

Located just a short drive west of downtown, Douglas Park is a large regional park connected to Garfield Park (site 27, p. 55) and Humboldt Park (site 34, p. 62) by boulevards. As is true for these other two regional parks, Douglas served as an opportunity for landscape architect Jens Jensen to try out his nature-inspired design concepts. Beginning in 1905, Jensen explored ways of implementing his own ideas about park design while laying them on top of existing plans by William Le Baron Jenney and Oscar Dubuis. These plans had only been partially implemented at the time. (Robert Grese, *Jens Jensen: Maker of Natural Parks and Gardens.*)

The field house overlooks a pond **5** and a junior golf course with prairie planted in the non-play areas **4**. Prairie grasses, such as little bluestem, Indian grass, and switchgrass, have taken hold. In the fall, their crisp yellows, browns and crimson provide an attractive counterpart to the turning leaves on the trees. Asters, purple coneflower and milkweed thrive here.

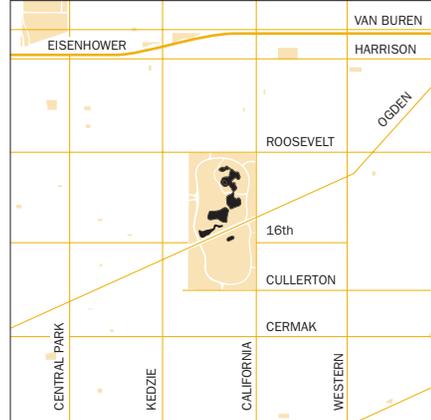
The lagoon **1** and island **2** have not undergone any recent restoration work, but is still naturalistic in character, with cattails, bur marigolds, and willows flanking its shores. Stocked with catfish and bluegill, the lagoon and the golf course pond are popular with fishermen.

South of Ogden Avenue the lily pond's **7** water lilies, bulrushes, and arrowheads provide habitat for frogs and dragonflies. The pond belongs to a long garden parallel to Ogden, which Jens Jensen designed in response to the creation of the diagonal roadway through the park

The lagoon, island, ponds, shrubs and wildflowers make this park an attractive stopover for migrating birds. Ducks, bitterns, rails, sandpipers and numerous songbirds are also found here.

DOUGLAS PARK LAGOON

Site No. 20

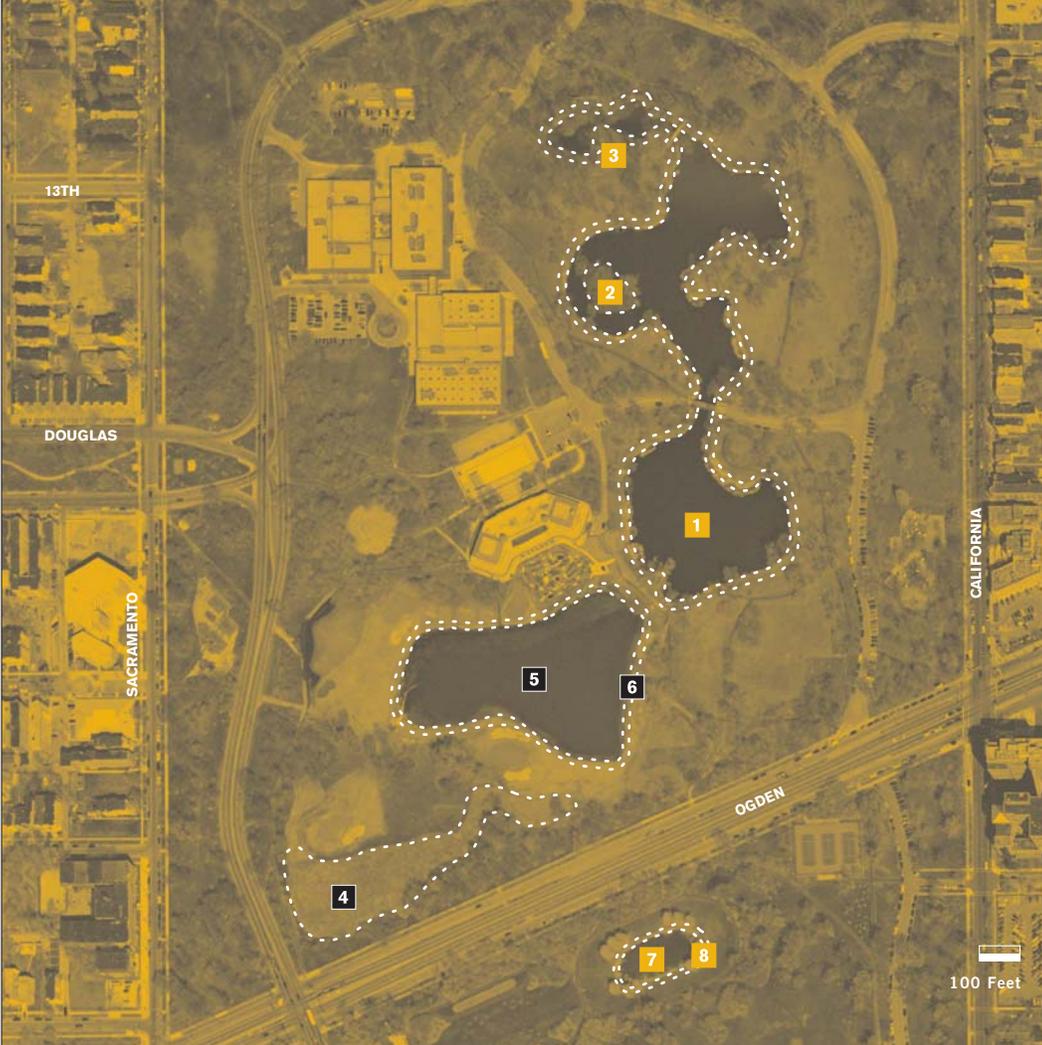


1400 SOUTH / 2900 WEST



Douglas Park Lagoon

N: 20



ADDRESS 1401 S Sacramento
 OWNER Chicago Park District
 ACREAGE 14.74

HABITATS
1 5 7 Aquatic
2 3 6 8 Riparian / Water Edge
4 Prairie / Grassland

DIRECTIONS At the corner of Roosevelt and California, go south on California and take the first possible right into a park access road, West 12th Place. Park by the field house.

Douglas Park Lagoon

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