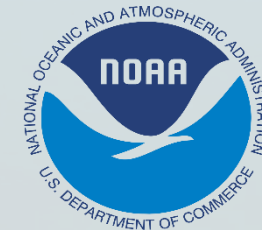


# South Shore Community Resilience Plan

## Illinois Coastal Management Program

Tara Jagadeesh  
*Coastal Specialist – Water Resources Program Lead*

*March 14, 2023*



# Illinois Coastal Management Program



## Our mission:

Protect and enhance the environmental, economic, and social value of Illinois' Great Lakes coastal region

## We accomplish this by:

- Providing technical assistance to communities
- Providing pass-through funding to local organizations
- Facilitating interagency coordination



# The Illinois Coastal Zone



# Our Program Areas

**Habitat**



**Recreation**



**Coastal  
resiliency**



**Water  
resources**



**Economic  
development**



# Our Program Areas

Habitat



Recreation



Coastal  
resiliency



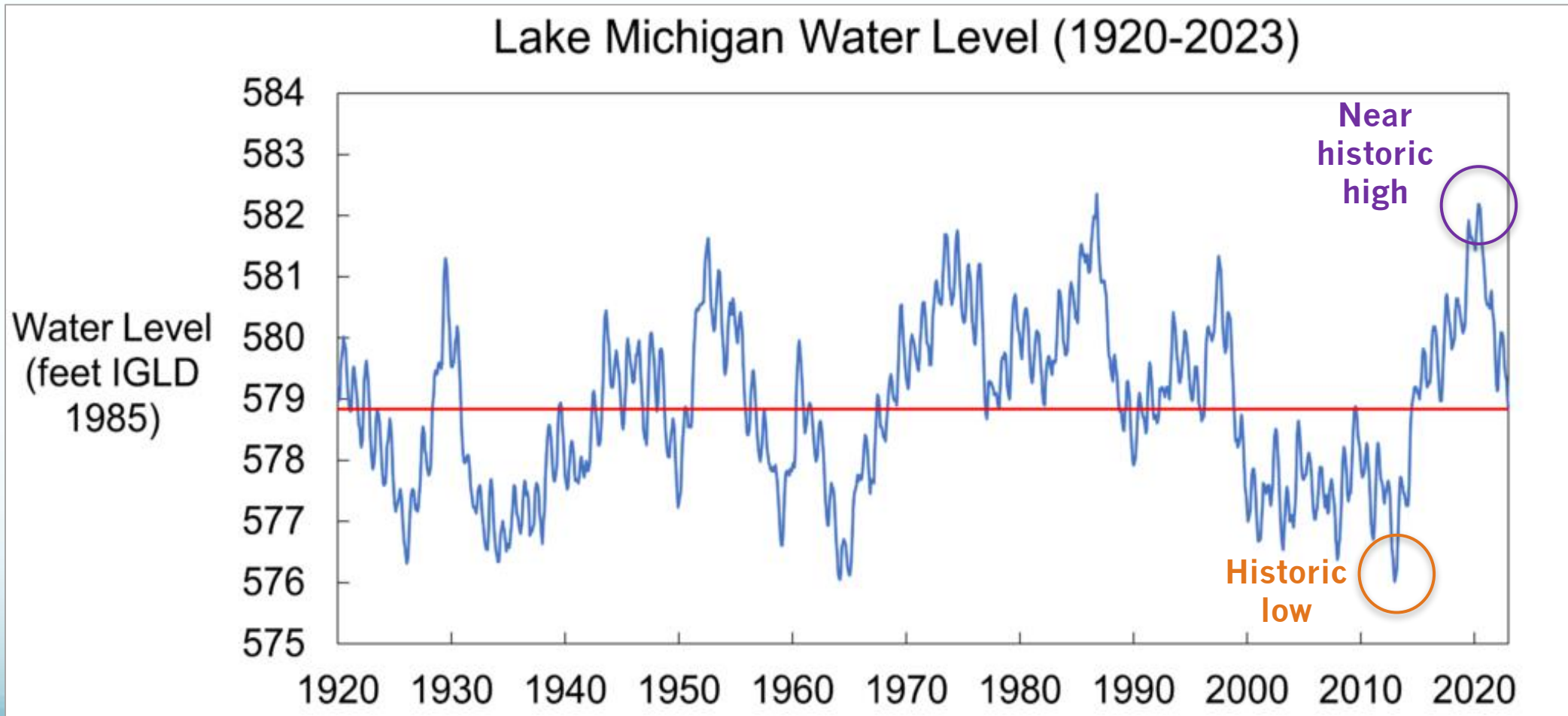
Water  
resources



Economic  
development



# Illinois Coastal Threats



# Illinois Coastal Threats

41<sup>st</sup> St. Beach waves

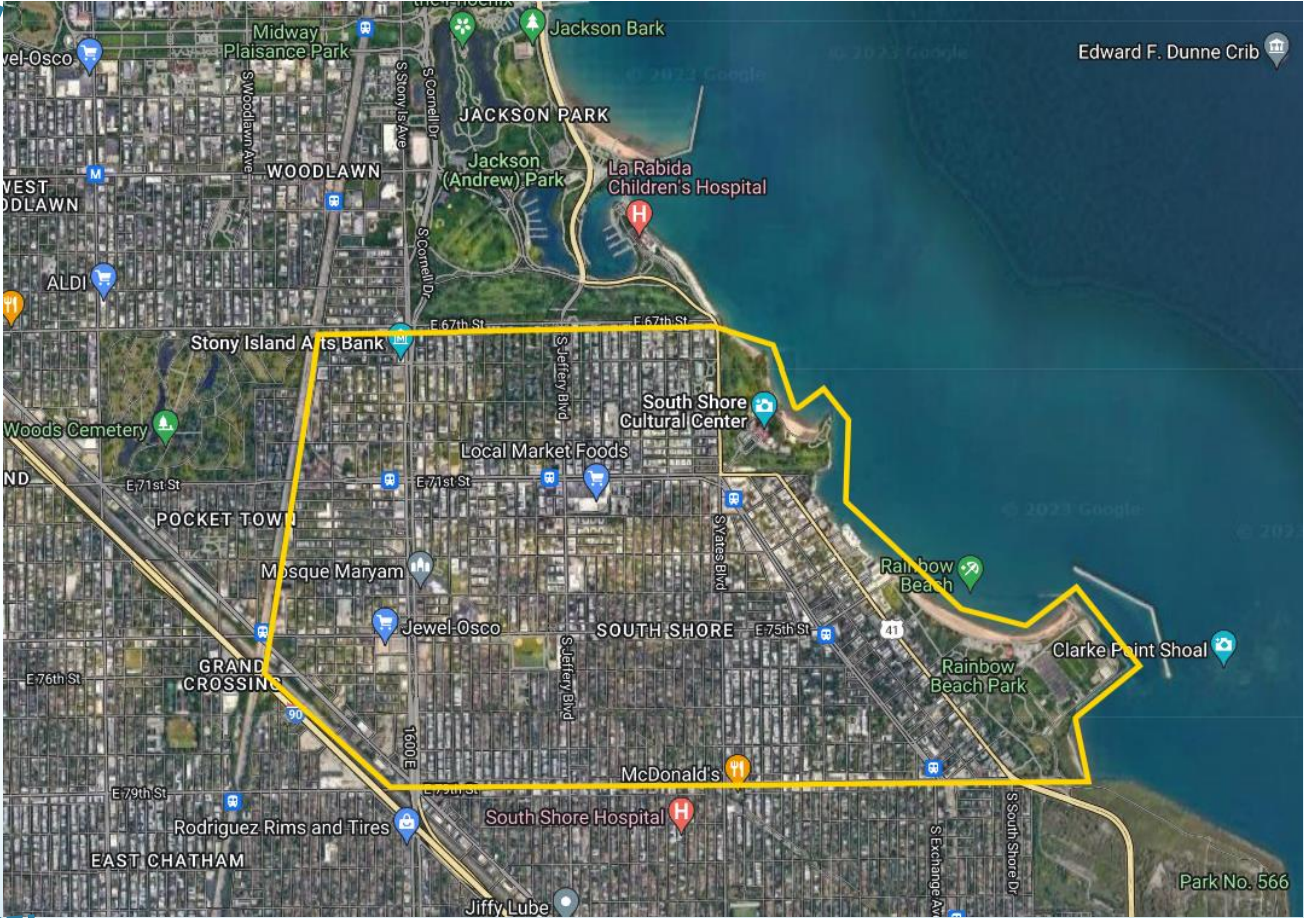
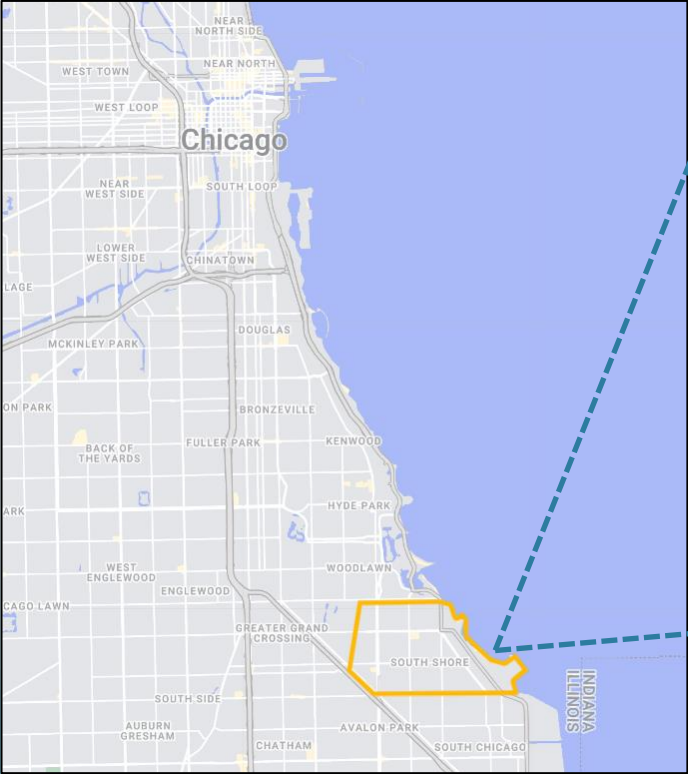


