

HACKMATAACK

Since 2005, Openlands has worked to protect the ecologically significant landscapes found along the Illinois-Wisconsin border, acquiring over 1,000 acres of land in Hackmataack National Wildlife Refuge, and collaborating with partners and community residents to restore it. Openlands is a member of the Hackmataack Conservation Partnership, which is dedicated to protecting lands within the broader 30,000-acre greater Hackmataack refuge area. The Refuge is accessible to the 12 million residents of the metropolitan areas of Chicago, Madison, Milwaukee, and Rockford. Established in 2012, the Refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge system and is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Over time, Hackmataack will become a mosaic of protected lands that provide habitat for wildlife, recreation and education opportunities for people, and economic support for local communities.



“The land speaks to us in an elegant, primeval, and wordless language that reverberates within our very soul. Hackmataack is, and will come to be as the years pass, one of the concert halls in which we sit breathlessly to hear that symphony.”

– Ed Collins, McHenry County Conservation District

CONSERVATION BY THE NUMBERS

Hackmataack provides critical habitat for migratory birds, endangered species, and other wildlife thanks to the work of volunteers and advocacy groups:

11k+

Acres of land that will be protected when preservation and restoration is complete

6k

Hours worked by volunteers since 2012, including public outreach, restoration, and land management

30k

Acres of natural land in Illinois and Wisconsin encompassed by Hackmataack

109

Species of concern living at Hackmataack