

# Building Healthy Cities: Our Work in Milwaukee

Milwaukee River at Lincoln Park, WI DNR Sediment Remediation and Habitat Restoration Phase I, Milwaukee. © TNC

Milwaukee has a unique history, culture and local economy that gives the city its charm. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) recognizes that the historical realities of society and urban life produced different outcomes for the many communities that call Milwaukee home. While Milwaukee's communities are very diverse and differ in community assets and levels of well-being, they all have one thing in common: the natural environment.

When we spoke to conservation stakeholders in Milwaukee, we were highly encouraged by the extraordinary efforts already underway to get people involved in community-based conservation and increasing urban sustainability.

## Working Together for Shared Conservation Goals

TNC will join the effort in Milwaukee to address urban conservation challenges and support and amplify the inspiring conservation efforts already underway.

### Water Quality and Flooding

Support efforts that address high priority urban water issues such as flooding, water quality and sustainability.

#### **Habitat Quality**

Support efforts that conserve and increase greenspace, native species, and improve the cities' natural environment.

### **Climate Resilience**

Build capacity among people and neighborhoods to withstand and manage environmental challenges related to climate change and the urban environment.



In urban areas, nature can be in the background, beneath concrete or out of sight to its residents. The reality is that a city's natural environment is always there, connecting its residents to the whole of the Earth.

We can say for sure that people impact nature, and that nature impacts all of us. The majority of the world's people live in cities. That's why TNC has broadened its work to include cities given their vital role in contributing to local and global conservation goals.

TNC's efforts in the Milwaukee area will prioritize establishing relationships and projects that promote awareness of the benefits of nature, expand the ways people can participate in conservation, and add momentum to existing conservation and sustainability efforts.

Through collaborative efforts, we aspire to:

- Build and support local knowledge, expertise and leadership in conservation.
- Increase resources and support for innovative community-based conservation and environmental sustainability projects.
- Cultivate durable civic partnerships and the next generation of conservationists.

By listening, learning, sharing, and collaborating, we have an opportunity to support a wide range of communities and people in playing leading roles in nurturing their own wellbeing and the city's natural environment for many generations to come.

Do you have thoughts or ideas for how TNC can be a helpful conservation partner in Milwaukee? Please reach out so that we can grow ideas and develop ways for TNC to support efforts that benefit nature and the people that call Milwaukee home.

Learn more about The Nature Conservancy's work in cities by visiting **nature.org/cities**.

To learn more about the Milwaukee Cities Program contact:

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Escuela Verde students share native prairie seeds with their communities during the Día de los Muertos celebration. Gary Porter



Dineen Park Stormwater Detention and Park Improvements Project, Milwaukee. © TNC



Lincoln Creek Greenway (pictured left to right: David Thomas - Nearby Nature, Dan Collins - Landscapes of Place, Steven Hunter - Nearby Nature, Nancy Aten -Landscapes of Place) © TNC



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