

# Winnetka Park District Centennial Dog Beach Fencing



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Winnetka Park Board  
Special Meeting February 5, 2026

# Presentation Outline

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- Project Review & Update
- Site and Plan Overview
- Regulatory Review and Permit Status
- Cost Considerations
- North Beach Review
- Questions & Direction



# Project Review & Update

## **Special Use Permit Status**

- 1/28/2026 – Plan Commission Meeting (Recommendation to deny our request)  
Waiting on preparation of Findings of Fact by VoW counsel and approval by PC
- 2/9/2026 – Zoning Board of Appeals public hearing
- TBD – Design Review Board Meeting
- TBD – Village Council Meeting (assumed two meetings)

## **Regulatory Review Status**

- IDNR Illinois Department of Natural Resources permit issued
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency final determination in support of the project issued
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit pending
- Cook County Dept of Animal and Rabies Control letter of approval pending

## **Winnetka Park District Motion**

- February 23, 2023 – “The Centennial Beach dog beach as measured from the south property line shall be no more that 236 feet or the current line of steel north and no less than 200 feet in total width.” Motion Passed 6-0 with one Commissioner abstaining.



# 1/28/26 Plan Commission Commissioner Comment Summary

- Definition of “Dog Park” vs. “Dog Friendly Area”
- Size of Dog Beach Area
- Consideration of Lake Michigan as another property
- Operations; permitted hours of use and is it year round
- Other off-leash locations, comparisons
- Is Centennial Beach on-leash currently
- Why double gates, is it required
- Other lakefront dog beaches, do they have gates beyond their beach limits
- Compliance with VoW leash law, CCDARC Regulations VIII, why now
- Why is the plan being shown as partial vs a whole
- Reason for the 15’ distance into the lake for the fencing
- Why are design limits larger than the board motion
- Concerns around standards 1 & 2 for safety (need to access the beach through an active dog beach; safety of dogs and dog owners)
- Do other public dog beaches have barriers



# Project Purpose

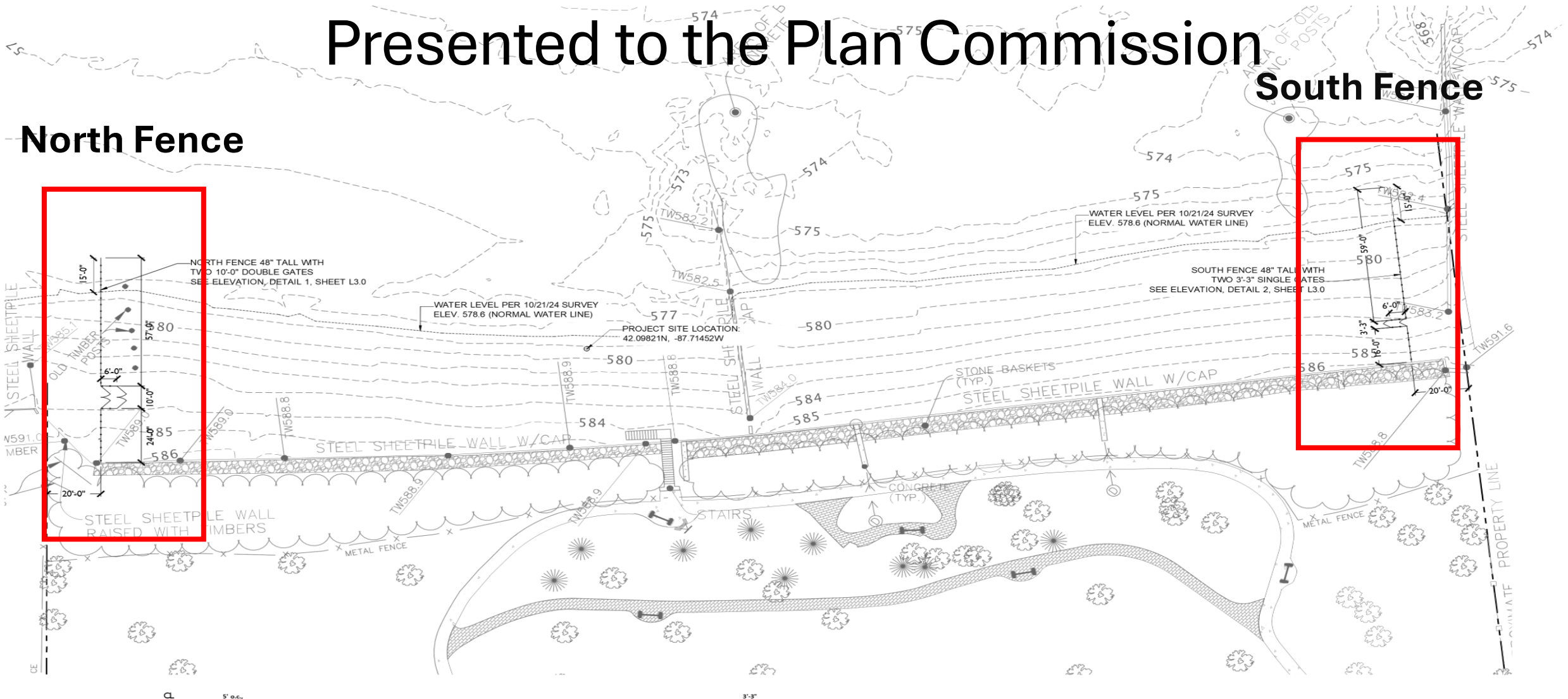
- Bring the Centennial Dog Beach into compliance with all regulatory bodies for the benefit and enjoyment of the residents and public
  - Village of Winnetka- Leash Law
  - Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control – Regulations VIII. Dog Parks and Areas
  - Overlying safety concerns
- Design the fencing plan for compliance with regulatory requirements
  - Army Corps of Engineers
  - Illinois Department of Natural Resources
  - Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
  - Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control
  - Village of Winnetka
- Design in a manner that best furthers public safety

