

Harvest Foods

Frequently Asked Questions

Harvest Foods is a Chicago-based food manufacturer currently located in Archer Heights. It seeks to expand its operations to a new location while staying in the City of Chicago. Harvest Foods currently employs around 215 full-time employees, many of whom are residents of South Side neighborhoods, including Back of the Yards.

How many permanent jobs, new jobs, and temporary construction jobs will be provided?

Harvest Foods will provide 250 full-time jobs and 200 temporary construction jobs.

What is Harvest Foods's hiring and retention plans? Will Harvest Foods prioritize local residents for new hiring opportunities?

Harvest Foods has already begun and intends to continue advertising available jobs in the local community. If local stakeholders have suggestions about where and how to best advertise for local employment, Harvest Foods is open to those options.

What sorts of incentives will Harvest Foods be receiving for this development?

Harvest Foods is seeking a Class 6(b) Property Tax Incentive. The Class 6(b) program offers a 12-year reduction in real estate assessments from the standard Cook County industrial rate of 25 percent. Qualifying properties are assessed at 10 percent for the first 10 years, 15 percent for the 11th year and 20 percent for the 12th year. After the 12th year, the property is assessed at the regular rate and the tax incentive expires.

Will residents be required to pay more in property taxes to offset any tax abatements this project receives?

No. The property currently is tax exempt, which means it generates \$0 in taxes. The new development will generate new property taxes for the City, even with the property tax abatement.

Is the property owned by the City?

Yes, the subject property is City-owned.

What is the expected frequency of truck and employee traffic?

Harvest Foods expects roughly 24 trucks on average per day, but typically not more than 2 per hour. Employee traffic will be distributed over multiple shifts throughout the day.

How will the traffic impacts of this new development be addressed?

Damen Avenue will be reconstructed between 46th and 47th Streets to accommodate truck and employee access to the development. Truck access will be limited to and from the west only on 47th Street. The design and reconstruction of Damen Avenue is being coordinated through INVEST South/West's Back of the Yards 47th & Ashland Corridor Improvements project.

How will the safety of nearby High School students and residents be guaranteed?

Safety improvements for all roadway users, including pedestrian, are being considered in the design. The intersection at 47th Street & Damen Avenue is being redesigned to improve safety.

What will happen to the green space along Damen Avenue between 46th and 47th Streets? The community sometimes uses this space for small events.

The green space is being incorporated into the new alignment of Damen Avenue and redesigned to create a more accessible open space for the community. Potential concepts are being developed and will be presented to community stakeholders in early 2023.

Will public green space be created as a part of this project?

Yes, the developer is proposing more than 20,000 square feet of publicly accessible open space around the property. The open space will run linearly along the residential-facing edges of the building and provide walking paths, landscaping, seating, and pergolas for public art by local artists.