



2015 CALUMET SUMMIT

Advancing Our Shared Agenda



Calumet Stewardship Initiative



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Calumet Region is the name given to the geographic areas drained by the Grand Calumet River and the Little Calumet River of northwestern Indiana in the United States including the northern parts of Lake and Porter counties and the western portion of La Porte county in Indiana, as well as the easternmost counties of northern Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago has long benefitted from its storied place in and proximity to the greater Calumet Region; and

WHEREAS, the Calumet Region – home to many cities and towns filled with environmental treasures, living history, and vibrant traditions – has maintained indelible influence upon culture, industry, education, and community for generations of residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, a coalition focused on spurring, shepherding and sustaining fulfilling relationships between people and nature around the Region, the Calumet Stewardship Initiative (CSI) unites more than 40 member organizations including local, state, and federal agencies as well as large conservation organizations, cultural and education institutions, volunteer groups, municipalities, corporations, and faith-based groups for involved advocacy and active collaboration; and

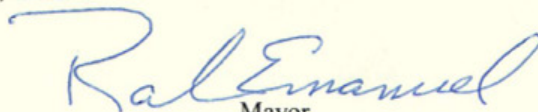
WHEREAS, CSI will assemble more than 200 researchers, educators, public officials, and other stakeholders from across the bi-state Calumet Region for *Calumet Summit 2015: Advancing our Shared Agenda*; and

WHEREAS, the Summit aims to shed light upon the distinguished history and current profile of the Calumet Region while building an extensive network of its people and places and engaging stakeholders to advance environmental education and restoration, tourism and travel, and regional culture and identity; and

WHEREAS, a cohesive effort on the part of the Calumet Stewardship Initiative and a great many organizations with collaboration from the Chicago Park District and The Field Museum, *Calumet Summit 2015: Advancing our Shared Agenda* will take place in Chicago, Illinois at the historic South Shore Cultural Center from May 12-13, 2015:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAHM EMANUEL, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby extend heartfelt greetings to all gathered here today, and proclaim May 12-13, 2015 to be CALUMET SUMMIT DAYS IN CHICAGO in recognition of this visionary event and in sincere appreciation of your continued work in uplifting and fortifying one of the world's most diverse landscapes.

Dated this 11th day of May, 2015.


Mayor



The 2015 Summit was held in the elegant solarium of Chicago's South Shore Cultural Center, a site which is both a Chicago Landmark and on the National Register of Historic Places—a fitting environment to identify possible themes for a national heritage designation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Calumet Summit 2015: *Advancing Our Shared Agenda*, was organized by the Calumet Stewardship Initiative (CSI). Thank you to all members of CSI who supported and helped plan this event. The Summit Planning Committee framed the concept and guided development of the agenda. Special thanks are due to speakers, presenters, and Summit coordinators. For their valuable support, a huge thank you to our sponsors.



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The **Field**
Museum

DUNES
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Center

2015 Summit Planning Committee

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Media Coverage of the 2015 Summit

Media coverage helped to share Summit successes and build awareness for Summit goals. The Times of Northwest Indiana ran a story entitled “*Connecting Calumet Region Focus of Two-Day Summit*”, which highlighted the connections being made within and across the Calumet region. The article praised the collaboration already being developed between Calumet partners at the Field Museum, the Dunes Learning Center, and the Shirley Heinze Land Trust, in particular featuring the in-school environmental education program made possible through a grant provided by ArcelorMittal.

[www.nwitimes.com/news/local/illinois/connecting-calumet-region-focus-of-two-day-summit/
article_4764d125-29ea-5973-8142-010f80c8c7e0.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/illinois/connecting-calumet-region-focus-of-two-day-summit/article_4764d125-29ea-5973-8142-010f80c8c7e0.html)

WBEZ’s Morning Shift ran a segment on the Summit, entitled “*Calumet region meets to talk about environmental impacts*”, and discussed the bi-state region and its goals for a National Heritage Area. The audio link can be found below.

<https://soundcloud.com/morningshiftwbez/calumet-region-meets-to-talk>

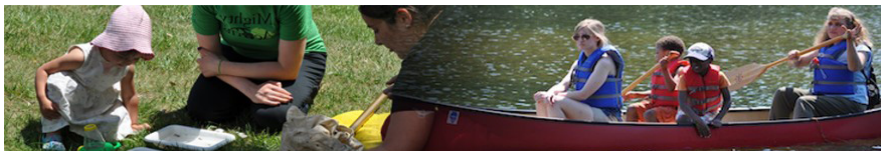
CALUMET STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

The Calumet Stewardship Initiative (CSI) is a coalition that promotes a sustainable relationship between people and nature in the Calumet Region of northwest Indiana and northeast Illinois.

CSI envisions a Calumet Region marked by vibrant communities and cultures, healthy natural areas, and a strong local economy.

Grown from a handful of organizations working on the southeast side of Chicago in the late 1990s, CSI is a region-wide collaborative with over 40 members, including local, state and federal agencies, large conservation organizations, cultural and educational institutions, volunteer groups, municipalities, corporations, and faith-based groups.

CSI members collectively work together to cultivate lifelong stewardship and advocacy for the protection of nature and quality of life in our region through land stewardship, environmental education, and recreation.



CALUMET
STEWARDSHIP
INITIATIVE

<http://calumetstewardship.org/>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For two days, 188 people representing a wide range of environmental expertise from Indiana and Illinois gathered at the South Shore Cultural Center to exchange knowledge, engage in dialogue, and identify common areas of interest for the Calumet Region.

The aim of the 2015 Calumet Summit, *Advancing Our Shared Agenda*, was to make connections between people and places by: Telling the story of the Calumet Region, focusing on its current status relative to where it has been and where it may go in the future; Building a strong network of people and places throughout the Calumet Region; and Engaging a broader group of stakeholders to develop and advance our shared agenda for the region.

To create dialogue and highlight work in the bi-state Calumet Region, the two-day summit had four focus areas: ***environmental education, outdoor recreation, stewardship, and regional identity***. These focus areas, which were developed with input from members of the Calumet Stewardship Initiative and the Summit Planning Committee, were used to garner input and ideas on gaps in our environmental work and how to fill them, and to help meet priorities identified by regional partners such as the Calumet Heritage Partnership, Millennium Reserve and Chicago Wilderness.

The conversations summarized here reflect these aims and lay the groundwork to advance a shared regional agenda across the four broad focus areas.

Education

Long-term goal: Ensure that every child in the Calumet Region is connected to their local, natural environment.

Experts Recommended:

- Getting out of the classroom!
- Making the connection to science
- Building partnerships
- Making new connections
- Connecting to the community

Participants Recommended:

1. **Linking with other groups to work toward common goals** including transit providers, older people, religious groups, groups like the Southeast Environmental Task Force, and 'green' industry.
2. **School-led partnerships** through larger school districts, colleges and universities to connect to identify gaps in environmental education, community, partner on projects and seek funding.
3. **Partnering to expand funding** including with Health Care Providers and insurance; Tourism Departments and Chambers of Commerce; and organizations like Rotaries/Elks/Lions Clubs.
4. **Active activity that works** to get kids out so they can have 'natural fun' learning about nature while also doing something healthy like kayaking, hiking, or biking.
5. **Expanding programming to reach a broader audience** including African American and Latino kids; new immigrants; kids with special needs (e.g. autism); people with accessibility needs and / or who are aging; and adults including opportunities for life-long learning and stewardship.

Recreation

Long-term goal: Develop a vision of outdoor recreation that encourages visitation, physical activity and interaction with nature in the open spaces and on the trails within the Calumet Region.

Experts Recommended:

- Increase non-motorized activity
- Connect water and land
- Blend stewardship and recreation
- Get on the water
- Make new connections

Participants Recommended:

1. **Transit and wayfinding** to make these valued recreation areas more accessible to all people (e.g. cohesive signage, transit to connect nature and heritage sites).
2. **Strategies to make recreational activities accessible** to all in the Calumet through geographical distribution and outreach to populations what area being excluded for whatever reason.
3. **Centralized Information** to help solidify a regional identity and provide a shared space for recreational news and developments in both Indiana and Illinois.
4. **Trail connectivity and integration** to bring together recreation sites as part of a regional system--connected in both tangible and non-tangible ways to benefit the community.

Stewardship

Long-term goal: Develop a stewardship model for bi-state Calumet that includes measures of success for both ecosystem restoration and volunteer engagement.

Experts Recommended:

- Divide areas into sensitive and non-sensitive
- Allow opportunities for volunteers to travel around the region and make connections
- Promote micro-stewardship to allow volunteers to find smaller project to take charge
- Have more site stewards
- Communicate--with volunteers, ecologists, community

Participants Recommended:

1. **Partnerships of different types** (e.g. region-wide, inter-agency, new stakeholders)
2. **Outreach and engagement** using different strategies (e.g. volunteer opportunity clearinghouse, workshops, community service, social media, tapping industry employees)
3. **Innovation** such as new metrics to show outcomes, eco-tourism weekends at the Dunes, cooperative weed management, pre-work and educational hikes, using high school and college clubs to do projects.
4. **Connecting stewardship to health** (e.g. yoga followed by volunteering, monitoring calories burned).
5. **Education and training** that can help volunteers track findings, engage volunteers in early detection efforts, employ citizen science to develop skills, and utilize non-traditional skills (e.g., GIS).

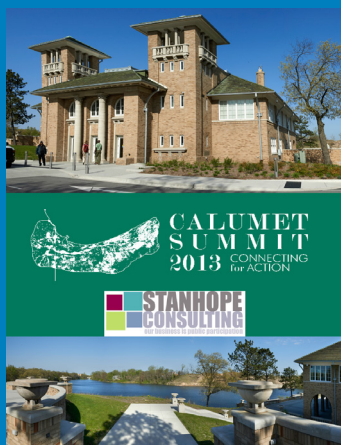
Natural Heritage

Long-term goal: Designate the Calumet Region a National Heritage Area

Experts provided lessons learned from other sites' experience and updates on progress made by the Calumet Heritage Partnership toward this goal.

Participants discussed several strong themes that build upon a notable past and connect to the innovative and productive future of the region. This included development of the railroad, steel production, African American heritage, worker unions, and the Pullman Historical designation. All agreed that the long arch of strong stewardship of a unique environment with regional connectivity linking assets via trails, waterways, and natural corridors was key in seeking National Heritage Area designation.

The ideas and maps contained here are just the beginning. The next step is finding common ground within and across these focus areas. There is great potential for synergy. Looking across the four focus areas, there are clear sites in the Calumet Region that present opportunities to connect environmental education, outdoor recreation, stewardship and regional identity and advance a shared agenda.



2013's Calumet Summit, *Connecting for Action*, was held in Gary, Indiana at the newly restored Marquette Park Pavilion. It furthered bi-state partnerships by connecting people from across the Calumet to discuss:

- Natural Resources Planning & Visioning
- Land & Water Conservation and Stewardship
- Green Infrastructure Implementation
- Education & Community Engagement
- Trails, Trains & Automobiles: Connecting People to Action

BACKGROUND

The 2015 Calumet Summit builds upon themes from previous summits. Less focused on the science of preservation and environmental stewardship in the region, the intent was to further develop these themes in order to build a bi-state action-oriented agenda for environmental work. Here is a quick review of the history of the Calumet Summit.

May 2000

The first 'Calumet Research Summit' convened at Olive-Harvey College to build the knowledge base needed to help practitioners and the public interested in cleaning up and restoring the region, focusing on the wetlands of southeast Chicago. The two-day summit included panels on: 'How Clean is Clean?', 'Hydrology and Water Quality,' 'Things that Move,' 'Vegetation,' 'Social Implications,' and 'Methods of Cleanup.'

January 2006

The second summit focused on the same basic topics, however it was a longer program with a larger audience due to a growing body of stakeholders wanting to meet and to learn from one another. Significantly, the summit was held at Purdue University Calumet in Hammond, Indiana, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources joined the Summit Advisory Group.

Proceedings from the 2006 Summit are available at:
<http://csu.edu/cerc/researchreports/calumetregion.htm>

April 2010

Purdue hosted "Calumet Summit 2010: A Call to Connect". Connecting included 'place to place,' 'people to place,' 'people to people,' and 'past to future,' which broadened the spectrum of stakeholders in attendance. While still important, research was not the only focus. Participants felt that the summit filled a much needed demand for bi-state collaboration and conversation, and recommended hosting them more frequently.

