Mapping Stewardship in Chicago Wilderness

Lynne M. Westphal, PhD, US Forest Service

Amelie Davis, PhD, UIC

Mark Bouman, PhD, Field Museum

Cindy Copp, Center for Neighborhood Technology

Mark Johnston, PhD, Field Museum

Cherie LeBlanc Fisher, US Forest Service

What is Stew-MAP?

- **Stew-MAP = Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project**
- **Method for learning about volunteer & not-for-profit environmental stewardship in an urban area**
- **Created by Forest Service researchers & University partners in New York City. Conducted so far in NYC, Baltimore, Seattle, and the Chicago Wilderness region. More are underway. (check them all out at http://www.stewmap.net/)**

STEW-MAP

THE STEWARDSHIP MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT PROJECT

Image courtesy Flickr user bogdog Dan

What is Stew-MAP?

- The "who, what, where, why and how" of urban environmental stewardship
- No group too big or too small to participate
- We focused primarily on civic stewardship, but ready to included all types of stewardship (but other cities doing STEW-MAP focus on civic–that is, nongovernmental and not business–stewardship only).

STEW-MAP

THE STEWARDSHIP MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT PROJECT

We are looking at stewardship activities throughout the Chicago Wilderness region – the largest StewMAP territory to date.

STEW-MAP

THE STEWARDSHIP MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT PROJECT

Image courtesy Flickr user bogdog Dan

What is Stewardship?

- **Very broad, inclusive definition of stewardship:**

Conserving…

Managing…

Caring for…

Monitoring…

Advocating for…

And educating the public about…

… local environments

What is Stewardship?

Very broad, inclusive definition of stewardship, all of these are examples we consider stewardship activities:

- **Restoring a prairie or woodland**
- **Advocating for trucks or busses to stop idling on your street corner in order to improve air quality**
- **Creating new outdoor recreation opportunities**
- **Teaching school kids about water quality**

Image courtesy Flickr user bogdog Dan

What groups might be doing this Stewardship?

The obvious groups like the Field Museum, Save the Dunes, Shirley Heinze Land Trust.

- **But also:**
  - **Block clubs**
  - **Beautification groups**
  - **Faith-based groups**
  - **Public health organizations**
  - **Outdoor classrooms**
  - **Energy conservation programs**

Some of what we have learned so far:

