Rice Native gardens at the Field Museum

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

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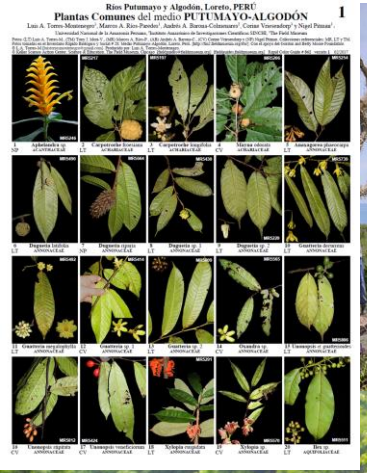
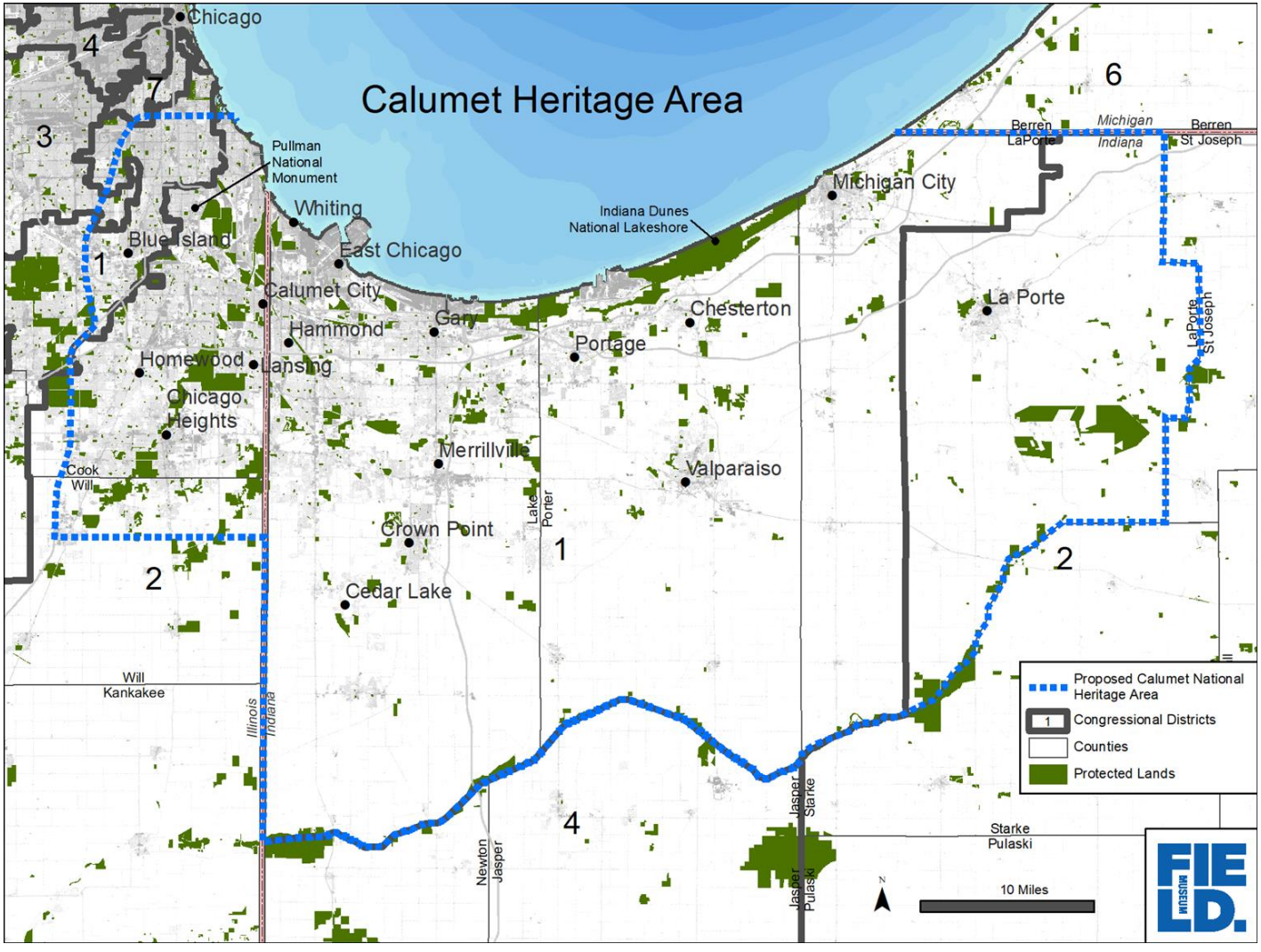
Mark Bouman
Chicago Region Program Director
Keller Science Action Center
mbouman@fieldmuseum.org

Mark Johnston
Lead GIS Analyst and Conservation Ecologist
Keller Science Action Center
mjohnston@fieldmuseum.org

Science Action Center



FIELD.



