THE RIVERWALK:
Chicago’s Second Waterfront
Riverwalk
Lake Michigan to Lake Street

--- Phase 3 ---

--- Phase 2 ---

--- Phase 1 ---

--------- Recreational Trail ---------
Chicago River: A Brief History

- 1770: Early settler, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, built his house on the northeast side of what is today the Michigan Avenue Bridge
- 1803: Fort Dearborn built on the south bank of the river - the site is commemorated with sidewalk markers
- 1900: Chicago River flow was reversed – much to the chagrin of St. Louis
- 1926: S. Water Street Market relocated from riverfront to create a double-decker grand boulevard along the riverbank per the 1909 Burnham Plan
Chicago River – A Brief History

• 1930s – today: Wacker Drive became a major arterial carrying up to 60,000 vehicles daily

• 1979: Friends of the Chicago River was established

• 1997: Bike trail built on south bank between LSD & Michigan Ave

• 1999: Chicago River Corridor Development Guidelines established, calling for Riverwalk

• 2000s: City began “Revive Wacker Drive” reconstruction project including planning for an expanded, continuous riverwalk
Riverwalk Goals and Purpose

- Provide a continuous promenade along the S. Bank of the Chicago River from LSD to Lake Street
- Provide a vibrant and active link between the Loop, the Lakefront, and Navy Pier
- Showcase environmentally friendly building techniques that complement the Chicago River as a valuable natural resource
- Connect Upper Wacker and River level activities and programs
- Create more accessible river front destinations for Chicago’s residents and visitors
Lakefront - Michigan Avenue Recreational Trail

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial
$5 million Federal Appropriations in 2005

Michigan & Wabash Underbridge Connectors
Underbridge Connections
# History of Studies

## 1990 - 1995
- **Chicago Riverwalk Feasibility**
  - CDOT, 1992
- **Main Branch Guidelines**
  - 1995

## 1995 - 2000
- **Chicago River Development Plan**
  - Planning, 1999
- **Chicago Riverwalk Program and Development**
  - MRA, 1999

## 2000 - 2005
- **Volpe Analysis**
  - US ACOE, 2001
- **Chicago River Master Plan**
  - Chicago Parks District, 2002
- **Chicago Riverwalk Agenda**
  - Mayor’s Office, 2005

## 2005 - 2010
- **Chicago River Market Planning (w/ VOA)**, 2006
- **Action Plan for the River**
  - Friends of the River, 2007
- **OWPP Riverwalk Study**
  - Mayor’s Office, 2008
- **Central Area Action Plan**
  - Planning, 2009
- **Chicago Riverwalk Framework Planning (w/ SOM)**, 2009
Riverwalk Plan – Phase 2 & 3

**PHASE 2** – opened June 2015

**PHASE 3** – to be completed late 2016
Phase 2
Opened June 2015
State to Dearborn: Before
State to Dearborn: The Marina
The Marina Room

• Continuous Planting Trenches
• Shared Soil Volume

PLANT LIST

SHADE TREES
6 ACER RUBRUM ‘ARMSTRONG’
6 QUERCUS ROBUR X BICOLOR ‘NADLER’

SHRUBS
18 CORNUS SERICEA ‘FARROW’
27 Itea Virginica ‘Sprich’

PERENNIALS
207 GERANIUM SANGULNEUM ‘MAX FREI’
The Cove
Clark to LaSalle: Before
Clark to LaSalle: The River Theater
The River Theater
Phase 3
LaSalle to Lake Street
Under Construction
Late 2016 Completion
Coming Soon: The Water Plaza
Coming Soon: The Jetty
Coming Soon: The Boardwalk
Another Beautiful Day on the Chicago Riverwalk!
Stay In Touch

Website
www.chicagodot.org

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Riverwalk Video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cl3RKhA0a50&feature=youtu.be

Or search You Tube for Chicago Riverwalk Grand Opening 2015