

REACHES 8 AND 9 CHICAGO SANITARY AND SHIP CANAL

RESOURCE CHARACTER

Location: The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal begins at Damen Avenue and the Stevenson Expressway (Interstate 55) in Chicago, and runs for nearly 30 miles in a southwesterly direction through the City of Chicago and suburbs of Stickney, Forest View, Lyons, Summit, Bedford Park, Justice, Willow Springs, Lemont, and Romeoville (Figure 4.5) The canal terminates in Lockport, where it joins the Des Plaines River. Construction of the canal began in 1892 and was completed in 1907. The northern end of the canal joins the South Branch of the Chicago River, where a portion of the original channel of the South Branch was filled in and its flow was reversed to carry wastewater and barge traffic.

Land Use/Vegetative Cover: Nearly all of the shoreline property along the canal is owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Much of this property is leased out for industrial uses, especially in the upper part of the reach above suburban Summit. In this stretch, the canal is also paralleled by the Stevenson Expressway (Interstate 55). Below Summit, nearby land use includes significant natural areas such as the Palos (Cook Co.) and Waterfall Glen (DuPage Co.) Forest Preserves. In some areas, residential neighborhoods occur just outside the corridor. Land not leased is usually forested along the shore, which effectively screens whatever may occur just beyond the banks. Together with dedicated natural areas, these vegetated strips of land give much of the shoreline below Summit a very natural character.

Channel Character: Although the shoreline of the lower Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal appears natural, the straightness of the channel tells users that this is a highly engineered waterway. The average width of the channel is around 300 feet, and its 24-foot depth accommodates barge and other commercial boat traffic. Bank character ranges from vertical concrete and steel sheet piling along many of the industrial properties, to steeply sloped rocky rubble or vertical cut stone walls along undeveloped sections. Below Summit, the corridor of the Sanitary and Ship Canal bends slightly southward and is paralleled by the I&M Canal and the Des Plaines River. Openings in the foliage reveal the nearness of these waterways and associated slough areas.

CURRENT AND POTENTIAL RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES

Current and potential recreation and open space opportunities in Reaches 8 and 9 are described in Table 4.11 from north to south, and are keyed to Figure 4.5 with numbers in the first column of the table. Major activity types are discussed in the sections below.

Boating: Barge traffic, a straight channel, and limitations on access constrain use of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal for small paddlecraft. Wakes generated by large commercial

and recreational craft can make paddling difficult, and the vertical shoreline along much of the canal makes it difficult to get out of the water if there is a problem. The Forest Preserve District of Cook County does not provide any developed access to the canal, and if it did, that access would most likely be oriented to powerboats. However, the district has developed a 14.4-mile water trail on the adjacent Des Plaines River from its Stony Ford Preserve, just north of the Chicago Portage, to Lemont, which provides an attractive alternative for canoeists and kayakers. The water trail is part of the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor, and the district has three launching sites along the route. Paddlers can continue down the Des Plaines to visit historic sites at Isle a la Cache and Lockport.

The Sanitary and Ship Canal has become more popular in recent years with motorboaters, and it is usually taken by boaters coming up from Lockport or from the Cal-Sag Channel (Reach 10) to visit downtown Chicago. Despite the straightness of the channel, the shore provides attractive natural scenery and has been described as a good route to view fall colors. A private marina has been proposed for development in Lemont; this would require blasting a hole through bedrock separating an abandoned, flooded quarry from the canal.

Fishing: Not much fishing has been observed on the Sanitary and Ship Canal, either by boat or from the shore. Access to the channel for shore fishing is constrained by the nature of the banks, which in the forest preserves are steep, littered with rocky rubble from construction of the canal, and dense with vegetation. The MWRD's new Sidestream Elevated Pool Aeration (SEPA) stations are becoming increasingly popular places for fishing, and one of these is located at the junction of the canal and the Cal-Sag Channel. Shore access is available, but most fishing is done from boats below the "waterfall." The lakes and sloughs of the Palos Preserves are close to the canal, and are popular fishing spots in this area of the corridor. According to fishing interests, the spring-fed Lemont quarries area has the potential to become a premiere managed recreational fishery, though most of the land is now privately owned.

Trails: Trails in and near the corridor of the Sanitary and Ship Canal are numerous, and projects in the works promise a greatly increased network. In Cook County, the forest preserve district has the I&M Canal Bicycle Trail, a 9-mile paved trail straddling the I&M and Sanitary & Ship Canals. Just to the south of this trail is the district's 13,000-acre Palos Division. Although the table above lists only those forest preserve sites in Palos that are near the canal, the division has an extensive network of developed trails for biking, hiking, and horseback riding. Palos is also a top spot in the metropolitan region for mountain biking, and trail use policies are being established. In DuPage County, the 2,470-acre Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve has an 8.5-mile gravel loop trail for biking, hiking, and horseback riding. And in Will County, most of the forest preserve land designated as Recreational Areas and Nature Preserves has hiking trails.

