



Robbins: Reimagining Stormwater Investment

Our Experience on the Robbins Stormwater Park Project

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2018 IAFSM Annual Conference

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Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

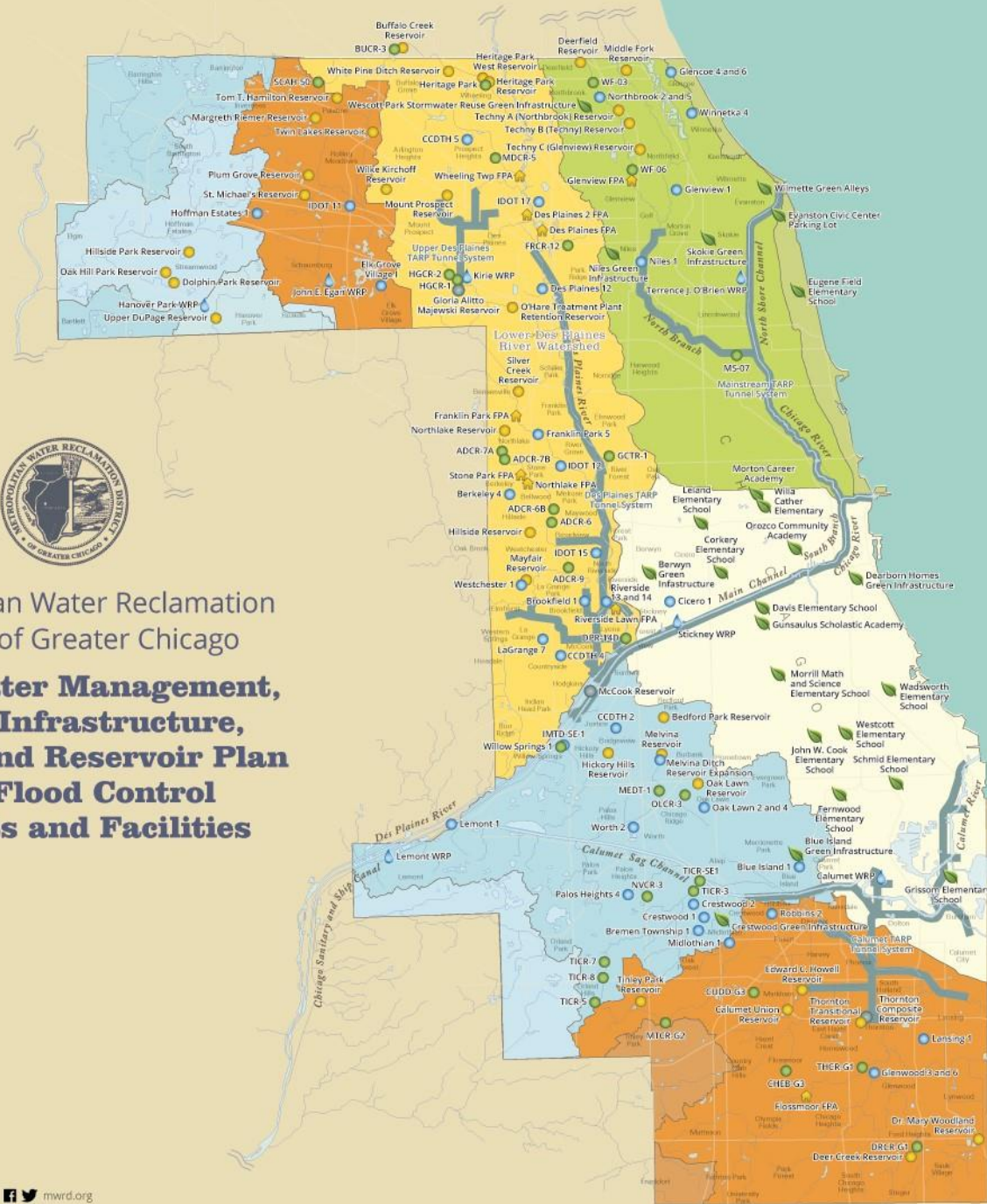
Outline

- 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**



Lake
Michigan

Legend

- Stormwater Management Phase 1 Project
- Stormwater Management Phase 2 Project
- Flood Control Reservoir
- 🏠 Flood Prone Property Acquisitions (FPA)
- 🌿 Green Infrastructure (GI)
- 💧 Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) with GI
- Tunnel and Reservoir Plan Tunnel System
- Tunnel and Reservoir Plan Reservoir
- 🗺 Cook County

