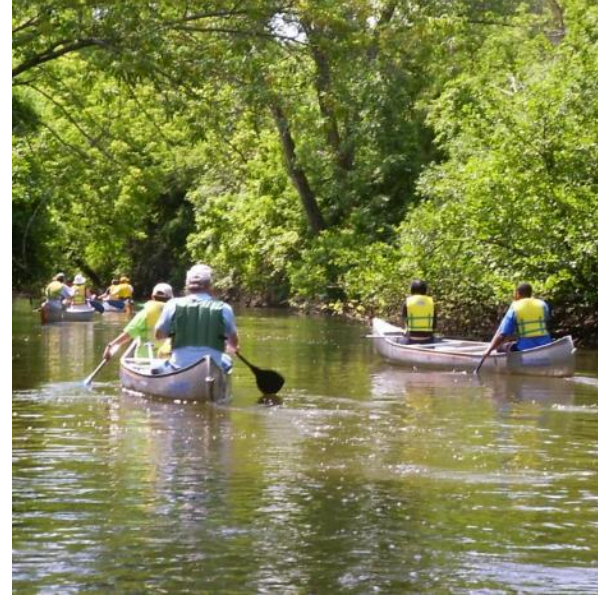


Introduction to the

Natural Solutions Tool

GREATER CHICAGO
WATERSHED ALLIANCE



Friends of the Chicago River:

is an award-winning nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect and restore the Chicago-Calumet River system for **all people, water, and wildlife.**

Our Vision: The Chicago-Calumet River system is a **healthy, biodiverse, climate resilient ecosystem with equitable, open access for all.**

OUR MISSION & VISION





EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- Chicago River Schools Network
- Chicago River Day
- Overflow Action Days™
- Litter Free Chicago-Calumet River initiative
- McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum
- Canoe program



ON-THE-GROUND PROJECTS

- Instream restoration projects
- Wildlife habitat construction projects
- Landscape-scale restoration
- Chicago River Eco Warriors (CREW) – stewardship volunteers
- Wildlife monitoring



