CHANGES…
…on the Chicago River through time…

1673

1790
1837

Des Plaines River
Chicago River
Calumet River

1848

ILLINOIS and MICHIGAN (I&M) CANAL IS COMPLETED

97 miles long
6 feet deep
60 feet wide

1880

Sanitary and Ship Canal
Cal-Sag Channel

1890-1900

Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal

28 miles long
22 feet deep
250 feet wide
Jan. 2, 1900

1,000,000

? 1922

3,000,000

1922

6.2 Billion Gallons of “Water” per Day

+4,000,000

1972

CLEAN WATER ACT

Clean up the River

Courtesy of Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

Courtesy of Chicago History Museum

Courtesy of Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

Courtesy of Friends of the Chicago River