

# Garfield Green Line South eTOD Action Plan

ENR Committee update

May 6, 2021

Lindsay Bayley



# Overview

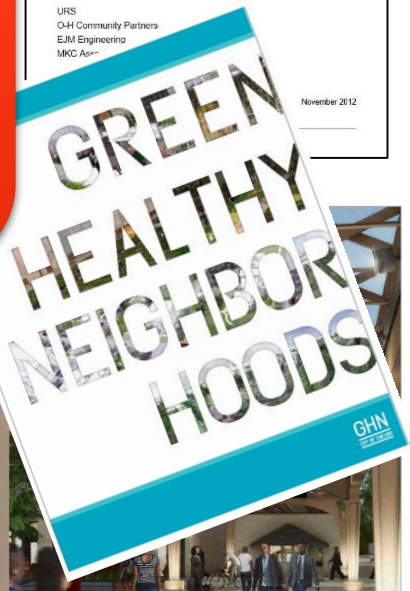
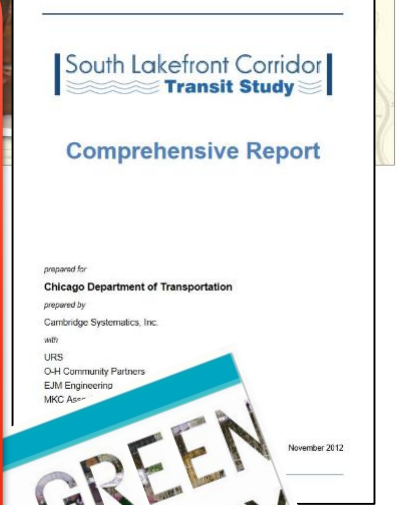
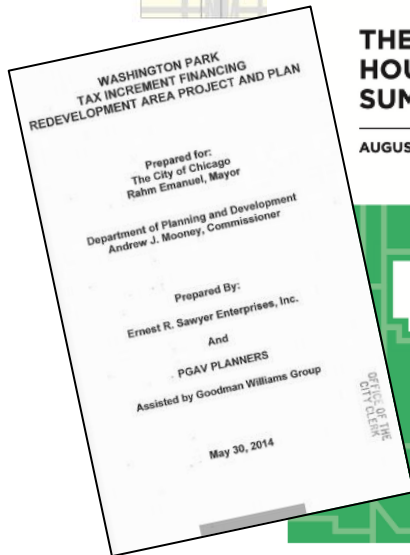
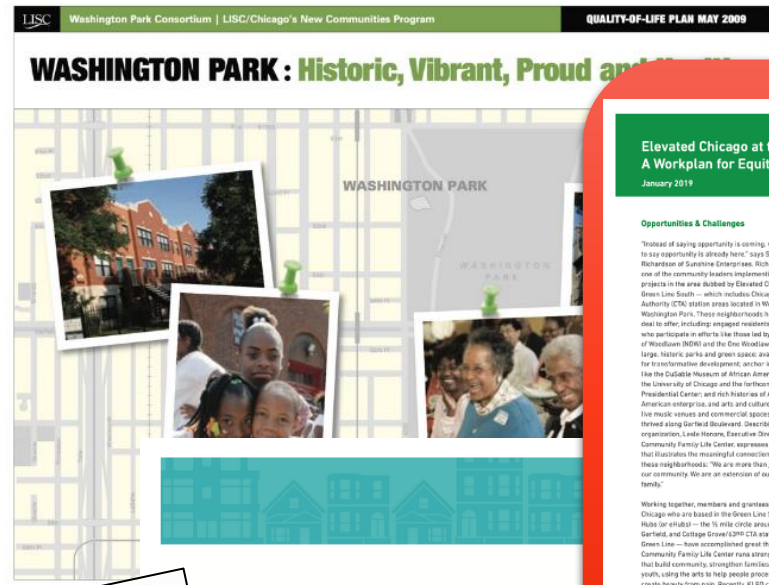
- Project Background
- Historic timeline
- Story Maps
- Engagement site
- Next steps



