



# **River Ecology & Governance Task Force**

December 7, 2021 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

# Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introduction
- II. End of Year Survey
- III. Working Group Check-in and Discussions
- IV. Partner Led Presentation by Friends of the Chicago River
- V. 2022 Priority Projects + Topics
- VI. Proposed 2022 Meeting Dates + Adjourn

# **End of Year Survey**

# Task Force Objectives

Transforming Chicago's unique waterway system into a **thriving and ecologically integrated natural asset**, capable of accommodating the needs of people, requires **coordinated planning**, investment and management

Aspire to, and realize no later than 2040, inland waterways in Chicago that are **inviting, productive and living**, that **support wildlife in-stream and on their banks**, and that **contribute to our city's resiliency**

# Short-Term Goals: 2021 - 2022

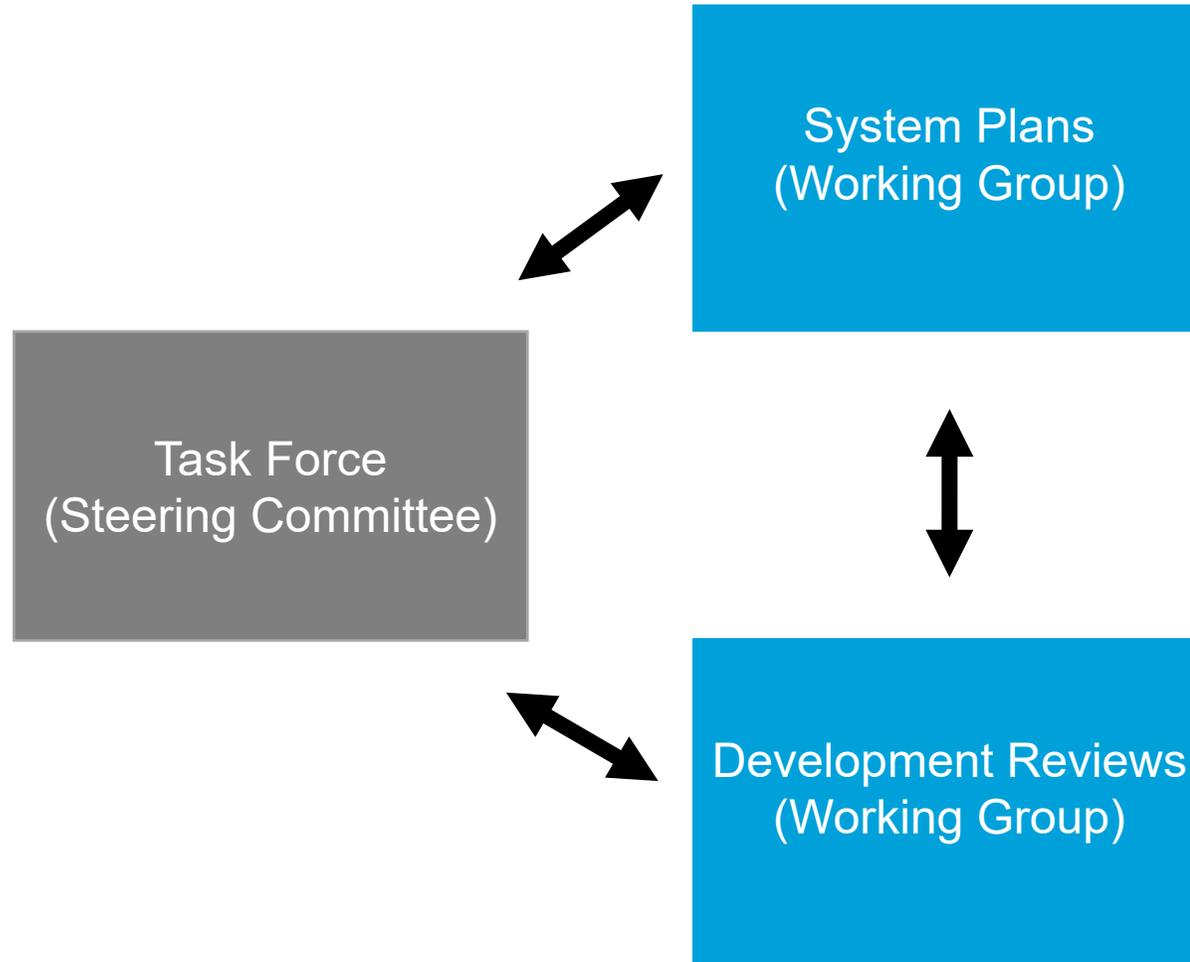
1. Create principles for a system-wide and neighborhood focused approach to Chicago's waterways
  - a. Adoption of principles by government partners participating on Steering Committee
2. Review current policies and create recommendations to strengthen

