



# River Ecology & Governance Task Force

September 17, 2024 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

# Agenda

- 3:07 Calumet Land Use and Design Guidelines Update
- 3:27 Government Partner Projects Update
- 3:42 Community Projects Update: Calumet River and Chicago River's South Branch
- 4:15 Task Force Working Groups Update
- 4:27 River Questions Form
- 4:30 Adjourn and Upcoming Task Force Meeting Dates

## Task Force Objectives

Transforming Chicago's unique waterway system into a **thriving and ecologically integrated natural asset**, capable of accommodating the needs of people, requires **coordinated planning**, investment and management.

Aspire to, and realize no later than 2040, inland waterways in Chicago that are **inviting, productive and living**, that **support wildlife in-stream and on their banks**, and that **contribute to our city's resiliency**

# **Task Force Work Plan for 2024**

**Goal #1:** Review current polices and create recommendations to strengthen them

**Goal #2:** Inform near-term planning opportunities to advance collective priorities

**Goal #3:** Develop criteria to prioritize projects for identified funding opportunities

**Goal #4:** Ensure process for development reviews is followed and continues to improve new riverfront developments

**Draft for Deliberation Only**

# Calumet Area

Land Use Plan  
& Design Guidelines

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DRAFT Community Engagement Plan | Fall 2024

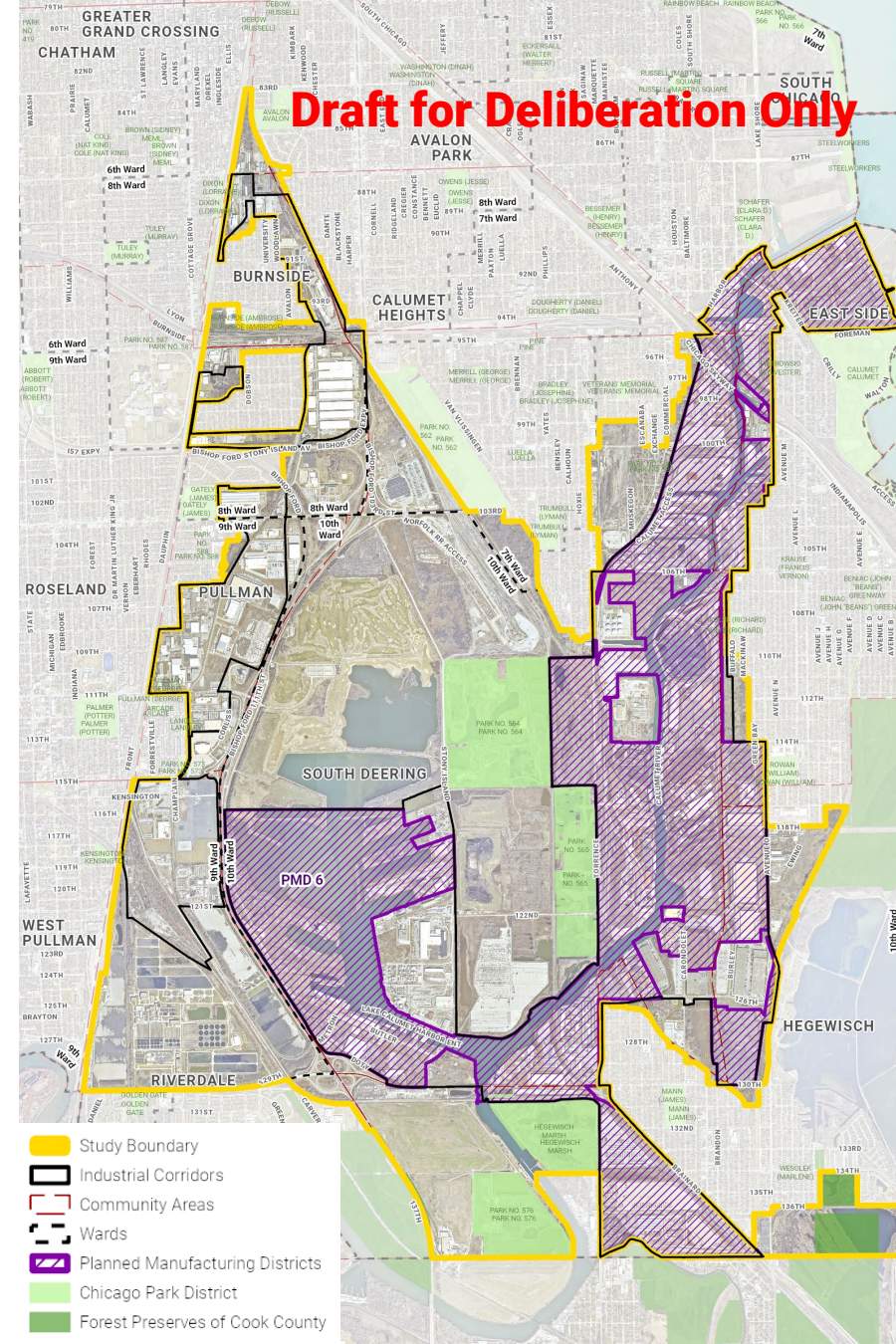
# Plan Overview

The **updated Calumet Area Land Use Plan and Design Guidelines** is a two-year planning effort being led by the Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD) that will build on the successes of the 2002 Calumet Area Land Use Plan and the 2004 Calumet Design Guidelines.

The study boundary includes the Calumet, Burnside, and Pullman Industrial Corridors, along with additional industrial areas adjacent to those corridors.

The planning process will establish a 10- to 20-year vision for the region that ensures **future development balances economic, job creation, health & safety, and environmental goals**.

The plan's design guidelines will incorporate best practices and new technologies related to landscape, stormwater, site and building design, and sustainability, with a particular focus on the negative impacts of air and noise pollution.

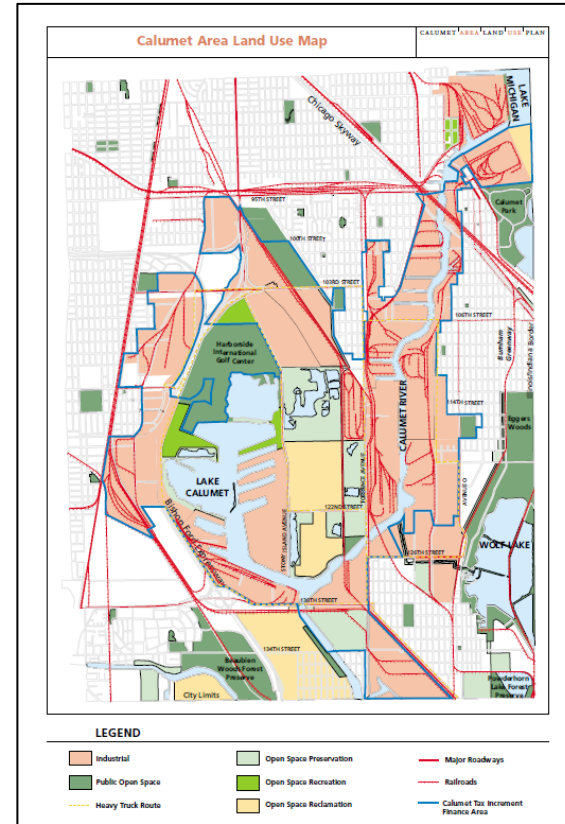


# Plan Context

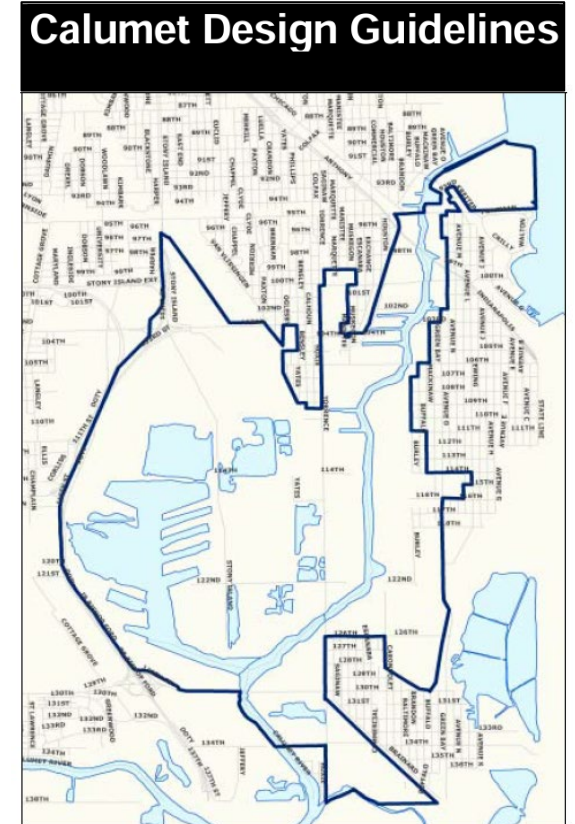
## Prior Plans

The **Calumet Area Land Use Plan (2002)** helped promote the harmonious co-existence of natural landscapes and industry through land use policies and strategies. It included details about the area’s history, landscape and waterways, transportation assets, potential for recreation and opportunities for economic growth while protecting the natural environment.

The **Calumet Design Guidelines (2004)** established unique landscape standards that help economic development projects blend with the wetland features on Chicago’s Far South Side. They remain applicable to all large construction projects in the area.



**Calumet Area Land Use Plan (2002)**



**Calumet Design Guidelines (2004)**

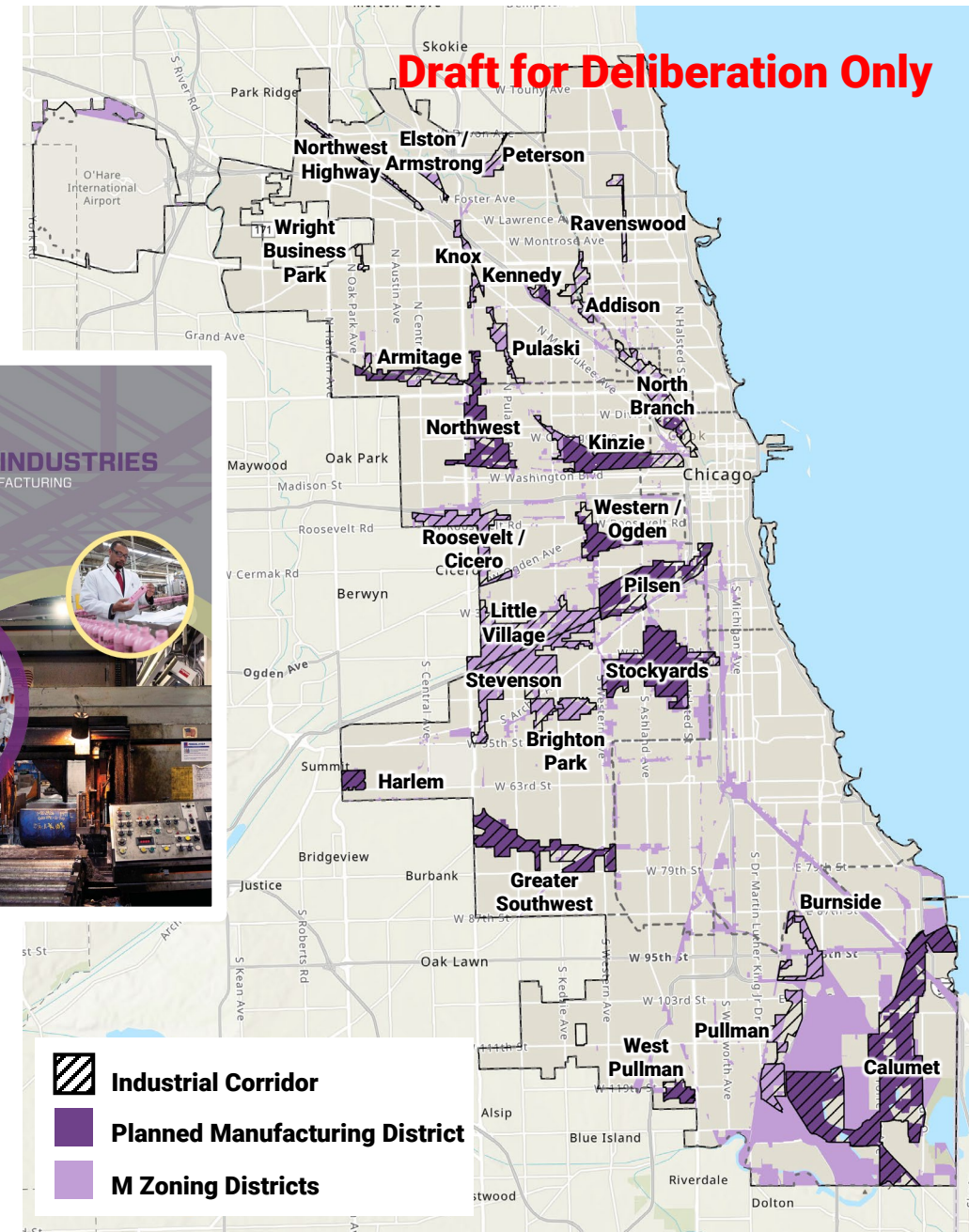
# Plan Context

## DPD Industrial Corridor Planning

Most of the city's 11 Planned Manufacturing Districts (PMDs) and 26 **Industrial Corridors** were established in the 1980s and 1990s to preserve major job centers.

Boundaries were established as zoning regulations and overlays, largely without associated land use plans until the 2010s.

The formal land use planning process for Calumet is part of the City's ongoing review of industrial corridors and PMDs, including previous plans for the North Branch, North Branch, Kinzie, and Ravenswood





# Plan Context

## Industrial Corridor Planning Considerations

**Draft for Deliberation Only**

- 1** Strengthen Chicago's Industrial Corridors as **economic engines and vital job centers**
- 2** Improve access for all transportation modes
- 3** Enhance **unique natural and built assets**
- 4** Use **environmental justice** principles to establish criteria and policies for geographies harmed by environmental degradation
- 5** Balance the **economic benefits** of moving goods with **negative impacts** on communities, eliminating, then equitably distributing burdens

**Established during prior Industrial Corridor planning studies**



**Established during Citywide Plan development**

# Why Update?



**Respond to feedback**



**Improve the mitigation of threats to environmental and public health**



**Establish preferred future land uses based on market trends and community input**

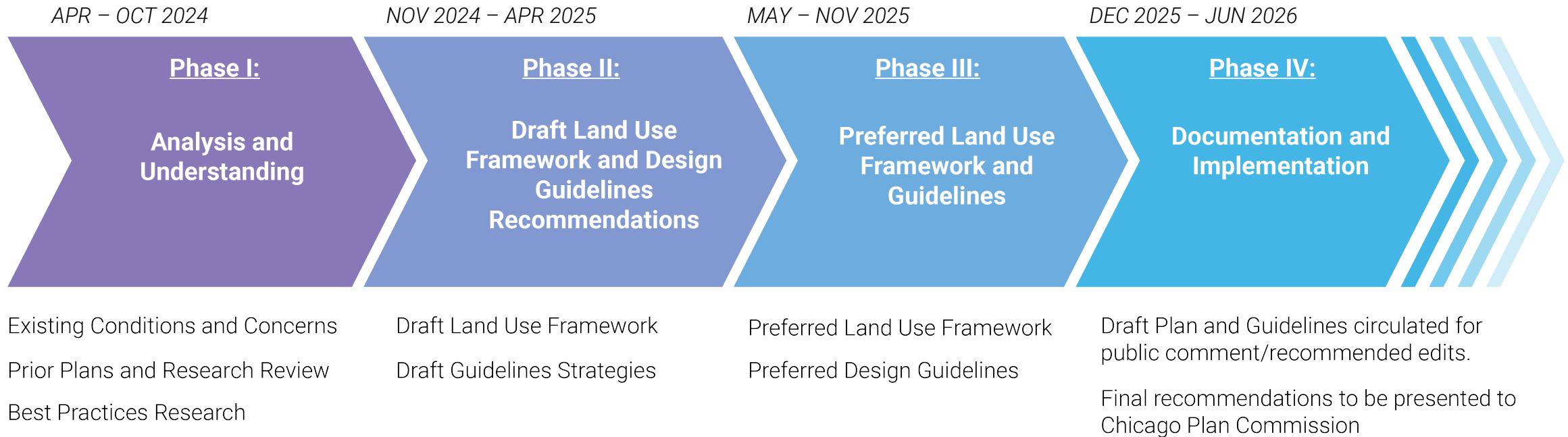


**Incorporate new technologies and best practices to promote sustainability and resiliency**



**Ensure industrial and other intensive uses are “good neighbors”**

# Plan Update Timeline



# Planning Team



# Planning Partners

- **Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC)** is the Local Industrial Retention Initiative (LIRI) delegate agency for the Calumet, Burnside, and Pullman industrial corridors. CAIC provides assistance to industrial businesses to foster business retention, workforce development, industrial policy guidance, and public engagement.
- **Calumet Connect Partnership Technical Assistance Team** includes Southeast Environmental Task Force (SETF), Calumet Collaborative, UIC Great Cities Institute, Friends of the Chicago River, Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC), and Neighborspace. The Technical Assistance Team supports the broader Calumet Connect Partnership, coordinating with DPD and Muse on strategizing community outreach associated with this effort, especially with individuals and organizations interested in environmental justice issues.