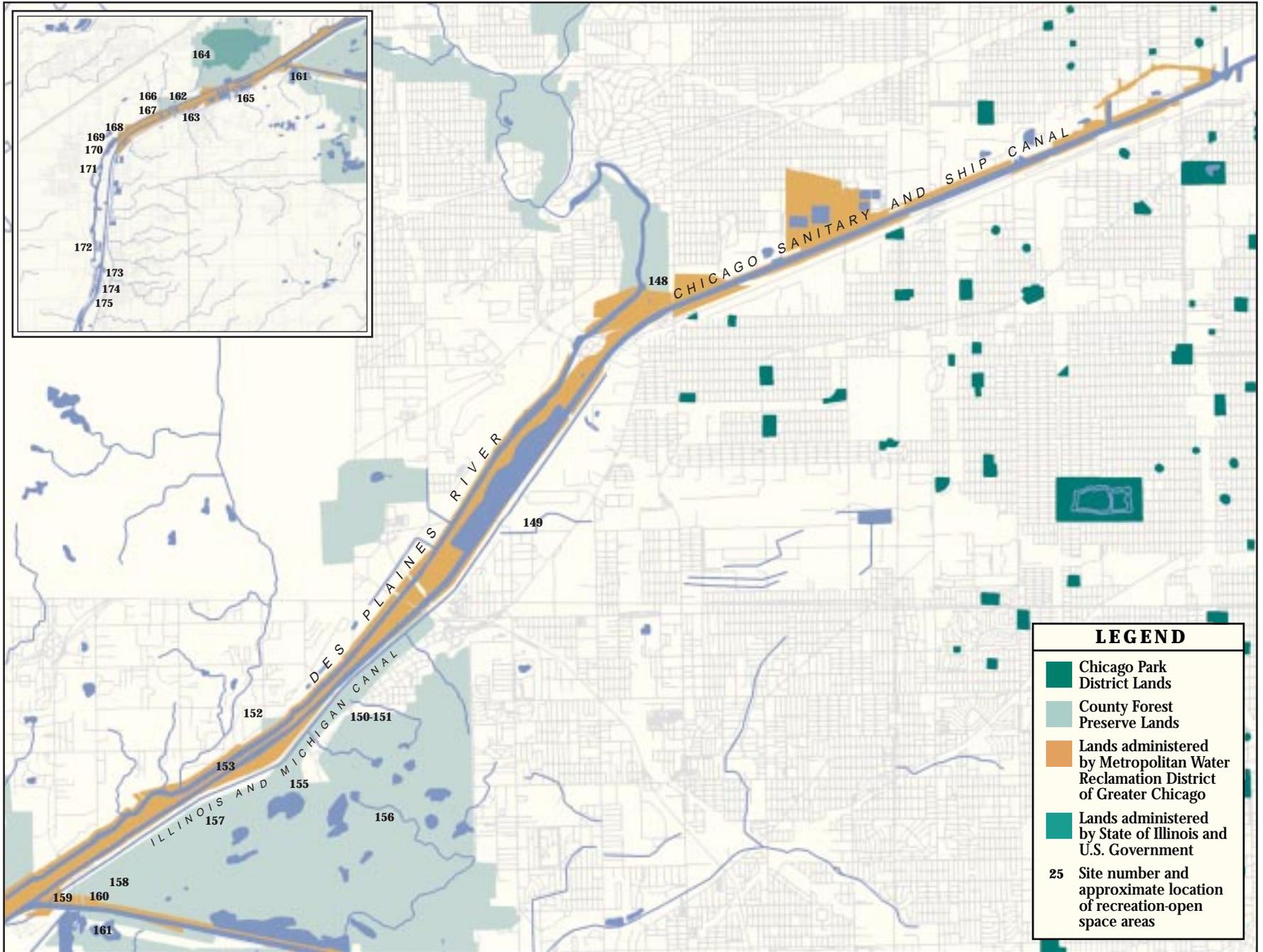


FIGURE 4.5
Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reaches 8, 9B and 9B)

TABLE 4.11
Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reaches 8 and 9
(See Figure 4.5 for site locations)

