



Office of Water Resources, Michael A. Bilandic Building, 160 N. LaSalle St., S-703, Chicago, IL 60601

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources
Public Notice

**Maintenance Dredging of the Church Street Boat Launch,
in Lake Michigan, at 1647 Sheridan Road, Evanston, Illinois 60201**

The City of Evanston, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201, has applied for an Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources 10-year maintenance dredging permit to annually dredge approximately 15,000 cubic yards of material from the bed of Lake Michigan at the Church Street Boat Launch, in Lake Michigan, at 1647 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60201.

The applicant proposes to annually dredge approximately 15,000 cubic yards of material from the bed of Lake Michigan at the Church Street Boat Launch and dispose of the dredged material in the Lake Michigan nearshore south of the boat launch. Approval by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will be required prior to each year's dredging. The proposed project will be reviewed using the Department's Part 3704 Rules. A location map and plans are attached to this notice.

No work is to start on this project unless and until such a time that the permit is issued.

Inquiries and comments regarding the proposed project can be directed to Eric Otto, Senior Water Resources Engineer, of the Chicago Office at IDNR/OWR, 160 N. LaSalle Street, Suite S-703, Chicago, Illinois 60601 or eric.otto@illinois.gov.

An expanded version of the public notice can be viewed at <https://dnr.illinois.gov/waterresources/publicnotices.htm>.

Comments will be accepted through **February 21, 2025**.



Parks and Recreation Department
2100 Ridge Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60201
T 847.448.4331
TTY 847.448.8064
www.cityofevanston.org

January 2, 2025

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Springfield, IL 62794-0276

Re: Renewal of Lake Michigan Dredging Permit in Evanston

Attached you will find the Joint Application Form and required maps to obtain a permit to dredge at the Church Street Boat Ramp in Evanston.

The request will permit continuation of the dredging operation previously authorized by the ten-year permit in 2015. The proposal involves continuing the process of dredging up to 15,000 cubic yards of sand annually from the Church Street Boat Ramp.

If you have any questions about this request or need further information, please contact me at

Sincerely, /

Tim Carter
Lakefront and Athletics Division Manager

JOINT APPLICATION FORM FOR ILLINOIS

ITEMS 1 AND 2 FOR AGENCY USE

1. Application Number	2. Date Received
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3. and 4. (SEE SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS) NAME, MAILING ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

3a. Applicant's Name: Timothy Carter Company Name (if any): City of Evanston Address: Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center 2100 Ridge Ave. Evanston, IL 60201 Email Address:	3b. Co-Applicant/Property Owner Name (if needed or if different from applicant): Company Name (if any): Address: Email Address:	4. Authorized Agent (an agent is not required): Michael Callahan Company Name (if any): City of Evanston Address: Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center 2100 Ridge Ave. Evanston, IL 60201 Email Address:
Applicant's Phone Nos. w/area code Business: Residence: Cell: Fax:	Applicant's Phone Nos. w/area code Business: Residence: Cell: Fax:	Agent's Phone Nos. w/area code Business: Residence: Cell: Fax:

STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize Michael Callahan to act in my behalf as my agent in the processing of this application and to furnish, upon request, supplemental information in support of this permit application.

1/2/2025

 Applicant's Signature Date

5. ADJOINING PROPERTY OWNERS (Upstream and Downstream of the water body and within Visual Reach of Project)

Name	Mailing Address	Phone No. w/area code
a. Adjacent Park Space		
b. Northwestern U Sailing		
c.		
d.		

6. PROJECT TITLE:
Church St. Boat Ramp Annual Dredging

7. PROJECT LOCATION:
 Church Street Boat Ramp at the terminus of Church Street at Lake Michigan

LATITUDE: 42.04607 °N LONGITUDE: -87.67156 °W	UTM's Northing: 4655097 Easting: 444419										
STREET, ROAD, OR OTHER DESCRIPTIVE LOCATION 1647 Sheridan Road	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">LEGAL DESCRIPT</th> <th style="width: 15%;">QUARTER</th> <th style="width: 15%;">SECTION</th> <th style="width: 15%;">TOWNSHIP NO.</th> <th style="width: 15%;">RANGE</th> </tr> <tr> <td>SE</td> <td>18</td> <td>41N</td> <td>14E</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	LEGAL DESCRIPT	QUARTER	SECTION	TOWNSHIP NO.	RANGE	SE	18	41N	14E	
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SE	18	41N	14E								
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OR <input type="checkbox"/> NEAR CITY OF TOWN (check appropriate box) Municipality Name Evanston	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%; text-align: center;"> WATERWAY Lake Michigan </td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"> RIVER MILE (if applicable) </td> </tr> </table>	WATERWAY Lake Michigan	RIVER MILE (if applicable)								
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Cook	Illinois	60201									

8. PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Include all features):

Throughout the year sand accumulates inside the Church Street Boat Harbor. As a result, each spring sand needs to be removed from harbor. Depending on the year, up to 15,000 cubic yards of sand annually could be removed from the Church Street Boat Harbor. Sand dredged from this area is then relocated to an area immediately just south of the boat ramp in the water. Dredging is either done by mechanical equipment bucket excavator and loader or vacuum excavation, the sand is placed on the concrete boat ramp, where a loader picks up and deposits the sand in the disposal area. Approximate size of area, where sand needs to be removed is 29,433 square feet.

9. PURPOSE AND NEED OF PROJECT:

This annual operation is necessary to maintain access to the boat harbor. Not removing sand would require closure of the launch ramp facility for emergency and recreational use.

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FOUR BLOCKS IF DREDGED AND/OR FILL MATERIAL IS TO BE DISCHARGED

10. REASON(S) FOR DISCHARGE:

Dredged sand is placed south of the ramp for purposes of beach nourishment for this area.

11. TYPE(S) OF MATERIAL BEING DISCHARGED AND THE AMOUNT OF EACH TYPE IN CUBIC YARDS FOR WATERWAYS:

TYPE: Sand

AMOUNT IN CUBIC YARDS:

Up to 15,000

12. SURFACE AREA IN ACRES OF WETLANDS OR OTHER WATERS FILLED (See Instructions)

Dredged sand is discharged back into the open water by mechanical loader

13. DESCRIPTION OF AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION AND COMPENSATION (See instructions)

Depth readings are charted in the harbor, prior to any work and dredging is performed only in areas that do not meet the a minimum depth of 6 to 7 feet.

14. Date activity is proposed to commence

May 1, 2025

Date activity is expected to be completed

May 20, 2025

15. Is any portion of the activity for which authorization is sought now complete?

Yes

No

NOTE: If answer is "YES" give reasons in the Project Description and Remarks section. Indicate the existing work on drawings.

Month and Year the activity was completed

16. List all approvals or certification and denials received from other Federal, interstate, state, or local agencies for structures, construction, discharges or other activities described in this application.

Issuing Agency	Type of Approval	Identification No.	Date of Application	Date of Approval	Date of Denial
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency	401 - 10 Year Permit	2022-LM-67298	04/12/2022	05/11/2022	
IDNR	401 - Ten Year Permit	LM2015006			
US Army Corps	401 - 10 Year Permit	LRC-2015-00128	01/25/2015	05/01/2015	

17. CONSENT TO ENTER PROPERTY LISTED IN PART 7 ABOVE IS HEREBY GRANTED.

Yes

No

18. APPLICATION VERIFICATION (SEE SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)

Application is hereby made for the activities described herein. I certify that I am familiar with the information contained in the application, and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, such information is true, complete, and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the proposed activities