# Community Engagement

A community engagement plan developed in collaboration with the project partners and ward offices has established:

- **Engagement Principles:** Statements to guide interaction of DPD and engagement participants
- **Engagement Methods:** Focus Groups, Working Group, Community Meetings, Youth Engagement, etc.
- **Language and Access Needs:** An outline of interpretation and translation of project documents.
- **Stipend Program:** Compensation for engagement participation



# Engagement Principles

We will be **transparent** by sharing relevant information, ideas, and concerns with one another.

We will **listen with an open mind** to embrace productive tensions and respectful disagreements.

We will **communicate in good faith**, in a spirit of collaboration and mutual respect.

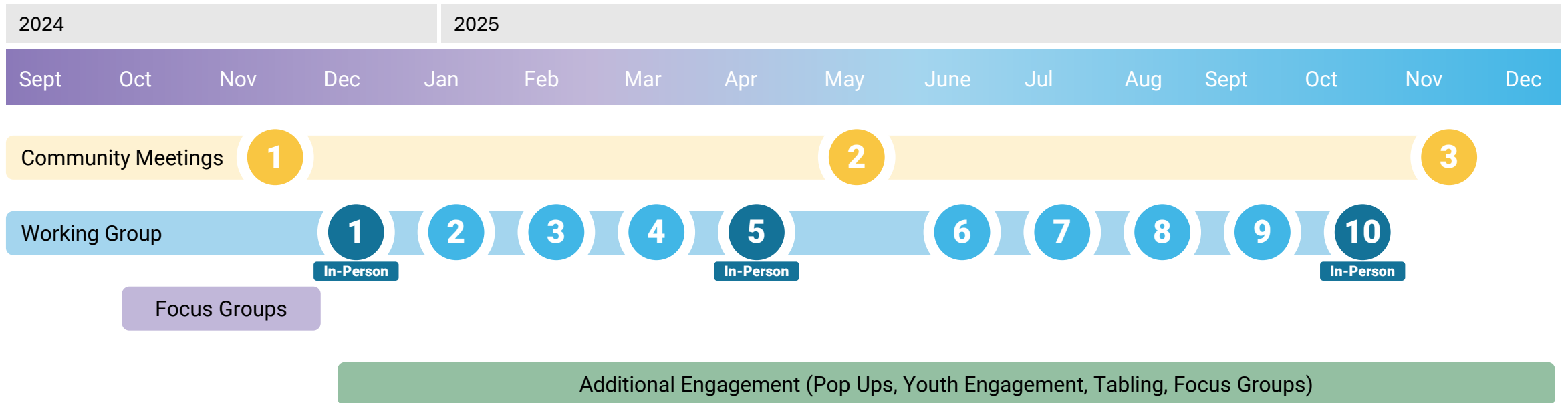


# Engagement Methods Overview

Engagement Type	Overview	Phase	Mode
<b>Focus Groups</b>	One-time, small group discussions; each focused on a specific stakeholder type (e.g. residents, manufacturing businesses, environmental justice organizations, etc.); 10 total sessions	Phase II	Virtual and In-person, dependent on the group
<b>Working Group</b>	Comprised of 25-30 stakeholders representing a range of viewpoints and experiences; meets 10 times throughout the planning process to assist with developing and vetting plan recommendations	Phase II - III	Three in person convenings Remainder virtual
<b>Community Meetings</b>	Large-format community meetings will occur once in each phase to solicit public feedback on project goals and priorities, draft land use framework and design guideline ideas, and the final recommendations.	Phase II - III	In Person
<b>Additional Engagement</b>	Surveys, pop-ups, tabling, 1:1 interviews, etc. aimed at engaging additional stakeholders and “meeting people where they are”	Phase II - IV	Virtual or In-person



# Engagement Calendar



# Questions?

# Project Updates

- **Chicago Dept. of Planning and Development**

- Calumet Design Guidelines and Land Use Update launched and additional details provided about project goals, timeline, and community engagement provided at the September (today's) Task Force meeting.
- Federal appropriation to initiate a feasibility study with the US Army Corps to build upon the Chicago Waterways Restoration Framework Plan that was released last year.

- **Chicago Dept. of Transportation**

- River Edge Access Study tool was launched with a final phase of receiving and addressing comments currently underway. Story Map has been shared as part of the project report. CDOT will be considering how the tool can inform planning into 2025.
- South Branch Riverwalk design is in procurement stages.
- Western Ave bridge construction expected to start Q2 2025. Chicago Ave bridge over Chicago River construction expected to start Q1 2025. Both Division St bridges over North Branch Canal and Chicago River construction is expected to start Q1 2025. Chicago Ave and Division St bridges are all designed to accommodate future riverwalk extension.

- **Chicago Dept. of the Environment and Dept. of Public Health**

- Continued review and drafting of Cumulative Impacts Ordinance, with gathered input from Commissioners of CDOT, DOE, DPD, and CDPH. Engagement plan will be built out through Environmental Equity Working Group.

# Project Updates

- **Chicago Park District**

- Advancing TIF funded projects at River, Kiwanis, and Legion Parks.
  - At River Park, new ADA launch is installed and Park District paddling fleet storage and pathway improvements are in progress. Potential for individual boat storage lockers options is being explored. Floating Islands installed are being planted.
  - Legion & Kiwanis – hardscape restoration is complete and vegetation management is beginning.
  - Ronan Park progress is stalled due to maintenance conflicts that are being worked out.

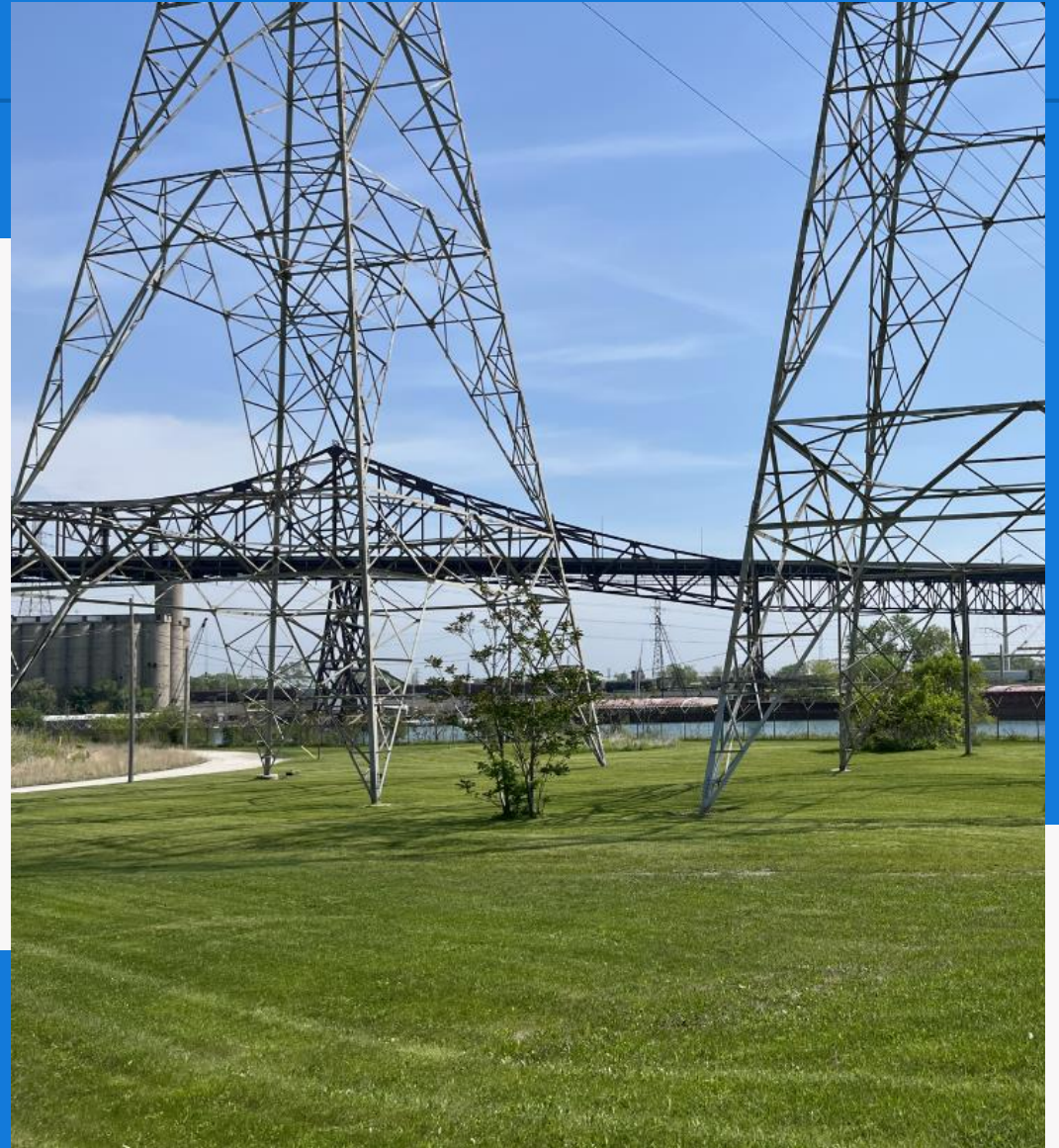
- **Forest Preserve District of Cook County**

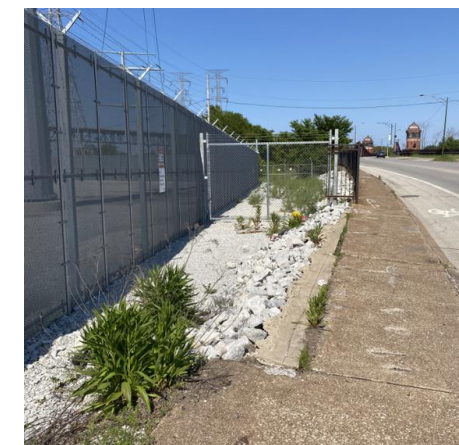
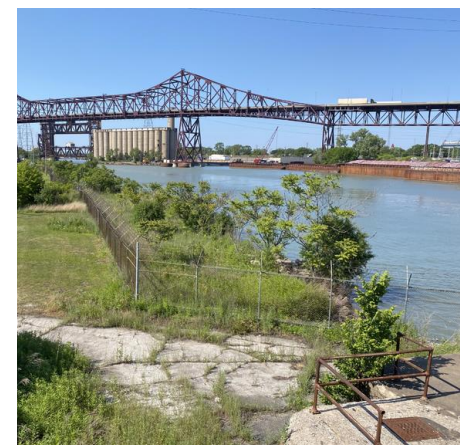
- Des Plaines River Trail reconstruction from Touhy to Lawrence Ave. (Seg. 1, 2 & 3) – including an elevated boardwalk and bridge - is complete. Lawrence to Irving (Seg. 4) is scheduled to start this winter. The FPCC is currently applying for funding for the next segment of trail reconstruction from Irving Park Rd. to Fullerton Rd. (Seg.5 & 6). Fullerton to North Ave. (Seg. 7) is in Phase 2 engineering (Village of River Grove is the lead). UP RR Crossing at Central and Golf Ave. will likely start in fall 2025.
- Beaubien Woods boat launch and other site amenities are under construction; restoration work at site also underway.

- **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago**

- Biological monitoring is wrapping up in September.

# 100th Street Calumet River Project





# Introduction

The 100th Street Calumet River Project represents a collaborative effort to develop a community recreation space along the Calumet River, emphasizing habitat restoration, public amenities, and community stewardship through participatory planning and ongoing stakeholder engagement.

## Project Values

Collaboration

Engagement

Restoration

Stewardship

# Existing Conditions



01

## History of the Site Usage:

The site has a long industrial history, primarily developed by utility companies, and is still largely owned by them.



02

## Environmental Site Condition:

Found potential underground contamination, treated areas needing restrictions, and wetlands present.



03

## Business/Transportation Condition:

The industrial and business analysis identified pollution risks, while a transportation assessment assessed existing bike and pedestrian infrastructure around the site.

# Process

## Participatory Planning



### What is Participatory Planning?

It is a collaborative process that involves actively engaging community members in decision-making, gathering input, and ensuring their voices shape project development and implementation.

### Community/Public Engagement

Community engagement included virtual meetings, flyers, surveys, and events from 2020 to now, gathering input through collaborations with local organizations, schools, and media to shape the project.

### Community & Ownership Feedback

Ownership supports the project, with People's Gas and NRG engaged. Community favors improved access, habitat restoration, natural landscaping, amenities, recreation, and a riverfront trail at the site.





# Calumet River Access Walk & Talk, Oct 2023

Blue Marble Presentation



# Calumet River Access Walk & Talk, May 2024

Chicago Skyway Northern Site Visit





# Project Impacts: Where are we at now?

01

## Continuing Awareness

Four Community Site Visits

[Dissemination](#)

02

## Community Capacity Building

Southeast Environmental Task Force

03

## Community Site Stewards

Site Planning, Management, and  
Maintenance

04

## Design Plan

Initial design plan for conversations with site  
ownership

05

## Project Realization

Site and site adjacent improvements

06

## Continuing Advocacy

100<sup>th</sup> Street Bike and Pedestrian

# Green Latinos Grant



## Build out Community Engagement

Adding community organization partnerships:  
Eastside Anglers  
ChiNations Youth Council

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## Site Activations

Will host multiple site activations during the funding period

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## Project Planning and Design

Blue Marble

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## Site Ownership Engagement


People's Gas  
NRG Energy  
City of Chicago




# Thank You

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## Contact Us

 [jrocha3@uic.edu](mailto:jrocha3@uic.edu)

 312-413-0558

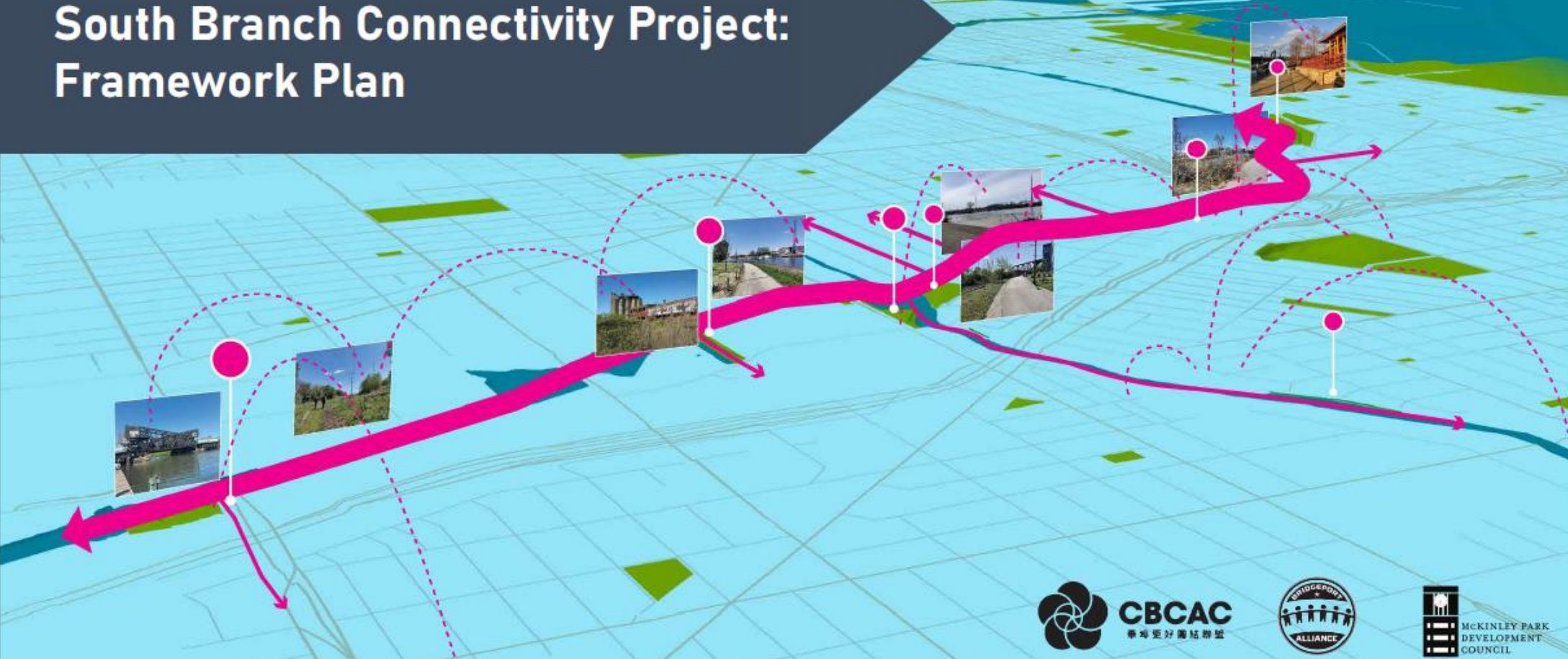
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## Great Cities Institute

 412 S. Peoria St., Suite 400, Chicago

[greatcities.uic.edu/100th-street/](https://greatcities.uic.edu/100th-street/)

