# **Expand and Improve Parks and Open Space**

Implementation Action Area #1: Coordinate Open Space Investment to Create a Connected Regional Green Infrastructure Network

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Prioritize	Federal	The forest preserve and conservation	Retain
direct land	government,	districts should adopt and	
protection	state (IDNR),	periodically update acquisition plans.	
within the	county forest	These acquisition plans should set	
green	preserve and	targets that are consistent with the	
infrastructure	conservation	overall objective of preserving 150,000	
network	districts, land	acres of land, two-thirds of it within	
	trusts	the green infrastructure network. The	
		plans should be oriented toward	
		protecting the areas most important	
		from a natural resources perspective.	
		Other things being equal, a parcel	
		within the GIV boundaries should	
		have substantially higher priority for	
		protection or restoration than a parcel	
		outside it. Furthermore, direct state	
		acquisitions should take into account	
		whether an acquisition opportunity is	
		within the green infrastructure	
		network.	

#### **Implementation Examples:**

- The Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) updated its <u>Land Acquisition Plan</u> in 2012 and relied in part on the Green Infrastructure Vision to inform its priorities.
- McHenry County developed a <u>Green Infrastructure Plan</u> in 2012 to guide conservation
  actions by a wide range of players in the county, including land management agencies,
  private land owners, and others. The development of the McHenry County plan
  included the McHenry County Division of Transportation, municipalities, townships,
  and park districts.
- In 2013, Governor Quinn <u>issued</u> an executive order creating the Millennium Reserve Steering Committee. Launched in 2011, the <u>Millennium Reserve</u> is an open space and conservation initiative stretching from downtown Chicago to Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. It includes the Calumet Core, a 220-square mile area focused on Lake Calumet on Chicago's south side and identified in the Green Infrastructure Vision.
- Released in March 2013, the <u>Liberty Prairie Reserve Master Plan</u> notes that appropriate locations for habitat expansion should consider the Green Infrastructure Network.

• Kane County is about to adopt the <u>2040 Green Infrastructure Map and Plan</u> as set out in the goals of the 2040 Plan. Kane County Forest Preserve District uses the 2040 Open Space Map adopted in the 2040 Plan to assist in prioritizing acquisitions.

## Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:



Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Include green	State (IDNR),	A replenished Open Land Trust	Retain
infrastructure	philanthropic	program should have a specific set-	
connectivity		aside, or at least a set number of	
in open space		points in a score-based system, to help	
grant		fill out the green infrastructure	
programs		network. Natural Areas Acquisition	
		Fund (NAAF) should continue to be	
		used as it is to acquire the most	
		important natural areas. Almost all of	
		the candidate properties for the	
		NAAF are likely within the GIV, but	
		location within the GIV per se should	
		not be a criterion. Open Space Lands	
		Acquisition and Development	
		(OSLAD) criteria should be revised to	
		assign points for connectivity with	
		other parks and protected open space.	
		Private foundations that fund open	
		space preservation should make	
		preservation of the green	
		infrastructure network part of their	
		prioritization metrics.	

# Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Prioritize	State (IDOT),	The new federal Transportation	Revise
development of	CMAP,	Alternatives program can be used	
greenway trails	counties,	for a number of eligible activities to	
with	municipalities	support non-motorized	
Transportation		transportation. CMAP is	
Alternatives/		responsible for programming some	
Enhancement		of these funds and should continue	
funds		to prioritize the development of	
		multi-use, off-street bicycle trails.	
		The state continues to administer	
		its Illinois Transportation	
		Enhancement. Program, which	
		should also prioritize the	
		development of greenway trails.	

- Since the publication of GO TO 2040, the Transportation Enhancement program has been replaced at the federal level by the Transportation Alternatives program (TAP), and large MPOs like CMAP now have the responsibility to program part of each state's TAP funding.
- In its FY 2013-14 Transportation Alternatives program development process, CMAP's evaluation criteria gave priority to projects identified in the Greenways and Trails Plan.
- The Illinois Transportation Enhancements Program has <u>provided</u> \$4.7 million to the Millennium Reserve project for new segments of the Cal-Sag Trail and Thorn Creek Trail, helping to create a 30-mile multiuse trail between Lemont and Burnham.

#### Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

 Needs to be changed slightly to reflect technical changes in TE program (now Transportation Alternatives): CMAP has programming authority, and a smaller number of project categories are eligible.

