

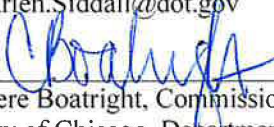


DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
CITY OF CHICAGO

MEMO

Date: October 31, 2025

To: Darien Siddall, Environmental Protection Specialist
Illinois Division, Federal Highways Administration
Darien.Siddall@dot.gov

From: 
Ciere Boatright, Commissioner
City of Chicago, Department of Planning and Development

Cc: Kenya Merritt, Deputy Mayor, City of Chicago Mayor's Office
Patrick Murphy, First Deputy, City of Chicago, Dept. of Planning and Development
Bradley Roback, Director of Planning Research and Development, City of Chicago, Dept. of Planning and Development
Todd Wyatt, Coordinating Planner, City of Chicago Dept. of Planning and Development
Lisa Misher, Deputy Corporation Counsel, City of Chicago, Dept. of Law
Carlos Ramirez-Rosa, General Superintendent & CEO, Chicago Park District
Heather Gleason, Director, Planning and Construction, Chicago Park District
Craig Turner, Acting Commissioner, Chicago Dept. of Transportation
David Miller, Chief Highway Engineer, Chicago Dept. of Transportation

Re: *2025 Annual Report on Progress of the Jackson Park Mitigation Measures in Jackson Park, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois (Annual Report)*

In accordance with Section IV – Schedule, Monitoring, and Reporting of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for projects in Jackson Park in Chicago, Illinois, which was finalized in December 2020, we are submitting the attached Annual Report on the eight (8) mitigation measures outlined in the MOA.

Please note that under Section III – Duration, the MOA will expire if the terms are not carried out within five (5) years of its execution, which will occur in December 2025. The City is available to discuss options for continuing our compliance with the MOA while completing the remaining work.

Despite schedule delays and the staffing and funding shortages previously reported in past Annual Reports, the City continues to make meaningful progress toward completing all eight mitigation measures. Several measures, however, will require additional time beyond the original target schedule as noted below:

- 1.A Updated NRHP Documentation (revised target completion Q2 2026)
- 1.B Field Documentation (Completed Q1 2021)
- 1.C Cultural Landscape Report (revised target completion Q2 2026)
- 1.D Interpretive Materials Phases 2 and 3 (revised target completion Q2 2027)
- 1.E English Stone Comfort Station Phase 2 Rehabilitation (revised target completion Q2 2027)
- 1.F Statue of the Republic Phase 2 Rehabilitation (revised target completion Q2 2027)
- 1.G Design Review for the East End of the Midway Plaisance (Completed and will open Q4 2025)
- 1.H Review of Planting Plans for Required Tree Replacement (revised target completion Q4 2026)

Finally, aside from the revised target completion dates noted above, the City has not encountered any additional problems, disputes, or objections in implementing the terms of the MOA. CDOT will ensure that all Annual Reports are made publicly available on a City website.

Please contact Todd Wyatt, Coordinating Planner, City of Chicago, Department of Planning and Development if you have any questions or need additional information.