Calumet National Heritage Area Initiative

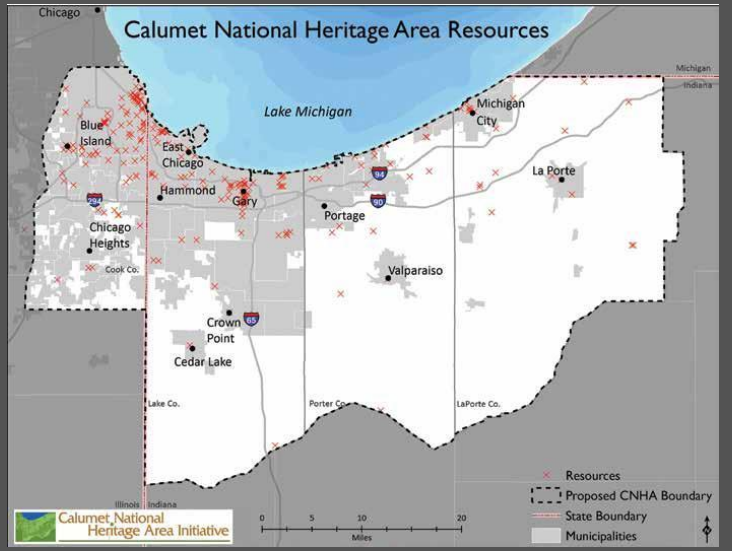
16TH ANNUAL CALUMET HERITAGE CONFERENCE

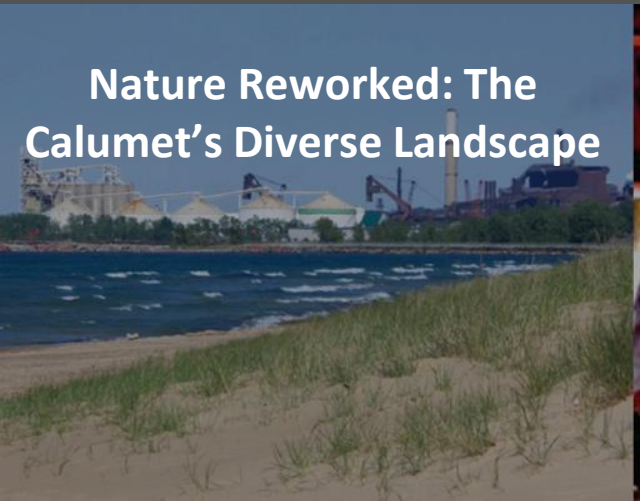
The National Significance of the Calumet Region

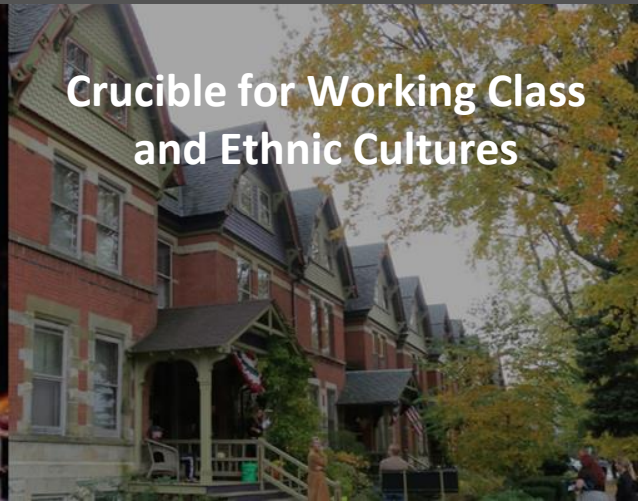
FIELD.

MAPPING THE REGION
Explore the Calumet Region
Discover Nature
Transform Through Community Engagement
Southeast Side
Calumet Region
Map Key
Calumet: A Region of National Significance
EXIT

The **Calumet Heritage Area** is a place of nationally significant natural, industrial, labor, and cultural heritage assets, that are preserved and interpreted to advance economic opportunity, and enrich the lives of its residents and visitors from across the nation