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Update Regional	CMAP, COGs	The Regional Greenways and	This is a potential
Greenways and		Trails Plan was first developed in	new implementation
Trails Plan		1992 and was last updated in 2009.	action.
		Given that significant progress has	
		been made on constructing the	
		trails in that plan and changed	
		conditions may suggest alternate	
		routes for some regional trails,	
		CMAP should undertake an	
		update to that plan so that it may	
		continue to guide decisions in	
		programming transportation	
		funds.	

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Refine the	State (IDNR,	The GIV provides a broad, qualitative	Revise
Green	INHS), CMAP,	identification of the lands that are most	
Infrastructure	CW	important to protect and restore. In 2011-	
Vision		12, CMAP collaborated with Chicago	
further		Wilderness to refine the Green	
		Infrastructure Vision ("GIV 2.0") using	
		the services of the national leader in	
		green infrastructure planning. A number	
		of scientific issues remain, however. The	
		GIV should be revisited on a regular	
		basis and improved with successive	
		versions to be sure it reflects regional	
		priorities and that it can be used	
		effectively to help guide action.	
		Additional emphasis should be placed	
		on already-developed areas of the	
		region, including the City of Chicago,	
		and on the potential contributions of	
		urban forestry. Finally, it is of the utmost	
		importance that resources be identified	
		through fine-scale land cover mapping	
		to provide the best possible information	
		for local development and infrastructure	
		planning.	

- In 2011-12, CMAP collaborated with Chicago Wilderness to refine the Green Infrastructure Vision ("GIV 2.0") using the services of the national leader in green infrastructure planning. The resulting data are available at <a href="http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/livability/open-space/green-infrastructure-vision">http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/livability/open-space/green-infrastructure-vision</a>.
- The GIV should be revisited on a regular basis and improved to be sure it reflects
  regional priorities and that it can be used effectively to help guide action, such as
  helping land managers decide among alternative conservation investments or helping
  municipalities shape development patterns through incorporation into their
  comprehensive plans.
- The <u>Kane County 2040 Green Infrastructure Plan</u>, published in 2013, expands on the mapping including in the "Open Space and Green Infrastructure" chapter of the Kane County 2040 plan. The <u>Kane County Planning Cooperative</u> will promote and assist in the development of local and municipal green infrastructure plans.
- In addition to the McHenry County Green Infrastructure Plan, adopted in 2012, the County is assisting the City of Woodstock and the Village of Lakewood with the creation of municipal-level green infrastructure plans.

# Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

• Note that GIV 2.0 product was developed in accordance with this action, but that Chicago Wilderness and the region need ongoing commitment to improving the GIV over time with periodic revisions and enhancements.



#### Implementation Action Area #2: Invest in the Establishment of New Parks in Developed Areas

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Foster	Municipalities,	Develop inter-local agreement	Revise
cooperation	park districts,	between the districts, followed by	
between park	school districts,	a planning study to determine land	
districts and	forest preserve	and facilities that could be used	
school districts	and	jointly to meet education and	
in dense areas	conservation	recreational needs, and then by	
to share use of	districts	specific improvements to meet	
open space		identified needs.	

#### **Implementation Examples:**

- The <u>City of Berwyn Comprehensive Plan</u>, developed through the LTA program in 2012, identifies needs for additional neighborhood parks, and it encourages meeting these needs partly through shared use of open space and recreational amenities with schools.
- The <u>Elmwood Park Comprehensive Plan</u>, another LTA project, recommends cooperation between the Village and school districts and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County to share, encourage, and enhance access to open space for Elmwood Park residents.
- In Fall 2013, the Gurnee School District 56 <u>demolished</u> the Gurnee Grade School, with the site to be transferred to the Gurnee Park District for use as soccer fields. The former school is located in the Des Plaines River floodplain.

#### Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

- This action remains a priority for CMAP and the region.
- Added "forest preserve and conservation districts" to list of Lead Implementers.

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Use innovative	Counties,	Redevelopment can be a major	Retain
financing and	municipalities,	opportunity to provide more park	
delivery	park districts	space for a community. Codes can	
mechanisms to		be altered to incentivize	
meet the need		developers to provide open space	
for more park		during redevelopment by	
space		providing density bonuses,	
		making reinvestment in existing	
		communities more attractive.	
		Furthermore, local governments	
		can ask developers to provide	
		connections to greenways or even	
		trail segments as part of	
		redevelopment. When	
		appropriate, they could also fund	
		park improvements through tax	
		increment financing, considering	
		that parks are known to have a	
		positive effect on the value of	
		nearby properties.	

