

CHICAGO CALUMET RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Help drive equitable investments in green infrastructure with the creation of the *Natural Solutions Tool*

In partnership with Friends of the Chicago River and The Trust for Public Land, the [Watershed Council](#) is creating an analysis tool to help understand ideal places for green infrastructure project investments.

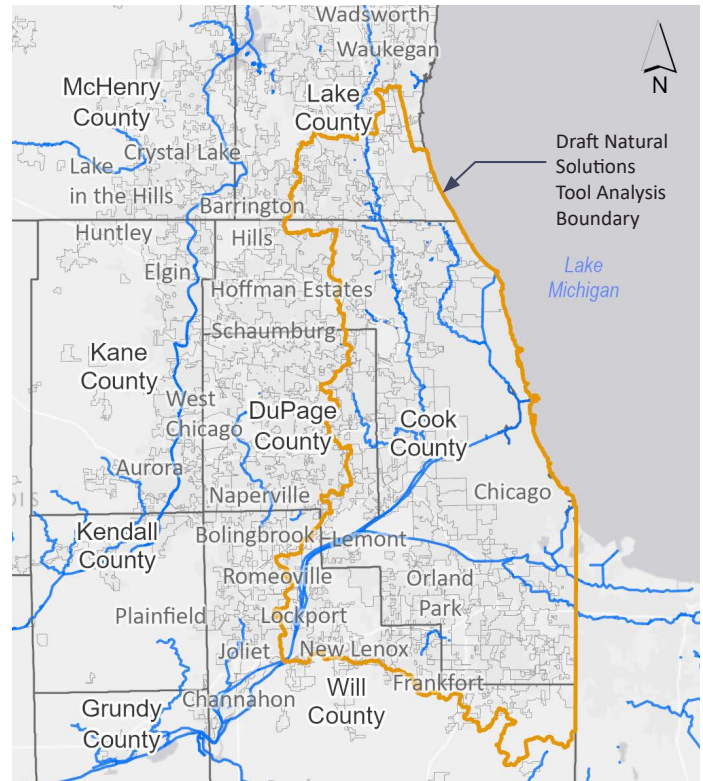
The main goal is to achieve multiple social, environmental, and economic benefits using [natural climate solutions](#) in areas of the watershed with the greatest need.



Why create this tool?

- The Watershed Council partners identified a need for tools to prioritize investments to meet multiple goals, like connecting stormwater to public health.
- Challenges communities face due to the climate crisis require water, land, and other infrastructure agencies to work together on targeted solutions.
- The desire to make equity and environmental justice core values for all decision making for green infrastructure.

Project Boundary Map: The tool will be built using a watershed perspective, covering sub-watersheds in parts of Cook, Lake, Will, and DuPage Counties.



We *need your input* to ensure that the Natural Solutions Tool meets *your community's needs*.

How it works

The [Natural Solutions Tool](#) will use mapped data to identify the best locations for green infrastructure projects in the watershed. The data is gathered at the regional, neighborhood, and site scales and will be verified through stakeholder review. The tool will allow users to find parcels that meet certain characteristics and where green infrastructure is most suitable, as well as to compare climate, public health, and equity information to find ways to address complex environmental challenges. The tool will be built from a broad watershed perspective and will be published on a user-friendly website for use by the general public, community advocates, and government decision makers.

The process to create the *Natural Solutions Tool* is just getting started and will take place over roughly one year.

Tool Creation Process



About the Watershed Council

In 2020, [Friends of the Chicago River](#) launched the Chicago-Calumet River Watershed Council to create a collaborative watershed-based approach to manage stormwater using nature-based solutions across traditional jurisdictions.

The Watershed Council's purpose is to:

- Protect, expand, and restore natural areas
- Support environmental justice and community health
- Enhance and protect biodiversity
- Capture stormwater and improve water quality
- Establish sustained investments in green infrastructure
- Increase climate resiliency
- Expand opportunities for recreation and respite



A video demonstration and further explanation of the tool can be viewed [here](#).

Watershed Council Steering Committee Partners



If you have questions please reach out to:

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