



## **US Army Corps of Engineers®**

Chicago District  
Planning Branch  
231 South La Salle Street  
Suite 1500  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
312-353-6400

### **Appendix A - Agency Coordination**

Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment  
Morgan Shoal Revetment Reconstruction (45th - 51st)

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for double-sided printing.*

Scoping



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, CHICAGO DISTRICT  
231 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET, SUITE 1500  
CHICAGO IL 60604

October 19, 2022

Planning Branch  
Planning, Programs and Project Management

Dear Recipient:

The U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District (Corps) will be preparing a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document on the impacts associated with a proposed shoreline protection project in the City of Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. The Chicago Park District and the Chicago Department of Transportation partnered with the Corps to address ongoing shoreline erosion and coastal storm damage that has affected parkland and threatens the stability of DuSable Lake Shore Drive along the Morgan Shoal corridor. The design process includes the Public Building Commission of Chicago. The proposed project area is located along the Lake Michigan shoreline between 45<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Streets (See Enclosure 1).

The proposed project involves the reconstruction of the existing revetment along the Morgan Shoal corridor within the larger Burnham Park. Proposed coastal structures include a combination of rubble mound and dynamic revetment, stepped stone blocks, and transitional concrete and sheetpile revetment at the existing 51<sup>st</sup> Street structure. Shoreline improvements also include the addition of up to 9.5 acres of new parkland that enhance connectivity and recreation, promote natural and nature-based features for ecological functions, and reduce flooding and erosion. Additional details can be found in the 2015 Morgan Shoal Framework Plan ([https://assets.chicagoparkdistrict.com/s3fs-public/documents/page/Burnham\\_Park\\_-\\_Morgan\\_Shoal\\_Framework\\_Plan\\_%28Final%29.pdf](https://assets.chicagoparkdistrict.com/s3fs-public/documents/page/Burnham_Park_-_Morgan_Shoal_Framework_Plan_%28Final%29.pdf)).

Previously, an environmental assessment (EA) was completed for the 1994 Feasibility Report for the entire Chicago Shoreline Storm Damage Reduction Project, which was subsequently authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (WRDA 1996). The Corps is now conducting a supplemental NEPA analysis specifically for the Morgan Shoal area, which will include a site-specific evaluation of alternatives to accomplish this project with minimal impact to the environment and community.

As part of the NEPA scoping process, the Chicago District would appreciate any comments or concerns you might have about any potential impacts from the proposed project. This could include impacts to various habitats, threatened and endangered species, or cultural and social resources. After receiving the scoping input and conducting its impact analysis, the Corps will release a draft NEPA document for a formal public and agency review. Enclosure 2 is a list of state and federal agencies, elected officials, tribal nations, and interested parties receiving this request.

Comments must be provided to Ms. Samantha Belcik, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, by November 18, 2022. Comments can be provided via email to Ms. Belcik at [samantha.d.belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:samantha.d.belcik@usace.army.mil). Questions may be directed to Ms. Belcik at (312) 846-5467.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susanne J. Davis". The script is cursive and elegant, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Susanne J. Davis, P.E.  
Chief, Planning Branch  
Chicago District

Enclosures

1 – Project Map

2 – Distribution List



31ST STREET BEACH

DOWNTOWN CHICAGO

BURNHAM PARK

OAKWOOD BEACH

MORGAN SHOAL

SITE

WASHINGTON  
PARK

PROMONTORY  
POINT



Distribution List for Environmental Assessment of Morgan Shoal 2022

Ms. Jennifer Caddick  
Alliance for the Great Lakes  
150 North Michigan Ave  
Suite 750  
Chicago, IL 60601

Ms. Rachel Birkhahn-Rommelfanger  
Friends of the Parks  
67 East Madison  
Suite 1817  
Chicago, IL 60603

Cpt. Dave Truitt  
Chicago Maritime Museum  
1200 West 35th Street  
River Level  
Chicago, IL 60609

Blackstone Branch  
Chicago Public Library  
4904 South Lake Park Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60615

Mr. Scott Reimer  
Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago  
P.O. Box 11752  
Chicago, IL 60611

Ms. Leslie Hairston  
City of Chicago 5th Ward Office  
2325 East 71st Street  
Chicago, IL 60649

The Honorable Bobby Rush  
U.S. Representative for Illinois's  
1st Congressional District  
11750 South Western Avenue  
Suite 415  
Chicago, IL 60643

The Honorable Robert Peters  
Illinois Senate District 13  
1509 East 53rd Street  
2nd Floor  
Chicago, IL 60615

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
U.S. Senate  
230 S. Dearborn Street  
Suite 3900  
Chicago, IL 60604

The Honorable JB Pritzker  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Ms. Mary Lu Seidel  
Preservation Chicago  
The Williams Building 205 West Monroe Street  
Suite 400  
Chicago, IL 60606

Mr. Jack Spicer  
Promontory Point Conservancy  
5052 South Woodlawn Avenue  
Apt 1B  
Chicago, IL 60615

Mr. Phil Moy  
Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce  
1525 East 53rd Street  
Chicago, IL 60615

Mr. Greg Lane  
Hyde Park Activist

Dr. Philip Willink  
Illinois Natural History Survey  
1816 South Oak St.  
M/C 652  
Champaign, IL 61820

Ms. Sophia King  
City of Chicago 4th Ward Office  
435 East 35th Street  
Chicago, IL 60616

The Honorable Danny Davis  
U.S. Representative for Illinois's  
7th Congressional District  
2815 West Fifth Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60612

The Honorable Curtis Tarver II  
Illinois House of Representatives District 25  
1303 East 53rd Street  
Chicago, IL 60615

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
U.S. Senate  
230 S. Dearborn St., Suite 3892  
Chicago, IL 60604

Ms. Amy Hanson  
Chicago Airports District Office, CHI-ADO-600  
2300 E. Devon Avenue  
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Distribution List for Environmental Assessment of Morgan Shoal 2022

Mr. Scott Beckerman  
APHIS Wildlife Services  
3430 Constitution Drive  
Suite 121  
Springfield, IL 62711

Ms. Louise Clemency  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Chicago Ecological Services Office  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Suite 2938  
Chicago, IL 60604

Mr. Todd Rettig  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
1021 North Grand Ave East  
PO Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794

Mr. Bill Lowry  
Cook County Board Commissioner, 3rd District  
118 North Clark Street  
Room 567  
Chicago, IL 60602

Ms. Colleen Callahan  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
1 Natural Resource Way  
Springfield, IL 62702

Ms. Diane Tecic  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
160 North LaSalle Street  
Suite S-703  
Chicago, IL 60601

Mayor Lori Lightfoot  
Office of the Mayor  
121 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago City Hall 4th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60602

Mr. Vasile Jurca  
Chicago Department of Transportation  
2 North LaSalle Street  
Suite 1110  
Chicago, IL 60602

Mr. Anthony Rubano  
Illinois State Historic Preservation Office  
Old State Capitol Building, 2nd Floor  
One Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield, IL 62701

Mr. Venkata Jyothula  
IDNR- Office of Water Resources - Chicago  
160 N. LaSalle Street  
Suite S-700  
Chicago, IL 60601

Mr. James Casey  
OWR Regulatory Programs  
160 N. LaSalle Street  
Suite S-703  
Chicago, IL 60601

Mr. Kenneth Westlake  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5  
77. W Jackson Blvd., ME-19J  
Chicago, IL 60604

Mr. Bradley Hayes  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
1 Natural Resource Way  
Springfield, IL 62702

Mr. Loren Wobig  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
1 Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 62702

Ms. C.J. Wallace  
Illinois State Historic Preservation Office  
Old State Capitol Building, 2nd Floor  
One Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield, IL 62701

Mr. Kerl LaJeune  
Public Building Commission of Chicago  
Richard J. Daley Center, Room 200  
50 West Washington Street  
Chicago, IL 60602

Ms. Sarah White  
Chicago Park District  
4800 South Western Ave  
Chicago, IL 60609



## Tribal Nations Distribution List

Chairman John Barrett  
Citizen Potawatomi Executive Council  
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, OK 74801

Dr. Kelli Mosteller  
Citizen Potawatomi Executive Council  
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, OK 74801

Mr. Ben LaRonge  
Forest County Potawatomi Executive Council  
P.O. Box 340  
Crandon, WI 54520

Chairperson Ned Daniels  
Forest County Potawatomi Executive Council  
P.O. Box 340  
Crandon, WI 54520

Mr. Kent Collier  
Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 70  
McLoud, OK 74851

Chairman Kenneth Meshigaud  
Hannahville Potawatomi Tribal Council  
N 14911 Hannahville Rd.  
Wilson, MI 49896

Chairperson Regina Gasco-Bentley  
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Michigan  
7500 Odawa Circle  
Harbor Springs, MI 49740

Chairman Darwin Kaskaske  
Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 70  
McLoud, OK 74851

Mr. David Grignon  
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin  
P.O. Box 910  
Keshena, WI 54135

Ms. Melissa Wiatroluk  
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians,  
Michigan  
7500 Odawa Circle  
Harbor Springs, MI 49740

Ms. Diane Hunter  
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 1326  
Miami, OK 74355

Chairman Ron Corn Sr.  
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin  
P.O. Box 910  
Keshena, WI 54135

Chairperson Joseph Rupnick  
Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Council  
16281 Q. Road  
Mayetta, KS 66509

Chief Douglas Lankford  
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 1326  
Miami, OK 74355

Mr. Raphael Wahwassuck  
Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Council  
16282 Q. Road  
Mayetta, KS 66509

## Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)

---

**From:** Pullins, Craig K (FAA) <Craig.K.Pullins@faa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 20, 2022 9:39 AM  
**To:** Davis, Susanne J CIV USARMY CELRC (USA); Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)  
**Cc:** Padilla, Michael C CIV USARMY CELRC (USA); Beauchamp, Bobb (FAA); Hoxsie, Alex R CIV USARMY CELRC (USA); Herleth-King, Shawna S CIV USARMY CELRC (USA); Johnson, Ryan A CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] RE: Scoping Letter Notification - Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection project  
**Categories:** Deliverable, Follow up/?

Good morning,

It is nice to meet everyone and I look forward to working with you. When have a chance, could you please resend the documents to Bobb and I that you originally sent to Amy?

Thank you and have a great day!

### Craig Pullins

Environmental Protection Specialist  
Chicago Airports District Office  
Federal Aviation Administration  
(847) 294-7354  
[Craig.K.Pullins@faa.gov](mailto:Craig.K.Pullins@faa.gov)

---

**From:** Davis, Susanne J CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Susanne.J.Davis@usace.army.mil>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 20, 2022 8:02 AM  
**To:** Hanson, Amy (FAA) <Amy.Hanson@faa.gov>; Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil>  
**Cc:** Padilla, Michael C CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Michael.C.Padilla@usace.army.mil>; Beauchamp, Bobb (FAA) <Bobb.Beauchamp@faa.gov>; Pullins, Craig K (FAA) <Craig.K.Pullins@faa.gov>; Hoxsie, Alex R CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Alex.R.Hoxsie@usace.army.mil>; Herleth-King, Shawna S CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Shawna.S.Herleth-King@usace.army.mil>; Johnson, Ryan A CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Ryan.A.Johnson@usace.army.mil>  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Letter Notification - Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection project

Amy

Congrats on your new position. We'll update our mailing lists with your new counterparts.

Respectfully,  
S

---

**From:** Hanson, Amy (FAA) <[Amy.Hanson@faa.gov](mailto:Amy.Hanson@faa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 20, 2022 7:59 AM  
**To:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)>  
**Cc:** Padilla, Michael C CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Michael.C.Padilla@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.C.Padilla@usace.army.mil)>; Davis, Susanne J CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Susanne.J.Davis@usace.army.mil](mailto:Susanne.J.Davis@usace.army.mil)>; Beauchamp, Bobb (FAA) <[Bobb.Beauchamp@faa.gov](mailto:Bobb.Beauchamp@faa.gov)>; Pullins, Craig K (FAA) <[Craig.K.Pullins@faa.gov](mailto:Craig.K.Pullins@faa.gov)>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] RE: Scoping Letter Notification - Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection project

Good afternoon. I have transferred to another division within the FAA and no longer work in the Chicago ADO. I have copied my counterparts who can assist you.

Amy

---

**From:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 19, 2022 2:17 PM  
**To:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)>  
**Cc:** Padilla, Michael C CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Michael.C.Padilla@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.C.Padilla@usace.army.mil)>; Davis, Susanne J CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Susanne.J.Davis@usace.army.mil](mailto:Susanne.J.Davis@usace.army.mil)>  
**Subject:** Scoping Letter Notification - Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection project

Greetings,

Please find the attached scoping letter and two enclosures for a shoreline protection project along Morgan Shoal in Chicago, IL. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out and please forward onto any interested parties.

Thank you,

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
Chicago District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Office: 312-846-5467  
Cell: 312-718-5428

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**Sent:** Thursday, October 20, 2022 7:59 AM  
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**Cc:** Padilla, Michael C CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Michael.C.Padilla@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.C.Padilla@usace.army.mil)>; Davis, Susanne J CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Susanne.J.Davis@usace.army.mil](mailto:Susanne.J.Davis@usace.army.mil)>; Beauchamp, Bobb (FAA) <[Bobb.Beauchamp@faa.gov](mailto:Bobb.Beauchamp@faa.gov)>; Pullins, Craig K (FAA) <[Craig.K.Pullins@faa.gov](mailto:Craig.K.Pullins@faa.gov)>  
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**Cc:** Padilla, Michael C CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Michael.C.Padilla@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.C.Padilla@usace.army.mil)>; Davis, Susanne J CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Susanne.J.Davis@usace.army.mil](mailto:Susanne.J.Davis@usace.army.mil)>  
**Subject:** Scoping Letter Notification - Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection project

Greetings,

Please find the attached scoping letter and two enclosures for a shoreline protection project along Morgan Shoal in Chicago, IL. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out and please forward onto any interested parties.

Thank you,

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
Chicago District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Office: 312-846-5467  
Cell: 312-718-5428

## Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)

---

**From:** ChicagoShoreline  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2023 8:14 PM  
**To:** Bill  
**Cc:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Scoping Letter Notification - Extended Period - Chicago Shoreline Coastal Storm Risk Management

Bill,

Thank you again for your thoughtful comment for the Chicago Shoreline GRR, we will keep your comment for consideration as appropriate. We wanted to take a moment to follow up with you regarding the limestone block carvings that are at Morgan Shoal.

Currently, the project scope of the GRR does not include the Morgan Shoal element as that section is currently in the design phase and undergoing a separate NEPA documentation process. The scoping process started in October 2022, and we want to include the Morgan Shoal excerpt from your GRR comment as part of that NEPA documentation as that is new and pertinent information. Additionally, there will be an opportunity to comment during the public review period in the coming months, in which we will add your contact information to that distribution list as well.

We recognize the importance of the social history of the carvings and have provided your comment to the Morgan Shoal design team for consideration. Additionally, our planning team at the Corps would like to gather more information regarding the limestone block carvings to assist in our NEPA and National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 analysis. If you have any maps, photos, or other contextual information regarding the limestone carvings at Morgan Shoal that could help us identify socially significant artworks of merit, we would greatly appreciate it. Please let us know if you'd like us to schedule a meeting to discuss this matter further as we move forward with our analysis.

Thank you,  
Sam

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Chicago District  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604

---

**From:** Bill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2023 6:09 PM  
**To:** ChicagoShoreline <ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: Scoping Letter Notification - Extended Period - Chicago Shoreline Coastal Storm Risk Management

Hi Ms. Belcik,

Can you add me to the email list for updates on the Morgan Shoal NEPA process? Also, please note that my comments previously submitted include the area near La Rabida Hospital, which I believe is still included in the Chicago Shoreline General Reevaluation scope.

Thanks,

Bill

William Swislow  


On Feb 8, 2023, at 9:16 AM, ChicagoShoreline <[ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil](mailto:ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil)> wrote:

Greetings,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District is extending the National Environmental Policy Act scoping period for the Chicago Shoreline General Reevaluation Report. The extended scoping period closes on March 31, 2023. Please find the attached scoping letter and two enclosures for the coastal storm risk management study along the Chicago shoreline of Lake Michigan. Feel free to reach out with any questions and please forward onto any interested parties.

Thank you,

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
Chicago District

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604

<ChicagoShorelineGRR\_NEPA\_ExtendedScopingLetter.pdf><Enclosure 1 - Project Map.pdf><Enclosure 2 - Chicago Shoreline GRR Expanded Distribution List.pdf>

**From:** [Heather Dalmage](#)  
**To:** [Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Chicago Shoreline GRR - Exploratory email for Distribution list  
**Date:** Friday, February 10, 2023 6:27:20 PM

---

Thanks so much!

Best,  
Heather Dalmage, PhD  
Professor of Sociology  
Director, Mansfield Institute  
Roosevelt University  
(Sent from iPhone)

On Feb 10, 2023, at 2:14 PM, Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)> wrote:

Please see the attached scoping letter and attachments for your record. Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns if they arise.

Sam

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Chicago District  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604

---

**From:** Heather Dalmage [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2023 2:03 PM  
**To:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)  
<[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)>  
**Subject:** Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Chicago Shoreline GRR - Exploratory email for Distribution list

That's wonderful and a copy of the letter would be great.  
Have a nice weekend.  
Heather Dalmage

On Thu, Feb 9, 2023 at 10:28 AM Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)> wrote:

| Dr. Dalmage,



Thanks for reaching out. Yes, I have your contact in the distribution list for the Morgan Shoal NEPA process, Chicago Shoreline, and for the Promontory Point NEPA (for when that starts). I've also moved over your submitted comment from the Chicago Shoreline regarding Morgan Shoal over to the Morgan Shoal NEPA document along with your counterparts Betsy Mensa and Greg Lane.

