

Maps of individual sites are below.

Des Plaines Div. Forest Preserves

Indian Boundary Div. Forest Preserves

Salt Creek Div. Forest Preserves

PalosSag Valley Forest Preserve

Tinley Creek Forest Preserve

North Branch Div. Forest Preserves

Douglas Park

Garfield Park

Douglas Park

Marquette Park

Dan Ryan Forest Preserve

Whistler Woods Forest Preserve

Beaubien Woods Forest Preserve

Eggers Woods Forest Preserve

Powderhorn Lake Forest Preserve

Lincoln Park

Grant Park

Bunham Park

Washington Park

Jackson Park

Lake Calumet Open Space Preserve

PETERSON

HARLEM

ROOSEVELT

LAWRENCE

CLAYTON

NORTH

CENTRAL

MADISON

1200

CORHAM

700

NABAGANSETT

600

CENTRAL

700

700

700

700

700

700

700

700

700

700

700

700

700

700

700

700

North Shore Channel

VALLEY

VALLEY

VALLEY

VALLEY

VALLEY

VALLEY

VALLEY

VALLEY

VALLEY

VALLEY

VALLEY

VALLEY

Lake Michigan

Depue River

Sunday & Ship Canal

Wm Calumet River

Lake Calumet

Wm Calumet River

Wm Calumet River

Wm Calumet River

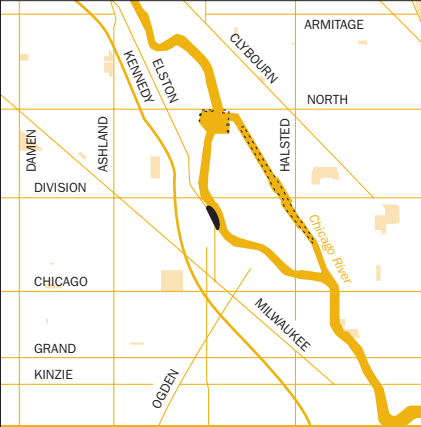
Wm Calumet River



GOOSE ISLAND OVERLOOK

This property was once used as a coal storage yard and boat yard prior to its acquisition by the City of Chicago in 2003 thanks to a grant funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The large crane and other structures on the property are in the process of being removed. The river bank will be graded and the concrete removed.

The Chicago Park District will be the eventual owner of the property after the clean-up is completed. Designs are not completed, but improvement of natural habitat will be a strong component within the plan. There will also be a water access point for canoes and kayaks. The park will be used primarily for passive recreation.



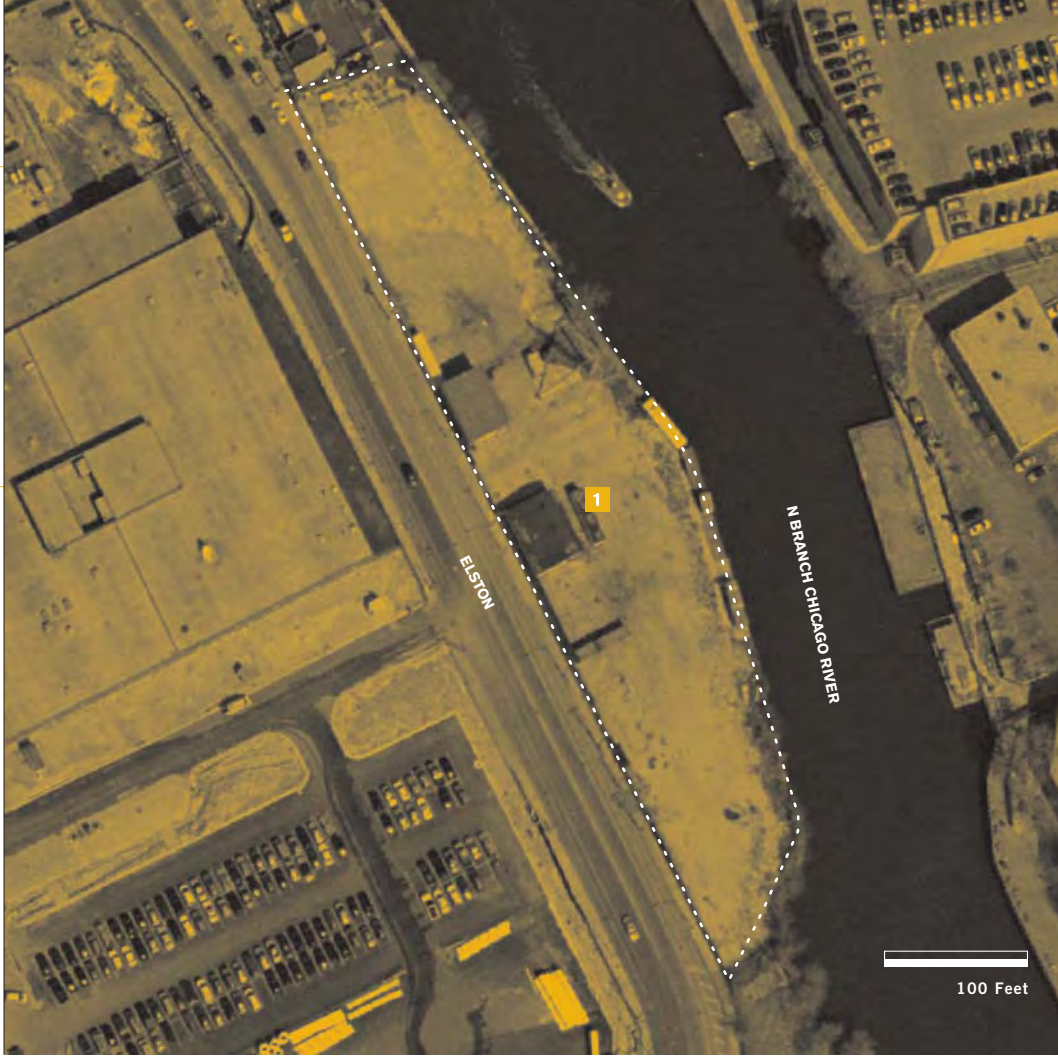
Goose Island Overlook



ADDRESS 1200 N Elston Ave
OWNER City of Chicago
ACREAGE 1.65

HABITATS
1 Riparian / Water Edge

DIRECTIONS Park at 1111 N. Elston; the site is visible through the fence, or walk out onto the Division Street bridge and view it from the river side.



Riverdale Bend Woods goes for almost a mile along the Little Calumet River, and in some places is quite wide, making it a valuable green corridor. Across the river is the Whistler Woods Forest Preserve. Much of the site is relatively open and free from the dense brush that mars the understory of so many woodlands in the Chicago region. Purple loosestrife and other non-native invasive plants are prevalent in the wetlands, however.

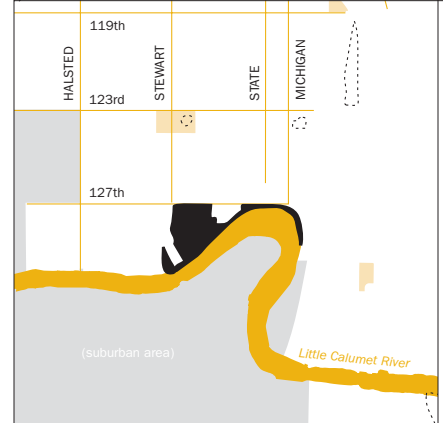
The eastern part of Riverdale Woods **6** includes the open spaces surrounding the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's 127th Street SEPA station, where the water in the Little Calumet undergoes aeration to improve its oxygen content and quality.

The Major Taylor Trail goes through the western part of the site connecting the Forest Preserve Dan Ryan Woods with Whistler Woods. On the west side of the trail is another small parcel **5** called the Eggleston Triangle that could be a valuable addition; it could provide access to the river or bikeway.

This site is part of the Calumet Open Space Reserve.

RIVERDALE BEND WOODS

Site No 02



12700 SOUTH / 100 WEST



Riverdale Bend Woods

N: 02



ADDRESS 12700 S Stewart Ave
 OWNER Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Private
 ACREAGE 45.20

HABITATS
1 Forest/ Woodland
2 3 Wetland
4 6 7 Riparian/ Water Edge
5 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS Can be viewed from 127th Street.

Riverdale Bend Woods

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For an overview of the entire Cicero Wetlands, walk on Cicero Avenue across the bridge north of 72nd Street and the Bedford City Square shopping center. The view to the east provides an impressive panorama of dozens of parallel lines of train tracks and the triangular shaped wetland on the right. In the distance is the downtown skyline.

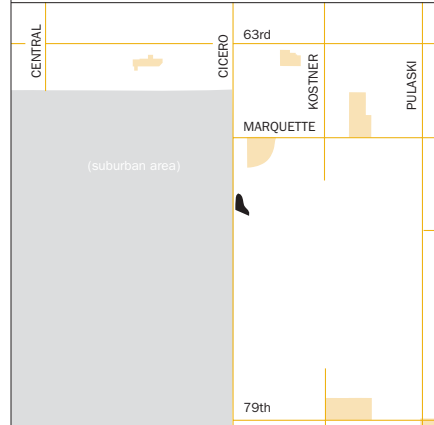
Down on the ground are large stands of common reed (*Phragmites*) and teasel, two invasive plants. The ecological quality of the native plant community within the wetland is low quality, but a survey of amphibians and reptiles would be worthwhile. Since the site is difficult to reach by foot or any other manner, wildlife suffers little disturbance from humans.

The site is part of the Greater Southwest Chicago Industrial Corridor. On the land south of the site is a remote parking lot for Midway Airport. The wetland and its restoration could be part of a stormwater management design if this land is developed.

Belt Railroad owns the property, though there are a number of encumbering easements on it, including one from Com Ed for maintenance of utility lines. As of this writing, no plans are in place for either the property's development or its sale.

CICERO WETLANDS

Site No 03

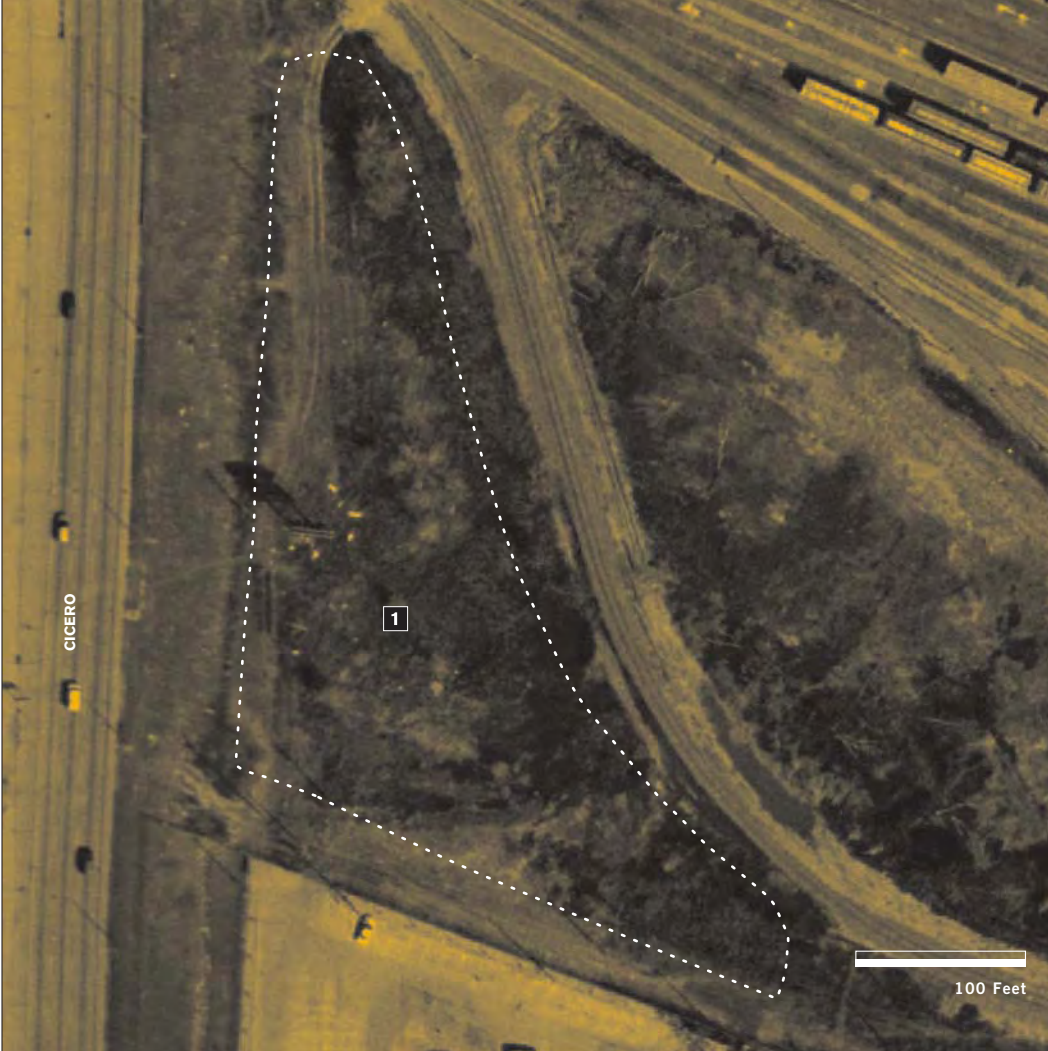


7100 SOUTH / 4700 WEST



Cicero Wetlands

N: 03



ADDRESS 7100 S Cicero Ave
 OWNER Private
 ACREAGE 1.66

HABITATS
1 Wetland

DIRECTIONS Park in the Bedford City Square shopping center lot on the west side of Cicero at 71st Street; cross the street and walk slightly north for the view.

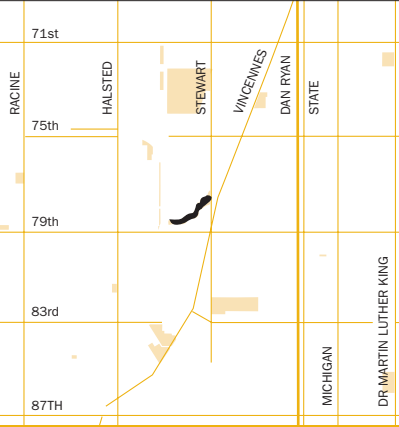
Cicero Wetlands

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AUBURN PARK LAGOON

Auburn Park is not the typical squared-off city park. It has a sinuous, river-like shape as it runs through the surrounding neighborhood. Before the neighborhood was developed, there was an extensive marsh and wetland system in this area.

The Chicago Park District's plantings are formal arrangements along the bridges and water features. The lagoon edges are lined with stone. No specific planting for habitat enhancement has been done, but the shorelines of the lagoon in some places are natural and unmowed; other sections are mowed and maintained as lawn.



Auburn Park Lagoon



ADDRESS 406 W Winneconna Ave
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 2.51

HABITATS
1 Aquatic

DIRECTIONS From 79th Street, turn north on Normal, and park along Winneconna on the south side of the lagoon.



In the picnic grounds near the parking lots are large bur and white oaks that are over 100 years old. Beyond the picnic areas, Beaubien Woods is mostly second-growth woods with the occasional grassy opening amidst the trees. Though today the open areas are dominated by European grasses and weeds and little in the way of native grasses and wildflowers remain, in presettlement times, Beaubien Woods would have been a prairie and open savanna community.

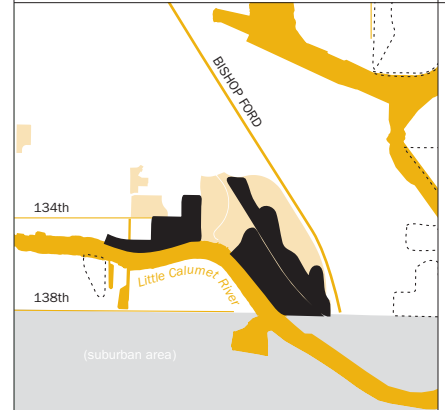
There are a few pockets of remnant prairie that harbor big and little bluestem, cordgrass, prairie dock, Riddell's goldenrod, wild hyacinth, prairie phlox and other native species.

In the center of the preserve is Flat Foot Lake **1**, a 22-acre body of water. The lake is used for fishing, and is stocked with a variety of species. Beaubien Woods provides anglers with access to the Little Calumet River. A boat launch on the river provides access for motor boats as well as for canoes or kayaks.

Baubien Woods is part of the Calumet Open Space Reserve. The Kensington Bikeway, a potential regional trail, is proposed to run through Beaubien Woods; this would connect to O'Brien Lock & Dam and Burnham Prairie.

BEAUBIEN WOODS
FOREST PRESERVE

Site No. 05

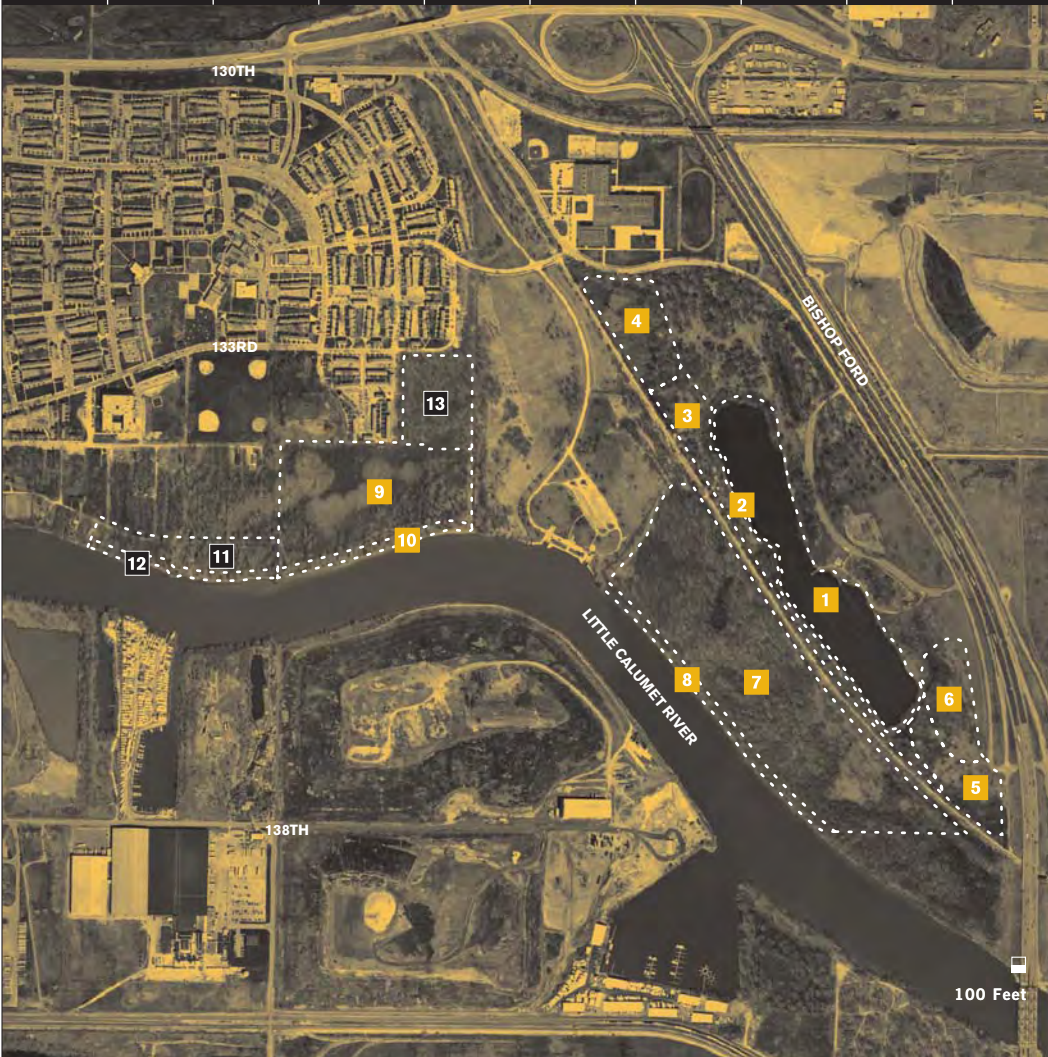


13400 SOUTH / 1200 EAST



Baubien Woods Forest Preserve

No. 05



ADDRESS 13400 S Doty Ave
OWNER Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Private
ACREAGE 135.50

HABITATS
1 Aquatic
2 8 10 12 Riparian / Water Edge
3 7 Forest / Woodland
4 5 Wetland
6 Prairie / Grassland
9 11 13 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS Off I-94 go west on 130th Street. Turn south (left) on Ellis Avenue and immediately left on 130th Place. To go to the western portion of the site, turn right at the brown forest preserve sign. To go to Flat Foot Lake, continue on 130th Place (it becomes south Carver Drive, then Doty Avenue) past Carver Military Academy to the red forest preserve sign and parking lots on the right.

Beaubien Woods Forest Preserve

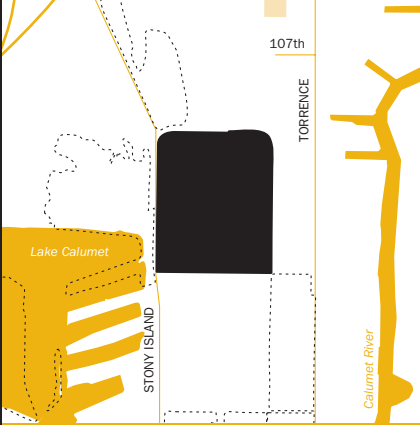
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BIG MARSH

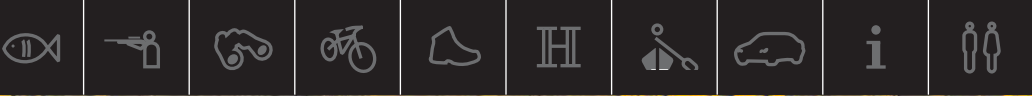
Big Marsh is the largest individual wetland in the Calumet Open Space Reserve with approximately 90 acres of open water **1**. The water is shallow, with an average depth of two feet. Any time of day during the warmer months, herons and egrets are found feeding along the water's edge.

Up until 1999, this was the site of the black-crowned night heron rookery. That year, a blocked culvert forced the water level to rise, and the herons relocated to Indian Ridge Marsh (site 42, p. 66). The wet portions of Big Marsh remain an important site for waterbirds. Hawks and kestrels are frequently seen in the upland area **2**.

Hiking and biking trails and canoe launch are ideas for this area in the future. As of this writing, the site is undeveloped.



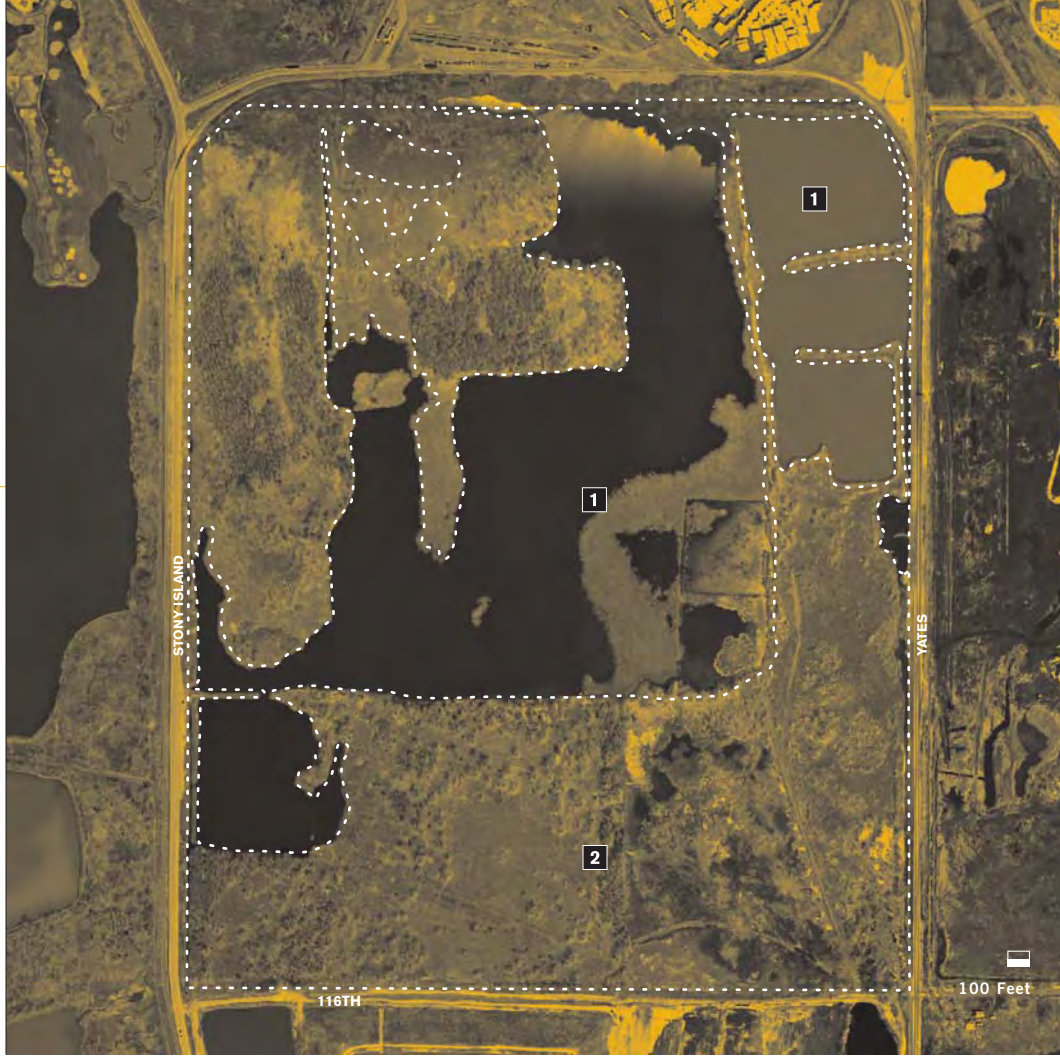
Big Marsh



ADDRESS 11400 S Stony Island Ave
OWNER Private
ACREAGE 295.92

HABITATS
1 Wetland
2 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS For the uplands, park on the east side of Stony Island by the mound of dirt at what would be 116th Street; the dirt pile barricades vehicles from entering an access road for the landfills to the south. For the wetland and open water, park at what would be 114th Street.



LaBagh Woods **14 15 16** is characterized by large oaks, hickories, and maples, with a mix of closed canopies and small areas that are more open. Much of the preserve near parking lots is mowed picnic areas. Large open-grown red oaks and bur oaks can be seen along the Chicago River bluffs while swamp white oaks can be found in the far northeast.

Sauganash Prairie Grove **1** to **13** is part of the La Bagh Woods complex, and is marked as such on Chicago maps. This area has its own distinct identity, however, as it is characterized by open oak woodland and areas of wet prairie. "Here one feels the wet, wooded, lowland soul of Chicago better than anywhere else," writes naturalist Ray Wiggers. (*Chicago Wilderness Magazine*, "Classic Prairie Restorations." Summer, 2000.)

Though other types of oaks are present within the general preserve, the best quality wet savanna and prairie are found in an area of swamp white oaks in the northeast corner of the site **10** to **13**.

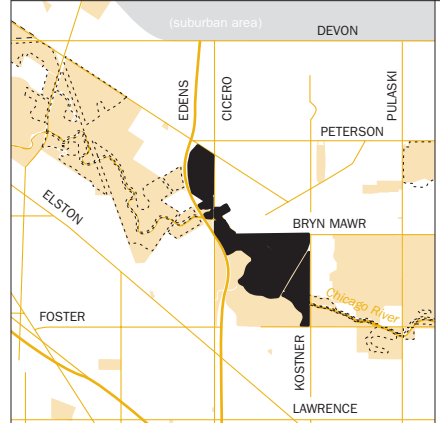
Walk south into the preserve along the wide trail found between Kilbourn and Kenneth Streets. An area of brushy woods gives way to a woodland of

more open character. In the spring false solomon's seal and other wildflowers will be in bloom.

The path leads to the river. Unlike other areas along the Chicago River farther south where the bank is pitched so steeply that access is treacherous, here there is a natural terracing downward along low but distinct bluffs.

Follow the wide path along the top of the bluff to the left, and then left again on another smaller path, and you will find yourself in one of the openings amidst the woods. Sedge meadow and wet prairie can be found in here **4**. In mid-summer, rattlesnake master blooms next to the purple plumes of liatris. Swamp saxifrage, cord-grass, bluejoint grass, tuberous Indian plantain, and turtlehead are all found here.

An infestation of brush and purple loosestrife are closing in on the prairie at the time of this being written; the area is being managed by the Forest Preserve District as a mosaic of open savanna, woodland, floodplain forest, marsh and sedge meadow.



LaBagh Woods and Sauganash Prairie Forest Preserve



ADDRESS 5200 N Kilbourn Ave
 OWNER Forest Preserve District of Cook County
 ACREAGE 103.25

- HABITATS
- 1 3 8 9** Forest/ Woodland
 - 15 16** Riparian / Water Edge
 - 2 5 6 7** Wetland
 - 14** Savanna
 - 4 13** Prairie/ Grassland
 - 10 11**
 - 12**

DIRECTIONS For LaBagh Woods west sections, enter the forest preserve off of Cicero, north of Foster. The long access road provides parking along the edges. For Sauganash Prairie, from Cicero turn east onto Forest Glen. Forest Glen winds south and changes names, eventually turning onto Bryn Mawr Avenue. Park near Kilbourn or Kenneth Streets; the entrance is partway between the two.

BURNHAM PARK—
MCCORMICK BIRD SANCTUARY

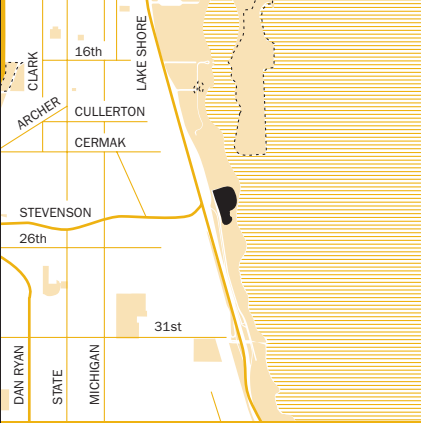
The most dramatic feature of the McCormick Bird Sanctuary is the prairie on top of an underground parking garage **1**. A mix of short prairie grasses and flowers have been planted. The crisply rectangular grassland is inhabited by little bluestem, black-eyed susans, yellow coneflower, and other prairie plants.

The primary purpose of the site is to supply habitat for migrating birds; there are few other places along Chicago's lakefront that have the same open, grassy character. In spring of 2004, birders counted 1,000 sparrows in a single day at this new prairie. These weren't the English sparrows typical of cities, but were native sparrows, the sort seen in Chicago only during migration. Seventeen of the birds were Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrows, a species characterized in David Sibley's *Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America* as "solitary and secretive."

To the south of the grassland, sumac and chokeberry populate a fairly steep slope off the garage and back into parkland **2**.

Over 500 shrubs were planted in this area. At the bottom of the slope is a small pond **5**, edged by slabs of limestone. Blue flag irises bloom around the sides, and dragonflies hover nearby. This water element is an important feature for wildlife, including birds. The pond's water circulation system is powered by solar energy; the system is located inside the south end of the fenced prairie. Beyond the pond is a large grove of hawthorns and newly-planted bur oaks **4**.

The mix of habitats here is already showing results for birds, making this a prime spot for birders to visit during migration.



Burnham Park—
McCormick Bird Sanctuary



ADDRESS 2400 S Lake Shore Dr
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 8.43

HABITATS
1 3 Prairie / Grassland
2 4 Forest / Woodland
5 Aquatic

DIRECTIONS Due to limited road access, the best way to visit the sanctuary is by bicycle or on foot using the Chicago Lakefront Trail. If driving, parking is available in the McCormick Place garages.



Burnham Nature Sanctuary is located between the Metra train tracks on the west and Lake Shore Drive on the east. After passing through the entrance, there are three choices for exploring the site. First, a chip-path on the left leads through a woodland **2** that is used by migrating birds in spring and fall. Columbine can be found blooming here in May and early June.

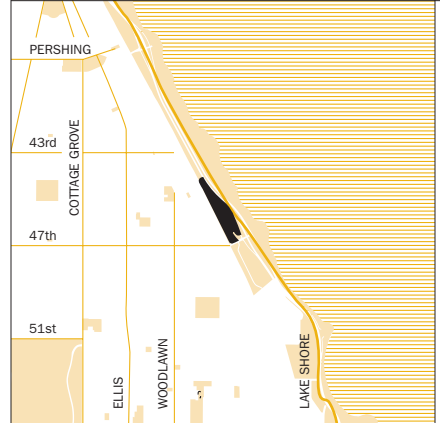
The second choice is a paved path to the right that goes to a boardwalk. The boardwalk meanders through a hill and swale grassland **1** and onto a paved path under the canopy of large honey locusts stretching east and west across the middle of the sanctuary.

The third option is to continue straight ahead on a paved path that passes a native butterfly garden. This is the original path. It continues north between the woodland and grassland, under the tree canopy, then around a large loop. On the north end of the loop there is a tall mesic prairie

planting rich with compass plant, cup plant, sunflowers and other characteristic wildflowers of Illinois prairies. On the south end, there is a young oak savanna with bur and swamp white oaks. Both the boardwalk path and the paved loop path have benches for resting and for nature observation.

The restoration began in 1998 with tree planting, woodland seeding and prairie seeding mostly at the north end. In 2002, three and a half acres of prairie were planted and the boardwalk was constructed. Management work by volunteers and the Chicago Park District is ongoing. The ten acre-site is slowly being restored by controlling invasive plants while introducing native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses. The site is an important link along the lakefront that provides habitat for migratory birds.

BURNHAM PARK—
BURNHAM NATURE SANCTUARY



**Burnham Park—
Burnham Nature Sanctuary**



ADDRESS 4700 S Lake Shore Dr
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 11.78

HABITATS
1 Prairie / Grassland
2 Forest / Woodland

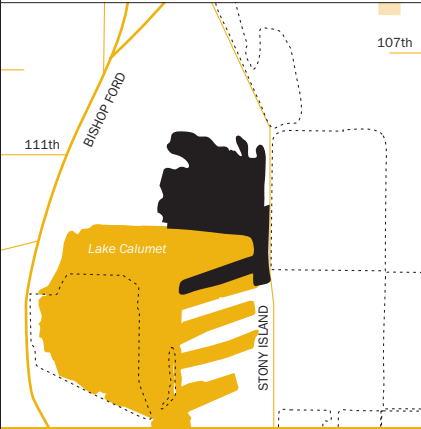
DIRECTIONS Exit Lake Shore Drive at 47th Street. Go west, and at the first traffic light at Cornell, turn right into a parking lot. Park at the farthest end of the lot, and enter by the sign for the prairie.

CALUMET EAST SHORE AND HARBORSIDE MARSH

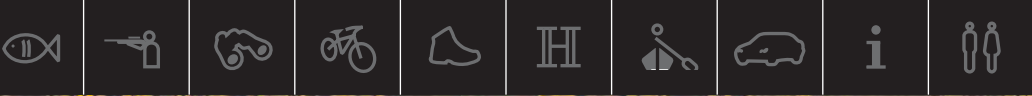
This portion of Lake Calumet is inaccessible to humans, but not to wildlife. The green space here is important because of the way it increases the size of continuous habitat; it is across the street from Big Marsh (site 6, p. 34), which is connected to Railroad Marsh (site 66, p. 105) and Indian Ridge Marsh (site 42, p. 66).

Most of Harborside Marsh **2** is open water, with common reed growing along the shore. It is separated from Lake Calumet by a narrow berm. To the south of the berm is the only pier in Lake Calumet that is completely devoid of industrial development **1**. The land is degraded with extensive growth of trees and shrubs.

These areas are part of the Calumet Open Space Reserve.



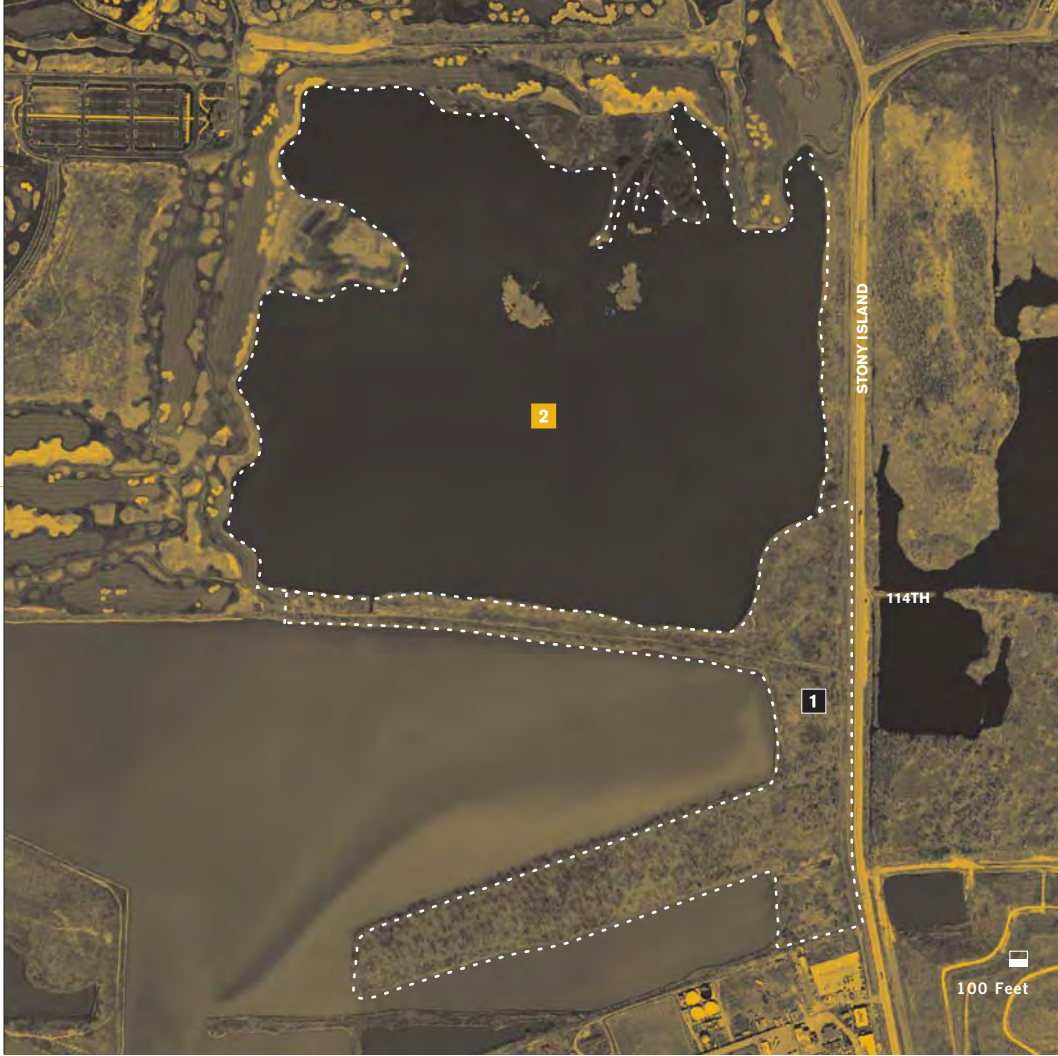
Calumet East Shore and Harborside Marsh



ADDRESS 11200 S Stony Island Ave
OWNER Illinois International Port District
ACREAGE 189.30

HABITATS
1 Potential Habitat
2 Aquatic

DIRECTIONS When the leaves are off the trees, the area can be viewed through the fence from Stony Island Avenue. With permission from the Illinois International Port Authority, it's possible to access the area through the Harborside international Golf Course property.



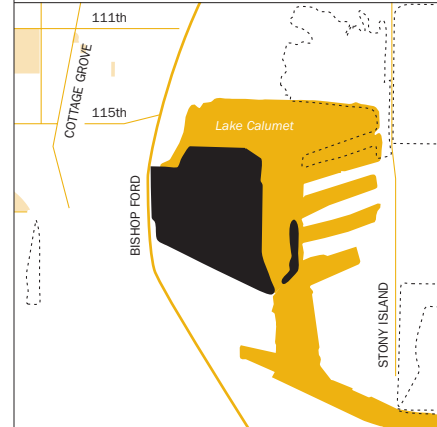
The west shore of Lake Calumet has a sense of wilderness about it, even though it is mostly built on fill. There are wooded areas and meadows, and wetlands and mud flats near the open water of the lake. Over 20 species of fish live in Lake Calumet, and the lake itself is a critical component in what makes the region so rich in bird life.

The area is large enough that it might sustain significant mammal, amphibian and reptile populations. It is planned that the site will be managed for wildlife preservation as part of the Calumet Open Space Reserve.

Lake Calumet has a series of long peninsulas of dry land that jut out into the water; these either are being used or once were used as docking stations, or were meant to be. One of these docks is Gull Island **3** which provides an undisturbed location for over 5,000 pairs of gulls to build nests and raise their young.

CALUMET WEST SHORE
AND GULL ISLAND

Site No 11



11500 SOUTH / 1200 EAST



**Calumet West Shore
and Gull Island**

N: 11



ADDRESS 11500 S Doty Ave
OWNER Illinois International Port District
ACREAGE 228.08

HABITATS
1 Riparian / Water Edge
2 Aquatic
3 Potential Habitat
4 Wetland

DIRECTIONS Calumet West Shore is located off the frontage road along the Bishop Ford Freeway (called Doty Avenue); there are yellow gates marking the access road for the Illinois International Port District, the owner of most of the land around Lake Calumet. Gull Island is inaccessible to the public, and will remain so to protect the gulls.

100 Feet

Calumet West Shore and Gull Island

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CANAL ORIGINS PARK

The waters off Canal Origins Park are considered to be the second best fish habitat in the city (exceeded only by River Park along the North Branch). It is located at the confluence of Bubbly Creek, the South Branch of the Chicago River, and the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal.

worked with groups of students to create ceramic friezes that tell the story of the canal.

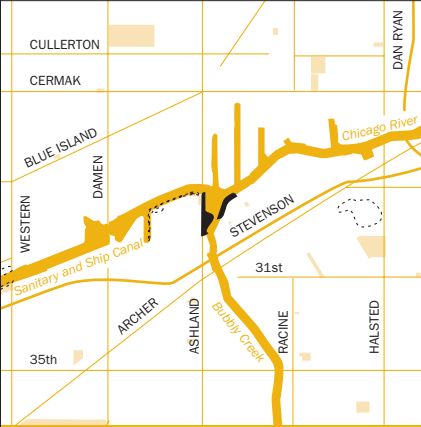
The design highlights the historic significance of the site while improving the park's natural features. This is a stopping ground for migrating birds, and kingfishers can be found throughout the warm months. Black-crowned night herons are frequently seen feeding here.

This site is historically important. On July 4, 1836, the first shovelful of dirt for the Illinois & Michigan (I&M) Canal was dug at what is now Canal Origins Park. The I&M was constructed to provide a way for larger boats to travel from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River by connecting Lake Michigan to the Illinois River. Before the I&M was built, the main stem of the Chicago River was only navigable to this point.

The site on the east shore, called Bridgeport Expansion **1**, is dominated by cottonwood and mulberry trees, with weedy understory vegetation. A well-worn trail runs parallel to the river. There are good views of the river and of the western portion of Canal Origins Park across the water.

The Canal Corridor Association worked for twenty years to see Canal Origins Park preserved. The State of Illinois transferred the west property **2 3 4** to the Chicago Park District, and in 2004, the park's native habitat was restored. Earth artist Michael Singer helped create the design. A walkway is dug down into the earth, giving the feel of a canal. Chicago artist Phil Schuster

The City purchased Bridgeport Expansion in 2004. The land requires extensive environmental clean-up. The Chicago Park District will be the eventual owner. No formal plans have been drawn, but the east property will enhance natural habitat and improve the public's access to the river. Upland portions of the site may be used for active recreation such as ball fields.



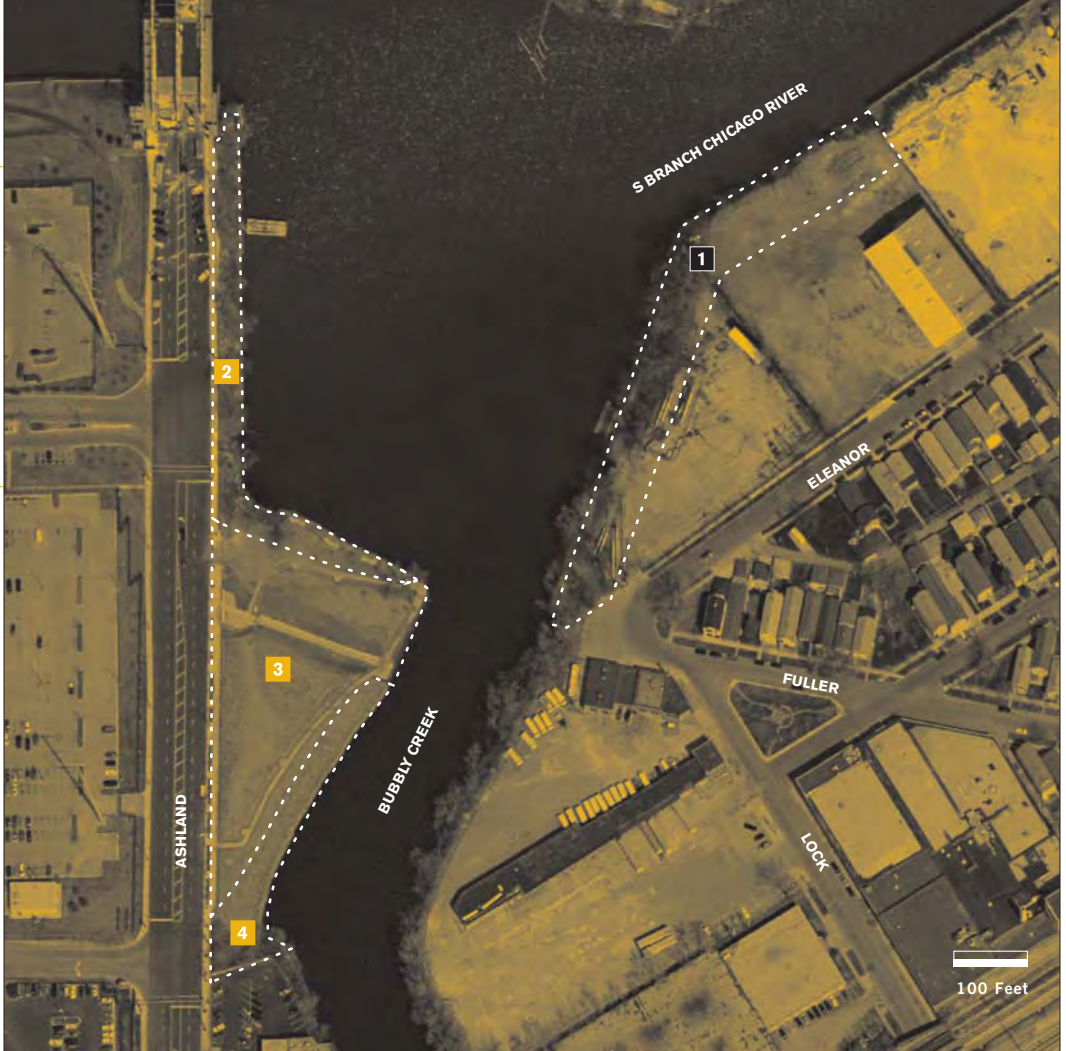
Canal Origins Park



ADDRESS 2800 S Ashland Ave
OWNER Chicago Park District, City of Chicago
ACREAGE 4.33

HABITATS
1 Potential Habitat
2 4 Riparian / Water Edge
3 Prairie / Grassland

DIRECTIONS For the west side, turn north on Ashland off of Archer; the park is on the right hand side of the street, just before the access road for the Chicago Sun-Times printing plant and the river bridge. For the east side, turn north on Lock Street off of Archer Avenue. Stop at the dead end.



