

HYDE LAKE MARSH AND INDIAN CREEK

Prior to 1872, Hyde Lake didn't exist. It was part of Wolf Lake (site 88, p. 127) until a channel was dug between Wolf Lake and Berry Lake. When the water level lowered, a sand ridge that had been covered in water became exposed, and it is this ridge that now separates Wolf Lake from Hyde Lake.

At first the open water of the lake occupied hundreds of acres, but over the course of succeeding decades, slag was deposited here until eventually, all that remained was about 32 acres with another 12 acres of wetland **3**. Some of the higher ground consists of old fields with occasional clumps of native grasses **4**.

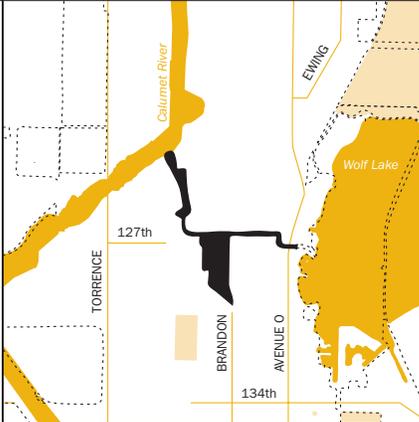
Hyde Lake was the beneficiary of a settlement between U.S. EPA and the Sherwin Williams paint company. Sherwin Williams agreed to spend \$150,000 to help restore Hyde Lake Marsh. While some work has been done, most of what can be viewed from the edges of the site is still a solid stand of the invasive plant *phragmites*, known as common reed.

Hyde Lake is an important connector between the large protected areas of habitat around Wolf Lake and Indian Creek. Before industry settled

into southeast Chicago, Indian Creek didn't exist. Its channel **1** was created to drain the wetlands so they could be built upon. The channel is 1.25 miles long from Wolf Lake to its confluence with the Calumet River.

In the past Indian Creek was so polluted by surrounding industry that its waters were sometimes tinted orange or violet, but today it is enjoying environmental improvement. Funding from Indian Creek's new industrial neighbors such as Ford Motor Company are helping pay for ecological rehabilitation that includes alterations of Indian Creek's grade and depth, and the installation of fish-friendly features such as riffles, pools and meanders. Native aquatic plants have been added to the shores and to islands within the channel. Banks have been planted with native shrubs such as blackhaw viburnum **2**. These changes have been implemented along one-third of the creek's length; to date, the eastern two-thirds have not yet been improved.

Both Hyde Lake and Indian Creek are part of the Calumet Open Space Reserve.



Hyde Lake Marsh and Indian Creek



ADDRESS 12800 S Carondolet Ave
 OWNER City of Chicago (acquisition underway), Private
 ACREAGE 40.17

HABITATS
1 Aquatic
2 3 Wetland
4 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS From Torrence, go east on 126th Street. At the intersection of Carondolet and 126th, turn right into Angus Jendra ballfield's parking lot. A nice vista of the aquatic restoration of the creek is on the north side of 126th Street. For Hyde Lake, from 126th Street, turn south on Carondolet. On the east side at 127th and 129th Streets are trails leading to viewing platforms.

