

# 2001

Chicago Private Residence Hardscape and Softscape Updates

2001



Private Chicago Residence



Heidi Natura, Founder



Custom Artwork - porch screen

## Living Habitats opens for business!

Early synthesis of Living Habitats vision to integrate ecology and art to create intentional and highly performative environments.

Residential yard updated with new native landscaping, hardscapes, fountain and custom metal works including staircases, railings, trellis and screens.



# 2002

Private Wisconsin Holding Restored Savanna

2002





Private WI holding restored savanna, custom fence and fountain

The Chicago Botanic Garden engages Living Habitats for shoreline restoration related services; as our longest running client, many miles of shoreline have been redressed across multiple projects.



Chicago Botanic Garden Restored West Lake Shorelines



Multifamily front yard garden and custom metal works

Native flora expertise expands with project work implemented in a range of natural and cultural settings to mimic natural aquatic environments, wetlands, prairies, savannas and woodlands, while being adaptive to human pressures.



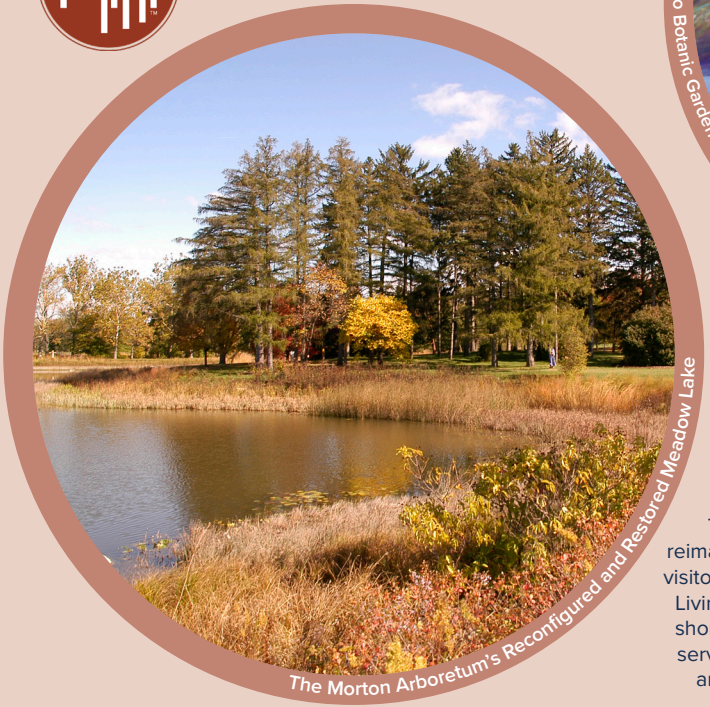

The Morton Arboretum's Meadow Lake Restoration

2003

The Chicago Botanic Garden engages Living Habitats to lead a Shoreline Restoration master planning effort to guide the next thirty years of phased improvements.



Chicago Botanic Garden Shoreline Restoration Master Plan visioning artwork



The Morton Arboretum's Reconfigured and Restored Meadow Lake

The Morton Arboretum reimagined their arrival parking, visitor center and Meadow Lake. Living Habitats developed the shoreline restoration plan that serves as a front door garden and canvas for a range of installation artworks.



Design-build team awarded Madison Capitol Square Fountains and Planters project



# 2004

Madison Capitol Square Custom Fountains and Planters

# 2004

Several Madison, Wisconsin projects dominated Living Habitats time in 2004, including a new house on Lake Mendota with many sustainable best practices integrated in the site's design solutions.



Madison WI Private Residence



Madison Capitol Square Fountains and Planters complete

The design build team completed design, fabrication and installation of the new fountains and planters arranged around the Capitol Square.



LH team sculpts light spires



2005

North Pointe Condominiums Detention Pond

2005

Shoreline projects continue to dominate Living Habitats portfolio, ranging from small condominium courtyard detention basins to continued work on the Chicago Botanic Garden's 60 acres of lake shoreline.



North Pointe Condominiums Pond Restoration






Chicago Botanic Garden Japanese Garden Lake coffer dam installation



Chicago Botanic Garden West Lake



# 2006

Chicago Botanic Garden Japanese Garden Lake Shoreline Restoration

2006

The Japanese Garden Lake shoreline restoration at the Chicago Botanic Garden is completed and reopens to the public.













# 2007

Forest Preserves of Cook County's Bobolink Meadow Land and Water Reserve

2007

2007 was a significant year for Living Habitats as it marked the beginning of one of the O'Hare Modernization and Mitigation projects. Living Habitats served as Openlands lead consultant on behalf of the Forest Preserves of Cook County which proposed to create over 1,000 acres of contiguous grassland bird habitat that would start to address regional biodiversity goals. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers administered this multi-year project.



