MASTER PLAN

THROOP STREET NATURAL AREA AND OVERLOOK


DPD
CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
CITY OF CHICAGO
INCORPORATED 4th MARCH 1837

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INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

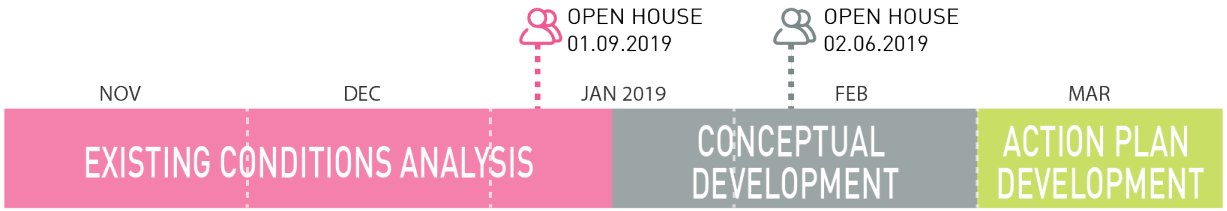
PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) received an Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Coastal Zone Grant to develop a concept plan for a new river edge natural area and overlook at Throop Street, located within the Pilsen Community Area. The proposed natural area and overlook was identified as a priority in the Pilsen and Little Village Action Plan, a three-year community listening process completed in partnership with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). The natural area and overlook is a new opportunity to safely give river access to the predominantly Hispanic neighborhood of Pilsen through the industrial corridor.

PROCESS AND TIMELINE

The design process began in April 2018 and is comprised of three phases: Existing Conditions Analysis, Conceptual Design, and Action Plan Development. Throughout all phases, the design team conducted community engagement in the form of stakeholder meetings, interviews, and community open houses.

The first phase, Existing Conditions Analysis, began with a review and evaluation of the site and surrounding context. The design team reviewed all associated data, documents, local governing statutes, and ordinances related to the site. Additionally, through the use of GIS, aerial imagery, and site visits, the design team developed a comprehensive understanding of site access, topography, natural features, utilities, and other physical features.



Site inventory and analysis. The design team developed a comprehensive understanding of the physical, natural, and jurisdictional opportunities and constraints.

Overall vision and guiding principles. Each concept was supplemented with illustrative drawings, precedent imagery, and estimates of probable cost.

Implementation Strategy. The design team outlined action items and their estimated timeline.

Through the Conceptual Design phase, the team developed two conceptual plans that explored how various amenities, such as green infrastructure, trail connections, new wildlife habitats, nature programming, river walks, overlooks, fishing piers, and other recreational assets could be arranged on the 1.2-acre site. The designs explored how the river inlet could be used to create a protected riparian environment that supports green infrastructure to improve water quality and provides new habitats and interpretive opportunities.

Throughout the design process, DPD and the design team conducted two community meetings, the results of which helped the design team identify initial site programming priorities and refine conceptual design alternatives. At the first meeting, the design team presented the Existing Conditions Analysis findings and gathered feedback about initial priorities in the form of an exercise using stickers and scaled base maps. The team presented the initial design concepts to the community at the second community meeting. The concepts were developed using the input gathered at the first meeting.

Finally, the last phase is the Action Plan Development. During this phase, the planning team worked closely with DPD and the Friends of the Chicago River technical experts to develop an implementation plan that can be used to leverage funds for buildout and future programming.

***Context Map**, showing the site within the large Pilsen Community Area*

Figure 1. Context Map

Legend

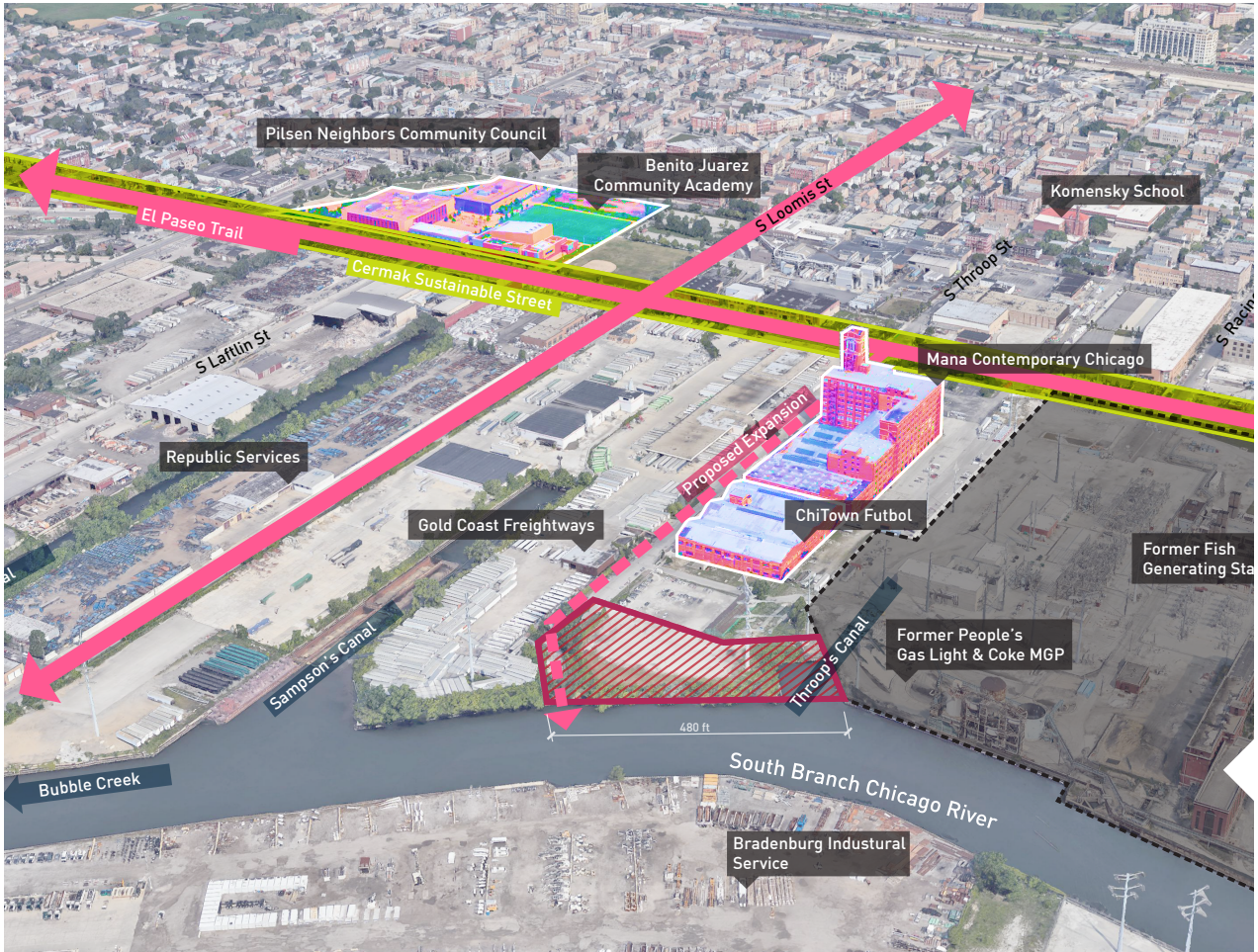
- *Pilsen Neighborhood*
- *Site*
- *El Paseo Trail*