2025 Annual Report on Progress of the Jackson Park MOA Mitigation Measures

Type	Measure		MOA description	MOA Attachment "C" - Target Schedule	Tentative Phasing	Tentative Start	2025 Status
Research and Documentation	I.A	Updated NRHP Documentation	CDOT and the Chicago Park District in consultation with the Illinois SHPO will prepare an updated nomination of the Jackson Park Historic Landscape District and Midway Plaisance to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The updated nomination will conform to the current standards for nominations to the NRHP and will be available to the public in digital form once final. The updated nomination will be prepared by or under the supervision of individuals who meet the relevant Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualification Standards for history or architectural history (48 Fed. Reg. 44738- 44739, Sept. 29, 1983).	Submission of the updated nomination to Illinois SHPO: to be submitted by the end of 2025	N/A	2024	Contract for consultant is in process of being executed. The NHRP will be updated in tandem with the Cultural Landscape Report. Submission of the draft nomination to Illinois SHPO to be submitted by Q4 2025. Based on the review comments, anticipated completion Q2 2026.
	I.B	Field Documentation	CDOT and the Chicago Park District will prepare photographs and drawings documenting existing conditions on (a) the 19.3-acre site planned for the OPC, (b) the east end of the Midway Plaisance, and (c) the areas planned for traffic improvements in Jackson Park. The work will be prepared consistent with the Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) guidelines for an existing conditions plan, vegetative plan, field photographs keyed to a site plan, and aerial photographs. The work will be prepared by or under the supervision of individuals who meet the relevant SOI Professional Qualification Standards for history or historic landscape architecture (62 Fed. Reg. 33720-33721, June 20, 1997).	Final portfolio of documentation: to be completed by the end of 2021	N/A	N/A	Completed January 2021
	I.C	Cultural Landscape Report	CDOT and the Chicago Park District, in consultation with the SHPO, will prepare Part 1 (site history, existing conditions, and analysis/evaluation) and Part 2 (long-term preservation strategy) of a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for Jackson Park,consistent with federal guidance for cultural landscape reports in: Robert R. Page, Cathy A.Gilbert, and Susan A. Dolan, A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, CulturalResource Stewardship and Partnerships, Park Historic Structures and Cultural LandscapesProgram, 1998). The CLR will assemble and analyze pertinent historic documentation and will provide recommendations for the long-term management of Jackson Park based on significance,existing condition, and use, taking into consideration all changes to Jackson Park that are proposed as part of the undertaking. The work on the CLR will be prepared by or under the supervision of individuals who meet the relevant SOI Professional Qualification Standards and are experienced in cultural landscape identification and evaluation and in the application of the SOI Standards for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes.	Final Cultural Landscape Report: to be submitted by 2024	Part 1 (site history, existing conditions, and analysis/evaluation)	2023	Submission of the draft report to Illinois SHPO to be submitted by Q4 2025. Based on the review comments, anticipated completion Q2 2026.
					Part 2 (long-term preservation strategy)	2024	The scope for Phase 2 CLR will be updated in tandem with the NRHP. Submission of the draft report to Illinois SHPO to be submitted by Q1 2026. Based on the review comments, anticipated completion Q2 2026

Interpretation	I.D	Interpretive Materials	CDOT and the Chicago Park District will develop and implement a plan (the plan) to install interpretive materials or carry out programs to commemorate and present the cultural and natural historical contributions of Jackson Park and its use by South Side residents. The plan for interpretive materials may encompass different formats for interpretation such as a digital program components and interpretive displays. The draft plan will be created in consultation with Consulting Parties, local museums, community groups, schools and universities, to determine the appropriate content, format, and locations for interpretive materials. The draft plan will be made available for 45-day review and comment by signatories, invited signatories, and concurring parties to this MOA. CDOT and Chicago Park District will prepare and provide a comment/response document summarizing the comments received. In light of these comments, CDOT and Chicago Park District will prepare the final plan and provide it to signatories, invited signatories, and concurring parties to this MOA before implementing the final plan.	Draft plan for interpretive materials: to be initiated in 2021	Phase 1: Project initiation	N/A	Complete December 2022
					Phase 2: Draft plan creation and review	2024	Revised draft in progress based on public comments. Upon receipt, CPkD will transmit to CDOT/IDOT for review and comment Q4, 2025. Based on IDOT/SHPO review comments, anticipated completion Q1 2026.
					Phase 3: Implementation	Pending	CPkD will seek funding for the implementation work. Projected to start in 2Q 2026 with anticipated completion of work 2Q 2027.

