



chicago park district

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PC# 249

October 8, 2009

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CLERK'S OFFICE

OCT 13 2009

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

John Therriault, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

RE: Rule Making R08-009

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

On behalf of the Chicago Park District, I am writing to express support for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's proposal for new water quality standards for the Chicago Area Waterways.

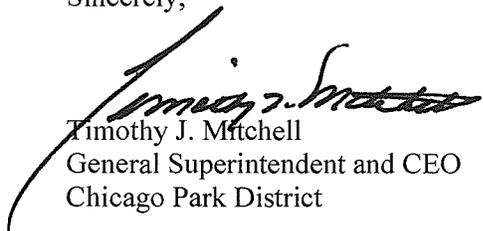
As one of the primary providers of recreational opportunities on the Chicago Area Waterways, the Chicago Park District has a strong interest in continued improvements to water quality in the river system.

The Chicago Park District manages over 300 acres of parkland along the Chicago River. Our riverfront parks contain five canoe launches, one motorized boat ramp and several miles of jogging and bicycle paths. There are three parks with official fishing stations, and informal fishing occurs in several others as well. Our concession program features a canoe and kayak rental facility in Richard Clark Park on the North Branch, and our Nature Oasis program offers guided paddling tours of the river system for Chicago families.

We also have over 37 acres of natural areas along the river system that provide habitat for wildlife and opportunities for Chicago residents to enjoy nature in the city. We have plans to develop additional parkland along the river system in the coming years, with additional access for paddling, rowing, fishing and biking along the river.

We commend the Illinois EPA for its efforts to protect the people and wildlife that use the river system, and to continue to make improvements in river water quality.

Sincerely,


Timothy J. Mitchell
General Superintendent and CEO
Chicago Park District

CHICAGO
PARK
DISTRICT
**come out
and play**