Since the Morgan Shoal NEPA scoping letter was sent out in October 2022, I can send you a copy of that letter for your files if you wish. We do also have the Public Review in the coming months for additional opportunities to provide comments. You will be notified of that release when it happens.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks!  
Sam

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Chicago District  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604

---

**From:** Heather Dalmage [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2023 8:28 PM

**To:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)  
<[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)>

**Subject:** Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Chicago Shoreline GRR - Exploratory email for Distribution list

Dear Ms. Belcik,

I would appreciate being on the distribution list! Thanks.

Best,  
Heather Dalmage, PhD  
Professor of Sociology  
Director, Mansfield Institute  
Roosevelt University  
(Sent from iPhone)

On Jan 26, 2023, at 10:47 AM, Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)> wrote:

Received!

Thank you

Samantha Belcik  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Chicago District  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604

---

**From:** Heather Dalmage [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 5:20 PM  
**To:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: Chicago Shoreline GRR - Exploratory email for Distribution list

Thank you!. Yes, I'm interested.

Best,  
Heather Dalmage, PhD  
Professor of Sociology  
Director, Mansfield Institute  
Roosevelt University  
(Sent from iPhone)

On Jan 13, 2023, at 12:42 PM, Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

As part of the Chicago Shoreline General Reevaluation Report (GRR) initial NEPA scoping period, you or your

organization were identified as a potential interested party by the Promontory Point Conservancy during the this period for this coastal storm risk management study. The Chicago District will be extending the initial NEPA scoping period and will resend scoping letters to an expanded distribution list. We are sending this exploratory email asking if you or your organization wish to be included in the distribution list and directly receive the NEPA scoping letter for the extended period and future communications.

Please respond to this email if you or your organization wishes to be added to the distribution list for direct communications for this study.

Regardless, as we move forward with this study, we would like to stress that anyone can provide comments during the NEPA scoping process. Therefore, we encourage your organization to share the Chicago Shoreline GRR NEPA scoping letter and direct anyone to send their comments and concerns to [ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil](mailto:ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil).

Thank you,

Samantha Belcik  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Chicago District  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604

<Morgan Shoal NEPA Scoping Letter.pdf>

<Enclosure 1 - ProjectMap.pdf>

<Enclosure 2 - Distribution List.pdf>

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Dailide, Ashley M CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#); [Padilla, Michael C CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#); [Hoxsie, Alex R CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#); [Kerl Lajeune](#); [Vasile Jurca](#); [mark.wagstaff@smithgroup.com](mailto:mark.wagstaff@smithgroup.com); [rick.bolliger@stantec.com](mailto:rick.bolliger@stantec.com); [Miriam Gutierrez](#); [Randy Williams](#); [Walther, London](#)  
**Subject:** [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] Re: Morgan Shoal - Limestone Carvings Information Gathering  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 14, 2023 12:49:32 PM

---

Friday looks good. Thanks.

Bill

William Swislow  
[REDACTED]

On Feb 14, 2023, at 12:02 PM, Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)> wrote:

Proposing Tuesday Feb 21<sup>st</sup> at 11am as a backup timeslot in case this times doesn't work for Bill.

-----

Samantha Belcik's Personal Room

Join by video system

Join by phone

+

-----

Discussion of Morgan Shoal Limestone Carvings

- Known Locations
- Socially significant artworks of merit

Reference to Bill's provided information

<https://www.interestingideas.com/the-morgan-shoal-rocks-carvings/>

Here is a link to a web page that will direct you to four other pages that show:

- The locations of the Morgan Shoal carvings
- The cluster of carvings at the old 49th Street Beach site
- The other most interesting carvings and a gallery of all the dated Morgan Shoal carvings
- Examples of limestone blocks that have been reused elsewhere on the Chicago shore

<mime-attachment.ics>

**From:** [Judith Pollock](#)  
**To:** [Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: Morgan Shoal - Bird usage  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 14, 2023 12:51:06 PM

---

I've reached out to a few people - when do you need an answer?

On Feb 14, 2023, at 12:17 PM, Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)> wrote:

Good morning Judy,

First, I wanted to thank you again for your thoughtful comment for the Chicago Shoreline project. I am reaching out now, to inquire about birds along the shoreline, specifically in the Morgan Shoal reach from 45th Street to 51<sup>st</sup> Street.

As you may be aware, outside of the Chicago Shoreline project, we are also working on the Morgan Shoal section of the shoreline that is currently in the design phase and undergoing a separate NEPA review. As part of the NEPA documentation, I did some searches on EBird to find some base information on which birds have been observed at this stretch of the shoreline. Additionally, I reached out to the DNR and they informed me that there are records of the state listed black-crowned night heron at this location.

Therefore, I am reaching out to you to ask if you know of any information regarding the black-crowned night heron at this location? Ideally we are looking to see if there is any information for how these birds are utilizing the site (foraging, nesting, etc). The EBird site is a wonderful resource of citizen science to help get an overview of birds present at this location, but it is lacking information on how the heron is utilizing this reach. If you know of any surveys, or information from local ornithologists, or could point me in the right direction to find more information, it would be appreciated.

Thank you,  
Sam

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
Chicago District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Office: 312-846-5467  
Cell: 312-718-5428

**From:** [Betsy Mensah](#)  
**To:** [Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: Chicago Shoreline GRR - Exploratory email for Distribution list  
**Date:** Friday, February 17, 2023 1:08:32 PM

---

Dear Ms. Belcik,

I was delighted to receive your response. Yes, our group would very much like to be included on the distribution list for the Morgan Shoal shoreline project. And enthusiastically yes to receiving the initial scoping letter and any updates as they occur.

I know I've delayed replying to your letter, and promise to be more diligent in communication from now on. We have met with a few other community members to discuss priorities, since as you can imagine, the community who uses the beach at Morgan Shoal have a variety of concerns. The Morgan Shoal Framework Plan of 2015 grew out of a community effort hand in hand with the city, and I know we all agree that it is a jumping off point. What is most important is that the fundamental plan is followed, so that the park, revetment, and beach can be constructed with a user-friendly aesthetic. There is also a robust discussion about equity, as always on the southside, so that the quality of facilities here be well-funded and welcoming to all, just as happens in other areas of the city. The emergency repairs done in 2020 along the lakefront path from 45<sup>th</sup> to 51<sup>st</sup> are shockingly unattractive and serve to severely limit access and enjoyment of this lovely area.

Some concerns we have currently include:

- Information on the timeline for the public review period, and through what media will the public have notice on opportunities for input
- What is the community engagement plan
- What has been done on research of the biodiversity of Morgan Shoal? If you haven't seen it, the Chicago Tribune did a nice piece on this topic on 7.22.2016.
- What is the plan for using existing materials? For example, the pebbles and rocks are tumbled in the surf there, are unlimited in number, and phenomenally beautiful. When the shore is built out, they can be saved and re-used for the pebble beach part of the design. (It would be a crying shame if they were covered up and replaced by something expensively imported). There are also many beautiful eroded limestone blocks that are testimony to the wear exacted by wave action, which can be creatively incorporated into the design, as well as intact limestone blocks useful for the revetment.
- Water access should be a priority at all stretches of the shoreline. Rip-rap stone of the type placed there in 2020 is anathema to public access, effectively limiting access to even the most athletic individuals.
- I can point to the concrete revetment built from 51<sup>st</sup> to 54<sup>th</sup> st. as an example of inaccessible design -- there is no ramp to the lower levels, the top level isn't wide

enough for a bike or wheelchair, no steps to go up and down -- as if the design is intended to limit public access. And for sure, people rarely go there. No wonder, the concrete is just cold and monotonous.

As someone who visits the area almost daily, I have observed the changes that have occurred, including underwater pictures of the rocks, the shipwreck, and photos of how it looked 30 years ago, if you are interested. It is important to note that this location is part of family history for many members of the Hyde Park and surrounding communities, and is much beloved.

There is nothing we would like better than to host you and others on your team for a walk-through of the shoreline from 49<sup>th</sup> to 51<sup>st</sup> st., in case you are unfamiliar with some of the unique features of the area, from geological to environmental factors.

Thank you again for your consideration of the interests of the community in redeveloping one of the loveliest parts of the Lake Michigan shoreline. PS, Pebble Beach has possibly the nicest view of the downtown skyline of the wonderful City of Chicago! Please consider visiting us and viewing up close what we hold so dear.

Yours sincerely,

Betsy Mensah, for Advocates for Morgan Shoal

---

**From:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2023 11:13 AM

**To:** Betsy Mensah [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Chicago Shoreline GRR - Exploratory email for Distribution list

Betsy,

Your request has been received.

We would also like to add your contact to the distribution list for the Morgan Shoal shoreline project that is occurring outside of the Chicago Shoreline GRR. The initial scoping period for that project ran from October 19, 2022 to November 18, 2022. If you'd like to receive that scoping letter for your files, please let me know. Also, if you have initial thoughts and comments regarding the Morgan Shoal work I will gladly receive them at this email address.

We are currently drafting the NEPA document for the Morgan Shoal work and there will be opportunities for review and additional comments during the public review period in the coming months, to which we will send you the notification of that review period when it starts. We also



remind that the scoping period and public review period is open to anyone to comment on for either the Chicago Shoreline GRR or the Morgan Shoal shoreline protection project.

Thank you,

Sam

Samantha Belcik  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Chicago District  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604

---

**From:** Betsy Mensah [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2023 8:16 PM  
**To:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: Chicago Shoreline GRR - Exploratory email for Distribution list

Dear Ms. Belcik,

Thank you very much for your communication on the Chicago Shoreline GRR. Our group of Advocates for the Morgan Shoal Framework Plan would certainly wish to be included in the distribution list for the NEPA letter and other future communications. Please use this current email address and others you have received.

The Chicago Shoreline is a unique and beautiful resource which we all love and hope its beauty can be preserved with future-forward engineering solutions.

Betsy McGurk-Mensah  
Advocates for the Morgan Shoal Framework Plan

---

**From:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2023 12:42 PM  
**To:** ChicagoShoreline <[ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil](mailto:ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil)>  
**Subject:** Chicago Shoreline GRR - Exploratory email for Distribution list

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Thank you,

Samantha Belcik  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Chicago District  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604

**From:** [Betsy Mensah](#)  
**To:** [Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: Chicago Shoreline GRR - Exploratory email for Distribution list  
**Date:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 3:01:07 PM

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Thank you, Samantha,

I have begun the process of finding photos which show Pebble Beach and the revetment along Morgan Shoal from a historical perspective. It looks like I need to go through some shoe boxes from before digital photography! I appreciate the link to upload photos, and will be sure to get started soon. Some great underwater pictures of the wreck and swimmers are already lined up; I will upload this evening.

I'm so glad to hear that you are familiar with the site. It certainly increases our confidence that the design planning process has made allowances for the wide variation in water and beach conditions. Many people I've introduced to Morgan Shoal have commented on the unusual water clarity and tendency to look very blue when it's calm. But not many people go there when the waves are high. And you need to go periodically to experience the shifts between a beach covered with rocks as it is right now, and a skeletal beach where there are almost no rocks to be found.

We are most interested in being up to date when community meetings are announced. I know that the Park District has a Capital Projects page where they say, "Community Meeting #1 is anticipated to be hosted in Q1 - 2023. Check back here for details as they become available." Do you know of any other locations where this information will become available? (Quarter 1 is going by quickly at this point.)

Looking at the CPD page, I noted a sentence that is concerning because in the community there is a strong consensus that the entire stretch should allow access to or near the water. This is it: "*While some refinements to the shore protection arrangement are anticipated, the coastal structures will include a combination of rubble mound and dynamic revetment, stepped stone blocks, and a transition section of steel sheet pile and concrete revetment to connect to the existing structure at 51st Street.*" Rubble mound or any more of the "rip-rap" stone would be unnecessary if sufficient funds are provided to the project, and their use would seem to have the intention to block access to the water or to strolling along the top of the revetment. Since this is a park building project, creating inaccessibility would seem antithetical to welcoming the community to the park.

We would welcome your team any time for a walk-through; if there are a few optional dates, we can try to choose one with good weather and wave conditions so we can approach closer to the water.

Yours,  
Betsy Mensah, PT, Chicago Public Schools (retired)  
for Advocates for Morgan Shoal

---

**From:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2023 3:13 PM  
**To:** Betsy Mensah [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Chicago Shoreline GRR - Exploratory email for Distribution list

Betsy,

Please see the attached scoping letter and attachments for your records.

Thank you for your thoughtful concerns and comments. I will pass them along to the design team and coordinate with them and our sponsors to address those concerns.

Regarding the offer to send photos of the site, I will gladly accept. As part of the NEPA document, we write about the existing conditions and historical information is also welcome to better understand the project area. I can send you a DoDSafe file sharing request, as we cannot receive Dropbox files and sending individual files via email maybe too large.

I know that I am rather familiar with the site, as it is my favorite swimming spot on the shoreline and I try to go over whenever I can. So I will pose the question to the rest of the team to see if there is any interest in a guided walk-through.

Thank you again for reaching out.

Sam

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
Chicago District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Office: 312-846-5467  
Cell: 312-718-5428

---

**From:** Betsy Mensah [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2023 1:08 PM

**To:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil>

**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: Chicago Shoreline GRR - Exploratory email for Distribution list

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Yours sincerely,

Betsy Mensah, for Advocates for Morgan Shoal

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**From:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2023 11:13 AM

**To:** Betsy Mensah [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Chicago Shoreline GRR - Exploratory email for Distribution list

Betsy,

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Thank you,

Sam

Samantha Belcik  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Chicago District  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604

---

**From:** Betsy Mensah [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2023 8:16 PM  
**To:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: Chicago Shoreline GRR - Exploratory email for Distribution list

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The Chicago Shoreline is a unique and beautiful resource which we all love and hope its beauty can be preserved with future-forward engineering solutions.

Betsy McGurk-Mensah  
Advocates for the Morgan Shoal Framework Plan

---

**From:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2023 12:42 PM  
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Thank you,

Samantha Belcik  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Chicago District  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604



**From:** [Bill](#)  
**To:** [Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [SPAM] [URL Verdict: Suspect][Non-DoD Source] More carving comments!  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 26, 2023 3:54:17 PM

---

Thanks Sam. Glad to hear you saw some of the carvings, and I appreciate the opportunity to have input.

Bill

William Swislow

On Apr 26, 2023, at 2:11 PM, Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)> wrote:

Bill,

Thank you for sending along the comments for the Rainbow beach and La Rabida carvings. I also saw the points on the crowdsourcing maps, so that is appreciated too.

We were able to go out to Morgan Shoal the other week and look at some of the carvings that you had mapped out previously, so that helped out a lot. It was neat to see some of these carvings in person again, and a little sad to see that some blocks and carvings have either fallen into the lake or are underneath the emergency work from 2020. Regardless, there are still a lot out there and some are more accessible now that the water level is closer to average (the checkerboard was fully exposed on the pebble beach so there's hope that one could be more accessible as part of the salvaging effort).

It is likely that I will end up working on the Promontory Point NEPA report since that hasn't officially started yet, but if I don't, I will still save this information and pass it along for that effort so we don't lose that information.

Thank you again for providing your thoughts and knowledge on this and I look forward to continuing our conversations in the future.

Sam

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
Chicago District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500

Chicago, IL 60604  
Office: 312-846-5467  
Cell: 312-718-5428

---

**From:** Bill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 7, 2023 4:23 PM  
**To:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)  
<[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)>  
**Subject:** [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] More carving comments!

Hi Sam,

For the Chicago Shoreline GRR NEPA report here is a brief comment about the rock carvings at Rainbow Beach, and a version of my previous comments about La Rabida Hospital. I've posted Web pages with examples of the Rainbow Beach (<https://www.interestingideas.com/the-rainbow-beach-carvings/>) and La Rabida carvings (<https://www.interestingideas.com/the-la-rabida-carvings/>).

Are you also going to be working on the Promontory Point NEPA report? If so, I've create maps of the carvings there similar to the ones for Morgan Shoal, albeit with more detail. Here's a link to those pages: <https://www.interestingideas.com/mapping-the-promontory-point-rock-carvings/>

The revetment and jetty at the south end of Rainbow Beach and adjacent to the northeast corner of the Sawyer Water Plant host more than 700 carvings, many made by lifeguards in the 1950s and 60s. These carvings represent a rich record of summer life at the beach as well as including a number of significant individual works of art. It's also the location with the largest number of identifiable carvers.

Behind La Rabida Hospital there is an exceptionally dense concentration of rock carvings on the decaying revetment, some of them rich with historical references. There carvings were made by anonymous creators from the 1930s to the 1970s. There is also a line of rocks bearing carvings on an old revetment/breakwater that now sits about 10 feet offshore south of La Rabida. The rocks behind La Rabida have suffered greatly in the last five years. Those nearest the lake are tumbling into the water (including one that hosts one of the finest of the lakefront carvings, a fully executed compass) and the rest show the ill effects of weather-driven shifts in the rocks. These rocks could be stabilized in place or repurposed nearby, as long as efforts necessary to preserve the carvings are undertaken. Similarly, the line of offshore rocks south of La Rabida should be surveyed for carvings and either preserved in place or relocated nearby. These rocks include one bearing one of the most unusual, masterful and historically interesting group of carvings to be found along the lake, made apparently by one hand between 1948 and 1953.

Thanks,

Bill

William Swislow  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Judy Pollock](#)  
**To:** [Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Morgan Shoal - Bird usage  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 12:33:46 PM

---

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jennie Strable <>  
**Date:** February 15, 2023 at 2:53:45 PM PST  
**To:** Judy Pollock [REDACTED], Cheryl Muth  
<>  
**Subject:** Re: Morgan Shoal - Bird usage

The wintering ducks, thousands of them, use all the waters along the lakefront including, I'm sure, the Morgan Shoal area. I'm not sure specifically what other birds might be there.

