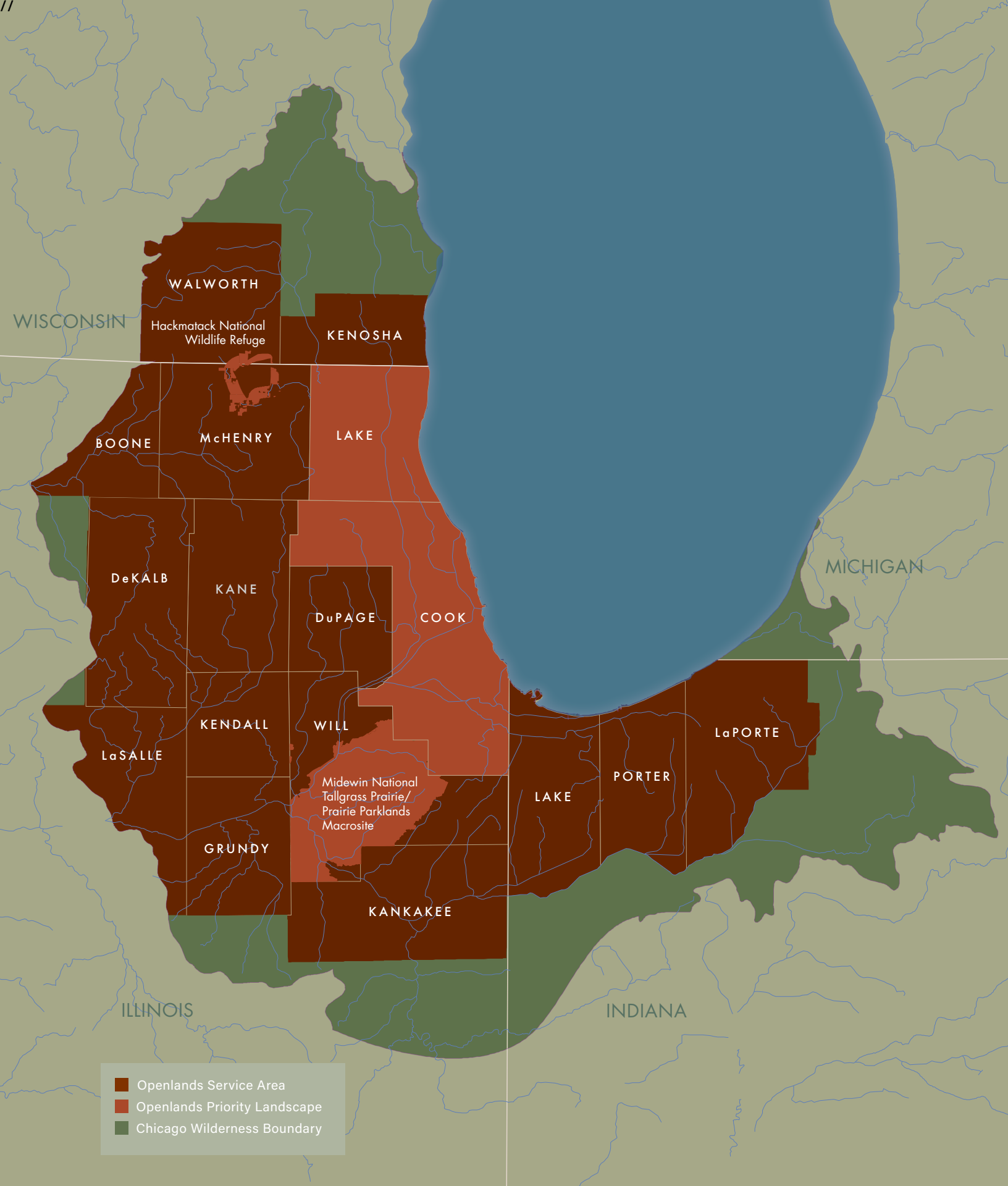







# CONNECTING LAND, PEOPLE, & PEOPLE TO THE LAND

OPENLANDS ANNUAL REPORT 2021



	Openlands Service Area
	Openlands Priority Landscape
	Chicago Wilderness Boundary

**1**  
**LAWSUIT**

filed to stop an enormous industrial facility near Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie from destroying thousands of acres of habitat for grassland birds.

**6½**  
**MILES**

of the Little Calumet River put into focus with the Conservation Action Plan and African American Heritage Water Trail.

**275**  
**ACRES**

of land protected in the Chicago Region.

**500+** native trees and shrubs planted across Lake County through Lands in Harmony.

**750,000**  
**GALLONS**  
**OF WATER**

stored per rain event from 5 Space to Grow schoolyards built.

**5,523**  
**TREES**

pruned by TreeKeepers, breaking a 30-year record.

**1,850**  
**STUDENTS**

engaged in Birds in my Neighborhood instruction.

**10,000+** visits

to the "Get Outside Map: Prairie Edition"  
for *Picturing the Prairie*\*



**OPENLANDS IMPACT**  
**BY-THE-NUMBERS // 2021**

Grassland birds like the **Bobolink**, **Loggerhead Shrike**, and **Upland Sandpiper** rely on the habitat at Midewin.

