

### Protect Your Heritage

**"We do not inherit  
the earth from  
our ancestors;  
we borrow it from  
our children."**

— Chief Seattle

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## PDHA Supports Environmental & Historic Preservation Groups

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance works through direct action, advocacy, education, and financial support to programs and organizations in environmental and historic preservation. Of the financial support we provide, most goes directly to local activities such as the Little Sprouts environmental education activities, volunteer environmental restoration projects, and educational programs such as beekeeping at Lyman Woods. We are contributing members of the following regional and statewide advocacy organizations that help us to achieve our goals of improving environmental quality and historic preservation:

### *The Illinois Environmental Council*

The Illinois Environmental Council (IEC) was founded in 1975 by grassroots environmental advocates and incorporates more than 100 affiliate organizations, including PDHA, as well as environmental and community groups together with about 300 individual members. IEC advocates for sound environmental policies at the state level and sponsors an annual Environmental Lobby Day in Springfield. The event pictured here on the right rallied support on March 4, 2020 for an Illinois Clean Energy Jobs Act.



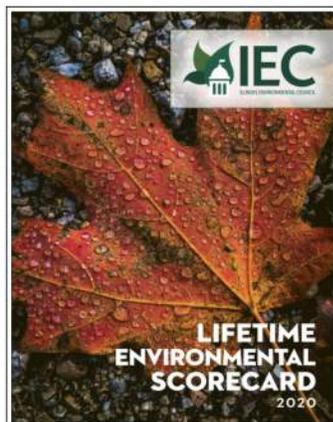
Within the last two years, IEC has successfully lobbied for measures to promote solar energy construction and conservation easements, and to tighten controls on facilities that use ethylene oxide, the chemical at the heart of the Sterigenics controversy in nearby Willowbrook.

IEC's legislative agenda for 2021 includes items relating to clean energy, clean water, sustainable agriculture, wildlife protections and more:

- Clean Energy Jobs Act, to reduce pollution from power generation and transportation, and promote job training and equitable clean energy development.
- Lead Service Line Replacement Act, to begin the process of replacing lead service lines that bring water from main lines to homes, which can cause lead pollution in tap water. There are hundreds of thousands of such lines in Illinois.
- Partners for Nutrient Loss Reduction Act, a proposal to promote environmentally sustainable practices among Illinois farmers to reduce agricultural runoff through Soil and Water Conservation Districts and programs like the Fall Covers for Spring Savings.
- Protecting Pollinators Act, to control use of neonicotinoids pesticides, including reducing their use on State property, and restricting their purchase and use to licensed pesticide applicators.

IEC is also promoting "30 by 30," an initiative to establish conservation protections for 30% of U.S. lands by the year 2030.

IEC issues an annual "Environmental Scorecard" listing the votes on key environment issues for Illinois legislators. To mark its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary IEC published its "Lifetime Environmental Scorecard" compiling these important votes from 1975 to 2020.



The IEC website is <https://ilenviro.org/>.

## Protect Your Heritage

### PDHA Directors

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a 24-year old, Illinois not-for-profit corporation with charitable group status from the Internal Revenue Service. PDHA's Board of Directors manages its activities.

The following people are

PDHA Officers:

Chair Ken Lerner,

Chair Pro-Tem  
Chris Saricks,

Secretary  
Mark Bragen,

Treasurer  
Gordon Goodman,  
& PDHA Directors:

Marge Earl,  
Rich Kulovany,  
John Schofield,  
& Mark Thoman.

We extend our gratitude to retired Director Irene Hogstrom for her seven years of dedicated service.

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G. Goodman

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Illinois Environmental  
Council,  
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Landmarks Illinois &  
G. Goodman

Logo designed by  
Kate Earl

## Environmental & Historic Preservation Groups – *Continued*

### *Chicago Wilderness*

Chicago Wilderness (CW) is “a diverse regional alliance of organizations and individuals working collaboratively to engage the full region in delivering the Green Vision for Chicago Wilderness: a landscape where people and nature thrive together, promoting vibrant communities, environmental health and justice, economic vitality, and well-being for all -- today and for generations to come.”