LH staff monitoring at the FPCC's Bobolink Meadow



Bobolink (target restoration species)



Private Illinois Residence Chinese Sculpture Garden



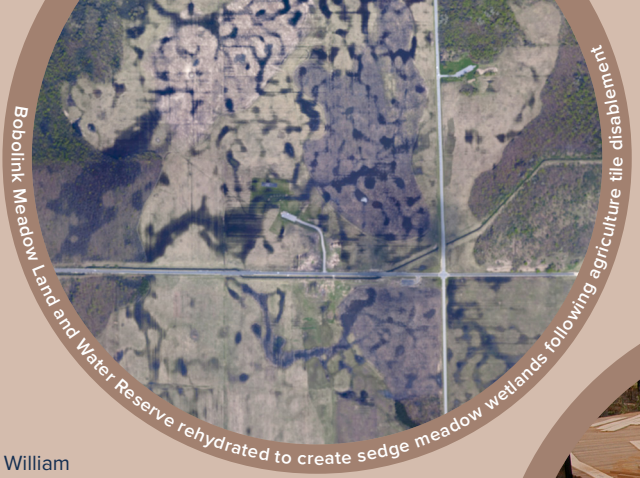
Winnetka Private Residence Custom Hardscape Terrace



# 2008

William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Center green roof and custom artworks

2008



Boboiink Meadow Land and Water Reserve rehydrated to create sedge meadow wetlands following agriculture tile disablement



After winning the William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Center national competition, our design build team delivered the new green roof on a short time line needed to meet a presidential center documentary special that featured the project.

Requested custom musical artworks personalized the outdoor roof top environment meant to be shared with the world's dignitaries.



Illuminated Custom Chime Artwork



Custom rooftop boardwalk nearing completion



# 2009

The Morton Arboretum's Animal Houses Exhibit

2009

A public arboretum art installation, green roof retrofits and notable private residential projects define this year's highlights.














# 2010

Forest Preserves of Cook County's Bobolink Meadow Land and Water Reserve Wetland Restoration Seeding

2010





Native seed and pell lime carrier in hopper prior to broadcasting

At Bobolink Meadow Land and Water Reserve, major restoration activities were executed this year supporting a long list of rare grassland bird species that immediately started to repopulate the work area.



Short-eared Owl at Bobolink Meadow




Hundreds of pounds of native seed and hundreds of thousands of native plant plugs were installed



# 2011

Openlands Lakeshore Preserve Master Plan

2011

Openlands Lakeshore Preserve protects a mile of Lake Michigan shoreline, associated uplands and historic ravines. Living Habitats master plan helped to secure Illinois Nature Preserve Status for this important open space.



Openlands Lakeshore Preserve



Chicago Botanic Garden North Lake restoration ground breaking

After years of planning and permitting, the 12-acre North Lake restoration project begins, as well as long term bird monitoring at Boblink Meadow.



Bird monitoring at Bobolink Meadow Land and Water Reserve

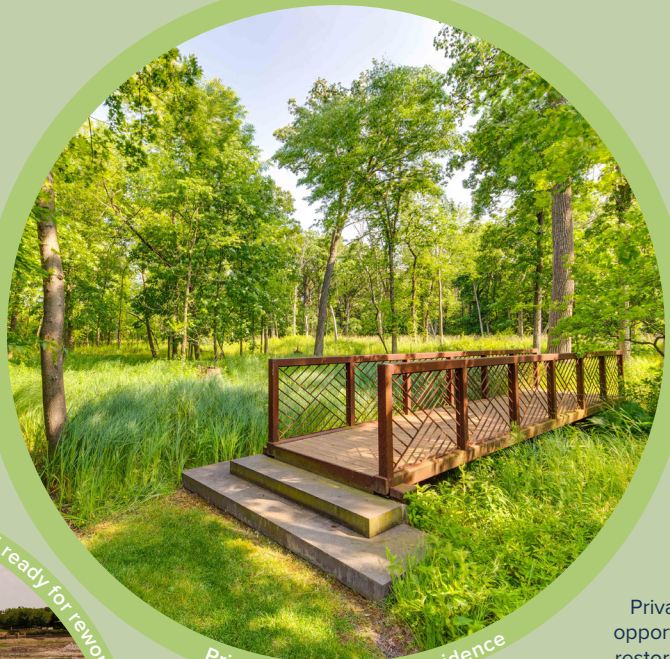


# 2012

Lake County Private Residence

2012

This year a handful of large construction projects demanded significant amounts of construction observation.



Private Lake County Residence




Heidi working on the CBG North Lake Shorelines



North Lake dewatered and ready for rework

Private work offers expanded opportunities to blend ecological restoration with custom artworks specifically tailored to a site and the owners planned use. For this residential client, Living Habitats designed boardwalks, gates, trellises and a series of unique hardscapes capable of being subjected to regular prescribed burning site stewardship demands.



# 2013

Wisconsin Private Holding

2013



Private holding restored savanna monitoring

Master planning for large-scale landowners sets the long term vision for habitat preservation and restoration, identifying detailed site planning and restoration strategies and providing a path for implementation.




Chicago Wilderness Award for Chicago Botanic Garden shoreline restoration projects

After implementing over four miles of shoreline restoration, the Chicago Botanic Garden and Living Habitats are recognized for helping to realize important regional natural areas restoration goals.