Proceedings from the 2010 Summit are available at:
<http://csu.edu/cerc/calumetsummit2010.htm>

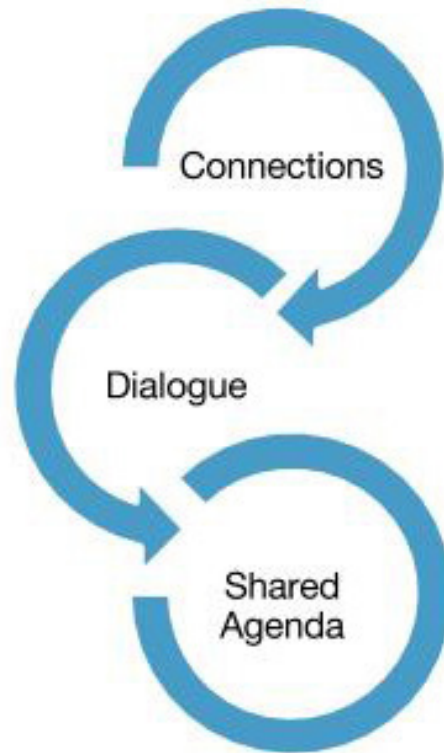
INTRODUCTION

*The aim of the 2015 Calumet Summit, **Advancing our Shared Agenda**, was to make connections between people and places by:*

- **Telling the story of the Calumet Region**, focusing on its current status relative to where it has been and where it may go in the future.
- **Building a strong network of people and places** throughout the Calumet Region.
- **Engaging a broader group of stakeholders** to develop and advance our shared agenda for the region.

To create dialogue and highlight work in the bi-state Calumet Region, the two-day summit had four focus areas: **environmental education, outdoor recreation, stewardship, and regional identity.**

These focus areas, which were developed with input from members of the Calumet Stewardship Initiative and the Summit Planning Committee, were used to garner input and ideas on gaps in our regional environmental work and how to fill them, and to help meet priorities identified by regional partners such as the Calumet Heritage Partnership, Millennium Reserve, and Chicago Wilderness.



The 2015 Summit provided the space to make connections and identify potential directions to collectively work together within and across these four focus areas. The results of these conversations are captured in this report.

Based in shared knowledge from experts and interactive panel discussions, the conversations summarized here lay the groundwork for both existing and future activities and activism that will advance a shared regional agenda.

How these ideas can become action, and which projects will be priorities for residents, visitors, and activists in our region is the next step in the process.

2 Days

188 People

36 Speakers

17 Tables

...and a lot of maps!

DEVELOPING A SHARED AGENDA

With 188 people present and 102 different organizations represented, there are many different agendas already being pursued in the region.

To move toward a common agenda, the Summit was designed to allow all attending to participate collectively in gaining knowledge and new information through subject matter presentations and panel discussions with experts on each theme. This helped participants to get on the same page before the small table discussions.

For the table conversations, participants were given direction to use what they have learned as well as their own knowledge of the region to answer a set of questions relevant to the theme. Using large scale maps generously created by the Field Museum, each table identified gaps and opportunities and then made recommendations including any “quick wins” that can benefit the Calumet Region.



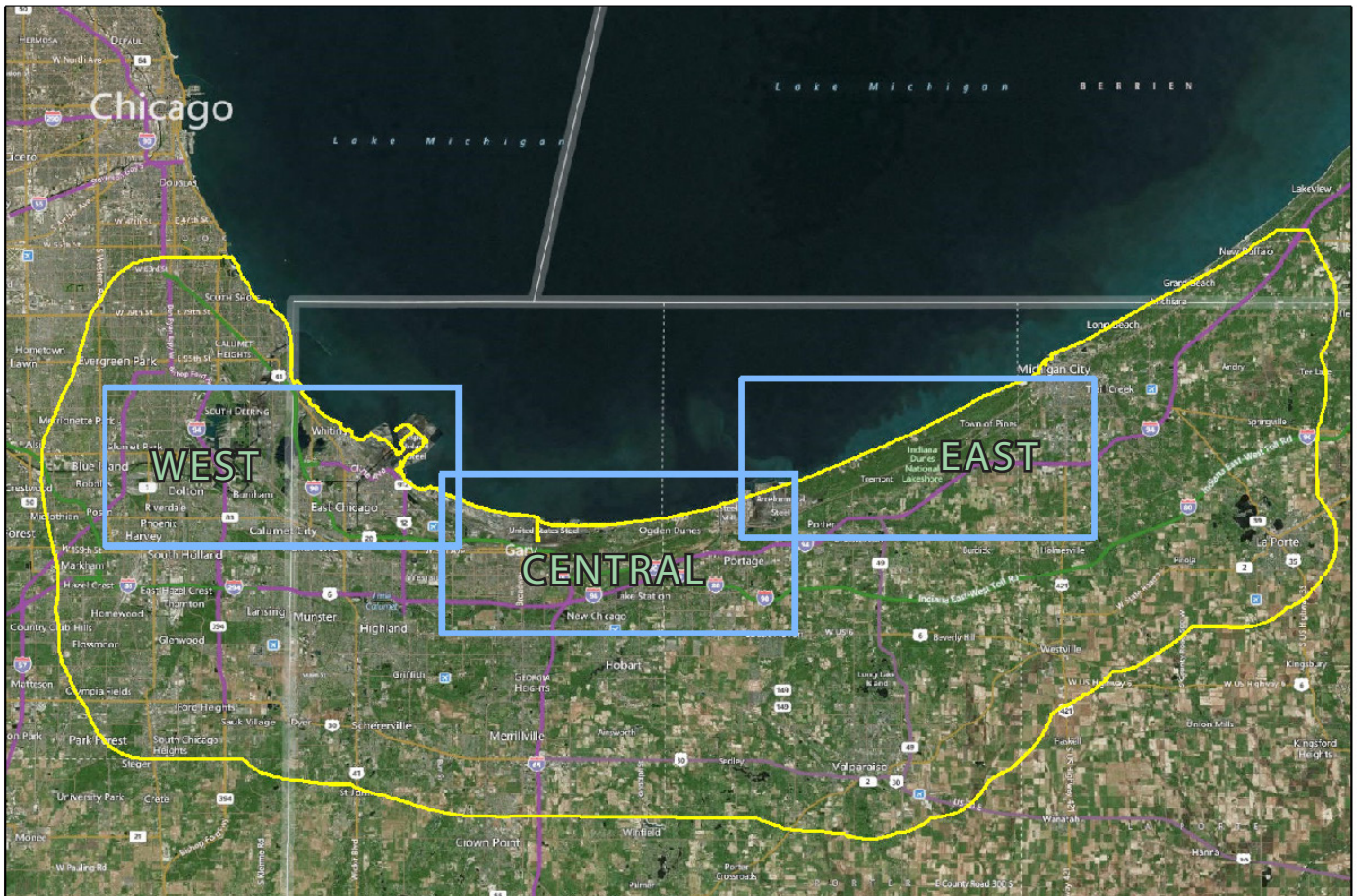
Attendees discuss regional experiences to set the stage for a shared agenda.

FOCUS AREAS

- Environmental Education: Seeding Lifelong Learning
- Naturally Fun: Connecting People & Places through Play
- Restoring the Landscape: Stewarding Our Land and Our People
- Regional Identity: Exploring Calumet Themes of National Significance

MAKING CONNECTIONS IN SPACE

Looking out onto Lake Michigan, the South Shore Cultural Center's Solarium was filled with large communal tables to allow working around the maps. Participants were asked to voluntarily find a table to share space with new acquaintances --in other words, to mix it up and make new connections.



The large scale maps on each table helped spark new ideas and anchor discussions in the “real space” of the Calumet Region. The map above shows the regional extent of the Calumet Region as defined by *Chicago Wilderness* in 2008. Three large focus area maps --West, Central, and East--were also provided.

Each map showed protected lands, the regional trail network, places where stewardship occurs, schools (and those known to have active environmental education programs in 2012), and National Registry of Historic Places sites and districts.

Together, this set of assets is a remarkable confluence of biodiversity, the human hand of commerce, technology, and community building.

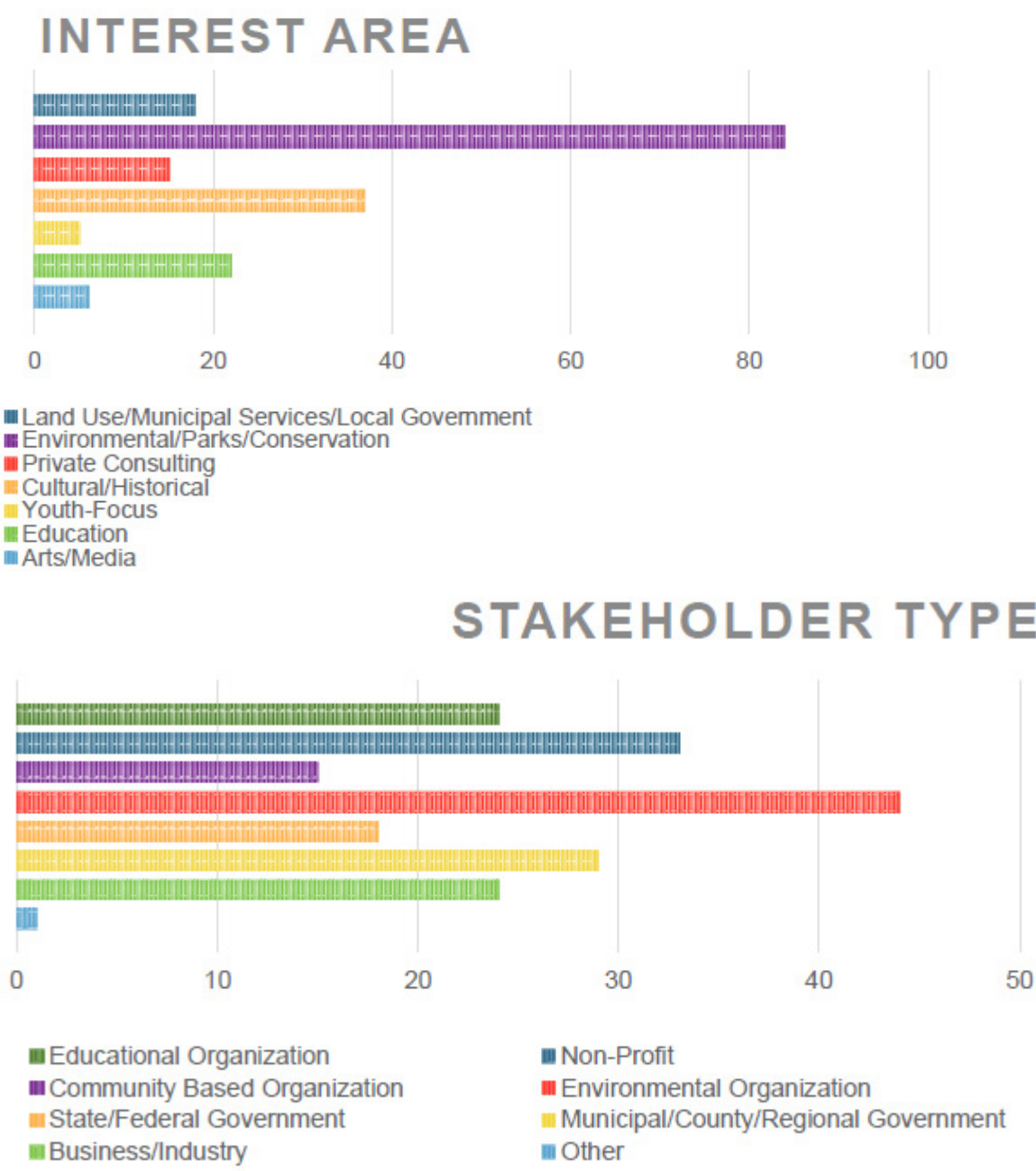
Over two days, Summit participants used these maps to build a story of the region, calling out significant projects, themes, opportunities, and landscapes as they filled the maps with colored dots reflective of the conversations occurring around each table.

102 Organizations
50 new groups

PARTICIPATION

Building up to the Summit, planning and steering committee members worked to carry out an inclusive outreach strategy. The goal was to strengthen networks built during 2013’s session, and to welcome new regional stakeholders into the Calumet conversation. This began by broadening the way we thought about the ecological and cultural importance of the Calumet Region. We also

considered who could help us advance our application to become a National Heritage Area. In addition, participants in previous summits were encouraged to strengthen and expand their own networks, reaching out and welcoming these connections to the Summit. The result was a rich variety of new and veteran stakeholders.



A LARGER REGIONAL DIALOGUE

Emphasizing the synergy that can be found within the work of an organization—as well as when working with others—is part of the foundation needed for a stronger and more resilient Calumet Region.

Summit participants were invited to be part of a larger conversation: a dialogue called On the Table, which included over 11,000 people discussing how we can and do make a positive difference in the Chicago Region, and how we can create opportunities for individuals and groups to do more.

This event recognizes that in small and large ways each of us gives to our communities. As with the 2015 Calumet Summit, the intent was to push dialogue toward more action.



A diverse crowd of attendees at the 2015 Summit helped develop a larger regional dialogue.

ON THE TABLE

May 12, 2015 marked the Chicago Community Trust's 100th Anniversary. To celebrate and to encourage people to take action, the Trust asked residents, community organizations, leaders, and congregations to gather around a table and talk about how "we are all philanthropers."

