |   |



| NAME<br>(SITE LOCATION)                        | RECOMMENDED<br>ACTIONS   | POTENTIAL<br>LEAD AGENCY   | IMPLEMENTATION<br>TIMEFRAME   |
|--|--|--|---|
|  | 2) Landscape corridor<br>3) Utilize as a bike trail corridor (see trail matrix)<br>4) Improve water quality<br>5) Clean-up non-point stormwater discharges into the ditch<br>6) Improve habitat values   | owners, Harvey, South Holland<br>2) NRCS, Harvey, South Holland<br>3) Harvey, South Holland<br>4) Calumet Drainage Ditch District, IEPA, NRCS<br>5) Calumet Drainage Ditch District, private and public property owners in drainage area<br>6) NRCS, Harvey, South Holland | 2) Medium<br>3) Medium / Long<br>4) Medium / Long<br>5) Short / Medium / Long<br>6) Medium / Long                                 |
| Grand Calumet River<br>(Burnham, Calumet City) | 1) Clean up sediments<br>2) Improve water quality of the river<br>3) Clean up non-point stormwater discharges into the river<br>4) Acquire and develop access and signage to achieve local water trail potential<br>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. | 1) USEPA, USACE, IDNR<br>2) MWRDGC, USEPA, IEPA, IDNR<br>3) Burnham, Calumet City, all local public and private property owners<br>4) CMPD<br>5) Burnham, Calumet City, CMPD   | 1) Long<br>2) Medium / Long<br>3) Short / Medium / Long<br>4) Medium<br>5) Short (master plan);<br>Medium / Long (implementation) |

## GEOLOGICAL SITES

| NAME<br>(SITE LOCATION)       | RECOMMENDED<br>ACTIONS   | POTENTIAL<br>LEAD AGENCY   | IMPLEMENTATION<br>TIMEFRAME             |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Thornton Quarry<br>(Thornton) | <p>3<sup>rd</sup> 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> |





## UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

| NAME<br>(SITE LOCATION)  | RECOMMENDED<br>ACTIONS  | POTENTIAL<br>LEAD AGENCY                              | IMPLEMENTATION<br>TIMEFRAME  |
|--|---|---|--|
| Structures and sites associated with the Underground Railroad<br><i>(Locations throughout the South Suburban Calumet region, yet to be determined through additional research)</i> | Protect and interpret structures and sites associated with the Underground Railroad<br><br>1) Increase research effort<br><br><br>2) Establish private commitments to protection or publicly acquire identified sites and structures<br><br>3) Link these sites into the regional, state, and national networks currently evolving which protect and interpret these sites. | South Holland Historical Society,<br>South of Chicago | 9 2 Tc0.007TG5heseOddddddd.e2 regi44 Tf4w(2) 4 Tf4w(84199 169.56 1H 5. |



|  |   |  |                                 |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <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.<br/><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> |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------|

## TRAIL CORRIDORS

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

| NAME<br>(SITE LOCATION)   | RECOMMENDED<br>ACTIONS   | POTENTIAL<br>LEAD AGENCY  | IMPLEMENTATION<br>TIMEFRAME  |
|---|--|---|--|
| Grand Illinois Trail<br><i>(Burnham, Calumet City, Lansing)</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Build trail from Grand Calumet River south to State Street</li> <li>2) Build trail from Little Calumet River south to Wentworth Ave.</li> <li>3) Build trail from Wentworth to Burnham Ave. on Com Ed corridor</li> <li>4) Build trail through Oakwood park and Lansing Woods</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) IDNR, FPDCC</li> <li>2) Lan-Oak Park District</li> <li>3) Lan-Oak Park District</li> <li>4) Lan-Oak Park District, FPDCC</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Short / Medium rt / MediumE</li> </ol> |

