

	Land Use Type	Land Protection Opportunity/Constraint	Land Ownership	Bank Condition	Existing Setback	Public Access	Water Quality Challenges	Sewage Infrastructure	BMPs - Stormwater, Habitat, Riverbank	Municipal Agencies	Existing Habitat (Land and Aquatic)	Resources	
River Zone 1: West Fork of the North Branch													
Reach 1a: Headwaters to Lake/Cook Road	Primarily suburban residential; significant riparian natural areas in Lincolnshire contain headwaters; developing watershed.	Residential - small scale, opportunity for small conservation easements. Also, see Open Space Plan.	Private - residential.	Ditched; buckthorn dominant vegetation outside of natural areas; steep banks; erosion issues outside of natural areas.	Varies from municipality to municipality.	More information needed.	Biggest threats are reduction in open space, erosion, and stormwater runoff (volume and speed of water).	Separated storm sewers.	Riverside Creek - Riverbank naturalization project. North Park in Lincolnshire - streambank stabilization, floodplain restoration, bioswales, natural area restoration.	LCSMC and LCFPD share the job of stormwater management. WSDD manages channel flow, conducts riparian zone maintenance, addresses erosion concerns. NSSD treats sanitary waste with treatment plants in Gurnee, Waukegan lake front, and Highland Park; pumping stations in Deerfield and Clavey Road. Municipalities of Lincolnshire, Riverwoods, Deerfield.	"Headwaters" best opportunity to create aquatic habitat.	Lake County has a watershed development ordinance that applies countywide to protect wetlands and open space. LCFPD has an organized and active volunteer stewardship corps. North Branch Watershed Project is active in this area.	
Reach 1b: Lake/Cook Road to Oakton	Suburban residential in the north, more industrial/commercial as you move downstream; significant FPDCC holdings (restoration opportunities); golf courses significant land use in area, sub watershed is significantly developed; separate sewer & combined sewer split at Dempster Ave.; higher density residential as you move downstream.	Areas around forest preserve lands - target buffer land for protection, if industrial lands are abandoned, might be opportunity for protection. Golf courses are also weak point for redevelopment. Also see Open Space Plan.	Private - residential, commercial, industrial, golf courses; public - FPDCC, golf courses.	Ditched; buckthorn dominant vegetation; steep banks; erosion issues.	Varies from municipality to municipality.	More information needed.	Biggest threats are reduction in open space, erosion, and stormwater runoff (volume and speed of water).	Separated storm sewers.	Northbrook on West Fork - Meadow to Walters Streets.	Cook County - stormwater issues governed by MWRD, FPDCC. Municipalities of Northbrook, Glenview, Golf, Morton Grove, Niles.	Somme Prairie Grove - 90 acres of prairie, burr oak savanna, and woodland sloping down the Deerfield Moraine (A++ in high quality for Chicago River). Miami Woods - (B (low) in high quality areas for the Chicago River). Linne Woods (B (low) in high quality areas for the Chicago River).	Open space that exists is protected by Forest Preserve District of Cook County, stewardship exists mainly among grassroots "local issues" groups. North Branch Watershed Project is active in this area.	
River Zone 2: Middle Fork of the North Branch													
Reach 2a: Headwaters to Lake/Cook Road	Headwaters are primarily open, much of area owned by Abbott Labs and could be developed, some residential; light industrial and commercial along Route 43; significant preserves held by the LCFPD and LFOL, more residential riparian as you move downstream.	Much land is currently protected. Opportunity to protect buffer areas. Opportunity to work with landowners/residential to protect adjacent lands to forest preserves. Also see Open Space Plan.	Private - Abbott Labs, residential, industrial, commercial, non-profit; public - LCFPD.	Ditched; buckthorn dominant vegetation outside of natural areas; steep banks; erosion issues outside of natural areas.	Varies from municipality to municipality.	More information needed.	Biggest threats are reduction in open space, erosion, and stormwater runoff (volume and speed of water).	Separated storm sewers.	Deerfield High School - riverbank naturalization project.	LCSMC and LCFPD share the job of stormwater management. ESDD manages channel flow, maintains riparian zones, addresses erosion concerns. NSSD treats sanitary waste with treatment plants in Gurnee, Waukegan lake front, and Highland Park; pumping stations in Deerfield and Clavey Road. Municipalities of Lake Forest, Highland Park, Deerfield.	Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve, Abbott Labs property, (A++ in high quality for Chicago River), "headwaters" best opportunity to create aquatic habitat.	Lake County has a watershed development ordinance that applies countywide to protect wetlands and open space. LCFPD has an organized and active volunteer stewardship corps. North Branch Watershed Project is active in this area.	