- Several plans produced by the LTA program have tackled this issue.
  - The <u>City of Northlake Comprehensive Plan</u> recommends the creation of a new public plaza consisting of open space as a community gathering place in the middle of a mixed-use development, and also recommends the preservation of a nearby creek.
  - A subarea plan for the <u>Village of Carpentersville Old Town</u> recommended the creation of a large new open space greenway connecting an existing park to the Fox River and a new public open space area connecting to a regional trail system.
  - The <u>Old Joliet Prison Redevelopment Plan</u> recommends the conversion of hundreds of acres of state-owned prison property to a new public open space.
- In 2011, the Village of Schaumburg used TIF funding to help pay for the use of natural landscaping and permeable pavers in a new municipal parking lot at Olde Schaumburg Centre. Additionally, TIF funds helped to pay for pedestrian amenities at Olde Schaumburg Centre Park, including new sidewalk to meet ADA standards, along with ADA-compliant decking, overlooks, and bridge. That project also used permeable pavers as a more sustainable strategy.
- SB 1499, signed into law as Public Act 98-0281 on August 9, 2013, allows forest preserves to own and create forest preserves on land acquired through easements.
- In August 2013, the Cook County Forest Preserve District <u>established</u> the non-profit <u>Forest Preserve Foundation</u> to expand capacity through fundraising and in-kind

assistance. The Foundation is intended to support services that cannot be supported through existing tax revenues.

## Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:



Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Review land-	Counties,	Older communities should review	Revise
cash donation	municipalities,	their subdivision codes or land-	
ordinances	park districts	cash donation ordinances to make	
		sure open space donation	
		requirements or in-lieu fees apply	
		during redevelopment, that they	
		are at least 10 acres per 1,000	
		people (or at least 4 acres per 1,000	
		in dense areas), and that in-lieu fee	
		values reflect current land values.	
		Municipalities should work closely	
		with park districts in this regard;	
		higher donation requirements	
		coupled with higher allowable	
		densities will tend to encourage	
		compact development.	
		Communities expecting new	
		growth should review their	
		ordinances to ensure they provide	
		rules on land donation to ensure	
		land is well-located. It is also in the	
		public interest to allow developers	
		to donate land with natural	
		resource values, such as woods,	
		wetlands, and floodplains; park	
		districts should strongly consider	
		accepting these lands as part of the	
		donation and manage them as	
		passive recreational open space.	

## Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

- This action remains a priority for CMAP and the region.
- Added greater specificity on types on lands acceptable for donation.

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Encourage	Forest	Park and forest preserve districts	Retain
volunteerism	preserve and	should actively encourage the	
and non-	conservation	creation of conservancies and	
traditional	districts, park	partner with them to reduce the	
staffing	districts	cost burden of maintenance and	
		park programming while giving	
		more "ownership" to users.	

- The <u>Buffalo Creek Clean Water Partnership</u>, an effort to improve water quality and stormwater management for Buffalo Creek in northern Cook County and southern Lake County, includes extensive volunteer opportunities, including water quality sampling, habitat restoration, and wildlife monitoring.
- Kane County recently launched "Kane County Connected" website and Facebook pages to better connect residents with opportunities for involvement related to their interests.
- The Cook County Forest Preserve District works with many partners including Audubon Chicago Region, Friends of the Chicago River, and Friends of the Forest Preserves to expand the volunteer force with the development of a "Centennial" Network of Volunteers. It also partners with Chicago Green Corps to offer land management and job training for adults, and with Friends of the Forest Preserves and Audubon to provide internships for high school and college students.

#### Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

Action	<del>Lead</del>	<del>Specifies</del>	Retain/Revise/
	<b>Implementers</b>		Complete/Delete
<del>Make Open</del>	State (IDNR)	Local governments in the most	Complete
<del>Space Land</del>		<u>"under parked" areas will</u>	
Acquisition and		frequently find it most	
Development		challenging to provide the 50	
match		percent match required for	
requirements		OSLAD. The state should decrease	
<del>more equitable</del>		the match required in	
		communities with lower fiscal	
		<del>capacity, as measured (for</del>	
		example) by equalized assessed	
		value per capita.	

• <u>SB 1341</u> allows distressed communities to receive up to 90 percent (rather than the former 50 percent) for acquisition of land under OSLAD. That bill was signed into law as Public Act 98-0520 on August 23, 2013.

## Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

• This action has been implemented.

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Protect	CMAP, counties,	CMAP should assist local	Revise
sensitive	municipalities	governments with prioritization	
aquifer		of SARAs for protection as well	
recharge areas		as code and ordinance revisions	
(SARAs)		to ensure their protection.	

