



Village of Winnetka

Design Review Board/Sign Board of Appeals Regular Meeting

April 16, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Winnetka Village Hall Council Chambers
510 Green Bay Road

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Comments**
3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. March 26, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes
4. **Continued Applications**
 - a. **Case No. 26-02-DR: 1050 Scott Avenue — Hubbard Woods Public Parking Structure**: A Certificate of Appropriateness to allow installation of a new externally illuminated wall sign above the entrance of the public parking structure (Amended case).
5. **New Applications**
 - a. **Case No. 26-03-DR: 588 Lincoln Avenue — Rail Splitter Capital Management**: A Certificate of Appropriateness to allow storefront improvements at Subject Property.
 - b. **Case No. 25-28-SU: 225 Sheridan Road — Centennial Beach**: A Certificate of Appropriateness to allow installation of fencing on the existing beach. *The Village Council has final jurisdiction on this request.*
6. **Other Business**
 - a. May 21, 2026, Regular Meeting — Quorum Check
7. **Adjournment**

NOTICE

Public comment is permitted on all agenda items at the meeting. If you wish to provide testimony or comments prior to the meeting, you may provide them one of two ways: (1) by sending an email to planning@winnetka.org; or by sending a letter to Community Development, Village of Winnetka, 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, IL 60093. All agenda materials are available at www.villageofwinnetka.org/agendacenter.

The Village of Winnetka, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that persons with disabilities, who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting or have questions about the accessibility of the meeting or facilities contact the Village ADA Coordinator at 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093, (Telephone (847) 716-3543; T.D.D. (847) 501-6041).

1 **Winnetka Design Review Board/Sign Board of Appeals Special Meeting Minutes**
2 **March 26, 2026**
3

4 **Members Present:**

Katie Moor, Chairperson
Chris Baggett
Westley Barker
Fritz Duda

8
9 **Members Absent:**

Peter Evanich
Colin Kennedy
Heather Niehoff

12
13 **Village Staff:**

Davorka Kirincic, Building and Code Enforcement Manager
Scott Mangum, Community Development Director

15
16 **Call to Order & Roll Call:**

17 Chairperson Moor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was taken of the Board Members present.

18
19 **Public Comments:**

20 No comments were made at this time.

21
22 **Approval of Minutes:**

23 Chairperson Moor asked if there were any comments or corrections or for a motion to approve the February 19,
24 2026, meeting minutes. A motion to approve the February 19, 2026, meeting minutes were made by member.
25 Baggett and seconded by member Barker. A vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously passed, 4 to 0:

26 AYES: Baggett, Barker, Duda, Moor

27 NAYS: None

28
29 **New Applications:**

30 a. **Case No. 25-28-SU: 225 Sheridan Road - Centennial Beach: A Certificate of Appropriateness to allow**
31 **installation of fencing on the existing beach. The Village Council has final jurisdiction on this request. On March**
32 **17, 2026, the Winnetka Park District submitted a request that the Design Review Board continue the public**
33 **hearing to April 16, 2026, Design Review Board meeting. At its March 26, 2026, meeting, the Design Review**
34 **Board only intends to continue the item to its April 16, 2026, meeting and will not be accepting public comment.**

35 Chairperson Moor asked for a motion to continue the matter to the April 16, 2026, meeting. A motion to continue
36 the matter to the April 16, 2026, meeting was made by member Baggett and seconded by member Duda. A vote
37 was taken, and the motion was unanimously passed, 4 to 0:

38 AYES: Baggett, Barker, Duda, Moor

39 NAYS: None

40
41 b. **Case No. 26-02- DR: 1050 Scott Avenue — Hubbard Woods Public Parking Structure: Sign Permit to**
42 **allow installation of a new externally illuminated wall sign above the entrance of the public parking structure.**

43 Ms. Kirincic identified the property's location, zoning classification, and existing signage and measurements. She
44 summarized the proposed wall sign request and described the wording, logo, and measurements. Ms. Kirincic
45 referred to an illustration of the existing and proposed signs, along with the design guideline recommendations.
46 She also referred to the application materials and the sign code requirements, which were met. Ms. Kirincic noted
47 that the sign exceeds the recommended height per the Village's Design Guidelines and cited instances in which
48 approval was granted. She referred to the applicable sections of the Village's Design Guidelines that the Board is to
49 consider, and stated Ms. Niehoff provided her comments on the application, which Chairperson Moor read into
50 the record.

1 Ms. Kirincic stated that, following the applicant's presentation, public comment, and Board discussion, the Board
2 may either continue the matter to a date certain to allow time to address questions or comments or make a
3 motion to recommend approval or denial of the request. She then asked if there were any questions.
4

5 Chairperson Moor also asked if there were any questions. No questions were raised at this time.
6

7 Tom Powers, Director of Public Works, summarized the history of how the request came about, which resulted
8 from the public's lack of awareness of public parking. He stated they attempted to match the district's wayfinding,
9 street signage, and street lighting and offered to consider the Board's suggestions. Mr. Powers also stated the
10 request would be done in conjunction with the public garage repairs and referred to the feedback they received
11 from the Village Council. He identified the design company that did the streetscape signage standards with whom
12 they are working.
13

14 Michelle Forsys from the Parvin Clauss sign company stated that their presentation would align with the original
15 design intent and explained the comparison to the current signage. She also explained that the sign's size was due
16 to the font and the number of light fixtures. A Board Member questioned the 14-inch height limitation and the sign
17 band measurements. Ms. Kirincic provided clarification to the Board and noted that the design guidelines are
18 recommendations and not code requirements.
19

20 Chairperson Moor asked if there were any other questions. She commented that the sign appeared large, not
21 proportional to the building, and suggested that it be made less bulky in terms of its appearance, and referred to
22 examples from other locations. Chairperson Moor also stated she agreed with Ms. Niehoff's comments. A Board
23 Member questioned the cost difference. Michelle responded that the letters and emblem are dimensional and
24 explained how the concept was addressed in terms of visibility. She suggested using a thicker font and explained
25 the need for the backing on the sign band. Chairperson Moor suggested reducing the number of lights to three.
26 Ms. Kirincic questioned whether the drawings are drawn to scale and accurately reflect the proportions of the
27 lights relative to the proposed wall sign. Michelle agreed with the suggestions made. Mr. Powers informed the
28 Board that he spoke with the electrical engineer regarding the light fixture's spread. Chairperson Moor suggested
29 and demonstrated a sample of three-dimensional individual pin-mount letters and changed the letter color for
30 better visibility. She also mentioned that it would be nice to have a backlit sign.
31

32 A Board Member suggested that the other letters on the proposed plaque wall sign be lowercase and asked
33 whether the proposed font is consistent with the current Winnetka font. Mr. Powers confirmed it is the same font.
34 A Board Member agreed with the comments made and confirmed they required Metra to scale down their
35 signage.
36

37 Chairperson Moor asked for a motion to continue the matter to allow the applicant time to present other options,
38 or to approve the request with conditions, including direction from the Board. A motion was made by member
39 Baggett to continue the request to the April 16, 2026, meeting, with the Board's recommendations to provide a few
40 options for the wall sign for review, and the motion was seconded by member Duda. A vote was taken, and the
41 motion was unanimously passed, 4 to 0:

42 AYES: Baggett, Barker, Duda, Moor

43 NAYS: None
44

45 **Other Business.**

- 46 a. April 16, 2026, Meeting – Quorum Check.

47 The Board Members discussed their availability.
48

49 **Adjournment:**

50 Chairperson Moor asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Duda and seconded by
51 Mr. Baker. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously passed, 4 to 0:

52 AYES: Baggett, Barker, Duda, Moor

53 NAYS: None

1
2 The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.
3
4 Respectfully submitted,
5
6 Antionette Johnson
7 Recording Secretary
8

DRAFT



MEMORANDUM VILLAGE OF WINNETKA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

TO: DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
FROM: DAVORKA KIRINCIC, AICP
BUILDING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT MANAGER
DATE: APRIL 9, 2026
SUBJECT: 1050 SCOTT AVENUE - HUBBARD WOODS PUBLIC PARKING STRUCTURE
- CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR EXTERNALLY ILLUMINATED
WALL SIGN (AMENDED CASE NO. 26-02 DR)

INTRODUCTION

On April 16, the Design Review Board (DRB) is scheduled to hold a continued public hearing on an amended application — previously submitted as a Sign Permit and now revised to a Certificate of Appropriateness, — by the Village of Winnetka (the “Applicant”), owner of the public parking structure located at 1050 Scott Avenue (the “Subject Property”). The application seeks approval to remove the existing wall sign and install a new externally illuminated wall sign above the entrance to the public parking structure.

MARCH 26, 2026, DESIGN REVIEW BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

On March 26, 2026, the DRB considered the Applicant’s request for a Sign Permit to remove the existing wall sign and install a new externally illuminated wall sign above the entrance to the public parking structure. The staff report prepared for the March 26, 2026, meeting is included as **Attachment B1**.

Following presentations by staff and the Applicant, the DRB discussed the proposed wall sign and expressed concern that the plaque-style design appeared oversized and out of proportion to the building. The Board recommended that the Applicant revise the design and provide at least two alternative options: one featuring individual pin-mounted letters, and another consisting of a plaque sign using primarily lowercase lettering, with only the first letter of each word capitalized.

The DRB continued the item to the April 16, 2026, meeting to allow the Applicant time to address the Board’s comments and incorporate the requested revisions. March 26, 2026, meeting minutes are included in the April 16, 2026, agenda packet for the DRB’s review and approval.

AMENDED PROPOSED PLAN

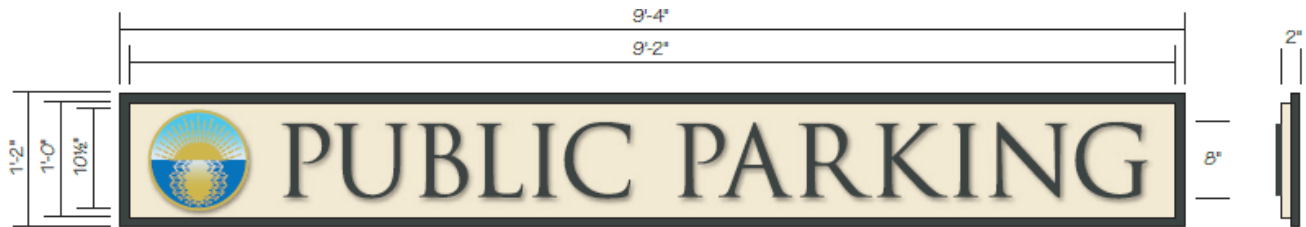
In response to the comments from the March 26, 2026, DRB meeting, the Applicant has submitted revised sign renderings (**Attachment A1**). The primary updates include four options for the revised wall sign and reducing the number of gooseneck lights above it from 4 to 3.

OPTION 1

Revised Wall Sign/Plaque Sign with All Capital-Case Letters

- 1’-2” x 9”-4” Single face aluminum sign;
- Sign panel 2” deep, fabricated aluminum, painted MP 25833 Bone White, satin finish;
- Frame is 1x1 aluminum tube construction painted to match Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish;
- City logo is 1/2” thick FCO acrylic painted Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish, full-color digital print on H.P. White vinyl applied, flush stud-mount;

- Letters are 1/2" thick FCO acrylic painted Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish, flush stud-mount, and
- Plaque sign mounted on exterior wall w/ angle clips, masonry anchors, and hardware appropriate for conditions.



Revised Proposed Sign - OPTION 1: Plaque Sign-/All Capital Case Letters

OPTION 2

Revised Wall Sign/Plaque Sign with All Capital Letters with Larger First Letter

- 1'-2" x 7"-6" Single face aluminum sign;
- Sign panel is 2" deep, fabricated aluminum painted MP 25833 Bone White, satin finish;
- Frame is 1x1 aluminum tube construction painted to match Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish;
- City logo is 1/2" thick FCO acrylic painted Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish, full-color digital print on H.P. White vinyl applied, flush stud-mount;
- Letters: 1/2" thick FCO acrylic painted Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish flush stud-mount; and
- Plaque sign mounted on exterior wall w/ angle clips, masonry anchors, and hardware appropriate for conditions.



Revised Proposed Sign - OPTION 2: Plaque Sign-/All Capital Case Letters with Larger First Letter

OPTION 3

Revised Wall Sign/Pin-mounted Individual Letters

- 1/2" thick FCO acrylic graphics;
- City logo is 1/2" thick FCO acrylic painted MP 46400SP Brilliant Gold, satin finish, full-color digital print on H.P. White vinyl applied;
- Letters are 1/2" thick FCO acrylic painted MP 46400SP Brilliant Gold, satin finish stating, "PUBLIC PARKING", and
- Logo and each letter are flush stud-mounted on the exterior wall.



Revised Proposed Sign - OPTION 3: Pin-Mounted Individual Letters- Gold Finish

OPTION 4

Revised Wall Sign/Pin-mounted Individual Letters

- 1/2" Thick FCO bronze Graphics
- City Logo is 1/2" thick FCO 22000 Bronze alloy precision plaque, brushed finish, horizontal grain, 3130 Duranodic background
- Letters are 1/2" thick FCO 22000 Bronze alloy, brushed finish, horizontal grain stating, "PUBLIC PARKING".
- Logo and each letter are flush stud-mounted on the exterior wall



Revised Proposed Sign - OPTION 4: Pin-Mounted Individual Letters- Bronze Finish

All four proposed wall sign options will be externally illuminated with three goose-neck LED lighting fixtures proposed in the original application, shown in **Attachment B1**.

A copy of the Applicant’s revised proposed wall sign renderings are included in **Attachment A1**.

SIGN CODE ANALYSES

Following further review of Village Code Chapter 15.60 (Signs), staff have determined that the subject sign is located on Village-owned property and is therefore exempt from the Sign Code requirements.

Pursuant to Section 15.60.070, signs, flags, and emblems of and on the premise of the United States, the State, the Village, or other municipal corporations and public bodies of the State shall be exempt from the regulations of Chapter 15.60 (Signs).

Notwithstanding this exemption, the proposed signage remains subject to review and approval through a Certificate of Appropriateness issued by the Design Review Board.

Based on this interpretation of the Village Code, the applicant (the Village) has submitted a Certificate of Appropriateness application in place of the sign permit application.

In rendering its decision, the Design Review Board shall evaluate the application in accordance with the required findings of fact outlined below in section **“CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS OF DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS.”**

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS OF DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

As established by the Village Code, the Design Review Board is to consider the following four (4) factors in determining whether to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness of Design:

“(1) whether the proposed external architectural features and site improvements are appropriate to and compatible with the character of the immediate neighborhood;”

“(2) whether the proposed external architectural features and site improvements are appropriate to and compatible with adopted Village plans for and improvements in the immediate neighborhood, and including both urban design and site arrangement

considerations;”

“(3) whether the proposed external architectural features and site improvements are consistent with applicable Village design guidelines and such standards and criteria as may be adopted by the Board; and”

“(4) the probable effect of the proposed external architectural features on the integrity of the immediate vicinity.”

VILLAGE DESIGN GUIDELINES ANALYSIS

The Board should also consider the Village Design Guidelines when considering the proposed modified sign. The Design Guidelines provide guidance on the design and appropriate placement of wall signs.

- *The sign should harmonize with the building and reflect the character of the building style;*
- *Sign Materials should be limited to painted wood, canvas, architectural glass, and metal;*
- *Sign color must harmonize with the building upon which it is mounted and adjacent structures;*
- *The height of the sign is restricted to 75% of the sign band or 14 inches – whichever is less;*
- *Sign should be located at least 8 feet above grade, but no more than 15 feet above grade; and*
- *Sign should be externally illuminated or highlighted where possible.*

The revised sign options follow the recommendations of the above-listed Design Guidelines, except for option 3, where the pin-mounted letters would be made of acrylic.

At the April 16 meeting, the Applicant will review all four options of the revised wall sign proposal and explain the design decisions in response to the Board’s comments.

SUMMARY

The Applicant requests that the DRB find the proposed external illuminated wall sign as appropriate and compatible with the Certificate of Appropriateness of Design factors, Village Design Guidelines, and approve the Certificate of Appropriateness of Design for the revised wall sign. Should the DRB determine that the proposed modified sign is appropriate, the Applicant will obtain the necessary electrical permit from the Community Development Department prior to installing the gooseneck lighting above the wall sign.

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATION

At the April 16 DRB meeting, the DRB is scheduled to consider the design of the Applicant’s revised proposed externally illuminated wall sign. After hearing from the Applicant and the public, the DRB will have the following options:

- 1) Continue the public hearing to a specific date to provide the Applicant and/or staff with additional time to address questions and comments from the DRB; or
- 2) Consider a motion for approval or denial of the Certificate of Appropriateness. A DRB member should make a motion for approval or denial based upon the following findings of fact:
 - a. The proposed externally illuminated wall sign **is consistent [is not consistent]** with the following standards used for evaluating a certificate of appropriateness:

(1) the proposed external architectural features and site improvements are appropriate to and compatible with the character of the immediate neighborhood;

- (2) *the proposed external architectural features and site improvements are appropriate to and compatible with adopted Village plans for and improvements in the immediate neighborhood, and including both urban design and site arrangement considerations;*
- (3) *the proposed external architectural features and site improvements are consistent with applicable Village design guidelines and such standards and criteria as may be adopted by the Board; and*
- (4) *the probable effect of the proposed external architectural features on the integrity of the immediate vicinity.*

b. [If the DRB chooses to place conditions as part of its approval, it will want to include the conditions here.]

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A1: Applicant's Revised Proposed Sign Renderings

Attachment B1: March 26, 2026, DRB Staff Memo and Attachments



(1) 2'-0" x 16'-0" Single Face Aluminum Wall Sign

Sign panel: 2" deep fabricated aluminum painted MP 25833 Bone White, satin finish

Frame: 1x1 aluminum tube construction painted to match Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish

City Logo: 1/2" thick FCO acrylic painted Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish, full-color digital print on H.P. White vinyl applied, flush stud-mount

Letters: 1/2" thick FCO acrylic painted Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish, flush stud-mount

Mounting: on exterior wall w/ angle clips, masonry anchors and hardware appropriate for conditions

Site survey required prior to production

Gooseneck lights by others - TBD

PROJECT:



Hubbard Woods Parking Garage
Tower Ct.
Winnetka, IL 60093

CUSTOMER APPROVAL:

DATE

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

REPRESENTATIVE

House / KZ

DRAWN BY

Bill Goodwyn

DATE

2.3.26

SCALE

3/4" = 1'

SHEET NO.

1 of 5

ESTIMATE / JOB NUMBER

17807

FILE NAME

WINN17807

REVISIONS:

1	2.10.26
2	3.30.26
3	3.31.26
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Remove & dispose of existing

Existing



Proposed



Option 1



(1) 1'-2" x 9'-4" Single Face Aluminum Wall Sign

Sign panel: 2" deep fabricated aluminum painted MP 25833 Bone White, satin finish

Frame: 1x1 aluminum tube construction painted to match Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish

City Logo: 1/2" thick FCO acrylic painted Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish, full-color digital print on H.P. White vinyl applied, flush stud-mount

Letters: 1/2" thick FCO acrylic painted Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish, flush stud-mount

Mounting: on exterior wall w/ angle clips, masonry anchors and hardware appropriate for conditions

Site survey required prior to production

(3) Gooseneck lights by others - TBD

PROJECT:



Hubbard Woods Parking Garage
Tower Ct.
Winnetka, IL 60093

CUSTOMER APPROVAL:

DATE

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

REPRESENTATIVE

House / KZ

DRAWN BY

Bill Goodwyn

DATE

2.3.26

SCALE

1" = 1'

SHEET NO.

2 of 5

ESTIMATE / JOB NUMBER

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FILE NAME

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1	2.10.26
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3	3.31.26
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Existing



Proposed



Option 2



(1) 1'-2" x 7'-6" Single Face Aluminum Wall Sign

Sign panel: 2" deep fabricated aluminum painted MP 25833 Bone White, satin finish

Frame: 1x1 aluminum tube construction painted to match Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish

City Logo: 1/2" thick FCO acrylic painted Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish, full-color digital print on H.P. White vinyl applied, flush stud-mount

Letters: 1/2" thick FCO acrylic painted Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish, flush stud-mount

Mounting: on exterior wall w/ angle clips, masonry anchors and hardware appropriate for conditions

Site survey required prior to production

(3) Gooseneck lights by others - TBD

PROJECT:



Hubbard Woods Parking Garage
Tower Ct.
Winnetka, IL 60093

CUSTOMER APPROVAL:

DATE

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

REPRESENTATIVE

House / KZ

DRAWN BY

Bill Goodwyn

DATE

2.3.26

SCALE

1" = 1'

SHEET NO.

3 of 5

ESTIMATE / JOB NUMBER

17807

FILE NAME

WINN17807

REVISIONS:

1 2.10.26

2 3.30.26

3 3.31.26

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Existing



Proposed



PROJECT:



Hubbard Woods Parking Garage
Tower Ct.
Winnetka, IL 60093

CUSTOMER APPROVAL:

DATE

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

REPRESENTATIVE

House / KZ

DRAWN BY

Bill Goodwyn

DATE

2.3.26

SCALE

3/4" = 1'

SHEET NO.

4 of 5

ESTIMATE / JOB NUMBER

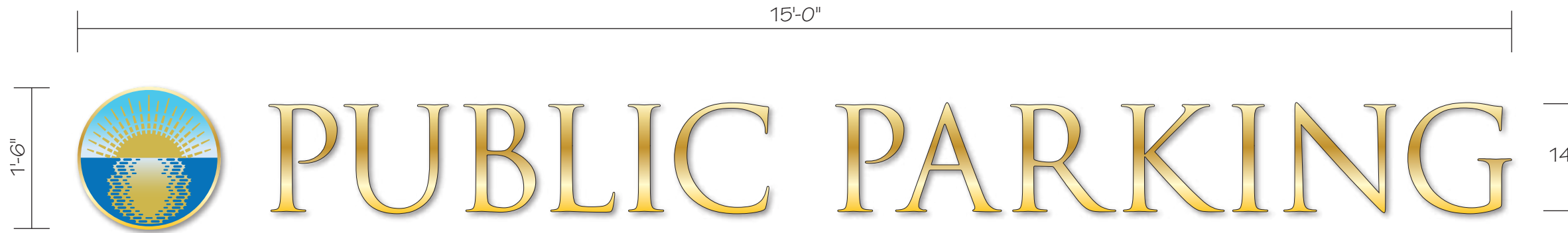
17807

FILE NAME

WINN17807

REVISIONS:

1	2.10.26
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3	3.31.26
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(1) 1/2" Thick FCO Acrylic Graphics

City Logo: 1/2" thick FCO acrylic painted MP 46400SP Brilliant Gold, satin finish, full-color digital print on H.P. White vinyl applied

Letters: 1/2" thick FCO acrylic painted MP 46400SP Brilliant Gold, satin finish

Mounting: flush stud-mount on exterior wall

Site survey required prior to production

(3) Gooseneck lights by others - TBD



Remove & dispose of existing

Existing



Proposed



PROJECT:



Hubbard Woods Parking Garage
Tower Ct.
Winnetka, IL 60093

CUSTOMER APPROVAL:
DATE

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

REPRESENTATIVE
House / KZ

DRAWN BY
Bill Goodwyn

DATE
2.3.26

SCALE
3/4" = 1'

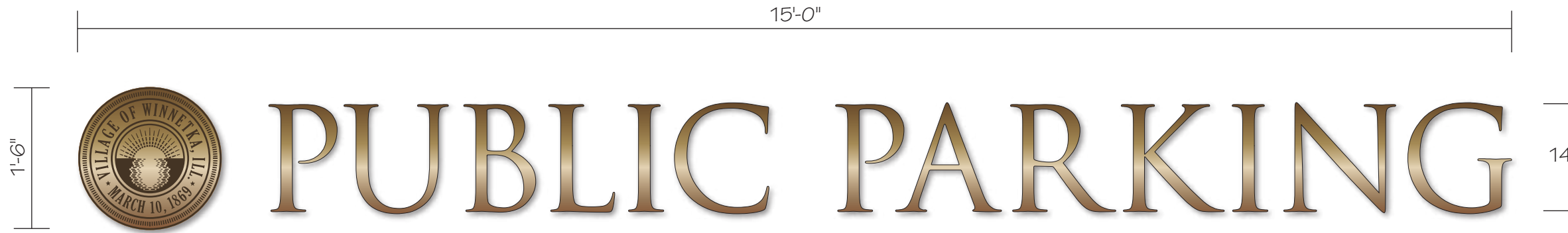
SHEET NO.
5 of 5

ESTIMATE / JOB NUMBER
17807

FILE NAME
WINN17807

REVISIONS:

1	2.10.26
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3	3.31.26
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(1) 1/2" Thick FCO Bronze Graphics

City Logo: 1/2" thick 22000 Bronze alloy precision plaque, brushed finish, horizontal grain, 3130 Duranodic background

Letters: 1/2" thick FCO 22000 Bronze alloy, brushed finish, horizontal grain

Mounting: flush stud-mount on exterior wall

Site survey required prior to production

(3) Gooseneck lights by others - TBD



Remove & dispose of existing

Existing



Proposed





MEMORANDUM VILLAGE OF WINNETKA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

TO: DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
FROM: DAVORKA KIRINCIC, AICP
BUILDING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT MANAGER
DATE: MARCH 19, 2026
SUBJECT: 1050 SCOTT AVENUE - HUBBARD WOODS PUBLIC PARKING STRUCTURE
- EXTERNALLY ILLUMINATED WALL SIGN PERMIT
(CASE NO. 26-02 DR)

INTRODUCTION

On March 26, the Design Review Board (DRB) is scheduled to consider a sign permit application submitted by *the Village of Winnetka* (the "Applicant"), the owner of the public parking structure at 1050 Scott Ave. (the "Subject Property"), to allow the removal of the existing wall sign and installation of a new externally illuminated wall sign above the entrance of the public parking structure.

The Subject Property is located East of Green Bay Road with street frontage on both Merrill Street and Scott Avenue in the Hubbard Woods Business District. It is zoned C-2 General Retail Commercial. **Figure 1** below and **Figure 2** on the following page identify the Subject Property.

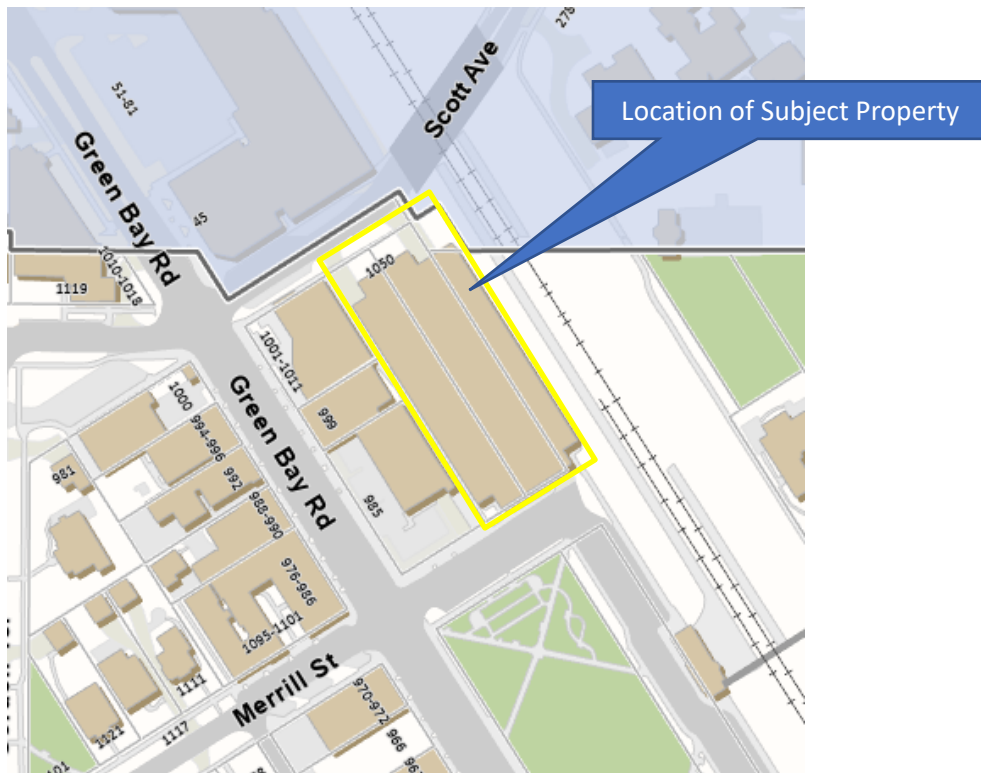


Figure 1 – Subject Property – Location Map



**Figure 2 – Subject Property
Public Parking Structure - South Entrance Elevation with existing wall sign**

CURRENT REQUEST

The Applicant seeks approval for a new wall sign for the existing public parking structure. The proposed wall sign would be externally illuminated with four lights above the sign, pointing down, and would feature the text “PUBLIC PARKING” in addition to the Village logo, as shown in the illustration below.

Proposed wall sign

- Located on the south public parking structure elevation above the main entrance;
- Sign panel 2 inch thick fabricated aluminum painted MP 25833 Bone White, satin finish;
- 1x1 inch aluminum tube construction painted to match Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish;
- Village Logo ½ inch thick FCO acrylic painted Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish & foil color digital print, flush-stud mount;
- Top of sign is less than 14 feet above grade at the entrance;
- Total sign area is 32.00 square feet;
- Externally illuminated sign with four gooseneck lights above pointing down; and
- Each gooseneck light is Baselite, Angle Shade, LED (details shown in specification sheet included in the Application Materials).

Location of Proposed
Externally Illuminated
Wall Sign



Rendering of Proposed Externally Illuminated Wall Sign

A copy of the Applicant's application materials is included in **Attachment A**.

SIGN CODE ANALYSIS

Section 15.60.120 of the Village Sign Code establishes commercial district wall sign standards.

Wall sign standards

- Sign may only contain the business name, a three-word generic description of the types of products or services offered, and the occupant's logo or trademark;
- Sign may not exceed 70 square feet in area;
- Sign shall be placed substantially parallel to the surface of the wall;
- Sign shall not be located above the second-floor windowsill level and shall not be higher than fourteen (14) feet above grade if there is no second-floor windowsill; and
- For a building that contains more than one type of sign (e.g. wall, window, awning, etc.), the total sign area for all signs shall not exceed 15% of the street exposure.

The proposed wall sign meets all the above standards.

DESIGN GUIDELINES ANALYSIS

When reviewing the design of any signs, the Board is to consider the following standards and criteria of Section 15.60.150(F) of the Sign Code.

- F. Standards and Criteria for Issuance. The following factors and characteristics relating to the safety and appearance of signage shall govern the Board's evaluation of design submittals:*
- 1. The sign area shall be in proportion and scale to the building or to other buildings or signs in the surrounding area;*
 - 2. A signage package for a business establishment that includes a number of signs and graphics shall have an overall plan that demonstrates the compatibility of the design and colors of all the signs that are part of that package;*
 - 3. The amount of text and graphics contained in or on any sign or group of signs shall be limited so that it results in a clear and readable design;*
 - 4. Signs and graphics shall have a harmonious relationship with nearby signs, buildings, and the neighborhood and shall be designed not to affect adjacent structures adversely. In this respect, the sign shall relate to its building, structure, and neighborhood in terms of size, shape, material, color, texture, lettering, location, arrangement, lighting, and the like;*
 - 5. Colors shall be used with restraint; excessive brightness shall be avoided; and*
 - 6. The additional provisions of this chapter, as specified in this chapter, shall be part of the criteria of the design review process.*

The Board should also consider the Village Design Guidelines to approve the proposed signage. The Design Guidelines provide guidance on the design and appropriate placement of wall signs. **See Attachment B.**

- *The sign should harmonize with the building and reflect the character of the building style;*
- *Sign Materials should be limited to painted wood, canvas, architectural glass, and metal;*

- *Sign color must harmonize with the building upon which it is mounted and adjacent structures;*
- *The height of the sign is restricted to 75% of the sign band or 14 inches – whichever is less;*
- *Sign should be located at least 8 feet above grade, but no more than 15 feet above grade; and*
- *Sign should be externally illuminated or highlighted where possible.*

SUMMARY

The Applicant respectfully requests that the DRB find the proposed externally illuminated wall sign to be appropriate and consistent with the Design Guidelines and approve the Sign Permit Application as submitted. Should the DRB determine that the proposed signage is appropriate, the Applicant will obtain the necessary electrical permit from the Community Development Department prior to installing the gooseneck lighting above the wall sign.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Application Materials

Attachment B: Design Guidelines Excerpt

ATTACHEMENT A

Village of Winnetka
SIGN PERMIT APPLICATION

VILLAGE OF WINNETKA, ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SIGN PERMIT APPLICATION



BY: SPC 2026-060

Tenant/Lessee

Name of Business Village of Winnetka		Primary contact name Tom Powers	Phone No. 847-716-3270
Project Address 1050 Scott Ave			
City Winnetka	State IL	Zip Code 60093	Email tpowers@winnetka.org

Sign Company

Name of Sign Company Parvin Clauss		Primary contact name Bill Marlow	Phone No. 630-510-2020
Street Address 165 Tubeway Drive			
City Carol Stream	State IL	Zip Code 60188	Email Signs@Parvinclauss.com

Property Owner

Name of Company Village of Winnetka		Primary contact name Tom Powers	Phone No. 847-716-3270
Street Address: 1050 Scott Ave			
City Winnetka	State IL	Zip Code 60093	Email tpowers@winnetka.org

Sign type(s): (check all that apply)

window graphics
 wall-mounted sign
 ground-mounted sign
 projecting sign
 other _____

Additional description of sign type and materials Materials and sign to match VOW Streetscape Standards

OFFICE USE ONLY

SIGN FEE: \$80 NON-ILLUMINATED PER SIGN TYPE	\$ _____
\$195 ILLUMINATED SIGN	\$ _____
STAFF REVIEW FEE: \$70 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WAIVE FEE	\$ _____
TOTAL PERMIT FEE	\$ _____
CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL: _____	



PROJECT:



Hubbard Woods Parking Garage
Tower Ct.
Winnetka, IL 60093

CUSTOMER APPROVAL:
DATE

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

REPRESENTATIVE

House / KZ

DRAWN BY

Bill Goodwyn

DATE

2.3.26

SCALE

3/4" = 1'

SHEET NO.

1 of 1

ESTIMATE / JOB NUMBER

17807

FILE NAME

WINN17807

REVISIONS:

1 2.10.26

2

3

4

5

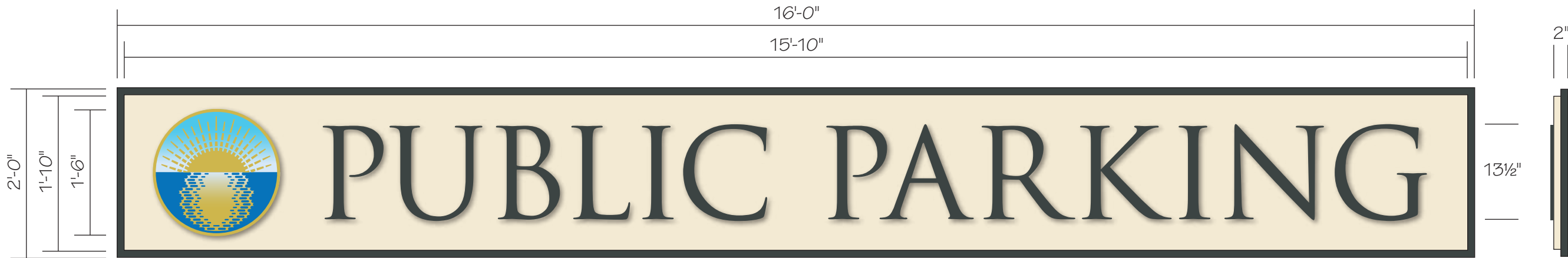
6

7

8

9

10



(1) 2'-0" x 16'-0" Single Face Aluminum Wall Sign

Sign panel: 2" deep fabricated aluminum painted MP 25833 Bone White, satin finish

Frame: 1x1 aluminum tube construction painted to match Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish

City Logo: 1/2" thick FCO acrylic painted Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish, full-color digital print on H.P. White vinyl applied, flush stud-mount

Letters: 1/2" thick FCO acrylic painted Williamsburg CW401 Market Square Tavern Dark Green, satin finish, flush stud-mount

Mounting: on exterior wall w/ angle clips, masonry anchors and hardware appropriate for conditions

Site survey required prior to production

Gooseneck lights by others - TBD



Existing



Proposed





BASELITE – ANGLE SHADE – LED – SPEC SHEET



PROJECT NAME: _____ PROJECT TYPE: _____

MODEL #	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
EXAMPLE:	A812	41	E16	CB ½"	43	25W	3K	LDM120	PR3	GU-2	44

*SKIP SECTION IF OPTION DOES NOT APPLY

NOTES:



A810/62/E1/CB½"/64/100INC

A - SHADES

ANGLE SHADE SERIES

- A807** - 12WLED (MAX)
- A810** - 12WLED (MAX)
- A812** - 25WLED (MAX)
- A814** - 25WLED (MAX)

B - FINISH OPTIONS

(*SEE NOTES FOR LIMITATIONS*)
 (SEE WEBSITE FOR SWATCH COLORS)
 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49,
 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 59, 60, 61, 62,
 63, 74, 81, 87, 97

C – MOUNTING OPTIONS

½" ARM EXTENSIONS

E1, E2, E2S, E3, E4, B1, E16, E17, E18A, E22, E23, E24

¾" ARM EXTENSIONS

E3A, E4A, E5, E6, E7, E8, E9, E10, E11, E12, E13, B15, E19, E20, E21, E25

E14 - CREATE YOUR OWN

(BASELITE WILL TAKE YOUR SKETCH AND FABRICATE A CUSTOM ARM EXTENSION TO MEET YOUR NEEDS).

LED CORD MOUNT

LBLC, LWHC, LTCB, LTCW, LTCHB, LTCHW, LTLB, LTLW, LTLB, LTLW, LRCB, LRCW, LRCHB, LRCHW, LFHB, LFHW, LHBL, LHWHC, LCBLC, LCWHC

STEM MOUNT

DP24, ST6, ST12, ST18, ST24, ST36, ST48, STXX

D – MOUNTING ADD-ONS

LED ADD-ONS

LWTM, LSLC, LSTC

UNIVERSAL ADD-ONS

FH ½", FH ¾", TRB ½", TRB ¾", LGSWL, SMSWL

E – MOUNTING COLOR

SEE SECTION "B" FOR COLOR OPTIONS.

F – LIGHT SOURCE

(SEE PAGE 4 FOR WATTAGE LIMITATIONS)
LIGHT EMITTED DIODE (LED)
 12W, 25W

G – LED COLOR TEMP

- 27K – 2700 K
- 3K – 3000 K
- 35K – 3500 K
- 4K – 4000 K
- 5K – 5000 K

H – ELECTRICAL OPTION

(SEE PAGE 4 FOR DIMMING OPTION SPECIFICATIONS)
LDM120
LDM277
LDM0-10

I – GLASS OPTIONS

CL3, CL4, CLT3, CLT4, BL3, BL4, RE3, RE4, GR3, GR4, AH3, AH4, FR3, FR4, FRT3, FRT4, PR3, PR4

J – ACCESSORIES

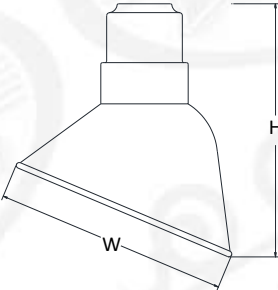
GU-1, GU-2, GR7, GR10, GR12, GR14

K – ACCESSORY COLOR

SEE SECTION "B" FOR COLOR OPTIONS.

NOTES

- (1). FINISH OPTIONS 38, 40, 49, 54, 61, 62, 63 ONLY AVAILABLE INSIDE AND OUT OF FIXTURE. OTHER FINISHES ARE WHITE INSIDE.
 - (2). FINISH OPTIONS FOR SHADES ≤ 10" IN DIAMETER ARE THE SAME INSIDE AND OUT OF FIXTURE. SHADES > 10" IN DIAMETER ARE WHITE ON THE INSIDE.
 - (3). FINISH OPTIONS 61 AND 62 ARE FINISHED WITH A SUPERCHROME ON THE INSIDE FOR ALL LED LIGHT SOURCE OPTIONS.
 - (4). COLOR CORDS ARE NOT APPLICABLE FOR LED OPTIONS.
- *ALL ARMS COME WITH A CAST BACKPLATE (CB1/2", CB3/4", LWTM, CFWTM, ECT.).
 *ACCORDING TO THE LIGHT SOURCE THE BACKPLATE MAY VARY IN SIZE. (EXAMPLE: LED LIGHT SOURCE WILL HAVE A DEEPER BACKPLATE TO HOUSE THE DRIVER.).
 *ALL FIXTURES MOUNT TO A 4-O JUNCTION BOX.
 *FIXTURE DIMENSIONS MAY VARY ± 0.25.
 *CORD AND CANOPY COME IN THE SAME COLOR.



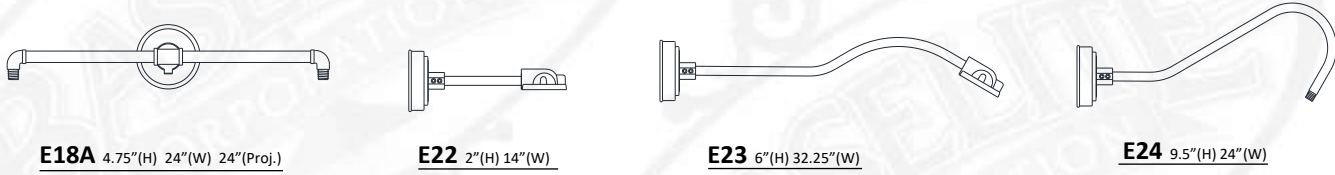
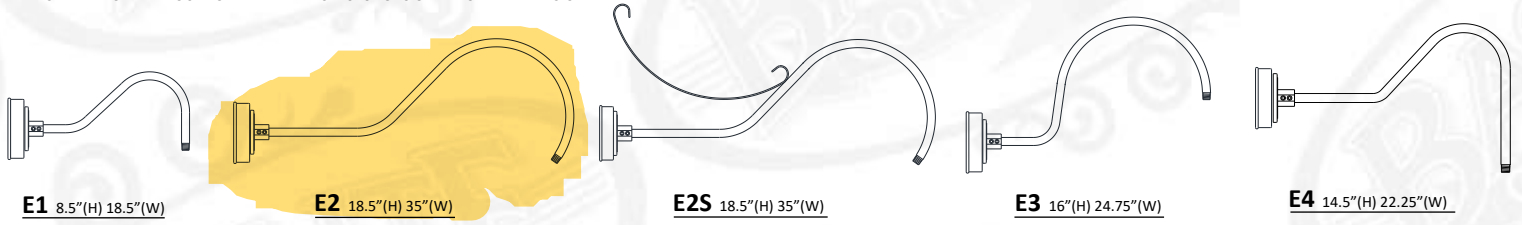
A807	H - 8"	W - 7"
A810	H - 10.75"	W - 10"
A812	H - 12.25"	W - 12"
A814	H - 14"	W - 14"



C - MOUNTING OPTIONS

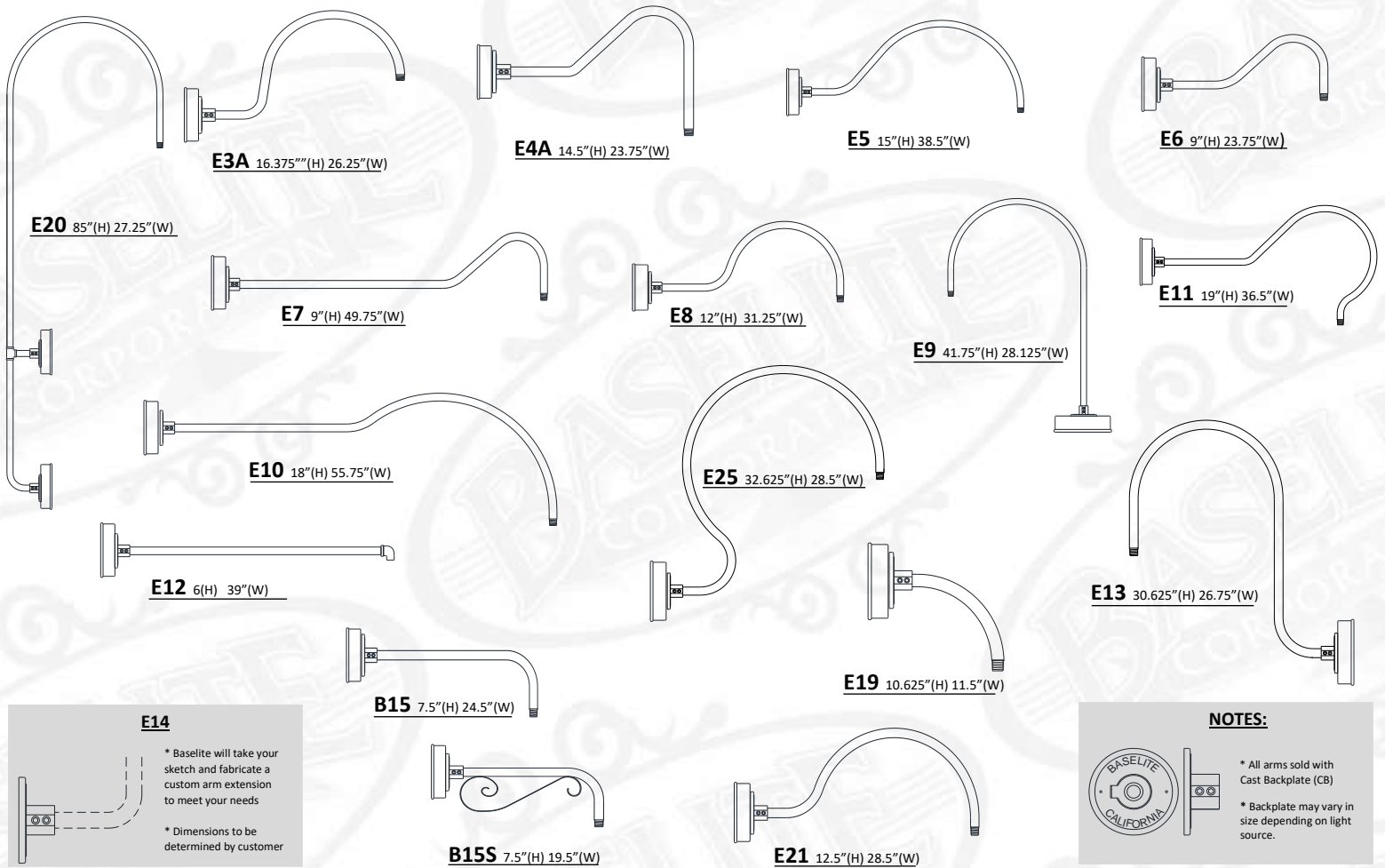
1/2" ARM EXTENSIONS

*ARMS RATED FOR WET LOCATION * MAXIMUM SECTIONS OF ARMS ARE DIMENSIONED




3/4" ARM EXTENSIONS

*ARMS RATED FOR WET LOCATION * MAXIMUM SECTIONS OF ARMS ARE DIMENSIONED



E14
* Baselite will take your sketch and fabricate a custom arm extension to meet your needs
* Dimensions to be determined by customer

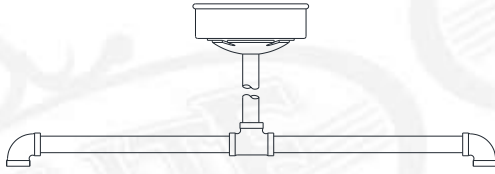
NOTES:

* All arms sold with Cast Backplate (CB)
* Backplate may vary in size depending on light source.



C - MOUNTING OPTIONS (CONTINUED)

STEM MOUNTS

*STEMS RATED FOR DAMP LOCATION



DP24 DOUBLE PENDANT 20"(H) 24"(W)
*DP24 COMES STANDARD WITH LSTC AND ST18



ST(XX) STEM- 1/2" NPT

XX = LENGTH OF STEM
(EXAMPLE - "ST18" = STEM MOUNT 18" LENGTH)
*CANOPY NOT INCLUDED, ADD IN SECTION D
* 1/4" NPT AND 3/4" NPT AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

LED CORD MOUNTS

*FOR LED & COMPACT FLUORESCENT OPTIONS, CANOPIES WILL VARY IN SIZE DUE TO SIZE OF THE DRIVER/BALLAST THAT WILL BE LOCATED INSIDE OF THE CANOPY.
*CORDS RATED FOR DRY LOCATION *CANOPY DIMENSIONS: 3" (H) 6" (W) *CORD AND CANOPY COME IN THE SAME COLOR.



LBLC 8' BLACK CORD
LWHC 8' WHITE CORD



LTCB 8' BLACK CORD, CABLE, and LOOP
LTCW 8' WHITE CORD, CABLE, and LOOP



LTCHB 8' BLACK CORD, 3" CHAIN, and LOOP
LTCHW 8' WHITE CORD, 3" CHAIN, and LOOP



LTLB 8' BLACK TELEPHONE CORD AND CABLE
LTLW 8' WHITE TELEPHONE CORD AND CABLE
* Not available with compact fluorescent



LRCB 8' BLACK CORD, CABLE, and LOOP
LRCW 8' WHITE CORD, CABLE, and LOOP



LRCHB 8' BLACK CORD, 3" CHAIN, and LOOP
LRCHW 8' WHITE CORD, 3" CHAIN, and LOOP

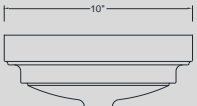


LFHB 8' BLACK CORD WITH FLAT HUB
LFWH 8' WHITE CORD WITH FLAT HUB



LCBLC 8' BLACK CORD and CABLE
LCWHC 8' WHITE CORD and CABLE

NOTES:



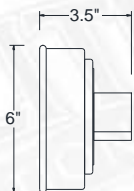
*DISTANCE TO LAMP (CF) 10'

*All compact fluorescent and LED housings may vary in size according to light source chosen.

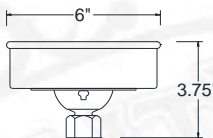
D - MOUNTING ADD-ONS (CONTINUED)

LED - STEM AND ARM ADD-ONS

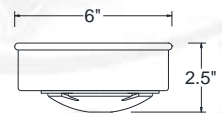
* FOR LED & COMPACT FLUORESCENT OPTIONS, CANOPIES WILL VARY IN SIZE DUE TO SIZE OF THE DRIVER/BALLAST THAT WILL BE LOCATED INSIDE OF THE CANOPY.



LWTM WEATHERTIGHT LED WALL MOUNT



LSLC LED SLOPE CEILING CANOPY



LSTC LED STEM MOUNT CANOPY



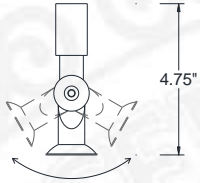
D - MOUNTING ADD-ONS (CONTINUED)

UNIVERSAL STEM AND ARM ADD-ONS

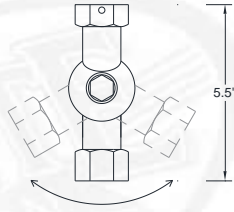
* EXAMPLE FOR MULTIPLE MOUNTING ADD-ONS:

MODEL #: -/-/LWTM, TRB 1/2", LGSWL -/-/-/-/

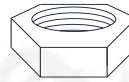
A B C D E F G H I J K



SWL 1/2" NPT swivel
For all arms 7" wide in diameter or smaller



LGSWL 1/2" NPT SWIVEL
For all shades greater than 7" wide in diameter



FH 1/2" FLAT HUB 1/2"
FH 3/4" FLAT HUB 3/4"



TRB 1/2"-4' Cable SUPPORT
TRB 3/4"-4' Cable SUPPORT

F – LIGHT SOURCE

BASELITE'S PUBLISHED LUMINAIRE PHOTOMETRIC TESTING WAS PERFORMED IN A 3-METER INTEGRATING SPHERE USING THE 4TT GEOMETRY METHOD. DATA IS CONSIDERED TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONFIGURATIONS SHOWN, WITHIN THE TOLERANCES ALLOWED BY LIGHTING FACTS. TO OBTAIN AN IES FILE SPECIFIC TO YOUR PROJECT, PLEASE CONTACT THE FACTORY.

LIGHT EMITTING DIODE (LED)

LED 12W (MAX) - A807, A810
LED 25W (MAX) - A812, A814

***IMPORTANT** – FOR LIGHT EMITTED DIODE (LED) LIGHT SOURCE OPTION FIXTURES ARE LIMITED DUE TO SIZE OF THE FIXTURE AND THE CORD WATTAGE RESTRICTIONS. PLEASE SEE AVAILABILITY CHART TO THE LEFT.

EXAMPLE: / LED12W /

OPTION	WATTAGE	LUMENS	CRI	VOLTAGE	DIMMING
LED12W	12W	1515	>90	120-277 VAC	See section "H"
LED25W	25W	2760	>90	120-277 VAC	See section "H"
		@3500K			

H – ELECTRICAL OPTION

MOST BASELITE'S ELECTRICAL OPTIONS ARE ONLY COMPATIBLE FOR CERTAIN FIXTURES. PLEASE SEE NOTES BELOW AND FOR FURTHER DEATIALS CONTACT THE FACTORY. FOR DIMMING BALLAST OPTION PLEASE CHOOSE MARK X OR MARK VII, SO RESTRICTIONS APPLY DUE TO THE SIZE OF THE BALLAST AND FIXTURE.

LED DIMMING OPTIONS

FOR TRIAC OR 0-10V OPTOIN CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING. CONTACT DRIVER MANUFACTURER FOR SPECIFICATIONS.

- LDM120** - TRIAC DIMMING AT 120 VOLT
- LDM277** - TRIAC DIMMING AT 277 VOLT
- LDM0-10V** – 0 – 10v



I – GLASS OPTIONS

*NOTE: MUST USE TEMPERED GLASS FOR LIGHT FIXTURES USING HIGH INTENSITY DISCHARGE (HID) LIGHT SOURCE OPTION.



CL3 3" CLEAR GLASS
CLT3 3" CLEAR TEMPERED



PR3 3" PRISMATIC GLASS



RE3 3" RED GLASS



BL3 3" BLUE GLASS



FR3 3" FROSTED GLASS
FRT3 3" FROSTED TEMPERED



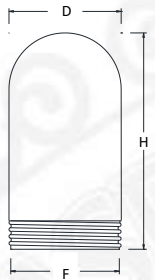
AH3 3" AMBER HYDE GLASS



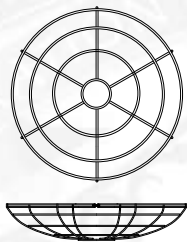
GR3 3" GREEN GLASS

GLASS – DIMENSIONS	
3" GLASS	
Diameter	3.34"
Height	6.93"
Fitter	3.29"

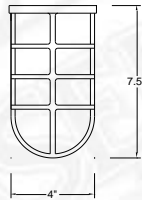
GLASS – MAX WATTAGE	
3" GLASS – 100W INC / LED12W	



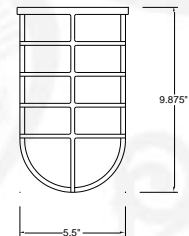
J – ACCESSORIES



- GR07** 7" WIRE GRILL
- GR10** 10" WIRE GRILL
- GR12** 12" WIRE GRILL
- GR14** 14" WIRE GRILL



GU-1 CAST ALUMINUM GUARD



GU-2 CAST ALUMINUM GUARD

d. Building Signage

Commercial signs should reflect the character of the building style, while expressing each store's individuality. There are several prominent sign styles that are appropriate to Winnetka: surface mounted, pin-mounted, interior, decal and projecting blade signs. Sign materials are limited to painted wood, canvas, architectural glass and metal. Sign color must harmonize with the building upon which it is mounted and adjacent structures. Lettering color can be unique to the image of the retailer/user. Metal sign and plaque material such as brushed bronze, antique bronze, aluminum, stainless steel and painted cast iron or similarly appearing materials are preferred. Highly reflective metallic signs are not allowed. Signs should be lit by marquee or spot lighting; neon lighting is not permitted. Spot lighting should be minimal and unobtrusive and, per the Village Code, the source of illumination shall not be visible from any street, sidewalk or dwelling. Simplified industrial light fixtures are not permitted. Contextual solutions are recommended. The majority of the signs will be mounted within the building's sign band, defined as the wall area located above the ground floor storefront opening and below the second floor windowsill, and is located a minimum of 8'-0" above grade and a maximum of 15'-0" above grade. (MC-01-2023, amended, 01/17/2023)

Signs must comply with the general provisions of the Winnetka Sign Ordinance as well as design provisions contained within these Design Guidelines.

1. Surface mounted commercial signs are either fabricated from painted wood or cast metal plaques and are to be mounted within the sign band or within the storefront transom. The height of the sign is restricted to 75% of the area of the sign band or 14 inches - whichever is less. The sign band of a building consists of the area located above the ground floor storefront opening and below the second floor windowsill, and is located a minimum of 8'-0" and a maximum of 15'-0" above grade. Refer to figures 28, 29, and 30 for location. Surface mounted or pin-mounted signs are not permitted on secondary elevations without a defined sign band.
2. Pin-mounted commercial signs consist of reverse channel, cast metal and flat cut metal letters mounted above the storefront in the masonry sign band or suspended in front of the storefront at the transom or recessed entry. The size of the lettering is restricted so that the height of the letters does not exceed 75% of the height of the sign band or 14 inches - whichever is less. The length of the lettering is to be contained within 75% of the length of the sign band. (See figure 38)



Figure 38



MEMORANDUM VILLAGE OF WINNETKA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

TO: DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
FROM: DAVORKA KIRINCIC, AICP
BUILDING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT MANAGER
DATE: APRIL 9, 2026
SUBJECT: 588 LINCOLN AVE. - CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR
STOREFRONT IMPROVEMENTS
(CASE NO. 26-03-DR)

INTRODUCTION

On April 16, 2026, the Design Review Board (DRB) is scheduled to consider a Certificate of Appropriateness application submitted by *Rail Splitter Capital Management* (the “Applicant”), the current lessee of the commercial space located at 588 Lincoln Avenue (the “Subject Property”), seeking approval for removing existing wall sign and storefront improvements, including the replacement of existing wood panels, the entrance door, and windows.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The Subject Property is located on the west side of Lincoln Avenue between Elm and Pine Streets. It is zoned C-2 General Retail Commercial District and is occupied by *Rail Splitter Capital Management*. **Figure 1** below and **2** on the following page identify the Subject Property.

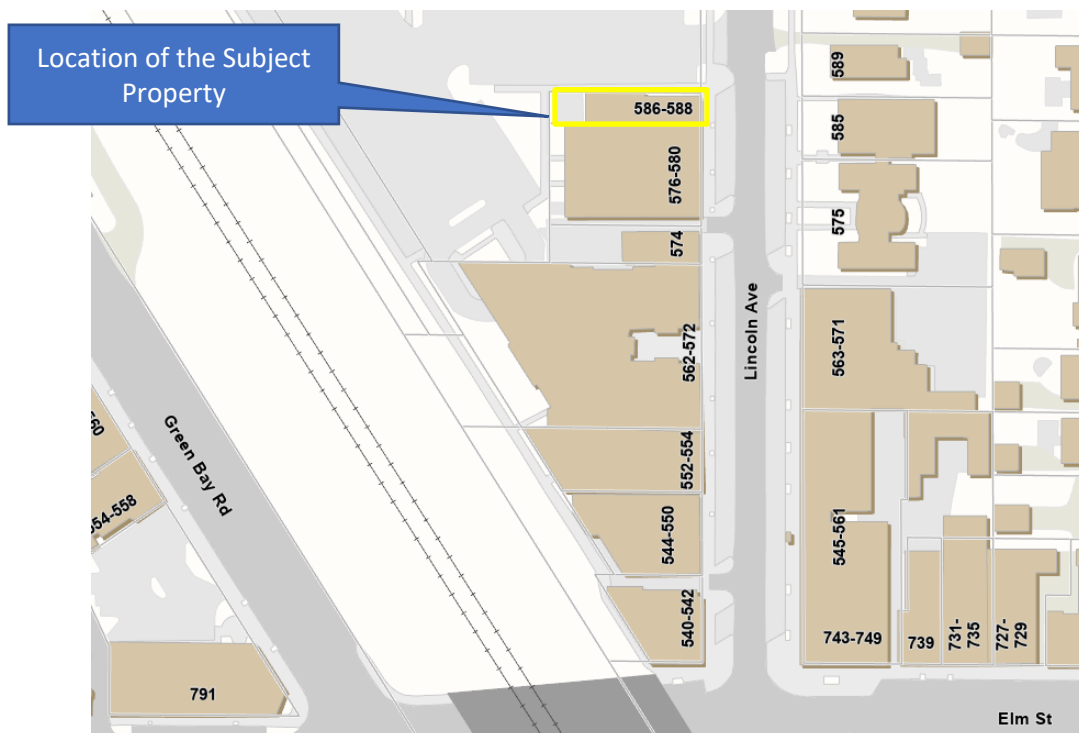


Figure 1 – Subject Property- Location Map

Location of the Rail Splitter
Capital Management Storefront



Figure 2 – Subject Property - View of the existing storefront from Public Parking Lot

CURRENT REQUEST

The Applicant is seeking approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness to improve the storefront, including the removal of the existing wall sign and the replacement of existing wood panels, door, and windows as shown in the illustration below.

Proposed Exterior Storefront Changes

- New storefront wood panels attached to the existing brick wall, painted white;
- Install a new window and door painted white, and
- Install three new Tech Lighting LED dimmable light fixtures in charcoal with clear cylinders.

Proposed
Storefront
Changes



A copy of the Applicant's application materials is included in **Attachment A**.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS CONSIDERATIONS

As established by the Village Code, the Design Review Board is to consider the following four (4) factors in determining whether to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness:

“(1) whether the proposed external architectural features and site improvements are appropriate to and compatible with the character of the immediate neighborhood;”

“(2) whether the proposed external architectural features and site improvements are appropriate to and compatible with adopted Village plans for and improvements in the immediate neighborhood, and including both urban design and site arrangement considerations;”

“(3) whether the proposed external architectural features and site improvements are consistent with applicable Village design guidelines and such standards and criteria as may be adopted by the Board; and”

“(4) the probable effect of the proposed external architectural features on the integrity of the immediate vicinity.”

The Board must determine if the proposed storefront improvements comply with the above standards.

DESIGN GUIDELINES ANALYSIS

The Village’s Design Guidelines provide guidance on the materials and color of exterior facades and exterior lighting for commercial buildings.

- 1) *The brick color palette of a building should be “restricted to those present in the district but can vary in color from reds to yellows and have varying levels of iron spotting.”*
- 2) *The number of façade colors should be minimized, and the use of white and cream stucco with reds and browns should be considered to emphasize earth tones and eliminate saturated colors.*
- 3) *Incandescent and low-voltage lighting may be allowed.*
- 4) *Fixtures should be contextual with the building and adjacent building design.*
- 5) *Building lighting should focus on providing light on building signs and enhancing architectural details on the facade.*
- 6) *All lighting shall be located and shielded from direct visibility from any dwelling or public street per the Winnetka Village Code.*
- 7) *Wall lanterns and architectural highlighting should be considered. Sodium and fluorescent lighting is not allowed.”*

The Village’s Design Guidelines provide general guidance on the design and appearance of exterior façades on commercial buildings and additionally provide guidance on commercial storefront doors and window material and color selection, recommending that the selection be sympathetic to the overall building color palette and consider the adjacent building materials within the structure, immediately adjacent structures, structures within the same block, and structures across the street.

The Project abides by the Village Design Guidelines, as the applicant maintains the materials and colors currently on the building.

Excerpts of the Village Design Guidelines related to windows and doors on commercial buildings are included in **Attachment B**.

SUMMARY

The Applicant requests that the DRB approve the proposed storefront improvements as appropriate and compatible with the Certificate of Appropriateness Standards and Design Guidelines and approve the application as proposed. Should the DRB find the proposed improvements appropriate, the Applicant would first need to obtain the approved permit from the Community Development Department before making storefront improvements.

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATION

At the April 16 DRB meeting, the DRB is scheduled to consider the design of the Applicant's proposed storefront improvements. After hearing from the Applicant and the public, the DRB will have the following options:

- 1) Continue the public hearing to a specific date to provide the Applicant and/or staff with additional time to address questions and comments from the DRB; or
- 2) Consider a motion for approval or denial of the Certificate of Appropriateness. A DRB member should make a motion for approval or denial based upon the following findings of fact:
 - a. The proposed storefront improvement **is consistent [is not consistent]** with the following standards used for evaluating a certificate of appropriateness:
 - (1) *the proposed external architectural features and site improvements are appropriate to and compatible with the character of the immediate neighborhood;*
 - (2) *the proposed external architectural features and site improvements are appropriate to and compatible with adopted Village plans for and improvements in the immediate neighborhood, and including both urban design and site arrangement considerations;*
 - (3) *the proposed external architectural features and site improvements are consistent with applicable Village design guidelines and such standards and criteria as may be adopted by the Board; and*
 - (4) *the probable effect of the proposed external architectural features on the integrity of the immediate vicinity.*
 - b. ***[If the DRB chooses to place conditions as part of its approval, it will want to include the conditions here.]***

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Application Materials

Attachment B: Design Guidelines Excerpt

ATTACHMENT A

Village of Winnetka
CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS APPLICATION

VILLAGE OF WINNETKA, ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT **COA2026-229**

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS APPLICATION

Project Address: 588 Lincoln Ave

Name of Business(es): Rail Splitter Capital Management

Application is hereby made for the following work (please check all that apply):

- Sign Sign Permit Application attached?
 Awning Awning Permit Application attached?
 Other (general description) ENTRY RENOVATION

Please provide a detailed description of the proposed work (attach additional information such as material specifications, photographs, etc.): SEE ATTACHED.

I/We hereby certify that as THOMAS CROGHAN (Lessee Owner) of the property located at 588 LINCOLN (address), I am/we are authorized to submit plans for alterations of the subject property. I/We agree to perform the subject work in accordance with the conditions of approval by the Winnetka Design Review Board as well as all other applicable codes, rules, and regulations of the Village of Winnetka.

FOR LESSEE/OWNER USE ONLY

SIGNED [Signature]
PRINTED NAME(S) THOMAS CROGHAN
ADDRESS 588 LINCOLN
PHONE NO. [REDACTED]
EMAIL [REDACTED] .com

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

COA applied for (date): _____
COA Case Number: _____
COA Issued (date): _____
COA Fee
 \$135
 \$575

PRIMARY DESIGN FIRM Downey Szafarz Architects
CONTACT NAME David Szafarz
ADDRESS 13705 W. Irma Lee Ct.
Lake Forest, IL 60045 (Suite 100)
PHONE NO. 847-295-5272
EMAIL DSzafarz@dsarch.com

RECEIVED
MAR 26 2026
BY: JK

RECEIVED
MAR 27 2026
BY: *SM*



RAIL SPLITTER CAPITAL MANAGEMENT
588 LINCOLN AVE



SITE PLAN
03 / 25 / 2026



RAIL SPLITTER CAPITAL MANAGEMENT
588 LINCOLN AVE

EXISTING NORTH ELEVATION
03 / 25 / 2026



RAIL SPLITTER CAPITAL MANAGEMENT
588 LINCOLN AVE

EXISTING ENTRY
03 / 25 / 2026





RAIL SPLITTER CAPITAL MANAGEMENT
588 LINCOLN AVE

PROPOSED ENTRY
03 / 25 / 2026

ASH 12 OUTDOOR WALL

RECEIVED
MAR 2 2026
RL

PRODUCT FEATURES

RS Capital proposed exterior light fixtures

- From the brand formerly known as Tech Lighting
- Powerful, long lasting (L70, 70,000 hours) dimmable LED tested against the highest quality standards to ensure it delivers consistent LED performance and color over time.
- Die-cast aluminum structure, powder coat finish, and stainless steel hardware for robust durability in harsh elements.
- Universal 120-277 volt driver with integral transient surge protection at 2.5KV per American National Standard (ANSI) and IEEE standards.
- Wet listed, IP65 (International Protection rating indicating resistance to dust and water. Suitable and safe for commercial use).
- Available high or low output with a choice of 2700K or 3000K color temperatures. Available in modern finishes



LAMPING

Charcoal
Clear Cylinder



Bronze
Clear Lens

Bronze
Clear Cylinder

Charcoal
Clear Lens

Charcoal
Clear Cylinder

ORDERING INFORMATION

7000WASH	CRI	LENGTH (A)	LENS (A)	FINISH	VOLTAGE	OPTIONS	
H927	90 CRI	2700K HIGH OUTPUT	12 1/2"	C CYLINDER	Z BRONZE	UNV 120-277V UNIVERSAL	NONE
L927	90 CRI	2700K LOW OUTPUT		D DOME	H CHARCOAL		PC BUTTON PHOTOCONTROL
H93090	CRI	3000K HIGH OUTPUT					PCSP BUTTON PHOTOCONTROL, SURGE PROTECTION
L930	90 CRI	3000K LOW OUTPUT					SP SURGE PROTECTION

7000WASH _____

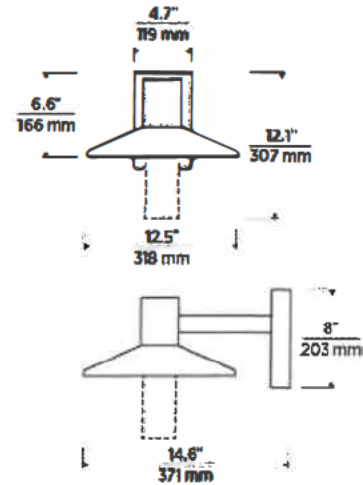
JOB NAME _____

NOTES _____



SPECIFICATIONS

PRIMARY MATERIAL	Aluminum
SHADE MATERIAL	Aluminum
NET WEIGHT	4 lbs
HEIGHT	12.1in
WIDTH	14.6in
LENGTH	12.5in
WET LISTED	
DAMP LISTED	
DRY LISTED	
GENERAL LISTING	ETL Listed
INCLUDES	



LAMPING SPECIFICATIONS

	LED LAMP	INTEGRATED LED	NON LED	NO LAMP
DELIVERED LUMENS		1215 963.0 618.0 500		
WATTS		18 8.2		
MAX WATTAGE PER BULB		18W		
		Universal 120V-277V 0-10, ELV		
CCT		2700K 3000K		
CRI		90 CRI 2700K High Output 90 CRI 3000K High Output 90 CRI 2700K Low Output 90 CRI 3000K Low Output		
LED LIFETIME				
L70		>60000		
AVERAGE BULB HOURS				
FIELD SERVICEABLE LED				
LAMP BASE		Integrated LED		
LAMP SHAPE		Integrated LED		
LAMP INCLUDED?		True		
WARRANTY**		5 Years		

* Dimming information available at www.techlighting.com/Downloads#dimming

** Visit techlighting.com for specific warranty limitations and details.

T20 / T24 / JAB INFORMATION

	Integrated LED	Replacement LED Lamp	No Lamp *
This product can be used to comply with California Building Energy Efficiency Standards 2016 Title 24 Part 6 / JAB.	Yes		
This product can be used to comply with California Appliance Efficiency Standards 2016 Title 20 and may be shipped to and sold in California.	N/A		

* If a light fixture or component does not include a lamp or light source, it is the responsibility of the customer to select a lamp that meets the T24 and T20 requirements.



Architectural Series of Asphalt Shingles
(3 ply) (See figure 49)
Wood Shingles (Fire treated)
Slate (See figure 48)
Real Copper (No other metal roofs are
allowed)



Figure 46

Institutional only

Flat roofs must be hidden by parapet
on primary / secondary facades.

Commercial and Multiple- Family

Flat roof must not be visible from
street, pedestrian, or open spaces.



Figure 47

d. Door and Window Materials:

Commercial, Mixed Use, Institutional, Multiple- Family Residential: Entry doors should be wood or aluminum stile and rail with varying degrees of glass. Public entry doors should be fully glazed whereas private and semi-private entries should be primarily solid panel doors. Storefront window units should be either paneled aluminum or brass. Many original storefronts, some with transom windows, remain in the districts. Efforts should be taken to repair and renovate these systems where feasible. Window frames should be wood, steel or aluminum. Vinyl windows are not acceptable. Muntin divisions should be real divided glass or simulated with spacer bars. Snap-in muntins are not acceptable. Color selection should be sympathetic with the overall building color palette and take into account the adjacent building materials within the structure, immediately adjacent structures, structures within the same block and structures across the street.



Figure 48



Figure 49

Entry door hardware is to be exterior grade with weather-resistant finish. Hardware design and finish is to be appropriate with facade articulation, color palette and district character. Glazing should be clear glass without tint or film.



MEMORANDUM VILLAGE OF WINNETKA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

TO: DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
FROM: SCOTT MANGUM, DIRECTOR
ANN KLAASSEN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
DATE: APRIL 10, 2026
SUBJECT: CENTENNIAL BEACH FENCE - 225 SHERIDAN ROAD
CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS (CASE NO. 25-28-SU)

INTRODUCTION

On April 16, 2026, the Design Review Board (“DRB”) is scheduled to hold a public hearing on an application submitted by the Winnetka Park District (the “Applicant”), as the owner of the property located at 225 Sheridan Road (the “Subject Property”). The Applicant is proposing installation of fencing on the existing beach located on the Subject Property and requests approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

This item was originally scheduled for the March 26, 2026, DRB meeting; however, the Applicant requested the item be continued to the April 16, 2026, DRB meeting. The DRB granted the Applicant’s request and continued the item to the April 16 DRB meeting. A mail notice was sent to property owners within 250 feet of the Subject Property, in compliance with the Village Code, informing them of the original public hearing on March 26.

The Applicant has also submitted a **Special Use Permit** application to allow the proposed fencing. Information about the special use permit review is provided to the DRB for reference only. The DRB’s purview is limited to consideration of the Certificate of Appropriateness.

The Plan Commission (“PC”) considered the Park District’s original plan for the special use permit (the only plan that the Park District presented to the PC) at its January 28, 2026, meeting, at which it directed the Village Attorney to prepare a draft recommendation of denial with written findings and determinations for consideration at the February 25, 2026, PC meeting. On February 25, by a vote of 6-0, the PC approved the written findings and recommendation to deny the Special Use Permit. The Zoning Board of Appeals (“ZBA”) commenced a public hearing on the Applicant’s special use permit on February 9. However, the item was continued without presentation to the March 9, 2026, ZBA meeting because the Winnetka Park District Board had authorized a new plan at its February 5 special meeting and it had not been submitted to the Village for review before the February 9 ZBA meeting. On March 9, the ZBA considered the Applicant’s new plan (the only plan that the Park District presented to the ZBA) and by a vote of 7-0 the ZBA directed the Village Attorney to prepare a draft recommendation of denial with written findings and determination for consideration at the March 16 special ZBA meeting. On March 16, by a vote of 6-0, the ZBA approved the written findings and recommendation to deny the Special Use Permit. Details regarding the PC’s and ZBA’s considerations are provided later in this report.

As of the date of this memo, staff has received several written comments from the public regarding this application. **Most of these comments were received by the Village for consideration by the PC and ZBA. Additional comments have also been received since the ZBA’s consideration of the Applicant’s request.** Comments previously included in the PC and ZBA packets are provided in **Attachment B**. Comments received since the posting of the March 16, 2026, ZBA agenda packet are provided in **Attachment C**.

The Village Council has final jurisdiction on this request.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The Subject Property, which is approximately 5.3 acres (230,911.56 square feet) in size, is located on the east side of Sheridan Road generally between Fuller Lane and Elder Lane and contains Centennial Beach and Park (see Figure 1). Under the Village Zoning Ordinance, the Subject Property has two front yards: (i) the street frontage along Sheridan Road to the west; and (ii) lake frontage along Lake Michigan to the east.

The Comprehensive Plan designates the Subject Property as appropriate for “Open Space” land uses, which includes public parks & recreation facilities, pocket parks/plazas, and Cook County Forest Preserve Land (see Figure 2). The property is zoned R-2 Single Family Residential and is in the Lakefront Preservation Overlay District, and it is bordered by R-2 Single Family Residential to the north and south, and R-4 Single Family Residential to the west (see Figure 3).

In addition, the Zoning Ordinance allows park and recreational uses in any zoning district within the Village by special use permit approval.

The Applicant’s current use of the Subject Property as a park and recreational facility is generally consistent with the Comprehensive Plan land use designation and the R-2 zoning district. The Applicant recently used the Subject Property as an off-leash dog area as well.



Figure 1 – GIS Aerial Map



Figure 2 – Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map – Winnetka Futures 2040 Plan



Figure 3 – Zoning Map

Figures 4 and 5 below are photos of the Subject Property taken in January. Figures 6 through 9 on the following pages were taken in the summer of 2024.



Figure 4 – Subject Property – Looking North at Centennial Beach (January 2026)



Figure 5 – Subject Property – Looking South at Existing Steel Groin on Centennial Beach & Stone Groin at 205 Sheridan Road Property (January 2026)



Figure 6 – Subject Property – Looking North at Centennial Beach (Summer 2024)



Figure 7 – Subject Property – Looking South at Centennial Beach (Summer 2024)



Figure 8 – Subject Property – Looking North from Centennial Beach (Summer 2024)



Figure 9 - Existing Sea Wall on Subject Property (Summer 2024)

PROPOSED PLAN

The Applicant is proposing installation of fencing on the beach to provide an enclosure to allow off-leash dogs on the beach. The existing beach has been utilized as a dog beach since 1995, according to the Applicant. Currently, patrons are required to have a key fob to access the existing beach from the top of the bluff above and dogs are required to be leashed. As explained by the Applicant in the attached letter dated April 3, 2026, included in **Attachment A**, the Applicant is proceeding in an unusual way. The

Applicant is asking the DRB to consider two options; the original plan (“Original Plan”) that the Applicant presented to the Plan Commission and the new plan (“New Plan”) that the Applicant presented to the ZBA.

Original Plan (presented to the Plan Commission). The Original Plan consists of two rows of galvanized steel chain-link fencing, measuring 4 feet in height, set back 20 feet from both the north and south boundaries of Centennial Beach. The proposed fencing would be located at the base of the existing steel sheet pile wall and extend perpendicularly eastward across the beach into the lake.

Both the north and south fence would have access gates to allow the public to traverse the beach. The Applicant indicates that they are planning for the access gates to remain unlocked, with the current key fob controlled access gate to remain at the top of bluff.

North Fence. The north fence would extend a total of 91 feet from the existing steel sheet pile wall at the base of the bluff east towards the water (Figure 11). Approximately 40 feet of the fence would extend from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) (581.5) into the lake. There would be a double access gate 10 feet in width to allow unleashing and leashing of dogs. The depth of the leashing and unleashing area would be 6 feet. The proposed access gate would be 24 feet east of the existing steel sheet pile wall, and approximately 17 feet west of the OHWM.

South Fence. The south fence would extend approximately 78 feet from the existing steel sheet pile wall east towards the water (Figure 12). Approximately 36 feet of the fence would extend from the OHWM into the lake. The double access gate would be located 16 feet east of the steel sheet pile and be 3’-3” in width. Similar to the north access, the depth of the leashing and unleashing area would be 6 feet.

In response to staff review comments, including the Village’s coastal engineering consultant, the lakeward sections of fencing (east four or five sections) would be removable, so that these sections can be removed during late fall and winter and reinstalled in the spring.

The proposed site plan and up-close excerpts of both the north and south fences, as well as elevations of the proposed fencing and gates for the Original Plan are provided below and on the following pages (Figures 10-16). The complete set of plans is provided in the application materials, which are included in **Attachment A**.

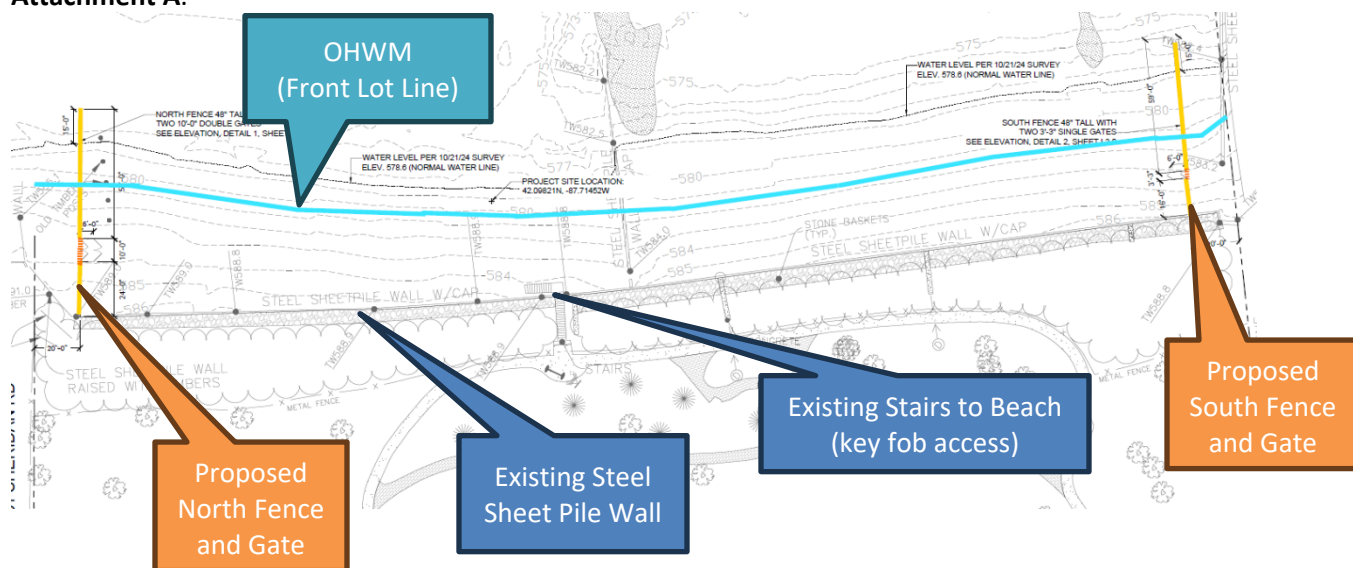


Figure 10 –Original Plan - Site Fencing Plan (Sheet L2.0)

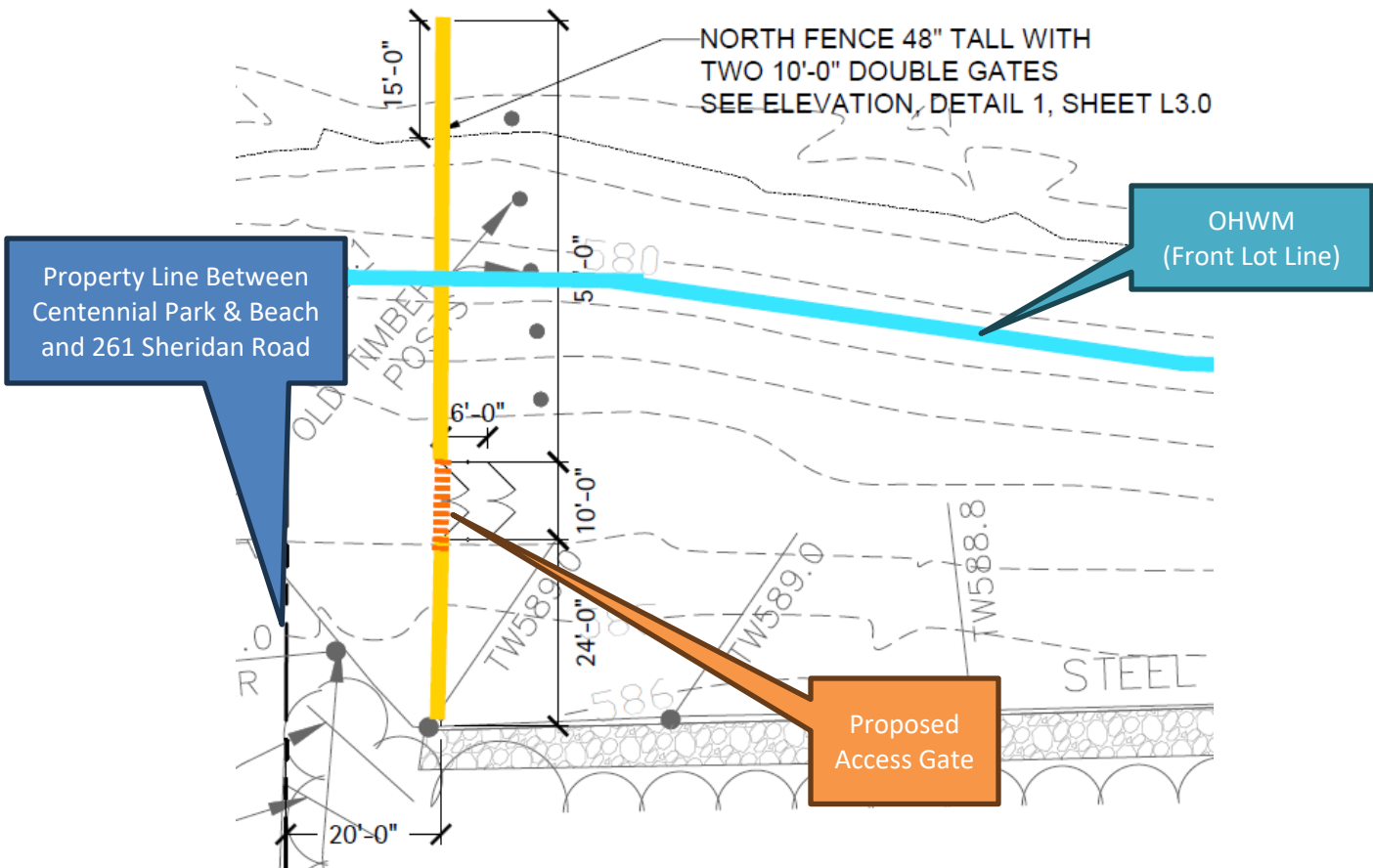


Figure 11 – Original Plan - Proposed North Fence (Excerpt of Sheet L2.0)

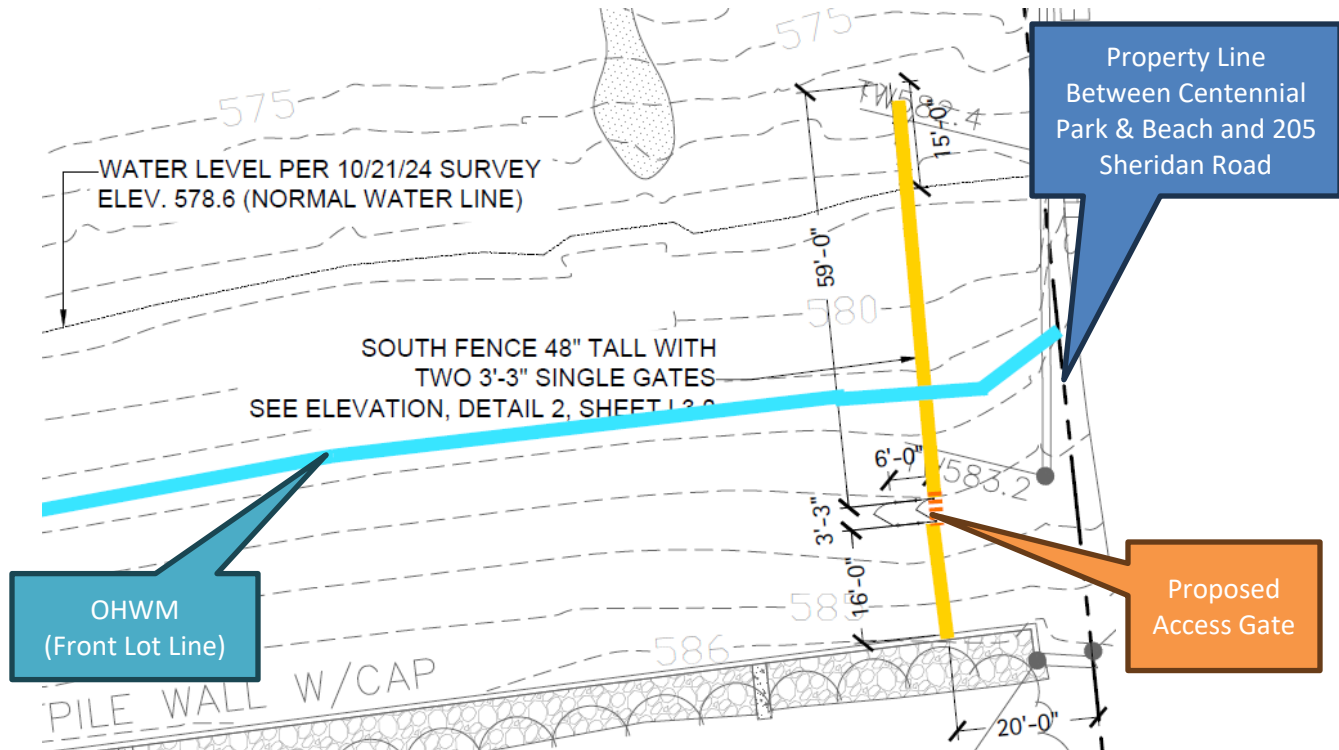


Figure 12 – Original Plan - Proposed South Fence (Excerpt of Sheet L2.0)

As proposed in the Original Plan, to walk along the beach from the north end to the south end of the Subject Property, or vice versa, a member of the public would need to use the proposed access gates and walk through the dog beach. As noted earlier, both rows of fencing would be off-set from the north and south property lines by 20 feet, allowing for a pathway to access the stairs that go over the 205 Sheridan Road stone groin.

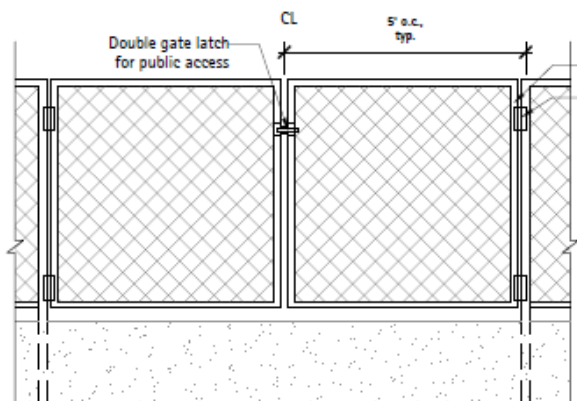


Figure 13 – Original Plan - North Access Gate

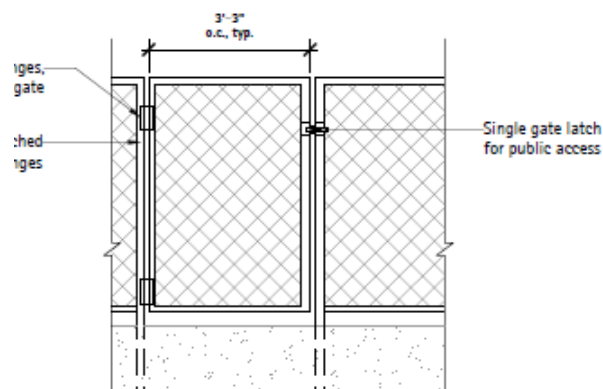


Figure 14 – Original Plan - South Access Gate

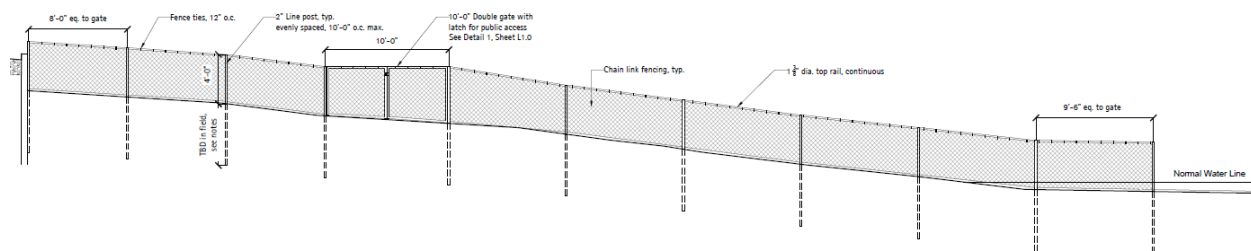


Figure 15 – Original Plan - Elevation of North Fence

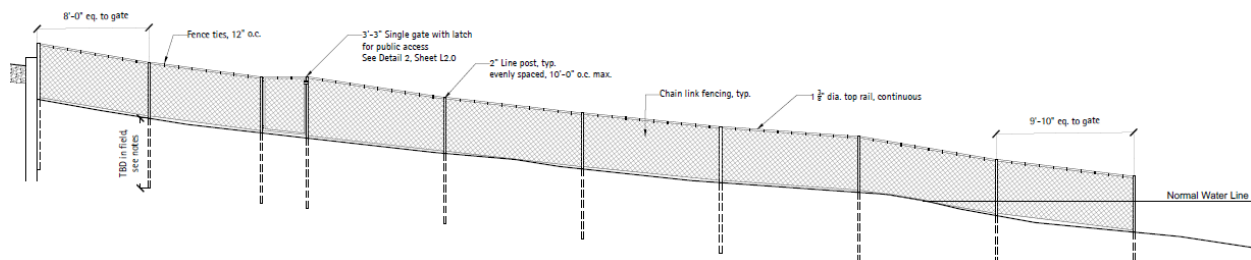


Figure 16 – Original Plan - Elevation of South Fence

New Plan (presented to the ZBA). Following the Applicant’s special meeting on February 5, the Applicant submitted a New Plan, which is also included in **Attachment A**. In the New Plan, the existing gate at the top of the bluff would remain but access would be controlled with a programed timed locking system that would operate from 6:00am to 10:00pm, this allows for public access to the beach. While entry into the fenced off-leash dog beach area would be restricted with the key fob system currently in place at the top of the bluff. There would be a double-entry gate system to allow for unleashing and leashing of dogs. There would also be a 10-foot wide maintenance access gate that would remain locked and used by Park District staff. The Fire Department has requested access to the maintenance gate for emergency responses and the Applicant has agreed to coordinate with the Fire Department to provide access.