Reach 2b: Lake/Cook Road to Golf Road (joins W. Fork)	Suburban residential in the north, more industrial/commercial as you move downstream; significant FPDCC holdings (almost all of the riparian from Lake Cook to Voltz); sub watershed is significantly developed; separate sewer & combined sewer split at Dempster; Chick Evans Golf Course at confluence; higher density residential as you move downstream.	FPDCC lands protected, FPDCC staff has expertise that could be utilized. Buffer areas adjacent could be targeted. FPDCC may prioritize corridors and trail connections, which would be good for the river. Also see Open Space Plan.	Private - residential, commercial, industrial, golf courses; public - FPDCC, golf courses.	Ditched; buckthorn dominant vegetation; steep banks; erosion issues.	Varies from municipality to municipality.	More information needed.	Biggest threats are reduction in open space, erosion, and stormwater runoff (volume and speed of water).	Separated storm sewers.	More information needed.	Cook County - stormwater issues governed by MWRD. FPDCC. Municipalities of Northbrook, Northfield, Glenview.	Harms Woods - 160 acres of high quality woodland remnants, growing on terminal moraine that slopes down to Chicago River (A in high quality for Chicago River).	Open space that exists is protected by FPDCC. Northbrook has a Stormwater Commission (formed from flood damage issues). Stewardship exists mainly among grassroots "local issues" groups. North Branch Watershed Project is active in this area.	
River Zone 3: Skokie River													
Reach 3a: Headwaters to Lake/Cook Road	A lot of mixed use; headwaters emerge from trailer park in Gurnee and enter LCFPD holdings; GLNTC is significant land owner North of Lake Bluff; primarily residential as you move downstream; light industrial and commercial along Route 41 and Green Bay Rd.; many golf courses in this sub watershed; much of open space is protected/hold by park districts, LFOL and LBOL; and the LCFPD; rapid development in the northern section...more developed as you move downstream.	Some land already permanently protected by LFOL. Target those buffer lands, small parcels that may be overlooked by larger land owners. Assess commercial/industrial viability and seek protection opportunities if redevelopment occurs. Also see Open Space Plan.	Private - residential, industrial, commercial, nonprofit; public - LCFPD, municipal park districts.	River is alternately piped and daylighted through the GLNTC;ditched; buckthorn dominant vegetation outside of natural areas; steep banks; erosion issues outside of natural areas.	Varies from municipality to municipality.	More information needed.	Biggest threats are reduction in open space, erosion, and stormwater runoff (volume and speed of water).	Separated storm sewers.	More information needed.	LCSMC and LCFPD share the job of stormwater management.ESDD manages channel flow, maintains riparian zones, addresses erosion concerns. NSSD treats sanitary waste with treatment plants in Gurnee, Waukegan lake front, and Highland Park; pumping stations in Deerfield and Clavey Road. Municipalities include North Chicago, Lake Bluff, Lake Forest, Highland Park.	Shaw Prairie - 122 acres of prairie wetland and woodland (A+++ in high quality for Chicago River). Skokie Sedge Meadow in Lake Bluff - (B (low) in high quality areas for the Chicago River), "headwaters" best opportunity to create aquatic habitat.	Lake County has a watershed development ordinance that applies countywide to protect wetlands and open space. LCFPD has an organized and active volunteer stewardship corps. North Branch Watershed Project is active in this area.	
