

# RainReady Calumet Implementation Initiative

National Academy of Sciences  
Public Infrastructure Workshop  
May 29, 2024





## **This presentation will:**

**1**

**Review RainReady Calumet Program Overview**

**2**

**Share project prioritization process**

**3**

**Questions**

# Overview

**Funding is available to implement green infrastructure projects in six RainReady communities in the Southland**

- CNT designated as the subrecipient of **\$6 million dollars** from Cook County ARPA funds to implement projects in accordance with the RainReady Plan for the Calumet Corridor
- **Goals of this initiative:**
  - Implement many of the green infrastructure recommendations from the RainReady Plans
  - Decrease nuisance flooding
  - Improve stormwater infrastructure in the Southland
  - Center community residents in decision making

**The six communities include:**

- Blue Island
- Calumet City
- Calumet Park
- Dolton
- Riverdale
- Robbins

# Team

## Program Admin Team



### Cook County Department of Environmental Sustainability

- Administers ARPA Funds
- Program Oversight



### Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT)

- Subrecipient of ARPA Funds
- Outreach & Engagement



### Greenprint Partners

- Program Manager
- Planning & Prioritization
- Design & Engineering



### OAI High Bridge

- Maintenance through 2026
- Training

## Community Consultants




### 6 RainReady Steering Committees

- Attend & Participate in Committee Meetings
- Provide Community Expertise & Knowledge
- Prioritize Projects

# Timeline + Activities

## RainReady Calumet Corridor Activities

| Plan Development  |  | Plan Implementation   |  |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| 2016  | 2017   | 2023  | 2024    | 2025-2026  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Risk &amp; opportunity assessment</li><li>● Solution mapping with community</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Plan adopted</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Steering Committees prioritize projects</li><li>● Landowner engagement</li><li>● Initial project design</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Design continues, some construction kicks off</li><li>● All funds committed by November 2024</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Construction &amp; maintenance continue</li><li>● All funds spent by November 2026</li></ul> |





# Project Prioritization with RainReady Steering Committees





# First, the team identified recommendations



## Plan Recommendations Included:

- Vacant lot & underutilized parking lots revitalization
- Green schoolyards & churches
- Park projects
- Metra station greening
- Green streets & alleys
- Neighborhood scale green & gray retrofits
- Beautification
- Residential retrofits

# RainReady Steering Committee Engagement Process



- RainReady Plans developed with input from municipal staff, representatives from six communities, and stakeholders
- Core focus of engaging residents affected by flooding
- Dedication to addressing resident concerns throughout the process

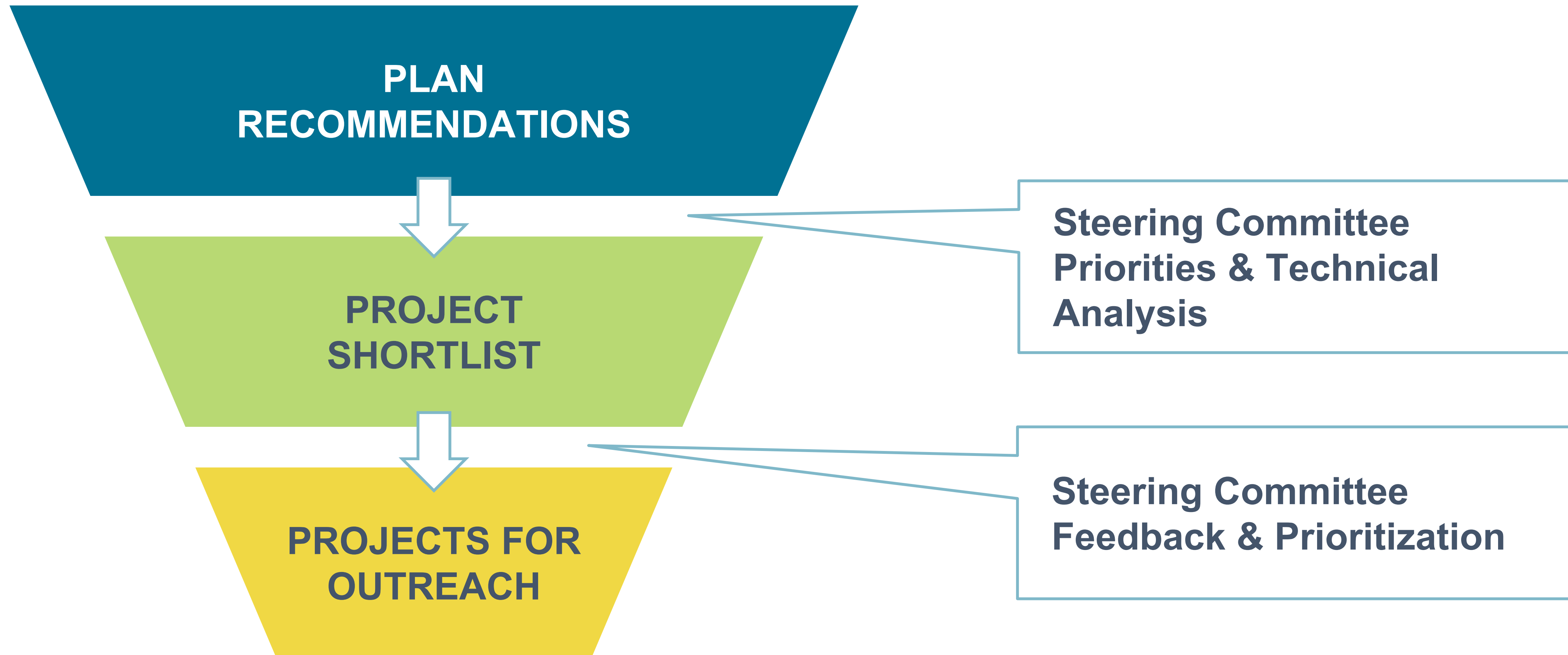


# RainReady Steering Committee Engagement Process



- Engagement strategy for Calumet corridor mirrors planning phase from 2014-2017
- Series of 3-4 meetings per community held to familiarize stakeholders with RainReady initiatives
- Collaboration on project priorities for utilization of ARPA funding for their community.

# Project Prioritization Process





# Steering Committee feedback themes

Themes included:

- Preference for projects that “solve the problem” of urban flooding
- Critical gray infrastructure deficiencies in some communities
  - Challenges with local government capacity to support GSI implementation & provide long-term maintenance
  - Preference for public projects to provide greatest community benefit & potential for sustained maintenance





# Thank you!

Brandon R. Evans  
[Bevans@cnt.org](mailto:Bevans@cnt.org)

