

LINCOLN PARK—BILL JARVIS
MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY

Like the rest of Chicago's modern lakefront, this site was developed on landfill. Its undulating landscape of wooded ridges **1** and wet swales **2** was designed to replicate the natural lakeshore. The shallow ponds are fed by city water that flows into a marsh on the west side. Soon after its creation in the early 1920s, the site attracted so many local and migratory birds that it was fenced to serve as a bird and wild flower refuge. Public access has remained restricted since then.

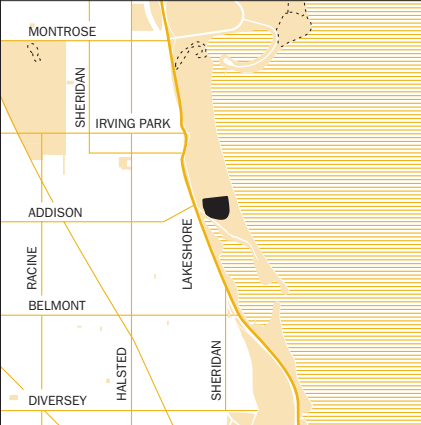
It escaped demolition in 1968 thanks to the mobilization of William Beecher, then director of the Chicago Academy of Science, and of Lake View residents, Bill Jarvis prominently among them. A passionate bird-watcher and native plants enthusiast, Bill Jarvis led a group of volunteers into an agreement with the Chicago Park District to restore and maintain the sanctuary. The sanctuary was renamed after him after his death and is still maintained by volunteers organized by the Lake View Citizens Council.

Over the decades, the Bird Sanctuary has become a magnet for birders. Warblers and other songbirds are present here in great abundance

in spring and fall. Small flocks of black-crowned night herons roost in the taller trees during the day in the spring; their presence is most notable when there aren't yet many leaves on the trees.

The bird sanctuary is no longer just what is within the fence. In 2001, the sanctuary expanded south and east, and the Chicago Park District now manages the entire area south of the tennis courts and parking lot, north of the archery field, and between the lake and Recreation Drive as bird habitat. Some areas are planted outside the tall fence. A set-back of approximately twenty feet from the fenced sanctuary is a "no-mow" zone. Viburnum and other native shrubs have been planted; common native wildflowers like New England aster and tall goldenrod have already taken hold.

New paths and a viewing platform provide better access and discourage misuse. Interpretive signs with bird identification photos help explain the sanctuary and educate visitors about the birds they may observe.



Lincoln Park—Bill Jarvis
Migratory Bird Sanctuary



ADDRESS 3601 N Lake Shore Dr
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 7.84

- HABITATS
- 1** Forest / Woodland
 - 2** Wetland
 - 3** Savanna

DIRECTIONS Exit Lake Shore Drive at Irving Park; turn east, and follow that road (called Recreation Drive) south through parking lots about a half-mile to the large totem pole. The sanctuary is right behind it. A wood-chipped path surrounds the sanctuary; access through the locked gate into the interior is available only on infrequent guided field trips.