10.18.16





0 600 1,200 1,800 Feet

Cal-Sag Channel

Kedzie Avenue

135th Street

Claire B Ivd

137th Street

139th Street

100-Year Storm Event Inundation Area



W 137th Street

Kedzie Avenue

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

Image Landsat

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.”



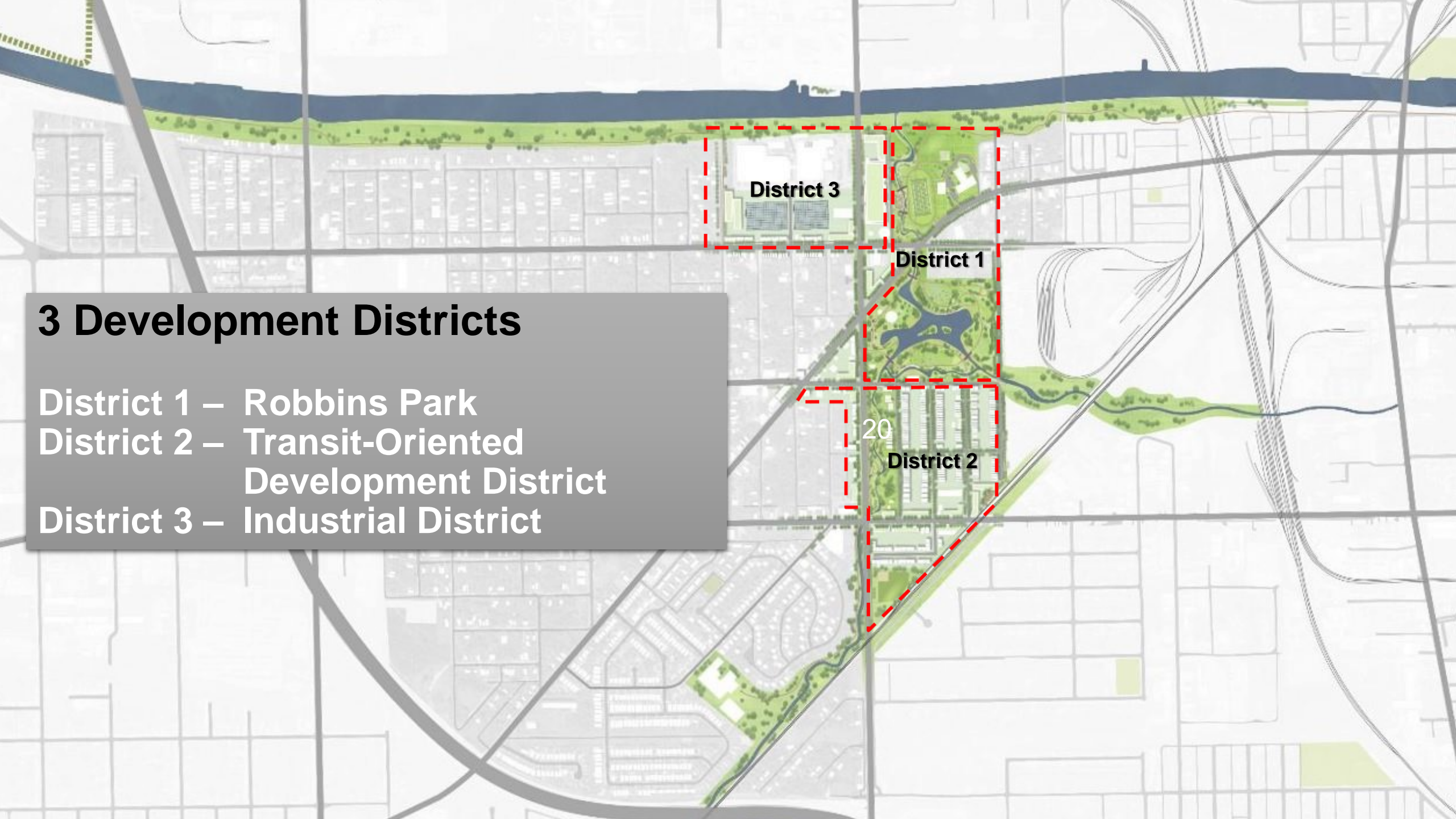
*Vision:
A green-blue stormwater solution for
Robbins which includes wetlands,
lakes, parks and playfields*

