

**Report and Opinion**

**Concerning the Impact of the  
Proposed Obama Presidential Center**

**on the Cultural Landscape of  
Jackson Park, Chicago, Illinois**

**Including the Project's Compatibility with Basic Policies of the Lakefront  
Plan of Chicago and the Purposes of the Lake Michigan and Chicago  
Lakefront Protection Ordinance**

**By:**

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# Assessing the Effect of the Proposed Obama Presidential Center on the Historic Landscape of Jackson Park

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**For: The Barack Obama Foundation**

**Date: May 15, 2018**

**Statement of purpose and charge:** To develop the historic landscape analysis that places the proposal to locate the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago's Jackson Park in its proper historic context.

This investigation was undertaken at the request of Richard F. Friedman of the law firm of Neal & Leroy, LLC, on behalf of the Barack Obama Foundation. The assignment was to investigate the proposed Obama Presidential Center master plan and to assess the effect of the project on the historic cultural landscape of Jackson Park, Chicago, a park listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This investigation has necessitated a thorough review of the cultural landscape history of Jackson Park, the original South Park, of which Jackson Park was an integral part, and of the history of the Chicago Park and Boulevard system. Critical in this landscape research were previous studies which resulted in statements of historic landscape significance and historic integrity, studies which listed historic landscape character-defining elements, and other documentation which provided both large and small scale listings of historic landscape form, structure, detail, and design intent which contribute to the historic character of the Park. In addition, I was engaged to evaluate the Obama Presidential Center with respect to the fourteen basic policies of the Lakefront Plan of Chicago and thirteen purposes of the City of Chicago's Lake Michigan and Chicago Lakefront Protection Ordinance.

## **Conclusions Summary:**

1. The addition of the Obama Presidential Center to Jackson Park does not affect the historic property configuration of Jackson Park. The entire park will remain in public ownership and the vast majority of the OPC building campus and especially the grounds, including green roofs and the plaza will be open to the public, and designed and developed for public purposes similar to the rest of the cultural facilities throughout the Chicago park system.
2. The design proposal for the Obama Presidential Center respects the formal juncture of the Midway Plaisance and entrance to Jackson Park. The OPC frames this gateway site, but does not interrupt. The sunken landform of the round turning basin proposed in the 1895 plan and in the 1936 design for the Perennial Garden is expressed in the Center's proposed Women's Garden. The entry plaza of the OPC faces west to the formal Midway, with the eastern façade of the Center bermed and planted to blend with the pastoral and picturesque park landscapes as proposed in both the 1871 and 1895 plans for the Park. The OPC master plan also respects and continues to provide for the sweeping of pathway and drive entrances into the Park. Both the 1871 and 1895 plans featured carriage drive and path loops internal to the Park which provided

passage through picturesque and pastoral lagoon and planted scenery, ultimately leading to the shoreline of Lake Michigan.

3. The closing of Cornell Drive and redesign of park pedestrian entries at Midway South Drive will facilitate pedestrian circulation to and along the Lagoons, past Wooded Island, leading to the lake front promenade, as envisioned in the 1871 Olmsted and Vaux design and 1895 Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot General Plan. This path segment is also an integral component of the reshaping of the park's circulation system as proposed by in the South Lakeshore Framework Plan. Elimination of vehicular traffic will enhance the visitor park experience, increasing the tranquility of the Lagoon and Wooded Island landscapes.
4. The location and design of the Obama Presidential Center does not encroach on any significant landscape remnant of the World's Columbian Exposition, and while the OPC site was once the partial location of the Horticulture Building at the Fair, recent and extensive archaeological studies have revealed no new areas of archaeological significance. Views of portions of the Obama Presidential Center, especially the tower, resemble the Frederick Law Olmsted design intent for Wooded Island, which was created to be experienced in designed contrast to the immense and highly visible adjacent Fair structures.
5. Views of the Obama Presidential Center from west of the Metra tracks will be limited to those of the tower, which will be seen as a flanking element for the southern boundary of the Midway. The tower is not on axis with the Midway centerline, will not dominate views from west of the Metra embankment, and will not block views from the embankment eastward into the Park. It is anticipated that the tower will be visible from few, if any, ground level locations within the residential and institutional districts north and south of the Midway, west of the Metra. The tower is not the terminating or axial view from the western Midway, preserving the historic spatial connection and open skyline between the Midway Plaisance and Jackson Park.
6. The location and design of the Obama Presidential Center respects the design intent and general landscape structure of the 1895 General Plan. The OPC is planned to be within one of the perimeter sites of the 1895 plan which were intended to provide a designed transition to the main spatial/activity structure of the central portions of the Park--the Lagoons and Fields. The Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. sketch which preceded the 1895 Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot General Plan indicated that the western perimeter was to be used for sidewalks and low berms with landscape planting along the Stony Island Avenue, with the street edge lined with architectonic tree-plantings in double and triple rows.
7. Site designs for the OPC reflect historic design intent through the planted berms and formal street tree plantings along Stony Island Avenue. The Obama Presidential Center site also reflects the 1895 General Plan design intent for the proposed but never constructed gymnasias in this western perimeter of the park, in providing recreational and athletic features within the perimeter site which provide the intended historic transition to the Lagoons, Wooded Island, Fields and Lakefront features of the Park.

8. The Obama Presidential Center does not encroach into the central lagoon, field, drive or lakefront landscapes so critical to the historic fabric of the Park. The siting of the Center in the western perimeter of the Park does not remove, replace, or damage historic fabric or features which remain from the 1871 Olmsted and Vaux Plan, the 1892 F.L. Olmsted & Co. master plan for the World's Columbian Exposition, or the 1895 Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot General Plan for Jackson Park.
9. In both the 1871 and 1895 plans, the area proposed for the siting of the Obama Center was indicated to be a landscaped perimeter, a buffer zone providing a transition from City to Park. In addition to providing this intended transition, the Obama Presidential Center design also addresses the design intent of the planned but never constructed gymnasias in this western perimeter of the park, in providing, recreational, and athletic uses which transition to the historic central features of Jackson Park--the Lagoons, Wooded Island, Fields, and Lakefront.
10. The planned addition of the Obama Presidential Center to Jackson Park continues a heritage of pairing of cultural Institutions and parks, which is a significant and historic distinction for the Chicago park and boulevard system. In addition to the museum and cultural campus of Jackson Park, the OPC continues an historic cultural and civic tradition whose period of significance should be recognized as ongoing.

**Methodology:** This study required a careful review of extensive historic documentation, literature, and public documents associated with the design and construction of Jackson Park, with reference to the larger South Park, itself a part of the Chicago Park and Boulevard System. For the purpose of research, the time frame of the research study emphasized the period of significance of 1875-1968. Accepted standards of assessment of historic landscape were used, as suggested by National Park Service standards for evaluating historic landscapes. Elements include analytical review of previous documentation and update for historic significance, integrity, character-defining elements, methods of historic preservation such as restoration, rehabilitation and adaptive use as suggested by several NPS Standards of review including: National Park Service: Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports; National Register Bulletin 18: How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes; National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes; National Park Service: and The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes

**Historic Documentation:** Jackson Park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. In addition J. Bachrach's "Jackson Park Design Evolution" (CPD, 1995) provide detailed and comprehensive historic documentation for Jackson Park, the South Park, and the Chicago Park and Boulevard System. Additional primary source documentation was obtained through review of the South

Park Commissioners Annual Reports (selected, 1872-1930), and Chicago Park District Annual Reports for the 1930's. Works consulted are listed in the Bibliography.

This wealth of historic documentation associated with the planning and design of Chicago's historic system and individual park histories, was augmented through review of biographical literature associated with the major figures in this distinguished history. Reviewing the work of respected historians and landscape preservation scholars was additionally helpful in developing this series of assessments to better understand the design intentions for the Obama Presidential Center, principals of the architectural and landscape architectural design team were also consulted. In addition to site visits in Chicago, the offices of Billie Tsien and Tod Williams, and that of Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates Inc. were visited in New York. In-depth conversations with principals and partners of both firms were invaluable in understanding the design intentions for the Obama Presidential Center, and to review design work in progress, including building maquettes, and site studies for landform, grading, drainage, and planting design studies.

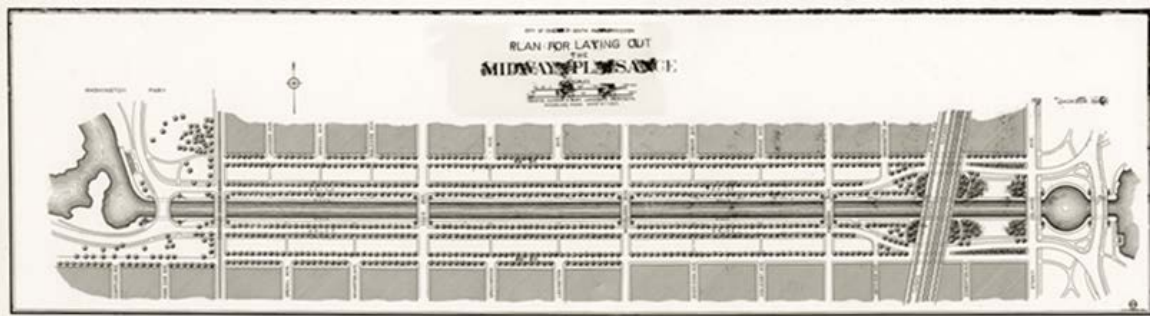
**Area Under Review:** This study addresses the proposed location and site design of the Obama Presidential Center as it relates to the historic landscape of Jackson Park, and the Midway Plaisance, and the effect the OPC may have on key features of these parks which have established and reflect the historic significance and integrity of these national register listed properties. The assessment of potential effects is described as the Section 106 Area of Potential Effects (the APE), primarily in the section of Jackson Park and the portion of the Midway east of the Metra embankment, including the site proposed for the Obama Presidential Center, and the roadway improvements associated with the proposal to close Cornell Drive. The connectivity of the parks and boulevards of Chicago's historic South, West, North Park Districts and the interconnecting boulevards of the Chicago Park and Boulevard system play a role in aspects of this review, as does with the expansion of the South, West, and North Parks with respect to progressive reform era small park improvements. This broader landscape setting will be considered when it is appropriate to place the OPC and Jackson Park into their larger cultural, aesthetic and philosophical contexts.

**Premise and Summary of Findings:** The South Park and specifically its eastern division now known as Jackson Park has a distinguished history of national significance. This history is complex and layered, and one which spans multiple eras of historic landscape significance, involving multiple, well-known designers of landscapes and their unique aesthetics, including Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., John Charles Olmsted, HWS Cleveland, Henry Sargent Codman, Associates of the Olmsted firm, and regional landscape architects such as May McAdams. Each of several successive design eras and designers contributed to the next in the creation of this cultural landscape.

*It is the summary finding of this study that Obama Presidential Center as proposed to be located within the historic Chicago Park and Boulevard System does not negatively impact the historically significant landscape elements of the System, the South Park (including Jackson Park, Washington Park and the Midway Plaisance as a composite), or Jackson Park specifically. The historic integrity of the national register eligible System of Parks and Boulevards and NR listed Jackson Park/Midway is similarly not substantially impacted. With few exceptions as noted subsequently the historic landscape of Jackson Park will not be adversely affected by the addition of the Obama Presidential Center to Jackson Park, pursuant to general considerations of cultural landscape principles.*

The basis for my opinions is set forth below in sections describing the Jackson Park Cultural Landscape and its history; the impact of the Obama Presidential Center on the cultural landscape; an assessment of the OPC's effects, and an evaluation of the OPC pursuant to the fourteen basic policies and thirteen purposes of the City of Chicago's Lake Michigan and Chicago Lakefront Protection Ordinance.

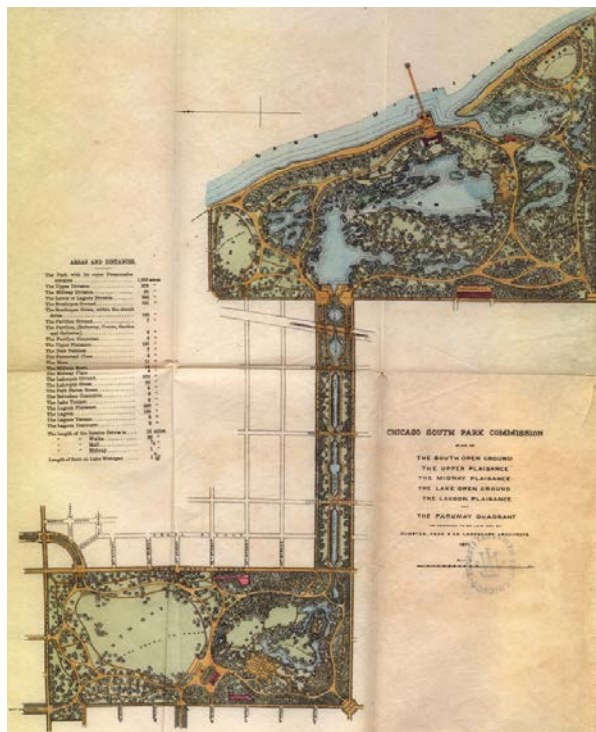




## I. The Jackson Park Cultural Landscape

### The Jackson Park Historic Landscape Chronology:

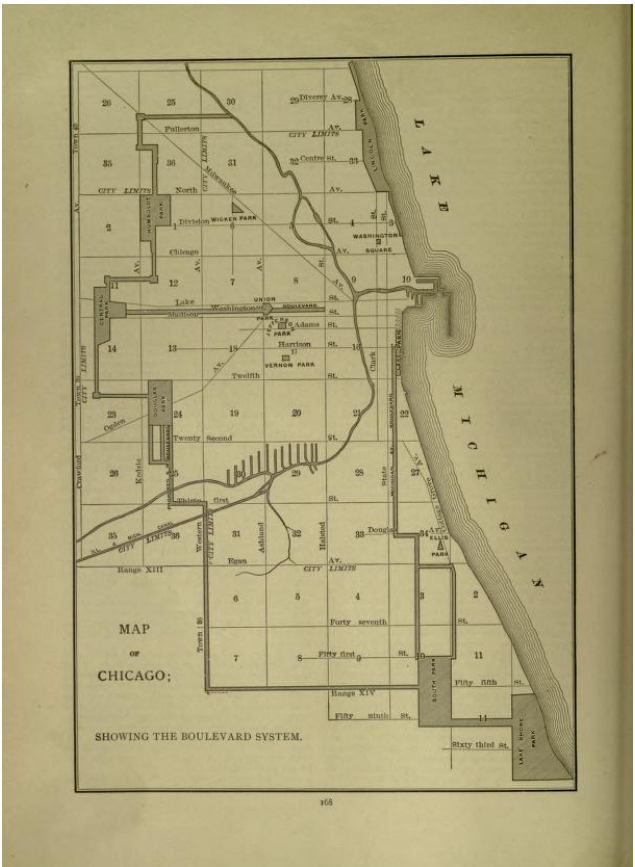
Jackson Park is an integral component, but not the central feature of the park and boulevard system of Chicago. The three properties now known as Washington Park, The Midway Plaisance, and Jackson Park, once were known simply as the South Park, which was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. and Calvert Vaux in 1871. South Park was composed of three distinctly different landscape components, linked together and designed as a composite unit of three interrelated but distinctly different park landscape settings and experiences. The genius of the Olmsted, Vaux & Co. 1871 design for the South Park was the creation of the pastoral park upper division of the South Park District (now Washington Park), which in addition was the linking property to the boulevards of the West and North Parks and City Center, and also was designed to connect to a dramatic water canal and promenade (the Midway Plaisance) which would extend to the eastern division of the South Park (now Jackson Park), providing dramatic access to Lake Michigan through an intended picturesque lagoon, path, and driveway system.



A broad view of the history of the Chicago park system and the South Park reveals a complex cultural landscape of many diverse layers of historically significant landscape planning and design. In Jackson Park, elements of this historic timeline exist side by side, overlaid, fragmented, erased, remodeled and preserved. In order to assess effect of changes on this cultural landscape, the broad, multi-faceted history of the property was considered.