The proposed fencing would be attached to the existing steel groins and enclose approximately 265 feet of the beach frontage for dogs to be off-leash (Figure 17). This represents a reduction of approximately

50% from the Original Plan presented to the PC in terms of the linear frontage of the dog beach area. Another major difference in the New Plan is the addition of a west fence that would be located 12 feet east (lakeward) of the existing sea wall to allow the public to traverse the beach without entering the off-leash dog area. This fence would be 4 feet in height above grade (sand level) and be black chain-link, rather than the galvanized chain-link proposed in the Original Plan.

Use of Remaining Beach Area. Included in Attachment A, is a narrative dated March 4, 2026, provided by the Applicant explaining the use of the remainder of Centennial Beach given the New Plan limits the dog beach area to roughly half of Centennial Beach. The remaining portion of the beach consists of approximately 260 feet of lake frontage and would be used as a passive beach without swimming. The Applicant indicates that staffing for the passive beach would generally be late May through early September and that access to the beach would require a beach pass. The beach will remain accessible from 6:00am until 10:00pm outside the typical beach season, but it will not be staffed.

North Fence. The north portion of the fence would be 46'-6" feet in length with approximately 20 feet of the fence extending from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) (581.5) lakeward (Figure 18). The 4-wide access gate would be located where the west and north fence meet. Patrons would enter through this gate into an unleashing and leashing area measuring 10 feet by 10 feet. The extent to which the proposed fence would extend beyond the OHWM is reduced by approximately 20 feet in the New Plan.

South Fence. The south fence would be 49'-3" in length, and also extend approximately 20 feet from the OHWM towards the lake (Figure 19). There would not be an access gate in this portion of the fencing. At the west end, the fence would be set back 5 feet from the south property line. Due to the angle of the existing steel groin, upon which the proposed fencing would be installed, in relation to the south property line, the distance between the proposed fence and the south property line would narrow from 5 feet at the west end until it meets the south property line and ends. Given the proximity of the proposed fence to the south property line, it is important to note the distance between the property line and the stairs that go over the 205 Sheridan Road stone groin is approximately 10 feet and at this location the fence would be north of the property line by at least 1'-11".

In response to staff review comments, including the Village's coastal engineering consultant, the two lakeward sections of fencing (the east 20 feet) would be modular, so that these sections could be removed during late fall and winter and reinstalled in the spring.

The proposed site plan and up-close excerpts of both the north and south fences, as well as elevations of the proposed fencing in the New Plan are provided on the following pages (Figures 17 through 21). The complete set of the New Plan is included in **Attachment A**.

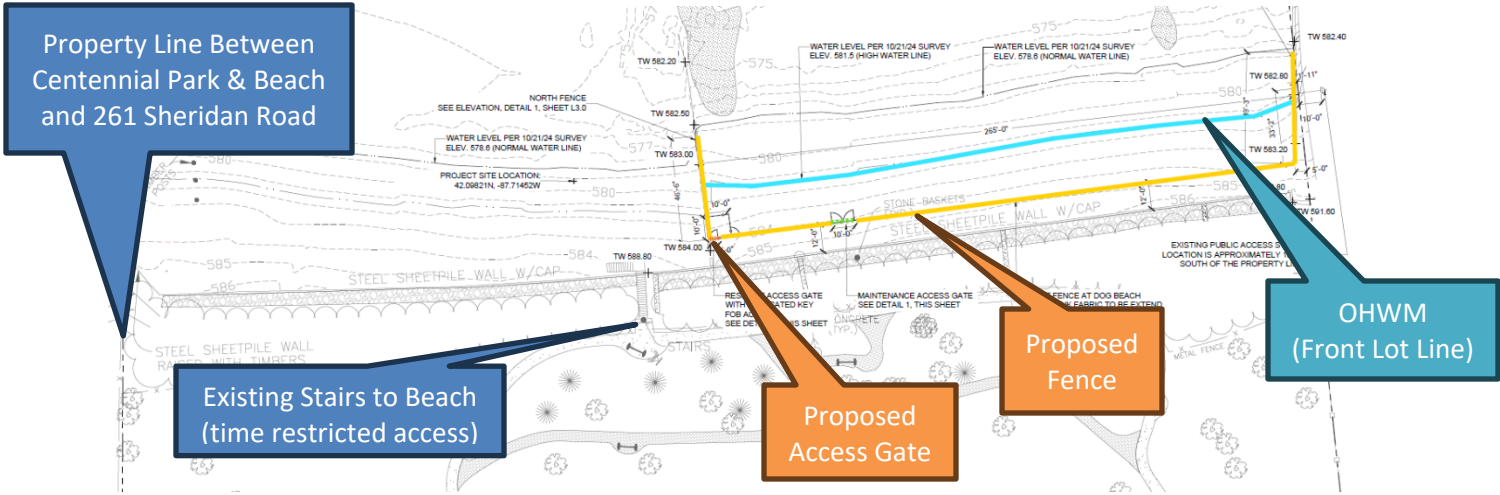


Figure 17 – New Plan - Site Fencing Plan (Excerpt of Sheet L2.0)

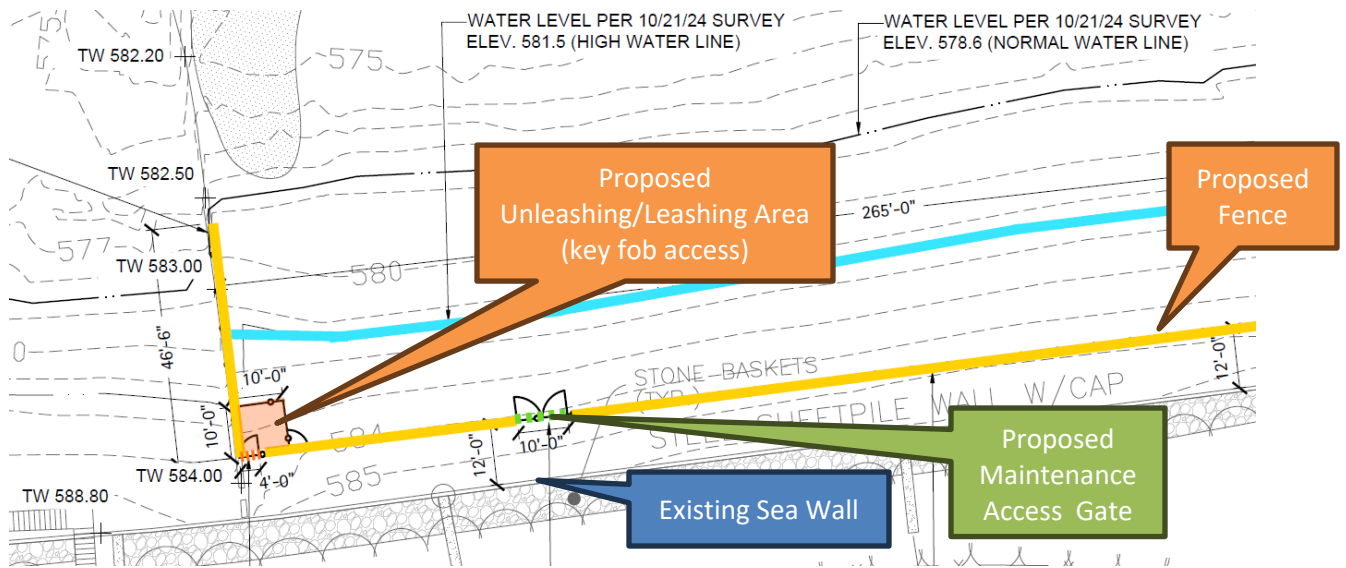


Figure 18 – New Plan - North and West Portion of Proposed Fencing (Excerpt of Sheet L2.0)

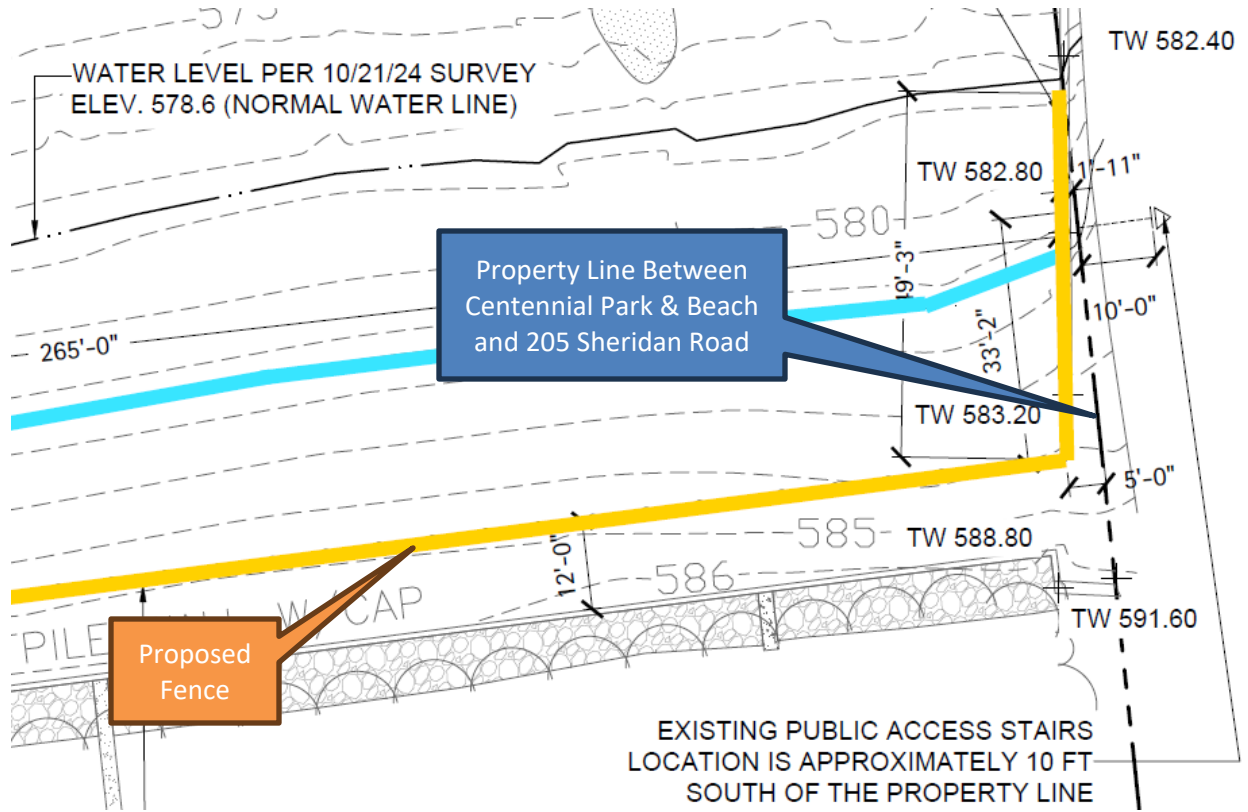


Figure 19 – New Plan - South and West Portion of Proposed Fencing (Excerpt of Sheet L2.0)

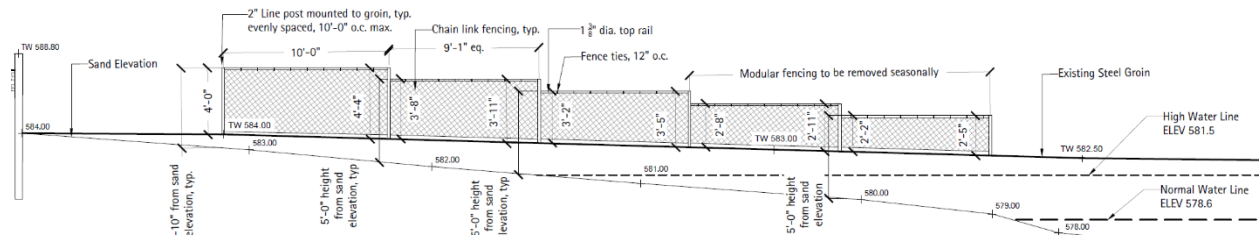


Figure 20 – New Plan - Elevation of North Fence

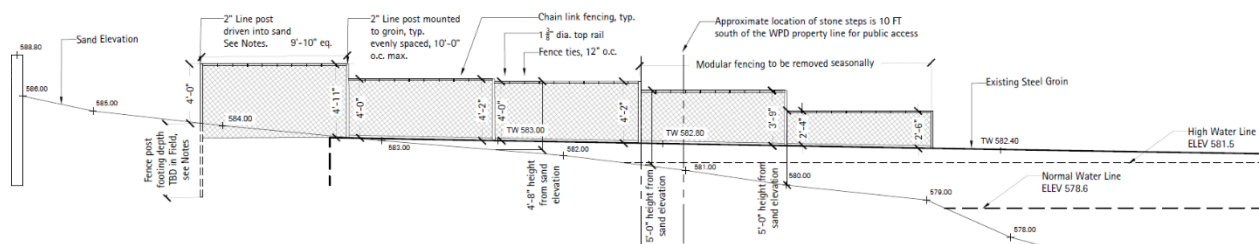


Figure 21 – New Plan - Elevation of South Fence

Fence and wall height within required setbacks. With the adoption of the steep slope regulations, the Village also amended the Zoning Ordinance to redefine the front line along the lake as well as the front yard setback along the lake. The front lot line is now the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) and is defined as the line on the shore of Lake Michigan consistent with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' administrative benchmark, which is currently set at 581.5'. The front yard setback along the lake is now defined as the toe of the bluff or 50 feet from the OHWM, whichever results in the line farthest from the OHWM.

The Zoning Ordinance allows fences, walls, or a combination of a fence and wall within a required yard that is no taller than 6.5 feet from natural grade. While the proposed fence is located within the required front yard, at a height of 4 feet, it complies with the maximum permitted height. Therefore, the proposed fence complies with the zoning regulations.

CONSIDERATION BY OTHER ADVISORY BOARDS/COMMISSIONS

Plan Commission. On January 28, 2026, the PC considered the Applicant's Original Plan and the only Plan the Applicant presented to the PC for approval of a special use permit to allow installation of fencing on the existing beach. After a presentation by staff and a presentation by the Applicant, the PC heard from 16 members of the public. 15 of the speakers spoke in opposition to the proposed plan. The PC then discussed the request. By a vote of 7-0, the PC directed the Village Attorney to prepare a draft recommendation of denial with written findings and determinations based on the PC's discussion of the Original Plan for consideration at the next Plan Commission meeting on February 25, 2026.

On February 25, 2026, by a vote of 6-0, the PC approved the written findings and recommendation to deny the Special Use Permit.

Zoning Board of Appeals. As noted at the beginning of this report, on February 9, 2026, the ZBA commenced a public hearing on the Applicant's special use. However, since the Winnetka Park District Board authorized a new plan at its February 5 special meeting and the new plan had not been submitted to the Village for review in advance of the February 9 ZBA meeting, by a vote of 7-0, the ZBA voted to continue the item to the March 9 ZBA meeting. At the March 9 meeting, after hearing from staff and the Applicant, the ZBA heard from 15 members of the public. Approximately 14 members of the public expressed significant concerns about safety, public access, parking, private property encroachments, and beach obstructions. By a vote of 7-0, the ZBA directed the Village Attorney to prepare a draft recommendation of denial with written findings and determinations based on the ZBA's discussion of the New Plan for consideration at the next ZBA meeting on March 16.

On March 16, 2026, by a vote of 6-0, the ZBA approved the written findings and recommendation to deny the Special Use Permit.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS CONSIDERATIONS

As established by the Village Code, the DRB is to consider the following four (4) factors in determining whether to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness:

"(1) whether the proposed external architectural features and site improvements are appropriate to and compatible with the character of the immediate neighborhood;"

"(2) whether the proposed external architectural features and site improvements are appropriate to and compatible with adopted Village plans for and improvements in the immediate neighborhood, and including both urban design and site arrangement considerations;"

"(3) whether the proposed external architectural features and site improvements are consistent with applicable Village design guidelines and such standards and criteria as may be adopted by the Board; and"

"(4) the probable effect of the proposed external architectural features on the integrity of the immediate vicinity."

The DRB will need to determine if the proposed fencing on the existing beach located at Centennial Beach

complies with the above standards.

DESIGN GUIDELINES ANALYSIS

The Village's Design Guidelines provide recommendations and standards on the appearance of site and building design for commercial and institutional uses. The Design Guidelines were predominantly developed for use within the three business districts and nearby multi-family residential and institutional structures. Therefore, it is challenging to use the Design Guidelines for areas outside of the three business districts. With respect to fencing, the Design Guidelines focus on fencing for screening of mechanical equipment and streetscape elements, including obscuring the view of parking lots, in the business districts, multifamily residential, and institutional areas, which are not applicable to this request.

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATION

At the April 16 DRB meeting, the DRB is scheduled to consider the design of the Applicant's proposed fencing on Centennial Beach. After hearing from the Applicant and the public, the DRB will have the following options:

- 1) Continue the public hearing to a specific date to provide the Applicant and/or staff with additional time to address questions and comments from the DRB; or
- 2) Consider a motion recommending approval or denial of the Certificate of Appropriateness. If the DRB is prepared to make a recommendation to the Village Council regarding the request, a DRB member should make a motion recommending approval or recommending denial based upon the following findings of fact and direct staff and the Village Attorney to prepare written findings and determinations for the DRB's consideration and final vote at a subsequent meeting:
 - a. The proposed fencing **is consistent [is not consistent]** with the following standards used for evaluating a certificate of appropriateness:
 - (1) *the proposed external architectural features and site improvements are appropriate to and compatible with the character of the immediate neighborhood;*
 - (2) *the proposed external architectural features and site improvements are appropriate to and compatible with adopted Village plans for and improvements in the immediate neighborhood, and including both urban design and site arrangement considerations;*
 - (3) *the proposed external architectural features and site improvements are consistent with applicable Village design guidelines and such standards and criteria as may be adopted by the Board; and*
 - (4) *the probable effect of the proposed external architectural features on the integrity of the immediate vicinity.*
 - b. ***[If the DRB chooses to place conditions as part of its recommendation of approval, it will want to include the conditions here.]***

As noted above, any motion on a decision by the Design Review Board should direct the Village Attorney to prepare written findings and determinations for the Design Review Board to consider and vote on at a subsequent meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Application Materials

Attachment B: Public Correspondence Previously Included in ZBA and PC Agenda Packets

Attachment C: Public Correspondence Received Since Posting of March 16, 2026, ZBA Agenda Packet

ATTACHMENT A



Costa Kutulas
Director of Parks and Maintenance
Winnetka Park District
1380 Willow Road
Winnetka Illinois 60093

April 3, 2026

Ann Klaassen
Assistant Director of Community Development
Village of Winnetka
Winnetka Illinois 60093

Re: Special Use Permit Case No. 25-28-SU
Centennial Beach – Off-Leash Dog Beach
Design Review Board Meeting

Ann,

Per our recent conversation, I wanted to follow up with additional clarification regarding the design elements associated with the Centennial Dog Beach fencing project currently under review as part of Special Use Permit Case No. 25-28-SU. This letter and exhibits are intended to supplement the materials previously submitted to the Village of Winnetka in advance of the Design Review Board meeting scheduled for April 16, 2026. I have also included an updated Certificate of Appropriateness Application, which has been revised to clearly reflect the optionality of the two proposed plan configurations.

As you are aware, the Park District initially submitted its Special Use Permit application on October 21, 2025. Since that time, the Park District has continued to refine the plans in response to staff review, Plan Commission feedback, and Park Board direction. The most recent plan set was submitted on February 13, 2026, with a corrected plan illustration transmitted on February 17, 2026. Additional materials outlining operational considerations and providing further design detail were submitted on March 4, 2026, to support the ongoing review process for Centennial Beach.

Based on the materials provided to date, it is our understanding that the primary design elements relevant to the Design Review Board's review have been incorporated within the submitted plan sets. However, I would like to clearly communicate that the Park District is formally requesting

Design Review Board consideration of both the original fencing plan (submitted October 21, 2025) and the revised Alternate 1 plan (submitted February 17, 2026).

Given the progression of this application through the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, where only a single plan configuration (though differing between boards) was presented at each stage, the Park District believes it is important to provide the Design Review Board, and ultimately the Village Council, with the opportunity to evaluate both design approaches concurrently. This approach is intended to provide greater flexibility and transparency in the review process, while ensuring that all viable design options remain under consideration as part of the final decision-making process.

For reference, the Park District has received permits from IDNR, IEPA, and USACE for the original plan design.

As discussed, additional clarification regarding fencing materials and color palette will assist the Design Review Board in completing its review.

The original plan (Exhibit A), submitted October 21, 2025, illustrates two galvanized fencing runs inset approximately 20 feet from both the north and south park property lines. These fence lines extend approximately 15 feet into the lake from the existing western seawall and incorporate double-entry gate systems to facilitate safe leashing and unleashing of dogs while minimizing the potential for unintended egress, consistent with Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control (CCDARC) requirements. Fence posts are designed to be driven into the sand to refusal and cut to a height of approximately 4 feet above grade. The northern fence segment is approximately 76 feet in length, and the southern segment approximately 63 feet, with the easternmost 15 feet of each segment designed for seasonal removal to accommodate winter lake conditions. The fencing is intended to follow the existing beach profile and be maintained accordingly. Both options maintain the gate at the top of the bluff allowing access to Centennial Beach accordingly.

Alternate 1 (Exhibit B), submitted February 17, 2026, represents a revised approach that reduces the overall length of the off-leash dog beach area by approximately half and responds directly to concerns raised during Plan Commission review. Under this alternative, the existing gate at the top of the bluff will remain, maintaining access from the upland area and allow for closure of the site during off hours. This gate is metal and finished in black, consistent with its existing condition.

At the beach level, the proposed fencing includes both post-driven sections for the western fence run (approximately 265 linear feet, offset 12 feet from the existing seawall) as well as panels affixed to the existing steel groins, which will serve as the structural support for the east-west fence runs. All fencing materials will consist of black vinyl-coated chain link with black metal components. The imagery included in Exhibit B provides representative examples of the proposed material and appearance. This fencing type is consistent with installations throughout the Park District system and community, including the Skokie Playfield campus (COA approved) and Duke Child Fields and was selected for its durability and adaptability within the dynamic shoreline environment of Lake Michigan. Like the original plan, the easternmost 20 feet of fencing will be seasonally removed to prevent damage from winter storm events.

All proposed beach-level gates will be constructed of matching materials and finished in black to maintain a cohesive and consistent visual appearance. The use of black fencing in lakefront settings is a widely accepted design approach, as it minimizes visual prominence, preserves sightlines toward Lake Michigan, and blends more effectively with the surrounding landscape. Similar applications can be observed at both Elder Lane and the Centennial Park bluffs, where black fencing is used to reduce visual impact and integrate with natural surroundings. The outer beach-level gate will operate with a key fob-controlled locking system to ensure compliance with CCDARC access control requirements for off-leash dog areas.

Regardless of the option ultimately selected, signage will be installed in accordance with the Park District's standard signage branding program to ensure consistency across facilities while providing clear operational and wayfinding information for users. Representative examples are included in Exhibit B.

If the Design Review Board or Village staff require any additional information in advance of the April 16, 2026 meeting, please do not hesitate to reach out. The Park District appreciates the continued coordination with Village staff as the review process moves forward.

Sincerely,

Costa Kutulas
Director of Parks and Maintenance
Winnetka Park District

CC: Shannon Nazzal, Executive Director of the Winnetka Park District

Harold W. Francke, Legal Counsel, Winnetka Park District Centennial Beach Project

Exhibit A
Winnetka Park District – Special Use Permit Case No 25-28-SU
225 Sheridan Road – Centennial Beach
Original Plan and additional images of the proposed project materials for the fencing.

Image from January 2023 showing the approximate location size and scale of the northern fence (no fabric was installed in the photo)



Image from January 2023 showing the proposed fencing materials (galvanized chain-link)



Image from 2010 of the previous fencing that was installed at Centennial Beach near the north property line. (Galvanized posts and fabric).



Images of 4' Galvanized Chain-Link Fencing (similar in design to what proposed for original design Design)



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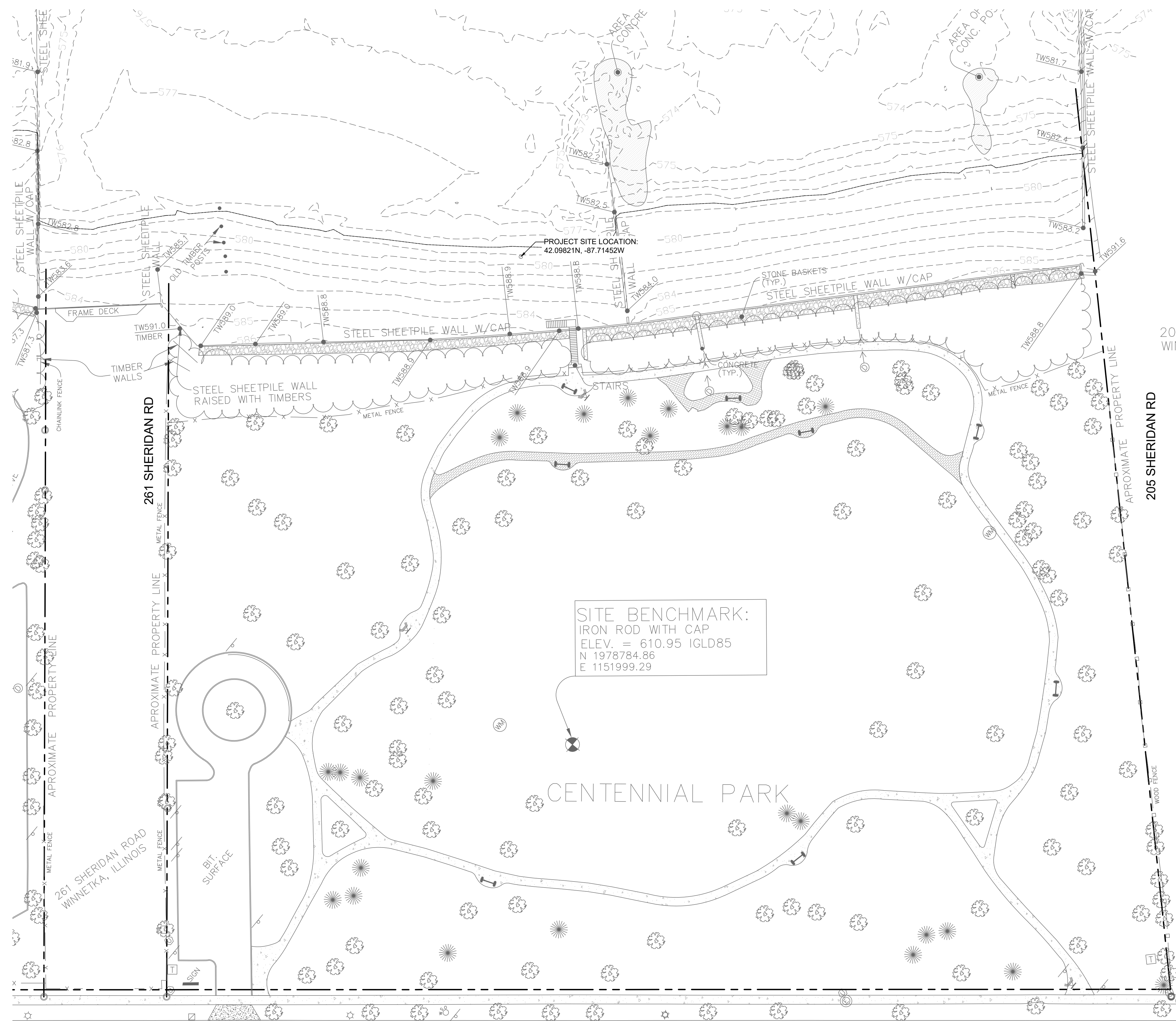
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Winnetka Park District

540 Hibbard Rd
Winnetka, IL 60093

CENTENNIAL DOG BEACH

Temporary Dog Beach Fencing

225 Sheridan Rd
Winnetka, IL 60093



205 SHERIDAN ROAD
WINNETKA, ILLINOIS

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SHERIDAN ROAD

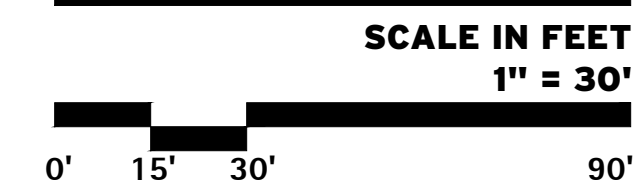
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REVISIONS

No	Date	Issue

VICINITY MAP



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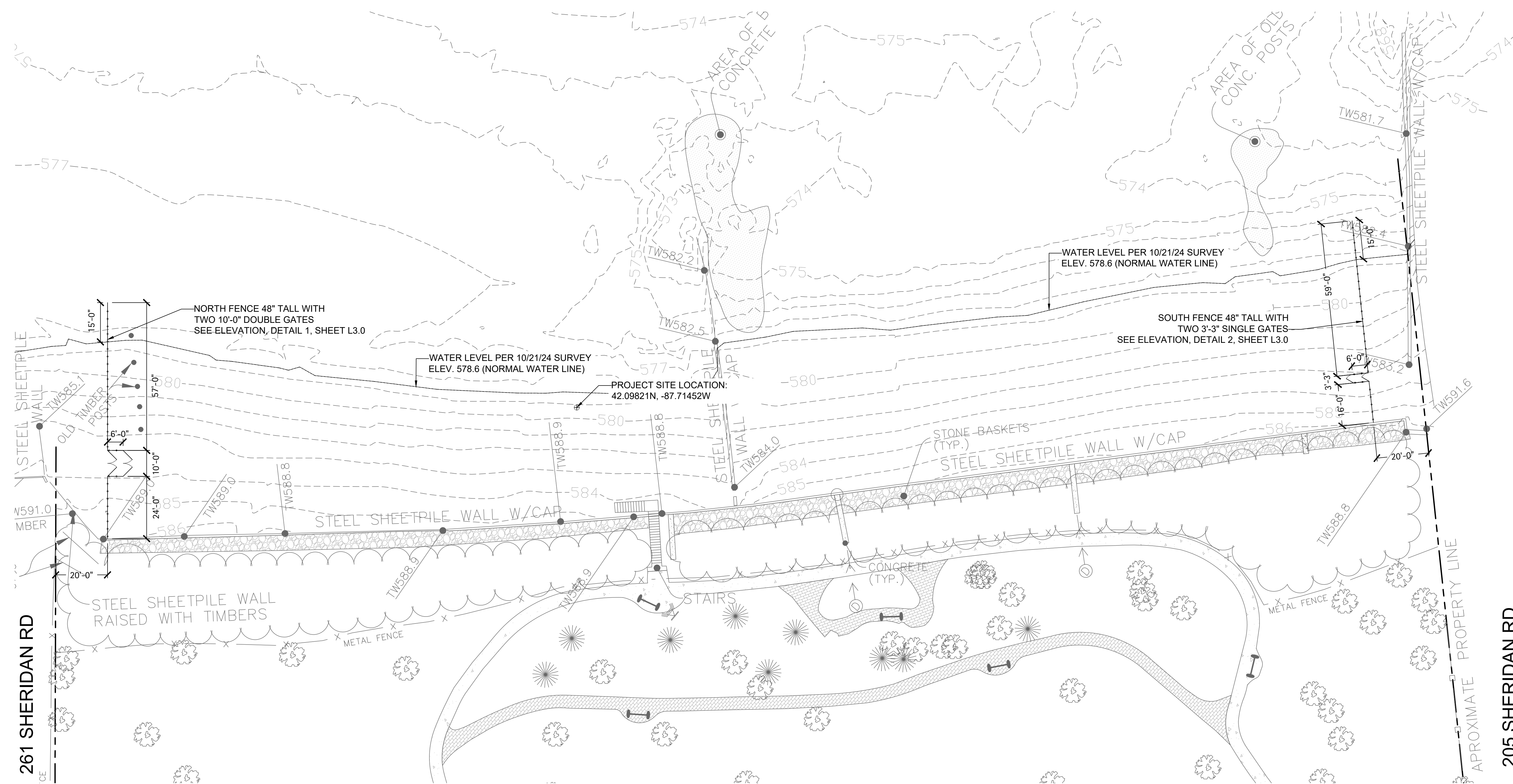
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CENTENNIAL DOG BEACH

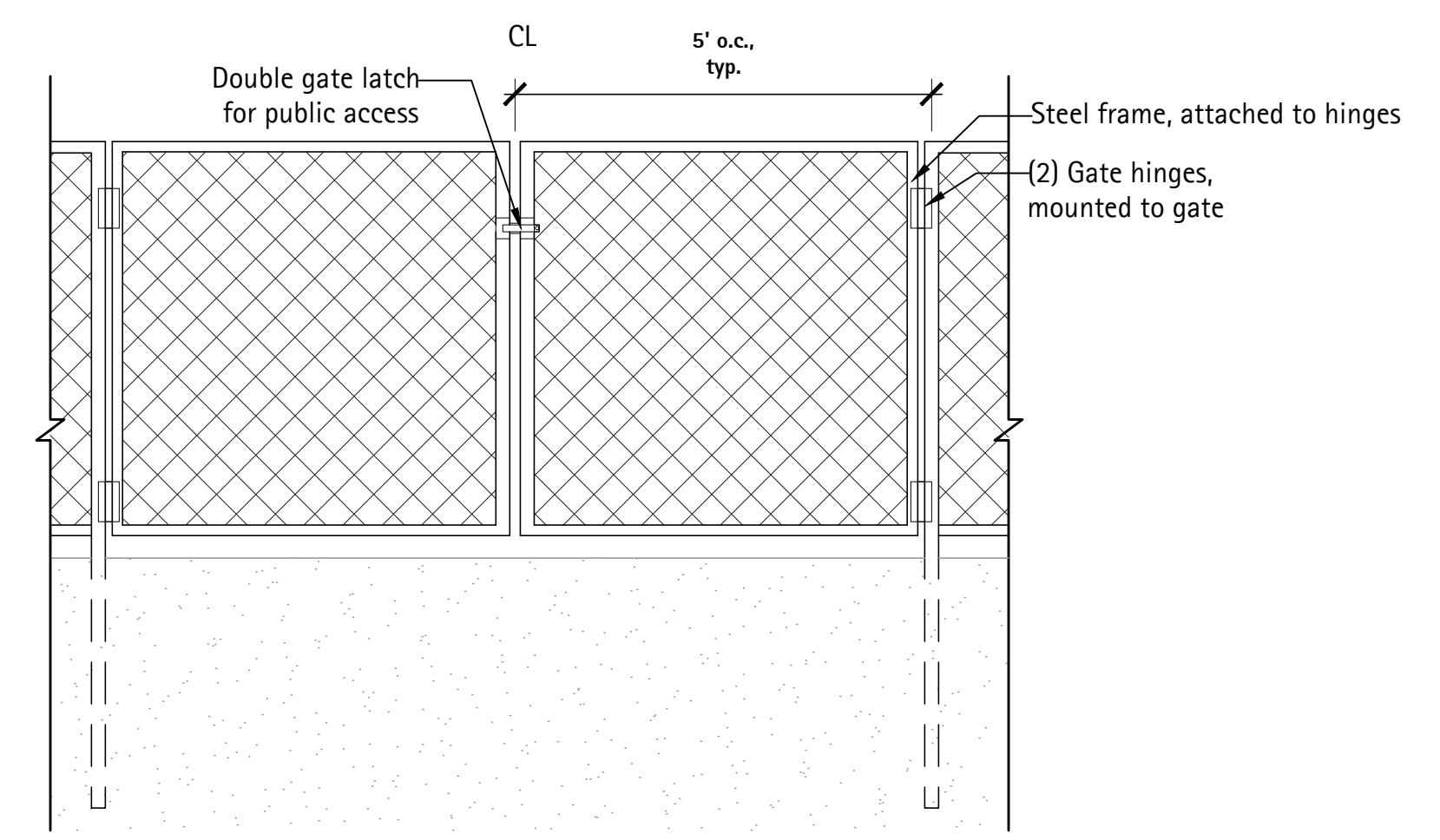
Temporary Dog Beach Fencing

225 Sheridan Rd
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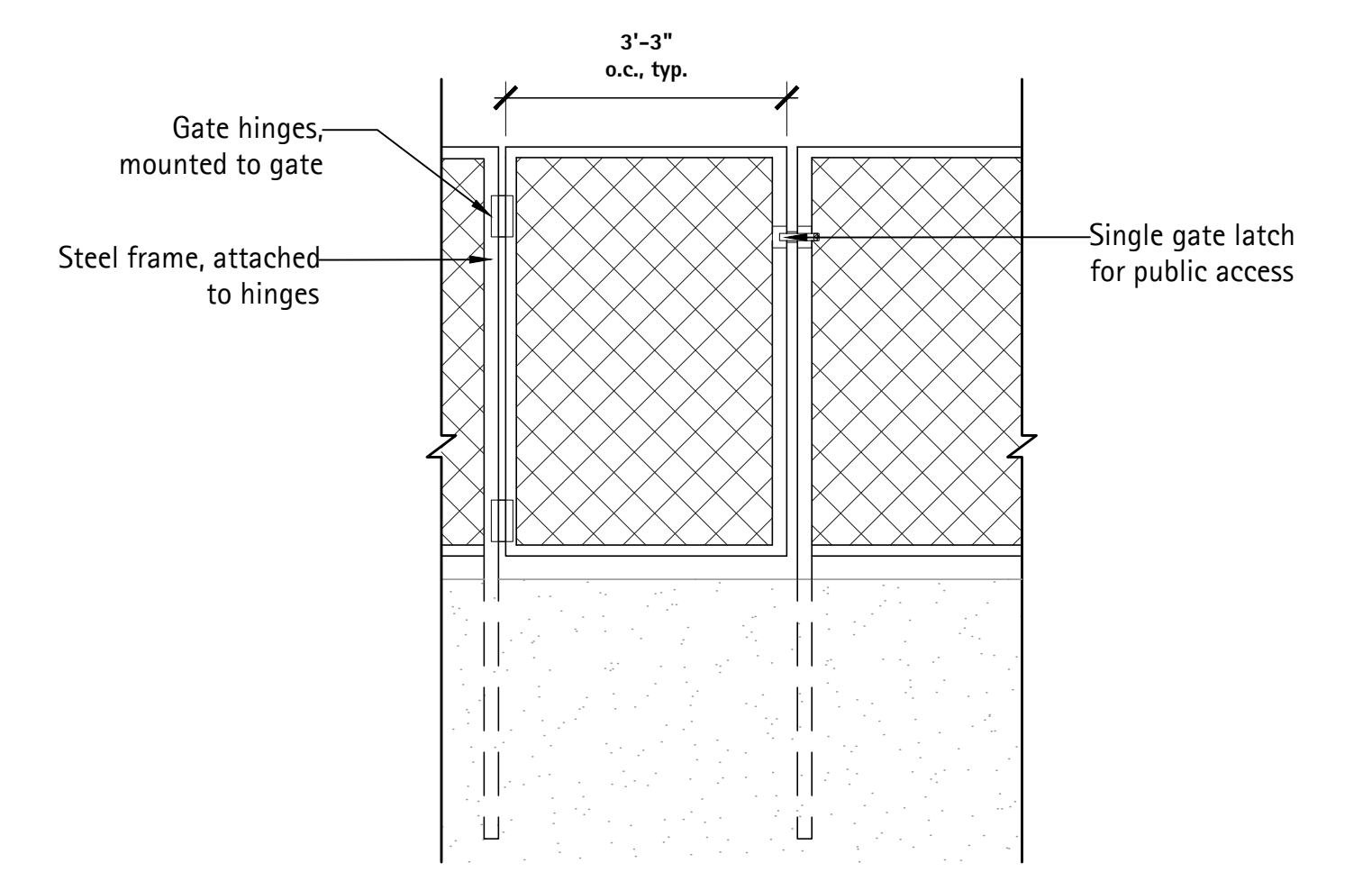


261 SHERIDAN RD

205 SHERIDAN RD



1 Double Access Gate at Dog Beach - Elevation
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



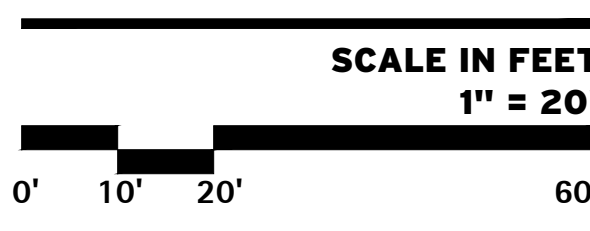
2 Single Access Gate at Dog Beach - Elevation
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

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SITE FENCING PLAN



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CENTENNIAL DOG BEACH Temporary Dog Beach Fencing

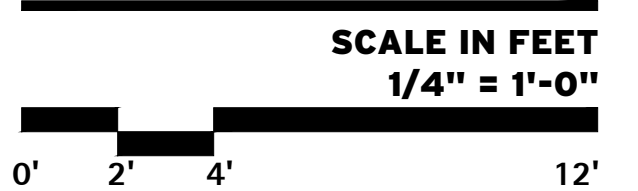
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Winnetka, IL 60093



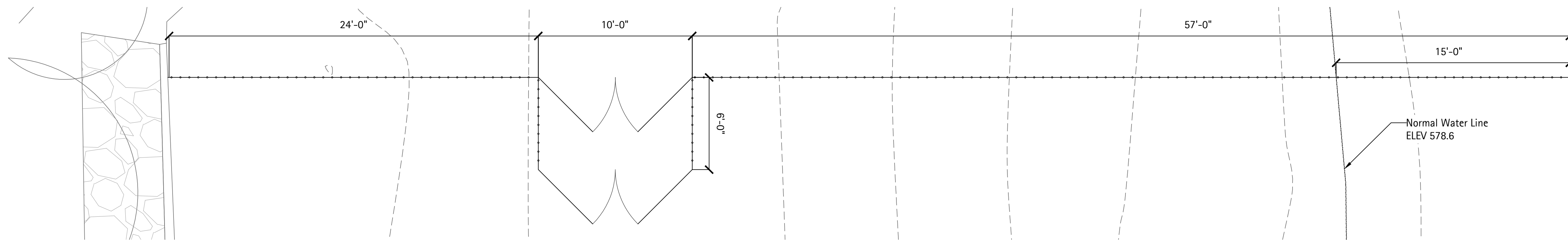
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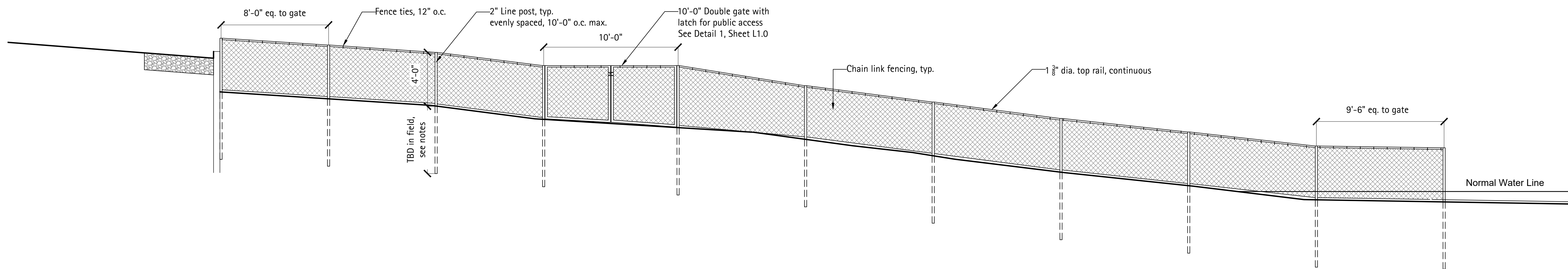
FENCE ELEVATIONS



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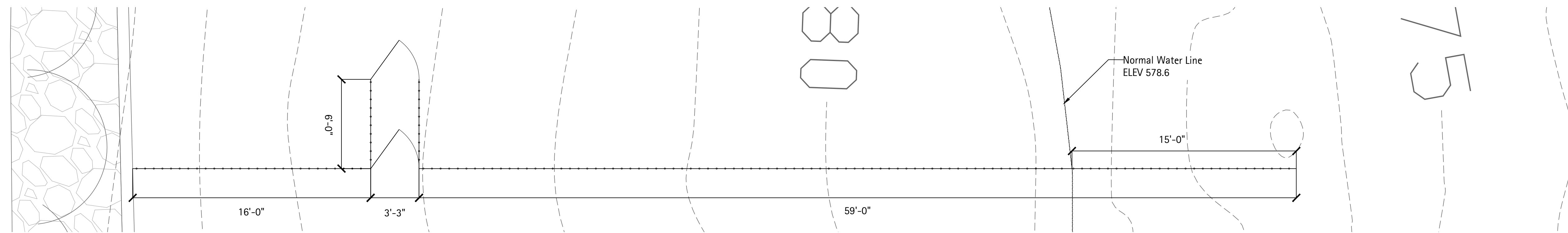


Plan

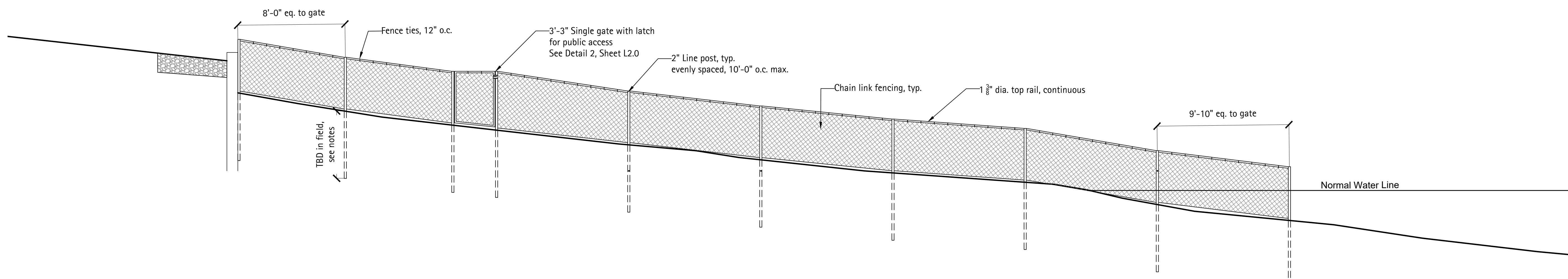


1 Elevation - North Dog Beach Fence
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

- Notes:
1. Steel top rail to run continuously over multiple posts.
 2. Posts to be driven into the sand and underlying clay until refusal. Posts will then be cut 48" above the sand line



Plan



2 Elevation - South Dog Beach Fence
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

Exhibit B
Winnetka Park District – Special Use Permit Case No 25-28-SU
225 Sheridan Road – Centennial Beach
Alternate 1 Plans and additional images of the proposed project materials for the fencing.

Images of 4' Black Chain-Link Fencing (similar in design to what proposed for Alternate 1 Design)

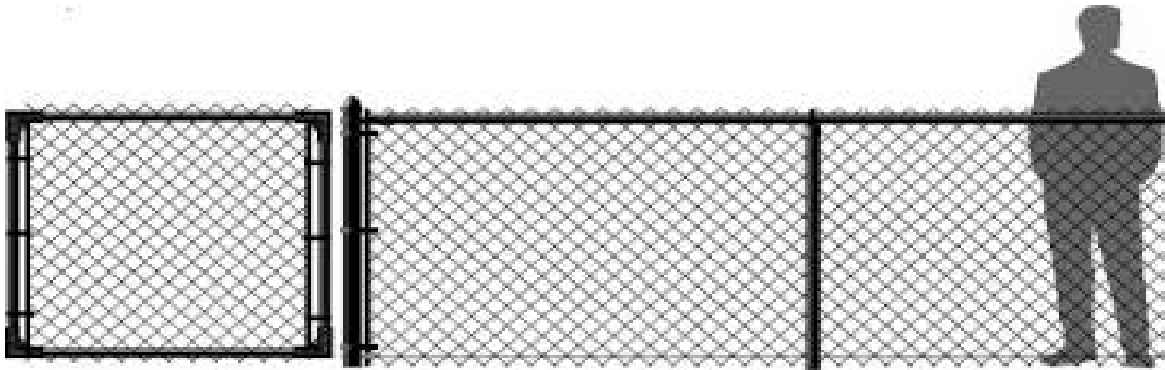


Image of black chain-link fencing similar in design to the proposed Alternate 1 dog fence double access gate area.



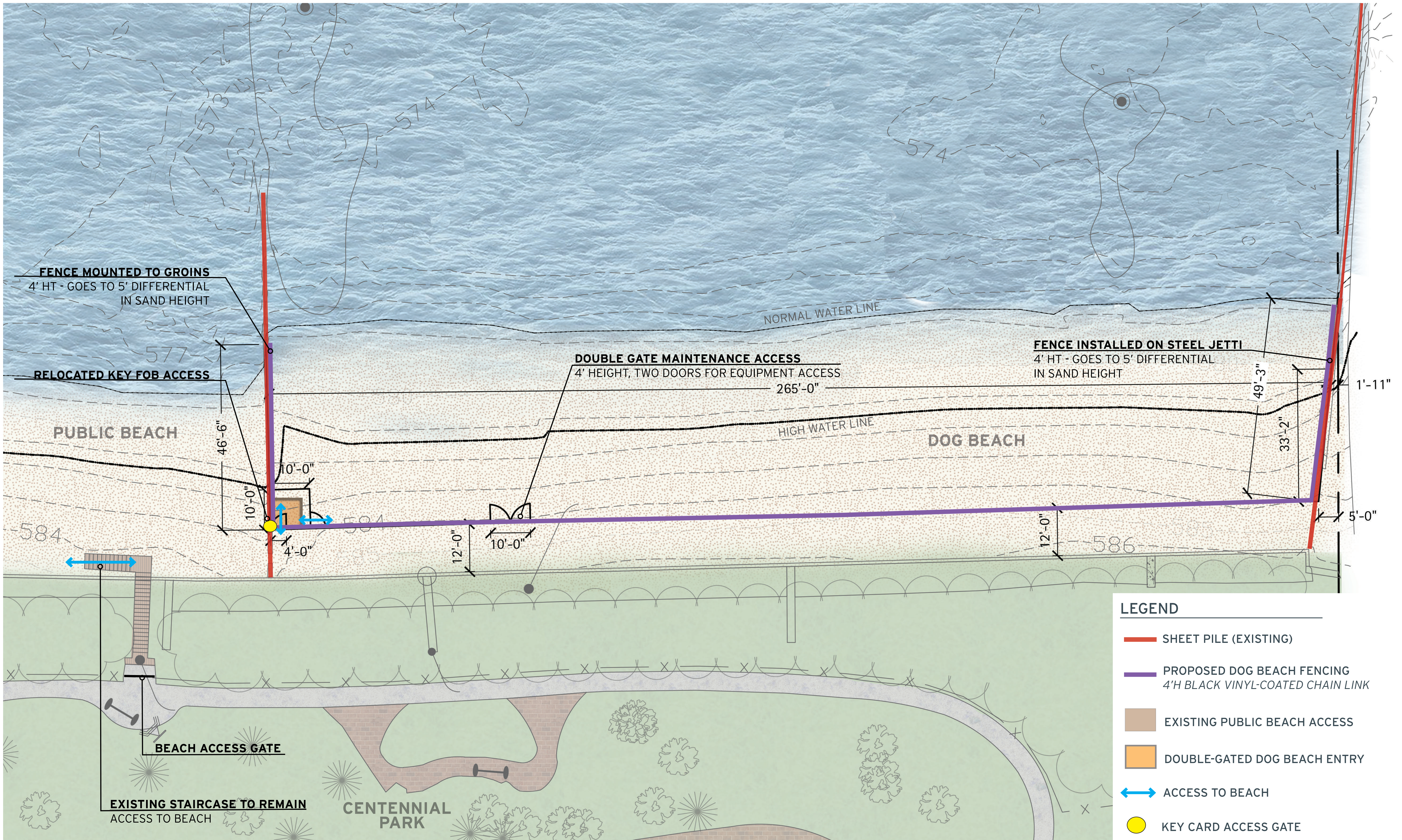
Image of the existing Centennial Beach Kep Fob Gate with signage (top of bluff)



Image of the existing Centennial Beach black fencing (top of bluff)



Site images of the project location were already included in the original Certificate of Appropriateness (Dated 10-21-2025) Additional images will be provided to the Design Review Board the evening of the meeting (April 16, 2026).



- LEGEND**
- SHEET PILE (EXISTING)
 - PROPOSED DOG BEACH FENCING
4'H BLACK VINYL-COATED CHAIN LINK
 - ▭ EXISTING PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS
 - ▭ DOUBLE-GATED DOG BEACH ENTRY
 - ↔ ACCESS TO BEACH
 - KEY CARD ACCESS GATE

CENTENNIAL BEACH & BLUFF IMPROVEMENTS

CENTENNIAL DOG FENCE PLAN:ALTERNATE 1

WINNETKA, ILLINOIS

SCALE: 1"=10'
0 5' 10' 20' NORTH

MARCH 5, 2026



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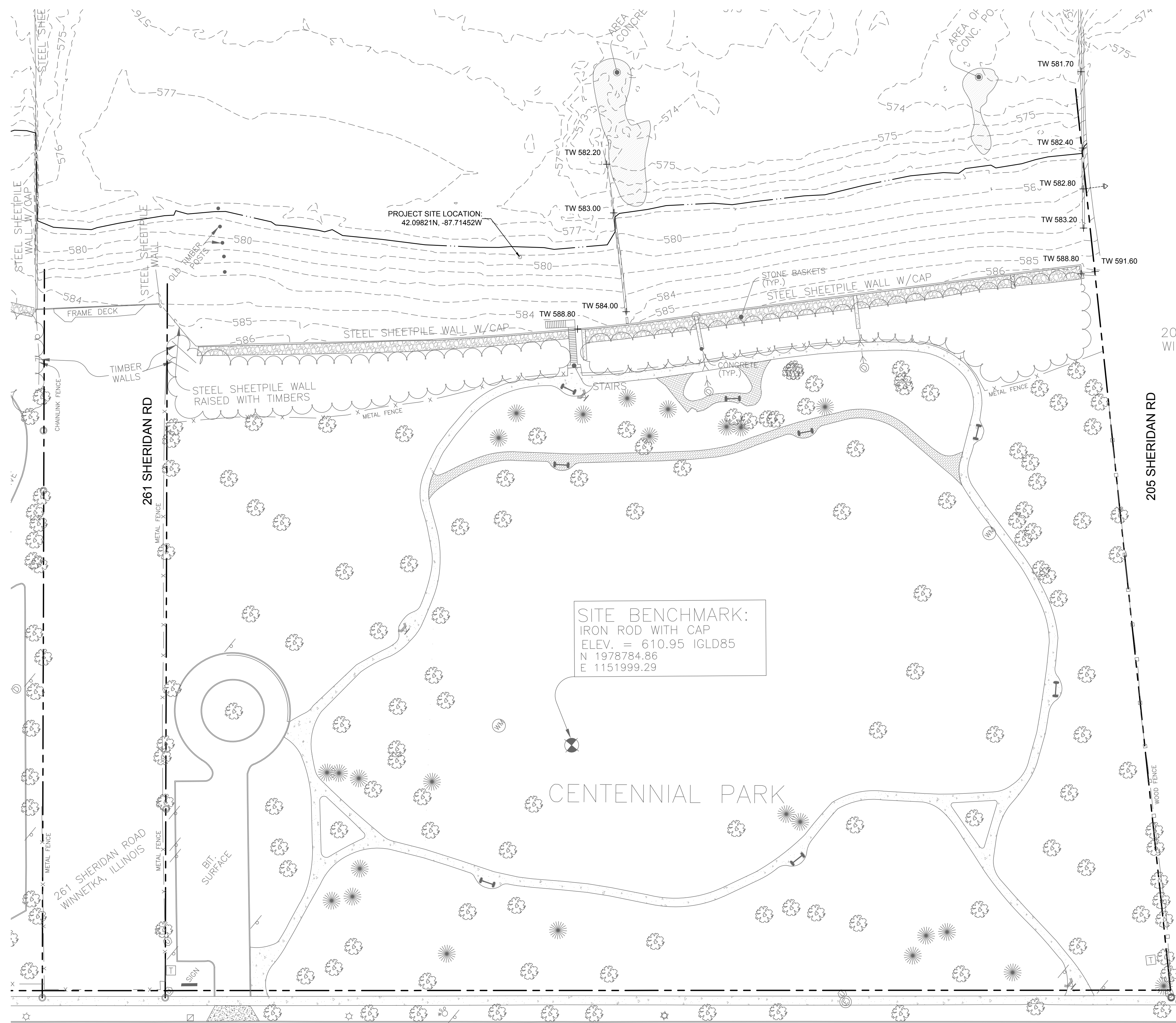
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Winnetka Park District

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Winnetka, IL 60093

CENTENNIAL DOG BEACH
Dog Beach Fencing
Alternate Plan 1

225 Sheridan Rd
Winnetka, IL 60093

205 SHERIDAN ROAD
WINNETKA, ILLINOIS



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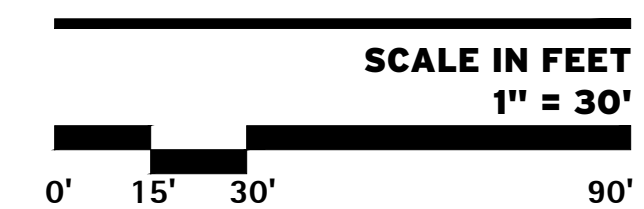
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REVISIONS

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VICINITY MAP



NORTH

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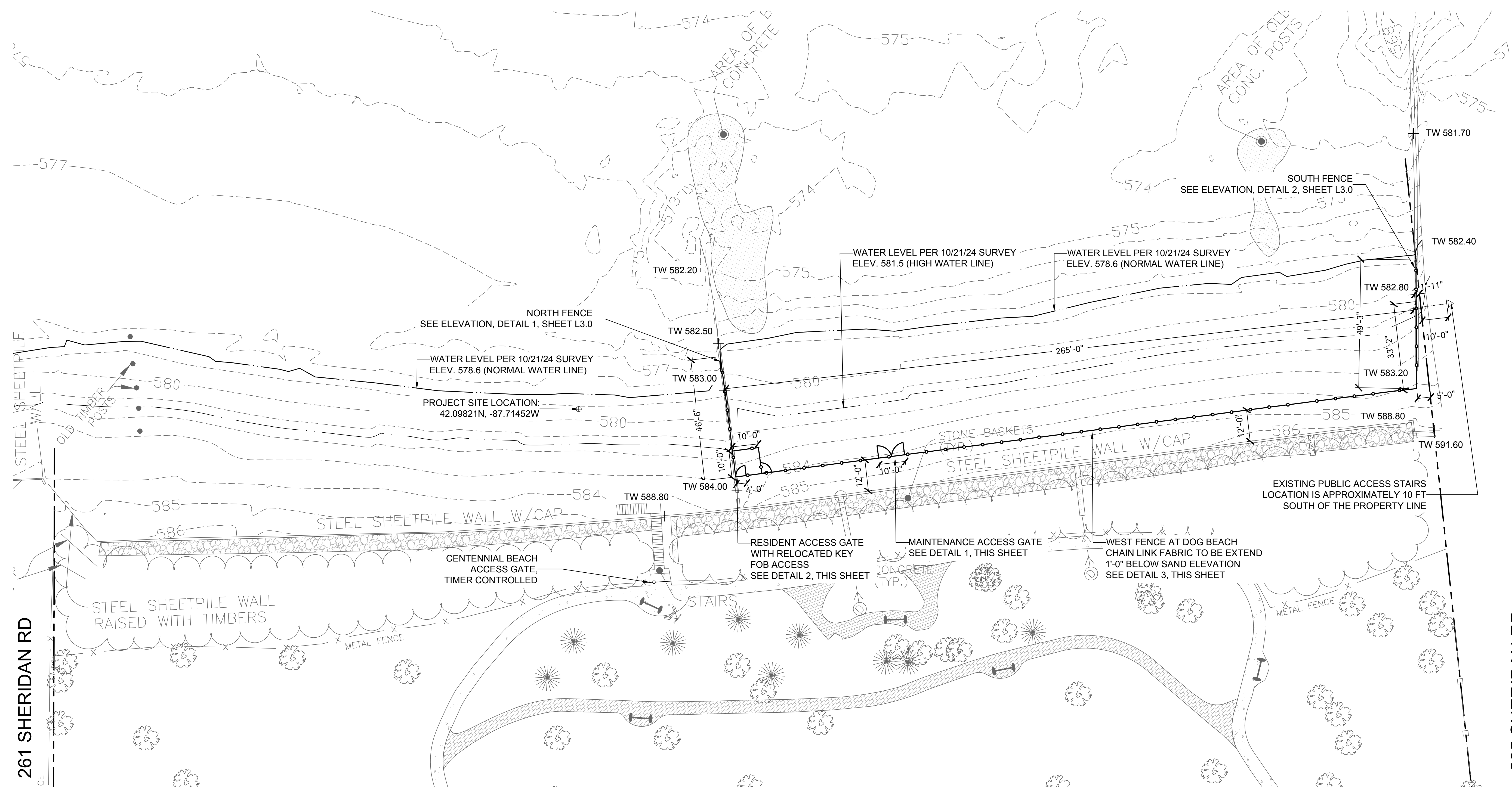
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CENTENNIAL DOG BEACH
Dog Beach Fencing
Alternate Plan 1

225 Sheridan Rd
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261 SHERIDAN RD

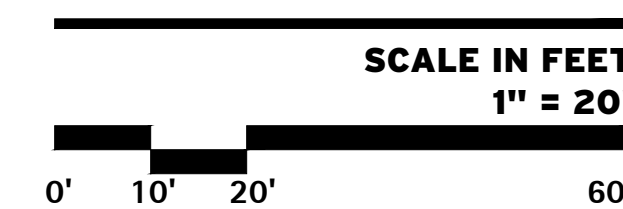
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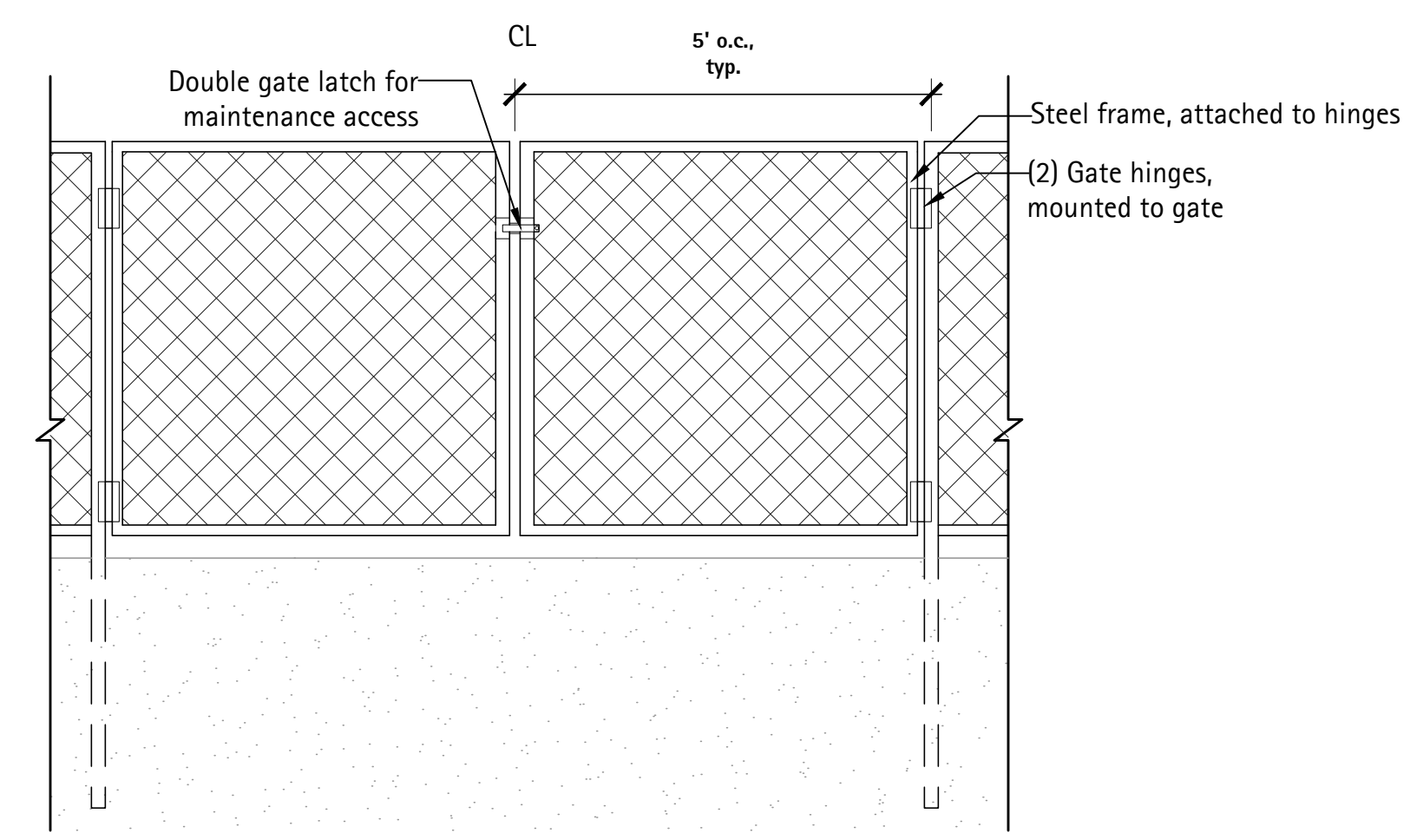
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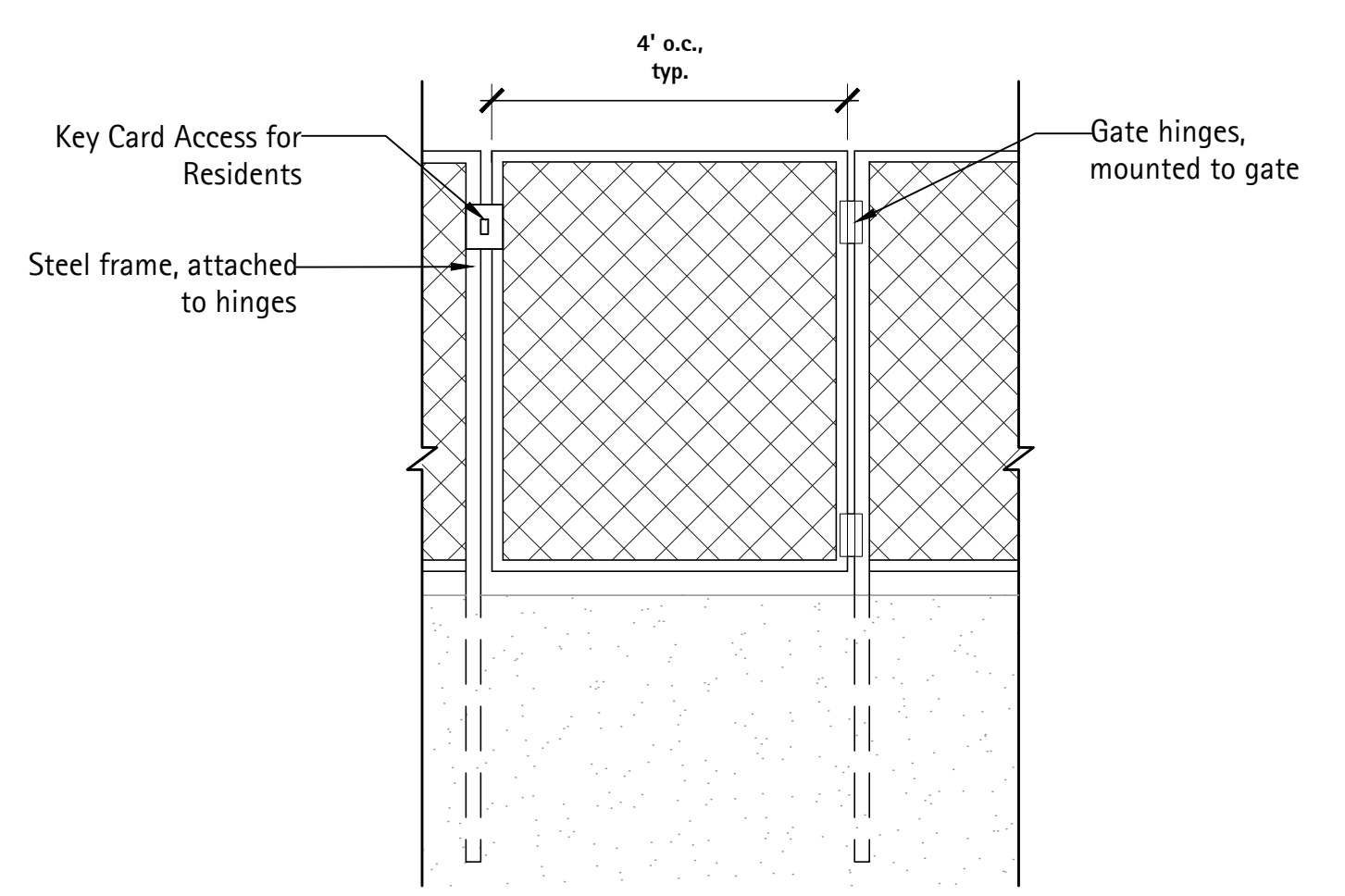
SITE FENCING PLAN



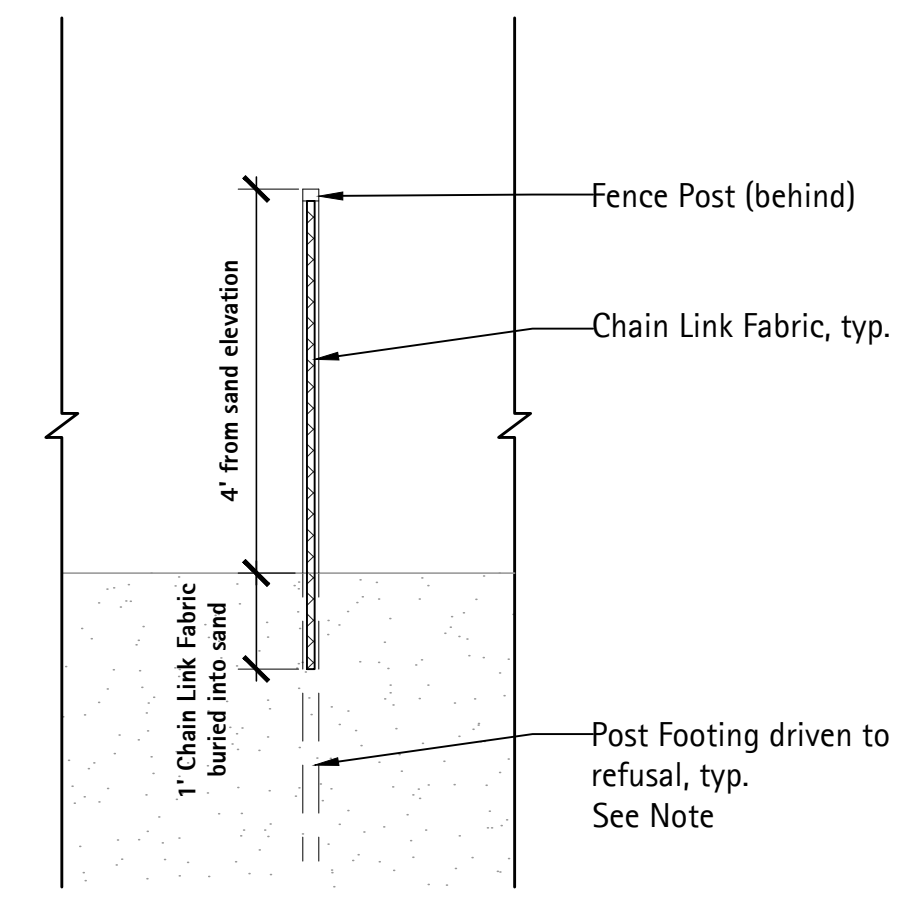
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1 Maintenance Access Gate at Dog Beach - Elevation
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



2 Resident Access Gate at Dog Beach - Elevation
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



3 West Fence at Dog Beach - Cross Section
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

- Notes:
- Posts to be driven into the sand and underlying clay until refusal. Post will then be cut 48" above the sand line with 1'-0" of chain link fabric to be buried below grade for fence panels. Gate panels shall not have buried chain link fabric condition.

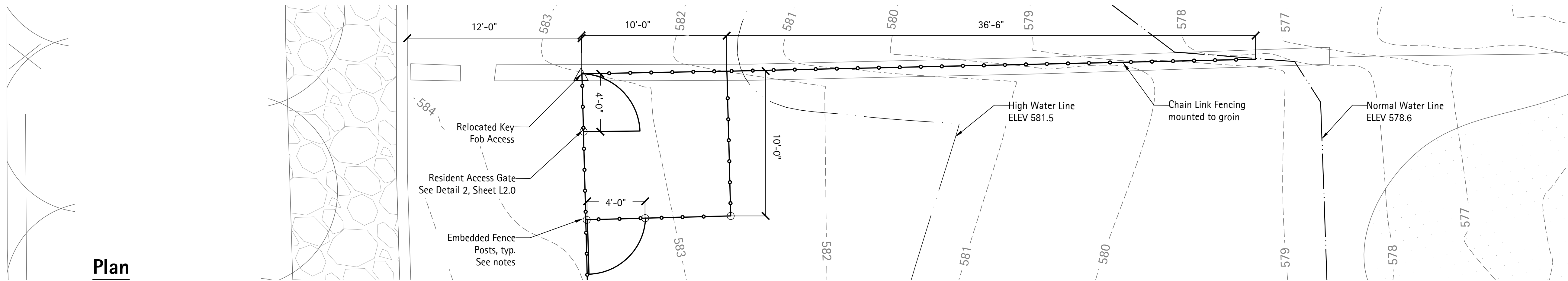
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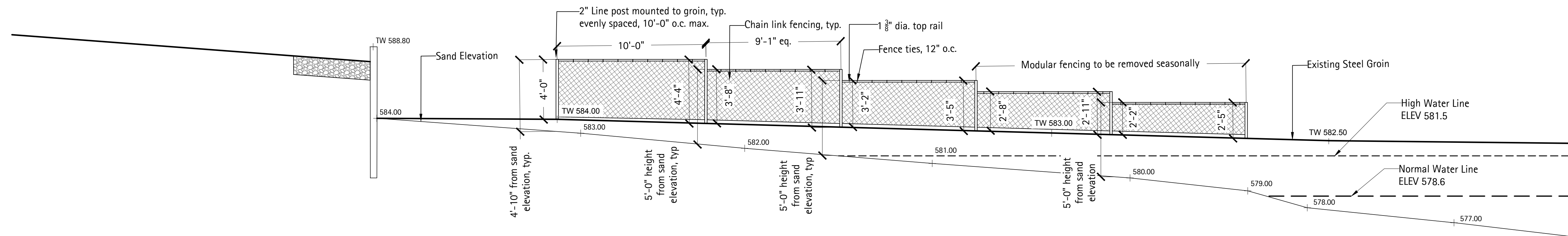
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CENTENNIAL DOG BEACH
Dog Beach Fencing
Alternate Plan 1

225 Sheridan Rd
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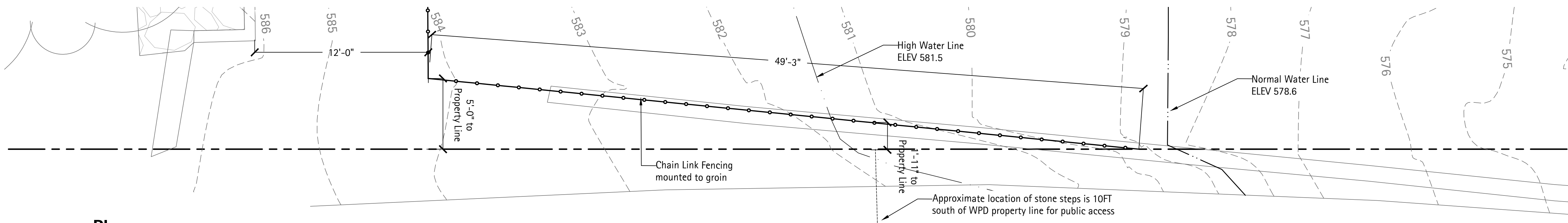
Plan



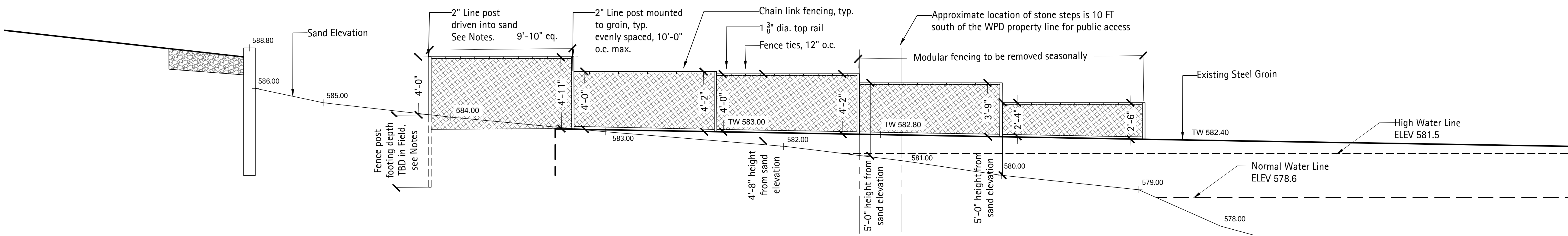
Notes:

1. Steel top rail to run continuously over multiple posts where shown.
2. The eastern 20'-0" of fencing shall be removable fencing panels for seasonal damage prevention.
3. Posts shown over steel groin to be surface-mounted onto the steel groin.
4. At-grade fence posts to be driven into the sand and underlying clay until refusal. Post will then be cut 48" above the sand line with 1'-0" of chain link fabric to be buried below grade.

1 Elevation - North Dog Beach Fence
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"



Plan



Notes:

1. Steel top rail to run continuously over multiple posts where shown.
2. The eastern 20'-0" of fencing shall be removable fencing panels for seasonal damage prevention.
3. Westernmost post identified in elevation to be driven into the sand and underlying clay until refusal. Post will then be cut 48" above the sand line with 1'-0" of chain link fabric to be buried below grade.

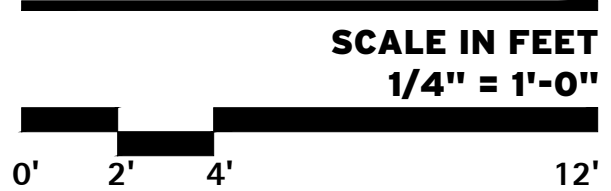
2 Elevation - South Dog Beach Fence
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

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No	Date	Issue

FENCE ELEVATIONS



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VILLAGE OF WINNETKA, ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS APPLICATION

Project Address: 225 Sheridan Road

Name of Business(es): Winnetka Park District

Application is hereby made for the following work (please check all that apply):

- Sign Sign Permit Application attached?
- Awning Awning Permit Application attached?
- Other (general description) Installation of Dog Beach Fencing

Please provide a detailed description of the proposed work (attach additional information such as material specifications, photographs, etc.): Looking to install dog beach fencing at Centennial Park. There are two different options submitted, Park District is formally requesting Design Review Board consideration of both the original fencing plan (submitted 10/21/2025) and the revised Alternate 1 Plan (submitted 2/17/2026). 4/3/2026 Letter to Village CD describes both plans.

I/We hereby certify that as Owner (Lessee/Owner) of the property located at 225 Sheridan Road (address), I am/we are authorized to submit plans for alterations of the subject property. I/We agree to perform the subject work in accordance with the conditions of approval by the Winnetka Design Review Board as well as all other applicable codes, rules and regulations of the Village of Winnetka.

SIGNED *Costa Kutulas*
 PRINTED NAME(S) Costa Kutulas
 ADDRESS 540 Hibbard Road
 PHONE NO. 847-501-2052
 EMAIL ckutulas@winpark.org

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

COA applied for (date): _____
 COA Case Number: _____
 COA Issued (date): _____

PRIMARY DESIGN FIRM The Lakota Group
 CONTACT NAME Costa Kutulas
 ADDRESS 540 Hibbard Road
Winnetka IL 60093
 PHONE NO. 847-501-2052
 EMAIL ckutulas@winpark.org



Costa Kutulas
Director of Parks and Maintenance
Winnetka Park District
1380 Willow Road
Winnetka Illinois 60093

March 4, 2026

Ann Klaassen
Assistant Director of Community Development
Village of Winnetka
Winnetka Illinois 60093

**Re: Park Board Operational Direction – February 26, 2026
Special Use Permit Case No. 25-28-SU
Centennial Beach – Off-Leash Dog Beach (Alternate 1)**

Dear Ann,

This letter is intended to formally document the operational direction provided by the Winnetka Park Board at its February 26, 2026 meeting regarding Centennial Beach and the proposed fenced off-leash dog beach (Alternate 1), in connection with Special Use Permit Case No. 25-28-SU.

Following approval of Alternate 1 on February 5, 2026, the Park Board reviewed operational components necessary to refine the Special Use Permit application and to ensure that the proposed use satisfies applicable standards relating to public health, safety, welfare, compatibility, and site management. The actions summarized herein were approved contingent upon issuance of the necessary permits.

With respect to access control and site management, the Board directed staff to maintain the existing access-controlled gate at the top of the bluff and to install a new access-controlled gate at the beach level, as reflected in Alternate 1. This dual-gate configuration provides layered access control and operational flexibility. The upper gate will operate pursuant to Park District Ordinance #504 and standard park hours from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. through a programmed timed locking system. The lower beach-level gate will operate during the same hours but will require a key fob for entry into the fenced off-leash dog beach area. The key-fob system allows the Park District to regulate access, suspend operations during hazardous lake or weather



conditions, and enforce compliance with dog beach eligibility requirements. We will also maintain the existing exit button which allows beach walkers to leave the site if there is an instance where someone might be exiting the beach outside of permitted hours or closures due to storm events. Collectively, these measures enhance public safety, improve enforceability, and ensure controlled access consistent with Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control regulations and Village leash law requirements.

The Board further designated the approximately 260-foot section of Centennial Beach located immediately north of the fenced off-leash dog beach as a staffed passive beach with no swimming permitted. This designation was selected to maintain public shoreline access while avoiding the establishment of an additional programmed swimming beach and limiting the operational intensity of the site. Staffing for the passive beach will align with the typical swimming beach season, generally late May through early September. During that period, staff presence will provide oversight and management only, again no swimming will be permitted at the northern beach area. During this time the northern passive beach area will require a beach pass to utilize the beach area. This is the same review as practiced last Fall at Elder Lane Beach. This will help limit the potential influx of beach users if it was a “free beach” which could cause issues with parking on site and the adjacent streets. Outside of the traditional beach season, the passive beach will remain accessible during standard park hours from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. but will not be staffed. This measured approach maintains access to the shoreline, limits potential conflicts between uses, and supports compatibility with adjacent properties and lakefront activities.

The Board confirmed that the fenced off-leash dog beach will operate year-round, consistent with its longstanding historical operation at Centennial Beach. Daily operating hours for both the fenced off-leash dog beach and the northern passive beach were established at 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. These hours align with standard park hours, provide predictability for neighboring properties, support enforceability through the timed gate system, and limit late-night activity that could affect neighborhood compatibility. The continuation of year-round dog beach operations, combined with defined daily hours and controlled access, reflects a continuation of an existing community amenity under strengthened regulatory and operational controls.

Recognizing that parking and traffic considerations remain part of the Special Use Permit review, the Board established a prioritized parking management framework to guide implementation and allow flexibility for potential conditions of approval. The Board directed that permit-required parking access for dog beach pass holders and Winnetka residents remain



the primary strategy. If necessary, a two-hour parking restriction may be implemented to promote turnover. As a further measure, parking access could be reduced to dog beach pass holders only. The Board also authorized staff to evaluate the feasibility of a shuttle service and to explore potential land-banking opportunities at Centennial Park. This structured hierarchy provides the Village and reviewing bodies with clear operational parameters while preserving the ability to implement additional mitigation measures should they be deemed necessary. Based on prior parking analysis and the shared use of the Elder Lane Park parking lot, the Park District believes that existing capacity is sufficient to accommodate projected demand; however, the District remains willing to evaluate additional measures as part of the review process.

The project remains subject to review and approval by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control, and the Village of Winnetka. Revised plans reflecting the Board's operational direction will be submitted to the appropriate agencies for evaluation. The timing of those reviews will depend upon each agency's independent review process.

The Park Board's February 26, 2026 actions were intended to strengthen access control, clarify operational parameters, maintain shoreline access, limit intensity of use in the northern beach area, provide enforceable daily hours, establish a structured parking management hierarchy, and enhance overall site safety and compatibility. The Park District respectfully submits this operational clarification for inclusion in the Special Use Permit record and consideration by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Please advise if additional information would assist the Village in preparation for the March 9, 2026, Zoning Board of Appeals meeting.

Sincerely,

Costa Kutulas
Director of Parks and Maintenance
Winnetka Park District

CC: Shannon Nazzal, Executive Director of the Winnetka Park District

Scott Mangum, Director of Community Development Village of Winnetka



Winnetka Park District

540 Hibbard Road

Winnetka, Illinois 60093

February 13, 2026

Scott Mangum

Director of Community Development

Village of Winnetka

510 Green Bay Road

Winnetka, Illinois 60093

RE: Centennial Beach Dog Fencing – Alternate Plan 1 Revision Narrative

Special Use Permit Case No. 25-28-SU – 225 Sheridan Road

Dear Scott,

On February 6, 2026, the Winnetka Park District Board of Commissioners reviewed the dog fencing proposal for Centennial Beach in consideration of the January 28, 2026 Plan Commission comments, public input, and Village staff review comments from the initial Special Use Permit review. Following that discussion, the Board directed staff to proceed with Alternate Plan 1 (attached), which represents a material redesign in response to that feedback.

The original submittal proposed a contained enclosure defined by perpendicular fencing extending toward Lake Michigan at both the north and south ends of the beach. During the review process, concerns were raised regarding public safety, shoreline access, visual impact, and the interaction between fencing and lake conditions. The revised plan shifts the project away from installing new fencing across the beach to create an enclosed dog park. Instead, it uses the existing shoreline infrastructure and beach geometry to define the dog beach limits while maintaining continuous public access along the lakefront with a 12' bypass to the west of the dog beach area.

Most notably, the revised design eliminates the previously proposed four-foot chain-link fence runs at the north and south ends of the beach, thereby minimizing fencing located within active wave zones. Rather than projecting fencing across the beach and into the lake to form an enclosed area, Alternate Plan 1 attaches boundary fencing to the existing steel groins and relocates the controlled entry point directly to beach level. This change significantly reduces the perceived enclosure of the beach and removes physical barriers previously identified as potential safety concerns. The relocated fencing runs will be modular, allowing seasonal removal of the easternmost sections in areas subject to ice damming and winter lake conditions.

A dedicated pedestrian bypass corridor has also been incorporated into the revised design. This feature allows residents and visitors to walk the shoreline without entering the dog beach area and directly addresses concerns that general beach users would otherwise be required to pass through an active off-leash area. By separating circulation paths, the revised layout improves user clarity and reduces potential interaction conflicts between dog owners and non-dog users.

The bypass itself is shown on the attached Alternate Plan 1. It is created by installing a fence line approximately twelve feet lakeward of the steel seawall at the toe of the bluff and extending between the existing southern steel jetties. This run is approximately 265 feet in length and reduces the overall dog beach frontage by approximately fifty percent. Integrated into this fence line is the electronic key-fob entry gate, along with a secondary ten-foot maintenance access gate that will remain locked and secured for staff use. The fence is proposed at an overall height of five feet, with four feet exposed above grade and one foot buried below grade to accommodate fluctuating sand levels and reduce the possibility of dogs digging beneath the fencing.

Operational control is further improved through relocation of the key-fob entry to beach level and the use of a defined double-gate leash-up area. This eliminates the need for interior fencing corridors while maintaining controlled access for permitted users. The double-entry gate system is also a requirement of the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control. In addition, the revised plan substantially reduces the amount of fencing interacting with lake forces by utilizing existing structural elements and shortening fence exposure in areas subject to wave and ice movement. The existing steel shoreline structures are designed to withstand year-round lake conditions, allowing the Park District to reduce the overall length of installed fencing.

For ease of review, the primary differences between the previously submitted plan and Alternate Plan 1 are summarized below.

Plan Comparison Summary

Design Element	Previous Temporary Fencing Plan	Alternate Plan 1 (Approved 2-6-26)	Resulting Impact
Overall Layout	Enclosed containment area formed by perpendicular fencing	Shoreline-defined boundary using existing groins	Reduces enclosed park appearance
Fencing Into Lake	Approximately 15 ft lakeward fence runs at both ends	Fencing attached to existing structures with reduced lake exposure	Minimizes wave/ice interaction risk
Public Shoreline Access	Users pass through an active off-leash dog area	12-ft pedestrian bypass outside dog beach	Maintains continuous public access
Access Control	Inland gated corridor	Beach-level controlled entry vestibule	Clearer entry and safer circulation while improving access for non-dog users
Interior Fencing	Double corridor containment system	Eliminated	Removes internal obstacles
Safety Considerations	Potential cross-traffic conflicts	Separated circulation paths	Improves user safety
Visual Impact	Visible enclosure across beach	Reduced fencing footprint at north and south boundaries	Less intrusive shoreline presence

In summary, Alternate Plan 1 reduces the installation of new freestanding fence infrastructure at the north and south boundaries by utilizing existing steel groins, improves shoreline access through the addition of a defined pedestrian bypass, separates user groups to enhance safety, and minimizes fencing interaction within active lake areas while still providing a controlled off-leash area consistent with regulatory requirements. These revisions were intentionally developed in direct response to Plan Commission discussion, public input, and Village staff feedback, and intends to fully satisfy the applicable Special Use Permit standards. The design preserves the open character of Centennial Beach while incorporating operational controls necessary to manage off-leash use in a safe and regulated manner.

Staff is also planning to discuss additional items with the Park Board at the February 26, 2026 meeting to obtain direction regarding the north beach area of Centennial Beach and how to proceed. Staff will follow up after that meeting to inform the Village of any items related to SUP Case No. 25-28-SU.