CATHERINE CHEVALIER WOODS FOREST PRESERVE

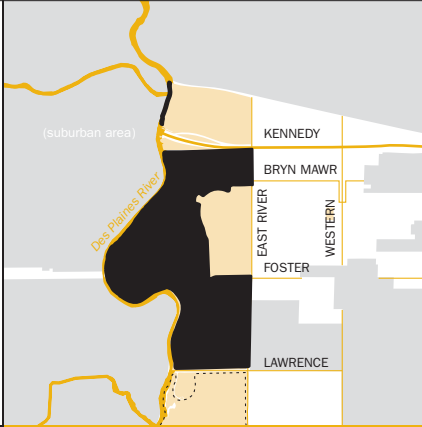
Catherine Chevalier Woods is significant both in and of itself—it's a large natural area with good quality woodland—but it is also important as a one-mile link along the Des Plaines River greenway. The Des Plaines River is approximately 150 miles long; much of its southern stretch is protected by the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. The Forest Preserve District of Cook County owns a total of 8,137 acres land along the Des Plaines River (both inside and outside city limits).

The floodplain forest community lies closest to the banks of the Des Plaines, with remnant prairie vegetation farther east. In presettlement times, bur oaks were the dominant tree species. Beneath the oaks, native wildflowers such as wood anemone, toothwort, and spring beauties can be found blooming in April and May.

The grazing of a heavy deer population inhibits the success of native understory plants, however. This is the most reliable place to go within the city of Chicago if you want to see white-tailed deer. (Though many of the suburban forest preserves have deer populations that are as great or greater.)

Just north of Lawrence off of River Road is an Indian cemetery that contains the graves of Alexander Robinson also known as Chief Chee-Chee-Pin-Quay (Chief of the Potawatomi, Chippewa and Ottawa Indian tribes) and family.

The central part of Catherine Chevalier Woods consists of parking lots surrounded by meadows. The meadows range from those that are closely mowed for picnics and recreation, and those that are left lightly mowed or unmowed. Some of the unmowed meadows support native prairie vegetation. Much of the oak and hickory woods are open in character, allowing sunlight to support the growth of flowers and grasses in the understory.



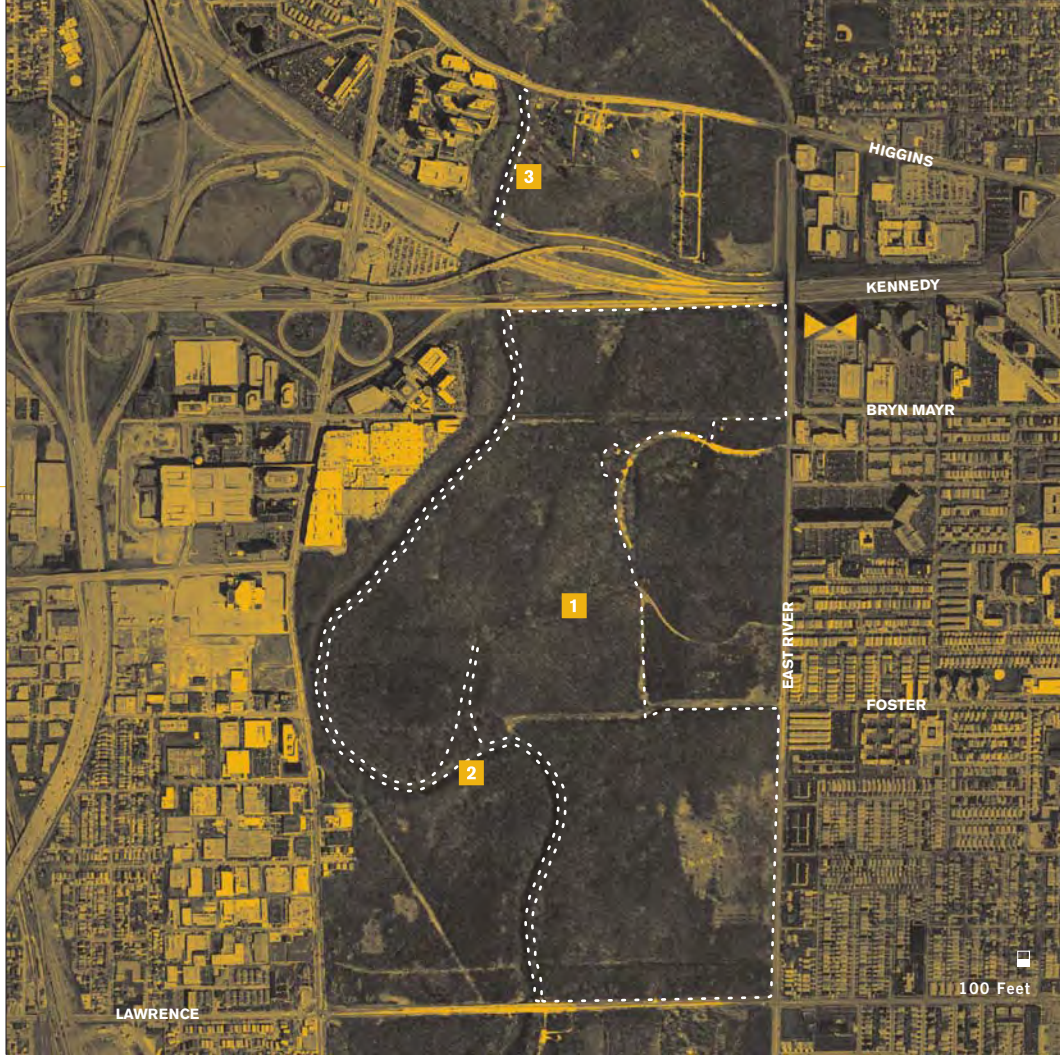
Catherine Chevalier Woods Forest Preserve



ADDRESS 8800 W Lawrence Ave
OWNER Forest Preserve District of Cook County
ACREAGE 338.13

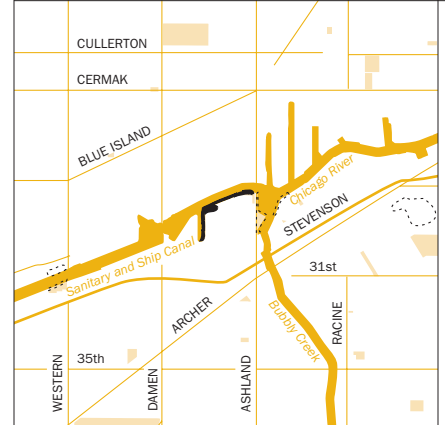
HABITATS
1 Forest/Woodland
2 3 Riparian/Water Edge

DIRECTIONS Enter the east side of Catherine Chevalier Woods between the Kennedy Expressway (I-90) and Catalpa Street on East River Road. Walking down Lawrence, the street bisecting the forest preserves from east to west, prairie openings with blazing stars and Indian grass can be visited.

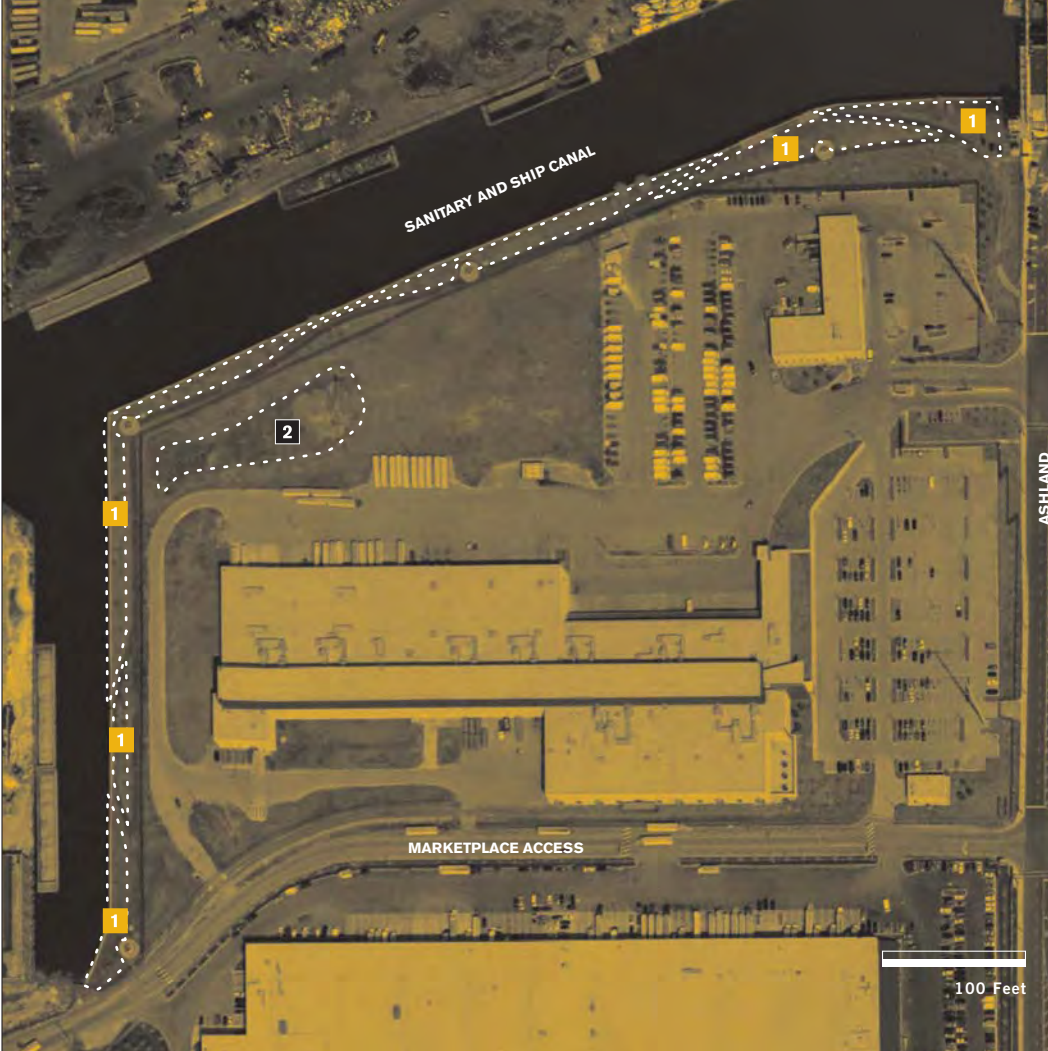


Canalport River Park is located next to the *Chicago Sun-Times* printing facility. The half-mile riverwalk, complete with ADA accessible fishing stations, and river overlooks, will be replanted with native prairie grasses along the river frontage **1**. Adjacent to the park, the Chicago Sun Times manages a retention pond **2** that collects runoff from loading docks and parking lots filtering pollutants before entering into the river.

The cooperative management of the park and pond provides a large habitat opportunity on the heavily industrialized Sanitary and Ship Canal. The park connects to Canal Origins Park (site 12, p. 42) across Ashland Avenue.



Canalport River Park



ADDRESS 2800 S Ashland Ave
 OWNER Chicago Park District, Private
 ACREAGE 2.23

HABITATS
1 Potential Habitat
2 Wetland

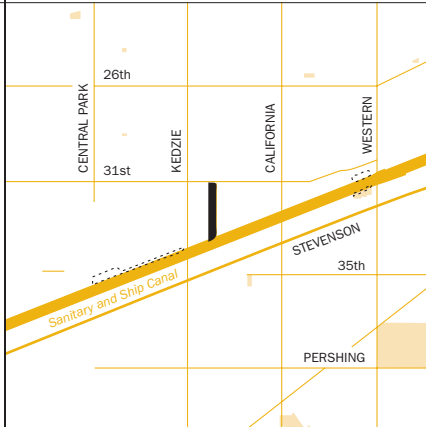
DIRECTIONS From Ashland, turn west at 2800 South, on a roadway marked "W. Market Place Access Road." Park entrance is on the right. To request permission to enter the Chicago Sun-Times site, turn west off Ashland Avenue at 2900 South, on Sun-Times Access Road. Otherwise you can see the retention pond through the fence from the park.

COLLATERAL CHANNEL

This old channel of the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal is mostly unused at this point, though the City continues to store barges here. Approximately a quarter-mile in length and 100 feet wide, the channel's banks are steep sheets of concrete and metal.

Providing a terraced area to access the river, providing walking and bike trails, and setting aside Collateral Channel as a place that's off the main channel and is safe for non-motorized boats would be a recreational boon to the neighborhood as well as a boost for nature and wildlife.

Ecological restoration will be an ambitious but important undertaking here. Little Village, the neighborhood surrounding Collateral Channel, is one of the regions in the city that is least served in terms of parks and open space. (This is determined by taking acres of open space compared to numbers of people in a given area.)



Collateral Channel



ADDRESS 3100 S Albany Ave
OWNER Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
ACREAGE 5.34

HABITATS
1 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS Collateral Channel is two blocks east of Kedzie on the south side of 31st Street. Parking is available on the north side of the street in the vacant lot.



Columbus Park was considered by landscape designer Jens Jensen—a prominent landscape architect who worked in the early part of the 20th century in Chicago—to be his most successful park project. (Robert E. Grese, *Jens Jensen: Maker of Natural Parks and Gardens* by, Johns Hopkins Press, 1992.) Grese writes, "The center of the park was kept open to suggest the broad expanse of the prairie. Flatness was regarded as an asset. The small brook and ancient beach depression were shaped and deepened to form a linear lagoon suggestive of a natural 'prairie river.'

The restorations are concentrated around the lagoon **1**. The lagoon has a natural shoreline **2**, with aquatic and common prairie plants along the bank, including cattails and asters. Large elms and willows tower over the water's edge.

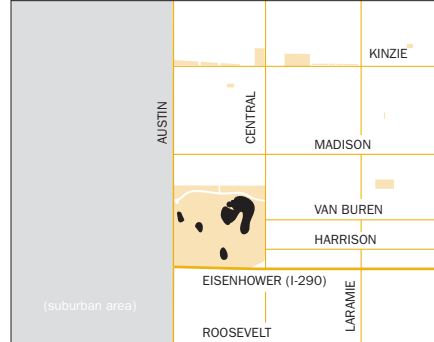
Jensen used stratified stonework to create some footpaths and two waterfalls. A stone path winds around the woodland area **4** on the peninsula, which features a turf grass clearing for picnics near the narrow west arm. The path makes a complete circle and leads back to the two stone waterfalls. A stone crossing leads

to the field house, golf course, and parking lot. The lagoon is stocked with blue gill and catfish; bullheads, crappie and bass are also present.

Directly behind the field house is a small reflecting pond. Herons and waterfowl visit the pond and lagoons in the summer months. In the spring, many migrating birds can be seen; Virginia rail, prothonotary warbler and mourning warbler have been seen here.

In his design of the golf course that occupies most of the western half of the park, J. Jensen created a "checker board" effect by breaking up fairways with scattered oak trees and native shrubs. The golf course also includes three prairie restoration areas **5 6 7**, which are managed through the use of controlled burning.

Along the south and west perimeters of the golf course (and north of I-290), is a woodland that is natural in character. In the fall, the oaks, maples and witch hazel surrounding the lagoon and scattered throughout the park provide dramatic color.



Columbus Park Lagoon



ADDRESS
OWNER
ACREAGE

500 S Central Ave
Chicago Park District
11.63

HABITATS

1 Aquatic
2 Riparian / Water Edge
3 5 6 7 Prairie / Grassland
4 Forest / Woodland

DIRECTIONS

Turn west off of Central onto Jensen; Jensen is the same as the street known as Jackson throughout the rest of the city.

DAN RYAN FOREST PRESERVE

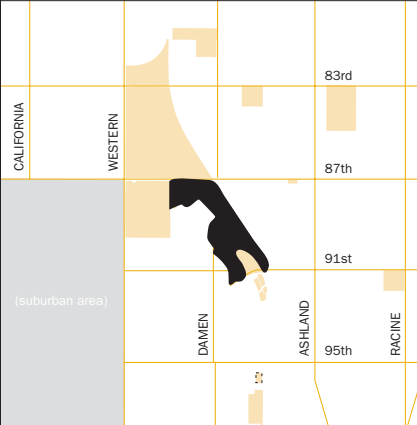
The Dan Ryan Forest Preserve, like many of Cook County's preserves, is a mix of deep woods with a closed canopy that keeps much from growing in the understory; more open edges where oaks preside over a mix of native and non-native flowers and grasses; small wetlands; mowed fields for sports, picnicking and other active recreational pursuits; and paved parking lots.

southeast corner. The best woodland communities are found south of 87th Street; wild geranium, jack-in-the-pulpit, Virginia waterleaf and other spring ephemerals can be found in abundance.

Wood-chipped trails wind through the Dan Ryan Forest Preserve, and a two-mile section of paved bike trail traverses it from north to south along the eastern edge. It is part of the Major Taylor bike trail, which has another stretch of four miles of paved, dedicated trail a couple miles to the south; between those two points, the City's recommended bike route goes past Ridge Park Wetland (site 70, p. 109) and Hurley Park Woodland (site 37, p. 63), two other natural areas described in this document.

The western-most edge of the Dan Ryan Forest Preserve has a geological feature of interest. Here, the relatively flat terrain pitches steeply upward toward Western Avenue. This is the northern-most tip of a dramatic piece of Chicago topography known to geologists as "Blue Island." (The suburb called of the same name forms the south end of Blue Island.) Over 10,000 years ago, most of Chicago was submerged in a vast glacial lake. Where the majority of Chicagoans now live was once the bed of this lake. But people in Beverly and Morgan Park and the Dan Ryan Forest Preserve occupy a zone that was above water; the neighborhoods were on a literal island.

In presettlement times, Dan Ryan Woods was part of an oak grove surrounded by open prairie on all sides. Today Dan Ryan woods is managed as oak woodland dominated by bur, white and red oak, with swamp white oak communities in the



Dan Ryan Forest Preserve



ADDRESS 8700 S Western Ave
OWNER Forest Preserve District of Cook County
ACREAGE 60.50

HABITATS
1 Forest/Woodland

DIRECTIONS Turn east on 83rd Street off of Western Avenue; turn immediately right into the parking area.



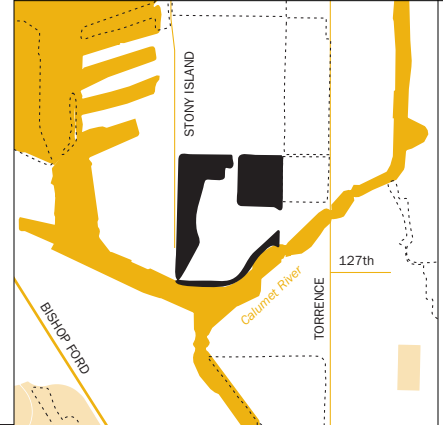
These two sites are adjacent to the fields used by the Metropolitan Water and Reclamation District uses to dry sludge. These sludge fields imitate the mud flats that shorebirds prefer, and in the spring, shorebirds can be seen by the hundreds or even the thousands.

Many different species of birds use Deadstick Pond and Heron Pond **1** and Heron Pond **6**, including rare ones such as yellow-headed blackbirds and black-crowned night herons.

Both sites are composed of open water with surrounding wetlands. They are part of the Calumet Open Space Reserve.

DEADSTICK POND AND
HERON POND

Site No. 18



12200 SOUTH / 2000 EAST



Deadstick Pond and Heron Pond

N: 18



ADDRESS 12200 S Stony Island Ave
OWNER Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Private
ACREAGE 98.90

HABITATS
1 Aquatic
2 5 Riparian / Water Edge
3 6 Wetland
4 7 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS From Torrence, turn west on 122nd Street. The sites are immediately west of the railroad tracks.

Deadstick Pond and Heron Pond

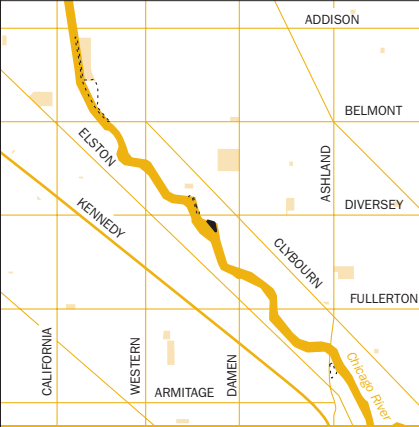
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DIVERSEY AVENUE WETLAND

On the southwest corner of Leavitt and Diversey, the Diversey Avenue Wetland is an attempt to create a quiet shallow area with aquatic plants. A small corner of the river channel has been fenced off and separated, and a few clumps of native bulrush and sedges have been established through the efforts of the Friends of the Chicago River. Though not much has taken hold, more work is slated for this area.

At street level, there's a triangular-shaped park that is for passive use; it's a well-kept space with park benches and a small plot of perennials. The park provides a good view of the river, and connects to the Chicago Riverwalk trail.



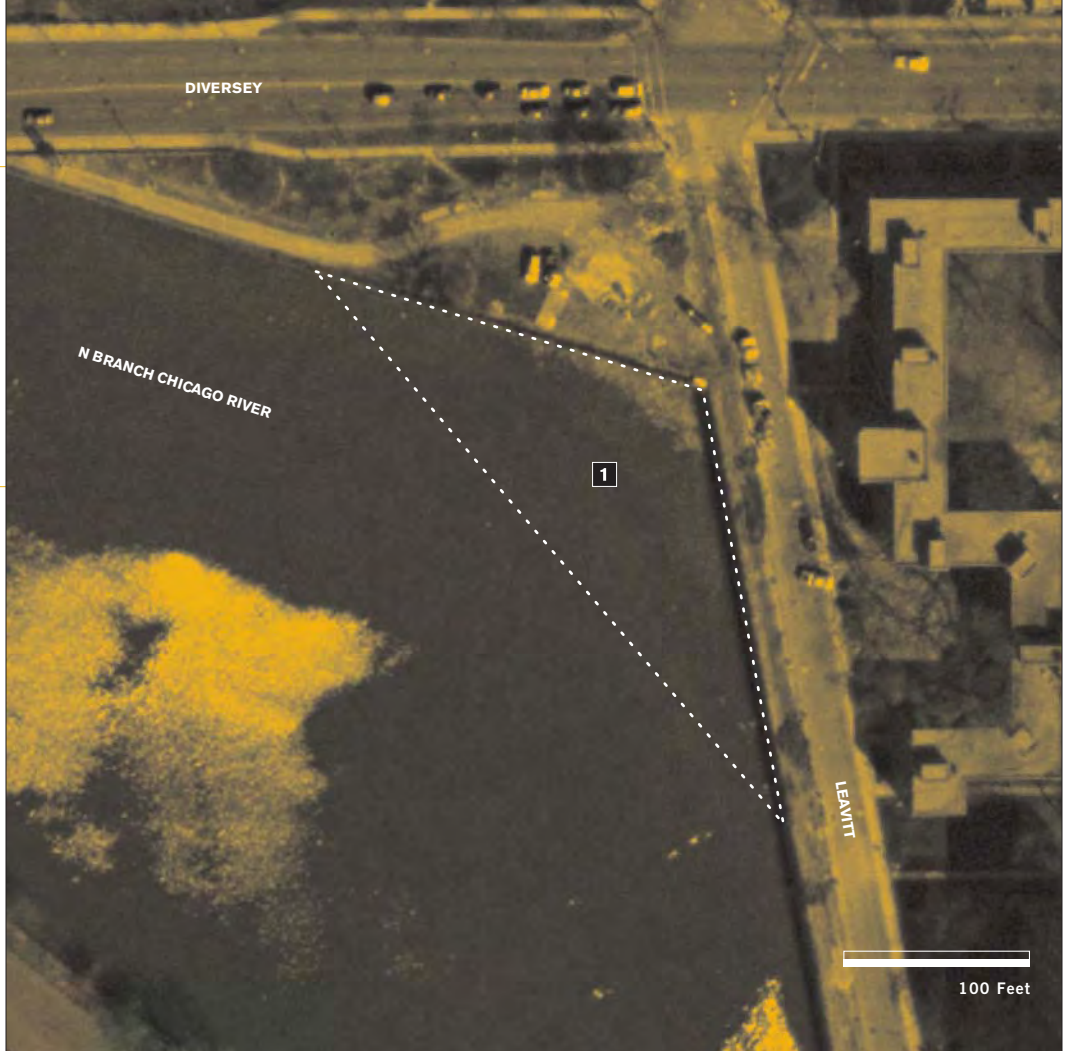
Diversey Avenue Wetland



ADDRESS 2700 N Leavitt St
 OWNER Illinois Department of Natural Resources
 ACREAGE 0.53

HABITATS
1 Wetland

DIRECTIONS Turn south on Leavitt off of Diversey Avenue; parking is available on the street around 2731-2759 N. Leavitt.



Located just a short drive west of downtown, Douglas Park is a large regional park connected to Garfield Park (site 27, p. 55) and Humboldt Park (site 34, p. 62) by boulevards. As is true for these other two regional parks, Douglas served as an opportunity for landscape architect Jens Jensen to try out his nature-inspired design concepts. Beginning in 1905, Jensen explored ways of implementing his own ideas about park design while laying them on top of existing plans by William Le Baron Jenney and Oscar Dubuis. These plans had only been partially implemented at the time. (Robert Grese, *Jens Jensen: Maker of Natural Parks and Gardens.*)

The field house overlooks a pond **5** and a junior golf course with prairie planted in the non-play areas **4**. Prairie grasses, such as little bluestem, Indian grass, and switchgrass, have taken hold. In the fall, their crisp yellows, browns and crimson provide an attractive counterpart to the turning leaves on the trees. Asters, purple coneflower and milkweed thrive here.

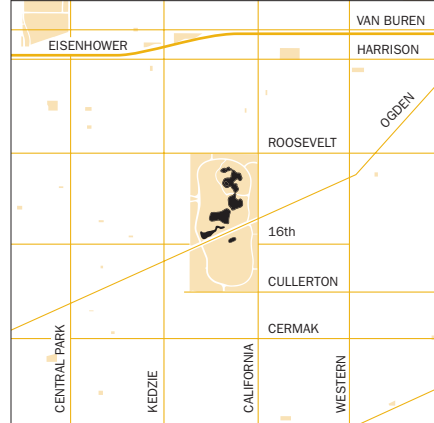
The lagoon **1** and island **2** have not undergone any recent restoration work, but is still naturalistic in character, with cattails, bur marigolds, and willows flanking its shores. Stocked with catfish and bluegill, the lagoon and the golf course pond are popular with fishermen.

South of Ogden Avenue the lily pond's **7** water lilies, bulrushes, and arrowheads provide habitat for frogs and dragonflies. The pond belongs to a long garden parallel to Ogden, which Jens Jensen designed in response to the creation of the diagonal roadway through the park

The lagoon, island, ponds, shrubs and wildflowers make this park an attractive stopover for migrating birds. Ducks, bitterns, rails, sandpipers and numerous songbirds are also found here.

DOUGLAS PARK LAGOON

Site No. 20



1400 SOUTH / 2900 WEST



Douglas Park Lagoon

N: 20



ADDRESS 1401 S Sacramento
 OWNER Chicago Park District
 ACREAGE 14.74

HABITATS
1 5 7 Aquatic
2 3 6 8 Riparian / Water Edge
4 Prairie / Grassland

DIRECTIONS At the corner of Roosevelt and California, go south on California and take the first possible right into a park access road, West 12th Place. Park by the field house.

Douglas Park Lagoon

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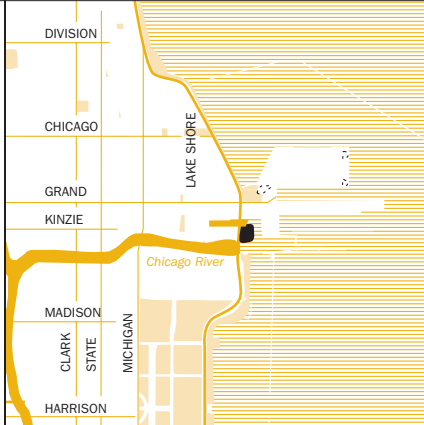
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DUSABLE PARK

DuSable Park is a peninsula between the Ogden slip and the Chicago River. It's located at the point where the Chicago River meets Lake Michigan.

DuSable Park is covered in grasses with a few low shrubs. Like its next door neighbor Navy Pier, DuSable Park attracts migrating birds in the spring and fall. Plans for the park have been developed but work is not yet underway.

South of DuSable Park, on the other side of the Chicago River, several planted patches of native big bluestem grass and switch grass are present, providing both a visual and habitat bridge between DuSable's wildness and the more cultivated portions of this part of the lakefront.



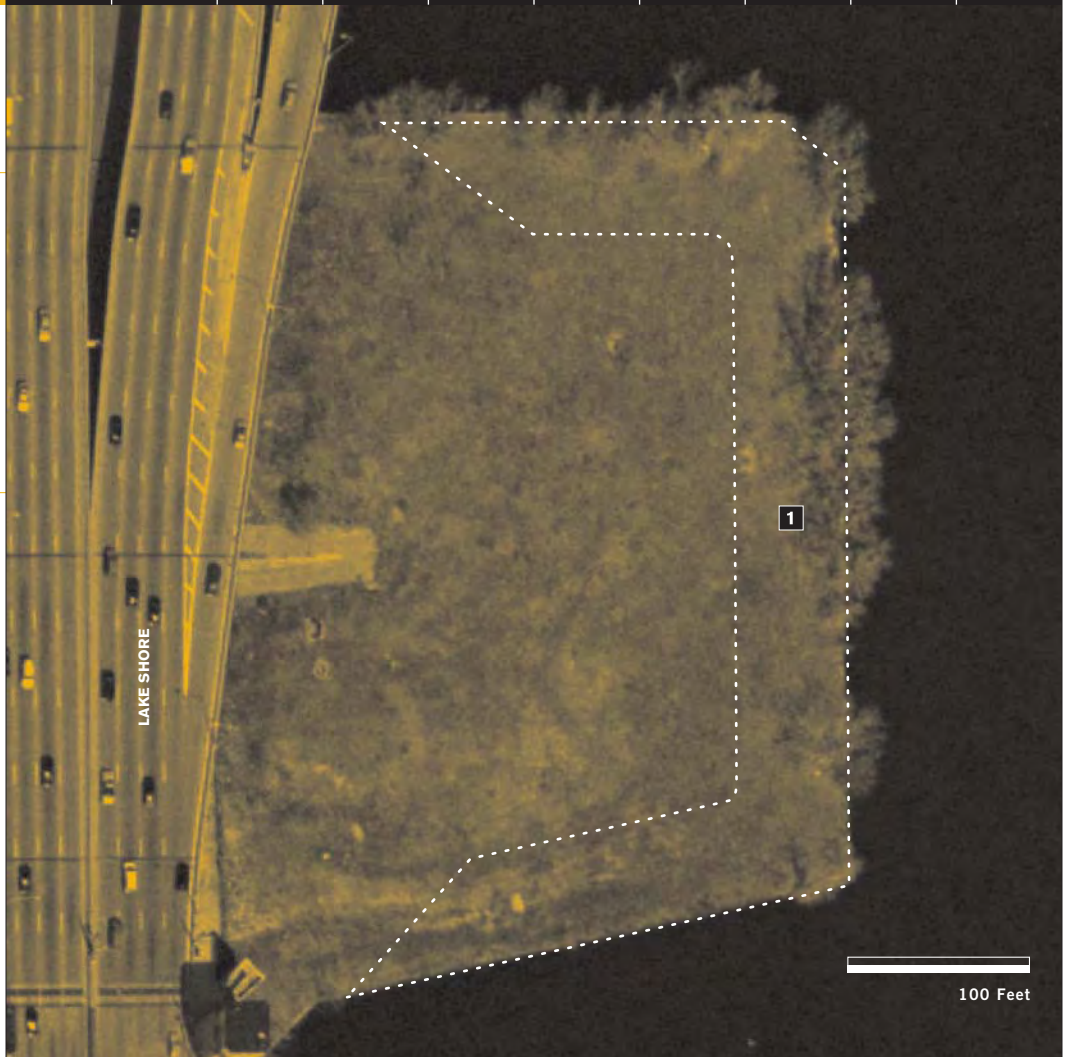
DuSable Park



ADDRESS 401 N Lake Shore Dr
 OWNER Chicago Park District
 ACREAGE 1.01

HABITATS
1 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS The only entrance is a locked gate underneath the Lake Shore Drive bridge. However, DuSable Park is in a visually prominent location, and can be viewed from the elevated position of the bike and pedestrian path on the bridge.



In the late 1970s, the agency then known as the Illinois Department of Conservation (now the Department of Natural Resources) undertook an ambitious survey to find the very best remnants of nature that still survived in Illinois. Less than 1/10 of one percent of Illinois was found unplowed, uncut, or not developed or used. Within the City of Chicago, at the time only two sites were recognized as being of high enough ecological quality to qualify for inclusion as a site on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory, and Edgebrook was one of them. (Site 64, p. 104, Powderhorn Marsh and Prairie, on the far south border of the city, was the other.)

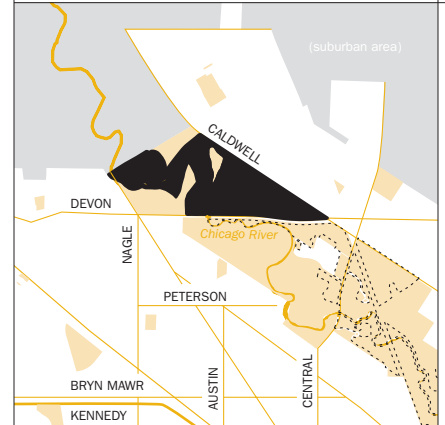
Edgebrook stands out as one of the city's most spectacular example of a native forest community. The "flatwoods," a type of natural community characterized by a layer of clay and damp spring conditions, are dominated by red maple and pin oak. It is the best place in the city to go to see spring wildflowers; in mid to late-April, the woodland floor is blanketed with spring beauties, trout lilies, and trillium.

Its richness is compounded by the fact that it doesn't exist alone, but is part of a larger complex of open prairie and oak savanna and oak woodland. On the north edge of the site, the woods become progressively more open until giving way to the open terrain of Bunker Hill Prairie (site 98, p. 36). If one were to keep going beyond these sites, there would be still more oak woods and occasional high quality natural areas all along the North Branch of the Chicago River; the Forest Preserve District of Cook County has extensive holdings up into Northbrook and Glencoe.

Two scenic ravines stretch into the flatwoods from the river on the area's western border.

EDGEBROOK FLATWOODS
FOREST PRESERVE

Site No. 22



6800 NORTH / 6000 WEST



**Edgebrook Flatwoods
Forest Preserve**

No. 22



ADDRESS 6800 N Caldwell Ave
OWNER Forest Preserve District of Cook County
ACREAGE 138.72

HABITATS
 1 2 3 Forest / Woodland
 4 5 Riparian / Water Edge
 6 7 Prairie / Grassland
 8 Wetland
 9 Savanna

Edgebrook Flatwoods Forest Preserve

DIRECTIONS The southeast corner of the site is at the intersection of Caldwell and Devon. Find street parking nearby, or park in the forest preserve lot a few blocks north and take a short walk south along the bike path, past Bunker Hill Prairie on the way. This parking lot is launching point for the 20-mile long North Branch Bike Trail.

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100 Feet

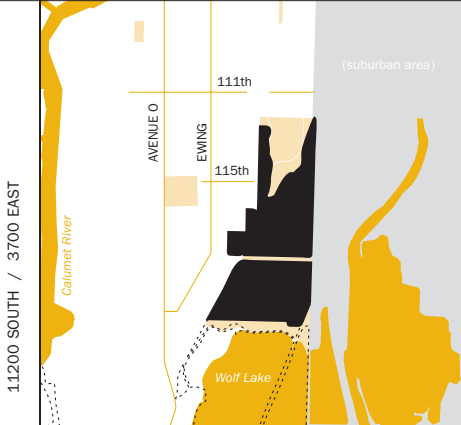
EGGERS WOODS
FOREST PRESERVE

The woodlands, savannas and wetlands of Eggers Woods are among the highest quality natural areas found within the Calumet Open Space Reserve **1 2 3 4**. The presence of existing natural areas, with basic native species intact, is a boon to this region where there are great quantities of open space but most are in degraded condition.

Eggers Woods' ecological significance is increased by its neighbor to the south, the William Powers Conservation Area (site 88, p. 127) owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. These two areas are separated by only a short distance of a few blocks from the Powderhorn Lake, Marsh and Prairie complex (site 64, p. 104) farther south, making a large block of almost-contiguous green space.

In presettlement times, Eggers Woods consisted of black oak savanna on the west side, oak-dominated woodland to the east, and a great amount of marshland. This is one of the few remaining marshes in the entire Chicago metropolitan region where yellow-headed blackbirds and Virginia rails nest. Its varied natural areas make it attractive for migrating birds as well.

The Burnham Greenway runs along the west border of Eggers Woods Forest Preserve. On the other side of the greenway lies the Eggers Woods Water Pocket **5**. Found east of the dead-end of 118th Street, this property would protect a small pocket of wetland and increase the size of the overall protected area.



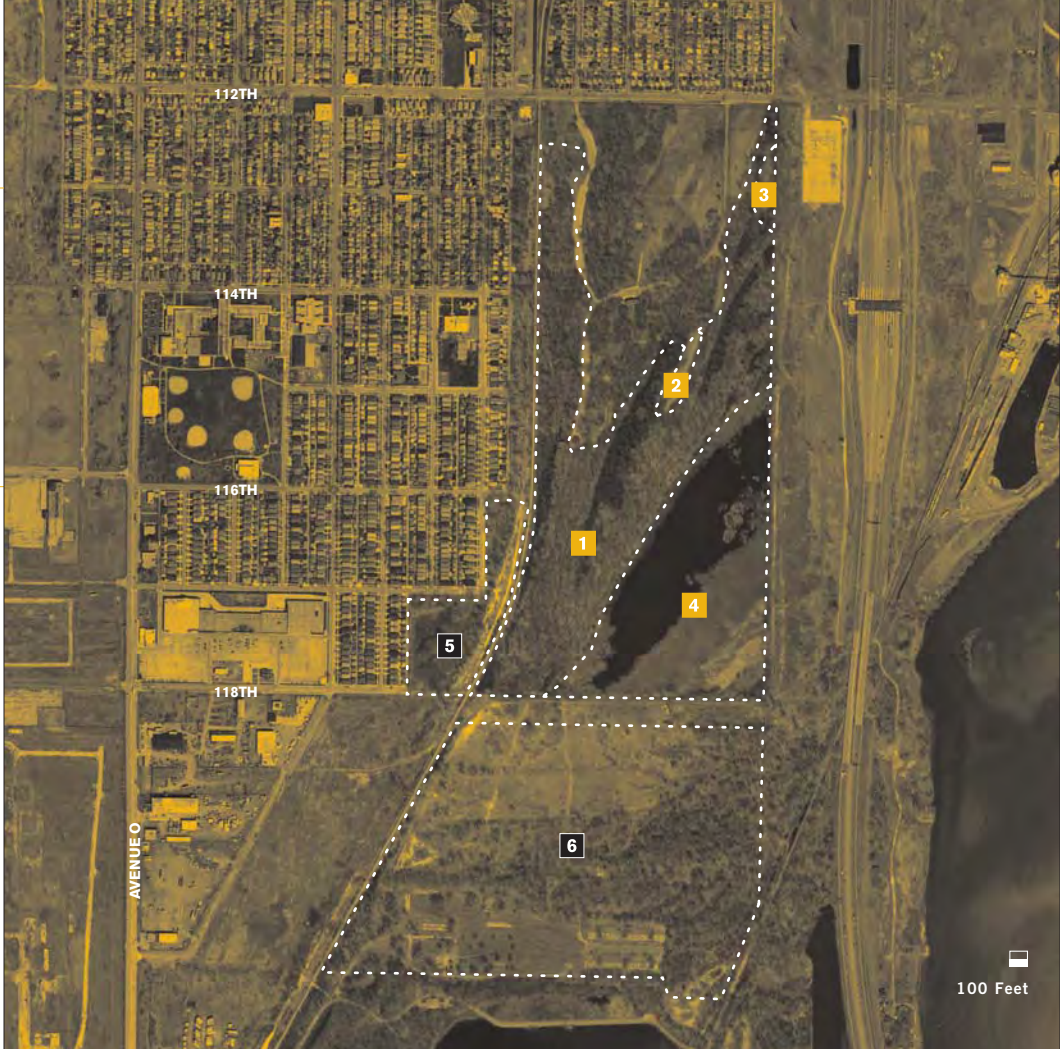
Eggers Woods Forest Preserve



ADDRESS 11200 S Avenue E
OWNER City of Chicago (acquisition underway), Forest Preserve District of Cook County
ACREAGE 205.13

HABITATS
1 Forest/Woodland
2 3 4 5 Wetland
6 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS Entrance to Eggers Woods is off of 112th Street by the Burnham Greenway. The access road and parking lots wind south through the preserve.



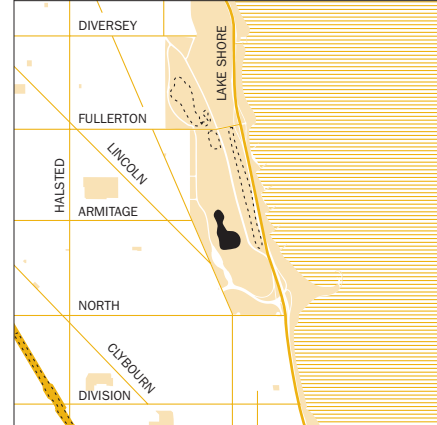
The South Pond is one of the oldest exact features that remains from Swains Nelson's original design for Lincoln Park (1835).

The area surrounding South Pond is landscaped with turf grass, elms, maples, and other trees, with benches along a paved path that circles the pond. The entire pond **1** is banked by concrete, and does not yet feature any specific natural habitat restoration.

There are two islands **2** at the south end of the pond, near the petting zoo. Numerous ducks, geese, and seagulls swim in the pond. The two islands provide additional habitat.

LINCOLN PARK—
SOUTH POND

Site No. 24



1900 NORTH / 100 WEST



**Lincoln Park—
South Pond**

N: 24



ADDRESS 1901 N Stockton Dr
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 7.09

HABITATS
1 Aquatic
2 3 Riparian / Water Edge

DIRECTIONS North of North Avenue, between Cannon and Stockton Drives. Parking is available in the zoo lot off of Fullerton or in the lot for the Chicago Historical Society, at North Avenue and Stockton.

Lincoln Park—South Pond

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

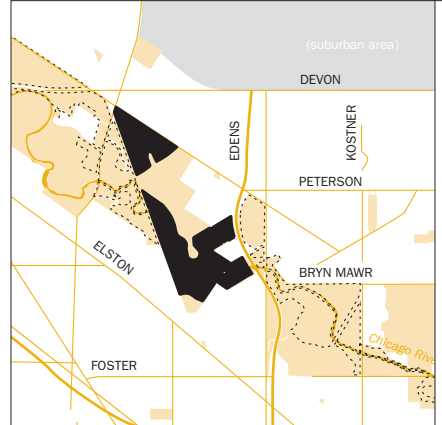
Caldwell Woods is named for Billy Caldwell, chief of the Potawatomi Indians and instrumental in Chicago's early history for saving the lives of the Kinzie family at the Fort Dearborn Massacre. As reward for his service, the United States government in 1816 granted him the lands along the North Branch of the Chicago River north of the Indian Boundary line. The Indian Boundary line represents the lands the United States took control removing native American settlements in order to build a navigation canal to connect Lake Michigan with the Illinois River.

These woods given to Caldwell occupy both sides of the North Branch of the Chicago River within the Forest Glen community. Its southeasterly boundary is the Indian Boundary line (Rogers and Forest Glen Avenues), and its northern boundary is Central and Caldwell Avenues.

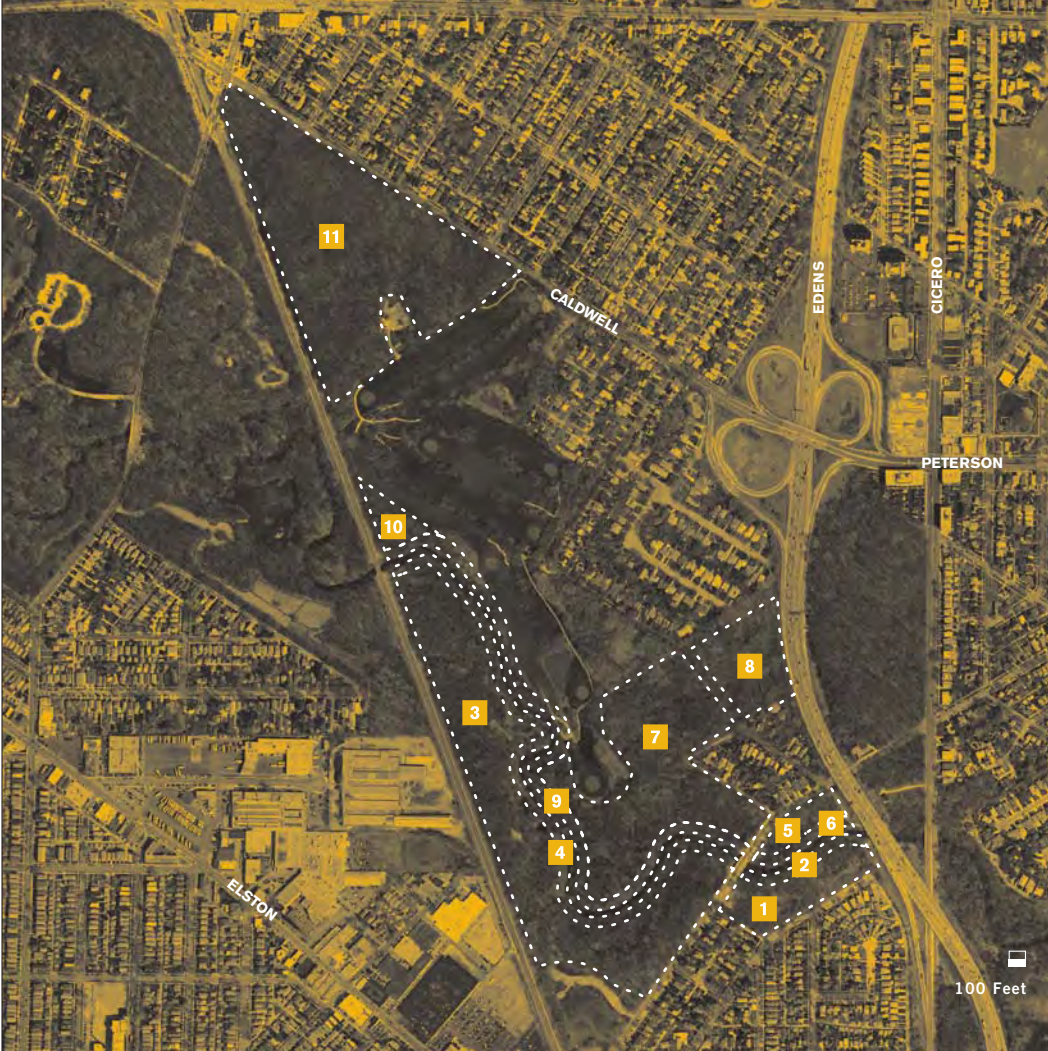
The woods today consists of mostly of forested wetlands and bottomlands, and represent some of the best natural habitat on the Chicago River. Visitors to the woods in the spring will see a great abundance of spring ephemerals that include spring beauties, may apples, swamp buttercup, trout lilies, and wild geranium. Caldwell Woods is a popular bird observation location for migratory songbirds, especially warblers, thrushes and vireos. The secluded woodland cover also provides habitat for Cooper's hawks.

