



Alternative Funding Opportunities

Our Experience on the Robbins Stormwater Park Project

February 21, 2018

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
IAFSM Stormwater Funding Seminar

Jack Chan/Annie Wright

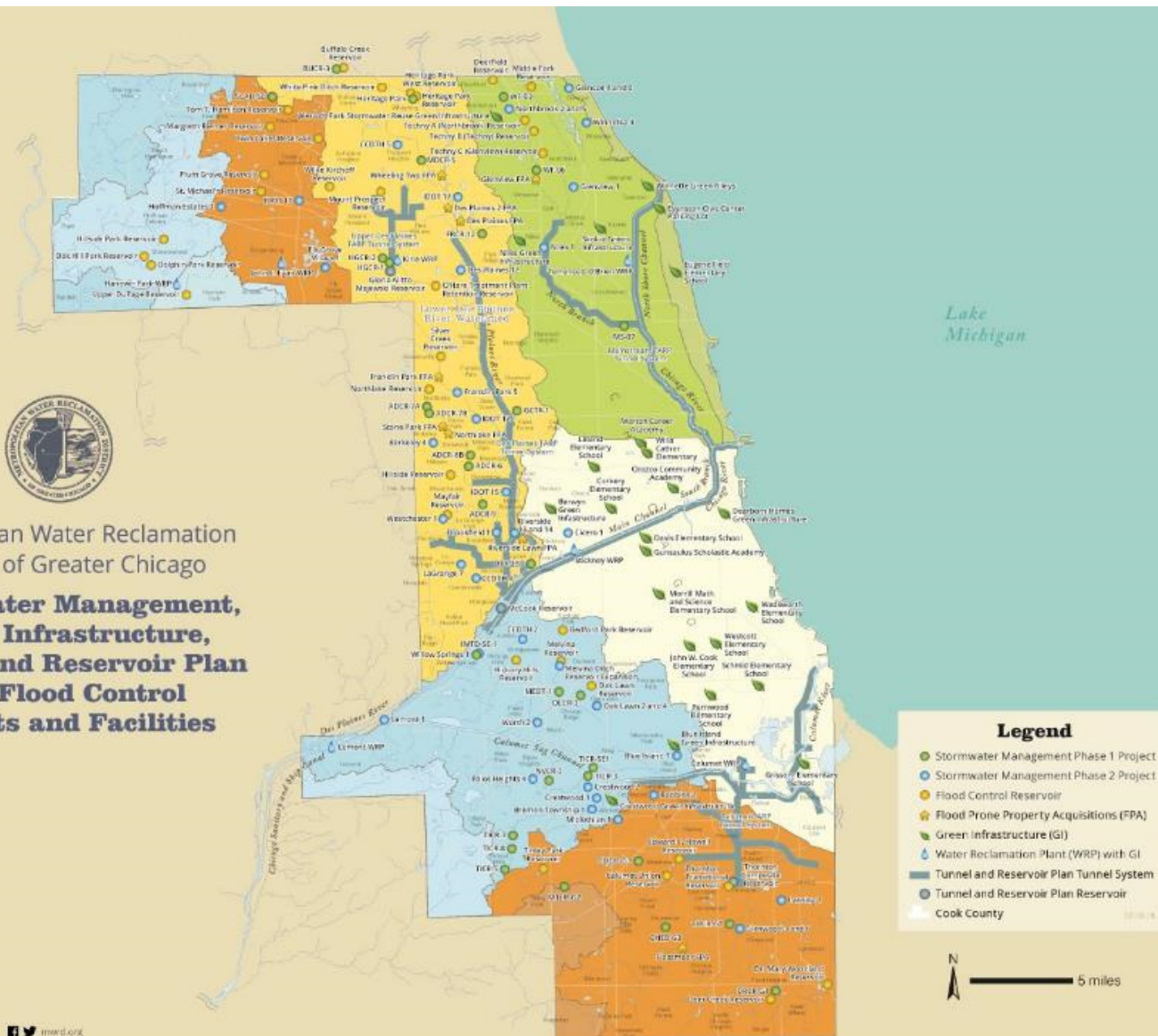
