

MEETING SUMMARY – June 3, 2022
Annual CSC Field Trip
Ford Calumet Environmental Center
11555 S. Stony Island Ave.
Chicago, IL 60633



ATTENDEES

Cyatharine Alias, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Lauren Umek, Chicago Park District
Zach Wirtz, Chicago Region Trees Initiative at The Morton Arboretum
Thomas Burke, Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Kim Nowicki, Cook County Dept. of Emergency Management and Regional Security
Deb Kutska, Cook County Dept. of Environment and Sustainability
Mark Bowman, Field Museum
Mark Johnston, Field Museum
Rachel Scarlett, Field Museum
Becky Helfrich, Geosyntec Consultants
Lee Houser, Geosyntec Consultants
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec Consultants
Tara Jagadeesh, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Casey Sebetto, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Jeff Edstrom, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Dave Lampert, Illinois Institute of Technology
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Elizabeth Sommerfeld, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council
Drew Williams-Clark, Metropolitan Planning Council
Ryan Wilson, Metropolitan Planning Council
Joe Kratzer, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Herman Lopez, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Kara Riggio, OAI
Saki Handa, Optimatics
Bill Wood, SmithGroup
Mary Pat McGuire, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
& others

UPDATES

Kim Nowicki said the Cook County Dept. of Emergency Management and Regional Security is using American Rescue Plan Act funding for preparedness planning across Cook County and providing technical assistance to increase planning capacity, especially for SE Cook municipalities.

Deb Kutska said the Cook County Dept. of Environment and Sustainability is still planning to use American Rescue Plan Act funding for implementation of RainReady plans in six Calumet-region communities. Once the funding is ready, they will engage a subrecipient to help with engagement. Not funded yet, but excited.

Saki Handa from Optimatics said ASCE Chicago Chapter EWRI is hosting a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act on Friday, July 15, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at Ping Tom

Memorial Park Pagoda (1900 South Wentworth Ave, Chicago). Learn and celebrate how this federal legislation has impacted the Chicago Area Waterways System and the communities which utilize it. This outdoor event is free, and a guided tour of Ping Tom Memorial Park will follow the program. Register by July 12 at <https://conta.cc/3wxEqB0>, or, for more information, contact Saki at saki.handa@optimatics.com.

Jeff Edstrom from Illinois Environmental Protection Agency said the two Notices of Funding Opportunity for Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control are coming soon, one for watershed planning and one for implementation. New this year, no more PDFs! The state is using a new all-online new system. More information coming soon.

Joe Kratzker from MWRD said the 2022 Green Infrastructure Partnership application is available now through September 5. More information is available at <https://mwrld.org/GI-app>. In addition to the application, the District is planning a community stormwater survey to better understand what worked and what didn't from past partnerships and application processes with a goal of improving the program and increasing application rates.

Cyatharine Alias from CNT announced a community festival to celebrate CNT and Elevate Chicago's Climate and Cultural Resilience program. The event will be at Nichols Tower Parking Lot (906 South Homan Ave, Chicago) on Sunday, June 5, 2022 at noon-4:00 p.m. [Register here](#).

Ryan Wilson from the Metropolitan Planning Council said StormStore is moving forward with four credits currently available or under construction. If you know of sites eager to develop, reach out to Ryan for ways to collaborate.

Kara Riggio from OAI said the GSI maintenance training on May 18 at the Alsip boat launch was a huge success, with 50 people in attendance, even in the rain!

EXTENDED MEMBER UPDATE

Depave Chicago – Overview & Upcoming dates

Mary Pat McGuire, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

In the Chicago region, some sewersheds are upwards of 80% impervious, and Depave Chicago was launched to address that imperviousness and its related impacts, such as urban flooding and heat islands. The goal is to remove hardscape and replace it with gardens, parks, and tiny forests. The Depave movement started in Portland, OR, but the network exists throughout North America and Europe. Lots of resources and how-to guides are available to aid with site identification, working with community partners, and more. For Depave Chicago, the process of establishing site criteria is underway, but potential site types could be schools, parking lots, abandoned sites, commercial sites, etc. Visit depavechicago.org to subscribe for updates and get more information on upcoming workshops.

PRESENTATION

Theme: advancing the CSC's Goal 4: *Data-driven decision-making is more prevalent in stormwater management planning*

Chicago Wilderness Mapping Hub: A New Tool for Tracking Conservation Goals

Mark Johnston, Field Museum

Mark Bouman, Field Museum

[Chicago Wilderness](#) is still going after 25 years, bringing people together across four states and covering eight million acres in the Chicago Wilderness Green Vision. Based on that vision, the

next steps identified were to break down the goals for that large geography and establish metrics so they could know if they were actually making progress. The Chicago region is very important for biodiversity, and the Green Vision delineates seven conservation goals, namely: 1) Managing Healthy Landscapes, 2) Growing with Agriculture, 3) Prioritizing Green Infrastructure, 4) Adding Conservation Lands, 5) Increasing Access to Nature, 6) Taking Climate Action, and 7) Protecting Healthy Water.

To bring these goals together and discuss them in a coordinated/strategic way, the Chicago Wilderness Hub (hub.chicagowilderness.org) was established. The purpose of the Hub is to use maps to tell stories, track progress, etc. For example, under Protecting Healthy Water, they are developing an index/baseline so members can comprehensively measure impact over time. The Hub interface is for people who may not have access to GIS software, but the data can also be downloaded for offline use. A mapping hub group meets every week; contact Mark Johnston (mjohnston@fieldmuseum.org) and Mark Bouman (mbouman@fieldmuseum.org) for more information.

GUIDED TOUR

Integrating Recreation and Restoration in a Post-Industrial Landscape

Lauren Umek, Chicago Park District

Lauren presented a brief overview of the site's history before leading the group on an exhilarating walking tour. Visit the [CSC website](#) to review the full presentation materials.

NEXT

Work Group-focused meeting

Friday, July 8, 2022

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (CT)

Location: virtual

For more information contact:

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