

Fort Dearborn Park

Develop a new park at the Fort Dearborn Post Office site at Dearborn and Ohio Streets after the phasing out and the relocation of the post office operations. This park will serve the growing residential population of River North, which has minimal public open space.



Figure 4.3.34 Fort Dearborn Post Office today



Figure 4.3.35 Fort Dearborn Park in 2020



Figure 4.3.36 I-94 and Monroe Street in 2020

A new park over the Kennedy Expressway at Monroe Street

The new park will connect the West Loop with Greek Town and create needed open space without challenging development sites. This one block park should be seen as part of a “green gateway” to the Central Area. The automobile passage underneath should also be designed as an attractive civic gateway. It can set a precedent for a new generation of parks and urban greening that improve air quality and soften the edges of the expressways.



Figure 4.3.37 I-94 and Monroe Street today

Ping Tom Park

An expanded Ping Tom park will include a new fieldhouse, athletic fields and green space adjacent to the Chicago River.



Figure 4.3.38 The South River corridor today.

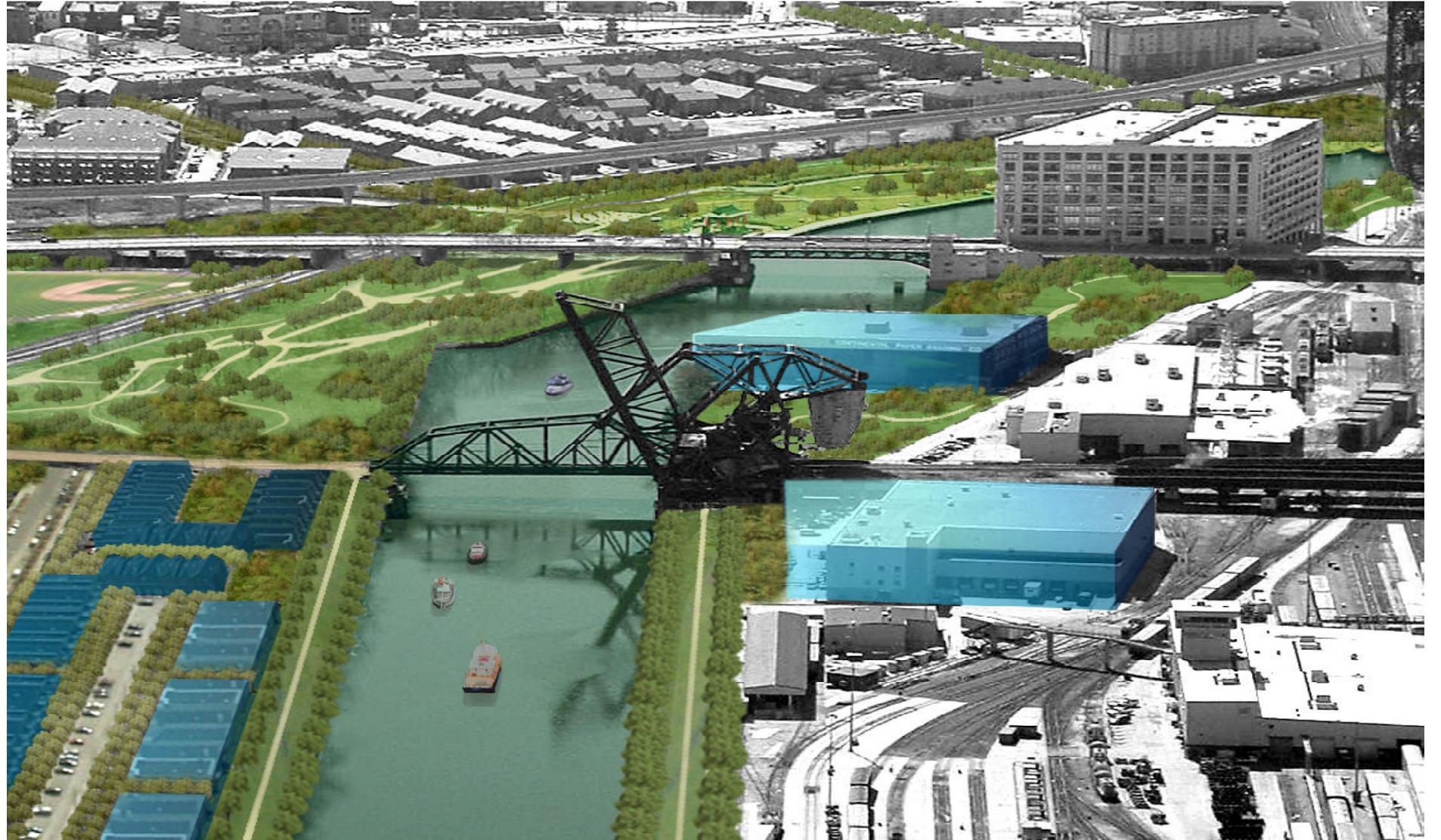


Figure 4.3.39 The South River corridor in 2020 will connect the New South River Neighborhoods to the Loop via a continuous riverwalk.