| <b>NAME<br/>(SITE LOCATION)</b>   | <b>RECOMMENDED<br/>ACTIONS</b>   | <b>POTENTIAL<br/>LEAD AGENCY</b>   | <b>IMPLEMENTATION<br/>TIMEFRAME</b>               |
|---|--|--|---|
|   | 2) Property acquisition, final engineering, and build trail  | 2) Lan-Oak Park District, South Holland  | 2) Medium / Long                                  |
| Little Calumet River Trail<br>(Riverdale, Harvey)                       | 1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering<br>2) Property acquisition, final engineering, and build trail   | 1) FPDCC, Harvey Park District<br>2) FPDCC, Harvey Park District                   | 1) Medium<br>2) Medium / Long                     |
| Greenwood Trail<br>(Calumet City, South Holland, Dolton)                | 1) Acquire remaining sections of the abandoned rail corridor<br>2) Phase 1 engineering<br>3) Final engineering, build trail  | 1) CMPD, land trust<br>2) CMPD, land trust<br>3) CMPD, and agency to be identified | 1) Short<br>2) Short / Medium<br>3) Medium        |
| North Bank Grand Calumet River Trail<br>(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<br>(Burnham, Calumet City)                      | (previously described under Natural Areas - Burnham Prairie)<br>1) Land acquisition<br>2) Master Plan and Phase 1 engineering<br>3) Final engineering, build trail | CMPD, Burnham, Calumet City  | 1) Short / Medium<br>2) Short<br>3) Medium / Long |
| Greenwood/Burnham Connector Trail<br>(Burnham, Calumet City, Dolton)    | 1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering<br>2) Land acquisition   |  |   |

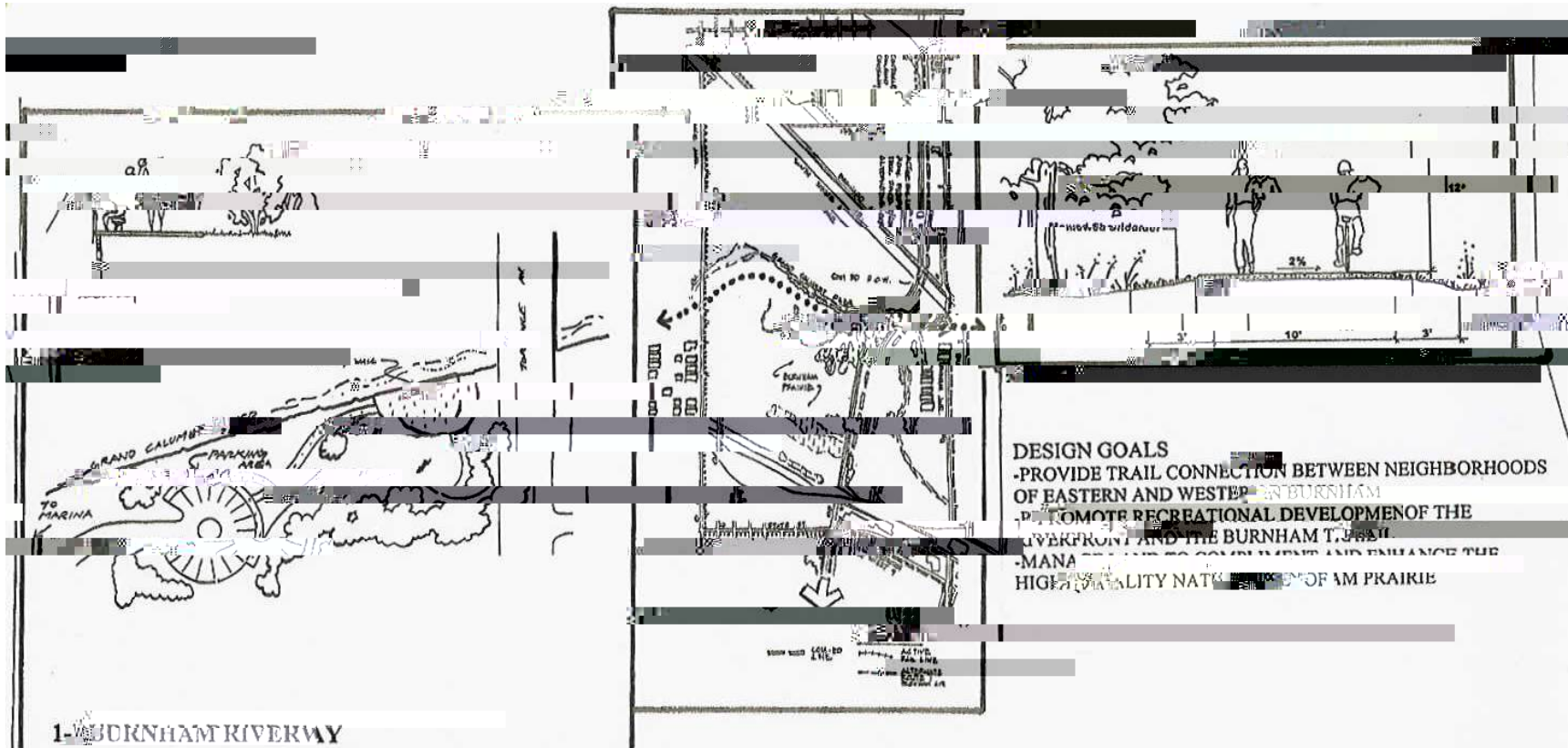
| <b>NAME<br/>(SITE LOCATION)</b> | <b>RECOMMENDED<br/>ACTIONS</b>    | <b>POTENTIAL<br/>LEAD AGENCY</b> | <b>IMPLEMENTATION<br/>TIMEFRAME</b> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                 | 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<br>(SITE LOCATION)                               | RECOMMENDED<br>ACTIONS  | POTENTIAL<br>LEAD AGENCY   | IMPLEMENTATION<br>TIMEFRAME                                |
|---|---|--|--|
| Calumet Union Trail<br><i>(Harvey, South Holland)</i> | 1) Phase 1 engineering<br><br>2) Calumet Union Drainage District easement<br><br>3) Final engineering, build trail            | 1) South Holland, Harvey, Harvey Park District<br><br>2) South Holland, Harvey, Harvey Park District<br><br>3) South Holland, Harvey, Harvey Park District | 1) Medium<br><br>2) Medium<br><br>3) Medium / Long         |
| Lathrop Trail<br><i>(Harvey)</i>                      | 1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering<br><br>2) Property acquisition<br><br>3) Final engineering, build trail | 1) Harvey, Harvey Park District<br><br>2) Harvey, Harvey Park District<br><br>3) Harvey, Harvey Park District  | 1) Short / Medium<br><br>2) Medium<br><br>3) Medium / Long |

