



2025

Illinois annual report

Dear friend of conservation,



If only the bald cypresses of southern Illinois (right) could talk. The oldest of these immense trees, which live in the Cache River State Natural Area, are more than 1,000 years old. The world has changed dramatically since they

were saplings. Yet, through it all, they have continued doing what they do best: standing side-by-side, putting out strong roots as the currents swirl around them, and steadily shaping their ecosystem by filtering water, providing habitat and spreading seeds.

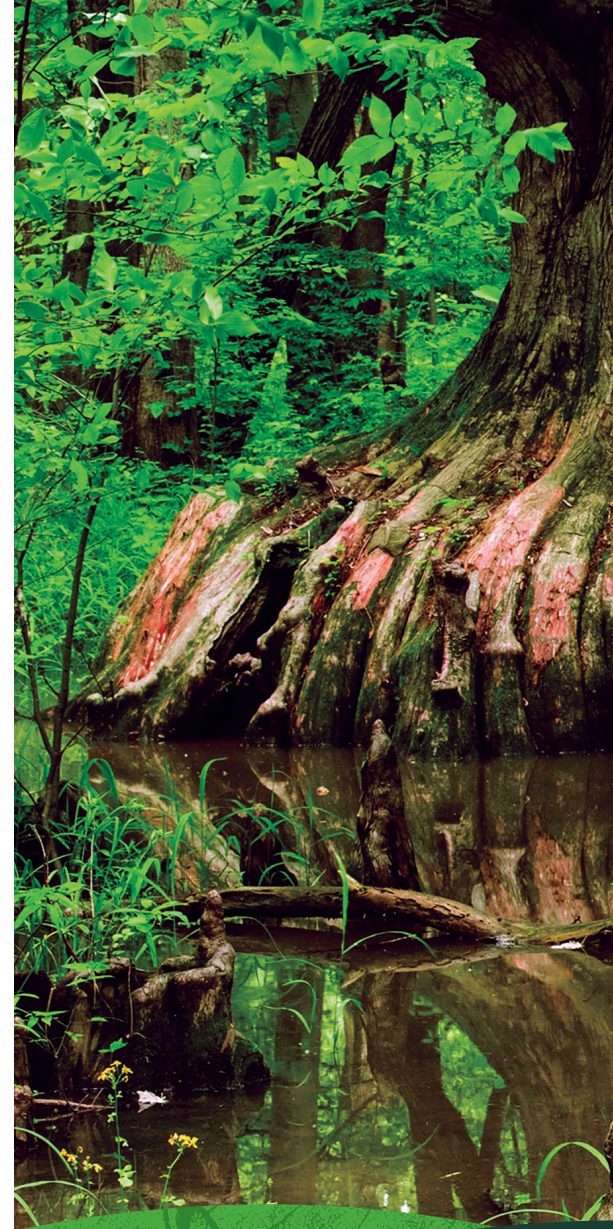
Looking back over the past year, I could compare TNC to these unique trees. As the world changes, TNC is built to adapt and fulfill our purpose—a

purpose more urgent than ever. In the face of steep challenges, we have doubled down on what we do best: working with local communities to find innovative solutions, leaning on our decades of expertise and relationship-building to influence decision-making, and leveraging our global reach to scale what works here in Illinois across the Midwest and the world.

This report highlights how we are using our strengths to meet the moment. I hope these stories inspire you as much as they inspire me. Your support is vital as we keep standing strong, together.

Georgie Geraghty
*Illinois Executive Director
and Midwest Partner*

COVER PHOTO Pelicans at TNC's Emiquon Preserve © Laura Stoeker; THIS SPREAD Georgie Geraghty © Tony Tang Productions, Inc.; Bald cypress in the Cache River Wetlands Preserve in southern Illinois. TNC in Illinois is part of a public-private partnership that protects and manages nearly 35,000 acres of this unique bottomland forest and swamp. © Larry Nolan/TNC Photo Contest 2006



WHY TNC?

For 74 years, The Nature Conservancy has harnessed the power of nature to help solve our planet's most challenging problems.

- We develop breakthrough tools and ideas.
- We influence decision-making.
- We amplify local knowledge.
- We forge new paths to funding.

Together, we find a way.



