

## Tree Commission Plants for Summertime Beautification

By Helen Denham, Riverdale Tree Commission

The Riverdale Tree Commission and its Friends planted witchhazel and oak trees in the Riverdale Park District. Joining the Tree Commission for the planting were Friends of the Riverdale Tree Commission. The planting was the beginning of summertime beautification in Riverdale. Tree Commissioner, Frank Vaughn said, “The Tree Commission is beautifying the village.”

Riverdale Arborist, Dave Shepard, demonstrated and explained in detail to the friends group how important proper planting is for plant development. He said that “Some trees and shrubs grow better in sunny areas and some grow better in shady areas.”

The Friends of the Tree Commission included the Harris Family from Riverdale - this was a first time tree planting experience for them. Seven-year-old Ameena Harris said, “I think it was loving and caring to put the trees in a better place.”

Ameena’s dad, Darryl, said, “This is a new experience for me. I never planted a

tree before. I do consider myself part of Riverdale, why not?” He looks forward to seeing the plants and trees grow in the coming years.

Fatimah, Ameena’s mom, who relished in the planting stated, “I just enjoy getting my hands in the ground into the dirt, connecting with nature, bugs, and worms. It reminds me of my grandmother.”

Planting within the community forest helps qualify the village for the National Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA program. This once-a-year program recognizes villages, towns, and cities that improve their urban forestry program. The Tree Commission has earned this award for 10 years.

Ivanhoe Park Commissioner,

Brenda Britt Cox stated, “Ivanhoe Park District appreciates the Tree Commission and the continued dedication to beautifying the Village of Riverdale through tree planting.”

The Tree Commission will visit and monitor the various tree plantings throughout the summer and will provide mini maintenance as needed.



Arbor Day- Morton Arboretum, Community Trees Advocate, Edith Makra, Riverdale Mayor Deyon Dean, State Representative, Will Davis, Riverdale Tree Commission members, community members celebrate tree planting. Photo credit: Helen Denham.



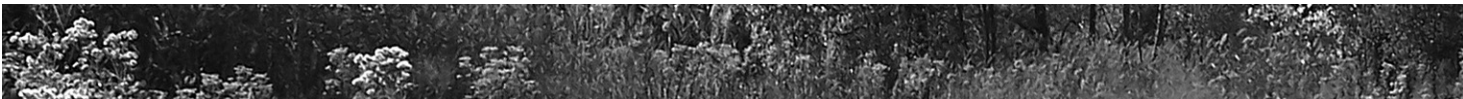
Volunteers and Greencorps Calumet Trainees installing wetland plants during a vernal pool planting day at Hegewisch Marsh. Photo credit: Sameera Savarala.



John Pastirik and a group of dedicated volunteers tally the amount of Garlic Mustard removed from Eggers Grove Forest Preserve. Photo credit: Kevin Murphy.



Kayakers launch on the Galien River near New Buffalo, MI, during a paddling trip hosted by the Northwest Indiana Paddlers Association. Photo credit: Kevin Murphy.



# ON-GOING PROGRAMS

## SEPTEMBER 2011

**September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10**

**9:00am – 12:00pm**

**Dan Ryan Woods Stewardship Workday**

Help us remove invasive plants, collect seeds, and clean up the preserve so native flora and fauna can thrive. Tools and gloves provided. Meet at the parking lot on the north side of 87th St. two blocks east of S. Western Ave. For more information and to RSVP contact Benjamin Cox at (773) 398-1178 or benjamin@fotfp.org. (Friends of Dan Ryan Woods, Friends of the Forest Preserves & Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

**September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10**

**10:00am – 1:00pm**

**Eggers Woods Stewardship Workday**

Help us clear invasive brush from the site's savanna and woodland. Tools and gloves provided. Meet near the caretaker's house at Eggers Grove (East 112th Street and Ave. E). For more information and to RSVP contact John Pastirik at (773) 991-0613. (Calumet Ecological Park Association & Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

