

Celebrating



# Connections in Conservation

While the protection of all the county's greenways and waterways is essential, it is also a daunting task for one agency to accomplish. To that end, McHenry County Conservation District collaborates with local organizations, municipal leaders and environmental partners to allow for land protection and restoration successes on a grander scale. Each agency brings their own unique strengths. Together these groups create an invaluable resource for information, expertise and land protection. We would like to recognize those who work on behalf of all our residents, as well as the flora and the fauna of McHenry County.

## Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, a grassroots organization started in 1970, is dedicated to the preservation and improvement of McHenry County's natural environment and committed to building sound ecological relationships between people and the natural world. The Environmental Defenders provide the community with educational programs and volunteer action on pollution prevention, sustainable land use, and energy and natural resource conservation. In addition, they advocate for policies which protect drinking water supplies and conserve land for open space and agriculture; demonstrate waste reduction through recycling drives and reuse centers; and encourage natural resource protection through native landscaping and stream protection programs.



## Chicago Wilderness

Chicago Wilderness Created as a regional alliance, Chicago Wilderness is leading strategy to preserve, improve, and expand nature and quality of life by connecting community leaders to tackle challenging issues to ensure a resilient region. More than 250 diverse member organizations advance the legacy of work and collaborations, built over more than 25 years, for projects that expand in the four state area, including Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan. The work of Chicago Wilderness is focused on long term initiatives including healthy landscapes, regenerative agriculture, green infrastructure in built spaces, increased habitat and preserved conservation lands, nature access for all, climate resilience and aquatic resources.

## Chicago Wilderness

Created as a regional alliance, Chicago Wilderness is leading strategy to preserve,

## ILLINOIS



## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## Illinois Department of Natural Resources

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is involved with the Conservation District in nearly every aspect from land preservation, wildlife and water quality management, research and data collection, fish management, endangered species protection, education and outdoor recreational opportunities and policing activities. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission assists private and public landowners in protecting high quality natural areas and habitats of endangered species, through voluntary dedication or registration of such lands into the Illinois Nature Preserves System. The Division of Education develops educational programs, training, and licensing to provide for various outdoor recreational opportunities that range from birding and biking to hunting and boating. The Division of Grant Administration coordinates eight grant programs to help local agencies including the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Program, the Public Museum Capital Grants Program, and the Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program.



## The Land Conservancy of McHenry County

As a member-supported, non-profit organization, The Land Conservancy of McHenry County mission is to preserve scenic, natural and agricultural resources in McHenry County by working with private landowners, communities and developers on direct acquisition of property, land donations or the establishment of conservation easements. These lands are protected on behalf of the community, in perpetuity. Since 1991, The Land Conservancy has helped protect over 2,500 acres of McHenry County's prairies, wetlands and woodlands. In addition, The Land Conservancy organized Project Quercus to protect, preserve and regenerate the oak woods, and The Oaks Keepers program that works with private landowners on maintaining and regenerating their oaks. They have successfully worked with homeowners to protect the region's oak woods, after launching a 5,000 acre oak protection challenge.





