



Doug Arnot advises Chicago 2016, which is planning the Olympic bid.

2 small venues could be big players

In addition to the major venues in the works for Chicago's bid for the 2016 Olympics, two smaller facilities could turn out to be distinctive in the history of the modern Games.

One is a white-water slalom course in Lincoln Park just south of Fullerton. This potentially expensive project in an existing waterway would be "an engineering challenge for us," said Doug Arnot, an adviser to Chicago 2016, the committee planning the city's Olympic bid. "It would be the first of its kind if we're able to pull that together."

The course's existence may hinge on whether a viable business plan can be found for its post-Games use, Arnot said.

A rowing competition

Another potentially eye-catching feature of a Chicago Olympics would be a rowing venue in a new harbor basin just south of McCormick Place. The venue itself, already proposed by the Chicago Park District, wouldn't be unique, but its centralized location would; in other Olympic host cities, rowing is typically done at venues far from the main hub of activity.

"It would be a real first for the Olympic Games," Arnot said, "to be able to hold the rowing competition on the lake, front and center, within walking distance of the village."

The Chicago Games would also make good use of existing facilities, including McCormick Place, Soldier Field and the United Center.

Kevin Nance