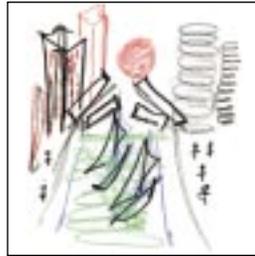


PEOPLE AND THE RIVER

PERCEPTION AND USE OF CHICAGO WATERWAYS FOR RECREATION



Principal Investigators and Volume Editors

Paul H. Gobster

Lynne M. Westphal

USDA Forest Service

North Central Research Station

845 Chicago Avenue, Suite 225

Evanston, Illinois 60202

Contributors

Charles Nilon

Scott Huckstep

University of Missouri-Columbia

Dan Stolze

Metro Chicago Information Center

Tingwei Zhang

University of Illinois-Chicago

Joan M. O'Shaughnessy

Chicago Botanic Garden

CHICAGO **Rivers Demonstration Project**

Project Director

Wink Hastings

National Park Service

FRONT COVER: Although a natural phenomenon (more or less), Chicago's waterways are much about people—those who live, work or play along its varied shores. These are the people who will—through care and common visions—determine the future of this great waterway. Views of the river and its people overlay a visitors map of the City and the main branch of the Chicago River. Clockwise from upper right, aerial view of Lake Michigan, the Chicago River and the City of Chicago (photograph by Richard E. Carter); North Mayfair neighborhood volunteers planting the Gompers Park wetlands along the North Branch of the Chicago River (courtesy of Chicago Park District); Glenbrook North High School students monitoring the health of area rivers (courtesy of Mike Piskel); and Urban Canoe Adventures (U-CAN) river guide trainees practicing their newly-acquired canoe skills (courtesy of Friends of the Chicago River).

TITLE PAGE: Residents participating in small focus groups (Chapter 2, Nearby Neighborhood Residents' Images and Perceptions of the River) were asked to express their feelings of the river through crayon drawings. The drawing shown characterizes a participant's impression of the Chicago River ("Main Branch") by depicting sailboats, bascule (movable) bridges and high-rise architecture.

This is a publication of the *CHICAGO Rivers* Demonstration Project, a national model for the enhancement of urban waterways. It is a collaborative effort directed by the Friends of the Chicago River and the National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.

CHICAGO Rivers Demonstration Project

Friends of the Chicago River
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
Urban Resources Partnership of Chicago
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District
USDA Forest Service, North Central Research Station
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago Metro Wetlands Office

 Friends of the Chicago River is the only non-profit organization dedicated solely to the protection and improvement of the Chicago River. The organization has become the single most influential voice for realizing the potential of the river's many resources. Since its inception in 1979, the Friends of the Chicago River has played a significant role in policy and planning for the promotion of public access and improvements to the river.



The National Park Service, through its Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, is responsible for developing national policies and programs concerning the conservation of the nation's river and trail resources. The Service also helps local communities and organizations create conservation plans for the development and protection of greenways, river corridors, and open space areas outside of the national parks.

Gobster, Paul H., and Lynne M. Westphal, Editors. 1998. *People and the River: Perception and Use of Chicago Waterways for Recreation*. (Chicago Rivers Demonstration Project Report, 192 p.) Milwaukee, WI: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.

Published by the National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1998.

Publication design and copy preparation by Graphic Works, Atlanta, Georgia.

Printed by Alpha Beta Press, Inc., Orland Park, Illinois.

The National Park Service, Department of the Interior is an equal opportunity agency and offers all persons the benefits of participating in each of its programs and competing in all areas of employment regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, marital status, sexual orientation or other non-merit factors.