# Centennial Dog Beach Fencing Site Plan

## Presented to the Plan Commission

**North Fence**

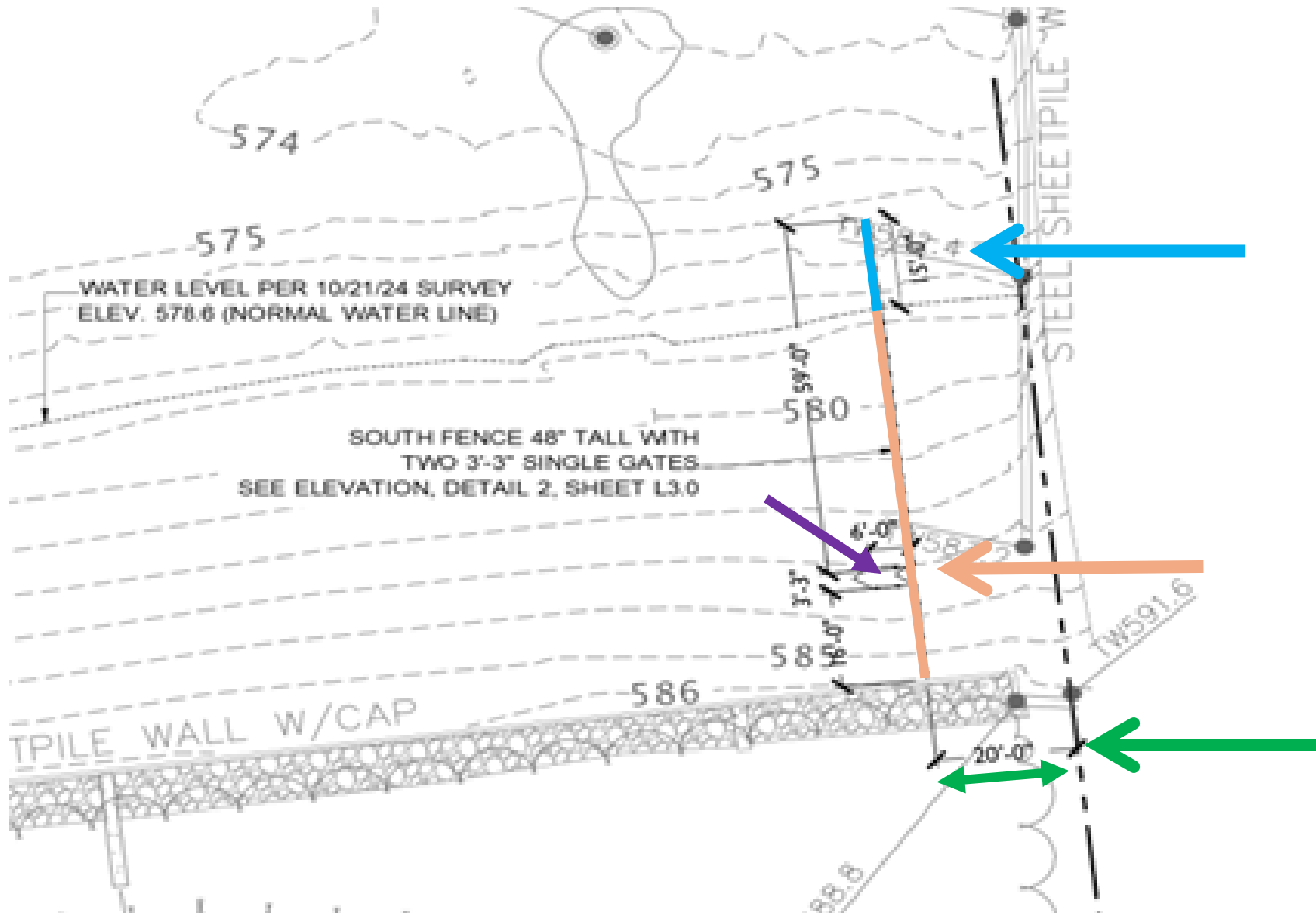
**South Fence**



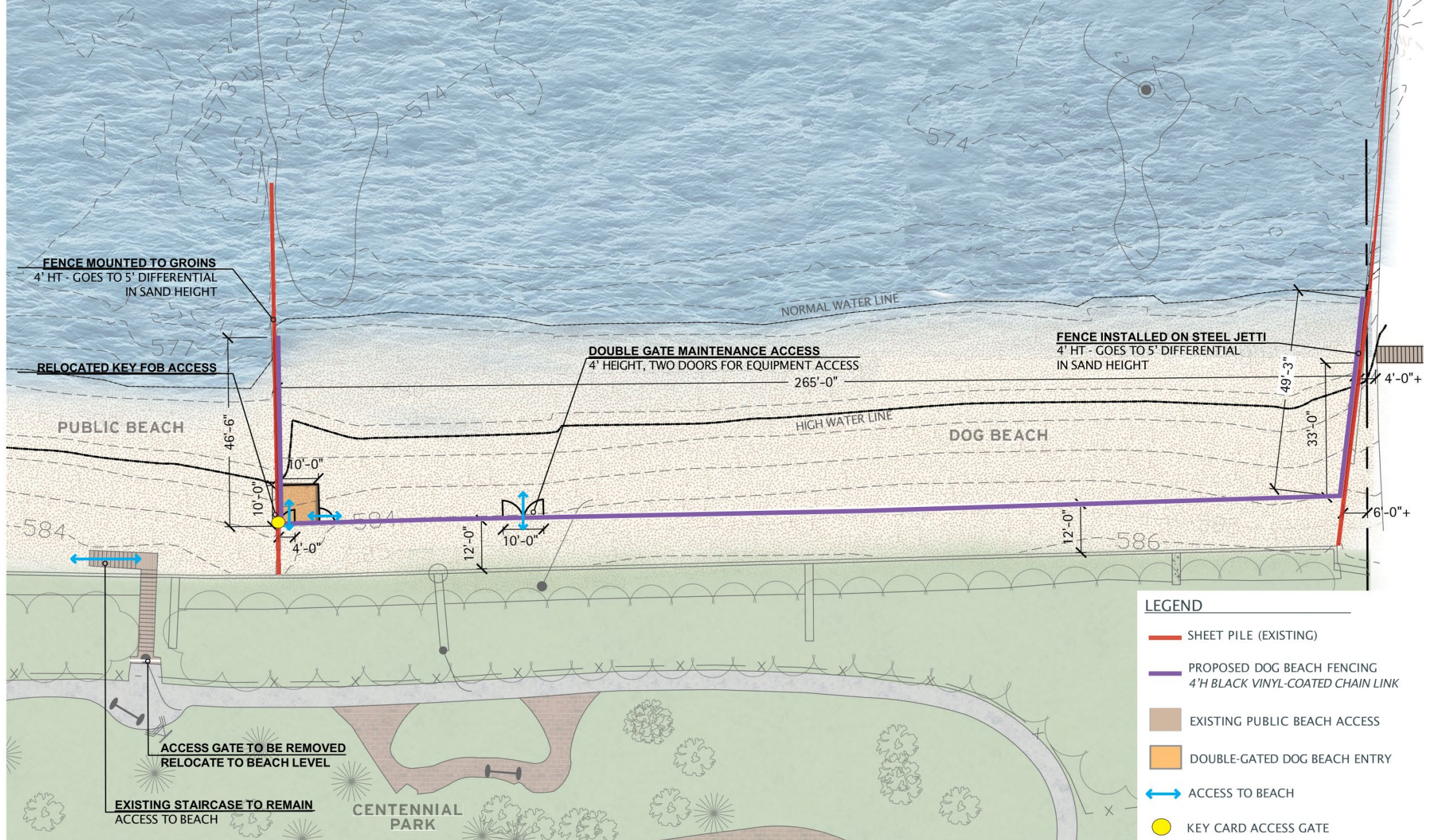




# Site Plan South Fence Line

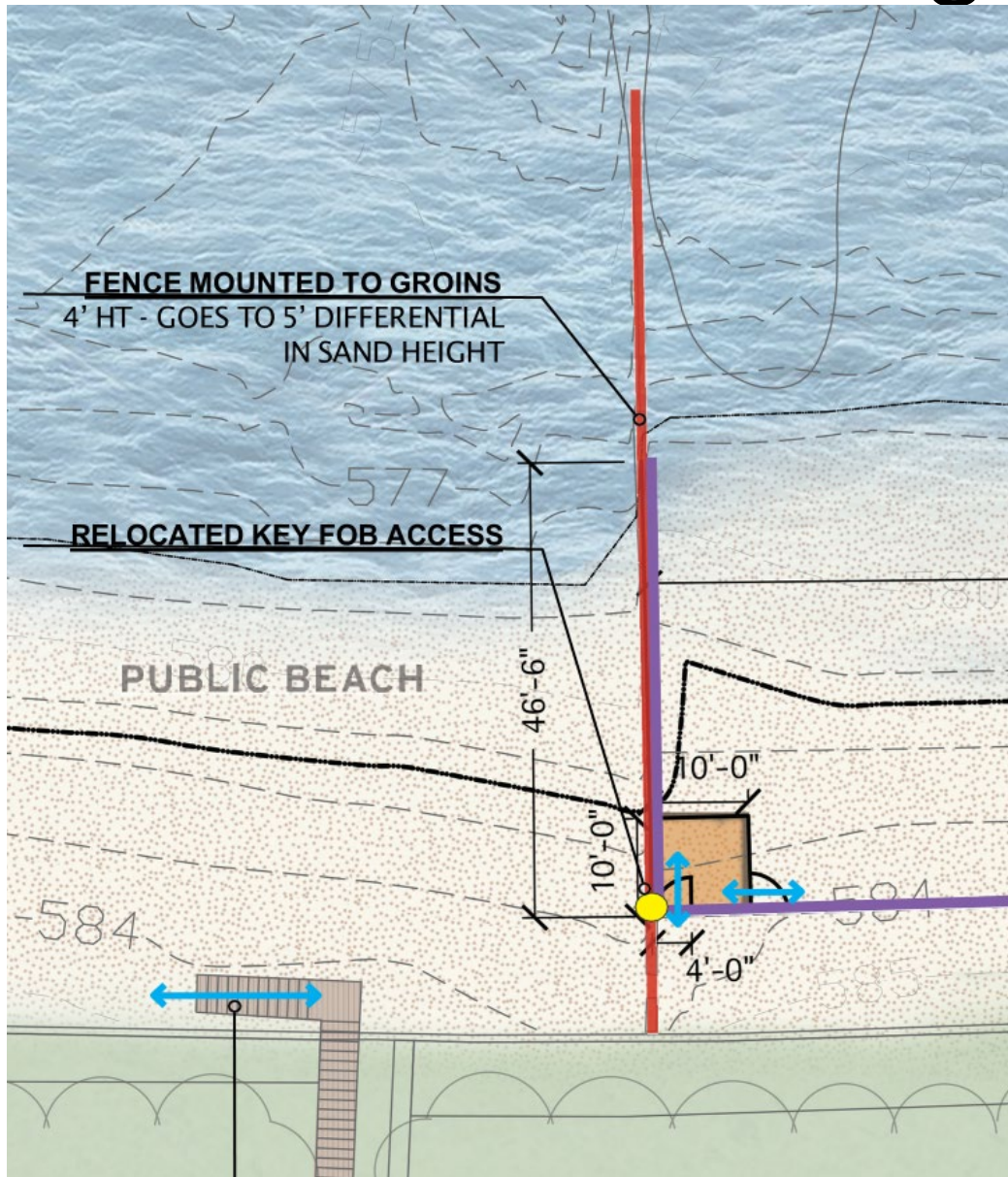


- 15 feet of fencing into the water
- 58 feet of fencing to the steel sea wall
- 20 feet North of South property line
- Double access gate