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The Nature Conservancy's global 2030 goals

In collaboration with partners throughout the world, TNC is protecting biodiversity and addressing climate change. The following are our 2030 goals and how the Midwest is helping build a future where people and nature will thrive.



**Climate
mitigation**

3Gt

We will avoid or sequester **3 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions** (CO₂e) annually: the same as taking approximately 650 million cars off the road every year.

In the Midwest: Our science-based "3C" approach—which considers climate, conservation and communities—can reduce the amount of land needed for clean energy installations by half while ensuring that solar and wind projects are sited in areas with the least impact, accelerating the renewable energy transition throughout the Midwest.



**Climate
adaptation**

100M

We will help **100 million people** at severe risk of climate-related emergencies, such as floods, fires and drought.

In the Midwest: Our work grounded in nature-based solutions, such as supporting city greenspaces and restoring floodplains and stream corridors, is helping both urban and rural communities throughout the Midwest become more resilient to climate impacts, such as flooding and heat waves.



**Healthy
lands**

1.6B

We will conserve **1.6 billion acres of lands**, such as forests and grasslands—an area twice the size of India.

In the Midwest: Through collaborations and acquisitions, we're building a connected network of resilient lands and waters to help the Midwest's unique landscapes, wildlife and communities adapt and thrive in a changing world.



By supporting our efforts, generous donors like you are driving positive impacts that extend far beyond your local community. Visit [nature.org/MidwestWins](https://www.nature.org/MidwestWins) to learn about our biggest successes in the Midwest region from the past year.





Healthy
oceans

10B

We will conserve nearly **10 billion acres of ocean**—more than 10 percent of the world's ocean area.

In the Midwest: We are protecting the rivers and lakes that feed marine habitats in the Chesapeake Bay and the Gulf through collaborations with farmers who implement nature-friendly agriculture, which reduces nutrient runoff that affects waterways, as well as floodplain restoration efforts.



Healthy
fresh water

74M
620K

We will conserve more than **74 million acres of lakes and wetlands and 620,000 miles of river systems** (enough river length alone to stretch around the globe 25 times).

In the Midwest: With a broad array of partners, we're helping to conserve, protect and restore the Great Lakes, one of the world's most vital freshwater ecosystems, as well as the great rivers and floodplains throughout the Mississippi River Basin.



People

45M

We are supporting the leadership of **45 million people** from local and Indigenous communities whose well-being and livelihoods depend on healthy oceans, fresh water and lands.

In the Midwest: We're growing collaborations with partners—including Indigenous nations and communities, farmers, foresters and fishers, as well as government agencies, local organizations, businesses, universities and more—to support community-driven conservation initiatives that benefit people and nature throughout the Midwest.

THIS SPREAD A Lake Michigan moment © Lisa Erickson/TNC Photo Contest 2022; Prairie plants frame the Chicago skyline. © Joel Porterfield/TNC Photo Contest 2017; The joy of nature © Joshua Lott





Protect ocean, land and fresh water

Emiquon: A bold move provides a global blueprint for freshwater restoration

It began as a risky idea. In 2000, TNC bought a large farm adjacent to the Illinois River. The goal: to restore 6,000-plus acres of crop fields back into a functioning wetland.

Skeptics voiced their doubts. But the experiment, grounded in science, was a resounding success. One key step was a ground-breaking water control structure, which reconnected the floodplain to the river, allowing us to manage the flow of water and create a healthy ecosystem.

Twenty-five years in the making

Today, TNC's Emiquon Preserve is held up as a world-class example of large river floodplain restoration. Scientists from as far away as China and Brazil have visited to learn from our freshwater approaches.

"Some say that only TNC could have acquired and restored Emiquon," said TNC's Michael Reuter, Midwest director, at the preserve's 25th anniversary celebration this past summer. "Perhaps it is more true to say that only TNC could have done it in a certain way—guided by science, helped by collaborative partnerships and propelled by

innovation—and that approach led to our success regionally and globally."

A collaborative model

TNC is applying lessons from Emiquon to our freshwater work throughout the Mississippi River Basin and around the world. Emiquon was built on collaborative relationships formed with the local community, as well as government agencies, universities and more. This same spirit of partnership is guiding us as we help achieve the ambitious goal of protecting 30 percent of the world's fresh water, land and marine habitats. Learn more at nature.org/emiquon.

