Robbins: Reimagining Stormwater Investment

Our Experience on the Robbins Stormwater Park Project

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Jack Chan/Annie Wright
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Outline

- Evolution of the Robbins Park Project
- A New Approach in Stormwater Infrastructure Investment
- Searching for Alternative Funding Opportunities
Metropolitan Water Reclamation
District of Greater Chicago

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

Legend
- Stormwater Management/Phase 1 Project
- Stormwater Management/Phase 2 Project
- Flood Control Reservoir
- Flood Plain Property Acquisitions (FPA)
- Green Infrastructure (GI)
- Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) with GI
- Tunnel and Reservoir Plan Tunnel System
- Tunnel and Reservoir Plan Reservoir

Cock County

5 miles
100-Year Storm Event Inundation Area
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
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
Opportunities

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

Vision:
A green-blue stormwater solution for Robbins which includes wetlands, lakes, parks and playfields.
3 Development Districts

District 1 – Robbins Park
District 2 – Transit-Oriented Development District
District 3 – Industrial District
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

Funders/Influencers:

- Cook County
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Illinois Housing Development Authority
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- The Nature Conservancy
- South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association
- Metropolitan Planning Council

Land Holders:

- South Suburban Land Bank and Development Authority
- Cook County Land Bank Authority
- Housing Authority of Cook County
- OpenLands

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:

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- South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association
- Metropolitan Planning Council

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

ROBBINS CENTENNIAL
BOAT LAUNCH
PHASE I - ROBBINS STORMWATER PARK
Innovative Readiness Training Grant
FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant
QUESTIONS?

Jack Chan, PhD, PE  
Assistant Civil Engineer  
chant@mwr.org  
(312) 751-3214

Annie Wright  
Public Affairs Specialist  
wright@mwr.org  
(312) 751-7932