



Chicago Lakeside Master Plan

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Icon Options



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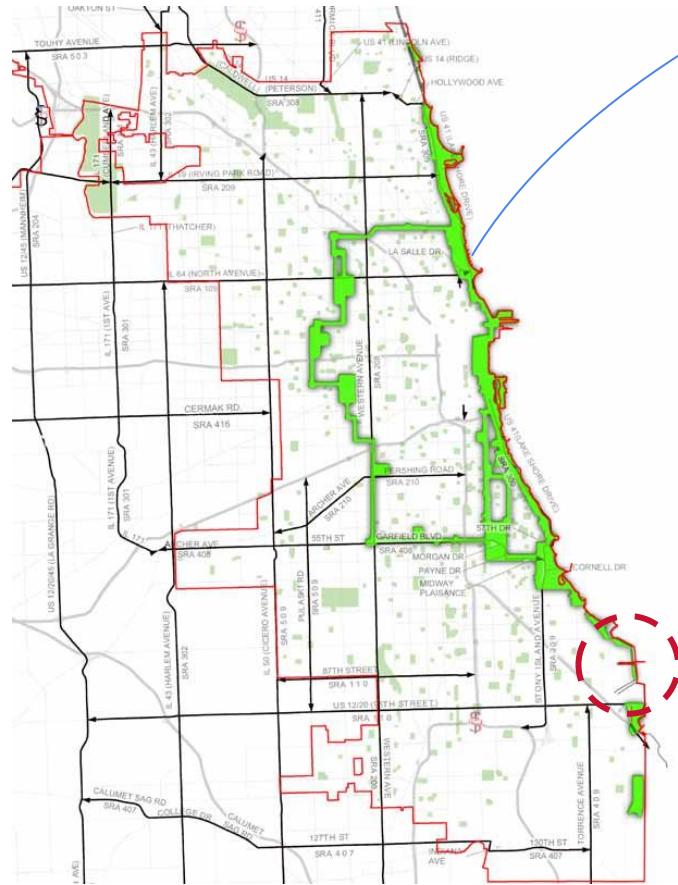
South Works, 2019

Proposed Chicago Lakeside Development

Master Plan: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill



Introduction



The Chicago Lakeside Master Plan aimed to redevelop the 600-acre former U.S. Steel South Works site on Chicago's South Side into a sustainable, mixed-use community. Inspired by Chicago's distinctive city grid and Daniel Burnham's legacy of parklands, developer McCaffery sought to reconnect the area to the city. Conceived by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM), the project focused on renewable energy, zero waste, and biodiversity, setting a model for future LEED-ND developments and boosting the local economy. However, it ultimately failed when U.S. Steel and McCaffery Interests parted ways.

