

MORGAN SHOAL COMMUNITY UPDATE



[Link to PBC Project Page](#)

PROJECT 22703: CHICAGO SHORELINE PROTECTION PROJECT
45TH STREET TO 51ST STREET (MORGAN SHOAL)
REVTMENT RECONSTRUCTION

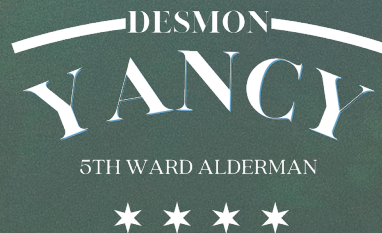
March 21, 2024

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Presentation & Q+A



LAMONT J. ROBINSON
4TH WARD ALDERMAN



US Army Corps
of Engineers



WELCOME

PRESENTATION AGENDA

1. Introduction

Alderman Lamont J Robinson, 4th Ward

Alderman Desmon Yancy, 5th Ward

Ray Giderof, PBC

2. Recap from 2/22 Community Update

Ray Giderof, PBC

Kerl LaJeune, PBC

3. What We Heard

Ray Giderof, PBC

Mark Wagstaff, SmithGroup

Heather Gleason, CPD

4. Next Steps

Ray Giderof, PBC

5. Q+A

Adjourn

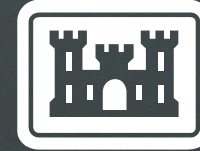


AGENCY STAKEHOLDERS

Public Building Commission of Chicago



Chicago Park District



US Army Corps
of Engineers

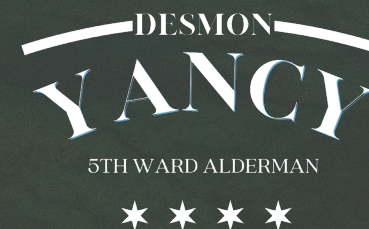
US Army Corps of Engineers



Chicago Department of Transportation



4th Ward



5th Ward

Link to PBC



An aerial photograph of Chicago, showing the city skyline in the background, a large body of water (Lake Michigan) on the right, and a multi-lane highway (Lake Shore Drive) running along the shoreline. The highway is flanked by greenery and a rocky beach area. The text is overlaid on the image.

RECAP FROM 2/22 COMMUNITY UPDATE

RAY GIDEROF, PBC + KERL LAJEUNE, PBC

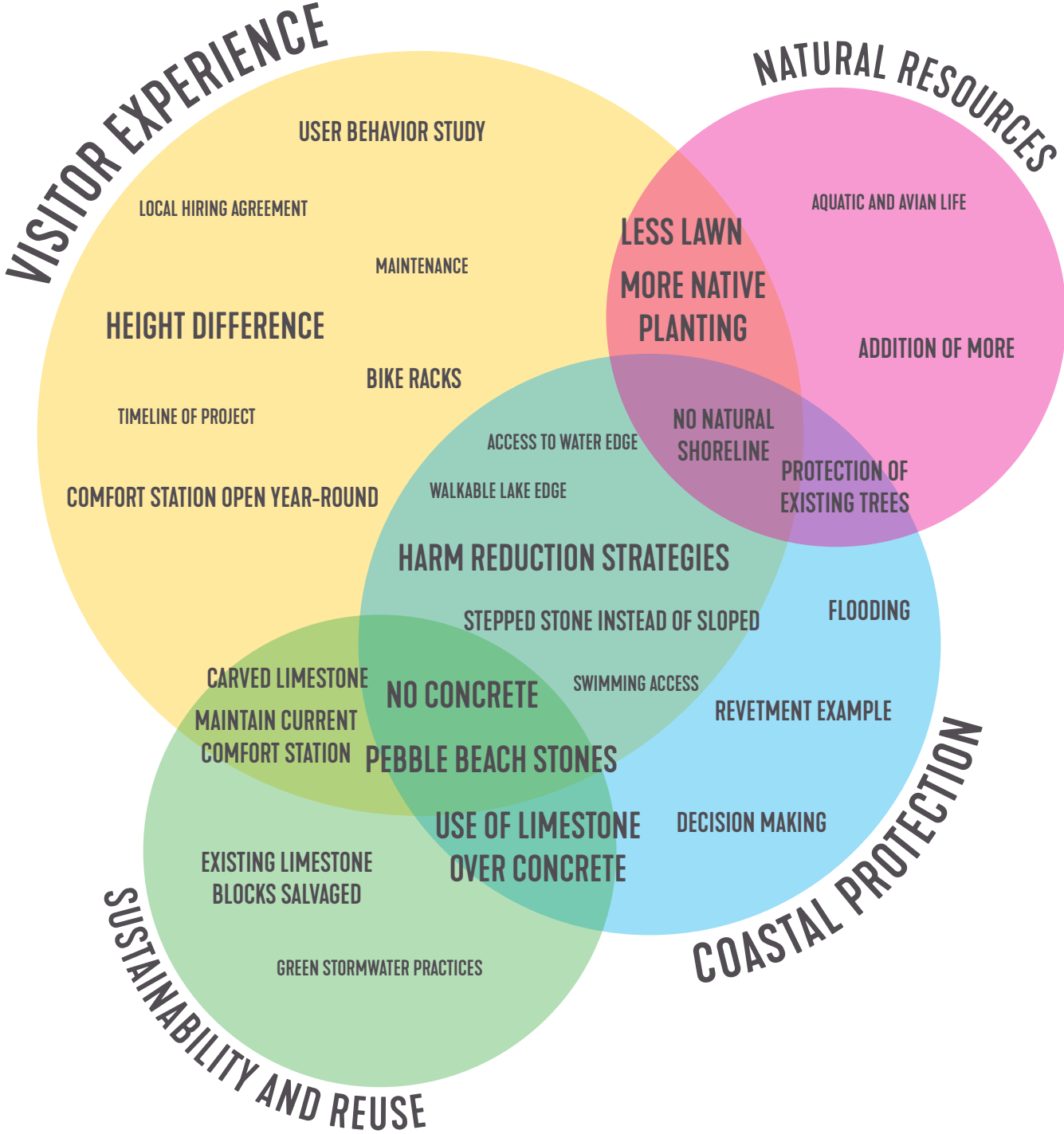
Last Public Information Meeting 2/22/2024



KEY TOPICS FROM 2/22



Robust verbal Q+A discussion



OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM 2/22/24

56 Total Comment Cards
Covering 110 key points of feedback

COMMUNITY MEETING MORGAN SHOAL REVETMENT RECONSTRUCTION UPDATE

QUESTIONS?

COMMENTS?

