

# NACTO Designing Cities

## Creating a Place Through Transportation



# THE RIVERWALK: Chicago's Second Waterfront

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Deputy Commissioner  
Chicago Department of Transportation



# Riverwalk

## Lake Michigan to Lake Street



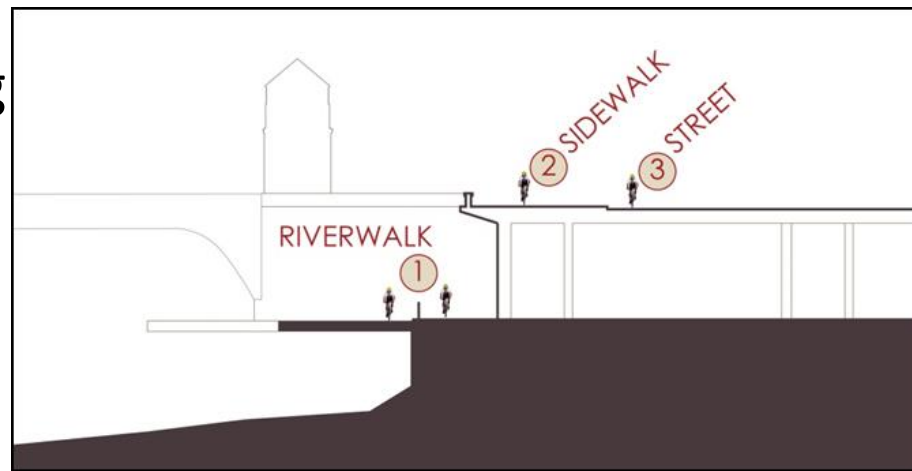
# Chicago River: A Brief History

- 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

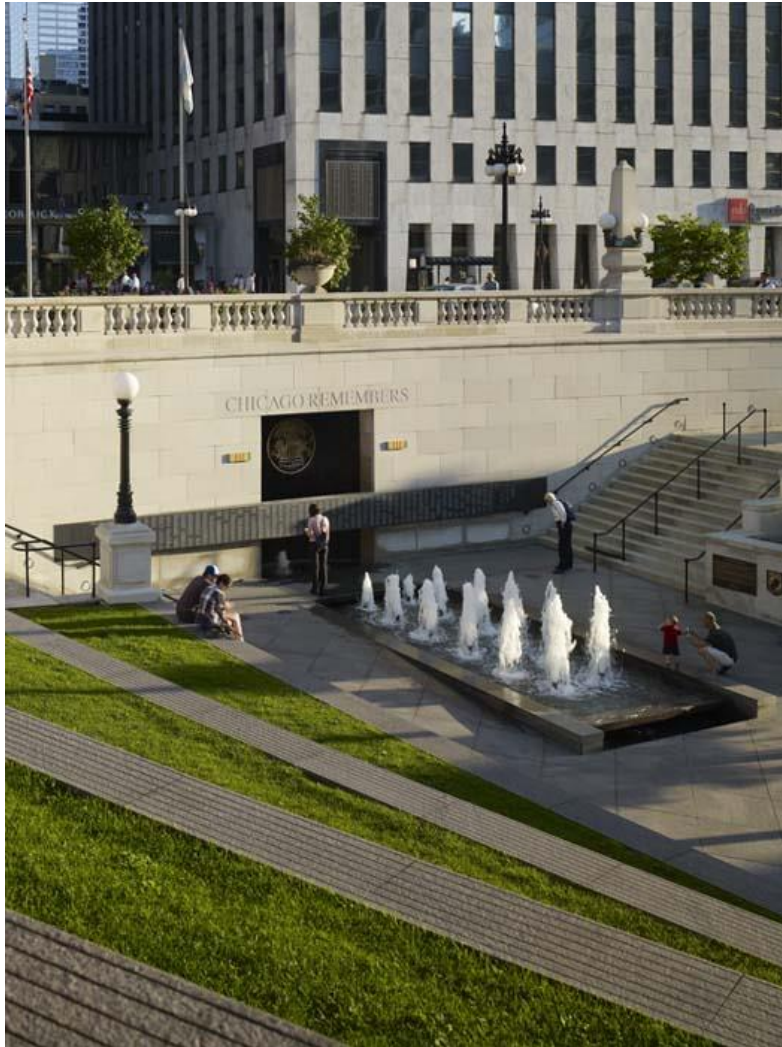
- Provide a continuous promenade along the S. Bank of the Chicago River from LSD to Lake Street
- Provide a vibrant and active link between the Loop, the Lakefront, and Navy Pier
- Showcase environmentally friendly building techniques that complement the Chicago River as a valuable natural resource
-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