Outline

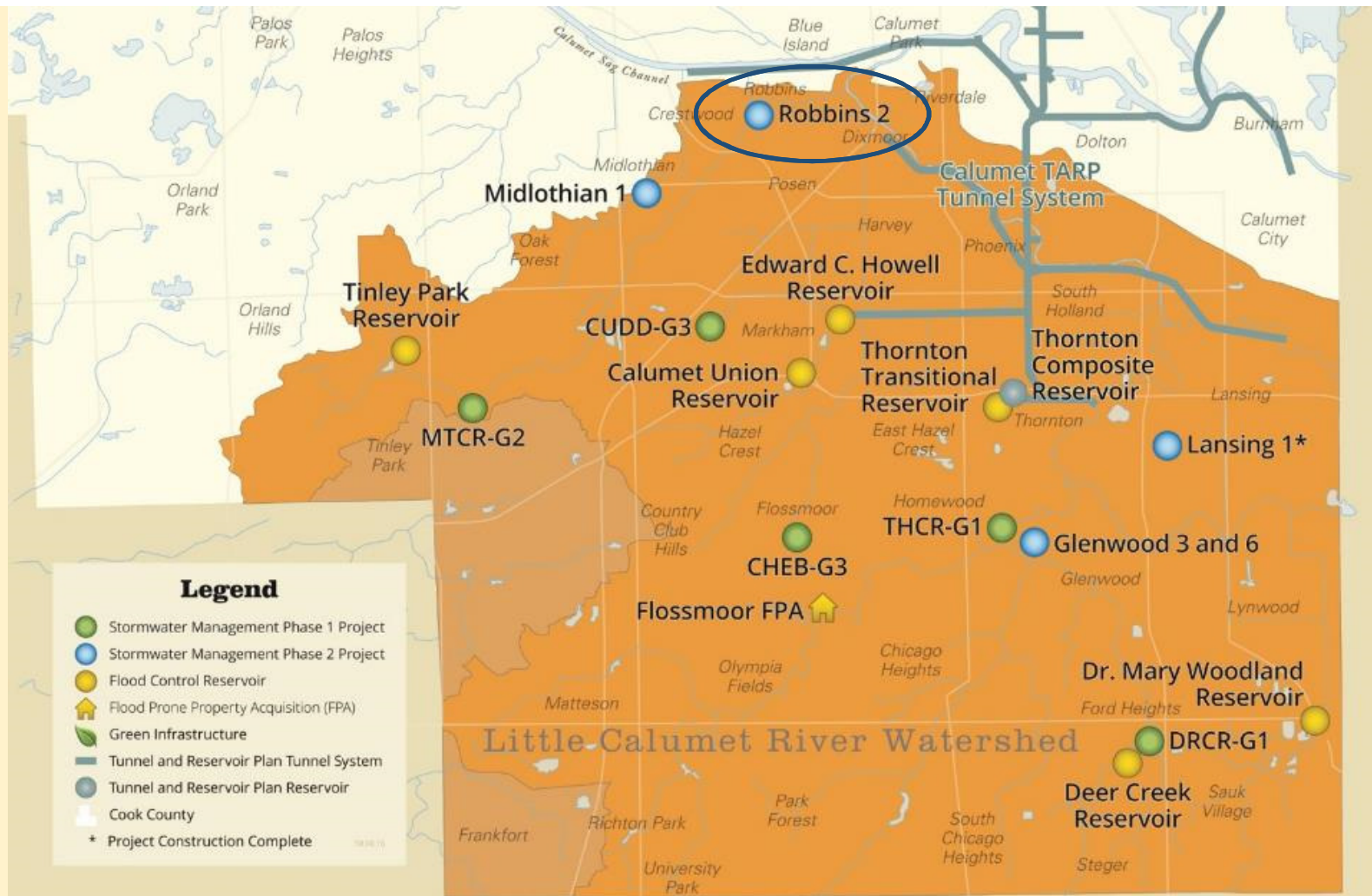
- Evolution of the Robbins Park Project
- A New Approach in Stormwater Infrastructure Investment
- Searching for Alternative Funding Opportunities
- Tips on Applying for Grants and Assistant Programs