---

**From:** [Judy Pollock](#)  
**To:** [Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Morgan Shoal - Bird usage  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 12:32:20 PM

---

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

On Feb 16, 2023, at 6:07 PM, Paul Clyne <> wrote:

Regarding Sam's question, as far as I am aware, Black-crowned Night-Herons do not utilize the Morgan Shoal lakefront except as fly-over commuters, presumably between roosting and feeding sites.

The vast majority of my 500+ eBird checklists from the Morgan Shoal lakefront are from late October through mid-April, i.e., from outside the main time-frames for Black-crowned Night-Herons in our area. In addition, the vast majority of my visits are limited to the stretch south of 49th St., principally at the little 51st St. promontory. But there's no reason to suspect that the status of Black-crowned Night-Herons along the Morgan Shoal lakefront is any different from, say, half a mile south, at Promontory Point, where I have over 1800 eBird checklists spanning much of the year. Black-crowned Night-Heron is included in 46 of those checklists, and in ALL of those checklists I included the comment that the herons were fly-overs.

I have never seen a Black-crowned Night-Heron at rest anywhere along the lakefront between Morgan Point and Promontory Point.

Continuing just a bit further south, I looked at my eBird checklists that include Black-crowned Night-Heron from the Jackson Park North Lakefront (31 out of 1,034 checklists) and from the 63rd St. Beach (42 out of 2,307 checklists), and all of them include comments. Out of the total of 73 checklists with Black-crowned Night-Heron, only nine mention birds at rest, of which 6 are from summer of 1996, and two are from 25-26 Jun 1994, and in all of these checklists the herons are noted as stationed either on the 59th St. pier or the 63rd St. breakwater. (The outlier is my checklist of 12 May 2000, which records an

"adult at 63rd St. Beach" with no further details.)

My guess is that the atypical behavior of Black-crowned Night Herons in summer of 1996 in particular was related to an atypically abundant food source in Lake Michigan. Karin Cassel recorded a similar phenomenon in 1999; see her eBird checklists from Jackson Park--North Lakefront that year. In my transcript of Cassel's journals I included the comment in her checklist of 19 May, "This was the first of several checklists in which Cassel recorded Black-crowned Night-Herons at the 59th St. promontory this season. Black-crowned Night-Herons showed a notably large, non-breeding population in Jackson Park in May and early June in 1999, and some were routinely present on the 59th St. pier in the morning.")

The status of Black-crowned Night-Heron was a consideration when the National Audubon Society voted to recognize the Chicago Lakefront as an Important Bird Area: [Chicago Lakefront](#). My guess is that this was due to the colony of nesting Black-crowned Night-Herons that cropped up totally unexpectedly at the Lincoln Park Zoo.

#### Chicago Lakefront

As noted above, the majority of my surveys at the Morgan Shoal lakefront are from late fall through early spring (and mostly from the early 1980's, when I was living at 53rd St. & Harper Ave.). My focus of those visits was on waterfowl, and in particular wintering or semi-wintering diving ducks.

From 1980 through 1982 I regularly walked the Burnham Park/Jackson Park lakefront from the 51st St. promontory to the 63rd St. Beach, and I regarded Morgan Shoal as the single most reliable location along this stretch for both numbers and diversity of diving ducks. Rafts of Greater Scaup in the scores to hundreds and occasionally thousands were a staple there (while Lesser Scaup was rarely noted in any numbers except when in passage). The highest concentrations of Common Goldeneyes and Common Mergansers were also typically at Morgan Shoal.

You can get a general sense of the volume of eBird data uploaded to the Morgan Shoal lakefront by conducting a search for records of Common Goldeneye at this location.

Among scarcer species, I regarded Morgan Shoal as the best

location on my lakefront walks to look for Long-tailed Ducks ("Vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List), Black Scoters ("Near Threatened"), and Harlequin Ducks ("Least Concern" globally, but certainly rare in Illinois).

My understanding (or assumption) is that it was the biota of the shoal itself that proved attractive to these ducks (with the possible exception of the Harlequin Ducks, which typically fed immediately along the revetments, as is their habit; but it is worth noting that even in the early 1980s, when the entirety of the lakefront in this area consisted of the jumbled boulders that still exist north of 51st St. and around Promontory Point, and prior to the installation of the pristine concrete revetments, the Harlequin Ducks still favored the shoreline north of 51st St. I don't know why, but I assume it's not by accident.)

Some comments on interpreting eBird data from the hotspot, "Burnham Park--Morgan Shoal lakefront (Morgan Point to 53rd St.)":

The overwhelming majority of data in this eBird hotspot comes from the 51st St. promontory, or just a block or two north or south of there. Most of the records are also somewhat dated (pre-2010). And most come from exactly 3 birders (myself, the late Karin Cassel, and the late Harriet Rylaarsdam). So, when comparing data in eBird of, say, Black Scoter from the Morgan Shoal lakefront versus from other nearby locations, it's important to factor in both the years of coverage and the number of birders uploading data to eBird.

The paucity of observers is not accidental. Morgan Shoal is not a convenient place to get to. If traveling by car, you'll have to park west of Lake Shore Drive and walk a block or two to cross an elevated, weather-exposed pedestrian bridge over Lake Shore Drive (in November through March if you're there for the ducks), either at 51st St. or at 47th St. In addition, the shoal itself lies mostly about half-way between the two pedestrian overpasses, so to survey the waterfowl you have to walk an additional two blocks north or south, preferably with a spotting scope parked on your shoulder. Not convenient. And especially not in winter.

Formerly, there was access to a small parking lot off Lake Shore Drive at 51st St., and Rylaarsdam and I regularly stopped there to scope out the shoal. Rylaarsdam continued to survey Morgan Shoal by car after I moved away in 1983, but based on my transcripts of Rylaarsdam's notebooks, it appears that the parking lot there was cordoned off circa early 1987?

Karin Cassel lived at 51st St. near Lake Michigan, and she often included the 51st St. promontory in her walks en route to Jackson Park or in her afternoon "constitutionals."

I would love to see the 51st St. promontory revitalized, including vehicular access from Lake Shore Drive. It's been a couple of years since I walked up there, but last I was there it was still the same embarrassing chain-link dump-site that it has remained for perhaps the past 30 years. (And still not accessible by car.)

I've copied Dave Willard in this reply, as he birded Pebble Beach off Morgan Shoal in years past.

Paul Clyne  
Hyde Park, Chicago

On Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 12:22:29 PM CST, Judith Pollock <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Jackson Park birders,

Do you have any information which would answer Sam's question? Are there others who might? Thanks.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)"  
<Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil>  
**Subject:** Morgan Shoal - Bird usage  
**Date:** February 14, 2023 at 12:17:54 PM CST  
**To:** "[REDACTED]"

Good morning Judy,

First, I wanted to thank you again for your thoughtful comment for the Chicago Shoreline project. I am reaching out now, to inquire about birds along the shoreline, specifically in the Morgan Shoal reach from 45th Street to 51<sup>st</sup> Street.

As you may be aware, outside of the Chicago Shoreline project, we are also working on the Morgan Shoal section of the shoreline that is currently in the design phase and

undergoing a separate NEPA review. As part of the NEPA documentation, I did some searches on eBird to find some base information on which birds have been observed at this stretch of the shoreline. Additionally, I reached out to the DNR and they informed me that there are records of the state listed black-crowned night heron at this location.

Therefore, I am reaching out to you to ask if you know of any information regarding the black-crowned night heron at this location? Ideally we are looking to see if there is any information for how these birds are utilizing the site (foraging, nesting, etc). The eBird site is a wonderful resource of citizen science to help get an overview of birds present at this location, but it is lacking information on how the heron is utilizing this reach. If you know of any surveys, or information from local ornithologists, or could point me in the right direction to find more information, it would be appreciated.

Thank you,  
Sam

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
Chicago District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Office: 312-846-5467  
Cell: 312-718-5428



**From:** [Wallace, Carol](#)  
**To:** [Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#); [Betsy McGurk-Mensah](#)  
**Cc:** [Pebble Beach](#)  
**Subject:** [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] RE: [External] Morgan Shoal in Burnham Park, Chicago Shoreline  
**Date:** Monday, July 17, 2023 8:57:07 AM

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Thank you!

[‘The greenest building is the one that already exists’ \(architectsjournal.co.uk\)](#)

## CJ Wallace

Pronouns: she/her/hers ([Tell me more!](#))

Regulatory Review & Compliance Manager

Illinois State Historic Preservation Office

Office 217-785-5027 Mobile 217-761-0104

[Carol.Wallace@Illinois.gov](mailto:Carol.Wallace@Illinois.gov)

*Member – IDNR Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI)*



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**From:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2023 8:42 AM  
**To:** Wallace, Carol <Carol.Wallace@Illinois.gov>; Betsy McGurk-Mensah [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Pebble Beach <advocatesformorganshoal@gmail.com>; Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil>  
**Subject:** RE: [External] Morgan Shoal in Burnham Park, Chicago Shoreline

CJ,

Thank you for passing this along. We are tracking the listed concerns and have discussed these throughout the design process. I will these pass along to the design team for additional discussion to reiterate their importance.

Per the Park District's Capital Projects webpage, Community Engagement is anticipated during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023 in which the working plan would be shared with the public.

Thanks,  
Sam

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
Chicago District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Office: 312-846-5467  
Cell: 312-718-5428

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**From:** Wallace, Carol <[Carol.Wallace@Illinois.gov](mailto:Carol.Wallace@Illinois.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2023 11:57 AM  
**To:** Betsy McGurk-Mensah [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Pebble Beach <[advocatesformorganshoal@gmail.com](mailto:advocatesformorganshoal@gmail.com)>; ChicagoShoreline <[ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil](mailto:ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil)>  
**Subject:** [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] RE: [External] Morgan Shoal in Burnham Park, Chicago Shoreline

Betsy,

Thank you for your comments. I am forwarding your email to the Chicago branch of the Army Corps. We are currently in discussions. The Corps may be able to add you to the list of consulting parties.

[‘The greenest building is the one that already exists’ \(architectsjournal.co.uk\)](https://architectsjournal.co.uk)

## CJ Wallace

Pronouns: she/her/hers ([Tell me more!](#))

Regulatory Review & Compliance Manager

Illinois State Historic Preservation Office

Office 217-785-5027 Mobile 217-761-0104

[Carol.Wallace@Illinois.gov](mailto:Carol.Wallace@Illinois.gov)

*Member – IDNR Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI)*



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**From:** Betsy McGurk-Mensah <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 4:36 PM  
**To:** Wallace, Carol <[Carol.Wallace@Illinois.gov](mailto:Carol.Wallace@Illinois.gov)>  
**Cc:** Pebble Beach <[advocatesformorganshoal@gmail.com](mailto:advocatesformorganshoal@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** [External] Morgan Shoal in Burnham Park, Chicago Shoreline

Dear Ms. Wallace,

I have followed and supported the work of the Promontory Point Conservancy for some years, and asked Jack Spicer for your contact information at the IL State Historic Preservation Office.

There is a growing community of concern regarding the upcoming rebuild of the Chicago shoreline from 45th to 51st streets, as the working plan has not been made public. I am writing to ask whether there have been any new dispensations granted regarding the historic limestone blocks from the original construction. Similarly is there a discussion about preserving and re-using the unique rounded limestone rocks native to the shoal? Also of concern are artifacts from the Silver Spray Shipwreck of 1914, which are scattered around the shoal, and the biodiversity of the shoal, which will be disrupted during construction out into the lake.

I write on behalf of a group called Advocates for Morgan Shoal, which is working to begin a conversation between the city and the local community which wishes to preserve the natural features of the area. Thank you for considering our question.

Betsy Mensah, MEd, PT  
on behalf of Advocates for Morgan Shoal

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**From:** [Bill](#)  
**To:** [Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Miller, Andrew J CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: Morgan Shoal - Carvings - PDF of my book  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 1:12:32 PM

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Hi Sam,

Congratulations on the maternity live. That's exciting.

The lakefront is a dynamic place, as we all well know! I walked the shore to check the new map this fall, and yes, in only a few years a number of carvings have disappeared or shifted positions. And I expect more change this winter.

In any case, you can feel free to use any of my materials with proper credit. I'm happy to contribute what I can.

Good luck with the maternity adventure.

And happy to meet you digitally Andrew.

Bill

William Swislow



On Dec 4, 2023, at 11:57 AM, Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)> wrote:

Bill,

Thank you for reaching out, I hope your holiday was well too. Thank you for sending this along, can we use these maps in our appendix about the limestone carvings with appropriate source credits?

It's been a little while so I cannot remember where we last left our communications, but we did go out to the shoreline back in the spring to conduct an additional carving artwork survey. We ended up utilizing what you had previously sent over as a basis, and it was interesting to see that even in the short period of time between your surveys and ours that limestone blocks were gone, carvings more eroded, or blocks moved more into the water. We then sent over the GPS coordinates over to the design team to utilize for their salvaging efforts of limestone blocks and artwork.

You've been a wonderful advocate for these artworks and I'm appreciative of what you've provided. I do want to let you know that I am currently out on maternity leave (even though I will still periodically check emails) and we do have another lead planner

while I'm out. I've CC'd Andrew in the email, so feel free to reach out if you have other questions or comments to share.

Thank you and enjoy the holidays,

Sam

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
Chicago District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Office: 312-846-5467  
Cell: 312-718-5428

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**From:** Bill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2023 11:15 AM  
**To:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)  
<[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)>  
**Subject:** Re: [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] PDF of my book

Hi Sam,

I hope you had a great holiday.

I don't know where things stand with the Morgan Shoal project, but I wanted to let you know that I've created much more detailed maps showing the locations of 700 rock carvings (out of 1,100 total) at Morgan Shoal. If you're interested, you can find a download link at this page: <https://www.interestingideas.com/morgan-shoal-carvings-how-to-find-them/>

I've also created galleries and maps for most of the other major carving sites (with more to come) that can be reached here: <https://www.interestingideas.com/chicagos-lakefront-rock-carvings-by-location/>

Bill

William Swislow  
[REDACTED]

On Feb 17, 2023, at 2:39 PM, Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)> wrote:

Bill,

Just sent the link, you should get it soon. Good to know there are 383 unique rocks.

Thanks!

Sam

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**From:** Bill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2023 2:33 PM  
**To:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)>  
**Subject:** Re: [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] PDF of my book

Sam,

Sounds good. When you get a chance send a link for the photo files and I'll see if I can upload a folder. Note that it will include all 383 unique rocks, not just the ones highlighted in the Web pages.

Thanks,

Bill

William Swislow  
[REDACTED]

On Feb 17, 2023, at 12:22 PM, Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)> wrote:

Bill,

I was just drafting my email to you and you beat me to it!!

Thank you again for meeting with us today and sharing your knowledge on the limestone carvings. There are a lot of carvings and I look forward to going through the artwork. In terms of data sharing, I really appreciate your willingness and ability to share the photos with the metadata and a PDF copy of your book. I did want to let you know that we can't access Dropbox or any other file sharing system other than our own (another seemingly never-ending government hurdle). The good news is that the approved file sharing is rather simple to use for outsiders.

So we use DoDSAFE in which we can request a Drop-off. I'm sending one over to you now (separate email from DoDSAFE) which will be valid for 14 days and there should be instructions in it. Basically you should just be able to drop the file in and send it over.

You mentioned the photos as TIFFs with the metadata, if that is the only way to send them while preserving the metadata, that will work for me. I'm fine with whatever format you choose (folders, individual files, etc). I'm pretty sure that the DoDSAFE link can handle multiple files, but if not we can figure something out. Worst case scenario I can always meet up with you with an external hard drive and get photos that way.

Thank you again and I'll keep in touch.

Sam

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**From:** Bill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2023 12:11 PM  
**To:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)  
<[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)>  
**Subject:** [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] PDF of my book

Thanks again for the arranging and leading today's call. I really do appreciate the opportunity to discuss the carvings, and I extra appreciated everyone's engagement.

Here's a link to the low-res pdf of my book that I mentioned:

<https://www.dropbox.com/>

I've got more photos of carvings and articles on my Web site, though much of the material there is older or otherwise dated.

Let me know when you want to discuss getting a hold of the photo files.

Bill

William Swislow





## Miller, Andrew J CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)

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**From:** Miller, Andrew J CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2024 12:43 PM  
**To:** Debra Hammond; Padilla, Michael C CIV USARMY CELRC (USA); Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)  
**Cc:** Alderman Desmon Yancy; Charles Kyle; Brenda Nelms; Joy Clendenning; Heather Dalmage; Betsy McGurk-Mensah; JACK SPICER!; Hoxsie, Alex R CIV USARMY CELRC (USA); Dailide, Ashley M CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: NEPA Scoping for Morgan Shoal  
**Categories:** Morgan Shoals

Hello Ms. Hammond,

Thanks for reaching out and apologies for the slow response. I am filling in for Sam Belcik on the Morgan Shoal Project while she is out on maternity leave.

USACE completed its scoping process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in November of 2022. USACE sent NEPA scoping letters out to interested parties on October 19, 2022; a scoping letter was sent to the Promontory Point Conservancy (PPC) email address listed on the PPC website. Additionally, although the Morgan Shoal Revetment Reconstruction Project and the Chicago Shoreline General Reevaluation Report (GRR) are two separate projects, we moved comments related to Morgan Shoal submitted to the Chicago Shoreline GRR email and crowdsourcing map to the official record for Morgan Shoal to be captured and considered. This includes comments that we received from you, Ms. Dalmage, and Ms. McGurk-Mensah.

USACE is currently finalizing a draft NEPA document that analyzes and describes potential environmental effects of the proposed revetment reconstruction at Morgan Shoal. USACE will notify the public, parties included in the scoping process, and parties that requested notification during the Chicago Shoreline GRR scoping process of its availability for public review and comment through a Notice of Availability (NOA). We will send the NOA to the PPC through the email listed on the PPC website, Mr. Spicer's personal email, and your personal email. Please let me know if there are any other parties associated with the PPC that you would like included in the NOA distribution and I'll add them to the list. The comment period typically lasts for 30 days, after which all comments will be analyzed and considered, and a final NEPA document will be prepared. The final NEPA document will incorporate and respond to the relevant comments received during the public review.

