

EXHIBIT K

Jackson Park Historic Timeline

[Historic Jackson Park page. Columbian Exposition. Museum of Science and Industry with timeline.](#)

[MSI website. To Historic Preservation home.](#)

Historic Timeline

to start of [1900s](#), [1950s](#), [1980s](#), [2000s](#), [2013](#)

[Aside](#): history of the site of the Obama Center

1850s,
1860s

As with much of Chicago's shoreline, parts of Jackson Park were not even above Lake Michigan through much of the 19th Century. One cove cut west, north of modern 5800 at the east most edge of the Museum of Science and Industry, and formed part of what would become North Pond and then Columbia Basin under Frederick Law Olmsted/Calvert Vaux and Olmsted sons reshapings of the park. Bringing in fill to contain the lake and straighten its edge was one of the few things Olmsted could do before work on the park was stalled after the 1871 Chicago Fire. The harbors and lagoons are also only partially by design but are additional coves that were reworked again and again. Still, there is much less lagoon in Jackson Park now, especially since the Nike base construction of the 1950s, than in the early days.

The alternating swampy swales, shoreward projections of Lake Michigan, and long sand hills/dunes with oaks and scrub (known as the "oak highlands" that are continued in South Shore as the Jackson Park Highlands) were virtually unused by Native Americans or early Chicagoans. They were also not very productive as vegetation or habitat until Olmsted scraped then covered the site with manure and soil for the Columbian Exposition. Some of the scrubby oaks still there had been 50 to a few hundred years when then-distant Chicago was incorporated in 1837 and had aged still more more when Paul Cornell incorporated the "town" of Hyde Park in 1853-6 in conjunction with the coming of the Illinois Central Railroad, not by accident virtually next to the lakeside parks that Cornell would envision and with one of the first "suburban" stations nearby, negotiated as part of his land deal with the railroad.

As land owner in future Jackson Park itself as well as surrounding neighborhoods down into the 7000s, Cornell and associates put out some of those enticing land-boomer maps touting part of future Jackson Park as, among other possibilities, future home of the "Presbyterian Seminary of the Middle West" (expected to move there from the Beverly area). Cornell was a staunch Presbyterian and brought Cyrus McCormick, founder of the seminary as well as the famous reaper works just a couple of decades before, out to look at the land. But it was a rainy day with a bad buggy ride, and McCormick decided to site his seminary on the North Side, where it stood until moved adjacent to the University of Chicago campus in Hyde Park (!) in the 1970's. Cornell's park-creating efforts were strongly supported by the growing nearby population.

1865-69

South Side leaders, especially Paul Cornell, founder of Hyde Park township, and business leaders such as John Young Scammon who had been close to Lincoln, started working for a great south park, eventually to include what will be Jackson Park (542 acres), Midway Plaisance, and Washington Park (total for all three c. 1,055 acres) and for the 13.87 miles of the South Boulevard system (King, Drexel, and Garfield). All these required bond issues that Cornell lobbied for. At first defeated by skeptical, then-distant (pre-annexation) Chicagoans as a boondoggle giveaway for land speculators and the wealthy and especially of little use for those living on Chicago's west or north sides, the bond referendum enabled by the Legislature passed in 1869, perhaps helped by the dawning idea of that boulevard system for country excursions (and the siting of mansions of the wealthy). Cornell figured that development east of Cottage Grove would be for the wealthy and include estates, some large as the Scammons and Dr. Egan already were creating, while that west of Cottage would be more middle and working class- an expectation echoed by Olmsted in a report accompanying his drawings. Both had the vision to create democratic, human-scaled space that people of all classes could use, not just

