

# Friends of the Park's Lakefront Expansion Factsheet

Some things you should know when considering their plan to redraw Chicago's Lakefront

Their plan consists of three sections: the shoreline between 71<sup>st</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> Streets, the former USX site, and the privately owned manufacturing area between the Illinois Port Authority and Calumet Park and between Ewing and the lake.

They have presented to the community no plan to acquire the land north of Calumet Park and have publicly admitted that the USX site is already being privately developed for residential and commercial uses. This leaves the section between 71<sup>st</sup> Street and 75<sup>th</sup> Street as the only part of their plan that may be realized. This four block stretch of land is where they propose islands made from landfill and accessible only by footbridges.

Residents in Rogers Park were presented with a similar plan to expand their lakefront in 2004.

**88.6% voted against it.**

All the detailed maps of lakefront park development in Daniel Burnham's 1909 Plan of Chicago stop at Jackson Park. Specifically, no detailed map of a park or Boulevard system goes any farther south than 66<sup>th</sup> Street although the lakefront park system is mapped thoroughly to Wilmette on the north.

**Their proposal has nothing to do with Daniel Burnham's Plan of Chicago.**

Lake Michigan is only 2-3ft deep where they propose the islands. This shallow water cut off from the rest of the lake will stagnate, providing a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other adverse biology.

When South Shore residents say the plan will increase crime in the neighborhood, we ought to know. Police beat 0421, which includes Rainbow Beach Park, consistently has **twice the level of reported crime** than police beat 0334, the lakefront beat to the north which includes the stretch from 71<sup>th</sup> to 75<sup>th</sup>.

**The islands will *not* be accessible to: police cruisers,  
ambulances, or  
the park district vehicles that empty waste receptacles.**

Friends of the Parks posts notices of their 'public meetings' in their newsletter and on their website. They do nothing to advertise their events within the affected communities.

**They claim that they held in excess of 24 meetings in our community.  
How many did you know about?**

In an editorial to the Chicago Tribune (online, 3/10/07) Erma Tranter said the only opposition to the plan came from a 'dozen private property owners and condo buildings on the Lake Michigan shoreline'.

– Over 100 people attended a meeting at Rainbow Beach in November and **most of them objected** to the plan or expressed serious misgivings that FOTP *never* addressed such as **environmental impact, crime, parking, traffic, and whether or not this was the most appropriate use of public funds.**

**This plan is not about access to parks.** According to figures from the 2000 U.S. Census, South Shore (Community Area 43) had 2,052 people per block of public parkland. The Near North Side (Community Area 8) had 3,641 people per square block of public park. If the Friends of the Parks is concerned that Chicago is 'park poor', they should be building parks in their own neighborhood! The bulk of the existing park area in South Shore is concentrated along the lakefront. We only have six park spaces west of South Shore Drive. The FOTP plan will only increase this inequality.