



River Ecology & Governance Task Force

September 14, 2021 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Agenda

I. Welcome and Introduction

II. Input Survey

III. Rivers Projects Feedback Session

IV. System Plans Working Group Check-In and Discussion

V. PAS Study Workshop Next Steps + Feedback

VI. Project Status, Updates and Support Needed

VII. Upcoming Meeting Dates + Adjourn

Input Survey

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**

Short-Term Goals: 2021 - 2022

- 1. Create principles for a system-wide and neighborhood focused approach to Chicago's waterways**
 - a. Adoption of principles by government partners participating on Steering Committee**
- 2. Review current policies and create recommendations to strengthen**

Short-Term Goals: 2021 - 2022

- 3. Inform near-term planning opportunities to advance collective priorities**
 - a. We Will Chicago**
 - b. CDOT Access Study**
 - c. USACE PAS Restoration Framework Plan**
 - d. Industrial Corridor Modernization Process**
- 4. Develop criteria to prioritize projects for identified funding opportunities**
- 5. Standardize process for reviewing riverfront development projects**

Rivers Projects Feedback Session

Our Great Rivers RFP

The Chicago Community Trust is inviting proposals to advance **Living Rivers**

- The physical, emotional and economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for services and amenities that are culturally relevant, affordable, and nearby. This includes high-quality natural areas.
- At their best, Chicago's riverfronts promote wellbeing by providing space for physical recreation, social connection, and psychological restoration.
- "Living" theme (OGR): From riverbeds to shorelines, plants, animals, and people will co-exist in vibrant, healthy ecosystems. Water quality management policies will proactively reduce pollution, restore the environment, create more habitat for fish and wildlife, and aggressively combat the spread of invasive species. Future riverfront development of all kinds will incorporate planned space for all forms of life, connecting people to nature.

Priority Criteria

- Advance **Living Rivers** goals of the Our Great Rivers Vision.
- Utilize **collaborations** across communities and sectors. (i.e., public, private, nonprofit).
- Create **built, natural, or public health-related environment solutions** that advance the fields of public health and the environment and improve the physical condition of communities.
- Emphasize **co-benefits** across topic areas. (e.g., a built environment initiative that creates public health benefits).
- Prepare communities to **transition land** to new and sustainable uses that equitably grow the economy.
- Advance the goals and leverage the resources of **existing community/municipal planning processes** and **place-based initiatives**, beyond Our Great Rivers.
- **Address systemic barriers** through policy change, engagement with public officials and agency leaders, partnerships with the private sector or the creation of innovative and replicable process, approach or **structural solutions** for neighborhood investment.
- Position the **rivers as catalysts** for equitable neighborhood investment in majority Black and Latinx communities.

Rivers Projects Feedback Session

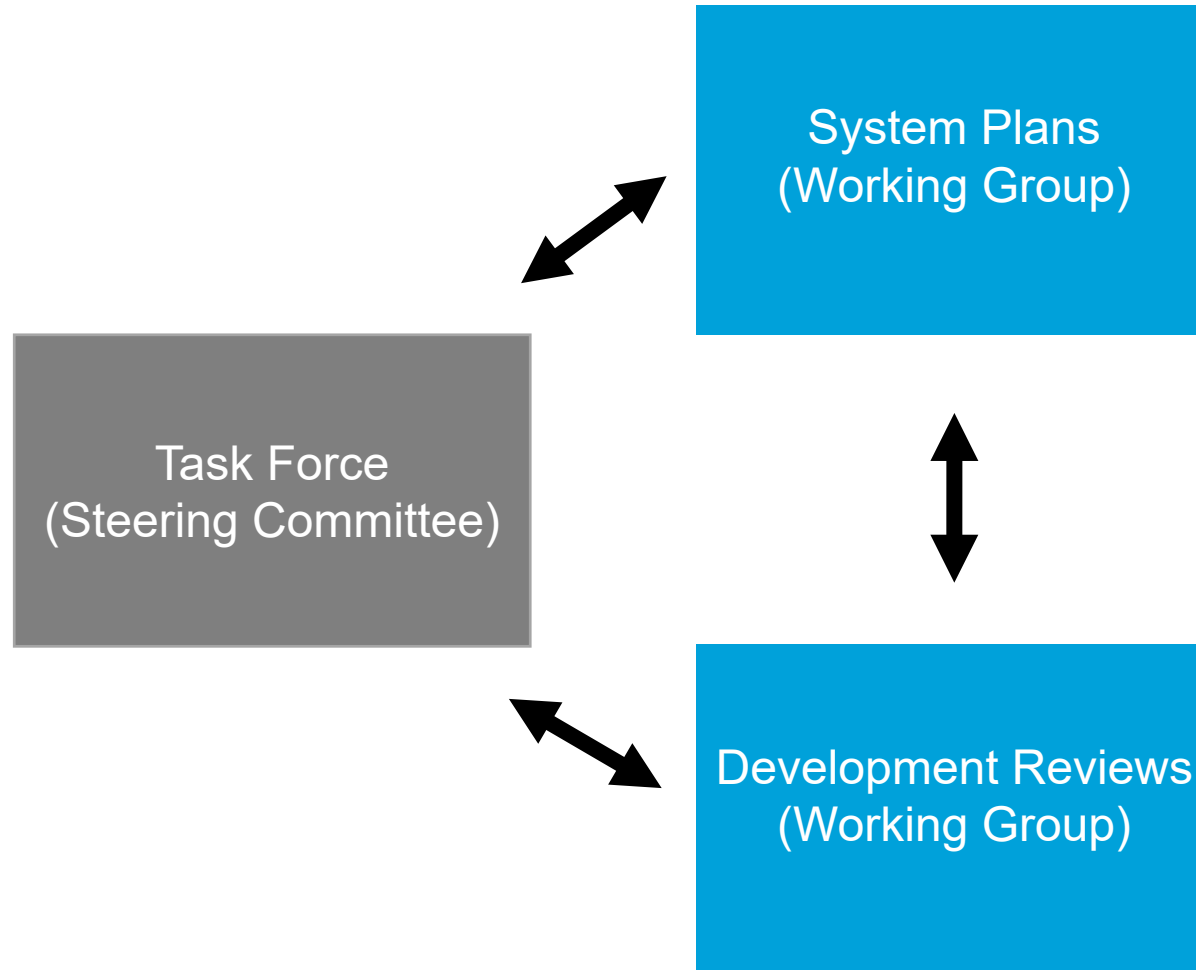
1. Alliance for Great Lakes
2. Calumet Collaborative
3. Current
4. Freshwater Labs at UIC
5. Great Cities Institute at UIC
6. North River Commission
7. Urban Rivers