Commencing with Illinois legislation in 1869 allowing for the creation of taxing bodies formed for the purpose of the creation of park systems. Initially three park districts were created in Chicago: the north, west, and south districts, each with the ability to acquire land and oversee the creation parks and boulevards. Lincoln Park in the north district had already been established in 1865. Its Diversey Parkway extension connected to the proposed parks of the West District (now Humboldt, Garfield, and Douglas Parks), themselves interconnected by boulevard, and additionally connected by boulevard to the South Park District. South Park was a unique parcel of land whose shape suggested three separate parcels of land. Collectively the parks and boulevards of the three districts created an interconnected crescent of parkland extending from the Lake Michigan shore on the North Side of the City to the lakeshore on the south side. Additional boulevards connected the west parks and south park to the center city. Lakeshore parks completing the ring of parks encircling Chicago would not be created until the twentieth century creation of Grant and Burnham Parks, integrated with the development of Lake Shore Drive, extended to Jackson Park in the 1930's.

This “lake to lake” system of parks and boulevards was the first of its kind in the country, and as the system evolved, this framework of public grounds and interconnecting thoroughfares attracted distinguished cultural institutions to be developed within and adjacent to the parks and boulevards. The system quickly absorbed these civic facilities and the institutions as integral to the parks, creating this remarkably linked cultural collection which, in itself, is an historically significant part of the historic landscape significance of the historic park and boulevard system. The Art Institute of Chicago, Lincoln Park Zoo, The Chicago Historical Society, the Garfield Park Conservatory, the DuSable Museum and the Museum of Science and Industry and many others are institutions with Chicago park system addresses. Nationwide, the location of distinguished cultural institutions within and as integral components of historic parks reinforces this complementary relationship. Examples include The New York Metropolitan Museum of Art in Central Park, The St. Louis Museum of Art in Forest Park, and the de Young Museum in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.



**Jackson Park Timeline.**

1871: Design for South Park by Olmsted, Vaux & Co.

1872: City hires HWS Cleveland to implement South Park and South Park District Boulevards



1890: Jackson Park and Midway selected for site of World's Columbian Exposition

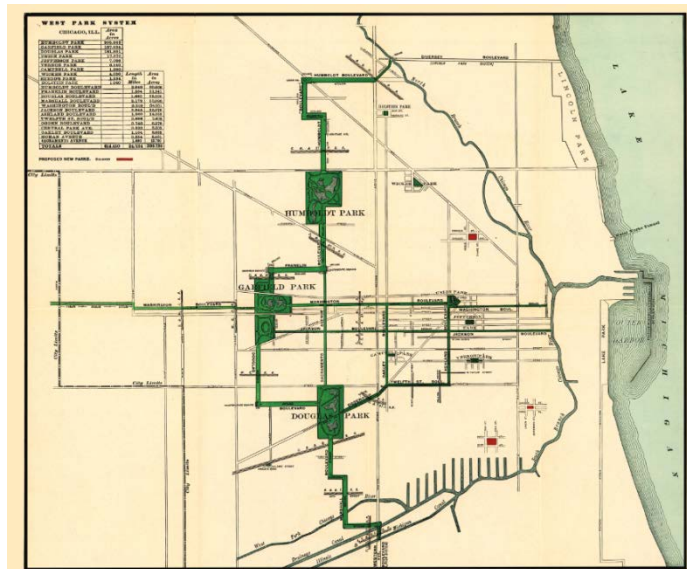
1892: F.L. Olmsted & Co. Master Plan for World's Columbian Exposition

1895: Olmsted, Olmsted, and Eliot General Plan for Jackson Park

1936: CPD/WPA Jackson Park improvements including Perennial Garden and Lake Shore Drive

**Jackson Park History as a Palimpsest:** Jackson Park is a cultural landscape of many layers, aesthetics, and expressions of sociological influences. These historic designed landscape layers were created through design plans by varying entities, developed over time with varying degrees of implementation. These sequential designs and partial designs begin in 1871, and include subsequent design layers c. 1874, 1892, 1895, 1936 et al. These designs have been all or partially accomplished, added to, overlaid, partially replaced, totally replaced, partially or fully erased, or remain extant over all eras. Elements of each era of park design implementation remain today, adding richness to the historic experience of the park, but also complexity and sometimes contradictions and difficulty in assessing historic significance and integrity. Preservation planning for Jackson Park is challenged by the fact that the Park's design does not represent this historic park as one moment in time designed by one designer, but at least seven eras in time, created by many designers, each moment/era and designer significant in their unique way. Further complications exist in determining a period of significance, sometimes the case of determining the time between a singular design, and era of implementation and a point of maturity, but in Jackson Park's case there are periods of significance, sometimes sequential, and sometimes overlapping as the park was redesigned, remodeled, and redesigned again.

Beyond a chronology, taking a slightly different way of developing the complex history of the park would involve describing the park as evolving over time. This layered story might begin with description of 1869 legislation by the Illinois General Assembly allowing cities of a certain class to establish independent park commissions with the purpose of establishing park systems. In the case of Chicago, three commissions were initially established, with two, the south and west districts initially proceeding to establish commissions that had taxing powers. Laws were specific in some instances as to which property to acquire, and there were inferences that these should be park systems. Additionally as plans evolved the two and eventually three districts (including the north district with its already established park) worked to interconnect across district boundaries, creating what is considered the country's first Park and Boulevard System, a crescent of parks and boulevards extending from the lakeside park on the North, Lincoln Park by parkway to the Boulevards of the West Parks connecting the 3 large parks of the district (Humboldt, Garfield, and Douglas, then by boulevards connecting the boulevards of the South District and then to its Central or South Park, which by its unique land configuration proceed from its upper or western large park by a



grand plaisance and promenade to its eastern division giving access to Lake Michigan as the southern match to Lincoln Park on the north. The West Parks hired landscape engineer and architect William LeBaron Jenney to develop initial designs for the West Parks, and Olmsted and Vaux were hired to design the South Park.

Designs for the West Parks were published in 1870 and the Olmsted and Vaux plan for the South Park is dated 1871. The South District commissioners hired another noted landscape architect, HWS Cleveland to oversee the implementation of South Park, and by 1880 substantial parts of the upper division, now known as Washington Park were accomplished, as well as progress improving the boulevards which

would connect to the West Parks, and to the Loop. Progress in improving the lower division (now known as Jackson Park), intended to be the picturesque connection through lagoon and path to the sublime shore of Lake Michigan, was slower, as well as that of the Midway Plaisance which connected upper and lower division via a proposed grand canal and promenade. Cleveland did oversee the



improvement of the northern portion of Jackson Park initially developing an access from a secondary boulevard in Hyde Park, extending across what was soon known as Lake Park, and via carriage drive and path to a Lake Shore promenade. Small ponds were dredged and improved and a bridge carried visitors to a carriage drive surrounding what was then known as the Lake Open Ground, beyond which was the completed Olmsted and Vaux lakefront promenade and Refectory.

This northern section of Jackson Park had by 1890 taken on the appearance of a finished landscape, guided by the expert design development and supervision of Cleveland. Washington Park was similarly taking on the characteristics of the pastoral landscape envisioned by the Olmsted and Vaux 1871 design. At this time the City of Chicago was making initial plans to host an international exposition, and suitable sites were being considered, including a central lakefront site, a lakefront site north of Lincoln Park, Washington Park and Jackson Park. The downtown and northern sites were ruled out, and the South Park commissioners were consulted regarding use of south district sites for the Fair. Commissioners were opposed to the use of Washington Park due to its newly completed condition, and with the reluctant approval, which soon turned into enthusiastic agreement, Jackson Park was selected for the site of the World's Columbian Exposition.



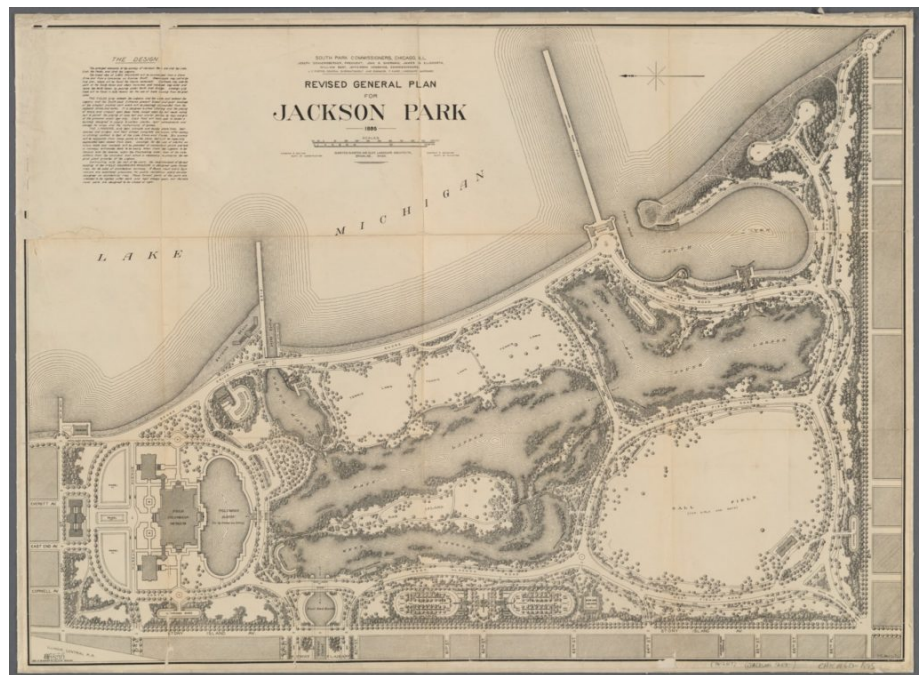
Plan of 1895, including the focus on a system of internal waterways, and the carriage drive and pathway systems which would give park visitors access to lake Michigan.

The language of parks changed from 1871 to 1895. Lagoons became Lagoons and Harbors. Landscapes which might have been labeled Meadows in 1871 were now labeled “fields” or even “ball fields.” Provisions for other sports fields, such as lawn tennis and baseball also differentiated the changing nature of parks from the 1870’s to the 1890’s. An additional proposed feature of the 1895 General Plan was the proposed addition outdoor exercise facilities for both men and women, including a playground for children.

The structural components of fields, lagoons, harbors, carriage loops, paralleled by walking, bicycling, and equestrian trails, and associated plant massing called for in the 1895 plan were largely accomplished according to plan. Changes in those features however appeared almost immediately, as, for example, golf replaced ball fields commencing in 1898 with the initial nine-hole layout, soon expanded to 18 and then to 27 holes. Simple tee-to-hole layouts in the lawn evolved into new landscape types, landforms for tees and greens, followed by bunkers, and then fairway layouts which included plantings to define the hole/fairway in play.

Traces of the Fair remained embedded in the 1895 General Plan. The palace of Fine Arts was deemed suitable to become a permanent structure in the park, and the Olmsted firm worked with architect Charles

B. Atwood to create a suitable landscape for the structure which was to be the first Field Museum, and now the Museum of Science and Industry. The 1895 plan features the north lagoon of the Cleveland and the Fair era being transformed into a formal basin, and the surrounding site a formal circuit of pathways. The formal basin was not implemented, and on closer investigation, the formal circuit of paths that surround the Museum of Science and Industry

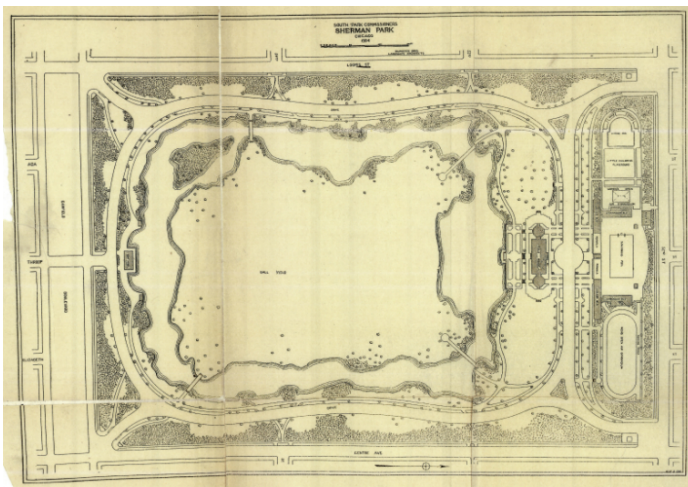


remain from those of the Fair, and also closely resemble the already completely paths of the Cleveland implement Lake Park of the 1870s. The Lakeside promenade remained and was further extended. The most visible and important landscape remaining from the Fair was that of Wooded Island, the true legacy in the park of the work of Frederick Law Olmsted. The carriage drives and loops encircled the Island, and the basin and lagoon system intersected in this central area of the 1895 General Plan for Jackson Park. This plan varied from the earlier 1871 Olmsted, Vaux & Co. plan in its emphasis on the provision of a variety of evolving forms of active recreation. Fields for play were encircled by circuits of carriage,

running, bicycling and equestrian trails, and enclosed as landscape spaces by naturalistic massing of vegetation.

The concern for play and facilities for play in park, or active recreation in today's terminology, began to appear in the 1880's. The perceived benefits of play, of exercise and sport prompted the addition of new uses and new facilities and landscape for parks. Space was added for ball games, lawns laid out for tennis, and golf soon followed. The specific provision of "playgrounds" was also a noted addition to the programming of park landscapes of the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Evolving from sand gardens Germany, the children's playground was soon a companion to what were called outdoor gymnasias, first for men, and then often separate facilities for men and women.

The provision of facilities such as model playgrounds paralleled the advance of social services for the disadvantaged. Rainwater reports that Chicago's Hull House established its first model playground in



1894, and there was growing support for the provision of this type of facility in small parks that could be located within the neighborhoods they would serve. The Olmsteds had designed what is considered the first of these small parks at the Charlesbank in 1889-91, and it is the Charlesbank model which was proposed in the Jackson Park 1895 General Plan. However, the Jackson Park facility was never completed. There was criticism at the time that the large parks being constructed in Chicago and elsewhere were primarily at the edge of cities, inaccessible to

the poor, and distant from poor and immigrant neighborhoods. Neighborhood parks, and local Community Centers were being requested and demanded.

The Chicago Small Parks Commission was established in 1899, and the design and construction of the first of these small parks soon followed. The Illinois General Assembly amended statutes in 1903, allowing the city to spend millions of dollars on this type of facility, resulting in dozens of these small neighborhood parks being designed between 1900 to 1910. The Olmsted Brothers firm designed 13 of these scattered throughout the South District, the West District created eight (3 by Jens Jensen), and those of North District designed under the direction of Dwight Perkins. These parks were true community centers, including both indoor and outdoor facilities, community libraries, field houses, and local community service agencies. They were seen to be vehicles for social, physical, health, and emotional development.

The outdoor gymnasias in Jackson Park fell victim to the rise of the small parks movement. The right idea in the wrong place coincided with park commissioners spending funds to provide similar facilities within newly formed neighborhood parks.

Improvements to Jackson Park in the first third of the Twentieth Century were primarily those which occurred during the Great Depression, when federal programs geared toward putting people back to work were focused on labor intensive public improvements under the Federal acronym umbrellas of the PWA,

CWA, CCC in rural/state and federal parks, and the Works Progress Administration or WPA for municipal parks. WPA funds allowed the newly formed Chicago Park District (which consolidated dozens of separate park districts with the City, including the North, West and South Districts) to hire a staff of landscape architects to design and direct improvements to the parks. New parks were created, and existing parks were augmented. It was during this era that 1920's plans were implemented to connect the newly created Grant Park via a lakeshore park system and drive, both north to Lincoln Park and South to Jackson Park.

So it was the 1930's WPA design era that changed the focus of Jackson Park as the southern lakefront terminus indicated by the 1871 and 1895 plans, transforming the circulation system of the park to be part of the encircling loop of drives and boulevards of the 20<sup>th</sup> century completion of Chicago's emerald necklace. One could now drive through Jackson Park gaining access to the newly extended Lake Shore Drive, then quickly northward through Burnham Park to the Loop.