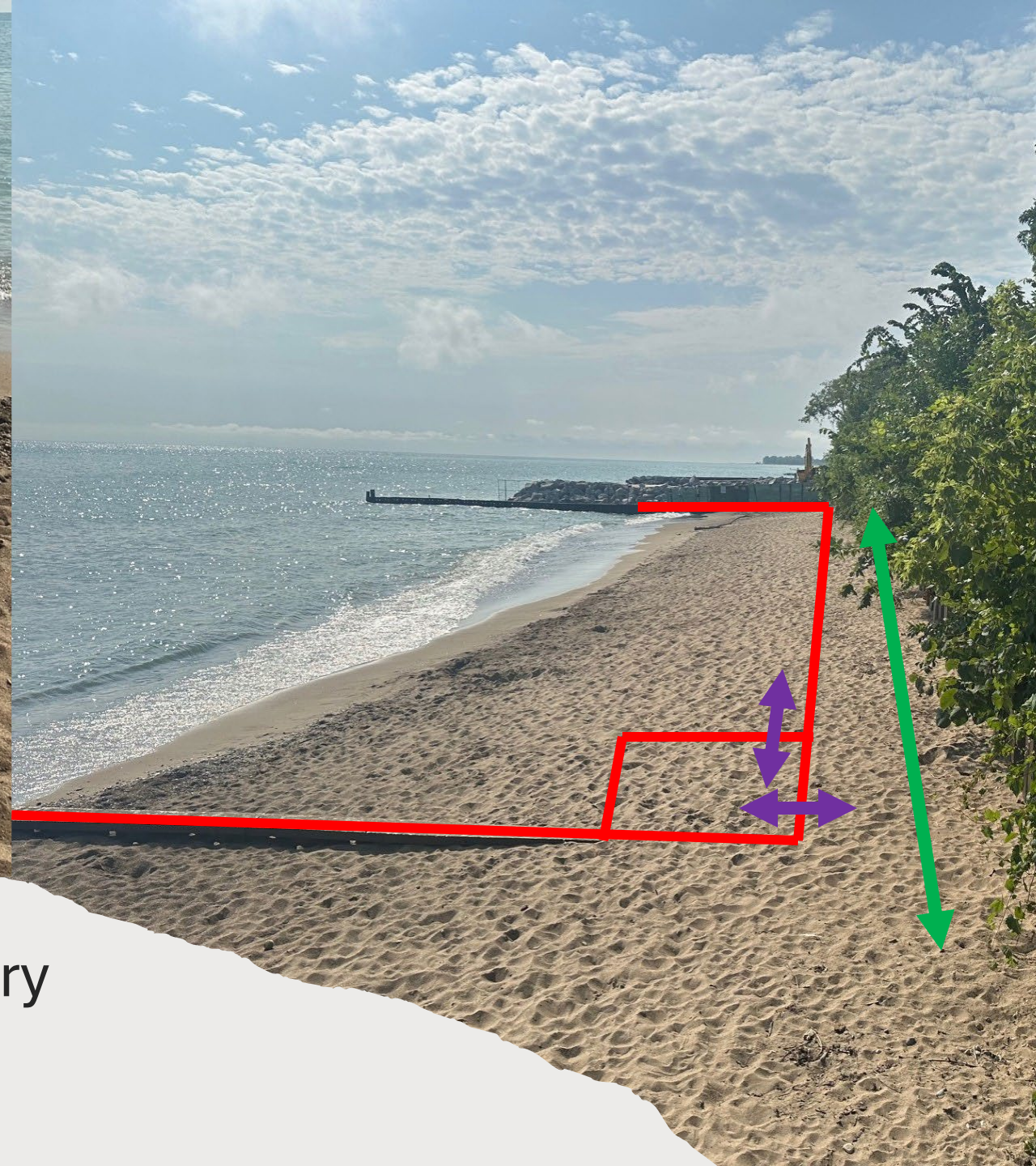
# Centennial Dog Fence Plan (Alternate 1)



## North Boundary

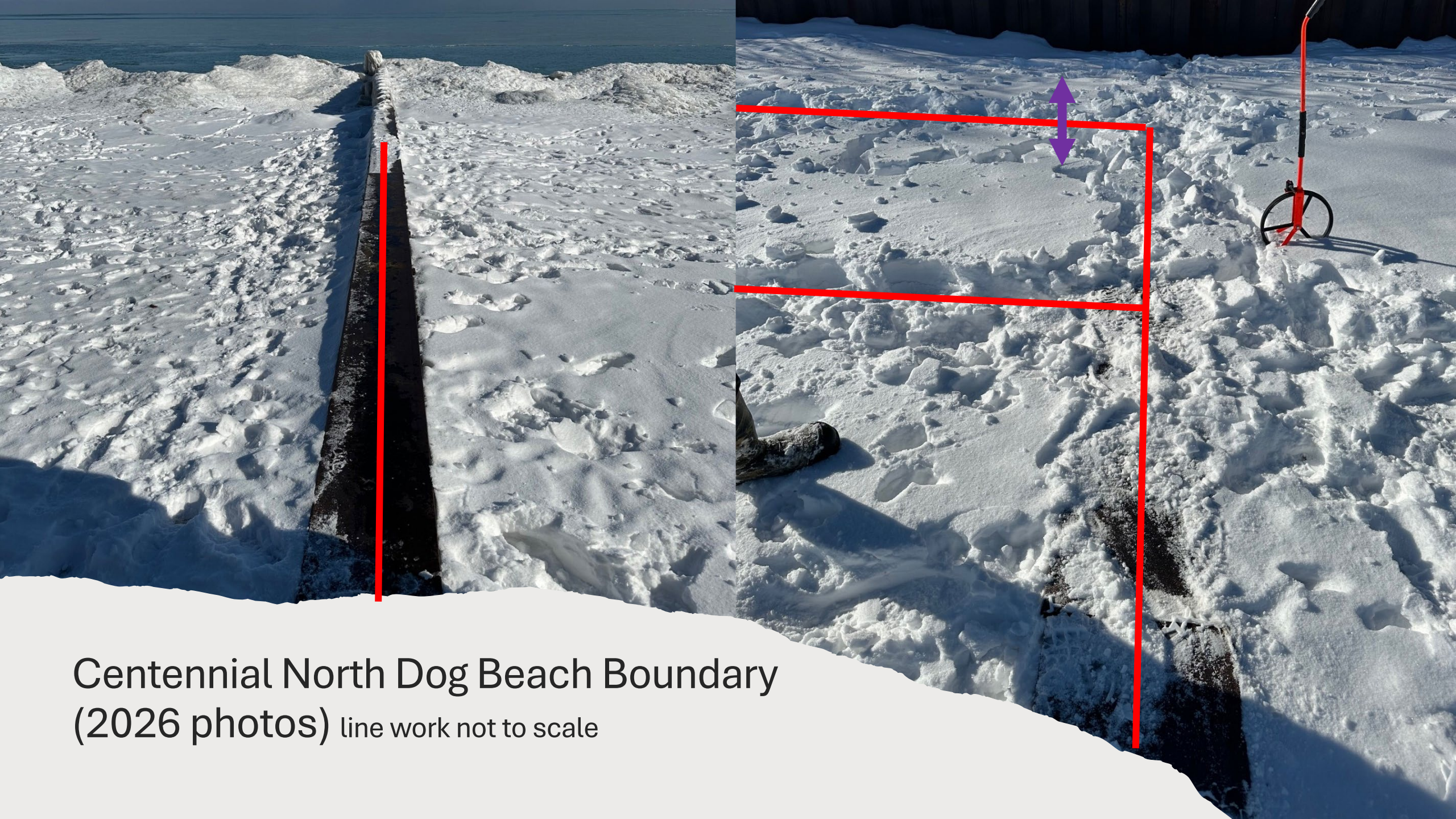
- Includes 46' of fencing that would be secured to the existing steel jetti
  - Max 4' in height from the steel cap
  - Max 5' in height from the beach contour
- Relocation of the key fob entry gate to beach level
- 10' x 10' double entry gate for dog beach access
  - (will require an issued dog pass key fob)
- 12' wide bypass allowing non-dog beach users to bypass dog beach
- Include a watertight trash receptacle