We appreciate the continued coordination with Village staff and look forward to the next steps in the review process. Please let me know if any additional clarification would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Costa Kutulas

Director of Parks and Maintenance
Winnetka Park District

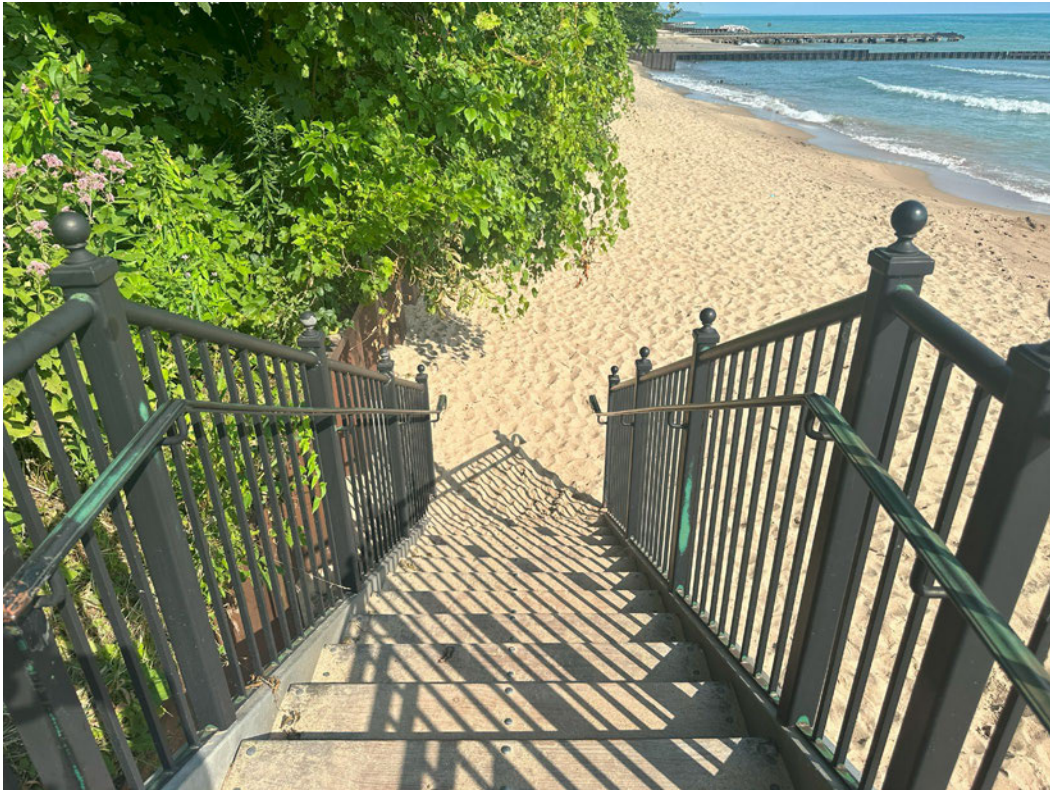
CC: Shannon Nazzal, Executive Director
Ann Klaassen, Assistant Director of Community Development



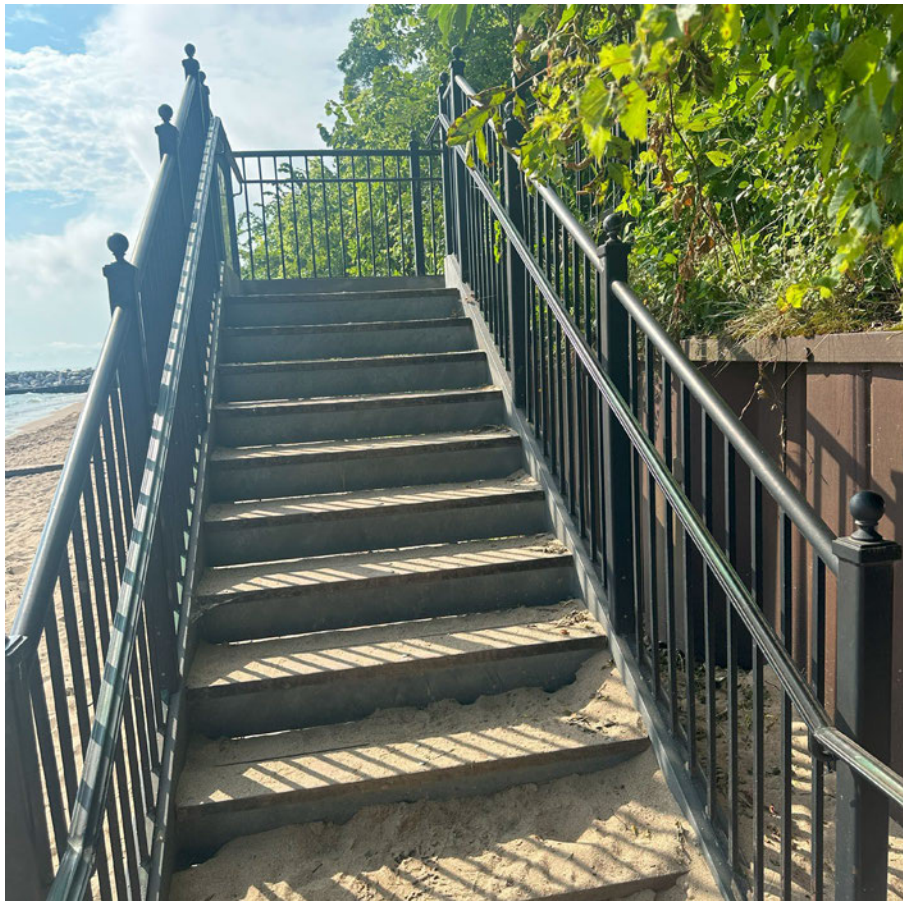
Dog Shower Amenities (Looking Northwest)



Dog Beach Access Gate (Looking East)



Dog Beach Access Stairs (Looking East)



Dog Beach Access Stairs Beach Level (Looking South)



Dog Beach Stairs Beach View (Looking West)



Dog Beach (Looking North)



North Seawall (Looking West)



North Seawall (Looking Northwest)



Dog Beach (Looking South)



Bog Beach (Looking South)



Dog Beach South Property Line (Looking West)



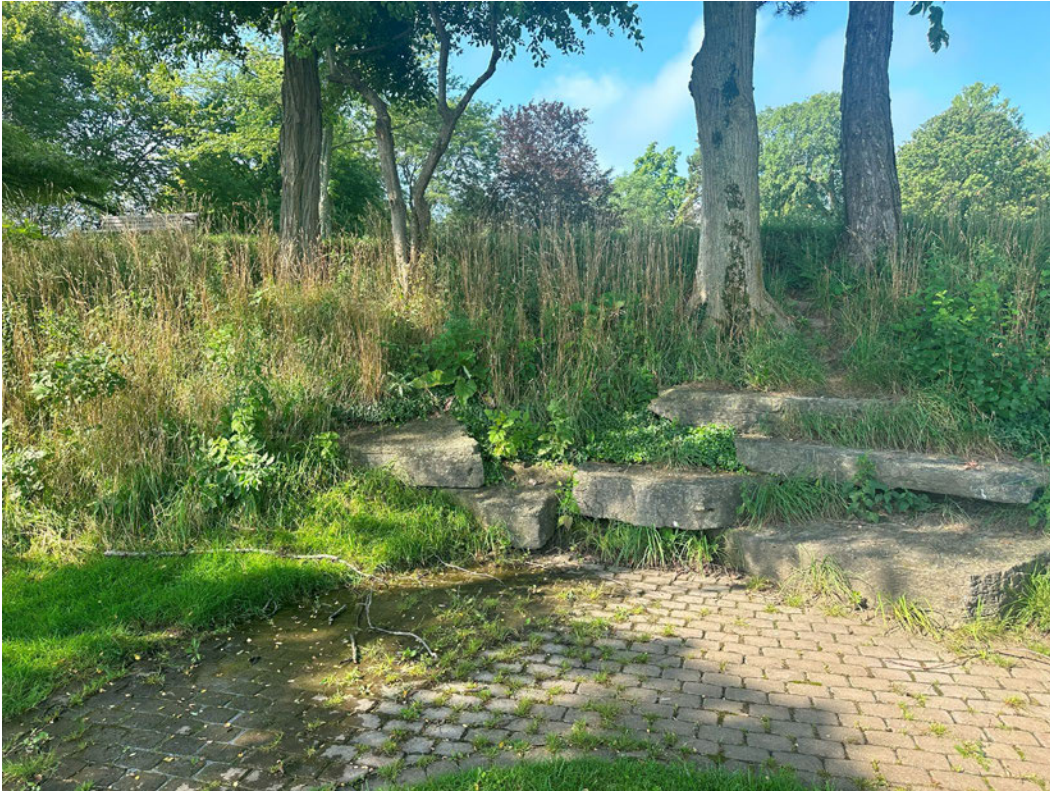
Dog Beach Seawall (Looking West)



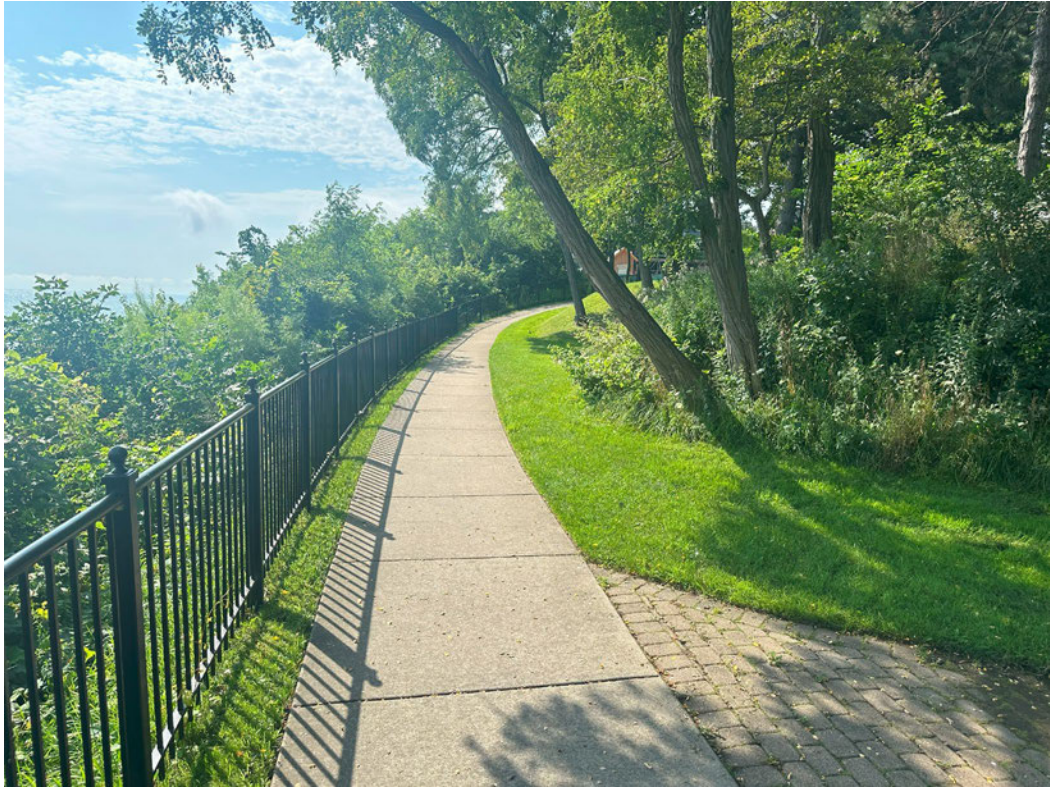
Mid-level Bluff Sidewalk (Looking South)



Mid-level Bluff Paver and Bench Area (Looking Southwest)



Mid-level Bluff Paver and Bench Area (Looking West)



Mid-level Bluff Sidewalk (Looking South)



Mid-level Bluff Sidewalk to Park Area (Looking West)



Upper Bench Southeast Section of Upper Parkland



Upper Park Sidewalk Southwest Corner of the Park (Looking East)



Upper Park Sidewalk South End (Looking East)



Upper Park (Looking South)



Upper Park (Looking East)



Upper Park Sidewalk (Looking North)



Upper Park Center East Side (Looking East)



Upper Park Center Overlooking Dog Entry Gate (Looking East)



Upper Park Sidewalk (Looking North)



Upper Park Area (Looking Southwest)



Upper Park Area (Looking Northeast)



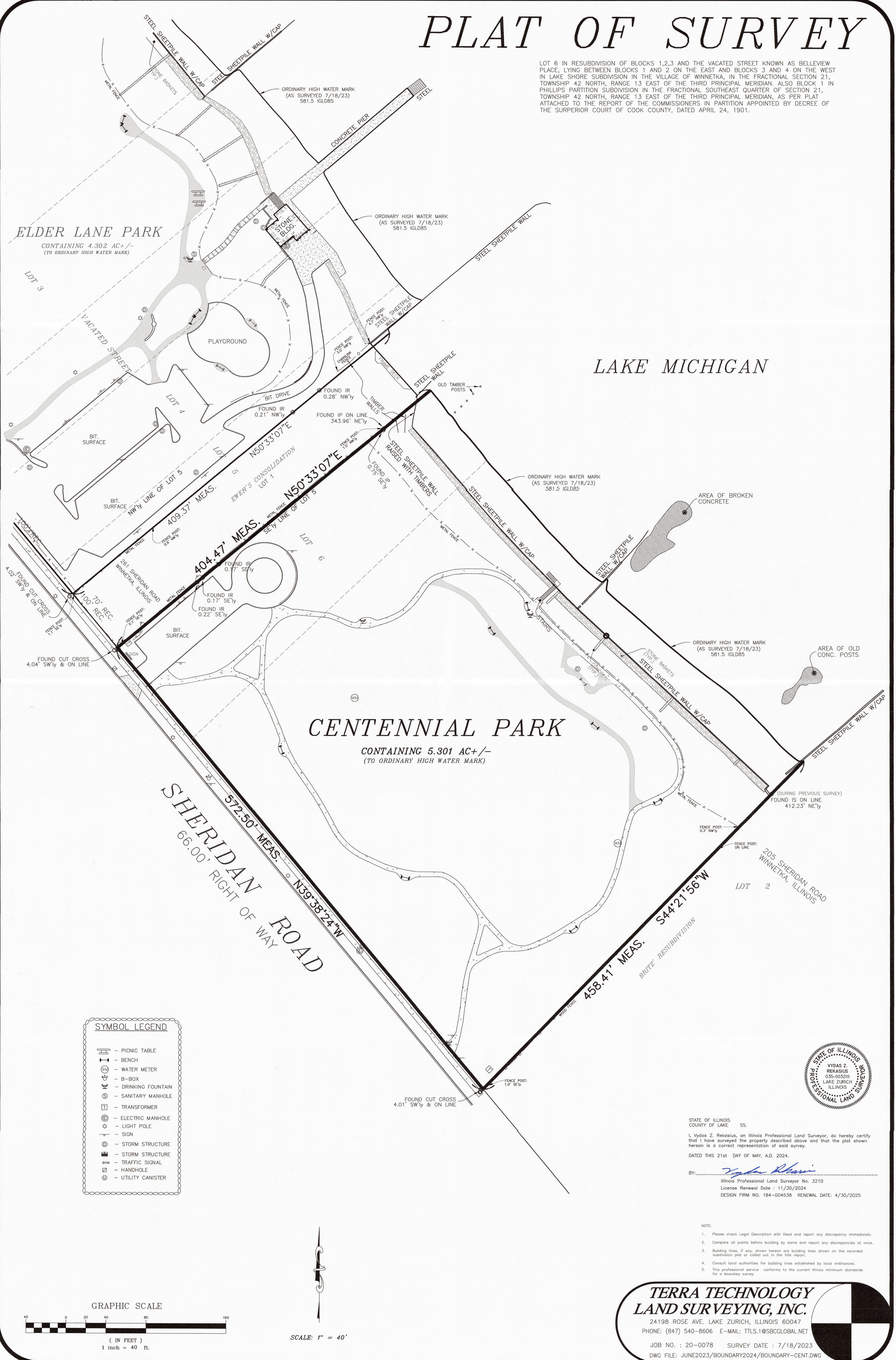
Upper Park Sidewalk (Looking Southwest)



Sheridan Road Sidewalk South side of Park (Looking North)

PLAT OF SURVEY

LOT 6 IN RESUBDIVISION OF BLOCKS 1,2,3 AND THE VACATED STREET KNOWN AS BELLEVUE PLACE, LYING BETWEEN BLOCKS 1 AND 2 ON THE EAST AND BLOCKS 3 AND 4 ON THE WEST IN LAKE SHORE SUBDIVISION IN THE VILLAGE OF WINNETKA, IN THE FRACTIONAL SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 42 NORTH, RANGE 13 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN. ALSO BLOCK 1 IN PHILLIPS PARTITION SUBDIVISION IN THE FRACTIONAL SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 42 NORTH, RANGE 13 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, AS PER PLAT ATTACHED TO THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS IN PARTITION APPOINTED BY DECREE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF COOK COUNTY, DATED APRIL 24, 1901.



ELDER LANE PARK
CONTAINING 4.302 AC +/-
(TO ORDINARY HIGH WATER MARK)

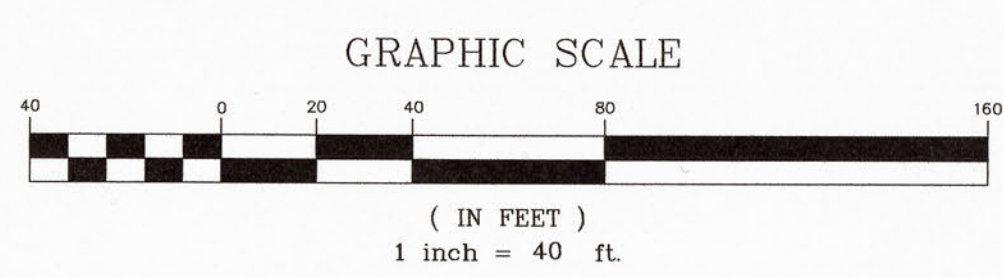
LAKE MICHIGAN

CENTENNIAL PARK
CONTAINING 5.301 AC +/-
(TO ORDINARY HIGH WATER MARK)

SHERIDAN ROAD
66.00' RIGHT OF WAY

SYMBOL LEGEND

- PICNIC TABLE
- BENCH
- WATER METER
- B-BOX
- DRINKING FOUNTAIN
- SANITARY MANHOLE
- TRANSFORMER
- ELECTRIC MANHOLE
- LIGHT POLE
- SIGN
- STORM STRUCTURE
- TRAFFIC SIGNAL
- HANDHOLE
- UTILITY CANISTER



SCALE: 1" = 40'



STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF LAKE SS.

I, Yudas Z. Rekasius, an Illinois Professional Land Surveyor, do hereby certify that I have surveyed the property described above and that the plat shown hereon is a correct representation of said survey.

DATED THIS 21st DAY OF MAY, A.D. 2024.

By: *Yudas Z. Rekasius*
Illinois Professional Land Surveyor No. 3210
License Renewal Date : 11/30/2024
DESIGN FIRM NO. 184-004538 RENEWAL DATE: 4/30/2025

- NOTE:**
1. Please check Legal Description with Deed and report any discrepancy immediately.
 2. Compare all points before building by some and report any discrepancies at once.
 3. Building lines, if any shown hereon are building lines shown on the recorded subdivision plat or called out in the title report.
 4. Consult local authorities for building lines established by local ordinances.
 5. This professional service conforms to the current Illinois minimum standards for a boundary survey.

**TERRA TECHNOLOGY
LAND SURVEYING, INC.**

24198 ROSE AVE. LAKE ZURICH, ILLINOIS 60047
PHONE: (847) 540-8606 E-MAIL: TTLS.1@SBCGLOBAL.NET

JOB NO. : 20-0078 SURVEY DATE : 7/18/2023
DWG FILE: JUNE2023/BOUNDARY2024/BOUNDARY-CENT.DWG

ATTACHMENT B

From: [REDACTED]
To: ["Snow, Renee"](#); [Altman, Steve](#); [Hall, Soren G CIV USARMY CELRC \(US\)](#); [Robert Dearborn](#)
Cc: [Ann Klaassen](#); [Otto, Eric L.](#); [Sophia R CIV Morgan](#)
Subject: Please include this message and attached documents in SUP request for Centennial Park fencing and in IDNR permit files LM2023004 and C20250015
Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 6:36:52 PM
Attachments: [Orchard 2020 behind the scenes instructions for Centennial Park Fence.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Snow and President Dearborn:

Please consider the attached e-mail correspondence between a team of consultants and lawyers employed by Justin Ishbia or his proxies, and Commissioners and executives of the Winnetka Park District regarding Winnetka's Centennial Beach development. I ask the attached communication be included in your IDNR permit application files (LM2023004 and C20250015) and in the Village's file for the Winnetka Park District's current request for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to develop Centennial Park and beach.

You already have in the public record copies of the Ishbia Family Foundation/Winnetka Park District January 2024 restrictive covenant involving a \$3 million donation. The restrictive covenant agreement allows the Ishbia Foundation control over every detail of the proposed Centennial Fence design and gives the Foundation control over the proposed fenced area at Centennial Beach for half a century. Many see this agreement as a way for the Ishbia family to pay others to do something the IDNR forbids --- privatize a public beach built using an IDNR shore protection permit. Ms. Snow has received an enforcement request asking the IDNR to prevent the WPD from building a fence funded by Ishbia that would prohibit access to the new 205 beach. The attached below demonstrates direct and early involvement by Ishbia's team and their efforts to use the Park Board to gain a private beach.

The attached communication pre-dates the 2024 donor agreement, but has the same flavor. The e-mail exchange is dated March 25, 2022. Warren James, a prominent Winnetka citizen and in 2022 an elected Commissioner of the Winnetka Park District, has received a long message from Tricia Charbonneau, a PR consultant and project manager for Seiler Consulting, the firm employed by Ishbia interests to guide the Winnetka Park Board toward a grand Centennial Beach development design that would effectively cut off public access across the beach below Centennial and the beach below 205 Sheridan. At the time there was one flat continuous beach interrupted only by a few small iron groins. A large new public beach was recently completed below 205 Sheridan using IDNR permit #LM2023. The Justin Ishbia residence continues under construction on the upland.

Mr. James promises to respond fully to Ms. Chabonneau. You will not find his response in Park District records. I'm told, but can't confirm, the e-mail conversation shifted to a private messaging platform.

Mr. Jame's e-mail is copied to John Peterson, former elected Commissioner and then the Executive Director of the Winnetka Park District. (Mr. Peterson continues to be Arbiter of the Ishbia Foundation Centennial Beach restrictive covenant agreement); WPD legal Counsel Steven Adams of Ancel Glink; Ishbia attorneys David Williams and Andrew Aron, both

principals of Williams, Bax and Saltzman; and Charbonneau's boss Gregg Seiler.

In her e-mail Ms. Charbonneau critiques the performance of tax payer- funded consultants as they presented the Centennial Beach development plan to the public and elected Commissioners for the the first time during a March 24, 2022 Park Board special meeting. (Which I attended).

Ms. Charbonneau chides Jon Shabica for speaking about public access over and around lakeward structures. ("no reason to write or publicly discuss unless specifically asked" she says). During subsequent open houses re Centennial Beach Jon's slide re the IDNR's public access requirements isn't included.

Ms. Charbonneau continues "Nor is there any reason for him ever to mention again the idea of permitting the Centennial project *without the fence.*" (emphasis added). Here you see a team of lawyers and consultants in the employ of the neighboring private owner and IDNR fill permittee directing an elected Commissioner and the WPD's senior paid staff to steer their own consultants away from any word or drawing that might inform the public or keep the 205 neighbor from getting a private beach. No one in this conversation is protecting the public interest.

Scott Freres, the WPD's landscape architect, is criticized for not using language "consistent" with their goals, and for unfolding design views that actually show everyone how massive a proposed stone pier will be. And then the Ishbia consultant objects other slides communicating the height of the project to the public.

Skip down to item 5. of the e-mail, where Ms. Charbonneau plans another meeting for the Park District attorneys, staff and Mr. James to strategize how to "get ahead of the public" on the beach development push.

If there was ever any doubt the WPD has lost control of the Centennial Development plans, the proof is here, where we see it early in the process. And it continues, as Ishbia's team pummels a minor Cook County veterinary office with dog beach complaints and WPD staff nfind reasons (rabies control?) to justify a fence that doesn't belong on a beach. Its sad, but I don't think the Village or the IDNR can or should regard the Centennial Fence applications as products of an independent and public-facing Park District.

I hope the attached and above is useful to State and Federal Beach regulators and the Village staff tasked with reviewing the SUP application. In a separate e-mail I will send a photo of the entire beach area under discussion. Please let me know if you are not able to open this attachment.

Best regards,

Laurie Morse



Sent: 3/25/2022 12:00:00 AM
From: Warren James <WJames@winpark.org>
To: "Tricia Charbonneau" "Costa Kutulas"
Cc: "John Peterson" "Steven Adams" williams@wbs-law.com "Andrew Arons" "Gregg Seiler"
Bcc:
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Orchard - notes on last night's presentation

Thanks for the feedback Tricia. Very helpful. Will respond more fully before Tuesday.

Warren James
Commissioner

P: (847) 501-2040
E: wjames@winpark.org

Winnetka Park District | winpark.org

From: Tricia Charbonneau <tc@seilerconsulting.com>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 1:26:42 PM
To: Costa Kutulas
Cc: Warren James; John Peterson; Steven Adams; williams@wbs-law.com; Andrew Arons; Gregg Seiler
Subject: Orchard - notes on last night's presentation

Team,

Thank you again for the prep and presentation last night. Below please find some feedback, being shared to supplement the content and strategies for the future open houses and successful public comment period.

1. Shabica

- a. Take out the language in his slides that note the IDNR and Corps guidance about access up and over lakeward structures. No reason to write this or publicly discuss the grey area unless asked.
- b. Nor is there any reason for him to ever mention again the idea of permitting the project without the fence. It's not helpful to anyone except the opposition.
- c. Please coach Jon on what topics to address in future forums. It would likely be best if answers only questions directed to him.

2. Scott Freres

- a. His opening comments about "this conversation happening in communities all up and down the lake" and "looking for creative solutions, new ideas, greater community benefit" and "focus on access - for more residents, for seniors, more with alternative abilities" is fantastic.
- b. However, as discussed with Warren, he was not in top form last night. For the future, please make sure he is more versed in the technical details of the project and nomenclature (use 'planting pocket' and other terms correctly).
- c. Graphics
 - i. Change all language about "louvered air screens" to "louvers". All presentations need to speak the same language.
 - ii. The new elevation diagrams shown - the unfolded breakwater views - were not helpful in my opinion. First, they did not show the water line (they just showed the beach/lakebed) and this made the breakwater look super tall when further out in the lake. Furthermore, the louvers look 100% monolithic in this view and don't help the cause. Oblique views that show the water line through and the horizon are much more effective. Is this new drawing conveying something essential?
 - iii. One graphic showed a dimension string of 169'-9" as the length of the louvers (I think). This dimension relates to nothing else we show - does that drawing and dimension have a specific purpose?

3. When Colleen asked last night if the planting pockets (and she implied fences) had been installed anywhere else, I was dying for someone to mention Lee Street Beach - and that it's similar to what's proposed here, but this project will be so much better (this kind of came up). Lee Street doesn't have planting pocket but is one of many precedents for fence on a breakwater structure. And we keep saying that other municipalities have this, but I don't think this has actually been shown much to the public. Slides that show a photo of Lee Street on the left, and they this project on the right - will demonstrate how much better this project is. And roll through all the cities - show the beat up Kenilworth stuff, yucky Lake Bluff, etc. to pound it home. Armed with the right script, this could be a good thing for Jon to speak to.

4. I was thinking more about the questions that Colleen Root raised last night and how to get in front of those and expose them rather than feel like they need to be defended against. Would it make sense to build a portion of the presentation to somehow say no plan is perfect, and thousands of hours of work have gone into building the best and current plan possible, and the Board won't let "perfect the enemy of good".

- a. Therefore, the PD has thoughtfully addressed some of the parts that aren't perfect and here's how:
 - i. Make a slide that shows the pros versus cons in a side by side table; and then present that data.
- b. Write a one page "Frequently Asked Questions" document to answer some of these questions (*I'm offering sample answers for a couple of them*).
 - i. Is beach and lake access being improved or reduced by this project?
 - ii. What new or improved amenities are made possible by this project?
 - iii. Why isn't there access up and over the breakwaters?
 - iv. Why are the louvers needed and why are they so tall?
 - v. Why is there a planting pocket in the project?
 - vi. Do structures or barriers like this exist anywhere else on the north shore? *Yes, other municipalities in the north shore have barriers*

installed at the edges of their lakefront parts for a variety of reasons. Examples can be found in Glencoe, Kenilworth, multiple places in Evanston, Lake Bluff.

- vii. *Is the ability to look up and down the shoreline being lost? Some shoreline views will be lost simply by the installation of the breakwater itself and the dimensions it must be to perform correctly. So yes, some shoreline views will be lost, mostly those closest to the toe of the bluff. To minimize this, the proposed project offers two strategies. First, the height of the stone breakwater is being lowered, and that material replaced with angled louvers. When past the planting pocket, most users will be able to see over the top of the stone and through the louvers. The louvers are angled so users can look through them to the shoreline and the lake horizon. Second, the proposed project will provide brand new shoreline vistas for thousands of users (including seniors and persons with disabilities) at the new middle pier, which is situated in the center of the new park and located 300' into the lake. This vantage point exists in no other north shore community and is only made possible by the consolidation of Elder and Centennial.*
5. In the continued push to reach more groups to get their support now and before public opinion - we'd like to discuss the strategy for this next Tuesday. What groups does WPD have access to and what's the strategy to contact them to garner support? The time before public comment is likely to go by quickly, people will be out of town, etc. so getting going now with after school groups, kid's groups, special ed groups, senior citizen groups, etc. is critical.

Best regards,
Tricia

TRICIA CHARBONNEAU

PROJECT EXECUTIVE
C 312.438.0005
O 312.836.0540
tc@seilerconsulting.com

SEILER CONSULTING, LTD.
116 W Illinois Street
Suite 4W - N
Chicago, IL 60654
seilerconsulting.com

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#); [Scott Mangum](#); [Kristin Kazenas](#); [Christopher Marx](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: WPD October 2025 SUP Application
Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 1:42:47 PM
Attachments: [02C2CD02-CAC7-4D80-88B4-3E5425875182.png](#)
[EF61C7C1-28CE-4A92-85F5-6669FC016A48.png](#)
[IDNR_Memol.M2025011.pdf](#)
[OneDogBeachMustBeADAEvanston.pdf](#)
[60"MinimumWidthBAR.pdf](#)
[BernahGroinMap1623.pdf](#)
[IDNRMemoPage1ExhibitA.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello:

Would you please include this email dated 1/20/26 in the packet for Plan's 1/28/26 meeting and also send it to the Trustees?

This is my only comment and submission for Plan and the Trustees,

Thank you.

Kristine Schriesheim

Winnetka taxpayer

To: Village Trustees And Plan Commission

From: Kristine Schriesheim

Re: Comments Dated January 20, 2026 on WPD October 2025 SUP Application for Lake Michigan Fencing

TOPIC ONE: WPD's 8/27/25 NON-PUBLIC MEETING WITH IDNR AND USACE

I respectfully request that the Trustees and Plan Commission members listen to this meeting recording. It is illuminating in terms of understanding WPD's true fencing purpose and ultimate goal—executing WPD's 2020 Exchange Agreement with Orchard 2020 Trust.

https://winparkdistrict-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/snazzal_winpark_org/Ea_fe4tEGE5DkrL6Voe0ikABGWtk0Ku6xS2ju5VEu5ZJOA

Background: 2025 WPD MEMO REPORTING FENCING REQUEST

CentennialFence205SheridanRequests.pdf

Cc: Costa Kutulas <CKutulas@winpark.org>; Christina Codo <CCodo@winpark.org>
Subject: Re: Elder/Centennial IGA Negotiations

All,

From staff's perspective a few things.

1. Army Corp permitting will be the regional permit. A shorter process, but still a process. We are preparing that now, but ultimately need the OK from the Village on the pier removal in order to proceed.
2. Beach house opening shouldn't be an issue. No permitting required.
3. Operational costs: Staff is preparing costs for security, lifeguards, attendants, equipment and supplies to operate Elder Lane as an open beach this year. We hope to bring those costs to the Board in March for a budget adjustment. This will also include a cost to have assistance in monitoring the on-leash requirement of Ordinance #596 and Cook County's law. I will be recommending a security firm as it will be a tough to enforce position that needs a uniform of sorts. Our staff in a t-shirt will be ignored. Cook County has informed that they may send out wardens to enforce as well.
4. The other option that representatives of Mr. Ishbia have requested to both our legal counsel and to Cook County Animal Control, are fencing in of the dog beach. However, this requires further permitting and design work (including IDNR approvals), Board approval of a design change on the north side of Centennial / dog beach, would not be done by this summer, and would have to adhere to Cook County's ordinance. This is not feasible in a 2-3 month time frame. I believe it would also not be popular with the community.
5. We will put in a call to PDRMA regarding adding signage referencing submerged hazards and not to enter the water.

Shannon Q. Nazzal, CPRE (she / her)
Executive Director
Office: +1 847 501 7074

TOPIC TWO: WPD'S OCTOBER 2025 SUP APPLICATION MISREPRESENTS ITS DESIGNS, MISREPRESENTS DOG BEACH LEASH REQUIREMENT, VIOLATES THE VILLAGE CODE, FAILS TO MEET 2040 FUTURES PLAN GUIDELINES, VIOLATES VILLAGE DESIGN STANDARDS, CONFUSES THE PROJECT AREA, VIOLATES ADA, VIOLATES PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE

Background: WPD October 2025 SUP application to Village



Application for Special Use Permit – Installation of Temporary Fencing at Centennial Beach

Project Narrative

The Winnetka Park District is requesting a Special Use Permit to install two rows of temporary fencing with access gates at Centennial Beach, which is located at 225 Sheridan Road. The proposed fencing will enhance the safety, compliance, and long-term sustainability of this popular recreational amenity, which has served Village residents and their pets for three decades.

The Centennial Dog Beach has operated since 1995 as an off-leash dog beach along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Due to Cook County Animal and Rabies Control requirements and feedback from the community, the Park District now seeks to formally enclose the dog area with durable, visually unobtrusive fencing that encourages dogs remain safely within the permitted zone while maintaining access for users and preserving the natural character of the lakefront. The proposed fencing will include double entry gates on both the north side and south side fence runs which are set 20' within the Park District's property lines. This design will allow continuous access for beach goers to traverse the beach with minimal impact to the beach user. The only impact would be the need for the beach user to walk through an access gate which is planned to remain unlocked for the duration of the year. As this is a public beach the beach goers have that ability to walk anywhere along Centennial Beach. The existing fencing at the top of the bluff is to remain with the current key fob controlled access gate.

The proposed new enclosed space will provide a safer, controlled dog beach area to allow for Centennial Beach users to enjoy the property with their four legged friends without needing a leash. As outlined in the drawings, our plan includes the installation of 48" high chain-link fencing running perpendicular to the shoreline. Double-entry gates are incorporated into both the north and south fence lines to satisfy leashing and unleashing requirements. This design also ensures shoreline access for non-dog beach users, as required by state and federal agencies.

The project includes:

- Installation of approximately 4-foot-high, chain-link fencing, set in from the Park District's property boundaries by 20' at both the north and south ends of the designated dog beach area;
- Gated access points that will make it possible for beach goers to walk the shoreline unimpeded;
- Double-gate systems at the beach level to prevent pets from escaping;

540 Hibbard Road, Winnetka, IL 60093
www.winpark.org

(847) 501-2040
Fax: (847) 501-5779

WPD'S OCTOBER 2025 SUP APPLICATION IS INCONSISTENT, MISLEADING AND UNRELIABLE

Background: WPD's permit applications and IDNR's December 11, 2025 memorandum (attached) set forth WPD's claims: (1) that Centennial is an off-leash dog beach (it is an on-leash dog beach); (2) that its fencing would extend 15' lakeward from the toe of Centennial's bluffs—in fact, it would extend 106' lakeward on the park's northern end and 93'3" lakeward on the park's southern end, understating the fencing's length by over 80%; (3) that its fencing

has two sets of double gates, which it does not; and (4) that WPD-owned Centennial Park's southern lot line falls on, rather than south of, its southernmost steel groin.

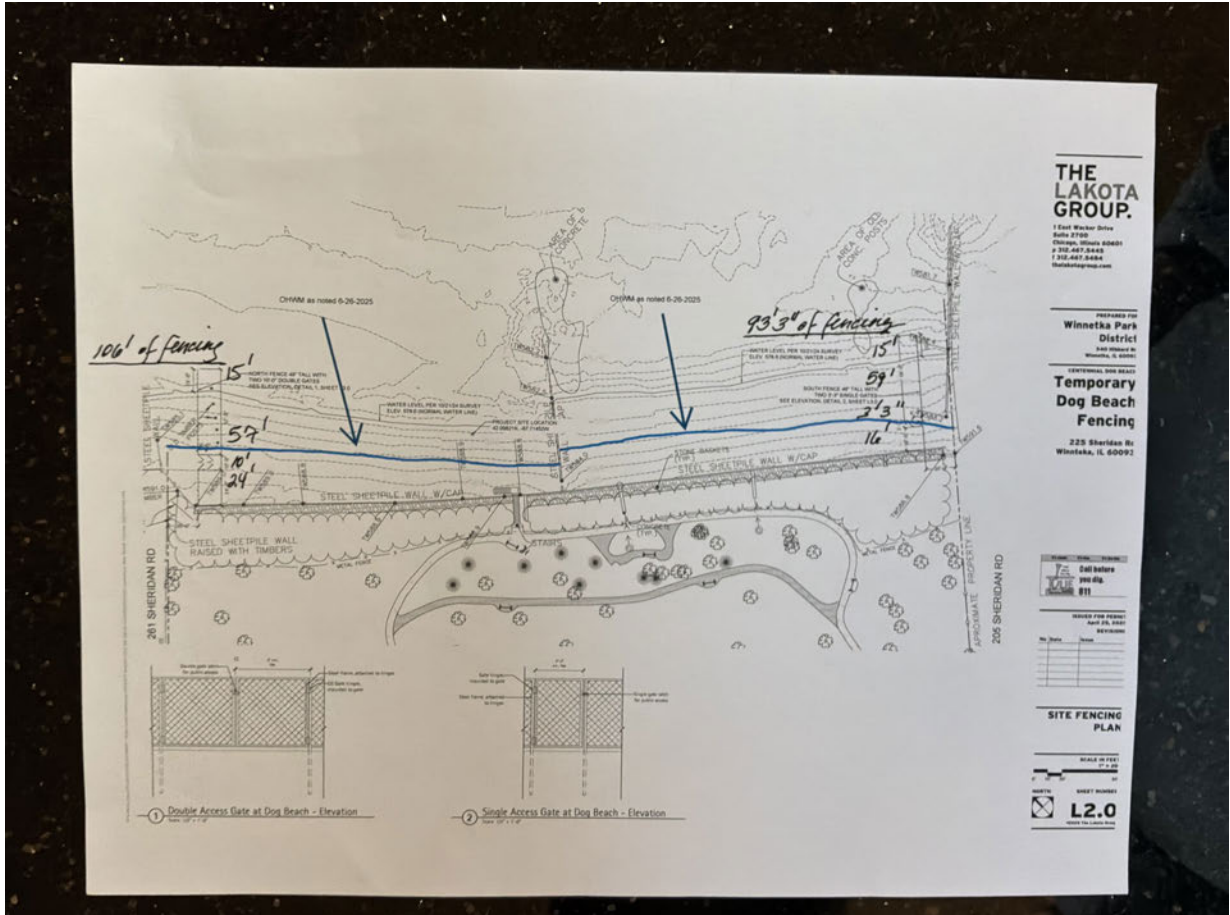
Background: Centennial dog beach is an on-leash area



VILLAGE CODE VIOLATION: WPD'S Centennial fencing would unlawfully extend far beyond Village front lot line/OHWM limits and into Lake Michigan, unlawfully blocking a "public street." Fencing that ends at Centennial's front lot line/OHWM would extend 34' on the northern end, and 16' on the southern end.

DELIBERATE PERMIT MISREPRESENTATION: WPD'S fence permit misrepresents that the plans include double gates at Centennial's southern end leading to 205 Sheridan.

Background: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers required WPD to provide detailed project rendering with proposed fencing's length and location relative to the bluffs and OHWM. Note also there are no double gates depicted on the project's southern end.



WPD'S CHAIN LINK FENCING IS INCONSISTENT WITH 2040 FUTURES PLAN, VIOLATES VOW DESIGN GUIDELINES' PROHIBITION AGAINST CHAIN LINK FENCING, AND DENIGRATES SHERIDAN ROAD NEIGHBORHOOD'S GRACIOUS CHARACTER

Background: Village Design Guidelines

39 of 91

9. Trash/Equipment Screening: For all new developments and loading areas, dumpsters and outdoor utility equipment should be consolidated as much as possible and thoroughly screened with year round solid screening. (See Figures 77a&b for more information).

10. Decorative Fencing: Decorative metal and/or wood fencing should be used where appropriate to enhance and define open spaces, landscaped areas and building entrances. (See Figure 51i) Such fencing should not be more than four feet in height. Solid fencing should be avoided unless used for screening of service areas. Chain link fences are prohibited. Decorative metal fencing, using the Village standard, is encouraged along all public street frontages to obscure the view of surface parking areas.

11. Newspaper Corrals: Decorative newspaper corrals should be installed only at Metra stations to consolidate newspaper boxes and eliminate clutter. (See Figure 51j)



*Bollard design shall substantially conform with base of standard decorative street light
Figure 51h*



*Standard decorative metal fencing
Figure 51i*



Background: WPD Centennial SUP Testimony to Plan in 2025

FENCE CHARACTER IMAGES



BLACK VINYL COATED CHAINLINK FENCE

Background: VOW Design Guidelines were enforced when WPD applied for Elder Park SUP, prohibiting the use of chain-link fencing.

WPD PERMIT SUBMISSIONS CONTAIN INEXPLICABLY CONFLICTING PROJECT AREAS

Background:

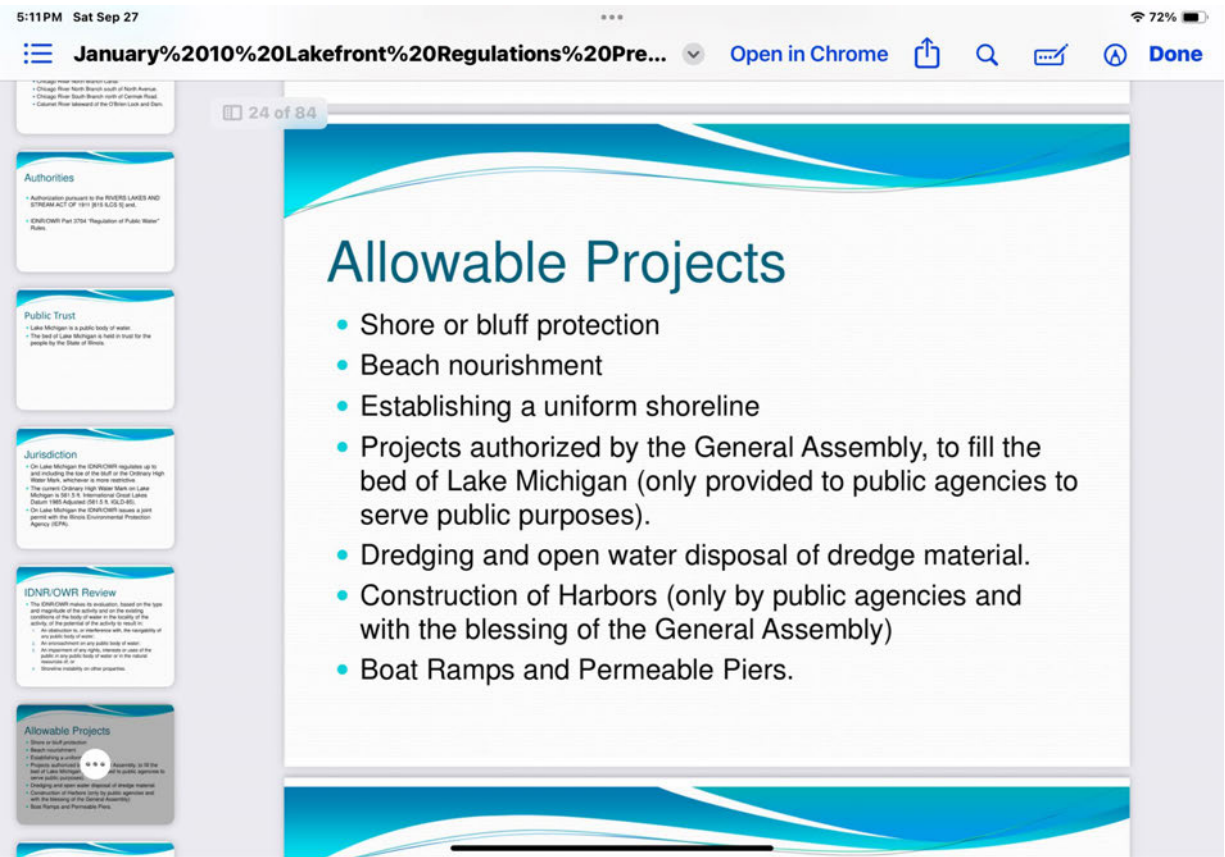
In connection with its Public Trust Doctrine presentation, WPD's 2024 Centennial SUP testimony to the Village said that the park's southern lot line falls south of the steel groin closest to 205 Sheridan. Despite this, IDNR's December 11, 2025 permit review memorandum seems to state that Centennial's southern lot line/205 Sheridan's northern lot line is the steel groin. This is at odds with WPD's 2024-2025 sworn testimony that fencing on the same steel groin would not violate the Public Trust Doctrine given WPD's ownership of sandy beach south of that groin. It also conflicts with Village Engineer Bernahl's map of groin locations in Winnetka.

Background: See IDNR Memorandum Page One and Village Engineer Bernahl's groin map attached as pdfs at bottom.

TOPIC THREE: FURTHER UNLAWFULNESS

1. IL Rivers and Streams Act Section 3704, which is the sole source of IDNR's permit authority here, does not allow permit issuance for a non-shoreline structure such as a local dog fence.

From IDNR's January 2023 presentation to the Village Council:



2. IL Park District Code Section 1205/11-2 does not grant IDNR shoreline permit issuance authority, nor does it grant park districts the authority to claim state land under false pretenses—namely, WPD’s specious claim that Centennial’s shoreline is shoal-ridden and “nonnavigable,” which it is not.

From IDNR’s December 11, 2025 permit review memorandum:

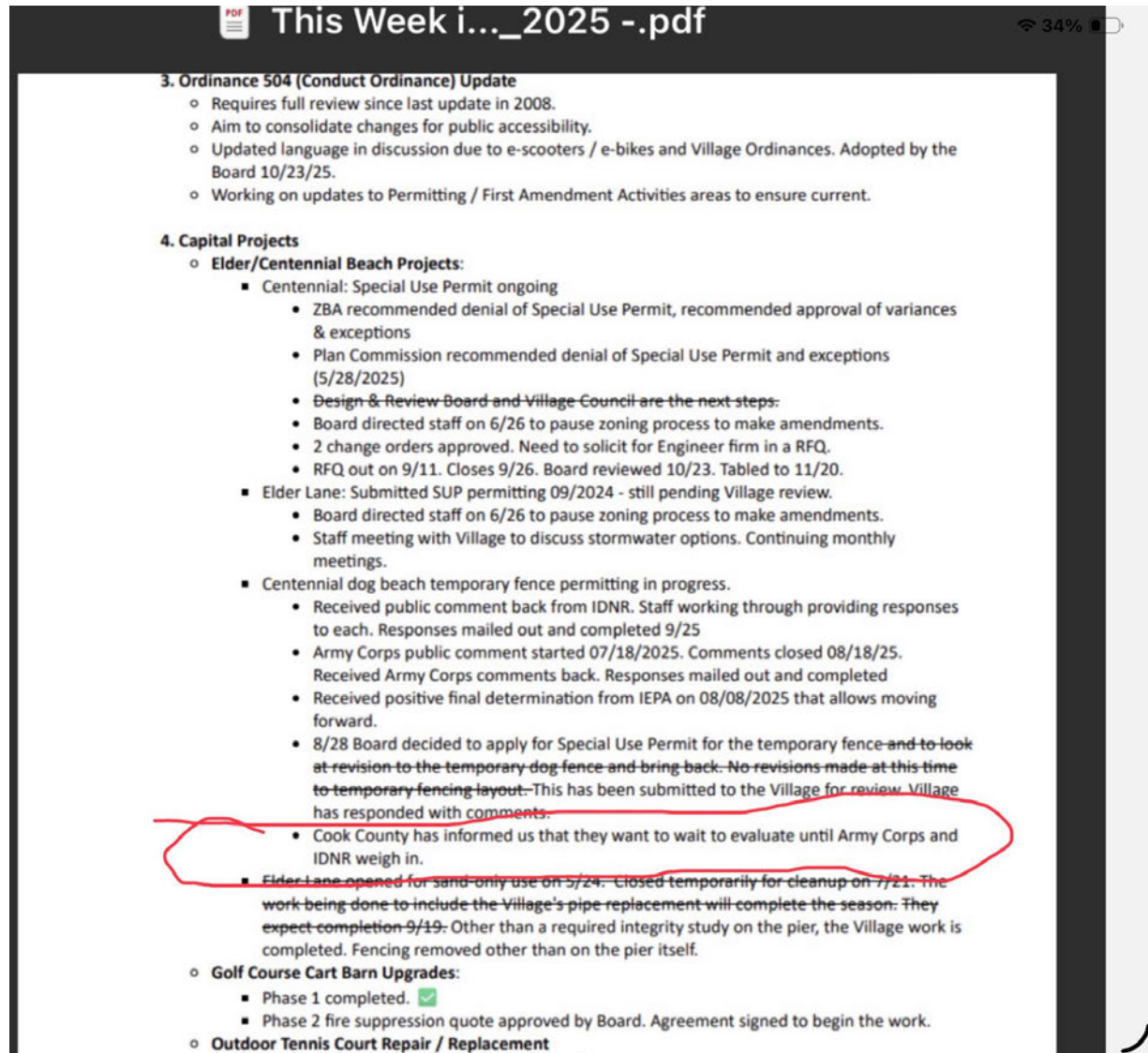
It is important to acknowledge Section 1205/11-2 Reclamation, of the Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205/11-2], which states that park districts that border upon any navigable body of water, the title to the bed or submerged land of which is vested in the State of Illinois, said district may take possession of, enclose, fill in, reclaim and protect any portion of such submerged land bordering thereon, over which there shall be shoal and shallow water not fit for navigation and shall have the power to establish, construct and maintain parks and boulevards over and upon the same, and all right, title and interest of the State of Illinois in and to the bed or submerged land of such body of water so taken possession of, enclosed, filled in and reclaimed is hereby granted and ceded to such park district and the title thereto shall vest in such park district to be held for the use and benefit of the public as a part of said park district for park and boulevard purposes exclusively, and said district shall have power for the purpose of reclaiming such submerged land and protecting the same thereafter, to construct all necessary break-waters, or protection for the building and maintenance of such parks and boulevards, and the enclosing or reclamation of such submerged lands.

Lake Michigan is now and for centuries has been a “navigable” body of water. IDNR’s website links to a GIS waterways map and the Code of Federal Regulations, both designating Lake Michigan as a navigable body of public water. Locally, WPD’s 2030 Waterfront Plan designated Winnetka’s anticipated continuous, 1000’ beach as both a BOATING BEACH and a swimming beach. The beach is navigable, and would not lose its status as a place of historic, commercial navigation simply because WPD wants to put up a local dog fence to impede the public’s right to traverse the shoreline.

3. 510 ILCS 5, IL Animal Control Act, ONLY provides the local Animal Control Administrator and Deputy Administrator with statutory authority pursuant to which the Cook County Code regulates dog friendly areas and dog parks. It does not allow non-Administrators to order the creation of fenced in dog parks without complying with the Cook County Code’s requirement that land-based dog parks be completely enclosed with a contiguous fence. Actions

to the contrary would constitute misdemeanor violations of the law. SEE 510 ILCS 5/26 and the Cook County Code.

4. Under 510 ILCS 5, CCDARC has enacted animal control-related fencing authority that is jurisdictionally limited to the land. Accordingly, CCDARC informed WPD of its lack of interest in acting outside of its established regulatory framework, stating it will not evaluate WPD's fencing scheme until after IDNR and USACE make their decisions. Building a dog beach fence that extends beyond the land, past the OHWM, onto submerged lands and/or into the public waters, exceeds the scope of CCDARC's regulatory framework.



5. 510 ILCS 5, 5/9–The IL Animal Control Act was amended by P.A. 102-329, effective 1-1-22, to provide that: “A dog that is in a dog-friendly area or a dog park is NOT CONSIDERED TO BE RUNNING AT LARGE IF THE DOG IS MONITORED OR SUPERVISED BY A PERSON.” CCDARC, which solely and exclusively possesses Animal Control Act authority under 510 ILCS 5, wrote to WPD Executive Director Nazzal in 2024 categorizing Centennial beach as a “dog friendly area.” CCDARC has not mandated fencing barriers at dog friendly areas to broadly contain dogs that would otherwise be “running at large,” and lacks waiver authority over its four-sided fencing rules for dog parks.

6. 510 ILCS 5/9 provides that a dog may train for hunting in a dog friendly area, which is an area of land that the Cook County Code does not require to be fenced. The Cook County Code simply requires proof of proper vaccination and health records to enter a dog friendly area. A person can bring a dog to Centennial beach to engage in training for hunting by swimming, fetching sticks, balls, decoys and the like. By matter of right, 510 ILCS 5/9 allows canines using dog friendly areas to train in proximity to Lake Michigan's waters, as well as without

restriction on the lakebed or in the lake.

7. There is no state law that grants jurisdictional authority to any governmental body that would build fencing to restrict dogs from swimming or otherwise using public waters and the lakebed via access from the water—for example, from a boat, jet ski, paddleboard or otherwise. I believe WPD’s fencing project represents a potential effort to unlawfully limit this access.

8. ILLINOIS ACCESSIBILITY CODE VIOLATION: The Illinois Accessibility Code (“IAC”) requires public improvement projects to be accessible unless an exception is met. Violating ADA requirements is considered a civil rights violation, subject to enforcement by the Illinois Attorney General’s Office as well as by other government bodies. Interpreting the IAC requires “erring” on the side of more accessibility because: 1-Winnetka, the Winnetka Park District, Cook County, and the State of Illinois are or should be fully committed to being welcoming and inclusive communities with access to public facilities; and 2-the penalties for failing to comply with the IAC are severe and impact all parties, including the permitting authority.

Because the construction project at issue involves a public accommodation—Winnetka’s only dog beach—yet makes no effort to add ADA accessibility to the designs, it violates the Illinois Accessibility Code and the 2040 Futures Plan. It is obvious that WPD’s single 39” beach gates at either end of a confined 6’ southern passageway are too narrow for an ADA-compliant turning radius. There are neither lights nor flashing signals for low vision persons, let alone for safety. A potential WPD appeal in opposition to complying with IAC must be made to the Illinois Capital Development Board.

Background: WPD’S 2024 Centennial breakwater SUP “Project Elements” would similarly unlawfully prevent ADA access to the dog beach—for half a century. From Village staff questions about WPD’s 2024 Centennial SUP application—

20. Is there a way for someone to walk along the lake from the north edge of the beach to the south edge of the beach, or vice versa, without using stairs?

Response: No. Ramps are only provided to the swimming beach area to the north, but a public access staircase is provided on the south of the boardwalk to accommodate the public traversing the beach. As someone walks off of WPD property south, they would need to use stairs installed per the approved State and Federal permits for residents south of Centennial Park.

boardwalk covers the beach and blocks sight lines along the beach, degrading the environment of the lakeshore. Furthermore, the Special Use Permit Standards require that the special use conforms to all other Village ordinances and the boardwalk violates **Section 15.78.080 (D)**'s requirement that only designs that are minimally necessary to achieve their intended proper purpose are permissible on the Lakefront.

The elevated boardwalk (Figure 20) is 330' in length and is 12' wide and will cover 3,960 square feet of Centennial beach.

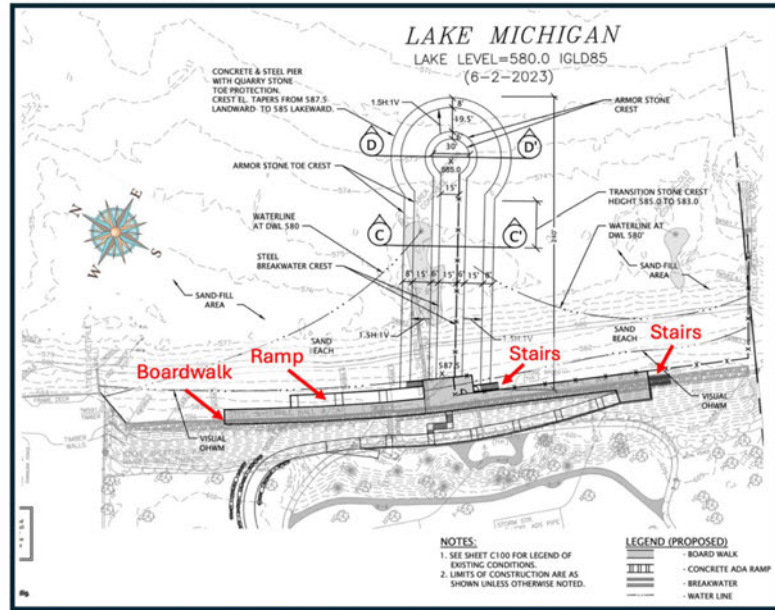


Figure 20: WPD's Centennial elevated boardwalk

9. WPD's 2025 memorandum at the top of this email documents that Centennial's southern neighbor requested dog beach fencing for which WPD now seeks a Special Use Permit. Private efforts to support "public" fencing that would restrict the public's right to traverse the shoreline violates Illinois law. Building an unlawful dog fence as discussed in paragraphs 1-8, above, would violate the Public Trust Doctrine ("PTD") by effectively privatizing the lakebed to the benefit of an adjacent property owner. See *Lake Michigan Federation v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*, 742 F. Supp 441 (N.D. Ill. 1990), stating that (1) courts should be critical of attempts by the state to surrender valuable public resources to a private entity; (2) the public trust is violated when the primary purpose of a legislative grant is to benefit a private interest; and (3) any attempt by the state to relinquish power over a public resource should be invalidated under the doctrine. Furthermore, state/local units of government cannot permit violations of the public trust in advancement of WPD's efforts. If and when WPD receives permits to build its grand breakwater scheme using public and private funds, that same neighbor will have a half-century long interest in major "Project Elements," including fixtures on the beach and lakebed. The Environmental Law and Policy Center has stated that using the Lake Michigan lakebed and/or waters for construction of an offshore project by a private entity directly or indirectly, would likely violate the applicable public trust and the State of Illinois's legal responsibilities.

OTHER: Building unlawful fencing to keep out anyone who cannot pay \$100s of dollars on veterinary fees and exams, and/or purchasing an expensive dog beach fob from WPD during limited office hours Monday through Friday, is wrong. Despite requests to WPD for public access codes to allow beachwalkers to use Centennial beach, which the Park District of Highland Park and other park districts allow, WPD is attempting to make Centennial Park as inaccessible as possible, harming the public to maximum effect, and violating our rights.

Please vote to deny recommending WPD's October 2025 SUP application.

Sincerely,
Kristine Schriesheim
Winnetka Taxpayer



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

Memorandum

Date: December 11, 2025
To: Steve Altman
From: Eric Otto
RE: IDNR/OWR application-for-permit C20250015 by the Winnetka Park District for the construction of fencing, in Lake Michigan, at 225 Sheridan Road, Winnetka, IL 60093

Authority

The application for permit (application) was reviewed using the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (Department) Part 3704 rules "REGULATION OF PUBLIC WATERS" which implement and are authorized by the Rivers, Lakes and Streams Act [615 ILCS 5]. The application was also reviewed using the Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205/11-2] (Exhibit PDC).

Existing Conditions (Exhibit A)

The applicant has three contiguous littoral lots, north to south, 260, 250, and 246 Sheridan Road, which form Centennial Park, on Lake Michigan. The beach is used as an off-leash dog swimming beach. The property is located immediately south of 261 Sheridan Road and immediately north of 205 Sheridan Road. Existing structures consist of:

1. A shore-parallel steel sheetpile seawall at the toe of the bluff
2. A shore-perpendicular steel sheetpile groin at the approximate center of the site
3. A shore-perpendicular steel sheetpile groin at the south property line

Proposed Project (Exhibit B)

The applicant proposes to install two shore-perpendicular rows of fencing (North and South), beginning at the existing steel sheetpile seawall, and extending 15 ft. into Lake Michigan. Both fences will consist of 4 ft. high chain link fence without concrete footings. The fence posts will be directly driven into clay substrate to the point of refusal. The North fence will be 91 ft. long and will be located 20 ft. south of the north property line. The South fence will be 78.25 ft. long and will be located 20 ft. north of the south property line. Gates will be installed in both rows of fencing to allow public access along the shoreline.

Department Application Review History

An application-for-permit was received on April 25, 2025. A permit application review fee of \$3,360 was received on May 20, 2025. The Department issued a 30-day public notice on May 12, 2025. The public notice expired on June 13, 2025. Comments from 34 individuals were received in response to the notice. These comments were forwarded to the applicant for response on June 16, 2025. The applicant's responses were received on September 30, 2025. IDNR/DEE's sign off was received on April 29, 2025. The IEPA's Final Determination Letter was received on August 8, 2025. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently reviewing the proposed project for authorization by an Individual Permit.

Recommendation

Department staff reviewed the proposed project and concluded that the applicant has shown that the proposed work:

- will not obstruct or interfere with navigation.
- is an acceptable encroachment per the Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205/11-2].
- will not impair any rights, interests or uses of the public.
- is not likely to cause bank or shoreline instability on other littoral properties.

Based on a detailed review of the application, comments received in response to the Public Notice, and the applicant's response to the Public Notice comments, the project is permissible under the Department's Part 3704 rules and issuance of a Department permit is recommended. Approvals have been received from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Ecosystems and Environment (DEE). Department Permit No. LM2025011 is attached for your approval and signature upon concurrence with this recommendation.

It is important to acknowledge Section 1205/11-2 Reclamation, of the Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205/11-2], which states that park districts that border upon any navigable body of water, the title to the bed or submerged land of which is vested in the State of Illinois, said district may take possession of, enclose, fill in, reclaim and protect any portion of such submerged land bordering thereon, over which there shall be shoal and shallow water not fit for navigation and shall have the power to establish, construct and maintain parks and boulevards over and upon the same, and all right, title and interest of the State of Illinois in and to the bed or submerged land of such body of water so taken possession of, enclosed, filled in and reclaimed is hereby granted and ceded to such park district and the title thereto shall vest in such park district to be held for the use and benefit of the public as a part of said park district for park and boulevard purposes exclusively, and said district shall have power for the purpose of reclaiming such submerged land and protecting the same thereafter, to construct all necessary break-waters, or protection for the building and maintenance of such parks and boulevards, and the enclosing or reclamation of such submerged lands.

Department Review

Section 3704.55 Permit Application Fee requires the Department to charge permit application review fees. It was determined that the review of this application fell under 3704.55 a) 1) C) and required a \$3,360 review fee. The applicant submitted a check for that amount.

The application has been reviewed for compliance with the requirements of Section 3704.70, Land Conversion and Fill Material Placement. Subsection a) prohibits the conversion of public waters to private land by filling. The applicant does not propose to convert public waters to private land by filling. Subsection b, allows for the placement of fill, in public waters, for the listed purposes. The applicant does not propose the placement of fill material.

The project has been evaluated using Section 3704.80 a) for its potential to result in:

1. **An obstruction to, or interference with, the navigability of any public body of water.** The term navigability as used in the Department's Part 3704 Rules refers to commercial navigation. The proposed fencing will be constructed close to shore in relatively shallow water and will not extend lakeward of the existing groin located along the southern property line of Centennial Park (i.e., the northern property line of 205 Sheridan Road) or the existing groin located along the southern property line of Elder Lane Park (i.e., the northern property line of 261 Sheridan Road), and as such should not interfere with commercial navigation. This, along with the fact that the proposed fencing will be easily visible to all small watercraft and swimmers, addresses concerns that the proposed project will be a hazard to recreational users of Lake Michigan.
2. **An encroachment on any public body of water.** The fencing is an encroachment into Lake Michigan. However, the Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205/11-2] gives park districts bordering upon any navigable water, the title to

the bed or submerged land of which is vested in the State of Illinois, and allows said districts the right to take possession of, enclose, fill in, reclaim and protect any portion of such submerged land bordering thereon, over which there shall be shoal and shallow water not fit for navigation. Therefore, it is an acceptable encroachment.

3. **An impairment of any rights, interests, or uses of the public in any public body of water or in the natural resources thereof.** The proposed fencing will be constructed within the shadow of the existing steel groins to the north and south. Therefore, the public’s ability to use the waters of Lake Michigan for recreation will not be diminished. The proposed fencing will include gates to allow continued public access along the shoreline. Therefore, the public’s ability to use the shoreline for recreation will not be diminished.
4. **Bank or shoreline instability on other properties.** The proposed fencing will be permeable, and as such will not trap sand from the littoral drift. Therefore, the proposed fencing is unlikely to cause bank or shoreline instability on other properties.

The fencing is an encroachment into Lake Michigan. However, the Park District Code provides broad rights and powers related to, title to, and interest in, the bed or submerged land of Lake Michigan that was vested in the State. Therefore, the applicant is not required to submit the supplemental information stated in Section 3704.80 b).

Public Notice Comments

The Department issued a 30-day public notice on May 12, 2025, with an expiration date of June 13, 2025. The public notice was mailed via U.S. Mail and posted on the Department’s website with the complete application-for-permit package.

The Department received comments in response to the public notice, from 34 individuals (Exhibit C). The applicant was given the opportunity to respond, in writing, to the commentors (Exhibit D).

The comments from the 30 commentors, listed below, were almost identical, with only minor variations, and had no references or relation to the Part 3704 rules. Those comments are not summarized in this memo but are included in the Exhibits.

Raheela Gill Anwar	Steve Juliusson
Vicki Apatoff	Lina Lubbat
Jeff Axelrod	Kim Marsh
Anne M. Coladarci	Mark D. Mitchell
Debbie Creigh	Patricia Mitchell
Charles H Dowding	Sherry Molitor
Jennifer Duboc	David Mulligan
Neva Egan	Kim Mulligan
Dian Eller	Alexandra C. Nichols
Lisa Fogt	J. A. Offerle
Mary Garrison	Irene Smith
Gina Gooden	Katie Stevens
Nina D. Gray	Linda Welch
Dr. Garry and Michele Grygotis	Constance & Kenneth Yonan
Stephanie Heraty	Nancy Yurek

The comments from the four commentors, listed below, contained references or relation to the Part 3704 rules. Those comments, and the applicant's and Department staff responses are summarized below.

Laurie Morse (PH)	Robert A. Schriesheim (PH)
Kristine Schriesheim	Ted Wynnychenko (PH)

PH: Comments that included a request for a public hearing.

Laurie Morse (comments dated 06/10/25, 06/13/25)

1. Remove the word "temporary" from all correspondence. The IDNR does not impose "temporary" conditions on its permits. We must take care the WPD does not succeed in misleading the public with this language.
 - a. Applicant response: The Park District confirms the permit request language referring to "temporary" reflects the intended nature of the installation as low-impact and adjustable, although we recognize the IDNR's terminology and will comply accordingly.
 - b. Department staff response: Staff are reviewing an application for fencing. If and when an IDNR/OWR permit is issued there will be no special conditions concerning the duration of time the fencing will be in place.
2. The application isn't signed.
 - a. Applicant response: We are working closely with the IDNR to address any application deficiencies, including signatures and authorizations.
 - b. Department staff response: Signatures are redacted from the public notice that is posted to the Department web site.
3. There is no name or signature on the application's "STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION" page 1.
 - a. Applicant response: We are working closely with the IDNR to address any application deficiencies, including signatures and authorizations.
 - b. Department staff response: Signatures are redacted from the public notice that is posted to the Department web site.
4. The application's (page 2, section 9) need statement lacks veracity. The applicant says the fences are needed to allow Centennial Beach to continue operating as an off-leash dog area. Centennial Beach is a leashed dog area and has been for years.
 - a. Applicant response: It is currently designated as a leashed dog area, consistent with Park Board policy. The fence proposal is intended to allow the Park District to change this use to an off-leashed dog beach area and will provide additional safety and operational clarity in compliance with evolving recommendations.
 - b. Department staff response: The comment has no reference or relation to the Part 3704 rules.
5. The application is frivolous. This applicant doesn't need fences and gates to maintain the status quo.
 - a. Applicant response: It is currently designated as a leashed dog area, consistent with Park Board policy. The fence proposal is intended to allow the Park District to change this use to a off-leashed dog beach area and will provide additional safety and operational clarity in compliance with evolving recommendations.
 - b. Department staff response: The Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205/11-2] gives park districts bordering upon any navigable water, the title to the bed or submerged land of which is vested in the State of Illinois, and allows said districts the right to take possession of, enclose, fill in, reclaim and protect any portion of such submerged land bordering thereon, over which there shall be shoal and shallow water not fit for navigation.
6. Veracity and the consequences of errors and omissions. The errors and omissions in this application are grave.
 - a. Applicant response: We are working closely with the IDNR to address any application deficiencies, including signatures and authorizations.
 - b. Department staff response: Staff find no errors or omissions in the application materials.
7. It is the IDNR's responsibility to identify, among other things, the responsible parties for and beneficiaries of the structures built using State permits. This application fails to mention, and the Public isn't told, that getting an IDNR permit to install rows of shore-perpendicular chain link fences across Centennial beach and into the water on the boundary of the donor's beach at 205 Sheridan Road is a triggering factor for a donor agreement

between the Winnetka Park District and the Ishbia Family Foundation. The controlling parties of the Foundation are in the public record as demanding privacy along this boundary, despite having agreed to the terms and conditions of their own IDNR permit for shore protection that forbids privatization of the new artificial beach below 205 Sheridan Road. It is easy for anyone to conclude the real purpose of WPD's application for Centennial fences is to privatize the donor's beachfront, while keeping the donor at arm's length from the process.

- a. Applicant response: Please note the Park District retains full management responsibility for Centennial Beach. We are committed to ensuring public access remains open and unimpeded, and any funding partnership supports these goals without transferring control or privatizing public lands.
 - b. Department staff response: The Winnetka Park District is the property owner and applicant. Any relationship or agreement between the Park District and another entity is outside the authority of the IDNR/OWR.
8. Public Benefit. Since the WPD currently operates a leashed dog area on Centennial Beach and no regulatory authority has asked them to stop, there is no public benefit to the project proposed in this application.
- a. Applicant response: It is currently designated as a leashed dog area, consistent with Park Board policy. The fence proposal is intended to allow the Park District to change this use to a off-leashed dog beach area and will provide additional safety and operational clarity in compliance with evolving recommendations.
 - b. Department staff response: The Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205/11-2] gives park districts bordering upon any navigable water, the title to the bed or submerged land of which is vested in the State of Illinois, and allows said districts the right to take possession of, enclose, fill in, reclaim and protect any portion of such submerged land bordering thereon, over which there shall be shoal and shallow water not fit for navigation.
9. Minimum Size. We don't have to spend much time asking ourselves if this proposal meets Section 17 of the Illinois Administrative code 3704.90 C requiring a design with minimal impairment to public rights while achieving its purpose.
- a. Department staff response: The fencing is an encroachment into Lake Michigan. However, the Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205/11-2] gives park districts bordering upon any navigable water, the title to the bed or submerged land of which is vested in the State of Illinois, and allows said districts the right to take possession of, enclose, fill in, reclaim and protect any portion of such submerged land bordering thereon, over which there shall be shoal and shallow water not fit for navigation.
10. Controlling Parties. Can the applicant please supply the IDNR and the Public with all correspondence, including but not limited to meeting (in person, telephonic, electronic remote) notes, phone call notes; e-mails, records, and other communications between representatives of the Winnetka Park District (Staff, elected officials, appointed committee members, etc.) and the Ishbia Family Foundation, Orchard 2020, Justin Ishbia and all representatives of these entities that address or involve the design, planning, positioning, size and boundary selection for the proposed project?
- a. Applicant response: Please note the Park District retains full management responsibility for Centennial Beach. We are committed to ensuring public access remains open and unimpeded, and any funding partnership supports these goals without transferring control or privatizing public lands.
 - b. Department staff response: The Winnetka Park District is the property owner and applicant. Any relationship or agreement between the Park District and another entity is outside the authority of the IDNR/OWR.
11. Similar Structures. IDNR requires proposed development along a Lake Michigan beach be similar or "like" other nearby structures.
- a. Department staff response: The Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205/11-2] gives park districts bordering upon any navigable water, the title to the bed or submerged land of which is vested in the State of Illinois, and allows said districts the right to take possession of, enclose, fill in, reclaim and protect any portion of such submerged land bordering thereon, over which there shall be shoal and shallow water not fit for navigation.
12. Safety. The applicant, in their April 25, 2025, cover letter says "The proposed fencing installation is intended to enhance safety...for beach users." The Department's Part 3704 rules do not permit fences on beaches or barriers atop fill on the Illinois shore based on safety, for dogs or for humans.

- a. Department staff response: There is nothing in the Part 3704 rules that explicitly prohibits fencing. The Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205/11-2] gives park districts bordering upon any navigable water, the title to the bed or submerged land of which is vested in the State of Illinois, and allows said districts the right to take possession of, enclose, fill in, reclaim and protect any portion of such submerged land bordering thereon, over which there shall be shoal and shallow water not fit for navigation.
13. Harm. The fences as proposed extend into deep water, 15 feet under current conditions, and much further under high-water conditions. The fence posts, once under water, pose fatal danger to people who swim or paddle along the shoreline. Water pollution is also an issue. Please ask the applicant to explain why they haven't considered Federal ADA beach access requirements when planning and submitting this design. These fences will collect trash, ice in winter, and limit the public's ability to escape through or beyond the enclosed area should there be lightning, storms, or other danger or accident.
- a. Applicant response: Please note the Park District retains full management responsibility for Centennial Beach. We are committed to ensuring public access remains open and unimpeded, and any funding partnership supports these goals without transferring control or privatizing public lands.
 - b. Department staff response: The fencing is proposed to be installed in shallow, nearshore water, and the fact that the proposed fencing will be easily visible to all small watercraft and swimmers, addresses concerns that the proposed project will be a hazard to recreational users of Lake Michigan. There is nothing in the Part 3704 rules related to water pollution or ADA requirements. The fencing may catch debris and ice, the removal of which is considered operation and maintenance, and is outside the authority of the IDNR/OWR. The proposed fencing will include gates to allow continued public access along the shoreline.
14. What other options has the applicant considered?
- a. Department staff response: There is nothing in the Part 3704 rules that requires an alternatives analysis.
15. Exclusivity. The IDNR should consider the applicant's restrictive beach access policies when thinking of awarding WPD extra privileges.
- a. Applicant response: We are committed to ensuring public access remains open and unimpeded, and any funding partnership supports these goals without transferring control or privatizing public lands.
 - b. Department staff response: The proposed fencing will include gates with latches (not locks) to allow continued public access along the shoreline.
16. Politics and local authorities. Your rules and the terms and conditions of your Lake Michigan permits require an applicant to obtain approvals from local authorities before starting work on a Lake Michigan project.
- a. Applicant response: We continue to collaborate with all stakeholders and regulatory agencies to ensure the project preserves the natural beauty and public use of this cherished community resource.
 - b. Department staff response: Condition #4 of IDNR/OWR permits states that "this permit does not relieve the permittee of the responsibility to obtain other federal, state or local authorizations required for the construction of the permitted activity; and if the permittee is required by law to obtain approvals from any federal or other state agency to do the work, this permit is not effective until the federal and state approvals are obtained".

Kristine Schriesheim (comments dated 06/09/25, 06/10/25, 06/12/25; only comments that contained references or relations to the Part 3704 rules are summarized below)

- 1. WPD's unsigned Joint Permit Application misrepresents to IDNR that the fence will have double entry gates on Centennial's northern and southern ends. It will not. WPD's attached schematics show that the northern end will have a set of 10-foot double entry gates. The southern end will have a stacked set of single 39 inch entry gates—not double entry gates. There is no valid justification for making the public maneuver through two narrow gates stacked one in front of the other, on a public beach. Also, it is important to note that 39 inches is barely wider than a yardstick.
 - a. Department staff response: Signatures are redacted from the public notice that is posted to the Department web site. The proposed fencing will include gates to allow continued public access along the shoreline. The number and orientation of the gates is outside the authority of the IDNR/OWR.
- 2. After stating the obvious—that the fencing will serve as a barrier for dogs—WPD's Joint Permit Application misrepresents that its fencing designs will not create barriers for people. Because the fencing will extend 15 feet

into the lake, even with gates it will obviously create barriers that prevent people from navigating along the actual shoreline—for no valid reason, as I laid out in detail yesterday. Furthermore, both WPD and IDNR are aware that in times of high water the gates may be underwater. Fencing that runs from steel sheet piling at the toe of the bluffs all the way out into the lake will block people from traversing the public shoreline. Also, swimmers will be hard-pressed to see chain-link fencing in Lake Michigan’s waters, even with goggles or masks on. I predict there will be numerous instances of people cracking their heads and/or cutting themselves on unnecessary lake-based fencing that is hard to see. If and when that happens, WPD’s fencing going from the toe of the bluffs all the way into Lake Michigan, will impede rescues, whether or not the fencing is submerged. Lake-based fencing may also incite people to climb up and jump from 15 feet out into the water onto whatever rocks or other items may exist at that depth. The fencing will also trap debris and make the overall lakefront area look even worse than it does now—see recent photo.

- a. Department staff response: The term navigation in the Department’s 3704 Rules refers to commercial navigation. The fencing is proposed to be installed in shallow, nearshore water, and the fact that the proposed fencing will be easily visible to all small watercraft and swimmers, addresses concerns that the proposed project will be a hazard to recreational users of Lake Michigan. The fencing may catch debris and ice, the removal of which is considered operation and maintenance, and is outside the authority of the IDNR/OWR. The Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205/11-2] gives park districts bordering upon any navigable water, the title to the bed or submerged land of which is vested in the State of Illinois, and allows said districts the right to take possession of, enclose, fill in, reclaim and protect any portion of such submerged land bordering thereon, over which there shall be shoal and shallow water not fit for navigation.
3. IDNR’s Public Comment Notice presents an unsigned application. Why is the permit application unsigned?
 - a. Department staff response: Signatures are redacted from the public notice that is posted to the Department web site.
4. WPD’s proposed narrow, 39” stacked set of single gates framing a 6-foot-long corridor, would unlawfully create an impassable barrier to challenged individuals’ ability to traverse the beach. As you and the other government officials on this email can see, 39 inches is too narrow to meet beach access standards, even for temporary structures.
 - a. Department staff response: There is nothing in the Part 3704 rules related to ADA requirements.

Robert A. Schriesheim (comments dated 06/13/25)

1. Generally, I am concerned that the installation of the proposed fencing at Centennial Dog Beach, in Lake Michigan at 225 Sheridan Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093, would encroach upon a public body of water and impair the rights, interests, and uses of the public in using a public body of water and the natural resources thereof. See Department’s Part 3704 Rules, Section 3704.10. Specifically, the proposed fence would have the effect of limiting public access to Lake Michigan and its historically submerged lakebed, which is held in trust for the public. This encroachment and impairment would be in violation of the Department’s Part 3704 Rules. As such, the permit application should be denied. See Sections 3704.80(a), 3704.90.
 - a. Applicant response: The proposed temporary fencing is intended to support safe and responsible operation of Centennial Dog Beach and is not designed to restrict public access to Lake Michigan.
 - b. Department staff response: The fencing is an encroachment into Lake Michigan. However, the Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205/11-2] gives park districts bordering upon any navigable water, the title to the bed or submerged land of which is vested in the State of Illinois, and allows said districts the right to take possession of, enclose, fill in, reclaim and protect any portion of such submerged land bordering thereon, over which there shall be shoal and shallow water not fit for navigation. The proposed fencing will include gates to allow continued public access along the shoreline.
2. The proposed fence has been inconsistently described in various materials made public by the permit applicant. For example, the Public Notice issued by the Department describes the southerly fence line as including gates and being “located 20 ft. north of the south property line.” However, in materials submitted for consideration by zoning authorities at the municipal level, the fence does not appear to include gates and abuts (and crosses) the southern property line. This latter configuration certainly impairs the rights, interests, and uses of the public in using Lake Michigan and its historic lakebed.

- a. Applicant response: We acknowledge that previous plan submissions may contain slight differences. However, the IDNR application reflects the most current design intent. The southern fence line will remain on park property, and gates on both ends are being designed to allow public access and operational flexibility.
 - b. Department staff response: The submitted application materials include gates to allow continued public access along the shoreline, and does not include work on adjacent properties.
3. The permit application is ambiguous regarding the type of gate latch to be used for the access gates in the north and south fence. See Detail 1 and Detail 2, Sheet L2.0. The Project Description notes that certain aspects of the Centennial Dog Beach are subject to a “fob-controlled gate”, which inherently limits access to public land. Given the permit applicant’s history in controlling access to this space, it is unclear whether the proposed gates will be lockable or locked, thereby inhibiting the public’s ability to access, use, and enjoy public land.
 - a. Applicant response: The project will not enclose or privatize public land, and any gates or latches will remain unlocked for public access. The current electric fob gate at the top of the bluff is existing and helps manage usage to ensure safe use of the dog beach.
 - b. Department staff response: The submitted application materials describe the proposed gates as including latches for public access and make no mention of locks. The existing steel seawall at the base of the bluff will define the western boundary, with beach access maintained through the current stairway and fob-controlled gate.
4. No explanation is provided by the permit applicant as to why the north fence line has a double gate (at 10’ wide) and the south fence has a single gate (approximately 3’ wide). See Detail 1 and Detail 2, Sheet L2.0. The public should be able to equally access and traverse public land from the north and south.
 - a. Applicant response: The differing gate sizes (north: 10', south: 3') reflect maintenance needs and site constraints, not an intent to limit access from one side.
 - b. Department staff response: The number and orientation of the gates is outside the authority of the IDNR/OWR.

Ted Wynnychenko (comments dated 06/02/25)

1. I believe it is important to note that, while the WPD describes the fencing as “temporary,” there is no provision within Part 3704 Rules for “temporary” structures. As such, and, apparently, as the Department has already noted, the permit application is for a “permanent” structure across the beach/lakeshore below the bluff and within the waters of the Lake.
 - a. Applicant response: Regarding the characterization of the fencing as “temporary,” we understand the IDNR reviews all structures within its permitting jurisdiction based on their location, intended use, and potential environmental impact, regardless of duration. The fencing described in our proposal is not intended to be permanent infrastructure, but rather a management tool to clearly delineate the off-leash dog area, minimize conflicts, and support the safe, continued operation of the dog beach in a responsible manner.
 - b. Department staff response: Staff are reviewing an application for fencing. If and when an IDNR/OWR permit is issued there will be no special conditions concerning the duration of time the fencing will be in place.
2. I believe it is important to correct the WPD’s misstatement of fact. In its application, the WPD states that the purpose of the fencing is “to be compliant with Illinois Cook County Animal Control Ordinance.” The proposed fencing will not make the proposed site for an “off-leash” dog park/area “compliant” with any County Ordinance. It appears the WPD is referring to Cook County Animal and Rabies Control Ordinance, Part II, Regulation VIII, which considers “Dog Parks and Areas,” as the WPD’s stated purpose for this area of public trust land along the shore, and into the waters, of the Lake is for its use as an “Off-Leash Dog Park.” Furthermore, it appears that the WPD is asserting that “two shore perpendicular rows of fencing ... being[ing] at the existing sheetpile seawall and extend[ing] 15 ft. into Lake Michigan” will be compliant the County’s Ordinance. This is not true. Regulation VIII requires that any off-leash “Dog Park must be completely enclosed by a contiguous fence.” [Emphasis added.] As such the proposed 3 sided “fencing,” where one side is the sheetpile seawall, for this area does not meet requirements of the County’s Ordinance, and the WPD’s assertion that it does is misleading and deceptive. As it is not entirely relevant to this application, I will conclude by simply stating that the Cook County

Department of Animal Control has not, at any time, explicitly endorsed that any incompletely, or non-contiguously, enclosed area would meet the requirements of Regulation VIII, and that the Department of Animal Control has no procedures, processes, or authority which allows it to issue any waivers or other exemptions to Regulation VIII. As such, the stated purpose of the permit application will not be accomplished by the requested fencing.

- a. Applicant response: With respect to regulatory requirements, the Park District has remained in regular communication with Cook County Animal and Rabies Control (CCARC). According to their current ordinance, all dog parks (or dog friendly areas) must be fully enclosed and include a gated entry system. The Park District has submitted the plans for the temporary fencing at Centennial Dog Beach to CCARC and is currently awaiting their review and confirmation that the proposed design meets all applicable requirements.
 - b. Department staff response: The comment has no reference or relation to the Part 3704 rules. The Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205/11-2] gives park districts bordering upon any navigable water, the title to the bed or submerged land of which is vested in the State of Illinois, and allows said districts the right to take possession of, enclose, fill in, reclaim and protect any portion of such submerged land bordering thereon, over which there shall be shoal and shallow water not fit for navigation.
3. The permit application does not provide any benefit to the general public, represents a direct encroachment on the Lake, is an obstruction to navigation along the Lake's shore, and impairs the rights of the public.
- a. Applicant response: Importantly, the fencing will not restrict public access to the beach or the lake. As clearly stated in our application, double entry gates are planned at both the north and south ends of the designated dog beach area to allow for continuous shoreline passage. This configuration aims to balance secure, off-leash use by dogs with the broader community's ability to traverse the shoreline. The design does not create a privatized or exclusive zone, but rather continues the decades-long management of this space as a designated dog-friendly area.
 - b. Department staff response: While the fencing is an encroachment into Lake Michigan, the Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205/11-2] gives park districts bordering upon any navigable water, the title to the bed or submerged land of which is vested in the State of Illinois, and allows said districts the right to take possession of, enclose, fill in, reclaim and protect any portion of such submerged land bordering thereon, over which there shall be shoal and shallow water not fit for navigation. IDNR/OWR's concern is for commercial navigation; the fencing is proposed to be installed in shallow, nearshore water. The proposed fencing will include gates to allow continued public access along the shoreline.
4. As this application appears to be a "first of its kind," where a municipal entity is requesting the right to seize control of public trust land for the benefit of a select few at the expense, and to the detriment, of the people of the State, I am concerned that there may be further attempts to "privatize" the Lake's shore with the installation of fencing expressly designed to bar or limit public entry to public land for the benefit of private parties.
- a. Applicant response: The Winnetka Park District is not acting on behalf of a small group of private individuals. This proposal stems from ongoing operational evaluations and a desire to responsibly manage high-use recreational areas that involve dogs, which inherently carry added safety and compliance considerations. The proposed approach reflects feedback received from residents, staff assessments, and a continued commitment to provide access while minimizing risks. Finally, we recognize the importance of preserving access to public lands and waters. We will continue to work closely with regulatory agencies, including IDNR, to ensure that any activities undertaken are legal, appropriate, and aligned with the values of this community.
 - b. Department staff response: The Winnetka Park District is the property owner and applicant. The Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205/11-2] gives park districts bordering upon any navigable water, the title to the bed or submerged land of which is vested in the State of Illinois, and allows said districts the right to take possession of, enclose, fill in, reclaim and protect any portion of such submerged land bordering thereon, over which there shall be shoal and shallow water not fit for navigation. The proposed fencing will include gates to allow continued public access along the shoreline.

Public Hearing

Of the 34 individuals, agencies, and local governments that responded to the public notice, issued for this project, three requested a public hearing. At this time, it is the opinion of Department staff that no additional relevant information can be obtained by holding a public hearing and therefore, do not recommend a public hearing be held.

As a result of comments received in response to the public notice, issued for this project, no changes were made to the project as originally proposed.

EVANSTON ROUNDTABLE

Letter to the Editor: The Dog Beach and lakefront accessibility

July 22nd, 2024

Editor's note: This is the City of Evanston's response to resident John Kennedy's recent letter that brought up concerns about accessibility at city beaches.

While there are definitely additional steps that the city can take to increase accessibility on the lakefront, there are many steps that the city has already taken to make the lakefront accessible for individuals with disabilities. Please know that it is difficult to compare the other beaches and their accessibility to the Dog Beach. As the city only has one dog beach, the ADA requires that it must be accessible.

Please take a look at what the city has currently done to increase accessibility on all of its beaches:

- In 2022, the city developed the ADA Transition Plan to remove barriers to city services and make it easier for community members with disabilities to participate. The plan places ADA access at the forefront of city planning, construction and policies.
- In early 2023, the city installed Mobi Mats at each of the city's six beaches, providing a path to closer proximity to the water for those in wheelchairs.

- Later, during the 2023 beach season, the city purchased accessible beach wheelchairs to increase accessibility even further.
- This beach season, the city implemented “No Throw Zones” at Lee and Clark Street beaches so community members with disabilities and families with young children will feel more comfortable in a less active space.
- In 2024, lakefront signage was updated with contrasting colors between the background and fonts. Additionally, color-coded flags with written words were printed on them to assist community members with low vision and individuals with color vision deficiencies.

The city’s most accessible beach is Clark Street because it has accessible parking, restrooms and beach wheelchairs. It also has a no-throw zone and color-coded flags with written words to assist community members with low vision and color deficiencies.

Cynthia Vargas, communications and engagement manager for the City of Evanston

Paula McKendry

July 24th, 2024 at 10:34 AM

I question the need for a handicapped accessible dog beach. Service dogs do not run freely. How would a wheel chair user clean up after their pet or intervene in the case that their dog needed to be handled (not all dogs are perfectly behaved) ?

A few years ago there was no dog beach due to lake levels. By the time a special gate and pathway is designed, funded, and implemented, the beach could be washed away.

There are other parks and amenities in our community that could be made accessible and would serve a greater number of people.

August 24, 2023

Steve Wilson
Executive Director
Wilmette Park District
1200 Wilmette Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091

Review for Langdon Park Beach

Dear Steve:

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback for the two new SmithGroup options for access to Langdon Park Beach. The first is an at grade option that is a hybrid of plans II and IV that were shared in the August board meeting, using the name Concept ORA 2. The second is a newer boardwalk option than what was presented at the August board meeting, using the name Concept ORA 3. Tanya Scheibe reviewed these plans. Tanya, one of our Project Managers, has a degree in architecture and is a Registered Accessibility Specialist. I also reviewed her work. The following are our remarks.

Connection of Permeable Pavers to New Path

Limited information is shown on these options regarding the pavers. Although this portion of the paver surface may be part of the outdoor recreation access route, we recommend the paver section comply with the requirements of a typical accessible route as the existing portions of this surface type are a typical accessible route. As a reminder, the requirements of a typical accessible route are:

- minimum width of 36" wide;
- gaps no greater than .5";
- changes in level no greater than .5";
- running slope maximum 5%; and
- cross slope maximum 2.08%.

This surface can follow all requirements for the outdoor recreation access route instead and have higher slopes with resting intervals as required for this path type.

At Grade Outdoor Recreation Access Route Design (Concept ORA 2)

In the design shown, the portions of the path that will begin beyond the permeable paver path extension will meet requirements for running slopes of an outdoor recreation access route as well as the requirements for resting intervals necessary. As a reminder, with a typical running slope of 9.8% specified for each section, resting intervals are needed every 30' and these resting intervals must be a minimum of 60" wide and 60" long with slopes not greater than 2.08% for a paved surface. This is met in the design presented.

Handrails are not required on an outdoor recreation access route and are not included in this current design, but may be desirable with these steeper slopes. Should handrails be provided at the final stage, they must meet all requirements for handrails typical of ramps. This includes:

- a mounting height of 34" to 38" to the top of the gripping surface;
- a diameter of 1.25" to 2";
- have extensions at the top and bottom of each run, and
- continue to a floor, post, or wall at the ends.

Boardwalk Outdoor Recreation Access Route Design (Concept ORA 3)

The same requirements mentioned above apply to this boardwalk design as well. This design uses two different surface types. It is important to ensure that the transitions between surface types have a maximum of .5" change in elevation. As shown in the plans, the running slopes of the outdoor recreation access route and the boardwalk will meet requirements and will include the necessary resting intervals.

As noted earlier, handrails are not required on an outdoor recreation access route. Should handrails be provided, they must meet all requirements for handrails typical of ramps as described earlier.

Beach Access Route Requirements (applies to all plans)

When work is underway at an Illinois beach, beach access routes must be part of the project. A beach access route (BAR) must meet certain requirements for access and connect to an appropriate water level based on the type of beach. Authorities consider Lake Michigan and the other Great Lakes non-tidal lakes. Therefore, the Park District must provide access to the normal recreation water level. This is not defined within the 2018 Illinois Accessibility Code nor does there appear to be a definition for normal recreation water level in other texts. We believe that the long-term average data provided by the Army Corps of Engineers may be the best benchmark here. We are not experts in the determination of normal recreation water level in this environment and encourage the Park District to identify this water level or a means of determining it should that level fluctuate over the years.

A BAR can be a permanent surface like the path that is being added or can be removable, being rolled out or set up during hours the beach is open and stored when the beach is closed. Regardless of surface type, the beach access route must be a minimum of 60" wide, have changes in level or obstacles maximum .5", have gaps maximum .5", and must be free of protruding objects. If the beach access route is a permanent surface, it must also meet requirements for slopes and resting intervals. The cross slope of a beach access route must not exceed 2.08%. The running slope can be:

- Up to 5% for any length of the beach access route without requiring resting intervals;
- Between 5% and 8.33% for a maximum length of 50' with resting intervals at each end of the segment; and
- Between 8.33% and 10% for a maximum length of 30' with resting intervals at each end of the segment.

These running slopes match the requirements of an Outdoor Recreation Access Route and are not as generous as the allowances for trails which can reach 12.5% for a maximum of 10'.

It is important that if a removable surface is used for this purpose, it is adjusted to meet the normal recreation water level should that level fluctuate. We emphasize here that this surfacing should be out at all hours and on all days the beach is open to the public for water access. If there are times of the year when the District prohibits access to or use of the water at this location, it is not expected that a removable surface would be deployed.

Any type of surface that is used for the BAR must be maintained. It should be swept clear of debris or sand accumulation daily regardless of surface type. The District must also maintain a removable surface for compliance with gaps and obstacles on a regular basis, and adjust if necessary if the removable surface is not stored away each evening.

Conclusion

That concludes our remarks. If there are questions, or you would like us to review additional plans as they become available, please contact us.

Sincerely,



John N. McGovern, J.D.
Partner, Principal-in-Charge
The WT Group, LLC Accessibility Practice

TRS/JNM/WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT LANGDON BEACH PLAN REVIEW 202302

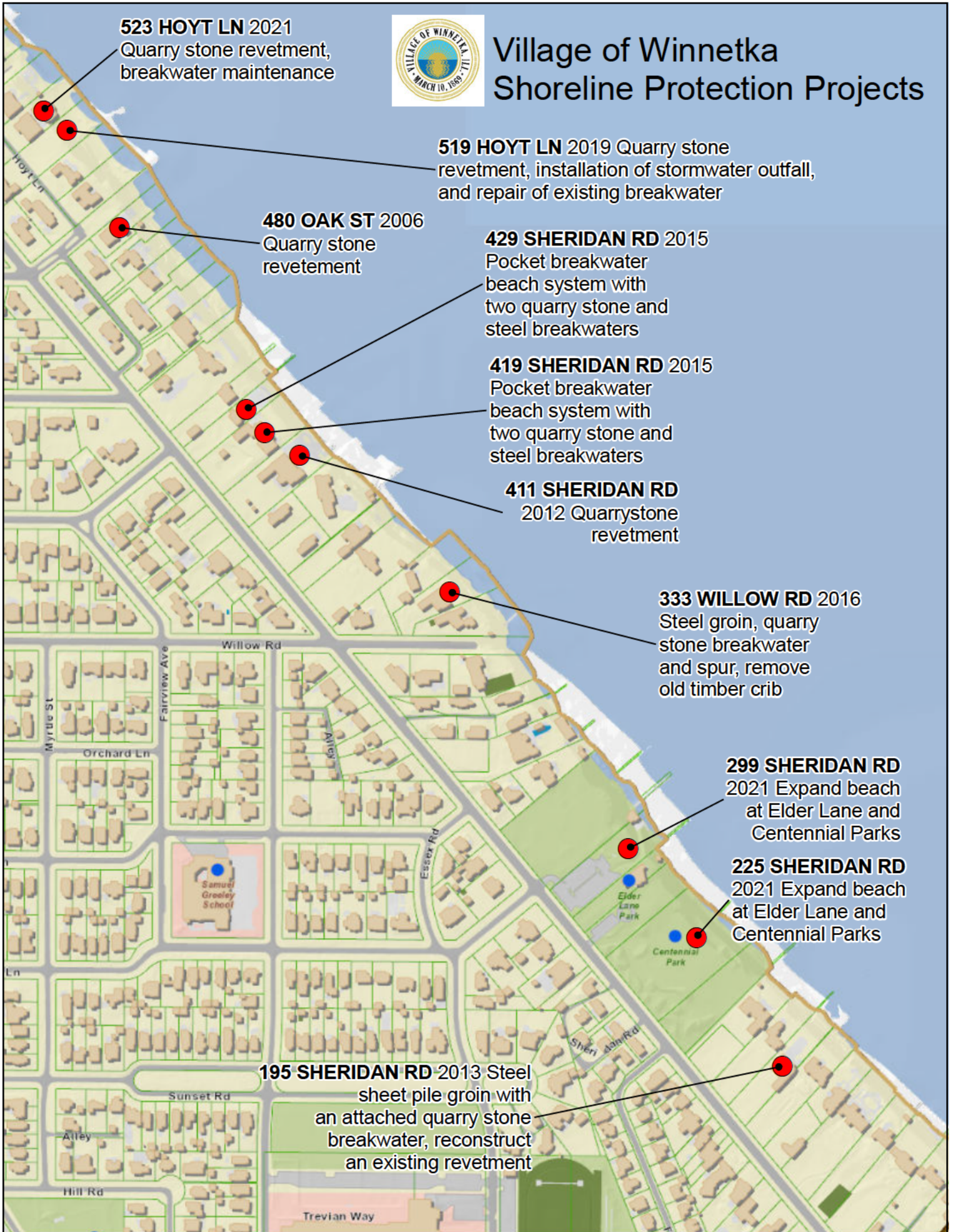


Village of Winnetka Shoreline Protection Projects





Village of Winnetka Shoreline Protection Projects





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

Memorandum

Date: December 11, 2025
To: Steve Altman
From: Eric Otto
RE: IDNR/OWR application-for-permit C20250015 by the Winnetka Park District for the construction of fencing, in Lake Michigan, at 225 Sheridan Road, Winnetka, IL 60093

Authority

The application for permit (application) was reviewed using the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (Department) Part 3704 rules "REGULATION OF PUBLIC WATERS" which implement and are authorized by the Rivers, Lakes and Streams Act [615 ILCS 5]. The application was also reviewed using the Park District Code [70 ILCS 1205/11-2] (Exhibit PDC).

