

STATEMENT FROM THE LAKE CALUMET VISION COMMITTEE

For over 17 years the Lake Calumet Vision Committee (LCVC) has been dedicated to preserving nature at Lake Calumet, providing for passive recreational opportunities, and fighting off proposals such as a huge marina for the wealthy (thank you Vic Crivello, Marion Byrnes, Lee Bey, many others); opposing the development of a third golf course that would have gobbled up what remaining open space existed; and protecting against "Disneyland-type" projects such as the casino concept.

We continue to insist upon at least 282 acres of the unused portion of the Illinois International Port District-owned property to be set aside for open space, nature, passive recreational opportunities, and open & free enjoyment by the citizens of the surrounding neighborhoods and all Chicago citizens- those who actually own the public property.

Our members include nearly 40 community leaders and organizations who have signed on to our mission, as well as environmental and conservation groups and Chambers of Commerce.

The Lake Calumet Vision Committee was established in 2002 to advocate for, and to support, the Calumet Area Land Use Plan:

Calumet Area Land Use Plan:

[https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dcd/supp_info/calumet_area_landuseplan.html](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dcd/supp_info/calumet_area_landuseplan.html)

and the

Calumet Open Space Reserve plan:

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LAKE CALUMET VISION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Since 1986 there has been discussion about the land and shore line in the fenced area of Lake Calumet becoming a recreational area and nature preserve. A time line of events follow.

For some 20 years the Lake Calumet Vision Committee (LCVC) has advocated for public access to Lake Calumet by hosting civic meetings, attending Illinois International Port District meetings and co-hosting Lake Calumet Tours.

In December of 2013 members of Lake Calumet Vision Committee and others met with Senator Trotter and Representative Sims regarding this topic. In 2016 we had a follow up meeting with Representative Sims.

In June of 2014 at a "What's Goin On" Multi Ward Community Meeting, The Lake Calumet Vision Committee garnered wide acceptance and interest from attending organizations.

In October of 2014 Governor Quinn joined by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel agreed to purchase 282 acres of land from the Illinois International Port District for public recreational access at Lake Calumet. This plan was never implemented after Gov. Quinn lost his re-election bid the following month.

In September 8, 2016, the **Lake Calumet Vision Committee** (LCVC) hosted a community leader meeting where the primary topic being an overview of the LCVC's work and vision for portions of Lake Calumet being open for some form of public recreation.

On April 17, 2017 Community Leaders authorized the attached petition in support of public access to Lake Calumet.

The community leaders/organizations below,

- are in favor of the Illinois International Port District (IIPD) developing its underutilized assets.
- are in favor of the Illinois International Port District (IIPD) increasing job capacity.
- are in favor of the Illinois International Port District (IIPD) becoming profitable after years of not being profitable.

The same leaders support the **Lake Calumet Vision Committee's** (LCVC) vision, that a portion of the IIPD Lake Calumet be opened for public recreation that may include: biking, hiking, picnicking, camping, rowing, canoeing, educational tours or other public recreational uses.

We expect the Illinois International Port District (IIPD), to be transparent and continue a dialogue with the LCVC, and with communities and supporting organizations, about development plans and public access to Lake Calumet.

Currently, there is a "Master Plan" being studied by the Chicago Metropolitan Area for Planning.

In addition, a feasibility study is being conducted by the Active Transportation Agency to create a bike and pedestrian pathway across Lake Calumet and reaching Big Marsh on the other side.

About LAKE CALUMET VISION COMMITTEE

The Lake Calumet Vision Committee is dedicated to seeing that a portion of the unused property that the Illinois International Port District maintains on the southeast side in the 10th Ward be open to the public for recreational purposes. With nearly 2,000 acres of property and only a small portion being utilized for shipping purposes, we endeavor to see some of this land and waters transformed into a place where the citizens can have access to enjoy the natural surroundings for hiking & biking, fishing, kayaking/canoeing, bird watching, meditating & passive enjoyment of nature.

The far-south/southeast area of the city has seen less investment in parkland and natural areas than other parts of the city. While this area has been polluted, dumped upon, and over-abused for far too long, we appeal to a new mayor and a new governor at this moment in time to help set aside some "green space," find the funding to make improvements, and open up a part of the Port District / Lake Calumet property to the public for today and for the future.

The principals on the Lake Calumet Vision Committee are working with officials and local legislators to accomplish two short-term goals, for now:

- 1) To see the creation of a means to cross Lake Calumet to reach Big Marsh from the west.
- 2) To have the IIPD assign at minimum 280 acres for public access upon their expansive port properties: offering remediation- then passive recreation such as hiking, bird watching, nature study, fishing, camping, rowing, wildlife refuge.

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People for Community Recovery (PCR)	Yes
Altgeld Local Advisory Council	Yes
Carver Park Advisory Council	Yes
Chatham Avalon Community Council	Yes
Chesterfield Community Council	Yes
Communities Organized to Win	Yes
Friends of the Parks	Yes
Grand Crossing Park Advisory Council	Yes
Greater Grand Crossing Neighborhood Network	Yes
Greater Chatham Alliance	Yes
Golden Gate	Yes
London Town Homes	Yes
Park Manor Neighbors	Yes
Pullman Civic League	Yes
Pullman Garden Club? Ellen Garza	Yes
Red Line Extension Coalition	Yes
Reunite Chatham	Yes
Roseland Community Coalition Caucus	Yes
Rosemoor Community Association	Yes
Roseland Heights Community Association	Yes
Roseland Business Development Council	Yes
Son Foundation	Yes
Vernon Park Community Council	Yes
Multi-ward Community Development Advocates	Yes
South Chicago Chamber	
East Side Chamber	
Alliance for the Great Lakes	
Openlands	
Sierra Club	
Friends of the Parks	
Southeast Environmental Task Force	