We have received both your and Jack Spicer's request to be added as consulting parties under Section 106 and have added the PPC to the consulting party list. You both will be contacted once the 106 process commences.

I've CCed Ashley Dailide, the Chicago District's Archaeologist, and Alex Hoxsie, the Environmental and Cultural Resources Section Chief on this email.

Thanks for your interest in the Morgan Shoal Project. Let me know if you have any additional questions, comments, or concerns.

Best wishes,



**Andrew J. Miller**

Landscape Architect / Planner

Planning Branch, Environmental & Cultural Resources Section

**Phone:** 312-846-5571

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**From:** Debra Hammond <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2024 10:41 AM  
**To:** Padilla, Michael C CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Michael.C.Padilla@usace.army.mil>; Miller, Andrew J CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Andrew.J.Miller2@usace.army.mil>; Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil>

**Cc:** Alderman Desmon Yancy <Desmon.Yancy@cityofchicago.org>; Charles Kyle [REDACTED]; Brenda Nelms [REDACTED]; Joy Clendenning <[REDACTED]>; Heather Dalmage [REDACTED]; Betsy McGurk-Mensah [REDACTED]; JACK SPICER [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: NEPA Scoping for Morgan Shoal

Dear Mr. Padilla:

Per our request in writing and in person at the February 22 Morgan Shoal community meeting, would you please add Promontory Point Conservancy as a stakeholder/invitee to the NEPA Review and invite us to the NEPA scoping now underway?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Debra Hammond  
Promontory Point Conservancy  
[info@promontorypoint.org](mailto:info@promontorypoint.org)  
[REDACTED]

On Mar 19, 2024, at 1:53 PM, Debra Hammond [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Mr. Miller:

We understand you are the person to contact so that Promontory Point Conservancy is included in the NEPA scoping going on right now.

Thank you.

Debra Hammond  
Promontory Point Conservancy  
[info@promontorypoint.org](mailto:info@promontorypoint.org)  
[REDACTED]

On Mar 19, 2024, at 12:55 PM, Debra Hammond [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Ms. Belcik:

At the Morgan Shoal community meeting on February 22, Mr. Padilla informed the community that scoping letters had gone out for the NEPA Review of Morgan Shoal.

Promontory Point Conservancy completed a postcard per request asking to be added to the list of organizations receiving the scoping invitation. We also talked to Mr. Padilla and asked to be included after the meeting.

Since we have not heard back, we are writing you to request that Promontory Point Conservancy be added as a consulting party/stakeholder for the NEPA scoping for Morgan Shoal.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Debra Hammond  
Promontory Point Conservancy  
[info@promontorypoint.org](mailto:info@promontorypoint.org)



## Miller, Andrew J CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)

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**From:** Miller, Andrew J CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 12:30 PM  
**To:** Betsy McGurk-Mensah; Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA); Dailide, Ashley M CIV USARMY CELRC (USA); Hoxsie, Alex R CIV USARMY CELRC (USA); Padilla, Michael C CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)  
**Cc:** desmon.yancy@cityofchicago.org; [REDACTED]; Jack Spicer; Debra Hammond; Joy Clendenning; Heather Dalmage; Gin Kilgore; Ward04; lamont.robinson@cityofchicago.org  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] NEPA review for Morgan Shoal DRAFT  
**Categories:** Morgan Shoals

Hello Ms. McGurk-Mensah, thanks for reaching out, you've reached the right person.

USACE completed its scoping process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in November of 2022. The scoping process allows interested parties to provide information on issues to be addressed in a NEPA document that analyzes and describes potential environmental effects of the proposed federal action. That process has been completed for the Morgan Shoal Revetment Reconstruction Project and the NEPA document is currently being drafted. Although the Morgan Shoal Revetment Reconstruction Project and the Chicago Shoreline General Revaluation Report (GRR) are two separate projects, we moved comments related to Morgan Shoal submitted to the Chicago Shoreline GRR email and crowdsourcing map to the official record for Morgan Shoal to be captured and considered - this includes comments that we received from you, Ms. Dalmage, and Ms. Hammond.

You still have an opportunity to provide feedback in the NEPA Process. USACE is currently drafting the NEPA document for the Morgan Shoal Revetment Reconstruction Project. USACE will notify the public, parties included in the scoping process, and parties that requested notification during the Chicago Shoreline GRR scoping process of its availability for public review and comment through a Notice of Availability (NOA). We will send the NOA to Advocates for Morgan Shoal through the email you provided below and your email. Let me know if you'd like me to add anyone else from Advocates for Morgan Shoal to that distribution list. The comment period typically lasts for 30 days, after which all comments will be analyzed and considered, and a final NEPA document will be prepared. The final NEPA document will incorporate and respond to the relevant comments received during the public review.

Advocates for Morgan Shoal has been added as a consulting party under Section 106. You both will be contacted by Ashley Dailide, the Chicago District's Archaeologist, once the 106 process commences. Again, we will use the email below and your email as the point of contact for that notification, but let me know if others should be added.

Thanks again for your interest in the Morgan Shoal Project. Let me know if you have any additional questions, comments, or concerns.

Best wishes,



**Andrew J. Miller**

Landscape Architect / Planner  
Planning Branch, Environmental & Cultural Resources Section  
**Phone:** 312-846-5571

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**From:** Betsy McGurk-Mensah [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 2, 2024 4:55 PM  
**To:** Miller, Andrew J CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Andrew.J.Miller2@usace.army.mil>; Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil>; Dailide, Ashley M CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Ashley.M.Dailide@usace.army.mil>; Hoxsie, Alex R CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Alex.R.Hoxsie@usace.army.mil>; Padilla, Michael C CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Michael.C.Padilla@usace.army.mil>  
**Cc:** desmon.yancy@cityofchicago.org; [REDACTED]; Jack Spicer [REDACTED]; Debra Hammond [REDACTED]; Joy Clendenning [REDACTED]; Heather Dalmage [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; Gin Kilgore <kilgoreg@fotp.org>; Ward04 <ward04@cityofchicago.org>;

lamont.robinson@cityofchicago.org

**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] NEPA review for Morgan Shoal DRAFT

Dear Mr. Miller,

Recently, at the Morgan Shoal community meeting on February 22, Mr. Padilla informed the community that scoping letters had gone out for the NEPA Review of Morgan Shoal.

I am writing you in hopes that you or a colleague are the appropriate person to contact for inclusion in the list of parties/stakeholders who will receive the NEPA scoping invitation for the Morgan Shoal Project. Please add [Advocates for Morgan Shoal](#) as a consulting party/stakeholder for the NEPA scoping for Morgan Shoal. Additionally, please add me, using this email address. We wish to receive the NEPA and the NOA document, and to be apprised of the timeline for the comment period.

[Advocates for Morgan Shoal](#) also requests to be added as a Consulting Party on the Section 106 Review process for the Morgan Shoal Project the USACE is engaged with. As a local community organization composed of users of the area, concerned with the environmental and historic attributes of this popular lakeshore park, we are a stakeholder in the 106 review. We are also working to provide representation for park users in this community.

I look forward to your reply.

Many Thanks,  
Betsy McGurk-Mensah, PT, MEd  
with Advocates for Morgan Shoal

The **Advocates for Morgan Shoal** is a community-centered group working to bring awareness of this historical biodiverse shoreline with a goal of ensuring that ideas and vision of community members are included in the reconstruction plan for Morgan Shoal.

**From:** [Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [Heather Dalmage](#); [Padilla, Michael C CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#); [dan.burke@cityofchicago.org](mailto:dan.burke@cityofchicago.org)  
**Cc:** [Miller, Andrew J CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Morgan Shoal shoreline pictures - permissions  
**Date:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 11:08:00 AM

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Heather,

Thank you for letting me know about your preferences to not use your photos and information for the NEPA documentation, we will not include them.

I will refer to Mike or Dan to address your concerns regarding meetings.

Thank you,  
Sam

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
Chicago District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Office: 312-846-5467  
Cell: 312-718-5428

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**From:** Heather Dalmage [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 9:56 AM  
**To:** Padilla, Michael C CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Michael.C.Padilla@usace.army.mil>;  
[dan.burke@cityofchicago.org](mailto:dan.burke@cityofchicago.org)  
**Cc:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil>; Miller,  
Andrew J CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Andrew.J.Miller2@usace.army.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Morgan Shoal shoreline pictures - permissions

Dear Mr. Padilla and Mr. Burke,

The USACE has asked to use my photos. To be clear, I do NOT give permission for use of my photos, information or any other of my material. The Advocates for Morgan Shoal (AMS) do not give permission to use photos, information or any other of our materials in any of the USACE materials, including the NEPA.

We have worked in good faith for more than a year. In that time, the AMS has asked for meetings and information about the process and we have received nothing. Not a single meeting has been set up with the community.

Public meetings held and plans developed a decade ago have lost relevance. The community deserves to know what is happening with our shoreline (45th to 51st Street reach) and we must be included in the shoreline project plans.

We remain interested in obtaining updated information, community meetings, and timelines. I can be reached at [REDACTED] or via email at the address from which I'm writing.

Best wishes,  
Heather Dalmage

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**From:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 9, 2024 11:45:54 AM  
**To:** Heather Dalmage <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Miller, Andrew J CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Andrew.J.Miller2@usace.army.mil](mailto:Andrew.J.Miller2@usace.army.mil)>  
**Subject:** Morgan Shoal shoreline pictures - permissions

Good morning Heather,

I hope all is well with you on this rainy/snowy day and that the holidays treated you well. I am reaching out to ask for permission to use some of your photos of the existing Morgan Shoal shoreline and pebble beach that are online on Facebook. We'd like to include a couple photos (attached) in the Draft NEPA document under the existing conditions section for the coastal shoreline and recreation. You would be credited as the photo source in the photo caption, unless you want Advocates for Morgan Shoal credited, we can do that too. I tried using as many of my photos or city provided photos, but they don't quite capture the beauty of the pebble beach or the amount of recreational usage that your pictures show.

Additionally, I am CC'ing Andrew Miller, as he will be the USACE planner that is taking over the NEPA documentation for me as I will be out on maternity leave for the next few months. I will still check emails for continuity. Let me know if we can include your photos in the document and if there are other photos that you would like to share.

Thank you and stay warm,

Sam

Samantha Belcik

Biologist and Planner

Chicago District

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500

Chicago, IL 60604

Office: 312-846-5467

Cell: 312-718-5428



## Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)

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**From:** Betsy Mensah [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2023 11:56 PM  
**To:** ChicagoShoreline  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Shoreline protection 49th st. Beach Chicago

**Categories:** Comment

Ms. Samantha Belcik  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District  
[ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil](mailto:ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil)  
231 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604-1437

Dear Ms. Belcik,

In response to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) request for comments relating to the National Environmental Policy Act document and General Reevaluation Report related to Chicago Shoreline Coastal Storm Risk Management, I wish to speak.

I live near the lake at 47<sup>th</sup> St., and spend a lot of time biking, walking, and swimming. I have observed the damage done by high water levels in several years of the previous 5, and the efforts of the city to protect the integrity of Lake Shore Drive, especially where it is close to the shore from 48<sup>th</sup> to 51<sup>st</sup> St. The revetment, which was intact during the 90s through 2010, began sliding into the lake in the past 10 years. During 2020, it was off limits to the public while large blocks and concrete were hurriedly put in place, and the public has largely forgotten about this beautiful beach, also known by many as "Pebble Beach", and a favorite place for families to access the lake. There is a wealth of unique egg-shaped rocks, formed there by wave action against the revetment, which previously was limestone and also beautifully eroded.

I call attention to this natural feature of the environment of Lake Michigan at the 49<sup>th</sup> St. beach known as Morgan Shoal. The shoal is not far offshore, presumably the source of many of the beautiful white rocks, and many pieces of the ship wrecked there in 1912 (?), the Silver Spray, are visible to swimmers at this location. I would beg the city to be aware of the unique white limestone and other rounded rocks on this beach, in hopes of preserving them when the beach is redesigned, as I know is in the works for the next year or so.

Thank you for soliciting the views of the community in considering best ways to preserve the Chicago Shoreline.

Betsy Mensah

Advocates for the Morgan Shoal Framework Plan

## Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)

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**From:** Heather Dalmage <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2023 6:45 PM  
**To:** ChicagoShoreline  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Comments on Chicago Shoreline/Morgan Shoal

**Categories:** Comment

Ms. Samantha Belcik  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District  
[ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil](mailto:ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil)  
231 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604-1437

Dear Ms. Belcik:

I was informed that the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) is seeking comments on the National Environmental Policy Act document and General Reevaluation Report related to Chicago Shoreline Coastal Storm Risk Management.

As a year-round lakefront runner, biker and walker, I have logged thousands of miles along the lakefront. I have lived as far north as Foster Avenue and as south as Hyde Park. Differences along the lakefront trail between the North and South Side are stark.

Following the passing of the 1996 Water Resources Development Act Chicago planners, working with the Army Corps developed the *Chicago Shoreline Protection Project*. The long-range and multi-department project, budgeted at "more than \$500 million," was funded by the USACE, city of Chicago, Chicago Park District and the state of Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The project was to address the agreed upon high-risk, critical areas along the lakefront. Work began "at the start of the trail," (translation: the northern end of the trail).

In 2014, following the completion of Fullerton Avenue, the Mayor's office announced that only two areas designated in the Shoreline Project remained. In anticipation, the **Morgan Shoal** Framework Plan was developed by 2015. Unfortunately, the funding for the Shoreline Project had been spent on the areas to the north. The Army Corps website stated: "Due to funding shortfalls, no schedule for completion is available at this time."

Following a damaging January 2020 storm, a chain-link fence was erected from 51st to 49th. In May 2021, large black bags filled with sand and stone were placed along the running path and cement was poured around uneven and shoddily placed blocks. The lakefront along Morgan Shoal remains critically vulnerable and in a state of mis-repair through today, January 17, 2023.

Morgan Shoal should have been addressed under the previous Shoreline Project yet the funds were spent to the north. I am asking that you all consider prioritizing Morgan Shoal in the current planning, spending and work.

Thanks for your time. I can be reached by email at: [REDACTED] or phone: [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

Heather Dalmage, PhD  
Professor of Sociology, Roosevelt University  
Resident, Hyde Park  
Runner, Biker, Walker, and Park lover

**Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)**

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**From:** Debra Hammond [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 4, 2023 12:05 PM  
**To:** ChicagoShoreline  
**Subject:** Re: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping Letter Notification - Extended Period - Chicago Shoreline Coastal Storm Risk Management

**Categories:** Morgan Shoal

Thank you very much.

On Apr 4, 2023, at 9:58 AM, ChicagoShoreline <ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil> wrote:

Debra,

Thank you for your patience in my response as I was out on leave this past Friday and Monday.

As you are aware, the Morgan Shoal element is undergoing a separate NEPA process outside of the Chicago Shoreline GRR that had a scoping period from October 19 to November 18, 2022. However, in an effort to capture all comments and concerns that are submitted to the chicagoshoreline@usace.army.mil email, the Chicago Shoreline crowdsourcing map, or to my email inbox, we are moving those comments over to the Morgan Shoal official record to be captured.

It is my understanding that the Chicago Park District's project update form is for press releases and updates that are generated by the Park District and is not connected to the Army Corps. I will ask the Park District to share this list, if they are legally able to, so that the Corps can expand our NEPA distribution list.

I have attached the Morgan Shoal scoping letter packet for your files as requested. Please note, that the Promontory Point Conservancy was on the distribution list with the contact information that is listed on your website. Additionally, a contact for the Advocates for the Morgan Shoal Framework Plan was originally on the distribution list, and through the Chicago Shoreline GRR scoping process we were informed of more contacts for that group. Their contacts have been added and they were also informed of submitted comments being recorded as described above.

The next opportunity for NEPA public comment will occur when the Draft NEPA document is released to the public for public review and comment in the coming months. During the NEPA public review period, the public will have the opportunity to review the draft document and provide additional comments. We will send out the notification letter to those on the distribution list, which we have expanded since the original scoping period and I will continue to try to expand as noted above.

Please let me know if there are additional questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
Chicago District

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604

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**From:** Debra Hammond [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 3, 2023 3:25 PM  
**To:** ChicagoShoreline <ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: Scoping Letter Notification - Extended Period - Chicago Shoreline Coastal Storm Risk Management

Dear Ms. Belcik:

Would you please send me the press release for October 2022 announcing the Morgan Shoal NEPA review? Would you please send me the portal for filing NEPA comments for the Morgan Shoal project currently underway?

I have not received any notice even though I signed up last fall at the Chicago Park District's form to receive project information to my email <https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/Morgan-Shoal-Revetment-Reconstruction-Feedback-Form> and have followed the capital project <https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/featured-capital-projects> for several months.

There are many residents of the South Side that use Morgan Shoal daily and weekly who have not received any notice of this review or the proposed future work.

Thank you.

Cordially,

Debra Hammond

On Mar 31, 2023, at 2:36 PM, Debra Hammond <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Ms. Belcik:

Your map says that Morgan Shoal is currently undergoing its own NEPA. Although I signed up to receive notice at the Chicago Park District's capital projects page for Morgan Shoal, I have not received any notice of this NEPA review. Would you please send me the official notice and where I may post my comments?

Thank you.

Cordially,

Debra Hammond

On Mar 30, 2023, at 11:57 AM, ChicagoShoreline  
<[ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil](mailto:ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil)> wrote:

Greetings,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District is extending the National Environmental Policy Act scoping period for the Chicago Shoreline General Reevaluation Report for an additional 30 days from the March 31, 2023 deadline. The extended scoping period closes on April 30, 2023. Please find the attached scoping letter and two enclosures for the coastal storm risk management study along the Chicago shoreline of Lake Michigan. Feel free to reach out with any questions and please forward onto any interested parties.

