

"Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing."

—Abraham Lincoln
(1809–1865)

A WALKING GUIDE to the *History & Features* of Lincoln Park



CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



A Lakefront Tapestry

Stretching from Kathy Osterman Beach on the north to Ohio Street Beach on the south, Lincoln Park is Chicago's largest and arguably most active green space. Having begun as a 60-acre portion of a public cemetery, the park grew in many phases to its present size of more than 1,200 acres. A diverse group of talented landscape designers, architects, engineers, and artists guided the park's development. Together, their contributions can be seen as a complex lakefront tapestry.

When terrible winter storms damaged the park and eroded old Lake Shore Drive in 1885, the Lincoln Park Commissioners began planning a breakwater system that would include new acreage through landfill. This was not the first time that Chicago parkland had been extended in this way. Grant Park (then known as Lake Park) had its first landfill addition in the late 1860s, and that practice continued after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, when debris and rubble were used as fill. The need for paths and roadways, recreational trends, design objectives, and engineering solutions guided Lincoln Park's development. The commissioners began building old Lake Shore Drive in the 1870s to stretch along what was then the park's eastern edge. In the late 1880s, the park's first fill extension, which jutted into Lake Michigan between Fullerton and North Avenues, included a rowing course known as the South Lagoon.

By the late 1890s, fashionable pastimes were being enjoyed in Lincoln Park and facilities included the Lincoln Park Conservatory, an expanding Lincoln Park Zoo, impressive gardens, sculptures, and monuments. Landfill projects soon continued the northward extension of the park. During the Great Depression, Federal Relief funding helped accelerate these efforts. Each addition made new open space available to diverse neighborhoods nearby, as well as amenities that served the entire region. These included natural areas, a golf course, harbors, tennis and basketball courts, and cultural buildings.

Today, Lincoln Park continues to serve vast numbers of Chicagoans and visitors, providing activities such as boating, fishing, soccer, bicycling, and swimming. With facilities ranging from dog parks and artificial turf fields to beach houses and museums, Lincoln Park offers a richly textured weave of nature, culture, and recreation on the Chicago lakefront.



Welcome to Lincoln Park

Named for Abraham Lincoln, who rose to the United States presidency in 1860 and was tragically assassinated five years later, Lincoln Park is the largest and among the oldest parks in Chicago.

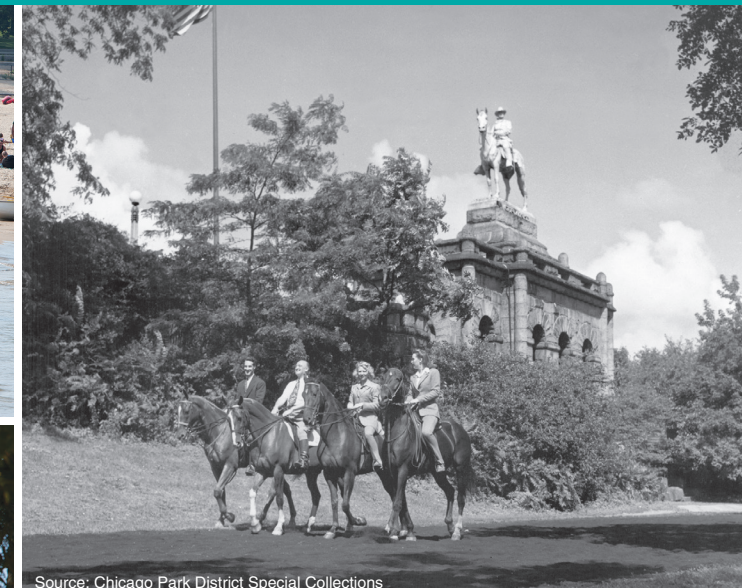
As with Grant and Burnham Parks, the key to the creation of Lincoln Park was the construction of new land by filling into Lake Michigan. The primary source of fill was sand mined from the lake bottom off the Indiana shore. More than three-quarters of the park is on land created by filling into the lake. The Lincoln Park Zoo, Peggy Notebaert Nature Center, North Pond, and South Pond are all within this original land area.

The park we know today is the result of a complex interplay of natural geologic processes, geological engineering, landscape architecture, and reflects the contributions of many talented designers. Lincoln Park stretches for more than seven miles along the Chicago lakefront and it is enjoyed by millions of people every year. The diversity of cultural, natural, and recreational resources in the park is astounding.

Summer fun at Montrose Beach (above). Picnickers along the Lincoln Park lakeshore (below).



Abraham Lincoln: The Man by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, commonly known as *Standing Lincoln*, was described in 1887 by the *New York Evening Post* as “the most important achievement American sculpture has yet produced.”



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections

In this vintage photograph, circa 1940, four equestrians on a bridle path are enjoying a beautiful day in Lincoln Park.

Rowing north on the South Lagoon.



Changing Lake Level, Waves, and Shifting Sand

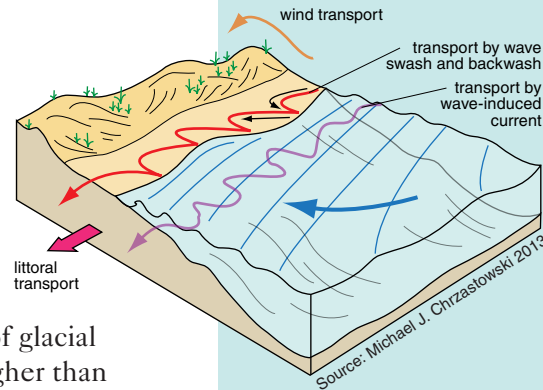
The geologic story of Chicago's present lakeshore begins about 14,000 years ago, when the Ice Age was ending in Illinois, and involves changing lake levels combined with the movement of sand by waves—a process called littoral transport. To the west and northwest of Lincoln Park are the ancient shorelines of Chicago's coastal evolution.

As the glacial ice was receding, the great volume of glacial water formed a lake with a level almost 60 feet higher than today and submerged the Chicago Lake Plain—the land area now occupied by Chicago. Wave erosion of elevated land north of Chicago provided sand for southward littoral transport to build the extensive Wilmette Spit, extending onto the north end of the lake plain. This spit, a fingerlike extension of beach built by littoral transport of sand into open water, remains as a prominent ridge in Wilmette and Skokie.

About 11,500 years ago, the lake level was about 40 feet higher than at present, and wave transport of sand built the Rose Hill Spit. Ridge Avenue, which extends from Evanston through Chicago's North Side, follows the crest of the Rose Hill Spit.

Ancestral Lake Michigan then began a prolonged period of extreme low lake level. For a time, the lake shoreline was miles to the east of present Lincoln Park. During this extreme low lake level that occurred from about 10,000 to 6,000 years ago, the ancestral North Branch of the Chicago River flowed eastward in a channel beneath northern Lincoln Park. This buried, prehistoric river channel lies beneath the vicinity of Montrose Harbor.

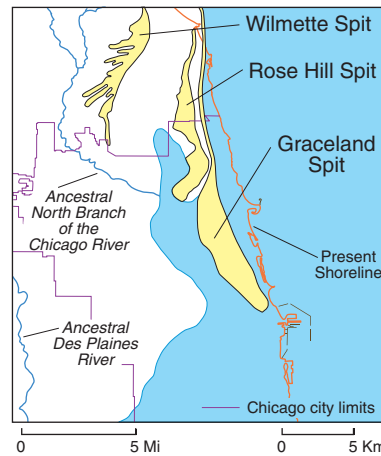
About 5,500 years ago, the lake level was rising again to eventually reach about 20 feet higher than at present. Southward littoral transport then built the Graceland Spit located just west of Lincoln Park. Clark Avenue follows the crest of the Graceland Spit.



When waves approach the shore at an angle, they can move sand along the beach and underwater.

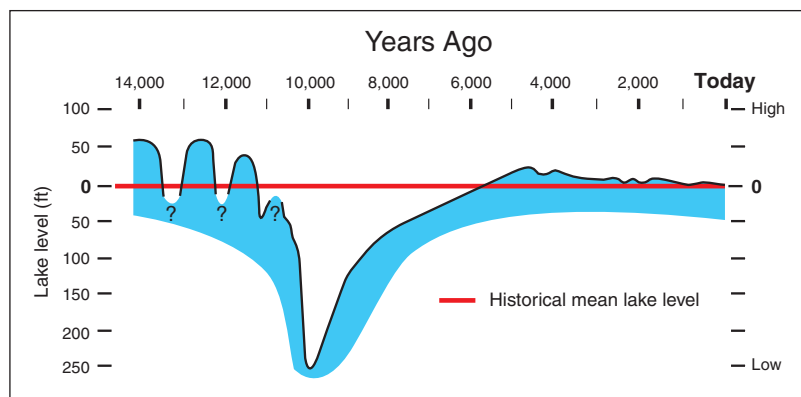
Finally, the lake level gradually fell to its modern level about 2,500 years ago. This shifted the shoreline eastward from the Graceland Spit. Wave action and the accumulation of sand formed a succession of low ridges and swales that produced the historic shore of the 1800s. Within Lincoln Park, the North Pond and South Pond were eventually built along the former marsh areas of the natural ridge and swale topography.

Paleogeography during development of the Graceland Spit about 5,000 years ago and lake level 20 feet higher than at present. All of present-day southern Lincoln Park was then shallow lake bottom marginal to the spit.



Source: Michael J. Chrzaszowski 2009

Major fluctuations in lake level occurred in the early postglacial time.



Source: Michael J. Chrzaszowski 2009



Source: Michael J. Chrzaszowski 2009

Digital elevation model of the topography of Chicago's North Side and near-north suburbs.

Dynamic Coastal Setting

Most visitors to the Lincoln Park shoreline come in the summer months or during nice weather when storm waves are absent. However, during high-wave events, waves several feet in height can pound the shore. Just north of Oak Street Beach, waves have, on occasion, been of sufficient height to break onto Lake Shore Drive. Wave action can remove sand from beaches, but all the Lincoln Park beaches are designed and engineered to hold their sand supply. The Kathy Osterman, Foster, and Montrose Beaches have been built facing toward the north-northeast—the typical direction for approaching storm waves. Incoming waves therefore move sand up and down the beach but not across and away from the beach. Groins, which are wood, stone, concrete, or steel structures protruding from the shore to hold beach sand, are in place at the eastern end of these beaches to retain the sand. North Avenue Beach is held in place by both groins and a partially submerged bulkhead. Oak Street Beach is located within a corner along the shoreline. Ohio Street Beach is an



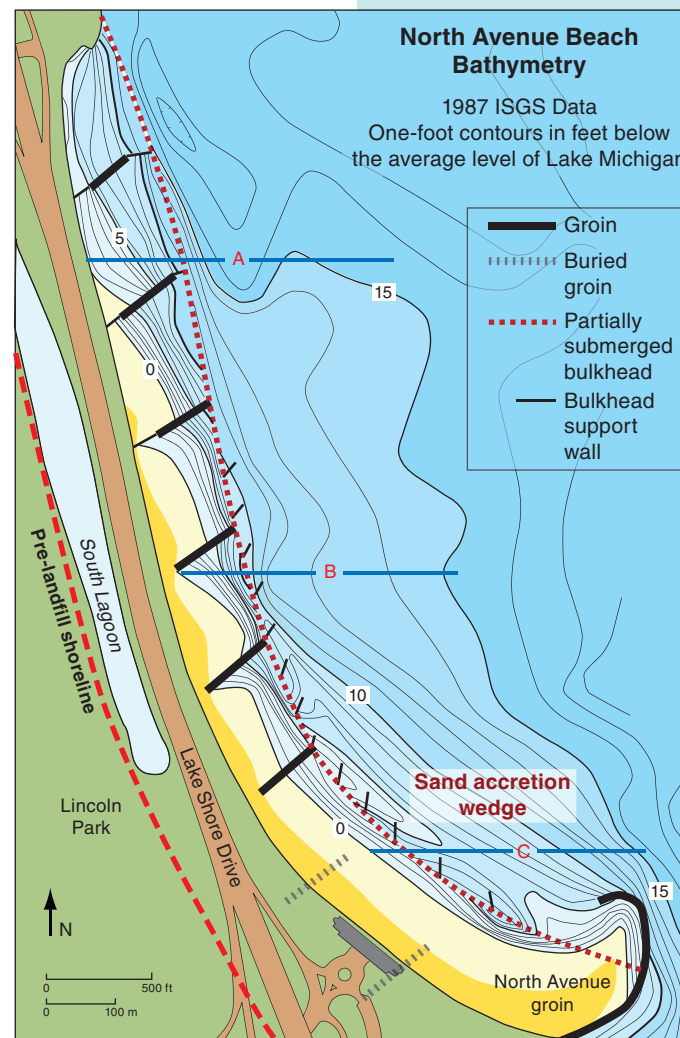
The Ohio Street "pocket beach."

example of a pocket beach, so named because it is contained within a "pocket," or small embayment, along the shore.

