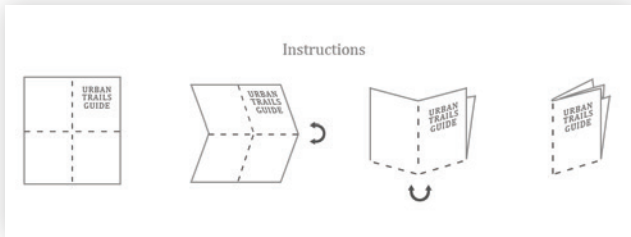


**SCA's mission is to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of the environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land.**

**It's Our Job, Every Day**

Every day SCA unites young people with hands-on environmental challenges. Every day we create future stewards of our land, healthier environments and—ultimately—a better world.

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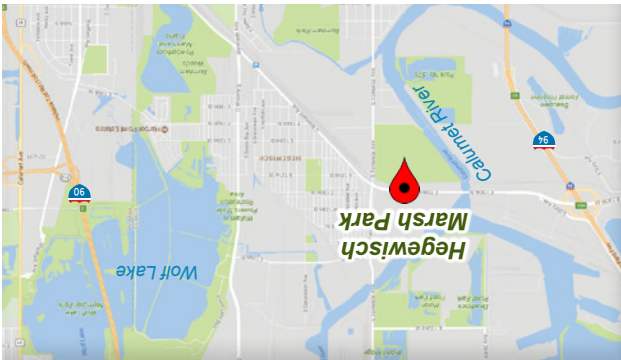


# CHICAGO

## Hegewisch Marsh Park



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## EXPLORE!

*Hegewisch Marsh's natural landscapes and the chance to work with nature had a profound effect on most crew members. 2017 High School Summer Crew member, Jocelyn Diaz says, "Before this summer, I did not know the difference between invasive and native plants. Now, I know how bad purple loosestrife, Phragmites, and many other invasive plants really are for our environment. I also learned that many insects are not as scary as they look and are actually good elements for our community."*



SCA members removed invasive plants along the trails at Hegewisch Marsh via hand-pulling, brush-cutting, and herbicide application. Crew members also removed the trails, removed debris and downed/dead trees from the trails, and helped stabilize trails by filling in deep ruts with logs, back-filling with gravel, and then re-mulching the surface.

Hegewisch Marsh is the largest wetland in Chicago. Situated amid Chicago's Industrial Southeast Side, the 130-acre marsh is a mix of wetlands, woodlands with vernal ponds, and wet prairie that host migratory birds, coyotes, beavers, and muskrats. It is an important nesting site for Illinois' endangered yellow-headed blackbirds. The Marsh is currently undergoing extensive restoration. In 2017, three separate urban crew partnered with the Chicago Park District to assist with site and trail maintenance.

## INTRODUCTION