Together, We Can Make the Calumet Region Thrive.
Calumet Collaborative builds bridges to achieve a unified regional identity and advance sustainable development in the Calumet region.
With our Partners, We Create Vibrant Places.

Economic Opportunity
We convene partners to design a world-class, inclusive economy that builds on the Calumet region’s industrial heritage and supports local business.

Culture & Heritage
We celebrate the Calumet region’s proud heritage and elevate its vibrant cultural scene.

Livable Communities
We support the growth of healthy communities and lifestyles and promote places and opportunities that connect people to where they live, work and play.

Environment
We strengthen individual and regional efforts to restore, protect and connect natural areas to improve the quality of land, air and water for people and planet.
We can get more done together.
Calumet Collaborative promotes equity, inclusivity and belonging to encourage everyone in the region to be part of its transformation.
Together, We Can Make the Calumet Region Thrive.

Spanning southeast Chicago, south Cook County and northwest Indiana, the bi-state Calumet region boasts proud and diverse communities, important natural ecosystems and a powerful industrial heritage. Calumet Collaborative fosters a new level of collaboration in sustainable development as the Calumet region builds toward a vibrant future for people, wildlife and business.

Our Focus Areas

To achieve this vision, the Collaborative develops synergies with partners across the region with a focus on:

- **ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**
  Convene partners to design a world-class, inclusive economy that builds on the Calumet region’s industrial heritage and supports local business

- **LIVABLE COMMUNITIES**
  Support the growth of healthy communities and lifestyles and promote places and opportunities that connect people to where they live, work and play

- **CULTURE AND HERITAGE**
  Celebrate the Calumet region’s proud heritage and elevate its vibrant cultural scene

- **ENVIRONMENT**
  Strengthen individual and regional efforts to restore, protect and connect natural areas to improve the quality of land, air and water for people and planet

**MISSION**

Calumet Collaborative is dedicated to achieving inclusive regional prosperity and improving quality of life by focusing the attention and resources of diverse stakeholders on priorities and on-the-ground work that integrate community, economic, and environmental values and have regional impact.

**VISION**

The advancement of a thriving Calumet region through transformative sustainable development
How We Will Get There

Climate resilience and equity are overarching drivers of our work. Core strategic initiatives include:

Drive innovative, regional solutions through collaboration and inclusion to bring former industrial sites back into productive reuse through Brownfield Redevelopment

Create opportunities that connect residents to their community, help visitors get around and showcase recreational and cultural activities with Wayfinding

Bring economic opportunity, enhanced quality of life and pride of place through the promotion of cultural heritage assets of the region with the Calumet National Heritage Area initiative

Restore, protect and connect natural areas on a regional scale to improve the quality of land, air and water with Bi-state Conservation

Leverage sustainable development opportunities to compete globally as a unified region

Empower communities and stakeholders by providing pathways to engage and participate in transforming the region

Foster stronger collaboration across agencies, organizations and research institutions—utilizing public private partnership (P3) principles—to leverage resources and provide greater impact than any one organization could achieve on its own

Establish and promote a shared identity for the region and promote its assets

WHO’S INVOLVED?

This bi-state organization is the first to focus on sustainable development as it relates to the interconnected facets of economy, environment and community.

Calumet Collaborative positioned itself with the leadership to take on these challenges. This cross-sectoral collaborative includes lead decision makers from the region’s various companies, organizations and community groups.

The Calumet Collaborative Board of Directors includes committed partners from:
- ArcelorMittal
- Calumet College of St. Joseph
- The Chicago Community Trust
- Crown Family Philanthropies
- Far South CDC
- The Field Museum
- Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission
- Shirley Heinze Land Trust

The Calumet Collaborative Advisory Council is made up of 40+ additional regional leaders.

Contact:
Sarah Coulter
Executive Director
Calumet Collaborative
708-297-9162
sarah@calumetcollaborative.org
We drive innovative, regional solutions through collaboration and inclusion to bring former industrial sites back into productive reuse.

We create opportunities that connect residents to their community, help visitors get around and showcase recreational and cultural activities.

We bring economic opportunity, enhanced quality of life and pride of place through the promotion of the cultural heritage assets of the region.

We restore, protect and connect natural areas on a regional scale to improve the quality of land, air and water.

Initiatives & Projects

Advancing the Calumet Region through Collaborative Sustainable Development.

