

# Historic Maps of Jackson Park



**1871 Plan**  
Olmsted & Vaux



**1893 Plan:**  
**World's Columbian Exposition**  
Olmsted, Codham, Burnham & Root



**1895 Plan:**  
**Post-Exposition**  
Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot



**1968 HABS Documentation**  
(After NIKE sites close.)



**2017 Plan**  
(Roadway Changes and the Obama Center)

# Area of Potential Effect (Archaeology)



Note:  
Jackson Park, Midway Plaisance,  
and South Shore Cultural Center  
Park are all individually listed on the  
NRHP. A nomination of Burnham Park  
for the NRHP is in progress.



**DRAFT**

LEGEND	
	Existing Right-of-Way
	Parkland
	Existing Bridge
	Area of Potential Effects (APE)
	Archaeological
	Added APE
	Archaeological
	NRHP Properties
	Chicago Landmark
	Potential Building Foundations
	Historic District
	40-year Building
	OPC Site Footprint

South Lakefront Framework Plan Update

**Area of Potential Effects**  
Archaeological

# Area of Potential Effect (Architecture)



Note:  
Jackson Park, Midway Plaisance,  
and South Shore Cultural Center  
Park are all individually listed on the  
NRHP. A nomination of Burnham Park  
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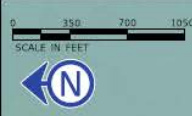


**DRAFT**

LEGEND	Existing Right-of-Way	Area of Potential Effects Historic Architecture/ Landscape	NRHP Properties	Historic District

South Lakefront Framework Plan Update  
**Area of Potential Effects**  
Historic Architecture/Landscape

# Proposed Roadway Improvements



**LEGEND**

- New/reconstructed/resurfaced/reconfigured roadway
- Current roadway area to be closed
- Obama Presidential Center building footprint
- Obama Presidential Center site boundary
- Study Area



# Proposed Obama Presidential Center

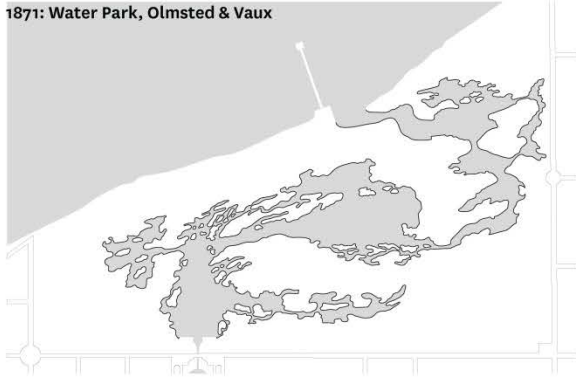


CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN, OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL CENTER



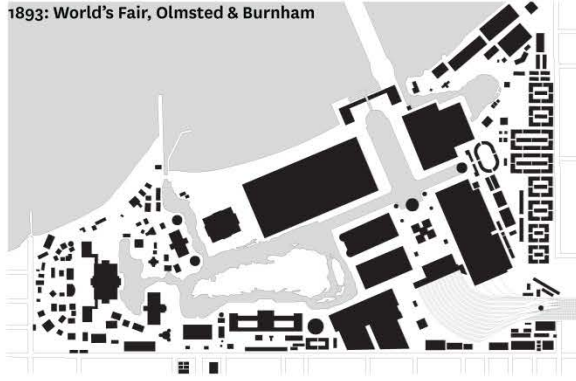
# Obama Presidential Center Site History

1871: Water Park, Olmsted & Vaux



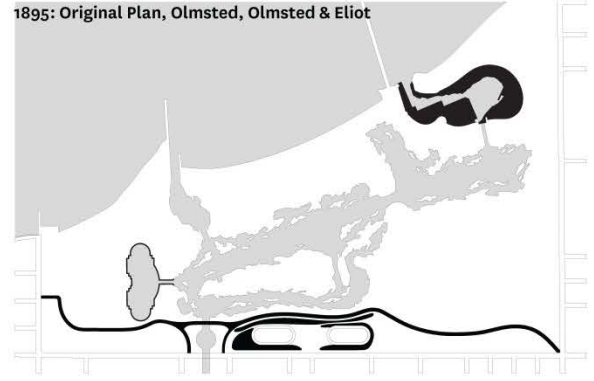
Olmsted found the site of the Lower Division (later, Jackson) Park a detestable swamp when he first visited in 1869. Adjacent however was the grand and sublime Lake from which he drew inspiration for the park's design. Water thus served as a unifying motif and organizing principle. The intricate system of lagoons was crucial in that it wove through the three parks and knit them to the grand expanse of Lake Michigan. Within Jackson Park the calm waters would also reflect and amplify the dense woodland edges he aimed to plant. These aquatic pleasure grounds would also serve as the site for future swimming and boating.