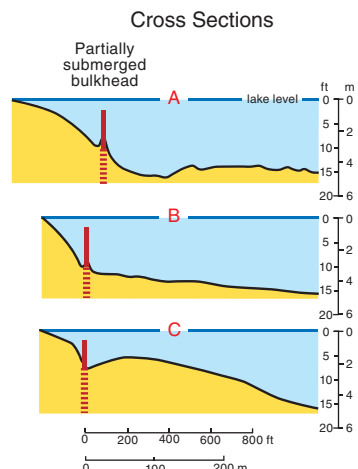
Winter transforms the shoreline at Lincoln Park with a variety of stunning ice formations. Beneath ice shelves built into the lake, the surge caused by wave action often finds weak places where water bursts upward and out onto the shelf. As this water freezes, it can form mound-like structures called ice volcanoes.

The lake level is in continual change along the shore. Wind can temporarily raise or lower the lake level by driving water toward or away from the shore. Currents often flow through the entrances to Montrose, Belmont, and Diversey Harbors as lake level oscillations move water into or out of the harbors. On a yearly scale, the lake typically fluctuates about 1 foot—high in winter and low in summer. Over the past several decades, the lake level has fluctuated slightly more than 6 feet.

North Avenue Beach is highly engineered. An underwater steel wall (bulkhead) aids in holding the beach sand.



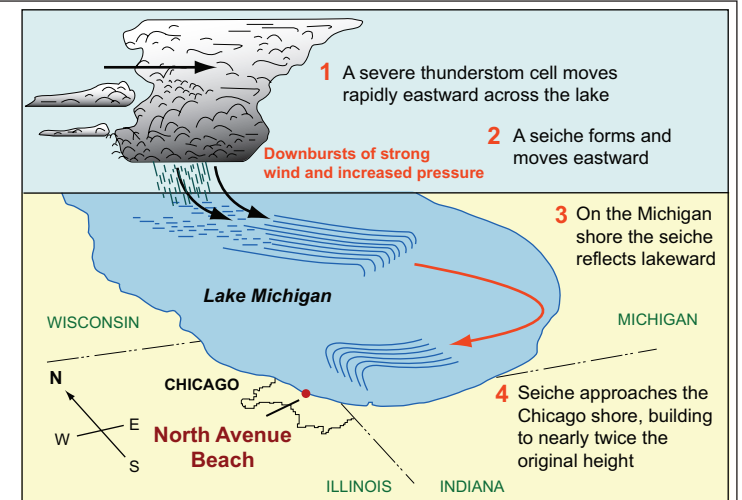
Source: Michael J. Chrzastowski 2008



The partially submerged bulkhead elevates the beach sand above the nearby lake bottom.

THE DEADLY 1954 SEICHE

A seiche (*says*h) is a wind-caused oscillation of the lake surface, typically produced by severe thunderstorms. Along the shore, the result is a rise and fall of lake level and potentially the sudden occurrence of one or more large waves. Seiches less than 1 or 2 feet are common. The most severe seiche on the Chicago lakefront occurred on June 26, 1954, when a 10-foot-high wave struck the North Avenue groin, drowning several fishermen.



Sources: Michael J. Chrzastowski 2008; M. Ewing et al. 1954; and W. Recktenwald 1994

Conical shape of an "ice volcano" that formed along the lake shore (person for scale).



Wave action causing an ice volcano to "erupt."

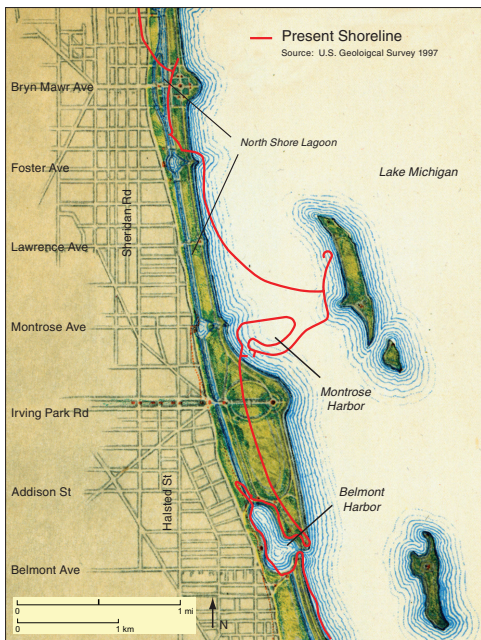


Shaping the Shoreline

The earliest efforts in building Lincoln Park in the 1860s and 1870s dealt with designing and modifying the natural landscape marginal to the lake. This changed in the late 1880s, when filling in the shallow water of Lake Michigan provided an eastward expansion of the early park from North Avenue northward to Fullerton Avenue. Today, Lake Shore Drive extends along this stretch of 1890s filling, much of which was originally built as a narrow island. Making this land created the South Lagoon.

This initial and limited park expansion by land filling was the beginning of a series of ambitious landfill projects that would ultimately produce the present-day park. Constructing the land involved building timber and stone structures (revetments) in the lake to form a wall to define the new shoreline. Sand, clay, and other clean fill were placed behind these structures to make land. Small boat harbors were formed by building land to partially enclose water areas. In this way, Montrose, Belmont, and Diversey Harbors were formed. Beginning in the 1930s, steel sheet pile was used instead of timber. In recent decades, along select segments of the shore, a second generation of revetments was built with steel sheet pile and reinforced concrete.

The park development by a series of landfill projects resulted in Lincoln Park consisting of a patchwork of land additions that spanned seven decades. Beginning with a natural shoreline that was rather straight and featureless, a new engineered shoreline was shaped by building into the lake. Many different designs and plans were proposed in this prolonged construction history. Some were realized; others were not.



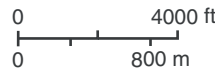
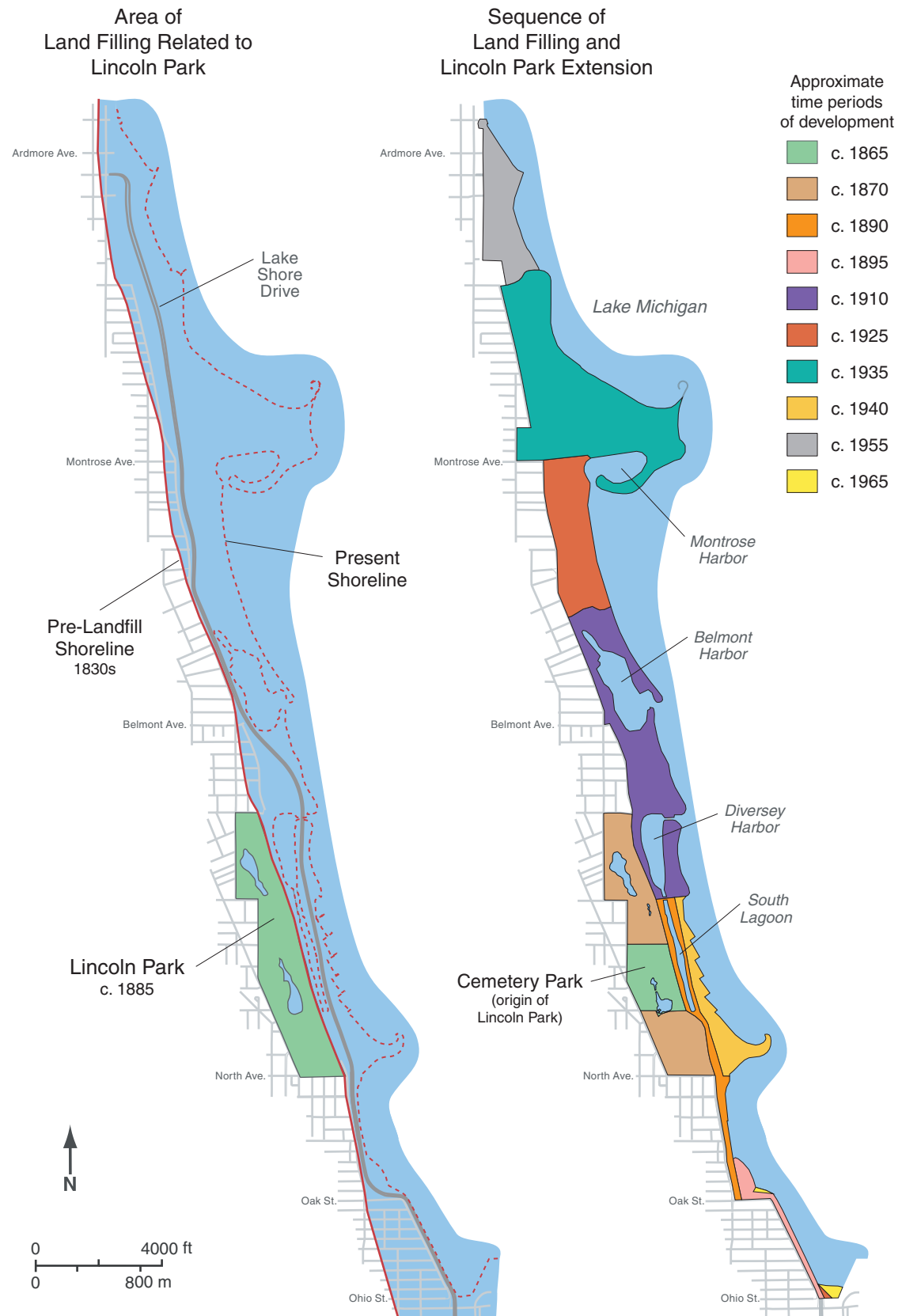
Sources: *Plan of Chicago* 1909, Plate L; M. Chrzastowski 2008

Comparison of what the historic 1909 *Plan of Chicago* proposed (green and yellow shading) for the lakeshore in the vicinity of Montrose Avenue and the present shoreline.



Sources: H.E. Young 1931; M. Chrzastowski 2008

A 1930s plan for the shore north of Montrose Beach included islands, lagoons, and a harbor, none of which was built.

