



The National Park Service Has Scheduled A Public Hearing for Federal Actions In and Adjacent to Jackson Park

The City of Chicago (City) has approved the construction of the Obama Presidential Center (OPC) in Jackson Park. The City also approved the closure of certain roadways within Jackson Park and plans to provide transportation improvements to accommodate changes that result from the roadway closures. The proposed OPC project and transportation improvements by the City would impact lands currently managed consistent with a federal program under which the City received grant funding for recreation improvements, called the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR). Any property improved or developed with UPARR grant funds may not be converted to non-recreation uses without meeting the conditions of the grant and requirements for approval by the National Park Service (NPS). The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) administers the Federal-Aid Highway Program, which makes available federal funding to state departments of transportation and local agencies for roadway projects. The City proposes to use Federal-Aid Highway Program funding for the construction of roadway improvements to mitigate congestion from the roadway closures. FHWA and NPS ensure the proposed federal actions meet all federal requirements and environmental laws. These federal actions were evaluated under a joint Environmental Assessment per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is a cooperating agency in the Environmental Assessment. The City has requested the USACE grant authorizations for proposed discharges of fill materials into waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and for impacts to an ecosystem restoration project constructed with federal funds under the Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER) program.

Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is being conducted separately, but concurrently, to the NEPA process.

The proposed federal actions also require separate, but concurrent, approvals. Certain approvals require public notice, including but not limited to the following:

- Uses of Section 4(f) resources as defined by the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966
- A permit from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) – Office of Water Resources
- A jurisdictional transfer of roadways requested by the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
- Vacations and dedications of public way between CDOT and the Chicago Park District



Two webinars will be held at different times to encourage participation:

October 13, 2020
5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

October 14, 2020
5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

To view a live stream of the webinar, visit

<https://tinyurl.com/JacksonParkPublicHearing>

The Public Hearing will present the alternatives considered, explain the alternatives' environmental impacts, present the preferred alternative described in the Environmental Assessment, describe the next steps of the Federal review, and solicit public comments.

The webinars will begin with a presentation, followed by public comments. The same presentation will be given during each public engagement.

Anyone in need of special assistance should contact the project team via the telephone number or e-mail listed below:

Email: JacksonPark@civiltechinc.com

Project phone number: 312-763-2777



How You Can Provide Comments

A copy of the Environmental Assessment will be posted to the project website (<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/ChicagoJacksonPark>). A hard copy of the Environmental Assessment will also be available for review at the South Shore Cultural Center. A formal 30-day public comment period to provide comments on the Environmental Assessment, including the potential impacts analysis of the proposed alternatives, will be offered beginning **September 28, 2020** and ending **October 30, 2020**. Comments can be provided to the agencies via one of the following methods:



Online via the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at:
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/ChicagoJacksonPark>.
(Preferred Method)



Verbally during the Public Hearing.

Any person who wishes to speak during a webinar must submit a request, including their name and contact information, to JacksonPark@civiltechinc.com by October 12, 2020 for the first webinar session. Once capacity for speaking requests is reached for the first webinar session, requests will be accommodated in the second webinar session. All requests must be received by October 13, 2020.



Verbal comments will only be collected during the Public Hearing webinars; responses will not be provided during the webinars. All comments will be analyzed following the conclusion of the comment period and responded to as part of the final NEPA decision.



By mail to:

Todd Wyatt
Department of Planning and Development
121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 1000
Chicago, IL 60602

In person by appointment at the following location and time:



October 15, 2020
3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
South Shore Cultural Center
7059 S. South Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60649

You may schedule your appointment with the court reporter via email to JacksonPark@civiltechinc.com by October 14, 2020.



Considering the current state of public health safety and out of an abundance of caution, it is recommended that comments be submitted online, during a webinar, or by mail, if possible. For those submitting comments in person, social distancing and safety precautions, consistent with City and State regulations, will be enforced.