01/02/2025

Signature of Applicant or Authorized Agent

Date

Signature of Applicant or Authorized Agent

Date

Signature of Applicant or Authorized Agent

Date

Corps of Engineers
Revised 2010

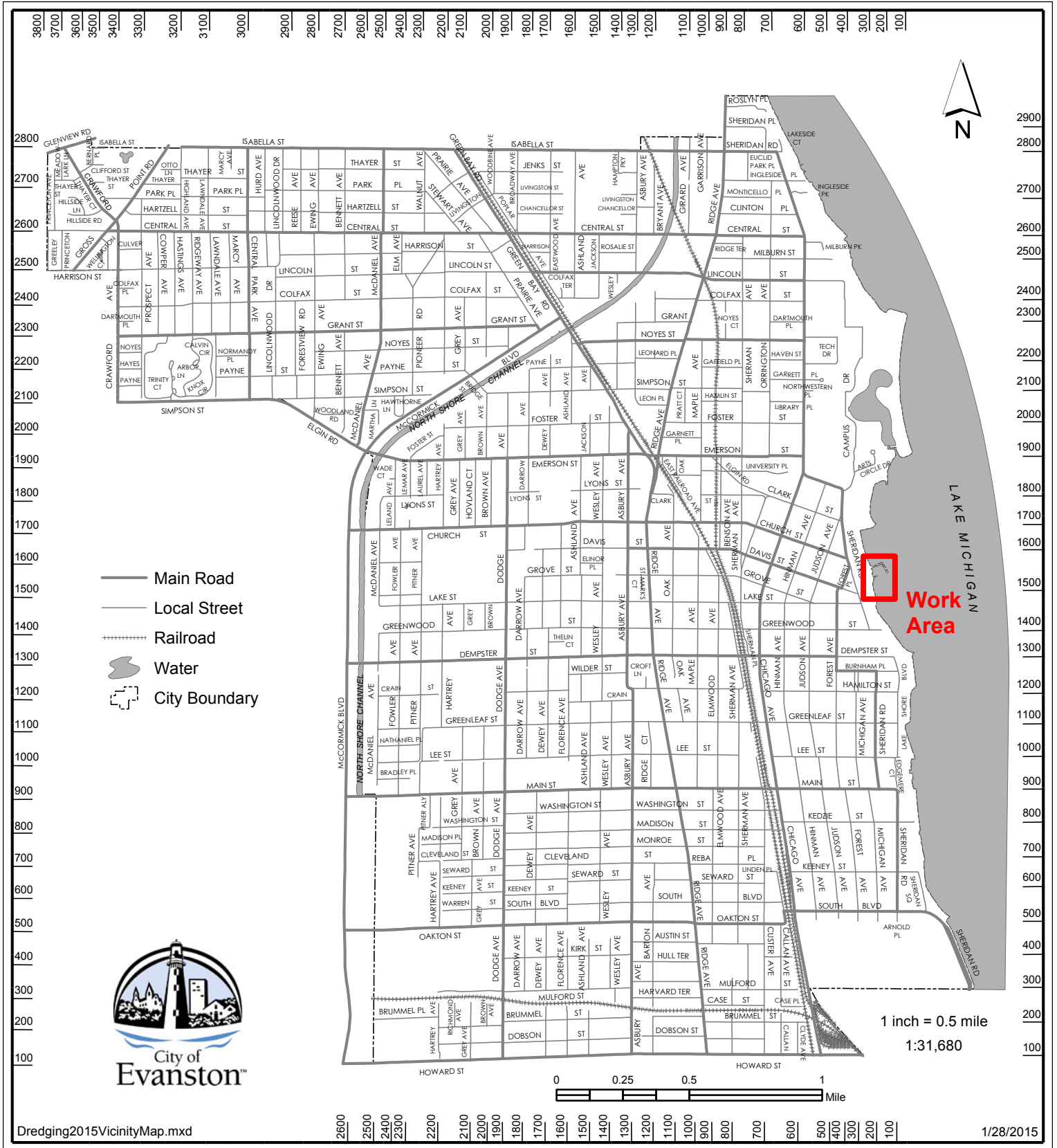
IL Dep't of Natural Resources

IL Environmental Protection
Agency

Applicant's Copy

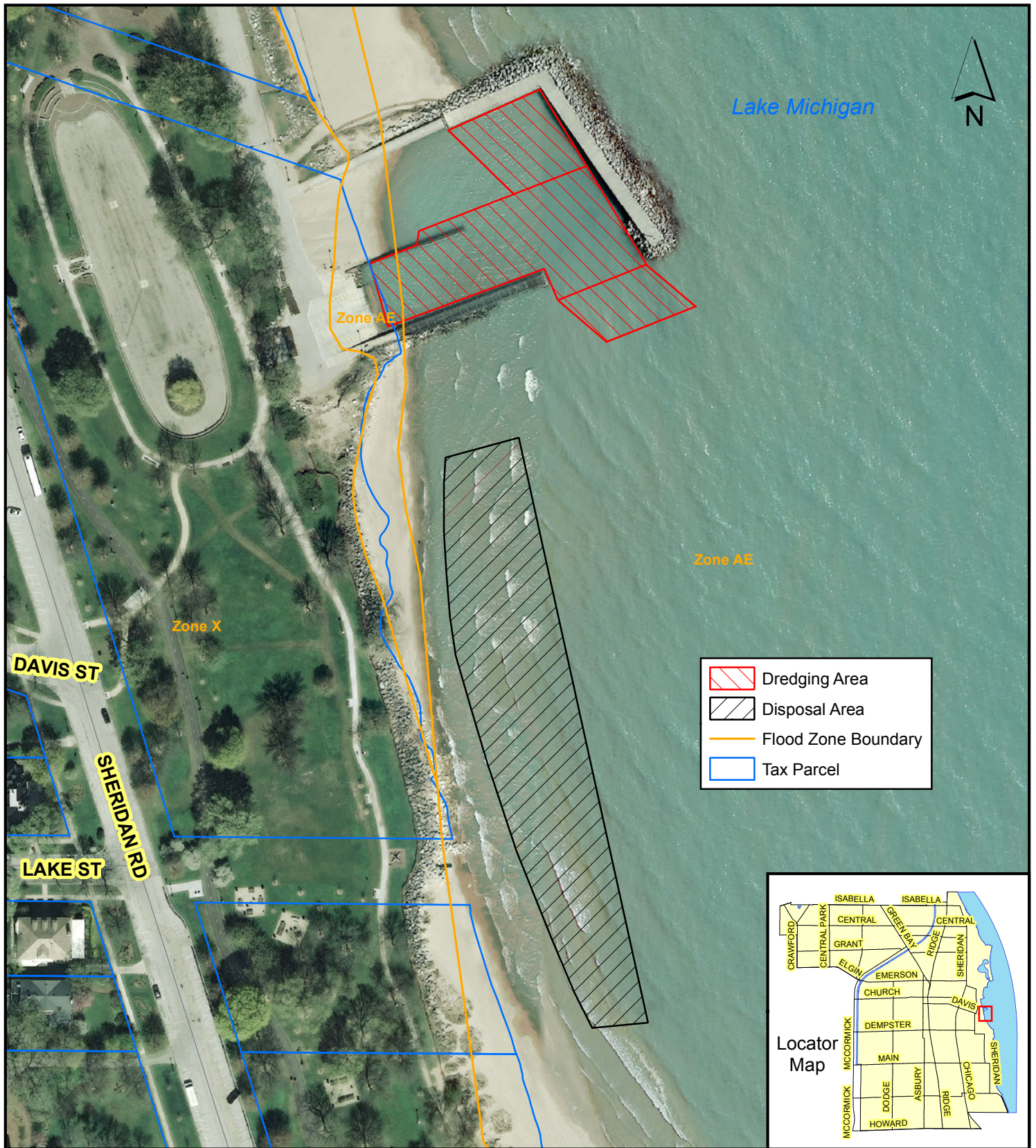
SEE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADDRESS

2024 Dredging Vicinity Map

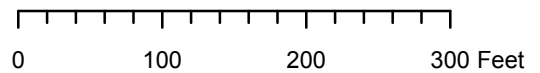


This map is provided "as is" without warranties of any kind. See www.cityofevanston.org/mapdisclaimers.html for more information.

City of Evanston Dredging & Disposal Areas



1/28/2015
 Dredging2015.mxd
 This map is provided "as is" without warranties of any kind.
 See www.cityofevanston.org/mapdisclaimers.html for more information.