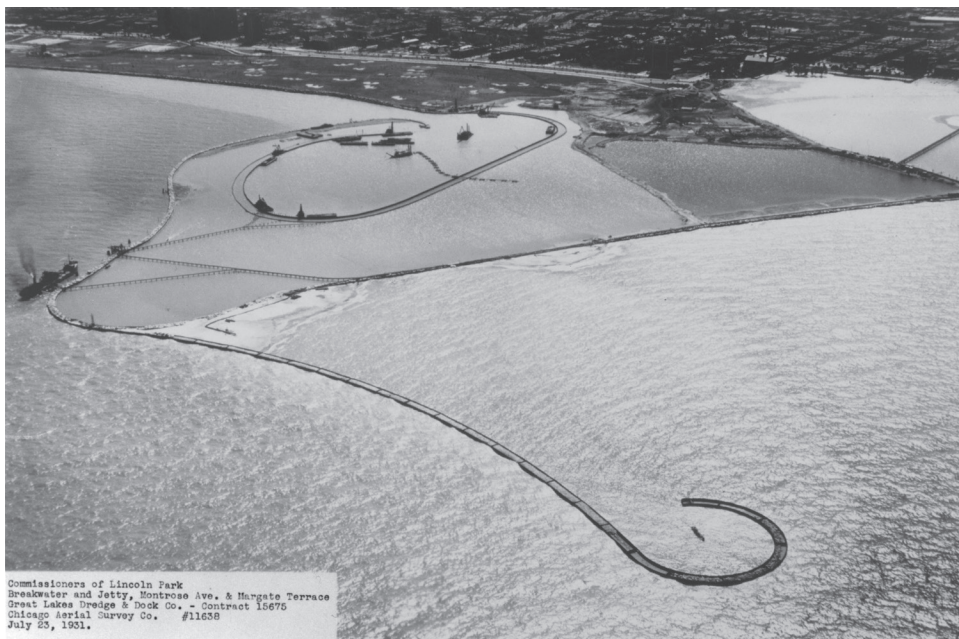


Construction Challenges and Innovation

The building of the parkland along all of the Chicago lakeshore in the late 1800s and early 1900s involved innovations in geological engineering. In Lincoln Park, lakeshore erosion had been a problem since the earliest construction. For several years, the Lincoln Park Commissioners used a breakwater system called the Netherlands Plan, in which bound layers of brush weighted by stones were placed along the shoreline. In 1885, a severe winter storm washed them away and damaged newly constructed portions of the former Lake Shore Drive (now Cannon Drive). In response, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided plans for a breakwater between Fullerton and North Avenues approximately 500 feet offshore. This led to filling in new parkland west of the breakwater, which is now the land on the east side of the South Lagoon.

Despite the challenges in building and protecting the lakefront parkland, two geologic factors aided in the engineering of the shore. First, thick clay layers beneath the lake bottom sand were well suited for driving pilings into the lake bottom to anchor the shore structures. Second, the natural gentle slope of the lake bottom was ideal for filling into the lake to make new land.

Within Lincoln Park are several examples of innovative geological engineering. North Avenue Beach, constructed in the 1930s, serves a dual purpose of providing a beach for recreation and also to dissipate wave energy and provide erosion protection for nearby Lake Shore Drive. At the eastern end of Montrose Point, the land is about three-quarters of a mile lakeward of the prefilling shoreline and is built into water depths of nearly 20 feet.



Source: Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, July 23, 1931



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections

The potential for wave erosion along the Lincoln Park lakeshore has been a long-term engineering challenge with some setbacks.

Montrose Harbor was formed by making land to partially surround the harbor area.



Source: Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, July 23, 1931

Montrose groin is necessary to hold the sand of Montrose Beach. The early construction of the beach is visible here. Sand was brought by hopper-dredge ship, primarily from mining dune and lake-bottom sand along the Indiana shore.

Part of shoreline reconstruction for the Chicago Shoreline Protection Project near Belmont Harbor in 2000. The first generation of timber and stepped-stone revetments was overlain by a second-generation revetment using sheet pile and reinforced concrete.



Source: Michael J. Chrastowski 2000

Steel sheet pile consists of long, corrugated-shaped, interlocking steel panels. Today, this is a common material along most of the Lincoln Park shore. This was new technology in the early 1930s when used in construction of the North Avenue Beach and the Montrose groin. This was the first recorded use of steel sheet pile for shore structures in Lake Michigan. This new technology allowed the framing for the 2,490-foot hook-shaped Montrose groin to be completed in less than two months.

Steel sheet pile was also incorporated into the Chicago Shoreline Protection Project. Partners in this project to reconstruct eight of the most deteriorated miles of the Chicago shoreline included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the City of Chicago, the Chicago Park District, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. In recognition of the accomplishments made in geological engineering along the Lincoln Park shore and all the other lakeshore parkland, in 1998 the American Shore and

Beach Preservation Association awarded the Chicago Park District with a national award for excellence in long-term shore and beach planning, engineering, and stewardship.

A Park Rises from Cemetery Grounds

During the mid-19th century, public health and sanitation concerns led to the transformation of a cemetery into Lincoln Park. In the late 1820s, the State of Illinois received a significant federal land grant allowing property to be platted and sold to generate revenue for the proposed Illinois and Michigan Canal. In 1837, just prior to Chicago's incorporation as a city, state officials agreed to use some of this land as a public burial ground. Known as Chicago City Cemetery, the graveyard was located at the existing edge of Lake Michigan (now Clark Street), roughly between Webster Street and North Avenue.



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections



The Couch Tomb, located near the Chicago History Museum, is the only visible reminder of the former City Cemetery (upper). The Couch Tomb as it appears today (lower).

Small map showing the location of Cemetery Park and City Cemetery (also known as Chicago Cemetery). In 1860, the unused northern part of the cemetery became a park.

From the beginning, the City Cemetery had poor site conditions. Its sandy soil and low wet swales encouraged little plant growth other than poison ivy, “occasional clumps and scrub oaks,” and some other “straggling vegetation.”¹ Soon after interments began in 1843, city officials began receiving complaints about the cemetery’s appearance. During Mayor James Woodworth’s 1848 inaugural address, he stated that this graveyard was “incompatible with the desires and character of the People of Chicago.”² Chicago businessman Thomas Barbour Bryan, who buried his son in City Cemetery in 1855, became so disgusted by its “neglected and actually repulsive condition” that he established Chicago’s Graceland Cemetery, a “private and more beautiful burial ground,” where he reinterred his son’s body.³

Throughout the 1850s, Chicago’s Common Council received requests to move the cemetery to a more appropriate location. The city’s population grew rapidly during this period, and cholera outbreaks resulted in high death rates, which overcrowded the cemetery. Over a six-day period in 1854, more than 600 cholera victims were buried in the City Cemetery’s Potter’s Field.

Dr. John Rauch (1828–1894), a Chicago physician and health advocate, believed the City Cemetery posed a significant health threat to the growing city. He warned that cemeteries should never be located near highly populated areas and that City Cemetery’s lakefront site was especially problematic because bacteria and viruses from corpses of those who had died of cholera, smallpox, and other infectious diseases could leach into the lake and contaminate Chicago’s drinking water supply. Rauch passionately argued against any further interments at the cemetery.

A campaign to remove the graveyard was underway in 1860, when citizens petitioned Chicago’s Common Council to use the northern 60-acre unburied part of City Cemetery “for park purposes.”⁴ City officials agreed, and the Board of Public Works made minor improvements to what first became known as Cemetery Park and then as Lake Park. Dr. Rauch continued crusading to completely remove City Cemetery and expand the parkland onto the burial ground. He explained that public parks not only would provide “the lungs of a city,” but also “may be regarded as an unerring index of the advance of a people in civilization and refinement.”⁵

It would be decades before bodies would be disinterred and moved to other cemeteries. Ultimately, as the park grew, many skeletons and fragments were left behind. According to the Hidden Truths website, of the more than 35,000 bodies buried in City Cemetery and nearby graveyards during Chicago’s early history, only about 22,500 bodies were exhumed—meaning that skeletal remains of more than 10,000 people may still lie beneath Lincoln Park.⁶ Discoveries of human remains have occurred frequently over the years as construction projects disturbed the older areas of the park. Today, the 1858 Couch Tomb provides an important aboveground link to Lincoln Park’s earlier history.



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections

Early Park History

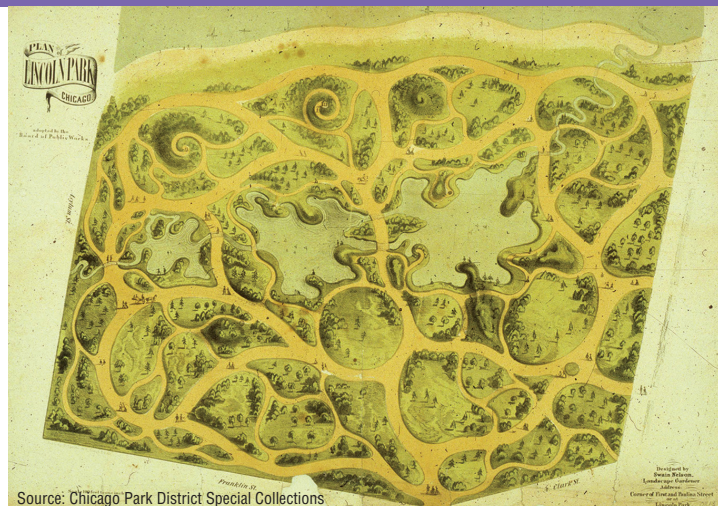
Many Chicagoans still referred to 60-acre Lake Park as Cemetery Park in the spring of 1865, when the nation was shocked by the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

The small lakefront park received little attention until early June, when the Common Council agreed to rename the site in honor of President Abraham Lincoln only a few months after his death. According to an early published history of Lincoln Park, “bestowing... this honored name to the embryo Park seemed to produce the desirable effect of loosening the city’s purse strings” because along with the name, the Common Council allocated \$10,000 for its improvements.¹

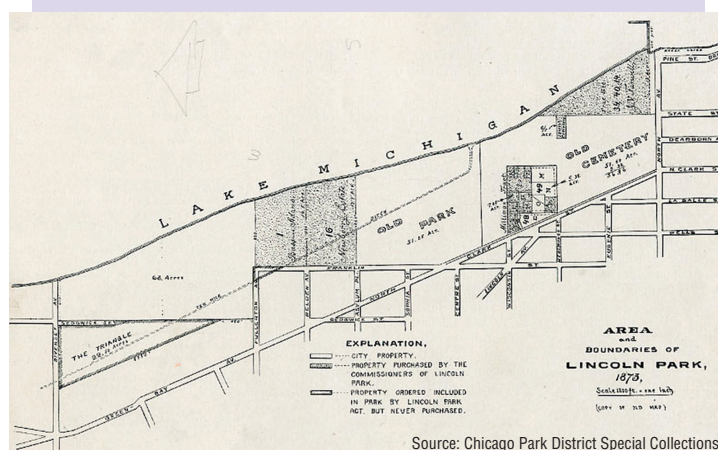
In addition to the generous budget for Lincoln Park, the City approved funds to improve Union Park on Chicago’s then-fashionable West Side. The Board of Public Works ran advertisements in local papers to solicit plans for both Union and Lincoln Parks.² Landscape gardener Swain Nelson responded with a proposal for Union Park, but decided not to submit one for Lincoln Park because he had heard a rumor that its design would be awarded to the city engineer. The review committee members were so delighted with Nelson’s whimsical Union Park plan that they asked him to submit a scheme for Lincoln Park. Nelson had his cousin Olof Benson help prepare a topographical survey of the site.³ After submitting his proposal for Lincoln Park, Nelson won a \$200 prize, and the review committee adopted the plans for both parks.⁴

Nelson’s original plan for Lincoln Park addressed the property’s challenging conditions. Not only did the site have sandy ridges and low swales, but it was also diagonally sliced by a drainage canal known as the Ten-Mile Ditch, which began in Evanston and emptied into nearby Lake Michigan. To occupy the low wet areas, Nelson designed the park’s centerpiece—a series of three artificial lakes joined by winding narrow streams, meant to be crossed by rustic bridges. He surrounded the water features with lawns and scattered trees and an intricate system of winding drives and paths. Nelson’s design featured rolling topography to be formed from the excavated soil, including a dramatic 35-foot-tall hill dubbed “Lookout Mountain.”⁵

