



May 1, 2021

To: North Lake Shore Drive Project

From: Clarendon Park Advisory Council

Re. Comments in response to the initial Section 106 meeting, April 19, 2021

For our comments regarding the Section 106 meeting on Apr. 19, 2021, we will focus on the Uptown area of the HPI. We are happy to provide additional documentation, both current and historical, as needed. Thank you in advance for your response to the recommendations below.

The HPI document is a remarkable informational resource and will be a history-making document in and of itself, also for future generations. We recommend that the North Lake Shore Drive Project team pursue the following items in relation to the Area of Potential Impact.

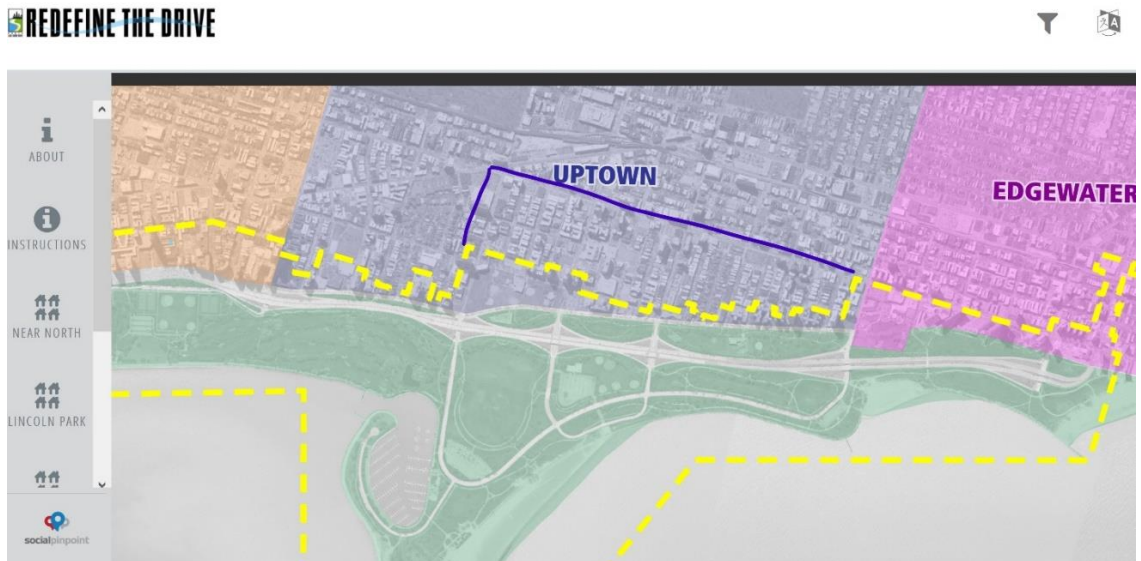
1. Update the Clarendon Park Community Center entry in the HPI

Clarendon Park Community Center will undergo renovation starting in autumn 2021/winter 2022 with an additional \$6.9 million from the Wilson Yard TIF district and \$1.6 million from the Chicago Park District.

As suggested in the HPI survey documents for the Uptown area, Clarendon Municipal Bathing Beach was the prominent proof of concept for Chicago's "Reclamation of the Lake Front for the People" as championed in the early 20th century by diverse entities and individuals, including the Chicago Plan Commission and its chairman, Charles Wacker. Clarendon Beach was promoted as a generous municipal offering for public "health and happiness" and as an unparalleled civic achievement in tandem with the Municipal Pier ("The People's Pier") of the same era. Clarendon Beach was a key destination in travel guides and transit posters that appeared in national print mentions and in features such as *National Geographic's* 1919 article on Chicago as an economic and cultural powerhouse. The facility's role as a community center predates the Chicago Park District; the facility opened as a winter "community center" on Sept. 24, 1917.

Local advocacy for the creation of the Clarendon Beach municipal facility came from owners and residents on the east side of the current Uptown neighborhood. Centered around the business district at Wilson and Sheridan, the "East Sheridan Park Protective and Improvement Association" coalesced to protest permits to private beach operations and support a municipal facility, including through a petition drive and legal challenges. Historic buildings of this formative period exist along the original coastline, many within viewing distance of modern-day Lincoln Park and Lake Shore Drive.

2. Expand the Area of Potential Effect (APE) west to Sheridan Rd (W) to evaluate historic properties bounded by the Montrose (S) and Foster (N), especially in the area delineated by a purple line below.