NAME:

ORGANIZATION:

EMAIL:



General Information



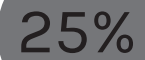
Items Already Addressed



Items to Incorporate



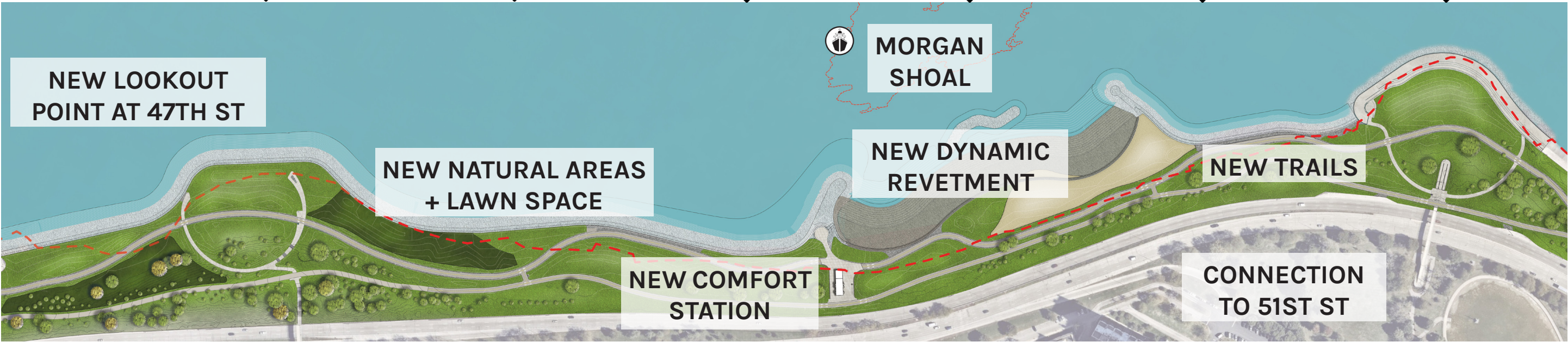
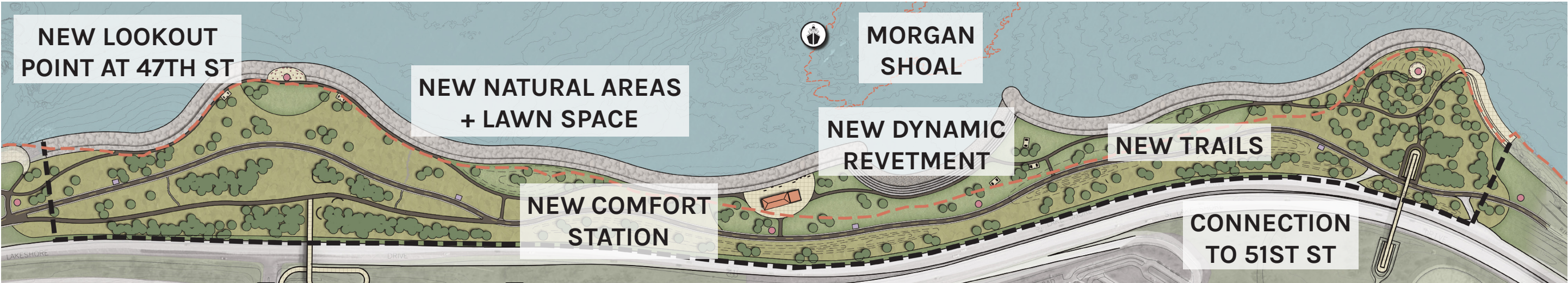
Items Under Consideration



Other

CURRENT PROJECT STATUS

2015 FRAMEWORK PLAN



PRELIMINARY DESIGN

An aerial photograph of Chicago's Lake Shore Drive, showing the road, surrounding greenery, and the city skyline in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

WHAT WE HEARD: GENERAL INFORMATION

RAY GIDEROF, PBC

6

LET'S TALK ABOUT GENERAL INFORMATION Public Engagement Process



"What state of design are you currently in?"

"Why didn't you ask us to write questions while RSVPing?"

"Do you really care about our input?"

"Have the next meetings been scheduled? And if so, where can we find that information?"

"Why has this plan gotten so far as it has without asking for community input?"

- Project sponsors care deeply about the community's input. Intent is to present the proposed project to the community first, then solicit input.
- Project anticipates at least 2 additional community meetings and will be announced through the PBC website

6

LET'S TALK ABOUT GENERAL INFORMATION

Maintenance

"Maintenance?"



Jackson Park Bobolink Meadow

Ongoing maintenance of the project, which will be solely a Park District responsibility, has been a key consideration during preliminary design.

6

LET'S TALK ABOUT GENERAL INFORMATION

Nearby Residences

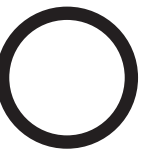


"Are the buildings across from the shoal in danger of being affected by erosion of land?"

No buildings on the west side of Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable Lake Shore Drive are in danger of erosion.

6

LET'S TALK ABOUT GENERAL INFORMATION NEPA Process



Aerial of Morgan Shoal project area

"Where or how far along are you on the NEPA checklist? Where can we access that info as it pertains to this project?"

"Why waste all of this money and time when SHPO may require costly changes?"

"Why have you not initiated contact with SHPO? Why not work with them?"

"Has this been presented to the State Historic Preservation Office? If not, why not?"

"When are you intending on obtaining that agency's input and involvement? Why have you waited so long to get them involved?"

- Present to the community first and then initiate the subsequent consultation with SHPO
- USACE sought and received input from resource agencies, tribes, and the public as part of the NEPA scoping process in 2022
- Per NEPA regulations, the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment must be published for public review prior to finalization

6

LET'S TALK ABOUT GENERAL INFORMATION

Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable Lake Shore Drive



Aerial view of Burnham Park

Is this about protecting DSLED? No, right? Then stop talking about it. We only care about the park when you talk about the highway. It feels like that's the real purpose. That does not build community trust.

The project is a joint effort between the City and the USACE, and has multiple objectives including to prevent land loss and to reduce storm-related damages. Part of the Federal Benefit/Cost justification for the project are the transportation benefits accrued from protecting JBPDLS. The City and Park District are committed to implementing a solution which benefits all Chicagoans and park visitors.

6

LET'S TALK ABOUT GENERAL INFORMATION

Lake Fill



49th St lakefront during a 2019 storm

"Why do we need more land infilled?"

The proposed increase in parkland at the narrowest portions of the park allows for safer Lakefront Trail arrangement, improved stormwater management, increased space for natural habitat and trees, and reduced noise from Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable Lake Shore Drive at the lake edge.

6

LET'S TALK ABOUT GENERAL INFORMATION Promontory Point



Aerial view of Promontory Point

"When will new limestone blocks be installed at the Promontory Point?"

"Also, please give great care to Promontory Point and the repair of the limestone revetments."

Promontory Point is **not part of the scope** of the Morgan Shoal project (45th - 51st Street), but the comment is noted.

An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely Chicago, showing a multi-lane highway running parallel to a green park area. The park is situated between the highway and a body of water. In the background, a dense urban skyline is visible under a hazy sky. The water in the foreground is a deep greenish-blue.