Goal

Reconnect the area to the city

Sustainable development

Mixed-use community and Environmental leadership

- Lakefront Park and Boulevard Network
- Parks
- ← Regional Arterial Routes

Network

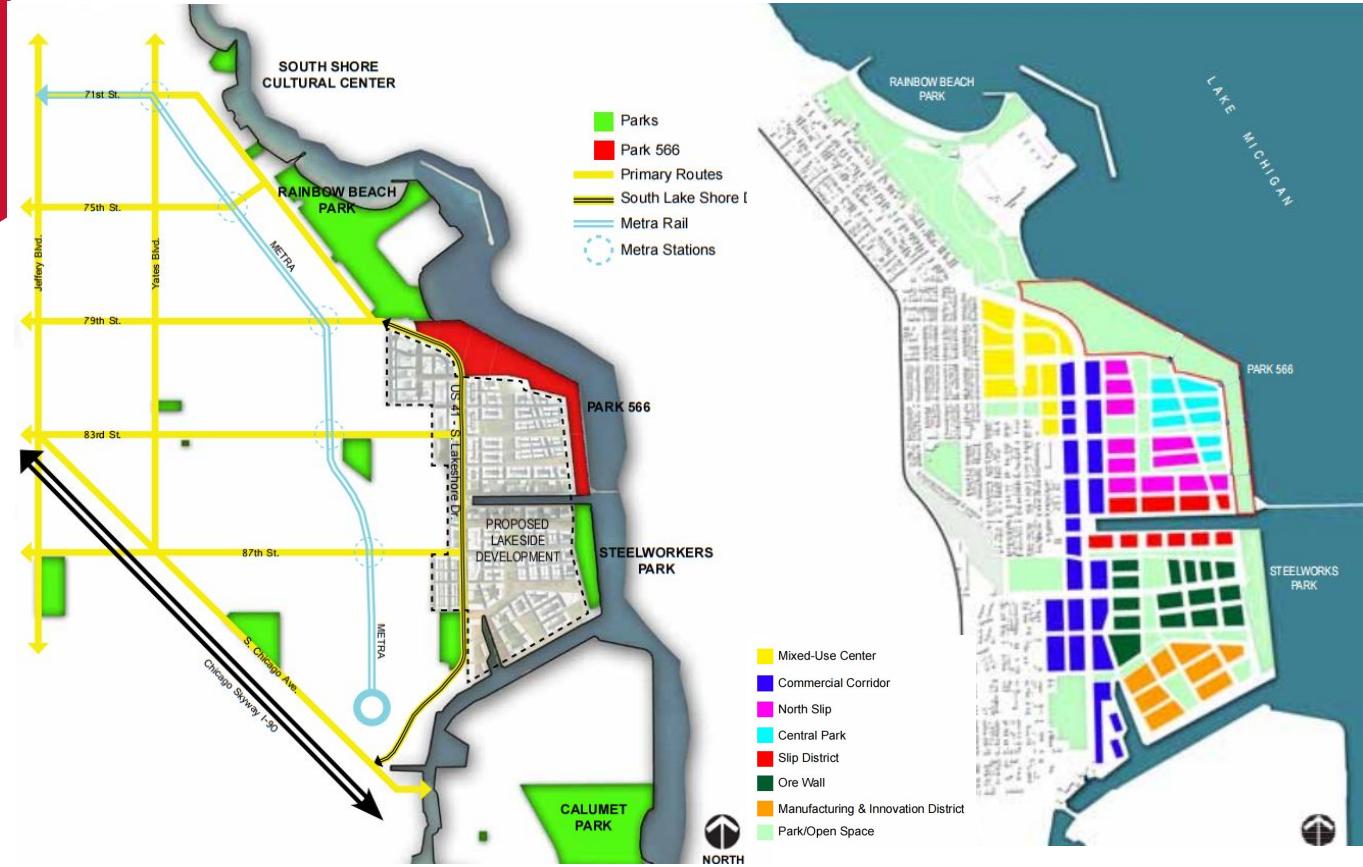
In urban systems, **networks** represent the interconnected pathways that enable the flow of people, goods, information, and resources. These networks include transportation, communication, and socio-economic interactions, all of which shape the city's functionality, resilience, and development.

The master plan for Park 566 interacts with three main networks: The network of local contexts, transportation, greenspace/open space connection.





Network - Local context



The two maps show the surrounding greenspace, traffic and types of landuse(proposed). Organized around a walkable compact grid and accessible public transportation, the plan includes new landscaped boulevards, sidewalks, bike paths, a continuous lakefront park, smaller neighborhood parks, residential buildings, commercial and civic districts, and connections to the area's existing transit stations.

Network - Transportation



The community transportation network includes pedestrian sidewalks, bike lanes, Metra electric rail, CTA bus service, lakefront trails, and Michigan Lake water trails, offering convenient travel options from local to regional levels.

Major roads like South Lake Shore Drive, 79th Street, 83rd Street, and 85th Street will connect to the future Park 566, and Metra electric rail currently serves the western communities with plans to extend further east for better access to Park 566. Expanding Metra service is part of the Lakeside Development master plan.

Connecting Park 566 to Steelworkers Park to the south will require coordination with private landowners and agencies to either construct a bridge or improve circulation around the area.



Bike Lanes on East 83rd Street



Lake Michigan Water Trail - Rainbow Beach Park



93rd Street Metra Station

Network - Greenspace, community and connections



The greenspace and open space is connected mainly by trails, thus forming a network. The trail system in Park 566 will connect the surrounding community and adjacent lakefront parks, offering various experiences within the park. It will include a fully accessible multi-use trail and a nature trail, with potential for more trails once native plant communities are established.

Other community connections will extend around the North Slip to South Lake Shore Drive and link Russell Square Park and future school areas to existing bike paths.