Existing Conditions (Exhibit A)

The applicant has three contiguous littoral lots, north to south, 260, 250, and 246 Sheridan Road, which form Centennial Park, on Lake Michigan. The beach is used as an off-leash dog swimming beach. The property is located immediately south of 261 Sheridan Road and immediately north of 205 Sheridan Road. Existing structures consist of:

1. A shore-parallel steel sheetpile seawall at the toe of the bluff
2. A shore-perpendicular steel sheetpile groin at the approximate center of the site
3. A shore-perpendicular steel sheetpile groin at the south property line

Proposed Project (Exhibit B)

The applicant proposes to install two shore-perpendicular rows of fencing (North and South), beginning at the existing steel sheetpile seawall, and extending 15 ft. into Lake Michigan. Both fences will consist of 4 ft. high chain link fence without concrete footings. The fence posts will be directly driven into clay substrate to the point of refusal. The North fence will be 91 ft. long and will be located 20 ft. south of the north property line. The South fence will be 78.25 ft. long and will be located 20 ft. north of the south property line. Gates will be installed in both rows of fencing to allow public access along the shoreline.

Department Application Review History

An application-for-permit was received on April 25, 2025. A permit application review fee of \$3,360 was received on May 20, 2025. The Department issued a 30-day public notice on May 12, 2025. The public notice expired on June 13, 2025. Comments from 34 individuals were received in response to the notice. These comments were forwarded to the applicant for response on June 16, 2025. The applicant's responses were received on September 30, 2025. IDNR/DEE's sign off was received on April 29, 2025. The IEPA's Final Determination Letter was received on August 8, 2025. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently reviewing the proposed project for authorization by an Individual Permit.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Scott Mangum](#); [Ann Klaassen](#)
Subject: Support for Centennial Beach fence and public safety issues
Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 8:29:38 PM
Attachments: [Army Corp Letter 8.25 signed.pdf](#)
[Talking points-temp fencing 8.2025.docx](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Mangum and Ms. Klaassen,

I am writing this email in support of the Winnetka Park District's application to install fencing at the Centennial Park dog beach. My husband and I reside at 301 Sheridan Rd in Winnetka, adjacent to Elder Lane Park and part of the contiguous stretch of beach that includes Centennial Beach.

I have included the following communications regarding public safety issues we have encountered in our neighborhood relating to unleashed dogs, which explain my reasons for supporting the Park District's application:

1. August 2025 email to the Presidents of the Winnetka Village Council and Winnetka Park District (set forth below), which includes as an attachment a copy of my letter to the Army Corps of Engineers in support of the Park District's application for fencing.
2. Transcript of my remarks during the public comment portion of an August 2025 Village Council meeting.

I will be out of town for the upcoming Plan Commission and ZBA hearings, and request that this email and attachments be included in the agenda packets for both the January 28 Plan Commission public hearing and the February 9 ZBA public hearing.

For the safety of our children and neighboring residents, I urge the various Village entities to provide all requisite approvals to install the requested fencing as soon as possible.

Thank you. Fran Edwardson

From: Fran Edwardson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 8, 2025 2:50 PM
To: rdearborn@winnetka.org <rdearborn@winnetka.org>; egibson@winpark.org <egibson@winpark.org>
Cc: [REDACTED] >
Subject: Temporary dog fence and public safety issues

Dear Presidents Dearborn and Gibson,

I am attaching a copy of a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers that I also mailed to each of you today. I'm sending it to you by email as well because of my significant public safety concerns involving an unfenced dog beach reopening at Centennial Park when repairs are complete. By way of this email, my husband and I are asking three things:

1. Act together to clear the hurdles to the temporary fencing for the dog beach, and get it erected, as soon as possible.
2. Do not reopen the dog beach until the fencing is up.
3. Direct our police department to enforce the Village's and the Park District's leash laws, especially in our local parks.

As you will see in the letter, in early July we had two instances of dogs in our backyard coming off the unfenced dog beach. In one case, it was a pair of them traveling together. These dogs have no business roaming free in our community, and I am deeply disappointed that the Village, the Park District, and local law enforcement all continue to look the other way on unleashed dogs on the beach and in Centennial and Elder Lane parks. This situation is of particular concern regarding Elder Lane Park, which prohibits dogs altogether, on or off leash. This park teems with children daily, ranging from the toddlers at the tot lot, to the primary school children with their flag football and soccer practices, to the teens with the parking for New Trier, and to all kinds of families who regularly picnic in the park.

I do not understand the failure of our local government to enforce our leash laws in these two parks and their beaches. As you will see in the letter, my own experience with a vicious dog attack in Elder Lane Park has shaped my views on this. I apologize for the graphic nature of the attached photos, but I think they illustrate well just what a dog is capable of doing in a very short period of time. The four photos were taken by the vet after Toby's attack. The largest wound was five inches long and an inch wide, the other very deep wound was approximately an inch deep into his tissue. Can you imagine if the Elder Lane victim had been a child in the park instead?

My husband and I are happy to discuss this further. Besides contacting us by email, you can reach us on our landline, [REDACTED] Thank you.

Fran and John Edwardson

August 8, 2025

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District
ATTN: Sophia Morgan
231 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60604

RE: Public Comment on Permit Application No. LRC-2023-082

Dear Ms. Morgan,

As a long-time resident of the Village of Winnetka, I write to express my strong support for the Winnetka Park District's permit application to install a temporary dog fence at Centennial Park Dog Beach in Winnetka.

This summer, I have watched on a daily basis numerous unleashed dogs run up and down Centennial and Elder Beaches and the private property at 261 Sheridan Road. Frequently, because they are off leash, they enter onto parts of the beach that are not supposed to be part of the dog beach.

A few weeks ago, two large dogs from the dog beach crossed all three of these properties, came up the stairs from the beach at our home at 301 Sheridan Rd (immediately North of Elder Lane Beach) and began to explore our (street-level) backyard while I was in the backyard. My husband had a similar experience around the same time frame, when one dog had come up the stairs and the owner drove into our driveway looking for it. These incidents are deeply disturbing, though more than anything we are grateful that none of our grandchildren were playing in our yard or on the beach in either incident. At the same time, it was fortuitous for the Park District and the Village that the dogs went up to our yard rather than to Elder Lane Park, where the entry point from the beach is immediately adjacent to a tot lot. The morning of the two dog-incursion there were numerous toddlers playing in the tot lot who could have been endangered by the dogs.

The Park District's efforts to re-install a dog fence are long overdue. I understand that the Park District, the Village of Winnetka, and Cook County Animal Control each have ordinances that require the leashing of dogs in unfenced areas. I have personally observed, however, that those ordinances are not being enforced along this stretch of beach and parkland by the local police or any other governmental entity. Prior to the recent construction closures, dogs continued to roam this entire beachfront unleashed. If the beach remains unfenced, a serious injury to a neighbor, child, or another dog is inevitable. The absence of enforcement and fencing is, in my opinion, reckless and unconscionable by our local officials.

The risk of injury, property damage, and disease is why the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control requires that a dog park be "completely enclosed by a contiguous fence with each entrance designed in such a manner as to secure against accidental opening." This is an important public safety issue.

Unfortunately, five years ago I personally experienced an attack in Winnetka by an uncontrolled dog and know the injuries that can be inflicted. While walking my dog, Toby, on a leash, Toby was tackled and dragged into Elder Lane Park by a large, unleashed, uncollared dog. The dog pinned Toby down, and proceeded to eat Toby alive until the owner was able to pull the dog off Toby. It was a horrifying experience. If we are to have a dog beach, for the safety and benefit of all beachgoers and park visitors, it should be enclosed. An enclosure will create a safe and enjoyable environment for dogs and their owners, as well as for the children and everyone else in these parks at the same time, and mitigate the risks of unnecessary encounters between dogs and human beings.

I ask that you endorse the Park District's efforts to install a fence by approving their permit application as soon as possible. I also ask that you allow or require them to keep the current construction fencing in place if the Centennial dog beach is to be reopened before the temporary, permitted fence has been erected.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Francesca Edwardson.

Francesca Edwardson, Winnetka resident

cc: Winnetka Park District
Winnetka Village Council
Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control









TALKING POINTS—FENCING FOR DOG BEACH

My name is Fran Edwardson, and I live at 301 Sheridan Rd, next to Elder Lane Park. Since the dog beach at Centennial reopened with a supposed “leash” requirement, lower lake levels, and no fencing, we have had multiple dogs coming into our yard from the dog beach.

They are traveling nearly a quarter mile from Centennial: across the 261 Sheridan and Elder Lane beaches, then onto our property, up our stairs, and into our yard. They have neither leashes nor owners with them. I’m grateful that our grandchildren weren’t outside as this could have put them in harm’s way.

Worse yet, the dogs could have easily come up at Elder Lane Park next to the tot lot, or at an adjacent home where young children live and play in their yard often. Elder Lane Park is used by lots of kids, including the toddlers at the playground, Jr Trevians at sports practices, and the teenagers who park there to attend New Trier. Elder Lane is a “people park” and all dogs, whether on or off leash, are specifically prohibited in it by Park District ordinance.

I have firsthand experience with an attacking dog, and know the serious injuries they can cause. In 2020, while I was walking my leashed dog Toby, he was tackled and dragged into Elder Lane Park by a very large, unleashed, uncollared German shepherd. He pinned Toby down, and began to eat my dog alive until the owner was able to pull the attacking dog off. It was horrifying. But, it could have been worse. What if the dog had attacked me instead? Or worse yet, a child playing in the park?

While we love our dogs, they can be dangerous animals. That’s why we have laws that regulate them. Whether on the beach, in the parks, or on our streets, dogs should not be roaming unleashed in Winnetka. It presents an important public safety risk, which should be given the highest priority.

Not just the law, but common sense, dictates that a dog beach must be fenced. This is not the Park District’s problem alone. The Village’s own leash laws specifically declare that unleashed dogs off the owner’s property are a “public nuisance.” Our zoning ordinances put this squarely in front of the Village, too. The plastic

TALKING POINTS—FENCING FOR DOG BEACH

construction fencing that's up at Elder Lane beach right now isn't going keep dogs from roaming for long.

Two recent surveys done by the Park District and the Caucus indicate that the full reopening of Elder Lane beach is one of our community's highest priorities. Our beaches should be safe for all beach goers and park visitors. Resilient fencing can create a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone, and mitigate the risks of unintended encounters between dogs and human beings.

The Army Corps' and IDNR's review of the Park District's temporary dog beach fence application is nearly complete. I urge the Village to cooperate with its fellow government agencies and grant all necessary approvals for the temporary dog fence as quickly as you possibly can.

Thank you.

To: Village of Winnetka Plan Commission

From: Kimberley Marsh, 360 Forest Street, Winnetka, IL

Re: Winnetka Park District Centennial Fence SUP Application Violates Design Standards, Conflicts with the 2040 Futures Plan & Misrepresents Facts and the Law

Date: January 21, 2026

Please vote against recommending the Winnetka Park District's ("WPD") Village Code-violating, SUP standard breaching, unlawful and 2040 Futures Plan-indifferent permanent fencing permit application.

1. Design Standards prohibit chain-link fencing. WPD's proposed black chain-link animal cage on the shores of Lake Michigan would violate this prohibition. It cannot be recommended to the Village Council.
2. VOW 2040 Futures Plan promotes open space and the preservation of Winnetka's graceful character, neighborhood design standards, and the environment. WPD's SUP application clearly violates all of these tenets. There is no standalone black chain link fencing along any neighboring Centennial Park property owner's lakefront front lot line, nor along any Sheridan Road front lawn. There is no standalone chain link fencing in the neighborhood that extends into Lake Michigan. WPD's SUP permit application cannot be recommended to the Village Council.
3. When the Village approved WPD's 2001 Elder Lane and Beach SUP application, it required WPD to install Code-compliant non-chain link fencing. Despite this, WPD seeks to install Code non-compliant, design standard violating, 2040 Futures Plan -inconsistent chain link fencing on Centennial beach.
4. WPD's proposed black chain link animal cage is not minimally necessary nor consistent with Code Section 15.78.010. WPD's fencing is designed to stretch 106' from the toe of the bluffs into Lake Michigan on the north, and 93'3" into Lake Michigan to the south. The fencing extends 72 feet beyond the OHWM--WPD's front lot line -- on the north, and 77'3" beyond WPD's front lot line to the south. Fencing that extends beyond a property owner's front lot line is prohibited.
5. The Village Code prohibits nuisances, which it defines as fencing or other barriers that would extend into the public way, including Lake Michigan and its submerged lands.

6. Village Code Section 15.78.080 prohibits the creation of nuisances, such as fencing that would create Public Safety Hazards, including by impairing police and other first responder access to Centennial beach/Lake Michigan. WPD's animal cage would have 10" double gates on the northern side of Centennial. On Centennial's southern end, WPD designed two barely passable, stacked, single gates that form a 6' long, 39" wide corridor in the lake east of the OHWM. WPD's unsafe designs would unreasonably obstruct and interfere with ingress/egress to the adjacent public beach south of its animal cage. The cage would force first responders and other rescuers either into the lake through a yardstick wide corridor to try to reach emergency situations on the 20' area south of the fencing and north of 205 Sheridan's northern breakwater, or 77'3" past the OHWM into Lake Michigan to attempt to render aid to persons/dogs/boats/paddlers.

7. The 2040 Futures Plan contemplates ADA access. For local governmental bodies such as WPD, compliance is mandatory. Despite this, WPD designed an ADA non-compliant beach corridor that is too narrow for a wheelchair to use, with an insufficient turning radius that would trap people and dogs inside the chain link fencing, possibly in the waters of Lake Michigan. This dangerous and unlawful design violates the Village Code as well as the 2040 Futures Plan and cannot be recommended for approval.

8. WPD misrepresents the permanent nature of its black chain-link fenced in animal cage extending along and well past its front lot line on the shores of Lake Michigan. The fencing would be permanent, with no time constraints or removal requirement.

9. WPD claims its ADA-violating, public nuisance creating, Design Code abrogating, 39" wide, 6' corridor will never be used for maintenance south of the black chain-link fencing. This is out of line with the realities of known debris that washes up from Lake Michigan, as well as boats that may crash into 205 Sheridan's armored stone breakwaters, possibly stranding boaters/boats on a narrow 20' strip of inaccessible public beach, or beyond. A 34' long boat was stranded after encountering heavy waves

at Lloyd in October 2025. WPD also recently described finding a large section of wide rubber pipe washed up onto the Elder-Centennial beach, which required removal efforts by both the Village and WPD. That belies WPD's false statement that no maintenance will ever be required south of its unlawful black chain-link lakefront animal cage.

10. Cook County Animal Control ("CCAC") has refused to evaluate WPD's animal cage until after IDNR and USACE make their determinations, despite repeated entreaties not only from WPD, but also via email and phone calls from Orchard 2020 Trust's attorneys. In 2024, CCAC Administrator Dr. Diakhate informed Shannon Nazzal that Centennial beach is a "dog friendly area." Cook County does not require four-sided or any other specific fencing for Lake Michigan dog friendly areas, WPD can produce no documentation supporting its specious claims.
11. The Village Code prohibits dog owners from allowing their pets to "run at large." The IL Animal Control Act, 510 ILCS 5, 5/9, provides that: "A dog that is in a dog-friendly area or a dog park is NOT CONSIDERED TO BE RUNNING AT LARGE IF THE DOG IS MONITORED OR SUPERVISED BY A PERSON." There is no lawful justification for WPD's attempted usurpation of CCAC's sole and exclusive Animal Control Act authority. WPD is deliberately mis-defining what constitutes "running at large" to force the Village of Winnetka to violate the 2040 Futures Plan, its Design Standards, the Lakefront Preservation Ordinance, and the Village Code's nuisance provisions.
12. CCAC regulations require fully enclosed four-sided fencing for "dog parks" on land. Even if the IL Animal Control Act were amended to exclude dog friendly areas from its definition of places where canines are NOT "running at large," WPD's two-sided fencing would be out of compliance with the rules. As WPD knows, CCAC's Administrator lacks waiver authority for the four-sided fencing requirement.

Please vote to deny recommending WPD's grant of a SUP for its unlawful, specious and misleading fencing permit application.

Friends -

What a surprise to receive an email from Eric Otto on Christmas Eve saying that the IDNR had issued Permit LM2025011 allowing the Winnetka Park District to put fencing into Lake Michigan around Centennial Park!

This is a terrible idea for so many reasons. First of all, this fence defies Illinois law (615 ILCS 5/27). This is a beach for public use.

I understand that the Park District application described the fencing as going into the lake 15 feet. Take a look at the WPD's own drawings. They want to have a fence which would go 106 feet lakeward from the seawall to the north, and 93 feet 3 inches lakeward from the seawall to the south.

Think of the hazards these fences will present to swimmers, boaters, and even dogs!

Mr. Otto mentions that the area where the Park District wants to put its fences is made up of shoals and water not fit for navigation. That's simply not true. According to USACE, all of Lake Michigan's waters are navigable.

Finally, this really is moot since a public notice was not posted to inform the Winnetka residents about the Park District's plans and application.

I believe Laurie Morse's comments, which you have, sum up our problems here:

Mr. Otto's permit of multiple fences on Centennial Beach is a precedent-setting decision with consequences leadership at the Corps and the IDNR have not considered, and which are far-reaching. The IDNR failed to hold a public hearing that included all managers of waterside state and county recreational areas in Illinois prior to making this permit decision.

Please reconsider your decision and rescind Permit LM2025011.

Please keep me updated. Thank you.

Irene Smith
1087 Elm Street
Winnetka, IL 60093

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Kristin Kazenas](#); [ContactCouncil](#); [Planning](#)
Cc: [Shannon Nazzari](#); [REDACTED]; [Christina Codo](#); scorley@winpark.org; dseaman@winpark.org; cyrapp@winpark.org; ityson@winpark.org; [Kutulas Costa](#)
Subject: Winnetka Dog Beach Fencing
Date: Friday, January 23, 2026 10:52:57 AM
Attachments: [Exhibit 2 - Dog Park and Beach - History and Consideration of Alternatives.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Village of Winnetka Board of Trustees, Staff and Plan Commissioners,

As you prepare for the upcoming Plan Commission Hearing regarding the dog beach, I thought it would be helpful to list some salient facts regarding the Winnetka Dog Beach and attach the exhibit that was included in the prior plan commission submittal regarding the history of the Winnetka Dog Beach.

- The dog beach at Winnetka's Centennial Park opened in 1995.
- The Village of Winnetka adopted leash laws in 2007, requiring dogs to be on leash in public spaces
- Cook County Animal Control Ordinance has detailed requirements for operating off-leash dog parks including fences and controlled access.
- A chain link fence was in place at the near the north end of Centennial beach extending into the water for the better part of a decade before it was obliterated by wave action accompanying rising water levels peaking in 2020.
- The Winnetka Park District developed thoughtful plans that meet the various requirements to keep the dog beach in compliance with governing regulations and be consistent with the public trust doctrine.
- The Park District studied all other locations and determined Centennial is best suited for the purpose of the dog beach (see attached document included in prior public submittals to the Village of Winnetka).
- Centennial Beach, with 520 feet of shoreline represents more than 21% of the publicly accessible shoreline in Winnetka.
- The number of Winnetka households with dog beach passes averages less than 7% of the households.
- The Park District voted UNANIMOUSLY in October of 2022, to keep the dog beach at Centennial but reduce the size to not less than 170 and not more than 270 feet of shoreline and to provide public access to the balance of Centennial Park.
- ANY other proposed dog beach in Winnetka would require the granting of a special use permit before it could be used as an off-leash dog park and it would have to meet the same requirements.

The Village of Winnetka requires a Special Use Permit for ALL: Parks, Schools, Churches and other Institutional uses because it does not have a land use category in its zoning ordinance for such uses.

- But for the lack of proper zoning classification this request would be a simple administrative process requiring a building permit.
- Despite the fact that the dog beach has been in the same location for the past 30 years, the Village of Winnetka is insisting upon a *new* special use permit for a temporary fence to allow dogs to run off leash at Centennial Beach.
- The Winnetka Park District is obligated to follow the ordinances enacted by the Village of Winnetka, County of Cook and State of Illinois; its not an option.

The Village should explain to its constituents who made the decision to require a special use permit and why it is required for a statutorily required fence. It's been more than 3 years since the Park District agreed to modify the lakefront master plan to keep the dog beach at Centennial and people are still arguing over a simple plan to meet the basic code requirements for an off-leash dog park.

Politics involves compromise. Operating a dog beach requires compliance with governing regulations. The proposed interim fencing solution properly secures the dog beach while affording the public access to the balance of Centennial Park and Beach. The plan should be approved without further delay.

Warren James

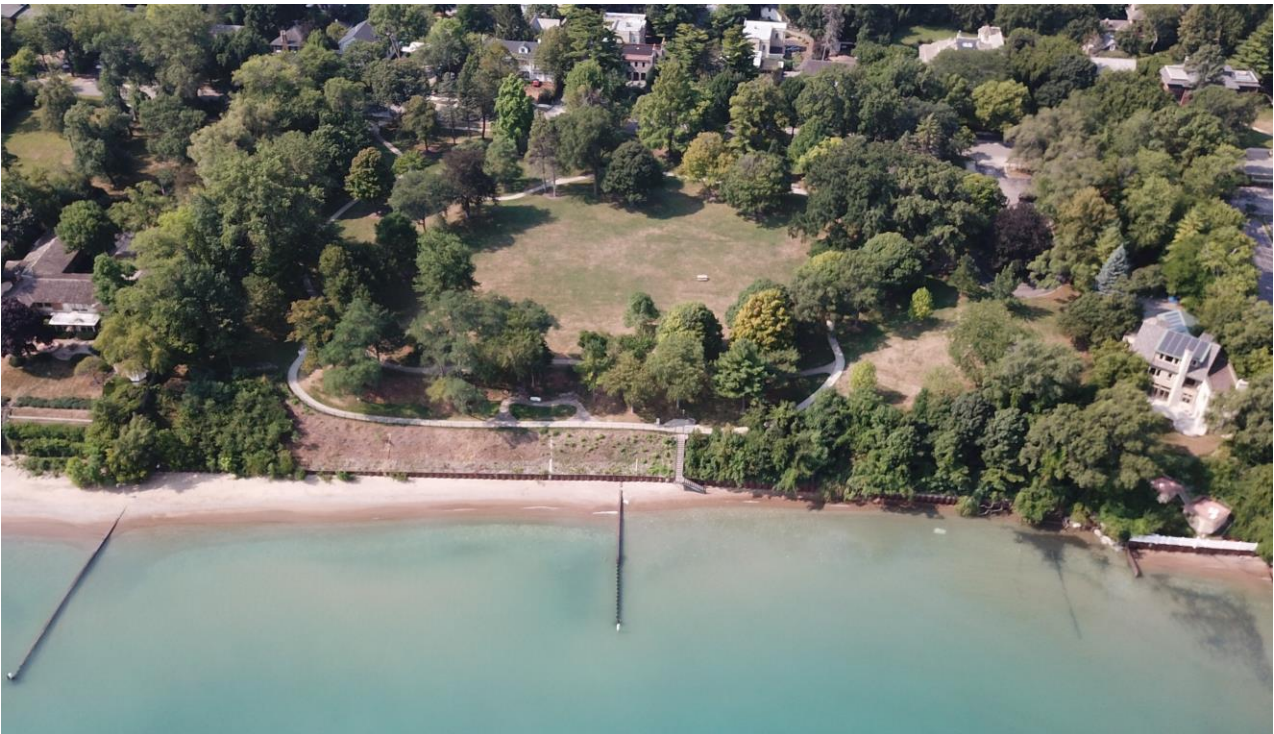
Winnetka Park District – Centennial Park Dog Beach History and Consideration of Off Leash Dog Park & Dog Beach Alternatives

Centennial Park was established in 1969 with the acquisition of the former North Shore Health Resort Property. Park features are largely the same today as when it was first developed, with the notable exceptions of the bluff and shoreline repairs in 1987 and the formation of the Centennial Park off-leash “Dog Beach” in 1995.



Above: Drone image dated 2020-09-29

Below: Drone image dated 2020-08-26



Winnetka Park District – Centennial Park Dog Beach History and Consideration of Off Leash Dog Park & Dog Beach Alternatives

Publicly owned shoreline in Winnetka is detailed below:

Publicly Owned Lakefront Property – Village of Winnetka & Winnetka Park District

Description	Shore frontage (feet)	Shore frontage (% of total)	Beach Access Allowed (feet)	Beach Access Allowed (% of total)	WPD Managed Beach (feet)	WPD Managed with Beach Access Allowed (%)
Sheridan Rd – Ravines	100	3.3%	100	3.9%	0	0.0%
Tower Rd Beach (WPD)	200	6.6%	200	7.9%	200	8.3%
Tower Rd Beach (VofW)	320	10.6%	320	12.6%	320	13.3%
Tower Rd Power Plant	215	7.1%	0	28.3%	0	0.0%
Lloyd Beach	720	23.8%	720	9.2%	720	29.9%
Maple Beach	235	7.8%	235	0.0%	235	9.8%
Spruce Street ROW	66	2.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Elm Street ROW	66	2.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Oak Street ROW	66	2.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Cherry Street ROW	40	1.3%	40	1.6%	0	0.0%
Willow Road ROW	66	2.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Elder Lane Beach	410	13.6%	410	16.1%	410	17.0%
Centennial Beach	520	17.2%	520	20.4%	520	21.6%
TOTALS:	3024	100.0%	2545	100.0%	2405	100.0%

Note: Centennial Beach represents 21.6% of the total usable beachfront managed by the WPD.

Winnetka Park District – Dog Beach Pass Holders – Summary Report: 2010-2022

Year	Resident	Non-Resident
2010	351	75
2011	311	73
2012	320	89
2013	275	71
2014	285	65
2015	267	63
2016	315	70
2017	333	80
2018	371	94
2019	356	105
2020	245	56
2021	300	86
2022	232	54
AVERAGE:	305	75

Approx. 4500 Households within the WPD (includes parts of Northfield, Glencoe, Kenilworth)

The 13 year average of 305 resident dog beach passes represents only 6.8% of WPD households.

Winnetka Park District – Centennial Park Dog Beach History and Consideration of Off Leash Dog Park & Dog Beach Alternatives

DOG BEACH TIMELINE

- 1995 – Dog Beach Created at Centennial Park by Winnetka Park District
- 2007 – Village of Winnetka adopts leash ordinance
- 2015 – Lakefront Advisory Committee recommends relocating dog park in the event Elder and Centennial are unified, recognizing that Elder and Centennial combined with 261 Sheridan would result in a 1000-foot public beach.
- April 2016 - Lakefront Master Plan Adopted
- May 2016 – Community needs assessment survey identified dog park as top 5 priority
- Dec 2018 – Residents approach WPD Board to advocate for an off-leash (land based) dog park
- Jan 2019 – Board directs staff to prioritize dry land dog park assessment
- Mar 2019 – Staff evaluated 33 sites and identifies 4 as meeting minimum requirements
- Jun 2019 – WPD host meeting to present findings from community engagement
- Aug 2019 – WPD Board reviews information regarding dog park locations
 - During the board meeting, the need to find a suitable alternative location for a dog park was highlighted, noting that the Lakefront Master Plan called for relocating the dog park away from Centennial Beach in the event the parks were unified.
 - WPD identifies West Elm Park and Crow Island Woods best suited locations for off-leash dog park.
 - West Elm area residents mobilize to oppose dog park at portion of West Elm Park
 - Euclid Avenue residents mobilize to oppose dog park at portion of Crow Island Woods
 - WPD Board drops proposal for dog beach at West Elm or Crow Island due to community opposition and focuses on off leash park on portion of the Village municipal yard south of Willow Road.
- March 2020 – Covid Outbreak
 - WPD meetings to go to zoom only
 - Caucus participation plummets to low 20's total participation
 - Randy Whitchurch and Bill Murphy – both residents of Fuller Lane volunteer to serve on Winnetka Caucus Council Park District commissioner selection committee
- August 19, 2020 – Caucus zoom interviews of candidates for WPD Commissioner; conducted by Randy Whitchurch and Bill Murphy; seven candidates for one open seat; Eric Lussen and Warren James, both incumbents interviewed for second term.
- October 10, 2020 – Winnetka Park District enters into Exchange Agreement to acquire 261 Sheridan.
- November 11, 2020, Caucus Town Hall, presentation of Candidates via zoom:
 - Candidate Colleen Root was recommended by the Winnetka Caucus Council as nominee for park board commissioner.
 - Candidate Root introduces herself as an attorney from Houston, TX, who moved to Winnetka in 2018, is familiar with the Army Corps of Engineers by virtue of the fact her home was flooded and destroyed by a hurricane, stated one of the reasons she moved to Winnetka was for its dog beach.
- March 10, 2021, Caucus Spring Town Hall – question regarding dog beach/parks directed to candidate Colleen Root in lieu of board President Mickey Archambault.

Winnetka Park District – Centennial Park Dog Beach

History and Consideration of Off Leash Dog Park & Dog Beach Alternatives

- May 27, 2021, Commissioner Root sworn in as newly elected Commissioner
- Jun 24, 2021, first Regular Board meeting with new board members, including Commissioner Root (in attendance.)
- Aug 26, 2021, WPD Board meeting: 50+ attendees demanding reinstatement of dog beach in lakefront master plan – led by Commissioner Colleen Root & Randy Whitchurch
- WPD Board responded to community input and established Dog Beach Committee which included volunteer time/board liaison from Village President Chris Rintz.
- Village of Winnetka reiterated its offer to allocate land for off leash dog park at Village Municipal Yard, for which specific plans were prepared by WPD. However, the Village noted that off leash park on municipal yard would not be able to be constructed until after the completion of the stormwater project in SW Winnetka.
- Village of Winnetka offered to establish dog beach on a portion of Tower Road Beach owned by the Village of Winnetka immediately adjacent and north of Tower Road pier.
- As detailed above, the total usable publicly owned shoreline at Tower Road Beach is approximately 520 feet. Comprised of 320 feet owned by the Village of Winnetka, leased to the WPD and the 200-foot-wide lot owned by the WPD.



Cook County Viewer – GIS Image – Village of Winnetka Owned Property

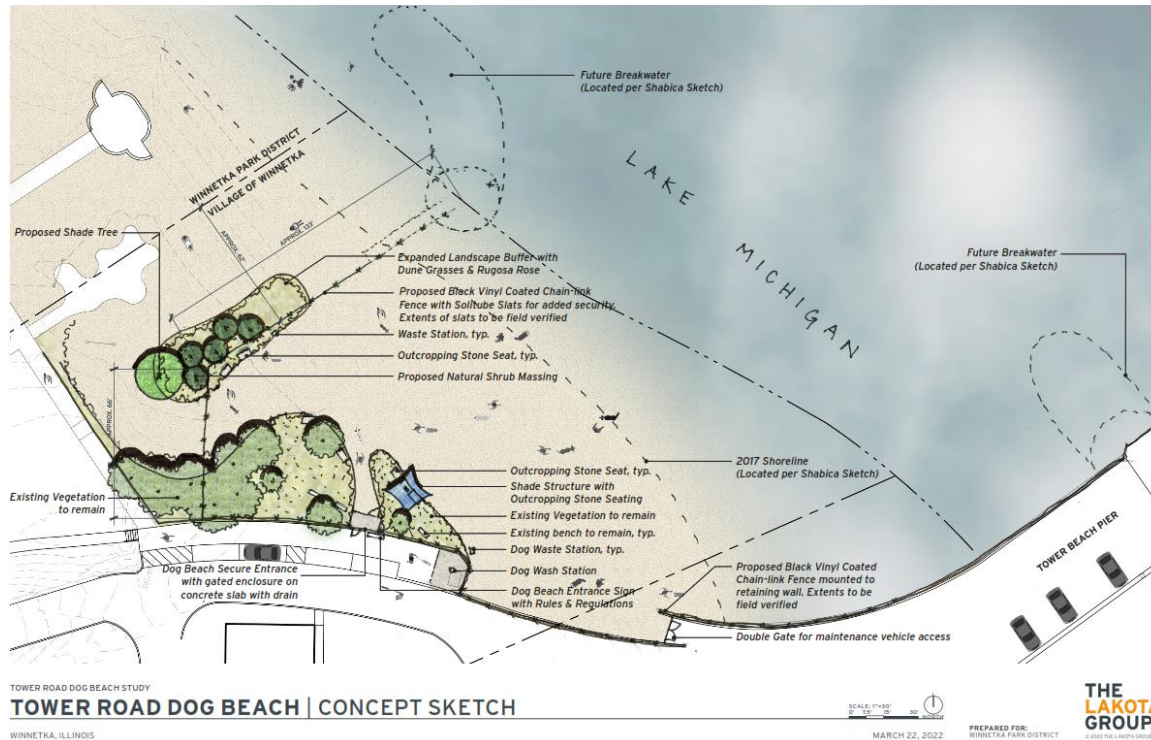


Cook County Viewer – GIS Image – Winnetka Park District owned property

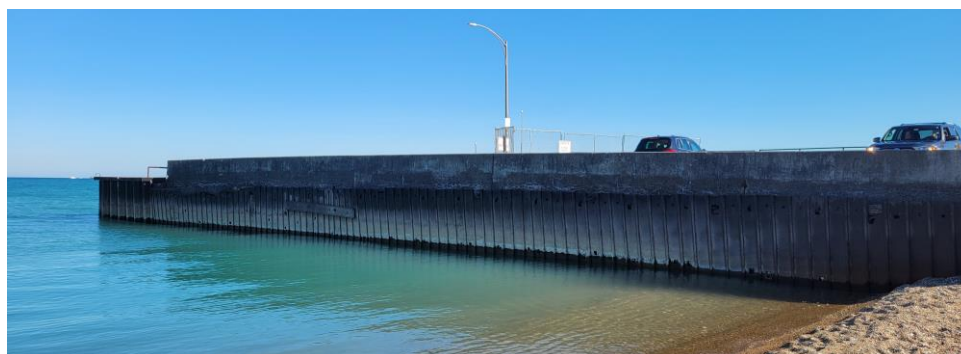
Winnetka Park District – Centennial Park Dog Beach

History and Consideration of Off Leash Dog Park & Dog Beach Alternatives

- Spring 2022 - Dog Beach Committee developed specific plans for dog beach at Tower Road.
- Spring 2022 - Dog Beach Committee worked with staff and consultants to prepare plans for dog beach on the southern portion of Tower Road Beach, including a fence surrounding the dog beach extending to the waterline.



- WPD Board of Directors reviewed proposed plan for Tower prepared by Dog Beach Committee. The WPD Board made the following observations:
 - With 520' total available shoreline, proposed dog park at 258' wide as depicted on the proposed plan would result in swimming beach of only 262 feet.
 - The exposure to waves from the North-northeast would require more substantial barrier than a temporary chain link fence to properly separate dog beach users from swimmers – likely sheet pile groin and stone breakwater that would add significant expense to the project.
 - Wave action and rip tide adjacent to Tower Road pier presents hazard to dogs.



Winnetka Park District – Centennial Park Dog Beach History and Consideration of Off Leash Dog Park & Dog Beach Alternatives

- Randy Whitchurch public comment to WPD Board during Tower Road location consideration: Mr. Whitchurch objected to relocation of dog beach to Tower Road citing steep slope of access drive and parking limitations.
 - Note: given that most dog beach users arrive on foot, moving the dog beach to Tower would result in potential conflicts between dogs, automobiles, pedestrians and cyclists on the steeply sloping access drive at Tower Road Beach, 15'-6" wide.



- June 9, 2022, WPD Board votes 3-2 with (Commissioners Codo and Lussen absent) to withdraw permit applications for Elder and Centennial beaches from the IDNR & ACOE.
- July 8, 2022, Orchard 2020 (Ishbia) acquires 195 Sheridan Road and informs WPD of their intent to move house plans south of Centennial Park, excluding Exchange parcel.
- October 24, 2022; Winnetka homeowner Robert Schriesheim files lawsuit against Winnetka Park District, challenging the Property Exchange Agreement
 - Note: Shriesheim v. Winnetka Park District was settled on January 16, 2025. The Settlement Agreement contains the following provisions: *“the Parties have agreed to the terms herein for the sole purpose of settlement, and nothing herein may be taken as or construed to be an admission or concession of any violation of law, rule, or regulation, or of any other matter of fact or law, or of any liability or wrongdoing or lack thereof”* AND *“The WPD agrees not to transfer title to the beach property at Centennial Park which lies east (or lakeward) of the current steel sheet piling at the toe of the bluff to any non-governmental entity.”*
 - The Settlement Agreement assures that the southern end of Centennial Beach will remain part of the WPD owned shoreline and the proposed dog beach will not be altered.
- October 27, 2022, WPD Board UNANIMOUSLY approves a motion to maintain dog beach at south end of Centennial Park (present location) with several conditions as detailed below.

Winnetka Park District – Centennial Park Dog Beach History and Consideration of Off Leash Dog Park & Dog Beach Alternatives

- **Excerpts from Board Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2022, read as follows:**

Commissioner Lussen made a motion to amend the Waterfront 2030 Lakefront Master Plan to Include a Dog Beach at the south end of Centennial Beach subject to the following conditions:

- a. Shore frontage allocated to dog beach use shall not be less than 170 feet and not be greater than 270 feet;*
- b. The dog beach area must include a secure boundary to prevent dogs from straying beyond the borders of the dog beach while off leash;*
- c. The electric gate system be relocated to the beach or boardwalk level to afford public access to the remainder of Centennial Beach; and*
- d. Dog beach boundaries shall accommodate public passage along the lakefront in keeping with the IDNR guidelines.*

Commissioner Archambault seconded the motion.

Commissioner Lussen acknowledged a Cook County law which requires a fenced in dog beach. Commissioner Root commented it appears the Park District is tying design to the desires of Orchard 2020. Commissioner Lussen commented the dog beach provides an important element to our community. Commission Codo stated keeping the dog beach at the south end is a neutral location. The IDNR phrasing in the motion allows the Park District to control what happens on its property and the IDNR to control what happens on adjacent property. Following discussion, item “d” of the motion was amended as follows: “Dog beach boundaries shall accommodate public passage along the lakefront”.

- *A roll call vote was taken.*
- *Ayes: Archambault, Codo, James, Lussen, Rapp, Root, Seaman*
- *Nays: None*
- *Motion carried as amended*

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources, published Guidelines for the submittal of applications for Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources Permits for Shore Protection Projects in Lake Michigan in November 2015.

The Guidelines contain the following provisions:

“Where possible, notably in areas where existing access along the lakeshore is available, the project should provide some type of reasonable access over or around it on the landward side.”

The WPD proposed plans for the Centennial dog beach comply with the IDNR guidelines by providing a bypass around the dog beach on the landward side of the proposed dog beach.

Winnetka Park District – Centennial Park Dog Beach History and Consideration of Off Leash Dog Park & Dog Beach Alternatives

The Foreword to the Cook County Animal Control Act reads in part as follows:

The Cook County Animal and Rabies Control Ordinance was developed and passed to establish guidelines in the development of harmonious relationships between animals and man. This Ordinance is the law in all municipalities within Cook County. Any municipality regardless of its population may pass an ordinance effective within its jurisdiction more strict than the County Ordinance.

No person including a municipal corporation, forest preserve district or park district shall designate within the County an outdoor area, even if fenced, as an area where dogs may run off leash unless such person, municipal corporation forest preserve district or park district complies with such regulation as may be issued by the Administrator of the operation of outdoor off leash areas.

Computer Generated scaled image of proposed Dog Beach with perimeter fence and bypass along landward side as required by Cook County and IDNR.



The shoreline frontage dedicated to the proposed dog beach is approximately 240 feet, slightly less than 10% of the WPD managed shoreline in Winnetka, which is a more appropriate allocation of shoreline than the entire Centennial beach which is 520 feet of shoreline, representing 21.6% of the total usable shoreline managed by the WPD.

The proposed pier provides robust protection from waves coming from the northeast and proper separation between the dog beach and the swimming beach to the north.

Winnetka Park District – Centennial Park Dog Beach History and Consideration of Off Leash Dog Park & Dog Beach Alternatives

In January 2023, at the Elder-Centennial Open House, the WPD presented the following images to demonstrate the relative size of the combined Elder-Centennial to the existing Lloyd Beach.

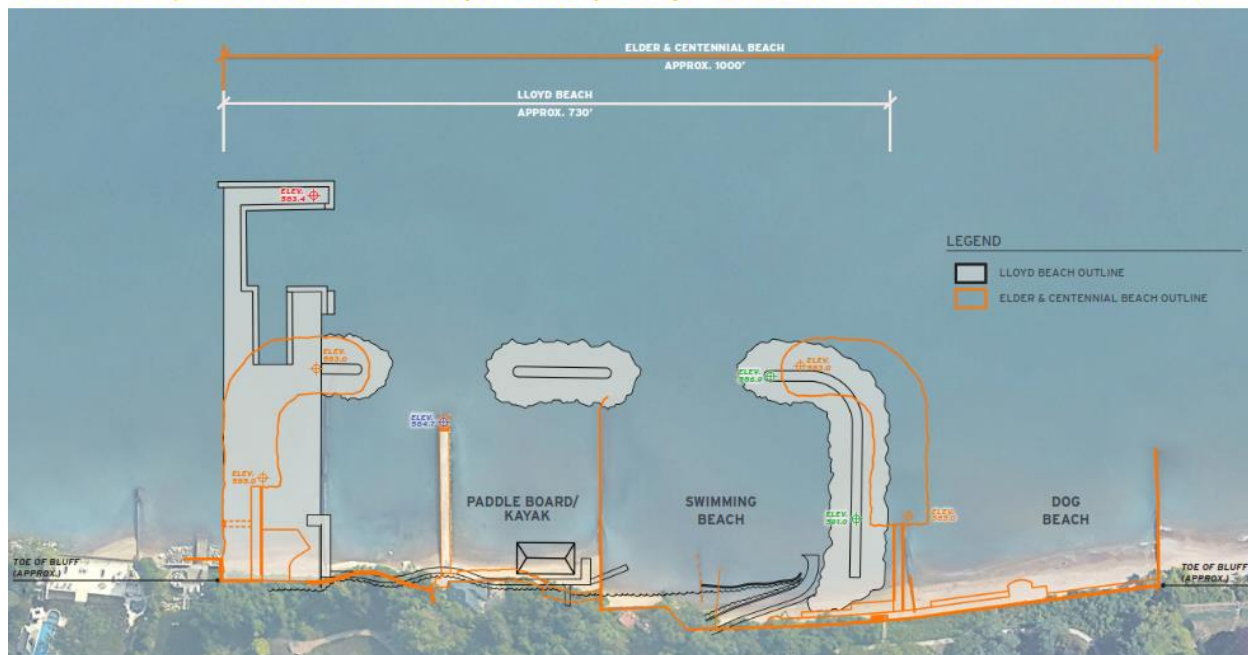


ELDER LANE + CENTENNIAL BEACH
JANUARY 2023

LLOYD BEACH
JANUARY 2023

The picture above demonstrates that the entire 730 feet of Lloyd Beach and Stepan Boat launch easily fits within the 1000-foot combined Elder-Centennial Beach with 270 feet remaining at the south end.

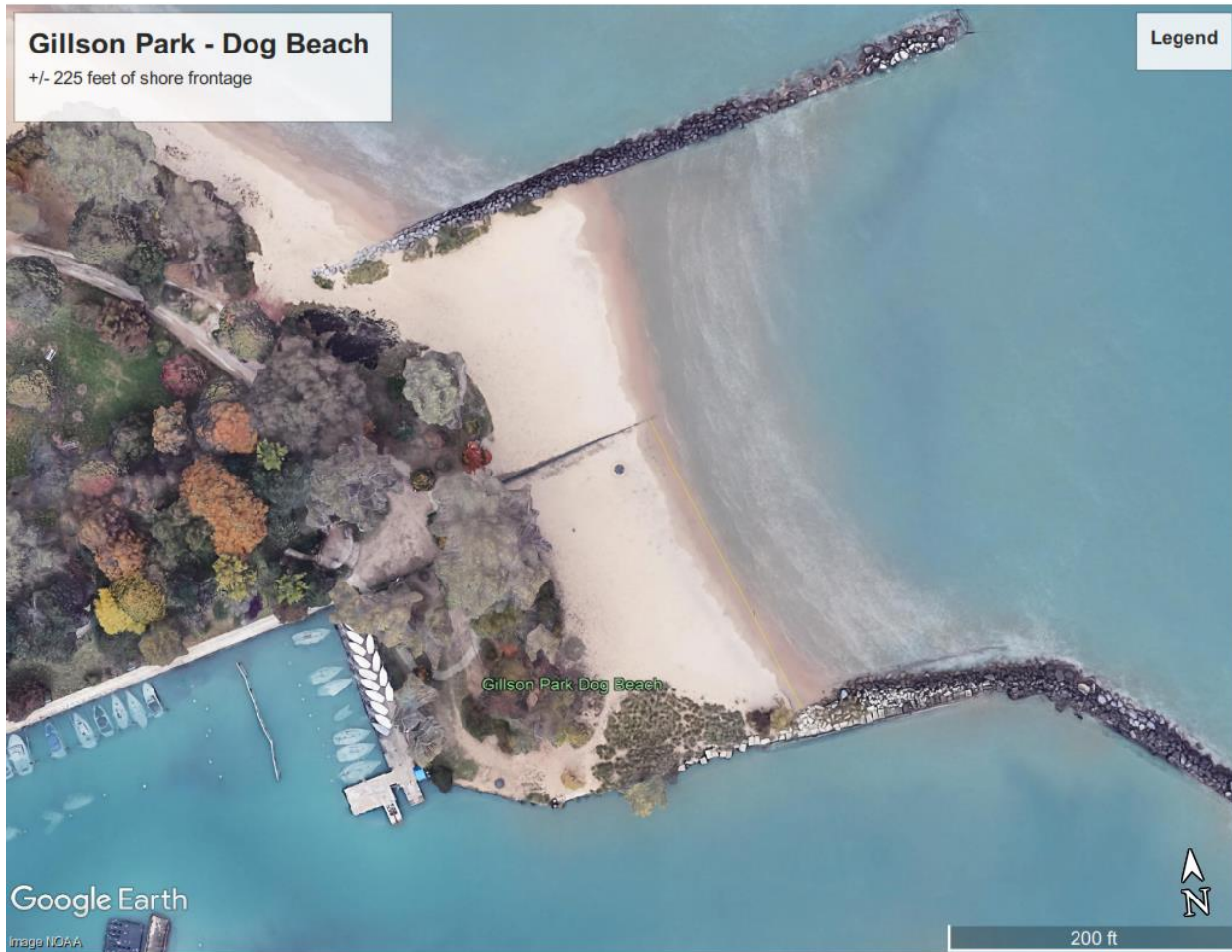
Boat Ramp & Breakwater Systems | Lloyd Beach vs. Elder & Centennial



This image above, also from January 2023, depicts the plan view of Lloyd (in gray) with the contemplated headland beach system and adjacent dog beach planned for Centennial and Elder (in orange). Note that the Lloyd breakwaters project the same distance into the lake as the proposed improvements at Centennial and Elder, while the Stepan boat launch extends further into the lake.

Winnetka Park District – Centennial Park Dog Beach History and Consideration of Off Leash Dog Park & Dog Beach Alternatives

For comparison purposes, the WPD notes the following attributes of the Gillson Park Dog Beach in Wilmette.



- The shoreline dedicated to the dog beach is approximately 225 feet.
- The dog beach is oriented in an easterly direction and it is protected by a 475-foot long stone breakwater to the north.
- A chain link fence as seen near the middle of the beach area which defines the northerly edge of the dog beach is protected from waves from the northeast by the stone breakwater.

The following page provides an update on the proposed bypass of the dog beach and access to the steps up and over the stone breakwater at 205 Sheridan.

Winnetka Park District – Centennial Park Dog Beach History and Consideration of Off Leash Dog Park & Dog Beach Alternatives



Sand level at Centennial South Groin, Oct-17-2024



Sand level at Centennial South Groin, Feb-9- 2025

The steel groin (jetty) is located near the south property line of Centennial Dog Beach. The temporary construction fence is located along the northerly property line of 205 Sheridan. The convergence of the fence and steel jetty is the approximate location of where the extended property line of 205 Sheridan intersects the pre-existing steel groin. As of Oct-24, the sand on both sides of the steel extended afforded easy passage over the steel groin. As of Feb-25, the vertical drop on the north side has increased due to the loss of sand. Accumulated sand between the steel groin and the newly constructed stone groin provides dry passage to the steps leading over the stone groin at 205 Sheridan. Proposed dog beach fence to be secured to existing steel groin.

Note: Sand trapped between stone & steel provides 6-foot wide pathway to the steps over the stone groin



Accreted sand between steel & stone groin, Feb-9-2025



Steps over stone groin at 205 Sheridan, Feb-9-2025

There are three options to ensure safe, legal passage for pedestrians desiring to transit the shoreline:

- 1) Secure legal determination that accumulated sand between steel and stone groin is public land.
- 2) Secure easement agreement to ensure legal passage to reach steps up and over stone groin.
- 3) Relocate steel sheet pile to provide pedestrian pathway on the north side of the extended property line between Centennial Dog Beach and 205 Sheridan.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Subject: Beach Fence
Date: Saturday, January 24, 2026 3:51:55 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Village of Winnetka Plan
From: Linda Welch
890 Willow Rd
Date: 1/24/26

Re: Winnetka Park District Centennial Fence Special Use Permit (SUP) Application Violates Design Standards, Conflicts with the 2040 Futures Plan & Misrepresents Facts and the Law

Please vote against recommending the Winnetka Park District's ("WPD") Village Code-violating, SUP standard breaching, unlawful and 2040 Futures Plan-indifferent permanent fencing permit application.

1. Design Standards prohibit chain-link fencing. WPD's proposed black chain-link animal cage on the shores of Lake Michigan would violate this prohibition. It cannot be recommended to the Village Council.
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4. WPD's proposed black chain link animal cage is not minimally necessary nor consistent with Code Section 15.78.010. WPD's fencing is designed to stretch 106' from the toe of the bluffs into Lake Michigan on the north, and 93'3" into Lake Michigan to the south. The fencing extends 72 feet beyond the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM)--WPD's front lot line—on the north, and 77'3" beyond WPD's front lot line to the south. Fencing that extends beyond a property owner's front lot line is prohibited.
5. The Village Code prohibits nuisances, which it defines as fencing or other barriers that would extend into the public way, including Lake Michigan and its submerged lands.

6. Village Code Section 15.78.080 prohibits the creation of nuisances, such as fencing that would create Public Safety Hazards, including by impairing police and other first responder access to Centennial beach/Lake Michigan. WPD's animal cage would have 10" double gates on the northern side of Centennial. On Centennial's southern end, WPD designed two barely passable, stacked, single gates that form a 6' long, 39" wide corridor in the lake east of the OHWM. WPD's unsafe designs would unreasonably obstruct and interfere with ingress/egress to the adjacent public beach south of its animal cage. The cage would force first responders and other rescuers either into the lake through a yardstick wide corridor to try to reach emergency situations on the 20' area south of the fencing and north of 205 Sheridan's northern breakwater, or 77'3" past the OHWM into Lake Michigan to attempt to render aid to persons/dogs/boats/paddlers.

7. The 2040 Futures Plan contemplates ADA access. For local governmental bodies such as WPD, compliance is mandatory. Despite this, WPD designed an ADA non-compliant beach corridor that is too narrow for a wheelchair to use, with an insufficient turning radius that would trap people and dogs inside the chain link fencing, possibly in the waters of Lake Michigan. This dangerous and unlawful design violates the Village Code as well as the 2040 Futures Plan and cannot be recommended for approval.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Subject: Fwd: I oppose chain link fence at Centennial Beach
Date: Sunday, January 25, 2026 11:20:36 AM

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Just to make sure my note below gets to the right folks...

Thanks!

Best, Mack

[Instagram](#)
[Facebook](#)

Enjoy hearing new music?

Please check out my new singles. Share 'em, if you like 'em!

"We Need More Santas"

"One Step Ahead of the Law"

"No Words"

"You're My Everything (Alexa!)"

"Second Chances"

- *Second place Grand Prize Winner, 2024 Dallas Songwriters Association Contest;*
- *Outstanding Achievement in Songwriting, 2024 Great American Song Contest;*
- *Nashville Songwriters Association Bob Kingsley 2024 "Top 10"*

Spotify/AppleMusic: MackSongs: First Cuts

<https://soundcloud.com/macksongs>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Mack Reynolds <[REDACTED]>
Date: Sun, Jan 25, 2026 at 9:18 AM
Subject: I oppose chain link fence at Centennial Beach
To: <contactmanager@winnetka.org>
Cc: Scott Myers <[REDACTED]>, <[REDACTED]>

All,

I understand that the WPD has applied for a Special Use Permit to install chain link fencing into Lake Michigan. As a 35+ year resident of Winnetka (though I moved to Fox Meadow in 2021) and a frequent visitor to our lovely beaches, I think that fence would be a hazard to all. Besides being an eyesore, it would prevent -- or greatly impede -- my walks along the water line at Centennial.

Please deny the Park District's application for an SUP.

Thanks for considering!

Best, Mack

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

Enjoy hearing new music?

Please check out my new singles. Share 'em, if you like 'em!

"We Need More Santas"

"One Step Ahead of the Law"

"No Words"

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Spotify/AppleMusic: MackSongs: First Cuts

<https://soundcloud.com/macksongs>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Subject: Letter re: Fencing
Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 2:46:05 PM

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To the Village Planning Commission,

Here we are again... talking about fences on beaches. Where else do we see fences on beaches? Not only is it unnecessary and unnatural. It is a safety issue for sightline, EMS worker, mothers who are watching their children at the Beach. Please do NOT vote for fencing on the beach.

Please vote against recommending the Winnetka Park District's ("WPD") Village Code-violating, SUP standard breaching, unlawful and 2040 Futures Plan-indifferent permanent fencing permit application.

1. VOW Design Standards prohibit chain-link fencing. WPD's proposed black chain-link animal cage on the shores of Lake Michigan would violate this prohibition. It cannot be recommended to the Village Council.
2. VOW 2040 Futures Plan promotes open space and the preservation of Winnetka's graceful character, neighborhood design standards, and the environment. WPD's SUP application clearly violates all of these tenets. There is no standalone black chain link fencing along any neighboring Centennial Park property owner's lakefront front lot line, nor along any Sheridan Road front lawn. There is no standalone chain link fencing in the neighborhood that extends into Lake Michigan. WPD's SUP permit application cannot be recommended to the Village Council.
3. When the Village approved WPD's 2001 Elder Lane and Beach SUP application, it required WPD to install Code-compliant non-chain link fencing. Despite this, WPD seeks to install Code non-compliant, design standard violating, 2040 Futures Plan -inconsistent chain link fencing on Centennial beach.
4. WPD's proposed black chain link animal cage is not minimally necessary nor consistent with Code Section 15.78.010. WPD's fencing is designed to stretch 106' from the toe of the bluffs into Lake Michigan on the north, and 93'3" into Lake Michigan to the south. The fencing extends 72 feet beyond the OHWM--WPD's front lot line—on the north, and 77'3" beyond WPD's front lot line to the south. Fencing that extends beyond a property owner's front lot line is prohibited.
5. The Village Code prohibits nuisances, which it defines as fencing or other barriers that would extend into the public way, including Lake Michigan and its submerged lands.
6. Village Code Section 15.78.080 prohibits the creation of nuisances, such as fencing that would create Public Safety Hazards, including by impairing police and other first responder access to Centennial beach/Lake Michigan. WPD's animal cage would have 10" double gates on the northern side of Centennial. On Centennial's southern end, WPD designed two barely passable, stacked, single gates that form a 6' long, 39" wide corridor in the lake east of the OHWM. WPD's unsafe designs would unreasonably obstruct and interfere with ingress/egress to the adjacent public beach south of its animal cage. The cage would force first responders and other rescuers either into the lake through a yardstick wide corridor to try to reach emergency situations on the 20' area south of the fencing and north of 205 Sheridan's northern breakwater, or 77'3" past the OHWM into Lake Michigan to attempt to render aid to persons/dogs/boats/paddlers.
7. The 2040 Futures Plan contemplates ADA access. For local governmental bodies such as WPD, compliance is mandatory. Despite this, WPD designed an ADA non-compliant beach corridor that is too narrow for a wheelchair to use, with an insufficient turning radius that would trap people and dogs inside

the chain link fencing, possibly in the waters of Lake Michigan. This dangerous and unlawful design violates the Village Code as well as the 2040 Futures Plan, and cannot be recommended for approval.

8. WPD misrepresents the permanent nature of its black chain-link fenced in animal cage extending along and well past its front lot line on the shores of Lake Michigan. The fencing would be permanent, with no time constraints or removal requirement.
9. WPD claims its ADA-violating, public nuisance creating, Design Code abrogating, 39" wide, 6' corridor will never be used for maintenance south of the black chain-link fencing. This is out of line with the realities of known debris that washes up from Lake Michigan, as well as boats that may crash into 205 Sheridan's armored stone breakwaters, possibly stranding boaters/boats on a narrow 20' strip of inaccessible public beach, or beyond. A 34' long boat was stranded after encountering heavy waves at Lloyd in October 2025. WPD also recently described finding a large section of wide rubber pipe washed up onto the Elder-Centennial beach, which required removal efforts by both the Village and WPD. That belies WPD's false statement that no maintenance will ever be required south of its unlawful black chain-link lakefront animal cage.
10. Cook County Animal Control ("CCAC") has refused to evaluate WPD's animal cage until after IDNR and USACE make their determinations, despite repeated entreaties not only from WPD, but also via email and phone calls from Orchard 2020 Trust's attorneys. In 2024, CCAC Administrator Dr. Diakhate informed Shannon Nazzal that Centennial beach is a "dog friendly area." Cook County does not require four-sided or any other specific fencing for Lake Michigan dog friendly areas, WPD can produce no documentation supporting its specious claims.
11. The Village Code prohibits dog owners from allowing their pets to "run at large." The IL Animal Control Act, 510 ILCS 5, 5/9, provides that: "A dog that is in a dog-friendly area or a dog park is NOT CONSIDERED TO BE RUNNING AT LARGE IF THE DOG IS MONITORED OR SUPERVISED BY A PERSON." There is no lawful justification for WPD's attempted usurpation of CCAC's sole and exclusive Animal Control Act authority. WPD is deliberately misdefining what constitutes "running at large" in an effort to force the Village of Winnetka to violate the 2040 Futures Plan, its Design Standards, the Lakefront Preservation Ordinance, and the Village Code's nuisance provisions.
12. CCAC regulations require fully enclosed four-sided fencing for "dog parks" on land. Even if the IL Animal Control Act were amended to exclude dog friendly areas from its definition of places where canines are NOT "running at large," WPD's two-sided fencing would be out of compliance with the rules. As WPD knows, CCAC's Administrator lacks waiver authority for the four-sided fencing requirement.

Please vote to deny recommending WPD's grant of a SUP for its unlawful, specious and misleading fencing permit application.

Stephanie Heraty
195 Fuller Lane
Winnetka IL

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Subject: Comments for Plan Commission Meeting January 28, 2026
Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 3:41:05 PM

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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January 26, 2026

Re: Special Use Permit for Dog Fence

Plan Commissioners:

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

The plans for the off-leash dog beach, as drawn on April 2025 and submitted as part of tonight's agenda packet (January 28, 2026 meeting,) are vague and therefore misleading. The drawings fail to inform the plan committee and the public of the breakwater now existing at the north boundary of 205 Sheridan Rd. or the south boundary of Centennial Park. Had the breakwater been included, the benign looking gap between the thin line representing the fence and the property line of 205 Sheridan Rd. would seem entirely redundant and hazardous. The proposed fence is 93 ft. 3in. long from the toe of the bluff to its eastern terminus in Lake Michigan. It runs into the lake at a distance of 16-19ft. from the ordinary water line, but that stretch would increase to 40 plus ft. should the lake rise to the high water mark of 581.5 ft. At best the proposed 20 ft. gap will be an unsightly debris collector and at worst it would be a trap endangering the lives of people and dogs that might get stuck and battered between jagged rocks and an unyielding fence. Yes, the lake can get choppy and wavy.

The need to provide a fence when there is already a pile of rocks at that property line is questionable. Dogs aren't going to pick their way over rocks in favor of running and playing on the beach.

Drawings are a powerful tool of communication. They should be comprehensive and describe adjacency. In this case they fail to do so. Therefore, please deny this Special Use Permit.

Joanna Karatzas
Winnetka Resident

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Planning](#)
Subject: Urging denial of SUP for chain link fencing in Lake Michigan
Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 4:31:42 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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To the members of the Winnetka Planning Commission:

We are respectfully urging the Commission to deny the requested special use permit to place chain link fencing into Lake Michigan for a dog beach at Centennial Park. Such a fence has not been necessary previously, is an obvious eyesore on a natural beach scape thereby impairing use and enjoyment and creates risks to swimmers, boaters, and dogs being caught in the fencing. Further, such fencing has the potential to obstruct public use of the shoreline as protected under IL law.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote to deny the special use permit request for the chain link fencing into Lake Michigan at Centennial Park.

Sincerely,

Kim and David Mulligan
Pelham Road

John William Root
326 Woodland Avenue
Winnetka, IL 60093
Telephone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Sent by electronic mail: smangum@winnetka.org

Mr. Scott Mangum
Village of Winnetka
Director of Community Development
510 Green Bay Road
Winnetka, IL 60093

January 26, 2026

Re: Case No. 25-28-SU
225 Sheridan Road – Centennial Park & Beach
Comments for 10/14/24 Hearing

Dear Mr. Mangum:

I have reviewed the Winnetka Park District's (Park's) Special Use Permit Application (SUP) for Centennial Park, dated October 10, 2025. My following comments summarize my concerns about the proposed WPD Centennial dog fence and how that design conflicts with Village ordinances, particularly the Village zoning ordinances. I would appreciate your assistance in sharing my comments as part of the official packet to be delivered to the members of the Village of Winnetka Plan Commission.

Design Concerns

I have reviewed the SUP, and I believe that WPD's design violates provisions in the Lakefront Construction ordinances and violates Village dog ordinances. WPD has offered inadequate reasons or justification for exceptions from these regulations.

Village Dog Ordinances

The Park's SUP seeks to establish an off-leash dog beach where dogs run at large in the same space with the general public. Village Ordinance **Section 6.08.020 "Responsibilities of dog owners"** states the following:

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the owner of any dog in the Village to keep such dog or to cause such dog to be kept under control at all times and to prevent such dog from doing any of the following prohibited acts, each of which is declared to be a public nuisance:

1. Running at Large. "Running at large" means being unconfined on or in property not owned or lawfully possessed by the owner of the dog, including public property, without being under immediate control by the owner of the dog or a responsible member of his or her family or by a responsible agent of the family, by means of a leash, cord, chain or like device.

This ordinance is unambiguous and the Park's SUP for an off-leash dog park clearly violates the ordinance. **Section 6.08.020** is designed to protect the public from loose dogs and is designed to keep the public safe during interactions with dogs. Members of the public who dislike or fear dogs should not have share a public beach with loose dogs in an off-leash dog beach. The public should not be forced into a dog pen to cross a public beach. By violating **Section 6.08.020 A. 1.** The Park also violates Section 17.56.010:

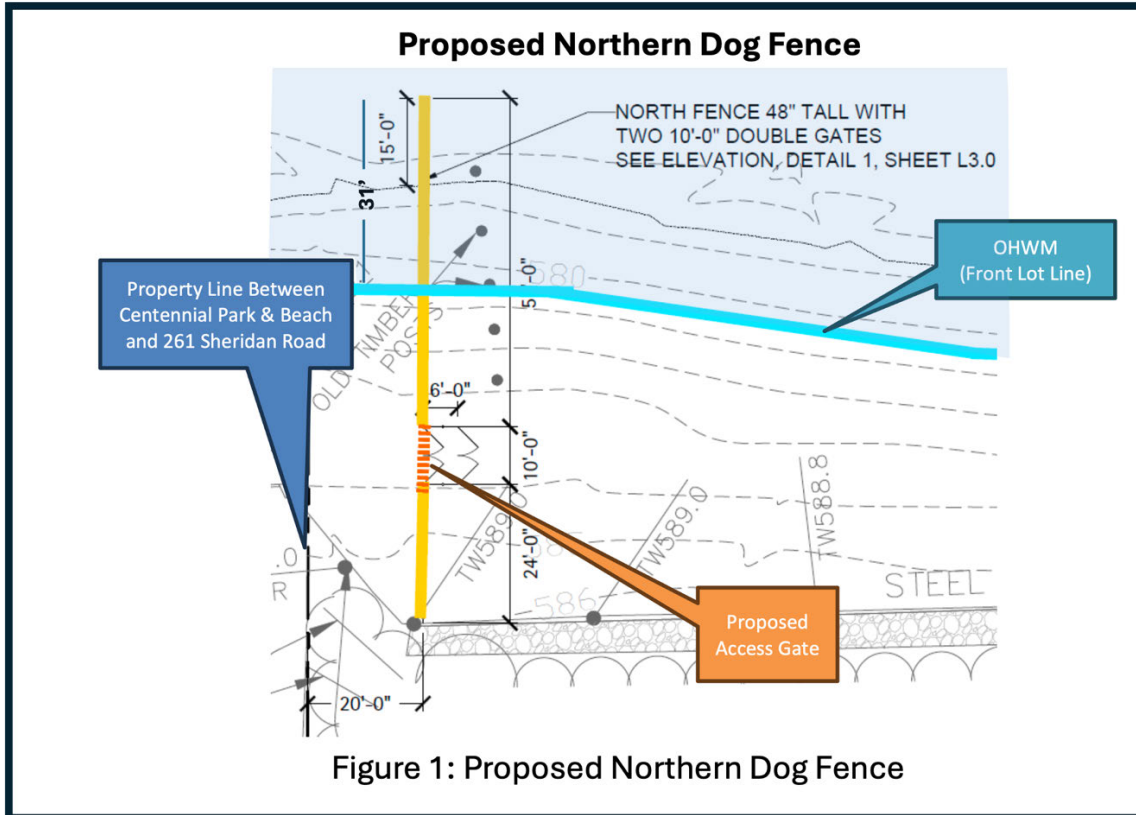
1. "That the establishment, maintenance, and operation of the special use will not be detrimental to or endanger the public health, safety, comfort, morals, or general welfare;"
6. "That the special use in all other respects conforms to the applicable regulations of this and other village ordinances and codes."

Fencing on Lake Michigan Dog Beaches

The proposed design of the Park's Centennial dog fence violates Lakefront Construction ordinance:

Section 15.78.080(D). Project Scope. The covered construction and any related structures include only what is minimally necessary to achieve the intended and proper purpose of the project and to be consistent with the purposes set forth in Section 15.78.010 of this chapter.

The WPD proposed fences extend further into the lake than is necessary to keep dogs confined to the dog beach. The Park's current design would extend the northern and southern fences 15' into the lake at current lake levels (see figures 1 & 2) (*highlighting for emphasis*).



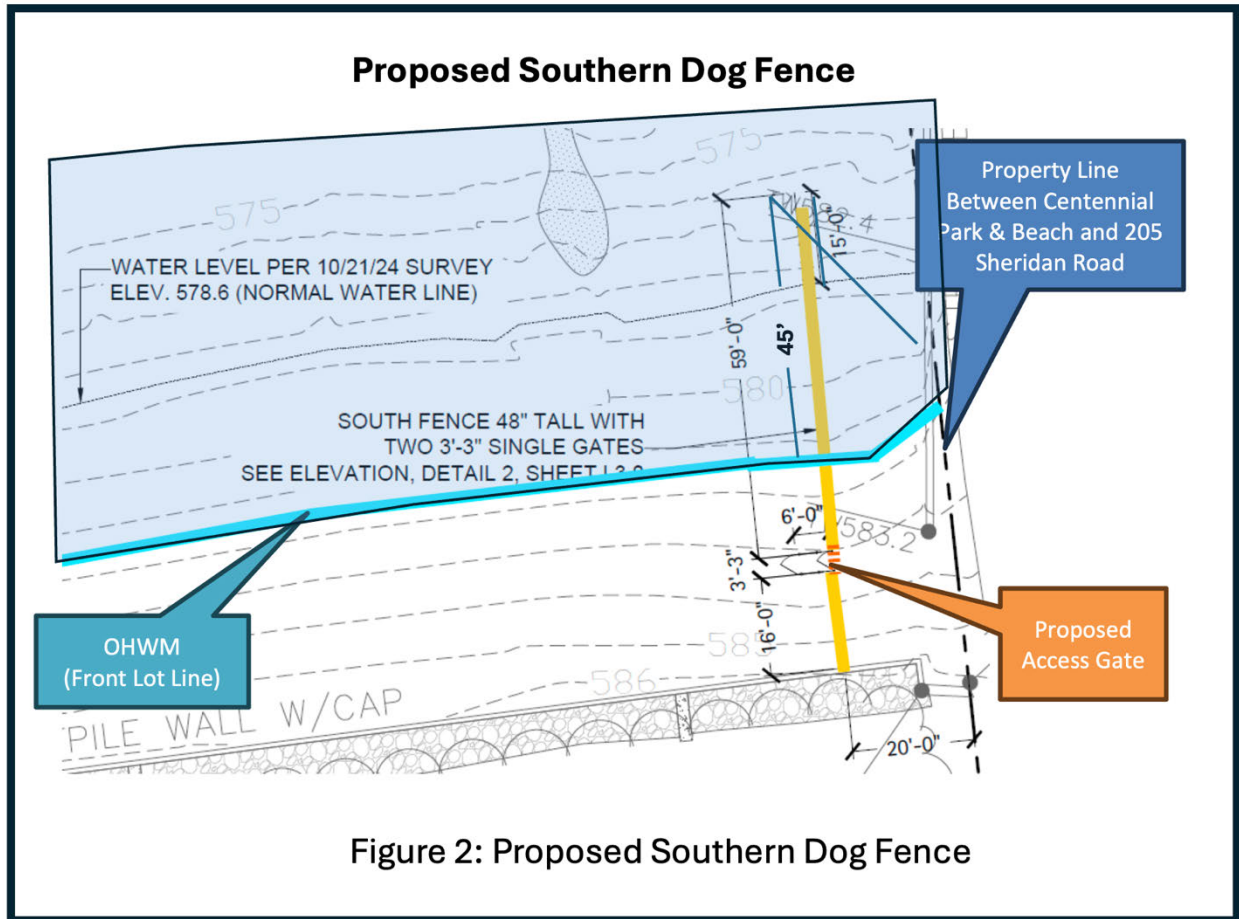


Figure 2: Proposed Southern Dog Fence

However, lake levels vary and the lake reached the Ordinary High Water Mark in late 2019. In 2019 the Park's northern fence would have extended 31' (figure 1) into the lake and 45' of the southern fence (figure 2) would have extended into the lake. Neither fence needs to be extended into the lake. Dogs are accompanied by their owners and owners keep their dogs confined to the dog beach. If the fence stops at the water's edge and a dog goes around the fence, then the owner would be able to quickly follow the dog and return the dog to the enclosed area. Fences that run from the toe of the bluff to the water line are sufficient to demark the dog beach. The fact that no other lake Michigan dog beach operator has seen the need to extend a standalone chain link fence into the lake shows that such extensions are not needed.

Lake Michigan Dog Beaches

There are six dog beaches other than Centennial on Lake Michigan in Illinois: Sunrise Dog Beach in Lake Bluff, Moraine Dog Beach in Highland Park, Gillson Dog Beach in Wilmette, Evanston Dog Beach in Evanston, Montrose Dog Beach in Chicago, and Belmont Dog Beach in Chicago. Please note that four of these dog beaches are located in Cook County. None of these beaches have a free-standing chain-link fence that extends into the lake.

Sunset Dog Beach & Adjacent Swimming Beach

Sunset Dog Beach is bounded on the north by private property and on the south by a public swimming beach (figure 3).

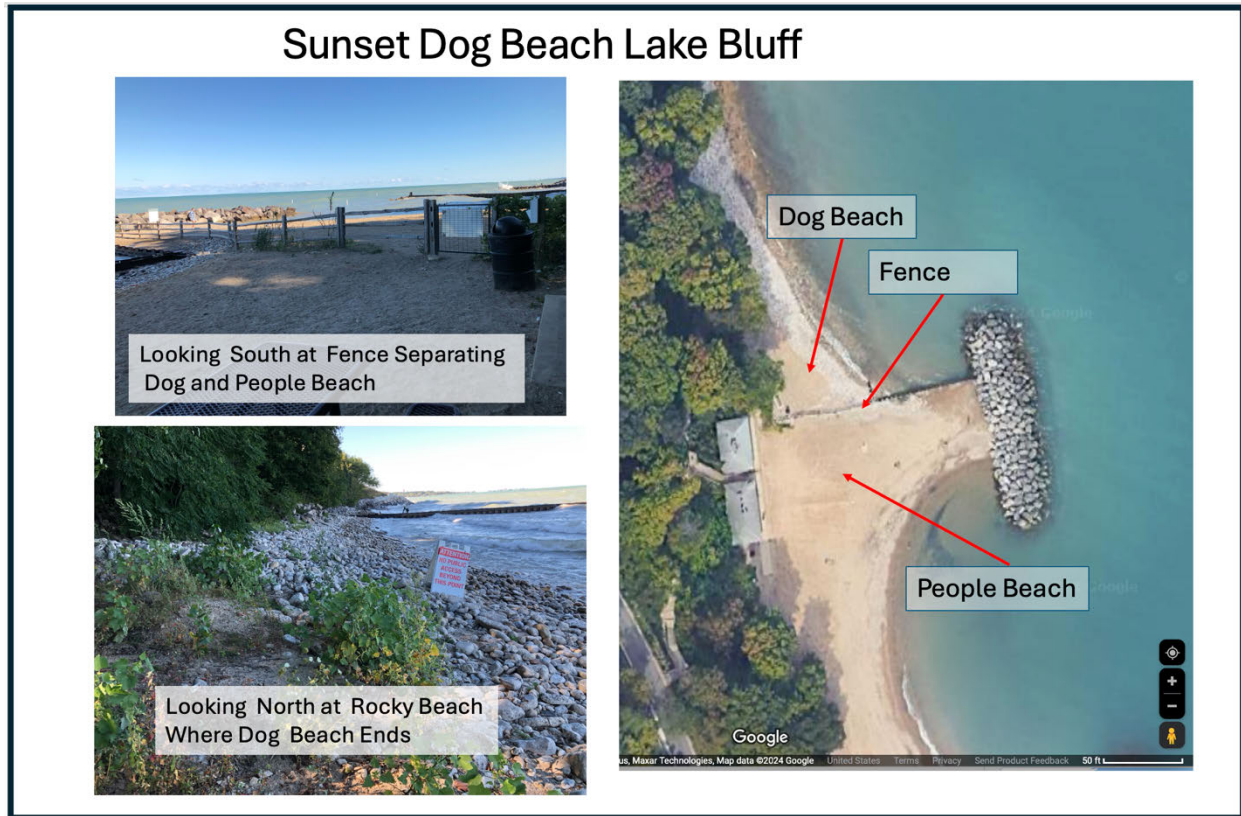


Figure 3: Sunset dog beach Lake Bluff

There is a 4' high split rail fence covered in wire mesh on the southern boundary of the dog beach that separates the dog beach from the people swimming beach and a rocky shore to the north keeps the dogs confined to the beach. The split rail fence is located behind a metal groin and is not located in the water.

Gillson Dog Beach & Adjacent Swimming Beach

Gillson Dog Beach is bounded on the north by Gillson Swimming Beach and bounded to the south by Wilmette Harbor. (figure 4).



Figure 4: Gillson dog beach Wilmette

The chain link fence 4'-5' high on the northern boundary separates the dog beach from the people swimming beach. You can see that the northern chain link fence stops at the water's edge. In fact, the chain link fence is made of panels that are removed from the park upon the conclusion of the Summer swimming season. The Wilmette Harbor to the south also keeps the dogs confined to the dog beach. A plastic safety barrier fence keeps dogs off the rubble stone lining the harbor.

Evanston Dog Beach & Adjacent Swimming Beach

Evanston Dog Beach is bounded on the north by Clark Street Swimming Beach and bounded to the south by Church Street Power Boat Ramp (figure 5).



Figure 5: Evanston dog beach Evanston

There is a 4' high chain link fence welded to a preexisting 4' high steel groin on the northern boundary separating human swimmers from dogs and the Church Street Power Boat Ramp to the south keeps the dogs confined to the dog beach. The chain link fence serves a primary purpose of fall prevention for beach goers on Clark Street beach and also separates dogs from swimmers. However, the chain link fence is not directly installed in the lake.

Montrose Dog Beach & Adjacent Swimming Beach

Montrose Dog Beach is bounded on the north by a concrete revetment and bounded to the south by a chain link fence that separates it from Montrose Swimming Beach (figure 6).

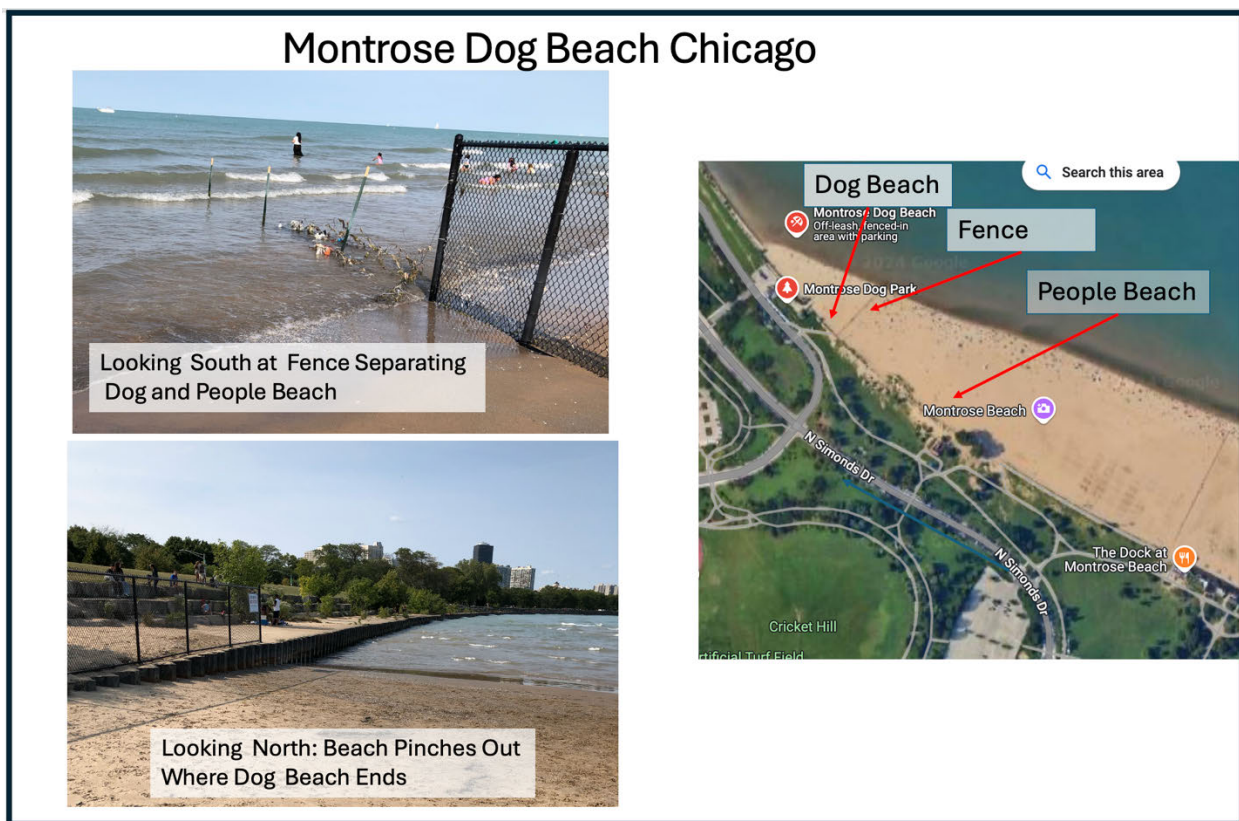


Figure 6: Montrose dog beach Chicago

The chain link fence is 4' to 5' high on the southern boundary. The fence separates swimmers from dogs and terminates at the water's edge. The revetment to the north keeps the dogs confined to the dog beach.

Belmont Dog Beach

Belmont Dog Beach, located in Belmont Harbor in Chicago, does not border a public swim beach or private property. The western boundary of the dog park is an iron fence 4' high separating a public sidewalk from the dog beach and the remaining three sides of the beach are bordered by the harbor (figure 7).



Figure 7: Belmont dog beach Chicago

Moraine Dog Beach

Moraine Dog Beach is located in Highland Park. A ravine confines the dogs to the north and a 4' high wooden slat snow fence confines the dogs to the south. The snow fence is attached to posts driven into the beach adjacent to a steel groin. The snow fence does not extend into the water.



Figure 8: Moraine dog beach Highland Park

This review of the North Shore Lake Michigan dog beaches in Illinois shows that fencing is the most popular method used to separate, confine, and “delineate” dog beaches from human beaches. Municipalities also use natural boundaries such as ravines and rocky shorelines to confine the dogs and separate them from people. Artificial structures such as stone lined harbors, steel groins, and boat launches also serve a secondary purpose of confining dogs and separating them from humans on the beaches. This survey also shows that no municipality has installed a standalone fence into the lake and that installed standalone fences terminate at the water’s edge. One can conclude that fences terminating along the water’s edge are adequate for separating dogs from humans

“Temporary Dog Fence”

The Park’s SUP calls for a “temporary” dog fence while not specifying a date certain for when the fence would be removed or replaced. A fence that can remain indefinitely is not temporary. Village Counsel should require the Park to remove the fence should Centennial Park cease to be operated as an off-leash dog park by the Park or for that portion of the dog beach that is subsequently transferred to a private entity. These limitation requirements should be a condition of issuance of the permit.

Conclusion

For all the reasons enumerated above, I respectfully request that Plan Commission recommend against the granting of Park’s SUP. Thank you and member of the Village of Winnetka Plan Commission for your consideration of these comments.

cc: Members of the Village of Winnetka Plan Commission

Ms. Kristin Kazenas, Village Manager
By Email: KKazenas@winnetka.org

Ms. Ann Klaassen
Assistant Director
By Email: AKlaassen@winnetka.org

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Subject: Winnetka Park District Centennial Fence SUP Application Violates Design Standards, Conflicts with the 2040 Futures Plan, Misrepresents Facts and the Law
Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 4:58:41 PM

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To Village of Winnetka Plan Commission

From: Stephanie Tokarczyk, 303 Sheridan Road, Winnetka

Re: Winnetka Park District Centennial Fence SUP Application Violates Design Standards, Conflicts with the 2040 Futures Plan, Misrepresents Facts and the Law

Date: January 26, 2026

Please vote against recommending the Winnetka Park District's ("WPD") Village Code-violating, SUP standard breaching, unlawful and 2040 Futures Plan-indifferent permanent fencing permit application.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. VOW Design Standards prohibit chain-link fencing. WPD's proposed black chain-link animal cage on the shores of Lake Michigan would violate this prohibition. It cannot be recommended to the Village Council.

VOW 2040 Futures Plan promotes open space and the preservation of Winnetka's graceful character, neighborhood design standards, and the environment. WPD's SUP application clearly violates all of these tenets. There is no standalone black chain link fencing along any neighboring Centennial Park property owner's lakefront front lot line, nor along any Sheridan Road front lawn.

There is no standalone chain link fencing in the neighborhood that extends into Lake Michigan. WPD's SUP permit application cannot be recommended to the Village Council.

When the Village approved WPD's 2001 Elder Lane and Beach SUP application, it required WPD to install Code-compliant non-chain link fencing. Despite this, WPD seeks to install Code non-compliant, design standard violating, 2040 Futures Plan - inconsistent chain link fencing on Centennial beach.

WPD's proposed black chain link animal cage is not minimally necessary nor consistent with Code Section 15.78.010. WPD's fencing is designed to stretch 106' from the toe of the bluffs into Lake Michigan on the north, and 93'3" into Lake Michigan to the south. The fencing extends 72 feet beyond the OHWM--WPD's front lot line--on the north, and 77'3" beyond WPD's front lot line to the south. Fencing that extends beyond a property owner's front lot line is prohibited.

The Village Code prohibits nuisances, which it defines as fencing or other barriers that would extend into the public way, including Lake Michigan and its submerged lands.

Village Code Section 15.78.080 prohibits the creation of nuisances, such as fencing that would create Public Safety Hazards, including by impairing police, fire, and other first responder access to Centennial beach/Lake Michigan. WPD's animal cage would have 10" double gates on the northern side of Centennial. On Centennial's southern end, WPD designed two barely passable, stacked, single gates that form a 6' long, 39" wide corridor in the lake east of the OHWM. WPD's unsafe designs would unreasonably obstruct and interfere with ingress/egress to the adjacent public beach south of its animal cage. The cage would force first responders and other rescuers either into the lake through a yardstick wide corridor to try to reach emergency situations on the 20' area south of the fencing and north of 205 Sheridan's northern breakwater, or 77'3" past the OHWM into Lake Michigan to attempt to render aid to persons/dogs/boats/paddlers.

The 2040 Futures Plan contemplates ADA access. For local governmental bodies such as WPD, compliance is mandatory. Despite this, WPD designed an ADA non-compliant beach corridor that is too narrow for a wheelchair to use, with an insufficient turning radius that would trap people and dogs inside the chain link fencing, possibly in the waters of Lake Michigan. This dangerous and unlawful design violates the Village Code as well as the 2040 Futures Plan, and cannot be recommended for approval.

WPD misrepresents the permanent nature of its black chain-link fenced in animal cage extending along and well past its front lot line on the shores of Lake Michigan. The fencing would be permanent, with no time constraints or removal requirement.

WPD claims its ADA-violating, public nuisance creating, Design Code abrogating, 39" wide, 6' corridor will never be used for maintenance south of the black chain-link fencing. This is out of line with the realities of known debris that washes up from Lake Michigan, as well as boats that may crash into 205 Sheridan's armored stone breakwaters, possibly stranding boaters/boats on a narrow 20' strip of inaccessible public beach, or beyond. A 34' long boat was stranded after encountering heavy waves at Lloyd in October 2025. WPD also recently described finding a large section of wide rubber pipe washed up onto the Elder-Centennial beach, which required removal efforts by both the Village and WPD.

That belies WPD's false statement that no maintenance will ever be required south of its unlawful black chain-link lakefront animal cage.

10. Cook County Animal Control ("CCAC") has refused to evaluate WPD's animal cage until after IDNR and USACE make their determinations, despite repeated entreaties not only from WPD, but also via email and phone calls from Orchard 2020 Trust's attorneys. In 2024, CCAC Administrator Dr. Diakhate informed Shannon Nazzal that Centennial beach is a "dog friendly area." Cook County does not require four-sided or any other specific fencing for Lake Michigan dogfriendly areas, WPD can produce no documentation supporting its specious claims.

11. The Village Code prohibits dog owners from allowing their pets to “run at large.” The IL Animal Control Act, 510 ILCS 5, 5/9, provides that: “A dog that is in a dog-friendly area or a dog park is NOT CONSIDERED TO BE RUNNING AT LARGE IF THE DOG IS MONITORED OR SUPERVISED BY A PERSON.” There is no lawful justification for WPD’s attempted usurpation of CCAC’s sole and exclusive Animal Control Act authority. WPD is deliberately misdefining what constitutes “running at large” in an effort to force the Village of Winnetka to violate the 2040 Futures Plan, its Design Standards, the Lakefront Preservation Ordinance, and the Village Code’s nuisance provisions.

12. CCAC regulations require fully enclosed four-sided fencing for “dog parks” on land. Even if the IL Animal Control Act were amended to exclude dog friendly areas from its definition of places where canines are NOT “running at large,” WPD’s two-sided fencing would be out of compliance with the rules. As WPD knows, CCAC’s Administrator lacks waiver authority for the four-sided fencing requirement.

Please vote to deny recommending WPD’s grant of a SUP for its unlawful, specious and misleading fencing permit application.

Best regards,

Stephanie Tokarczyk

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 1/28/26 Plan Commission meeting, WPD Centennial Fence SUP
Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 5:24:08 PM
Attachments: [January2026CookCountyFOIAExcerpt.pdf](#)

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Hello Ann:

Would you please share this email dated 1/26/26 with the Plan Commission?

The attached pdf consists of communications related to WPD’s ongoing efforts to leverage Cook County’s Animal Control Ordinance/Regulations to the advantage of certain interests. Cook County expresses disinterest in a matter outside of its jurisdiction: Lake Michigan-based, non-contiguous dog beach fencing extending across public lands and waters.

As background, beginning in 2022-2023 (post-withdrawal of controversial lakefront joint permit designs featuring louvered steel walls) WPD began to claim Centennial dog beach was an unlawfully unfenced “dog park” that required four-sided contiguous fencing . . . despite its status as an on-leash Lake Michigan beach area for which Cook County requires no fencing at all.

During the Plan Commission’s and ZBA’s 2024-2025 permit reviews, WPD shifted to calling Centennial dog beach a “dog friendly area” (“DFA”) requiring fencing despite the fact that the Cook County Code does not proscribe this for Lake Michigan DFAs. CCAC’s lack of interest in WPD’s scheme consisted of telling Ms. Nazzal that Centennial is a “DFA”—not subject to CCAC’s four-sided “dog park” fencing rules.

Subsequent WPD permit applications and narratives in 2025 continue to misrepresent that Cook County requires “dog park” fencing at Centennial. All of this conflicts with WPD’s response to the Village in its final 8-4-25 Centennial Breakwater SUP (excerpt below) in which WPD acknowledges the Cook County Code fails to require fencing for dog beaches, spuriously suggesting that at some point in the future it might.*

security, etc.) be on site? How does one get into and out of the dog park? The beach to the north of the pier?

WPD Response: Included.

- e. Will there be a set of rules for use of any other of the four areas? Is so, please provide what those are? **(You provided a weblink. Given most advisory body members and Council read a printed packet, you will also want to include a printed copy of the content from this web page.)**

WPD Response: Included.

- f. Regarding the dog beach, are there any other applicable State, County, etc. regulations which the dog beach must comply (e.g. fencing requirements, leash requirements, etc.)? If so, what are they, and please provide a narrative regarding how the proposed dog beach complies? **(Have you been able to gain clarification regarding the Cook County ordinance regarding dog parks and fencing requirements?)**

WPD Response: It was suggested that the Winnetka Park District submit for a waiver at this time until they address this matter at a future date for all dog parks that abut Lake Michigan. Please note that we are looking to operate our dog beach similarly to our neighboring communities, which currently operate a secure off-leash dog beach on Lake Michigan that are fenced and gated on three sides of their beaches.

- g. For what parks and recreation activities will the tableland be used? Passive recreational activities or active recreational activities? Please describe.

WPD Response: Included.

- h. Please provide any other details regarding the operational aspects for the four proposed areas of Centennial Beach and Park.

WPD Response: Included.

- i. Will the proposed improvements and use of the park and beach increase the usage of the park and beach from its current activity level? If so, how will the existing on-site

Please do not recommend WPD's untruthful, misleading fencing SUP for approval. Cook County's Animal Control Ordinance does not require it. Veracity should be required for WPD, as it is for the Village's homeowners, business owners, and our other units of local government.

Thank you.

Kris Schriesheim
Winnetka taxpayer

*ATTACHMENT: WPD's Final 8-4-25 SUP application to the Village. Village staff's question is: "Regarding the dog beach, are there any other applicable State, County, etc. regulations which the dog beach must comply (e.g. fencing requirements, leash requirements, etc.)? . . . WPD's answer stating that there are not is as follows: "It was suggested that the Winnetka Park District submit for a waiver at this time until they address this matter at a future date for all dog parks that abut Lake Michigan. ["]"

As a reminder, CCAC ordinance/regulations do not provide the Administrator with waiver authority.

From: [Megan Carolan \(Animal Control\)](#)
To: [Allison Davidson \(Bureau of Administration\)](#)
Cc: [Mamadou Diakhate \(Animal Control\)](#); [Mark Rosenthal \(Animal Control\)](#)
Subject: Fw: Dog Beach Signage
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 3:40:06 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-qaznkqxm.png](#)
[Outlook-bahybo3q.png](#)
[Outlook-tsvqlghq.jpg](#)
[Outlook-qs4ic4va.png](#)
[Outlook-q2bnkcpl.png](#)
[Outlook-fhhdpbft.png](#)
[Outlook-uxqpanhv.png](#)
[Outlook-zzlkmltd.png](#)
[Outlook-m52qgis1.jpg](#)
[Outlook-ts0cihqr.png](#)

Hi Allison do you have any guidance on responding to these questions from Winnetka Park District?