	<p>look at--Olmsted coming to explicitly include active ("sweating") recreational uses and curved drives and vistas, not just passive nature or formal gardens or even the rugged "grandeur" Olmsted admired-- and Cornell would gradually convince Olmsted of this spectrum. Olmsted shared an increasingly popular ethos of open space as for "re-creating" people, especially in cities, indeed as serving as lungs of the city. Of the parks, when they were done, the Tribune would say, "[the land] would in any ordinary city have been condemned as unfit for park purposes, but with the people who made no bones of building a metropolis in a mud hole, and when destroyed, rebuild it in two years, the seeming impracticality of the subject only served as an incentive."</p>
1869	<p>The Illinois Legislature creates the South Park Commission, then outside the city, which ended at 39th St., to develop and manage the park, and allows a bond issue. The park charter says "free to all persons forever." What would become Jackson Park is then a 593 acre Eastern Division. Paul Cornell gets a commission from the SPC for F.L. Olmsted and Calvert Vaux to study the two sites (future Jackson and Washington, linked by a "middle garden").</p>
1870	<p>The Commission hires F. L. Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, who had led design of Central Park in New York and would design parks across the country. The connection was Chicago Tribune editor (Brazz?) who was in a group that included Olmsted, studying Yosemite Valley for the State of California. Olmsted was first hired to design Riverside, IL.</p> <p>The site that would become Jackson Park is surveyed and soon becomes tied up in owner litigation (Paul Cornell himself was one of the leading owners) until 1888. West division/Washington (372 acres) will be developed much faster and was nearly finished in its first incarnation when the Fire struck October 1871. Olmsted does not see much prospect in the swamps and swales of the east (later Jackson) end, but great promise in its proximity to Lake Michigan, the "great treasure" of Chicago (although he does not see much that the Lake could immediately enhance). He finds the future Washington Park easier to work with and starts there. In fact the general public's view of the area--and of lakeshore and prairies in general--is as depressing and dismal, not fitting any of the current ideas of what a "park" should be like.</p>
1871	<p>The formal name of the 1871 plan will be <i>Chicago South Commissioners Plan of: South Open Ground, Upper Plaisance, Midway Plaisance, Open Ground, Lagoon Plaisance and Parkway Quadrant, 1871</i>. In it, Olmsted said that "if a search had been made for the least park-like ground within miles of the city, nothing better meeting the requirement could have been found", decriing its "flatness" and that it was forboding, with the shore full of sand bars, and the land a mix of bogs and swales and ridges with moldy vegetation, he said. (The site did have some fine stands of bur oak which have been largely allowed to stay to the present.)</p> <p>Olmsted's original plan is adopted in May. The theme is progression from the Lake through water-based natural grandeur then through a Venetian canal and another set of lagoons then ashore through great meadows and rambles in the west park giving respite and human re-creation from the awful city. East division themes are interaction of water and land and nature's grandeur ("the sublime"). Olmsted was a land and habitat creator and tamer in the interest of human needs. He was neither "anti-modern" nor a preserver or extender of "wilderness/wildlife refuges". His interest was not sanctuary for native wildlife, species and landscapes-- in some distinction from contemporaries like John Muir and the Kennicotts of Hyde Park neighbor Kenwood and, earlier, Audubon, although Olmsted at least appears to have known about "succession" and "zones" that would lead to the field of ecology under such end-of-the-century pioneers as Thomas Coles (University of Chicago and investigator of Indiana Dunes) or founders of modern biology such as Whitman of the University of Chicago and Woods Hole Marine Laboratory.</p> <p>October--disaster. The Great Fire (including a third of the city burned, 100,000 refugees, and destruction of city and South Park Commission offices and files-- including the tax assessment roll, and doubtless of those who had bought land in the park itself) puts funding for further South Park development on hold--leaving jut a small police force. The fire proves an impetus to dispersion of the population outward, including along the boulevards and to "safe" suburbs like Kenwood, Hyde Park, and Woodlawn that would eventually create constituency for the South Parks.</p>
1872-79	<p>East Division land was undeveloped before 1875. The East Division was named Lake Park in 1875. Thereafter developed was only land between 56th and 59th Streets. It includes what would be reconstructed as North Pond during the Columbian Exposition, part of an existing (or once) Lake</p>