Rosewood Beach erosion

Illinois Beach State Park shoreline recession



# Chicago South Shore







PRIVATE PROPERTY  
NO SOLICITING  
LOITERING  
TRESPASSING

Chicago Tribune, 2021









ONE WAY  
←

# Chicago South Shore Community



# Illinois CMP involvement

A person wearing a blue shirt, white cap, and a life vest is wading in shallow water, operating a red and yellow kayak. The kayak is equipped with a sensor or data collection device. In the background, there is a concrete pier with a black metal fence and a body of water under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

## Actions we took:

1. Connected community representatives with municipal staff to apply for BRIC funding
2. Expanded our ongoing beach surveys to collect shoreline data in 2021
3. Provided a grant to Delta Institute to develop a South Shore Community Resilience Plan

# South Shore Community Resilience Plan



A community-driven plan to reduce shoreline erosion and flooding in the South Shore.

- Assessment of existing conditions
- Identification of shoreline management solutions
- Identification of models for funding and financing





# South Shore Community Resilience Plan



**Goal 1:** Reduce shoreline erosion, flooding, and residential property damage in the South Shore neighborhood



Identify stakeholder-driven strategies, priorities, project concepts, and investment models for increasing resiliency in South Shore



# South Shore Community Resilience Plan



**Goal 2:** Promote transferrable, **community-driven** resiliency planning within the Illinois coastal region



Coordinate and facilitate a **respectful and inclusive resiliency planning** process with residents and stakeholders of South Shore



# Project Activities

## Literature Review

South Shore Corridor Study, South Lakefront Framework Plan, Lake Michigan High Water Level Shoreline Assessment, Shoreline Reconstruction Plan for Chicago, The Last 4 Miles, City of Chicago Capital Improvement Plan (2021-2025)

## Coordination with:

- USACE General Shoreline Re-evaluation Report
- USACE Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study

## Stakeholder engagement

- Stakeholder identification (**January 2023**)
- Stakeholder interviews (**February 2023**)
- Online Survey
- Public workshops
- Final community presentation and feedback session

# Targeted Project Stakeholders

- South Shore residents, community groups, and businesses
- South Shore property owners and management companies
- Special Service Areas 42, 49 & 50
- Alderman offices (Wards 5, 7 & 8)
- Chicago Park District
- Chicago Housing Authority
- City of Chicago – Department of Transportation
- City of Chicago – Department of Planning & Development
- CMAP
- State representatives and senators
- Federal Emergency Management Administration
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Environmental NGOs
- Real estate developers

# Initial Findings



- Climate change is creating **dramatic fluctuations** in surface water levels along the shoreline, from historic highs to lows
- **Decades of erosion and flooding** have damaged private and public property in South Shore, and residents have **privately funded repairs and construction** of new shoreline protection structures
- South Shore residents express frustration with the City's approach to maintenance of shoreline protection structures and have **organized advocacy groups** to address problems

# Initial Findings



- **Major federally-funded studies, investments and proposals** (from FEMA, USACE, and USDOT) represent opportunities to identify impact projects along the shoreline for reducing erosion and flooding
- City of Chicago has **prioritized reinvestment** within the South Shore neighborhood, and over the next decade, will be supporting **major infrastructure upgrades** and **redevelopment projects**
- Need for **establishing consensus** around what shoreline restoration work looks like within the South Shore, and how to balance goals around **property protection, public access and potential habitat restoration**
- Need for trust building with the South Shore community

# Final Thoughts



*Chicago South Lakefront Framework Plan*

# Thank You!

For questions or  
interest in engagement,  
please contact:



**Tara Jagadeesh**

Coastal Specialist

IDNR Coastal Management Program

Prairie Research Institute

[tara.jagadeesh@illinois.gov](mailto:tara.jagadeesh@illinois.gov)



**Malcolm Mossman, AICP**

Senior Specialist, Programs

Delta Institute

312-554-0900 (ext. 47)

[mmossman@delta-institute.org](mailto:mmossman@delta-institute.org)