



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chicago Wilderness Trust Announces New Board President

Chicago, IL—The Chicago Wilderness alliance announced today that **Peter Layton, Chief Executive Officer of The Tallgrass Group**, has been elected as the new President of the Chicago Wilderness Trust Board. Chicago Wilderness is a regional alliance of more than 300 organizations working to protect land, water and wildlife in our region. The Chicago Wilderness Trust, established as an independent 501(c)3 and operating under its own bylaws, manages the funds of Chicago Wilderness.

“We are thrilled that Mr. Layton has agreed to serve as the President of the Chicago Wilderness Trust Board,” said Melinda Pruett-Jones, Executive Director of Chicago Wilderness. “He brings tremendous knowledge and expertise to the role, and is truly committed to the mission of Chicago Wilderness, as demonstrated by his leadership at The Tallgrass Group.”

The Tallgrass Group, a corporate member of Chicago Wilderness, utilizes best practices in prairie restoration, erosion control, controlled burning, and native plant installation to restore and enrich the natural heritage of people, plants and animals. Through these sustainable landscaping practices, The Tallgrass Group helps to implement the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan, the alliance’s blueprint for protecting and restoring the rare natural communities of the Chicago region.

“I am so pleased to have this opportunity,” said Mr. Layton. “As a long-time member of Chicago Wilderness, I am honored to help oversee the alliance’s financial management, which supports its four key initiatives – Restoring Nature, Greening Infrastructure, Leave No Child Inside, and Climate Action.”



Peter Layton

Peter Layton is the CEO of The Tallgrass Group, the parent company of various corporations specializing in different aspects of ecological restoration. He is also one of the founding partners of Blackthorne Capital Management and owner of Warhawk Entrepreneurial Fund. Mr. Layton serves as the Chairman of the BOX Exchange Group, LLC and is a partner of Efficient Capital Management.

In 2005, Mr. Layton retired from Goldman Sachs & Co., where he was responsible for global automated equity trading for both customers and proprietary initiatives. Before joining Goldman,

Mr. Layton was a partner of The Hull Group, where he oversaw equity and equity option trading initiatives.

Currently, Mr. Layton is a Board member of Enactus. He also is a member of the Efficient Capital Management Advisory Committee, the College Visiting Committee at the University of Chicago, the Nicholas School of the Environment Board of Visitors at Duke University, and the Global Business Resource Center Advisory Board at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Before taking on the role of President of the Chicago Wilderness Trust, he served as its Assistant Secretary. Layton graduated from the University of Chicago with a BA in economics and an MBA in finance.

Chicago Wilderness

Chicago Wilderness is a regional alliance that connects people and nature. We are more than 300 organizations working together to restore local nature and improve the quality of life for all who live here, by protecting the lands and waters on which we all depend. The four key initiatives of Chicago Wilderness—to restore the health of local nature, promote green infrastructure, mitigate climate change, and to leave no child inside—reflect our commitment to using science and emerging knowledge, as well as a collaborative approach to conservation, to benefit all the region’s residents. For more information, visit www.chicagowilderness.org.

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For additional information, please contact Lucy Hutcherson, Chicago Wilderness Director of Conservation and Communication Programs, at Lucy.hutcherson@chicagowilderness.org or 630-234-3906.