Metropolitan Water Reclamation
District of Greater Chicago

**Stormwater Management,
Green Infrastructure,
Tunnel and Reservoir Plan
and Flood Control
Projects and Facilities**

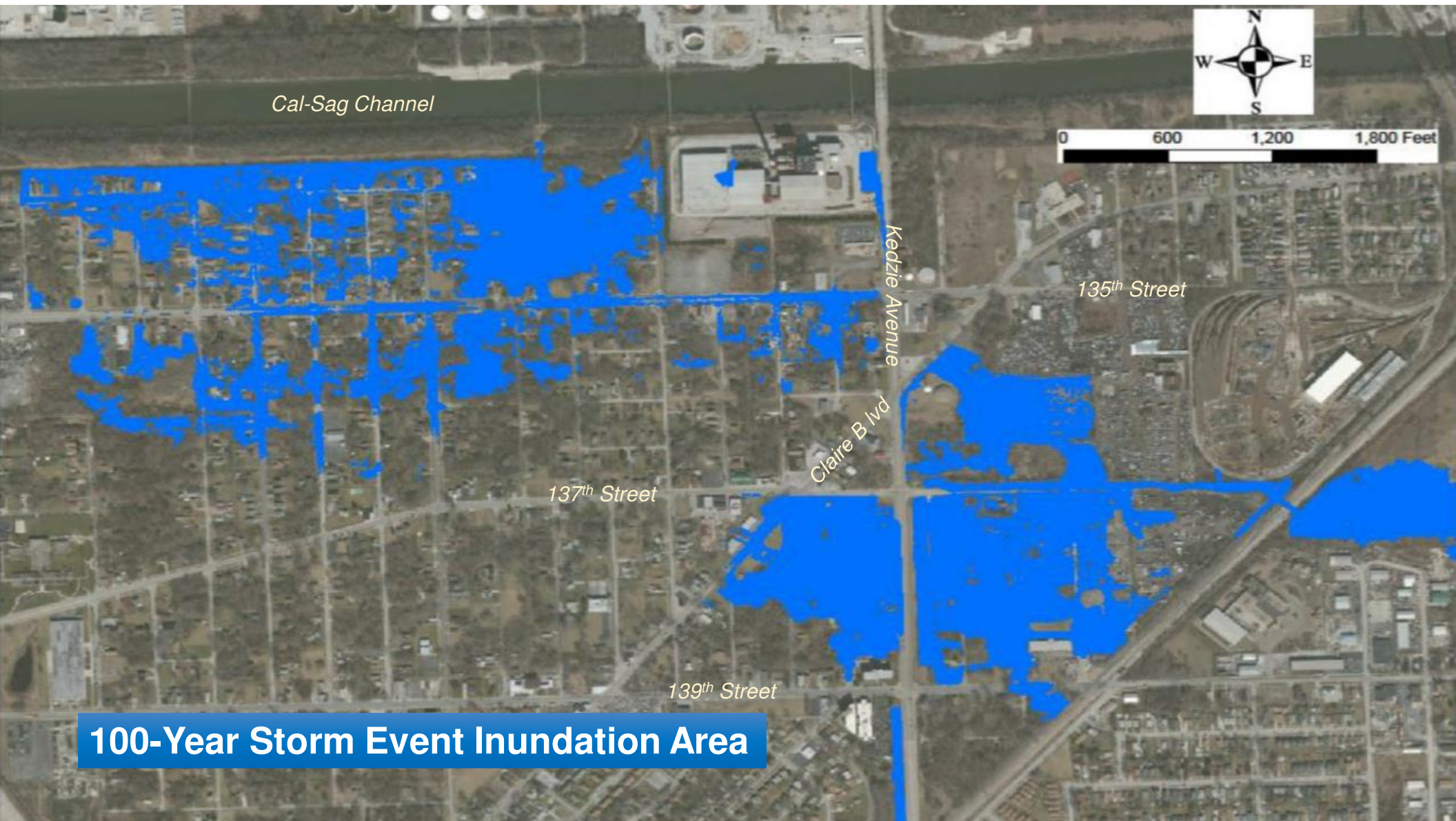




Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Stormwater Management, Green Infrastructure, Tunnel and Reservoir Plan and Flood Control Projects and Facilities

mwr.org







**Flooding impacting > 140 acres
(~20% of total land in Robbins
or 0.22 sq. miles)**

Previous Work and Challenges

- Traditional “hole-in-the-ground” solutions
 - High cost ~ \$6 Million
 - No added benefits beyond engineered flood control
 - Displace residents
 - Do not meet the needs of the Village





