



ACTIVE  TRANS

Trail Connect Chicagoland

Our vision for a continuous trail network in Northeastern Illinois



- Chicagoland's voice for better biking, walking and transit
- Founded in 1985
- 20,000 members & supporters
- Serve Chicago metro region



The mission of Active Transportation Alliance is to advocate for walking, bicycling, and public transit to create healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities.

Positive Impacts to Trails: Economic Development

- The Wisconsin bicycle industry brings \$556 million and 3,420 jobs to the state. (*Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Department of Transportation*)
- Trails in the Miami Valley of Ohio attract about 90,000 visitors who spend \$13 million on goods and services related to their use of the trails every year. (*Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, 2013*)
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection Office of Greenways & Trails estimates an economic benefit of \$2.2 million annually from the 16-mile St. Marks Trail. (*Danzer. R, 2006*)
- In Dallas, developers report that there is a 25% premium for properties adjacent to the Katy Trail. (*Brown, S, 2006*)

Positive Impacts to Trails: Health Benefits

- A San Francisco Bay Area study found that increasing biking and walking from 4 to 24 minutes a day on average would reduce cardiovascular disease and diabetes by 14%. (*Maizlish, N. et al 2012*)
- It costs three to four times more to enroll a sedentary adult in a structured exercise program than to teach them how to integrate moderate-intensity physical activity into their life. (*Sevick, M., et al., 2000*)
- A report estimated that Portland, Oregon's regional trail network saves the city approximately \$115 million per year in healthcare costs. (*Beil, K., 2011*)

Positive Impacts to Trails: Societal Benefits

- According to the federal government, biking for transportation can count toward the minimum 150 minutes/week of moderate-intensity aerobic activity recommended for physical health. It is also listed as the safest way to get physical activity. (*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2008*)
- 89% of bicycle trips begin at a residence. (*Royal, D., and D. Miller-Steiger, 2008*)
- Commuting by active modes - in particular, by bicycling, walking and transit - correlates with higher levels of "commuter well-being." (*Smith, O., 2013*)
- Trails consistently remain the number one community amenity sought by prospective homeowners. (*National Association of Homebuilders, 2008*)

Why We Need a Chicago River Trail



- Promote Active Transportation
 - Health, Environment, Economy
- Access to Open Space & Recreation
- Tourism & Economic Development

Photo Credit: Kate Joyce Studios



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We're closer than you think

Chicago River Trail Stats

- **Total Chicago Riverfront: Approx. 27 miles**
- **Existing Trail: 13.19 miles***
- **Under Construction: 1.7 miles****
- **Near Term Opportunities: 7 miles*****
- **Remaining Trail Gaps: 14.81 miles**

*Only includes trail segments suitable for both biking and walking, does not include sidewalks, plazas, or Riverwalk. Note: some segments include trails on both banks of the river.