Rehabilitation	I.E	English Stone Comfort Station	CDOT and the Chicago Park District will prepare a Historic Structures Report (HSR) for the English Stone Comfort Station and will rehabilitate it in light of the recommendation from the HSR. The English Stone Comfort Station is located on the western perimeter of Jackson Park. The recommendation provided in the HSR will be consistent with applicable SOI Standards for Rehabilitation (36 C.F.R. § 68.3(b)). The HSR and future rehabilitation design will be provided to the Illinois SHPO for 45-day review and comment. CDOT and Chicago Park District will prepare and provide a comment/response document summarizing the comments received and will finalize the HSR and rehabilitation design in light of comments. The HSR and the final rehabilitation design will be performed by or under the direction of individuals meeting the SOI Professional Qualification Standards for historic architects (48 Fed. Reg. 44739, Sept. 29, 1983).	Final Historic Structures Report: to be submitted by the end of 2023	Phase 1: historic structures report	2024	Historic Structures Report was submitted to SHPO for review in Q3 2024.
				Rehabilitation work: to be initiated following approval of the Historic Structures Report and rehabilitation design.	Phase 2: rehabilitation	2025	CPkD is seeking funding for the rehabilitation work identified in the Historic Structures Report. CPkD will begin construction documents 4Q 2025. Projected Construction to start in 2Q 2026 with anticipated completion of work 2Q 2027.
	I.F	Statue of the Republic	CDOT and the Chicago Park District will prepare a conservation assessment and rehabilitation plan for the Statue of the Republic and will implement the rehabilitation in phases. The Statue of the Republic is located at the intersection of East Hayes Drive and South Richards Drive in Jackson Park. The rehabilitation plan will be consistent with applicable SOI Standards for Rehabilitation (36 C.F.R. 68.3(b)). The draft rehabilitation plan will be provided to the Illinois SHPO for 45-day review and comment. CDOT and Chicago Park District will prepare and provide a comment/response document summarizing the comments received and will finalize the documents in light of comments. The assessment, plan, and rehabilitation will be performed by or under the direction of professional objects conservators with experience in applying the SOI Standards for Rehabilitation and conserving outdoor statues.	Final conservation assessment and proposed rehabilitation plan: to be submitted by the end of 2023	Phase 1: Conservation Assessment	2024	CPk has proposal to evaluate a phased Statue restoration plan. 1st phase is historical research and evaluation.
				Rehabilitation work: to be initiated following approval of the conservation assessment and proposed rehabilitation plan	Phase 2: Rehabilitation	Pending	CPkD will seek funding for the rehabilitation work identified in the statue assessment. Projected to start in 2Q 2026 with anticipated completion of work 2Q 2027.

Design Review	I.G	Design Review for the East End of the Midway Plaisance	CDOT and the Chicago Park District plan modifications to the east end of the Midway Plaisance consistent with SOI Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Properties with respect to standards 9 and 10, which address compatible new additions. CDOT and the Chicago Park District will provide the draft design for 45-day review and comment by the public and signatories, invited signatories, and concurring parties to this MOA concerning landscaping features and other character-defining elements of the design. In furtherance of the City's responsibilities under UPARR, the final design for the east end of the Midway Plaisance will include new play area features whose ultimate selection will be made by the City after seeking public comment and consultation with the NPS on the final play-area design options from the Chicago Park District. CDOT and the Chicago Park District will prepare and implement a final design in light of comments concerning the draft design and the play area features.	Input on the draft design from the public, signatories, invited signatories and concurring parties, and public input on the play area features: to be completed by 2022	N/A	2021	The project is complete. Sod growing in and will open Q4 2025.
Planting Review	I.H	Review of Planting Plans for Required Tree Replacement	CDOT and the Chicago Park District will ensure that planting plans detailing the species and placement of native plantings required in the GLFER mitigation areas are consistent with the original GLFER approval. USACE will be provided the final plans for review consistent with Section 408.	Submission of planting plans: prior to planting of related replacement plants	N/A	Pending	These landscape improvements are part of CDOT's Jackson Park Mobility Improvement Bid Package 2 Construction Documents. The final landscape documents need to be reviewed and approved by the USACE. CDOT anticipates Bid Package 2 construction to begin early 2026.