Contents

Overview of Chicago Rivers Demonstration Project	ix
Abstract	xi
Preface	xiii
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION TO PEOPLE AND THE RIVER	1
<i>Paul H. Gobster and Lynne M. Westphal</i>	
BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES	1
FRAMEWORK FOR RESEARCH	1
Constituent Groups	1
Corridor Settings	1
Issues	3
RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES	3
LITERATURE CITED	4
CHAPTER 2 NEARBY NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS' IMAGES AND PERCEPTIONS OF THE RIVER	5
<i>Paul H. Gobster</i>	
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS	5
Current Perceptions and Uses of the River	5
Future Prospects for the River	6
By-Reach Summary of Findings	7
PART I INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY	7
Purpose and Objectives	7
Study Methods	7
PART II CURRENT PERCEPTIONS AND USES OF THE RIVER	13
General Perceptions of the River	13
Analysis of Key Questions and Issues	19
PART III FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR THE RIVER	27
Ideal Setting for Recreation	27
Types of Development Preferred Along the Corridor	27
River Improvements	31
PART IV CONCLUSIONS	36
APPENDIX 2.1 FOCUS GROUP MODERATOR GUIDE	39
APPENDIX 2.2 FOCUS GROUP CODING PROCESS	40
APPENDIX 2.3 STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS	44
LITERATURE CITED	48
NOTES	48
CHAPTER 3 USE PATTERNS AND USER PREFERENCES OF ON-SITE RIVER RECREATIONISTS	49
<i>Lynne M. Westphal</i>	
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS	49
PART I INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY	50
Purposes and Objectives	50
Study Methods	50
PART II RESULTS OF THE OVERALL SAMPLE	53
Demographics	53
River Use Characteristics	54
Perceptions of the River	55
PART III ISSUES OF MANAGERIAL INTEREST	55
Importance of River Use and Access	56
Water Quality	57
Facility and Development Issues	60
Crime, Safety, and User Conflicts	61
Natural Areas and Scenic Qualities	63
PART IV CONCLUSIONS	64
APPENDIX 3.1 SURVEY INSTRUMENT	65
APPENDIX 3.2 AREA TABLES	67
APPENDIX 3.3 ACTIVITY TABLES	73
LITERATURE CITED	78
NOTES	78
CHAPTER 4 RESOURCE EXPERTS: DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATED TO KEY RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES	79
<i>Paul H. Gobster</i>	
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS	79
Profiles of Resource Experts	79
Current and Potential Recreation Opportunities	79
Issues Related to Key Recreation Uses	79
PART I INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY	83
Purpose and Objectives	83
Study Methods	83
PART II PROFILES OF RESOURCE EXPERTS	85
PUBLIC LAND MANAGERS	85
PRIVATE NOT-FOR-PROFIT GROUPS	94
PRIVATE COMMERCIAL RECREATION PROVIDERS	95
PRIVATE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS	96
MISCELLANEOUS GROUPS	97
PART III CURRENT AND POTENTIAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES	98
Reach 1 West Fork of the North Branch	98
Reach 2 Middle Fork of the North Branch	100
Reach 3 Skokie River (East Fork of the North Branch)	101
Reach 4 North Shore Channel	104
Reach 5 North Branch of the Chicago River	106
Reach 6 Chicago River (Main Branch)	108
Reach 7 South Branch of the Chicago River and South Fork (Bubbly Creek)	111
Reaches 8 and 9 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal	113
Reach 10 Calumet River, Little Calumet River, and Calumet-Sag Channel	116

