

HUMBOLDT PARK LAGOON AND PRAIRIE RIVER

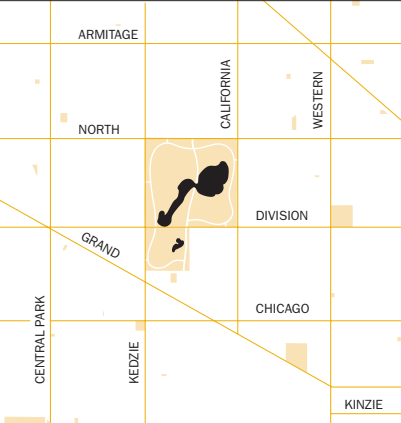
Humboldt Park was originally designed in 1871 by William Le Baron Jenney as part of an ensemble on the boulevard system along with Garfield and Douglas parks.

Humboldt Park is one of the Chicago Park District's Nature Oasis sites, around which a great deal of nature programming is carried out (see Appendices, p. 132). The lagoon shoreline has been restored and planted with native grasses and wildflowers. A fall visit features purple and white asters and the feathery seed heads of nodding wild rye.

The line between land and water is frequently and deliberately broken down at Humboldt Park. There is a stretch of wetland vegetation (mostly cattails and broad-leaved arrowhead) between the path and the water, and then the view and access are opened with a wide, clear area of limestone steps. These openings invite the visitor to come close to the water.

The lagoon is connected to the prairie river located west of Humboldt Boulevard. In 1906, Jens Jensen designed the prairie river, and in 2004, the Chicago Park District installed solar panels and a wind turbine power station to run the pump that moves water through the restored prairie river.

The original boat house features a Prairie School architectural design; it has been recently restored and includes an environmental center on the lower level. The historic rose garden attracts many butterflies and dragonflies in late summer and early fall.



Humboldt Park Lagoon and Prairie River



ADDRESS 1400 N Sacramento Ave  
OWNER Chicago Park District  
ACREAGE 19.21

HABITATS  
1 Aquatic  
2 4 5 Riparian / Water Edge  
3 Prairie / Grassland  
6 Wetland

DIRECTIONS From North Avenue, turn south on Humboldt Boulevard. Park on the north side of the field house (on the west side of the street); walk south to the prairie river; or park at the boat house on the east side of Humboldt Boulevard near the lagoon.

