



**REGIONAL PERMIT PROGRAM**  
**AGENCY REQUEST FOR COMMENT**

APPLICATION NO. LRC-2014-00202

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
Chicago District

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Date: January 27, 2020

The Chicago District has received a request for authorization under Category II of Regional Permit 2 (Recreation Projects). Information on the proposed activity is provided for your review and comment in accordance with Agency Request for Comments (ARC) procedures described in General Condition 22 of the Chicago District's Regional Permit Program dated April 1, 2017.

Please indicate by telephone, fax or email within ten (10) days of the date of this ARC whether you intend to provide comments on this project. If we receive no response from your office within 10 days, we will assume your office has no objections to the activity as proposed (with certain exceptions for parties to a National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) consultation, as described below). If you indicate that you intend to provide comments, your written comments must be received by the District within 25 days of the date of this ARC.

The District has determined that, for purposes of Section 106 of the NHPA [see 36 CFR 800.3(a) and 800.16(y)], the Federal "undertaking" which has the potential to cause effects on historic properties is limited to the verification of the above-cited Regional Permit pursuant to project activities within the Permit Area. The "area of potential effects" (APE) for the undertaking is the same as the Permit Area and is shown on the enclosed documents (see 33 CFR 325, Appendix C 1(g) and 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1)).

Based upon a review of the "Section 106 Historic Properties Identification Report" (Report) dated May 17, 2018, we have determined that the 1893 Historic Promenade Wall (JP01k) and the La Rabida Monastery Hill (JP011) meet criterion "C" for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and are therefore eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. These features were identified in the Report as contributing resources within Jackson Park. The Report referenced above is associated with an adjacent project within Jackson Park and can be found under the State Historic Preservation Agency (SHPO) Log #021081017. The project is located within the Jackson Park Historic Landscape District which was listed in the NHRP in 1972. The other contributing resources noted in the report throughout the Jackson Park Historic Landscape District were not assessed as they are outside of the APE and the purpose of the project is to maintain the current usage of the harbor.

It is the District's opinion that there will be No Adverse Effect to the identified resources by the issuance of a DA permit as a result of the construction of the proposed breakwaters and concrete pier. Currently, there is an existing steel sheet pile wall in front of the Promenade Wall

(see photo in enclosures). The proposed structure would be directly against this sheetpile wall, but would be separated from the Promenade Wall by 10 feet (see enclosed plan). Additionally, the Promenade Wall (labeled as Ex. Stone Block Wall in the plans) begins at +4.5' LWD extending up 9 feet to +13.5'. The breakwater would be +8.0 LWD. Based upon this, the majority of the Promenade Wall near the proposed structure would still be visible from the water and surrounding land north of the harbor. Monastery Hill is situated at an elevation above the top of the Promenade Wall and will not be obstructed or otherwise adversely affected by the proposed work.

The District believes we have included all known consulting parties on this request. If you believe you are entitled to consulting party status, we invite you to concur with these determinations within 30 days of this request. If you need additional information, including copies of the materials the District relied upon to reach our determination, please contact us as soon as possible, to ensure you have all materials required by 33 CFR 800.11. If we do not hear from you within 30 days, we will proceed with the final public interest decision regarding issuance of the permit [33 CFR 325, Appendix C 7(b) and 36 CFR 800.3(c)(4)].

The following paragraph will be added as a special condition of any authorization issued by this office: "This site is within the aboriginal homelands of several American Indian Tribes. If any human remains, Native American cultural items or archaeological evidence are discovered during any phase of this project, interested Tribes request immediate consultation with the entity of jurisdiction for the location of discovery. In such case, please contact Mr. Soren Hall by telephone at (312) 846-5532, or email at Soren.G.Hall@usace.army.mil."

Comments should be emailed to Soren.G.Hall@usace.army.mil. If you prefer to send written comments, please address them to Mr. Soren Hall of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District, Regulatory Branch, 231 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60604-1437; fax (312) 353-4110. Comment letters should include your name, address, phone number and email address.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Soren Hall by telephone at (312) 846-5532 or email at Soren.G.Hall@usace.army.mil.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**Application Number:** LRC-2014-00202

**Applicant:** Chicago Park District and Westrec Marinas

**Location of work:** Jackson Harbor in Lake Michigan at Jackson Park in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois (Latitude 41.77953, Longitude -87.57298)

**Description of Work:** Construction of two steel sheet pile and stone groins/piers totaling 280 feet in length. The following information was included in the permit application regarding the description of work:

Jackson Harbor is partially protected from large waves originating from the north. However, waves that pass by the 63rd Street beach south pier diffract into the harbor mouth and enter the harbor. Waves that enter the harbor are significant and have caused the failure of the existing floating breakwater located on the west side of La Rabida Peninsula, south of the harbor entrance.

Sediment that is transported by Lake Michigan near shore currents near Jackson Harbor is comprised primarily of sand and silty sand. Lake currents and waves regularly transport sediment into Jackson Harbor and especially in the east portion of the harbor where boat docking takes place. The existing floating breakwater does not exclude sediment from being transported under the structure and directly into the harbor.

The proposed project includes a new steel breakwater and stone toe scour protection that is designed to manage wave attack and reduce the amount of sediment being pushed into the harbor.

**Project Purpose:** Protect boats within the harbor and improve sediment management at the harbor mouth to accommodate existing usage of the harbor.

**Regional Permits Being Considered:** 2 (Recreation Projects)

**Proposed Impacts:** The structures would require the placement of 0.18 acres of fill within Lake Michigan. According to the application materials, the project is not expected to have any impacts to water quality. The existing flow patterns, velocity of water, and Lake Michigan wave action will not be altered during implementation of the project, nor after completion. The proposed groin structure is designed to maintain existing wave conditions without change. The orientation of the structure is the same as existing setting from the perspective of wave reflection and absorption in the vicinity of the project site. Therefore, the project will have no adverse impacts on nearshore wave conditions.

**Mitigation Plan:** Mitigation has not been proposed.

**Endangered and Threatened Species:** The Corps of Engineers has determined that the proposed activity would not affect any federally-listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat for any endangered or threatened species, pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Therefore, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act does not appear to be warranted at this time.