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THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT:
History, Background, Organization.

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The Chicago Park District

HISTORY · BACKGROUND · ORGANIZATION

Every alert Chicagoan knows that nowadays all the parks* in his city have been consolidated into one park system. Where 22 independent park authorities grew before, now one flourishes. But suppose we assume that municipal park government in general, and the Chicago Park District in particular are still rather mysterious to the average citizen. Let us begin this story of Chicago's parks by posing a blunt question: "Just what, after all, is the Chicago Park District?"

134 parks. 162 miles of boulevards.

Physically, the Chicago Park District is a collection of 134 parks, large and small, scattered throughout the length and breadth of the city. Its total acreage is 5337—approximately half of these acres being in Lake Front and half in inland parks. In the District are 52 boulevards and parkways which form a connected boulevard-and-parks system 162 miles in total length. These boulevards are the backbone of the express auto traffic system of Chicago. In the District are 83 well-equipped recreation centers. In it are six splendid yacht harbors and 13 carefully patrolled bathing beaches extending from Calumet Park on the south (95th Street) to North Shore Park on the north (6800 North). In it are three public conservatories (in Garfield, Lincoln, and Washington parks) with extensive propagating houses. In it, in short, is a tremendous investment in public recreational equipment and resources of every nature.

1 independent municipality.

From the point of view of organization, the point must be made that the Chicago Park District is an independent municipality with ordinance-making and taxing powers and police jurisdiction practically on a par with the government of the City of Chicago. The Chicago Park District is an organization of civil servants who administer and maintain its extensive properties and activities under the direction of a board of five Commissioners appointed for five years each by the Mayor of Chicago, and serving without compensation. The term of one Commissioner expires each year. The Park District may condemn land within the city limits and may levy special assess-

Chicago - Parks

* Excepting 390 acres of playgrounds, squares, and beaches under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Parks, Recreation, and Aviation, which is part of the Department of Public Works of the City of Chicago. No details on these areas will be found in this present book, but can be obtained from the Bureau of Parks, City Hall.

ments for park improvements, but these powers may not be applied outside the city boundaries. The revenue of the Park District is derived from taxes on all real and other property throughout the entire city. And just as its revenue is derived from all sections of the city, so do all sections of the city feel the influence of its intensive recreation program, its unified traffic system, and its constant planning for and development of Chicago as a more beautiful city. For of course from the very nature of things, the Chicago Park District is the chief agent of city beautification. It is, besides, a force which is constantly welding the many widespread and self-contained communities of which Chicago is composed, into one homogeneous urban unit.

The yearly operating expense of the Chicago Park District amounts to approximately \$7,200,000, of which about 10% is obtained from miscellaneous income such as permit fees, concessions and rental of park facilities. The balance is secured from a general property tax levy. The Park District does not benefit from any special taxes. The total funded debt of the Chicago Park District is approximately \$110,000,000, of which nearly 95% remains from the superseded park districts. This bonded debt is supported by a tax levy of about \$9,500,000 per annum.

The Chicago Park District came into existence on May 1, 1934. But before going into how this happened, and what the event meant to Chicago, let us consider the ancestors of the District. Let us go back a little and look at the family tree.

The first paragraph of park history in Chicago was written in the year 1839, when the City Council established "Dearborn Park." Dearborn Park occupied the area where the Chicago Public Library now stands (Washington to Randolph Streets, at Michigan Avenue). Three years later, on September 14, 1842, Washington Square came into existence, at Dearborn Street and Walton Place. Washington Square is still a city park, and thus indisputably the oldest park in Chicago. It is faced on the north, fittingly enough, by the Newberry Library, important humanities library, and is maintained by the City of Chicago.

The family tree.

On April 29, 1844, the City Council accepted the dedication by private property owners of the area east of Michigan Avenue from Randolph Street to Park Row, and called it "Lake Park," finally establishing it by ordinance as such in 1847. This area was later absorbed into the present Grant Park. Jefferson Park (1848), Union Park (1854), and Vernon Park (1859) were the earliest on the West Side. The original 80 acres of Lincoln Park was first set aside for use as a cemetery in 1837 and was not declared a public park until October 21, 1864.

SERVING A CITY'S LEISURE

Few people realize the amazing extent and variety of free facilities for indoor and outdoor recreation provided in the 134 parks throughout the Chicago Park District. The following table summarizes these and provides a statistical picture of the highly developed park resources which serve the city's leisure.

FIELDHOUSES 83

INDOOR FACILITIES

Auditoriums (Total capacity 49,450).....	66
Gymnasiums	91
Natatoriums	6
Club Rooms	227
Public Libraries and Reading Rooms.....	23
Games Rooms	72
Kitchens	74
Banquet Halls	22
Machine Shops (for Crafts Production).....	6
Camera Club Quarters	6
Roque Court	1
Archery Ranges	7
Shooting Gallery	2
Infant Welfare Stations.....	23

OUTDOOR FACILITIES

Archery Ranges	10
Athletic Fields (Football, Soccer, Cricket, Running Tracks, etc.).....	98
Baseball Diamonds	122
Bathing Beaches	13
Beach Bath Houses	7
Park Bath Houses	33
Bicycle Bowls	1
Boating Lagoons	6
Bowling Green Courts.....	7
Bridle Paths (14½ miles).....	6
Casting Pools	5
Golf Courses	5
Gymnasiums (outdoor)	30
Horseshoe Courts	239
Ice Skating Areas.....	72
La Bocce Courts	2
Model Yacht Basins	2
Picnic Grounds	41
Playgrounds for Children.....	184
Rifle Range	2
Roque Courts	17
Softball Diamonds	277
Swimming Pools	34
Tennis Courts	569
Wading Pools for Children.....	68
Yacht and Powerboat Harbors.....	6

ART GALLERIES 2

CONSERVATORIES 3

ZOO and AQUARIUM 1

Chicago - Parks

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Park development in Chicago, however, became an active interest in 1869 when the Illinois Legislature authorized the establishment of the South Park, the West Park and the Lincoln Park Districts. These were controlled by Boards or commissions independent of the city government, with distinct taxing powers within their respective territories. Together these three original park systems covered what was then the entire area of Chicago. As the city spread out to the north, south and west, these original park districts had no jurisdiction outside the boundaries originally set for them and hence the newer sections of the city were without park or boulevard facilities. As a result, in the years following the World's Fair of 1893, when Chicago grew by leaps and bounds, various outlying sections of the city organized local park districts of their own by taking advantage of an act of the Legislature adopted in 1895. The first of these smaller outlying park districts was the Ridge Avenue Park District, established April 21, 1896. The Calumet Park District followed in October, 1903. As the years went on, additional park districts were set up as new areas became developed until by 1930 there were nineteen separate park districts in addition to the Lincoln, South and West Park Districts—all within the city limits.

The first small park districts.

Although the three original large park districts were governed by appointive boards, the later nineteen smaller districts were governed by elective boards of seven commissioners each. This complicated election procedure and tax assessment and collection machinery. For long years public spirited citizens and civic organizations advocated the abolition of all twenty-two park districts and their union into one city-wide system. The movement came to a head in 1916 when the first park consolidation act was submitted to the voters and defeated on purely political grounds.

The demand for consolidation continued, however, and in 1933 a new act was secured from the Legislature which was approved by the voters on April 10, 1934. This Act abolished all twenty-two former park districts and created the Chicago Park District as their successor.

Consolidation approved by voters.

Mayor Edward J. Kelly appointed Messrs. Robert J. Dunham, Harry Joseph, Martin Kennelly,* John Nash and Miss Bessie O'Neill to the first board of Commissioners of the consolidated Park District. These Commissioners took office on May 1, 1934, and the Chicago Park District officially became a fact. Mr. John Nash and Miss O'Neill were temporary appointees, their offices shortly being permanently filled by the appointments of Mr. Stephen I. Witmanski and Mr. James C. Petrillo.

* Resigned Nov. 26, 1935, and succeeded by Philip S. Graver, Feb. 4, 1936.

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Questions as to the constitutionality of the Park Consolidation Act, however, made it necessary to permit the former park districts to continue to function until the Supreme Court could pass upon the technical questions involved. And so for some months following May 1, 1934, the former boards of park commissioners continued to act and the new Commissioners of the Chicago Park District confirmed their acts. In October, 1934, the Supreme Court issued its decision validating the Park Consolidation Act and the merger of the former twenty-two park systems became an accomplished legal fact.

Unified park policies.

The advent of the Chicago Park District meant unification, economy, and increased efficiency in park service. The scheme of having local park districts functioning in limited areas was of course beneficial and natural during the earlier years of the city's growth and was largely responsible for the extensive and well-distributed parks and boulevards that now characterize Chicago. The local park boards were able to secure bond issues for local park projects which probably could not have been secured if the consent of the voters of the whole city had been required and the expense spread over all Chicago. But now that Chicago has become so great a metropolitan center the many local park authorities with their varying park ordinances and divergent policies would make it practically impossible to provide thoroughly satisfactory city-wide park and recreation service throughout the city. This need for unifying policies and methods and for providing better recreation facilities at all park centers—on standards as high as existed in any of them—was as forceful an argument for consolidation as the need for the simplification of governmental structure and taxing machinery.

The management of Chicago's parks today involves municipal engineering problems of the first magnitude, traffic problems at least as complicated as any facing the City government, landscape development problems fundamental to all city planning, and problems dealing with the recreation and leisure-time enjoyment of our whole citizenry that cannot properly be solved except on a city-wide scale.

A city-wide public recreation program.

As to a public recreation program: one of the first considerations of the Commissioners of the newly instituted Chicago Park District was to extend a complete and thoroughly modern recreation service to **all** sections of the city. The program adopted by the Commissioners borrowed in the main from the splendid type of social service which had been developed under the guidance of J. Frank Foster, general superintendent, in the recreation centers of the former South Park System—a service including wide opportunity for the creative type of activity, as well as opportunity for organized athletic

competition. The Chicago Park District has taken the South Park recreation idea and extended it to every single fieldhouse in the city. In the process the idea has been developed to a point where today the typical park recreation center program offers an astonishing variety of "things to do" to the people of its neighborhood. The "What to Do" chapter of this present book aims to give some idea as to the scope of these recreation center programs, and to suggest the possibilities they hold for every Chicagoan.

This book as a whole should be read as an illustrated Baedeker to Chicago's parks. While it does not presume to be a detailed account, it nevertheless aims to touch on all the important points necessary to give a ready, workable understanding of the Chicago Park District. If any reader is interested in knowing more about any subject discussed here—or some angle of park management in Chicago perhaps not touched on—the Information Service in the Commissioners' offices, Burnham Park Administration Building, is always at his service.