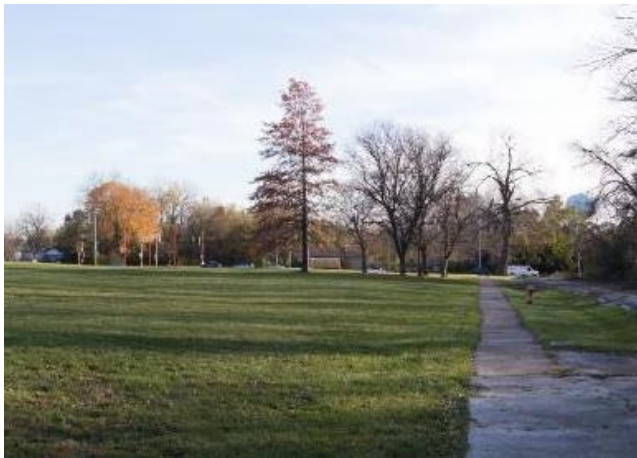
Continuous Flooding



Lack of investment & services



Vacant land



Lack of sports fields



Lack of major open spaces



Poor relationship to transit

Opportunities

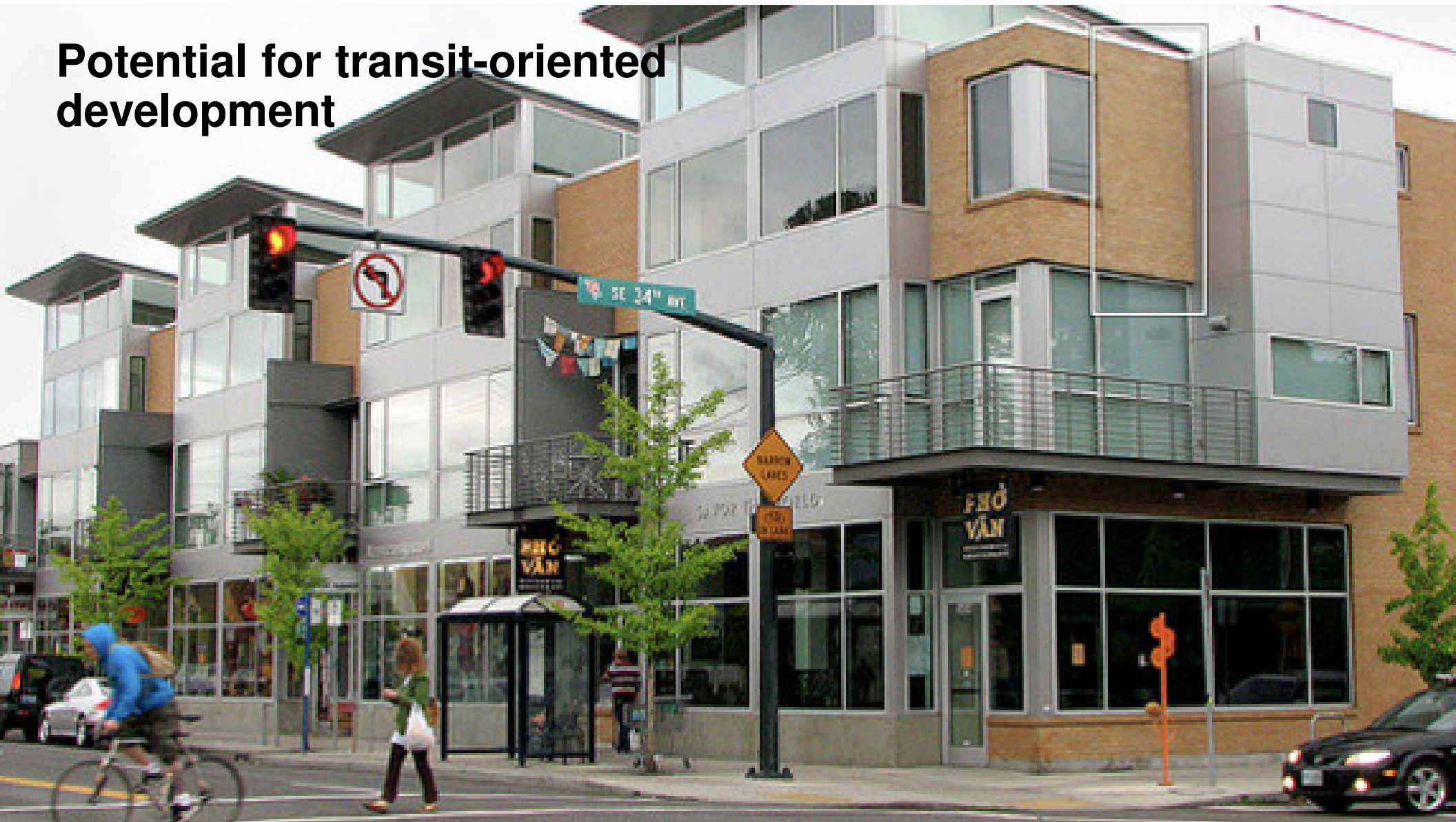
“Let’s design a flood control solution that will maximize local assets and spur economic development.”



