

MetropolitanPlanningCouncil

Stormwater and City Building



Josh Ellis
Vice President

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Agenda

- Chicago region's stormwater and river system
- A tale of two floods
- Gray and green infrastructure
 - Not gray vs. green infrastructure
- What it all adds up to
 - Great Rivers Chicago

CHICAGO REGION'S STORMWATER AND RIVER SYSTEM

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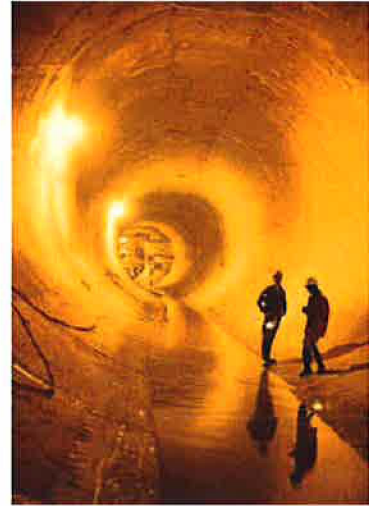
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Reversal of the Rivers



Combined and Separate Sewers

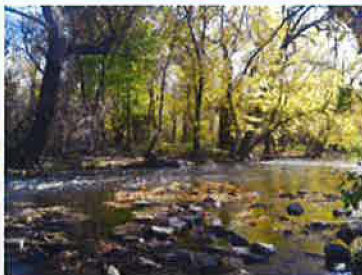
- Chicago = Mostly combined
- Suburbs = Mostly separated
- Combined
 - Overflows to rivers
 - Backups
 - Deep Tunnel System
- Separated
 - Infiltration and Inflow



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A Region of Riverfronts



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A TALE OF TWO FLOODS

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Riverine Flooding

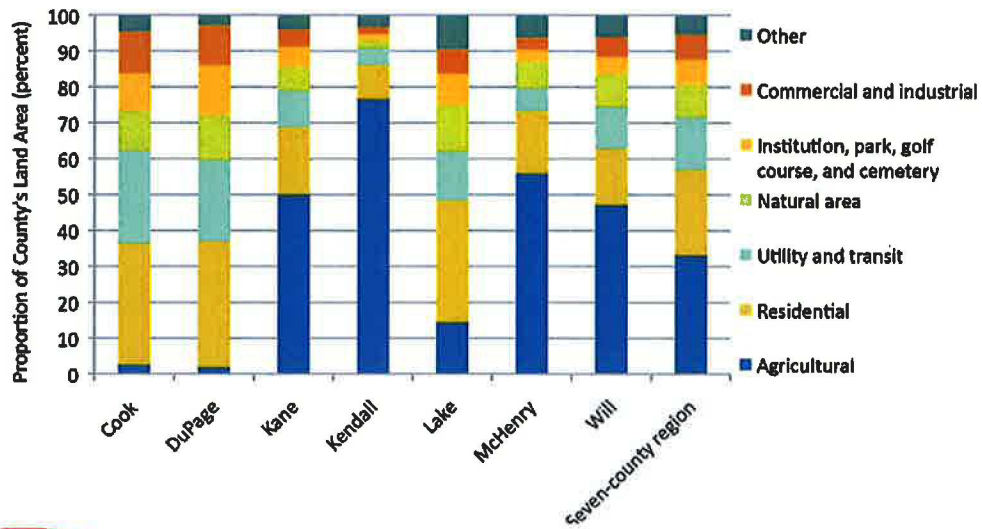
- Natural = Flat & Clay
- Developed = Flat & Asphalt



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Riverine Flooding



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“Urban Flooding”

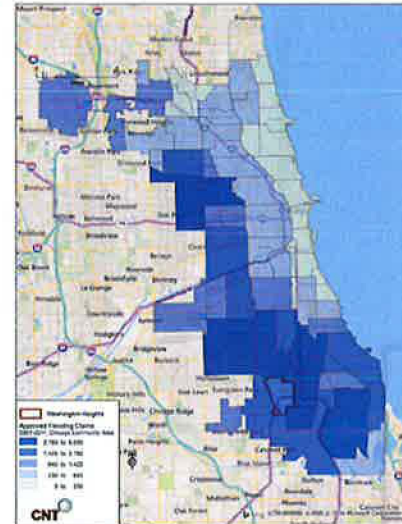


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“Urban flooding”

- No relationship between flooding and “floodplain”
- Avg. claim of \$4,272
 - But many homes are not insured



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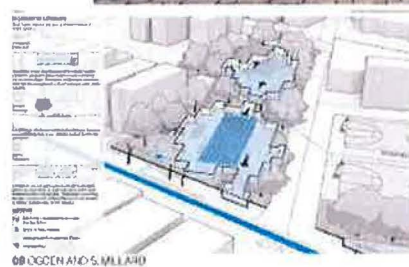
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GRAY AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

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Gray and Green in Chicago



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Leveraging Private Real Estate Development

- Stormwater ordinances compel green and gray infrastructure

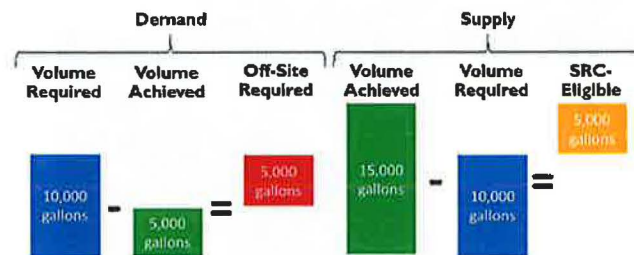


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The Logic of Trading

- But not all real estate markets at the same
- Neither are sites, sewersheds or watersheds
- Stormwater credit trading can provide:
 - Flexibility
 - Value creation for marginal land



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Infrastructure is Infrastructure

- Funding long-term maintenance vs. volunteers



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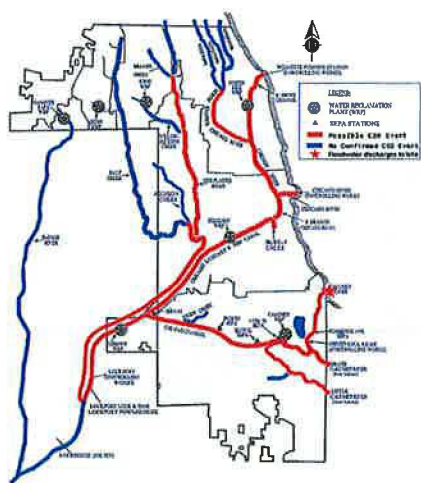
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WHAT IT ALL ADDS UP TO

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Rethinking Our Rivers



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Great Rivers Chicago

- A comprehensive vision for Chicago's three rivers
 - Inviting
 - Productive
 - Living



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Great Rivers Chicago

- Putting the Our in *Our Great Rivers*



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THANK YOU

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