What to See

DOWNTOWN LAKE FRONT

Downtown Chicago faces East. Crowding up along the west curb of Michigan Avenue from Randolph Street to Roosevelt Road, it looks out to the beautiful and capricious waters of Lake Michigan across an unobstructed "front yard" sweep of lawn and gardens. Justly famous is Grant Park, this unique 300-acre front yard of downtown Chicago. Incredibly enough, it had its beginnings in a thin strip of "made land" which appeared as a result of dumping wreckage from the great fire of '71 into the lake along the shore off Monroe Street. Today, with its Yacht Basin, Amphibian Landing, museums, landscaped walks and drives, fountains, and playing fields, it is an extraordinary sight to see in the very heart of a vast modern metropolis.

The Buckingham Fountain. The focal point of Grant Park is the Buckingham Fountain, a great fountain of red Georgia marble set in the center of the park and surrounded by formal gardens. It was the gift of Kate Buckingham of Chicago in memory of her brother, Clarence Buckingham. 280 feet at its greatest diameter, its unusual concentric-circular design is the work of Bennett, Parsons, and Frost, Chicago architectural engineers. The central column of water rises dramatically to a height of ninety feet and is surrounded by a series of smaller fountains which play into and against its base. A 45 million candle-power system of colored floodlights makes the fountain the most remarkable nocturnal sight on the summer Lake Front. During the season (June through September) the fountain is in display every afternoon, with night displays scheduled for Wednesday and Sunday evenings. The fountain was dedicated on August 26, 1927, and cost approximately five hundred thousand dollars.

The approach to the Buckingham Fountain from Michigan Avenue is made from the Congress Street Plaza, a spacious entrance area flanked by pylons, fountains and Ivan Mestrovic's impressive bronze figures of warrior American Indians on horseback.

Sightseeing in Chicago is practically synonymous with a tour of the major parks, for in the parks are located many of those things for which the city has become famous. Great museums, art galleries, magnificent drives and public gardens, a Planetarium, a Zoo, a fountain larger and lovelier than the famed Latonia fountain at Versailles—these and other widely-known attractions are to be seen in the Chicago Park District.



*Soldier Field at night,
Burnham Park.*

Kaufman & Fabry photo.

Field Museum of Natural History. Field Museum of Natural History faces Buckingham Fountain from the southern limit of Grant Park. From its vast portico, pillared in true Ionic style, the whole length of Grant Park is revealed. With the Shedd Aquarium and Adler Planetarium (both of which are close neighbors) it forms a triumvirate of nationally important educational institutions on the Lake Front. Founded in 1893 by Marshall Field, pioneer Chicago merchant, and operated by a board of trustees, the Museum is a mecca for students of the sciences especially, but of interest and importance to the public generally as evidenced by the fact that more than a million persons visit it annually, including hundreds of thousands of school children. It is today considered one of the four or five



Field Museum of Natural History, Grant Park.

Buckingham Fountain and Shedd Aquarium, Grant Park.



greatest scientific museums in the world. Its exhibits, which are planned to present information in the most striking and easily understandable form, are grouped in four departments—Anthropology, Botany, Geology and Zoology. Their scope is world wide, and all ages are represented from prehistoric times millions of years ago down to the present. They illustrate the lives of the peoples of the world, ancient and modern, primitive and civilized; the lives of the animals found on all continents; the principal facts about the Plant Kingdom, and the most important inanimate phenomena of earth, its formation, its rocks and minerals, and other inorganic materials embraced in geological studies. Of outstanding interest are the

Art Institute of Chicago, Grant Park.



Hall of the Stone Age of the Old World and Malvina Hoffman's bronzes depicting the races of mankind; the halls containing series of habitat groups of the animals and birds of the Americas, Asia and Africa; the Hall of Plant Life, and the hall devoted to prehistoric animals and plants. Conducted tours of the Museum are given for the public daily except Saturdays and Sundays, and may be arranged also for special parties. No charge is made for this service. The Museum is open daily, with free admission on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, and a charge of 25c on other days. Children are admitted free at all times.

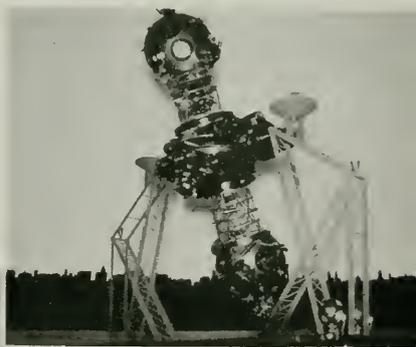
Shedd Aquarium. An octagonal, Doric building of white marble, located on the lake's edge just east of the Field Museum, is the largest and finest equipped aquarium in the world. It is the John G. Shedd Aquarium, built in 1929 at a cost of over three million dollars, and operated by the Shedd Aquarium Society, which is composed of prominent Chicago business men. Its constantly changing exhibits average about 10,000 living specimens of aquatic life. 250 species are represented, and include fishes, invertebrates, reptiles, amphibia, mammals and birds. There are salt water specimens from both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and fresh water specimens from every continent. 450,000 gallons of water are required for the exhibition tanks,—half of it fresh water and half salt. A specially built railroad car, "The Nautilus," is used yearly for collecting trips made by the Aquarium's staff. Almost as remarkable as the fish is the architecture of the Aquarium building itself. It is probably the only building in the world originally and scientifically designed to house aquatic exhibits. The decorative aquatic and marine motifs carried out in stone and metal, both on the interior and exterior, are little works of art. The Aquarium is open daily from ten to five, with free admission on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Other days,—25c. Children are admitted free at all times.

The Adler Planetarium. Occupying its own promontory at the north end of Northerly Island off Grant and Burnham parks, stands the Adler Planetarium and Astronomical Museum. This was the first institution of its kind in America, and was founded by Max Adler, Chicago philanthropist, in 1930. It is operated and maintained by the Commissioners of the Chicago Park District. Besides the domed Planetarium chamber itself where the great drama of the heavens is revealed through the medium of that incredibly complex and wonderful machine called The Planetarium, there is a fine astronomical museum. The corridors on the main floor are devoted to the display of antique instruments and astronomical photographs in the form of transparencies. On the lower floor more modern equipment

is exhibited. There is also an astronomical reference library. The building itself—an imposing structure of rainbow granite with copper dome—is of unusual architectural interest. Lectures are given at regular hours every day of the week, including Sunday. Admission is 25c. Free days are Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. (Incidentally, no finer view of Chicago's skyline is to be had than from the balcony which circles the base of the Planetarium dome. From this vantage point the towers and pinnacles of Michigan Avenue are seen dramatically across the waters of the Yacht Basin and Grant Park.)

Art Institute of Chicago. The second largest art museum in the country, and internationally known as one of the most progressive, is the Art Institute of Chicago, located in Grant Park at the foot of Adams Street. It was established in 1866, destroyed by the fire of '71, and acquired its first important collection in 1890 when it sprang into world prominence with the purchase of the Demidoff Collection of Old Dutch Masters for \$206,000. It has consistently remained in the international eye ever since, and today its collection of paintings is considered one of the finest in the country—particularly in the fields of Flemish Primitives, Spanish Painting, and 19th Century French Painting. Also of great importance are the Collections of Prints, Oriental Art and Decorative Arts. An annual average

A night sky as brilliant as the finest that can be seen under ideal conditions of Nature invites your enjoyment at the Adler Planetarium on Northerly Island. Within the Planetarium dome you gaze up at a starry firmament most realistically portrayed, while listening to one of the lecture demonstrations of the Drama of the Heavens. Lectures change monthly. The Adler Planetarium was the first institution of the kind in America.



of one million people visit the Institute galleries, but a new high was made in 1933 when 2,050,604 people saw the now historic Century of Progress Official Exhibition of Paintings and Sculpture. In addition to its galleries, the Institute operates the largest art school in the world with an annual attendance of between three and four thousand students. It also maintains a School of the Drama, a Children's Museum, and two exceptionally complete art libraries—the Ryerson and the Burnham Libraries, the latter of which is a collection of important architectural books and photographs. An annual Institute event which is always the subject of lively controversy and discussion is the Exhibition of Contemporary American Paintings and Sculpture, now in its 46th year. The Institute is operated by a board of trustees. Institute members pay ten dollars annually, which entitles them to free attendance at all lectures, and the Goodman Theatre. The galleries are open daily, including Sundays. Admission is 25c. Free days are Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Burnham Park Administration Building. The sole surviving official building of the great Century of Progress Exposition of 1933 and 1934, is now the headquarters of the Chicago Park District. It is located at the north end of the lagoon in Burnham Park, near the Field Museum, and formerly was the administration building of A Century of Progress. It is a good example of the "modern" exposition architecture which characterized A Century of Progress. In its blue and chromium lobby may be seen a huge air-view photograph of the entire Exposition as it looked in its original glory.

Soldier Field. Directly south of Field Museum of Natural History, and thoroughly complementing its classic style of architecture, stands the mammoth Soldier Field Stadium, built to accommodate civic events involving great masses of people—festivals, pageants, athletic events of national importance, etc. The structure is U-shaped, seating 105,000. Two impressive colonnades surmount its two sides, and stone podia, upon which statues will eventually stand (in the Greek and Roman manner of athletic stadia) form an important part of the architectural design at the open end of the Stadium. During the summer, Soldier Field is the setting for climax events in the Park District's recreation program: city-wide athletic contests with thousands of participants; Folk Dance Reviews and Lantern Festivals; Amateur Softball League Championships; an annual July 4th celebration in conjunction with the American Legion; Olympic Games tryouts, etc. The field itself is 1200 feet long and 300 feet wide. Soldier Field was built from 1922 to 1926 at a cost of \$7,700,000.

JACKSON PARK

Third in size among Chicago's parks, and the apple of every loyal South-sider's eye, is Jackson Park, edging the lake from 56th Street on the north to 67th Street on the south. Until 1893 only that portion of the 540-acre park site between 56th and 69th Streets bore any resemblance to the wooded, meadowed, and lagooned Jackson Park of today. The rest was still in its original state of sand waste. In 1893 the park was the setting for the history-making "World's Fair" (Columbian Exposition) of that year, and from then on its development as one of the city's most interesting parks was rapid. Final improvement work was completed in 1904. Shades of the Columbian Exposition linger in the park today in two of its major attractions—the Rosenwald Museum (Museum of Science and Industry), and the Japanese Pavilions.