# Overview of the South Branch Connectivity Project: Framework Plan



Funded by the Chicago Community Trust  
Our Great Rivers: 2023 Grant Recipient

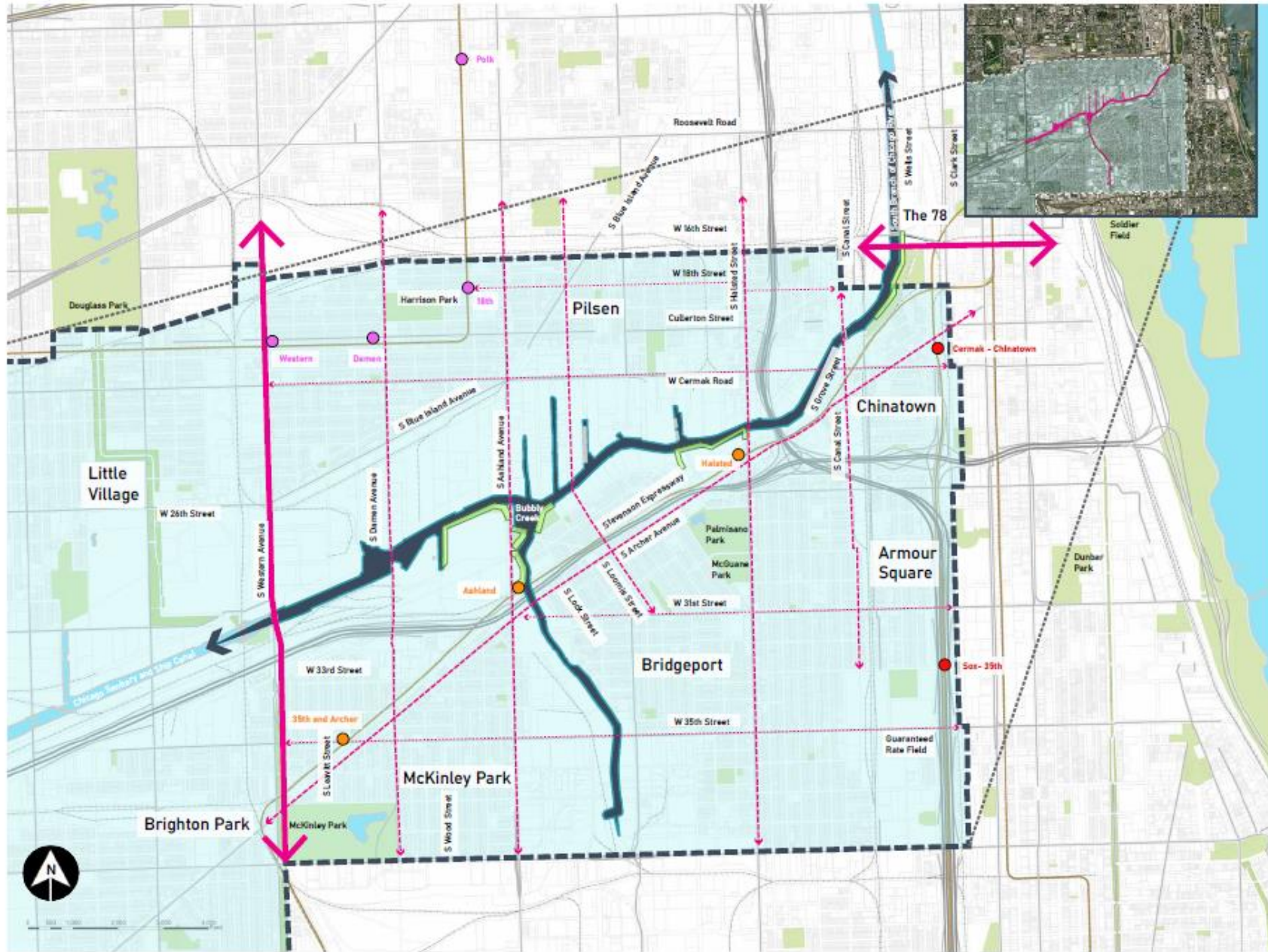


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# Project Area



## Legend

-  Existing Riverwalk
-  Collective Neighborhood Boundaries
-  South Branch Study Area
-  Study Area Edge Marker Streets
-  Study Area Internal N/S Streets
-  Study Area Internal E/W Streets
-  CTA Orange Line stations
-  CTA Red Line stations
-  CTA Pink Line stations

A photograph of a community engagement event, overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The scene shows a large group of people in a well-lit room. Some individuals are seated at long white tables, while others are standing and engaged in conversations. In the background, a person appears to be presenting at a screen. The overall atmosphere is one of active participation and community interaction.

# Community Engagement



# Community Engagement Events

## Surveys



**100 surveys**  
received

## Pop-up Events



Over **200 participants**  
at five individual pop-up events

## Focus Group



Over **50 participants**  
at community focus group

## Community Charette



Over **120 participants**  
at community charette

## Engagement Themes

- 1** Transportation and Connectivity
- 2** Park Amenities and Recreation
- 3** Placemaking, Infrastructure, and Services
- 4** Arts, Cultural, and Community Gatherings
- 5** Environmental and Sustainability
- 6** Equity, Inclusion, and Housing Affordability
- 7** Land Use, Zoning, and Economic Activity

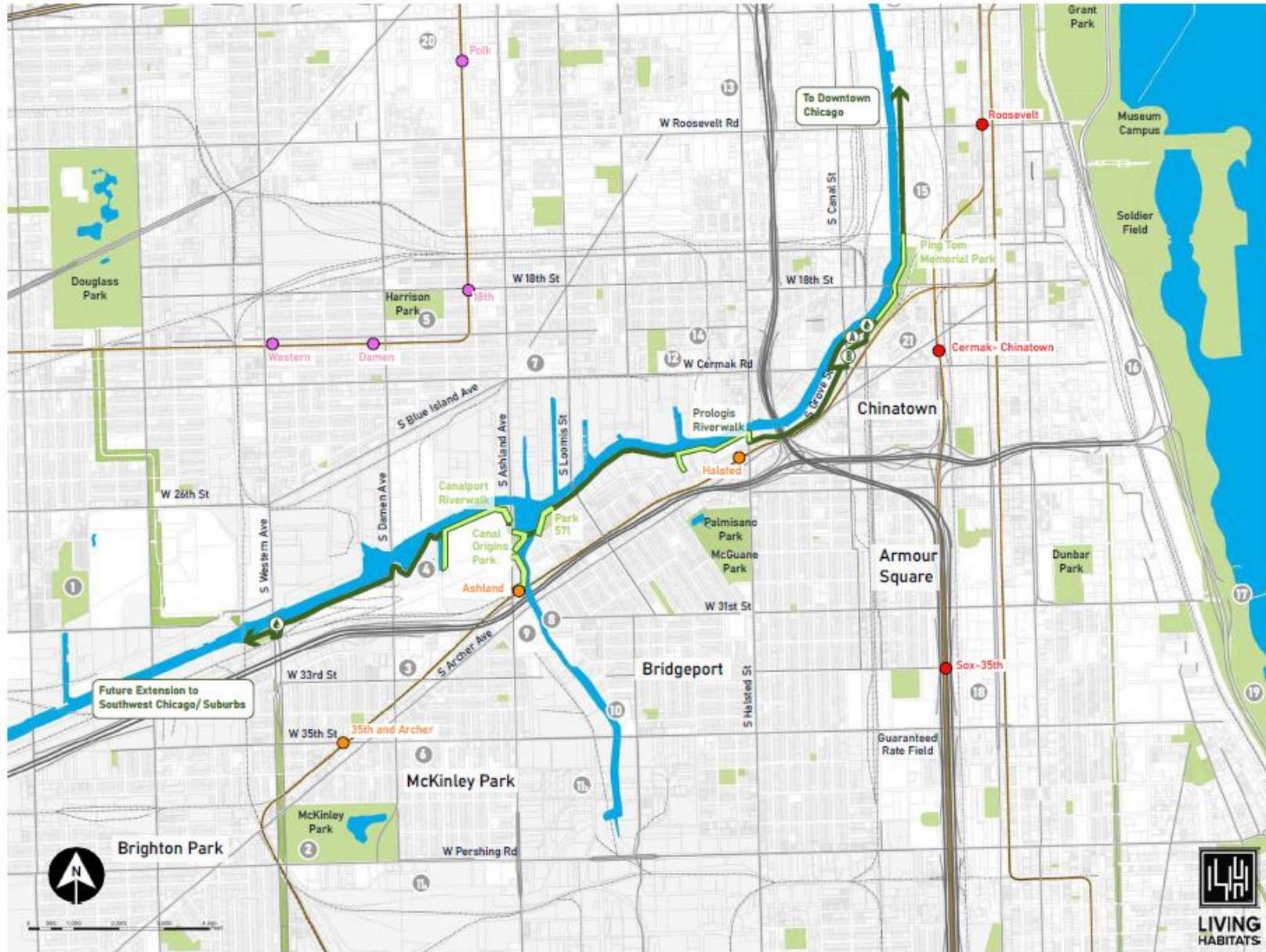
## Goals + Objectives

- 1** Provide a **continuous multi-use trail** along the South Branch of the Chicago River from the Richard J. Daley Boat Launch to Ping Tom Memorial Park.
- 2** **Improve mobility, safety, and accessibility** for pedestrians and cyclists along the South Branch and adjacent areas.
- 3** **Connect the adjacent neighborhoods** of Armour Square/Chinatown, Bridgeport, Brighton Park, Little Village, McKinley Park, and Pilsen to the South Branch of the Chicago River and the city more broadly.
- 4** Create a **cohesive sense of place** along the South Branch and foster a **clean, welcoming, and secure atmosphere** for all users.
- 5** **Expand, improve, and activate public space** along the South Branch.
- 6** Encourage **improvement of environmental conditions** along the river.
- 7** Provide **equitable access to the riverfront** for all neighborhood residents.



# Framework Plan

# Preferred Route



## Legend

- Existing Riverwalk
- Proposed Trail Corridor: Primary Route
- CTA Orange Line stations
- CTA Red Line stations
- CTA Pink Line stations
- Suggested Floating Path
- Cermak Rd to Ping Tom Memorial Park - Riverfront Option
- Cermak Rd to Ping Tom Memorial Park - Inland Option



# Overall Corridor Recommendations



Nordsternpark - Gelsenkirchen, Germany



Menomonee Valley Redevelopment and Community Park - Milwaukee, WI

The Framework Plan contains overall corridor recommendations and examples, which include:

- Materiality + Cohesion of Design Elements
- Trail Entrances
- Wayfinding + Interpretive Signage
- River Access
- Naturalized Areas + Habitat Connectivity
- Underpasses, Viaducts + Other Infrastructure
- Public Space Activation

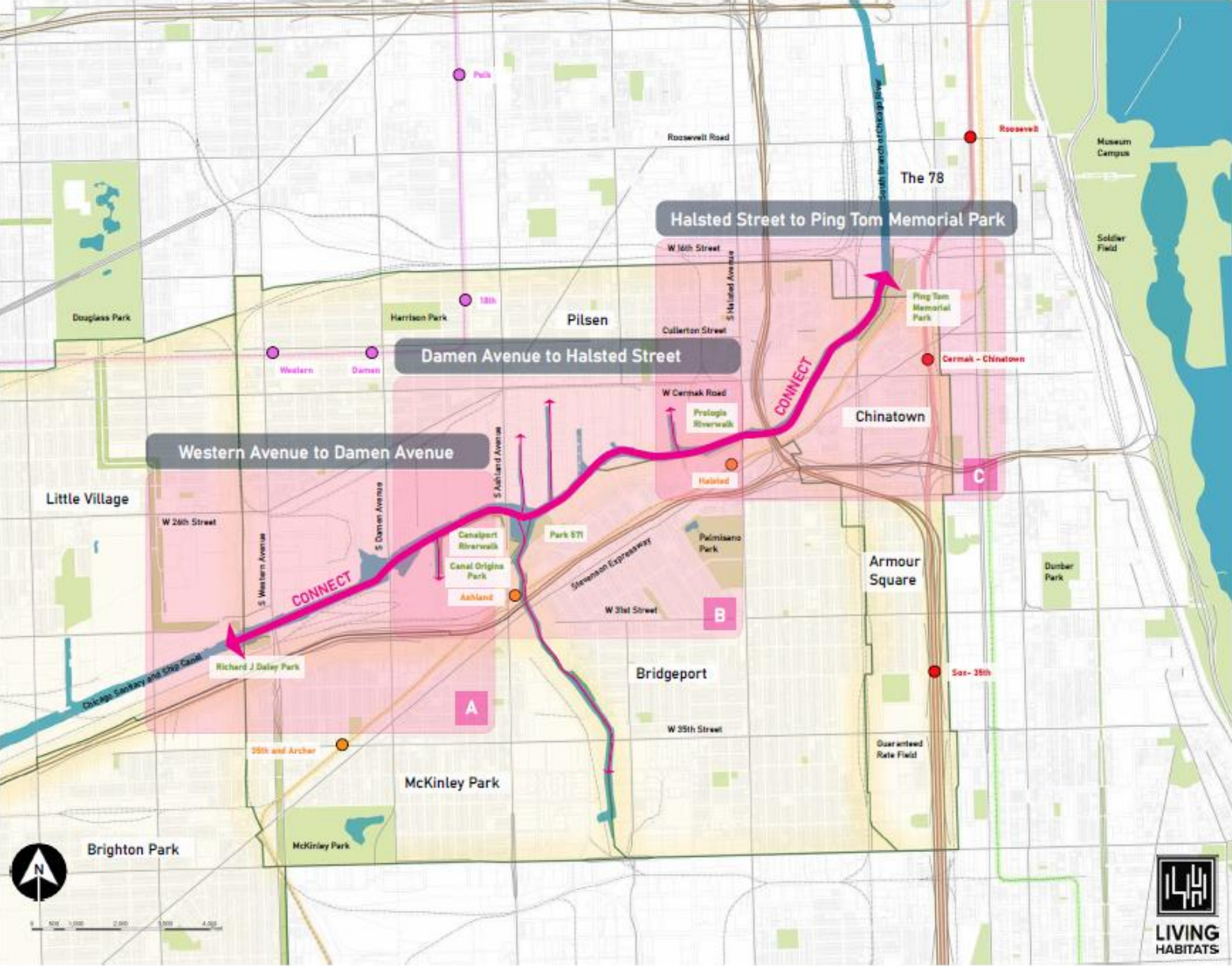


Domino Park - New York, NY



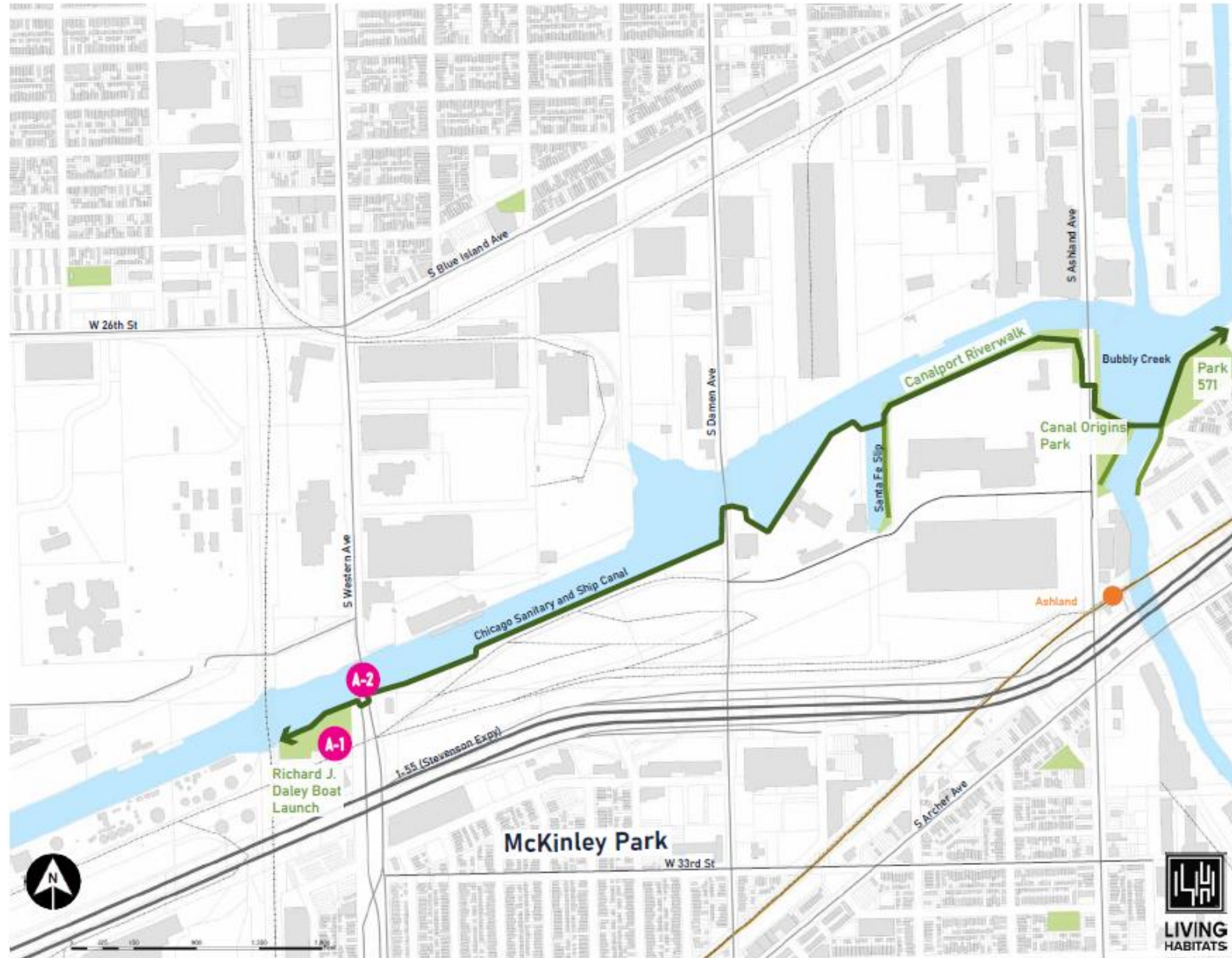
South Waterfront Greenway - Portland, OR