trails



Natural trails

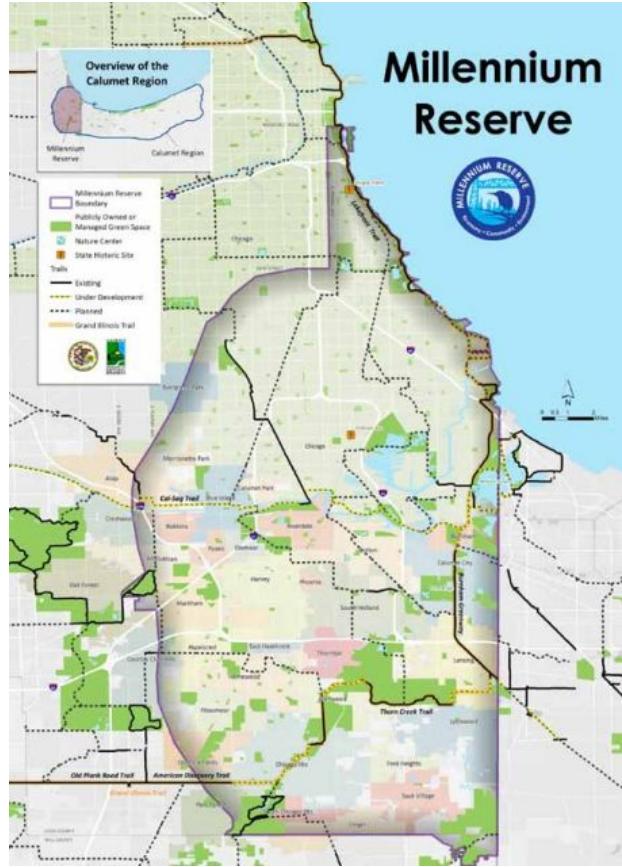
Network - Greenspace and reserve area

In March 2013, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn established the Millennium Reserve Steering Committee to promote regional growth through partnerships. The 210-square-mile Millennium Reserve in southeast Chicago aims to honor its industrial and cultural history, restore ecosystems, support healthy communities, and drive sustainable economic growth.



The Reserve encompasses numerous neighborhoods on Chicago's southeast side, the Southeast lakefront, and 37 south suburban municipalities.

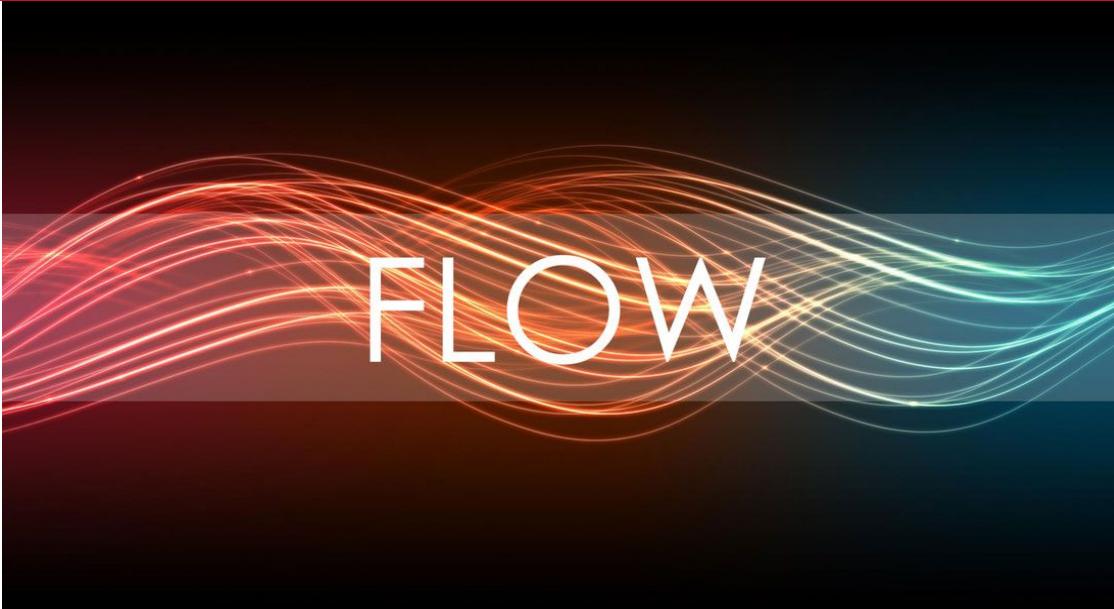
The Reserve spans neighborhoods on Chicago's southeast side, the Southeast lakefront, and 37 suburbs, housing one million residents. It features over 15,000 acres of open space, including parks, wetlands, and trails, with nearly 6,000 acres designated as high-quality natural areas. The area is also a key transportation hub with highways, railroads, and the largest intermodal center in the U.S.



Flow - dynamic processes

While "networks" pertain to the infrastructure that supports those movements, the focus of flow will be on the **dynamic processes** that move through and interact with the park, rather than on the structural or static elements of the networks themselves.

"Flow" is about the movement of ecological elements and water within the urban environment,



Water Flow and Stormwater Management

The park's design incorporates natural water flow systems to handle stormwater runoff effectively. With its industrial past, the land requires careful management to support future vegetation and recreation.