Other WPA era improvements to the park include the design of the Perennial Garden by the in-house team of Chicago Park District (CPD) landscape architects, led by May McAdams. The design form of the perennial gardens is located at the pivotal transition point from the formal landscape of the Midway to the naturalistic landscape of the Park. The round, sunken landform parallels that of the Midway, and both referenced the proposed but never-implemented 1871 and 1895 plans for a canal along the center line of the Midway Plaisance, which was intended to connect lake Michigan, the lagoons of Jackson Park and the ponds and Meres of Washington Park. The round form of the Perennial Garden recalls that of the turning basin proposed in the 1895 General Plan as the formal terminus of the Midway, leading to the Grand Basin, south the of Palace of Fine Arts, then leading to the lagoon system centered around Wooded Island, and then to inlets into the Lake.

### Historic Design Aesthetics



This layered look at the passing of time for the landscape architecture of Jackson park forces the understanding that multiple aesthetics are in play. These can be considered consecutively, but are often partial overlays, and sometimes aesthetic conflicts or erasures. An aesthetic is a theory of Beauty, and several of these theories have guided the form of Jackson Park across its 120 year history.

Olmsted believed that the landscape was capable of providing a therapy or tonic to the stressed out urban dweller, and additionally would provide the necessary access to healthy environments and fresh air not easily available to those living in the most congested parts of a city. For this access to these calming, relaxing, healthy “breathing” therapeutic landscapes he proposed a landscape of rounded and smooth



South Park and its connecting Boulevards. Cleveland was most successful, even given arguments and budget woes, at overseeing the implementation of Washington Park as envisioned by the Olmsted and Vaux plan. He was less successful in Jackson Park in percent of implementation, but the northern part of the 1871 plan for the lower division was completed in its entirety, at least enough to have achieved a name of its own and a popularity within the Hyde Park community, and was, in a way a miniature of the overall: a boulevarded entry, bridge across 2 dredged ponds, a central lawn surrounded by loop of circulation framed by planting, and providing extended access to the intended and sublime Lake promenade. In his own way and eye, Cleveland implemented the Olmsted and Vaux design in this northern section.



Land surveys prepared for the design and construction of the World's Columbian Exposition reveal that the Midway had not been improved in any way in the design era spanning 1871-1890.

The Master Plan for the Fair and its detailed site design were the work of the Olmsted office, and this design contribution was duly credited by the rest of the distinguished design team, including Daniel Burnham, Design Director. In the World's Columbian Exposition plan the aesthetic terms remain from the 1870's but the balance or emphasis of forms is quite different. Frederick Law Olmsted's younger business partner, MIT trained and Paris experienced, Henry Codman perfected the formal landscape language of the Fair. The senior partner trusted him to do this and completely supported the enterprise. Sometimes the formal landscape of the fair is cited as supporting the classical architectural forms, however' this diminishes the accomplishment of the landscape architecture. The formal layout of the fair, its brilliant promenades, canals, terraces, and overlooks provided the overall structure for the

Fair as a comprehensive place. The Olmsted office created this plan and the detailed site work that developed its striking form. In contrast and by intentional contrast, Olmsted developed the aesthetic complement to the formal landscape in the largely picturesque landscape of the lagoons and their planted edges and those of the large and small islands within. From plan form and photographic evidence, Wooded island's picturesque edge had a romantic, beautiful/pastoral center....a calm and relaxing environment to get away from the Fair. Olmsted fought to keep structures off of the Island, however acquiescing to the Japanese Ho o Den resulted in a comfortable fit of scale and scene.

It is difficult to describe the aesthetic behind the 1895 general plan, although some have simplistically labeled it as Olmstedian. By 1894 Olmsted Sr.'s health was in severe decline. He was integrally involved at the time in the design and construction of Biltmore, Olmsted's last great work. But he was still active in the initial stages of the redesign of Jackson Park after the Fair. Keep in mind that this was not a restoration project. With the exception of the Lake Park site which was almost entirely taken over by the building and sitework associated with the Palace of Fine Arts, the southern component of the 1871 Olmsted and Vaux design had not been implemented. There was no Olmstedian landscape to restore.



However, the sketch plan which Sr. provided to John Charles Olmsted and the rest of the Office working on this project does set a partial tone for the General Plan. The sketch reveals Olmsted's continuing commitment to the picturesque framework initially proposed in the 1871 plan. The sketch plan is centered on Wooded Island created for the Fair, and an interconnected lagoon and basin system extending from the lake. The sketch also shows the looped carriage drive system, enclosing landscapes labeled as playing fields. This alluded to the continued genius that was Frederick Law Olmsted. The sketch plan advanced a traditional aesthetic while extending a new and modern one. The park as sketched would emphasize movement and active play. Olmsted's labels included these terminologies and additional ones such as "tracks" and "ball fields." However the sketch, beyond general forms, did not indicate special landscape imagery to support the new functions of the park. The sketch emphasized important activities and forms in the central part of the park. The southern and western margins are labeled as buffers providing separation of town versus park use.

The Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot 1895 General Plan uses the Olmsted Sr.'s sketch as a basis for the design but John Charles Olmsted develops the complete plan in the developing style of the day. The 1895 General Plan retains the picturesque lagoon system focused on Wooded Island, coupled with water elements, labeled harbors which are of a different design vocabulary, geometrically expressed edges reflecting the new use projected for berthing recreational boats. The general plan creates gateways to the park with sweeping driveways which lead to the internal carriage drive loops. The carriage drives,



intended and expressed as internal recreational experiences are paralleled with one, two, or three other circulation systems -- pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian. Labels on the General Plan reveal the detailed attention to all manner of recreational uses. This was a heavily programmed design, much different than the largely pastoral or picturesquely-created scenery of the earlier romantic era. Formal ranks of trees define the street edges of the park, and the fields are surrounded by heavily planted enclosures. There are structures proposed to support the recreational fields and water activities. The proposed outdoor gymnasias are the most geometric of these proposed built forms, and were modeled after that already designed by F. L. Olmsted & Co. at the Charlesbank in Boston.

An additional aesthetic that influenced the further development of Jackson Park is that which came from the WPA projects throughout the Chicago Park District. The team of landscape architects was hired by the CPD to design and oversee these programs was led by May McAdams and included Alfred Caldwell, who in his design work supported and advanced the ideas of Jens Jensen. Jensen and his followers revered the Midwestern landscape with its broad and horizontal forms of both landform and native vegetation. Largely a unique "natural" style of design, the aesthetic did include geometric forms in balance with naturalistic spaces. Caldwell was directing many projects along the lakefront in the period 1931-1938.

May McAdams is credited with the design of the Perennial Garden in 1936. References reveal planting design and installation of projects throughout the south lakeshore, suggesting that the heritage of using plants native to Illinois and the use of stratified limestone work links the Perennial Garden's design detail to this distinct aesthetic.

It was also during this time that Olmsted Brothers designs for the south lakefront park and a Lake Shore Drive were implemented. The Drive extended from the Loop through Burnham Park and first terminated, then extended through the Jackson Park, changing the character park as the south lakefront terminus of the South, West and North Park systems of Parks and Boulevards, evolved into a park through which the drive system completed the loop of parks, rather than the 19<sup>th</sup> century "lake to lake" crescent, with Jackson Park as the southern terminus.

## II. Landscape Preservation of Jackson Park

Four hallmarks define the recognition, listing, and preservation of historic sites, structures, and landscapes: association with significant masters, styles/movements, and or events. Additionally, the ability recognize the integrity of these historic associations is further critical.

*Who designed Jackson Park?*

*What makes it significant?*

*Can this history be appreciated in the Park today?*

*Will the proposed Obama Presidential Center add or detract from the historic character and integrity of the historic Jackson Park landscape?*

The first of these suggests a precise answer, although the presence of multiple designers, in successive eras adds complexity to the conclusion that Jackson Park was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, HWS Cleveland, John Charles Olmsted, Henry Sargent Codman, Olmsted Brothers associates, May McAdams, and Tom Bendelow.

The last three questions require analytical, expert judgments involving significance and integrity. Recent histories of Jackson Park and this study provide additional discussion for these important historic landscape considerations, in order to more fully assess Jackson Park's historic significance and integrity. This subsequent evaluation is filtered through the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes (Birnbaum, Ed. 1996):

### Evaluating Historic Landscape Significance:

#### NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

##### Criteria for Evaluation

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

### Historic Landscape Significance:

Using the guidelines provided by the NPS, Jackson Park and Midway are significant for their (C) association with masters of landscape architecture: Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., HWS Cleveland, Henry Sargent Codman, John Charles Olmsted, Chicago Park District Landscape Architects of WPA era including May McAdams.

### **Historic Landscape Integrity:**

As discussed, tangible, recognizable evidence exists that existing conditions in Jackson Park and the Midway Plaisance represent significant aspects of each design era of their history and each master designer listed. There has been, however, substantial erosion of historic integrity with respect to lagoon conversion to land, substantial changes to historic patterns of vehicular and pedestrian circulation, conversion of designed recreation fields to golf courses, and a decline in the quality of the planted landscape. Additionally the historic design intent which predicated the initial design for the Park in 1871-- Jackson Park was created to be the picturesque south terminus of the Lake to Lake system Chicago parks and boulevards, was dramatically changed when significant subsequent designs and designers extended Lake Shore drive south along the lakefront from the Loop to and through Jackson Park.

It should be recognized that the creation of Jackson Park is not reflective of one historic design, one master designer, or a singular construction. This is a complicated historic place, confusing, perhaps messy. This is a cultural landscape of many layers, each layer added on top of the previous layer of time, sometimes replacing a previous landscape, sometimes modifying, sometimes adding. This is similar to additions to a historic building added sequentially, but more like a historic structure whose internal spatial structure and detailed arrangements, furnishing, and materials were changed repeatedly, sometimes adding new furniture to old, sometimes moving a wall, sometimes given a new look for changing times, sometimes dramatically remodeling the structure resulting in new uses and appearance while retaining historic fabric as hidden structure.

What follows is an attempt to explain Jackson Park's significant history in terms of layers of history, designs by several noted designers, often sequentially in collaboration with the previous, but sometimes as singular efforts. This strategy of historic review is intended to counter what seems to have been a mischaracterization of Jackson Park as "Olmstedian", with all significance attributed to Olmsted, without qualification as to which Olmsted (FLO,Sr., FLO,Jr. or John Charles), or which incarnation of the Olmsted Office: Olmsted and Vaux, Olmsted and Co.' Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot, Olmsted Brothers. This is not to diminish the substantial contributions of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. to the South Park including Jackson Park. That is without question. However the discussion of other designers/offices and other aesthetics of park design adds to the historic significance of the park, allowing a more nuanced approach to assessing the historic composite landscape: where are the places that best represent each era, each aesthetic, and each master designer. Blanketing the entire park with an Olmstedian label, and especially connecting the historic significance and integrity to only that associated with the Olmsted, Olmsted, and Eliot General Plan of 1895 does not provide adequate breadth for this important assessment.

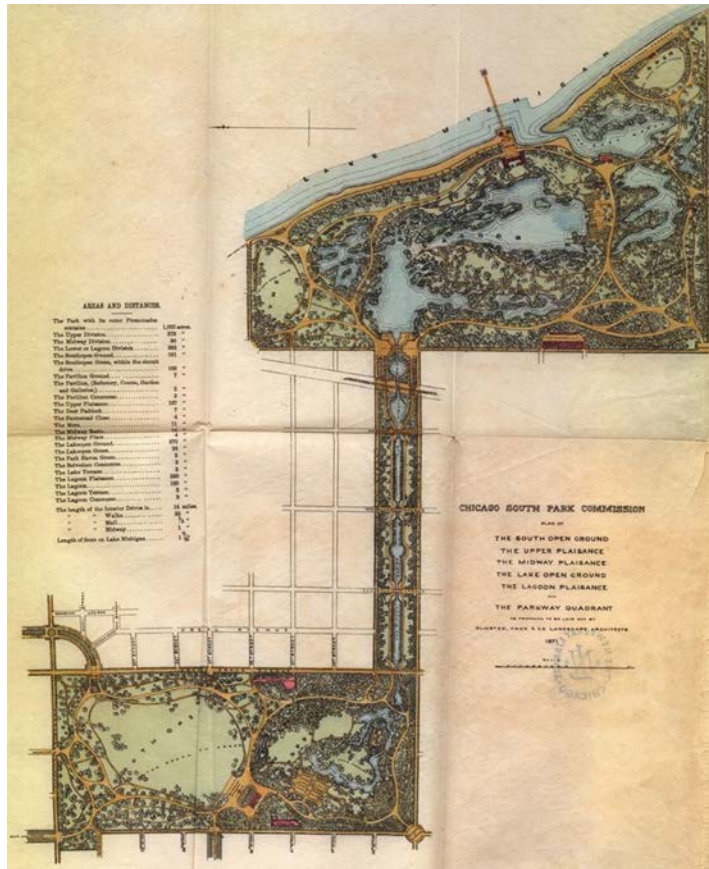
### III. The impact of the Obama Presidential Center on the Jackson Park Cultural Landscape

#### Jackson Park History in Sequence:

**Layer 1: Park Configuration.** Jackson Park, originally named the eastern or lower division of the South Park, was created by the South Park Commissioners in 1868-69 when acquisition of land for the proposed park commenced. The three divisions which make up the proposed South Park, now consisting of Washington Park, the Midway Plaisance, and Jackson Park, exist today in the same configuration as existed in 1871.

The addition of the Obama Presidential Center to Jackson Park does not effect this historic property configuration. The Park will remain in public ownership, and the vast majority of the structure and especially the grounds will be open to the public and designed and developed for public purposes similar to the rest of the cultural facilities throughout the Chicago Park System.

**Layer 2: Olmsted and Vaux.** Designs for the three divisions were first created in 1871 by Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. and Calvert Vaux. These initial designs were reflective of the evolving “Olmstedian” romantic design aesthetic of the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, first expressed in the Olmsted and Vaux Greensward Plan for Central Park in 1857, and perfected in Prospect Park in 1868. Three years later, in a city only incorporated in 1834, the designs for the South Park of Chicago included the hallmarks of



Frederick Law Olmsted’s design aesthetic: pastoral landscapes intentionally created to promote the therapeutic effects of landscape, contrasted with picturesque landscapes which intentionally were the foil or contrast to the pastoral...rough, wild, and mysterious landscapes, intended to exhilarate and excite, and landscapes designed in the formal style, often as promenades, created to encourage gregarious social interaction by a diverse population. Passive recreations dominated, with some accommodation for evolving forms of active sports. The 1871 design for the South Park featured a primarily pastoral design for the upper/western division, now Washington Park, a formal canal plaisance and promenade for the central division, now the Midway Plaisance, connecting to the picturesque landscape of the lower/eastern division via a formal water gate transition from canal to lagoon, now recognized as the dramatic

gateway to Jackson Park. Frederick Law Olmsted distained the existing desolate dune and marsh land of the Jackson Park site, but proposed to elevate and “perfect” this wild, seemingly unusable parcel by

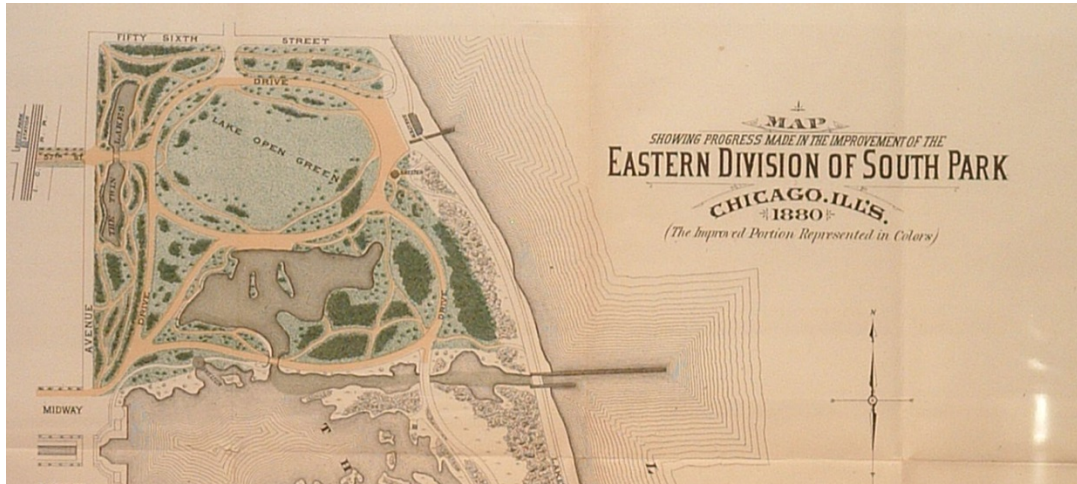
transforming it into a system of designed lagoons, drives, and pathways which would provide the exhilarating passage to the “sublime” shore of Lake Michigan. This emphasis on the picturesque, and its lagoons, dense plantations, and mysterious arrival sequence to the Lakeshore clearly characterizes the original Olmsted, Vaux & Co. 1871 design intent for Jackson Park.

