

**RIVER ECOLOGY  
& GOVERNANCE  
TASK FORCE**

**FULL TASK FORCE MEETING  
APRIL 30, 2019**

- 1. Opening Remarks**
  - Reaffirming the purpose of this Task Force
  - Translating the vision of Great Rivers into action
  - Coordinating between working groups
  - Public finance options
  
- 2. Trails report out and goals**
  
- 3. Community Connections report out and goals**
  
- 4. Science & Design report out and goals**
  - Emerging work
  
- 5. Stewardship & Volunteers report out and goals**
  
- 6. Government-led projects and partnerships**
  - IDOT grants
  - WildMile progress
  - US Army Corps of Engineers
  
- 7. Next steps**

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**. **Start by:**

1. Initiating a coordinating structure
2. Identifying new opportunities to invest and involve communities in the river
3. Developing a long-term structure for stewardship and maintenance and identify fundraising opportunities

Trails goals for discussion:

**Networks** – Develop a comprehensive plan for river trail networks in 2019 that includes timelines and general cost estimates

**Experiences** – Create trail environments for both pedestrians and non-pedestrians without detracting from either experience and which enhance the ecosystem and the communities

**Choices** – Identify and provide options where on land or at the river are not feasible (in water paths; alternative routes through wetlands, parks and preserves; street routes)

## Community Connections goals for discussion:

**Engagement** – Provide a forum for communities adjacent to the rivers to propose and review concepts and plans for public access and engagement with the water

**Inclusiveness** – Invite those communities with current river activities/access and identify and engage those communities without direct access through other water related issues (wetlands; storm water; fresh water access as a key to healthy communities in the face of climate change)

**Integration** – Incorporate the river visions and projects of adjacent communities into a river system that benefits all communities, people and nature

## Science and Design goals for discussion:

**Alignment** – Unite and align the professional community to put nature on equal footing with humans within Chicago’s river system

**Systems** – Formalize review processes to include science and design to create a systems approach for ecosystem health

**Principles** – Develop design principles based on the science and informed by the community, trail and stewardship goals

**Relevance** – Create a common language for scientists, designers, volunteers, neighborhood communities and the general public around the issues, vision and goals

**Knowledge** – Establish a repository for scientific research and design techniques the support ecosystem health

# RIVER ECOLOGY & GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE

## SCIENCE AND DESIGN: EMERGING WORK

- Two emerging subcommittees:
  - Wildlife
  - River edge options
- Advocate for better design along Amtrak seawall that can advance the vision and goals of this Task Force



Stewardship and Volunteers goals for discussion:

**Everyone** – Increase the number of people engaged as volunteers and stewards to improve the health of the river, its wildlife, and of adjacent lands and communities

**Opportunity** – Develop a diverse range of opportunities for individuals, groups and communities to connect to the river system (trash pickup; storm water infiltration; water activities in libraries)

**Blueprints** – Use science as the basis to identify priority geographies for ecological stewardship activities



- DPD webpage live
- Set up a regular schedule for future working group and task force meetings



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## River Ecology and Governance Task Force

The River Ecology and Governance Task Force is charged with coordinating between government agencies, civic and nonprofit organizations, private developers and local communities to achieve common goals for the betterment of Chicago's rivers. Its purview comprises every riverfront within the city limits, including the Chicago River, the North Shore Channel, the Sanitary and Ship Canal, and the Calumet, Little Calumet and Des Plaines rivers.

More broadly, the task force aims to transform Chicago's waterway system into a thriving and ecologically integrated natural asset, capable of accommodating the needs of people and wildlife through coordinated planning, investment, management, stewardship and programming.

An executive order signed in January 2019 by Mayor Rahm Emanuel directed the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) to create the task force. The task force has since created four working groups around common areas of practice: Science and Design, Stewardship and Volunteerism, Community Connections, and Trails.

In addition to uniting the varied organizations and individuals involved in Chicago's rivers, the task force will actively coordinate with other agencies that have important oversight functions, including the Chicago Waterways Committee, the Chicago Harbor Safety Committee and the Great Rivers Implementation Committee, among others.

Supporting Info

Department:

Planning and Devel  
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## Meetings and Materials

Below is a chart detailing meetings of the task force and its smaller working groups, and materials provided at each meeting. Community organizations and members of the general public interested in attending task force or working group meetings should contact DPD's Nolan Zaroff at [Nolan.Zaroff@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Nolan.Zaroff@cityofchicago.org).

