



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





Morgan Street CTA Station



Tri-Taylor Neighborhood townhomes



Willis Tower from the UIC campus

## NEAR WEST EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Center. Fulton Market. Greektown. The Near West Planning Area is home to many popular destinations to visit in Chicago. It is also one of the city's largest job centers, and home to 55,000 residents who live in a collection of distinct neighborhoods. **The strategies and priority projects articulated in this Action Plan will help to make these neighborhoods even more vibrant.**

The Near West Planning Area is bounded generally by Kinzie Avenue, Interstate 90, 16th Street, and Rockwell Avenue. It contains parts of five wards, thirteen neighborhoods, and a single community area. Residents enjoy 18 parks, send their children to 36 local schools, and travel throughout the region from one of nine area transit stops.

The Near West Planning Area contains some of city's most important assets, including the Illinois Medical District (IMD), the Fulton Market district, the United Center, and the University of Illinois' Chicago campus (UIC). Both residents and visitors are drawn to the Near West's iconic dining venues in Little Italy, Greektown, and Randolph Street. The Planning Area is also home to some of the city's great historic and emerging neighborhoods, such as Tri-Taylor, West Haven, and University Village, among many others.

Among Chicago's 16 Planning Areas, the Near West Planning Area provides the third most number of jobs at over 116,000. In fact, as the smallest of all

the Planning Areas at only 4.7 square miles, the Near West Planning Area ranks second behind only the Central Planning Area in jobs per square mile.

Of Chicago's 16 Planning Areas, the Near West has had the second highest population growth rate since 2000 and has the third most educated population, with over 66% of residents over 25 holding a college degree. The Near West is comprised of a full range of land uses, with public facilities & institutions (24%) and residential (22%) accounting for nearly half of the area's land. At least three previous plans have been completed since 2000, one of which has been approved by the Chicago Plan Commission.

But the Near West Planning Area is much more than facts and figures. This is where hundreds of thriving manufacturers operate, where tens of thousands cheer to sports and concert events, where many Chicagoans on the west side seek better health; where further mixed-income housing is being planned and where high-end boutique hotels are under construction; where 30,000 faculty and students meet on campus to teach and learn from each other.

## GUIDING STRATEGIES

This Action Plan contains Priority Projects that are either in progress or in development, such that they can be reasonably completed within five years, with more projects to be added as the Action Plan continues to grow. These investments will be guided by the following strategies:

1. Guiding Strategy #1
2. Guiding Strategy #2

### 3. Guiding Strategy #3

### 4. Guiding Strategy #4.

## CONCENTRATION AREAS

Several smaller areas offer significant opportunities, and therefore will be the subject of further careful planning and action in the coming months:

- A. Concentration Area "A" from N Boundary Street to S Boundary Street, and from W Boundary Street to E Boundary Street
- B. Concentration Area "B" from N Boundary Street to S Boundary Street, and from W Boundary Street to E Boundary Street
- C. Concentration Area "C" from N Boundary Street to S Boundary Street, and from W Boundary Street to E Boundary Street

The City of Chicago's Department of Planning and Development will continue to work with aldermen, other City departments and sister agencies, community leaders, investors, and – most importantly – the dedicated residents of the Near West Planning Area neighborhoods to improve this Action Plan over time.





Chicago Neighborhoods Now: Near West  
**ACTION PLAN**

Map Key

- Interstates
- Metra Line & Station
- CTA Green Line & Station
- CTA Pink Line & Station
- CTA Blue Line & Station
- Parks and Open Space

Illustrative Priority Projects

- 1** Fulton Market Streetscape #1
- 2** Lake Street Reconstruction
- 3** Proposed Fulton /Randolph Historic District
- 4** Villages of Westhaven
- 5** Starr Park Playground
- 6** Park 578 (West Haven)
- 7** Western Ave Streetscape
- 8** Mable Manning Library
- 9** New Malcolm X College Facility
- 10** City Gardens/Maplewood Ct
- 11** Illinois Medical District CTA Station Rehabilitation
- 12** Garibaldi Park Playground
- 13** Roosevelt Square
- 14** Chicago Children's Advocacy Center
- 15** Newberry Park Family Housing
- 16** TBD
- 17** TBD
- 18** TBD
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- 29** TBD
- 30** TBD

Concentration Areas

- A** Concentration Area "A" TBD
- B** Concentration Area "B" TBD
- C** Concentration Area "C" TBD

**ACTION PLAN TO BE  
 CREATED WITH  
 NEIGHBORHOOD INPUT**  
 visit [www.cityofchicago.org/cnn](http://www.cityofchicago.org/cnn)  
 to learn more