\* to access the Openlands Get Outside Map, visit [openlands.org/getoutside](https://openlands.org/getoutside)





**I SEE OPENLANDS  
IMPACT EVERYWHERE,  
IN THE PLACES  
WE HAVE PROTECTED  
AND THE PEOPLE WE  
HAVE CONNECTED.**



Dear Friends,

**IN THE LATE STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PLAY**, *Sunday in the Park with George*, the fictionalized French pointillist painter Georges Seurat toils as he creates the masterpiece, *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*. Dot by dot of red, violet, and yellow, the artist paints the large-scale landscape that, even today, inspires. Before the painting found its way to fame, few but Seurat—relentless in his vision and precision—saw its cultural impact.

I must admit I feel an affinity to the play and the artist as I value that same resoluteness in Openlands' vision and work. Since its founding nearly 60 years ago, Openlands has been programmatically comprehensive yet focused, geographically expansive yet targeted, and collaboratively inclusive yet strategic. Just as Sondheim's Seurat saw each dot of color come together to create his vast masterpiece, Openlands' work connects each tree, acre, and stream together to create a vibrant web of green and blue for the region.

I see Openlands impact everywhere, in the places we have protected and the people we have connected. From helping save the remnant prairie at Goose Lake Prairie State Park to holding permanent conservation easements for North Park Village Nature Center, Openlands protects both urban and rural, large and small landscapes. We understand the effect each landscape has on the people who live near it. When people connect with the land, the experience can be transformational. That is why after 30 years, many TreeKeepers remain active volunteer stewards and vocal proponents of the region's tree canopy.

Conservation is a practice of patience, precision, and persistence. It involves consistent collaboration and coordination, especially in a region as geopolitically complex as this one. Openlands stands as a unique force bringing diverse communities, political jurisdictions, and competing interests together under one vision. With that vision and exactitude, Openlands leads when threats and challenges occur and responds to the opportunities and community needs when they arise.

As in art, the work is not easy, but it is always fulfilling. The impact Openlands has made is richer and more enduring because of you—our volunteers, supporters, and champions. Thank you for your belief in Openlands' mission and vision and your support of our work in 2021 as we continue to connect this web of green and blue.

My Best,



Jerry Adelman

President & CEO  
Openlands

*Openlands Forestry Program Manager, Katie Flemming, talks with Little Village community members about how to plant a tree in fall 2021.*

Dear Friends,

**FOR NEARLY 60 YEARS**, Openlands' mission has centered on protecting natural, open spaces in northeastern Illinois and the surrounding region, ensuring cleaner air and water and protected natural habitats and wildlife, to balance and enrich our lives.

Openlands' strategic plan, approved by the board in 2018, set the organization's five-year trajectory. With four pillars to guide our extensive work—*protect priority landscapes, build advocates for nature, promote nature-based solutions to climate change, and strengthen its human and financial resources*—Openlands committed to projects and initiatives that light up the region.

The strategic plan set clear goals for Openlands' impact. Within our area of service, we targeted four priority landscapes. We committed to increase people's connection to the waterways and forest preserves of Cook County, inspire residents to manage their properties as healthy habitats in Lake County, conserve thousands of acres in Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge, and adopt plans that assure complimentary and equitable land use near Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

We committed to build advocates for nature across the region. From planting and maintaining thousands of trees in the Chicago region to constructing 34 new green schoolyards as places to play, learn, and be outside, the plan called for building an urban conservation movement.

Perhaps most importantly Openlands committed to promoting nature-based solutions to climate change. We pledged to contribute to national and regional policy initiatives that promote natural climate solutions and increase the pace and scale of conservation in the region.

As the board and staff created this plan, the financial and human capital of the organization was paramount—because nothing can be accomplished without a healthy work culture and financial resources. By 2023, we pledged to ensure the staff and board better represent the region's skills and backgrounds and have the financial, relational, and operational resources needed to succeed in our work now and in the future.

Throughout this report, you will see our work in 2021 continued to set the pace for successfully meeting or exceeding the strategic plan's goals. I could not be prouder to lead as board president. I hope that as you read of last year's successes and stories, you feel a similar sense of pride that your contributions have helped Openlands achieve so much, and I hope you'll join us for all that's to come in 2022, connecting people and land for a brighter tomorrow.

Gratefully,



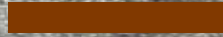
JoAnn Seagren  
Board President  
Openlands

To view Openlands' strategic plan, visit [Openlands.org/strategic](https://openlands.org/strategic).

RIGHT A student runs to play on his school's Space to Grow green schoolyard.



**PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY OPENLANDS  
COMMITTED TO PROMOTING NATURE-BASED  
SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE.**









A photograph of a vast field of tall grasses and purple flowers, likely a prairie or meadow, during the golden hour of sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow over the entire scene. The grasses are tall and thin, with some purple flowers in bloom. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

# CONNECTING LAND



# Conserving a powerful carbon sink in Hackmatack

**HACKMATACK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE** is the first refuge within 100 miles of Chicago. Openlands began advocating for its creation in 2005 and has acquired over 1,000 acres of land for the Refuge in collaboration with partners and community residents. In 2021 Openlands acquired its largest single parcel for the Refuge with the purchase of the 181-acre property from the Kundert family. The Refuge's distinct donut shape connects "core areas" of primary importance for conservation and "corridors" of secondary importance with farming and communities within and outside the boundaries. The unrestored Kundert property, located near Hebron, has the area's defining feature: peatland. Peatlands are vital ecosystems to preserve and protect since they are one of the best ecosystems for storing carbon, a nature-based solution to climate change. When fully restored, the property will complement an area owned by McHenry County Conservation District to the west and become critical habitat to grassland birds, a place for people to find restoration in the outdoors, and a powerful tool in the fight against climate change. Preserving Hackmatack is a model of how large landscapes in metropolitan areas like Chicago are vital to the national and global movement to conserve 30% of our lands and waters for the needs of people and wildlife. Learn more about nature-based solutions at [openlands.org/climate](https://openlands.org/climate).

*RIGHT A view of the unrestored Kundert property along Nippersink Creek, which includes multiple invasive species, in summer 2021. The land will be restored by Openlands and partners, before being transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who manages the Refuge.*

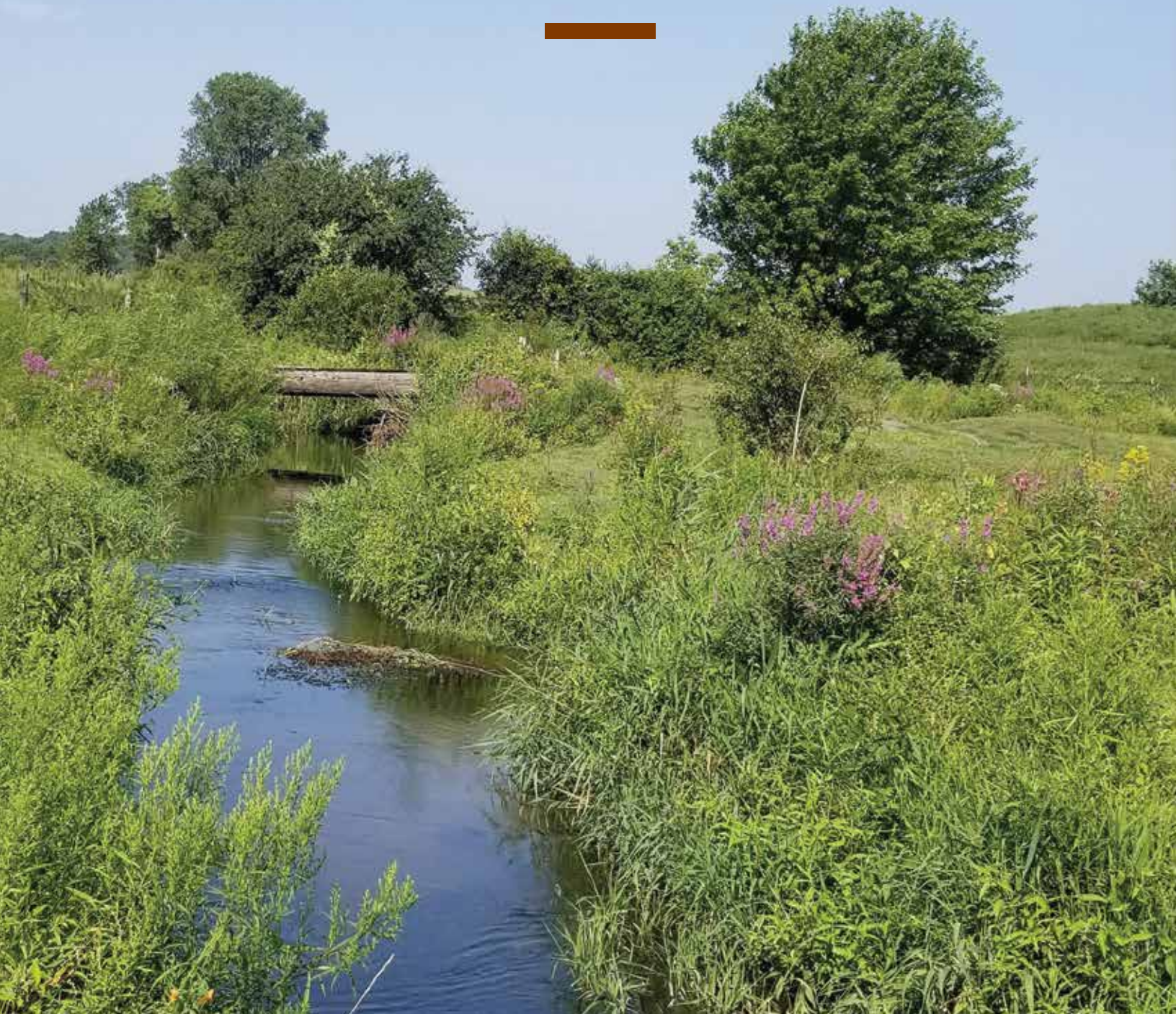
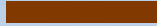
*PREVIOUS PAGE Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie at sunrise.*





