Where we’re at

**EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS AND VISIONING**
- November
  - Stakeholder Meetings
  - PAC Meeting #1
  - Community Meeting #1

**CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK PLANS INFORMED BY COMMUNITY FEEDBACK**
- December
  - Stakeholder Meetings
- January
  - Ecology Workshop
  - Stakeholder Meetings
- February
  - PAC Meeting #2
  - Community Meeting #2

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS**
- March
  - Stakeholder Meetings
- April
  - PAC Meeting #3
  - Community Meeting #3

**Wild Mile Week**
Engagement Summary

- Team Kayak and Canoe Trips
- Walking the Wild Mile
- Classroom Activities
- Meeting with Adjacent Property Owners
- Stakeholder Meetings (7)
- Ecology Design Workshop
- Near North Small Group Workshop
- Plan Advisory Committee Mtgs (3)
- Community Meetings (3)
- Wild Mile Week Events!
Agenda

- Wild Mile Vision
- Implementation
- Questions
A Vision for the Wild Mile
Principles

1. 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

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

3. Expand public access.
   • Improve and create additional access points
   • Paths closest to and/or in the river should be designed and designated for pedestrians
   • Create designated bike routes separate from the pedestrian boardwalks

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

5. Lead the world.
   • Promote innovation and experimentation to inspire holistic thinking around ecology and urbanism

6. Create a place for everyone.
   • Integrate a variety of spaces open to the public year-round, for a range of ages and abilities
A Strategy for Urban Wildlife
Concept: Expanding edges

then

natural river edge

now

channelized river edge

future

* bring back nature
* reintroduce the lost zones
Food Web Upland Zone

- Birds
- Pollinator
- Insects
- Rabbits, mice, squirrels

Upland Zone
Food Web Riparian and Emergent Zones

- Insectivorous birds
- Seed-eating birds
- Flying insects
- Rabbit
- Soils, sediment + algae
- Aquatic invertebrates
- Frogs + little fish
- Carnivorous birds

Riparian Zone
Emergent Zone
Food Web Aquatic Zone

- Large fish
- Small fish + crayfish
- Sediment + algae
- Aquatic invertebrates

Aquatic Zone
Concept  Add habitat value to the edge

1. vertical wall
   - floating habitat
   - textured habitat fixed to wall
   - shallow water habitat

2. eroded shoreline
   - rocky habitat installation
   - terraced habitat
   - shallow water habitat
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Habitat Type</th>
<th>Existing Edge Type</th>
<th>Plants</th>
<th>Target Animals</th>
<th>Key Food Webs</th>
<th>Time to Install (months)</th>
<th>Potential Issues</th>
<th>Rough Cost</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Floating Pollinator Garden</td>
<td>a, b, d, e, h</td>
<td>P, E</td>
<td>Flying insects (bees, flies, butterflies, beetles); spiders; hummingbirds; songbirds</td>
<td>plant ( \rightarrow ) invertebrates ( \rightarrow ) bats, birds; plant ( \rightarrow ) fruit, seeds ( \rightarrow ) small mammals, birds; plant ( \rightarrow ) roots ( \rightarrow ) small fish, crayfish;</td>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Raft cost</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floating Wetland</td>
<td>a, b, d, e, h</td>
<td>E, S</td>
<td>Flying insects (bees, flies, butterflies, beetles); spiders; songbirds</td>
<td>plant ( \rightarrow ) terrestrial invertebrates ( \rightarrow ) bats, birds; plant ( \rightarrow ) aquatic invertebrates ( \rightarrow ) fish, turtle, plant ( \rightarrow ) muskrat;</td>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Raft cost</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floating Amphibian Pond and Garden</td>
<td>a, b, d, e, h</td>
<td>E, S</td>
<td>Plant (fruit, seeds) ( \rightarrow ) small mammals, birds;</td>
<td>Plant ( \rightarrow ) tadpoles; Plant ( \rightarrow ) invertebrate ( \rightarrow ) frogs, tadpoles, salamanders</td>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Raft cost</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mussel trays (flow through connectors between planted rafts)</td>
<td>a, b, d, e, h</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Native mussels (aquatic insects will colonize)</td>
<td>Plankton ( \rightarrow ) mussels (filter feeders); aquatic insects ( \rightarrow ) frogs, dragonfly nymphs; adult flying insects ( \rightarrow ) bats, birds, frogs, adult dragonflies</td>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Raft cost</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Species Hue-out Raft (with outriggers for turtles to cling on)</td>
<td>a, b, d, e, h</td>
<td>S, E</td>
<td>Short plants only; nothing tall enough to hide a heron</td>
<td>Turtles; frogs; peregrine birds; ducks</td>
<td>Key function for turtles and frogs is basking. Turtles and frogs will eat algae, aquatic invertebrates (worms, snails and clams, larval insects, crayfish and other crustaceans, etc.), and fish.</td>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Raft cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floating Trees</td>
<td>a, b, d, e, h</td>
<td>D (trees)</td>
<td>Songbirds; insects</td>
<td>plant ( \rightarrow ) invertebrates ( \rightarrow ) birds/bats; plant ( \rightarrow ) turtles;</td>
<td>0-6</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Raft cost</td>
<td>3 (narrow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turtle Snags (away from shore but tethered to existing edge)</td>
<td>a, b, d, e, h</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Painted turtle, map turtle, other native turtles; frogs</td>
<td>Key function is basking. Turtles and frogs will eat algae, aquatic invertebrates (worms, snails and clams, larval insects, crayfish and other crustaceans, etc.), and fish.</td>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>Use fallen logs from arboretum, parks (labor cost)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtains/Aula Skirts</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>None (algae will naturally colonize the skirts)</td>
<td>Aquatic invertebrates; small fish, crayfish, tadpoles</td>
<td>algae ( \rightarrow ) invertebrates, tadpoles, small fish ( \rightarrow ) fish/crayfish ( \rightarrow ) aquatic birds heron, common/turtles</td>
<td>Included with floating walkways</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>$0.40 LF for knotless mesh: 14” deep</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird Perches</td>
<td>a, b, c, d, e, f</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Birds (kingfisher, common, herons, hawks, robins, songbirds)</td>
<td>Key function is perching. Kingfisher may dive for fish from the perch, prefers horizontal structure over middle of stream</td>
<td>0-6</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>Design-dependent</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish Habitat Beneath Floating Rafts</td>
<td>1, 2, 4</td>
<td>No plants; stumps, piles, or other structure attached to bottom of floating gardens</td>
<td>Fish (resting, spawning, rearing)</td>
<td>Key function is shelter. Fish will eat algae, aquatic invertebrates (worms, snails and clams, larval insects, crayfish and other crustaceans, etc.) and other fish.</td>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>Design-dependent (5X) minimum</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submerged Seagrass or Seaweed (with clean sand/gravel behind)</td>
<td>a, b, d</td>
<td>S, E</td>
<td>Fish, mussels, aquatic invertebrates in meanshore sand/gravel shallows</td>
<td>plant ( \rightarrow ) invertebrates ( \rightarrow ) bats, birds; plant ( \rightarrow ) fruit, seeds ( \rightarrow ) small mammals, birds; plant ( \rightarrow ) small fish, crayfish</td>
<td>0-6</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>plus sand/gravel fill (design-dependent) &gt; $5,000</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expand Public Access
**Concept** Clear Zones