Job creation



Potential for transit-oriented development



Creation of recreational spaces



Connections to the regional resources



Community Engagement

Public meetings and workshops

1. No Relocation of Residents
2. Solve the Flooding
3. Respect and engage the historic legacy of Robbins
4. Attract new residents
5. Facilitate development of affordable housing and retail
6. Inspire job creation
7. Create space for youth sports and seniors
8. Engage nature through learning, fishing, walking, & rowing
9. Establish a strategy for maintenance and maximizing the value of land around the park



An aerial photograph of an urban area with a proposed green-blue stormwater management plan overlaid. The plan features a network of green spaces, including wetlands, lakes, parks, and playfields, connected by a system of blue lines representing water flow. The plan is situated in a grid-like urban layout with streets and buildings visible. A large body of water is visible at the top of the image. The plan is divided into several sections by a diagonal road and a horizontal road. The plan is titled 'District 1 - Creating Robbins Park' and 'Vision: A green-blue stormwater solution for Robbins which includes wetlands, lakes, parks and playfields'.

Vision:

A green-blue stormwater solution for Robbins which includes wetlands, lakes, parks and playfields

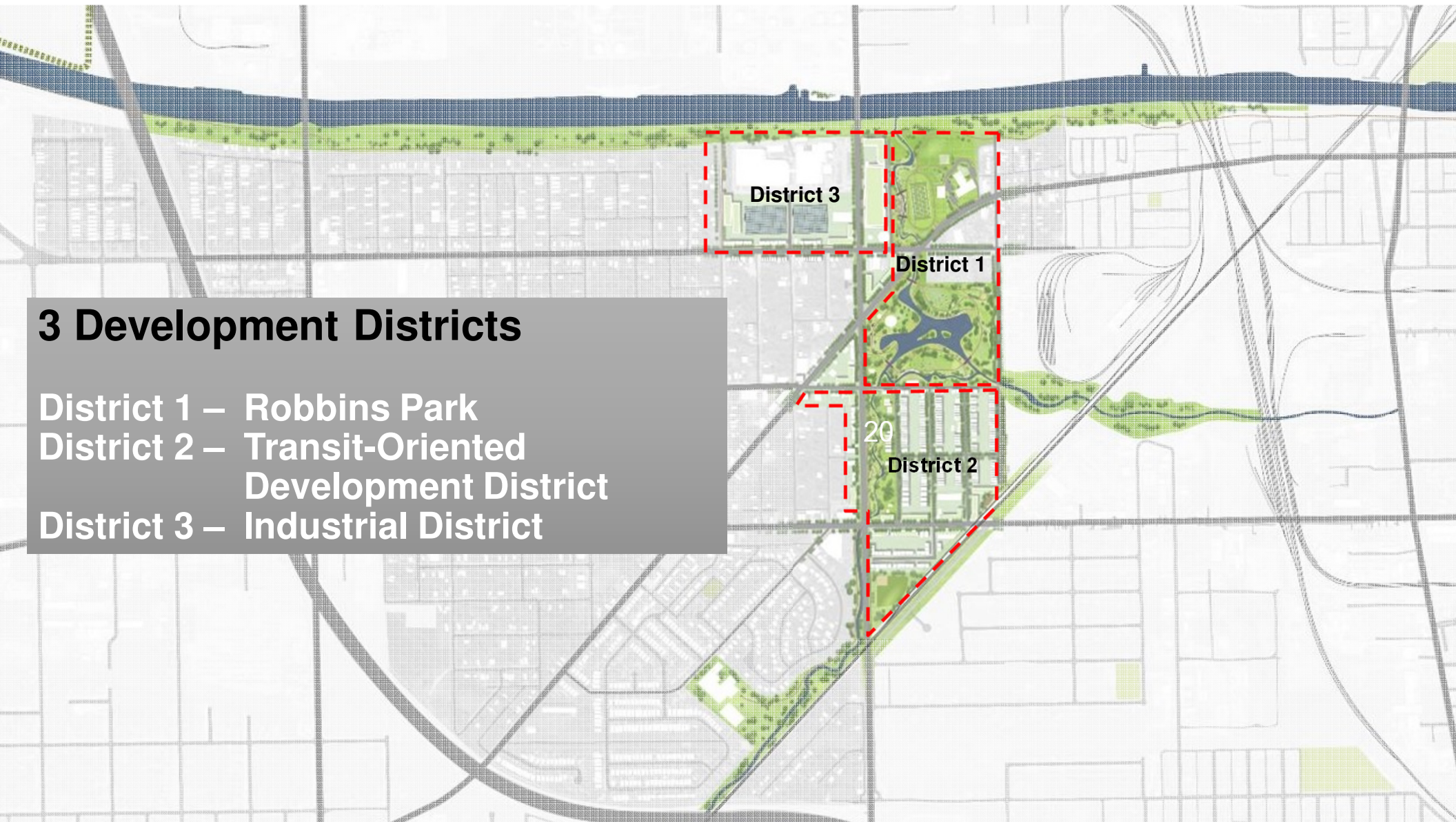
District 1 – Creating Robbins Park

3 Development Districts

District 1 – Robbins Park

District 2 – Transit-Oriented