- **Runoff Control:** Bioswales, rain gardens, and permeable pavements are integrated to capture and filter stormwater. These features slow the flow of water, reducing erosion and allowing for natural infiltration into the soil. They direct water into designated areas, preventing uncontrolled runoff into Lake Michigan and promoting groundwater recharge.



Parking Lot Bioswale

Water Flow and Stormwater Management

- Overland Flow Paths:

The park features natural swales that direct stormwater flow from surrounding developments toward Lake Michigan.

These swales mimic natural watercourses and help manage sudden influxes of water during heavy rains, ensuring water is channeled away from recreational areas.



Water Flow and Stormwater Management



Permeable Paving

The parking lot will require stormwater management through the use of bioswales or rain gardens

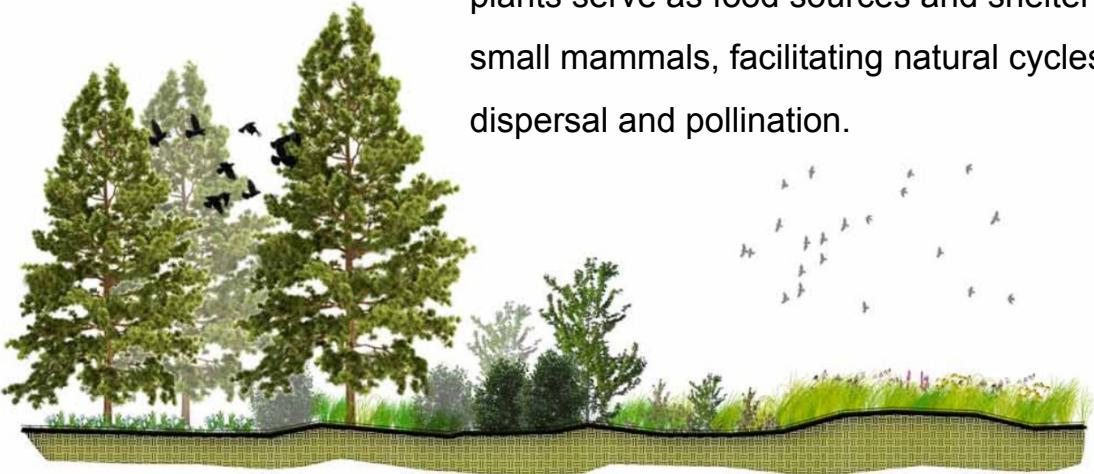
- **Interaction with Soil:**

The fill material used in the park, including sediment from the Mud-to-Parks program, plays a key role in managing water flow.

The soil's current structure, which hardens and cracks as it dries, affects infiltration rates and requires long-term maintenance, such as tilling and soil amendments, to support vegetation growth and water absorption.



NATIVE LANDSCAPE



Vegetation Spread:

The planned native landscapes, including prairies, shrublands, and tree clusters, create a continuous network of vegetation that supports wildlife flows. Native plants serve as food sources and shelter for birds and small mammals, facilitating natural cycles such as seed dispersal and pollination.



Dolomite Prairie/Gravel Hill Prairie



Dry Prairie



Shrub Carr/Shrub Copse

Ecological and Wildlife Flow

Wildlife Movement:

The park sits within the Mississippi Flyway, an important bird migration route. The design of native plant communities and open spaces provides resting and feeding grounds for migratory birds, promoting ecological flow through the park. Observation points allow visitors to engage with these flows without disturbing natural habitats.



American Goldfinch



Canvasback



Ruby-throated Hummingbird



Hooded Warbler



Dark-eyed Junco

Water Flow and Stormwater Management

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Nodes

Nodes are key locations and intersections where interactions occur. Attributes of nodes include changes in intensity, direction and flow. The relations and correlations of nodes can help reveal degrees of connectedness.