A picnic grove is located on Forest Glen Avenue that provides parking and access to unimproved hiking trails that follow the winding course of the river and flatlands. These trails connect to with Indian Boundary Woods and LaBagh Woods. The 9-hole Billy Caldwell Golf Course is located within the center of the woodland area.

BILLY CALDWELL AND FOREST GLEN WOODS FOREST PRESERVE



Billy Caldwell and Forest Glen Woods Forest Preserve



ADDRESS 5600 N Forest Glen Ave
 OWNER Forest Preserve District of Cook County
 ACREAGE 107.11

HABITATS
 1 3 5 7 Forest / Woodland
 8 10 11
 2 4 6 9 Riparian / Water Edge

DIRECTIONS
 For Billy Caldwell Woods, exit the I-94 at Peterson Ave and head west on Caldwell Ave. The entrance to the forest Preserve is on the left (south) side of the road, 1/4 miles away from the exit.
 For Forest Glen Woods, drive north on Elston Ave past Foster Ave and turn right on Forest Glen Ave. The entrance to the Forest Preserve is on the left (west) side of the road a couple blocks down.



Garfield Park Lagoon surrounds the field house, a striking building that once housed the administrative offices of the West Park Commission. Created from a design by William Le Baron Jenney in 1871, later improved by Jens Jensen, the lagoon meanders around a large area in Jensen's distinctive prairie river style. There are two pools of water, one on each side of Central Park Avenue.

The Chicago Park District's list of capital improvement projects calls for a future rehabilitation of the lagoon, which will improve its historic elements as well as its usefulness as habitat. As it is now, much of the lagoon is bordered by turf grass shaded by maples and elms. Cattails rise up from the water's edge around much of the lagoon. Common native plants are present along the paved path that circles the lagoon.

Ducks and geese are plentiful at the lagoon, as are fishermen. The best place for birding is on the west side of the lagoon, but during migration a wide assortment of species can be seen throughout the park wherever habitat exists.

The 185-acre park is undergoing a renaissance, highlighted by the renovation of the Garfield Park Conservatory. The conservatory was designed by Jens Jensen in 1906 and was at the time the largest public garden under glass.

GARFIELD PARK LAGOON

Site No 27

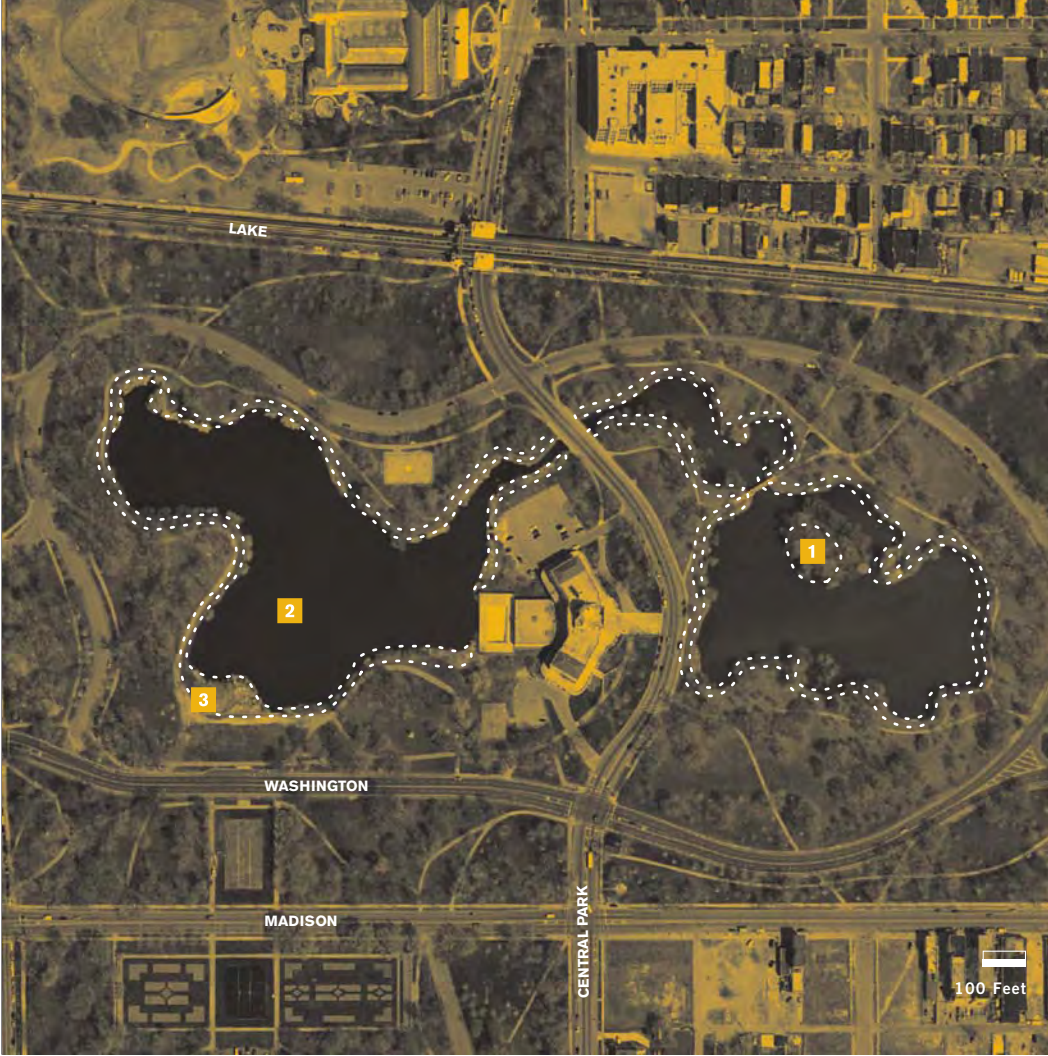


100 NORTH / 3500 WEST



Garfield Park Lagoon

N: 27



ADDRESS 100 N Central Park Ave
 OWNER Chicago Park District
 ACREAGE 17.33

HABITATS
 1 3 Riparian / Water Edge
 2 Aquatic

DIRECTIONS
 Garfield Park Lagoon is located off of Central Park Avenue, between Washington Boulevard and Lake Street

Garfield Park Lagoon

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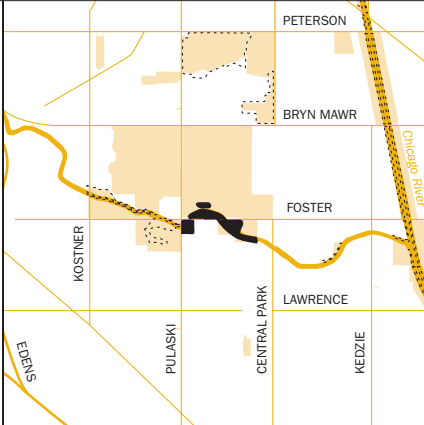
GOMPERS PARK—EXPANSION AND EUGENE FIELD PARK

In 2003, the Chicago Park District purchased two sites to expand Gompers Park (site 29, p. 57) east of Pulaski Avenue. Both are critical to the protection of a continuous greenway along the North Branch of the Chicago River.

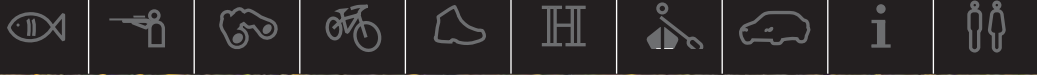
One is located at the southeast corner of Foster and Pulaski **1 2 3**. Nothing is on site yet but a gravel lot (on the west side of the Chicago River), a dense cover of weedy trees and brush with chicory and white sweet clover (on the east side of the river), a fence and the river edge.

Another expansion site is north of Foster, on the south side of the river. This surplus land for the Bohemian National Cemetery **4 5** has a storage building, and the grounds are mowed. Black-crowned night herons and kingfishers frequent the pond located on the opposite bank **7**.

Further downstream, south of Foster Avenue, Eugene Field Park flanks either side of the river **8 9**; the two sides are connected by a foot bridge. No natural area restoration has been conducted here, but the portions of the park fronting along the river provide additional shoreline habitat.



Gompers Park—Expansion and Eugene Field Park



ADDRESS 4222 W Foster Ave
 OWNER Cemetery, Chicago Park District
 ACREAGE 9.61

HABITATS
1 4 6 8 Riparian/Water Edge
2 3 5 9 Potential Habitat
7 Aquatic

DIRECTIONS The expansion site south of Foster can be viewed from the parking lot of the Harmony Nursing and Rehabilitation Center just east of Pulaski along Foster. For Eugene Field Park, park on Avers south of Foster. Take footbridge near the Eugene Field Cultural Center to the other bank. For Bohemian National Cemetery, use the entrance on the east side of Pulaski north of to Foster.



Gompers park, featuring one of the city's premier natural restorations, was developed in the mid to late 1920s based on a design by landscape architect Henry J. Stockman. Increasing its significance and that of the two adjacent sites (Gompers Park Expansion, p. 56; LaBagh Woods, p. 77) is their location as part of the extensive corridor of protected land along the North Branch of the Chicago River.

A one-acre lagoon **1** is located just east of the parking lot off Keeler Avenue. Water bubbles up from a limestone fountain and waterfall on the east end, and flows slowly through the lagoon. Clumps of native aquatic and wetland vegetation grow along the perimeter of the lagoon **2**, and limestone pavers provide access to the water's edge. This is a good fishing spot. Other aquatic life such as crayfish, dragonfly nymphs, frogs and turtles live in and around the lagoon.

Once the water travels under the red footbridge at the west end of the lagoon, it tumbles down a small waterfall and into a stream that leads into the wetland **3** that runs alongside the North Branch of the Chicago River. The wetland takes in

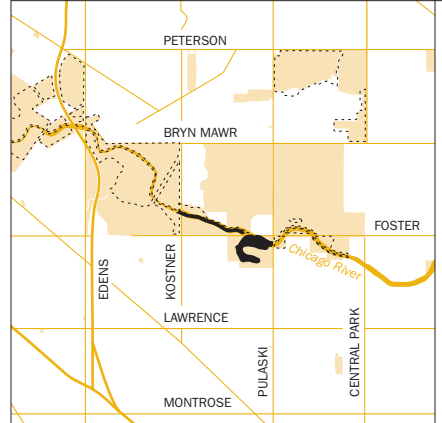
floodwater from the river on occasion. The natural community here is well-suited to these conditions. Arrowhead, bulrush, pickerelweed, swamp milkweed, and various sedges are among the plants that thrive here.

The plants and the soils hold, utilize, and slowly release water which otherwise might flood residential neighborhoods, giving the wetland an additional function beyond providing habitat. Muskrats utilize this habitat. The drier portions of the natural area support cup plant, culver's root and other plants more typical of prairie or savanna **4**.

On the rise separating the lagoon and the wetland is a grove of old oak trees. Some are estimated to be more than 200 years old. Though the understory of native grasses and flowers are missing—this part of the park is mowed because of the intensive use it receives by visitors—the remaining oaks help this area retain the general appearance of the savanna that was once there.

GOMPERS PARK—
LAGOON AND WETLAND

Site No. 29



5200 NORTH / 4300 WEST



**Gompers Park—
Lagoon and Wetland**

No. 29



ADDRESS 4300 W Foster Ave
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 7.81

HABITATS
1 Aquatic
2 Naturalistic Planting
3 Wetland
4 Prairie/Grassland
5 6 7 Riparian/Water Edge

DIRECTIONS Use Gompers Park parking lot on the west side of Pulaski just south of Foster, and walk north toward the wetland area.

Gompers Park—Lagoon and Wetland

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100 Feet

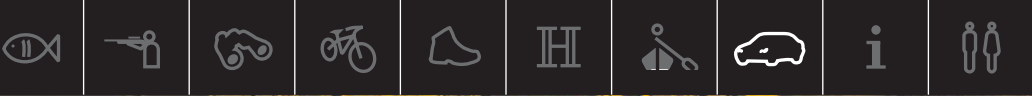
NORTH BRANCH CANAL WETLANDS

The North Branch Canal Wetland is part of a proposal to improve habitat along the most urbanized and industrialized sections of the river. The North Branch Canal is the non-navigable portion of the waterway on the east side of Goose Island.

The City and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District are exploring ways to remediate river sediments and improve water quality by creating wetlands to filter impurities and oxygenate the water. Opportunities exist to create extensions of the riverwalk trail into the wetlands through a series of boardwalks.



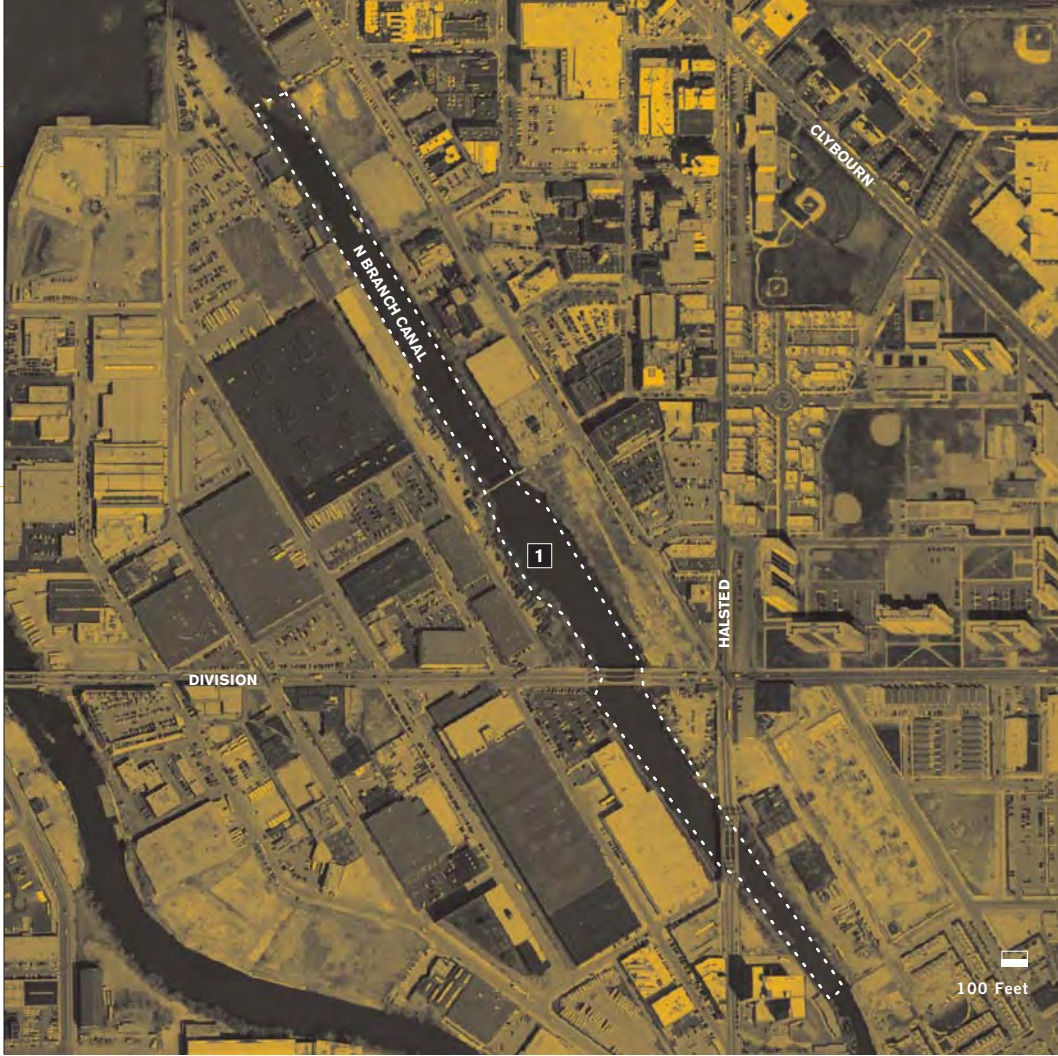
North Branch Canal Wetlands



ADDRESS Weed St to Hobbie St
OWNER Private
ACREAGE 11.50

HABITATS
1 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS Start at the Division Street bridge (west of Halsted) for a dramatic overview of this section of the river. The proposed habitat restoration stretches south and north of the bridge. Park at the Mobil station lot at Halsted and Division. Travel along Kingsbury (east side of the Canal); the west side is harder to get to (large industries with guarded parking lots).



Important Chicagoans such as Louis Sullivan, Marshall Field, Mies Van Der Rohe and George Pullman are buried amidst a landscape with native trees and some native understory flora. In the spring, migrating warblers and other songbirds can be seen in the shrubs and trees that flank the tombstones.

Early designs by William Saunders, assisted by Swain Nelson and followed by Horace W. S. Cleveland, laid out the cemetery's uniform appearance, without fences nor stone walls around individual plots. After additional land became part of the cemetery in the early 1880s, landscape architect Ossian Cole Simonds was asked to create a lasting plan for the site. He created an innovative design that used native plants and naturalistic landscape techniques before the Prairie School movement popularized such ideas, and dedicated most of his life (1880 to 1931) to making this the nation's premier rural cemetery.

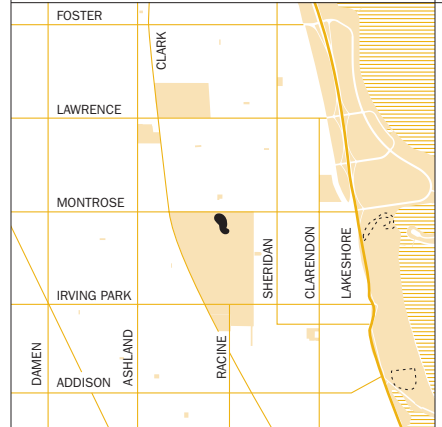
The entirety of the land and water at Graceland Cemetery is valuable for bird habitat. Flickers and downy woodpeckers nest here. Many different types of oaks and other native trees are present.

The area that is included as natural area in this Directory is the pond near the north wall of the cemetery **1**. Limestone lines much of the edge; the remainder is flanked by grass or willows that stretch out over the water.

Increasing the numbers of native wetland plants around the pond would be in keeping with the overall natural ambience of the cemetery, and would improve the habitat for frogs, turtles, and other wildlife

GRACELAND CEMETERY

Site No 31



4400 NORTH / 1200 WEST

Graceland Cemetery

N: 31

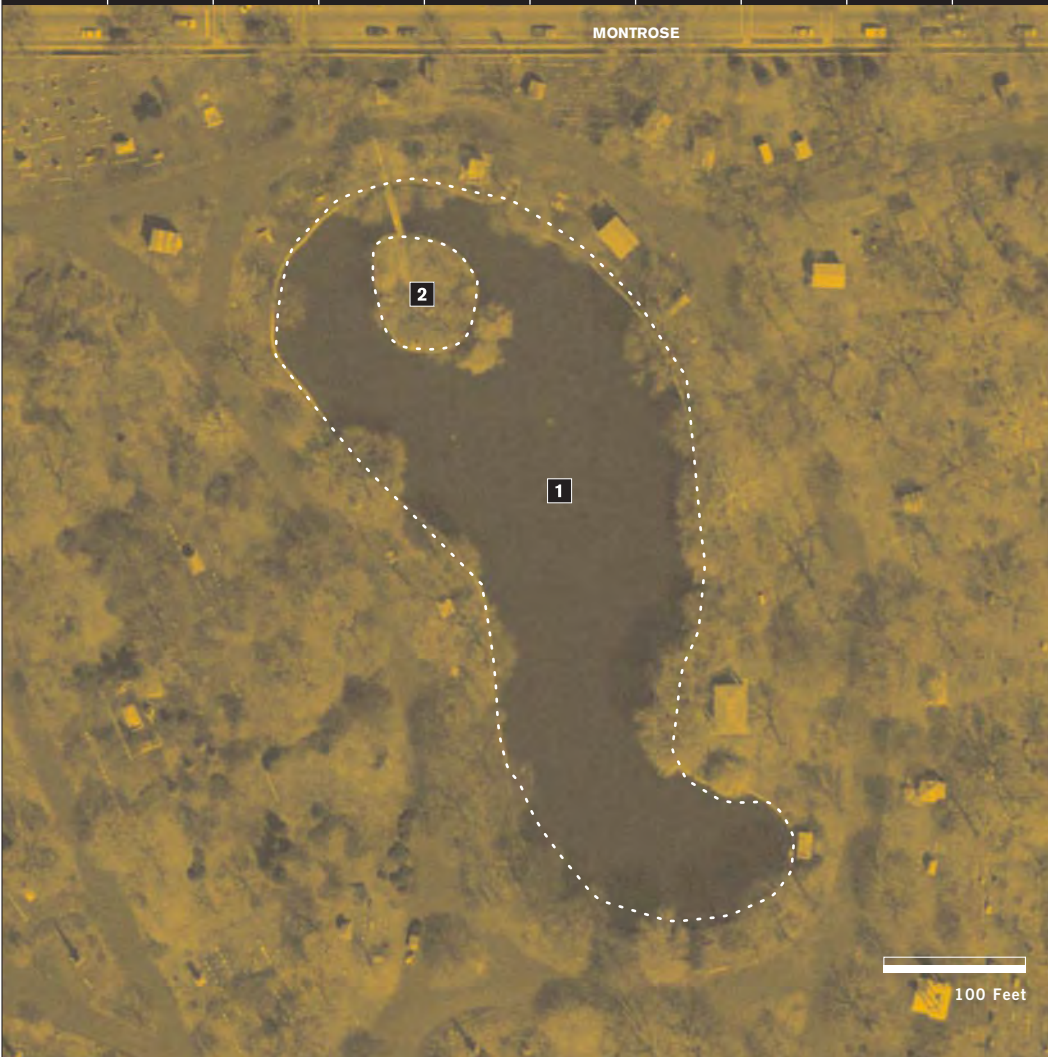
ADDRESS 4400 N Racine Ave
 OWNER Cemetery
 ACREAGE 2.15

HABITATS
1 Aquatic
2 Riparian / Water Edge

DIRECTIONS The only entrance to the cemetery is at the corner of Irving Park and Clark Street. To reach the lagoon, turn left and wind through the small interior roads to the north portion. The Chicago Architecture Foundation runs tours of the cemetery.

Graceland Cemetery

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005



HEGEWISCH MARSH

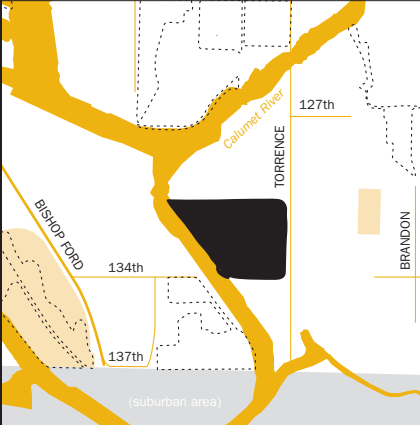
Hegewisch Marsh is a premiere site for wetland birds. A small colony of yellow-headed blackbirds nest and fledge their young here each year. In the years before northeastern Illinois' wetlands were drained and filled, yellow-headed blackbirds were common residents of Chicago's marshes. But they are now listed as an endangered species in Illinois.

Hegewisch Marsh is also a nesting site for pied-billed grebes and common moorhen, both of which are threatened species in Illinois. It's included on the state of Illinois' list of important sites, the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory.

Yellow-headed blackbirds require open water and stands of reeds or cattails, like those found at Hegewisch Marsh. The birds eat both seeds and insects, and feed both in wetlands and in upland fields and prairies. Best times to see the birds are in the early morning and evening; during the heat of the day, the birds tend to remain in the denser cattails.

There's a mix of habitats on the site. In addition to the marshlands **1**, which are dominated mainly by cattails, there are meadows and stands of cottonwoods on higher ground **2 5 6**.

Hegewisch Marsh is part of the Calumet Open Space Reserve.



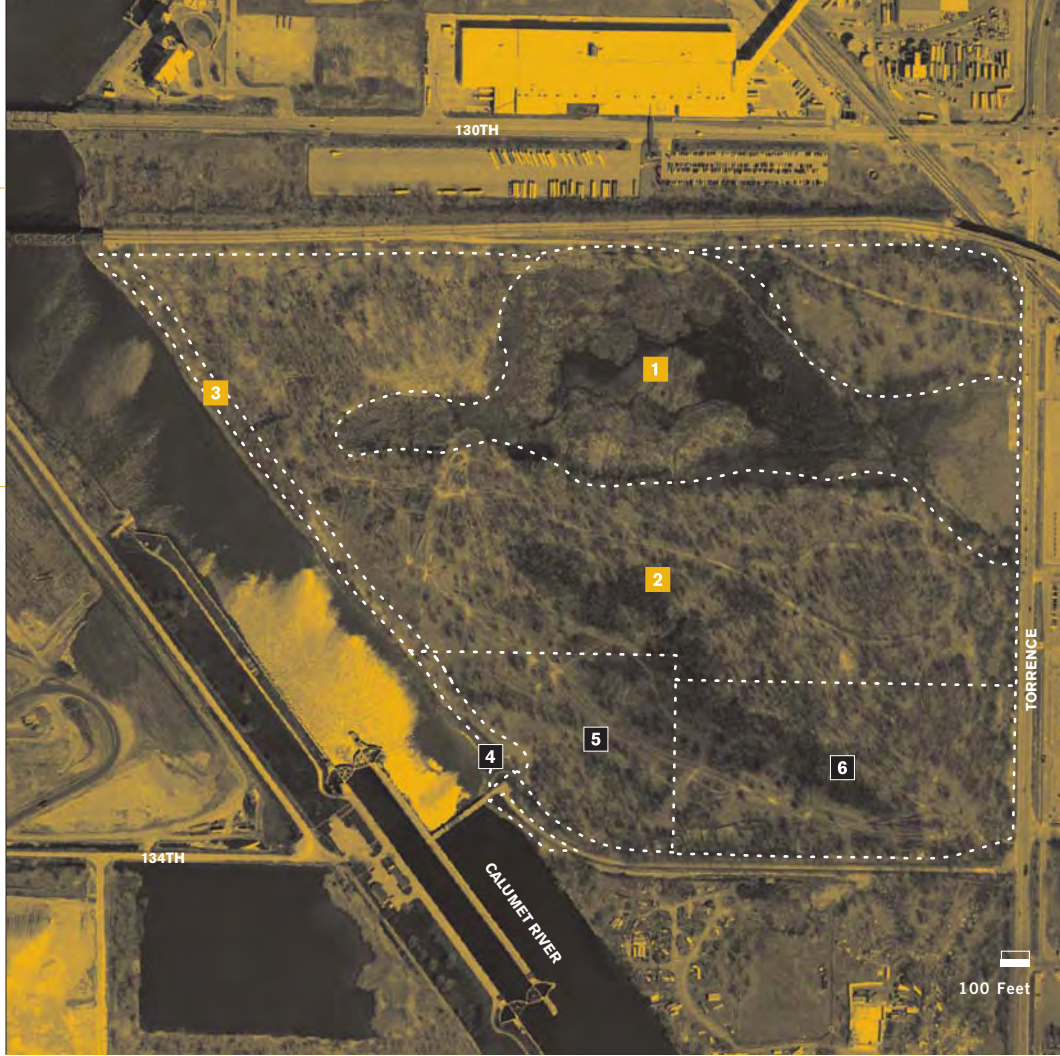
Hegewisch Marsh



ADDRESS 13000 S Torrence Ave
OWNER Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Private, City of Chicago
ACREAGE 126.67

HABITATS
1 Wetland
2 5 6 Forest/Woodland
3 4 Riparian/Water Edge

DIRECTIONS Access to Hegewisch Marsh is in the process of being developed. The marsh can be viewed from Torrence Avenue (look on the west side of the street) south of 130th.



Named after former Illinois governor Henry Horner, Horner Park is a large open space filled with lawns, groves, a tobogganing hill, and multiple athletic fields. The park was created on a site previously occupied by a brick manufacturer that excavated brick-making clay from the river banks. After the site was abandoned, the clay pits were used for dumping until the Chicago Park district started acquiring the land in 1946.

A riverfront woodland area **1** stretches along the river from Montrose south to Irving Park. A paved path meanders through the park, used by runners and walkers. Currently turf grass leads up to the river; access is blocked by a chain link fence. Beyond the chain link fence wooded, brushy areas border the water. Two unofficial dirt paths run close to the river on either side of the fence.

This part of Horner Park is quiet and feels remote. Plans to stabilize the shoreline and improve the habitat await funding. The oak grove at the top of the bank would be a good candidate for savanna restoration.

On the opposite (east) bank of the river from Horner Park is the ambitious, citizen-led restoration of Riverbank Neighbors **2**. Residents along the riverside blocks between Montrose and Berateau began their own native plant restoration of the river banks, bringing in the seeds of bottlebrush grass, columbine and wild rye. The group collaborates with Waters Elementary School to introduce river ecology and environmental stewardship issues into the curriculum, and it partners with the students in providing ongoing bank work. The group also operates in partnership with Friends of the Chicago River, and together they have managed to begin riverbank stabilization. Volunteers installed "wattling," (low fences made of sticks and branches) to define trails. The volunteer efforts have made the river's edge more aesthetically appealing and safer to visit.

Over the years Riverbank Neighbors has received funding from GreenNet Chicago, Chicago Botanic Gardens, and Illinois first and received an award from American Rivers for "Outstanding Educational Work." This area is leased from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District by NeighborSpace.

HORNER PARK AND RIVERBANK NEIGHBORS

Site No 33



4200 NORTH / 2600 WEST



Horner Park and Riverbank Neighbors

N: 33



ADDRESS 2600 W Berateau Ave
 OWNER Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
 ACREAGE 8.25

HABITATS **1 2** Riparian / Water Edge

DIRECTIONS For Horner Park, park in the lots along California. To see the work of the Riverbank Neighbors, it's best to take Irving Park Road to the River and turn north on Rockwell. Go north a few blocks to Berateau Avenue and turn left to find the main trailhead. On street parking is available on Rockwell, Berateau and other neighboring streets.

Horner Park and Riverbank Neighbors

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

HUMBOLDT PARK LAGOON AND PRAIRIE RIVER

Humboldt Park was originally designed in 1871 by William Le Baron Jenney as part of an ensemble on the boulevard system along with Garfield and Douglas parks.

Humboldt Park is one of the Chicago Park District's Nature Oasis sites, around which a great deal of nature programming is carried out (see Appendices, p. 132). The lagoon shoreline has been restored and planted with native grasses and wildflowers. A fall visit features purple and white asters and the feathery seed heads of nodding wild rye.

The line between land and water is frequently and deliberately broken down at Humboldt Park. There is a stretch of wetland vegetation (mostly cattails and broad-leaved arrowhead) between the path and the water, and then the view and access are opened with a wide, clear area of limestone steps. These openings invite the visitor to come close to the water.

The lagoon is connected to the prairie river located west of Humboldt Boulevard. In 1906, Jens Jensen designed the prairie river, and in 2004, the Chicago Park District installed solar panels and a wind turbine power station to run the pump that moves water through the restored prairie river.

The original boat house features a Prairie School architectural design; it has been recently restored and includes an environmental center on the lower level. The historic rose garden attracts many butterflies and dragonflies in late summer and early fall.



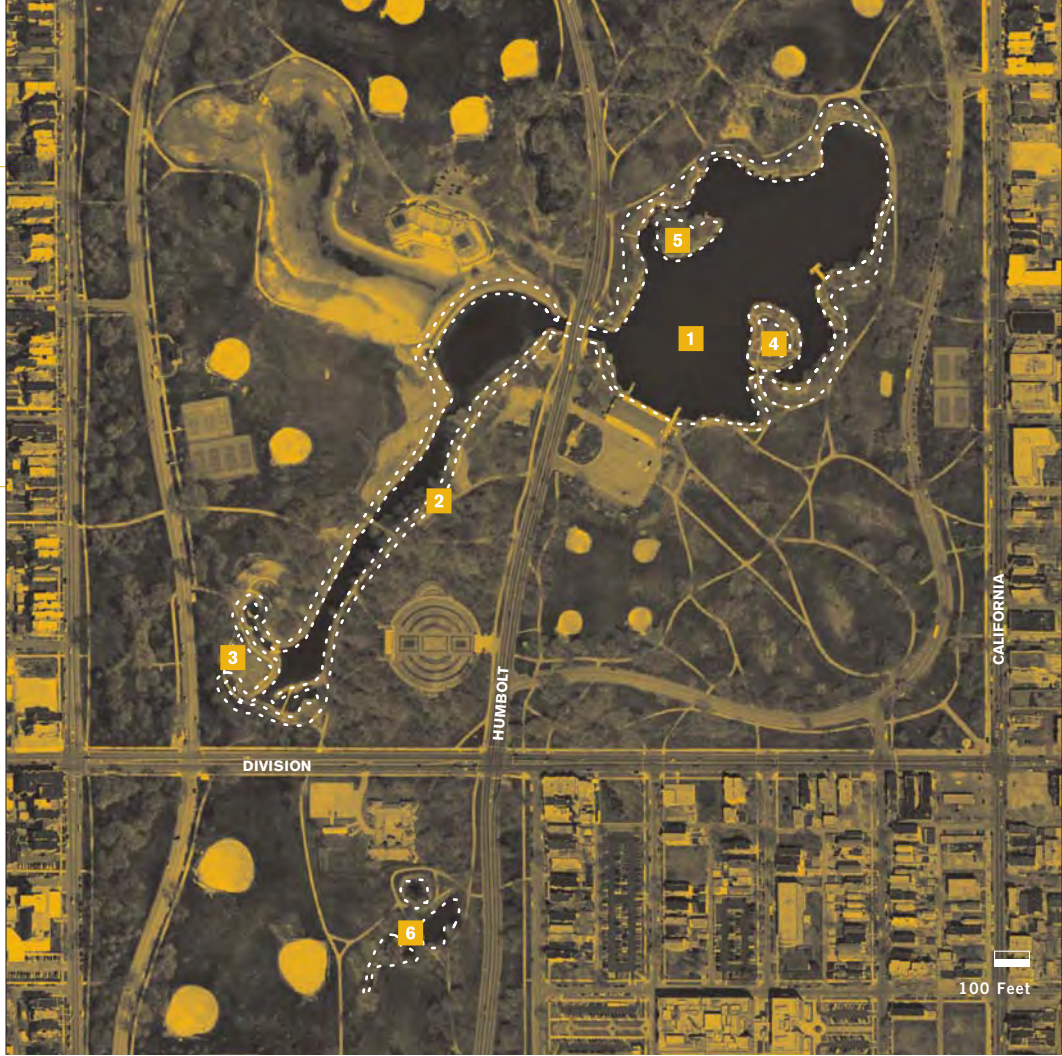
Humboldt Park Lagoon and Prairie River



ADDRESS 1400 N Sacramento Ave
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 19.21

HABITATS
1 Aquatic
2 4 5 Riparian/Water Edge
3 Prairie/Grassland
6 Wetland

DIRECTIONS From North Avenue, turn south on Humboldt Boulevard. Park on the north side of the field house (on the west side of the street); walk south to the prairie river; or park at the boat house on the east side of Humboldt Boulevard near the lagoon.



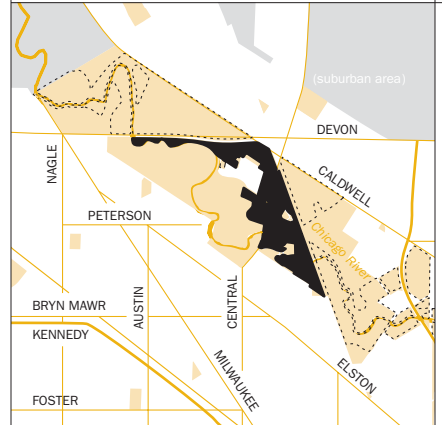
Nearby communities such as Forest Glen and Indian Woods have identity signs tying their residential neighborhoods to the forest preserves that surround them. This is an area where streets dead-end into large natural areas like Indian Road and Edgebrook Golf Course Woods. The area lies just west of the floodplain forest of the Chicago River (see Edgebrook Flatwoods, p. 56).

Directly after entering the forest preserve off of Central Avenue is an area where one can access the river. It's a forested trail that plunges steeply straight down to the water. It's one part of a long network of protected land that starts in Chicago and continues into suburban Cook County and on into Lake County.

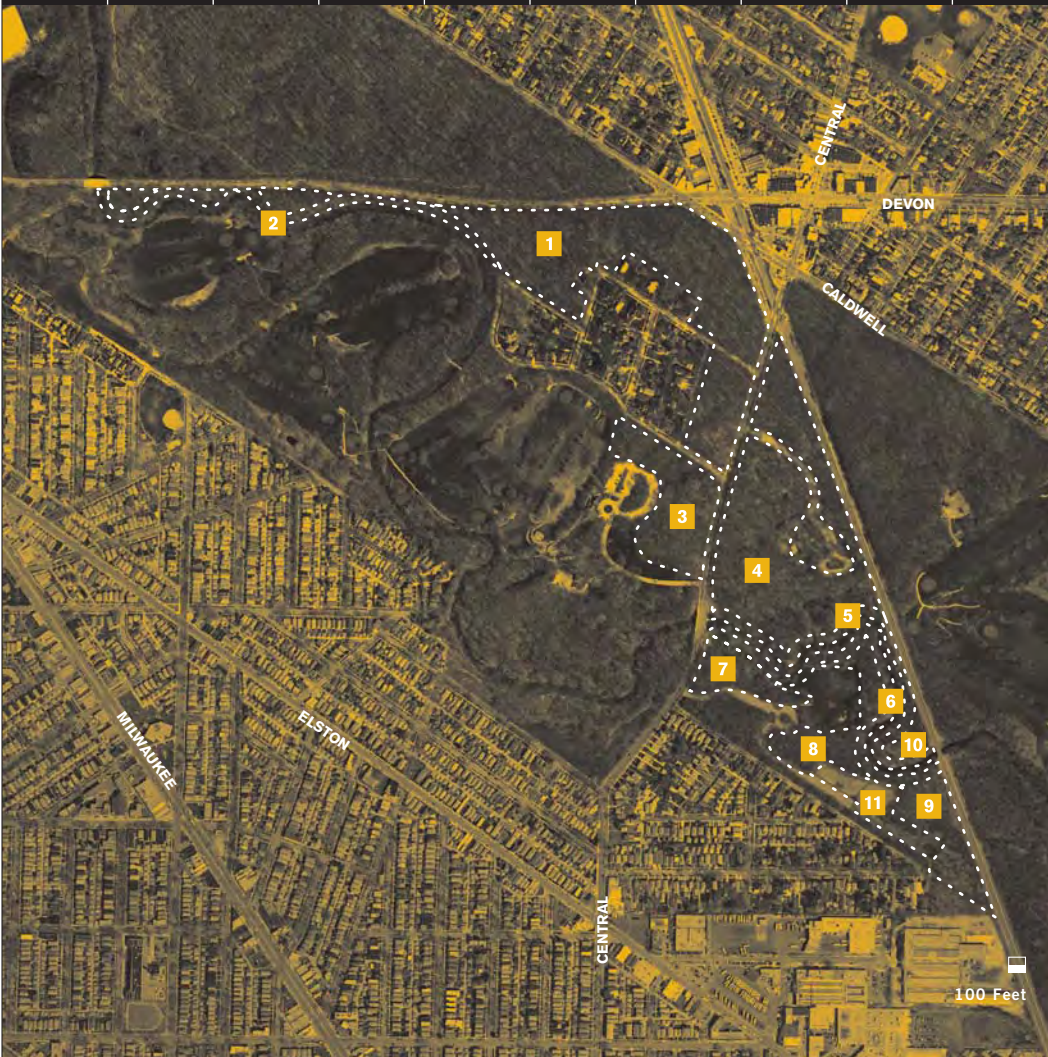
At the end of the parking lots, there is a prairie growing in an old baseball field **11**. Blazing star, obedient plant, yellow coneflowers, bee balm, and cup plant bloom here in mid-summer; some of the plants were reintroduced as part of restoration work. Weedy plants like white sweet clover and Queen Anne's lace are also present.

Beyond the prairie lie the woods, which are reasonably open in the understory though the quality of the vegetation is not high. Notes from early land surveyors suggest that in presettlement times, brushy prairie and oak savanna would have dominated surrounding areas. The woodlands directly southeast of the former ball field offer a spring display of wild hyacinth and false Solomon's seal **9**.

INDIAN ROAD AND EDGEBROOK GOLF COURSE WOODS FOREST PRESERVE



Indian Road and Edgebrook Golf Course Woods Forest Preserve



ADDRESS: 6000 N Central Ave
 OWNER: Forest Preserve District of Cook County
 ACREAGE: 81.02

HABITATS

1	3	4	7	Forest / Woodland
8	9	10		
2	5	6		Riparian / Water Edge
11				Prairie / Grassland

DIRECTIONS: Enter the forest preserve off of Central Avenue, north of Indian Road.

Indian Boundary Park is a proper rectangle of a city park, yet within it is a meandering lagoon planted with native prairie and wetland vegetation. It was designed by Richard Gloede, a landscape architect based in Evanston. Children can take a break from playing at the castle-like wooden playground by coming to the lagoon to watch ducks and examine the unusual native wildflowers.

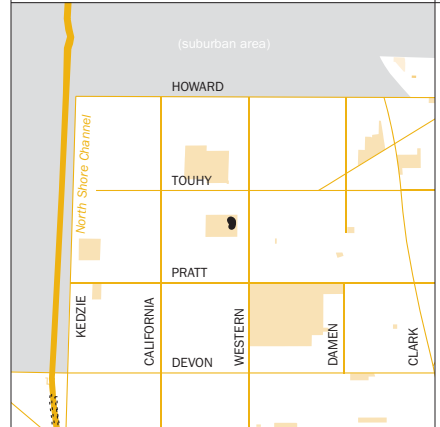
The prairie is at the same elevation as the rest of the parkland. But as the ground slopes down toward the water, the vegetation turns first to wetland plants and then to aquatics. The lagoon **1** and surrounding prairie **2** were restored in 2001, and bur oaks were planted on the island **3**.

A trail leads through the natural area restoration. On the west end of the park, there's another small prairie planting. Controlled burns are part of the management work conducted at the site.

The park gets its name from the territorial boundary established in 1816 between the U.S. government and the Potawatomi Indian tribe. The boundary ran through what is now the park. The treaty only lasted until 1833, when white settlers began moving in, and the Potawatomi were moved out.

INDIAN BOUNDARY
PARK LAGOON

Site No. 36

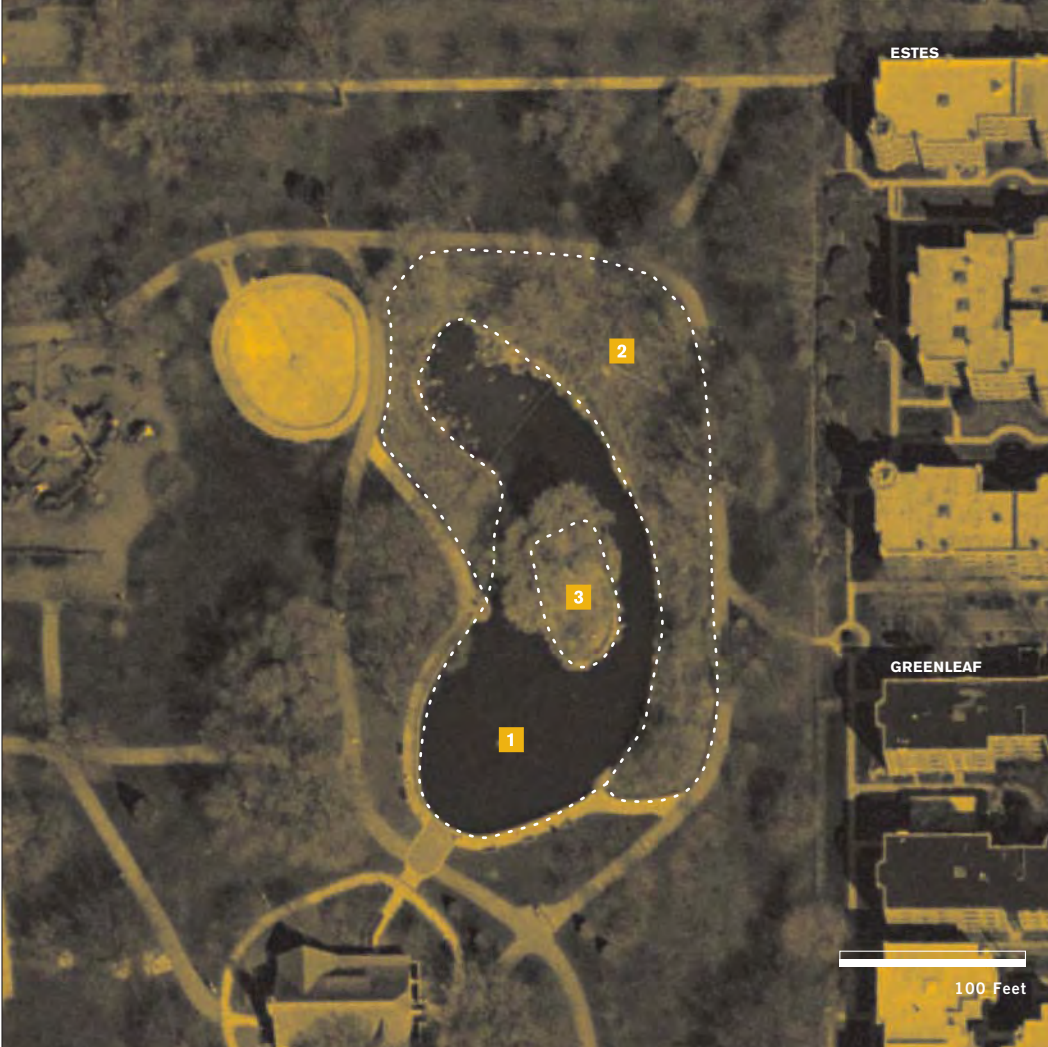


7000 NORTH / 2500 WEST



**Indian Boundary
Park Lagoon**

N: 36



ADDRESS 2500 W Lunt Ave
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 1.04

HABITATS
1 Aquatic
2 3 Prairie / Grassland

DIRECTIONS Park can be entered from any bordering street; lagoon habitat is on east end.

Indian Boundary Park Lagoon

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

Hurley Park Woodland has a mature canopy of bur, white, and black oaks. Mowing and clearing had degenerated the understory of the site, but in 1996, staff from the Morton Arboretum joined forces with the Chicago Park District and a group of volunteers to restore the small woods.

Native grasses and sedges such as Canada wild rye, woodland brome, and common wood sedge were planted. Wild columbine blooms in May, and asters, joe pye weed, and goldenrod bloom in the late summer and early fall. A few shrubs such as hazelnut and New Jersey tea were planted.

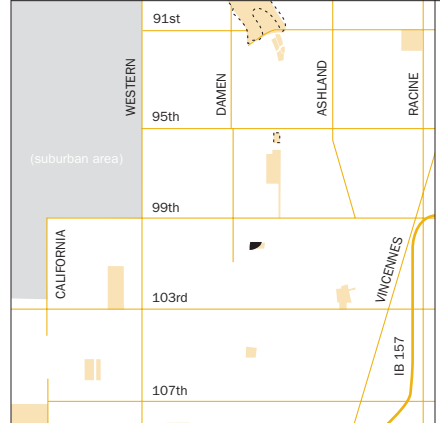
It's worth taking a larger view of the surroundings when visiting Hurley Park Woodland. A glance up the street in either direction shows the stretches the oak savanna and woodland once occupied; almost every front yard of every house, as far as the eye can see, has a bur or white oak in it. This is not a case of coincidental landscaping. The trees pre-date the houses; at one time, the plants found in the understory at Hurley Park Woodland would have been present in those yards.