Making progress.
Making connections.

Telling our regional story...

MAKING PROGRESS

The last two years have seen significant changes and watershed moments for the Calumet Region. To set the stage for the 2015 Summit, we reviewed accomplishments reached since 2013. It was clear that working together and making connections pays off.

Nicole Barker, Executive Director of Save the Dunes, reviewed progress on the top six action items called out at the 2013 Summit:

1. Formation of the Calumet National Heritage Area

This is underway! The feasibility study, which is the first major step, has begun. (See Page 45).

2. Expand job training and create green jobs

The Millennium Reserve has been launched and includes a new Calumet Green Manufacturing Project. The Method Factory opened in Pullman in April 2015, and there is a green jobs program in Gary, Indiana. While there clearly is more work to do, a strong foundation has been laid these past few years.

3. Create an endowment to fund long-term restoration needs

Although there is no endowment yet, funders are supporting our region. Examples include GLRI, SOGL, Chi-Cal Rivers Fund, and corporate support, as well as foundations like the Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation. Also, there is more dialogue happening now than in the past between funders and practitioners. Still, we need to be creative and flexible in the way we fund, execute, and sustain projects—that's part of sound adaptive management.

4. Comprehensive regional brownfields program

Among many efforts, the City of Gary, the USEPA and various agencies are active in Gary working to evaluate brownfields and possible reuse options. This example shows potential but also suggests that partners with expertise outside CSI may be needed for a comprehensive program and that CSI must play an active role in moving this forward.

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Experiences and the stories we develop from these experiences, are what lead us to value place, feel connected, and be able to link to our regional conservation efforts—both locally and globally.

5. Open Lake Calumet to the public

In Fall 2014, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn announced an agreement between the Illinois International Port District (IIPD) and Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for IDNR to purchase unused portions of IIPD property at Lake Calumet. This was a major step towards the goal of finally opening up Lake Calumet to the public. CSI must keep vigilant to make sure this happens soon!

6. Develop innovative green infrastructure financing mode

Progress has been made on this but we are still in the data gathering stages. The latest is a GIV 2.4 with new ecosystems valuations layers. The Forest Preserve District's Next Century Conservation Plan is also working on this key issue.

While there is much more to do, we are well positioned to continue to make progress given the access the region has to some of the most effective scientists and innovative land managers in the country.



MAKING CONNECTIONS

Working Together Really Works!



Michael Kuss, General Manager of the Michigan City Sanitary District, highlighted steps that Michigan City has taken to improve environmental health in the region. This includes embracing their lakefront and riverfront--the City is designing and implementing infrastructure changes that will bring people, nature, and dollars to their city for the next 100 years, while protecting their local environment from excess flows and runoff.



Making Connections Pays Off!



Michael Kelly, General Superintendent and CEO of the Chicago Parks District, (CPD) spoke of the progress within the District. Recreation is a focus of the Park District. Not only does this provide opportunities for people to play outdoors, it can be a driver of regional conservation management, economic development, and improved quality of life in local communities. A great example is restoring brownfields to useable recreation space such as Big Marsh and Steelworkers Park.



ONE REGION

We must 'cross-pollinate' regional goals, assets, and strengths. Seeing the region as a whole will strengthen our efforts and solidify what we can create for the future.



Connecting to Our Past through Stewardship!

The region's industrial heritage is one of many ways to connect environmental and social challenges of the late 19th century to the changes we have seen in Chicago and the Calumet Region today. The Millennium Reserve and Marquette Plan are strong examples of regional initiatives that aim to concurrently embrace the tides of industry and development while connecting environmental preservation and sustainability.



The bi-state Wolf Lake site is a good example of how the negative effects of the past are being transformed to return its natural biodiversity and enhance recreation opportunities. This 804-acre lake has struggled through years of environmental damage due to impacts of heavy industry, transportation infrastructure, urban runoff, and mistreatment of wetlands.

Now, Wolf Lake is home to fresh conservation efforts as the focal point of regional 'bio-blitz' activities: intense periods of biological surveying in an attempt to record all living species within the designated area. These surveys bring groups of scientists, naturalists, and volunteers into natural sites to conduct intensive, in-field studies over continuous time periods.

In order to build a stronger, more sustainable Calumet, science should be linked with history and ecology linked with economy. There must be a local focus for development and an impetus toward personal responsibility.



A focus on storytelling and learning from others' experiences created feelings of togetherness at the 2015 Summit.

TELLING OUR REGIONAL STORY

Throughout the Summit we were reminded that our regional story needs to be told more effectively—with a common narrative and shared agenda that brings to life the many connections across the span of our region.

To illustrate how this might be done, **Mark Bouman, Calumet Stewardship Initiative member and President of the Calumet Heritage Partnership**, led Summit attendees on a walk across the Calumet's environmental, ecological, economic, and social history along the hypothetical Pullman-Porter Trail.

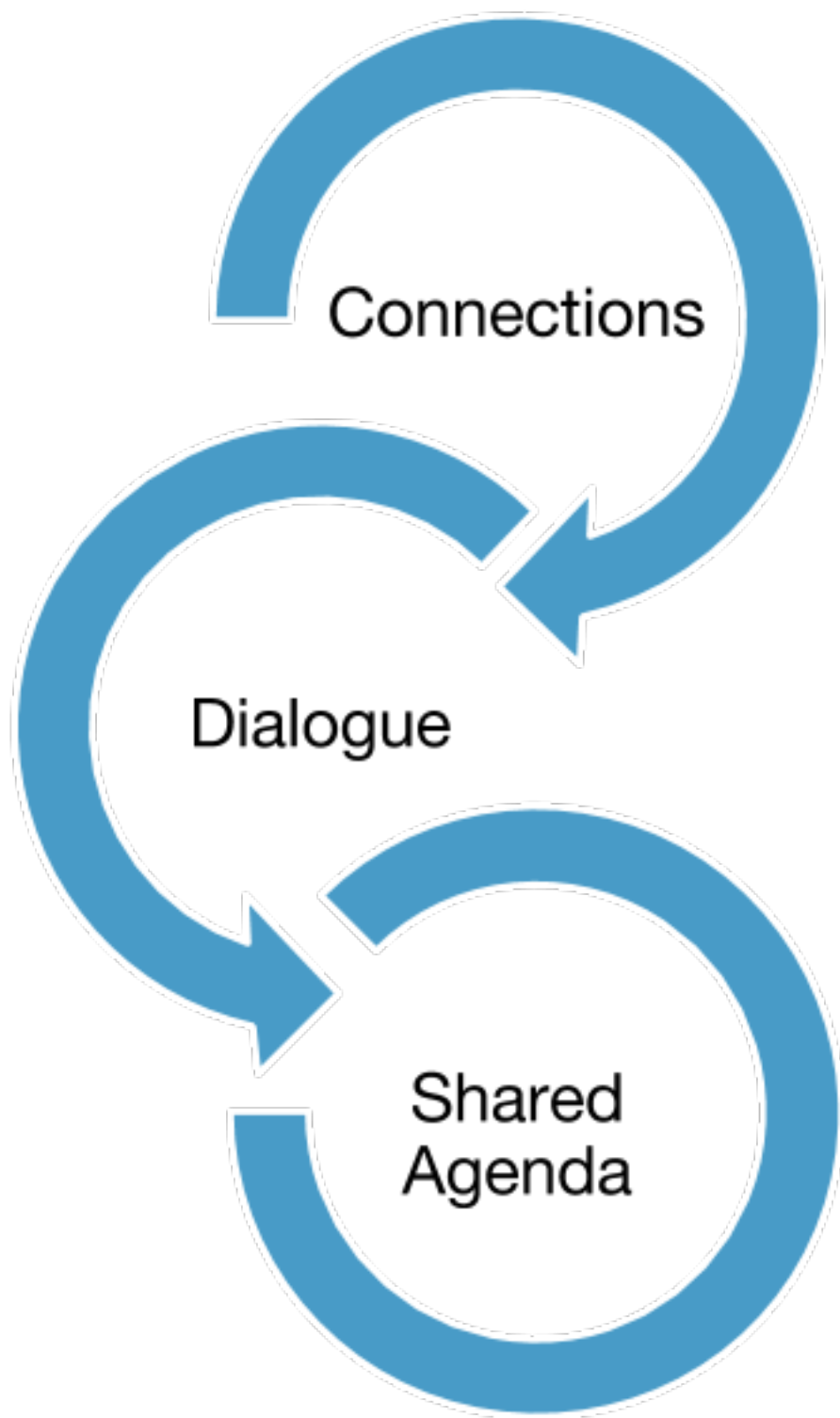
The idea is to tie the Pullman Porters on the South Side of Chicago to Porter County, Indiana. This trail would highlight the ecological heritage, cultural diversity, and labor history in the Calumet Region. It also would bring attention to the rich biodiversity such as we find in Wolf Lake and the Grand Calumet Marsh. And, depending on the route, there are options to stop along the way and enjoy a porter beer at one of the region's many microbreweries.

Focusing on efforts to repair the damages from our past while developing our communities, the Pullman-Porter Trail could connect to sites in Hammond, (e.g. Marktown). This imagined trail can also connect sites on the National Register of Historic Places such as those found in Gary. And while there, you can stop in Miller to see the art and enjoy the newly renovated Aquatorium at Marquette Park and some of the US EPA led efforts to revitalize Gary. Continuing on, the trail can take us to the Indiana Dunes to see how industry and delicate species are now co-existing through ongoing restoration efforts, and how Michigan City is integrating nature with new development along its waterfront to attract visitors.

Adding another layer to this narrative is the rich social, economic and cultural heritage with the 1893 World's Fair and the Illinois and Michigan Canal connecting the region to the world through trade. Inter-related is the rise of the Black Metropolis, which following the end of slavery grew out of necessity for African Americans in a highly segregated city. Bringing us back to our start, this included the Black Porters that worked for the Pullman Company, which is now a National Monument.

**WE ARE ALL
CONNECTED**

*Each of us
must help to
tell the story of
our Calumet.*



4 FOCUS AREAS:

Environmental Education
Outdoor Recreation
Stewardship
Regional Identity

Big Questions + Expert Advice = Models
Quick Wins
Great Ideas

BIG QUESTIONS

1. What audiences are missing from environmental education? Who do we need to reach?
2. What are we missing? Do you know of organizations or types of programs and activities that are innovative and new? How can we be innovative?
3. What major partnerships are essential to promote environmental education in the Calumet Region?

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Planting the Seeds of Life Long Learning

Moving from a scatter-shot approach to a cohesive strategy for environmental education programming in bi-state Calumet requires securing long-term sustainable funding sources. In order to secure this type of support, partners must first identify the suite of possible educational opportunities and solidify/formalize partnerships to help lead and advance this work.

Long-term goal

Ensuring that every child in the Calumet Region is connected to their local, natural environment. This requires environmental education providers to engage long-term with teachers and educators.

- A starting point is the *Find Your Park* campaign (www.findyourpark.com), which is sponsored by the National Park Service in honor of its centennial in 2016, and aims to get people out to parks and to appreciate and support them.
- A more ambitious project is *Every Kid in the Park* to foster youth engagement, helping them become stewards in order to preserve and care for the environment, now and in the future.



Youth from around the region take advantage of the natural environment right here in the Calumet.

Making Connections—Inspiring People and Ideas

In order to be successful and sustainable, a menu of educational opportunities is needed with multiple points of entry both for formal curriculum and informal educational experiences that can build relationships starting at a very young age and continuing throughout adult life. It also requires deep and sustained partnerships between many different individuals and organizations committed to working together to provide a full menu of educational opportunities in strategic locations. During the Summit, we heard examples that demonstrated how this can be done. It was especially inspiring to hear from young adults making connections.

Kelvin Boyd, currently with the Forest Preserves of Cook County, but a veteran of many programs in the Calumet Region, is testimony to the benefit of having different points of entry to connect young people and keep them connected. Freshman year he was introduced to the outdoors, doing restoration through Calumet Is My Backyard (CIMBY). It was hard work, but he grew to like it, and after two years he got an opportunity to engage with the Aquaponics Project at Chicago State University, working the lab where he got excited about the idea of producing and selling systems to improve our environment.



Kelvin was encouraged to apply to be a Youth Ambassador for the Forest Preserve of Cook County, which was highly competitive. He was really proud when he got the position and could work with other students to engage youth including doing research to understand why many did not visit the Forest Preserves (e.g. lack of information, transportation) and then finding ways to get them out. Working with a team, he helped plan and hold a one day event where more than 800 youth came out for canoeing, among other things. As someone who did not canoe, this challenged him to overcome his own fears. One thing he is not afraid of is public speaking, evident by his passionate and informative presentation at the 2015 Summit.