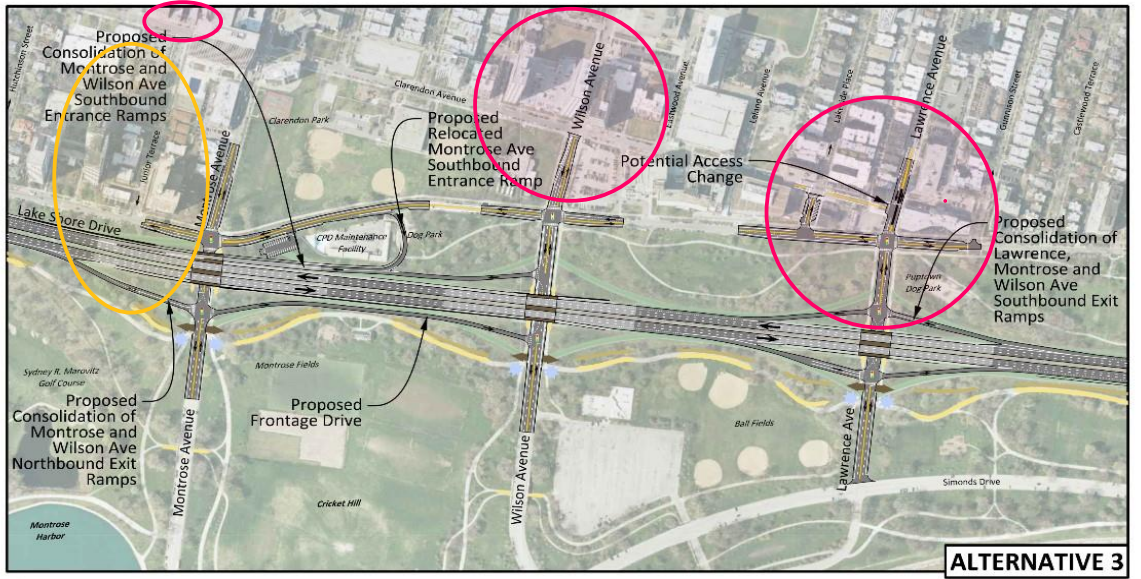
We emphasize the need to focus on historic properties and park in locations next to and inland from points where the NLSD Project has shown proposals that close, combine, or add new on/off ramps (Wilson, Montrose); expand travel lanes (Lakeside, Lawrence, Gunnison, Marine); alter the edge of Lincoln Park west of LSD (Foster and Marine); and change access points west of or widen roads east of LSD in the park (Lawrence).

Residential buildings in the Uptown area along the original coastline were oriented north-south in long blocks roughly perpendicular to the coast. When the Uptown peninsula was built during in the WPA/PWA project of the 1930s, residential streets that had historically ended at the Lake became feeder streets to the new Lake Shore Drive. Owing to these changed site dynamics, many low-rise historic residential buildings today front onto narrow, high-capacity arterials, often with minimal parkways and subject to safety and structural concerns as well as human health and aesthetic impacts.

The HPI documents similar low-rise historic properties along Montrose in the area circled in gold in “Alternative 3” (page 3). CPAC proposes close evaluation of low-rise historical buildings near similar proposed changes, including those circled in pink below in “Alternative 3,” as follows:

- 4344 N CLARENDON AVE, PIN 14-17-407-025-0000
- 826 W WILSON AVE, PIN 14-17-215-018-0000
- 811 W EASTWOOD AVE, PIN 14-17-215-029-1001 (multiple PINs)
- 804 W LAKESIDE PLACE, PIN 14-17-205-046-1001 (multiple PINs)

809 W LAWRENCE AVE, PIN 14-17-205-048-0000 (multiple PINs)
 811 W. LAWRENCE AVE, PIN 14172050631001 (multiple PINs)
 817 W LAWRENCE AVE, PIN 14172050561001 (multiple PINs)
 819 W LAWRENCE AVE, PIN 14-17-205-019-0000
 823 W LAWRENCE AVE, PIN 14-17-205-018-0000



3. Augment information about historical landscape design features and any current proposals for all non-motorized features of the North Lake Shore Drive Project.

CPAC found it difficult to reflect on the following based on information offered to date:

- A) Impacts on historic paths and buildings from plan to add a new frontage road and new on/off ramps directly east of Clarendon Park in Lincoln Park;
- B) Pedestrian, bike, and bus connectivity, paths, and circulation in general, both within historic Lincoln and Clarendon Parks and in relation to the Uptown community;
- C) Elevations, materials, and plantings in and approaching Lincoln Park, Clarendon Park, and along the coast.

Finally, we would like to highlight two modern developments in the Uptown peninsula that speak strongly to historical context and events and that are deserving of careful consideration and protection going forward:

- Globally rare Great Lakes habitat and wildlife including rare migratory birds have emerged at Montrose Beach Dunes and Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary. These special habitats, advanced by the Chicago Park District and other stewards following natural occurrences, argue for the demonstrated ecological success of the designed landform of the historic Lincoln Park Extension peninsula and of historic planting plans, named in the

existing Lincoln Park National Register listing, that have informed ongoing habitat work in the peninsula. These developments and historic documents offer valuable technical guidance for future treatments for erosion and environmental improvement in the current NLSD project, both in the Uptown area and in other parts of the project.

- Located in the Foster Ave underpass and dedicated in 2009, the public artwork “Indian Land Dancing” (dedicated 2009) is an extensive direct-application mosaic designed and created in collaboration with the indigenous peoples of Chicago and the Edgewater community. Protection and restoration, including of original in situ features, of this culturally significant, site-specific artwork merit careful study, plans, and funding.