WHAT WE HEARD: COASTAL PROTECTION

MARK WAGSTAFF, SMITHGROUP

1

LET'S TALK ABOUT COASTAL PROTECTION

Revetment Examples



Loyola University Armor Stone Sloped Stone Revetment

"Is there a real work example of the revetment that someone can take a look at? "

"You need photo examples or what "sloped stone revetment" looks like"

- Loyola University has an armor stone revetment in place
- 31st Street Harbor's offshore breakwater is another example of construction with large stone

1

LET'S TALK ABOUT COASTAL PROTECTION

Revetment Examples



Sloped Stone Revetment



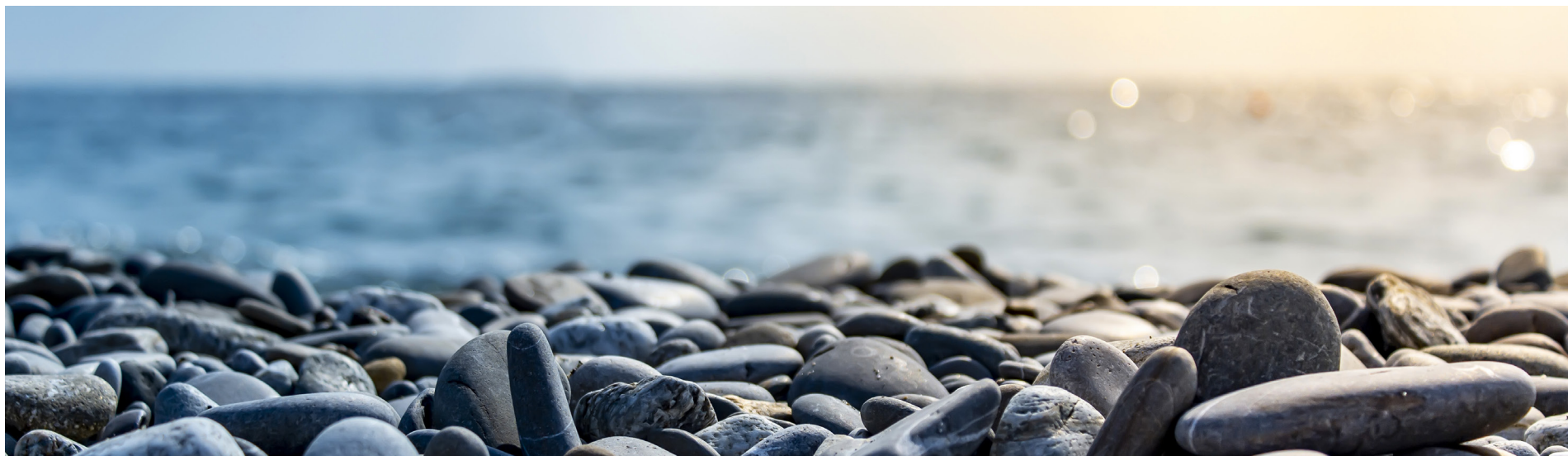
Stepped Stone Revetment



Stepped Concrete Revetment



Offshore Breakwater



Dynamic Revetment

1

LET'S TALK ABOUT COASTAL PROTECTION

Pebble Beach Dynamic Revetment

"Other examples of dynamic revetments? More details of what dynamic revetments are constructed of?"

"What will become of the natural pebbles and rocks that are currently on the beach. Please collect and reuse them"

"LOW SLOPE shorelines DO! Glad this appears to be a part of it"

"Why must pebble beach be destroyed?"