**HACKMATACK NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE REFUGE  
IS A MODEL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL  
COLLABORATION—BRINGING  
LOCAL, COUNTY, STATE, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES  
AND NONPROFITS TOGETHER TO CREATE  
A LEGACY FOR OUR FUTURE.**

*Sara and Rusty Foszcz, President and Vice President  
Full Circle Foundation*





# Protecting Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, 25 years and counting

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**OPENLANDS JOINED THE USDA FOREST SERVICE** and numerous partners in celebrating Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie's 25th anniversary in 2021, participating in a year-long series of events that told the story of northeastern Illinois' largest protected landscape. To keep Midewin and the rare plants and wildlife that inhabit it protected for the next 25 years and beyond, Openlands continued to cultivate broad support from farm families, Joliet area residents, and government officials to develop comprehensive land-use plans for the Midewin area. These plans cluster freight and truck routes to preserve community health and character and complement Midewin and the mosaic of connected natural resources and rich farmland known as the Prairie Parklands. At the same time, Openlands partnered with communities and the Sierra Club to litigate against Northpoint, preventing the 3,000-acre industrial facility from being built and increasing light and truck traffic pollution that threatens the tallgrass prairie and the globally rare grassland birds, bison, and other wildlife that call it home. Julia, a farm owner and plaintiff in the suit, described the urgency of the situation: "Do we plan wisely and protect our high-quality agricultural lands, rivers, natural resources, and cultural institutions, or do we allow industrial growth to swallow them up? We must work together to think through the impacts and advance alternatives like allowing areas near the interstates to be targeted for industry while respecting and preserving our heritage and quality of life of the place that so many have called home for generations." Learn more about Midewin and our efforts to protect it at [openlands.org/Midewin](https://openlands.org/Midewin).

*Bison were introduced to Midewin in 2015 and have become a favorite of visitors.*







**SOUTHWEST WILL COUNTY  
FINDS ITSELF AT  
A MAJOR CROSSROADS  
WITH A SMALL  
WINDOW OF TIME  
TO GET IT RIGHT.**

*Julia, Historic Farm Owner and Plaintiff  
in Openlands NorthPoint lawsuit*





**A LABOR OF LOVE,  
BUT WE'RE HAPPY TO BE ABLE  
TO GIVE BACK  
TO THE LAND AND  
ENJOY IT FOR  
GENERATIONS TO COME.**

*Colleen, 2021 Lands in Harmony Participant*





# Bringing Lands into Harmony in Lake County

**A SILVER LINING OF 2021** was people's reconnection with nature close to home. In Lake County, Openlands facilitated a healthy connection to the land through Lands in Harmony. An outgrowth of the region's Conservation@Home certification program, Lands in Harmony helps property owners integrate conservation-friendly practices into their home and business landscapes. In 2021, after onsite consultation with Openlands, over one hundred property owners completed at least one project—from planting an oak or native garden to removing invasive plants like buckthorn from their properties. One participant, Colleen, spoke of the experience: "We cut down and treated all the buckthorn and planted evergreens, oaks, Ironwoods, and Redbuds, in addition to over 100 native perennials. A labor of love, but we're happy to be able to give back to the land and enjoy it for generations to come."

Lands in Harmony program participants planted over 500 native trees and shrubs throughout 2021, increasing the ecological health of Lake County. Learn more at [openlands.org/beautiful](https://openlands.org/beautiful).

*Openlands Landscape Ecologist, Mary Fortmann (left), joins Colleen and Dave Eubanks of Eubanks Environmental on a property visit in fall 2021.*









CONNECTING  
PEOPLE





THROUGH THE CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN,  
I BELIEVE THAT ALL OF THE COMMUNITY AND CONNECTED  
NEIGHBORHOODS OF THE RIVER WILL ONE DAY BE AS  
PRIDEFUL AND BOASTFUL ABOUT THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER  
AS THOSE WHO LIVE ALONG THE CHICAGO LAKEFRONT.

*Michael Taylor, Illinois Water TrailKeeper*





# Creating the Little Calumet Action Plan in Cook County

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**WITH CRITICAL INPUT FROM LOCAL** landowners and community groups, Openlands collaborated with the Metropolitan Planning Council and the Field Museum to publish the Little Calumet River Conservation Action Plan (CAP) in 2021. A framework for improving the health of nature and the quality of life for communities along the 6½ mile corridor of the Little Calumet River, the plan identifies sites that are high priorities for land preservation, connecting communities to the river and the landscapes along its banks. Following the CAP publication, Openlands and partners engaged Altgeld Gardens and Golden Gate residents in a community walk along the river corridor. Openlands, along with partners People for Community Recovery, We Keep You Rollin' Bike & Wellness Group, the Little Calumet River Underground Railroad Project, and Illinois Water TrailKeepers, shared potential plans for restoring and creating community spaces along the river to benefit and uplift neighbors, celebrate neighborhood history, and protect nature and wildlife.

