

Chicago Wilderness



CMAA GO TO 2040 illustration

Chicago Wilderness

Vibrant Communities—People & Nature

A Listening and Engagement Session

October 2018

Activating Shared Aspirations

Collectively led effort...

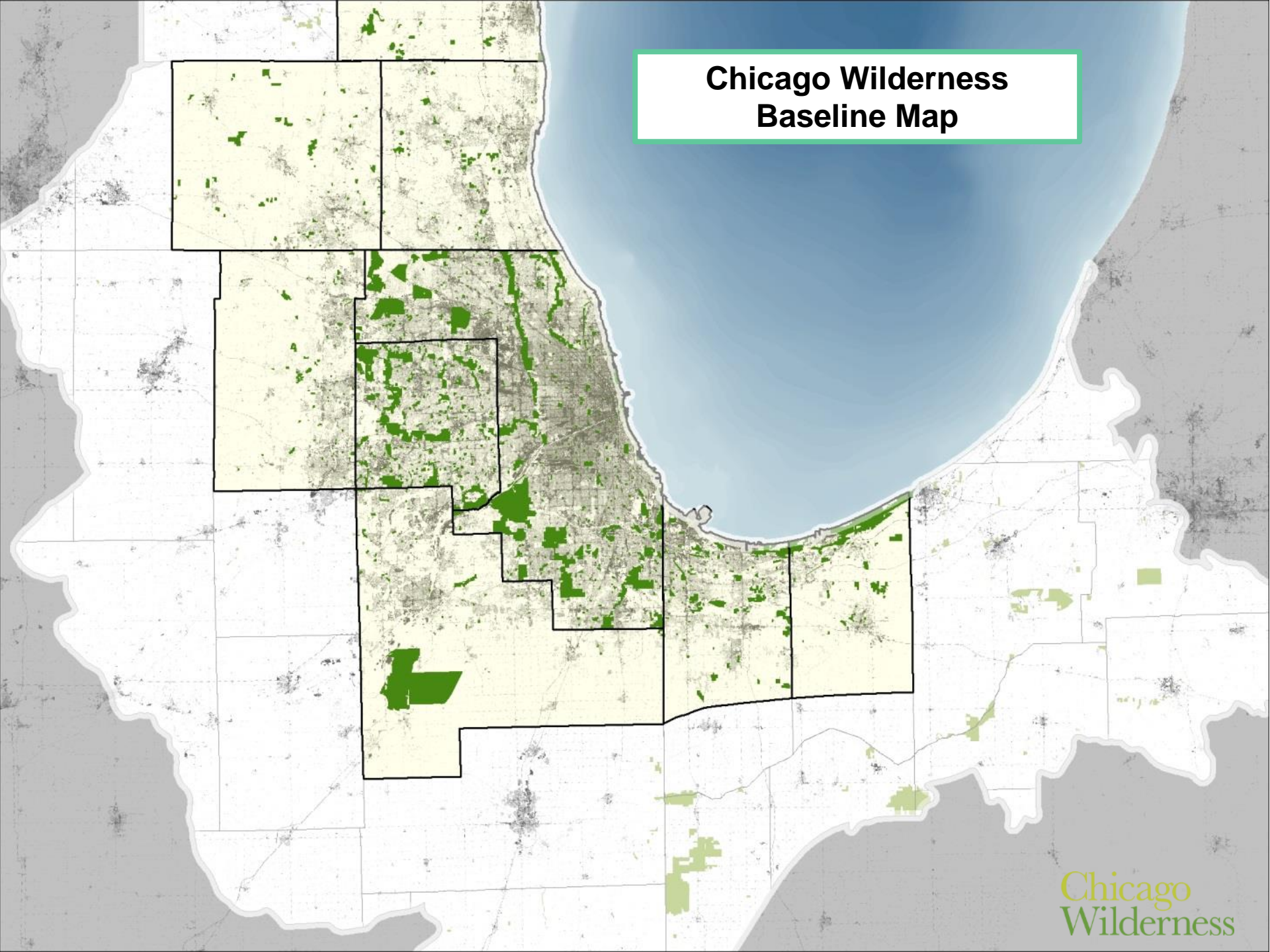
Roles of Chicago Wilderness:

- Connects with diverse voices for regional nature integrated with quality of life
- Encourages participation, pride, leadership
- Inspires action on the ground
- Facilitates peer-to-peer learning
- Inspires regional, measurable results

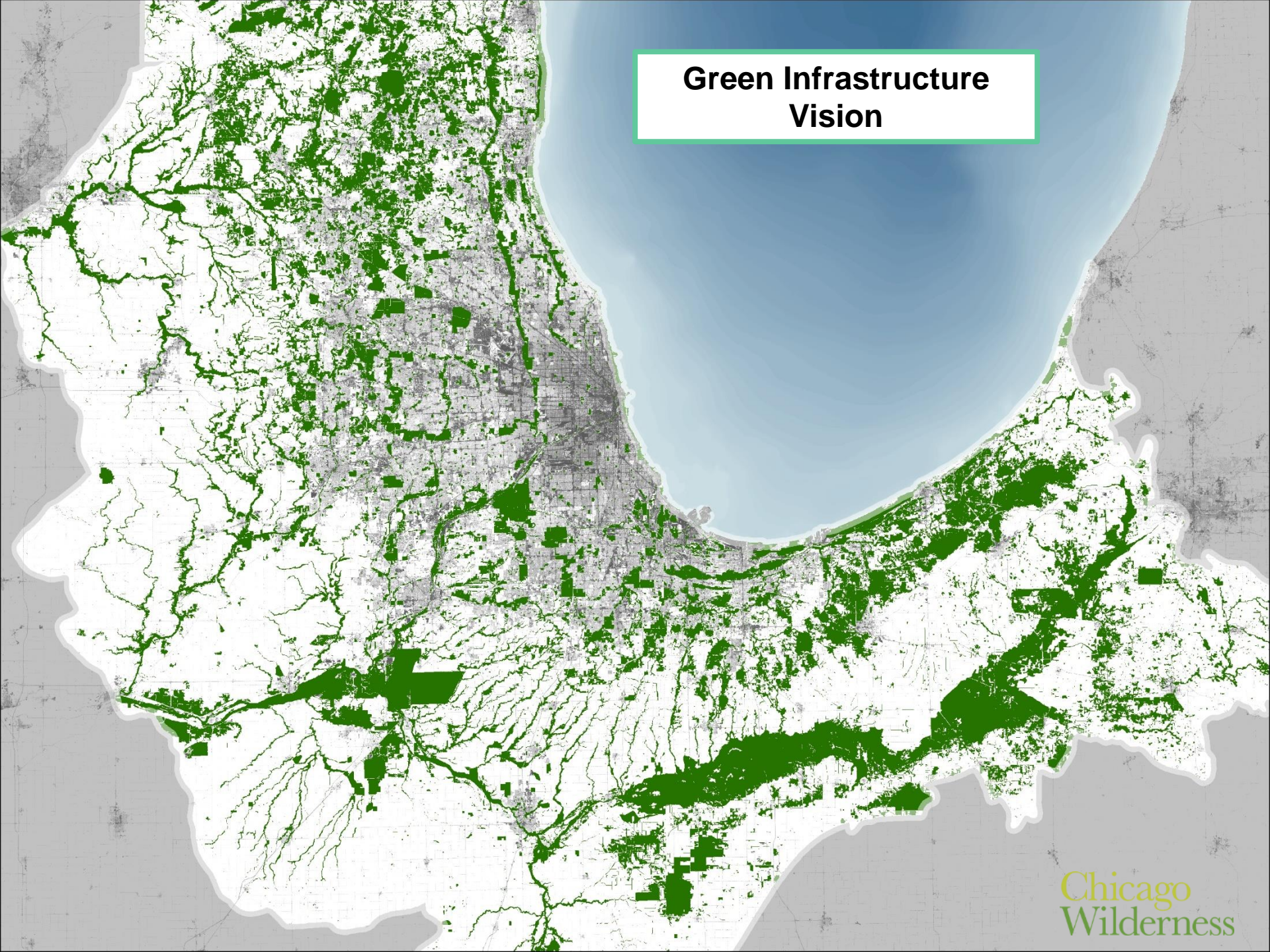
An aerial photograph of Chicago, Illinois, showing the city's urban sprawl and its proximity to Lake Michigan. The city's grid pattern is clearly visible, extending from the city center outwards. The lake is a prominent blue feature on the right side of the image. The overall tone is somewhat desaturated, emphasizing the gray and white of the urban landscape.