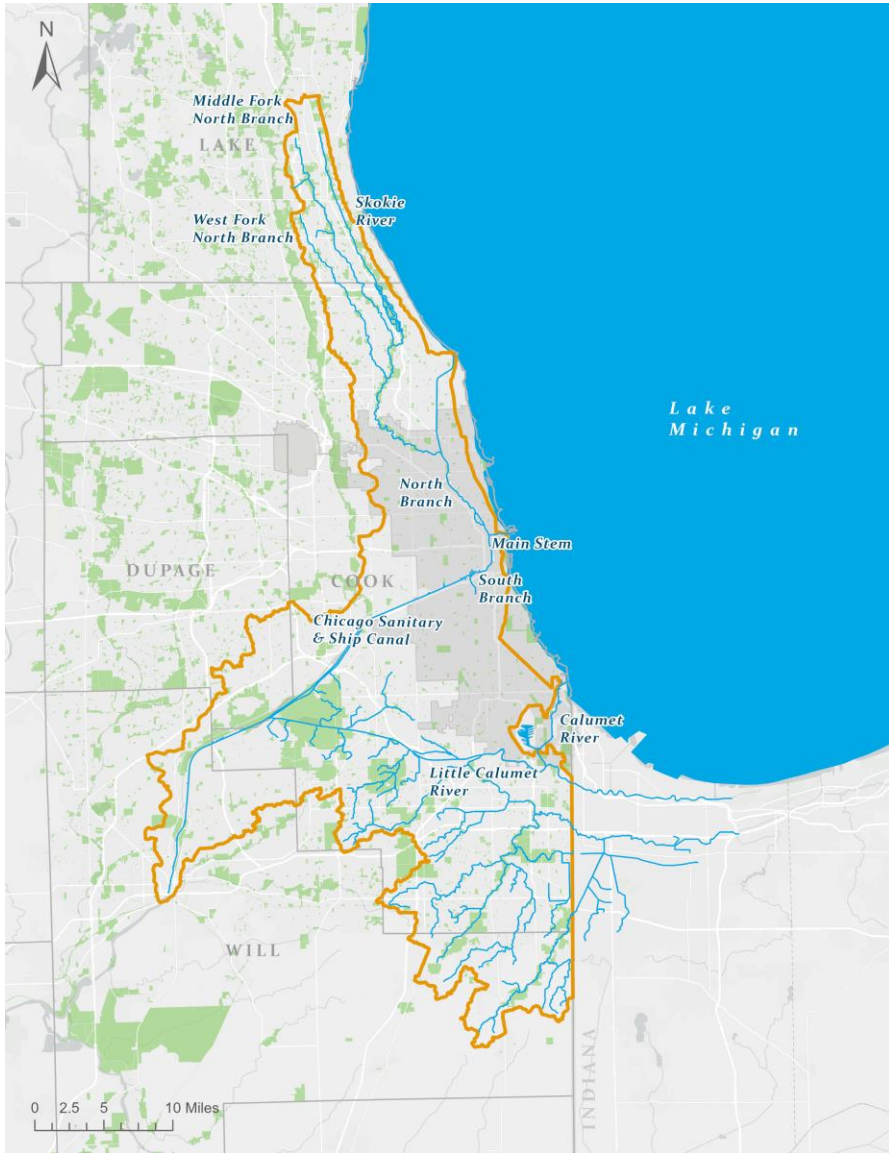
POLICY & PLANNING

- Conservation land use and river edge development advocacy
- Continuous Chicago River Trail
- Improved water quality
- Nature-based stormwater management advocacy
- Wildlife corridor connectivity planning
- GIS / Mapping Technologies

IMPLEMENTING OUR MISSION

Chicago-Calumet River System

- Subwatersheds cover roughly 1,000 square miles
- 156 linear miles of waterways
- 75% natural shoreline
- 37,000 acres of open space (within ½ mile)
- Passes through our densest urban areas, suburban communities, rural, and protected natural lands.



WHERE WE WORK

ORIGIN STORY/CONTEXT

The Natural Solutions Tool grew out of the **Greater Chicago Watershed Alliance** a coalition founded by Friends of the Chicago River and partners.

GREATER CHICAGO WATERSHED ALLIANCE





The purpose of the Watershed Alliance is to strengthen cross-jurisdictional collaboration on comprehensive stormwater management, with an emphasis on nature-based solutions and green infrastructure to complement gray infrastructure for maximized social, environmental, and economic benefits across the Chicago-Calumet River watershed.



WATERSHED VISION *to* STRATEGY



NATURAL SOLUTIONS TOOL - PROCESS

Idea formulation
with Watershed
Alliance



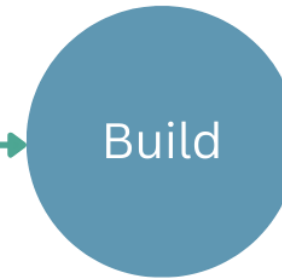
18 month process
85+ stakeholders



30+ members



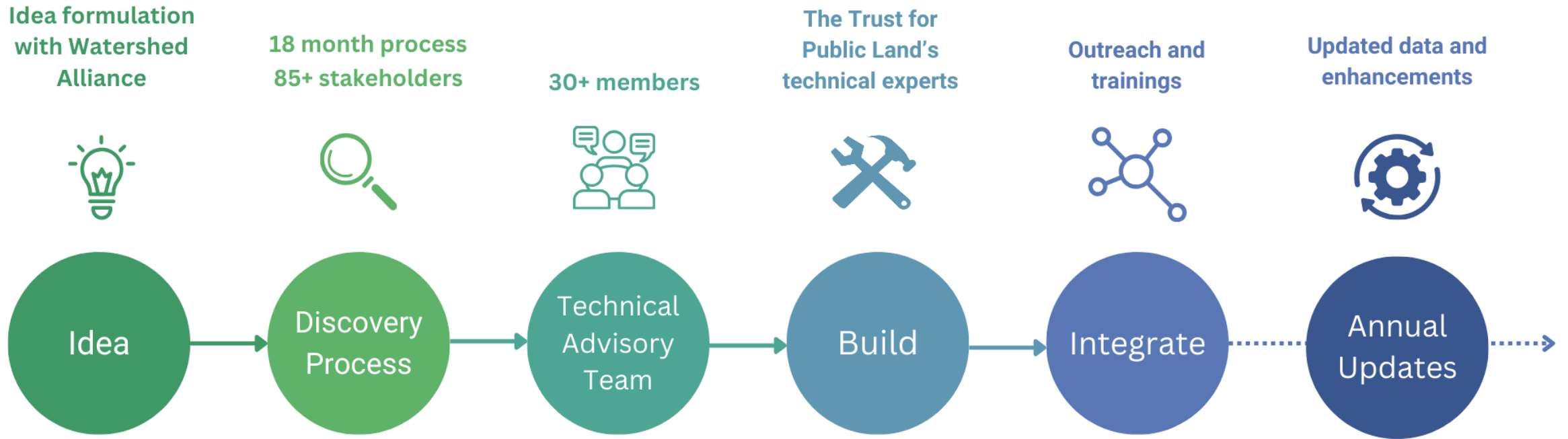
The Trust for
Public Land's
technical experts



