



**Calumet Collaborative Nature for All Conversation**  
**Monday July 13, 2020**  
**Zoom Conference Call**

Objective: This meeting's objective is to identify and utilize already existing resources related to the Nature for All campaign and to create the campaign's general framework.

**In Attendance:**

Stephen Bell, Chicago Park District  
Eric Bird, Shirley Heinz  
Kristin Brock, Chicago Park District  
Serrater Chapman, Calumet Collaborative  
Tess Conway, Calumet Collaborative  
Sarah Coulter, Calumet Collaborative  
Paul Fitzgerald, Friends of Big Marsh  
Jennifer Johnson, Wild Indigo of Audubon Green Lakes  
Bradford Kasberg, Audubon Great Lakes  
Mario Longoni, The Field Museum  
Laura Milkert, The Field Museum  
Michelle Pagano  
Nicole Pellegrini, Calumet Collaborative  
KV Walton, National Park Service  
Joel Zavala, Chicago Park District

**Agenda & Notes**

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Project Brief and Background

- The Nature for All campaign aims to help make outdoor recreation more accessible for Calumet residents by building upon and combining already existing resources.
- The campaign includes two distinct projects:
  - A collective map of the natural areas and greenspace of the Calumet, including pedestrian and biking trails to access these sites.
  - A directory of nature related programming in the region.

a. Natural Areas and Greenspace Map

- Is the tool necessary/helpful?
  - Overall, the group was interested in and supportive of the project but noted that it could require significant time and effort.
  - There are a ton of organizations that have their own guides/maps but none of them cover the entire region.

- Adding bike/ped trails and paths that are accessible because of the concern with COVID and public transit accessibility, perhaps including mellow bike systems that access green spaces and parks.

#### What resources currently exist?

- The Field Museum has been discussing creating a similar map for “finding your place” in the Calumet and using it as part of the Calumet Voices, National Stories exhibit that will open in the fall of 2021. They are also doing a pollinator habitat mapping project that could tie into this project too.
  - Openlands created a ‘Get Outside’ map but it has very limited sites in Indiana. Can we simply add to the Openlands map?
  - Could adding descriptors such as environmental education, water activities, and birding be helpful to the user or make the tool more complicated and take longer to get out to the public.
  - Include the Little Calumet River project – the levy and wetland system trails are underutilized, and this tool could be useful in advertising these trails.
  - Organization – with the amount of data we are interested in can get messy. We need to find a way to organize the map perhaps by localizing the number of sites into districts, so it doesn’t become overwhelming.
  - The map should have organized layers that have the full information.
- How can we connect and make sure this campaign is accessible and inclusive?
    - Utilize social media campaigns with a specific hashtag to increase reach.
    - Utilize E-Bird application as a resource and example.
    - Utilize partners and their social media presence.
    - Researching where people get their outdoor information.
    - How will information be presented? Ex: Drop a point on a map and sites near you pop up.
    - Ensuring accessibility by highlighting pedestrian and bike paths to natural sites.
      - For example) being able to walk a very short distance to go to sites near schools and neighborhoods. Connect teachers with spaces that are nearby.
    - Consider making resources in Spanish.
    - How can we help ensure these areas will feel welcoming and safe for people of color?
    - Piloting a very local participatory mapping program with tools to explain the process.
    - How would we gain interest amongst organizations and take responsibility as an organization to contribute to the participatory mapping project?
    - Consider outdoor engagement and projects.

#### b. Programming Directory

- The programming directory could be especially helpful to parents and teachers doing remote learning from home.

*Calumet Collaborative: the advancement of a thriving Calumet region through transformative sustainable development. [www.calumetcollaborative.org](http://www.calumetcollaborative.org)*

- The Calumet Stewardship initiative created a directory of educational resources in the past and will share it with the Collaborative.
- The Dunes Learning Center has tons of great resources.
- Tess will be creating a shareable google directory for the group to add resources and contacts to.

### III. Project Details

- Project Form – What form should the map and directory take?
  - Web-based platform and pdf form for printing.
  - App and cost to host? Map should be mobile friendly such as AllTrails app.
- Skills & Expertise Needed
  - Local knowledge
  - Participatory mapping
  - GIS experience - The Collaborative has an intern, Nicole, with significant GIS experience.

### IV. Project Launch and Distribution

- Timeline
  - Short, medium, and long-term strategies.
  - Would be great to align with fall festivities and fall migration in September.
  - Potentially collect and share existing resources in the short term, create collective map and directory in the long term.

### V. Next Steps & Closing

- Begin collecting and organizing existing resources.
- Connect and collaborate with Field Museum's team and map.
- Connect with Openlands to collaborate on the Get Outside map.
- Which project takes first priority, the map or the programming directory?
  - As it is already summer, the map should take priority. Additionally, virtual resources can be overwhelming, but having local resources is interesting and helpful.
- Who is missing from the conversation?
  - Openlands
  - Forest Preserves of Cook County
  - NIRPC
  - Active Transportation Alliance
  - Sand Ridge Nature Center
  - Dunes Learning Center
- Resource suggestions:
  - Dunes Learning Center
  - Challenger Learning Center
  - CSU environmental education – HUB of information for play space
  - Environmental education team on the southeast side
- The meeting adjourned at 3:10PM.