



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor's Press Office
(312) 744-3334
press@cityofchicago.org

Department of Housing and Economic Development (HED)
(312) 744-9267

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTRODUCES PROPOSALS TO
SPUR GROWTH AND IMPROVE PROPERTY THROUGHOUT CHICAGO**

Public Access, Amenities Proposed For North Side Nature Preserve

The North Side's newest public nature preserve would be improved with walking trails, scenic overlooks, and environmental upgrades through a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) proposal introduced to City Council today by Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

The wooded, 21-acre site on the 5900 block of North Western Avenue in Lincoln Square was acquired by the City from Rosehill Cemetery in 2011. Characterized by rolling topography and deciduous trees, its central feature is a seven-acre pond. Fencing, new entrances, and other enhancements are included in the proposed project.

"Having been inaccessible for many years, the site will finally be opened for public appreciation," Mayor Emanuel said. "The improvements will make it a destination point for the entire North Side."

The proposed \$700,000 in TIF would help finance the preserve's \$3.5 million development cost. The balance is being funded by a federal grant.

Never developed for cemetery purposes, the property will eventually be transferred to the Chicago Park District.

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City Land Sale Proposed to South Side Church

A Greater Grand Crossing church would expand its campus and construct a three-story multi-purpose facility through a City-owned land sale proposed to City Council today.

Clustered among several sites near 76th Street and Greenwood Avenue, the two acres of land would be sold to New Life Covenant Oakwood Church for the appraised value of \$695,000.

Already possessing numerous properties in the area, the organization would use the land to complete a \$48 million campus that includes plans for a 120,000 square foot temple and community center. The structure would include a 5,420-seat nave, media center, café, classrooms, and offices.

The construction of four new parking lots with a total of 656 spaces would also be made possible through the sale.

New Life Covenant Oakwood Church was established in 2003 by Pastor John Hannah. It has been headquartered at 1021 E. 78th St. since 2008.

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Rehab Proposed for Southwest Side Senior Housing Facility

A \$7.95 million rehabilitation of a Chicago Lawn senior building would be made possible through affordable housing measures introduced to City Council today by Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

Originally constructed in 1992, the 60-unit Churchview Manor Senior Apartments at 2600 W. 63rd St. would receive window upgrades, kitchen improvements, and new water and electrical systems. The work would be partly financed by a \$3.3 million loan, up to \$4.5 million in tax exempt bonds and a \$150,000 energy efficiency grant.

“Along with families and people with special needs, seniors are a targeted part of the City’s affordable housing agenda,” Mayor Emanuel said. “This proposal would ensure these 60 rental units remain viable for area seniors for many years to come.”

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TIF Funds Proposed for Renovations at Two North Side Schools

The Chicago Board of Education would be reimbursed for costs associated with recent improvements to two North Side schools under Tax Increment Financing (TIF) proposals introduced to City Council today by Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

“Facility upgrades are critical to student success in the classroom,” Mayor Emanuel said. “TIF is an important funding source to make them possible.”

Lloyd Elementary School, 2103 N. Lamon Ave.

The Belmont-Cragin elementary school would receive \$550,000 in TIF for the recent construction of a \$1.3 million playground and an artificial turf field. The funds would be applied to its planning, design and installation costs. The balance is being paid for by the Board of Education.

Lane Technical High School, 2501 W. Addison St.

The North Center high school would receive \$2 million in TIF for a recently completed improvement project that included exterior repairs, new windows, painting, and various structural upgrades. Total project costs were \$2 million.

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TIF Proposed for New Baseball Stadium at North Side Park

North Center’s Clark Park would receive \$1.3 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for the construction of a baseball stadium under financial proposals introduced to City Council today by Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

The stadium would be built at 3400 N. Rockwell Ave. through a partnership between the City of Chicago, Chicago Park District, Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Cubs. Featuring a covered, masonry grandstand, the \$5.2 million facility would be used by Lane Tech High School students and community residents. Funding would include \$1.3 million in TIF, \$1 million from the Cubs, and \$1 million from Cubs pitcher Kerry Wood’s Wood Family Foundation. The remainder would come from the Park District and Chicago Public Schools.

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