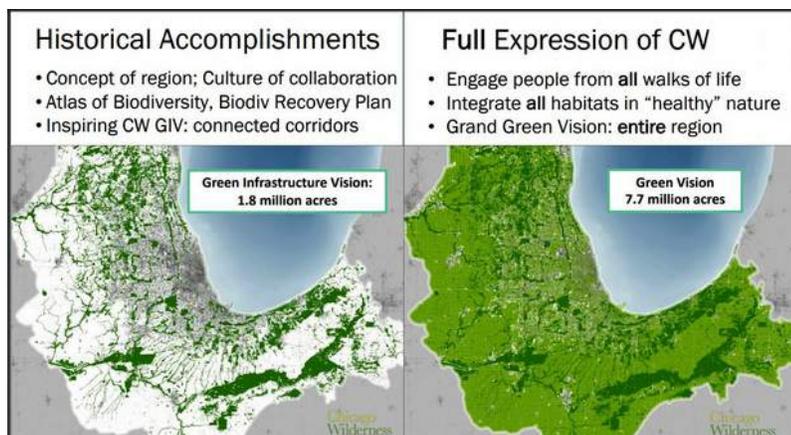
Chicago Wilderness has a regional focus on northeast Illinois, southeast Wisconsin, and northwest Indiana. The group's goals include protecting the area's open spaces and their ecosystems; promoting conservation and regenerative practices on area farmland; promoting green infrastructure and native plantings in built areas; and increasing the area of conservation lands, from the current 6.5% to 9% of the Chicagoland area.

Further goals include increasing access to nature for everyone within the region; mitigate climate change and increase climate resilience; and to protect, restore and maintain the area's aquatic resources. The Chicago area includes 126 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, approximately 34,700 linear miles of rivers and streams, and 169,000 acres of inland lakes and marshes.

Chicago Wilderness works with more than 250 partners, including public land-owning agencies, regional and national nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, education institutions and businesses. In addition to direct advocacy for conservation practices, CW uses a variety of methods to promote its goals:

- George B. Rabb Force of Nature Awards: these awards recognize individuals and organizations whose conservation, restoration, advocacy and/or educational activities in the regional are inspirational examples for others.
- Excellence in Ecological Restoration Program Accreditation (EERP): Using a rigorous, standards-based approach, the EERP recognizes large, high-quality natural areas and the organizations that manage them. (Downers Grove Park District has received CW awards for management programs at Lyman Woods.)
- Mighty Acorns is an environmental education program designed for 3rd-5th graders where students take a field trip to a local natural area and engage in a Field Study Activity to explore the habitat, learn about the ecosystem, and participate in environmental restoration work. It is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts.
- The Volunteer Stewardship program is developing training standards for volunteers, working with Morton Arboretum staff. Standards have been developed for volunteer leadership and invasive species control, among other topics.
- Develop regional plans, including an Oak Ecosystem Recovery Plan and the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan, in cooperation with environmental experts from the Morton Arboretum, County Forest Preserve Districts and other agencies.

The Chicago Wilderness website is <https://www.chicagowilderness.org/>.



## Environmental & Historic Preservation Groups – *Continued*

### *Landmarks Illinois*

Following the 1971 demolition of the Chicago Stock Exchange building, a significant architectural treasure, Landmarks Illinois (LI) was formed to advocate for and promote historic preservation. LI promotes preservation, restoration and adaptive reuse of buildings and sites of many types throughout the state. It works through surveys, publications and reports, events, award programs, direct advocacy at the local level, grants, and preservation easements. Some notable LI programs include:

- Most Endangered Places annual list – every year LI highlights several historic places, which can range from the Thompson Center in downtown Chicago to downstate courthouses, homes, businesses, and statues, in danger of demolition. Designation by LI points out the historic value of these places and can stimulate interest in preserving them.
- The Richard H. Driehaus Award program recognizes individuals and organizations for advocacy and leadership, along with particular projects of note that led to preservation and reuse of historic structures.