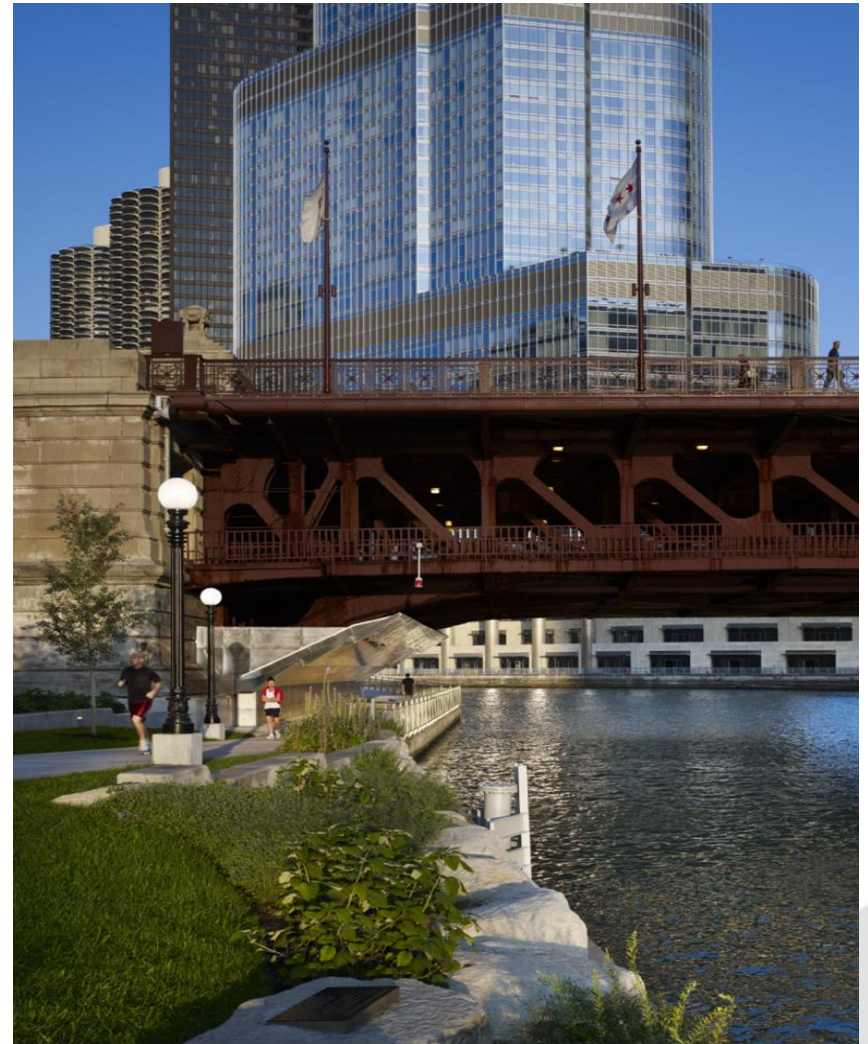
# Lakefront - Michigan Avenue Recreational Trail



