

Chicago Ornithological Society

Calumet Initiative Master Plan



Why a master plan?

The Calumet area is rapidly changing as government/institutional efforts improve natural resources. Birding and bird conservation organizations must mobilize to provide scientific support and community outreach so that all have an opportunity to enjoy the restoration of bird habitats.

How will *COS* use the plan?

The plan will guide long-term budgeting, programming, and fundraising efforts. The goals of the master plan will be to enhance birding in the Calumet area as well as increase the importance placed on bird conservation in operational and capital planning decisions.



Initial Engagement

Phase 1

Phase 1: Initial Engagement

✓	Develop Partnership with Local and Government Organizations
✓	Bird Walks
In Progress	Participate in Partner Events
✓	Develop COS Calumet Master Plan
2021-2022	Research Grant Possibilities
In Progress	Build COS Calumet Team



*Expanding
COS's
Presence*

Phase 2

Phase 2: Expanding COS's Presence

✓	Bird-banding station
2022-2023	Interpretive Trail Signage
2023	Nesting/Housing Platforms
2023	Nestcam/Webcam
In Progress	Develop Community Partners
✓	MOTUS
2022-?	Fundraising



Legacy Building

Phase 3

Phase 3: Legacy Building

	Birding Infrastructure
	Establish the Calumet Birding Trail
	Calumet Nature Festival
	Birding Presence at FCEC

“I know of no other place in the region where the skies are so constantly filled with birds across such a wide front. In this respect, the Calumet is almost maritime. Far from an ocean, of course, it is but the tatters of a once great marsh - **a marsh that refuses to die.**”

Joel Greenberg, *A Natural History of the Chicago Region*



Why a *master plan*?

To expand the definition of nature in the Calumet Region beyond what it once was to *what it is* and *what it can be*.

