

Hegewisch Marsh Restoration

Chicago, Illinois



In 2007, Conservation Land Stewardship was subcontracted by Conservation Design Forum, to restore this 100 acre wetland for the City of Chicago Department of Environment. Located in the Calumet Region, once the heart of Chicago's thriving steel industry, Hegewisch Marsh is one of the largest wetlands in the City of Chicago. Several habitat types form this wetland complex including hemi-marsh, wet prairie, wet savanna, and wooded wetland communities. Hegewisch Marsh is also home to several state listed threatened and endangered plant and animal species.

Conservation Land Stewardship embarked on this project by removing years of debris that had accumulated from illegal dumping on the site. Current restoration efforts on this site are ongoing, and to date include:

- Selective clearing of non-native and aggressive native woody plants
- Removal of all non-native herbaceous species
- Removal of debris left by illegal fly dumping
- Trail system installation
- Vernal pool restoration
- Initial seeding of hemi-marsh, wet prairie, wet savanna, and wooded wetland communities
- Installation of native trees and shrubs
- Trail system maintenance
- Controlled burn management
- Supervision of volunteer activities

Client: City of Chicago Department of Environment

Project team: Conservation Land Stewardship
Conservation Design Forum
Tetra Tech EMI

Status: Ongoing

Project budget: \$1,000,000