



BURTON F. NATARUS

ALDERMAN, 42ND WARD

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO**

CITY HALL, ROOM 306
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
TELEPHONE: (312) 744-3062
FAX: (312) 744-1728
bnatarus@cityofchicago.org

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July 17, 2006

Dear Neighbor:

I am very pleased to report to you that after 15 years of intense work and deliberation, Erie Park will be open ... I expect and hope, within the next three or four weeks.

I know that you have been looking forward to this for a long time and perhaps cannot figure out why it has taken so long. The transfer of property from private to public use, the removal of extensive, poisonous, noxious material, the replacement of this material with healthy soil, the planting of grass and trees, are all factors that have delayed this opening.

Within the next few days it is expected that the River Walk will be completed, that a new railing will be installed on the south side of the park, additional benches installed, as well as appropriate waste containers. Signs will be posted explaining the rules. The playground is expected to be completed shortly, but at a later date. It is hoped it will be a state of the art facility. At still a later date, to the north of the gazebo, a pet friendly facility will be installed.

Despite this progress, I must advise you that I personally regard the opening of the park with some trepidation. I have great fears that unless this community joins together in a spirit of good citizenship and voluntarily makes an effort to maintain this very beautiful park in terms of high standards, it may very well be "trashed."

I have noticed over the last few weeks, various dog owners have very little regard for the rules and regulations governing the conduct of their pets. The fence has been broken and had to be repaired. It is essential we all band together to use our best efforts to keep and maintain this beautiful oasis in our neighborhood.

Very truly yours,

Burton F. Natarus
Alderman, 42nd Ward

BFN/jj