SITE NUMBER AND NAME	MUNICIPALITY/OWNERSHIP	ACCESS, FACILITIES/NOTES
148 Chicago Portage Woods Ottawa Trail Woods	Salt Creek Division/ Cook County FPD	300 acre, picnic areas, historic site near the canal
149 Centennial Trail	Lyons-Lockport/Cook, DuPage, and Will County FPDs	20 mile bike trail under construction
150 Willow Springs Woods ¹	Palos Division/Cook County FPD	Picnic area, foot trail
151 Willow Hills Memorial Park	Unincorporated/private	Cemetery
152 Columbia Woods ¹	Palos/Cook County FPD	Picnic area, Des Plaines River canoe launch
153 I&M Canal Bike Trail	Palos Division/Cook County FPD	9 mile paved bike trail
154 Chicago Portage Canoe Trail	Palos Division/Cook County FPD	14 mile canoe trail on the Des Plaines River
155 Paw Paw Woods ¹	Palos Division/Cook County FPD	Picnic and natural area
156 Little Red Schoolhouse	Palos Division/Cook County FPD	Nature center; nature trail
157 Henry DeTonty Woods ¹	Palos Division/Cook County FPD	Picnic area, developed trail
158 Red Gate Woods ¹	Palos Division/Cook County FPD	Picnic area, developed trail
159 Canal Junction Station	Unincorporated Cook County/MWRD	Aeration station and public park
160 St. James Sag Church	Palos Division/Cook County FPD	Historic site
161 Camp Sagawau	Palos Division/Cook County FPD	Environmental education center, natural area, x-c ski program
162 Lemont quarries	Lemont/private	Proposed fishing, marina sites
163 Lemont Bike Path	Lemont/Village of Lemont	Proposed 6 mile bike path along I&M Canal
164 Waterfall Glen	Unincorporated/DuPage County FPD	2,470 acre, 8.5 mile multi-use trail, picnic area
165 Cog Hill Golf and Country Club	Lemont/private open to public	Four 18-hole public fee golf courses
166 Wood Ridge	Unincorporated/DuPage County FPD	234 acre open land
167 Black Partridge Woods ¹	Palos Div./Cook County FPD	Picnic and natural areas
168 Keepataw	Unincorporated/Will County FPD	216 acre, hiking
169 Veterans Woods	Unincorporated/Will County FPD	77 acre picnic area, hiking
170 Romeoville Prairie	Romeoville/Will County FPD	251 acre natural area/no public access
171 Isle al a Cache	Romeoville/Will County FPD	87 acre historical/interpretive center, picnic area, hiking and canoeing on Des Plaines River
172 Lockport Prairie	Lockport/Will County FPD	254 acre natural area and nature trail
173 I&M Canal Visitor Center	Lockport/National Park Service	Historic site and information center
174 Gaylord Donnelly Canal Trail	Lockport/Lockport	Historic/interpretive trail
175 Heritage Park and Trail	Lockport/public and private	260 acre park and 2.7 mile trail from Lockport to Joliet

¹Note: The Forest Preserve District of Cook County does not break down acreage of holdings by site; approximate size of the entire Palos Division is 6,338 acres. Abbreviations: FPD—Forest Preserve District; URP—Urban Resources Partnership of Chicago; MWRD—Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

Currently in the works is a trail that will tie these and other trails together into a massive southern metropolitan network. Funds are in place for building much of the Centennial Trail, a 20-mile trail following MWRD land along the canal from the Chicago Portage to Lockport. The trail is being developed by forest preserve districts in Cook (11 mi.), DuPage (2.5 mi.), and Will (6.5 mi.) Counties; a 3-mile gravel stretch from the Will County line south to Isle a la Cache has been completed. The Centennial Trail would connect on the south end to the Gaylord Donnelly Canal Trail in Lockport, the planned 2.7-mile Heritage Park Trail from Lockport to Joliet, and from there to the 40-mile-long I&M Canal State Trail to La Salle-Peru, IL, the terminus of the 120-mile I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor. The Centennial Trail would also parallel and possibly connect with the Forest Preserve District of

Cook County's I&M Canal Bicycle Trail and the proposed 6-mile Lemont Bike Path, also along the I&M Canal. A proposed trail along the Cal-Sag Channel would give Centennial Trail users the option to go east through Palos to Lake Michigan and south to Cook County forest preserve trails on Tinley Creek and Thorn Creek. On the north end, the trail could eventually connect with existing and proposed trails along Salt Creek and the Des Plaines River, and follow the canal north into the city to connect with the Chicago Riverwalk. The Centennial Trail is an outgrowth of the MWRD's Riveredge Renaissance public access policy.