Hurley Park Woodland sits atop the crest of what geologists call the "Park Ridge moraine." The incline results from a huge deposit of material by a glacier 14,000 years ago or more. The topography of this area has more in common with Chicago's North Shore suburbs than it does with other sections of the city; the North Shore's hills and ravines are from similar causes. Like Hurley Park Woodland and much of the Beverly neighborhood, the North Shore would have been above water for many thousands of years while the remainder of Chicago was still underwater in a vast glacial lake. (Raymond Wiggers, *Geology Underfoot in Illinois*. Mountain Press Publishing, 1997)

Two other city natural areas are located within this same morainal structure, the Dan Ryan Forest Preserve (site 17, p. 48) and Ridge Park Wetlands (site 70, p. 109). For more on the geology, see the entry for Dan Ryan Forest Preserve.

HURLEY PARK WOODLAND

Site No 37



10000 SOUTH / 1800 WEST



Hurley Park Woodland

N: 37



ADDRESS 1801 W 100th
 OWNER Chicago Park District
 ACREAGE 0.57

HABITATS
 1 Forest/ Woodland

DIRECTIONS From 99th Street, take Winchester south one block. Hurley Park Woodland is on the southeast corner of 100th Street and Winchester.

Hurley Park Woodland

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

HYDE LAKE MARSH AND INDIAN CREEK

Prior to 1872, Hyde Lake didn't exist. It was part of Wolf Lake (site 88, p. 127) until a channel was dug between Wolf Lake and Berry Lake. When the water level lowered, a sand ridge that had been covered in water became exposed, and it is this ridge that now separates Wolf Lake from Hyde Lake.

At first the open water of the lake occupied hundreds of acres, but over the course of succeeding decades, slag was deposited here until eventually, all that remained was about 32 acres with another 12 acres of wetland **3**. Some of the higher ground consists of old fields with occasional clumps of native grasses **4**.

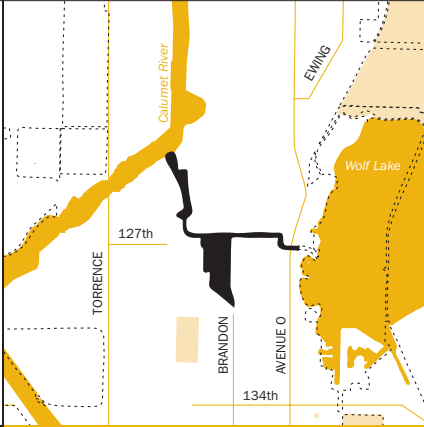
Hyde Lake was the beneficiary of a settlement between U.S. EPA and the Sherwin Williams paint company. Sherwin Williams agreed to spend \$150,000 to help restore Hyde Lake Marsh. While some work has been done, most of what can be viewed from the edges of the site is still a solid stand of the invasive plant *phragmites*, known as common reed.

Hyde Lake is an important connector between the large protected areas of habitat around Wolf Lake and Indian Creek. Before industry settled

into southeast Chicago, Indian Creek didn't exist. Its channel **1** was created to drain the wetlands so they could be built upon. The channel is 1.25 miles long from Wolf Lake to its confluence with the Calumet River.

In the past Indian Creek was so polluted by surrounding industry that its waters were sometimes tinted orange or violet, but today it is enjoying environmental improvement. Funding from Indian Creek's new industrial neighbors such as Ford Motor Company are helping pay for ecological rehabilitation that includes alterations of Indian Creek's grade and depth, and the installation of fish-friendly features such as riffles, pools and meanders. Native aquatic plants have been added to the shores and to islands within the channel. Banks have been planted with native shrubs such as blackhaw viburnum **2**. These changes have been implemented along one-third of the creek's length; to date, the eastern two-thirds have not yet been improved.

Both Hyde Lake and Indian Creek are part of the Calumet Open Space Reserve.



Hyde Lake Marsh and Indian Creek



ADDRESS 12800 S Carondolet Ave
OWNER City of Chicago (acquisition underway), Private
ACREAGE 40.17

HABITATS
1 Aquatic
2 3 Wetland
4 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS From Torrence, go east on 126th Street. At the intersection of Carondolet and 126th, turn right into Angus Jendra ballfield's parking lot. A nice vista of the aquatic restoration of the creek is on the north side of 126th Street. For Hyde Lake, from 126th Street, turn south on Carondolet. On the east side at 127th and 129th Streets are trails leading to viewing platforms.

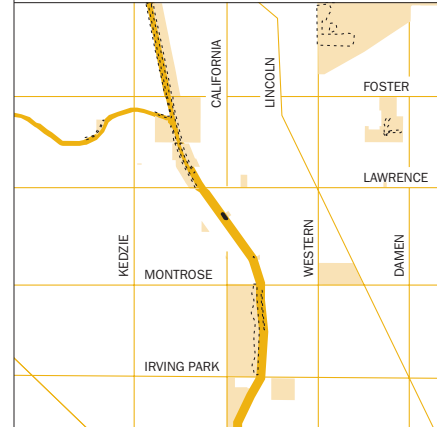


At Jacob Park, the most notable feature is what can't be seen: the river. The North Branch of the Chicago River is practically invisible here, cut off from the park by not one but two fences and a thick edge of woods and brush.

At this point, the undeveloped bank of the river is fairly wide, with a significant strip of wooded habitat that could be restored and improved. The public park is turf grass, with a few ornamental plantings and benches. Preliminary plans include leasing the riverbank property from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, opening the river vistas and restoring the riverbank.

JACOB PARK

Site No 40

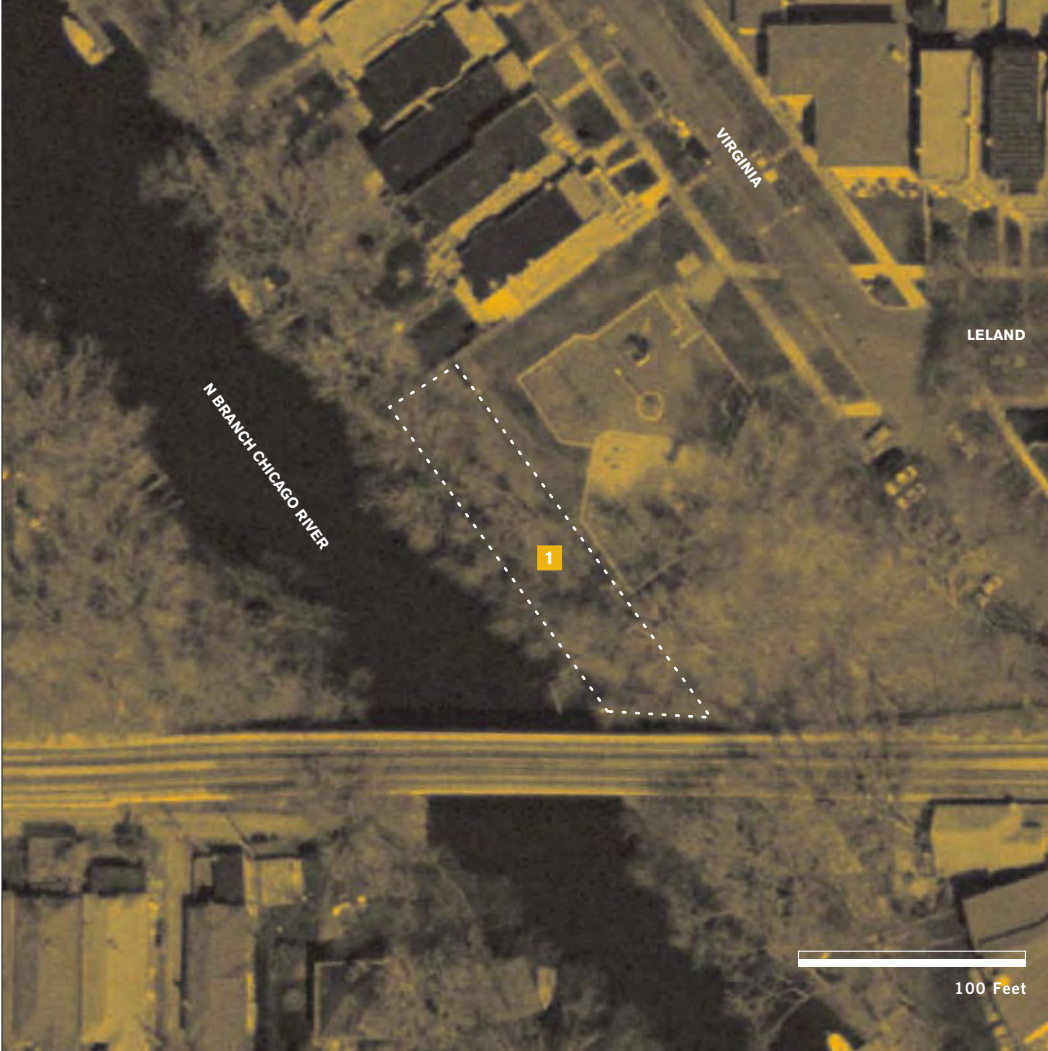


4600 NORTH / 2800 WEST



Jacob Park

N: 40



ADDRESS 4674 N Virginia Ave
 OWNER Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
 ACREAGE 0.15

HABITATS
1 Riparian / Water Edge

DIRECTIONS Park is at the corner of Leland and Virginia; Virginia is one-way going south, and Leland is one-way going east.

Jacob Park

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

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JACKSON PARK—PAUL H. DOUGLAS NATURE SANCTUARY

The Paul H. Douglas Nature Sanctuary **1** was named for the Illinois senator who helped secure the preservation of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and other important natural areas in the 1960s. Also known as "Wooded Isle," the name it was given for the 1893 World Columbian Exposition, the natural area is among the small number of sites in the city sizable enough to give a hint of true wildness.

a place to escape the hustle and bustle of the big event," according to Julia Bachrach, the Chicago Park District's historian. (Chicago Park District web site, 2002.)

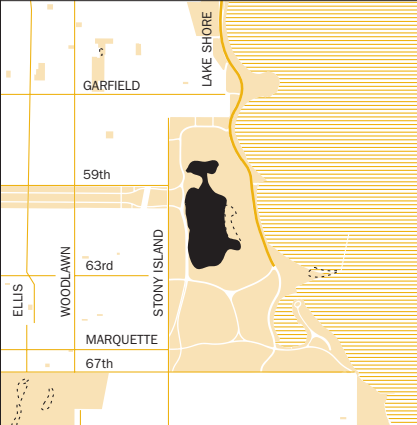
Today the lagoon **4** has been improved through shoreline planting **5** as well as the restoration of five habitat islands **3**, completed in 2002 and 2003. Two bridges provide access to Wooded Island.

In recent years, the Chicago Park District has worked with the Jackson Park Advisory Council, a citizen group, to plan for an intensive natural area restoration effort at this location. Much of the plan has been implemented: native trees, shrubs and perennials have been planted to improve the area's natural character and to provide migrating and resident birds a greater food supply and enhanced shelter.

On the island itself are mature oaks, maples, and Kentucky coffee trees. Because the island was originally a sand ridge and marsh, remnant habitat in the form of mature trees is present. In the spring and fall, migrating birds are abundant. The list of birds that have been seen here includes 250 different species. Mammals are here as well; beaver and muskrats can be spotted from the shoreline.

The concept for creating the island was that of Frederick Law Olmsted, the man responsible for designing Central Park in New York and a major figure in the history of landscape architecture. When Olmsted modified his original 1871 site design in prevision of the 1893 World's Fair, he envisioned Wooded Island as a "nature sanctuary,

South of the Osaka Japanese Garden, on the west side of the path is the site of an old rose garden planted for the fair. It's fenced, and a grassland restoration is underway within its borders. Indigo buntings and eastern bluebirds are frequent visitors in the spring.



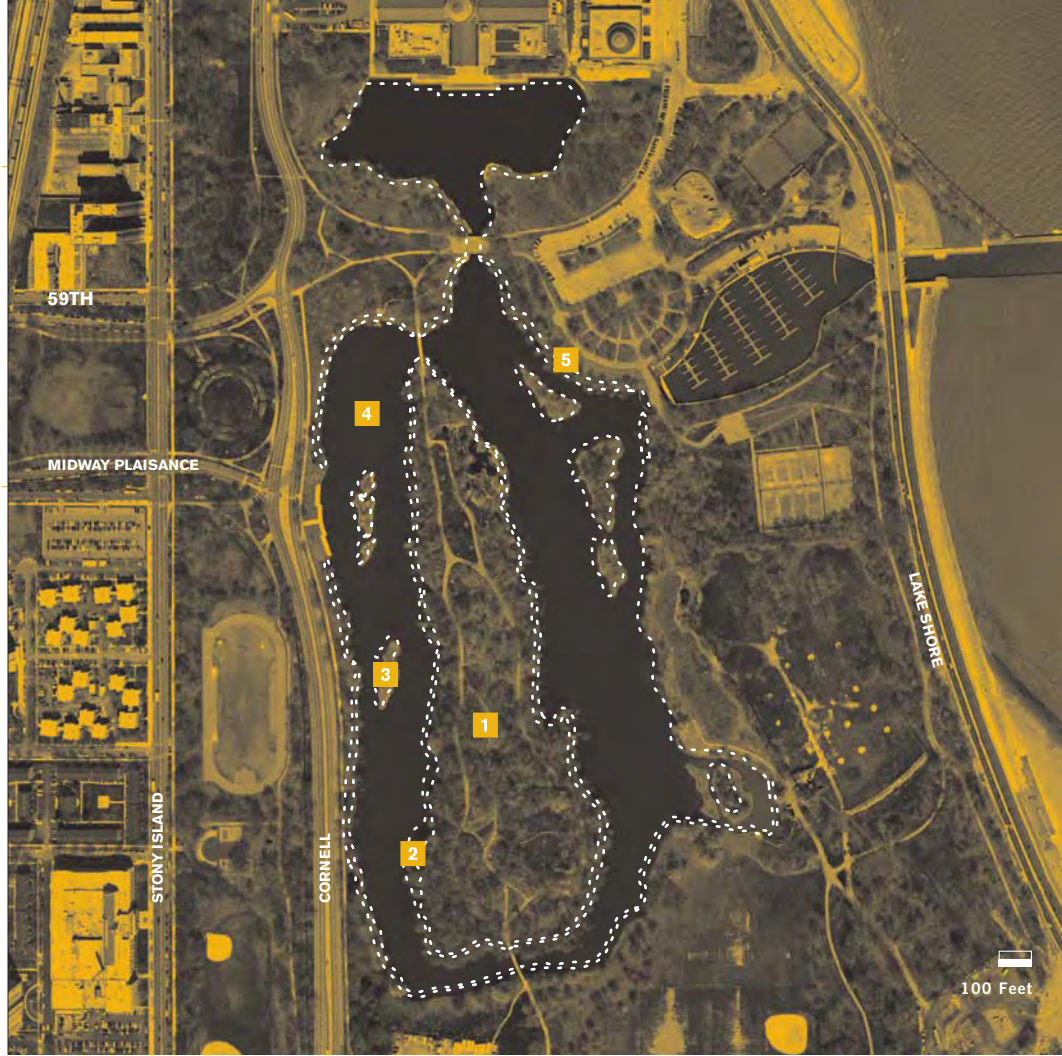
Jackson Park—Paul H. Douglas Nature Sanctuary



ADDRESS 6401 S Stony Island Ave
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 57.62

HABITATS
1 Forest / Woodland
2 3 5 Riparian / Water Edge
4 Aquatic

DIRECTIONS Exit Lake Shore Drive at Science Drive (access road to the Museum of Science and Industry's east entrance, directly south of 57th Street); follow Columbia Drive to the left (south) and park at the westernmost point to walk across the Clarence Darrow Bridge and onto Wooded Island.



INDIAN RIDGE MARSH

This marsh is more natural in character than many of the other sites in the Calumet Open Space Reserve. Though the ecological quality is not great, about 60 acres of open water and wetland, and around 90 acres of upland create a diversity of habitats. Increasing this site's significance is the closeness of neighboring sites such as Big Marsh (site 6, p. 34), Deadstick Pond and Heron Pond (site 18, p. 49).

The marsh provides excellent habitat for a wide variety of wading birds, ducks and geese. The uplands provide nesting habitat for hawks and other birds. A family of muskrats make their home in the channel of water near the berm on the west end.

Ecological restoration, including control of purple loosestrife and planting of natives, is planned for the site. The City is in the process of acquiring the site.

Since 2000, Indian Ridge Marsh has been the preferred location for a large nesting colony of black-crowned night herons. (They moved out of Big Marsh when the water levels rose too high.) This is the largest nesting rookery for this species in the Upper Midwest; approximately 800 black-crowned night herons use the site. The species is on Illinois' endangered species list.



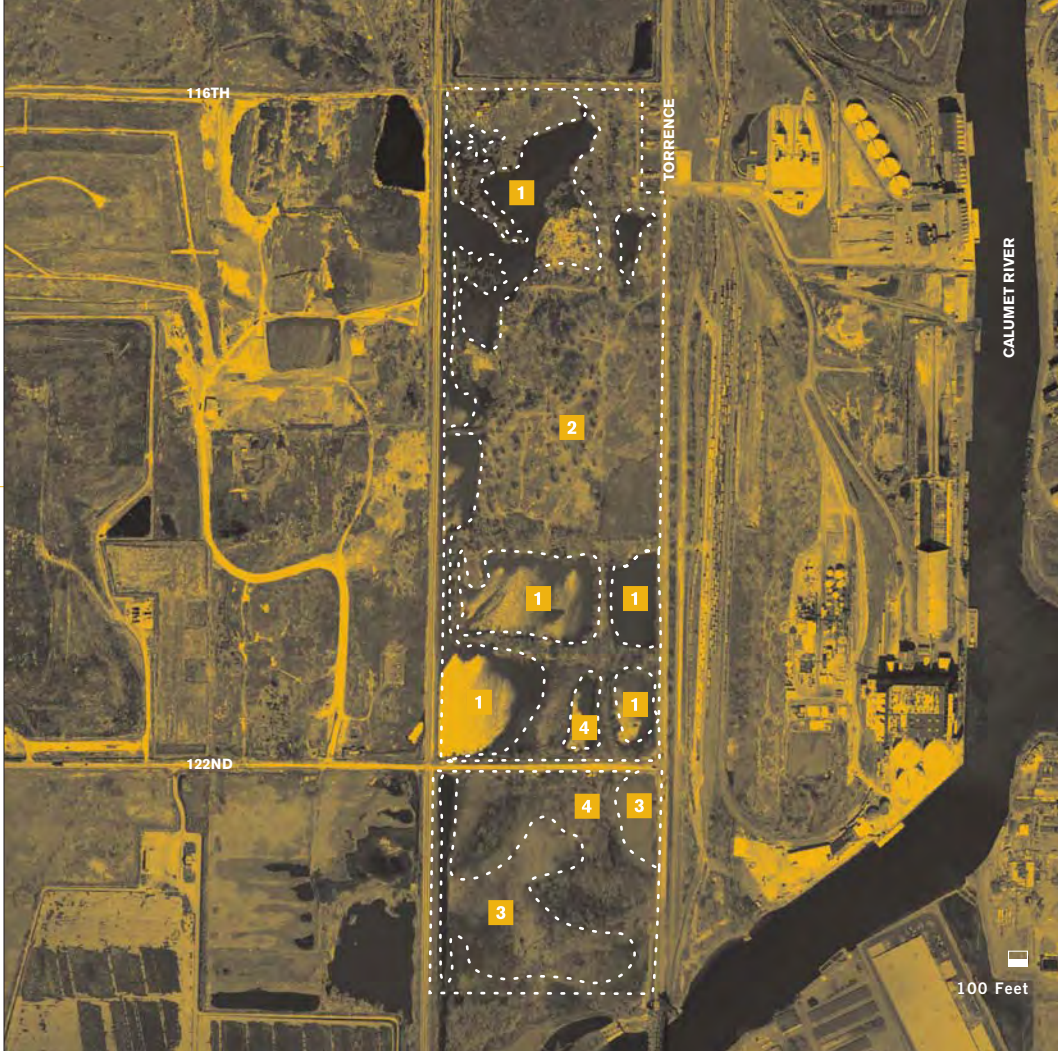
Indian Ridge Marsh



ADDRESS 12200 S Torrence Ave
 OWNER City of Chicago
 (acquisition underway)
 ACREAGE 150.17

HABITATS
 1 3 Wetland
 2 4 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS From Torrence Avenue, turn west on 122nd Street. Indian Ridge Marsh is on both sides of the road.



This trail provides entrance to the river's edge. A small footpath leads to a dock that could be used as a canoe launch, though it requires a steep descent from street level to water's edge.

Above the trail in the area near the entrance is a large open mowed area that could conceivably be restored. At the time of this printing, no seeding or planting had been done in this area.

The trail was established in 1999 with help from Friends of the Chicago River. The area was cleared of garbage, and brush was cut. Jimmy Thomas was

a resident at Lathrop Homes, the public housing complex adjacent to the site; he was involved in the original planning for the river trail.

The river walk from Leavitt to Diversey and Damen Avenue was completed in 2004. It provides access to Jimmy Thomas Nature Trail.

JIMMY THOMAS
NATURE TRAIL

Site No 43



2800 NORTH / 2100 WEST



**Jimmy Thomas
Nature Trail**

N: 43



ADDRESS 2800 N Leavitt St
OWNER Chicago Housing Authority
ACREAGE 0.66

HABITATS
1 Riparian / Water Edge

DIRECTIONS Turn north on Leavitt off of Diversey Avenue; park near 2815 N. Leavitt Avenue.

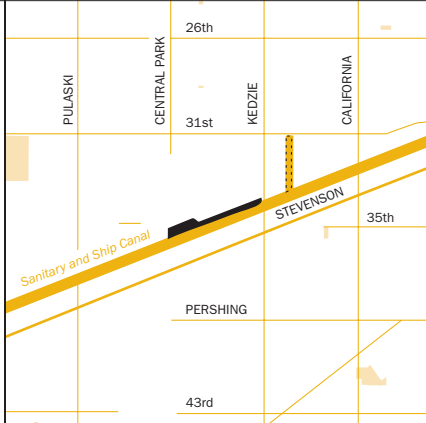
Jimmy Thomas Nature Trail

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

JOB CORPS RIVERBANK

The Job Corps Riverbank is located on a stretch of river inaccessible to the general public. Restoration efforts were begun in the late 1990s when the Job Corps juvenile detention facility was put in place. The bank remains quite steep; terracing and other techniques used on sites along the North Branch of the river could be applied here to make a more stable shoreline that would be more usable by native plants and animals.

The site's remote location makes its use as habitat an appropriate use. Its greatest contribution to wildlife lies in its location along the Sanitary and Ship Canal, not far from other stretches of habitat, making it one segment in a valuable corridor.



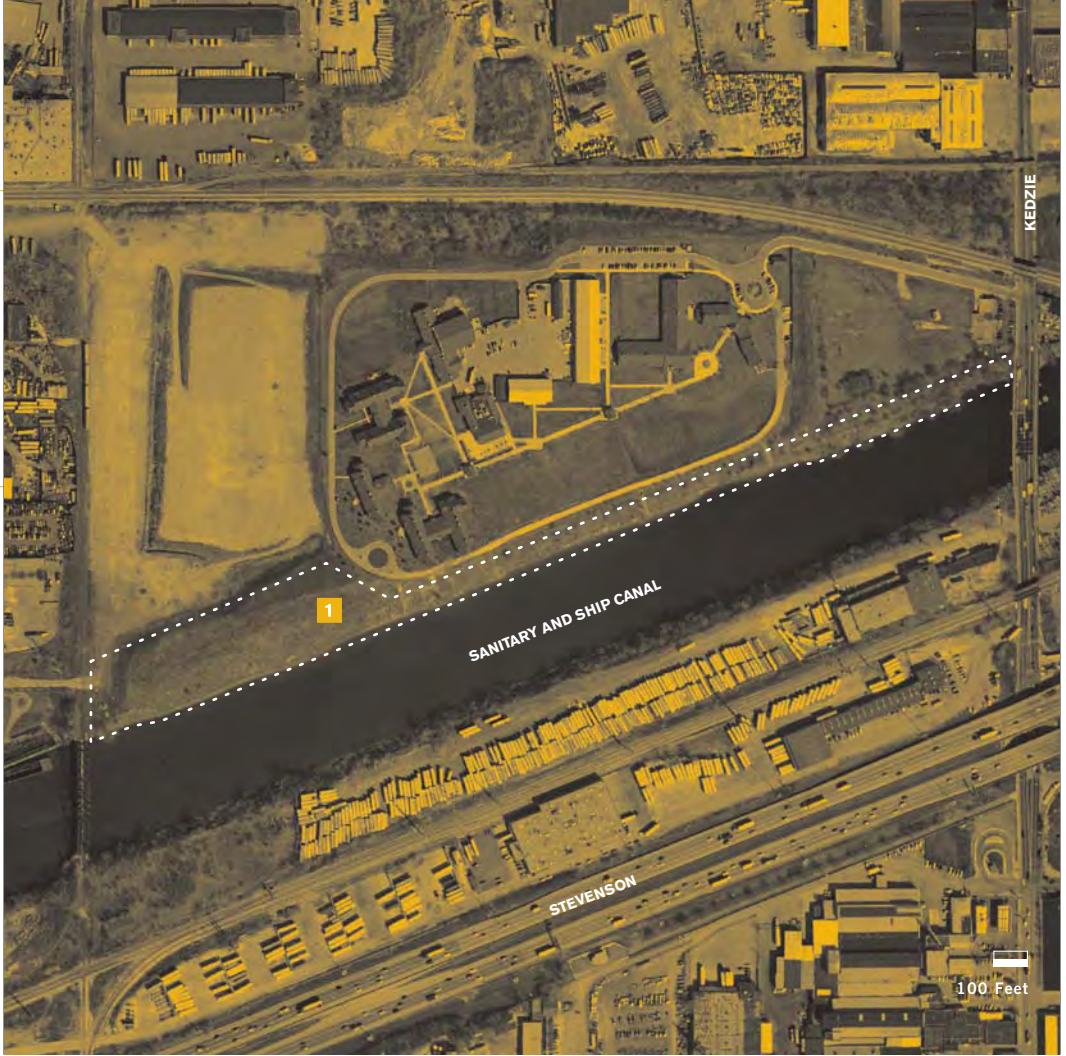
Job Corps Riverbank



ADDRESS 3500 S Central Park Ave
 OWNER City of Chicago, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
 ACREAGE 7.80

HABITATS
 1 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS Land owned by Midwest Generation and Job Corps and other private owners comes between the public streets and the site; there is no direct public access. The land could be most easily viewed from a boat.



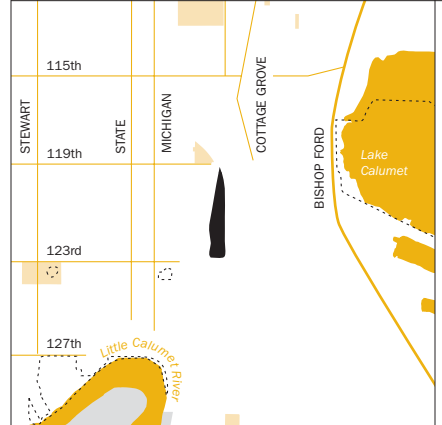
Kensington Marsh is located north of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD)'s Calumet Plant on 130th Street. The MWRD built this marsh in 1986 as part of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers mitigation project. The 15-acre site consists of open water **1** **2**, wetlands **3** and upland habitat **4**.

Railroad tracks flank both the west and east sides of the marsh. Its substantial size and large amount of open water create habitat for wetland birds. However, *phragmites* have invaded the wet areas causing this habitat to disappear progressively.

A proposed bike trail running north to south called the Kensington Bike Path is planned to run slightly east of Kensington Marsh.

KENSINGTON MARSH

Site No 45



12400 SOUTH / 300 EAST



Kensington Marsh

N: 45



ADDRESS 12400 S Indiana Ave
 OWNER Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
 ACREAGE 15.09

HABITATS
1 **2** Aquatic
3 Wetland
4 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS With permission from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, one could access the site from the Calumet Water Reclamation Plant entrance (on 130th Street) driving north past the biosolids drying areas.

Kensington Marsh

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

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KIWANIS PARK AND
VON STEUBEN RIVEREDGE

Kiwanis Park and Von Steuben Riveredge provide an excellent model of good riverside habitat and show how the public can be provided with safe access to enjoy the river. Unlike most areas, where the river resides in a steep, inaccessible channel, here the land is sloped more gently. Behind Von Steuben High School, there's a recreational path that descends gradually to a couple of terraced steps down to the river. The steps provide a place where a kayak can launch or land, though low water levels can make it difficult. In 2002, the area around the river banks was regraded and planted with native grasses and wildflowers like little bluestem, nodding wild rye and vervain. Ornamental beds contain roses, daylilies and purple coneflower.

A foot bridge crosses the river here, and on the downstream side of the river, riffles are present. The shallow water runs more rapidly here than elsewhere, which aerates the water. The shallow depth provides a place where herons can fish.

Solar-powered lamps atop tall poles light the river path at night.

Students at Von Steuben High School collect water samples for science classes and provide stewardship, making the presence of the natural river's edge an educational asset.



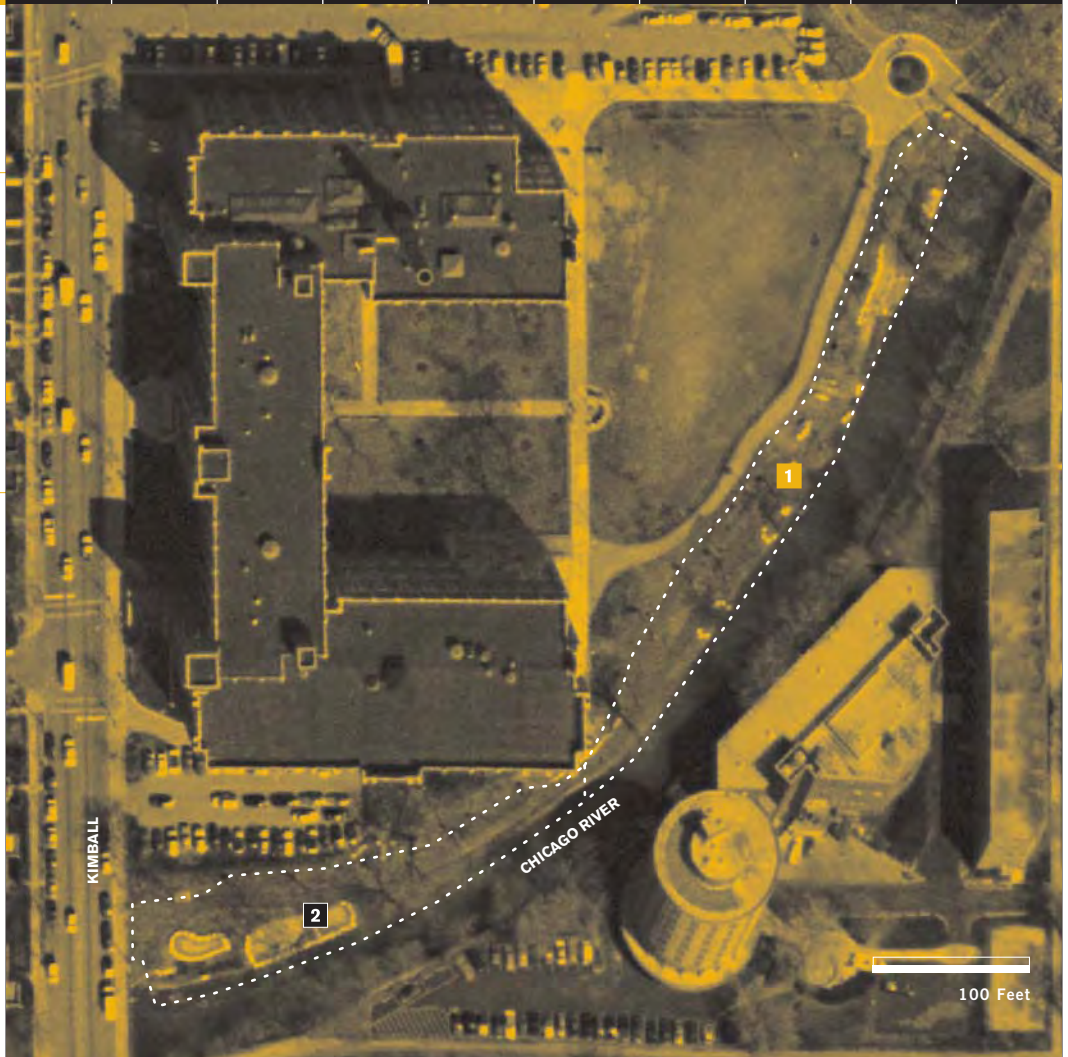
Kiwanis Park and Von Steuben Riveredge



ADDRESS 5039 N Kimball Ave
OWNER Chicago Park District,
Chicago Public Schools
ACREAGE 0.74

HABITATS
1 2 Riparian / Water Edge

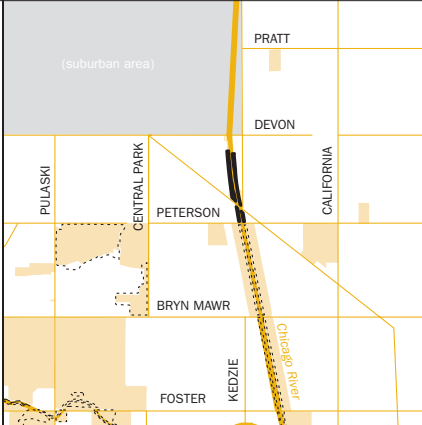
DIRECTIONS Off Kimball, turn east on Carmen into the parking lot. Walk east or south to the river.



NORTH SHORE CHANNEL EDGES
(PETERSON TO DEVON)

Officially recognized by the Chicago Park District as Park #526, the newly acquired 4.7-acre property extends Legion Park riverfront (site 48, p. 78) north of Peterson Avenue 1 2 3. Improvements include multi-use trail, under bridge crossing at Peterson and Lincoln Avenues, canoe launch, and native landscaping along and at the top of the bank.

Next to the multi-use trail, the Lincoln Village Shopping Center has been renovated providing access to the river trail system 5.



North Shore Channel Edges
(Peterson to Devon)



ADDRESS 3300 W Devon Ave
OWNER Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
ACREAGE 4.22

HABITATS
1 2 3 4
5 Riparian / Water Edge

DIRECTIONS For Legion Park Expansion: public access to the river edge will not be available until the improvements are completed. The site can be seen from the street, at Granville and Kedzie. For the west bank: traveling north on Lincoln Avenue, cross the river and turn right into Lincoln Village Shopping Center lot; park there.



LEGION PARK AND NORTHSIDE
PREPARATORY RIVEREDGE

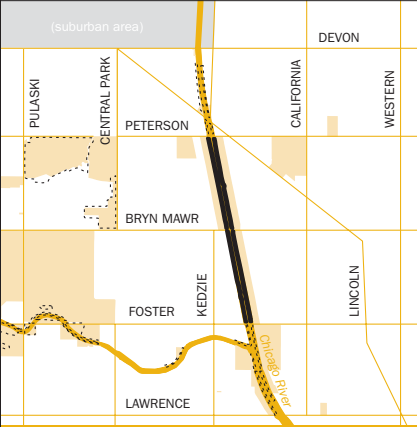
Taken together, the habitat restorations at Legion Park **1 2 3** and behind Northside Preparatory High School **4** are excellent examples of what can be accomplished with habitat restoration on the Chicago River.

At Legion Park, the steep river bank remains fenced off from public access. However, between Bryn Mawr and Peterson Avenues, along the top edge of the bank a matrix of native plants is starting to take hold. Black-eyed susans form dense blankets; they share the stage in mid-summer with lavender monarda and violet blazing stars.

Across the water on the west side of the river, there's a prairie and wetland restoration between Northside Prep. High School and the river.

Classrooms use the park and the river for educational projects. Behind the soccer field, stairs lead down to the river. The bottom step of a series of wide steps can be used as a spot for launching or taking out a canoe or kayak. Joe pye weed and purple coneflowers are among the showy native flowers bordering the steps; there are also non-native perennials planted along this area. The prairie was seeded in 2002.

Solar-powered lights illuminate the recreational path at Northside Prep.



Legion Park and Northside
Preparatory Riveredge



ADDRESS 5501 N Kedzie Ave
OWNER Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
ACREAGE 14.33

HABITATS
1 2 3 4 Riparian / Water Edge
5

DIRECTIONS For Legion Park, from Bryn Mawr go south on Virginia; park around Balmoral. For Northside Prep's river edge, turn into the parking lot for the high school immediately south of Balmoral.



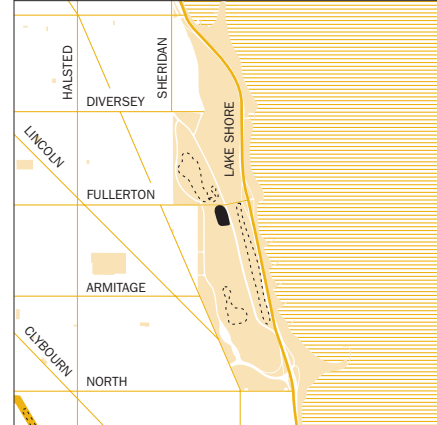
Landscape architect Alfred Caldwell redesigned many of Chicago's premier lakefront parks in the late 1920s and early 1930s by adding to them naturalistic plantings and layouts inspired by the ecology of the Midwest. Yet, the Lily Pool is the only one that bears his name. This landscape of historic importance features a waterfall splashing through shady glades walled in by moss covered stone. This design was intended to "mimic a river formed by a melting glacier's flow of water cutting through limestone" according to Julia Brachrah, the Chicago Park District historian. (Chicago Park District web site, 2005). At the south of the pond, a handsome pavilion shows the strong influence of Frank Lloyd Wright, with its low walls and long, flat roof.

Caldwell wrote in 1942 that he'd planned the Lily Pool as "a hidden garden of the people of Megalopolis," and it still retains that quality of a surprising respite from the lawns used for recreation in Lincoln Park.

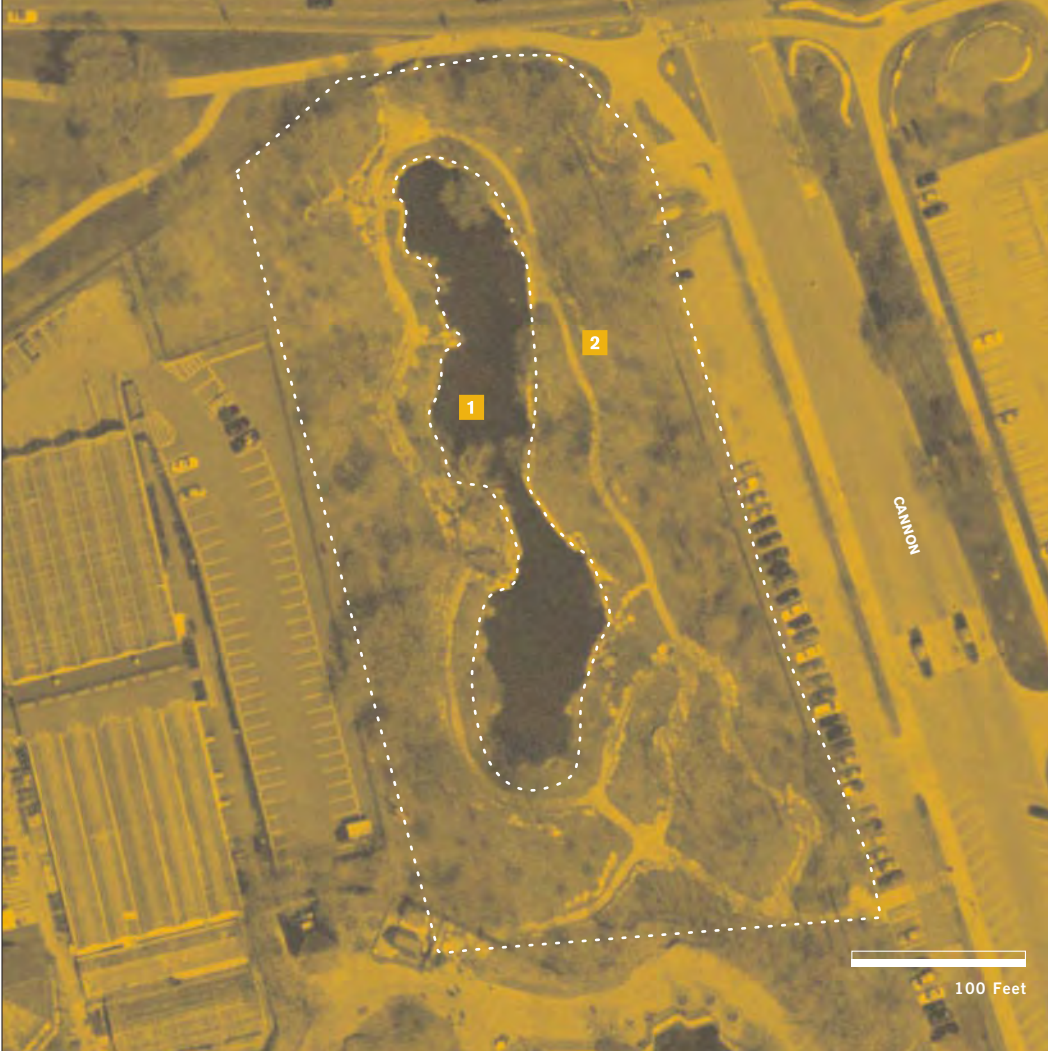
The Lily Pool's primary significance for habitat lies in its value for migrating birds. The Lily Pool restoration is one part of an overall effort by the Chicago Park District to improve habitat along the critical lakefront corridor for spring and fall migrants, as well as for nesting birds.

In 1997, the Friends of Lincoln Park (now the Lincoln Park Conservancy) began an effort in cooperation with the Chicago Park District to repair and restore the Lily Pool. The \$2.5 million restoration plan, now implemented, remained faithful to Caldwell's original ideas while including accommodation for disabled visitors and strengthening the site's value for habitat by using native plants that provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and other wildlife. In addition, docents provide free interpretive tours of the site from spring through fall.

LINCOLN PARK—
ALFRED CALDWELL LILY POOL



**Lincoln Park—
Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool**



ADDRESS 2400 N Cannon Dr
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 2.75

HABITATS
1 Aquatic
2 Savanna

DIRECTIONS The Lily Pool can be accessed from the north, off of Fullerton Drive, or through a handicapped accessible entrance on the east side of Cannon Drive. Though it's possible to enter the zoo from the Lily Pool, you cannot go back into the Lily Pool from the south. Paid parking is available in the zoo parking lot off of Fullerton.

LINCOLN PARK—BILL JARVIS
MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY

Like the rest of Chicago's modern lakefront, this site was developed on landfill. Its undulating landscape of wooded ridges **1** and wet swales **2** was designed to replicate the natural lakeshore. The shallow ponds are fed by city water that flows into a marsh on the west side. Soon after its creation in the early 1920s, the site attracted so many local and migratory birds that it was fenced to serve as a bird and wild flower refuge. Public access has remained restricted since then.

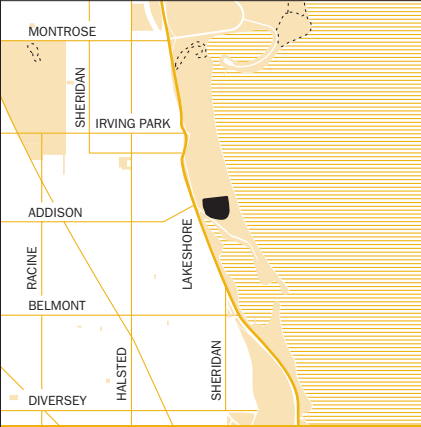
It escaped demolition in 1968 thanks to the mobilization of William Beecher, then director of the Chicago Academy of Science, and of Lake View residents, Bill Jarvis prominently among them. A passionate bird-watcher and native plants enthusiast, Bill Jarvis led a group of volunteers into an agreement with the Chicago Park District to restore and maintain the sanctuary. The sanctuary was renamed after him after his death and is still maintained by volunteers organized by the Lake View Citizens Council.

Over the decades, the Bird Sanctuary has become a magnet for birders. Warblers and other songbirds are present here in great abundance

in spring and fall. Small flocks of black-crowned night herons roost in the taller trees during the day in the spring; their presence is most notable when there aren't yet many leaves on the trees.

The bird sanctuary is no longer just what is within the fence. In 2001, the sanctuary expanded south and east, and the Chicago Park District now manages the entire area south of the tennis courts and parking lot, north of the archery field, and between the lake and Recreation Drive as bird habitat. Some areas are planted outside the tall fence. A set-back of approximately twenty feet from the fenced sanctuary is a "no-mow" zone. Viburnum and other native shrubs have been planted; common native wildflowers like New England aster and tall goldenrod have already taken hold.

New paths and a viewing platform provide better access and discourage misuse. Interpretive signs with bird identification photos help explain the sanctuary and educate visitors about the birds they may observe.



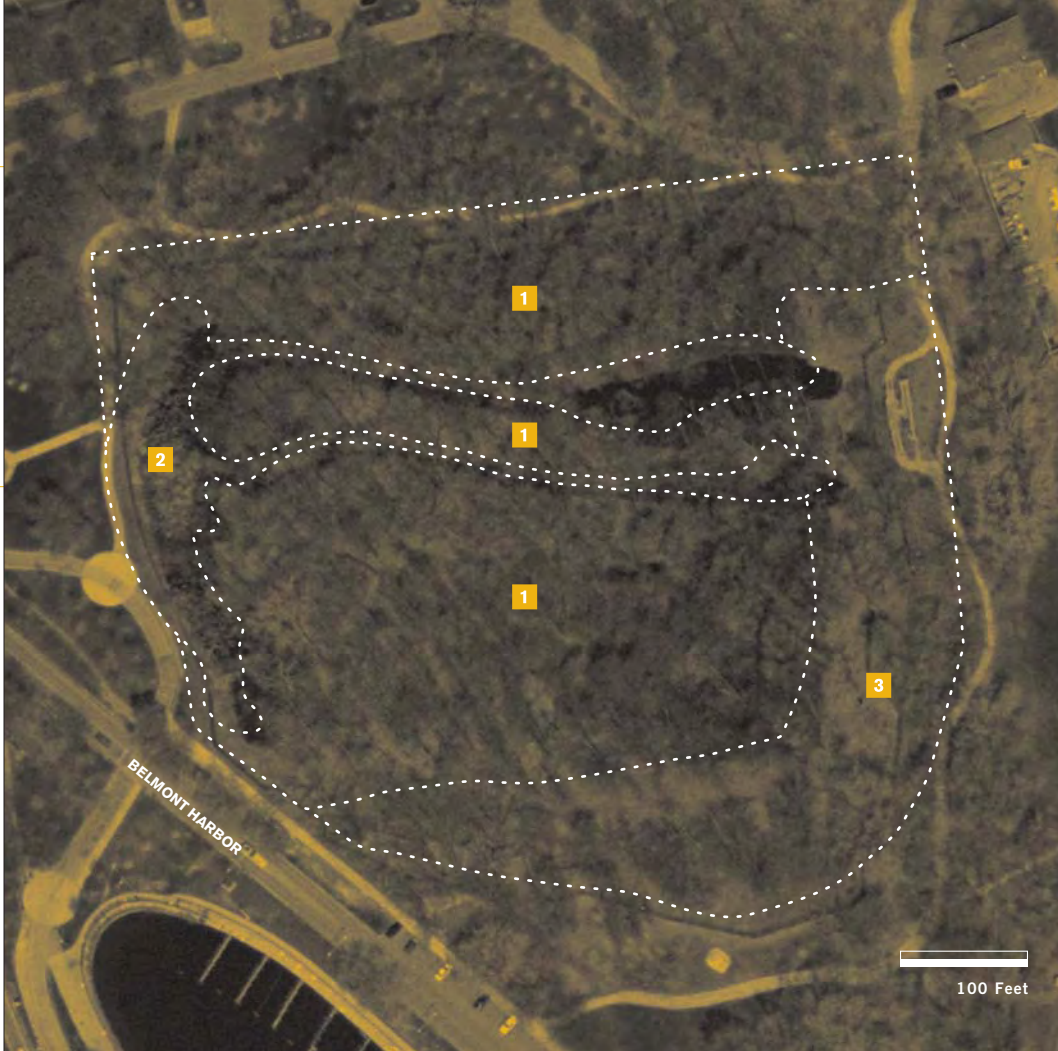
Lincoln Park—Bill Jarvis
Migratory Bird Sanctuary



ADDRESS 3601 N Lake Shore Dr
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 7.84

- HABITATS
- 1** Forest / Woodland
 - 2** Wetland
 - 3** Savanna

DIRECTIONS Exit Lake Shore Drive at Irving Park; turn east, and follow that road (called Recreation Drive) south through parking lots about a half-mile to the large totem pole. The sanctuary is right behind it. A wood-chipped path surrounds the sanctuary; access through the locked gate into the interior is available only on infrequent guided field trips.