Megan Carolan, DVM

Deputy Administrator
Cook County Animal & Rabies Control
M: (773) 520-5753

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From: Shannon Nazzal <snazzal@winpark.org>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 10:37 AM
To: Megan Carolan (Animal Control) <Megan.Carolan@cookcountyil.gov>; Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control) <Mamadou.Diakhate@cookcountyil.gov>; Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control) <Mark.Rosenthal@cookcountyil.gov>
Cc: Simon, Adam <ASimon@ancelglink.com>; Harold W. Francke <hfrancke@mpslaw.com>; Costa Kutulas <CKutulas@winpark.org>
Subject: Re: Dog Beach Signage

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Megan,

Thank you for your response. As we continue to coordinate with IDNR and USACE, it is important for the District to clearly understand Cook County's role and obligations in this matter. I have copied our legal counsel on this matter as you referred to legalities that you are

looking in to.

Because Cook County does not issue a permit for this type of temporary set up and instead relies on the applicable provisions of the Cook County Animal and Rabies Control Ordinance and Regulation VIII. Dog Parks and Areas, we respectfully request clarification regarding the scope and substance of the County's review. Specifically, it would be helpful to understand:

1. What statutory or administrative authority governs Cook County's evaluation in circumstances such as this;
2. What criteria or standards you intends to apply once the other agencies have issued their determinations;
3. What documentation or findings Cook County requires in order to complete its review; and
4. Any prior instances, case examples, or determinations in which Cook County has applied this type of review process to an off-leash area, dog beach, or comparable recreational facility.

As you can appreciate, we must provide our Board with a clear and accurate explanation of each agency's jurisdictional role, review process, and the basis for any deferral. Receiving the above information will ensure that we are fully aligned with the County's expectations and able to plan appropriately as the external reviews proceed.

We will continue to keep Cook County informed as we receive updates from IDNR and USACE. Thank you in advance for your assistance in providing these clarifications.

Shannon Q. Nazzal, CPRE (she / her)

Executive Director

Office: +1.847.501.2074

Email: snazzal@winpark.org

Winnetka Park District | winpark.org



From: Megan Carolan (Animal Control) <Megan.Carolan@cookcountyiil.gov>

Sent: Monday, November 10, 2025 9:17 AM

To: Shannon Nazzal <snazzal@winpark.org>; Costa Kutulas <CKutulas@winpark.org>; Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control) <Mamadou.Diakhate@cookcountyiil.gov>

Cc: Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control) <Mark.Rosenthal@cookcountyil.gov>

Subject: Re: Dog Beach Signage

Shannon,

While our ordinance does not speak directly to this unique situation, we do feel it is important to allow the other relevant agencies to make their determinations before moving forward. In the meantime, our bureau is still reviewing the legalities.

Thanks,



Megan Carolan, DVM

Deputy Administrator

Cook County Animal & Rabies Control

M: (773) 520-5753

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From: Shannon Nazzal <snazzal@winpark.org>

Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 10:09 AM

To: Megan Carolan (Animal Control) <Megan.Carolan@cookcountyil.gov>; Costa Kutulas <CKutulas@winpark.org>; Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control) <Mamadou.Diakhate@cookcountyil.gov>

Cc: Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control) <Mark.Rosenthal@cookcountyil.gov>

Subject: Re: Dog Beach Signage

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Hi Megan,

Can you point to Cook County regulations, ordinances, resolutions, etc that shows where this is the practice for review? I'm curious as this is this first time this information has been relayed to us. We will need to provide our Board an update. Thank you.

Shannon Nazzal
Executive Director

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From: Megan Carolan (Animal Control) <Megan.Carolan@cookcountyil.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 9:54 AM
To: Costa Kutulas <CKutulas@winpark.org>; Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control) <Mamadou.Diakhate@cookcountyil.gov>
Cc: Shannon Nazzal <snazzal@winpark.org>; Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control) <Mark.Rosenthal@cookcountyil.gov>
Subject: Re: Dog Beach Signage

Good morning Costa,

Thank you for reaching out. Please be advised that Cook County will complete its evaluation once determinations have been made by DNR and the Army Corps of Engineers. We trust that you will keep us informed on the permitting progress, and we remain available should you have any questions or need clarification in the meantime.

Thank you,
Megan Carolan, DVM
Deputy Administrator
Cook County Animal and Rabies Control

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From: Costa Kutulas <CKutulas@winpark.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 11:03:49 AM
To: Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control) <Mamadou.Diakhate@cookcountyil.gov>
Cc: Megan Carolan (Animal Control) <Megan.Carolan@cookcountyil.gov>; Shannon Nazzal <snazzal@winpark.org>; Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control) <Mark.Rosenthal@cookcountyil.gov>; Megan Rola-Podczaski (Animal Control) <Megan.Rola-Podczaski@cookcountyil.gov>
Subject: Re: Dog Beach Signage

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Good Morning Mamadou,

I hope that you're doing well and enjoy the cooler weather. I wanted to check in regarding the status of CCDARC's final determination. We are in the process of advancing the project's design and permitting, and confirmation of compliance with the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control requirements is an important step in that process.

When you have a moment, could you please provide an update on the review or let us know if any additional information is needed to complete your determination?

Thank you again for your time and assistance, we appreciate your help in keeping this moving forward.

Regards,

Costa Kutulas

Director of Parks and Maintenance

P: (847) 501-2052

E: ckutulas@winpark.org

Winnetka Park District | winpark.org

From: Costa Kutulas <CKutulas@winpark.org>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 11:42 AM

To: Megan Carolan (Animal Control) <Megan.Carolan@cookcountyil.gov>

Cc: Shannon Nazzal <snazzal@winpark.org>; Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control) <Mamadou.Diakhate@cookcountyil.gov>; Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control) <Mark.Rosenthal@cookcountyil.gov>; Megan Rola-Podczaski (Animal Control) <Megan.Rola-Podczaski@cookcountyil.gov>

Subject: Re: Dog Beach Signage

Good Morning Megan, (and CCDARC Team),

I wanted to follow up on our last Teams meeting from a few weeks ago. As I recall, it was my understanding that your team had all the materials needed to make a final determination regarding our request on whether our proposed Centennial Beach Fencing Plan meets the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control regulations.

We're continuing to move forward with project permitting and would greatly appreciate confirmation that our proposed plan satisfies the CCDARC requirements.

I also left a voicemail for you and Mark R., but I wanted to reach out via email as well to close

the loop. If someone from your team could please provide an update or an anticipated timeline for the final determination, I'd greatly appreciate it.

Thank you for your time and effort on this matter. I look forward to hearing back from a member of your team soon.

Regards,

Costa Kutulas

Director of Parks and Maintenance

P: (847) 501-2052

E: ckutulas@winpark.org

Winnetka Park District | winpark.org

From: Costa Kutulas <CKutulas@winpark.org>

Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 12:29 PM

To: Megan Carolan (Animal Control) <Megan.Carolan@cookcountyil.gov>

Cc: Shannon Nazzal <snazzal@winpark.org>; Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control)

<Mamadou.Diakhate@cookcountyil.gov>; Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control)

<Mark.Rosenthal@cookcountyil.gov>; Megan Rola-Podczaski (Animal Control) <[Megan.Rola-](mailto:Megan.Rola-Podczaski@cookcountyil.gov)

Podczaski@cookcountyil.gov>

Subject: Re: Dog Beach Signage

Megan,

I have some availability this afternoon between 1:00–2:00 PM. I realize that's short notice, but let me know if that works for you. Otherwise, we can find a time later this week that's more convenient.

Thanks,

Costa Kutulas

Director of Parks and Maintenance

P: (847) 501-2052

E: ckutulas@winpark.org

Winnetka Park District | winpark.org

From: Megan Carolan (Animal Control) <Megan.Carolan@cookcountyil.gov>

Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 4:08 PM

To: Costa Kutulas <CKutulas@winpark.org>

Cc: Shannon Nazzal <snazzal@winpark.org>; Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control)

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Good Afternoon Megan,

Thank you again for taking the time to speak with me this afternoon regarding the items noted in your earlier email exchange with Shannon.

As we discussed, I appreciate your confirmation that no formal application has been submitted to CCDAC from the WPD regarding the Centennial Beach Dog Park. Rather, your comments were based on your review of the Park District's signage and the Dog Beach Users submission to CCDAC, in response to the District's request to ensure our proposed Temporary Dog Fencing Plan meets CCDAC requirements.

Regarding the signage statement, "*Check with your veterinarian before bringing a puppy under the age of four months to the park*", you noted that, in your opinion, the four-month reference could be reconsidered due to variations in vaccination schedules across breeders and veterinary offices. This is a point the Park District may want to consider in future planning. We'll keep that in mind as we move forward with your future planning for dog run sites.

I believe this summarizes our conversation accurately, but please feel free to follow up if I've misunderstood or misstated anything.

Thank you again for your time, and I hope you enjoy the rest of your evening.

Best regards,

Costa Kutulas

Director of Parks and Maintenance

P: (847) 501-2052

E: ckutulas@winpark.org

Winnetka Park District | winpark.org

From: Shannon Nazzal <snazzal@winpark.org>

Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 10:19 AM

To: Megan Carolan (Animal Control) <Megan.Carolan@cookcountyil.gov>

Cc: Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control) <Mamadou.Diakhate@cookcountyil.gov>; Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control) <Mark.Rosenthal@cookcountyil.gov>; Megan Rola-Podczaski (Animal Control) <Megan.Rola-Podczaski@cookcountyil.gov>; Costa Kutulas <CKutulas@winpark.org>

Subject: Re: Dog Beach Signage

Ms. Carolan,

Thank you for the email. Is the requirement from Cook County to remove that line on proposed signage? I'm also curious about it being considered an application review as we didn't submit an application per say, but a request for review. Is it now considered an application for approval or permit?

Thank you for any clarification you can offer.

Shannon Q. Nazzal, CPRE (she / her)

Executive Director

Office: +1.847.501.2074

Email: snazzal@winpark.org

Winnetka Park District | winpark.org



From: Megan Carolan (Animal Control) <Megan.Carolan@cookcountyil.gov>

Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 9:59 AM

To: Shannon Nazzal <snazzal@winpark.org>

Cc: Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control) <Mamadou.Diakhate@cookcountyil.gov>; Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control) <Mark.Rosenthal@cookcountyil.gov>; Megan Rola-Podczaski (Animal Control) <Megan.Rola-Podczaski@cookcountyil.gov>

Subject: Dog Beach Signage

Good morning Shannon,

Our department is reviewing the Centennial Dog Beach application, and we wanted to check in regarding one point on the suggested signage-

"Check with your veterinarian before bringing a puppy under the age of four months to the park."

Puppies are generally not considered fully vaccinated until they reach four months of age. Verifying the pet's vaccination status via the application process would probably be more suitable than this statement.

Please send an updated version of the new signage, and once received, our department can proceed with the application review and make a decision.

Thank you,



Megan Carolan, DVM

Deputy Administrator

Cook County Animal & Rabies Control

M: (773) 520-5753

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From: [Megan Carolan \(Animal Control\)](#)
To: [Allison Davidson \(Bureau of Administration\)](#)
Cc: [Mamadou Diakhate \(Animal Control\)](#); [Mark Rosenthal \(Animal Control\)](#)
Subject: Fw: Dog Beach Signage
Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025 10:58:21 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-qaznkqxm.png](#)
[Outlook-bahvbo3q.png](#)
[Outlook-tsvqlghq.jpg](#)
[Outlook-qs4ic4va.png](#)
[Outlook-q2bnkcpl.png](#)
[Outlook-fhhdpbft.png](#)
[Outlook-lt11lqu.png](#)

Hi Alison would you have a few minutes to discuss tomorrow?

Thanks,



Megan Carolan, DVM

Deputy Administrator
Cook County Animal & Rabies Control
M: (773) 520-5753

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From: Shannon Nazzal <snazzal@winpark.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 10:09 AM
To: Megan Carolan (Animal Control) <Megan.Carolan@cookcountyyil.gov>; Costa Kutulas <CKutulas@winpark.org>; Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control) <Mamadou.Diakhate@cookcountyyil.gov>
Cc: Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control) <Mark.Rosenthal@cookcountyyil.gov>
Subject: Re: Dog Beach Signage

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Hi Megan,

Can you point to Cook County regulations, ordinances, resolutions, etc that shows where this is the practice for review? I'm curious as this is this first time this information has been relayed to us. We will need to provide our Board an update. Thank you.

Shannon Nazzal

Executive Director

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From: Megan Carolan (Animal Control) <Megan.Carolan@cookcountyil.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 9:54 AM
To: Costa Kutulas <CKutulas@winpark.org>; Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control) <Mamadou.Diakhate@cookcountyil.gov>
Cc: Shannon Nazzal <snazzal@winpark.org>; Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control) <Mark.Rosenthal@cookcountyil.gov>
Subject: Re: Dog Beach Signage

Good morning Costa,

Thank you for reaching out. Please be advised that Cook County will complete its evaluation once determinations have been made by DNR and the Army Corps of Engineers. We trust that you will keep us informed on the permitting progress, and we remain available should you have any questions or need clarification in the meantime.

Thank you,
Megan Carolan, DVM
Deputy Administrator
Cook County Animal and Rabies Control

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From: Costa Kutulas <CKutulas@winpark.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 11:03:49 AM
To: Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control) <Mamadou.Diakhate@cookcountyil.gov>
Cc: Megan Carolan (Animal Control) <Megan.Carolan@cookcountyil.gov>; Shannon Nazzal <snazzal@winpark.org>; Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control) <Mark.Rosenthal@cookcountyil.gov>; Megan Rola-Podczaski (Animal Control) <Megan.Rola-Podczaski@cookcountyil.gov>
Subject: Re: Dog Beach Signage

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From: [Todd Moore \(Bureau of Administration\)](#)
To: [Mamadou Diakhate \(Animal Control\)](#); [Allison Davidson \(Bureau of Administration\)](#)
Cc: [Mark Rosenthal \(Animal Control\)](#); [Megan Carolan \(Animal Control\)](#)
Subject: RE: Winnetka Park District Dog Beach
Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 10:34:33 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks Mamadou, Allison is out this week. In the meantime, could you forward the attachment Mr. Wynnychenko sent in on 15 Sept?

Thanks,

Todd



Todd Moore

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Bureau of Administration
O: (312) 603-4905

From: Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control) <Mamadou.Diakhate@cookcountyl.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2025 9:23 AM
To: Allison Davidson (Bureau of Administration) <Allison.Davidson@cookcountyl.gov>
Cc: Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control) <Mark.Rosenthal@cookcountyl.gov>; Megan Carolan (Animal Control) <Megan.Carolan@cookcountyl.gov>; Todd Moore (Bureau of Administration) <Todd.Moore@cookcountyl.gov>
Subject: Fw: Winnetka Park District Dog Beach

Hi Allison,

Any advise you could share with us on how to properly respond to this email?

Mamadou Diakhate, D.V.M.

Administrator

Cook County Animal and Rabies Control

P: 708-974-6147 / M: 773-965-5852

mamadou.diakhate@cookcountyl.gov

www.cookcountyl.gov

From: Ted Wynnychenko <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, November 9, 2025 5:50 PM
To: Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control) <Mamadou.Diakhate@cookcountyl.gov>

Cc: Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control) <Mark.Rosenthal@cookcountyil.gov>; Megan Carolan (Animal Control) <Megan.Carolan@cookcountyil.gov>

Subject: RE: Winnetka Park District Dog Beach

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Dr. Diakhate:

I was wondering if there was any updated information about the Winnetka Park District's attempts to authorize a off-leash dog park that lacks the "contiguous" fencing required by regulations.

I am attaching a letter from the Park District to the Village of Winnetka, in which the District asserts that they "anticipate confirmation of [CCARC] review soon." (page 1, paragraph 5)

While I am uncertain what to make of this statement, I would like to ask, once again, what the published process and/or rules are for your department to grant variations or waivers of the regulations, and how public participation/comment in such a waiver is allowed.

As I previously stated, I can find no regulations or guidance, or, in fact, any authority, that would allow any variation to the fencing requirement in the regulation.

Thank you for your assistance.

Ted Wynnychenko

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control)

> [<mailto:Mamadou.Diakhate@cookcountyil.gov>]

> Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 1:00 PM

> To: t [REDACTED]

> Cc: Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control); Megan Carolan (Animal Control)

> Subject: Re: Winnetka Park District Dog Beach

>

> Dear Mr. Wynnychenko,

>

> I am in receipt of your email, and I am grateful that you reach out to my

> department for information.

>

> The Winnetka Park District has submitted plans for a dog park and Cook County

> Animal & Rabies Control is still evaluating it.
>
> Should more information become available, I would be happy to share them.
>
> Sincerely,
>
>
> Mamadou Diakhate, D.V.M.
> Administrator
> Cook County Animal and Rabies Control
> P: 708-974-6147 / M: 773-965-5852
> mamadou.diakhate@cookcountyil.gov
>
> www.cookcountyil.gov <<http://www.cookcountyil.gov/>>
> _____
>
>
> From: Ted Wynnnychenko [REDACTED] >
> Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2025 8:01 AM
> To: Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control) <Mamadou.Diakhate@cookcountyil.gov>
> Cc: Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control) <Mark.Rosenthal@cookcountyil.gov>; Natalia
> Derevyanny (Bureau of Administration) <Natalia.Derevyanny@cookcountyil.gov>
> Subject: RE: Winnetka Park District Dog Beach
>
>
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> email.
>
> Dr. Diakhate:
>
> I would appreciate an acknowledgement that my prior email message was
> received, and, if possible, any information on how your Department will
> consider variations from published regulations and your Department's
> authority to effect such variations on a case-by-case basis.
>
> Thank you
> Ted Wynnnychenko
>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Ted Wynnnychenko [REDACTED]
>> Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 6:34 PM

>> To: 'Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control)'
>> Subject: Winnetka Park District Dog Beach
>>
>> Dr. Diakhate:
>>
>> I previously contacted your office to ask whether an incompletely fenced
>> area could be considered an off-leash dog park by your Department.
>>
>> I have attached a copy of my letter and your response from
>> October-November 2024.
>>
>> I have now been led to believe that your Department is "considering" a
>> request from the Winnetka Park District to approve an incompletely fenced
>> area as acceptable, under your published regulations, as an off-leash dog
>> park.\n/>>>
>> If my belief is incorrect, I am sorry for troubling you.
>>
>> However, if your Department is considering "approving" any incompletely
>> fenced area as allowable under Regulation VIII, despite the clear and
>> unambiguous language of the regulation which demands that an off-leash dog
>> park be "completely enclosed by ... a fence," then I request that you
>> provide answers to the questions I posed in 2024, as I am not aware of any
>> published process for the granting of any "waiver" to the requirements of
>> Regulation VIII.
>>
>> Furthermore, I would appreciate being advised on how the public will be
>> permitted to comment on any requests for waivers that may be submitted to
>> your Department.
>>
>> Thank you for your assistance.
>>
>> Ted Wynnychenko

From: [Mamadou Diakhate \(Animal Control\)](#)
To: [Scott Britton \(Board of Commissioners\)](#)
Cc: [Allison Davidson \(Bureau of Administration\)](#); [Alexis Jenkins \(Bureau of Administration\)](#); [Zahra Ali \(Bureau of Administration\)](#)
Subject: Re: Centennial Dog Beach Follow Up
Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025 10:53:16 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-Cook Color.png](#)
[Outlook-4vqbdcah.png](#)
[Outlook-ngp314wa.png](#)
[Outlook-3rlfq2b.png](#)
[Outlook-n3wxlgse.png](#)

Dear Commissioner Britton,

Thank you for reaching out to ARC, your continuous support is dearly appreciated.

Animal and Rabies Control has decided not to issue any decision until Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Army Corps of Engineers have given approval, as they will be looking at whether the plans provide sufficient access to the water under the law.

Assuming they approve, the plan appears to meet the requirements of our regulations, but BOA is still reviewing the legalities.

Should you have further questions, feel free to reach out to our BOA Senior Legal Counsel Allison Davidson here copied.

Sincerely,

Mamadou Diakhate, D.V.M.

Administrator

Cook County Animal and Rabies Control

P: 708-974-6147 / M: 773-965-5852

mamadou.diakhate@cookcountyil.gov

www.cookcountyil.gov

From: Scott Britton (Board of Commissioners) <Scott.Britton@cookcountyil.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 10:41 AM
To: Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control) <Mamadou.Diakhate@cookcountyil.gov>
Subject: Centennial Dog Beach Follow Up

Dear Administrator Diakhate,

Thank you for your thoughtful compliance review of Winnetka Park District's plan for a

special use permit for an off-leash dog beach at Centennial Park.

I understand that a review by the Cook County Animal and Rabies Control (CCARC) has been completed and is now under review by the Bureau of Administration. Would it be possible to view the preliminary findings?

With gratitude,
Commissioner Britton

--

Scott Britton

Commissioner | 14th District

(O): (312) 603-4932 | (F): (312)603-3686

www.CommissionerScottBritton.com

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Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control)

From: Megan Carolan (Animal Control)
Sent: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 8:47 AM
To: Allison Davidson (Bureau of Administration)
Cc: Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control); Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control); Ebonie Taylor (Animal Control)
Subject: Fw: Dog Beach Signage
Attachments: LM2025011.pdf

Hi Allison, an update from Winnetka FYI



COOK COUNTY
BUREAU OF
ADMINISTRATION

Megan Carolan, DVM

Deputy Administrator
Cook County Animal & Rabies Control
M: (773) 520-5753

From: Costa
Kutulas

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Follow Toni Preckwinkle on [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [Instagram](#)

<CKutulas@winpark.org>

Sent: Monday, January 5, 2026 4:23 PM

To: Megan Carolan (Animal Control) <Megan.Carolan@cookcountyil.gov>; Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control) <Mamadou.Diakhate@cookcountyil.gov>; Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control) <Mark.Rosenthal@cookcountyil.gov>

Cc: Shannon Nazzal <snazzal@winpark.org>

Subject: Re: Dog Beach Signage

External Message Disclaimer

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Good Afternoon All,

I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday break and was able to enjoy time with family and friends as we welcomed the new year.

I wanted to share some positive news received from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). On December 24, Shannon and I received confirmation from Eric Otto at the IDNR that our permit application for the dog fencing project has been approved for construction (see attached).

We are still awaiting a determination from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), which we anticipate by the end of the month. In the meantime, we wanted to share this update and keep you informed as you continue reviewing our request to ensure the project aligns with your respective regulations and processes.

To Village of Winnetka Plan Commission

From: The Cacciatore Family @ 140 Sheridan Rd

Re: Winnetka Park District Centennial Fence SUP Application Violates Design Standards, Conflicts with the 2040 Futures Plan, Misrepresents Facts and the Law

Date: January 26, 2026

Please vote against recommending the Winnetka Park District's ("WPD") Village Code-violating, SUP standard breaching, unlawful and 2040 Futures Plan-indifferent permanent fencing permit application.

1. VOW Design Standards prohibit chain-link fencing. WPD's proposed black chain-link animal cage on the shores of Lake Michigan would violate this prohibition. It cannot be recommended to the Village Council.
2. VOW 2040 Futures Plan promotes open space and the preservation of Winnetka's graceful character, neighborhood design standards, and the environment. WPD's SUP application clearly violates all of these tenets. There is no standalone black chain link fencing along any neighboring Centennial Park property owner's lakefront front lot line, nor along any Sheridan Road front lawn. There is no standalone chain link fencing in the neighborhood that extends into Lake Michigan. WPD's SUP permit application cannot be recommended to the Village Council.
3. When the Village approved WPD's 2001 Elder Lane and Beach SUP application, it required WPD to install Code-compliant non-chain link fencing. Despite this, WPD seeks to install Code non-compliant, design standard violating, 2040 Futures Plan -inconsistent chain link fencing on Centennial beach.
4. WPD's proposed black chain link animal cage is not minimally necessary nor consistent with Code Section 15.78.010. WPD's fencing is designed to stretch 106' from the toe of the bluffs into Lake Michigan on the north, and 93'3" into Lake Michigan to the south. The fencing extends 72 feet beyond the OHWM--WPD's front lot line—on the north, and 77'3" beyond WPD's front lot line to the south. Fencing that extends beyond a property owner's front lot line is prohibited.
5. The Village Code prohibits nuisances, which it defines as fencing or other barriers that would extend into the public way, including Lake Michigan and its submerged lands.
6. Village Code Section 15.78.080 prohibits the creation of nuisances, such as fencing that would create Public Safety Hazards, including by impairing police

and other first responder access to Centennial beach/Lake Michigan. WPD's animal cage would have 10" double gates on the northern side of Centennial. On Centennial's southern end, WPD designed two barely passable, stacked, single gates that form a 6' long, 39" wide corridor in the lake east of the OHWM. WPD's unsafe designs would unreasonably obstruct and interfere with ingress/egress to the adjacent public beach south of its animal cage. The cage would force first responders and other rescuers either into the lake through a yardstick wide corridor to try to reach emergency situations on the 20' area south of the fencing and north of 205 Sheridan's northern breakwater, or 77'3" past the OHWM into Lake Michigan to attempt to render aid to persons/dogs/boats/paddlers.

7. The 2040 Futures Plan contemplates ADA access. For local governmental bodies such as WPD, compliance is mandatory. Despite this, WPD designed an ADA non-compliant beach corridor that is too narrow for a wheelchair to use, with an insufficient turning radius that would trap people and dogs inside the chain link fencing, possibly in the waters of Lake Michigan. This dangerous and unlawful design violates the Village Code as well as the 2040 Futures Plan, and cannot be recommended for approval.
8. WPD misrepresents the permanent nature of its black chain-link fenced in animal cage extending along and well past its front lot line on the shores of Lake Michigan. The fencing would be permanent, with no time constraints or removal requirement.
9. WPD claims its ADA-violating, public nuisance creating, Design Code abrogating, 39" wide, 6' corridor will never be used for maintenance south of the black chain-link fencing. This is out of line with the realities of known debris that washes up from Lake Michigan, as well as boats that may crash into 205 Sheridan's armored stone breakwaters, possibly stranding boaters/boats on a narrow 20' strip of inaccessible public beach, or beyond. A 34' long boat was stranded after encountering heavy waves at Lloyd in October 2025. WPD also recently described finding a large section of wide rubber pipe washed up onto the Elder-Centennial beach, which required removal efforts by both the Village and WPD. That belies WPD's false statement that no maintenance will ever be required south of its unlawful black chain-link lakefront animal cage.
10. Cook County Animal Control ("CCAC") has refused to evaluate WPD's animal cage until after IDNR and USACE make their determinations, despite repeated entreaties not only from WPD, but also via email and phone calls from Orchard 2020 Trust's attorneys. In 2024, CCAC Administrator Dr. Diakhate informed Shannon Nazzal that Centennial beach is a "dog friendly area." Cook County does not require four-sided or any other specific fencing for Lake Michigan dog

friendly areas, WPD can produce no documentation supporting its specious claims.

11. The Village Code prohibits dog owners from allowing their pets to “run at large.” The IL Animal Control Act, 510 ILCS 5, 5/9, provides that: “A dog that is in a dog-friendly area or a dog park is NOT CONSIDERED TO BE RUNNING AT LARGE IF THE DOG IS MONITORED OR SUPERVISED BY A PERSON.” There is no lawful justification for WPD’s attempted usurpation of CCAC’s sole and exclusive Animal Control Act authority. WPD is deliberately misdefining what constitutes “running at large” in an effort to force the Village of Winnetka to violate the 2040 Futures Plan, its Design Standards, the Lakefront Preservation Ordinance, and the Village Code’s nuisance provisions.
12. CCAC regulations require fully enclosed four-sided fencing for “dog parks” on land. Even if the IL Animal Control Act were amended to exclude dog friendly areas from its definition of places where canines are NOT “running at large,” WPD’s two-sided fencing would be out of compliance with the rules. As WPD knows, CCAC’s Administrator lacks waiver authority for the four-sided fencing requirement.

Please vote to deny recommending WPD’s grant of a SUP for its unlawful, specious and misleading fencing permit application.

Centennial Beach Temporary Dog Beach Fence

January 28, 2026

To: Members of the Village of Winnetka Plan Commission

The Winnetka Park District (WPD) is requesting a special use permit (SUP) for a chain link fence on the Centennial Park Beach. Currently, the purpose of this Beach is mainly a dog beach. The WPD is planning major restrictions for this Beach. The Beach belongs to all the people for the enjoyment of each and everyone who desire to walk, run, or just spend time gazing at the beauty of the Centennial Beach. The WPD is absolutely ignoring the people's rights, which is not a smart action for a Park District. Winnetka Park District's duty is to listen to all citizens and not a select group with special requests.

The WPD is requesting a permit for a fence which will flat outright stop this Beach being in compliance with what it is meant to be - by law - in the State of Illinois, a Beach for public use. The WPD is not obeying an existing law in the State of Illinois. A fence, temporary or permanent, is defying the law. (615 ILCS 5/27).

The proposed fence is a safety hazard, as it extends into Lake Michigan near extremely large boulders in the water. The proposed fence, next to the huge boulders that exist in the waters, is an accident waiting to happen when the water is wavy or when a person, dog or boater is in distress. Fencing extending into the water is hinderance to safety. Safety must be a top priority for our Village.

The WPD request for a SUP clearly defies (615 ILCS 5/27). The Beach is for the public. This Beach is not to be blocked from the public. The Beaches are for all citizens and not for one citizen or entity.

The biggest violation for the Winnetka Park District, aside from the public's rights by law, to enjoy all beaches, is the creation of an unnecessary safety hazard. This proposal defies the safety standards that the elected officials on the Winnetka Park Board are ignoring. This proposal is NOT safe for the public, for a paddle boarder, for the boaters, or anyone enjoying Lake Michigan. The fence is definitely unsightly, creates an unnecessary hazard, and without a doubt goes against the high standards and principles that have always been a top priority for the elected commissioners and the staff at the Winnetka Park District.

Please review this SUP knowing there are many stumbling blocks ahead. People's rights to walk this Beach are violated, and the proposed fencing is a major safety issue. Any design for a proposed fence on Centennial Beach is a safety hazard, is costly, is unsightly and is a violation of the rights of our citizens.

I request that the Plan Commission of the Village of Winnetka, deny the requested special use permit (SUP) for any type of fence on the Beach and waters at Centennial Park.

Thank you for your dedication to our Village,

Mary Garrison



Past President of the WPD Board of Commissioners
Past Member, Plan Commission

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Subject: Proposed Fence at Elder/Centennial Beaches
Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 9:35:38 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Village of Winnetka Plan Commission

From:

Re: Winnetka Park District Centennial Fence SUP Application Violates Design Standards, Conflicts with the 2040 Futures Plan, Misrepresents Facts and the Law

Date: January 26, 2026

Please vote against recommending the Winnetka Park District's ("WPD") Village Code-violating, SUP standard breaching, unlawful and 2040 Futures Plan-indifferent permanent fencing permit application.

1. VOW Design Standards prohibit chain-link fencing. WPD's proposed black chain-link animal cage on the shores of Lake Michigan would violate this prohibition. It cannot be recommended to the Village Council.
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3. When the Village approved WPD's 2001 Elder Lane and Beach SUP application, it required WPD to install Code-compliant non-chain link fencing. Despite this, WPD seeks to install Code non-compliant, design standard violating, 2040 Futures Plan - inconsistent chain link fencing on Centennial beach.
4. WPD's proposed black chain link animal cage is not minimally necessary nor consistent with Code Section 15.78.010. WPD's fencing is designed to stretch 106' from the toe of the bluffs into Lake Michigan on the north, and 93'3" into Lake Michigan to the south. The fencing extends 72 feet beyond the OHWM--WPD's front lot line—on the north, and 77'3" beyond WPD's front lot line to the south. Fencing that extends beyond a property owner's front lot line is prohibited.
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6. Village Code Section 15.78.080 prohibits the creation of nuisances, such as fencing that would create Public Safety Hazards, including by impairing police and other first responder access to Centennial beach/Lake Michigan. WPD's animal cage would have 10" double gates on the northern side of Centennial. On Centennial's southern end,

WPD designed two barely passable, stacked, single gates that form a 6' long, 39" wide corridor in the lake east of the OHWM. WPD's unsafe designs would unreasonably obstruct and interfere with ingress/egress to the adjacent public beach south of its animal cage. The cage would force first responders and other rescuers either into the lake through a yardstick wide corridor to try to reach emergency situations on the 20' area south of the fencing and north of 205 Sheridan's northern breakwater, or 77'3" past the OHWM into Lake Michigan to attempt to render aid to persons/dogs/boats/paddlers.

7. The 2040 Futures Plan contemplates ADA access. For local governmental bodies such as WPD, compliance is mandatory. Despite this, WPD designed an ADA non-compliant beach corridor that is too narrow for a wheelchair to use, with an insufficient turning radius that would trap people and dogs inside the chain link fencing, possibly in the waters of Lake Michigan. This dangerous and unlawful design violates the Village Code as well as the 2040 Futures Plan, and cannot be recommended for approval.
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10. Cook County Animal Control ("CCAC") has refused to evaluate WPD's animal cage until after IDNR and USACE make their determinations, despite repeated entreaties not only from WPD, but also via email and phone calls from Orchard 2020 Trust's attorneys. In 2024, CCAC Administrator Dr. Diakhate informed Shannon Nazzal that Centennial beach is a "dog friendly area." Cook County does not require four-sided or any other specific fencing for Lake Michigan dog friendly areas, WPD can produce no documentation supporting its specious claims.
11. The Village Code prohibits dog owners from allowing their pets to "run at large." The IL Animal Control Act, 510 ILCS 5, 5/9, provides that: "A dog that is in a dog-friendly area or a dog park is NOT CONSIDERED TO BE RUNNING AT LARGE IF THE DOG IS MONITORED OR SUPERVISED BY A PERSON." There is no lawful justification for WPD's attempted usurpation of CCAC's sole and exclusive Animal Control Act authority. WPD is deliberately misdefining what constitutes "running at large" in an effort to force the Village of Winnetka to violate the 2040 Futures Plan, its Design Standards, the Lakefront Preservation Ordinance, and the Village Code's nuisance provisions.
12. CCAC regulations require fully enclosed four-sided fencing for "dog parks" on land. Even if the IL Animal Control Act were amended to exclude dog friendly areas from its definition of places where canines are NOT "running at large," WPD's two-sided fencing would be out of compliance with the rules. As WPD knows, CCAC's Administrator lacks waiver authority for the four-sided fencing requirement.

Please vote to deny recommending WPD's grant of a SUP for its unlawful, specious and misleading fencing permit application.

Thank you,

Laura Sorensen

173 Fuller Lane

Winnetka

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Subject: Fencing dog beach
Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 7:00:15 AM

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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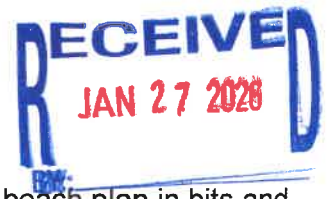
Dear Ann,

I'm currently not able to attend the meeting Thursday and would like my letter read at this weeks meeting. I've been a Winnetka resident for most of my life, and have spent a portion of that time living on Sheridan enjoying the privilege of seeing the majestic Lake Michigan during all 4 seasons . Our family uses the beaches often, including Centennial and find this proposal for a chain link fence to be unnecessary , dangerous, improper use of funds and catering to one wealthy individual who has never lived in Winnetka . The park district should represent the village, not one individual and what a shame to ruin the view and potentially cause harm in our most important resource . Lake Michigan cannot be tamed by an ugly chain link fence. Please listen.

Thank you,

Iretta Brennan

Sent from my iPhone



Dear Winnetka Plan Commission,

The WPD is once again asking the Village of Winnetka to review the Elder Centennial beach plan in bits and pieces, in spite of the fact that both the Plan Commission and the Zoning Board stated very clearly that it was nearly impossible to approve any special use permit without seeing the entire plan at once.

Just as an architect would not be allowed to show only a small portion of house plans when seeking approval for a permit, this situation is no different. One has to ask: why is the WPD ignoring the prior recommendations of both boards if it is truly interested in getting the Elder and Centennial beach plan approved?

The beaches have been unavailable to the public for over 5 years. Years of caucus surveys, countless letters and hundreds of comments at public meetings have continually shown the community is unhappy with the course the WPD is pushing. The board has previously heard all of the terrible stories about water safety and the dangers of any structures, but particularly fences, along the waterfront. Why is the WPD spending the valuable time of our governing bodies and concerned taxpayers to concentrate on a large, unsightly, unsafe and unwanted cage made out of chain link for what the WPD itself has called the most beautiful beach in Winnetka?

We know it is not for the dog owners. Only a little over 100 Winnetka residents out of more than 13,000 are dog pass holders. Prior to the disastrous attempt to give away public land to a private homeowner, the WPD was trying to close the dog beach. They led a public campaign to say the prime jewel of the beachfront should not be used just for dogs and spent precious taxpayer dollars to develop an approved plan to move the dog beach to a different location.

However, once the behind the scenes "land giveaway" started, all of a sudden the dog beach "needed" to be back on Centennial. It is not hard to understand that only one person benefits from a fenced in dog beach directly north of their property. The neighbor to the south of Centennial, with apparent support of several WPD board and staff members, has been trying to put up a fence in that same location since the ill-fated louvered wall introduced in 2020. Contrary to its mission statement of protecting assets, natural resources, and open space to benefit present and future generations, the WPD appears to have been working feverishly with the same owner to develop a way to create an ugly offensive cage on a coveted public beach owned by the taxpayers.

Thank goodness there are other governing bodies in our community who understand the real motivation behind this request and will work to protect the most important natural resource in Winnetka. Your job is to prevent the destruction of a pristine beach and not cede it over to a private landowner who already has the largest beach in Winnetka. The fence is just the beginning. If you approve this chain link special use permit, which is better suited for a garbage dump location or factory setting, it will open the flood gates to more of the same.

On the last review of the Elder Centennial plan, some of the most consistent comments from your board was your concern for the lack of safety found in much of the plan. The fence was mentioned many times as a non-starter. The fact that the WPD has come back with a request for a special use permit just for this feature alone shows a true lack of respect for our community, our beaches, our governing bodies and the WPD's own mission statement. There are no conditions that would ever make this steel cage on the beach appropriate. Please deny this request.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Martay
583 Sunset Road

January 27, 2026

To the Winnetka Village Planning Commission,

I strongly disapprove of the Winnetka Park District's application to install two chain link fences into Lake Michigan at Centennial Park. The fences present a great danger to swimmers, boaters, and dogs. Such an installation completely ignores the Doctrine of Public Trust.

This is nothing more than a backdoor attempt on spurious grounds for de facto approval of the Winnetka Park District's Master Plan!

Therefore, please deny the Park District's request for a Special Use Permit!

Most sincerely,
Carol Rasmus
175 Sheridan Road
Winnetka, IL 60093

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#); [Scott Manqum](#)
Subject: Dog Beach Fence Supporters - March 20, 2025 WPD Meeting Speak-Citizens and Commissioners
Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 6:23:02 PM
Attachments: [Handout 42425 Root Shares Confidential Draft Board Materials..pdf](#)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please include this message in PUBLIC COMMENT regarding 1/28/26 Plan Commission Hearing regarding Centennial Dog Beach Fence Permit.

I am writing with meeting links wherein broad support for a Temporary Dog Beach Fence was discussed by both residents in Public Comment and Winnetka Park District Commissioners in a consensus recommendation to pursue and support permitting.

The March 2025 Regular Meeting of the WPD is linked below.

March 20, 2025 Meeting Time Minute 37 through hour 1:08.
Dog Beach Temporary Fence Discussion-Public Comment Offering Help with Village Permitting and Commissioners reach Consensus (Root at 1:02 in favor)
https://www.youtube.com/live/WHihBQ_77CY?si=9a6lS7zbYBR8mtuF

I add the following link and attachment only because there appears to have been a change of heart by one Commissioner. Page 3 of this handout is the 3/16/25 email from Commissioner Root carrying the confidential draft information that contains this quote on line 16:

"3. Install Fencing to contain dogs (cost \$6,000, materials already in-house) - if we want to keep the beach open probably the most practical choice and we can argue about the appropriate final dog beach location and whether fencing is required and how installed at a later date."

April 24, 2025 Meeting at Time 2:33-Discussion of Confidential Information
https://www.youtube.com/live/MvADWnvDe-8?si=UYRIqYMLsk4_UBfq

Thank you,
Eric Lussen

Eric Lussen
[REDACTED]

Discussion of the Ethics of Campaigning as an Elected Official

**THE DOG BEACH IS
CLOSING
UNLESS YOU TAKE
ACTION**

Winnetka Park Board Meeting Thursday, March 20th

Public Comment opportunity at 6:00 p.m.

540 Hibbard Road, Winnetka

**HELP PREVENT ANOTHER
VALUABLE PARK ASSET
FROM PRIVATE INTEREST
INFLUENCE/TAKEOVER!**

**FAILURE TO NOTIFY PASSHOLDERS OF THIS
UNJUSTIFIED PLAN IS YOUR FIRST CLUE THAT
LEADERSHIP OF THE CURRENT BOARD IS NOT
RESPONSIVE OR TRANSPARENT**

WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT – REGULAR BOARD MEETING – APRIL 24, 2025

Discussion of the Ethics of Campaigning as an Elected Official

On March 16, 2025, Commissioner Colleen Root sent the following email to constituents:

From: Colleen Root <[REDACTED].com>
Date: March 16, 2025 at 4:10:31 PM CDT
To: Root <[REDACTED].com>
Cc: Mary Garrison <[REDACTED]>, Steve Juliusson <[REDACTED]>, Kay Whitchurch <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Urgent: Centennial Dog Beach's Future – Your Voice Matters - Winnetka Park District Board Meeting - Thursday March 20th @ 6 pm

Dear Dog Beach Supporters,

You're receiving this email thanks to Kay Whitchurch, who believes this is her father's Dog Beach contact list—thank you, Kay!

Centennial Dog Beach is once again in jeopardy - AND up for review and vote at the Winnetka Park District Board meeting this Thursday, March 20, at 6 PM. With the Board's new once-a-month meeting schedule, and, with only public comment received one-time at the beginning of the meeting, if you wish to speak, you must be in a seat in the room by 6 PM.

What's at Stake?

Last week, the Village and Park District agreed in principle to repair Elder Beach and open it for the 2025 season—a win for Open Beaches, Open Land, Open Government (<https://www.openourparks.org/>) for which our campaign will take some credit. However, Park Staff now insists that dog containment at Centennial Dog Beach must be addressed. The Board will consider three options on Thursday evening:

1. **Close Centennial Dog Beach permanently.** - call me a cynic, but I fear the Board majority may prefer this conclusion.
2. **Enforce an on-leash rule with security onsite and issuing citations.**
3. **Install fencing to contain dogs** (cost: ~\$6,000, materials already in-house) - if we want to keep the beach open probably the most practical choice and we can argue about the appropriate final dog beach location and whether fencing is required and how installed at a later date.

The Board Packet detailing these options will be available by 6 PM on Tuesday, March 18. If you care about keeping a dog beach in Winnetka, I urge you to review the packet <https://winpark.diligentcommunity/portal/> and show up Thursday night to make your voice heard.

Election & The Future of Our Parks

I am the Caucus endorsed incumbent running for re-election alongside Mary Garrison and Steve Juliusson.. We're committed to transparency, a community-directed District, fiscal responsibility and preserving public access to our parks. Our focus is what you the community want. We have no business entanglements - no conflicts of interest. If you share our vision, I hope you'll vote for us—#93, 95, and 97 on the ballot. **To change the direction and majority of this Board we need victory for all three of us.**

- 🗳️ Early Voting starts Tomorrow, March 17 at Centennial Park, Wilmette 🗳️
- 🗳️ Election Day is April 1

If you have any questions about any of the subjects of this email, feel free to reach out. I hope to see you at Thursday's meeting—in my opinion, Centennial Dog Beach's future will depend upon your presence and your comments. I also would be honored to have your vote this election.

Best,
Colleen Root
Current Commissioner & Candidate for Winnetka Park Commissioner

🌐 openourparks.org

WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT – REGULAR BOARD MEETING – APRIL 24, 2025

Discussion of the Ethics of Campaigning as an Elected Official

The question of “how and why” Commissioner Root would come up with such a false and misleading narrative is answered by understanding the board meeting agenda preparation process.

WPD Staff prepares a *DRAFT* copy of the Board Agenda for review by the Commissioners in advance of each board meeting. On Friday, March 14, 2025, WPD Staff sent out the non-public, *draft* agenda which included a memorandum regarding Centennial Dog Beach. The memo prepared by staff included three options to address the matter of the dog beach not being in compliance with Cook County Animal Control Regulations.

1. Install a temporary fence
2. Enforce the current “on leash” requirement
3. Close the dog beach and convert it to a swimming beach

Option three (closing the dog beach) is contrary to at least three separate resolutions of the Winnetka Park District Board of Commissioners, Oct-2022, May-2023, Oct-2023, and the PERMIT PLANS pending before the Village of Winnetka. While a theoretical possibility, the notion that the Board would vote to close the dog beach is highly unlikely. Given the Board of Commissioners’ demonstrated commitment to maintaining the dog beach at Centennial Park, two commissioners individually objected to the memorandum as initially drafted (after hearing complaints from concerned constituents who had received a copy of the referenced email from Commissioner Root) and requested an amendment to remove “option 3” (closing the dog beach) prior to releasing the final draft of the dog beach memorandum.

The final board agenda packet was published on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, more than 48 hours in advance of the regular board meeting held on Thursday, March 20, 2025. The discussion of the Centennial Dog beach was moved to top of the agenda due to the false, misleading and incendiary email issued by Commissioner Root, which led to a spike in attendance from members of the public fearing that the Centennial Dog Beach might in fact be at risk of closure.

Copies of the initial and final drafts of the memorandum follow.

Additional topics for discussion and “fact-checking”:

1. Winnetka Park District Bond Rating
2. False and misleading narratives promoted in “Why We are Running”

WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT – REGULAR BOARD MEETING – APRIL 24, 2025
Discussion of the Ethics of Campaigning as an Elected Official

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NON-PUBLIC - Distributed to Commissioners for review on Friday, March 14, 2025, prior to finalizing board packet for release to the general public on Tuesday, March 18, 2025



WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT
PARKS AND MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Park Commissioners
VIA: Shannon Q. Nazzal, Executive Director
FROM: Costa Kutulas, Director of Parks and Maintenance
DATE: March 20, 2025
SUBJECT: Centennial Dog Beach Review

Background:

Centennial Dog Beach operated as an off-leash dog beach since its inception in 1995. During that time, the Park District managed the facility with a secured single gate at the western entrance at the top of the bluff. The community self-managed the boundaries of the beach on the north and south edges. In 2010, the Park District installed a single row of four-foot fencing along the northern edge of the beach to prevent dogs from wandering beyond the designated area and onto the public swimming beach at Elder Lane, located just north of Centennial Park. This fence remained in place for many years, serving as a barrier to Elder Lane's swimming beach. Over the years, due to damage from the lake environment, the fencing was removed. At that time, no directive was given to reinstall the fence, as the Park District was in the early stages of implementing the Winnetka Waterfront 2030 Master Plan. It was assumed that the off-leash dog beach would not be part of the future design.

In the winter of 2023, the Park District installed temporary fencing. Two single rows of four-foot fencing were placed along the northern and southern property lines, each with a double gate entry. However, this effort was halted due to the lack of permitting approval. As a result, the fencing was removed, and the project was tabled. Following this, the Park Board voted to convert Centennial Beach from an off-leash to an on-leash dog beach (Ordinance 596), and it has operated in this way since that time.

Discussion:

Despite the change, some community members continue to use the beach as an off-leash area. Based on recent complaints and communications with the Cook County Department of Animal Control, staff have been advised to review the operation of the On-Leash Dog Beach. If users continue to violate, Cook County may begin issuing citations to those in violation. In light of this, staff have evaluated several options (Appendix A) to address the concerns to include:

1. Install fencing to comply with the current Cook County Animal Control Ordinance.
2. Code enforcement to continue operating the facility as it currently exists and enforcement of the leash ordinance.
3. Remove the dog beach entirely and convert it into a public beach.

Fiscal Impact:

The estimated cost for each option is noted in the Appendix A. Depending on which option is selected, the corresponding cost is requested to be added to the budget to fulfill the approved board action.

Conclusion/Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Park Board provide direction on the preferred option for a temporary solution to

Page 422 of 556

My name is Angie Dahl. I have been a resident of Winnetka for over 40 years. During that time I served as President of the Winnetka Park District as well as a member of several Village advisory boards.

Historically, the Winnetka shoreline was beautiful and accessible—you could walk, swim, kayak, and paddleboard unimpeded from Glencoe to Kenilworth. The water and sand levels fluctuated naturally, as they should.

However, in the past 25 years, that same stretch has become dangerous and in some places impassable. Massive rock walls have been erected which hinder safe passage, exacerbate bluff destruction, and cause unchecked ecosystem damage. These changes were made under IDNR and Army Corps oversight, or the lack thereof. I do not hesitate to say that saying that something has been approved by the IDNR is not a positive.

Until quite recently the Village of Winnetka mistakenly believed that it had no control or standing to protect the beaches and the bluffs. However, when the public recently went to the IDNR to express concerns and request clarification on several lakefront matters, the response from Jim Casey was that the Village of Winnetka could have denied all of it as they have final jurisdiction over the lakefront. It was shocking to learn that all of the other north shore communities had been exercising this control for years making Winnetka a magnet for over-building along the beach and lack of adherence to the public trust doctrine.

Although there are countless pictures to show what has happened to the formerly pristine beaches along the Winnetka shoreline, I share with you two pictures directly related to the special use permit you are considering now: a huge chain link fence in front of an already massive stone structure which totally obstructs the previously priceless view of the shoreline all the way to Evanston and creates a significant safety hazard.

You continue to hear from the large amount of letters sent to you and through the turnout of residents protesting the Elder Centennial plan. One of the biggest complaints from them, your own board and the Zoning board, was about the fence and disregard for the safety of the public. Now the WPD is asking you to ignore all of that and approve the fence without seeing the rest of what they plan to do to our beaches.

What do Winnetka residents want? Residents want access to their lakefront and the ability to walk along it's beautiful shores. Residents of Winnetka want their voices to be heard as they continuously and strongly object to the desecration of the lakefront ~ a design and changes, including this fencing which only became an issue due to recent interactions between former Winnetka Park District board members and officials and a singular property owner. Winnetka deserves so much better than this and it is imperative the Plan Commission deny this request.



THE BEFORE VIEW
May 30, 2022

Evanston

Centennial

Elder Beach



THE AFTER VIEW
July 10, 2024

View South after construction of 205 rock wall -
WPD walls will be bigger

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Subject: January 26, 2026
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 9:00:34 PM

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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January 28, 2026

Re: Special Use Permit for Dog Fence

Plan Commissioners:

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

The plans for the off-leash dog beach, submitted as part of tonight's agenda packet are vague and therefore misleading. The drawings fail to inform the plan committee and the public of the breakwater now existing at the north boundary of 205 Sheridan (South Centennial boundary) or highlight the existing sheet pile. Furthermore the fence elevations are not presented in the context. Had the sheet pile and the breakwater been boldly drawn, the benign looking gap between the thin line representing the fence and the property line of 205 Sheridan Rd. would seem entirely hazardous and redundant. The proposed fence is 93 ft. 3in. long from the toe of the bluff to its eastern terminus in Lake Michigan. It runs into the lake at a distance of about 15 ft. from the ordinary water line, but that stretch would increase to 40 plus ft. should the lake rise to the high water mark. At best, the proposed 20 ft. gap will be an unsightly debris collector and at worst it would be a trap endangering the lives of people and dogs that might get stuck and battered between jagged rocks, a corroded sheet pile and an ungiving fence. Yes, the lake can get choppy and wavy.

The need to provide a fence when there is already a pile of rocks at that property line is questionable. Dogs aren't likely to pick their way over rocks in favor of running and playing on the beach.

Drawings are a powerful tool of communication. They should be comprehensive and describe adjacency. In this case they fail to do so. Therefore, please deny this Special Use Permit.

Joanna Karatzas
Winnetka Resident

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Planning](#)
Subject: In support of dog beach fence
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:48:12 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi. This is Christine Casper. I live at 226 Sheridan Road. I can't make it to the public hearing due to travel, but as avid and grateful users of the dog beach, my family would like to record our support for the fence plan (Case no. 25-28- SU). We would be glad for the beach to be in compliance with Cook County animal control regulations so we can enjoy off-leash beach fun and exercise with no hassle.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: SUP Condition One: Protecting the Public's General Welfare
Date: Monday, February 2, 2026 9:48:14 AM
Attachments: [84873FB4-55E3-4619-B884-F87243E1E88A.png](#)
[5D0B060A-04FE-493E-994C-7ACE4E0C34A5.png](#)
[5FF65C27-B208-4173-9487-781E85A6832A.png](#)
[01F18412-4280-40C5-B55E-0209643B9AEC.png](#)
[BEEB76DD-1FC7-4F2D-8ECE-D5B846ECEB0A.png](#)
[7F94034E-27D5-4836-8CB3-A4E6B1D16190.png](#)
[261 Sheridan Property Exchange - Path Forward\(5\) copy.pdf](#)
[AnonymousDonorHemmingsRomanoff.pdf](#)
[Final Signed Donation Agreement.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Ann:
Would you please share this email with ZBA for its 2/9/26 meeting? Thank you.

To: Village of Winnetka Zoning Board of Appeals

Winnetka Park District's ("WPD") Centennial fencing application does not meet the Village's conditions for granting a Special Use Permit ("SUP") because it violates Village Zoning Code Section 17.56.010 Condition One: that the special use not be detrimental to or endanger the public's general welfare. Embarking on a massive project with no cost caps or inflation factors, including a dog beach fencing project initiated for spurious reasons, would be detrimental to the public's general welfare. Unusually generous indemnification provisions, egregiously one-sided terms, and a framework more closely resembling a privately-oriented control agreement than a donation would endanger the public's general welfare for over fifty years. While benefitting the park's neighbor, Centennial Park's diminution would permanently harm the public. It is contrary to the public's general welfare and against the public interest to benefit a private landowner at Winnetka residents' expense.

CENTENNIAL PROJECT'S PRIVATE ORIENTATION AND FINANCIAL BURDEN IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE PUBLIC'S GENERAL WELFARE

WPD's 2020 Exchange Agreement and 2024 Donation Agreement with Restrictive Covenant (the "Agreements") impose significant burdens upon 12,400 Winnetkans. WPD's fencing SUP is part of the scheme. This violates Village Code Section 17.56.010 SUP Condition One, which states that a SUP may not operate to the public's detriment.

1. WPD's 8/27/25 Zoom meeting with IDNR and USACE was primarily focused on advancing its swap agreement and breakwater projects. WPD's discussion of this dog beach fencing can only be understood as a next-step in achieving WPD's property exchange, as well as launching WPD's \$15,588,815 Elder-Centennial plan—the cost estimates for which contain neither an inflation factor nor caps. It is against the public interest to recommend granting a SUP for this plan.

https://winparkdistrict-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/snazzal_winpark_org/Ea_fE4tEGE5DkrL6Voe0ikABGWtk0Ku6xS2ju5VEu5ZJOA

Fund 37: Capital Projects Fund

Fund Overview

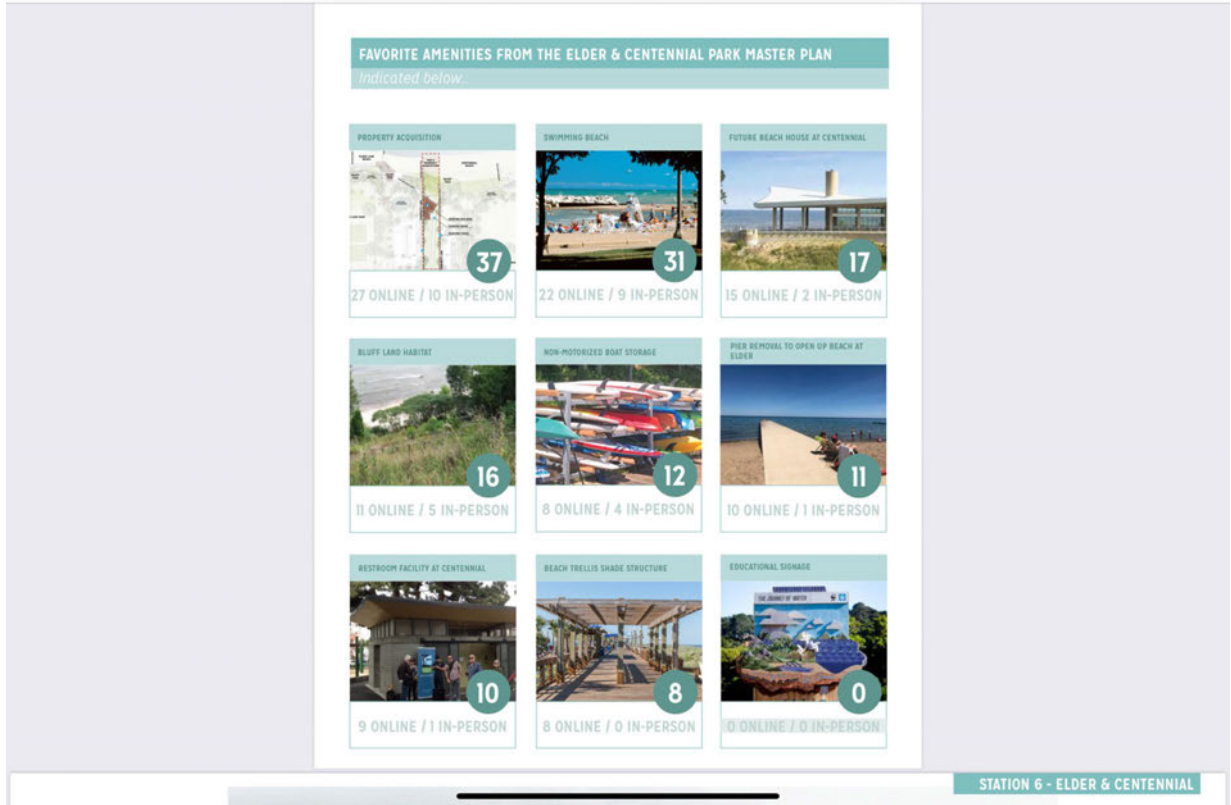
	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Year End Estimate	2026 Proposed Budget	\$ Variance 2025 Budget to 2026 Budget	% Variance 2025 Budget to 2026 Budget
Beginning Reserves	\$ 6,319,972	\$ 5,710,365	\$ 5,710,365	\$ 3,745,843	\$ (1,964,522)	-34.4%
Interest Income + Donations	\$ 237,625	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 26,404	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	0.0%
Operating Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
NOI (before capitals)	\$ 237,625	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 26,404	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	0.0%
Capital Expenses	\$ 847,232	\$ 17,636,354	\$ 1,990,926	\$ 16,038,815	\$ (1,597,539)	-9.1%
Transfers (In) / Out	\$ -	\$ (1,000,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	-100.0%
Total Expenses	\$ 847,232	\$ 16,636,354	\$ 1,990,926	\$ 16,038,815	\$ (597,539)	-3.6%
Net Fund Income	\$ (609,607)	\$ (13,636,354)	\$ (1,964,522)	\$ (13,038,815)	\$ 597,539	-4.4%
Ending Reserves	\$ 5,710,365	\$ (7,925,989)	\$ 3,745,843	\$ (9,292,972)	\$ (1,366,983)	17.2%
25% Restricted	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

* \$15,588,815 of the 2026 Capital Budget is designated for Elder and Centennial projects, to be spent 2026-2028. Budget based on 2026 construction costs.

2. ZBA Commissioners should know that in 2020 WPD issued \$9 million in G.O. Bonds to finance its lakefront projects—after which the Exchange Agreement fell apart. WPD has not drawn down the 2020 G.O. bonds’ remaining balance and had to make a \$258,653.02 bond arbitrage rebate payment to the U.S. Treasury in 2025. According to Commissioner David Seaman, WPD cannot issue more debt without going to referendum, which WPD refuses to do because the public will not approve it.

Expense Approval Report				Payment Dates: 08/22/2025 - 09/18/2025	
Vendor Name	Payable Number	Post Date	Item Description	Account Number	Amount
ULINE, INC	196446103	08/28/2025	TREE PROTECTION BURLAP	01-0400-0000-52545	152.90
				Vendor ULINE, INC Total:	243.07
Vendor: UNITED STATES TREASURY					
UNITED STATES TREASURY	INV0015756	09/11/2025	2020 Bond arbitrage rebate	37-3700-0000-60122	258,653.02
				Vendor UNITED STATES TRFASURY Total:	258,653.02

The lack of public support dates back to 2014-2015. WPD’s 2030 Lakefront Master Plan is speciously based on a statistically invalid survey that tallied only 37 votes in support of acquiring 261 Sheridan. This raises further suspicions about WPD’s fencing SUP and what is behind its effort to build barriers across public lands and waters.



3. Over the past several years WPD has been levying taxes at the maximum rate, plus a surtax related to separately issued 2014 debt. Unlike other park districts, WPD has declined to adjust the tax rate downward when Cook County’s Equalized Assessed Values skyrocket. WPD has run up at least \$2.3 million in fees related to the Elder-Centennial project. Its repulsion of an anonymous donor’s \$3 million minimum donation offer in 2023-2024—based on an exaggerated fear of litigation, which WPD elevated above the public’s interest in saving Centennial Park—brings out-of-pocket and economic costs up to nearly \$6 million. WPD’s lack of desire to contain the project’s costs and to protect Centennial Park will continue until WPD’s plans are voted down—at ZBA, at the Design Review Board, and ultimately at the Village Council.

12/11/2025	Ancel Glink	Elder + Centennial Legal Work	\$225.00	11/1/25 - 11/30/25	Project Work
11/9/2025	Ancel Glink	Elder + Centennial Legal Work	\$337.50	12/1/25 - 12/31/25	Project Work

1 of 1

	Workshop, marketing
	Property Exchange
\$82,230.55	Breakwater Project
	Stormwater Elder
\$3,830.00	Dog Park
\$3,360.00	Permit Fee
	Fundraising
\$31,654.25	FOIA and Litigation
\$121,074.80	2025 Combined Total

	Workshop, marketing
\$226,877.85	Property Exchange
\$275,310.57	Breakwater Project
\$41,399.33	Stormwater Elder
\$4,139.89	Dog Park
\$10,000.00	Permit Fee
\$393.68	Fundraising
	FOIA and Litigation
\$558,121.32	Total 2019-2022 (June)

\$16,237.75	Workshop, marketing
\$86,892.02	Property Exchange
\$1,549,045.21	Breakwater Project
	Stormwater Elder
\$7,841.74	Dog Park
\$3,360.00	Permit Fee
	Fundraising
\$148,539.67	FOIA and Litigation
\$1,811,916.39	Total 2022 (July) - Current

\$16,237.75	Workshop, marketing
\$313,769.87	Property Exchange
\$1,824,355.78	Breakwater Project
\$41,399.33	Stormwater Elder
\$11,981.63	Dog Park
\$13,360.00	Permit Fee
\$393.68	Fundraising
\$148,539.67	FOIA and Litigation
\$2,370,037.71	Grand Total

4. Donation Agreement Paragraph 4 contemplates payment of the \$3 million in two parts: \$1 million when a notice to proceed to construction is issued, and \$2 million within 30 days of the project’s completion. Despite this, WPD included the entire conditional \$3 million payment as revenue in its 2024, 2025 and 2026 budgets. At best, it should have been included as a footnote.

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4. Timing of Restricted Donation. IFF will make the Restricted Donation to WPD in two (2) installments for the Project as follows: (a) \$1,000,000.00 within 10 (ten) days of: (i) the receipt by IFF of a notice to proceed (“NTP”) for construction; (ii) the WPD’s receipt of all applicable permits required in order to start construction of the Project showing the Project Elements will be constructed the same as depicted in the Plan in Exhibit A; and (b) \$2,000,000.00 within thirty (30) days of completion of the Project and the Arbitrator’s review and confirmation, in his/her/its sole discretion, that the Project Elements have been constructed the same as provided in the permits issued for the Project.

5. Term. The duration of this Agreement shall begin upon the execution by both Parties and shall terminate on upon the end of fifty (50) years from the execution of this Agreement by both Parties.

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2025 Budget Presentation

Operating and Capital Revenues

Category	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Proposed Budget	\$ Variance 2024 Budget to 2025 Budget	% Variance 2024 Budget to 2025 Budget
Taxes	\$ 7,590,048	\$ 6,572,381	\$ 6,763,447	\$ 191,066	3%
Interest Income	\$ 825,021	\$ 655,000	\$ 400,000	\$ (255,000)	-39%
User Fees	\$ 4,832,906	\$ 5,498,416	\$ 7,222,511	\$ 1,724,095	31%
Recreation Program Fees	\$ 1,303,102	\$ 1,190,500	\$ 1,168,259	\$ (22,241)	-2%
Capital Revenues (Donations)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	N/A
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 513,726	\$ 466,883	\$ 726,857	\$ 259,974	56%
Pro Shop	\$ 84,433	\$ 93,535	\$ 165,260	\$ 71,725	77%
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 15,149,236	\$ 14,476,715	\$ 19,446,334	\$ 4,969,619	34%

Reasons for Variance(s):

- **Taxes:** Inflation tied to consumer price index increase of 3.4%
- **User fees and Pro Shop:** 2025 revenue higher due to full year of golf course operation
- **Rec Program fees:** D36 construction causing cautious approach to camp and special event revenues
- **Miscellaneous Income:** Includes food and beverage service at golf course

4

Illinois Office of the Comptroller-WPD Delinquency Report

Delinquency Report created from the Illinois Office of the Comptroller's Local Government Warehouse - 33 of 132

2022 Village Center RPA	04/30/2022	N	06/15/2023	N
2022 Willow Springs TIF 2	04/30/2022	N		N
2023 Annual Report	12/31/2023	Y	08/27/2024	N
2023 Village Center RPA	04/30/2023	N		N
2023 Willow Springs TIF 2	04/30/2023	N		N

Code Unit Name

016/840/12 Winnetka Park District

<u>FY</u>	<u>Instrument</u>	<u>FYEnd</u>	<u>Final Due Ext Date</u>	<u>Uploaded Awaiting Approval</u>
2023	Annual Report	12/31/2023	Y 08/27/2024	N

Cumberland County

Code Unit Name


018/040/01 Neoga Township

<u>FY</u>	<u>Instrument</u>	<u>FYEnd</u>	<u>Final Due Ext Date</u>	<u>Uploaded Awaiting Approval</u>
2023	Annual Report	12/31/2023	Y 08/27/2024	N

5. The Agreements contemplate issuing charitable deduction letters. The Exchange Agreement relies

upon coordinated appraisals that are outdated. The target value of the Exchange Agreement’s charitable deduction letter is the figure that carried over into 2024’s Donation Agreement and Restrictive Covenant. In either case, WPD’s issuance of a charitable deduction letter for \$3 million would almost certainly be regarded by tax authorities as a “quid pro quo.” The offsetting value of getting adjacent parkland that would increase 205 Sheridan’s value while keeping the public further at bay, and/or the value of a fifty year restrictive covenant over “Project Elements” spanning North-South and East-West across a neighboring 5.3 acre public park and lakebed, could exceed \$3 million. These values have not been appraised, which is detrimental to the public’s general welfare.

Exchange Agreement



B. The approximate fair market value of 261 Sheridan is \$6,200,000 based on Orchard's arm's length purchase agreement for 261 Sheridan and related appraisals. The Parties have commissioned two appraisals of 261 Sheridan to be completed prior to Exchange Closing, defined below. The Parties acknowledge and agree that said appraisals will be attached to and incorporated into this Agreement as **Exhibit 3**.

C. No earnest money for the transactions contemplated by this Agreement shall be required.

D. At the Exchange Closing, Park District agrees to accept a charitable contribution from Orchard in an amount equal to the fair market value of 261 Sheridan less the fair market value of the Centennial Parcel. Orchard shall be solely responsible to undertake all actions and to pay all costs associated with establishing and documenting any such charitable contribution. Park District makes no representation, covenant, or warranty that the contribution will constitute a charitable donation or will be deductible for federal, state or local taxation purposes for Orchard or any other person, entity, or organization, or that any amount claimed as a charitable contribution qualifies as such or as a deductible expense. Park District will provide Orchard with a letter acknowledging a charitable donation in the amount as determined by the appraisal process described in this subsection.

Section 4. Conditions Precedent.

No conveyance specified herein shall occur unless and until the following conditions have been satisfied or waived by the Party benefitting from such contingency:

A. Each Party securing such governmental approvals as such Party may reasonably deem necessary to comply with zoning, intended use, consolidation and subdivision requirements applicable to divide and combine their respective properties with other land and to build thereon for park or residential purposes (as the case may be) and any other third-party approvals that may be reasonably required (“Government Approvals”). Governmental Approvals shall be granted in such a manner that they shall not become effective unless and until the Party seeking the Government Approval takes title to the Parcel to which said Approval applies. Each Party shall diligently process such applications and petitions as may be required for the Governmental Approvals commencing after the Effective Date, and the Parties agree to reasonably work together to submit joint applications for Government Approvals. For avoidance of doubt, in the event the Village of Winnetka puts in place any conditions impacting the Centennial Parcel that are unacceptable to Orchard in its sole discretion, Orchard will have the right to terminate this Agreement.

B. As required by the Park Code, the Park District has completed the following procedures which were a condition precedent to an exchange of real estate with Orchard:

1. Determination of the recreational suitability of 261 Sheridan and the Centennial Parcel.

3

WPD seems to discuss coordinating appraisal values to arrive at the desired charitable deduction.

“The Appraisal Problem”

261 Sheridan was acquired in an off-the-market transaction

Identification of the Appraisal Problem

Subject Description

The subject is a residential property situated between Elder Lane Park and Centennial Park along the lakefront of Winnetka. It has approximately 70 feet of frontage along Sheridan Road and Lake Michigan. According to a site plan by B.H. Suhr dated 10/14/2020, the site has a plateau area of 24,586 SF, with 3,443 SF from the top/bluff to waters edge including beach, for a total lot area of 28,029 SF. The site is improved with a 5,410 SF, contemporary single family residence built in 2009 which reportedly has 12 rooms, three bedrooms and 4.3 baths. The site is zoned R-2.

A legal description of the site follows:

Lot 1 in Ewers Consolidation recorded as Document No. 85195143 of Lot 5 (except the Northwesterly 30 Feet thereof), (said Lot being bounded on the West by Sheridan Road and on the East by Lake Michigan) in Subdivision of Blocks 1, 2, 3, 4 and vacated streets known as Belleview Place, lying between Blocks 1 and 2 on the East and Blocks 3 and 4 on the West in Lake Shore Subdivision of Lot 1 in Nicholas Simon and Other's Subdivision of Part of the Southeast Fractional ¼ of Section 21 and of the Fractional Southwest ¼ of Section 22, Township 42 North, Range 13 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Cook County, Illinois.

Property Identification

Property Name	261 Sheridan Road
Address	261 Sheridan Road Winnetka, Illinois 60093
Tax ID	05-21-412-018
Owner of Record	The Orchard 2020 Revocable Trust

Sale History

The subject property was purchased on October 9, 2020 for \$6,200,000. This was an off-market transaction and the property had not been listed for sale at the time of purchase. The grantee/buyer was Orchard Trust and the grantor/seller was Richard Claude Trust. The sale was recorded November 10, 2020, Doc # 2031539132 (Warranty Deed).

Pending Transactions

The owners of the 203-205 Sheridan Road property entered into an Exchange Agreement with the Winnetka Park District to acquire the southern 70 feet of Centennial Park in exchange for 261 Sheridan Road, which they also had purchased. The plan was to consolidate the southern portion of

Appraisals appear to be coordinated

Appraisals-URGENT!.pdf

Just want to make sure we are on the same page regarding the following:



My notes indicate that you were going to obtain:

- Updated appraisal from Ricard's appraiser for 261 Sheridan:** You are going to talk to Rick Shopiro about getting Claude Ricard's appraiser to provide us with a new appraisal for 261 Sheridan Road by no later than 9-28. We anticipate that this appraisal will come in at \$6.2 million again. This appraisal should be certified to both Orchard and the Park District, so Orchard can use it for tax purposes. Ricard's appraiser was William Stulgin of Argianas & Associates. I have attached a copy of his prior appraisal so you have his contact information. In my opinion it would not be inappropriate to contact William Stulgin directly and engage him. (You could also engage Stulgin for the Centennial piece, or you could use Marous and a second firm as described in par. 2. Give the short turnaround time, it might be better to spread the work around).
- Two appraisals from appraiser referred by Orchard (or 2 appraisals from another firm):** You indicated that Orchard had an appraisal firm. You correctly advised him that his firm would have a conflict of interest and should not be used to provide an appraisal on either parcel. Orchard offered to have his firm provide a referral. You were going to retain that firm for one appraisal of 261 Sheridan and one appraisal of the Centennial Parcel. I suggested that you get quotes from other appraisal firms to make sure selection was "arms length," before proceeding with Orchard's referral. I have attached a list of other firms from which you can get quotes for the two needed appraisals. The quotes you obtain should include a delivery date no later than 9-28.
 - One appraisal for 261 Sheridan
 - One appraisal for Centennial Parcel
- Marous Appraisal for Centennial Parcel:** Confirm Marous will deliver on appraisal for Centennial Parcel no later than 9-28.

Call me if you want help on any of this.

Thanks,

Steven B. Adams
Attorney
Robbins Schwartz
55 W. Monroe St., Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60603-5144
p: 312.332.7760
c: 630.890.9700
f: 312.332.7768
sadams@robbins-schwartz.com

Broader Issue of Concern: WPD suggests moving conversations to phone calls and WhatsApp

John Peterson
Executive Director
Winnetka Park District
+1.847.501.2074
jpeterson@winnetka.org

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----
From: 8477700829@vzwpx.com
Date: 6/25/22 10:03 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: John Peterson
Subject:

Either Costa or I will send you all remaining items - - four-page application, narrative, exhibits - - for your final review and approval and seek your instructions to send the materials to the agencies.

Thanks.

Thank you

Good morning, Mister James! With the responses and related documents now submitted to the regulatory agencies, can I please work with you today or tomorrow to identify the exact documents you'd like posted on the WPD website as part of our resolution? Anxious to post the documents at the most appropriate time. Thanks.

Yes indeed.

Hate to bother you. Open to chat? United States Army Corps of Engineers called Orchard 2020. Positive news.

Try calling me or let's use whatsapp.

Am standing by for formal notice in writing to notify others. Got to see to believe.

From Orchard 2020 = "I spoke to army corp yesterday and got good news let me know if you have a minute to catch up"

Agree... no news until we see it in writing.. news must come from agencies

Yes.

Tricia Charbonneau telephone with an update regarding the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Essentially, she echoed Orchard 2020's communication Saturday. Still nothing in writing from the USACOE.

Tricia wants to ensure the WPD begins focusing efforts on a one-page FAQ document, slides and related content for the open house sessions, communications to the promoters of the design from 6-8 months ago (asking them to once again communicate their support for the project), a marketing table at the A.C. Nielsen Tennis Center to secure signatures regarding the project, and a form letter that expresses support for the design = to be signed by Orchard 2020's Winnetka friends and their community networks. She also suggested we keep an eye out for social media communications in favor of and opposed to the project.

Happy to discuss whenever it's best for you.

Next Zoom session has been moved to April 27 = FYI.

Please reread your message to me and let me know what's wrong with the message

6. WPD's civil design engineer estimated the useful life of WPD's proposed Centennial breakwater at 20 years, see winnetka.org. USACE estimates the typical armored stone breakwater's useful life at 25 years. The Donation Agreement and Restrictive Covenant impose maintenance obligations upon taxpayers for 50 years—including Centennial's armored stone breakwater, which will be subject to shoreline conditions and Lake Michigan storms for twice as long as its useful life. WPD's open-ended maintenance obligations beyond the Project Elements' useful lives impose unreasonable burdens that benefit a private landowner. They are detrimental to the public's general welfare.

7. WPD-IFF's Donation Agreement with Restrictive Covenant fails to define an essential term: Force Majeure:

12. Termination of Obligations. The Parties agree once this Agreement has been executed by IFF and WPD, and once the Project is completed consistent with the plans in Exhibit A, and once all donations due under this Agreement have been funded by IFF, IFF shall not be able to require any refund of donated funds except as otherwise set forth in this Agreement. The WPD may choose to terminate the Project at any time at its sole discretion and refund IFF, as the case may be, the monies paid to WPD in their entirety before the completion of the Project. In the event the Project is terminated, IFF's continued obligation to make any contributions shall automatically terminate. If all or a portion of the Project is destroyed beyond repair due to a *force majeure* event, or any other circumstance, then the WPD will, as soon as possible, restore any of the Project Elements effected to their respective prior conditions and locations and compliant with all laws prior to the event. This *force majeure* clause will not apply to the stone breakwater system at the Centennial Park beachfront.

WPD's 2025 agreement with the Damico Family Foundation defines Force Majeure Events for a playfield scoreboard.

6:30 PM Sat Jan 31

DamicoFamilyFoundationDA.pdf

of the State of Illinois, and the exclusive venue for purposes of enforcing this Agreement shall be the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois.

e. Severability. The Parties agree that if any provision of this Agreement is held invalid for any reason whatsoever, the remaining provisions shall not be affected thereby if such remainder would then continue to conform to the purposes of this Agreement and the terms and requirements of applicable law.

f. Force Majeure. Neither Party shall be liable for any failure or delay in the performance of its obligations under this Agreement (other than payment obligations) if such failure or delay is caused by or results from acts beyond the reasonable control of such Party, including but not limited to acts of God, severe weather, flooding, fire, natural disasters, pandemics, government orders or restrictions, labor disputes, war, terrorism, or other unforeseen events or circumstances ("Force Majeure Events"). In the event of a Force Majeure Event, the affected Party shall promptly notify the other Party in writing of the nature and expected duration of the delay. The time for performance of the affected obligations shall be extended for a period equal to the duration of the Force Majeure Event, unless otherwise agreed upon in writing by the Parties. Furthermore, following the installation of the scoreboard, the Park District shall not be held responsible for the repair or replacement of the equipment in the event it is damaged, destroyed, or rendered inoperable due to a Force Majeure Event. Any such costs shall not be the obligation of the Park District unless otherwise agreed to in writing.

g. Authority. Each Party represents and warrants that it has the full corporate power and legal authority to enter into this Agreement, the ability, capacity and means to carry out the obligations herein and the power and authority to execute this Agreement.

h. Binding Effect. This Agreement shall be binding upon the successors of each respective Party and/or its governing board.

i. Headings. Headings are for convenience only and are not a part of this Agreement and shall not be used in construing it.

WPD's Stormwater IGA with the Village also defines force majeure:

policies that are substantially the same as their respective Insurance Policies) during the term of this Agreement.

V. Miscellaneous Provisions.

A. Force Majeure. For purposes of this Agreement, “*Force Majeure*” means a strike, lockout, act of God, or other factor beyond a party’s reasonable control and reasonable ability to remedy; provided, however, that Force Majeure will not include delays caused by weather conditions, unless those conditions are unusually severe or abnormal considering the time of year and the particular location of the Property. For any delay under this Agreement caused by a Force Majeure, the Party delayed will, upon timely written notice to the other Party, be entitled to an

WPD’s 2024 agreement with IFF leaves an entire universe of taxpayer-borne expenses wide open, imposing maintenance, repair and replacement costs related to Project Elements, including the stone breakwater if it is damaged other than by some undefined Force Majeure Event. The omission benefits IFF. It is detrimental to the public’s general welfare.

8. The Donation Agreement with Restrictive Covenant has other objectionable language as well, such as unusually broad taxpayer indemnifications to the benefit of a private landowner for half a century. Nonspecific tax indemnification language does not exclude increased property taxes. Inadequate non-reciprocal insurance coverage language also exists.

Indemnification Concerns

- (a) IFF Has Approval Authority Over WPD Counsel
- (b) Conditions Do Not Have An Expiration Date

WPD shall be responsible for the payment of all taxes, if and as applicable, associated with the Project initiative and the Donation by IFF hereunder, and shall indemnify and hold IFF and its affiliates harmless therefrom. WPD shall also be responsible for ensuring all work is in full compliance with all legal standards. So long as WPD is the owner of the property on which the respective Project Element is located, WPD shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless IFF and his/her respective employees, agents and representatives from and against any and all claims of any nature arising from or related to the Project initiative or use of the Project (including but not limited to any personal injury, property damage, activity, work or things done, or permitted by WPD or its agents) or arising from or related to any negligence of WPD or any of WPD’s agents; and in case any action or proceeding be brought against IFF by reason of any such claim, WPD shall defend the same at WPD’s expense by counsel reasonably satisfactory to IFF, which approval will not be unreasonably conditions, denied or delayed. WPD, as a material part of the consideration to IFF, hereby assumes all risk of damage to property or injury to persons in, on or about the Project arising from any cause attributable to WPD and WPD hereby waives all claims in respect thereof against IFF.

This Section 11 shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement and the expiration or termination of any obligation owing to any Party under this agreement.

WPD Appraisal Process Activity Could Result in Tax Liability.
Potential State or Local Tax Liability is Not Carved Out from Indemnification and Hold Harmless Language.

13. Acknowledgement of Donation. WPD shall complete and sign a charitable contribution receipt acknowledgement as required under the tax law in form and substance satisfactory to IFF. WPD does not warrant any tax consequence as a result of the Donation and this Agreement shall not be subject to termination as a result of any particular tax consequence. WPD shall not indemnify, defend or hold harmless IFF from any orders, decisions or rulings made by the IRS related to the Donation except to the extent caused solely by reason of the WPD's acts or omissions.

9. The Restrictive Covenant contains a \$3 million liquidated damages clause— a huge potential liability. It explicitly permits IFF to file a specific performance claim and to receive WPD's general ledger of project expenses. Additionally, WPD agrees to retain its project-related records for at least seven years. These terms are more characteristic of a control agreement than a donation.

b. The WPD confirms any funds received by it from IFF under this agreement will be used exclusively for governmental purposes and will not be used for any activities that would cause the donation not to qualify as a charitable contribution under 26 USC 170(c)(1). Each of the IFF and the WPD agree it will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws. The WPD further agrees it is responsible for the proper expenditure of the Restricted Donation and for the maintenance of adequate supporting records consistent with generally accepted accounting principles. WPD shall provide IFF a general ledger describing the Project expenses within ninety (90) days after the Project is completed. WPD shall retain all records related to the Project for not less than seven (7) years.

The Restrictive Covenant gives the payor rights to have an arbiter—former WPD Executive Director John Peterson, who was intimately involved in the Agreements—determine if the five defined Project Elements satisfy IFF's expectations for half a century. This time period is measured not from the date of the agreement, but after Centennial's "grand opening." If IFF raises questions about the Project Elements' conformance to agreed upon designs, current and future taxpayers would have to pay half of the costs for employing "design experts" over the course of 50 years. This burden is unreasonable. It ties future boards' hands and prevents community members' input into flexible, alternative designs and future uses of Centennial Park—again, a matter of significant public interest because it is more consistent with a control agreement that benefits private interests than a donation.

10. Beginning in 2025 WPD began to discuss financial pressures publicly, ascribing them to increased salaries relative to its revenue streams. It had already proposed adjustments to and increases in fees and program costs. WPD also moved money between various funds. Because that was not enough to address WPD's financial challenges, in January 2026 WPD voted 5-2 to begin advertising more of its parks as rental space-athletic facilities. This changes WPD's existing Policy Manual, which had listed only the four rentable categories that we are familiar with:

Behavior Policy outlined in sections 6.03.

17.03 OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FIELDS AVAILABLE FOR RENT

The Winnetka Park District has available to the public outdoor athletic fields to rent for personal use. Fees to rent each athletic field are approved by the Park Board of Commissioners on an annual basis. The most recently approved fees will be outlined in the Winnetka Park District Athletic Field Rental Application, starting on January 2nd of each year.

Fields
Baseball/Softball (Skokie Playfields)
Natural Turf Football/Soccer/Lacrosse (Skokie Playfields, Nick Corwin Park, and Little Duke)
Artificial Turf (Skokie Playfields)
Outdoor Turf Lights(Skokie Playfield Artificial Turf Fields, Baseball Field 5 and Pony)

Say goodbye to our tranquil neighborhood parks.

WPD’s next step may be selling off more public parkland, which WPD has already done under guise of labeling certain parks “underperforming assets.” WPD forced the Winnetka-Northfield Library District’s purchase of Library Park to pay for its Elder-Centennial plans. WPD threatened to sell this so-called “underperforming asset” to a real estate developer, mentioning its zoning influence with the Village. Winnetka Caucus Council survey results confirm that the public broadly opposes getting rid of parkland. All of this violates SUP Condition One’s prohibition against issuing a permit to the detriment of the public’s general welfare. Excerpts from WNPLD’s forced purchase presentation are attached at bottom.

CONCLUSION: WPD’s Centennial fencing project is an overall disaster in the making. This is a matter of great public interest. Please protect our welfare and decline to recommend WPD’s permit application for approval. Thank you.

Kristine Schriesheim
Winnetka taxpayer

Sent: 5/24/2021 12:00:00 AM
From: David Seaman <DSeaman@winpark.org>
To: "John Peterson"
Cc:
Bcc:
Importance: Normal
Subject: 261 Sheridan Property Exchange - Path Forward

John,

As discussed. I'll be sending this each Commissioner later today. I would like to enter into record/discuss at next Board meeting.

Thank you,

David

Director Peterson, Board President Archambault and fellow Commissioners,

I respectfully request the Board reconsider the decision to pursue litigation after the 10-day notice of default has expired with Orchard 2020 in order to force performance of terms in the Property Exchange. My request for reconsideration is based upon the following:

1. Considerable Litigation "Unknown Knowns"

- a. Unknown knowns = things you think you know but later you determine you didn't know. There are many unknown knowns in litigation.
- b. It is unclear what legal and non-legal consequences WPD Staff and Board are underwriting by pursuing litigation against Orchard 2020.
- c. A "good" or "strong" case does not equate to an "easy", "inexpensive", or "right" case.
- d. It will be very difficult to turn back after initiating litigation, this is the inertia of litigation.

2. Legal Services Expense

- a. In 2016 WPD spent approximately 25k for legal services, in 2020 nearly 100k, and in March of 2021 alone (billed in April) \$21k in legal services. April/May?
- b. It is logical to conclude that litigation will be an expensive endeavor. 250k? 500k?
- c. Orchard 2020 is an extremely well-resourced entity which could lead to a very long litigation timeline. Think potentially years not months.
- d. WPD needs every dollar for capitals over the next several years.

3. Future Relationship with Orchard 2020

- a. If we move forward with litigation, WPD will permanently impair any chance of a respectful and functional relationship with Orchard 2020.
- b. Regardless of "win" or "lose", Orchard 2020 could prove to be an extremely challenging neighbor and will present roadblocks on the development or use of 261 Sheridan and Elder/Centennial Beach.

4. Significant Business to Manage

- a. As we all know, WPD has 5 beaches, 27 parks/properties (own or maintain), tennis facility, hockey rink, golf facility, and paddle facility. It's a lot!
- b. WPD needs all resources focused on managing these assets.

5. Existing Financial Challenges

- a. WPD has \$7.5mm in Elder/Centennial Beach budgeted improvements, but only \$5mm remaining proceeds from the most recent debt financing.
- b. WPD has nearly \$5.3mm of budgeted operating capitals in the next three years, not major but operating. This is an unusually large amount.
- c. There will also be considerable losses due to golf course closure in 2022 and 2023. The Golf Fund is budgeted to lose \$1mm in 2022. Will 2023 be any better?
- d. WPD has very limited forecasted unrestricted reserves, approximately \$2.5mm.
- e. WPD has no current ability to service additional non-referendum debt.
- f. It is fair to assume there will be no contribution as previously budgeted to help defer the costs of the south breakwater.

6. Moving Forward

- a. Initiating litigation will only slow down the improvements to Elder/Centennial Beach, we can move forward more expeditiously without litigation.

b. There could be another devastating weather event that may cause additional damage to Elder/Centennial Beach. To delay improvements = increasing our financial exposure.

c. WPD has flourished without owning 261 Sheridan. WPD has great assets, fantastic programming and a wonderful reputation within the community.

d. Importantly, Director Peterson should maintain informal contact with Orchard 2020 as needed.

It has been said, "possession is 9/10 of the law". Orchard 2020 owns 261 Sheridan, unfortunately WPD does not. Yes, we have the right to pursue litigation to attempt to enforce performance of the Property Exchange. However, litigation comes with risks, uncertainties, and costs, both financial and non-financial, that I believe outweigh our right to pursue litigation with Orchard 2020.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

David Seaman

John Peterson

Subject: FW: Confidential circulation to Board only-Following up [LP-ACTIVE.38463.38463-86858.FID1345222]

From: Robert A. Romanoff <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 3:14 PM
To: Robert A. Romanoff <[REDACTED]>; James Hemmings <jhemmings@winpark.org>
Cc: Christina Codo <CCodo@winpark.org>; Shannon Nazzal <snazzal@winpark.org>; Simon, Adam <ASimon@ancelglink.com>
Subject: RE: Following up [LP-ACTIVE.38463.38463-86858.FID1345222]

James –

Thanks for your message from earlier this week. I have copied your questions, with our client's response to the questions. Prior to responding to your individual questions, I wanted to share that the donors' only criteria are that WPD must "refund" the donation (in a manner described below) if WPD transfers any portion of the Centennial or Elder Lane park property to a private party or enters into an agreement, easement or similar restriction with a private party that restricts the design, modification or operation of the park. The goal is to provide funds to support the parks free and clear of such private restrictions.

- One of the conditions you expressed on behalf of your client is that funds should not be used toward a project that would inure to the benefit of an individual. There are many public projects that have a primary public purpose that also have an incidental private benefit. Would the WPD be forbidden from using the donation in a way that results in any incidental private benefit? **No**. How would you propose such a condition be worded in a donation agreement?

Answer - TBD, based on points above.

- One of the concerns you mentioned the donor articulating is the existence of plans to build a fence that the donor believes will provide a benefit to an individual, in this case the neighboring property owner to the south. This feature is set out in the current permit drawings that were developed by the WPD independent of any land swap or donation agreement. Are there concerns that the donor has with the current permit drawings, a change to which would be required as a condition of the donation?

Answer - The donors do not seek to impose their own design requirements on WPD. The donors do not love the fencing design, but as long as WPD is not building the fence because it is bound by an agreement to a private party to build or maintain the fence in a certain way, there is no impact on the donation.

- One of the conditions of the proposed donation is that the WPD cancel the land swap agreement relating to 261 Sheridan Avenue. Would your client be willing to indemnify, defend and hold the WPD harmless from any litigation or other legal proceedings resulting from the cancellation of that agreement?

Answer - The funds are unrestricted and could be used for any purpose, including responding to any lawsuit. If there is a need for more money, please advise how much and the donors will consider.

- You expressed that the desire of the donor is to maintain Elder and Centennial as free and clear for the public. Can you please confirm that free and clear is in reference to the existence of easements, encumbrances, etc., rather than placing a restriction on the WPD should it elect to charge for access to those parks (for example, through the requirement of a beach pass)? Assuming that free and clear is limited to the non-existence of easements, encumbrances, etc., can you also please confirm that the desire to ensure free and clear applies only to Elder and Centennial parks, and not other WPD property? How would you propose a condition to this end be written for purposes of a donation agreement?

Answer – The restrictions are limited to Elder and Centennial and are not intended to limit the WPD from imposing beach pass requirements.

- Are there other conditions to the proposed donation beyond those identified in the questions above? If so, what are they?

Answer - Not that we can think of at this time.

- The donation is characterized as unrestricted as to the use of the funds. Can you confirm that WPD may use these funds for any purpose, and not just for any purpose associated with either Elder or Centennial parks?

Answer – Yes

- You have mentioned that you can provide references to the creditworthiness of the donor. Can you please provide those references?

Answer - Yes, if we have an understanding in principle, we will provide a letter from bank holding funds.

- What remedy would the donor have if the donor believes the Park District has violated the conditions of the donation?

Answer - Refund of donation (by transferring the donation to another 501(c)(3) organization to be identified in agreement).

- What is your client's timeframe for negotiating this donation agreement to completion?

Answer - 45 days seems reasonable once we reach an understanding.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Best regards,

Rob



Robert A. Romanoff
(he/him/his)
Past Managing Partner

Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC
120 S Riverside Plaza
Suite 1800
Chicago, IL 60606 USA
lplegal.com



Are you prepared for the Corporate Transparency Act that goes into effect January 1, 2024?

