



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 11, 2022

CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

press@cityofchicago.org

**MAYOR LIGHTFOOT, SENATORS DURBIN, DUCKWORTH, AND CONGRESSMAN
DAVIS ANNOUNCE \$20 MILLION FOR ENGLEWOOD NATURE TRAIL**

*U.S. Department of Transportation's RAISE grant funding will provide catalyst for
inclusive revitalization of the Englewood community*

CHICAGO — Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), and U.S. Congressman Danny Davis (D-IL-07) today announced \$20M in federal grant funding awarded to support the Englewood Nature Trail — a project to convert a 1.75-mile abandoned railway corridor into a grade-separated multiuse path for walking and biking in Englewood. The trail will not only revitalize a railway corridor that has been unused since the 1960s, but also serve as the spine of an urban agriculture district that occupies adjacent land, along with other productive uses. The long-term goals for the trail include connecting the surrounding area with safe and inviting park space and multiuse paths.

“This equity-focused investment in the Englewood community will serve as a major catalyst for revitalization,” said Mayor Lightfoot. “The Englewood Nature Trail is both a physical connector and pathway to community connectivity and opportunity. The trail, which was importantly developed as part of a community-led process, will benefit Englewood residents for years to come.”

This investment was awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program to help communities carry out infrastructure and transportation projects with significant local or regional impact.

“Investments in rebuilding and modernizing Illinois’ infrastructure are critical to improve resident’s quality of life,” said Durbin. “This RAISE grant will help provide important community benefits to Englewood and Chicago’s south side. Senator Duckworth and I will continue working to ensure our state has the federal resources needed to succeed.”

“I’m proud that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is at work benefitting Illinoisans by repairing and enhancing our infrastructure,” Duckworth said. “This infusion of



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



federal funding will help support this important project for Chicago and the Englewood community. I look forward to continuing to support Illinois's communities receiving much-needed federal resources."

"This grant will provide an infusion of federal support to the Englewood community, helping create a new nature trail that will be a welcoming and enjoyable space for neighbors," said Rep. Danny K. Davis. "I strongly supported this federal infrastructure funding and will continue to advocate for robust federal investments in Englewood and the south and west sides of Chicago."

Funding from the RAISE grant will support the detailed design and construction of the trail, which is slated to run east-west along an elevated berm, crossing 26 viaducts and ending on the east near Wallace Street and on the west near Hoyne Avenue. The project includes nine entrances for community members to safely access the trail. The City is leveraging both federal and local funding sources to support the completion of the project and is committed to realizing this vision hand in hand with the community partners that drove its creation and progress.

"Englewood and West Englewood need bold catalytic development. As the network of community stakeholders and residents, we've been working to ensure that Englewood's culture and identity are baked into this project and that it is a source of pride for the community," said Anton Seals Jr., Executive Director of Grow Greater Englewood. "We're grateful for this federal investment and look forward to building a space where neighbors can find economic opportunities, safe and environmentally sustainable places, and access to more healthy foods.

The Englewood Nature Trail is part of a citywide vision of trails and open spaces that will contribute to a network of community-led green infrastructure projects that promote the health and well-being of Chicago residents and visitors. The [citywide vision map](#) is intended to add 48 miles of new assets to an existing 79-mile network. The individual projects will be spearheaded locally with planning and visioning support from the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT), the Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD), and the Chicago Park District. The City is working closely with the community stakeholders to plan each project and identify funding for engineering and construction, including applications for competitive federal grants, like today's RAISE grant funding.

"CDOT is excited to work with community stakeholders, the Chicago Department of Planning and Development, and our federal partners to make the Englewood Nature Trail a reality," said Chicago Department of Transportation Commissioner Gia Biagi. "This project closely aligns with CDOT's goals to leverage our infrastructure to



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



improve the health, prosperity, and connectivity of communities that have experienced years of disinvestment.”

"Englewood has a rich history as a hub of residential and commercial vibrancy," said Maurice Cox, Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Development. "By integrating the active urban agriculture in the area and other economic development initiatives and remediating environmental degradation, the Englewood Nature Trail will provide a key investment for accelerating the neighborhood's future as a model of sustainability for people, place, and planet. For more information on the Englewood Nature Trail, please visit [Chicago.gov/englewoodtrail](https://chicago.gov/englewoodtrail).

###

-