

# Open

# Park Space

## OPEN, GRASSY AND WOODED AREAS



PARK USERS ENJOY OPEN SPACE LIKE THIS MEADOW NEAR DIVERSEY DRIVING RANGE

### MOST USERS COME FOR RELAXATION

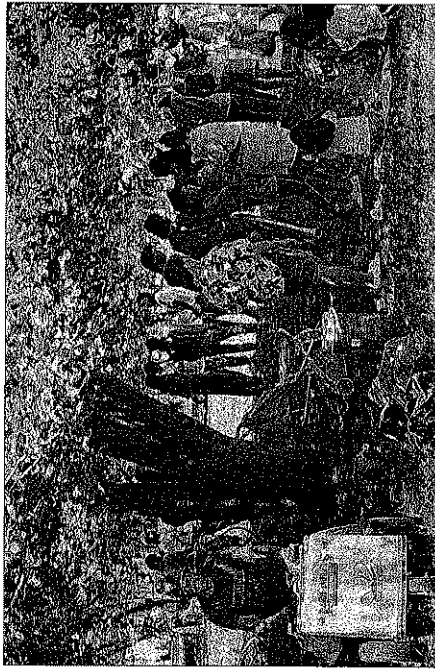
More than six in 10 park users visit exclusively for passive, leisure activities, and the vast majority of moderate and infrequent users come only for passive leisure. The open grass and wooded areas primarily support informal leisure activities such as sitting, sunbathing, reading, bird watching and picnicking.

Surveys of park users found that the park's most highly valued features are its open spaces. People said they enjoy the lakelands most, followed by the park's meadows, grassy areas, gardens and water areas. When asked which aspects should receive priority in terms of care and attention, park users were most concerned about trees, the lake, and other natural features. In general, park users were in favor of adding more flower gardens around the park.

### STRESS ON PARK'S NATURE AREAS

The features most liked by park users often are the most heavily used and unfortunately, for that reason, are not in good condition. More than 80% of the park's 14,065 trees have health problems. Some are nearing the end of their lifespan. Others have sustained damage from dumping of charcoal at their bases or from improper maintenance practices. A total of 104 different tree species were identified, but the top 12 species make up over 70% of the trees, a narrow mix. Biological diversity in wildlife is also narrow because the park has only a small percentage of high-quality wildlife habitat. Many of its open fields and athletic fields are worn out and lack the perimeter vegetation envisioned in the park's original designs.

THE CRICKET HILL AREA AT MONTROSE IS A POPULAR PICNIC SPOT



**THE BIRD SANCTUARY PROVIDES EXCELLENT NATURAL HABITAT**



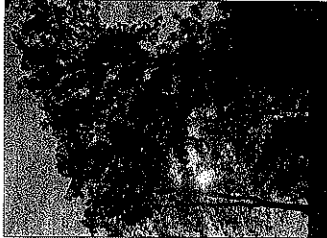
**POLICY GOALS FOR OPEN PARK SPACE**

- Open park space and free access to the lakefront are essential to Lincoln Park.
- Promote open space as the primary land use in the park by seeking opportunities to decrease built space and paved area determined to be unnecessary and unessential to the ongoing character of the park's primary recreational, leisure and cultural activities.

**WILDLIFE AND HABITAT POLICIES**

- Enhance the biological diversity in Lincoln Park.
- Increase habitat for wildlife and consider designation of wildlife habitat areas.
- Retain and enhance existing high-quality wildlife habitats.
- Identify moving, tree removal and pond management practices that will enhance wildlife habitat.
- Establish procedures that protect existing plant and wildlife species and communities during construction and maintenance work (snow removal, road salting, road repairs), and specify how and when plant materials may be removed.
- Recognize that the park serves an important role in maintaining biological diversity of the region, and give nature conservation the same emphasis as recreational and cultural activities.
- Focus on wildlife-related recreation, education, species conservation and research.

**A MATURE TREE NEAR GRANT MONUMENT**



**TREE POLICIES**

- Plant 250-300 trees per year for 20 years or until loss rates stabilize.
- Maintain high-priority trees before lower-priority ones.
- Establish tree management policies and procedures for replanting, reforestation and care of existing trees.
- Introduce evergreen plantings into park landscape primarily north of Foster and as an historic interpretation south of Diversey.
- In areas where charcoal is permitted, provide clearly marked receptacles for hot coals.
- Remove all charcoal residue from around bases of trees, rake soil and install wood chip mulch collars to help deter dumping.
- Enforce charcoal dumping regulations.

**CONSERVATION PROGRAM POLICIES**

- Create educational programs about the park's biological diversity, with interpretive sites and programs, volunteer docents from neighborhood organizations and conservation groups, identify funding for wildlife activities, and encourage surveys and research focusing on the park's ecological role.
- Establish plantings conducive to educational programs on wildlife, plant identification, ecology and stewardship, providing special programs for children.
- Establish plantings of unique, seldom-used, hardy varieties to provide visual and horticultural interest.
- Work with Chicago Academy of Sciences, Lincoln Park Zoo and Lincoln Park Conservatory to implement wildlife management plan.

**LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

- Establish a management team assigned to Lincoln Park and responsible for landscape architecture, arboriculture, horticulture, ecology, historic preservation, operations and trades.
- Revise job descriptions for landscape architect, arborist, horticulturist, ecologist/naturalist and historic preservationist to specify professional requirements and to outline responsibilities in areas of design, education, construction, maintenance and public education.
- Ensure a process of regular and coordinated communication between all members of the landscape management team.
- Develop a docent/ranger program for volunteers to aid in landscape protection and maintenance.
- Establish a process whereby the landscape management team works with the Conservatory, Zoo, Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago Historical Society, Lincoln Park Recreation and Cultural Arts Center and Margate Fieldhouse staffs and others to develop and coordinate public education programs and materials about the park's natural resources. Topics could include bird migrations, role of nature preserve and Magic Hedge, natural history of lake ridges and effects of charcoal on trees.
- Develop an on-going training program to enhance Lincoln Park employees' professional development and their understanding of the park's natural resources and the impact of their jobs on the park's environmental and aesthetic qualities.

**LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE POLICIES**

- Establish, define and monitor landscape management zones such as high-use areas, wildlife areas and corridors, gardens, naturalistic and open areas, maintenance areas, parking lots, paths and roads.
- Enhance spatial definition and diversity of aesthetic experiences through design and use of plant material.
- Consider function of each zone and its relationship to natural resources of entire park.
- Establish vegetation management policies and procedures for replanting, reforestation and care of existing plant materials.
- Establish landscape policies and maintenance practices for large events, off-road vehicles, uncontrolled pets, charcoal dumping and other activities that have a concentrated impact.
- Recognize that eroded, worn out landscapes result from too many people using area or too many different activities occurring.
- Examine damaged landscapes to determine if limiting access and use is necessary to protect, restore or repair landscapes, and investigate rotation schedules to rehabilitate zones.
- Provide temporary or permanent fencing where landscape restoration or protection is necessary.
- Coordinate design recommendations with operations to reinforce prohibition of inappropriate landscape uses and facilitate implementation and over-use.
- Use signage, where appropriate, to control landscape degradation.

**RECREATION POLICIES**

- Enhance, protect and maintain the open park landscape and lakefront.
- Protect the essential character and resources of Lincoln Park by adhering to the Lake Michigan and Chicago Lakefront Protection Ordinance.
- Maintain, protect and enhance the predominantly landscaped, spacious and continuous character of the park.
- Manage the open space, lakefront, beaches and scenic views to protect them for public use and enjoyment of all, including future generations, and to accommodate diverse recreational opportunities with an emphasis on lake-oriented leisure activities.
- Respect and enhance existing land uses of historic significance and prohibit new facilities and land uses that are unrelated to historic land uses and that are not dependent upon being in Lincoln Park.
- Preserve the park's public, noncommercial character.
- Involve the public including impacted neighbors in land-use and other park-related decisions at an early stage and throughout the process.

**NATURAL RESOURCES POLICIES**

- Promote, protect and enhance the natural resources and the environmental and aesthetic quality of Lincoln Park while maintaining diverse recreational activities for park users. Resources and qualities include lakeshore, ponds and lagoons, birds, insects and other wildlife, plant species and communities, topography, beaches, soil, air, peace and quiet, and scenic views and features.

**DUCKS MAKE SOUTH POND THEIR HOME**



# OPEN, GRASSY AND WOODED AREAS

## DESIGN GOALS FOR OPEN PARK SPACE



### Improve landscape.

- for example:*
- Add planting on urban edge adjacent to neighborhood.
  - Define open, grassy areas, meadows and athletic fields by adding perimeter planting.
  - Improve landscape appearance along Lake Shore Drive by adding planting to frame and screen views from the drive and improve park appearance as viewed from the drive.
  - Add and maintain planting on the drive's median to reinforce its role as a boulevard.



### Add park open space.

- for example:*
- Add planting when pavement or structures are removed.
  - Add planting when the Army Corps reconstruction of lakefront revetments results in additional parkland.



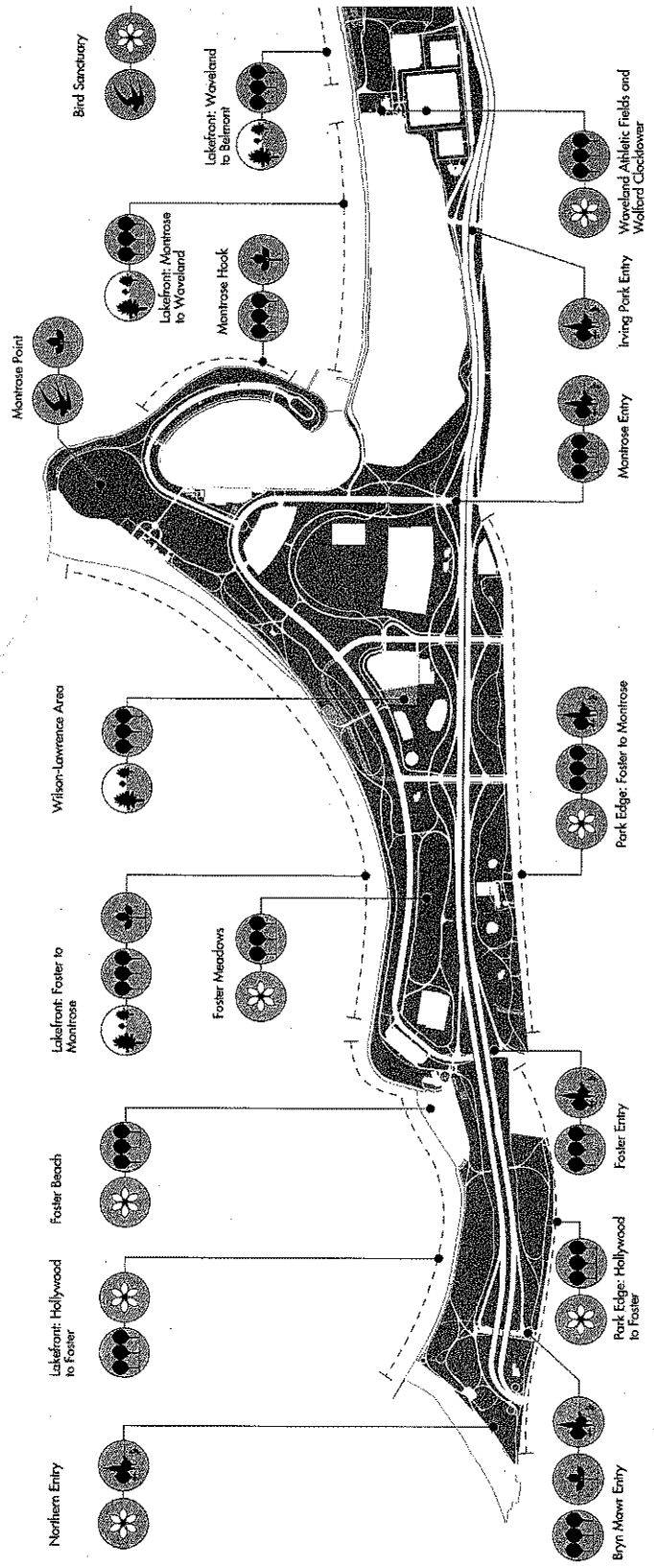
### Create a major wildlife area.