# Corridor Segments



- Segment A: Western Ave to Damen Ave
- Segment B: Damen Ave to Halsted St
- Segment C: Halsted St to Ping Tom Memorial Park

# Segment A: Western Ave. to Damen Ave.



## Legend

- Proposed Trail Corridor: Primary Route
- CTA Orange Line Stations
- CTA Red Line Stations
- CTA Pink Line Stations
- A-1 Richard J. Daley Boat Launch
- A-2 Western Avenue Bridge



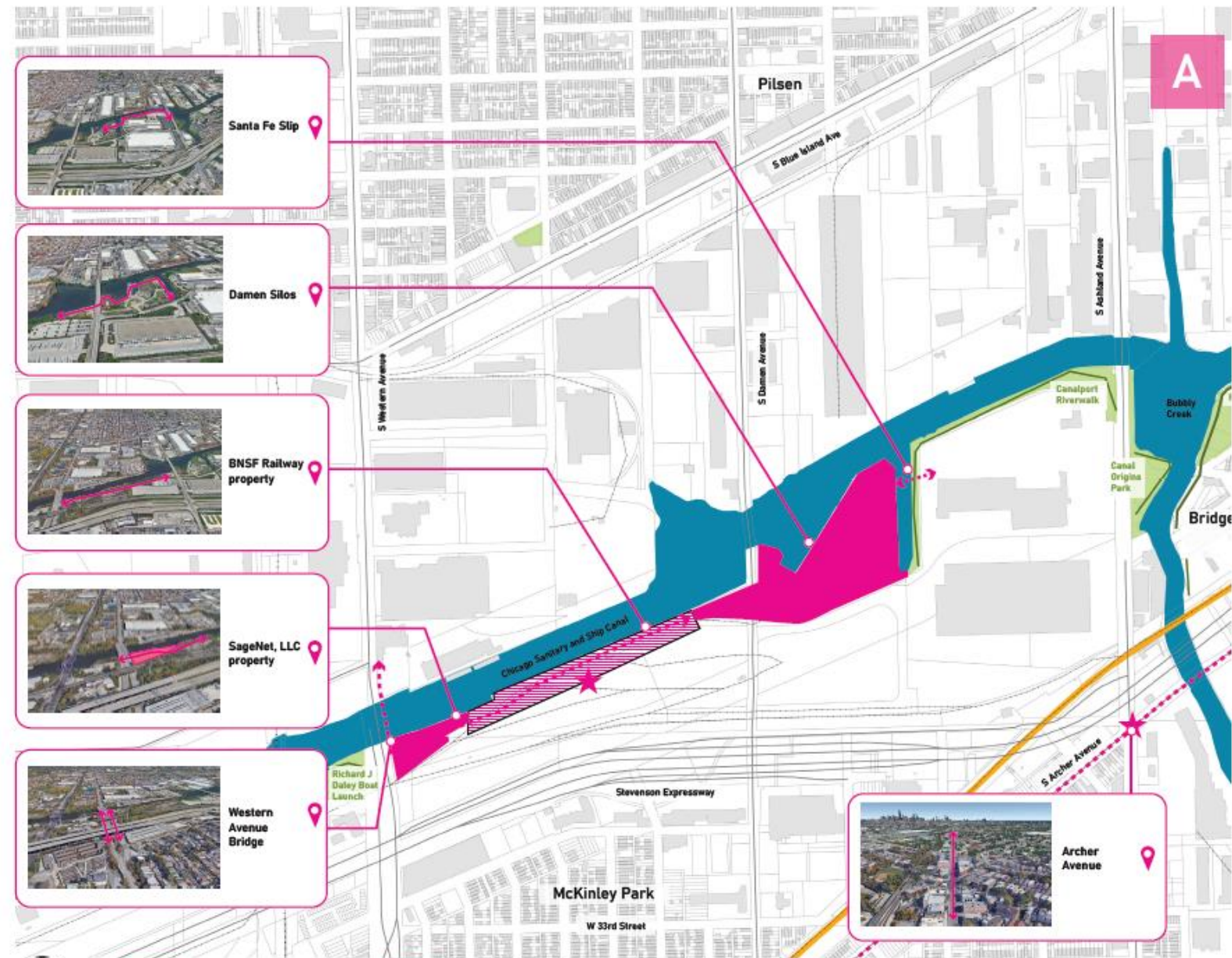


### Segment A

## Western Avenue to Damen Avenue

The westernmost section of the study area contains the Damen Silos site, as well as a long stretch of riverfront property owned by BNSF Railway.

Combined with a smaller parcel of land directly to the east of Western Ave, these relatively large properties present an opportunity to create a stretch of riverfront trail connecting the existing Canalport Riverwalk to the Richard J. Daley Boat Launch. The completion of this potential expansion would greatly improve river access and connectivity for the neighborhoods of Brighton Park, Lawndale, Little Village, Pilsen, and McKinley Park.



- Parcels undergoing transition in ownership, representing a potential change in use
- Parcels that may undergo transition in ownership, representing a potential change in use
- Parcels that require public access easement for multi-use path continuity

### Key Map



## Segment A: Western Ave. to Damen Ave. (Cont.)



Hudson River Greenway - New York, NY



Floating bridge in Idaho Falls, ID

The Framework Plan includes segment-by-segment recommendations and examples, which include:

- Enhanced connectivity, accessibility, and recreational space at the Richard J. Daley Boat Launch
- Connectivity and accessibility improvements to the Western Ave Bridge and adjacent areas

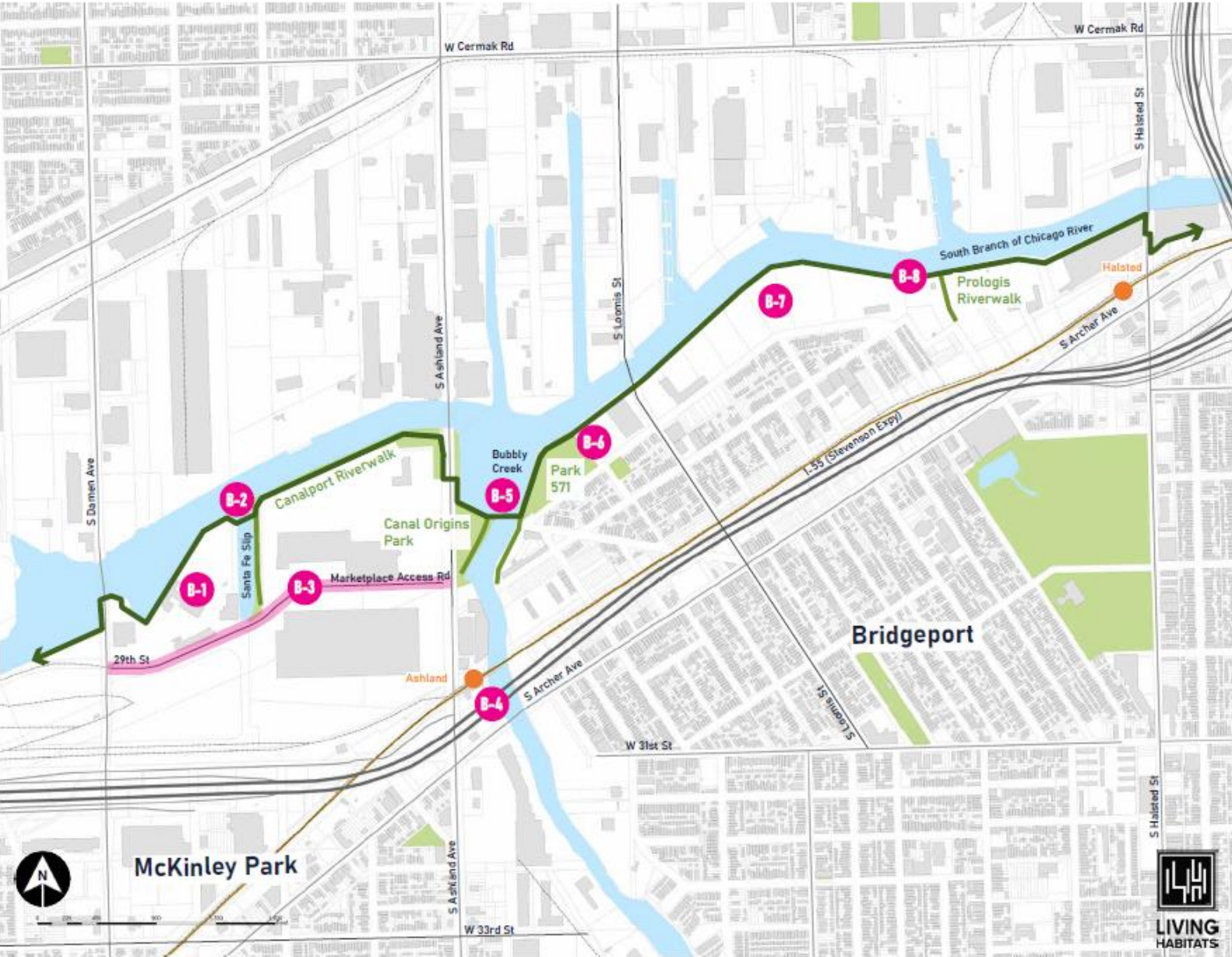


Community Path - Somerville, MA



Northern Rivers Rail Trail - Tweed Valley, Australia

# Segment B: Damen Ave. to Halsted St.



## Legend

- Proposed Trail Corridor: Primary Route
- CTA Orange Line Stations
- CTA Red Line Stations
- CTA Pink Line Stations
- B-1 Damen Silos
- B-2 Santa Fe Slip
- B-3 29th Street/ Marketplace Access Road
- B-4 Ashland Orange Line L Station
- B-5 Bubbly Creek at Canal Origins Park + Park 571
- B-6 Park 571 and adjacent property
- B-7 Brandenburg Industrial Services property
- B-8 ComEd Substation



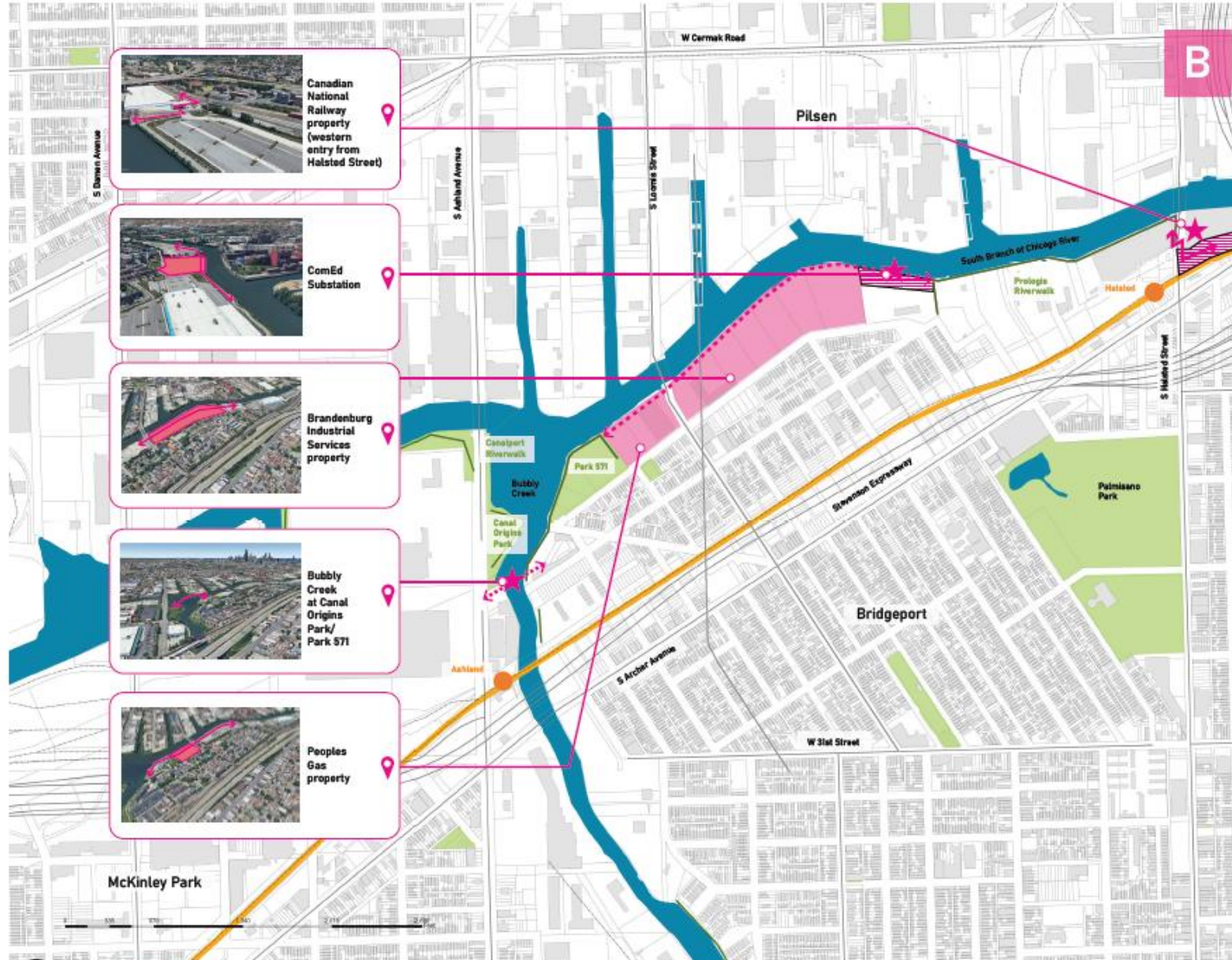
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### Segment B

## Damen Avenue to Halsted Street

The middle segment of the study area includes fragmented sections of existing riverfront green space including the Canalport Riverwalk, Canal Origins Park, Park 571, and the Prologis Riverwalk.

As ownership transitions in the coming years for properties in this stretch, an opportunity will emerge to fill in gaps between existing riverfront access points and to better connect Bridgeport, McKinley Park, and Pilsen to each other, to transit, and to adjacent neighborhoods. Such work will make use of the Chicago River Design Guidelines. This stretch also presents an opportunity to use new and upgraded public space to showcase this area's unique industrial and social history.