This conservation plan and its community-centered approach helped justify a \$1.56M investment in the City of Chicago's 2022 budget for land acquisition, restoration, and programming to connect and revitalize the Little Calumet riverfront—work that is now underway. Read the Little Calumet Conservation Action Plan at [openlands.org/CAP](https://openlands.org/CAP).

*LEFT Paddlers move along the Little Calumet River in August 2021 for a tour of the African American Heritage Water Trail.*

*PREVIOUS PAGE Community members share their ideas and hopes for restoring and improving access to the Little Calumet River at the Water Walk in September 2021. The event was produced in collaboration with Water Wayfinding, LLC for the Chicago Architecture Biennial.*



# Ensuring the Future of Farming around Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge and Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

**THE GEOGRAPHY AND LAND USE** in the Chicago metropolitan region is a tapestry of productive agricultural lands, picturesque conservation properties, small towns and larger cities. Farmers and conservationists often share the same land, sometimes with different priorities. In McHenry and Will Counties alone, over 6,000 acres of land in use by farmers is leased to them by conservation and forest preserve districts. In response to the land and the people who use it, Openlands began a strategic partnership with Farm Foundation in 2021 to bring conservationists and farmers together for dialog and to learn new strategies for nurturing healthy land and water. The collaboration started with two, day-long conferences in July, where attendees learned about state and county land use data, discovered the needs and challenges for agricultural producers in McHenry and Will counties today, and discussed opportunities to support conservation-friendly farming in the future. Conservation and forest preserve districts walked away with a newfound understanding of how to encourage conservation standards when leasing their farmland. In February 2022, Openlands and Farm Foundation hosted the second round of convenings for McHenry and Will Counties, this time with the focus on farmers and ways to support and spur agricultural conservation. Learn more at [openlands.org/futurefarming](https://openlands.org/futurefarming).

*Participants brainstorm ideas at the first day-long conference in McHenry County in July 2021. The Future of Farming events took place in both Will and McHenry Counties, in collaboration with Farm Foundation.*





AT TIMES, AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION SEEM  
TO BE AT ODDS, BUT THEY EACH CONTRIBUTE  
TO OUR QUALITY OF LIFE AND HAVE THE POTENTIAL  
TO BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL.

Erin Aleman, Executive Director of Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Executive Director






# Celebrating the 30th Schoolyard with Space to Grow

**OVER 2,500 STUDENTS AT FIVE SCHOOLS** in Chicago were welcomed back in fall 2021 with the Space to Grow® program's schoolyard transformations. The new green schoolyards at Horace Mann Elementary and Arnold Mireles Academy in South Chicago, Isabelle O'Keeffe Elementary in South Shore, Daniel Wentworth Elementary in West Englewood, and John Whistler Elementary in West Pullman bring the total number of Space to Grow schoolyards to 30. Together, these schoolyards collect up to 4.5 million gallons of rainwater per rain event, keeping the rain out of homes in flood-prone neighborhoods. All the while, they create inviting, nature-based places for kids to learn and play. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency upholds Space to Grow as a national model. It is a shining example of how nature-based solutions and green infrastructure can create healthier communities and make Chicago more resilient to a changing climate. Learn more at [spacetogrowchicago.org](https://spacetogrowchicago.org).

*Students enjoy their new Space to Grow green schoolyard at a ribbon cutting ceremony in fall 2021. Space to Grow is a partnership of Openlands and Healthy Schools Campaign, with capital funding partners Chicago Public Schools, City of Chicago — Department of Water Management, and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.*



**STUDENTS' MORALE  
HAS GONE UP,  
BEHAVIORS  
HAVE IMPROVED,  
VOLUNTEERING TO KEEP  
OUR GROUNDS CLEAN HAS  
SKYROCKETED  
AND THE OVERALL VIBE  
OF THE SCHOOL  
HAS GOTTEN  
MARKEDLY BETTER.**

*John Bowles, Dean of Students at  
Daniel S. Wentworth Elementary School*









CONNECTING  
PEOPLE TO  
THE LAND









TO BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND  
TREES IN A DIFFERENT  
KIND OF WAY...  
IT HAS CHANGED  
THE WAY I MOVE AROUND  
MY NEIGHBORHOOD  
SIGNIFICANTLY.

Nancy, *TreeKeeper* #1189



# Breaking Records for TreeKeepers' 30th Anniversary

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**TREEKEEPERS, AN EVER-GROWING COMMUNITY** of trained tree care ambassadors advocating for the Urban Forest, made its most significant impact in 2021. As Openlands marked the 30th anniversary of the TreeKeepers, support for our region's canopy doubled through the creation of TreeKeeper Chapters. The chapters, volunteer-led groups based in specific areas such as neighborhoods, wards, villages, or townships, worked with Openlands and their local municipal agencies to achieve numerous urban forestry goals through a myriad of activities, such as tree inventories, planting, and of course, pruning young trees to ensure their longevity. In 2021, TreeKeepers gave hundreds of hours to this work, pruning a record-breaking 5,523 trees. Learn more at [openlands.org/treekeepers](https://openlands.org/treekeepers).