The Friends of the Edwards House won the advocacy award in 2017 for efforts to promote historic preservation in Downers Grove. Specific project awards have included everything from Chicago skyscrapers to the Elgin Watch tower, a Texaco station in Decatur, and the giant ketchup-bottle water tower in downstate Collinsville, pictured on the left, now listed in the U.S. Register of Historic Places.

Landmarks Illinois 2017 Preservation Award Presented to Friends of the Edwards House



Landmarks Illinois' website is [www.landmarks.org](http://www.landmarks.org). — By Ken Lerner

## PDHA Participates In Local Open-Space Planning

PDHA participated in a Park District survey about development plans for Walnut Park on the western edge of the village between the railroad tracks and Ogden Avenue. In [our response](#) we emphasized the area's proximity to the Belmont Prairie, a dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve. Some of the District's property adjoining Walnut Park already comprises a buffer zone to protect the ecological integrity of this high-quality remnant of Illinois' historic prairie. We found a proposal dating back to 1993 to improve habitat in the buffer zone and gradually expand the high-quality prairie area.

PDHA's comments stressed the importance of protecting the Belmont Prairie Nature Preserve and suggested that planning for the Walnut Park area could provide an excellent opportunity for renewed interest in how this high-quality prairie and its buffer zone are managed. Park District Executive Director Bill McAdam generously made time to join us at a regular PDHA meeting to discuss these ideas.

Comments in the Park District's online Q&A about the project and in Bill McAdam's interview in the *March 2021 Downers Grove Magazine* indicate a recognition of these features in the planning project. PDHA will continue to pursue these ideas with the Park District as planning proceeds. The District's online Q&A and other information about the project can be found at

<https://www.dgparcs.org/news/walnut-park-planning>. — By Ken Lerner



*Please Join Us  
on Our Remaining  
2021  
Highland Ave.  
Adopt-A-Highway  
CLEAN-UP DAYS*

*June 12  
August 14  
October 2*

*Saturdays  
8:30-10:30 AM*

*Check our  
website for updates.  
If you would like to  
help us keep  
Highland Avenue  
clean, please contact  
us at [info@PDHA.org](mailto:info@PDHA.org)  
to learn more about  
volunteering.*

*Have you renewed  
your membership  
in the Heritage  
Alliance?*

*See the back page of  
this newsletter for more  
info and how YOU can  
make a difference!*

*Check us out at  
[www.PDHA.org](http://www.PDHA.org)*

*Pierce Downer's  
Heritage Alliance  
P.O. Box 422  
Downers Grove,  
Illinois 60515*

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60515



Click Here to Visit Our Facebook Page.

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance Spring 2021 Newsletter

**“We do not inherit the earth  
from our ancestors;  
we borrow it  
from our children.”**

— Chief Seattle

Check our website [www.PDHA.org](http://www.PDHA.org) for more information.



Pierce Downer  
1782-1863

Your membership in the Alliance helps in our efforts to petition local government officials to preserve our heritage resources. Your participation in our programs demonstrates to our community the strength of our alliance to protect Downers Grove's natural and cultural heritage.

Please join Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance or renew your membership now as we work for protection of the natural and cultural heritage of Downers Grove.

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance  
P.O. Box 422, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Yes, I want to begin/renew my membership in Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Employer matching contribution?) \_\_\_\_\_ I/We can also volunteer some time.

A tax-deductible contribution of \$10 or more will help the Alliance defray expenses, but is **not** required for membership. Your email address will allow us to keep you informed of future events.

Help us save trees & receive a full color digital version of this Newsletter electronically by sending us your e-mail address at [Info@PDHA.org](mailto:Info@PDHA.org)!