

NORTH LAKEFRONT

Citywide Connections

The *City of Chicago Citywide Retail Market Analysis*, conducted in 2013, explored the retail inventory of sixteen communities, including North Lakefront. The study identified a gap of approximately \$872.5M across retail, food, and drink. Such data can strengthen planning efforts along North Lakefront’s commercial corridors, such as Howard and Clark Streets and Morse Avenue.

The *Chicago Cultural Plan* provides a roadmap for areas like North Lakefront to embrace its diversity through cultural events, street fairs and community identifiers as has begun with “Asia on Argyle.”

The *Metra Typologies Study* outlines strategies for improving the quality and accessibility of both Metra and CTA stations throughout the city. The plan designates the stations located in North Lakefront as either Major Activity Center, Local Activity Center, Dense Urban Neighborhood, or Urban Neighborhood. Each typology has existing conditions that call for new transit and streetscape elements to be implemented, collectively creating tailored community and economic development opportunities for North Lakefront. Similarly, the *Transit Friendly Development Guide* applies typologies to the North Lakefront submarket. Each of these plans can inform future transit development as well as commercial and residential decisions.

The *Chicago Pedestrian Plan* provides further recommendations for increasing accessibility in communities. The plan can be used in North Lakefront by implementing strategies that encourage safe, pedestrian friendly corridors. Additional transportation suggestions, especially in regards to building a greener transit system, can be found in *Chicago Forward*, released in 2012 on behalf of the Chicago Department of Transportation.

Citywide planning efforts also support stabilizing neighborhoods in the North Lakefront submarket. For example, *Plan Forward* was released by the Chicago Housing Authority in 2013 as a plan to improve the housing opportunities and services for Chicago residents and an internal focus of improving the overall efficiency of CHA. *Plan Forward* integrates environmental sustainability as a primary goal and provides the Kenmore, a senior residential property in North Lakefront, as an example of green renovations occurring across the city. Most importantly, *Plan Forward* expresses the CHA’s dedication to quality affordable housing across the city, with a stated goal of increasing public housing units in profitable housing markets, of which North Lakefront is a prime candidate. Additionally, *Bouncing Back: Five Year Housing Plan*, a more recent plan released by the City’s Dept. of Planning and Development in 2014, acknowledges the work of Chicago Neighborhoods 2015 and the need to tailor strategies based on local markets and needs.

Beyond being a home to people, North Lakefront is also home to much of Chicago’s wildlife. The area hosts the Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary, which is surrounded by beachfronts and park space, all of which is prioritized for preservation and conservation within the 2006 *Chicago Nature and Wildlife Plan*.