



An aerial view of Goose Island
| Goose Island 2025/PORT

RENOVATION WEEK

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Remaking Goose Island, One of Chicago's Great Industrial Hubs

In the coming years, thousands of office workers will have jobs on Goose Island

BY **AJ LATRACE** | MAY 5, 2016, 2:33PM CDT

After years of neglect, many of Chicago's industrial corridors are making big comebacks. Areas like Fulton Market and River North have blossomed over the last 15 years, transforming from skid rows into some of the most popular spots for city dwellers and the businesses they work at. However, as these two areas reach critical mass, attention is moving up the Chicago River's North Branch to places like Goose Island.

A building is a living and breathing thing. If an older structure isn't heated or cooled in Chicago, for even a few years, it will fall apart from the inside out.

Goose Island may be best known for the beer company that takes its name from the manmade island, however there are other big players doing business in the neighborhood. Wrigley moved into their Global Innovation Center on Goose Island back in 2005, and more recently, the UI Labs Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute opened in the former Republic Windows &

Doors plant on the island. However, real estate developers believe that this is just the beginning for Goose Island. In the next 10 years, hundreds—if not thousands—of new office workers will be commuting to Goose Island for their jobs. There are several major adaptive reuse projects underway, and also some new construction that will help draw companies to this old industrial corridor.

But beyond the island's position to be a leader in the workplace, it is also poised to become an important recreation space as it is surrounded by the Chicago River. Goose Island, and other industrial areas being redevelopment along the Chicago River's North Branch will allow residents and workers to have river access to these areas for the first time in many, many years.

To discuss the transformation of Goose Island and what it means to Chicago, we've reached out to Matt Garrison of R2 Companies, a developer with several projects underway on Goose Island, including the adaptive reuse effort at 909 W. Bliss, the redevelopment of the Goose Island Boat Yard, and a large Gensler-designed tech office complex on North Branch Street.