Image courtesy Flickr user bogdog Dan

General Stewardship Activities

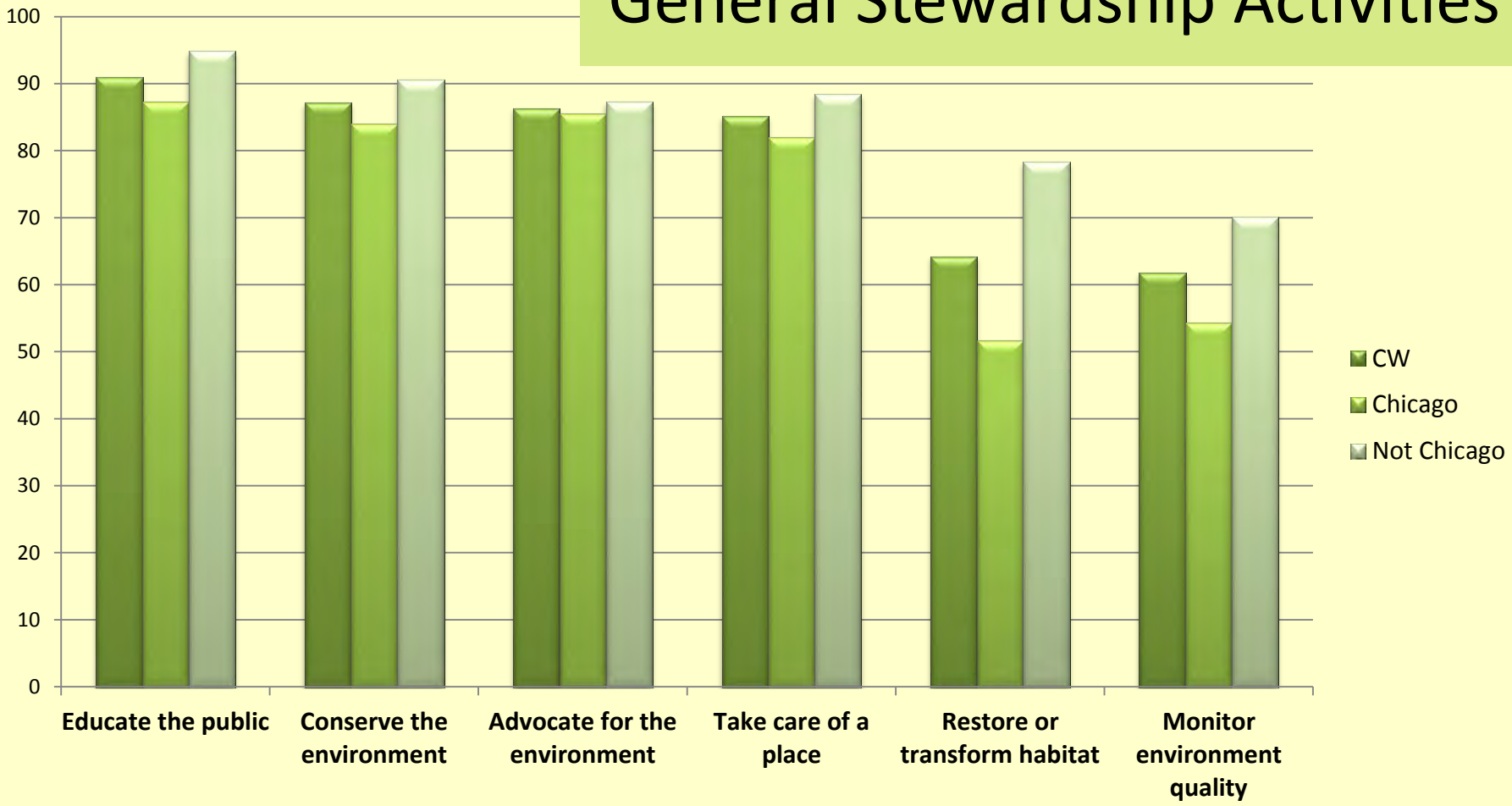


Image courtesy Flickr user bogdog Dan

What does your group/organization work on?