# Short-Term Goals: 2021 - 2022

3. Inform near-term planning opportunities to advance collective priorities
  - a. We Will Chicago
  - b. CDOT Access Study
  - c. USACE PAS Restoration Framework Plan
  - d. Industrial Corridor Modernization Process
4. Develop criteria to prioritize projects for identified funding opportunities
5. Standardize process for reviewing riverfront development projects

# **Working Group Check-In and Discussion**

# Working Structure for 2021 - 2022



# **System Plans Working Group**

# System Plans Working Group

- Participated in five working meetings
- Co-created a set of [Draft Principles and Themes](#) to guide land use and development
- Determining policy focus and next steps for 2022

# Discussion Question

- How do we engage with local community organizations and residents about these principles and how they can be enacted in different parts of the river and on different sites? What are some strategies the Working Group could pursue in 2022?

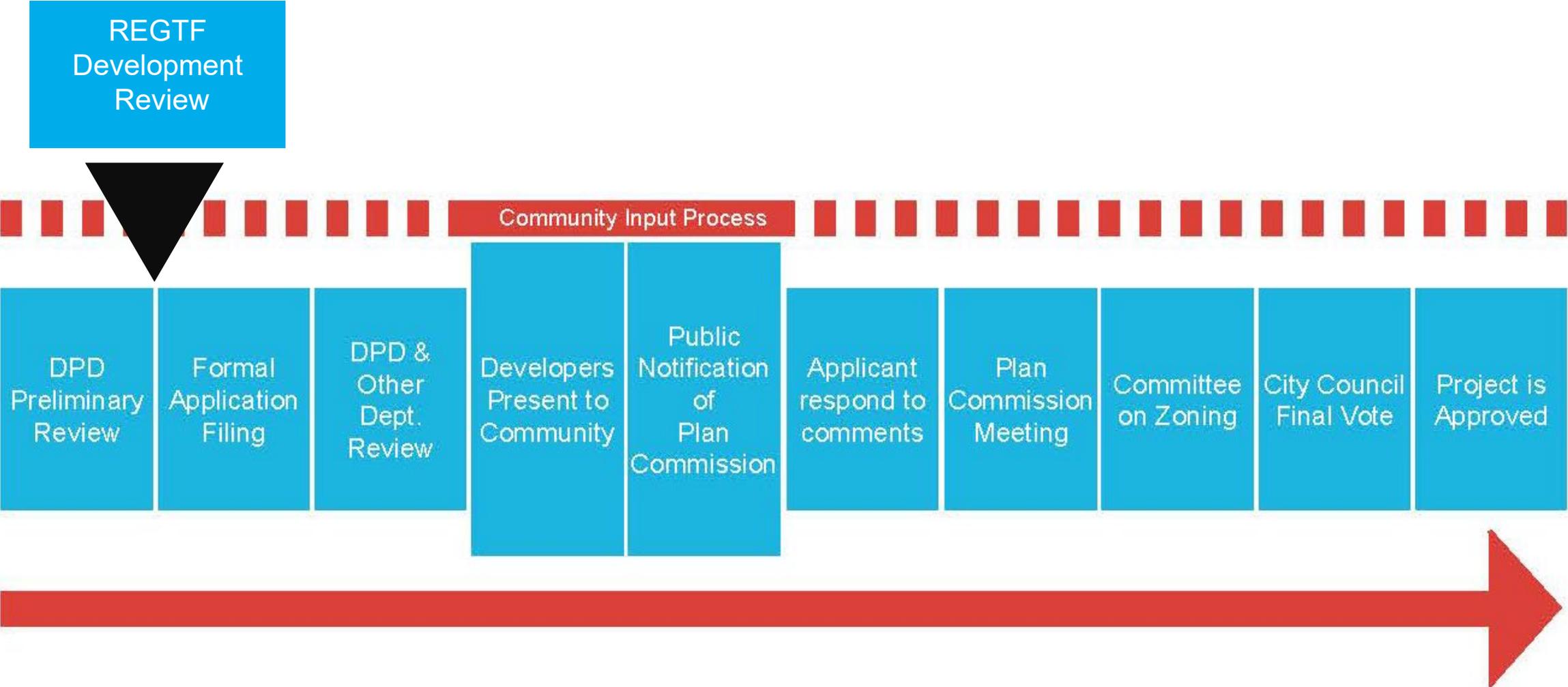
[Jam Board](#)