![Diagram showing clear zones with specific areas for shelter, reproduction, food, habitat, pathway, and program. The diagram indicates navigational clearance and areas ±20' from the boundaries.]

- **Shelter**: ±0'-20'
- **Reproduction**: ±0'-20'
- **Food**: ±0'-20'
- **Habitat**: ±0'-12'
- **Pathway**: ±8'
- **Program**: ±0'-12'

**West = Wildlife**

**East = Trail**
Concept: A Habitat Mosaic

- **Focus Areas**:
  - prairie-focus
  - wetland-focus

- **Orientation**:
  - west
  - east

- **Dimensions**:
  - ± 20’

- **Color Coding**:
  - water
  - floating habitat
  - walkable

- **Concept Diagram**:
  - Visual representation of the habitat mosaic with various sections marked by different colors to indicate water, floating habitat, and walkable areas.
Habitat Components

Floating Habitat Raft

Floating Tree Raft
Trail Components

Continuous Platform

Access Ramp
Trail Components

Overlook

Gathering Steps
Trail Components

- Viewing Pier (S)
- Activity Platform (M)
- Gathering / Classroom Platform (L)
Connect People with Nature
1. Selective clearing of invasive species
2. Slope stabilization with terraced geogrid and plantings or articulated concrete mattress*
3. Floating habitat rafts

*ECOncrete
Weed Street
Component Configurations

1. Selective clearing of invasive species
2. Slope stabilization with geogrid and plantings
3. Floating habitat rafts
4. Program platform
5. Floating porous concrete steps
6. Interpretive signage
Whole Foods Edge / Blackhawk
Component Configurations

1. Cantilevered platform with overhead structure
2. Aeration waterfall
3. Floating habitat rafts
4. Continuous pathway and program platforms
5. Interpretive signage
1. Selective clearing of invasive species
2. Sheet pile wall planters
3. Floating habitat rafts
4. Floating trees
5. Mural

Waste Management Edge
Component Configurations
1. Selective clearing of invasive species
2. Continuous pathway
3. Program platforms
4. Floating habitat rafts
5. Interpretive signage
Hobbie Street Cove
Component Configurations

1. Slope stabilization with geogrid and plantings
2. Stabilized gravel pathways
3. Floating habitat rafts
4. Continuous pathway
5. Program platforms
6. Interpretive signage
7. Native trees along Riverwalk
Create a Place for Everyone
A Place for Walking and Strolling

River-level Pedestrians

- North Ave.
- Eastman St.
- Division St.
- Hobbie St.
- Chicago Ave.

- near term loops
- river level pathway
Cherry St.
Chicago Ave.
Division St.
Halsted St.

