



## *Move the Obama Presidential Center from Jackson Park to Washington Park* **FACT SHEET**

### ➔ **Benefits of saving Jackson Park: Offset global warming / Save Illinois taxpayers \$199 million**

- "Trees help Chicago offset global warming. Recent United Nations and Science reports prioritize massive tree planting to absorb and sequester CO<sub>2</sub>. Destroying Jackson Park's mature trees releases stored CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. Saving the trees saves Illinois taxpayers \$199 million" (Adelman, 2019). Adelman is Co-author of *The Midwestern Native Garden; Midwestern Native Shrubs and Trees*.

### ➔ **Chicago's air quality will be adversely affected by clear-cutting nearly 1000 mature and established legacy trees in Jackson Park to make room for OPC and its proposed road widening changes.**

- "Protect Our Park's complaint against the Obama Presidential Center (OPC) lists the alleged harms that would be caused by the OPC project: the disappearance of 30 acres of public parkland, including the clear-cutting of nearly 1,000 'mature and established' trees" (Belanger, 2021).
- "Park trees can produce significant air quality effects at the local scale, both within and near parks, related to air temperatures, air pollution, ultraviolet radiation, and carbon dioxide (a dominant greenhouse gas related to global climate change)" (Nowak & Heisler, 2010).
- "Environmental services were estimated with results indicating that the trees [in Jackson Park] are estimated to store 203.8 tons of carbon, sequester 5.8 tons of carbon per year, remove 341.5 pounds of air pollution per year, have an air pollution removal value of \$946 per year, have an avoided runoff amount of 9,591 cubic feet per year, and an avoided runoff value of \$641 per year" (Bartlett Tree Experts, 2018).

### ➔ **Chicago's southside youth will suffer negative health impacts, resulting from worsened air quality due to loss of almost 1000 legacy trees in Jackson Park, cut down to make room for the OPC.**

- "In Chicago, one in eight families have a child that has been diagnosed with asthma. In fact, the rate of asthma in Chicago children surpasses state and national levels" (Luire Children's Hospital of Chicago, 2020).
- "Chicago's PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution ranks 79th nationally out of 1517 metropolitan areas in the US. This ranking places Chicago air quality in a slightly worse position than Los Angeles air quality (12.7 µg/m<sup>3</sup>), a city well known for its pollution challenges" (IQAir, 2021).
- "Trees have a strong association of fewer emergency asthma cases in very polluted areas" (University of Exeter, 2017).
- "People living in polluted urban areas are far less likely to be admitted to hospital with asthma when there are lots of trees in their neighbourhood" (University of Exeter, 2017).

### ➔ **The Obama Presidential Center's plan to plant new trees will not replace the loss in public health /carbon offsetting/air quality benefits of the nearly 1000 mature trees being removed by the OPC.**

- “The estimated cumulative total value for all the trees inventoried [in Jackson Park] is \$3,512.857. The following table lists the ten trees with the highest Tree Asset Values” (Bartlett Tree Experts, 2018). These trees are irreplaceable.

**TOP TEN TREES - HIGHEST TREE ASSET VALUE**

Tree ID	Common Name	Genus	Species	DBH	Tree Asset Value
582	Honeylocust-Common	<i>Gleditsia</i>	<i>triacanthos</i>	40	\$36,796.73
34	Oak-Bur	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>macrocarpa</i>	42	\$33,824.19
596	Honeylocust-Common	<i>Gleditsia</i>	<i>triacanthos</i>	37	\$32,307.99
225	Honeylocust-Common	<i>Gleditsia</i>	<i>triacanthos</i>	37	\$31,519.99
240	Sycamore-American	<i>Platanus</i>	<i>occidentalis</i>	50	\$30,473.42
242	Maple-Silver	<i>Acer</i>	<i>saccharinum</i>	47	\$28,882.06
44	Hackberry	<i>Celtis</i>	<i>occidentalis</i>	35	\$28,529.18
243	Sycamore-American	<i>Platanus</i>	<i>occidentalis</i>	47	\$28,425.49
575	Honeylocust-Common	<i>Gleditsia</i>	<i>triacanthos</i>	34	\$27,749.22
611	Honeylocust-Common	<i>Gleditsia</i>	<i>triacanthos</i>	34	\$27,598.72

\*This version does not consider cost of purchase and installation of the largest available "like tree."

- "In one year, a mature tree will absorb more than 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen in exchange" (Stancil, 2013).
- "Large healthy trees greater than 77 cm in diameter remove approximately 70 times more air pollution annually (1.4 kg/yr) than small healthy trees less than 8 cm in diameter (0.02 kg/yr)" (Nowak, 2002).

 **Washington Park is a better location than Jackson Park for the Obama Presidential Center.**

- “The geography of the Washington Park site would disperse the impact of the OPC investment across a much wider area. Steps to mitigate displacement are still warranted, but the geography makes it a much easier challenge to solve on the site across from Washington Park (Preservation Chicago, 2020).”
- "The library and museum should go to Washington Park for one reason: Easy access to the 'L.' Obama's wealthy donors also should adopt the DuSable Museum of African American History across the park, ensuring that it doesn't go out of business in the face of new competition. More than 2.86 million people, many of them South Siders, used the southern portion of the Green Line in 2014. That's a lot of people who would be reminded daily that one of their own was president" (Harris/Chicago Tribune, 2015).

 **Future tax implications are burdensome for Chicagoans if the OPC is located in Jackson Park.**

- "Given its awkward location, the OPC will never generate sufficient traffic to become economically viable. But left unanswered is this question: What happens if the foundation decides to walk away from its new project 20 years down the road when attendance is down and costs of operation are up. Under those circumstances, an overtaxed public will have to bear the high costs of either running or dismantling the entire operation. " (Rachlis & Epstein, 2021).

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