| <b>NAME<br/>(SITE LOCATION)</b>  | <b>RECOMMENDED<br/>ACTIONS</b>  | <b>POTENTIAL<br/>LEAD AGENCY</b>   | <b>IMPLEMENTATION<br/>TIMEFRAME</b>                |
|--|---|--|--|
| Little Calumet/Greenwood Connector Trail<br><i>(South Holland, Dolton)</i> | 1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering<br>2) Property acquisition<br>3) Final engineering, build trail   | 1) South Holland, Dolton<br>2) South Holland, Dolton<br>3) South Holland, Dolton | 1) Short / Medium<br>2) Medium<br>3) Medium / Long |
| Greenwood/Riverdale Connector Trail<br><i>(Dolton, Riverdale)</i>          | 1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering<br>2) Property acquisition<br>3) Final engineering, build trail   | 1) Riverdale, Dolton<br>2) Riverdale, Dolton<br>3) Riverdale, Dolton             | 1) Short / Medium<br>2) Medium<br>3) Medium / Long |
| Sand Ridge Connector Trail<br><i>(Calumet City)</i>                        | 1) Property acquisition study and Phase 1 engineering<br>for west section<br><br>2) Phase 1 engineering for remainder<br><br>3) Property acquisition<br><br>4) Final engineering, build trail | 1) CMPD<br><br>2) FPDCC<br><br>3) CMPD<br><br>4) FPDCC, CMPD                     |  |

