



Tree Equity Working Group

June 10, 2025



Agenda

- Meeting norms
- Tree planting progress
- Cumulative Impact Ordinance Overview
- Member updates
- Discussion

★ Meeting Norms

- Be kind
- Share your perspective and allow others to do the same
- Use the chat, raise your hand to speak
- Stay on topic
- Send updates and ideas in advance

Tree Planting Progress

- Updates from CDOT and DSS



Cumulative Impact Ordinance

Gaby Wagener-Sobrero, DOE



★ Cumulative Impact Assessment Summary

- Chicago's Cumulative Impact Assessment was co-led by community groups and the City to help **identify neighborhoods that experience the greatest cumulative burden and inform decision-making** around both policy and potential targeted investments the City should make.
- The Assessment includes:
 - Community Input Summaries
 - Chicago Environmental Justice Index and Map
 - City of Chicago Environmental Justice Action Plan
 - Cumulative Impacts Policy Recommendations



All Cumulative Impact Assessment reports are available at chicago.gov/cumulativeimpact

★ The Hazel Johnson Cumulative Impacts Ordinance - A Healthier and Safer Chicago

The Cumulative Impacts Ordinance will create an overall healthier Chicago. By modifying the zoning process, the Ordinance will reduce the amount of health-damaging pollution that residents across Chicago are exposed to. The Ordinance would do this by:

- ✓ Requiring intensive industrial facilities to conduct a **cumulative impact study** to assess potential environmental and health impacts.
- ✓ These cumulative impact studies would be reviewed by a new board, the **Environmental Justice (EJ) Advisory Board**, and posted publicly on a City website.
- ✓ **Requiring additional review** for new and expanding intensive industrial facilities to ensure that they are safe for the health of communities and the environment.



★ EJ Advisory Board – Embodying Co-Governance

- **Ex-Officio Members:**
 - Commissioner of CDPH
 - Commissioner of CDOT
 - Chief Sustainability Officer
 - Chair of the Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy
- **Non-governmental members are appointed by the Mayor:**
 - 10 members from environmental justice community areas
 - 3 members from various non-profit organizations
 - 1 public health expert
 - 1 environment or climate expert
 - 1 member from business community

