

= Burnham Park (Chicago) =

Burnham Park is a public park in Chicago in Cook County , Illinois , United States . The park , which lies along 6 miles (9 @. @ 7 km) of Lake Michigan shoreline , connects Grant Park at 14th Street to Jackson Park at 56th Street . The 598 acres (242 ha) of parkland is owned and managed by Chicago Park District . It was named for urban planner and architect Daniel Burnham in 1927 . Burnham was one of the designers of the 1893 World 's Columbian Exposition .

The park is an outgrowth of the 1909 Plan for Chicago developed by the park 's namesake Daniel Burnham and often called simply " The Burnham Plan " . Land for the park has been acquired by the city 's park district by a variety of means such as bequest , landfill , and barter . Now , the park hosts some of the city 's most important municipal structures , such as Soldier Field and McCormick Place . The park has surrendered the land for the Museum Campus to Grant Park . Recently , the park has become known as the landing site for Marine One when U.S. President Barack Obama visits his Kenwood home on Chicago 's south side .

In the early 20th century , Chicago businessman A. Montgomery Ward advocated that the lakefront must be publicly accessible , and remain " forever open , clear and free " , lest the city descend into the squalor typical of American cities of the time , with buildings and heavy industry destroying any chance for beauty . Ward 's influence lead to the protection of the lake shore parks system and to this day , the city 's lakefront is open from the former city limits at Hollywood Ave (5700N) down to the former steel mills near Rainbow Beach (7700S) .

= = Location = =

McFetridge Drive is the boundary between Grant Park and Burnham Park . Beginning with Northerly Island and the 14th Street Beach , and enclosing Burnham Harbor and its public marina , the park runs in a narrow strip past Soldier Field and McCormick Place , both of which disrupt Burnham 's original plan , south to 56th street . The park , from North to South , runs through the communities of Near South , Douglas , Oakland , Kenwood and Hyde Park .

The park lies mostly between Lake Shore Drive and Lake Michigan , but crosses the drive and abuts the Illinois Central Railroad tracks in places . There is a beach at 31st Street , a skatepark at 34th Street , a stone beach at 49th Street , and a model boat pond at 51st Street in Hyde Park . The park ends with a flourish at Promontory Point at 55th Street . Footbridges and underpasses provide access to the park over the barriers of the train tracks and Lake Shore Drive . A 6 @-@ mile (9 @. @ 7 km) section of the Chicago Lakefront Trail bicycle and jogging path runs the length of the park .

= = History = =

Ward fought for the poor people 's access to Chicago 's lakefront . In 1906 , he campaigned to preserve neighboring Grant Park as a public park . Grant Park has been protected since 1836 by " forever open , clear and free " legislation that has been affirmed by four previous Illinois Supreme Court rulings . In the mid @-@ 1890s , architect Daniel Burnham began planning a park and boulevard that would link Jackson Park with Grant Park and downtown . As Chief of Construction for the World 's Columbian Exposition of 1893 , Burnham was known for developing the White City . After the fair , Burnham began designing a more functional Chicago . Burnham 's plan , including a lakefront park with a series of islands , boating harbor , beaches , and playfields was published in his 1909 Plan of Chicago . Burnham 's famous 1909 plan eventually preserved Grant Park and the entire Chicago lakefront .

= = = 1860 @-@ 1890 = = =

Paul Cornell , a lawyer and real estate developer , donated and built East End Park between 51st and 53rd Streets in 1856 . After much of the land eroded , the property was incorporated into

Burnham Park and was eventually renamed Harold Washington Park in 1992 . In the years following his donation , expansions were built at the northeast corner of the future Jackson Park , located at the south end of Burnham . The most notable expansions included a seawall and granite paved strolling beach , constructed from 1884 to 1888 , and a building used as the Iowa Pavilion during the Columbian Exposition .

Cornell lobbied for the establishment of the South Parks and Boulevard System . The first bond vote was rejected in 1867 , as just a method to provide remote driving grounds for rich citizens and to lure people to move away for the benefit of real estate speculators and developers . In 1869 , the bills were passed by the legislature , and the South Park Commission was formed with support from Cornell . The future site was primarily under Lake Michigan or abutting the Illinois Central Railroad right of way . In 1892 , the formerly trestled railroad was raised on an embankment , along the present west edge of the park . South Park (the present Jackson Park) was slowly developed , and along with the Midway Plaisance and Washington Park , the designs by Frederick Olmsted and Calvert Vaux were focused on lagoons and navigation from the Lake to South Park Way (now King Dr.) and 55th Street , in addition to the development of a country driving park , horse and buggy paths along the lake , and a water system running north to downtown . By the 1880s , the development included the Kenwood and Bowen communities , and by the 1890s , immigrant neighborhoods were developing . The city limits were expanded from 39th to 130th in 1889 , absorbing virtually all of Hyde Park Township (35th to 138th) .

=== 1890 @-@ 1910 ===

The Columbian Exposition was held in Jackson Park , leaving housing in Hyde Park built for the Fair . The area around the new University of Chicago allowed real estate developers an opportunity to profit during the depression of the mid @-@ 1890s . As part of Jackson Park 's transformation , South Park Commission President James E. Ellsworth asked Burnham to design a boulevard linking Jackson and Grant Parks . Ruling out residential expansion , Burnham developed plans for green areas , harbors and lagoons , water scenery , a canal to downtown , and a scenic drive . With a theme of a " playground for the people " , the area was planned to include bridges , beaches with pavilions , and bathing houses . In 1896 , Burnham began marketing the plan to Marshall Field , George Pullman , Philip Armour , and business organizations . In 1901 , the Chicago Commercial Club began promoting the ideas and in 1909 , published the Plan of Chicago by Burnham and Edward H. Bennett and illustrated by Jules Guerin . From 1907 until 1920 , legal battles to acquire parkland continued despite the 1907 Legislature passing a bill with language favoring railroads until courts rejected the legislation .

=== 1910 @-@ 1920 ===

The South Park Commission received rights to the future site of the Field Museum in exchange for 160 acres (65 ha) transferred to the Illinois Central Railroad . Government agencies had to agree to plans , including the Cook County Circuit Court , General Assembly , Chicago Plan Commission , and U.S. Secretary of War . In 1912 , Burnham died and a new Chicago Plan Commission was created . In 1919 , landfill efforts began at the north end of the park . In February 1920 , voters approved a \$ 20 million bond issue as part of the Burnham Plan initiative for new lands to complete Grant Park , so as to create the South Shore Development . In 1920 , the Field Museum was opened , with the exhibits moved from Jackson Park into the basement . By 1925 , new landforms , including Northerly Island , the only offshore landform in the Burnham Plan actually built , were completed to 23rd Street .

=== 1920 @-@ 1930 ===

A \$ 2 @.@ 5 million bond issue passed in 1922 for a stadium conceived by Burnham . Designed by architects Holabird & Roche and named Soldier Field for the veterans of World War I , cost overruns

required another bond issue in 1926 . By 1924 , the breakwater wall stretched from 14th to 55th Streets . In 1926 , Soldier Field and a portion of Lake Shore Drive were opened . Landfilling extended from 23rd Street to 56th Street ; however , Promontory Point was not complete , prompting complaints regarding garbage , blowing sand and odors . Throughout the 1920s and 1930s , landfill efforts continued to fill in Burnham Park and the adjacent Northerly Island . The South Development was named for Daniel Burnham on January 14 , 1927 , and support increased for a world 's fair in the park . Construction was completed on Lake Shore Drive , with northbound lanes named for Leif Erikson , and southbound lanes for Christopher Columbus . In 1929 , construction of the park at Promontory Point began . The Great Depression delayed work and prevented construction of nearshore islands . Burnham Park was chosen for the site of the Century of Progress world 's fair and a yacht basin was built south of 51st Street .

== 1930s @-@ 1940s ==

In 1933 and 1934 , the Century of Progress International Exposition was held in Burnham Park . In the mid @-@ 1930s , the Chicago Park District used funds from the federal Works Progress Administration to complete landfill operations and install landscaping at Promontory Point by renowned designer Alfred Caldwell , a professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology . In 1935 , Mayor Edward Joseph Kelly explored the idea of a permanent fair in the park . The state passed a bill creating the Metropolitan Fair and Exposition Authority and allowed construction of Meigs Field , after Northerly Island lost out as the site for the United Nations . In 1948 , Burnham Park hosted the Chicago Railroad Fair , proving the location 's viability for conventions , which eventually led to the construction of the first McCormick Place in 1960 .

=== Balbo Monument ===

One highlight of the 1933 Century of Progress World 's Fair was popular Italian aviator and prominent fascist Italo Balbo , leading 24 flying boats in landing on Lake Michigan after a transatlantic flight from Rome . Balbo 's squadron left Italy on June 30 , 1933 , and arrived on July 15 , after making several short stops . To honor his journey , 7th Street was renamed Balbo Drive . As a return gift , Benito Mussolini sent an ancient 2nd @-@ century Roman column , which was erected in front of the Italian pavilion during the Century of Progress Exposition . Located near the lakefront bike trail east of Soldier Field , the Balbo Monument is one of the few relics remaining from the fair . The column is from a portico near the Porta Marina of Ostia Antica and stands on a marble base with inscriptions in both Italian and English reading :

" This column , twenty centuries old , was erected on the beach of Ostia , the port of Imperial Rome , to watch over the fortunes and victories of the Roman triremes . Fascist Italy , with the sponsorship of Benito Mussolini , presents to Chicago a symbol and memorial in honor of the Atlantic Squadron led by Balbo , which with Roman daring , flew across the ocean in the 11th year of the Fascist era . "

== 1950s @-@ 1970s ==

During the 1950s , the park was the host of a Project Nike air defense system missile site . The United States Department of Defense and the United States Army kept similar sites in 40 United States cities during the Cold War and dismantled them in 1971 . The original McCormick Place burned down in 1967 , and despite opposition , a new facility opened in Burnham Park in 1971 .

= Burnham Park today =

=== Facilities ===

The Museum Campus , which includes the Adler Planetarium , Shedd Aquarium and Field Museum , was annexed to Grant Park from Burnham Park in the late 1990s . Burnham 's 598 acres (242 ha) still contain Soldier Field and Chicago 's premier convention center , McCormick Place @-@ on @-@ the @-@ Lake , which hosts more than four million people per year . The Chicago Park District maintains several beaches and also operates a 20 @,@ 000 @-@ square @-@ foot (1 @,@ 900 m2) all @-@ concrete skatepark , just south of the 31st Street Beachhouse . It has been widely reported that when U.S. President Barack Obama returns to visit his Chicago home in the Kenwood community area , he is transported by helicopter from O 'Hare International Airport to Burnham Park , where he is transferred to his motorcade .

= = = Harbors and marinas = = =

The park includes two harbors for the docking of fishing and leisure craft . Burnham Harbor , located adjacent to the Museum Campus and Soldier Field , is created by Northerly Island . It contains 1120 docking facilities , a harbor store , boat ramp , and the Burnham Park Yacht Club . The 31st Street Harbor , adjacent to the 31st Street Beach , opened in 2012 . It contains 1000 floating slips , a harbor store , boat ramp and provides new park amenities .

= = = Morgan Shoal = = =

In 1999 , the Park District initiated a long @-@ range planning program for a number of lakefront and historic parks . On January 5 , 2000 , the Park District made its first move toward adding acreage to the park by adopting the Burnham Park Framework Plan . The project , which as of 2009 was still continuing , is a joint commission of the Park District , the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Chicago Department of Environment . The project has been delayed in part because the Corps of Engineers has been diverted to design projects for the Iraq War . In conjunction with Harza Engineering , BauerLatoza Studio designed a nature area within a portion of the park between 45th and 51st Streets , featuring the shallow bedrock in an area known as Morgan Shoal . The \$ 42 million expansion will increase parkland by 30 acres (12 ha) , filling Lake Michigan .

= = = Chicago Lakefront Trail = = =

The Chicago Lakefront Trail (LFT) is an 18 @-@ mile (29 km) multi @-@ use path along the shoreline of Lake Michigan . It is popular with cyclists and joggers . From north to south , it runs through Lincoln Park , Grant Park , Burnham Park and Jackson Park .