

Calumet Collaborative
Brownfield Work Group Zoom Meeting
July 10, 2020 10:00am - 11:30pm



In Attendance:

Jennifer Birchfield, NWI Urban Waters
Daniel Boudreau, GZA
Serrater Chapman, Calumet Collaborative
Sean Connelly, UIC Vorhees Center
Tess Conway, Calumet Collaborative
Sarah Coulter, Calumet Collaborative
Kristi De Laurentiis, SSMMA
David Doig, Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives
Mohammed Elahi, Government of Cook County
Jack Eskin, Delta Institute
Cherie Fischer, US Forest Service
Theresa Johnston, MWRD
Kathy Luther, NIRPC
Brian Nelligan, Nelligan Law LLC
Kay Nelson, NWI Forum
Paula Robinson, Bronzeville Community Partnership
Barb Scapardine, MWRD
Janet Smith, UIC Vorhess Center
Kathryn Vallis, IDNR Coastal Management

Objective: The Calumet Collaborative will provide updates on the mapping tool and beta-testing results, layout and complete map launch plan, finalize new name of the mapping tool, and discuss equity and climate resilience lens.

Agenda

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Beta-testing Findings

- a. High-level overview
 - The Brownfield Map went through three rounds of beta-testing where participants were asked to complete a scavenger hunt and routing testing to review the functionality of the tool. Testers were asked to use various browsers and at different times of day.
 - Overall, we received feedback from 8 different organizations on technical issues as well as suggestions on ways to improve the map.
 - Specifically, we would like to thank Lisa Krause, Kathryn Vallis, Brian Nelligan, Liz Castanada, Barb Scarpardine, Tony Manno, Julia Linares, and Kathy Luther for all their help in beta-testing the map.
 - Issues with the Brownfield Map include:
 - Freezing and slow loading with land use and zoning layers.
 - Chrome crashed with heavier layers.
 - Other browsers such as safari and internet explorer had crashes but were only used as backups to chrome.
 - Slower computers and processors were slower to load and had more crashes.
 - Immediate tasks to improve map:

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- Converting the land use and zoning layers to pictures to minimize crashing
- Creating a data source bullet list, the side bar is currently blank.
- Adding remaining managed natural areas to the tool outside of the USGS protected lands and areas.
- Suggestions for enhancing the map include:
 - Making the tool more user friendly when looking at multiple layers at once.
 - For example, for the social vulnerability and floodplain layers, recommend changing colors and transparency, maybe having layer filters.
 - Adding an address or zip code search option.
 - Adding hover or pop up boxes with snapshots of information.
 - Adding trails and other natural assets.
 - Adding vacant, residential, commercial, and unmanaged natural areas
 - Adding a layer for urban farms, local food producers, etc.
- Daniel Boudreau volunteered as a resource for needs related to geospatial technology, database development, and other technical skills related to a web based mapping tool.
- The Calumet Collaborative has hired an intern, Nicole Pellegrini, a UIC Master of Urban Planning and Policy student. With her help, we are hoping to address the map's issues and creating a project log so that the map can be updated routinely.
- Other suggestions and questions related to beta-testing included:
 - BFWG member question: Will there be another round of beta-testing \ after the new additions to the map? No, the intention is to launch the map now and update it as needed as we would like it to be available for use as soon as possible.
 - BFWG member question: Is the intent to add all of the new suggested features? Not necessarily. The hope is to create a small group to help prioritize map adjustments and get an idea of how much time is needed to manage and update the map.
 - BFWG member question: Will converting the zoning and land use layers to a picture would make it more difficult to update the map in the future? No, the process of adding a picture to a map is simple, but individual parcel level information is lost.
 - BFWG member question: How often do we intend to update the map's layers? We are currently creating an update process with our intern Nicole to be used by all future interns. Sean Connelly, UIC-VC has also created an excel spreadsheet that has the original sources of all data.
 - It was suggested that the pictures used for zoning could be categorized by jurisdiction, municipality, or district.
- Next Steps: The BFWG will need to decide how we will use the mapping tool going forward. Are we creating a strategy based on this? Scenario planning? Some thoughts to consider for the next BFWG meeting.