LINCOLN PARK—
MAROVITZ GOLF POND

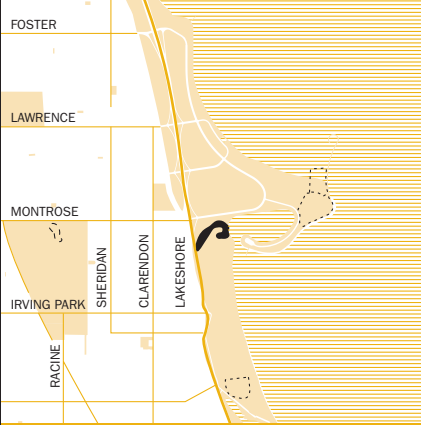
This golf course has a prime location right on the Lake Michigan shoreline. In the spring and fall, golfers share the greens and roughs with abundant numbers of migrating birds.

The golf course's location between the premier birding sites of Montrose Beach Dunes (site 52, p. 83) to the northeast and the Bill Jarvis Migratory Bird Sanctuary (site 50, p. 80) to the south make the restoration of natural habitats here particularly important.

The pond **1** is located at the north end of the Golf Course. The east and north edges of the pond are left wild and uncultivated, though the western and southern shores by the golf greens are mowed.

In fall of 2004, three acres of savanna habitat **2** were created both inside and outside the fence at the north end of the course. The dappled sunlight coming through the honey locust trees creates a savanna-like effect on the ground. Young bur oaks were planted to eventually take the place of the locusts and create a more authentic savanna canopy. Redbud, native crabapple and wild plum trees were planted, along with shrubs such as hazelnut and wild roses. Fifteen to twenty thousand plugs of columbine, side-flowering aster, woodland brome, tall bellflower, golden alexander, and other savanna species were planted.

In January, 2004, the golf course was designated an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, which means it is managed in a way compatible with nature.



Lincoln Park—
Marovitz Golf Pond



ADDRESS 4400 N Lake Shore Dr
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 4.40

HABITATS
1 Aquatic
2 Savanna

DIRECTIONS The pond and restoration can be viewed from outside the course, at the north end; exit Lake Shore Drive at Montrose, turn east, and park immediately.



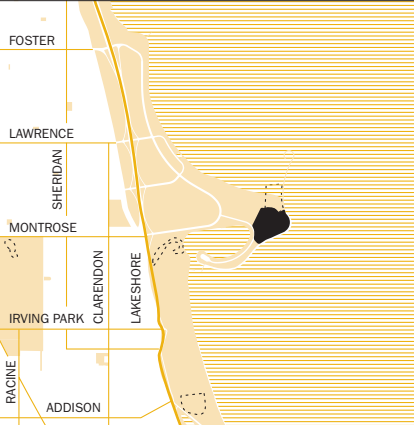
LINCOLN PARK—
MONTROSE POINT BIRD SANCTUARY

For decades, Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary has drawn people from all over the region and nearby states to witness the profusion of migrating songbirds found here spring and fall. Originally, what drew birders was the "Magic Hedge," a 150-foot former fence line that was left unmowed and untended more from neglect than from a specific intent to attract birds. But because of the way Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary thrusts out into Lake Michigan, it is a logical landing place for exhausted songbirds. When birds arrived and found few choices for shelter and food, they tended to congregate at this particular hedge.

In recent years, Eurasian grasses, common milkweed and thistle were the most common plants in the meadow rather than classic prairie plants. Plans are in place to improve the diversity of plant life in the meadow, and in 2004, about a third of it was planted to native species. On the south side of the meadow is a limestone-edged bird bath fed by city water, surrounded by wetland vegetation **3**. The southern edge of the site is scheduled to be seeded with prairie plants in spring 2006 **4**.

Immediately north of Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary by the lake to the north is a restoration of a sand dune environment (site 96, p. 83), with native dune grasses and other vegetation.

In the mid-1930s, Alfred Caldwell created a plan for the area that conveyed what he called a "naturalistic effect" with sweeping meadow spaces and layered native plant materials emphasizing the long view. In the late 1990s, the Chicago Park District undertook an ambitious project to expand habitat for birds while retaining the historic integrity of the site. Hundreds of trees and shrubs were planted.



Lincoln Park—
Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary



ADDRESS 4400 N Simonds Ave
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 13.40

- HABITATS
- 1** Forest / Woodland
 - 2** Prairie / Grassland
 - 3** Wetland
 - 4** Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS Exit Lake Shore Drive at Montrose Avenue and head east. Follow the road to the point where it starts to curve to the right (south). Park along there, and walk up the slope; signs mark the Magic Hedge and other features.



The North Pond lays on top of what used to be dunes and marshes belonging to Lake Michigan's original shoreline. This area was turned into a dump ("the 10-mile ditch") in the late 19th century. In 1881 local residents lobbied to have landscape engineer Olaf Benson design plans to expand the park that already existed south of Fullerton Avenue. The plan included lawns and a "lake." The excavation materials from the dredging were formed into a small hill at northeast side of the pond that was referred to at that time as "Mount Prospect."

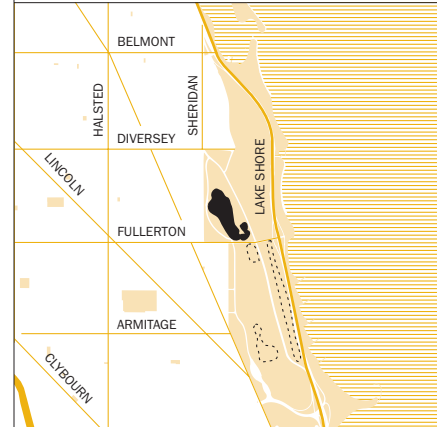
With ten acres of open water, the pond **1** provides ample habitat for fish, ducks, herons and other waterfowl. The shoreline **2** has been restored with native aquatic plants. Initial rehabilitation took place in 1998; since 2001, the north pond conservancy has sponsored volunteer workdays to plant additional areas and to help maintain the plantings. On the upper parts of the banks, prairie plants that prefer a drier habitat, like little bluestem, sky-blue aster, nodding wild onion, and butterfly weed, are growing **3 4**. Around the pond

is a paved path, as well as woodchip and crushed granite trails that branch off of the paved path and go closer to the water.

In 1999, the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum opened on the southeast corner of the pond. Prairie plants **5 6 7** surround the building and there's a woodchip trail that may be taken around to the building's entrance on Cannon Drive. In the restored prairie area on the southwest side of the museum, there are markers to identify prairie plants and flowers. Approaching the entrance, there's the "Butterfly Garden," a continuation of prairie plant restoration with an abundance of flowering plants. Another woodchip trail begins by the butterfly garden marker. This trail meets up with the path through the prairie plant area and continues to the "Wildflower Garden," an area where phlox and Jacob's ladder bloom in the spring. On the north side of the Nature Museum's entrance doors is a small area of prairie restoration.

LINCOLN PARK—
NORTH POND NATURE SANCTUARY

Site No 53

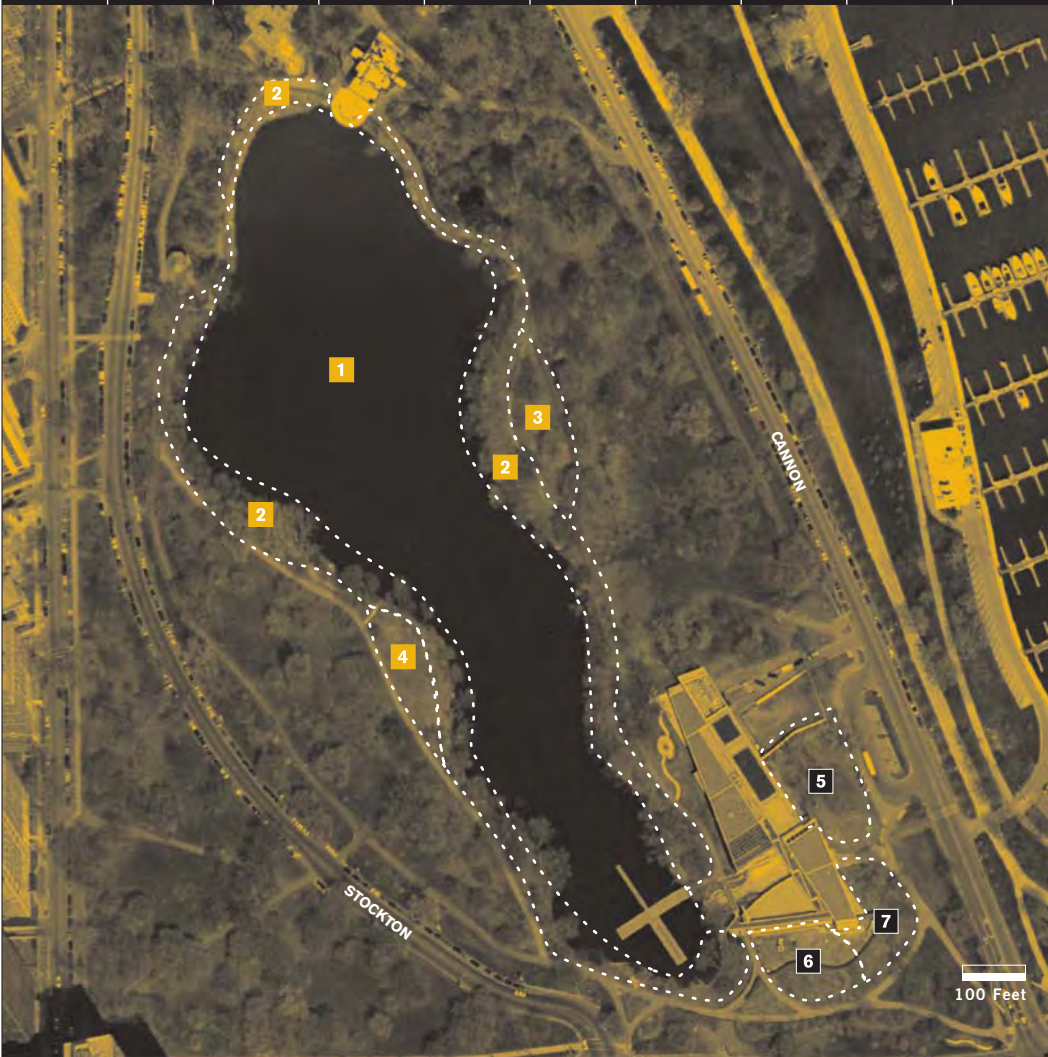


2400 NORTH / 200 WEST



**Lincoln Park—
North Pond Nature Sanctuary**

No 53



ADDRESS 2400 N Stockton Dr
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 13.34

HABITATS
1 Aquatic
2 Riparian / Water Edge
3 4 Prairie / Grassland
5 6 7 Naturalistic Planting

DIRECTIONS Both the Nature Museum and North Pond are north of Fullerton Avenue, bordered by Cannon and Stockton Drives. There is street parking on both Cannon and Stockton, and a paid parking lot at the Lincoln Park Zoo on the south side of Fullerton.

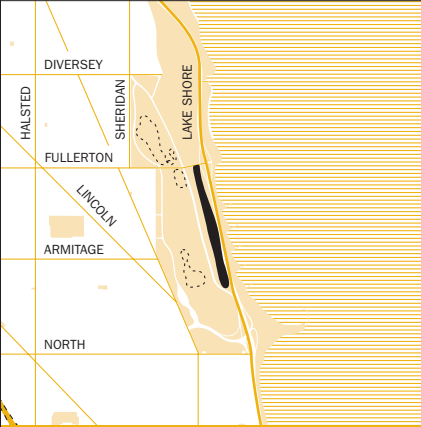
Lincoln Park—North Pond Nature Sanctuary

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

LINCOLN PARK—
ROWING LAGOON

The Rowing Lagoon, officially called the “South Lagoon,” is a linear stretch of open water that was created as part of the first landfill extension to Lincoln Park in 1887 following a plan by Olaf Benson. Surrounded by turf grass and sprinkled with young trees, the lagoon lacks natural features and is banked entirely by concrete around its edge. Along the west side of the lagoon is a soft gravel walking/running path. At Fullerton Parkway, the lagoon passes under the road and connects to Diversey harbor. From here, there's a connection to Lake Michigan.

The Rowing Lagoon is used by rowing clubs mainly in the early morning and is popular with local fishermen throughout the day.



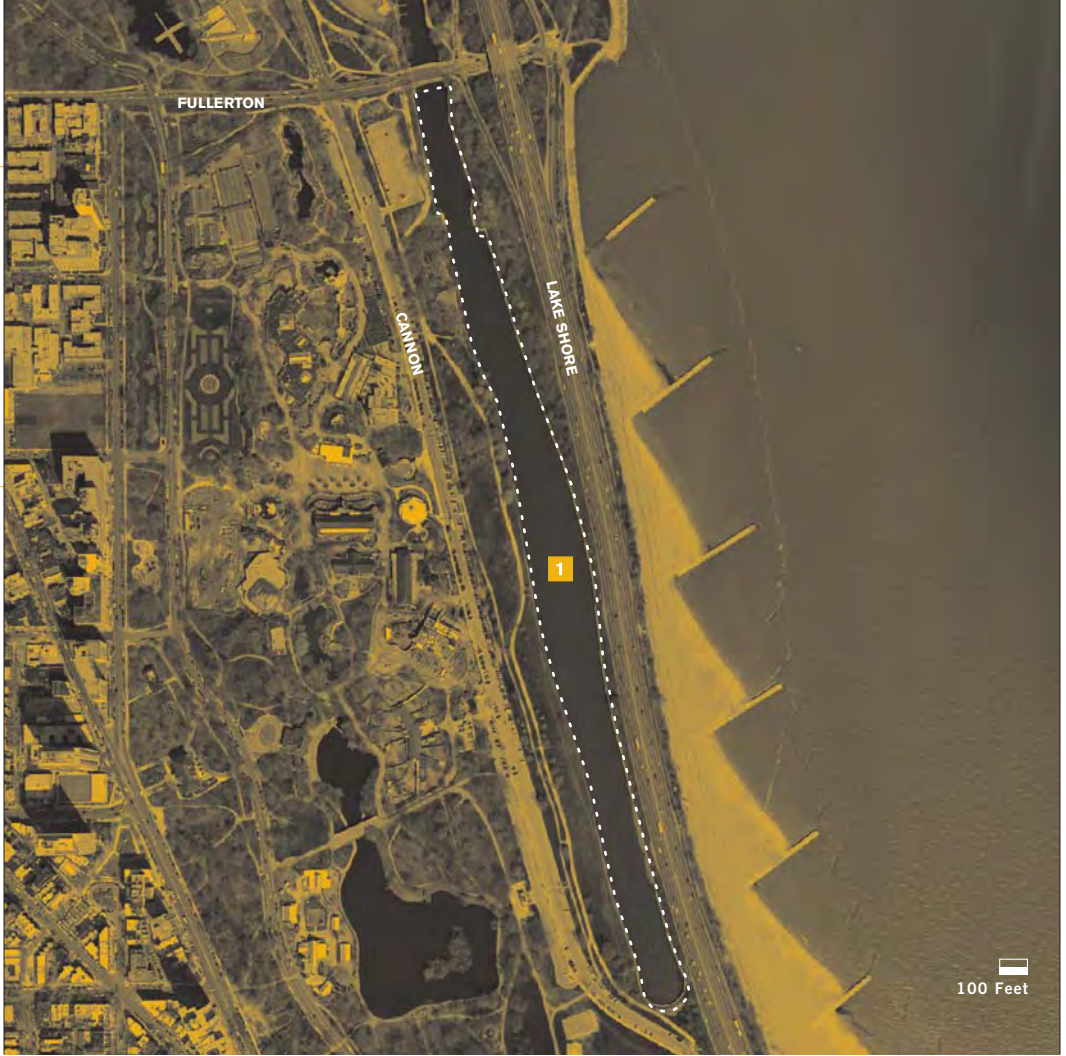
**Lincoln Park—
Rowing Lagoon**



ADDRESS 2045 Lincoln Park West
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 13.37

HABITATS
1 Aquatic

DIRECTIONS Paid parking lot in the Lincoln Park Zoo lot, accessed off Fullerton.



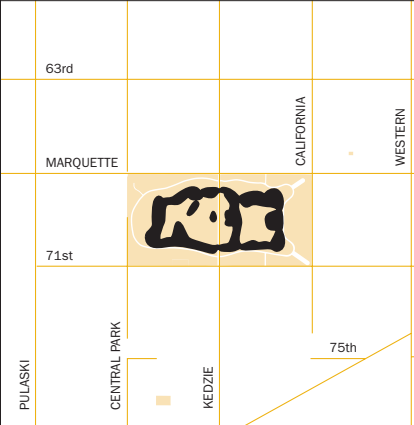
MARQUETTE PARK LAGOON AND PRAIRIE

At Marquette Park's lagoon, major restoration work is being undertaken. The treated city water that feeds the lagoon 1 has phosphorus in it, and this contributes to prolific algae blooms. So the Chicago Park District is pioneering an innovative system to trap water flowing off the roof of a nearby school to help feed the lagoons; the rain water dilutes the amount of phosphorus. The lagoons are also being fitted with a "prairie scrubber" system where phosphorus is removed from city water by filtering it underground through a gravel bed that has soil and prairie plants installed on top of it.

sixteen blocks south of Marquette Park. Plans for development threatened the original site, and in 1993, community residents joined with the Chicago Park District to remove large plugs of the prairie matrix using tree spades to keep as much of the root structure in place as possible. The plugs were put into holes excavated at the current site of Ashburn Prairie, and the spaces between the plugs were seeded.

Marquette Park is one of fourteen parks designed by the Olmsted Brothers and D.H. Burnham & Co. Because of the park's large size—by far the biggest city park on the southwest side—it's possible to see a wider range of wildlife here than at some smaller sites. Both great blue herons and black-crowned night herons hunt along the lagoon's edges. Peregrine falcons and red-tailed hawks are occasionally spotted here.

Nearly 100 species of native plants are found at Ashburn Prairie 5 in Marquette Park. The diversity and abundance of plants at Ashburn Prairie exceeds that of many of the new plantings within the Chicago Park District system because plugs of untouched native prairie were moved here from a two-acre site near the Evergreen Cemetery,



Marquette Park Lagoon and Prairie



ADDRESS 6734 S Kedzie Blvd
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 62.46

HABITATS
1 2 3 Aquatic
4 Riparian/Water Edge
5 6 Prairie/Grassland

DIRECTIONS An interior road (called Kanst, Redfield, or Mann) circles around the lagoon; park at any point and walk inland to see the lagoon. To visit Ashburn Prairie, park on Redfield (south side of the park) just east of Kedzie. Walk north over the lagoon bridge; the prairie is a few hundred feet farther north, between the path and the lagoon.



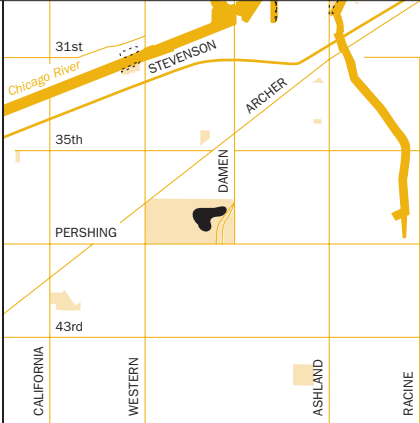
MCKINLEY PARK LAGOON

McKinley Park Lagoon **1** is surrounded by a paved path and sections of restored wetland vegetation, particularly on the east shore **3**. Spotted joe pye weed, prairie cordgrass, arrowhead, and tussock sedge are among the various species of native wetland plants that have been restored. In the middle of the lake are three islands **2** that provide nesting habitat for geese, ducks and other waterfowl.

The lagoon is a popular place for fishing. Stone fishing stations are located regularly along the shoreline.

McKinley Park is named for President William McKinley, who was assassinated in Buffalo, New York in 1901. The park was opened and

named in his honor one year later. (A bronze statue of McKinley is located in the park's northwest corner.) The park was the first one to be deliberately established in the tenement neighborhoods near the Union Stockyards, a part of town once plagued by overcrowding and poverty. More than 10,000 people attended the park's dedication, and the effort to place a park in such a blighted neighborhood was so successful that the following year the South Park Commission began creating a whole system of new neighborhood parks for the south side. (Chicago Park District web site.)



McKinley Park Lagoon



ADDRESS 2210 W Pershing Ave
 OWNER Chicago Park District
 ACREAGE 7.67

HABITATS
1 Aquatic
2 3 Riparian / Water Edge

DIRECTIONS Park on 37th Street near the intersection with Seely Avenue, one block west of Damen. 37th Street is one way going east. Walk south into the park.



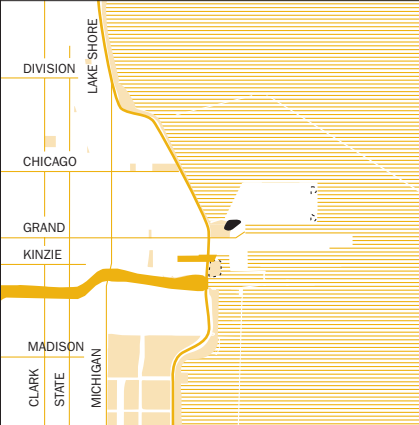
OLIVE PARK WOODLAND

The fenced-in woodland has had little work done with it so far in terms of encouraging native species. Most of the woods are dense and weedy in the understory. Nevertheless, the mere presence of the woods and the park's location jutting out into Lake Michigan makes the spot attractive for migrating birds. In addition to the woods, according to the *Birders Guide to the Chicago Region* by Lynne Carpenter and Joel Greenberg, a nearby stand of hawthorn trees by the wall of the filtration plant tend to attract thrushes and sparrows in migration and during winter.

Careful observers may spot loons, oldsquaw, and other waterfowl that frequent the lake during the cold months. Navy Pier's management has done a good job of providing interpretive signs regarding birds that may be seen at and around the pier.

The setting for Olive Park's small is dramatic, as the city's skyscrapers are its nearest backdrop as you look to the west and south.

Navy Pier in general, though not included in this guide to natural habitats, is a great place to look for arctic ducks out in Lake Michigan in the winter.



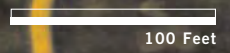
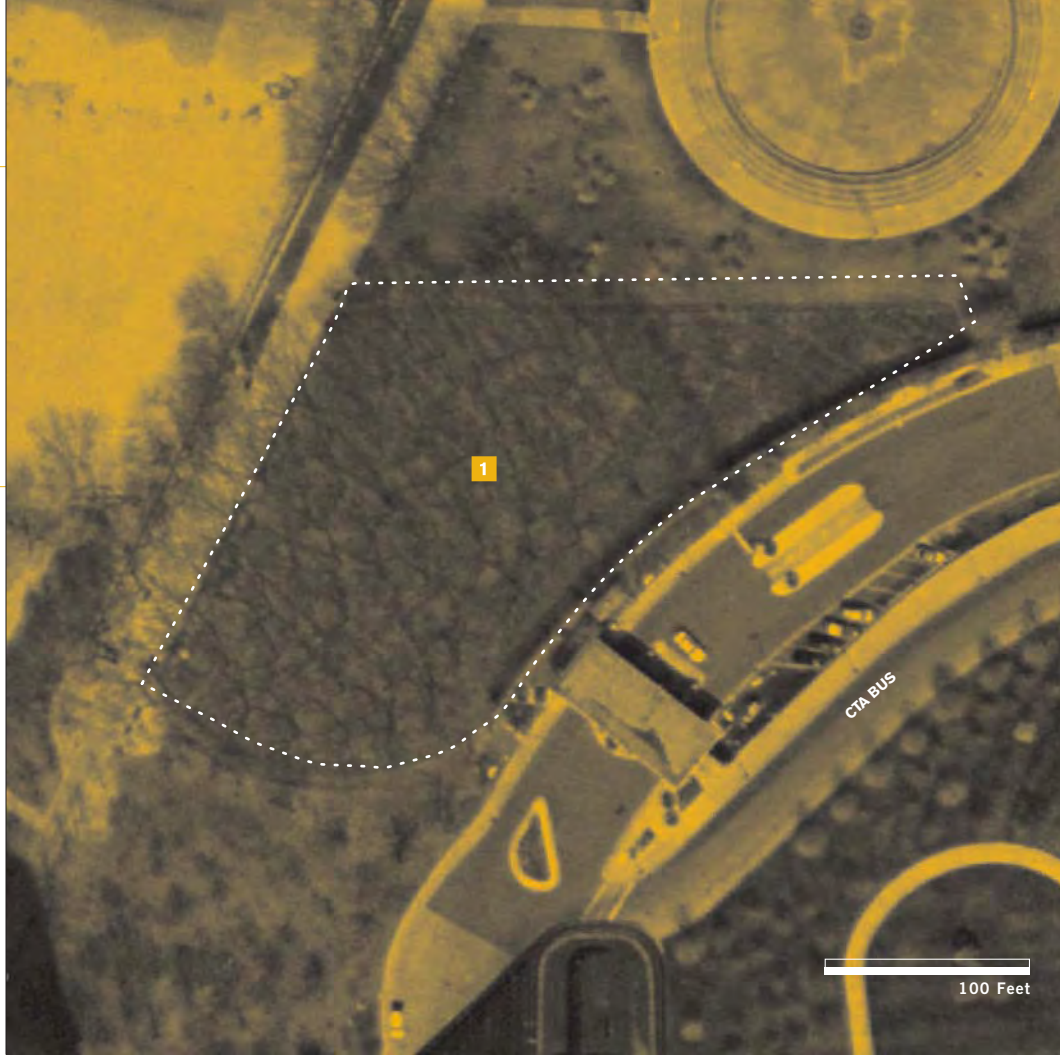
Olive Park Woodland



ADDRESS 500 N Lake Shore Dr
 OWNER City of Chicago
 ACREAGE 1.23

HABITATS
 1 Forest / Woodland

DIRECTIONS Located on the northwest portion of the peninsula formed by Navy Pier and the water purification plant. Exit Lake Shore Drive at Grand Avenue. Parking is available at the lots on Navy Pier. Walk north from the buildings at Navy Pier toward the water's edge.



The wide expanse of open water off of North Avenue on the north end of Goose Island was constructed as a place where boats can switch directions on the Chicago River. In winter, ducks such as common goldeneye can be found floating out upon the cold water.

The eastern shores of the turning basin are scheduled to be restored. The City already owns the northeast corner of the basin **1**. At the southeast corner **2**, the Wrigley Company has a research facility, and has restored the riverbank with native vegetation and a riverwalk. Future plans include extending the riverwalk north over the railroad bridge to provide access to North Avenue. The land is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers, but the Chicago Park District will eventually oversee these improvements and management.

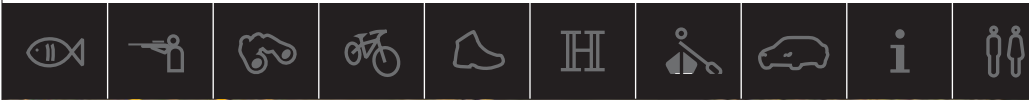
The turning basin's significance is enhanced by its anchoring the north end of the North Branch Channel, a segment of the river where there are opportunities for extensive wetland restorations (p. 96).

NORTH AVENUE
TURNING BASIN

Site No 58

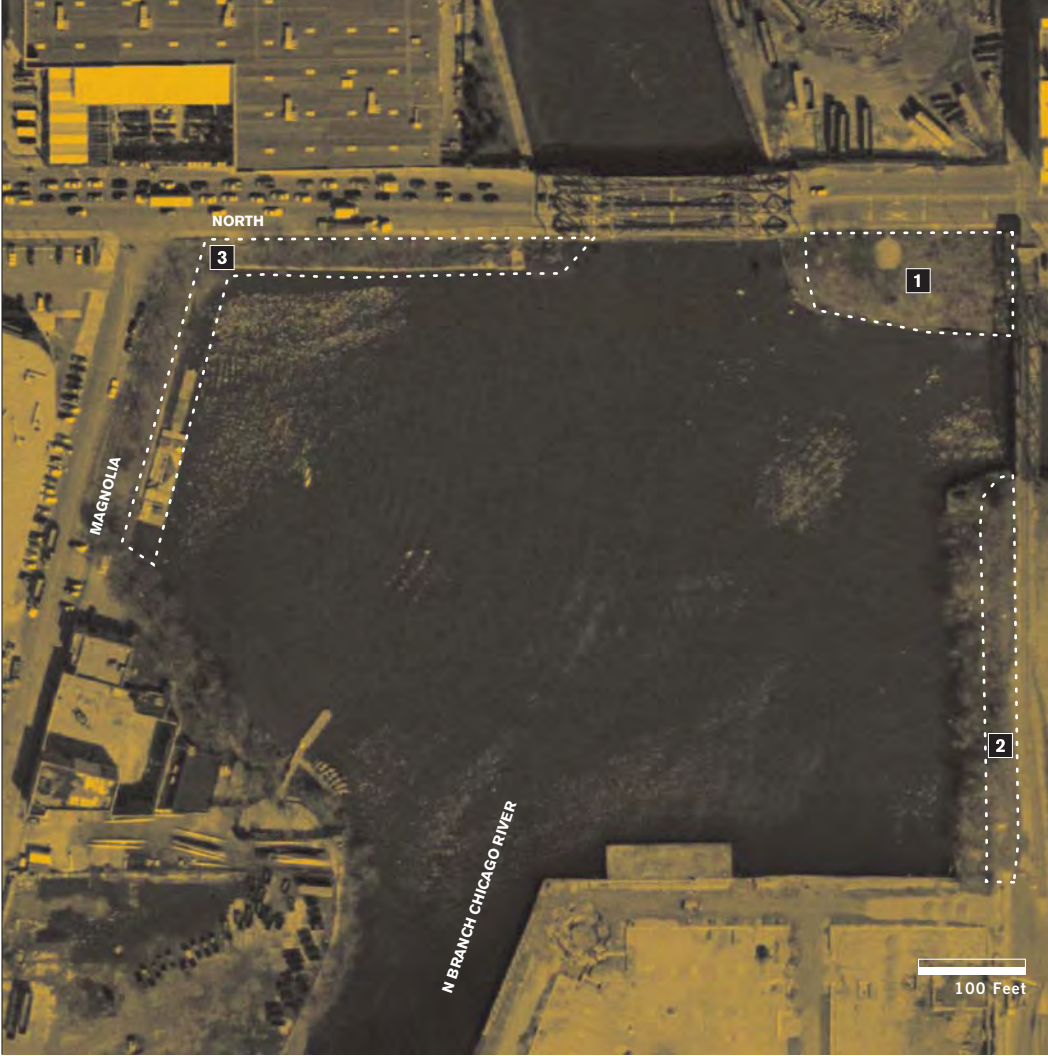


1500 NORTH / 1100 WEST



**North Avenue
Turning Basin**

Nº 58



ADDRESS 1101 W North Ave
OWNER Private, US Army Corps of Engineers
ACREAGE 1.19

HABITATS **1 2 3** Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS On North Avenue, park in the lot for the Old Navy store directly east of the bridge over the river. Walk back to the bridge.

North Avenue Turning Basin

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

Located in Chinatown, the Ping Tom Memorial Park uses Chinese architectural details in the design of its playground and recreational areas. This community area suffers from a lack of open space generally, so the Chicago Park District's acquisition of the 12-acre site from a railroad and its development in the late 1990s served a critical need for Chinatown. The river became an amenity that can be used and enjoyed rather than a mystery glimpsed only from bridges.

The expansion site is on the opposite (north) side of 18th Street from the existing park, and is large enough to transform Ping Tom from a park serving only nearby residents into a regional park. The property is already owned by the Chicago Park District, and landscape designers are discussing the possibility of constructing a field house, ball fields and soccer fields.

The generous width of the site allows for the opportunity to develop a gently-sloped river bank **2** rather than the steep, inaccessible banks that are

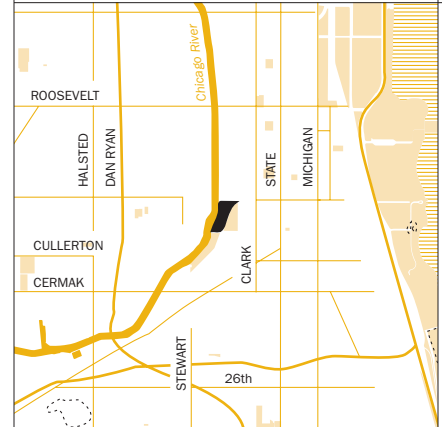
more typical along the South Branch. This will allow public access to the river and the creation of planting areas for aquatic and wetland plants along the river's transition to prairie plants on the higher, drier areas. Habitat improvement will be a feature of the park's design.

Currently the area is fenced. There is an existing, unimproved trail running perpendicular to the river. Second growth woods of mostly weedy trees thrive along the river bank.

One of the most dramatic features of both sections of the park is the criss-cross of bridges over the river; an old draw bridge upstream stands permanently raised. One of the better views of the Ping Tom Expansion is from the 18th Street bridge; to the south is the existing park, and to the north is the new parkland with its naturalistic edge.

PING TOM MEMORIAL
PARK EXPANSION

Site No 59

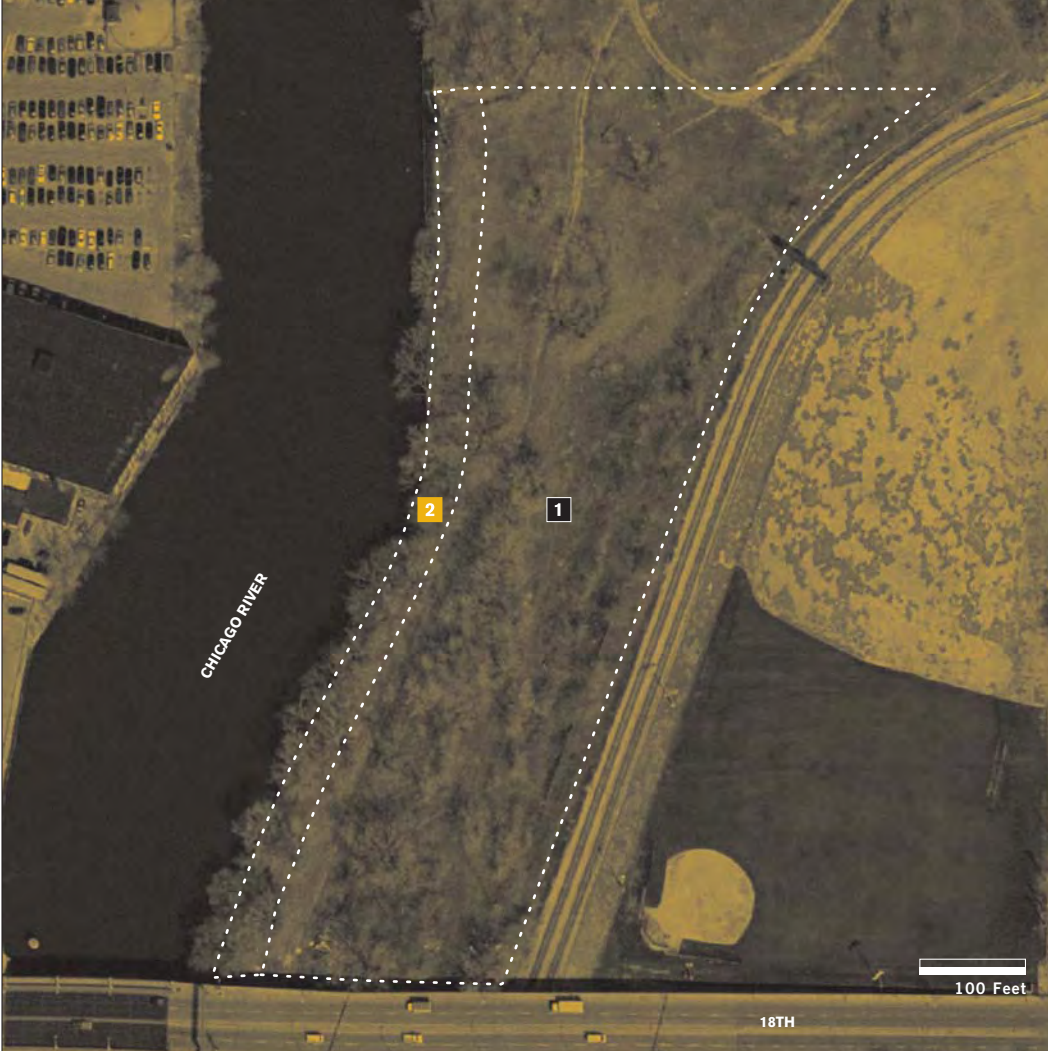


1800 SOUTH / 200 WEST



**Ping Tom Memorial
Park Expansion**

No 59



ADDRESS 1800 S Wentworth Ave
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 5.40

HABITATS
1 Potential Habitat
2 Riparian / Water Edge

DIRECTIONS At the corner of Wentworth and 18th Street, turn North onto a dirt road. Park in the big vacant lot and walk west toward the river.

Ping Tom Memorial Park Expansion

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

North Park Village Nature Center is the largest city-owned natural area on the north side of Chicago. It is part of an extensive network of natural areas in this part of the city, including the high quality prairies and savannas along the North Branch of the Chicago River that are owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (sites 13, p. 44; 22, p. 53; 25, p. 35; 35, p. 67; and 98, p. 36). Extensive year-round nature programming is offered at the site, both for children and adults.

Once farmland, the 150-acre area was purchased by the City and converted to a tuberculosis sanitarium in 1911. In 1974 the sanitarium was closed, and today North Park Village's buildings are used for senior housing, government buildings, and a gymnasium.

About a third of the property is still in its natural condition. Restoration work is ongoing, with an active volunteer stewardship group that has regular workdays throughout the year. In late winter, the park district hosts a maple syrup festival.

Visits begin at the Nature Center, which has a map of the preserve and volunteer nature docents who answer questions and give tours.

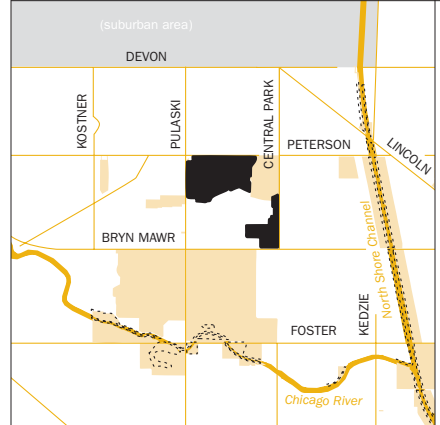
There's a main trail that loops around the entire area, and three shorter trails through three habitats: the oak savanna **1**, woodlands **2**, and wetlands **8** **9**. The main loop and oak savanna trails can be accessed by walking through the Nature Center and out the back of the building.

The oak savanna is filled with bur and white oaks, and the understory is rich with native grasses and flowers. The woodland is dominated by maples of all ages, which makes this trail particularly beautiful during the fall season.

To the east are the pond and wetlands. Wood ducks, geese, painted turtles, and deer are frequent inhabitants; raccoons, foxes, bullfrogs, kingfishers, crayfish, and great blue herons are sometimes found. There is a bench on the water's edge next to a sugar maple for prolonged viewing and animal searching, and an observational area raised up from the Main Loop trail about half way along the wetlands.

NORTH PARK VILLAGE
NATURE CENTER

Site No 60



5800 NORTH / 3800 WEST



North Park Village Nature Center

Nº 60



ADDRESS 5801 N Pulaski Rd
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 57.61

HABITATS
1 Savanna
2 10 Forest / Woodland
3 4 5 6 Prairie / Grassland
7 11
8 9 Wetland

DIRECTIONS The entrance to North Park Village is at Pulaski and Ardmore, just south of Peterson Avenue. Follow signs to the Nature Center.

North Park Village Nature Center

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

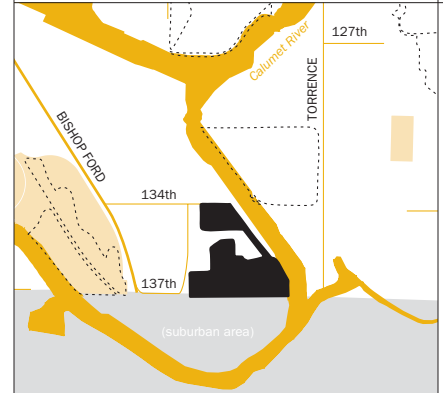
Elegant white egrets and gangly blue herons can be seen feeding around the edges of the open water at O'Brien Lock Marsh **1**. The marsh itself is dominated by cattails, and is fairly impenetrable. The 11-acre pond and the marsh itself were probably at one point an eddy in the channel of the Calumet River, which is only a few hundred feet away. But the pond's rectangular shape reveal its more recent man-made construction.

To the south lies the remote site of Whitford Pond **3**. Like O'Brien Lock Marsh, it consists of both open water and marshland whose plant list is not of particularly high ecological quality. But it, too, provides habitat for water birds.

Both sites are part of the Calumet Open Space Reserve.

O'BRIEN LOCK MARSH AND WHITFORD POND

Site No 61



13600 SOUTH / 2000 EAST



O'Brien Lock Marsh and Whitford Pond

Nº 61



ADDRESS 13600 S Crandon Ave
 OWNER Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
 ACREAGE 87.40

HABITATS
1 3 Wetland
2 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS O'Brien Lock Marsh is easily viewed from the road, but getting on the site is more difficult. Turn off 130th Street at the sign for Thomas J. O'Brien Lock & Dam, directly west of the bridge over the Calumet River. Turn right before the lock & dam entrance. The marsh is on the left. Whitford Pond is inaccessible.

O'Brien Lock Marsh and Whitford Pond

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OAK WOODS CEMETERY PONDS

Home to the grave of Mayor Harold Washington, Oak Woods Cemetery contains four ponds that could be restored to open water lagoons edged with wetland vegetation. Right now the edges of these ponds are either turf grass or cattails, but the grade of the land as it transitions into the water is gentle, and wetland restoration on pond edges would be in keeping with the serene and lovely character of the site.

Large bur and white oaks are present within the cemetery. A family of gray foxes has taken up residence within the cemetery.



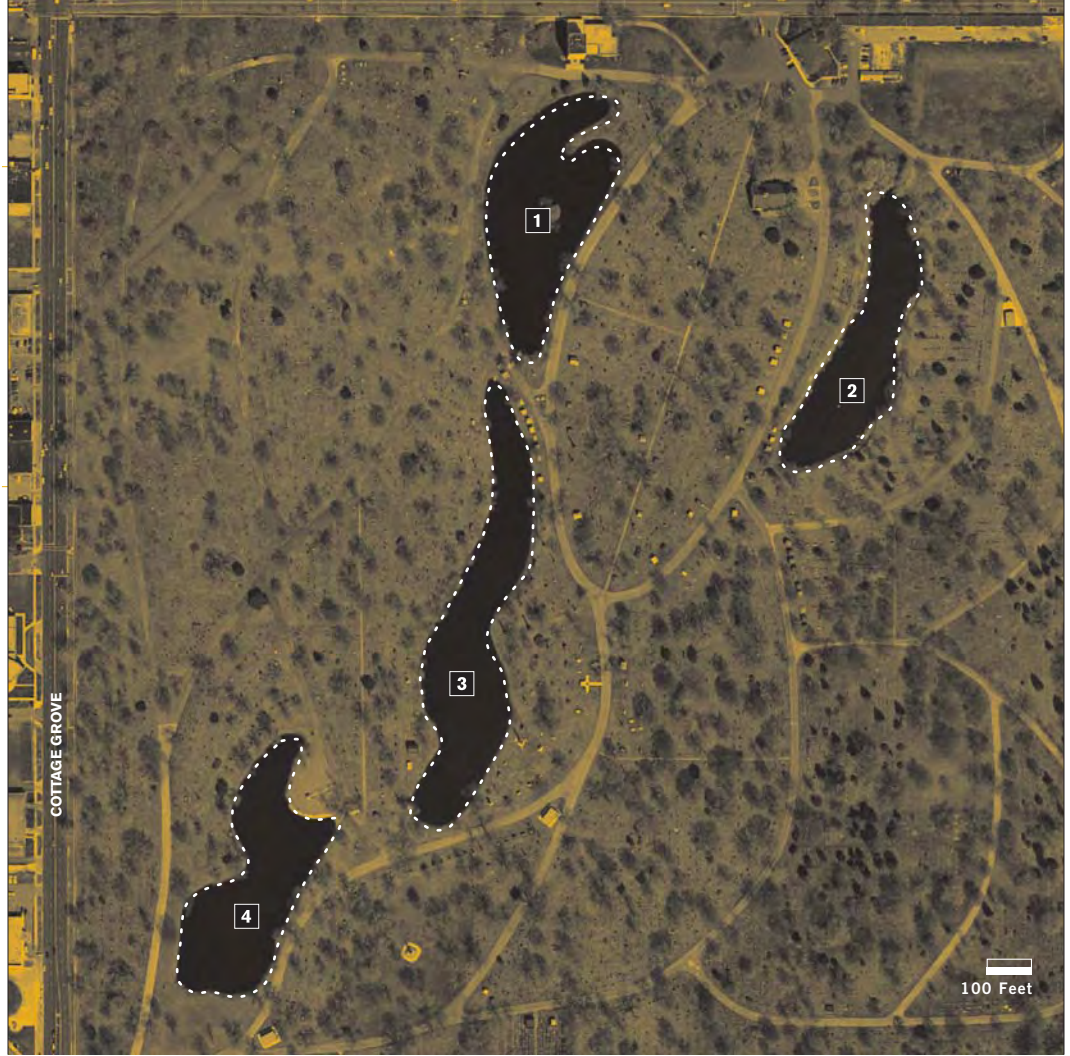
Oak Woods Cemetery Ponds



ADDRESS 1035 E 67th St
OWNER Cemetery
ACREAGE 10.51

HABITATS
1 2 3 4 Aquatic

DIRECTIONS
Access to the cemetery is from the north entrance, off of 67th Street, near Ellis Avenue.



Bobolink Meadow's prairie restoration **1** has been ongoing since 1989, making it one of the older efforts in Chicago's parks.

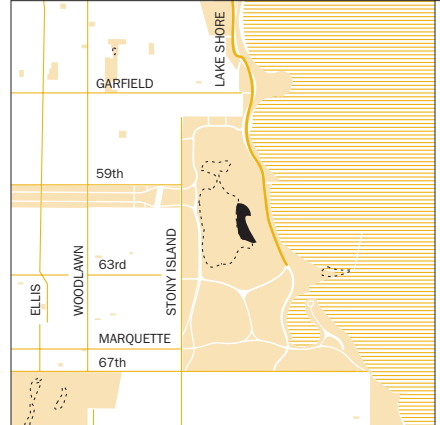
It was built on the 1893 World's Fair grounds, in an area which was turned into a public golf course shortly after the exhibition, and then leased by the U.S. Army for its Nike missile base (1956–1971). It lies today along the edge of Jackson Park Lagoon, across from the Paul H. Douglas Nature Sanctuary (site 41, p. 70). Nodding wild onion blooms in early summer, and by July, the delicate pink blossoms

of obedient plant are abundant. In the late summer and fall, various species of goldenrods and asters make a colorful spectacle. Butterflies and dragonflies are common sights.