Current expressions of this Layer 2 design aesthetic exist primarily in the lagoons of Jackson Park and their planted margins, in Wooded Island, remnant of meandering drives and paths, and in the Lakeshore promenade. Many of these elements were implemented in a subsequent design era of the Park, but, nevertheless, are evidence of the continuation and integrity of the Olmsted and Vaux ideal and design intent for Jackson Park.

The design proposal for the Obama Presidential Center is situated at the formal juncture of the Midway Plaisance and entrance to Jackson Park. The planned joint or hinge between the Midway and the Park in this Layer, and in subsequent Layers has always been punctuated by the designed, yet contrastingly abrupt gateway, in Layer 2 a formal water gate, as expressed in plan. The OPC frames this gateway site, but does not interrupt. The formal entry plaza of the OPC faces west to the formal Midway, with the eastern façade of the Center bermed and planted to blend with the pastoral and picturesque park. The OPC master plan also respects and continues to provide for the sweeping of pathway and drive entrances to the parks.

This review reveals no encroachment into landscapes of historic significance to this layer, and no damage from the location and design of the Obama Presidential Center to this layer of historic fabric. The closing of Cornell Drive and redesign of park entry pathways will in fact facilitate pedestrian circulation to and along the picturesque Lagoon, past Wooded Island, leading to the Lake front promenade, as envisioned in the 1871 Olmsted and Vaux design.

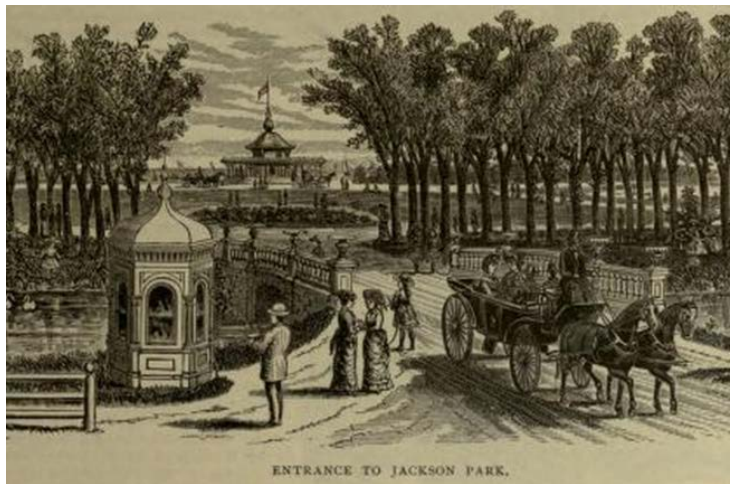




**Layer 3: HWS Cleveland and the Implementation of the South Park and Boulevards.**

Implementation of the 1871 designs for South Park, which would soon be recognized by its three divisions as Washington Park, Jackson Park and the Midway Plaisance which connected them, commenced immediately after the designs were published, but proceeded slowly. The city was thrown into cultural and economic chaos by the disastrous fire of 1871, rebuilding from which drew heroic efforts and dollars to the central district, not to suburban development and outlying parks. Money was tight.

Horace Cleveland had worked for the Olmsted firm in 1868, and left to develop his own landscape architecture business, relocation to Chicago. In continuing support for both friendship and business association, Olmsted arranged for the hiring of Cleveland by the South Park Commission to serve as the Commission's landscape architect, with primary responsibility for the implementation of the divisions in the South Park design, and for the design implementation for the planned boulevards which would connect the park to downtown Chicago, some six miles away.



Cleveland was a respected landscape architect in his own right, a follower at first of Andrew Jackson Downing and soon Frederick Law Olmsted, but he was his own person, and evidence indicates that the Olmsted and Vaux design was respected in early phases of construction, but not slavishly copied, perhaps influenced by the pragmatics of limited funds.

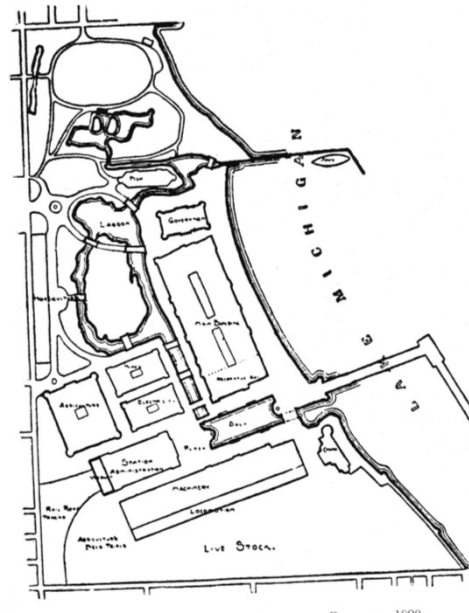
In only a few years a great deal was accomplished. A remarkable drawing published in 1880 indicates the "as-built" conditions of both Jackson and Washington Parks, contrasted with the remaining portions of the design not yet constructed. This allows a comparative study of what was designed versus what was built and gives the parks their second layer of personality. The Olmsted and Vaux design was overlaid by Cleveland's on site interpretation and expert direction of design implementation for a large portion of Washington Park, and a much smaller portion of Jackson Park. The Midway apparently was untouched. Very little remains of the improvements made to Jackson Park as directed by HWS Cleveland, although

by interpretation, traces of this history remain in the current site design, first in the layout of the Worlds Columbian Exposition grounds, and now in the site geometries of the grounds of the Museum of Science and Industry. Further traces of the Cleveland superintendency of Jackson Park are revealed in the landscaped margins north and west of Cornell Drive/59<sup>th</sup> drive which closely resemble the landscape forms indicated in the 1880 plan, in the North Lagoon, dredging for which had commenced in this era, and the designed connection to the accomplished Lakeshore promenade .

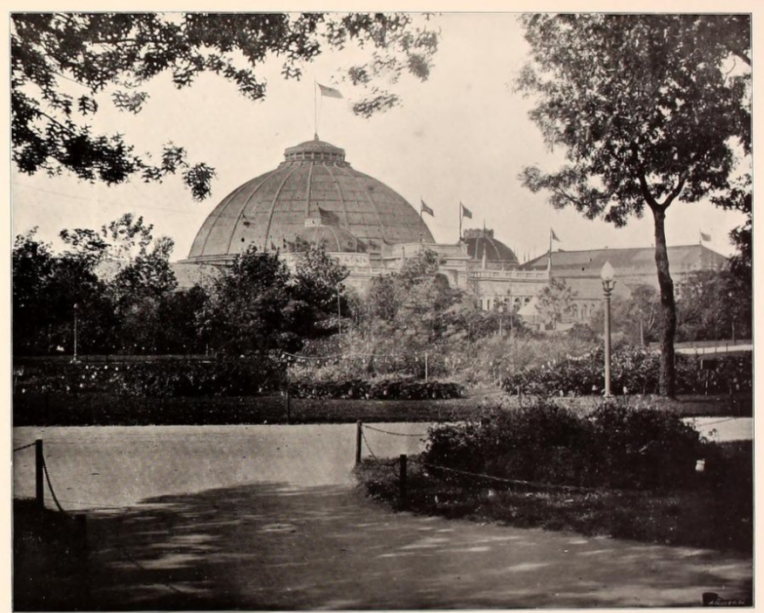
There is no evidence that the location and design of the Obama Presidential Center will adversely effect this historic layer of Jackson Park Design. The closing of Cornell Drive to automobile traffic instead will improve access by pedestrians through the park, past the lagoons and Island to the Lake, as intended by Olmsted and Vaux and as facilitated by the Cleveland design overlay and superintendency.



**Layer 4: World’s Columbian Exposition Planning:** Enter the decision, first without, then with the approval of Frederick Law Olmsted, to locate the proposed World’s Fair site in Jackson Park. A team of designers assembled, with FLO as the design director. Olmsted himself assembled a team, consisting of step-son John Charles Olmsted, and newly hired partner’ MIT trained and fresh from study in Paris under Alphand, Henry Sargent Codman. A Master plan was developed from Olmsted Co. sketches, and the design quickly progressed to final plans for this enormous undertaking of creating a unified “city” for the Fair, designed largely in the renaissance classical revival style: heroically scaled neo-classic structures, with equally scaled and designed site work largely directed by Olmsted’s young business partner, who would tragically die before the fair was opened. Latter stages of the design/design implementation were by Olmsted associate Charles Eliot with assistance by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. Interestingly, Olmsted senior’s contribution to this was not only attending to the implementation the overall landscape composition of the Fair, but also to the detailed design and implementation of Wooded Island and its naturalistic surrounding lagoons, intended, no doubt, as the therapeutic “Central Park” of what would be soon known as the White City. Wooded Island expressed Olmsted’s passion for the need for people to have the opportunity for the therapeutic access to nature.



**Transformation of Jackson Park into the Fair Grounds:** The World's Columbian Exposition consumed and transformed the Jackson Park site. The Lake Park and Lake Open Ground, only recently graded and planted, directed by Cleveland according to the Olmsted and Vaux Plan was incorporated into the larger design for the Fair through the location of the Palace of Fine Arts. Comparison of the Lake Open grounds plan and the Fair Master Plan indicates that the drives of the 1880 park were incorporated into the site plan for this part of the Fair landscape, as was the recently constructed lakeshore promenade. The southern tract of the park was in its original state, and existed as a wild, tangle of lakeshore vegetation, dunes, and marshland that was soon transformed into building sites, surrounded by formal canals, naturalistic lagoons, and the creation of the wooded island. This was a totally invented landscape, constructed at the same heroic scale as its soon-to-be constructed structures.



CENTRE OF THE WOODED ISLAND.—The engraving places us centrally in the Wooded Island, among the fairy lamps, and facing the dome of Horticultural Hall, which, on the other side of the island, occupies this dome, near the Manufactures Building, like a

The landscape of the great Fair exists in both dramatic and subtle ways. The Palace of Fine arts was determined to be substantial enough to be rehabilitated as a permanent structure. Now the Museum of Science and Industry, the structure and its formal setting dominates the northern section of the park. The scale of the structure and its Beaux Arts landscape exist in historic contrast to the North Lagoon and



Wooded Island to the south. Both of these landscapes retain their position and form from their Fair heritage, now with multiple layers of significance, as the Lagoon and Island represent the picturesque design intent of the Olmsted and Vaux 1871 plan, and the form and design aesthetic proposed and insistently implemented by FLO for this centerpiece of the Columbian Exposition.

The location and design of the Obama Presidential does not encroach on any significant landscape remnant of the Fair, and while the OPC site was once the partial location of the Horticulture Building at the Fair, recent and extensive archaeological studies have revealed no new areas of archaeological significance. Additionally, the view of portions of the Obama Presidential Center, especially the tower resemble in many ways the intentional Frederick Law Olmsted design for Wooded Island which was created to be experienced in designed contrast to the immense and highly visible adjacent Fair structures.



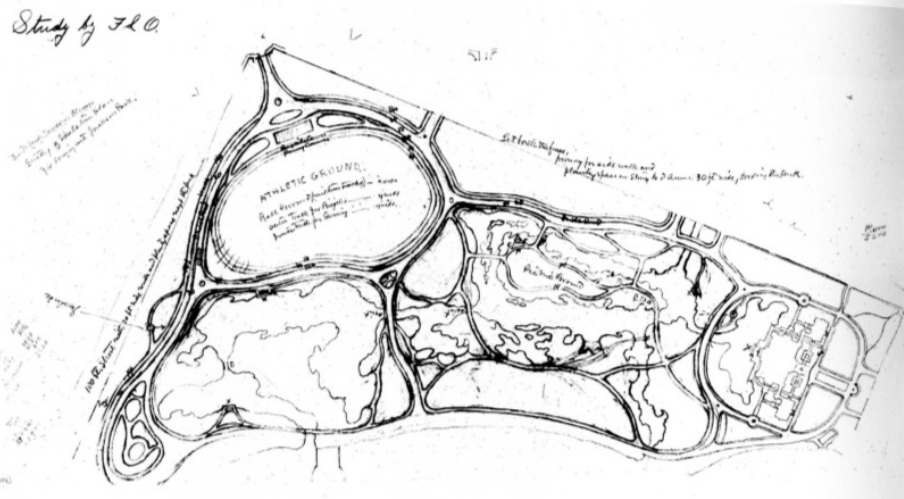
Survey of Jackson Park Compared to Columbian Exposition Site Plan.

### Layer 5: Plans for the Reconstruction of Jackson Park

After the Fair closed Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot were commissioned to prepare a plan for the return of the site to park form and use. The General Plan of 1895 took its initial direction from what probably is one of the last drawings made by Frederick Law Olmsted. The Olmsted Papers refer to the sketch on tracing which was produced in several days, with many indications of erasures. But the sketch from father to stepson and associates apparently established the structural basis for the subsequent 1895 plan. The FLO sketch came back to center the “new” Jackson park on the Lagoon landscape proposed in 1871, not duplicating the earlier plan but using what Olmsted Sr. must have considered the centerpiece of the World’s Fair landscape—Wooded Island. So the picturesque landscape of Wooded Island previously planned to be surrounded by the immense buildings of the Fair, was now to be surrounded by the lagoons, fields, and carriage drives of the 1895 plan. This picturesque center of the park would now be surrounded by a largely pastoral/naturalistic landscape quite different than the original 1871 plan, but nevertheless maintaining an orientation to what were described as “bayous” ultimately leading to what Olmsted Sr. had once described as the sublime landscape of Lake Michigan. The Frederick Law Olmsted sketch plan features activity- structured landscapes in the center, surrounded by carriage loops with very few activities planned in the marginal edges of the park. Close review of the 1895 plan reinforces this pattern. The important park facilities were centralized, oriented to the lagoons, and subsequently directed to the Lake. The placement of a proposed set of outdoor gymnasias are the exception to this General Plan pattern, a geometric form, seemingly in isolation from the surrounding drives, fields and lagoons.

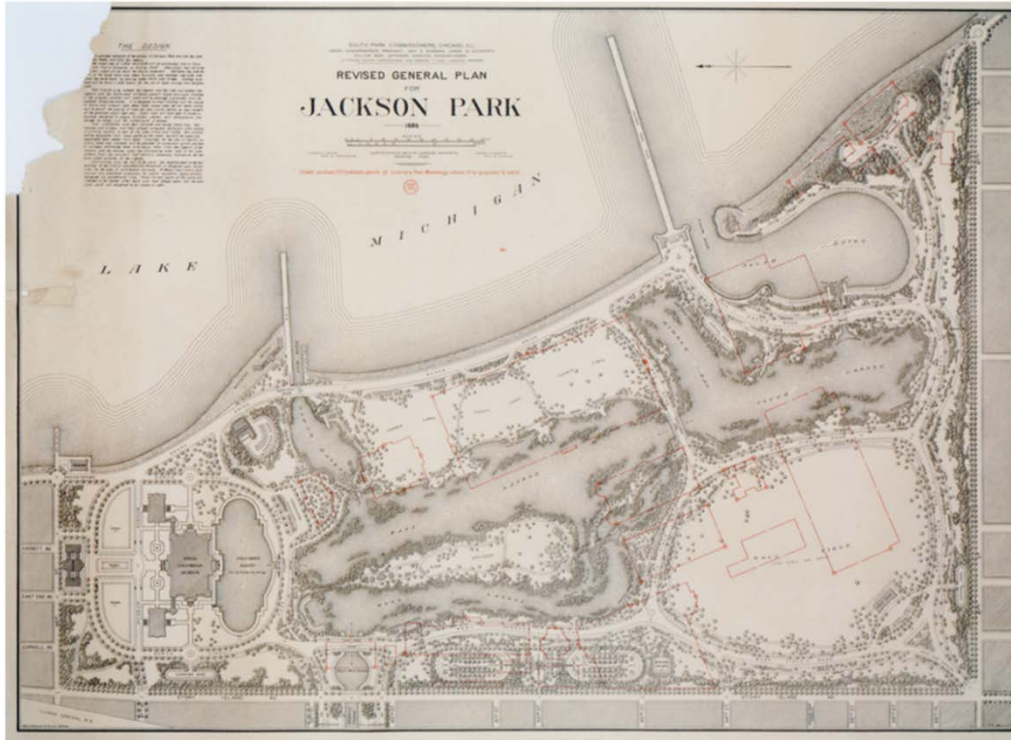
Demolition of the Fair site and the process of preparing this immense and barren landscape to be again a Park took several years of grading and drainage work, dredging of new lagoons and expansion and reshaping of those that existed during the Fair. Soil preparation was meticulous followed by turf, all

completed before new facilities were added and the park reopened. The Western edge of the Park was planted according to the 1895 General Plan. A formal street tree planting lined both Stony Island Avenue and 67<sup>th</sup> Street, backed by a low berm on Stony Island and diverse naturalistic plantings which created a separation between the City and the



Park. The gymnasium site was fenced off from the rest of the Park, connecting its use more to the surrounding neighborhood than the park landscape. The Park is significant beyond the 1895 plan, and there are integrity aspects of each layer of significance, but that there has been substantial erosion of integrity to major elements of the 1895 plan.

The Obama Presidential Center is located on the site proposed for the gymnasium and relates to the interpreted design intent by connecting to the surrounding neighborhood with a public gathering space, public library, athletic center, play environment and community garden. Most of the Center's structures will be integrated into the topography of the western perimeter of the park, replicating views from the east of a planted landscape. The Tower component of the OPC will be highly visible from within the park, but nevertheless in keeping with the spirit of the landscape of the World's fair of large public buildings in a landscape composition. Jackson Park became a partial museum campus with the implementation of the 1895 General Plan, as the Palace of Fine Arts/Museum of Science and Industry became an integral part of the Park Campus. The Obama Presidential Center adds to this cultural campus feature of the park.



Almost immediately after 1895, the impending new century seemed to usher in a new way of thinking about parks, and a new way of designing them. The romantic pleasure grounds of the earlier era were soon replaced with turf lawns for tennis and ball playing. Carriage drives were used or paralleled with bicycle paths. Promenades along waterways gave way to swimming beaches. Active recreation was balanced with passive recreation in 1900, similar to how the calm pastoral landscape was contrasted with the picturesque only a few decades before.

The play movement in America began in about 1880 in Boston with the importation of Sand Gardens for children from their European antecedents. Soon outdoor gymnasias were proposed: places intensively developed for physical exertion, continuing the balance between physical therapy the park could provide and the psychological therapy that the pastoral parks had provided in the earlier era. It would appear that the balance was tipped toward active recreation, and soon the Jackson Park landscape was intensively programmed for tracks, drives, golf, tennis, ball fields, playfields. Outdoor gymnasias were proposed for both men and women on the Stony Island edge of the park, with a children's play area between them. The gymnasias were to be equipped with extensive exercise equipment. There were two swimming tanks and structures for changing. The children's play area was to consist of sand courts. . These areas were graded and gravel base/cinder tracks installed in 1895, with no other improvements noted until 1902 when the gravel bases for the gymnasias were removed and the areas were converted to turf. Tracks may have remained for a while. The gymnasias term referred to the equipment and facilities proposed, not the ground/space. The base and surrounding tracks for the proposed outdoor gymnasias were installed in 1895, however the facility was never constructed, and by 1902 the gravel bases were removed and replaced with turf for ball fields. While this facility was never fully developed, the planning for this, and the larger design of Jackson Park via the 1895 general plan created a new aesthetic for parks, one which reflected the careful provision of designed spaces for active recreation and play. The design forms may have

resembled those of the Romantic era of pastoral and picturesque forms which prompted emotional reactions, but the landscape forms of this era of park design used both naturalistic and geometric landscape forms to create spaces for physical activity, and to bound and separate discrete play and recreation uses.

The siting of the Obama Presidential in near proximity to the Museum of Science and Industry is a sensitive expansion of the park campus which has existed since the Worlds Fair Palace of Fine Arts was retained for institutional use and became a planned component of the post Fair park. The Obama Presidential center, as proposed does not encroach into the central lagoon, field, and drive landscape so critical to the continued historic integrity of the Park. The siting of the Center in the Western perimeter of the Park does not replace or damage historic fabric or features which remain from the 1871 Olmsted and Vaux Plan, the World's Columbian Exposition Master Plan of 1892, or the 1895 General Plan. In both the 1871 and 1895 plans the area proposed for the siting of the Obama Center is indicated to be a landscaped buffer zone providing a transition from City to Park. The Obama Presidential Center site also matches the design intent of the planned but never constructed gymnasia in this western perimeter of the park, in providing a civic, social, and neighborhood transitional element blending with the histori central features of Jackson Park.





### Layer 6: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Park and Drive Designs and the Landscapes of the New Deal

The first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century was characterized by the design and construction of the progressive reform era small parks in the North, West and South Park Districts of Chicago, and in the development of initial plans to complete the Chicago Park and Boulevard System. These plans would transform both the north and south lakefront, and connect Lincoln Park to a new Lakefront Park east of the loop, with additional lakefront parks extending southward to connect to Jackson Park on the South. Most of this development was for land created by filling in new land and shaping the new lakeshore from this dredge and fill process. Grant Park was created from “submerged” land east of a narrow strip of parkland east of Michigan Avenue. Landfill from 1897-1911 extended land a quarter of a mile eastward into the Lake. Olmsted Brothers plans reinforced those expressed in the Burnham plan in calling for an elaborate landform of islands, peninsulas, coves and beaches, and a new Lake Shore Drive extending southward to connect to Jackson Park. Burnham Park soon acquired the Field Museum and a monumental civic stadium, Soldier Field, and by further landfill the site and peninsula for the Adler Planetarium, Shedd Aquarium, and a peninsula which would be the location of Chicago’s second World’s Fair, A Century of



Progress International Exposition, 1933-34, whose grounds would subsequently be turned into a downtown airport: Meigs Field. By the end of the 1920’s these southern landfill areas, including the 55<sup>th</sup> street promontory extended continuous parkland from the Loop to Jackson Park. The parklands themselves were laid out and developed by a team of landscape architects for the newly formed (1934) Chicago Park District, formed under the financial exigencies of the national economic depression.

The Great Depression ironically benefitted national, state, and city parks through designed improvements supported with Federal funds from Roosevelt New Deal programs such as the PWA, CWA, CCC and WPA. The nature of this Federal funding encouraged park projects that were labor intensive and involved inexpensive materials. Earthwork, gravelling and paving of walks, and planting fell into this category, and the south lakeshore benefitted by first improvement designs by an in house team of landscape architects,

including May McAdams and Alfred Caldwell. McAdams created the 1936 design for the WPA funded Perennial Garden in Jackson Park.

Cornell Drive, once the internal West Lagoon and West Field Roads of the 1895 General Plan became an additional way to drive from southwest of the park through the park to Lake Shore Drive. Gradually widened in successive decades and connected to 59<sup>th</sup> Drive across the north side of the Museum of Science and Industry, an additional highway cut across the park, severing another major feature of the earlier and multiple eras when Jackson Park was a terminus of the lake to lake Park System, that featured internal loops of carriage roads and parallel paths.

The design of the Obama Presidential Center includes the proposed closing of a large segment of Cornell Drive to vehicular traffic. The site design of the OPC calls for the route of this former six lane roadway to serve as a major pedestrian corridor. The horizontal alignment of the new pathway will be modeled after the original carriage drives of both the 1871 and 1895 plans for the park, returning these to their historic internal function, providing improved pedestrian access to the central lagoon system, Wooded Island, and Lakeshore. This path segment is also an integral component of the reshaping of the park's circulation system as proposed by in the South Lakeshore Framework Plan. The Obama Center Master plan features the rehabilitation design for the WPA era Perennial Garden. The proposed Women's Garden reinforces the formal geometries and landforms of the 1871 and 1895 designs for the gateway to Jackson Park from the Midway. Additionally, the creation of the Women's Garden recalls the location of the Women's Building of the World's Columbian Exposition.

### **Layer 7: Buildings and other Cultural Facilities in the Chicago Park and Boulevard System**



Jackson Park is an integral component of the South Park designed in 1871 by Olmsted and Vaux. As previously discussed, South Park was an integral part of the system of interconnected parks and boulevards of the Chicago park system, which first created a “lakefront to lakefront crescent of planned parks and boulevards from Lincoln Park on Lake Michigan on the North, linking to the West Parks, and then to the South Park, and its eastern division, Jackson Park on the south lakefront. The Burnham Plan and associated Olmsted Brothers designs for the central lakefront, now Grant Park, also was responsible for completing the city’s complete necklace of

parks and boulevards, by extending the lakefront parks and Lake Shore Drive north to Lincoln Park, and south to Jackson Park. Chicago’s emerald necklace of interconnected parks, boulevards and drives soon attracted cultural, civic, and educational institutions whose facilities became distinguished and now historic components of parks in which they reside. This composite of interconnected parks and cultural institutions is historic beyond measure and without equal.

These institutions are among those which make the parks of Chicago their home:

*Peggy Notebaert Nature Center  
Lincoln Park Conservatory  
Lincoln Park Zoo  
Chicago History Museum  
Harris Theatre  
Jay Pritzker Pavilion  
Art Institute of Chicago  
Butler's Field  
Shedd Aquarium  
The Field Museum  
Museum of Science and Industry*

*Adler Planetarium  
Soldier Field  
Miigs Field Terminal Museum  
McCormick Place  
DuSable Museum of African American History  
Garfield Park Conservatory  
National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and  
Culture (Humboldt)*

The planned addition of the Obama Presidential Center to Jackson Park continues this heritage of the pairing of Cultural Institutions and Parks, which is a significant and historic distinction for the Chicago park and boulevard system. In adding to the museum and cultural campus of Jackson Park, the OPC continues an historic cultural and civic tradition whose period of significance should be recognized as ongoing.

### **The Obama Presidential Center within the Context of Historic Jackson Park**

The OPC Center is situated on a prominent site which is the South Parks gateway to Lakeshore. Providing access to the lake was the primary Olmsted Sr. proposed purpose of this eastern tract of the 3 division South Park. Washington Park (West division of South Park) was the South Parks primary Park, the central park of the district, designed and largely implemented with the able assistance of HWS Cleveland. West and East Divisions were and are connected by the Midway, a broad double boulevard space intended to have a central canal which would bring Lake Michigan to the lagoons of Washington Park. Pastoral lagoons on the west, a formal canal in the Midway, and picturesque lagoons in the Eastern division, now known as Jackson Park, leading to Lake Michigan.

The Obama Presidential Center, as proposed, respects this eastern terminus of the Midway Plaisance and frames the edge of the Perennial Garden landscape. The complex is planned to be on the edge or margin of the main spatial/activity structure of the central portions of Jackson Park, reflecting a Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. sketch which preceded the 1895 Olmsted Brothers General Plan which indicated that these marginal sites were to be used for sidewalk and landscape planting along the Stony Island and 67<sup>th</sup> street edges, with both street edges lined with architectonic tree-plantings in double and triple rows. The OPC is located at the critical connection between the exciting promenade of the Midway with the historic pastoral and picturesque landscape of the Park. It is this hinge that the linear circulation of the Midway swings open at Stony Island Avenue to provide access to the Jackson Park landscape.

The 1895 General Plan included a proposal for two recreation areas labeled gymnasia similar to those being constructed in other Chicago locations and other cities during the progressive reform era. These gymnasia were never completed, and their sites reverted to vegetatively enclosed spaces for turfed ballfields. The Obama Presidential Center is located in one of these oval sites and proposes a 21<sup>st</sup> century reminder of the gymnasia concept for recreation and physical and social development in the programming and design of the children's play area, community gardens, a public library, education center, outdoor plaza, and the athletic center. The low structures of the Center are bermed to roof level on their eastern side, and the berms are heavily planted, forming a naturalistic visual edge to the western perimeter of the wooded island, its surrounding lagoon and restored natural landscape edges. Wooded Island was created as a therapeutic retreat from the crowds and formality of the Worlds Columbian Exposition grounds. Photographs taken during the fair capture the dramatic contrast between the Fair's immense structures and Wooded Island. Views from the Island have always included the south facade

of the Palace of Fine Arts, retained after the fair and transformed into first the Field Museum, now the Museum of Science and industry. The contrasting views of both formal structure and the natural landscape of the island and lagoons characterize the distinctive scenery of the north section of the Park, and views of the Obama Center tower element are in keeping with this historic aesthetic of contrast.

A critical component of the Obama Presidential Center master plan will close Cornell Drive to vehicular traffic, realign the thoroughfare as a curving pedestrian pathway. The alignment and landscape design for this pathway returns this circulation system to its heritage as an internal, parallel circuits of carriage, pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian roadways. The removal of six lanes of traffic from this central part of the park will vastly improved pedestrian circulation within the park and model the design intent of both the 1871 and 1895 Olmsted and Vaux and Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot plans for the Park. The carriage road and paths historically provided both picturesque and pastoral passages around and through the park's lagoons and fields, ultimately leading to the lakeshore.

### **Historic Landscape Integrity**

Traces of all layers of history remain in the Jackson Park. Primary landscape structure of uses, land and water features resembles 1895 General Plan, however there have been major changes to vehicular/pedestrian circulation in the park. North/South highways cutting through the park have severely eroded the historic fabric of the carriage road/pathway loops, historically intended for internal circulation, circuits around and through the park, with most leading to the dramatic scenery of Lake Michigan. Addition impacts on the integrity of the historic landscape include the conversion of the fields intended for tennis and ball games into landscapes of golf. The interconnected lagoon and harbor system of the park was truncated by the filling of parts of the lagoon in the creation of the Nike missile site. Several historic structures remain in the park, in addition to historic bridges, including the 1895 North Harbor bridge.

#### **IV. The Obama Presidential Center and its Effect on the Historic Landscape Resources of Jackson Park**

An assessment of the effect and impact the Obama Presidential Center will have on the historic landscape resources of Jackson Park progresses from considering effect on the historic resource areas and features of the park and extends to a detailed assessment of historic contributing elements and resources.