# 2000 – 2009 Michigan to State: the Riverwalk Reimagined

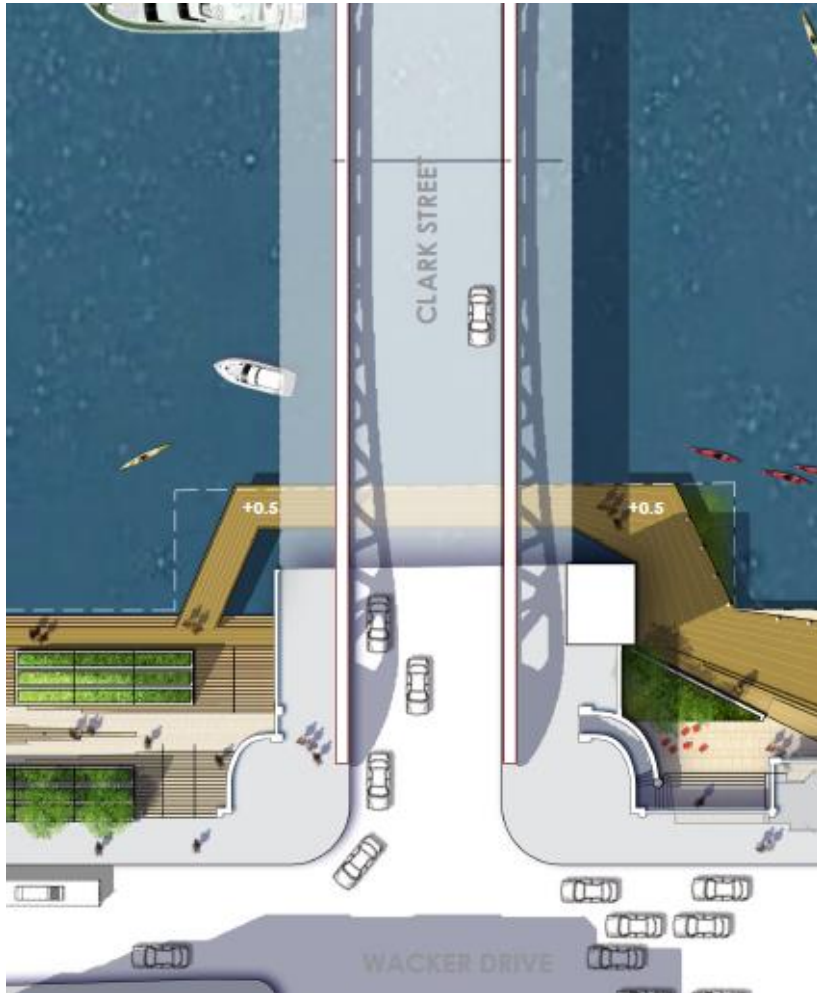


**The Vietnam Veterans Memorial  
\$5 million Federal Appropriations in 2005**



**Michigan & Wabash Underbridge  
Connectors**

# Underbridge Connections



# History of Studies

1990 - 1995

1995 - 2000

2000 - 2005

2005 - 2010

**Chicago Riverwalk Feasibility**  
CDOT, 1992

**Main Branch Guidelines**  
1995

**Chicago River Development Plan**  
Planning, 1999

**Chicago Riverwalk Program and Development,**  
MRA, 1999

**Volpe Analysis**  
US ACOE, 2001

**Chicago River Master Plan**  
Chicago Parks District, 2002  