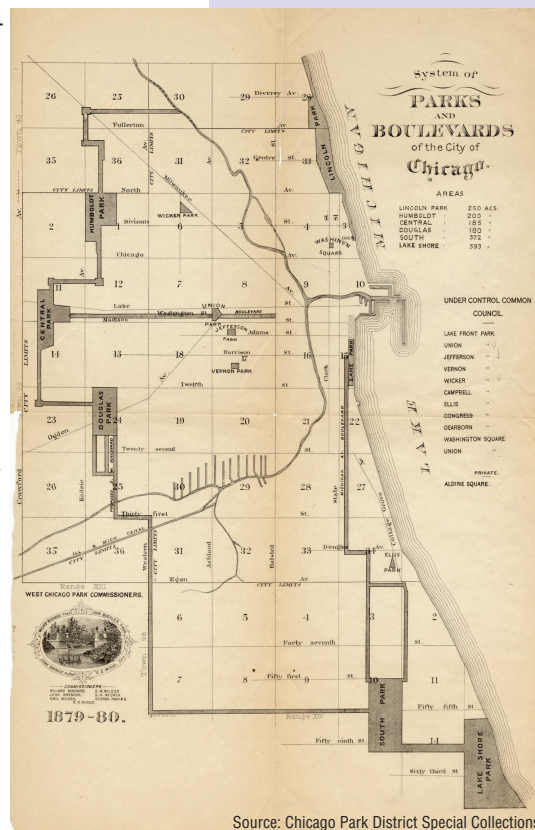
As Nelson & Benson worked on the construction of Lincoln Park, Dr. Rauch’s campaign to move the cemetery and expand Lincoln Park gained momentum. This inspired a citywide parks movement as Chicagoans on the South and West Sides pressed for park development in their neighborhoods. Finally, in 1869, the Illinois state legislature adopted three separate bills establishing the Lincoln, South, and West Park Commissions. Although the three park commissions operated independently, the overall goal was to create a unified park and boulevard system that would encircle the city.⁶



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections

Swain Nelson’s original “Plan for Lincoln Park” (above). Map showing the Ten-Mile Ditch from 1873. (middle). Plan of Parks Boulevards in Chicago, circa 1875 (left). Early Lake Shore Drive, circa 1890 (below). The Lincoln Park Mall, circa 1895 (right).

The Lincoln Park Act established a special taxing jurisdiction and placed the park under the control and management of a board of five commissioners. It also fixed new boundaries for the park, with Diversey Avenue (later Diversey Parkway) at the northern boundary and North Avenue at the southern boundary. Despite the intention to quickly disinter bodies and move them to other cemeteries, progress occurred slowly. The Lincoln Park Commission was hindered by legal challenges, difficulties in condemning some private property (including private cemeteries) within the new park boundaries, and financial problems, as well as physical damage to the cemetery, incomplete records relating to lot owners, and other complications caused by the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Finally, by the mid-1870s, many bodies were disinterred and moved to other cemeteries, although many others were left behind.

The newly created Lincoln Park Commission continued contracting with Nelson & Benson to design and improve the expanded park. The construction of Lake Shore Drive along the park’s eastern edge was one of the Lincoln Park Board’s first priorities. In 1871, Nelson & Benson had so many problems with cows roaming onto the construction site that the commissioners gave them permission to charge a \$15 fee every time they had to impound a cow and wait for an owner to come take it home.⁷ This was a clever solution, considering that a cow cost approximately \$25 at the time.

Over the next few years, as the ambitious expansion project progressed slowly, Nelson & Benson continued maintaining and repairing the improved portions of the park. One of their contracts required the landscape gardeners to feed and care for the animals and fowl in the newly designated zoo area.⁸ Nelson & Benson also designed and constructed the landscape areas north and south of the old park, including the North Pond, an adjacent hill called Mount Prospect, and a long promenade south of the South Pond lined with elm trees and rustic baskets of flowers, known as the Mall. While early improvements were still underway, a *Chicago Tribune* article urged readers to recognize Nelson & Benson as artists, explaining “it would be unfair to look upon Messrs. Nelson & Benson as mere contractors.... They have spared nothing to make Lincoln Park a model of elegance among parks.”⁹



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections



Source: Chicago History Museum (IChi16978)

The Architects

One of Chicago's most progressive architects, **Dwight Heald Perkins** (1867–1941) received a degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and began working for Burnham & Root in 1889. Five years later, Perkins opened his own firm with a commission to design a Chicago office building for the Steinway Piano Company. Perkins and several friends and colleagues rented space in an upper story of Steinway Hall, sharing ideas and contributing to what is now known as the **Prairie School of Architecture**. As a member of the Special Park Commission, Perkins and his friend Jens Jensen prepared plans for the Cook County Forest Preserve system. Between 1905 and 1910, Perkins served as head architect for the Chicago Public Schools, designing more than 40 new schools and dozens of building additions. John L. Hamilton resigned as draftsman for the Board of Education to form a firm with Perkins in 1905, and several years later they added a third partner, William K. Fellows. The firm designed many handsome Prairie-style structures for Lincoln Park between 1907 and 1920, including the South Pond Refectory, also known as **Café Brauer**; the **Boat House** at the South Lagoon; the **Lincoln Park Zoo Lion House**, which received a gold medal from the American Institute of Architects; the **Skating Shelter**, now used as the North Pond Restaurant; the Chicago Daily News Fresh Air Sanitarium for Sick Babies, now the **Theater on the Lake**; and the **Lincoln Park lampposts**, for which the firm patented the design.

Edwin Hill Clark (1879–1967) graduated from Yale University and went on to study architecture at Chicago's Armour Institute (now the Illinois Institute of Technology). He began working for architect William Otis in 1903, and several years later, they formed Otis & Clark, which continued until 1919. After then practicing with two brothers, Chester and Russell Walcott, Clark established his own firm in the mid-1920s. Remaining busy until his retirement in 1947, Clark designed many stately buildings in a range of period-revival styles, including elegant North Shore mansions. He also worked closely with Mrs. James Ward Thorne on the famous miniature rooms at the Art Institute of Chicago. Among Clark's public buildings are Winnetka City Hall, Chicago's Municipal Tuberculosis Sanitarium (now North Park Village), and the planning and design of Brookfield Zoo. For Lincoln Park, he designed the Administration Building (now the **Lincoln Park Cultural Center**); the **Waveland Field House and Clock Tower**; the **South Athletic Field House**; and the Small Mammal House (now the **Helen Brach Primate House**) and Aquarium (now the **Reptile House**) in the Lincoln Park Zoo.



The Lincoln Park lampposts in front of Café Brauer (above). The North Pond Restaurant (left). The Chicago Daily News Fresh Air Sanitarium for Sick Babies (below).



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections

The Small Mammal House, now the Helen Brach Primate House (above). Waveland Field House and Clock Tower (left).



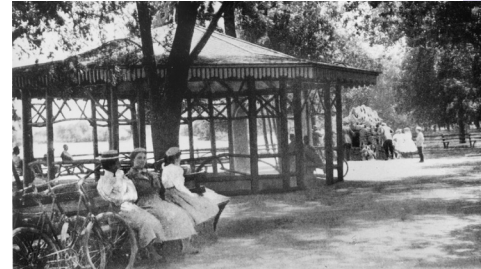
The red barn at the Farm-in-the-Zoo (above). The Passerelle (right).



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections



Carlson Cottage (above). The Rustic Shelter (below).



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections



The Nature Boardwalk Pavilion (above and right).



Emanuel V. Buchsbaum (1907–1995) studied architecture at the Armour Institute (now the Illinois Institute of Technology) and received the Hutchinson Medal for the Highest Average in Design. After college, he worked for five years in the office of Chicago architect R. Harold Zook. In 1930, the South Park Commission hired Buchsbaum as an architectural draftsman. Four years later, the city's independent park commissions were consolidated into the Chicago Park District, and Buchsbaum became the architectural designer. His work in Lincoln Park includes the **Wilson Avenue Stone Comfort Station**, the 1939 **North Avenue Beach House** (demolished in 1999 and replaced by a building designed by Wheeler Kearns Architects), the rainbow footbridge known as the **Passerelle**, and the zoo's iconic red barn in the Farm-in-the-Zoo.

Born and raised in Massachusetts, **Joseph Lyman Silsbee** (1848–1913) graduated from Harvard University and went on to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in what was then the nation's first academic program in architecture. He established a practice in Syracuse, New York, and became known for producing well-designed houses and commercial buildings in the Queen Anne and Gothic Revival styles. He also produced a large collection of buildings in Buffalo, New York. In 1883, he opened an office in Chicago and settled with his family in Edgewater. Silsbee designed hundreds of buildings throughout the nation. For Lincoln Park, he designed a comfort station known as **Carlson Cottage** in 1888. He also produced an animal house for the zoo that was later razed. Silsbee served as lead architect and for the **Lincoln Park Conservatory**. For the conservatory project, Silsbee was assisted by **Mifflin E. Bell** (1847–1902) who served as the supervising architect for the U.S. Treasury Department Building in Washington, DC. In 1883, Bell designed Lincoln Park's **Rustic Shelter**. Today, this is the oldest extant structure in the park.

Illinois native **Jeanne Gang** (b. 1964) is an internationally acclaimed architect and urban designer. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois and a master's in architecture from Harvard University. A MacArthur Fellow, she is the founder of Studio Gang Architects. Her work has received many honors and has been exhibited at major cultural institutions such as MoMa and the National Building Museum. She designed the **Nature Boardwalk** in the Lincoln Park Zoo. This project transformed Lincoln Park's **South Pond** into an outdoor classroom and haven for birds, insects, fish, and other wildlife. It includes a sculpture-like pavilion made of curved wood and covered with transparent fiberglass pods. The project won a 2011 Distinguished Building Award from the American Institute of Architects Chicago.

The Landscape Architects and Designers

Born and raised in Sweden, **Swain Nelson** (1828–1917) apprenticed under the horticulturalist at the Estate of Count Wachtmeister at Vännäs. With his younger cousin Olof Benson, Nelson immigrated to America in 1852, moving first to Ohio and then settling in Chicago, where he established himself as one of the city's first landscape gardeners. Nelson's initial projects included early estates for prominent Chicagoans and laying out original roads at Graceland Cemetery.¹ In 1865, Nelson submitted proposals for Union and Lincoln Parks, which were selected by the city's Board of Public Works. Nelson's original plan featured an interconnected waterway, winding paths, hills and mounds, and lawn and trees. After establishing a nursery on land near Lincoln Park, Nelson & Benson served as designers and contractors for the park and its early extensions for the next two decades. Nelson & Benson's work in Lincoln Park includes old Lake Shore Drive (now Cannon Drive) and the North Pond extension. The partnership ended around 1887, when Swain Nelson established a firm with his son Alvin. By 1891, a second son, Seymour, also joined and the firm became known as Swain Nelson & Sons. They designed parks, cemeteries, residential properties, and institutional and commercial grounds in many towns and cities throughout the Midwest.

With his cousin Swain Nelson, **Olof Benson** (1836–1909) emigrated from Sweden and settled in Chicago in 1855 after spending a few years in Defiance, Ohio. Benson completed high school in the Chicago Public Schools and served in the Union Army during the Civil War. In 1865, when Nelson won the competition to design Union and Lincoln Parks, he hired Benson to help him execute the plans.² The following year, the two formed a partnership. They designed and built extensions and other improvements to Lincoln Park as well as other landscapes. Benson served as Lincoln Park's superintendent from the early 1870s until 1883, and because of this position, he and his family lived in a cottage in the park for more than a decade.³ Benson went on to design other Midwestern landscapes.