Museum of Science and Industry. Perhaps the most outstanding architectural achievement of the Columbian Exposition was the Fine Arts Building. Augustus St. Gaudens called it "the finest thing since the Parthenon." Certainly in proportion and detail it was classically perfect. For many years the building stood as a noble and decaying plaster ruin. In 1924 a \$5,000,000 bond issue was authorized by popular vote for the reconstruction of the building in permanent form, and in 1933 the first section was opened to the world as the home of one of America's most fascinating museums—the Museum of Science and Industry. Founded by Julius Rosenwald, this industrial museum is modeled after the famous Deutsches Museum in Munich. Its displays tell the dramatic story of man's technical ingenuity from cave-man times to the present days of great engineering feats. Action is the vital principle of the exhibits. The Museum is full of "things that go"—machines which can be actually operated by the visitor himself. There is even a

*Museum of Science
and Industry, Jackson
Park.*





*Washington Park
landscape.*

full-size coal-mine into which visitors may descend and watch the processes of operation. The Museum is supported by a three million dollar fund administered by a board of trustees. The Museum is open daily free from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It stands in the north end of the park, at 57th Street and the Lake.

Japanese Gardens and Pavilions. A perfect bit of Japan dropped down into the Occident are the Japanese Gardens on the north end of the Wooded Island in Jackson Park lagoon. Recently designed and completed by Chicago Park District landscape architects as a setting for the Japanese Pavilions which have stood for over forty years on the Island as relics of the Columbian Exposition, the Japanese Gardens are completely authentic. All that is lacking from the picture is the pale cone of Fujiyama in the distance. The lily pools, arched bridges, the cherry trees and the hawthorne, dwarf pines and firs, the stone garden lanterns, ceremonial bamboo tea house—these and a thousand other details make the Gardens the most entrancing garden sight to be seen in Chicago in spring and summer. The Japanese Pavilions themselves have been restored. Built from designs of the Government architect of Japan in 1893, the three connecting pavilions are in part a reproduction of the famous Temple of Phoenix (called Hoo-den in honor of the mythical Japanese bird) built more than eight centuries ago at Uji. The central and largest pavilion is supposed to be the body of the bird, and the outlying pavilions its wings. The interior decorations in the form of elaborately carved beams, screen panels, etc., were done by the Tokio Academy, and have miraculously survived many years of neglect to present today,

*Two views of the
Japanese Gardens and
Pavilions on the
Wooded Island, Jack-
son Park.*



in slightly restored form, an exquisite example of Japanese craftsmanship.

It is expected that the Bendix Lama Temple, which was the object of great interest at A Century of Progress, will be moved to the south end of the Wooded Island, where it will be landscaped to make a picturesque companion to the



The Midway—boulevard and parkway connecting Washington (left) and Jackson Parks.

Japanese Pavilions. The Temple is an exact replica of the famed Golden Pavilion from the Potala temple in Jehol province, China, and as this is written still stands in Burnham Park, south of Soldier Field.

Bird Sanctuary. Directly southeast of the Wooded Island in the lagoon is a newly-constructed 20-acre bird sanctuary affording excellent opportunity for nature study and bird lore. Three small isolated islands and a considerable area of lagoon shore have been fenced in, but laid out in such a way that the birds can be readily studied from surrounding walks, and from three strategically placed bridges. The water area in the sanctuary is planted with sago, pondweed, wapato, wild rice and other native plants which provide ideal food and shelter conditions for water fowl of all kinds. There is a shelter and nature study building adjacent to the sanctuary. This permanent haven for migrating song birds and water fowl was established by the Chicago Park District in cooperation with the Illinois Audubon Society, Izaak Walton League and the Conservation Council.

THE MIDWAY

Connecting Jackson Park with Washington Park, and an integral link in the boulevard system of Chicago, is the Midway Plaisance, a double drive boulevard a mile long and 625 feet wide. Between the two drives is a spacious expanse of sunken lawn and parkway 220 feet wide. The drives themselves are each 40 feet wide. The buildings of the University of Chicago—in English Collegiate Gothic—tower up along the north drive of this unique thoroughfare and make it one of the "must" sights of the city. At its Washington Park end, the Mid-

way terminates in what is generally considered to be Lorado Taft's masterpiece—the Fountain of Time. This is a monumental work symbolizing the human procession passing in review before the inscrutable figure of Time. The sculptured procession of one hundred colossal figures—men, women, and children—appears to move across an arching bridge which rises from surging waters at the right and curves to meet engulfing waves at the left. An impressive and moving sculpture.

VANDERPOEL ART GALLERY

In the Vanderpoel Art Gallery, which occupies one wing of the Ridge Park fieldhouse (at Longwood Drive and 96th Street in fashionable Beverly Hills), the Chicago Park District possesses a community art gallery of many years standing. The gallery houses a collection of some 500 works by about 300 American painters and sculptors, and includes work by many prominent Chicago artists. Assembled as a memorial to the late John Vanderpoel, for long a distinguished Chicago painter, teacher at the Art Institute, and resident of Beverly Hills, the gallery is unique not only for the quality of the works it houses, but also for the fact that every single picture and sculpture on display, except one, has been donated by the artists themselves out of respect to the genius that was Vanderpoel's. Probably no other collection of paintings in the world has quite the same spirit as the Vanderpoel collection. The Gallery is open free daily, and well worth a trip to Beverly Hills. (While there one should tour the Ridge Park fieldhouse, as this is one of the best examples in the city of a park recreational center equipped to serve as an important factor in the cultural life of a community.)

Frieze of Fountain of Time, the Midway.





The Garfield Park Art Galleries are in the Garfield Park Recreation Center building.



GARFIELD PARK ART GALLERIES

In the former administration building in Garfield Park, Central Park Avenue and Washington Boulevard (headquarters of the former West Chicago Park system), is located the second of the community art centers in the Chicago Park District. The opening of the Garfield galleries in the late fall of 1935 inaugurated a cooperative movement between the Art Institute and the Commissioners of the Chicago Park District for the development of permanent community art centers throughout the city: small intimate exhibition rooms in key locations where a neighborhood may have easy access to carefully arranged exhibitions not only of painting, sculpture, and the graphic arts, but of native arts and crafts as well. The Garfield Park Art Galleries are a branch museum to the Art Institute, in that the works of art on view are loaned by the Institute, and its changing exhibits planned by curators at the Institute. The Galleries are open free daily from 1 to 5 p.m., including Sundays, and on Sunday and Wednesday evenings until 8. Lectures are given free every Friday from 3 to 4.

HUMBOLDT ROSE GARDENS

Of great seasonal interest and beauty are the rose gardens for which Humboldt Park, the largest park on the West Side, has



Ridge Park fieldhouse in Beverly Hills houses the Vanderpoel Art Gallery.



long been famous. These gardens are among the most highly developed in America, about 7000 plants in 30 varieties being used. Pools and garden sculptures have been effectively used in the design for the gardens, which was done by Jens Jensen, noted landscape architect. The gardens are in full bloom in June, with also an early fall blooming period.

GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY

The Garfield Park Botanical Gardens in the north end of Garfield Park (at Lake Street) is the premier institution of its kind in the world. Over 5000 specimens and varieties of the flora of the world make up the collections, which are conservatively valued at \$1,250,000. Eight exhibition houses and their separate displays of aroids, palms, succulents, ferns, etc., constitute the largest floral display under one roof in the world. Horticultural Hall, the largest show house at the Conservatory, is famous as the setting for four major flower shows held annually: the Easter, Mid-Summer, Chrysanthemum, and Christmas exhibitions. Of these, the Chrysanthemum exhibitions are the most spectacular. Visitors may, however, expect to see a flower show every day of the year, Garfield being one of the first public conservatories in the country to adopt the plan of a continuous flower show. One of the conservatory sights not to be duplicated for breathtaking beauty is the Fern House. This room is planned as a landscape suggestive of the carboniferous age, with tropical ferns of all kinds, and cycads featured. Several hundred species are shown. This room presents an unsurpassed study in greens. A free Lecture Guide service is maintained at all times at the Conservatory. Trained floriculturists will conduct interested visitors into all parts of the Conservatory and propagating houses and lecture informally on the collections. There is no more illuminating method of seeing the rarer specimens in the collections. The Conservatory is open daily, and admission is always free.

Both day and night bloomers, in 60 choice hardy and tropical varieties, make the Garfield Park water-lily pools a lovely summer sight. This is the largest collection of water-lilies in the



Corner of a Chrysanthemum Show, Garfield Park Conservatory.

parks and a sight not to be missed in August, when the plants are in full bloom. The pools are located adjacent to Madison Street and southwest of the administration building.

COLUMBUS PARK

On the west limits of the city, at Jackson and Austin Boulevards, is located one of the most unusual and interesting park tracts in Chicago—144-acre Columbus Park. One would have to look a long time before finding elsewhere as fine an example of that type of landscape known as "prairie." Certainly no other park in Chicago is so expressive of prairie landscape at its most



Fern House, Garfield Park Conservatory.

charming, as Columbus Park. The tract was developed from designs by Jens Jensen, the famous landscape architect, during the years 1913-1922. Mr. Jensen's idea was to create a completely "natural" park—one which was completely consistent with its prairie locale. And anyone who has been in Columbus Park, particularly during the autumn, when the plantations are in color, will have to agree that Mr. Jensen succeeded admirably. Nothing but native plantations were used, and in the fall the park is a riot of splendid colors. In no other park in the city is such a wealth of autumn coloring to be seen. The spreading, horizontal lines of the hawthorne, and other native shrubs and trees, blend into the carefully preserved prairie contours. Through the park, from north to south, runs a body of water—the typical small stream of the prairies. A ridge was built along the eastern edge of the park. Surmounted by a pleasant, winding drive, this ridge serves two purposes: first, to shut off the main body of the park from the adjoining city and its streets on the east; second, to provide a westward view of the prairie park with its stream, copses, and meadows. Highly recommended, if the day has been fine, is a view of the sunset over the park, as seen from this ridge drive. The swimming pool and athletic fields are located east of the ridge on the very edge of the park, and are thereby shut off from the major portion of the park, and at the same time easily accessible to adjoining city neighborhoods. Except for the extreme northern end, no drives have been allowed to run through the park. Thus the park has an intact quality rarely seen in a park of

Stream in Columbus Park.



its size. The student of landscape planning and architecture, as well as the sightseer, is strongly urged to visit Columbus Park, and observe its many unique and beautiful landscape features.

LINCOLN PARK

Stretching its green length along the North Shore from North Avenue to Foster Avenue, is Lincoln Park—the largest and one



*Water-lily pool,
Humboldt Park.*



*Humboldt Park Rose
Gardens.*

of the most picturesque of all Chicago parks. Lincoln Park has also long had the reputation of being one of the most popular and best known of Chicago parks. Perhaps this can be attributed to the fact that it is one of the oldest parks in Chicago. (The original 80 acres became a public park, "Lake Park," in 1864—the name being changed to Lincoln Park in 1865.) But more probably the explanation lies in the superb lake-side situation which the park enjoys, its great charm of landscape and gardens, wide variety of facilities for both land and water sports, and last but not least, its unusual collection of very worthwhile "things to see."

Zoological Gardens. Come into the Belgian Congo, India and Siam! You'll see the mandrill strut his rainbow splendor; the baboons do a cake-walk; and Bushman, the gorilla, swing pensively from the ceiling bars of his cage. It is a fascinating animal kingdom which the Lincoln Park Zoo offers free every day of the year for inspection by interested visitors. Besides the Lion and Small Animal Houses where 170 species of animals from every tropical country in the world are exhibited, there is a great Aviary where 250 species of birds of the world are on view; a small but quite complete Aquarium boasting 70 species of tropical, and 40 species of fresh water fish; and enclosures where larger animals such as deer, buffalo, zebras, kangaroos, gnus, camels, etc., are housed. The Zoological Gardens date from as far back as 1868, when a pair of swans were sent from Central Park, New York City, to decorate one of the small ponds then a feature of Lincoln Park. Apparently this brace of swans started a general movement of animal and bird donations, for in a very short time the Commissioners of the park found themselves with a small menagerie on their

Avenue in the Zoological Gardens, Lincoln Park.



hands. By 1882, the menagerie had turned into the nucleus of a real Zoo, and was being developed as such. Today it covers about 25 acres, and continues to be as popular an attraction as ever. It is estimated that from 5 to 6 million visitors come to the Zoo yearly. The Zoo buildings are open daily from nine to five. They are located in the heart of the park, near Center Street.

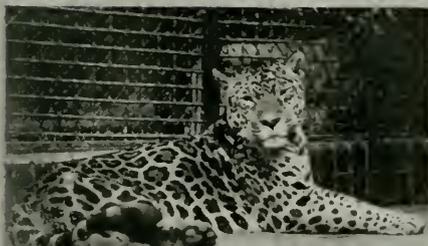
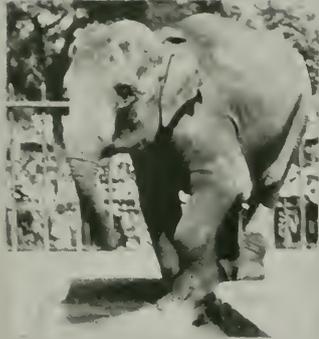
The Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary, 5-acres in extent, is located in the Lincoln Park Extension, at the foot of Addison Street (3600 N.).

Viking Ship. In an outdoor pavilion located near the water-fowl enclosure in Lincoln Park is displayed the Viking Ship which was sailed from Norway to Chicago in 1893. It came bearing a message of good will from the people of Norway to the American people on the occasion of the Columbian Exposition of that year. This was the first crossing of a viking ship to America since the time of the old Norse sagas. The ship was sailed by Captain Magnus Anderson and eleven other men. In 1920 it was deeded to the then Commissioners of Lincoln Park by the Chicago Federation of Norwegian Women's Societies. The ship is a reproduction of the famous viking ship, about 1000 years old, excavated from the "King's Mound" at Gokstad, County of Jarlsberg, Norway. In such ships the ancient Scandinavian vikings roamed the seas and founded domains in Iceland, Sicily, Scotland, and in many parts of Continental Europe.

Lincoln Park Conservatory. Directly north of the Zoo grounds stands the Lincoln Park Conservatory. With its 18 propagating houses, the Conservatory covers nearly one and a half acres. It offers permanent collections of aroids of all kinds, an extensive collection of ferns, a palm house in which are included economic plants and bamboos, and two show houses. While there is always an arrangement of flowers in bloom to be seen in the show houses, four important seasonal shows are featured. These are the Easter Show, Mid-Summer Show, Chrysanthemum Show, and Christmas Show. The Conservatory faces a 15-acre expanse of garden area famous in spring for its thousands of tulips, and in mid-summer for its brilliant display of cannas. The Conservatory is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is always free, and a free Lecture Guide service is available.

Grandmother's Garden. Something not to be missed in Lincoln Park if it's summer and the season fine, is the lovely garden which edges Stockton Drive, from Fullerton to Webster Avenues. Popularly known as "Grandmother's Garden," this is an intimate and completely charming garden in which bloom over forty varieties among the old and fragrant favorites:

From generation to generation the Animal Kingdom at Lincoln Park Zoo has been one of Chicago's most widely enjoyed attractions. Here are exhibited fine specimens of animals from every clime and continent. The Small Animal House contains practically every species of the primate family—and is conceded to be one of the finest such collections anywhere. The Lion House, Aviary and Aquarium also are drawing cards of no small importance on the Chicago calendar of Things to See.





Chicago Historical Society, Lincoln Park.

peonies, digitalis, anemone, candytuft, verbenas, sunflowers, delphinium, hinge-flowers, iris, over 600 lilies—these and many others grow casually and in a truly old-fashioned profusion all summer long. Fifty species of plants are included in the garden. The tropical water-lily pond, located just east of the Conservatory, is another floral spot of great beauty and well worth a visit during August, when the lilies are in full bloom.

The Chicago Academy of Sciences. A highly important role in the early cultural life of Chicago was played by the Chicago Academy of Sciences, whose museum stands on the edge of Lincoln Park at Center Street. Founded in 1857, it is considered to be the oldest scholarly body now existing in Chicago, and is especially notable for its exhibits on the natural history of the Chicago area. It was organized for the promotion of scientific investigation, and the walls and display cases of its museum generously testify to the pioneering work done by many of its early members, perhaps the most brilliant of whom was Robert Kennicott, one of the really dramatic figures in the field of American natural history. The collections are particularly rich in American specimens and include minerals, paleontological specimens, mollusca, entomological exhibits, vertebrates, ornithological and botanical displays. Open free daily. Free lectures given Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. during the fall and winter.

Chicago Historical Society. The new building of the Chicago Historical Society stands in the corner of Lincoln Park at the intersection of Clark Street and North Avenue. The museum and library mark a step forward in museum planning and



*Chicago Academy of
Sciences, Lincoln
Park.*

construction. Since the very fabric of history is chronology, the period rooms have been planned to show the sequence of American history from the days of Columbus to the present time. Electric control switches are so arranged that visitors can light the dioramas or set in motion the various mechanical devices. The reference library houses several hundred thousand volumes and manuscripts. The Lincoln Collection alone attracts scholars and students from all over the country. The Society sponsors a series of free historical lectures on Saturday morning for the school children of Chicago under the supervision of the Board of Education. There are also Sunday afternoon lectures and showings of historical films during the fall and winter months. Lecturers working under the supervision of the education department conduct groups on specially planned tours of the building. The Chicago Historical Society is a corporation not for profit and is supported entirely by memberships, door fees, and income from endowment. The museum is open daily at 25c admission with free days on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Alaskan Totem Pole. One of the two historic totem poles in the United States standing outside museums is to be found in Lincoln Park east of Lake Shore Drive at Addison Street. Known as "Kwa Ma Rolas," the totem pole is so old no one knows when it was carved, or by whom. It was brought from the Queen Charlotte Islands of Alaska and was presented to Lincoln Park by J. L. Kraft. Hewn from a single cedar, forty feet high and five feet in diameter, its intricate and mystical carvings tell one of the oldest sagas of the world—the tribal legend of the Haidan Indians, for centuries the most highly civilized of North American tribes.



St. Gaudens' "Lincoln," Lincoln Park.

St. Gaudens' Lincoln. The most famous of the many pieces of sculpture in Lincoln Park is St. Gaudens' standing "Lincoln," which faces the Dearborn Street entrance to the park. The bronze portrait figure and its pedestal are set off by a simple but spacious exedra, flanked by a background of trees. The work was unveiled on October 22, 1887.

Of historical interest, in the southern end of the park, are the Couch Vault and the Kenniston Memorial—both reminders of the very early days when much of the land now occupied by Lincoln Park was used as a cemetery. David Kenniston was the last surviving member of the Boston Tea Party, and died in Chicago, in 1852, at the age of 115.

What to Do

Chicago's long-time reputation as an important resort city is well justified. Naturally, the city's unique lakeside location makes possible water sports of every description, from sunbathing on the beaches to yacht racing far out in the lake. But the chief reason why there is such an astonishing variety of "things to do" in the way of outdoor sports and recreation along the lake front, is the 2700 acres of lakeshore land which have been developed throughout the years into picturesque park and play areas. Chicago has a lake frontage twenty-three miles in total length, and today seventeen of these miles are "park miles," if you will think of it that way: miles of carefully guarded beaches; harbors for power boats and sailing craft; boating lagoons; tennis courts and golf courses; meadows and lawns; extensive flower gardens; pleasant, wooded picnic grounds; bridle paths; baseball diamonds and horseshoe pits; archery ranges and roque courts; provisions for almost every conceivable phase of outdoor recreation.

But this is only part of the story of what to do in Chicago's parks.

Inland, the Chicago Park District maintains 2600 acres in large and small parks, the smaller serving more directly as community centers for the recreational life of individual neighborhoods. The larger of these parks have boating lagoons, golf courses, tennis courts, outdoor playing fields of all kinds, but all of them have generous facilities for some form of outdoor sports. 83 fieldhouses and recreation centers are maintained at strategic park locations throughout the city. In these fieldhouse parks, and in addition to the elaborate opportunities on the Lake Front for outdoor recreation, the Chicago Park District offers an expertly organized, year-round service in leisure-time things to do of every description. And it is a service made perhaps most notable by the scope it makes possible in hobby and social activities, as well as athletics. Chicago was a pioneer among the cities of America in realizing that modern life in a great urban center demands more of a truly adequate park service than merely provision for outdoor recreation plus organized athletic competition. So

On her famous Lake Front, Chicago has developed a chain of superb park and play areas which afford opportunity for almost every conceivable phase of outdoor recreation — opportunity which is further supplemented by the 2600 acres of park land scattered inland throughout the city. At strategic park locations are 83 recreation centers with intensively developed programs in hobby-crafts and the arts, as well as athletics. Probably no other city in the United States provides in its parks so many elaborate and varied facilities for indoor recreation.



QUILTING



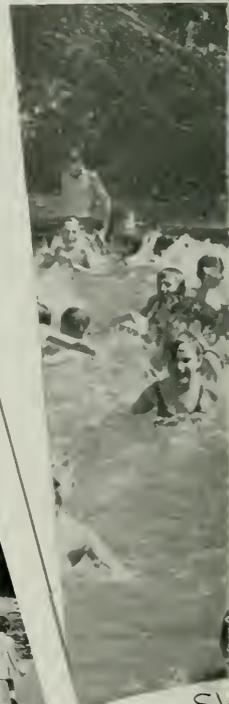
GYMNASTICS



AUTO MECHANICS



FENCING



SWIMMING



CHILDRENS PLAYGROUND



MODEL AIRPLANES

FIELDHOUSE

include some every age. Here a "Probably no other provides in its parks facilities for indoor rec U. S. Bureau of Labor. D house sometime and see the many novel and i



FORMAL GYMNASTICS



WOOD CRAFT



BASEBALL SCHOOL



GAMES ROOM



MODEL YACHTS



ART CRAFTS

ACTIVITIES

of interest to
few views of them.
in the United States
ny elaborate and varied
n," says a report of the
at your nearest park field-
yourself. You'll be amazed at
resting "things to do."

today the recreation program as conceived and carried out in Chicago's parks means something of vital interest to do for every member of the family. Young and old, men and women, children—all may find an outlet for self-expression in one form or another in the park recreation centers.