Private holding restored shoreline



# 2014

Chicago Botanic Garden's North Lake Shoreline Restoration

2014

Hardscape elements like the garden terraces (pictured) are added to the Chicago Botanic Garden's North Lake. We are particularly proud of the integration of these artful terraces with the prior existing bridge infrastructure.



Staff inventory terestrial and aquatic habitats



Students look down on newly completed demonstration garden terraces around the Chicago Botanic Garden's North Lake



Illinois' second largest recorded population of Bobolinks



Bobolinks return in large numbers to restored wet prairie at Bobolink Meadow Land and Water Reserve.



# 2015

Living Habitats new office

2015

Living Habitats tackles a number of private holding projects, ranging from urban to rural, small to large and wet to dry restored environments.



Private Michigan pond planting



Private Illinois prairie planting

After months of renovation, we moved into our new office space and celebrated with an open house event.



Living Habitats expands into new office space



# 2016

Village of Robbins Heritage Park

2016

The application of native plants to create important new bird habitats and address flooding issues is gaining more support throughout the region.













Living Habitats joined SOM to initiate the long term planning and implementation of a new stormwater park for the Village of Robbins.



# 2017

Private Residence Southwest Michigan

2017

Several large projects transitioned from implementation to long term monitoring that helped to document project successes and inform adaptive management strategies.













# 2018

Chicago Botanic Garden - Shida Evaluation Garden Shoreline

2018

Work begins on the Shida Evaluation Garden shoreline at the Chicago Botanic Garden while other long-term clients see continued restoration oversight, monitoring and site improvements.



Chicago Botanic Garden Shida Evaluation Garden Shoreline



Bobolink Meadow Land and Water Reserve site interpretation








# 2019

Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing Rendering

2019

Early research, site analysis, and conceptual design work begins for the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing





UIC Performing Center for the Arts Team Competition Award

Design team visits the site of the future Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing



Living Habitats participates in national design competitions, including as part of the winning OMA and KOO team for University of Illinois-Chicago's Performing Center for the Arts

Work begins for University of Wisconsin Design Review Board



# 2020



Living Habitats office front yard native planting

2020












**This was a year unlike any other.**

Mid-March, COVID 19 disrupted all of our lives and projects. New paradigms for client and workplace collaboration, as well as community engagement were forged.




Discovery Partners Institute Headquarters

2021

Record high water levels in Lake Michigan and resulting erosion inspire communities to take action. leading to our involvement in the Illinois Beach State Park Shoreline Stabilization and Chicago Park District's Morgan Shoal projects.



Chicago Park District's Morgan Shoal park expansion project kicks-off



Construction observation at the Shida Evaluation Garden shoreline



Discovery Partners Institute at the 78 - design kicks off

Living Habitats adds several new staff members as work ramps up on the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing and the Discovery Partners Institute projects.



Work continues on Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing




# 2022

Forest Preserves of Cook County Egger's Grove Community Engagement

2022







After a long season of remote work, staff has a busy year of site visits and social gatherings.







Our projects are widespread throughout Chicagoland and exercise our knowledge of the region's native terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and how to apply them to restored landscapes.




# 2023

Hammond Elementary Playground Improvements

2023

This year we largely turned our attention to design and planning projects in the heart of Chicago, from Hammond Elementary in the Marshall Square neighborhood to DPI in the new 78 Neighborhood, all while embarking on new projects for the Chicago Botanic Garden.



Ribbon Cutting Hammond Elementary School Playground Improvements



Staff build and test mock-ups of custom furnishings for DPI



Chicago Botanic Garden Mary Mix McDonald Woods Boardwalks wetland plantings




McKinley Park Development Council - South Branch of the Chicago River Framework Plan community engagement


SOLDIER FIELD
FIELD MUSEUM
MAIN ENTRY
DUSABLE LAKESHORE DRIVE
FROM SOUTH LOO
FROM LAKEFRONT TRA
1
2
2024
Chicago Park District Museum Campus

2024

Urban work continues at Chicago Park District's Museum Campus and Downtown Evanston's City Center Plaza.



Chicago Park District's Museum Campus Master Planning



LH in-house Vegetated Block fabrication barge work day for IL Beach State Park




Downtown Evanston City Center Plaza - Plan Approval

This is a busy year for construction administration, with Robbins Heritage Park and Illinois Beach construction in full swing.



Robbins Heritage Park - Phase 1 completed



# 2025

Illinois Beach State Park Offshore Reefs

2025



Conducting tree inventory for Lake County landscape master plan



Illinois Beach State Park wins World Landscape Architecture Honorable mention



Wheaton Montessori School Site Master Plan rendering

Living Habitats nurtures several new relationships with clients looking to restore native ecosystems on their properties for new wildlife habitats, education, recreation and responsible development.




LH team attends Illinois Quantum Microelectronics Park ribbon cutting



# 2026

Obama Presidential Center

2026




Team celebrating Illinois ASLA award for the Village of Robbins Heritage Park work






Partner event for Obama Presidential Center grand opening



Chicago's Foundry Park design begins



Construction continues on Robbins Phase 2

As several of Living Habitats major long-term engagements draw to a celebratory close, we gear up for exciting new partnerships as well as new chapters with legacy clients and professional partners.