North of Bobolink Meadow is Bobolink Woods **2**, a small woodland that provides a shady transition from prairie to parking lot.

JACKSON PARK—
BOBOLINK MEADOW

Site No 63

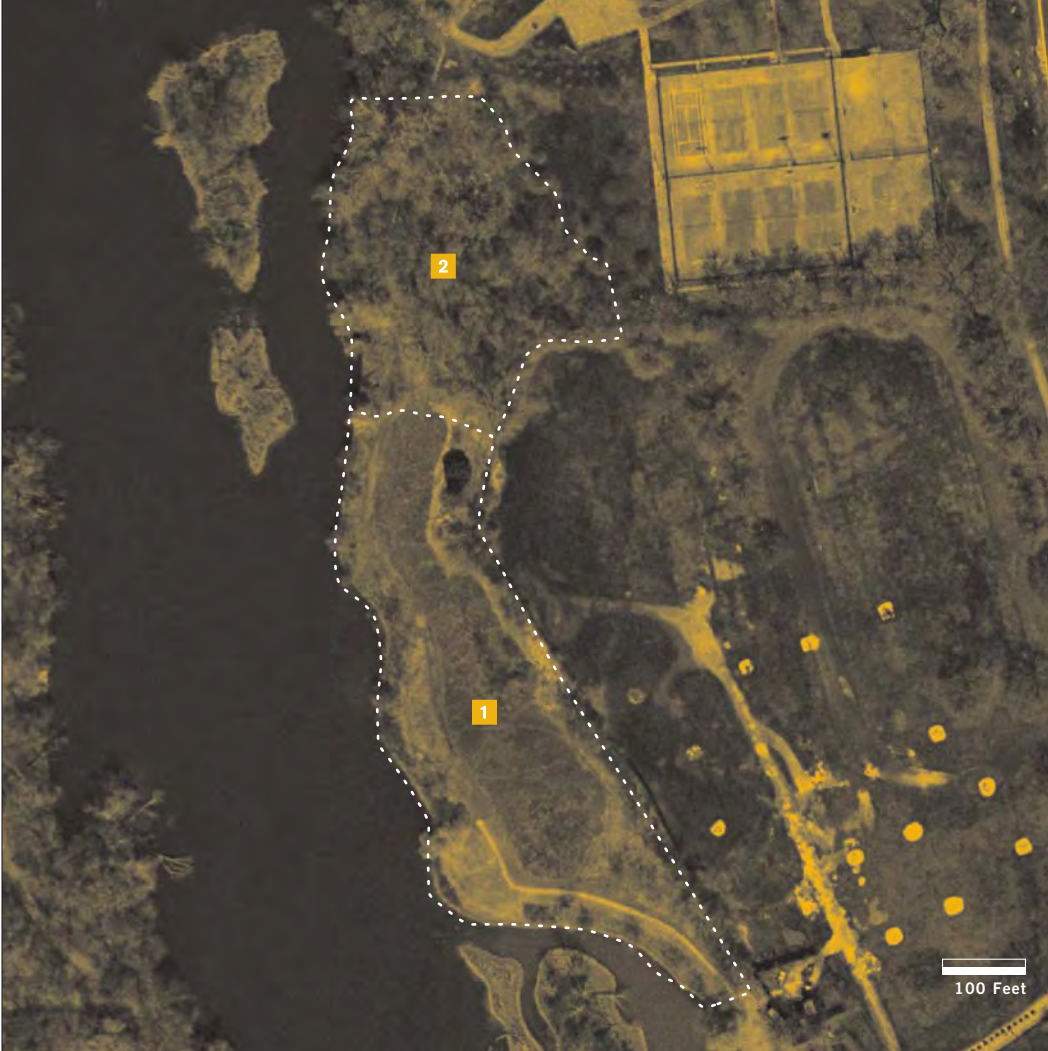


6400 SOUTH / 1800 EAST



**Jackson Park—
Bobolink Meadow**

No 63



ADDRESS 6401 S Stony Island Ave
OWNER Chicago Park District, Private
ACREAGE 5.39

HABITATS
1 Prairie / Grassland
2 Forest / Woodland

DIRECTIONS Exit Lake Shore Drive at Science Drive (access road to the Museum of Science and Industry's east entrance, directly south of 57th Street); Follow Columbia Drive to the left (south) and park at the south end of the lot for quick access to Bobolink Meadow.

Jackson Park—Bobolink Meadow

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

POWDERHORN MARSH AND PRAIRIE

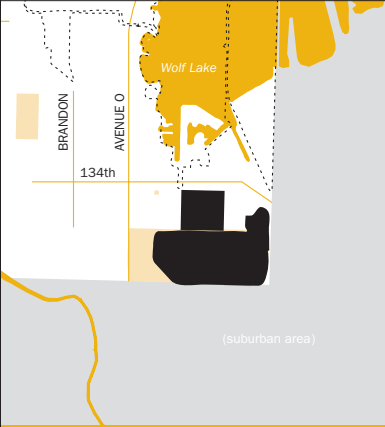
Powderhorn is an excellent example of dune and swale topography 2 to 8 set in the sandy plain of what was once glacial Lake Chicago. (The vast glacial lake gradually drained and receded into what are now the familiar borders of Lake Michigan.) On the higher ground is little blue stem and porcupine grass; on the lower ground are cord grass, sedges, and blue joint grass. Marshes with cattails, bulrush and buttonbush are present.

In presettlement times, the main trees were black, white and bur oaks, ash and willows. The structure of black oak savanna, complete with an array of sand prairie and savanna understory plants, is very much in evidence at Powderhorn today.

A good selection of wildlife can be found. The herons typical of the Calumet wetlands are all found here, as are least bitterns and Virginia rails. Osprey have nested at Powderhorn Lake. Franklin's ground squirrel and Blanding's turtle, two state-endangered species, have been seen here.

In the center of the preserve is Powderhorn Lake, which is not within the city limits. The portion within the city is part of the Calumet Open Space Reserve.

The potential expansion sites located north of 134th St. 13 14 15 consist of second-growth woods filled with cottonwoods, daisy fleabane, foxtail grass, and yellow sweet clover. Its most important habitat contribution is its strategic location; to the south is Powderhorn Marsh and Prairie, part of Burnham Woods Forest Preserve; to the north only a short distance away is Wolf Lake and the William Powers Conservation Area (site 88, p. 127). Beyond that is Eggers Woods Forest Preserve (site 23, p. 54). All of these important sites are made much more significant by the presence of the others, providing extensive habitat for wildlife. When sites are linked, amphibians, reptiles, insects and other wildlife can migrate from one location to another.



Powderhorn Marsh and Prairie



ADDRESS 13800 S Brainard Ave
OWNER Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Private
ACREAGE 135.81

HABITATS
1 2 4 6 Wetland
10 14
3 5 7 8 Prairie/Grassland
9 11
12 13 15 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS Entrance for Powderhorn Marsh Forest Preserve is a quarter mile southeast of the intersection of Burnham Avenue and Brainard Avenue, on the east side of Brainard. Look for the red forest preserve sign. From the parking area, walk north. The privately-owned Powderhorn Expansion can be viewed from 134th Street, which parallels its north border.



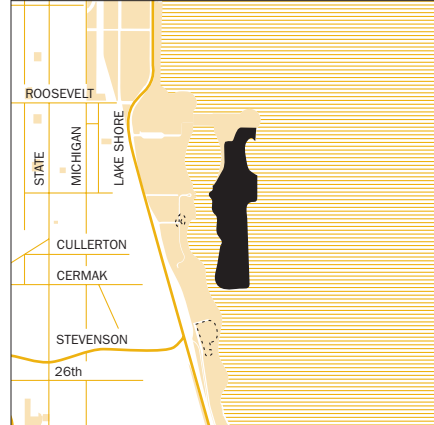
Daniel H. Burnham, in his seminal 1909 Plan of Chicago, called for the creation of a series of islands stretching between Grant and Jackson Parks and extending into Lake Michigan. Northerly Island was the only one to be developed. In 1933 and 1934, the island was expanded to accommodate part of the grounds for the World's Fair. "A Century of Progress" included tall, futuristic buildings made of what were then unconventional materials like plywood and masonite. (*AIA Guide to Chicago*, edited by Alice Sinkevitch.) In 1938, the bridge that connected the island was replaced with fill, creating a causeway that now makes the site a peninsula rather than an island. Beginning in 1947, and through the rest of the 20th century, Northerly Island was home to Merrill C. Meigs Field, a small airport. The airport's 50-year lease expired in 1996, and in 2003, the airport was closed. (Chicago Park District web site, 2004.)

In 2004, Northerly Island began its transformation back into parkland. Its design is still being worked out, but it's likely the site will retain an environmental focus as plans evolve. Twenty-four acres have already been drill-seeded with native prairie grasses and flowers.

Though this is an urban preserve with spectacular views of the city skyline, the landscape has the feel and function of a wide open grassland.

Even when Meigs Field was functioning as an airport, birders relied on Northerly Island as a place to find snowy owls in winter. Short-eared owls, horned larks, and snow buntings can also be found here, according to *Birder's Guide to the Chicago Region*. (Lynne Carpenter and Joel Greenberg, Northern Illinois Press, 1999.) American kestrels are present throughout the year, and killdeer are here in the summer.

NORTHERLY ISLAND



Northerly Island



ADDRESS 1300 S Lake Shore Drive
 OWNER Chicago Park District
 ACREAGE 82.74

HABITATS
1 Potential Habitat

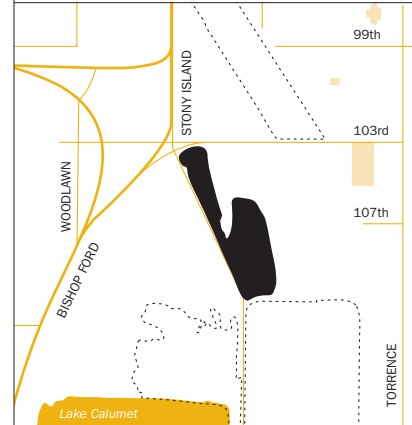
DIRECTIONS Head east on the peninsula that has the Adler Planetarium at its tip; this is called Solidarity Drive. Park in the lots adjacent to the Visitor Center (former Airport Terminal Building). Like all lakefront sites, this is a good one to access by bike.

The narrow northern section of Railroad Marsh is a solid field of phragmites, an invasive plant that stands ten-feet tall and has an elaborate plume on its end. As monocultures go, it is an impressive example; the view is consistent as a cornfield, but even taller.

The southern section contains greater diversity, with an array of some of the more common native prairie and wetland plants.

The Railroad Marsh is part of an important set of contiguous open spaces within the Calumet Area. It is directly north of Big Marsh (site 6, p. 34), which is kitty-corner from Indian Ridge Marsh (site 42, p. 66) and across the street from Lake Calumet's East Shore (site 10, p. 40). It is across the railroad tracks from Van Vlissingen Prairie (site 82, p. 121).

RAILROAD MARSH



Railroad Marsh



ADDRESS 10300 S Stony Island Ave
 OWNER Private
 ACREAGE 93.67

HABITATS
1 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS From 103rd Street, turn south on Stony Island Avenue. At a sign for 104th Street, there is no street but there is a small parking area on the east side of the road.

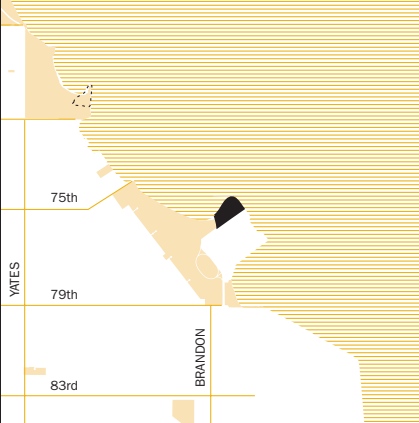
RAINBOW BEACH DUNE

The natural area at Rainbow Beach consists of a wild section of the beach **1** where native plants are being protected and enhanced and a triangular section of land next to it **2**. The triangle was seeded with native species in 2004. The Chicago Park District plans to plant and establish a black oak savanna in this area. Black oaks once thrived in the sandy soils near Lake Michigan's shores; a good model of a healthy, natural black oak savanna with beds of lupine and hairy puccoon growing in the understory can be seen at Illinois Beach State Park near Zion, Illinois.

grasses appeared spontaneously, all on their own. The seeds might have been dormant in the sand, or it's possible the seeds floated in from the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. More species are being added to complement the assemblage of plants already present.

The nonprofit organization Alliance for the Great Lakes is a partner in the educational outreach for this endeavor.

The dune portion of the beach is in an area that was seldom used by visitors, and plants began to establish themselves. Native dune



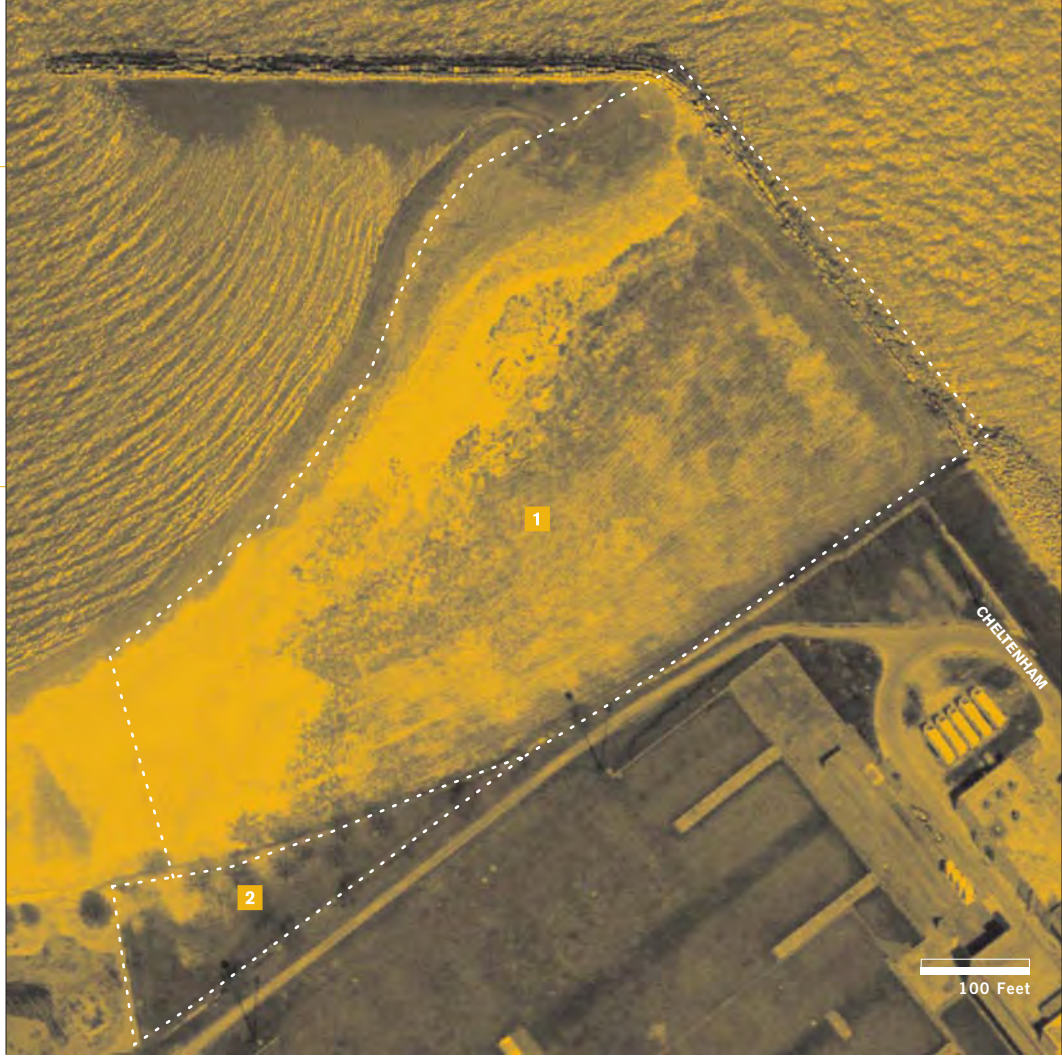
Rainbow Beach Dune



ADDRESS 7700 S South Shore Dr
 OWNER Chicago Park District
 ACREAGE 7.32

HABITATS
1 Dune
2 Savanna

DIRECTIONS Take South Shore Drive to 79th Street. A park access road curves around to the north and leads to a parking lot. Park in the first zone, south of the field house with the red-tiled roof. Walk east.

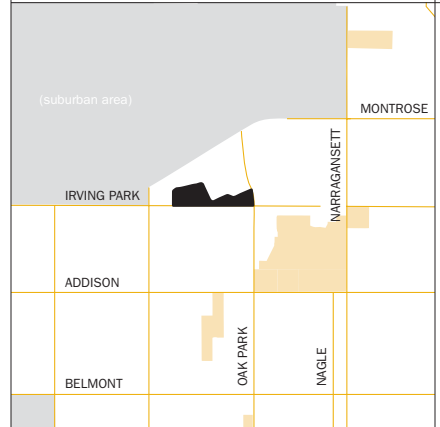


These natural areas inhabit the grounds surrounding the Chicago Read Mental Health Center, a State-run hospital. A wetland **1** is located south of the parking lot, near the southwest corner of the property. The wetland is relatively small and filled with common reed (*phragmites*, an invasive weed).

To the west of the buildings is a larger complex of second-growth woods **2** and wetland **3**. Great quantities of invasive teasel are found here, but there are also some native goldenrods and other flowers growing amidst the weeds.

The most significant feature of the Read-Dunning Wetlands is the overall size. The more natural, ungrouped portions are within a large, lightly tended open space **4**; if restoration was undertaken for the unused portions of the grounds this would be a significant addition for nature and wildlife on the city's northwest side.

READ-DUNNING WETLANDS



Read-Dunning Wetlands



ADDRESS 4200 N Oak Park Ave
 OWNER State of Illinois
 ACREAGE 20.98

HABITATS
1 3 Wetland
2 Forest / Woodland
4 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS From Irving Park, turn north on Oak Park Avenue. Take the first left into the parking lot.

RICHARD CLARK PARK WOODLAND AND RIVEREDGE

Richard Clark Park consists of a large, open park with a short section of developed river edge and access, a trail above the river's edge 1 at street level. South of the park is a privately-owned area of mixed woodland 2. The woodland is mostly fast-growing weedy trees and brush, but slow replacement with oaks, hackberry, and hickory could improve its quality. Its location along the greenway of the Chicago River would make restoration work here a particularly worthwhile endeavor.

nodding wild rye and bottlebrush grass. These plantings could be extended further in the upland areas as well as along the river edge.

A canoe rental service is available at Clark Park in the summer months.

The park is located on land that was once part of the Riverview Amusement Park.

Restoration has already improved the riverbank in some locations. Near the canoe launch, bright yellow coneflowers, lavender bee balm, and white culver's root bloom with native grasses like



Richard Clark Park Woodland and Riveredge



ADDRESS 3400 N Rockwell Ave
OWNER City of Chicago, Private
ACREAGE 6.73

HABITATS
1 Riparian / Water Edge
2 Forest / Woodland

DIRECTIONS The park is located behind Devry University; the river access is about halfway between Belmont and Addison, on the west side of Rockwell Avenue.



Ridge Park Wetland was saved from becoming a parking lot in 1991. A neighborhood group, the Beverly Open Space Committee, advocated for the wetland's protection, and the Chicago Park District acquired the land from Metra.

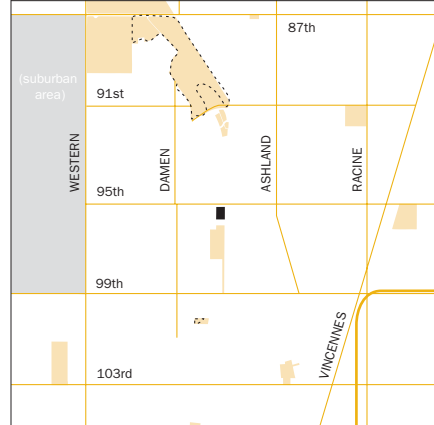
Before the area was developed, the steep ridge of the moraine that runs through this part of the city would have been full of seeps such as the one found at Ridge Park Wetland. Today this is the only remaining example within the City. The wetland **2** is not fed from surface water, but from water that seeps out of the hill on the wetland's west side and trickles into the wetland. However, the site is often dry, perhaps as a result of surrounding paved areas that prevent groundwater percolation.

Unlike many of the Chicago Park District's natural area restorations, staff and volunteers didn't have to start from scratch here. The basic canopy and hydrological conditions were intact. Oaks, black walnuts and elm trees **1** tower over the wetland **2**. Blue asters, wild rye grass, and the raspberry-colored swamp milkweed have all been introduced, and have taken hold in the understory.

There are other examples of seeps in the Chicago area; Long Run Seep along the Des Plaines River in Will County would be one place to visit to have a sense of what a bigger site looks like.

RIDGE PARK WETLAND

Site No 70

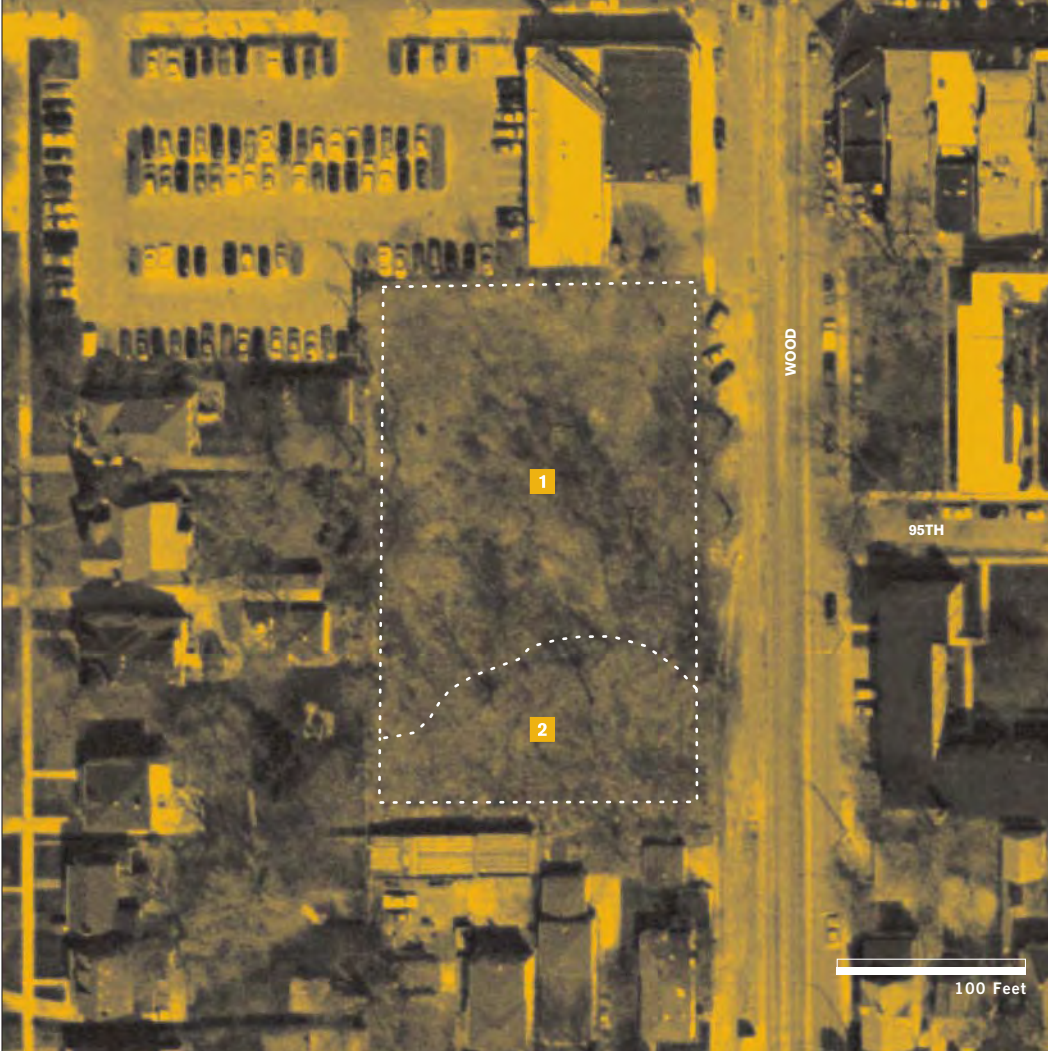


9500 SOUTH / 1800 WEST



Ridge Park Wetland

N: 70



ADDRESS 9512 S Longwood Dr
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 1.10

HABITATS
1 Savanna
2 Wetland

DIRECTIONS Locate Ridge Park on a map; the wetland is two blocks north of it. Two skinny lanes of Longwood Drive run parallel on either side of the railroad tracks here; it's possible to park alongside the preserve, though there's more room for it on the east side of the street.

Ridge Park Wetland

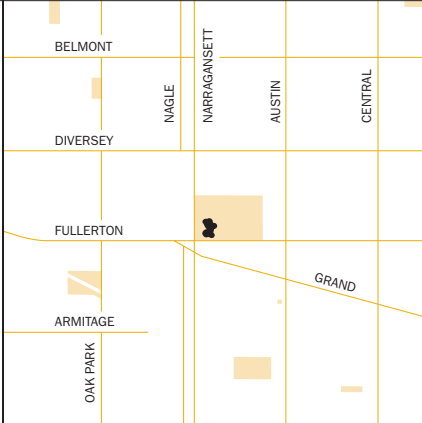
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RIIS PARK LAGOON

Named after the photojournalist Jacob Riis, the park was developed in two distinct halves separated by a steep glacial ridge, a remnant of the shoreline of Lake Chicago. To the east stands a Georgian-revival fieldhouse surrounded by athletic fields. Alfred Caldwell, a prominent landscape architect who made significant use of native plants and strived for natural esthetics in his designs, created the plan for the western portion, including the lagoon **1**. Caldwell wanted the lagoon to appear as if it were a prairie river meandering through the park, and so the lagoon has two main pools connected by a stream-like channel. Limestone lines a portion of the water's edge.

A path circles the pool, and leads past a waterfall, a stone sitting area, and a fishing pier with wetland plants scattered amidst the limestone along the water's edge **2**. A wooden bridge crosses this pool and leads visitors toward grand oaks and willows.



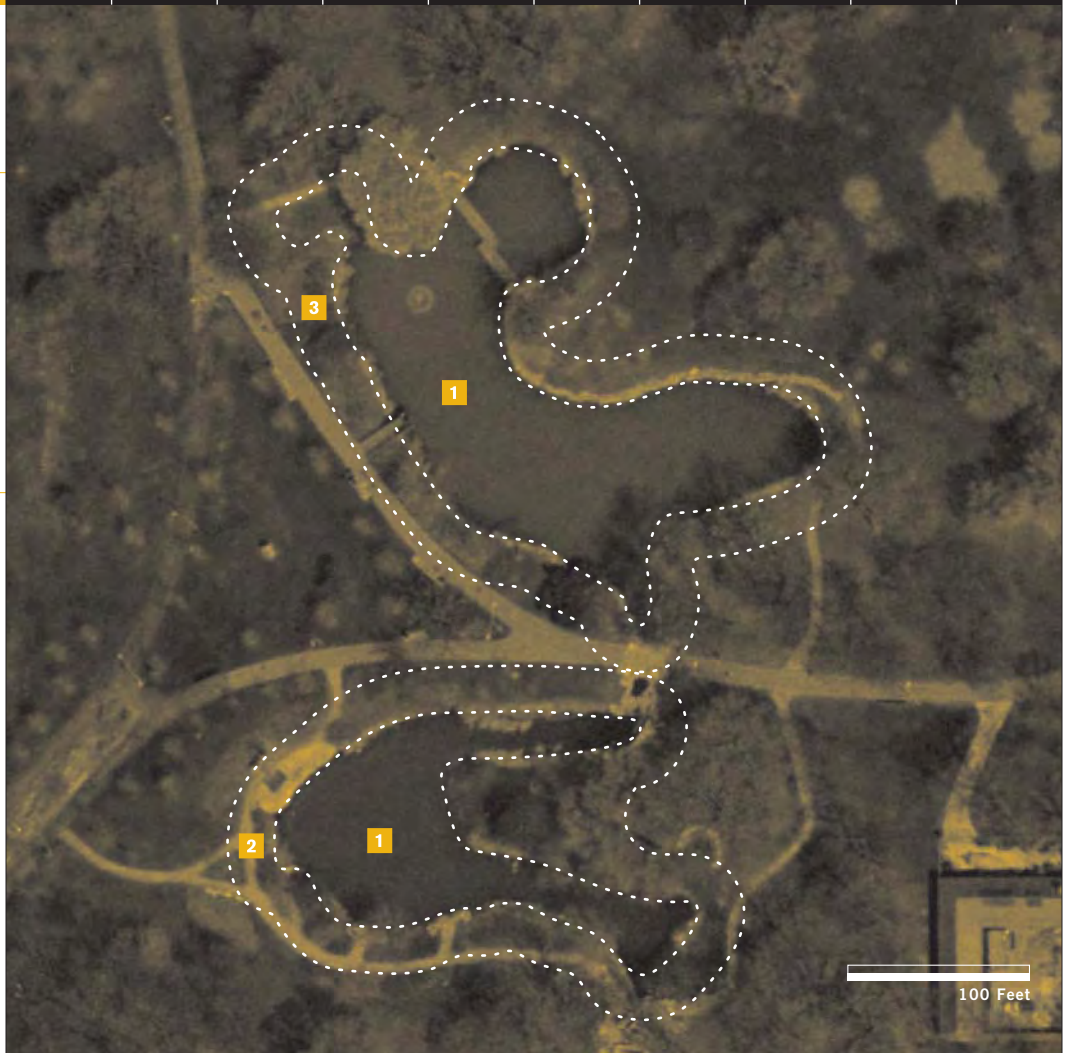
Riis Park Lagoon



ADDRESS 6100 W Fullerton Ave
 OWNER Chicago Park District
 ACREAGE 2.17

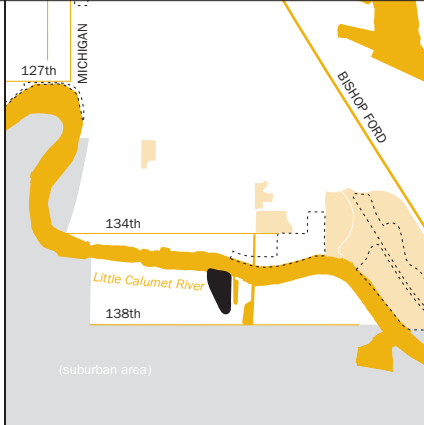
HABITATS
1 Aquatic
2 3 Riparian/Water Edge

DIRECTIONS There is parking directly off of Fullerton on the west side of the field house. A sign points visitors in the direction of the lagoon from the parking area.



LITTLE CALUMET MARSH

Marshes, secondary-growth woods and 1,800 feet of shoreline along the Little Calumet River are among the highlights of this location. High tension utility wires run overhead, and Commonwealth Edison maintains an easement below the line that keeps the area mowed and meadow-like in character.



Little Calumet Marsh



ADDRESS 13600 S Corliss Ave
OWNER Private
ACREAGE 12.15

HABITATS
1 Wetland
2 Riparian/Water Edge

DIRECTIONS The site is located on 138th Street, across from the Safety-Kleen facility. But with industrial facilities to the west and a hunting and fishing club on the east, there is no direct access for the public. A better view is available from the other side of the river, off of 134th Street, between St. Lawrence and Maryland streets



This is the place where the North Shore Channel meets the North Branch of the Chicago River. Their confluence provides the best river fishing in the City. At the end of the North Branch, water tumbles over a water fall, giving it the higher oxygen content that fish prefer.

The west side of the river **2 3** provides one of the city's best nature hikes, as a wood-chipped trail winds along the banks of the river through restored river edge habitat. The trail and the restoration extend from Argyle to Lawrence. It was restored in 2002. Wild rye, penstemon, and columbine are thriving.

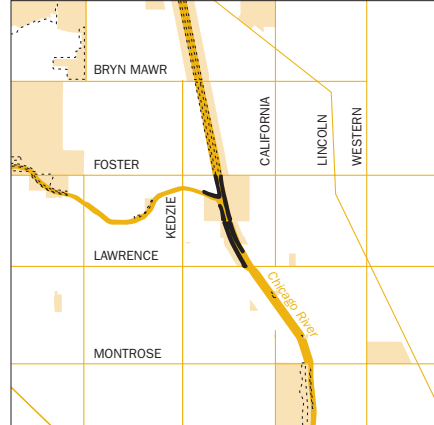
On the west side of the river north of Argyle, there are two canoe portage points and sections of native vegetation restoration that are fenced to protect them. Stiff goldenrod, purple coneflower, and culver's root bloom here in the summer.

The east side of the river **1 4** is unrestored and undeveloped, though it could provide a good spot for riverbank restoration if funding became available. The east side of River Park has a paved bike path that extends unbroken to Peterson, is interrupted for a few blocks, and then continues along the east side of McCormick Boulevard (west of the Canal) through Lincolnwood and Evanston. At the far south end lies the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Lawrence Avenue pump station.

Directly north of Argyle, on the east side of the river is a stand of old cottonwoods. Cottonwoods are a common tree in Chicago, but this stand of large ones likely pre-dates or coincides with early development of the city, before the land was parkland. The cottonwood grove's presence next to the river is not coincidental; the continuous water source would have been instrumental in their germination and survival as seedlings.

RIVER PARK AND
RONAN PARK

Site No 73



5000 NORTH / 3000 WEST



River Park and Ronan Park

N: 73



ADDRESS 3000 W Argyle St
OWNER Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
ACREAGE 5.39

HABITATS
1 2 3 4 Riparian / Water Edge
5

DIRECTIONS Park along Argyle near the river between Kedzie and Francisco.

River Park and Ronan Park

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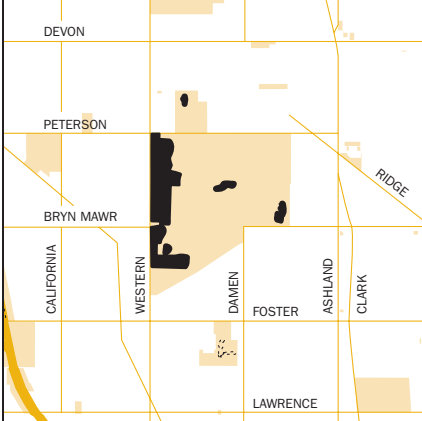
ROSEHILL CEMETERY

This historically significant cemetery possesses several natural areas within its 350 acres. The most significant is the large tract of mixed woodland **2**, pond and wetland **1** on the west side. An oak grove remains, with a limited selection of native plants growing in the understory. This portion of the cemetery was never developed as grave sites. The property is in the process of being acquired by the City of Chicago, which will transfer it to the Chicago Park District for protection and management.

restoring native wetland plants along the shores. The most noticeable of these is the pond directly in front of the memorial chapel in the center of the cemetery **3**. Currently, the pond is surrounded by turf grass with maples, crab apples, and other trees on its banks. Sandpipers, ducks and geese can be seen around the pond's edges and walk along the shores.

The other cemetery ponds are flanked mainly by turf grass, with some trees and evergreen shrubs interspersed. Herons are common visitors to the ponds. All the ponds are good candidates for wetland-shoreline restorations.

The entire cemetery provides shelter for migrating warblers in the spring, and there are four other ponds **3** to **6** which could be managed to enhance their value as natural habitat by



Rosehill Cemetery

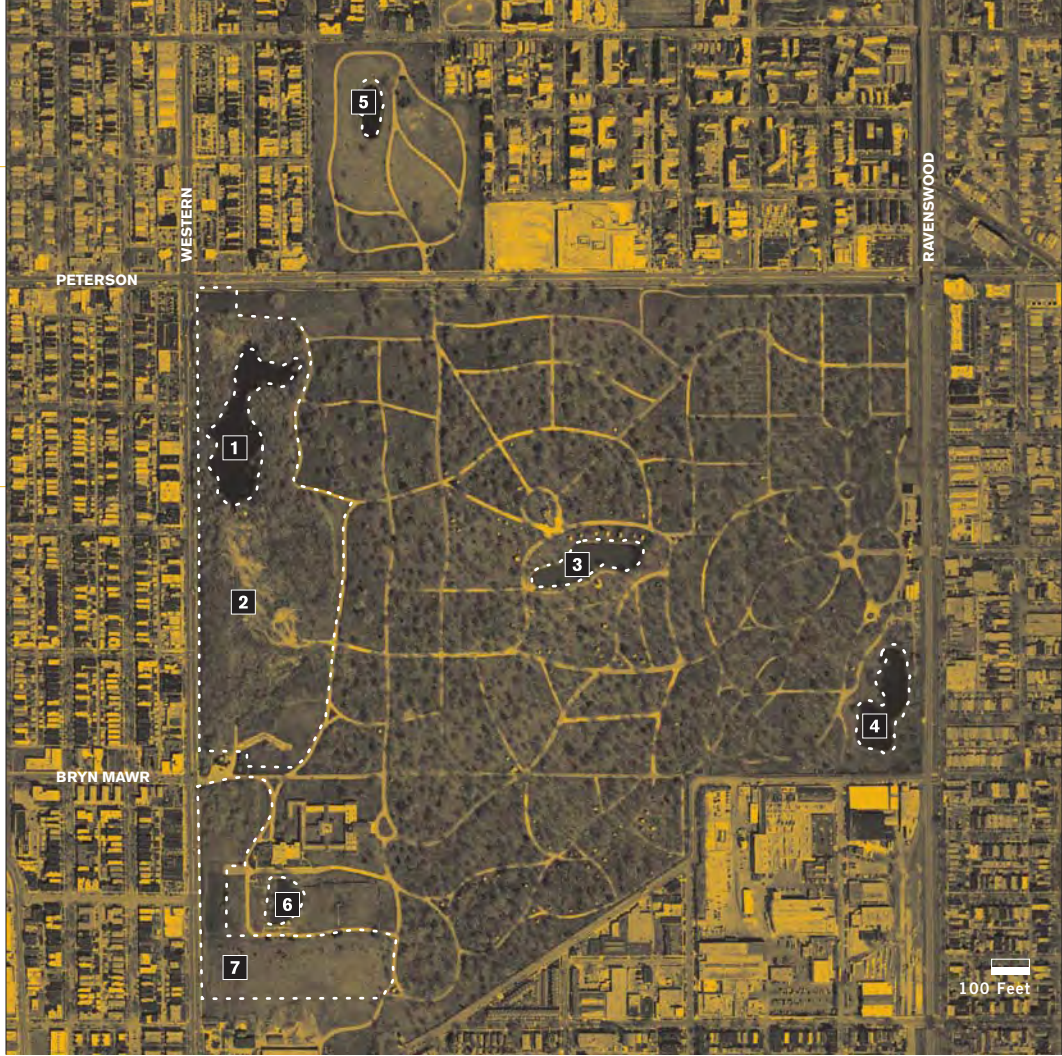


ADDRESS 5800 N Ravenswood Ave
 OWNER Cemetery
 ACREAGE 55.46

HABITATS

1	3	4	5	Wetland
6				
2	Forest / Woodland			
7	Potential Habitat			

DIRECTIONS The main entrance is at 5800 North Ravenswood, but the alternate entrance on Western Avenue just south of Peterson Avenue provides better access to the woodland area. After parking, walk north; a road marked with a "Mulching Area" sign leads into the woodland and to the largest and most natural of the five ponds.

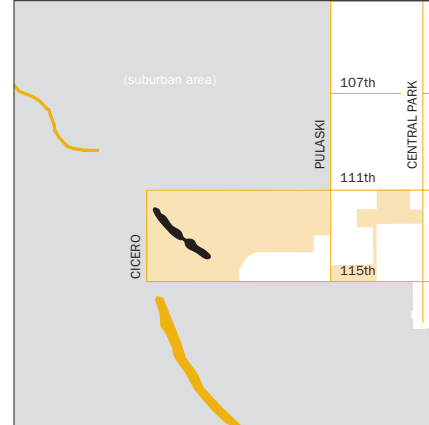


The two ponds at St. Casimir Catholic Cemetery are not within the formal burial grounds, but are off in a wild, open grassland to the west. American kestrels fly across this open plain, and kingfishers use the pond.

Portions of the open space are used for storing landscape waste or for other operations, but most of it is unused. The field around the ponds consists of European grasses and teasel. The shorelines of the ponds are not mowed, and have grown up in willows, grasses, and sedges. Families come to the ponds to fish.

ST. CASIMIR CATHOLIC
CEMETERY PONDS

Site No 75



11100 SOUTH / 4600 WEST



St. Casimir Catholic Cemetery Ponds

N: 75



ADDRESS 11100 S Cicero Ave
OWNER Cemetery
ACREAGE 6.40

HABITATS
1 Wetland

DIRECTIONS Enter the cemetery off 111th Street, between Pulaski and Western Avenues. Follow the road off to the right, taking it almost to the farthest point south, before it loops around back to the east. Take the dirt road off to the right (high clearance vehicle recommended), or walk from this point. Ponds are on the left.

St. Casimir Catholic Cemetery Ponds

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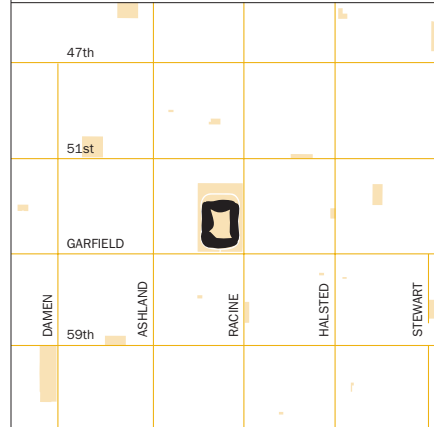
Sherman Park was among the nation's first neighborhood parks. It was designed by Olmsted Brothers and Daniel H. Burnham & Co. along with nine other parks intended to provide open space and recreational facilities to the dense neighborhoods at the center of the fast growing city.

The lagoon at Sherman Park surrounds an island with ballfields and recreational areas. Though no active ecological restoration work has been done here, the lagoon's shoreline has a natural quality. It has not been cut or mowed, and common milkweed, cattails, and tall goldenrod grow freely around its edges.

Fishing is a popular pastime here. Herons, ducks, geese and other water birds use the lagoon.

SHERMAN PARK LAGOON

Site No 76

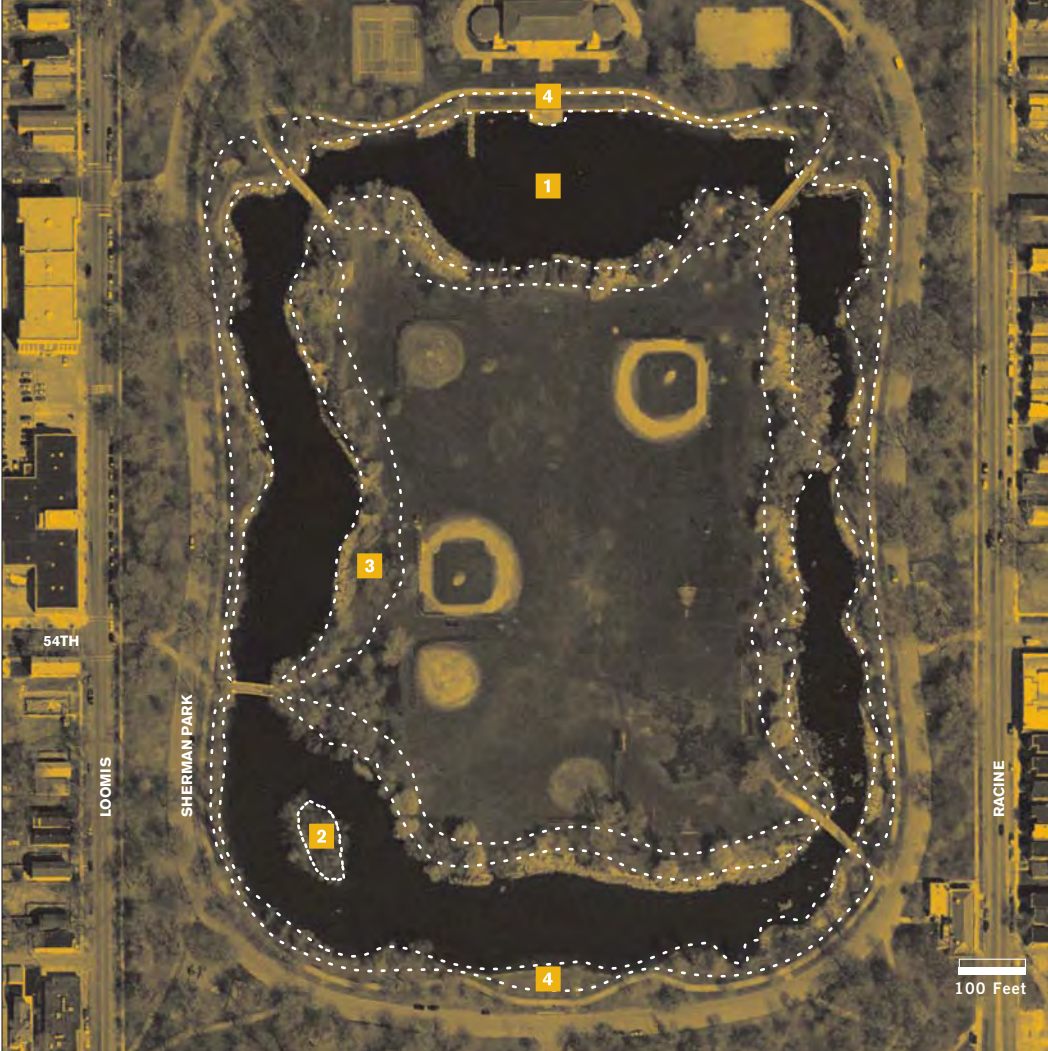


5300 SOUTH / 1300 WEST



Sherman Park Lagoon

N: 76



ADDRESS 1301 W 52nd St
 OWNER Chicago Park District
 ACREAGE 16.72

HABITATS
 1 Aquatic
 2 3 4 Riparian / Water Edge

DIRECTIONS Enter Sherman Park off of 52nd Street; take the interior road (called Sherman Park) and park anywhere to access the lagoon. There are four foot bridges to the interior island.

Sherman Park Lagoon

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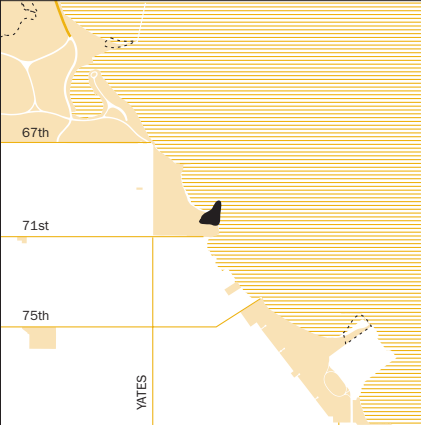
SOUTH SHORE
NATURE SANCTUARY

South Shore Nature Sanctuary was created in 2002. The path begins with a small dune habitat **1** and enters a meadow filled with asters and sunflowers **2**. This area is called the "butterfly meadow" because of the large numbers and diversity of species it attracts.

On the south end are small pockets of woodland **4**. The diversity of habitats and the sanctuary's location on the lakefront make this an important resting spot for migrating birds.

Near the parking lot are purple martin bird houses sitting atop high poles.

A boardwalk loops around in a circle through the natural area, over prairie and wetland **3**. On the west side by the water is a sand dune inhabited by grasses that can handle the spartan conditions of living on shifting sands. Benches and stone council rings offer spectacular views of the habitat and city skyline.