Each recreation center has its own director and develops its range of activities in accord with the needs and expressed interests of its community. All park-sponsored activities are under the direction of skilled leaders, and are of course open free to the public. The following account is offered as a brief indication of the scope of these activities. More detailed information on any point covered here may be had from the Chicago Park District's Recreation Division, Burnham Park Administration Building. (For exact locations of all parks mentioned in the following paragraphs, see map and directory opposite.)

YOUR CHOICE OF SPORTS

Archery. Major outdoor ranges are maintained during the season at ten parks: Columbus and Douglas Parks on the West Side; Independence, Portage, Gompers, and Jefferson Parks on the Northwest Side; Lincoln Park on the North Side; Washington and Palmer Parks on the South Side; and Ridge Park on the Southwest Side. Organized clubs at these archery centers make possible competitive shooting and the fun of tournament shoots. Free archery classes under experts are open at the ranges during the summer. Indoor ranges are established at all the above parks, excepting Columbus, Lincoln and Washington Parks. In most of the clubs members make their own equipment under supervision of craft leaders on the Park District staff.

Badminton. The rise of this English game to great popularity in the United States has been remarkable. It got its start in the East, but now Badminton clubs in the Middle West are almost as numerous as they are along the Atlantic Seaboard. In the parks the game is being developed at Altgeld, Lake Shore, and McKinley Parks.

Baseball. There is certainly nothing to the often heard complaint that "nobody plays baseball any more," so far as the parks are concerned. No less than a hundred and twenty-two diamonds scattered throughout the Park District are in constant use throughout the spring and summer by young and old, by beginners and organized amateur teams. Leagues of amateur and semi-professional teams may obtain permits to hold games at any of the park diamonds from the director of the park, or from any of the three District Supervisors, whose offices are at Lincoln Park (North Side); Garfield Park (West



Kelvyn Park.



Fuller Park.

Side); and Washington Park (South Side). Lincoln Park is one of the most popular park centers for baseball in Chicago. Any week-end during the season, the baseball fan will find amateur league games being played on the 12 diamonds at the playing fields in the south end of the park.

Baseball Schools. Schools in which expert instruction in the fundamentals of baseball is offered free to anyone interested, are established early each Spring at recreation centers all over the city. Demonstrations are staged by well-known major-league players, and movies are also shown to illustrate the proper technique of the various phases of the game. An Umpire School is a feature which enjoys great popularity. The Schools usually meet for two sessions a week for four weeks. A different phase of the game is considered at each session.

Beach Sports. Chicago's great summer resort advantages are contributed to largely by her fine lake-side bathing beaches. Thirteen of these, all operated by the Park District, and readily accessible by auto, motor bus and street car, are located along the 23 mile shore line. All beaches are carefully guarded by a corps of specially trained life-guards. Each beach has areas set aside for games, picnic parties, and play spaces for children. Beach umbrellas, reclining chairs and canopied settees make the sands brightly attractive and fireplace ovens and other conveniences attract scores of beach parties every

Austin Town Hall.



Gompers Park.





Archery Tournament.

summer night. The park beaches include: North Shore (6900 North); *Montrose-Wilson (4600 North); *Diversey (2800 North); *Fullerton (2400 North); *North Avenue (1600 North); Oak Street (1000 North); Ohio Street (600 North); *Thirty-first Street (3100 South) (colored); Forty-seventh Street (4700 South); Fifty-seventh Street (5700 South); *Jackson Park (63rd Street); Sixty-seventh Street (6700 South); *Calumet (10000 South).

Bicycling. Near the southern limits of Humboldt Park (Augusta Blvd. and N. Kedzie Ave.) is located the only bicycle bowl in the city, a magnificent new track especially designed for safety, but also conceded to be the fastest bowl in the country. The design for the bowl was originally suggested by "Pat" Mulvey, internationally known bicycle bowl builder of New York City, Carl Stockholm, former six-day bike star, and others.

Boating. Facilities for row-boating are provided in quiet inland lagoons at Columbus, Douglas and Garfield Parks on the West Side; Humboldt Park on the Northwest Side; Lincoln Park on the North Side, and Jackson Park on the South Side. While this pastime is no longer as popular as it was in the early days, thousands still enjoy an old fashioned row boat at a nominal rental charge at these lagoons. Perhaps the climax to the boating season comes in September when an open fishing season is declared. The lagoons are restocked every year to make things exciting for the park angler.

Bowling. There are no bowling alleys in park recreation centers, but for women in business and industry the recreation staff of the Park District sponsors the Chicago Park District

*Bath-house facilities.



Oak Street Beach.

Women's Bowling League. Five girls from any office in the city may enter the League as a team, which plays at a downtown bowling center under the auspices of the Park District.

Bowling on the Green. For those who prefer to do their bowling out-of-doors, greens are provided in Columbus Park (W. Harrison St. and Central Avenue); Jackson Park (56th Street and Stony Island Avenue); Washington Park (57th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue).

Casting. The devotees of Izaak Walton's sport have the opportunity of improving their technique by joining the casting clubs which meet at special casting ponds in Garfield Park (100 N. Central Park Avenue); Lincoln Park (Center and No.

Beach games, Jackson Park.





*View along fourteen
and one-half miles of
bridle paths.*

Clark Streets); Jackson Park (56th Street and Stony Island Avenue); and Washington Park (57th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue). Membership in these casting clubs is not restricted, but is open to all who apply and who conform to reasonable rules.

Fencing. Instruction in using the foils may be had for the asking at Gage Park (55th Street and Western Avenue), and at Palmer Park (111th Street and Indiana Avenue). The gallant sport of fencing, which for a time seemed to be dying out in America, is once more capturing the fancy of young people, both male and female. It is rated by many authorities as a most excellent medium for the acquisition of good poise, keen perception and great agility.

Football. Organized football is played every Fall at 53 parks (see chart opposite page 33). Football schools organized shortly before the beginning of each football season, along the same general lines as the baseball schools, are held at Calumet, Hamilton, Ogden, and Palmer Parks on the South Side; Hamlin and Paul Revere Parks on the North Side; and at Gompers Park on the Northwest Side.

Golf. The Chicago Park District maintains five courses: an eighteen-hole course in Jackson Park, two nine-hole courses in Lincoln Park (one at Waveland Avenue, and one at Diversey Parkway), and nine-hole courses in Columbus and Marquette Parks. The Waveland Avenue course in Lincoln Park is the newest and sportiest of the five. At the starter's shanty at each of these golf courses free golf instruction for juniors is available. Able instructors are in charge. A feature of the starting tees on the golf courses are ping-pong

tables, horseshoe pits, and driving nets — all free — which golfers may use while waiting to tee off. Special golf coaching lessons for girls in business in the Loop are arranged each Spring by the Park District and take place in Grant Park after business hours.

Gun Clubs. In Lincoln Park, at the edge of the lake off Diversey Parkway, is located the Lincoln Park Gun Club—a picturesque white structure with adjoining facilities for trap and pistol shooting. Only members of the club may use the facilities, but membership is open to all. For further information call Gun Club, Lincoln 6490. In Austin Town Hall, one of the major park centers on the West Side, is an indoor shooting range open free to all. Sponsored by the Chicago Gun Club, this range is used as headquarters for a number of amateur gun clubs. There is also a gun club at Calumet Park.

Gymnastics. In the fieldhouse gymnasiums, as part of the parks' free recreational program, regularly established classes for men, women, boys and girls are offered. All forms of gymnastic training, including rhythmic dancing, are given under the supervision of skilled men and women instructors, and of course all the indoor games—basketball, volleyball, softball, etc.—are played. These gymnasiums are also open to organized community leagues—in basketball, volleyball and other gym sports.

Hiking. For those who like to walk, the Park District provides regular inter-park hiking tours usually scheduled for Saturday afternoons and Sundays, with occasional week-end outings

Belmont Harbor, Lincoln Park.





Bowling on the Green.

in the Indiana Dunes. These hikes have both educational and social features. Points of interest in the major parks are visited and each outing ends up with an evening of refreshments, dancing, cards, and entertainment. Complete hike schedules may be obtained at Burnham Park Administration Building. Expense to the hiker is nominal, being usually confined to railroad or bus fare.

Horseshoe Pitching. The ancient and honorable game of horseshoe pitching, sometimes called "Barnyard Golf," has a big following in Chicago parks. The popularity of this game is indicated by the fact that some 239 courts are now provided in the Park District, ranging in distribution from single courts in certain of the parks up to a battery of twelve in Ogden Park (66th Street and Racine Avenue).

Ice Boat Sailing. The building and sailing of Ice boats has become an activity of importance in the Chicago Park District in recent years. Many of the best skippers have associated themselves with an organization known as the Chicago Ice Yacht Club, meeting in Ogden Park (66th Street and Racine Avenue). It has an enthusiastic membership and conducts regattas each winter at Wolf Lake (124th Street and Avenue O) at which the Park club competes with representatives from Lake Geneva, Oshkosh and other nearby cities.

Ice Skating. Ice skaters may indulge in their favorite pastime in Chicago parks whenever nature provides the ice. Hundreds of acres of fine skating area are provided on the lagoons in the larger parks. In addition ball diamonds, athletic fields and other suitable spaces in the neighborhood parks are flooded each season.



*Learn-to-Swim School,
park beach.*

Indoor Swimming. At six indoor swimming pools, located at strategic points throughout the city, thousands enjoy themselves daily throughout the year, regardless of the weather. These pools are located as follows: Austin Town Hall (W. Lake Street and Central Avenue); Blackhawk Park (Belden and Laramie Avenues); Independence Park (Irving Park Blvd. and Springfield Avenue); La Follette Park (W. Hirsch Street and Laramie Avenue); Portage Park (N. Long Avenue and Irving Park Blvd.); Ridge Park (96th Street and Longwood Drive). Admission for adults is ten cents; children are admitted free. Coaching in swimming, and opportunity for team competition are offered at all natatoriums: also Life Saving classes.

Outdoor Swimming Pools. 34 of Chicago's parks are equipped with outdoor swimming pools. These are all operated in connection with recreation centers, and are the scene of special Water Carnivals during the season. They accommodate daily many thousands of men, women and children.

Learn-to-Swim Schools. Every year as soon as the pools and beaches are officially open, the Chicago Park District launches an intensively organized Learn-to-swim campaign, with swim schools being held daily for all ages at every single pool in the Park District, and at the six major beaches; Montrose-Wilson, Diversey, Oak, 31st Street, Jackson and Calumet. The schools are manned by specially trained instructors, and the whole organization is backed by Chicago's most prominent swimming coaches. They are, of course, open free to everyone.

La Bocce. This lesser known game, which has been brought to us by our neighbors of Italian origin, has received much



Tennis School, Grant Park.

encouragement in the Park District. It embraces features resembling bowling and penny pitching and is played with a set of small balls and one large one, the latter used for "lagging." It will appeal not only to those who look upon it from the sentiment attached to its origin but to anyone seeking skilled and not overtaxing exercise in a game that is truly "different." La Bocce is played chiefly at Altgeld Park and Armour Square.

Riding. There are fourteen and a half miles of scenic bridle paths in the Chicago Park District — mainly in the large parks. These are all well kept cinder paths through shaded groves, past gardens, lawns, lagoons and the lake. Jackson Park has a circle path from Fifty-sixth Street to Sixty-seventh



Learn-to-Swim School, at a park pool.



Golf School, Grant Park.

Street, 3.18 miles long; Washington Park has a circle path from Fiftieth Street to Sixtieth Street, 2.5 miles long. The Midway has a straight path connecting Jackson and Washington Parks, one mile long; Burnham Park has a straight path, two and one-half miles long, extending from Thirty-ninth Street south to Fifty-seventh Street. Lincoln Park has the longest of the bridle paths; it extends from Chicago Avenue to Melrose Street, a distance of 5.4 miles. Horses may be hired at a reasonable cost at nearby stables.

Roque. Outdoor courts for the playing of roque are to be found in Lincoln, Washington and Garfield Parks, but it is Garfield Park which is looked upon as the official center of the game in Chicago. In addition to four outdoor courts, Garfield Park possesses what is probably the finest indoor roque

Roque Courts, Garfield Park.





Lincoln Park Gun Club.



Boating in Jackson Park.

court in the country, housed in a special building located adjacent to Lake Street at Hamlin Avenue, and known as the Roque Court Building. This game combines the features of croquet and billiards, and is interesting to watch as well as to play.

Softball. This game, which has become universally popular in the last decade, has attracted thousands of enthusiasts in Chicago parks. Two hundred and seventy-seven fields throughout the District are in constant use. Each year community softball leagues are organized and sectional and city-wide tournaments are held, in which all who wish may join.

Tennis. The Park District maintains 569 tennis courts. These are distributed among nearly all parks in the District, from Mozart Park's one court (Armitage and N. Avers Avenue) to Lincoln Park's fifty, and Jackson Park's fifty-nine. No charge is made for the use of the courts, and each player or group is allowed an hour at a time, playing in order of arrival at the

Fly casting, Garfield Park.



court. Tennis classes are held at Calumet, Russell Square, 91st Street, McKinley, Palmer and Tuley Parks on the South Side. Special coaching for business girls is given on the Grant Park courts after business hours.

Water Polo. Water polo is beginning to emerge as a major water sport in Chicago, and the parks are doing much toward the rapid development of the game. Water polo teams are organized at Ridge Park in Beverly Hills; Blackhawk, La Follette, and Independence Parks on the Northwest Side; and Austin Town Hall on the West Side. Under the sponsorship of the Chicago Park District, the Chicago Water Polo Association was formed in the season of 1935-36, and many of its games are played in park pools before enthusiastic park audiences.

Yachting. By the addition of several hundred moorings, dredging and repair of stalls, the Park District now has six of the finest inland yacht harbors in the country. These are located at convenient intervals along Chicago's great Lake Front, as follows: Montrose Harbor (4200 North), 100 moorings; Belmont Harbor (3200 North), 134 moorings, 51 stalls; Diversey Harbor (2800 North), 56 stalls; Fifty-ninth Street Harbor (5900 South), 90 stalls; Jackson Park Inner and Outer Harbors (6300 and 6500 South), 193 moorings. Over one thousand craft now find space in these harbors—a truly imposing fleet including sumptuous yachts of 300 foot length, drawing 30 feet of water. Allocation of stall and mooring space is made through the Special Service Division of the Park District, Burnham Park Administration Building, early each season, at a very nominal charge.

CREATIVE THINGS TO DO * * HOBBY-CRAFTS THE ARTS * * SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Any neighborhood park director will be glad to supply more complete details on any of the recreation center activities outlined here.

ART CRAFTS and CRAFTS

Groups are working in practically every recreation center in the Chicago Park District, in all forms of handwork projects in the art crafts and crafts. The individual is given free scope in all these activities and the classes have little of the academic about them. Rather, they are clubs of neighbors with mutual interests meeting together to pursue a hobby. Skilled leaders work along with each group. While in some instances a nominal fee is charged for materials, admission to groups is free to everyone.



Ice Boat regatta.

Quilting. This old-fashioned but exceedingly useful home-craft has been highly developed in the parks. It combines creative art with the friendly, social features of the old time quilting bee. Groups include young as well as elderly women. Original designs are encouraged, and some exquisite quilts are produced. The Quilting Clubs at Tuley and Ogden Parks on the South Side are particularly well known.

Rug Making. Instruction is given in the making of many different kinds of rugs. Original designs are produced in hooked rugs, knitted rugs, woven rugs, and crocheted rugs. Perhaps two of the best known rug-making centers are Independence Park on the Northwest Side, and Gage Park on the South Side.

Loom Weaving. There is a revival of interest in the loom. Hand looms, 2-harness and 4-harness looms are all being used with great skill by park groups. Coverlets, rugs, fine linen cloths and towels—all kinds of decorative and useful objects are produced. Austin Town Hall on the West Side, and Grand Crossing Park on the Far South Side have well established workshops for loom weaving.

Fabric Decoration. This art craft includes work in batik, stenciling, linoleum blocking, crayon craft, and silk painting. Great opportunity for artistic expression is afforded by any of these types of fabric decoration. Silk painting is especially popular. Groups at Norwood and Rosedale Parks on the Northwest Side particularly are noted for advanced work in silk painting.

Dressmaking and Dress Design. One of the most practical and widely patronized of the art craft activities is dress design and making. The range of the activity includes styling, remodeling, and the actual making of dresses and coats. Fashion shows

of models created by members of dressmaking clubs are held frequently. All branches of the activity are under expert supervision, at no cost to participants.

Marionettes. Construction and design of the puppets, writing of the plays, designing and building the stage sets, operation of the puppets—all these are part of the work done by park groups interested in marionettes. Drama in miniature can be almost as fascinating as the real theatre. For that matter, there is no better place to learn the fundamentals of stage lighting, costuming, design of settings, than in the parks' marionette studios.

Pottery. A new but rapidly developing art craft in the parks is pottery. A kiln is being built at Hamilton Park on the South Side, which will be the center of pottery activities—but pottery groups will be established in parks all over the city. Members will learn to work the clay and to use the potter's wheel. Finished products will be sent to the Hamilton Park kiln to be fired.

Masks and Lanterns. One of the most amusing of the art crafts is the making of papier-mache masks for both dramatic and decorative purposes. It is an activity of interest to every age. The design and construction of carnival lanterns of various kinds is also of wide appeal. The creator of a series of masks and lanterns has the fun of seeing his creations actually used in park celebrations such as Water Carnivals, festivals, and Hallowe'en parades.

Model Airplanes. What boy of today is not air-minded? In the Model Airplane Clubs which flourish in practically every fieldhouse throughout the District, models are made which

Section of the Midway in winter.





Marionettes.



Musical arts and crafts.

really fly. Designs are made to compare with the exact lines and proportions of the many types of ships now used by the army, navy and commercial transport companies. Many of the country's most noted airship designers began their careers as makers of model airplanes. Tournaments, both outdoor and indoor, are conducted twice a year. These are followed by city-wide tournaments open to any individual or club in the great Chicago area. The models flown are practically all made in the workshops provided in fieldhouses; instruction and materials are furnished by the Park District.

Auto Mechanics. Schools have been established at several park centers for the rebuilding and repair of automobile engines. Men from 16 to 60 find this opportunity to "tinker" irresistible. Calumet Park on the Far South Side has one of the most flourishing Auto Schools.

Model Yachts. The building of trim, little sea-going craft full of speed and grace is a pastime which has always engaged the keen interest of men and boys. In the Chicago Park District the craft has been developed to a remarkably high point. As with model airplanes, model yachts are designed and built as perfect miniatures of actual racing yachts. Competition is continually sharp among the members of these clubs for the accomplishment of some new design or proportion which will give added speed, or some trick of ballast which holds the ship more truly to its course. Keener interest



Art Club.

is added by the yearly Model Yachting Regattas which are sponsored by the Park District, and in which these little ships are tested in actual sailing competition.

Leather and Metal Craft. Members of these clubs devote their time to designing and hand tooling articles in leather and the various metals. Belts, card cases, pocket books, hand bags, ash trays, plaques, and scores of other useful and ornamental articles are the result. There is perhaps no more satisfying thing to do in the whole list of crafts than this.

Wood Carving. Possibly the first creational activity in which any boy engages is that of whittling. Armed with a jack-knife the average youth starts making something out of any stray piece of wood that comes his way. Wood carving as a craft has developed into an activity leading from knife carving, through chip and relief carving up to wood statuary. This popular branch of the crafts is available in practically all fieldhouses in the District.

Kite-Making. This craft activity is another "natural" for boys. Kite clubs are to be found in every park in the District. Box kites, airplane kites, and hundreds of fancy and freak experimental designs are turned out every year. An added feature of attraction in Kite-Making comes from the annual Kite-Flying Tournaments which are run in every part of the city with a city-wide final contest generally held in Grant Park.

Other Art Craft and Craft Activities. Also included in the list of handcraft things to do in Chicago's parks are Knitting and Crocheting, Felt Craft, Raffia Craft, Soap Carving, Basketry,

Needlepoint, Celluloid Etching, Furniture Construction, Decorating and Upholstering, Jesso, Grotesque Head Making, Ice Boat Building, Printing, Radio Design and Building, Wood Cuts, Wood Inlay, and Wood Toy-Making. In one park fieldhouse in each of the six recreational sections of the Park District is located a crafts production workshop, equipped with power machinery. These shops speed up the interest in crafts work throughout the District, both by being used by Craft Club members in actual construction work, and by making and shaping parts to be used by other clubs in fieldhouses where such equipment is not yet available. These shops are located as follows: Far South Side, Tuley Park, Ninetieth Street and St. Lawrence Avenue; Near South Side, at Gage Park, Fifty-fifth and Western Avenue; West Side, with headquarters in Garfield Park, 100 N. Central Park Avenue; Near Northwest Side, Blackhawk Park, Belden and Lavergne Avenues; Far Northwest Side, Jefferson Park, Higgins Road and Long Avenue; North Side, Green Briar Park, 2650 Peterson Avenue.

PAINTING AND DRAWING

Groups engaged in portraiture, landscape, still life, and mural painting are established at 14 parks. These are Palmer Park on the Far South Side; Armour Square, Sherman, Gage, and Hamilton Parks on the South Side; Austin Town Hall and Garfield Parks on the West Side; Humboldt, Independence, Norwood, Shabbona, and Wilson Parks on the Northwest Side; and Indian Boundary and Pottawattomie Parks on the North Side. There is no fee for entrance into any one of these groups, but students must furnish their own materials. Informal classes in the fundamentals of drawing and sketching are also held at a number of other parks (see Chart opposite page 33).



*Special programs for
Pre-School children.*

ART LECTURES

For those who wish to develop an appreciation of the fine points of good painting and sculpture, the Garfield Park Art Galleries lecture tours serve admirably. Every Friday afternoon from three to four o'clock, a lecturer from the staff of the Art Institute of Chicago talks on whatever exhibitions happen to be current at the Galleries. The lectures are lively and always full of human interest. No charge is made either for admission to the galleries or for the lectures. The galleries are open daily.

DRAMA AND STAGECRAFT

Formal workshops for the production of plays, under the direction of experienced dramatic coaches, have been established at 35 parks, but almost every recreation center has its own amateur group interested in "putting on shows," which range in variety from minstrel shows to 3-act serious drama. Auditoriums with stages well equipped with footlights, drops, scenic properties, etc., are standard in the majority of fieldhouses.

MUSIC

Clubs for solo, instrumental and vocal, orchestral and choral music are to be found at 25 parks scattered all over the city. These are all under the supervision of qualified musicians on the recreation staff of the Chicago Park District, and of course no charge is made. Particularly interesting in this connection is an experimental development being carried out at Palmer Park and 102nd Street Fieldhouse, both on the Far South Side. At these two parks, groups are engaged in making their own

Portrait of a young man in a park woodcraft shop.





*Symphony concerts,
Grant Park.*

musical instruments. The idea—to develop an initial interest in and understanding of ensemble playing through making the instruments themselves—stems directly from David Dushkin's well-known School of Musical Arts and Crafts in Winnetka, Illinois, and a pupil of Dushkin is in charge. Instruments ranging all the way from small brass flutes to giant bass viols are constructed. Members of the groups play their own instruments in ensemble and arrange scores to suit the instruments involved.

SYMPHONY CONCERTS

The free out-door symphony and symphonic band concerts given nightly throughout July and August in the summer of 1935 at the Grant Park Band Shell under the sponsorship of the Chicago Park District and the Chicago Federation of Musicians, added an exciting and momentous chapter to the musical history of Chicago. So tremendous was public response to the series (over 2,000,000 attended in 1935) that there seems little doubt that these park concerts under the stars will become a permanent feature of summer recreation in Chicago.

FOLK DANCING

The Chicago Park District has embarked on a special program which has as its aim the correlation and development of all folk dance rings within the city. The great success which the Folk Dance Festivals enjoy each year in the West and Northwest Side parks has pointed the way toward the establishment of real, old country folk dancing as a regular feature at many of the key fieldhouse parks. It is a constantly developing activity, both in popularity and scope. At the present the fol-



Folk Dancing.

Following folk dance groups are established in the following park centers: Norwegian, Hermosa Park on the Northwest Side; Lithuanian, at Mark White Square and Hamilton Parks, on the South Side, and at Humboldt Park on the Northwest Side; Palestinian, at Douglas Park on the West Side; Scotch, at Hamilton Park on the South Side; Spanish, at Humboldt Park on the Northwest Side; also, at Mark White Square and Hamilton Parks. Other groups affiliated with the parks, though not meeting in park fieldhouses, may be joined through the auspices of the Recreation Division of the Chicago Park District. These other national Folk Dance groups represent Mexico, Poland, Denmark, Jugo-Slavia, Czechoslovakia, Germany and Bavaria. Instruction is free, and there are both adult and children's groups.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography is more and more coming into its own as a very real modern art. Camera Clubs have been established by the Chicago Park District for the development of fine photography at Ridge, Bessemer, Calumet, and Tuley Parks on the Far South Side; Austin Town Hall on the West Side; River, Lincoln, and Green Briar Parks on the North Side; and at Portage Park on the Northwest Side. Membership is open to the novice as well as to the amateur expert.

GARDEN LECTURES

Through the medium of its world-famous Garfield Park Conservatory, the Chicago Park District is constantly extending a free horticultural information service to all Chicagoland.

Many lectures on all kinds of horticultural subjects are given throughout the year at the Conservatory. Also, each Spring the Park District makes available a series of free illustrated garden lectures in key recreation centers in various parts of the city. Portage Park serves in this capacity for the convenience of residents of the Northwest Side; Bessemer Park, for the South Side; Hamilton Park, for the Southwest Side; and Hamlin Park, for North Side flower and garden enthusiasts. The lectures are given in the evenings, and lecturers are all horticulturists from the Garfield Conservatory. Community garden clubs made their headquarters at the following parks: Portage, Hamilton, Gompers, Jefferson, Gage, Ridge, West Pullman, Indian Boundary, and Austin Town Hall. Additional clubs are forming at other park centers and the horticultural staff at Garfield Park Conservatory will gladly advise and aid any neighborhood group in organizing their own garden club, to meet at the nearest park fieldhouse.

PRE-SCHOOL PLAY GROUPS AND MOTHERS' CLUBS

There are some recreation centers in the Chicago Park District where an experimental pre-school service is being offered to mothers with small children. Developed in cooperation with the Elizabeth McCormick Memorial Fund, these groups are staffed by trained kindergarten leaders, as well as by doctors and nutritionists from the McCormick Fund, and have the twofold purpose of providing supervised play in sand craft, dramatics, the simpler forms of art crafts, etc., for the children, while giving mothers the opportunity to join classes in Child Training, Nutrition, etc. The mothers meet in discussion groups while the children play.

SPECIAL FOR BUSINESS WOMEN

In January, 1935, the Chicago Park District inaugurated a special recreation service for older girls and women workers in business and industry. The activities include city-wide hiking clubs, girls' industrial soft ball leagues, bowling leagues, gymnasium and dancing clubs, artcraft of all kinds, tennis, golf and swimming lessons, archery clubs and folk-dancing groups. Special bulletins describing this service are available from the Recreation Division of the Chicago Park District, Burnham Park Administration Building.

READING ROOMS AND LIBRARIES

Libraries—branches of the Chicago Public Library—and reading room facilities are found in the following parks. Far South—Bessemer, Calumet, Fernwood, Ridge, Trumbull, and Tuley

Parks; South Side—Cornell Square, Davis Square, Gage, Hamilton, Hardin Square, Ogden, and Sherman Parks; West Side—Altgeld, Dvorak, and Shedd Parks; Northwest Side—Eckhart, Rutherford-Sayre, and Portage Parks; North Side—Hamlin, Paul Revere, and Seward Parks.

FESTIVALS

From time to time the Park District presents outdoor musical and dramatic features on a vast scale. Such an event was the much publicized "Theodora" in June, 1935—Handel's famous oratorio done into operatic form and presented for three performances on the steps of the Field Museum in Grant Park with a cast of over 1000, and a ballet of 300. For such events groups of park-trained actors, dancers, and singers are drafted from recreation centers all over the city. The festivals are usually staged on the downtown Lake Front, and are always high spots of the year—whether one is a participant or a spectator.

PICNICKING

Nineteen of the neighborhood parks in the District provide special areas of shade and lawn for the leisurely enjoyment of a Sunday lunch with the family. In the major North, West, and South parks, there are hundreds of attractive spots which are used all through the summer for this purpose. There are also specially reserved areas in the large parks where the picnickers may have at no cost enough tables and benches to accommodate their party. Permits for this service are obtainable by application to the District Supervisors: Lincoln Park (North), Garfield Park (West), and Washington Park (South).

Starting tee, Lincoln Park Golf Course.



The Story of the Lake

The original plan for beautifying Chicago's lake side situation by developing a continuous lake front park area, was the inspiration of the late Daniel Burnham, distinguished Chicago architect, and was drawn in first form in 1896. It became one of the integral items in the Chicago Plan, passed through various modifications, and was officially adopted in 1919.

This official plan of 1919 called for a continuous lake front park extending from the city limits on the north to the State line on the south—thus creating a marvelous recreational area with splendid bathing beaches, mooring harbors, tennis courts, picnic areas, etc. In the seventeen years since this gigantic project was started, over 1600 acres of new land have

The development of her Lake Front is one of the most dramatic chapters in the history of Chicago. Since practically the entire extent of the city's 23-mile shore line is under park authority, this development has always been and continues to be, one of the chief considerations of park Commissioners and their engineers. Even as it stands today, incompletd, the Lake Front Extension with its boulevard and recreational development is a signal achievement. In all, over 1600 acres of "made land" have risen from the lake to change the ancient configuration of the shore line and to bring to Chicago the promise of a waterfront unsurpassed anywhere for beauty and usefulness. Since 1920, when Extension operations became intensive, 555-acre Burnham Park, and 91-acre Northerly Island have appeared as if from nowhere. Lincoln Park, tripled in size, extends three miles farther North into the waters of the Lake. Over 80 millions of dollars have been invested in the Lake Shore Extension program since 1920, and it is estimated that over twice as much will be required to complete the job.

Looking South over the North Shore Extension. "Made land" from edge of buildings to the Lake.



Front

Downtown Lake Front. In foreground, Northerly Island and the northern end of Burnham Park occupied by the buildings of A Century of Progress Exposition of 1933-34. Grant Park just beyond. (All "made land.")

