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.
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.
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 13th 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
Key Green Streets and Infrastructure Recommendations

GREEN STREETS
1  North Avenue
2  Division Street
3  Oak Street
4  Milwaukee Avenue
5  Chicago Avenue
6  Ohio Street
7  Ontario Street
8  Grand Avenue and Illinois Street at Navy Pier
9  Kinzie Street
10  Randolph Street
11  Washington Street
12  Madison Street
13  Monroe Street
14  Adams Street
15  Jackson Boulevard
16  Congress Parkway
17  Polk Street - Balbo Street
18  Taylor Street
19  Roosevelt Road

GREEN GATEWAYS
40  Ohio St - Kennedy Expressway intersection
41  Dan Ryan and Eisenhower Expressway intersections

20  14th Street
21  St. Charles Airline
22  18th Street
23  Cermak Road
24  Archer Avenue
25  Lake Shore Drive
26  Columbus Drive
27  Michigan Avenue
28  Rush Street
29  Wabash Avenue
30  State Street
31  Dearborn Street
32  LaSalle Street
33  Franklin Street
34  Canal Street
35  Clinton Street
36  Halsted Street
37  Indiana Avenue
38  Wells - Wentworth Avenue
39  Wacker Drive
42  Dan Ryan and Stevenson Expressways intersection
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.