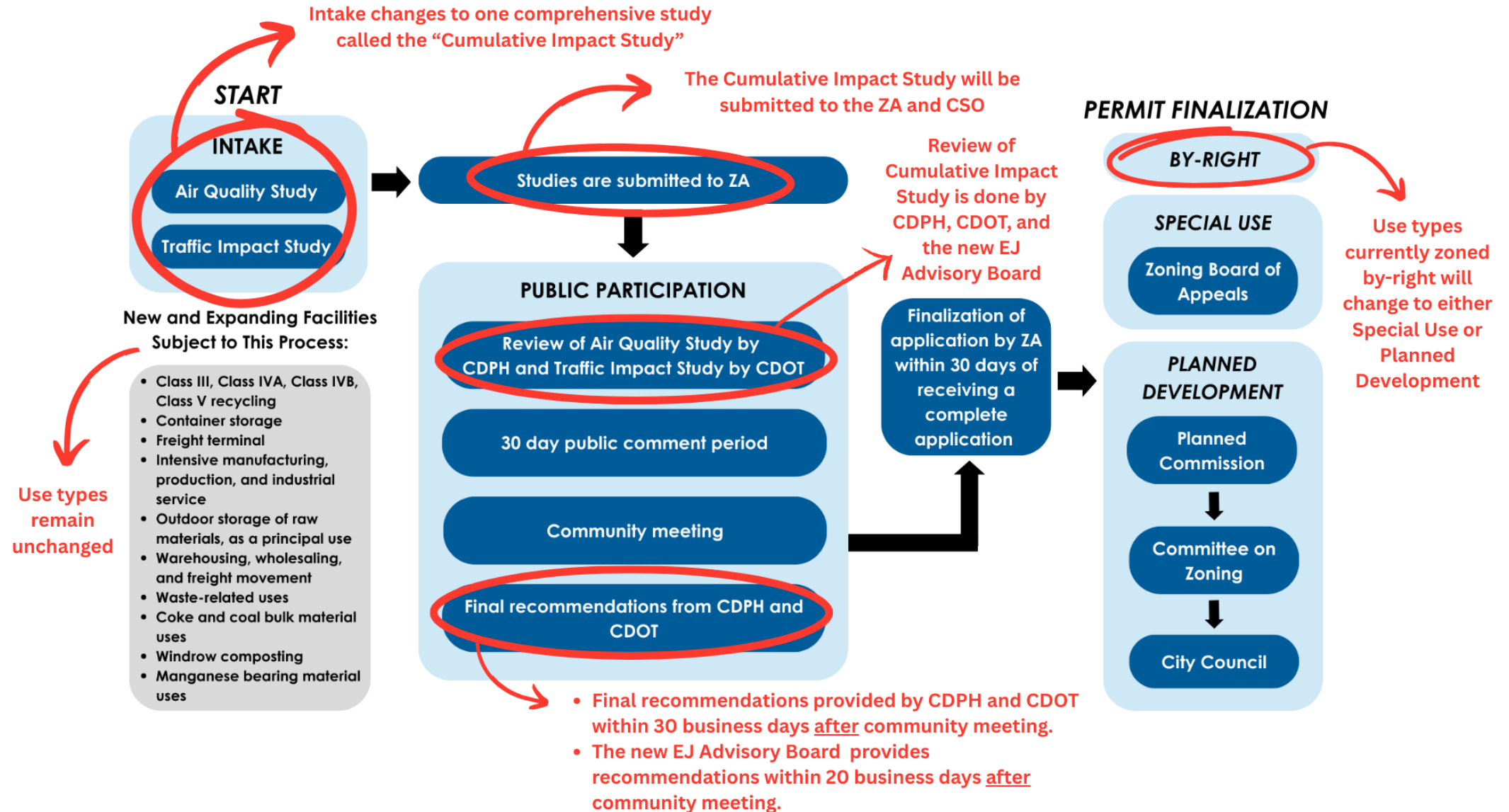


★ Functions of the EJ Advisory Board



- ✓ Provides suggestions and guidance on City plans and policies including the Environmental Justice Action Plan
- ✓ Advises the City on heavy industrial zoning decisions
- ✓ Works collaboratively with City departments to provide feedback and recommendations on environmental justice initiatives