Reach 3b: Skokie Lagoon system to West Fork	Riparian dominated by FPDCC holdings (primarily botanic gardens and lagoons); many golf courses in this sub watershed; primarily suburban residential with some light industrial commercial along 94/41 and Green Bay Road; higher density residential as you move downstream.	FPDCC is main stakeholder of riparian lands here, which means lands are probably protected to perpetuity. FPDCC staff has expertise that could be utilized. Buffer areas adjacent could be targeted. FPDCC may prioritize corridors and trail connections, which would be good for the river. Also see Open Space Plan.	Private - residential, commercial, industrial, golf courses; public - FPDCC, golf courses.	Ditched; buckthorn dominant vegetation outside of botanic gardens and lagoons.	Varies from municipality to municipality.	More information needed.	Biggest threats are reduction in open space, erosion, and stormwater runoff (volume and speed of water).	Separated storm sewers.	Chicago Botanic Gardens lake/garden area for riverbank naturalization	Cook County - stormwater issues governed by MWRD. FPDCC. Municipalities of Northbrook, Northfield, Glenview, Winnetka, Wilmette, Skokie.	Mary Mix McDonald Woods - 100 acres of native oak woodland (A (medium) in high quality areas for Chicago River).	Open space that exists is protected by FPDCC. Northbrook has a Stormwater Commission (formed from flood damage issues). Stewardship exists mainly among grassroots "local issues" groups. North Branch Watershed Project is active in this area.	
River Zone 4: North Branch of the Chicago River													
Reach 4a: Oakton to North Branch Dam	A lot of public/private open space directly adjacent to the river, including Bohemian National and St. Lucas cemeteries, Gompers Park. Oakton to Touhy has spots of industrial and commercial. Public and private golf courses. Foster to North Branch Dam is residential.	Explore permanent protection opportunities with open space in this area. Assess commercial/industrial viability and seek protection opportunities if redevelopment occurs. Residential properties in City of Chicago jurisdiction, but do not have precedent of public access, or any public path. Trail opportunity for paddlers only at this time (maybe). Institutional uses such as North Park University could provide opportunity. There are MWRD-owned lands in this area.	Private - residential, cemeteries, Caldwell and Tam Golf Courses, some commercial and industrial.	Variety of bank types and conditions.	Forest preserve land up to Labagh Woods (Foster & Kostner).	Possible to paddle this section, but no official public access. Access can occur through private residences or institutional uses that are river adjacent.	More information needed.	Combined sewers, TARP infrastructure.	More information needed.	MWRD, City of Chicago, Army Corps.	Bunker Hill - 100 acres of open savannah, oak woodland, and flatwoods and Sauganash Prairie Grove - sedge meadow, wet savanna, bluff woodland, floodplain forest (A (medium) in high quality for Chicago River).	Two public canoe launches - River Park and Clark Park, and one neighborhood (private) launch at Berteau St. Canoe livery at Clark Park from May to October. Eugene Field rehab project proposed by Army Corps. Von Steuben High School project. Gompers Wetland and Gompers North project. River's edge condo association and community groups. FPDCC Volunteer Resource Center.	
Reach 4b: North Branch Dam to Fullerton	Residential/Parks.	CPD owns many park lands in this area. In some parks, river access/views could be better. CPD owned lands could provide this opportunity. This area has some legal issues between private homeowners and MWRD owned banks. Land leases for MWRD lands could be increased for some users (parks, institutional like schools and universities, get MWRD to turn over some lands to CPD for protection, parks, or public access.	MWRD owns riverbanks for water conveyance up to Belmont Avenue; homeowners own top of the bank, park district holds some lands.	Variety of bank types and conditions.	Much parkland along this stretch. 30' setback and more.	River Park canoe access provides access for casual paddlers and Friends/Park District canoe trips. Small motor boats parked at residences from Lawrence Avenue to Irving Park. Clark Park has location for Chicago River Canoe and Kayak and start of Friends' Flatwater Classic. Lathrop Homes walking area (away from the city nature area).	CSO events occur an average of 15 times per year.	Combined sewers, Lawrence Avenue Pumping Station located near Lawrence Ave., TARP infrastructure.	More information needed.	MWRD, City of Chicago, Army Corps. Federal Navigation Channel designation ends at Diversey Ave.	"Created natural areas" type of habitat, best fishing spot in river at North Branch Dam. Blue, green, and black-crowned night herons often seen on this stretch.	One rowing club dock (private) and one semi-private dock for rowing teams and paddlers. Neighborspace holds Berteau lease. Active community groups - Homer Park Advisory Council, Berteau Street riverbank neighbors, Homer Park Advisory Council, Clark Park Advisory Council, Lathrop Wetland garden.	
