Calumet Summit 2010: A Call to Connect

Setting the Context

Mark Bouman
Professor of Geography
Chicago State University
I have an existential map.

It has “you are here" written all over it.

*Stephen Wright*
You are here...
And here...
And here...
And here...

Source: Collection of the Industrial Heritage Archives – Southeast Chicago Historical Society, #10226; # 10460, #10228
And here...
And here...

When you are here.

My goals:
To introduce this map.
To introduce this region.
To introduce this Summit.
Precedent for this border

Ken Schoon, 2003

Alfred Meyer, 1930s – 1950s

NPS, 1998
• Includes most of the Valparaiso Moraine and Chicago Lake Plain
• Includes most of the historic Calumet river watershed
• Incorporates the heavy industrial region
• Sets as a boundary the historic routes that side-stepped the region to get *through* it (Sauk Trail and Vincennes Trace)
• In short, a coherent compromise.
What do the borders include?

- More than 1.77 million people (more than metro Indianapolis)
- 68 municipalities, 5 counties, 2 states
- 42,000 managed acres ~ size of Acadia NP
Alfred Meyer: “...if we want to depict and interpret the environmental ensemble of a region correctly, we must keep our eyes fixed on the way things actually occur together.”
How Meyer did it: stages in profile
1950
THE SUBURBAN EXPLOSION

- **Development**: An area characterized by a high percentage of constructed materials, such as buildings, etc.
- **Forest**: An area dominated by vegetation with tree cover greater than 30 feet tall.
- **Agriculture**: An area dominated by vegetation that has been planted for the production of food, feed, or fiber.
- **Wetland**: An area where the soil is periodically saturated or covered with water.
- **Open Water**: An area of undisturbed water.

- **Highway**
- **Railroad**
Another stage, another way to connect

*Thismia americana*, The Play

A young Chicago woman's search for purpose leads her to 119th and Torrence, the first and last sighting place of the mysterious *Thismia americana*.

*Thismia americana* is a multi-disciplinary exploration of identity, trust and loss told through traditional narrative, video, puppetry and dance.

Sponsoring organizations:
- Calumet Heritage Partnership
- City of Chicago Dept. of Environment
- Community Arts Assistance Program
- The Field Museum
- Pullman State Historic Site

For more info on *Thismia* events, please visit [http://myspace.com/ThismiaPlay](http://myspace.com/ThismiaPlay)

Artwork by Joseph Taylor, [joetaylorart.com](http://joetaylorart.com)

*Only three performances*


*September 24 – 27, 2009*

Thu 7:30p | Sat Sun 2p

Historic Pullman Clock Tower
Administration Building
11057 S. Cottage Grove Ave.
Chicago   Parking available.

Brush up your Shakespeare....
A set of Calumet stages

• A wetland area
• Biodiverse
• A re-engineered landscape
• Heavily industrial
• Communities and work
• Deindustrialization
• Brownfields
• Waste disposal and the question of justice
• Large-scale redevelopment
• Grass-roots revitalization

I mean it, brush up your Shakespeare…
“What’s in a name?”
[Romeo and Juliet]

My lord, the enemy is past the marsh [Richard III]

Like to a lonely dragon that his fen makes feared and talked of more than seen [Coriolanus]

Caliban: As wicked dew as e'er my mother brushed with raven's feather from unwholesome fen Drop on you both! A south-west blow on ye And blister you all o'er! [The Tempest]

Or, as t'were perfumed by a fen. [The Tempest]

Puck: I'll follow you, I'll lead you about a round, Through bog, through bush, thorough brake, thorough briar,… [A Midsummer Night’s Dream]

Edgar: Who gives anything to Poor Tom? whom the foul fiend hath led through fire and through flame, through ford and whirlpool, o'er bog and quagmire, that hath laid knives under his pillow and halters in his pew, set ratsbane by his porridge, made him proud of heart, to ride on a bay trotting horse over four-inched bridges to course his own shadow for a traitor. [King Lear]
Hydrologic connection:

"[The] Calumet rivers and their tributaries quite well express the 'natural' basis of delimitation and unity of the region..." (Meyer 1954: 250)
“One touch of nature makes the whole world kin”

[Troilus and Cressida]

Sources: Chicago Wilderness; Robert Lott; Joes Nowak
A natural connection

Natural Connections: Pre-settlement Vegetation

Author: Openlands, Center for Neighborhood Technology

Turn back the clock to 1830: what kind of green mantle cloaked the Chicago region then? European settlers followed surveyors who marked off the landscape into the great grid that still characterizes the pattern of field and street in the Midwest. They took meticulous notes of surrounding landscape features and vegetation. Today those surveyors' notes have been rendered into an information layer in this Geographic Information System. The resulting map, here centered on Lake Calumet in the far southeastern reaches of the city of Chicago, depicts a landscape that is about two-thirds prairie, about the same proportion as once covered Illinois. The twenty-two million acres of prairie that once covered the state have dwindled to about 2,000 acres, or one-hundredth of one percent. In the next Chicago region, maps like this one will serve the effort to stave off the extinction of the prairies. They aid managers of existing natural lands, and they help to identify opportunities to expand and restore that acreage to its natural glory.

Greenmapping.org
Openlands.org/Mapsinthepublicsquare
“O, what men dare do!”