- for example:*
- Add planting that supports wildlife.

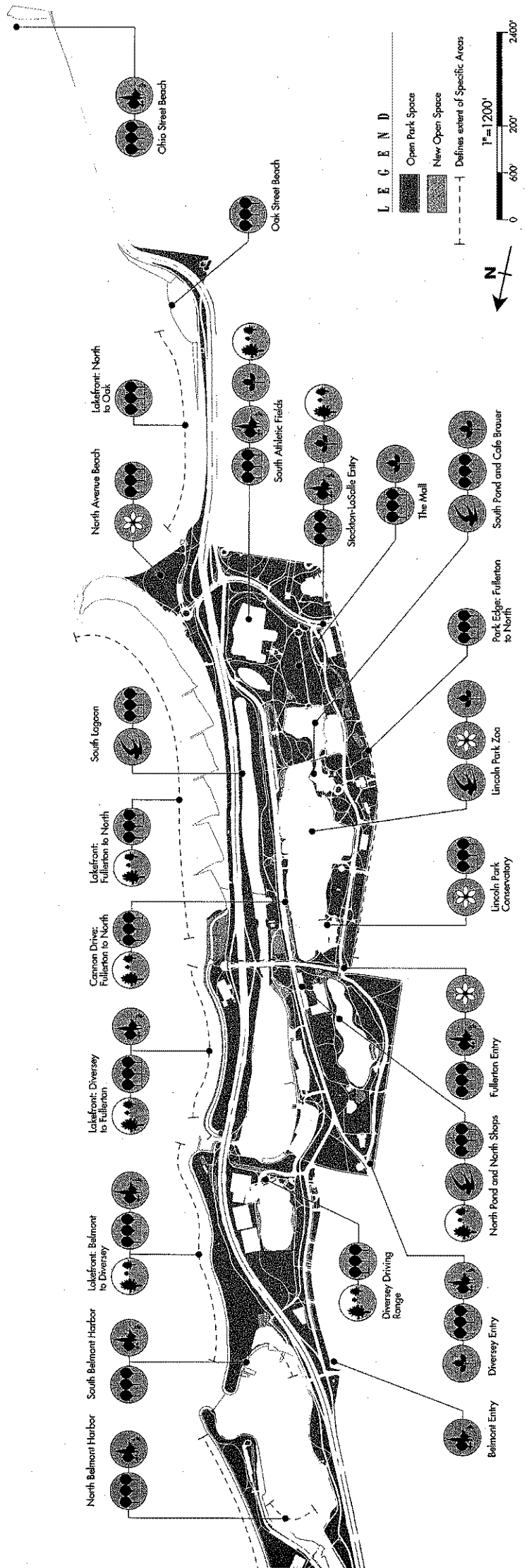


### Develop a new special landscape.

- for example:*
- Add a landscape such as a garden, a beach landscape or a woodland to create diversity and add interest to the park.



- 
**Develop a gateway landscape.**  
 for example:
  - Add plantings at park entry to create a sense of arrival.
  - Add planting to parcel adjacent to Lake Shore Drive access ramps.
- 
**Reinforce and restore historically significant landscape.**  
 for example:
  - Treat historically significant landscape in a manner consistent with original plans or historic use.
  - Restore and protect overused open space by regulating use.



## BEACHES, HARBORS, LAGOON, PONDS AND REVETMENTS

### LINCOLN PARK'S CENTRAL FEATURE

Access to Lake Michigan is one of the most important and valued features of Lincoln Park. The beaches, harbors, lagoon and ponds and revetments are a focus of park activity during summer months, some areas attract park users year round. Sunbathing, swimming, sitting, walking, boating, windsurfing, rowing, scuba diving, fishing and bird watching are all popular activities. All of the beaches are well maintained and appreciated by park users. On hot weekends, the large beaches at Montrose, North Avenue and Oak Street attract tens of thousands of people from throughout the region, while smaller beaches attract neighborhood residents. The step stone revetments are heavily used for picnicking and for fishing. The sloping revetments on either side of Oak Street Beach are used as a promenade. Harbors are near capacity. The ponds contribute significantly to the scenic character of the park.

Lake Michigan creates a dramatic visual resource. The paved promenade between the Chess Pavilion at North Avenue and Ohio Street Beach is oriented entirely towards the water. Other parts of the lakefront, including Montrose Point, provide superb views. However, views of individual water features and access to them are often obscured or marred by fences along Lake Shore Drive and harbor edges, by inappropriate or missing vegetation and by facilities that could be located elsewhere.

### RESPONDING TO EROSION

Erosion from wave action and heavy use of the water edges creates an ongoing challenge for the maintenance of the man-made shoreline. Since 1876, storms have periodically washed away or damaged sections of beach and revetments. Using wave action to advantage, park planners constructed a series of groins, east-west barriers placed perpendicular to the shore, effectively trapping south-drifting sand. The resulting beaches at Hollywood, Montrose, Fullerden and North Avenue provide flood and erosion control but leave other sections of the waterfront open to the full force of waves. However, sand on many beaches must be replenished regularly.

The current step stone revetment, which consists of oak pilings capped with limestone or concrete, has deteriorated. The revetments are scheduled for reconstruction by the Army Corps beginning with Montrose Harbor in 1996 and continuing until 2005. Planning now underway envisions a step stone design 20 feet east of the current revetment that can provide additional park open space, with an opportunity to close gaps in the lakefront path and provide more path differentiation at high-traffic points.

Erosion of a more minor nature is evident at the North Pond, whose soft edge has lost much of its original protective vegetation.

### POLICY GOALS FOR WATER

- Recognize the unique public benefits of the lakefront and other areas where land and water meet, and maximize public access to that edge except where security and wildlife considerations impose limits.
- Continue to improve the water quality and ecological balance of Lake Michigan and other water bodies in Lincoln Park.

### WATER EDGE POLICIES

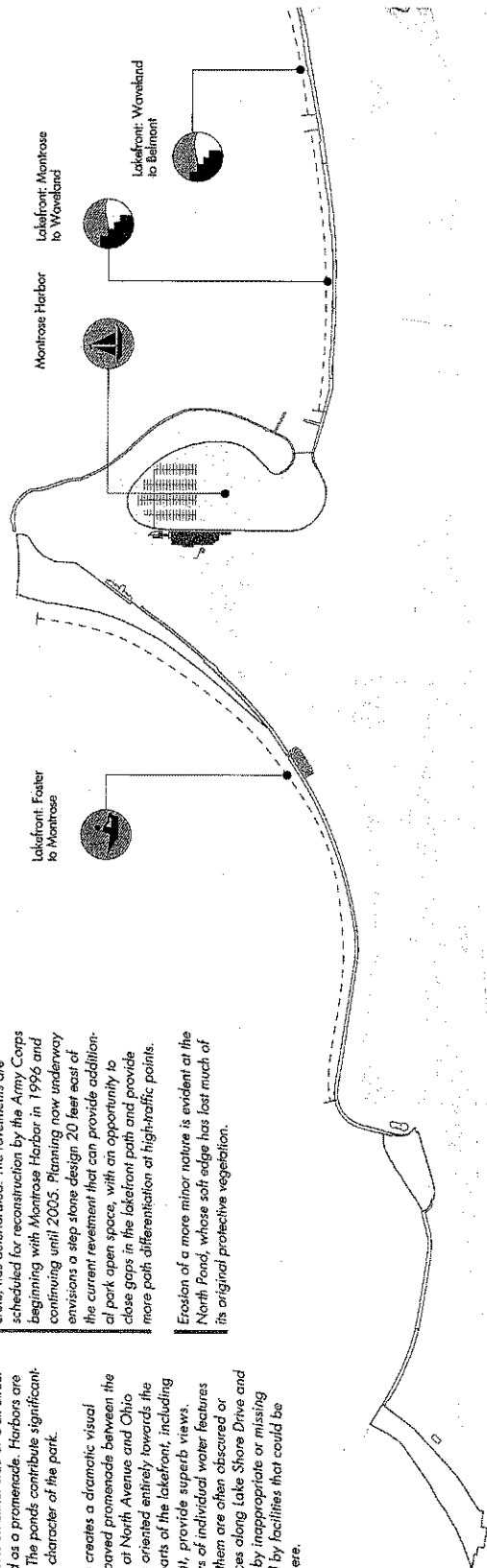
- Protect the lakefront's aesthetic qualities by improving sightlines and views whenever facilities, paths, fences and other features are reworked.
- Improve the banks of ponds and lagoon with vegetation that increases visual, horticultural and ecological diversity.
- Coordinate rebuilding and continued preservation of the shoreline.
- Rebuild or restore navigation lowers.

### WATER USE POLICY

- Recognize the importance of boating, fishing and other water-based recreation activities.

### HARBOR POLICY

- Treat harbors as important elements of Lincoln Park, integrating them into the path system and defining harbor entrances as visual gateways when approached from the water.



**DESIGN GOALS FOR WATER**

**Rebuild revetments and groins.**  
 for example:  
 • Coordinate rebuilding of lakefront revetments with Army Corps to create new land.