SITE LOCATION + CONTEXT

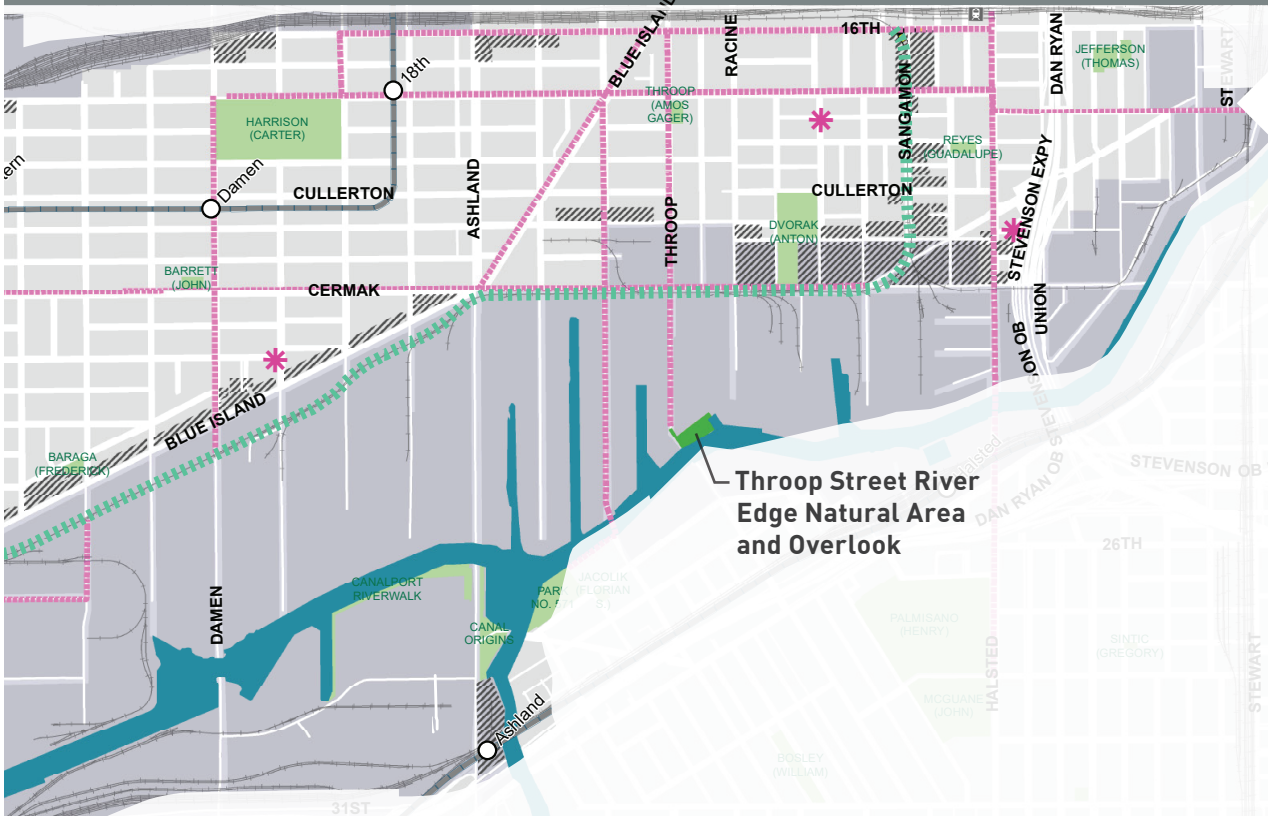
The 1.2-acre site is located at the terminus of Throop Street just south of Cermak Road on the banks of the South Branch of the Chicago River in the Pilsen Community Area. Pilsen is one of Chicago's oldest communities and was a "port-of-entry" for many immigrants who came to call Chicago home. Early on, it was home to Irish and German canal diggers, then Czech immigrants followed, and now it is predominantly home to Mexican immigrants.

On the site is a bridge abutment, leftover from when Throop Street crossed the Chicago River to the south, a ComEd easement, and small inlet on the South Branch. Just north of the site is a parking lot, storage shed (built before 1960), and ChiTown Futbol, a large indoor soccer facility. Another important nearby destination is Mana Fine Arts, a 300,000 square foot fine art collection management, storage, handling, and restoration facility. West is ABC Bus Yard, and east is the Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company Superfund Site.

The site has one large transmission tower, and to the east, there are two additional towers. There is a transmission boundary line running from the southwest to the northeast. Development requirements around this transmission line require a buffer/boundary which cannot contain vegetation taller than 10 feet.



***Site Map**, with key neighborhood destinations and pedestrian connections*



***Open Space and Transportation Action Plan Map**, Courtesy of the Pilsen & Little Village Action Plan, DPD & CMAP*

Map Key

- Metra Line & Station
- CTA Pink Line & Station
- Paseo Opportunites
- PD Setbacks
- Community Routes
- Parks & Historic Boulevard
- Water
- Opportunity Sites
- Proposed Open Space
- NeighborSpace Gardens

SIGNIFICANCE OF THROOP STREET NATURAL AREA AND OVERLOOK

According to the Little Village and Pilsen Action Plan, Pilsen has an acreage level of service of 1.54 acres of open space per 1,000 residents. Since 1998, the City's acquisition and expansion of new neighborhood parks have been guided by CitySpace – An Open Space Plan for Chicago, which has a goal to provide a minimum of two (2) acres of open space per 1,000 residents. Pilsen falls short of this benchmark and currently ranks in the lower third of all community areas in terms of the amount of open space per 1,000 residents. While most residents do live close and have access to open space throughout the neighborhood (there are 1.54 acres of parks per 1,000 population), the residents have significantly fewer acres than the city average.

DPD facilitated a robust community engagement process during the development of the Little Village and Pilsen Action Plan. The design and development of this site, which was identified as a high priority in the Action Plan, addressed three of the community's top seven priorities, including:

+ Create better connections between open spaces (ranked third overall)
+ Improve access to the river (ranked fourth overall)
+ Create non-traditional open spaces (ranked fifth overall)

Additionally, this site helps to promote and implement the goals and objectives of previous river-focused planning efforts, such as the 1999 Chicago River Corridor Development Plan, the 2006 Action Plan for the Chicago River by the Friends of the Chicago River, Metropolitan Planning Council's (MPC) 2016 Our Great Rivers Plan, and the 2019 Chicago River Design Guidelines Update. The design team incorporated strategies and initiatives from these plans into the design of the natural area and overlook.

02

EXISTING CONDITIONS

SITE HISTORY

The site at the at the corner of Throop Street and the South Branch of the Chicago River has been home to many industries, from a lumber yard in 1914 to a storage area for firehouse boats and eventually a boat club. The site was developed with industrial buildings from 1938 to 1988. From 1889 to 1988, Throop Street Bridge crossed the river.

Historically, the area around the site was developed with heavy industrial uses. The site is located just west of the former Peoples Gas Light and Coke Plant, and falls within the designated Peoples Gas EPA Superfund Site boundaries (intersection of South Throop Street, South Eleanor Street, and West 25th Street). The site was developed in 1862 to produce gas from coal. The plant was modified to produce carbureted water gas and oil gas in 1934. Some of the former manufactured gas plan (MGP) facilities were retired in 1938, and in 1944, two production sets were modified to produce reformed natural gas. The plant stopped operating entirely in 1958, and the last portion of the site was sold in 1959. The last facilities of the former MGP were dismantled by 1960. (EPA)

Sanborn maps from after 1960 show two long storage structure, fireboat quarters, and an oil and filling station on the site. By this time, Throop Canal was mostly filled in with landfill.

Throop Street River Edge natural area and overlook is located just west of the now-defunct Fish Generating Station. The once coal-fired electric generating station, owned by Midwest Generation, was originally opened in 1903 by Commonwealth Edison's predecessor, Chicago Edison Company. The plant featured the world's most powerful Curtis steam-turbine generator.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SUMMARY

Stakeholder and community input were critical to understanding the history and context of the site, as well as developing the overall vision and design concepts. The Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD), with the help of the design team, hosted two interactive workshops with community members to gather feedback and share ideas about the proposed river edge natural area and overlook at Throop Street. The workshops were designed to listen and learn what ideas the community has about design and programming, sustainability, and how community access can be improved.

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For the first meeting, participants were divided into seven tables and given a map and a sticker sheet to use while designing their landscape. Everyone was asked to use the stickers to design the natural area and overlook with the features they would like to see. They were challenged to think of the activity like a puzzle – how can they fit the most important features in the available amount of space? Participants were also encouraged to draw paths or make notes on their maps to give further descriptions of their maps.

These maps are shown in the following pages. Thirty (30) people attended the first community workshop.

Community comments and input typically fell into one of the following categories:

+ Aesthetics
+ Safety
+ Natural Areas
+ Recreational Activities
+ Community / Culture
+ Transportation and Access
+ Education and Programming
+ Partnerships

For the second workshop, DPD, along with the design team, presented two concepts for the natural area and overlook. Community members and stakeholders then provided feedback on the concepts through sticky notes and an open discussion. Feedback related to individual concepts is described in the Master Plan Vision section of this report.

WORKSHOP ONE THEMES

Avoid overly programming the small site. The natural area and overlook site is 1.2 total acres. In general, the consensus was that "less is more" for this site, with most stakeholders identifying a need for mostly passive activities such as fishing, bird/butterfly watching, or flexible community gathering spaces.

Prioritize river- and nature-focused recreational opportunities. Artistic details should be representative of the native environment of the park site, and the river and amenities such as unique water features, water-related recreational amenities, and river paths should be incorporated into the design. Additionally, amenities such as fishing stations, kayaking/canoeing, picnic areas with grills, amphitheaters, dog-friendly areas, and a skate park were also noted as community desires for this small site.

Establish natural features that will appeal to all ages. Establishing a large green space and water features would contrast with the industrial surroundings, and provide a place of respite along the riverfront for surrounding residents. Natural area development at this site would also provide important ecosystem functions and potentially serve as an educational tool for children.

Incorporate green infrastructure. In addition to aesthetic and recreational opportunities that natural areas and features would provide, the community also recognized the ecological benefit related to stormwater management and water quality.

Improve both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitats. Natural features such as butterfly gardens and other wildlife-attracting vegetation were high priorities for stakeholders. The design should enhance the natural environment, not just on land, but also in the River itself through features such as aquatic gardens and constructed wetlands.

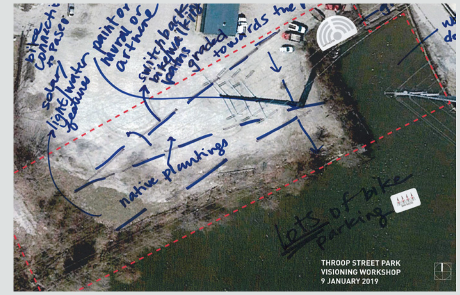
Strengthen neighborhood connections and access. Transportation options to get to the natural area and overlook include water taxis, cars, and bike paths. However, all of these would involve some development, such as docks, parking, and improved paths (respectively). Safety elements such as lighting and guard rails should be added in and around the natural area and overlook to support and foster a welcoming riverfront space that will become a destination for social community activities within families and between communities. Well lit, accessible pedestrian loops should be constructed through the natural area and overlook and the surrounding community. Neighborhood connections can also be strengthened by the provision of employment opportunities at the site, even if seasonally, through rental facilities and community programming instructors/facilitators.

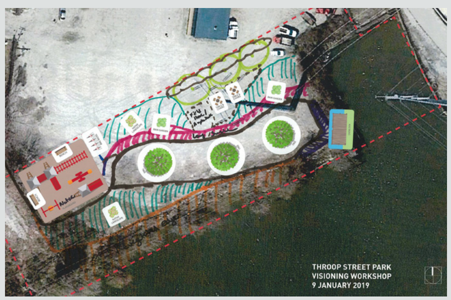
Incorporate public art installations. This space should be integrated into the overall community fabric, with murals, sculptures, and other detailed that are reflective of the local culture and community history. Smaller aesthetic designs should be added to existing transmission poles, and new larger sculptures (possibly incorporating weather-related features) by local artists should be introduced.

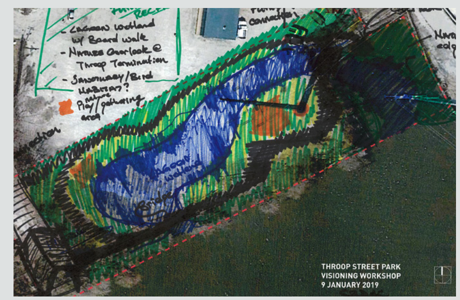
Provide community gathering spaces. Stakeholders desire amenities such as an amphitheater, stage, and picnic areas. Community gathering spaces should be designed to accommodate a variety of user groups, from small to large. They should be flexible, to accommodate both informal programming such as picnicking and more formal, permitted activities such as a movie in the park or family reunions.

Explore recreation and program opportunities along the river edge to increase access. The natural area and overlook should educate visitors on the history of the local community with interesting and aesthetically appealing signage. It should also have opportunities for outdoor classes on natural features for children.

***Design Your Park Activity Sheets**, Open House #1, January 23, 2019*







OPPORTUNITIES + CONSTRAINTS

OPPORTUNITIES

Riverfront location. Per the 2019 Chicago River Design Guidelines, one of the City's main goals is to have a continuous multi-use path throughout the river corridor to accommodate a range of recreational activities such as walking, jogging, running, cycling, roller- and in-line skating, and skateboarding.

River inlet. The river inlet, which was once Throop's canal, offers opportunities to not only provide wildlife habitats and natural plants but also provide a safe way for visitors to access the Chicago River directly. This portion of the site is a prime opportunity to implement interventions that create a more inviting, productive, and living space along the Chicago River.

Direct river access and shoreline. Direct access to the River in this heavily industrial portion of the Chicago River is rare, and this provides an opportunity for not only recreational opportunities but ecological improvements. Currently, the shoreline is a mixture of both vertical bulkhead and naturalized slope conditions. The shoreline is, however, mostly degraded, and neither the bulkhead nor natural shoreline is in good condition. Degraded riverbanks can lead to increased erosion, habitat destruction, and water quality impairment. Its small size already constrains the site, and additional shoreline erosion would decrease the amount of open space available to residents, so protection against additional erosion is necessary. Native vegetation, re-grading, and the use of stacked stone can make the riverbank stronger and more aesthetically pleasing.

Industrial character and history. The Throop Street natural area and overlook is adjacent to the former People's Gas MGP and Fish Generating station, both of which are highly-contaminated, heavy industrial sites. While this presents environmental challenges, the historic buildings and character of the surrounding industrial sites create a unique aesthetic context. This natural area and overlook has the opportunity to become an oasis nestled amongst the rough, gritty industrial surroundings.

Throop Street access. Throop Street, on the east, has the opportunity to serve both functional needs and provide additional recreational opportunities. Functionally, the street provides vehicular access and parking, as well as a pedestrian/cyclist connection to the El Paseo Trail. This feature could be extended to provide for additional facilities such as a non-motorized boat launch, which requires direct vehicular access to the river's edge. This street also presents an opportunity to terminate the El Paseo Trail extension strikingly, by emphasizing the view to the river, and perhaps using topography to create a river overlook.

CONSTRAINTS

Size constraints. At 1.2 acres, the natural area and overlook is small, especially when the design team considers all the amenities the community desires for the site. This is also exacerbated by the fact that some of the site along the river edge falls within the floodplain and additional portions of the site fall within the overhead power line easement. The floodplain presents limitations on the amount of permeable surfaces and specific interventions that would be permissible. The power line easement requires that nothing planted or constructed within the easement be over 10 feet tall.

Limited access and connections. Currently, Throop Street is the only access point to the site, and while the dead-ended roadway presents an opportunity for additional parking, river access, and overlooks, it does limit the site's neighborhood connectivity. The surrounding land uses additional cause constraints because they aren't safe or accessible for the public.

Environmental concerns. This site is subject to additional environmental investigations due to its industrial history. At one point, the site was home to an oil tank and fireboat house, both of which present environmental concerns related to soil contamination. Additionally, the site is west of EPA Superfund site boundaries for the Peoples Gas Light & Coke 22nd Street MGP site, which will require long-term remediation to clean up the hazardous material contaminations caused by

***Existing Site Photos**, showing the site entrance and river frontage.*

the former use. This People's Gas site is currently undergoing a remedial investigation, and a draft report is expected in 2020. The most recent sediment samples (2000) were collected from a location approximately 2,000 feet downstream and indicated high levels of PAHs, PCBs, oil and grease, and metals. Additionally, free product coal tar staining and odors and sheens were observed in the fill material from the former Throop's Canal property.

Ongoing area planning and development. This site is the first piece in the development of a north shoreline multi-use path connection. However, additional planning and development are needed to ensure connectivity. At present, proposed projects near the site may not support a continuous multi-use trail connection along the north side of the South Branch of the Chicago River. Regardless of what occurs outside of the site's property boundaries, the site design should seek to provide the highest levels of neighborhood connectivity and river access possible.

03

MASTER PLAN VISION

MASTER PLAN

Following the First Public Open House, four distinct master plan goals became readily apparent.

Establish a Vibrant, Active Community Destination.
As one of the only riverfront access points within the community, the Throop Street Natural Area is uniquely positioned to reflect the strong cultural presence within the neighborhood through the use of public art. Opportunities include large scale art installations such as sculpture murals. Partnership opportunities exist as well with the adjacent Mana Contemporary Chicago.

Restore and enhance the site's natural ecology.
Due to the site long history of industrial use, significant environmental remediation will be required. Remediation efforts will provide unique opportunities to recreate natural topography. In addition, the shoreline presents the site greatest opportunity for ecological enhancement.

Provide outdoor amenities that support recreation, education, and cultural experiences.
Passive outdoor recreational opportunities are envisioned for the site given the sites remote location. Interpretive signage and other educational opportunities are envisioned to support the educational and ecological goals of the park. In addition, out seating areas will provide respite for visitors traveling from the El Paseo Trail or along the river.

Improve access and connections to nearby parks, riverfront, and broader Pilsen and Little Village neighborhoods.
Leveraging the El Paseo, the Throop Street Natural Area will provide a unique cultural and ecological destination along the trail which will help integrate this open space into the greater community.

Continue to engage the community throughout the design process.
Additional conversations with the community need to occur to determine whether the Throop Street Natural Overlook would become a Chicago Park District site or NeighborSpace community programmed and managed riverfront natural area.

ALTERNATIVE 1

Design Alternative 1 seeks to capitalize on the existing Throop Street Bridge abutment by converting it to an Overlook that offers unique views back to the city and the surrounding water. Once at the top of the overlook a series of stairs leads down closer to the waters edge to give visitors an opportunity to get closer to the water.

Moving to the northeast path leads to a non-motorized boat pier. In the future, this could be used as a future water trail stop. Throughout the site, trails wind through native landscaping with sculpted landforms that provide interesting opportunities for public art.

At the far east end of the natural area, the former inlet will be transformed into "The Cove." It is envisioned, that The Cove will provide a sheltered and unique ecological home to various flora and fauna that would otherwise have a difficult time surviving along this section of the river.

LEGEND

1. Visitor Parking
2. Accessible Ramp
3. Overlook
4. Seating Area
5. Cascading Waterfall
6. Non-Motorized Boat Pier
7. Naturalized Shoreline
8. Nature Play Elements
9. Stormwater Infiltration
10. Boardwalk w/ Seating
11. "The Cove"
12. Overhead Power Lines
13. Bike Parking
- * Public Art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ALTERNATIVE 1

OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COSTS

DIRECT COSTS		
	LOW	HIGH
Paving Elements	$60,000	$90,000
Landscape Improvements	$600,000	$800,000
Environmental Remediation & Earthwork	$450,000	$650,000
Site Furnishings	$50,000	$125,000
Natural Play Environment	$50,000	$100,000
Slope Stabilization & Armoring	$175,000	$300,000
Overlook & Boardwalk	$300,000	$500,000
The Cove	$75,000	$100,000
Subtotal	$1,760,000	$2,665,000

CONTRACTING & GENERAL CONDITIONS		
	LOW	HIGH
General Conditions and Supervision	$176,000	$266,500
Permit's, Insurance & Bonds	$35,200	$53,300
Overhead & Profit	$88,000	$133,250
Design & Engineering (Civil, EE, SE, Arch)	$176,000	$266,500
Design Contingency	$176,000	$266,500
Subtotal	$651,200	$986,050

GRAND TOTAL PROJECT COSTS:	**$2,411,200**	**$3,651,050.00**

ALTERNATIVE 2

Design Alternative 2 is accented by a large open lawn that invites visitors to recreate and lounge within the Throop Street Natural Area. The open lawn also serves as a unique venue for public art which is located throughout the site.

Similar to Alternative 1, the existing Throop Street bridge abutment will be envisioned as an overlook and allow users to experience the water's edge at the same time.

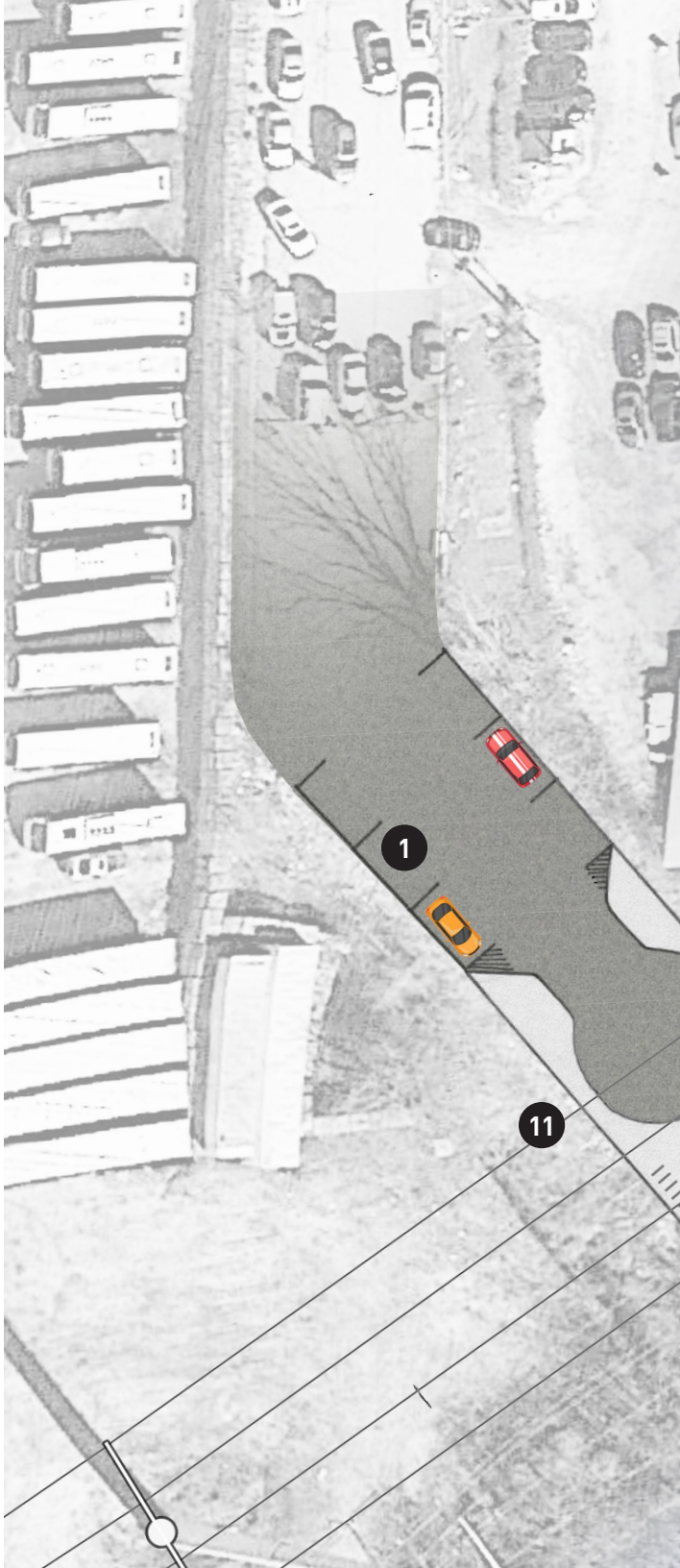
Topographical features and native landscaping form the various spaces within the natural area. At key locations, stormwater infiltration areas are envisioned to infiltrate and filter stormwater before it has a chance to reach the river. Unique concrete slab paving will provide the site with a distinct design element that will carry through the entire site as it leads visitors from art installations to seating areas to the overlook.