[Much Ado About Nothing]

Source: Dennis McClendon
Engineering new connections


Figure 4. (A) Generalized uppermost bedrock geology in the upper Illinois River Basin (modified from Williman and others, 1975; Gray and others, 1975; and Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, 1980).
Making new land


Figure 5. Surficial geology, Calumet region of northwestern Indiana and northeastern Illinois (modified from Schneider and Keller, 1970; thickness, type, and approximate date of initial fill deposition mapped through 1993 are shown in plates 1–3).
“It beggar’d all description”

[Antony and Cleopatra]

Sources: Coffman collection; Illinois Landmarks
Economic connections: "to outsiders as well as residents of the area the Calumet stands out as a leading industrial region of the United States, and for that matter, of the world." (Meyer 1954: 250)
An Economic Region

Employment-Residence Ratio

Source: Richard P. Greene, “Strong Downtowns,” in Greene, Bouman, and Grammenos, Chicago’s Geographies
Industries Reporting to the Toxic Release Inventory, 2007

Mark Bouman/Jason Biller
“They have been at a great feast of languages”

[Love’s Labor’s Lost]

Source: Coffman Collection, Indiana University
Total population = 1,777,449
Population Distribution by Race, 2000

White – 793,189 (44.6%)
Black = 869,426 (48.9%)
Hispanic = 155,015 (8.7%)
2000 census geography

- Illinois (12,419,293); Indiana (6,080,485)
- Cook County (5,376,741); Lake County (484,564); Porter Country (146,798)
- Chicago (2,896,016); Gary (102,746); Hammond (83,048); East Chicago (32,414); Whiting (5,137)
- Indiana’s Calumet: two (or three) counties, many municipalities, and 10% of the state’s population.
- Illinois’ Calumet: focus in the city of Chicago, which alone is almost 25% of the state’s population.
- Chicago is 4 ½ times larger than Lake and Porter counties combined
- But Lake County has nearly twice as many people as the quarter million in the City of Chicago’s Calumet region.

U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Redistricting Data (P.L. 94-171) Summary File, Table PL1.*
Attending to the “feast of languages”
“The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune”

[Hamlet]
% of Households Receiving Public Assistance
Geography of Working Poverty: connected by circumstance

Working Poverty: working but family income falls below 200% of the poverty line

One in five workers living in poverty

70% of these are working full-time

45.2% South Lawndale, Lower West Side

39.2% Humboldt Park, West Garfield Park, East Garfield Park, North Lawndale

39.1% South Chicago, Calumet Heights, Burnside, South Deering, East Side, Hegewisch
Transportation:
“[The Calumet region] is a compage of the nodal type, circulation in and out of the Chicago area being the criterion of homogeneity.” (Meyer 1956: 312)
“Out, damn’d spot!” [Macbeth]
Brownfield connections
“It smells to heaven” [Hamlet]
“Sweet are the uses of adversity”

[As You Like It]

1991: City of Chicago Airport Plan

2004: City of Chicago Open Space Reserve Plan
“Our remedies oft in ourselves do lie”

[Alls’ Well That Ends Well]
551,357 total acres
169,723 GIV (30.8% of total)
42,058 protected (7.6% of total)
History as a set of stages

- A wetland area
- Biodiverse
- A re-engineered landscape
- Heavily industrial
- Communities and work
- Deindustrialization
- Brownfields
- Waste disposal and the question of justice
- Large-scale redevelopment
- Grass-roots revitalization

“The past is not dead; it isn’t even past.”  
*William Faulkner*

**A drama and actors exist for each stage**

Connections to be made within and between the stages
The Role of the Summits

• Calumet Research Summit 2000
  – Olive Harvey College
  – Outcomes: Research needs prioritized
  – Hydrologic Master Plan
  – Ecotox

• Calumet Research Summit 2006
  – Purdue University Calumet
  – Preliminary connections:
    • Higher education
    • Calumet Stewardship
    • Trail connections

• Calumet Research Summit 2010
  • Connect Research to Action
People to people

Environmental Education Providers, 2006

Mark J. Bouman/Jason Biller
Chicago State University
Place to place

Selected Stewardship Sites
Past to future

Calumet Heritage Map: Properties on the National Register of Historic Places

Data Provided by Cynthia Ogorek of Partners in Preservation, Inc.
Map by Mark J. Bouman, Chicago State University
The **Industrial Heritage Archive of Chicago's Calumet Region** is an online museum of images that commemorates and celebrates the historic industries and workers of Chicago's Calumet Region, made possible by a Library Services and Technology Act grant administered by the Illinois State Library.

The **Pullman State Historic Site**, the **Southeast Chicago Historical Society**, and the **Calumet Heritage Partnership** (Chicago Steel Heritage Project) have joined together to create this Industrial Heritage Archive.

http://www.pullman-museum.org/ihaccr/
Literal and figurative connections in Germany’s Calumet: The Ruhr trail of nature and industry
“Only connect.” E.M. Forster

1. HOW: How do we define progress on natural resource issues in the Calumet region? What are the biggest barriers to progress and how can we overcome them?

2. WHAT: What needs to happen next (specific actions, specific projects) to advance natural resource conservation efforts in the region? How can current efforts be extended or expanded?

3. WHO: What are you personally interested in working on – by yourself or in collaboration with others? What would your organization be interested in working on? What other partners do we need to engage now?