# Washington Park

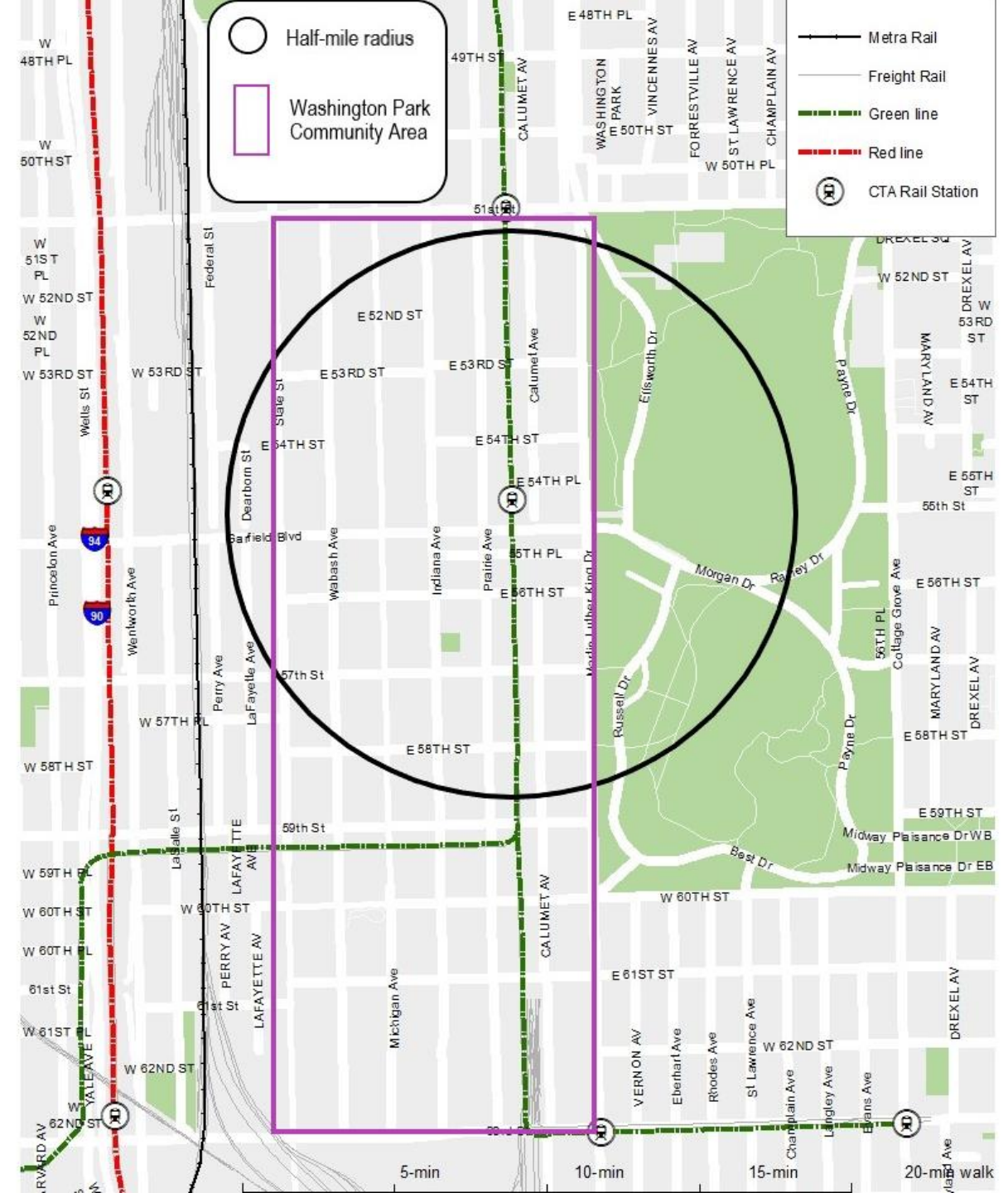
An over-planned community

The last thing local community groups need is another planning process



# Project focus area

The primary study area is the half-mile radius around the Garfield station



# Project focus area

Within 1/2-mile radius of the Garfield CTA station, there are 37 acres of vacant land. This equates to **more than four of every ten parcels are vacant**. Of those vacant parcels, more than 60% are city-owned.