*LEFT Openlands Community Arborist Tom Ebling shows volunteers aspects of tree damage as part of tree inventory training in summer 2021.*

*PREVIOUS PAGE Students search for birds in the sky on a Birds in my Neighborhood field trip to Volo Bog State Natural Area in Lake County in spring 2021.*



# Bringing Nature Close to Home with Birds in my Neighborhood

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**OPENLANDS EDUCATION WORK BECAME EVEN MORE** critical in 2021. Openlands extended its Birds in my Neighborhood® program, which since 2013 has helped thousands of students learn about nature in their communities, to virtual and, when possible, outdoor instruction. The program, which introduces students to the common birds of the region through in-class lessons and field trips, was led by over 35 dedicated volunteers in schools in Chicago, and McHenry, Lake, and Will Counties in Illinois. Volunteers taught virtually and led outdoor bird walks, spending numerous hours working hand in hand with educators. When distance learning prevented students from taking class field trips, Openlands provided \$50 stipends to fund family field trips, resulting in 70 limited-income families visiting natural areas and creating memories that will ignite a life-long connection to nature that is all around us. Learn more at [openlands.org/bimn](https://openlands.org/bimn).

*Birds in my Neighborhood volunteers pose with students and parents on a field trip at Washington Park in Chicago, spring 2021.*







TO OUR SURPRISE, OUR DAUGHTER FORGOT HER CELL PHONE AT THE MOTEL  
BUT DID REMEMBER HER BINOCULARS AND BIRD JOURNAL.

*Curtis, Birds in my Neighborhood Parent*



LIKE PAINTING, A TALLGRASS PRAIRIE RESTORATION  
IS AN ACT OF CREATION, BUT WHEN ALL GOES WELL, IT YIELDS  
FAR MORE THAN AESTHETIC BEAUTY.

Philip Juras, *Picturing the Prairie: A Vision of Restoration*





# Protecting the Prairie through *Picturing the Prairie*

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**IN 2021 OPENLANDS PARTNERED** with Chicago Botanic Garden and others for *Picturing the Prairie*. The art exhibition featured work by Philip Juras, who traveled from his home in Athens, Georgia, and spent five years capturing remnant and restored prairies across Illinois. Guided by Openlands, other prominent prairie conservationists and his own research, the paintings illuminated how far conservationists have come in understanding this vital ecosystem and how much land is still left to be restored and protected. As a companion to the exhibition, Openlands published a special *Get Outside Map* focused on prairies in the Chicago region and across Illinois to encourage visitation and advocacy of these special places. Learn more about prairies to visit in the area at [openlands.org/getoutside](https://openlands.org/getoutside).

The *Get Outside Map: Prairie* online edition received over 10,000 site visits.

*Winter Evening, Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve, Mason County, Illinois, 2019 (Oil on canvas 36 x 60 inches) by Philip Juras was one of the larger canvases included in Picturing the Prairie at Chicago Botanic Garden in the summer of 2021.*



# Advancing Policy Solutions for a Healthier World

**THROUGHOUT 2021, OPENLANDS WAS AT THE FOREFRONT** of aligning regional and state alliances to demonstrate how Illinois and metropolitan areas are vital to national climate initiatives. Promoting nature-based solutions to climate change, Openlands advocated those national initiatives must include Illinois and the metropolitan region to conserve enough land and water, shift to more regenerative agricultural practices, and render all communities—especially our most divested—resilient to climate change. Through Chicago Wilderness, Openlands convened experts in four states to create a baseline and metrics for improving waters across the region, from wetlands and streams to the great Lake Michigan. In Chicago, Openlands continued to support Chicago’s southeast side communities fighting harmful projects like the Combined Disposal Facility. Advocating for more equitable solutions, Openlands—with partners—pushed for new environmentally conscious disposal practices, and the creation of lakefront parkland promised to residents 25 years ago. In Will County, Openlands continued its legal battle with NorthPoint, building momentum for freight and truck routes that complement communities and critical natural lands and waters in the region, like Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