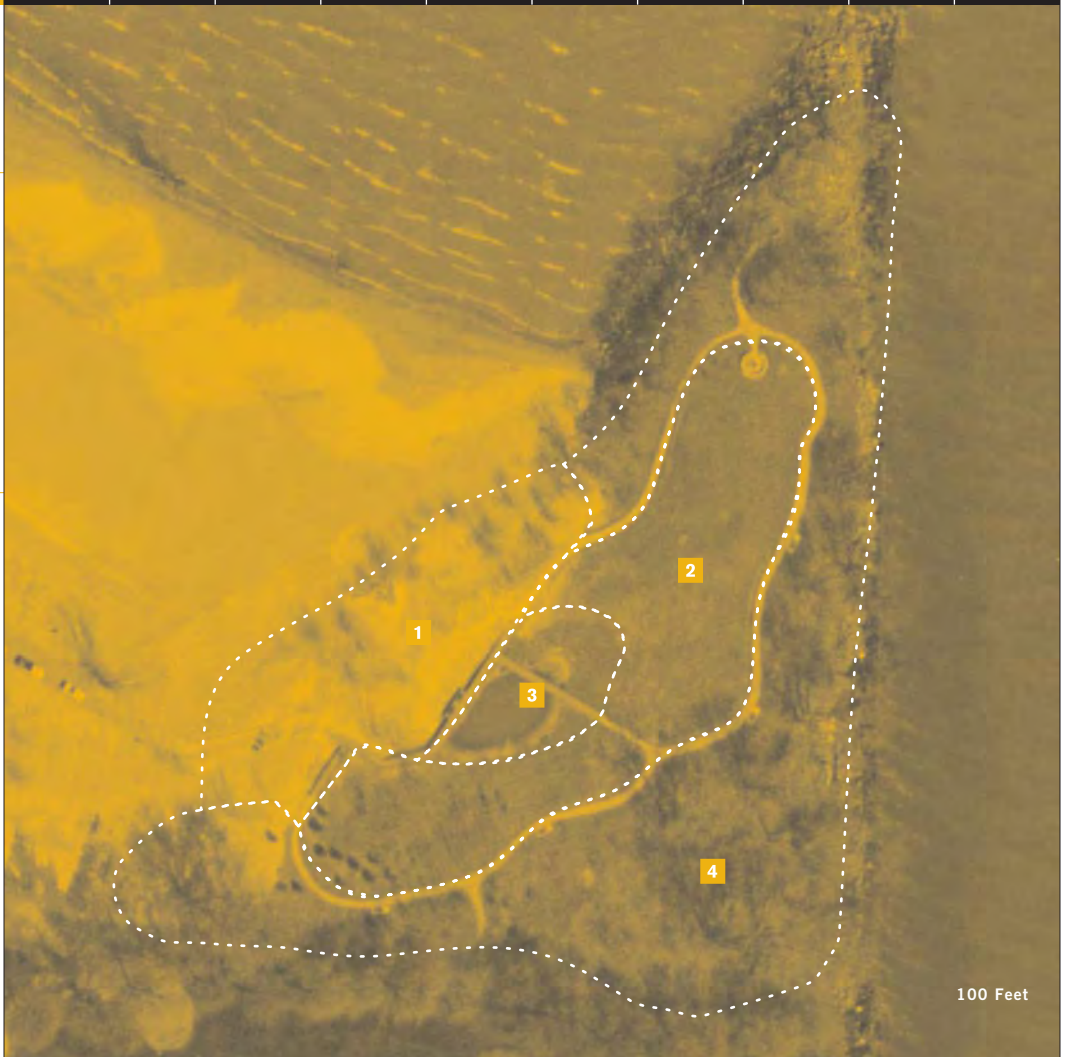
South Shore Nature Sanctuary



ADDRESS 7059 S South Shore Dr
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 4.27

- HABITATS
- 1** Dune
 - 2** Prairie / Grassland
 - 3** Wetland
 - 4** Forest / Woodland

DIRECTIONS At the intersection of South Shore Drive, Yates Boulevard, and Exchange Avenue, drive under the large terra-cotta arch with a sign for the South Shore Cultural Center. Go past the North Parking lot, and on to the Northeast Parking Lot; the sanctuary is a short distance south of the public beach.



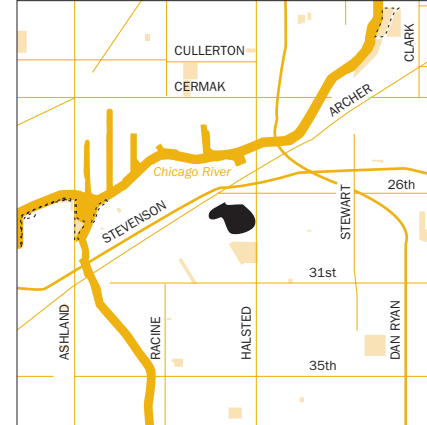
Stearns Quarry was created by a quarry operation that functioned here for the first half of the 20th century. Lime from the quarry was used to make cement which was used for construction throughout Chicago.

In the 1970s, Stearns Quarry was sold to the City of Chicago to use as a landfill for construction waste. It was never used as a sanitary landfill, but contains the waste from street improvements and other projects. By the end of the 20th century it was time to figure out a plan for closing the landfill, and the idea for creating a park emerged. Stearns Quarry is located adjacent to McGuane Park, and is considered an expansion of that site.

Work on the new park is underway. An innovative landscape design for the site calls for keeping the pond **1** in the northeast corner of the site intact, and providing access to the quarry walls, where fossils can be found and interesting geological history can be interpreted. Natural habitat improvements will also include native grasses and wildflower plantings on the mound left from the landfill. The southwestern portion of the site will be a combination of passive and active recreational uses.

STEARNS QUARRY

Site No 78

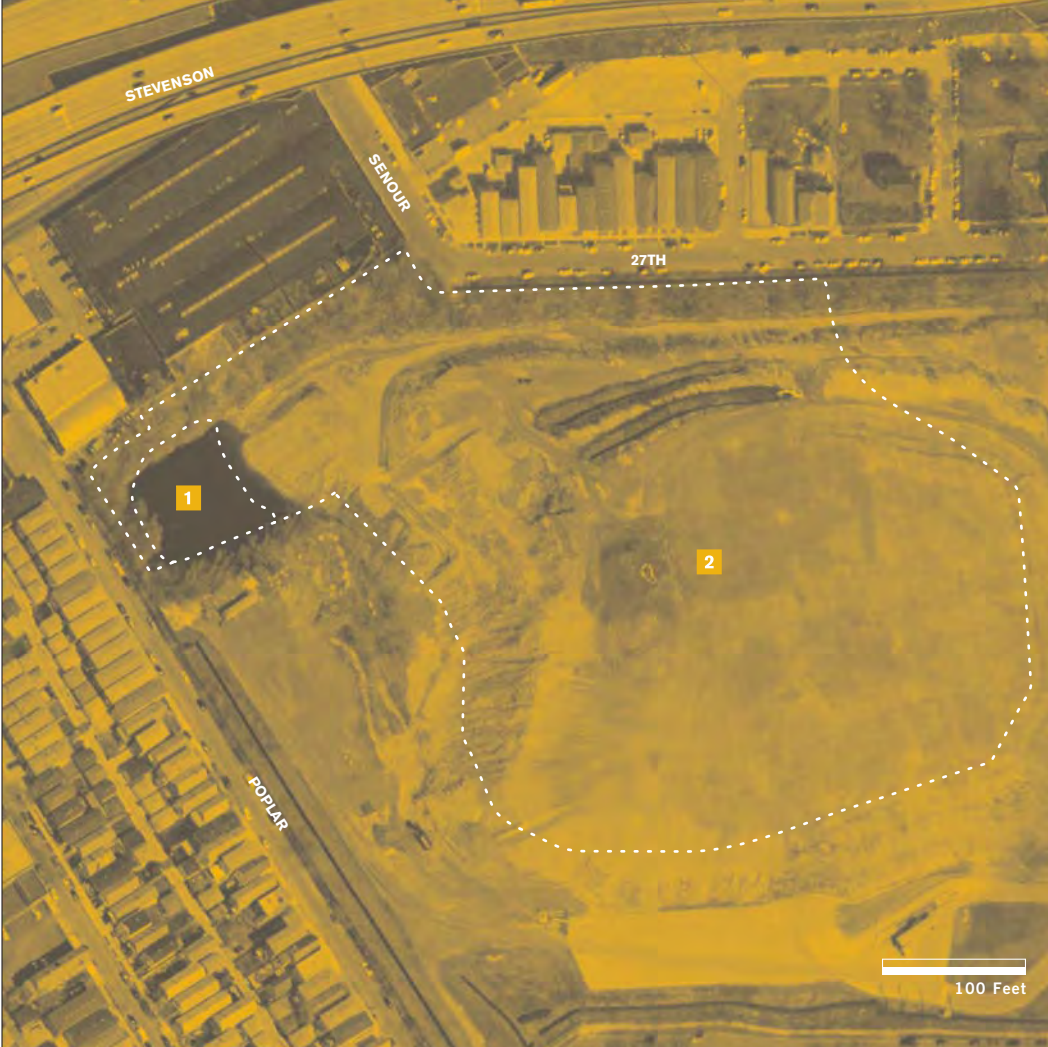


2800 SOUTH / 900 WEST



Stearns Quarry

N: 78



ADDRESS 2800 S Halsted St
 OWNER City of Chicago
 ACREAGE 14.16

HABITATS
1 Wetland
2 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS Currently the site can not be visited, and fences block the view from the street.

Stearns Quarry

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

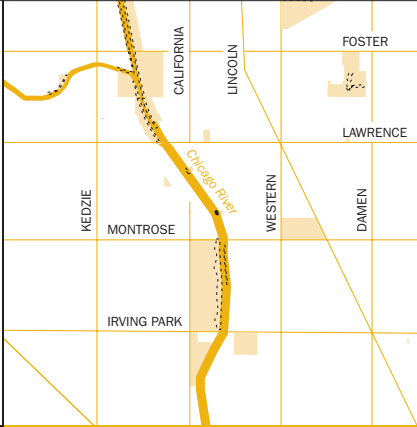
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SUNKEN GARDENS

Sunken Gardens is a tiny park with benches and a clump of ornamental perennials on the edges of mowed grass. A guard rail at the top of a steep bank separates the park from the river.

Unfortunately, nothing remains of the sunken lawn. By the 1950s, suffering from vandals and neglect, the site had lost all the original garden features. Today it's used only for passive recreation. But Sunken Garden's location on the Chicago River makes it a link in one of Chicago's most important greenways.

Though today the park is at the same elevation as the rest of the Ravenswood neighborhood, this wasn't always the case. In 1918, one year after it was acquired by the Ravenswood Manor Park District, the site was "transformed into a lovely garden with a central sunken lawn edged by a walk; three trellis-like pergolas; ornamental urns; and lush shrubbery and floral plantings." (Chicago Park District web site.)



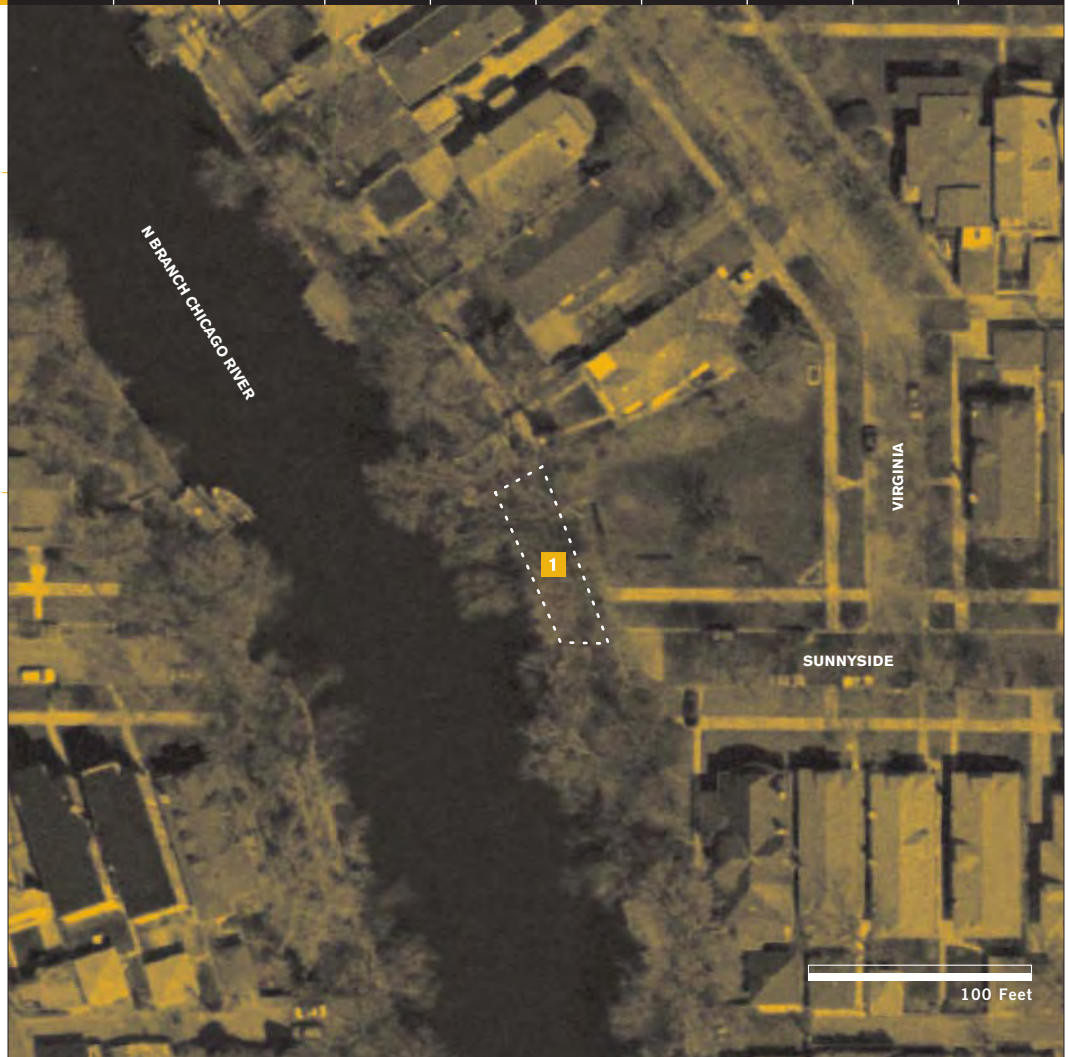
Sunken Gardens



ADDRESS 4500 N Virginia Ave
OWNER Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
ACREAGE 0.04

HABITATS
1 Riparian/Water Edge

DIRECTIONS From Wilson Avenue, go south on Rockwell Avenue. Turn right (west) on Windsor, then left (south) on Virginia Avenue. Site is on the corner of Virginia and Sunnyside.



The Hartigan Beach Dune site is a small half-acre lakefront property located at the end of Albion Street in Rogers Park just north of Loyola University and Hartigan Park. It represents the last remaining privately-owned undeveloped piece of property on the lakefront. At this time the City is pursuing the acquisition of this property consistent with the Chicago Lakefront Plan to expand and create a contiguous publicly owned lakefront park system.

The site is currently used for surface parking. Of significance is that records indicate no past history of any residential, commercial, or industrial structures built on this site. On its east end

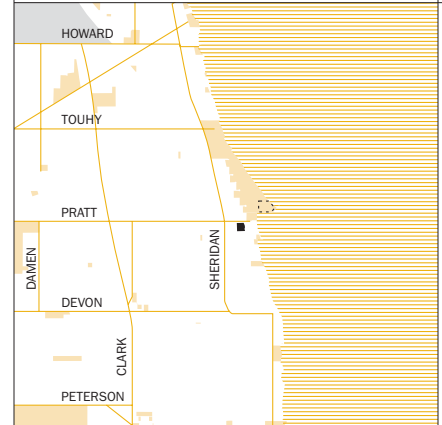
between the parking lot and the beach lies an old revetment wall previously constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for beach protection.

Preliminary plans for this site include integrating it with the adjacent Chicago Park District Hartigan Beach Park by preserving the beachfront, extending the existing paths, seating, and creating dune habitat and an open grove.

Added to Chicago Nature Areas Directory after Plan approval by Chicago Plan Commission on February 16, 2006.

HARTIGAN BEACH DUNE

Site No 80

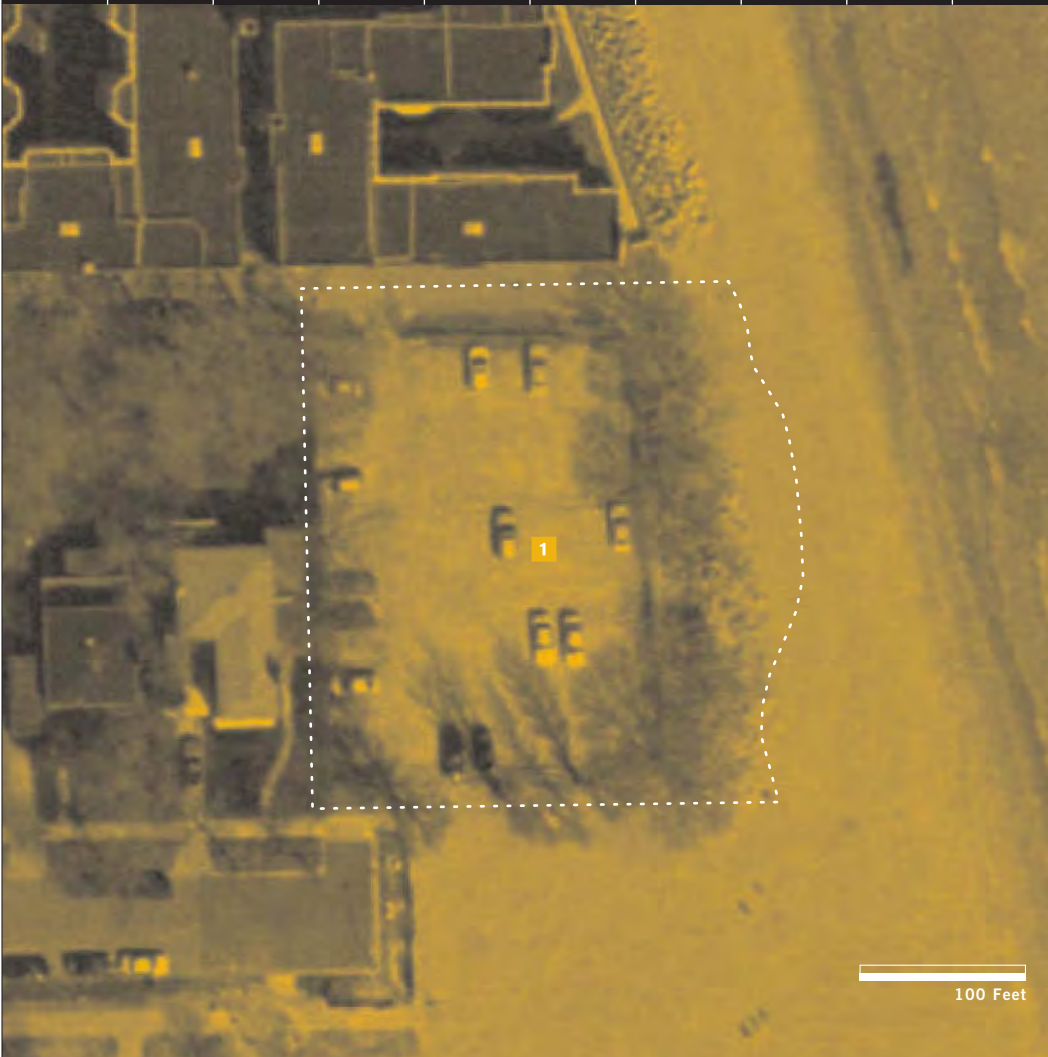


6600 NORTH / 1000 WEST



Hartigan Beach Dune

N: 80



ADDRESS 1030 W Albion Ave
 OWNER CorLands
 ACREAGE 0.52

HABITATS
1 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS When traveling north on Sheridan Rd, turn right (east) on Albion Ave; park along the street. The site is immediately north of the street end.

Hartigan Beach Dune

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

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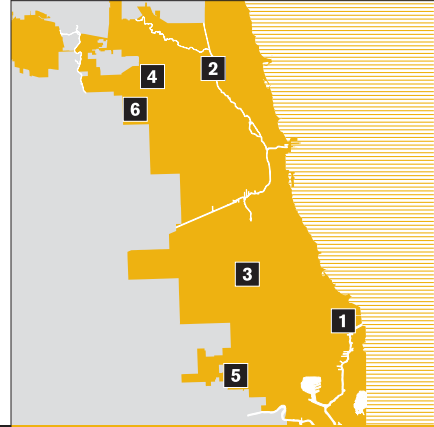
The Chicago Park District's Nature Gardens display showy native species and native cultivars that are both beautiful and attractive to wildlife including birds, small mammals, butterflies, moths, and other insects. Native species are well adapted to the Illinois climate and as a result require little watering beyond establishment or use of pesticides. The gardens display plants for shady woodland areas, wet areas, and open sunny locations. The plantings are arranged in a garden-like way rather than the wild mixture that is usually seen in a natural setting, which may not be appropriate in a home landscape or small yard. Plants are marked with labels for easy identification.

Each tree, shrub, or perennial in the garden plays a specific role in providing food or shelter for wildlife. Some plants play multiple roles in providing these functions for several life stages of the same species. For example: milkweed leaves provides food for caterpillars and flower nectar for adult butterflies. Other plants provide food for

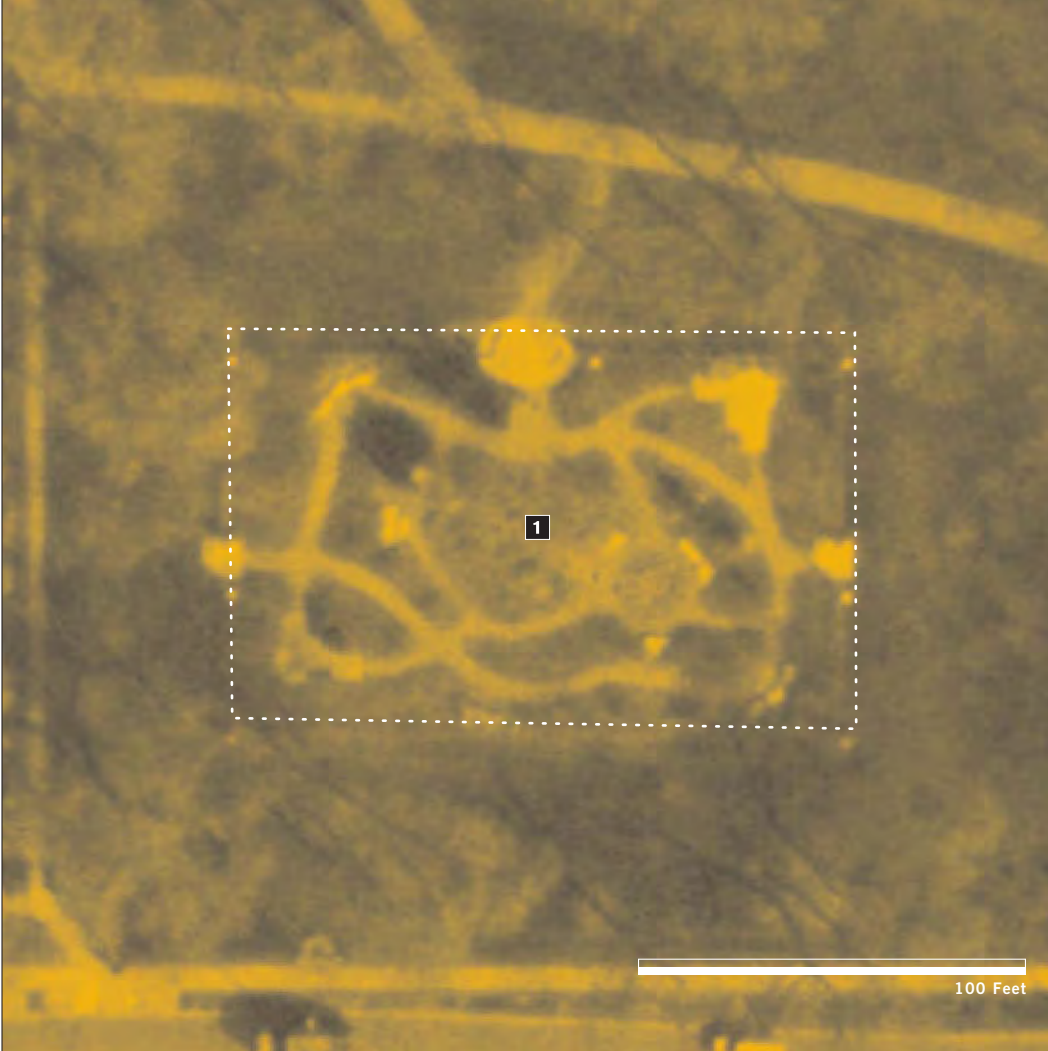
many species. For example, wild cherry leaves provide for caterpillars, and the summer fruit provides food for birds.

- 1** Bessemer Park Nature and Wildlife Garden (8930 S Muskegon Ave)
- 2** Horner Park Nature and Wildlife Garden (2741 W Montrose Ave)
- 3** Ogden Park Portage Park Nature and Wildlife Garden (6500 S Racine Ave)
- 4** Portage Park Nature and Wildlife Garden (4100 N Long Ave)
- 5** Prospect Gardens Park Nature and Wildlife Garden (10940 S Prospect Ave)
- 6** Rutherford Sayre Park Nature and Wildlife Garden (6871 W Belden Ave)

NATURE GARDENS



Nature Gardens



ADDRESS Multiple
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 1.4

HABITATS
1 2 3 4
5 6 Naturalistic Planting

DIRECTIONS See parks addresses listed above.



100 Feet

Blue flag irises, swamp milkweed, blazing stars, rattlesnake master, New England aster and many other native flowers bloom at Van Vlissingen Prairie, also known as the Marian R. Byrnes Natural Area. This is one of the few prairies **1** within the city that is not a complete start-from-scratch restoration; some of the prairie matrix was already in place when the City of Chicago acquired the land from the Beltway Railroad corporation in 2002.

Despite the name, part of Van Vlissingen Prairie is wooded **3**, and much of it is wet. The prairie's wetter portions provide significant habitat for birds, including American bitterns and Wilson's phalaropes during migration.

In some sections of Van Vlissingen, the soil is scraped away or covered with fill. Two to three inches under the soil surface is a bluish-colored sand. (It's not toxic, but it is fill material.) Thin soil and dry conditions have stunted the growth of

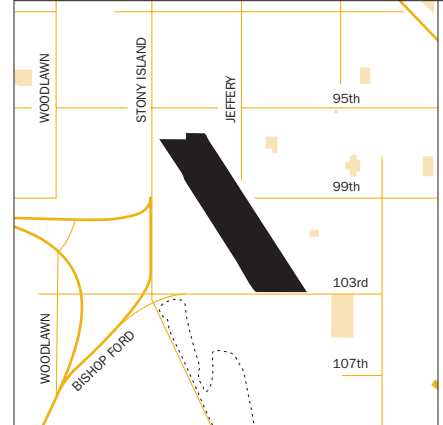
prairie plants in these areas, and it's not unusual to see liatris and switchgrass blooming on stalks only one to two-feet high.

Because the prairie has gone for years without prescribed burns, many trees and shrubs are present. *Phragmites* has taken over some sections of the prairie. Over the coming years, ecological restoration work is expected to greatly improve the quality of this site. The area with the highest quality plants was imported from another site; a prairie that was about to be destroyed in Bedford Park was dug up with its root system and soil microorganisms kept as intact as possible, and was re-established at Van Vlissingen.

Van Vlissingen is part of the Calumet Open Space Reserve.

VAN VLISSINGEN PRAIRIE

Site No 82



9900 SOUTH / 1900 EAST



Van Vlissingen Prairie

N: 82



ADDRESS 9900 S Van Vlissingen Rd
 OWNER City of Chicago
 ACREAGE 133.23

HABITATS
1 2 Wetland
3 Forest / Woodland

DIRECTIONS From 95th Street, go south on Jeffrey Avenue, then turn right on 97th Street. Park near the alley behind Van Vlissingen Road and enter at the sign.

Van Vlissingen Prairie

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

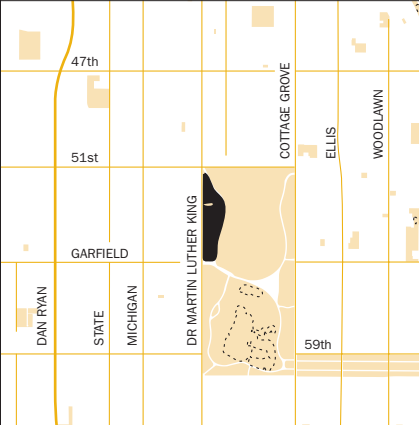
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WASHINGTON PARK—
ARBORETUM

An arboretum is a place where different kinds of trees and shrubs are grown for exhibition. The Morton Arboretum from Lisle, Illinois, is collaborating with the Chicago Park District to develop arboretums in select parks.

Though the emphasis is on trees, an arboretum also presents opportunities for the introduction of native shrubs and other types of landscaping that are in keeping with the role of an educational tree collection.

Washington Park has ancient bur oaks, most of which were planted in the early 1870s following a design by Federick Law Olmsted. The site also features large lindens, hickories and sycamores. At one time, the park provided a tree nursery for the entire South Park District. The resulting large collection of trees in the area motivated the decision to deem this portion of Washington Park an arboretum.



Washington Park—
Arboretum



ADDRESS 5500 S Ellsworth
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 20.58

HABITATS
1 Forest / Woodland

DIRECTIONS Enter the arboretum from either the Dr. Martin Luther King Drive side or the Ellsworth Drive Side; the greatest concentration of specimen trees is in the area around 53rd Street.



Water occupies a good portion of the space in the southern section of Washington Park. Bridges stretch across small inlets of the irregularly-shaped lagoon **1** to provide a continuous walking trail around the perimeter of the water. Granite boulders placed near bridges simulate "glacial erratics," stones left in arbitrary places when glaciers retreated 10,000 years ago.

Sections of the lagoon and nearby casting pond **6** have undergone restoration. Aquatic and wetland plants have been installed along the shoreline. Bynam Island **2 3** occupies the center of the lagoon. Cattails, asters and sumac are found along the edges of the island.

Wood ducks swim in the lagoons at Washington Park. Another novelty is the presence of the brilliant green monk parakeets that have set up nests along Cottage Grove Avenue; they are seen

frequently throughout Washington Park and the Hyde Park neighborhood. The parrots are originally from South America, but have established a wild population here.

The habitat significance of Washington Park is increased by the fact that it is connected to Jackson Park (sites 41, p. 70; and 63, p. 69) by the Midway Plaisance, a wide green boulevard.

In 1871, Washington Park was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, the same landscape architects who designed Central Park in New York City, Central Park in New York City, and many other significant North American landscapes in the latter part of the 19th century.

WASHINGTON PARK—
LAGOON AND CASTING POND

Site No. 84

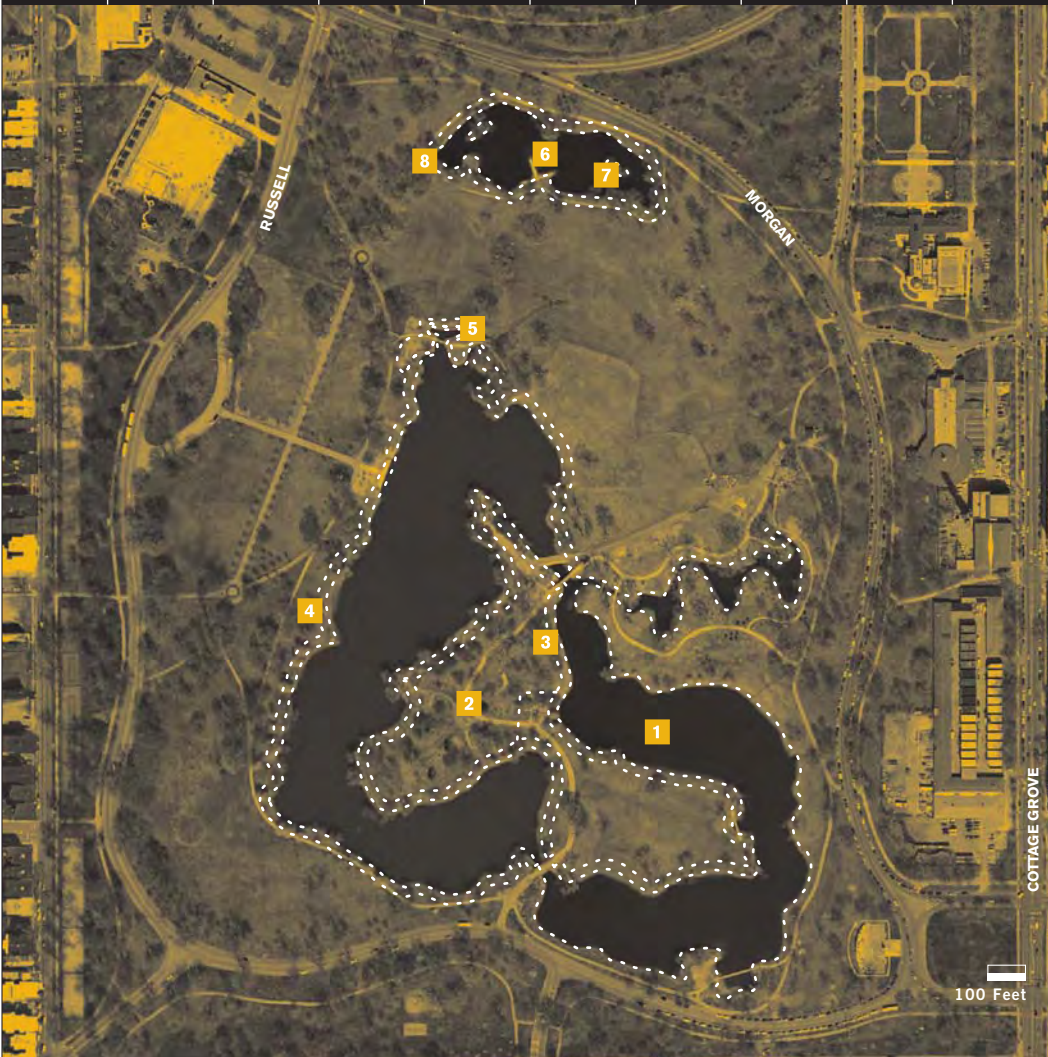


5500 SOUTH / 600 EAST



**Washington Park—
Lagoon and Casting Pond**

N: 84



ADDRESS 5531 S King Drive
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 32.76

HABITATS
1 6 Aquatic
2 Savanna
3 4 7 8 Riparian/Water Edge
5 Prairie/Grassland

DIRECTIONS Park on any side of the park along the streets or interior road; the east side is generally taken up with parked cars from University of Chicago. The lagoon is south of 55th (Garfield Boulevard) between Dr. Martin Luther King Drive and Cottage Grove.

Washington Park—Lagoon and Casting Pond

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

WEBSTER WILDLIFE SITE

A lot with crumbling pavement surrounded by volunteer trees and shrubs is located on the west shore of the river just south of Webster Avenue. This land could be restored to natural habitat. Beavers have taken their toll on many of the trees on this site.

The site is significant for its presence on a portion of the river that is heavily industrialized and otherwise developed. The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District aeration station is located just north of the site.



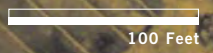
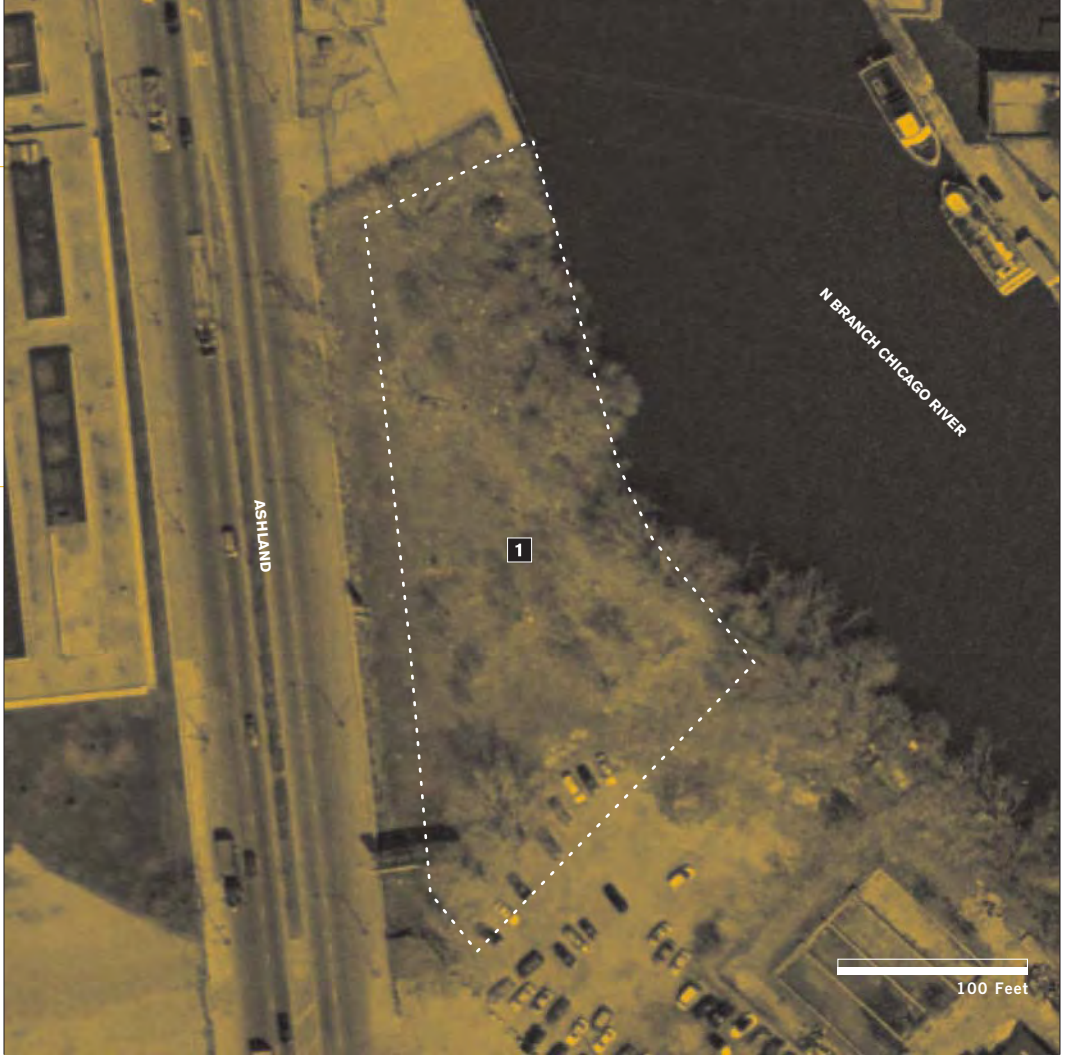
Webster Wildlife Site



ADDRESS 2200 N Ashland
OWNER Private
ACREAGE 1.12

HABITATS
1 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS
Walk south along Ashland from the corner of Webster; land is on the left hand (east) side of the street.

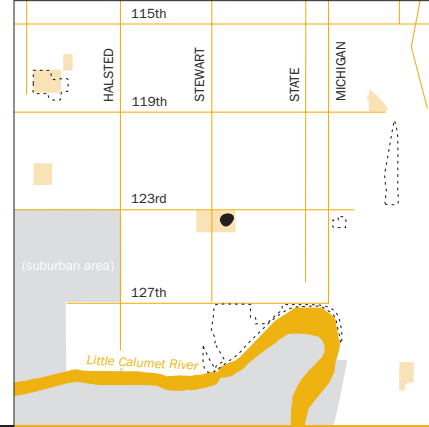


At West Pullman Park, just east of the field house, a rare and impressive grove of over 60 oaks and hickories presides over the hilltop.

The slight rise in elevation of the landscape is the result of this being the site of an ancient river bluff remnant. White, red and black oaks are present. The Chicago Park District restored the understory in 2002 in an attempt to establish plants that once would have grown in such an open oak grove. Bottlebrush grass, woodland sedge and a variety of wildflowers have taken hold.

WEST PULLMAN PARK
SAVANNA

Site No 86



12300 SOUTH / 400 WEST



**West Pullman Park
Savanna**

N: 86



ADDRESS 401 W 123rd St
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 1.68

HABITATS
1 Savanna

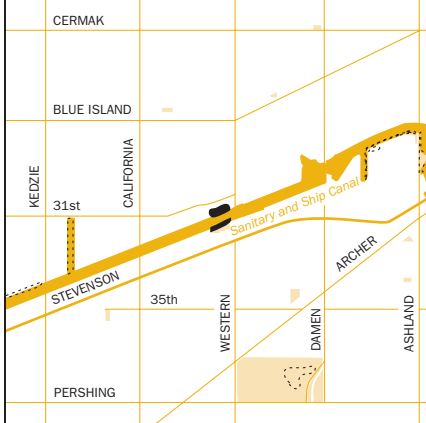
West Pullman Park Savanna

DIRECTIONS The natural area is just west of Princeton Street, between 123rd and 124th. If you're driving the easiest place to access the natural area is from 124th Street, where there is parking on the south side of the street.

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

The southern bank **1** is leased by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to the Chicago Park District for the purposes of establishing a boat launch and to restore habitat. The bank directly north of the canal **2** is owned by the City of Chicago as part of the Boulevards system.

The vegetation on both sides of the Canal has a wild, overgrown quality with large tree canopy, an uncommon feature along the Sanitary & Ship Canal.



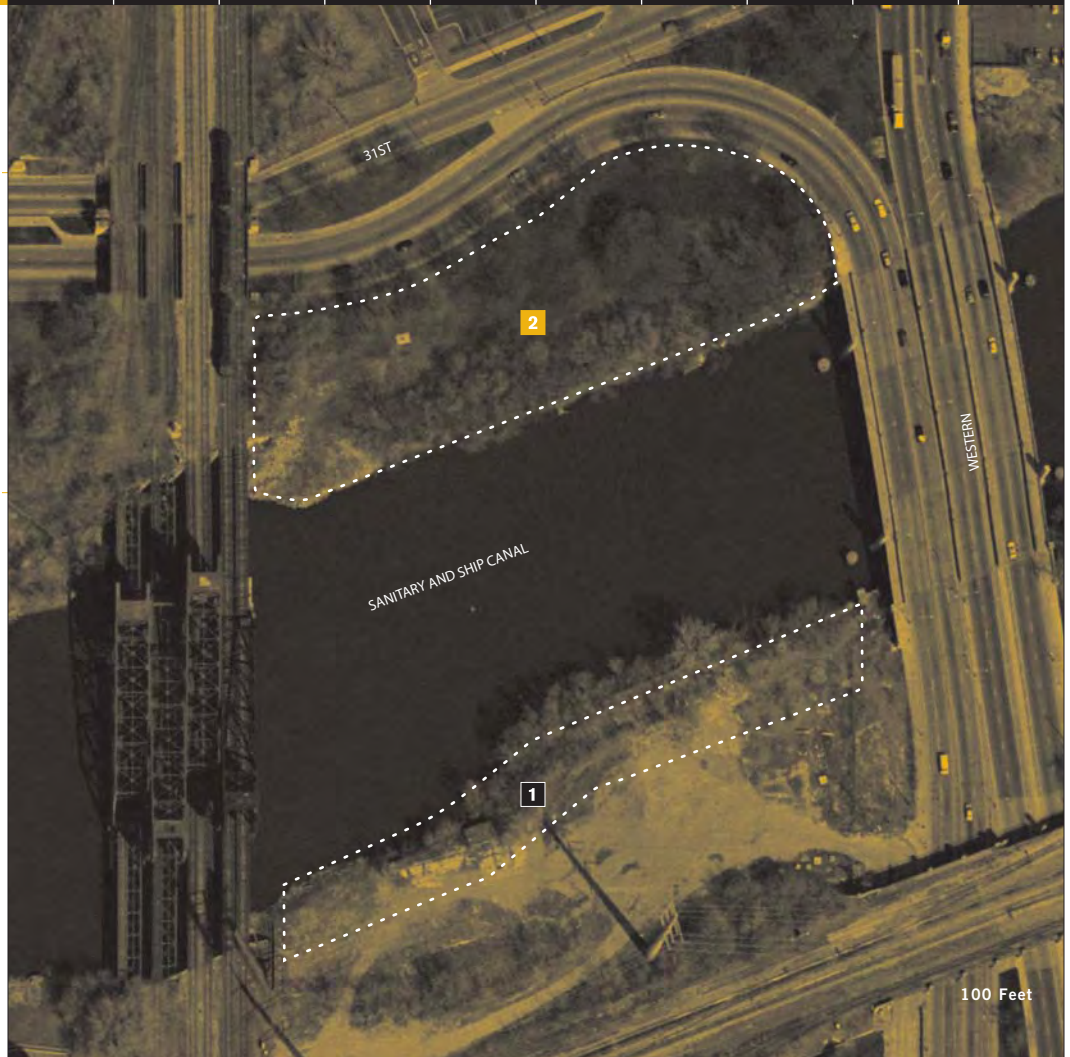
Western Avenue Riveredge



ADDRESS 3100 S Western Ave
OWNER Chicago Park District, City of Chicago
ACREAGE 2.80

HABITATS **1 2** Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS For the south bank: when traveling north on Western Avenue, before you rise to cross the bridge, take an small road on the west side that says "no outlet." Follow it north to a fenced lot that says "contact the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District police for access." Public access is restricted until improvements are completed. The north bank is not accessible.



When taken together with its neighbor to the immediate north, Eggers Woods (site 23, p. 54), William Powers Conservation Area is one of the city's richest and largest natural areas. The land surrounding Wolf Lake holds endangered sedges and orchids and an abundance of wetland habitat.

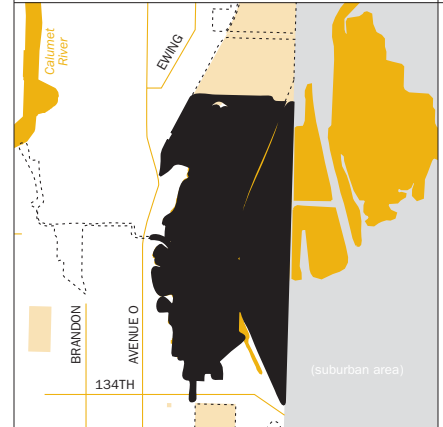
The area is best visited by parking around the middle of the park and hovering near the edges where the land meets the lake. It's possible to launch a boat. From a canoe, visitors fish for some of the lake's twenty-six different species. A boat also provides a good vantage point to go in close to shore to examine the terrestrial plant and animal life. This is the only place within the city of Chicago where hunting of waterfowl is allowed.

The marshes and uplands located at the southern end of Wolf Lake are privately owned — 13 14 15. Although not of very high ecological quality, it is important to protect this area. It would create a continuous greenway between Eggers Woods and Powderhorn Lake and Marsh complex (site 64, p. 104), making this a four-mile long stretch of protected land north to south.

This site is part of the Calumet Open Space Reserve.

