

WASHINGTON PARK



South Lakefront Framework Plan

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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

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GUIDING PRINCIPLES

● Principle 1: Strengthen Interrelationships

- Develop an integrated transportation system to connect Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center into a regional cultural network, including buses, trolleys, and water taxis.
- Connect Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center into a regional pedestrian/bicycle network that includes circulation between these parks, as well as circulation to other regional parks and tourism destinations.
- Create a Park Landscape Management Program for each park in order to improve biodiversity, increase wildlife habitat, and create a more naturally sustaining and ecologically sound landscape.
- Expand both regional and community fishing programs to provide a more diverse range of recreational and educational programming. All fishing programs should be assessed in aggregate to determine the optimal mix of programming and amenities.
- Review community needs and capacity for athletic fields and sports facilities to determine what belongs in Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center and what belongs in other community parks.
- Continue to develop and maintain a positive working relationship with the Washington Park Advisory Council and the local community to allow input on all matters of policy and programs.



Fishing, Washington Park

● Principle 2: Provide for Community Needs

- Maintain or enhance the current level of team sports/active recreation facilities.
- Modify, relocate or remove facilities that unnecessarily disrupt landscape and park use. Create new park facilities to replace those that have outlived their ability to meet contemporary service standards.
- Carefully consider the extent of existing congestion when locating new recreational opportunities or park attractions.
- Support water recreation activities such as fishing and swimming, and, if it can be done in an environmentally sensitive manner, reintroduce non-motorized boating where appropriate.
- Maximize, support and improve the way that recreational facilities at the perimeter of Washington Park serve the adjacent neighborhoods.
- Continue to consult with the local community to allow input on park planning and programming.

● Principle 3: Develop Physical Connections

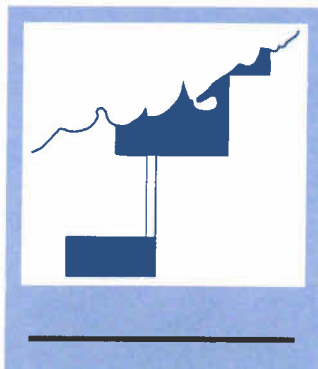
- Maintain vehicular access and parking in the park. Consider traffic calming where traffic negatively impacts park access and landscape continuity.
- In a manner consistent with the recommendations of this plan, maintain the traffic capacity of primary through-routes, but discourage through traffic on secondary park roads.
- Promote and provide for safe pedestrian and bicycle access.
- Create safe and easy access to the park by public transit users.
- Improve traffic and pedestrian/bicycle safety throughout the park, especially at high volume intersections.

● Principle 4: Maintain Open Space Character

- Promote open space as the primary land use in the park by seeking opportunities to decrease inappropriate structures, uses and paved areas.
- Reinforce tree-lined edges of existing open spaces throughout the park.
- Provide well-maintained open and shaded lawn areas for sitting and relaxing, as well as natural, less manicured areas.
- Maximize the attractiveness of views and long vistas into and within the park.
- Reinforce and perpetuate existing planting designs, where appropriate, to accentuate woodland areas, open meadows, gardens, water edge plantings, etc.
- Reintroduce and enhance the distribution of understory species.



Soccer players, Washington Park



● 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.
- Consider the reuse of historic structures before developing new structures, when economically and structurally feasible.
- Consider the park's historic precedents for landscape form, landscape design, planting, circulation, and views when evaluating or designing changes to the park.
- Treat historic structures and features in a manner appropriate to their relative significance.

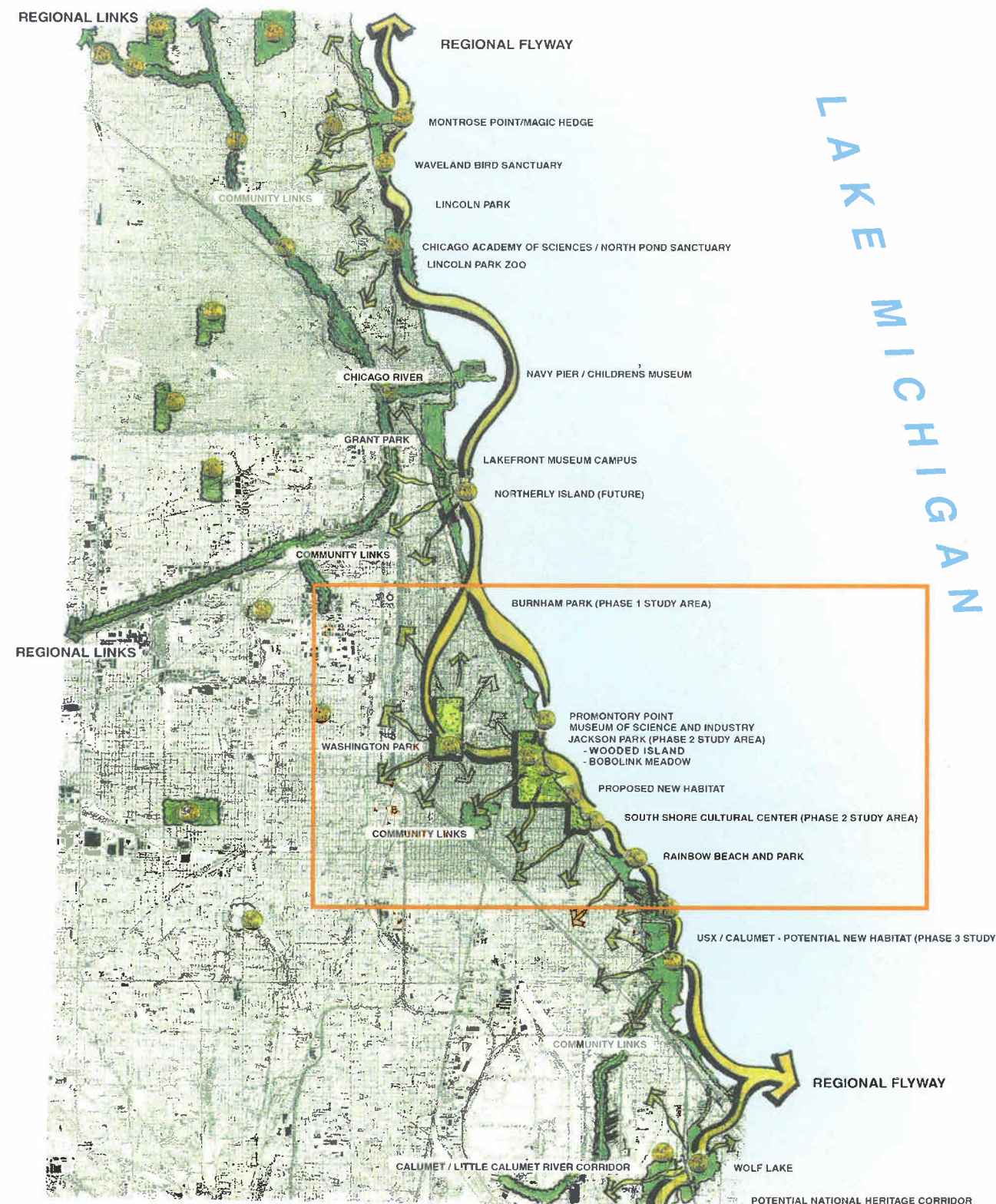


Historic Stables Building, Washington Park

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BROAD PATTERNS OF SOUTH LAKEFRONT PARKS

A. Environment



Overview

The nearly 1,000 acres encompassed in Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center are located along a regional network of open spaces and migratory networks, including an important flyway for neo-tropical migratory birds. Individually and collectively, these three parks serve as contributing resources of the Great Lakes ecosystem. The health of Lake Michigan and other great lakes is directly related to the health of each component of the ecosystem.

Lake ecosystems are composites of the open water, shoreline systems and systems that occur in the watershed. Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center span all of these systems. Lakes are adversely affected when disturbances occur in one of these systems.

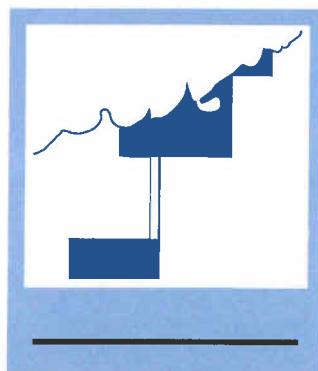
Typically, a loss of diversity generally weakens entire natural systems. In highly urbanized areas, diversity is threatened from a number of sources, including loss of habitat, barren landscapes, and pollution. Fortunately, Jackson Park is more biologically diverse than Washington Park and South Shore Cultural Center, which are smaller. There is room for improvement in all three, however.

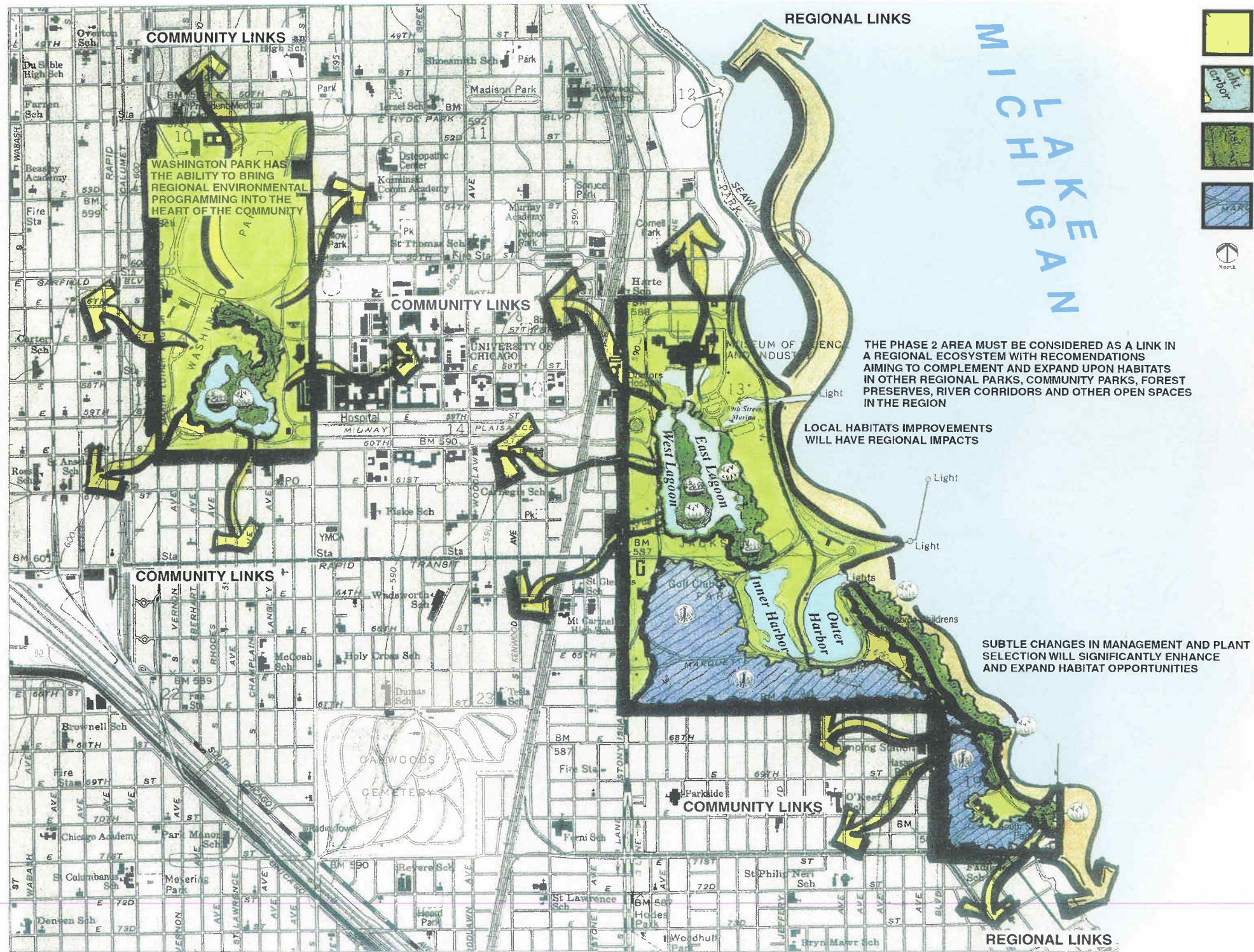
Native ecosystems are capable of becoming self-sustaining, and this should be the goal of managing the natural areas within the parks. Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center will move towards creating a more complex ecosystem by incorporating habitat diversity as part of the framework planning process.

The enhanced habitat of Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center can provide both regional and local educational programming.

General Recommendations

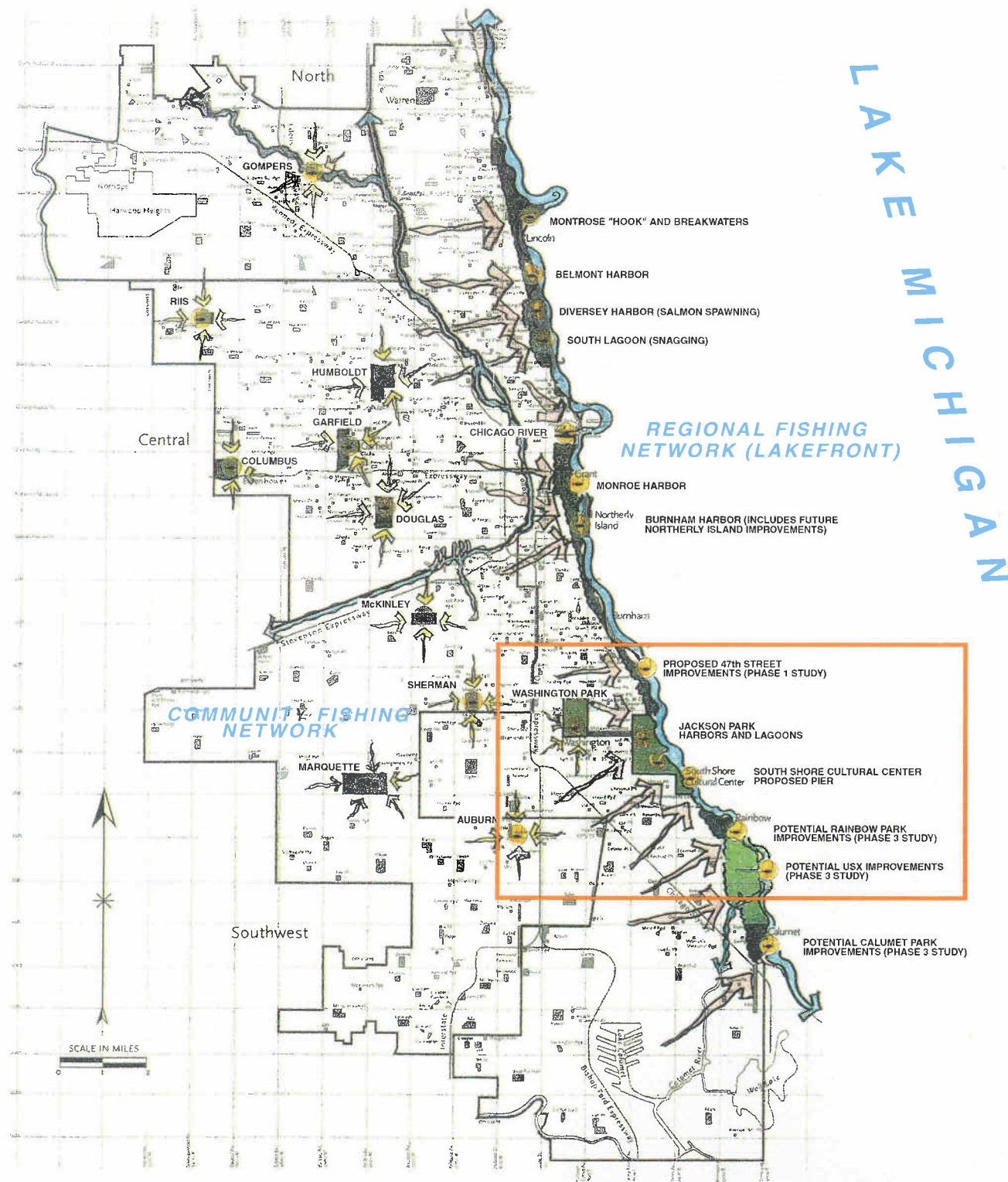
- 1. Develop Park Management Program:** Create a park management program for Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center to improve biodiversity, habitat opportunities and to create a more naturally sustaining and ecologically sound landscape that reduces long-term maintenance requirements.
- 2. Balance Park Programming:** Closely coordinate environmental programs with athletic, fishing, boating, birding and passive recreation programming to maintain the appropriate balance of natural habitat and general public use of the parks while improving the environmental quality of all park amenities.
- 3. Recognize Regional Role:** Understand the roles and needs of Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center in the regional ecosystem when implementing improvements to complement and expand upon habitats in other regional parks, community parks, forest preserves, river corridors and other open spaces in the region.
- 4. Draw Upon Resources/Specialists:** Consult with specific environmental specialists, such as neo-tropical migratory bird experts, when implementing improvements to capitalize on unique opportunities for new and improved habitat in Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center.
- 5. Develop Interpretive Opportunities:** Improve the interpretation of Chicago's natural setting and role in the regional ecosystem.
- 6. Develop Forest Management Plans:** Develop forest management plans for Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center. These should provide standards for landscape maintenance and tree replacement.





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B. Recreation



Overview

Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center are important recreational resources for the surrounding communities, as well as the City. Collectively, these three parks represent a continuum of recreational experiences that are unparalleled in Chicago.

Athletic Fields/Sports Courts

1. The demand for athletic fields/sports courts exceeds the supply and is controlled by a permit process.
2. The Park District athletic fields are essential to the Chicago Public Schools, many of which do not have their own athletic fields.
3. The overall demand for soccer fields is increasing, while the demand for tennis courts is decreasing.
4. Groups prefer to play in Washington, Jackson and South Shore Cultural Center parks because the setting and amenities are superior to other community parks.

Fishing

1. Chicago is well served by both regional and community fishing amenities.
2. There is little difference between fishing programs offered in regional lakefront parks and community parks.
3. There are more regional/lakefront parks that can offer fishing programs.
4. Fishing needs must be carefully coordinated with parallel requirements of boating, natural habitat, public water access and general park use.

Boating

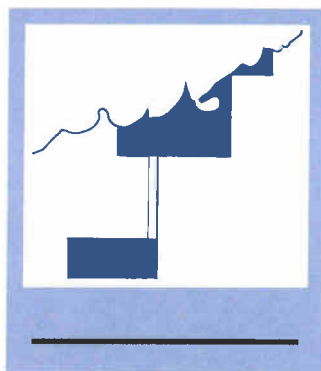
1. A network of community parks with lagoons exists, but there is little public boating.
2. Chicago has a rich history of non-motorized boating in public parks, including Washington Park, but few examples are in operation today.
3. Boating needs must be carefully coordinated with parallel requirements associated with fishing, public water access, natural habitat and other park activities.
4. The harbors of Jackson Park are part of a regional boating network that serves the entire Chicago and Lake Michigan shoreline.

Passive Recreation

1. Bird watching is growing in popularity, and Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center are well positioned on the lakefront migratory flyway.
2. Picnicking for both families and larger groups is an important park activity that benefits from well maintained amenities, such as restrooms and drinking fountains.

Golf

1. Jackson Park contains the Park District's only 18 hole golf course.
2. The 27 holes in Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center represent the largest concentration of public golf in Chicago.
3. There are three Cook County Forest Preserve District courses in Chicago, but none on the south side of the City.
4. There is one major privately operated golf complex in Chicago with premier facilities and high greens fees.
5. There is high demand for affordable golf in Chicago, but limited facilities in operation.

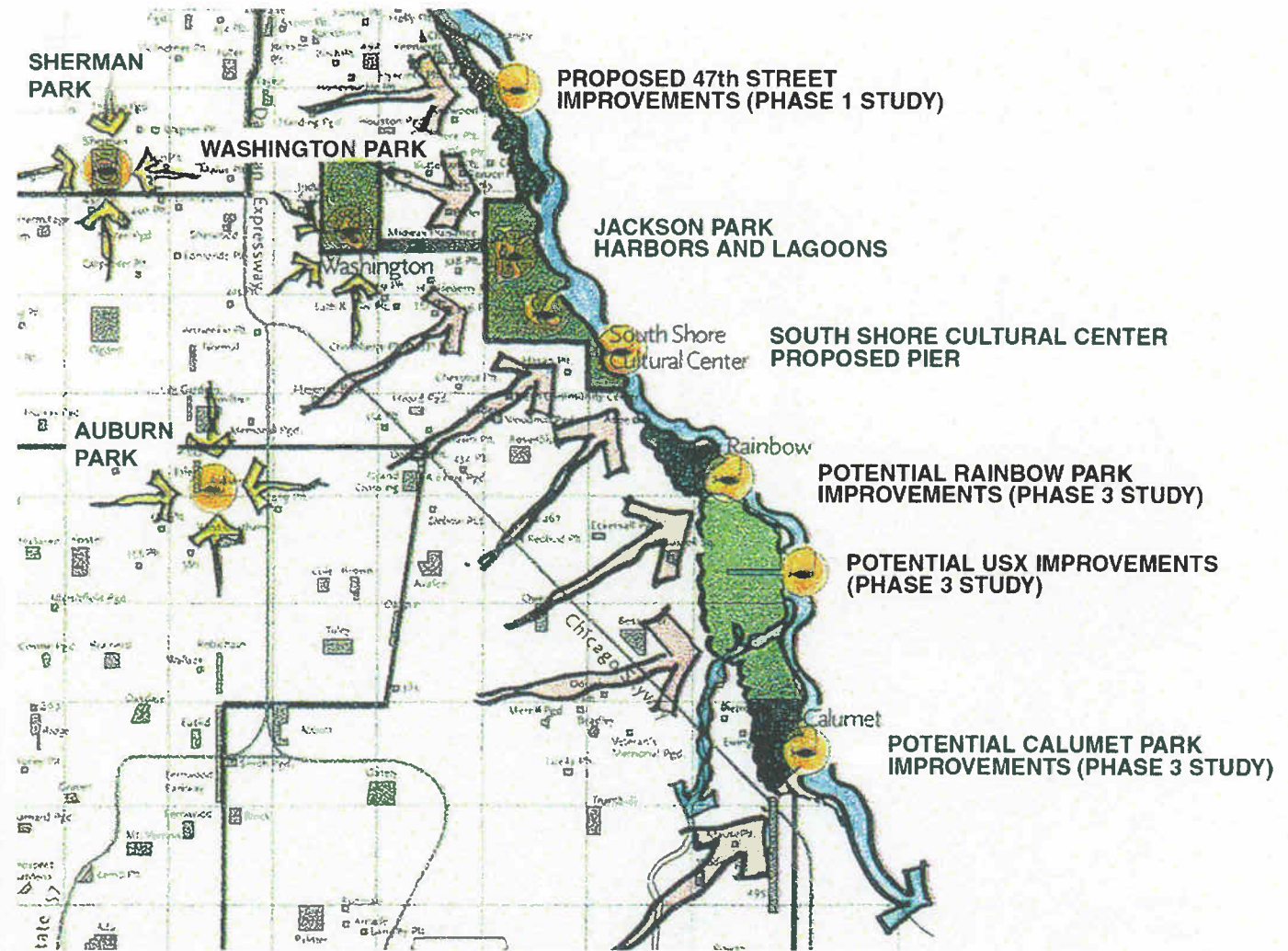


General Recommendations

- 1. Balance System-Wide Athletic Fields/Sports Courts Needs:** Review community needs and capacity for athletic fields/sports courts to determine what belongs in the Washington, Jackson and South Shore Cultural Center parks and what belongs in community parks.
- 2. Develop Standards for Fishing Programs:** Create standards for both regional parks and community parks, as well as recommendations that build upon park specific opportunities, such as piers and islands.
- 3. Coordinate Fishing and Nature Programs:** Closely coordinate fishing programs with nature programs to maintain the appropriate balance of public fishing access, education and natural habitat along park water bodies.
- 4. Expand Fishing Programs:** Expand both regional and community fishing programs to provide a more diverse range of recreational and educational programming. All fishing programs should be assessed in aggregate to determine the optimal mix.
- 5. Balance Regional Boating Amenities:** Coordinate Washington Park recommendations with amenities offered at other facilities in order to create the optimal local and regional mix.
- 6. Coordinate Regional Boating Opportunities:** Bring together Washington, Jackson and South Shore Cultural Center park Framework improvements with regional improvements.
- 7. Develop Recreation Structure Rehabilitation Schedule:** Review buildings and develop a program for renovation or new construction based on current condition and needs.



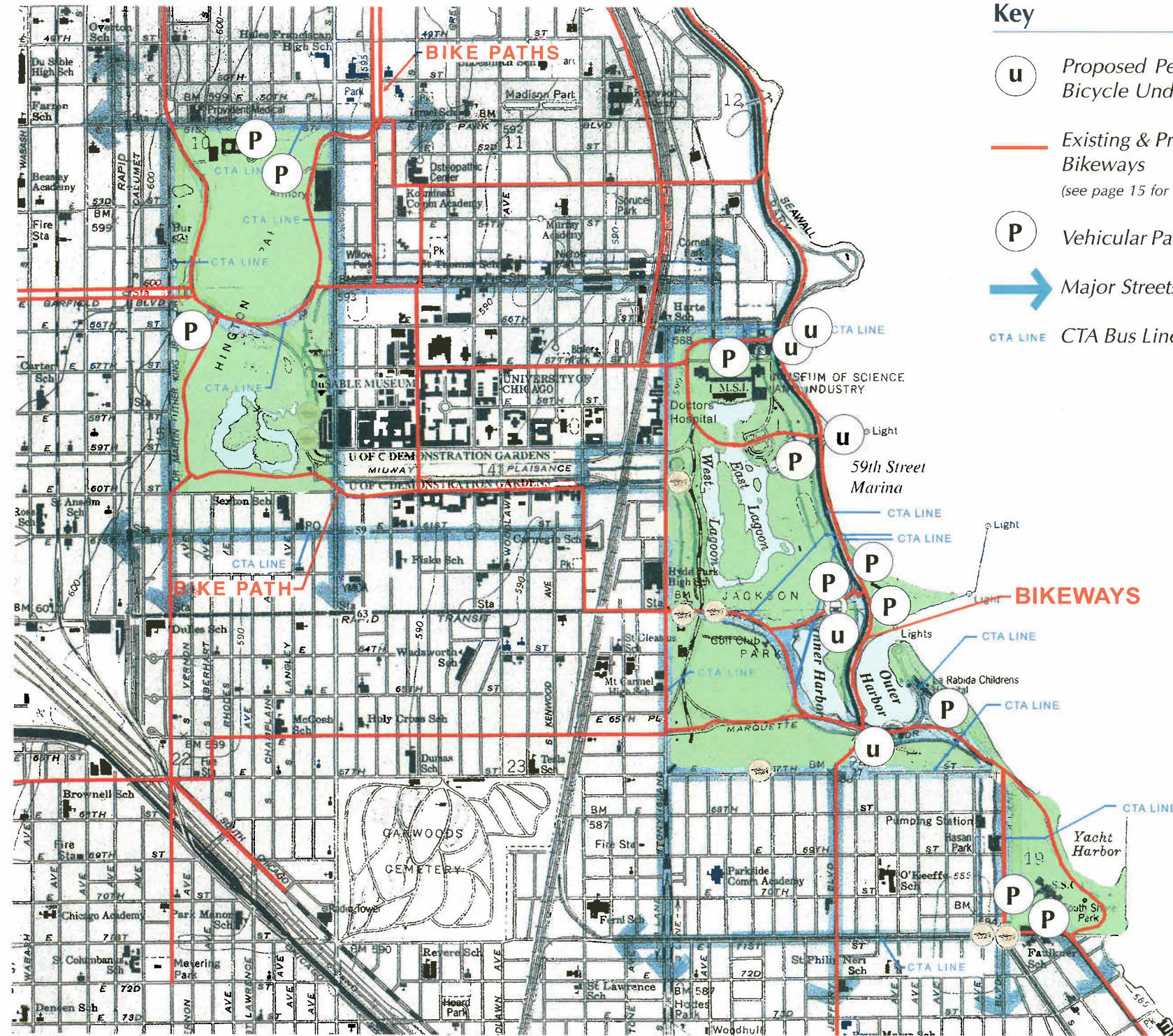
Fishing at Washington Park



Park Fishing Network

3 C. BROAD PATTERNS OF SOUTH LAKEFRONT PARKS

Circulation



Key

- u Proposed Pedestrian/Bicycle Underpass
- Existing & Proposed Bikeways
(see page 15 for details)
- P Vehicular Parking
- Major Streets
- CTA LINE CTA Bus Lines

Overview

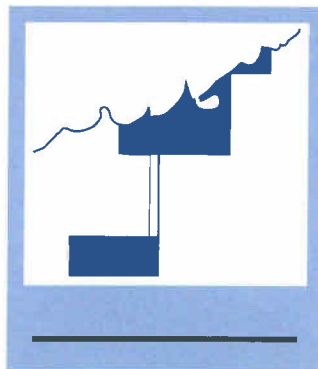
Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center are located in an interconnected regional network of vehicular roadways, transit routes, pedestrian and bicycle paths. Each piece performs a critical role in keeping the network functioning smoothly in these highly urbanized areas. Olmsted's forty-foot wide roadways, designed for "pleasure carriages", have given way to wider roadways carrying speeding automobiles. Both Washington Park and Jackson Park play vital roles in carrying heavy traffic volumes, often to the detriment of park use and enjoyment.

A major opportunity for improved vehicular and pedestrian/bicycle circulation is underway as part of the South Lake Shore Drive improvements. The study proposes underpasses to improve bicycle/pedestrian mobility east/west and north/south. The Jackson Park Framework Plan has been closely coordinated with this study.

Traffic calming is a technique that is gaining acceptance as a means of slowing down automobiles by design instead of regulation. The goals of traffic calming include:

- To produce livable urban areas and improve the quality of life within the community.
- To improve the safety and convenience for pedestrians and cyclists.
- To eliminate the negative effects of automobile traffic.
- To reduce the severity and number of collisions.
- To create attractive streetscapes.

Traffic calming techniques typically used for arterial streets include road and lane narrowing, medians or pedestrian refuge islands, and curb extensions. All of these tools should be used when appropriate to make the parks more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. Traffic improvements should enhance public transit access within the parks.



Community Circulation Opportunities

General Recommendations

- 1. Develop an Integrated Regional Pedestrian/Bicycle System:** Connect Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center into a regional pedestrian/bicycle network that includes:
 - Regional park-to-park circulation, including Burnham Park, Rainbow, USX and Calumet Park.
 - Park-to-park circulation between Jackson Park, the Midway Plaisance, and Washington Park.
 - Tourism links to Navy and North Piers, Lakefront Museum Campus and Northerly Island (future), and Lincoln Park Museums.
- 2. Develop an Integrated Regional Cultural Transportation System:** Connect the three parks into a regional cultural network that includes:
 - Regional park-to-park circulation, including the Lakefront Museum Campus and Lincoln Park museums.
 - Park-to-park circulation between the Museum of Science and Industry, DuSable Museum, the University of Chicago and the South Shore Cultural Center.
- 3. Develop Safe Pedestrian/Bicycle Paths:** Develop and maintain well-designed and safe pedestrian/bicycle paths throughout the park.
- 4. Incorporate Appropriate Traffic Calming Techniques:** Include traffic calming techniques as a means of balancing competing demands to make Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center more friendly to pedestrians and cyclists.
- 5. Reclaim Park Land:** Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center have not always had good stewards. In the past, decisions were made to widen existing roads, like Morgan Drive, add new road connections, and create parking lots in the name of progress. Proposed circulation improvements for Washington Park include road narrowing to reclaim lost park land.
- 6. Respect Historic Context:** Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center have a proud historic heritage. Carefully consider historic context when proposing circulation alterations.
- 7. Implement Traffic Studies to Support Changes:** Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center have evolved from accommodating slower horse and carriage traffic to faster moving automobile traffic, often resulting in new and/or wider park roads. As opportunities to remove or narrow roads are proposed as part of the framework planning process, final evaluation should be based on appropriate traffic studies and additional community input.



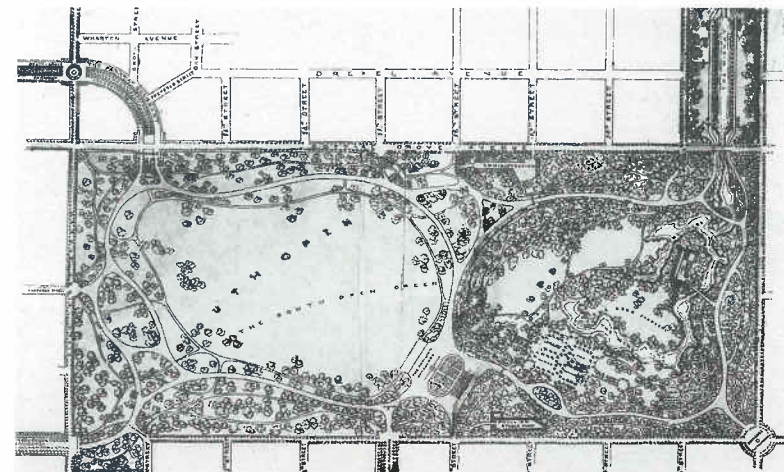
Cycling in Washington Park



Walking in Washington Park

4 WASHINGTON PARK

A. Historic Timeline



Olmsted Map of Washington Park, 1885



Children in the Wading Pond (no longer existing)

1865-1870
Beginnings
The South Park Commission hires Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux in 1870 to design the 1,055 acre South Park, which is later divided into Jackson Park, Washington Park and the Midway Plaisance.

1881
A New Name
The park is officially named Washington Park in honor of George Washington, 1st President of the United States.



1872-1884
The Park Develops
The first landscape improvements and construction of park facilities occur at the north end of the park's Open Ground. By 1874, the Open Ground is complete. In 1880 the Stables, designed by Burnham and Root, is built. By 1884, landscape improvements for all 371 acres are complete.

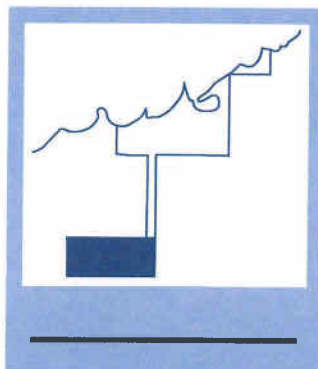
1886-1892
Active Sports Arrive
Reflecting the increasing public interest in active sports, 10 lawn tennis courts, 7 baseball diamonds, 2 football fields and a cricket pitch are added to the Open Ground during this period.

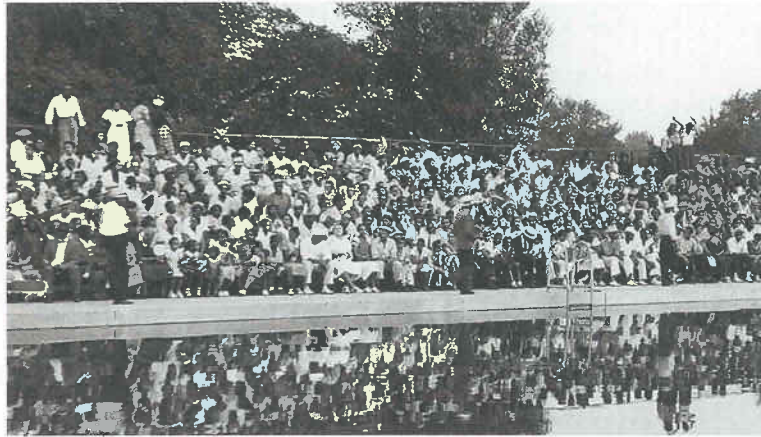
1902
Winter Sports Enhanced
A new boat house is built at the Mere that is also used as a warming house for ice skaters. For the first time, toboggan runs are installed and sleds are available for rent.

1911
A Major New Building
The South Park Commission Administration Building, designed by D.H. Burnham & Co., is constructed on Cottage Grove near 57th Street, facing the formal garden terrace.

1922
A Memorial to 100 Years of Peace
Lorado Taft's Fountain of Time, commemorating 100 years of peace between the U.S. and England, is installed and dedicated at the Midway Plaisance entrance to Washington Park.

1934
Consolidation
Chicago's 22 park districts, including the South Park Commission, are consolidated as the Chicago Park District.

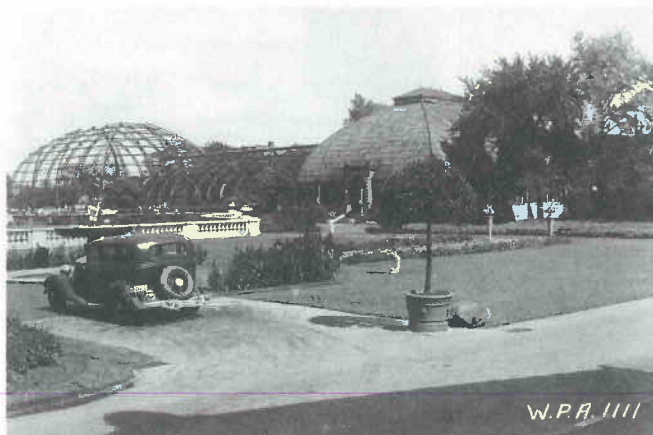
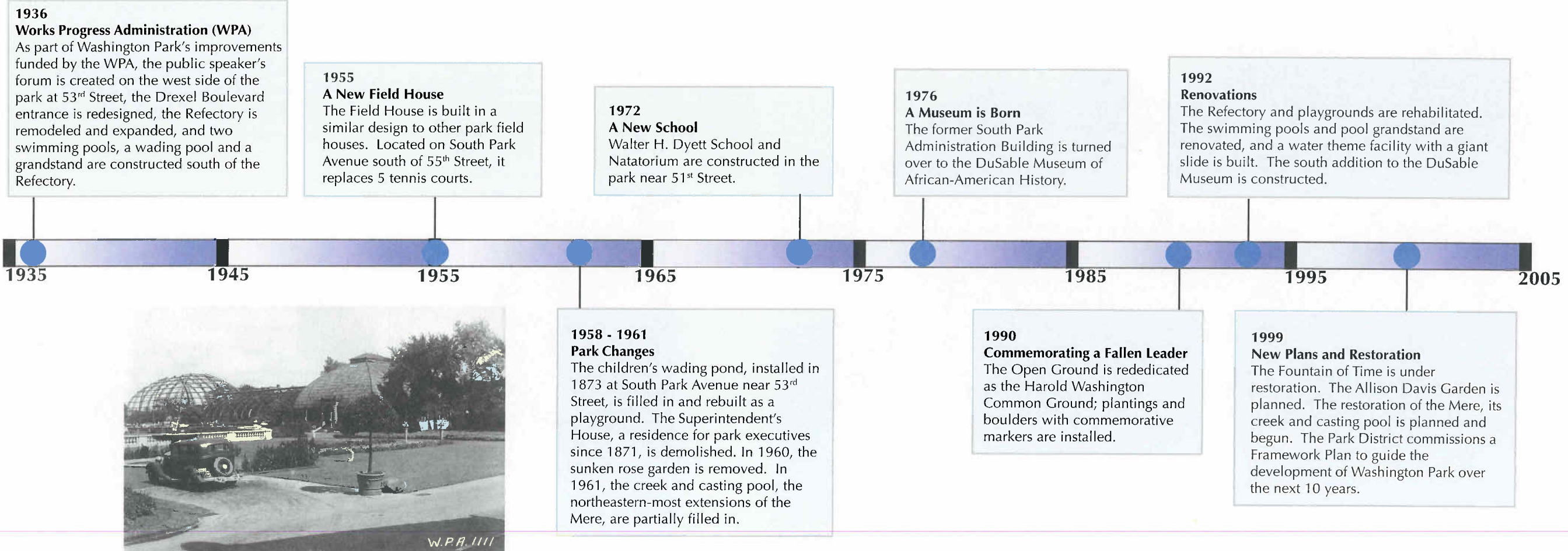




New Swimming Pool, Circa 1936



The Refectory, Circa 1999



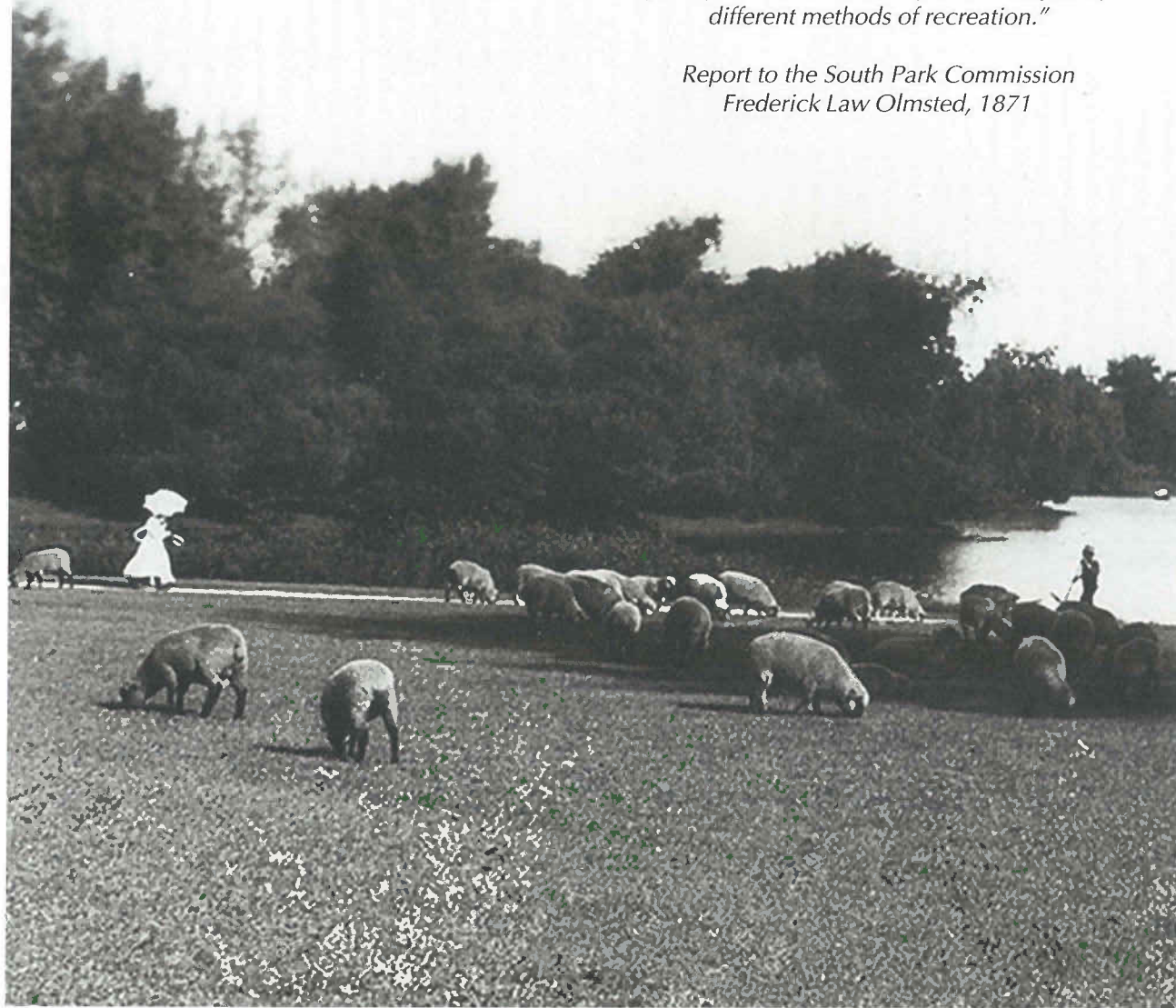
Conservatory at Cottage Grove and 56th Street (demolished 1937-1938)

4 B. WASHINGTON PARK

The Park Today

"It is the advantage of great space that one part of those who resort to a park for recreation can be engaged in a class of exercises which, in order to be pursued by different parties without clashing, require much breadth of open ground, that another part can look upon the first from a suitable distance with convenience and safety, while a third, interested neither as participants nor spectators, can seclude themselves completely from both and . . . pursue completely different methods of recreation."

*Report to the South Park Commission
Frederick Law Olmsted, 1871*



Sheep Grazing in Washington Park, Circa 1903

Profile

Olmsted's plan for South Park, including Washington Park, Midway Plaisance, and Jackson Park, was one of vision and contrasts. Washington Park's 328 acres represented the vision of "beauty", in contrast to Jackson Park's "sublime" lakefront character. Washington Park itself was designed as a contrast between the open 191 acre South Open Ground (now the Harold Washington Common Ground), and the picturesque wooded 137 acre Upper Plaisance incorporating the Mere (lagoons).

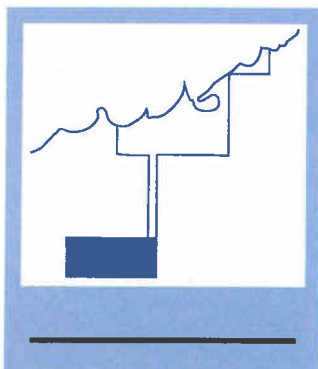
Today, Olmsted's plan is still largely intact. The Common Ground is in regular use by a host of athletic field users, and the lagoon area is enjoyed by fishermen, picnic groups, and children. However, much has changed since Olmsted's time. Pleasure carriages have given way to speeding automobiles on widened roadways, and neighborhood demographic shifts have challenged park resources.

Key Issues

- **Maintenance** is the number one issue identified throughout the public process. Washington Park's maintenance is believed by many to be of inferior quality for a park of this importance to the community and City.
- **Site Amenities** are also perceived to be lacking. Signage, lighting, benches, drinking fountains, and restrooms all need to be improved in quantity and quality.
- **Morgan Drive** bisects the park and, due to the speed and volume of vehicles, acts as a barrier to pedestrian flow between the north and south sides of the park, especially between the Field House and Common Ground. It has been significantly widened since it was originally designed.



View Across the Lagoons, Circa 1999





DuSable Museum

- **Bynum Island** is an underutilized resource. In 1970, the Adventure Land Park playground was introduced. The activity generated was inconsistent with the island's natural character. The western half of the island was fenced off and the play equipment has become outmoded.
- **DuSable Museum, Historic Stables and Park District Maintenance Buildings** are a series of unrelated uses. DuSable Museum's public education mission is in contrast to the Park District's Maintenance and Storage Buildings that provide support services to the Southeast Region's parks.
- **Historic Context** is an ever-present consideration as one looks at upgrading present conditions and weighing future improvements. The original Olmsted design has served the park well over time and should not be compromised by future plans. The widening of park roads beyond the original Olmsted design should be re-evaluated as part of the framework planning process.
- **Park Programming** is increasingly important as a means to celebrate community diversity and support childhood education and development. Program quantity should be balanced against the park's health and enjoyment by others.
- **Personal Security** concerns are acutely felt by park users who feel uncomfortable in the park. To most people, the park is off-limits due to perceived security issues. Increased park activity will help to mitigate these concerns.



Bynum Island and Lagoon



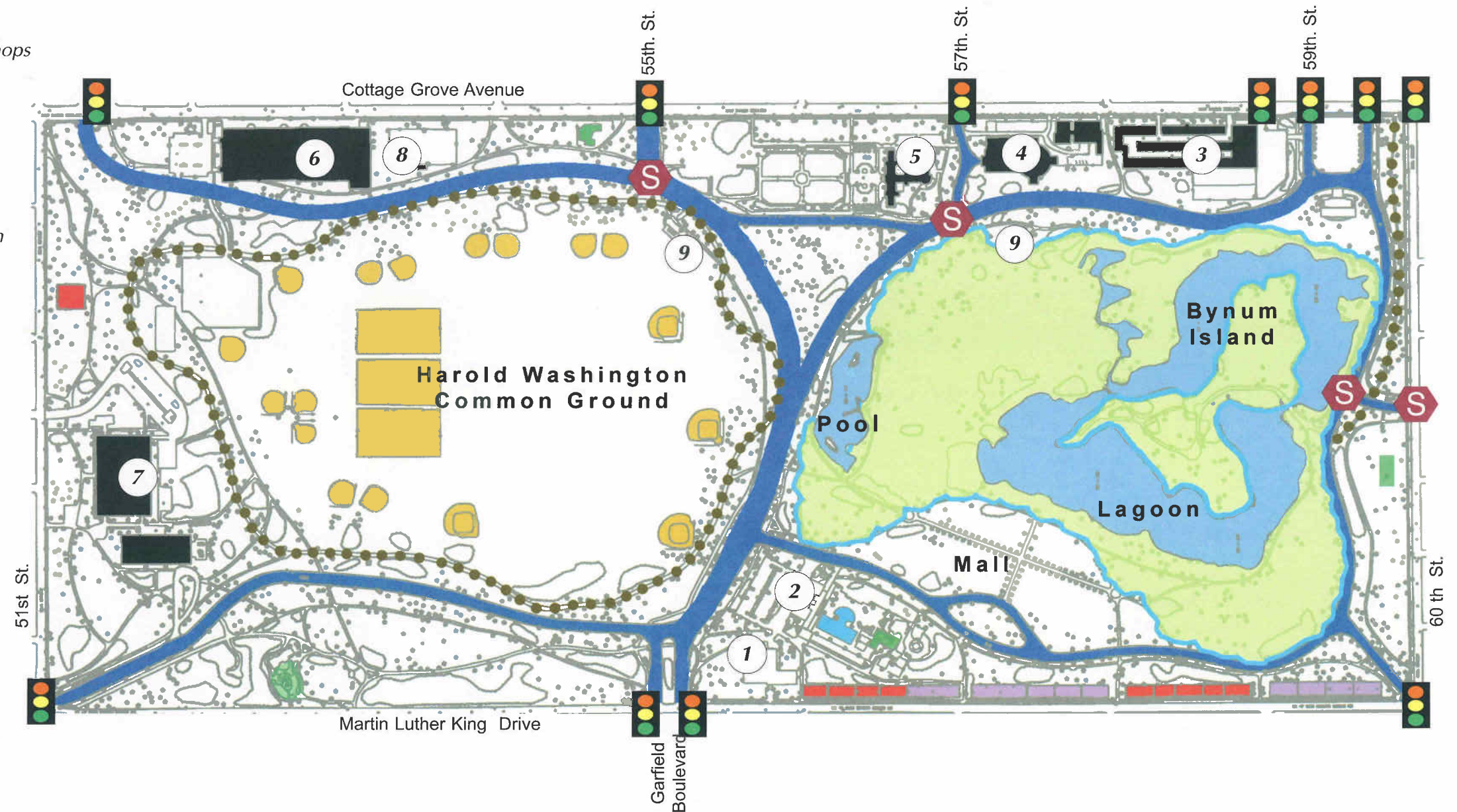
Swiss Chalet

Existing Conditions

Key

- 1 Field House
- 2 Refectory
- 3 Park District Maintenance Shops
- 4 "Stable" Building
- 5 DuSable Museum
- 6 Armory
- 7 Dyett School and Natatorium
- 8 Swiss Chalet

- Playlots
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Athletic Fields
- Natural Habitat
- Existing Roads
- Outdoor Swimming Pool
- Bridle Path
- Traffic Signal
- Stop Sign

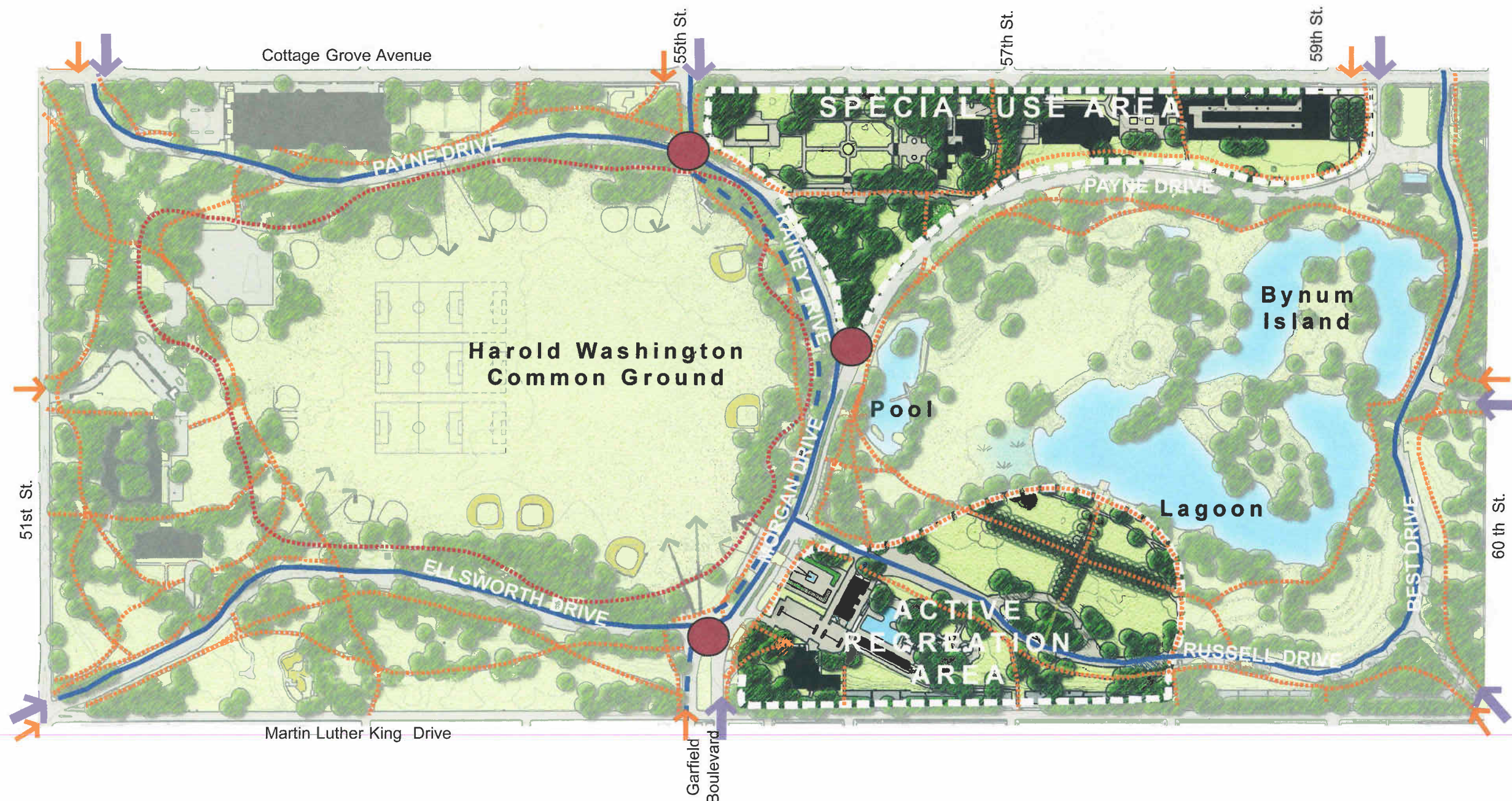


4 WASHINGTON PARK

C. Proposed Circulation Patterns

Key

- Existing on Street Bikeways
- Major Pedestrian Park Entrances
- Primary Pedestrian Walks
- Proposed Traffic Signal
- - - Proposed Bikeways
- Major Vehicular Park Entrances
- Bridle Path



WASHINGTON PARK

4

WASHINGTON PARK

D. Framework Plan Recommendations

A. Landscape/Environment

- A1** Explore alternative locations for a Special Events Area. Strong consideration should be given to appropriate placement north of Morgan Drive.
- A2** Create natural habitats and landscaping on Bynum Island.
- A3** Reforest the entire park to reinforce overstory and understory tree masses depleted over time.
- A4** Reinforce the tree-lined edge of the Common Ground, while opening significant views into it.
- A5** Open new views into the west perimeter south of Morgan Drive (55th Street) by selectively relocating basketball and tennis courts to five new neighborhood activity centers with no net loss of sports courts. See D3.
- A6** Restore the landscape character of The Mall.
- A7** Implement the Landscape Recommendations consistent with the historic landscape plans.
- A8** Develop a Forest Management Plan with public input which will respect the park's historic character, natural habitat, age and quality of trees, and evolution of the park over time.
- A9** Implement the Allison Davis Garden.

B. Water

- B1** Add wetland areas adjacent to the Lagoon to increase biodiversity and enhance fish habitat, with no net loss of wetland habitat in the park.
- B2** Upgrade the Urban Fishing Program and identify good fishing locations to support new fishing piers on the east side of the Lagoon.
- B3** Allow a well-managed small non-motorized boat rental on the west side of the lagoon.
- B4** Maintain a healthy hydrological system, including wetlands, with a schedule of monitoring and reporting to protect public health, as well as preserve the lagoon.

C. Circulation

- C1** Create an at-grade boulevard narrowing Morgan Drive (55th Street) between Ellsworth Drive and Rainey Drive to allow for ease of pedestrian/bicycle crossing at key locations.
- C2** Create a "T" intersection with a traffic signal at Morgan Drive (55th Street) and Rainey Drive.
- C3** Add a traffic signal at 55th Street and Payne Drive with pedestrian/bicycle crosswalks.
- C4** Narrow Russell Drive from the Mall loop north to Morgan Drive. Consider traffic calming to promote pedestrian access between the Refectory and Mall.
- C5** Relocate the parking lot in front of the Refectory to the west between the Refectory and Field House with no net loss of parking and accessed from Morgan Drive. Create a new plaza in front of the Refectory, leading to a generous pedestrian/bicycle underpass under Morgan Drive. Accessible parking will be accommodated in close proximity to the building.
- C6** Create an attractive park entrance at Ellsworth Drive and 51st Street by narrowing the road and landscaping the park entrance.
- C7** Install designated bicycle lanes each way on Ellsworth, Russell, Best, Rainey and Payne Drives. In addition, add an off-road bicycle path north of Morgan Drive to connect Garfield Boulevard to 55th Street.
- C8** Upgrade the existing soft surface track (bridle path) and maintain its original width.
- C9** Extend the Museum Bus #10 or add a seasonal trolley loop, to connect the Museum of Science and Industry to DuSable Museum, the University of Chicago, the South Shore Cultural Center, and the 63rd Street Beach House.
- C10** Narrow Ellsworth Drive to a consistent minimum width to provide for two traffic lanes, two bike lanes and parallel parking on both sides.
- C11** Narrow roads at key pedestrian crossing points.
- C12** Redesign the intersection of Garfield Boulevard and Morgan Drive with safety and traffic calming improvements. Consider adding a traffic signal.
- C13** Add traffic calming improvements in the Special Use Area. For example, consider narrowing 57th Street between Payne and Cottage Grove.

D. Recreation

- D1** Restore athletic fields to include turf maintenance, upgrading of backstops, infields and lighting.
- D2** Connect and enhance the area around The Mall and Refectory.
- D3** Create 5 new neighborhood activity centers, each including basketball courts, children's playgrounds and activity areas. The basketball courts will replace those relocated from the west perimeter south of Morgan Drive (55th Street). Leave some full-size basketball courts along Martin Luther King Drive.
- D4** Create a supervised adventure course on the western portion of Bynum Island, with compatible activities such as a ropes course, aerial runways and climbing frames.

E. Structures

- E1** Renovate the Swiss Chalet for recreational rentals and concessions. Restrooms are proposed to be added to the Swiss Chalet.
- E2** Add a new Boat House at the eastern edge of The Mall.
- E3** Locate a food concession at the Refectory.
- E4** Renovate and upgrade all existing comfort stations.
- E5** Maintain to the highest quality all existing contributing structures as defined in the historic templates for Washington Park.
- E6** Follow all structure recommendations contained in the historic templates for Washington Park; (i.e. Refectory and aquatic center, Swiss Chalet, Armory, DuSable Museum, Round House, Power House, trades building).

F. Site Amenities

- F1** Design and implement a system of signage that complements the historic character of Washington Park.
- F2** Determine appropriate illumination levels for park roads and walkways. Install historic light fixtures, similar to those on The Mall, to achieve desired results.

- F3** Consider adding new focal points, such as art, to the proposed Refectory Plaza and the entrance at Martin Luther King Drive and Garfield Boulevard.
- F4** Selectively add shelters, picnic areas with tables and restrooms.
- F5** Restore the two fountains on The Mall's north/south axis, and install benches on each axis.

G. Special Use Area

- G1** Restore the landscape character of the Sunken Garden (including restoration of the Lessing statue), Formal Garden and DuSable Museum Plaza.
- G2** Narrow the entrances to Payne Drive between Rainey and Morgan Drives and add parking on both sides.
- G3** Remove existing service yards, laundry and Park District Maintenance Shops. Develop a new Special Use Area to activate the area, including DuSable Museum and inconspicuous below grade parking.
- G4** Locate food services and other amenities within the Special Use Area.
- G5** Allow for the sensitive expansion of the DuSable Museum.
- G6** As activities increase in the Special Use Area, address parking management issues with community input.

H. Public Process

- H1** Establish a review and implementation process for involving the Advisory Council and community organizations to guide the implementation and development of future work in accordance with the Framework Plan.



Existing Major Buildings

- 1

Field House
- 2

Refectory
- 3

Park District Maintenance Shops
- 4

Stable Building
- 5

DuSable Museum
- 6

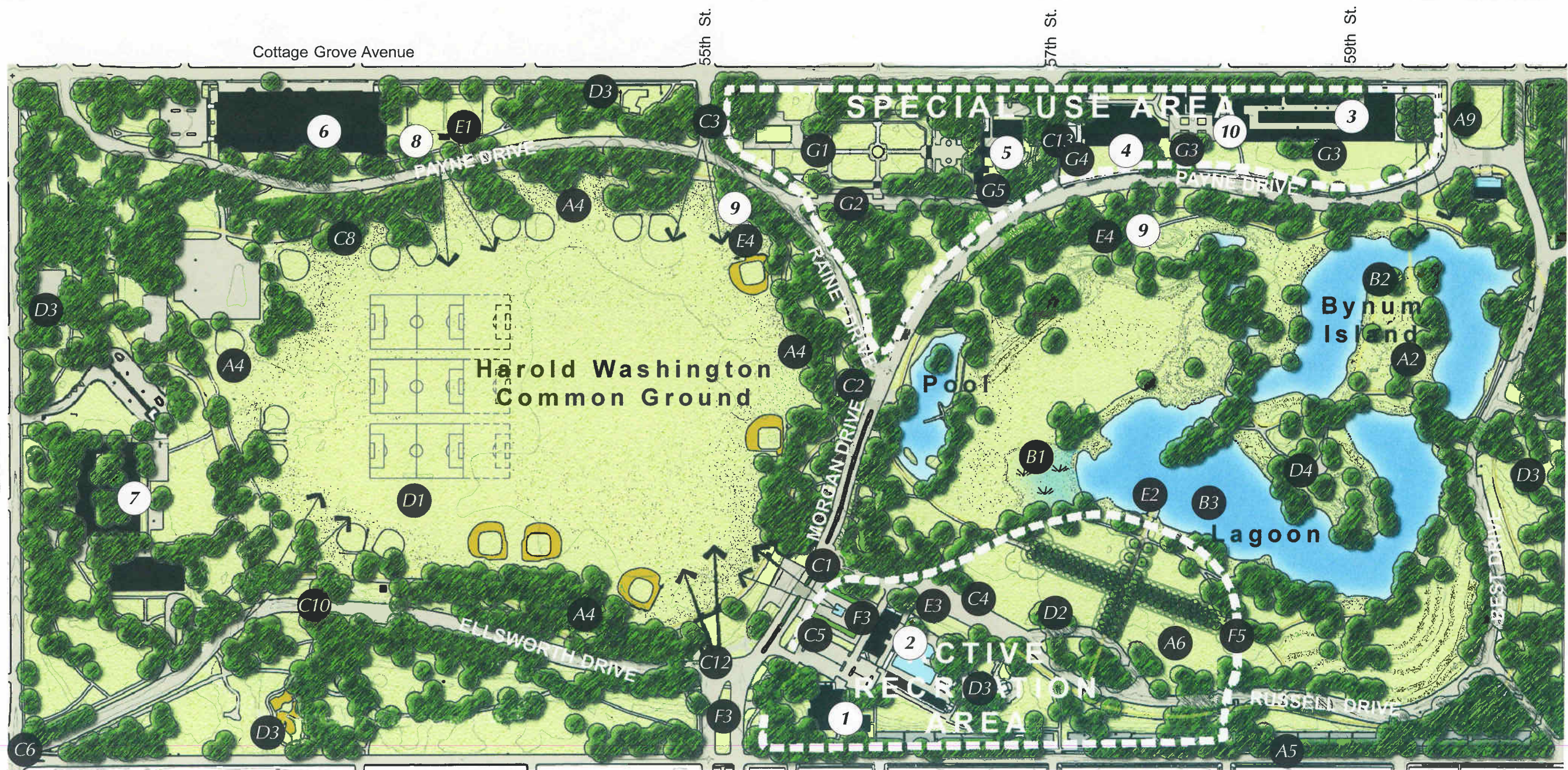
Armory
- 7

Dyett School and Natatorium
- 8

Swiss Chalet
- 9

Restrooms
- 10

Laundry & Power House



4 E. WASHINGTON PARK Implementation Strategy

Phasing Priorities

There are a number of factors that contribute to determining phasing priorities. In general, the earlier priorities include elements that have:

- Ease of Implementation
- Feasibility of Funding or No Cost
- Highest Public Support
- Greatest Value/Impact for Available Funding
- Improvements Driven by Ongoing Scheduled Projects

Those Priorities scheduled later include elements that have:

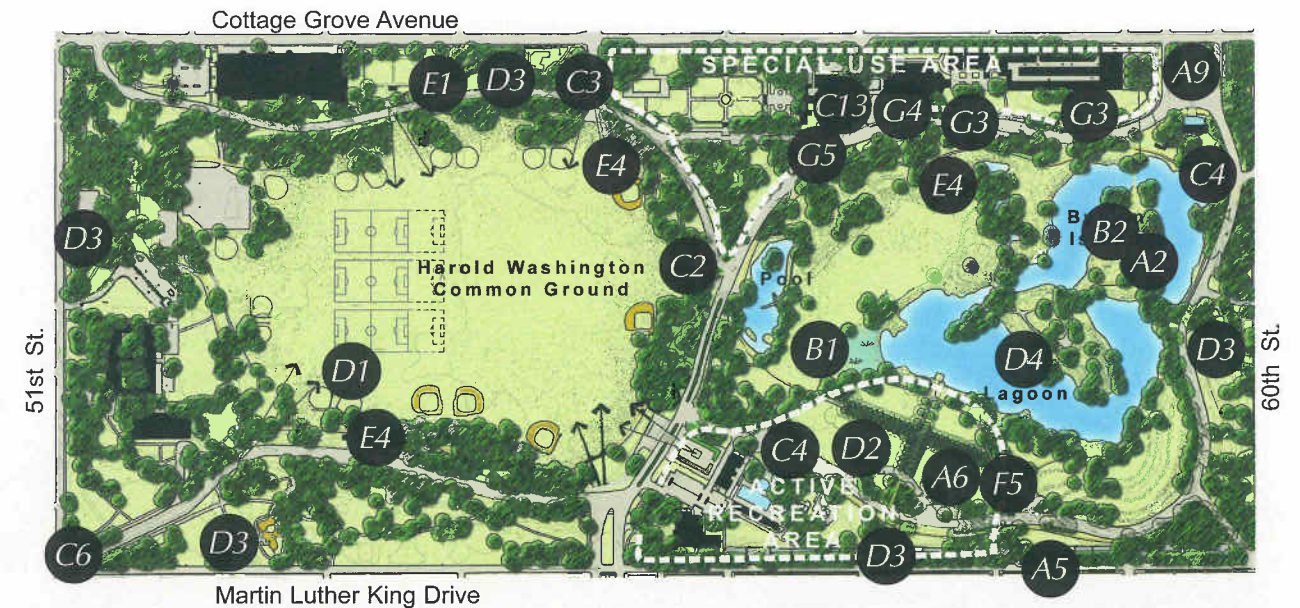
- Complex Implementation
- Long Lead on Funding
- Requirements for Further Study
- Dependency on Other Scheduled Projects

Priority 1

- A1** Explore alternative locations for a Special Events Area. Strong consideration should be given to appropriate placement north of Morgan Drive.
- A2** Create natural habitats and landscaping of Bynum Island.
- A5** Open new views into the west perimeter south of Morgan Drive (55th Street) by selectively relocating basketball and tennis courts to five new neighborhood activity centers with no net loss of sports courts. See D3.
- A6** Restore the landscape character of the Mall.
- A9** Implement the Allison Davis Garden.
- B1** Add wetland areas adjacent to the Lagoon to increase biodiversity and enhance fish habitat, with no net loss of wetland habitat in the park.
- B2** Upgrade the Urban Fishing Program and identify good fishing locations to support new fishing piers on the east side of the lagoon.
- C2** Create a "T" intersection with a traffic signal at Morgan Drive (55th Street) and Rainey Drive.
- C3** Add a traffic signal at 55th Street and Payne Drive with pedestrian/bicycle crosswalks.

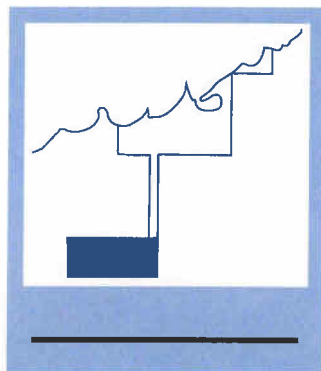
- C4** Narrow Russell Drive from the Mall loop north to Morgan Drive. Consider traffic calming to promote pedestrian access between the Refectory and Mall.
- C6** Create an attractive park entrance at Ellsworth Drive and 51st Street by narrowing the road and landscaping the park entrance.
- C13** Add traffic calming improvements in the Special Use Area. For example, consider narrowing 57th Street between Payne and Cottage Grove.
- D1** Restore athletic fields to include turf maintenance, upgrading of backstops, infields and lighting.
- D2** Connect and enhance the area around The Mall and Refectory.
- D3** Create 5 new neighborhood activity centers, each including basketball courts, children's playgrounds and activity areas. The basketball courts will replace those relocated from the west perimeter south of Morgan Drive (55th Street). Leave some full-size basketball courts along Martin Luther King Drive.
- D4** Create a supervised adventure course on the western portion of Bynum Island, with compatible

Priority Site Plan 1

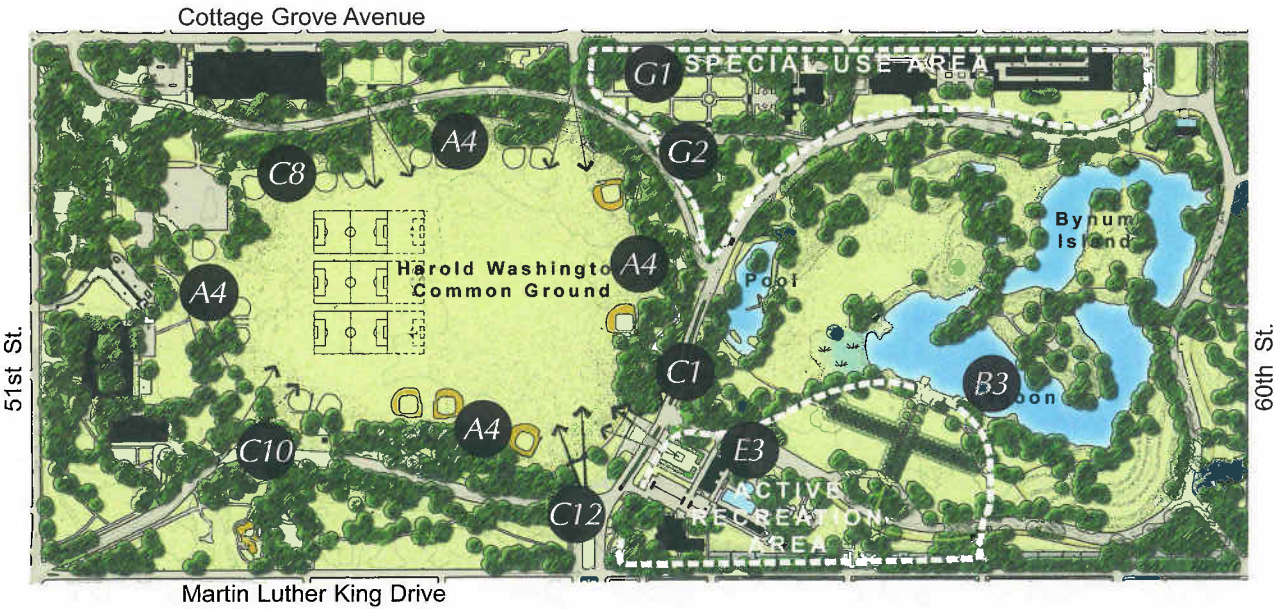


activities such as a ropes course, aerial runways and climbing frames.

- E1** Renovate the Swiss Chalet for recreational rentals and concessions. Restrooms are proposed to be added to the Swiss Chalet.
- E4** Renovate and upgrade all existing comfort stations.
- F5** Restore the two fountains on The Mall's north/south axis, and install benches on each axis.
- G3** Remove existing service yards, laundry and Park District Maintenance Shops. Develop a new Special Use Area to activate the area, including DuSable Museum and inconspicuous below grade parking.
- G4** Locate food services and other amenities within the Special Use Area.
- G5** Allow for the sensitive expansion of the DuSable Museum.



Priority Site Plan 2



Priority Site Plan 3



Priority 2

- A4** Reinforce the tree-lined edge of the Common Ground, while opening significant views into it.
- B3** Allow a well-managed small non-motorized boat rental on the west side of the Lagoon.
- C1** Create an at-grade boulevard narrowing Morgan Drive (55th Street) between Ellsworth Drive and Rainey Drive to allow for ease of pedestrian/bicycle crossing at key locations.
- C8** Upgrade the existing soft surface track (bridle path) and maintain its original width.
- C10** Narrow Ellsworth Drive to a consistent minimal width to provide for two traffic lanes, two bike lanes and parallel parking on both sides.
- C12** Redesign the intersection of Garfield Boulevard and Morgan Drive with safety and traffic calming improvements. Consider adding a traffic signal.
- E3** Locate a food concession at the Refectory.
- G1** Restore the landscape character of the Sunken Garden (including restoration of the Lessing statue), Formal Garden and DuSable Museum Plaza.

- G2** Narrow the entrances to Payne Drive between Rainey and Morgan Drives and add parking on both sides.

Priority 3

- C5** Relocate the parking lot in front of the Refectory to the west between the Refectory and Field House with no net loss of parking and accessed from Morgan Drive. Create a new plaza in front of the Refectory, leading to a generous pedestrian/bicycle underpass under Morgan Drive. Accessible parking will be accommodated in close proximity to the building.
- E2** Add a new Boat House at the eastern edge of the Mall.
- F3** Consider adding new focal points, such as art, to the proposed Refectory Plaza and the entrance at Martin Luther King Drive and Garfield Boulevard.

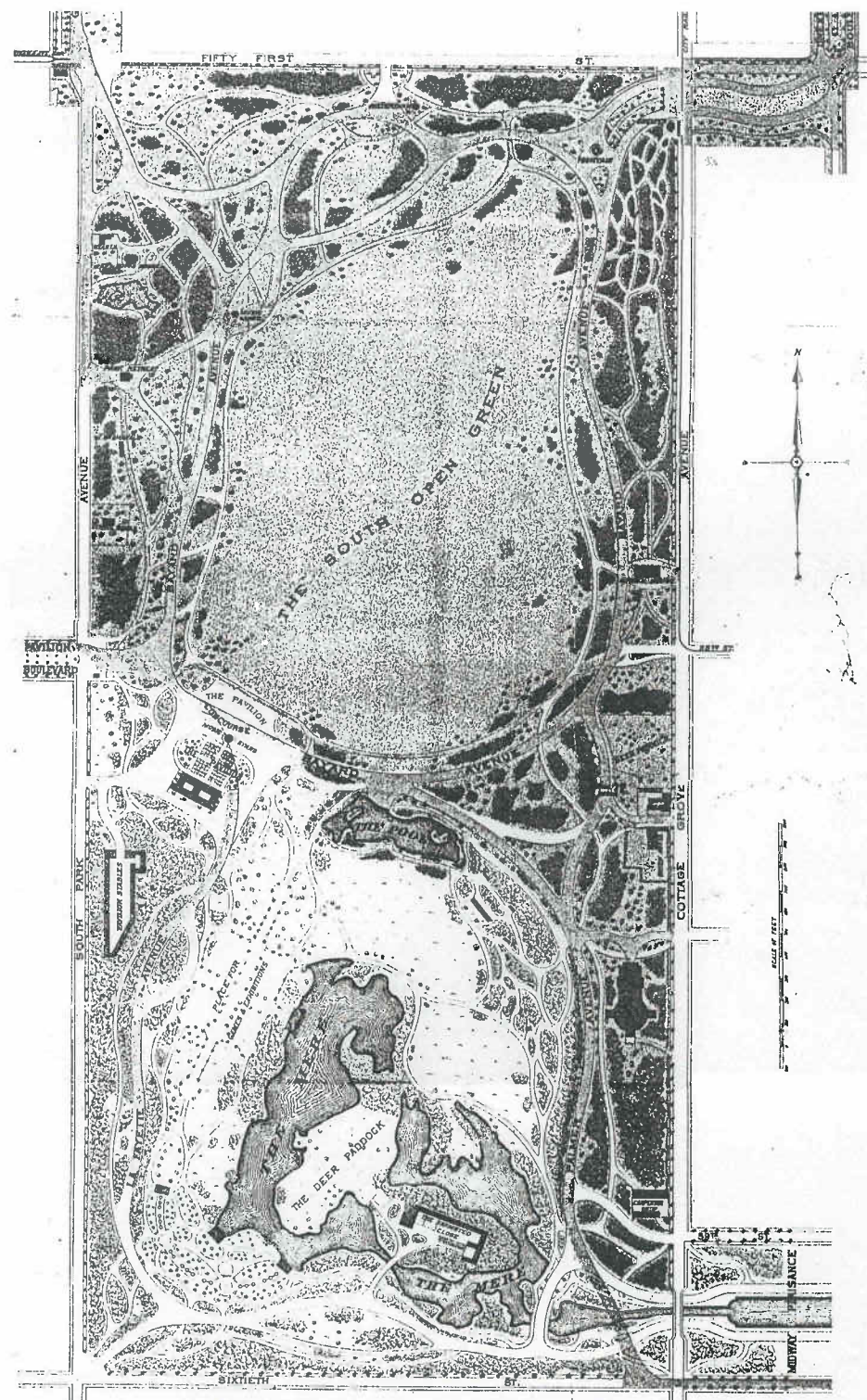
Ongoing Priorities

- A3** Reforest the entire park to reinforce overstory and understory tree masses depleted over time.
- A7** Implement the Landscape Recommendations consistent with the historic landscape plans.
- A8** Develop a Forest Management Plan with public input which will respect the park's historic character, natural habitat, age and quality of trees, and evolution of the park over time.
- B4** Maintain a healthy hydrological system, including wetlands, with a schedule of monitoring and reporting to protect public health, as well as preserve the Lagoon.
- C7** Install designated bicycle lanes each way on Ellsworth, Russell, Best, Rainey and Payne Drives. In addition, add an off-road bicycle path north of Morgan Drive to connect Garfield Boulevard to 55th Street.
- C9** Extend the Museum Bus #10 or add a seasonal trolley loop, to connect the Museum of Science and Industry to DuSable Museum, the University of Chicago, the South Shore Cultural Center, and the 63rd Street Beach House.
- C11** Narrow roads at key pedestrian crossing points.
- E5** Maintain to the highest quality all existing contributing structures as defined in the historic templates for Washington Park.
- E6** Follow all structure recommendations contained in the historic templates for Washington Park; (i.e. Refectory and aquatic center, Swiss Chalet, Armory, DuSable Museum, Round House, Power House, trades building).
- F1** Design and implement a system of signage that complements the historic character of Washington Park.
- F2** Determine appropriate illumination levels for park roads and walkways. Install historic light fixtures, similar to those on The Mall, to achieve desired results.
- F4** Selectively add shelters, picnic areas with tables and restrooms.
- H1** Establish a review and implementation process for involving the Advisory Council and community organizations to guide the implementation and development of future work in accordance with the Framework Plan.

5

A. APPENDIX

Washington Park - Detailed History



Frederick Law Olmsted Map of Washington Park, 1880

1865

- The idea of a large South Side park is discussed by prominent South Siders.

1869

- The state legislature creates the South Park Commission to develop and manage a boulevard system and a 1055-acre South Park which will later be divided into Washington and Jackson Parks and the Midway Plaisance. (Two other park systems, Lincoln Park and West Park Commissions, are established with the intent to create an integrated park and boulevard system).

1870

- The South Park Commission hires the prominent firm of Frederick Law Olmsted & Calvert Vaux to design South Park.
- The site of the park is surveyed and land acquisition is begun.

1871

- In May, Olmsted & Vaux submit the original plan for South Park.
- The first development in the western division of South Park (the future Washington Park) is started with a drive at the north end, connecting Drexel and Grand Boulevard (now King Drive) through the park.
- An existing frame house purchased with the land at South Park Avenue (now King Drive) near 52nd becomes the South Park Commission Superintendent's House.
- From October 9 to 11, the Great Fire destroys Chicago, including the South Park Commission's downtown office, with its records and tax rolls; progress on park development is delayed by the loss.

1872

- The South Park Commission hires former Olmsted & Vaux employee Horace W.S. Cleveland as its Landscape Architect to implement the park design plan.
- The first landscape improvements and construction of park facilities in Washington Park occur at the north end of the park's Open Ground.
- A nursery for the South Park system is established in Washington Park.

1873

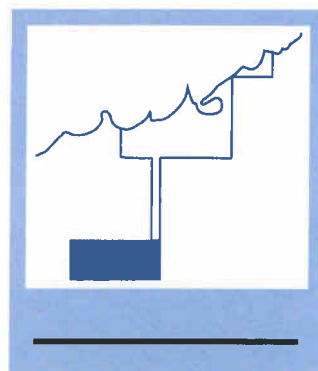
- Fifty of the park's 371 acres are planted, and more land is under preparation.
- The first summer concerts are held in the park.
- Cleveland installs the 'Ramble,' a series of winding, densely-planted paths, as a play area for children on the east side of the park, and a children's wading pond on the west side.

1874

- The Open Ground, an expansive green meadow, with its surrounding landscaping, roads and trails, is complete.
- 331 acres have been acquired, and litigation is pending regarding the remaining acreage.
- The first public transit shelters and a concession stand selling ice cream and beverages are built in the park.
- The Lincoln Park Commission donates two swans to the South Park Commission, and they are housed at the children's wading pond.

1875

- A sheepfold is built and a shepherd is hired to oversee the thirty sheep purchased from former Mayor John Wentworth to graze in the park.



1877

- A deer paddock, including a pen and structure, is built on the east edge of the park. (Deer may have been introduced at this time or later.)

1879

- The 2-acre naturalistic pool with two islands south of the Open Ground is complete.
- In December, President Ulysses S. Grant plants a tree as a Civil War memorial near the Drexel Boulevard entrance to the park, and a carved boulder (still existing in 1999) marks the occasion.

1880

- The Stable, designed by Burnham & Root, is built. In 1999 it is the oldest surviving building in Washington Park.
- Landscape improvements on the eastern (Cottage Grove) side of the park are complete as far south as 59th Street and 4,586 trees are planted this year.
- 287 of the park's 371 acres have been improved.
- Nine acres of the Mere (lagoons) are excavated, and its surrounding landscape is under construction.
- The sheep are discontinued, (to be reinstated in 1903).

1881

- The park is officially named Washington Park in honor of George Washington, first president of the United States.
- The paddock is restocked with deer.
- Curling (a game of weights, or stones, that slide toward a target on ice) is introduced on the frozen pool during the winter.

1882

- The peninsula is formed in the Mere, and the 'Farmstead Bridge' leading to it from the south is open.

1883

- The boat landing on the Mere at the Mall is open, with 30 rowboats available for rent.
- The deer paddock is closed and demolished.

1884

- The Mall, a formal allee of Elms with ornamental light fixtures west of the Mere is laid out and planted.
- Landscape improvements for all 371 acres in Washington Park are complete.
- For the first time, ice on the children's wading pond is maintained for winter ice-skating.

1886

- Reflecting the increasing public interest in active sports, two lawn tennis courts are installed just west of the Mall.

1888

- The first three baseball diamonds are added on the Open Ground.
- Eight more lawn tennis courts are added.

1889

- A 'speeding track' to exercise horses is added on the west edge of the park between Garfield Boulevard and 60th Street.
- Four more baseball diamonds are added to the Open Ground.
- The Stable is expanded and remodeled.

1892

- The Refectory, designed by Burnham & Root and begun the previous year, is complete and open.
- Two football fields and a cricket pitch are laid out on the Open Ground.
- The Electric Power Station is built on the east side of the park at 58th Street.



Pastoral Park Character, Circa 1903

5A.

APPENDIX

Washington Park - Detailed History (continued)

1893

- The World's Columbian Exposition is held in neighboring Jackson Park and on the Midway Plaisance. Lasting from May 1st to October 10th, the Fair hosts over 12 million visitors.
- Extensive Victorian gardens with fanciful carpet beds (not included in the original Olmsted & Vaux plan) are added to the park north of the Stable.
- Portable electric lights make night ice skating possible for the first time.

1894

- The old carpenter's shops are demolished, and new ones are built.
- The 1873 Ramble is removed and replaced with an open landscape.

1897

- An iron and glass Conservatory designed by Lord & Burnham is built on Cottage Grove at 56th Street.
- A formal garden is created on a newly-formed terrace west of the Conservatory.

1900

- A sunken rose garden is installed north of the formal conservatory garden along Cottage Grove south of 55th Street.

1902

- A new boat house is built at the Mere, on the site of the previous boat landing; it is also used as a warming house for ice skaters in winter.
- For the first time, toboggan runs are installed and sleds are available for rent.
- A six-hole golf course opens in Washington Park.
- A new rule bans organized sports in the park on Sundays.

1903

- The sheep herd is re-established in the park. A new fold and pen are built on the peninsula in the Mere.

1904

- The equestrian statue of George Washington, by Daniel Chester French and Edward C. Potter, is erected in Grand Boulevard (now King Drive) at the northwest entrance to the park.
- The 90-foot wide isthmus connected to the peninsula in the Mere is removed, transforming the peninsula into an island. Boaters and ice skaters can now make a complete circuit around the island, and a rustic bridge is built to provide pedestrian access to the island from the north.

1905

- An archery range is opened between the carpenter's shops and Payne Drive.
- Golf is discontinued and the course removed from Washington Park.
- The rule prohibiting organized sports on Sunday is rescinded.
- In response to popular demand, the number of boats available for rent on the Mere increases from 30 to 85.

1907

- The Electric Power Station is extensively reconstructed and a new building, including the 200-foot smokestack, is added.

1909

- Two roque courts (a form of croquet) are built west of the Power Station. (Two more courts will be added in 1913.)

1911

- The 'speedway' for horses is closed; its right-of-way is reused to create 27 tennis courts.
- The South Park Commission Administration Building, designed by D.H. Burnham & Co., is constructed on Cottage Grove near 57th Street, facing the formal garden terrace. (It will later become the DuSable Museum of African-American History.)
- Circular fountains imported from France are installed at the north and south ends of the Mall.

1914

- A plan is announced for a monument commemorating 100 years of peace between the U.S. and England. Chicago sculptor Lorado Taft wins the commission for what would be called the Fountain of Time.

1917

- Washington Park is host to the National Roque Championship Tournament.

1919

- The Stable is converted from a horse barn including horse-drawn vehicle storage into a motor vehicle storage and service facility.

1920

- The sheep are once again discontinued.

1922

- Taft's Fountain of Time is installed and dedicated at the Midway Plaisance entrance to Washington Park. (A second monument, the Fountain of Creation, planned for the other end of the Midway, was never executed.)

1928

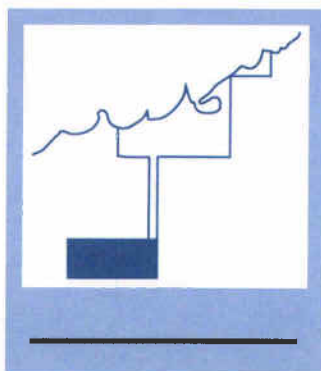
- The 124th Field Artillery Armory, designed by Perkins, Chatten & Hammond, is constructed on a 4-1/3-acre site on Cottage Grove at 52nd Street. A memorial to South Side dead of World War I, an important element of the armory plan, was never built.

1931

- The Gotthold Lessing statue by Albin Polasek is installed next to the sunken rose garden.
- Two lawn bowling greens and the Swiss Chalet lawn bowling building, including equipment storage and rental, locker rooms, restrooms, and a lounge are constructed.

1934

- Chicago's 22 park-districts, including the South Park Commission, are consolidated as the Chicago Park District.



1936

- As part of Washington Park improvements, funded by the federal Work Projects Administration (WPA), the public speaker's forum is created on the west side of the park south of 53rd Street.
- The Drexel Boulevard entrance to the park is redesigned. The old entrance had gardens and a fountain in a median which was an extension of Drexel Boulevard through Drexel Square into the park. The boulevard was removed in Drexel Square and Washington Park for the four-lane undivided roadway that is the current (1999) configuration.
- A 370-car parking lot is built on the northeastern edge of the Open Ground.
- The roundhouse of the Stable is converted for use as the Rigger & Drama Shop, in which scenery is made for the Park District's theaters.
- The Refectory is remodeled and expanded to include locker rooms and restrooms.
- Two swimming pools, a wading pool and a grandstand are constructed south of the Refectory.

1937-1938

- The Conservatory is demolished, and its site is planted.

1940

- Hard-surface tennis courts are added south of St. Lawrence Avenue (now MLK Drive) along 51st Street.
- The sunken rose garden is reconstructed.

1942

- A brick building is built for the archery range, just west of the shops.

1954

- A concrete casting pier is built on the south shore of the Pool.

1955

- The Field House, by Ralph Burke & Associates, is built in a similar design to other park field houses. Located on South Park Avenue (now King Drive) south of 55th Street, it replaces 5 tennis courts.

1956

- Six tennis courts are replaced by basketball courts.

1958

- The children's wading pond, installed in 1873 at South Park Avenue (now King Drive) near 53rd Street, is filled in and rebuilt as a playground.
- A playground is installed at St. Lawrence and 60th Street on the south edge of the park.
- The Superintendent's House, a pre-fire residence for park executives since 1871, is demolished.
- After 77 years, curling on the Pool in winter is suspended.

1960

- The sunken rose garden is removed.

1961

- The creek and casting pool, the northeastern-most extensions of the Mere, are partially filled in.

1967

- The former South Park Administration Building is turned over to the Chicago Police Department for temporary use as a police station. The terrace in front of the building is used as a parking lot for police cars.

1972

- Walter H. Dyett School and Natatorium are constructed in the park, south of St. Lawrence Avenue near 51st Street.

1976

- The former South Park Administration Building is turned over to the DuSable Museum of African-American History.
- The George F. Bynum Adventureland Park is installed on the island in the Mere.
- The Mall falls into disrepair; its fountains are abandoned and allowed to fill with debris.

1979

- The long-abandoned boathouse is demolished.

1985

- The archery range is eliminated, its building demolished, and its site enclosed for service vehicle parking.

1990

- The Open Ground is rededicated as the Harold Washington Common Ground; plantings and boulders with commemorative markers are installed.

1992

- The Bynum Adventureland Park is closed.
- The south addition to the DuSable Museum of African-American History, designed by Wendell Campbell & Associates, is constructed.

1994

- The Refectory and playgrounds are rehabilitated; the Refectory becomes available for meetings, weddings and special events.
- The swimming pools and pool grandstand are rehabilitated, and a water theme facility with a water slide is built.

1996

- A wetland conservation project is initiated on the northwest shore of the Mere.

1999

- The Fountain of Time restoration begins.
- The restoration of the Mere, its creek and casting pool is planned and begun.
- The Allison Davis Garden is planned.

2000

- Work in progress includes accessibility, improvements to the Field House and structures assessment.



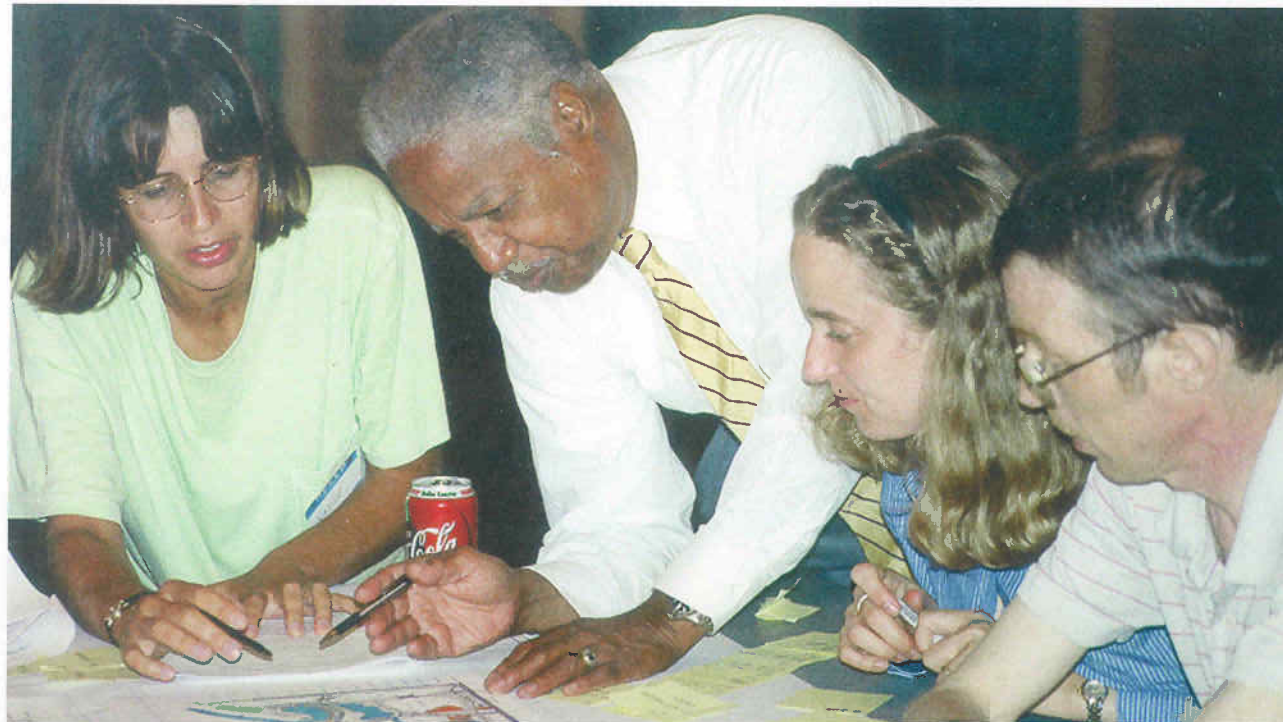
Swimming Pool, today



Lagoon overlook, today

5 APPENDIX

B. Workshop and Focus Group Summary



Jackson Park Workshop



Washington Park Workshop

Workshop Participant Preferences

Through a series of ten public workshops in Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center, the participants discussed the most-liked features, as well as their most common concerns/suggestions.

Jackson Park

Popular Existing Features

Wooded Island and Lagoons	49 mentions
63 rd Street Beach and Pavilion	17 mentions
Yacht Harbor	13 mentions
Museum of Science & Industry	11 mentions
Columbia Basin and MSI Terrace	9 mentions
Golf Course	9 mentions
Music Court	8 mentions
57 th Street Beach	8 mentions

Concerns and Suggestions

Move Golf Driving Range	20 mentions
Restore the Music Court	16 mentions
Provide Music/Entertainment Venue	13 mentions
No More MSI Expansion	11 mentions
Better Pedestrian Access	11 mentions
Enlarge/Improve Field House	8 mentions
Provide Information Kiosks	7 mentions
Improve Public Transportation Access	7 mentions
Add Rental Boats	7 mentions

Although Jackson Park is a large major park (approximately 542 acres), each of its many parts tends to be distinct and draws from different populations. There are four interrelated zones: the Jackson Park lakefront zone, the Museum of Science and Industry zone, Wooded Island/Lagoon zone, and the Recreation/Golf zone. The Museum of Science of Industry zone is not a subject of this report. Specific recommendations for the remaining three zones are discussed in this report.

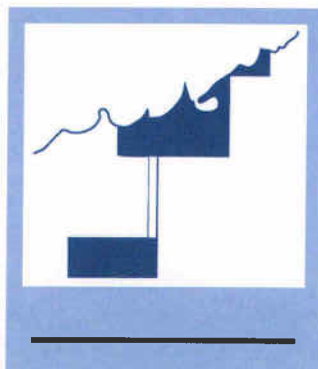
South Shore Cultural Center

Popular Existing Features

South Shore Cultural Center Building	27 mentions
Southern Peninsula/Wildlife Habitat	23 mentions
Main Gate	15 mentions
Colonnade and Formal Landscaping	12 mentions

Concerns and Suggestions

Southern Peninsula Nature Preserve	11 mentions
Renovate Upper Floors of Main Building	10 mentions
Renovate Outdoor Theater	8 mentions
Increase Migratory Bird Habitat	8 mentions
Add Lakefront Bike/Pedestrian Path	6 mentions
Add New Access to SSCC	6 mentions



● Focus Group Summary

The focus of the South Shore Cultural Center is culture: arts, theater, dance, music, and recreation. This park hosts the annual Jazz Festival, which draws 50,000 visitors annually. The main building’s beautiful large rooms attract many public and private events, and the Robeson Theater is home to small seasonal theater productions.

Washington Park

Popular Existing Features

Lagoon	29 mentions
Meadow/Baseball Fields	14 mentions
DuSable Museum	8 mentions
Bynum Island	8 mentions

Concerns and Suggestions

Bring the Rowboats Back	13 mentions
Install Information Kiosks	12 mentions
Increase Park Maintenance	7 mentions
Restore & Re-Use	
Historic Buildings	7 mentions
Public & Private	
Transportation Access	7 mentions
Create Wildlife Habitat	7 mentions
Provide Band Shell	

In the past six years, Washington Park has seen increased programming activity. It is the traditional home of the largest parade in the world, the Bud Billiken Day Parade. Due to the renaissance of Bronzeville, Washington Park is now programmed with events targeted at the diverse interests of the African American community during each weekend in the summer.

Throughout the thirteen focus group sessions and three key informant interviews that comprise the research for this report, several broad themes emerge:

Park Appreciation. Users of Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center have an innate appreciation of these parks as a place to escape the city, to relax, rejuvenate, participate in recreational activities, and appreciate nature.

User Groups. By most accounts, different user groups mix very well in the parks, as do different racial/ethnic groups. Parks users are proud of this diversity and celebrate it.

Trees, Plants and Habitat. The trees, plants, and flowers are much appreciated by all park users and provide a habitat for a wide variety of insects, migratory birds and animal life readily acknowledged as primary attractions to these areas. The lagoons and other water habitats throughout the parks are often mentioned as special places within the parks, not only by fishermen and birders, but also by casual park users who appreciate this important addition to the overall landscape.

General Maintenance. Most users would like to see the parks better maintained. Specific suggestions include better general lawn and tree maintenance, cleaning weeds and debris from the water areas, regular stocking of the lagoons with fish, and making the entrances to the parks more appealing to attract visitors.

When asked for suggestions for additions to the parks, many users request basics like picnic tables and garbage cans. Users would also like to see more diverse amenities, including chess tables and cafes, incorporated into the renovation plans. When compared to other parks within the system, users perceive that the Chicago Park District spends more dollars for renovation and facilities and allocates more maintenance time to the parks on the City’s North Side.

Personal Safety. The parks are held in high esteem as neighborhood treasures – wide expanses of greenery within the urban environment. Unfortunately, while the neighborhoods surrounding these parks are experiencing a renaissance and users enjoy the parks during the day, the parks are still perceived to be very unsafe at night.

Users strongly recommend an increased police patrol presence at all three parks, not only squad cars, but also bicycle and foot patrols. Users recommend the installation of an emergency telephone system throughout the parks. Users also suggest that weeds and bushes be cut to prevent people from using them for cover and to afford users an unobstructed view of the surrounding area.

Bathrooms and Water Fountains. Except for the restroom “on the curve” at Washington Park, the bathrooms in Washington Park are universally described as unkept, unclean, and unsafe. Users also estimate that approximately half of the water fountains throughout the three parks are unusable for a variety of reasons.

Findings from this Focus Group and key informant interview research are used to inform the consultants to the Chicago Park District as a critical step in the development of the South Lakefront Framework Plan.

5 APPENDIX

C. Stewardship



Bridge to Bynum Island, Washington Park



Equitable Sharing

As the principal steward of Chicago's parks, the Park District is charged with their protection, maintenance, and enhancement. This includes equitable distribution of financial resources, programs, staff, property, and other resources throughout the system. For the Park District to successfully carry out its stewardship mission, its staff must be adequate and professional, and they must have access to the resources necessary to do the job.

The broad community using Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center, including park users, local residents and interest groups, believe that their parks have not been getting their fair share of resources. Inadequate maintenance was consistently the number one issue identified in the public participation process.

General Management Policy

1. To improve Washington Park, Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center's overall image, give the Park Supervisor appropriate responsibility and authority for park activities and management.
2. Continue to attract, develop and retain a professional work force.
3. To ensure equitable distribution of funds earned in the parks by outside vendors, create a policy to return a greater percentage of what's earned in the park directly to the park.

4. To expand park services, seek outside funds and/or resources for collaborative programs between the Park District, community groups, schools and service providers.
5. To improve the overall stewardship of the parks, coordinate activities of the many separate agencies that impact the parks.
6. To improve the overall stewardship of the parks, assure fair allocation of public funds.
7. Establish consistent management policies that benefit the public and the park for events, permit activities, leases and concessions.
8. To improve the overall stewardship of the parks, increase the role of the public in building a positive future.
9. Establish a day and evening park presence by encouraging activities, providing additional lighting and expanding maintenance functions.
10. Work with police security to solve inappropriate park usage problems.



Lagoons, Washington Park



Harold Washington Common Ground, Washington Park

● General Maintenance Policy

1. Create a Landscape Management and Restoration Plan for each park to guide future decisions.
2. To improve the overall stewardship of the parks, create a unified management team for landscape maintenance and rehabilitation for each park.
3. Implement landscape maintenance practices which are consistent with:
 - The historic landscape design intent.
 - The natural heritage of the Midwest, specifically of the Chicago region.
 - The various educational and recreational uses associated with the different areas of each park.
4. Through landscape maintenance, sustain and strengthen the park's landscape.
5. Focus landscape management on long-term viability of design features and ecological processes rather than temporary visual impacts or short-term improvements.
6. Base landscape maintenance on professional horticultural and ecological standards that reflect a thorough understanding of site specific constraints and opportunities.
7. Sustain the life and vitality of the existing tree population through sound arboricultural practices. These practices include: pruning, removal, thinning, promoting regeneration, mulching, and integrated pest management.
8. Remove trees that have been determined as hazardous to public safety. This determination should be based on a combination of arboricultural science and location in terms of public use.
9. Identify stands of trees that have either historic value in terms of the park's design or represent specific habitat value for specific management practices.
10. Implement tree planting practices that simultaneously reflect a knowledge of historic design intent and a recognition of ecosystem processes and concepts that maximize tree survival and long-term vitality.
11. Provide optimal opportunities for community and school-based participation and stewardship.
12. To help maintain and enhance the natural areas of the parks, consider creating volunteer stewardship programs to involve the community in the necessary work of managing these areas. These programs can help educate volunteers of all ages in the importance and structure of our native landscape and our natural heritage.

5 APPENDIX

D. Background Information



Aerial View of Washington Park, Circa 1950



Reports

- *Bobolink Meadow Nature Sanctuary Report*, October 1996, Chicago Park District.
- *Historic Preservation Analysis, South Shore Cultural Center Park Buildings and Grounds*, June 15, 1992, Chicago Park District.
- *Inventory and Evaluation of the Historic Parks in the City of Chicago: Jackson Park*, 1982, Office of John Vinci, Inc. for City of Chicago Department of Planning.
- *Jackson Park Guidelines*, September 1996 (Amended October 10, 1996), City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development.
- *Jackson Park Strategic Plan Historic Templates*, 1996, Chicago Park District.
- *Needs Assessment – Patron Interview Results and Community Needs Assessment*, October through December, 1990, South Shore Cultural Center Advisory Council.
- *Recommendations to Perform a Phase 1 Engineering Design Study, South Lake Shore Drive Corridor*, April 1997, Chicago Department of Transportation.
- *Recommendations for the South Lakefront*, June 1, 1998, South Lakefront Coalition.
- *Report on South Open Ground, Upper Plaisance, Midway Plaisance, Open Ground, Lagoon Plaisance and Parkway Quadrant*, 1871, Olmsted & Vaux for Chicago South Park Commissioners.
- *South Lake Shore Drive Phase 1 Study Advisory Group Fifth Quarterly Meeting*, April 20, 1999, by Edwards and Kelcey for IDOT, CDOT, and Chicago Park District.
- *South Lake Shore Drive Phase 1 Study Advisory Group Sixth Quarterly Meeting*, July 20, 1999, by Edwards and Kelcey for IDOT, CDOT, and Chicago Park District.
- *South Lake Shore Drive Phase 1 Study Advisory Group Seventh Quarterly Meeting*, October 5, 1999, by Edwards and Kelcey for IDOT, CDOT, and Chicago Park District.
- *South Lake Shore Drive Phase 1 Study Advisory Group Eighth Quarterly Meeting*, December 2, 1999, by Edwards and Kelcey for IDOT, CDOT, and Chicago Park District.
- *South Lake Shore Drive Phase 1 Study Advisory Group Ninth Quarterly Meeting*, February 23, 2000, by Edwards and Kelcey for IDOT, CDOT, and Chicago Park District.
- *Shoreline Protection and Recreational Enhancement*, June 26, 1989, Chicago Park District Proposal.
- *South Shore Cultural Center Master Plan* June 28, 1999, McCluer for the Chicago Park District.
- *A Study of Future Development for Jackson Park*, May 31, 1966, Johnson Johnson & Roy, Inc. for the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development.
- *A Study on the Future of Chicago's Lakefront*, 1972, Johnson, Johnson & Roy, Inc. for the City of Chicago and Chicago Park District.
- *Washington Park Historic Templates*, July 2, 1999, Chicago Park District.

● Drawings, Maps and Plans

- General Plan of Jackson Park, 1905, South Park Commission.*
- Map of the Buildings & Grounds of the World's Columbian Exposition, Jackson Park and Midway Plaisance, 1893, D.H. Burnham, Director of Works and J.W. Atwood, Engineer Surveys & Grades Department.*
- Map Showing Progress Made in the Improvement of the Eastern Division of South Park, 1880, n.a.*
- Map Showing Progress Made in the Improvement of the Western Division of South Park, 1880, n.a.*
- Plan of South Open Ground, Upper Plaisance, Midway Plaisance, Open Ground, Lagoon Plaisance and Parkway Quadrant, 1871, Olmsted, Vaux & Co.*
- Revised General Plan for Jackson Park, 1895, Olmsted & Eliot.*

● Focus Group Research Reports

- Jackson Park Bike Path Users
- Jackson Park Boaters
- Jackson Park Casual Users
- Jackson Park Casual Users of 57th Street and 63rd Street Beaches
- Jackson Park Golfers Using Driving Range and Golf Course (2 times, with South Shore Cultural Center Golfers)
- Jackson Park Lagoon Fishermen*
- Jackson Park Parents Who Bring Children
- Jackson Park Wooded Island*
- South Shore Cultural Center Casual Users of Beach
- South Shore Cultural Center Golf Course (2 times; with Jackson Park Golfers)
- Washington Park Basketball Players
- Washington Park Casual Users
- Washington Park Lagoon & Bynum Island*
- *Focus Group Financed through Openlands Project and the USDA Forest Service.



Administration Building (now DuSable Museum), Washington Park

5 APPENDIX

E. Participants



Jackson Park Workshop



Washington Park Workshop

Organizational Members

- Bird Conservation Network
- Chicagoland Bicycle Federation
- Chicago Park District
 - Office of Planning & Development
 - Lakefront Region
 - Southeast Region
 - Park Services
- Chicago Transit Authority
- City of Chicago
 - Department of Environment
 - Department of Planning and Development
 - Department of Transportation
- DuSable Museum
- Dyett Middle School
- Friends of the Parks
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Jackson Park Advisory Council
- Lakefront Alliance
- Lake Michigan Federation
- Museum of Science and Industry
- Office of 3rd Ward Alderman
- Office of 4th Ward Alderman
- Office of 5th Ward Alderman
- Office of 20th Ward Alderman
- Office of State Representative, 24th District
- Office of State Representative, 25th District
- Office of State Senator, 3rd District
- Openlands Project

- Promontory Point Advisory Council
- South Lakefront Coalition
- South Shore Cultural Center Advisory Council
- University of Chicago
- Washington Park Advisory Council

Consultants

- SmithGroup JJR, LLC
- Campbell Tiu Campbell, Inc.
- Harza Engineering Company
- TY Lin International BASCOR, Inc.
- Kathleen Dickhut
- Bill Gerstein

Chicago Park District (past and present)

- Julia Bachrach
- Kim Bailey
- Lori Crockett
- Tommy Davidson
- Bridget Gainer
- Chris Gent
- Julie Gray
- Regina Hayes
- John Henderson
- Mike Hyatt
- A. J. Jackson
- Arnold Randall
- Tabatha Russell-Koylass
- Angela Sallis
- Barbara Weeks
- Kim Whalen
- Dr. Margaret T. Burroughs, Commissioner
- Bob Pickens, Commissioner



● Workshop Participants

Doug Anderson
Miriam Apster
Nadja Aquino
Rev. Johnnie H. Barnes
Joanne Bauer
Timuel D. Black
Gabriel Bouldin III
Leslie Borns
Bobby Bridges
Cecile Keith Brown
Geneva Brown
Mary Bruno
Richard Bumstead
Leslie Burns
Juanita Burris
Dr. Margaret T. Burroughs
Cecilia Butler
Geneva Calloway
Stuart Campbell
Mae Carter
N'Dana Carter
Carol Chandoi
Sharithea Cherry
Edward D. Clark
Ernistine Clark
Martin Clayton
Kay Clement
George S. Cooley
Wavely Cross
Yoland Cursach
Rose Custo
Glenda Daniel
Anthony Daniels
Donald Dann
Jackie Dann
Carrie Davies
Cameron Davis
Thelma Davis
Marian & Leon Despres
Rochon L. Dibble

Ann Dixon
Alan Mora Dobry
Lois Dobry
Alice Stewart Douglas
Mary Drish
Larry Dunn
Rev. Lawrence Duris
David Effenberg
Anna Fan
Lynn Foreman
James Foster
Pat Francisco
Leroy Frant
M.P. Gibson
Vinston Glover
Millicent Gordon
Harold Graham
Margaret Gross
Edmond Gueringer
Ald. Leslie Hairston
Nancy Hays
Deborah Harrington
Bernadette Harris
Tibor Heisler
Malcolm Hemphill
Kathy Henning
William A. Hill
Raynard Holl
Calvin Holmes
Brian Hopkins
J. Howard Horn
Jonnie L. Howard-Horne
Murphy Hughes
Lee Koonce
Gerald James
Gloria Johnson
J. Johnson
M.A. Johnson
Mitchell L. Johnson
Norris Johnson

Alvin Jones
George Jones
John B. Jones
Paula Jones
Vernita L. Jones
Erin Kerby
Beverly Hopson King
Rev. Jesse Knox
Robert Lamanus
Jim Landing
Bill Latoza
Owen Lawson
Lewis Lee, Jr.
William S. Lewis
Eric Lock
Morganna Lockett
Ray Lodato
Yolanda Logwood
Marjorie Love
Payton Lyle
Antoinette McAllister
Cedric McCay
Bridgette R. McCullough
Tate Mackel
Sonya Malunda
Gloria Mance
Marilee Manning
Carolyn Marsh
Denise Marx
Inge Maser
Theresa Mayberry-Junn
Marylynn Mayberry-Ross
Kimberly Mebe
David Mingay
Lauren Moltz
Suzanne Morgan
Shadawn Morrison
Susan Muller
Murdock
Pat Murray

Sharon Murphy
E. Fay Okoche
Torrio Osborne
Gary Ossewaarde
Ross Petersen
Bob Pickens
Lonnie Plecha
Julia BlumbEvan Plummer
Stanley Porter
John Potter
Chris Randolph
Malissa Randolph
Lorene Richardson
Jeremy Roach
Eleanor Roemer
Gerald Ross
Richard Rutschman
Sylvia Royt
Terry Schilling
Marcy Schlessinger
Carol Schneider
Polly Silberman
Richard Sloongers
Marianne Smigelskis
Andrew O. Smith
Marguerite Srellers
Betty Jr. Spann
Henry Swint
Maurice L. Sykes
Marybeth Szczesniak
Joann Tate
John Tillman
Jean Treese
Isaiah Turner
Wendy Walker
Kenneth L. Webb
Kimberly Webb
Mazola Webb
Hank Webber
M.O. Welch

Barbara Werner
Prof. & Mrs. R. H. White
Minerva White
Selma Steward White
Jeannie & Jay Williams
Julian C. Williams
Robin Williams
Geoff Williamson
Sarah Wilson
Brenda Wolf
Olivette Wooldridge
Oscar Worall
Isaac Wright
Howard Zar