### Key Map



- Parcels undergoing transition in ownership, representing a potential change in use
- Parcels that may undergo transition in ownership, representing a potential change in use
- Parcels that require public access easement for multi-use path continuity



## Segment B: Damen Ave. to Halsted St. (Cont.)



Noisette Creek Ped. Bridge - North Charleston, SC



Caulfield to Dandenog Park - Melbourne, Australia



Nordsternpark - Gelsenkirchen, Germany



Caulfield to Dandenog Park - Melbourne, Australia



River Common - Wilkes-Barre, PA

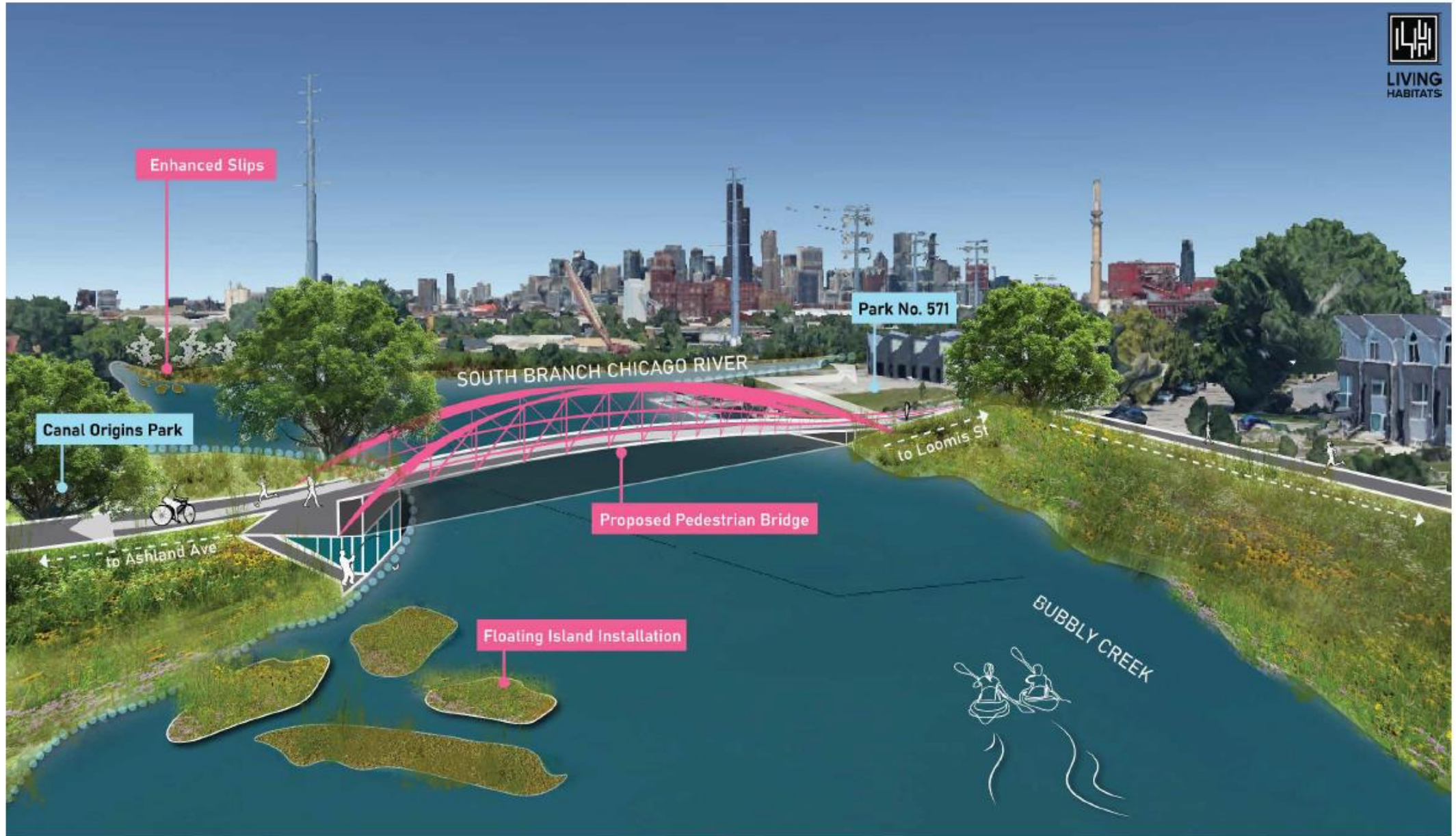
The Framework Plan includes segment-by-segment recommendations and examples, which include:

- Addition of recreational and public green space at the Damen Silos and Sante Fe Flip
- Improved pedestrian and biking experience along 29th St/ Marketplace Access Rd and at the Ashland Orange Line L Station
- Improvement and expansion of public green space at and near Canal Origins Park + Park 571 including a pedestrian bridge over Bubbly Creek connecting the two parks
- Extension of riverfront trail between Park 571 and the Prologis Riverwalk

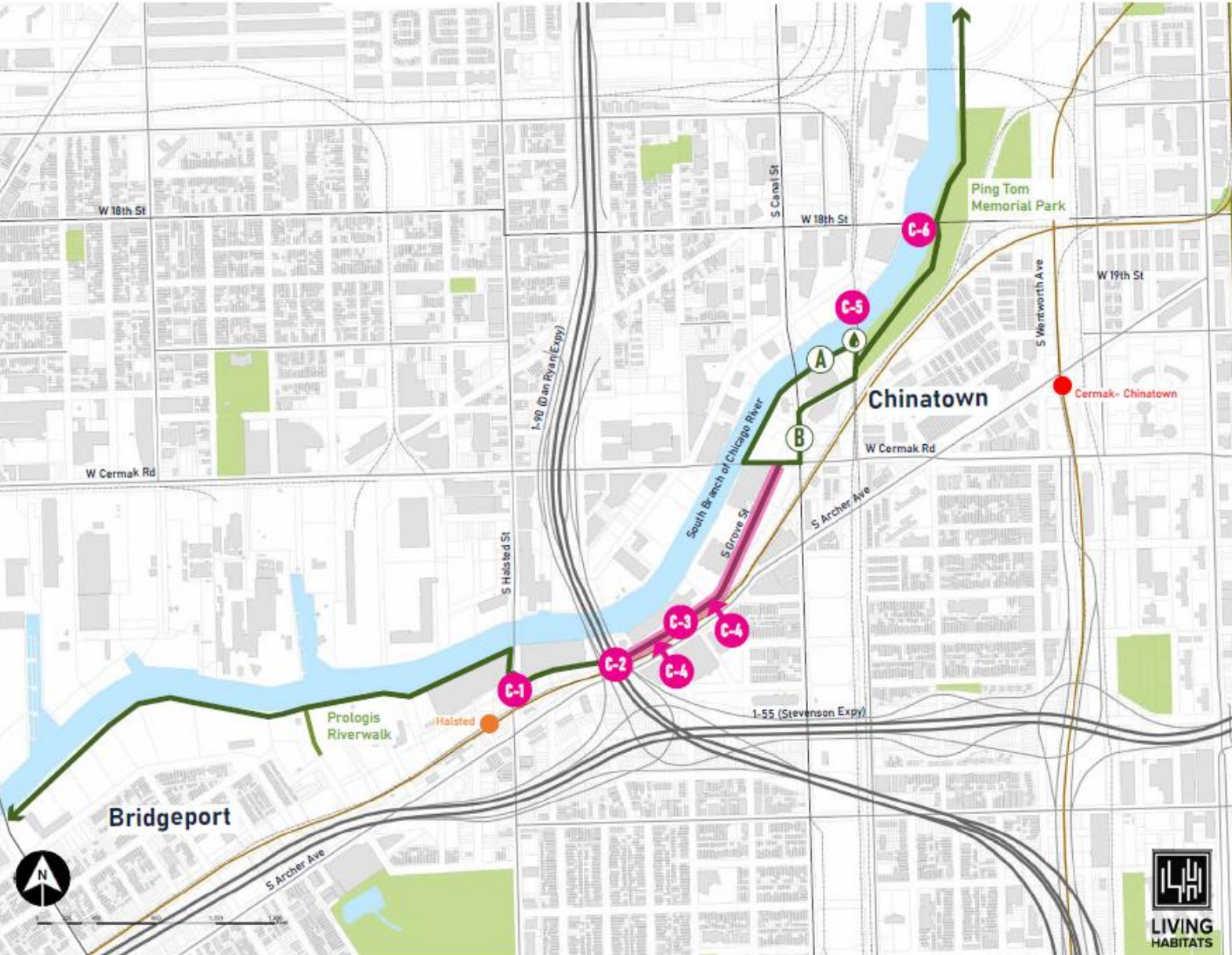


Erie Street Plaza - Milwaukee, WI













# Segment B: Damen Ave. to Halsted St. (Cont.)



# Segment C: Halsted St. to Ping Memorial Tom Park



## Legend

-  Proposed Trail Corridor: Primary Route
-  Cermak Rd to Ping Tom Memorial Park Connection - Riverfront Option
-  Cermak Rd to Ping Tom Memorial Park Connection - Inland Option
-  CTA Orange Line Stations
-  CTA Red Line Stations
-  CTA Pink Line Stations
-  Canadian National Railway at Halsted Street
-  I-90/94 Underpass
-  Grove Street
-  Archer Avenue at Wallace Street and Normal Avenue
-  Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge 463 at Ping Tom Memorial Park
-  18th Street at Ping Tom Memorial Park

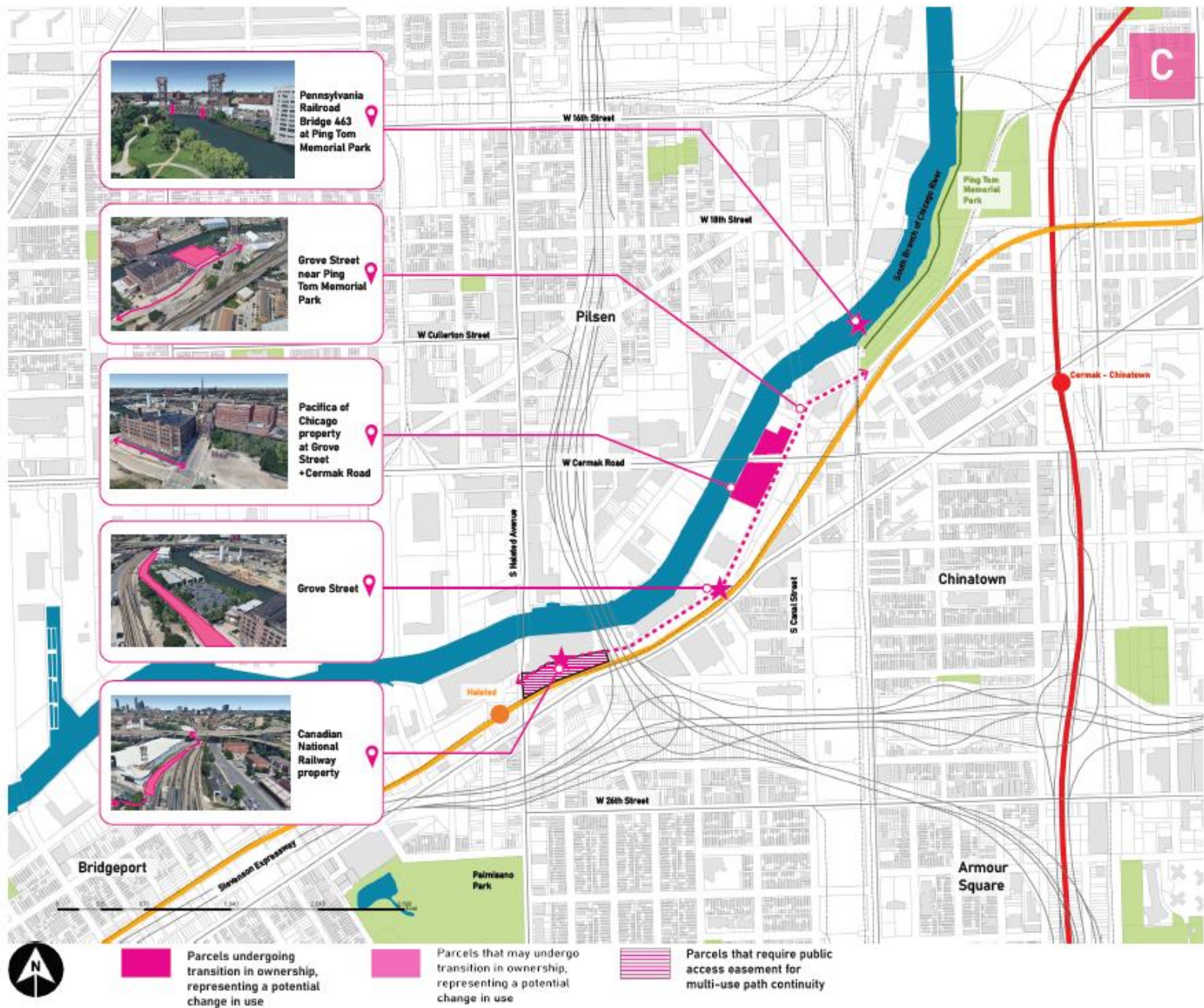


### Segment C

## Halsted Street to Ping Tom Memorial Park

This section of the study area is home to magnet public spaces like Ping Tom Memorial Park, Chinatown Square Public Plaza, and Palmisano Park.

Numerous physical barriers, such as freeways and rail lines, present major connectivity challenges along this stretch of the South Branch. However, there is a potential northern connection from Armour Square/Chinatown and Bridgeport to the ongoing development project known as The 78. Once the downtown riverwalk is extended south to Roosevelt Rd and city-mandated sections of riverwalk are completed at The 78, there will be an opportunity to provide South Branch users with a continuous route to Downtown Chicago and the lakeshore.



Parcels undergoing transition in ownership, representing a potential change in use

Parcels that may undergo transition in ownership, representing a potential change in use

Parcels that require public access easement for multi-use path continuity

### Key Map





## Segment C: Halsted St. to Ping Memorial Tom Park



Lowline Park - Shanghai, China



"Marstunnel" by Herman Kuijjer - Zutphen, Netherlands



Sun Valley Viaduct - Denver, CO



Dukes Meadow Footbridge - London, United Kingdom



Infra-Space - Boston, MA

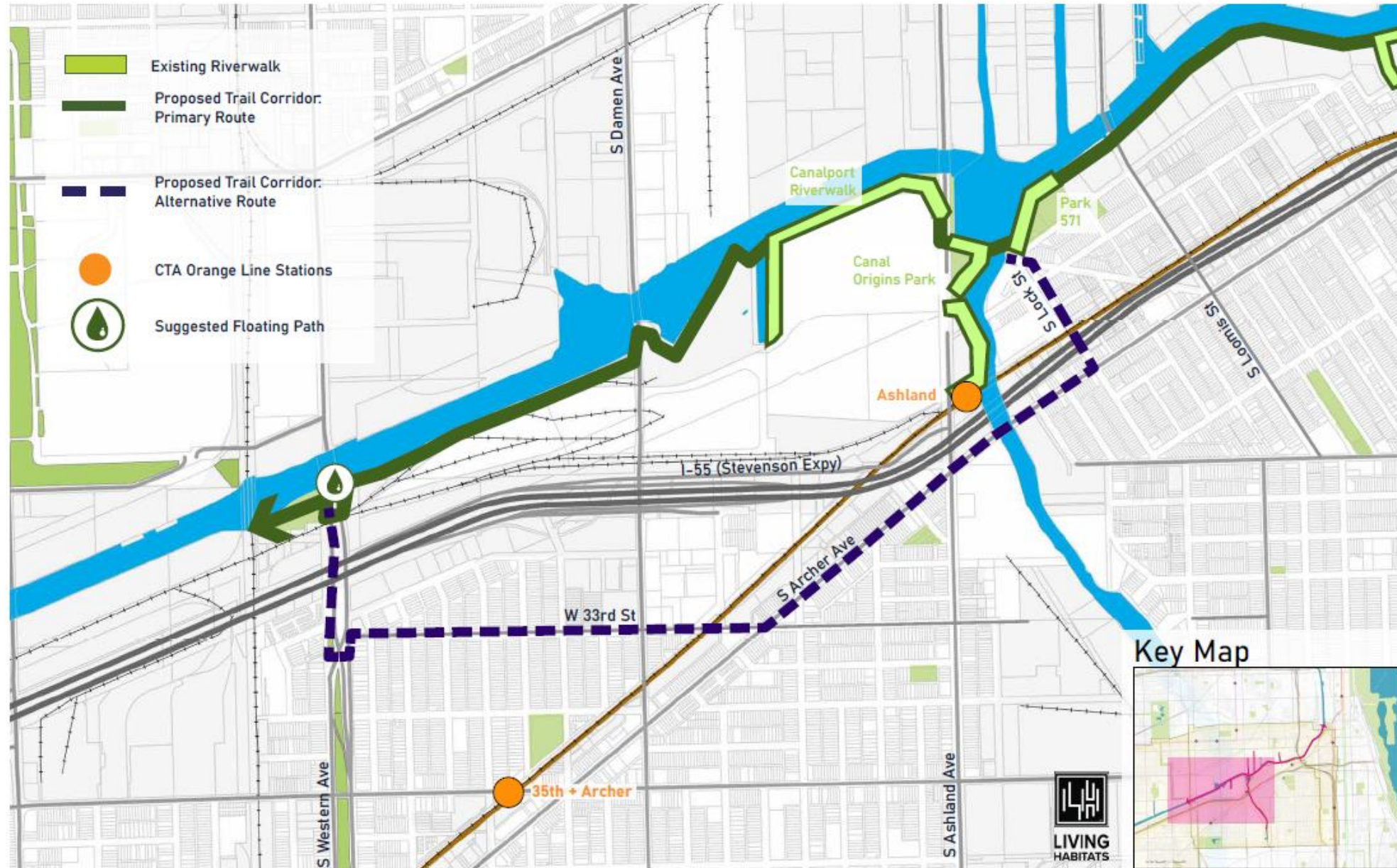
The Framework Plan includes segment-by-segment recommendations and examples, which include:

- Improvements to Grove Street and connections to the Prologis Riverwalk
- Potential use of I-90/94 underpass as public space
- Improvement of existing viaducts to connect Archer Ave and Grove St
- A floating pathway under Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge 463 at Ping Tom Memorial Park
- Improved access from 18th St to Ping Tom Memorial Park via a pedestrian bridge or similar