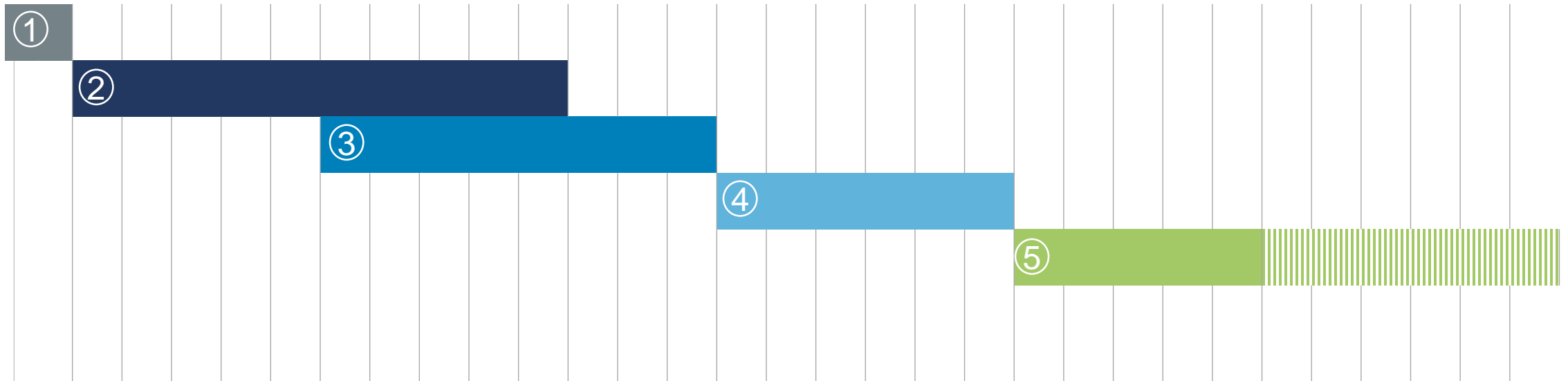
# Project Timeline



## Garfield Green Line South eTOD Action Plan



JAN. MAR. MAY JUL. SEPT. NOV. JAN. MAR. MAY JUL. SEPT. NOV. JAN. MAR. MAY JUL.



- 1. Project initiation and orientation
- 2. Getting to know the community and history

- 3. Existing conditions and visioning
- 4. Draft eTOD plan development with Resident Advisory Council

- 5. Public Review, Adjustment, Approval, Implementation



**1950s** Service on three branches of the green line south were ended, lines closed.

**1950** Green Hornet Streetcar Disaster: a streetcar traveling too fast for wet conditions veers into a gasoline tanker, triggering a massive explosion that kills over 30 passengers.

**1961** The first segment of the Dan Ryan expressway opens cementing segregation/environmental justice concerns



**1982** The Jackson park branch of the CTA was closed and tracks were removed.

**1994** 63rd & Racine and 58th & Prairie stations permanently closed.

**1994** Entire Green Line shut down for rehabilitation work, resulting in 2 years of no service to the area.



**1997** Demolition of Green Line Tracks east of Cottage Grove eliminating service to Jackson Park

**2001** Historic Garfield Boulevard "L" station and overpass designated with landmark status



**2019** The Garfield Gateway Project brought \$43 million in improvements for the station that included art by Nick Cave



The construction of high-density Robert Taylor Homes gave the neighborhood a slight increase in population as the base of the community was slipping away.

**1948** US Supreme Court strikes down racial covenants

**1952** The University of Chicago formed the Hyde Park Kenwood Urban Renewal Program (nicknamed "Urban Removal"), which displaced thousands of African Americans on the South Side. It tore down strips of worker housing for student dorms, decimated the local jazz scene, and bulldozed the commercial corridor on 55th street, leaving behind only 3 new business sites.

**1955** The Illinois General Assembly passed an amendment to the Illinois Blighted Areas Redevelopment Act, to give the Chicago Land Clearance Commission more power in eminent domain and use the land for industrial purposes.



**1962** Robert Taylor Homes completed as huge low-income housing project between 51st and 54th and State to Federal; not everyone who wanted housing could be accommodated.

**1963** CPS mass walkout of over 220,000 students to protest overcrowded and underfunded majority-Black schools

**1965** More than half of manufacturing jobs in the metropolitan area relocated into the suburbs by this point.

**1971** The Union Stock Yard closed



**1970s** Robert Taylor Homes become neglected by the Chicago Housing Authority and the police

**1972** Dyett HS is built on the northern border of Washington Park.



**Late 1970s** Beasley Academic Center opens at 5255 S. State Street in Washington Park. Programming includes a free Child Parent Center preschool program, a collect...