Centennial North Dog Beach Boundary  
(2025 photos) line work not to scale

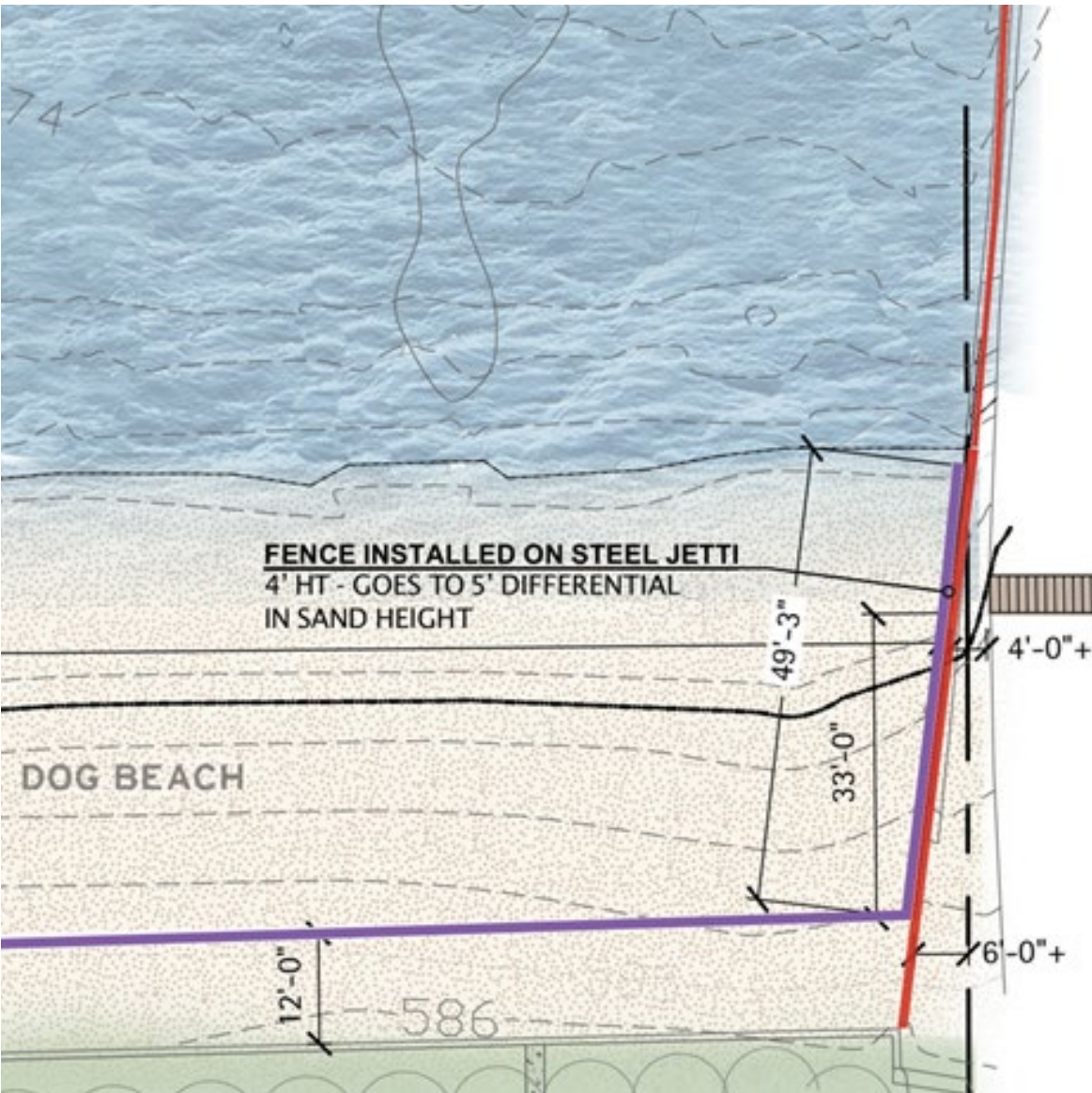




Centennial North Dog Beach Boundary  
(2026 photos) line work not to scale



# Centennial Dog Fence Plan (Alternate 1)



## South Boundary

- Includes 49'3" of fencing that would be secured to the existing steel jetti
  - Max 4' in height from the steel cap
  - Max 5' in height from the beach contour
- 12' wide bypass allowing non-dog beach users to bypass dog beach
- Bypass within the park property boundary to access the only route over the southern property owner's breakwater structure
- This plan allows for additional protection of accidental falls which may occur during low beach levels



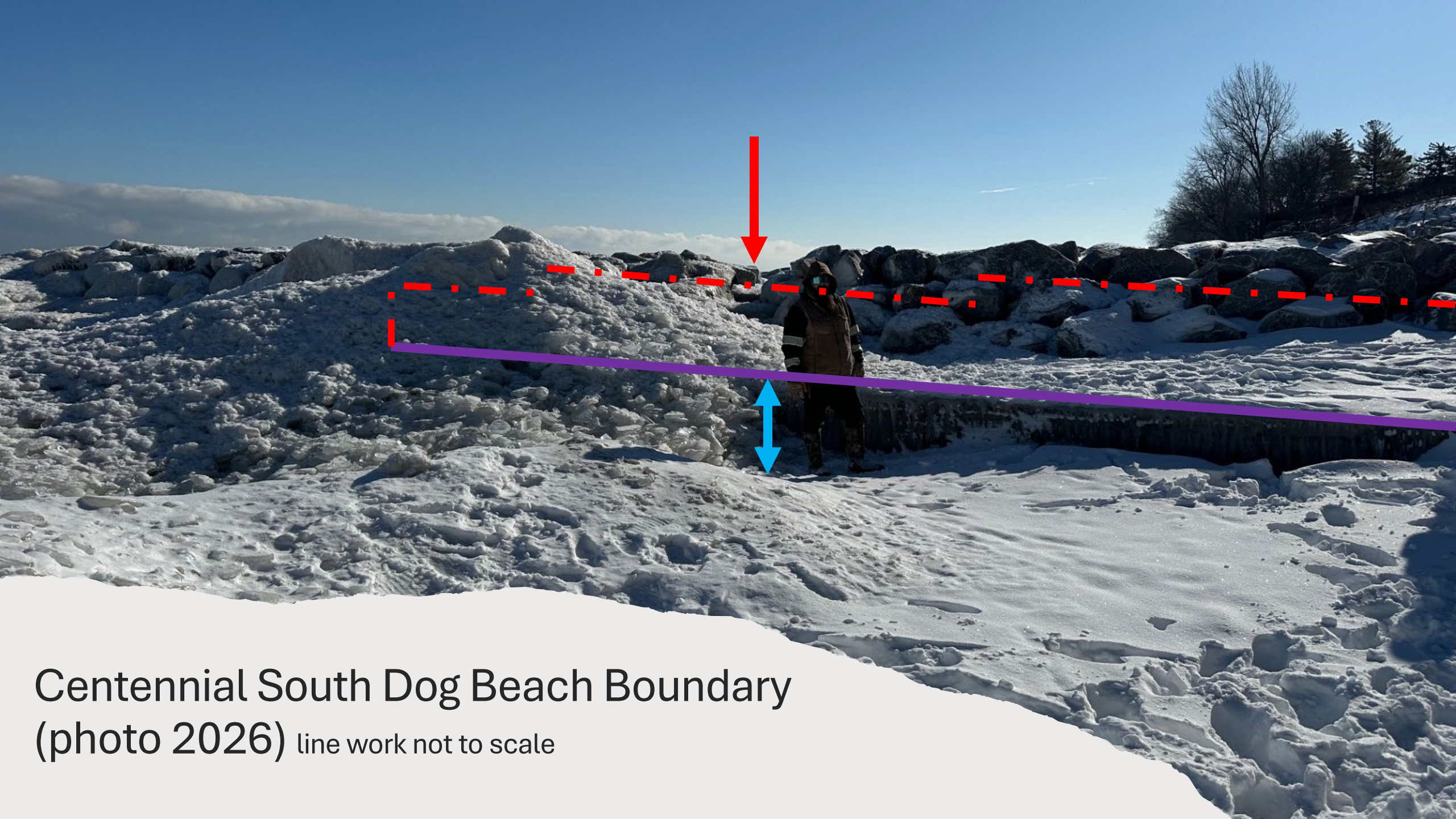
- Bypass width between 4' – 8'+
- Height differential approximately 3'+ (10-2024 survey) red arrow
- Proposed fencing will help establish a safe guard during low beach level conditions
- Same low beach level conditions will also require beach goers to walk near the western boundary to walk over the Jetty safely aligns with the 12' bypass walkway
- This location also protects the fencing from NE storm events which could damage the fencing if it was on the beach level





Centennial South Dog Beach Boundary  
(photos left 2020, right 2026) line work not to scale