**September 17, October 15, November 29, December 17**

**9:00am – 12:00pm**

**Powderhorn Prairie Stewardship Workday**

Help us clear invasive brush from this beautiful prairie and savanna. Tools and gloves provided. Meet in the Powderhorn Lake parking lot on the east side of Brainard Ave. just south of Burnham Ave. For more information and to RSVP contact Alice Brandon at (312) 356-9990 or alice@fotfp.org. (Friends of the Forest Preserves & Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

**September 24, October 22, November 26**

**10:00am – 1:00pm**

**Kickapoo Prairie Stewardship Workday**

Help us clear invasive brush from this beautiful prairie. Tools and gloves provided. Park in the Thorton Township Municipal Building (Halsted and 144th St.) and meet at the entrance to the prairie site that is directly west and across the street from the parking lot. For more information and to RSVP please contact Eileen Klees at (773) 238-4221 or eklees@wowway.com. (Friends of the Forest Preserves & Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

**Chicago Conservation Corps (C3)  
Fall 2011 Environmental Leadership  
Training Series**

The Chicago Conservation Corps is now recruiting for its Fall 2011 Environmental Leadership Training Series. During the training, you'll learn from community and environmental leaders about urban environmental challenges and opportunities for change; then you'll lead an environmental service project in your community with C3 support and resources. Attend one of the orientations listed below to learn more. Please

note that times are subject to change.

**October 1 • 11:00am – 12:00pm**  
**Chicago Center for Green Technology**  
**445 N Sacramento Blvd, Chicago, IL 60649**

**October 3 • 12:00pm – 1:00pm**  
**City Hall, 121 N La Salle St, 11th Floor,**  
**Chicago, IL 60602**

**October 4 • 6:00pm – 7:00pm**  
**Washington Park Fieldhouse**  
**5531 S. Martin Luther King Dr, Chicago, IL 60637**

To apply for the C3 Leadership Training Series, you must be a City of Chicago resident and attend one orientation. The Fall 2011 training will be held at the Chicago Center for Green Technology, 445 N. Sacramento Blvd, on Saturdays from 9:30am. – 1:30pm on October 15, 22, 29 and November 5. A mandatory field trip will take place from 8:30am – 3:00pm on November 12th. Attend an orientation in early October to learn more. To sign up for an orientation or for more information, visit [www.conservationcorps.org](http://www.conservationcorps.org) or contact C3 at (312) 743-9283 or [conservation@cityofchicago.org](mailto:conservation@cityofchicago.org). A \$75 fee covers course participation and project support. Financial assistance is available upon request. (Chicago Department of Environment)

**October 1, November 5, December 3**  
**9:00am – 12:00pm**  
**Beaubien Woods Ecological Stewardship**  
**Volunteer Day**

Come learn about this natural area and clear invasive species from the preserve. Your help goes a long way in helping to beautify the site. Tools, gloves and snacks provided. Meet at the preserve's only picnic shelter adjacent to Flatfoot Lake (take the Bishop Ford [I-94] to the Beaubien Woods Exit #69 just south of 130th St. If coming from the south, exit at 130th street and loop back onto the expressway so that you can get off at the Beaubien Woods Exit). For more information and to RSVP, contact Laura Milkert at (312) 665-7444 or [lmilkert@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:lmilkert@fieldmuseum.org). (The Field Museum & Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

**October 1**  
**Environmental Education Volunteer Training**  
Would you like to gain experience working with high school students? Expand your knowledge in the field? Help support ecological stewardship workdays with students? We are looking for volunteers to participate in a pilot 3-hour workshop this fall, and to commit to participating in several workdays throughout the school year. We will train volunteers on how to support a student ecological restoration workday with the Calumet Is My Backyard, CIMBY, program. For more information, contact Laura Milkert at (312) 665-7444 or [lmilkert@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:lmilkert@fieldmuseum.org). (The Field Museum & BOLD Chicago Institute)