Section 401 Water Quality Certification for Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material

Agency:

City of Evanston
2100 Ridge Ave.
Evanston, IL 60201

Contact:

Tim Carter
Lakefront and Athletics Division Manager
Parks and Recreation Department

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body:

Lake Michigan is classified as a Lake Michigan Basin Use Water and has zero cfs of flow during critical 7Q10 low-flow conditions. Lake Michigan, Waterbody Segment IL_QLM-01, is listed on the draft 2016 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List as impaired for fish consumption use with potential causes given as mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls and aesthetic quality use with potential cause given as phosphorus. Aquatic life, public and food processing water supply, primary recreational contact, and secondary contact uses are fully Supported. Lake Michigan is not listed as a biologically significant stream in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System, nor is it given an integrity rating in that document. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report has been prepared and approved by the USEPA for 51 beaches along Illinois' Lake Michigan shoreline to address Primary Contact Use Recreation impairments due to excess bacteria. The proposed activity occurs within an area identified by the report "Shoreline Segments in Suburban Cook County, Illinois" May 15, 2013 as a Beach Protection Area subject to that TMDL.

Identification of Proposed Pollutant Load Increases or Potential Impacts on Uses:

The pollutant load increase of total suspended solids during the proposed dredging and fill activities would be local and temporary. These increases, a normal and unavoidable result of dredging and filling, may occur in the lake at the project site. Benthic habitat will also be disturbed in the project area, but impacts to aquatic life uses of this area are not anticipated. All fill material will be clean. Sand and water samples were analyzed for particle size distribution, asbestos, and supernatant testing, from three locations within the boat launch facility. Each sample showed less than two percent passing through a # 230 U.S. sieve and no asbestos was detected. Ammonia-nitrogen, chloride and phosphorus were above the required limits of detection, so monitoring was conducted during previous dredging activities. Additional

monitoring would be required during proposed activities.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading:

The increase in total suspended solids would be local and temporary. No adverse impacts associated with the dredging and disposal of material to the water body are expected. No mitigation plan has been proposed.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity:

The project is a necessary maintenance activity for the Church St. Boat Launch. A minimum depth of six to seven feet is required at the launch area as well as the approach areas to allow for boater access to and from the launch. The project would provide social and economic benefits by allowing for continued recreation of Lake Michigan along the Evanston coastline.

In addition to the ramp being used by the general public, the City of Evanston needs to utilize the ramp for launching power boats for emergency water rescue, aquatic camps, and recreation programming. The Parks and Recreation Department launches and operates four motor boats from this location, five days a week for nine weeks. Currently, there are 600 participants enrolled in Aquatic Camps. Without performing the dredging work, the launch facility could not be opened, which would impact City operations.

Furthermore, in 2024, the City of Evanston received correspondence from the US Coast Guard outlining their intention to cease operating the Wilmette and Kenosha Coast Guard Stations. This recent development will consequently render the Evanston Fire Department, along with the joint rescue boat stationed in Wilmette, as the only water rescue assets on the north shore. With the shift, the southwest waters of Lake Michigan will be served by year-round stations in Milwaukee and South Calumet Harbor - Chicago (near the Indiana border) and the seasonal location at Navy Pier. It is critical that the Evanston Fire Department have access to the harbor to launch the EFD fire rescue boat and water rescue jet skis. The Evanston Fire Department also responds to water related emergencies on the Lake Michigan waters up to the community of Highland Park.

Assessments of Alternatives for Less Increase in Loading or Minimal Environmental Degradation:

Option 1: Do Nothing

- Will result in unsafe harbor conditions, economic loss to the applicant and loss of Lake Michigan recreational benefits
- Emergency rescue operations will be significantly hindered, if not entirely impossible.

Option 2: Mechanical Excavator Dredging with Open Water Disposal

- Routine annual maintenance, shown to be successful with prior, similar projects with up to 10,000 cubic yards to be dredged and placed immediately feet south of dredged area offshore (open water disposal)

Option 3: Barge Dredging

- Not economically feasible
- Will not decrease turbidity due to project size

Option 4: Beach Disposal

- Existing, public beach to the south (Greenwood/Dempster St. Beaches) is at peak elevation for swimming and the launching of sailboats
- Disposal not possible due to beach size
- Not economically feasible to haul sand this far south

The City of Evanston recommends Option 2 (Mechanical Excavator Dredging with Open Water Disposal) for implementation. The proposed dredging and fill activities will follow conditions set forth by the City of Evanston and US Army Corp of Engineers. The least intrusive alternative would be to not complete the project. This is not an acceptable alternative given the need to provide safe recreational and emergency access to Lake Michigan. Completion of the project will improve recreational opportunities for the community.