1

LET'S TALK ABOUT COASTAL PROTECTION

Pebble Beach Dynamic Revetment



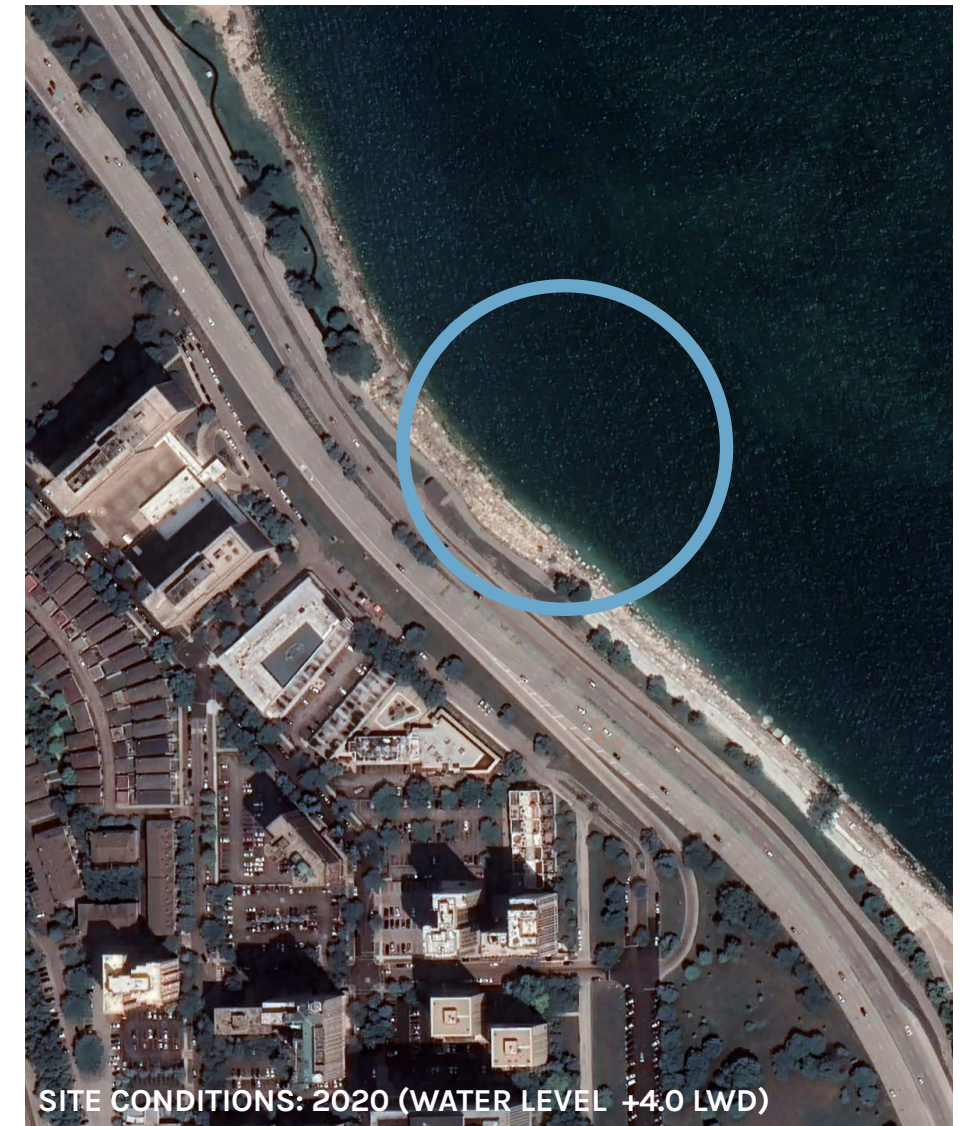
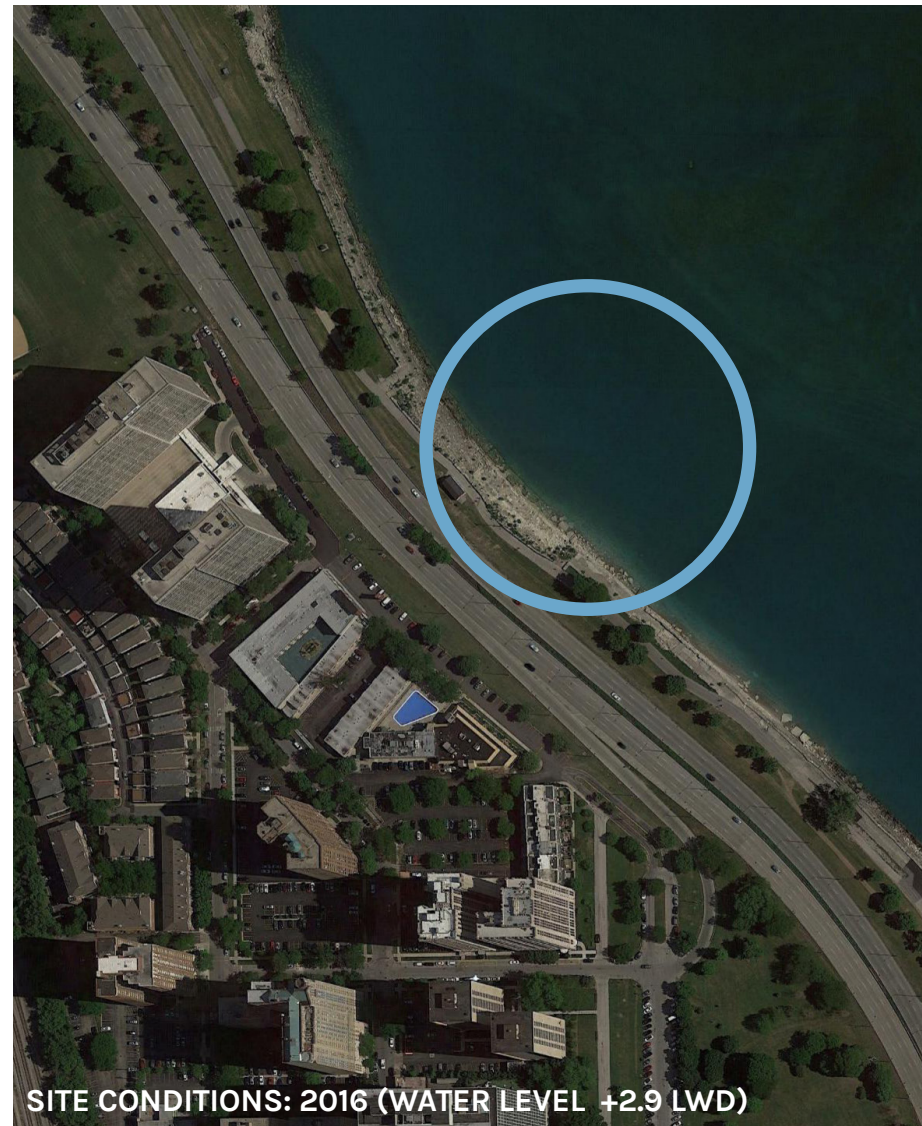
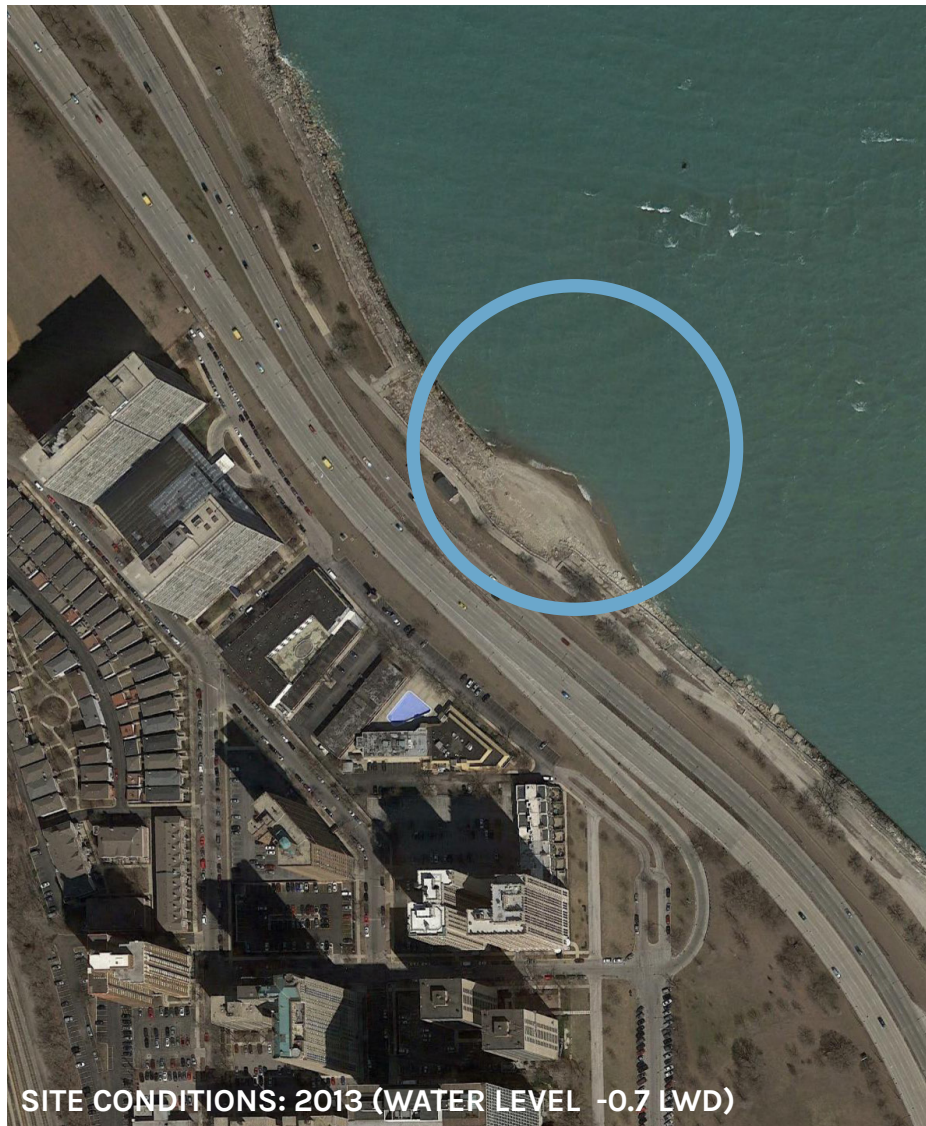
Keweenaw Peninsula, Lake Superior

- A dynamic revetment differs from a typical revetment primarily:
 - has a shallower slope
 - uses much smaller material
 - undergoes some re-shaping resulting from waves
- The dynamic revetment replicates a natural cobble beach
- All available existing pebbles will be salvaged and added to the new 1- to 5- inch cobbles. The new structure will be much bigger than the existing pebble area

