

Our final event of 2024 will provide an opportunity to explore the history of the Calumet Stormwater Collaborative (CSC), reinforce its purpose, and discuss ways to expand our network through joint partnerships. Today, in collaboration with Friends of the Chicago River and the Greater Chicago Watershed Alliance (GCWA), we're hosting a tour in Riverdale to highlight several key projects supported by GCWA. We'll discuss CSC's transition to GCWA, emphasizing its significance and the benefits it brings to members and community stakeholders.

## Site Visits in Riverdale

### 1. Right of Way (ROW) Habitat Transformation

In partnership with ComEd's Prairie Program, Friends of the Chicago River, and the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) gROWing Chicago Habitat initiative, 45 acres of ComEd's utility right-of-way in Riverdale will be transformed over the next three years. This project will restore the area from turf grass to native plantings, nature trails, and learning gardens, creating recreational and educational spaces that support biodiversity and strengthen local ecological resilience.

### 2. Kickapoo Woods Restoration

Kickapoo Woods has undergone significant transformation through the combined efforts of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and Friends of the Chicago River. This project has enhanced habitat quality, improved climate resilience, and engaged community volunteers in stewardship efforts. The revitalized landscape now offers a healthier, more sustainable environment for wildlife and a welcoming green space for community members to enjoy.

### 3. Pekny Park Rain Garden

Funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Chi-Cal grant, Cook County, and The Nature Conservancy, the Pekny Park Rain Garden is part of a comprehensive strategy to address local flooding near the Ivanhoe Metra Commuter Station. Incorporating community input and diverse pollinator species, this rain garden is now a valuable green space that manages stormwater runoff, supports local biodiversity, and enhances neighborhood resilience.



## Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunities

Scan the QR codes below to learn more!

### The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

(Illinois EPA) is seeking proposals for projects to construct green infrastructure best management practices (BMPs) that prevent, eliminate, or reduce stormwater runoff, reducing localized or riverine flooding in Illinois' rivers, streams, and lakes. Projects that implement treatment trains (multiple BMPs in series) and/or multiple BMPs within the same watershed are encouraged as they may be more effective and efficient than a single large green infrastructure BMP. BMPs may be located on public or private land.

**Submission Close Date: 11/20/2024**



### City of Chicago Green Stormwater Infrastructure Strategy

The City of Chicago, acting through its Department of Environment, seeks Proposals to develop a Chicago Green Stormwater Infrastructure Strategy that centers equity and sets a vision and measurable goals for citywide green stormwater infrastructure.

**Submission Close Date: 11/15/2024**



# Riverdale Site Visit

NOVEMBER 8, 2024 | 8:30 - NOON

Scan for interactive map

**QR Code**  
billy

**Whistler Woods Forest Preserve**

**1**

**W 138TH STREET**

**S HALSTED STREET**

**W 144TH STREET**

**2**

**Kickapoo Woods**

**W 144TH STREET**

**3**

**LITTLE CALUMET RIVER**

**Rain Ready Vision**

**FIRST STOP: 10:15 AM**  
13700 S Stewart Ave

Right of Way (ROW) Habitat Transformation

**SPEAKERS:**

- Tessa Murray (GCWA)
- Catherine O'Reilly (UIC)

**SECOND STOP: 10:55 AM**  
Kickapoo Woods

Kickapoo Woods Restoration and Revitalization

**SPEAKERS:**

- John Quail, Becky Lyons (GCWA)
- John Watson (FPDCC)

**THIRD STOP: 11:30 AM**  
Pekny Park

Pekny Park Rain Garden

**SPEAKERS:**

- Commissioner Betty Ervin-Robinson
- Jen Jenkins
- Jim McAley (OAI)