About this Map

GIV Version 2.3 provides an estimate of the economic benefits of the Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision that can be reliably measured.

The Native Flora and Fauna ecosystem service maintains species diversity and biomass. Natural systems provide opportunities for native vegetation and wildlife to thrive, which helps maintain ecosystem functions and processes. A functionally connected network of natural lands and waters provides benefits as a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. While native flora and fauna help support other ecosystem services, including ones like pollination, it has its own value in preserving biodiversity. The Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan provides the overarching framework for preservation and enhancement of the region’s biodiversity, and the GIV represents the Plan spatially. Fortunately, the GIV contains nearly all of the high priority native vegetation and wildlife within the region and will increase as more areas are restored.