Calumet Collaborative empowers stakeholders to prioritize community, economic and environmental initiatives that have regional impact.

Projects

- Brownfield Mapping Project
- Community Engagement Project
- IIT Institute of Design “Future of Brownfields” Partnership
- Brownfield and Opportunity Zone Bootcamp Pitch Competition

Projects

- Calumet Heritage Area Identity and Branding Project with Implementation Toolkit
- Burnham Greenway Gap and Multimodal Connector
- Active Transportation Alliance Southside Trailblazers
- NJRPC’s Ped, Pedal and Paddle Committee

Projects

- CNHA Coordinating Committee
- Region-wide Program And Events Calendar
- Comprehensive Management Planning
- Advocacy to Achieve National Designation for the Calumet Heritage Area

Projects

- Grants Calendar And Database
- Volunteer Management, Strategy and Recruitment
- Calumet Stormwater Collaborative
- Calumet Conservation Compact

CalumetCollaborative.org
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Advisory Council & Working Group Members

A. Philip Randolph
Pullman Porter Museum

Alderwoman Susan Sadowski
Garza’s 10th Ward Office

Alliance for the Great Lakes

ArcelorMittal

Association for Wolf Lake Initiative

Audubon Great Lakes

Bronzeville Community Development Partnership

Calumet College of St. Joseph

Calumet Heritage Partnership

Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT)

ChiBiDesign

Chicago Community Trust

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives

Chicago Park District

Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau

City of Chicago Department of Transportation

City of Gary

City of Hammond

City of Michigan City

Cook County Department of Planning and Development

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Chicago Park District

Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau

City of Chicago Department of Transportation

City of Gary

City of Hammond

City of Michigan City

Cook County Department of Planning and Development

Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways

Crown Family Philanthropies

Delta Institute

Far South CDC

Field Museum, Keller Science Action Center

Forest Preserves of Cook County

Friends of Big Marsh

Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation

Golden Gate Homeowners Association

Graf Tree Care

Greater Northwest Indiana Association of Realtors

Illinois Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management Program

Illinois EPA

Illinois International Port District

Illinois Institute of Technology Institute of Design

Indiana Department of Nature Preserves

Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Indiana Dunes Tourism

Indiana Regional Development Authority

Lake County, Indiana Parks & Recreation

LaPorte County Parks

Legacy Foundation

Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC)

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

National Park Service, Indiana Dunes National Park & Pullman National Monument

National Parks Conservation Association

National Trust for Historic Preservation

Neighborhood Housing Services

NIPSCO / NiSource

Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD)

Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC)

NWI Forum

OAI, Inc.

Office of Congressman Pete Visclosky

Office of Congresswoman Robin Kelly

OneRegion

Openlands

Ozinga Concrete

Porter County Parks & Recreation

Purdue Northwest REI

RW Ventures

Save the Dunes

Shirley Heinze Land Trust

Southeast Environmental Task Force

South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium (SMHEC)

and Prairie State College

South Shore CVA

South Suburban Mayor and Managers Association (SSMMA)

The Lakota Group

The Nature Conservancy

The Wetlands Initiative

University of Chicago

University of Illinois Chicago Nathalie P. Voorhees Center & Great Cities Institute

Urban League of NWI

Urban Waters Partnership

US Forest Service

Valparaiso University

Village of Burnham

Village of Robins

We Keep You Rollin’
The Calumet Collaborative Impact

Calumet Collaborative is a catalyst to create equitable and sustainable development in the Calumet region.

The Collaborative serves as a bridge builder—across geographies, sectors and issues—to convene, facilitate and accelerate sustainable development efforts. It also serves as an inclusive conduit for community voice in regionally-significant, decision-making processes to ensure tangible, transformative impact is realized by, with and for all. Climate resilience and equity are overarching drivers of our work.

In order to successfully center equity in its mission, process and outcomes, Calumet Collaborative pursues equity in the following ways:

- **Racial Equity**: Naming and working to break patterns of historic and current structural racism that has disadvantaged Black and Latinx communities.
- **Participatory Equity**: Ensuring those who are most directly impacted by an issue or outcome have voice in decision-making processes.
- **Distributional Equity**: Ensuring regional assets and investments—from capacity to funding—are distributed in an equitable way.
- **Opportunity Equity**: Improving access to opportunities and resources—from jobs and economic opportunity to transportation and recreation—for the communities that need them most.
- **Outcome Equity**: Ensuring that the impact or benefits of the work of sustainable development is experienced by those that could benefit the most and that it is equitably experienced.