TOP 5

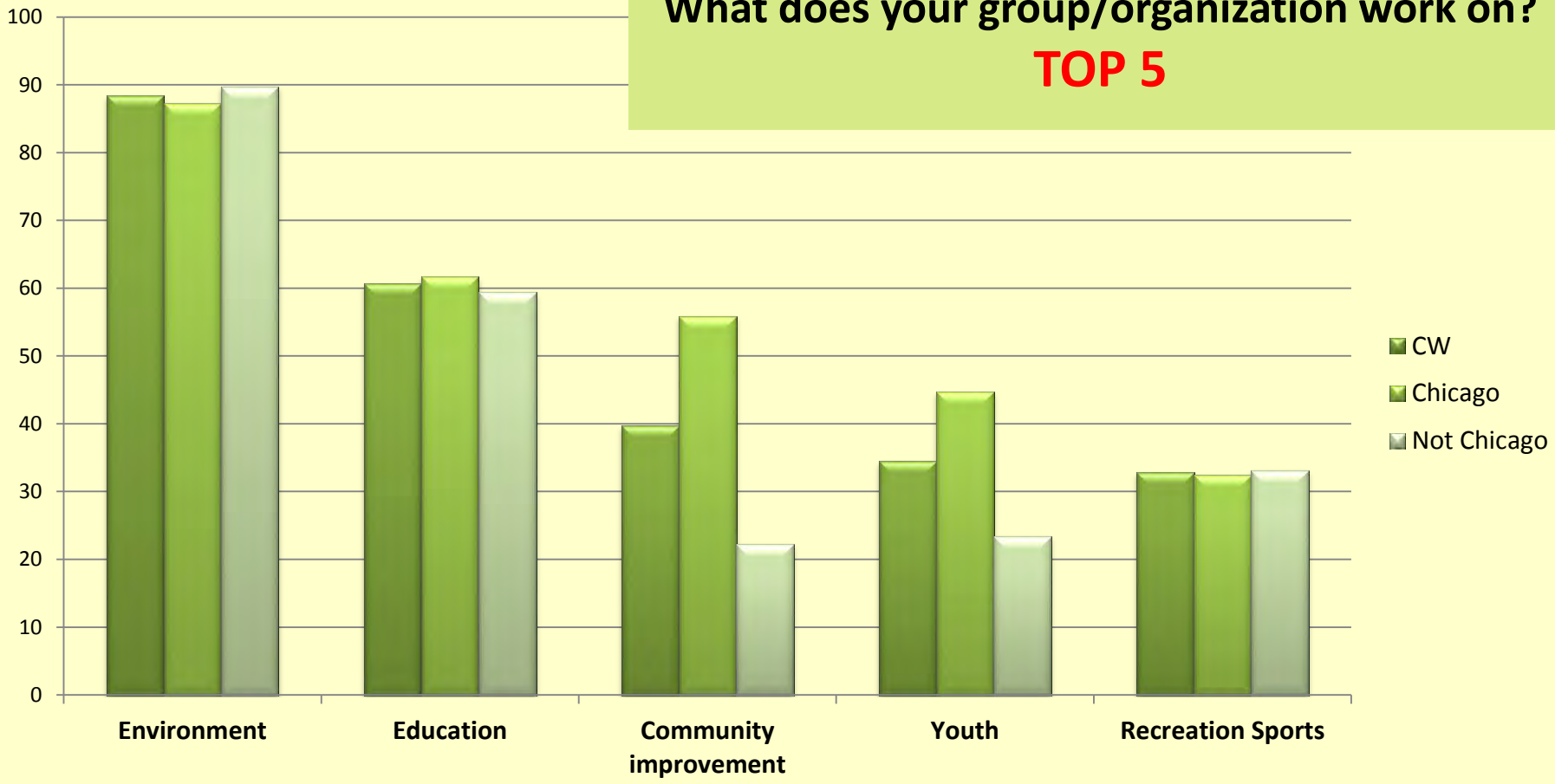


Image courtesy Flickr user bogdog Dan

…what percentage of your effort has been for stewardship during the past year?