Outreach and
trainings

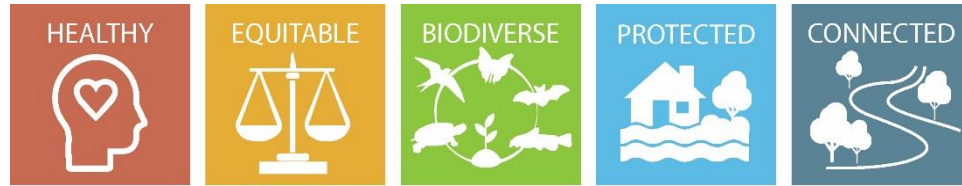


Updated data and
enhancements



WHY IT'S UNIQUE

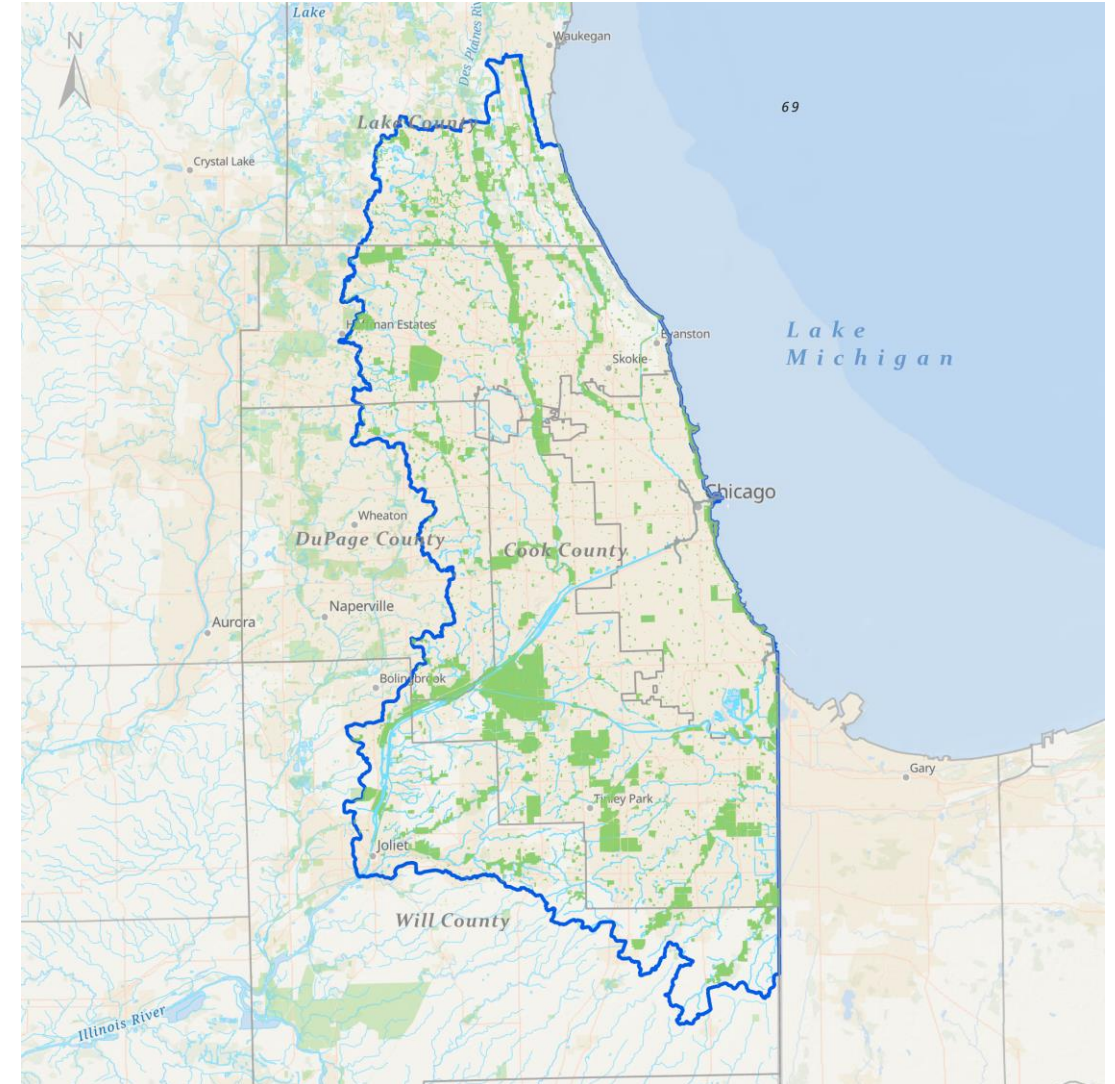
- Watershed-based boundary
- Parcel-level
- Multi-benefit approach
- Local data / local knowledge
- Collaborative tool building process



The Natural Solutions Tool spans...