**Includes phase II of North Branch Extension and Riverview Bridge.

***Includes El Paseo trail project, Finkl Steel site, Riverline development, and Clark & Roosevelt development.



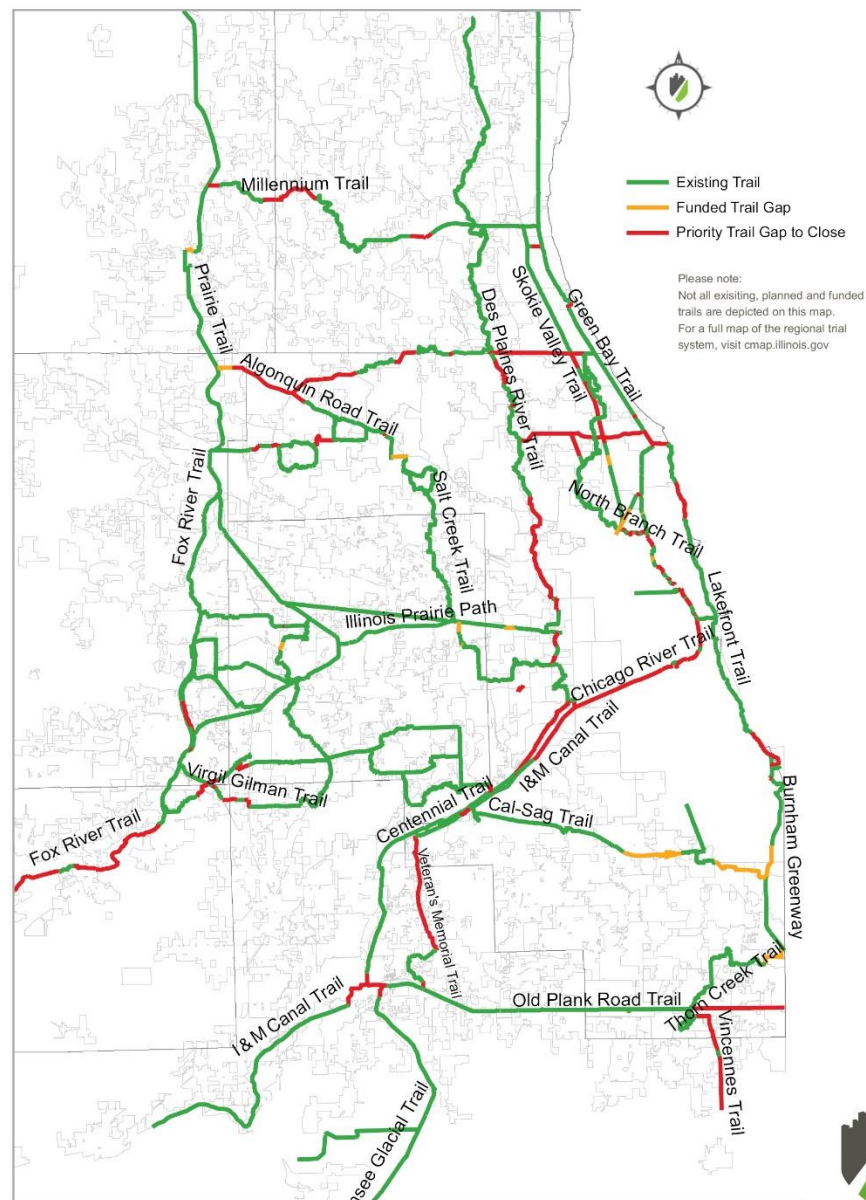
River Trail: Campaign Goals

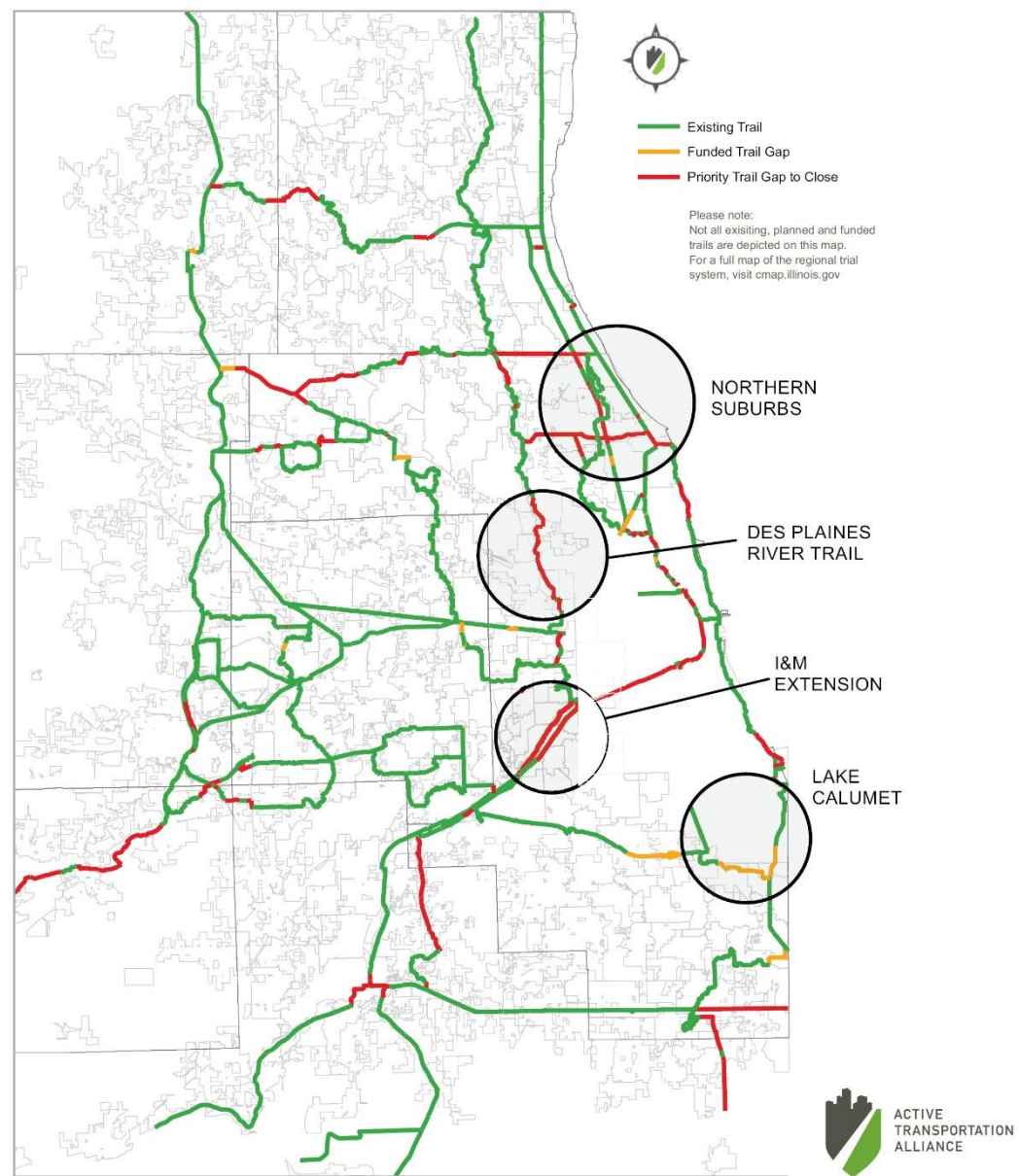
- Vision: 27 mile continuous Chicago River Trail that connects to suburban trails
- Advance projects that add trails and safe on-street connections in 2018
 - Weber Spur Trail on NW side
 - Improve Logan Boulevard connection to Lathrop Homes
 - Vision for a trail along the South Branch (Ping Tom Park to Western Ave.
 - Organizing to address largest remaining gaps