Thank you,

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
Chicago District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604

<Morgan Shoal NEPA Scoping Letter.pdf><Enclosure 1 - ProjectMap.pdf><Enclosure 2 - Distribution List.pdf>

**Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)**

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**From:** noreply@dma.mil  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 9, 2023 11:39 PM  
**To:** ChicagoShoreline  
**Subject:** Chicago District Contact Form: Morgan Shoal Beach Project

**Categories:** Morgan SHOal, Comment

CAUTION: Your email client may display clickable links. The data in this email is provided without modification, as the user entered it. Before you click or use any link provided in this email, please confirm the authenticity of the link. This message was sent from the Chicago District website.

Message From: Kelly Friedl

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone:

Response requested: Yes

Message:

I would like to submit my name for community input as part of the Morgan Shoals (Pebble Beach) redevelopment. We heard you hired a great landscape architecture firm - Smith Group. We are excited!

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HTTP\_CMS\_CLIENT\_IP:  
HTTP\_X\_ARR\_LOG\_ID: 5ae80185-44d2-43cd-a9c3-0b57f299af3d  
HTTP\_ORIGIN: Blockedhttps://www.lrc.usace.army.mil  
HTTP\_TRUE\_CLIENT\_IP: 2601:240:c401:84e0:a495:a973:d947:7d9f

**Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)**

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**From:** noreply@dma.mil  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:01 AM  
**To:** ChicagoShoreline  
**Subject:** Chicago District Contact Form: Morgan Shoals

**Categories:** Comment

CAUTION: Your email client may display clickable links. The data in this email is provided without modification, as the user entered it. Before you click or use any link provided in this email, please confirm the authenticity of the link. This message was sent from the Chicago District website.

Message From: Laura Letinsky

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone:

Response requested: No

Message:

This beach (49th st) is is glorious! The large flat rocks adjacent to the water are super for summer lounging--the only negative is the barrier of the large unsightly black sandbags the city installed, and the trees that were cut down! PRESERVE please!

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HTTP\_CMS\_CLIENT\_IP:  
HTTP\_X\_ARR\_LOG\_ID: 91b271a4-1848-4ac1-b545-b4f6706f1f90  
HTTP\_ORIGIN: Blockedhttps://www.lrc.usace.army.mil  
HTTP\_TRUE\_CLIENT\_IP: 98.32.147.254



**Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)**

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**From:** Amanda C Englert <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 30, 2023 6:14 PM  
**To:** ChicagoShoreline  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] from a lover of Pebble Beach/Morgan Shoal

Dear Ms. Belcik,

Thank you for welcoming community input on the future of our beautiful Southside shoreline. I have lived in Hyde Park for over 20 years and cherish our lakefront. I have witnessed some changes over the years and understand that something needs to be done to offset future erosion/damage to bike path, but I also want to chime in as one of many in our community who loves the wilds!

I have been taking children to explore/play in the Morgan Shoal/Pebble Beach area for years and treasure these fantastic unmanicured spaces. I'm also an artist, and one of many magpies who comb the area for found objects with which to make art. I've been making vessels out of the bits and pieces I've gathered from the ruins - sea glass and odd bits of metal/stone, things that have come up to the surface from landfill of yore. As someone who spends a lot of time out there, I'd like to point out just how many animal members of our community call this area their mating grounds and home. For all the deliberate work that has been done to restore native grasses/bird habitats, this one seems to be coming along beautifully on its own. You may already know there is a robust rabbit population out there - they love all the nooks and crannies! - and some really fantastic birds of prey, who of course love the rabbits. Not to mention the bewitching crows! The shoal is also a very popular mating grounds for red breasted mergansers, American coots, and grebes - I hope that studies will be done to ensure their wellness will be ensured throughout and beyond any changes to the lakescape. There are also beautiful sunflower/sunchoke things that grow taller than humans out in these beautiful spaces, and other wildflowers which attract a wide range of migratory birds and butterflies. A few summers ago and I found a \*massive\* turtle, easily as big as a spare tire, clambering on the wreckage of the rocks by the water.

Those of us who make our homes in urban areas need wild spaces. We need to clamber, to lizard out on irregular rocks, and to nestle in nooks and crannies. What we give up for accessibility, easy passage, or convenience in this relatively small area, we gain in magic. This is a special place - singular, and treasured as one of a kind. It warrants special consideration. We live in a beautiful city - replete with parks, piers, and picnic areas. It would be a missed opportunity to convert this unique area into one of many of the same kinds of recreational areas for people at the expense of the wildlife and humans who enjoy it in its natural state.

Thank you!  
~ Amanda Englert

## Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)

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**From:** Laura L. Letinsky <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 2, 2023 11:33 AM  
**To:** ChicagoShoreline  
**Cc:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)  
**Subject:** [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] Re: Shoreline between 47th extending to the point (55th)

**Categories:** Comment

Thanks Samantha,  
This is an issue, a reality, near and dear to my heart, family, and friends.  
Best  
Laura

---

**From:** ChicagoShoreline <ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil>  
**Date:** Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 2:39 PM  
**To:** Laura L. Letinsky <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil>  
**Subject:** RE: Shoreline between 47th extending to the point (55th)

Laura,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful comment. Currently, the Morgan Shoal element is undergoing a separate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process outside of the Chicago Shoreline GRR that had a scoping period from October 19 to November 18, 2022. However, in an effort to capture all comments and concerns, we will move your comment over to that official record to be captured.

Additionally, I will add your contact to our NEPA distribution list for the Morgan Shoal project for when the Draft NEPA document is released to the public for public comment and review in the coming months. During the public review period, the public will have the opportunity to review the draft document and provide additional comments.

In the meantime, I can provide this excerpt from the October 2022 Scoping letter that may provide additional details on the project.

“The proposed project involves the reconstruction of the existing revetment along the Morgan Shoal corridor within the larger Burnham Park. Proposed coastal structures include a combination of rubble mound and dynamic revetment, stepped stone blocks, and transitional concrete and sheetpile revetment at the existing 51st Street structure. Shoreline improvements also include the addition of up to 9.5 acres of new parkland that enhance connectivity and recreation, promote natural and nature-based features for ecological functions, and reduce flooding and erosion. Additional details can be found in the 2015 Morgan Shoal Framework Plan ([https://assets.chicagoparkdistrict.com/s3fs-public/documents/page/Burnham\\_Park\\_-\\_Morgan\\_Shoal\\_Framework\\_Plan\\_%28Final%29.pdf](https://assets.chicagoparkdistrict.com/s3fs-public/documents/page/Burnham_Park_-_Morgan_Shoal_Framework_Plan_%28Final%29.pdf)).”

Thank you,

Samantha Belcik  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Chicago District  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500

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**From:** Laura L. Letinsky <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 30, 2023 1:04 PM  
**To:** ChicagoShoreline <ChicagoShoreline@usace.army.mil>  
**Subject:** [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] Shoreline between 47th extending to the point (55th)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a member of a huge cadre of concerned citizens of the Hyde Park community as the City of Chicago has taken unconsidered action and is moving forward with a plan to put concrete revetment along the shoreline between 47<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> streets (Morgan Shoal area, or, affectionately known to us as Pebble Beach) WITHOUT any consideration of our community's wants or needs. We write alongside our community who are also working to save the point from similar destruction. We found out about this through a casual and brief conversation with a Chicago City Parks worker who told us that the funding was fully in place and they planned on beginning as soon as possible to build concrete steps all along this area (though to his mind, he claimed it would look a lot nicer than it presently does, indicating ignorance and a complete lack of appreciation for those of us who live here and utilize this glorious stretch of shoreland).

Both these shorelines have given pleasure and relief year round to Chicago residents. Speaking for myself and others, the Morgan Shoal area has a shallower entry into the lake that allows for dogs and children to frolic, as well as those of us who prefer a graduated entrance to the lake. It is a bit quieter of an area we've enjoyed for decades and hope to for future years.

The city's plan to set up horrendously inhospitable concrete steps (akin to those just to the south of 51<sup>st</sup> ) that no longer serves ANYONE, nor any wildlife as it is impossibly hot in the summer and migratory birds cannot access the shoreline as they can on the point, and along the Morgan Shoal area.

The City of Chicago cannot be permitted to move forward with their plans without community approval. Please aid us in stopping this before it gets any further.

We'd be grateful for your advice on how to mobilize to stop this unwarranted, unnecessary, and destructive action.

Best,  
Laura Letinsky  
Laura Letinsky  
[REDACTED]

Professor  
University of Chicago  
[REDACTED]

**Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)**

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**From:** Sharla Paul [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2023 3:01 PM  
**To:** ChicagoShoreline  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Pebble Beach/Morgan Shoal

Hello!

I am a Hyde Park resident and a lover of Pebble Beach/Morgan Shoal. I have raised my 3 children there, visit it by myself and with my dog at least once a week during all seasons, and experience it as a place of peace and joy. It is a wilderness oasis for our city, unlike any other, with its smooth rocks and offshore shoal. Its historic importance includes a shipwreck that is the lore of children raised in this part of Hyde Park.

I ask that you include community members such as myself in the planning and decision-making process around protecting and restoring Pebble Beach/Morgan Shoal. I am deeply committed to keeping this oasis as close as possible to its current natural form.

Please let me know how to be involved in providing input. Thank you!

Best,  
Sharla Paul

[REDACTED]

The following comments were submitted to the Chicago Shoreline GRR crowdsourcing map during that scoping comment period. As these comments pertained to the Morgan Shoal segment, they were considered as part of this NEPA effort.

Comment ID #	Name	Email	Zipcode	Nature of Comment
crowdsourcing	Corrigan			This beach (49th st) is an important lake access point and includes observation of Morgan Shoals, Silver Spray shipwreck, and fossil hunting. Any added barriers to prevent erosion or road flooding should maintain wading/snorkeling access and natural shore
crowdsourcing	Morgan Shoal/Promontory Point breakwaters		60615	Build breakwaters and islands offshore per the original Burnham plan to protect the shoreline
crowdsourcing	Morgan Shoal gathering		60615	We are gathering on Earth Day to discuss the future of Morgan Shoal and what the community wants: <a href="https://www.hpherald.com/opinion/come-celebrate-earth-day-at-pebble-beach/article_be4a1baa-d01c-11ed-b088-238a6f69d051.html">https://www.hpherald.com/opinion/come-celebrate-earth-day-at-pebble-beach/article_be4a1baa-d01c-11ed-b088-238a6f69d051.html</a>
crowdsourcing	Heather Dalmage		60615	Rebuild plan for Morg Shoal should include 1. current materials (as required by SHPO) at the Shoal area and ensure access to the shoreline. The Pebbles, limestone, shipwreck, and Shoal must be included and protected in the rebuild.

## Tribal Coordination



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, CHICAGO DISTRICT  
231 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET, SUITE 1500  
CHICAGO IL 60604

December 1, 2022

Planning Branch  
Planning, Programs and Project Management

**SAMPLE**

The Honorable Joseph Rupnick, Chairperson  
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation  
16281 Q Road  
Mayetta, KS 66509

SUBJECT: Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection Project, Cook County, Illinois

Dear Chairperson Rupnick:

The U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District (Corps) will be preparing a National Environmental Policy Act document on the potential impacts associated with a proposed shoreline coastal protection project in the City of Chicago, Cook County, Illinois (Figure 1). The purpose of the project undertaking is to address the degraded shoreline along the Morgan Shoal corridor. To assist in our review, we are requesting your assistance in gathering information you might have to identify properties which may be of religious or cultural significance that may be affected by the project as specified by the implementing regulations for Section 106 as provided by the National Historic Preservation Act (36 C.F.R. § 800.4(a)(4)). Additionally, the Corps would appreciate any comments, concerns or modifications you might have about any potential environmental or social impacts from this currently proposed project.

The proposed project involves the reconstruction of the existing revetment along the Morgan Shoal corridor within the larger Burnham Park. Proposed coastal structures include a combination of rubble mound and dynamic revetment, stepped stone blocks, and transitional concrete and sheetpile revetment at the existing 51<sup>st</sup> Street structure. Shoreline improvements also include the addition of up to 9.5 acres of new parkland that enhance connectivity and recreation, promote natural and nature-based features for ecological functions, and reduce flooding and erosion. Additional details can be found in the 2015 Morgan Shoal Framework Plan ([https://assets.chicagoparkdistrict.com/s3fs-public/documents/page/Burnham\\_Park -  
\\_Morgan Shoal Framework Plan %28Final%29.pdf](https://assets.chicagoparkdistrict.com/s3fs-public/documents/page/Burnham_Park_-_Morgan_Shoal_Framework_Plan_%28Final%29.pdf)).

The revetment reconstruction project will provide coastal protection and flood damage reduction to the eroded Chicago Park District land and provide stability to the nearshore DuSable Lake Shore Drive. An Environmental Assessment will be prepared that evaluates alternatives to accomplishing this project with minimal impact to the environment and to the community.

The undertaking is in Section 12, Township 38 North, Range 14 East in Chicago, IL (Figure 2). The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the undertaking encompasses the project area including staging, access, etc. and totals approximately 25 acres. The Corps believes that the APE is sufficient to identify and consider potential effects of the proposed project.

If you have information, comments or concerns regarding properties which may be of religious or cultural significance that you believe may be affected by this project, please contact one of the contacts noted below as soon as possible. A copy of this letter with enclosures will be furnished to Raphael Wahwassuck.

If you have any questions, comments or desire additional information, please contact either Samantha Belcik, Biologist and Planner at [samantha.d.belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:samantha.d.belcik@usace.army.mil) or (312) 846-5467 or Ms. Ashley Dailide, Project Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison at [ashley.m.dailide@usace.army.mil](mailto:ashley.m.dailide@usace.army.mil) or (312) 846-5581.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susanne J. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susanne J. Davis, P.E.  
Chief, Planning Branch  
Chicago District

Enclosures

Figure 1: Morgan Shoal project Area of Potential Effect (APE) map  
Figure 2: Morgan Shoal project location map




# Morgan Shoals Shoreline Protection Project APE



0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles

## Legend

 Morgan Shoals APE



TRIBAL CORRESPONDANCE - FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI

**From:** [Dailide, Ashley M CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Padilla, Michael C CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection Project  
**Date:** Monday, December 5, 2022 1:01:02 PM

---

FYSA – my assumption is that this area is entirely fill, but it's something we should get confirmation on.

---

**From:** Benjamin Rhodd <Benjamin.Rhodd@fcp-nsn.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 5, 2022 11:45 AM  
**To:** Dailide, Ashley M CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Ashley.M.Dailide@usace.army.mil>  
**Subject:** [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection Project

Ms. Dailide,

Thank you for the information regarding the Morgan Shoals Project revetment. However, I do have a concern from the Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin Historic Preservation Office. After perusing the proposed actions of the undertaking, I am concerned about how much land will be disturbed in this process? My concern is the intact land of the Park "behind" the proposed project that may have intact cultural resources in place and which would be disturbed or destroyed by the undertaking.

If this could be answered for the FCPC, I could then make a solid recommendation of our interest or non-interest in this proposed action.

We do request to remain as a consulting party for this project.

As a standard caveat sent with each proposed project reviewed by the FCPC THPO, the following applies. In the event an Inadvertent Discovery (ID) occurs at any phase of a project or undertaking as defined, and human remains or archaeologically significant materials are exposed as a result of project activities, work should cease immediately. The Tribe(s) must be included with the SHPO in any consultation regarding treatment and disposition of an ID find.

Thank you for protecting cultural and historic properties and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the email or number listed below.

Respectfully,

Ben Rhodd, MS, RPA, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Forest County Potawatomi  
Historic Preservation Office  
8130 Mish ko Swen Drive, P.O. Box 340, Crandon, Wisconsin 54520  
P: 715-478-7354 C: 715-889-0202 Main: 715-478-7474  
Email: [Benjamin.Rhodd@fcp-nsn.gov](mailto:Benjamin.Rhodd@fcp-nsn.gov)  
[www.fcpotawatomi.com](http://www.fcpotawatomi.com)



## Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

3410 P St. NW, Miami, OK 74354 • P.O. Box 1326, Miami, OK 74355  
Ph: (918) 541-1300 • Fax: (918) 542-7260  
www.miamination.com



Via email: ashley.m.dailide@usace.army.mil

December 6, 2022

Ms. Ashley Dailide, Project Archaeologist & Tribal Liaison  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District  
231 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604-1437

Re: Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection Project, Cook County, Illinois – Comments of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

Dear Ms. Dailide:

Aya, kweehsitoolaani– I show you respect. The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, a federally recognized Indian tribe with a Constitution ratified in 1939 under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of 1936, respectfully submits the following comments regarding Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection Project in Cook County, Illinois.

The Miami Tribe offers no objection to the above-referenced project at this time, as we are not currently aware of existing documentation directly linking a specific Miami cultural or historic site to the project site. However, given the Miami Tribe's deep and enduring relationship to its historic lands and cultural property within present-day Illinois, if any human remains or Native American cultural items falling under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) or archaeological evidence is discovered during any phase of this project, the Miami Tribe requests immediate consultation with the entity of jurisdiction for the location of discovery. In such a case, please contact me at 918-541-8966 or by email at THPO@miamination.com to initiate consultation.

The Miami Tribe accepts the invitation to serve as a consulting party to the proposed project. In my capacity as Tribal Historic Preservation Officer I am the point of contact for consultation.

Respectfully,

Diane Hunter  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Illinois Department of Natural Resources Coordination



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
www.dnr.illinois.gov

JB Pritzker, Governor  
Colleen Callahan, Director

November 2, 2022

Samantha Belcik  
Chicago District USACE  
231 S. LaSalle Street  
Suite 1500

**RE: 11/18/2022 - Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection Project  
Consultation Program  
EcoCAT Review #2305732  
Cook County**

Dear Ms. Belcik,

The Department has received your submission for this project for the purposes of consultation pursuant to the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075.