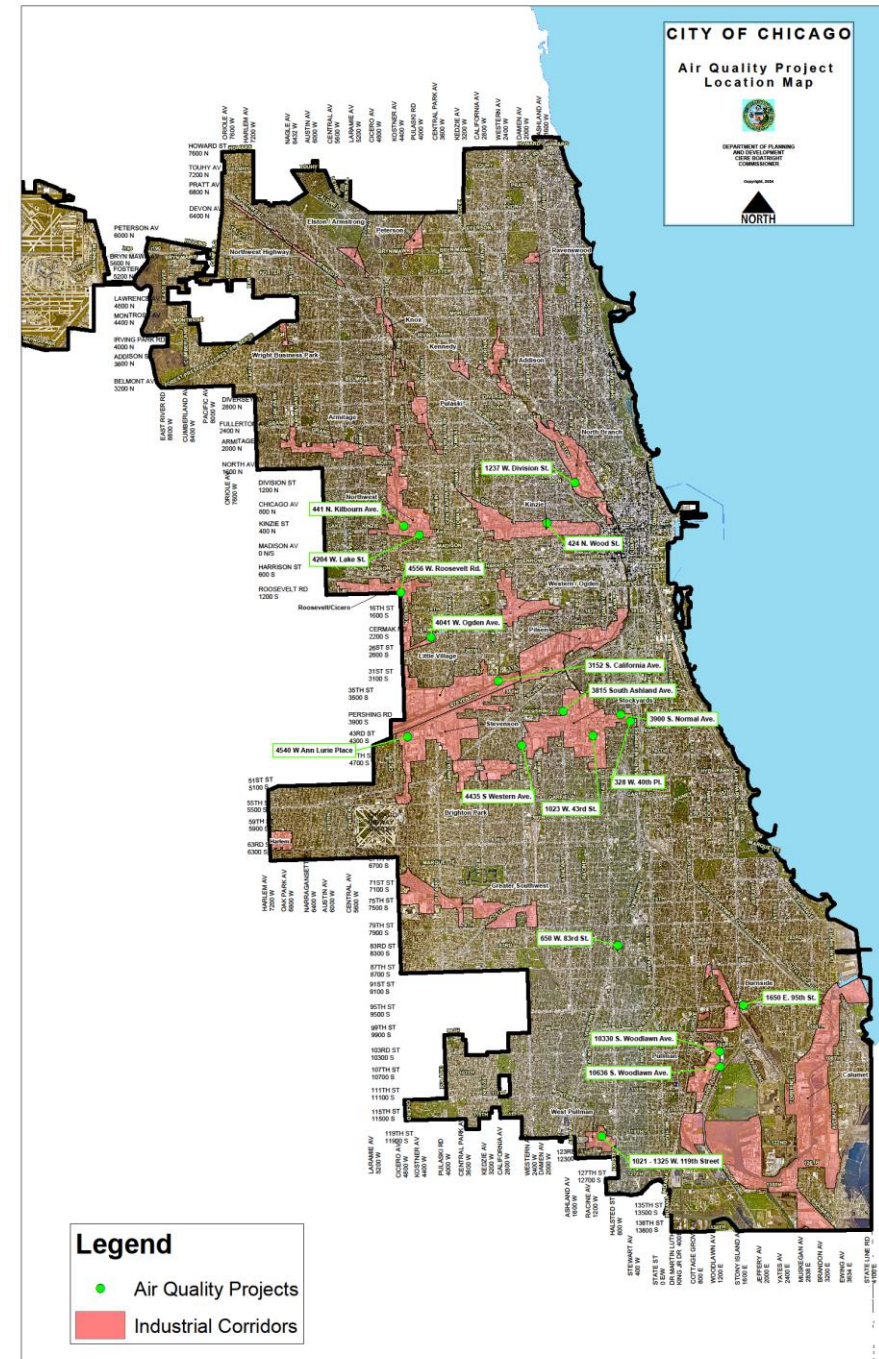
Changes to the Current Zoning Review Process





Air Quality Zoning Ordinance – Historical Data

- Between 2021-2024, the City has received and approved 18 applications
- On average, the City receives approximately 5 applications per year
- Currently, 50% of the developments go through the Planned Development process.



★ Common Mitigation Measures



The City and developer align on a set of mitigation measures, largely tied to operational improvements, to address anticipated project impacts.

Examples of mitigations include:

- Paving unpaved areas of the site to further reduce fugitive dust emissions
- Monitoring emissions with data tracking
- Applying dust control applications throughout the site
- Utilizing street sweeping equipment on asphalted areas
- **Adding vegetative buffers around the site**
- Incorporating truck-specific routes and entry points

Urban Forestry Advisory Board Update

Last meeting: June 5, 2025

★ UFAB Upcoming Meetings

Advisory Board

- October 2

Policy WG

- July 2
- August 14
- September 4

Education WG

- July 8
- August 12
- September 9

Tree Ambassador Program



Meet a Tree Ambassador: Karen Roothaan



Tree Stewardship Through Storytelling with Puerto Rican Cultural Center



Tree Planting Toolkits for Communities

Subscribe to the newsletter for :

- Community Highlights (Interviews, Updates, etc.)
- Resources
- Plantings and Events





Tree Equity Working Group: Openlands Update!

Discussion

- Meeting recordings/AI notetakers
- Other topics

Next TEWG Meeting

July 11, 2025

7:00pm

Microsoft Teams



Jared Patton, AICP

Jared.Patton@cityofchicago.org

OurRoots@cityofchicago.org

312-742-0703

City of Chicago

Department of Environment

2 N LaSalle St, Suite 725

Chicago, IL 60602

Chicago.gov/Environment