**Chicago Riverwalk Agenda**  
Mayor's Office, 2005

**Chicago RiverMarket**  
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

# River Typologies

BOARDWALK



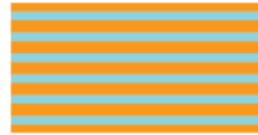
JETTY



SWIMMING HOLE



RIVER THEATER



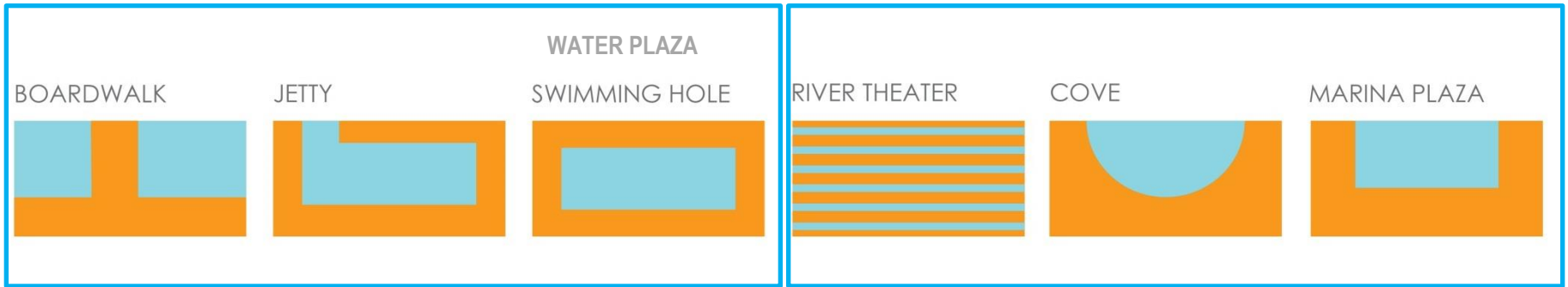
COVE



MARINA PLAZA

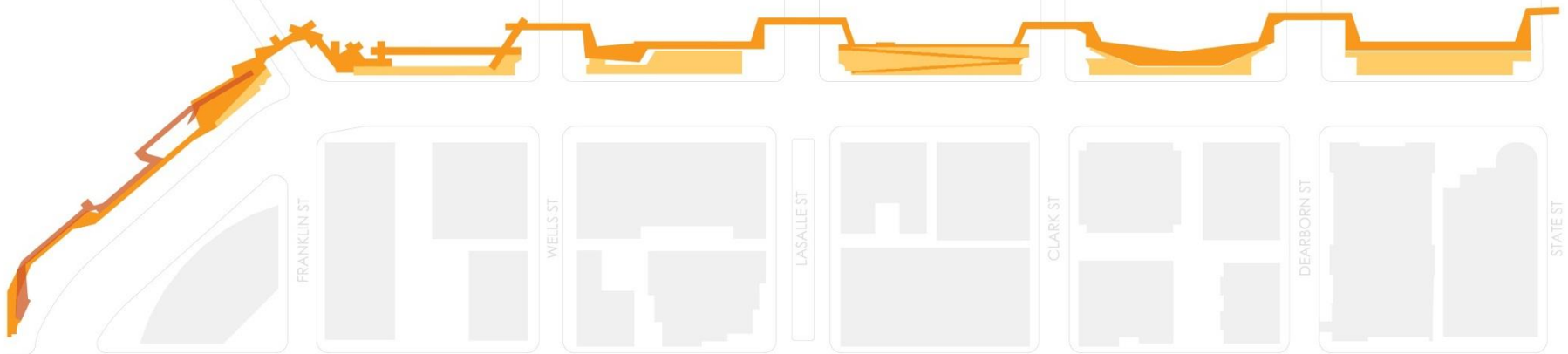


# Riverwalk Plan – Phase 2 & 3



**PHASE 3 – to be completed late 2016**

**PHASE 2 – opened June 2015**

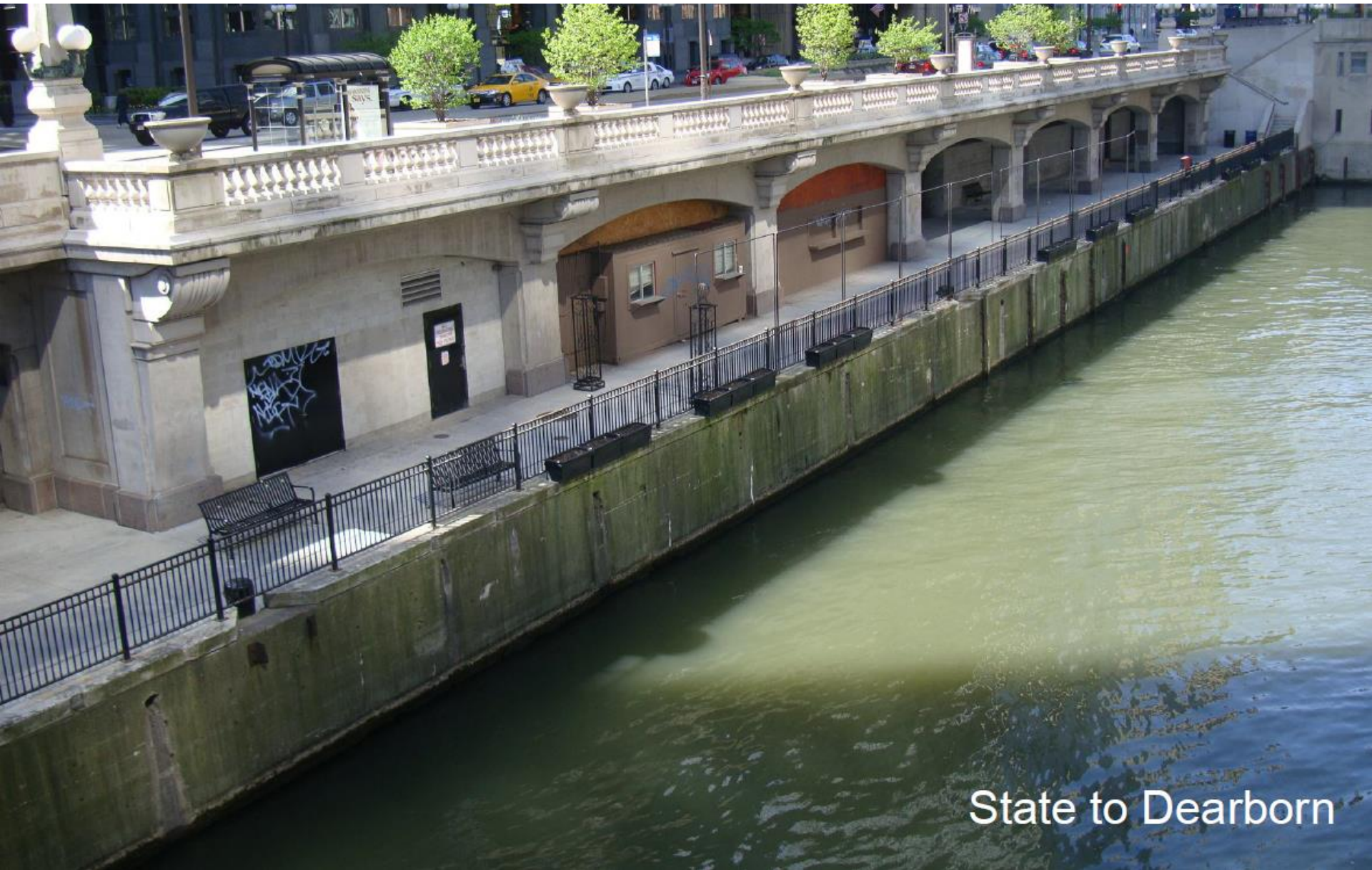


A black metal archway with the words "CHICAGO RIVERWALK" in gold lettering. The archway is part of