Nachusa's collaboration with Indigenous communities

Calling the majestic grazers who wander TNC's Nachusa Grasslands Preserve "buffalo" instead of "bison" may seem like an inconsequential synonym swap. But the word choice is purposeful.

"Buffalo" is commonly used by Indigenous communities, while "bison" is the scientific term. Adopting the word "buffalo" reflects a paradigm shift under way at Nachusa and across TNC after years of listening and learning alongside Indigenous People, the original stewards of the Americas.

"The collaboration has opened our minds and hearts to a different approach to achieving our conservation outcomes," says Cody Considine, director of stewardship, Buffalo Restoration Program. "It's about centering relationships first and determining how we can best show up with respectful reciprocity."

The difference 11 years can make

TNC first brought buffalo to Nachusa in 2014 to help maintain prairie biodiversity. Buffalo grazing, wallowing and other behaviors aid wildflowers, insects and amphibians. Back then we called them "bison" and were mostly interested in their ecological value. We did not recognize or uplift the cultural, historical and spiritual connection that these animals have with Indigenous communities, who view buffalo as relatives. When the Nachusa herd grew too large for the preserve's capacity, we would sell surplus buffalo to fund conservation projects.

Our perspective began to change in 2020, when TNC joined the Indigenous-led buffalo repatriation movement led by the InterTribal Buffalo Council.

Nachusa was one of the first TNC preserves participating. Today, we no longer sell buffalo. Instead, TNC has worked with Tribal Nations to help more than 2,300 buffalo return home.

From Nachusa to Menominee lands

Since 2022, Nachusa has transferred buffalo to the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin with the assistance of Medicine Fish, a Menominee Nation nonprofit.

The first buffalo transferred from Nachusa were the first to connect with the Menominee people in more than 250 years since the animals were wiped out in the Midwest. "Bringing our buffalo relatives home to Menominee lands triggered a wave of healing in our community, bringing us together for feasting, for ceremony and for song," says Pilar Gauthier, vice president, board of directors, Medicine Fish.

The buffalo transfers with the Menominee Tribe, Medicine Fish and other Indigenous partners are opening up possibilities for additional collaboration. For instance, staff and interns from Nachusa and Medicine Fish are starting to share knowledge about other aspects of prairie restoration, such as native plants and prescribed fire.

For details about TNC's Buffalo Restoration Program, visit nature.org/buffalo.

To learn more about Medicine Fish's mission and approach, go to medicinefish.org.

"Bringing our buffalo relatives home to Menominee lands triggered a wave of healing in our community."

PILAR GAUTHIER, Vice President, Board of Directors, Medicine Fish



Provide food and water

A win-win for farmers and fresh water

Across Illinois, about 16 million acres of farmland is drained to protect crops from high water levels. Drainage tiles, or perforated underground pipes, carry away excess rain and snowmelt, efficiently improving field conditions for crops. However, these tiles also provide a way for fertilizer to run off fields, contributing to pollution flowing into the Mississippi River and causing devastating impacts for marine life in the Gulf.

Kent Bohnhoff, an Illinois grain farmer, is doing something about that on his farm. Recently, he installed an automated controlled drainage system that helps filter nutrients from rainwater and snow melt. The system can also retain needed water on fields during dry weather. “Even though we can’t control the weather, we can try to control how it impacts the crop and the land,” says Bohnhoff.

Modernizing drainage management

Thanks to technological advances, drainage systems like Bohnhoff’s can be set to open or close via a computer or smartphone. When the structures are adjusted to hold water in fields, the amount of nitrogen lost downstream can be reduced by 46 percent on average. The practice can also help farmers increase crop yields by allowing nutrients to absorb more fully.

Streamlining adoption

A new pilot program is helping more Illinois farmers and landowners address nutrient loss by implementing these drainage practices. TNC is partnering with Knox County’s Soil & Water Conservation District on the pilot. The county oversees and facilitates the drainage projects, reducing the administrative burden for farmers and creating efficiencies by installing systems for multiple farms simultaneously.

As of summer 2025, the initiative had the green light to implement 10 drainage systems. As we engage more farmers during the three-year pilot, we will use our learnings to inform a permanent program that can be scaled across Illinois and beyond.