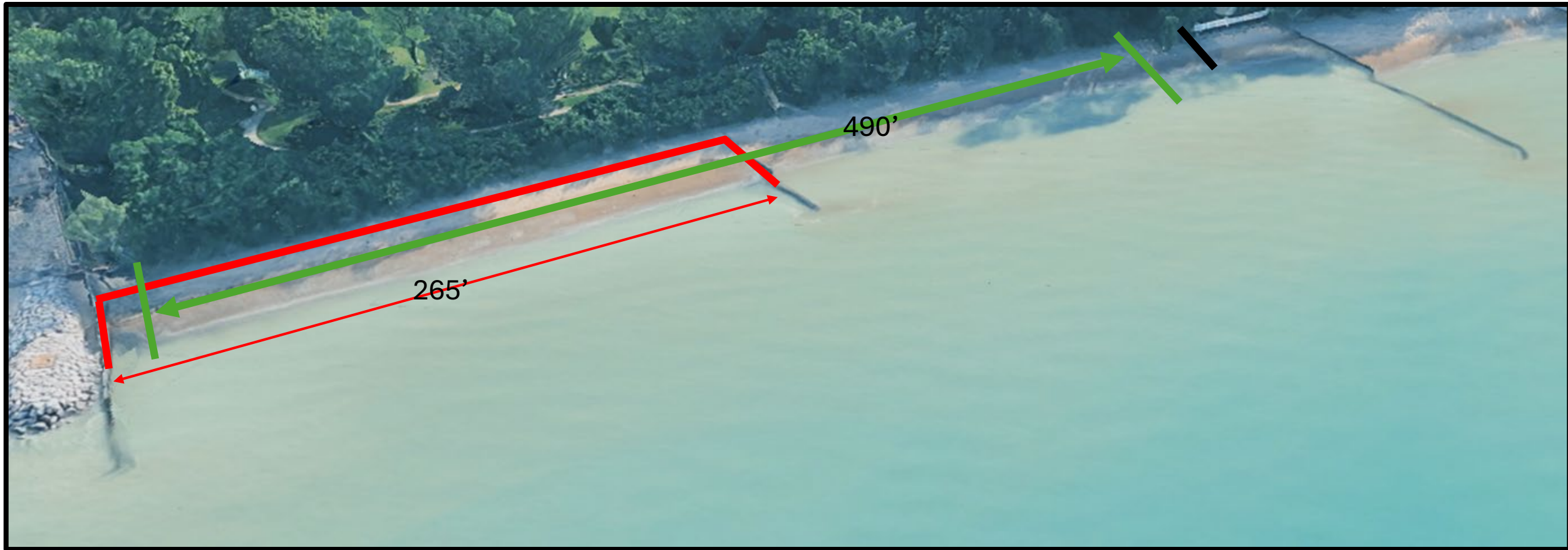




Centennial South Dog Beach Boundary  
(photo 2026) line work not to scale

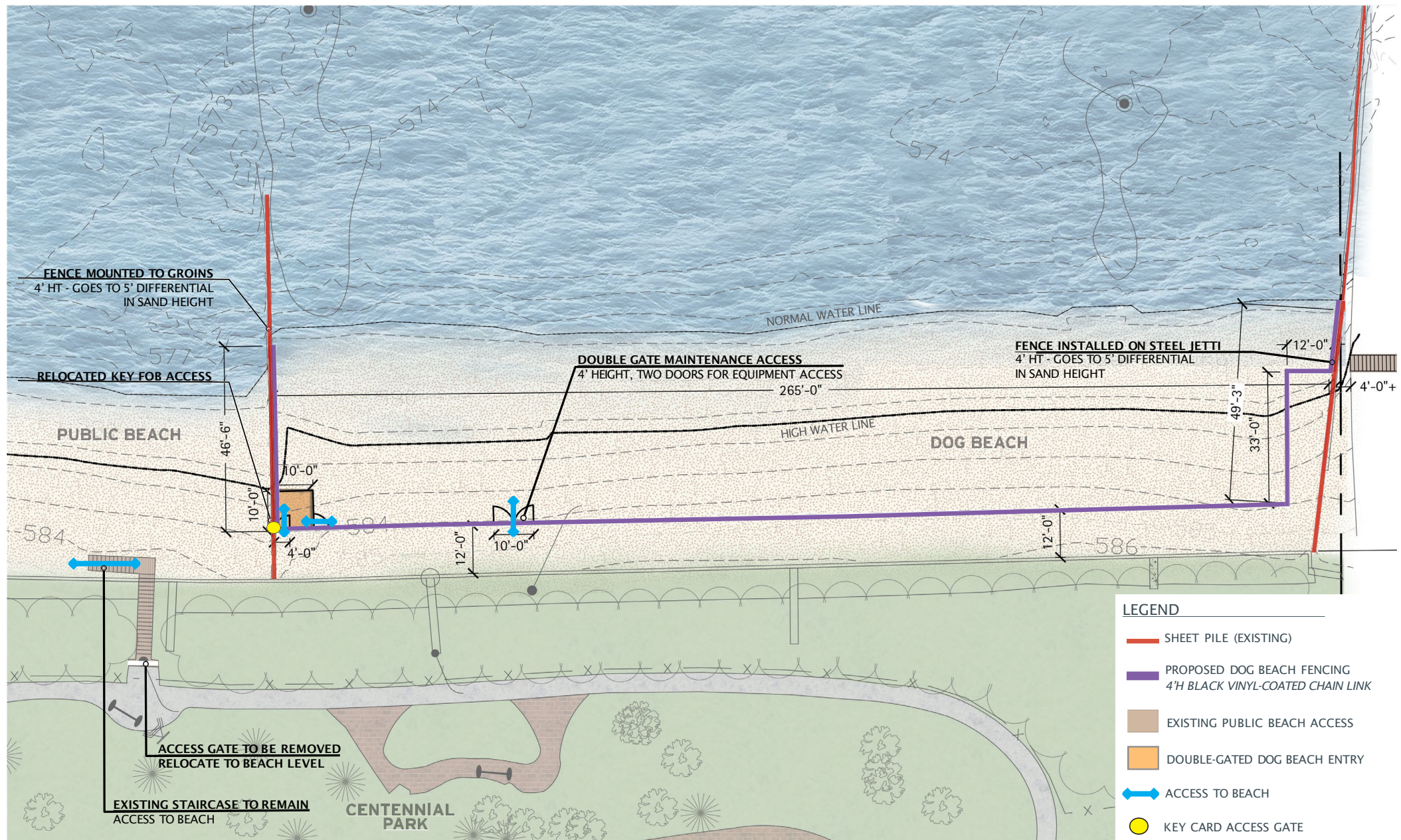


# Previous Plan vs. Alternate 1 - Comparison



Green lines: previous plan fencing location - Red lines: Alternate 1 Plan fencing location