a larger structure overlooking a city street. In the background, there are several tall buildings, including one with a sign that says "Chicago Tribune". The foreground shows a concrete ledge and a railing with a white spherical ornament. Below the archway, there is a green space with many bright yellow umbrellas and people sitting at tables, suggesting an outdoor cafe or park area. A white tent is also visible in the background.

CHICAGO  
RIVERWALK

Phase 2  
Opened June 2015

# State to Dearborn: Before



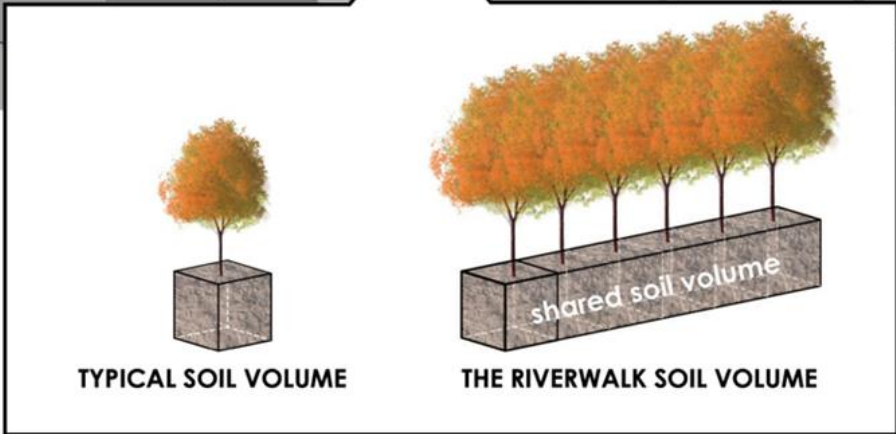
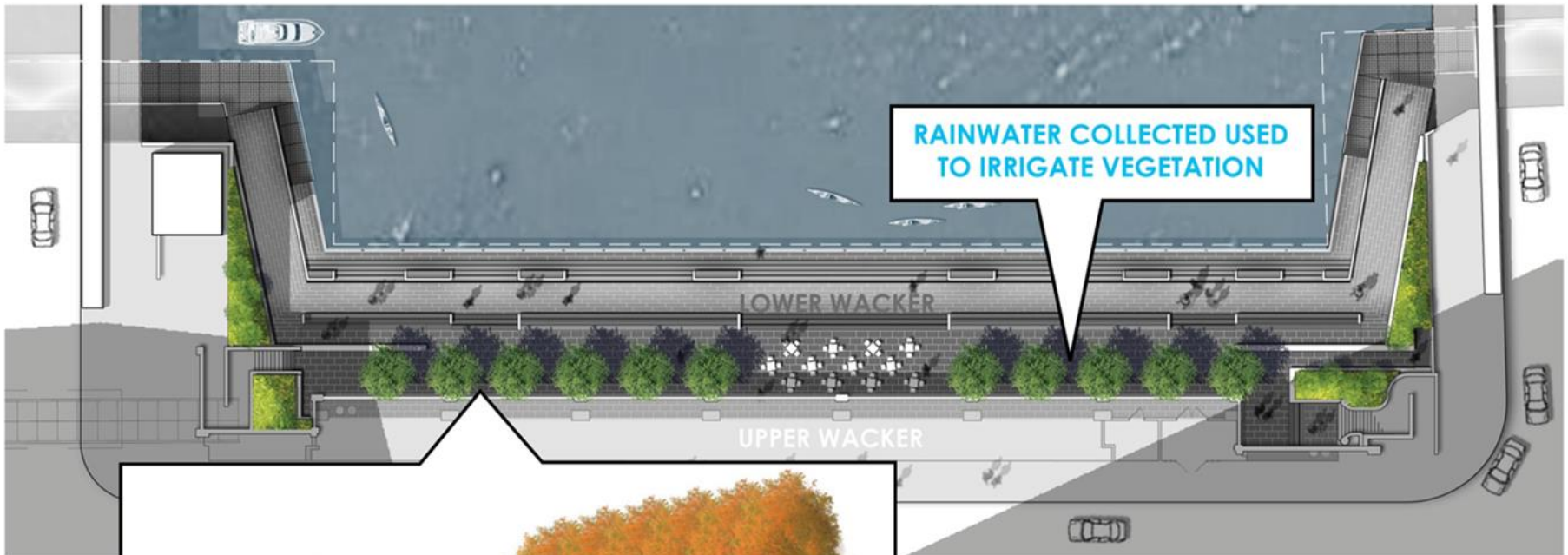
State to Dearborn

