

Millennium Reserve



CMAP Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force
March 20, 2013

Agenda

- Overview of Millennium Reserve
- Goals: Environment, Community, Economy
- Steering Committee
- Model Projects
- Trails Workgroups

Millennium Reserve

- Launched in late 2011 by Governor Pat Quinn and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Part of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative
 - works to align federal programs with locally-developed conservation and recreation goals
 - reconnects Americans, especially children, to America's outdoors



What is Millennium Reserve?

- Millennium Reserve is the one of the largest open space projects in the United States that is both collaborative and urban. Millennium Reserve is:
 - **A place**
 - **A collaboration**
 - **A new model for change**

Millennium Reserve: Calumet Core



- A total of 140,000 acres
- 15,000 Acres of Open Space
- Nearly 6,000 Acres of High Quality Natural Areas
- 23 Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Sites
- 60 Endangered or Threatened plant and animal species

Millennium Reserve: Expansion Zone



- Accommodates needs, activities and features that extend beyond the Calumet Core
- Promotes increased trail and corridor connections
- Supports larger Green Infrastructure Vision
- 55 Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Sites
- 90 Endangered or Threatened plant and animal species

Partnerships

Millennium Reserve builds on the decades of work that has been done in the Calumet area by local stakeholders, nonprofits, foundations, the City of Chicago, Chicago Park District, Cook County Forest Preserve District, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and our other local and state partners.



New Model of Change

- Cooperation among economic, environmental, and community goals
- Success in one area forwards the well-being of the whole
- Cross-agency collaboration
- Centered around projects that aim to achieve “triple-win gains” – concrete and measurable results for the environment, the economy, and the community

Reinvestment in Calumet Area

- Strategic and focused support can achieve three main goals:
 - Improve the Environment
 - Improve the Communities
 - Improve the Economy



Improve the Environment

- Manage core natural lands
- Expand and improve healthy natural habitats
- Increase natural area connectivity
- Develop voluntary programs to encourage "greener" neighborhoods
- Develop incentive programs to assist commercial landowners with habitat establishment and maintenance
- Build a system of green infrastructure based on Chicago Wilderness and the Go To 2040 plan



Improve the Economy

- Support revitalization of the Illinois International Port District
- Support development of local small businesses
- Facilitate new opportunities for cultural, historic, and eco-tourism
- Provide training and internships for green jobs
- Support college programs that provide specific training for future career opportunities
- Encourage environmentally-sensitive manufacturing as well as sustainable transit



Improve Communities

- Continue growing community of volunteer stewards
- Plan and implement sustainable land use concepts that reduce flooding
- Complete and connect trail routes, sponsor events to highlight outdoor recreational opportunities
- Expand outreach programs to encourage youth to explore natural environment
- Promote new uses for underutilized lands and brownfields
- Connect people to their cultural, industrial, and natural history
- Support the development of civic leadership within the region



Approaches to Implementation

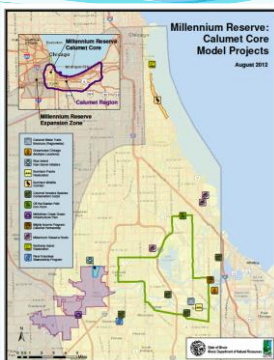
- Prioritize and refocus existing funding sources
- Improve communication network to facilitate funding opportunities
- Establish Public-Private Partnerships
- Seek non-traditional partners and funding sources
- Fund-raising campaigns
- Better utilize existing resources
- Raise profile of Initiative and Partners to attract funders

Progress Highlights

- Convened working groups to gather information on topics of ecology, community, and economy
- Selected 12 model projects in 2012
 - one way to recognize partners' outstanding efforts and tangible work that is happening right now
- IDNR developing a new vision statement
- Steering Committee established March 2013

Model Projects:

- Represent the scope and depth of Millennium Reserve, from small in scope and geography to large-scale and complex
- Achieve strategic goals and outcomes consistent with the Millennium Reserve vision and values



Millennium Reserve: Going Forward

- Steering Committee established by Governor Quinn
- Model Projects 2013 coming in summer 2013



Recreational Trails Workgroup

- Workgroups convene on as-needed basis to discuss projects
- Trails workgroup will be meeting in late March/early April
- To participate, send an email to Ania Ruszaj at ania.ruszaj@illinois.gov



Questions?

Millennium Reserve website:
<http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/millennium-reserve/Pages/default.aspx>

Contact:
 Ania Ruszaj
ania.ruszaj@illinois.gov
 312-814-6348