



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Regions 3, 4, 5

Regional Office  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE, 68102  
[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

## Regional Office News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

September 28, 2020

### CONTACTS;

Morgan Elmer, National Park Service

Email: [Morgan\\_Elmer@nps.gov](mailto:Morgan_Elmer@nps.gov)

Michele Lemons, Chicago Park District

Email: [michele.lemons@chicagoparkdistrict.com](mailto:michele.lemons@chicagoparkdistrict.com)

Mike Claffey, CDOT

Email: [Michael.claffey@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Michael.claffey@cityofchicago.org)

### **Public Input Sought on Environmental Assessment for Federal Actions In and Adjacent to Jackson Park**

*Webinars will be held on October 13 and 14 to allow for public comment*

**CHICAGO** – The National Park Service (NPS) announced that it has released an Environmental Assessment (EA) for Federal Actions In and Adjacent to Jackson Park for public review and comment. The EA is part of a federal review process triggered by the City of Chicago’s plans to allow for the closure of roadways and construction of the Obama Presidential Center (OPC) and to make improvements to the roadway network in and around Jackson Park. The Chicago City Council approved these plans through its municipal process in 2018.

The proposals by the City would impact lands currently managed consistent with the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR) program. Under which federal funds were provided by grants for improvements to Jackson Park. 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 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.

The EA process began in 2018 and included consultations with a broad array of stakeholders. The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD) have been working with the NPS, the FHWA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to obtain the federal approvals required to move the project forward.

The NPS has scheduled two online webinars for October 13 and 14 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in order to present the public with details about the proposed alternatives that have been studied, their potential impacts and the proposed preferred alternative described in the EA. The webinars will begin with a presentation that will be followed by an opportunity for public comments. To speak during a webinar session, requests must be submitted by email to [JacksonPark@civiltechinc.com](mailto:JacksonPark@civiltechinc.com) or by phone at 312-763-2777. To view a live stream of the webinars, visit <https://tinyurl.com/JacksonParkPublicHearing>. The public is encouraged to submit comments via the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/ChicagoJacksonPark>. Comments may also be submitted by mail to Todd Wyatt, the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development, 121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 1000, Chicago, IL 60602. For those who cannot comment online, there will also be an opportunity to comment in person at the South Shore Cultural Center from 3 to 5 p.m. on October 15 at an event where officials will follow strict social distancing precautions. The 30-day public comment period ends on October 30.

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™**

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

To read the Environmental Assessment go to: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/ChicagoJacksonPark>

###