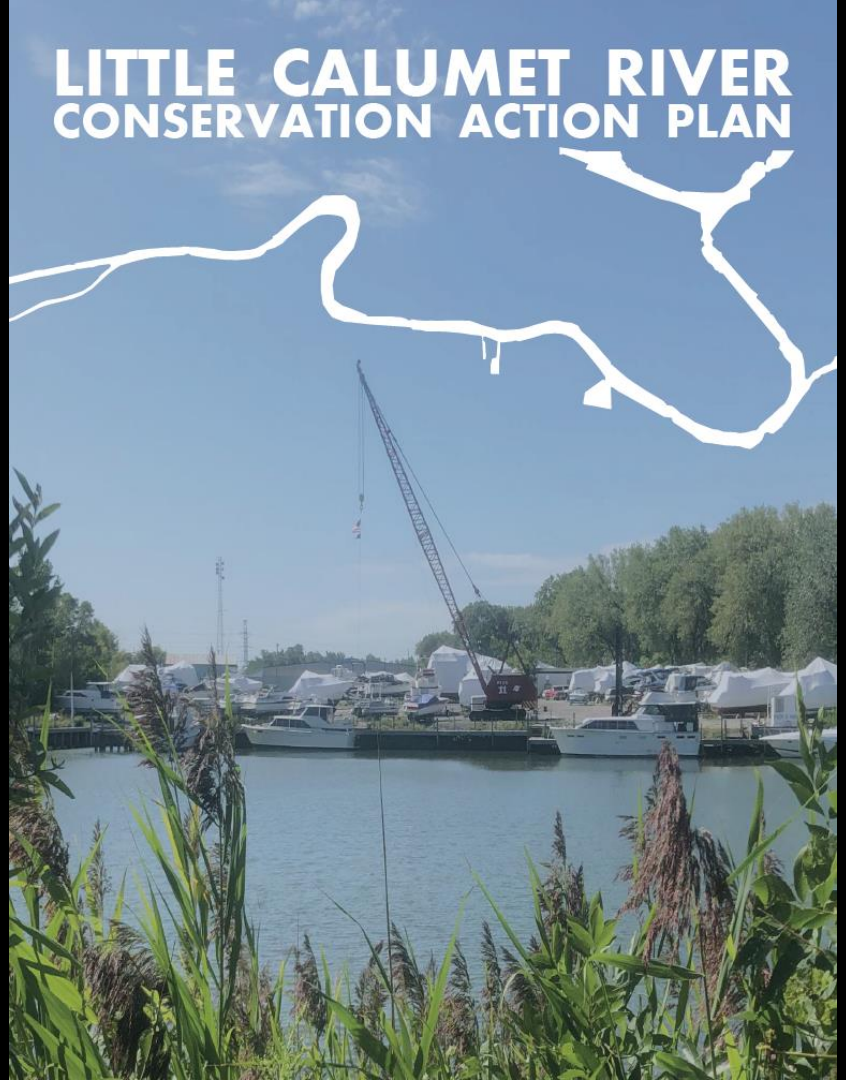






Lake Michigan
Ambler Flatwoods
Indiana Dunes Ecosystems
East Branch of the Little Calumet River
Illinois Little Calumet
Heart of Calumet
Calumet Conservation Compact
West Branch of the Little Calumet River
Hobart Marsh and Deep River
Moraine
Hoosier Prairie
Managed Lands & Natural Areas
Stream
Lake
CAP Focus Area
0
2.5
5
10 Miles
Map Generated by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission and Field Museum
County of Lake, Indiana, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS

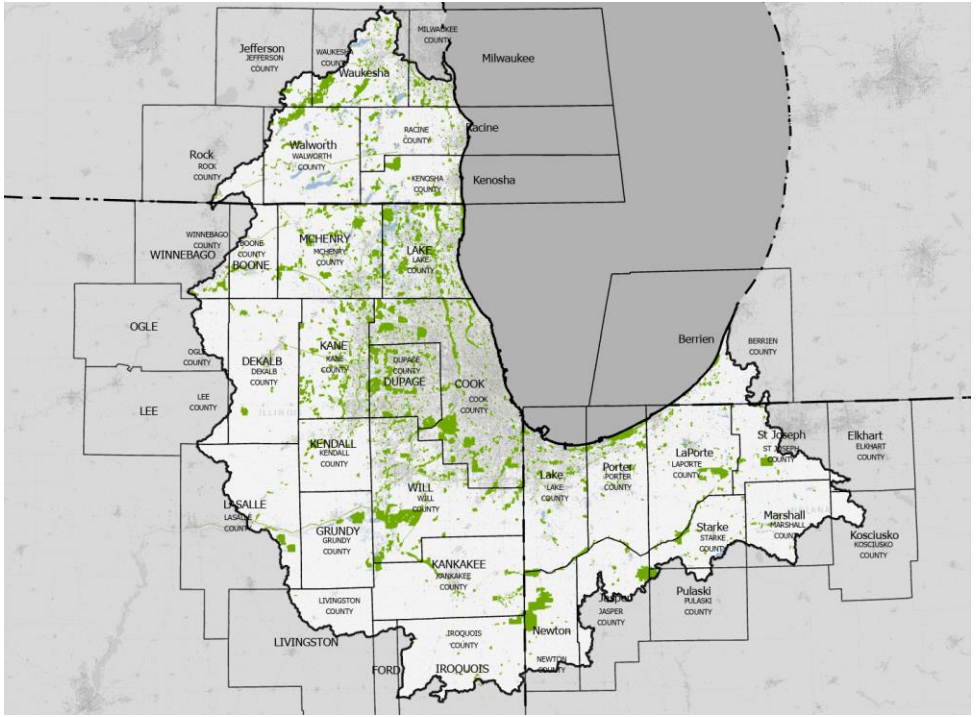
LITTLE CALUMET RIVER
CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN



Chicago Wilderness "Green Vision"

Diverse members working together in the region for ***vibrant nature that improves environmental and human health, promotes better quality of life, and benefits our collective home – today and for generations to come.***