[Click here to learn more.](#)

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RESTRICTED DONATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT AND ISHBIA FAMILY FOUNDATION, INC. FOR THE CENTENNIAL PARK IMPROVEMENT PLAN

THIS AGREEMENT (“**Agreement**”) is entered into as of the 19th day of January 2024, by and between the Winnetka Park District (“**WPD**”), an Illinois municipal corporation and Ishbia Family Foundation, Inc. (“**IFF**”) (each a “**Party**” and collectively the “**Parties**”).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the purpose of this restricted Donation is to create access for citizens of all abilities to Winnetka’s Centennial Beach and to improve and re-establish a long-term dog beach at the southernmost portion of Centennial Park’s beachfront;

WHEREAS, the WPD owns, operates, controls and maintains properties covering nearly five square miles, consisting of twenty-six parks, five beaches, a boat launch, two golf courses, a tennis center, an ice arena, platform tennis courts, and athletic fields;

WHEREAS, the WPD provides a full range of year-round recreation programs, including athletics, fitness programs, education programs, summer camps, and special events;

WHEREAS, specific among these properties the WPD owns and operates is Centennial Park and Beach located at 225 Sheridan Rd, Winnetka, IL 60093 (“**Centennial Park**”);

WHEREAS, the WPD is a municipal corporation and a unit of local government organized, established and existing under the laws of the State of Illinois, 70 ILCS 1505 *et. seq.*;

WHEREAS, in conjunction with Winnetka residents and lakefront experts, the WPD developed and adopted the Winnetka Waterfront 2030 plan in 2016. This plan was and continues to serve as a conceptual guide for future projects that preserve and enhance WPD’s five beaches;

WHEREAS, pursuant to, in keeping with and consistent with its core mission, the WPD desires to renovate Centennial Park to provide high quality recreational opportunities, and will do so per the Centennial Park renovation plan approved by the WPD Board on October 19, 2023, as depicted on **Exhibit A** and referred to herein as either “**Exhibit A**” or the “**Plan**”, and fully incorporated into this Agreement;

WHEREAS, at the May 25, 2023, WPD Board Meeting, the WPD Board passed Resolution 23-5-25, which included Findings of Fact Concerning Elder Lane + Centennial

Park Beaches and Authorization and Direction for Preparation of Permit Plans and Specifications for Elder + Centennial Lakefront Improvements and Permit Applications to Permitting Authorities;

WHEREAS, between May 25, 2023 and October 19, 2023, the WPD refined its plans for the Elder + Centennial Lakefront Improvements, and this Plan is embodied in Exhibit A;

WHEREAS, because of age, deterioration and weather-related damage to local improvements and infrastructure, the beaches at Elder Lane and Centennial Parks have not been fully open and available for residents and their families to enjoy since 2020;

WHEREAS, residents of the Winnetka community have repeatedly voiced their desire for the Park District to accelerate the execution of the Elder and Centennial improvement plans so they and their families can enjoy the lakefront;

WHEREAS, IFF has had the opportunity to review the Plan;

WHEREAS, the WPD's current budgeting would only allow for the execution of a portion of the approved Plan in Exhibit A and capital restraints would hinder the completion of all the WPD approved Plan in Exhibit A;

WHEREAS, executing the entire Plan concurrently would save taxpayer dollars in a meaningful way and expedite the completion of the Plan in Exhibit A;

WHEREAS, IFF wishes to make a restricted donation to the WPD for the express and sole purpose of helping to fund the following WPD Board approved beach improvements in the Plan, as set forth in Exhibit A: (1) the ADA-accessible pathway from the Centennial parking lot to the beach (the "ADA Pathway"); (2) the off-leash dog park on the southernmost portion Centennial Beach, compliant with all laws and regulations (the "Dog Beach"); (3) with the fences extending into Lake Michigan a distance of 112 feet, as measured from the toe of the bluff as depicted in Exhibit A (the "Dog Beach Perimeter Safety Fence"); (4) a pedestrian bypass around the dog beach to permit transit north and south (the "Bypass"); and (5) the stone breakwater system at the Centennial Park beachfront located approximately 200 feet north of the Centennial Park's southern-most property line (collectively, the "Project" and the five elements described above are collectively the "Project Elements");

WHEREAS, creating an environment where people of all abilities can enjoy the lakefront has been a long-time priority for the WPD and the Winnetka community, which the IFF is pleased to support;

WHEREAS, improving and re-establishing a Dog Beach, Dog Beach Perimeter Safety Fence and Bypass has been a long-time priority for the WPD and the Winnetka community, which the IFF is pleased to support;

WHEREAS, the IFF agrees to donate the restricted funds described herein for the Project as described in Section 6 herein and the WPD agrees to complete the Project subject

to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein and of the above recitals which are made a contractual part of this Agreement, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties, intending to be legally bound, hereto agree as follows:

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Description of Contribution. IFF will donate Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) (the “**Restricted Donation**” or “**Donation**”) to WPD, as set forth herein, solely for the purpose of paying for the costs of the WPD’s construction of the Project, as described in Section 6 herein. As described in Section 6, this Restricted Donation will be used solely for the construction of the Project, and if used for any other purpose, IFF in its discretion may require the WPD to return all or a portion of the funds which are used for any purpose other than the construction of the Project.
2. Representations and Warranties.
 - a. WPD hereby makes the following representations and warranties as of the date hereof and as of each date WPD endorses and deposits any check or accepts the wire transfer of any Donation installment from IFF:
 - 1) WPD is a political subdivision of the State of Illinois which is eligible to receive tax-deductible, charitable donations.
 - 2) The Donation shall be used exclusively in furtherance of WPD’s government purposes and shall not be used for lobbying, political contributions or to support political campaigns.
 - 3) The Donation will serve a public purpose.
 - 4) No tangible benefit, goods or services will be provided to IFF or any individuals or entities connected with the IFF as a condition of the Donation.
 - 5) This Agreement has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by WPD, and the representatives executing this Agreement on behalf of WPD are duly authorized to execute this Agreement.
 - 6) There is no pending or threatened claim, action, suit, proceeding, investigation or criminal proceeding, the outcome of which could have a material adverse effect on the ability of WPD to perform the Project.
 - 7) WPD does not and will not knowingly provide financial support or other resources to any individual or entity to further unlawful acts including acts of violence or terrorism, and WPD is in compliance with all laws, statutes, and regulations restricting U.S. persons from dealing with any individuals,

entities, groups, or countries subject to Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctions.

- 8) WPD is in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.
 - 9) WPD represents the Donation is not being used to satisfy the payment of a pledge or any other personal or corporate financial obligation on behalf of IFF.
- b. IFF hereby makes the following representations and warranties as of the date hereof and as of each date IFF presents any check or wire transfers any Donation installments to WPD:
- 1) This Agreement has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by IFF and the representatives executing this Agreement on behalf of IFF are duly authorized to execute this Agreement.
 - 2) At all times during the Term of this Agreement, IFF shall have lawful access to sufficient funds for IFF to make all installment payments required by this Agreement and no approvals or consents from any third parties are necessary as a condition for IFF to make the Donation.
 - 3) IFF does not and will not knowingly provide financial support or other resources to any individual or entity to further unlawful acts including acts of violence or terrorism, and IFF is in compliance with all laws, statutes, and regulations restricting U.S. persons from dealing with any individuals, entities, groups, or countries subject to Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctions.
 - 4) IFF is not barred from contracting with any unit of local government by reason of Article 33E of the Illinois Criminal Code.
 - 5) IFF is in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.
 - 6) IFF is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt organization and has filed all relevant applications and returns for its most recently completed fiscal year for which such applications or returns are due.

3. Arbiter. John Peterson is appointed as a third-party decision maker for the reasons herein described (the "Arbiter"). The Arbiter shall base its opinions and decisions on its independent judgment. In the event of a vacancy in the role of Arbiter, or if the Arbiter has a Conflict of Interest, decisions and dispute resolution authority otherwise delegated to the Arbiter will be delegated to an arbitrator under the Uniform Arbitration Act, 710 ILCS 5/1, et seq. A "Conflict of Interest" exists when the Arbiter's pecuniary interests compromise the Arbiter's judgment, actions or decisions. The Arbiter is granted authority to engage design professionals to the extent reasonably necessary for the Arbiter to make an informed judgment about the issues herein described. IFF and WPD shall evenly share the cost for any third-party design professionals engaged by the Arbiter in its reasonable discretion. The WPD and IFF shall hold harmless the Arbiter from all claims arising from this Agreement except to the extent arising from the Arbiter's gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

4. Timing of Restricted Donation. IFF will make the Restricted Donation to WPD in two (2) installments for the Project as follows: (a) \$1,000,000.00 within 10 (ten) days of: (i) the receipt by IFF of a notice to proceed (“NTP”) for construction; (ii) the WPD’s receipt of all applicable permits required in order to start construction of the Project showing the Project Elements will be constructed the same as depicted in the Plan in Exhibit A; and (b) \$2,000,000.00 within thirty (30) days of completion of the Project and the Arbiter’s review and confirmation, in his/her/its sole discretion, that the Project Elements have been constructed the same as provided in the permits issued for the Project.

5. Term. The duration of this Agreement shall begin upon the execution by both Parties and shall terminate on upon the end of fifty (50) years from the execution of this Agreement by both Parties.

6. Restricted Donation.

a. WPD agrees the amount contributed to WPD pursuant to Sections 1 and 4 shall be a restricted donation that shall not be repayable to IFF except as otherwise provided herein. All Parties expressly agree and acknowledge the donated funds shall be used exclusively toward funding the Project and this Restricted Donation will be used to help make possible the Project, as set forth in Exhibit A. The Parties agree the plans attached as Exhibit A may be modified to the extent necessary to conform to regulatory requirements and permit conditions enforced by applicable Federal, State and local agencies, but if any of the Project Elements are modified from Exhibit A in any manner without IFF’s written consent, IFF will not be obligated to make any portion of the donation contemplated by this Agreement. Before any portion of the Restricted Donation is funded, the Parties will review the final Project construction drawings for which permits have been issued to ensure only that the each of the foregoing approved Project Elements are included the same as depicted in the final plans to be constructed as set forth in Exhibit A. For avoidance of doubt, IFF’s ability to elect not to fund the donation if the Plan is modified will supersede any other provision in this Agreement.

b. The WPD confirms any funds received by it from IFF under this agreement will be used exclusively for governmental purposes and will not be used for any activities that would cause the donation not to qualify as a charitable contribution under 26 USC 170(c)(1). Each of the IFF and the WPD agree it will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws. The WPD further agrees it is responsible for the proper expenditure of the Restricted Donation and for the maintenance of adequate supporting records consistent with generally accepted accounting principles. WPD shall provide IFF a general ledger describing the Project expenses within ninety (90) days after the Project is completed. WPD shall retain all records related to the Project for not less than seven (7) years.

c. IFF reserves the right to refuse a request for disbursement of funds to the WPD and to require the refund of expended funds used for any purpose other than the construction of the Project as specified in this Agreement, or both, in the event the Arbiter, in his/her/its sole discretion, finds WPD has used any funds for a purpose other than

specified in paragraph 6 of this Agreement.

7. Restrictive Covenant. The Parties agree this Restricted Donation is to be used to make possible the construction of the Project, as described in Exhibit A. It is the intention of the Parties the Project remains in place in the same location where the Project Elements are located on Exhibit A and, except for ordinary wear and tear, will remain there for fifty (50) years from the execution of this Agreement by both Parties, regardless of the ownership of the underlying property. (the "Restricted Period"). A Restrictive Covenant (attached as Exhibit B) will be recorded against the land to ensure the Project Elements remain in their as-built locations for the Restricted Period. The WPD, or its successor owner, will not be violation of this Agreement or the Restrictive Covenant so long as it performs ordinary and usual maintenance on the Project Elements and does not move or destroy, or instruct or permit any third party to move or destroy, any Project Elements during the Restricted Period.

WPD and IFF agree that it is their desire to efficiently and quickly resolve any disputes that arise, and that any Dispute (as hereinafter defined) shall be submitted to the Arbiter, who will make a determination with respect to the Dispute, in his sole discretion or, if the Arbiter does not still exist, to binding arbitration pursuant to the Uniform Arbitration Act, 710 ILCS 5/1, et seq., and except for a claim for specific performance not a court of law or equity. For purposes hereof, "Disputes" shall include any and all controversies, disputes or claims arising out of or relating to the enforcement of the provisions of the Restrictive Covenant.

The Parties agree the restrictive covenant shall not result in and shall disclaim any express or implied limitation on the WPD's discretion with respect to the use or improvement of any part of Centennial Park which does not comprise a Project Element. The Parties further agree the restrictive covenant is not intended to convey any interest in property whatsoever. IFF agrees to record a release of the Restrictive Covenant within thirty (30) days following the occurrence of any of the following events: (a) the Restricted Donation is not paid in full after the Arbiter finds it fully due and payable, or (b) the expiration of the Restricted Period.

If: (a) the WPD is in breach of this Restrictive Covenant; (b) the WPD fails to cure such violation with the application of diligent and continuous effort; and (c) the WPD has moved or destroyed, or instructed or permitted any third party to move or destroy the stone breakwater system at the Centennial Park beachfront, the WPD's liability shall be liquidated damages in the sum of Three Millions Dollars (\$3,000,000.00). If, for any reason, the Arbiter, in his/her/its sole discretion, finds the ADA Pathway, Dog Beach, or Dog Beach Perimeter Safety Fence do not remain in their as-built locations for the Restricted Period, IFF may file a specific performance claim in order to have the WPD restore them to their respective, as-built locations.

8. IFF Recognition. Intentionally omitted.

9. Coordination of Events. The WPD and IFF shall coordinate mutually agreeable schedules and activities in connection with groundbreaking and ribbon cutting ceremonies for the Project as well as the announcement and any publicity concerning the Project. WPD shall either own, or be assigned an irrevocable license to use, any intellectual property created related to the Project or publicity therefor.

10. Coordination of Publicity. Neither IFF nor WPD shall use the name or marks of the other party, or any related party, in any publicity or news release without the prior approval of the other party or any related party whose name will be used.

11. Responsibility. At all times, the WPD, or its successor property owner, will assume all responsibility for the operation, maintenance and repair of any Project Element owned by such party under the same standards of care applicable to other WPD facilities to ensure that the Project will serve its intended purpose. Except as provided in the preceding sentence, in no event shall IFF be responsible for any payments of any type other than its contributions described in Section 1 and 4.

WPD shall not act as or be an agent of IFF nor shall IFF act or be an agent of WPD. All of WPD's activities will be at WPD's own risk and liability, and WPD shall not be entitled to insurance protection from IFF for WPD's own acts or omissions. WPD will have no authority, and will not represent to any person it has any authority, to bind IFF to any agreement with any third party, or to otherwise commit IFF to any proposal. Nor shall IFF have any authority or represent to any person it has any authority to bind the WPD to any agreement. In no event shall IFF at any time be construed as an expert in, knowledgeable about, or engaged in the business of constructing Projects.

WPD shall be responsible for the payment of all taxes, if and as applicable, associated with the Project initiative and the Donation by IFF hereunder, and shall indemnify and hold IFF and its affiliates harmless therefrom. WPD shall also be responsible for ensuring all work is in full compliance with all legal standards. So long as WPD is the owner of the property on which the respective Project Element is located, WPD shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless IFF and his/her respective employees, agents and representatives from and against any and all claims of any nature arising from or related to the Project initiative or use of the Project (including but not limited to any personal injury, property damage, activity, work or things done, or permitted by WPD or its agents) or arising from or related to any negligence of WPD or any of WPD's agents; and in case any action or proceeding be brought against IFF by reason of any such claim, WPD shall defend the same at WPD's expense by counsel reasonably satisfactory to IFF, which approval will not be unreasonably conditions, denied or delayed. WPD, as a material part of the consideration to IFF, hereby assumes all risk of damage to property or injury to persons in, on or about the Project arising from any cause attributable to WPD and WPD hereby waives all claims in respect thereof against IFF.

This Section 11 shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement and the expiration or termination of any obligation owing to any Party under this agreement.

12. Termination of Obligations. The Parties agree once this Agreement has been executed by IFF and WPD, and once the Project is completed consistent with the plans in Exhibit A, and once all donations due under this Agreement have been funded by IFF, IFF shall not be able to require any refund of donated funds except as otherwise set forth in this Agreement. The WPD may choose to terminate the Project at any time at its sole discretion and refund IFF, as the case may be, the monies paid to WPD in their entirety before the completion of the Project. In the event the Project is terminated, IFF's continued obligation to make any contributions shall automatically terminate. If all or a portion of the Project is destroyed beyond repair due to a *force majeure* event, or any other circumstance, then the WPD will, as soon as possible, restore any of the Project Elements effected to their respective prior conditions and locations and compliant with all laws prior to the event. This *force majeure* clause will not apply to the stone breakwater system at the Centennial Park beachfront.

13. Acknowledgement of Donation. WPD shall complete and sign a charitable contribution receipt acknowledgement as required under the tax law in form and substance satisfactory to IFF. WPD does not warrant any tax consequence as a result of the Donation and this Agreement shall not be subject to termination as a result of any particular tax consequence. WPD shall not indemnify, defend or hold harmless IFF from any orders, decisions or rulings made by the IRS related to the Donation except to the extent caused solely by reason of the WPD's acts or omissions.

14. Miscellaneous.

a. Notices. Unless otherwise specified, any notice, demand or request required under this Agreement must be given in writing at the addresses set forth below by any of the following means: personal service, overnight courier or first-class mail.

If to Winnetka Park District: Winnetka Park District
540 Hibbard Rd
Winnetka, Illinois 60093
Attn: Executive Director

With Copies to: Adam B. Simon
Ancel Glink
175 East Hawthorn Parkway, Suite 145
Vernon Hills, IL 60061
Attn: WPD General Counsel

If to IFF: David B.H. Williams
Williams, Bax & Saltzman, PC
221 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3700
Chicago, IL 60601

15. Governing Law. This Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the internal laws of the State of Illinois, without regard to the principles of conflicts of law thereof. If there is a lawsuit under this Agreement, each Party hereto agrees to submit

to the jurisdiction of the courts of Cook County in the State of Illinois.

16. Severability. In the event any provision of this Agreement is deemed to be invalid by reason of the operation of any law or by reason of the interpretation placed thereon by any court or any other governmental body, this Agreement shall be construed as not containing such provision and any and all other provisions hereof which otherwise are lawful and valid shall remain in full force and effect.

17. Integration. All exhibits to this Agreement are expressly incorporated herein by this reference thereto. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties, merges all discussions between them and supersedes and replaces any and every other prior or contemporaneous agreement, negotiation, understanding, commitments and writing with respect to the subject matter hereof.

18. Assignment. This Agreement, or any portion thereof, shall not be assigned by any Party without the prior written consent of the others.

19. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all of which when taken together shall be deemed to be one and the same instrument.

20. Parties' Interest/No Third-Party Beneficiaries. This Agreement shall be binding upon the Parties and their respective successors and permitted assigns and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties, and their respective successors and permitted assigns. This Agreement shall not run to the benefit of, or be enforceable by, any person or entity other than a Party and its successors and permitted assigns. This Agreement should not be deemed to confer upon third parties any remedy, claim, right of reimbursement or other right. Nothing contained in this Agreement, nor any act of the Parties, shall be deemed or construed by any of the Parties hereto or by third parties, to create any relationship of third party beneficiary, principal, agent, limited or general partnership, joint venture, or any association or relationship involving any of the Parties.

21. Modification or Amendment. This Agreement may not be altered, modified or amended except by a written instrument signed by all the Parties.

22. No Implied Waivers. No waiver by any Party of any breach of any provision of this Agreement will be a waiver of any continuing or succeeding breach of the breached provision, a waiver of the breached provision itself, or a waiver of any right, power or remedy under this Agreement. No notice to, or demand on, any Party in any case will, of itself, entitle that Party to any further notice or demand in similar or other circumstances.

23. Titles and Headings. Titles and headings to paragraphs contained in this Agreement are for convenience only and are not limited to limit, vary, define or expand the content of this Agreement.

24. No Personal Liability. IFF expressly agrees no member, Commissioner, official, employee or agent of the WPD, and the WPD expressly agrees no officer, director, employee or contractor of IFF, will be individually or personally liable to it, its successors

or assigns under any term or provision of this Agreement or because of his or her execution of this Agreement or in the event of any default or breach by any party under this Agreement. The limitations on liability in this Section 24 shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement and the expiration or termination of any obligation owing to any Party under this Agreement.

25. Ethics. IFF hereby represents and affirms its decision to contribute to the WPD pursuant to this Agreement is entirely voluntary and is completely unrelated to any past or future government decision relating to the award of contracts or any other action. IFF further represents and affirms no representative of IFF has had any conversation with any representative of the WPD, or with any government official or employee in any way links this contribution to any past or future government decision relating to the award of contracts or any other matter.


26. Attorneys' Fees. In the event of a Dispute arising under this Agreement or the Restrictive Covenant, the party which receives an arbitration award or judgment will be awarded, as part of such award or judgment, its reasonable fees and costs of obtaining such award or judgment, including reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees and court costs.

Signature page to follow

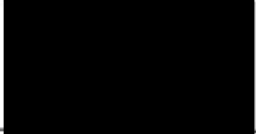
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the WPD and IFF have caused this Agreement to be executed as of the date first written above.

WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT

By


Christina Codo
President, Board of Commissioners

Attest:


Secretary to the Board

ISHBIA FAMILY FOUNDATION, INC.

By: _____

Name: Justin R. Ishbia. Vice President


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the WPD and IFF have caused this Agreement to be executed as of the date first written above.

WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT

By: _____
Christina Codo
President, Board of Commissioners

Attest: _____
Secretary to the Board

ISHBIA FAMILY FOUNDATION, INC.

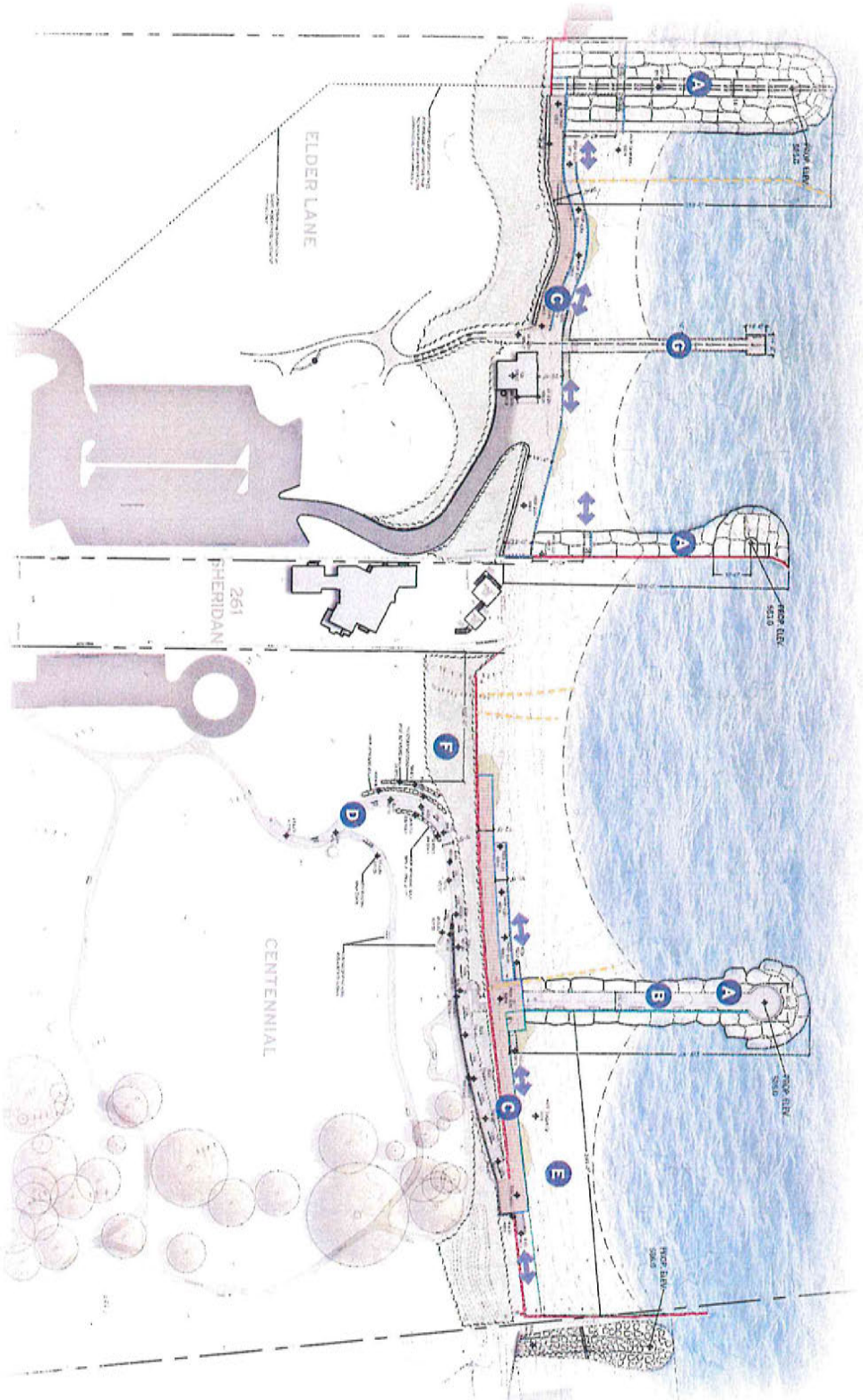
By: _____


Name: Justin R. Ishbia. Vice President

Exhibit A
Centennial Park Renovation Plan

Elder + Centennial | Schematic Design

ELDER | CENTENNIAL BEACH FEASIBILITY STUDY



- LEGEND**
- PROPOSED BLUFF RESTORATION
 - ↔ ACCESS TO BEACH
 - SHEET PILE (PROPOSED)
 - SHEET PILE (EXISTING)
 - ELEMENT TO BE REMOVED
 - ORNAMENTAL FENCE
 - A** RUBBLE MOUND BREAKWATER SHORELINE PROTECTION
 - B** ACCESSIBLE VIEWING PIER WITH BENCH SEATING
 - C** ADA ACCESSIBLE BOARDWALK & CONCRETE RAMP BEACH ACCESS
 - D** ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN PATH TO BEACH
 - E** PROPOSED CENTENNIAL DOG BEACH
 - F** BLUFF RESTORATION ZONE
 - G** REPAIRED EXISTING CONCRETE PIER

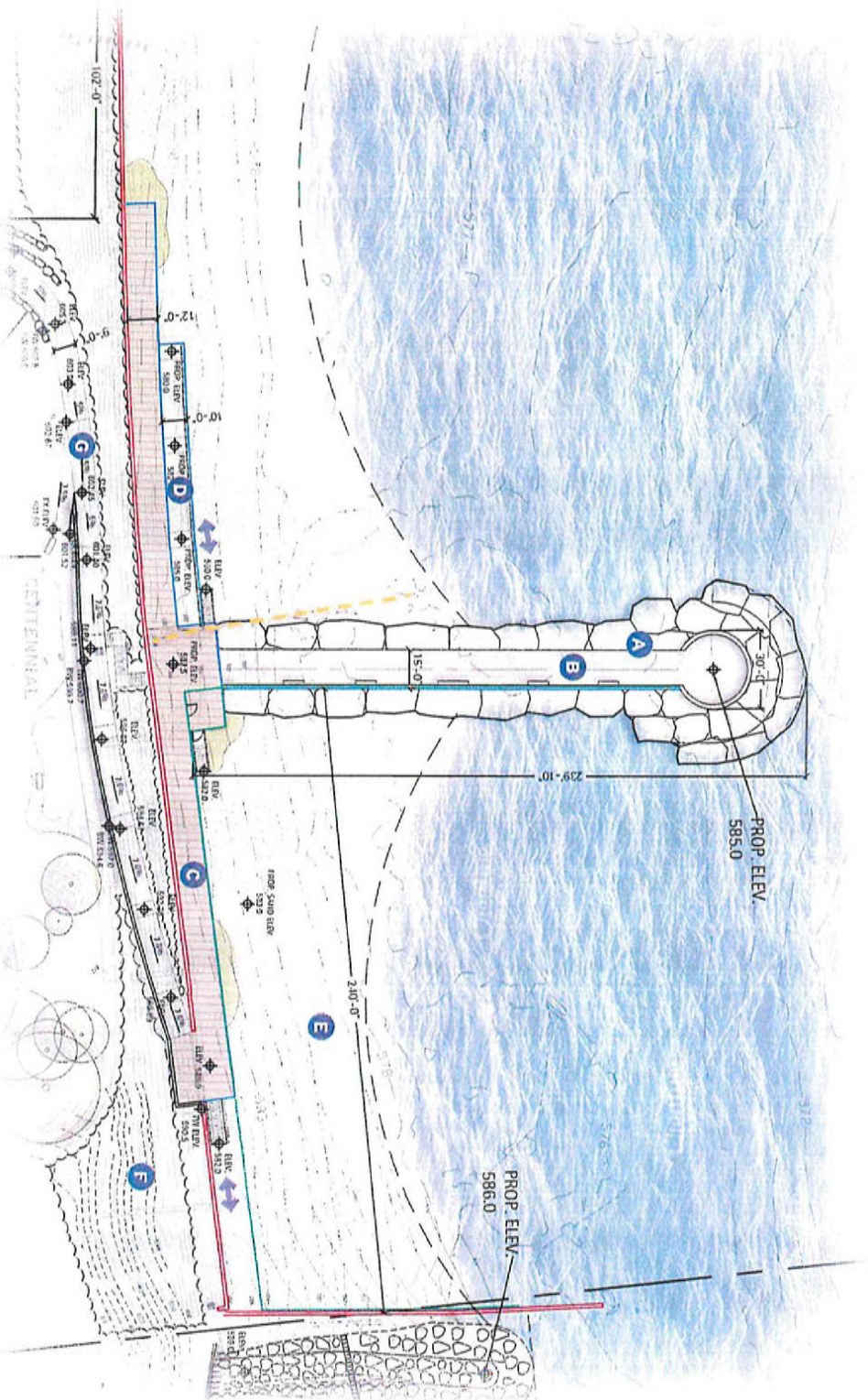
Elder + Centennial | Final Schematic Design

10/19/2023



Elder + Centennial | Schematic Design

ELDER | CENTENNIAL BEACH FEASIBILITY STUDY



LEGEND

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- G** ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN PATH & RAMP TO BEACH

Centennial Enlargement | Final Schematic Design

10/19/2023



Exhibit B
Form of Restrictive Covenant

After recording, mail to:

Adam B. Simon
Ancel Glink
175 East Hawthorn Parkway, Suite 145
Vernon Hills, IL 60061
Attn: WPD General Counsel

Property Identification Numbers:

05-21-412-004-0000
05-21-412-005-0000
05-21-412-006-0000

Common addresses:

225 Sheridan Road
Winnetka, Illinois 60093

FOR RECORDER'S USE

DECLARATION OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANT

THIS DECLARATION OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANT ("Restrictive Covenant") is made this 10th day of January, 2024 (the "Effective Date") by Winnetka Park District, an Illinois park district and unit of local government ("WPD").

WHEREAS, the WPD is a political subdivision and a unit of local government organized, established and existing under the laws of the State of Illinois, 70 ILCS 1205 *et. seq.*;

WHEREAS, WPD is the sole owner in fee simple of certain real property known as Centennial Park and Beach, located at 225 Sheridan Road, Winnetka, Illinois, identified as of the Effective Date as Cook County Parcel Identification Numbers 05-21-412-004-0000, 05-21-412-005-0000, and 05-21-412-006-0000 and legally described in **Schedule A** ("Centennial Park");

WHEREAS, Centennial Park currently is partially improved for lawful passive and active recreational uses;

WHEREAS, pursuant to, in keeping with and consistent with its core mission, the WPD desires to renovate Centennial Park to provide high quality recreational opportunities, and will do so per the Centennial Park renovation plan for which all necessary permits have been issued as depicted on **Schedule B** and referred to herein as either "**Schedule B**" or the "**Plan**", and fully incorporated into this Agreement;

WHEREAS, the WPD executed a Restricted Donation Agreement between the WPD and the Ishbia Family Foundation, Inc. (the "**IFF**") for the Centennial Park

Improvements Plan, (the “**Restricted Donation Agreement**”) pursuant to which the IFF agreed to make a restricted donation to the WPD for the express and sole purpose of helping to fund the following WPD Board approved lakefront improvements, as set forth in Schedule B: (1) the ADA-accessible pathway from the Centennial Park parking lot to the beach (the “**ADA Pathway**”); (2) the off-leash dog park located at the southernmost portion of Centennial Beach, compliant with all laws and regulations (the “**Dog Beach**”); (3) Dog Beach fences extending 112 feet into Lake Michigan (measured from the toe of the bluff) as depicted in Schedule B (the “**Dog Beach Perimeter Safety Fence**”); (4) a pedestrian bypass around the Dog Beach and Dog Beach Perimeter Fence to permit transit north and south (the “**Bypass**”), and (5) the stone breakwater system at the Centennial Park beachfront located approximately 200 feet north of the Centennial Park’s southern-most property line (the “**Park Breakwater**” and together with the ADA Pathway, the Dog Beach, the Dog Beach Perimeter Safety Fence and the Bypass, collectively the “**Project Elements**”);

WHEREAS, the WPD agreed to be bound by certain obligations and restrictions related to the Project Elements in accordance with the Restricted Donation Agreement;

WHEREAS, the WPD desires to place a restrictive covenant on Centennial Park to evidence the obligations and restrictions pursuant to the Restricted Donation Agreement to ensure the long-term recreational use and enjoyment of the Project Elements;

WHEREAS, WPD intends this Restrictive Covenant shall be recorded as a covenant running with the land and shall be binding on WPD and all future owners of all or any part of Centennial Park where the Project Elements are located; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the above recitals and the covenants, terms, conditions and restrictions contained herein, WPD does hereby establish a restrictive covenant on Centennial Park as follows:

1. Purpose. The purpose of this Restrictive Covenant is to preserve the Project Elements for public recreational uses consistent with applicable law.

2. Continued Existence of Project Elements. Regardless of the owner of the underlying property, the Project Elements shall remain in place in the same location where the Project Elements are located in Schedule B and, except for ordinary wear and tear, will remain there for fifty (50) years after the grand opening of Centennial Beach (the “Restricted Period”). The WPD, or its successor owner, will not be in violation of this Restrictive Covenant so long as the WPD, or its successor owner, performs ordinary and usual maintenance on the Project Elements and does not move or destroy, nor instruct or permit any third party to move or destroy, any Project Elements during the Restricted Period. IFF and WPD agree to record a release of the Restrictive Covenant within thirty (30) days following the expiration of the Restricted Period.

3. Park District Reservation of Rights. The WPD expresses this restrictive covenant shall not result in and disclaims any express or implied limitation to the WPD’s

discretion with respect to the use or improvement of any part of Centennial Park which does not comprise a Project Element. The WPD further expresses nothing herein is intended to convey any interest in real property whatsoever.

4. Covenant Running with the Land. The restrictions and covenants contained in this Restrictive Covenant shall run with the land defined herein as Centennial Park, and are binding upon and inure to the benefit of the IFF, WPD and its successor landowners, and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, successors, assigns, agents, licensees, invitees, and representatives. This restrictive covenant shall be recorded against Centennial Park.

5. WPD Breach. If, for any reason (a) the WPD violates this Restrictive Covenant; and (b) the WPD fails to cure such violation with the application of diligent and continuous effort, the WPD will be in breach of this Restrictive Covenant.

If (a) the WPD is found to be in breach of this Restrictive Covenant; (b) the WPD fails to cure such violation with the application of diligent and continuous effort; and (c) the WPD has moved or destroyed, or instructed or permitted any third party to move or destroy the stone breakwater system at the Centennial Park beachfront, the WPD's liability shall be liquidated damages to IFF in the sum of Three Millions Dollars (\$3,000,000.00). If, for any reason, the Arbiter, in his sole discretion, determines the ADA Pathway, Dog Beach, or Dog Beach Perimeter Safety Fence do not remain in their as-built locations for the Restricted Period, IFF may file a specific performance claim in order to have the WPD restore them to their respective, as-built locations.

WPD and IFF agree that it is their desire to efficiently and quickly resolve any disputes that arise, and that any Dispute (as hereinafter defined) shall be submitted to the Arbiter, who will make a determination with respect to the Dispute, in his sole discretion, or, if the Arbiter does not still exist, to binding arbitration pursuant to the Uniform Arbitration Act, 710 ILCS 5/1, et seq., and except for a claim for specific performance not a court of law or equity. For purposes hereof, "Disputes" shall include any and all controversies, disputes or claims arising out of or relating to the enforcement of the provisions of this Restrictive Covenant.

6. Miscellaneous.


A. Promptly after IFF's payment of the second installment of the Restricted Donation, this Restrictive Covenant shall be recorded against title to Centennial Park and shall run with the land and bind Centennial Park and all future owners of all or any part of Centennial Park during the Restricted Period, but only with respect to the Project Elements.

B. This Restrictive Covenant shall be binding on the WPD, and its respective successors, assignees, and heirs, including any successor owners of all or any part of Centennial Park.


C. If any provision of this Restrictive Covenant is found to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, that finding shall not affect the validity, legality, or enforceability of the remaining provisions.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the WPD has executed this Restrictive Covenant on the date first written above.

WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT


By: _____
President, Board of Park Commissioners
Winnetka Park District

ATTEST:


By: _____
Secretary, Board of Park Commissioners
Winnetka Park District

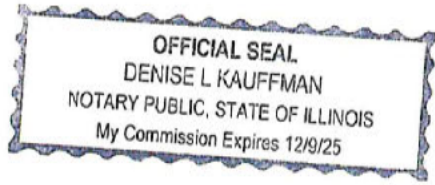
Prepared by:
David B.H. Williams
Williams, Bax & Saltzman, P.C.
221 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3700
Chicago, IL 60601

WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF COOK)

I, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County, in the State aforesaid, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT Christina Codo and John Peterson, personally known to me to be the same persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as their free and voluntary act, for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and official seal, this 19th day of January, 2024.
[Redacted Signature]
Notary Public



My Commission expires: 12/9/25

SCHEDULE A

Centennial Park Legal Description

LOT 6 IN THE RESUBDIVISION OF BLOCKS 1 THROUGH 4 AND VACATED STREET KNOWN AS BELLVIEW PLACE, LYING BETWEEN BLOCKS 1 AND 2 ON THE EAST AND BLOCKS 3 AND 4 ON THE WEST IN LAKE SHORE SUBDIVISION OF LOT 1 IN NICHOLAS SIMON AND OTHERS' SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTHEAST FRACTIONAL QUARTER OF SECTION 21 AND FRACTIONAL SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 42 NORTH, RANGE 13 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

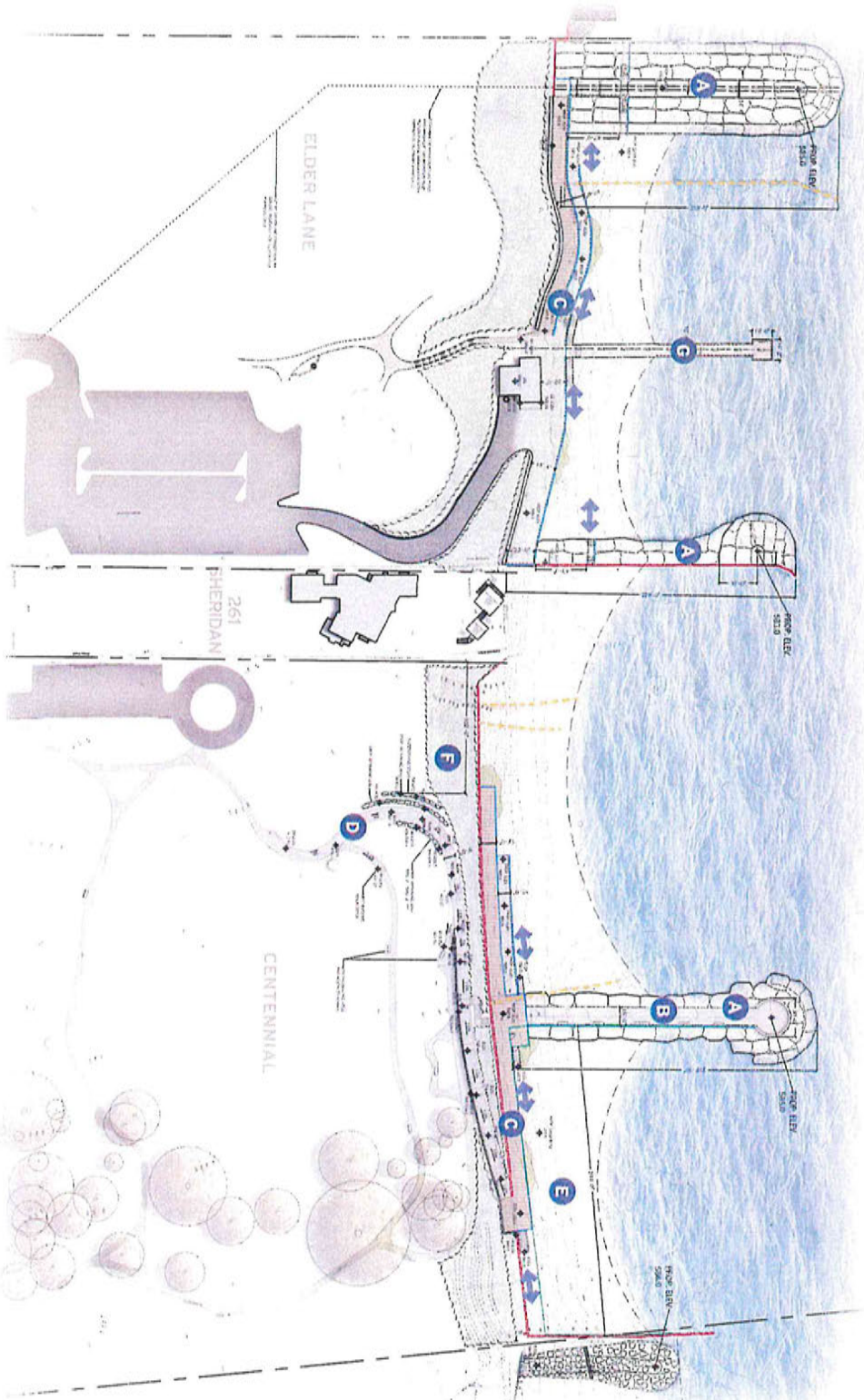
P.I.N.: 05-21-412-004-0000, 05-21-412-005-0000, and 05-21-412-006-0000

SCHEDULE B

Plan of Project Elements

Elder + Centennial | Schematic Design

ELDER | CENTENNIAL BEACH FEASIBILITY STUDY

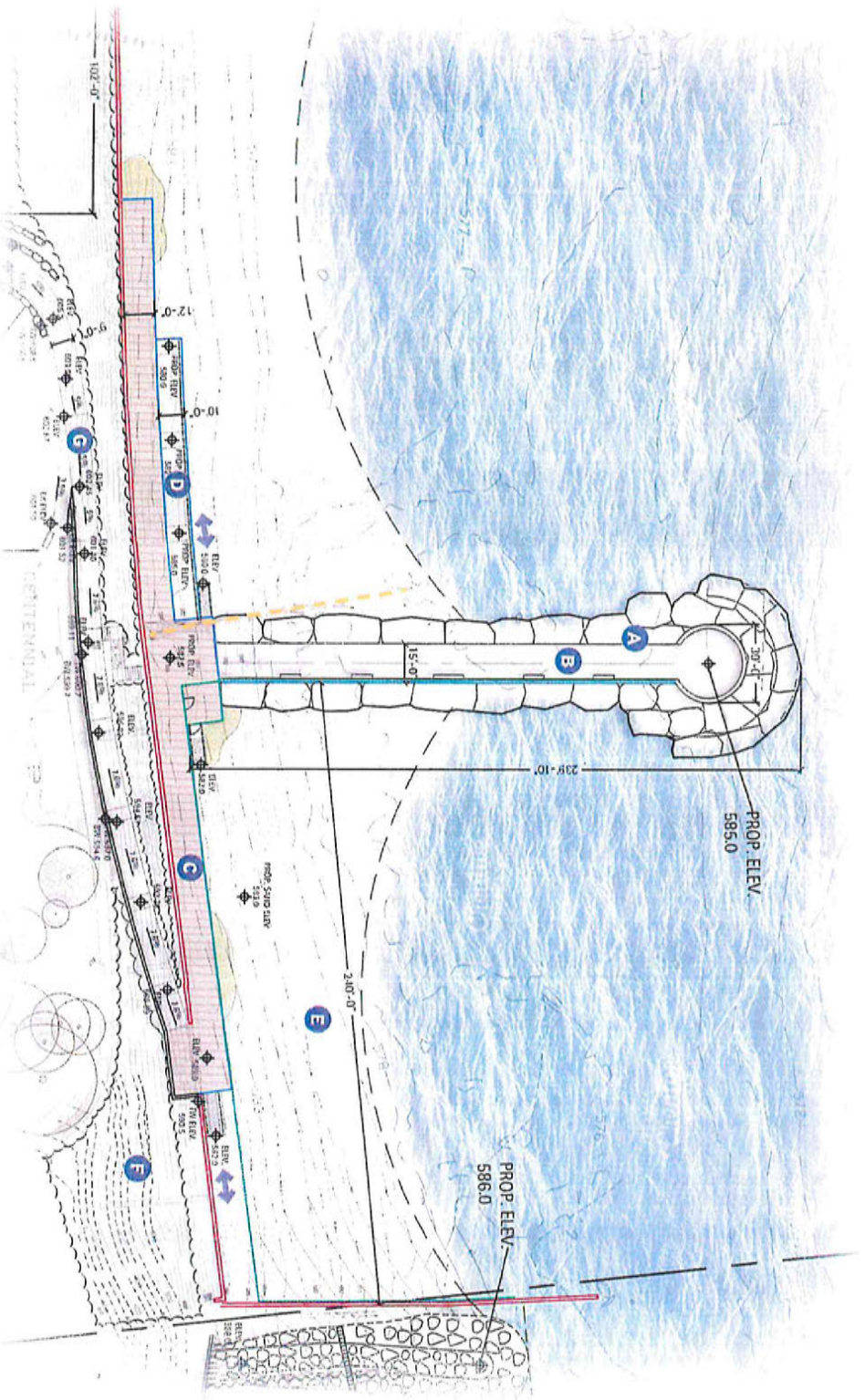


LEGEND

- PROPOSED BLUFF RESTORATION
- ACCESS TO BEACH
- SHEET PILE (PROPOSED)
- SHEET PILE (EXISTING)
- ELEMENT TO BE REMOVED
- ORNAMENTAL FENCE
- RUBBLE MOUND BREAKWATER SHORELINE PROTECTION
- ACCESSIBLE VIEWING PIER WITH BENCH SEATING
- ADA ACCESSIBLE BOARDWALK & CONCRETE RAMP BEACH ACCESS
- ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN PATH TO BEACH
- PROPOSED CENTENNIAL DOG BEACH
- BLUFF RESTORATION ZONE
- REPAIRED EXISTING CONCRETE PIER

Elder + Centennial | Schematic Design

ELDER | CENTENNIAL BEACH FEASIBILITY STUDY



LEGEND

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- Ⓔ ADA ACCESSIBLE CONCRETE RAMP BEACH ACCESS
- Ⓕ PROPOSED CENTENNIAL DOG BEACH
- Ⓖ BLUFF RESTORATION ZONE
- Ⓗ ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN PATH & RAMP TO BEACH

Centennial Enlargement | Final Schematic Design

Scale: 1" = 20'
10/19/2023

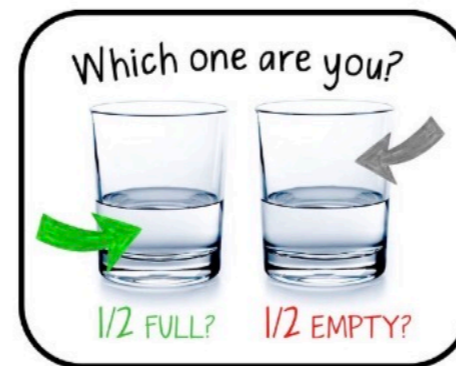


Considerations

- Green Bay Rd. = State Highway
- Appraisal value as residential lot vs. commercial lot
- Park District plans to sell it to us or someone else

PROS IF WE BUY

- More useable space
- Provides flexibility for the future
- Keeps land free from other development
- Public may be excited
- Helps with larger community effort & park district relationship
- Have reserves to fund



CONS IF WE BUY

- Additional upkeep costs (grass, trees, snow removal)
- Would need approval of special use permits to develop the land
- Public may be resistant

The Situation

- Park District needs to raise funds to make improvements to Elder/Centennial Beach
- Library Park is an underperforming asset
- Library is the Park District's preferred buyer for Library Park



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Special Use Permit Concerns
Date: Monday, February 2, 2026 10:09:16 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Ann:

Would you please send my email with attachments to the ZBA ahead of its 2/9/26 meeting?
Thank you.

To the Zoning Board of Appeals:

Given WPD's multiple misrepresentations in connection with its Centennial SUP applications, please use strict scrutiny in your permit review. WPD's fencing would stretch far beyond the Ordinary High Water Mark, ending 91' from Centennial's bluffs to the north and 78' from the bluffs to the south. Plan has already considered the dangerous and unnecessary nature of this fencing application and declined to recommend approval. I ask ZBA to do the same.

WPD will attempt to direct ZBA's safety concerns toward the dog beach under pretext of protecting people who use Elder Lane Beach for a very short summer swim season. This makes no sense. I respectfully suggest that rather than putting dogs before people, attention to beach safety should be more focused on Elder—an important but lightly used swimming beach. It is the most polluted of Winnetka's beaches, and for that reason is likely to be open fewer days each summer than Tower or Maple.

For your information, using WPD's "rainout line" in 2024 I made a good faith effort to track beach closures. Based on WPD information, I tallied approximately 50 total open days for Maple Beach. Some days were half open-half closed, depending on weather and water conditions. Some days the beach was fully closed because of weather, water conditions or high bacteria counts. Beginning with Memorial Day and ending in mid-August, Maple was opened and closed depending on whether it could be staffed. Before New Trier adjourned in June, it was open on a limited basis. By mid-August it had closed for the summer—only Tower Road Beach was staffed intermittently at that point before closing over Labor Day weekend. In my opinion, staffing shortages will also cause Elder Beach to be open less than the full season.

<https://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/ilbeaches/public/BeachDetail.aspx?BeachID=381>

My suggestion is to ask the beach-going community itself to come up with sensible measures for the young families/kids who bike or walk to Elder on the days it is open. Take a look at this already-ADA accessible beach and find a way to delineate its southern boundary. One option could be a simple row of rocks. Or, fully removable, truly temporary, summer-only ropes or block-mounted posts with ropes ending at or above the OHWM—without obstructing the use of beach wheelchairs. The materials should not obstruct sight lines for first responders, lifeguards, parents, or other beachgoers. They should not make it harder to run across the sandy beach, within or past any seasonal beach boundaries, or into lake for a water rescue. Consideration should also be given to changing waterlines. Today's lake levels are at or below

normal. Once the water rises again, whatever is used should be moveable so as not to create a submerged threat.

Community efforts could include obtaining advice from recognized safety experts. Neutral community members should also ask (1) the lifeguards if ropes or removable posts would be helpful or a hindrance to their duties, (2) if they feel they are necessary, and (3) Elder Beach users themselves if they feel barriers would enhance their safety. As an aside, I am not aware of any dog-related incidents at Elder Beach over multiple years when three of my kids were WPD Lake Michigan lifeguards. I do know that every minute counts when making a water rescue.

WPD's REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE OF LAKEFRONT CHAIN-LINK FENCING



I appreciate the Plan Commission's decision to decline recommending WPD's dog beach fencing plans and I hope ZBA will do the same. There is no reason to pound metal poles all the way to what WPD describes as the "point of resistance" to install dog beach fencing that is

neither required nor safe. IDNR has described standalone lakefront fencing as an obstacle to be navigated around. The further out a person ventures to avoid a fence, the bigger the waves and the colder the water well into the summer months (July-August). Water-based fencing increases the likelihood of drowning for this reason. I believe low lake water temperatures were responsible for at least one of the drownings in Winnetka within the past few years. Please take this into account and decline recommending approval of WPD's fencing SUP.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Kristine Schriesheim
Winnetka taxpayer

Philip Enquist
476 Provident Ave.
Winnetka, Illinois 60093
[REDACTED]

February 3, 2026

Dear Zoning Board of Appeals, and
Design Review Board....

Last week, at the January 28th Plan Commission meeting, the Winnetka community learned further details about the proposed beach fences which would define the future dog beach as proposed by the Winnetka Park District.

The proposed design is for two, 4' high fences, that will run into the lake waters for approximately 15' to a water depth of 1.5' to 2'. Four gates will create entrances, a pair at the north and a pair at the south.

As I listened to this presentation, I wondered who is representing child safety concerns? Shallow water (1.5 – 2 feet) allows easy wading around these fences and children potentially meandering behind fences and become vulnerable to separation from families and potential water related accidents. A dog owner also spoke that obstructions like fences can create unsafe conditions for the dogs. Centennial Beach, perhaps Winnetka's most beautiful beach, is today, open and free of physical obstacles across its shoreline.

Residents at the January 28th meeting suggested rational strategies that would avoid fences extending into the water. These alternative concepts should be explored. The community also showed research of what other Illinois communities are doing, especially the letter (dated January 26, 2026) from John Root. The WPD admitted that they had not gone to see these other beaches.

The proposal is a bad idea.

These fences would fragment Winnetka's open, unobstructed beach, but more importantly, I believe they would create significant safety issues. The Winnetka Park District's proposal is full of issues and is poorly conceived. Please do not approve this fence special use permit proposal, but rather recommend further research and alternative concepts that may not require fencing on the actual beach.

Thank you for your diligence and time related to these issues.

Phil Enquist
Fellow, American Institute of Architects

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, January 28th 2026

DOCTRINE OF PUBLIC TRUST

WHILE THERE ARE VERY SERIOUS SAFETY CONCERNS WITH THE FENCES AT THE DOG BEACH, I AM ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE VIOLATION OF THE DOCTRINE OF PUBLIC TRUST IF FENCES ARE INSTALLED. THE DOCTRINE OF PUBLIC USE, WHICH HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE 1842, IS ONE OF THE UNDERPINNINGS OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF CHANGED LAW OR REGULATION SINCE THAT TIME – ONLY THE CONTINUED INTERNAL ASSERTION FROM WPD STAFF THAT FENCING IS “REQUIRERD”, DESPITE REPEATED DOCUMENTATION TO THE CONTRARY. THIS DOCTRINE MANDATES THAT THE BEACHES IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AND IN OTHER STATES, REMAIN OPEN AND AVAILABLE FOR THE USE OF THE PUBLIC. NO PRIVATE BEACH OR DOG BEACH MAY PREVENT PEOPLE FROM PASSING OVER IT BECAUSE OF THIS DOCTRINE.

THE INSTALLATION OF FENCING AT CENTENNIAL BEACH WOULD BE AN UNNECESSARY AND DAMAGING INTRUSION ON PUBLIC LAKEFRONT ACCESS. IT WOULD UNDERMINE THE NATURAL AESTHETIC AND CHARACTER OF THE BEACH WHILE IMPLYING A LEGAL NECESSITY THAT SIMPLY DOES NOT EXIST.

THIS PROPOSED FENCE AROUND THE DOG BEACH IS A VIOLATION OF THE DOCTRINE OF PUBLIC TRUST. THEREFORE, I ASK THAT YOU DENY THE PARK DISTRICT’S REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL USE PERMIT. THANK YOU.

ALEXANDRA C. NICHOLS

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Planning](#)
Subject: Comments on Case No. 25-28-SU - Please deny
Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 4:15:08 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Zoning Board,

Please do not allow a special use permit to install fencing on the existing beach on the subject property. What we and many of our neighbors would consider an eyesore.

We live directly across the street. This house has already torn down four incredible homes in the area, and created constant churn among the community for personal gain.

It was known that their property bordered the park from the day it was purchased.

We would welcome them in the community if they would begin acting like they would like to participate in the community. We should not continue to push for more and more relief of rules and regulations that benefit our community and the beauty of it in an effort to build a walled off fortress like compound within our community.

The property owner purchased near the beach I hope to take in the beauty of the beach. That same beauty is also to be shared among the community at Centennial park.

The overlay is there for a reason, please continue to protect our park lands and the beauty they offer regardless of the efforts of this individual to destroy them and set precedents for others that may seek the same.

Best Regards,

The Woodwards
209 Fuller Lane

February 4, 2026

To: Winnetka Plan Commission Members

From: Jean B. Schreiber –“Susie”

Re: Copies of my public comment at:

January 28, 2026 – 7 p.m. Winnetka Plan Commission meeting

Commissioners,

Because of the updated instructions by your Chair at the January 28, 2026 Winnetka Plan Commission meeting, I did not hand out my pre-printed comments. The instructions were quite reasonable. For your records, I am herewith including copies of the prepared comments I had planned to hand out to each of you and to staff. I have highlighted, in yellow, the remarks I actually made during the Public Comment session, leaving the rest of the text which was not read into the mic, without highlights. The map at the end of the handout was purely FYI for each of you to have in your files as a reference point.

Thank you all, and to staff, for a very well run and thoughtfully prepared meeting on January 28th.

Jean B. Schreiber –“Susie”

Winnetka Park District resident, former Winnetka Park District Commissioner, and former Winnetka Plan Commission member



Winnetka Plan Commission

January 28, 2026 meeting

Winnetka Village Hall – 7 p.m.

Re: Chain link fencing on beach and into water at Centennial Park

Deep Concerns regarding in lake safety

Background:

Centennial Park and lakefront below the bluff is used in winter, spring, summer and fall by a wide range of Winnetka Park District residents, some New Trier students on the way home from school, and visitors who happen by.

Lake Michigan waters are federal. The State of Illinois has jurisdictional reach from the Wisconsin/Illinois state line south to the Illinois Indiana State line, and eastward to a midpoint in the lake where the state of Michigan meets up with the State of Illinois. See handout map.

The Village of Winnetka has a special jurisdictional holding from the toe of the the bluff 3 miles eastward into the lake.

The IDNR letter of permit from Eric Otto, IDNR Illinois Coastal Zone, dated January 9, 2026 notes the 3704 rule affects Commercial navigation only and is not under IDNR control. He states: "There is no ruling which references recreational navigation of any sized craft which they can use for permitting consideration. Therefore, their IDNR permit ruling only has to address navigation as it relates to the Commercial level." Obviously, there is no Commercial navigation ongoing on Winnetka's nearshores, with the exception of those properties undergoing bluff and shoreline stabilization using commercial barges for construction work. Commercial construction barges use Winnetka's nearshore annually for contracted work.

There have been numerous accidents, and sadly more deaths, along the Illinois shoreline from Illinois Beach State Park down through the Chicago beaches annually, and unfortunately in a variety of seasons and even in good weather conditions. Winnetka has had its share of fatal accidents, the most recent 2 of which happened offshore of Centennial Park.

The State of Illinois is openly and clearly lacking uniform recreational Lake Michigan shoreline safety regulations. This situation has finally begun to be addressed by State representative Tracy Katz Muhl, Illinois 57th District. Rep. Katz Muhl has put together a strong committee to address the numerous issues facing recreational users of the Lake Michigan nearshore in the State of Illinois. The Committee was formed last summer, I believe. The Village of Winnetka should consider participation.

Watercraft users and swimmers follow our nearshore coastline daily. Lake Michigan weather can turn on a dime and change abruptly in 15 seconds from calm to downright blustery. It is harder to sail and use the Great Lakes than the ocean.

Fencing into waters of Lake Michigan:

- **Water levels vary yearly and within the year.** The fence may or may not be easily visible to users from the lake or the shore. Hitting in lake shoreline rock protection placements

[Type here]

is nasty, but safer than slamming into an in water chain link fence which you can't even hope to rest against or upon, or even leave your watercraft.

- In heavy seas, or bad weather it is much harder to see a porous dark chain link fence in the water than a solid metal seawall.
 - It can prevent a swimmer or watercraft user from coming ashore with the currents in bad weather.
 - Rescuers from the shore going to aid a nearshore offshore accident may have to contend with the fencing in the water as they attempt the rescue.
 - Dogs can clamber up on rocks, but cannot climb to safety on a chain link fence, and can be caught against its side
 - Zebra and Quagga mussels, invasive species of the Great Lakes, attach to metal easily and reproduce rapidly, coating a bicycle in a year in numerous demonstrations. We do not need to encourage more invasive species collecting in our shoreline section of Lake Michigan.
- These collective invasives negatively affect the huge Great Lakes fisheries ecologically.

Summary

The Public has a right to provide their thoughts on the permit decision. The IDNR sent out its letter to the public to weigh in on this Fence Permit for Chain Link fencing on the nearshore and into the waters of Lake Michigan in the late afternoon of December 24, 2025. We were all on holiday or out of town, and could hardly or reasonably get responses in by January 6, 2026 to Eric and the IDNR. We asked for a 10 day extension which was denied.

- Most dog users do not want this fence going out into the lake
- No known other user groups desire this fence going out into the lake
- The Board of Commissioners of the Winnetka Park District would like the fence as it helps them in working with their neighbor to south, one citizen and his family.
- The Village of Winnetka is the trustee for our collective Lake Michigan Winnetka shoreline.

Please thoughtfully review all the comments at this evenings meeting, and vote to reject the fencing plan as presented by the Winnetka Park District this evening. Public safety is at risk.

Thank you.

Jean B. Schreiber –“Susie”

Winnetka Park District resident and former Commissioner, and former Winnetka Plan Commission member

P.S.

Shoals

Eric Otto Of the IDNR Coastal Zone, in his permit approval letter, referenced shoals off Centennial Park. **There is no shoal off Centennial Park.** These are marked on the Winnetka Park District drawings which they submitted to the IDNR, IEPA and the USACE as hunks of concrete. These hunks came from the old TB Sanatorium formerly on the top of the bluff, and should have all come out last summer in the navigational safety debris removal worked on by the Winnetka Park District in consultation with the Village of Winnetka and the USACE.

[Type here]

25

The Illinois Coast of Lake Michigan

Michael J. Chrzastowski

INTRODUCTION

The Illinois coast of Lake Michigan is one of the state's most dynamic geological settings. Coastal processes of waves, ice, and changing lake levels contribute to yearlong and seasonal erosion and deposition (accretion) along the beaches and across the nearshore lake bottom, although major change also can occur in days or even hours.

The social and economic importance of the Illinois coast cannot be overstated. This coast borders the most populous part of the state and includes some of the most valued real estate in Illinois. It is also the most densely populated coastal area in the entire Great Lakes region and has the region's highest degree of engineering and human modification. Notably, the historical development of Chicago, Waukegan, and the other municipalities along the shore was strongly influenced by the coastal geology.

Despite extensive urbanization, the Illinois coastal zone preserves an exceptional geological record of coastal evolution that spans about 14,000 years, beginning in late glacial time when an ancestral shoreline first formed. A series of ancient shoreline features document how the Illinois coast evolved through changing lake levels and shaping and reshaping by wave-induced erosion, transport, and deposition. The historical record of coastal change also provides numerous examples of how human modification has notably altered the shoreline configuration and has had an impact on local coastal processes. The continuing geological changes along this coast present ongoing engineering and management challenges that will face future generations.

COASTAL SHAPE AND DYNAMICS

The Illinois coastline extends 63 miles (101.4 km) along the southern reach of the western shore of Lake Michigan (Figure 25-1), 22 miles (35.4 km) of which is the City of Chicago shoreline. North of Chicago, the coast includes 14 near-lake municipalities, the U.S. Navy's Naval Training Center Great Lakes, and state-owned Illinois Beach State Park and North Point Marina. The municipalities from Lake Bluff south to Evanston are collectively called the North Shore. The state's jurisdiction extends across a portion of the lake, covering approximately 1,500 square miles (3,885 km²) of lake and lake bottom. The deepest water

within the Illinois extent of Lake Michigan is about 490 feet (149.4 m).



Figure 25-1 The Illinois coast of Lake Michigan showing municipalities and harbors. The index map shows the configuration of the Illinois state line across Lake Michigan.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: WPD Fencing SUP Application—Comments for ZBA
Date: Friday, February 6, 2026 9:54:52 AM
Attachments: [79D77E9B-AC52-4CC5-AC9C-CBC0E793E569.png](#)
[72EF620F-8882-4826-AD60-142297EB47FF.png](#)
[6596EEA3-476F-4B03-BB96-772A53BF06ED.png](#)
[4BC6BF5B-798F-455D-A353-CE0AB1157213.png](#)
[57171C5D-38A9-4395-853A-65804F652783.png](#)

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Hello Ann:

Would you please share this with ZBA ahead of its February 9, 2026 meeting?

On February 5, 2026 the Winnetka Park District adopted a motion approving new permanent fencing designs for Centennial Beach. I did not see the new plans in ZBA’s publicly available February 9, 2026 meeting packet. The new permanent fencing project differs in design, scope and description from what WPD presented to ZBA for Monday’s meeting, which I believe requires it to make new permit submissions to the Village.

WPD’s new permanent fencing designs

The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for 'winpark.community.diligentoneplatform.com'. The main content area displays a 'LIVE STREAM' of a fencing plan titled 'CENTENNIAL DOG FENCE PLAN: ALTERNATE 2'. The plan includes a legend with the following items:

- SHIRT POLE BARRIER
- IMPREGNATED BEACH FENCING
- EXISTING PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS
- SHIRT POLE BEACH ENTRY
- ACCESS BEACH
- POST AND ACCESS GATE

The plan also shows 'PUBLIC BEACH' and 'DOG BEACH' areas. Below the plan, there is a 'VIDEO' button and a note: 'To view the agenda document and the video together click the button below.' The sidebar on the right lists 'TODAY'S MEETINGS' and 'RECENT MEETINGS'.

“The public beach has to end.”

Ishbia said the planters are something he will not concede,



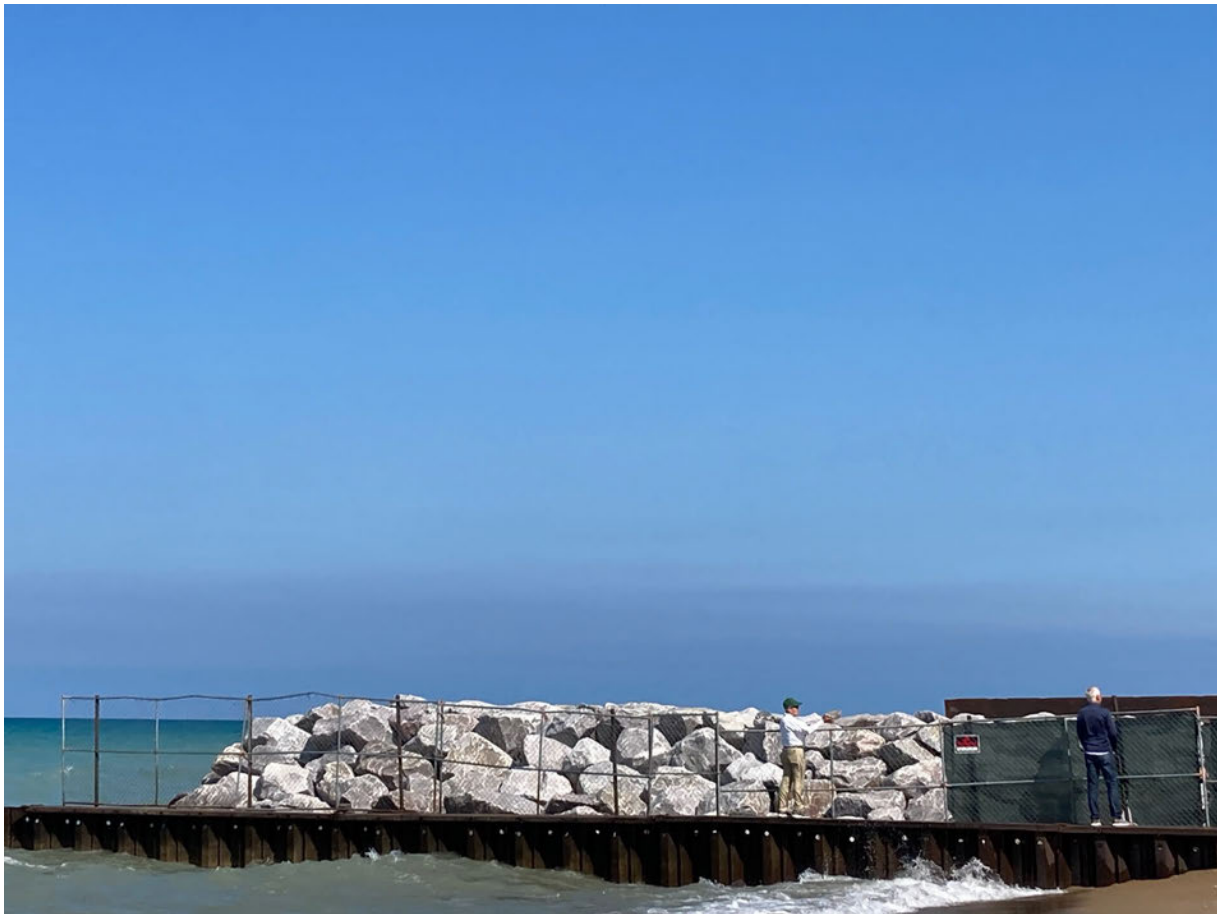
because he wants something that will distinguish the public beach from his private property, and added that the planters have been “part of the deal since Day 1, before we started the conversations.”

“It was really important to have there be something that signifies the end of public property,” Ishbia said. “The public beach has to end.”

WPD continues to misrepresent the reasons for a fencing project that Cook County’s Deputy Administrator categorizes as falling outside the scope of its ordinance. Further misrepresentations and confusion related to WPD’s new dog beach fencing designs are as follows.

1. Despite WPD’s awareness of the Village’s commitment to protecting the public’s health,

safety and welfare, it adopted new designs that are at least as detrimental as the designs Plan voted 7-0 not to recommend. This fencing would induce people to step onto the steel sheet piling and use it to travel east as far as WPD's proposed fencing extends, from where they could jump off—potentially hitting 205 Sheridan's armored stone breakwater. People will be hard to see in the water/on the rocks/below the fencing, and difficult to rescue.



Two men climbed onto the steel groin and sidestepped along it by using the fencing. Note that WPD's designs would permanently induce future beachwalkers to do the same while traversing Lake Michigan's actual shoreline.

2. I understood WPD's Costa Kutulas to say sand levels on either side of the new designs' steel groin-mounted fencing would differ by approximately 4', creating a hazardous drop off. He also made an assumption that people would choose the safest route to reach 205 Sheridan's northern breakwater steps. I do not think it is reasonable to make this assumption, and I hope ZBA asks him about it.

3. At the February 5, 2026 meeting, WPD's board majority was coy about its intentions for 2024's WPD-IFF Donation Agreement with Restrictive Covenant. The board majority said they want to get all the permits for the groin-mounted fencing plan, and then revisit the Donation Agreement with Restrictive Covenant. It does not take much to suspect an eventual plan to encumber the park, freeze its use, build dangerous structures and impede access to Centennial's southern shoreline, all to the detriment of the public's general welfare for over half a century.

- Beach Safety
- Dangerous Waves
- Sneaker Waves
- Dangerous Currents
- Other Beach Hazards

**South Haven, Michigan, September 2020:
Four children carried in a longshore current
toward a pier and had to be rescued.**



- WPN**
- Beach Resources**
- For The Media
 - Resources
 - Great Lakes Safety
 - Surf Zone Fatalities
 - Beach Hazard Photos
 - Rip Current Safety
 - Rip Current Toolkit
 - Partners

When you visit the Great Lakes it's important to know about the hazards you may face. Staying aware and alert is what will keep you safe in the dynamic conditions found on their beaches.

[Share Your Story](#)

"Dangerous currents and breaking waves are common in the Great Lakes region. Rip currents, other currents, and river outlets found near piers (also known as breakwaters/breakwalls) are extremely dangerous for swimmers and can lead to drownings". (Michigan Sea Grant, member of the Great Lakes Water Safety Consortium)

What you should do when first arriving at the beach

Before entering the water, talk with a lifeguard or beach patrol. No one will know the current water conditions better than they will. If you are at an unguarded beach, which most are, Steer Clear of the Pier, if one is present. Swim at least 100 yards away from the structure. Also, remember if you see whitewater waves are at least 3 feet and dangerous currents may be present. The waves alone pose a danger as well.

4. WPD's new permanent fencing designs would cost \$50,000-\$100,000—adding to over \$2.3 million spent to date, plus a foregone genuine \$3 million donation offer that would have advanced more funds to cover litigation threats WPD is using as an excuse. The effect is detrimental to the public's general welfare.

4:14 PM Thu Feb 5 94%


toneplatform.com

LIVE STREAM Share

You can view a live meeting here.

Cost Considerations For Alternate Plans

- Project Cost Estimates (\$50K - \$100K)
 - Project scope would include
 - Review of the existing steel Jetty's and repairs to the cap of the northern structure
 - Construction Drawings and survey for the project (for permitting and bidding)
 - Purchase and installation of approximately 375 LF of chain-link fencing
 - Relocation of the electric for key fob gate
 - Relocation of the key fob gate and controls (may need to be replace if damaged)
 - Repairs to current fob gate location
 - New signage and fixtures as needed
 - Not included
 - Any major repairs to steel sheeting
 - Any operating costs for north beach (costs will depend on usage as approved by the Board)
 - Any additional work not listed above



Funding for this project could be allocated from the Lakefront Capital Budget

To view the agenda document and the video together click the button below.

[VIDEO](#)

[f](#) [X](#) [v](#) [i](#)

TODAY'S MEETINGS

Special Board Meeting - Feb 05 2026

UPCOMING MEETINGS

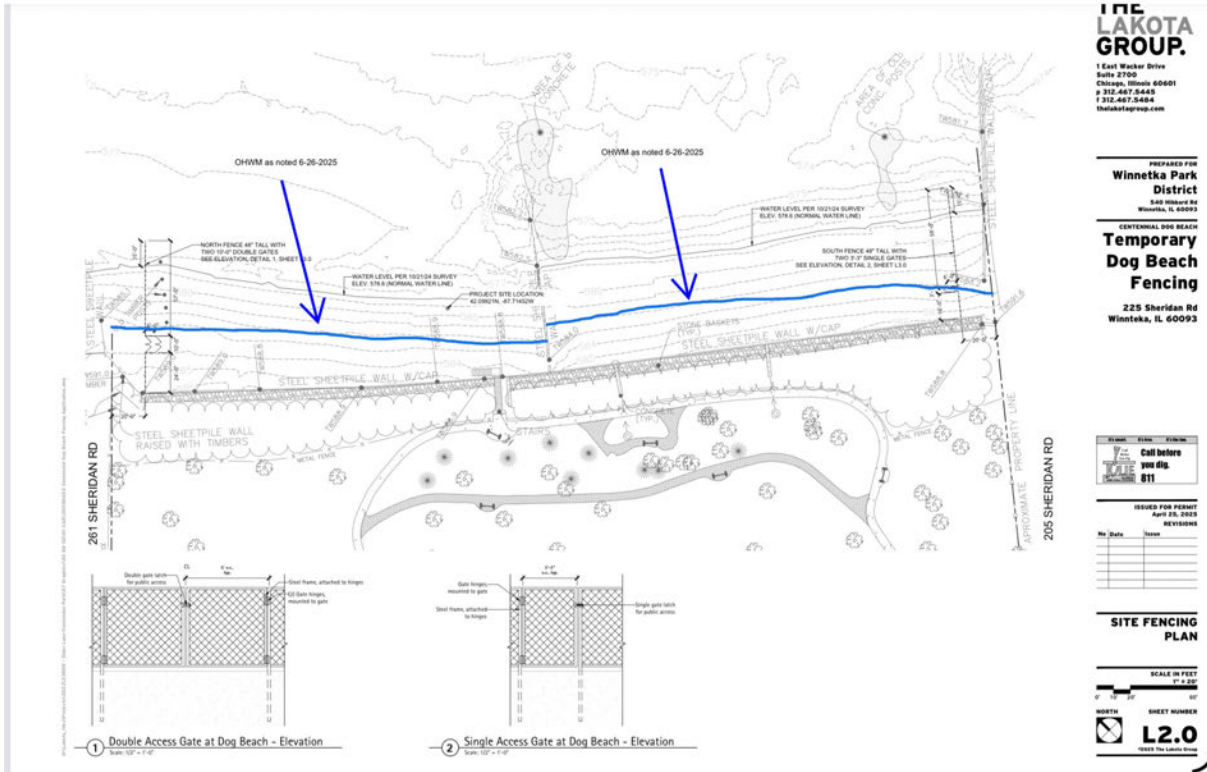
Regular Board Meeting - Feb 26 2026 [More](#)

RECENT MEETINGS

Golf Services Advisory Board - Feb 03 2026 [More](#)

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5. WPD’s new designs would involve relocating electrical wiring all the way down the bluffs and onto the sandy beach 12 feet east of the toe of the bluffs. The OHWM on Centennial’s southern end—closest to 205 Sheridan—is only a short distance east of the fencing and electric fob.



L2.0 LAKOTA GROUP.
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PREPARED FOR
Winnetka Park District
 540 Winnetka Rd
 Winnetka, IL 60093

Temporary Dog Beach Fencing
 225 Sheridan Rd
 Winnetka, IL 60093

ISSUED FOR PERMIT
 APRIL 25, 2023
 REVISIONS

SITE FENCING PLAN

SCALE IN FEET
 1" = 20'

SHEET NUMBER
L2.0

As water levels change, the electrical wiring, key fob, gate and even the “watertight” dog waste receptacle will be fully or partly underwater. This will be unsafe, unsanitary and difficult to maintain. I therefore request that ZBA ask WPD why in the surveys of dog beaches throughout Lake and Cook Counties, nothing has surfaced depicting other dog beaches with locked electric gates only feet away from the OCHWM. It is obviously much safer and more usable for the key fob operated gate to remain at the top of the bluffs with no risk of it being submerged in Lake Michigan.

HOME

CALENDAR

MEETINGS

SEARCH



TODAY'S MEETINGS

Special Board Meeting - Feb 05 2026

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Regular Board Meeting - Feb 26 2026

More

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LIVE STREAM

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Centennial Dog Fence Plan (Alternate 2)



North Boundary (Same as Alt. 1)

- Includes 46' of fencing that would be secured to the existing steel jetti (sections still would be removable)
 - Max 4' in height from the steel cap
 - Max 5' in height from the beach contour
- Relocation of the key fob entry gate to beach level
- 10' x 10' double entry gate for dog beach access
 - (Will require an issued dog pass key fob)
- 12' Wide bypass allowing non-dog beach users to bypass dog beach
- Include a watertight trash receptacle

To view the agenda document and the video together click the button below.

VIDEO



Metal cover over Centennial's current electric fob operated gate's emergency exit button was broken off and not fixed over multiple summers.

6. I think it may be difficult for an electric gate that is sitting in sand or water to swing open. If it does open, it may take more than a reasonable amount of time. Once inside the 10' square

enclosure leading to the main area for dogs, there would be another gate people would have to unlatch and physically pull open (or closed) manually to enter or leave the 10' square enclosure. It is unclear if the designs include an emergency exit button inside the 10' square enclosure.

7. On February 5, 2026 Mr. Kutulas said the new designs' black chainlink fencing would be HARDER TO SEE. This will cause more accidents involving swimmers, paddle boarders, kayakers, jet skiers and other watergoers along with dogs, getting tangled up with the fencing and hurt, and/or possibly drowning.

8. WPD is loath to respect the Ordinary High Water Mark as the easternmost boundary of its lot line for zoning purposes. Approving fencing that extends into a public street—Lake Michigan—would set a terrible and dangerous precedent. You may not be aware of this, but a threatening sign was placed off of the Cherry Street Beach sometime after 2023. In the fall of 2025 the sign was still on public beach below the OHWM. I believe it would create even more dangers for the public if ZBA votes to recommend fencing below the OHWM. Others will use this as precedent in their determined efforts to block off Lake Michigan.



Sign south of Cherry Street Beach in 2025

9. WPD has not formed a plan for the isolated northern half of Centennial beach that its designs would create. ZBA does not have enough information to assess whether an immediately adjacent swimming beach would be safe for people and dogs traveling up and down the stairs to the same watershed, whether it would be legal under the Illinois Swimming

Facilities Act, whether WPD would comply with the law and build bathrooms within 300 feet of the shoreline, or other potential issues. I am confounded by WPD's consideration of designs that could put human swimmers strictly on the north side of Centennial's center steel groin where they will face what WPD describes as northeasterly rip currents. It would be safer to put people on the southern side of the steel groin . . . obviously not WPD's choice since it would foil efforts to fence Centennial's southern boundary.

10. On February 5, 2026 WPD mentioned its allocation of funding to police Centennial beach with "wardens." WPD's Centennial beach vision appears to be putting people and their dogs in a cage, with roaming police issuing tickets and/or warning people away. This is out of line with the Village's Comprehensive Plan. Furthermore, it is repugnant.

11. WPD seems confused about Wilmette's Gillson Dog Beach. Dogs have to remain leashed until they get to Gillson's sandy dog beach, but not when they are on the sand.

12. It is unclear if Centennial's 11 parking spots would be sufficient if Winnetka's only dog beach is next to a passive use or swimming beach. I think a dual-use beach will draw a lot of people, like Lloyd Beach does. The lack of adequate parking will spill onto tabletop parkland, into the neighborhood across Sheridan Road and around the area. This in itself is sufficient reason to deny approving WPD's SUP application.

13. Pounding fencing onto the steel groin that crosses over Centennial's lot line with 205 Sheridan could be destabilizing and potentially give rise to damages. WPD should be asked about this.

14. WPD makes no commitment to get a professional assessment of whether its designs—particularly the gates—meet ADA requirements for Winnetka's only dog beach, which is a public accommodation.

WPD's February 5, 2026 Special Meeting just appeared on its calendar on Monday, February 2, 2026. Its meeting agenda with two small images of the new permanent fencing designs appeared on Tuesday, February 4, 2026. The public had 48 hours to evaluate the designs, if they happened to read WPD's agenda ahead of Thursday's meeting. This is the same and also inadequate timeframe that the public and non-majority board members had to try to evaluate designs attached to WPD-IFF's Donation Agreement with Restrictive Covenant when they appeared in WPD's October 19, 2023 meeting agenda—48 hours. Furthermore, the new designs are not included in ZBA's meeting packet. The Village Engineer, Police Chief and Fire Chief have not had an opportunity to assess the designs' narrow bypass width, the gates, placing electrical on the beach, the 4' drop-off, and other questions. WPD's efforts to force down cumbersome designs that impede access to public lands and threaten the public's general welfare—physically, financially and legally, are concerning. Please uphold the public's interest and decline to recommend approving them.

Thank you.
Kristine Schriesheim
Winnetka taxpayer

The Zoning Board of Appeals shouldn't do anything to advance the current plans of the Winnetka Park District for a dog area at Centennial Beach, because setting aside any lakefront property of the Village of Winnetka is simply an ill-conceived use of Village and Park District lakefront.

There are better ways to handle this issue.

What the Village and the WPD should do in regard to canine access to the lakefront is to [i] entirely prohibit dogs from all lakefront property during regular swimming hours, but [ii] allow dog-owners and their dogs and the public to freely use the lakefront – just the beach, not any park areas – in the evenings, after regular hours for permitted swimming and for the public in general.

I have personally seen this regulatory scheme in action at beaches on the Atlantic Ocean in New Jersey, and it has worked well for years.

And according to remarks by Zoning Board Chair Matthew Bradley at the January 28th Plan Commission meeting, the usage regime suggested above appears to be how ‘the dog beach’ has, in fact historically operated in Winnetka anyway.

Fully realizing this proposal and beach accessibility to Winnetka residents would, of course, mean opening up all the lakefront that is now effectively barricaded by the kind of massive rock jetties that have recently been erected at either end of the Ishbia property, but even if it isn't possible to address that particular aspect right now, the regulatory scheme suggested above will still work well.

The proposed regulatory scheme will, obviously cost a great deal less than the current Park District proposal, and it won't involve further environmental degradation -- assuming that dog-owners pick up after the pets.

It's at least worth a try, isn't it? So why not turn off the seemingly endless governmental process for now, and give it a try for a year or two?

Marc Hecht

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Subject: February 9, 2026
Date: Saturday, February 7, 2026 5:46:38 PM

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*Ann,
Please forward my letter below to the Zoning Board and the Design Review Board.
Thank You,
Joanna Karatzas*

February 9, 2026

Re: Special Use Permit for Dog Fence at Centennial Beach

Zoning Board:

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

It's hard writing about a moving target. Since the Park Board altered schematics for the dog beach on February 5, 2026, the letter I previously wrote regarding the scheme presented to the Planning Commission on January 28, 2026 is irrelevant. However, I don't know if procedure allows for a switch at this point without first going back to the Planning Commission. Therefore, I'm retaining my response to that first scheme in this letter.
See Below.

**Response to the Dog Beach plan presented
by Winnetka Park District to the public on February 5, 2026.**

As I stated previously regarding the scheme presented to the Planning Commission on January 28, 2026, tonight's plans are again vague, and therefore misleading. Because the drawing doesn't include the breakwater at 205 Sheridan, it may give the viewer an overly optimistic perception of its true feasibility. It's important to convey the entire existing condition on the south boundary of Centennial. It's a point of contention and I'll never understand why the drawing is incomplete.

In looking at the plan, it looks like pedestrians would have to walk on property belonging to 205 Sheridan when transversing southward along the lake. Also, the width of the passage in front of the stairs over the breakwater seems especially narrow and is endanger of being swamped should the lake rise to the high water mark.

A park commissioner at last week's meeting mentioned the need for a staked survey at this edge. It seems like a good idea and should have happened before this plan was presented.

More importantly, it's worth asking ourselves what's driving a fenced dog beach there at all? The answer lies in a donation held out to the Park District by the Ishbia Family Foundation (IFF), also known as the owner of 205 Sheridan. The donation isn't a pure act of kindness, it has strings attached. It mandates a fenced dog beach located at the south end of Centennial; ADA access; and a very over-scaled pier placed near where the north dog beach fence is

proposed. I wish someone would tell me what IFF's motivations are, particularly regarding the pier.

The entanglement between IFF and the WPD has resulted in some very weird proposals and solutions over the last four years. I have been critical of the proposed designs, but I know the designers aren't at fault. The root of the problems lie with decisions and agreements the Winnetka Park Board has made. Cutting the cord between IFF and WPD would allow for a rational solution at Elder/Centennial.

**Response to the Dog Beach plan presented
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The plans for the off-leash dog beach, submitted as part of tonight's agenda packet are vague and therefore misleading. The drawings fail to inform the Zoning Board and the public of the breakwater now existing at the north boundary of 205 Sheridan, also known as the south boundary of Centennial, nor do they highlight the existing sheet pile at the same location. Furthermore, the fence elevations are not presented in context— therefore the observer can't see what lurks behind proposed south fence. Had the sheet pile and the breakwater been boldly drawn in plan, the benign looking 20 ft.-gap between the thin line representing the south fence of the proposed dog beach and the property line of 205 Sheridan Rd. would seem hazardous and redundant.

The proposed fence is 93 ft. 3in. long from the toe of the bluff to its eastern terminus in Lake Michigan. It runs into the lake at a proposed distance of 15 ft. from the ordinary water line, but that stretch would increase to 40 plus ft. should the lake rise to the high water mark. Should the lake level stay at the ordinary water mark, the water depth at the east terminus of the fence would be 1.5-2 ft. That makes me wonder, would that depth be if we experience a high tide?

At best, the proposed 20 ft. gap will be an unsightly debris collector and at worst it would be a trap endangering the lives of people and dogs that might get stuck and battered between jagged rocks, a corroded sheet pile, and an unyielding fence. Yes, the lake can get choppy and produce strong currents.

The need to provide a fence where there is already a pile of rocks is questionable. Dogs aren't likely to pick their way over wet, slimy rocks in favor of running and playing on a wide open beach.

Finally, drawings are a powerful tool of communication. They should be comprehensive and describe adjacency conditions. In this case they fail to do so, therefore, please deny this Special Use Permit.

Joanna Karatzas
Winnetka Resident

Sent from my iPhone

John William Root
326 Woodland Avenue
Winnetka, IL 60093
Telephone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Sent by electronic mail: smangum@winnetka.org

Mr. Scott Mangum
Village of Winnetka
Director of Community Development
510 Green Bay Road
Winnetka, IL 60093

February 8, 2026

Re: Case No. 25-28-SU
225 Sheridan Road – Centennial Park & Beach
Comments for 10/14/24 Hearing

Dear Mr. Mangum:

As you may be aware, the Winnetka Park Board (WPD) met on February 5, 2026, and approved a new design for the dog fence for its Special Use Permit (SUP) for Case No. 25-28-SU. The design can be seen below in figure 1.

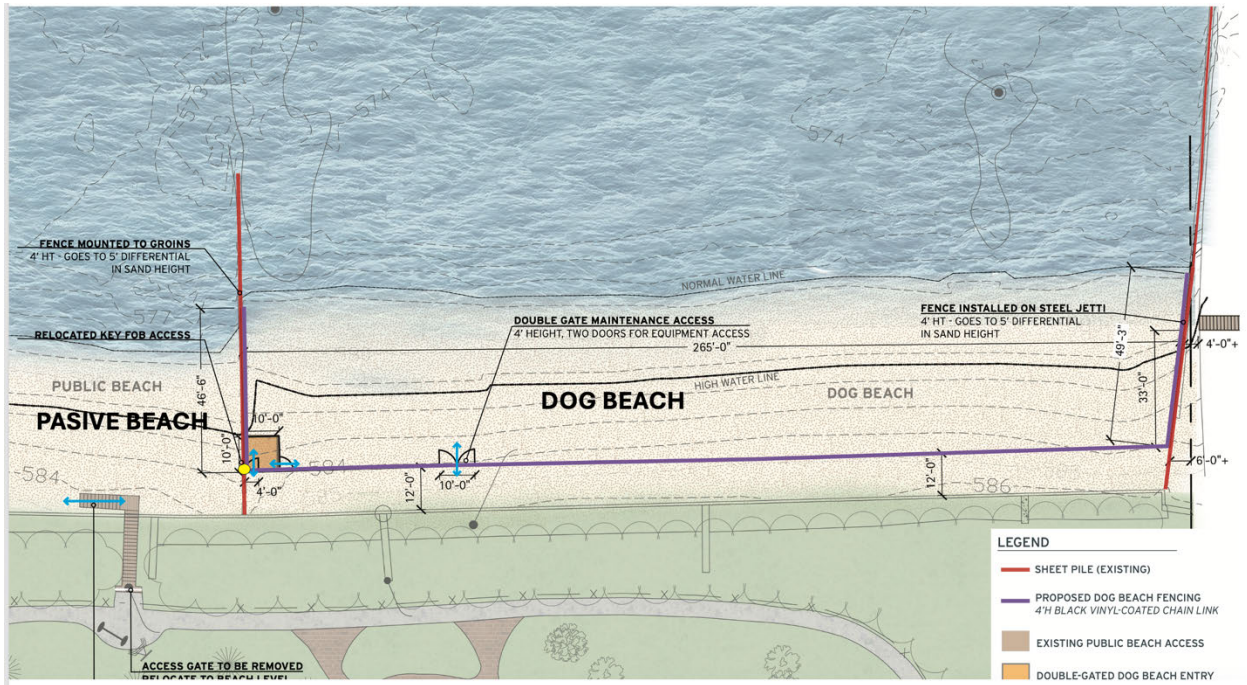


Figure 1. Revised Dog Fence Design

The February 5 redesign appears to be a material change from the fence configuration presented in the pending SUP application and circulated to the public. Among other things, the redesign relocates the fence elements and reconfigures Centennial Beach by dividing it into an off-leash dog area and a separate “passive” beach area for the general public, which materially alters the character and impacts of the proposed special use.

Section 17.56.130 (Amendments to Special Use Permits) recognizes that when a SUP holder seeks a material change to the approved special use, the change must be processed as an amendment with the required administrative review and public process. The Park District is not merely refining details; it has approved a substantively different configuration. At minimum, the Village should require the Park District to proceed through the appropriate administrative procedure under the Zoning Ordinance for a material modification—i.e., staff review, a complete and current plan set, and legally adequate public notice—before the matter is heard on the merits.

This is also a basic procedural due process issue. The public hearing process only works if residents and affected property owners have meaningful notice of what is being proposed and a fair opportunity to review and comment on the operative design. A last-minute substitution of a materially different fence plan on the eve of a hearing undermines the integrity of the administrative record and deprives interested persons of a fair opportunity to be heard on the actual proposal.

As of the date of this letter: (1) no notice of postponement of the February 9, 2026, ZBA hearing appears to have been posted; and (2) the February 5 revised fence design does not appear to be posted on the Village’s ZBA webpage. It therefore appears likely that the Park District may present the superseded fence design at the February 9 hearing, despite having approved a materially different plan on February 5. That would be inefficient for the ZBA and unfair to the public, and it risks a recommendation based on a plan the applicant itself has abandoned.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that the Village require the Park District to submit a complete amended plan set reflecting the new February 5 design and then restart or continue the SUP process as required for material changes, including staff review and proper notice to surrounding property owners and the public. If the Park District nonetheless intends to proceed on February 9 using the older design, then the ZBA should limit the presentation time (e.g., 15 minutes for staff and 15 minutes for the applicant) and avoid devoting substantial hearing time to an outmoded plan that is no longer the applicant’s approved design.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

/ s/

John W. Root

Letter to Mr. Scott Mangum

February 8, 2026

Page 3 of 3

cc: Members of the Village of Winnetka Zoning Board of Appeals

Ms. Kristin Kazenas, Village Manager

By Email: KKazenas@winnetka.org

Ms. Ann Klaassen

Assistant Director

By Email: AKlaassen@winnetka.org

**To: Winnetka Zoning Board of Appeals
From: Angie Dahl
Re: Case No. 25-28-SU: 225 Sheridan Road-Centennial Beach**

Date: February 9 2026

Members of the ZBA:

You are being asked tonight to consider and approve an application from the Winnetka Park District to allow installation of fencing on the existing Centennial beach in order to create a dog beach. On January 28 2026, this application was unanimously rejected by the Plan Commission.

Tonight, Park District staff and legal counsel may also present an alternative plan, differing in size, scope and accessibility, which was adopted at a Special Meeting of the Park Board held on February 5, 2026 at 4:30 in the afternoon.

The plan rejected by the Plan Commission, which is before you this evening, and the newly designed plan adopted by the Winnetka Park Board on February 5 have one purpose in common: the creation of a dog beach with substantial fencing.

Several years ago the Winnetka Park District solicited input from dog owners and dog beach users on an ad hoc advisory board whose purpose was to evaluate options within the community for an off leash dog area. The recommendation from that group was to move the dog beach from Centennial and relocate it at an area near the power plant at Tower Road.