Reach 4c: Fullerton to North Avenue	Commercial/Multi-family Residential.	Condo owners tend to have privacy concerns and want to limit accessibility. Design issues can help differentiate between public and private space, legal negotiations, language in river FDS. Could work better with MWRD in areas where they own the land to get their support in maintaining access for the public, and protection of lands for public trust.	Homeowners' Association (more condo development) and private companies.	Variety of bank types and conditions.	Generally 30' setback, but some multi-family buildings at river's edge.	Some floating docks on commercial or multi-family residential in this area but not boat access. Some strolling path areas with riverside seating.	CSO events occur an average of 15 times per year.	Combined sewers, Webster Avenue aeration station, TARP infrastructure.	More information needed.	MWRD, City of Chicago, Army Corps.	Data "dead zone" for aquatic habitat.	Well-established industrial businesses.	
Reach 4d: North Avenue to Main Stem	Industrial with barge use/Commercial/Office, PMD.	PMD in this area functioning successfully with new businesses coming in. Remediation may be needed in many sites for redevelopment. Public access on industrial sites limited, but some industrial sites converting to parkland which provides protection and access opportunities. If site is converted for industrial, should include river-friendly redevelopment.	Private Companies.	Variety of bank types and conditions.	River-dependent industrial uses at river's edge (0' setback).	Private rowing dock just south of North Avenue, semi-private rowing dock and floating boathouse on East Channel.	CSO events occur an average of 15 times per year.	Combined sewers, TARP infrastructure.	1111 N. Elston - Overlook Park shoreline mosaic (proposed), Whole Foods development on Kingsbury - green roof (proposed).	MWRD, City of Chicago, Army Corps.	Data "dead zone" for aquatic habitat, aquatic habitat could be created on North Branch canal, east of Goose Island (wetlands creation).	Well-established industrial businesses, Fletcher Chicago, car dealerships, Erie Street Park.	
River Zone 5: North Shore Channel													
Reach 5a: Locks to North Side Sewage treatment plant (Howard Street)	Residential (less dense), west side has green buffer. Some institutional uses. Peter Jans Golf Course along river is open space buffer. Main to Oakton has parking lots, commercial. Skokie Sculpture Park (public) from Dempster to Touhy.	Skokie Sculpture Park is protected. Lands on east side of channel are possibility for redevelopment and future public access/park lands (Streets) golf courses could be vulnerable.	Private - residential, golf course, commercial areas. Public - MWRD owned lands?	Much is natural slope but fairly steep; tree plantings; existing sewage infrastructure; CSO pipes/outfalls south of Dempster Ave.	MWRD setback policy is 60' but does not apply uniformly.	Oakton has rowing and paddling access. Several high school rowing teams store shells, Chicago River Canoe and Kayak has location at Oakton.	Currently meets "General Use" standard. Channel is really shallow in this area.	Combined sewers, TARP infrastructure, North Side Sewage Treatment Plant.	More information needed.	MWRD, municipalities of Wilmette, Evanston, Skokie, Lincolnwood.	Opportunity to create aquatic habitat.	Canoe livery and several rowing clubs launch from Oakton Street dock, Evanston Ecology Center (has ecological restoration plan).	