“Chicago Wilderness” is not only an organization: It’s a massive geography…

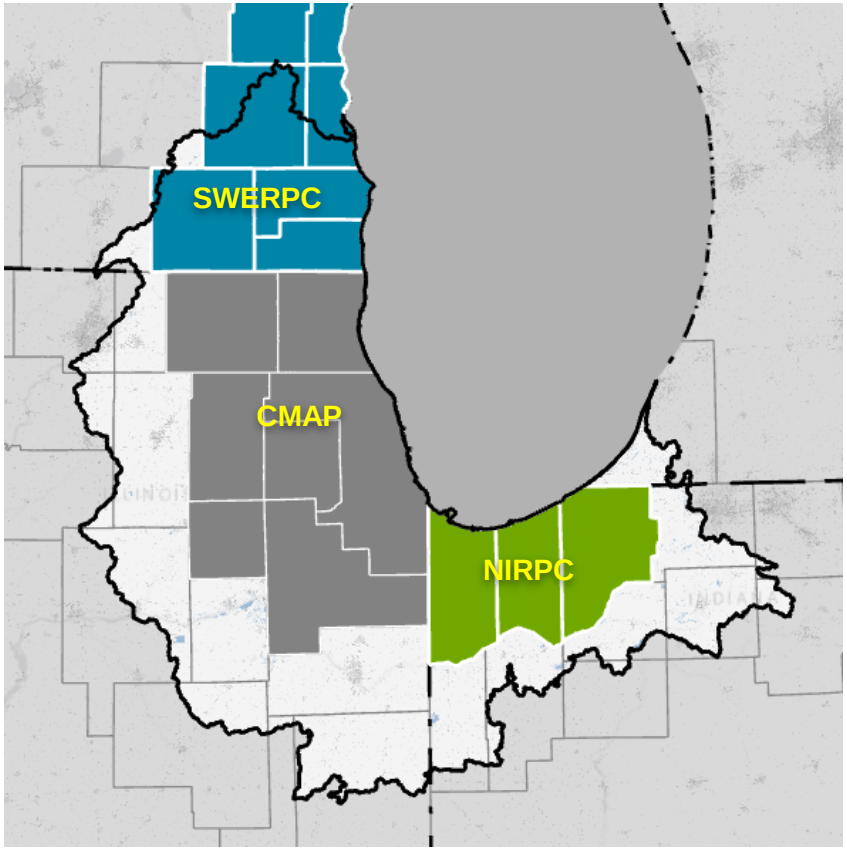


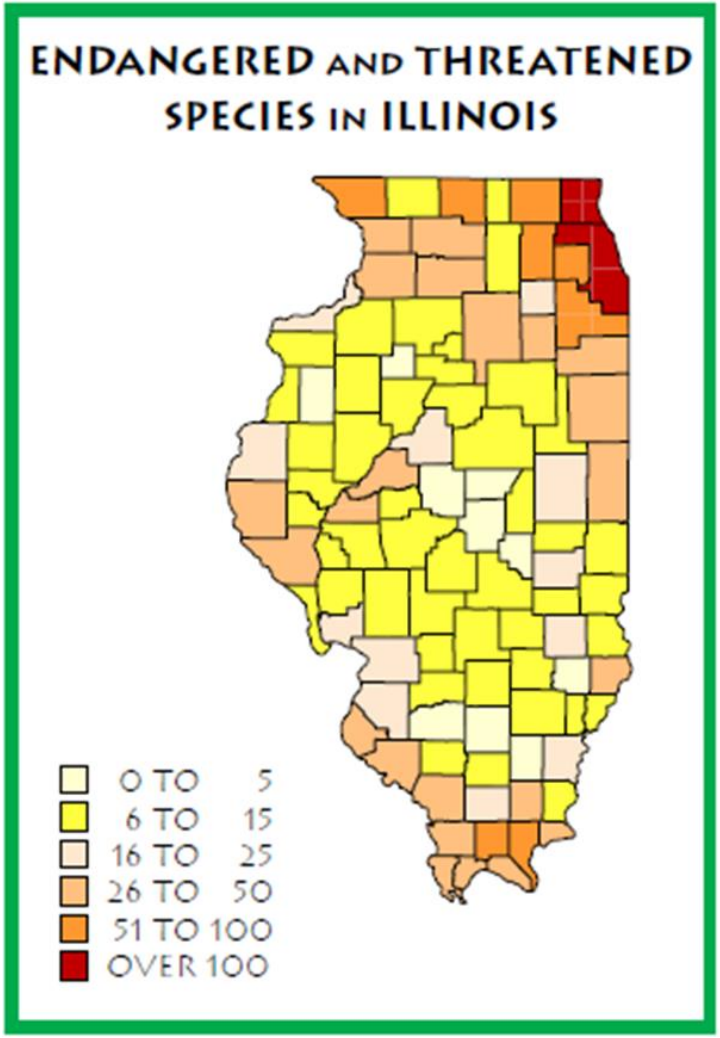
- 4 states
- 37 counties
- 553 municipalities
- 578K protected acres
- 283M agricultural acres
- 8M total acres
- >11M people

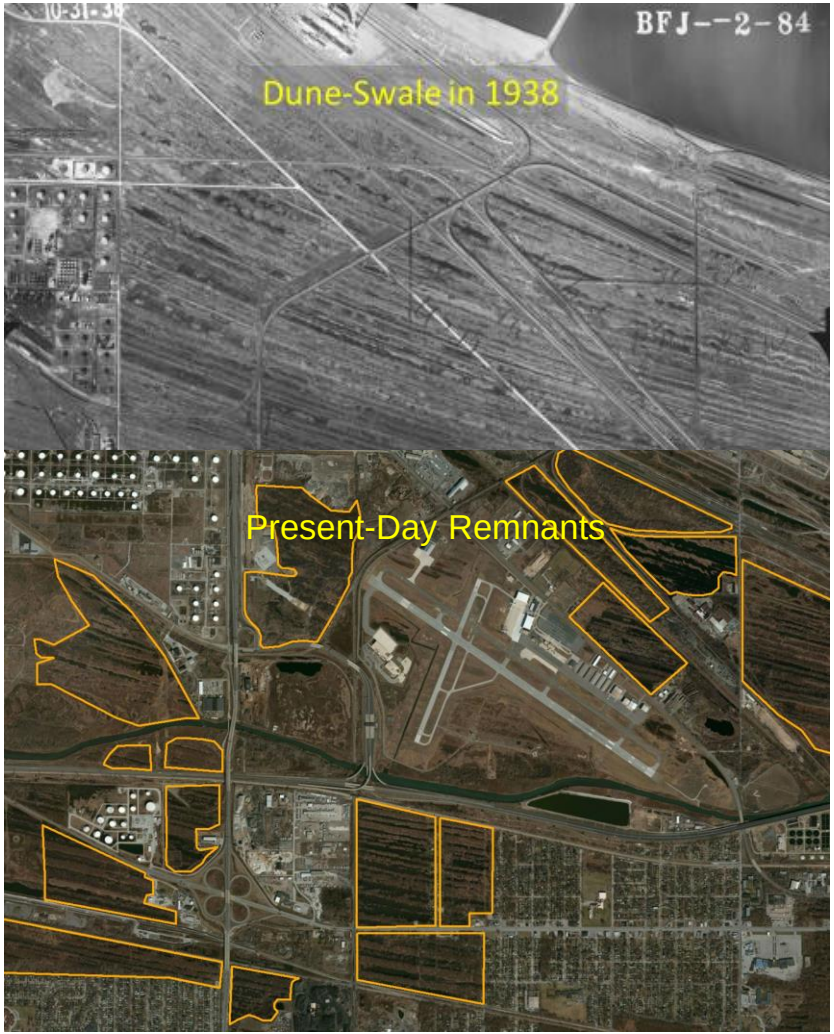
FIELD.

