



MODERNIZING THE ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL PORT DISTRICT

Delta Institute is closely collaborating with the Illinois International Port District, and thus the Port of Chicago, on an array of Port development projects ranging from updating and modernizing infrastructure to deeper community engagement and outreach. Delta Institute has partnered for more than eight years with the Port through our Sustainability and Support Services.

Brief Overview of What We're Doing

Since 2017, Delta Institute has collaborated with the [Illinois International Port District \(IIPD\)](#) and we are grateful to the IIPD for being a long-term partner in so many projects, efforts, and activities related to their [2030 Master Plan](#). More specifically, Delta staff spend time on-site at IIPD on a weekly basis, with our shared efforts focusing on the IIPD's growth of its institutional infrastructure and the creation of local economic development opportunities to achieve sustainable land management. Delta provided additional capacity through project management assistance, applied for funding on behalf of the IIPD for prospective projects, and facilitated stakeholder communication and engagement.

IIPD is poised for future growth due to its strong position in the freight distribution network; open space assets; proximity to a large workforce; oversight of industrial maritime zones and tenants; and jurisdiction over conservation and recreational areas. The IIPD is an important anchor institution that hosts critical infrastructure, industrial businesses, and environmental assets in the Calumet Region. IIPD's footprint is significant, with jurisdiction over conservation and recreational areas. The IIPD is divided into two areas of operation referred to as Lake Calumet and Iroquois Landing. Lake Calumet is approximately 1,500 acres of commercial and industrial use, with the north side utilized for recreation and the south and east sides utilized for industrial purposes. Iroquois Landing is approximately 190 acres

that is entirely utilized for industrial operations. Given its position, the IIPD is strategically positioned to improve overall quality of life in the Calumet Region through infrastructure investments and improvements and through ongoing engagement and collaboration with the surrounding communities.

Delta knows that the IIPD seeks to modernize to have beneficial economic, social and environmental outcomes. In order to carry out its vision for a world-class port, the IIPD has identified a series of projects and opportunities to pursue to improve infrastructure; grow industrial activity; create recreation opportunities; and plan for a more sustainable and productive Port.

Key work areas that Delta and the IIPD have collaborated on include:

Grant Management and Submissions: Delta explored and tracked grant opportunities for the Port, ***with grant awards totaling more than \$70M in secured investment in IIPD since the start of our collaboration.*** Delta both assisted and led application submittals for several projects, including a [recently awarded \\$34M grant from The U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration \(MARAD\)](#) to rebuild critical infrastructure, improve safety and re-position Chicago as a leader in the global economy. The funding, which is part of the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP), will primarily

focus on the reconstruction of the dock wall at Iroquois Landing within the Port of Chicago. Currently, only a portion of the wall is usable due to deterioration and sinkholes caused by decades of neglect. Reconstruction will allow for the potential shipment of international containers to make Chicago more competitive with other Ports along the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes.

Green Marine Certification: Delta and IIPD achieved [Green Marine Certification](#) for the Port, as well as subsequent re-certifications. Green Marine is an environmental certification program that offers a comprehensive framework for maritime companies to benchmark and then reduce their environmental footprint.

Strategy and Planning: Delta Institute also supported the IIPD and CMAP in developing the Port's Master Plan. Not only do these activities anchor the IIPD as a community asset toward reaching local environmental and economic goals, but they also demonstrate the ways in which multiple communities throughout the Southeast Side and along the Calumet River and Lake Calumet benefit from its work.

Please learn more by visiting
delta-institute.org/project/iipd-collaboration/

We work every day to create a more resilient region for all our Midwestern family, friends, and neighbors. Please join our efforts today.



Delta Institute collaborates with communities to solve complex environmental challenges throughout the Midwest.

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Delta Institute is a 501c3 nonprofit with a Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar and a Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator for our strong financial health and accountability.