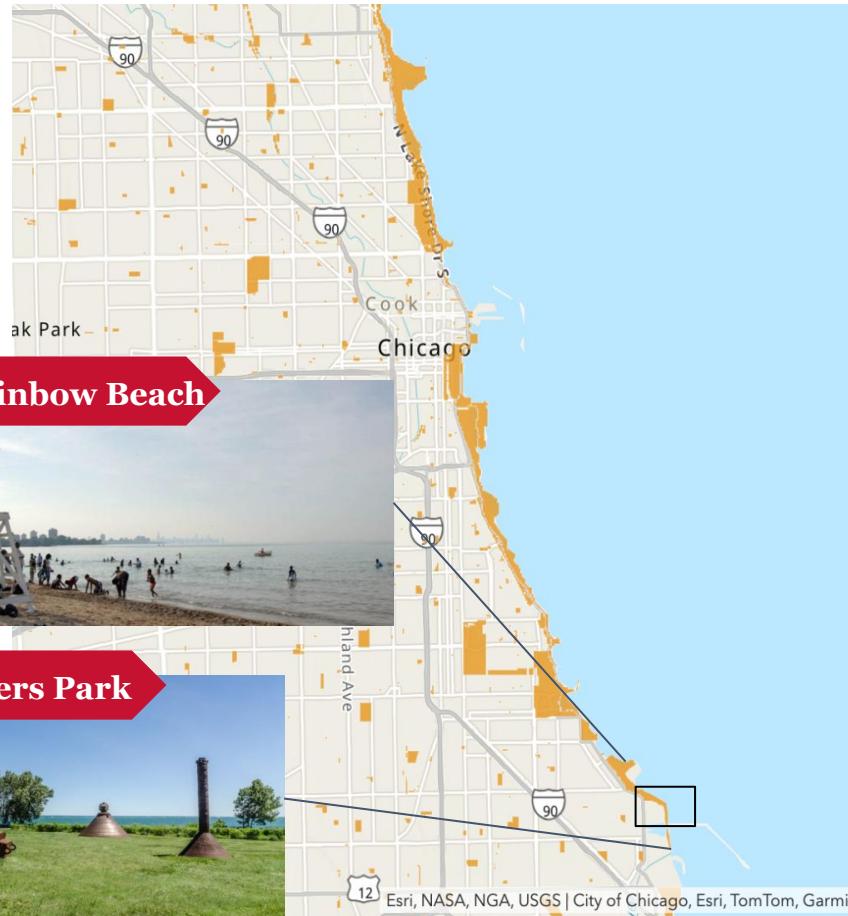
As a node itself, Park 566 serves the function of recreation, ecology and culture that integrate into Chicago's green infrastructure and parkland networks. Within Park 566, critical spaces such as natural overlooks and transportation intersections are also examined.



Park 566

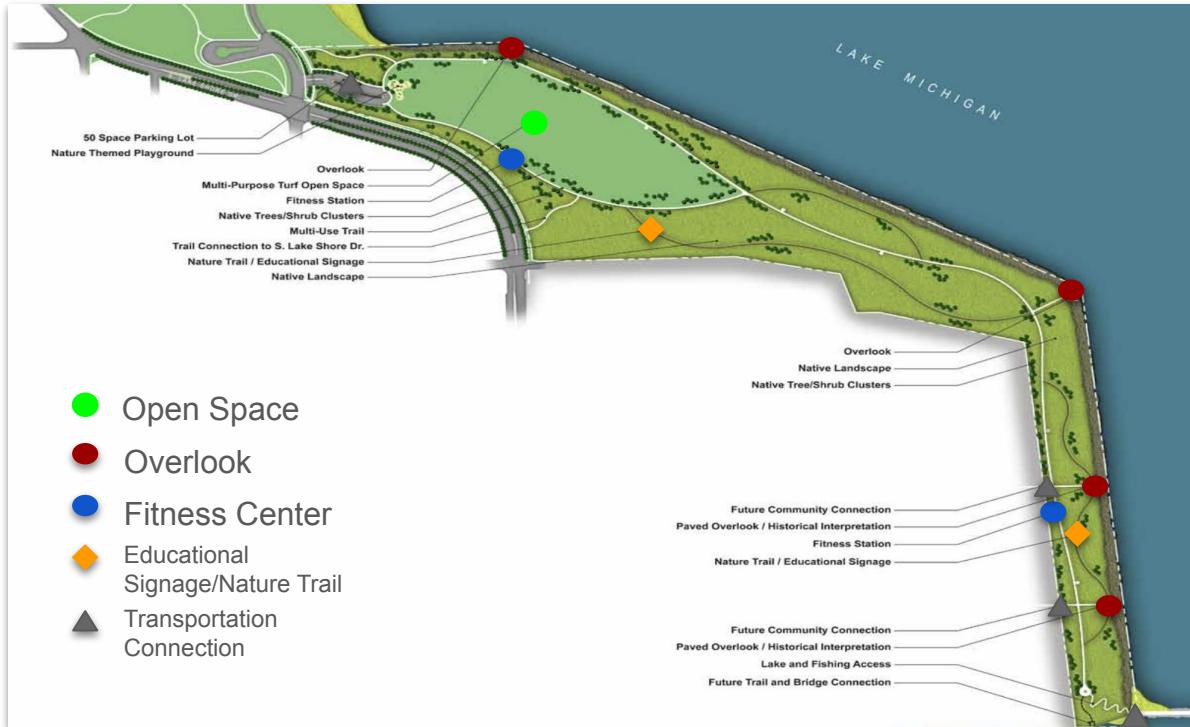
A significant portion of the Lakeside site was dedicated to the Chicago Park District to enhance the city's park system.