# 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'

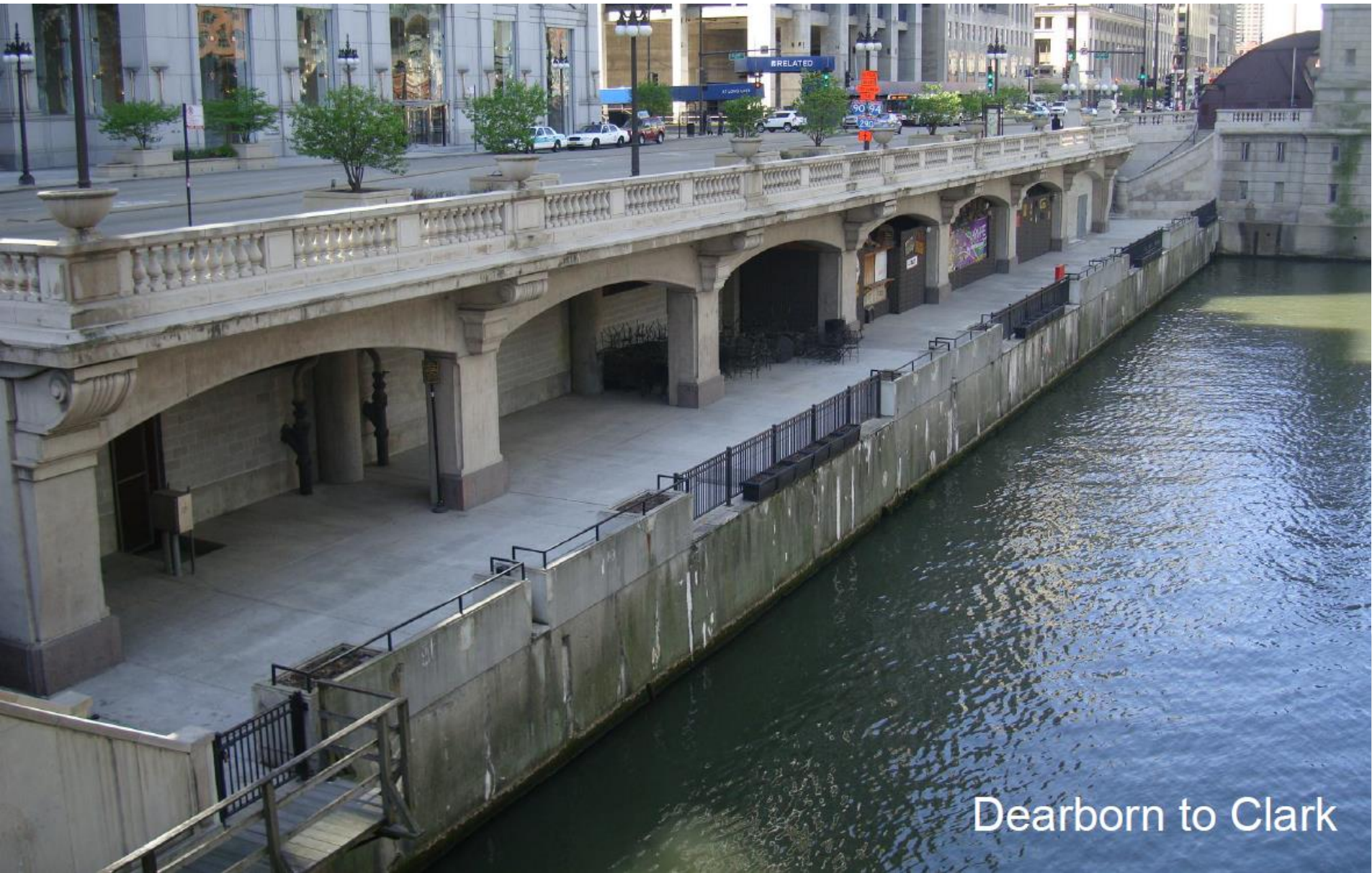
### PERENNIALS

- 207 GERANIUM SANGULNEUM 'MAX FREI'