**September 10 • 8:30am – 3:30pm**  
**Shirley Heinze Land Trust 30th**  
**Anniversary Tour of Natural Areas**  
**Bus departs from the Porter County**  
**Visitor's Center 1215 N. State Rd. 49**  
**Porter, IN.**  
**Open to all**

Join board members, supporters and staff as we tour various habitat types owned and managed by Shirley Heinze Land Trust in Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties of Indiana. The majority of the tour will take place from the comfort of a charter bus with a few stops at Shirley Heinze preserves where you will be met by restoration staff to take a short hiking tour of the preserve and learn about the dynamics of the natural areas. We will stop at Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve for a lunch that is provided. A \$25 fee is required to participate in the tour. For more information please call (219) 879-4725. (Shirley Heinze Land Trust)

**September 10 • 10:00am**  
**Kankakee Sands presented by Marianne**  
**Hahn**  
**Gibson Woods Nature Center**  
**6201 Parrish Ave, Hammond, IN**  
**Open to all**  
RSVP is appreciated for this free program (219) 844-3188  
(Gibson Woods Wild Ones)

**September 10 • 10:00am – 2:00pm**  
**Chicago Sustainable Backyard Program**  
**Tree Sale and Workshop**  
**William W. Powers State Recreation**  
**Area/Wolf Lake**  
**12949 Avenue O, Chicago, IL**  
**Open to all**  
Join the Chicago Department of Environment (DOE) and its partners for a day of educational workshops and discounted tree sales on Wolf Lake. As part of the Sustainable Backyard Program, DOE and Possibility Place Nursery will be selling trees at a 50% discount for Chicago residents. Trees help beautify our city, clean our air and water, provide habitat for our native wildlife, improve our property values, and can even help us save money on our energy bills. Join us to learn more about the benefits of trees and how to plant and care for them at home. For more information contact Dan at (312) 742-7865 or [daniel.swick@cityofchicago.org](mailto:daniel.swick@cityofchicago.org). (Chicago Department of Environment & CSI Partners)

**September 11 • 3:00pm – 5:00pm**  
**10th Anniversary of 9/11 Memorial Tree**  
**Planting**  
**Burnham Greenway**  
**108th St. & Ave. D, Chicago, IL**  
Come join John Pastirik for a memorial planting of trees. White Oak, the state tree of Illinois, and a Sugar Maple, the state tree of New York, will be planted. A cook-out will follow. Bring a lawn chair. Call John (773) 991-0613 or Judy at (773) 646-4773 for more information.  
(Calumet Ecological Park Association and Trees R Beautiful)

# SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER PROGRAMS

**September 14 • 5:00pm – 7:00pm**

**Chicago Southland Green Drinks  
Fifth Quarter Tap**

**18105 Dixie Hwy, Homewood, IL**

**Open to all**

Join other volunteers, community members and environmental professionals for this evening of socializing, networking and education. The evening will begin with an optional networking activity followed by a special guest speaker and then open social time. For questions please contact [ehasle@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:ehasle@fieldmuseum.org). (The Field Museum)

**September 16**

**Deadline for entering The Wolf Lake  
Watershed Meets Daniel Burnham Poster  
Contest at the 8th Annual Active Living Fair**

Winners honored at 10:00am Saturday, October 1 at Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond, IN. Guided nature walk will follow with healthy lunch provided. Open to students attending Wolf Lake area schools and youth organizations, posters should depict how the Wolf Lake Watershed is in keeping with the Daniel Burnham's 1909 Plan. Monetary prizes will be awarded to winners. Deadline for submitting entries is Friday, September 23. Winning entries will be exhibited at AWLI's Informational Kiosk at the Calumet Environmental Center. Contact AWLI at (312) 220-0120 or (219) 933-7149 for more information or email: [AWLI@sbcglobal.net](mailto:AWLI@sbcglobal.net).

(Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Lake County Solid Waste, Management District, & Healthy Southeast Chicago)

**September 17 • 10:00am – 3:00pm**

**Archeology Day  
Sand Ridge Nature Center**

**15891 Paxton Ave. South Holland, IL**

**Open to all**

Gain a better understanding of Native American culture by chatting with local archeologists who will be sharing their extensive collections and knowledge, storytelling, games, and guided hikes. (Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

**September 23 • 7:30pm**

**The Astronomer's Night Sky  
Sand Ridge Nature Center**

**15891 Paxton Ave. South Holland, IL**

**Open to all**

Come out and learn about what's visible in our early fall night sky. View planets and/or deep sky objects through a telescope, weather permitting. Register by September 21 by calling (708) 868-0606. (Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

**September 24 • 9:00am – 12:00pm**

**National Public Lands Day  
Whistler Woods Forest Preserves (134th &  
Halsted)**

**Open to all**

Join with friends and neighbors across the country in celebration of National Public Lands Day by participating in a clean up at Whistler Woods. Gloves and garbage bags will be provided. Please do not wear sandals or flip flops. Dress appropriately for the weather. Event is free and all ages are invited to participate. Call (312) 857-2757 for more information.

(Chicago Wilderness, Calumet Is My Back Yard,

Friends of the Parks, Southeast Environmental Task Force & the Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

**September 24 • 9:00am – 12:00pm**

**National Public Lands Day - Seed Collection  
at Hegewisch Marsh**

**13250 S. Torrence Ave., Chicago, IL**

**Open to all**

Join us and help with vital wetland restoration by collecting seeds at Hegewisch Marsh which is in its 5th year of restoration work. Volunteers will collect native seeds from prairie plants and learn about restoration at the site. Instruction on plant ID and seed collection will be provided. Materials will be provided. Please wear long sleeve shirts, jeans or old pants, work shoes, and bring a refillable water bottle. Call Jerry Attere at (312) 744-9136 to RSVP. (Chicago Department of Environment)

**September 24 • 10:00am – 12:00pm**

**Stockwell Woods Hike  
Stockwell Woods in Long Beach, IN**

**Open to all**

The hike will be through one of Save the Dunes' nature preserves that was recently restored. We will discuss the restoration work, invasive species control approach, and the forested foredune-black oak savanna habitat. Refreshments will be served after the hike. Please RSVP and/or send questions to Samantha Erdelac at [sam@savedunes.org](mailto:sam@savedunes.org) or call (219) 879-3937.

(Save The Dunes)

**September 24 • 10:00am – 12:30pm**

**Asters and Goldenrods Identification Class  
Sand Ridge Nature Center**

**15891 Paxton Ave. South Holland, IL**

**Registration required**

Fall is graced by a bouquet of late-blooming asters and goldenrods. Yet these plants can be challenging to identify even for the seasoned botanist. Join us for an in-depth look at the asters and goldenrods of the Chicago Region as we explore the subtle differences within these species groups. Please contact Becky Schillo at [rschillo@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:rschillo@fieldmuseum.org) or (312) 665-7420 to register by September 16th. (The Field Museum)

## OCTOBER 2011

**October 1 • 9:30am – 1:30pm**

**Annual Donor Hike and State Dedication of  
New Additions to Ambler Flatwoods Nature  
Preserve**

**Open to all**

At 350 acres Ambler Flatwoods is Shirley Heinze's largest and perhaps richest nature preserve. In the past 2 years several new acquisitions have added 150 acres to this unique natural area. A ceremony to recognize the new parcels as state dedicated nature preserves will kick off the event followed by a guided tour of the new parcels. Afterward's we will gather for a provided luncheon and presentation. For more information please call (219) 879-4725. (Shirley Heinze Land Trust)

**October 1 • 9:00am – 4:00pm**

**8th Annual Active Living Fair  
Shelter #1, William Powers Conservation  
Area, Chicago, IL**

**Wolf Lake Park/Environmental Education  
Center, Hammond, IN**

**Open to all**

Events include Birding/Nature Walks, Farmers Market, Bi-State Wolf 8 Health Walk-a-thons, Health Screenings, Nutrition Presentation, Tai Chi, Bike and Vehicular tours of Wolf Lake, and Student Poster Contest winners. Contact AWLI at (312) 220-0120 or (219) 933-7149 for more information or email: [AWLI@sbcglobal.net](mailto:AWLI@sbcglobal.net).

(Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Lake County Solid Waste, Management District, & Healthy Southeast Chicago)

**October 8 • 9:00am**

**Live Healthy-Discover Nature Fall Bike Ride  
Location TBA**

**Open to all**

Bring your bike and join a naturalist for a leisurely-paced ride on the paved forest preserve trail near Sand Ridge Nature Center. Please bring helmet. Please register by October 6, call (708) 868-0606. (Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

**October 8 • 10:00am – 3:00pm**

**Volunteer Workday - Seed Collection  
Cressmoor Prairie, Hobart, IN**

**Open to all**

At only 42 acres Cressmoor Prairie in Hobart, IN, is the largest remnant black soil prairie in Indiana and is home to just under 300 species of plants. Recently a new 4 acre addition has been added and restoration is underway. Stewardship staff have already cleared all the invasive shrubs from the site and now we need your help to collect seed from the high quality portions of the prairie so they can be sown in the restoration site this winter. Lunch will be provided, please RSVP to [volunteer@heinzetrust.org](mailto:volunteer@heinzetrust.org) if you wish to attend and for directions to the site.

(Shirley Heinze Land Trust)

**October 8 • 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

**Clean-up of Burnham Greenway  
Eggers Grove Forest Preserve Parking Lot  
112th St. & Ave. E, Chicago, IL**

Join us for a clean-up of the Burnham Greenway along Eggers Grove Forest Preserve. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, and dress for the weather. For information call John at (773) 991-0613 or Judy at (773) 646-4773.

(Calumet Ecological Park Association)

**October 15 • 10:00am – 3:00pm**

**Native Seed Collecting  
Eleven Acre Prairie in Hobart, IN**

**Open to all**

We will be collecting native prairie seed, which will be later grown in Save the Dunes greenhouse to be planted back at Eleven Acre Prairie next year as part of the restoration work that is currently occurring at the site. This is a great opportunity to learn about native prairie species and habitat restoration. Please RSVP and/or send questions on the event to Samantha Erdelac at [sam@savedunes.org](mailto:sam@savedunes.org).

(Save the Dunes)



**October 16 • 9:00am and 9:30am**

**Bike the Calumet**

**Start location: Harborside International Golf Course (northwest corner of parking lot) 11100 S. Doty Ave. East (111th & I-94 Bishop Ford X-Way)**

Discover the mysteries of the Calumet. See Chicago's "second lake" and other major river, marshes, migratory birds, legal and illegal landfills; featuring the nearly 600 acres of newly acquired Park District property, and a world class golf course built atop a garbage dump. Register online at: [www.setaskforce.blogspot.com](http://www.setaskforce.blogspot.com) or between 9 a.m. and 9:30 – northwest corner of parking lot. Donation request: \$10 adults /\$5 under 16 (light lunch & beverages included).

(Southeast Environmental Task Force, Friends of the Parks & Lake Calumet Vision Committee)

**October 22 • 8:30am – 5:00pm**

**Calumet Heritage Conference**

**Blue Island Education Center/Moraine Valley Community College**

**12940 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL**  
**Open to all (\$10 for conference; TBD for afternoon canoe trip)**

The City of Blue Island hosts this year's Annual Calumet Heritage Conference. Robert Lewis, author of the recently published "Chicago Made: Factory Networks in the Industrial Metropolis," will be the keynote speaker and will begin the morning's focus on the heritage of industrial satellite cities like Blue Island. After lunch (on your own in downtown Blue Island), participants have a choice of two field trips: a walking tour of historic uptown Blue Island, or a canoe trip on the Little Calumet River and Calumet-Sag Channel highlighting historical bridges, industrial archeology sites, current restoration efforts and future plans. See the Calumet Heritage Partnership's website at [www.calumetheritage.org](http://www.calumetheritage.org), or call Michael Siola at (773) 995 2964, for info. (Calumet Heritage Partnership)