- a node within the city's legacy of parklands. It is designed to be integrated with surrounding parks, with connectivity to nearby parklands and contributes to an uninterrupted chain of recreational and ecological spaces.
- a node to provide climate resilience and ecological preservation.
- a node of cultural engagement through its public spaces, educational signage, and event areas.





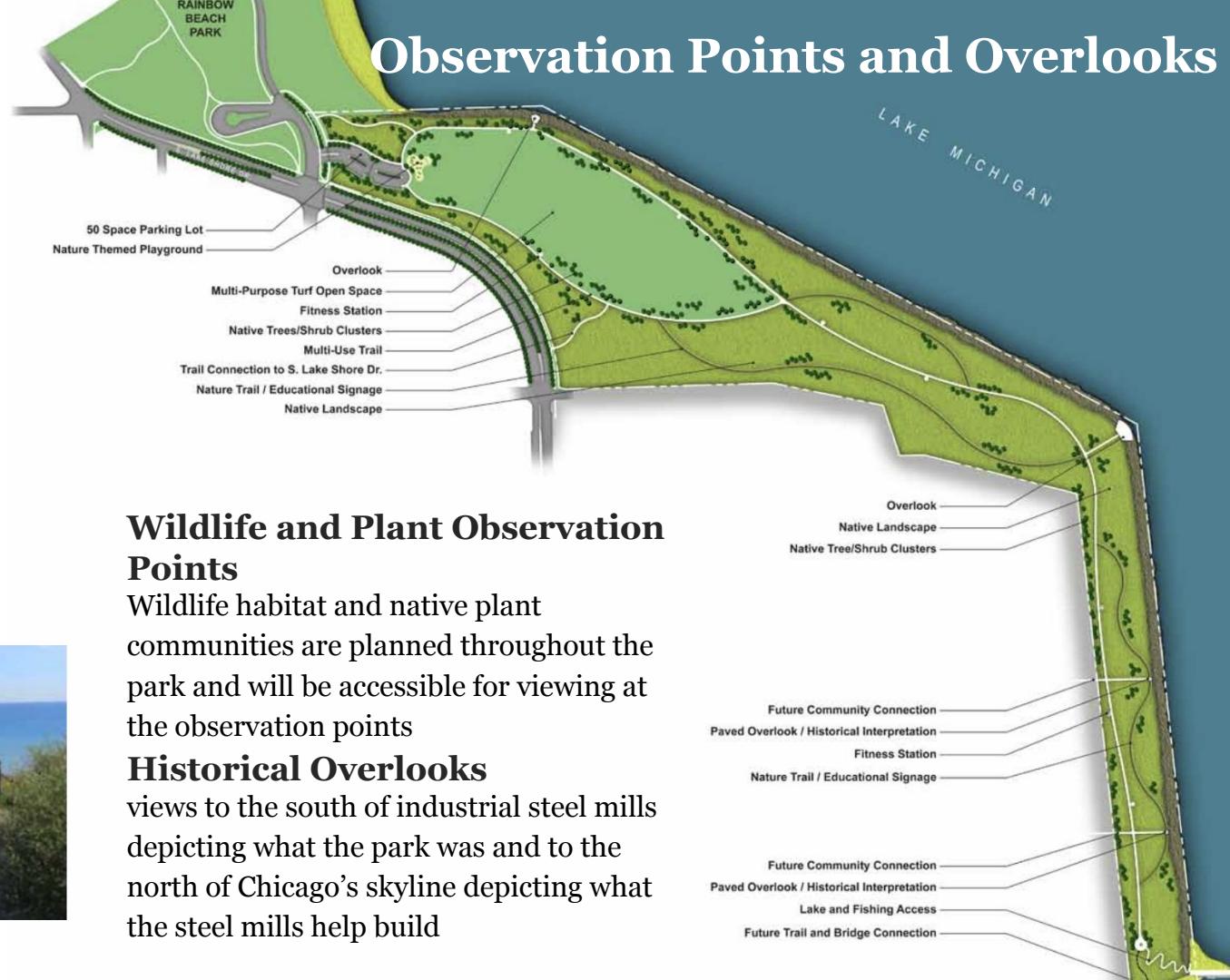
Park Components



The high density of nodes within the area of Park 566 highlights the potential interaction and various purposes of interactions that can occur.