1

LET'S TALK ABOUT COASTAL PROTECTION

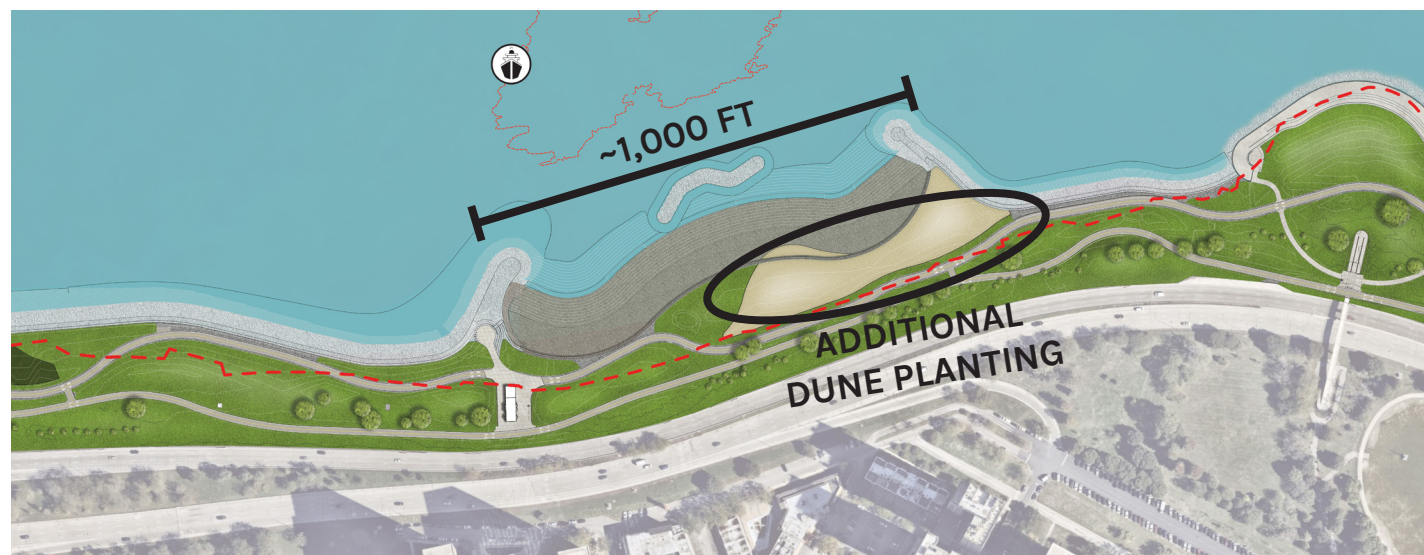
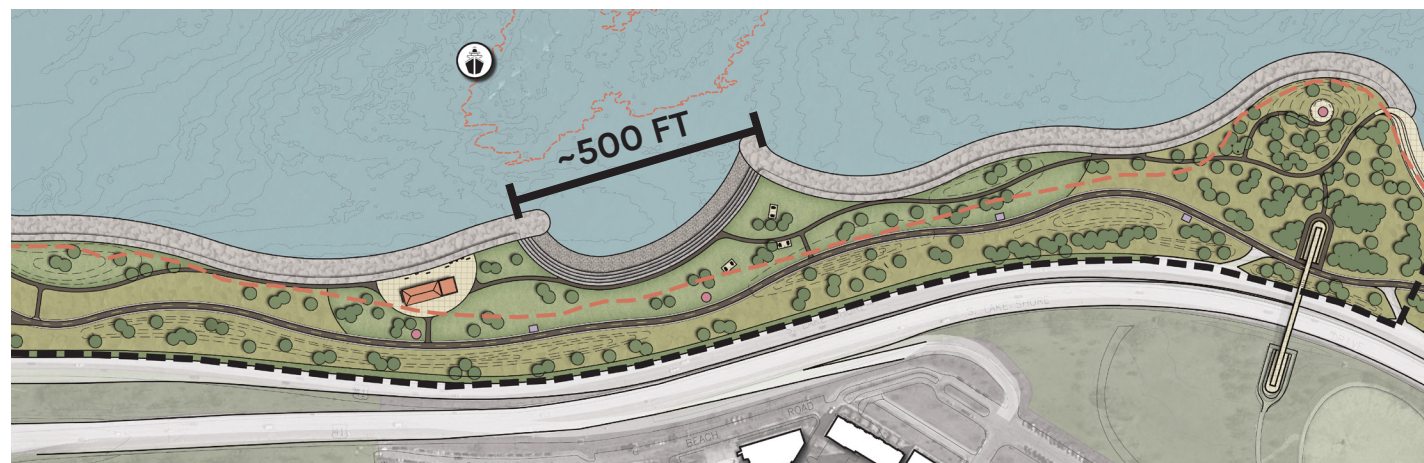
Pebble Beach Dynamic Revetment



1

LET'S TALK ABOUT COASTAL PROTECTION

Natural Shoreline



"I really appreciate the rugged nature of the shore and pebble beach....why does the plan look so smooth and manufactured? "

"Why is there NO natural shoreline in the plan?"

"Consider extending the length of the "dynamic" shore north. Why not more breakwaters? Would this allow for more dynamic stone?"

The proposed design is similar to the Framework Plan, with the exception of the **increased size of the dynamic revetment**, and the **addition of the dune planting area**.

1

LET'S TALK ABOUT COASTAL PROTECTION

Natural Shoreline



Bender Park, Oak Creek WI

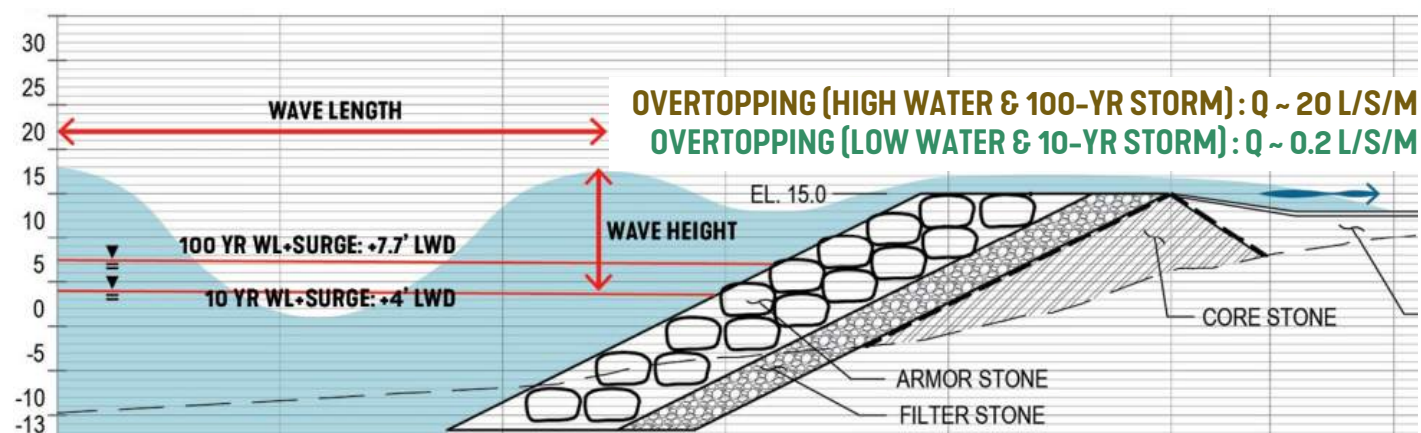
- The graphics utilized in the earlier meeting presentation materials showed an overall concept of the project plan and do not focus on the inherent irregularity of construction with large armor stone and existing salvaged limestone
- The sloped armor stone revetments will have many crevices and interstitial spaces for aquatic organisms to utilize for refuge and foraging

1

LET'S TALK ABOUT COASTAL PROTECTION Lake Levels



"Why doesn't this plan account for low lake levels?"