CONTENTS *(Continued)*

PART IV ISSUES RELATED TO KEY RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES	121	CONCLUSIONS	176
Recreational Boating	121	NOTES	176
Fishing	131	CHAPTER 7 OPEN SPACE NEEDS	
Trails	136	IN CHICAGO'S CHINATOWN AREA	177
Resource Based Recreation and Education	140	<i>Tingwei Zhang</i>	
Other Recreation Opportunities	144	INTRODUCTION	177
PART V CONCLUSIONS	146	RESEARCH METHODS AND PROCEDURES	177
APPENDIX 4.1 INFORMATION SOURCES	149	FINDINGS	177
APPENDIX 4.2 DISCUSSION GUIDES FOR		Current Use Patterns and Activities	177
RESOURCE EXPERT INTERVIEWS	155	Barriers to Participation	177
NOTES	159	Park Development Preferences	179
CHAPTER 5 ANALYSIS OF CHICAGO RIVER		CONCLUSIONS	179
RECREATION HABITATS	161	NOTES	179
<i>Charles Nilon with Scott Huckstep</i>		CHAPTER 8 USE OF THE CHICAGO RIVER	
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS	161	BY CANOEISTS, KAYAKERS, AND ROWERS	181
INTRODUCTION	161	<i>Joan M. O'Shaughnessy</i>	
OBJECTIVES	161	INTRODUCTION	181
METHODS	163	RESEARCH METHODS AND PROCEDURES	181
Regional Characteristics and Access	163	FINDINGS	181
Neighborhood Characteristics and Access	164	Use Patterns	181
RESULTS	165	Motivations and Preferences	181
Regional Level	165	MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	182
Neighborhood Level	167	NOTES	182
DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS	169	CHAPTER 9 SUMMARY OF PEOPLE AND THE RIVER	183
APPENDIX 5.1 VEGETATION CLASSES	171	<i>Paul H. Gobster and Lynne M. Westphal</i>	
LITERATURE CITED	172	INTRODUCTION	183
CHAPTER 6 CITYSPACE: UNDERSTANDING		SUMMARY OF STUDY CHARACTERISTICS	183
CHICAGOANS' OUTDOOR NEEDS	173	Scope	183
<i>Dan Stolze</i>		Objectives	183
INTRODUCTION	173	Sample	183
RESEARCH METHODS AND STUDY SITES	173	Investigation Methods	185
FINDINGS	173	SUMMARY OF STUDY FINDINGS	186
Knowledge and Awareness	173	Places	186
Current Perceptions and Use	175	Activities	188
Future Enhancement and Development	175	Issues	188
		CONCLUSIONS	192



Tables

2.1	Summary of current perceptions and future prospects by focus group	8	3.2.1	Demographics by area	67
2.2	Focus group composition	12	3.2.2	River use characteristics by area	68
2.3.1	Percentage of context and general issue codes for focus group transcript statements by group	44	3.2.3	Perceptions of the river by area	69
2.3.2	Current perceptions of the river—percentage of general issue codes for transcript statements by group.	44	3.2.4	“To what extent do you feel each of the following items are problems that interfere with your use and enjoyment for this stretch of the river?,” by area	70
2.3.3	Current perceptions of the river—percentage of specific issue codes related to river characteristics by group	45	3.2.5	“What things do you like <u>best</u> about this stretch of the river and the areas around it?,” by area	71
2.3.4	Current perceptions of the river—percentage of key specific issue codes related to condition and maintenance of the river landscape by group.	45	3.2.6	“What things do you like <u>least</u> about this stretch of the river and the areas around it?,” by area	71
2.3.5	Ideal settings—percentage of key general and specific issue codes by group	46	3.2.7	“What changes do you think need to be done to make rivers in the Chicago area better for recreation?,” by area	72
2.3.6	Photo ratings—percentage of key general and specific issue codes by group	46	3.3.1	Demographics by activity	73
2.3.7	Future potential—percentage of key general and specific issue codes by group	47	3.3.2	River use characteristics by activity.	74
3.1	Survey areas	51	3.3.3	Perceptions of river by activity	75
3.2	Respondents from racial/ethnic groups, by area	53	3.3.4	“To what extent do you feel each of the following items are problems that interfere with your use and enjoyment for this stretch of the river?,” by activity	76
3.3	Activities reported by respondents	54	3.3.5	“What things do you like <u>best</u> about this stretch of the river and the areas around it?,” by activity	77
3.4	Activity groups, by area	54	3.3.6	“What things do you like <u>least</u> about this stretch of the river and the areas around it?,” by activity	77
3.5	Importance of the river for recreational enjoyment, by area	56	3.3.7	“What changes do you think need to be done to make rivers in the Chicago area better for recreation?,” by activity	78
3.6	Importance of the river for recreational enjoyment, by activity.	56	4.1	Summary of current and potential recreation and open space opportunities	80
3.7	River access, by area	57	4.2	Summary of interviewee concerns/recommendations for primary corridor activities	82
3.8	River access, by activity.	57	4.3	Groups and individuals interviewed	84
3.9	Perceptions of water quality deterioration, by area	58	4.4	Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reach 1.	98
3.10	Perceptions of water quality improvements, by area	58	4.5	Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reach 2.	101
3.11	Perceptions of water quality deterioration, by activity	59	4.6	Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reach 3.	103
3.12	Perceptions of water quality improvements, by activity.	59	4.7	Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reach 4.	104
3.13	Facility likes and dislikes, by area	60	4.8	Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reach 5.	107
3.14	Facility likes and dislikes, by activity	61			
3.15	Safety-related issues, by area	62			
3.16	Safety-related issues, by activity	62			
3.17	Nature-related issues, by area.	63			
3.18	Nature-related issues, by activity	63			