- As part of <u>Water 2050</u>, CMAP developed an initial identification of sensitive aquifer recharge areas based on an earlier effort in McHenry County. This initial work was incorporated into the green infrastructure mapping that CMAP developed in collaboration with Chicago Wilderness in 2011-12 (the Green Infrastructure Vision, available at <a href="http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/livability/open-space/green-infrastructure-vision">http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/livability/open-space/green-infrastructure-vision</a>).
- The City of Crystal Lake, City of Elgin, City of McHenry, Village of Oakwood Hills, and Village of Prairie Grove, all of which are within the Silver Creek, Sleepy Hollow Creek, and Ferson-Otter Creek watersheds, are all engaged in LTA projects to identify ways to incorporate the protection of sensitive groundwater recharge areas into municipal plans and ordinances.

#### Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

 Replaced with updated text from "Manage and Conserve Water and Energy Resources" chapter, which in turn was revised to emphasize the role of local governments in prioritizing and protecting SARAs.

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Encourage the	State (DCEO),	Use planning grant and technical	Revise
integration of	CMAP	assistance programs to aid	
resource		communities in incorporating	
conservation in		resource conservation in local	
land use		comprehensive planning and	
planning		continue to provide other tools,	
		resources, and assistance such as	
		model ordinances to communities.	

- The <u>Village of Campton Hills Comprehensive Plan</u>, an LTA project, recommends the preservation of open space within "conservation neighborhoods" as a strategy to preserve the open, rural character of the community and to protect natural resources.
- The <u>Village of Lakemoor Comprehensive Plan</u>, an LTA project, also recommends the preservation of open space within new residential development that coincides with green infrastructure areas.
- Chicago Wilderness's <u>Sustainable Watershed Action Team</u> has completed a number of green infrastructure plans:
  - Kane County
  - o McHenry County
  - Woodstock
  - o Bannockburn
  - Mettawa
  - Lincolnshire
  - Midlothian Creek
- Ongoing efforts at conservation in land use planning include the <u>Millennium Reserve</u> (36 communities) and <u>Des Plaines River Corridor</u> (13 communities).

#### Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

- This action remains a priority for CMAP and the region.
- Slight text revisions, including a greater emphasis on other planning tools.

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Implement	Counties,	Although it does not provide	Retain
"urban	municipalities,	recreational opportunities for the	
greening"	park districts	most part, providing more	
projects		extensive landscaping, tree cover,	
		etc. does make developed areas	
		more attractive and hence more	
		livable. It can help increase access	
		to open space and connect people	
		with nature. Municipalities should	
		build such practices into local	
		infrastructure projects they	
		undertake, such as street and	
		sidewalk reconstruction. They	
		should also review the potential to	
		include requirements for them in	
		new development through local	
		ordinances.	

- The <u>Green and Healthy Neighborhoods</u> LTA project recommends the integration of "urban greening" strategies in a number of South Side neighborhoods including Greater Englewood, Woodlawn, and Washington Park. Strategies include additional open space and the incorporation of stormwater management green infrastructure practices.
- The <u>Riverside Central Business District Plan</u>, an LTA project, recommends the use of stormwater management green infrastructure practices in local streetscaping projects to improve water quality and enhance the aesthetics of the Village's commercial streets.
- In 2013, the Village of Schaumburg <u>issued</u> a contract for a number of green infrastructure improvements at Terada Park, including the installation of native landscaping, peat-based bioswales, and an infiltration basin for stormwater recharge.
- The City of Blue Island is working to improve its <u>waterfront</u> along the Cal-Sag Channel.
   Efforts in Fall 2013 include a number of placemaking sessions along the waterfront and a
   town hall meeting. This work follows the recent lease of 130 acres from the Metropolitan
   Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. It also coincides with the development of
   the <u>Cal-Sag Trail</u>, an east-west connector envisioned between Lemont and the Burnham
   Greenway.
- The Village of Midlothian used green infrastructure mapping from Chicago Wilderness Sustainable Watershed Action Team (CW SWAT) process to apply for an Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant (IGIG) and received the grant in Fall 2013. South Suburban College used green infrastructure mapping from CW SWAT process to apply for an IGIG and received the grant in Fall 2013.
- In October 2013, the City of Chicago <u>announced</u> \$50 million in funding to support water and sewer system upgrades over the next five years. This Green Stormwater

Infrastructure Strategy Initiative will promote sustainable practices such as the use of permeable pavement and bioswales in streetscape and sewer infrastructure projects.

## Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:



Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Implement	Municipalities,	In some cases, it will be more	Revise
urban farms	park districts	appropriate to utilize available	
and community		urban land for food production,1	
gardens		rather than for recreational parks.	
		This will depend on local interests	
		and the current availability of	
		either type of land. Urban farming	
		and community gardening have	
		become increasingly important, as	
		they satisfy a consumer preference	
		for locally grown food, reduce food	
		transportation costs, and provide a	
		number of other benefits.	