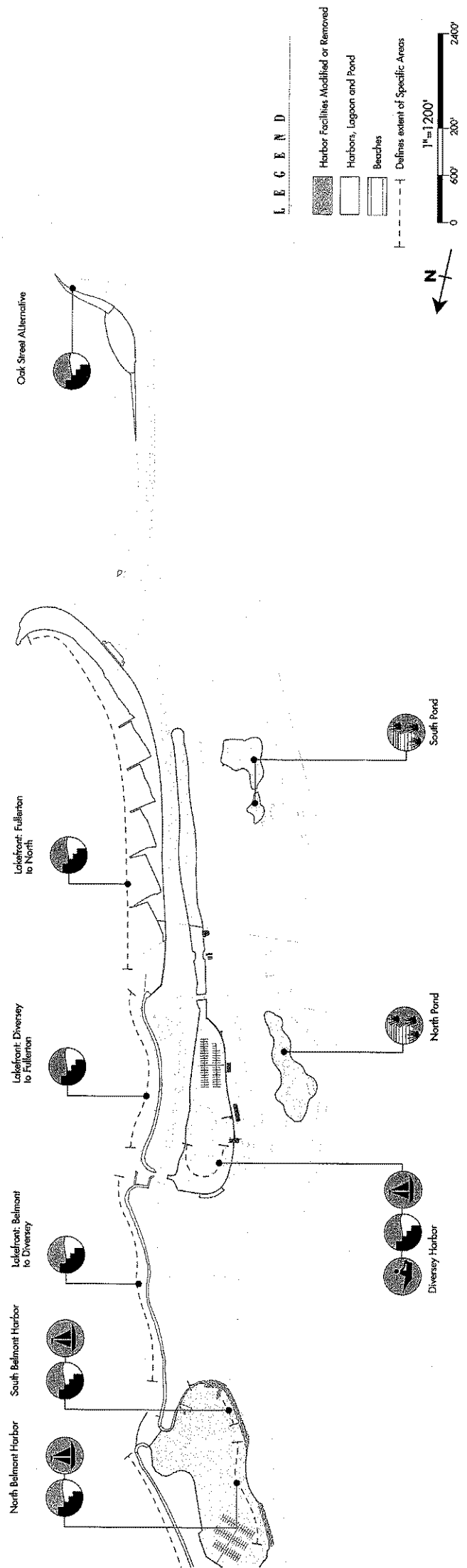
**Creates continuity along the lakefront.**  
 for example:  
 • Remove or reassign water recreation access points, including inappropriately located boat launches, in favor of smaller scale access for launching portable water sports equipment.  
 • Consider locations along Simonds Drive to provide parking near water access points.



**Reorganize harbor slips and moorings to improve harbor for boaters.**  
 for example:  
 • Remove harbor-edge slips and fencing to allow continuous pedestrian access along water.  
 • Provide controlled and centralized access point to boat slips for improved security.



**Improve naturalistic character of pond**  
 for example:  
 • Improve character of the North Pond by restoring habitat-oriented plantings.  
 • Improve character of the South Pond by improving the structural integrity and landscape appearance of the edges.  
 • Develop pond as wildlife area.





# Paths

## SHARED LAKEFRONT PATH AND OTHER PATHS

### ARTERIES THROUGHOUT THE PARK

Lincoln Park's non-vehicular paths act as a system of major and minor arteries, connecting various areas of the park and serving as conduits for walking, cycling, rollerblading and jogging. The network consists of more than 20 miles of multi-use paths. One of the most heavily used is the lakefront path. Many of the paths also are used by police and park district vehicles for security, safety and maintenance.

Tremendous demands are placed on the paths, and they are frequently extremely congested. On a typical summer weekday, 15,000 people enter the park, 30% of them on bicycles. Weekend traffic is two to three times higher at many points. During the Air and Water Show, 35,000 people cross the Passerelle pedestrian

bridge over Lake Shore Drive at North Avenue. The lakefront path is shared, supporting multiple uses — cycling, walking, jogging and rollerblading — all competing for space.

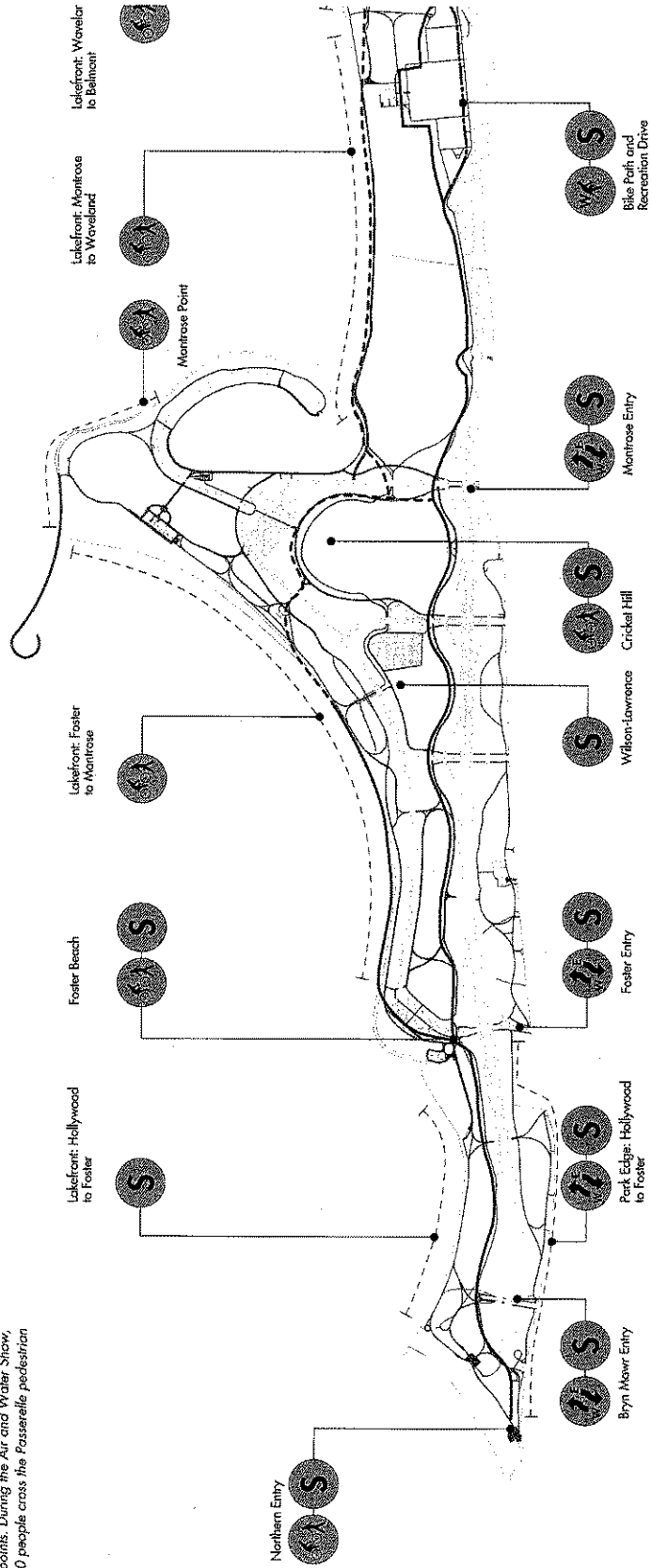
Several problems characterize the existing system. Paths have been added over the years without an overall plan, sometimes causing confusion and disrupting traffic flow. In many places, the paths are in poor condition. At some beaches and other major attractions, the path system is so congested that accidents are common between slower moving pedestrians and faster joggers, cyclists and rollerbladers. Conflicts between path users and autos are common at points where paths cross east-west roads, at parking lots and near intersections with stop lights.

### POLICY GOAL FOR PATHS

Develop an integrated pathway and roadway system that provides safe transit for all path users without increasing the net amount of paved area.

Identify and recommend design solutions for path areas where conflicts are common, including appropriate path materials for different uses and separation of low- and high-speed traffic. Provide or enhance landscaping along paths, especially along park's urban edge.

Use signage, pavement markings and management to relieve congestion and reduce conflicts on all paths, in particular the shared lakefront path. Extend the path system outside of Lincoln Park through partnerships with appropriate governmental agencies.



## DESIGN GOALS FOR PATHS



### Improve the current path system.

- for example:
- Create new links for pedestrians and cyclists where needed to alleviate congestion and conflicts.
  - Simplify and clarify the path system for pedestrians and cyclists by removing inappropriate sections as needed.
  - Improve signage, pavement markings, and sight lines to reduce conflicts and create smoother traffic flow for pedestrians and cyclists.
  - Reroute bike paths as needed to alleviate congestion and conflicts.



### Provide a continuous, shared lakefront path.

- for example:
- Eliminate gaps in the current shared lakefront path.
  - Coordinate with Army Corps to locate new sections of the shared lakefront path on the strip of new parkland created by reconstruction of the revetments.



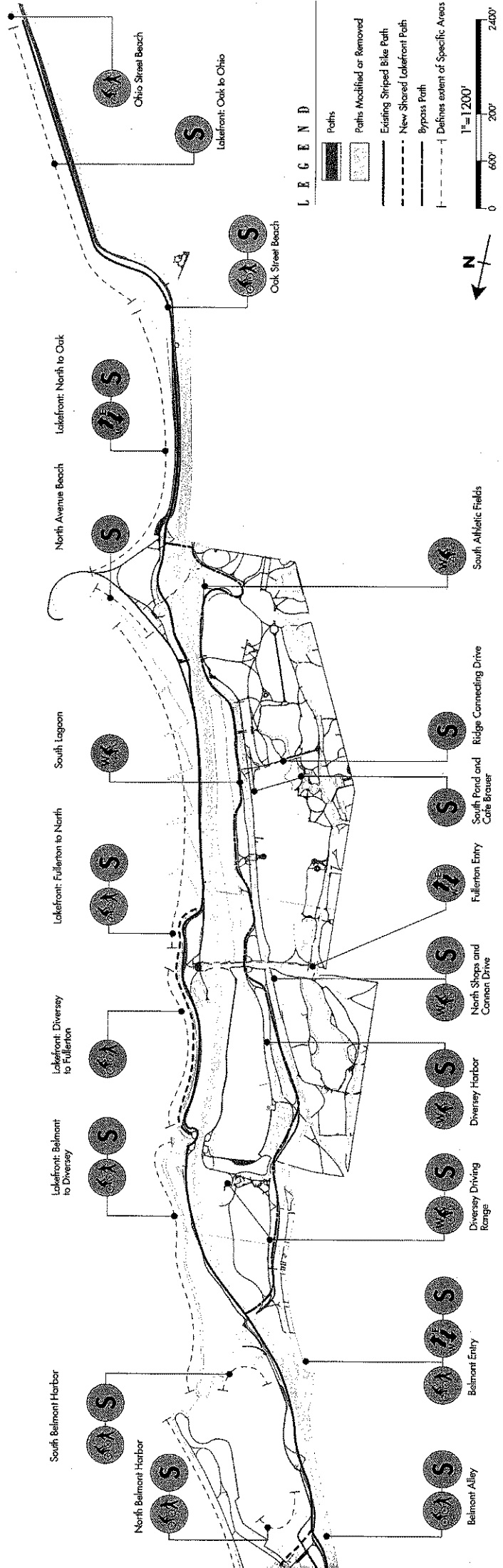
### Improve east-west paths.