**October 22 • 9:00am – 12:00pm**

**Make a Difference Day – Invasive Plant Removal**

**Hegewisch Marsh, 13250 S. Torrence Ave., Chicago, IL**

**Open to all**

Join us and learn how to identify and safely cut down and remove buckthorn and help remove illegally dumped trash. Interested volunteers are urged to assist us in this important work effort. Please wear long sleeve shirts, jeans or old pants, and work shoes. Cutting materials, gloves and trash bags will be provided. Dress for the weather and bring a refillable water bottle. Call Jerry Attere at (312) 744-9136 to RSVP.

(Chicago Department of Environment)

**October 29 • 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

**Fall Colors Bike Tour**

**Eggers Grove Forest Preserve Parking Lot 112th St. & Ave. E, Chicago, IL**

Enjoy a leisurely bike ride on the Burnham Greenway and the Wolf Lake area. Meet at the caretaker's house. Please RSVP to John Pastirik at (773) 991-0613 or Judy at (773) 646-4773.

(Calumet Ecological Park Association)

**NOVEMBER 2011**

**November 3 • 6:00pm – 8:00pm**

**Chicago Southland Green Drinks**

**Location TBA**

**Open to all**

Join other volunteers, community members and environmental professionals for this evening of socializing, networking and education.

The evening will begin with an optional networking activity followed by a special guest speaker and then open social time. For questions please contact [ehasle@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:ehasle@fieldmuseum.org).

(The Field Museum)

**November 4 • Time TBD**

**Abbott Hall of Conservation Restoring Earth at The Field Museum**

**Opening to all**

The Field Museum's newest permanent exhibition immerses visitors in adventure, discovery, and beauty as it tells the story of what conservation is and why preserving biodiversity is important. Restoring Earth follows Museum scientists as they promote conservation from South America, to the Pacific coral reefs, and showcases conservation action right here in the Chicago region using large-scale photographs, videos, and fun, hands-on learning tools. For more information, visit: <http://fieldmuseum.org/happening/exhibits/abbott-hall-conservation-restoring-earth>.

(The Field Museum)

**November 5 • 10:00am – 3:00pm**

**Volunteer Workday - Fire Break Construction**

**Bur Oak Woods, Hobart, IN**

**Open to all**

Over the past 3 years stewardship staff have restored 55 acres of remnant Bur Oak savanna at this site. Much of the herbaceous plant community once found here has disappeared due to past degradation. Now that the canopy structure has been restored and a diverse herbaceous plant community introduced, this site desperately needs fire to give it a kick in the right direction. On this day we will be constructing a firebreak around a large portion of the property to be used for a prescribed burn this fall. Lunch will be provided, please RSVP at [volunteer@heinztrust.org](mailto:volunteer@heinztrust.org) if you wish to attend and for directions to the site.

(Shirley Heinze Land Trust)

**November 13 • 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

**Burnham Greenway Tree Mulch**

**108th St. & Ave. D, Chicago, IL**

Volunteers are needed to help mulch the trees in Bean's Park area along the Burnham Greenway. Wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves. Please RSVP by calling John Pastirik at (773) 991-0613 or Judy at (773) 646-4773.

(Calumet Ecological Park Association and Trees R Beautiful)

**November 19 • 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

**Lake Powderhorn Clean-up**

**Lake Powderhorn Forest Preserve**

**East Brainard Ave., Burnham, IL**

Volunteers are needed to help clean up the shoreline of Lake. Meet in the parking lot. Wear

sturdy shoes, long pants and gloves. For more information call John at (773) 991-0613 or Judy at (773) 646-4773.