Reach 5b: Howard Street treatment plant to convergence with North Branch of Chicago River (North Branch Dam)	West side of river has open space buffer from river's edge to McCormick from Howard to Touhy. East side of channel is industrial corridor. South of Touhy there is open space buffer on east side from river's edge to Kedzie, west side is commercial/industrial. Becomes residential on both sides with some commercial (Pratt to Peterson). At Peterson, wider park buffer, institutional uses (North Park U) and residential.	Skokie Sculpture Park is protected. Lands on east side of channel are possibility for redevelopment and thus opportunity for future public access/park lands. Much residential and some institutional uses (including schools and universities) would be good opportunities to ensure public access in formal way because they are already public holdings.	Private - residential, golf course, commercial areas. Public - MWRD owned lands?, Institutional uses like North Side College Prep (Chicago Public Schools).	Much is natural slope but fairly steep; tree plantings; North Side College Prep restoration project; sewage infrastructure; CSO pipes/outfalls in some areas.	MWRD setback policy is 60', but does not apply uniformly.	North Side College Prep has canoe dock but no facilities, no drive up access to put in canoe. River bike trail with several underbridge connections on east side of channel.	Bacteria and pathogens that are discharged from North Side treatment facility.	Combined sewers, TARP infrastructure.	More information needed.	MWRD, City of Chicago.	"Created natural areas" type of habitat, best fishing spot in river at North Branch Dam. Blue, green, and black-crowned night herons often seen on this stretch.	MWRD owns a lot of the land, has ability to lease it, North Side College Prep has native plants on river's edge.	
River Zone 6: Chicago River Main Stem													
Reach 6: Kinzie Street to Lake Michigan	Office.	Maintain public access to riverwalk/promenade. Stay involved with Wacker Drive Riverwalk/public market analysis and planning because if anything happens there, protection of landscaping and public access is a must.	Entrance to Ogden Slip privately owned.	Hard Seawalls (except Wolf Point). Many of the riverwalks in this area have a river level and an upper street level with river views. Planter box landscaping is common.	30' setback by City of Chicago ordinance.	Promenade and bike paths. High potential for underbridge connections. Rowing site at LSD. Tour boats. Motor boats and sail boats travel through this section with frequency.	Mixes with Lake Michigan water, most flow in river. Some contact cooling water.	Combined sewers, TARP infrastructure.	BMPs - Stormwater, Habitat, Riverbank	Friends' Fish Hotel - Living Waters Consultants and WRD for built habitat	City of Chicago, MWRD, Army Corps.	Trees along Wacker Drive, planter boxes - migrating birds have been spotted in this area - can serve as an important migratory bird corridor.	
River Zone 7: South Branch of the Chicago River													
Reach 7a: Main Stem to Cermak	Office/Commercial/Parks/Manufacturing/Utilities.	Some of these lands have not yet been redeveloped. The PMD is in question by landowners. Land owned by utilities is unlikely to change hands in the future though there is a possibility for other benefits such as trails or natural plantings.	Large tracts of land being redeveloped by single-developer. Homeowners Association of River City. Former site of Crowley's Yacht Yard.	Seawall with relatively little green edge. Some natural banks south of Harrison (east side). Collapsing seawall and remnant bridge infrastructure south of Roosevelt.	30' should apply but industrial properties can often cut corners on providing setback and do not often provide public space. Commercial properties might as amenity to employees.	Ping Tom Memorial Park - fishing access, strolling, riverside community events, Flatwater Classic end, dragonboat festival. Does not connect to adjacent sites or trail. Some commercial/industrial business do have riverside seating areas for employees.	CSO events occur an average of 15 times per year.	Combined sewers, TARP infrastructure.	BMPs - Stormwater, Habitat, Riverbank	S. Branch Meander site - separate sewers, green roofs, etc. (proposed).	City of Chicago, MWRD, Army Corps.	Ping Tom Memorial Park is a "created natural area." Also a data "dead zone" for aquatic habitat.	South Branch Meander Site design (not developed).
