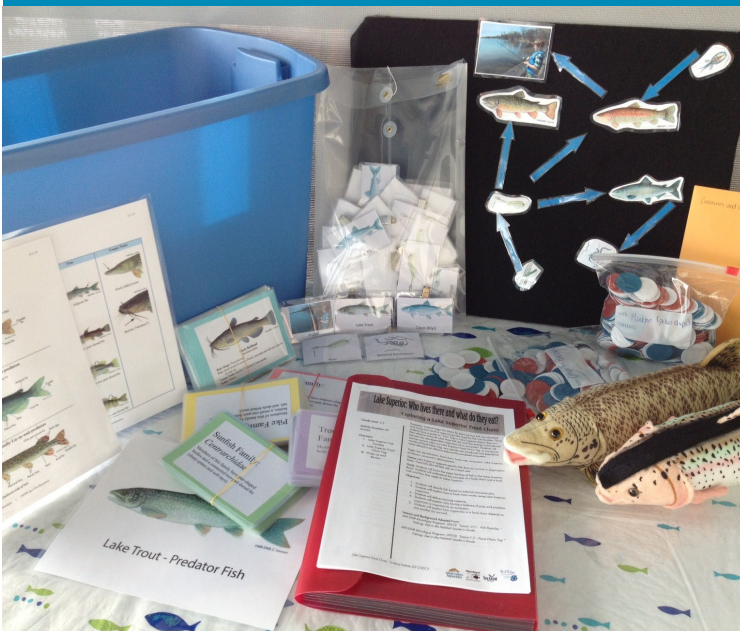




Prospectus for Illinois Coastal Education Center

Harley Clarke Facility
Evanston, Illinois



Illinois Coastal Education Center

Harley Clarke House

- Historic mansion constructed in 1927
- Located in Evanston, Illinois
- Owned by the City of Evanston
- Designed by Chicago architect Richard Powers; grounds designed by noted landscape architect Jens Jensen
- Evanston Historic Landmark status in 1978

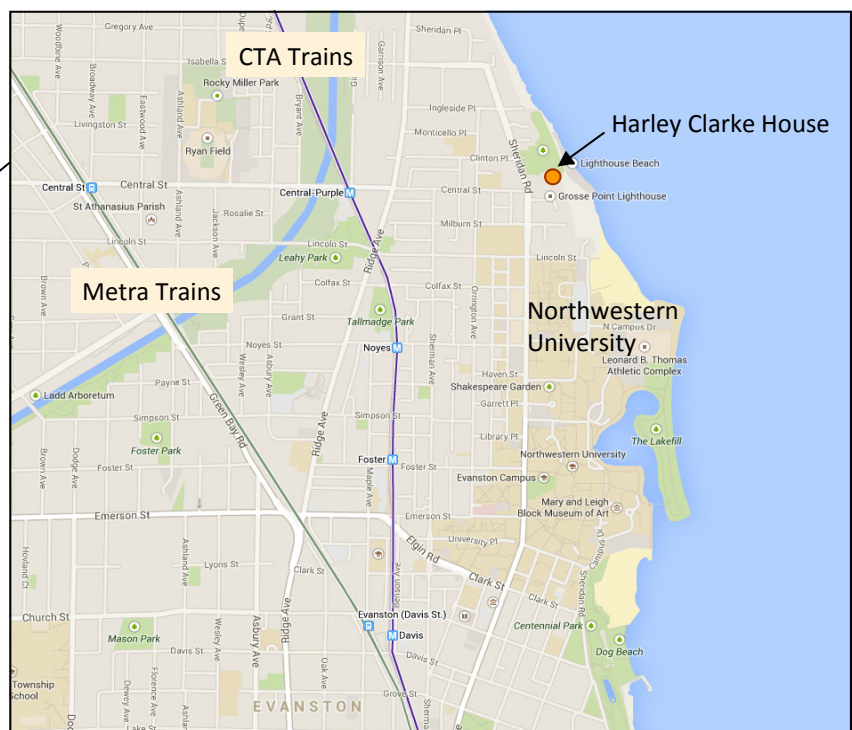
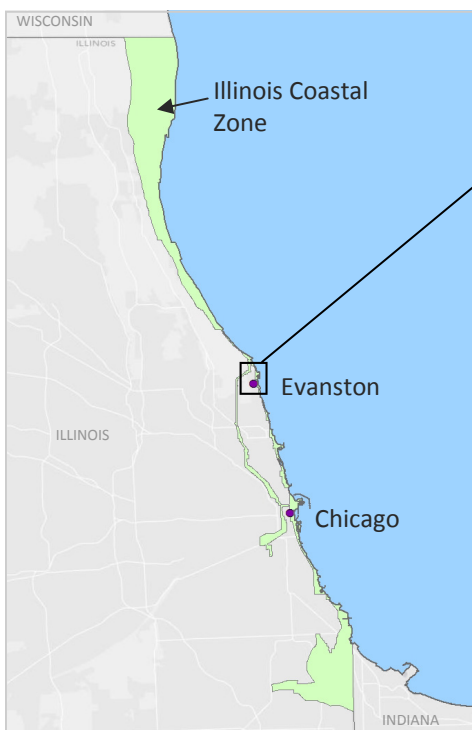