Observation points and overlooks are placed strategically within Park 566 based on numerous factors including circulation, plant communities, and views. Overlooks can take on different forms from open space to built structures.



Wildlife and Plant Observation Points

Wildlife habitat and native plant communities are planned throughout the park and will be accessible for viewing at the observation points

Historical Overlooks

views to the south of industrial steel mills depicting what the park was and to the north of Chicago's skyline depicting what the steel mills help build



Turf Open Space



MULTI-PURPOSE
OPEN SPACE

In Park 566, a turf open space approximately 16 acres in size is planned to accommodate varying activities including picnicking, family reunions, community events, and could be striped for athletic fields if the need arises.

The open space serves as a node to accommodate diverse interactions among local communities and visitors. It also functions as a transportation hub, with multiple trails converging at the site. The nearby parking lot enhances accessibility from major road indicates its role as a central point within park 566 for both recreation and transportational connectivity.

Agent

In the context of urban systems, **agents** are the key actors or entities that actively influence, interact with, and shape the dynamics of a city's development, structure, and functioning.

The master plan for Park 566 interacts with three main agents: residents, tourists, and maintenance staff. Each of these groups plays a role in how the park functions as a system within the broader urban fabric of Chicago.



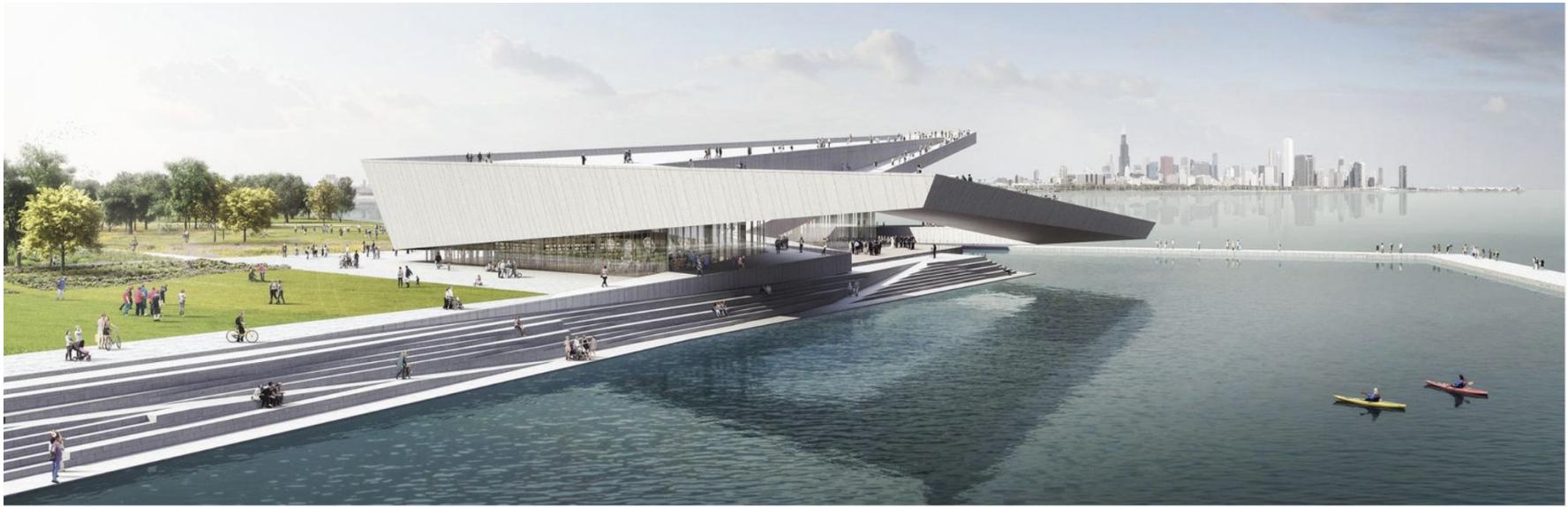
Agent - Residents

- **Engagement and Use:** Local residents are integral to the plan's success. The park is designed with multi-purpose open spaces for picnics, community events, and athletic fields. It offers passive recreation opportunities, such as walking trails, wildlife observation, and interpretive signage to educate residents about the area's industrial history. The plan also considers community connections, such as future trail systems that connect residents to nearby parks and neighborhoods.
- **Influence on Development:** The development of Park 566 has included significant community outreach and meetings to gather feedback from local stakeholders. This feedback has shaped the park's features, such as on-site parking and fitness stations, which were requests made by local residents.