Reach 7b: Cermak to Damen	Industrial, Pilsen PMD.	PMDs in this area. Success or failure of PMDs and the heart of manufacturing in this area will effect future land use. If land use changes, redevelopment will occur. This will be a big opportunity. Old riverslips & connections to abandoned rail spurs could provide an opportunity for habitat.	Mainly private- company owned.	Seawall	30' should apply but industrial properties can often cut corners on providing setback and do not often provide public space. Commercial properties might as amenity to employees.	Canal Origins Park -walking trails, fishing access. Fishing access along Sun Times Building. Former rowing club site, which is being remediated, but adjacent and still used by fisherman.	CSO events occur an average of 15 times per year.	Combined sewers, TARP infrastructure.	More information needed.	City of Chicago, MWRD, Army Corps.	Data "dead zone" for aquatic habitat. Habitat could be created in slips in this reach.	Ping Tom Memorial Park, established industrial businesses.	
River Zone 8: South Fork of the South Branch													
Reach 8a: Turning Basin to 35th Street	Industrial/Conversion to residential. Current industrial does use barges (Prairie-Aztec).	Land is labeled to change use from industrial to residential. Remediation may be required. Opportunity to create public access and stormwater BMPs in this area.	Privately owned.	Seawall, total or partial with natural banks.	60' by ordinance, much is existing at 30' or less, one new development at turning basin has 60' setback.	Bridgeport Village has small pedestrian path in development, few links to pedestrians from street or neighborhood. Not appropriate for bikes. Opportunity for more public paths or other access in this area.	High bacteria counts from CSOs, some sediment pollution, low flow.	Combined sewers, TARP infrastructure.	BMPs - Stormwater, Habitat, Riverbank	City of Chicago, MWRD, Army Corps.	Data "dead zone" for aquatic habitat. Aquatic habitat could be created in this reach.	Bubbly Creek Steering Committee, Bridgeport Village residential community, rich land use history.	
Reach 8b: 35th Street to 39th Street (Racine Avenue Pumping Station)	Industrial, PMD.	PMDs in this area. Success or failure of PMDs and the heart of manufacturing in this area will effect future land use. If land use changes, redevelopment will occur. This will be a big opportunity, especially since it is adjacent to new residential development.	Privately owned, MWRD owns near pumping station and some rights to channel conveyance.	Very steep slopes on natural bank, some seawalls.	60' by ordinance, much existing at less than 30'.	Very little physical or visual access in this area. Opportunity for more public paths or other access in this area.	High bacteria counts from CSOs, some sediment pollution, low flow.	Combined sewers, Racine Avenue Pumping Station at southernmost end.	More information needed.	City of Chicago, MWRD, Army Corps.	Data "dead zone" for aquatic habitat. Aquatic habitat could be created in this reach.	Bubbly Creek Steering Committee, rich land use history.	
River Zone 9: Sanitary and Ship Canal													
Reach 9a: Damen to Cicero	Turning Basin to Cicero - heavily industrial (wide buffer) adjacent to channel corridor. Barges in use.	Increase time of land leases on MWRD property from 5 yrs to 50 or 100 yrs. MWRD could provide forest preserve districts and park districts with a "right of first refusal" to ensure properties stay in the public domain. More information needed on ownership and land use in this area.	MWRD owned lands.	Seawalls.	30' setback for city, 60' or 48' setback for MWRD, but not applied consistently.	More information needed.	More information needed.	Combined sewers, TARP infrastructure.	BMPs - Stormwater, Habitat, Riverbank	City of Chicago, MWRD, Army Corps.	Data "dead zone" for aquatic habitat.	More information needed.	
Reach 9b: Cicero to Harlem (Cook County Line)	Cicero to Harlem - more pockets of residential mixed with industrial. Stickney treatment facility located north side of CSSC, provides some open space. Barges in use.	Increase land leases on MWRD property from 5 yrs to 50 or 100 yrs. MWRD could provide forest preserve districts and park districts with a "right of first refusal" to ensure properties stay in the public domain. More information needed on ownership and land use in this area.	MWRD owned lands.	Seawalls.	30' setback for city, 60' or 48' setback for MWRD, but not applied consistently.	More information needed.	More information needed.	Combined sewers, Stickney Treatment Facility located on this stretch.	More information needed.	City of Chicago, MWRD, Army Corps.	Data "dead zone" for aquatic habitat.	More information needed.	