Date	Meeting	Materials
April 30, 2019	River Ecology and Governance Task Force	Agenda
April 29, 2019	Science and Design Working Group	
April 18, 2019	Stewardship and Volunteerism Working Group	Agenda Presentation Meeting summary
April 18, 2019	Community Connections and Trails Working Group	Agenda Presentation Meeting summary
April 12, 2019	Community Connections and Trails Working Group	Agenda Presentation Meeting summary
April 5, 2019	Science and Design Working Group	Agenda Presentation Meeting summary
March 14, 2019	River Ecology and Governance Task Force Launch Meeting	Agenda Presentation

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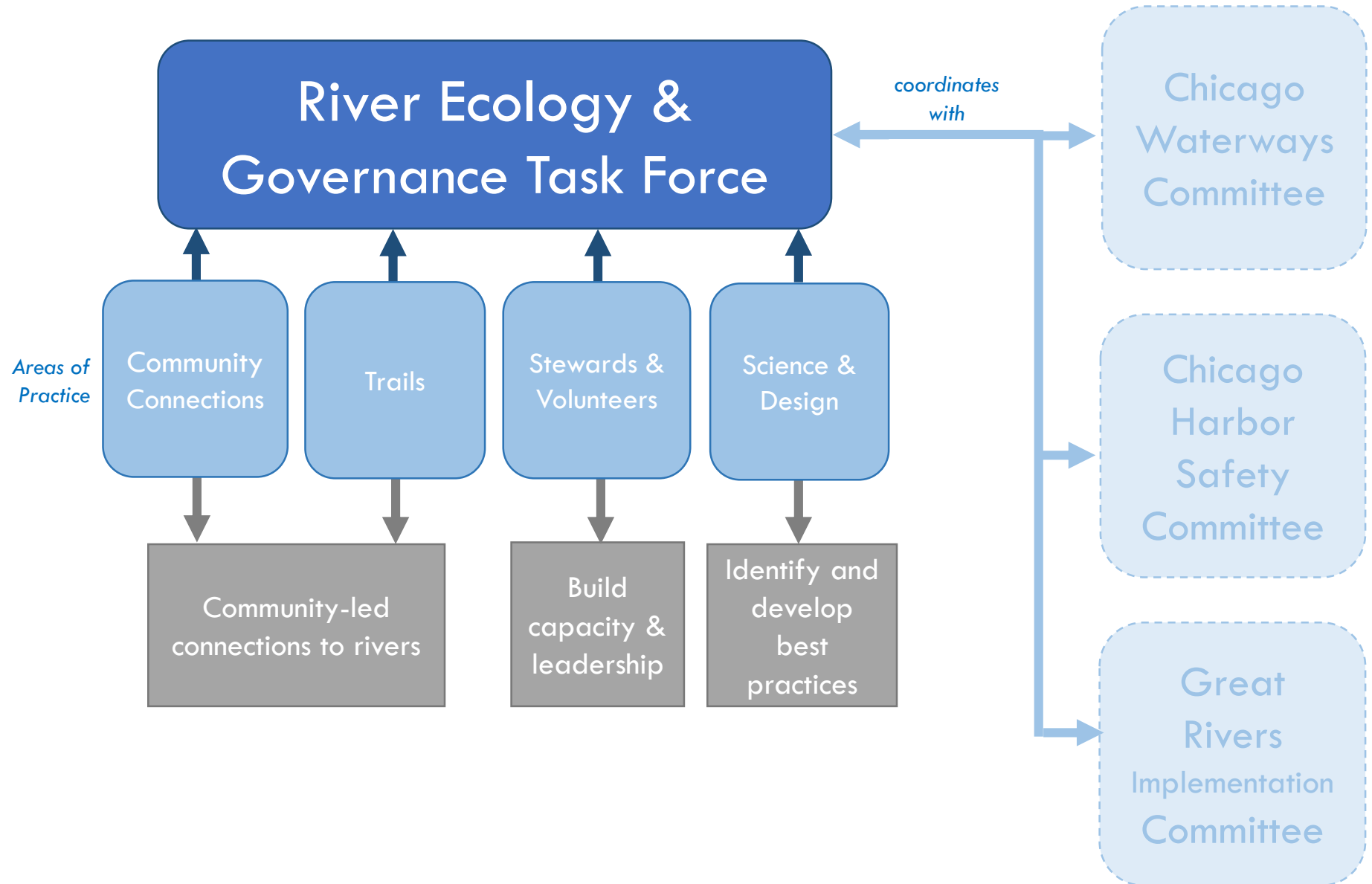
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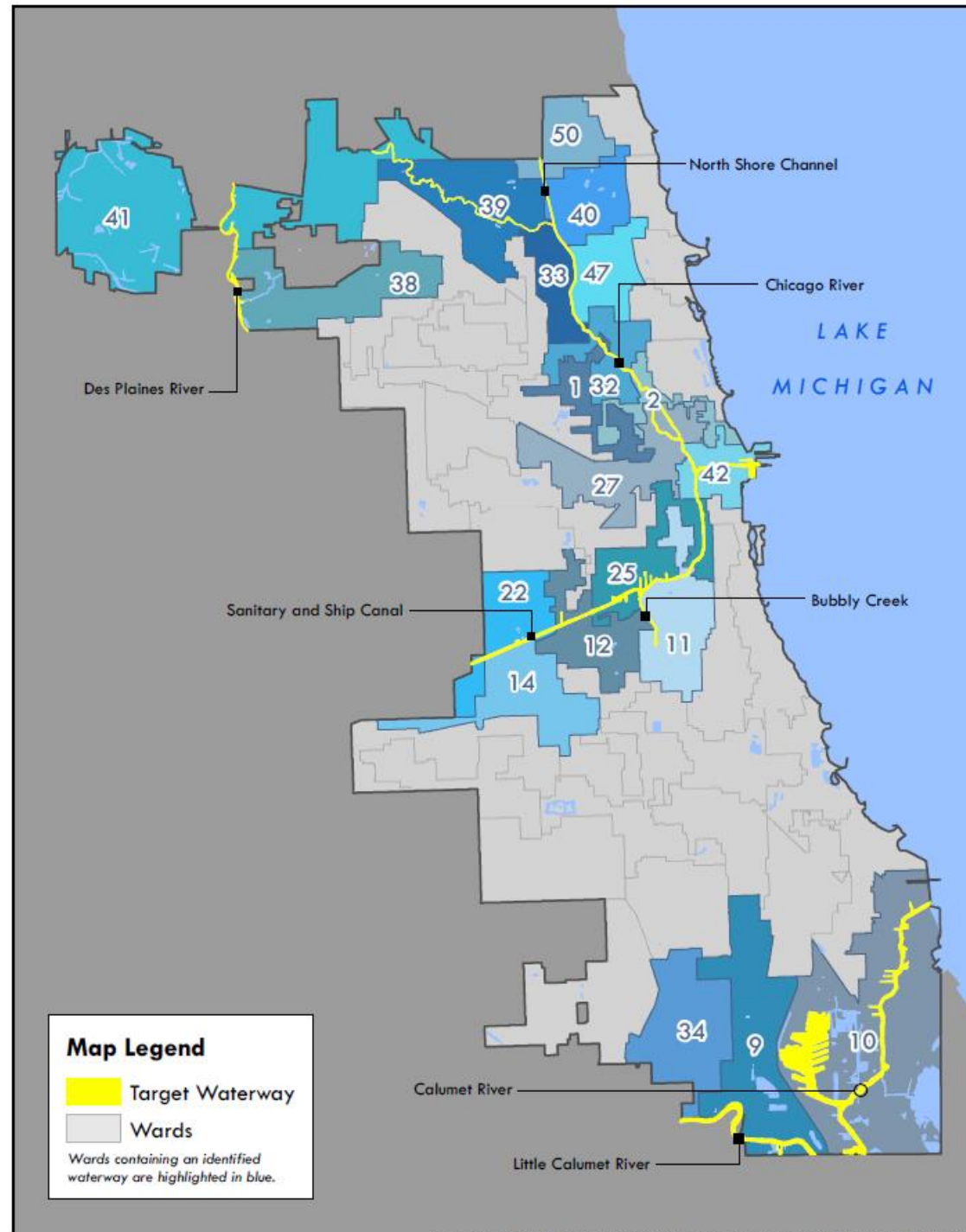
# RIVER ECOLOGY & GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE

## OPERATING STRUCTURE



# RIVER ECOLOGY & GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE

## IDENTIFIED WATERWAYS, WARDS & COMMUNITIES



# RIVER ECOLOGY & GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE

## AREA OF FOCUS & COORDINATION

