

WASHINGTON PARK



South Lakefront Framework Plan

1 INTRODUCTION

● Overview

The Chicago Park District (CPD) authorized framework plans for three historic parks: Washington, Jackson and South Shore Cultural Center. In an effort to define the changing needs of these parks, to provide a plan to enhance each of the parks' commitments to serving the neighboring communities, and to preserve the intended historic character, the CPD developed a Framework Plan for each park.

A team of consultants, led by SmithGroup JJR, worked with Chicago residents, community supporters and the CPD to develop a long-range plan for each of the parks. Through 10 public meetings, 13 focus groups, numerous steering committee meetings and community presentations, a collaborative plan was developed to address each park's issues.

Mission...

To preserve, enhance and manage our historic park resources as an integral part of our neighborhoods, our City and our region's recreational, cultural, environmental and educational experience.

● Objectives

The purpose of the Framework Plan is to outline recommendations that will guide land use and management over the next 10 years for Washington Park. Intended as a living, working document, the Framework Plan is a starting point for a long term process of change that will enhance and preserve the park's character, as well as anticipate future needs.

The framework plan will address the following objectives:

1. Improve park and recreation facilities for local residents.
2. Improve park and recreation facilities to accommodate regional and city wide events.
3. Involve local residents, concerned civic groups and institutions, park users and advisory council members, CPD staff, and elected and appointed officials in the planning process to achieve a joint vision for the future that will be promoted and supported by all concerned interests.
4. Recognize and respect the historic significance of Washington Park.
5. Upgrade the visual quality of park landscapes and facilities.

● Next Steps

Collaboration between CPD leadership, the community and park users needs to continue. Additional planning is warranted as ideas move to implementation.

The Washington Park Advisory Council and the Chicago Park District encourage your participation as this process continues. The Advisory Council meets regularly at Washington Park. For more information, call the Washington Park Field House at 312.747.6823



View to DuSable Museum



Washington Park, 1999

● Principle 5: Protect and Enhance Landscape Beauty

- Manage the landscape to reflect and build community appreciation and stewardship.
- Create a cohesive and compelling (predominantly naturalistic) planting design that will be one of the three dominant physical features, along with landforms and water elements.
- Respect the significance of water bodies and their visual and physical qualities.
- Provide more variety and quantity of plant material to provide greater visual, horticultural, ecological and educational interest.
- Establish landscape planting designs that will minimize the noise and visual impact of roadways and parking lots and that will screen and soften architectural elements.
- Examine support facilities (primarily Chicago Park District maintenance shops). Modify or relocate facilities that unnecessarily disrupt the landscape and park use.
- Balance the objectives of landscape management and design in the placement and distribution of understory species.

● Principle 6: Improve Environmental Features

- Maintain and/or change the shape and size of each park parcel to enhance the environmental, aesthetic and recreational benefits, to provide better wildlife habitat, and to improve maintenance efficiency.
- Use an approach to landscape management and maintenance that considers the park's historic and ecological quality. Include consideration of environmental impacts in the management and design of recreational uses.
- Improve the water quality in Washington Park's lagoon system.
- Respect and enhance environmentally sensitive areas.
- Provide more variety and quality plant material to provide better, more ecologically sound wildlife habitat and greater visual, horticultural, and educational interest.
- Develop educational programs to increase public awareness and appreciation of the park's environmental features.

● Principle 7: Enhance Historic Features

- Respect and enhance the park's historic character, and consider the park's historic significance as a key factor when evaluating changes to the park.
- Provide treatments for historic features that are consistent with the U.S. Department of Interiors Historic Preservation Guidelines.
- Locate and design new structures and features in a way that retains or enhances the historic fabric.
- Remove and/or redesign in a more park-sensitive manner those features that detract from the integrity of the historic character of the park, an area, or an historic resource.



Historic Stables Building, Washington Park