Development District

District 3 – Industrial District



Technical Experts:

Cook County Department of
Transportation and Highways
Regional Transit Authority
Illinois Department of
Natural Resources
Chicago Botanic Garden
The Nature Conservancy
South Suburban Mayors &
Managers Association

Stewards/Workforce:

U.S. Department of
Defense / Innovative
Readiness Training
Program
Morton Arboretum
Chicago Botanic Garden
OAI, Inc.
Illinois Department of
Natural Resources
-Millennium Reserve

Funders/Influencers:

Cook County
U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban
Development
Illinois Housing
Development Authority

Land Holders:

South Suburban Land Bank
and Development Authority
Cook County Land Bank
Authority
Housing Authority of
Cook County
Openlands

Illinois Department of
Natural Resources

The Nature Conservancy
South Suburban Mayors &
Managers Association
Metropolitan Planning
Council

Core Group for Infrastructure and Pre-Development Leadership:

Village of Robbins
Metropolitan Water
Reclamation District
Cook County
South Suburban Land Bank
and Development Authority
Metra

Other Interested Partners:

Illinois Environmental
Protection Agency
Forest Preserve District
of Cook County
Chicagoland Metropolitan
Agency for Planning
Argonne National Lab
Illinois Association of Park
Districts

Potential Private Partners:

UIC's Voorhees Center
Impact Engine
MacArthur Foundation
Grand Victoria Foundation
Chicago Community Trust
Rural Studio
Corvias
Owner of Robbins Power
Center
Miller Canfield