**1980** Wisconsin Steel Closes



**1983** Harold Washington elected first African American mayor



**1986** The passing of the Anti-drug abuse act creates disparate negative impacts on Black communities in the US during the War on Drugs. In Chicago, police were busy targeting gang leaders who had maintained some semblance of codes of conduct around violence, breaking some...

**1993** US Steel Closes

**1995** Heatwave of three days leaves 739 Chicagoans dead, including many from Washington Park



**2004** Washington Park added to the National Register of Historic Places.



**2007** Robert Taylor Homes

**2008** There are 163 foreclosure filings in Washington Park, the highest rate per 1,000 properties of all Chicago neighborhoods

**2008** Dyett HS has the largest increase in students going to college in all of CPS.

**2008** KLEO Center founded to address domestic violence.

**2009** Chicago prepares (unsuccessful) bid to host the 2016 Olympic Games with Washington Park at the center of festivities.

**2011** Citing poor academic performance, CPS decides to phase out Dyett High School over the course of a three-year period



**2014** The Sweetwater Foundation

**2015** After a 34-day hunger strike led by residents, Dyett High School reopens.

**2015** Obama Presidential Library selects the University of Chicago's proposal, ultimately choosing Jackson Park over Washington Park

**2016** The University of Chicago buys 26 properties in Washington Park because of the Obama center bid

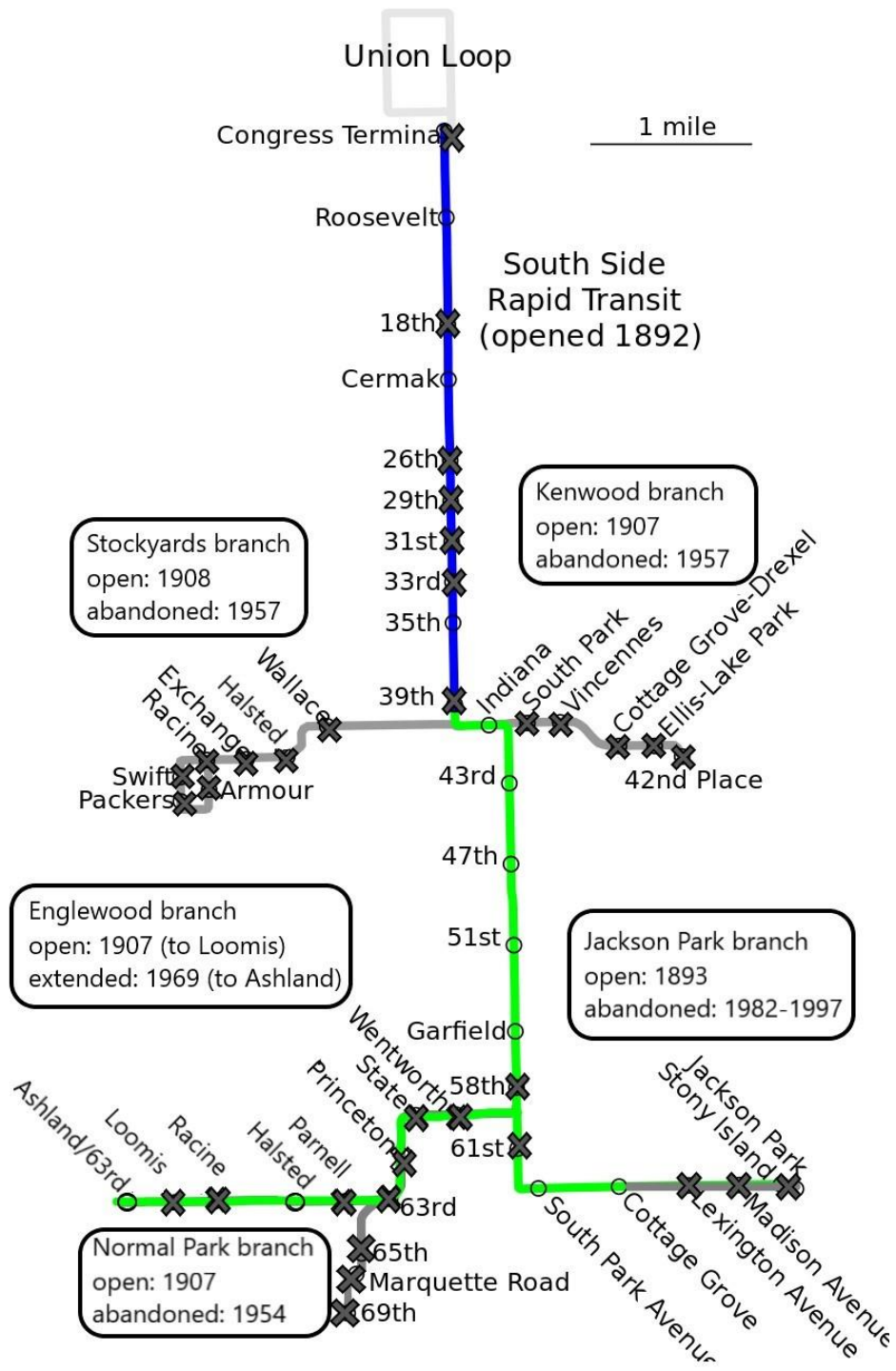


**2018** Green line performing Arts Center opens, run by the Arts and Public Life. The University also reopens the Level 1 Trauma Center after years of activists calling for adequate emergency care.



