

Chicago Stew-MAP

The Stewardship Mapping & Assessment Project

Environmental stewardship can take many forms including:

- ◆ Garden clubs lobbying for community garden space;
- ◆ Schools, non-profit groups, or education centers teaching in an “outdoor classroom”;
- ◆ Neighborhood groups cleaning up an abandoned lot;
- ◆ Church group events about energy-saving practices;
- ◆ Community organizations leading “toxic tours”;
- ◆ More traditional stewardship like planting trees, removing invasives, or restoring prairie habitat.

Grassroots environmental stewardship is a strong community asset but **a lot of stewardship work happens “under the radar”** of environmental professionals and formal stewardship groups. As a result, stewards may miss opportunities for collaboration, networking, funding, or other support.

Stew-MAP (the Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project) is **collecting and mapping information about environmental stewardship work in the greater Chicago region**. There is a long history of stewardship in the region but the current extent and distribution of this work is not known. Stew-MAP is the first effort of its kind to look at the “big picture” of stewardship in the region. The purpose is to better understand who is doing stewardship work, what they are doing and where, and how formal or informal the groups are.

Why participate in Chicago Stew-MAP?

- ◆ Make sure your group or organization gets credit for the stewardship work you are doing
- ◆ Promote your work by putting your group's info on the stewardship map for potential volunteers, funders, and

What is Stewardship?

Stew-MAP uses a broad definition of environmental stewardship: conserving, managing, monitoring, advocating for, or educating others about local environments. This can include activities related to water, land, air, waste, toxics, or energy. We include churches, schools, social service organizations, and other groups that do some consistent environmental stewardship work *even if it is not their primary focus*.

others to see

- ◆ See where stewardship is occurring - and where it isn't
- ◆ Help us understand the groups and organizations that are doing stewardship in our region.

The ultimate goals of Chicago Stew-MAP are to **understand and facilitate environmental stewardship in the region**. Chicago Stew-MAP will:

- ◆ Map sites and areas where stewardship is occurring;
- ◆ Help connect stewards with organizations or agencies that can help them meet their goals (for example, by providing funding or supplies);
- ◆ Show land managers, planners, and environmental professionals where the region's stewardship strengths and gaps are.

Background

Researchers from the US Forest Service and Columbia University first developed Stew-MAP to collect information about stewardship in New York City (NYC). Almost 2800 groups participated in the NYC Stew-MAP project. See the NYC stewardship map at: www.oasisnyc.net/stewardship/stewardshipsearch.aspx.

Put your group or organization on the map

Fill out the Stew-MAP survey at <http://StewMap.CNT.org>

Project Partners:



Contacts: Cherie LeBlanc Fisher (clfisher@fs.fed.us), Cindy Copp (cindy@cnt.org), Laurel Ross (lross@fieldmuseum.org)