

1998 USDA URBAN FORESTRY

Chicago URP

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The Urban Resources Partnership (URP) in Chicago during its first four years of operation has sponsored over 60 projects, leveraged over 4.5 million dollars, involved more than 5,000 volunteers, restored or enhanced over 750 acres of urban land, and provided educational opportunities for hundreds, maybe thousands, of students. In 1998, URP sponsored 15 projects ranging from streambank and dune restoration to park and public housing enhancement.

Chicago URP natural resources goals:

- Open Space Enhancement
- Water Quality Improvement
- Urban Habitat Creation, Enhancement, and Management
- Environmental Education and Stewardship
- Ecosystem Management Techniques

Accomplishments in 1998:

Nature Along the Lake, Montrose Point Enhancement Project

The After School Action Program sponsored a project for a diverse group of youth to enhance land on Chicago's lake front in cooperation with the landowner, the Chicago Park District. This program provided a valuable learning experience for youth and improved a primary stopover point for migrating birds.

Bronzeville Greenway

The Mid-South Planning and Development Commission, a community-based organization, has embarked on the development of an urban greenway on an abandoned right-of-way. The greenway will eventually connect several historic boulevards, provide valuable greenspace, and create opportunities for inner city residents to become involved in urban forestry. The site will include a native species nursery to supply plants to other local greenspace development projects.

Lathrop Homes River Trail

The Friends of the Chicago River have continued their work on a nature trail along the historic Chicago River. The project, adjacent to public housing will involve the residents and volunteers from across the city. The trail will be part of a continuous river walk featuring a wetland and interpretive areas.