One of the nation's first female landscape architects, **Annette McCrea** (1858–1928) asked the Lincoln Park Commissioners to hire her in 1899. McCrea began her professional career in 1892, when her husband Franklin died and she took over his wholesale nursery business in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and also designed nearby estate grounds. The Lincoln Park Commissioners agreed to McCrea's request, appointing her as consulting landscape architect in early 1900. McCrea made plans to improve landscape management and to label shrubs and trees to help educate the public. She advocated in favor of making the park look more natural, emulating "the wild appearance of the woods."⁴ Little of her work was realized, however, because she lacked political support and was ousted less than a year after her appointment. McCrea went on to have a successful career as a landscape architect for several major railroad companies. She also served on boards of organizations devoted to reform and beautification, including the National Outdoor Art Association.

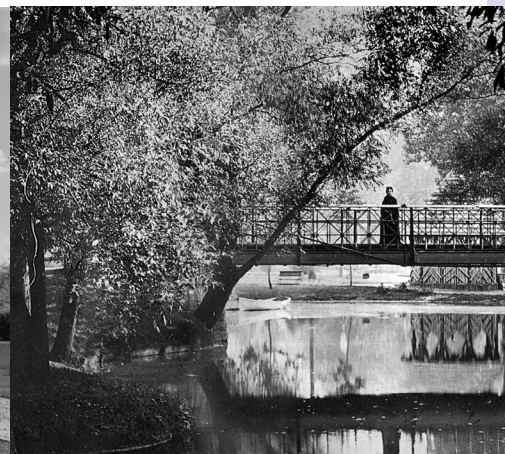
Grandmother's Garden (above).
Montrose Point (center left). **Bridge at the old South Pond (center right).** **The Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool (below).**



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections

After studying architecture and engineering under William Le Baron Jenney at the University of Michigan, **Ossian Cole Simonds** (1855–1931) relocated to Chicago and began working for Jenney's firm. Jenney assigned him to work on an extension to Graceland Cemetery. Through this project, Simonds met Bryan Lathrop, the cemetery's new president. With Lathrop's encouragement, Simonds decided to pursue landscape gardening instead of architecture. Simonds's early use of native plantings and innovative naturalistic designs for Graceland Cemetery contributed to the development of the Prairie style of landscape architecture and brought him national attention. In 1903, a year after Lathrop was appointed as vice president of the Lincoln Park Board of Commissioners, Simonds was appointed as the park's consulting landscape architect. With the exception of a few years when Simonds lacked political support, he served as Lincoln Park's consulting landscape gardener from 1903 to 1921. Simonds designed Lincoln Park's extension from Diversey Parkway to Cornelia Avenue, planted thousands of native shrubs and trees throughout the park, and designed settings for buildings that conveyed his belief that "architecture should be subordinate to the landscape, especially within a park setting."⁵

Alfred Caldwell (1903–1998) was the last Prairie-style landscape architect of the 20th century. Born in St. Louis, he grew up in Chicago and graduated from Lake View High School, where he studied under Herman Silas Pepoon, a prominent botanist and expert on Midwestern plants. Caldwell briefly attended the University of Illinois in the landscape architecture program but became disillusioned by its emphasis on formalistic designs and dropped out. In 1924, he began working for renowned landscape architect and conservationist Jens Jensen, who became a lifelong friend and mentor. Jensen assigned Caldwell to work on high-profile projects, but in 1931, Jensen had to lay him off because of the Depression. Caldwell established his own practice, and at the recommendation of George Donahue, superintendent of Chicago's South Park Commission, Caldwell became the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Superintendent of Parks for Dubuque, Iowa, a position he held until 1936. He then secured a position with the Chicago Park District, where he worked (on and off) through 1940. His Lincoln Park work includes planting plans for the 500-acre Montrose to Foster Avenue extension and redesigning a Victorian lily pool, now named the Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool. Caldwell later worked for the U.S. War Department and the Chicago Department of Planning, and he taught at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and the University of Southern California.

After graduating with a degree in landscape architecture from the University of Illinois in 1935, **Max W. Matz** (1910–1993) began working for the Chicago Park District in 1935. Along with Robert E. Moore (1899–1969), who headed the Chicago Park District's Landscape Architecture Department from the 1930s to the mid-1960s, Matz served on the board of the Chicago Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. In 1973, the year that he retired from the Chicago Park District, Matz received an award at a White House ceremony for the Lincoln Park Zoo Mall project, described as an example of "outstanding contributions to environmental improvements."⁶

More than a Century of Recreation in Lincoln Park

Throughout its history, Lincoln Park has provided many generations with a broad and often-changing array of programs and facilities. During its earliest period, visitors enjoyed such passive pursuits as walking, driving, and picnicking. Over the years, as ideas about health and fitness changed and as new leisure-time activities became popular, the park offered an increasing spectrum of active recreational programs.

Lincoln Park's original 60-acre park had been only partially completed in the late 1860s when visitors began to swarm there. The *Chicago Tribune* described a free summer concert in which "thousands of well-dressed" people were "strolling along the neatly graveled walks, lounging on rustic benches in the grateful shade of trees, or stretching themselves at full length on the delicious verdure of artificial mound and hillock."¹ This article stated that the largest hill in Swain Nelson's plan had been "appropriately christened Look-Out Mountain" because the view of Lake Michigan from the top was "very magnificent."²

By the early 1870s, the park's serpentine-like artificial lake was used for boating in the summers and ice skating and curling during wintertime. Skating was first permitted on park ponds in 1874, and the sport became so popular that four years later, the Lincoln Park Commissioners rented locomotive headlights to "light the way for the skaters."³

Nelson & Benson constructed Lincoln Park's old Lake Shore Drive, now the route of Cannon Drive. Chicagoans marveled at the driving conditions, and in 1873, the commissioners decided to suspend the speed limit of six miles an hour on Tuesday and Friday afternoons "to benefit the owners of fast horses."⁴ Fast drivers enjoyed "the rapture" of speed, and the program was deemed "a complete success."⁵

In the 1880s, fishing, archery, lawn tennis, baseball, and football were popular activities in Lincoln Park. Over the next decade or so, the park also provided several new amenities. When the commissioners planned the landfill extension between Diversey Parkway and North Avenue, boating enthusiasts requested that they build "a straight-away protected course for rowing races" and a yacht harbor in that area.⁶

Despite the growing interest in active recreation, many visitors continued to enjoy the park in more passive ways. Lincoln Park's nationally renowned floral department was responsible for its gardens, lily pools, and the elegant Lincoln Park Conservatory, which opened between 1892 and 1895—briefly



Source: Chicago History Museum (IChi-13951)



Source: SDN-008864, Chicago Daily News negatives collection, Chicago Historical Society



Source: SDN-008994, Chicago Daily News negatives collection, Chicago Historical Society

**Skaters in Lincoln Park, circa 1905 (above).
Women's tennis match, circa 1910 (above left).
Spectators standing on the banks of a Lincoln Park lagoon watching a rowing race, circa 1910 (above right).**



Source: DN-0064306, Chicago Daily News negatives collection, Chicago Historical Society

Young girl in the Lincoln Park Conservatory during the Easter Flower Show, circa 1915.

Women and children at the Lincoln Park Beach, circa 1912.

housing a collection of exotic birds that flew freely through the building's rooms. The Academy of Sciences and the Lincoln Park Zoo were also important attractions at this time.

Bicycling had a controversial history in the park. After several accidents between horses and high-wheel bikes in 1879, the commissioners prohibited cycling in the park. Wheelmen's clubs requested special permission to ride in Lincoln Park during a bicycle convention in 1882, suggesting that "horses were becoming civilized and accustomed to wheels."⁷ The commissioners agreed to lift the suspension, allowing bicycles to ride in the park except during evening hours. With the

invention of the safety bike (the precursor to the modern bicycle) a few years later, cycling became so popular that the commissioners not only revoked the rule against riding at night, but they also began planning the park's earliest bicycle path as part of the extension plans of the late 1880s.

Despite its frontage on Lake Michigan, Lincoln Park did not have its first official bathing beach until 1895. Spurred by a petition from the Free Bath and Sanitary League, the park's first bathing beach was located just north of Fullerton Avenue. Planned originally just for children, the beach was available to women on certain days. The facility

included a bathhouse where patrons could use lockers and check out towels and bathing suits.

Chicago's 1899 Drainage Canal diverted sewage that had previously been discharged into Lake Michigan. This innovation made the lake more desirable for wading and swimming. A sand beach at the foot of Diversey Parkway was soon used for public bathing. In addition, when the commissioners built an extension to Lake Shore Drive from Oak Street to Ohio Street, it included an extensive granite-paved beach with bridle and bicycle paths and a small sand beach at the foot of Oak Street. The Oak Street Beach became so popular that in the 1910s, the city's Special Park Commission created a temporary public beach at Ohio Street. This was later made more permanent and officially became part of Lincoln Park.



Source: DN-0059465, Chicago Daily News negatives collection, Chicago Historical Society

In addition to extending Lake Shore Drive to the south, the Lincoln Park Commissioners constructed ambitious landfill projects, adding hundreds of new acres of parkland and expanding the site's northern boundary between 1907 and the early 1930s. The commissioners reported that the "golf germ" had "infected the populace of the Lincoln Park District," prompting them to adopt a plan for an 18-hole course as part of the anticipated Montrose to Foster Avenue extension.⁸ They installed a temporary six-hole course just north of Diversey Parkway in 1909, and then constructed a nine-hole course designed by golf pro Chick Evans and golf course architect Tom Bendalow six years later.

During this period, new buildings supported a variety of recreational activities. These included a 1908 clubhouse and boat storage structure for the Lincoln Park Boat Club, which held numerous regattas and competitions at the South Lagoon. A small warming house was built for ice skaters on the North Pond in 1913 (now used as a restaurant). Two buildings from this period were later demolished. The first, a 1914 bandstand designed by architects Pond & Pond and sculptor Lorado Taft, was moved in 1920 and later razed. The other, the Lincoln Park Gun Club facility, remained in the park from 1920 until 1997. The 1922 South Athletic Field House, which provided lockers and bathrooms for athletes, is still there.

As landfilling slowly progressed northward in the late 1920s, a new golf course, tennis courts, and ball fields were built near Waveland Avenue. Mrs. Annie M. Wolford left \$50,000 for a carillon tower in the park. Edwin Hill Clark designed the Waveland Field House and Clock Tower, which also provided lockers and bathrooms for golfers, and a small concession building nearby, both of which were completed by 1932.

The Great Depression rendered the Lincoln Park Commission and the city's many other independent park districts financially insolvent. To take advantage of funding opportunities available through President Roosevelt's New Deal, all 22 of Chicago's park commissions entered into the Chicago Park District in 1934. The new agency undertook ambitious improvements to parks throughout the city. It focused on completing the Lincoln Park extension from Montrose to Foster Avenue and providing new "bridle paths, bicycle paths, athletic fields, rookeries, circumferential walks and drives, and open meadows."⁹ Lincoln Park's \$10 million project included widening and



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections

- (Counterclockwise from the top)
- Diversey Parkway golf class.
- Sailors being entertained at the USO Center, circa 1940s.
- North Avenue Beach House.
- Bathers at the North Avenue Beach, circa 1950.
- Margate dog park.
- Wilson skate park.



Source: Chicago Park District



Source: Chicago Park District

improving Lake Shore Drive into a limited-access highway, building a new harbor at Montrose Avenue, and constructing three new bathing beaches at North Avenue, between Montrose and Wilson Avenues and at the foot of Foster Avenue. Bathhouses designed to emulate ocean liners were constructed at the North Avenue and the Montrose-Wilson Beaches. In 1939, the *Chicago Tribune* proclaimed that these efforts made Lincoln Park "the vacation center of the middle west."¹⁰

Lincoln Park played an important role in World War II efforts at home when the former Chicago Daily News Fresh Air Sanitarium for Sick Babies was used as a recreation center for the United Service Organization (USO). The building was converted to the Theater on the Lake in 1953. Among other postwar recreational amenities were the creation of Cricket Hill for sledding, kiting, and gatherings; the construction of the Margate Field House in 1957; and the official redesignation of the old Administration Building and Park Police Station as the Lincoln Park Cultural Center in 1965.

