



Robbins Stormwater Park and Midlothian Creek Restoration Project

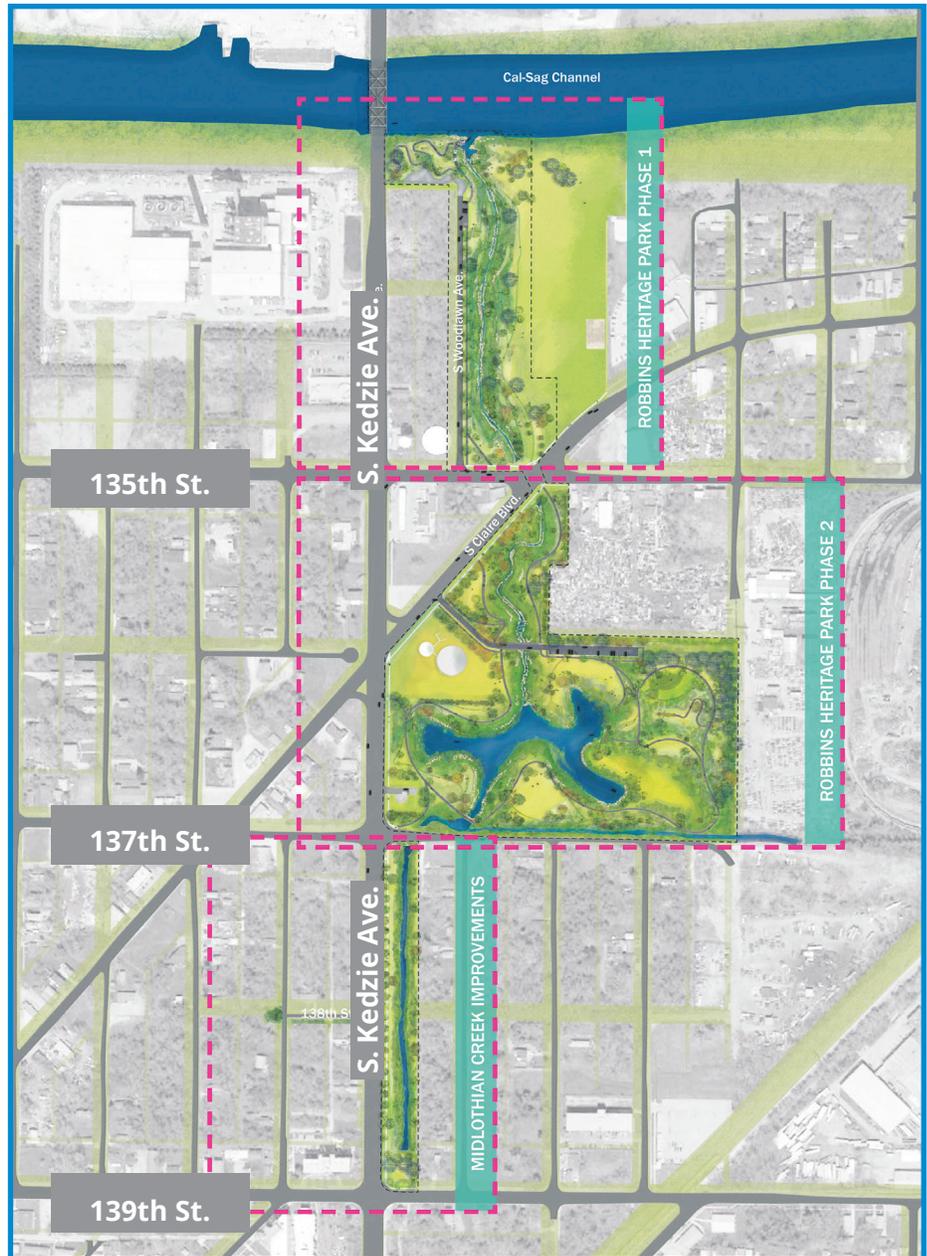
Project Overview

The MWRD is working with the village of Robbins and other partners to help mitigate local flooding, restore Midlothian Creek and create recreational and economic development opportunities to strengthen and revitalize Robbins. The Robbins Stormwater Park will help address overbank flooding through a new stormwater park and pond, along with improvements to Midlothian Creek and an overflow channel that connects to the Cal-Sag Channel. The park stems from the MWRD's 2014 plan to address flooding along the creek. From that initial work, a series of partnerships have led to new opportunities of growth and community benefits for Robbins.

Project Description

The project will be completed in two phases. Stormwater improvements will extend along Midlothian Creek and east of Kedzie Avenue from 139th Street on the south to the Cal-Sag Channel on the north. The first phase of the project involves establishing a diversion channel that will connect a control flow stormwater pond to the Cal-Sag Channel. The MWRD will construct a culvert under 135th Street and three drop structures to control flow. Stone armoring will be installed along the diversion channel waterline.

During construction of the diversion channel, work will begin on the second phase, which includes the stormwater park and pond and conveyance improvements along Midlothian Creek. The MWRD will stabilize 2,200 linear feet of streambank along Midlothian Creek, controlling erosion by cutting back both banks and providing a stable slope that features native plants appropriate to the moisture and soil conditions. The 18-acre flood-control



pond will be constructed east of Kedzie between 135th and 137th streets and north of Midlothian Creek. The Robbins Stormwater Park will allow for a naturalized wetland detention area along with channel improvements to resemble a park-like setting in central Robbins. Bioswales will be planted along Spaulding and Sawyer Avenues

from 137th to 139th streets, capturing stormwater runoff. A rain garden will also be installed in the 138th Street right-of-way between Sawyer and Kedzie Avenues to absorb more runoff from the bioswales and surrounding area before it can discharge into Midlothian Creek.

The estimated construction cost of the two phases is \$20 million. The MWRD is funding the project with support from Cook County via Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funds, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Chi-Cal Rivers Fund.

Project Impact

The Robbins Stormwater Park and Midlothian Creek restoration will increase the existing stormwater drainage system from less than a 5-year storm level of protection to a 100-year level of service. As a result, the project will remove approximately 140 acres from the flood plain, protect 92 structures and remove more than 1,300 parcels from the 100-year floodplain. The project will also bring increased awareness for the watershed, provide critical drainage for an area with no existing stormwater infrastructure, promote green infrastructure and maintenance, improve local water quality and attract further housing, transportation, recreation and economic development opportunities.

The MWRD's vision for Robbins received an award from the American Planning Association Illinois Chapter, a grant from the Chicago Community Trust and support from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and UIC College of Urban Planning and Policy.

Project Timeline

Ground will be broken in 2022 and the project will be completed in 2024.

Partners

- Village of Robbins
- Cook County
- United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- Chicago Community Trust
- Regional Transportation Authority
- UIC College of Urban Planning and Policy
- Waterwell
- OAI
- Calumet Collaborative
- CNT Rain Ready
- Morton Arboretum
- F.H. Paschen, S.N. Nielsen & Assoc.
- Donohue & Associates
- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill



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