Rachel Veronesi, VISTA Volunteer with Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, provided an example of a program that connected youth with nature, art, science, and their community. It was developed for Gary Public Schools to provide youth outdoor science education that involves local artists, and partnered with the Boys & Girls Club and Indiana University Northwest. The basic format was a 30 minute science lesson followed by an hour of art teaching a range of techniques including recycled art, which raised awareness of pollution.



EXPERT ADVICE

*Sue Bennett, Pullman
National Monument*

*Meghan Forseth,
Mighty Acorns*

*Nambii Mangun,
Wild Indigo, Audobon
Chicago Region*

*Sam Ozik, Calumet Is
My Backyard (CIMBY)*

Moving Forward

To help Summit participants produce a menu of educational opportunities, corresponding partners and models of collaboration, as well as identify opportunity locations, a panel of experts shared their experience and advice.

Get out of the Classroom!

- Get kids to know the area so they can love it!
- Parks create better citizens - use them for education as well as fun.
- Use unstructured play and games, and give lots of information along the way.
- Focus on outdoor classroom and stewardship training together.

Making the Connection to Science

- Use scientists and other teachers to refine existing curriculum.
- Use Service-Learning to focus and cumulate what students do into an Annual Science Summit.

Partnerships

- Create partnerships with universities that can provide long-term support, synergies and potential to attract sustainable funding.
- Look for partnerships in the bi-state area to combine resources for sustainable funding.
- Remember: Everyone has a place in the partnership - students, landowners, parents, scientists, etc.

Make New Connections

- Use new technologies!
- Address transportation barriers - it can be a game changer for many youth and lower income families.
- Focus on African American and Latino youth who have limited or no opportunity to get out in nature.
- Provide inspiration for youth - make the link between healthy bodies and healthy communities.

Connect to the Community

- Develop and use better communication about the importance of environmental education.
- Always engage the whole family and community.

The Mighty Acorns® — A Model Program

The Mighty Acorns® program introduces thousands of 4th through 6th graders to nature and conservation stewardship in the Chicagoland area each year. Their activities are based on education, restoration, and exploration. Becoming the model program took time to develop and test curriculum before growing to service more than 8,000 students each year.

History

- 1993** The Nature Conservancy and Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois, collaborate to develop Mighty Acorns®. The curriculum, based on environmental education philosophy and core concepts, is developed and field tested by formal and non-formal educators and volunteer stewards.
- 1998** Chicago Wilderness identifies and adopts Mighty Acorns® as a model program for guiding students through a comprehensive learning experience in environmental education.
- Funding from the Grand Victoria Foundation enables Mighty Acorns® to expand from Cook County to Will, DuPage, Kane, McHenry, and Lake Counties in Illinois, as well as northwestern Indiana.
- 1999** Summer Camp begins at Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center
- 2002** Initial funding for coordination ends. Mighty Acorns Partnership forms to provide oversight and coordination of the program throughout the region.
- 2004** Mighty Acorns® becomes a trademarked program.
- 2006** Nearly 20 conservation agencies throughout Chicagoland and northwest Indiana annually serve more than 8,000 students in schools desiring to engage in stewardship education.

Continued support from Chicago Wilderness and other funders enables the partnership to continue to provide professional development for partners and summer camp for participating students.

BUILDING A MODEL

Sustaining programming needed to build and maintain connections requires sustainable long-term funding. The first step is articulating a successful environmental education model.

On the Table

Building from these presentations, participants spend about 45 minutes discussing the questions posed and reviewing maps. From these conversations came many ideas, which were catalogued and then summarized by theme below beginning with the most commonly cited.

1. Linking with other groups to work toward common goals

A wide range of creative ideas were generated in this category, including:

- Work with local transit providers to get bus stops and routes closer to environmental destinations, which could help increase ridership and access.
- Connect with older and retired adults who can volunteer with kids and engage them in storytelling and other low-physical activity things to do in nature.
- Turning the tables: have CIMBY youth train adult volunteers.
- Do more with religious groups.
- Take kids on the Southeast Environmental Task Force's "Toxic Tour" to see firsthand the effects of industrial pollution but also how people in the region are working together to improve things.
- Partner with 'green' industry - they can educate youth about their environmental efforts and may also support educational efforts in the region.

2. School-Led Partnerships

Many noted that larger school districts can be leaders in both reaching out to other members of communities as well as identifying holes and challenges to environmental education. Also, we need to work with colleges and universities educating new teachers to get environmental education into the curriculum. A specific recommendation was to connect with Chicago State University and Moraine Valley Community College to partner on projects and seek funding.

3. Funding

Many recognized the value of partnering to expand funding. Suggestions included partnering with health care providers and insurance, making the logical connection between health and education; Tourism Departments and Chambers of Commerce since the outdoors can also be used (with care) to produce economic benefits; and organizations like Rotaries / Elks/ Lions Clubs which often look for local projects to support via funding but also volunteers.

Some also pointed to the need for government agencies to do more to support environmental education, to see it as an investment in the future. Recognizing the need to seek grants to sustain and expand programs, some suggested a common source of funding for teachers and grant writing training.

Some suggested that we need to think about specific funding needs. Transportation was top on the list, but also smaller things that can make a difference in experiencing the outdoors such as boots, for kids to be out in the mud.

4. Active Activity

We must make connections with recreational areas to get kids out so they can have 'natural fun' learning about nature while also doing something healthy. Kayaking, hiking, and biking are great ways to get around and connect to the environment without leaving a trace. The map on page 36 provides sites for outdoor recreation opportunity.

5. Audience

Expand programming for:

- African American and Latino kids and families in our region who often are not connected to nature even if it is right near them.
- New immigrants, especially given Chicago's continued destination for newcomers to the U.S. There were great ideas for outreach to engage these families including using media and developing multi-lingual materials.
- Kids with special needs.
- People with accessibility needs and / or who are aging.
- Adults! Our younger presenters make it clear that we need to provide more opportunities for life-long learning and stewardship. Once the interest is sparked, we need to create outlets not just for learning but also working on environmental policy issues and getting well-paid green jobs.



Through expanded programming for youth in the Calumet, these young people are able to learn about ecology, plant and animal life, and responsible stewardship with hands-on activities.



The Calumet Summit: Education Opportunity Areas



These opportunity areas for environmental education were identified through Summit table conversations.

Top Sites to Target for Education:

Eggers Grove	1	Blue Island	10	Cal Sag Trail	19
William Tillman Marina	2	Crown Point	11	Clark and Pine	20
Bronzeville	3	Deep River	12	Gary	21
Dan Ryan Woods	4	Major Taylor Trail	13	Wampum Lake	22
Hegewisch Marsh	5	Paul Douglas Center	14	Harbor Tour	23
LaPorte	6	Whistler Woods	15	Lake Calumet Western Shore	24
Pullman	7	William Powers	16	Arcelor Mittal Indiana Harbor Works	25
Altgeld Gardens	8	Roxanna Marsh	17	Van Vlissingen	26
Lost Marsh Golf Course	9	Beaubien Woods	18	Harvey	27
				Mouth of Lake Calumet	28

NATURALLY FUN

Connecting People and Places through Play

Recreation is a driver of conservation, improved quality of life, and economic development. Implementing and using trails makes people better stewards of the environment, and it changes the framework through which people view the environment.

Long-term goal

Developing a vision of outdoor recreation that encourages visitation, physical activity and interaction with nature in the open spaces and on the trails within the Calumet Region requires a multi-pronged approach. This includes identifying:

1. Existing and potential open space and non-motorized land and water trails;
2. Existing and potential recreation programming;
3. Access routes and barriers to surrounding populations;
4. Opportunities to improve wayfinding and programming, and;
5. Amenities that increase visitation and improve the visitor experience.

The vision will outline how these trails and recreational opportunities will grow appreciation of and engagement in the Calumet outdoors, grow the region's economy, and improve quality of life.



Trails and natural areas of the Calumet allow for high and low-intensity opportunities to get outside and get moving!

BIG QUESTIONS

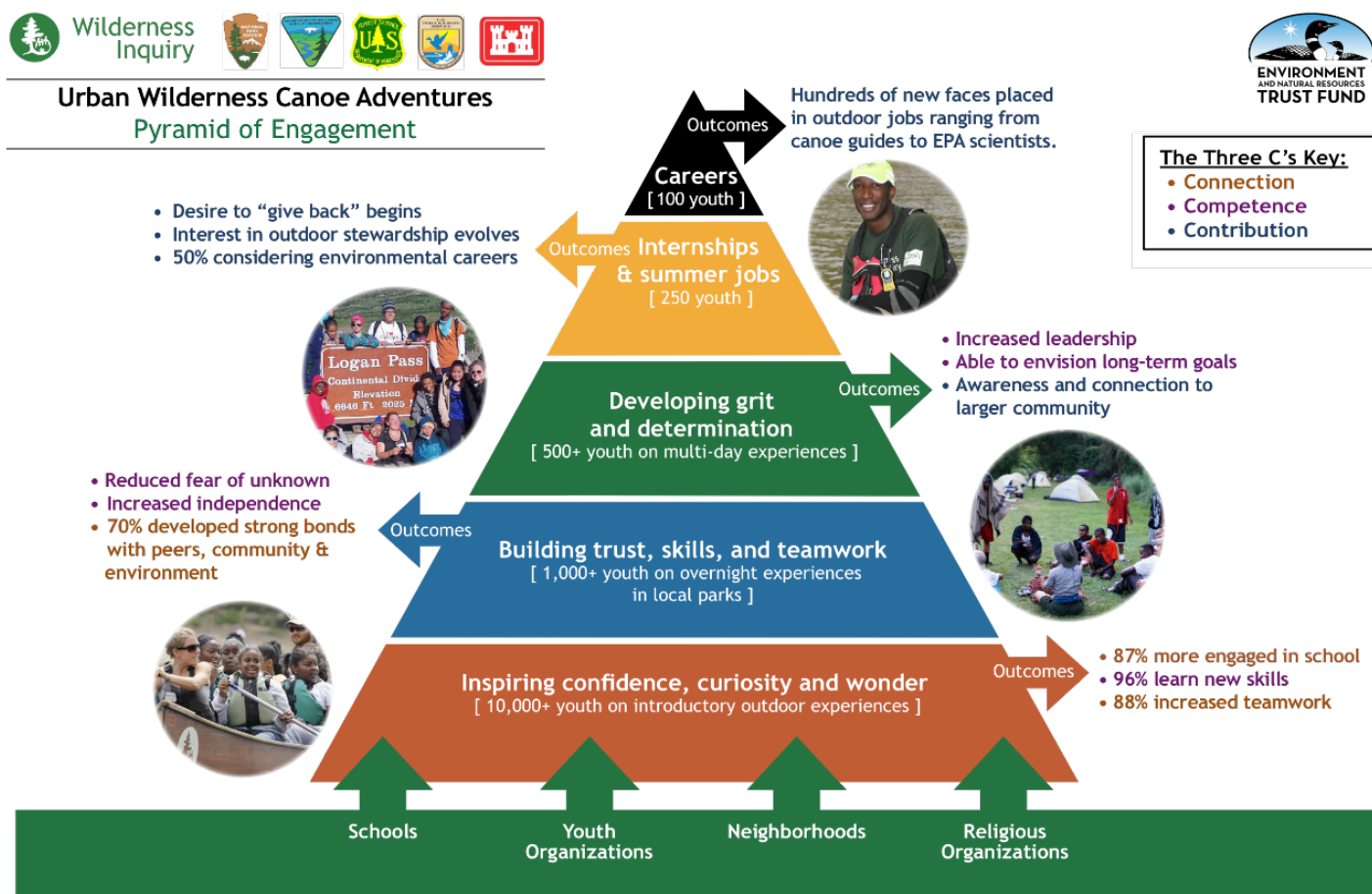
1. *What are the best opportunities to promote and expand water and land based trails, and outdoor recreational activities in bi-state Calumet?*
2. *Identify 'Five Quick Wins' that could promote and encourage visitation to open space in the Calumet.*
3. *How would you like to get involved in moving this work forward?*

Making Connections — Inspiring Ideas and People

Chad Dayton, Wilderness Inquiry, inspired Summit attendees with his overview of the Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures, focusing on their canoeing initiative which has its origins in disability rights and making sure people with disabilities have access to the outdoors. Through his many examples, he demonstrated the importance of creating opportunities for employment, internships, and volunteering for youth in all we do to expand recreation in nature.

- Their “Pyramid of Engagement” also reinforces the importance of early youth engagement, which can translate into confidence, leadership, giving back, and careers (see diagram below). This happens by engaging youth at a scale that is equitable, recruiting teachers using public lands as a classroom, being dedicated to family/community/multiculturalism, and promoting large scale access.

The pyramid also aligns with the discussion in the Environmental Education session, providing a model for life-long learning that connects to many audiences and focuses on engagement through outdoor activities.