- for example:
- Improve paths into and out of the park for pedestrians and cyclists, especially at Lake Shore Drive inter-sections.



### Create a western by-pass path.

- for example:
- Create a western, by-pass path to provide faster-moving cyclists with less congestion and fewer conflicts than on the shared lakefront path.
  - Route the by-pass path on less-crowded paths from the Barry underpass to the North Avenue underpass, with connections to the shared lakefront path at the Passerelle bridge and LaSalle Drive.





## INDOOR AND OUTDOOR RECREATION AND ACTIVITY CENTERS

### PARK USERS DETERMINE USE OF FACILITIES

Thousands of people come to Lincoln Park every day with a specific activity in mind: to use and enjoy the tennis courts, golf course, driving range, zoo or athletic fields. These active users have shaped the park over the decades through their demand for facilities, which have been reprogrammed periodically to meet changing needs.

Without question, most of the park's facilities are heavily used. Harbor facilities are near capacity, and many of the permit-only sports fields and courts are at capacity. Marantz Golf Course and Diversey Driving Range are used from early spring to early winter. Demand for playing fields is so strong that some meadow areas designed as open space have been unofficially taken over for informal and formal athletics.

### SOME FACILITIES ARE UNDERUSED

Though the park's facilities are in demand overall, some are inappropriately used or underused. Cafe Brouer, recently renovated, now houses a popular restaurant, but the partially restored Wollard Clocktower at Waveland and the North Avenue Beach House are underutilized. Some toilet buildings are deteriorated or closed. Two buildings that could be more broadly used are the Golf Shelter building at Diversey, designed in 1916 by Andrew N. Rebori, and the South Fields building.

### POLICY GOALS FOR PARK FACILITIES

- Emphasize Lincoln Park as a place for people to enjoy historic character, recreation, leisure, athletics and culture.
- Respond to the diversity of uses and users while preserving the character of the lakefront, landscape, zoo, museums, fields and historic structures.

### HISTORIC RESOURCES

- Assure that historic resources, including landscapes, are protected and rehabilitated in an appropriate manner, and treat features critical to historic character with utmost sensitivity.

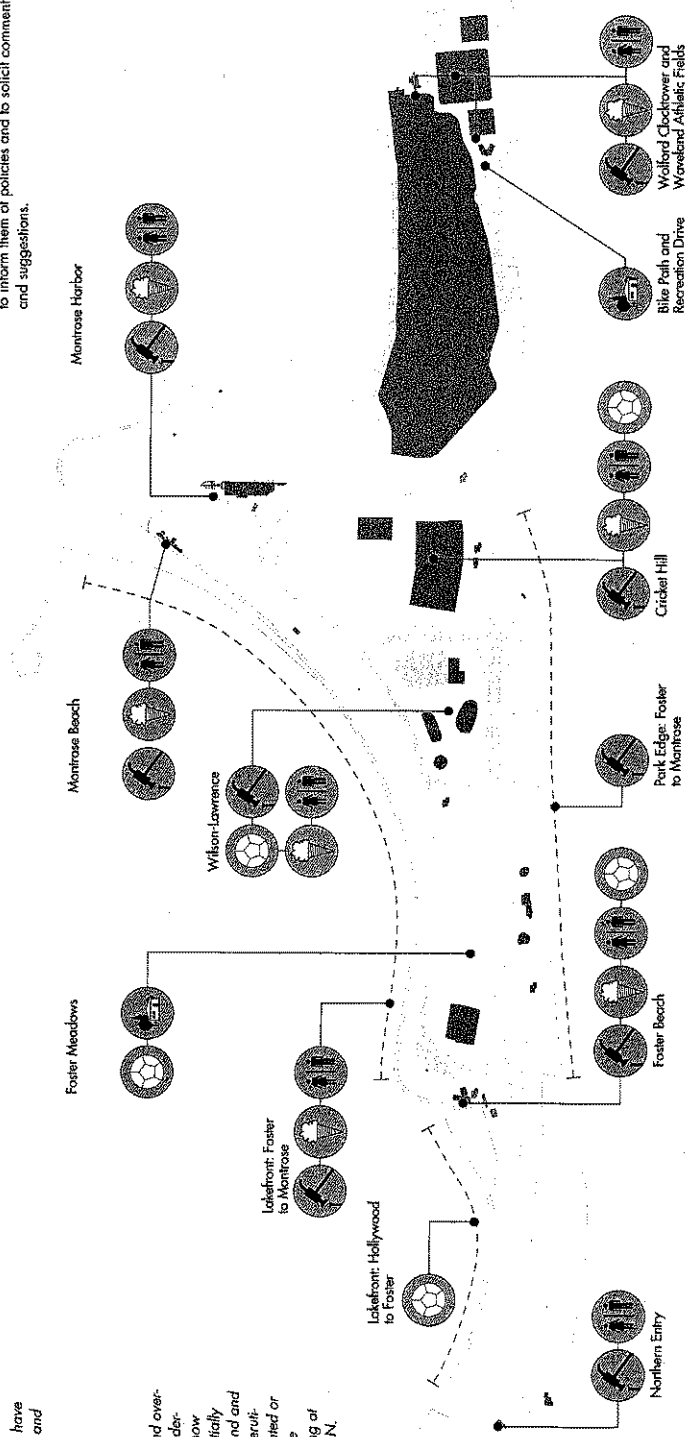
- Recognize that while the park is an aggregate of significant improvements and extensions, it has always been one park with a whole and distinct identity with some consistent characteristics throughout.
- Honor both the park's separate and unifying qualities.

- Nominate Lincoln Park for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a complete historic district, and officially designate the park as a Chicago Park District landmark.
- Heighten public awareness by developing an interpretive program that may include lectures, historic maps and brochures and, history walks.
- Use interpretive signage, public art, plantings and lighting around historic buildings, monuments and sculptures to increase visibility.

### PERMIT AREA POLICIES

- Improve the permitting process and standards for athletic fields, beaches, picnic groves and sound systems.
- Establish priorities for granting permits, evaluating applicants based on past performance and flexibility regarding scheduling and location.
- For new permits, give priority to Chicago Park District teams followed by local schools, nonprofit local youth groups, nonprofit adult groups and for-profit organizations.
- Maintain the current number of fields and courts designated for structured, active uses.
- To maximize use, provide lights for fields and courts to expand hours of use, coordinate activities with other institutions that have facilities

- Offer parks, schools, churches and seek areas for more fields and courts for structured, active uses outside Lincoln Park.
- Improve the quality of existing designated fields and tennis courts.
- Provide durable non-turf surfaces where appropriate.
- Close fields periodically to allow them to regenerate. To preserve the fields, prohibit their use when weather conditions are unfavorable.
- Use the security deposit check-off form for fields as a way to monitor damage and overuse of fields.
- Cluster fields near fieldhouses and recreation centers to ensure better supervision.
- Provide coordination for permit holders in a consistent manner, and post permit schedule near fields.
- Meet with permit holders prior to each season to inform them of policies and to solicit comment and suggestions.



## DESIGN GOALS FOR PARK FACILITIES



### Improve facility.

- for example:
- Renovate existing facility to improve services, programming or staffing.
  - Expand existing facility to improve services, programming or staffing.
  - Build new facility such as beach house, harbor facility or field house where needed to serve park users.
  - Consolidate services, programming or staffing as needed into new or existing facility.



### Improve food and/or recreational concession.

- for example:
- Renovate existing facility.
  - Expand or add new concession where needed to serve park users.



### Improve toilet facility.

- for example:
- Renovate and/or winterize existing toilet facility.
  - Add new toilet facility where needed to serve park users.



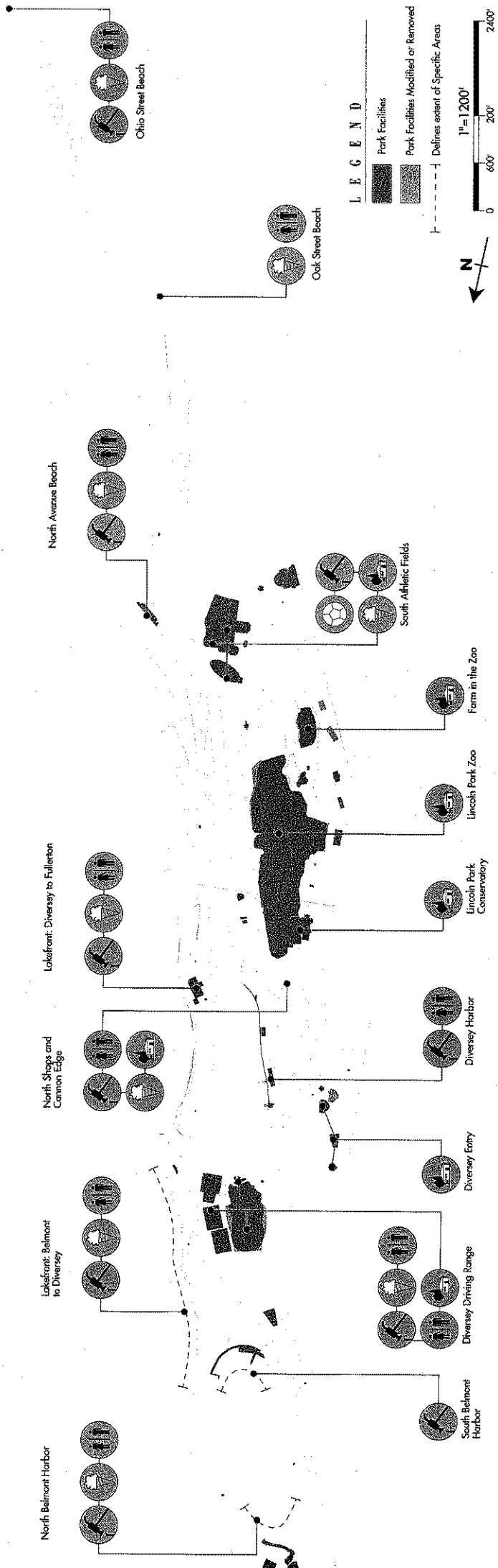
### Improve athletic field.

- for example:
- Reorganize, rehabilitate and/or relocate athletic field to better meet demand while at the same time reducing stress on the landscape.
  - Limit use to protect the landscape.



