

RIVER ECOLOGY & GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE

RIVER TRAILS MEETING 2

TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2019

2 – 3:30 PM

10TH FLOOR, ROOM 1003-A
CHICAGO CITY HALL
121 N. LA SALLE STREET

MEETING NOTES

General Updates

- Ron Burke from Active Transportation Alliance (ATA) walked the group through an overview of ongoing river trail projects and existing gaps:
 1. North Branch / North Shore Channel
 - a. Albany Park river trails
 - b. 312 RiverRun to Lathrop Homes trail (ATA)
 2. North Branch / Goose Island
 - a. WildMile
 3. Main Branch
 - a. Chicago Riverwalk study (ATA)
 - b. Chicago Riverwalk extension / framework (CDOT)
 4. South Branch / Sanitary & Ship Canal / Bubbly Creek
 - a. Paseo
 - b. South Branch Framework Plan
 5. Chicago River comprehensive initiatives
 - a. River Edge Access Study (CDOT)
 - b. River Trail Coalition
- The group discussed developing a set of principles to guide river trail identification and implementation
- Shannon Madden from South Branch Park Advisory Council talked about the completion of the South Branch Framework Plan and next steps
- Keith Privett from CDOT talked about two grants the agency is pursuing for (1) a river edge access study and (2) South Branch Framework Plan implementation; if awarded, grants should be disbursed by Oct.

Calumet River Area

- How to focus on trails here, not necessarily tied to the river? The group discussed the reality that existing land uses in many places may preclude trails along the river, but can we make connection points to the river from the existing trail systems in this area?
- Southeast Environmental Task Force is working with ATA on trail efforts in this area
- Openlands and CMAP are also working in this area and should be invited to subsequent meetings
- The group discussed if it should pick a few projects or priorities in the Calumet area and work to move them forward with existing partners and community groups

Filling in the Gaps

- The group discussed the importance of knowing more about conditions and type of existing trails, conditions along the trail edges, and whether or not trails are multi-use.
- The group should engage in asset mapping of major destinations / amenities along existing / potential future trails or near to them