III. Map Launch

- a. Soft launch plans
 - Calumet Collaborative has created a communications plan for the primary soft launch of the map.
 - Access to the map will be open to the public on the Calumet Collaborative website and included in our July newsletter.
 - There is a short form with a user agreement to log the number of people that have access to the map. This will be good to track over time and for grant reporting.
 - We are hoping to have partners share in their newsletters and Collaborative staff will provide language to include in the various publications.
 - The purpose of the soft launch is to get the map out to partners and in the newsletter as soon as possible. Following the soft launch, we then plan to begin working on a more coordinated, strategic, and broader secondary launch.
- b. Broad launch plans

- In the broader launching of the tool, BFWG members suggested:
 - From a social media and marketing perspective, the map needs to have a more celebrated launch.
 - Creating a short video demonstration on how to use the tool and sharing it on the Calumet Collaborative's website and YouTube.
 - Presenting and demonstrating the tool widely, possibly EDA centers.
 - Creating a PDF demonstration on how to use the tool.
- Sean Connelly has previously presented this map at the USA EDA Midwest Center for partners across many states and could help create the webinar demo for the map. A demo would be helpful as partners in other regions are extremely interested in creating similar maps.

IV. Naming Mapping Tool

- In an attempt to highlight the potential of the Calumet region and talk about Brownfields redevelopment as an opportunity, the beta-testing and user agreement small working groups selected the top 5 names for the map, including:
 - Calumet Reinvestment Map
 - Calumet Reinvestment Mapping Tool
 - Calumet Reinvestment Area Mapping Program (CRAMP)
 - Calumet Area Mapping Program (CAMP)
 - Calumet Mapping Tool
- Within the meeting, the BFWG voted for their favorite name and chose **Calumet Reinvestment Mapping Tool**.

V. Racial Justice

- a. Aligning with lenses of equity & climate resilience
- In 2019 the Calumet Collaborative Board of Directors went through a North Star Visioning process and committed to view the initiatives through the lenses of Climate Resilience and Equity.
 - With COVID-19 and the recent uprising for social justice, the Collaborative is interested in finally applying an equity lens in a more intentional way and there are a number of Equity Toolkits that can be of help.
 - How do we continue to look at impacts of our work, who benefits and who is negatively impacted, etc..
 - Collaborative staff would like to begin a conversation around these Equity Toolkits and how other anti-racism and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) trainings can be used to operationalize these lenses.
 - Anyone interested in being part of a sub-group of the BFWG to review Equity Toolkits and the broader equity and anti-racism work should contact Sarah.
 - A number of suggestions and recommendations were made for the group:
 - Chicago ROAR for anti-racism training.
 - Chicago Equity Summit.
 - Looking at development from a health lens, reframing economic problems as health problems.
 - Cook County Sustainability & Environment's capstone project on EJ Communities - we could request one be done around the mapping tool or approach to this work with an equity lense.
 - Reframing what environmental justice means in 2020.
 - Shriver Center and Earthjustice's Poisonous Homes report that has a ton of incredible research related to why public housing were built in unsafe and known EJ communities.

- The Collaborative is hoping to start a meaningful dialogue and create a safe space to continue learning together.

VI. Next Steps

- The map will be officially named the Calumet Reinvestment Mapping Tool.
- Map will be primarily launched on Calumet Collaborative's website and promoted in the newsletter (July 2020).
- Partners interested in promoting the tool in their newsletters or social media can connect with Collaborative staff for additional help - please include/tag us should you post the tool.
- Additions and edits will be made to the map by our summer intern Nicole.
- A small group will be convened to discuss the broader press and social media launch - if interested, please reach out to Serrater.
- Sarah will send out Doodle to start an equity and climate resilience lense discussion - please respond to the Doodle or reach out to Sarah if interested.

VII. Group Announcements

- KSU-TAB Brownfield Workshop Series
 - Jack Eskin from the Delta Institute shared that earlier this year the Collaborative and the Delta Institute began working with US EPA and KSU-TAB (Technical Assistance for Brownfields) to bring their annual brownfield workshop to the Calumet, virtually.
 - They are working with partners to transition to a webinar series and have begun reaching out to different partners to share their experiences in leveraging funding and experience as speakers. Both Indiana and Illinois partners very supportive of it.
 - More specific info will be available later this summer and the webinars are currently planned for September.

VIII. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 11:20AM.