What?
Active/Inactive
Seasons
Lost Opportunities
Program
Site
Studies
Project

The Center is a celebration of Chicago’s unique seasonal opportunities and will encourage the inherent entertainment nature provides.
The majority of Chicagoans will agree that summer time is amazing in the city. There are ample recreational opportunities throughout the city while the beaches explode with activity and the lakefront paths flow with a never ending stream of bikers, joggers, and tourists. These same places a few months later are completely deserted leaving ample opportunities unfulfilled.

The cause of this desertion is due to people not having the exposure or opportunity to enjoy the wonderful cycle of seasons this city offers. Chicago’s recreational season is focused entirely on the summer when the evidence of people wanting to enjoy other seasons is right in front of them as can be seen at many of the outdoor ice rinks. One simply has to look at children sledding down a hill covered in snow grinning ear to ear to see that winter is more then dreading snow storm traffic jams to those whom have something to look forward too.
PROJECT GOALS

- CREATE AN APPRECIATION FOR CHICAGO’S DIVERSE SEASONAL CYCLE
- PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WHICH ARE LACKING IN THE CITY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
- DEVELOP A CLOSER CONNECTION AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- EVERY ASPECT OF THE PROJECT IS TO CELEBRATE CHICAGO’S DIVERSE SEASONS
- CREATE ACCESSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNIQUE EXPERIENCES
- RE-ESTABLISH THE CONNECTION BETWEEN NATURE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
- ALL SPACES TO HAVE USE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR - MULTIUSE
- BECOME A DESTINATION FOR THE COMMUNITY AND CITY
- PROVIDE FOR ALL AGES
PEOPLE BLANKET THE BEACHES IN THE SUMMER...

SNOW BLANKETS THE BEACHES IN THE WINTER...
CHILDREN SIT IN SWINGS ALL SUMMER LONG...

SITTING IN SWINGS ALL WINTER LONG...

...IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY
EVERY WARM WEATHER ACTIVITY... HAS A COLD WEATHER COUNTER PART...
CHICAGO EXPERIENCES EACH SEASON IN AN UNIQUE WAY BUT ONLY HAS EASY ACCESS TO ACTIVITIES WHICH WARMER WEATHER FACILITATES

AMPLE ACCESS TO UNIQUE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT EVERY SEASON

LIMITED ACCESS TO UNIQUE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY THROUGH THE WARM SEASONS AND ALMOST NONE DURING THE WINTER

CHICAGO'S SEASONS

ASPIN'S APPRECIATION OF SEASONS
CHICAGO'S LATITUDE OF 41.90 PROVIDES AN EQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF AN EXTREMELY DIVERSE RANGE OF TEMPERATURES.

ASPEN HAS THE INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT YEAR ROUND ACTIVITY AND CAPITALIZES ON IT WITH PROGRAM HAPPENING ALL SEASON LONG. EVEN CITIES IN DRASTICALLY COLDER CLIMATES ENJOY A LARGER SPECTRUM OF THE TEMPERATURE RANGE. CHICAGO IS MISSING ITS OWN UNIQUE SEASONAL OPPORTUNITIES.
OUTDOOR RINK SEASONS

(MIN ENERGY USED)

63° MAX TEMP TO MAKE ICE

FARENHEIGHT

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

6 MONTHS QUESTIONABLE WEATHER

6 MONTHS GOOD WEATHER

AVERAGE HIGH TEMP

AVERAGE LOW TEMP

OPEN AIR RECREATION SPACE TO FORMALIZE SEASONAL ACTIVITIES

MULTISEASONAL SPACE REQUIREMENTS

PROTECTED FROM RAIN, SNOW, WIND, AND SUN AS SEASONAL ACTIVITIES REQUIRE

INTERIOR TEMP SAME AS EXTERIOR

SEASONAL SPORT SURFACE REACTING TO CLIMATE

SUMMER FALL WINTER SPRING
STAKEHOLDERS

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT
CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CALUMET CITY COMMUNITY
CHILDREN
ADULTS
ENVIRONMENT/WILDLIFE
BUSINESSES
CHICAGOANS
TEACHERS
PARENTS
SPORTS CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS
DAY CARES
CTA
POLICE

MANY OF THE STAKEHOLDERS FORM THE USER BASE AND THEREFORE HAVE MUCH TO GAIN FROM THE CREATION OF THIS PROJECT.
While the largest contributor to the Center will be the City of Chicago, there are many organizations which have been set up to provide funding to further support and supplement this type of facility. There are also ample local businesses who are looking for ways to give back to the community.

Much of the yearly funding will be through the City and donations. This will be further supplemented through the programs at the Center. This has proven to be a substantial sum on money as can be seen in the YMCA's annual reports of their recreation facilities.
THE FACILITY WILL TOTAL AROUND 50,000 SF WITH THE MAJORITY OF THE SPACE BEING WITHIN THE RINK AND CIRCULATION/ATRIUM AREAS.

THE CIRCULATION CORE CREATES THE LINK BETWEEN ALL PROGRAMS AND ENCOURAGES THE CREATION OF AN INTERIOR ATRIUM/ WINTER GARDEN SPACE TO FACILITATE THE CENTER AS A POINT OF ENTRY AND DESTINATION.
CHICAGO, IL

SITE

SITE REQUIREMENTS
- Adjacent to park and forest space
- Access to water
- Car/highway access
- 1/4 mile walk to public transportation
- In a community lacking access to nature and recreation
- Unoccupied land
- Large user base of all ages
- Near schools

LAKE MICHIGAN

CALUMET PARK

SITE

INDIANA

DESTINATION PROGRAM

Program which people are willing to travel too to increase user base
- Ice rink
- Nature center
There are hundreds of schools, day cares, and churches within 4 miles. Add to this the local neighborhoods, nearby travelers, and the entire El system and there is the potential for an extremely large user base which does not have nearby access to this type of facility.
The centers location is poised to connect the disjointed communities of the Calumet Area and begin the conversation of restoring the natural habitat on vacant industrial sites throughout the area.
SITE ACCESS

FUTURE RED LINE STATION

ABANDONED RAIL TRACKS RECLAIMED FOR NATURE TRAIL

VEHICLE ENTRY PROVIDES NATURAL EXPERIENCE
SITE CIRCULATION

CONNECTING BRIDGE

CONNECTING BRIDGE TO FUTURE PARK

EXPRESS WAY

LANDFILL (FUTURE PARK)

OUTDOOR RECREATION SPACE
OPEN AIR MULTISEASON RINK
- ICE RINK IN WINTER
- INLINE RINK IN SUMMER
- PROTECTED FROM RAIN/SUN

ENCLOSED RINK
- INLINE RINK IN WINTER
- ICE RINK IN SUMMER

ENCLOSED ATRIUM/ SPECTATORS

SUPPORT BUILDING:
LOCKERS, MAIN DESK, EQUIP, RENTAL, ADMIN OFFICES, MECH.
Mapping out the major and minor stress gradients allow for the rationalization of pure tensile form. An ideal system for lightweight, long spanning structures.

Utilizing the stress gradients, the ETFE panels were designed to float on top of the natural form of the cables.
STRESS GRADIENT - ETFE PILLOWS
THE TENSION CANOPY SYSTEM ALLOWS FOR THE LIGHT-WEIGHT ETFE PANELS TO FLOAT AND CREATE THE FOREST CANOPY FEEL FOR THE ATRIUM SPACE.