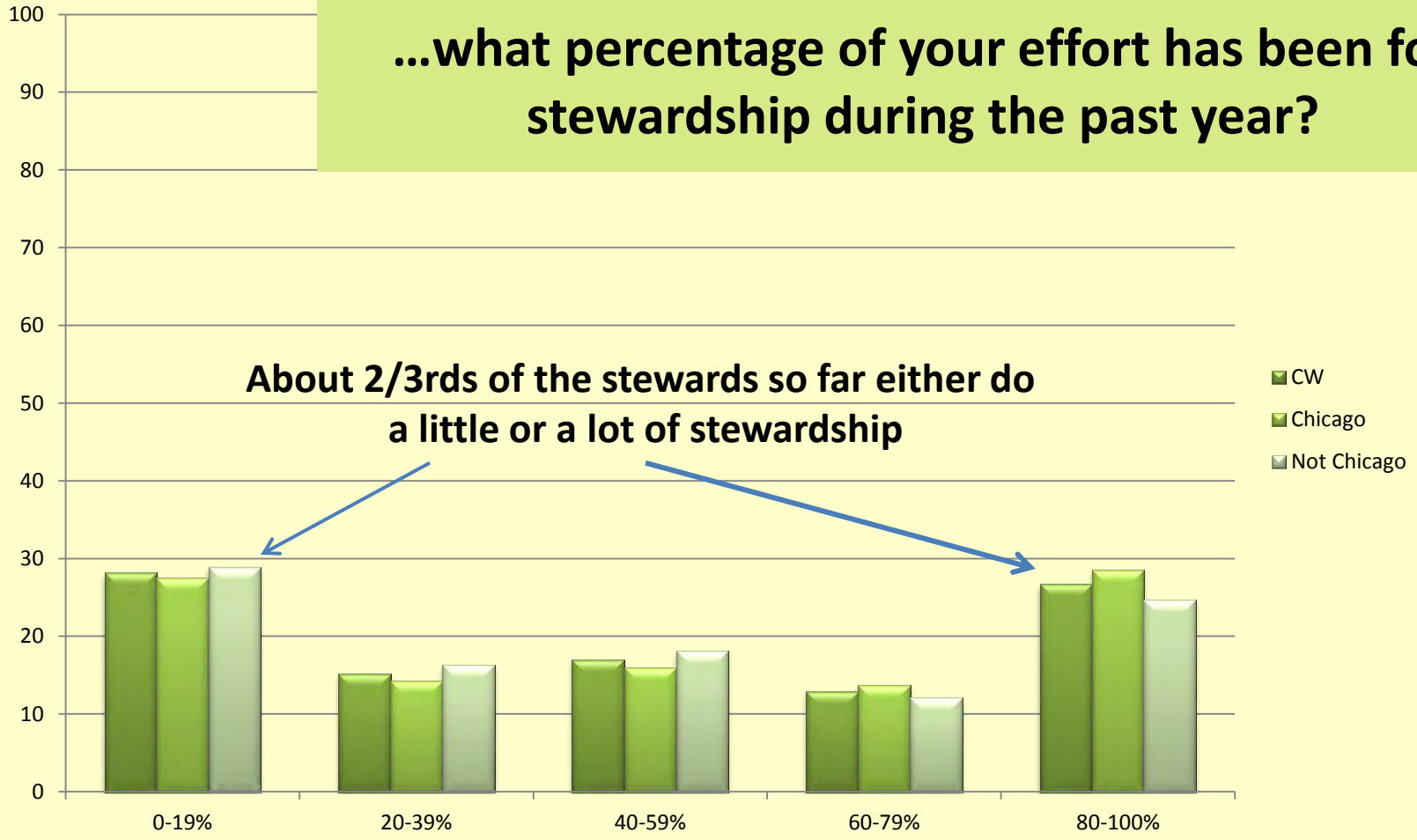


Image courtesy Flickr user bogdog Dan

STEW-MAP

THE STEWARDSHIP MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT PROJECT

Stewardship settings

