

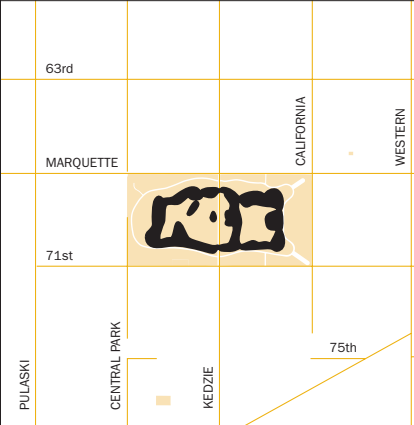
MARQUETTE PARK LAGOON AND PRAIRIE

At Marquette Park's lagoon, major restoration work is being undertaken. The treated city water that feeds the lagoon 1 has phosphorus in it, and this contributes to prolific algae blooms. So the Chicago Park District is pioneering an innovative system to trap water flowing off the roof of a nearby school to help feed the lagoons; the rain water dilutes the amount of phosphorus. The lagoons are also being fitted with a "prairie scrubber" system where phosphorus is removed from city water by filtering it underground through a gravel bed that has soil and prairie plants installed on top of it.

sixteen blocks south of Marquette Park. Plans for development threatened the original site, and in 1993, community residents joined with the Chicago Park District to remove large plugs of the prairie matrix using tree spades to keep as much of the root structure in place as possible. The plugs were put into holes excavated at the current site of Ashburn Prairie, and the spaces between the plugs were seeded.

Marquette Park is one of fourteen parks designed by the Olmsted Brothers and D.H. Burnham & Co. Because of the park's large size—by far the biggest city park on the southwest side—it's possible to see a wider range of wildlife here than at some smaller sites. Both great blue herons and black-crowned night herons hunt along the lagoon's edges. Peregrine falcons and red-tailed hawks are occasionally spotted here.

Nearly 100 species of native plants are found at Ashburn Prairie 5 in Marquette Park. The diversity and abundance of plants at Ashburn Prairie exceeds that of many of the new plantings within the Chicago Park District system because plugs of untouched native prairie were moved here from a two-acre site near the Evergreen Cemetery,



Marquette Park Lagoon and Prairie



ADDRESS 6734 S Kedzie Blvd  
OWNER Chicago Park District  
ACREAGE 62.46

HABITATS  
1 2 3 Aquatic  
4 Riparian/Water Edge  
5 6 Prairie/Grassland

DIRECTIONS An interior road (called Kanst, Redfield, or Mann) circles around the lagoon; park at any point and walk inland to see the lagoon. To visit Ashburn Prairie, park on Redfield (south side of the park) just east of Kedzie. Walk north over the lagoon bridge; the prairie is a few hundred feet farther north, between the path and the lagoon.