- The coastal engineering team has examined a wide range of lake levels from extreme low to extreme high
- Generally, high lake levels govern structure selection, stone sizing, and crest height

1

LET'S TALK ABOUT COASTAL PROTECTION

Stepped Concrete Revetment



Lakefront edge at 51st St terminates without connection to trail

Why not use limestone as it is sustainable and worked for many decades?

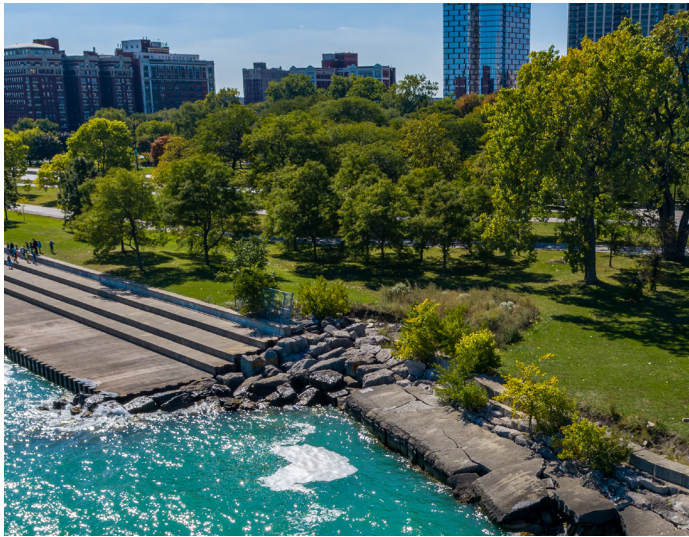
The plans appear to show an abundance of sloped stone that will be a barricade to lake access. Why cant we have stepped stone instead?

"Please NO CONCRETE by the water!"

- Improves existing access to water's edge and is only 15% of the project length
- Illinois Accessibility Code requires a compliant connection to the existing 51st to 54th St Revetment
- Prevent shoreline erosion and loss of park space
- Create equitable access to the lakefront

1

LET'S TALK ABOUT COASTAL PROTECTION Stepped Concrete Revetment



51st St existing concrete installed in 1970 is deteriorated and limits safe pedestrian access to water

- The existing timber crib and limestone structures in this specific project area - which have been substantially repaired and added to several times over their lifespan, have now failed.
- The majority of the proposed shoreline protection for this stretch of lakefront is armor stone revetment (which is constructed from natural stone materials, including limestone) which is a durable solution.

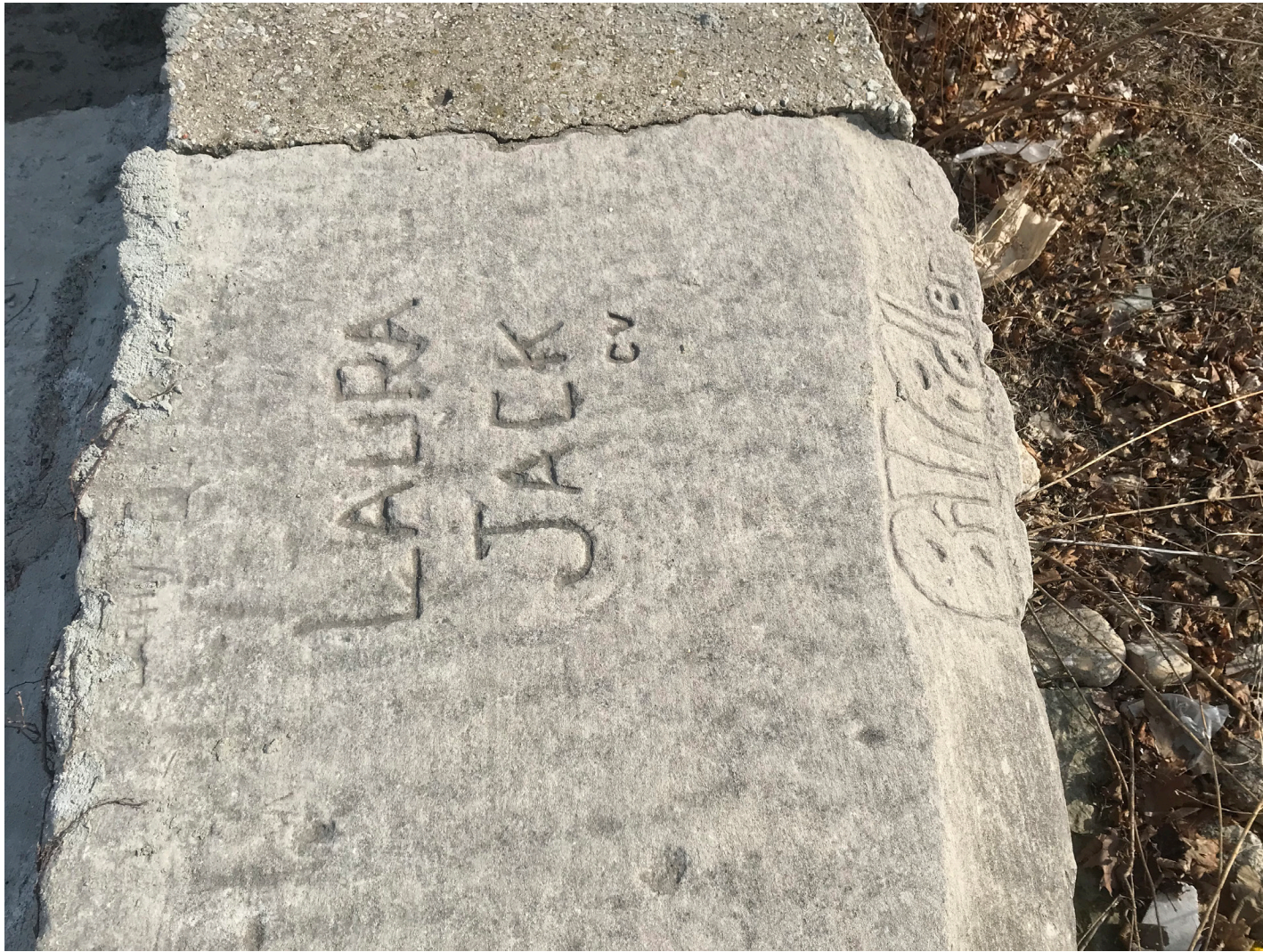
An aerial photograph of a city coastline. In the foreground, a multi-lane highway runs parallel to a green park area. The park has a winding path and a baseball field. To the right of the park is a rocky shoreline meeting a large body of water. In the background, a dense city skyline is visible across the water under a hazy sky.