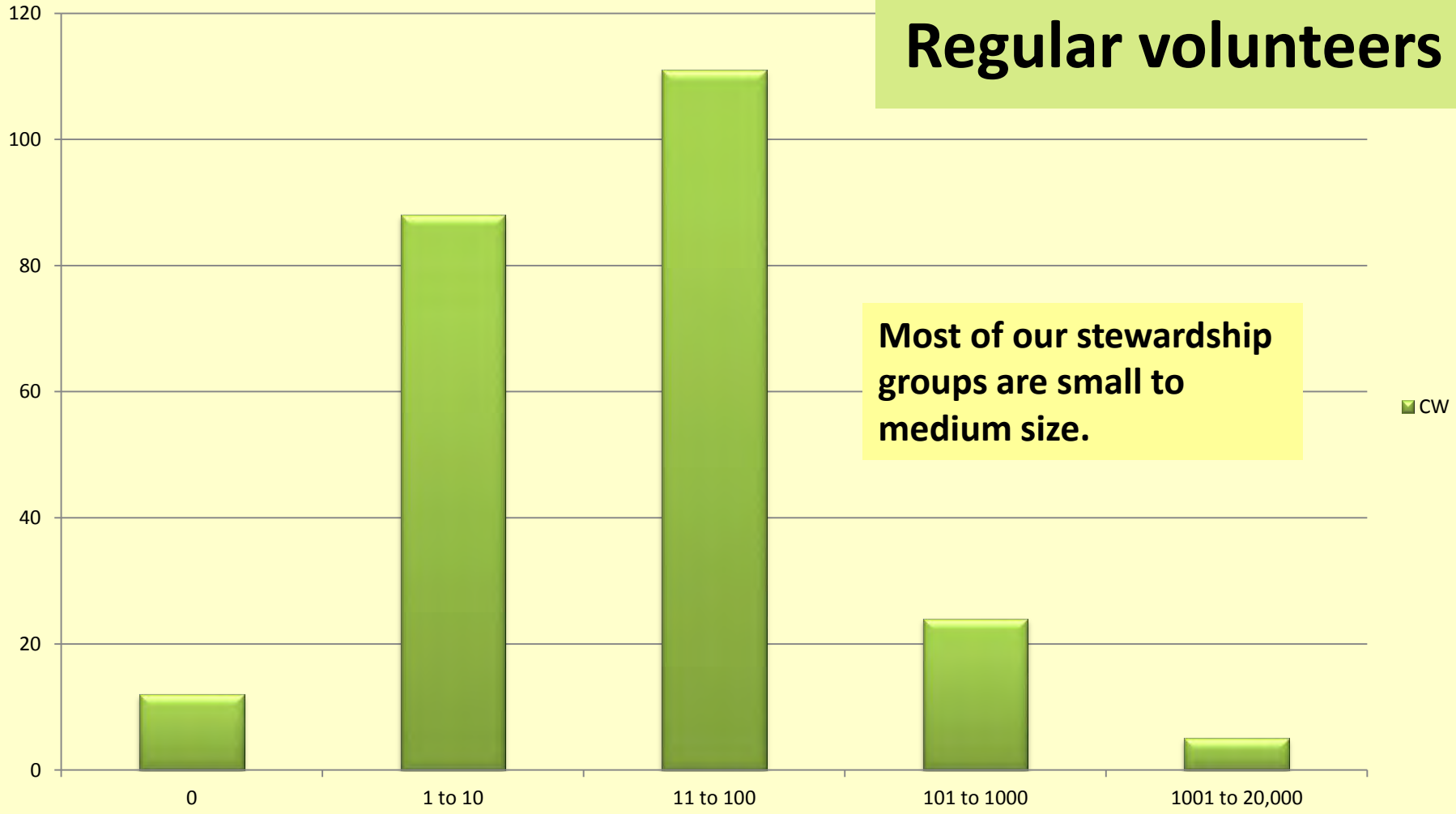
Top five settings so far: Prairie, woodland, community garden, wetland & park.

Image courtesy Flickr user bogdog Dan

Founded when?