3 Development Districts

District 1 – Robbins Park

District 2 – Transit-Oriented
Development District

District 3 – Industrial District



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

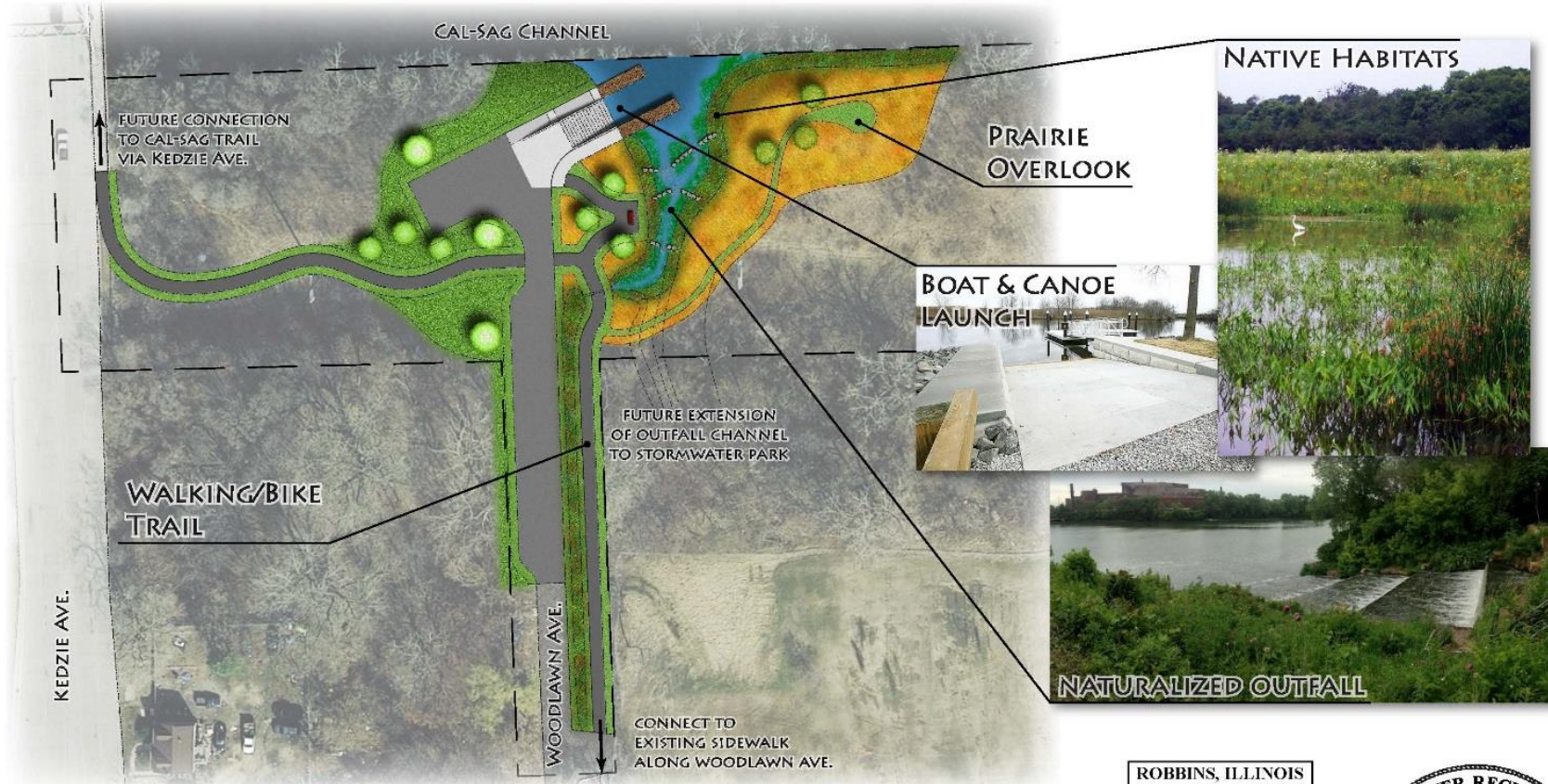
Stakeholder Engagement

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