Moving Forward

A panel of experts was asked to consider what can/should/must we do now to promote and encourage visiting and using open space in the Calumet Region. Here is what they suggested:

Increase Non-Motorized Activity

- Expand non-motorized transportation: paddleboards, canoes, bikes, kayaks, jogging
- Repurpose railroads into off-road trails for non-motorized transportation

Connect Water and Land

- Connect Greenways to Blueways by opening new trails to water, through canoe and kayak access.
- The Millennium Trail Initiative is a great example of making connections across a region (see page 33).

Blend Stewardship and Recreation

- Focus on repurposing natural lands for recreation that also creates support for preservation and stewardship.
- Promote stewardship on the rivers by engaging youth in fun stewardship activities
- Improve water quality and access for play in the region's bodies of water

Get on the Water

- Introduce more people to paddling on rivers—there are lots of opportunities!
- Educate youth through paddling—environmental impacts, safety, health

Make New Connections

- Increase river access for communities that currently do not have access to local bodies of water
- Focus on untapped opportunities in urban and developed areas
- Get involved in the White House initiative, "Every Kid in a Park"
- Re-use the thousand plus acres of City of Chicago owned land for outdoor recreation
- Help people make "connections" and "feel alive" through recreation!

EXPERT ADVICE

*Mitch Barloga,
Northwestern Indiana
Regional Planning
Commission*

*George Bellovics,
Illinois Department of
Natural Resources*

*Natalie Johnson,
Northwest Indiana
Urban Waters
Partnership*

*Dan Plath, Northwest
Indiana Paddlers
Association*

*Kara Riggio, Great
Rivers Chicago /
Metropolitan Planning
Council*

*Zhanna Yermakov,
Chicago Park District*



QUICK WINS!

Keep in mind...

- Make recreation accessible: ADA access points can make it easier for all people to access water and land for recreation.
- Make it culturally relevant: Culturally conscious greenway planning should engage stakeholders in the process of developing new recreation areas.
- Illinois water laws are a mess! There is a need for user activism with groups, pushing statewide legislation from the bottom-up in order to stop people from being arrested for trespassing on our rivers.
- Water trails have dangers from pollution and inexperienced users, particularly in waterways with large barges and commercial boats. A water safety taskforce and an ecological review can reduce damage to the environment and people.
- Along waterways there are often 'unsafe/undesireable' areas. The bias against these areas must be reduced to expand access.
- Funding is a major issue! It must be sustainable to assure long-term support.



Involve the whole community in the process of planning and maintaining access to the beautiful natural resources of our region!

- *Outdoor Empowerment Network provides gear and training to help get teachers comfortable being outdoors!*
- *Camping in Forest Preserve of Cook County!*
- *CSI Website as a one stop shop for information!*
- *Outreach to new immigrants through neighborhood organizations and bi-lingual literature to get the word out!*
- *Connect Major Taylor Trail to CPD and to Pullman for cyclists!*

On the Table

Table discussions generally revolved around access and the following key themes:

1. Transit and Wayfinding

Communities within the Calumet are aware of the value of their shared recreation spaces, and would like to make these lands more accessible to even more people in new and inventive ways. Specific suggestions include:

- Improvements to the South Shore line which encourage tourism--including allowing bikes on trains, and more tourist friendly signage and wayfinding.
- Signage and wayfinding to help people rediscover regional beauty and recreation and reinforce a shared image and identity for the Calumet Region.
- A regional light rail or Pullman shuttle to provide direct connection to nature and heritage sites.

2. Inclusion

Attendees shared many ideas about community involvement and integration that they considered necessary if recreation opportunities are to be accessible to all in the Calumet. Recognizing that before true inclusion can occur, we must first identify populations that are being excluded, the following ideas were generated:

- Ensuring adequate geographical distribution of new development of parks of parks and trails in the region.
- More outreach and inclusion focused on populations that traditionally may not participate in the planning process and recreation activities in the region.
- Encourage family inclusion, host family oriented events, with consideration of special needs groups.

- The importance of African American heritage in the region was stated several times as a key theme that should no longer be ignored in programming and development in Calumet recreation.
- Opportunities for school involvement with programming and activities on recreation lands--how can we involve schools in the process of learning through play?

3. Centralized Information

Many recommended developing the CSI website as a 'one stop shop' for all recreational happenings within the Calumet. This online resource would help solidify a regional identity and provide a shared space for recreational news and developments in both Indiana and Illinois.

4. Trail Connectivity and Integration

Trails were often mentioned as a necessity to connect more than one 'pinpointed' recreation location. Rather than standalone spots, these sites need to become part of a regional system--connected in both tangible and non-tangible ways to benefit the community. A linked network of trails/ greenways across the bi-state Calumet would allow visitors and residents to more easily reach the beauty of the Calumet without driving between stops on their day drip. Specific connections are included on the map (opposite page).

The Calumet Summit: Recreation Opportunity Areas



This map shows opportunities for recreational engagement with the Calumet Region, which were identified through table conversation.

Top Sites to Target for Recreation:

- | | |
|----------------------|----|
| Lake Calumet | 1 |
| Wolf Lake | 2 |
| Pullman | 3 |
| Trail Creek | 4 |
| Burnham Gap | 5 |
| Little Calumet | 6 |
| Cal-Sag Trail | 7 |
| South Shore Railroad | 8 |
| Big Marsh | 9 |
| Steel Workers' Park | 10 |

BIG QUESTIONS

1. *What strategies do you think would work to engage a diverse group of volunteers?*
2. *Identify 'Five Quick Wins' — what could be moved forward quickly within the next year or two?*
3. *How would you like to get involved in moving this work forward?*

RESTORING THE LANDSCAPE

Stewarding Our Land and Our People

Successful stewardship includes restoring both priority habitats and people's connection to the local landscape.

Long-term goal

Developing a stewardship model for bi-state Calumet that includes measures of success for both ecosystem restoration and volunteer engagement. This includes:

- Identifying and promoting a suite of volunteer opportunities that are utilized by multiple organizations committed to promoting these opportunities through their volunteer networks;
- Building the capacity of volunteer leaders to help with long-term maintenance of priority habitats (sub-regions); and
- Engaging a diverse mix of participants in experiential events to strengthen community and civic connections to priority habitats in the bi-state Calumet landscape.



Wetland and marsh sites can be the most priority and vulnerable areas for strengthened stewardship goals.

Making Connections — Inspiring Ideas and People

Conservation Compact

John Legge, Chicago Conservation Director
The Nature Conservancy, Illinois

The Conservation Compact is a new partnership focused on areas with the highest biodiversity, with a wide range of sites and varying levels of human impact to the habitat. The Compact includes and collaborates with the entities that manage these sites to identify common needs, challenges, (e.g., contamination) and solutions, and to work collaboratively on restoration.

The Compact is expanding conservation efforts to include many different groups through the following collaborative efforts:

- Documenting rare birds across many sites
- Research on endangered species
- Volunteerism
- Citizen Science Projects
- Outreach and Community Engagement
- Expanding beyond existing sites

Restoring the Landscape

Paul Labus, Program Director
The Nature Conservancy, Indiana

The aim of Restoring the Landscape is to link people with nature so they can learn about and enjoy the natural landscape of northwestern Indiana, while helping to restore and support native communities and wetland complexes. At this time, the natural habitat areas don't quite fit the classic idea of restoration areas (i.e. a bird sanctuary) but that will likely change in the future.

Restoration work includes sculpting a more open environment, clearing out the wetlands and continuing maintenance to control weeds. Monitoring is also an important part of stewardship. Being more academic, it also allows opportunities for citizen science.



The Nature
Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



Organizations dedicated to stewardship and conservation lead restoration efforts in the Calumet.

EXPERT ADVICE

*Brenda Elmore,
Friends of the Forest
Preserve*

*Jason Steger, Chicago
Park District*

*Emily Stork, Indiana
Department of
Natural Resources,
Division of Nature
Preserves*

*Lynda Lancaster,
National Park Service*

*Kris Krouse, Shirley
Heinze Land Trust*

Moving Forward

A panel of land stewards provided the following insights and strategies about recruiting, retaining, and rewarding volunteers:

Divide areas into sensitive and non-sensitive

- Sensitive areas can't just get any volunteers to work in them-- they need specially trained people to do the work.
- Non-sensitive, more accessible areas can allow less experienced volunteers to do the work.

Allow opportunities for traveling

- Several work days a month where workers travel around the region can lend uniqueness and excitement to volunteering.
- Show a diversity of environments.
- Promote social togetherness.

Micro-Stewardship!

- Allow volunteers to find smaller projects that are important to them and let them take charge (with guidance).

Site Stewards

- Make sure to have dedicated people in this role.

Communicate!

- Decide what's the most important thing to get done.
- Decide where volunteers can work and what they can do.
- Talk with ecologists.

To Consider: Situations where we do not use volunteers

- How can we manage contractors to tackle infestations?
- How can we assemble short-term crews for specific problems?

Sustaining Volunteers — The Strength of Our Stewardship

Some suggestions for strengthening stewardship both at specific sites and throughout our entire region:

Partnerships

- Region-wide volunteer coordinator shared by cooperative organization
- Inter-agency resource management volunteer coordinator
- Develop stakeholder group to make management plans early on in the process
- Coordinate the partners to bring volunteers together
- Religious institutions and organizations
- Eco-tourism weekend at the Dune: do restoration work and stay overnight at DLC
- Cooperative Weed Management: open workdays up to volunteers to learn best management practices
- Do a hike before a workday to increase investment in the area
- Provide volunteers with a more engaging experience. This can be a hike before or after stewardship component that teaches ID skills and assists in early detection efforts

Outreach and Engagement

- Clearinghouse of volunteer opportunities
- Workshops for people interested in being a volunteer coordinator (Staff and Volunteer)
- Identify and target specific groups for workdays
- Educate residents in 'portfolio sites' like Hobart Marsh
- Target certain populations who need community service, such as parochial schools, churches
- Use social media - community / club social media
- Tap into employees at local industries
- If there is a volunteer bottleneck, then recruit at the bottleneck
- Video the first time experience : What we got out of it, conditions, before and after images
- Get to know volunteers and their interests, follow up with thank you note/email, and personalize invitations
- Market workdays better, e.g., introduce a topic such as monarch butterfly decline and why early detection of exotics is critical to their survival and then go out to look for them.
- Using high school and college clubs to do projects, e.g., posting 'no littering' signs

Connecting Stewardship to Health

- Early morning yoga followed by volunteer project
- Figure out what muscles are used, and how many calories burned, doing restoration

Education and Training

- Have trail volunteers fill out a report documenting length of time on a trail and what they saw
- Engage volunteers in early detection efforts
- Use CWMA to expand volunteer stewardship in Calumet Region, starting at core sites like Hobart Marsh, Miller Woods, Seidner Dune & Swale
- Citizen science -developing skills, utilizing non-traditional skills (GIS)

Innovation

- Develop metrics to show volunteer efforts and acres protected—these data can be used to demonstrate need for more paid positions

A GREAT IDEA

GREAT INVASIVES RACE TRIATHLON

Run through phragmites!

Bike through buckthorn!

*Paddle through purple
loosestrife!*

*Race participants help
clear the area after the
race and after seeing the
impact of invasive species.*

- *Educational aspect:
what invasives were
encountered on the
trail?*
- *Media opportunity for
exposure!*
- *Could become an
annual event...*
- *Sponsorship potential?
All proceeds would go
to restoration work.*

On the Table

Working with land managers, table discussions focused on developing strategies for Dan Ryan Woods, Hobart Marsh, Miller Woods, Roxana Marsh, and William Powers/Eggers Woods. Common threads in all the conversations follow:

- Build Partnerships
- Community Outreach & Engagement
- Branding & Regional Connections
- Address Invasive Species
- Sensitive Ecologies

From these conversations came recommendations for some quick wins and recommendations for supporting and growing our volunteer base so critical to stewardship.

Quick Wins!

- Spotlight new and unique things communities are doing.
- Spotlight tried and true efforts to support stewardship.
- Designate Hobart Marsh as an international wetland.
- Come up with a better name for the west side of Hobart.
- Put together a collection of stewardship best practices (e.g., see the Coastal Management Program).
- Get the region on at least one list of distinction to help establish a sense of place and pride with the natural area.
- Repurpose invasive species?
- Connect Oak Savannah Trail to developed area to the north.



Sharing recreation, stewardship, and nature with the next generation in the Calumet.

The Calumet Summit: Stewardship Opportunity Areas



This map details stewardship opportunities throughout the Calumet which were identified through table conversation.