Image courtesy Flickr user bogdog Dan

Regular volunteers



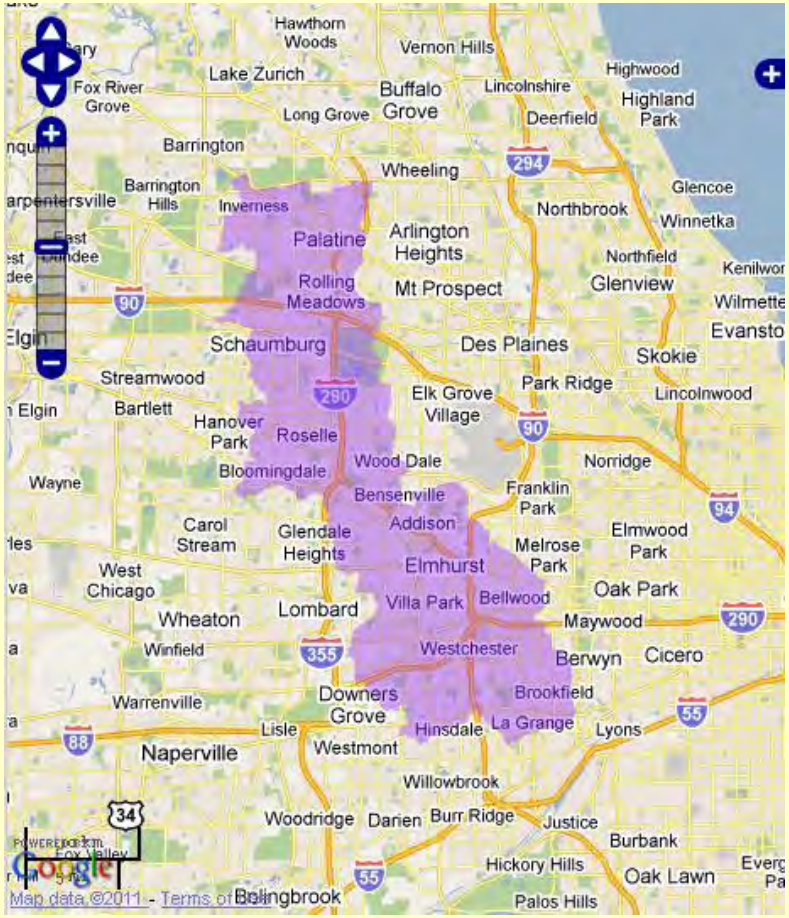
Most of our stewardship groups are small to medium size.

Where are some of the stewards?

Image courtesy Flickr user bogdog Dan

STEW-MAP

THE STEWARDSHIP MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT PROJECT



Salt Creek Greenway Association

Chicago Honey Co-Op

STEW-MAP

THE STEWARDSHIP MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT PROJECT

FILL OUT THE SURVEY | VIEW THE MAP BETA

SHOW ALL ORGANIZATIONS LOCATED WITHIN THIS VIEW

ORGANIZATION INFO | ADDRESS

SEARCH

Shirley Heinze Land Trust

501(c)(3) (or has applied)

Environment, Wildlife/animal related, Recreation and sports

SHOW DETAILS | LIST NEARBY ORGANIZATIONS | 8 LOCATIONS

LOCATIONS

Beverly Shores

- Conserve the local environment.
- Take care of a place in the local environment (for example, a community garden, a block of street trees, an empty lot, a riverbank, a schoolyard, a forest preserve).
- Restore or transform local habitat (e.g., daylighting a stream, brownfield to prairie restorations).
- Monitor the quality of the local environment. This can include monitoring air or water quality, dumping, or species monitoring.
- Educate the public about the local environment.

Chesterton

- Conserve the local environment.
- Take care of a place in the local environment (for example, a community garden, a block of street trees, an empty lot, a riverbank, a schoolyard, a forest preserve).
- Restore or transform local habitat (e.g., daylighting a stream, brownfield to prairie restorations).
- Monitor the quality of the local environment. This can include monitoring air or water quality, dumping, or species monitoring.
- Educate the public about the local environment.

Michigan City

- Conserve the local environment.
- Take care of a place in the local environment (for example, a community garden, a block of street trees, an empty lot, a riverbank, a schoolyard, a forest preserve).
- Restore or transform local habitat (e.g., daylighting a stream, brownfield to prairie restorations).
- Monitor the quality of the local environment. This can include monitoring air or water quality, dumping, or species monitoring.
- Educate the public about the local environment.