At the far east end of the natural area, the former inlet will be transformed into "The Cove." It is envisioned, that The Cove will provide a sheltered and unique ecological home to various flora and fauna that would otherwise have a difficult time surviving along this section of the river. A boardwalk is planned at The Cove that can be used for wildlife viewing and as a simple pathway connection from the east side to the west.

LEGEND

1. Visitor Parking
2. Open Lawn
3. Overlook w/ Seating
4. Naturalized Shoreline
5. Concrete Slab Paving
6. Trail
7. Stormwater Infiltration
8. Boardwalk
9. "The Cove"
10. Bike Parking
11. Overhead Power Lines

* Public Art

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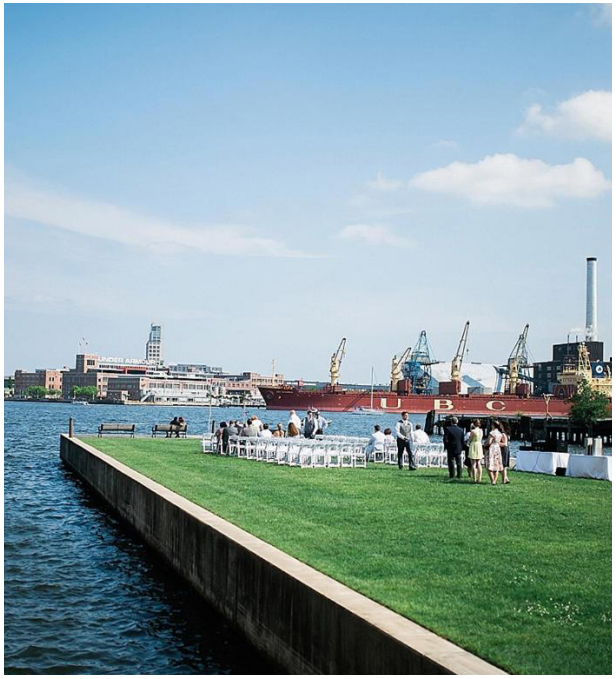
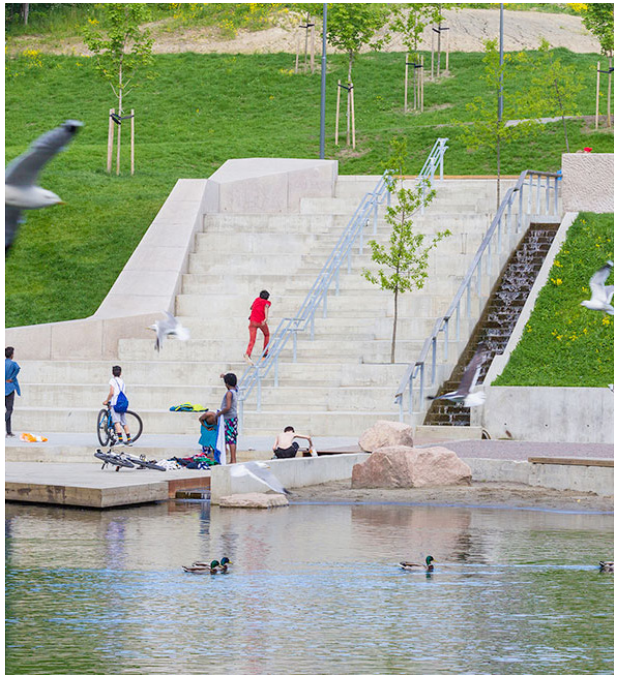




ALTERNATIVE 2

OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COSTS

DIRECT COSTS	COSTS	
	LOW	HIGH
Paving Elements	$125,000	$175,000
Landscape Improvements	$750,000	$815,000
Environmental Remediation & Earthwork	$275,000	$350,000
Site Furnishings	$50,000	$115,000
Overlook & Seating Area	$400,000	$650,000
Slope Stabilization & Armoring	$225,000	$275,000
Boardwalk	$75,000	$125,000
The Cove	$75,000	$100,000
Subtotal	$1,975,000	$2,605,000

CONTRACTING & GENERAL CONDITIONS	COSTS	
	LOW	HIGH
General Conditions and Supervision	$197,500	$260,500
Permit's, Insurance & Bonds	$39,500	$52,100
Overhead & Profit	$98,750	$130,250
Design & Engineering (Civil, EE, SE, Arch)	$197,500	$260,500
Design Contingency	$197,500	$260,500
Subtotal	$730,750	$963,850

GRAND TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	**$2,705,750**	**$3,568,850.00**