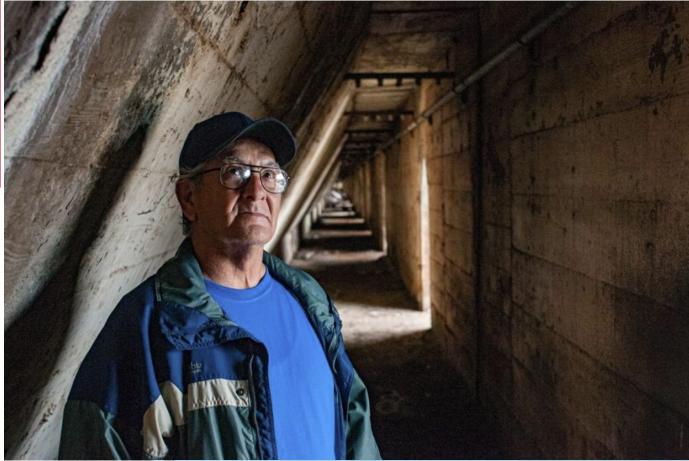


Agent - Tourists

- **Attraction and Experience:** For tourists, the park offers various observation points and overlooks that showcase Chicago's skyline and Lake Michigan. The plan also emphasizes the industrial history of the site, turning it into a point of cultural interest. Interpretive signage and educational programs aim to attract those interested in both history and nature.
- **Tourism and Economy:** Park 566 fits into a larger vision of connecting tourists to Chicago's broader lakefront park network. The inclusion of trails and waterfront access points increases the appeal to visitors seeking outdoor activities, which can stimulate local businesses and the tourism economy.



Agent - Maintenance Staff



- **Ecological and Infrastructure Management:** The park plan highlights the importance of maintaining native landscapes and stormwater management systems. Maintenance staff will play a critical role in ecological restoration, such as managing the invasive species and supporting the establishment of native plant communities. They are also essential in managing the physical infrastructure, including trails, fitness stations, and parking lots



IF THIS PROJECT LANDS!

Awards & Recognition



CITATION FOR URBAN DESIGN &
MASTERPLANNING, 2009
THE BOSTON SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS



HONOR AWARD FOR REGIONAL & URBAN
DESIGN, 2009
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



LEED-CI
EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN
AWARD, 2013
UNITED STATES GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL



LEED-NC
EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN
AWARD, 2010
UNITED STATES GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL



RECOGNITION
CALUMET CONSERVATION
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT
MILLENNIUM RESERVE

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN
AWARD, 2007
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
ARCHITECTS



SUSTAINIA 100
INITIATIVE, "THE
UNITED NATIONS

EXCELLENCE IN
COMMUNITY AWARD, 2012



THE INSTITUTE OF DESIGN
AWARD, 2013
THE CHICAGO MUSEUM OF
ARCHITECTURE



EXCELLENCE IN
INVESTIGATIONS, 2013
BROOKINGS INSTITUTION



EMERALD AWARD, INTENT TO MATTER:
OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION, 2014
UNITED STATES GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL



EMMY: OUTSTANDING CRAFTS
ACHIEVEMENT OFF-AIR: WRITER - PROGRAM
(NON-NEWS); EDITOR - PROGRAM (NON-
NEWS), 2015



McCAFFERY

McCaffery

\$4 billion too
ambitious

“all that’s beyond
our paygrade”
— President
Woodbury



U.S. Steel

changes in
leadership

realignment of
priorities



city of Chicago

Coordination with
various agencies
and stakeholders

lead to serious
delays and
complications in
approvals



Citations

1. <https://atlasofurbantech.org/cases/usa-chicago-lakeside/>
2. <https://www.som.com/projects/lakeside-master-plan/#:~:text=Organized%20around%20a%20walkable%20compact,the%20area's%20existing%20transit%20stations.>
3. https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dcd/supp_info/tif/chicago_lakesidephase1.html
4. https://assets.chicagoparkdistrict.com/s3fs-public/documents/page/Park_566_Framework_Plan_2015-4-30.pdf
5. <https://www.enjoyillinois.com/explore/listing/the-millennium-reserve/ois>
6. <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/xxprograms/MillenniumReserve/Pages/Maps.aspx>
7. <https://data.cityofchicago.org/Parks-Recreation/Parks-Chicago-Park-District-Park-Boundaries-current>



Thank you! Q&A