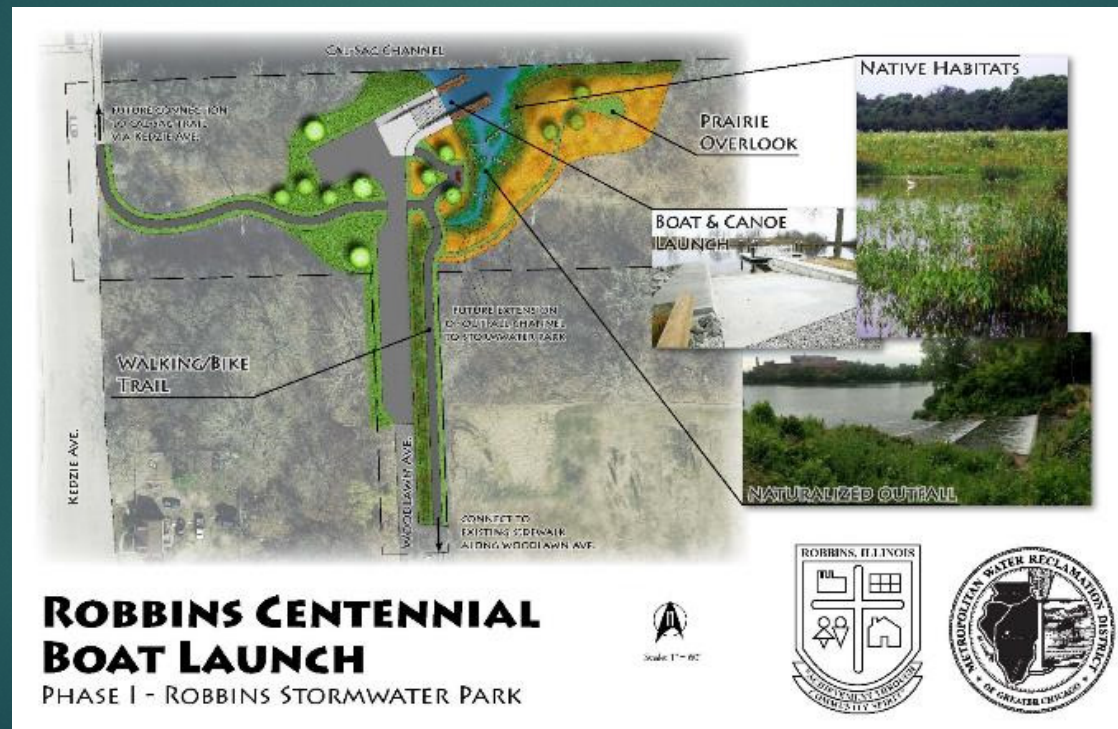
Stakeholder Engagement

Robbins Grants

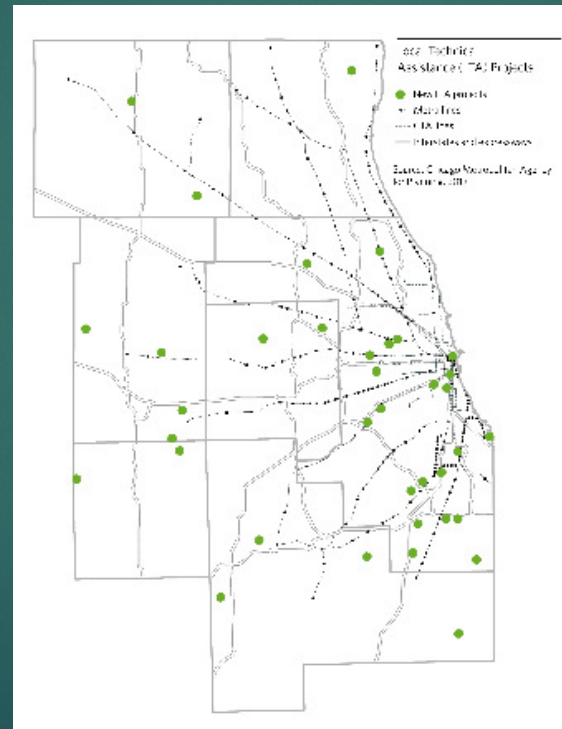


- ▶ Chi-Cal Rivers Fund
- ▶ CMAP's Local Technical Assistance Grant
- ▶ Chicago Community Trust
- ▶ Innovative Readiness Training Grant
- ▶ FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant

Chi-Cal Rivers Fund Grant



CMAP LTA Grant



Chicago Community Trust



Innovative Readiness Training Grant



FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant






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ALL TOPICS

FEBRUARY 16, 2018

TOP JOBS

Questions for evaluating grants



- ▶ Are you eligible to apply?
- ▶ What are the overall program goals?
- ▶ What kind of projects have they previously funded?
- ▶ Will your project fit, or is it a stretch?
- ▶ Are matching funds required? How much? Do they need to be committed?
- ▶ Will award date fit with your project timeline?
- ▶ What type of reporting is required?
- ▶ Do you need letters of support?

Balancing Act



- ▶ Amount of work put into an application vs. Award amount
- ▶ Amount of reporting required vs. Ability to manage reporting
- ▶ Amount you are seeking vs. Overall budget of grant

So you've found some grants. Now what?