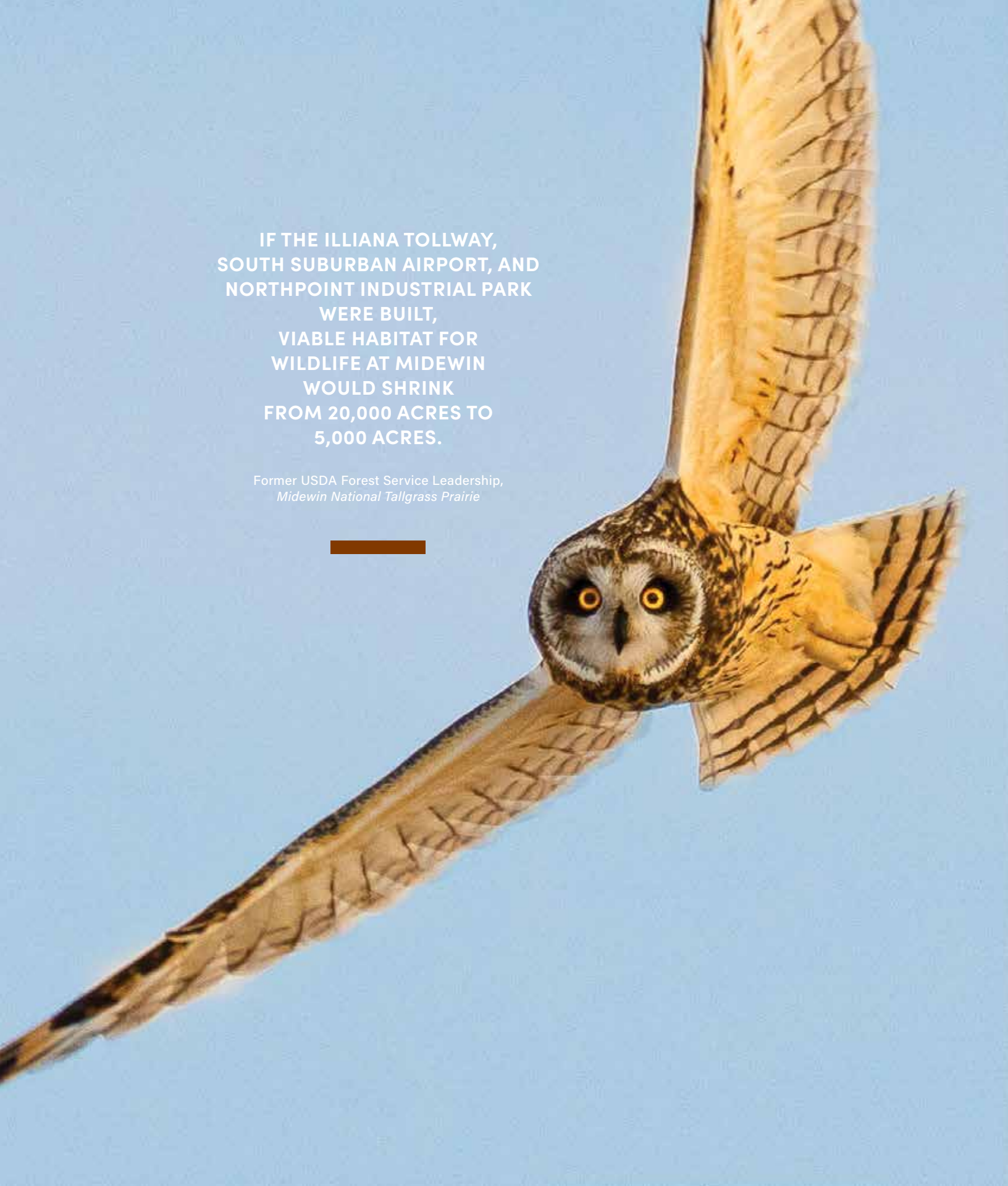
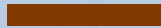
In 2021, the United Nations staked out the three crises facing our world and future generations: climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. In Springfield, Washington, D.C., and local communities, Openlands testified, provided comments, and filed briefs to strengthen laws, regulations, and permits to protect the region’s natural resources. From defending cornerstones of the Clean Water Act to fighting for the public’s right to challenge damaging projects under the National Environmental Policy Act, Openlands fought to advance policy solutions to these global crises. Learn more about our policy work across the region at [openlands.org/policy](https://openlands.org/policy).

*A short-eared owl flies near the bison overlook at the USDA Forest Service’s Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.*



IF THE ILLIANA TOLLWAY,  
SOUTH SUBURBAN AIRPORT, AND  
NORTHPOINT INDUSTRIAL PARK  
WERE BUILT,  
VIALE HABITAT FOR  
WILDLIFE AT MIDEWIN  
WOULD SHRINK  
FROM 20,000 ACRES TO  
5,000 ACRES.

Former USDA Forest Service Leadership,  
*Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie*





# 2021 Financial Report

## Revenue

Grants and Contracts	\$	3,202,381
Contributions		2,198,154
Other (a)		1,651,533

Total	\$	7,052,068
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## Expenses

Program Services	\$	4,004,165
Restoration		735,933
Management and General		664,197
Fundraising		855,664

Total	\$	6,259,959
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Increase in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	\$	792,109
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions, Beginning of Year		6,322,432
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions, End of Year	\$	7,114,541
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions		27,478,354
Total Net Assets (b)	\$	34,592,895


(a) This balance includes \$986,000 in loan forgiveness from the Paycheck Protection Program, part of relief efforts related to COVID-19.

(b) This balance includes \$18M comprised of land held for conservations and resources for land conservation activities.

Openlands continues to have a strong financial position with an overall 27% increase in Net Assets over the prior year, comprised of a 13% increase in Net Assets Without Donor restrictions, and a 14% increase in Net Assets With Donor restrictions. This balance represents resources for future work of the organization.



