



September 15, 2008

Brain Loll
North Manager - Chicago Park District
Margate Field House
4921 North Marine Drive
Chicago, IL 60640

Dear Brian,

Margate Park is a jewel in Chicago's park system because of the special amenities it offers. The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) soccer field, the Margate Field House, the Children's Play Lot and the Puptown Dog Friendly Area contribute to make this portion of Lincoln Park wonderful and dynamic. Families come from all around Chicago to enjoy the park and to picnic. Many special events are held throughout the year.

Most of Margate Park is fenced along Lake Shore Drive. However, there is a considerable gap in this protective enclosure immediately south of the field house parking lot. The lack of protective fencing along Lake Shore Drive is a danger to both users of the park and drivers on Lake Shore Drive:

- Officer Cathy Crowe of the Chicago Police Department, who resides at 4900 North Marine Drive, lost control of her dog and it ran onto Lake Shore Drive. Sadly, the dog was killed and Officer Crowe nearly injured as she was forced to run onto Lake Shore Drive to try to gain control of her dog.
- A driver on Lake Shore Drive lost control of his car, ran off the road, and crashed in to the dog friendly area.
- Residents and park users have witnessed play balls going onto Lake Shore Drive.

These incidents must remind us to make Margate Park safer. As the park grows in popularity, the lack of protective enclosure should be a priority concern to the Park District. This danger extends beyond user groups like our own to all park users and drivers along Lake Shore Drive.

We have been told that most of Lincoln Park is not fenced. However, we cannot find another area of Lincoln Park that is as heavily used with so little buffer from Lake Shore Drive. The Puptown Dog Owner Group, The Lincoln Park Advisory Council and The American Youth Soccer Organization believe that the protective fence treatment must be completed at Margate Park. We are interested in your opinion on this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


John Lenti
Volunteer – Puptown Dog Owners' Group
4970 North Marine Drive, #725
Chicago, IL 60640

Cc:
Puptown Dog Owners Group Members
Vickie Matthew – President - LPAC
Ray Groble – Regional Commissioner – AYSO
Hon. Mary Ann Smith – Alderman 48th Ward
Janice Taylor – Chicago Park District