# State to Dearborn



# Dearborn to Clark: Before

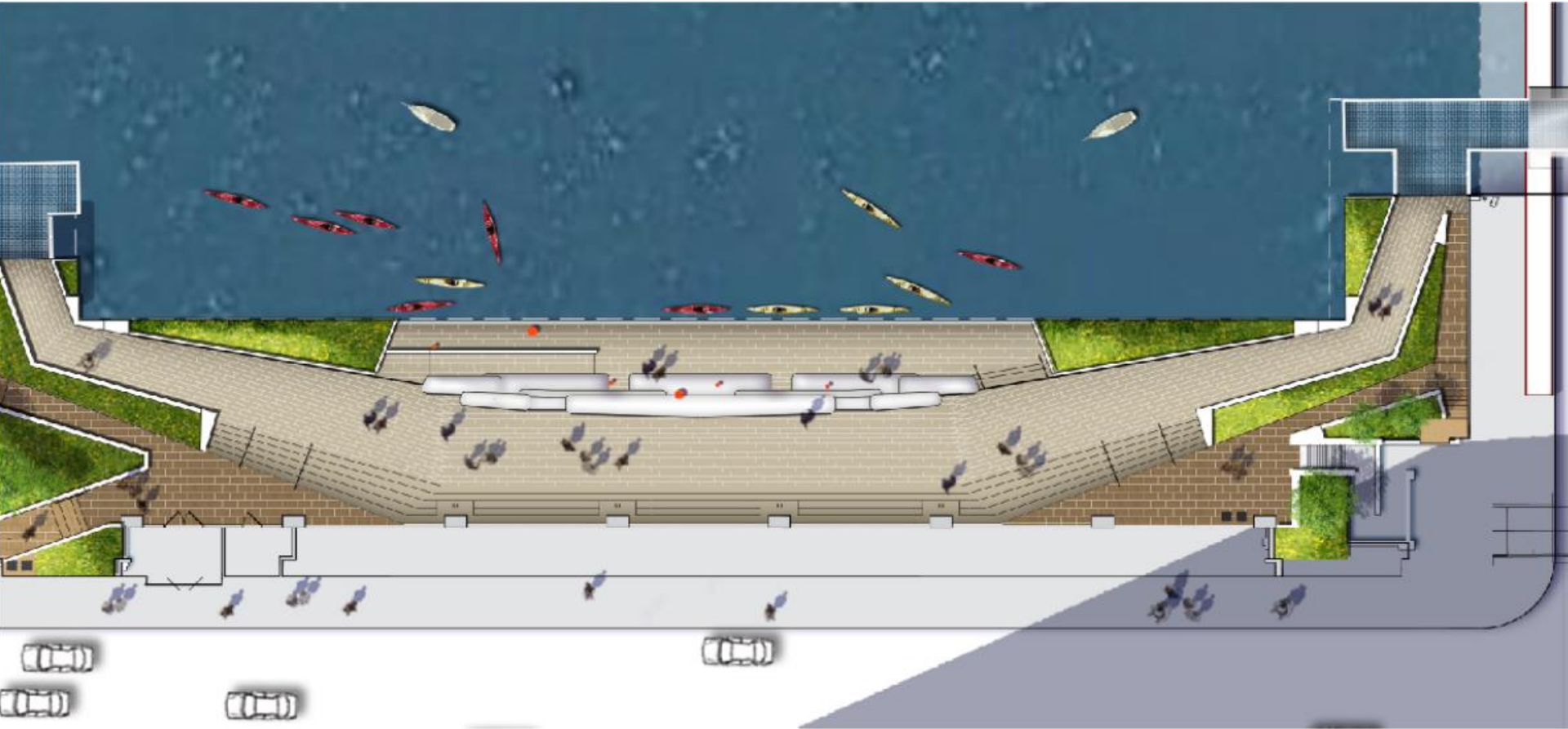


Dearborn to Clark

# Dearborn to Clark: The Cove



# The Cove



# Clark to LaSalle: Before



Clark to LaSalle

# Clark to LaSalle: The River Theater



# The River Theater





**Phase 3  
LaSalle to Lake Street**

**Under Construction  
Late 2016 Completion**

# LaSalle to Wells: Before



LaSalle to Wells

# Coming Soon: The Water Plaza



# Wells to Franklin: Before



Wells to Franklin

# Coming Soon: The Jetty



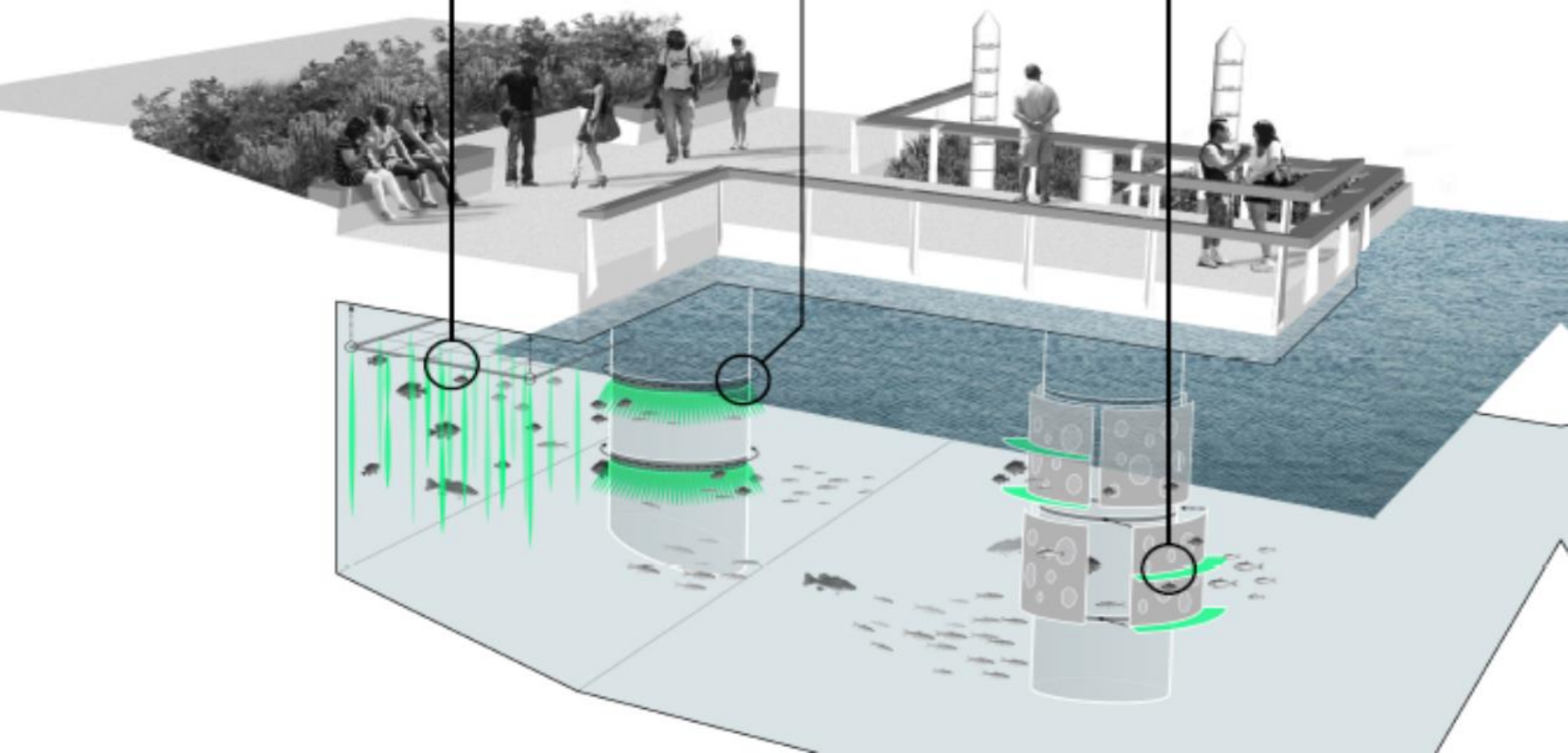
LIMNETIC HABITAT CURTAIN



POLE "HULAS"



CAISSON MOUNTED LUNKERS



# Franklin to Lake: Before



# Coming Soon: The Boardwalk



# Another Beautiful Day on the Chicago Riverwalk!



# Stay In Touch



## Website

[www.chicagodot.org](http://www.chicagodot.org)

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## Twitter

@CDOTNews

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## Facebook

[facebook.com/CDOTNews](https://www.facebook.com/CDOTNews)

## Riverwalk Video:

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

Or search You Tube for *Chicago Riverwalk Grand Opening 2015*