Drainage water management is just one of many nature-positive, regenerative agriculture strategies that TNC is helping farmers adopt. “Regenerative practices help create a more sustainable food system, which creates positive growth for communities, local economies and the environment,” says Megan Baskerville, agriculture program director, TNC in Illinois. Learn more at nature.org/glagriculture.

“Regenerative practices help create a more sustainable food system, which creates positive growth for communities, economies and the environment.”

MEGAN BASKERVILLE
Agriculture Program Director, TNC in Illinois



Protecting and restoring the Great Lakes coasts

The coastlines of the Great Lakes captivate and connect us—from Chicago to Cleveland, Wisconsin to New York. But these vital habitats are under stress from erosion, pollution and development. Climate change is exacerbating these issues, causing warmer waters and more extreme fluctuations in lake levels and wave energy.

In response, communities are armoring shorelines with artificial structures. These short-term fixes can disrupt coastal ecosystems—including wetlands, dunes and beaches—by preventing the natural movement of water and sand, and erasing habitats for aquatic life.

“Coasts are dynamic, and we need to help give them the space they need to flourish,” says TNC’s Scott Sowa, Juli Plant Grainger Great Lakes director. “We are taking steps to protect, restore and reconnect coastal wetlands and other habitats so they can provide wildlife habitat and help filter and clean our water.”

A Chicago collaboration

One example is Square Marsh, a coastal wetland on Chicago’s far southeast side. Located at the edge of Lake Calumet, which is connected to Lake Michigan by the Calumet River, the marsh was used as an industrial dumping ground for years. TNC and The Wetlands Initiative are collaborating with the Illinois International Port District, the owner of Square Marsh, on a restoration plan.

“Our partners have seen great success rebuilding healthy marsh habitat from similarly degraded sites, like Chicago Park District’s Big Marsh,” says TNC’s Daniel Misch, Illinois ecological restoration director. “Our ultimate vision is to help filter water and provide flooding relief, all while increasing habitat for pollinators, birds and other species.”

Restoration progress

Thanks to a generous grant from Crown Family Philanthropies, TNC and The Wetlands Initiative have removed invasive plants and installed a water control structure to restore seasonal water flows and allow management of invasive carp.

The next step: Raise the marsh bottom by adding sediment. Then plant emergent vegetation, providing a food source for pollinators and improving groundwater storage.

TNC’s work at Square Marsh is just one example of how we are bringing partners together to solve the Great Lakes’ toughest conservation challenges—and providing success stories that can be replicated elsewhere. Learn more at nature.org/greatlakes.

COLLABORATING FOR COASTLINES

TNC and partners are restoring priority coastal areas from Lake Superior to Lake Ontario:

East River, Wisconsin

We’re fostering community-driven planning and nature-based solutions to enhance flood resilience.

Northern Lake Huron, Michigan

We’re addressing the threat of biodiversity loss by rejuvenating northern shorelines, wetlands, forests and limestone habitats.

Sandusky Bay, Ohio

We’re developing and implementing innovative methods to protect more than 1,000 acres of habitat from erosion and improve water quality.

Calumet Wetlands, Illinois and Indiana

We’re restoring wetlands and engaging with communities to foster a culture of environmental stewardship.

North Maumee Bay, Michigan and Ohio

We’re reducing flooding and improving water quality by restoring 75 acres of marshland and peninsula affected by agricultural runoff.



Tackling climate change

Helping Chicago communities grow climate-strong

In urban areas without trees and other green infrastructure, the effects of climate change are amplified, with nothing to soak up heavy rainfall, provide cooling shade and absorb air pollution. Areas like the Marshall Square neighborhood on Chicago's South Side—where asthma rates are high and trees are fewer compared to other communities—highlight how intertwined human health is with the environment.

TNC is committed to working with Illinois communities to increase climate resilience and improve the well-being of our neighbors. For example, we have partnered with Latinos Progresando, a nonprofit rooted in Marshall Square, as they work to find durable green solutions for their community.

"A crucial part of TNC's mission is working with communities like Marshall Square as they become more resilient to the impacts of climate change, such as the increase in average temperatures and how that is experienced differently across communities," says Joel Zavala, director of community partnership and engagement, TNC in Illinois.