(Calumet Ecological Park Association)

**November 20 • 10:00am – 3:00pm**

**39th Annual Settlers' Day Celebration**

**Sand Ridge Nature Center**

**15891 Paxton Ave. South Holland, IL**

**Open to all**

Celebrate our heritage by visiting with costumed living history demonstrators, representing the French fur trading days, pioneer times, and the revolutionary and Civil War time periods. There will be guided hikes, arts and crafts, and a chance to try your hand at a two-person buck saw.

(Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

**DECEMBER 2011**

**December 3 • Time TBD**

**Making Christmas Ornaments from Nature's Plenty and Potluck**

**Gibson Woods Nature Center**

**6201 Parrish Ave, Hammond, IN**

**Open to all**

Participants will make Christmas ornaments made from natural materials of native plants for the Gibson Woods Nature Center Christmas tree. Bring your native plant materials if you have any. Bring a dish to share for our potluck. RSVP is appreciated for this free program (219) 844-3188

(Gibson Woods Wild Ones)

**December 10 • 10:00am – 3:00pm**

**Volunteer Workday - Invasive Shrub Removal**

**Hidden Prairie – Hobart Marsh, Hobart, IN**

**Open to all**

Hidden Prairie is a small remnant prairie and part of the larger Hobart marsh natural area complex. This highly diverse prairie is surrounded by residential development. Because of this, it is difficult to implement prescribed fire with any frequency. Exotic shrubs have now begun to invade the prairie. We will be using brush cutters and loppers to remove the shrubs. We will then treat the cut stumps with herbicide and sow seed gathered from the prairie to give native forbs a chance to recolonize the area. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP at [volunteer@heinztrust.org](mailto:volunteer@heinztrust.org) if you wish to attend and for directions to the site.

(Shirley Heinze Land Trust)

**December 17 • 10:00am – 3:00pm**

**Burning Brush Piles**

**Eleven Acre Prairie in Hobart, IN**

**This event is open to ages 14+**

We will be burning brush piles to remove roughly 4 acres of woody thicket that was cleared last winter. Come out to learn about all the work Save the Dunes has been doing on the site. Please RSVP and/or send questions on the event to Samantha Erdelac at [sam@savedunes.org](mailto:sam@savedunes.org).

(Save the Dunes)

# New Urban Waters Partnership in Northwest Indiana

By Cherie LeBlanc Fisher, US Forest Service

Northwest Indiana is one of seven pilot locations across the country chosen for a new White House initiative called Urban Waters. Through Urban Waters, twelve federal agencies have committed to working more effectively with each other and with local partners on waters-related projects in urban areas. The ultimate goal is to help reconnect urban areas, particularly those that are under-served or economically distressed, with their waterways.

Besides Northwest Indiana, the other pilot locations are Baltimore, Denver, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York City and Washington, DC.

In July, more than 35 people from municipalities, non-profit groups, and federal agencies met in Portage for the first Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership meeting. The group discussed local waters-related projects with

momentum, those that need a little help, and those that need to be done in the future.

Next steps for the partnership include combing through existing local watershed plans to look for 'low hanging fruit' projects or tasks. The plan is for state agencies, municipalities, and local partners to nominate key projects for Partnership attention while the federal agencies will contribute technical assistance, scientific expertise, cross-agency consultations, and resources when possible to help move things forward. There have also been proposals for focusing Urban Waters efforts on specific key Lake Michigan tributaries that affect many local communities and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

More information at [www.urbanwaters.gov](http://www.urbanwaters.gov) or contact Cherie LeBlanc Fisher: [clfisher@fs.fed.us](mailto:clfisher@fs.fed.us), (847) 866-9311 x12.

# Nine Rare Dune and Swale Sites Set to Receive a Facelift

By Alice Brandon, Friends of the Forest Preserves

The Sustain Our Great Lakes Program has awarded a \$500,000 grant to restore nine rare dune and swale sites in the Calumet. This collaborative project brings together governmental agencies and environmental organizations to remove invasive species that threaten these beautiful sites. Many of these sites are critical habitat for over 200 species of migratory birds that forage and nest in the region.