Park and Plaza Projects

NEAR NORTH

- Walter Payton Academy campus park
- New parks in the Near Northwest neighborhood as new residential development occurs
- Kinzie Park at Kinzie and Desplaines streets
- Jefferson Plaza at Jefferson and Lake Street
- A new park at the Fort Dearborn post office site at Dearborn and Ohio Streets
- A new park at the northeast corner of Chicago Avenue and State Street
- Kraft Park to serve the Streeterville Neighborhood

THE EXPANDED LOOP

- A new park to serve the Lakeshore East Neighborhood
- A new Plaza at 310 South Wacker Drive
- Reconfigure Pritzker Park at State and Van Buren streets
- Create new parks over the Kennedy expressway at Monroe Street and over Hubbard's Cave
- Connect the Near West Side and the University of Chicago at Chicago (UIC) with new parkland over the Eisenhower Expressway

THE SOUTH LOOP

- Complete a new park at Taylor Street and Wells Street
- Complete the Jones High School campus park

THE NEAR SOUTH

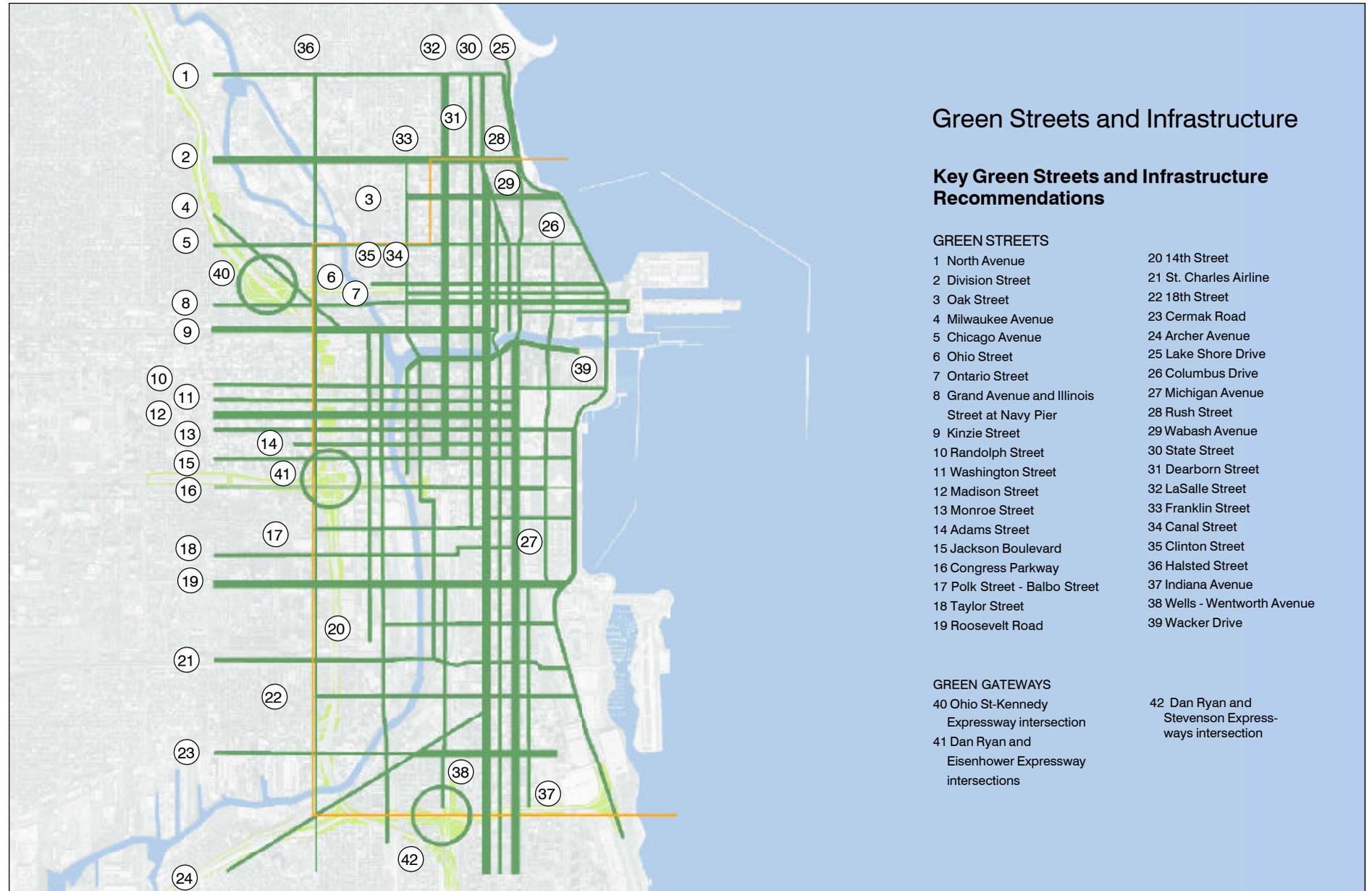
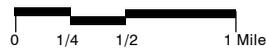
- Create neighborhood parks on the west side of the Chicago River
- Complete the planned park at 24th and Federal Streets
- Expand the Jefferson playlot in Pilsen
- Expand Ping Tom park to include athletic fields and a fieldhouse
- Complete Mark Twain Park at 15th Place and Indiana Avenue
- Develop a new park at the South Loop Annex school site