Facility Details

- Three story structure (18,500 square feet)
- Next to historic Grosse Point Lighthouse
- Adjacent to Lake Michigan and coastal habitat
- Located along Lake Michigan water trail
- Facility use is consistent with goals of Evanston Lakefront Master Plan
- Parking lot accommodates 40 vehicles
- Parking lot used by visitors to the beach and lighthouse
- Close to mass transit - 0.5 mile to Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) trains; 1 mile to Metra trains
- Close to Northwestern University

Facility Opportunities

- Develop Lake Michigan Coastal Education Center open to the public
- Establish “Coastal Science classroom” for regional schools
- Centralize IDNR staff from a variety of divisions to provide a service center for the local communities
- Maintain a regional public meeting space
- Restore and manage natural habitats on the property
- Support lake and resource based concessions and rentals (e.g. kayaks, tours)
- Host coastal and landscape restoration opportunities for volunteering
- Offer hands-on workshops and training on relevant resource issues (e.g. native gardens, stormwater management)



Illinois Coastal Education Center Prospectus

Harley Clarke Facility, Evanston

Goal: The goal of the Illinois Coastal Education Center is to provide an interactive, centrally located educational facility for visitors of all ages to learn about the Illinois coast, Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes. The lakefront location will support connected and complementary indoor and outdoor programming and learning experiences, using both new technologies, and tried and true methods to reach the broadest audience. The programming will be aimed at working with and being complementary to other regional, nature-based education programs. The center will also provide a platform for key partners to amplify their programs and messages cohesively in the context of the Illinois Coastal Program focus areas.

Audience: The Illinois Coastal Education Center will provide learning opportunities for all ages, and will work with regional education programs and experts to identify potential audience gaps that can be addressed. The facility layout allows for age-targeted sections to provide easy focus for visitors. Target age levels/audiences include: early childhood (pre-k to 3rd grade), Middle School, High School, and adult learners, including college students, coastal landowners, naturalists and other coastal residents and visitors.

Potential Partners: NOAA, USEPA, USGS, USACE, Northwestern University, Alliance for the Great Lakes; City of Evanston, Loyola University, IEPA, Coast Guard, Underwater Archaeological Society, community educational programs, local schools, Chicago Wilderness,

Staffing Needs: Illinois Coastal Program staff will have offices at the facility and can provide staffing as needed. At least one full-time staff will be needed to build and coordinate programming and outreach to start. Additional staff may be needed as the program matures, to assure sufficient reach to the dense surrounding population. In addition, education staff will need to work with the interpretive staff at Illinois Beach State Park and William Powers State Recreation Area – the two state parks in the coastal area – to cross-promote learning and recreational opportunities, and share strategies, messaging, and interpretive materials. The three facilities can rotate displays to provide opportunities to visitors who may only visit the closest location.

Possible Display ideas and learning tools:

Tanks with native lake fish showing a healthy lake ecosystem (including invertebrates, plants, etc), and tanks with invasive species showing degraded habitat and lower diversity. Include videos of underwater habitats, fish, plankton, cladophora, to emphasize difference between native and invasive dominated lake ecosystem

Emerging Issues – microplastics, new contaminants, climate change effects, etc.

Interactive aquatic food web model – simplified food web presented and visitors can remove or add components and see the results of the change in population, composition, etc.

What does the lake do for us? Opportunity to highlight ecosystem services that go unnoticed.

Is our beach healthy? Show impacts of various influences on beaches, including seagulls, garbage, geese, rainwater, pet waste, native plants, etc.

Can we eat the fish? Show why there are some problems with consumption of some fish species and what causes the problems, And what are we doing to improve the situation and keep people safe and healthy.

Habitat spotlight – Ravines – What are they; why are they important; how to spot problems; how to fix problems; where to go to see them.