ROBBINS CENTENNIAL BOAT LAUNCH

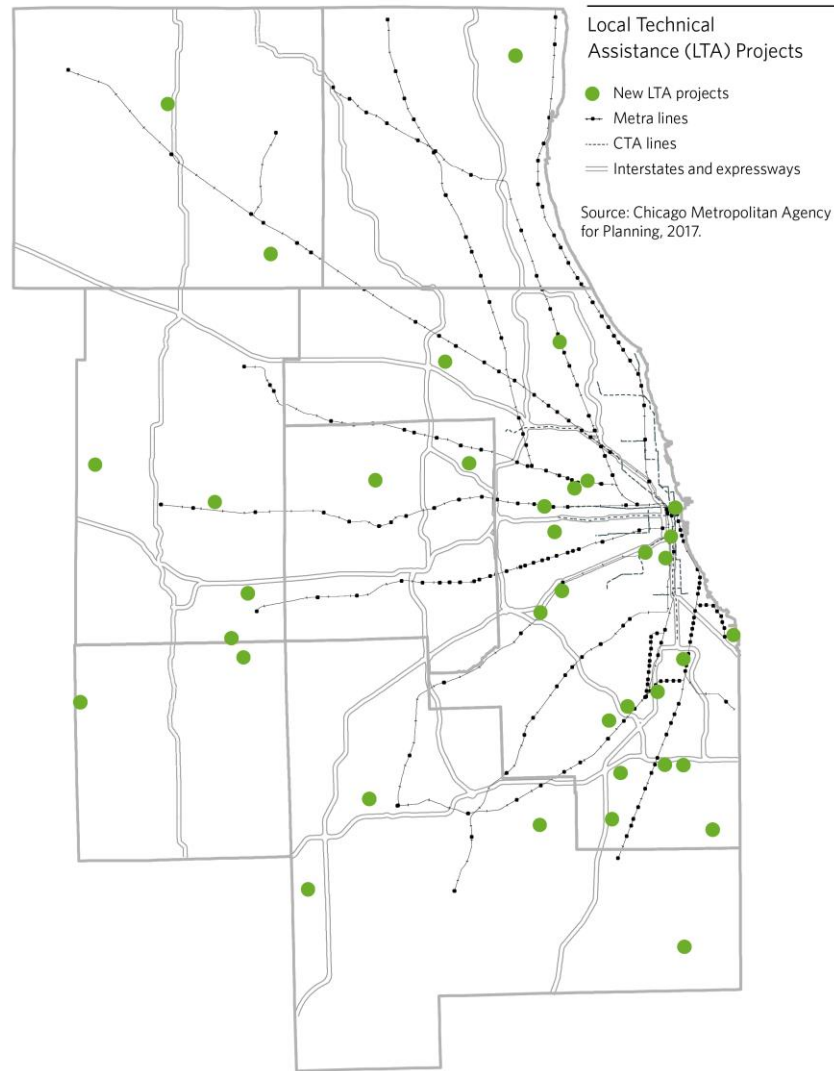
PHASE I - ROBBINS STORMWATER PARK



Scale: 1" = 60'



CMAP LTA Grant



Chicago Community Trust



Innovative Readiness Training Grant



FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant





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