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CITY OF CHICAGO

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**MAYOR EMANUEL ANNOUNCES RIVERWALK ATTRACTIONS  
TO OPEN FOR SUMMER 2015**

*Full array of Chicago dining, educational, cultural and recreational activities  
to be available this summer*

As part of his efforts to transform the river into a recreational frontier, Mayor Rahm Emanuel today announced that phase two of the Chicago Riverwalk will open tomorrow, and also announced the lineup of vendors that will provide dining, educational, cultural and recreational activities along the waterfront stretch from LaSalle to Lake Shore Drive for the 2015 summer season. The exciting new lineup includes numerous dining options, live entertainment, biking, kayaking, cruises, boat rentals and water taxis. The Riverwalk will also offer live music later this summer through the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE).

"It's exciting to see the vision of the Riverwalk coming together and becoming a reality. It's a big step forward in making the river the next great recreational frontier in Chicago," said Mayor Emanuel. "Memorial Day Weekend has long been the unofficial start to summer in Chicago and I can't think of a better time to start to open up the Riverwalk so families can relax, have lunch or dinner and enjoy our great city."

Located along the main branch of the Chicago River, the Riverwalk is being constructed as a continuous walkway and recreational amenity connecting the lakefront with the heart of downtown.

"The Chicago River is one of our city's greatest – and underutilized -- natural assets. I commend Mayor Emanuel's effort to connect the lakefront with the heart of downtown and to turn the valuable, underused real estate along the river into an attraction for city residents and tourists alike," said Senator Durbin. "I supported TIFIA's expansion and am pleased Chicago seized the opportunity to tap the program for this valuable project."

The newest section, which opens tomorrow, connects to the existing Riverwalk east of State Street to Lake Shore Drive. The three new sections are thematically named: The Marina (from State to Dearborn) will feature a restaurant and area for boats to dock; The Cove (Dearborn to Clark) will offer rentals and other amenities for kayakers; and the River Theater (Clark to LaSalle) will connect Upper Wacker to the River through a series of steps and a ramp designed to accommodate wheelchairs and strollers. The Marina and the Cove are now open, and the River Theater will open in early June.

The final phase of the Riverwalk will begin this summer extending the River walk to Lake Street, with the following three themed sections: The Water Plaza (LaSalle to Wells); The Jetty (Wells to Franklin) and The Boardwalk (Franklin to Lake).

The six new sections of the Chicago Riverwalk are financed through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Transportation Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act (TIFIA) program.

The following dining and activity vendors are confirmed and set to open in the coming weeks.

### **LOCATION: Lakeshore Drive to Michigan Avenue**

#### **WanderBikes**

*Will offer electric bike rental and guided tours*

485 East Riverwalk South- adjacent to Lake Shore Drive

[www.wanderbikes.com](http://www.wanderbikes.com)

#### **Urban Kayaks**

*Returning to the riverwalk, will offer kayak rental and guided tours*

435 East Riverwalk South

[www.urbankayaks.com](http://www.urbankayaks.com)

#### **Island Party Hut**

*Will offer island themed food and beverage as well as charter boat rentals and live music*

355 East Riverwalk South- between Field Drive and Columbus

[www.islandpartyhut.com](http://www.islandpartyhut.com)

#### **Wheel Fun Rentals**

*Will offer bike rentals for the entire family*

305 East Riverwalk South- immediately east of Columbus

[www.wheelfunrentals.com](http://www.wheelfunrentals.com)

#### **Cyrano's Café & Wine Bar**

*Returning to the Riverwalk, will offer French food and wine inspired by Monet's garden*

233 East Riverwalk South- immediately west of Columbus

[www.cyranoscafeontheriver.com](http://www.cyranoscafeontheriver.com)

#### **Mercury Cruises**

*Will offer Charter Boat tours in conjunction with the Chicago Architecture Foundation tours*  
112 East Upper Wacker Drive  
[www.mercurycruises.com](http://www.mercurycruises.com)

**LOCATION: Wabash Avenue**

**O'Brien's Riverwalk Café**

*Returning to the Riverwalk, will offer food and beverage and live entertainment on Thursdays*  
45 East Riverwalk South- east of the bridge  
[www.obriensrestaurant.com](http://www.obriensrestaurant.com)

**Bike and Roll Chicago**

*Will offer bike rentals, guided tours on bike, foot and on Segways*  
316 North Wabash- the Upper Wabash Plaza near the Vietnam Memorial  
[www.bikechicago.com](http://www.bikechicago.com)

**LOCATION: The Marina- State to Dearborn**

**City Winery**

*Will offer food, drink and live music in the newly construction section of the Riverwalk*  
11 West Riverwalk South- State Street Side  
[www.citywinery.com/chicago](http://www.citywinery.com/chicago)

**Downtown Docks**

*Will offer transient docking for motorized recreational boats, allowing them access to the amenities on the Riverwalk*  
27 West Riverwalk South- Dearborn side  
[www.downtowndock.com](http://www.downtowndock.com)

**LOCATION: The Cove- Dearborn to Clark**

**Flanders Belgium Beer and Fries**

*Will offer Belgium inspired beers and food*  
55 West Riverwalk South- Dearborn side

**Urban Kayaks**

*Will offer a kayaking outpost to allow paddlers a place to escape the busy downtown river*  
71 West Riverwalk South- Clark Street side  
[www.urbankayaks.com](http://www.urbankayaks.com)

**LOCATION: The River Theater - Clark and LaSalle**

**Wendela WaterTaxi**

*Will offer water taxi service on weekends*  
105 West Riverwalk South  
[www.chicagowatertaxi.com](http://www.chicagowatertaxi.com)

In addition, DCASE will offer weekly music series and programming, which will take place later this summer; a full list of programming and events will be released in the coming weeks.

Mayor Emanuel's goal of making the Chicago River the city's next recreational frontier launched in 2011 with the construction of three new boathouses in neighborhoods throughout the city, as well as a fourth in the Bridgeport neighborhood that is set to be completed by 2016. The city's commitment to investing in increased recreational usage of the river ways is also evident in the recent expansion of Ping Tom Memorial Park that opened along the Chicago River, north of 18th Street at the edge of the Chinatown and South Loop neighborhoods. The park reflects the City's pledge to river development with a \$6 million investment in new parkland, riverwalk, native plantings, topography, new vistas, boat landings and a "disappearing" staircase into the water.

The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) has been working on the Chicago Riverwalk since East-West Wacker Drive reconstruction began in the 1990s. The roadway was reconfigured to accommodate the expansion of the riverwalk to promote a pedestrian walkway and activate the space as a public amenity. The East-West Wacker Project included utility build-outs for the future Riverwalk build-out for the entire length from Michigan to Lake Street.

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**Attached PDF: Riverwalk Dining and Activity Map**