# Reflecting breadth, depth, and diversity of skills and backgrounds at Openlands



One integral goal of Openlands' strategic plan was to ensure the staff and board reflect the breadth, depth, and diversity of skills and backgrounds of the people it serves in the region. In 2021, the Openlands Board of Directors took this work head-on. Through a special committee, the board evaluated and improved upon its recruitment and retention strategies and policies to ensure greater representation and talent now and in the future. It also adopted a diversity, equity, and inclusion statement, new committee chair term limits, and an evaluation rubric to ensure accountability into the future.

Seven new members joined Openlands Board in 2021, all of whom represent an element of the region's diversity of skills and backgrounds.



# Donors

*October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021*

Thank you to our generous funding partners who helped to fulfill Openlands' mission of connecting people to nature over the past year.

## CORPORATIONS, FOUNDATIONS, GOVERNMENTS & ORGANIZATIONS

### \$500,000 or more

Hamill Family Foundation  
Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation

### \$100,000–\$499,999

ComEd  
Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation ♦  
Grand Victoria Foundation ♦

### \$50,000–\$99,999

Anonymous  
The Builders Initiative  
Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust ♦  
Willow Springs Charitable Trust

### \$25,000–\$49,999

The Arbor Day Foundation  
BMO Harris Bank  
The Bowman C. Lingle Trust ♦  
Anonymous Fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation  
The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation ♦  
Full Circle Foundation

Globe Foundation  
Harold M. and Adeline S. Morrison Family Foundation  
Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas Community Fund  
Polk Bros. Foundation ♦  
Prince Charitable Trusts ♦  
Solberg Manufacturing Inc.  
Walder Foundation

### \$10,000–\$24,999

Ball Horticultural Company  
BNSF Railway  
The Buchanan Family Foundation ♦  
The Christopher Family Foundation  
ArcelorMittal  
Comer Family Foundation  
The Crown Family  
Dr. Scholl Foundation  
Julie Dorfman & Jerry Herst  
Good Heart Work Smart Foundation  
The Grainger Foundation  
Leo S. Guthman Fund  
Henry Crown and Company  
The Lumpkin Family Foundation  
The Siragusa Family Foundation ♦  
U.S. Bank  
Vanguard  
The George and Mary Rabb Charitable Fund

### \$5,000–\$9,999

Acorn Advisors  
CenterPoint Properties Trust  
Christy Webber Landscapes  
Electronic Entry Systems, Inc.  
McGraw Foundation ♦

The Northern Trust Company ♦  
REI  
The South Church

### \$2,500–\$4,999

The Alford Group  
Anonymous ♦  
Boeing  
Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd.  
Delta Institute  
Ecolab  
First Congregational Church of Western Springs Woman's Society  
Forest Preserve District of Will County ♦  
Heitman LLC  
Liberty Prairie Foundation  
OMNI Ecosystems  
SavATree  
Scott Byron & Co.  
Wanxiang America Corporation

### \$1,000–\$2,499

50 South Capital Advisors  
Barbara Notz Hines Foundation  
Chicago Audubon Society  
Exelon Foundation  
The Garden Guild of Winnetka ♦  
ITW  
Jewel-Osco Foundation  
Lake County Forest Preserves ♦  
LUMW Foundation  
The Sachem Company  
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill ♦  
Urban Forestry Organization  
Whole Foods Market



**\$250-\$999**

AIG  
 AmazonSmile Foundation  
 Arch Capital Group Ltd.  
 Bethany United Church of Christ  
 Boone County Conservation District  
 Fiserv  
 Foresight  
 The Friday Club  
 Google  
 Grainger  
 Kittleman & Associates  
 Lake County Audubon Society  
 Liberty Prairie Restorations  
 Spiritual Assembly of the Bha'is  
 of Deerfield

**INDIVIDUALS****Leadership Circle**

Openlands gratefully acknowledges  
 the following individuals who made  
 contributions of \$1,000 or more.

**\$100,000 or more**

Shaun & Andy Block ♦  
 Nancy H. Hamill Charitable Lead  
 Unitrust  
 Hank & Wendy Paulson,  
 Bobolink Foundation  
 Louis Schauer\*

**\$25,000-\$50,000**

Fred Eychaner  
 Bob & Joan Feitler  
 Barbara Goodman Manilow  
 Lauderback Family Foundation  
 The Negaunee Foundation  
 Barbara & Glenn Reed  
 J. Timothy Ritchie\* ♦  
 Nancy Sutherland ♦

**\$10,000-\$24,999**

Alan M. Bell  
 Connie & Tony Bischof ♦  
 Nancy Hamill Winter ♦  
 Ambassador Fay Hartog-Levin (Ret.)  
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A photograph of a wildflower field under a cloudy sky. The foreground is filled with green foliage and purple and yellow wildflowers. In the background, a line of trees and a road with a guardrail are visible under a sky filled with large, grey clouds.

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THE EXPERIENCE  
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