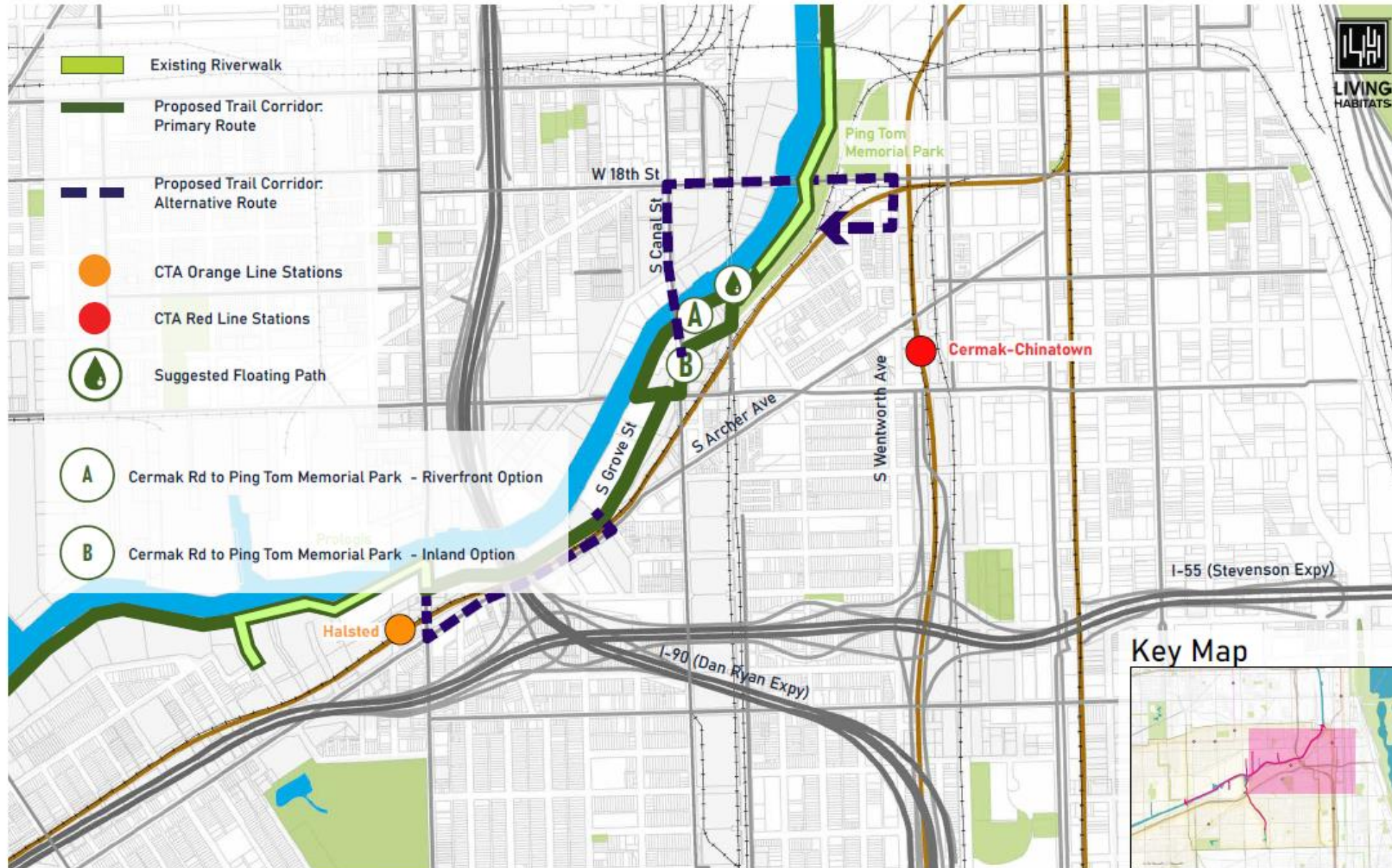


College Footbridge - Belgium

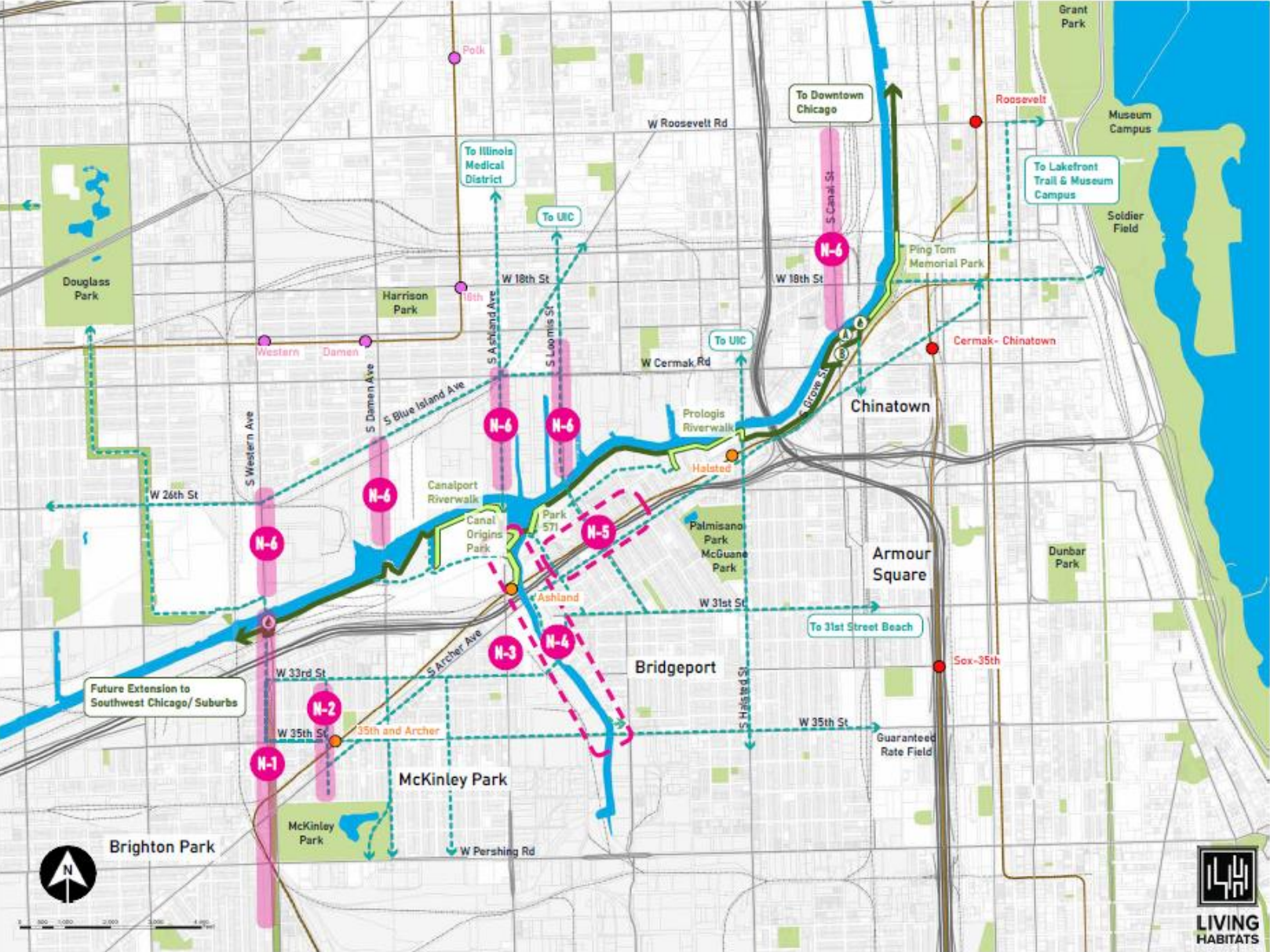
# Alternate Route between Western Ave. and Lock St.



# Alternate Route between Halsted St. and Ping Tom Memorial Park



# Expanded Opportunities: Neighborhood Interventions



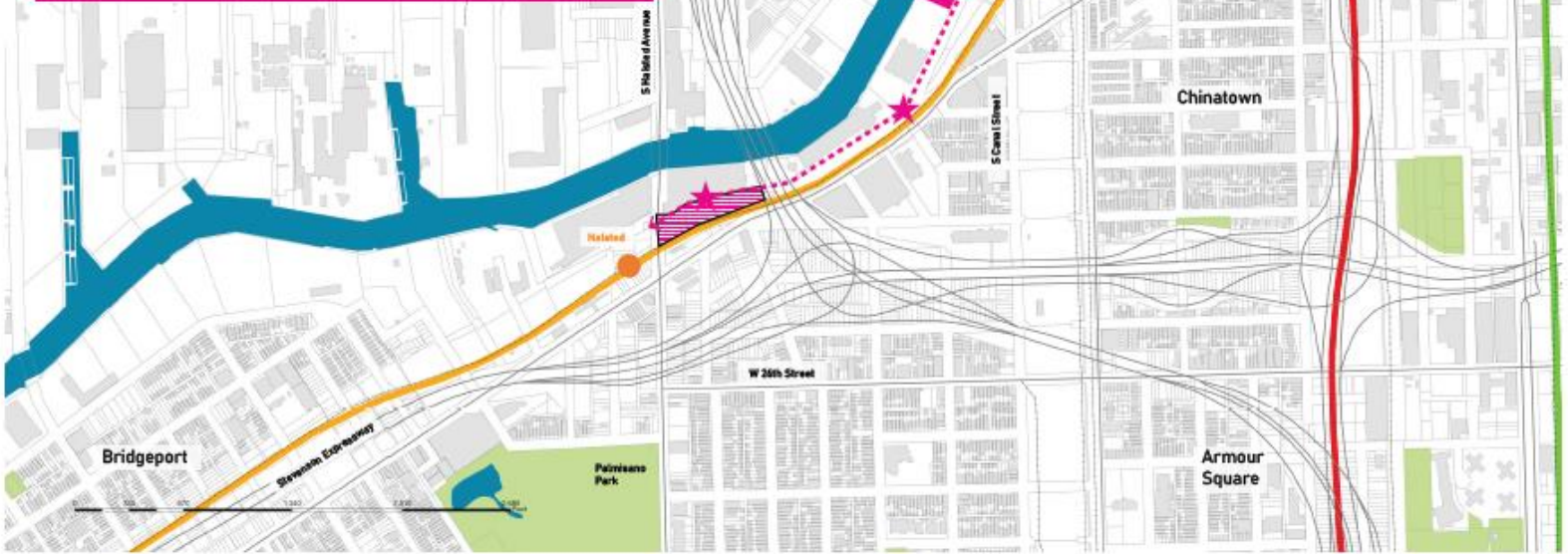
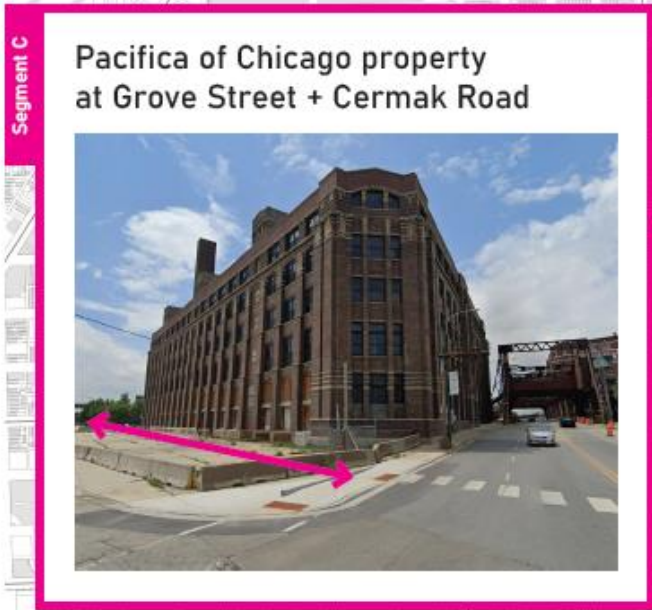
## Legend

- Existing Riverwalk
- Proposed Trail Corridor: Primary Route
- A Cermak Rd to Ping Tom Memorial Park Connection - Riverfront Option
- B Cermak Rd to Ping Tom Memorial Park Connection - Inland Option
- Secondary Connections
- CTA Orange Line stations
- CTA Red Line stations
- CTA Pink Line stations
- N Suggested Floating Path
- N-1 Western Avenue
- N-2 Leavitt Street
- N-3 Ashland Avenue
- N-4 Bubbly Creek between 31st and
- N-5 Underpass/ viaducts at Lock Street, Loomis Street, and Throop Street
- N-6 Industrial Through Streets- Damen Avenue, Ashland Avenue, and Loomis Street



## Continued Engagement





**Description**

As of publication, Pacifica of Chicago is in the planning phase to adapt an existing historical building on the river's edge, which will host hospitality, commercial, and retail spaces. The intersection of Grove Street and Cermak Road marks the end of low-stress bicycle travel along Grove Street, as Cermak Road is one of two primary thoroughfares through Chinatown and feeds into the South Loop. Proper configuration of the street and intersection is therefore critical to maintain pedestrian and cyclist safety.

**Challenge/Issue**

Limited pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and lack of river access.

**Impact**

Unsafe transition for pedestrians and cyclists between future trail segments.

**Key Players**

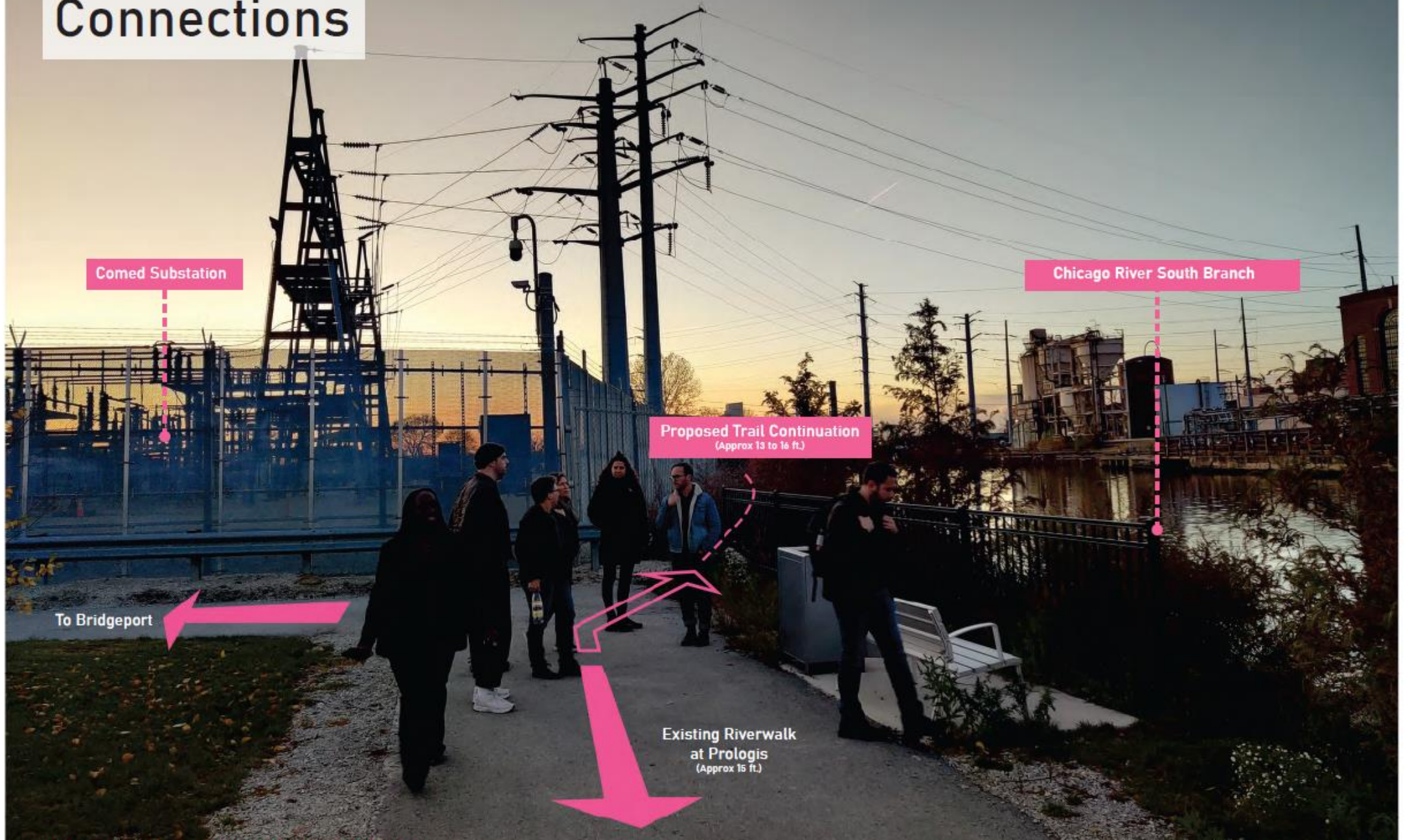
- Property owners
- CDOT
- Chicago Dept. of Planning + Dev (DPD)
- Community groups

**Key Map**



- Parcels undergoing transition in ownership, representing a potential change in use
- Parcels that may undergo transition in ownership, representing a potential change in use
- Parcels that require public access easement for multi-use path continuity

# Connections



Comed Substation

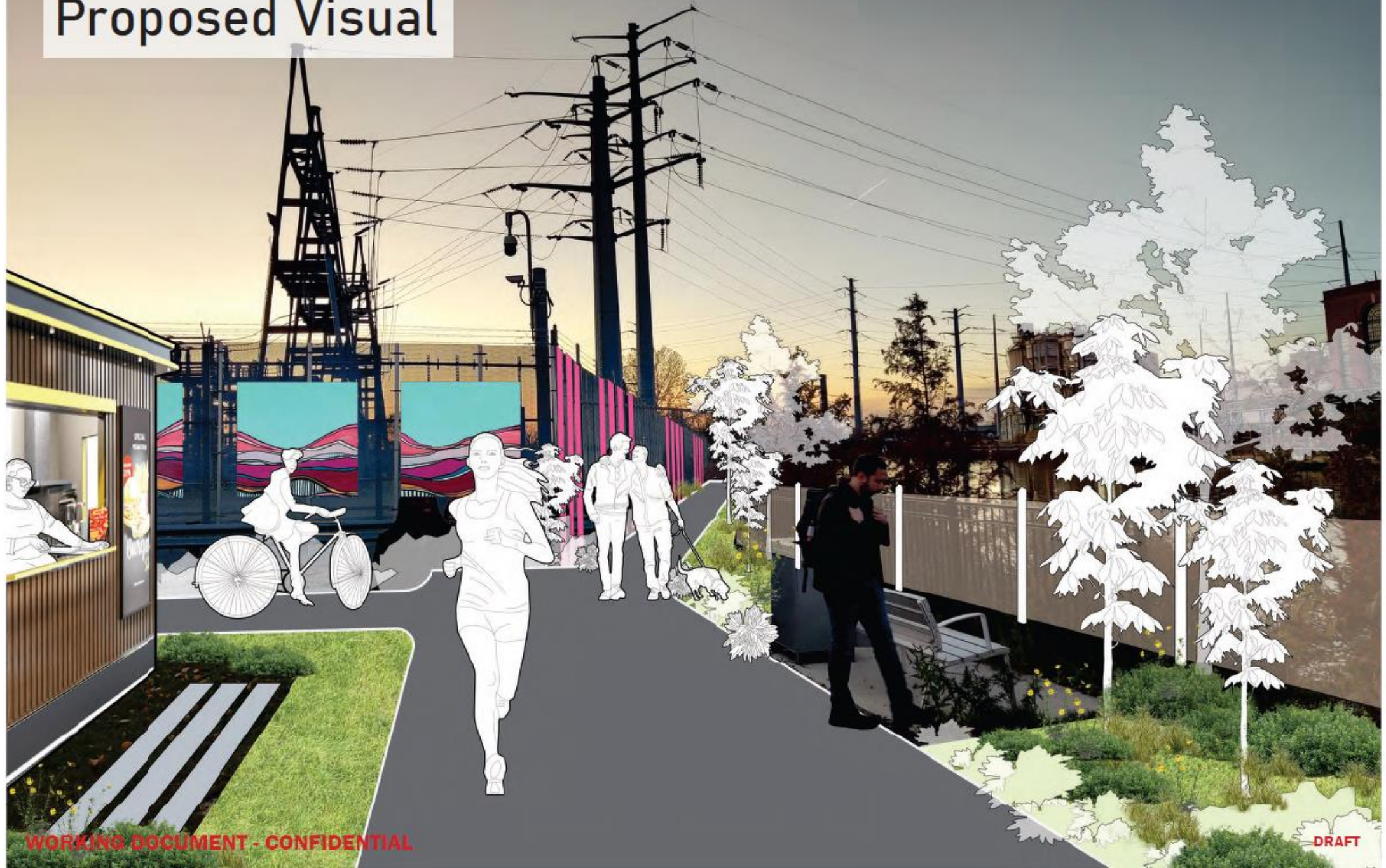
Chicago River South Branch

Proposed Trail Continuation  
(Approx 13 to 16 ft.)