Hammond

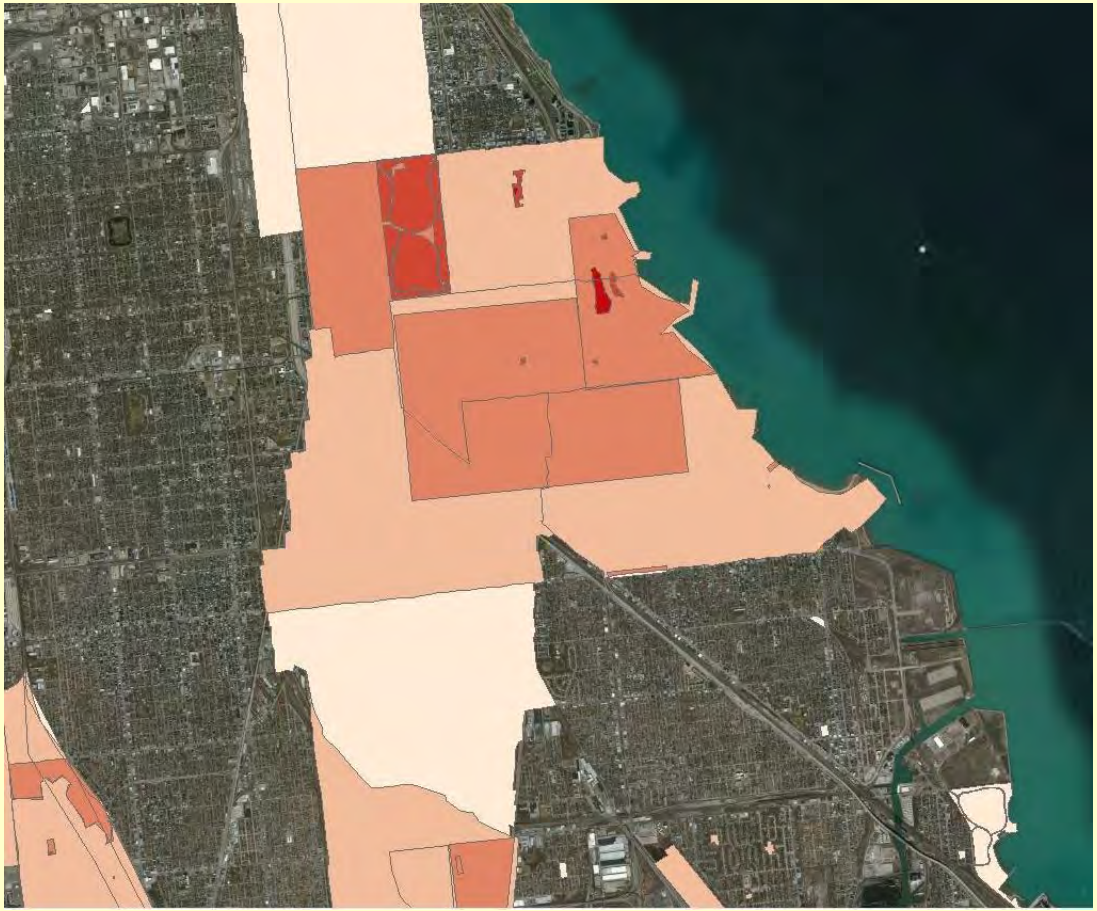
- Conserve the local environment.
- Take care of a place in the local environment (for example, a community garden, a block of street trees, an empty lot, a riverbank, a schoolyard, a forest preserve).
- Restore or transform local habitat (e.g., daylighting a stream, brownfield to prairie restorations).
- Monitor the quality of the local environment. This can include monitoring air or water

What can we do with STEW-MAP data?