### Integrate park facility into landscape.

- for example:
- Modify perimeter of zoo, driving range, golf course, play lots and other landscape facilities to integrate the facility into the park.
  - Move facility if necessary to integrate into landscape.



# Support Facilities

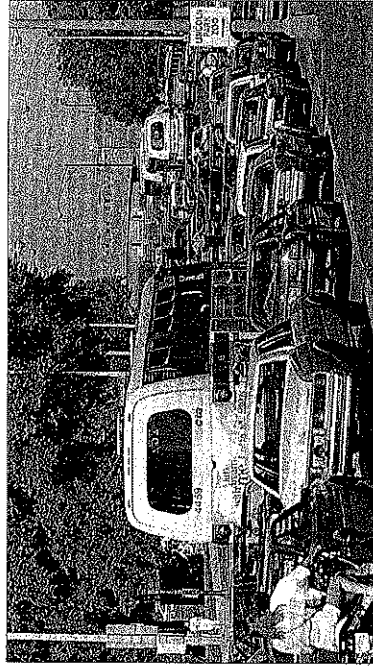
## ROADS, PARKING LOTS, TRANSIT, MAINTENANCE FACILITIES

### ESSENTIAL SUPPORT FOR PARK ACTIVITIES

Roads and parking lots provide access to park activities, parking for park users, neighborhood parking and through routes for commuters from nearby neighborhoods. They provide recreational opportunities for cycling, rollerblading and street hockey.

Support services like garbage collection, deliveries, charter-bus loading and security patrols use park roads and lots daily, sometimes causing traffic conflicts or damage to landscape. Park district maintenance shops are sited at four locations in the park. The shops and service yards are to be transferred out of the park.

Public transit serves the park's western edge, providing access for 5% of park users, but buses do not breach the park edge, making public transit a less desirable choice for many destinations.



TRAFFIC BACKS UP ON FULLERTON NEAR LAKE SHORE DRIVE

### EASY ACCESS BRINGS TRAFFIC

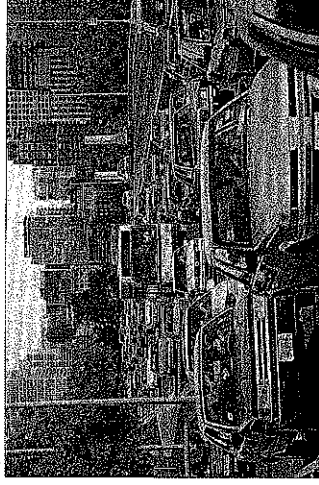
Lake Shore Drive and the streets of Lincoln Park are part of the city's larger circulation system. About one-third of park users arrive by car. But easy access creates congestion and demand for parking, which are perceived by park users as negative elements of the park. Users of the lakefront path encounter major points of conflict with auto traffic at Foster, Lawrence, Wilson, Montrose, Addison and Belmont. Auto-bus

conflicts are common at every park access road. Much of this traffic is not park related, as large numbers of commuters pass through the park on Lake Shore Drive.

Attended parking lots at Cannon Drive and at Diversy charge a fee. Most lots and streets are at capacity on weekend afternoons and holidays, except the large lot at Wilson-Lawrence. Some spaces are taken early in the day by commuters and employees of the park district and institutions in the park; others are used for long-term parking (24 hours or more) by residents of adjoining neighborhoods. Both practices displace parking for park users.



PARKING ON THE GRASS IS COMMON NEAR MONTROSE AND IN OTHER AREAS



MERGING TRAFFIC MAKES ITS WAY ONTO LAKE SHORE DRIVE

**POLICY GOALS FOR SUPPORT FACILITIES**

- Promote open space as the primary land use in the park by seeking opportunities to decrease built space and paved areas determined to be unnecessary and unessential to the ongoing character of the park's recreational, leisure and cultural activities.
- Remove maintenance facilities, unless vital to the park's operations, to a centralized location outside of the park.
- Recognize the roadway system and parking facilities as secondary and supportive park facilities.

**ENTRANCE POINT POLICIES**

- Develop a gateway landscape for all major entries into Lincoln Park, including harbors as entered from the water.
- Design landscapes and organize existing roadways, parking, service roads and paths to enhance each entry.
- Concentrate various modes of transportation at entries.
- Convey information of park entries with signage and kiosks that provide maps, park regulations and educational material.

**ROAD POLICIES**

- Enhance the boulevard characteristics of larger access roads by planting the median and edges.
- Work with the City of Chicago to extend the boulevard treatment outside of the park, especially on major access routes.
- Develop drop-off areas for automobiles and public transit near beaches, athletic fields, institutions and picnic areas.

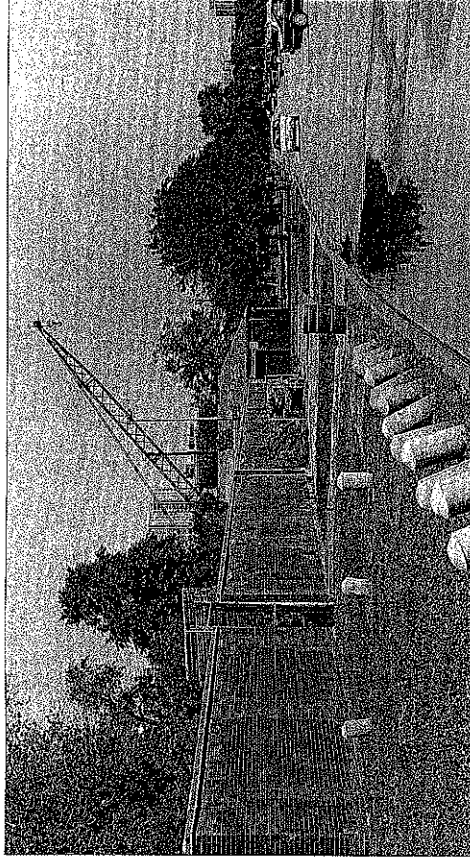
- Investigate eliminating traffic on certain roads at specific times to enhance park use.
- Use roads and parking lots for recreational activities when possible.
- Develop and publish a schedule of routine maintenance and repairs of roads within and adjacent to the park.

**TRAFFIC POLICIES**

- Develop a traffic impact review process to measure the park's ability to sustain traffic, parking and ecological impacts of auto and bus traffic.
- Work with Chicago Police to educate the public about and enforce speed restrictions on Lincoln Park roads and lots. Consider use of additional signage, speed bumps and increased ticketing for speeding.
- Establish a park ranger system to enforce high- and low-speed path regulations.
- Establish intergovernmental procedures for reviewing traffic generating plans and activities.
- Work with the Chicago Department of Transportation, Mayor's Office, Illinois Department of Transportation, Chicago Transit Authority and other appropriate agencies to coordinate traffic issues.
- Enforce traffic regulations.

**PARKING POLICIES**

- Provide parking for park users in designated lots and along roads without increasing the net amount of paved area, and decreasing paved area when possible.
- Eliminate parking at water edges, in landscaped areas and in informal lots that evolved from unauthorized parking.
- Remove parking wherever its existence cannot be justified.
- Establish and strictly enforce time schedules, locations and parking fees for specific park activities (harbors, tennis courts, park and institutional employees) and non-park-related parking.
- Reduce the use of Lincoln Park for long-term residential street parking.
- Work with government agencies and local neighborhood groups to resolve parking issues.
- Provide handicapped parking at park facilities.



PARK DISTRICT MAINTENANCE SHOPS AT WAYLAND

**TRANSIT POLICIES**

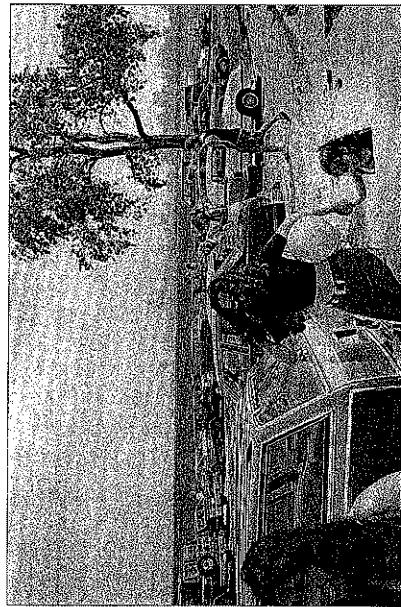
- Work with the Chicago Transit Authority to develop additional transit service for park users.
- Encourage use of public transit to and within Lincoln Park.
- Provide adequate turnaround areas for CTA and other buses.
- Require institutions within Lincoln Park to initiate policies that encourage employees to use public transit for their daily commute.
- Provide an internal bus or trolley for easy transport to attractions within the park, and as a link to parking and public transit facilities and downtown.
- Regulate private buses driving through or transporting groups to Lincoln Park by designating in-park routes, loading zones and parking, without increasing net amount of paved area.

**LAKE SHORE DRIVE POLICIES**

- Restore Lake Shore Drive as an urban scenic boulevard by strengthening its park-like landscape characteristics.
- Maintain and increase plantings in the median and along edges to further integrate the drive into the park.
- Improve park access from the drive and from adjacent neighborhoods without net addition of pavement.
- Acknowledge the importance of views from the drive into Lincoln Park and across to Lake Michigan.
- Improve the drive's drainage system to reduce negative environmental impacts.
- Work with Chicago Police to enforce winter and summer speed limits.
- Contribute to a Lake Shore Drive master plan to coordinate park needs north and south of downtown.

**MAINTENANCE POLICIES**

- Develop maintenance practices that enhance the landscape rather than harm it.
- Designate a paved circulation route for maintenance and security vehicles.
- Work with park maintenance crews and concession personnel to develop and implement garbage collection methods that do not harm the landscape.
- Work with the Chicago Police Department to improve security without driving on the landscape.
- Eliminate storage of vehicles towed from non-park locations to Lincoln Park.



PARKING ON THE SHORELINE AT MONTROSE RESTRICTS ACCESS TO THE WATER'S EDGE

# ROADS, PARKING LOTS, TRANSIT, MAINTENANCE FACILITIES

## DESIGN GOALS FOR SUPPORT FACILITIES



### Improve circulation, access and parking.

- for example:
- Redesign roads and ramps to improve efficiency, landscape appearance and circulation and/or access for pedestrians and cyclists.
  - Close, remove or modify roads, ramps or parking lots where appropriate or where necessary for safety reasons.
  - Provide vehicular dropoffs as needed.
  - Provide designated parking for park employees on park roads.



### Improve facility.

- for example:
- Improve appearance of road by integrating into landscape by reducing scale, adding plantings, resurfacing and/or improving edges as appropriate.
  - Improve appearance of parking lot by integrating into landscape by reducing scale, adding plantings, resurfacing and/or improving edges as appropriate.
  - Improve appearance of ramp integrating into landscape by adding plantings, resurfacing and/or improving edges as appropriate.