To Bridgeport

Existing Riverwalk  
at Prologis  
(Approx 15 ft.)

# Proposed Visual

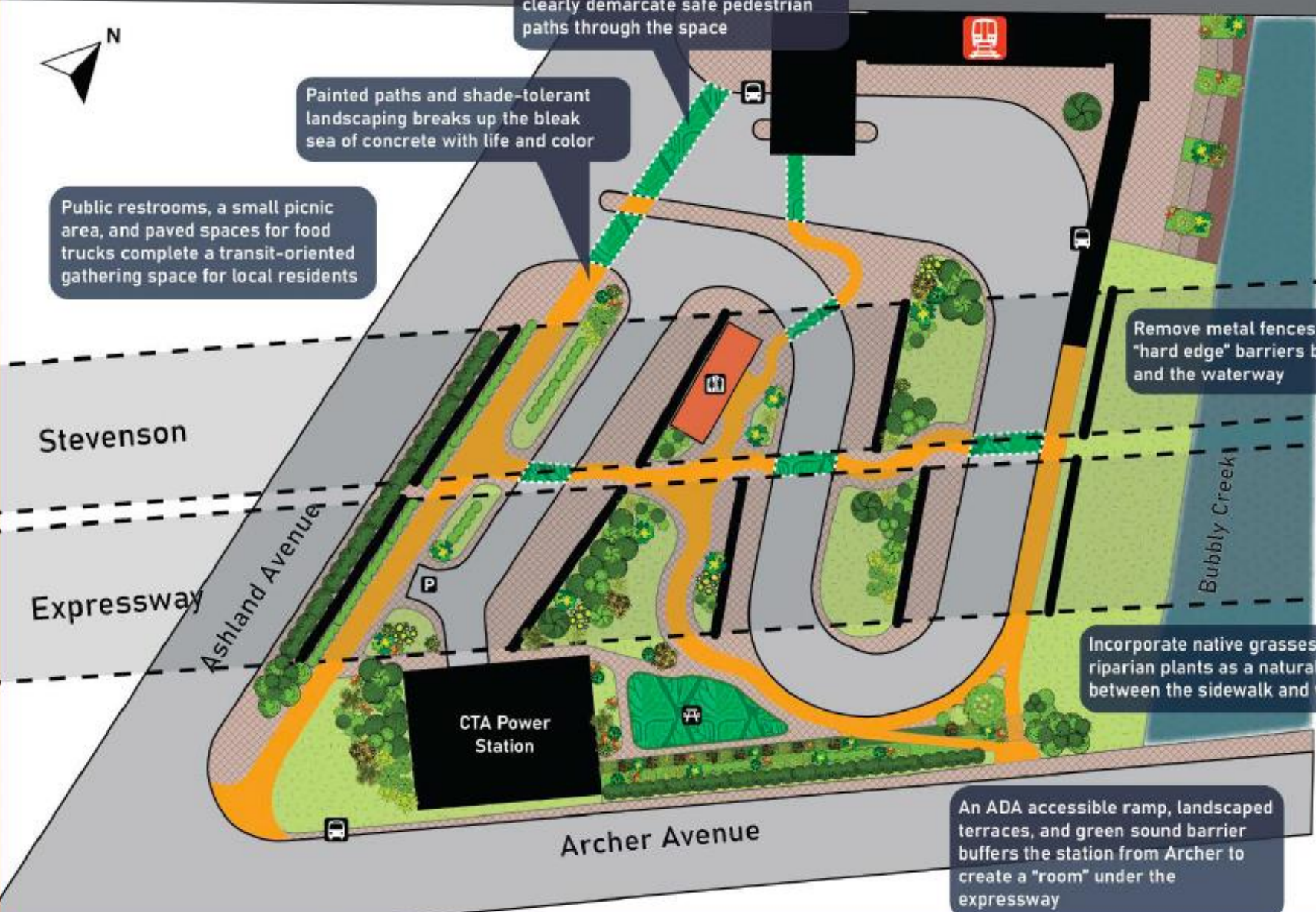






# Ashland CTA Orange Line Station

## Site Plan Proposal



Raised, artfully painted sidewalks clearly demarcate safe pedestrian paths through the space

Painted paths and shade-tolerant landscaping breaks up the bleak sea of concrete with life and color

Public restrooms, a small picnic area, and paved spaces for food trucks complete a transit-oriented gathering space for local residents

Terraces leading to the river help maximize views of the water and the historic Chicago & Alton Railroad Bridge

Remove metal fences and other "hard edge" barriers between people and the waterway

Incorporate native grasses and other riparian plants as a natural barrier between the sidewalk and waterway

An ADA accessible ramp, landscaped terraces, and green sound barrier buffers the station from Archer to create a "room" under the expressway

Grass/Natural Ground Cover

Pavement

Expressway Supporting Columns

Stevenson

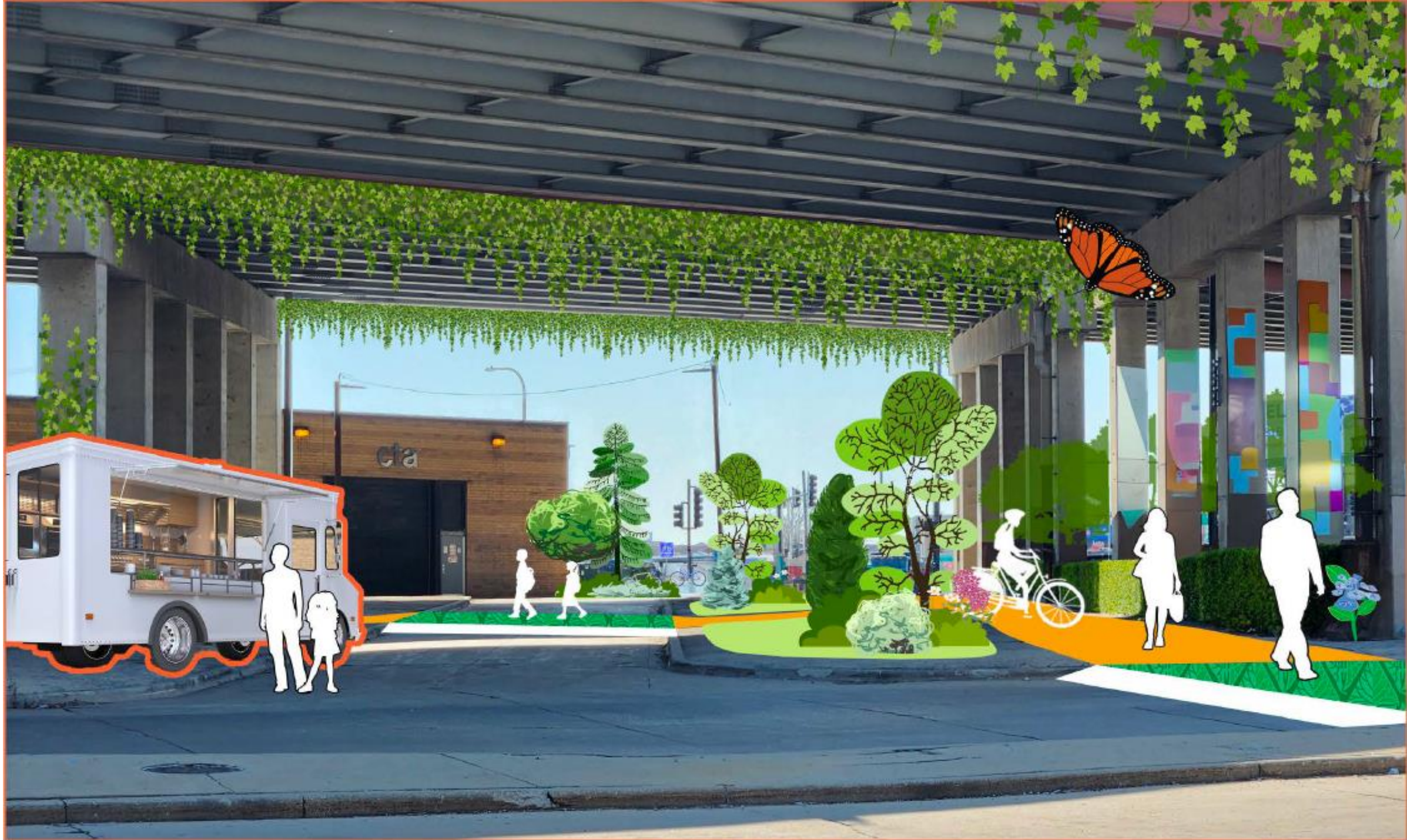
Expressway

Ashland Avenue

Archer Avenue

Bubbly Creek

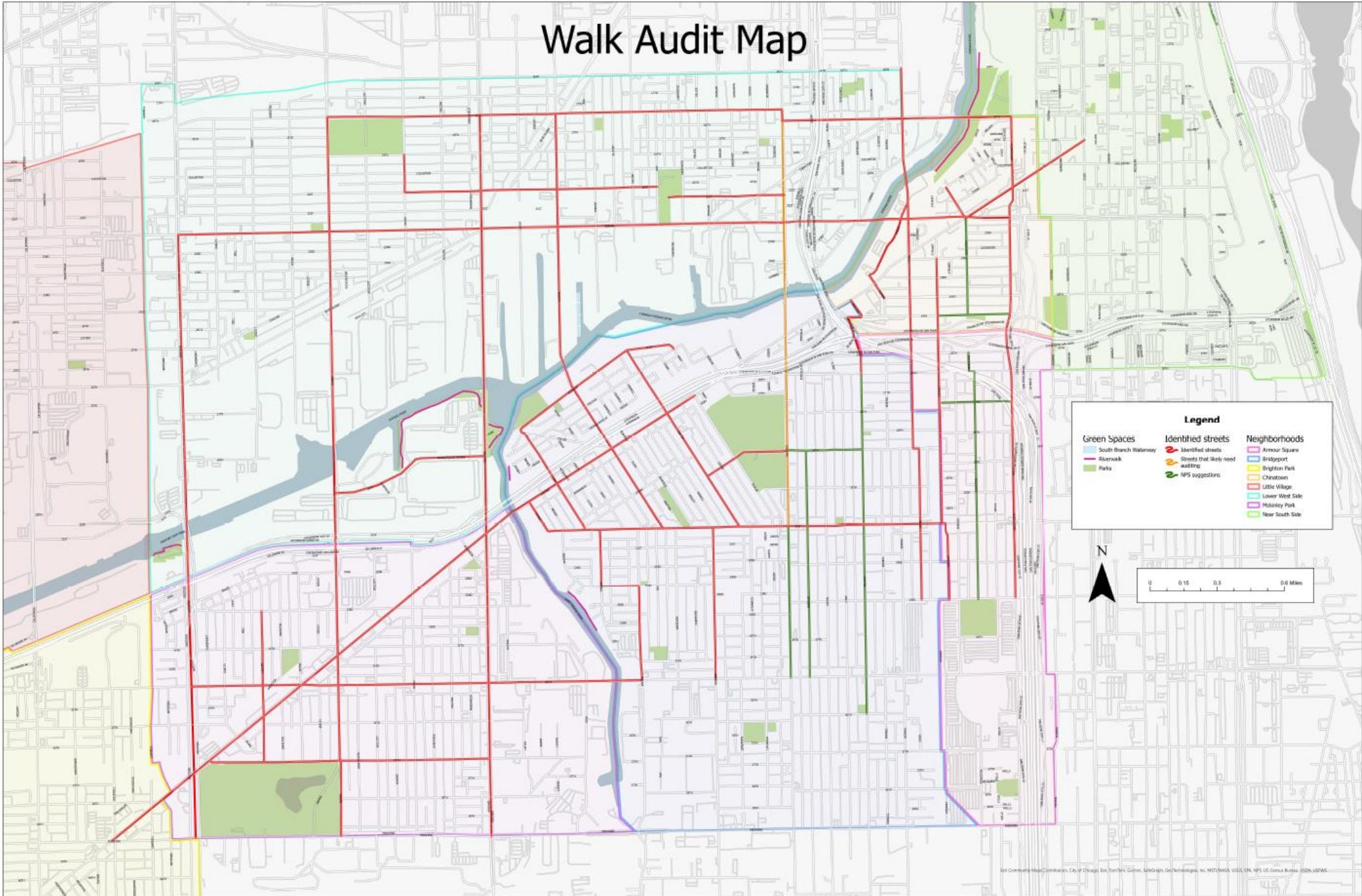
CTA Power Station



# QTS Expansion



# Walk Audit Map



WEDNESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 18  
6:30 PM  
MCKINLEY PARK  
LIBRARY



## WALK WITH US TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN & BIKING CONDITIONS!

**WE'RE WALKING THE NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK BY  
BLOCK TO DOCUMENT STREET AND SIDEWALK  
CONDITIONS, AND WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP!**

DATA WILL BE USED TO:

- REQUEST SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENTS FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY AND COMFORT
- DETERMINE FUTURE DESIGNATED PATHS TO AND FROM THE RIVERFRONT
- CREATE WAYFINDING SIGNAGE IN MCKINLEY PARK, PILSEN, BRIDGEPORT, AND CHINATOWN
- SEEK FUNDING FOR NEW PUBLIC AMENITIES INCLUDING ARTWORK, ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS, AND GREENSPACE
- MAKE WALKING AND BIKING BETTER ON THE SOUTHWEST SIDE!