The timing of this ad hoc committee and its subsequent recommendation overlapped with new, private and ongoing discussions between several members of the Winnetka Park District Board of Commissioners, and an individual property owner purchasing land adjacent to Centennial Park. During this same period, concerned residents attempted but failed to locate or review any meeting minutes or video recordings of meetings where the Centennial/Elder project was discussed. This resulted in an inquiry to the Illinois Attorney General's Office and a subsequent finding that the Winnetka Park District was in violation of the requirements in the Open Meetings Act of timely posting meeting minutes and videos for public review. Interestingly, the missing information being sought directly related to the negotiations taking place in private with a specific home owner. The findings of the ad hoc dog beach advisory committee were put aside.

I bring this to your attention tonight because of the repetitive nature of the SUP applications from the Park District.

I am a dog owner, a user of the dog beach, and was a Park District Commissioner at the time the Centennial Dog Beach was conceived and implemented. My husband was a member of

the ad hoc Dog Beach Committee which addressed a possible change in location. I believe there is a simple solution to this ongoing merry-go-round of hearings regarding this issue.

Remove the dog beach from Centennial. If that happens, there will be no need for a SUP and no need for the fencing that is opposed by so many.

I don't know if it is within your purview to make this decision. If so, please consider this option and please deny the Winnetka Park District's application for a SUP.

Angie Dahl
1277 Forest Glen Dr N



MEMO

February 9, 2026

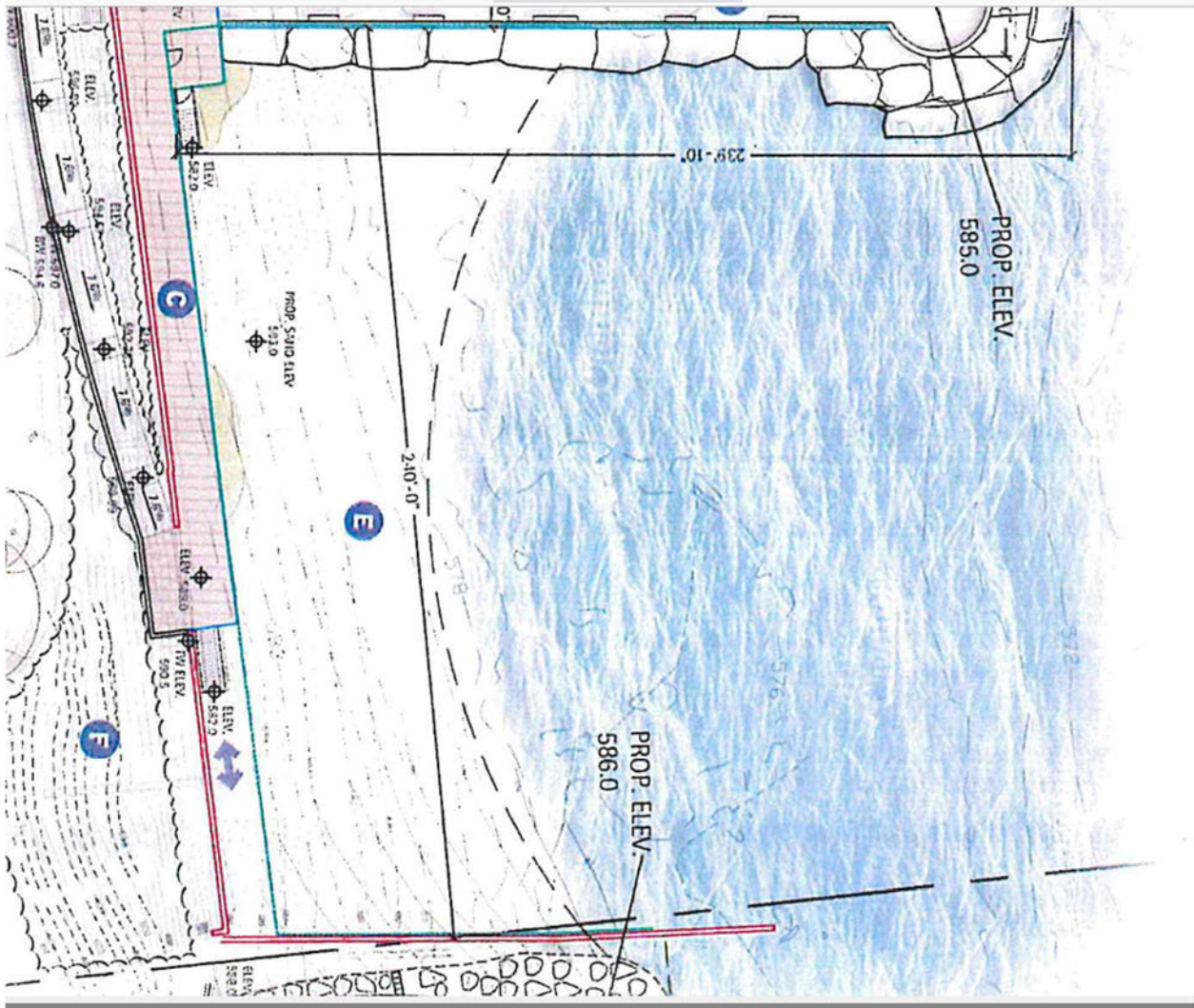
TO: Winnetka Zoning Board of Appeals

FROM: Laurie Morse

RE: Centennial Fence Designs 1-3. Which will the ZB review today?

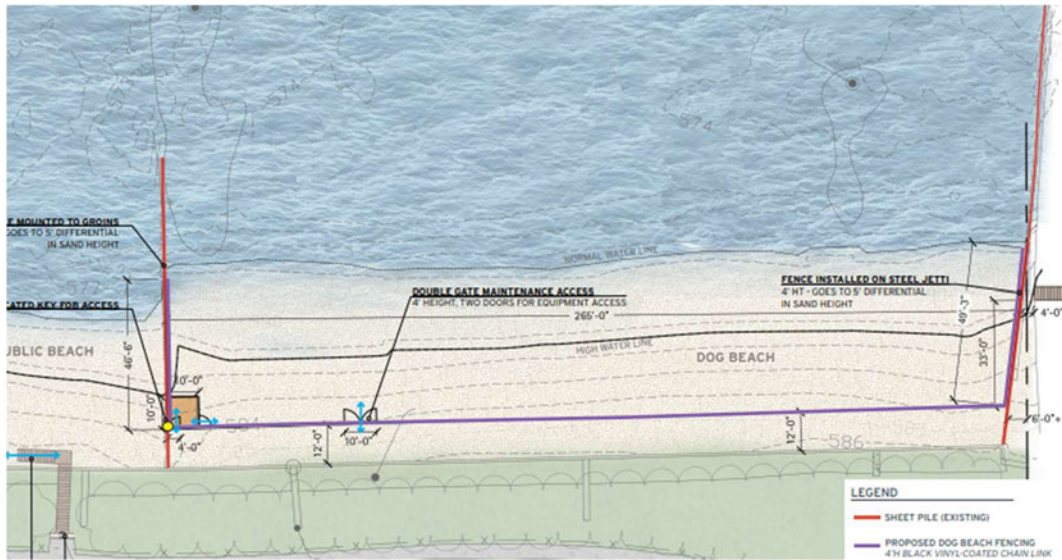
Zoning Board reviewed and rejected fence design 1. at meetings in 2024. This fence blocks public access stairs to the new 205 beach, which is now complete and open for public use.

1. Fence plan from WPD/IFF restrictive Covenant Agreement dated January 19, 2024:



access stairs to 205 Sheridan beach 1

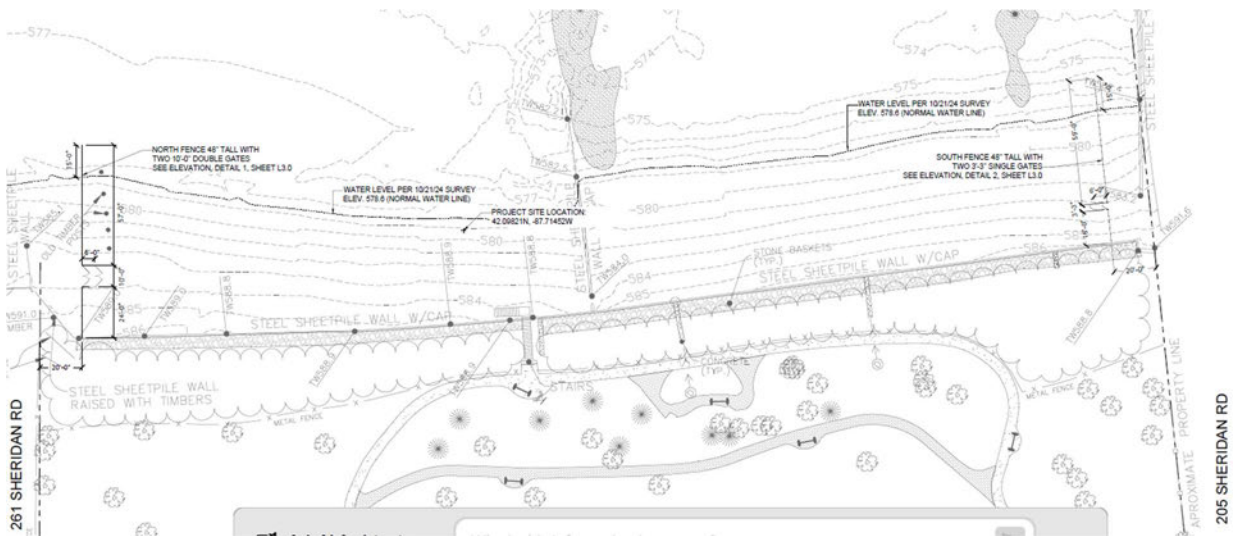
2. WPD Fence Plan chosen at WPD Board Meeting February 5, 2026



The Feb. 5 WPD Board Meeting was theater. This “new” fence design conforms nicely to Ishbia Family Covenant agreement requirements. Walkways and other features can be added later. This plan includes locked gates at beach level but is not materially different from 1. above already rejected by ZB. Access stairs to new public 205 beach blocked.

The “temporary fence” 3. Below, scheduled for ZB review today doesn’t conform to the Ishbia Covenant agreement fence plan. “Temporary” language in IDNR permit application was meant for Ishbia Family team. “Temporary fence” was effective test of IDNR permit review. WPD no longer plans to build this design and will seek new permits from all regulators.

3. IDNR permitted this fence design on December 24, 2025. Permit LM20250015.



From: [Ann Klaassen](#)
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Subject: Could you distribute to ZBA?
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 11:55:14 AM

From: Irene Smith [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 10:52 AM
To: Ann Klaassen <AKlaassen@winnetka.org>
Subject: Could you distribute to ZBA?

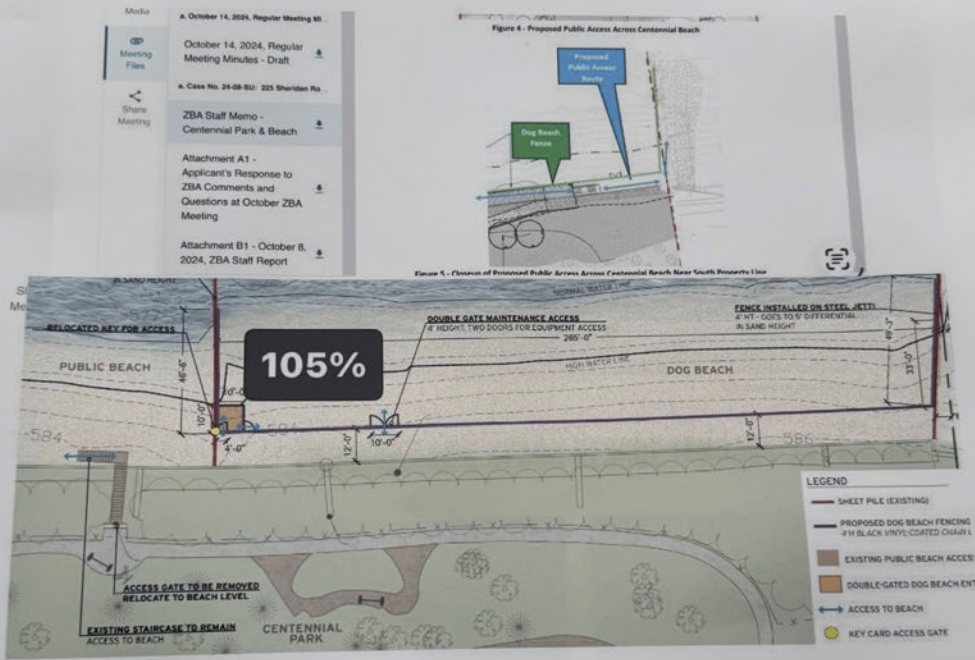
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning, Ann. Is it too late to add something to the ZBA packets? This is a poster I'm bringing tonight, but I'm afraid the printing is too small. It would be better understood if the Commissioners could read it in their packets.

Many thanks.

Irene

WPD DESIGNS RELAUNCH PROJECT ELEMENTS FROM IFF DONATION AGREEMENT-RESTRICTIVE COVENANT, CREATE A PRIVATE BEACH AND VIOLATE THE PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE



PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE November 11, 2024 Page 2

1 relating to the walking path between the Park District steel groin which will have the dog fencing, the 205
 2 Sheridan stone groin and its stairs.
 3
 4 Peter Friedman referred to the question raised as to whether the public would have to walk on private
 5 property in order to access the beach. He referred to the Public Trust Doctrine and exceptions which he
 6 summarized. Mr. Friedman referred to an area in the illustration on the south side of the property
 7 between the Park District and 205 Sheridan Road properties where the public would walk from the dog
 8 beach to the stairs on the 205 Sheridan stone groin to go south and the area which remained private
 9 property. He stated the Board can condition any approval recommendation with conditions with the issue
 10 being resolved relating to walking on private property to access the beach.
 11
 a. Case No. [REDACTED] asked for the applicant's presentation to be followed by public comment. He swore in
 this matter.

Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly

believe. In my life I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love and nonviolence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring.

When historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21st century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression, and war. So I say to you, walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide.

John Lewis, from the essay he wrote shortly before his death on July 17, 2020.

February 9, 2026

From Joanna Enquist [REDACTED]
Date Mon 2/9/2026 4:25 PM
To The UPS Store #1772 <store1772@theupsstore.com>

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RECEIVED
FEB 09 2026
BY: _____

RECEIVED
FEB 09 2026
BY: _____

February 9, 2026

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Zoning Board:

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Furthermore, the width of the passage in front of the stairs over the breakwater seems especially narrow and is endanger of being swamped should the lake rise to the ordinary high water mark, a location that seems to keep moving according to the Winnetka Park District. Imagine an adult or child caught and battered between the fenced groin and the jagged rock piling during high water.

More importantly, it's worth asking ourselves, what's driving a fenced dog beach there at all? The answer lies in a donation held out to the Park District by the Ishbia Family Foundation (IFF). The donation isn't a pure act of kindness, it has strings attached. It mandates a fenced dog beach located at the south end of Centennial; ADA access; and a very over-scaled pier placed near where the north dog beach fence is proposed. I wish someone would tell me what IFF's motivations are, particularly regarding the pier.

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At best, the proposed 20 ft. gap will be an unsightly debris collector and at worst it would be a trap endangering the lives of people and dogs that might get stuck and battered between jagged rocks, a corroded sheet pile, and an unyielding fence. Yes, the lake can get choppy and produce strong currents.

The need to provide a fence where there is already a pile of rocks is questionable. Dogs aren't likely to pick their way over wet, slimy rocks in favor of running and playing on a wide open beach.

Finally, drawings are a powerful tool of communication. They should be comprehensive and describe adjacency conditions. In this case they fail to do so, therefore, please deny this Special Use Permit.

Joanna Karatzas
Winnetka Resident

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Robert Dearborn](#); [Kristin Kazenas](#)
Cc: [Ann Klaassen](#); [Brian O'Connell](#)
Subject: Can we resolve question re beach below 205 Sheridan prior to March ZBA meeting?
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 12:16:32 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear President Dearborn and Manager Kazenas,

Winnetka's Zoning Board of Appeals will review yet another Park District fencing design for Centennial Beach at its March meeting. The south end of new proposal fences off the stone steps the IDNR and the Village required for public access over the rock breakwater to the new public engineered beach below 205 Sheridan Sheridan Road. Am drafting comments on the fences for the ZBA and realize it is essential the Village establish for ZBA Commissioners the public nature of the new beach below 205 Sheridan. That the new beach is a public asset in Winnetka.

I could write a long spiel for the ZBA, but it takes the Village to settle for its own commissioners any question of the public's rights to use the new beach. The terms of the State permit allowing the 205 beach construction are clear: All the fill is public and open for use to all. The permit award letter to the 205 owner from the IDNR specifies the rock steps from Centennial over the 205 rock breakwater need to be far enough up the beach to provide safe access for all. The Village in its own permits also required stairs over the 205 structure's rocks so the public can safely cross to the new beach. Further, the IDNR underscored the public nature of the beach by requiring stairs down south side of new 205 groin so the public can proceed south if they wish. All of these documents are in your files.

In November, 2025, after the 205 beach construction fence was removed, a friend and I enjoyed our first visit to the new beach, using the rock stairs from Centennial for access. Due to a misunderstanding by the upland owner, the police were called. Your public safety team resolved the misunderstanding and recognized the rights of my friend and I to stay and enjoy the new beach as long as we liked. I and others have subsequently visited the beach below 205 frequently and look forward to further visits during warm weather.

This E-mail is only a request that the Village confirm for Zoning Board members the public nature of the new beach on Centennial's southern border. I am not asking for a public declaration or announcement. Only that members of the ZBA are fully informed prior to their hearing on Park District fencing. They deserve clarity before considering the WPD application for permission to fence off public access to the new public beach below 205.

Am copying Ann Klaassen with a request to share this note with Chairman Bradley of ZBA. Am copying Chief O'Connell for information only.

Best regards,

Laurie Morse



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Subject: A letter to the ZBA members for their meeting on 3/9/26.
Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026 2:10:24 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ann,

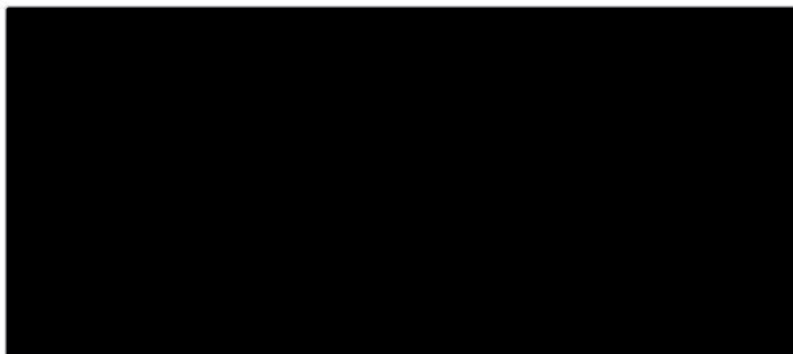
Would you please copy this letter for the ZBA members? Thanks so much.

To the members of the ZBA:

This article is from <http://www.wildlifegardeners.org>

I thought you might be interested in their opinions about chain link (or link chain) fences. I'm particularly concerned about the dangers of these fences to wildlife as well as to people and dogs.

[About Us - Wildlife Gardening](#)



About Us - Wildlife Gardening

Wildlife Gardening consists of trained volunteers whose aim is to promote environmentally responsible gardening ...

Wildlife-friendly Fencing and the Problem With Link Chain Fencing

May 9, 2024 - By [lara](#)

In recent years, the conversation around sustainable living and environmental conservation has highlighted the importance of wildlife-friendly fencing. Traditional barriers, particularly chain link fences, often pose significant hazards to local wildlife, obstructing natural movements and causing injuries. This article explores some wildlife-friendly fence options, the challenges of chain links, and inexpensive ways to cover a chain link fence to enhance its safety for wildlife.

What Makes a Fence Wildlife-Friendly?

Visibility

Wildlife-friendly fencing is designed to be highly visible to animals to prevent collisions and entanglement. By using larger, more reflective materials or adding colorful flagging tape to wires, the fence stands out better in natural environments. This visibility helps animals like deer, elk, and even birds recognize the barrier from a distance, allowing them to navigate safely around it. Enhanced visibility is especially crucial in areas where animal movement is high, ensuring that the fence serves as a gentle deterrent rather than a lethal obstacle.

Permeability

The concept of permeability in fencing is crucial for maintaining natural wildlife migration and movement patterns. Wildlife-friendly fences are constructed with gaps or are flexible enough to allow animals to pass through safely when necessary. For instance, drop-down sections or large spaces between the lower wires enable smaller animals to crawl under, while taller species might jump over without harm. This approach helps in

preserving the ecological balance and allows animals to continue their natural behaviors such as foraging and migration without severe disruption.

Height and Spacing

Adjusting the height and spacing of the wires in a fence can significantly enhance its wildlife-friendliness. The design considerations include ensuring that fences are not too high that they trap animals or too low that they pose a tripping hazard. Ideally, a fence should be high enough to deter or contain livestock yet low enough or properly spaced so that wildlife like deer can jump over safely. Moreover, sufficient ground clearance is provided to allow smaller creatures, such as turtles and rodents, to pass underneath, facilitating free movement across their habitat.

Material

The choice of material in wildlife-friendly fencing is vital to minimize potential injuries to wildlife. Using smoother and more flexible materials can reduce the chances of animals getting caught or injured by the fence. Smooth wire is often preferred over barbed wire, as it is less likely to cause harm if an animal attempts to cross through or over the fence. This consideration not only protects wildlife but also maintains the integrity and purpose of the fence over time.

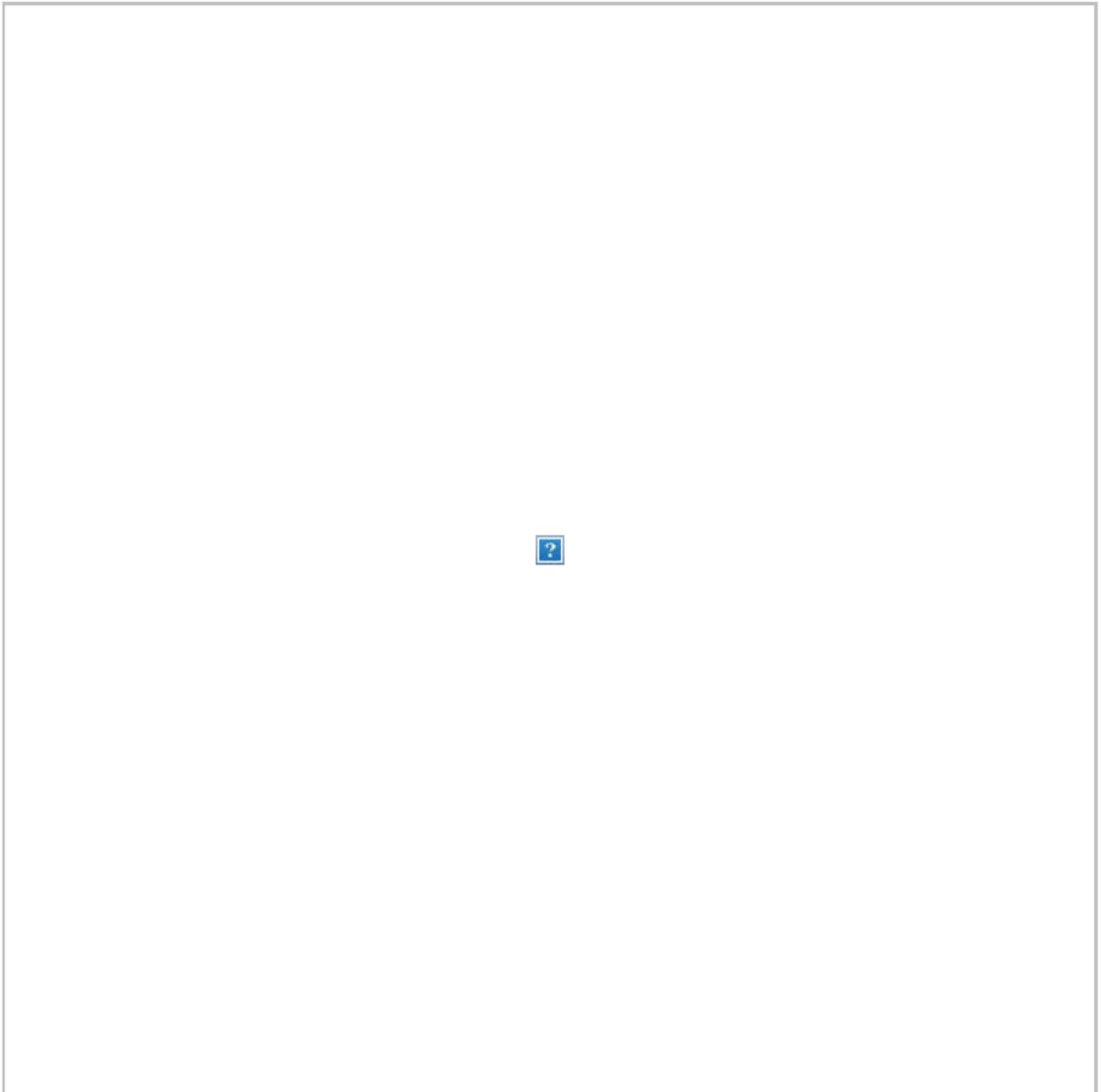
Gate Placement and Design

Integrating strategically placed gates or removable sections in wildlife-friendly fencing can significantly improve accessibility for wildlife. These gates are often designed to accommodate seasonal migration patterns, allowing animals to pass through key areas during specific times of the year. This design strategy helps to ensure that fencing does not permanently fragment habitats or obstruct essential migratory routes, thus supporting biodiversity and ecological connectivity.

Avoiding Barbed Wire

One of the fundamental aspects of wildlife-friendly fencing is the avoidance of barbed wire. Barbed wire can cause severe injuries to wildlife, leading to entanglement and even death. By substituting barbed wire with smoother alternatives, the risk to animals is greatly reduced. This practice is crucial in areas with high wildlife activity, ensuring that the fence fulfills its purpose without becoming a lethal hazard to the local fauna.

The Problem With Link Chain Fencing



Chain link fencing is not typically recommended for wildlife-friendly fencing due to several potential issues it can pose for animals:

Limited Permeability: Chain link fences offer little to no flexibility for animals to pass through or over, effectively creating barriers that can restrict wildlife movement and fragment habitats.

Injury Risks: The mesh design of chain link fences can pose risks for smaller wildlife, which might attempt to pass through the openings and become stuck or injured.

Obstacle to Larger Animals: Larger wildlife, like deer or elk, cannot jump over high chain link fences without risking injury. Likewise, they can't pass through it, which can disrupt natural migration and foraging paths.

Cheap Ways to Cover a Chain Link Fence

If you already have a chain link fence and want to make it more wildlife-friendly, there are a few modifications you can consider to reduce its impact on local fauna:

There are some affordable ways to cover a chain link fence to create a wildlife-friendly space in your garden.

- Adding **visual markers** such as colorful ribbons or reflective materials increases visibility to animals, helping to prevent collisions.
- Implementing affordable covers like finer **mesh or burlap** can protect smaller creatures from getting trapped while also concealing the industrial look of the fence.
- Strategically **creating gaps or installing wildlife-friendly gates** facilitates natural animal movement.
- **Planting vegetation**, such as climbing vines near the fence, provides a green cover, seamlessly integrating the fence with its natural surroundings.

These cost-effective modifications not only ensure the safety of local wildlife but also improve the overall appearance of the fence.

Thank you for your consideration.

Irene Smith

1087 Elm St.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Subject: A photo for the ZBA packet.
Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026 2:47:29 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi, Ann. Would you please copy the following for the ZBA packets? Thanks so much.

Irene



To the ZBA members-

This is a photo of the beach at Old Lyme, CT. I cannot imagine 2 such cages on Centennial Beach, one for people with dogs and one for people without dogs.

Executive Director of Parks, Shannon Nazzal, says the fences they are proposing will be permanent. Again, you are getting a piecemeal proposal. How can you approve such a thing without seeing the plans for Elder / Centennial?

Please deny the request by the Park District for an SUP.

Thank you for your consideration.

Irene Smith
1087 Elm Street

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]; [Ann Klaassen](#)
Subject: March 9 ZBA Meeting
Date: Monday, March 2, 2026 11:23:39 AM
Attachments: [F1C79686-0224-415B-9367-EA360D628FF9.png](#)
[399185DD-6164-4D62-9319-383230965428.png](#)
[A6D6EBD7-8147-47BD-950C-09E86B4131C4.png](#)
[DFC6549F-CF1B-47F2-9247-A78EBF9C1927.png](#)
[CentennialFlyoverVideo.MP4](#)
[Alex Ross Email_Redacted.pdf](#)
[IL OSHA Employee SanitaryFacilities.pdf](#)
[WPD AECOM FailedSteelGroin Breakwater 2025.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Ann:

Would you please share my comments on WPD's revised Centennial fencing designs with ZBA, along with the attachments?

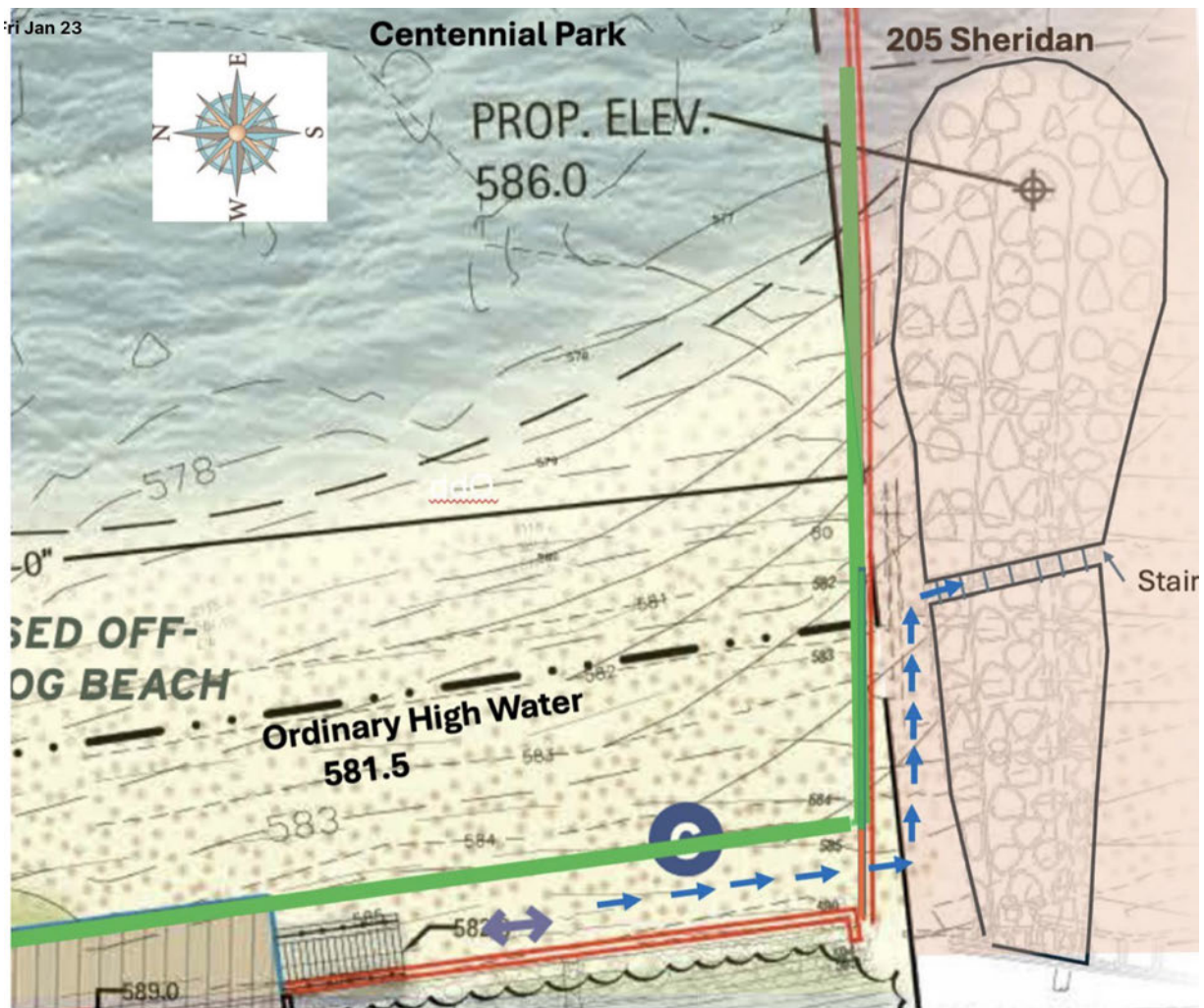
Thank you.

Kris Schriesheim

Winnetka taxpayer

WPD's description of Centennial as Winnetka's largest and highest quality beach weighs against recommending a dangerous fencing scheme that is detrimental to and would threaten the public's general welfare permanently.

DESIGNS BLOCK PASSAGE AND PRIVATIZE BEACH



WPD's seeks to obtain a permit for designs that would block passage along and privatize the beach. This breaches multiple Village Code sections; threatens the public's health, safety and welfare; threatens the essential character of Winnetka's Sheridan Road neighborhoods; diminishes property values with fencing that does not exist elsewhere in the neighborhood; creates congestion in the street; uses non-minimal designs; and creates parking issues. Most of these SUP issues were raised during ZBA's 2024 review, yet WPD appears to have made no effort to resolve them during the ensuing 14 months.

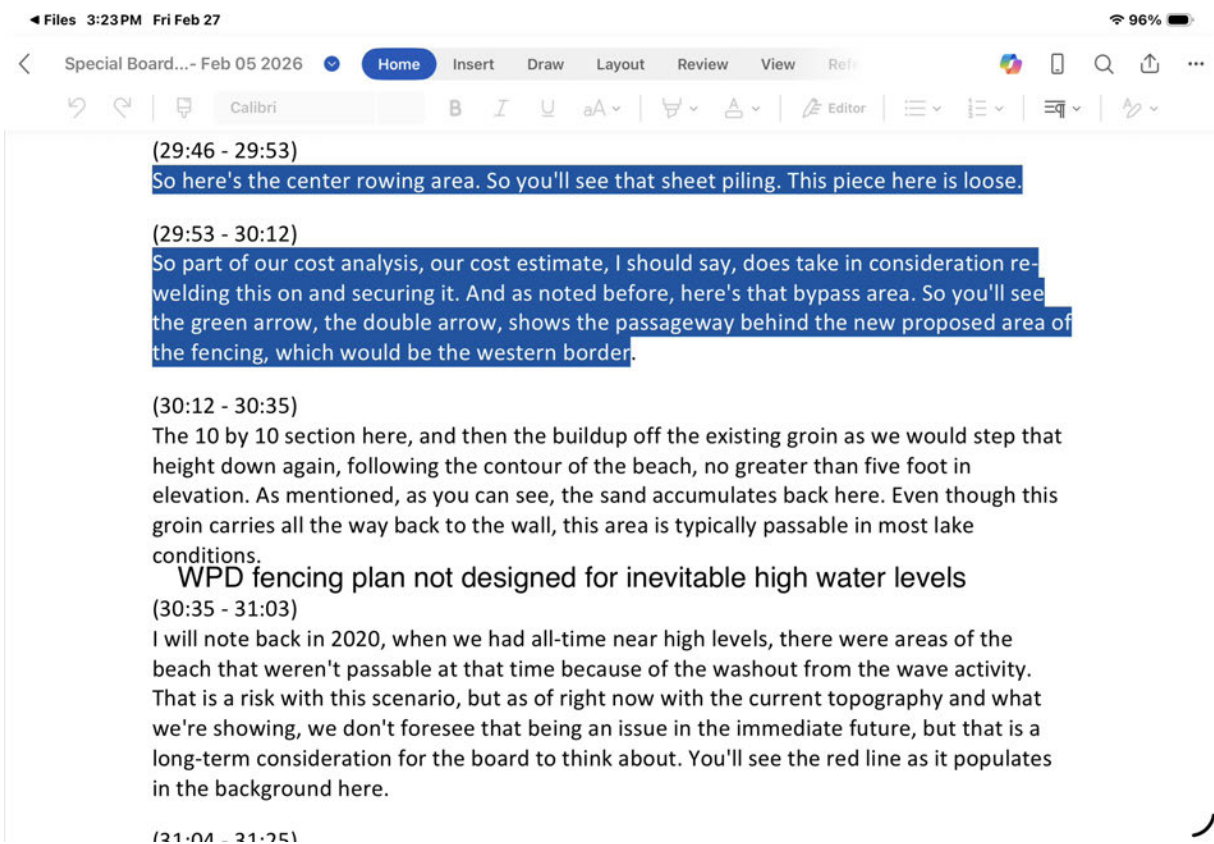
Driving WPD's fencing efforts are inflexible, unsafe, unaffordable, unpopular, twice-rejected breakwater-heavy designs. WPD's current SUP application mirrors almost exactly WPD's fencing designs from its 2024 Donation Agreement with Restrictive Covenant for which it unsuccessfully sought ZBA's approval.

I. WPD's fencing designs Violate SUP Condition 1, which requires: "That the establishment, maintenance and operation of the special use will not be detrimental to or endanger the public health, safety, comfort, morals or general welfare."



The impetus for WPD's beach designs was purportedly to address periodic high lake levels and (undocumented) erosion. This appears to have fallen by the wayside.

At WPD's February 5, 2026 board meeting, staff said that although current lake levels are low, the electric gate and fencing's placement on the sandy beach would eventually be in or under the waters of Lake Michigan. WPD's rush to permitting for dangerous fencing that would threaten the public's general welfare permanently, while disregarding the potential impact of Lake Michigan's high water levels, is sufficient reason for ZBA to decline recommending WPD's SUP application.



In the very recent past WPD also said ADA concerns were a reason for "developing" Centennial Park and Beach. It appears to have forgotten all about this with permanent fencing designs that neither contemplate nor incorporate any ADA elements. A complete absence of ADA-compliance efforts is sufficient reason for ZBA to decline recommending WPD's SUP application for permanent fencing.



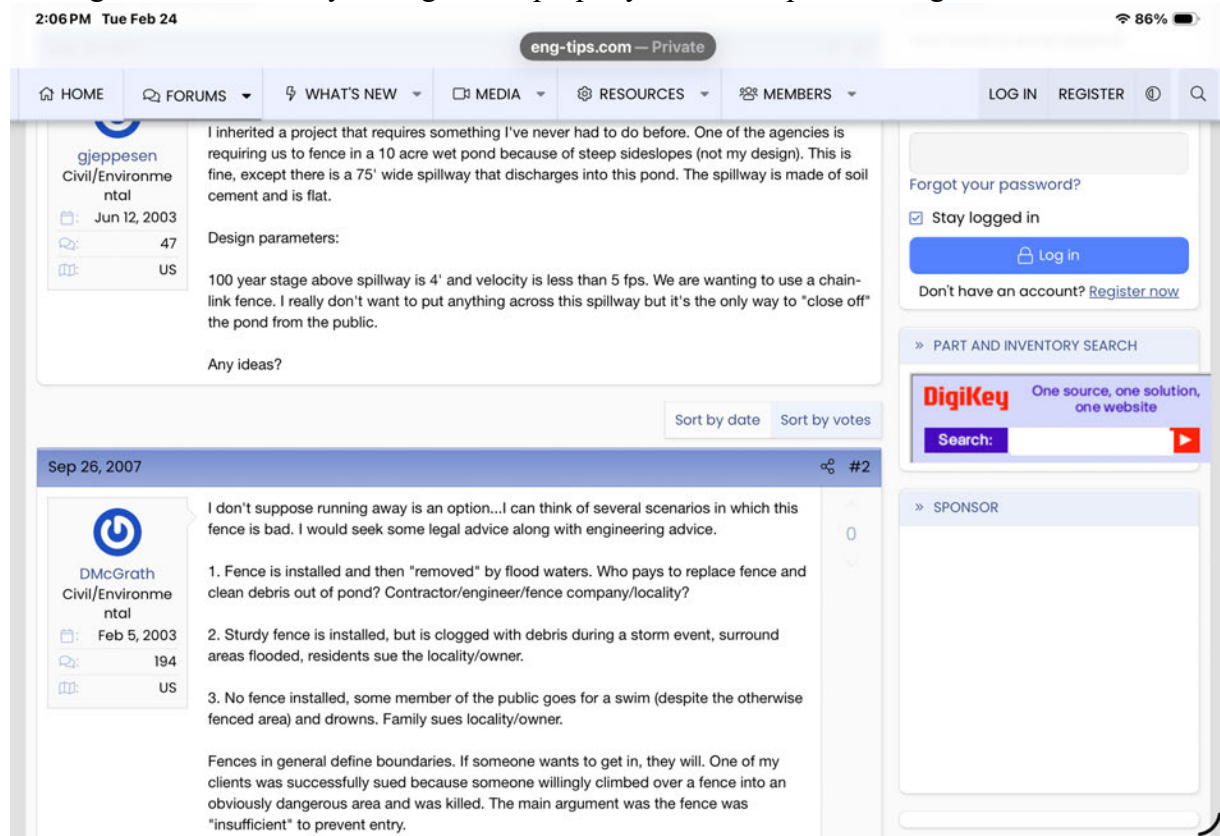
According to staff, WPD's southern fencing's placement would only provide a 4 foot wide passage area—effectively privatizing the southern neighbor's beach, while making it extremely difficult for WPD maintenance crews to reach debris, dead animals/fish, and other things that may be trapped against the fencing.

Attaching chain-link fencing to two mid-century steel groins extending over 100 feet into Lake Michigan is neither advisable nor safe. Last year AECOM did inform WPD of

Centennial's southern steel groin's lack of maintenance. Despite possessing this information, WPD failed to inform Plan in May 2025 that it was proposing to build permanent fencing on an unsafe groin. Today's plans would see the fencing's partial removal and then re-pounding it into both steel groins twice a year. This is concerning.

AECOM's 2025 letter says Lake Michigan wave action damaged 205 Sheridan's northern breakwater before construction was even complete. WPD's half-century obligation to maintain the Donation Agreement with Restrictive Covenant's Project Elements, groin-mounted fencing included, could result in extremely expensive, ongoing repairs to its own and neighboring properties. Centennial's proposed structures may sustain wave damage constantly, which would inflict major costs with resultant harm to the public.

The search for online information on open water chain-link fencing was challenging. A professional engineering forum discussed the perils of gated fencing in dynamic water conditions; considerations include entrapment; fencing designed to float away when water levels reach 3 inches so people are not trapped within the enclosure; that once released, the fencing could incidentally damage other property; and other potential legal issues.



HOME FORUMS WHAT'S NEW MEDIA RESOURCES MEMBERS LOG IN REGISTER

obviously dangerous area and was killed. The main argument was the fence was "insufficient" to prevent entry.

Sep 26, 2007 #3

sam74
Civil/Environmental
Dec 3, 2004
310
US

Maybe you could fence across the spillway with a separate fence (separate fence posts than the rest of the fence so the two are not tied together) whose abnormally long fenceposts reside in metal tubing buried in the ground with a slightly larger diameter than the fence posts. Put flotation device at the ground level and if water rises your fence and fence posts rise with the water. Sounds like it could work?

Sep 26, 2007 #4

msquared48
Structural
Aug 7, 2007
14,745
US

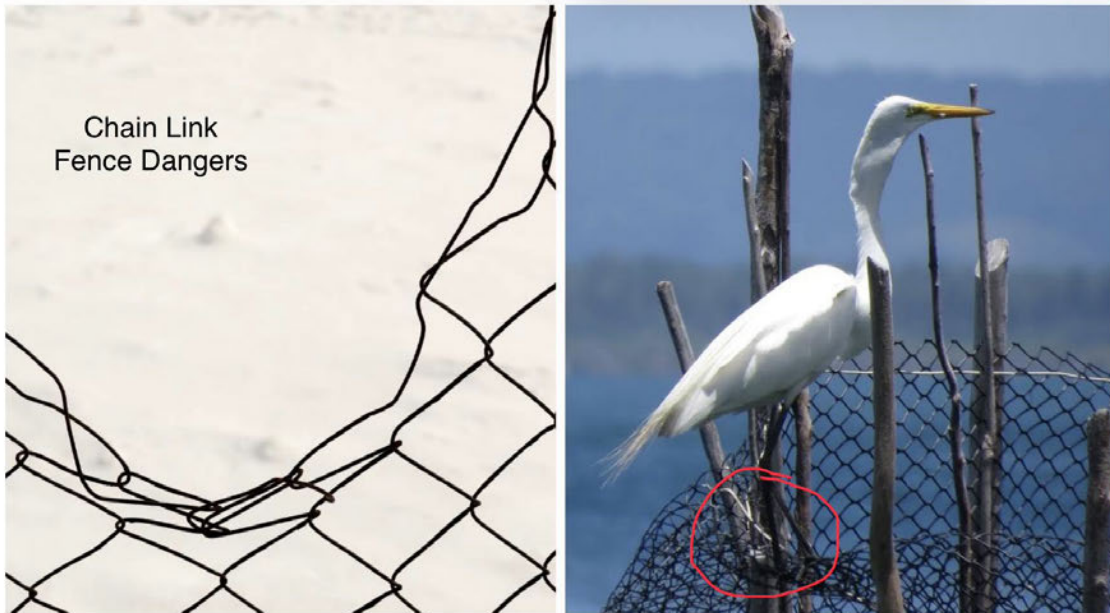
What about a fence that would open swing mechanically when the water level was sensed, say 3" or so above the top of the spillway, and close when the water receded. Could intermediate post(s) be added to cut down on the size of the fence gates needed? This would allow the installation of a solid fence, although it still could be chain link. Just thinking here. Might depend too much on electricity to operate unless there was a backup system for power outages. Starting to add up \$\$\$\$.

Mike McCann
McCann Engineering

Sep 26, 2007 #5

Leaving a chain-link fence on steel groins in Lake Michigan year-round would create similar safety and liability issues, injure wildlife, alter habitat, and create damaging ice pressure points.





Chain link fencing is not typically recommended for wildlife-friendly fencing due to several potential issues it can pose for animals:

Limited Permeability: Chain link fences offer little to no flexibility for animals to pass through or over, effectively creating barriers that can restrict wildlife movement and fragment habitats.

Injury Risks: The mesh design of chain link fences can pose risks for smaller wildlife, which might attempt to pass through the openings and become stuck or injured.

Obstacle to Larger Animals: Larger wildlife, like deer or elk, cannot jump over high chain link fences without risking injury. Likewise, they can't pass through it, which can disrupt natural migration and foraging paths.

One other point to consider is that fencing in or near water--including pools--typically has gates that are designed to open away from the water, which minimizes the risks of children pushing them open from the outside to get in. WPD's gates appear to be designed to open towards the water. WPD's apparent lack of attention to safety protocols is sufficient reason to deny recommending WPD's SUP application.

II. WPD's fencing designs violate SUP Condition 2, which requires: "That the special use not be substantially injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the immediate vicinity which are permitted by right in the district or districts of concern, nor substantially diminish or impair property values in the immediate vicinity."

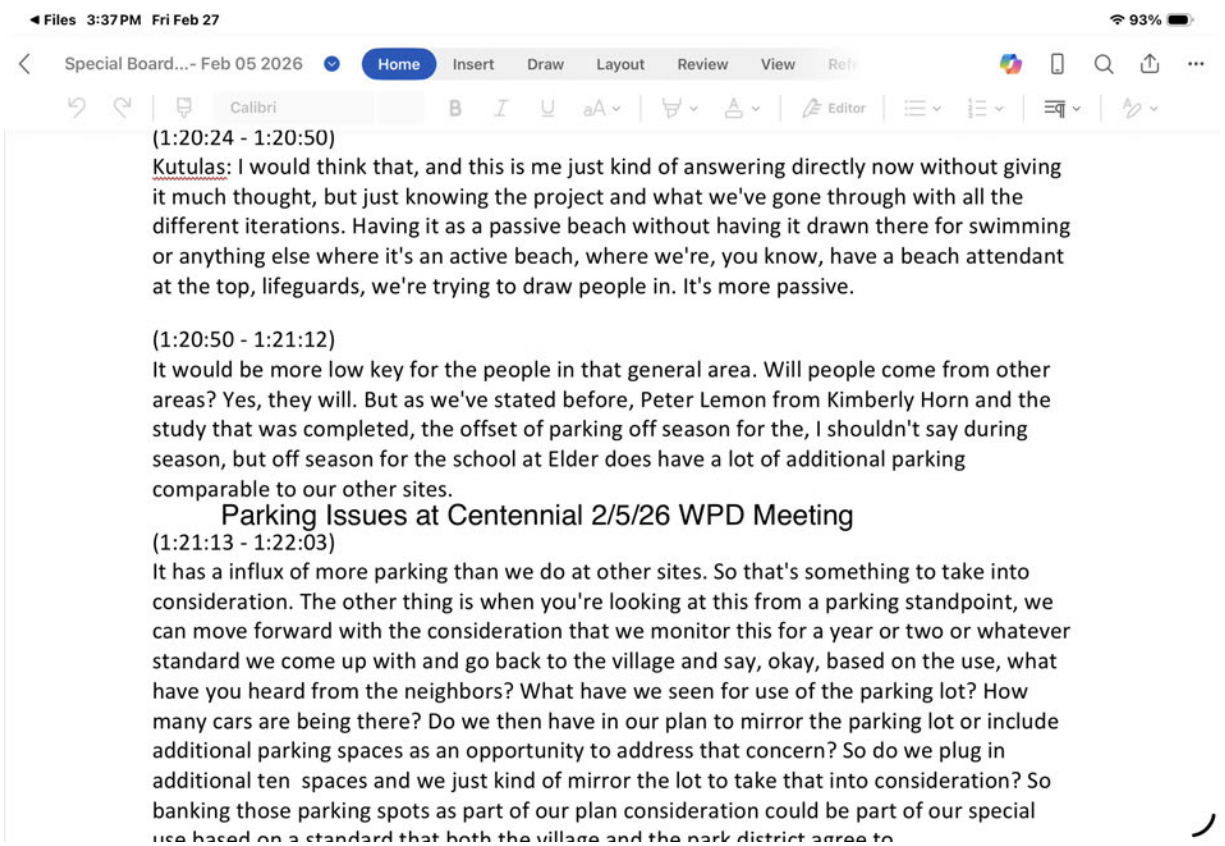
As discussed above, permanently attaching chain-link fencing to old steel groins may result in damage to neighboring properties. Using electric beach-mounted gates and fencing that could detach and damage neighboring areas violates SUP Condition 2. Neighbors have the right to expect WPD to comply with Village design standards that are meant to protect property values. There are no fenced park district beaches in Winnetka.

III. WPD's fencing designs violate SUP Conditions 4 and 5, which require: "That adequate measures have been or will be taken to provide ingress and egress in a manner which minimizes pedestrian and vehicular traffic congestion in the public ways" and "That adequate parking . . . and other facilities necessary to the operation of the special use exist or are to be provided."

Because WPD merely replicated its non-recommended 2024 Centennial SUP designs, it has not addressed concerns about ingress and egress along Sheridan Road. This alone is sufficient to decline recommending WPD's SUP application.

WPD still suggesting cars park on Centennial's tabletop, like Lloyd.





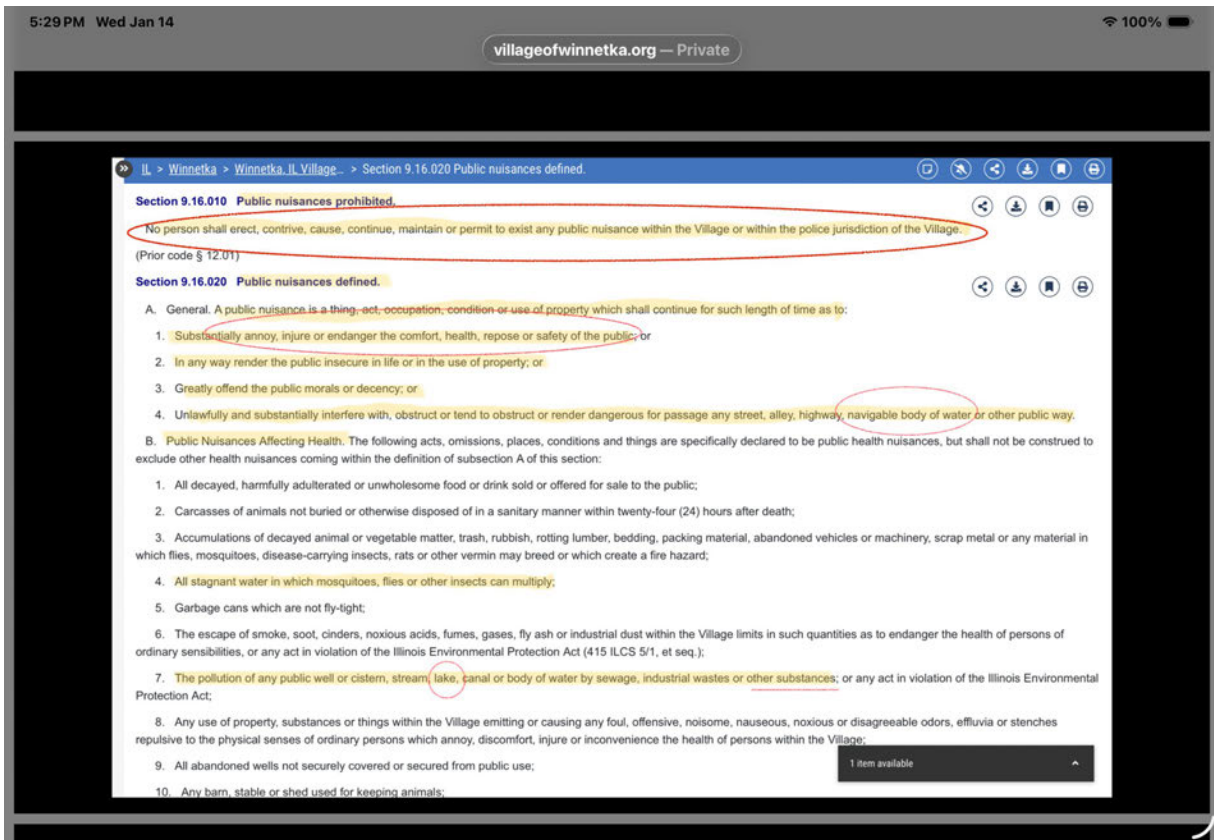
WPD essentially replicated its non-recommended 2024 Centennial SUP designs converting Centennial into a dual use beach, without defining resultant parking needs first or neighborhood impact. This alone is sufficient to decline recommending WPD's SUP application.

IV. WPD's replication of 2024's Centennial SUP designs lacking sanitary facilities that are necessary to Centennial's operation violates SUP Condition 5. WPD plans to hire Centennial staff who would have to reach Elder Beach to find bathroom facilities. Failing to provide necessary facilities violates Village Code Section 15.08.080--International Property Maintenance Code--#39, 503.3, which obligates Winnetka employers to provide access to toilet facilities from within the employees' working area. The required toilet facilities must be located so that the path of travel to such facilities does not exceed a distance of 300 feet from the employees' regular working area. This alone is sufficient to deny recommending WPD's SUP application.

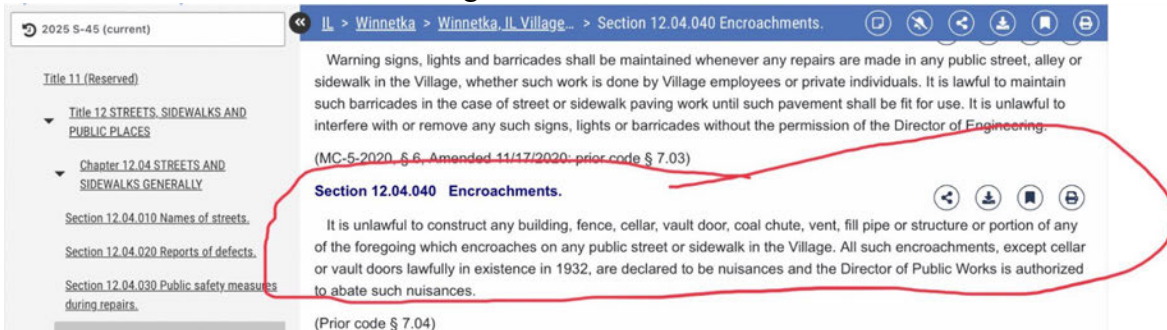
V. WPD's fencing designs violate SUP Condition 6, which requires; "That the special use in all other respects conforms to the applicable regulations of this and other Village ordinances and codes." With respect to the Public Trust Doctrine, the Village Attorney has already stated WPD needs to address the fencing's placement by obtaining an access easement, moving the fencing, or in some other lawful manner. Village Code Section 17.60.035 prevents placement of WPD's fencing across the southern neighbor's lot line.

FURTHER CODE VIOLATIONS THAT PREVENT GRANTING A SUP

Village Code Section 9 forbids the creation of a public nuisance, which WPD's chain-link fencing would do.



Then-Trustee Andy Cripe prepared a January 2023 memorandum for the Council’s lakefront study session. The memorandum lays out how shoreline obstructions would create a public nuisance. It is available on the Village website.



Village Code Section 12.04.040 forbids encroachment onto public streets, including Lake Michigan. WPD's fencing would unlawfully encroach onto the public street.

This is my analysis of certain applicable Village Code sections that were entirely new to me.

Village Code Section 15.08.070--Amendment to National Electric Code 2020 Edition--states that the Village's Water and Electrical Department must install all new and modified underground electrical services. At WPD's February 26, 2026 meeting WPD staff gave the impression that it would install the underground electrical services itself. Query whether running electrical lines down to the lakefront would require steep slope and/or slope transition zone work.

Village Code Section 15.08.130--Amendment to MWRD-WMO Section 602.9--This

incorporated section says new structures that are substantial improvements 'shall (D) Elevate electrical and other service facilities to the FPE or higher and (E) Provide a back-up power source that will activate without human intervention if electricity is required.' Development includes changes in land use and practices. ZBA should consider whether WPD is aware of or intends to comply with this Code requirement given the complete absence of floodway permitting consideration in the SUP application, the designs' placement of electrical below FPE, and the lack of a backup power source.

Village Code Section 15.32.030--New structures in Flood Hazard Areas (which includes Centennial's lakefront) cannot get a building permit until the applicant complies with Section 15.68 (Floodplain Construction provisions) and the Watershed Management Ordinance. I do not believe WPD has made an effort to do so.

Village Code Section 15.32.080--Criteria for Permit Approval (C]-Zoning conformity. Any property upon which the construction of any primary structure is to occur, shall be a single lot of record, and (D)-No work may affect the Public Way and Property, and no permit shall be issued unless the applicant first complies with Village Code Section 12 (this is violated by encroaching upon a public street, see above). Assuming that the gate and fencing constitute primary structures, WPD's permit designs fail to meet these Code requirements.

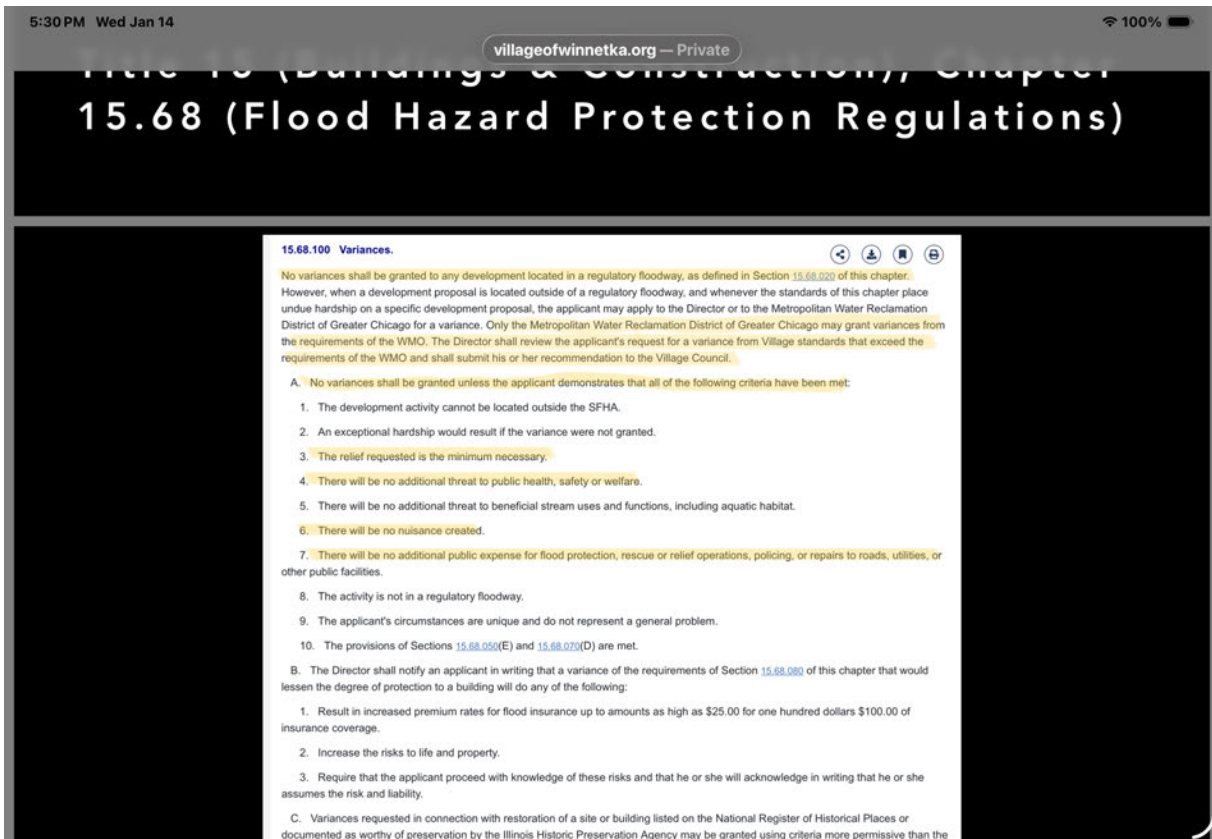
Village Code Section 15.68.060-Occupation and Use of Identified Floodways. All floodway modifications shall be the minimum necessary to accomplish the purpose of the project. WPD's fencing is far from the minimum necessary for a Cook County project.

Village Code Section 15.68.060: Consider whether WPD plans violate Subsections (1)—Underground utilities are only permitted if they do not require the placement of above ground structures in the floodway and (3)--Centennial beach is in a coastal high hazard area (Zone VE), and no fences are allowed under a regional permit. This section also provides that WPD would need to retain a professional engineer for its fencing project. Before the Village can issue a permit, the IDNR/OWR first has to issue a permit or written documentation for a Floodplain Development permit. Further, subsection (D) states that no development is allowed in a floodway if it will be a threat to public health and safety. Building an electric gate that will at times be in the water, as will chain-link fencing mounted to old, unstable, possibly eroded steel groins above and in Lake Michigan's waters, with dog waste stored upon and within a high coastal hazard zone, would pose multiple threats to the public's health and safety.

Village Code Section 15.68.025 states that a Floodplain Development Permit Application must use a specific form, which to the best to of my knowledge WPD has not complied with.

Village Code Section 15.68.080 contains permitting requirements applicable to all floodplain areas, in addition to those contained in Sections 15.68.050, 15.68.060 and 15.68.070. Its (A) public health standards state that no developments shall include locating animals' waste below the FPE unless such materials are stored in a floodproofed and anchored storage tank and certified by a professional engineer; (D) public utilities such as electric must be located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damages (WPD's designs create/maximize the risk of flood damages by adding an electric gate to the beach/waterfront instead of leaving it at the top of the bluffs); and (E) all other developments, such as fences, shall be designed so as not to . . . increase potential flood damage. Sheared off metal fencing would increase potential flood-related damage, as would possible electric shocks from exposed wires if the gate breaks.

Installation of electric and fencing that at times will be submerged maximizes, rather than reduces, the dangers of flood damage. WPD plans to install “waterproof” containers for dog waste on the beach itself, instead of leaving receptacles on the tabletop, seems unlikely to meet Section 15.68.080’s requirements.



Village Code Section 15.68.100 - Variances- Former Trustee Andy Cripe's memorandum discusses this section, which prohibits variances from being granted to any development located in a regulatory floodway. WPD would have to apply to MWRD to obtain permission for its unsafe project, which does not meet the section's requirements.

Village Code Section 15.78.010-Lakefront Construction
Section 15.78.080(C) says the construction must comply with all other applicable Village Code provisions (WPD's project does not), (D) the project scope must be only what is minimally necessary to achieve the intended and PROPER purpose (emphasis added) of the project (extending fencing beyond a single lot, across a public street, violating the Public Trust Doctrine and creating a private beach are not proper purposes); (E) fencing must not interfere with Public Safety Operations (WPD's structures would block and unreasonably interfere with the ability of public safety personnel to conduct search and rescue or other safety operations; and (G) existing sightlines may not be altered more than minimally necessary (WPD's designs would unreasonably alter sightlines by building permanent black chain link fencing on Winnetka's beautiful beaches, and also would violate WPD Policy Manual's presumptive preference to avoid fencing and leave open spaces intact).

Village Code Section 17.04.020- Objectives-Every single one of the Village's Zoning Code precepts is or would be violated by WPD's electric gate and chain-link fencing.
Village Code Section 17.04.030 (8) prohibits WPD's fencing from impermissibly and

unlawfully extending across the OHWM/Street Line, into the open waters of Lake Michigan. Village Code Section 17.04.030 (3) states that a zoning lot on Lake Michigan does not lie beyond the Ordinary High Water Mark. The Village Code does not permit issuance for fencing beyond a single lot. See also Section 17.60.035, discussed above.

Thank you for reading these comments, which I prepared after spending some time studying the Village Code. Based upon my review, I respectfully request that ZBA decline to recommend approving WPD's SUP application.

Donation Agreement Plank

From Alex Ross <[REDACTED]>

Date Thu 2/5/2026 1:24 PM

To Elise Gibson <egibson@winpark.org>; Jeff Tyson <jtyson@winpark.org>; Christina Codo <CCodo@winpark.org>; Scott Corley <scorley@winpark.org>; Cynthia Rapp <cyrapp@winpark.org>; Colleen Root <CRoot@winpark.org>; David Seaman <DSeaman@winpark.org>

Cc Shannon Nazzal <snazzal@winpark.org>

 1 attachment (259 KB)

2024 WCC Final Board Platforms_vShared.pdf;



External [REDACTED]



[Safe](#) [Spam](#) [Phish](#) [More...](#) [FAQ](#) [Protection by INKY](#)

Good afternoon,

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend this evening's meeting and ask that this be read or noted in the meeting if possible.

I want to point out Park District Plank #2 in the attached 2024 WCC Board Platform slides, Plank #2 indicates that there is not enough support for the Donation Agreement to go ahead as proposed and the Winnetka Caucus Council recommendation was that it should be renegotiated to eliminate the restrictive covenants or pursue alternative funding.

As most of you were Winnetka Caucus Council candidates, you did agree to follow the planks as derived from the Village-wide survey.

If you cannot do so, please be sure to highlight the extenuating circumstances that cause you to not follow the plank as written.

Warm regards,
Alex Ross



2024 Winnetka Caucus Council (WCC) - Proposed Platforms

Winnetka Park District Board Platform

Plank #1: Intergovernmental Cooperation - Elder Beach

The Winnetka Park District and Village of Winnetka continue to work through the application process for the Centennial-Elder project. In the meantime, there is a clear desire for a temporary solution that will enable the Elder beach to be opened. As can be seen below, more than 60% of respondents are in favor of the temporary solution.

Yes	61.30%	955
No	19.58%	305
No Opinion	19.13%	298
Total	100%	1558
Skipped		65

While the issues surrounding the Centennial and Elder parks / beaches are complex, the Village and the Parks Department should work together to prioritize a solution for beach access and swimming at Elder Park in the near-term.

Note: The questions below are based on percentage information provided directly from the survey software, which did not account for people who skipped answering the question. Of those who skipped the questions we identified that there were 264 respondents who did not answer any of the questions, so we do not consider these respondents valid for the questions.

Plank #2: Donation Agreement

The Park District entered into a Donation Agreement with restrictive covenants with a private party. The survey question asked if this should be renegotiated or go forward, with the results below:

Continue with the donation, as negotiated.	29.33%	366
Renegotiate to eliminate restrictive covenants with the possibility that the WPD will have to seek alternative funding (reserves, debt, etc.) if negotiations fail.	49.20%	614
No Opinion	21.47%	268
Total	100%	1,248
Skipped		375

The results of the survey show that nearly 50% of all responders agree that the Park District should reconsider the Donation Agreement. In addition, when excluding those who responded with “No Opinion,” 63% of responders indicated that the Donation Agreement should be renegotiated. The Park District should renegotiate the terms of the Agreement to eliminate the restrictive covenants, or pursue alternative funding if Necessary.

Plank #3: Organic Parks

In 2018 the Park District staff conducted a pilot program using an organic herbicide in one park. More than 68% of survey respondents have expressed a desire for the Park District to launch another pilot program.

Yes	68.26%	899
No	11.24%	148
No Opinion	20.50%	270
Total	100%	1317
Skipped		306

With a view toward examining the viability of making more parks organic, the Park District should undertake a new pilot program utilizing any updated organic management techniques and exploring the use of a consultant.

Plank #4: WPD Top Areas of Interest (Q16)

The top three areas of interest WPD constituents would like to see addressed are a) an outdoor pool, b) an improved Green Bay Trail (requiring coordination with the Village) and c) an indoor pool. As can be seen in the results below, two other options were close to the top three:

Outdoor Pool	30.49%	397
Green Bay Trail	27.73%	361
Indoor Pool	22.50%	293
Non-Beach Off-Leash Dog Park	22.12%	288
Multi-Use Center (general use)	20.35%	265
Total		1302
Skipped		321

Taken together, interest in a pool option remains a top priority for constituents. Taking direction from the unimplemented Plank #4 in 2022, the WPD should commission a comprehensive study on the feasibility and economics of various pool options, including partnerships with other towns and New Trier High School. This should be presented to the community, including location preferences, cost to build, cost to maintain, and revenue generation potential, and options to meet any potential shortfall.

does the state of illinois require employers to provide its employees with workplace restroom facilities



Yes — under **Illinois law**, employers (and building owners/operators) generally *must* provide workplace restroom facilities for employees, but the requirements come mainly from **state administrative plumbing codes** rather than a simple statute saying “provide a bathroom.”

Legal Inform...

Workplace Restroom Facilities Requirement (Illinois Administrative Code)

Under the **Illinois Plumbing Code** (Title 77, Part 890), there are specific requirements for **employee restroom facilities** in places of employment:

- **Restroom facilities and drinking fountains must be provided for all employees** at each place of employment. [Legal Information ...](#)
- The **minimum number of plumbing fixtures** (toilets, lavatories, etc.) is determined based on the maximum number of male and female employees working at any one time. [Legal Information ...](#)
- If **more than five employees** are present at any one time, **separate restrooms for men and women** are required. If **five or fewer**, one restroom may serve all employees. [Legal Information ...](#)
- Access to these restrooms must meet certain location and access standards (e.g., on the same floor or within a specified distance in some buildings). [Illinoi...](#)

This is a **state-level standard** that applies to employers and property owners in Illinois and is typically enforced through building inspections and code enforcement agencies. It is not limited to construction sites but applies broadly to places of employment covered by the plumbing code.

Legal Information ...

Construction Sites (Specific Law)

There is also a **Construction Site Temporary Restroom Facility Act** in Illinois that specifically requires adequate restroom facilities on construction sites for workers while the building is under construction. [Justia Law](#)

Federal Requirements Also Apply

In addition to state plumbing codes, employers in Illinois are subject to **federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)** sanitation standards, which require employers to ensure employees have **access to sanitary restroom facilities** and reasonable breaks to use them. OSHA's rules apply nationwide, including Illinois. While OSHA doesn't set state-specific requirements, its sanitation standards are enforceable in all states. (Federal OSHA rules are often adopted or enforced through state OSHA programs; Illinois participates in OSHA enforcement.) [Reddit](#)

In short: Yes — Illinois regulations **require employers to provide restroom facilities for their employees** according to minimum plumbing standards, and this is supported by state administrative plumbing codes. Enforcement typically comes through building/plumbing inspections and compliance with safety and health regulations. State law also complements federal OSHA requirements for sanitary restroom access. [Legal Information ...](#)

can an employer legally require beach employees to swim across the waters of lake michigan to reach bathroom facilities at a different beach?



Short answer: **No — that would almost certainly be illegal and a serious safety violation.**

Requiring beach employees to **swim across Lake Michigan** to access restroom facilities would likely violate multiple laws and safety standards.

1 OSHA Sanitation & Safety Rules

Under federal OSHA standards (enforced in Illinois), employers must:

- Provide **readily accessible** toilet facilities
- Ensure facilities are **sanitary and safe to access**
- Not impose unreasonable restrictions on restroom use

Requiring employees to swim across open water to use a restroom would almost certainly violate OSHA's sanitation standards and general duty clause, which requires employers to provide a workplace free from recognized hazards. Enforcement would fall under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Swimming across Lake Michigan presents obvious hazards:

- Drowning risk
- Strong currents and rip tides
- Cold water exposure
- Boat traffic
- Severe weather changes

That would not be considered "reasonable access."

2 Illinois Workplace Requirements

Illinois plumbing and workplace regulations require employers to provide adequate restroom facilities for employees at places of employment. Forcing workers to travel off-site — especially by swimming — would likely fail the requirement that facilities be accessible and adequate.

The Illinois Department of Labor could also treat this as an unsafe working condition.

3 Liability Exposure


Beyond regulatory violations, this would expose the employer to major liability:

- Workers' compensation claims
 - Personal injury lawsuits
 - Potential wrongful death liability
 - OSHA fines and penalties
- ...

If an employee were injured or drowned, the legal exposure would be severe.

Bottom Line

An employer **cannot legally require employees to swim across Lake Michigan to use a restroom.** Restroom facilities must be reasonably accessible and safe. This scenario would almost certainly violate OSHA standards and create extreme legal liability.



April 17, 2025

Mr. James P. Casey
Mr. Steve Altman
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Lake Michigan Section
160 N LaSalle Street, Suite 703
Chicago, IL 60601

**Subject: Shoreline Protection Project in Lake Michigan (Permit LM 2023004)
205 Sheridan Road, Winnetka, Ill.
North Stone Groin Design Adjustment**

Dear Jim and Steve,

This letter is with reference to a shoreline project that was approved by IDNR on May 2, 2023.

Winter storms have caused erosion at the east end of the North Stone Groin. The Winnetka Park District steel groin, which is located immediately north of the stone groin, has experienced failure. The steel cap on top of the steel groin has been dislodged by wave attack this past winter. Also, the steel sheet piles at the eastern portion of this groin are loose due to the damaged cap. Winter wave conditions have caused significant erosion at the end of the Orchard stone groin. Wave attack at the east end of the damaged groin causes water jets through the steel sheet joints and uneven overtopping flow and turbulence on the Orchard side of the steel groin.

This situation has caused a deep scour hole formation on both sides of the groin. On the Orchard beach side of the scour, the scour hole is 7' or deeper with a scour hole width that is 50 to 60 feet wide. The deepest area is immediately south of the steel groin and east of the Orchard stone groin. The scour extends to the Orchard stone groin toe of slope. We propose to add toe stones to buttress the existing stone groin toe stones to address the scour impacts. The proposed line of toe stones will front the existing toe of the stone groin and will be buried to the clay layer elevation. The added toe stones will rest on clay. And the toe stones will be recessed below the existing lakebed as shown on the attached drawings. We have met with the Park District to discuss this issue.

We have met with the Winnetka Park District to make them aware of this matter. Please let us know if you approve this request. Please issue a letter of determination regarding this proposed plan adjustment. If you have any questions, please call me on the following number (847 - 323 -2171).

Best Regards,

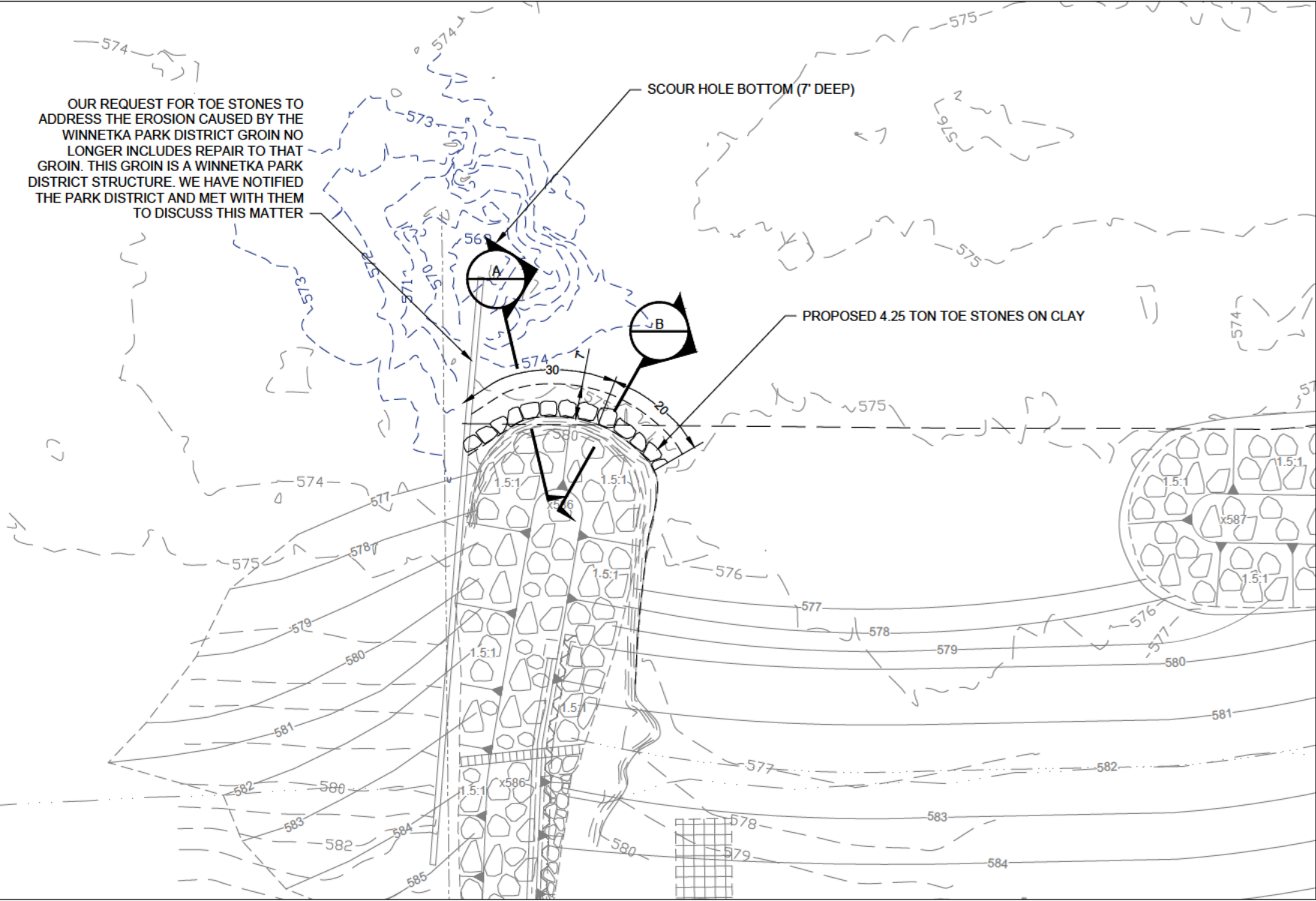
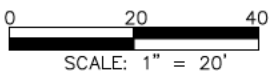


William J. Weaver, P.E., BC.WRE
Vice President – Sr. Principal Engineer

OUR REQUEST FOR TOE STONES TO ADDRESS THE EROSION CAUSED BY THE WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT GROIN NO LONGER INCLUDES REPAIR TO THAT GROIN. THIS GROIN IS A WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT STRUCTURE. WE HAVE NOTIFIED THE PARK DISTRICT AND MET WITH THEM TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER

SCOUR HOLE BOTTOM (7' DEEP)

PROPOSED 4.25 TON TOE STONES ON CLAY



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Subject: Re: Letter for the Zoning Board of Appeals Members
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 1:46:03 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Ann,
Below is the letter that I sent to you the other day. I am sorry that you could not open it. I hope it is okay in this format.
Regards,
Debbie

To Whom This May Concern,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed fencing that is being considered for Centennial Beach in Winnetka. The fencing would be unattractive, diminishing the beauty of the beach, and also does not seem to be a necessary requirement or expense.

Therefore, please deny the Winnetka Park Board's application for a Special Use Permit.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Deborah Z. Creigh

132 Glenwood Ave, Winnetka, IL 60093

Debbie Creigh

On Tue, Mar 3, 2026 at 9:34 AM Ann Klaassen <AKlaassen@winnetka.org> wrote:

Hi Debbie,

Unfortunately, I'm not able to open the attached letter. Would you be able to send it in a different format?

Thank you,

Ann Klaassen

Assistant Director | Village of Winnetka Community Development

[510 Green Bay Road - Winnetka, IL 60093](#)

847.716.3525

From: Debbie Creigh <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 5:28 PM
To: Ann Klaassen <AKlaassen@winnetka.org>
Subject: Letter re fencing

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Ann,

Please find attached a letter for the ZBA members.

Thanks for your assistance in forwarding it to them.

Regards,

Debbie Creigh

Members of the Zoning Commission,

March 9, 2026 (Meeting)

I am writing in firm opposition to the proposed fencing and additional structural installations at Centennial Beach.

The direction this proposal is taking is deeply concerning: more fencing, more barriers, more hardscape. No fences. No more boulders. No additional structural intrusions into the sand or water.

The plan includes a large, 12-foot-wide chain-link enclosure on the beach itself, removing approximately 2,400 square feet of existing sandy shoreline. That represents a permanent loss of open recreational space. In addition, the proposed water fencing for dogs introduces yet another barrier — along with a large entry “cage” structure on the beach.

Taken together, this creates multiple caged areas on what has always been an open, natural shoreline. The visual and physical impact will fundamentally alter the character of Centennial Beach. What is now a beautiful, open lakefront will instead contain segmented, fenced enclosures and hard barriers.

Fencing in the water also raises serious safety concerns. Lake conditions change daily — water depth, wave action, and footing are not static. Introducing fixed fencing into a dynamic water environment creates foreseeable risks for both people and animals.

Under the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/11-13-1 et seq.), zoning authority is charged with protecting the public health, safety, and welfare. Approving fencing on the beach sets a precedent that the sandy shoreline is available for structural encroachment. Approving fencing in the water extends that precedent further. Once established, these decisions are difficult to reverse.

Centennial Beach is a shared community treasure defined by its openness. The gradual transformation of that openness into fenced and confined areas undermines both its beauty and its public purpose.

I respectfully urge the Commission to exercise its responsibility to protect the public health, safety, and welfare and deny this proposal.

Mary Garrison,
Past President, Winnetka Park District



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Subject: Letter to ZBA for March 9 meeting packet
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 8:34:22 PM
Attachments: [ZBA Comments for Packet 3-4-26.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Anne -

Hope this finds you well. Would you please include my letter and the attached photos to the ZBA in the March 9, 2026 meeting packet? Thank you very much for your assistance.

Vicki



Protect Our Beaches and Their Ecosystem
Save Our Views and Property Values
Prevent Unsafe Structures along Lake Michigan
Shoreline **Before** 205 Construction Looking South



Shoreline Looking South **after** 205 Construction



Vicki Garrison Apatoff



Dear Zoning Board of Appeal Commissioners:

Less than 30 years ago, residents and visitors could walk, swim, kayak, and paddleboard unimpeded along Winnetka's shoreline from Glencoe to Kenilworth. It was a beautiful, peaceful stretch of beach that functioned as nature intended — water levels rose and fell, sand came and went, and people walked past the dog beach without fear or fences.

Due to the lack of oversight by the IDNR and Army Corps of Engineers, that same shoreline has been transformed into a dangerous and, in some areas, impassable section of Lake Michigan that is no longer freely accessible to the public.

By turning a blind eye to the destruction of lakefront bluffs and the installation of massive rock walls that block safe passage, the IDNR has allowed unchecked and irreversible damage to the entire ecosystem of Winnetka's lakefront.

When concerned residents contacted the IDNR Director, Jim Casey, he stated that Winnetka held ultimate authority over what could occur along the beach and a half-mile into the lake — and that complaints should be directed to the Village, not the IDNR.

Residents were stunned to learn that so much destruction had occurred without Village oversight. The Village ultimately asserted its authority through lakefront ordinance protections, which is what has brought this special use permit request before you tonight.

It is time to stop further degradation of our beaches.

Please consider the stated purpose of the Winnetka Lakefront Preservation Overlay District: “to preserve and maintain the character” of the lakefront and “to conserve and encourage the use of land adjacent to Lake Michigan for open space preservation... to protect natural resources and save scenic vistas.”

Now consider the Winnetka Park District's own mission statement: “To provide a balance of quality recreation and leisure opportunities while protecting assets, natural resources, and open space to benefit present and future generations.”

The Village and the WPD share the same goals. That makes it all the more alarming that the WPD's current request runs directly counter to them — particularly given that the proposed fenced dog beach was never requested by residents or dog beach pass holders - but only emerged as a concession during negotiations with the neighbor to the south of Centennial Park.

We ask the WPD and this Board to consider the following:

- How does a massive chain-link enclosure on one of Winnetka's most beautiful beaches conserve the character of our natural resources, preserve open space, or protect scenic vistas?
- When metal fence cages and electrified fob posts are installed along the beach, how does that benefit present or future generations? For over 30 years, people and dogs have enjoyed this beach in its natural state — not confined in a cage.
- What liability do present or future generations of Winnetka taxpayers assume when an untested system falls into disrepair, or someone is seriously injured when trapped between metal structures and boulders by an artificial wall in the water? Have the Winnetka police and fire departments reviewed this fence proposal to comment on any impact it may have on the ability of first responders to do their job in an emergency?

- How does locking Winnetka taxpayers into a 50-year moratorium — requiring written approval from a neighboring private party before anything can be done in that area — serve the public interest?
- Has a signed easement been provided by the same neighbor to allow the public to traverse the shoreline if expected changes in shoreline conditions require passage along private property due to the addition of a fence?
- The ZBA asked the WPD to come back with a global picture of the Elder/Centennial beach plan in its entirety so that permit decisions could be made in context with its surrounding areas. Is it possible to determine the viability or prudence of an unusual and unprecedented request for a fence on the beach when the rest of the surrounding project has not yet been finalized?

The residents of Winnetka deserve better — and they are counting on the ZBA to reach the same conclusion as the Plan Commission, which voted unanimously to deny a special use permit for any fence on the beach. The future of our precious and fragile lakefront depends on it.

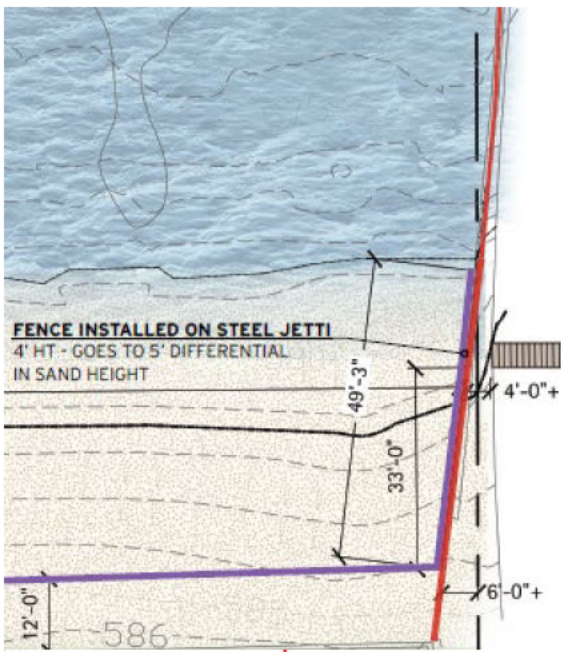
Please remember what the word Winnetka means: A beautiful place. Our beachfront is called Winnetka's greatest *natural* asset for a reason. Please honor that designation. There are no conditions that would make this SUP request for a fence/cage acceptable. Please deny the request for a Special Use Permit.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,

Vicki Apatoff
730 Ardsley Road
Winnetka

The WPD's application should be denied for two reasons. First, the fence drawing approved by the WPD which should be in the 9 March ZBA packet is illustrative and thus the accuracy of the south property line and fence locations is unknown. A land survey is needed because of the criticality of the location of 205's property line and the fence location. Second, the south fence plan fails to provide safe passage to public land as required by Winnetka Ordinance 15.78.080 E. The WPD plan involves the same unresolved failure to comply with 15.78.080 E when I appeared before this board in Nov. of 2024.

15.78.080 E requires provision of safe passageway to adjacent public land after construction. No six foot wide safe passageway (as defined by the Village Engineer) is provided **within the property bounds of Centennial Park** as shown by the bottom left drawing on pg 2. The bottom left plan was copied from 205's beach permit that was approved by the Village. Furthermore, Village review memorandum #3, item 11 on page 3 of this message shows that the lack of a safe, walkable, path was recognized by the Village engineer and is unresolved. **An adjacent property owner's land cannot be used to satisfy a zoning requirement on the lot under consideration.**

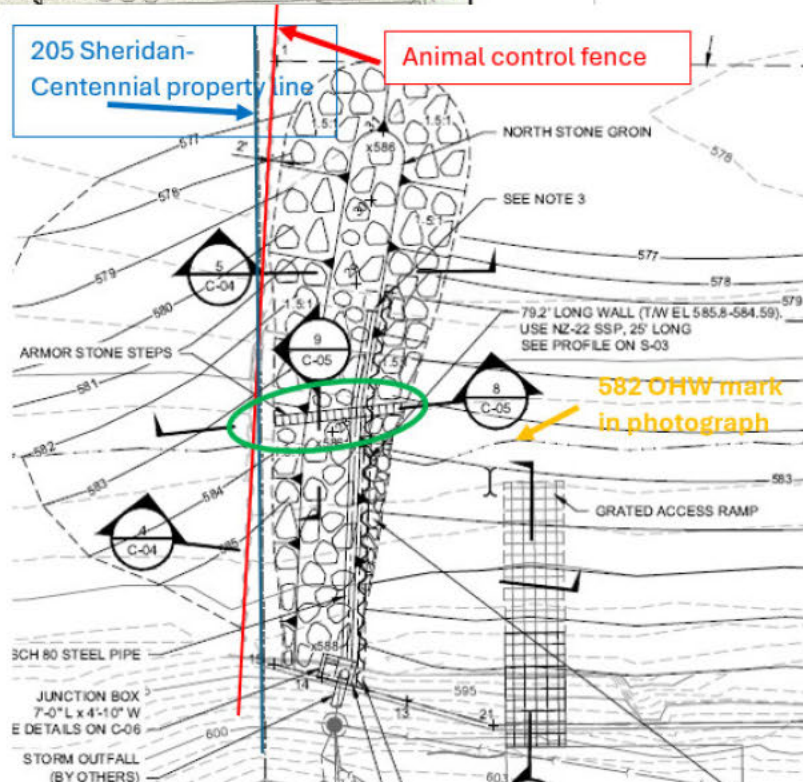


The drawing to the left is from the WPD chosen fence location and should appear in the WPD application in the 9 March ZBA packet. It shows the location of the fence on the steel groin in red and the property line as a dashed black line. The Centennial Park public space is shown to diminish below the required 6 ft at the stairs. Stairs are required of 205 Sheridan to allow access to the public land lakeward of the OHWM on 205 Sheridan's beach. The public must have safe, public access to the public land lakeward of 205's access stairs. This WPD illustrative drawing's accuracy is limited as it is not the result of a land surveyor's work.

The drawing in the bottom left is from 205's beach renovation permit application that was approved by the Village. The geometry of WPD plan at the top left under consideration for the meeting on 9 March can be superimposed on the 205 permit application as it contains all three critical components: 205's public access stairs, 205's property line, and the steel groin on

which the WPD plans to found the fence. It is likely to be more accurate as it was the result of a land survey.

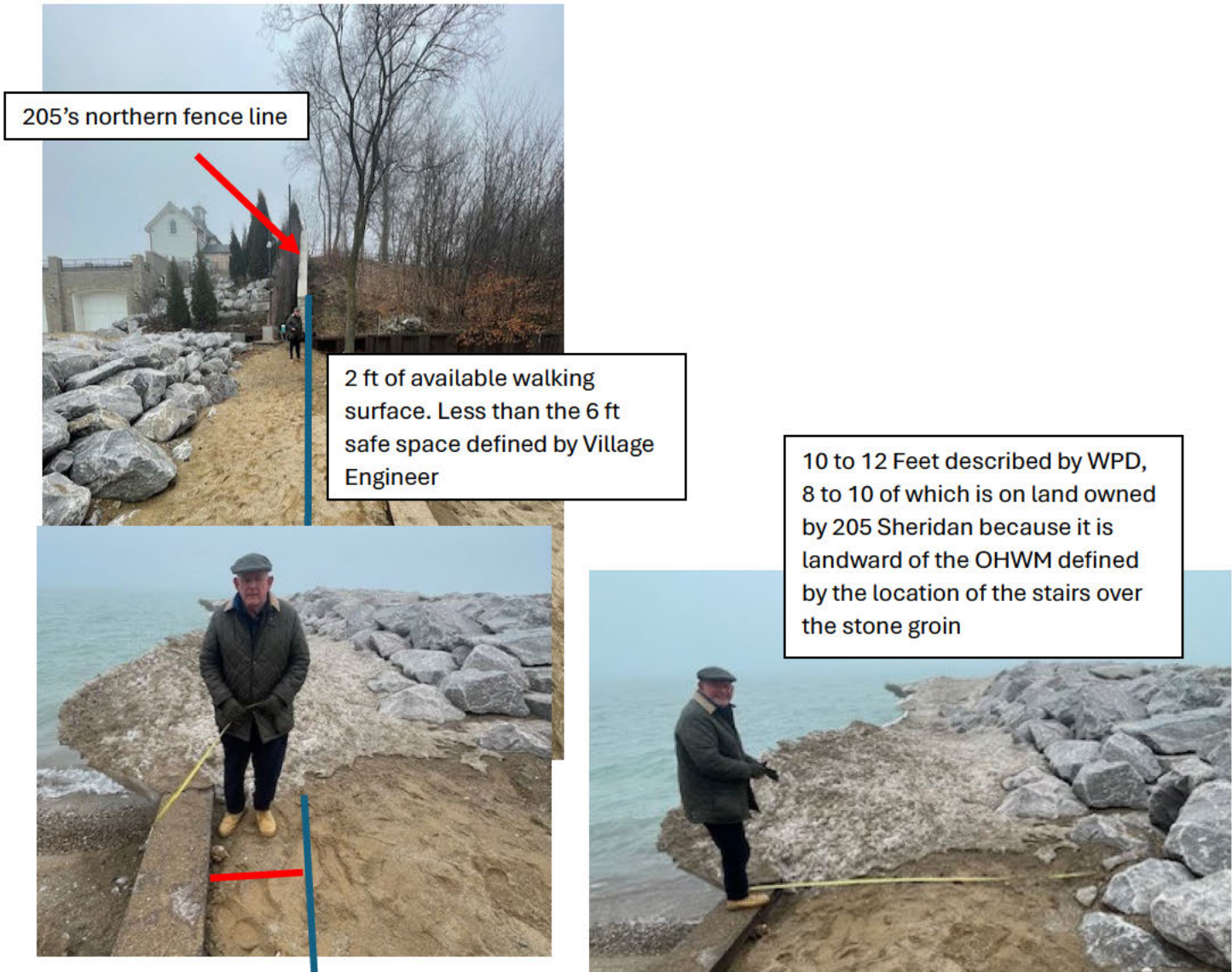
The drawing on the top left and that on the bottom left are similar, but not the same. Photographs on the next page show that the distances between the fence on the steel groin and 205's property line in the WPD March 9 application (top left on this page) are questionable. There is no evidence that the WPD's distances were produced by a land surveyor. As shown by discussion and photographs on the next page, the distance at the public access stairs may be closer to 1 to 2 feet rather than the WPD's 4 feet; both of which are less than the necessary 6 ft safe width determined by the Village engineer.