Regional Planning Agencies

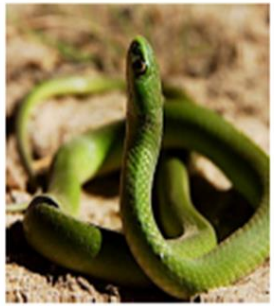
- Regional planning agencies do not cover the CW geography
- No central repository for geospatial data
- Watershed plans are not collected in a central place

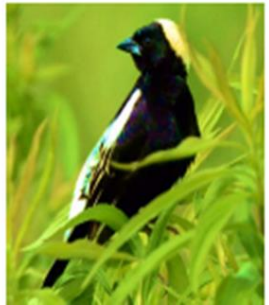



ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES IN ILLINOIS
0 TO 5
6 TO 15
16 TO 25
26 TO 50
51 TO 100
OVER 100


BFJ--2-84
Dune-Swale in 1938
Present-Day Remnants

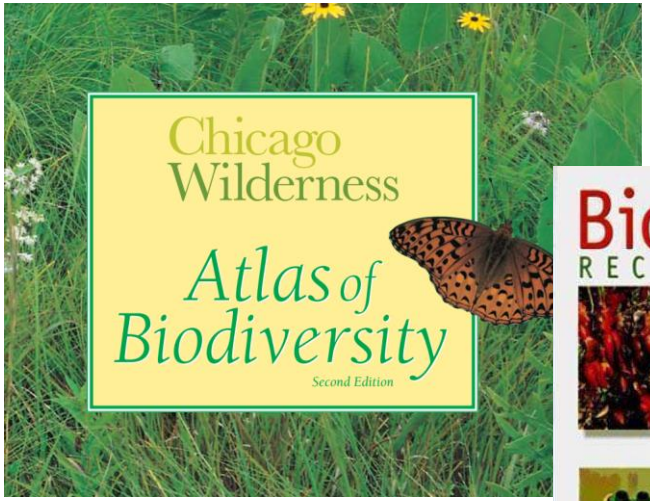
12 SPECIES

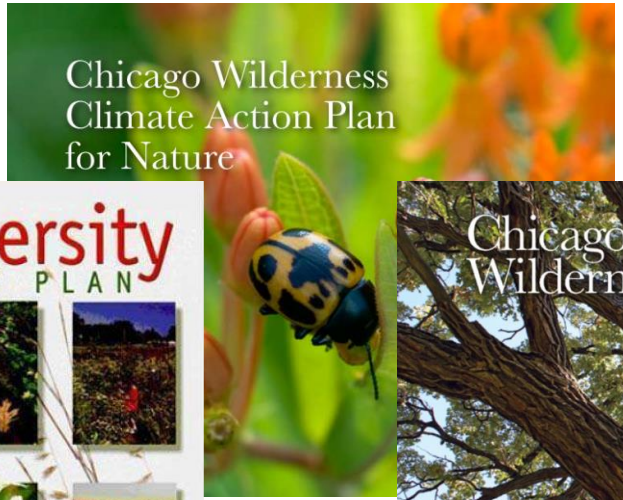


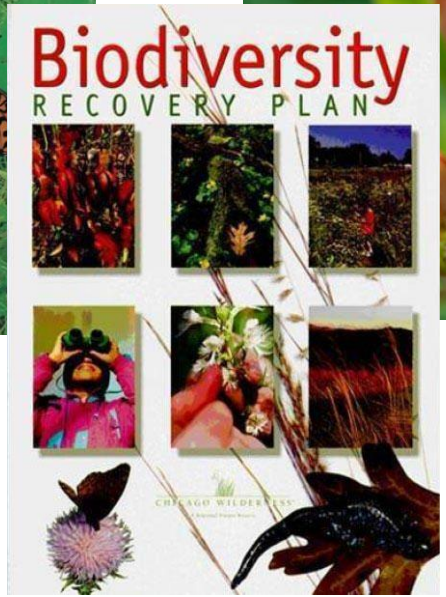


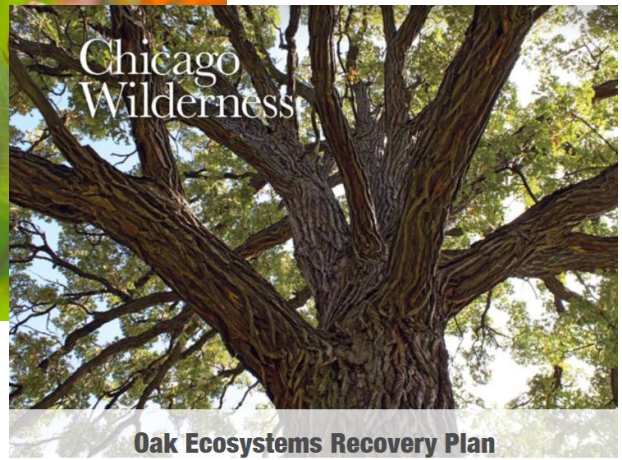
FIELD.