CENTENNIAL BEACH & BLUFF IMPROVEMENTS

## CENTENNIAL DOG FENCE PLAN: ALTERNATE 2

WINNETKA, ILLINOIS

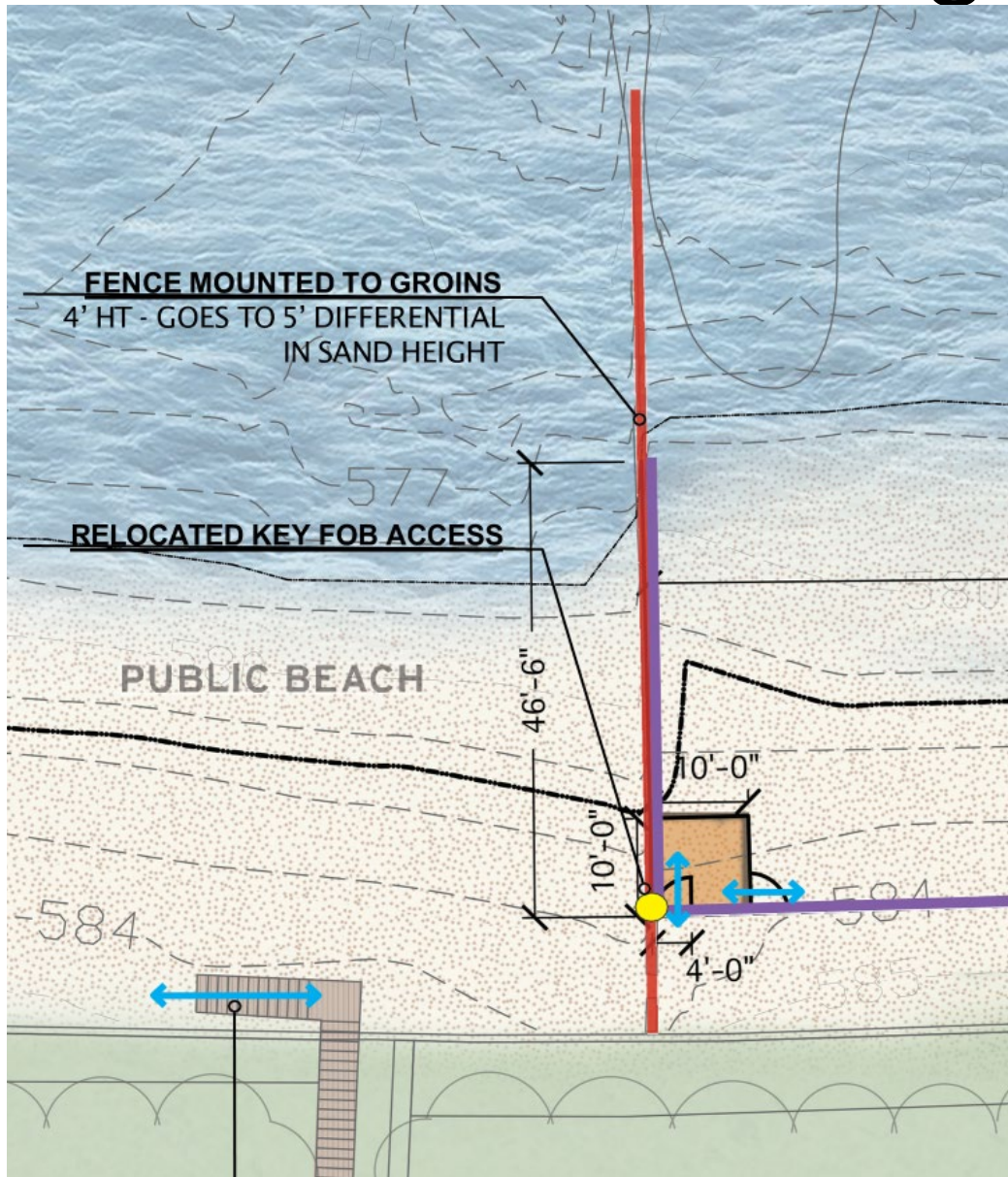
SCALE: 1"=10'  
0 5' 10' 20'  
NORTH

FEBRUARY 3, 2026

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# Centennial Dog Fence Plan (Alternate 2)

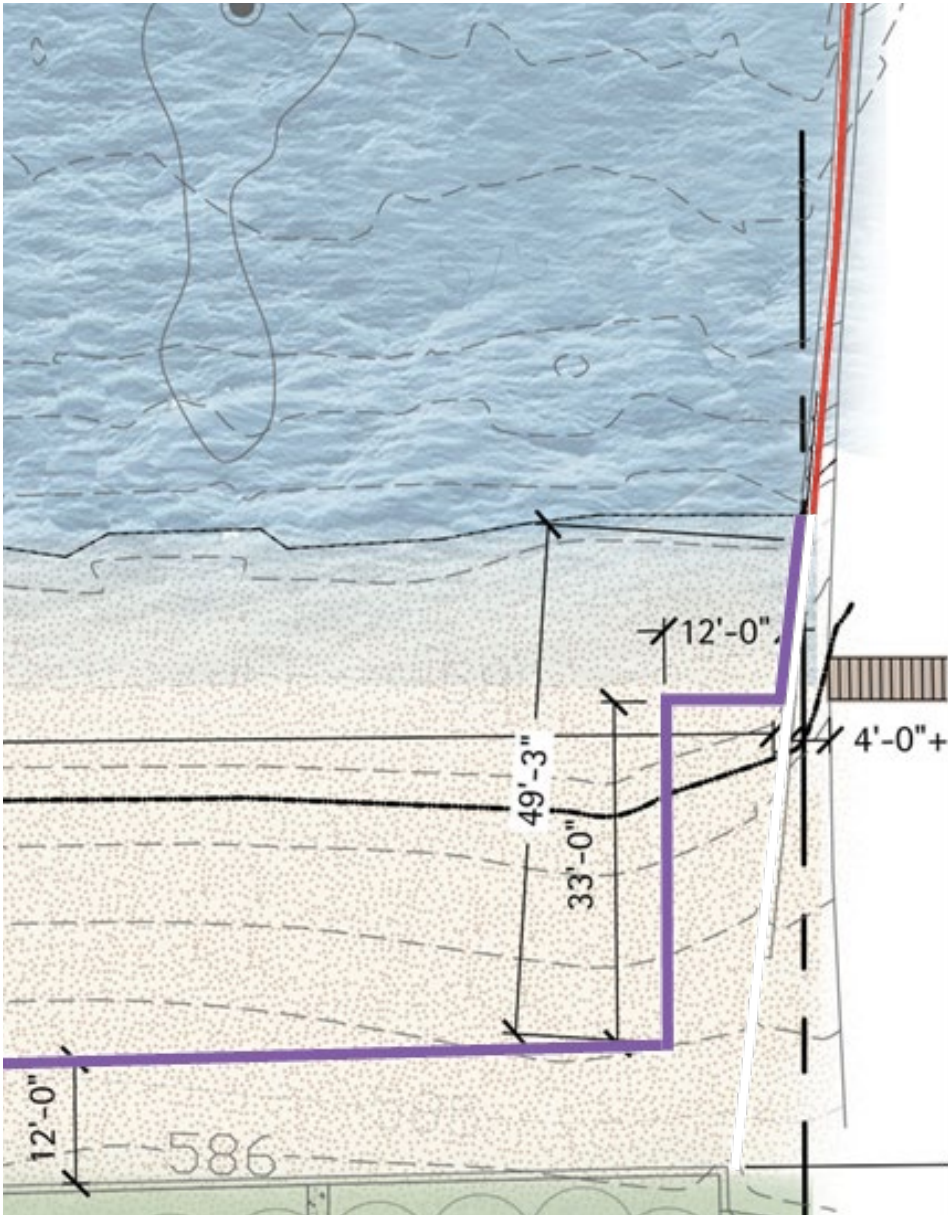


## North Boundary (Same as Alt. 1)

- Includes 46' of fencing that would be secured to the existing steel jetti (sections still would be removable)
  - Max 4' in height from the steel cap
  - Max 5' in height from the beach contour
- Relocation of the key fob entry gate to beach level
- 10' x 10' double entry gate for dog beach access
  - (Will require an issued dog pass key fob)
- 12' Wide bypass allowing non-dog beach users to bypass dog beach
- Include a watertight trash receptacle



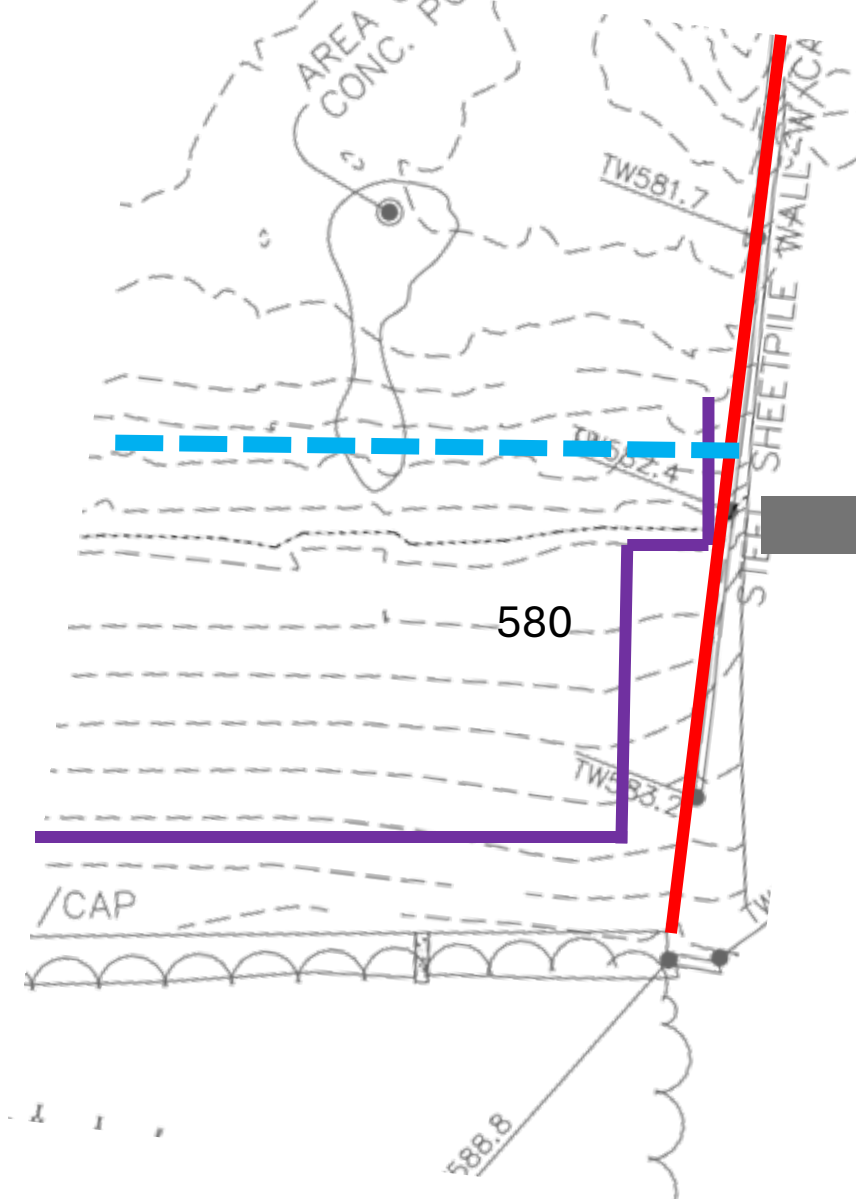
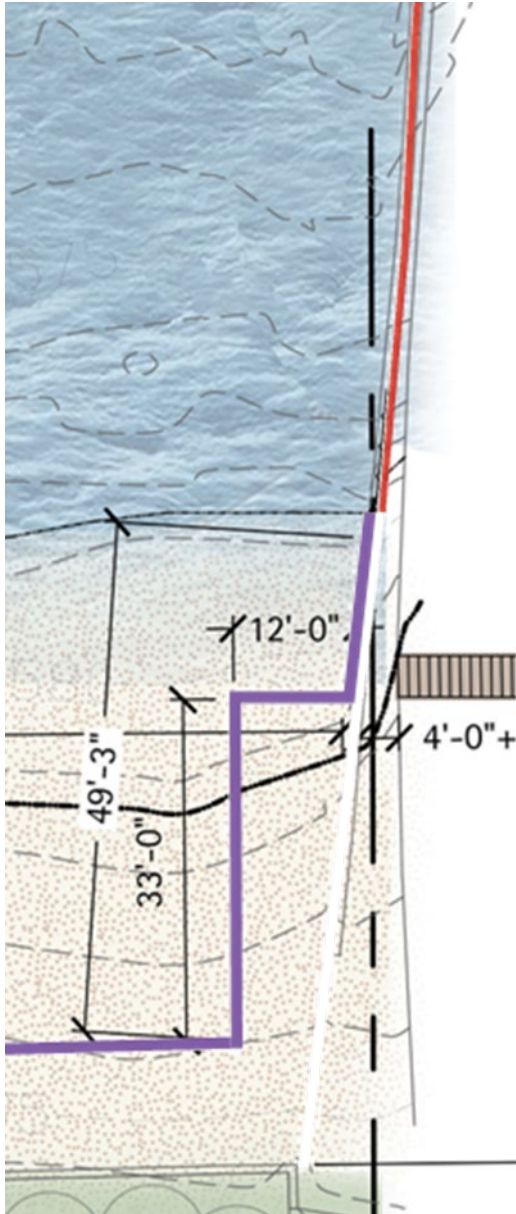
# Centennial Dog Fence Plan (Alternate 2)