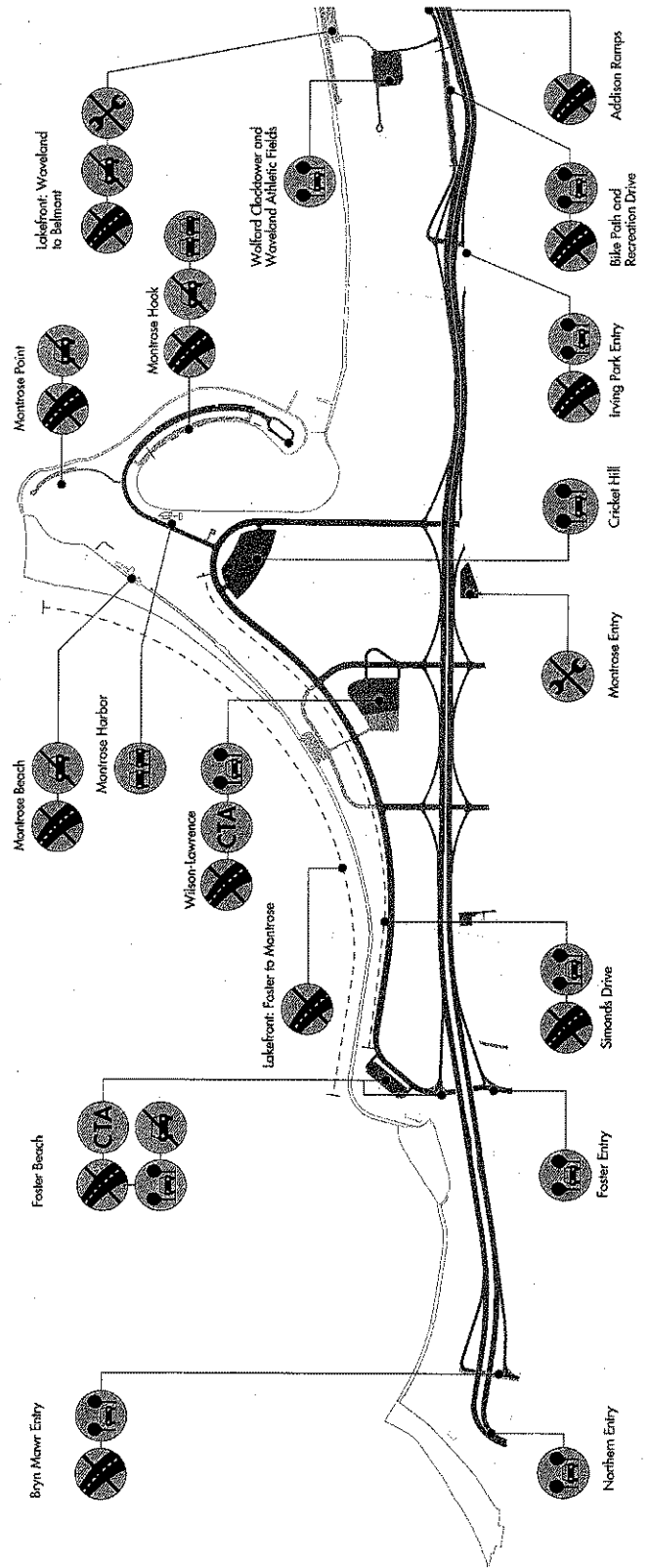


### Provide public transit.

- for example:
- Provide access for CTA and other buses into the park.
  - Provide stops for CTA and other buses inside the park.
  - Reorganize parking facilities as needed to accommodate buses and bus stops.
  - Provide bus dropoff at park facilities as needed.



- Prohibit driving and parking for example:
- Prohibit driving and parking on park paths and in landscape areas.



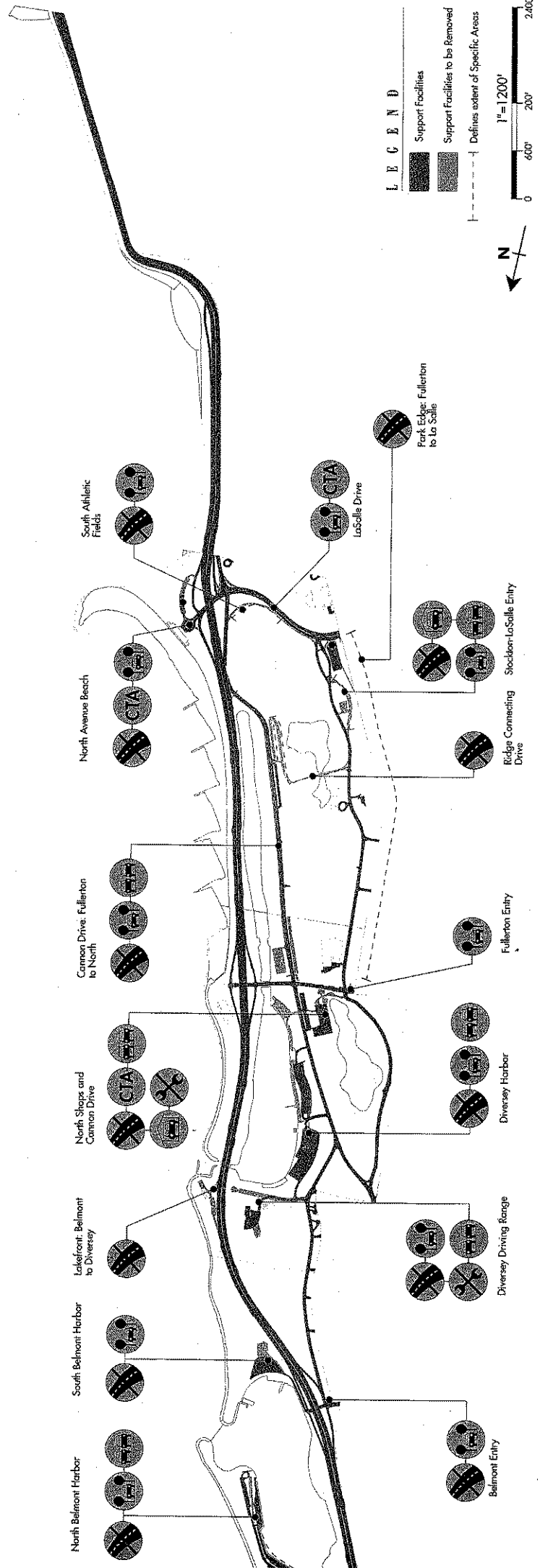
**Consolidate facility.**  
 for example:  
 • Redesign and consolidate parking areas to improve efficiency and to create open space.



**Add parking facility.**  
 for example:  
 • Build parking structure that blends into the landscape, that reduces surface parking and that increases parking opportunities in congested area.



**Remove facility.**  
 for example:  
 • Remove maintenance shops and yards relocating to a centralized facility outside the park.





# Site Furnishings

## SIGNAGE, BENCHES, WATER FOUNTAINS, LIGHTING

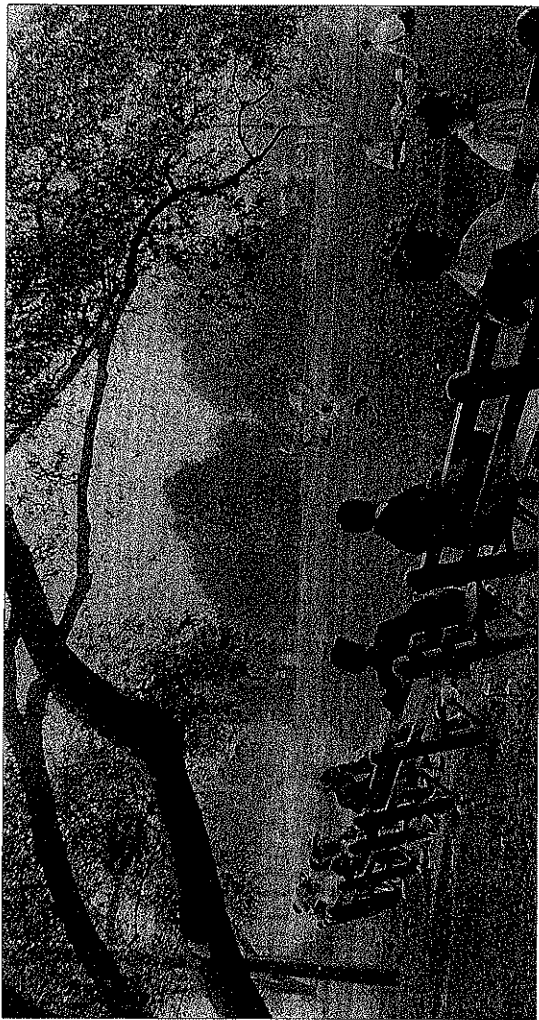


Photo Courtesy of Chicago Historical Society

BENCHES HAVE BEEN INTEGRAL TO THE PARK LANDSCAPE SINCE THE PARK OPENED



BUSY WEEKENDS LEAD TO OVERFLOWING GARBAGE CANS

### INCONSISTENT USE OF SITE FURNISHINGS

Site furnishings are among the most important components of public space. They make the space user-friendly, comfortable, safe and relaxed. Benches at key locations encourage relaxation and people watching; water fountains become landmarks for joggers and children; and signs and lights improve park use and enjoyment.

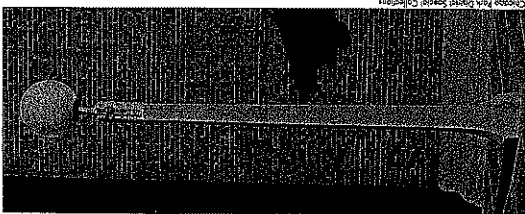
Though the park includes some site furnishings, they comprise a mix of styles and qualities. The signs along the park's 20 miles of paths are ineffective, with few regulatory or warning signs. At the park's many entries, there are no welcoming signs or maps. Though there are some pavement markings, no overall design or system governs their use.

Benches, fences, bike racks, light posts, kiosks, concession trailers, pushcarts and bollards show little consistency of design or use in the park. Most of the park is equipped with benches of simple concrete-and-wood design; other seating is provided by the step stone reatment and rises in the landscape. Water fountains of various designs are scattered through the park. Trash receptacles in most areas are 55-gallon barrels. Fence types include chain link, snow fence, stone, wood and guard rail.

The adequacy of park lighting and security varies by location. A survey found that about one-fourth of park users would feel unsafe at night in certain parts of the park. Though many boaters sleep on their boats, few others report using the park after dark. A majority of those surveyed said they would use the park after dark with adequate lighting and security.

## POLICY GOALS FOR SITE FURNISHINGS

- Develop families of site furnishings to be placed within the various historic or natural contexts within the park while allowing for the addition of new designs.
- Use lighting and fencing as needed to make the park easier and safer to use.

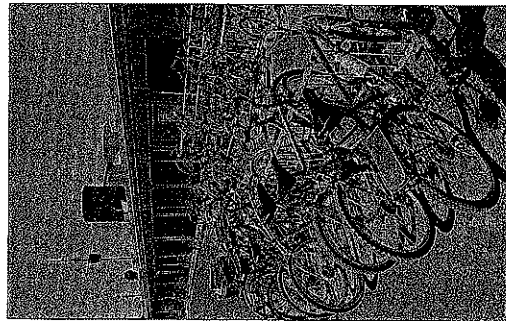


A TYPICAL LINCOLN PARK LIGHT FIXTURE

Chicago Park District Search Collection

## SIGNAGE POLICIES

- Develop a park-wide signage system with a consistent graphic format, and place signs to provide safety information and directions to major destinations.
- Avoid unnecessary signs and remove existing signage that is inconsistent with the new format or visually or functionally intrusive.
- Create welcome signs for use at all park entries, including harbors as approached from the water.
- To educate park users, develop interpretive signage to mark nature paths, historic features, gardens and wildlife.
- Develop instructional signage to discourage littering and charcoal dumping at trees, to restrict speed in congested areas and to warn of hazards.



BICYCLE RACKS AT NORTH AVENUE BEACH

## FURNITURE POLICIES

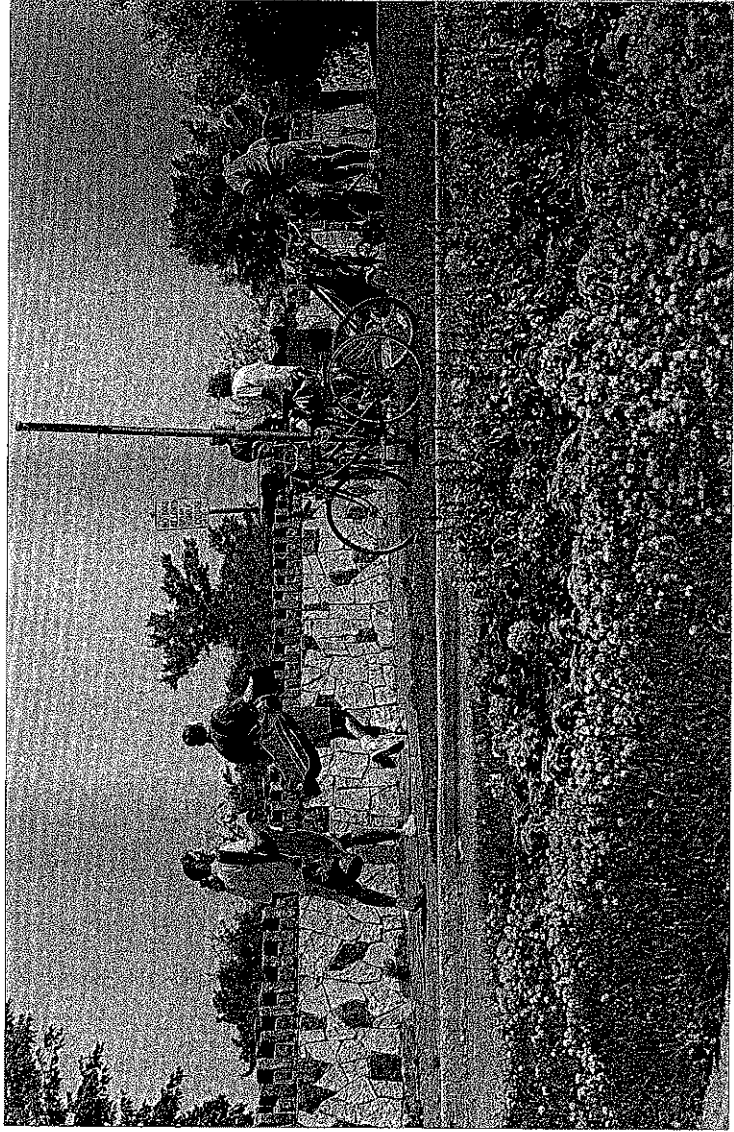
- Choose furniture in context of its setting.
- Consider historic, physical and social setting; intensity and variety of use; and scale.
- Use consistent designs within any one setting.
- Provide clusters of furnishings to encourage sitting, reading and playing.
- Develop a secure bicycle rack system in appropriate areas.

## FENCING POLICIES

- Reduce use of fences, when possible, to minimize obstacles and divisive effects.
- Remove or relocate fences that restrict flow of pedestrians and cyclists.
- Locate new fences to meet safety and security requirements without being visually or functionally intrusive.
- Remove chain link fences along harbor edges and, if the fence serves a valid function, replace it with more aesthetically pleasing fencing.

## LIGHTING POLICY

- Develop the park's lighting system to ensure ease of use, appropriate illumination and safety at all park facilities and entries and on paths and roads.



A STONE WALL DEFINES THE PATH ALONG MAROVITZ GOLF COURSE

# Design Guidelines

The design guidelines were generated as part of the process of creating policy and design goals for the park-wide systems. These guidelines are not to be considered comprehensive. Nevertheless, they are included here for two reasons:

1. They record and preserve the valuable ideas that were generated and approved by the Steering Committee during the planning process.
2. They facilitate adherence to the policy and design goals when considering new projects for Lincoln Park.

## AESTHETIC CONSIDERATIONS

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Identify and strengthen the unifying qualities of the park.
- When undertaking work in a particular area of Lincoln Park, consider existing and proposed spatial character, form and design, color, texture and materials as important components to the overall landscape composition of that particular area. Consider the sensory impact – visual, auditory and olfactory – of all site elements.
  - Evaluate spatial character (how a space is perceived by people using or looking at a particular space; some spaces may be perceived as beautiful, safe and romantic, while others may seem dangerous, unattractive or even ugly.)
  - Improve or modify spatial character where it is deemed poor, inappropriate or disruptive to the overall landscape composition of that particular area.
  - Evaluate form and design (the scale of site elements, the relationship between site elements and the manner in which site elements are physically situated on the ground; curving paths as opposed to rectilinear paths, historic designs as opposed to contemporary designs, intricate, detailed plantings as opposed to large sweeping plantings, etc.).

- Improve or modify form and design where either are deemed poor, inappropriate or disruptive to the overall landscape composition of that particular area.
- Consider color as a very important visual component in the landscape. Select colors for paint, site furnishings, materials and playground equipment so that color is compatible in the landscape.
- Consider texture and material as very important visual components of the landscape (pertains to both plants and building materials; brick and brushed concrete have very different textures, some plants have very small leaves and branches resulting in a fine texture, while other plants may have very large leaves and branches resulting in a coarse texture; material pertains to the type of plants selected and to other building materials that are part of a landscape composition: wood, concrete, asphalt, steel, chain link and brick are examples of different materials with different aesthetic characteristics). Select plant materials and site furnishings so that texture and material are compatible in the landscape.

## OPEN PARK SPACE

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Maintain and/or change the shape and size of vegetated landscape parcels in Lincoln Park to enhance the environmental, aesthetic and recreational benefits, to provide better wildlife habitat, to improve maintenance efficiency and to facilitate circulation and eliminate redundancy between existing paths and roads.
  - Provide well-maintained open and shaded lawn areas for sitting, relaxing, sun-bathing, etc.
  - Improve spatial diversity and enclosure through better definition of existing and potential spaces throughout Lincoln Park.

### WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION GUIDELINES

- Incorporate plant material particularly suitable for wildlife habitat throughout Lincoln Park.
- Select plant materials, where appropriate, that will improve winter habitat areas for wildlife.

### WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION GUIDELINES

- Create a cohesive and compelling (predominantly naturalistic) planting design that will be one of the three dominant physical features of Lincoln Park along with land forms and water elements.
  - Use plant material (trees, shrubs, groundcover and perennials) in such a way that it will appear as the visually dominant element in the landscape. Recreational usage, vehicular systems and architectural elements should be visually subordinate to the plant material.
  - Use plant material in a way that will not impede the function of other park systems.

- Use plant material in naturalized (informal) arrangements: establish trees and shrubs of similar species in arrangements (i.e., plant communities) over large geographic areas, to achieve a naturalistic character; plant trees and shrubs of varying sizes to add to the naturalistic character.
  - Take advantage of the inherent attributes of indigenous and native plantings throughout Lincoln Park: consider use of plants which may be more drought tolerant or disease resistant.
  - Establish landscape planting designs that will minimize the noise and visual impact of roadways and parking lots and that will screen and soften architectural elements such as utility boxes, tennis courts, parking lot edges and structures.
    - Use plant material in the median and along the edges of Lake Shore Drive to better integrate the roadway into Lincoln Park and to reduce noise from Lake Shore Drive traffic for park users.
    - Plant steeply sloped areas (e.g., off and on ramps and areas along Lake Shore Drive) with trees and shrubs, groundcovers and perennials to heighten visual interest, to control erosion and to eliminate the need to mow grass.
    - Use plant materials to enhance the visual setting of buildings and monuments and to protect them from vandalism.

## WATER

- Reinforce and perpetuate existing planting designs, where appropriate, to accentuate woodland areas, parkland planting, open meadows, gardens, water edge planting, etc.
  - Reinforce aging or declining tree plantings with new trees or groves of trees to perpetuate the design, while maintaining the original design intent.
  - Evaluate gardens throughout Lincoln Park (e.g., Grandin's Garden, the Conservatory Gardens, the Lincoln Memorial Perennial Garden, the Rosenbaum Garden, and the Peace Garden). Preserve and enhance as appropriate.
  - In areas where spatial definition and integrity are poor or lacking, use site design and vegetation to achieve spatial definition.
  - Enhance and preserve all present open spaces where appropriate.
- Where planting has occurred in historically significant meadows or open spaces, remove planting and restore meadow.
  - Increase plant density, especially of understory trees, shrubs, grasses, vines and herbaceous material.
  - Provide more variety and quantity of plant material throughout Lincoln Park to provide greater visual, horticultural, ecological and educational interest (e.g., evergreen trees, deciduous shade trees, ornamental trees, deciduous and evergreen shrubs, perennial flowers, and ornamental and native grasses).
  - Maximize the sensory (e.g., visual, auditory and olfactory) qualities of the plant material: provide optimum seasonal interest through leaf and flower color; offer a greater variety of form, color and texture; select plant materials, where appropriate, that will improve winter interest.
- Use a variety of turf covers to maximize recreational usage, improve soil retention, enhance visual quality, reduce maintenance costs and increase wildlife habitats (e.g., prairie grasses, meadow grasses, infrequently mowed lawn areas and manicured lawns).
  - Introduce evergreens throughout Lincoln Park, especially in woodland and wildlife areas.
- Acknowledge that certain areas of Lincoln Park have extremely poor soils. Evaluate soil quality in areas of new work to determine where soil improvements are necessary to provide optimal growing conditions for plant material.
  - Consider the aesthetic and historic appropriateness and compatibility of existing and new plant materials to their immediate surroundings and their relationship to the entire park.
- Provide plantings that promote safety for park users.
  - In heavily congested areas, avoid using plants with dangerous thorns or plants that are toxic if ingested.
  - Arrange plantings to minimize areas for hiding to discourage criminal activity. Situate densely planted areas away from paths.

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

- Emphasize and strengthen Lincoln Park's relation to the lakefront.
  - Provide a continuous lakefront path.
  - Designate areas adjacent to the lakefront for recreational needs and open space.
  - Evaluate appropriateness of the structures and land uses in immediate proximity to lakefront that do not relate to lakefront use. Remove or reprogram when deemed unnecessary.
  - Acknowledge and strengthen the role of the beaches and revetments in providing access to the water.
  - Enhance existing views and provide new views through Lincoln Park to the lake.

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

- Enhance the harbors as significant places for viewing lakefront activities and as gateways to the park.

## PATHS

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Develop a comprehensive, cohesive path system throughout Lincoln Park.
  - Acknowledge the need for multiple uses of the lakefront path.
  - Examine path systems located throughout Lincoln Park and provide for continuous N-S and E-W movement through the park: improve or replace existing lakefront paths and provide new lakefront paths where necessary; provide pleasant, non-vehicular movement through parkland along the urban edge where appropriate; add or modify east-west paths into and out of Lincoln Park where necessary.
  - Simplify path configurations where too many path choices create confusion.
  - Add, delete or modify paths throughout Lincoln Park to improve circulation and relieve congestion.

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Examine park facilities. Modify, relocate or remove facilities that unnecessarily disrupt the landscape and park use. [Facilities include buildings and structured recreational areas, such as playlots, tennis courts, ball fields, etc., including the fencing that surrounds these areas.]
  - Where a facility restricts movement through or access to the park, but where maintaining a facility in its current location is desirable, modify the edges to ease movement through the space.
  - Where a facility restricts movement through or access to the park and is in an undesirable location, relocate the use or facility.
  - Consider relocation of existing activities where unsafe conditions exist.
  - Carefully consider the extent and seriousness of existing congestion when locating new recreational opportunities or park attractions throughout Lincoln Park.
- Where excessive use of and damage to the landscape exists, consider relocation of program attractions and recreational uses.
  - Examine turf alternatives that may be more durable under heavy use.
- Locate facilities or attractions that require management in areas where management is or can be made readily available.



A LINCOLN PARK MUSICIAN FINDS AN AUDIENCE.



## PARK FACILITIES (CONT.)

HISTORIC RESOURCES  
GUIDELINES

Develop preservation guidelines for Lincoln Park by establishing a series of historic contexts for the park. Historic contexts are frameworks for rehabilitation reflecting one or more aspects of the historic development of each area based on its significance and integrity. Contexts include the following:

- The significance of each area of the park is evaluated on the basis of history, architecture, landscape architecture, archaeology, art, culture and engineering.
- The period of significance is the span of time in which an area attained its importance.
- Historic landscapes are composed of a variety of features that define their historic character. The elements of landscape include large-scale characteristics such as spatial relationships and views, as well as individual qualities including topography, vegetation, water features, roads and paths, structures, site furnishings and objects.
- Integrity is evaluated based upon the degree of survival of character-defining features (i.e., those that contribute to the historic context).
- Select appropriate preservation treatments for existing historic features based upon assembled research data and field evaluation information.
- One of the highest priorities will be reinforcing designed historic landscapes. Based on the determined historic context, they will convey, as closely as possible, the associated design intent relative to spatial relationships, planting design, engineering, grading and hard materials.
- Protect historically significant features such as the ancient lake ridges and other important landforms, the vegetation and the paths that function within the existing circulation system.

Historic vegetation must be recognized as an integral part of the historic fabric of the park and should be considered during any preservation effort.

Guidelines will recommend the most appropriate treatment of extant character-defining features. Every project will adopt the appropriate measures of the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects:

- Undertake temporary measures to protect and stabilize historically significant park elements.
- Repair any damage resulting from mechanical failure, normal use, construction, or neglect (i.e., ancient lake ridges found throughout the southern portion of the park). Whenever possible, historically significant vegetation that causes damage to or threatens historic structures should be controlled rather than removed.
- Reestablish the stability of an unsafe, damaged, or deteriorated property while retaining its essential form.
- Plan repairs as a safeguard measure against the loss of an unused or underutilized character-defining feature, with intent to rehabilitate or restore the element at a later date.
- Stake or cable trees that have been bent over by snow or lake winds, or prone to remove limbs that threaten the stability of the tree.

Undertake a program of preventive maintenance for those character-defining features that suffer from age or the encroachment of nature.

- Use historically appropriate materials and methods. A building requiring tuckpointing should be done with proper mortar mix and tooling; pruning of historic vegetation should retain the form and character of the plant.
- Monitor character-defining features and provide ongoing maintenance as needed.

When a contemporary use is required for a historically significant park element, retain those portions or characteristics of the element that are significant to its historical or cultural values (i.e., the interior rehabilitation of the Lincoln Park Zoo Lion House).

Design additions so that they do not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. Make the new work compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features of the original element (i.e., the addition to the Chicago Historical Society).

Avoid changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or historic features from other properties.

Restore features of an earlier period only when the recovery is critical to the historic character of an area.

Undertake removal of later work or the replacement of missing earlier work only when there is enough original fabric and sufficient documentation to accurately recover the form, features and details of the feature as it appeared at a particular period of significance (i.e., the exterior and Great Hall of Cafe Brauer).

- Use original species and variety of plant material when removal and replacement of existing historic plant material is necessary because it is too severely damaged or diseased or if it is overgrown and pruning will not accomplish the treatment objective.
- When replacement of the original species and variety is not possible, match the visual, functional and horticultural characteristics of the plant as closely as possible (i.e., Hawthorn trees with their characteristic horizontality and red berries).

Provide treatments for missing historic features that are consistent with the historic resources policies and guidelines.

An historic feature that was removed from its original location in Lincoln Park, and placed in another location in or outside the park, can be replaced when removal does not diminish the integrity of its current site and is appropriate to the determined historic context of its original site. If it cannot be placed in its original location, it may be placed near its original location.

An historic feature that no longer exists may be reconstructed only if it can be clearly documented that accurate reconstruction is insured, and it must be placed in its original location.

The treatment of new park features shall adhere to preservation policies and guidelines in order to enhance historic Lincoln Park.

New features that would diminish the integrity of the historic character of the park, an area, or a specific historic resource will not be introduced.

New features shall not interfere with important spatial relationships between historic resources.

New features shall be compatible with the historic character of the park, an area, or an historic resource in terms of design, color, texture, materials, scale and feeling.

New features shall only be rendered in an historic design when there is a clear and documented precedent. When a new design is inspired by an historic precedent of an unrelated historic resource it must be reinterpreted to convey its true period of construction.

Recurring features are those elements in the park that occur repeatedly (i.e., site furnishings such as lamps and benches) and, therefore, are capable of making an important contribution to the character of Lincoln Park.

Upgrade and unify park furniture.

A recurring historic feature will only be used or reconstructed within the property boundaries extant during the period of significance of the feature.

A recurring historic feature that is now missing may be reconstructed when there is a clear and documented historic precedent. The reconstructed feature will only be placed within the property boundaries existing during the period of significance of the feature.

New recurring features shall only be rendered in an historic design when there is a clear and documented historic precedent.

When a new design is inspired by a historic precedent of an unrelated historic resource it must be reinterpreted to convey its true period of construction.

Features that detract from the integrity of the historic character of the park, an area or an historic resource shall be removed and/or redesigned in a more sympathetic manner.

RUSTIC SHELTER AT STOCKTON AND ST. JAMES PLACE, CIRCA 1899



Chicago Park District Collection

## SUPPORT FACILITIES

### PARKING AND TRAFFIC GUIDELINES

- Maintain access and parking. However, modify, reduce and manage roads, traffic and park use as necessary where they negatively impact park use and to improve the continuity of the landscape and park use.

### MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

- Examine support facilities (primarily Chicago Park District maintenance shops.) Modify, relocate or remove facilities that unnecessarily disrupt the landscape and park use.

### LAKE SHORE DRIVE GUIDELINES

- Treat Lake Shore Drive features such as lighting and bridges as critical to both the vehicular and non-vehicular experience of Lake Shore Drive.

- Locate all light standards on the edges of Lake Shore Drive, not in the Lake Shore Drive median.
- Maintain and restore the historically significant bridges and lighting used along Lake Shore Drive throughout Lincoln Park. Consider redesign or enhancement of bridges that are not historically significant or that detract from the historic character.

- Consider views into the park along the entire length of Lake Shore Drive as well as views of Lake Shore Drive from inside Lincoln Park.

- Determine areas and features that should be seen from Lake Shore Drive. Provide or enhance views to those areas and features without compromising historic integrity.
- Determine areas and features that should not be seen from Lake Shore Drive. Screen views to those areas or features without compromising historic integrity.
- Consider the impact of Lake Shore Drive upon the park user from inside the park. Provide, enhance or screen views as necessary.

## SITE FURNISHINGS

### DESIGN GUIDELINES

- The design and detailing of site furnishings may vary from one historic sub-area to another. (Lincoln Park Historic Preservation Analysis divides the park into 11 historic sub-areas that define different periods of development.)

- Remove existing site furnishings that are visually or functionally intrusive in their current locations, historically inappropriate, or inconsistent with new site furnishings.
- Select and locate new site furnishings that are historically appropriate and are neither visually nor functionally intrusive.

- Maintain character of the Lake Shore Drive median planting.

- Develop the parcels of land created by the on/off ramps in a manner compatible with the median planting, the edges of Lake Shore Drive and the context of that particular area of Lincoln Park.

- Improve the aesthetic character of the landscape along the edges of Lake Shore Drive throughout Lincoln Park.

- Develop the landscape treatment along the edges of Lake Shore Drive with the goal of improving the park character as viewed from Lake Shore Drive.

- Review metal guard rails and fencing along the length of Lake Shore Drive in Lincoln Park and develop a more consistent approach: eliminate double fencing where both guard rails and fences are in place, determine areas where fencing or guard rails are unnecessary and replace fencing or metal guard rails that are in poor condition with newer more aesthetically pleasing products.

PRAIRIE-STYLE STRUCTURE DESIGNED BY ALFRED CALDWELL FOR THE LILY POND

