

# CHICAGO WOMEN'S PARK AND GARDENS

## A VISUAL TOUR

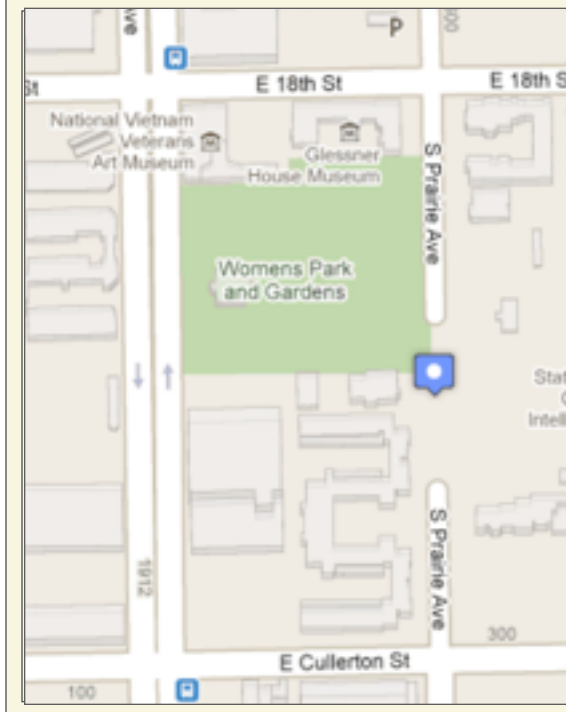


❧ PARK, PLACES, PEOPLE,  
AND COMMUNITY PASSION ❧

1827 S INDIANA AVE  
CHICAGO, IL 60616

PREPARED BY THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL  
[WWW.PARK550ADVISORYCOUNCIL.COM](http://WWW.PARK550ADVISORYCOUNCIL.COM)

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[WWW.CHICAGOPARKDISTRICT.COM](http://WWW.CHICAGOPARKDISTRICT.COM)



### ABOUT

#### CHICAGO WOMEN'S PARK AND GARDENS

Restored in 1999 by the **City of Chicago Public Building Commission** on behalf of **Cultural Affairs**, the vision of the park was to create a passive park to pay tribute to the important women in the History of Chicago.

The park also has a wide variety of features, architecture, and plantings that can be enjoyed through walkways that provide a lovely dose of solitude amid the surrounding urban environment.

This visual tour will highlight the history and affirm the place of the Chicago Women's Park and Gardens as an important community anchor for all residents and visitors experience.

Come join the 'Park, Places, People, and Community Passion' at Chicago Women's Park and Gardens!



CHICAGO WOMEN'S PARK ENTRANCES ON  
HISTORIC PRAIRIE AVENUE AND ON  
INDIANA AVENUE NEAR THE CLARK HOUSE  
AT 1827 INDIANA



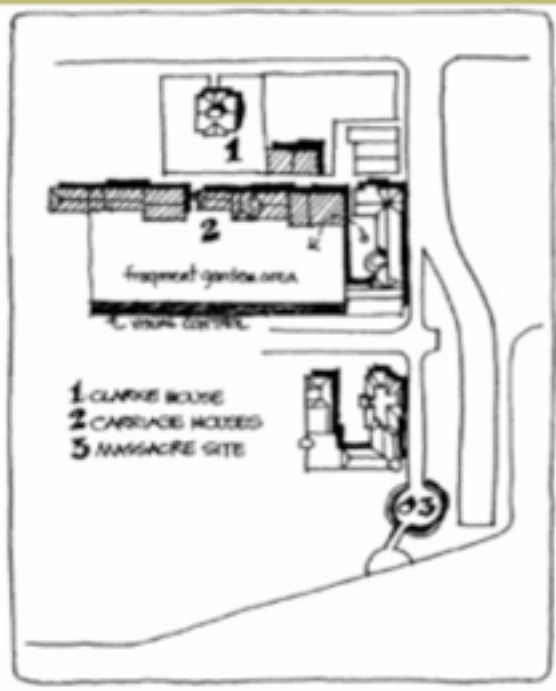
CLARK HOUSE (PHOTO - MICHAEL BEASLEY)

# Chicago Women's Park and Gardens - Journey to Today

The history of **Chicago Women's Park and Gardens** is not only interweaved with the preservation efforts of the *Prairie Avenue Historic District*, but it is also a primary fabric of the grass-roots preservation and architectural heritage efforts of Chicago in general. So while the park honors the accomplishments of Chicago's women, the story of the Park and Gardens history will have much to say about those women who led or participated in it's birth.