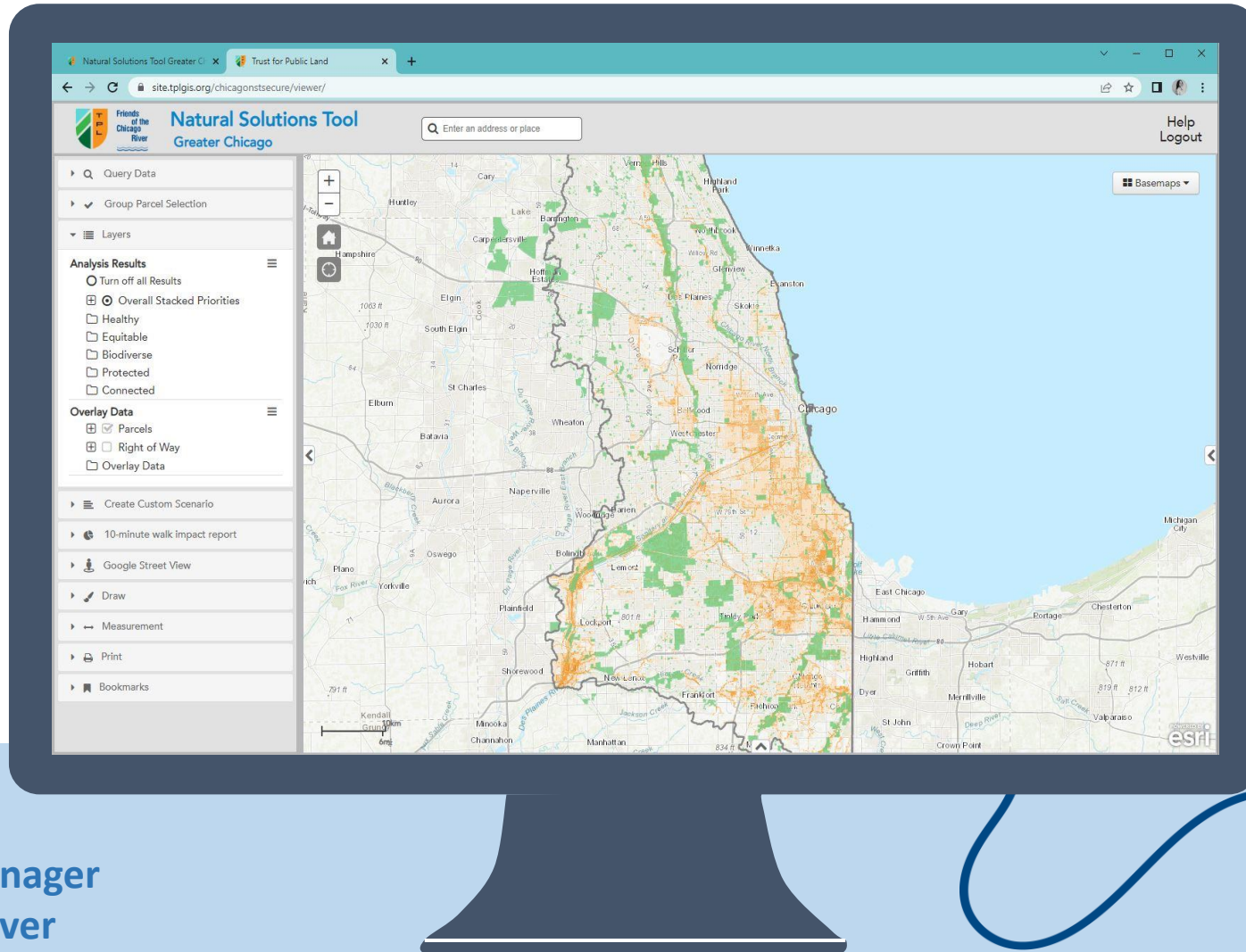
- **42** subwatersheds
- **4** counties
- **1,300** square miles
- **176** municipalities
- About **1.5** million parcels

Study Area



LETS EXPLORE TOGETHER!

https://web.tplgis.org/chicago_nst/



CONNECT WITH US!



www.chicagoriver.org

Friends of the Chicago River

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2024 CHICAGO RIVER SUMMIT

LINKING WATERSHEDS | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

@ PEGGY NOTEBAERT NATURE MUSEUM

REGISTER NOW!



Friends of the Chicago River



Chicago
Wilderness
Alliance

Thank you!



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Visit chicagoriver.org to explore the Natural Solutions Tool as well as other river mapping tools and resources.