

Internship at Urban Rivers in Chicago, Illinois

Chloe Fisher

BACKGROUND



Mussel hunting in the Chicago River

- I worked as a research assistant at the environmental nonprofit Urban Rivers in Chicago, Illinois
- Urban Rivers is focused on transforming urban riverfronts into wildlife habitats
- I discovered Urban Rivers on Handshake, contacted them on their website, and later had a phone interview for the role



ON THE JOB

- Assisted with maintenance on the floating gardens
- Created digital marketing assets for YouTube and Instagram
- Worked with Urban Rivers' partners, including Molson Coors, REI, and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
- Collected floater mussels from the North Branch of the Chicago River
- Developed a submerged habitat for the reintroduction of mussels into the Chicago River
- Trained volunteers on kayak safety, planting in the gardens, birdwatching techniques, and trash cleanup procedures

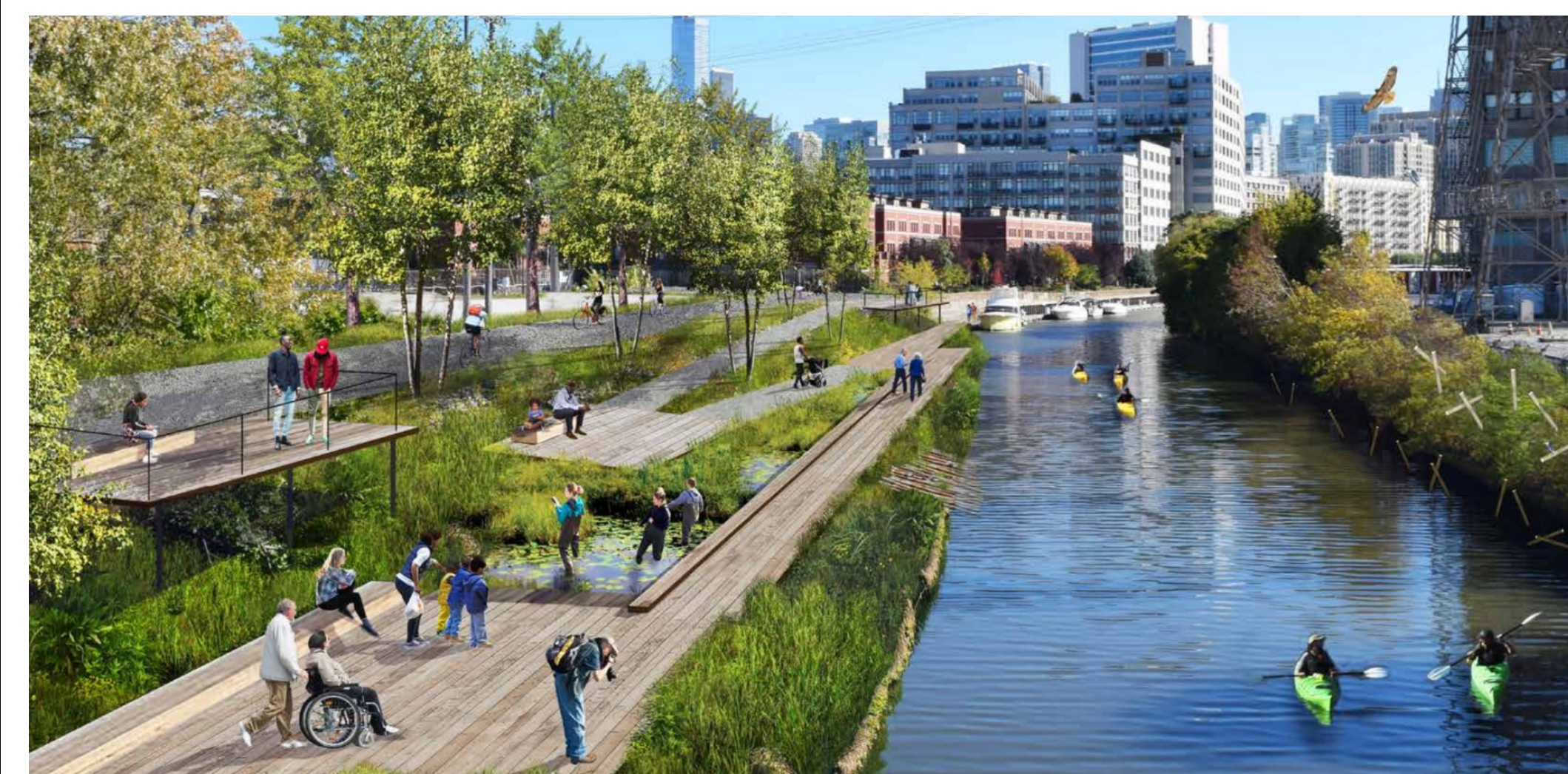


Floating gardens up close

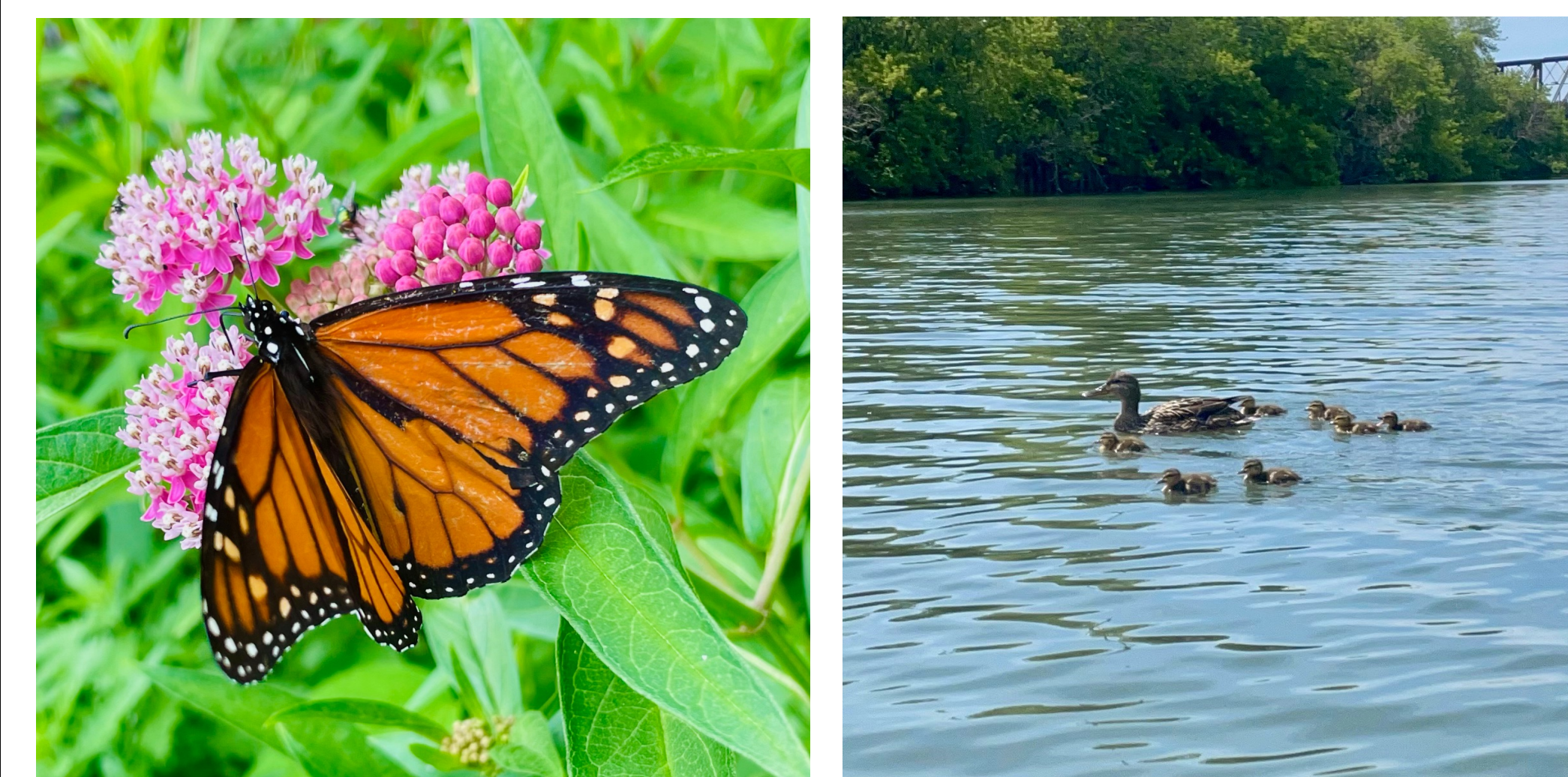


Working from a kayak

THE WILD MILE



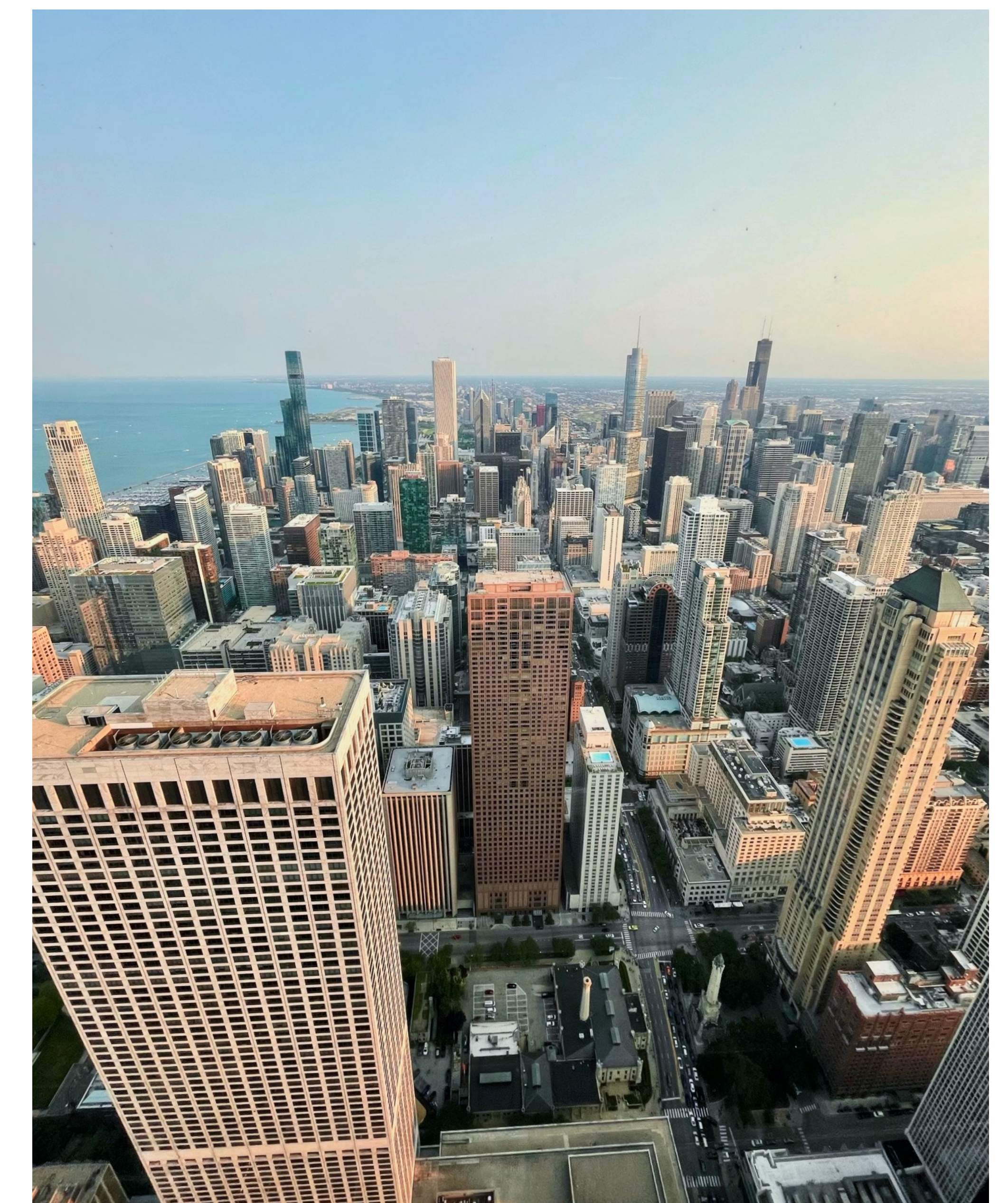
Vision for the Wild Mile



Wildlife along the Wild Mile

REFLECTION

- This internship relates to my future career because it was centered around enhancing the natural environment within an urban setting, which I am personally very passionate about
- I learned about the operations behind an environmental nonprofit
- After concluding this internship, I was reassured that this is the career path I want to pursue after graduation
- I have decided I would like to move back to Chicago one day to continue making the city a more sustainable place to live
- I would advise students pursuing a similar experience to:
 - Contact organizations via their website to ask about internship opportunities
 - Put yourself outside of your comfort zone by moving to a new place
 - Go into it with an open mind and have fun!



BIBLIOGRAPHY

City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development. (2019) *The Wild Mile Framework Vision*.