The Rowing Lagoon, officially called the “South Lagoon,” is a linear stretch of open water that was created as part of the first landfill extension to Lincoln Park in 1887 following a plan by Olaf Benson. Surrounded by turf grass and sprinkled with young trees, the lagoon lacks natural features and is banked entirely by concrete around its edge. Along the west side of the lagoon is a soft gravel walking/running path. At Fullerton Parkway, the lagoon passes under the road and connects to Diversey harbor. From here, there’s a connection to Lake Michigan.

The Rowing Lagoon is used by rowing clubs mainly in the early morning and is popular with local fishermen throughout the day.