- 300+ Organizations working to preserve and enhance regional natural resources & biodiversity

- Sustainable Watershed Action Team – SWAT

- A Chicago Wilderness project Funded by The Boeing Company
Project Purposes

• Develop a countywide green infrastructure map and plan
  – In support the relevant recommendations of the Kane County 2040 Plan
  – Consistent with the goals of the regional Green Infrastructure Vision

• Engage local governments through the Kane County Planning Cooperative in plan development
  – Broaden countywide awareness of green infrastructure planning and protection
  – Encourage municipal buy-in
How Do We Define Green Infrastructure?

- Interconnected network of natural areas and open spaces that:
  - Conserves natural ecosystem functions
  - Sustains clean air and water
  - Provides trails and other benefits to people and wildlife
Green Infrastructure – A Technology Focus

• Products, technologies, and practices that use natural systems – or engineered systems that mimic natural processes – to enhance overall environmental quality and provide utility services

• Green vs. grey infrastructure
  – E.g., a bio-swale vs. a storm sewer
Implementing Green Infrastructure at Varying Spatial Scales
At the regional scale...

- The Chicago Wilderness consortium and CMAP developed a 3-state *Green Infrastructure Vision* for biodiversity conservation.
CMAP GoTo 2040 Plan

Goal: Increase Conservation Open Space from 250,000 to 400,000 acres
At the county/community scale...

- Incorporate GI principles into plans and ordinances
- Identify greenways and wildlife corridors
- Plan walking trails and bike paths linking subdivisions and regional trails
At the neighborhood scale...

- Incorporate "conservation design" into new developments
- Find creative ways to:
  - infiltrate runoff
  - protect natural areas
  - create greenway & trail connections
Settlers Ridge – Sugar Grove
At the site/lot scale...

• Incorporate natural landscaping and stormwater best management practices in parks, school grounds, residences
  – Applicable to both new projects and retrofits
• Protect, restore, and manage natural areas
Permeable Paving
Kane County GI Mapping Process

- Worked with County GIS experts and natural resource agencies to develop a comprehensive natural resources inventory/map
  - Kane County Development and Water Resources
  - Kane County Forest Preserve District
  - NRCS/SWCD
  - Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
  - Illinois DNR
  - The Conservation Foundation
  - Watershed Groups
  - Campton and Dundee Townships
Streams, Wetlands, Floodplains
Oak Woodlands
INAI, Nature Preserves, T&E, and High Quality Streams
Forest Preserves, Public Open Space, Private Open Space
Recommended Core GI Mapping Layers
16 “Core” Map Layers

Legend

- Creeks
- Water
- Class 3 GCA
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Farmed Wetlands
- INPC sites
- INAI sites
- ComEd Transmission Lines
- Fen recharge areas
- 2011 Remnant Oak Woodlands
- Forest Preserves
- 2040 Existing Public Op. Space
- 2040 Institutional/Private Op. Space
- Wetlands (ADID)
- Hydrologic Atlas Series
- 100-year flood (2012)
Core Green Infrastructure Map

- Public Open Space
- Private Open Space
- Environmental Resource Area
- Regional Trails
- Class III Groundwater Recharge Areas
Thank You