- The <u>Fairmont Neighborhood Plan</u> LTA project recommends the creation of community gardens. Since the adoption of this plan, a community garden was created this past summer. Openlands is also working with the Fairmont School to create another community garden at the school.
- The <u>Green and Healthy Neighborhoods</u> LTA project recommends the integration of three urban agriculture districts into a number of South Side neighborhoods including Greater Englewood, Woodlawn, and Washington Park as catalysts for redevelopment, to improve food access, and to increase local food production.
- The "<u>Talking Farm</u>," established on Howard Street in Evanston in 2011, is a non-profit urban farm that provides educational opportunities for the community.
- HB 2335, signed into law as Public Act 98-0239 on August 9, 2013, allows compost piles
  of up to 25 cubic yards to be exempt from permit requirements and removes limits to
  certain Chicago permitted facilities. The bill also allows for on-farm composting
  exemptions to urban/suburban areas on up to two percent of their property with
  materials brought off site.
- On October 15, 2013, the McHenry County Board <u>adopted</u> "County Land, County Food: McHenry County Local Food Assessment and Recommendations," which provides policy and action initiatives to promote a successful local food system in McHenry County.
- Kane County just passed a local food ordinance and program, "Growing for Kane," after completing an extensive <u>Health Impact Assessment</u>.
- Kane County and the Making Kane County Fit for Kids program have promoted and provided funding for a large expansion in community gardens, with over 500 news plots established since 2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See the *GO TO* 2040 section titled Promote Sustainable Food.

# Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

- This action remains a priority for CMAP and the region.
- Slight text revision to replace "farming" with "food production".



# Implementation Action Area #3: Harmonize Actions by State and Local Government with Natural Resource Protection

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Adopt	Counties,	The most important thing a local	Revise
progressive	municipalities	government can do to protect open	
conservation		space is to plan for livability. <sup>2</sup> This	
design		will reduce overall land	
ordinances		consumption. Some development	
		will continue to occur within the	
		green infrastructure network,	
		however. Regardless of whether or	
		not new development occurs in the	
		Green Infrastructure Network, local	
		governments should require or at	
		least encourage conservation design,	
		resulting in the legal protection of a	
		significant portion of the site	
		through a conservation easement.	
		The protected areas should be fully	
		accessible to the public and linked to	
		any offsite trails. Conservation	
		design should produce site yields	
		equal to or greater than allowable	
		with the underlying zoning, so that	
		gross density does not change. Local	
		governments should adopt a	
		conservation design ordinance	
		based from the Conservation Design	
		Resource Manual to make it a by-right	
		form of development. Some	
		consideration should be given to	
		having conservation design	
		requirements apply automatically	
		on sites containing important	
		natural resources, as identified in a	
		local comprehensive plan. A	
		funding source and requirements for	
		the management of common open	
		space must be part of the	
		development approval process.	

<sup>2</sup> See the GO TO 2040 section titled "Achieve Greater Livability through Land Use and Housing".

- Numerous <u>watershed plans</u> developed by CMAP and partners, including plans for Hickory Creek, Blackberry Creek, Ferson-Otter Creek and others, have reviewed ordinances and recommend updates to better incorporate conservation design strategies into land use controls.
- In 2013, Chicago Wilderness worked with Bannockburn, Mettawa, and Lincolnshire to revise their <u>development ordinances</u> as part of a larger green infrastructure planning effort. This review of municipal ordinances suggested revisions to remove impediments to green infrastructure practices.
- McHenry County's existing conservation design ordinance is being incorporated into its
   <u>Unified Development Ordinance</u>. Conservation design will remain mandatory on sites
   that contain or are adjacent to certain environmental resources. The ordinance is being
   revised to remove density bonuses.
- Since 2010, Will County's <u>Subdivision Ordinance</u> has conservation design mechanisms built into the development process as optional elements.

#### Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

• Consider revising the "Specifics" text to clarify that conservation design is a good idea whether or not the development is within a green infrastructure area.

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Emphasize the	Counties,	As part of its comprehensive plan,	Retain
protection of the	municipalities	a municipality should (in	
green		collaboration with the park district)	
infrastructure		specifically identify areas preferred	
network in local		to serve as parks, greenways, and	
comprehensive		natural areas. These areas should	
plans		be zoned as such in accordance	
		with the municipality's	
		comprehensive plan.	

