

Ridge Park Wetland was saved from becoming a parking lot in 1991. A neighborhood group, the Beverly Open Space Committee, advocated for the wetland's protection, and the Chicago Park District acquired the land from Metra.

Before the area was developed, the steep ridge of the moraine that runs through this part of the city would have been full of seeps such as the one found at Ridge Park Wetland. Today this is the only remaining example within the City. The wetland **2** is not fed from surface water, but from water that seeps out of the hill on the wetland's west side and trickles into the wetland. However, the site is often dry, perhaps as a result of surrounding paved areas that prevent groundwater percolation.

Unlike many of the Chicago Park District's natural area restorations, staff and volunteers didn't have to start from scratch here. The basic canopy and hydrological conditions were intact. Oaks, black walnuts and elm trees **1** tower over the wetland **2**. Blue asters, wild rye grass, and the raspberry-colored swamp milkweed have all been introduced, and have taken hold in the understory.

There are other examples of seeps in the Chicago area; Long Run Seep along the Des Plaines River in Will County would be one place to visit to have a sense of what a bigger site looks like.

RIDGE PARK WETLAND

Site No 70

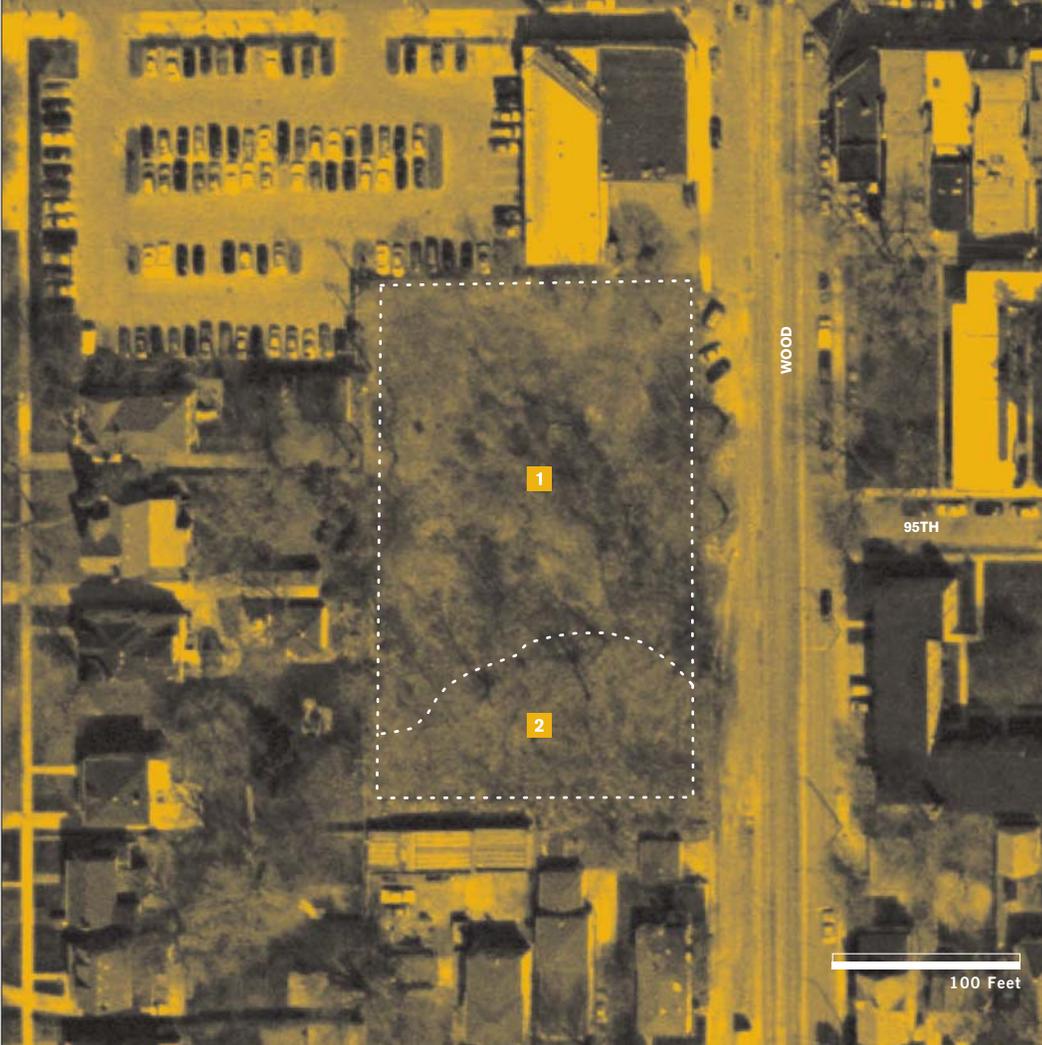


9500 SOUTH / 1800 WEST



Ridge Park Wetland

N: 70



ADDRESS 9512 S Longwood Dr
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 1.10

HABITATS
1 Savanna
2 Wetland

DIRECTIONS Locate Ridge Park on a map; the wetland is two blocks north of it. Two skinny lanes of Longwood Drive run parallel on either side of the railroad tracks here; it's possible to park alongside the preserve, though there's more room for it on the east side of the street.

Ridge Park Wetland

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