The Essential Ingredients to Calumet Collaborative’s Success Include:

**Regional**: Thinks and acts at the appropriate scale
**Impact-driven**: Achieves tangible results with solid documentation
**Thought Leader**: Has years of experience addressing climate impacts
**Integrated**: Balances environmental, economic, and social priorities
**Asset-based**: Maximizes the region’s unique assets and opportunities
**Innovative**: Explores creative, innovative opportunities
**Networked**: Has access to leaders, stakeholders, and decision makers across the region
**Inclusive**: Invite those with diverse backgrounds to be part of the process
**Leaders**: Has expertise and a passion for intentional collaboration
**Navigators**: Mediates power dynamics and disparate viewpoints
**Nimble**: Responds to emerging opportunities for impact
**Facilitators**: Makes meaningful, mutually-beneficial connections
**Neutral**: Acts as a fair and trusted convener

[CalumetCollaborative.org](http://CalumetCollaborative.org)
THE CALUMET HERITAGE AREA INITIATIVE

The more you explore the Calumet, the more you’ll uncover the atypical beauty and resilience of the land, the industry, and the people. Soak in the sun, surfers, and stunning vistas of the dunes along Lake Michigan. Stumble upon architectural relics that showcase the area’s industrial heritage. And venture off the beaten path to find quaint, traditional downtowns, craft breweries, and local galleries. This rich balance of nature, diversity, and history—all within proximity to a vibrant Metropolitan area—creates an unrivaled destination for all kinds of adventures, worthy of exploring again and again.

An initiative led by Calumet Collaborative and Calumet Heritage Partnership with the support of the Field Museum is underway to achieve a National Park Service designation for the Calumet region. Until a national designation is achieved, a dedicated and growing group of hundreds of volunteers are committed to act as if it is an official heritage area, known today as the Calumet Heritage Area.

Here’s why you should join us in ensuring the Calumet Heritage Area achieves its greatest potential.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

National Heritage Areas create and sustain regional jobs. Making the Calumet a destination for residents and tourists supports the local economy: On average, every federal dollar spent on a Heritage Area generates $5.50 of additional local revenue.*

UNIFIED REGIONAL IDENTITY

A unified identity under the Calumet Heritage Area will help organize local efforts, promote assets, and create a pride of place for residents. New branding and interpretative signage will improve navigation and connect residents and visitors to the Calumet’s nationally significant stories.

PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE EXPLORATION

Interactive programming will connect residents and visitors to the special natural and cultural places in the region. They will learn from long-time residents and local experts about the movements that shaped history and laid the foundation for the future, such as environmental and labor activism, and industrial innovation.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

When Congress gives the Calumet Heritage Area national designation, the federal government provides funding that is leveraged by local sources. This encourages regional, state and national organizations to work together and create an even bigger impact in the region. Additional National Park Service resources, including the Arrowhead branding, signage, and inclusion in an online network, will further put the Calumet on the map.

*Source: National Park Service
WHAT WILL THE CALUMET HERITAGE AREA LOOK LIKE?

The Calumet Heritage Area is a place of nationally significant natural, industrial, labor, and cultural heritage assets, that are preserved and interpreted to advance economic opportunity, and enrich the lives of its residents and visitors from across the nation.

The Calumet Heritage Area will connect the region’s two National Parks, local parks, trails, tourism gateways, and historical sites and promote these places to locals and tourists with enhanced signage, maps, and educational materials.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

To raise awareness of your organization’s events related to nature, industry, and culture within the Calumet region (shown to the right), submit your events for free to the Calumet Heritage Area Program and Events calendar at calumetheritagearea.org/calendar

Become a Brand Ambassador and add the Calumet Heritage Area logo, story, and branding to your organization’s website or other collateral. Download the Brand Toolkit at calumetheritagearea.org/brand-toolkit

GET IN TOUCH

For more information, please visit calumetheritagearea.org. To become involved in this initiative, please contact Sarah Coulter at sarah@calumetcollaborative.org, or call 708-297-9162

*Source: Schuylkill River National Heritage Area Economic Impact Analysis by TrippUmbach, 2015