Grant Park Master Plan

The major goals of the Grant Park Plan include:

- Expand the role of Grant Park as a regional, city-wide and local resource
- Activate the park as a whole, on a year-round basis, especially on non-event days and during the winter
- Protect and enhance the unique landscape of the park
- Preserve and interpret the park's historic character while accommodating its evolving uses, including the needs of new residential developments on its periphery
- Integrate Grant Park into the Lakefront open space system
- · Develop short and long-range guidelines for land-use, management, maintenance, transportation, roadway design and park development
- Integrate the planning process for Grant Park with the plans for other facilities of the Central Lakefront
- Develop Butler Field as sports fields
- Introduce a performance venue at Hutchinson Field
- Extend pathways over the railroad rights of way



Figure 4.3.9 The Grant Park Master Plan



Figure 4.3.10 Queen's Landing



Figure 4.3.11 Neighborhood Park Area



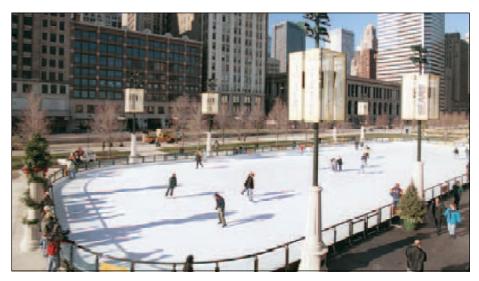


Figure 4.3.12 The recently completed McCormick Tribune Ice Rink at Millenium Park



Figure 4.3.13 Outdoor music pavilion and bandshell at Millenium Park

Millennium Park

First conceived in 1997, Millennium Park will become one of the finest recreational and cultural spaces of any city in the world. The new park has added 16 acres to Grant Park by constructing a land bridge over the Metra Railroad tracks. The design, financed through public-private partnership, includes an outdoor ice rink, an award-winning band shell designed by architect Frank Gehry, a 1500-seat Music and Dance Theater, and extensive public sculptures, gardens, green spaces and promenades. Its underground parking structure will include over 2000 parking stalls for cars and a 400-space heated indoor bicycle parking facility complete with lockers, showers and bike repair.



Figure 4.3.14 Public fountains at Millenium Park



Figure 4.3.15 Michigan Avenue gardens at Millenium Park



Lakefront Expansion North of Olive Park

Expand the lakefront path between Olive Park and North Avenue beaches by 100 feet. Introduce landscaping to create new parkland and expanded pedestrian and bicycle ways between the city and the lakefront.



Figure 4.3.16 The lakefront path today



Figure 4.3.17 The lakefront path north of Olive Park in 2020





Figure 4.3.18 Concept of Wacker Pier and Monroe Harbor



Figure 4.3.19 Burnham Park Framework Plan

Monroe Street Harbor

Expand and complete Monroe Street Harbor, create more boat slips and a new Yacht-Clubhouse. Explore widening and landscaping the breakwaters and the realignment of the southern breakwater.

Wacker Pier

Widen and landscape the existing DuSable Marina wall to create a new Wacker Pier and extended civic space, that brings people out to the lake. Renovate the existing Coast Guard Station and create a new public cultural institution.

Burnham Park Improvements

Implement the Burnham Park Framework with increased open space, improved landscaping, new beaches, active open spaces, fieldhouses, new roadway access and new pedestrian bridges across the railroad tracks and Lake Shore Drive. Locate Soldier Field Parking in structure and gain open space. Phase out the McCormick Place Lakefront Center and expand Burnham Park.



Complete and Expand Monroe Harbor

LAKEFRONT LEGACY RECOMMENDATIONS

- L1. Develop a new park on Northerly Island
- L2. Create a terminus to the Congress Parkway view in Lake Michigan
- L3. Align and landscape the breakwaters of Monroe Harbor
- L4. Phase out the McCormick Place Lakeside Center and convert to parkland within an expanded Burnham Park
- L5. Extend Burnham's vision with new breakwater islands as natural habitat in Lake Michigan

Figure 4.3.20 Chicago's Lakefront Legacy

Open Space - Existing
Open Space - Planned
Open Space - Vision
Open Space - Legacy
Plazas



Complete and Expand Monroe Harbor

Maintain the legacy of new ideas for Chicago's Lakefront first envisioned in Burnham and Bennett's 1909 Plan of Chicago

The grandest visions of Chicago's past leaders will be maintained through a commitment to exploring the feasibility of a new set of "legacy" projects for the lakefront.

The Plan proposes shoreline islands that create wave protection and also a new destination offshore. The islands would offer extensive natural habitat environments for birds as well as parklands for visitors. The sweeping islands would form a larger Monroe Harbor, similar to the original Burnham concept.

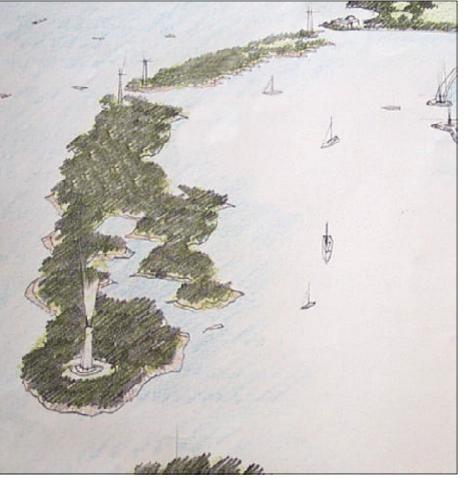


Figure 4.3.21 Shoreline islands form an outer breakwater as well as a natural habitat

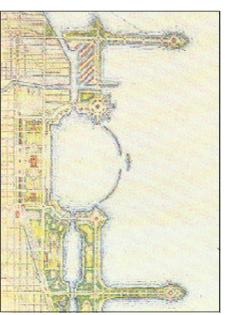


Figure 4.3.22 The central lakefront as envisioned by the Plan of Chicago (1909)



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