TNC and Latinos Progresando have collaborated on a variety of initiatives, including community-led air quality monitoring and the transformation of a local elementary schoolyard from barren blacktop

to a green space with native plants and natural play zones. Data from the air quality monitoring bolstered the neighborhood's efforts to partner with the city to plant parkway trees, leading to 122 trees being planted along a busy commercial corridor that previously had none. We're now working together to care for these and other existing trees and to plant more. Learn more at nature.org/chicagoconservation.



TREES & HEALTH

15% vs. 26%

Difference in tree canopy between Chicago's South Lawndale community, which includes the Marshall Square neighborhood, and Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood on the city's North Side

Up to 59% vs. 9%

Difference in children with asthma in some neighborhoods on Chicago's South Side versus children nationwide

122

Trees recently planted along Cermak Ave in Marshall Square—a 100 percent gain in tree canopy

Up to 25 degrees Fahrenheit

Difference in temperature directly under shady trees than on nearby blacktop

Finding bright spots for Illinois solar

Kentucky's Starfire Mine was one of the largest coal mines in the country. Today, it's being transitioned into a solar energy center that will power more than 500,000 households. Here in Illinois, TNC experts are working to find similar opportunities to expand clean energy.

Siting renewable energy right

"Estimates suggest that the U.S. will need an area the size of Texas to build enough solar, wind and transmission grids to attain net-zero emissions by 2050," says TNC's Larissa Armstrong, Illinois climate and energy associate.

That's a lot of land. Yet TNC has identified a solution: Build projects on degraded lands, also known as brownfields, such as abandoned mines and landfills. Illinois has nearly 200 brownfields, including 140,000 acres of former mine lands, as detailed in TNC's *Mining the Sun* report.

TNC and our partners are working to identify a pilot site in Illinois, using our science-based "3C" approach, which considers climate, conservation and communities to plan and build out renewable energy projects. "We're having conversations with decision makers and community members to understand how we can turn brownfields into bright fields," Armstrong explains. "We want to understand

the barriers that exist and the enabling conditions needed to make this a manageable process for communities."

Pinpointing siting options

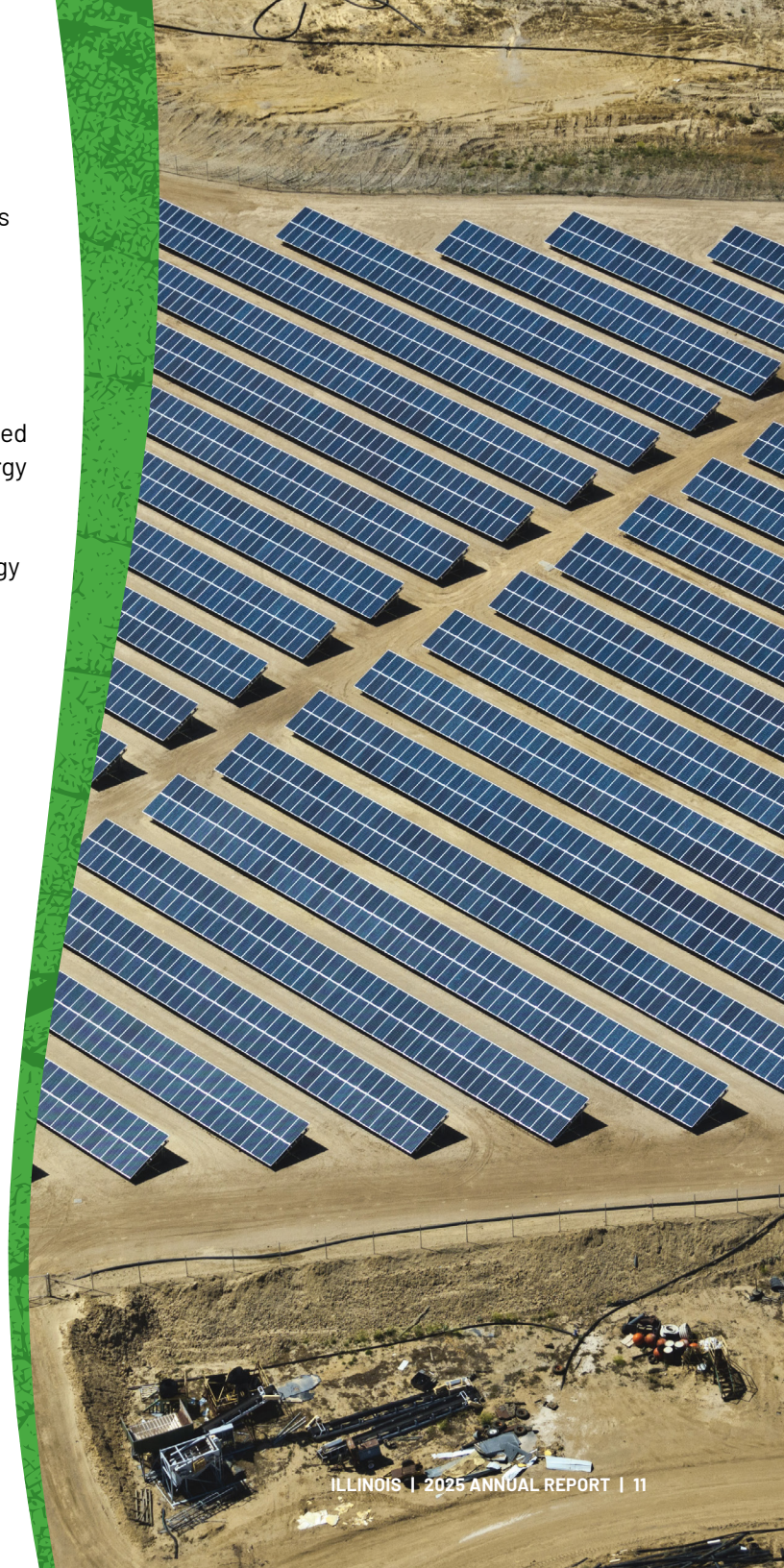
When it comes to building utility-scale solar and wind installations, finding the right location is incredibly complex. TNC's new mapping tool, called the Renewable Opportunity Explorer, allows energy planners, local communities and others to easily identify brownfields and other sites with high-opportunity, low-impact potential for clean energy projects in five Midwest states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin.