TABLES *(Continued)*

4.9	Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reach 6.	110	5.12	Principal component loadings for socioeconomic and demographic variables	167
4.10	Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reach 7.	112	5.13	Mean of selected social, economic, and demographic variables by block group category.	168
4.11	Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reaches 8 and 9	115	5.14	Percent of block groups assigned to each block group category by site	168
4.12	Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reach 10.	118	5.15	Percent occurrence of vegetation unit cover types by adjacent block group category	168
5.1	Location and description of Recreation Habitat sites	163	5.16	Percent occurrence of five most abundant vegetation classes by block group category	168
5.2	Plant formation and life form categories used to classify vegetation units	163	5.17	Percent occurrence of historical indicators and disturbance characteristics of vegetation units by adjacent block group category	168
5.3	Historical indicators and environmental disturbance variables used to classify vegetation units	163	5.18	Percent occurrence of bank characteristics and river access variables for units adjacent to river by adjacent block group category.	169
5.4	Social, economic, and demographic variables used to characterize 1990 U.S. Census block groups adjacent to sites	164	5.19	Vegetation unit variables that differ at regional (study site) or neighborhood (block group) level.	169
5.5	Percent occurrence of plant cover type by site	165	5.1.1	Vegetation classes.	171
5.6	Percent occurrence of five most abundant vegetation classes by site	165	8.1	Top motivations for boating the Chicago River, by group.	181
5.7	Percentage of vegetation units with occurrence of historical indicators	166	8.2	Top-ranked items adding to or detracting from boaters' enjoyment of the river	182
5.8	Percentage of vegetation units with occurrence of current environmental disturbance.	166	9.1	Characteristics of Chicago Rivers Demonstration Project social science studies	185
5.9	Percentage of vegetation units with access to reaches and with fencing that blocked access	167	9.2	Groups sampled and subgroup comparisons made in the social science studies.	186
5.10	Percent occurrence of bank characteristic variables in vegetation units adjacent to river	167	9.3	Summary of findings—place knowledge.	187
5.11	Reaches with heavy barge traffic (number of high target areas) identified by U.S. Coast Guard	167	9.4	Summary of findings—activities	189
			9.5	Summary of findings—issues.	190



Figures and Plates

1.1	Map of study reaches	2
2.1	Map of study reaches with location of focus groups.	10
2.2	Plot of mean ratings of “The Chicago River in Your Neighborhood” exercise, all groups	14
2.3	Mean score ratings for photos, averaged over all groups	27
3.1	Map of study reaches with location of on-site surveys	52
4.1	Map of study reaches with location of recreation-open space maps (Figures 4.2-4.7)	86
4.2	Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reaches 1, 2 and 3	99
4.3	Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reaches 4 and 5A.	105
4.4	Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reaches 5B, 6 and 7.	109
4.5	Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reaches 8, 9A and 9B.	114
4.6	Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reaches 10B and 10C.	119
4.7	Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reach 10A	120
5.1	Map of study reaches with location of recreation habitat sites	162
6.1	Map of study reaches with location of nearby City Space focus groups.	174
7.1	Map of study reaches with location of Chinatown area	178
9.1	Map of study reaches with location of ChicagoRivers Demonstration Project social science studies	184

Plate Pages — a photographic portrayal of Chicago waterways. between pages 4 and 5

OVERVIEW OF *CHICAGO Rivers* DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

In 1979, *Chicago* magazine published an article entitled, "Our Friendless River" by Robert Cassidy, who pointedly described the need for individuals or an organization to develop a vision for the Chicago River's future and to care for it. In response to his compelling article, an overwhelming number of concerned citizens cried, "I care! What can I do?" This powerful article gave impetus to individuals forming the Friends of the Chicago River, an organization dedicated to the protection and improvement of the Chicago River system.

