

River Ecology and Governance Task Force - Quarterly Meeting

06/07/22 3 pm to 4:30 pm

3:50 pm PAS Framework Plan, USACE Programs, and Next Steps

Brief presentation around next steps related to Restoration Framework Plan study with information provided on other projects that were completed in Chicago and the different funding streams available.

I. PAS Status update:

- The multi-agency team is finalizing report and interactive GIS story map; available July 2022.
- 81 opportunity sites were identified for potential implementation of ecosystem restoration & recreational enhancements

II. How will USACE use the PAS Framework Plan?

- USACE follows a deliberate approach to developing Civil Works projects:
 - o Planning – evaluate alternatives and if justified, recommend plan to Congress
 - o Design – develop plans and specifications needed to implement authorized project
 - o Construction – contract to implement project
- PAS Chicago Rivers Restoration Framework will be used to help scope the opportunities that can be evaluated in a more comprehensive feasibility study and identify potential small projects that could be pursued under Continuing Authorities Program.

III. Next steps:

1. USACE Comprehensive Feasibility Study - Conduct a Congressionally directed feasibility study to identify opportunities for aquatic ecosystem restoration and recreation enhancement for the Chicago River and connected tributaries and, if justified for implementation under USACE's Civil Works program, recommend for Congressional authorization a specific project for implementation.
 - Study Authorization Complete: Section 201, WRDA 2020
 - Letters of Intent Complete: Chicago DPD, MWRDGC, CPD, FPDCC provided new letters in 2022
 - FY2023 Budget Request Submitted: \$200k requested to execute a feasibility cost-share agreement, develop a project management plan and initiate the study
 - Feasibility Study is estimated to cost \$3,000,000 shared 50% Federal, 50% non-Federal and take approximately 3 years
2. USACE Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) – Evaluate specific projects of small scale and if justified, implement without project-specific congressional authorization and appropriations needed.
 - Applicable Authorities:
 - o Section 206, WRDA 1996 - Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration
 - o Section 1135, WRDA 1986 - Project Modifications for Improvement of the Environment
 - Letter of Intent needed to initiate a specific project budget request
 - Once funded, projects generally take 3-4 years from feasibility to initiate construction
 - Projects require a non-federal (NF) cost share that can vary depending on the authority:
 - o Planning – 1st \$100k Fed (F) plus 50/50 cost share for any remaining costs
 - o Design & Construction – 65F/35NF for Section 206; 75F/25NF for Section 1135
 - There have been several area projects completed under CAP
 - o Horner Park, Eugene Field, River Park Riparian are all CAP Section 206 projects
 - o Indian Ridge Marsh is a CAP Section 1135 project