

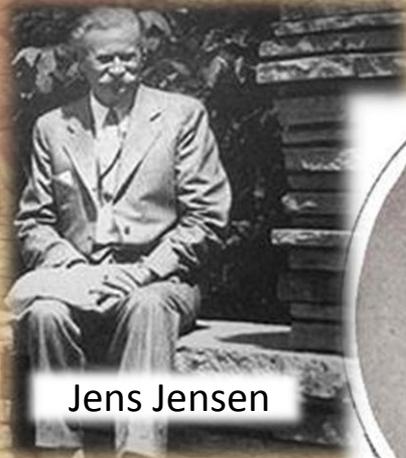


# Forest Preserve District of Cook County

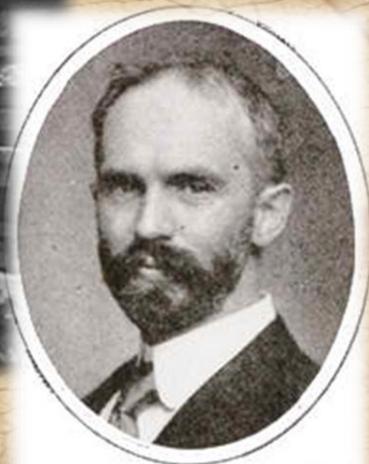
A 68,000 acre classroom, laboratory,  
and living library at your feet.

# Forest Preserve District of Cook County Beginnings

Official establishment of the “Forest Preserve District of Cook County” occurred on November 30, 1914.



Jens Jensen



Dwight Perkins



The Prairie Club



Amalie Hofer

# Forest Preserve District of Cook County Mission

*...to acquire... and hold lands containing one or more natural forests or parts thereof...to restore, restock, protect and preserve the natural forests and such lands together with their flora and fauna, as nearly as may be, in their natural state and condition, **for the purpose of the education**, pleasure, and recreation of the public...*



# Forest Preserve District of Cook County Expansion

The first land acquired by the FPDCC was 500 acres of the now 1800 acre Deer Grove Preserves located in Palatine.



Deer Grove Preserves



# Forest Preserve District of Cook County Evolution

Educational programming and land use policies are continuously being tweaked to better serve the changing needs of our public.



# Forest Preserve District of Cook County Education Division



**Barrington**



**Northbrook**



# Six Nature Centers

**River Forest**



**Willow Springs**



**Crabtree**

**River Trail**

**Trailside Museum**

**Little Red Schoolhouse**

**Sagawau**

**Sand Ridge**



**Lemont**



**South Holland**



# Nature Center Field Trips

- Free to visit, safe, & easy
- Naturalist staff on site
- Self-guided interpretive trails
- Guided hikes/special presentations
- Stewardship opportunities
- Local fish, snakes, turtles, and other wildlife on display



# Educational Adventures

## In Class Programs



- FREE....yes, FREE!!!
- Hands-On, In-Class
- Designed to meet grade specific Illinois Learning Standards



## Overlying Topics:

- Wild Neighbors
- Insects
- Birds
- Ecosystems
- Amphibians
- Trees



# Create Your Own Opportunity

**Limitless Possibilities**



**Insect & Bird Study**



**Natural & Cultural History**



**Biological Monitoring  
& Data Collection**



In nature, content for lessons across the disciplines is abundant and often under utilized in education today.

**Pond Dipping  
& Water Quality Testing**



**Creative Writing & Drawing**



# Summer Educator Workshops

- College accredited courses
- 5 consecutive days
- Topics:
  - Terrestrial Biology
  - Biological Field Science
  - Earth Science





## *Teens*

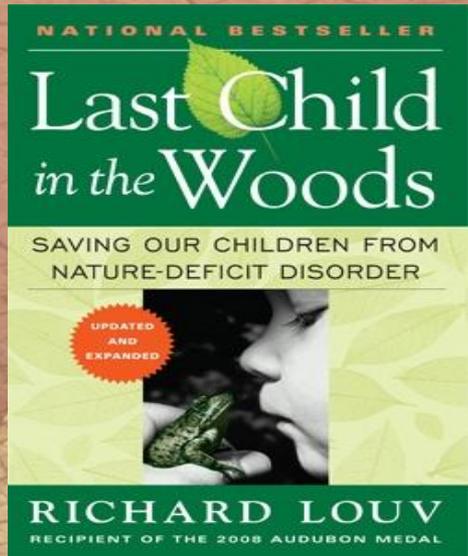
120 High Schools  
45 Teen Organizations

- Litter Obliterators
- Garlic Mustard Busters
- Brush Cutter Crews
- Adopt-A-Site

- Teens get, outside, get active and give back
- Opportunity for service learning hours
- Teens are able to network through the PKC Teens Blog



# Chicago Wilderness



- Spurred the formation of a national movement to combat “nature deficit disorder”
- No Child Left Inside Act of 2009

- Chicago Wilderness’ response to the movement
- The Mighty Acorns program is a major strategy



# Mighty Acorns

The Mighty Acorns program introduces thousands of 4th through 6th graders to nature and conservation in the Chicagoland area each year through education, restoration, and exploration.

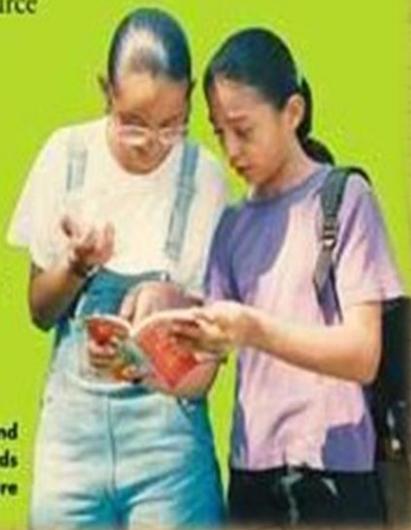
"Fostering a personal connection to nature through stewardship"



## Mighty Acorns:

- Provides outdoor experiences in fall, winter, and spring
- Connects schools with nature centers, parks, and forest preserve districts
- Builds knowledge and skills over a three-year period
- Joins natural resource management and education
- Encourages students to care for and restore local natural areas

Forging a bond  
between kids  
and nature



Prairies, wetlands, and woodlands of the Chicago Wilderness region are being restored by Mighty Acorns' students.



# Calumet Environmental Education Program



- Stewardship
- 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade

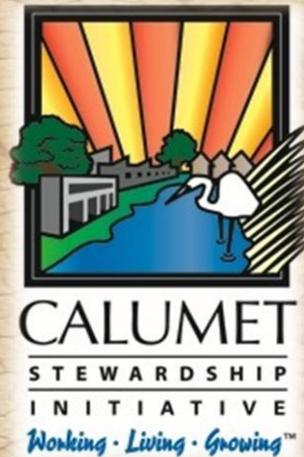


- Community action projects
- 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade



- Stewardship based service learning
- 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade

# Partnerships Are Powerful



“Teaching children about the natural world should be treated as one of the most important events in their lives.” – Thomas Berry

