

Lessons Learned in Urban Ecosystem Restoration: Adjusting Expectations and Determining Success

Brook Herman

Planner/Restoration Ecosystem

Chicago, IL

NCER, August 1, 2013

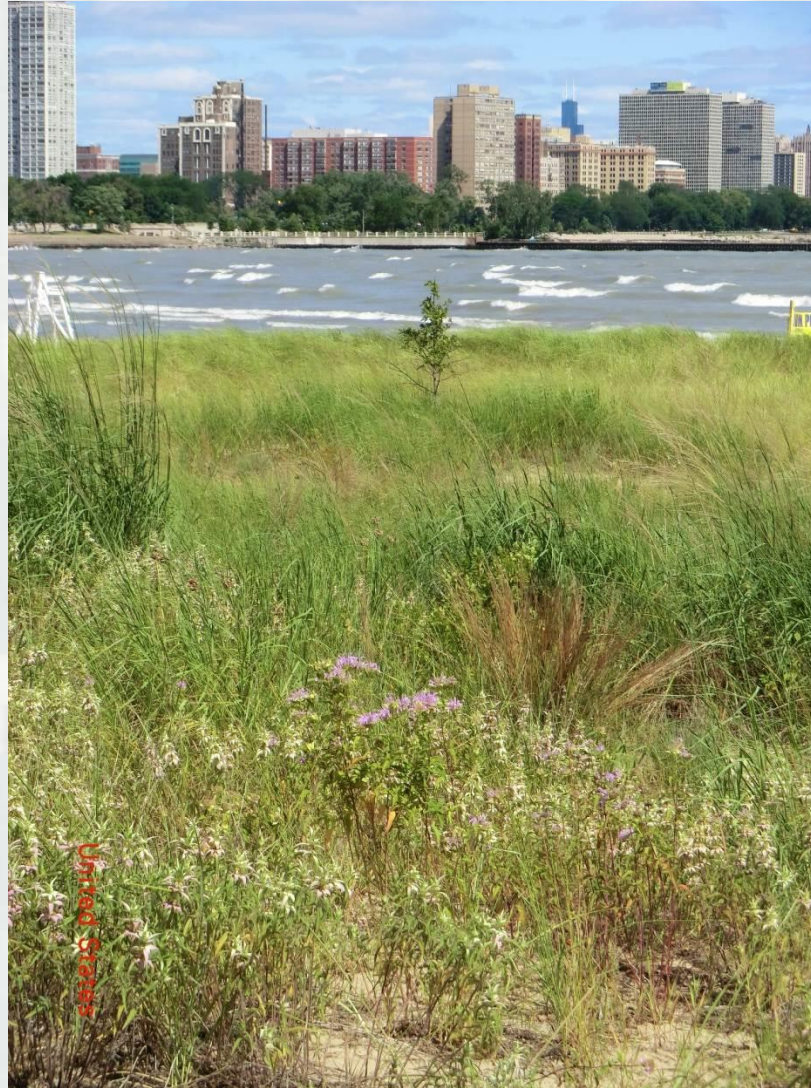


US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG®



Urban Ecosystem Restoration

- Social-Ecological System
- Multi-Uses



- Targets/Endpoints
- Success?



Urban Systems



- Hydrology
- Disturbed Substrate
- High Fragmentation
- Small Patches



BUILDING STRONG®

Multiple Uses



BUILDING STRONG®

What could go wrong?

- Tree Removal
- Wetland Creation
- Native Plants
- Prescription Burning



Tree Removal



Wetland Creation



BUILDING STRONG®

Native Plants



BUILDING STRONG®

Prescription Burning



BUILDING STRONG®

Lessons

- Public engagement early and often
 - ▶ Brochure, short concise information
- Signage
- Plan for multiple uses = adjust target
- Novel systems =
function/structure/aesthetics
- Adjust when necessary
 - ▶ Remove less trees, pretty flowers