## South Boundary

- Includes 49'3" of fencing
  - 16' which would be secured to the existing Jetty (sections still would be removable)
  - 33' would be installed on the beach with a 12' offset from the property line, would be a direct route to the south property owner's stairs
  - Max 4' in height from the steel cap
  - Max 5' in height from the beach contour
- 12' Wide bypass allowing non-dog beach users to bypass dog beach
- Bypass within the park property boundary to access the only route over the southern property owner's breakwater structure
- Concern with drop off against steel jetti requiring beach users to have to walk around the existing steel jetti to continue north or south

# Centennial Dog Fence Plan (Alternate 2)



## South Boundary

- Bypass width between 4' – 8'+
- Height differential approximately 3'+ (10-2024 survey)
- Proposed fencing will help establish a safeguard during low beach level conditions
- Same low beach level conditions will also require beach goers to walk near the western boundary to walk over the Jetty safely aligning with the 12' bypass walkway
- This location also protects the fencing from NE storm events which could damage the fencing if it was on the beach level



# Previous Plan vs. Alternate 2 - Comparison



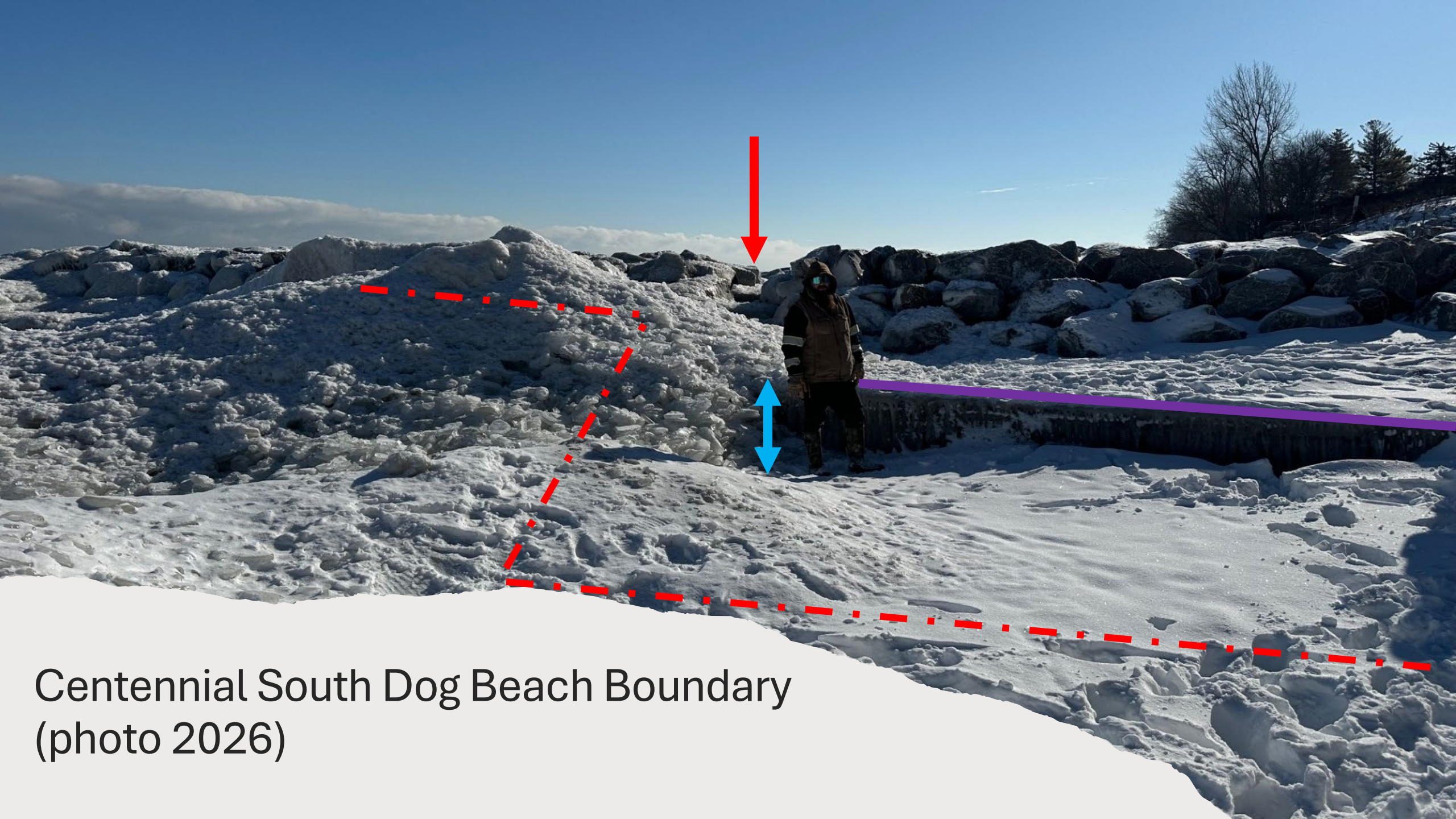
Green lines: previous plan fencing location - Red lines: Alternate 2 Plan fencing location





Centennial South Dog Beach Boundary  
(photos left 2020, right 2026)





Centennial South Dog Beach Boundary  
(photo 2026)

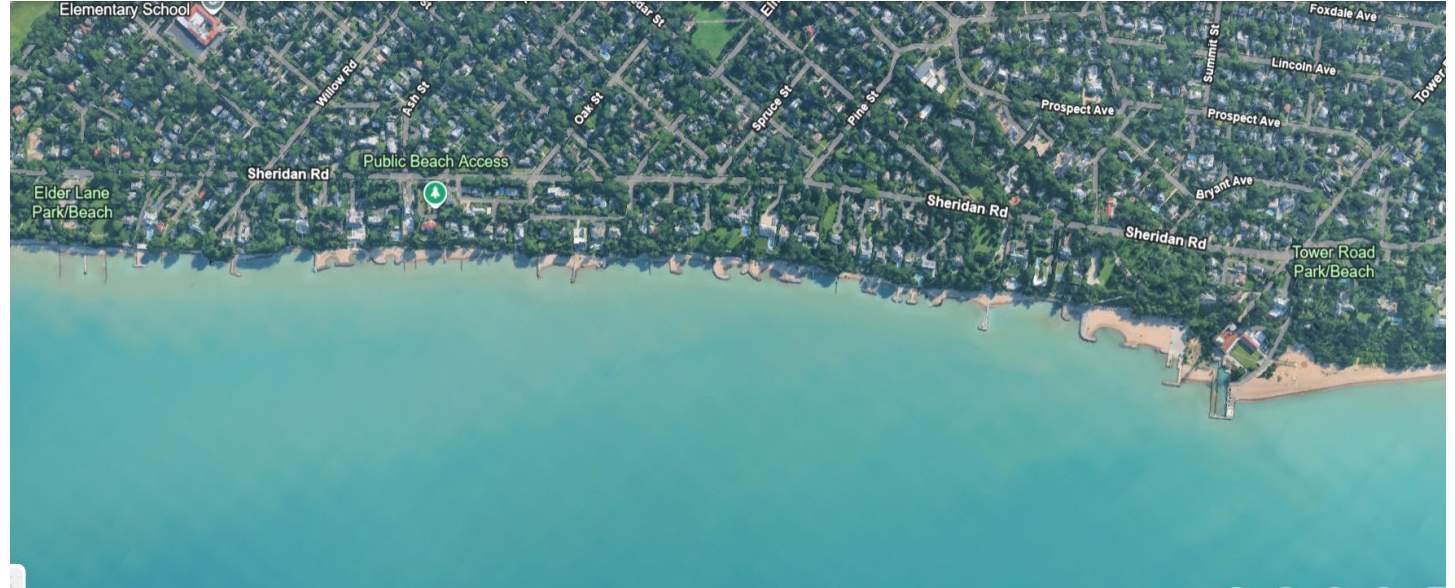


# Winnetka Park District Operated Beaches

Beach Length\* (north to south)

