GIV Version 2.3 provides an estimate of the economic benefits of the Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision that can be reliably measured. This map represents the combined economic value of four ecosystem services: Water Flow Regulation /Flood Control, Water Purification, Groundwater Recharge, and Carbon Storage. These four services alone conservatively contribute more than $6 billion per year in economic value to the 7-county CMAP region. (In comparison, the GDP of the Chicago Metropolitan Statistical Area (which mostly overlaps the 7 counties) was $586 billion in 2013.) And this may undercount the total value since this estimate is only from ecosystem services that could be reliably measured, and this total does not include any of the economic activity supported by the region’s recreation and ecotourism infrastructure.

Approximate value of combined ecosystem services

$6.4 Billion