The initial assessment of effect considered:

- Eastern Terminus of the Midway
- Carriage Drives of Jackson Park
- Western Perimeter of the Park
- Wooded Island and Lagoons
- Scenery

### **Effect of the Obama Presidential Center on the Historic Resources of Jackson Park**

#### **Eastern Terminus of the Midway.**

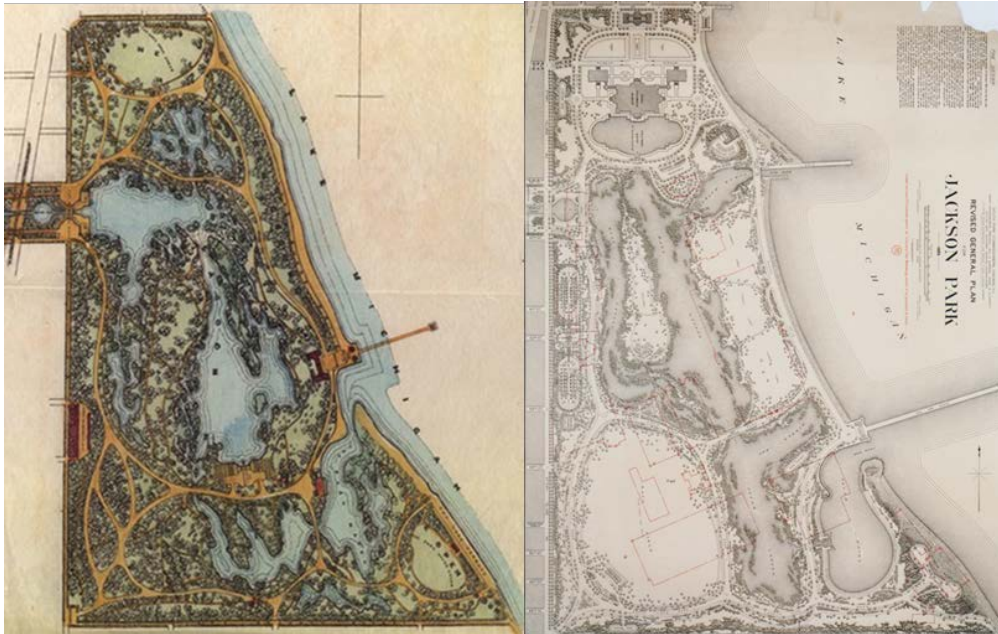


The striking 1871 design for this oddly shaped parcel of land features the classic elements of the Frederick Law Olmsted aesthetic used in strikingly different way than that of the designs for Central or Prospect Park. For rather than containing the three elements within a park, the elements address the unique configuration of South Park by their use as dominant elements from parcel to parcel. The 1871 called for an aesthetic journey from the pastoral upper division (Washington Park) through the formal promenade of the Midway Plaisance to the Picturesque landscape of the lower division (Jackson Park) to give Chicagoans access to its remarkable inland ocean, the shore of Lake Michigan. Transitional elements were planned as the landscape changed from pastoral to formal to picturesque. The site selected for the Obama Presidential Center is located at one of these transitional junctures, and as such at a place of importance and great prospect. The OPC does not sit in the middle of the Midway axis but in a flanking location to the south. The 1871 and 1895 designs for this juncture of the designed connection of the three divisions of South Park both indicate specific landscape treatments for these connections. Two circular turning basins in the 1895 plan have each in their own way been respected, as the Midways east and west termini. Proposed rehabilitation of the 1936 Perennial Garden as an important component of the OPC Master Plan reinforces the historic turning basin, and provides the contemporary match to the Eastern Gateway from the Midway to Washington Park provided by the recently redesigned and constructed Alison Davis Garden, and Lorado Taft's landmark Fountain of Time. Pedestrian walkways from south walks of the Midway extend into the park in sweeping geometries which reflect the now vacated alignment of the south Midway Plaisance Drive as it intersected Cornell. The Obama Presidential Center's location serves as a flanking gateway, overlooks the depressed turning basin landform, and accommodates pedestrian circulation into the park via sweeping forms into the now pastoral and picturesque landscape, respecting the park's historic landscape.



**Carriage Drives of Jackson Park.** Both the 1871 General Plan, the 1872 HWS Cleveland superintendency, and the 1895 General Plan feature one of the iconic elements of the Victorian or Romantic era of park design: the carriage drive. Often circumferential, these elements are landmark features of that era of landscape architectural design. Planned to be leisurely drives, intended to feel out of town, or out in the country as an escape to nature that the scenery of these parks would, by design, afford the park visitor. These carriage circuits were often

paralleled by pedestrian, and in some places equestrian paths. The design intent here was to provide an active design experience, the action being moving through this landscape of planned scenery, and designed aesthetic effect. The 1871 General Plan for South Park included carriage drives in both the western and eastern division, in addition to more formal and dramatic drives and connecting experiences of north and south boulevards and a boating canal on the Midway Plaisance promenade. In today's terms, multi-modal forms of circulation: carriage, boat, and pedestrian, all in the mode of leisure. These were not the thoroughfares of commerce, and were not residential boulevards which were being developed in the three park districts simultaneously. These were recreational drives. Perhaps the dawn of the automobile age prompted speed enthusiasts to use the carriage drive as a race course, but these circuits were designed for the horse and buggy on a Sunday afternoon. In almost all of the hallmark parks of the romantic era, as the automobile took over, and as suburbs expanded and commuting by car increased, carriage drives often became short-cuts, fast lanes through uncongested parkland. Jackson Park was not saved from these phenomena. The planning and development of the South Lake Shore Drive gave Chicagoans their first true "highway" to the Central loop. Cornell Drive, once only a segment of the Jackson Park field and lagoon carriage road loops, became the shortcut through the park used by commuters, not the driving-for-pleasure recreationists. The extension of Lake Shore Drive southward, eventually past the southern boundary of the Park changed the vehicular circulation character, as the carriage loops were broken. The Obama Presidential Center master plan will close Cornell Drive to automobile commuter traffic, and to redesign the segment as an important pedestrian thoroughfare, with an alignment sensitive to the original carriage roads is an attempt to return internal circulation inside of the park to its original heritage of the leisurely drive, stroll, or plaisance. This proposal seeks to reconnect the western edges of JP to its Central feature, and to facilitate the future reconnection of internal park circulation to the Lake. This disconnect has existed for 75 years, essentially fracturing the experience of a cohesive experience of the leisure vehicular or pedestrian drive or walk. The Cornell closure and creation of a replacement pedestrian path gives back parkland to Jackson Park, and recreates a circulation experience which rehabilitates the design intent and contributes to the design integrity of both 1871 and 1895 General Plans for the Park.



**Western Perimeter of Park.** The 1871 General Plan was one of almost entirely passive landscape of Pastoral scenery in the Upper Division, a formal Promenade of walk and canal, and a dramatic entry to the picturesque experience of the lower division leading to the sublime experience of the lake. There was not much attention to active recreation, as these forms of park activity had not yet reached maturity. The western perimeter of the 1871 plan featured sweeping drives and walk through a landscape of small lagoons and densely planted vegetation. The plan did include the location of a large structure labeled Administration, located between 63<sup>rd</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> streets. The 1895 plan similarly features a low bermed and planted landscape on the western perimeter of the park, the southern portions of which create a planted buffer zone which extends to spatially enclose the large field in the SW quadrant of the Park. Outdoor gymnasias were to be located in the northern segment of the west perimeter of the park, just south of 6<sup>th</sup> street. The geometric forms of the gymnasias were mirrored in a more formal planting surrounding the feature, but also creating the space for the proposed facility. The street edge along Stony Island featured street trees in rank: two, and often three rows of trees flanking both sides of the east sidewalk along Stony Island Avenue.

The design for the OPC reflects both the 1871 and 1895 plans in that the Center is proposed to be located in a heavily planted margin of the park, with the berming of two of the three Obama Presidential Center structures forming a visual buffer from the lagoon and field areas to the east. The site plan for the OPC also indicates replication of the street tree planting indicated in the 1895 General Plan, with lines of trees on both sides of the east sidewalk of Stony Island, and a formal bosque of trees forming the entrance to the plaza area of the Center.

The 2 open air gymnasias in the 1895 General Plan were located in the western margin of the Park, in the area now proposed for the location of the OPC. These gymnasias, one for men the other for women separated by an area labeled children's playground were elaborately designed facilities including men's and women's structures, swimming tanks, and a children's playground area. The playground was further labeled as "sand courts." The

gymnasia were elongated ovals bordered by a graveled running track, then surrounded by trees, with the gymnasia area in the center intended to include all manner of exercise equipment. Park Commission annual reports indicate that initial construction of the graveled base and track were installed in 1896. Subsequent annual reports are silent as to the installation of the gymnasia, until 1902 when the annual report indicates that the gravel base for the intended gymnasia was removed and soil and turf installed in its place for “ball games” indicating that the gymnasia were never constructed. Aerial photographs of the 1920’s and 30’s indicate the oval openings in the planted landscape, with the 1920’s USGS map indicating a slight topographic depression for the north oval. No documentation has revealed the construction of these gymnasia facilities, other than the nearby Stone comfort station built at a later time.

No distinct character defining elements other than the comfort station exist in this western perimeter. This was intended to be a planted buffer. The Obama Presidential Center design will have an effect on the general character of this portion of the Park. However, design plans will replace the formally planted edge of Stony Island Avenue, integrate the lower structures of the Center by berming to roof level and heavily planting this eastern landform and green roof. The parking structure to the south is underground, and bosques of trees further integrate the Center into the planted and bermed landscape. Walkways extending from the Midway south drive cross Stony Island Avenue and sweep into the park maintaining the historic integrity of arrival.



## Wooded Island.

Wooded Island is a central feature of the 1892 Design for the Worlds Columbian Exposition, and can be directly associated with the genius of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. This is not a natural landform or landscape preserved over the century and a half, but a completely human-made landscape. The formal basins and informal lagoons proposed in the 1871 O&V plan, but largely unimplemented, were created in preparation of the Jackson Park site for the Columbian Exposition. Dredge material to create these water bodies was used to form suitable landforms for the construction of the immense structures of the Fair, and used to form Wooded Island. Olmsted is known to have favored this spot because of a stand of existing oaks, around which a new landform of the island was created. While involved in the master plan of the entire Fair landscape, the formal landscapes of the Fair are appropriated attributed to FLO's partner, Henry Sargent Codman. The senior partner devoted his attention throughout the WCE design phase to the water environments, the boats of the water landscape, and to the details of plantings, especially in the naturalistic lagoon and island landscape of the norther



THE WOODED ISLAND.—The view here shown is doubly instructive, in that it authoritatively informs the reader concerning the "fairy lamps," and shows that the term "wooded island" was a euphemism. Time did not permit the builders of the Fair to bring about, on these somewhat secluded spots, those transformations of which poets

sector of the grounds. In an amazingly short period of time, through all manner of plant collection and planting this area was transformed into the picturesque landscape envisioned first for the prevailing landscape type of the Eastern Division of the South Park, and subsequently for Wooded Island and its surrounding Lagoon. The island was designed to be an escape to nature from the crowded activities of the surrounding fair. This was Olmsted's constant enterprise in this creation: giving Fair visitors a chance to escape the Fair, for the restful and sometimes excitement of natural surroundings. Emphasis should be placed on the fact that the Island was created with the full expectation that it would be surrounded by the immense buildings of the Fair, and that the experience of the Island landscape would probably be heightened by the contrasting view from the island to the structures, and the view to the Island from the adjacent immensely scaled and crowded Fair. The recent landscape restoration work for Wooded Island, Lagoon, and surrounding landscape edge associated with the GLFER Project will begin to return the Island and lagoon landscape to its appropriate picturesque form. The views from the Island across the north lagoon to the Museum of Science and Industry have in one way allowed the designed and contrasting view of nature and the formal fairgrounds to persist.

The Obama Presidential Center is not located within any of the landscape described as Wooded Island and its environs, so there would be no negative effect in that respect. The closing of Cornell Drive and realignment of pedestrian circulation loops associated with the OPC design will have a positive effect on this area in better connecting what was to be a centerpiece of both the Fair and the 1895 General Plan. The relationship to the design

intent of the 1871 plan is positive and noteworthy. Olmsted and Vaux designed a careful sequence of experiences represented in the South Park Design: the pastoral dominance of western division, the exciting and dramatic plaisance/promenade to the lagoon and water landscape of the eastern division and ultimately the ultimate and sublime experience of the arrival to the shore of Lake Michigan. The OPC design facilitates this last component, erasing a barrier which has existed for 80 years in the replacement of the Field carriage roads with Cornell Drive as a through traffic shortcut slashing through the park. There have been inferences that projected views of the Obama Presidential Center from Wooded Island constitute a potential negative effect, but given the original Olmsted design intent that the island would serve as the foil for the immense, crowded and visible structures and formal landscapes of the fair, the view of the OPC tower is not a negative effect. Additionally, the other structures of the Obama Presidential Center have been specifically designed to be bermed and heavily planted on their eastern side. This topographic and planted buffer tapers to form the spatial border of the pedestrian path which will replace Cornell Drive, and similar topography and plantings also create similar conditions along Stony Island Avenue reflecting a connection to the topographic and planting plans which implemented the 1895 General Plan.

Finally, a vista sketch study done in preparation for the 1895 General plan indicates projected views from the area now being proposed for the OPC to Wooded Island, Palace of Fine Arts, the Fields and Lagoons. Green Roofs, berms, and topographic features of the Obama Presidential Center provide similar opportunities for near and distant views into the park.

### **Scenery.**

The 1895 General Plan proposed three principal elements of the scenery for Jackson Park, ‘the Lake’, ‘the Lagoons,’ and ‘the Fields.’ Frederick Law Olmsted’s collaboration with his sons and associates was waning as his health declined, but it is fortunate to have sketchwork prepared by the elder Olmsted that provided guidance and continued expert direction to the 1895 General Plan. Close inspection of this tracing reveals the senior Olmsted’s priorities for the redesign of the Park, clearly indicating the initial emphasis/impetus for these 3 proposed types of landscape and associated scenery. Of particular note is the large open space now labeled ball fields, surrounded by (interpretation of handwriting) 2 “tracks”, one for ‘running’, and the other appears to be labeled ‘bicycling’. This sketch is a key element indicating that the senior Olmsted, and later his partners were shifting the focus of “modern Parks” to be more oriented to evolving forms of active recreation, and away from the more passive forms of the pleasure parks of the earlier era. Labels on the General Plan reinforce this, and the general plan indicates both the ballfields as the primary focus of the large open ground, and 2 encircling “tracks” for active recreation. There was no indication in the Olmsted Senior sketch for activities along the western margin of the park. Further interpretation indicate a proposal for what we might now call a buffer or transition zone, indicating plans for both sidewalk and related stony island right of way and edge plantings. Close inspection of the General Plan reveals a fence line and several gates which place the proposed site of the open air gymnasias outside of the bounds of the park.

The Obama Presidential Center master plan location does not pose an adverse effect on any of the historic features and scenery which were the result of the 1895 General Plan. The OPC east slope, and the new pedestrian pathway replacing the Cornell Drive traffic artery both support the landscape relationship to the nearby lagoon landscape and Wooded Island. The campus of buildings in the OPC masterplan are compatible with the historic site

geometries intended by the 1895 General Plan and are also compatible with intended activities of play, exercise, and community. The more formal side of the OPC is oriented to Stony Island Avenue and away from the pastoral and picturesque landscapes of the Park.