- Tower Road Beach
  - 510'
- Lloyd Beach
  - 720'
- Maple Street Beach
  - 237'
- Elder Lane Beach
  - 405'
- Centennial Beach
  - 530'

\* Approximant based on surveys



Centennial Dog Beach at 265'  
would be 11% of total

# North Shore Off-Leash Dog Beaches

## Sunrise Dog Beach (Lake Bluff) Top

- Seasonal Operation (Late May – Early September)
- Hours Weekday 10am – 8:30pm
- Weekend/Holidays 9am – 8:30pm
- Beach and Water Access
- 276' (estimate from Google Earth)
- Fencing on the South

## Evanston Dog Beach (Evanston) Bottom

- Seasonal Operation (March 1 – First Winter Weather Event)
- Hours 6am – 11pm Daily (weather permitting)
- Beach and Water Access
- 746' (estimate from Google Earth)
- Includes one or more portions of chain link fence, and wood slat fencing





# North Shore Off-Leash Dog Beaches

## Moraine Dog Beach (Highland Park) Top

- Seasonal Operation (Mid April – Mid November)
- Hours from Dawn till Dusk
- Beach and Water Access
- 320' (estimate from Google Earth)
- Includes one or more portions of chain link fence and wood slat fencing

## Gillson Dog Beach (Wilmette) Bottom

- Open Year-round
- Hours 6am – 10:30pm
- Beach and Water Access
- 210' (estimate from Google Earth)
- Includes one or more portions of chain link fence



# Cost Considerations For Alternate Plans

- Project Cost Estimates (\$50K - \$100K)
  - Project scope would include
    - Review of the existing steel Jetty's and repairs to the cap of the northern structure
    - Construction Drawings and survey for the project (for permitting and bidding)
    - Purchase and installation of approximately 375 LF of chain-link fencing
    - Relocation of the electric for key fob gate
    - Relocation of the key fob gate and controls (may need to be replace if damaged)
    - Repairs to current fob gate location
    - New signage and fixtures as needed
  - Not included
    - Any major repairs to steel sheeting
    - Any operating costs for north beach (costs will depend on usage as approved by the Board)
    - Any additional work not listed above



Funding for this project could be allocated from the Lakefront Capital Budget



# Centennial North Beach Review

Need to determine use of the northern section of Centennial Beach from the center steel jetti to the north property line

- Previously used as part of the Dog Beach Area
- Length of Beach 260'
- FY 2026 Operating Budget does not anticipate any change of use





# Centennial Dog Beach Passes

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- Dog Beach Season April 1 – March 31
- 16 year average
  - 310 Resident Passes
  - 75 Non-Resident Passes
- 2024 All previous passes were reset and only current year active passes were activated
- Dog beach open year round
- Hours Sunrise to Sunset

Year	Resident	Non-Resident
2010	351	75
2011	311	73
2012	320	89
2013	275	71
2014	285	65
2015	267	63
2016	315	70
2017	333	80
2018	371	94
2019	356	105
2020	245	56
2021	300	86
2022	232	54
2023	243	54
2024	434	92
2025	319	71
<b>Average</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>75</b>



# Regulatory Review and Permitting Status

**The permitting status may change with Park Board Approval of an alternate plan.**

Current Status of Project Permitting and Approvals

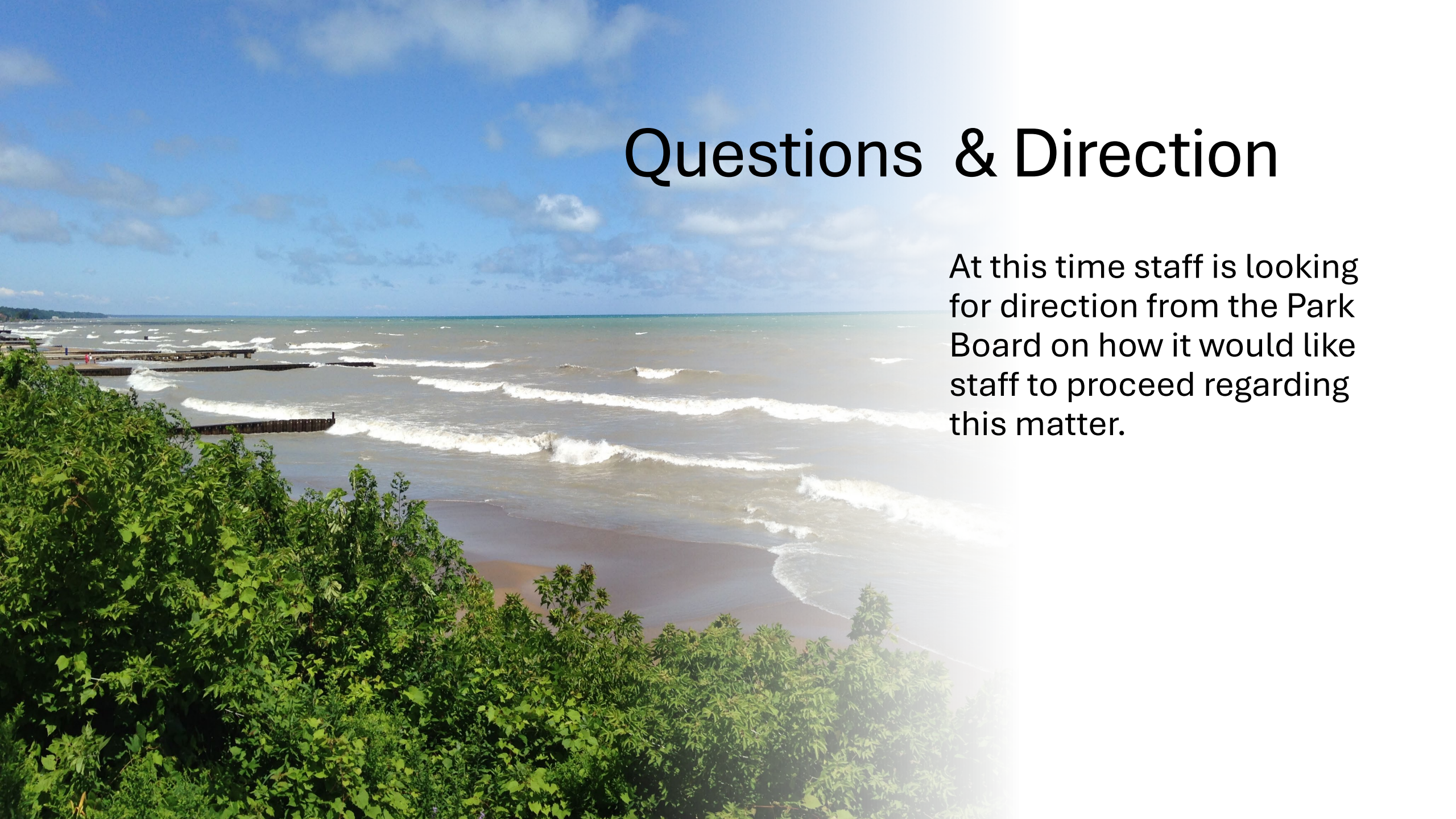
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources permit issued
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency final determination in support of the project issued
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit pending
- Cook County Dept of Animal and Rabies Control letter of approval pending
- Village Building Permit submitted; final approval pending SUP decision
- Village Special Use Permit: ongoing (ZBA, DRB, VC)





# Questions & Direction

At this time staff is looking for direction from the Park Board on how it would like staff to proceed regarding this matter.





A scenic landscape photograph featuring a calm lake in the background, framed by lush green trees in the foreground. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The text "Thank You" is centered over the image in a white, serif font.

Thank You