PARK PROJECTS NEAR THE CENTRAL AREA

- Look to the underutilized waterfront in Pilsen and Bridgeport for future park opportunities
- Create a new park at Stearn's Quarry in Bridgeport
- Complete neighborhood parks with completion of UIC's south campus expansion

Figure 4.3.40
Green streets and infrastructure

-  Major 'green' streets
-  Other 'green' streets
-  Green gateways



Green Streets and Infrastructure

Key Green Streets and Infrastructure Recommendations

GREEN STREETS

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 North Avenue | 20 14th Street |
| 2 Division Street | 21 St. Charles Airline |
| 3 Oak Street | 22 18th Street |
| 4 Milwaukee Avenue | 23 Cermak Road |
| 5 Chicago Avenue | 24 Archer Avenue |
| 6 Ohio Street | 25 Lake Shore Drive |
| 7 Ontario Street | 26 Columbus Drive |
| 8 Grand Avenue and Illinois Street at Navy Pier | 27 Michigan Avenue |
| 9 Kinzie Street | 28 Rush Street |
| 10 Randolph Street | 29 Wabash Avenue |
| 11 Washington Street | 30 State Street |
| 12 Madison Street | 31 Dearborn Street |
| 13 Monroe Street | 32 LaSalle Street |
| 14 Adams Street | 33 Franklin Street |
| 15 Jackson Boulevard | 34 Canal Street |
| 16 Congress Parkway | 35 Clinton Street |
| 17 Polk Street - Balbo Street | 36 Halsted Street |
| 18 Taylor Street | 37 Indiana Avenue |
| 19 Roosevelt Road | 38 Wells - Wentworth Avenue |
| | 39 Wacker Drive |

GREEN GATEWAYS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 40 Ohio St-Kennedy Expressway intersection | 42 Dan Ryan and Stevenson Expressways intersection |
| 41 Dan Ryan and Eisenhower Expressway intersections | |

Green Streets and Infrastructure

Complete the Central Area's framework of richly landscaped streets and boulevards.

Key Recommendations

- Landscape improvements along expressway corridors and intersections throughout the Central Area
- Create a "green" intersection at the Ohio Street feeder from the Kennedy Expressway, and at other gateway locations such as Chicago Avenue and Larrabee Street, Roosevelt Road and Clark Street, and Cermak Road and the Chicago River
- Expanded sidewalks and landscaping on existing bridges over the Kennedy Expressway connecting the West Loop with Greektown
- Create a strong gateway at the intersection of the Eisenhower and Dan Ryan expressways
- Create parks along the CTA's Green Line in the Near South
- Create the St. Charles Airline Greenway to connect neighborhoods and the Chicago River to the Lakefront adjacent to 16th Street

Trees and plants soften the city's sharp edges and are an important supplement to dedicated open space. They can also play a key role in reducing the urban heat island effect. In recent years, the city has installed new trees, landscaped medians and planters as part of a comprehensive loop streetscaping project. On some of these streets, such as State Street and Michigan Avenue, local business organizations have taken over their maintenance. These improvements are created through streetscape associations funded by local businesses and building owners. The City will continue to work with the business community to expand its streetscaping program along key arteries throughout the Central Area.

The St. Charles Airline, an east-west elevated rail right-of-way adjacent to 16th Street, presents an opportunity for greening of the Central Area. It offers a potential pedestrian and bicycle connection between the lakefront and the neighborhoods to the west. Even if the current structure were to be leveled, the St. Charles could be reconfigured as a recreational greenway with bike trails and pedestrian paths to connect the lakefront to Douglas Park and the boulevard system. It may also be retained as part of the transit system.



Figure 4.3.41 North Dearborn Parkway
An example of a well landscaped street



Figure 4.3.42 State Street
One of the Loop's great retail streets, State Street is softened by plants and shaded by trees.



Figure 4.3.43 Randolph Street
Streetscaping in the Theatre District



Figure 4.3.44 Rush Street
Landscaping on Rush Street



Figure 4.3.45 Green streets and transit provide a 'green' infrastructure that connects the Central Area without a car.