WHAT WE HEARD: SUSTAINABILITY + REUSE

MARK WAGSTAFF, SMITHGROUP

4

LET'S TALK ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY & REUSE Stone Carvings



Example of rock carvings along Morgan Shoal

"Is there a plan for reuse of odd-shaped blocks that host some of the best carvings? There are more than 1,000 carvings along Morgan Shoal. At least 200 blocks host carvings of note."

- Limestone blocks that have carvings that are not appropriately sized for use in the stepped revetment can be used elsewhere in the project - for example at nodes where seating is to be provided.
- Design Team to evaluate further opportunities to salvage and reuse other smaller blocks.

An aerial photograph of Chicago's Lake Shore Drive, showing the road curving along the city's coastline. The road is filled with cars, and there are green spaces and parks along the shore. In the background, the Chicago skyline is visible across the water, with various skyscrapers and buildings. The water is a deep blue-green color, and the sky is overcast.

WHAT WE HEARD: VISITOR EXPERIENCE

HEATHER GLEASON, CPD

2

LET'S TALK ABOUT VISITOR EXPERIENCE Pedestrian Access

"Will the public be able to (in most weather) walk on top of the sloped stone?"

"What percentage of the Morgan Shoal lake edge will be walkable by people?"

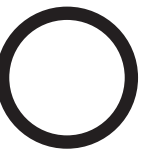
"We would like to be able to walk by the waters edge from 55th to 31st . Continuous path, right at the edge"

- Improves existing access to water's edge
- Illinois Accessibility Code requires a compliant connection to the existing 51st to 54th St Revetment
- Different types of revetments have varying levels of topography, thus are impacted differently by Lake Michigan wave action
- The irregularity and void space in the proposed armor stone revetment is an important part of protecting the shoreline; dissipating the wave energy



2

LET'S TALK ABOUT VISITOR EXPERIENCE Recreation



Proposed design of the dynamic revetment, presented 2/22/24

"What is the recreation intent for pebble beach?"

The dynamic revetment area is designed to allow park visitors to enjoy the waterfront in a naturalized setting. There is no specific recreational intent.

2

LET'S TALK ABOUT VISITOR EXPERIENCE "Messy" vs "Manicured"



Wilmette Beach dune natural area

"Living in an urban area, we need to retain some roughness, remoteness, and adventure. This plan takes away all of that. We need wilderness"

"We like an organic (messy) look, as natural as possible"

"Messy blocks, scatter some of the huge limestone blocks on the pebble beach. Think organic and not so manicured"

- Balance between traditional parkland and natural areas
- Sand dune with native shoreline plants buffers the dynamic revetment
- Salvaged limestone block locations are under review to create a more organic setting. Once the stones are placed, the Park District will not groom or rearrange them.

2

LET'S TALK ABOUT VISITOR EXPERIENCE Bike Racks



Comfort Station Plaza

"More bike racks"

"Lots of bike racks - at each road and at the comfort station"

"A bike rack would be nice"

"Bike rack; quadruple quantity"

The proposed plan does include bike racks in the vicinity of **47th Street, 51st Street and the Restrooms**. Additional bike racks can be considered.

2

LET'S TALK ABOUT VISITOR EXPERIENCE Secluded Spaces



"Preference for cozy & quiet"

"We like the enclosed and secluded feeling of pebble beach"

"Consider a berm BTW. LSD and bike path, even 3ft would help with sounds"

"Keep high visual barrier behind pebble beach/ dynamic revetment - so LSD is not visible from the beach"

- Incorporating greater elevation changes between the dynamic revetment and the backshore to create more quiet zones will be studied

2

LET'S TALK ABOUT VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Silver Spray



Aerial of Lake Michigan, highlighting the shipwreck Silver Spray

"Will the shipwreck be highlighted under this plan (Silver Spray)?"

The proposed plan does not include any changes to the Silver Spray shipwreck. Historical and/or educational signage may be introduced at a later date.

2

LET'S TALK ABOUT VISITOR EXPERIENCE Restrooms



Existing restroom building located below FEMA flood elevation

"Comfort station should be open year-round"

"Please simply fix up and MAINTAIN current comfort station"

"Just preserve existing comfort station"

"Open year round restrooms"

2

LET'S TALK ABOUT VISITOR EXPERIENCE Restrooms



Proposed restroom design, presented 2/22/24

- Current restroom is deteriorated beyond repair and the area will be lifted up out of the current FEMA flood elevation
- Opening restrooms along the lakefront year-round is not currently feasible
- Existing restroom structures were built as seasonal-use buildings, without insulation, heating, and other amenities required to maintain utilities and safe use throughout the off-season
- Viewed systemically along the entirety of the lakefront, opening restrooms year-round would incur utility, staffing, and operational costs the Park District does not have budgeted

2

LET'S TALK ABOUT VISITOR EXPERIENCE

ADA Access to the Water



Closeup of proposed overlook to Dynamic Revetment, presented 2/22/24

"ADA access to water @
'dynamic revetment?'"

CPD's Disability Policy Office is exploring accessibility options for equitable access to the dynamic revetment.

2

LET'S TALK ABOUT VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Open Water Swimming



"Open water swimming is a growing sport/activity with health benefits constantly being discovered. Chicago has almost no wild swimming spaces. How will this important sport/outdoor activity be protected?"

- Chicago's lakefront is among our city's most popular destinations and supports various forms of recreation enjoyed by residents and tourists
- Swimming is only allowed in designated areas from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. when lifeguards are present
- Other non-sanctioned swim locations are prominently marked with stenciled signage, and visitors are strictly prohibited from entering the water in these areas

An aerial photograph of Chicago's Lakefront, showing the city skyline in the distance, a multi-lane highway with traffic, a green park area with trees and a baseball field, and the calm waters of Lake Michigan. The text "WHAT WE HEARD: NATURAL RESOURCES" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

WHAT WE HEARD: NATURAL RESOURCES

HEATHER GLEASON, CPD

3

LET'S TALK ABOUT NATURAL RESOURCES

Habitat Protection



A mudpuppy, whose habitat is along the lakefront of Lake Michigan

"What is the anticipated aquatic life destruction with this project overall? At 49th? What is the anticipated avian life loss with the project overall?"

"Have marine biologists reviewed for preservation and aquatic habitat for all nature species?"

- Aquatic biologists provide their professional input as part of NEPA
- Project replaces habitat in-kind
- Underwater breakwater expands habitat for fishes and aquatic organisms
- Nearshore and in-water work will be timed to avoid impacts to mudpuppies

3

LET'S TALK ABOUT NATURAL RESOURCES

Tree Planting



New tree planted at 47th St

"Timing of tree planting is crucial. Winter planting -> dead trees."

- All plantings and maintenance will follow Park District DCNR standards to ensure healthy natural areas
- Park District does not plant trees during winter or summer when extreme temperatures impact tree health. Plantings occur in fall or spring.

3

LET'S TALK ABOUT NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural Areas vs Lawn

Can the natural meadow areas be bigger?

