

= Lakeshore East =

Lakeshore East is a master @-@ planned mixed use urban development being built by the Magellan Development Group in the Loop community area of Chicago in Cook County , Illinois , United States . It is located in the northeastern part of the Loop , which , along with Illinois Center , is called the Near East Side . The development is bordered by Wacker Drive to the north , Columbus Drive to the west , Lake Shore Drive to the east , and East Randolph Street to the south . Skidmore , Owings & Merrill created the master plan for the area . The development , which had been scheduled for completion in 2011 , is now set for completion in 2013 . Although the majority of the buildings in the neighborhood will be 21st century constructions resulting from the master plan , some of the current buildings were built as early as the 1960s and 1970s decades . Thus , the term " Lakeshore East " refers only to the components of the new master plan , while the term New Eastside refers to the greater neighborhood surrounding Lakeshore East that extends westward to Michigan Avenue . However , there is little distinction between buildings in the masterplan and other buildings in the region because the pre @-@ existing buildings are referred to as being located in the Lakeshore East area .

Lakeshore East features several of the tallest buildings in Chicago and may include a few of the tallest buildings in the United States . The overall planned development , the park , and several of the individual buildings have won awards for architecture and / or urban planning . The buildings are planned for various types of residential use (condominiums , apartments , or hotels) . Due to the neighborhood 's proximity to both Lake Michigan to the east and the Chicago River to the north , many of the buildings are named with aquatic or nautical themes . As of August 2008 , 1 @, @ 500 condominiums have been sold and 1 @, @ 200 apartments have been completed .

= = History = =

Previous to this urban development , the Lakeshore East area had been used by Illinois Central Railroad yards . After World War II , the railroads sold airspace rights north of Randolph Street . For several years after the rail yards were vacated , the site was used as a 9 @-@ hole golf course . Pete Dye designed the course , known as Metro Golf at Illinois Center , which was completed in 1994 and closed in 2001 . The area was originally planned for development as part of the Illinois Center , and one of the challenges to the new development was to integrate itself into the inherited triple @-@ level street system while creating a visually appealing and pedestrian friendly neighborhood . The solution was to stagger ground @-@ level amenities and building entrances from the upper level at the perimeter to the lower level at the interior . Thus the multilevel street grid is utilized around the edges , with large parking structures in the podiums , while a large park at the lowest level forms the core of the development .

The following buildings pre @-@ existed the 21st century master plan for the neighborhood : Blue Cross Blue Shield Tower , Three Illinois Center , Swissôtel Chicago , Buckingham Plaza , The Parkshore , North Harbor Tower , 400 East Randolph Street Condominiums and Harbor Point . A 27 @-@ floor vertical expansion of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Tower was completed in 2010 . When Harbor Point and 400 East Randolph were built , Lake Shore Drive ran through this neighborhood to the west of these buildings , but it has since been rerouted to the east of these buildings .

The Chicago Pedway , which has existed since 1951 , connects to public and private buildings , Chicago Transit Authority stations and Metra commuter rail facilities . The 4 , 6 and 60 CTA bus routes run along the borders of the Lakeshore East area , and the 60 makes a turnaround within it on Harbor Drive . The pedway has been a controversy for Lakeshore East residents since they were promised a fully linked pedway to Buckingham Plaza and North Harbor Tower in the early 1990s as part of the construction plans . The archives available on the NewEastside.org website show numerous plans and unfulfilled promise regarding connecting the Pedway to most of the New Eastside .

= = Overview = =

This \$ 4 billion lifestyle center spans 28 acres (0 @. @ 044 sq mi ; 0 @. @ 113 km2) , and will include 4 @, @ 950 residences , 2 @, @ 200 @, @ 000 square feet (200 @, @ 000 m2) of gross commercial space , 1 @, @ 500 hotel rooms , 770 @, @ 000 square feet (72 @, @ 000 m2) of retail space and a planned elementary school surrounding a magnificent 6 @- @ acre (24 @, @ 000 m2) botanical park . The plan , which had Adrian Smith as the design partner , calls for fourteen high @- @ rise condominiums and two commercial officespace superstructures . Lakeshore East is within walking distance to the Chicago River , Lake Michigan , DuSable Harbor , Michigan Avenue , Grant Park , and Millennium Park .

The park , named Lakeshore East Park , opened in 2005 and is supported by a mixture of public funds from the Chicago Park District and private funds from the neighboring Lakeshore East condominium buildings . It is the city 's first and currently only free wireless park . The park features several fountains .

The Lancaster (completed in 2005) was Lakeshore East 's first new completed building . The Shoreham (2005) was Lakeshore East 's first completed apartment building . 340 on the Park (2007) was briefly the tallest all @- @ residential building in Chicago , but was surpassed by One Museum Park . Aqua (2009) is the first skyscraper in Chicago to combine condominium residences , luxury rentals , deluxe hotel and retail spaces in the same structure and it is believed to be the tallest building in the United States designed by a female @- @ run architectural firm . The development has its own village center , named Village Market Center , which includes a full service supermarket . The other buildings completed in the first phase of development were The Regatta (2007) , The Chandler (2008) and The Tides (2008) as well as the Benton Place Parkhomes townhouses (2009) .

In 2011 , construction began on Coast at Lakeshore East . Lease occupancies began in February 2013 .

Lakeshore East is a venture of Magellan Development Group LLC , a recently formed corporate partnership culminating a long @- @ term collaboration between Magellan Development Group and NNP Residential & Development .

All of the buildings in Lakeshore East are luxury condos and high @- @ end apartment highrises . Many of them are named with an aquatic theme . In addition to the luxury skyscrapers , the development will include 24 ultra @- @ luxury town homes in the \$ 2 million price range .

= = Awards = =

The master plan won the 2002 American Institute of Architects National Honor Award for Regional and Urban Design . The park was honored as the Best New Park in Chicago by Chicago magazine and the city ' s Best New Open Space by the Friends of Downtown . The master plan , the park and several individual buildings have won numerous other awards .

In 2008 , the International Real Estate Federation declared the Lakeshore East master plan the recipient of the FIABCI Prix D 'Excellence international award . Lakeshore was the only United States winner for international design excellence .

= = Building construction = =