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, large festivals and rallies were often held in Lincoln Park. These ranged from the Chicago Park District's Fall Festival to outdoor concerts and protest rallies. One of the most notorious was the Festival of Life, organized by the Youth International Party (Yippies) during the Democratic Convention of 1968, which erupted into five days of antiwar rallies and violent confrontations between protesters and police.

In the late 1980s, citizen activists focused on greatly needed improvements to the park. Working with the Chicago Park District, a coalition of groups contributed to the creation of a Lincoln Park Framework Plan to identify resources and plan improvements to the park. Since that time, many restoration projects and new amenities have enhanced the recreational experiences in Lincoln Park. These include rehabilitating historic buildings such as Café Brauer and the Lincoln Park Cultural Center, building a new beach house at Foster Avenue, renovating the lakefront trail, installing a skate park, creating several dog-friendly areas in the park, including dog-friendly beaches, constructing four artificial turf soccer fields, and renovating 10 playgrounds throughout the park.

Outdoor Art Museum

With a collection of more than 60 public artworks throughout its 1,200-acre landscape, Lincoln Park can be considered an outdoor museum. These range from figurative sculptures to decorative fountains to murals and mosaics. Here are some highlights of the collection to provide a broad understanding of the history of art in Lincoln Park and the Lincoln Park Zoo.

Installed in 1884, *The Alarm* is one of the oldest outdoor sculptures in Chicago. Chicago businessman Martin Ryerson (1818–1887) donated the bronze sculpture as a memorial to the Ottawa Indians. The group includes a Native American family, with the father standing alongside his dog and listening for danger while the wife and baby are sheltered at his feet. The artwork has realistic details, such as arrows, feather fletching, and ornate fabric on the baby’s cradleboard. Originally installed in what is now the Lincoln Park Zoo, this sculpture was the first major commission for Philadelphia-born artist John J. Boyle (1851–1917), who spent several months observing Native Americans in North Dakota.

Sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848–1907), one of the nation’s foremost sculptors of the late 19th century, created *Abraham Lincoln: The Man*, commonly known as the *Standing Lincoln*, in 1887. Funded by a \$40,000 bequest from Chicago lumber merchant Eli Bates, the commission was extremely meaningful to Saint-Gaudens, an Irish immigrant who began his career as an apprentice to a cameo cutter. As a young man, Saint-Gaudens had seen Lincoln just before his first inauguration in Washington, and several years later, the sculptor was deeply moved when he viewed Lincoln’s body lying in state. In producing the sculpture, Saint-Gaudens benefited from a newly rediscovered plaster life mask and casts taken in 1860. One reason Saint-Gaudens’s sculpture looks so realistic is that the face and hands were created from those molds. Abraham

Lincoln’s grandson and namesake unveiled the monument before a crowd of 10,000. Replicas of the sculpture can be seen in London and Mexico City.

The Woman’s Christian Temperance Union erected public fountains to provide “pure drinking water” as an alternative to liquor. Children donated \$3,000 in pennies and nickels for their first *Fountain Girl*, displayed at the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago. English artist George Wade (1853–1933) created the *Fountain Girl*, which is also known as *The Little Cold Water Girl* and the Frances



Source: Chicago Park District



Source: Chicago Park District



Source: DN-0065140, Chicago Daily News negatives collection, Chicago Historical Society



Source: DN-0086390, Chicago Daily News negatives collection, Chicago Historical Society

(From top to bottom)
The Alarm.
The William Shakespeare
Monument.

Dedication of the John
Peter Altgeld Monument,
circa 1915.
Dream Lady, circa 1928.

Fountain Girl (left).

Willard Fountain. Wade’s bronze figure of a young girl holds a small cup resembling the Loyal Temperance Legion badge from which water drips into a lower trough. Copies of the artwork were later installed in London, England; Detroit, Michigan; and Portland, Maine. Chicago’s fountain—the original—stood in front of the Chicago’s Woman’s Temple for decades and was first installed in Lincoln Park in 1921. The park district moved it to another location in the park in 1940, but the bronze sculpture was stolen about 15 or 20 years later. After the stone base remained bare for years, donors contributed to a reproduction. The replica, made from molds of the Portland sculpture, was installed on the original stone base in 2012.

Chicago businessman Samuel Johnston left a bequest for a William Shakespeare Monument in 1886. Artist William Ordway Partridge (1861–1930), who won the competition to sculpt the monument, faced a unique challenge because the only known portraits of William Shakespeare (1564–1616) were painted after his death. Partridge, who had briefly worked as an actor, made an intensive study of Shakespeare and life in Elizabethan England. He also consulted with Shakespearean actor Henry Irving and his costumer Seymour Lucas, who helped him portray the world-renowned literary figure in authentic period clothing. Partridge displayed a plaster model of the William Shakespeare Monument at the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893. Cast in bronze in Paris and shipped to Chicago, the sculpture was unveiled in Lincoln Park on April 23, 1894, the supposed anniversary of both Shakespeare’s birth and death.

German immigrant John Peter Altgeld (1847–1902) was elected the first foreign-born governor of Illinois in 1893. Although he spearheaded Progressive reforms, such as workplace safety and child labor laws, Altgeld became a controversial figure when he pardoned three anarchists who were wrongfully convicted for inciting the deadly Haymarket Riot of 1886. This decision of conscience ended Altgeld’s political career, but a decade after his death, public opinion became more favorable. In 1913, the state appropriated \$25,000 for a John Peter Altgeld Monument and sponsored a design competition resulting in 40 proposals by reputable artists. The committee rejected all of them, instead awarding the project to John Gutzon de la Mothe Borglum (1867–1941), who later created the iconic Mount Rushmore National Memorial. Borglum’s humanistic depiction of Altgeld in a protective stance with a man, woman, and child was erected in 1915.

Nicknamed *Dream Lady*, the whimsical Eugene Field Memorial honors one of the nation’s most beloved children’s authors. Born in St. Louis, Eugene Field (1850–1895) was a journalist at several newspapers before moving to Chicago to write a

humor column in the *Chicago Daily News* called Sharps and Flats. He later became recognized as the children's poet laureate of America. School children from around the country donated coins for his monument. Architects Delano & Aldrich and sculptor Edward Francis McCarten (1879–1947) produced the artwork, which was installed in 1922. Holding a small bunch of poppies, the bronze “dream lady” hovers above a pair of sleeping children. The granite base depicts scenes from Field's poems, with a stanza from his famous “Wynken, Blynken, and Nod” on one side of the base and lines from “The Sugar Plum Tree” on the other. Ornate shell-like children's-sized drinking fountains flank the granite base.

Milton Horn (1906–1995), who emigrated from Russia to America during his childhood, became one of Chicago's most acclaimed 20th-century artists. Architects Shaw, Metz and Dolio commissioned him to create a pair of sculptural bas-relief panels for the portico entrance of their 1952 Seneca-Walton Apartment Building. Entitled *Rites of Spring*, the identical terra cotta panels portray Pan, the Greek god of shepherds, flocks, mountains, and rustic music, playing a flute for a large ram. The artworks went missing when the building was razed in the late 1960s. Thirty years later, they were rediscovered in the causeway of a residential building on Chicago's North Side. The Milton Horn Art Trust acquired them and donated this one to the Lincoln Park Zoo. It was conserved, incorporated into a new brick and limestone setting, and dedicated in 2004.

Donated by Laurens Hammond of the Hammond Organ Company and built in 1957, Lincoln Park's open-air Chess Pavilion is both an architectural and a sculptural work of art. Architect Maurice Webster designed the modernistic structure of concrete and Indiana limestone. Many of the chessboards are sheltered beneath a winglike overhang. The sculptural components were produced by Boris Gilbertson (1907–1982), an Evanston native who studied physics before transferring to Chicago's School of the Art Institute. Gilbertson's artworks include bas-relief sculptures of the bishop and knight and three-dimensional depictions of the king and queen.

When the Chicago Park District moved the historic Carl von Linné Monument from Lincoln Park to the Midway Plaisance in the late 1970s, members of the newly formed Friends of the Parks vowed to install a new sculpture near its vacated site at Fullerton Avenue and Stockton Drive. After receiving a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the group organized a jury that selected Ellsworth Kelly (b. 1923) for the commission. A minimalist American painter and sculptor, Kelly had begun producing a series of tall aluminum and steel sculptures with subtly curving forms. Installed in 1981, the stainless steel sculpture was Kelly's first major commission for an outdoor sculpture. Although the sculpture is officially named *Curve XXII*,



Source: Chicago Park District

(Clockwise from the top)
Rites of Spring. *Indian Land Dancing*. *You Know What You Should Do*. *Come to Light*. Men gathered in the Chess Pavilion, circa 1960s. Sculpture of the queen chess piece near the pavilion, circa 2014.



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Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections

its sleek verticality inspired its nickname *I Will*, a longtime Chicago motto.

Chicago artists Tracy Van Duinen, Todd Osborne, Cynthia Weiss, and Gerry Lang worked with dozens of teenagers affiliated with Alternatives, Inc., to produce *Indian Land Dancing* in 2009, a vibrant mosaic lining both walls of the Foster Avenue viaduct. The mosaic honors the Edgewater community's Native American heritage. At the center of one mosaic, a matriarchal figure holds a sphere of circles symbolizing the lineage of multiple generations. Her dark cascading hair contains the poem “We Are the Mothers” by Native American poet Frances Hagemann. The poem reflects the interconnected nature of Native American heritage, in which each generation is responsible for the next. Historical photographs were transferred and incorporated into the mosaic to represent elder generations.

Artist Jeff Zimmermann created an expansive mural on a concrete wall adjacent to Oak Street Beach in 2011. The large, 260-foot artwork greets pedestrians emerging from a nearby underpass and is also visible from the lakefront trail. Entitled *You Know What You Should Do*, the mural depicts images of crumpled food wrappers as a way of reminding the viewer not to litter Lincoln Park's beaches. A subtle red cross, situated between an outstretched hand and a seagull, dissuades the public from feeding the birds.

A lively bricolage mosaic, *Come to Light*, adorns three walls of the old Osterman Beach comfort station in Lincoln Park. Chicago Public Art Group artists Andy Bellomo, Will Nicholson, and Brett Whitacre began working with community volunteers and students on the mosaic in 2010. Incorporating ceramic tile, glass, mirror, and sculptural relief, the three-sided composition depicts imagined planets with swirling bands of glittering tile that are reminiscent of stars clustering into galaxies. Circular collage-like elements contain images suggesting creatures that occupy water, earth, and sky. The mosaic project was completed in 2011.

its sleek verticality inspired its nickname *I Will*, a longtime Chicago motto.



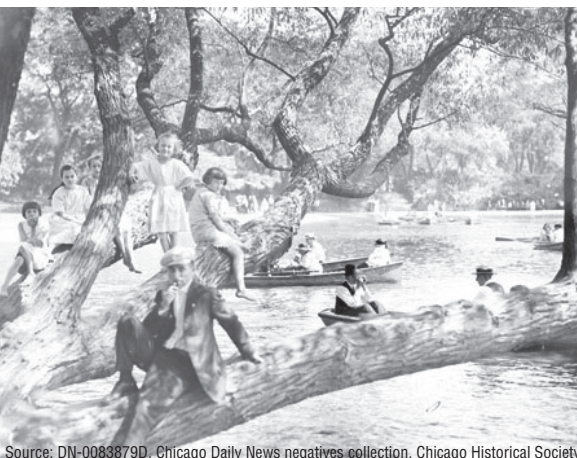
Nature in Lincoln Park

For 150 years, Lincoln Park has been a place where Chicagoans and visitors can escape the pressures of the urban environment to enjoy nature. The 1,200-acre park includes dozens of gardens, natural areas, lagoons, and bathing beaches. As natural-looking as the park is today, its entire landscape has been designed, engineered, constructed, and planted. Throughout the history of Lincoln Park, ideas about nature and trends in horticulture, landscape design, and ecology influenced its development.