## McHenry County Conservation District Partners

Alden Neighbors Seed Sharing Group  
 Algonquin Township  
 Barrington Area  
 Conservation Trust  
 Barrington Area Council of Governments  
 Barrington Hills Riding Club  
 Bobolink Foundation  
 Boone County Conservation District  
 Boone Creek Watershed Alliance  
 Bull Valley Riding Club  
 Cary / Fox River Grove Rotary Club  
 Cary Park District  
 Chicago Area Mountain Bikers  
 Chicago Botanic Garden  
 Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
 Chicago Wilderness  
 Citizens for Conservation  
 Citizens Climate Lobby  
 City of Crystal Lake  
 City of Marengo  
 City of McHenry  
 City of Woodstock  
 Coral Township  
 Crystal Lake Park District  
 Crystal Lake Public Library  
 Cycling Without Age  
 Dundee Township Open Space  
 Environmental Defenders of McHenry County  
 Fire Protection Districts  
 Forest Preserve District of Cook County  
 Forest Preserve District of Kane County  
 Forest Preserve District of DuPage County  
 Fox River Ecosystem Partnership  
 Fox Waterway Agency  
 Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge  
 Friends of McConnell Farm  
 Friends of Moraine Hills State Park  
 Friends of the Forest Preserves  
 Great Lakes Audubon  
 Huntley Community Radio  
 Huntley Park District  
 Hebron Township  
 Huntley Penguins  
 Illinois Association of Chief of Police  
 Illinois Association of Conservation and Forest  
 Preserve Districts  
 Illinois Association of Conservation Districts  
 Illinois Association of Park Districts  
 Illinois Audubon  
 Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation  
 Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
 Illinois Department of Transportation  
 Illinois Environmental Council  
 Illinois Farm Bureau  
 Illinois Federation for Outdoor Resources  
 Illinois Nature Preserves Commission  
 Illinois Paddling Council  
 Illinois Park and Recreation Association  
 Illinois State Geological Survey  
 Izaak Walton League  
 Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnership  
 Lake County Forest Preserves  
 Lake/McHenry County Soil and Water District  
 Liberty Prairie Foundation  
 Lincoln Park Zoo  
 LL Bean  
 Loyola University Retreat and Ecology Center  
 Marengo Lions Club  
 Marengo Snogoers  
 Marengo Township  
 McHenry County  
 McHenry County Audubon  
 McHenry County Bicycle Advocates  
 McHenry County Bicycle Club  
 McHenry County College  
 McHenry County Community Foundation  
 McHenry County Conservation Foundation  
 McHenry County Council of Governments  
 McHenry County Division of Transportation  
 McHenry County Ducks Unlimited  
 McHenry County Economic Development  
 McHenry County Equestrian Coalition  
 McHenry County Farm Bureau  
 McHenry County Health Department  
 McHenry County Historic Preservation  
 Commission  
 McHenry County Historical Society  
 McHenry County Horse Club  
 McHenry County Mental Health Board  
 McHenry County Planning Department  
 McHenry County School Districts  
 McHenry County Sheriff's Office  
 McHenry County Snowmobile Clubs  
 McHenry County State's Attorney's Office  
 McHenry County Volunteer Center  
 McHenry County Wildlife Preservation &  
 Propagation Committee  
 McHenry County School Environmental  
 Education Program  
 National Recreation and Park Association  
 National Ski Patrol  
 Nippersink Creek Watershed Association  
 Northern Illinois Special Recreation Assoc.  
 Northwest Suburban Astronomers  
 Nunda Township  
 Openlands  
 Park District Risk Management Agency  
 Pheasants & Quail Forever  
 Richmond Township  
 Richmond Trailblazers  
 Sierra Club  
 Small Waters  
 Environmental Education  
 The Land Conservancy  
 of McHenry County  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 Trails for Illinois  
 Trout Unlimited – Lee Wulff Chapter  
 Trust for Public Lands  
 US Army Corps of Engineers  
 US Fish & Wildlife Service  
 University of Illinois Extension  
 United Way of Greater McHenry County  
 Village of Algonquin  
 Village of Barrington Hills  
 Village of Bull Valley  
 Village of Cary  
 Village of Fox Lake  
 Village of Fox River Grove  
 Village of Greenwood  
 Village of Hebron  
 Village of Holiday Hills  
 Village of Huntley  
 Village of Island Lake  
 Village of Johnsburg  
 Village of Lake in the Hills  
 Village of Lakemoor  
 Village of Lakewood  
 Village of Port Barrington  
 Village of Prairie Grove  
 Village of Richmond  
 Village of Ringwood  
 Village of Spring Grove  
 Village of Trout Valley  
 Village of Union  
 Village of Wonder Lake  
 Visit McHenry County  
 Wildlife In Need (WIN)  
 Woodstock Snowmobile Club