**1961** The DuSable Museum of African-American History opens

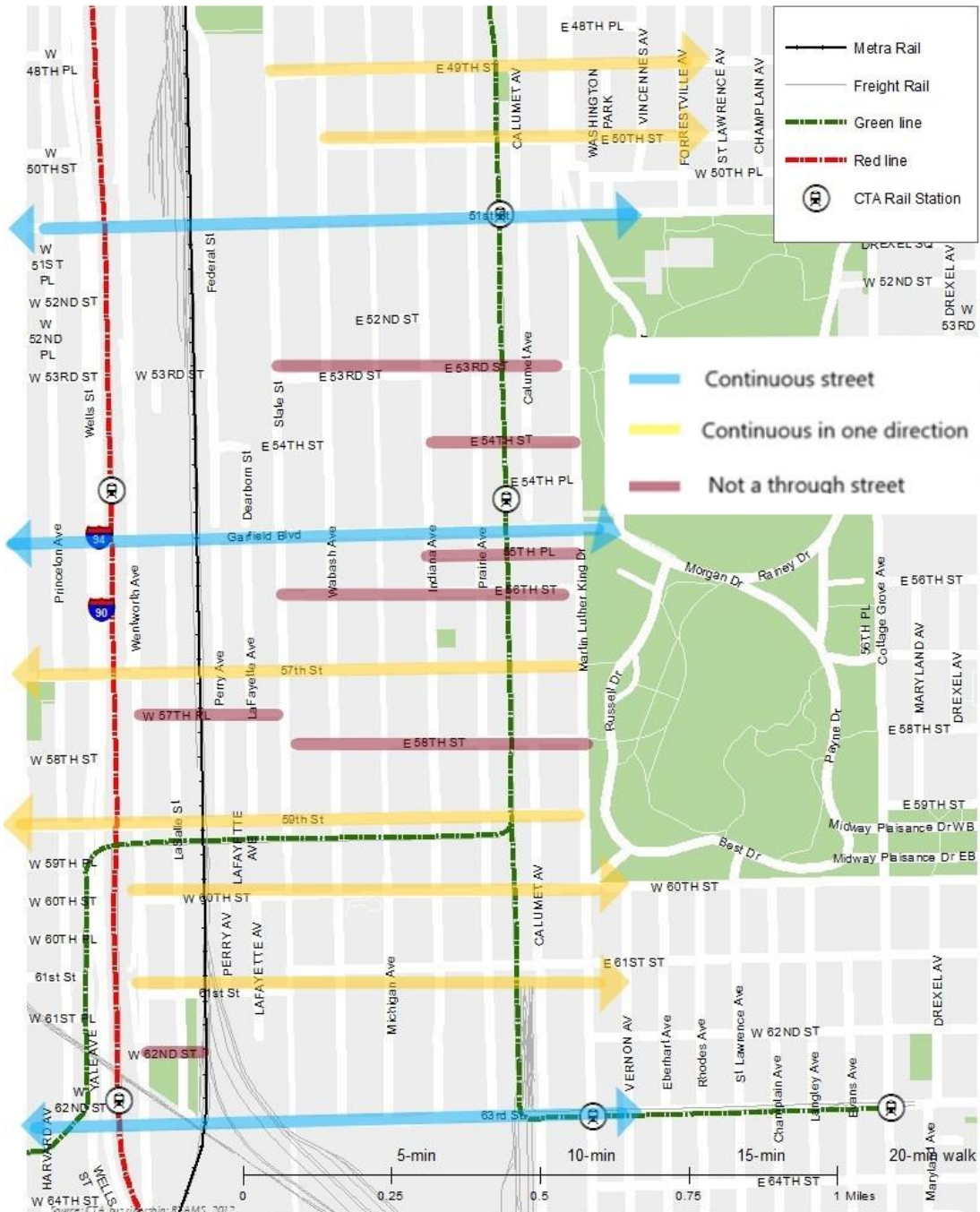
# Historic disinvestment



- Peak green line service had 5 branches and 47 stations – now it is 2 branches and 12 stations
- The entire Green Line was shut down in 1994 for 2 years – cutting off a vital lifeline for many people



# Historic disinvestment



- Of the 16 E-W streets between 49th and 63rd streets, only 3 are not broken up by barriers
- Barriers break up the road network, funneling traffic to a small number of streets. Barriers include:
  - Dan Ryan Expressway to the west
  - The Park to the east
  - Highway and freight lines to the south
- Low traffic, multi-lane one-way streets encourage speeding

# Neighborhood Assets



- Between 2009 and 2020, residents, Chicago youth and CMAP have identified 175 assets in Washington Park
- Assets identified include affinity group spaces, businesses, community organizations, financial institutions, joy centers, community institutions, stewarded land, and shared public spaces
- Largest asset categories: 46 community institutions; 41 businesses; 40 shared public spaces
- Smallest asset categories: 4 stewarded-land assets; 9 financial institutions; 11 joy centers

COLLECTION

# Green Line South Action Plan: Garfield Station

This site dives into history of Washington Park, details the community assets in the neighborhood, and centers around the community narrative of radical resistance and change. Photos: Washington Park Camera Club, ©Sandra Steinbrecher, and CMAP.



1 Project Details



2 Demographics



3 Local Economy



4 Transportation



5 Housing



6 Education



7 Health



8 Safety



9 History of Washington Park



## Garfield Green Line South



4 videos • 56 views • Last updated on Jan 25, 2021

Public ▾



No description



≡ SORT



### Tour of Washington Park, Part 1

Lindsay Bayley



### Tour of Washington Park, Part 2

Lindsay Bayley



### Tour of Washington Park, Part 3 -XS Tennis

Lindsay Bayley