The proposed action consists of reconstructing the existing revetment along the Morgan Shoal corridor within the larger Burnham Park in Chicago, IL. Proposed coastal structures include a combination of rubble mound and dynamic revetment, stepped stone blocks, and transitional concrete and sheet pile revetment at the existing 51st Street structure. Shoreline improvements also include the addition of up to 9.5 acres of new parkland.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

State Listed

**Black-crowned Night Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

**Longnose Sucker** (*Catostomus catostomus*)

Additionally, the Department has identified records of the state listed **Mudpuppy** (*Necturus maculosus*) within 0.25 miles of the project location, along the same shoreline habitat.

Due to the project scope and proximity to protected resources the Department recommends the following actions be taken to avoid adversely impacting listed species in the vicinity of the project:

**Black-crowned Night Heron**

- 1) The Department recommends conducting a species use assessment to determine whether the project area is being used by Black-crowned Night Heron between the dates of April 1 through July 31
  - a) Survey results should be forwarded to the Department for a final determination on impacts to any state-listed bird species.
- 2) If surveys determine that species is not utilizing habitat, shoreline revetment work may be done during breeding period.
- 3) If surveys results determine that the area is being utilized for breeding purposes, the Department recommends applying for Incidental Take Authorization. More information regarding Incidental Take Authorization can be found here:  
[Incidental Take Authorizations - Species Conservation \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.idnr.gov/IncidentalTakeAuthorizations)

**Mudpuppy**

- 1) The Department recommends that near-shore work be completed between the dates of May 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 2) If these dates cannot be accommodated, the Department recommends a presence/absence survey be conducted to determine whether Mudpuppy are utilizing the area.
  - a) Survey results and methods should be forwarded to the Department for review and concurrence.

Given the above recommendations are adopted the Department has determined that impacts to these protected resources are unlikely. The Department has determined impacts to other protected resources in the vicinity of the project location are also unlikely.

*In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), please notify the Department of your decision regarding these recommendations.*

Consultation on the part of the Department is closed, unless the applicant desires additional information or advice related to this proposal. Consultation for Part 1075 is valid for two years unless new information becomes available which was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the action has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal and should not be regarded as a final statement on the project being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are unexpectedly encountered during the project's implementation, the applicant must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations.

This letter does not serve as permission to take any listed or endangered species. As a reminder, no take of an endangered species is permitted without an Incidental Take Authorization or the required permits. Anyone who takes a listed or endangered species without an Incidental Take



Authorization or required permit may be subject to criminal and/or civil penalties pursuant to the *Illinois Endangered Species Act*, the *Fish and Aquatic Life Act*, the *Wildlife Code* and other applicable authority.

The Department also offers the following conservation measures be considered to help protect native wildlife and enhance natural areas in the project area:

If temporary or permanent lighting is required, the Department recommends the following lighting recommendation to minimize adverse effects to wildlife:

- All lighting should be fully shielded fixtures that emit no light upward.
- Only “warm-white” or filtered LEDs (CCT < 3,000 K; S/P ratio < 1.2) should be used to minimize blue emission.
- Only light the exact space with the amount (lumens) needed to meet facility safety requirement.
- If LEDs are to be used, avoid the temptation to over-light based on the higher luminous efficiency of LEDs.

If erosion control blanket is to be used, the Department also recommends that wildlife-friendly plastic-free blanket be used around wetlands and adjacent to natural areas, if not feasible to implement project wide, to prevent the entanglement of native wildlife.

Please contact me with any questions about this review.

Sincerely,



Kyle Burkwald  
Impact Assessment Section  
Division of Real Estate Services and Consultation  
Office of Realty & Capital Planning  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 62702  
[Kyle.Burkwald@Illinois.gov](mailto:Kyle.Burkwald@Illinois.gov)  
Phone: (217) 785-4984

**Applicant:** Chicago District USACE  
**Contact:** Samantha Belcik  
**Address:** 231 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604

**IDNR Project Number:** 2512628  
**Date:** 05/02/2025  
**Alternate Number:** 2305732

**Project:** Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection Project  
**Address:** Lakefront Trail (41.806429, -87.584761), Chicago

**Description:** The proposed action consists of reconstructing the existing revetment along the Morgan Shoal corridor within the larger Burnham Park in Chicago, IL. Proposed coastal structures include a combination of rubble mound and dynamic revetment, stepped stone blocks, and transitional concrete and sheet pile revetment at the existing 51st Street structure. Shoreline improvements also include the addition of up to 9.5 acres.

### Natural Resource Review Results

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

Black-Crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)  
Longnose Sucker (*Catostomus catostomus*)

**An IDNR staff member will evaluate this information and contact you to request additional information or to terminate consultation if adverse effects are unlikely.**

#### Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

**County:** Cook

**Township, Range, Section:**

38N, 14E, 2  
38N, 14E, 11  
38N, 14E, 12



#### **IL Department of Natural Resources Contact**

Alex Davis  
217-785-5500  
Division of Ecosystems & Environment

#### **Government Jurisdiction U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

#### **Disclaimer**

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database cannot provide a conclusive statement on the presence, absence, or condition of natural resources in Illinois. This review reflects the information existing in the Database at the time of this inquiry, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, compliance with applicable statutes and regulations is required.



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Illinois  
Department of  
**Natural  
Resources**

JB Pritzker, Governor • Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director  
One Natural Resources Way • Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271

[www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)

May 12, 2025

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
231 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604

**RE: Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection Project  
Consultation Program  
EcoCAT Review #2512628 [2305732]  
Cook County**

Dear Ms. Belcik:

The Department has received your submission for this project for the purposes of consultation pursuant to the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075.

The proposed action consists of reconstructing the existing revetment along the Morgan Shoal corridor within the larger Burnham Park in Chicago, Illinois. Proposed coastal structures include a combination of rubble mound and dynamic revetment, stepped stone blocks, and transitional concrete and sheet pile revetment at the existing 51st Street structure. Shoreline improvements also include the addition of up to 9.5 acres.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

**State Threatened or Endangered Species**

**Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)**

**Longnose Sucker (*Catostomus catostomus*)**

**Mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*)<sup>1</sup>**

Due to the project scope and proximity to protected resources, the Department offers the following comments and recommends the following actions be taken to avoid adversely impacting listed species in the vicinity of the project:

<sup>1</sup> This species was not indicated to be in the vicinity of the project by the Illinois Natural Heritage Database, however, due to the potential suitable habitat in the project area and occurrence of records in the vicinity, it was added to the list of species being reviewed for this project.

**Black-crowned Night Heron**

EcoCAT has indicated records for the state-listed Black-crowned Night Heron in the vicinity. The project proponent has indicated that the project plans include a tree cutting restriction from April 1 through September 30. The Department has therefore determined that adverse impacts to the Black-crowned Night Heron are unlikely.

**Longnose Sucker**

Due to lack of suitable spawning habitat in the project area, the Department has determined that adverse impacts to the state-listed Longnose Sucker are unlikely.

**Mudpuppy<sup>1</sup>**

EcoCAT did not indicate records for the state-listed Mudpuppy in the vicinity of the project. However, nearby records exist and potential suitable habitat for the Mudpuppy may be found within the project area. The project proponent has indicated that near-shore work will be completed between the dates of May 1 and October 31. The Department has therefore determined that adverse impacts to the state-listed Mudpuppy are unlikely.

Given the above recommendations are adopted, the Department has determined that impacts to these protected resources are unlikely. The Department has determined impacts to other protected resources in the vicinity of the project location are also unlikely.

*In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), please notify the Department of your decision regarding these recommendations.*

Consultation on the part of the Department is closed, unless the applicant desires additional information or advice related to this proposal. Consultation for Part 1075 is valid for two years unless new information becomes available which was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the action has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal and should not be regarded as a final statement on the project being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are unexpectedly encountered during the project's implementation, the applicant must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations.

This letter does not serve as permission to take any listed or endangered species. As a reminder, no take of an endangered species is permitted without an Incidental Take Authorization or the

required permits. Anyone who takes a listed or endangered species without an Incidental Take Authorization or required permit may be subject to criminal and/or civil penalties pursuant to the *Illinois Endangered Species Act*, the *Fish and Aquatic Life Act*, the *Wildlife Code* and other applicable authority.

The Department also offers the following conservation measures be considered to help protect native wildlife and enhance natural areas in the project area:

- The Department recommends removing trees between November 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> to avoid impacts to bats and birds.
- Good housekeeping practices should be implemented and maintained during and after construction to prevent trash and other debris from inadvertently blowing or washing into nearby natural areas.

Please contact Alexandra (Alex) Davis ([alexandra.davis@illinois.gov](mailto:alexandra.davis@illinois.gov)) with any questions about this review.

Sincerely,



Bradley Hayes  
Manager, Impact Assessment Section  
Division of Real Estate Services and Consultation  
Office of Realty & Capital Planning  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 62702  
[Bradley.Hayes@Illinois.gov](mailto:Bradley.Hayes@Illinois.gov)  
Phone: (217) 782-0031

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Correspondance

USEPA CORRESPONDANCE

**From:** [Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [Pelloso, Elizabeth](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Letter Notification - Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection project  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 22, 2022 3:38:00 PM

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Liz,

The Morgan Shoal project was originally authorized in the original 1994 Chicago Shoreline study, however it hadn't been constructed yet. Now that it is in the design phase and soon to be construction phase, we are conducting a supplemental environmental assessment to look at the more detail plans for impacts. Since it is in this phase and currently undergoing the NEPA process, it will not be included in the Chicago Shoreline general re-evaluation study. During the recent resource agency meeting and the upcoming charette for the Chicago Shoreline, we want/ed to make sure that people understood where the original study stood.

I hope that clears things up and let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks!

Sam

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
Chicago District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Office: 312-846-5467  
Cell: 312-718-5428

---

**From:** Pelloso, Elizabeth <Pelloso.Elizabeth@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2022 7:50 AM  
**To:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] RE: Scoping Letter Notification - Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection project

Sam, can you please provide more info on how this proposed Morgan Shoal stabilization project fits in with the Chicago shoreline general re-eval study?

Liz Pelloso, PWS  
NEPA Project Manager  
USEPA Region 5  
Phone: 312-886-7425  
Email: [pelloso.elizabeth@epa.gov](mailto:pelloso.elizabeth@epa.gov)

---

**From:** Kowal, Kathleen <[kowal.kathleen@epa.gov](mailto:kowal.kathleen@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2022 8:39 AM  
**To:** Pelloso, Elizabeth <[Pelloso.Elizabeth@epa.gov](mailto:Pelloso.Elizabeth@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Scoping Letter Notification - Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection project

Liz,  
Did you see this scoping request?  
Thanks,  
Kathy

---

**From:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 16, 2022 12:26 PM  
**To:** Triantafillou, Kathy <[triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov](mailto:triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Scoping Letter Notification - Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection project

Good Afternoon Kathy,

After reviewing our original distribution list, we realized that the most up-to-date individuals were not included. Therefore I am resending the scoping letter for the Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection project. Please review the attached materials and provide any comments within 30 days of receiving this letter.

Apologies and thank you for your understanding.

Sam

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**From:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 19, 2022 2:17 PM  
**To:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil)>  
**Cc:** Padilla, Michael C CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Michael.C.Padilla@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.C.Padilla@usace.army.mil)>; Davis, Susanne J CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <[Susanne.J.Davis@usace.army.mil](mailto:Susanne.J.Davis@usace.army.mil)>  
**Subject:** Scoping Letter Notification - Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection project

Greetings,

Please find the attached scoping letter and two enclosures for a shoreline protection project along Morgan Shoal in Chicago, IL. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out and please forward onto any interested parties.

Thank you,

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
Chicago District

Apologies and thank you for your understanding.

Sam

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**From:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 19, 2022 2:17 PM  
**To:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil>  
**Cc:** Padilla, Michael C CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Michael.C.Padilla@usace.army.mil>; Davis, Susanne J CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Susanne.J.Davis@usace.army.mil>  
**Subject:** Scoping Letter Notification - Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection project

Greetings,

Please find the attached scoping letter and two enclosures for a shoreline protection project along Morgan Shoal in Chicago, IL. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out and please forward onto any interested parties.

Thank you,

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
Chicago District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Office: 312-846-5467  
Cell: 312-718-5428



## Fish and Wildlife Coordination

USFWS CORRESPONDANCE

**From:** [Cirton, Shawn](#)  
**To:** [Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: [EXTERNAL] Scoping Letter Notification - Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection project  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 23, 2022 9:43:11 AM

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Samantha,

We received your letter, dated October 19, 2022, indicating that the Chicago District is preparing a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for a proposed shoreline protection project along DuSable Lake Shore Drive, specifically the Morgan Shoal corridor, in the City of Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

The NEPA document should identify Lake Michigan nearshore habitat for fish and aquatic resources and Service trust resources (Federally listed species, migratory birds and interjurisdictional fish) near the project area and identify measures to protect those resources and mitigate for project impacts. We plan to respond to your request to review the NEPA documents when they are complete.

Sincerely,

**Shawn Cirton**  
**Fish and Wildlife Biologist**  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**Chicago Illinois Field Office**  
**230 South Dearborn Street, Suite 2938**  
**Chicago, IL 60604**  
**(847)366-2345**

---

**From:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 10, 2022 12:17 PM  
**To:** Cirton, Shawn <shawn\_cirton@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Scoping Letter Notification - Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection project

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Good Afternoon Shawn,

In double checking the distribution list, I realized that your last name was misspelled in your email. Therefore I am resending the scoping letter for the Morgan Shoal Shoreline Protection project. Please provide any comments within 30 days of receiving this letter.



## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Chicago Ecological Service Field Office

1511 47th Ave

Moline, IL 61265-7022

Phone: (309) 757-5800



In Reply Refer To:

08/18/2025 17:01:41 UTC

Project Code: 2024-0011139

Project Name: Morgan Shoal Revetment Reconstruction

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

Additionally, please note that on March 23, 2022, the Service published a proposal to reclassify the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia has ordered the Service to complete a new final listing

determination for the NLEB by November 2022 (Case 1:15-cv-00477, March 1, 2021). The bat, currently listed as threatened, faces extinction due to the range-wide impacts of white-nose syndrome (WNS), a deadly fungal disease affecting cave-dwelling bats across the continent. The proposed reclassification, if finalized, would remove the current 4(d) rule for the NLEB, as these rules may be applied only to threatened species. Depending on the type of effects a project has on NLEB, the change in the species' status may trigger the need to re-initiate consultation for any actions that are not completed and for which the Federal action agency retains discretion once the new listing determination becomes effective (anticipated to occur by December 30, 2022). If your project may result in incidental take of NLEB after the new listing goes into effect this will first need to be addressed in an updated consultation that includes an Incidental Take Statement. If your project may require re-initiation of consultation, please contact our office for additional guidance.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>

**Migratory Birds:** In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

## OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Chicago Ecological Service Field Office**

1511 47th Ave

Moline, IL 61265-7022

(309) 757-5800

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0011139

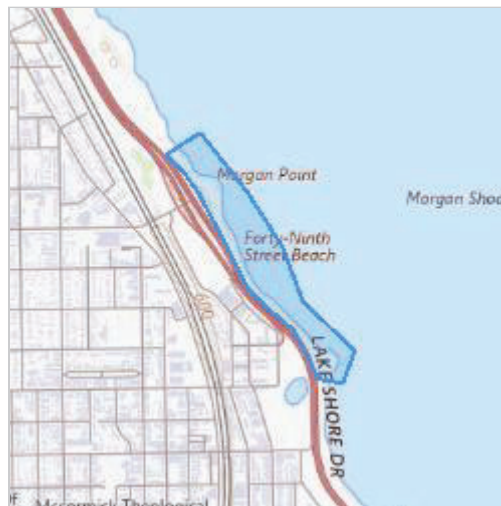
Project Name: Morgan Shoal Revetment Reconstruction

Project Type: Shoreline Stabilization

Project Description: As part of the Chicago Shoreline Protection Project, the City of Chicago proposes to stabilize the shoreline between 45th Street to 51st Street on the south side of the city. The project is focused on replacing the existing failing shoreline structures to address park degradation from erosion and provide flood protection for DuSable Lake Shore Drive. The proposed shoreline restoration includes a replacement of the existing failed revetment with new revetments designed to manage wave attack. The new shoreline protection will consist primarily of rubble mound, in addition to sections of dynamic cobble revetment and steel sheet pile and stepped concrete revetment. The upland areas will be reshaped and refined to provide flood control and management of overtopping wave flows

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.807859300000004,-87.58456057289705,14z>



Counties: Cook County, Illinois

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 7 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

- 
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> Population: [Great Lakes watershed DPS] - Great Lakes, watershed in States of IL, IN, MI, MN, NY, OH, PA, and WI and Canada (Ont.) There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039</a>	Endangered
Rufa Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864</a>	Threatened

## REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Massasauga (=rattlesnake) <i>Sistrurus catenatus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2202">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2202</a>	Threatened

## INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Hine's Emerald Dragonfly <i>Somatochlora hineana</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7877">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7877</a>	Endangered
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Proposed Threatened

## FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid <i>Platanthera leucophaea</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/601">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/601</a>	Threatened
Leafy Prairie-clover <i>Dalea foliosa</i> Population: No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5498">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5498</a>	Endangered

## CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.



YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

## IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers  
Name: Samantha Belcik  
Address: 231 South LaSalle St.  
Address Line 2: Suite 1500  
City: Chicago  
State: IL  
Zip: 60604  
Email: samantha.d.belcik@usace.army.mil  
Phone: 3128465467

## State Historic Preservation Office Coordination



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, CHICAGO DISTRICT**  
**231 SOUTH LASALLE STREET, SUITE 1500**  
**CHICAGO IL 60604**

June 27, 2024

Environmental & Cultural Resources Section  
Planning Branch

Ms. Carey Mayer  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Old State Capitol Building  
One Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield, IL 62701

SUBJECT: Morgan Shoal Revetment Repair Project

Dear Ms. Mayer:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is proposing to replace an existing failing revetment structure along the Morgan Shoal reach of the Chicago shoreline (undertaking) in Cook County, Illinois (Figure 1). As part of our review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, USACE has determined that the proposed federal action is an undertaking that has the potential to affect historic properties. The Corps has determined and documented the area of potential effect (APE) for the undertaking and is consulting with your office under Section 106 as provided at 36 C.F.R. § 800.4(a). The letter also summarizes efforts that the Corps has taken to date to identify historic properties that may be affected by the undertaking.