Funds also include follow-up herbicide treatment and controlled burns. Over 600 acres will be restored including work at Greiner Nature Preserve (Indiana), Superior Street Prairie Nature Preserve, Green Lake Savanna, and Sand Ridge Nature Preserve among others. Friends of the Forest Preserves is coordinating the effort and will be working with volunteer stewards, professional staff and various landowners to accomplish the project goals.

Many thanks to the partners who made this project happen including The Field Museum, Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Shirley Heinze Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Calumet Memorial Park District, and the Illinois Natural History Survey.

# Greener CSI Brings It Home

By Joann Podkul, CSI Chair

As CSI looks forward to 2012, prospects for a greener future are indeed bright as member organizations and their partners implement programs to enhance sustainability in our living spaces. The South Chicago Retrofit Project (a national demonstration model) offers local residents free or low cost energy saving programs (for information, call Patty Zuniga at (773) 734-9181), while the Chicago Department of the Environment's Sustainable Backyards

Program (call (312) 743-9283) provides gardening expertise and rebates on plants and materials for Chicago residents.

We look forward to highlighting program successes during the 5th Annual 10th Ward Green Summit next spring. Learn more by checking the CSI website and participating in networking events, such as NW Indiana and CSI Green Drinks.

With these programs and the South Suburban focus on Sustainable Infrastructure, is it any wonder that CSI strategic planners initiated our SmartGrowth Team?

The Field Museum's Ford Environmental Leadership Interns (FELI). They worked throughout the summer to research environmental issues and to develop a community action project that benefits the environment. Photo credit: FELI Intern



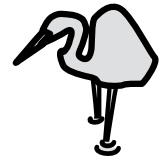
**CHECK OUT THE CSI WEBSITE FOR MORE PICTURES, VIDEOS AND EVENTS:**  
[www.calumetstewardshipinitiative.com](http://www.calumetstewardshipinitiative.com)

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# CIMBY Summer Interns Get Taste of Green Careers

By Rebecca Blazer, CIMBY

This summer, eight extraordinary high school students from Chicago's south side helped make a difference for Chicago's environment while also learning new skills and acquiring work experience as participants in the Calumet Is My Back Yard (CIMBY) Project's Summer Environmental Internship Program.

Every summer this paid, six-week internship program, which is funded by Chicago Public Schools' Service Learning Department and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, recruits, hires and trains six to ten top-performing participants from CIMBY's school-based environmental service learning program and places them in internships with local environmental organizations. Each student assists their host organization with a variety of projects and tasks, from office work, to environmental

education and outreach, to ecological restoration work in local natural areas.

On Wednesday evening, August 17, the CIMBY Interns gathered, along with their host organization supervisors, family members and CIMBY and Chicago Public Schools staff members to share some of the most memorable moments of their internships and discuss what they gained through their experiences.

Highlights included: helping weigh and measure a large snapping turtle as part of a reptile study, learning how to speak authoritatively when training adult volunteers on how to properly mulch park trees, and seeing how much behind-the-scenes work it takes to protect the environment from negative impacts by powerful corporate interests.

One common thread among all the

students' stories was their perception of the increasing need for people like them to care about the environment and take action to protect it. If the enthusiasm and commitment the CIMBY Interns exhibited this summer is any indication, these young people will likely be lifelong stewards and advocates for the protection of the environment.

The CIMBY Project would like to offer congratulations to this year's interns and sincere thanks to their host organizations. A list of this year's CIMBY Interns and their hosts can be found on the CSI website.

For more information about the CIMBY Project, please contact Project Coordinator, Rebecca Blazer, at [rebecca\\_blazer@hotmail.com](mailto:rebecca_blazer@hotmail.com) or (773) 972-8080.