Preserving, Protecting, and Enhancing Lincoln Park’s Art, Architecture, and Nature for All.
NORTH POND
RESTORATION PROJECT
PRESENTERS:

Lincoln Park Conservancy
Doug Widener, Executive Director
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LTD.
Lee Fell, Assistant Department Head, Civil Engineering Design Department
SmithGroup
Jacob Blue, Landscape Architect
Project Team

**PROJECT TEAM:**

Lincoln Park Conservancy  
project lead, long-term steward

Chicago Park District  
co-lead, land-owner

Consulting Team:

Christopher B. Burke Engineering LTD.

SmithGroup

#DigDeepForNorthPond
VIEW OF NORTH POND

PARTNERS:

Chicago Park District

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

Alderman Michele Smith, 43rd Ward

Volunteer stewards and users of the historic casting pier

Chicago Ornithological Society

North Pond Restaurant

The Lincoln Park community

Millions of park visitors who benefit from the Pond

Thousands of plants and animals that call North Pond home

NORTH POND RESTAURANT

#DigDeepForNorthPond
• **Sunshine Playscape** – Completed 2019

• **Lincoln Monument & Gardens** – Completed 1989  Designated a Chicago Historic Landmark in 2018

• **Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool** – Completed in 2002

• **Eli Bates Fountain** – Restoration completed in 1999

• **Lincoln Park Framework Plan of 1995**

• **Shakespeare Monument** – Completed 1989
• Lincoln Park Greeters – established in 2019, 20+ active volunteers at the Conservatory

• Corporate Workdays – established in 2008, 50+ businesses annually

• Lincoln Park Docents – established in 2001, 120+ active volunteers at the Conservatory and/or the Lily Pool

• North Pond and Lily Pool Gardeners – established in 1999, 200+ active volunteers

• Adopt a Monument – begun in 1984, match donors to public art requiring conservation
PLAN OF LINCOLN PARK AND BOULEVARDS. 1887.

REFERENCES.
Volunteer Recruitment – build our greatest asset

#DigDeepForNorthPond
KNOWLEDGE
• complete key studies needed to finalize plan
• conduct public meetings to garner community input

DREDGE
• deepen Pond to increase oxygen turnover
• provide additional aquatic habitat
• reduce algal blooms

EDGE
• grade and stabilize Pond edge to decrease erosion and runoff
• increase public engagement

SEDGE
• increase and improve natural areas around Pond
• capture, filter, and release stormwater entering the Pond
• reduce reliance on municipal water

PLEDGE
• community support is vital to North Pond’s restoration.
• the project will be 100% financed by private / community
• resources and long-term community stewardship is vital.
North Pond - Today
Existing Pond Edge Conditions

Proper pond edge conditions include:
- Native wet meadow prairie
- Emergent & aquatic species
- Oyster water

- Habitat structure
- Pond edge condition
- Mudflats
- Additional wildlife habitat

Proposed Pond Edge Conditions

- Native wet meadow prairie
- Emergent & aquatic species
- Oyster water

- Habitat structure
- Pond edge condition
- Mudflats
- Additional wildlife habitat
Solar Impacts

EXISTING SOLAR IMPACT ON POND

- Shallow ponds freeze deeper in winter, limiting year-round habitat.
- Organic debris from leaves, branches, grass, and algae accumulate on the pond, creating a logistic oxygen demand to decompose the material.
- Build-up of this organic material leads to anaerobic conditions, and ultimately results in maintaining conditions of more organic debris at the pond bottom.
- Thermal warming penetrates deeper, limiting natural stratification.

SUMMER

WINTER

* Temperatures shown are estimates for diagrammatic purposes. They reflect realistic expectations, not measured values.

Proposed Pond Turnover

Deep water results in warmer winter temperatures at the pond bottom, providing fish and other aquatic species during the winter.

Lincoln Park Conservancy

#digdeepfornorthpond
1. Convert open water areas into emergent habitat
2. Make the pond deeper

North Pond - Today
Grading Exhibit
Dredging Plan
Proposed Drainage Plan
View of North Pond looking south

1. Overgrown native vegetation blocks views of the pond and the city from the trail.

2. Vegetation in places contributes to erodible slopes.

3. Shallow pond contributes to algal blooms and warmer water.
View of North Pond looking south

1. Overgrown native vegetation blocks views of the pond and the city from the trail.

2. Vegetation in places contributes to erodible slopes.
View of North Pond looking north

1. Access on the water is limited in places, and includes the casting pier

2. Vegetation in places contributes to erodible slopes.

3. Shallow pond contributes to algal blooms and warmer water.
1. New walk along Cannon Dr.
2. New walk from Cannon Dr. to pond
3. New pond access
4. New trail near Stockton, to pond
View of North Pond looking north

1. New native planting improves views across the pond from the north
2. New pond access area through wet meadow and emergent vegetation
Plan view of the ‘X’ Boardwalk

New pond access provides views of the open pond, access to wet meadow and emergent planting zones.