The undertaking proposes a complete replacement of existing failing revetment structures along the Morgan Shoal reach. The new revetment will consist of approximately 3,700 linear feet of rubble mound revetment, 1,000 linear feet of dynamic cobble revetment with underwater breakwater, and 800 linear feet of steel sheet pile and stepped concrete revetment. The steel sheet pile and stepped concrete revetment will only be used around the peninsula at 51st Street. Suitable existing materials would be salvaged to be included in the revetment throughout the reach.

The project would modify the shoreline and fill approximately 7 acres of Lake Michigan to create usable parkland with headlands and land extension with approximately 310,000 cubic yards of clean fill below the Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM). The reconstruction of the revetment would provide a more stable and durable shoreline to withstand the coastal forces of Lake Michigan. Work would be conducted with heavy machinery on land and by barge on the lake.

The proposed undertaking is located in Sections 2 and 12, Township 39 North, Range 14 East, Cook County, Illinois (Figure 2). The APE for the undertaking encompasses the project area including staging, access, etc. and totals approximately 66 acres. USACE

believes that the APE is sufficient to identify and consider both direct and indirect effects of the proposed project.

USACE has conducted an archival review for the project study and APE. The Morgan Shoal reach of the Chicago shoreline consists entirely of post-1920 landfill, armored with a deteriorated limestone block revetment, originally installed in 1925 and topped with a concrete walkway between 1946 and 1949. Burnham Park, which includes Morgan Shoal, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and is part of the larger Historic Resources of the Chicago Park District Multiple Property Documentation Form. No other listed properties are located within the project APE. Although not listed on the NRHP, the remains of the Silver Spray shipwreck are located off the shore of Morgan Shoal. The Silver Spray, a 109-foot passenger steamer, ran aground the Morgan Shoal in July 1914, just off the shore of Hyde Park's 49<sup>th</sup> Street Beach. The shipwreck is outside the footprint of the proposed undertaking.

USACE requests your review and agreement with our determination of the APE and would like to solicit any additional comments regarding the proposed undertaking. If you have any questions or desire additional information, please contact the project archaeologist, Ms. Ashley Dailide, at [ashley.m.dailide@usace.army.mil](mailto:ashley.m.dailide@usace.army.mil) or (312) 846-5581. I may be contacted at [alex.r.hoxsie@usace.army.mil](mailto:alex.r.hoxsie@usace.army.mil) or (312) 846-5587.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alex Hoxsie".

Alex Hoxsie  
Chief, Environmental & Cultural Resources  
Chicago District

Enclosures

Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map

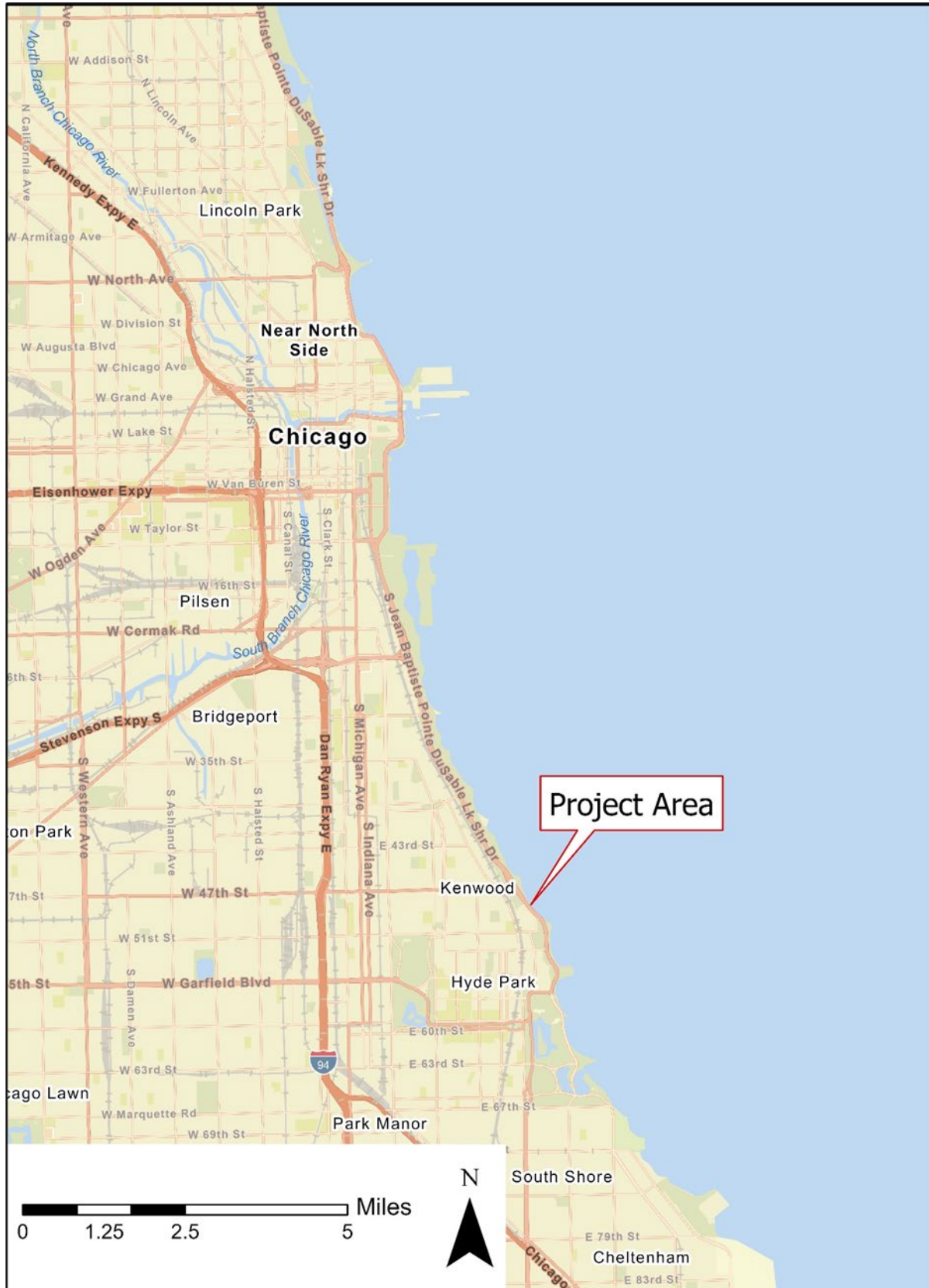


Figure 2. Proposed Project Rendering





Figure 3. Project APE Map

## Morgan Shoal Revetment Reconstruction APE







Illinois  
Department of  
**Natural  
Resources**

JB Pritzker, Governor • Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director  
One Natural Resources Way • Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271

[www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)

**Cook County**

**Chicago**

**Shoreline Revetment Reconstruction, Reach IV, Morgan Shoal**

**Lake Michigan Shoreline between 45th St. and 51st St. Part of Burnham Park**

**COEC,**

**SHPO Log #013102522**

**August 9, 2024**

**Alex Hoxsie**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District**

**231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500**

**Chicago, IL 60604**

**Dear Mr. Hoxsie:**

Thank you for your submission of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) and list of historic resources for the Morgan Shoal shoreline stabilization project (SHPO log # 013102522), which we received on 6/28/24. Our comments are required by Section 106 of the [National Historic Preservation Act of 1966](#), as amended, 54 U.S.C. § 306108, and its [implementing regulations](#) (36 CFR Part 800) (Act).

This office does not concur with the USACE's proposed APE, which includes only Morgan Shoal. The APE should also include Burnham Park, of which Morgan Shoal is a part.

We concur with the USACE that Burnham Park is eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and Morgan Shoal is a contributing resource within it.

We look forward to the next stage of the consultation process.

Sincerely,

**Carey L. Mayer, AIA**

**Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer**

**c: Mike Padilla, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District**

**Ashley Dailide, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District**



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, CHICAGO DISTRICT  
231 SOUTH LASALLE STREET, SUITE 1500  
CHICAGO IL 60604

February 26, 2025

Environmental & Cultural Resources Section  
Planning Branch

Ms. Carey Mayer  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Old State Capitol Building  
One Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield, IL 62701

SUBJECT: Morgan Shoal Revetment Repair Project APE Definition (SHPO Log: 013102522)

Dear Ms. Mayer:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is responding to your August 9, 2024, letter regarding the definition of the Morgan Shoal revetment repair area of potential effect (APE). This letter is a response to your office's (SHPO) proposal to expand the project APE to include all of Burnham Park as well as the potential eligibility of Morgan Shoal as a contributing resource.

USACE disagrees with the SHPO's proposal to expand the boundaries of the APE to include the entirety of Burnham Park. Burnham Park extends from the 14<sup>th</sup> St Beach south to 56<sup>th</sup> St, comprised of 658 acres in total. Morgan Shoal represents approximately 23 acres of Burnham Park, or 4% of the existing parkland (Figure 1). Given the linear nature of Burnham Park, the relatively limited geographic area and scale of the project, and the dynamic natural systems of the shoreline, USACE has revised its determination of the APE to expand the boundaries to allow a greater focus on the portions of Burnham Park closest to the northern and southern extents of the project area, as well as to encompass the parkland west of Lake Shore Drive, comprised of approximately 368 acres (Figure 2). Furthermore, upon reviewing maps of the historic shoreline, the redefined APE better reflects the temporal and spatial increment in which fill was imported and developed for the creation of parkland in the 1920s.

USACE would also like to clarify that at this time we have made no determinations of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility for Morgan Shoal or stated that Morgan Shoal is a contributing resource to the eligibility of Burnham Park as a whole. While Burnham Park has been listed in the Chicago Park District Multiple Property Documentation Form, no formal NRHP eligibility determination has been completed for the park, and it is beyond the scope of this project for USACE to complete this evaluation. USACE will evaluate the eligibility of Morgan Shoal as an individual element of Burnham Park to

determine if it retains significant integrity and meets the criteria for listing on the NRHP pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.4.

USACE requests your review and agreement with our revised determination of the APE and would like to solicit any additional comments regarding the proposed undertaking. If you have any questions or would like to set up a meeting to discuss this project, please contact the project archaeologist, Ms. Ashley Dailide, at [ashley.m.dailide@usace.army.mil](mailto:ashley.m.dailide@usace.army.mil) or (312) 846-5581. I may be contacted at [alex.r.hoxsie@usace.army.mil](mailto:alex.r.hoxsie@usace.army.mil) or (312) 846-5587.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Hoxsie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alex Hoxsie  
Chief, Environmental & Cultural Resources  
Chicago District

Enclosures

Figure 1. Burnham Park



Figure 2. Revised APE Map





Illinois  
Department of  
**Natural  
Resources**

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One Natural Resources Way • Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271

[www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)

**Cook County**

**Chicago**

**Shoreline Revetment Reconstruction, Reach IV, Morgan Shoal**

**Morgan Shoal, Lake Michigan Shoreline between 45th St. and 51st St. Contributing to Burnham Park**

**Historic Resources of the Chicago Park District MPS, approved by NPS 5/21/1990**

**SHPO Log #013102522**

**March 17, 2025**

**Ashley Dailide**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District**

**231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500**

**Chicago, IL 60604**

Thank you for your February 26, 2025 letter responding to SHPO's August 9, 2025 letter requesting an expanded Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the Morgan Shoal project. Based on guidance from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), SHPO requests the Corps revise the APE to consider the other types of direct effects of the undertaking, which may include 1) portions of Burnham Park where visual effects may be experienced and potentially affect the Burnham Park Historic District and 2) Promontory Point, where visual effects may also be experienced.

SHPO has determined that the project has the potential to introduce visual effects to the Burnham Park Historic District. If the Corps agrees to these revisions to the APE, we do not see a need to fully inventory the entirety of the District; however, we propose conducting a study of the resources in the direct project area (within a 500-foot radius) to identify contributing properties and assess visual effects.

We look forward to continued consultation about the revision of the APE and finding of effects. Please feel free to contact CJ Wallace, Cultural Resources Coordinator, at (217) 785-5027 or at [Carol.Wallace@Illinois.gov](mailto:Carol.Wallace@Illinois.gov).  
Sincerely,

**Carey L. Mayer, AIA**

**Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer**





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, CHICAGO DISTRICT  
231 SOUTH LASALLE STREET, SUITE 1500  
CHICAGO IL 60604

May 27, 2025

Environmental & Cultural Resources Section  
Planning Branch

Ms. Carey Mayer  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Old State Capitol Building  
One Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield, IL 62701

SUBJECT: Morgan Shoal Revetment Repair Project APE Definition (SHPO Log:  
013102522)

Dear Ms. Mayer:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is responding to your March 17, 2025, letter regarding the definition of the Morgan Shoal revetment repair area of potential effect (APE). Based on this communication and considering the guidance from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), USACE has redrawn the APE for the Morgan Shoal Project to include a minimum 500-ft buffer around the project's construction footprint, including potential staging and access areas (Figure 1).

USACE requests your review and agreement with our revised determination of the APE and would like to solicit any additional comments regarding the proposed undertaking. If you have any questions or would like to set up a meeting to discuss this project, please contact the project archaeologist, Ms. Ashley Dailide, at [ashley.m.dailide@usace.army.mil](mailto:ashley.m.dailide@usace.army.mil) or (312) 846-5581. I may be contacted at [alex.r.hoxsie@usace.army.mil](mailto:alex.r.hoxsie@usace.army.mil) or (312) 846-5587.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Hoxsie", is located below the "Sincerely," text.

Acting for:

Alex Hoxsie  
Chief, Environmental & Cultural Resources  
Chicago District

Enclosures

Figure 1. Revised APE Map

## Morgan Shoal Revetment Repair Project APE







**Cook County, Chicago**

**Shoreline Revetment Reconstruction, Reach IV, Morgan Shoal, Lake Michigan Shoreline between 45th St. and 51st St.**

**COEC, SHPO Log #013102522**

**June 30, 2025**

**Ashley Dailide**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604**

**Thank you for submitting the proposed Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the Chicago Shoreline Erosion Interim Project, located at Morgan Shoal, Lake Michigan Shoreline between 45th St. and 51st St., which we received on May 27, 2025. Our review is required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800: "Protection of Historic Properties."**

**Morgan Shoal contributes to Burnham Park, which is eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under the Historic Resources of the Chicago Park District Multiple Property Documentation, approved by the National Park Service on May 21, 1990.**

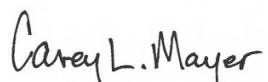
**Our March 18, 2025, letter suggested establishing a 500-foot boundary around Morgan Shoal for the Area of Potential Effect (APE). Upon further examination of the site and its surroundings, we believe that this undertaking should accommodate both the direct and indirect (i.e., visual) effects of the project to Morgan Shoal and to surrounding areas beyond our previously suggested 500-foot radius. The 500-foot buffer around the project's construction footprint, including potential staging and access areas, should be expanded to include South DuSable Lake Shore Drive as the western boundary, Promontory Point as the southern boundary, and Oakwood Beach, which is a part of Burnham Park, as the northern boundary. It is from these vantages that changes to Morgan Shoal would be visible.**

**We do not see the need to fully inventory all elements within the entirety of the potentially eligible Burnham Park Historic District. We propose acknowledging the potential effect to the historic district and then assessing historic resources starting with Oakwood Beach to the north and to Promontory Point to the south.**

**We look forward to receiving additional information regarding the determinations of eligibility on historic properties within the APE and effects to them.**

**If you have any further questions, please contact CJ Wallace, Cultural Resources Coordinator, at (217) 785-5027 or at [carol.wallace@illinois.gov](mailto:carol.wallace@illinois.gov).**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carey L. Mayer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Carey L. Mayer, AIA**  
**Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer**



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, CHICAGO DISTRICT  
231 SOUTH LASALLE STREET, SUITE 1500  
CHICAGO IL 60604

June 30, 2025

Environmental & Cultural Resources Section  
Planning Branch

Ms. Carey Mayer  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Old State Capitol Building  
One Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield, IL 62701

SUBJECT: Morgan Shoal Revetment Repair Project APE Definition (SHPO Log: 013102522)

Dear Ms. Mayer:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is responding to your June 30, 2025 letter regarding the definition of the Morgan Shoal revetment repair area of potential effect (APE). USACE has no objection to expanding the APE to include the suggested visual area as part of the indirect APE (Figure 1).

