



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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Financing Approved for "Wild Mile" and Other Riverfront Projects

Open space initiatives approved by City Council today will help finance public access improvements along several sections of the Chicago River.

Wild Mile

The development of the first section of the Wild Mile riverside park along the North Branch Canal will be supported through \$1.4 million in Open Space Impact Fees (OSIF). The funds will be used to construct a two-block-long floating boardwalk between Eastman and Weed streets on the canal's east bank. Coordinated by the Department of Planning and Development (DPD), the project will be managed by community-based partners including Near North Unity Program, Urban Rivers, and NeighborSpace. Later phases will include approximately one mile of additional improvements involving new wetlands, wildlife habitats, walkways, viewing platforms, canoe launches, and educational areas.

Open Space Impact Fees are funds paid by new residential development projects to improve and expand public open spaces within the City's 77 community areas.

Chicago River Edge Access Study

A study to identify public access opportunities along portions of the North and South branches of the Chicago River will move forward through a study financed by \$40,000 in OSIFs. The study will evaluate both banks of the river between the Norwood Park and South Lawndale communities, including an inventory of current access conditions, potential access improvements, and priority locations for under-bridge connections and trails, among other goals. The study will be coordinated by the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) with the help of a \$160,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

South Branch Parks Feasibility Access Plan

The development of a South Branch Parks Feasibility Access Plan will be supported



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with \$40,000 in OSIFs. The plan will evaluate opportunities to improve trail connections between Park 571, Canal Origins Park and Canal Riverwalk Park, all located near the 2900 block of South Ashland Avenue. The study will be coordinated by the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) with the help of a \$160,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

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Property Tax Incentive Will Support Rehab of Former Cook County Hospital

The \$133 million conversion of the former Cook County Hospital Administration Building on the Near West Side into a 210-room hotel will be supported by a Class L property tax incentive approved by City Council today.

CHDG Phase 1A1 Owner LLC will use the incentive to rehabilitate the 345,000-square-foot Beaux Arts structure at 1835 W. Harrison St. into a hotel with complimentary commercial, retail and museum spaces. Planned improvements will include the restoration of lobbies and corridors, new building systems and elevators, terra cotta and brick repairs, new roofing, windows and storefronts to match the building's historic configuration, and new metal cladding on the south facade.

Completed in 1914, the eight-story building was designed by architect Paul Gerhardt and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was designated an official Chicago landmark in January of this year.

The Class L incentive, which encourages the preservation and rehabilitation of landmark properties, will lower the cost of property taxes over a 12-year period by an estimated \$19.4 million. The development will support up to 200 temporary construction jobs and 175 permanent positions once fully occupied.

Currently underway, the project is expected to be completed by the spring of 2020.

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Landmark Designation Approved for Former Investment Banker's North Side Home

A 19th century Queen Anne style home in the Irving Park community was designated an official Chicago landmark by City Council today.



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Completed in 1892 for investment banker John Nuveen by architect Clarence H. Tabor, the two-and-a-half story building at 3916 N. Tripp Ave. is notable for its irregular roofline, corner tower with pyramidal roof, projecting bays, large front porch, and ornamentation.

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