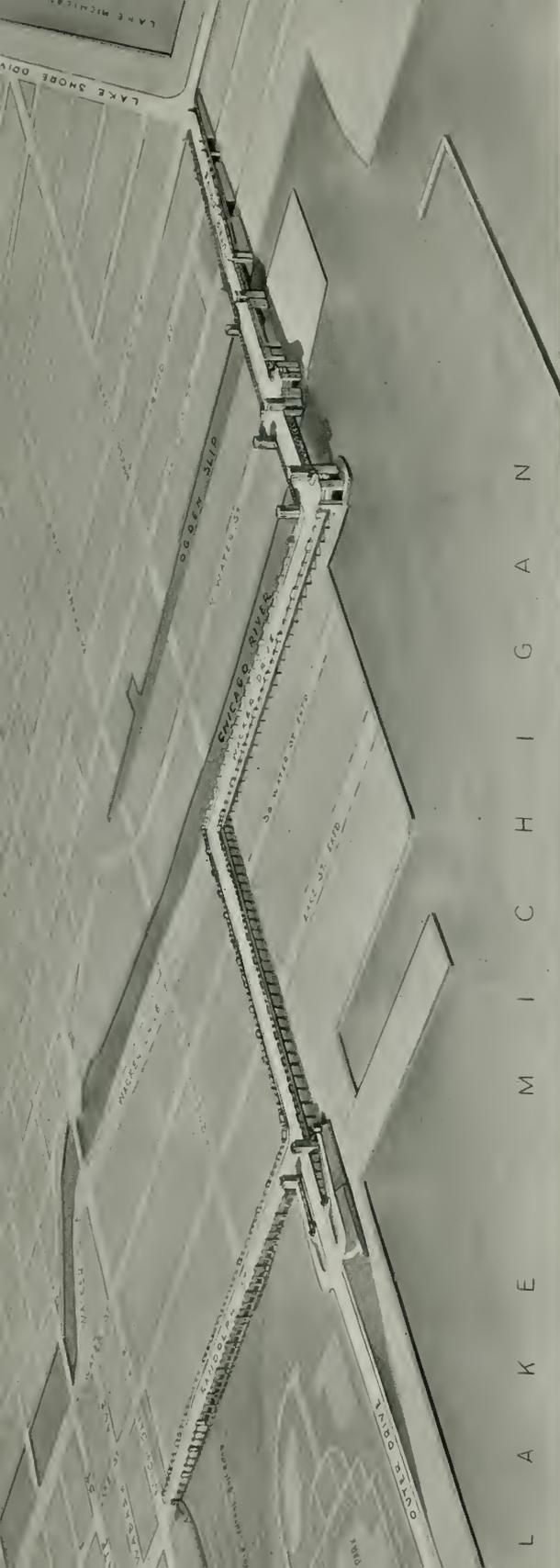


Looking North over the South Shore Extension. Jackson Park in immediate foreground. "Made land" comprises promontories at extreme right and the strip of Burnham Park extending North between the I. C. R. R. tracks and the Lake.



Photos by Chicago Aerial Survey Co.

been created at a cost of over 80 millions of dollars—surely as representative an example as could be found of that aggressive spirit of rapid progress and accomplishment for which Chicago has always been noted.



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In 1920 the board of the former South Park System let the first contracts for the extension of the Lake Front south of 12th Street. Thus was Burnham Park, the first step in the South Shore Extension, begun. Grant Park, one of the first pieces of "made-land" in Chicago, had been created years before—in fact, was started in the years just after the Great Fire of '71 when debris was dumped into the lake at this point. The South Park Board had been granted the unsightly area by the Illinois Legislature for use and development as a park. The area was greatly extended by the Park Board at a cost of 9½ millions. After 555-acre Burnham Park, came 91-acre Northery Island, the first of a chain of connected islands planned to extend South to 51st Street, thus forming a protected waterway for aquatic sports. When completed, the South Shore Extension will comprise 1200 acres.

Extension and shore development along Lincoln Park began as early as 1907, starting with Simmons Island in the lake, and on the mainland at Diversey. This work followed plans of the late O. C. Simonds. Work on the first large-scale North Shore Extension, of Lincoln Park from Diversey to Montrose Avenue, began in 1925. This extension of 290 acres

Architect's drawing of the Outer Drive Bridge Improvement—key link in the Lake Front boulevard chain.

added one and a half miles of park area along the North Shore. In it a major harbor, Belmont, was constructed. Waveland Fieldhouse, with its picturesque carillon tower, was built in this Extension at the very water's edge, and the rapidly developed landscaping quickly turned the new land into an ideal summer spot.

The Montrose to Foster Avenue Extension, which soon followed, comprised 308 acres of new land and added another one and a half miles to Lincoln Park's extent to the North. In the Montrose-Foster Extension was built the deepest harbor on the Lake Front, and the largest artificial bathing beach in the world. The Montrose Harbor can accommodate boats up to 30-foot draft and 300 feet long. The Montrose-Wilson Beach was built along the Extension breakwater between Montrose and Wilson Avenues. 1,800,000 cubic yards of sand were used in the construction of the Beach, which is half a mile long, 26 acres in extent, and was built in open water 18 to 20 feet deep, at a cost of \$1,134,000.

Tentative plans for the next step in North Shore Extension work involve the construction of 532 acres of new land between Foster and Devon Avenues which will bring the total North Shore Extension to 1130 acres.

The Boulevards

all sections of far-flung Chicago are bound together by a chain of boulevards and connecting park drives 162 miles in total length.

The Lake Front Extension has given Chicago hundreds of acres of pleasantly landscaped park and play areas which did not exist before. It has also added immeasurably to the city's long famous boulevard system. Chicago's so-called "Outer Drive," even in its present uncompleted state, is known as one of the great roads of the world. As it runs through the North and South Shore Extensions it represents the beginnings of a magnificent parkway drive which will in time, as Extension operations go forward, literally extend over the waters of the Lake from the State line on the South to the city limits on the North, and will make it possible for motor cars to travel without interruption from one end of the city to the other, entirely along the lake shore.

At present, fifteen and a half continuous miles of shore boulevards are maintained by the Chicago Park District, and the integral links in this lake-side boulevard chain lie in the Extensions—in the Outer Drives in Grant and Burnham Parks

on the South, and in Lincoln Park on the North. As this account is being written, work has begun on the long-planned key link to the entire Lake Front boulevard chain: the Outer Drive Bridge. As its name indicates, this bridge links the lake-side boulevards of the North and South Shores into one as they meet at the Chicago River. The Bridge is in reality two connecting bascule bridges which span the Ogden slip and Chicago River, and with their approaches extend over the entire waterfront area at this point as well. The Outer Drive Bridge with its approaches represents an investment of approximately eleven million dollars.

Radiating back from the Lake Front boulevards to all the inland sections of the city are 110 miles of through boulevards maintained and policed by the Chicago Park District. With the Lake Front chain, to which they are connected at strategic points, these form a boulevard system which totals 162 miles in length, and which traverses at various points throughout its course, every major park in the city, as well as many smaller parks. It is the "inter-park" nature of this boulevard system which makes it most remarkable, and perhaps the most scenic boulevard system of any great city in the world. Over this unique system is constantly moving the express traffic of Chicago.

Of drives within parks themselves, there is a total of 52 miles distributed among the parks in the Chicago Park District.

GRAND TOUR OF CHICAGO VIA THE BOULEVARDS

There is no better way of getting a quick, first-hand impression of the various sections and communities of Chicago (as well as of all the major parks) than by making a circle tour of the boulevard chain. Briefly outlined below is such a tour. The trip is about 46 miles long, and will take a little over two hours in actual traveling time. To avoid rush traffic go after 10 a.m. and before 4 p.m.

South Shore

1. Start Columbus Drive and Monroe Street in Grant Park. Proceed South through Grant and Burnham parks (on Outer Drive), passing the site of A Century of Progress, to Jackson Park. Through Jackson Park, the site of the World's Fair of 1893 (follow U. S. 20), and out into South Shore Drive. Follow South Shore Drive, to 71st Street, past the South Shore Country Club. At 71st Street retrace course to Jackson Park. Leave Route 20 at South end of Jackson Park lagoon and continue on West to junction with middle park drive. Traverse park and leave at junction with Route 330 (The Midway).
2. The Midway, passing the University of Chicago, to Washington Park. West through Washington Park, and out into Garfield Blvd.
3. West on Garfield Blvd. to Western Avenue Blvd. (2400 W.), passing through a mixed industrial section.
4. North on Western Avenue Blvd. to 31st Street, crossing the Drainage Canal and South Branch of the Chicago River.

West Side

5. Turn West into 31st St. Boulevard, and in logical succession proceed over S. California, 24th, and Marshall Boulevards, passing Carter H. Harrison High School, to Douglas Park. The City Bridewell, the Criminal Courts Bldg., Illinois Home for the Blind, and other interesting institutions are seen along this route.
6. Circle through Douglas Park (150 acres of wooded park lands in a densely populated industrial and working-class home area) and leave park by Southwest entrance—Douglas Boulevard. West on Douglas Boulevard to Independence Square, passing the Jewish Peoples Institute and a number of important Jewish synagogues and institutions. Here the boulevard driveway swings North into Independence Blvd.
7. Independence Blvd. to Garfield Park. North through park on Central Park Avenue (passing in front of former Administration Building with its famous "gold dome"). Leave park and enter Franklin Blvd., passing the Garfield Park Conservatory north of Lake St. Also the Lucy Flower High School.
8. Franklin—Sacramento Blvds. to beautiful Humboldt Park. Through park, with its lovely vistas and rose gardens, and out at North entrance—Humboldt Blvd.
9. North on Humboldt Blvd. to Palmer Square. The boulevard jogs west at Palmer Square and into Kedzie Blvd. North on Kedzie Blvd. to Logan Square, the focus of a typical Chicago outlying business section.
10. At Logan Square pick up Logan Blvd. which runs due East, crossing the North Branch of the Chicago River in a factory district and striking Diversey Parkway at 2400 West. Diversey is the link between the West and North Side boulevards.

North Shore

11. Continue East on Diversey Parkway to its terminus at Lincoln Park and Sheridan Road.
12. Turn North on Sheridan Road, and so without interruption into

*ter Drive through
Lincoln Park
ension.*



Lake Shore Drive, passing through exclusive North Side residential section and entering the new Outer Drive in the Lincoln Park Extension—which ends at Foster Avenue. Turn inland here to join Sheridan Road. Turn North into Sheridan Road at the Saddle and Cycle Club and continue past Edgewater Beach Hotel, to Devon Avenue (6400 N.).

13. At Devon, retrace course South over Sheridan Road, following Sheridan its entire length, through "Up-Town Chicago," an important business and shopping section of the city, and so back finally into Lake Shore Drive at Byron Street. (Simply follow Route 42.) At Belmont Avenue (3200 N.) Lake Shore Drive enters Lincoln Park (swing to left of equestrian statue of Sheridan).
14. Continue on Lake Shore Drive South through Lincoln Park, passing entrance to the Zoo, Grant Monument, and baseball fields, leaving park at North Avenue. Continue South on Lake Shore Drive, past the famous "Gold Coast," to Oak Street.
15. At Oak Street, Michigan Avenue joins Lake Shore Drive. Enter Michigan Avenue and continue South past the Drake Hotel, the Palmolive Bldg. surmounted by the Lindbergh Beacon, the historic Water Tower at Chicago Ave., and through the exclusive shopping center of N. Michigan Avenue. Cross the Michigan Avenue link bridge over the Chicago River and continue on to Monroe Street.



*Outer Drive cur
along the sho
Jackson Park.*



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