# **Development Review Working Group**

# Development Review Working Group

- Participated in 6 reviews
- Developed and piloted a standard review form based on Design Guidelines
- Structured a format for reviews and providing comments to the development team
- Working on making process more transparent publicly and feedback loops

# Development Review Group Process



# Discussion Question

- How can these review processes incorporate the [draft principles and themes](#) that have been created by the System Plans Working Group? Are there additional questions that should be asked? Can the principles be provided in advance to the developer team? Other strategies?

[Jam Board](#)

[Draft Review Form](#)

# **Partner Led Presentation + Discussion**

# **2022 Priority Projects + Topics**

# Chicago Dept. of Planning + Development

- We Will Chicago citywide plan
- Southwest Industrial Corridor support services (with CDOT)
- Far South Industrial Corridor planning (with CDOT)
- PAS next steps (with other government stakeholders)

# Chicago Dept. of Transportation

- Citywide River Edge Access Study
- South Branch Parks Access Study (with Park District)
- Riverwalk Extension
- Southwest Industrial Corridor support services (with DPD)
- Far South Industrial Corridor planning (with DPD)

# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

- Chicago Area Waterway System Phosphorus Assessment and Reduction Plan
- H2NOW Collaboration
- Green Infrastructure
- Streambank Stabilization Projects

# Chicago Park District

- North Branch Park projects (recreation/restoration)
- Work at Hegewisch, Big Marsh, Whitford, and Indian Ridge around trails / eco-recreation infrastructure
- Deadstick Pond restoration
- SEPA station restoration
- Mittal Woods

# Quarterly Topics for Presentation + Discussion

- Planning and zoning regulations, processes, permits, and decisions (local, state, federal)
- Community engagement in riverfront planning efforts
- Funding for riverfront projects (local, state, federal)

# **Proposed 2022 Meeting Dates + Adjourn**

Jan, Feb,  
March

- REGTF March 9
- ACOE & Local government meetings
- Development Review March 18

April, May,  
June

- System Plan Working Group May 25
- REGTF June 8
- ACOE & Local government meetings
- Development Review June 29

July, August,  
September

- Development Review July 20, August 3, September 7
- System Plan Working Group August 16
- PAS Workshops August 24, August 31, September 28
- REGTF September 14

October,  
November,  
December

- Development Review October 5
- System Plans Working Group October 7, November 3, December 1
- PAS Workshop October 12
- SWIC Workshop November 29
- REGTF December 7

# Proposed 2022 Task Force Meeting Dates

- March 15: 3 pm to 4:30
- June 7: 3 pm to 4:30
- September 13: 3 pm to 4:30
- December 6: 3 pm to 4:30

# Upcoming Proposed Workshops

- We Will Chicago Meeting-in-a-Box
  - January 20: 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm