



# DUNNING READ NATURAL AREA

## 2024 Highlights



Visit us:

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Chicago, IL 60634

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[dunningnatural.org](http://dunningnatural.org)



## ABOUT THE SITE

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The Dunning Read Natural Area, also known as Park 601, is an approximately 21-acre area in the Dunning neighborhood of northwest Chicago. Comprising prairies, wetlands, and woodlands, the park has approximately 0.8 miles of trails and is under active restoration by the Chicago Park District. Much of that work focuses on removing invasive teasel, buckthorn, phragmites, and wild parsnip.

## OUR MISSION

The Dunning Read Natural Area Park Advisory Council (PAC) is a volunteer group of passionate community members. The group's mission is to support the Chicago Park District in restoring and preserving this natural area to provide a quality habitat for diverse native plants and wildlife as well as opportunities for access, education, and recreation for the entire community.

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**DRNA**  
*Park Advisory Council*



## WORK DAYS

Dedicated volunteers from the community come together every third Saturday of the month to help maintain the site.

Work includes removing invasive species, trimming trees, clearing debris and litter, gathering native seeds, distributing mulch and celebrating the beauty of this natural urban gem.

Our volunteers represent neighbors, families, boy scouts, high school and college students as well as members of the DRNA Board. All are welcome to join us.

# 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

While much of our work is concentrated on restoring and maintaining the natural area, we also aim to attract visitors to the site by creating unique programs, increasing our visibility and engaging with our community partners to provide recreational and educational activities.



## PROJECTS

### **NAP Grant Art Program**

## DETAILS

The \$25,000 NAP Grant funded workshops to create nature-inspired art with local artists.

## OUTCOME

- Free onsite workshops
- Saturdays in Sept.- Oct.
- Open to all ages
- Watercolor, sculpting and print making

### **Audio Site Narrative**

Collaborated with students from Wright College to create an app for mobile devices to inform visitors about the site.

- Audio tour includes 7 stops throughout the site
- Narrative features interviews with key stakeholders
- Visitors use phones to scan a QR code to access the audio

### **Organized Bird Walks**

As an incentive to draw new people to the site, bird walks have been incorporated into our volunteer work days.

- Participants enjoy a hike through the nature area and learn about the avian residents and migrants.

### **Fiscal Responsibility**

Formalized fiscal sponsorship with Friends of the Park.

- Established 501(c)3 status
- Opened DRNA bank account

The DRNA Park Advisory Council is grateful to all of our volunteers, our community partners and the Chicago Park District for supporting our efforts.