During the 1970's and 1980's, substantial improvements to water quality had been accomplished by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago through the implementation of numerous pollution and flood control projects. These innovative projects have revived the ecological health of area waterways through increased fish populations, streamside vegetation and wildlife habitat.

Improved water quality, the scarcity of suitable open space, and the river's new-found "friends" spurred a renewed awareness of the Chicago River. Area residents began to view the waterways as important resources and community assets, and recognized the need for continued environmental improvements and the opportunity for increased recreation. Responding to this interest, the Friends of the Chicago River organized a series of public forums in 1991 and 1992 called "Voices from the Stream" to emphasize the river's attributes and identify opportunities for future improvements. Building on the results of these forums, a workplan for future river studies was completed by the Friends and the National Park Service.

INITIATION OF *CHICAGO Rivers* DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Local efforts emphasized by the forums drew the attention of Congress, resulting in the initiation of the Chicago Rivers Demonstration Project in 1993. Established as a collaborative effort, project goals emphasize the development of an action plan for river enhancements, initiation of community-based activities and application as a national "model" for revitalizing degraded urban rivers. At its outset, project participants decided that the study area should encompass the North Branch of the Chicago River, North Shore Channel, Chicago River, South Branch of the Chicago River, Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, and Calumet-Sag Channel. Comprising 156 miles of natural and constructed waterways, this study area provides the diversity of corridor settings, land uses, population, and issues expected of a national model. In effect, the Chicago and Calumet River systems became a "classroom" for community organizing and river enhancements.

Comprehensive resource assessments encompassing a range of topics have been completed by many agencies participating in the project:

- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago provided existing water quality data, information on pollution and flood control activities, and assisted with a related U.S. Bureau of Mines study to assess contaminated river bed sediments and develop model techniques for reclamation.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District compiled data on land use, hazardous waste sites and sociocultural characteristics and conducted a telephone survey of recreation use and resident perceptions of the waterways.
- USDA Forest Service, North Central Research Station assessed existing recreational uses and perceptions of the river and identified desired changes expressed by a variety of area residents and organizations.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago Metro Wetlands Office conducted an inventory of existing habitat, fisheries and wetland areas and delineated priority areas for the future wetland and habitat improvements.

A parallel effort, conducted by the Friends of the Chicago River, involved community outreach and river constituency development. Using a variety of techniques, the outreach program has increased citizen awareness, strengthened the connection between people and the waterway, articulated "visions" for future river uses and enhancements, and established a grassroots constituency to support implementation.

Combining resource capabilities with citizen needs, an action agenda provides direction for developing future recreational uses and implementing specific resource enhancement projects throughout the waterway. Based on community "visions" for both the overall waterway and individual river reaches (sections), the implementation of various projects, policies and programs will provide an effective and comprehensive means of achieving future recreation facilities and resource enhancements.

Project efforts and effective constituency development have already led to specific demonstration activities involving wetland restoration, recreation development and environmental education. These initial actions have been greatly assisted by the Urban Resources Partnership program; local government including the City of Chicago Department of Environment, the Chicago Park District, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and the Lake County Forest Preserve District; neighborhood groups such as the North Mayfair Improvement Association and Chicago Youth Centers; and youth organizations such as "Fishin' Buddies!" Youth Fishing Club.