By identifying sites for clean energy projects that avoid native habitats, prime farmland and other areas of concern, TNC hopes that decision-makers and developers begin to realize the benefits that renewable energy can provide to nature, our communities and our local economies when sited and developed more comprehensively.

Given recent policy and funding setbacks at the national level, donor support for TNC's clean energy transition work is more important than ever. Learn more about this work at nature.org/miningthesun.

"We're having conversations with decision makers and community members to understand how we can turn brownfields into bright fields."

TNC'S LARISSA ARMSTRONG, Illinois Climate & Energy Associate



A person wearing a blue cap and a light-colored vest is fly-fishing in a calm lake. The water reflects the surrounding landscape, which includes a dense forest of evergreen trees and a range of mountains in the background under a cloudy sky. A green decorative border runs vertically along the right side of the image.

Scaling our impact

For much of our 74-year history, TNC has focused on protecting natural areas. Today, we do so much more.

While our protection work will always continue, we are evolving to work at the pace and scale needed to successfully address the pressing threats of climate change and biodiversity loss. As shown in the examples below, this means thinking big-picture and investing in solutions—from policy to partnerships to new financial models—that promise large-scale impacts.

Harnessing policy

Policy is critical to achieving large-scale conservation results. TNC's nonpartisan approach allows us to work across both sides of the aisle, researching, advocating for, and defending nature-positive legislation and public funding.

Over the past year, our U.S. policy team has mostly been playing defense. Challenges presented by recent federal legislation, including rollbacks to clean energy tax credits, will be significant. However, the results could have been much worse without TNC's engagement. For instance, TNC helped deliver a significant victory by defeating a U.S. Senate proposal to sell off public lands. We also helped secure approximately \$17 billion in funding for agriculture conservation programs.

In Illinois, our policy team has been working with partners to advocate for a number of priorities, including wetlands protections, transit reform and measures to ensure a clean and reliable electric grid. One key success in Illinois: The Indigenous Peoples' Conservation Rights Act was signed into

law. This bill allows federally recognized Tribes to enter into conservation easement agreements with landowners, enabling them to hold and manage land for conservation purposes. Learn more at [nature.org/uspolicy](https://www.nature.org/uspolicy).

Supporting Indigenous leadership

As TNC's CEO Jen Morris explains: "We make better decisions, see greater innovation, and achieve stronger, more lasting conservation outcomes when we respect and learn from a variety of experiences and ways of thinking."