**JOIN US FOR MORE INFORMATION  
AND A WALK DOWN 35TH STREET TO  
COLLECT DATA**

**MORE WALKS TO COME!**

**MCKINLEY PARK LIBRARY  
1915 W. 35TH ST. CHICAGO, IL  
60609**



MCKINLEY PARK  
DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL



Coalition For A Better  
Chinese American  
Community

# Canal Origins Park: Site Plan



Image Courtesy: Sasaki, Hou de Sousa, Ogden, UT



Image Courtesy: Shade Sails, USA Shade Structures  
Image Courtesy: Shade Sails, Tenshon, Mesa, AZ



Image Courtesy: Wenk Associates, Menomonee River Valley, Milwaukee, WI



Image Courtesy: Mary Wattis Brown Garden of California Native Plants, UC Davis, CA



Image Courtesy: Artist designed bike racks, Metro Arts Nashville, TN



Image Courtesy: Rachel Rodi Mosaics, Bees Seat Wall- City of San Mateo, CA



Image Courtesy: Wyss Design, Seatwall in Marin Park, Mill Valley, CA



Image Courtesy: Noisette Creek Bridge, North Charleston, SC



Image Courtesy: LK Architecture, Arkansas River Corridor Improvement Project- Drury Plaza, Wichita, KS



Image Courtesy: Natural Playgrounds Company, Elementary School in Glen Ellens, NY

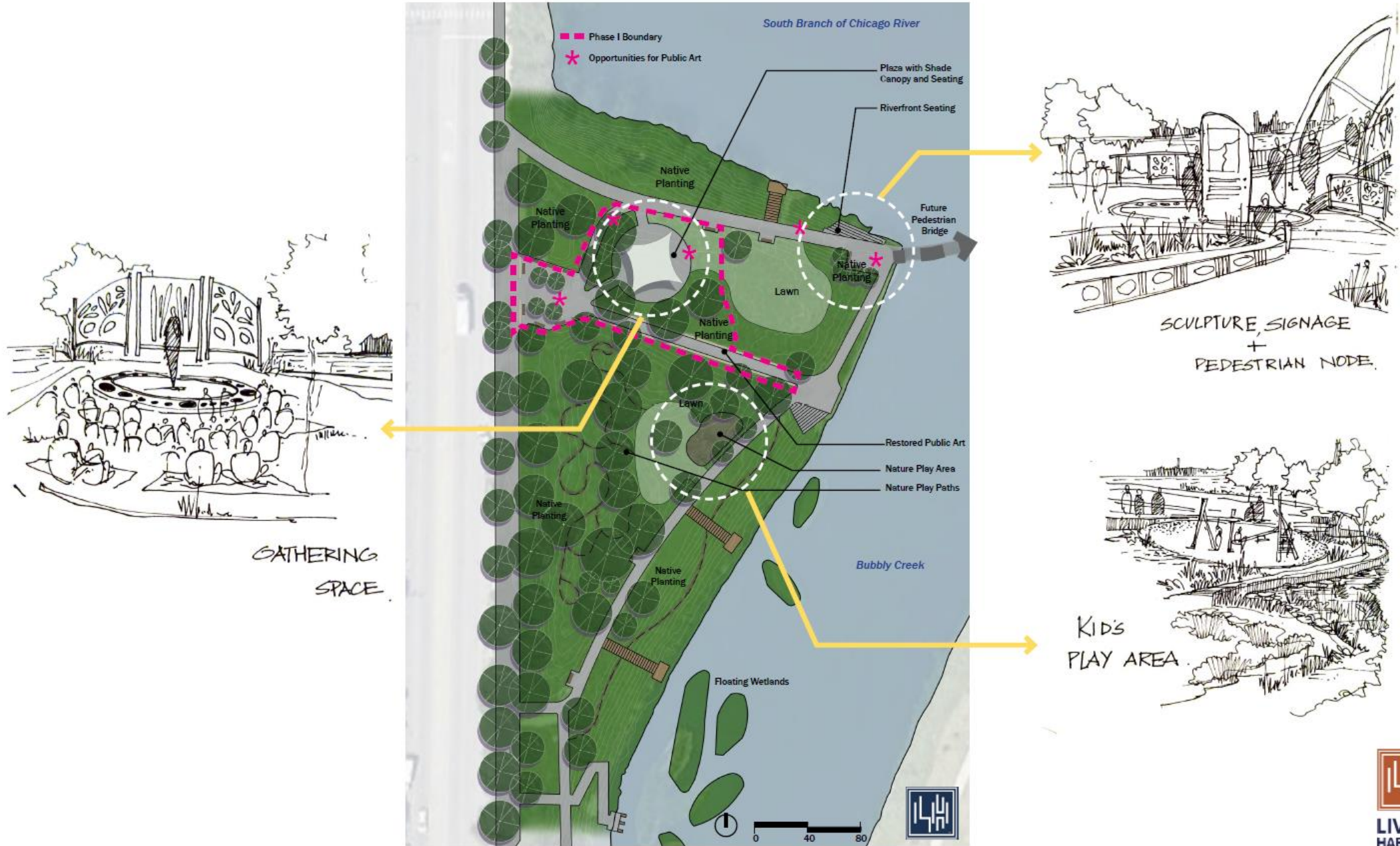


Image Courtesy: Mile High Flood District, Detroit

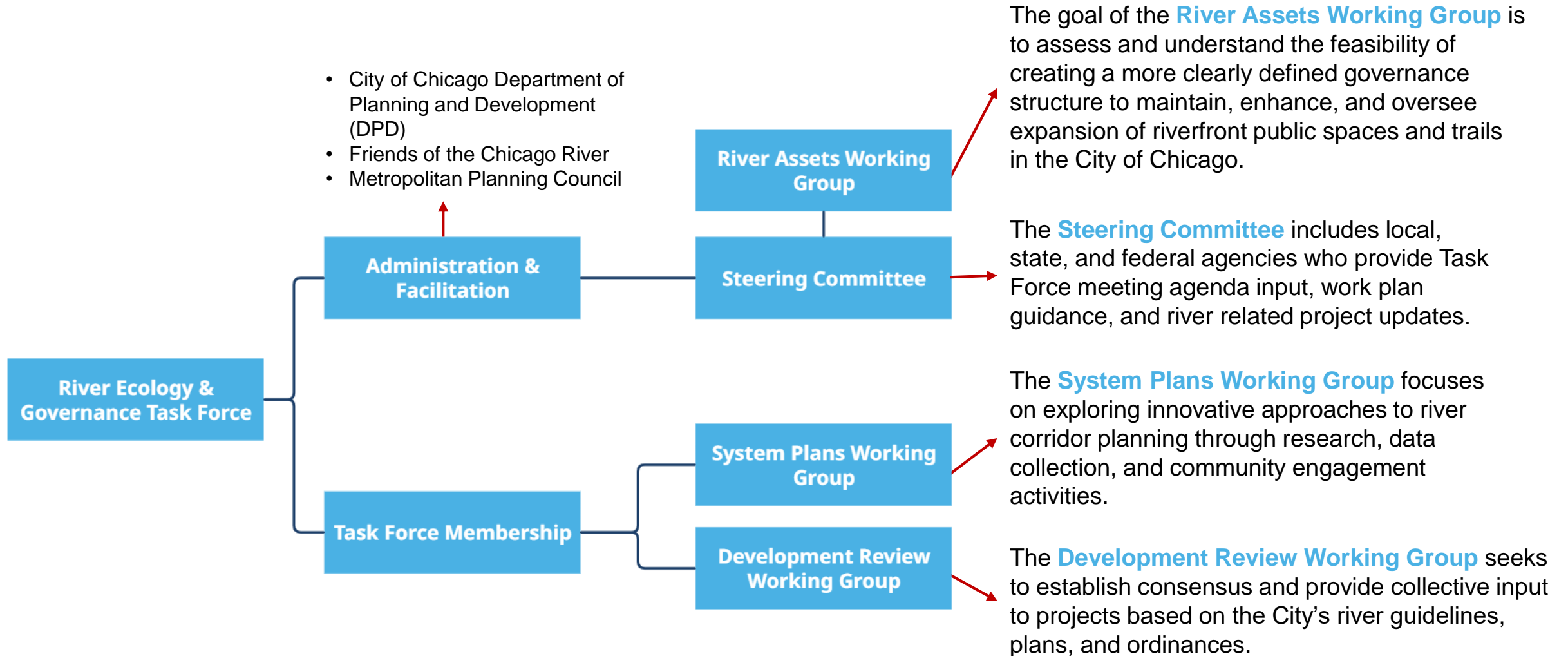


Image Courtesy: Vassar Canoe and Kayak Launch, Vassar, MI

# Canal Origins Park: Conceptual Visuals



# River Ecology and Governance Task Force Structure Diagram





# River Asset Working Group

Goal: To assess and understand the feasibility of creating a more clearly defined structure to maintain, enhance, and oversee expansion of riverfront open spaces, trails, parks, ecosystem restorations, and other assets in the City of Chicago.



*Kick Off Meeting: April 29<sup>th</sup>*

We will explore:

1. The challenges that river assets are facing today (maintenance, funding, permitting)
2. Case studies for how different public, private, and quasi-public spaces are managed and maintained (what is working, what isn't?)
3. Create a work plan to explore restructuring the governance of existing and future river edge assets

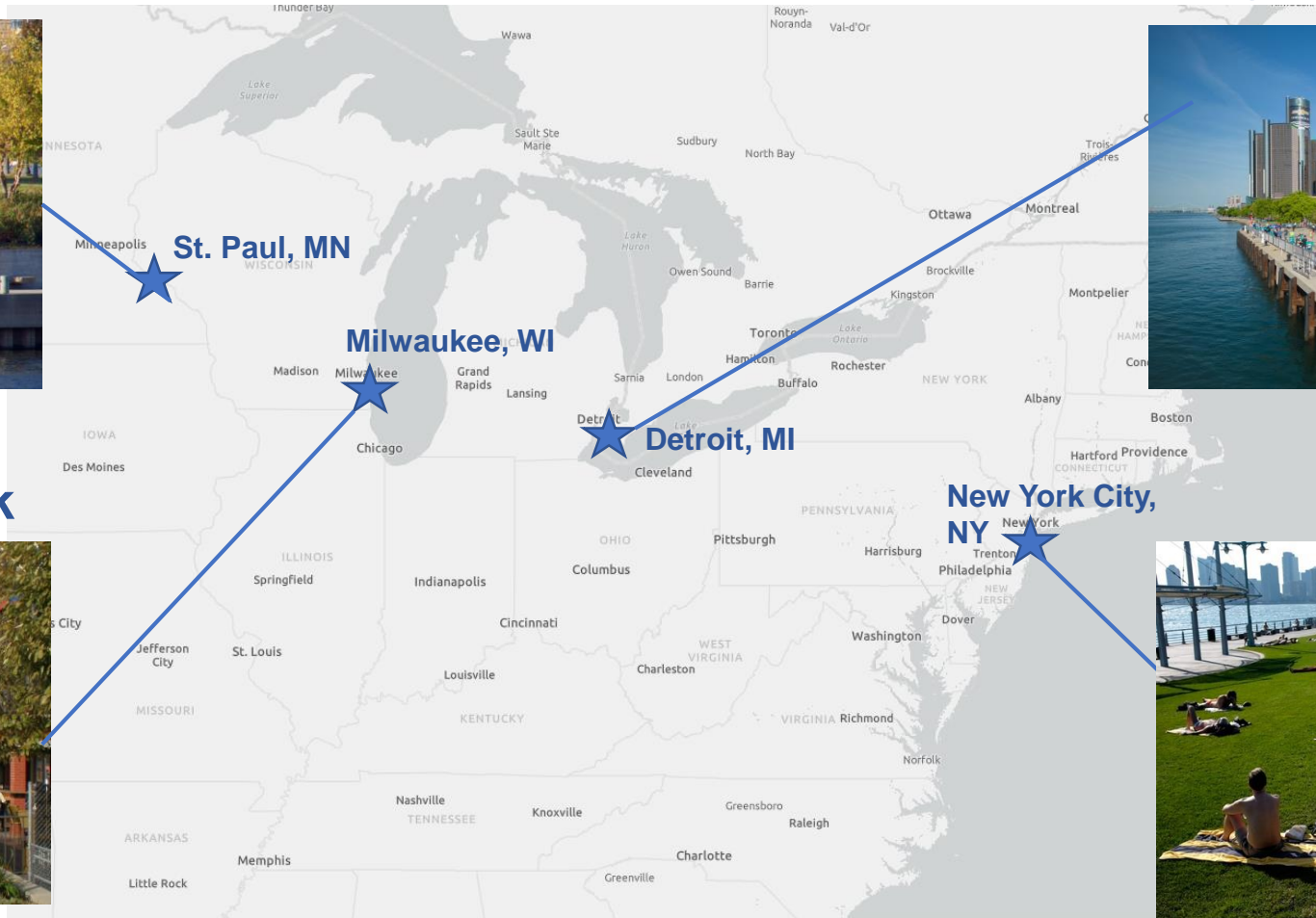
# River Asset Working Group - Workshop #2

## River Governance Case Studies Presentation

### Great River Passage



### Detroit Riverfront Conservancy



### Milwaukee RiverWalk



# River Asset Working Group - Workshop #2

## Case Study Themes & Roles Chart

- All focused on a **defined geography / district**
- **Authority legally granted** by a government entity
- 3 out of 4 led by an non-profit entity
- **Act as a bridge** between layers of government agencies, public, and private sectors.
- All have river governance authority that is based in a **mission of public benefits** and/or **protection of the waterway for public**

ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES	GREAT RIVER PASSAGE	HUDSON PARK RIVER TRUST	DETROIT RIVERFRONT CONSERVANCY	MILWAUKEE RIVERWALK
Coordinated Ownership	X	✓	✓	X
Facilities Management / Maintenance	X	✓	✓	✓
Permanent Governing Authority	✓	✓	X / ?	✓
Intergovernmental Collaboration	✓	✓	✓	X
Planning / Visioning	✓	✓	✓	✓
Streamlined Permitting/Enforcement/TA	X / ?	X	✓	X
Private Public Partnerships	X	✓	✓	✓
Diversified Funding	✓	✓	✓	✓

# River Asset Working Group - Workshop #2

## Case Studies Presentation

### Case Studies Takeaways:

- Figuring out how to leverage joint private and public funding is a key role
- Benefit to having a centralized organization that focuses on visioning and planning that guides the strategy for capital investments.
- Effective models have a clear governance structure (with defined roles and responsibilities for river assets), meaningful authority, and a guiding vision.
- Other cities have permanent governing authority to maintain public river assets that is granted by a higher level government body (state, county, etc.)

Workshop #3: October 29<sup>th</sup> – Exploring Implementation in Chicago

# System Plans Working Group, 2024 Work Plan Goals:

## Improving River Edge Access

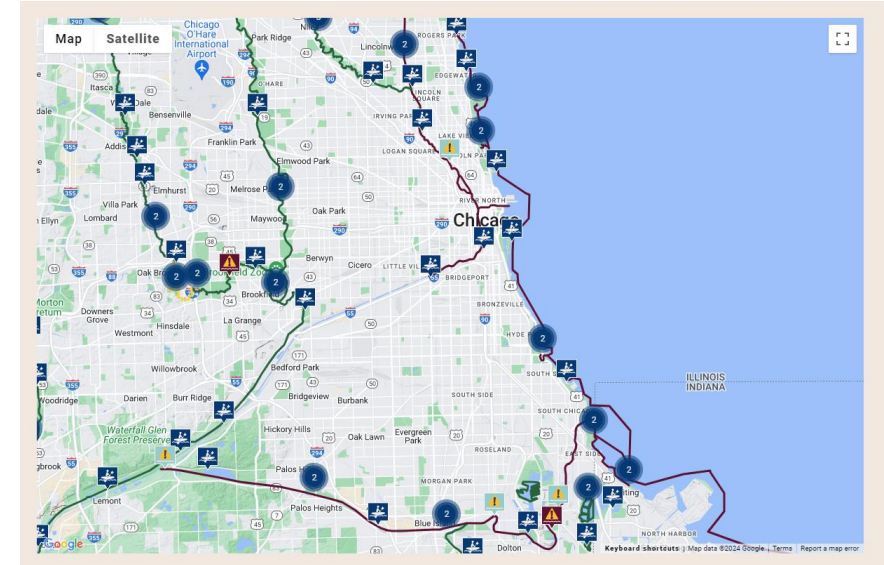
1. Discuss challenges and successes to the current state of river edge access. ✓
2. Use discussion outcomes to inform near-term planning opportunities to advance collective priorities.
  - CDOT: River Edge Access Study ✓
  - DPD: Calumet Design Guidelines and Land Use Update
3. Review other river edge access policies and identify opportunities to strengthen them in future plans and projects.
  - Land access issues / opportunities ✓
  - Water access issues / opportunities ✓

# System Plans Working Group Update

## August Meeting: *Water Trail Access, Safety, and Functionality*

### Key Takeaways:

- Consolidate, expand, and improve the tools that paddlers of all experience levels need to successfully navigate the water trail system (such as signage, apps, web resources, etc)
- Communicate water levels, hazards, and water quality conditions, in a way that everyone can understand
- Expand map resources for water trails informed by up to date data – include public transit stops, bird hotspots, cultural destinations, services, restrooms, etc.
- Create consistent and universal safety guides for Chicago water trail usage, to provide consistency in the information



*Paddle Northeastern Illinois Map by Openlands*



# Development Review Working Group Update

- September 10, 2024 - DuSable Park Project Review Comments Summary:
  - Desire for multilayer diverse vegetation
  - Incorporate additional understory trees and shrubs
  - Request for additional detail on stormwater management plan, flood mitigation plan, and emergency egress
  - Questions and recommendations about the plant palette
  - Importance of site for bird migration
  - Exploring a future canoe dock



# REGTF – River Questions Google Form

- New form for directing river related questions:

<https://forms.gle/TB6m2CocpmYdBgew6>



Do you have a question for the facilitators and/or government partners of the City of Chicago River Ecology and Governance Task Force?

Please complete the below form to submit your question, comment, or suggestion. The purpose of this form is to provide a way for REGTF participants to submit questions and/or discussion topics that were not covered as part of our regular workshops. Friends of the Chicago River and the Metropolitan Planning Council (the REGTF co-facilitators) will work to direct your river related questions to the appropriate contact to receive an answer and/or will include the topic in future meeting agendas. To help us in this task, please be as concise as possible in your questions and limit each submission to one topic.



# 2024 Task Force Meeting Dates

Development Review Working Group: 6:00 – 7:00 pm

- October 1<sup>st</sup> – Upcoming Developments Discussion

Quarterly Meetings: 3:00 – 4:30 pm

- December 3<sup>rd</sup>

System Plans Working Group: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

- November 13<sup>th</sup>