Photographs taken on 4 March 2026 verify that the annotated drawing from 205's Sheridan permit application on the bottom left of page 2 is correct. The two photos below left were taken at the public access stairs over 205's northern stone groin. They show that there is at most 2 ft of public land between the steel groin (red in drawings above) and 205's northern property line (blue in the bottom left drawing on page 2). This conclusion was reached as follows: A line parallel to 205's fence (blue line in the upper left photo below) was sighted and employed to scribe a line in the sand along that line (blue line in the lower photo). The 2 foot separation is obvious in the lower left photo. There was evidence on the table land that the fence is some 11 inches south of the property line, which would then reduce the walkable, safe, park land to just over 1 ft at 205's public access stairs.

It is understandable that the WPD could assume that the stone groin marks the property line of 205 Sheridan and yields the walkable space shown on the right most photo below, but it does not yield safe, walkable, "public" space on three counts. First, the drawing from 205's village approved permit (bottom left above) shows the ~ 2 feet at the stairs over 205's stone groin (in green ellipse). Second, a visual observation would verify the 2 ft of public access space in 205's permit drawing as shown by the photos below and described in the above. Third, as described on page 3, the Village Engineer recognized the lack of safe, walkable space.

Charles Dowding, 968 Elm St, Winnetka, [REDACTED]



Engineers Comment 11 from 5 Aug version of WPD application for SUP

11. Proposed fence around dog park, specifically along the southern end of the dog area, will need to be placed far enough away from the existing steel groin and new stone groin on neighboring property to allow for ample safe passage between the properties.

a. PD Response: The proposed dog beach fence is to be located on the existing steel groin to the south, **offset 6' min. width** from the newly installed stone groin at the south neighbor property, as shown on sheet C138.

b. *Engineering Response: Recommend a larger space between the two elements be provided, as a wider pathway opening would be preferred to allow for easier passage and for access of emergency equipment to the adjoining property.*

winpark.org | (847) 501-2040 | 540 Hibbard Road, Winnetka, IL 60093

c. WPD Response: The dimension verified in the field is a minimum of 6' between two currently fixed structures, the new stone breakwater built on 205 Sheridan Road Property and the current southernmost steel groin, which has been in place for over 70+ years. The 6' dimension is from the newly built passage steps across the 205 Sheridan Road Breakwater and widens from there as you move west to over 10' plus as you approach the existing steel groin. The area between the western off-leash dog fencing and existing steel sheet piling is greater than 12', which leaves ample room for access. The fencing plan is detailed on sheet C147 of the Bid and Construc

John William Root
326 Woodland Avenue
Winnetka, IL 60093
Telephone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Sent by electronic mail: smangum@winnetka.org
AKlaassen@winnetka.org

Mr. Scott Mangum
Village of Winnetka
Director of Community Development
Ms. Ann Klaassen
Assistant Director
510 Green Bay Road
Winnetka, IL 60093

March 8, 2026

Re: Case No. 25-28-SU
225 Sheridan Road – Centennial Park & Beach
Comments for 3/9/2026 Hearing

Dear Ms. Klaassen and Mr. Mangum:

I have reviewed the Winnetka Park District's (Park's) revised Special Use Permit Application 25-28-SU for Centennial Park. My following comments summarize my concerns about the proposed Centennial dog fence and access to the beach by a shared staircase and how these designs are unsafe, prevent access to public beaches, and conflict with Village ordinances, particularly the Village zoning ordinances. I would appreciate your assistance in sharing my comments as part of the official packet to be delivered to the members of the Village of Winnetka Zoning Board of Appeals for the hearing scheduled for Monday, March 9th.

Permit History

The Park's first permit, 24-08-SU, was reviewed February 26, 2025, at the ZBA and on May 28, 2025, at the Plan Commission. This design for Centennial park included a dog fence, boardwalk, access ramp, and pier and can be seen in Figure 1 below.

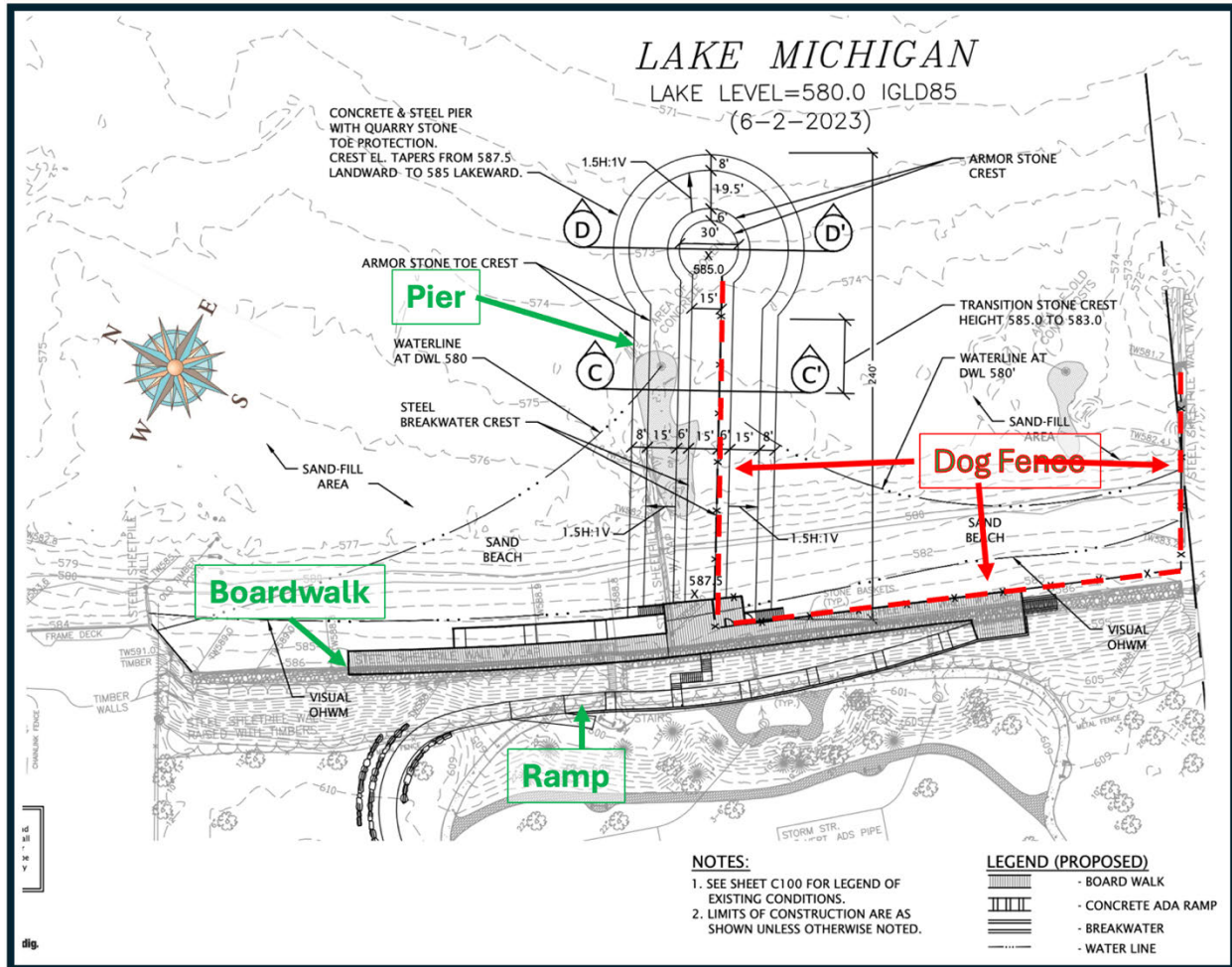


Figure 1: Centennial Beach Design Permit 24-08-SU

Both Commissions unanimously recommended against the special use, 24-08-SU, because the design violated Village standards. The Commissions found that the pier's rubble stone boulders presented a safety risk for swimmers. Many Commissioners have commented that the access ramp design was dangerous for pedestrians who had to share the ramp with dogs to access the beach. The Commissions have also previously commented that the southern dog fence obstructed public access to the adjoining property. The Park "suspended" permit 24-08-SU in June of 2025.

While permit 24-08-SU was still pending, in March of 2025, the Park filed a new permit 25-28-SU with the IDNR and USACE as seen in Figure 2.

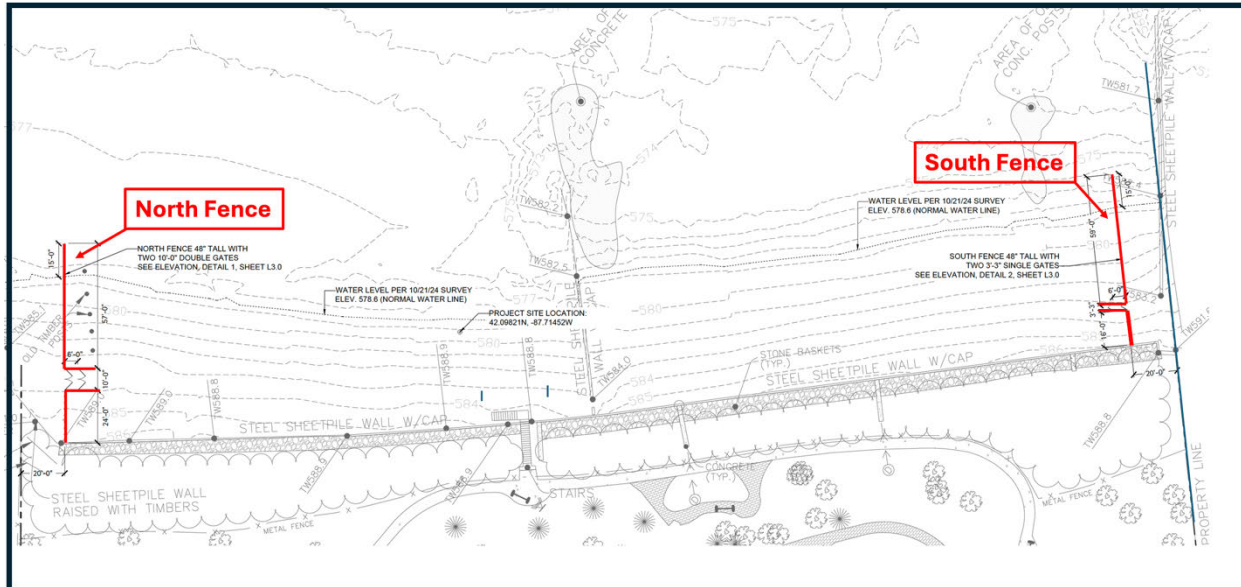


Figure 2: Centennial Beach Design Permit 25-28-SU

Permit 25-28-SU had two fences that extended approximately 15' into the Lake and pedestrians walking the beach would have to pass through gates attached to the fences to cross the dog beach. Permit 25-28-SU was presented to the Plan Commission on January 28, 2026, and Plan recommended against approval of the design. Plan found that forcing pedestrians to walk with unleashed dogs to traverse the dog beach and was unsafe. Plan also found that the gates were burdensome to pedestrians and obstructed their free transit across the off-leash dog beach. During the February 5, 2026, Park Special Board Meeting and during the February 26, 2026 Park Regular Board Meeting, the Park Board voted to make material changes to Permit 25-28-SU which brings us to the pending ZBA meeting scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2026.

ZBA Meeting Scheduled March 9, 2026

I urge the ZBA to recommend against the Park's revised Permit 25-28-SU because the design restricts pedestrians from transiting the public beach. Revised Permit 25-28-SU involves installation of three fence segments that create a dog pen on the south half of Centennial beach (Figure 3 below).

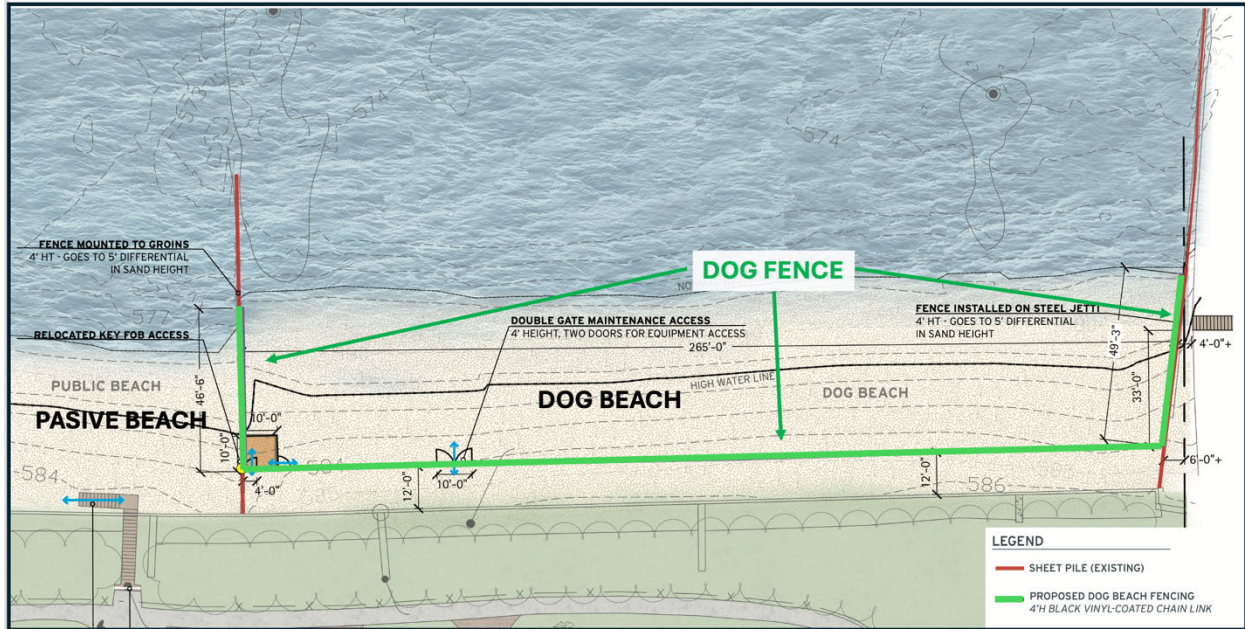


Figure 3: Centennial Beach Design Revised Permit 25-28-SU

The revised Permit 25-28-SU design for the dog fence is very similar to Permit 24-08-SU with the fence mounted on the southern steel groin. The southern segment of the dog beach fence will be installed on top of an existing sheet pile groin near the southern boundary of Centennial. The only difference of the current proposed southern fence design from the earlier Permit 24-08-SU is that the fence will not extend out as far into the Lake. As currently proposed, the northern fence of the dog beach will also be located on an existing steel groin. The western fence of the dog beach will be 20' from the toe of the bluff and will connect to the northern and southern fence segments forming the dog pen (Figure 3).

The western boundary fence and the bluff create a bypass corridor for pedestrians on a strip of beach that terminates at the southern boundary of Centennial (figure 3). To walk the beach onto the adjacent property of 205 Sheridan, a person would have to cross the sheet pile groin and walk east between the southern dog beach fence and the stone breakwater on 205 Sheridan until the individual reaches the stone steps through the breakwater on 205 Sherridan (Figure 4).

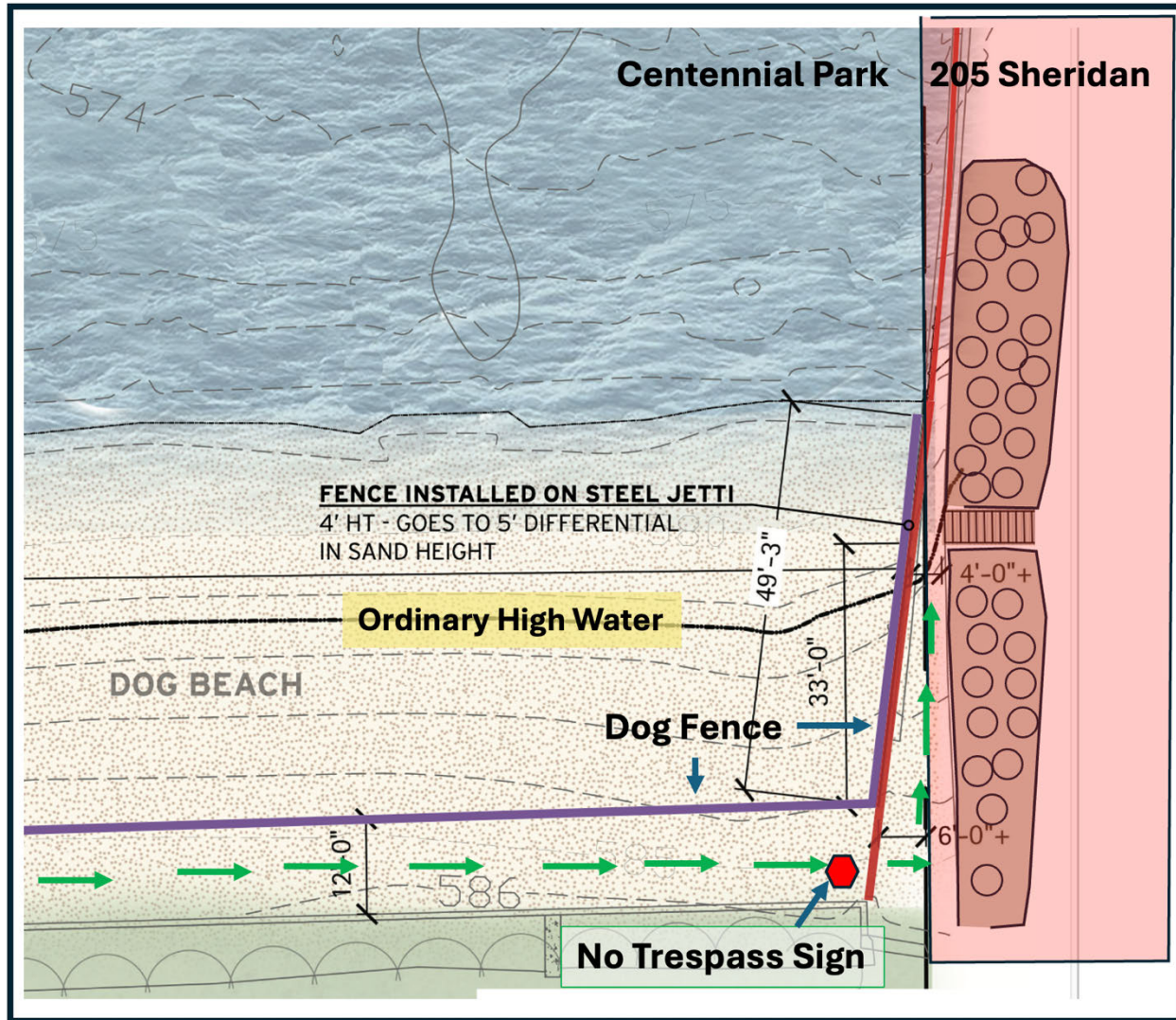


Figure 4: South Centennial Dog Fence

This path will take the pedestrian onto 205 Sheridan's private property located above the ordinary high-water mark forcing the pedestrian onto 205 Sheridan's front yard to reach the stairs in the breakwater. Winnetka ordinance establishes the front lot line on property bordering Lake Michigan at the Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM). The Park's northern dog fence blocks pedestrians walking along the OHWM and pedestrians must bypass around the dog pen to continue south to reach the public beach in front of 205 Sheridan. However, the Park's bypass fails to deliver a pedestrian back to the OHWM where the pedestrian could continue their journey without trespassing on private property. Park Commissioner David Seaman at the Park meeting of February 26th claimed that pedestrians can complete their journey to the stairs in the breakwater at 205 Sheridan without trespassing asserting that property above the OHWM on 205 Sheridan is accreted beach and the public should be able to cross accreted beach pursuant to the Public Trust Doctrine. Attorney Adam Simon, Park counsel, further asserted that the public has the right to access the stairs on the breakwater by the most direct route. However, the No Trespassing sign as shown in Figure 5 is posted by the Park on Park property and contradicts

Mr. Seaman and Mr. Simon’s assertions that the public can access the stairs on 205 Sheridan without trespassing.



Figure 5: No Trespass Sign Posted Near Boundary of Centennial Park and 205 Sheridan

Figure 5 shows a sign posted by the Park on Centennial park beach property approximately 10’ north of the property line of 205 Sherridan and 10’ from the bluff. The sign has the Winnetka Park logo with the following text: “Private Property Beyond This Point, No trespassing. No sitting or standing for a long period of time. Walking along the water’s edge only. Walker’s must follow riparian rights.” The Park is discouraging pedestrians from crossing onto 205 Sheridan and reaching public beach on 205 Sheridan. If the Park is allowed to install the dog-fence this sign will be in the middle of the pedestrian bypass path (Figure 4). The message from the Park’s sign is clear, the end of the bypass is a dead end and persons continuing are trespassing unless they sprout wings and fly to the water’s edge.

The ZBA and Plan Commissions voiced objections to the southern fence when first presented a year ago in permit 24-08-SU (Figure 1) and suggested that the Park should seek an easement to allow the public to transit 205 Sheridan’s private property. The Park has failed to obtain that easement. In summary the Park’s dog fence will block direct access from Centennial to the stairs in the breakwater on 205 Sheridan and will prevent pedestrians from walking along the ordinary highwater mark in violation of Village Ordinance Section 15.78.080 (E) obstructing or otherwise interfering with ingress or egress to adjacent public beaches or private property. As a result, the Park’s permit should be denied.

Beach Access

The only access to Centennial beach is by a metal staircase that is 4' wide (Figure 3). This staircase has functioned adequately for as long as Centennial Beach has functioned exclusively as a dog beach. The Park is now proposing to have the north half of Centennial designated as a non-swimming passive beach and the staircase will not be safe for this dual use. Costa Kutulas, Director of Parks and Maintenance, explained some of the issues of proposed dual use of Centennial beach with shared access to the stairway during the February 26, 2026, Park Board meeting:

(Time stamp 1:47:10 - 1:47:45 of the video of the Park 2/26/26 February Board Meeting)
Costa Kutulas: "Considerations, as you think about swimming, non-swimming, as it's usage (for north half of Centennial beach), of course, is the proximity to the Fenced Dog Beach and the single path of usage. As we heard through the previous design for special use, there was a lot of concern. And one of the things that kind of put the project back on its heels was the mixed usage of that single ADA access way for both dogs, strollers and dog walkers, kids, everybody else competing for the same access point, when we know a lot of people have a tendency to let their dogs off leash from the parking lot into the park."

(Time stamp 1:47:46 - 1:48:02 of the video of the Park 2/26/26 February Board Meeting)
Costa Kutulas: "Well, by having the attendant or with the park patrol, we can help curb some of those issues with people not following the rules and regulations. But that is something to consider. The other thing to consider is the operational control for the Illinois Department of Public Health criteria in regard to restrooms."

Mr. Kutulas further elaborates that two park attendants, one stationed at the top of the stairs, and one stationed on the beach, will enforce the requirement that dogs be leashed until they reach the fenced dog pen. These attendants will be on duty from 6:00 am – 10 pm during beach swimming season. While enforcing dog leash regulations, the attendants will also check for beach passes and enforce no swimming requirements on the passive beach portion of the proposed segmented Centennial Beach.

The plan Mr. Kutulas is proposing is impractical and unsafe for passive beachgoers. The staircase to the beach provides a 48" wide narrow corridor to the beach. Dogs with their owners will pass by passive beach goers who are climbing up and down this staircase simultaneously. The only exit points from the staircase are at the top or base of the stairs and a pedestrian has no way to avoid a dog once on the stairs. I have often witnessed owners with dogs on leashes who have lost control of their dogs while descending the stairs. This situation creates a danger to pedestrians on the staircase.

The staircase runs east from the table land and then turns north and lands on the beach (Figure 3). Due to its configuration a person entering at the table land will not be able to see the exit at the beach where a dog may be entering (Figure 5).



Figure 6: View From Top of Staircase Centennial Beach

A passive beach goer will be unable to avoid a dog they cannot see. The beach attendants Mr. Kutulas describes are assigned the duty to see that dogs are leashed, not to act as traffic cops for the staircase. If this traffic control were assigned, you would need three beach attendants to cover all the sight lines, and they would need flags to signal when the staircase is available for dogs or for passive beach goers. The gate will be open during the day all year round, but the Park only plans to hire beach attendants for swim season. Therefore, there will be no supervision of the stairs for three quarters of the year.

The Commissions had concerns for safety of the shared pedestrian and dog access ramp contained in 24-08-SU and recommended against granting that permit. The current permit, 25-28-SU, using the existing staircase for beach access by passive beach goers and dogs is even more dangerous than the ramp the Commissions recommended against last year. The ZBA should recommend against 25-28-SU because shared access of the staircase by dogs and passive beach goers is detrimental to the public health and safety of the public.

Sincerely,
John W. Root
cc: Members of the Village Zoning Board of Appeals

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Subject: Please Deny Park District Special Use Permit
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 10:48:27 AM
Attachments: [Union Pier Beach 1 \(1\).HEIC](#)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ann, Kindly distribute to the members of the ZBA. Regrettably, we are out of town and cannot address the Board in person this evening. We hope that the photos will be viewed by all. Thank you.

To the Zoning Board of Appeals,

They say a picture is worth a thousand words so we will spare excess commentary and encourage you to consider the attached photo of our beloved (and long time favorite) Elder/Centennial beaches taken less than 10 years ago. We are also sharing a photo of Union Pier, MI beaches from last summer. The Union Pier public beaches are bordered by private property with no need for obtrusive fences to restrict movement of people or animals (or large signs)-- even during the summer tourism season. Appreciating that we may need groins to protect against erosion, whereas this is not required in MI, *every* effort should be made to preserve our lovely beaches in as natural a condition as possible and *without fencing* to obstruct the lovely panorama.

We respectfully urge the ZBA to deny the WPD SUP request and keep our beaches as beautiful as possible.

Many thanks for your thoughtful consideration.

Kim and David Mulligan
1080 Pelham Road





From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Subject: ZBA Meeting 9 March 2026
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 11:23:46 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Ann,
Please pass letter below on to the Zoning Board of Appeals for tonight's meeting. I can't attend tonight.
Thank you very much.
Joanna Karatzas

9 March 2026
Zoning Board of Appeals
Regarding: Fence proposed by the Winnetka Park District on Centennial Beach.

Commissioners;
The Winnetka Park District presented plans during the Winnetka Park Board meeting on February 26, 2026 for extensive fencing at Centennial Beach. Again the plans do not include visuals of adjacency conditions such as the breakwater at the south boundary of Centennial. Furthermore, actual critical dimensions are missing from the drawings. What is the width of the passage between the proposed fence and the steps over the breakwater? Where exactly is the property line between Centennial and 205 Sheridan? Before any decisions can be made the WPD should bother to provide this board and the public with a staked survey and accurate dimensions. The fence, the property line and the breakwater all angle toward each other converging near the steps of the breakwater. Whose property is the public going to be walking on when exercising their Public Trust Doctrine rights? How tight is the space between the steps and the stairs? WPD never seems to get to that level of detail yet asks for a special permit.

Shouldn't this board see a staked survey and accurate dimensions before reviewing the feasibility or necessity of the fence? Please deny this special use permit.

Joanna Karatzas
Winnetka
Sent from my iPhone

Provided by Kim Marsh



X IMG_0985.jpg

Open with Document Viewer...



Cc: Mark Rosenthal (Animal Control) <Mark.Rosenthal@cookcountyl.gov>

Subject: Re: Dog Beach Signage

Shannon,

While our ordinance does not speak directly to this unique situation, we do feel it is important to allow the other relevant agencies to make their determinations before moving forward. In the meantime, our bureau is still reviewing the legalities.

Thanks,



Megan Carolan, DVM

Deputy Administrator

Animal & Rabies Control

M: (773) 520-5753



March 9, 2026

Members of the ZBA:

You are being asked tonight to consider and approve a revised application from the Winnetka Park District to allow installation of fencing on the existing Centennial beach. A prior version of this application was submitted to the Plan Commission for review. On January 28 2026 that application, which differs from the one before you this evening, was unanimously rejected.

The rejected plan, as well as the revised plan submitted for your consideration tonight, have one purpose in common: the installation of substantial, chain link fencing at Centennial Beach in close proximity to a private homeowner's motorized boat ramp. Recent comments made by Park District staff and Commissioners indicate that the newly formulated plan submitted for your review this evening is for some type of temporary fencing. Previous ideations of their submissions refer to a permanent, black chain link fence. Indeed, the sole reason behind the continued application for the SUP, whether temporary or permanent, is because of a proposed Donation Agreement/ Restrictive Covenant between a single property owner and the Winnetka Park District.

One of the biggest concerns from the public, your own board and the Plan Commission concerned the safety issues and hazards created by the installation of these types of fencing.

Fencing, by design, creates barriers, limiting access and egress. The placement of fencing may create designated traffic patterns which will limit accessibility and result in a potential hazard for responders in the case of a water or sand emergency. Whether temporary or permanent, the types and designs of fencing being proposed tonight create an unsafe environment for people of all ages and physical abilities and animals, leashed or unleashed. Additionally, an initial design of the Winnetka Park District included the relocation of an electric key fob system to the actual beach area. This is of great concern given the proximity of this feature to the water.

There is no comparison between what is being proposed by the Winnetka Park District and any other north shore beach design. No other unit of Illinois local government is or would be willing to take money from an immediate adjacent neighbor and lock itself into inflexible beach usage or designs for one half century, regardless of safety concerns, beach erosion, changing lake levels, changing beach demands and changing population demographics. No other unit of Illinois local government would lock itself into such a plan without knowing the availability of sufficient future tax dollars necessary for the maintenance of expensive "project elements" for 50 years.

The Village of Winnetka, through the zoning process, has the authority and standing to protect its public beaches and bluffs. The granting of this Special Use Permit will be injurious to the use and enjoyment of the beach and adjacent park land. Furthermore, the granting of

this application will have the potential of creating a danger to the public access, safety and usage of the beach for the next half century.

The repetitive and ever changing nature of the SUP applications from the Park District indicates a focus inconsistent with community views as to what residents want at the lakefront.

I respectfully request the Zoning Board of Appeals deny this application.

**Angie Dahl
1277 Forest Glen Dr N
Winnetka**



GOOD EVENING TO YOU, MEMBERS OF THE ZONING COMMISSION. 3/9/2026



MY NAME IS MARY GARRISON. I AM A FORMER WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT COMMISSIONER AND PRESIDENT.

I submitted a detailed letter outlining my opposition to the Winnetka Park District's proposal and I 'respectfully ask' that it be included in the record.

Tonight, I want to emphasize three points:

First — no fences on the beach. Centennial Beach is defined by its openness. Installing chain-link enclosures and entry cages— permanently alters that character.

Secondly — fencing in the water creates safety concerns. Lake conditions change. Fixed barriers in a dynamic environment - introduce new risks —rather than eliminate them.

Third —PRECEDENT MATTERS. Once structural encroachments into the sand and water are approved, it becomes far more difficult to prevent additional barriers in the future.

Zoning's responsibility is to protect public health, safety, and welfare. I urge you to exercise that responsibility and deny the Winnetka Park Districts proposal.

Thank you.



To: Village of Winnetka - Zoning Board of Appeals – March 6, 2026

From: Jean B. Schreiber – “Susie”

Please consider the following points when considering granting of approval of the Winnetka Park District’s request for placing two sections of in-lake fencing for the Centennial Park Dog Beach Area on the Lake Michigan shoreline.

- No official Cook County regulations currently require in-lake fencing for dog beaches.
- We all know Great Lakes water levels change routinely depending on climatic conditions. They can go up or down 6 to 8 feet easily. Just ask the shipping industries who need bring full loads into harbors to operate at full capacity. They carry less loads in low water conditions.
- This fencing will become a huge danger when submerged or just visible by a foot, when waters rise. This becomes an immediate danger to those using this area of Centennial Beach, dogs included, not just passing paddle boarders and distance swimmers, or those involved in a water rescue.
- Sand may well accumulate over seasons of storms on the southern edge and cause safety issues in using the southern access for beach walkers going over the very high rocks to the south, especially in rougher wind and water conditions.
- Have the underwater cement piles, marked on the Winnetka Park District maps provided for this proposed project, been removed? They should have come out last summer during the submerged debris cleanup undertaken by the Winnetka Park District. They are NOT shoals as was they were thought to be by the State of Illinois when providing their permit review and decision. The Park District did accurately and clearly labeled them cement piles on their drawings.
- Alternate solution: Consider working through a plan with the Wilmette Park District to allow for Winnetka Park District resident to use the Wilmette Dog Beach at Gilson Harbor.
- Alternate solution: Provide Dog Swimming at Centennial from sun rise to 10 a.m. only from May through October. Run this program for a year or two to see if this works for most all parties, and then revisit for modifications if needed.

• Go to Referendum

ATTACHMENT C

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Centennial Beach signage language and origin re WPD fence SUP permit
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 11:21:13 AM
Attachments: [Williams to Simon May 2 2025 4921-8378-0506.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Ann,

At a recent ZBA meeting addressing the WPD's request for fencing on Centennial Beach there were public comments and applicant responses regarding current signage on Centennial and other WPD beaches. Signs placed by the Park District.

Please see attached conversation between WPD's attorney Adam Simon and 205 Sheridan Road upland owner's attorney David Williams. Attorney Williams requests beach signage and specific wording. After this communication, the WPD ordered, paid for, and installed the signage requested by the private neighbor. At the ZBA meeting, WPD staff said the Centennial signs had been in place since 2023. That can't be correct, given the attached is dated May, 2025. Please share this information with ZBA members and Village Board.

Thank you,

Laurie Morse

-

Simon, Adam

From: David B.H. Williams <williams@wbs-law.com>
Sent: Friday, May 2, 2025 3:55 PM
To: Simon, Adam
Subject: RE: 261 Sheridan

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Use Caution when opening attachments or links from unknown senders.

Adam:

Following on our call, please find below the sign that we discussed that is currently at the southern boundary of Lloyd Beach:



After you discuss with staff, I look forward to having the same signs installed on the beach at:

- The southern boundary of Centennial.
- The northern boundary of Centennial.
- The southern boundary of Elder; and
- The northern boundary of Elder.

Philip Enquist
476 Provident Ave.
Winnetka, Illinois 60093
[REDACTED]

April 9, 2026

Dear Design Review Board

At the January 28th Plan Commission meeting, the Winnetka community learned of the details for the proposed fences which would define the future dog beach at Centennial Beach, as proposed by the Winnetka Park District.

The proposed design was for two, 4' high fences, that would run into the lake waters for approximately 15' to a water depth of 1.5' to 2'. Four gates would create entrances, a pair at the north and a pair at the south.

As I listened to this presentation, I wondered who is representing child safety concerns? Shallow water (1.5 – 2 feet) allows easy wading around these fences and children potentially meandering behind fences and become vulnerable to separation from families. A dog owner also spoke that obstructions like fences can create unsafe conditions for the dogs.

Residents at the January 28th meeting suggested rational strategies that would avoid fences extending into the water. These alternative concepts should be explored and alternatives presented publicly.

The community also showed research of what other Illinois communities are doing, especially the letter (dated January 26, 2026) from John Root. The WPD admitted that they had not gone to see these other beaches. The WPD proposal is a bad idea.

These fences would fragment Winnetka's open, unobstructed beach, but more importantly, I believe they would create significant safety issues. The Winnetka Park District's proposal is full of issues and is poorly conceived. Please do not approve this fence special use permit proposal, but rather recommend further research and alternative concepts that may not require fencing on the actual beach.

A month or so later, a second proposal was offered by the WPD that had extensive fences running parallel to the waterfront on the sand beaches. It was another WPD bad idea. Both I think, are up for your review and discussion.

Centennial Beach is one of the most beautiful beaches in Winnetka and it should simply remain that way. It is common sense. We all have a responsibility to protect this beach for future generations. It is on our watch and we must be its stewards. It doesn't need to be fragmented, fenced, or chopped up into separate pieces. It should remain open, respected and cherished.

Thank you for your diligence and time related to these issues.

Phil Enquist
Fellow, American Institute of Architects
Adjunct Professor, UIC College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ann Klaassen](#)
Cc: [Robert Dearborn](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: WPD's Lake Michigan chain-link fencing designs
Date: Friday, April 10, 2026 10:46:42 AM
Attachments: [4D787307-BD84-4E61-B778-9F98D1D93368.png](#)
[3D7923BD-0EDEF-473C-8767-8CD0E21ECBA7.png](#)
[F376E833-751E-405D-B62A-74521007C2A5.png](#)
[DA384C67-FD72-4273-8566-7662D91F6F4C.png](#)
[9BAEA904-59BF-4645-9894-2384ED54F434.png](#)
[Seiler_Kutulas_Text1.PNG](#)
[Seiler_Kutulas_Text2.PNG](#)
[WPD_AECOM_FailedSteelGroin_Breakwater_2025.pdf](#)
[2006 Meeting MinutesDogParkRejected.pdf](#)
[Kutulas_Seiler_USACE_PublicCommentsOnFence.pdf](#)
[Follow UpSeiler_Kutulas_CentennialFence.pdf](#)
[Williams to Simon May 2 2025 4921-8378-0506.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Ann:

Would you please provide my email and attachments to the Design Review Board (“DRB”) ahead of its April 16, 2026 meeting?

The Village of Winnetka is known for its exacting design standards. It was the first locality in the nation to prohibit McDonalds from putting up its golden arches. Today, I ask the DRB to uphold Winnetka’s well-known standards by declining to recommend what would be WPD’s only lakefront chainlink fencing. It is ugly, out of character, would denigrate the neighborhood, and pose many unacceptable risks—including property value degradation.

VILLAGE DESIGN STANDARDS PROHIBIT CHAIN LINK FENCING

Background: Village Design Guidelines

8:54 PM Wed Jan 14

villageofwinnetka.org — Private

79%

39 of 91

9. Trash/Equipment Screening: For all new developments and loading areas, dumpsters and outdoor utility equipment should be consolidated as much as possible and thoroughly screened with year round solid screening. (See Figures 77a&b for more information).

10. Decorative Fencing: Decorative metal and/or wood fencing should be used where appropriate to enhance and define open spaces, landscaped areas and building entrances. (See Figure 51i) Such fencing should not be more than four feet in height. Solid fencing should be avoided unless used for screening of service areas. Chain link fences are prohibited. Decorative metal fencing, using the Village standard, is encouraged along all public street frontages to obscure the view of surface parking areas.

11. Newspaper Corrals: Decorative newspaper corrals should be installed only at Metra stations to consolidate newspaper boxes and eliminate clutter. (See Figure 51j)



*Bollard design shall substantially conform with base of standard decorative street light
Figure 51h*



*Standard decorative metal fencing
Figure 51i*



As a point of reference, when the Village granted WPD a Special Use Permit for Elder in 2001, it did not include approval for using chain-link fencing, see pdf attached. Allowing chain-link fencing at Centennial now would degrade not only the neighborhood's remaining character, but the entire Village.

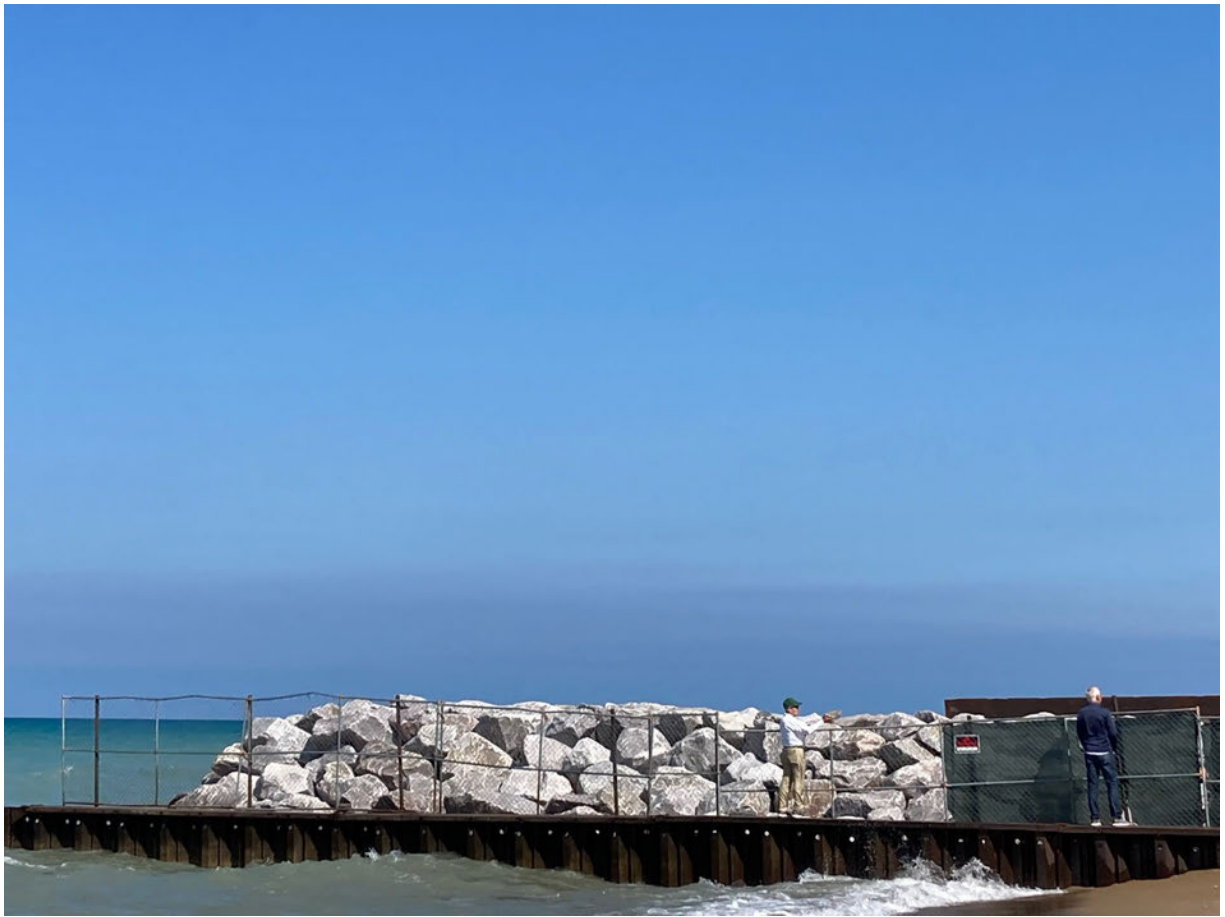


FENCE CHARACTER IMAGES



BLACK VINYL COATED CHAINLINK FENCE

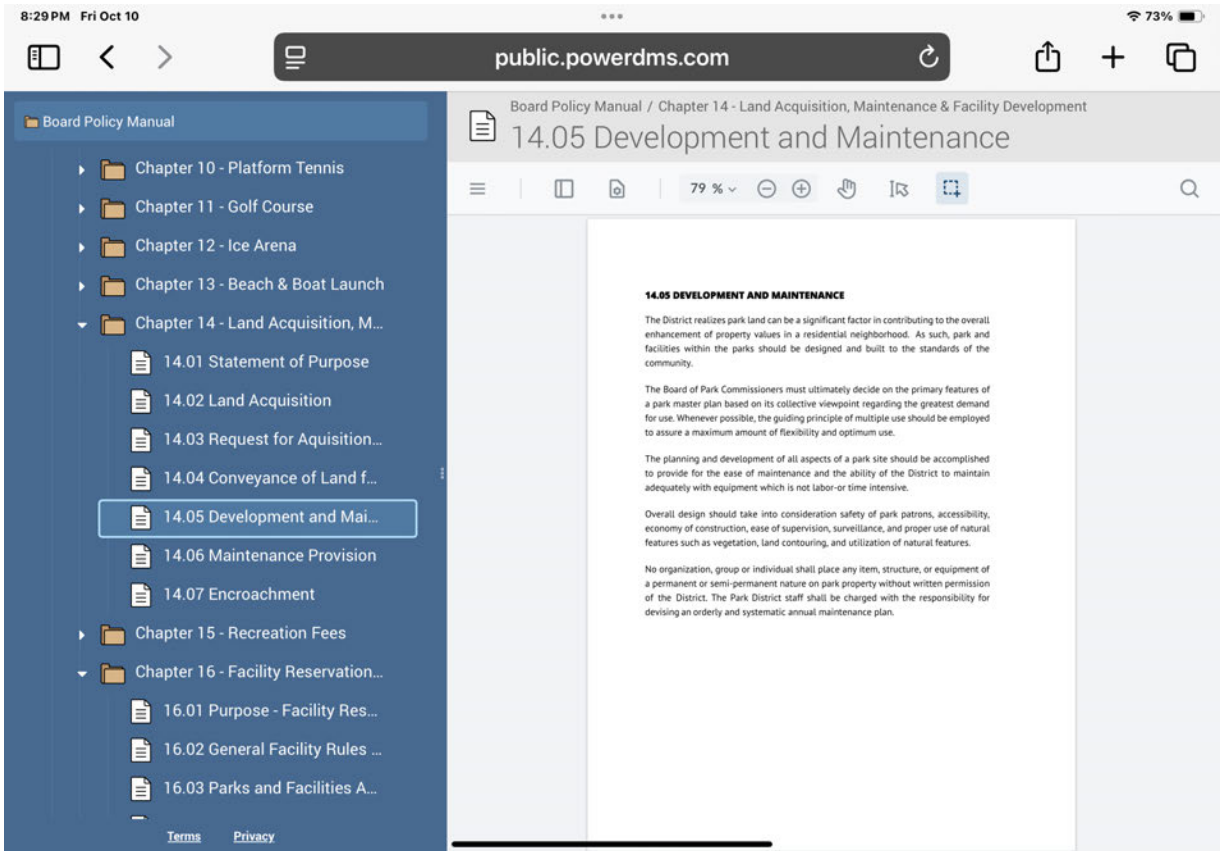
Centennial Beach looking south in 2025, with fencing on groin:



January 2023 photos of WPD's unlawful fencing

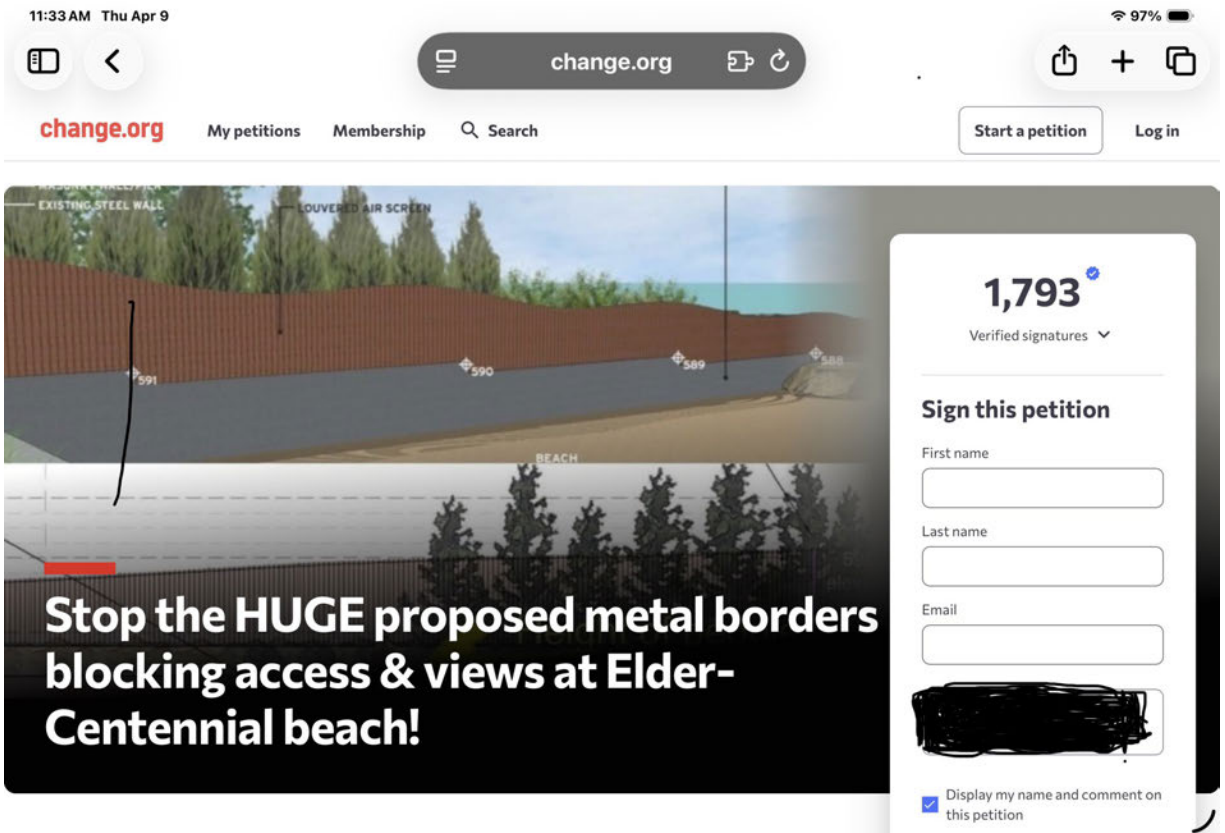


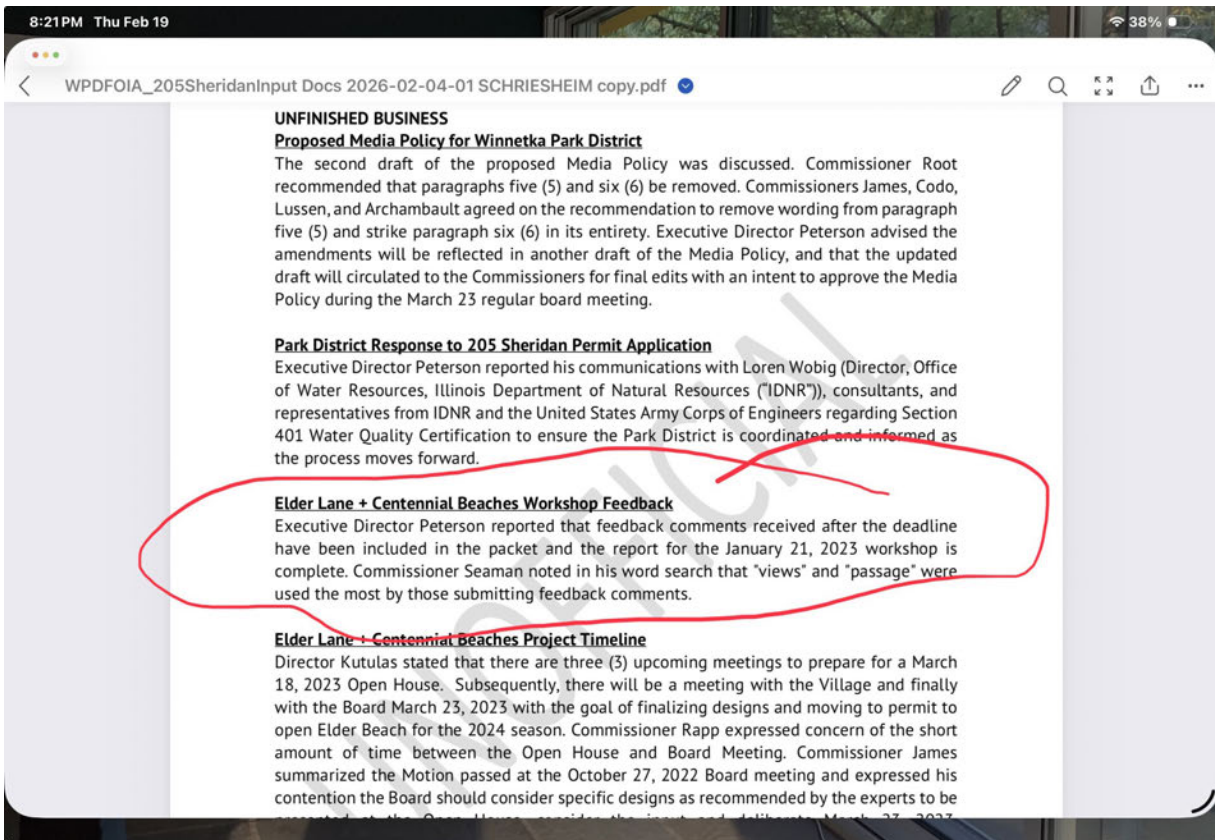
WPD's Policy Manual recognizes the importance of ensuring park designs are consistent with community standards, mentioning their impact on property values.



PUBLIC OPPOSITION

The public has consistently opposed barriers and structures that block passage and views at the beach, and relies on Village guidelines to protect design integrity.





SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Falling within the Zoning Code's comprehensive framework, Winnetka's design guidelines contemplate safe building methods. I am worried that the Village Engineer and consulting coastal engineer may not have been informed that AECOM told WPD at least 12 months ago that the steel groin(s) to which WPD would attach and re-attach its dangerous fencing, has not been maintained. See attached pdf below. WPD's southern steel groin, and possibly the northern groin as well, is unsafe, unstable, eroded, and needs to be stabilized. This is safety information that the Design Review Board should use. Unsafe designs for WPD's implausible Great Lakes chainlink fencing project are unacceptable in Winnetka.



MAINTENANCE ISSUES

With respect to WPD's sandy beach-based chain-link fencing, I point you to Mr. Kutulas's response to prior questions on the 39" stacked single gate corridor on the fencing's southern end. He said WPD would not maintain the public beach south of this yardstick wide corridor. However, debris, dead marine life, and even boats will inevitably wash ashore between the fencing and 205 Sheridan's stone breakwater. People may have to be rescued. Standards set by the Village's design guidelines require these maintenance considerations to be taken into account.

Boat beached at Lloyd after being buffeted by waves in 2025—first responders were called to the scene.



DESIGN STANDARDS SHOULD NOT BE DISCARDED TO SERVE OBSCURE INTERESTS

WPD has been communicating with 205 Sheridan's counsel/representatives about dog beach fencing and zoning. WPD even agreed to put up publicly-funded signage warning people away from traversing the shoreline. WPD staff proactively sent the public's comments for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' ("USACE") fence permit review to 205 Sheridan's project manager (see attachments below). The rest of us had to submit FOIA requests to receive USACE's public comment file. That same 205 Sheridan project manager texted staff to ask whether, after WPD's 2025 sandy beach-based fencing project was approved, the fencing would be moved to the steel groins under an amended permit. See attached texts at bottom.

Elder/Centennial Beach Matters Case 22 CH 10550				Hours
02/13/2025	ABS	Review draft narrative answer to questions regarding pedestrian access around dog beach		0.25
02/14/2025	ABS	Assist with application of FOIA exceptions to draft engineering report		0.25
02/17/2025	ABS	Conference with Williams regarding enclosure of dog beach; Confer with staff regarding same		0.50
02/17/2025	ABS	Review, comment and revise answers in response to Plan Commission questions		1.50
02/18/2025	ABS	Continue to review Park District's response to Plan Commission questions and work with staff to prepare for continued hearing		0.50
02/19/2025	ABS	Review correspondence with Cook County Animal Control; Conference with Codo and Nazzal regarding operation of dog beach and zoning/permitting issues		0.75
02/19/2025	ABS	Conference with Williams regarding dog beach fencing and zoning issues		0.25
02/19/2025	ABS	Review preliminary draft of agreement for donation from decedent's estate for dog park; Answer questions regarding same		0.25
02/20/2025	ABS	Conference with Williams regarding [REDACTED]		0.25
02/21/2025	ABS	Conference with Williams to follow up from Board meeting		0.25
02/21/2025	ABS	Follow up with Friedman regarding request to pause zoning proceedings		0.25

In 2022 Orchard's consultant directed WPD to emphasize dog beach usage numbers to support a need for beach walls.

COVER LETTER
Elder/Centennial Beach - [Public Comment 101, 2022](#)

Impact on Public Uses
The breakwaters and beach will help to provide a more stable shoreline environment for boaters and swimmers with two separated usage bays and [public](#) access to the water. Fishing will not be impacted negatively, as the underwater area of the quarrystone breakwater protection will create an improved fish habitat. Open water navigation will not be impacted, as the proposed construction extends slightly further east than the existing nearby structures. Launching of kayaks and paddleboards will be improved by the dual bay beach system. [The new park breakwaters and boundaries established by the project will allow the Park District to allow dogs at the beach during off-season months.](#)

Impact on Natural Resources
[Public access will not be implemented on the Winnetka Park District beach because users do not depend on or visit the beach as nearly all of the adjacent private properties are not traversable due to shoreline protection systems that are in place. There are no publicly accessible access points near this beach; the park district is progressing on erosion prevention extending 500' from the bluff line to manage the danger associated with beach users climbing the rocks and encountering cliffs with adjacent private property for shoreline systems.](#)

Impact on Natural Resources
Quarrystone structures in the nearshore waters of Lake Michigan and sandy beaches improve native species habitat. The LandOwner Resource Centre with support from the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources states that, "unstable shorelines can release silt that can choke nearby aquatic habitats." Additionally, underwater structures such as artificial reefs constructed of large boulders and clean riprap material "in large water bodies, such as the Great Lakes... are often the best method of creating habitat." As stated above, according to Meadows, et al., 2005, "a nearshore area with 100% sand cover support[s] a species rich community." As the design does not impact the bluff and vegetation, the local terrestrial wildlife will continue to inhabit this property. In many nearshore areas in Illinois where the sand is less than 3 feet thick, lakebed erosion of glacial clay results in large suspended plumes of clay in the water during storm wave events. An eroding clay lakebed is not considered good aquatic habitat.

Type of Permit
The scope of this project requires an individual permit.

Description and Schedule of Proposed Activity
Installation of the breakwaters will start soon after the permits are issued as the beach is not currently usable for residents. The breakwaters will be built by a combination of marine and land-based access (pending Lake level and conditions at the time of construction). This project is anticipated to be completed within a single year.

Type and Quantity of Fill/Measures Taken to Avoid Impact/Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
All material will be clean and from inland quarries. Approximately 21,243 tons of clean quarried stone will be placed to construct the breakwater system. Approximately 23,600 cubic yards of clean sand will be placed as sandfill in and around the system. The area of fill to be placed below the Ordinary High Water Mark (581.5 feet, IGLD 1985) is 1.0 acre.

Ongoing Maintenance
The Winnetka Park District is requesting a 10-year sand nourishment permit. As lake levels lower, sand will tend to accumulate more in the beach bays. The Winnetka Park District would like to have the ability to mobilize up to 2,000 cubic yards of sand annually if and when necessary to help maintain a [stable](#) beach and the metastable equilibrium.

Comments:
Commented [FC]: Cost. Wanted to point the additional as you'd asked to have it removed. The Orchard legal was suggested for dog usage to be included in the narrative as it is an asset and demonstrates the need for the high end walls.
Commented [FC]: Jim and Chris, the Orchard was suggest for change to be noted.

Similar efforts related to chainlink fencing are not legitimate reasons to waive Winnetka's Design Guidelines.

From: David B.H. Williams <williams@wbs-law.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 8:50 AM
To: Simon, Adam <ASimon@ancelglink.com>
Subject: Dogs at Centennial

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Use Caution when opening attachments or links from unknown senders.

Adam:

Following on our call, from 4/8/25 to 6/12/25 there have been 711 dogs observed off leash and 28 observed on leash.

In the last month, 5/12/25 to 6/12/25, there have been 270 dogs observed off leash and 15 observed on leash.

Thanks,
David



David B.H. Williams

3:38 PM Thu Jan 8 58%

il.portal.civicclerk.com

Plan Commission Regular Meeting • CivicClerk

Plan Commission Regular Meeting - February 26, 2025 SIGN IN

Agenda

Agenda Packet

Minutes

b. Case No. 24-08-SU: 225 Sheridan Roa...

Questions Following January 22 Meeting

Attachment B1 - Applicant's Responses to PC Questions Following January 22 Meeting

Attachment C1 - January 22, 2024, PC Staff Report

Attachment D1 - Public Correspondence Received Since Posting of January 22 PC Agenda Packet

a. March 13, 2025, Special Meeting - Qu...

18 of 417 Automatic Zoom

Centennial Beach was the only location for a dog beach.

a. See "Exhibit 2 - Dog Beach History"

3. How was the size of the proposed dog beach decided?

a. Based on an equitable allocation of shoreline for this specific user group and after comparing to similarly situated dog beaches (i.e. Wilmette Dog Beach, 225 feet). The WPD decided to keep the dog beach at the south end of Centennial beach on October 27, 2022.

4. Did Mr. Ishbia or any of his representatives ever request or discuss the location of the dog beach with the Park District or its representatives?

a. The neighboring property owner and representatives have remained neutral with respect to the dog beach. The only request has been to ensure that off-leash dogs cannot stray onto his property.

5. According to the presentation presented on January 22, 2025, the Park District amended the plan to include a dog beach on October 19, 2023. When was it decided the dog beach should be at Centennial?

a. The dog beach was established at Centennial Park in 1995. The Lakefront Master Plan, approved in 2016, envisioned unification of Elder and Centennial and relocation or removal of the dog beach from Centennial. The plans for the unified parks and beach were withdrawn by a vote of 3-2 on June 9, 2022. The Park District unanimously approved a motion on October 27, 2022, to maintain a dog beach at the south end of Centennial Park (its current location) of not more than 170 feet and not less than 270 feet.

6. I understand that there may be multiple reasons the Park District is choosing to place the dog beach where it is proposed. But are any of those reasons related at all to Mr. Ishbia, his property, or the proposed land swap or donation agreement?

a. No.

7. Is it physically possible to locate the dog beach at any other Park District beach in the Village?

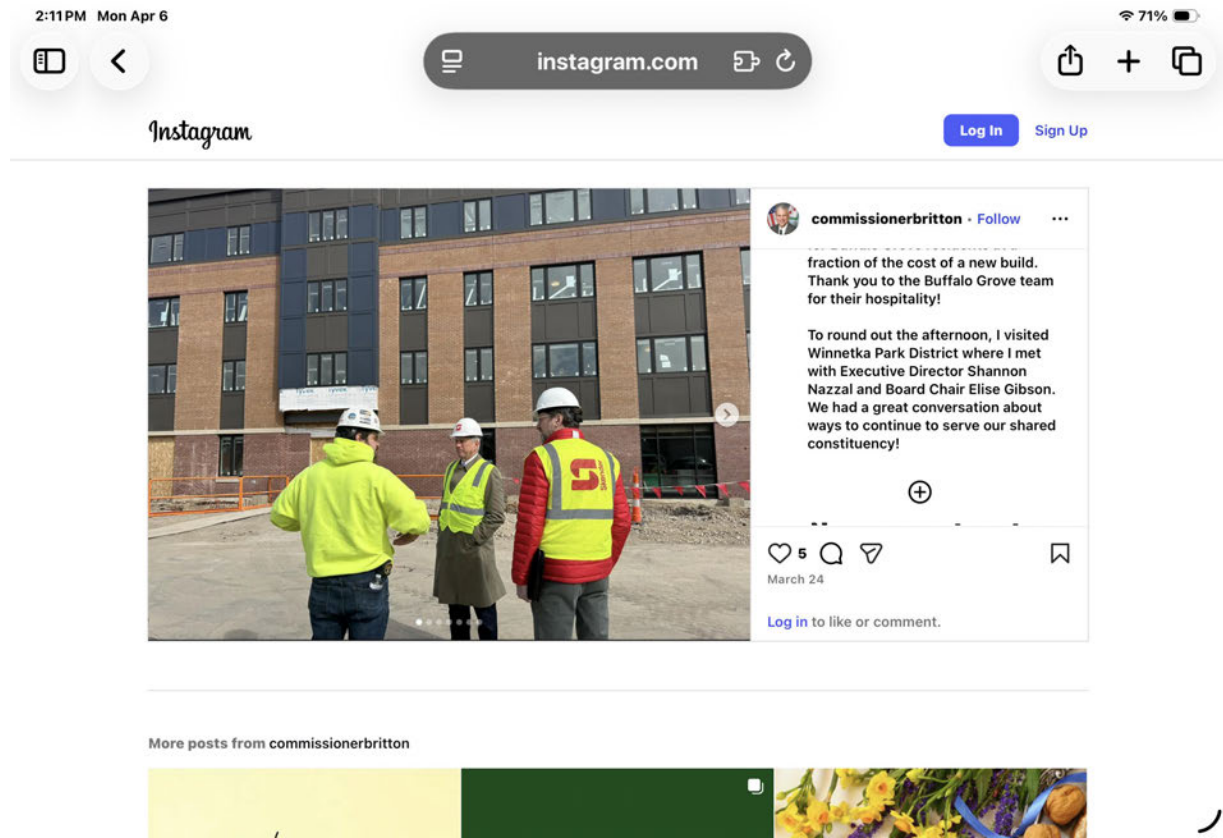
a. The only other suitable location that was considered was the south end of Tower Beach

COOK COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL RULES ARE A SMOKE SCREEN

Cook County's Animal Control rules do not require dog beach fencing. What the Code does require is four-sided fencing on "areas of land" that are "dog parks," or vicious animal

enclosures. This is why, over the course of multiple years, WPD has been unable to produce documents from Cook County ordering it to put up fencing in conformance with dog park rules. Cook County’s known inquiries about WPD’s project concern signage, waste receptacles, and vaccination requirements. Like the public, Cook County’s further concern is “whether the fencing provides sufficient access to the water under the law.” WPD’s efforts do not warrant waiving Village design guidelines.

WPD representatives’ March 2026 meeting.



2025 email communication

From: Mamadou Diakhate (Animal Control)
To: Scott Britton (Board of Commissioners)
Cc: Allison Davidson (Bureau of Administration); Alexis Jenkins (Bureau of Administration); Zahra Ali (Bureau of Administration)
Subject: Re: Centennial Dog Beach Follow Up
Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025 10:53:16 AM
Attachments: Outlook-Cook Color.png
Outlook-4vqbdcah.png
Outlook-ngp314wa.png
Outlook-3rffq2b.png
Outlook-n3wxkqse.png

Dear Commissioner Britton,

Thank you for reaching out to ARC, your continuous support is dearly appreciated.

Animal and Rabies Control has decided not to issue any decision until Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Army Corps of Engineers have given approval, as they will be looking at whether the plans provide sufficient access to the water under the law.

Assuming they approve, the plan appears to meet the requirements of our regulations, but BOA is still reviewing the legalities.

Should you have further questions, feel free to reach out to our BOA Senior Legal Counsel Allison Davidson here copied.

Sincerely,

Mamadou Diakhate, D.V.M.

OLD FENCING

WPD may assert that previous beach fencing set a design precedent for waiving the design guidelines. The Village has no record of WPD receiving a permit for old chain-link fencing on either end of 261 Sheridan's lot. This lines up with community members' recollection that 261 built two virtually identical lines of beach fencing. Furthermore, if WPD did build unlawful fencing, that would hardly support asking DRB to disregard Village guidelines.

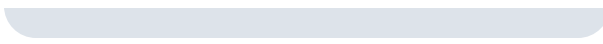
Additionally, WPD does not seem to know when it built the old fencing. Former Commissioner James was publicly quoted as saying it was 2009; former WPD Executive Director John Peterson wrote to Cook County Animal Control that it was 2011; last month Costa Kutulas said it was sometime within a multi-year time span; Commissioner Codo mentioned some other years, but was corrected by Mr. Kutulas. When I submitted a FOIA request on the matter, WPD's response said it destroyed documents spanning 2009-2015 and therefore possesses no pre-2023 fencing records such as invoices, nor does it have a permit for the old fencing. Clearly, DRB did not waive the design guidelines in the past, and should not do so in 2026.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: DOG BEACH TIMELINE

I am hopeful the Village noticed WPD's purported dog beach timeline omits important dates, such as when Cook County adopted its animal control ordinance (2004), its animal control regulations (2005), and how WPD responded: in 2006 the board resolved not to establish a dog park in Winnetka because of public park fencing's unpopularity.



IMG_1093May2025.MP4



Please decline to recommend approval of WPD's design guideline-violating fencing on Centennial beach.

Thank you.
Kris Schriesheim
Winnetka resident



Gregg >



Fri, Sep 12 at 9:20 PM

Costa - would you be able to send me a sketch of how the temporary dog fencing will be installed?

Fri, Sep 12 at 10:22 PM

Just sent you an email with the current design we sent out for permit. I'll follow up if we change the layout at the next board meeting. Have a good weekend

Sat, Sep 13 at 8:25 AM

Thanks! I hope you have a good weekend as well.

Mon, Sep 15 at 11:22 AM

Gregg, I'm out today and tomorrow. Can I give you a shout Wednesday?

Delivered

Sure. I just wanted to see if you plan is to get the IDNR and AC to approve what was submitted and then submit for a amendment if you decide to mount the fencing on the steel groins and make the dog hook smaller



iMessage





Gregg >



Fri, Sep 12 at 10:22 PM

Just sent you an email with the current design we sent out for permit. I'll follow up if we change the layout at the next board meeting. Have a good weekend

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Mon, Sep 15 at 11:22 AM

Gregg, I'm out today and tomorrow. Can I give you a shout Wednesday?

Delivered

Sure. I just wanted to see if you plan is to get the IDNR and AC to approve what was submitted and then submit for a amendment if you decide to mount the fencing on the steel groins and make the dog beach smaller.

Is this something you can share with me?



iMessage



April 17, 2025

Mr. James P. Casey
Mr. Steve Altman
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Lake Michigan Section
160 N LaSalle Street, Suite 703
Chicago, IL 60601

**Subject: Shoreline Protection Project in Lake Michigan (Permit LM 2023004)
205 Sheridan Road, Winnetka, Ill.
North Stone Groin Design Adjustment**

Dear Jim and Steve,

This letter is with reference to a shoreline project that was approved by IDNR on May 2, 2023.

Winter storms have caused erosion at the east end of the North Stone Groin. The Winnetka Park District steel groin, which is located immediately north of the stone groin, has experienced failure. The steel cap on top of the steel groin has been dislodged by wave attack this past winter. Also, the steel sheet piles at the eastern portion of this groin are loose due to the damaged cap. Winter wave conditions have caused significant erosion at the end of the Orchard stone groin. Wave attack at the east end of the damaged groin causes water jets through the steel sheet joints and uneven overtopping flow and turbulence on the Orchard side of the steel groin.

This situation has caused a deep scour hole formation on both sides of the groin. On the Orchard beach side of the scour, the scour hole is 7' or deeper with a scour hole width that is 50 to 60 feet wide. The deepest area is immediately south of the steel groin and east of the Orchard stone groin. The scour extends to the Orchard stone groin toe of slope. We propose to add toe stones to buttress the existing stone groin toe stones to address the scour impacts. The proposed line of toe stones will front the existing toe of the stone groin and will be buried to the clay layer elevation. The added toe stones will rest on clay. And the toe stones will be recessed below the existing lakebed as shown on the attached drawings. We have met with the Park District to discuss this issue.

We have met with the Winnetka Park District to make them aware of this matter. Please let us know if you approve this request. Please issue a letter of determination regarding this proposed plan adjustment. If you have any questions, please call me on the following number (847 - 323 -2171).

Best Regards,

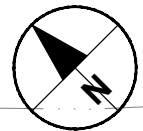


William J. Weaver, P.E., BC.WRE
Vice President – Sr. Principal Engineer

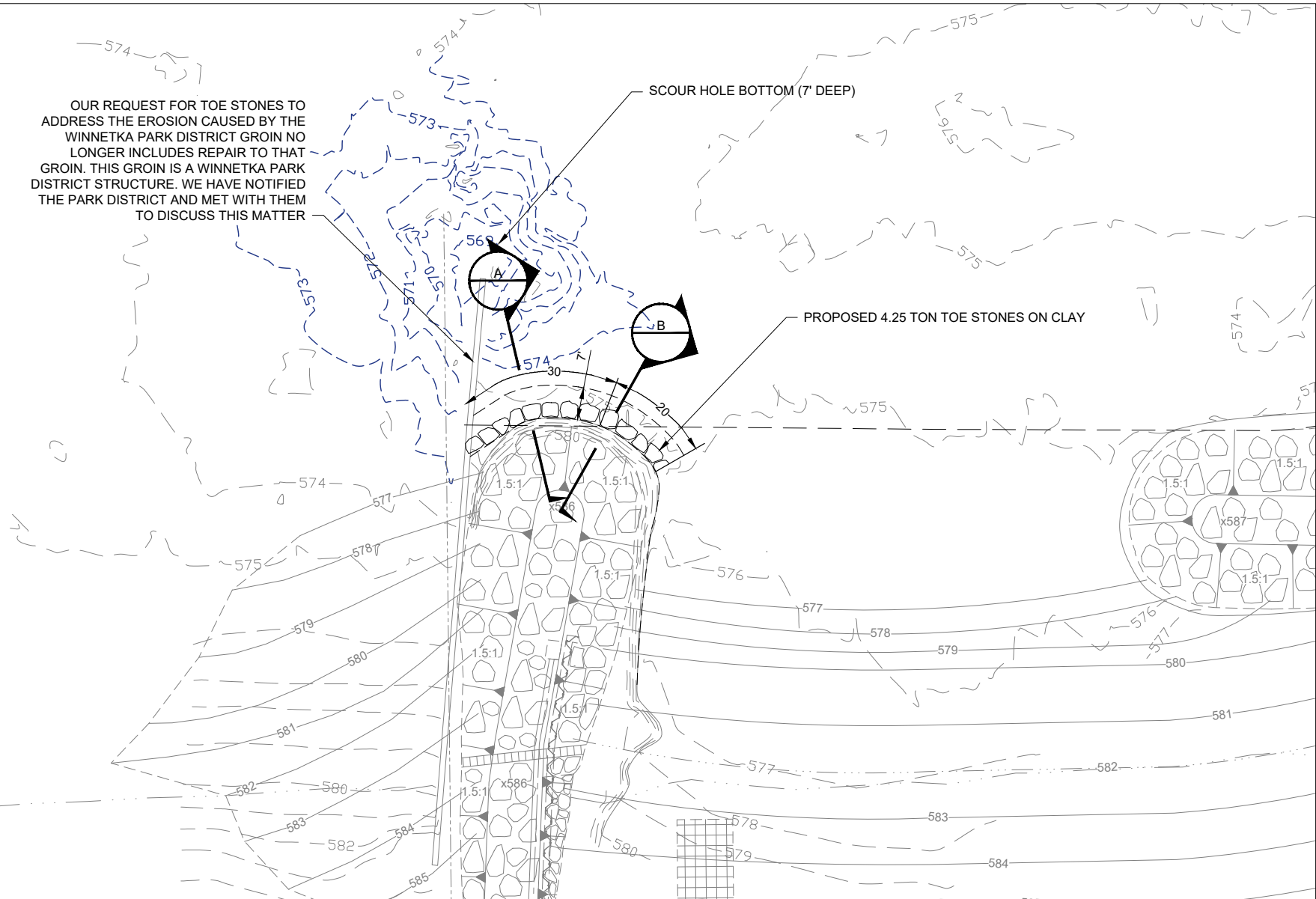
OUR REQUEST FOR TOE STONES TO ADDRESS THE EROSION CAUSED BY THE WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT GROIN NO LONGER INCLUDES REPAIR TO THAT GROIN. THIS GROIN IS A WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT STRUCTURE. WE HAVE NOTIFIED THE PARK DISTRICT AND MET WITH THEM TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER

SCOUR HOLE BOTTOM (7' DEEP)

PROPOSED 4.25 TON TOE STONES ON CLAY



SCALE: 1" = 20'



were Commissioners Murphy, Sherman, Thomas, Snyder and Garrison. Also present were staff members McElroy, Farmer, Smith, Volpe, and Gullen. Absent: Kurtz and Smith . Visitors: Jill Meyer, Frank Bickmore, Dorothy Bickmore, Joanne Benson, Pat Horne and Angie DeMars.

AUGUST VOUCHERS

The Board reviewed the voucher list and questions were answered by staff.

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the Voucher List as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Snyder and a roll call vote was taken.

Voting – Aye: Commissioners Murphy, Sherman, Snyder, Thomas and Garrison

Voting – Nay: None

Absent: Kurtz and Smith

MOTION CARRIED

JULY 2006 FINANCIALS

The Board was presented with the Financials for June 2006.

After review, Commissioner Murphy moved to approve the Financials as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and passed by a voice vote.

REMARKS FROM VISITORS

Frank and Dorothy Bickmore along with Jill Meyer business owners in the Hubbard Woods District, presented the Board with a petition with 35 signatures from the businesses in the Hubbard Woods area. Mr. Bickmore said that the owners support the Hubbard Woods park improvements. They will continue to seek more signatures.

The Board thanked them for their support.

Commissioner Smith arrived at 7:10 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Park Board Minutes from July 13 & July 20

Safety Minutes from July

Fence Bids

Commissioner Murphy moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sherman and a roll call vote was taken.

Voting – Aye: Commissioners Murphy, Sherman, Snyder, Thomas, Smith and Garrison

Voting – Nay: None

Absent: Kurtz

MOTION CARRIED

to the LRP.

After further review, Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the 2006-2007 Long Range Plan as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and a roll call vote was taken.

Voting – Aye: Commissioners Murphy, Thomas, Smith and Garrison

Voting – Nay: None

Abstained: Sherman and Snyder

Absent: Kurtz

MOTION CARRIED

ENVIRONMENTAL, PERSONNEL, BOARD COMMITTEE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS POLICIES

The Board reviewed the policies presented.

The Board directed staff under the Educational Policy to include a “Unless death or disability”, to the reimbursement statement.

Commissioner Thomas asked that the policies as presented be approved at the next meeting for further comments. Thomas further stated that a policy be drafted on the review and approval of all policies. Policies should be presented and reviewed at one meeting in draft form. The policy would then be placed on agenda at the following meeting for final approval.

DOG PARK OPTIONS

Pat Horne and Angie DeMars were present to encourage the District consider a Dog Park in the community. Mrs. Horne and Ms. DeMars would spearhead fundraising for fencing, the gate system and any other essentials needed for the park. The park would be paid for with private funding.

Director McElroy stated that the Caucus survey results indicated that the community might be interested in a dog park. Staff investigated six sites, but only two should be considered. Crow Island Woods west of the Shelter and Centennial Park on the upper bluff.

Discussion ensued on the consideration of both sites. Some Commissioners feel that we are overloading Crow Island.

McElroy suggested having public hearings to discuss both sites.

Commissioner Snyder suggested that two meetings be held to allow for more feedback.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Director McElroy noted that staff will be meeting to develop a new Strategic Plan. Board and staff will meet with Ron Vine on October 5th to incorporate the survey results into the strategic plan.

Commissioner Murphy moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:40 p.m. to enter into an Executive

Voting – Aye: Commissioners Murphy, Sherman, Snyder, Thomas, Smith and Garrison

Voting – Nay: None

Absent: Kurtz

MOTION CARRIED

At 9:03 p.m., President Garrison stated that the Board met in Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of lease or purchase of real property pursuant to Section 2(c)(5) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.. The Board will not be taking any final action at this meeting on the matter discussed in closed session.

Commissioner Murphy moved to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:52 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith and passed by a voice vote.

Commissioners Hertz, Sherman, Snyder, Thomas, Smith and Garrison. Also present were Attorney Holtz, Ted Flickinger, Executive Director of the Illinois Association of Park Districts. Absent: Murphy

Commissioner Thomas moved to enter into Executive Session under Section 2 c (16) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act for the purpose of self evaluation with a representative of the statewide association of which the Winnetka Park District is a member. The motion was seconded by Kurtz and a roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye: Snyder, Sherman, Thomas, Kurtz, Smith and Garrison.

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Murphy

MOTION CARRIED

Commissioner arrived at 7:05 p.m.

At 8:50 p.m., the Board reconvened in open session, President Garrison stated that the Board met in Executive Session for the purpose of self evaluation with a representative of the state association of which Winnetka is a member pursuant to Section 2 c (16) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. The Board took no action at this time.

Commissioner Murphy moved to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Winnetka Park District Board of Commissioners at 8:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith and passed with a voice vote.

At both Hearings, those opposed to a leash free dog park in either Crow Island Park or Centennial outnumbered the proponents.

Neighbors of Centennial Park voiced their concern by the possibility that nearly all its bluff open space be given over to the dogs. Many Sheridan Road residents who are dog owners, even opposed the proposal.

Concern was expressed over the size of the proposed park. One acre would not be large enough and should be at least two to four maybe even five acres and neither site is large enough.

Crow Island Park is currently used as more of a nature park with trails and open space, all of barking dogs added to this area would disrupt the quiet nature of this park. There is limited parking and Euclid, the road next the park is a dead ends and not suitable for this amount of traffic. The park is right next to a grade school and many children are afraid of dogs.

Concerns regarding Centennial Park included the proximity to Sheridan road and dogs getting loose and running into the busy street. This park has less parking than Crow Island and can barely accommodate the beach users. The space at Centennial is the last of the open space along the lakefront and should not be fenced and use limited to dogs. This is a beautiful park and should be kept that way.

There were residents in favor of a dog park, but not in the two locations presented.

Suggestions were offered of other locations such as the landfill or the Cook County Forest preserve land.

President Garrison asked for a vote on the amended motion.

Voting – Aye: Commissioners Murphy, Sherman, Snyder, Thomas, Smith and Garrison

Voting – Nay: None

Absent: Kurtz

MOTION CARRIED

President Garrison stated the Park District would work with the Village on this project.

DOG PARK OPTIONS

President Garrison stated that the Park District held two public hearings on potential site options for a dog park. Based on the feedback neither Crow Island nor Centennial are feasible options for a dog park.

McElroy stated that surrounding park districts are also looking for dog park options. McElroy continued that a piece of land just east of Eden’s would be a great location, but is owned by the Cook County Forest Preserve. The Northfield Park District is also interested in pursuing this site. Staff will be contacting other District’s to see if it’s worth pursuing that piece of property and then contact Cook County Forest Preserve District.

Commissioner Smith moved that a dog park is not an option within the Winnetka Park District boundaries, and that staff pursue the forest preserve for a piece of land. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed by a voice vote.

SERVICE CENTER

Commissioner Kurtz joined the meeting via phone at 7:45 p.m.

President Garrison stated that a motion was tabled at the last meeting regarding the service center and asked if anyone would like to remove the motion from the table. Commissioner Sherman moved to remove the table and was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and passed by a voice vote.

President Garrison restated the motion that was tabled at the last Board meeting: Commissioner Thomas moved to adopt the location in Option 1 for the site of the new service center and any further facilities that the Park District may construct. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kurtz.

Mr. & Mrs. Hilardes voiced their concern about locating the Service Center on the Morrow site.

George Reigle and Colin Marshall reviewed the three options again.

Option 1: Service Center is constructed adjacent to Morrow Property site. Estimated cost without heated storage \$3,689,807. Existing Service Center is demolished and converted to playfield. Compost Area continues to be used for golf course operations. A few of the nine advantages were: Service Center operations can continue without disruption during construction; An additional playfield is created at existing site; The new Service Center location is centrally located to the golf course; The new Service Center location is not adjacent to any residential area. There were only two disadvantages: One hole on the Par 3 course is reconfigured, one tee box relocated and Site utilities are not adjacent to site.

From: [Gregg Seiler](#)
To: [Costa Kutulas](#)
Subject: Re: Centennial Temporary Dog Fencing Permit - USACE - Public Comment
Date: Thursday, July 24, 2025 1:38:20 PM
Attachments: [inky-injection-inliner-6f42d488d348cfd86bff9497caf9f6a.png](#)
[inky-injection-inliner-6a9e59993396d34ff3b949b1a5797016.png](#)



External (gs@seilerconsulting.com)



[Safe](#) [Spam](#) [Phish](#) [More...](#) [FAQ](#) [Protection by INKY](#)

Costa,

Thank you for the heads up.

I'll call you if I have any questions.

Best,

Gregg

GREGG SEILER

PRESIDENT/CEO

☎ 312.836.0540

☎ 312.320.4800

gs@seilerconsulting.com

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From: Costa Kutulas <CKutulas@winpark.org>

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 1:31:56 PM

To: Gregg Seiler <gs@seilerconsulting.com>

Subject: Centennial Temporary Dog Fencing Permit - USACE - Public Comment

Afternoon Gregg,

I wanted to share with you a link to the USACE public comment for the Centennial Dog Beach Fencing Permit.

https://media.defense.gov/2025/Jul/15/2003754325/-1/-1/0/LRC-2023-082_PN.PDF

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Thanks,

Costa Kutulas

Director of Parks and Maintenance

P: (847) 501-2052

E: ckutulas@winpark.org

Winnetka Park District | winpark.org

From: [Costa Kutulas](#)
To: [Gregg Seiler](#)
Subject: Follow Up
Date: Friday, September 12, 2025 10:21:51 PM
Attachments: [Updated Dog Beach Temp Fencing Plan w Dog Waste Receptacles, Signage, Waste Bags 5-22-2025.pdf](#)

Gregg,

This is the current design that is out for permit.

Have a good weekend,
Costa

Sent from my iPhone

Simon, Adam

From: David B.H. Williams <williams@wbs-law.com>
Sent: Friday, May 2, 2025 3:55 PM
To: Simon, Adam
Subject: RE: 261 Sheridan

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Use Caution when opening attachments or links from unknown senders.

Adam:

Following on our call, please find below the sign that we discussed that is currently at the southern boundary of Lloyd Beach:



After you discuss with staff, I look forward to having the same signs installed on the beach at:

- The southern boundary of Centennial.
- The northern boundary of Centennial.
- The southern boundary of Elder; and
- The northern boundary of Elder.

ORDINANCE NO. M-14-2001

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW THE RENOVATION OF ELDER LANE PARK

WHEREAS, the Winnetka Park District is the owner of a parcel of real estate (the "Subject Property") located at 225 Sheridan Road, which is commonly known as the Elder Lane Park and is legally described as follows:

Lots 2, 3 and 4 and the north 30 feet of Lot 5, and the vacated street known as Bellevue Place, in the re-subdivision of Blocks 1, 2, 3 and 4, and the vacated street known as Bellevue Place, lying between Blocks 1 and 2 on the east and Blocks 3 and 4 on the west, in the Lake Shore Subdivision of Lot 1 in Nicholas Simon and others' Subdivision of part of the Southeast fractional quarter of Section 21 and the Southwest fractional quarter of Section 22, Township 42 North, Range 13, East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Cook County, Illinois.

WHEREAS, the Subject Property is located adjacent to Lake Michigan in the R-2 Single-Family Residential Zoning District of the Village of Winnetka, as provided in Chapter 17.24 of the Winnetka Zoning Ordinance, Title 17 of the Winnetka Village Code; and

WHEREAS, Elder Lane Park is a public park consisting of a playground area, bushes, patios, walkways, stairways, fencing, lighting and a parking area at the top of the bluff, and a beach and beach house along the shore of the lake; and

WHEREAS, Elder Lane Park is a public use, permitted as a special use in all zoning districts, subject to the conditions and requirements pertaining to special uses, as set forth in Chapter 17.56 of the Winnetka Zoning Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Winnetka Park District has submitted an application to the Village of Winnetka seeking a special use permit pursuant to said Chapter 17.56, to permit the renovation of the existing facilities at Elder Lane Park by providing new playground equipment, picnic tables, benches, patios, walkways, stairways, fencing, landscaping and lighting, and by replacing the beach house and by adding a handicap accessible parking space; and

WHEREAS, upon due notice on April 9, 2001, the Zoning Board of Appeals held a public hearing on the proposed special use and, by the unanimous vote of the five members then present, has reported to the Council recommending that the requested special use be granted; and

WHEREAS, upon due notice, the Design Review Board met on April 5, 2001, to consider the redesign of the playground and by the unanimous vote of the five members then present, has submitted comment on the proposal, stating that the proposed alterations would be an improvement to the park, that the playground, lighting and arrangement of the fixtures are excellent additions, and that the proposed new beach house, particularly the all-stone alternative, is an improvement over the existing structure; and

WHEREAS, upon due notice, the Plan Commission met on April 11, 2001, to consider the application of the Park District and, by the unanimous vote of the nine members then present, recommended that the special use be granted, based on findings that the proposed renovations to Elder Lane Park are consistent with (a) the goals and objectives of Winnetka 2020, the Winnetka Comprehensive Plan, pertaining to the preservation of open space and recreational opportunities, the encouragement of landscaping and other efforts to beautify the Village, the reduction and control of light pollution, the preservation and enhancement of the bluffs, beaches and Lake Michigan shorelines, and the use of high quality design and materials for public improvement; and (b) with the recommendations of Winnetka 2020 pertaining to providing adequate parking, developing on-site solutions for parking, and minimizing the adverse impact of recreational uses on adjacent residential neighborhoods, and

WHEREAS, the proposed renovation of Elder Lane Park will benefit the public health, safety, comfort, morals and general welfare of the Village, in that: (a) the safety, accessibility and appearance of the entire park will be improved by the installation of new playground equipment and safety surfacing; and (b) the other proposed improvements will bring Elder Lane Park into compliance with accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, including providing accessibility to the beach that is not currently provided; and

WHEREAS, the proposed special use will not be substantially injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the immediate vicinity, nor will it substantially diminish or impair property values in the immediate vicinity, because the park is established in the neighborhood, and the renovation of the park: (a) will not increase the intensity of the existing use; (b) will enhance parking lot screening; (c) will not result in the loss of green space; (d) will improve both the functionality and appearance of the park; and (e) will improve the appearance of the park because the Park District has modified its plans to incorporate comments from the neighbors by replacing an unattractive chain link fence with decorative fencing, using muted colors, and restricting light placement, levels of illumination and hours of operation; and

WHEREAS, the proposed special use will not impede the normal and orderly development or improvement of other property in the immediate vicinity for uses permitted under applicable zoning regulations, because the park is a long-established use in the neighborhood and neither the type nor intensity of use of the Subject Property will be changed; and

WHEREAS, adequate measures have been taken to provide parking and to provide ingress and egress in a manner that minimizes pedestrian and vehicular traffic congestion by maintaining the existing parking area, including the existing points of ingress and egress, and by adding a handicap accessible parking space adjacent to the beach house; and

WHEREAS, adequate access roads, utilities, drainage and other facilities necessary to the operation of the special use exist, including existing overhead utilities, which will be placed underground; and

WHEREAS, the special use in all other respects conforms to the applicable regulations of this and other Village ordinances and code.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the Village of Winnetka do ordain:

SECTION 1: The Village Council hereby adopts the foregoing recitals as their findings, as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2: Pursuant to Chapter 17.56 of the Winnetka Zoning Ordinance, Title 17 of the Winnetka Village Code, and subject to the conditions hereinafter set forth, a special use permit is hereby granted with respect to the Subject Property, commonly known as Elder

Lane Park, which is located in the R-2 Single-Family Residential District provided in said Zoning Ordinance, to permit the renovation of the Subject Property by installing new playground equipment, picnic tables, benches, patios, walkways, stairways, fencing, lighting and landscaping, by replacing the existing beach house and by adding handicap accessible parking, said work to be done in accordance with the application for special use permit and the plans dated October 19, 2000, with modifications as presented to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

SECTION 3: The special use permit hereby granted is subject to the following conditions: (1) the proposed construction shall commence within 12 months after the effective date of this Ordinance; (2) the proposed practice ball field, soccer field and volleyball courts depicted in the bluff area of the site plan shall not be used for regularly scheduled program activities; (3) no permanent improvements or structures shall be added to allow the use, as such, of the proposed ball field, soccer field and volleyball courts depicted in the bluff area of the site plan; and (4) the final landscape, lighting plan and building materials shall be subject to approval by the Village Council, following review and recommendations from the Design Review Board and Forestry Commission.

SECTION 4: Pursuant to Section 17.56.010.G of the Zoning Ordinance, all stipulations, conditions and restrictions set forth in this Ordinance as part of the terms under which the special use is granted, may be modified or revised from time to time by the Village Council following public notice and hearing, using the same procedures set forth in the Zoning Ordinance for processing the original special use application.

SECTION 5: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and posting.

ADOPTED this 5th day of June, 2001, pursuant to the following roll call vote:

AYES: Trustees Aquilino, Brower, Greenough, Powell, Presser and Woodbury

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

APPROVED this 5th day of June, 2001.

Signed:

/s/Michael F. Duhl

Village President

Countersigned:

/s/Douglas G. Williams

Village Clerk

Introduced: May 15, 2001

Posted: May 16, 2001

Passed and Approved: June 5, 2001

Posted: June 6, 2001