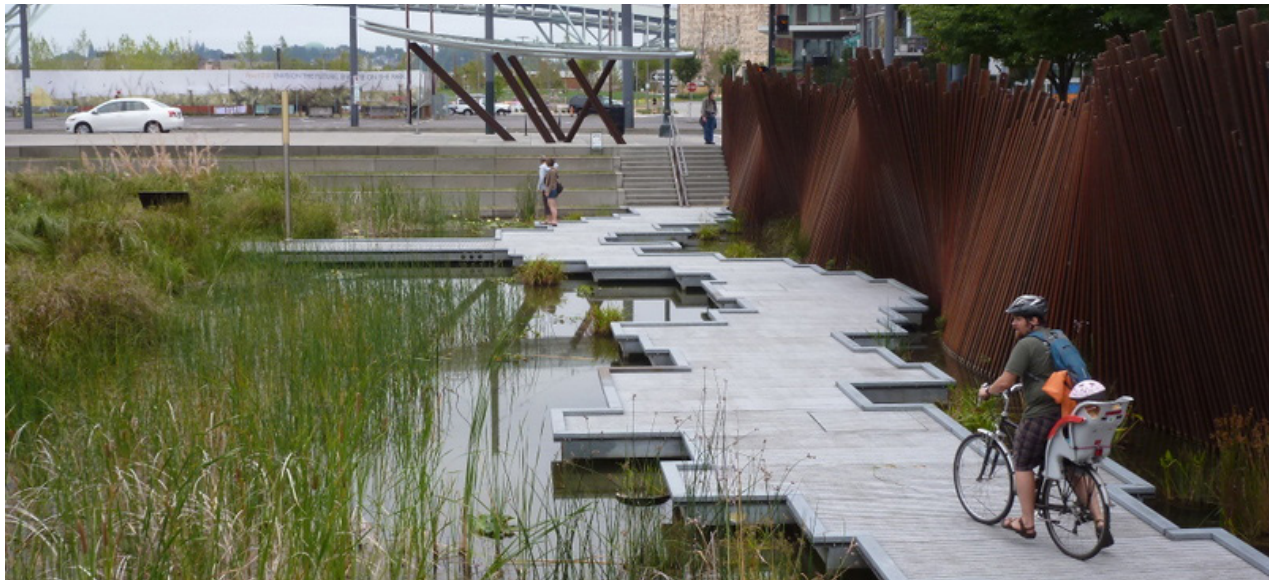
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT USING LOW IMPACT DESIGN

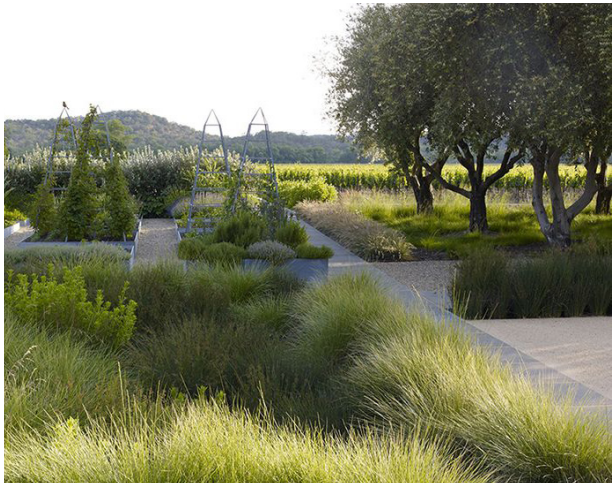
The Throop Street natural area and overlook has the potential to improve stormwater management and quality. Implementing green infrastructure and low impact design (LID) to sustainably manage stormwater requires an understanding of the environment and prioritizing goals and objectives. The objectives will include reclamation of the brownfield site, community-building, improved water quality, job creation, and historic neighborhood character preservation. During the design phase, additional LID opportunities may become more feasible, such as planned street and utility upgrades that could reduce construction costs, urban gardens that could use water collected on site, and possibilities for linkages to other LID or open space systems.

The design phase should incorporate both nonstructural and structural best management practices that address the objectives and site characteristics. The Throop Street natural area and overlook stormwater management LID and green infrastructure will achieve the following:

+ Erosion control and soil stabilization;
+ Runoff volume reduction;
+ Water quality treatment;
+ Habitat creation;
+ Aesthetic enhancements;
+ Creation of, or addition to, local greenways and wildlife corridors; and,
+ Reduction of water demands for landscaping.

Conservation landscaping techniques will be used along the South Branch of the Chicago River and will be designed to be temporarily flooded in large rain events to serve as temporary detention of stormwater and aid in infiltration. Native plant communities will be specifically suited to withstand periodic flooding. In addition to plant selection and landscape design, soil preparation is also a critical factor determining runoff reduction. Soil conditions most favorable to plant growth generally also provide the greatest runoff volume reduction. Soils must be loose enough to allow water to percolate and roots to penetrate. Where these conditions do not exist naturally, soil amendments can be used to increase permeability.





04

ACTION PLAN

ESTABLISH A VIBRANT, ACTIVE COMMUNITY DESTINATION

GOAL ONE

Strategy	Priority	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Additional Considerations
Establish relationships with neighborhood organizations to support the implementation process.	High	ChiTown Futbol, Mana Contemporary Chicago, area schools, Friends of the Chicago River, Pilsen Environmental Rights + Reform Organization (PERRO), Pilsen Alliance, Pilsen Neighbors Community Council, South Branch PAC, El Paseo Community Garden, El Paseo Community Council, National Museum of Mexican Art, local artists	n/a	
Establish programming and events.	Low	ChiTown Futbol, Mana Contemporary Chicago, area schools, Friends of the Chicago River, PERRO, Pilsen Alliance, Pilsen Neighbors Community Council, South Branch PAC, El Paseo Community Garden, local artists, Audobon Society, Chicago Parks Foundation, El Paseo Community Council	Illinois Region 5 EPA, National Environmental Education Fund, 3M Foundation Environment Grants, National Environmental Education Foundation, Clif Bar Family Foundation Small Grants, National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration Great Lakes Bay Watershed Education and Training Program, KEEN Effect Grant, The North Face Explore Fund, Chicago Parks Foundation, Waste Management Foundation	Consider birding, kayaking / canoeing, public art events, etc.
Develop a public art strategy for the site.	High	Mana Contemporary Chicago, PERRO, Pilsen Alliance, Pilsen Neighbors Community Council, South Branch PAC, El Paseo Commuity Garden, local artists, Chicago Pubic Art Group, Pilsen Public Art Tours, El Paseo Community Council, National Museum of Mexican Art	MacArthur Foundation, Terra Foundation for American Art, City of Chicago Cultural Grants Program, Allstate Insurance Company (they've funded public art planning and programs in Chicago before)	
Explore fundraising and grant opportunities to support implementation.	High	ChiTown Futbol, Mana Contemporary Chicago, area schools, Friends of the Chicago River, PERRO, Pilsen Alliance, Pilsen Neighbors Community Council, South Branch PAC, El Paseo Community Garden, El Paseo Community Council, local artists		
Create a public outreach plan to support fundraising and raise awareness and continue to foster momentum around the project.	High	PERRO, Pilsen Alliance, Pilsen Neighbors Community Council, South Branch PAC, El Paseo Community Garden, El Paseo Community Council, local artists		

RESTORE AND ENHANCE THE SITE'S NATURAL ECOLOGY.