Reports and Plans

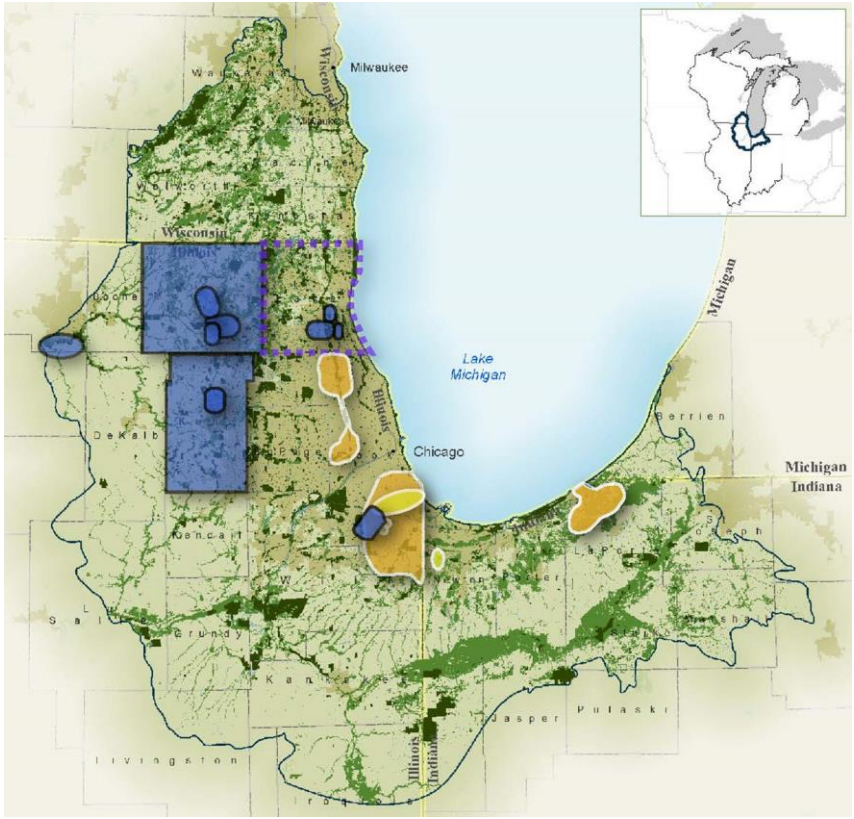


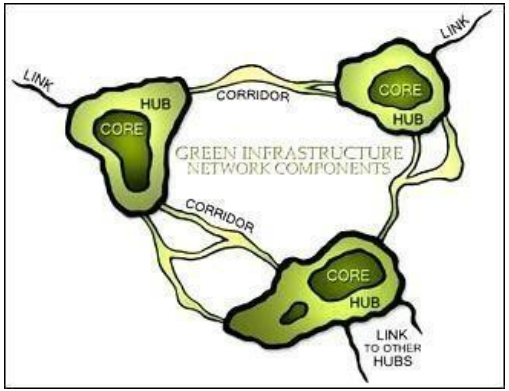






Green Infrastructure Vision (GIV)



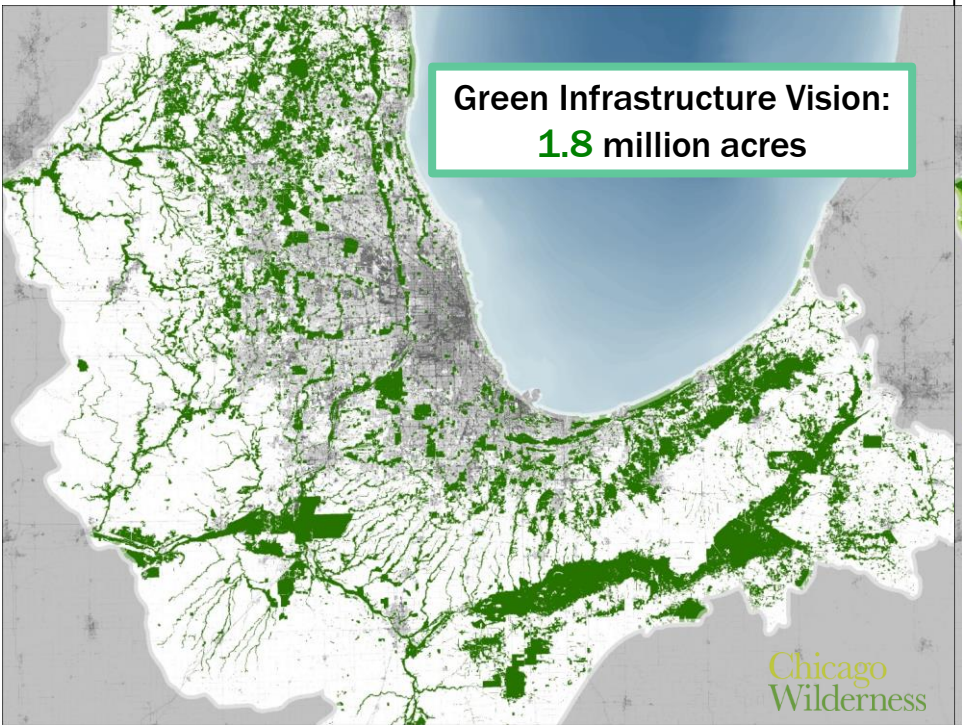


The original “Green Infrastructure Vision”