Our living coast – sand and sediment transport, erosion, deposition. Natural process and how we have impacted it. Sand transport model, like river table, but coastal. Showing sand movement and people can add structures and change waves to change sand movement,

Climate change effects on the coast – Superstorm Sandy; high or low water levels, seiches, etc.

Birds, migration corridor, habitat we have and what birds need.

Coastal visualization tools such as: water level changes on coast; erosion/accretion models; shoreline change over time, etc.

Coastal geology – what was here in the past; what depositional layers exist; what geology means to coastal uses, development; protection of coastal aquatic and terrestrial habitats,

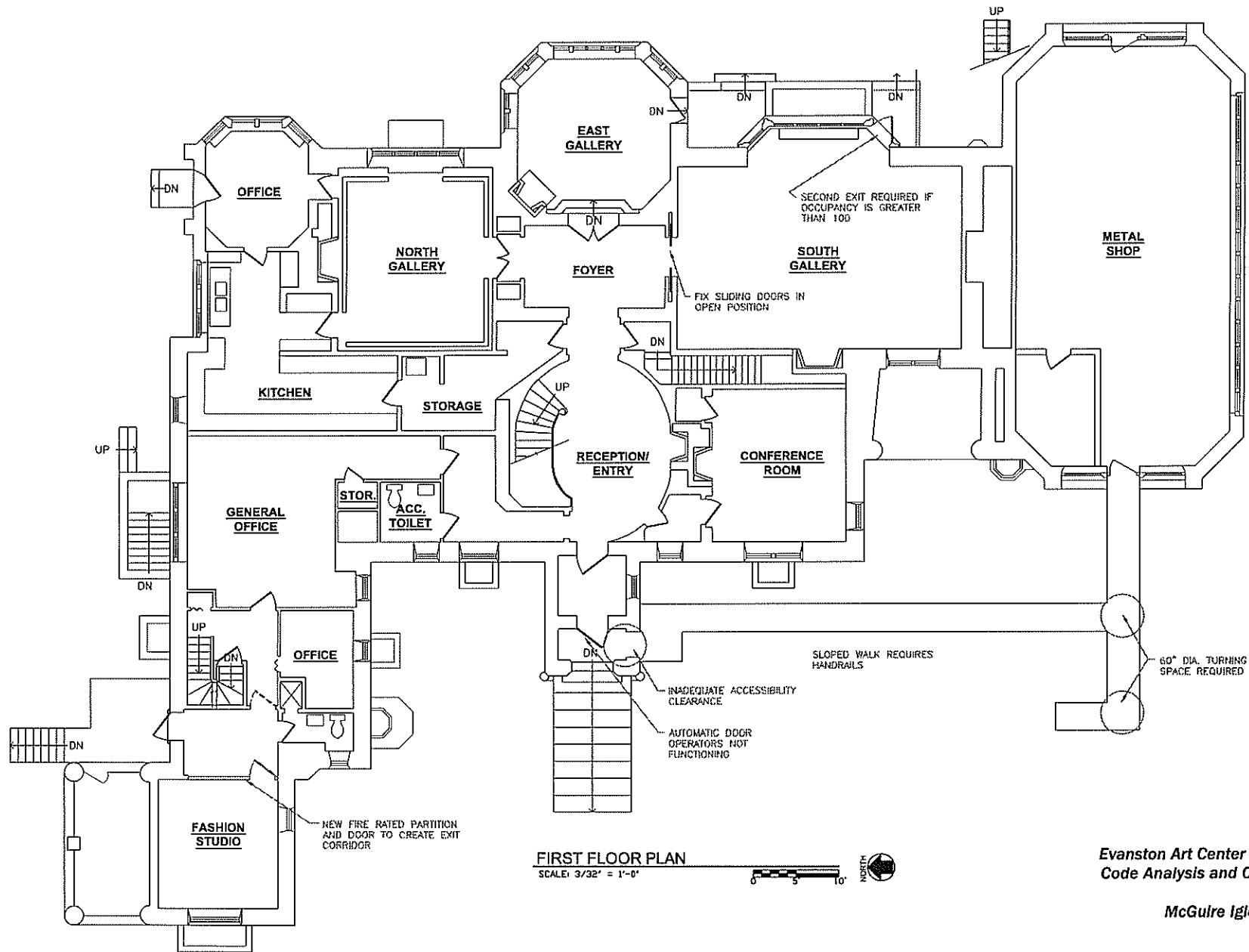
Where can I go to see different habitats, shoreline examples, plants and animals, recreational opportunities.

Our changing coast – aerial photos over time showing shoreline modifications, changes, etc.

What can you do to protect our lake and coastal ecosystems – show examples of actions landowner, beach users, citizens can do to protect and improve conditions.

