

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) comprises approximately 76.1 miles of canals and modified natural rivers, which encompasses a diverse landscape of prairies, woodlands, savannas, and wetlands as well as industrial, residential, and commercial developments; and

WHEREAS, the CAWS provides immense value to the City of Chicago as a space for recreation, including the first-of-its-kind floating eco-park Wild Mile, Ping Tom Memorial Park, and additional community developments; and

WHEREAS, the CAWS also serves as a world class water feature, enriching Chicago's landscape and character; and

WHEREAS, the CAWS is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including larger animals such as coyotes and deer, aquatic mammals such as beaver and otter, over 70 species of fish, as well as small aquatic plants like duckweed, which is considered one of the smallest flowering plants in the world; and

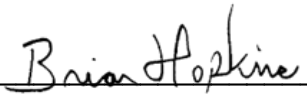
WHEREAS, monthly ambient water sampling at 30 locations has made CAWS one of the most closely monitored urban river systems in the United states, and research efforts have further documented increases in native fish abundance, along with a decline in invasive species; and

WHEREAS, despite these significant ecological improvements, historic contamination from Chicago's industrialization has affected sediment in certain areas of the CAWS, in locations such as the south fork of the South Branch of the Chicago River, commonly known as Bubbly Creek; and

WHEREAS, sediment provides essential habitat and nutrients for benthic organisms, which serve as a foundational food source for fish; these fish, in turn, support wildlife and human populations, including subsistence anglers from overburdened communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, affirm our support for federal, state, and municipal initiatives aimed at addressing legacy pollution, including the remediation of contaminated sediments and dredging, within the CAWS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, will work with all relevant stakeholders as an active partner to support the water system reclamation study.



BRIAN HOPKINS

Alderman, 2nd Ward