Image courtesy Flickr user bogdog Dan

STEW-MAP

THE STEWARDSHIP MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT PROJECT

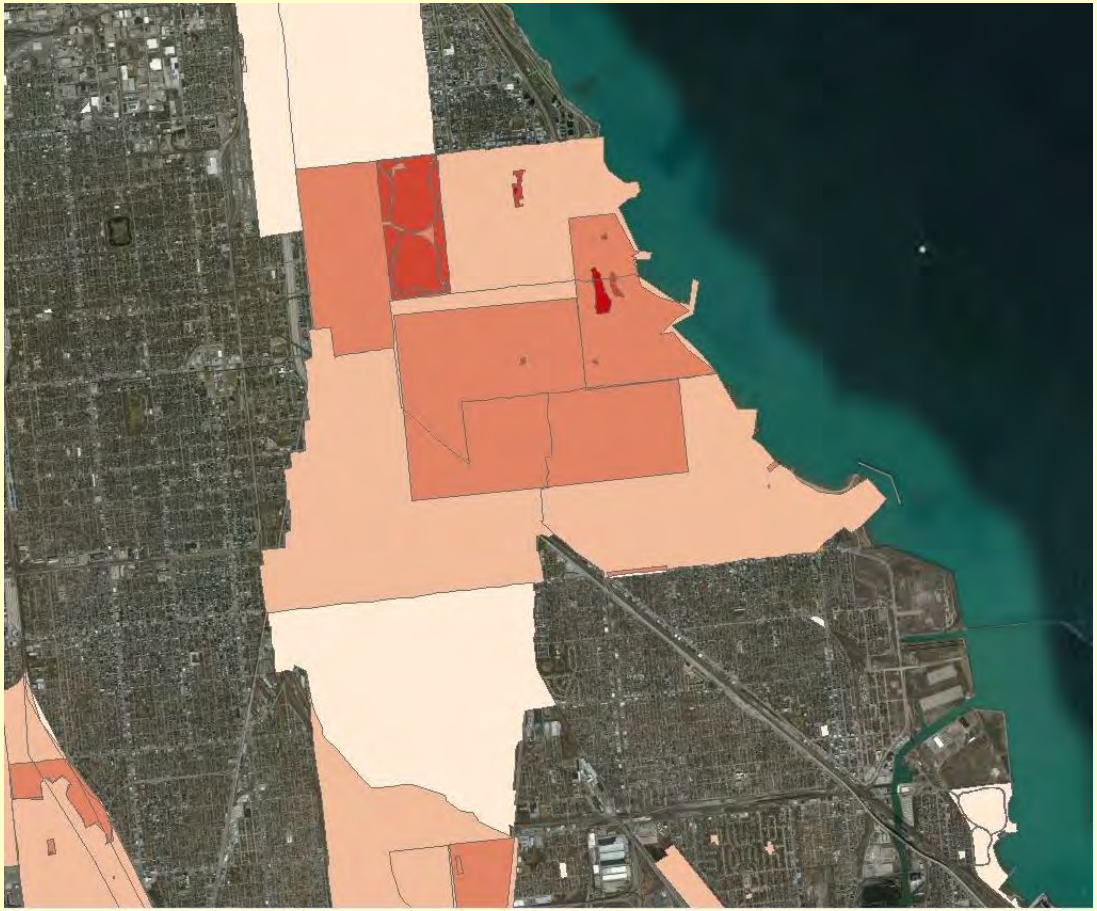


This map shows you the stewards in and around the Wooded island in Jackson Park.

With STEW-MAP, we can look at where stewardship is taking place, and where it isn't. We can look at the groups that are caring for a particular location. With that information, we can make new connections, and perhaps engage more stewards to care for more places.

STEW-MAP

THE STEWARDSHIP MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT PROJECT



How do you see this type of database being useful for you? We want to know.

In NYC, the data has helped stewards find others to work with. It has helped funders find stewards.

We can export data for your use – just give a call or shoot us an email (contact info is at the end).

You can access the data by going to the web site and looking at the map. Find that at http://stewmap.cnt.org

Review of some of the questions we discussed this morning:

If you have GIS shape files, we can use those. You don't have to enter that info all over again.

We are connecting this project with other related projects, like the CSI restoration stewardship study & NIRM.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE!

We'd really like more Indiana stewards represented.

SURVEY CAN BE FOUND AT stewmap.cnt.org

(and you'll get a link in your email shortly)

lwestphal@fs.fed.us 847 866 9311 x11