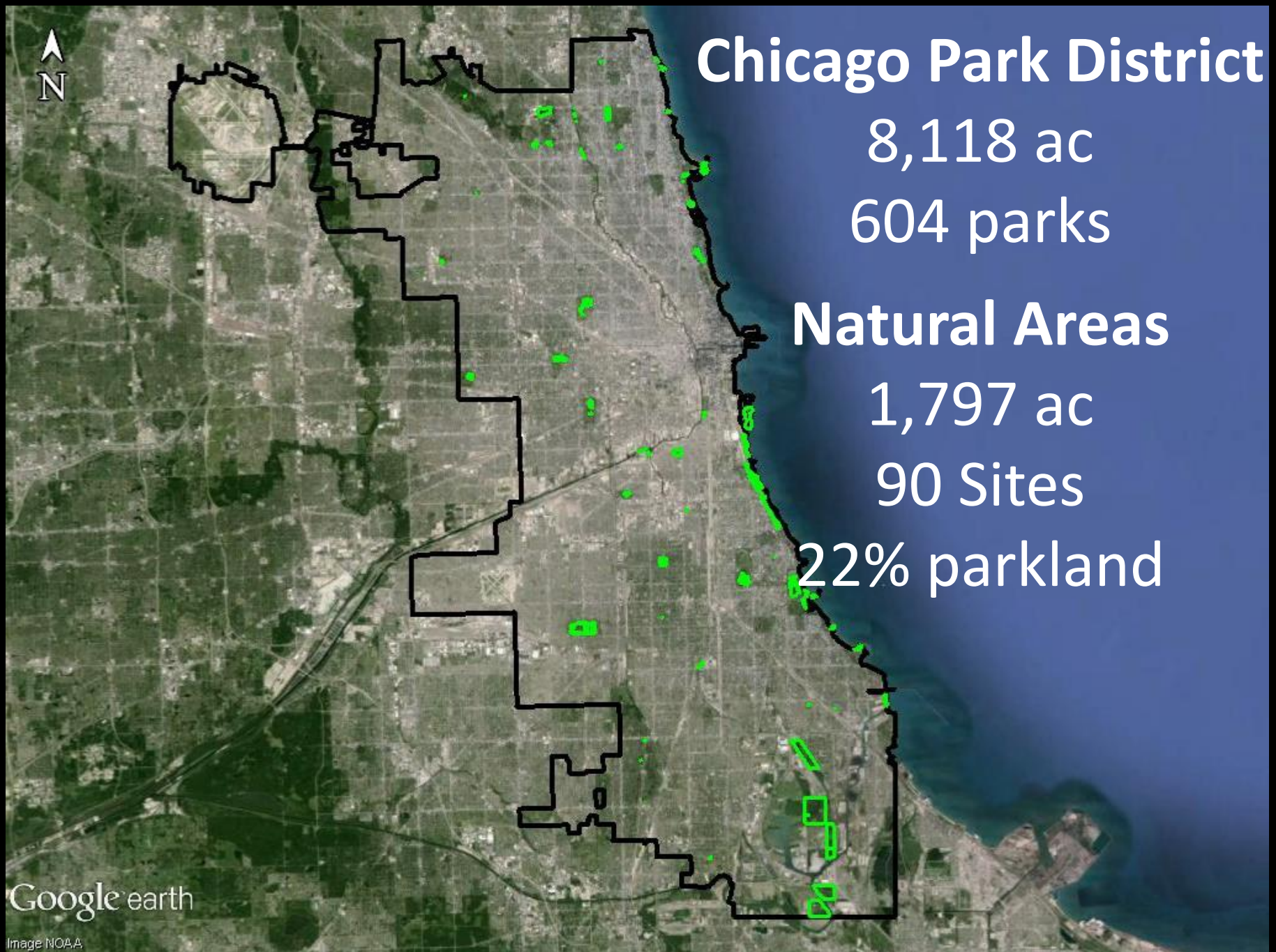


Green Spaces, Created Prairies, Building on Burnham 2020

Lauren Umek, Project Manager

Chicago Park District

Department of Cultural and Natural Resources



Building Natural Areas in Chicago:



Images courtesy Jason Steger, Chicago Park District

Location and site limitations



Image courtesy Jason Steger, Chicago Park District



Range of Habitats

Range of Size & Usage



Geoff Williamson, May 2008





Range of Management

General Approach



Social Goals

- Aesthetics
- Recreation
- Education
- Historic

Ecological Goals

- Diversity
 - Species
 - Structural
 - Phenologic
 - Landscape
 - (Phylogenetic)
- Key Habitats
- Target Species

Nature Gardens







chicago park district

Natural Area Development in progress

A native planting takes 3-5 years
to develop and needs stewardship for
the plants to successfully establish.
Stewardship includes periodic mowing,
weed control and prescribed burning.
This natural area will look different
throughout the season and every year.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PATIENCE

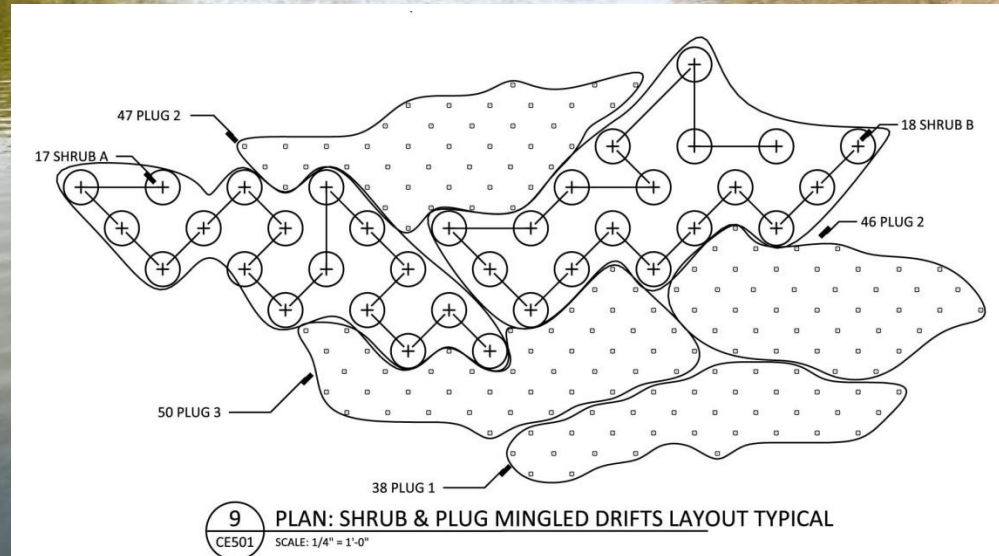
Chicago Park District Security 312-747-2193

Burnham Wildlife Corridor



- Public Art
- Community Engagement
- Butterfly Meadow

Ecological Restoration in Historic Parks: Jackson Park



Meadow Mix 3

Description:

Low grass mounds, diverse foliage, dapples of pink/purple/yellow/white, Coneflower floats above with shrub-like Baptisia, gray cast from Gray Goldenrod.

The below 4 plants comprise 40% of the plants in this area



Prairie blazing star
10%
Height @ maturity = 2-3'



Prairie dropseed (grass)
10%
Height @ maturity 1-3'



Nodding Wild Onion
10%
Height @ maturity 0.5-1'

Pale coneflower
10%
Height @ maturity 2-4'

Big Marsh

Restoring a Post-Industrial Landscape for Recreation and Wetland Birds







Interesting Challenges &
Unique Opportunities

Steel Slag & Foundry Waste

Can slag be an artificial rare ecosystem?

- Similar properties to dolomite prairies (or gravel hill prairie)?
- Current BMPs are add topsoil?
- Can these post-industrial landscape support rare species?
- Different “slag ecosystems” throughout the region?



Mud to Parks

Preparing for the end of Glyphosate

- Best management practices for turf conversions
- Efficacy of alternative herbicides on invasive herbaceous and woody species



ShadyPrairieVanna

- Most of CPD Natural Areas have similar species composition.
- Reasons why: all constructed ecosystems, similar management, similar plant mix, heavy human impact, others?
- Is this actually true – alternative methods for evaluating diversity?
- If so, how do we work to improve these sites so that we have a good representation of the ecosystems of the region? Are we locating ecosystems in the optimal area?



Building on Burnham: 2020 by 2020

- Expanding existing natural areas – size & diversity
- Converting turf in and along key geographical landmarks i.e. lakefront, river front and migratory bird routes
- Meet community demand
- Activate underutilized spaces across the City

