NOTHING IS EVERYTHING for this unique lakeside site, where architecture has never been the right thing to do.

Now is the time to make a bold statement about Chicago’s vision for the future: to turn a million square feet of black steel and concrete back to natural systems, back to Burnham Park, back to the people.

“Public ground—a common to remain forever open, clear and free of any buildings, or other obstructions whatever.”

Gurdon Hubbard and William F. Thornton, 1836 Plat of Illinois
OUR PLAN for the Burnham Sanctuary creates a landscaped reprieve from the city, with meandering paths and green quiet places, dune-and-swale landscape to support diverse native habitats, and naturally clean stormwater runoff from the vast, greened roofs of McCormick Place—returning it to Lake Michigan, not Mississippi-bound city sewers.

This plan builds on and complements the recent plan for Northerly Island, connecting the new open, free and clear lakefront to the Island by seasonal ferry and tripling its natural public open space in perpetuity.

Lakeside Center’s massive foundations will be reused a short way offshore as Northerly Island’s new eastern archipelago. The Center’s steel will barge down the lake for recycling, and top soil for the sanctuary will barge up from the Illinois Waterway.

The Burnham Sanctuary plan to naturalize the water’s edge and create more neighborhood access to it will make greater contributions—economic, environmental and civic—to the city’s future, by dramatically enhancing quality of life, than will a novelty repurposing of an outmoded structure.
**Habitat**

Diverse landscapes for migratory birds

- **OWLS, WOODPECKERS, FINCHES, DUCKS, GEESE, GREBES, LOONS, SWANS, BUNTINGS, BLACKBIRDS, JAYS, ORIOLES, SPARROWS, TANAGERS**
- **MEADOWLARKS, BOBOLINKS, KILLDEERS, KINGBIRDS, CRANES, EGRETS, HERONS, FLYCATCHERS**

**People**

Meandering pathways and lakefront access

- Seasonal ferry to Northerly Island
- Main pedestrian entry from McCormick Place
- North to Grant Park
- South to Burnham Park

**Water**

Stormwater biofiltration strategy – “treatment train”

- 70% reduction in surface run-off saves 900,000 gallons of water every year
- 25,000,000 people visit the lakefront’s 18.5 miles of clear and free park land annually

**Pollutant**

- Phosphorus
- Suspended solids
- Metals
- Nitrogen
- Hydrocarbons

**Pollutant removed**

- 95%

**Landscape**

Dune-and-swale topography

- Woodland
- Sand Prairie
- Wetland
- Sand Prairie
- Wetland
- Lakefront

**Woodland canopy**

**Wetland gardens**

**Nesting grounds**
a signature identity
for Chicago

a continuous
natural sanctuary
from Museum Campus to the 31st Street Harbor

“expanding the conservation landscape”