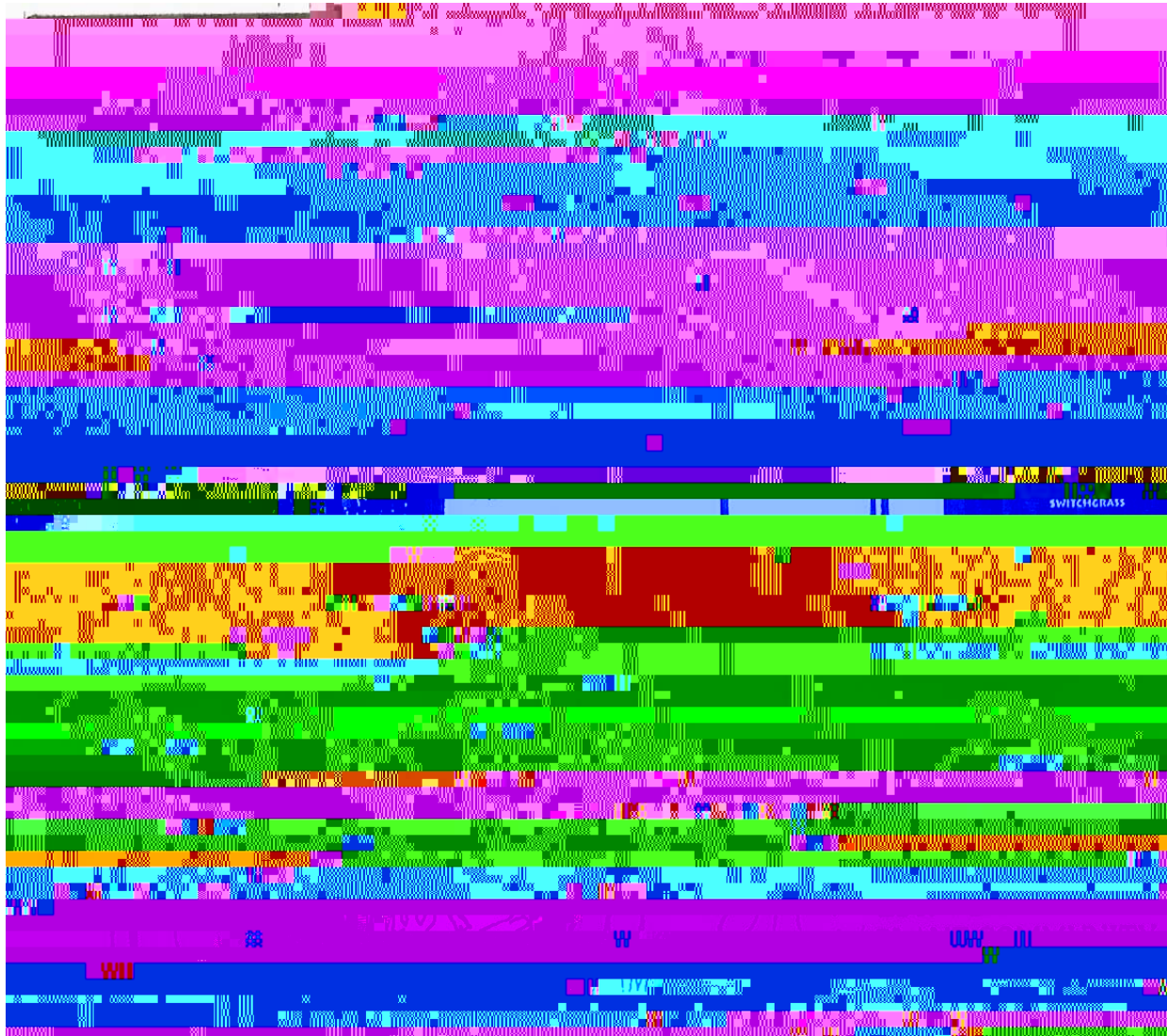




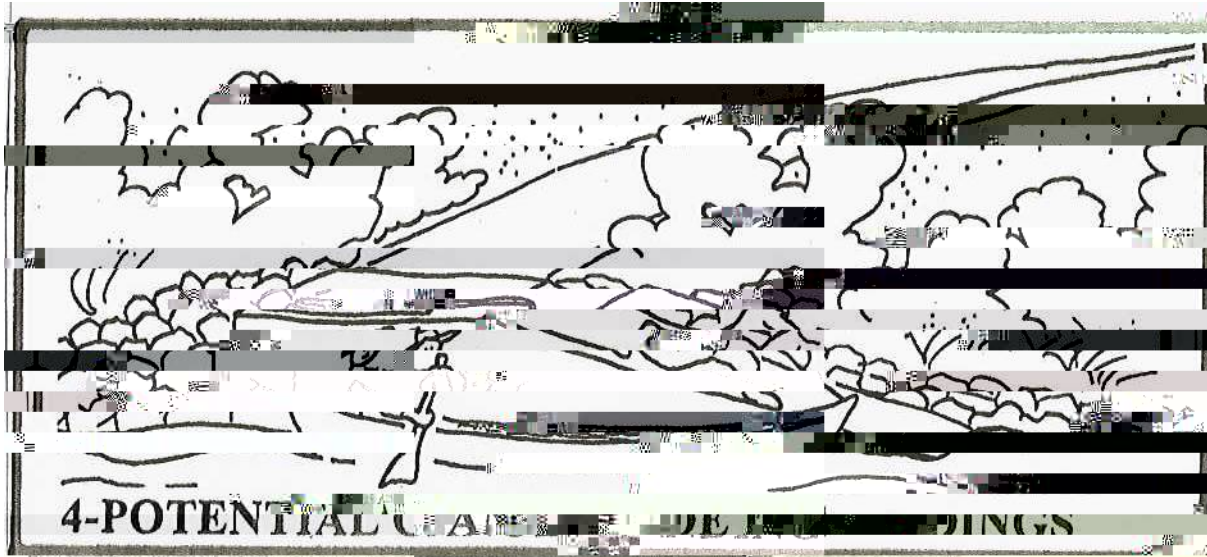
|  |          |  |        |        |
|--|----------|--|--------|--------|
|  | PROJECT: | SOUTH SUBURBAN CALUMET AREA<br>OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE | SCALE: | N.T.S. |
|  |          | FOR A YEARLY 10% FOR 10000000                        | SHEET: | B-2    |
| <br>Lubanks & Associates, Inc.<br>Environmental Consulting |          |  |        |        |







|   |          |  |        |        |
|---|----------|--|--------|--------|
|   | PROJECT: | SOUTH SUBURBAN CALUMET AREA<br>OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE | SCALE: | N.T.S. |
|   | DATE:    | 10/15/2010   | SHEET: | B-4    |
|   |          |  |        |        |
| Eubanks & Associates, Inc.<br>Environmental Consulting<br>1000 N. W. 10th St., Suite 100<br>Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304-4000 |          |  |        |        |