### Tour of Washington Park, Part 4

Lindsay Bayley

# Garfield Green Line South Action Plan



CMAP Website



Elevated Chicago Website



Greenline South Workplan



## STAY INFORMED

Subscribe for project updates

SUBSCRIBE

5 members of your community are following this project

## Project Timeline



Phase 1: Project orientation



Phase 2: Getting to know the community



Phase 3: Existing



**Ideas**



**Story Map Website**



**Survey**

**Tell us your ideas!**

**Survey**

**Map your ideas!**

conditions and visioning



**Phase 4: Draft eTOD plan development**



**Phase 5: Public review, adjustment, approval**



**Community Resources**

## Ideas

10

IDEAS

Below are some recommendations from past plans in the neighborhood. Are they still a priority? Use the heart icon to tell us, add a comment, or add your own new idea for the area.



 Search for ideas

Sort by **Discover** ▾



Add your idea

and traffic safety

Share 0 Comment 0

companies to rehabilitate historic buildings and new development.

Share 0 Comment 0



**ccgoodspeed**

2 months ago

**Provide after-school programs that really engage young people**

Share 0 Comment 0



**ccgoodspeed**

2 months ago

**Improve the conditions of the streets, alleys, sidewalks, and curbs.**

Share 0 Comment 0



**ccgoodspeed**

2 months ago

**Encourage development and affordable retail that create jobs and neighborhood amenities.**

Share 0 Comment 0



**ccgoodspeed**

2 months ago



**ccgoodspeed**

2 months ago

**Celebrate Washington Park and its historic past**



**ccgoodspeed**

2 months ago

**Expand job training programs.**





## NEXT STEPS

- Spring engagement push (online, in-person as allowed)
  - Form resident advisory group
  - Promote survey
- RTA Inclusive, Asset-based Economic Assessment
- Assess progress on past recommendations, prioritize need
- Begin developing Action Plan

**Thank you!**



<https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs/lta/garfield-green-line>  
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