Specific Sites Where Stewardship Should be Encouraged:

Roxanna Marsh	1	Wolf Lake	10
Hobart Marsh	2	Dolton Prairie	11
Oak Savannah Trail	3	Eggers Woods	12
Calumet Crossroads	4	Sand Ridge Nature Center	13
Hobart City	5	North of Indiana University Northwest	14
Purdue Calumet	6	Between Georgia & King, North of 32 nd Street (Gary)	15
Major Taylor Trail	7	I-65 & 37 th Interchange (Gary)	16
Powderhorn	8	Liverpool & 39 th (Hobart)	17
Michigan City	9	Jon Ton Farm	18

BIG QUESTIONS

1. Looking at the region, what sites are of national significance and why?

2. How might these sites be activated for future use?

REGIONAL IDENTITY

Exploring Calumet Themes of National Significance

Regional history, economies, and natural areas unite to create a regional identity. Already our Calumet economies and landscapes have national significance—how can we share these through creation of our regional identity?

Long-term goal

The Calumet Heritage Partnership (CHP) has begun the formal process to seek designation as a Heritage Area, which was recommended in the 2013 Summit. The 2015 Calumet Summit provided an opportunity to explain and explore what it means to have Heritage Area status and also the process to attain it. The Summit also provided an opportunity for the CHP to solicit public feedback as part of the process of completing the feasibility study with attention to regional themes of national significance that can provide the foundation for the Calumet Heritage Area.

In the U.S., 49 National Heritage Areas have been designated since 1984.

What is a Heritage Area?

- Designated by Congress
- Natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important story
- Public-private partnerships
- Grassroots, community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development
- Lived-in landscapes

Where do we begin?

- Feasibility study needed to meet National Park Service (NPS) requirements
- Legislation required (ideally with NPS approval)

Making Connections — Inspiring Ideas and People

Nancy Morgan, of Point Heritage Development Consulting, shared lessons learned from other sites' experience, recognizing that each is unique and nothing can be transferred without translation and adaptation. Common themes include:

- Industrial areas that were on decline and declared NHA to bring them back
- While NHAs maybe struggling economically, they have demonstrated capacity and resources

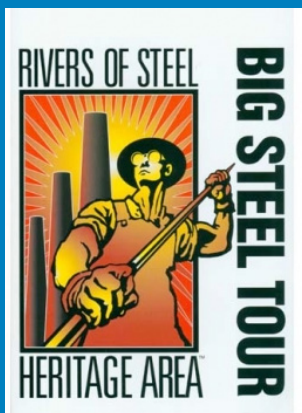
- NHAs need a large network that can deliver on projects and programs that benefit the country as a whole and not just the region.
- Key activities include conservation, preservation, economic development, recreation, tourism, and intergovernmental cooperation.

“NHAs work by catalyzing collaborative conservation on a landscape level using shared heritage as a platform for action.”



EXPERT ADVICE

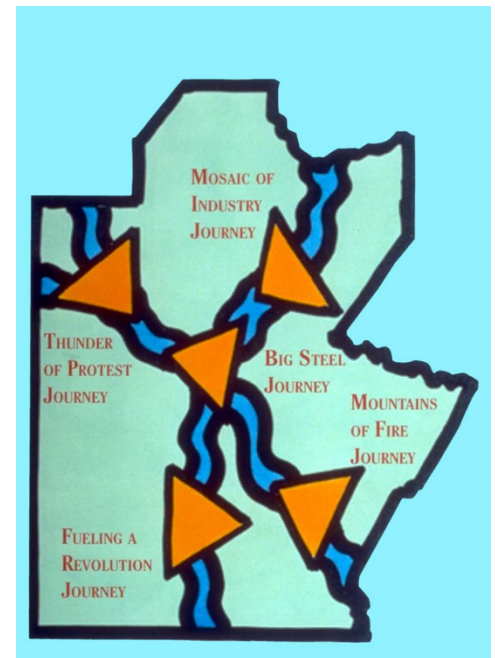
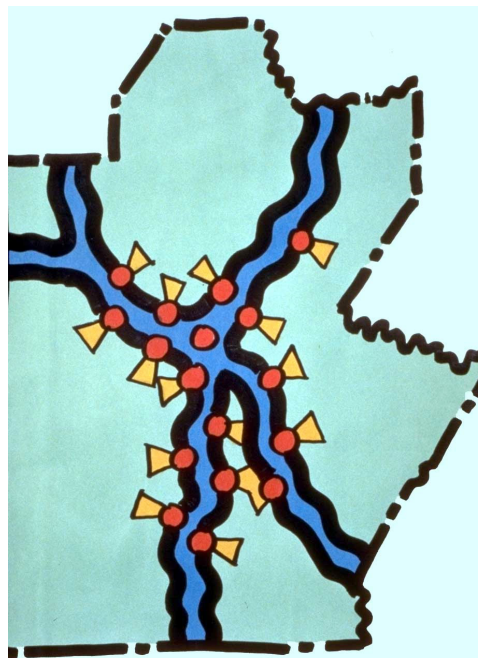
The key was having a set of common goals, which forced us to look at the places we lived and worked in not as individual towns or neighborhoods, but as a network of communities with one mission—to preserve the heritage of the region while facilitating its change to a new economy.



Rivers of Steel Heritage Area

Augie Carlino, Executive Director of the Rivers of Steel Heritage Area, described their process and offered some lessons learned from working to get the greater Pittsburgh area designated a NHA. The ten year process began in 1997. The key to getting the designation was sticking with it. During this time, they:

- Held town meetings focusing on different elements of the NHA
- Stood in front of bulldozers to prevent the demolition of historic buildings (e.g., mines)
- Educated themselves about the past, particularly through older generations with inspiring stories about how hard they worked
- Recognized history involves many different stories and people
- Broke down boundaries between places to see an interconnected region
- Used the rivers as a process to connect everyone
- Looked at how to transform the rivers from backyards of industry cut off from residents, to the front door of the community, providing a means to transport and change one's view of the city.
- Learned about weaving together sustainability and tourism
- Focused on heritage as 'living' and really nurturing the 'real life culture' of the area.



Black Metropolis National Heritage Area

Paula Robinson, President of the Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Commission, shared its history and evolution and provided an overview of the feasibility study that laid the foundation for its beginning in 2004. A key is to identify and develop the themes that make your area unique and of national importance.

The heritage in the Black Metropolis is the 'great migration' to Bronzeville, the restrictive covenants that created the 'Black Belt' and the resulting cultural, economic, and social outcomes that made Chicago's South Side what it was and is today. While this takes time, it is a critical first step that provides an opportunity for regional dialogue and partnership building, and for laying ground work for initiatives to preserve legacy which include:

- Making connections with the Pullman National Monument
- Celebrating the Illinois Centennial of the Great Migration in 2016
- The Great Migration Trail that will connect the migratory bird sanctuary at Burnham Point and a 'Rails to Trails' project on a stretch of the Illinois Central Railroad
- Engaging young people by combining hip-hop and history



Shifting Sands... a Forthcoming Documentary

Environmentalist **Lee Botts**, and filmmaker **Patricia Wisniewski**, are producing a documentary about the Calumet region that focuses on the origins of the environmental movement in the midst of steel mills and industry. Still in progress, the filmmakers shared a trailer that captured the region's notable history of industrial heritage, worker organization, and scientific innovation, which came out of the unique environmental assets of the Calumet. Building from this past, the film aims to demonstrate the promise of partnerships between industry, government, and communities in making progress that can balance economic and industrial needs while restoring and helping the environment to flourish.



Creating A New Promise

NHA THEMES

Industrial Heritage

*Environmental
Heritage*

Cultural Diversity

*Crossroads of
Transportation*

Labor History

*Environment and
Citizen Action*

Art

Moving Forward The Process

Mike Longan, Calumet Heritage Partnership, outlined the rigorous process each heritage area must follow:

1. Define a study area
2. Develop a public engagement strategy
3. Determine the region's contribution to national heritage and develop themes
4. Create an inventory of the region's natural and cultural resources
5. Consider a range of management alternatives and their respective impacts
6. Delineate a boundary for the proposed NHA
7. Identify a coordinating entity for the proposed NHA
8. Develop a conceptual financial plan
9. Demonstrate public support and local commitments
10. Describe the affected environment
11. Identify concurrent plans and studies that may have relevance for the proposed NHA

So far, the CHP has formed task forces (Public Engagement and National Heritage Themes) and is forming an Advisory Committee. The Field Museum will contribute staff time, and some consultant time will be used. The Summit was part of this process, providing valuable input and ideas.

Madeline Tudor, Field Museum, described efforts so far to look at the theme of art.

- Art is accessible
- Artists are inspired through landscape, nature, and industry
- Art is a way to reframe region: 'Art is the new steel'
- Art can help preserve history



Recent Developments...Making Connections

Pullman National Park

LeAaron Foley, National Parks Conservation Association, discussed the many opportunities that come with the new park status. They are drawing on all resources--collaborative ideas workshop, architecture, urban planning--to generate ideas on how to make Pullman a more livable, beautiful space, and anticipate the many visitors that will be visiting Pullman in the coming years. This includes looking back at what Pullman was and building on that heritage to become one of many strong centers for the region that connects other tourist destinations and jobs around the area. This also includes being connected to another National Park : The Dunes!

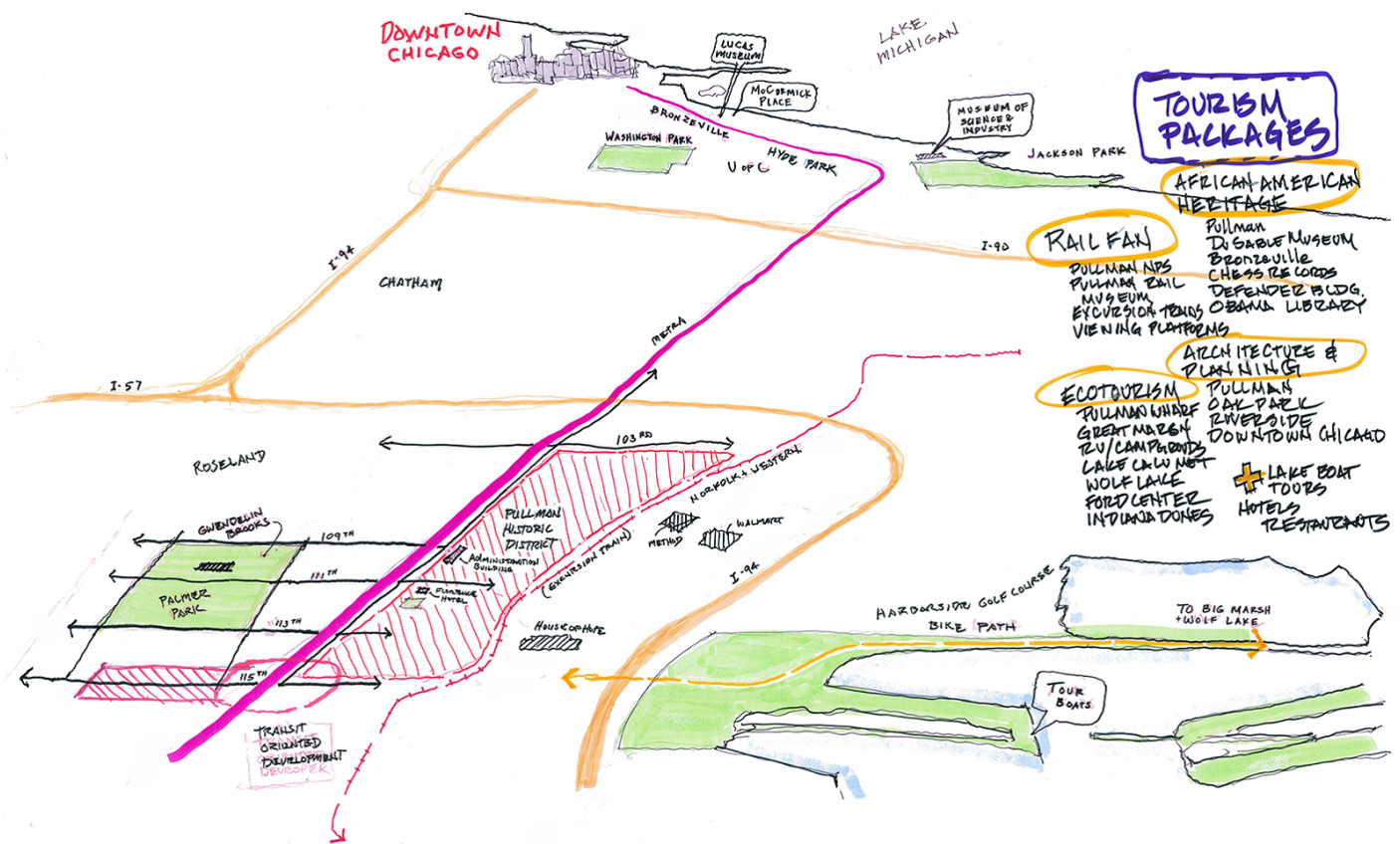
Marquette Plan

Kathy Luther, Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, gave an overview of the latest Marquette Plan, which is a vision and a strategy to "create a livable lakefront" as:

- a place to live, work, play and stay
- an environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable place
- a place for mixed use and new uses
- a place to be proactive and think and act strategically

