

Achieving Regional Metropolitan Area Nature Conservation: Ingredients for Success

Presentation to the 2015 George Wright Society Conference Lynn Wilson, MCIP RPP

March 31, 2015



Outline

- The challenge of metropolitan regional nature conservation
- Four necessary attributes for achieving metropolitan regional nature conservation
- The Collective Impact Model
- Metropolitan Greenspaces Alliance (MGA)



 MGA member profile: Wilderness Chicago and the Intertwine Alliance (Portland, Oregon)



The Challenge

- Urban areas are rapidly expanding as more people than ever are living in cities.
- There is a growing global recognition that focused attention needs to be paid to nature conservation in metropolitan settings.
- A need exists to develop broadly applicable best practice guidelines to achieve successful nature conservation outcomes for urbanized regions.



Four Key Attributes

Four key attributes are critical for achieving successful nature conservation outcomes in regional metropolitan environments:

- presence of a regional vision
- political commitment to the vision



- organizational capacity to achieve the vision
- consensus-building to build support for the vision

Collective Impact Model

- Collective impact is the commitment of a coalition of organizations from different sectors to a common agenda for addressing a complex social or environmental challenge.
- The "collective impact" approach is emerging worldwide as best practice when addressing large-scale social and environmental challenges.
- The components of collective impact are:
 - Common agenda
 - Shared measurement
 - Mutually reinforcing activities
 - Continuous communication
 - Backbone Support



Metropolitan Greenspaces Alliance

• What it is:

 a U.S.-based national network of urban conservation coalitions made up of over 550 private, non-profit, and public organizations serving metropolitan regions comprised of 30 million people.



• How it works:

 It utilizes a collaborative approach, sharing knowledge and best practices across major metropolitan areas (i.e. collective impact).

Metropolitan Greenspaces Alliance

• What it does:

- Restores nature and conserves biodiversity;
- Finds "green" solutions to infrastructure challenges;
- Reduces and mitigates the effects of climate change;
- Provides safe places for children to play in nature;
- Engages diverse communities in environmental stewardship and outdoor recreation; and
- Leverages funding and increases the impact and efficiency of conservation investments in metropolitan environments.



MGA Members



Cleveland

 <u>Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership for Biodiversity (LEAP)</u>, formed in 2004, is a consortium of organizations working to enhance the biodiversity of the region's habitats and ecosystems from Sandusky Bay to the Allegheny Mountains.



Houston

 <u>Houston Wilderness</u>, formed in 2003, is a 24-county area in southeast Texas containing a wide array of ecosystems and an alliance of more than 65 partners that encourage the preservation of land, water and wildlife.



Los Angeles

 <u>Amigos de los Ríos</u>, formed in 2003, is a non-profit organization that creates sustainable open spaces, protects the environment, and strengthens community life to benefit current and future generations.



Milwaukee

• <u>Sweet Water</u>, the Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc., formed in 2008, is a partnership to achieve healthy and sustainable water resources throughout the 1,100 square miles of Greater Milwaukee watersheds.



San Francisco

• <u>The Bay Area Open Space Council (OSC)</u>, formed in 1990, is a collaborative of 60 organizations involved in conserving, stewarding, and promoting the use of parks, trails, farms, and open spaces in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Chicago Wilderness

A regional alliance dedicated to protecting nature and enriching life



Chicago Wilderness is a regional alliance that connects people and nature. It is more than 300 organizations working together to restore local nature and improve the quality of life for all who live in the Chicago Metropolitan Region, by protecting the lands and waters on which we all depend.



The Chicago Wilderness Vision

Our vision is to create a sustainable network of natural areas to provide critical homes for plant and animals, and vibrant open spaces for people.

Chicago Wilderness is an alliance of more than 300 diverse organizations protecting the lands and waters on which we all depend. We represent:

- A metro region spanning 38 counties, over 500 municipalities and more than 10 million people across parts of four states
- More than 545,000 acres of protected areas
- A potential network of 1.9 million acres of protected, restored or connected lands and waters
 More than \$14 million is foderal concentration funds. Incorded to \$280 million area 17 more
- More than \$14 million in federal conservation funds, leveraged to \$280 million over 17 years
 Over 500 conservation, sustainable development and environmental education projects funded



The Vision was created with support from the Illinois Department of Transportation and Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, as well as the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation.

www.chicagowilderness.org









Chicago Wilderness and Its Biodiversity Recovery Plan

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Chicago Wilderness: who we are, what we are accomplishing.

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Science and Land Management Teams Sound that more than half of the major community types of the region were at the highest layed of conservation concern due entities to the small consider remaining or to the proof ecological health of the small ecological transit + A 1985 survey of DuPage Gepres / forst preserves revealed that 80% of the natural areas had declined to poor health Quipted Ecological Services 1990.

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Figure 2. Conceptual green infrastructure network



Figure 3. Green infrastructure at multiple geographic scales.







The Intertwine Alliance is a unique coalition of 120+ public, private and nonprofit organizations in the Portland/Vancouver region. The Intertwine woks on active transportation; conservation education; conservation, equity, health & nature; communications; and the regional system of parks and trails.







THE INTERTWINE COMMON GROUND AD COMP





COMMON GROUND

Common Ground includes two contrasting animals, dressed like humans, at the same intertwine location. This shows that there's room for every drarader on the intertwine. It clearly defines the intertwine as a place where all are included and welcome.

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ARTIST'S WORK: RYAN BERKLEY





The Intertwine Alliance 2014 Annual Partners Meeting June 12, 2014 | 5:00 pm (doors open) - 7:00 pm Portland Children's Museum

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Summary

- Governments and citizens around the world are recognizing the importance of effective nature conservation in metropolitan regional settings.
- Certain key attributes are necessary for achieving successful outcomes: Development of an inspiring conservation vision and broad-based support and capacity for achieving that vision.
- Together, the four key attributes and the collective impact approach contribute to best practice guidelines for achieving successful metropolitan area nature conservation outcomes.