Rivers Projects Feedback Session

- 1-2 questions per project
- Please use input form to provide feedback, the information will be shared with project team only.

System Plans Working Group Check-In and Discussion

Working Structure for 2021 - 2022



Draft Principles and Themes

Feedback Exercise:

★ = Agree w/ statement and it is a high priority (only use 3 times)

✓ = Agree w/ statement as is

? = Want to discuss further for changes/additions

Draft Principles and Themes

Questions (if time permits)

- **How to ensure that all government entities are actively engaged in advancing these principles, policies and practices?**

- **How do you reconcile active/working river edges with goals for recreation, habitat connectivity, public health and equity?**

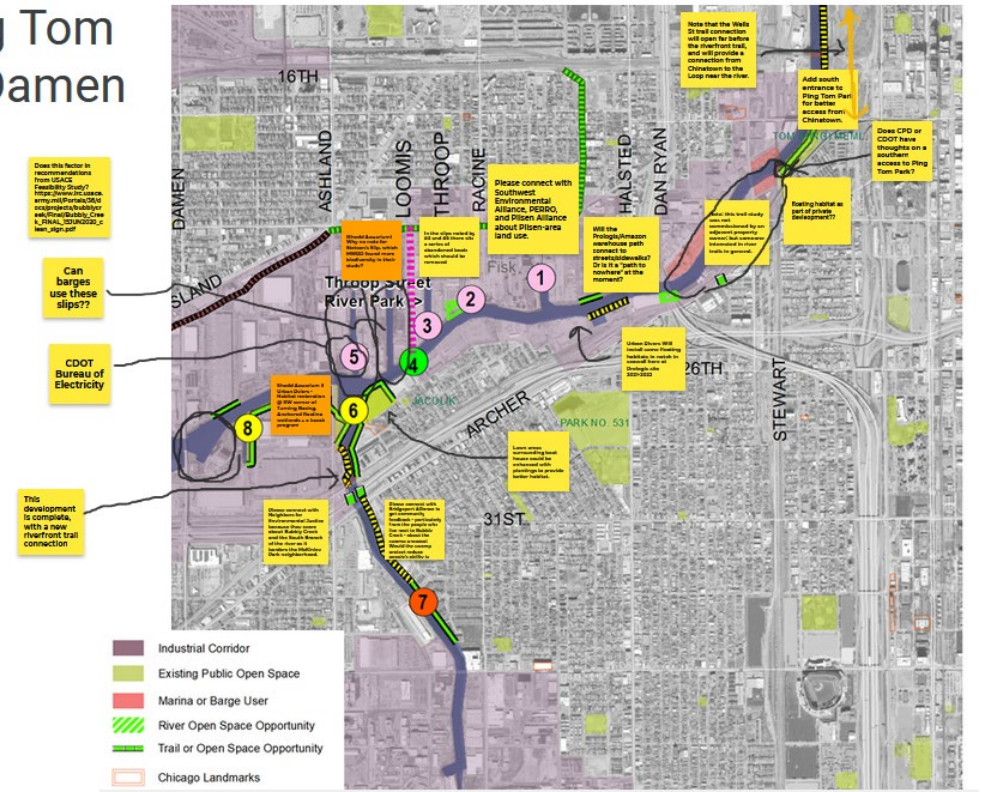
PAS Study Workshop Feedback

PAS Workshops

Goal: To identify opportunities for restoration/remediation in the Chicago river system