The policy framework focuses on:

- Access, Recreation, & Tourism Development
- Transportation & Infrastructure Improvement
- Environmental Protection & Restoration
- Neighborhood Reinvestment & Redevelopment
- Brownfields & Industrial Development
- Community Coordination
- Historic and Cultural Resource Preservation

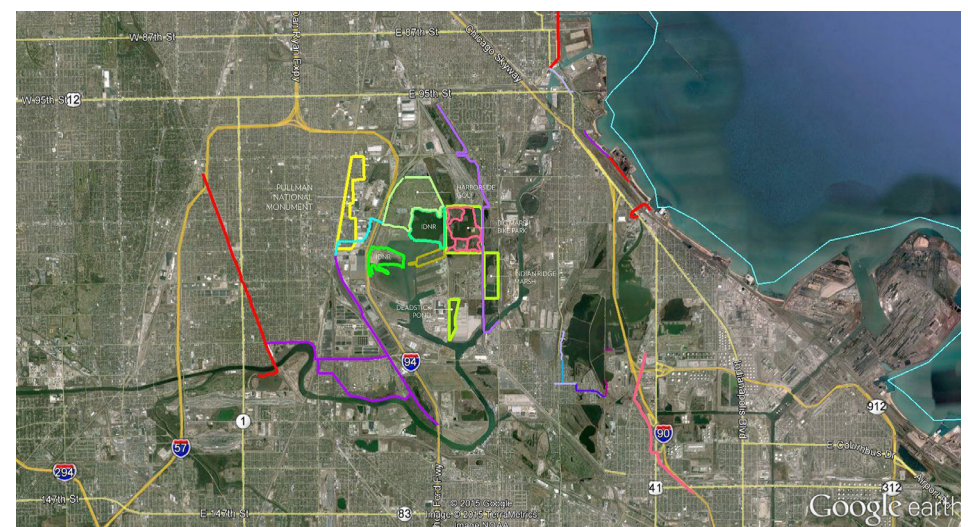
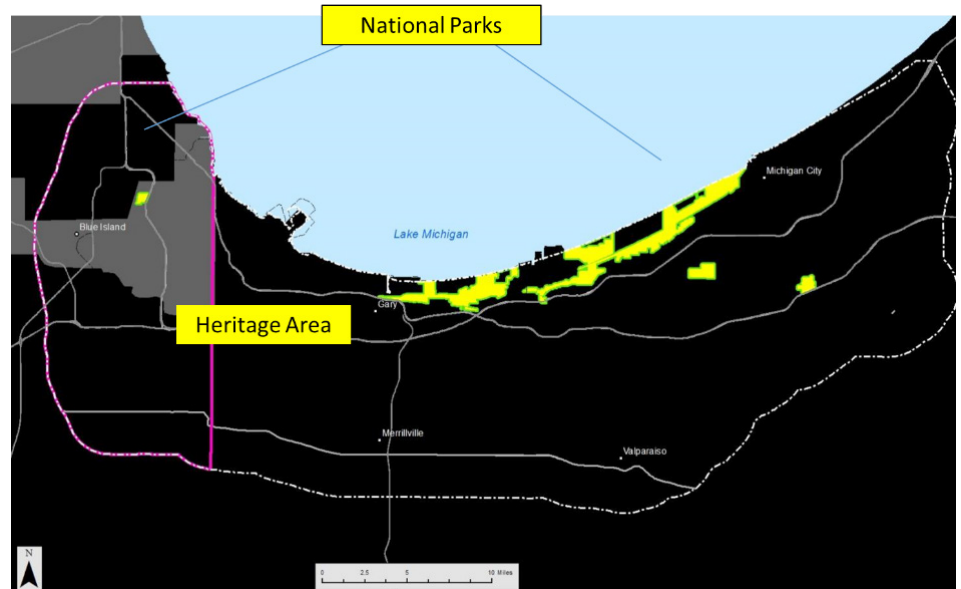


PROCESS

*Identify
concurrent
plans and
studies that
may have
relevance for
the proposed
National
Heritage Area.*

Making Connections...

Proposed Heritage Area + Marquette Plan + Possible & Existing Trails connection to Pullman National Park



— Built Trails — Funded, Built in 1-2 Years — Proposed Trails (Calumet Open Space Reserve Plan 2005 + IDNR 2014)

On the Table

The discussion of the Calumet Region becoming a National Heritage Area brought out several strong themes building upon a notable past and connecting to the innovative and productive future of the region. This included development of the railroad, steel production, African American heritage, worker unions, and the Pullman Historical designation, to name a few.

All agreed that the long arch of strong stewardship of a unique environment with regional connectivity linking assets via trails, waterways, and natural corridors was key in seeking National Heritage Area designation. Some suggested themes:

- **The Company Towns:** Gary, Whiting, East Chicago, Pullman: people either worked in mills or the businesses that supported them including brick building/ clay pits in Munster, Porter, Chesterton, Lansing, and Hobart.
- **Innovation:** Aviation, ecology, industry/technology, Bronzeville arts.
- **The Water-Land Connection:** Transportation, steel
- **Layers of the Onion:** Lakefront, rivers, moraine, boat traffic, rivers, railroads, highways
- **Traditions of Activism:** Labor strikes, environmental justice, Save the Dunes



Some of the region's most striking and important resources are the water infrastructure, resources, and beauty of the Calumet's rivers, lakes, and streams.

PROCESS

*Create an inventory
of the region's
natural and cultural
resources*

1. Historical Monuments
2. Unique Town Centers
3. Wetlands & Marshes
4. Indiana Dunes
5. Lake Ecosystems
6. Waterways of the Calumet
7. Animal Sanctuaries
8. Trails of the Calumet

Sites of Interest / Significant Sites

Reviewing the maps and notes from the Summit focus areas, sites were classified based on interest/significance into one of the National Heritage Area themes. There were six sites that appeared across three themes and 19 across two themes. When combined, industry and its components seems to jump

forward as a key theme. However, most natural areas were identified only under “environment” and the total number of environment mentions is greater than all the other mentions combined. The environment ranks highly!

Sites of Interest Identified in 3 NHA Theme areas

<i>Location/Place/Event</i>	Industry	Environment	Ethnicity	Transportation	Labor	Citizen Activism
Beverly/Morgan PK (Dan Ryan Woods)		1	1			1
Black Heritage Sites			1	1	1	1
CSS&SB / Pullman Porters			2	2	2	
Gary	1		1		1	
Lake Michigan		3		3		3
Pullman	7			7	7	

Sites of Interest Identified in 2 NHA Theme areas

<i>Location/Place/Event</i>	Industry	Environment	Ethnicity	Transportation	Labor	Citizen Activism
Cal-Sag Channel		1		1		
Calumet Container		1	1			
Calumet River (mouth to Lake Calumet)		3		3		
CID Landfill		1	1			
Environmental Justice			1		1	
Hammond Bird Sanctuary			2		2	
Indiana Dunes			1		1	
Indiana Harbor Belt / Riverdale	1			1		
Major Taylor Trail			5	5		
Marktown		1			1	
Miller			3		3	
Octavia Chanute / Tuskegee Airmen			1	1		
Pageant Under 4 Flags / J Jensen		1			1	
Paul Douglas/Save The Dunes /Women in Dunes			1		1	
Roxanna Marsh			4		4	
Steel Mills		6			6	
Steel Workers Park		2			2	
Ton Farm / Underground Railroad)			3		3	
Van Vlisigen Prairie			1		1	

Sites of Interest Identified in 1 NHA Theme area

<i>Location/Place/Event</i>	Environment	Ethnicity	Transportation	Citizen Activism
Wolf Lake (race track etc.)	12			
Lake Calumet	9			
Hobart/Hobart Marsh Area	6			
William Powers/Eggers Woods	6			
Big Marsh	5			
Trail Creek (mouth to Mich City GC)	5			
Little Calumet River	4			
Miller Woods	4			
Whiting / Whiting Lakefront Park	4			
Dolton/Dolton Prairie	3			
Hammond Lakefront Park	3			
Hegewisch Marsh (Ford Env. Ctr.)	3			
Kickapoo Woods	3			
Marquette Park	3			
Powderhorn (Nature Preserve)	3			
Sand Ridge / SR Nature Center	3			
Shabonna Woods	3			
West Beach	3			
Cowles Bog	2			
Indian Ridge Marsh	2			
Mount Baldy	2			
Purdue Calumet (natural areas)	2			
Whistler Woods	2			
Altgeld Gardens				2
Bailly Homestead		3		
Burnham Greenway (and gap)			3	
Kensington/Kensington Bikeway			2	
Shipwrecks (inc. Morgan Shoal)			2	

SUMMIT SUM UP

“OUR COMMUNITY IS GROWING!”

“WE COLLABORATE AND DO IT WELL!”

“WE CONNECT PEOPLE TO PEOPLE AND
PEOPLE TO NATURE!”

“THIS IS A HERITAGE AREA ALREADY!”

ADVANCING OUR SHARED AGENDA

The strength of the region is its heritage and its people. It is also the partnerships and forward thinking, which is helping to put the Calumet Region in the spotlight and advance a shared agenda.

Build from our Strengths

Arthur Pearson from the Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation reminded us of several high profile and significant developments that have laid the foundation for new directions in stewardship and preserving the region's unique heritage:

- Pullman National Monument
- Proposed Calumet Heritage Area
- Trail Connections
- Millennium Reserve
- Environmentally Sustainable Development



LOOKING FORWARD

The Calumet Region is at a critical and exciting juncture in its evolution. We have new parks, new plans, and new recognition of the foundation laid 100 years ago for environmental stewardship.

Build from Our Heritage

The coming year marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. It is also the Forest Preserve of Cook County's centennial and the 50th anniversary of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. As key drivers shaping our region's landscape, these milestones show us how far we have come, and more importantly, provide a firm foundation for moving forward.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Paul Labovitz, Superintendent of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, spoke about the need to push ideas into action through meaningful initiatives and bi-state collaboration. With his rich past as a forester and wildlife biologist, he understands the relationship between the natural environment and healthy economies. Calumet's unique industrial heritage developed alongside, and due to, the fragile and valuable natural resources throughout the region's dunes, wetlands, rivers, and prairies. This creates a region valuable not only for its irreplaceable natural beauty and utility, but due to its vital role in the regional—and national—economies. A regional focus on environmental preservation and stewardship can create opportunities for youth involvement, recreation, and local economic development to grow in unison.



Cook County Forest Preserve

Arnold Randall, Cook County Forest Preserve, has the best job (according to him), because he gets to be outside helping to preserve and expand access to nature for people as well as endangered species. With the Forest Preserve's centennial approaching, the focus is on getting people outside and making sure we do not squander our shared natural resources. This is what the Next Century Conservation Plan is about—finding a way to engage people and our political leadership to restore and expand the land. This can happen in many ways: make sure the public knows what we already have as well as knew opportunities such as camping, and then make sure there is access via public transportation; foster comprehensive volunteer networks. Acquire land; get and use federal support of conservation efforts; create more vibrant trails.



Build from the Great Work of our Partners

Summit attendees celebrated the work being done by all the advocates and visionaries in both Illinois and Indiana. Awards were presented to acknowledge the achievements and the dedication of eight regional leaders in the Calumet, with careers focused on Conservation Leadership, Environmental Education, Stewardship & Engagement, and Trails & Recreation.

Conservation Leadership

Kris Krouse, Executive Director of the Shirley Heinze Land Trust, was honored for his work throughout Indiana's Calumet region. Kris has been instrumental in conservation leadership efforts for the Land Trust, and recently secured \$1 million in funding for the East Branch of the Little Calumet restoration project.

John Legge, the Conservation Director of the Nature Conservancy in Chicago, IL, was celebrated for his successes in conservation leadership throughout the region. John led the creation of the Millennium Reserve Conservation Compact, and has been influential in securing a \$1 million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant in early 2015 that will fund Compact implementation.

Environmental Education

Theresa Mayerik, Chief Administrator of Academic Affairs for School City of Hammond, was honored for her efforts since 1998 to engage school children in environmental education. From her past involvement with Dunes Learning Center as a high school principal to arranging 44 classrooms of fourth graders to participate in Mighty Acorns® at Purdue Calumet and Forsyth Park on Wolf Lake, and to her help in piloting Earth Force and CIMBY programs at Hammond Clark Middle / High schools in 2014-2015, Ms. Mayerik has long benefited Calumet youth through environmental education.

Sam Ozik, Project Coordinator for the Civic Engagement and Service-Learning Initiative at Chicago Public Schools, was awarded for her tireless work and involvement in environmental education throughout the Calumet. Sam serves as the Illinois co-chair of the Environmental Education team for the Calumet Stewardship Initiative (CSI) and connects teachers and students to hands-on environmental programs in the region through a CIMBY collaboration with the Field Museum.

