

FRIENDS OF THE PARKS

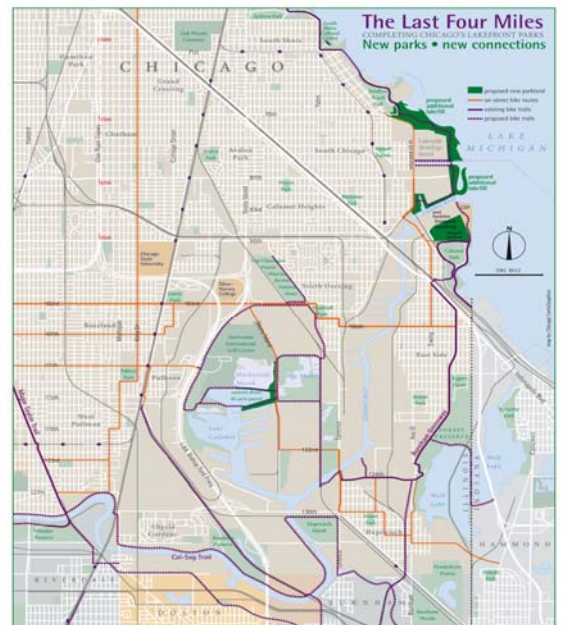
THE LAST FOUR MILES: NEW PARKS & NEW CONNECTIONS IN CALUMET AREA & SOUTHEAST CHICAGO

Since Chicago's founding, generations have contributed to the city's legacy of public parks and greenways. In the spirit of citizen heroes like Montgomery Ward and environmental champions like Frederick Law Olmsted and Daniel H. Burnham & Edward Bennett, Friends of the Parks has been working with community groups, local and state public officials to increase parkland and natural areas, with connecting greenways in the city's southeast side. The Last Four Miles: A Plan to Complete Chicago's Lakefront Parks, published in 2009, proposes 400 acres of new parks and beaches on the south lakefront, including connections with natural areas and existing and proposed recreational trails in the Calumet area.

CALL TO ACTION: SUPPORT Senate Bill 3778, transferring 40 acres of land on the eastern shore of Lake Calumet from the Illinois Port District to the Chicago Park District for public recreation and conservation purposes. Initially granted to the Port District in 1957 by the State of Illinois, along with 1,500 total acres, **these 40 acres** have **never been developed or used for port activities**. Instead the eastern shore, habitat for wildlife and birds, has been fenced off with barb wire to prevent public access. The City of Chicago published the Calumet OpenSpace Reserve Plan which advocates for both recreation and conservation and public access to Lake Calumet. To voice your support, contact your elected officials: <http://www.elections.illinois.gov/DistrictLocator/SelectSearchType.aspx?NavLink=1>



**40 Acres, Eastern Shore
Lake Calumet**



TRANSFER 40 ACRES TO CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

Increase land for public recreation & conservation purposes.

Provide public access to Lake Calumet, a navigable waterway.

Facilitate development of public trail system with links to South Lakefront Trail, Burnham Greenway, other existing & proposed trails in South Chicago and Calumet area.

Transfer of land already in the public domain entails **no cost to taxpayer**.

SB3778 is supported by Lake Calumet Vision Committee, Calumet Ecological Park Association, Southeast Environmental Task Force, Calumet Heritage Partnership, Pullman Civic Organization, Chicago Audubon Society, Openlands