TNC's Indigenous Right Relations (IRR) Program in North America is a vital example of this commitment. "Right relations" is an Indigenous concept that recognizes the interconnectedness of all life and the responsibility we have to one another, including past and future generations.

TNC's work builds on successes and learnings from our partnerships with Tribal-led organizations to return buffalo from TNC preserves to Tribal Nations (see Page 7).

Now TNC is collaborating with Indigenous partners to incorporate their traditional practices into our land stewardship toolkit. Plus, we are pursuing opportunities to return lands and waters to Native ownership and care. One example is the Dakota Partnership Ranch in South Dakota, a 26,250-acre ranch with 1,800 buffalo that TNC recently purchased. We are collaborating with

Tribal organizations to manage the buffalo and eventually transfer the property to a Tribal entity.

In the Midwest region, including Illinois, we are working with Indigenous consultants and partners to develop a comprehensive strategy for Indigenous relationships, reciprocity and mutual healing. Our early steps include creating meaningful learning experiences and immersions for staff, building our cultural understanding and humility. Together, we're exploring what deeper and more effective partnerships look like across states and our organization.

Deploying innovative financing models

Through the Enduring Earth initiative, TNC and partners including The Pew Charitable Trusts, World Wildlife Fund and ZOMALAB are helping countries around the world protect at least 30 percent of their lands and waters. This ambitious collaboration supports nations and communities in achieving their conservation and sustainable development goals. So far, it has secured more than 300 million acres of durably conserved lands and waters through projects in Canada, Mongolia and Colombia, and aims to protect around 2.5 trillion acres by 2030.

Enduring Earth's proven Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) model ties sustainable conservation funding to tangible, measurable social and environmental outcomes. Donor funds are released only when the full fundraising target is reached and a shared conservation agreement is signed.

TNC is currently developing two new PFPs in Kenya and Gabon. We've long partnered with governments and communities in both countries to support conservation. For example, last year we worked with Kenya Wildlife Service and others to transfer 21 critically endangered eastern black rhinos to a new sanctuary at Loisaba.

A PFP in Kenya is close. Over the past two years, we've collaborated with government, communities, funders and nongovernmental organizations to mobilize the resources and policies needed for a durable, wide-scale PFP agreement. It will protect iconic landscapes and benefit 1.3 million households through jobs, training opportunities and economic incentives.

By pooling resources, these Enduring Earth partnerships deliver greater impacts than any of us could achieve alone. Learn more at [nature.org/enduringearth](https://www.nature.org/enduringearth).

HOW WE ACHIEVE SCALE

TNC embraces five transformative practices to enable and amplify our success:

- Applying breakthrough **science** and tools to revolutionize conservation
- Guiding **policy and public funding** decisions across aisles, sectors and borders for solutions that benefit nature and improve lives
- Ensuring that **human rights, gender and equity** are at the core of all our conservation action
- Centering **Indigenous and community leadership** in conservation that supports territory rights, decision-making and livelihoods
- Designing **new paths to funding**, driving private capital for conservation and showing markets the value of nature



Illinois in photos

1. “Vote Yes” makes a visible impact at Illinois Forest Preserves

Chicagoland has a wealth of biodiversity, especially in its forest preserves. TNC’s policy team helped Illinois vote “yes” for clean air, water and wildlife—ensuring that **70,000 acres** of the Forest Preserve of Cook County will continue to thrive, thanks to an increase in public funding. Inspired by that historic win, voters approved similar referendums in 2024 to fund forest preserves in four counties: DuPage, Kane, Lake and McHenry. Together, the initiatives are anticipated to **generate more than \$500 million** for conservation and forest preserve districts.

© Alex Garcia

2. Getting good fire on the ground

By regularly applying prescribed fire, TNC is helping ensure the survival of our prairies, oak savannas and other native landscapes—and the wildlife that depend on them. In 2024, our Illinois fire crews **burned 2,900 acres** on TNC lands and assisted partners, such as the USDA Forest Service, with more than 40 fires across an additional **16,500 acres**. That’s more acres burned than four other states (Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin) combined. Our fire crews hope to beat their record in 2025 and continue leading the way in the Midwest. Learn more at nature.org/midwestfire.