Stewardship & Engagement

Daniel Goldfarb, Regional Director of Ecosystem Restoration, Corporate Stewardship, and Community Outreach at the Wildlife Habitat Council, was recognized for his passion and expertise at working to ecologically reuse and restore industrial lands by creating unique partnerships between industries, community institutions, environmental agencies, and non-profits.

Raquel Garcia-Alvarez, Stewardship Program Coordinator for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, was honored for her leadership in coordinating and managing hundreds of volunteers to steward 80 Forest Preserve sites throughout Cook County. In addition, Raquel serves as a member of CSI's stewardship team, helping to connect people to on-the-ground volunteer opportunities through the Calumet region.

Trails & Recreation

Dan Plath, President of the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association, was conferred an award for his varied and broad impact on recreational opportunity within the Calumet. Mr. Plath shows his dedication by serving on many advisory boards, including the Shirley Heinze Land Trust, the Trail Creek Watershed Steering Committee, the Indiana DNR Trails Advisory Board, and the Purdue Water Institute Advisory Board. In addition, Dan dedicates his time to the Indiana University NW SEPA Board of Advisors, as Chair of the

NWI Forum Environmental Committee, and as an Indiana Representative on the Lake Michigan Water Trail Board.

Arnold Randall, General Superintendent of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County since 2010, was celebrated for his role in trail and recreation development. He has been a key player in development and execution of strategic plans for camping, trails, recreation, and habitat restoration for the environment of the Calumet.



Engaging and exciting ideas built upon each morning's presentations, and were developed around the Solarium's inclusive round tables.

Finding Common Ground Across Focus Areas

Of course, there is always the potential for different interests to conflict, but there were clearly identified sites with potential for synergy. The first step in finding synergy is taking these ideas back to the CSI focus area committees for discussion and clarification. For all high-ranked or highly cited locations, the following steps or actions should be taken before moving forward:

1. Verify the concern or issue: Is it “real” or perceived?
2. Current conditions: What efforts are in progress or planned for that site?
3. Assess what has been proposed: What is feasible (practically and politically)? And if not feasible, then why not?
4. For those proposals/ideas that can move forward: Who can make this happen and who will need to be held accountable for developing and progressing the agenda?
5. Finding synergy: Does the site align with multiple interests/ ideas in other focus areas?



Group synergy was cultivated through each table's shared regional map and conversation-sparking resources.

SYNERGY

[sin-er-jee] The interaction of elements that when combined produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual elements, contributions, or parts.

“A designed beauty of synergy is that it serves only to add, never subtract.”

— Barb Rententbach

Synergy (2009)

Connecting Common Areas of Interest

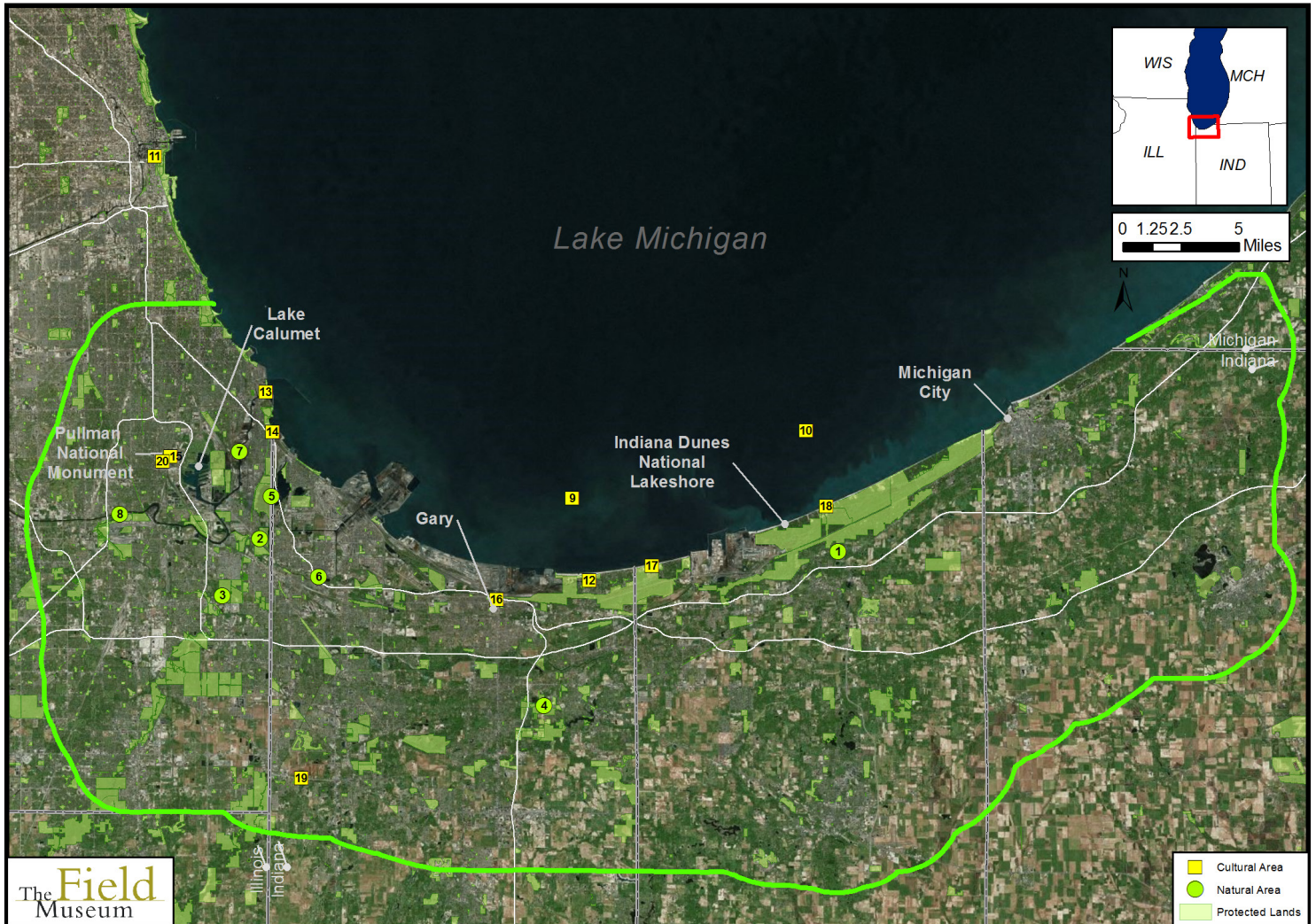
Looking across the four focus areas, there are clear sites in the Calumet region that present opportunities to connect environmental education, outdoor recreation, stewardship, and regional identity. The following locations were discussed or identified during the closing session of the Summit as sites of interest.

Key Places Representing Nationally Significant Themes*

Map #	Name	Natural	Cultural	Significance
1	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore	x		National Park of very high biodiversity in an urban context
2	Powderhorn Prairie Nature Preserve	x		Most biodiverse site in Chicago in Dune and Swale landscape
3	Sand Ridge	x		Large remnant of Dune and Swale landscape in the Lake Plain
4	Hobart Prairie Grove and Marsh	x		Large wetland area with fens, swamps, marshes
5	Wolf Lake	x		Natural bi-state lake much altered, much restored
6	Roxana Marsh/Grand Calumet River	x		Nationally significant wetland restoration/mitigation
7	Petcoke Piles/ Calumet River	x		Community-based leadership on local effects of carbon economy
8	Little Calumet River/Cal-Sag Channel	x		Continental divide-crossing canal and historic locks
9	Lake Michigan		x	Cul de sac of the Lake is nation's industrial powerhouse
10	Shipwrecks		x	Ships foundered in Indiana's waters testify to extent of commerce
11	Chicago Loop		x	Calumet and Chicago grew as mirror-image twins
12	Marquette Park, Gary		x	Traversed by voyagers, early site of aviation, classic urban park
13	Mouth of Calumet River		x	From here: a second industrial revolution in America's heartland
14	State-Line Monument		x	Where two neighbors began to chart parallel, divergent courses
15	Pullman National Monument		x	Since 1882, iconic site for railroad, planning, labor, civil rights history
16	Gary		x	Founded in 1906: "The Most American of All-American Cities"
17	West Beach, Indiana Dunes		x	Cowles's pathbreaking ecological concepts made plain on trail
18	Indiana Dunes State Park		x	National advocacy for dunes park led to this site in 1925
19	"Ideal Section" of Lincoln Highway		x	First transcontinental road followed Sauk Trail through moraine
20	Reformation Lutheran Church		x	Barack Obama's public service career begins here in 1985.

*See Map for Locations

The Calumet Summit: Key Places Representing Nationally Significant Themes



In the final session of the Calumet Summit, participants at each table discussed nationally significant themes under the broad categories of 'culture' and 'nature'. They then selected places that best expressed those themes on the ground. These places were later located on a large map in a final plenary session. Taken together, they represent a preliminary grouping of a potential National Heritage Area's most significant places. A word of caution: note that point symbols are used for some very large landscapes, like the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. In some instances, one place stands in for others of its type (for example, Sand Ridge is one of several high quality ecological restorations).

2015 Calumet Summit: Advancing Our Shared Agenda

South Shore Cultural Center

May 12 & 13, 2015

May 12

8:00 **Registration and Breakfast**

9:00 **Welcome**

- Michael Kuss, Michigan City Sanitary District
- Mike Kelly, Chicago Park District

9:15 **Setting the Stage: What have we done since 2013 and where we are going as a bi-state region?**

- Nicole Barker, Save the Dunes
- Mark Bouman, Calumet Heritage Partnership

Break

10:00 **Environmental Education: Seeding life-long learning**

What does a sustainable education program for bi-state Calumet look like? What is the ladder of development for educational programming in bi-state Calumet?

KICK-OFF SPEAKERS

- Kim Swift and Rachel Veronesi, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
- Kelvin Boyd, Forest Preserves of Cook County

PANEL DISCUSSION

- Meghan Forseth, Mighty Acorns
- Sam Ozik, Calumet Is My Back Yard (CIMBY)
- Sue Bennett, Pullman National Monument
- Nambii Mangun, Wild Indigo, Audubon Chicago Region

12:00 *Lunch & Awards and Suzanne Malec-McKenna, Chicago Wilderness*

1:00 **Naturally Fun: Connecting people and places through play**

What are the best opportunities to promote and expand water and land based trails, and outdoor recreational activities in bi-state Calumet? What are "Five Quick Wins" that could promote visitation to open space in the Calumet?

KICK-OFF SPEAKER

- Chad Dayton, Wilderness Inquiry

PANEL DISCUSSION

- Dan Plath, Northwest Indiana Paddlers Association
- Natalie Johnson, Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership
- George Bellovics, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Zhanna Yermakov, Chicago Park District
- Mitch Barloga, Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
- Kara Riggio, Great Rivers Chicago, Metropolitan Planning Council

Break

3:15 **On the Map: Report out on how to build our shared agenda around education and recreation**

4:00 **Big Calendar of Events /Networking: planning your summer of fun!**

5:00 **Reception**

May 13

8:00 **Breakfast**

9:00 **Welcome:** Arthur Pearson, Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation

Setting the Stage – Celebrating Regional Watershed Moments

- Paul Labovitz, Pullman National Monument
- Arnold Randall, Cook County Forest Preserve
- Paula Robinson, Black Metropolis

Break

10:00 **Restoring the Landscape: stewarding our land and our people**

Looking at a cluster of proximate sites across the region... Where should stewardship activities be focused in the near term? What are easy wins? Are there targeted approaches to those sites that can be used? What will work to engage volunteers?

KICK-OFF SPEAKERS

- John Legge, The Nature Conservancy Illinois
- Paul Labus, The Nature Conservancy Indiana

PANEL DISCUSSION

- Brenda Elmore, Friends of the Forest Preserve
- Jason Steger, Chicago Park District
- Emily Stork, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves
- Lynda Lancaster, National Park Services
- Kris Krouse, Shirley Heinze Land Trust
- Daniel Suarez, Audubon Chicago Region

Lunch

1:00 **Regional Identity: Exploring Calumet themes of national significance**

Building on the previous sessions and work already completed by the Calumet Heritage Partnership, we will learn about and provide feedback needed to develop the Calumet Heritage Area feasibility study. We will focus on regional themes of national significance that can become the foundation for the Calumet Heritage Area.

- Patricia Wisniewski, Shifting Sands
- Mike Longan, Calumet Heritage Partnership
- Augie Carlino, Rivers of Steel, Pittsburgh
- Nancy Morgan, Point Heritage Development Consulting, Tallahassee
- Madeleine Tudor, The Field Museum & Heritage Resources
- Kathy Luther, Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission & Marquette Plan
- LeAaron Foley, National Parks Conservation Association

Break

3:30 **Report Outs + Putting it on the Map = Telling the Regional Story**

Ty Warner, Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

4:15 **Closing Remarks + Next Steps**

4:30 **Reception**

6:30 **Adjourn**