

## Petition from Jackson Park Advisory Council

The petition is also online at <https://www.change.org/petitions/chicago-department-of-transportation-and-illinois-department-of-transportation-and-chicago-mayor-rahm-emanuel-and-illinois-governor-we-the-undersigned-request-that-cdot-idot-request-emergency-funds-to-quickly-repair-and-re-open-the-historic-clarence-d> OR <http://tinyurl.com/RepairDarrowBridge>

To the Chicago Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Transportation, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, and Governor Patrick Quinn re:

### Request for emergency funds for urgent repair and restoration of Clarence Darrow Bridge in Jackson Park, Chicago

The Clarence Darrow Historic Bridge providing primary access to the Wooded Island and the Japanese Garden has been closed to all use by CDOT due to bridge deterioration.

This bridge is critical to our community and should be repaired and reopened quickly for emergency vehicles, pedestrian, and bicycle use because:

1. It is the only north entrance to the Wooded Island and Japanese Gardens from the 58<sup>th</sup> Science Drive Parking Lot, used by most visitors to one of the most frequently visited attractions in Illinois.
2. Disabled visitors and children in strollers would be forced to disembark their buses and cars on busy, traffic-filled Cornell Drive at 59<sup>th</sup>/Midway Plaisance (where parking is scarce), or walk or be pushed on uneven, pothole-filled paths from 63<sup>rd</sup> and Cornell Drive south of the Island. This could result in auto accidents, pedestrian falls, and an exhausting 4 block-15 minute walk for disabled and other visitors.
3. It is the connecting bridge for bicyclists, runners, walkers, and dog walkers between the Lakefront Bike and walking Trail and the University of Chicago and south Hyde Park.
4. It is the access for emergency vehicles (fire, ambulance, police) to the Wooded Island and Japanese Gardens.
5. It is the access for most bird watchers tracking birds along the Migratory Flyway on the Wooded Island, Paul H. Douglas Nature Sanctuary and natural area.
6. It is a major site for area fishermen at least 16 hours daily.
7. It is the community special event gathering site for school groups, tours, work days, photographers, musicians, and meetings. Everyone starts their events in Jackson Park at the Clarence Darrow Bridge. It has historic photographic vistas for the beautiful lagoons and the Museum of Science and Industry. Creation of such vistas was a chief concern for park designer Frederick Law Olmsted.
8. The Japanese Garden is visited by thousands of tourists, is home to countless weddings and special events. Walking in wedding gowns and heels, or carting wedding cakes, chairs, tables made possible because the Darrow bridge allows easy access to from the public lot east of the bridge to the Island, which is to the west of the bridge.
9. University of Chicago and Museum of Science and Industry staff and visitors will be seriously delayed due to traffic jams at 59<sup>th</sup>-Midway and Cornell from tourists and buses disembarking visitors.

We the undersigned request that CDOT/IDOT request emergency funds quickly and undertake repairs of this vital community resource, the Clarence Darrow Bridge, including if necessary temporary access.

| Name | Address or zip | Phone/email (optional) |
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**Bridge** at the narrows between the lagoons and the MSI basin and providing primary access from parking to Wooded Island and the Japanese Garden. Both the access and the restoration of the bridge in accord with historic standards are urgent; funding has not yet been identified. A more complete description of the reasons is on the main page. This page is to allow additional signatures. Jackson Park Advisory Council would appreciate return before Friday morning February 21. They can be dropped off at the Parkshore doorman, 1765 E. 55<sup>th</sup> St. Attention Gary Ossewaarde B6.

contact (optional)

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.