Stormwater management and Green Infrastructure – what is green infrastructure and how does it help manage flooding, improve lake water quality and habitat for aquatic species, provide habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species, and improve communities.

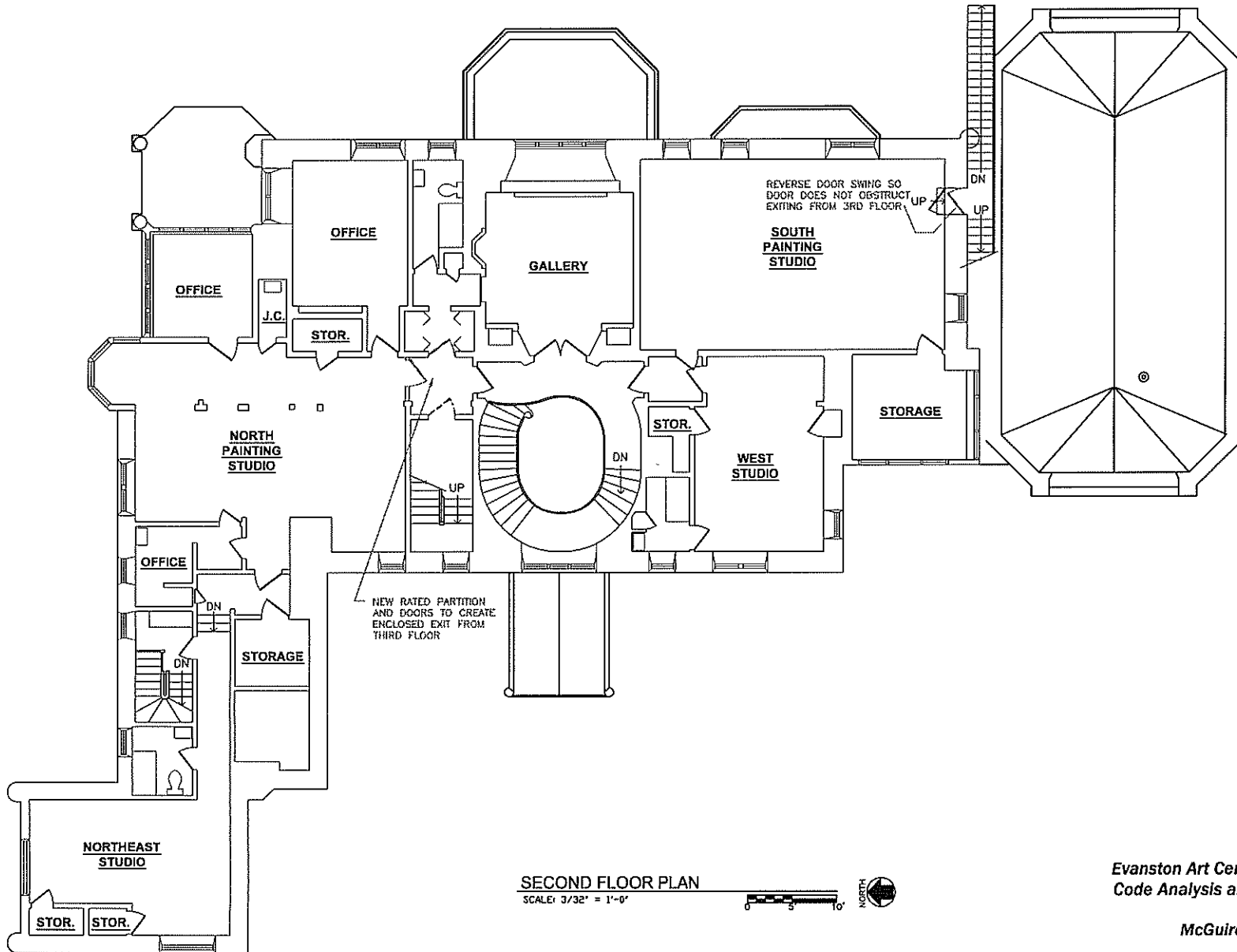
Dangerous currents – what are they; how to avoid them.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"

Evanston Art Center - 2603 Sheridan Road
Code Analysis and Conditions Assessment

McGuire Iglesias & Associates, Inc.
 June 2012



SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"

*Evanston Art Center - 2603 Sheridan Road
 Code Analysis and Conditions Assessment*

*McGuire Iglesias & Associates, Inc.
 June 2012*



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Top right: Chris Walker/Chicago Tribune

Bottom right: Highland Park Ravines
Project

Back Page

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