

Statement of the Board of the Calumet Heritage Partnership

The governing board of the Calumet Heritage Partnership unanimously agreed at its regular meeting on February 9, 2012 to join with other organizations in expressing its opposition to the construction of a Chicago Police Department firing range on Metropolitan Water Reclamation District land along the Calumet River. The board concluded that a firing range is inconsistent with ongoing work to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of the Calumet region.

Efforts to improve the quality of life in the Calumet region by building on the assets of its natural and cultural heritage date back over 30 years, beginning with the formation of the Lake Calumet Study Committee (1980). Other initiatives followed, including the Calumet Ecological Park Feasibility Study (1998, National Park Service), the formation of the Lake Calumet Ecosystem Partnership (1999, Illinois Department of Natural Resources), the designation of the Calumet Open Space Preserve (2000, City of Chicago), and most recently the designated Millennium Reserve (State of Illinois). The proposed firing range would be a major setback to the progress that has been made.

The Calumet Heritage Partnership is a diverse bi-state (Indiana and Illinois) non-profit coalition of environmental, cultural and historical organizations, community residents, libraries, educational institutions, municipalities, and government agencies. Its mission is to identify, preserve, protect, and reclaim the natural, historical, cultural and recreational treasures of the Calumet Region.