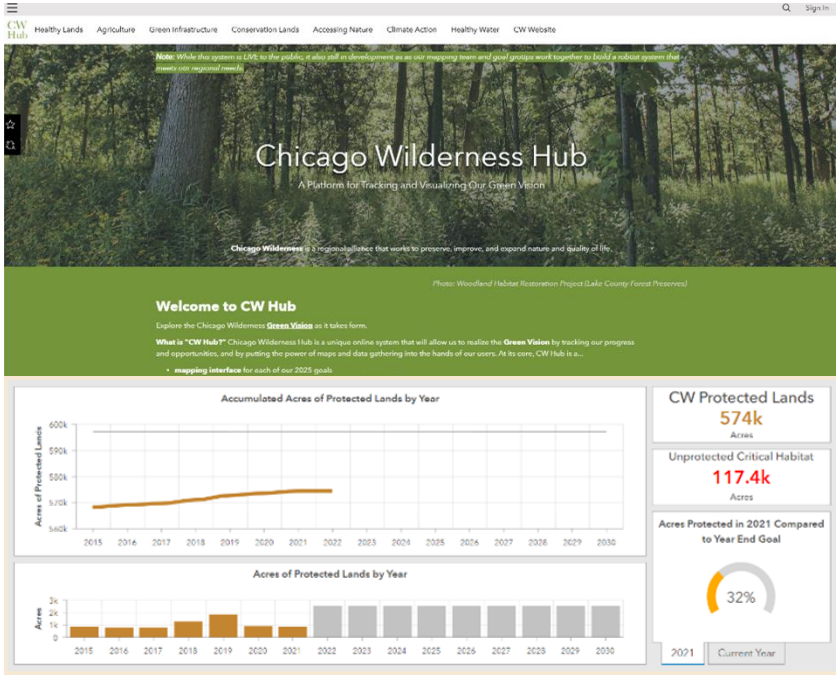
Instead of only focusing on ecological restoration in connected green corridors…

Has been expanded to the “Green Vision”

The focus now includes all sectors and engages people from **all** walks of life as expressed by 7 conservation goals…



Chicago Wilderness Green Vision & Hub



25

578k

250+

7

Purpose of “CW Hub”

- Organize around key conservation goals
- Getting GIS in the hands of the public/stakeholders
- Track our regional progress
- One stop shop for regional conservation
- Landing pages for each conservation goal

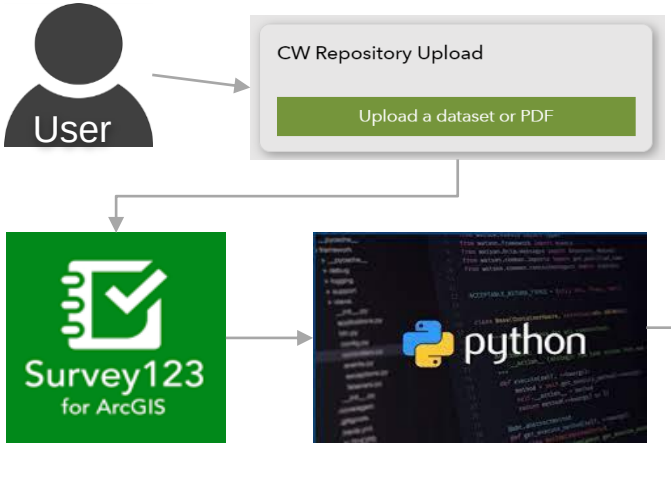
  (w/ Interactive maps, map galleries, and resources)

“CW Hub” Quick Tour

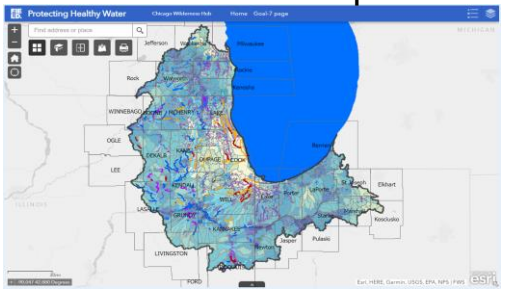
(Demo-1)

hub.chicagowilderness.org

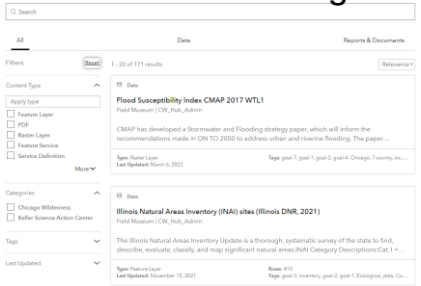
Data Repository System



Interactive Maps



Data Catalog



Demo 2

Using the “Data Repository”

hub.chicagowilderness.org

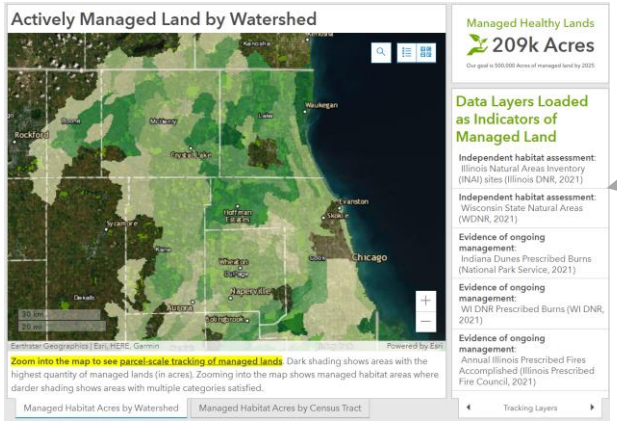
Data Capture and Tracking System

DATA REPOSITORY

Indicator Layers & Assessments

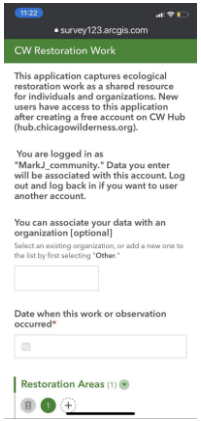
- Habitat designations
- Management activity
- Critical wildlife observations
- Floristic quality
- Habitat conectivity

Dashboard Tracking Maps



Field Maps
S123 & Quick Capture

Restoration Work



Invasive Plant Observations

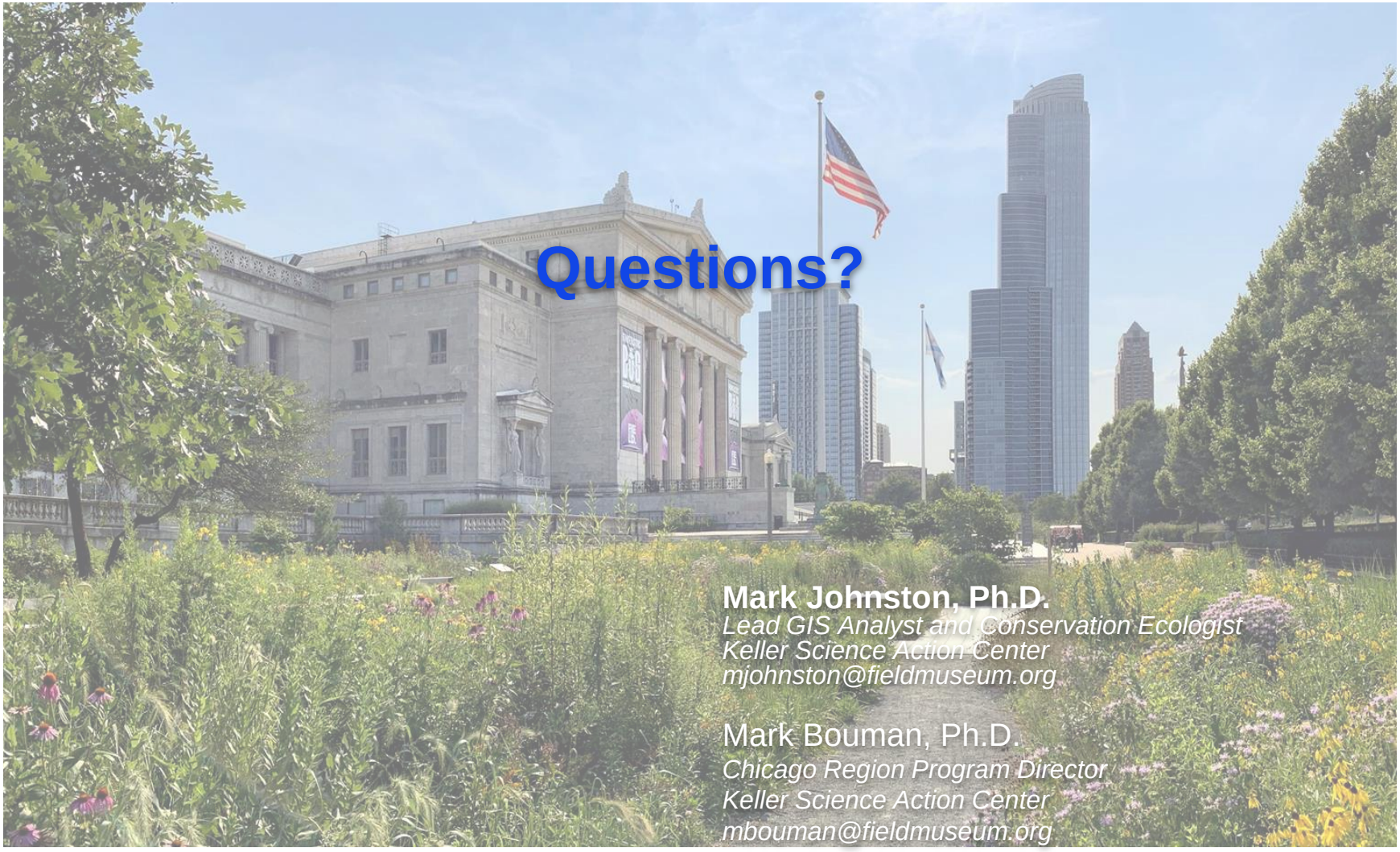
Demo 3

Healthy Lands Data Capture and Goal Tracking System

hub.chicagowilderness.org

Next Steps

1. Update goal landing pages with a clear vision of the problem and how it will be addressed.
2. Create robust tracking systems and dashboards for each conservation goal.
3. Deploy data capturing systems such as field apps for additional conservation goals.
4. Add thematic interactive maps.



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FIELD.
MUSEUM