Michigan side-cove and the nucleus of Columbia Basin south of the modern Museum of Science and Industry. But it was irregular with a beach on the north side, mowed lawns surrounding it, and two rocky "islands". Olmsted planned for a very different, formal basin. The other water feature was "twin lakes" in the northwest corner (filled in c. 1894). The two lakes--not polluted Lake Michigan--was intended for bathing--and in the winter for skating--so was the recreational heart of the park, which made sense being close to where population was at the time. "Twin Lakes" may have come from a narrowing in the middle, perhaps reinforced later when it was bisected by a masonry bridge. The other feature in that sector was a part of one of the natural lakeshore paralleling ridges. Other work included grading spreading manure, seeding for grass, and tree planting. Ironically, the lack of progress developing Jackson Park over the next two decades led to its choice for the Columbian Exposition.

1873 plans included a design for a perennial garden east of Midway Plaisance. Known to have been installed in 1936, designed by CPD designer Betty McAdam. Whether there was any precursor is not known to this site.

In 1875 the Eastern Division is renamed Lake Park.

1875

Efforts are underway to check lake erosion, including using piers such as the stone pier and dock at 59th that extended 200 feet into the lake. This was later extended further and served a steamer to downtown. Most other "piers" were still of brush and plank.

1877

First large-scale project to protect lakefront: a submerged 2200 ft. long lumber and limestone or dolostone breakwater built from 56th to 59th. Then sand was spread to create a "permanent" beach--but that didn't stay long due to strong lateral southbound currents and the strong winds and waves from the northeast, so a "paved" beach (rectangular stone blocks 1-2 feet long) would be built along the breakwater from 56th to 59th between 1882 and 1884.

1879

Washington Park is dedicated- by no less than President Ulysses S. Grant. By this time the north part of Lake Park was becoming immensely popular, especially picnic grounds and the boats in both artificial lakes.

1880

High early plateau of the "beginnings" period: 84 of 542 acres in east division (future Jackson) have been improved. The next year further acreage development will be suspended due to continued litigation. A new IC train station just north of 57th Street is the main distance access to the north end of the park. A station will soon be built in Woodlawn. The lakefront had only a succession of narrow streets and drives with gaps that did not reach the park.

North Pond Bridge. (The term "North Pond" for this period is a convenience-- the name comes from a later creation or the Columbian Exposition). A masonry bridge is built along the southern edge of Olmsted's basin--historians believe part of the masonry was incorporated into the successor bridges for the Columbian Exposition and the slightly later (1895) one that would be named Darrow Bridge in 1957. (This writer has not yet found a definitive source saying who designed any of these.) Only the abutments (stone masonry end walls) remained from the 1880 masonry bridge and, historians believe, the succession structures that continue into the present. The elegant abutments have curved wing walls. The railings (in poor condition) are from later, for the Columbian Exposition-- and the only remaining example of the style of bridge railings in the park--hence historically significant. The deck (in the 21st century in very poor shape, with the bridge closed to even pedestrian and bike traffic in November 2013) is declared by the National Bridge Inventory to be from 1895, replacing a narrower deck (pony bridge) from the Columbian Exposition and is the only remaining example of such truss bridge style (similar to jack-arch) common at the Fair such as that at the south end of Wooded Island, now gone)-- 4 shallow girder lines with floor beams supporting concrete-- an early use of such. It is rated a 5 on scale of 10 in historical significance, good historic integrity, and "Eligible" for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Its restoration is now regulated by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and it is an IDOT bridge. The Stanley company was awarded contract for study and design in early 2016; this will take at least two years. High priority for actual work was said to require that it somehow again carry traffic, but local authorities decided emergency vehicles only in addition to pedestrians and bicycles. State grants were sought, some denied and some in request as of mid 2016.