A Place for Biking
Street-level Cyclists

The Shop at REI

bike greenway loops
bike parking
A Place for Paddling
Kayakers and Boaters

Kayak launches + stopping points

- Chicago Ave.
- North Ave.
- Eastman St.
- Division St.
- Hobbie St.
A Place for Everyone

- Safe and continuous trails
- Multiple access points
- Safe access to the river
- Connectivity to city-wide trails and greenways
Design a Cohesive Experience
Unique Programming Opportunities

1. The Gateway Art + Performance

2. Food, Art + Gathering
   2a. Outdoor Recreation + Learning

3. The Lookout Observing + Hanging Out
   3a. Living + Working

Cherry St.  Division St.
1 The Turning Basin
The Gateway | Art + Performance
The Turning Basin
Existing
1 The Turning Basin
Proposed
2a The North Reach
Food, Art + Gathering
2b The North Reach
Outdoor Recreation + Learning
The North Reach

Existing
The North Reach
Proposed
3a The South Reach
The Lookout | Observing + Hanging Out
3b The South Reach
Living + Working
3 The South Reach

Existing
Proposed

3 The South Reach
Implementation
How to Build the Wild Mile

Roadmap Complete

- Your Wild Mile Road Map!
- Wild Mile Guiding Principles
- Overall Framework
- Kit of Components + Species
- Guidelines of Use

Build a Team!

- Property Owners
- Neighborspace
- Technical Design
- Science + Education
- Community Groups
- Stewardship Groups

Select a Space!

- Start with Demonstration Project
- Location, Existing Conditions
- What’s Driving Your Project?
- Habitat, Trail, Program Platform Installations, or Combination
The Wild Mile Implementation Process

1. Design
2. Permission + Permitting
3. Fundraising
4. Installation

Programming + Engagement
Maintenance + Stewardship

project lifetime
The Wild Mile starts as a collection of community managed spaces ...

... The Wild Mile will grow into a coordinated program with more structured governance

Neighborspace, Urban Rivers, and Near North Unity working with...

- Groupon on river cleanup day
- Whole Foods on Wild Mile art display
- Waste Management on habitat installs
- REI on educational activity
- Other events and efforts

There will be a shared responsibility to program and manage the Wild Mile
Wild Mile Learning Dock

- NeighborSpace/Urban Rivers/ Near North Unity
- Building off the new REI ramp and kayak dock
- Summer 2019 installation
- Welcome community engagement to help with programming and setting up stewardship
Growing the momentum...

- Urban Rivers Habitat Installations
- Whole Foods Riverwalk
- New REI Riverwalk
- New Eastman Street Wild Mile Access Point
- Planned Educational Program Platform at Eastman Street
Existing Assets

Eastman to Weed  Completing the Northern Loop

- Existing riverwalk
- Whole Foods
- Offcolor Brewing
- Carbit Corp.
- REI
- Access ramp
- Kayak launch
- Planned educational platform
- Existing floating habitat
- Waste management

20' River Edge (instream)
30' River Edge setback (on land)
1. Weed Access Point
2. Continuous Walkway from Eastman to Weed
3. Floating Habitat

- Floating path cost is approximately $1.3 - $1.5 M
- Recommend Open Space Impact Fees to fund starting path
Adding Wild Mile Components

1. Weed Access Point
2. Continuous Walkway from Eastman to Weed
3. Floating Habitat
4. Program Platforms
5. Viewing Pier
6. Mural

7. Floating Habitat and Naturalized Shoreline
   
   **Leverage private funds for add on floating islands and program platforms**
Building the Wild Mile Vision

- Draft Wild Mile Framework Plan can be downloaded from [www.wildmilechicago.org](http://www.wildmilechicago.org)
- Presentation materials to be kept on display at Near North Unity Leslie Hall
- Media to contact Chicago Department of Planning and Development
- Follow updates on the website [www.wildmilechicago.org](http://www.wildmilechicago.org)
- Contact Information – Sign up for continued involvement
- Continued coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers
Lead the World
Wild Mile Week (April 22nd - April 27th)

- **Wild Mile Book Display**
  April 15th - April 27th
  Near North Branch Library, 310 W Division

- **Earth Day River Clean Up with Groupon**
  Monday, April 22nd, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm
  600 W. Chicago Ave Lobby

- **Whole Foods Social with We All Live Here**
  Tuesday, April 23rd, 5:00 pm-8:00 pm
  Whole Foods Market, 1550 N. Kingsbury St.

- **Wild Mile Community Meeting #3**
  Thursday, April 25th, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm
  Cornerstone Center, Leslie Hall, 1111 N. Wells St.

- **Wendella Boat Tour**
  Friday, April 26th, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm
  Chicago Water Taxi-North Avenue

- **Wild Mile Canoe Trip with Kayak Chicago**
  Saturday, April 27th, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
  Kayak Chicago, 1501 N. Magnolia Ave.

- **Hands-on Garden Activity with REI and Urban Rivers**
  Saturday, April 27th, 2:00 pm-5:00 pm
  REI 905 W. Eastman St.

- **The Original Earth Day River Cruise with Wendella and Friends of the Chicago River**
  Monday, April 22nd, 11:30am-1:30pm
  Wendella Boats, 400 N. Michigan Ave.
discussion

Visit wildmilechicago.org