- ▶ Decide who should be the recipient: Your agency, or a non-profit partner?
- ▶ Managing timelines: Project and Grants
- ▶ Can your project timeline be flexible? If not, funding by grants will be difficult.
- ▶ Manage residents' expectations regarding the timeline
- ▶ Find backup grants/funding

▶ ORGANIZE!!!



Grant Tracker - Excel

Wright, Anne

FILE HOME INSERT PAGE LAYOUT FORMULAS DATA REVIEW VIEW PDF

Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles Cells Editing

H17 6/27/2017

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Grant Title:	Foundation:	Deadline(s):	Purpose:	Link:	Amount Available/ Requested:	Park, TOD or Green
14	Our Great Rivers	The Chicago Community Trust	5/31/2017	Community-led proposals across four of the Trust's funding arenas: sustainable development, economic development, public health, and arts and culture.	http://cct.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/OurGreatRiversRFP_Jan17.pdf	\$25,000 to \$100,000, with the possibility for renewal.	TOD or Green Industry
15	Land and Water Conservation Fund	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	7/3/2017	Acquiring and developing land and water outdoor recreational areas and facilities. This helps local agencies preserve, develop, and ensure accessibility to outdoor recreation resources.	https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/AEG/Pages/Grant-Administration.aspx	\$400,000	Park
16	Meet Me at the Park	NRPA & The Walt Disney Company	6/23/2017	Improve access to outdoor parks	http://www.nrpa.org/disney	\$11,000 to \$50,000	Park
17	Community Planning Program	RTA (Regional Transportation Authority)	6/2/2017 Letter of Support 6/29/2017 Application	Balanced, coordinated and integrated approach to community and transit planning that benefits local communities while maximizing the use of the RTA .	https://www.rtachicago.org/index.php/plans-programs/grants-projects/community-planning/eligible-projects.html	Project budgets are set by the RTA during the project selection process based on the project scope and previous experience with similar projects and in consultation with the applicant. The "not to exceed amount"	TOD
18	Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Programs	National Park Service	6/30/2017 (Mail application)	Supports successful partnerships with communities across America in achieving their conservation and outdoor recreation visions.	https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/upload/RTCA_Application_Guidelines_2017.pdf	"Please remember that we do not provide funds or fundraise for your project but we can help develop a funding strategy to include grant	Park
19	Open Space Lands Acquisition & Development and Land & Water Conservation Programs	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	7/1/2017	Local units of government can apply for acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space.	https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/AEG/Pages/OpenSpaceLandsAcquisitionDevelopment-Grant.aspx	\$750,000 max	Park
				A focus on the major waterways of the Chicago and Calumet region, the program will award grants to reduce			

Robbins Grants Non-Robbins Grants

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Matching funds- Don't Panic!

- ▶ Design contract costs count
- ▶ Value of land counts
- ▶ Staff time spent on project can count
- ▶ Make sure not to use federal funds to match federal funds- it's generally not allowed.



Establishing trust with funders

- ▶ Don't apply just to apply
- ▶ Follow-up with applications
- ▶ If your application and reporting are strong, they may come to you with opportunities in the future

After Award

- ▶ Complete required reporting
- ▶ Continue to review your application promises. Are you keeping them? If not, tell the funder why.



Approaching foundations



- ▶ Do your homework. Know their funding priorities
- ▶ Have your “ask” ready:
- ▶ Know exactly what you want them to fund
- ▶ Know how much to ask for
- ▶ Emphasize how the project fits with their funding priorities

Follow up afterwards- thank them for their time,
ask next steps

When you don't get the award



- ▶ Ask for feedback, if possible. You may be invited to reapply next round
- ▶ Learn your project (or proposal)'s weaknesses so they become strengths next time.
- ▶ This is why we find backups!

Writing



Tips

- ▶ If possible, have a writer work on your proposals
- ▶ Remember, you are telling a story
- ▶ Tie your project in with the funder's goals
- ▶ Don't repeat yourself. Know what you want to say, review the application and decide where you want to say it
- ▶ Give yourself enough time to create a successful proposal. Don't rush to make a deadline and blow your chance with a funder
- ▶ Review, review, review! Typos and grammatical errors are embarrassing



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