USACE requests your review and agreement with our revised determination of the APE and would like to solicit any additional comments regarding the proposed undertaking. If you have any questions or would like to set up a meeting to discuss this project, please contact the project archaeologist, Ms. Ashley Dailide, at [ashley.m.dailide@usace.army.mil](mailto:ashley.m.dailide@usace.army.mil) or (312) 846-5581. I may be contacted at [alex.r.hoxsie@usace.army.mil](mailto:alex.r.hoxsie@usace.army.mil) or (312) 846-5587.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by  
MILLER.ANDREW.JOSEPH.1619  
932885  
Date: 2025.06.30 20:59:11 -05'00'

Acting for:  
Alex Hoxsie  
Chief, Environmental & Cultural Resources  
Planning Branch

Enclosure





Illinois  
Department of  
**Natural  
Resources**

JB Pritzker, Governor • Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director  
One Natural Resources Way • Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271

[www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)

**Cook County**

**Chicago**

**Shoreline Revetment Reconstruction, Reach IV, Morgan Shoal**

**Morgan Shoal, Lake Michigan Shoreline between 45th St. and 51st St. Contributing to Burnham Park**

**Historic Resources of the Chicago Park District MPS, approved by NPS 5/21/1990**

**COEC, SHPO Log #013102522**

**July 1, 2025**

**Alex Hoxsie**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District**

**231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500**

**Chicago, IL 60604**

**Thank you for your June 30, 2025 letter regarding the revised determination of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) of the Morgan Shoal revetment repair. We agree with the revised determination of the APE. Please contact our office if you have questions and we look forward to continued consultation.**

**Sincerely,**

**Carey L. Mayer, AIA**

**Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer**

**c:**

**Mike Padilla, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District**

**Ashley Dailide, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District**

**Samantha Belcik, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District**

## Courtesy Letter

**From:** [Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Courtesy Email: Morgan Shoal Revetment Reconstruction Project and National Environmental Policy Act Implementation Status  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 4, 2025 5:18:46 PM

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Dear Recipient:

We are writing as a courtesy to provide you a status update on the Morgan Shoal Revetment Reconstruction project (the Project). The update includes information on environmental and historic coordination and information regarding recent updates and implementation guidance to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Chicago District has been preparing a NEPA document for the Project that details the impacts associated with proposed shoreline protection in the city of Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. The Project aims to address ongoing shoreline erosion and coastal storm damage that has affected parkland which threatens the stability of DuSable Lake Shore Drive and risks vehicular safety during storm events along the Morgan Shoal corridor (i.e., 45<sup>th</sup> – 51<sup>st</sup> Street).

### **Project status**

The following is the Project status related to NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (Section 106) processes:

- Based on the level of potential impacts, we are preparing a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA), which will conclude with either a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or a determination that an Environmental Impact Statement is needed.
- The draft SEA document is currently undergoing internal District and legal reviews.
- Once reviews are completed, the Draft SEA will be released for public review. A Public Notice will be published on USACE's website (<https://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/News/Project-Documents-Notices-Public-Review/Category/24681/chicago/>) and stakeholders on the Project distribution list will receive a Notice of Availability (NOA) email. Documents for public review will also be posted to the USACE, Chicago Park District (CPD), Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) and Public Building Commission of Chicago (PBC) websites.
- We anticipate the public review to begin summer 2025.
- During the public review period, we will hold a public meeting.
  - This will give stakeholders an opportunity to provide comments about potential impacts from the proposed Project.
  - The public meeting will occur at the midpoint of the 45-day public review period.
- Section 106 consultation is currently ongoing:
  - We have been coordinating with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to define the Project area of potential effect.
  - Public outreach for Section 106 will be coordinated under NEPA during the public review period, to provide the public an opportunity to provide input for USACE to

consider during the decision-making process.

- Following the public review period, we will consider any potential impacts to historic properties and submit our findings and determination of effect to the SHPO.

## **NEPA implementation Update**

NEPA mandates that federal agencies assess the environmental impacts of their proposed actions before making decisions. It is procedural, not substantive—it doesn't mandate decisions, but it ensures informed decision-making. NEPA is often called an 'umbrella law' as it provides a framework within which all other environmental, historic, and cultural resources laws can be evaluated.

Recent updates have been made regarding implementing NEPA under the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). These changes aim to modernize and clarify aspects of the environmental review process, with a focus on improving efficiency, transparency, and public participation. As such, the CEQ issued an interim final rule to remove the existing implementing regulation for the NEPA of 1969, 42 United States Code (USC) 4321 et seq., as amended in response to Executive Order (EO) 14154 *Unleashing American Energy*. Therefore, the CEQ's action removes all iterations of its NEPA implementing regulations (including 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) parts 1500 – 1508). Additionally, recent EOs have revoked various previous EOs that focused on climate change and environmental justice considerations under NEPA. To date, there have been no recent EOs that have impacted the implementation of the NHPA.

We want to reaffirm that NEPA has not been repealed, as that requires an act of Congress, and want to reassure you that the core principles of NEPA remain firmly in place.

These include:

- A strong commitment to environmental stewardship
- Public involvement and community input
- Consideration of alternatives and potential environmental impacts
- Informed decision-making by federal agencies

For the preparation of the Project's draft SEA, USACE Chicago District, is following NEPA 42 USC 4321 et seq., the Fiscal Responsibility Act 42 USC 4331 et seq., and the USACE NEPA implementing regulations 33 CFR Part 230. We will continue to follow NEPA's requirements and will implement any new provisions in a manner consistent with our ongoing commitment to meaningful public engagement and environmental responsibility.

We remain committed to transparency as we continue through the NEPA process and want to remind you all that an opportunity for public engagement will occur during the public review period with the release of the public notice. The public can engage in the NEPA process by submitting comments that identify environmental issues, concerns, or alternatives to



consider. Comments pertaining to the Section 106 affects determination would also be received during the public review period.

Please feel free to forward onto additional interested parties that wish to be added to the public notice distribution list and please notify me with any questions at [Samantha.d.belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.d.belcik@usace.army.mil).

Please visit USACE's Project website at <https://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects/Article/4112328/morgan-shoal/> or the Public Building Commission of Chicago (PBC) website at <https://www.pbcchicago.com/projects/morgan-shoal-project/> for updates.

Thank you,

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
Chicago District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604

## **FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Senator Tammy Duckworth  
U.S. Senate  
230 S. Dearborn Street  
Suite 3900  
Chicago, IL 60604

Senator Dick Durbin  
U.S. Senate  
230 S. Dearborn St., Suite 3892  
Chicago, IL 60604

Representative Robin Kelly  
U.S. House of Representatives  
9204 S. Commercial Ave  
Suite 415  
Chicago, IL 60617

## **STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Governor JB Pritzker  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Senator Robert Peters  
Illinois Senate District 13  
1509 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Chicago, IL 60615

Representative Curtis Tarver II  
Illinois House of Representatives District 25  
1303 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Chicago, IL 60615

## **LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Mayor Brandon Johnson  
Office of the Mayor  
121 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago City Hall  
Chicago, IL 60602

Ms. Toni Preckwinkle  
Cook County Board of Commissioners  
County Board President  
118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL 60602

Mr. Bill Lowry  
Cook County Board of Commissioners  
District 3  
118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL 60602

Alderman Desmon Yancy  
5<sup>th</sup> Ward  
City of Chicago  
2230 E. 71<sup>st</sup> Street  
Chicago, IL 60649

Alderman Lamont Robinson  
4<sup>th</sup> Ward  
City of Chicago  
928 East 43<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Chicago, IL 60653

## **FEDERAL AGENCIES**

Mr. Shawn Cirton  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Chicago Ecological Services Office  
230 South Dearborn Street, Suite 2938  
Chicago, IL 60604

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5

Ms. Deb Bartell  
Chicago Airport District Office  
Federal Aviation Administration  
2300 E. Devon Avenue  
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Mr. Scott Beckerman  
APHIS Wildlife Services  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
3430 Constitution Drive, Suite 121  
Springfield, IL 62711

Mr. Greg Rentschler  
APHIS Wildlife Services  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
3430 Constitution Drive, Suite 121  
Springfield, IL 62711

## **STATE AGENCIES**

Mr. Eric Otto  
IDNR Coastal Management Program  
160 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 703  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Ms. Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
One Natural Resource Way  
Springfield, IL 62702-1271

## Courtesy Letter June 4, 2025 – Distribution List

Mr. Bradley Hayes, Interagency Review  
Environmental Planning  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
One Natural Resource Way  
Springfield, IL 62702-1271

Ms. C.J. Wallace, Cultural Resources  
Coordinator  
Illinois State Historic Preservation Office  
Old State Capitol Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
One Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield, IL 62701

Mr. Anthony Rubano  
Illinois State Historic Preservation Office  
Old State Capitol Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
One Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield, IL 62701

Mr. James Casey  
Office of Water Resources  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
160 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, IL 60601

Mr. Stephen Altman  
Division of Water Resource Management  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
One Natural Resources Way, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62702

Mr. Bill Boyd  
Northeastern Illinois Regulatory Programs  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
160 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, IL 60601

Mr. Darren Gove  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
1021 North Grand Ave. East  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

Dr. Philip Willink  
Illinois Natural History Survey  
1816 South Oak Street  
Champaign, IL 61820

### LOCAL AGENCIES

Mr. Kerl LaJeune  
Public Building Commission of Chicago  
City of Chicago  
50 West Washington Street  
Chicago, IL 60602

Mr. Vasile Jurca  
Chicago Department of Transportation  
City of Chicago  
2 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, IL 60602

Mr. Matthew Santaga  
Chicago Park District  
City of Chicago  
4830 South Western Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60609

Chicago Public Library  
Blackstone Branch  
4904 South Lake Park Avenue  
Chicago IL, 60615

### LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Ms. Betsy Mensah  
Advocates for Morgan Shoal

Dr. Heather Dalmage  
Advocates for Morgan Shoal

Ms. Joy Clendenning  
Advocates for Morgan Shoal

Ms. Karen Reyes  
Advocates for Morgan Shoal

Ms. Huu Ngyuen  
Advocates for Morgan Shoal

Mr. Matt Altstiel  
Alliance for the Great Lakes  
150 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 750  
Chicago, IL 60601

Mr. Tom Fazzini  
Alliance for the Great Lakes  
150 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 760  
Chicago, IL 60601

Ms. Judith Pollock  
Chicago Bird Alliance  
5801-C North Pulaski  
Chicago, IL 60646

Dr. Gerald Thomas  
Chicago Maritime Museum  
1200 West 35<sup>th</sup> Street, River Level  
Chicago, IL 60609

## Courtesy Letter June 4, 2025 – Distribution List

Mr. Brian Gladstein  
Friends of the Parks  
67 East Madison, Suite 1817  
Chicago, IL 60603

Ms. Eгна Setiawan  
Friends of the Parks  
67 East Madison, Suite 1817  
Chicago, IL 60603

Mr. William Swislow  
Lakefront Anonymous  
Interesting Ideas

Mr. Wallace Goode, Jr.  
Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce  
1525 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Chicago, IL 60615

Mr. Ward Miller  
Preservation Chicago  
The Williams Building  
205 West Monroe Street, Suite 400  
Chicago, IL 60606

Mr. Adam Natenshon  
Preservation Chicago  
The Williams Building  
205 West Monroe Street, Suite 400  
Chicago, IL 60606

Mr. Jack Spicer  
Promontory Point Conservancy

Ms. Debra Hammond  
Promontory Point Conservancy

Dr. Austin Happel  
Daniel P. Haerther Center for Conservation and  
Research  
John. G. Shedd Aquarium  
1200 South DuSable Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, IL 60605

Mr. Scott Reimer  
Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago  
P.O. Box 11752  
Chicago, IL 60611

Ms. Pam Nelson  
Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago  
P.O. Box 11752  
Chicago, IL 60611

## INTERESTED PARTIES

Ms. Abby

Ms. Amanda Englert

Ms. Angela McLemore

Ms. Anita Lathrop

Mr. Ben Roitman

Ms. Beth Sampson

Mr. Bill Stamets

Mr. Bob Kass

Ms. Brenda Nelms

Mr. Charles Kyle

Ms. Christine Vollmer

Ms. Daniella Pereira

Mr. Darryl Holiday

Ms. DD Klionsky

Ms. Debora Hass

Mr. Greg Lane

Mr. Isaac Stanley

Mr. Isaac Tobin

Ms. Jean Robbins

Mr. John Robbins

Mr. Jonathan

Mr. Jordy Breslau

Mr. Juan Vazquez

Ms. Kara Scott

Ms. Kelly Friedl

Ms. Kerry Bradford

Ms. Kristy Ulric-Papczun

## Courtesy Letter June 4, 2025 – Distribution List

Ms. Laura Letinsky

Ms. Laura Voss-Allen

Mr. Lionel Lugo

Ms. Louise McCurry

Mr. Marc Lipinski

Mr. Maurice Williams

Ms. Maya Andelson

Mr. Michael Cotton

Mr. Michael Rachlis

Mr. Michael Scott

Mr. Mike Grosse

Mr. Mike Lipinski

Ms. Milla Lubis

Mr. Patrick Papczun

Mr. Pierre Wagenseil

Mr. Raul Sobrero

Ms. Roberta Trotter

Ms. Rosa

Ms. Ruby Bradford

Ms. Sharla Paul

Ms. Steph

Ms. Susan Rosenberg

Ms. Tchiya ElMaat

Mr. Timothy Campbell

Mr. Tom Gerschick

Ms. Umnia Khan

Mr. Vance Wheeler

Mr. Vince Salette

**From:** [Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [Betsy Mensah](#)  
**Cc:** [advocatesformorganshoal@gmail.com](mailto:advocatesformorganshoal@gmail.com); [Jack Spicer](#); [Debra Hammond](#); [ward05@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ward05@cityofchicago.org)  
**Subject:** RE: Courtesy Email: Morgan Shoal Revetment Reconstruction Project and National Environmental Policy Act Implementation Status  
**Date:** Monday, June 16, 2025 2:58:00 PM

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Betsy,

Thank you for reaching out, these are excellent questions. Please see my responses below.

- *What are the **specific dates** of the 45-day review period? I have not seen an announcement of this as yet. Or does it begin after the draft SEA is approved? I learned that you are holding a meeting June 24 - is this the one mentioned in your letter as being **at the midpoint** of the review period?*
  - We do not have specific dates for the public review period yet as the Draft SEA is currently in legal review. USACE will release the document for the 45-day public review period after legal review is complete. It's coming soon though, and those who received the courtesy letter are also on the distribution list for the Notice of Availability (NOA) letter. The date that the NOA letter is sent will be the start date for the 45-day public review period. The June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting is not the formal NEPA public review meeting. PBC is the lead for the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting to provide an update regarding project status. I plan to attend that meeting though. USACE will hold a NEPA public meeting at the midpoint of the review period.
- *You note that stakeholders are invited to submit comments and alternatives during the public review period. **Where are they to be submitted?** And who/how will receive the invitation to do so? "The public can engage in the NEPA process by submitting comments that identify environmental issues, concerns, or alternatives to consider. Comments pertaining to the Section 106 affects determination would also be received during the public review period."*
  - Typically, USACE receives comments through email or at the district office. The NOA letter will provide the specific information and instructions about how to submit comments. If you have additional ideas for an equitable and easy comment submittal process, please feel free to share and we will consider them for the NOA letter. Agencies, organizations, and stakeholders that received the courtesy letter via email are also on the distribution list for the NOA letter. If you know of individuals or additional organizations that may be interested in being added to the distribution list, you are welcome to forward the courtesy letter. USACE will email the distribution list with the NOA letter.
- *Additionally, I seek clarification on the forum for comments and alternatives that are*

*submitted (to whom?) during the 45-day review period. **Will submitted comments be available for public review, and where? When does this process begin?***

- During the 45-day public review period, USACE would receive the comments, as described above. All comments received will be considered and retained. All relevant comments will be responded to in the final NEPA main document and/or in the coordination appendix. There is not a separate public review period in which submitted comments could be reviewed. The submitted comments can be viewed as part of the final NEPA document packet after signature.
- *I am also curious about who is involved in the SEA you are doing, which will result in either a finding of "no significant impact" or an Environmental Impact Study being needed. We want more information on how exhaustive the research you are doing is. **Who makes the decision on going forward with either a FONSI or need for an EIS?***
  - The Draft SEA document will describe the level of analysis undertaken in completing USACE's impact analysis. While I am the main point of contact for the document, the document is being prepared by a multidisciplinary team of experts and being exposed to multiple levels of vertical review. Additionally, public comments and resource agency coordination are key to the NEPA process. Agency coordination is ongoing, and the opportunity for public engagement will occur with the release of the NOA letter starting the public review period. We encourage the public to review the NEPA document and provide any comments. The USACE Chicago District Colonel is the agency decision maker as the signatory for the document as to whether the document results in a FONSI or if an EIS is needed.

Thank you again for your continued interest in this project and let me know if you have any additional follow up questions.

Thanks,  
Sam

Samantha Belcik  
Biologist and Planner  
Chicago District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Office: 312-846-5467  
Cell: 312-718-5428

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**From:** Betsy Mensah [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2025 12:34 PM  
**To:** Belcik, Samantha D CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Samantha.D.Belcik@usace.army.mil>  
**Cc:** advocatesformorganshoal@gmail.com; Jack Spicer [REDACTED]; Debra Hammond [REDACTED] >; ward05@cityofchicago.org  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: Courtesy Email: Morgan Shoal Revetment Reconstruction Project and National Environmental Policy Act Implementation Status

Dear Ms. Belcik,

Thank you for this update, sent June 4, 2025, on the Morgan Shoal Reconstruction Project.

A few quick questions:

- What are the **specific dates** of the 45-day review period? I have not seen an announcement of this as yet. Or does it begin after the draft SEA is approved? I learned that you are holding a meeting June 24 - is this the one mentioned in your letter as being **at the midpoint** of the review period?

- You note that stakeholders are invited to submit comments and alternatives during the public review period. **Where are they to be submitted?** And who/how will receive the invitation to do so?

*"The public can engage in the NEPA process by submitting comments that identify environmental issues, concerns, or alternatives to consider. Comments pertaining to the Section 106 affects determination would also be received during the public review period."*

- Additionally, I seek clarification on the forum for comments and alternatives that are submitted (to whom?) during the 45-day review period. **Will submitted comments be available for public review, and where?** When does this process begin?
- I am also curious about who is involved in the SEA you are doing, which will result in either a finding of "no significant impact" or an Environmental Impact Study being needed. We want more information on how exhaustive the research you are doing is. **Who makes the decision on going forward with either a FONSI or need for an EIS?**

Thank you for your update. I hope to receive a reply to these queries as soon as possible.



Sincerely,

Betsy Mensah, PT, MEd  
and the Advocates for Morgan Shoal