WILLIAM POWERS
CONSERVATION AREA

Site No 88

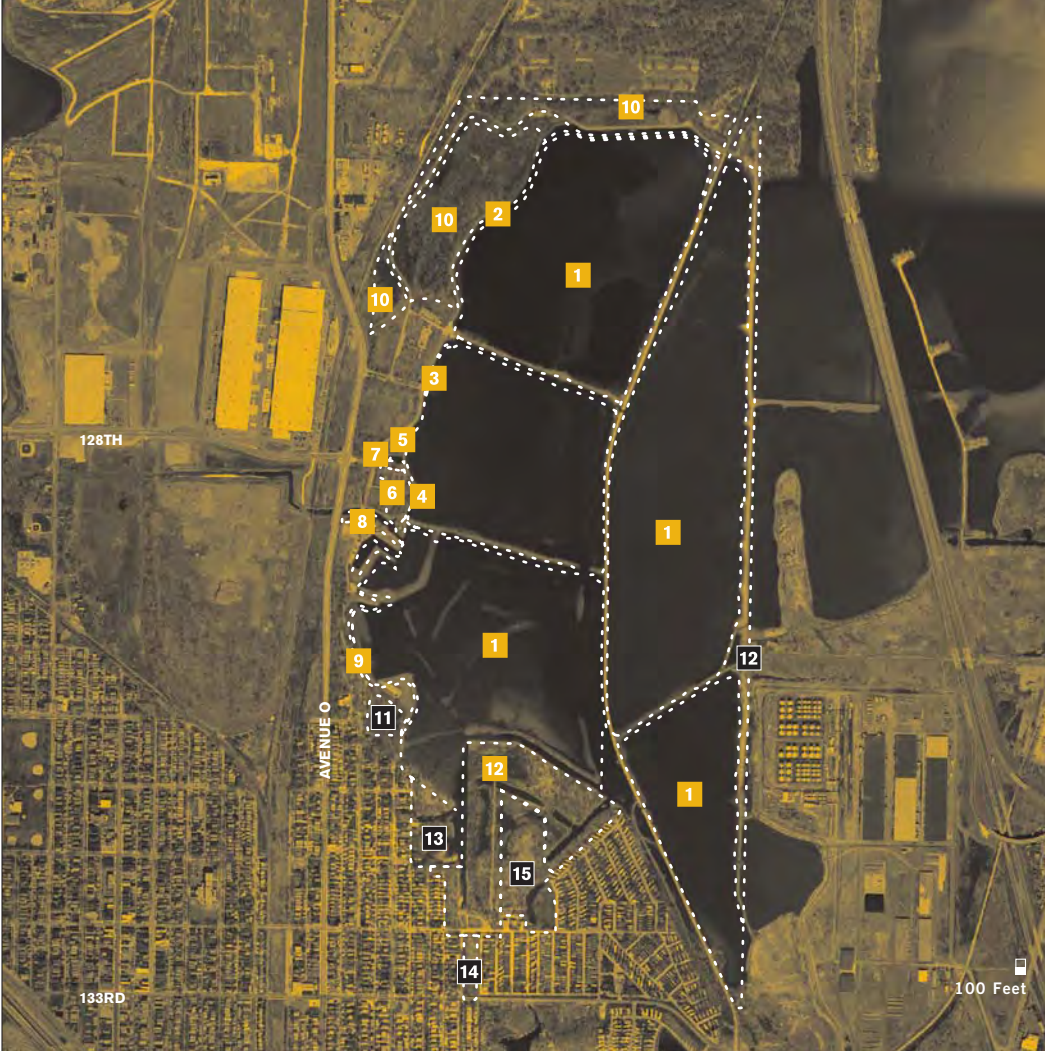


12600 SOUTH / 3800 EAST



**William Powers
Conservation Area**

N: 88



ADDRESS 12600 S Avenue O
OWNER Illinois Dept of Natural Resources, Private
ACREAGE 580.10

HABITATS
 1 8 Aquatic
 2 3 4 9 Potential Habitat
 12 13 14 15
 5 6 Prairie / Grassland
 7 Wetland
 10 11 Forest / Woodland

DIRECTIONS For Wolf Lake, access is off Avenue O, at 126th Street. The expansion areas are private land, but can be viewed from 134th Street.

William Powers Conservation Area

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

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WINNEMAC PARK PRAIRIE

Winnemac Park sits adjacent to two Chicago public schools, Amundsen High and Chappell Elementary. The natural area is an integral part of the educational experience of students at the schools. Volunteers contribute to the restoration of the site by pulling invasive weeds, planting native species and collecting seeds.

Winnemac Park offers quiet nature walks amidst tall prairie grasses. The prairie is surrounded by a split-rail fence. Just off of the parking lot on Damen, the prairie features a woodchip trail through bright yellow black-eyed susans, pale blue asters, and other prairie plants. Butterflies, birds, and squirrels use the park.



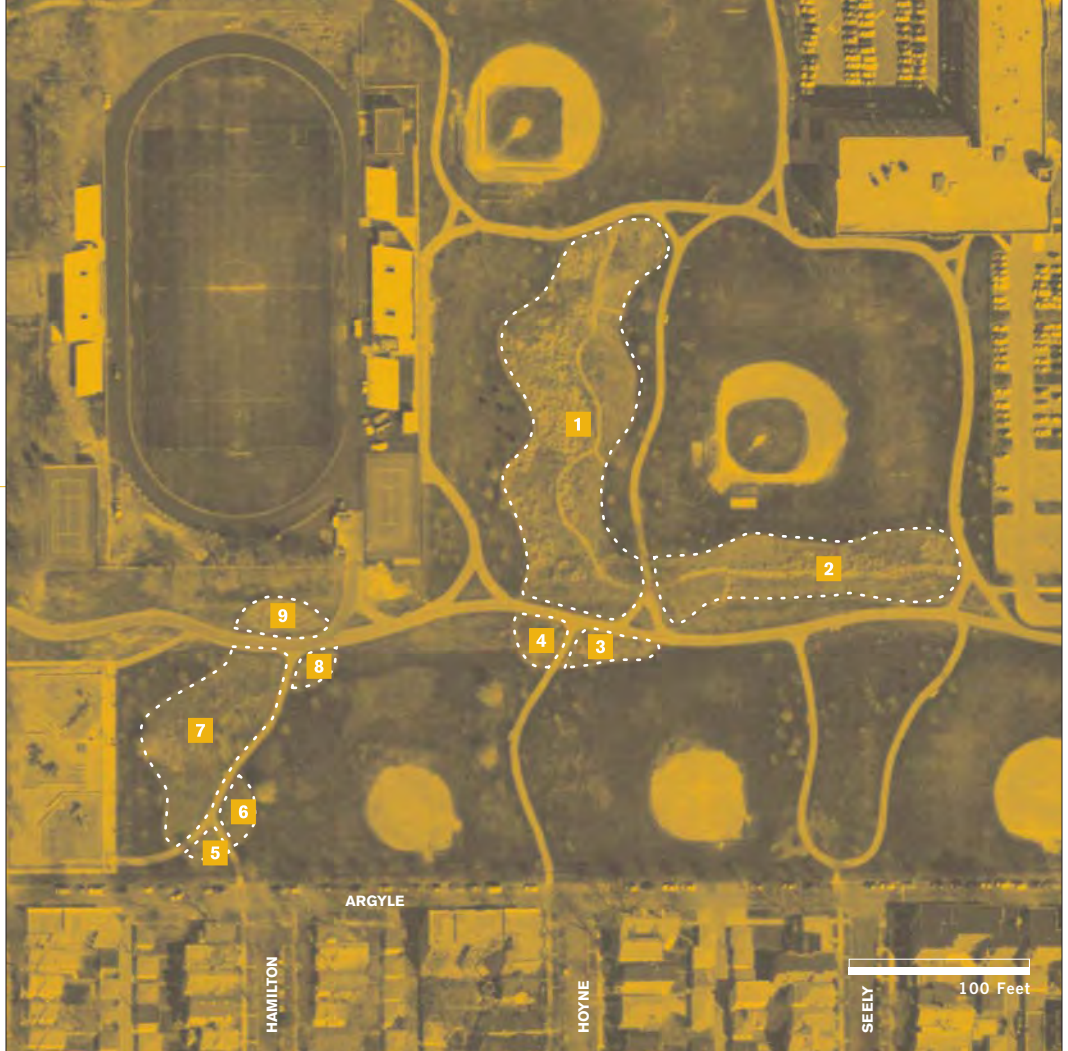
Winnemac Park Prairie



ADDRESS 5100 N Leavitt Ave
 OWNER Chicago Park District
 ACREAGE 2.42

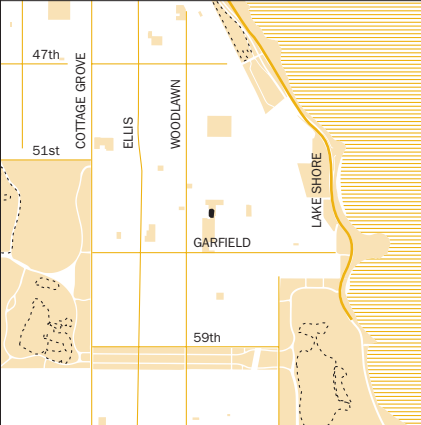
HABITATS
 1 2 3 4
 5 6 7 8
 9
 Prairie / Grassland

DIRECTIONS The park is south of Amundsen High School and Chappell Elementary School; there is a parking lot off of Damen Avenue.



NICHOLS PARK WILDFLOWER MEADOW

A wide variety of plants occupy a small area on the west side of Nichols Park. Planted and maintained with help from local volunteers, the wildflower meadow has culver's root, obedient plant, swamp milkweed, butterfly weed, rattlesnake master, and many other native forbs. The plants that favor wide open prairie environments are located toward the eastern edge, while savanna plants like bottlebrush grass are found on the shadier western edge.



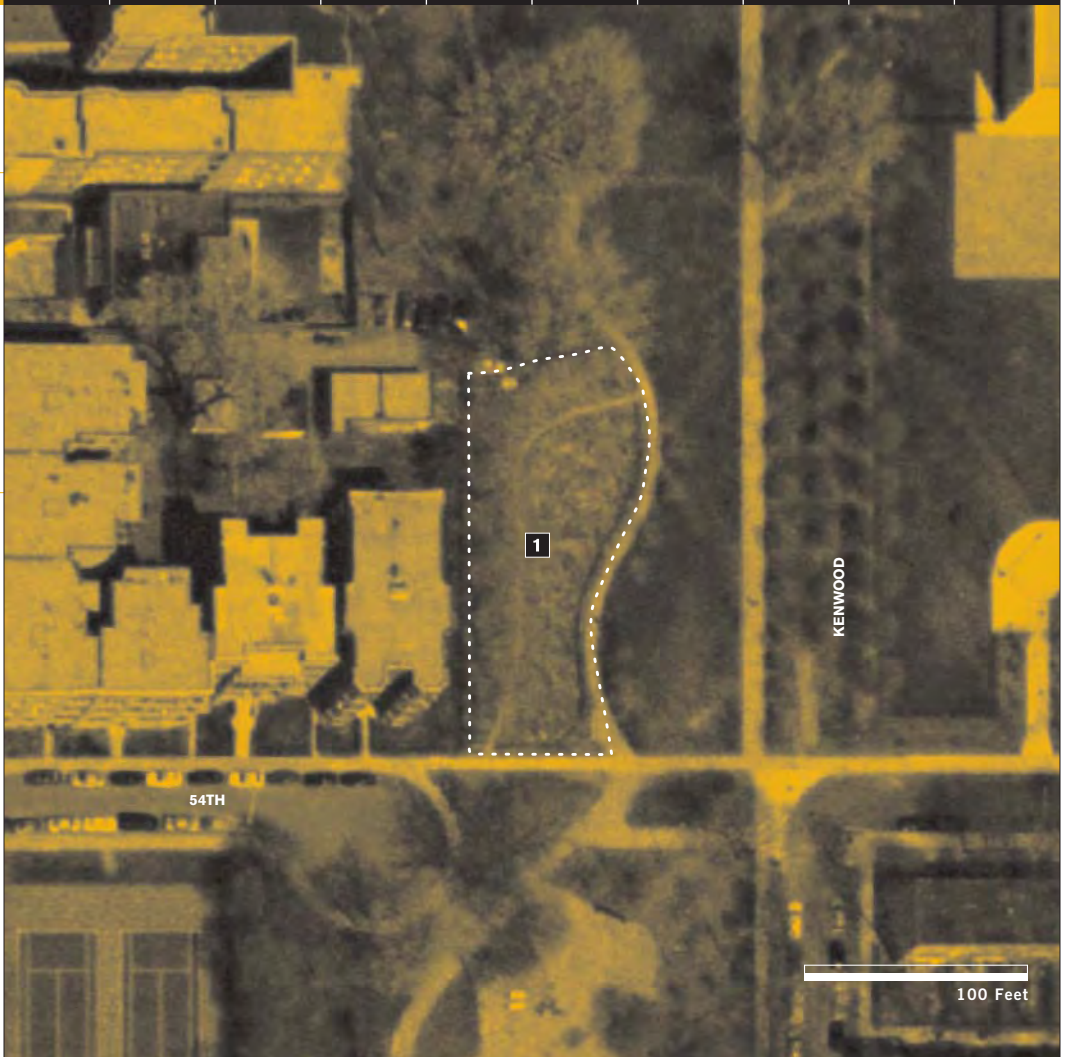
Nichols Park Wildflower Meadow



ADDRESS 1300 E 55th St
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 0.28

HABITATS
1 Prairie / Grassland

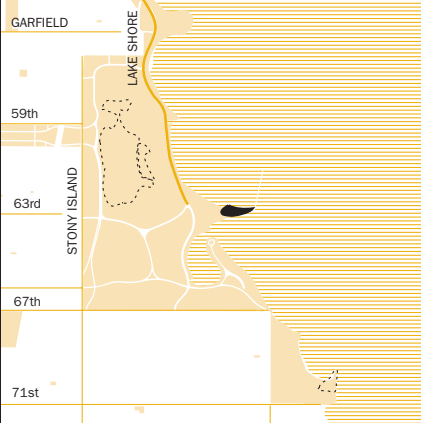
DIRECTIONS
Walk north from 53rd Street, between Kimbark and Kenwood streets. Meadow is on the right (west) side of the park.



JACKSON PARK—63RD STREET

The 63rd Street Beach is almost a quarter-mile long. The areas that see the greatest use are closest to the restored beach house, which has formal gardens in the courtyards and an interactive splash fountain. But at the east end of the beach closest to the pier is a triangular area of sand that was seldom used **1**. When left ungroomed, natural beach vegetation began to re-colonize the area. The prevalence of cocklebur was likely a further deterrent to sunbathers, and so gradually the area's natural character increased.

As funding becomes available, future restoration plans include planting additional native dune species to enhance the diversity of the site.



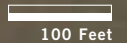
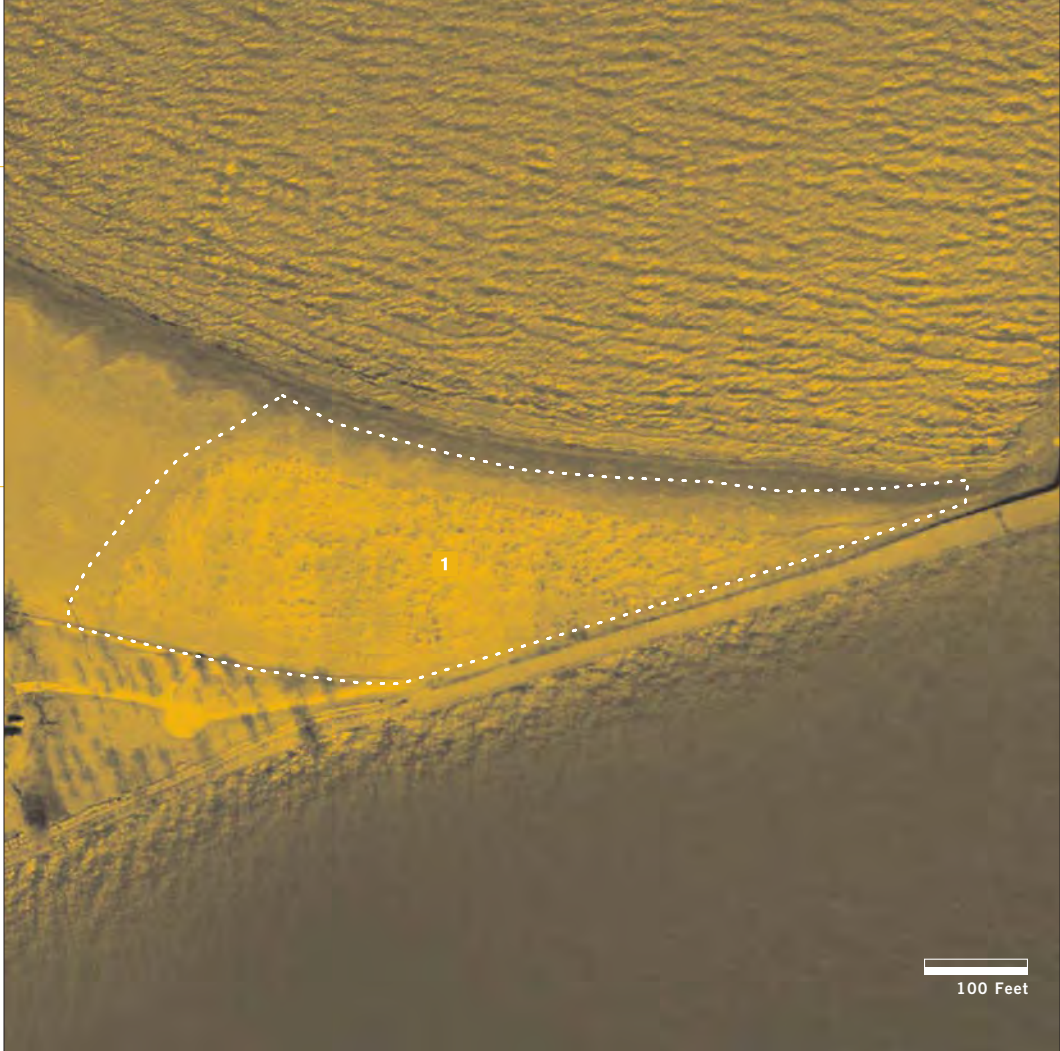
Jackson Park—63rd Street



ADDRESS 2000 E Hayes Dr
 OWNER Chicago Park District
 ACREAGE 3.01

HABITATS
1 Dune

DIRECTIONS Exit Lake Shore Drive at Hayes Drive (63rd St.) and park into the South Shore Cultural Center lot.



This small park is located amidst the Edgebrook Forest Preserve (site 35, p. 67) in the Old Edgebrook community. Much of the surrounding terrain is part of the Edgebrook golf course. The Park-of-Trees was once a home site, one of a number of large, old homes that pre-date the establishment of the forest preserve. When the homeowner, Edward M. Quinn passed away, he stipulated that he wanted the buildings torn down and to have the site made into a park in honor of his wife.

White and red oaks stand majestically over a remnant woodland understory. Trillium, spring beauties and trout lilies bloom here in the spring.

Volunteers contribute to the restoration of the site by planting native species and pulling invasive weeds.

MARY BERKEMEIER QUINN
PARK-OF-TREES

Site No 92



6200 NORTH / 5600 WEST



**Mary Berkemeier Quinn
Park-of-Trees**

No 92

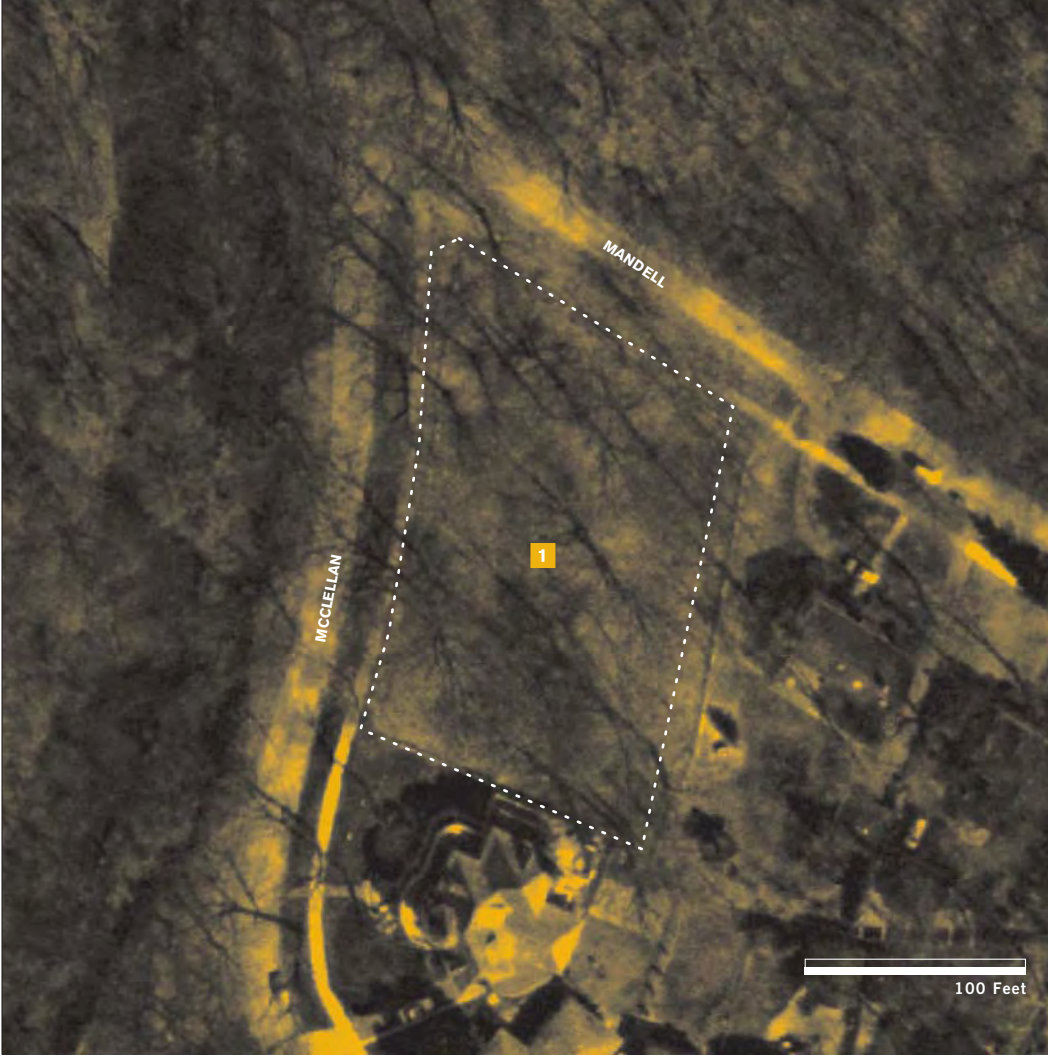
ADDRESS 6239 N McClellan Ave
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 0.67

HABITATS
1 Savanna

DIRECTIONS Off of Central Avenue, turn west on Louise Street; go as far as possible before the road starts to loop back around, and find the park at the point farthest west, on the corner.

Mary Berkemeier Quinn Park-of-Trees

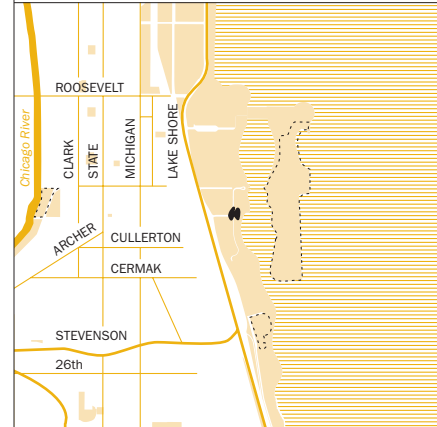
Chicago Habitat Directory 2005



In 2001, a multi-million dollar renovation of Soldier Field and the surrounding parking lots and parklands was begun. This included the creation of approximately 17 acres of green space and several other recreational amenities, including a sledding hill. The side slopes of the sledding hill were planted with native prairie plants to reduce erosion, provide bird and wildlife habitat, and reduce the amount of maintenance required.

BURNHAM PARK—
SOLDIER FIELD SLED HILL PRAIRIE

Site No 93

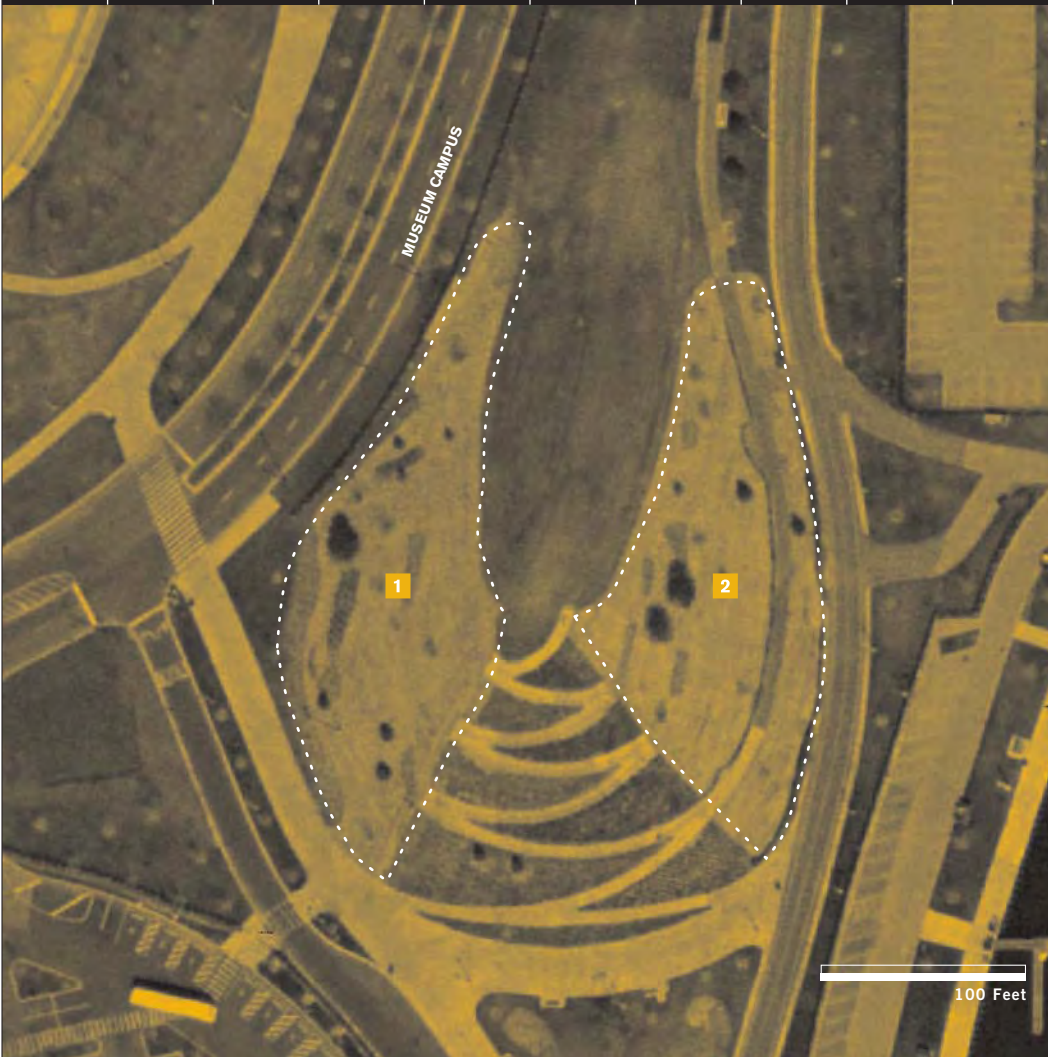


1800 SOUTH / 400 EAST



**Burnham Park—
Soldier Field Sled Hill Prairie**

N: 93



ADDRESS 1801 S Museum
Campus Dr
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 0.94

HABITATS
1 2 Prairie/Grassland

DIRECTIONS Exit Lake Shore Drive at 18th Street and head east towards Monroe Harbor. Pay for parking is available on both sides of the road at Waldron Parking Deck and Soldier Field South Parking Lot. Like all lakefront sites, this is a good one to access by bike.

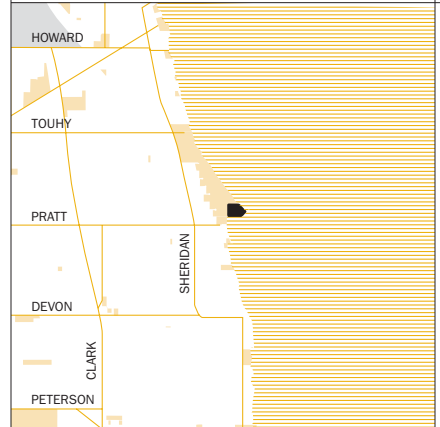
Burnham Park—Soldier Field Sled Hill Prairie

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

The dune habitat at the south end of Loyola beach is in the very early stages of dune succession. Dune vegetation spontaneously began growing when this area of the beach was no longer groomed. Dune protection fence was installed in 2004 to minimize disturbance. As funding is available, future restoration plans include controlling invasive species and planting additional native dune plants to enhance the diversity of the site.

LOYOLA DUNE

Site No 94

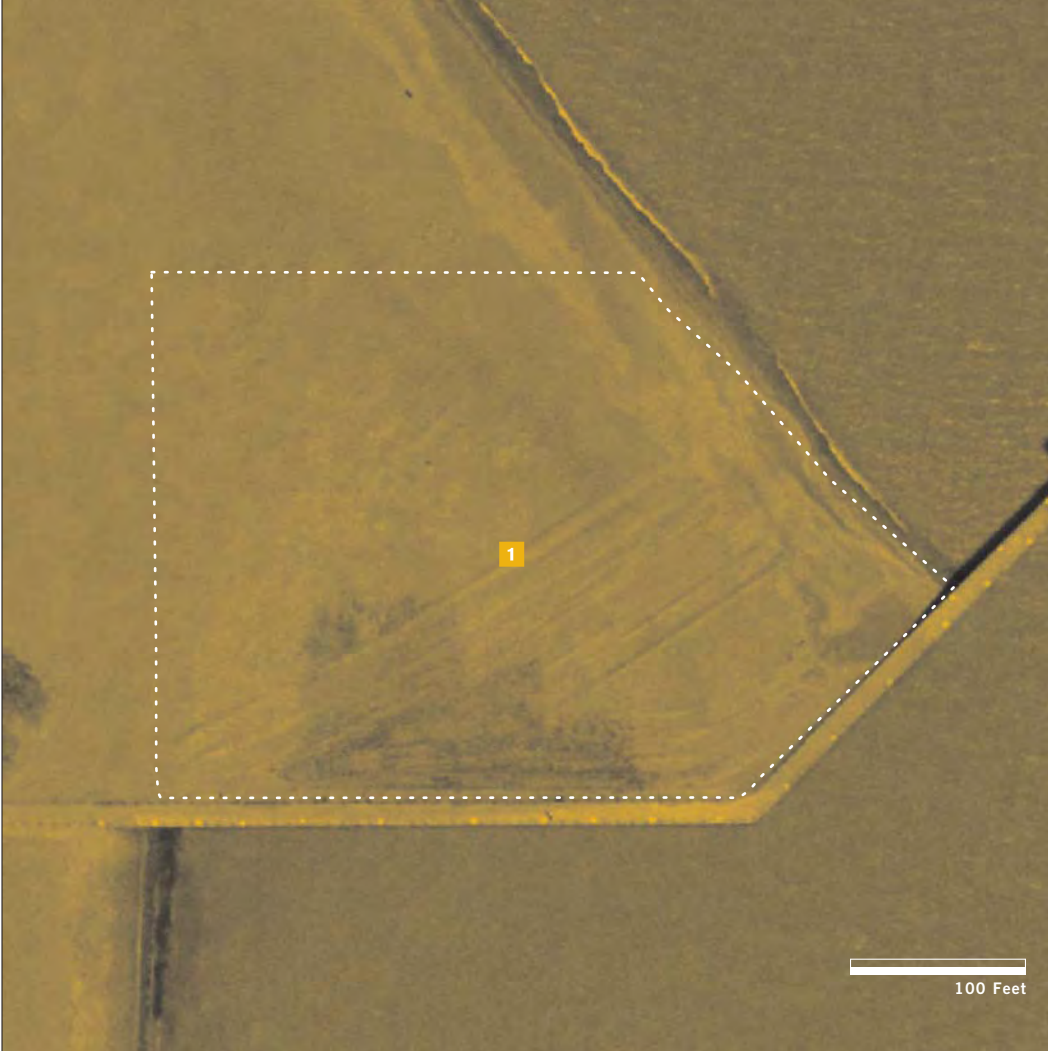


6900 NORTH / 1000 WEST



Loyola Dune

N: 94



ADDRESS 1000 W Farwell Ave
 OWNER Chicago Park District
 ACREAGE 2.75

HABITATS
1 Dune

DIRECTIONS
 When traveling north on Sheridan road, turn right (east) on Farwell; park along the street. From the street-end, follow path to the right to the dune habitat.

Loyola Dune

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

RIVER'S EDGE
CONSERVATION AREA

Across from Gompers Park (site 29, pp. 56–57), on the northeast side of the North Branch of the Chicago River, lies River's Edge at Sauganash, a residential development. A conservation easement from the developer to the Chicago Park District is in place that provides for the enhancement of natural habitat along the river. A tall fence and thick woods with a mixture of native and non-native trees currently separate visitors from the water. At the top of the bank, on the accessible side of the fence, there is a wide swath of mowed grass that could be designed and planted with native flowers, grasses and shrubs.

To the west of the Conservation Area is the forest preserve district LaBagh Woods (site 7, p. 77).



River's Edge
Conservation Area



ADDRESS 4300 W Foster Ave
OWNER Private
ACREAGE 4.53

HABITATS
1 Riparian / Water Edge
2 Forest / Woodland

DIRECTIONS Drive one block west on Foster Avenue from the intersection of Foster and Pulaski. Turn right (north) on Riverside Terrace. Drive past St. Luke Cemetery and park along the street.



At the far east end of Montrose Beach is a native dune ecosystem. The native plants began appearing in the late 1990s, and in response, the Chicago Park District stopped grooming this area. Over the years, two ridges have formed parallel to the shore, separated by swales populated by native wetland species. Further up the beach, a larger dune is developing, and it continues to grow each year.

In 2001, the Chicago Park District installed a fence to protect the dune; now vehicles are prohibited, and the area is closed to recreation. (It remains open for nature observation.)

Beginning in 2001, high quality native dune species were planted in the dune habitat, to increase diversity and improve bird and wildlife habitat. These complement the existing rare dune plants that colonized the area naturally.

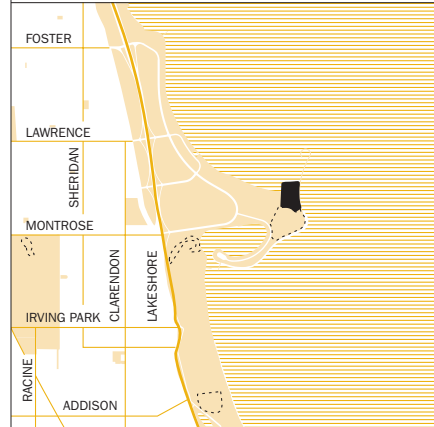
Additional management includes control of invasive species like common reed, cottonwood, sandbar willow, and cocklebur.

Montrose Beach Dunes provides valuable habitat for migrating shorebirds. Killdeer and spotted sandpipers nest here. In early fall, thousands of purple martins flock here and stay for a while before heading south. (There are also purple martin houses to the west by the harbor.) You can see them flying high above of the park and harbor in the evenings. In the winter, snowy owls are likely to spend time here. From the point itself or when walking out on the artificial pier that extends even farther out into the lake, it's possible to observe water birds. In the winter, look for common goldeneye and oldsquaw floating next to sheets of ice.

Volunteers have been active from the beginning in monitoring rare plants and birds; volunteers also remove invasive weeds and trash.

In 2005, Montrose Beach Dunes was added to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' statewide list of high-quality natural areas, called the INAI (Illinois Natural Areas Inventory).

LINCOLN PARK—
MONTROSE BEACH DUNES

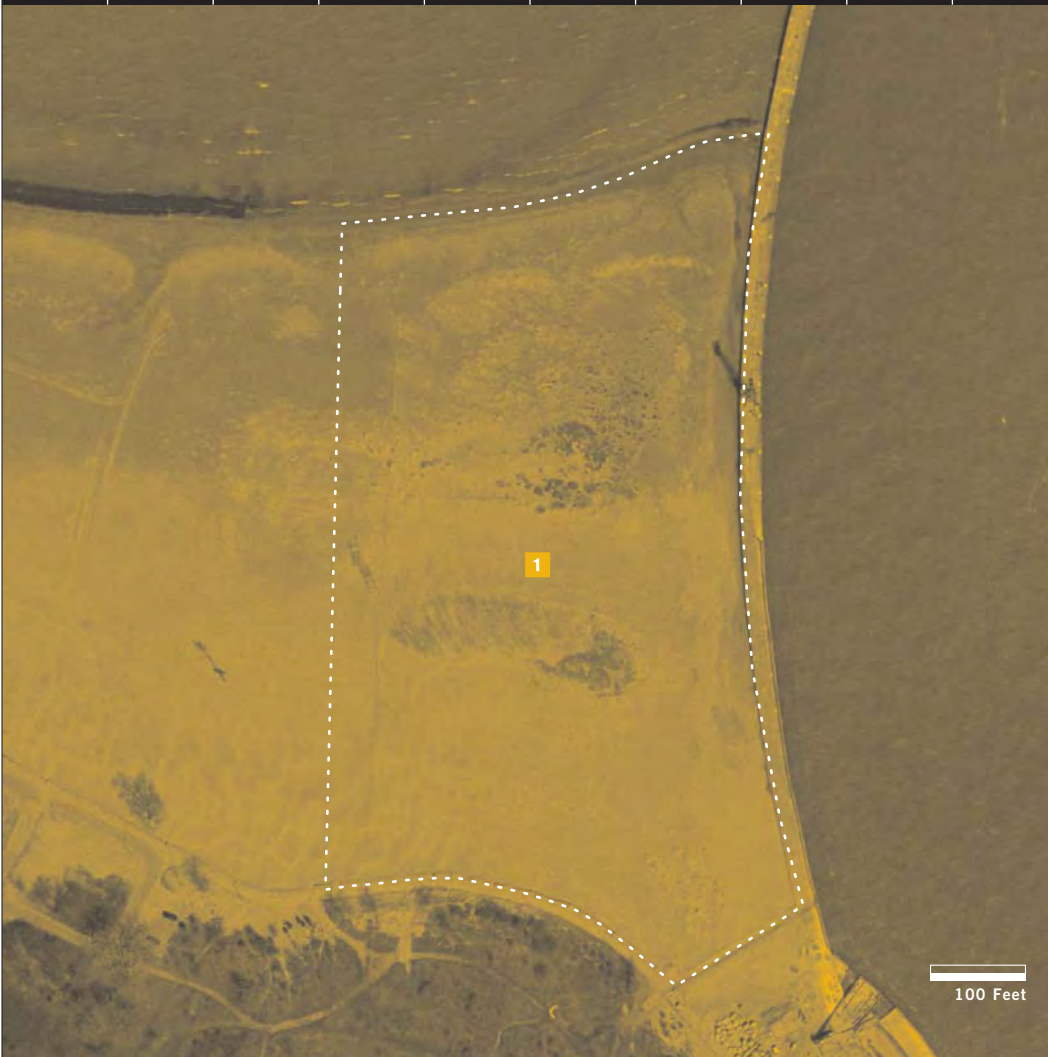


**Lincoln Park—
Montrose Beach Dunes**

ADDRESS 4400 N Simonds Ave
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 8.48

HABITATS
1 Dune

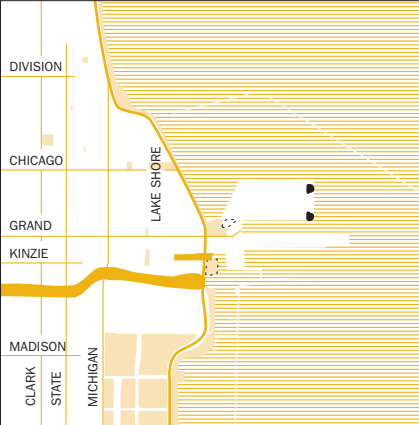
DIRECTIONS Exit Lake Shore Drive at Montrose Avenue and head east. Follow the road to the point where it starts to curve to the right (south). Park along there, and walk to the beach.



JARDINE BIRD SANCTUARY

Completed in 2001, the bird sanctuary located east of the Jardine Water Purification Plant provides a refuge for the millions of migrating birds that pass through Chicago in the spring and the fall on their long-distance journeys.

The sanctuary was developed from unmanaged wooded areas that were cleared of overgrowth and non-native plant species. It currently consists of two 0.5-acre woodland savannas with various native shrubs that provide a food source and an isolated resting place.



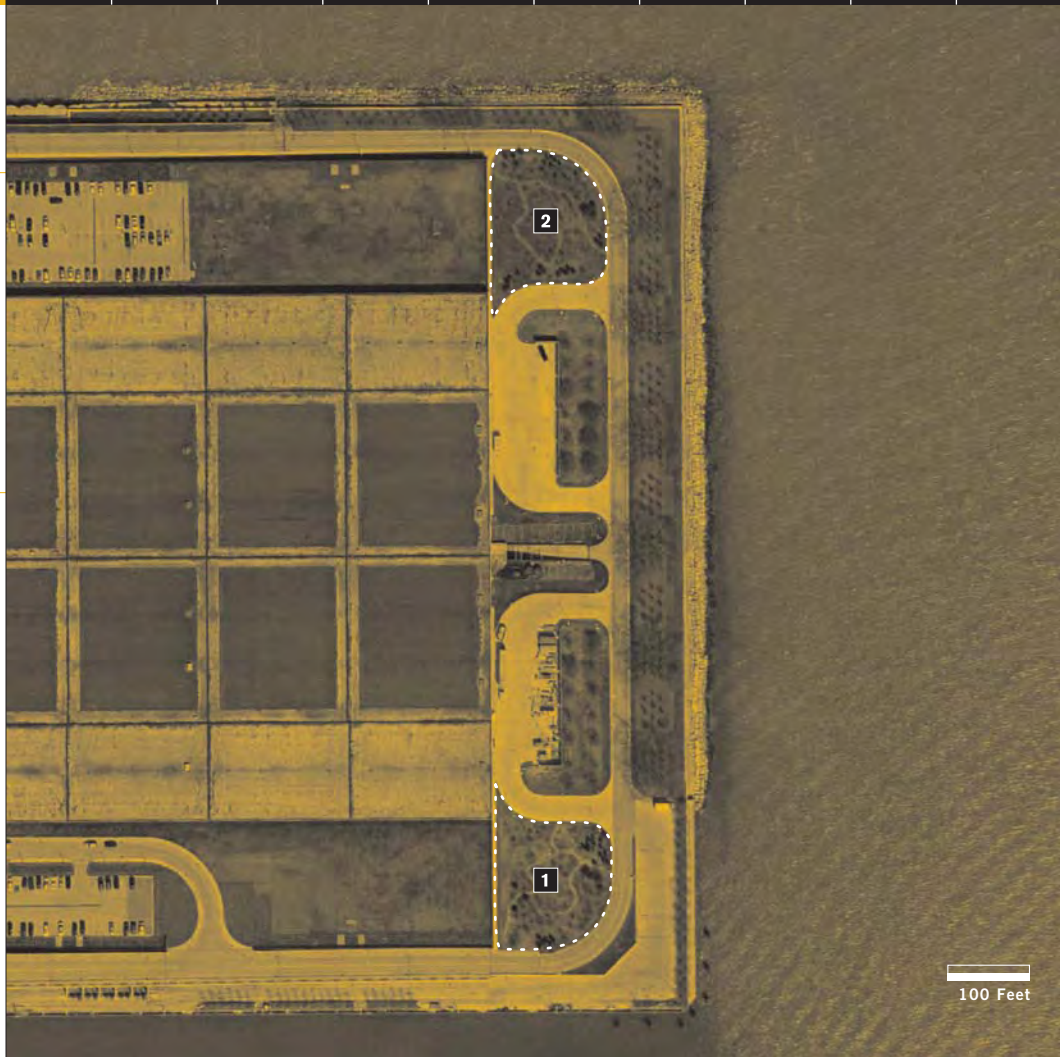
Jardine Bird Sanctuary



ADDRESS 1000 E Ohio Ave
OWNER City of Chicago
ACREAGE 0.99

HABITATS
1 2 Savanna

DIRECTIONS This site is not open to the public.



BUNKER HILL PRAIRIE

Bunker Hill Prairie consists of a large open area amidst a mosaic of oak savanna, oak woodland, mixed hardwood forest and flatwoods (Edgebrook Flatwoods Forest Preserve, p. 53). The Forest Preserve District plans to manage Bunker Hill Prairie as a savanna community. The complex of high quality natural areas within the overall preserve and its place in a long, wide greenway of protected land along the North Branch of the Chicago River makes this a rewarding natural area to visit.

Bunker Hill Prairie is a rare opportunity to see not a prairie recreated from nothing, but a real, 10,000-year old ecosystem within the city limits. The plants range from the sun-loving varieties (approximately 55 percent) to the semi-shade loving (20 percent) to those tolerant of shade (25 percent.) A group of volunteers called the North Branch Restoration Project discovered the prairie opening and first recognized its significance in the late 1970s. Since then, the group has been helping the Forest Preserve District of Cook County manage the area through controlled burns, brush cutting and other means.

In spring evenings, woodcocks take flight for mating rituals in the open spaces of Bunker Hill Prairie. Hepatica and bloodroot bloom in the surrounding oak groves. A state-endangered species, the mountain blue-eyed grass blooms a few weeks later in the savanna.

The site has been modified over time through land usage—clearing, campsites, being mowed for a playfield, and more recently through the introduction of species during restoration—and through fluctuations of the Chicago River.

In mid-summer, northern dropseed grass and thousands of plants of mountain mint bring their distinctive scents to the air along the trails of the open prairie portion. Purple maniac wasps and golden digger wasps are among the unusual insects to be found. (Jane Balaban, *Chicago Wilderness Magazine*, Spring 2001.)



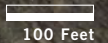
Bunker Hill Prairie



ADDRESS 6800 Caldwell Ave
OWNER Forest Preserve District of Cook County
ACREAGE 6.56

HABITATS
1 Prairie / Grassland

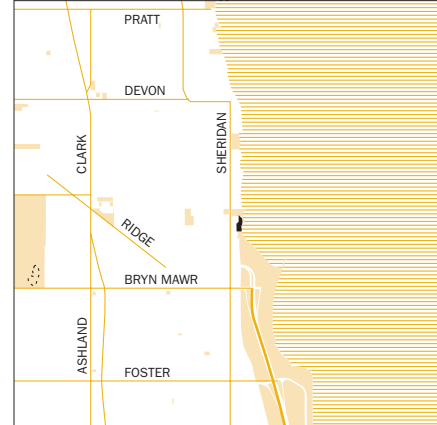
DIRECTIONS Exit I-94 onto Caldwell Avenue and go north-west for about one mile. Turn left at the red Cook County Forest Preserve District sign that says "Billy Caldwell." Park on the left side of the parking lot, and walk straight onto the bike trail. Prairie is along the left-hand side.



On the west end of the beach is a naturally occurring dune habitat. Beach grooming and mowing were stopped in 2000 in the area not being used for active recreation, allowing native dune plants to continue to grow. Volunteers have been active in monitoring rare plants and planting additional native dune species.

LINCOLN PARK—
KATHY OSTERMAN BEACH DUNE

Site No 99



4400 NORTH / 300 WEST



**Lincoln Park—
Kathy Osterman Beach Dune**

N: 99



ADDRESS 5815 N Sheridan Ave
OWNER Chicago Park District and Private
ACREAGE 0.39

HABITATS
1 2 Dune

DIRECTIONS The best way to access the beach is through the Lakefront Bike Trail. Car parking is available at Foster Avenue Beach located 0.5 miles south.

Lincoln Park—Kathy Osterman Beach Dune

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