CLARKE HOUSE IS MOVED TO CURRENT SITE IN WOMEN'S PARK (1977)



EXCERPT FROM THE 1975 "PRAIRIE AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT GUIDELINES (CHICAGO SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION)

Year	History of Key Park Design or Development Activities
1970	<i>Clarke House</i> , is declared a <b>Chicago Landmark</b> and placed on <b>National Register of Historic Places</b>
1971	<i>The Glessner House Museum</i> , north of <i>Chicago Women's Park and Gardens</i> , is opened for public tours.
1975	The <b>Chicago School of Architecture Foundation</b> , drafts <i>'The Prairie Avenue Historic District guidelines'</i> to lay vision and shape "the implementation of the component parts...and functional context", in the restoration and re-birth of <i>The Prairie Avenue Historic District</i> .
1977	The <i>Clarke House</i> is relocated from its 2nd location at 4520 S. Wabash Avenue to its current location, and would undergo major renovations to restore it to its mid-19th century appearance.
1979	The <b>City of Chicago</b> designates the area that will eventually include the <i>Chicago Women's Park and Gardens</i> and future <i>Park 550 indoor facility</i> as the Landmark <i>Prairie Avenue Historic District</i> .
1982	<i>Clarke House Museum</i> Restoration is completed and it is opened as an Operating Museum.
1997	With leadership and inspiration for the park concept from <b>Lois Weisberg</b> , commissioner of the <b>Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs</b> , the park opens as <i>Hillary Rodham Clinton Women's Park and Gardens of Chicago</i> . The park name would change two years later.
1998	<b>Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs</b> is assigned responsibility for the fiscal and cultural operation of <i>Clarke House Museum</i> and <i>Women's Park</i> operation.
1999	With \$2MM in TIF Funds, <b>The City of Chicago Public Building Commission</b> is commissioned to further develop the park vision, and it is reopened as <i>Chicago Women's Park and Gardens</i> .
2009	The <b>City of Chicago</b> transfers operation of <i>The Chicago Women's Park and Garden</i> to <b>The Chicago Park District</b> and begins renovation of a new indoor community facility at 1801 S. Indiana.



2000 - CHICAGO WOMEN'S PARK AND GARDENS RESTORATION (CHICAGO PBC)



1979  
PRAIRIE AVENUE  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
LANDMARK  
DESIGNATION

# Chicago Women's Park and Gardens - The Restoration, Fountains, Gardens, Paths, Play Area

## THE RESTORATION AND FEATURES

**Designer:** Tannys Langdon

**Landscape Architect:** Mimi McKay

## FOUNTAINS:

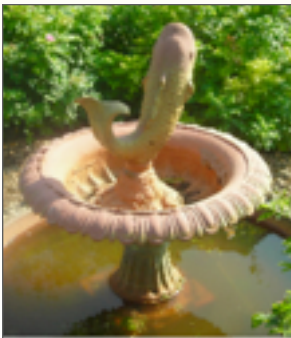
**Botanical Gardens Fountain:** The park features a larger *Botanical Gardens Fountain* that has a shallow copper-coated cast iron urn that gently drips water into the lower basin. and is based on a Victorian "bronze bowl" design.

**Designer:** Tammy Langdon and Robinson Iron



**Fish Fountain:** made by Robinson Iron in Alexander City, AL using 19th century molds and pattern books. The small fountain located north of the Widow Clarke House has a dish finial rising from its bowl and frogs and turtles along the edge of the lower basin.

**Designer:** Robinson Iron



## GARDENS, PATHS, PLAY AREA:

The park also has a wide variety of plantings that can be enjoyed through walkways that provide a lovely dose of solitude amid the surrounding urban environment. In addition the park features a Community Garden for local residents.

## BOTANICAL GARDENS AND PATHS



(2004 "For The Birds" Bird-house Contest)

## COMMUNITY GARDENING



## CHILDREN'S REPLICA PLAYHOUSE



# Chicago Women's Park and Gardens - People and Community Passion in The Park

## COMMUNITY CENTERPIECE:

As an integral centerpiece of the adjoining **Prairie Avenue Historic District** and cultural complex, **The Chicago Women's Park and Gardens** is a treasured community anchor that provides the opportunity to celebrate, reflect, relax, and learn individually, or collectively as a community while recognizing those that have dedicated so much to making this a special place.

- \* Chicago Women's Park and Garden
- \* Clarke House Museum
- \* Glessner House Museum
- \* Battle of Ft. Dearborn Park
- \* Keith House
- \* Park 550 Indoor Arts and Cultural Center
- \* Vietnam Veterans Art Museum