Additional seating and interpretive signage are shown on the new structure.
View of North Pond looking south

North Pond – Option A
View south from the ‘X’ Boardwalk

North Pond – Option A
1. New walk along Cannon Dr.
2. New walk from Cannon Dr. to pond
3. New pond access
4. New trail near Stockton, to pond

North Pond – Option B

#digdeepfornorthpond
View of North Pond looking north

1. New native planting improves views across the pond from the north

2. New pond access area through wet meadow and emergent vegetation
Plan view of the ‘Arc’ Boardwalk

New pond access provides views of the open pond, access to wet meadow and emergent planting zones.

Additional seating and interpretive signage are shown on the new structure.
View of North Pond looking south

North Pond – Option B
View south from the ‘Arc’ Boardwalk
Project Schedule

2020

- **PROJECT 30% DESIGN**

2021

- **MEETINGS WITH LPC, CPD AND STAKEHOLDERS**
- **WE ARE HERE**
- **PUBLIC INPUT**
- **PREPARATION OF CONSTRUCTION PLANS AND PERMITTING**
- **BIDDING PROCESS AND CONTRACTOR SELECTION**

2022

- **CONSTRUCTION**
  - DREDGING OF POND / HAUL OFF OF MATERIAL
  - EDGE GRADING
  - UNDERDRAINS INSTALLATION
  - PLANTINGS / RESTORATION
  - PUBLIC AMENITIES INSTALLATIONS
  - PUNCHLIST / PROJECT CLOSED
Proposed Project Budget - DRAFT

Pond Dredge, Lining, and Edge Restoration - $6,486,000

Trails and Park Amenities - $215,500

New Public Gathering Area - $295,500

Potential Casting Pier Improvements/Access - $100,000 (To Be Determined)

Proposed Total $7,097,000
Contribute: Pledge your support today. The project is directly dependent on community support, with 100% of project funding coming from private donors.

Learn More: Visit the North Pond webpage and meet with the Conservancy to learn more about the project and how you can help:
http://lincolnparkconservancy.org/north-pond-restoration/
info@lincolnparkconservancy.org
(773) 883-PARK (7275)

Host A Meeting: Invite others to learn about North Pond’s restoration.

Volunteer: Get your hands dirty with our North Pond Gardeners or on a corporate workday. Gardeners meet two Saturdays a month and corporate groups work throughout the season in keeping North Pond beautiful and natural:
volunteer@lincolnparkconservancy.org

Spread the Word: We need your help, as Champions of the Pond, to build public awareness of the program and input about the plans. Share your commitment to North Pond using the hashtag: #digdeepfornorthpond
Special North Pond matching grant through 12/31/2020!!

All donations to the North Pond Restoration Project will be matched up to $50,000.

Donate at: www.lincolnparkconservancy.org

Click on ‘Donate’ button and choose North Pond from drop-down menu.
QUESTIONS?
- What will be the impacts to site access during construction?
- What are plans to protect existing wildlife during the project?
- What will happen to trees around the pond? What about those that have fallen in the Pond and provide habitat?
- What will be done to control Canada Geese?
- How will the project protect or improve the surrounding area?
- What will happen to existing gathering areas around the Pond?
- What volunteer opportunities will there be?
- What is the cost to taxpayers?
- What is the timeline and budget for the project?
- Where are the Master Plan documents?
- Water issues? How to reduce amount of municipal water used?
- Will the trails around the Pond still be accessible during and after construction?
- Will the natural edge of the Pond be maintained?
- Will the Pond remain natural or will there be a wooden boardwalk around it?
- Will natural ‘nooks and crannies’ be maintained?
- Where will dredged material be staged? Where will it be disposed of or re-used?
- Will native fish be stocked once the restoration is completed?
- What if the full budget isn’t raised? Is there a time-limit?
Further Questions/Comments? Want to Learn Even More?

- Send email to: info@lincolnparkconservancy.org
- Set up an individual meeting
- Check out the North Pond restoration web site: www.lincolnparkconservancy.org/north-pond-restoration
- Volunteer: Contact volunteer@lincolnparkconservancy.org
- Follow us on social media and share the project: @lpconservancy (Insta/Twitter); @ChicagoLincolnPark (Facebook)
- Contribute: www.lincolnparkconservancy.org select the ‘Donate’ button
View of North Pond looking north
THANK YOU FOR HELPING US HELP NORTH POND!