Only the park's oldest areas, between Diversey Parkway and North Avenue, west of Cannon Drive, occupy land that was not made of fill. Within this area, an unburied portion of the City Cemetery served as the park's first site. Lincoln Park's first designer, Swain Nelson, transformed the unsightly landscape with his original 1865 plan. Instead of the low swales and pools of stagnant water caused by the ineffective Ten-Mile Ditch, Nelson's design features a serpentine artificial lake composed of three interconnecting waterways. (Today, the South Pond and Lincoln Park Zoo's Waterfowl Pond remain from Nelson's original waterway.) He enhanced the surrounding natural ridges by creating hills—several with spiral walks that offered “magnificent” views of Lake Michigan.¹

To provide large shade trees for the fledgling landscape, Nelson established a nursery near Lincoln Park using varieties “imported from England and Scotland” as well as other large specimens that he “hauled in... from the woods in the vicinity.”² In later years, he suggested “these were the first large trees in America to be moved and used in ornamental planting.”³ By the early 1870s, as Chicagoans began driving and strolling in Lincoln Park and enjoying summer concerts there, a newspaper asserted that the park's landscape represented the “advantages of improved Nature.”⁴ The article stated that a “Saturday afternoon in Lincoln Park alone is sufficient to establish its superiority over wild and uncultivated Nature.”⁵

The Lincoln Park Commissioners began improving the area between Fullerton and Diversey Avenues in the early 1880s. Area residents requested that a lake and lawns be included. In response, Nelson & Benson excavated the North Pond and used the fill material to create a large hill on its north-east side known as Mount Prospect. On the west side, a flowing artesian well embellished with a rocky grotto supplied fresh water to park visitors near the rustic shelter.



Sitting in a Lincoln Park tree, circa 1927.

Source: DN-0083879D, Chicago Daily News negatives collection, Chicago Historical Society



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A view of the North Pond (above) and the South Pond (below).



©2012 James Iska

Grandmother's Garden, circa 1950.



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections

Lincoln Park developed into a showplace of gardens during the late 19th century. The park had three artificially heated ponds that supported exotic lilies. So impressive was the “rich growth of tropical lilies in these ponds,” that the Khedive of Egypt requested seeds from the Lincoln Park lilies.⁶ A small greenhouse for propagating flowers for the park was replaced by the Lincoln Park Conservatory in the early 1890s. Fronting the whimsical glass house, the Formal Gardens had geometric beds of annuals, with the Bates Fountain as the centerpiece. This composition emulated the French garden style, whereas just to the west of Stockton Drive, Grandmother's Garden represented an English cottage garden with undulating beds of perennials. According to a 1900 article, “better examples of the symmetrical and ornamental flower garden and the English or natural garden” could not be found “anywhere in our public parks.”⁷ An elegant tree canal, also called the “Walk of the White Birches,” extended along the east side of the Formal Gardens.⁸



Source: Chicago Park District

The Conservatory Formal Gardens.

During this period, rabbits and gophers were often seen in the park, but squirrels were in short supply. The Lincoln Park Commissioners noted that only a few of the 144 squirrels they had purchased and let loose in the park in 1899 could be seen the following year. Although they blamed the problem on boys who had taken squirrels home as pets, Audubon Society members noted that “boys with slingshots” regularly killed squirrels and that birds had been disappearing in a similar manner.⁹

As Lincoln Park expanded through landfill additions during the early 20th century, Ossian Cole Simonds, the park's landscape gardener, planted tens of thousands of flowers, shrubs, and trees in the new areas to screen views of streets and buildings and produce “the quite sylvan conditions so needed by city dwellers.”¹⁰ Similar improvements were made to the older parts of Lincoln Park. One of the nation's first landscape architects to consciously use indigenous plants in his designs, Simonds vastly increased the number of species and varieties, including native flowers and shrubs to create natural-looking scenery.

In the mid-1920s, Lincoln Park's forester Carl Poppe helped develop a bird sanctuary, then approximately 10 acres, as part of the new landfill that extended north of Montrose Avenue. This lushly planted, enclosed preserve included created marshes and ridges with "fresh water rock pools" for thousands of birds.¹¹ A small log cabin provided space for a keeper and bird food storage. Although the area was fenced off from the public, bird-watchers recognized sandpipers, killdeer, green herons, catbirds, yellow warblers, and American robins, as well as ducks, pheasants, and other wildfowl. William E. Jarvis (1903–1996), who had enjoyed bird-watching in Lincoln Park for decades, began tending the sanctuary in the 1960s. Given his own key, Jarvis maintained the sanctuary, planting hundreds of wildflowers annually at his own expense. The site is now known as the Bill Jarvis Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

Another garden installation on landfill was the rockery located just east of Buena Avenue. Completed in 1932, the rock garden included fanciful stonework originally topped by an eagle sculpture, a water cascade, and lushly planted flowers, vines, and shrubs. A *Chicago Tribune* article reported that this garden would offer "a cool resting place and retreat of scenic beauty to mothers and children" and described the mature trees that were being planted in the new golf course as giving it an "aged in the wood" appearance.¹² Renovated and rededicated as the Peace Garden in the mid-1980s, the rockery had another major restoration in 2012.

In the late 1930s, Prairie-style landscape architect Alfred Caldwell (1903–1998) created plans for the Montrose Avenue to Foster Avenue extension to convey a "naturalistic effect" with sweeping meadows, winding paths, and layered native vegetation.¹³ Caldwell worked for the newly consolidated Chicago Park District, which received extensive federal relief funding to improve the parks. Caldwell used a diverse and lush planting palette for the buffers around the large meadow on the Montrose Promontory and the area immediately northeast called Montrose Point. This rich and layered vegetation provided habitat for wildlife and attractive rest stops for migratory birds. In the older part of Lincoln Park, Caldwell redesigned a dilapidated three-acre Victorian lily pool. He described this hidden Prairie-style garden as "a sanctuary of the native landscape, a place sequestered from Megalopolis, ... a cool, refreshing, clear place of trees and stones and running water—an exposition, in little, of the structure of the land."¹⁴

During the Cold War, Chicago's lakefront parks provided dozens of sites for the Nike missile national defense system. Among them, a C-03 launch area near Belmont Harbor was installed in the mid-1950s, with its radar guidance and control area at the Montrose Promontory. The Montrose facilities were enclosed with a tall fence alongside which honeysuckle shrubs had been planted to obscure views of the complex. After the Nike site was removed in the early 1970s, the honeysuckle plantings remained. Because the area provided food and resting places to migratory birds, volunteers and park district officials augmented the existing vegetation with additional plantings and dubbed the area the Magic Hedge. The hedge is located within an area called Montrose



Bird-watchers at the Bill Jarvis Migratory Bird Sanctuary (above).

Little log cabin at the Bird Sanctuary, circa 1935 (below).



Searocket (above).

Bill Jarvis Migratory Bird Sanctuary (right).

Point. One of the city's most popular spots for bird-watching, Montrose Point received major improvements in the 1990s.

Along with Montrose Point, the Chicago Park District undertook other major projects to enhance Lincoln Park's natural features in the 1990s and 2000s. At this time, the Park District dredged the North Pond, installed aquatic vegetation along its edges, and planted lush native plants around its perimeter. The site became known as the North Pond Nature Sanctuary and the Lincoln Park Conservancy. The Park District also revived the Lily Pool at this time. Maintained as the Zoo Rookery by the Lincoln Park Zoo for decades, the Lily Pool had fallen into a terrible state of deterioration. In 2001, the Chicago Park District and Lincoln Park Conservancy worked together to conduct a \$2.5 million project to restore the site. Renamed the Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool, the site was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2006. The Park District and Conservancy jointly sponsor a program in which volunteer docents give free public tours of the Lily Pool.

In 2001, an Endangered Illinois State Plant, the searocket (*Cakile maritime*) was spotted in a sandy area of Lincoln Park. Because of this discovery, the Park District stopped grooming an area along the lakefront, designated it as the Montrose Beach Dunes, and began planting additional dune vegetation there. In 2008, the Park District transformed what had been a turf area adjacent to the golf course into the Marovitz Savanna. Composed of native grasses, wildflowers, and scattered oaks, the Savanna is near a golf course pond that has been enhanced with similar plantings to provide habitat to migratory birds and other animals.

Gardens, landscapes, and nature areas throughout Lincoln Park provide important resources to people, animals, and insects. In addition to providing beautiful places for people to enjoy, the park landscapes serve as critical habitat for migratory and resident birds and other wildlife. The park's trees and plants help cool the city during hot periods, and the ponds and lagoons play an important role in storm water management.

Source: Chicago Park District

Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections

Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections

Source: Chicago Park District



Lincoln Park Zoo

During the mid-19th century, fashionable public parks often included animal menageries. Chicagoan Oliver Green, whose brother served as comptroller for New York's Central Park, admired the swans in the "great New York park,"¹ so in 1868, he requested the donation of swans from Central Park. His brother arranged for the gift. When four mute swans soon arrived, they were placed in the South Pond. This small collection of birds marked the beginnings of the Lincoln Park Zoo.



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections

Marlin Perkins, circa 1955 (above).
Plaque honoring Cyrus DeVry (below).



Donations of other animals quickly followed, and by 1873, the Lincoln Park Zoo had a small menagerie that included two bison, one bear, three wolves, two prairie dogs, five deer, peacocks, and various other birds. The next year, a bear cub purchased from the Philadelphia Zoo for \$10 was the first animal that had not been donated to the zoo. A decade later, the Lincoln Park Zoo achieved another important milestone when it became home to the first bison ever born in captivity.

The Lincoln Park Commissioners hired Cyrus DeVry (1859–1934) as the zoo's head animal keeper in 1888, and he remained in that position for more than three decades. A colorful character, DeVry became a national celebrity because of his "outstanding ability in handling wild animals."² Under DeVry's leadership, the Lincoln Park Zoo evolved from "an unimposing group of poorly housed specimens to one of the best known zoos in the world."³

In 1931, the zoo adopted one of its most beloved animals—a two-year-old orphaned gorilla named Bushman from Africa. When Bushman died in 1951, thousands of people passed by his cage in tribute.

In 1944, the Lincoln Park Zoo hired Marlin Perkins (1905–1986), another

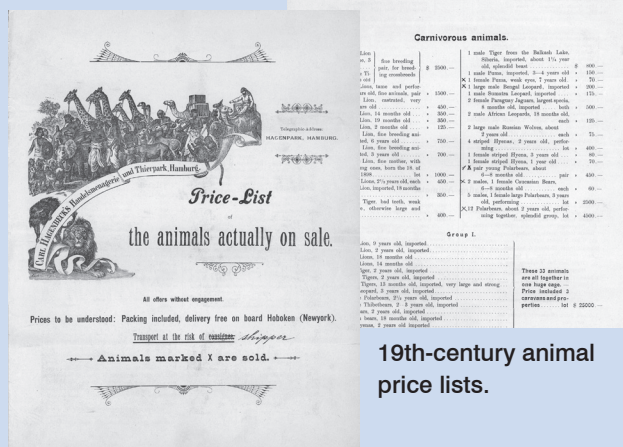
director who achieved national fame. Perkins began hosting a television show known as *Zoo Parade* that was broadcast from the Lincoln Park Zoo. He went on to star in *Wild Kingdom* in the early 1960s. To support the zoo's mission, Perkins initiated a new citizens group in 1959 called the Lincoln Park Zoological Society.

Over the years, the Lincoln Park Zoo has undergone numerous changes, expansions, and improvements. Several historic zoo buildings were adapted as the management of the facility evolved. For instance,



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections

Life-sized plaster bust of Bushman placed where children could ask questions about the animals, circa 1957.



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections

19th-century animal price lists.