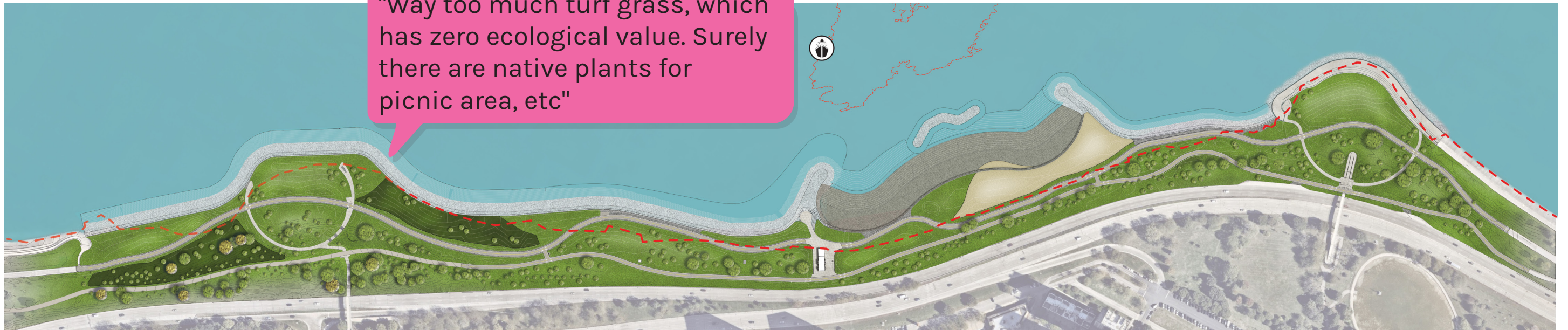
"I would still like to see more native plant areas. Less lawn area and more trees"

"Why do we need lawn?"

"What is the advantage of all the lawn area?"

"Way too much turf grass, which has zero ecological value. Surely there are native plants for picnic area, etc"

- Balance between traditional parkland and natural areas
- Up to 149 new trees planned
- Chicago Park District will determine exact, final locations of trees when the specimens are available



An aerial photograph of a city coastline. A multi-lane highway runs parallel to a green park area, which is bordered by a rocky shoreline and a large body of water. In the background, a dense urban skyline is visible under a hazy sky.

WHAT WE HEARD: CONSTRUCTION + LOGISTICS

RAY GIDEROF, PBC

5

LET'S TALK ABOUT CONSTRUCTION LOGISTICS



Construction Schedule

"When will the RFP come out to the public?"

"When will we see the complete timeline?"

"What is the timeline to finish the project?"

- Contractor procurement will be managed by the PBC; updates will be provided throughout the process
- Anticipated duration for the construction work is approximately 5 years, upon commencement of the work and approval of all required permits
- PBC will continue to provide construction progress updates before and during construction

5

LET'S TALK ABOUT CONSTRUCTION LOGISTICS

Construction Cost Estimate

"How much does the remaining project cost?"



- The preliminary estimated range of the construction cost is \$110M to \$135M
- This will be reviewed as the design is refined

5

LET'S TALK ABOUT CONSTRUCTION LOGISTICS

Construction Diversity Goals



"Will there be a local hiring agreement?"

"Diversity and inclusion in this project is of great importance."

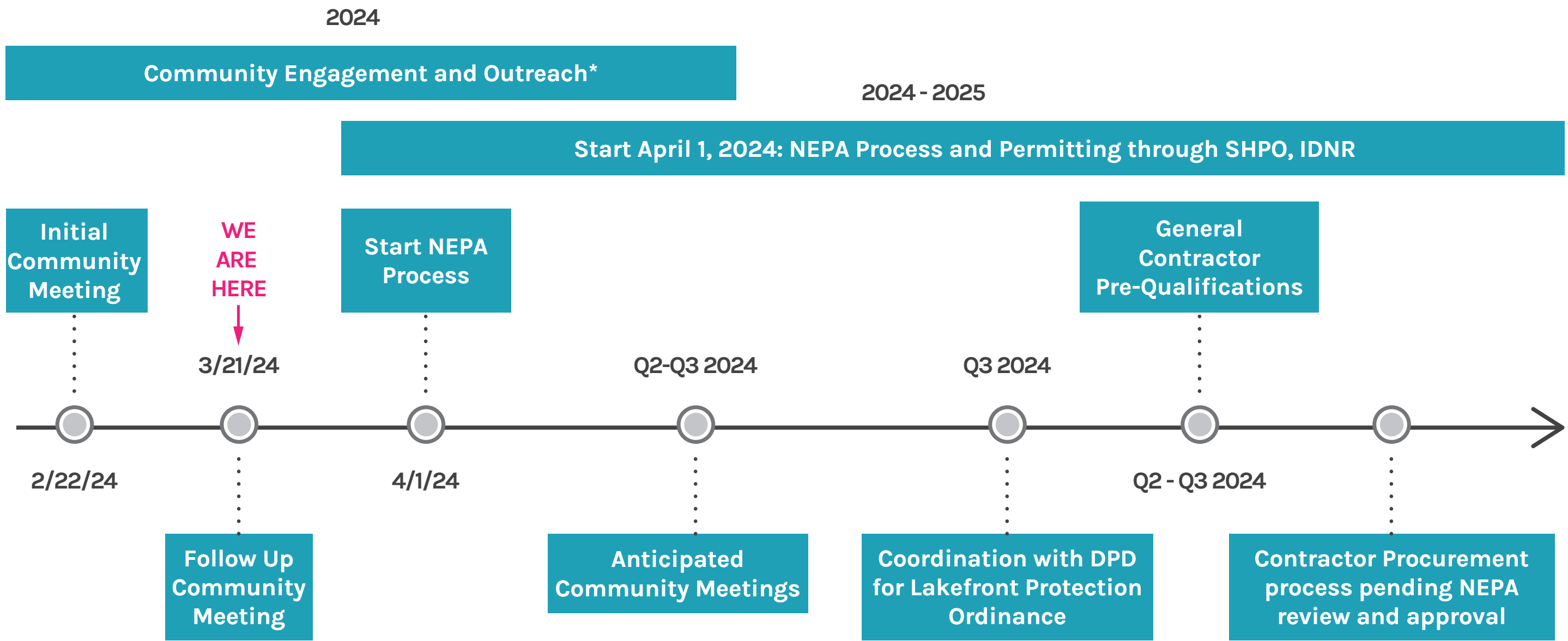
- The Project will include local community hiring requirements, as well as M/WBE Subcontractor goals.
- The local community hiring requirements and M/WBE Subcontractor goals are being determined.

An aerial photograph of Chicago's Lake Shore Drive, showing the multi-lane highway curving along the city's coastline. To the left of the road is a green park area with trees and a baseball field. To the right is the calm, greenish-blue water of Lake Michigan. In the far distance, the dense Chicago skyline is visible under a hazy, overcast sky.

NEXT STEPS

RAY GIDEROF, PBC

PROJECT SCHEDULE MOVING FORWARD



*Community and stakeholder updates will continue throughout the duration of the project.



Link to PBC Project Page

THANK YOU

We appreciate the active participation and care for the project.

For more information, please contact
PBC@PBCChicago.com or call (312) 744-3090
www.pbcchicago.com/projects/Morgan-shoal-project