1893: World's Fair, Olmsted & Burnham



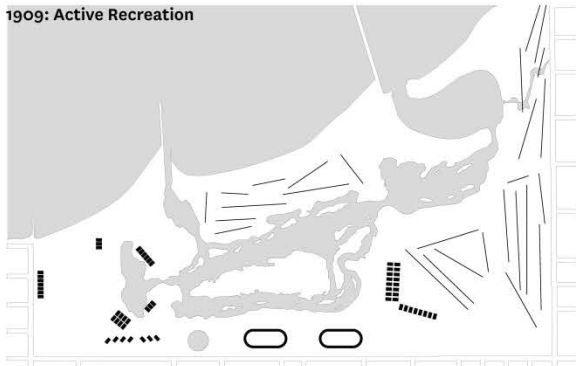
Olmsted then worked with Burnham in 1891-3 on the plan for Chicago's Columbian World Exposition of 1893. To prepare the site for the number and scale of buildings planned atop the mostly still-undeveloped marsh, vast amounts of fill were necessary. Olmsted brought manure from the city stockyards and bought an entire farm in order to acquire over 200,000 cubic yards of loamy soil that would be spread over the park to a minimum depth of 9 inches. A railroad was built specially between the farm and Jackson Park in order to cart the soil in daily. Olmsted worked to site the buildings for the fair, retaining the lagoons and Wooded Island as a wild relief from the rest of the exhibition. The outsized steam boat pier extending into Lake Michigan and the Venetian-style gondolas ridden over the lagoons were extensions of his water-themed 1871 plan.

1895: Original Plan, Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot



Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot were then charged with returning the site to a public park. They restored the sinuous edges of the lagoons and began replanting after trees had been damaged by both the Fair and the fires that eventually consumed its buildings. Seclusion became a theme of this plan, seen both in the densely planted edges of the lagoons and the use of topography to enclose the gymnasium away from Stoney Island Avenue and the adjacent neighborhood that was swiftly densified in the years preceding the 1893 Exposition. In contrast to these naturalistic effects, they formalized the edge of the North Pond and renamed it the Columbia Basin as a gesture to the memory of the Fair, and the North and South Havens were dredged extensively to accommodate the mooring of yachts.

1909: Active Recreation



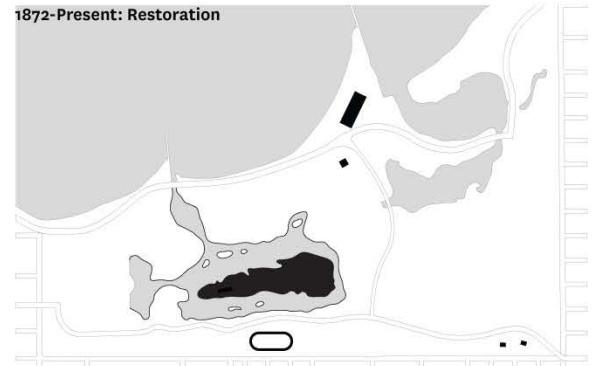
All previous designs for Jackson Park included forms of active recreation—boating, swimming, and bicycling among them—but by the 1909 Olmsted Brothers' plan, active recreation had proliferated becoming the main focus of the park. Lawn tennis, baseball diamonds, football fields, two 18-hole golf courses, and archery grounds occupied almost every open space available. There was even a shooting lodge across the street. The Wooded Island and the interior of the lagoons again remained as the more passive reprieve from the rest of park's activities. By this time, plans for the canal extending into the Midway had been scaled back to a circular reflecting pool where the Midway terminates in Jackson Park.

1946-1972: Decline



Following a brief period in the early 1940s when the WPA took control of the park's development and maintenance, Jackson Park met a long period of neglect. From '52 to '66 various schemes for highways, expressways and overpasses were proposed and protested. Eventually, S. Cornell was widened to six lanes and Lake Shore Drive became interstate highway 41, connecting Miami to upper Michigan. These enlarged roadways bifurcated the park and cut it off from the Lake. Also in '52 the laws opening onto Lake Michigan became a US Military Reservation. Nike missile installers along with fueling stations, acid containment and warhead storage buildings replaced ball fields and picnicking areas. In exchange the USACE filled the North and South Bayous, which created a divide between the north and south lagoons, negatively impacting water quality. During this period Jackson Park was treated as a staging ground and no-man's-land to drive through on one's way somewhere else.

1872-Present: Restoration



Attempts to revitalize the park began in the early 1970s and have largely followed three themes. Attempts at landscape maintenance began with the Wooded Island—efforts to remove invasives, replant with native plants, and improve water quality coincided with the repeated redesign and replanting of the Japanese Garden. By the early 1990s many areas in the park including the Japanese Garden, the 59th Street Beach House, and the Museum of Science and Industry had received official historic status, which was emblematic of a renewed interest in and value for the park's history. Finally sports facilities—both basketball courts and a running track and field—were retrofitted and now receive great use.

# Currently Identified Historic Features



1. IOWA BUILDING
2. MUSIC COURT COMFORT STATION
3. BOWLING GREEN CLUBHOUSE
4. MUSIC COURT BRIDGE
5. EAST BRIDGE (C. DARROW BRIDGE)
6. MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY (CHICAGO LANDMARK)
7. PERRENIAL GARDEN
8. CHENEY GOODE MEMORIAL BENCH
9. 59TH/60TH STREET VIADUCT
10. MASARYK MONUMENT
11. LINNE MONUMENT
12. ENGLISH COMFORT STATION
13. JAPANESE GARDEN
14. SHELTER/COMFORT STATION (DRIVING RANGE COMFORT STATION)
15. 59TH STREET INLET BRIDGE
16. MIDDLE BRIDGE (HAYES DRIVE BRIDGE)
17. SOUTHERN SHORE YACHT CLUB
18. LIFE SAVING STATION (COAST GUARD STATION)
19. STATUE OF THE REPUBLIC (CHICAGO LANDMARK)
20. CECIL PARTEE GOLF SHELTER
21. MAINTENANCE BUILDING
22. JACKSON PARK FIELD HOUSE
23. JACKSON PARK YACHT CLUB
24. LA RABIDA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
25. GOLF SHELTER
26. SOUTH HAVEN BRIDGE (ANIMAL BRIDGE)
27. 63RD STREET BEACH HOUSE (CHICAGO LANDMARK)

**See handout  
for details**

# Landscape Features



Circulation Roads + Paths



Golf Course



Berms + Sunken  
Lawn Panels



Historic Walls + Balustrades



Paved Granite Beach/Beaches



Naturalistic Designs



Japanese Garden



Perennial Garden

Plantings and waterway systems including lagoons, harbors and islands



# Buildings + Structures



Museum of Science and Industry; 1893  
Designated Chicago Landmark



63<sup>rd</sup> Street Bathing Pavilion; 1919  
Designated Chicago Landmark



Music Court Comfort Station;  
1888/1936



La Rabida Children's Hospital; 1932



Jackson Park Fieldhouse; 1957



Iowa Building; 1936-40



9<sup>th</sup> Hole Golf Shelter; 1912



English Comfort Station; 1934

# Buildings + Structures



Jackson Park Yacht Club; 1906-30



Life Saving (Coast Guard) Stn; 1906



Bowling Green Clubhouse, 1927



Southern Shore Yacht Club; 1934



Cecil Partee Golf Shelter; 1900



Shelter/Comfort Station; 1936  
(Driving Range)



Maintenance Building; 1936

# Bridges



C. Darrow Bridge;  
1880; 1893-5; 1957-63



59<sup>th</sup> Street Inlet Bridge; 1895



South Haven Bridge (Animal Bridge); 1904



Hayes Drive Lagoon Bridge; 1901



Music Court Bridge; 1904-06



59<sup>th</sup>/60<sup>th</sup> Street Viaduct; 1893

# Monuments



Statue of the Republic; 1918  
Designated Chicago Landmark



Masaryk Monument; 1955



Linne Monument; 1891/1976



Cheney Goode Memorial Bench; 1932