Waterfowl pond.

the Reptile House began as a 1922 aquarium designed by architect Edwin Hill Clark. He also designed the 1927 Small Mammal House, which is now the Helen Brach Primate House.

During the 1960s, concerns about animal conditions and interests in conservation prompted improved habitats. The Farm-in-the-Zoo, a replica of a working Midwestern farm, was opened in 1964 so city dwellers could experience farm life. The development of naturalistic exhibits continued in the 1970s and 1980s, such as the Waterfowl Lagoon and Flamingo Dome, the Blum-Kovler Penguin-Seabird House, and the Antelope and Zebra Area, Regenstein Large Mammal House, and Robert R. McCormick Bear and Wolf Habitat.

In 1995, management of the zoo was formally transferred from the Chicago Park District to the Zoological Society. Significant improvements and new exhibits have been undertaken since then, such as the Regenstein Center for African Apes, the Pritzker Family Children's Zoo, the Nature Boardwalk, and the state-of-the-art Polar Bear and Penguin Habitats. The oldest free zoo in the nation, today the Lincoln Park Zoo houses more than 80 species of mammals; 70 species of reptiles, amphibians, and fish; and 75 species of birds, with approximately 1,100 animals in total.



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections

Farm-in-the-Zoo, circa 1967 (above).
Animal enclosure, circa 1910 (below).



Composed of four display houses, the Fern Room and the Palm, Orchid, and Show Houses, the Lincoln Park Conservatory is an exotic haven that is free to the public and open 365 days a year. In addition to showcasing fascinating tropical plants, the facility stages three flower shows annually.

The Lincoln Park Conservatory was built in stages between 1890 and 1895. During this period, as city dwellers became concerned about the ill effects of industrialization on city life, many developed interests in horticulture, particularly in collecting and classifying plants. Lincoln Park previously had a small greenhouse for propagating plants, but by this time, conservatories with public display houses had become very popular in urban parks. The Lincoln Park Commissioners hired architects Joseph Lyman Silsbee and Miffin E. Bell to design the exotic glass structure. While the building was under construction, John Pettigrew, superintendent of Lincoln Park, wrote, "These houses are probably, without exception, the finest ever designed for the purpose in this country; combining strength, lightness and beauty, with graceful lines and adaptability to the requirements of plant growth."¹

Stepping into the conservatory, you feel as though you are walking into a different era. Throughout the year, but especially during winter, the lush, green plants of the Lincoln Park Conservatory offer an inviting respite. Volunteer docents provide free tours on weekends.

2391 N. Stockton Drive
Chicago, IL 60614
312.742.7736
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks/lincoln-park-conservatory/

2401 N. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60614
312.742.7994
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/events/theater-on-the-lake/



The Theater on the Lake building today (above).



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections



The Chicago Daily News Fresh Air Sanitarium for Sick Babies (above). Mothers and babies at the Sanitarium, circa 1903 (below).



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections

World War II servicemen at the USO (left). A 1969 performance of *Barefoot in the Park* (right).



The Theater on the Lake is located in a historic Prairie-style structure that originally housed the Chicago Daily News Fresh Air Fund Sanitarium. The first sanitarium built near this location opened in 1887 when the *Chicago Daily News* agreed to fund a series of wooden structures, fulfilling a recommendation by medical professionals and social reformers who believed that lake breezes could help cure sick children. Described as a day nursery and open only in the summertime, the sanitarium treated patients with tuberculosis and other diseases, but also provided pure milk, wholesome meals, and health care to undernourished babies and children from Chicago's tenement districts.

Architects Perkins, Fellows, & Hamilton designed a new building in 1913, and the Lincoln Park Commissioners agreed to allow the replacement of the old frame building with this more permanent sanitarium the following year. The project was delayed, however, for several reasons, including high labor costs and material shortages during World War I. After the war, newspaper executives Walter Strong and Victor Lawson met with the Lincoln Park Commissioners, who agreed that construction should move forward. The building finally opened in 1920 on what was then considered Simmons Island (the landform is now joined on its south end).

Built of brick with a steel arched open-air pavilion, the new sanitarium included a system of iron posts from which 250 basket baby cribs were hung. The structure also housed hospital and treatment rooms, diet kitchens, a laundry, and nursery quarters. Children between the ages of four and eight could play games and relax on the terraces along the outer side of the building. The facility provided services to more than 30,000 children each summer until 1939, when it closed, and a major reconstruction of Lake Shore Drive led to the demolition of the building's front entrance. During World War II, the structure became an official recreation center for the United Service Organization (USO).

The Chicago Park District converted the building to the Theatre on the Lake in 1953. The popular summer theater venue showcased productions staged by the Park District's many community theater organizations. In 1996, the programming evolved into its current format, in which the Chicago Park District invites professional theater companies to remount their best works, showcasing a variety of productions throughout the summer.

In 2013, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Chicago Park District Superintendent Michael P. Kelly announced the conversion of the historic Theater on the Lake building from a summer-only programming site to a year-round program and event facility.



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections



Source: Chicago Park District Special Collections

Chicago History Museum

For more than 150 years, the Chicago History Museum at Clark Street and North Avenue has been a standing tradition. Established in 1856, the museum was originally located at Dearborn and Ontario Streets. However, the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 destroyed both the building and most of the collection, including a handwritten copy of Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. A second fire in 1874 destroyed the remaining collection.

The present museum building, a Georgian Revival style designed by Graham, Anderson, Probst, & White, was constructed in 1932 for Chicago's centennial celebration. The major feature of the east façade is a three-bay columned portico with a broad stairway stretching down to the lawns of the park. To house the museum's expanding collection, postmodern additions were completed in 1972 and 1988.

The museum curates, displays, and interprets items related to the history of Chicago and the United States. Its 22 million holdings represent the nation's most complete collection of Chicago history. The museum not only offers programs, publications, and online resources related to Chicago history, but also serves as a research center for thousands of people each year, from schoolchildren to Ph.D. students to filmmakers.



1601 N. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60614
312.642.4600
www.chicagohistory.org/



4921 N. Marine Drive
Chicago, IL 60640
312.742.7522
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks/Margate-Park-Fieldhouse/

Margate Field House

Within the center of a long meadow between Lawrence Drive and Foster Drive is a recreation and leisure center known as the Margate Field House. Constructed in 1957, the Margate Field House complements Lincoln Park's numerous outdoor athletic facilities, providing its only indoor gymnasium. Designed by Emanuel V. Buchsbaum, this one-and-a-half-story structure with a one-story north wing is characteristic of the predominant style of schools and other municipal buildings of the late 1950s and early 1960s. Although the Field House divided the long meadow into two, the entire landscape in the area still conveys Caldwell's naturalistic design intent.

On the grounds are a handicapped-accessible soft-surface playground decorated with colorful mosaics, a community garden, and a dog-friendly area. Indoors, the Field House contains a gym, fitness center, kitchen, and clubrooms for rent. Events are provided in all seasons, including on school holidays, in summers, and after school. Special events include drive-in movies, activities with Santa, and outdoor movies in the park.

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

The Chicago Academy of Sciences was founded in 1857 to promote knowledge of the region's natural history. However, damage from the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 resulted in the building's demolition. The Academy faced the challenge of rebuilding with determination and perseverance. They first approached the Lincoln Park Commission in 1878 requesting permission to collect the bodies of zoo animals at their death. In 1884, trustees of the Academy of Sciences met with the Lincoln Park Commissioners to determine whether the park might be a possible site for a natural history museum. In 1893, an agreement was reached allowing the project to proceed, and a donation by Chicago businessman Matthew Laflin funded approximately three-quarters of the total cost of the building. The Lincoln Park Laflin Memorial Building was constructed within the northern section of Lincoln Park and officially opened to the public in 1893–1894.

A new facility opened in 1999—the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum (also known as The Museum of the Chicago Academy of Sciences), providing the people of Chicago an “urban gateway to nature and science.” Here, visitors can reestablish their connection with nature, experience the local flora and fauna, and enjoy hands-on science instruction, outdoor nature trails, and public programming.



2430 N. Cannon Drive
Chicago, IL 60614
312.755.5100
www.naturemuseum.org/the-museum/history

2045 N. Lincoln Park West
Chicago, IL 60614
312.742.7726
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks/lincoln-park-cultural-center/

Lincoln Park Cultural Center

Located in the heart of Lincoln Park, the Lincoln Park Cultural Center is considered the “cultural gem” of the Chicago Park District. The building was designed by Edwin Hill Clark in 1927 in the same Georgian Revival style as the Primate and Reptile Houses in the zoo. It has a two-story central pavilion flanked by one-story wings and was originally constructed as the Lincoln Park Commission Administration Building to house the commissioners and Lincoln Park Police. The portrait of Abraham Lincoln that hangs in the auditorium was created by Chicago portrait artist William Patterson in 1927 specifically to hang in its existing location.

The Lincoln Park Cultural Center provides diverse cultural and recreational programming and includes a lapidary (jewelry) studio, stained glass shop, ceramics studio, full-service woodshop, early childhood center, dance studio, and auditorium. Cultural events are provided year-round.

Mission: To enhance the quality of life throughout Chicago by being a leading provider of recreation and leisure opportunities; to provide safe, inviting, and beautifully maintained parks and facilities; and to create a customer-focused and responsive park system.

541 North Fairbanks Court
Chicago, IL 60611
312.742.PLAY (7529)
TTY 312.747.2001
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

615 E. Peabody Drive
Champaign, IL 61820
217.333.4747
www.isgs.illinois.edu

Mission: To provide the citizens and institutions of Illinois with earth science research and information that are accurate, objective, and relevant to our state's environmental quality, economic prosperity, and public safety.

The Chicago Park District annually hosts thousands of special events and programs and manages more than 590 parks and over 8,460 acres of park land, including these:

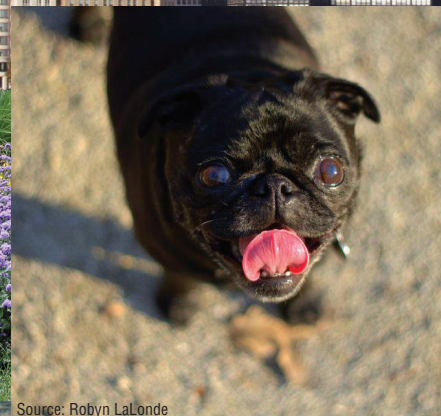
- 26 miles of lakefront
- 29 designated swimming beaches
- 16 accessible beach walks
- 11 harbors
- 375 gardens
- 60 community gardens
- 11 museums
- 2 world-class conservatories
- 17 historic lagoons
- 11 savannas/woodlands
- 8 wetlands
- 22 prairies/grasslands
- 2 nature centers
- 1 urban farm
- 1 organic greenhouse
- 710 baseball fields
- 2 wheelchair softball/baseball fields
- 520 playgrounds
- 90 accessible playgrounds
- 227 field houses
- 77 swimming pools
- 70 accessible pool features
- 72 fitness centers
- 23 dog-friendly areas
- 9 ice-skating rinks
- 7 skate parks
- 7 golf courses

Programs and activities:

- Geological mapping and groundwater geology
- Environmental and engineering geology
- Energy and earth resources
- Data resources and management
- Education and outreach

Chicago-area projects:

- Erosion assessment
- Flood control
- Groundwater quality
- Economic studies of water resources
- Geologic mapping for urban planning
- Soil mechanics and foundation stability
- Wetland compensation, mitigation, and monitoring
- Environmental assessments
- Groundwater contamination potential assessment
- Mineral resources planning to obtain low-cost construction aggregates
- Fossils, paleoenvironment, and climate change studies
- Management of the state's geospatial, engineering boring, and well data
- Public field trips



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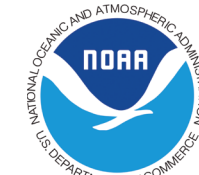
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