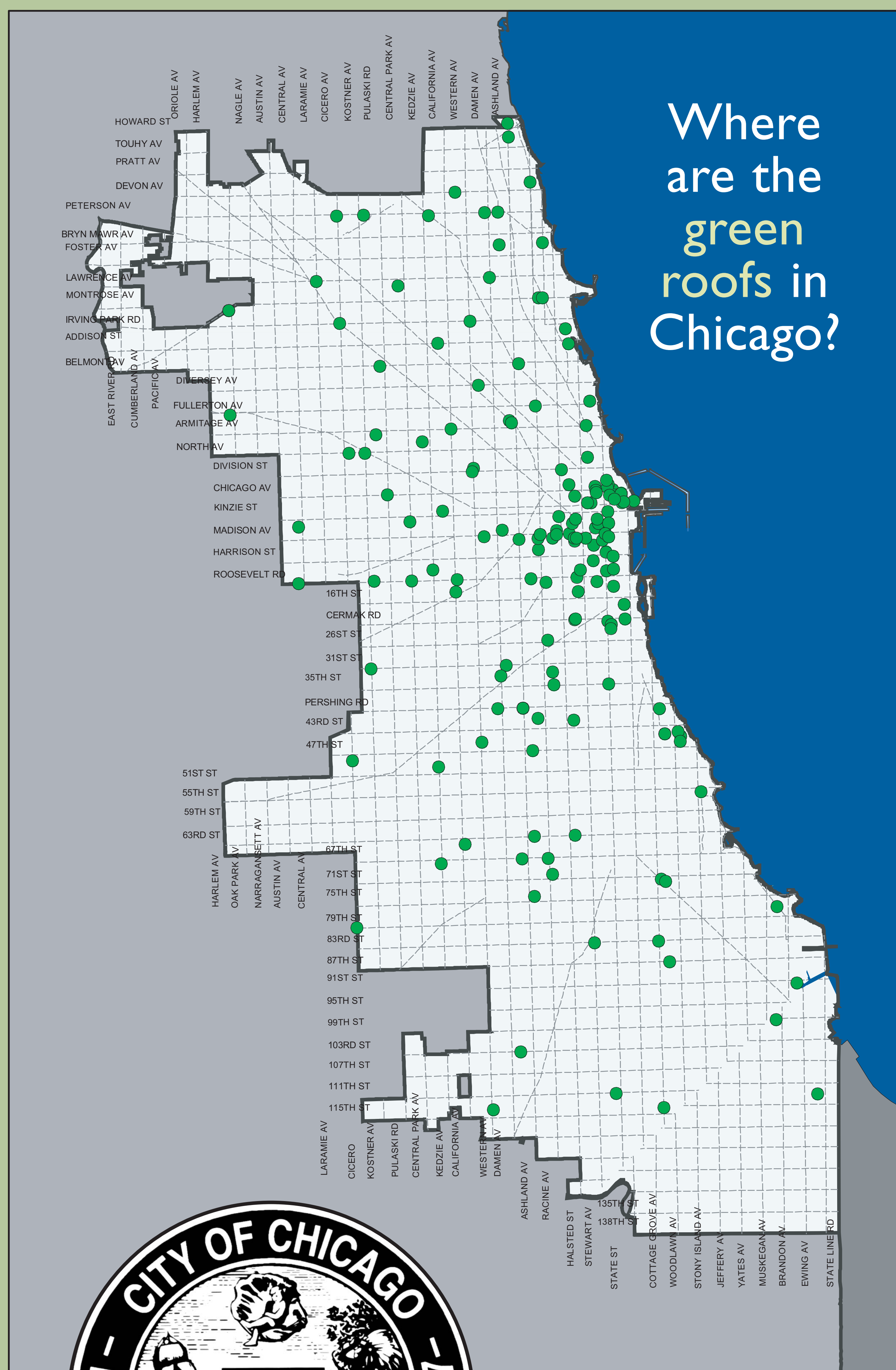


The Future is Green



What exactly is a green roof?



Where are the green roofs in Chicago?



Green roofs benefit neighborhoods and the environment in many ways, which is why forward-thinking cities like Chicago continue to promote their use when considering new construction, or rehabbing older construction. As part of Mayor Daley's efforts to make Chicago the most environmentally friendly city in the nation, Chicago now requires that buildings receiving tax-increment financing support, now include a green roof element as part of their construction and building plans.

A green roof, or vegetated roof, is a plant-filled roof top garden that offers an attractive and energy-saving alternative to a conventional rooftop. A green roof can keep buildings cooler, save energy, and extend the useful life of the roof, while adding beauty and useable space. Typically there are three types of green roofs, extensive and extensive with slope and intensive, which allow for larger plants and ornamental trees.

Green roofs can save millions of dollars in energy consumption, reduce urban heat island effect, minimize heat-absorbing surfaces, provide improved air quality, and enhance storm water retention and filtration to ensure sewage treatment facility plants are less burdened during heavy storms.

The TectaGreen™ Green Roof

system displayed in the exhibit case is a multi-layered living rooftop. The specially engineered system of layers you see include, from top to bottom:

- *individually chosen plants* for specialized applications
- *lightweight growth media* provides plant support/nutrients
- *filter mat* allows water to soak through, prevents erosion
- *drainage layer* keeps growth media aerated, stores water
- *membrane protection layer* prevents damage
- *high-quality waterproof roofing system*