

## **Statements regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' draft SEA and FONSI**

In 2020, using a very similar set of plans, the USACE told SHPO they planned to “rehabilitate” the shoreline. Without explanation, the USACE is now calling for a complete reconstruction of the shoreline, using the same framework plan created (largely) more than a decade ago, that they sent SHPO in 2020. Why?

Over the past two years the community has been met with a lack of transparency, condescension, and silence. We don't need or want 7 acres of added parkland as proposed in the plans. Chicago has an enormous budget gap and yet they are paying for a build out that is not needed or wanted. Why?"

They state in the SEA that they don't think they will even need to do an environmental impact study, why not?

The community has stated clearly and repeatedly, we love Pebble Beach, and we value the historic limestone.

While the USACE is moving forward with the NEPA process, the Public Building Commission's Ray Giderof told the community that 90 percent of the plans are in place as the USACE begins the 45-day review period (called the NEPA process).

What is the point of a NEPA process meant to give the community another opportunity to engage, if the Public Building Commission is certain that they "know best" and have already said the process will not matter a great deal?

### **— Advocates for Morgan Shoal**

Friends of the Parks (FOTP) supports the prioritization of authentic community engagement for any and all planning for Morgan Shoal. This includes developing a holistic, inclusive, community-based approach to restoring the South Lakefront centered around community needs and concerns.

The issuance of the FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) is problematic as it forecloses any assessment of environmental impact for the "preferred" plan and leaves unaddressed critical concerns about potential adverse outcomes for community members and the area's broader ecosystem. Further, the FONSI's statement that "No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the preferred alternative" raises many concerns. The community deserves better.

The provision for additional parkland without assessment of environmental impact and community needs leaves unaddressed questions raised in the FONSI regarding the health and safety of potential park users. FOTP knows from other projects on the Southside that promises of more park land during large projects can have the opposite effect, resulting in both parkland loss and environmental degradation for community members.

### **— Friends of the Parks**