ABSTRACT

This report describes an interrelated set of social science investigations conducted for the ChicagoRivers Demonstration Project. The purpose of these studies was to understand how user and interest groups currently perceive and use the Chicago and Calumet River corridors, and how they would like to see the corridors improved for recreation and related values. An introductory chapter defines overall research objectives and presents a framework for identifying important groups, settings, and issues for study. Four subsequent chapters address these dimensions with respect to a) nearby neighborhood residents, b) on-site recreational users, c) resource experts, and d) recreation habitats. Three additional chapters briefly summarize support studies which assessed a) the outdoor needs of Chicago residents, b) the leisure needs and preferences of Chinese Americans living in Chinatown, and c) the recreational use of the Chicago River system by canoeists, kayakers and rowers. A final chapter summarizes and synthesizes findings from all these studies (as well as the findings from a metropolitan-wide telephone survey of area residents published in the ChicagoRivers Demonstration Project document entitled, "Resident Use and Perception of the Chicago and Calumet Rivers"), and suggests directions for corridor planning and management.

PREFACE

Back in 1992, when an aide to U.S. Congressman Sidney Yates asked us to get involved in a research project on the Chicago River, we knew little about the journey we had in store. The USDI National Park Service (NPS) and the Friends of the Chicago River (Friends) had recommended that our office, the Chicago unit of the Forest Service's North Central Research Station, "undertake a user needs and resource perception study of the Chicago River." The task seemed straightforward enough, and we felt the project fit well within our mission and capabilities in urban forestry and river recreation research. Without hesitation, we signed onto the fledgling "Chicago River Urban Multiple Objective River Corridor Demonstration Project," which in time would become known as "ChicagoRivers."

In early meetings with staff from NPS and Friends, we discussed what kinds of information were needed about user needs and resource perceptions. We were joined in these discussions by representatives from local and federal agencies in the Chicago area who would be addressing other resource concerns in the ChicagoRivers project. For the social component, key questions included: What images do people hold of the Chicago River? How do people perceive water quality, safety, aesthetics, and other issues? How do these perceptions affect use of the river and its associated lands? How is the corridor used, where, by whom, and for what? How can the corridor be improved for recreation and related values?

In these same sessions, we also defined the scope of the area to be studied. A decision was made to take on a 156-mile corridor that stretched from the headwaters of the North Branch of the Chicago River near the Wisconsin border, south to the mouth of the Calumet River near Indiana, and southwest along the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to Lockport, IL. This would ensure that diverse settings, groups, and issues would be addressed.

Our "straightforward" study soon grew quite complex. It was obvious that a multiple-study approach was needed to gather information of sufficient breadth and depth. As principal investigators, we designed and implemented an interrelated set of studies to address key questions about user needs and resource perceptions, and we assembled a research team to help us carry out the studies. Four principal studies by the Forest Service would supply the primary base of information about groups, settings, and issues. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would take the lead on a fifth study, looking at corridor residents across the entire metropolitan region.

The principal Forest Service studies focused on nearby neighborhood residents, on-site recreational users, resource experts, and recreation habitats. In addition to these principal studies, we coordinated and helped fund three support studies that dealt with additional neighborhood communities along the river; with the Chinatown community area, where major new park development is planned; and with canoeists, kayakers, and rowers who have used the river.

Assembling this wealth of information was as much of a challenge as designing and implementing the studies themselves. The challenge was especially great for the qualitative studies, as we worked to make order out of the small mountains of interview transcripts on our desks. Because each study had unique information to offer, we decided to present each as an independent chapter, tied together with introductory and concluding chapters. The four principal studies by the Forest Service appear as full chapters in this technical report. Also included here are brief summary chapters for the three support studies. The Army Corps study of corridor residents appears in a separate volume in this technical report series.

This publication required the efforts of many people, not just the principal investigators. Those who conducted and assisted in the individual studies are identified in each of the separate chapters; we thank them all and hope that by bringing their work together we have added to the utility of their individual efforts. Any errors in reporting the findings of these studies are ours alone.

We also thank the ChicagoRivers partners and our colleagues at the Forest Service for contributing their time and ideas. We especially thank Wink Hastings of the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program and Laurene von Klan of the Friends of the Chicago River for involving us in ChicagoRivers, and our Project Leader John Dwyer.

Finally, we thank the many hundreds of study participants who gave us their valuable time and spoke freely with us about their knowledge of and feelings for the Chicago River. We hope that this report produced from their contributions will work to improve the river they care for so deeply.

Paul H. Gobster and Lynne M. Westphal

Principal Investigators