- The <u>Village of Lakemoor Comprehensive Plan</u>, an LTA project, recommends the preservation of open space within new residential development that coincides with green infrastructure areas.
- Comprehensive plans for <u>Addison</u>, <u>Alsip</u>, <u>Blue Island</u>, <u>Norridge</u>, and <u>Northlake</u>, all LTA projects, include recommendations that have been crafted with assistance from their Parks Departments/Districts to identify where new parks and open space is desired.
- The <u>Kane County Green Infrastructure Plan</u> will be incorporated into the 2040 Comprehensive Plan as the green infrastructure chapter.
- The Village of Orland Park's 2013 Comprehensive Plan includes an Open Space chapter.

#### Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers	_	Complete/Delete
Protect natural	Federal (U.S.	One way of maximizing resources	Revise
resources in	ACE), state	for preservation and restoration	
transportation	(IDOT,	within the green infrastructure	
corridors and	Tollway),	network is to stipulate that	
focus	CMAP, forest	compensatory wetland mitigation	
compensatory	preserve and	required under federal or local	
mitigation into	conservation	ordinances occur within that	
the green	districts	network, but still focused within the	
infrastructure		watershed where the impact	
network		occurred. Requiring mitigation in	
		this predefined area could help	
		resolve the problem that entities	
		required to do mitigation are often	
		pressed to find a land management	
		agency willing to take ownership	
		and management responsibilities for	
		the wetlands. It remains important to	
		adhere to a sequence of avoiding and	
		minimizing wetland impacts before	
		utilizing compensatory mitigation.	
		Furthermore, transportation agencies	
		should use advanced design	
		techniques to protect resources in	
		project corridors, such as those	
		spelled out in the I-LAST (Illinois –	
		Livable and Sustainable	
		Transportation) manual developed	
		by IDOT, the Federal Highway	
		Administration's INVEST system, or	
		the Greenroads rating system.	

- In 2013, CMAP prepared "Policies to Encourage the Preservation of Regional Green Infrastructure in Northeastern Illinois" to explore in more detail how agencies can protect natural resources in transportation corridors and focus compensatory mitigation into the green infrastructure network.
- CMAP is working on an <u>LTA project</u> in partnership with the Illinois Tollway and Lake County on a multi-jurisdictional land use plan for the Route 53/120 corridor, which will examine green infrastructure resources and develop mitigating strategies to minimize impacts of land use change that may occur if the facility is built.

# Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

• Consider adding references to Greenroads or INVEST or similar sustainable highway design rating systems.



Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Limit urban	State (IEPA,	State and local governments fund	Revise
infrastructure	IDOT),	and construct infrastructure such as	
expansion	CMAP,	roads and sewers, which play a role	
within the green	municipalities	in supporting and encouraging land	
infrastructure		development. As such, local	
network		governments and the state should	
		attend to whether these investments	
		will negatively impact the regional	
		green infrastructure network	
		identified in the GIV.	

• CMAP is currently working to revise the process it uses to review applications for new or expanded wastewater treatment plants, and the current draft of its procedures manual calls for applicants to adopt measures to protect green infrastructure identified in the Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision.

#### Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

- Revise the "Specifics" text to make this action more generic and not reference the FPA process.
- Revised text to describe why expanding infrastructure in sensitive areas is undesirable.

# Implementation Action Area #4: Increase Funding to Achieve the Level of Park Provision and Land Conservation

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers	-	Complete/Delete
Secure additional dedicated state open space funding		State funding for land acquisition, recreational facility development, and state park operations have declined significantly in the past few years. While a state capital bill was passed in 2009, more significant and stable funding is needed to replenish the state's Open Land Trust account. A set-aside specifically for acquisitions within the GIV and for parks programming in northeastern Illinois would be ideal. The Illinois General Assembly created a \$2 motor vehicle registration surcharge to support IDNR's conservation efforts, effective January 2013. However, it did not provide much money for	
		additional conservation – the funds are mostly for IDNR operations – and did not replenish the Open	
		Land Trust account.	

#### **Implementation Examples:**

- The Illinois General Assembly passed SB 1566 to create a \$2 motor vehicle surcharge to support IDNR's conservation efforts. SB 1566 was signed into law as Public Act <u>97-1136</u>.
- The <u>Chi-Cal Rivers Fund</u> is a new grant opportunity focused on river restoration projects in the Chicago and Calumet region. It was established by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in partnership with various public and philanthropic organizations. Approximately \$1.1 million was available through the 2013 <u>request for proposals</u>.

#### Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

 Note that Public Act 97-1136 was passed but that it did not provide much money for additional conservation – the funds are mostly for IDNR operations – and did not replenish the Open Land Trust account.

Action	Lead	<del>Specifics</del>	Retain/Revise/ Complete/Delete
	<del>Implementers</del>		Complete/Delete
Stop diverting	State (General	Despite the dedicated revenue	<del>Delete</del>
revenue from	Assembly,	stream, OSLAD and NAAF have	
<del>Illinois</del>	<del>IDNR)</del>	been significantly underfunded in	
Department of		recent years. In some years, IDNR	
<del>Natural</del>		has spent less than half of OSLAD	
Resources		and NAAF funds, with the	
programs		remainder raided for other state	
		budgetary priorities.3 IDNR had	
		\$60 million less in funding in 2006	
		compared to four years earlier.	
		Diverting Illinois Real Estate	
		Transfer Tax (RETT) funds and	
		raiding the IDNR budget for other	
		state priorities must cease.	

# Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

• Delete to reflect recent state budgets.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Illinois Environmental Council Education Fund, Illinois State Land Conservation Funding, 2007. See <a href="http://img.ilenviro.org/attachments/2007ISLCF">http://img.ilenviro.org/attachments/2007ISLCF</a> report.pdf.

Action	Lead Implementers	Specifics	Retain/Revise/ Complete/Delete
Increase	State (General	Private land conservation activities	Revise
involvement by	Assembly),	must play an increasingly	
private	federal	important role in northeastern	
landowners and	(Congress)	Illinois, but the state should	
land trusts in		provide incentives to encourage	
conservation		this, such as a state income tax	
activities		credit for the donation of a	
		conservation easement.4 A	
		conservation easement tax credit in	
		Illinois would incentivize	
		permanent protection of important	
		lands while keeping them in	
		private ownership. Federal tax	
		incentives should be strengthened	
		and extended. These actions could	
		help encourage people to donate	
		easements.	

- In 2012, CMAP prepared an <u>analysis</u> of the revenue potential of a conservation easement tax credit in Illinois, similar to the programs found in a number of other states. Such a tax credit would incentivize permanent protection of important lands while keeping them in private ownership.
- In 2013, SB 1042 was passed and signed into law as Public Act <u>98-0522</u>, providing liability protection for private owners who open their land for recreation and conservation-related activities.

#### Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

 Delete liability protection portion. Revised to include discussion of a conservation easement tax credit.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> As an example, the state currently reduces real estate taxes on qualifying land enrolled in an Illinois Nature Preserves Commission program.

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Build capacity in	Land Trust	To help them fulfill their important	Retain
private	Alliance, CW,	role in regional conservation,	
conservation	Openlands,	additional technical and	
organizations	and others	administrative capacity needs to be	
		built up at land trusts. This could	
		entail training in real estate	
		instruments, finance, and land	
		management, among other areas.	

# Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Support direct	Federal	Some of the biggest hubs or	Revise
federal	(Congress,	"macrosites" in the region are based	
investment in	U.S. FS)	on land protected by the federal	
open space		government. Direct federal	
		investment in open space in the	
		region is an important form of	
		funding that could be expanded; the	
		federal government should take on a	
		more significant role in open space	
		protection in the region. This could	
		happen through the transfer of	
		appropriate surplus federal property	
		for open space uses, as happened at	
		Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie	
		and Fort Sheridan. It could also	
		occur through the formation of	
		national wildlife refuges, such as the	
		new Hackmatack National Wildlife	
		Refuge. Organizations in the region	
		should support these opportunities	
		as they arise.	

After a feasibility study by the Fish and Wildlife Service, the <u>Hackmatack National</u>
 <u>Wildlife Refuge</u> was formally established in 2012. Numerous public and private nonprofit partners have been involved in the bi-state refuge's creation, and they will
continue to fill out the land protected within the refuge boundary.

### Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

 Reference potential for federal involvement via national wildlife refuges such as Hackmatack.

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Increase	Federal	The federal Urban Park and	Retain
funding for	(Congress)	Recreation Recovery (UPARR)	
federal open		program has not been funded since	
space grant		2002. It is the only federal program	
programs		specifically for constructing and	
		rehabilitating local parks, and has	
		been in place for more than three	
		decades. The state portion of the	
		Land and Water Conservation Fund	
		has seen very limited budgetary	
		authorization in recent years.	

## Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

# Implementation Action Area #5: Treat Management Needs as an Important Part of Landscape Preservation

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Restore open	Forest	From an environmental viewpoint,	Retain
space within the	preserve and	the central purposes of protecting	
green	conservation	the green infrastructure network	
infrastructure	districts, land	are to protect water resources and	
network to	trusts, state	to preserve biodiversity within the	
natural land	(IDNR),	region. Ecosystem restoration,	
cover and	utilities	which often depends on at least	
hydrology and		partial reversal of hydrologic	
commit to long-		modifications, must be a major	
term		activity within the green	
management		infrastructure network. Local park	
		sites are successfully being	
		redesigned to include smaller green	
		infrastructure practices for	
		stormwater management; this is an	
		important role they can play in the	
		future in addition to providing	
		recreation opportunities. Lands that	
		are not protected open space per se	
		are also candidates for	
		management as green	
		infrastructure. For instance, utility	
		companies should make additional	
		effort to put right-of-way into	
		natural land cover.	

## **Implementation Examples:**

- CMAP is working on an LTA project with the Village of Antioch to create a <u>Lifestyle Corridor Plan</u>, a multi-use path that generally follows Sequoit Creek through Village parks and open spaces. The recommends the creek be restored and managed in a natural state.
- In its updated conservation design ordinance, CMAP is considering provisions for stewardship plans with performance monitoring and long-term management requirements.
- The Forest Preserve District of Cook County is working with Openlands and Metropolis Strategies to develop a "Next Century Conservation Plan," which includes a vision to restore the majority of Forest Preserve land.

#### Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Devise and	State (INHS,	It is not yet clear which areas are	Retain
commit to a	IDNR),	most important for restoration from	
system to	CMAP, forest	a region-wide standpoint. CW or	
prioritize	preserve and	other partners, such as the Illinois	
restoration	conservation	Natural History Survey (INHS),	
needs based	districts,	should develop or simply adapt a	
on regional	nonprofits	system to rank natural areas by the	
criteria		viability and importance of	
		restoring them. Restoration projects	
		by organizations in the region	
		should then be based on these	
		priorities, as should external	
		funding for restoration projects.	
		Standardization of collection and	
		sharing of data on restoration	
		success should be encouraged as	
		part of this system.	

CMAP and Chicago Wilderness collaborated in 2011-12 to update the Green
 Infrastructure Vision, which was used on GO TO 2040 to identify the most important
 lands to protect and restore. This update helps identify restoration opportunities at a
 regional level, but more work is needed by land managers to validate the priorities
 identified by the tool.

#### Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Consider	Forest	Although the long-term goal is to	Revise
preservation of	preserve and	restore land within the green	
agricultural	conservation	infrastructure network to natural	
land as a	districts,	land cover, it is important to	
component of	counties, land	consider and preserve farmland as	
and/or a	trusts	a part of, a complementary land use	
complementary		to, or an important buffer to the	
land use to the		green infrastructure network.	
green		Agricultural operations taking	
infrastructure		place on preserved agricultural	
network		land should be done in accordance	
		with a conservation plan approved	
		by the forest preserve, conservation	
		district, or land trust. Some	
		agricultural operations, such as	
		food production, organic,	
		biologically-based, and other	
		sustainable operations provide	
		benefits that are consistent with	
		and complementary to land and	
		water conservation goals, and	
		should be considered as desirable	
		uses in or adjacent to the green	
		infrastructure network.	

- CMAP has been working with Lake County stakeholders on LTA projects to encourage
  the consideration of agricultural land for its food production potential and as an
  important asset within the green infrastructure network for the county.
- The Kane County 2040 Plan introduces three new land use categories, including "Protected Agriculture/Limited Development." That classification applies to land that has been approved by the Kane County Board for a unique conservation development in a working farm setting. It allows for clustering of development on a portion of the land while permanently protecting the remainder for agriculture and open space. Agricultural lands are dedicated as permanent easements under the County's Farmland Protection Program.

#### Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment:

- This action remains a priority for CMAP and the region.
- Revised to reframe this entire action to consider farmland as an important component of the region's green infrastructure system, or at least as a desirable interim and adjacent use. Certain practices are much more complementary to adjacent natural areas.
- Removed reference to tax implications, which are discussed in a later action.

Action	Lead	Specifics	Retain/Revise/
	Implementers		Complete/Delete
Support efforts	State (General	Re-evaluate statutory restrictions	Retain
to provide	Assembly),	on the ability of park districts and	
adequate	CMAP,	forest preserve and conservation	
operating	nonprofits	districts to raise property taxes to	
budgets for	_	manage lands they acquire.	
implementing		Consider inclusion of funds for	
agencies		management in open space	
-		referenda. Estimate financial needs	
		for restoration work in the region.	

# Rationale for Retain/Revise/Complete/Delete Assessment: