

THE DESIGN

By Frederick Law Olmsted

Taken from text written on the 1895 Revised General Plan for Jackson Park

The principal elements of the scenery of Jackson Park are (1st) the Lake, (2nd) the Fields, and (3rd) the Lagoons.

The broad view of LAKE MICHIGAN will be commanded from a Shore Drive and from a Concourse on Sunrise Bluff. Steamboats may call at the long pier, where will be found the Casino restaurant. Sailboats may enter the park at the South Haven and steamboat launches and rowboats may enter and leave the North Haven by passing under the North Inlet Bridge. Landings with floats will be found in both Havens for the use of boats coming from the great Lake.

THE FIELDS lying between the Lagoons and the Lake and between the Lagoons and the South-west Entrance present broad and quiet landscape of the simplest pastoral sort, which will be pleasingly commanded from the adjacent drives and walks. It is designed to allow strolling and the playing of tennis and croquet upon these fields, except when the turf needs resting but to permit the playing of base ball and similar games by boys and girls of the grammar school age only. Each Field will have upon its border a building designed to supply visitors shelter, light refreshments and storage for wraps and the instruments of games.

THE LAGOONS, with their intricate and bushy shorelines, their beaches and bridges and their almost complete seclusion, offer scenery in striking contrast to that of the Lake Shore and Fields. This scenery in striking will be enjoyable from many points on the shore, but will be especially appreciated when viewed from boats. Landings for the use of electric omnibus boats and rowboats will be provided at convenient points and locks or runways will enable boats to be easily taken from the Lagoons to the Havens and the reverse when the fluctuating water level of the Lake differs from the constant level which is necessary to preserve the marginal plant growths of the Lagoon.

Contrasting with the rest of the park, the neighborhood of the vast building of the FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM is designed upon formal lines for the sake of architectural harmony. A Music Court and a Gymnasium are additional provisions for public recreation which are also designed on architectural lines. These formal parts of the park are intended to be lighted after dark and kept always open, but the more rural parts are designed to be closed at night.

