



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TIF Proposed for Park Improvements Across North, Northwest and South Sides**

More than \$18 million in facility improvements for nine Chicago parks would be made possible through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) proposals introduced to City Council today by Mayor Lori Lightfoot.

The proposed financing would help the Chicago Park District to make upgrades that reinforce the parks' collective roles as community anchors.

- Garfield Park, at 100 N. Central Park Ave. in the East Garfield Park community, would be allocated \$8.9 million in TIF to support auditorium interior renovations, electrical upgrades, and roofing and drainage improvements. Additional work would include ballfield and garden enhancements and upgrades that help the park's former powerhouse and horse stable to serve as a welcome center and gallery space. Project costs would be entirely funded with TIF.
- Douglass Park, at 1401 S. Sacramento Drive in North Lawndale, would be allocated \$600,000 in TIF for field house renovations, auditorium electrical improvements, and handicapped accessible upgrades. The cost of the project would be entirely funded with TIF.
- Jessie Owners Park, at 8800 S. Clyde Ave. in Calumet Heights, would be allocated \$300,000 for pathway paving, lighting, and seating upgrades. The cost of the project would be entirely funded with TIF.
- Kiwanis Park, at 3315 W. Carmen Ave. in the North Park community, would be allocated \$800,000 in TIF to stabilize the shoreline of the North Branch of the Chicago River, to remove invasive species and restore natural habitat, and to create



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a multi-use trail. The project, adjacent the Von Steuben High School campus, would be entirely funded with TIF.

- Legion Park, at 5501 N. Kedzie Ave. in the North Park community, would be allocated \$2 million in TIF to stabilize the shoreline of the North Branch of the Chicago River, to remove invasive species and restore natural habitat, and to create a multi-use trail. The project, adjacent to the Northside College Prep campus, would be entirely funded with TIF.
- River Park, at 5100 N. Francisco Ave. in Lincoln Square, would be allocated \$750,000 in TIF to support park boat house improvements. The upgrades would enhance boat storage and water access for Park District paddling program participants. Project costs would be entirely funded with TIF.
- Ronan Park, at 3000 W. Argyle St. in Lincoln Square, would be allocated \$3.5 million for community garden improvements, a new riverfront plaza, a new performance pavilion, and related landscape improvements. The cost of the project would be entirely funded with TIF.
- Park 594, a planned pocket park at 3159 S. Halsted in Bridgeport, would be allocated \$350,000 in TIF for fencing, paving, seating, lighting, a drinking fountain and landscaping. The cost of the project would be entirely funded with TIF.
- Humboldt Park, at 140 N. Humboldt Drive in the West Town community, would be allocated \$1.1 million for field house interior improvements, field house and boat house electrical upgrades, and accessibility enhancements. Project costs would be entirely funded with TIF.

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### **Former Morton Salt Industrial Complex Proposed for Landmark Designation**

West Town's former Morton Salt warehouse complex along the North Branch of the Chicago River would be designated as an official City of Chicago Landmark under a proposal submitted to City Council today.

Designed by the Chicago architecture firm Graham, Anderson, Probst & White and completed in 1930, the 4.24-acre complex at 1357 N. Elston Ave. was used by the Morton Salt Co. for the storage, packaging, and distribution of rock salt until 2015.

Featuring a truss-roofed West Shed Building that has long been one of the community's most visible structures, the brick and steel-frame complex is considered an excellent example of utilitarian, early 20th-century industrial architecture. The designation would protect all exterior elevations from demolition or alteration; the interior of the West Shed;



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painted signage on the roof of the shed; and select structural steel remnants of its former industrial use.

The designation was recommended by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks in April 2020.

The complex is currently undergoing a \$50 million renovation by Blue Star properties and R2 as an entertainment facility.

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### **Property Tax Incentive Would Support 1,000-Job Call Center**

The adaptive re-use of a vacant Chatham department store as a 1,000-job Discover customer care center would be made possible by a property tax incentive introduced to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot.

The Class 7(b) property tax incentive would support DL3 Chatham LLC's acquisition and renovation of a 127,000-square-foot, former Target store as a customer care center for Discover Financial Services. The \$45 million project would employ customer service agents starting at \$17 per hour.

The Cook County Class 7(b) tax incentive lowers property taxes for 12 years on qualified commercial development projects. The incentive would reduce property taxes on the site by approximately \$2.48 million over the next 12 years.

The call center, which would include about 5,000 square feet of space for community use, is expected to be fully operational by the end of this year. The building has been vacant for two years.

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