

This is the place where the North Shore Channel meets the North Branch of the Chicago River. Their confluence provides the best river fishing in the City. At the end of the North Branch, water tumbles over a water fall, giving it the higher oxygen content that fish prefer.

The west side of the river **2 3** provides one of the city's best nature hikes, as a wood-chipped trail winds along the banks of the river through restored river edge habitat. The trail and the restoration extend from Argyle to Lawrence. It was restored in 2002. Wild rye, penstemon, and columbine are thriving.

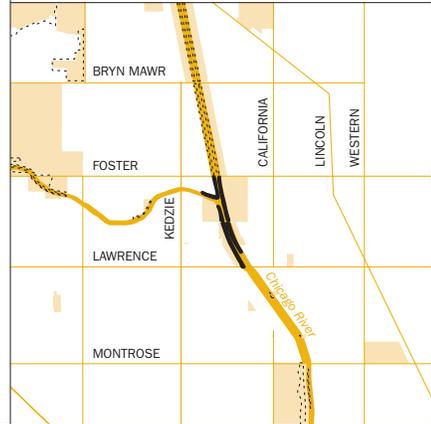
On the west side of the river north of Argyle, there are two canoe portage points and sections of native vegetation restoration that are fenced to protect them. Stiff goldenrod, purple coneflower, and culver's root bloom here in the summer.

The east side of the river **1 4** is unrestored and undeveloped, though it could provide a good spot for riverbank restoration if funding became available. The east side of River Park has a paved bike path that extends unbroken to Peterson, is interrupted for a few blocks, and then continues along the east side of McCormick Boulevard (west of the Canal) through Lincolnwood and Evanston. At the far south end lies the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Lawrence Avenue pump station.

Directly north of Argyle, on the east side of the river is a stand of old cottonwoods. Cottonwoods are a common tree in Chicago, but this stand of large ones likely pre-dates or coincides with early development of the city, before the land was parkland. The cottonwood grove's presence next to the river is not coincidental; the continuous water source would have been instrumental in their germination and survival as seedlings.

RIVER PARK AND RONAN PARK

Site No 73



5000 NORTH / 3000 WEST



River Park and Ronan Park

N: 73



ADDRESS 3000 W Argyle St
 OWNER Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
 ACREAGE 5.39

HABITATS
1 2 3 4 Riparian / Water Edge
5

DIRECTIONS Park along Argyle near the river between Kedzie and Francisco.

River Park and Ronan Park

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

100 Feet