WHAT IS THE WILD MILE

The City of Chicago has initiated a planning process with the goals of supporting a wildlife habitat while creating one of the defining public open spaces for the modernization of the North Branch Industrial Corridor.

This eco-park development has been referred to as “Wild Mile Chicago.”

The design and development of a framework plan will establish a vision and principles for this mile-long floating eco-park located on the North Branch Canal and Basin of the Chicago River, along the east side of Goose Island between Chicago Ave and North Ave.

PRINCIPLES

Put wildlife first.
- Create and expand habitat
- Foster immersive nature experiences
- Enhance and restore the riparian and emergent landscapes
- Create dog amenities away from habitat

Connect people with nature.
- Promote partnerships with local institutions that coordinate educational, cultural and recreational programming

Expand public access.
- Improve and create additional access points
- Paths closest to and/or in the river should be designed and designated for pedestrians, and those with strollers and equipment to assist the disabled
- Create designated bike routes separate from the pedestrian boardwalks

Design a cohesive experience.
- Create a sense of place for Chicago residents of all ages and backgrounds

Lead the world.
- Promote innovation and experimentation within the Wild Mile to inspire holistic thinking around ecology and urbanism

Create a place for everyone.
- Integrate a variety of spaces open to the public year-round, for a range of ages and abilities
1 The Turning Basin
1 The Turning Basin
The Gateway | Art + Performance Option 1

- Tiered Seating + Stage
- Floating Pool + Ice Rink
- Fishing Dock
- Public Art
- Pop-up Plaza
- Bird Rockery + Art Installation
- Nature Amphitheater
- Bat Underbridge Habitat
- Floating Performance
- Pop-up Plaza
- Habitat Art
- Floating Pool + Ice Rink
- Naturalized Edges + Floating Wetlands
- Pollinator Gardens
1 The Turning Basin
The Gateway | Art + Performance Option 2
1 The Turning Basin
The Gateway | Mound Park

- Underbridge Connection
- Mounded Seating Area
- Wild Mile Transitway
- Exercise + Play Area
- Aeration Waterfalls
- Fishing Pier
- Mounded areas
- Exercise + play area
- Rain gardens
- Aeration waterfall
- Bird watching
- Fishing pier
- Pollinator gardens
- Naturalized edges
The North Reach

Existing

Existing
2 The North Reach
Food + Gathering

- Weed Street Boat House
- Naturalized Edge
- Picnic Area
- Weed Street Steps
- Overlook Platform
- Aeration Waterfall
- Pollinator Hotels
- Habitat Sculptures
- Purple Martin Houses
- Floating Trees
- Rooftop Events
- Shallow Water
- Bubble Line Aerators
- Pollinator Hotels
- Habitat Sculptures

- Nature Cinema
- Project on Walls
- Rooftop Events
2 The North Reach
Outdoor Recreation + Learning

- Mural
- Art Platform
- Education Platform
- Kayak Launch
- Habitat Sculptures
- Access Platform
- Green Roofs
- Roof Camping?
- Purple Martin Houses
- Aeration Sculptures
- Pollinator Roof Garden
- Floating Trees
- Roof Camping
- Education Platform
- Murals
2 The North Reach
Outdoor Recreation + Learning

- Turtle Habitat
- Floating Wetland
- Water Experience Station
- Potential Access Point
- Naturescape | Nests, Rope Swings, Climbing
- Fish Nursery
- Wild Mile Greenway Loop

Activities:
- Kayaking + canoeing
- Experience water
- Floating wetlands
- Turtle habitat
- Citizen science
- Naturescapes
- Fish nursery
- Inboard wetland
3 The South Reach
3 The South Reach

The Lookout | Observing + Hanging Out

- Strolling
- Netted seating
- Hammocks
- Volunteer stations
- Native tree planting
- Seasonal prairie
- Interpretive signage
- Protected waters
3 The South Reach
The Lookout | Ogden Overlook

- Outdoor Exhibition Area
- The Lookout
- Interpretive Center + Restrooms
- Underbridge Connection
- Water Wheel
- Bat Habitat
- Netted Seating
- Wild Mile Greenway Loop

Educational exhibits
Monitoring + Learning spaces
Underwater habitat install
Mussel habitats

The Lookout
Wild Mile Greenway Loop
Mural
Underbridge Connection
Water Wheel
Bat Habitat
Netted Seating
3 The South Reach
The Lookout | Living + Working

- Places to work
- Places to eat
- Places to meet
- Terraced habitat wall
- Turtle piers
- Waterfowl feeding areas
- Intimate spaces
- Bird perches
- Terraced habitat wall
- Nature Pond Overlook / Outdoor Working Spaces
- Potential Dog Park
- Potential Access Point
- Wild Mile Greenway Loop
- Intimate Spaces + Smaller Experiences
- Hobie Cove
- Turtle Habitat