

Winnslie Parkway Expansion

ComEd Green Region Grant Application

Project Overview

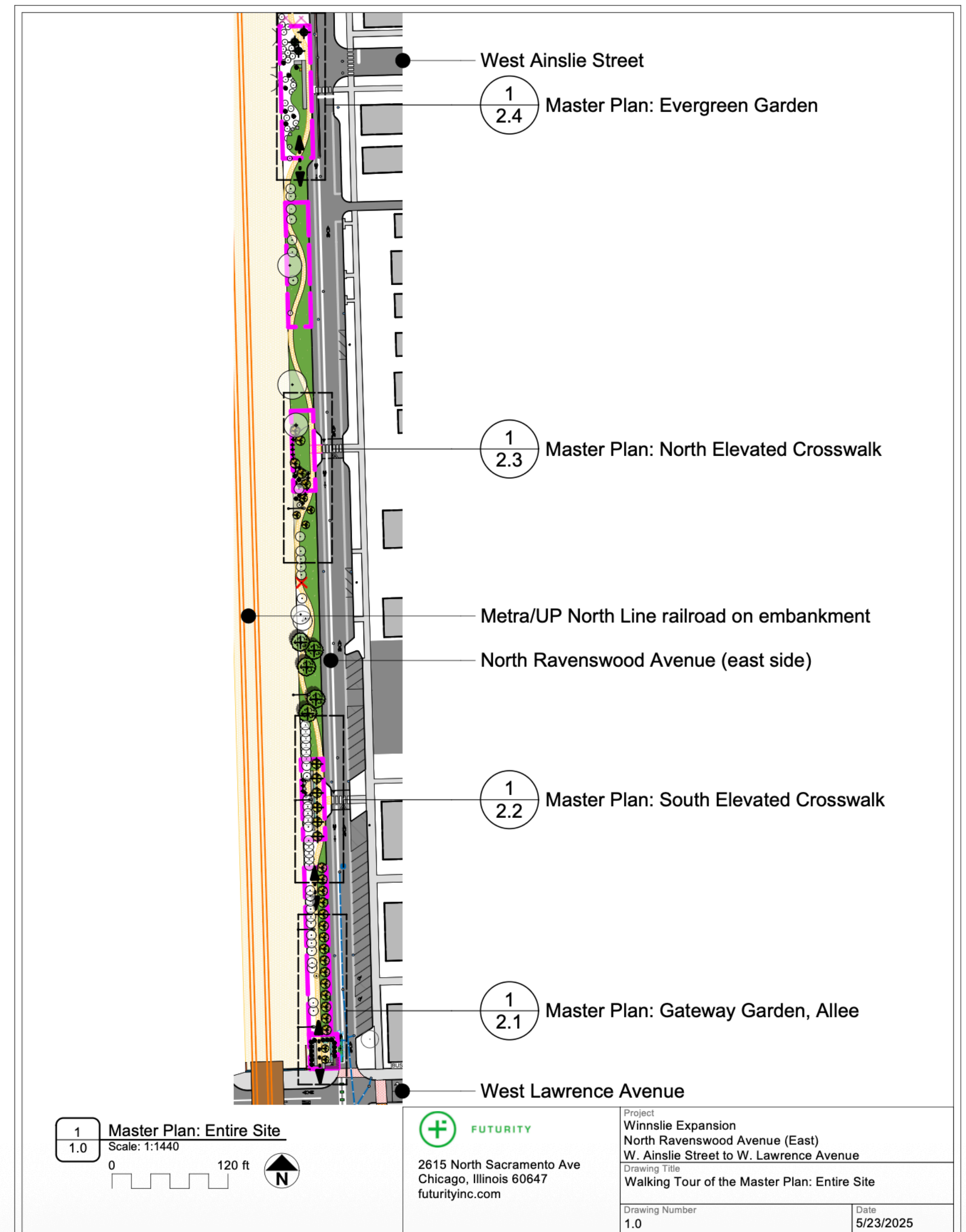
The Winnslie Parkway Expansion will install native trees, shrubs, and pollinator-friendly plantings along a new public greenway in Chicago.

Built on city-funded streetscape improvements and incorporating repurposed railroad materials, the project enhances biodiversity, supports pollinators, improves climate resilience, and expands accessible green space for residents, commuters, and visitors.



The Master Plan

Designed by Futurity, Inc., the master plan outlines key areas such as the Gateway Garden, Allee, and Evergreen Garden. It incorporates native plantings, repurposed abutment blocks, and new seating areas. It spans the East embankment of the Metra UP-North tracks between Lawrence Ave and Ainslie St.



Progress & Sustainability



Winnslie Crossing Garden: Forming the southern gateway, featuring a retaining wall built from repurposed railroad abutment blocks.



Repurposed Materials: Concrete pillars from the former Metra platform, donated by Union Pacific, serve as architectural elements.



Streetscape Framework: CDOT's infrastructure work removed 11,000 sq. ft. of asphalt to create a 1,000-foot linear green corridor.

The Plant Palette

The requested funds will be used exclusively for diverse, climate-adapted native plant communities to support pollinators and stormwater infiltration.

- **Canopy & Understory:** Swiss stone pine, Serviceberry ('Autumn Brilliance'), Kousa dogwood.
- **Evergreen Screening:** Arborvitae ('Green Giant', 'Smaragd'), Spreading yew.
- **Grasses & Shrubs:** Switchgrass ('Heavy Metal'), Bush honeysuckle (Diervilla).
- **Pollinator Perennials:** Butterfly weed, False indigo, Lavender, Rattlesnake master, Winecup.



Budget & Matching Funds

\$19,743

Total Project Budget

\$10,000

Grant Funding Request

Secured Matching Funds

The Friends of Winnslie Parkway Board of Directors has formally designated **\$9,743** from its 2026 operating budget as secured matching funds.

This ensures all ComEd Green Region Grant funds are matched almost 1:1, dedicated strictly to the purchase of native plant materials to guarantee the long-term success of the greenway.

Key Partners & Backing



Friends of Winnslie Parkway

Serving as the project lead, ensuring continuous coordination, fundraising, and ongoing long-term stewardship of the space.



NeighborSpace & Futurity

Providing crucial institutional land protection, expert grant guidance, and the primary landscape architecture and execution plan.



City of Chicago & 47th Ward

Delivering vital municipal support, city-level infrastructure coordination, and community guidance from Alderman Matt Martin.

Administrative Readiness



Letter of Support: Secured full, formal endorsement from Alderman Matt Martin and the City of Chicago 47th Ward.



IRS Determination: Official 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status letter obtained and available for review.



Financial Documentation: Necessary W-9 and Electronic Fund Deposit Transfer Enrollment forms are fully completed and verified.



Matching Funds Proven: Operating budget clearly highlights formal Board approval of \$9,743 specifically dedicated to the project match.

Questions?

Thank you for reviewing the Winnslie Parkway Expansion application.

Mark Weber, President | markweber@mac.com | 773-450-0387