From Gray to Green in Chicago Wilderness

Chicago Wilderness Baseline Map



Green Infrastructure Vision



An aerial photograph of the Chicago metropolitan area is overlaid with a semi-transparent green grid. The grid covers the city and extends into the surrounding suburbs and rural areas. To the east of the city, the blue waters of Lake Michigan are visible. The entire map is framed by a white outline.

**Green Vision
A Grand Opportunity for All**

Commercial –Tuthill Corp (Burr Ridge, IL)



Transportation R.O.W. (Aurora, IL)



Single Family Backyard (Lake County, IL)



Multi-Family Residential R.O.W. (Chicago, IL)









Chicago Wilderness Timeline

CW Launch (34 partners)

Atlas of Biodiversity	Biodiversity Recovery Plan	Corporate Council	Report Card	Climate Action Plan for Nature	GIV 2.0
CW Magazine	Natural Wonders Campaign	Green Infrastructure Vision (GIV)	Leave No Child Inside	Excellence in Ecological Restoration Awards	Oak Recovery Plan
1 st Biennial Congress	CW Trust	Membership Contributions			Priority Species
Conservation & Natural Landscaping Awards					
1996	2000	2004	2008	2012	2016

Chicago Wilderness Climate Action



Chicago Wilderness

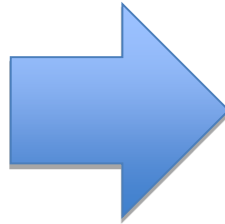


**BIODIVERSITY
RECOVERY PLAN**

Climate Change Update

Accomplishments

- Shared vision
- Shared products
- Shared ecological vocabulary
- Shared forum for emerging issues



- A culture of collaboration
- Blurring of boundaries
 - political
 - operational
 - responsibilities
 - sectors
 - silos
- Rapid response



Full Vision [DRAFT]

Chicago Wilderness envisions a vibrant region where people and nature thrive together, promoting diverse and healthy communities, economic vitality, & well-being for all.

Chicago Wilderness focuses on

- ✓ Conserving healthy habitats for people, plants, and wildlife
- ✓ Strengthening the relationship of people & cultures to nature and the understanding of its value



The Full Expression of Chicago Wilderness will come through **new strategic and organizational partnerships*** such as

- (i) diverse urban and rural communities throughout our region;
- (ii) economic- and tourism-focused organizations clarifying the value proposition of conservation;
- (iii) health and wellness organizations touching both people and nature;
- (iv) faith communities and those engaging constituents on nature's values, and
- (v) active users of open space.

*Partners encompass all organizations including government, nonprofit, education, research, corporate, community-level.

Outcome: A firm and broad commitment to the foundations of the alliance, including

- (i) Science-based, resilient land management that integrates quality of life;
- (ii) Ever-increasing grassroots stewardship of local nature, important places, and nature corridors that connect these places;
- (iii) Full engagement of a diversity of voices in defining and implementing the grand CW Green Vision.

Questions/Next Steps: What would have the biggest impact to the biodiversity resources of the region; to the healthy connection between people and nature?

1. What can only be done by a collaborative? What cannot be done by any of the member organizations themselves?
2. What is measurable?
3. How do we build a collective annual plan? Five-year plan?
4. What increases the number of stakeholders committed to biodiversity conservation and quality of life?
5. What supports and builds from the Biodiversity Recovery Plan, Green Infrastructure Vision and our volunteer-led leadership?