**4-POTENTIAL CANALS AND BUILDINGS**

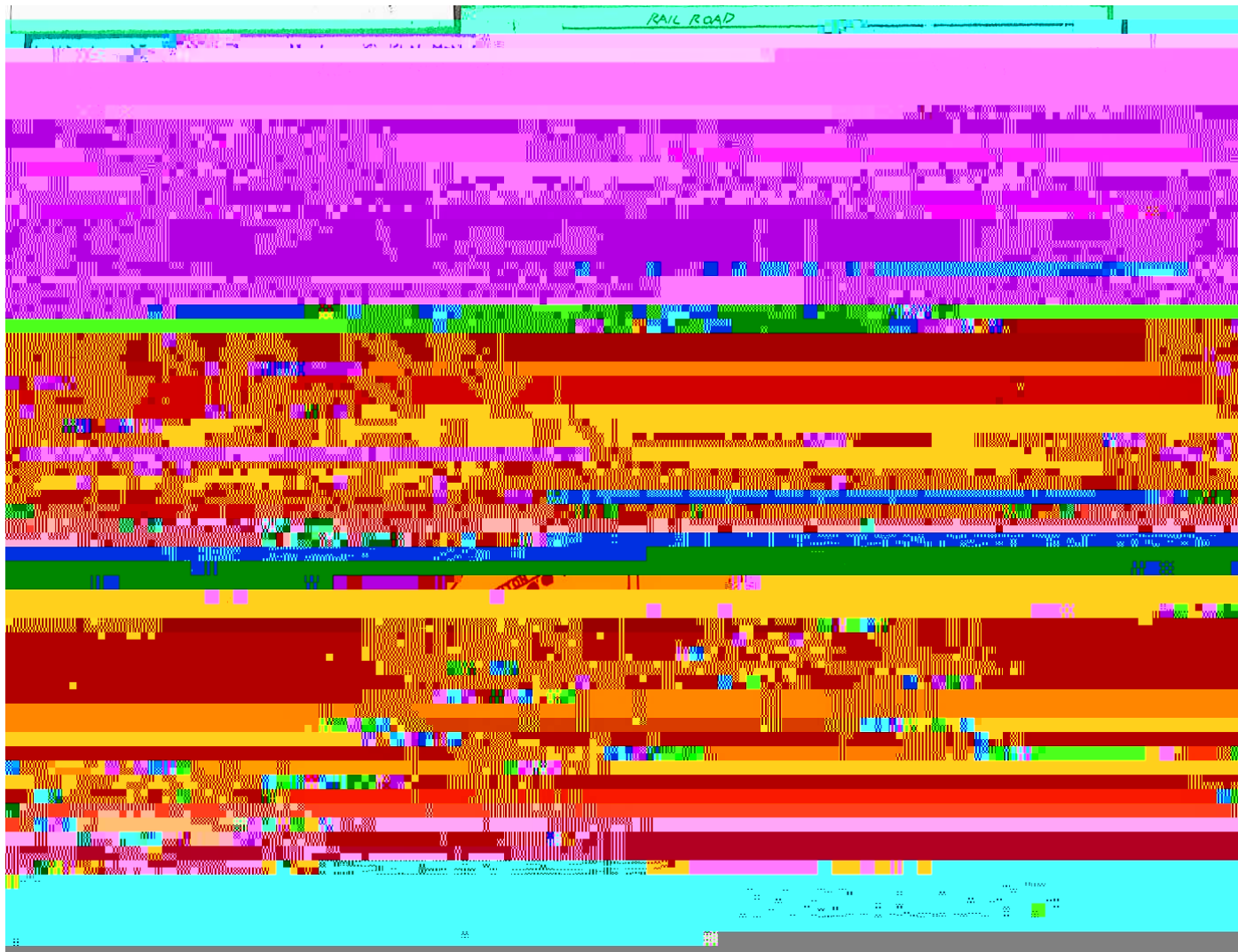
**DESIGN GOALS**

- DEVELOP A WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CANALS

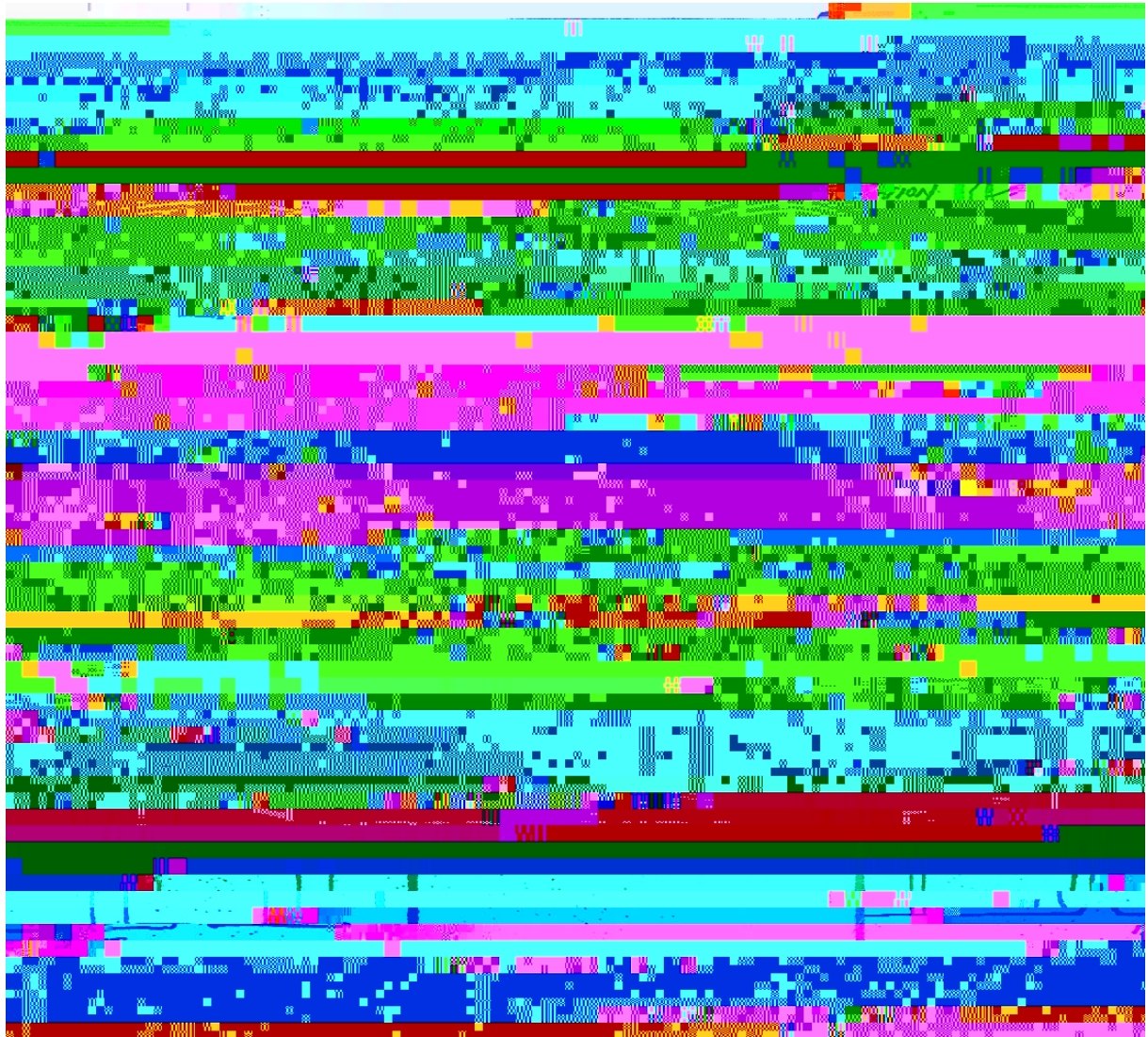
1-EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL CANALS



|   |          |   |        |        |
|---|----------|---|--------|--------|
|   | PROJECT: | SOUTH SUBURBAN CALUMET AREA<br>OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE    | SCALE: | N.T.S. |
|   |          | FOR A 1/2 MILE BY 1/2 MILE SECTION                      | SHEET: | 1 of 1 |
|   |          | Lubensky & Associates, Inc.<br>Environmental Consulting |        |        |
| <small>                 1000 N. LAKE STREET, SUITE 100, CHICAGO, IL 60610<br/>                 TEL: 312.462.1000 FAX: 312.462.1001<br/>                 WWW.LUBENSKY.COM             </small> |          |   |        |        |





|  |          |  |        |      |
|--|----------|--|--------|------|
|  | PROJECT: | SOUTH SUBURBAN CALUMET AREA<br>OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE   | SCALE: | A1/S |
|  | DIST.:   |  |        |      |
|  |          | Tubanks & Associates, Inc.<br>Environmental Consulting |        |      |



|   |          |  |        |        |
|---|----------|--|--------|--------|
|  | PROJECT: | SOUTH SUBURBAN CALUMET AREA<br>OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE | SCALE: | N.T.S. |
|   |          | OR A PUBLIC PROJECT                                  | SHEET: | 10/1   |
|  |          |  |        |        |



## **APPENDIX C**





## **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

-<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.





***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>



***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 conser

## 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](http://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](http://www.dominicks.com), [www.jewelosco.com](http://www.jewelosco.com), and [www.target.com](http://www.target.com).





## PROJECT TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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