

# EXHIBIT H

# CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

About Us

## About Us: History of Chicago's Park

One of America's best-kept secrets is Chicago's historic park system. Even Chicagoans who routinely enjoy its diverse open spaces- from the magnificent lakeshore parks to intimate neighborhood settings- may be surprised about their parkland legacy. We invite you to learn more about the history of Chicago parks, which are second to none in America and abroad.

## Timeline



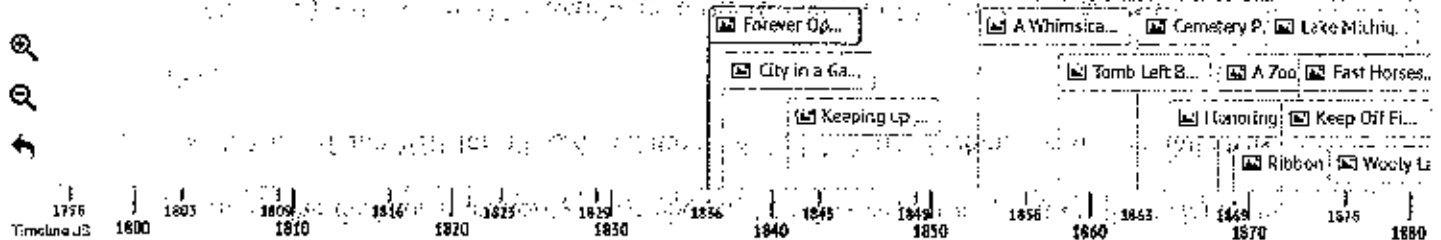
Courtesy of Chicago History Museum, JCHM-37510

Illinois and Michigan Canal Commissioners, Map of Chicago and Additions, July 2, 1836

1836

### FOREVER OPEN, CLEAR & FREE

The story of Chicago's parks began even before the city was officially incorporated. Early leaders foresaw the importance of saving lakefront property as open space. When preparing land sale maps to generate revenue to build the Illinois and Michigan Canal, they labeled an area of the lakefront with the inscription: "Public Ground - A Common to Remain Forever Open, Clear, and Free of Any Building, or Other Obstruction Whatever." This inscription established a legal precedent for lakefront protection and marked the beginnings of what later became known as Grant Park.



## Overview