## **V. The Obama Presidential Center in Historic and Contemporary Context:**

### **Conclusion:**

*The OPC is respectful of the “hinge” between the Midway and the Lagoon Plaisance, providing “prospect” to, but not dominance of the picturesque, watery theme of the park which has existed throughout its many design eras. The Obama Presidential Center supports and reflects historic design intents of the Olmsted, Vaux & Co, F.L. Olmsted & Co., Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot, Olmsted Brothers; and Progressive Reform City of Chicago landscape architects designs for Jackson Park. The Center is not a confiscation of land for unrelated purposes, but an historically sensitive addition to Jackson Park, contributing to maintaining historic integrity, and rehabilitating lost historic character defining elements of circulation systems. The Obama Presidential Center provides contemporary reinforcement of historic design intent and historic “feeling” related to: play; recreation; education/learning; self-reliance; garden/gardening; civics/citizenship, and the Frederick Law Olmsted ideal of “communitiveness.” The closing of Cornell Drive is similarly not a taking of historic resources, but rather a designed attempt to repair the damage that contemporary vehicular traffic has done to the historic circulation drive and path loops and connections which were important features of the 1871 Olmsted, Vaux & Co plan, and the 1895 Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot General Plan of 1895,*

*The proposed location of the Obama Presidential Center is carefully integrated into the neighborhood of the park, similar and related to the proposed, features proposed for this location in the 1895 General Plan. Stony Island Avenue remains an integral designed part of the composition. The OPC design is respectful of landforms which represent the terminus of the Midway with its depressed circular landform, and the important role the location and subsequent form of the Perennial Garden played in providing the transition from the formal Midway Plaisance, to the pastoral and picturesque Lagoon, Harbor, Field, recreational roads, and Lake landscapes of Jackson Park.*

### **CODA**

*The Obama Presidential Center, as proposed is not a detriment to the historic landscape of Jackson Park in which it will be located. This overview has revealed the many ways the Center will be an attribute, not confiscating public land but adding to the civic and recreation institution that Jackson Park has become, augmenting the historic and remarkable constellation of parks and institutions which collectively constitute the historic Chicago Park and Boulevard System.*

*The OPC will be a place of public gathering, learning, and culture along a boulevarded avenue. The design for the Center proposes the integration of civic, educational functions and both passive, and active forms of public recreation, well in keeping the landscape heritage of the Park.*

*The OPC is respectful of and reinforces the historic gateway to Jackson Park from the Midway Plaisance, one of America’s finest public landscape spaces. The OPC provides places of prospect and vista overlooking the park’*

*and protects, reinterprets, and in many ways restores the pastoral and picturesque entries to the park, facilitating access to Wooded Island and its historic lagoon system, and providing the exciting access to Lake Michigan.*

*Most of this evaluation has been about the tangible and visible features and elements that have resulted from the many layers of historic designs for Jackson Park, and determining whether or not these character-defining elements still exist in the Park today. Historic significance and integrity also relate to design intent, and the philosophies behind the design elements proposed. These less tangible, less visual historic intentions are no less important than visible landmarks which reflect the constructed history of a landscape.*

*Frederick Law Olmsted wrote often of a quality he felt was an important landscape character element in the places he created: Communitiveness: the impulse to serve others and the ability of a landscape to attract and welcome diverse peoples, encouraging the process of community building and connection. This was Olmsted's vision for the South Park and for the great parks he had and would design elsewhere. Sequential eras of Jackson Park history are characterized by the landscape being designed as picturesque journey to the lakeshore, then a gathering place for millions, and a place for cultural enlightenment and excitement. And still later the Jackson Park landscape could be seen as a place for play and athletics, for social development, citizenship, and a place for physical and emotional wellbeing associated with healthy recreation. These latter visions were guided by the son, stepson and associates of Frederick Law Olmsted and in their own way are a tribute to the original Olmsted and Vaux vision for Jackson Park and the hundreds of parks across the country associated with this Olmstedian vision.*

*Frederick Law Olmsted was a remarkable individual who made an enduring mark on the American, if not world landscape. The philosophy that landscapes could be designed to affect an intended emotion is a foundation of the practice of landscape architecture. Olmsted designed and oversaw the creation of landscapes which provided a calming therapy of nature, the exciting exhilaration of nature, and landscapes whose form encouraged the gregarious nature of people to interact and socialize.*

*Olmsted was a traveler, a farmer, a writer, a social activist and the founder of a profession. He used all of these experiences in the design of landscapes. As a writer and activist Olmsted is admired for his travels in the South before the Civil War, and his writing about the evils of slavery.*

*“No government could long control its own people, no government could long exist, that would allow its citizens to be subject to such indignities under a foreign government as those to which the citizens of the United States heretofore have been required to submit under their own....” (FLO. Cotton Kingdom)*

*During the Civil War, President Lincoln appointed Olmsted to direct the United States Sanitary Commission, responsible for providing and outfitting field hospitals near battlefields.*

*“His achievements were remarkable. Thanks to Olmsted, wounded soldiers after the battle of Antietam on Sept. 17, 1862, received supplies two days before the Army was able to get materials to the front. And after the battle of Fredericksburg, in December 1862, he established a relief depot at Aquia Landing to which wounded soldiers could be evacuated. One thankful soldier wrote, ‘What could we do here without the Sanitary Commission. Many of our medicines, our stimulants, blankets, bedding, etc., for the field hospital come from the S.C. I would rather have Mr. Olmsted's fame than that of any General in this war since the beginning.’ (Masur. “Disunion”)*



*Exhausted Olmsted left the battlefield for a stint in the Maricopa Estate in California, but soon returned to New York to design Prospect Park. His battlefield experience even more convinced Olmsted that parks could play a role in healing, in promoting equality and citizenship, in prompting the service of community.*

*Not without controversy, Jackson Park despite its well-intended designs and expert designers over varying eras encountered criticisms that the passive, pastoral ideal of the romantic era only benefitted those who could afford the visit. The pastoral landscapes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century were augmented with 20<sup>th</sup> Century designs for active recreation and sports, and yet there were times when Jackson Park was not open or welcoming place for all races and social statuses to enjoy. Jackson Park was transformed into a lavish international exhibition ground that introduced the world to Chicago, and Chicagoans to the world. However, the persistent recollection of the monumentality and glamour of the Fair exists side by side with footnotes of protests about inclusion and diversity, and of racial discrimination and stereotyping.*

*“Columbia has bidden the civilized world to join with her in celebrating the four-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America, and the invitation has been accepted. At Jackson Park are displayed exhibits of her natural resources, and her progress in the arts and sciences, but that which would best illustrate her moral grandeur has been ignored. The exhibit of the progress made by a race in 25 years of freedom as against 250 years of slavery, would have been the greatest tribute to the greatness and progressiveness of American institutions which could have been shown the world. The colored people of this great Republic number eight millions – more than one-tenth the whole population of the United States. They were among the earliest settlers of this continent, landing at Jamestown, Virginia in 1619 in a slave ship, before the Puritans, who landed at Plymouth in 1620. They have contributed a large share to American prosperity and civilization. The labor of one-half of this country has always been, and is still being done by them. The first credit this country had in its commerce with foreign nations was created by productions resulting from their labor. The wealth created by their industry has afforded to the white people of this country the leisure essential to their great progress in education, art, science, industry and invention.” (Wells. “The Reason Why.”)*

*And of course there was the assault of the automobile which persists in marring the experience of the design intentions of multiple eras of the Park’s history.*

*Jackson Park is a time capsule in a way—a landscape holding almost 150 years of design and cultural history. Few other American designed landscapes retain and reveal evidence of such a complete, complex, and fascinating history, or have welcomed such remarkable transformational changes over time, and yet have been so resilient in absorbing and welcoming change. Parks are hard to freeze in time, and often defy the conventions of institutionalized preservation. Jackson Park has changed when culture suggested or demanded...from a picturesque lakefront stroll, to an exciting world stage, to a landscape of lawn tennis and ball games, to a landscape of cars, boats and golf. It has grown from a place on the far end of town to a place surrounded by a city, connected to a world-class university, and home to a world class museum of its own. Jackson Park has served Chicago for almost 150 years, and one might infer that Frederick Law Olmsted would be honored for Jackson Park to become the home of the Obama Presidential Center, without reservation.*

## **VI. Lake Michigan and Chicago Lakefront Protection Ordinance.**

I reviewed the following Fourteen Basic Policies of the Lakefront Plan of Chicago and the Thirteen Purposes of the Lake Michigan and Chicago Lakefront Protection Ordinance. Below, I indicate which Policies or Purposes are or are not applicable to the proposal; and, for those Policies and Purposes that are applicable, I discuss the potential impact of the proposal.

### **I. Fourteen Basic Policies of the Lakefront Plan of Chicago**

1. Complete the publicly owned and locally controlled park system along the entire Chicago lakefront.

The addition of the Obama Presidential Center to Jackson Park does not affect this historic property configuration or ownership. The property will remain in public ownership, and the vast majority of the structure and especially the grounds will be open to the public and designed and developed for public purposes similar to the rest of the cultural facilities throughout the Chicago Park system.

2. Maintain and enhance the predominantly landscaped, spacious and continuous character of the lake shore parks.

The design proposal for the Obama Presidential Center is situated at the juncture of the Midway Plaisance and entrance to Jackson Park. The planned transition or hinge between the Midway and the Park has always been punctuated by a designed, yet contrastingly abrupt gateway, in 1871 a formal water gate, and in 1895 a circular turning basin. Entry drives sweep into the park from the promenades of the Midway. The OPC frames this gateway site, but does not interrupt. The OPC master plan also respects and continues to provide for the sweeping of pathway and drive entrances into the Park. The OPC will convert a portion of the now vegetated buffer of the west perimeter of the park to building and public plaza use, while respecting the historic landscape structure of the spaces extending the Midway into the Park. No character defining elements exist or have existed in this segment of the west perimeter, other than the base and track for the proposed but never constructed gymnasias located in the southern portion of the proposed OPC site. The proposed addition of the OPC to Jackson park respects historic patterns of circulation as indicated in the 1895 general plan, in the extension of S. Midway Drive as it enters the park, and through closing portions of Cornell Drive east of the OPC site, and reintroducing an alignment of a pedestrian way which reflects the historic pattern of the original West Lagoon Road. The closing of Cornell Drive and redesign of park entry pathways will facilitate pedestrian circulation to and along the picturesque Lagoon, past Wooded Island to the Lake front promenade, as envisioned in the 1871 Olmsted and Vaux design, and reintroduced in the 1895 General Plan. The low structures which form the eastern elevation of the Obama Presidential Center will be bermed to roof level, with green roofs. Heavily planted these berms will provide the landscaped western backdrop to the Lagoon and Wooded Island. Plantings and integral play and recreation features replace current views and sounds of 6 lanes of Cornell Drive traffic.

3. Continue to improve the water quality and ecological balance of Lake Michigan.

Existing drainage conditions in this part of Jackson Park release any overland flow as well as several piped stormwater connections directly into storm drains and/or the lagoon without any water quality treatment. As such

it is reasonable to assume that there are a series of contaminants that reach the lagoon relatively untreated. The site design and landscape engineering strategy for the Obama Presidential Center not only addresses the stringent standards set out in the City of Chicago Stormwater Ordinance but looks to attain a higher standard set out in the LEED and SITES requirements, by proposing to capture, retain, and reuse stormwater on the site, and in doing so improve the quality of the stormwater that may ultimately reach the lagoon, by moving this massive amount of water through a high quality landscape and a performative soil profile.

4. Preserve the cultural, historical and recreational heritage of the lakeshore parks.

The low structures in the Obama Presidential Center are proposed to be bermed and screened by integral plantings along the eastern elevation of the Center, recalling the planted berm of the existing site. The proposed parking ramp is completely underground. Additionally, the view to and from portions of the OPC, especially the tower in many ways reflects the original design intent of Wooded Island by Frederick Law Olmsted, which was designed to provide a central place of refuge and a landscape in contrast to the immense and highly visible adjacent structures of the Fair. Wooded Island and north Lagoon system were specifically designed in recognition of the views that this central picturesque island and lagoon would provide, and not exclude. The location and design of the Obama Presidential Center does not encroach on any significant landscape remnant of the Fair; the OPC site was once the partial location of the Horticulture Building at the Fair, however, recent and extensive archaeological studies have revealed no new areas of archaeological significance. The closing of Cornell Drive to automobile traffic improves access by pedestrians through the park, across the lagoons to the Lake, as intended by Olmsted and Vaux 1871 Plan, as facilitated by the Cleveland design implementation overlay, and as reinforced by the implementation of the 1895 General Plan. Removal of 5 lanes of moving traffic and replacing with pedestrian path will substantially improve park-like acoustics for this area, and for the experience of Wooded Island and lagoons to the east.

5. Maintain and improve the formal character and open water vista of Grant Park with no new above-ground structures permitted.

Not Applicable

6. Increase the diversity of recreational opportunities while emphasizing lake-oriented leisure time activities.

The site design for the Obama Presidential Center includes opportunities for social interaction and education, an athletic center, and recreational features which compliment both the heritage of play and natural therapy which was so important to all eras of the Park's design history. Additionally, through the closing of Cornell Drive, the replacement pedestrian path will substantially contribute to providing improved pedestrian connections to the Lakeshore from the University of Chicago, the Midway, and neighboring residential areas west of the Metra embankment.

7. Protect and develop natural lakeshore park and water areas for wildlife habitation.

The OPC site is adjacent to the planted margin and lagoon bordering Wooded Island. Cornell Drive, now a six lane thoroughfare which separates the OPC site and the lagoon/wooded island will be replaced by a pedestrian path east of the Obama Presidential Center. The path will have a horizontal alignment more reflective of the carriage drives of both the 1871 and 1895 design eras, and will facilitate pedestrian access from the west, to the Lagoon and Wooded Island, and ultimately (after the replacement of the Darrow Bridge) access to the lakefront to the east. This change will have a positive effect on the rehabilitation of historic circulation system of the park. Additionally, areas of impervious pavement cover will be reduced by 80% as Cornell Drive reverts to a pedestrian path. Pavement reduction and associated run-off and stormwater management strategies associated with the OPC will dramatically reduce the volume of stormwater runoff entering the Lagoon. Change of use from vehicular pavement to pedestrian path will also reduce road pollutants from entering the stormwater system bordering the Lagoon. Salt spray and other airborne pollutants will also be reduced. The Center's path system and landscaped berms provide a naturalistic extension of the recently restored natural areas of Wooded Island and adjacent lagoon, extending these natural/habitat areas, replacing 6 lanes of traffic which disturb and damage natural habitat.

#### 8. Increase personal safety.

Cornell Drive, once named West Lagoon Drive was designed to be an integral component of internal loops of carriage drives, often paralleled by walking paths, and tracks for running, bicycling, and equestrian use. These carriage roads and circuits were important design elements of the 1871 Olmsted and Vaux Design and the 1895 Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot General Plan for Jackson Park. The gently curving alignments of the carriage drives emphasized their intended leisure function, winding lanes of internal park circulation which ultimately led visitors to the lakeshore. Planned changes to the vehicular and pedestrian circulation system adjacent to the Obama Presidential Center include the closing of an extended portion of Cornell Drive east of the OPC, the widening of Stony Island Avenue west of the site, and reconfiguration of traffic at the termini of North and South Midway Drives. Pedestrian crossings from the Midway to Jackson Park have been an integral part of the OPC site design planning process. A widened Stony Island Avenue features a planted median which also serves as a crossing safe zone. Cornell Avenue as it exists is an unsafe and uncrossable barrier to pedestrians. Removing six lanes of traffic from this western region of the park facilitates safe pedestrian movement into the park from the west and supports the redevelopment of a safe internal system of pedestrian circulation in the Park as suggested by the South Lakefront framework plan.

#### 9. Design all lake edges and lake construction to prevent detrimental shoreline erosion.

While not adjacent to any lagoon or the lakeshore, the design of the Obama Presidential Center features stormwater management strategies which will replace current uncontrolled and damaging surface and piped stormwater from entering the adjacent lagoon.

The OPC site and associated roadway improvements do not affect any Lakeshore or Lagoon edges. Construction associated with Lake Shore Drive improvements will comply with all city, state, and federal requirements.

#### 10. Ensure a harmonious relationship between the lakeshore parks and the community edge, but in no instance will further private development be permitted east of Lake Shore Drive.

No roadway improvements are proposed east of the current curb line of Lake Shore Drive.

11. Improve access to the lakeshore parks and reduce vehicular traffic on secondary park roads.

Roadway improvements associated with the Obama Presidential Center will close a long segment of Cornell Drive which for decades has directed 6 lanes of traffic through Jackson Park. This closing and replacement of a vehicular thoroughfare will improved pedestrian access to this Lakefront park and to the lakefront. A secondary thoroughfare, Marquette Drive will similarly be closed. This roadway, while it is a segment of the historic carriage roadways of the park, has nevertheless cut across the golf courses of the park. Removal of this east/west road will improve recreational use of this section of the park. Increased traffic is anticipated on Hayes Drive associated with the closing of Cornell and Marquette. This is being done with no widening of the current roadway by removing two lanes of parallel parking which currently lines the drive.