- 8/24: Far South
- 8/31: South Branch
- 9/28: Main Stem + North Branch
- 10/12: North Fork + NSC

Ping Tom
to Damen

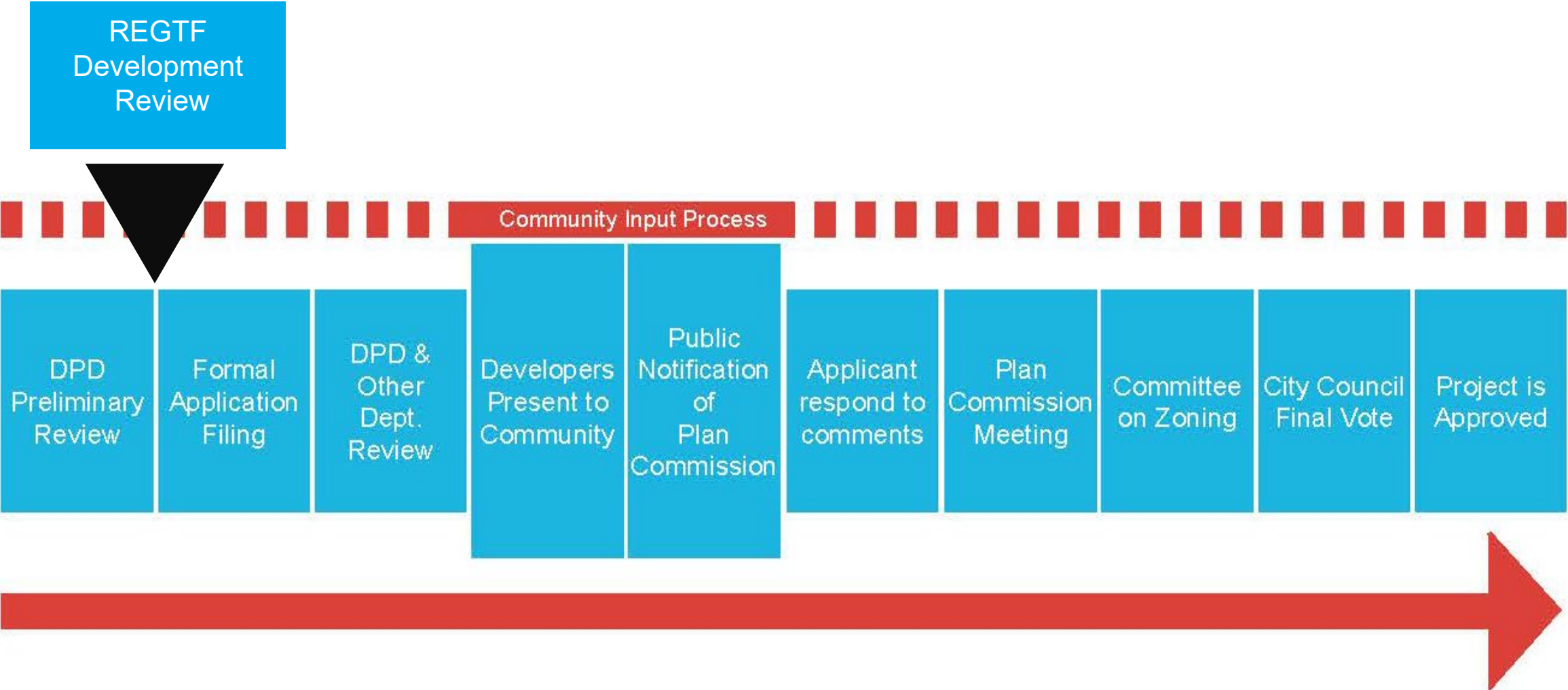


Project Status, Updates and Support Needed

Development Working Group

- Recent Meetings
 - 6/29: 3633 N California
 - 7/20: Lakeshore Recycling
 - 8/3: 901 N Halsted
 - 9/7: Hooker St Transfer Station
- Upcoming Meetings
 - 10/5
 - 11/2
 - 12/7

Development Review Group Process



Task Force Progress

Since we last met in June

- Advisory Team and Steering Committees formed and meeting, providing input on Task Force planning
- 2 Workshops and 5 Working Group Meetings
- Draft principles and beginning to standardize process for development reviews

Upcoming Meeting Dates + Adjourn

Jan, Feb,
March

- REGTF March 9
- ACOE & Local government meetings
- Development Review March 18

April, May,
June

- System Plan Working Group May 25
- REGTF June 8
- ACOE & Local government meetings
- Development Review June 29

July, August,
September

- Development Review July 20, August 3, September 7
- System Plan Working Group August 16
- PAS Workshops August 24, August 31, September 28
- REGTF September 14

October,
November,
December

- Development Review October 5, November 2, December 7
- System Plans Working Group October 7, November 3, December 1
- PAS Workshop October 12
- We Will Chicago Workshop October 19 – November 10
- CDOT Access Study Workshop November 23
- REGTF December 7