GOAL TWO

Strategy	Priority	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Additional Considerations
Consider a "temporary forest" to provide some soil remediation benefits and air quality improvements in the interim.	High	Friends of the Chicago River, Illinois Region 5 EPA, Chicago Parks Foundation	Illinois Region 5 EPA, IDNR, NRCS, other grant sources, Waste Management Foundation	This could be combined with a program or event such as a River Clean Up Day, or held as a separate community / grassroots event.
Complete an environmental assessment to understand the extent to which remediation is needed on site.	High	Friends of the Chicago River, Illinois Region 5 EPA	Illinois Region 5 EPA, IDNR, NRCS, other grant sources, Waste Management Foundation	
Utilize the Chicago River Design Guidelines to develop an appropriate approach to the shoreline stabilization and river edge treatments.	Medium	Friends of the Chicago River, Illinois Region 5 EPA, Army Corps of Engineers Chicago Branch	Illinois Region 5 EPA, IDNR, NRCS, other grant sources, Waste Management Foundation	See also, the Friends of the Chicago River Action Plan.
Plant a variety of native and adapted plant species to provide food and shelter for wildlife while also paying attention to species that provide four-season interest.	Medium	Friends of the Chicago River, Illinois Region 5 EPA, Army Corps of Engineers Chicago Branch	Illinois Region 5 EPA, IDNR, NRCS, other grant sources, Waste Management Foundation	Reference the Chicago River Design Guidelines for native plant lists and strategies for wildlife enhancements.
Provide in-stream aquatic improvements to provide food and shelter for aquatic wildlife.	Low	Friends of the Chicago River, Illinois Region 5 EPA, Army Corps of Engineers Chicago Branch	Illinois Region 5 EPA, IDNR, NRCS, other grant sources, Waste Management Foundation	Reference the Chicago River Design Guidelines and the Friends of the Chicago River Action Plan for more information. Consider improvements that provide habitat and food sources for bluegill fish. Records of these fish (224) have been monitored in park's general vicinity since 2002.

Strategy	Priority	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Additional Considerations
Implement constructed upland wildlife habitat opportunities such as bat boxes, butterfly / pollinator gardens, or birdhouses.	Low	Friends of the Chicago River, Illinois Region 5 EPA, Army Corps of Engineers Chicago Branch, Chicago Community Gardeners Association	Illinois Region 5 EPA, IDNR, NRCS, National Environmental Education Foundation (US Forest Service BioBlitz and Pollinator / Community Garden Grants), Chicago Community Gardeners Association Friends of the Parks SEED Grant Program	Reference the Chicago River Design Guidelines for more information.
Remove invasive species along the riverfront and throughout the site. Consider ongoing monitoring and activities through partnerships.	High	Friends of the Chicago River, Illinois Region 5 EPA, Army Corps of Engineers Chicago Branch	Illinois Region 5 EPA, IDNR, NRCS, other grant sources, Waste Management Foundation	
Consider this site for a flat marsh or mudflat pilot project to study what organisms can thrive in the conditions provided by the Chicago River, what nutrients organisms absorb, the applicability, and cost/ benefit of the results of the pilot.	Low	Friends of the Chicago River, Illinois Region 5 EPA, Army Corps of Engineers Chicago Branch	Illinois Region 5 EPA, IDNR, NRCS, other grant sources, Waste Management Foundation	See the Friends of the River Action Plan for more information.
Conduct ongoing environmental testing to monitor improvements to water quality, soil contamination, and other environmental factors.	Low	Illinois Region 5 EPA, Army Corps of Engineer Chicago Branch	Illinois Region 5 EPA, IDNR, NRCS, other grant sources, Waste Management Foundation	
When Throop Street is improved to accommodate additional parking and vehicular access to the park site, incorporate stormwater BMPs into the streetscape design.	High			
Consider implementing community environmental monitoring	Low	PERRO, Pilsen Alliance, Pilsen Neighbors Community Council, South Branch PAC, El Paseo Community Garden, El Paseo Community Council, local artists		The site is part of a data "dead zone" - generally located in the more industrial zones of the river - where not much about existing aquatic species is known or catalogued.

PROVIDE OUTDOOR AMENITIES THAT SUPPORT RECREATION, EDUCATION, AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

GOAL THREE

Strategy	Priority	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Additional Considerations
Provide direct access to the water through accessible pathways and nature trails.	High		Illinois Region 5 EPA, IDNR, NRCS, other grant sources	Reference the Chicago River Design Guidelines for more information.
Provide permittable gathering space for community residents, programs, and events.	High		Illinois Region 5 EPA, IDNR, NRCS, other grant sources	
Provide a variety of gathering spaces (sizes, seating options, capacities, etc.) to encourage both passive and programmed public use.	High		Illinois Region 5 EPA, IDNR, NRCS, other grant sources	
Implement interpretive signage in conjunction with native plantings, shoreline stabilization, and other ecological improvements.	Medium	Friends of the Chicago River, PERRO, Pilsen Alliance, Pilsen Neighbors Community Council, South Branch PAC, El Paseo Community Garden, El Paseo Community Council, local artists	Illinois Region 5 EPA, IDNR, NRCS, other grant sources	

IMPROVE ACCESS AND CONNECTIONS TO NEARBY PARKS, RIVERFRONT, AND BROADER PILSEN AND LITTLE VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOODS.

GOAL FOUR

Strategy	Priority	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Additional Considerations
Provide parking for vehicular access to the site.	High			
Support the development and expansion of the El Paseo Trail by creating a spur from the main line to the park site.	High	Active Transportation Alliance, CARA, El Paseo Community Council		Ensure the design of the spur accommodates both bike and pedestrian traffic, paying close attention to width and striping.
Provide bike facilities such as bike racks and repair stations to support the use of the trail and promote cycling.	High	Active Transportation Alliance		
Develop a non-motorized boat launch for canoes and kayaks. Consider additional support amenities for the launch such as storage.	Medium			