12. Strengthen the parkway characteristics of Lake Shore Drive and prohibit a roadway of expressway standards.

The proposed widening of segments of Lake Shore Drive associated with the Obama Presidential Center will be accomplished using existing design profiles, curbing, separation barriers, lighting/signaling details and standards for right-of-way landscaping. Lake Shore Drive improvements include widening the 59<sup>th</sup> Street/north harbor bridge, which is an 1895 Daniel Burnham designed bridge. CDOT will work with consultants to insure that this can be accomplished without damaging the historic character defining elements of this historic structure. 2 other bridges are along the segments proposed for Lake Shore Drive improvements, but proposed roadway redesign will not affect these structures.

13. Ensure that all port, water supply and public facilities are designed to enhance lakefront character.

*Not Applicable*

14. Coordinate all public and private development within the water, park and community zones.

Plans for the Obama Presidential Center have been developed and coordinated in conjunction with the South Lakeshore Parks Framework Plan of the Chicago Park District. Roadway improvements associated with the Obama Presidential Center have been developed in tandem/cooperation with the Chicago Department of Transportation.

## **II. Thirteen Purposes of the Lake Michigan and Chicago Lakefront Protection Ordinance**

1. To promote and protect the health, safety, comfort, convenience and general welfare of the people and to conserve our natural resources.

The Obama Presidential Center will facilitate greater access, use, and safe enjoyment of historic Jackson Park. Road closures will increase recreational landuse area of the park.

2. To identify and establish the Lake Michigan and Chicago Lakefront Protection District and to divide that District into several zones wherein any and all development or construction, as specified in Article V hereinafter, shall be specifically restricted and regulated.

The Obama Presidential Center does not change the nature or character of the current Public (Park) use zone.

3. To maintain and improve the purity and quality of the waters of Lake Michigan.

The site design and landscape engineering strategy for the Obama Presidential Center not only addresses the stringent standards set out in the City of Chicago Stormwater Ordinance but looks to attain a higher standard set out in the LEED and SITES requirements.

4. To ensure that construction in the Lake, or modification of the existing shoreline shall not be permitted if such construction or modification would cause environmental or ecological damage to the Lake or would diminish water quality; and, to ensure that the life patterns of fish, migratory birds and other fauna are recognized and supported.

Not Applicable

5. To ensure that the Lakefront Parks and the Lake itself are devoted only to public purposes and to ensure the integrity of, and expand the quantity and quality of, the Lakefront Parks.

The Obama Presidential Center will be a public use and will facilitate greater access, use, and safe enjoyment of historic Jackson Park. Road closures will increase recreational landuse area of the park.

6. To promote and provide for continuous pedestrian movement along the shoreline.

Not Applicable

7. To promote and provide for pedestrian access to the Lake and Lakefront Parks from and through areas adjacent thereto at regular intervals of one-fourth (1/4) mile and additional wherever possible; and, to protect and enhance vistas at these locations and wherever else possible.

The closing of Cornell Drive will facilitate pedestrian access to Jackson Park, facilitating east west pedestrian circulation in the park, and providing better access to direct links to the lakefront.

8. To promote and provide for improved public transportation access to the Lakefront.

Not Applicable

9. To ensure that no roadway of expressway standards, as hereinafter defined, shall be permitted in the Lakefront Parks.

Improvements to Lake Shore Drive will not vary from the current standards for design and engineering of roadway cross-section and design details.

10. To ensure that development of properties adjacent to the Lake or the Lakefront Parks is so defined as to implement the above-stated Purposes, provided; however, that with respect to property located within the Private-Use Zone, as established by Article V, VI and IX of this Ordinance, the permitted use, special use, lot area per dwelling unit and floor area ratio provisions found in the applicable chapters of Chicago Zoning Ordinance portion of the Municipal Code of Chicago, shall govern, except where such provisions are in substantial conflict with the Purposes of this Ordinance or the Fourteen Basic Policies of the Lakefront Plan of Chicago.

Not Applicable

11. To achieve the above-stated Purposes, the appropriate public agency should acquire such properties or rights as may be necessary and desirable.

Not Applicable

12. To define and limit the powers and duties of the administrative body and officers as provided herein.

Not Applicable

13. Nothing contained in the Lake Michigan and Chicago Lakefront Protection Ordinance shall be deemed to be a waiver, consent, license or permit to use any property or to locate, construct or maintain any building, structure or facility or to carry on any trade, industry, occupation or activity which may be otherwise required by law.

Not Applicable

## Appendix A

### Bibliography

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- Bachrach, Julia Snyderman. "Jackson Park Design Evolution." Chicago Park District. 9/1995.
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- Howett, Catherine. "Integrity as a Value in Cultural Landscape Preservation."
- Jackson, John Brinckerhoff. American Space. Norton & Co. New York. 1972.
- McClelland, Linda Flint and J.Keller, G. Keller and R. Melnick. "Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes." United States Department of the Interior. National Park Service. 1989; Revised 1999.



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- Schuyler, David and Gregory Kaliss.' Eds. The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted. Vol. IX. The Last Great Projects: 1890-1895. Johns Hopkins University Press. Baltimore. 2015.
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## **Appendix B**

### **Curriculum Vitae (2/18)**

Malcolm D. Cairns, FASLA. Professor  
Department of Landscape Architecture  
Ball State University

#### **I. Education and Professional Licensure**

BLA Ohio State University, 1972  
MLA Iowa State University, 1977  
Registered Landscape Architect: Iowa (#188; inactive); Indiana (#LA29700007)

#### **II. Employment Experience**

2001- present. Professor .Department of Landscape Architecture, Ball State University.  
2001-2008. Chair of Department.  
1987-2001. Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture; Ball State University.  
1979-1987. Assistant Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

#### **III. Instructional Experience and Distinctions**

##### A. Courses

Introduction to Landscape Architecture. (46 semesters)  
Park and Open Space Design. (6 semesters)  
Landscape Architectural Engineering I: Grading. (8 semesters)  
Urban Design. (12 semesters)  
Philosophy of Landscape Architecture. (5 semesters)  
Community and Open Space Design. (3 semesters)  
Landscape Architecture Internship. (12 semesters)  
Environmental Design and Planning 1 & 2. (12 semesters)  
1980-present: Supervision of masters creative projects/masters theses.  
Of completed masters theses/projects: member of 53 committees; chair of 29.

##### B. Distinctions.

1982, 1983, 1985, 1986. Cited in the List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students. University of Illinois.  
1995. Westminster Exchange Scholar. Ball State University; Westminster College, Oxford, England.  
2000. Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture. Presidents Award .  
2003. Indiana Chapter, ASLA. Claire Bennett Legacy Award .  
2004. Elected Fellow, American Society of Landscape Architecture  
2005. College of Architecture and Planning. Charles Sappenfield Award of Excellence for Outstanding Faculty Accomplishments.  
2007. Elected Fellow, CELA. Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture.

2007 and 2008. Design Intelligence listing of 10 most respected faculty members in Architecture and Landscape Architecture.

#### **IV. Research, Publications, Creative Endeavors, and Other Scholarly Work**

##### **A. Grants Received.**

1985. "Riverside, Illinois: Historic Landscape Evaluation and Conservation Guidelines." with G. Kesler. Illinois Department of Conservation.
1983. "A Proposal for Studying the Evolution and Methods for the Conservation of a Designed Landscape of Riverside, Illinois." University of Illinois Research Board
1990. "Hills and Dales Park: Historic Landscape Preservation Master Plan." Malcolm Cairns and Noel Vernon. City of Dayton, Ohio.
1992. "Landscape Architecture Heritage of Illinois." Graham Foundation.
1992. "Landscape Architecture Heritage of Illinois." Illinois Chapter, ASLA.
1992. "Greenway Study, Indianapolis." National Park Service. with R. Gimblett.
1994. "Survey of Historic Designed Landscapes in Indiana: Parks and Estates." with A. Henderson. Indiana Department of Natural Resources.
1998. Indianapolis Parks Department Archives. Indy Parks.
2000. Preservation Master Plan: Appeal to the Great Spirit; Muncie, IN. Indiana Department of Natural Resources.
- 2012- Exhibit. A Century of the City Beautiful: George E. Kessler's 1912 Park and Boulevard Plan. M. Cairns and C. Baas. Indiana Humanities Council.
- 2013- Exhibit. M. Cairns and S. Rotar. "Indiana's Human Landscape." Indiana Humanities Council.
2012. Douglass Park Cultural Landscape Report. Indianapolis Parks Foundation.
2014. National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT). "Best Practices for the Use of Cell Phone and Digital Technology in the Interpretation of Historic Landscapes." With S. Rotar, Purdue Univ.
2015. Course and Graduate Assistantship Support. Indiana Landmarks, Inc.
2015. Cultural Landscape Inventory. Friends of the Parks of Allen County.

##### **B. Publications**

###### **1. Books and Chapters in Books.**

1989. "Country Estates." In American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places. William Tishler. National Trust for Historic Preservation. Washington, D.C.
1994. The Landscape Architecture Heritage of Illinois. Ball State University. Muncie.
1999. Development of Landscape Architecture from 1840-1940. In Stewards of the Land: A Survey of Landscape Architecture and Design in America. National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.

###### **2. Articles**

1985. Cairns, M. and Kesler, G. "Stanley White: Teacher." Landscape Architecture: 75 (1). pp. 86-91
1987. Cairns, M. and Kesler, G. "Riverside, Illinois: Protecting a Prototype." Landscape Architecture: 77 (4). pp. 62-65
1993. Vernon, N. and Cairns, M. "Rehabilitation of a Woodland Park: Hills and Dales, Dayton." Cultural Resources Management: 16 (4). pp. 26-28.
1996. "Historic Park Landscapes of Illinois." Illinois Landscape Architecture.
1998. "History of Illinois Park Districts." Illinois Parks and Recreation.
1998. "Illinois Boasts a Proud Landscape Heritage." Illinois Landscape Architecture.

1998. "George Kessler's Planning and Design for Indiana Landscapes." InSite. Indiana Chapter, ASLA.
1999. "INASLA Centennial Landscapes: Descriptions and Photo-documentation." Indiana Chapter, ASLA. Centennial Retrospective.
1999. "Columbus: A Modern Town Landscape." Working paper. Prepared for Storrow Kinsella Partnership; Columbus Landmarks Project. 1999. unpublished.
2002. "The Legacy of Kessler: George Kessler's Planning and Design for Indiana Landscapes." Friends of the Parks. Fort Wayne. Modified and Reprinted.
2005. "An Elegant Vision: Indiana's Historic Landscape Architecture." Traces of Indiana. 17:4. Fall.
3. Bulletins or Reports.
1984. Cairns, M. and Kesler, G. Phase I, Riverside Public Lands Inventory and Assessment. Village of Riverside, Illinois.
1985. Cairns, M. and Kesler, G. Riverside, Illinois: Historic Landscape Evaluation and Conservation Guidelines. Village of Riverside, Illinois.
1986. Cairns, M. and Crose Gardner Associates. The University of Iowa Pentacrest: Master Landscape Development Plan. Office of Facilities Planning and Utilization. University of Iowa.
1987. M. Cairns. "Landscape Architecture Heritage of Illinois." Illinois Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects.
1989. Cairns, M. "A Visual History of the Campus: The University of Illinois." Preliminary Report. Office of the Chancellor, University of Illinois.
1991. College of Architecture and Planning Study Team. The Gateways of Delaware County. Muncie/Delaware County Chamber of Commerce.
1993. Cairns, M. and Vernon, N. Hills and Dales Park: Preservation Master Plan. City of Dayton, Ohio.
1998. Cairns, M. "Leeper Park Historic District." Nomination for National Register of Historic Places. South Bend, IN. Nomination Accepted. 2000.
2001. "Appeal to the Great Spirit; E.B. Ball Memorial." Landscape Preservation Master Plan. Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology.
4. Book Reviews
1989. Victorian Gardens by Brent Elliot. Landscape Journal: 8 (1).
1998. To Live in the New World by Judith Major. Landscape Journal: 17(1).
2001. Midwestern Landscape Architecture. LandForum (10).
5. Papers Published in Refereed Conference Proceedings.
1990. Cairns, M. and Kesler, G. "The Landscape Exchange: A Mirror of Education and Practice." Proceedings. Annual Conference of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture. Amelia Island, Florida.
1991. "The Paradox of Riverside: Prototype of Future Suburbs or Zenith of American Romantic Design." Proceedings. Annual Conference of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture. E. Lansing, Michigan.
6. Papers Presented; Abstracts Published in Conference Proceedings.
1985. "Historic Landscape Design: The Development of Conservation Guidelines." Proceedings. Annual Conference of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture. Urbana, Illinois.
1985. Cairns, M. and Kesler, G. "Historic Landscape Design: Assessing Significance: Riverside, Illinois." Annual Conference of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture. Urbana, Illinois.
1991. "The American Garden: Connecting History and Contemporary Design." Proceedings. Annual Conference of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture. E. Lansing, Michigan.

## **V. Service in a Professional Capacity**

### **A. Professional Organizations; National and State.**

1984-present. Member, American Society of Landscape Architects.

1995-99: Student Services Committee; Chair, 1995-98.; Member Council on Education, 2010-2015.

1983-1987. Chair. Historic Landscape Subcommittee. Illinois Chapter, ASLA.

1991-1997. Executive Committee. Indiana Chapter, ASLA. Treasurer, 1994/95; 2009-2011. President, 1996.

ASLA State Awards Program Juries: 1983: Iowa Chapter; 1997: Ohio and Illinois Chapters. 1999, Wisconsin Chapter. Illinois Chapter, 2002. Kentucky Chapter, 2006. Florida Chapter, 2008.

1996-2004. Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture. Executive Board and Treasurer

1997-2004. Member (by gubernatorial appointment). Indiana Registration Board for Architects and Landscape Architects. Vice Chair, 1999. Chair, 2000.

Landscape Architecture Accrediting Board (LAAB). Accreditation Review Team. Washington State University. \*Mississippi State University; \*University of Florida.; West Virginia University \*chair

2006. Juror, National ASLA Design Awards Program.

2005-present. Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) Indiana State Liaison (INASLA). US Department of the Interior.

1991. "Historic Campus Landscapes" Program. Annual Meeting of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Kansas City, Missouri.

1992. Vernon, N. and Cairns, M. "From Documentation to Treatment at Hills and Dales Park; The Landscape Architect as Historian." Program. Annual Meeting of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Washington, D. C.

1995. "The Craft of Hedge and Coppice." Proceedings. Annual Conference of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture. Ames, Iowa.

1998. "Preserving Process." Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation Annual Meeting. Milford, Pennsylvania.

2013. Cairns, M. and C. Baas. "Promoting the City Beautiful: The Editorial Cartoons of Bert J. Griswold. 2013 Faculty and Student Symposium. Ball State University. College of Architecture and Planning.

2015. "Landscape Architecture is a STEM Discipline." M.Cairns and S. Rotar. In Annual Conference Proceedings, Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture.

### **E. Professional Practice (Recent)**

1993. Community Service. Emerson Greenspace. Master Plan. Riverside-Normal City Neighborhood Association; City of Muncie. Cost of Improvements. \$40,000. Completed.

1998. National Register Nomination: Leeper Park. Historic Preservation Commission of St. Joseph County and South Bend, Indiana. Property listed. 1999.

1999. Columbus, Indiana Landmarks Nomination. Consultant to Storrow Kinsella Partnership, Indianapolis.

2002. Marian College/Allison Estate/Jens Jensen: Cultural Landscape Report. With Smock Fansler Corporation.

2002. Owner's Representative: Indianapolis Park and Boulevard National Register Nomination. Indianapolis Parks Department and Storrow Kinsella Partnership, Indianapolis.

2009-10. Historic Preservation Consultant (with C. Baas). Fort Wayne Brookview/Clinton St. Bridge replacement. For Butler Fairman Seufert (Eng.). DHPA Sec.106 review.