© Tony Tang

3. Engaging the community at Kankakee Sands

TNC’s Kankakee Sands-Illinois Preserves offer a tranquil escape among rare black oak savannas. This unique ecosystem is interwoven with the culture and history of Pembroke Township, **one of the largest Black farming communities in the United States**. However, some of the preserves can be hard to locate and lack parking, trail maps and other visitor amenities. We’re changing that by involving Pembroke residents in planning to make the preserves more inviting and accessible to the community. The illustration shows the community vision for one preserve trailhead.

© Penn Trails

4. Climate-smart stormwater solutions

Adding more green spaces, like rain gardens, can help address flooding after intense rain events. In Harvey, Illinois, TNC helped construct **10 rain gardens**, planted in newly constructed curb extensions to soak up excess rainwater. The gardens will provide **more than 100,000 gallons of stormwater storage**. The Harvey project is also helping TNC demonstrate the benefits of stormwater credit trading through our StormStore partnership with the Metropolitan Planning Council, offering more than 80,000 gallons of tradable storage. TNC will be working with the city to maintain these new gardens and fund future green infrastructure projects.

© Jen Jenkins/TNC

5. Construction under way at Spunky Bottoms

TNC is reconnecting our **1,150-acre Spunky Bottoms Preserve** with the Illinois River via a constructed water control structure—similar to but smaller than the one at Emiquon (Page 6). The project is providing a restoration and management blueprint that can be replicated up and down rivers across the Midwest and beyond to improve the health of wetland ecosystems, most of which are severely degraded. The restoration is providing habitat for a variety of wetland-dependent wildlife, including waterfowl and the federally threatened decurrent false aster.

© Ollie Hartung/TNC

6. Connecting people to the outdoors

TNC is helping ensure that city dwellers of all races, ethnicities, ages, abilities, and income levels have access to green spaces and outdoor activities. One way we’re doing this is by sponsoring the Thrive Outside Chicago initiative. **In 2025, we provided 25 local groups with a total of \$113,500 in funding**. These grants help organizations like Chicago Climbs host inclusive outdoor experiences, from an afternoon of climbing at Chicago’s Steelworkers Park (pictured) to hiking, kayaking, and biking trips around the Midwest.

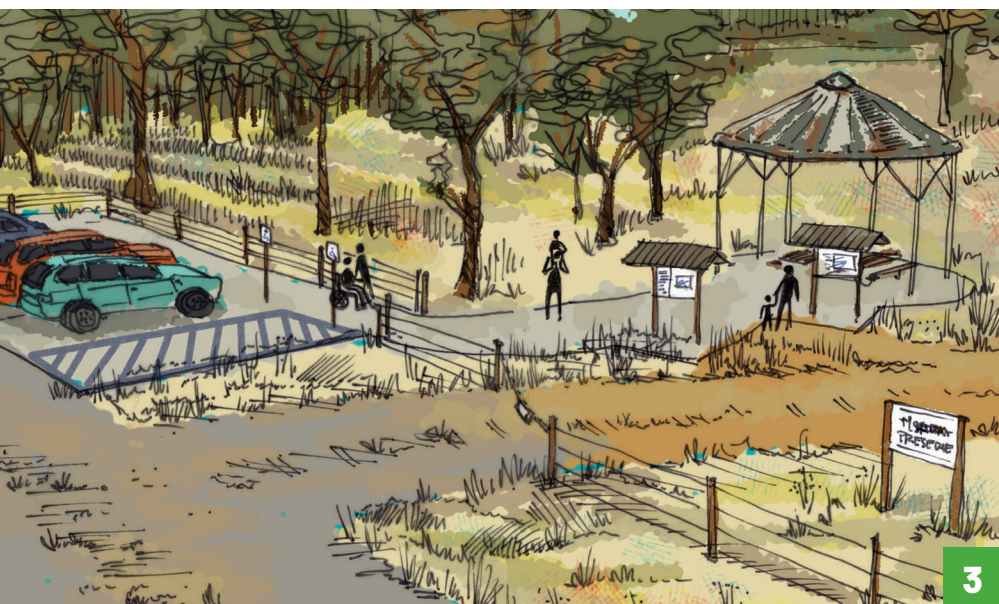
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1



2



3



4



5



6



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