Trail Connect Chicagoland: Campaign Goals

- I. Identify Existing Regional Trail Network and Assess Problems Persisting Throughout Network
- II. Form Subcommittees Focused on Priority Gaps and Vision Plan
- III. Create Vision Plan
- IV. Launch Stakeholder Summit
- V. Educate Advocates and Provide Them Support for Addressing Trail Connectivity
- VI. Lay Groundwork for “Friends Of” Groups







How Challenging the Work Can Be

- Weber Spur, Logan Boulevard, South Branch projects all different (stakeholders, alderman, river sections, neighborhoods)
- How the Des Plaines River Trail differs from the I&M Extension and how that differs from the Lake Calumet area



Bringing People Together



- Understand the neighborhoods/communities you're working in
- Get the attention of elected officials
- Get out in the communities and meet residents
- Show you're advocating for the communities first

Visioning session at Benito Juarez Academy



Trails and bikeways workshop



Walk audit training in Bridgeport



Monitoring key public and private projects



Proposed Weber Spur Trail



Planned and Existing Bikeways within 1 Mile Buffer of the Chicago River Trail

- Existing On Street Bikeways
- Planned/Proposed On-Street Bikeways
- Existing Trails
- Planned/Proposed Trails
- Opportunity Areas

312 RiverRun Trail

North Side



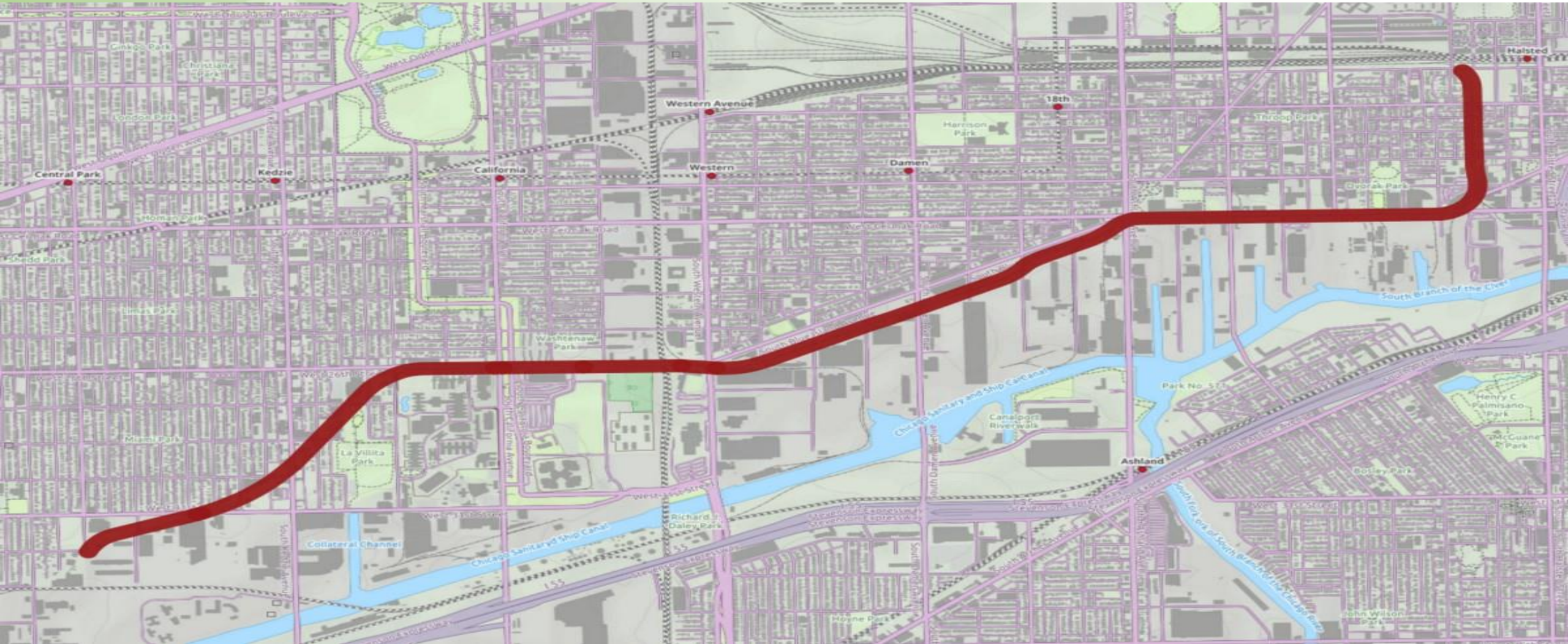
Logan Boulevard project



Private developers: Related Midwest site

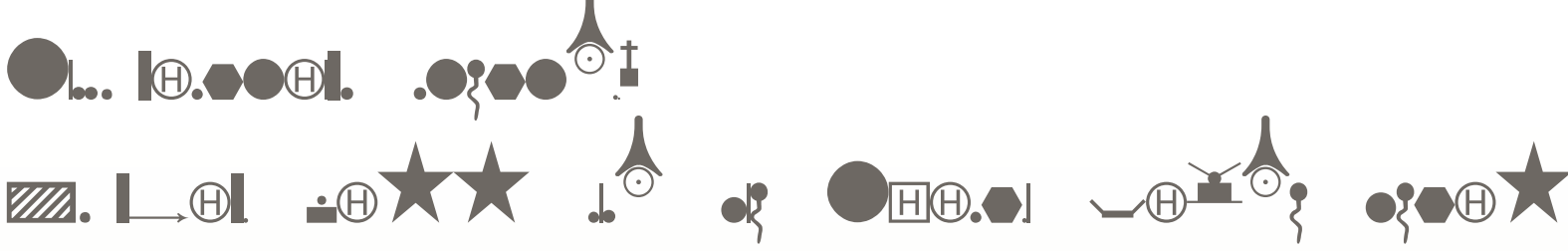


El Paseo Trail (Little Village and Pilsen)



Celebrating victories: North Branch Trail Extension Opens August 2017





- Indianapolis Cultural Trail



- Schuylkill River Trail (PA)



Traditional River Edge Trail



Decked Trail



Photo credit: CDOT/Epstein



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Floating Trail



Image by Saunders Eckenhoff Architects



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Who We're Reaching Out To

- Grassroots Supporters and Advocates
- Local Organizations
- Local Elected Officials
- Government Agencies
- Planning Organizations



How Elected Officials and Government Agencies/Departments Can Assist

- Create or institute regional plans and policies for better trail access and connectivity
- Adopting complete streets policies at the community level
- Interjurisdictional agreements
- Setting aside reoccurring funding for trail upgrades in your communities
- Work with residents (either those already expressing interest or start the dialogue, hold charrettes)

How to Help Grassroots Advocates

- Give them a toolbox of outreach/advocacy techniques (petitioning, event planning, group organizing, etc.)
- Give them guidelines on trail development
- Educate them on funding sources, fundraising opportunities, who their elected officials are, how their municipal governments are structured, what the process is for governmental approval, etc.
- Help them form a 401(c)(3) “Friends Of”

Contacting Us

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