Natural and Cultural Resource-Based Recreation and Education: The Sanitary and Ship Canal is rich in natural and cultural history. The Palos and Waterfall Glen Forest

Preserves are key natural areas for the Chicago metropolitan region, and are popular for birding, wildlife observation, and nature exploration. The preserves are also the sites of significant ecological restoration programs, which rely on volunteers for much of the work that is being accomplished. The canal itself is a good place to birdwatch, and many shorebirds and waterfowl can be observed there. The Forest Preserve District of Cook County has two environmental education facilities in Palos: The Little Red Shoolhouse Nature Center, which has indoor displays, outdoor demonstration areas, and a nature trail; and Camp Sagawau, an educational facility that has special scheduled programs and workshops, an education field camp, and the unique Sagawau Canyon Nature Preserve. Further south, Lockport and Romeoville Prairies are two of the best examples of native tallgrass prairies in the metropolitan area; both sites are designated Illinois Nature Preserves. The canal corridor itself has a rich cultural history, and the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor has some of its most significant cultural sites in this reach. Historic sites include St. James of the Sag Church and Cemetery in the canal town of Lemont; the Isle a la Cache living history museum in Romeoville; and the town of Lockport, which has more than 37 historic sites and structures, and is considered one of the best preserved canal towns in the U.S. A museum, visitor center, and historic trail are three key interpretive sites that make Lockport an important terminus of the Chicago River corridor. At the northern end of the canal, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County has proposed building a Chicago Portage Interpretive Facility and Visitor Center, to inform people of the historic portage between the Chicago River (Great Lakes) and Des Plaines River (Mississippi) watersheds made famous by Marquette and Joliet in 1673, as well as to interpret the diverse natural and cultural history of the region.

Other Recreation: Many of the forest preserve sites near the canal offer picnicking and a range of passive and active recreational activities. In addition to educational sites, many of the canal towns in the lower part of the reach have antique stores, bed and breakfasts, and other attractions geared to tourism. Unlike the northern reaches of the study area, few golf courses are on or directly adjacent to the canal. However, several private country clubs and public courses are nearby, including the giant Cog Hill Golf and Country Club near Lemont, which has four 18-hole golf courses and is home of the Western Open Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) Tour.

REACH 10 CALUMET RIVER, LITTLE CALUMET RIVER, AND CALUMET-SAG CHANNEL

RESOURCE CHARACTER

Location: Reach 10 begins at Calumet Harbor on Lake Michigan. Here, the reversed Calumet River runs south through Chicago's southeast side neighborhoods until it meets the Grand Calumet River in suburban Burnham. The channel, from this point called the Little Calumet River, takes

a turn to the east, flowing through Calumet City, Dolton, Chicago, Riverdale, and Calumet Park. At Calumet Park, this reversed channel meets the original flow of the Little Calumet River coming in from the south. From here west, the waterway is called the Calumet-Sag Channel. This channel flows west through Blue Island, Robbins, Alsip, Crestwood, Palos Heights, Worth, Palos Park, Palos Hills, and the Palos-Sag Valley Divisions of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. The channel terminates at its confluence with the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. The total length of Reach 10 is 30 miles (Figures 4.6 and 4.7).

Land Use/Vegetative Cover: The eastern end of Reach 10 is perhaps the most industrial part of the entire Chicago River corridor. Rail and ship yards transfer raw materials to factories, mills, and power stations; the region's residents and nearby mills dump their waste and slag in numerous landfills; and major highways weave through as they make their way around the southern end of Lake Michigan. In the midst of this engineered landscape lie some of the largest and most diverse wetland areas in the region. Although not technically part of the study area, the wetlands of the Lake Calumet and Wolf Lake area provide a critical context surrounding the corridor of this reach, and the corridor in turn provides an important linkage between these sites, forest preserves to the west, and Lake Michigan to the east. West of the junction with the Grand Calumet, the Little Calumet becomes less industrial, and forest preserves and marinas line the shore. This part of the reach is also one of the few areas in the entire Chicago River corridor where single family residences line the shore. The final 6 miles of the Calumet-Sag Channel flow through the Palos Forest Preserve, where the shores are wooded and appear undisturbed. The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District owns most of the land along the Calumet-Sag Channel: more than 1,200 acres on 16 miles of water frontage, 258 acres of which are leased.

Channel Character: The different waterways that make up this reach have very different characters. The Calumet River is wide (avg. 450 feet), deep (27 feet), and has several slips and turning basins along its shore to accommodate ship and barge docking and maneuvering. Although the river has some bends, the channel looks anything but natural. The O'Brien Locks are located on the Calumet River just above its junction with the Grand Calumet. Below this point, the river maintains its width, but the bank vegetation gives the channel a more natural character. The shore along the Little Calumet is part natural bank, part rocky riprap, and part vertical concrete or steel sheet piling. Where the banks are not fully developed, the land slopes down to the river. The original channel of the Little Calumet is much more narrow and natural looking, and not navigable by commercial boats. The Calumet-Sag Channel is relatively straight except for a few broad bends, and the width of the channel is around 300 feet. The banks of the channel vary like the Little Calumet, except on the western end, where tall cut stone walls give the waterway a very distinctive look.

CURRENT AND POTENTIAL RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES

Current and potential recreation and open space opportunities in Reach 10 are described in Table 4.12 from east to west, and are keyed to Figures 4.6 and 4.7 with numbers in the first column of the table. More than a half dozen large landfills in the Lake Calumet area are not included in this description, though some may hold potential as future recreation areas. Together, these landfills account for more than 1,000 acres in "open space." One former landfill that is included in the table is the 428-acre old municipal dump at the northern end of Lake Calumet, which recently opened as the Harborside International Golf Course.

Boating: Barge and ship traffic on this reach poses safety problems for canoes and paddlers. The Calumet River section of the reach is very industrial, and land use and commercial traffic could interfere with recreational and aesthetic enjoyment for paddlers. The original channel of the Little Calumet is not used commercially, and its more natural channel and banks would give this tributary the highest potential in the reach for recreational paddling. The Calumet-Sag Channel through Palos Preserves is narrow (around 300 feet), and the vertical stone walls along the shore create a "bathtub effect," echoing wakes from large craft.

In contrast, recreational motorboating is much more feasible in the reach, and the profusion of marinas in the eastern half of the corridor are an indicator of the recreational boat traffic there. Proposals and signs posted along the shore promise development of additional marinas. A few public boat launches are also along the reach, including the Beaubien Forest Preserve Boating Center, the Calumet Forest Preserve Boating Center, and the Village of Alsip Marina. Although most of these centers serve lakebound boaters, improvements in water quality in the waterways are attracting more boaters to head west, down the Calumet-Sag Channel and Sanitary and Ship Canal to Lockport or north to downtown Chicago. One increasingly popular activity for boaters from these marinas is to do "the triangle," taking the Calumet-Sag west to the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, the canal and South Branch north to Wolf Point, the Chicago River to Lake Michigan, then down the lakeshore and back to the marina. The average boater takes 6-7 hours. These trips are popular in the summer to see the sights downtown, and in the fall to see the fall colors along the waterways.

As in the downtown area but to a much lesser extent, excursion boats in this reach offer tours of the canal and lake.

Finally, commercial traffic in this reach has a recreational component, offering viewers from land a look at the current activity of a working river and a window to this region's historical importance as a hub of water-dependent commerce.

Fishing: With increases in water quality, recreational fishing on the reach is becoming more popular, but remains uncommon. Some recreational boaters fish the eastern end of the reach on their way out to Lake Michigan. Other boaters and bank anglers fish the original channel of the Little Calumet; one popular bank fishing area is at the Calumet Forest

Preserve Boating Center. On the main channel of the Little Calumet, the Beaubien Forest Preserve Boating Center has a concrete dock along the river that is also used for fishing. Other informal sites along the Little Calumet and Calumet-Sag are also used for bank fishing, and as mentioned previously, the MWRD's new SEPA Stations are becoming popular for boat and shore fishing. Commonly caught species include carp, bullhead, and bluegill. Seasonal runs of salmon and trout also occur in the Cal-Sag.

Although fishing in the channel proper is currently marginal, the major lakes and sloughs in the Palos Forest Preserves such as Saganashkee Slough are heavily fished. Restoration of Flatfoot Lake in the Beaubien Forest Preserve includes improvements for recreational fishing. The restoration program is one of the ChicagoRivers demonstration projects now being conducted with funding from the Urban Resources Partnership (URP). Partners include the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, The Nature Conservancy, and Fishin' Buddies. There is also talk of opening Lake Katherine to fishing on a limited basis, to control the game-fish population and provide more bluegills for heron feeding.

Trails: The extensive system of developed trails throughout the Palos Preserves provide the bulk of existing hiking, bicycling, and equestrian opportunities along this reach. Spoil stone left from construction of the canal provides a challenging trail along the banks of the Calumet-Sag Channel, and is used by mountain bikers, as well as illegally by motorcycles and 4-wheel all-terrain vehicles. Nature trails run throughout the Lake Katherine Nature Center in Palos Heights.

In terms of future opportunities, the entire reach from the junction of the Grand Calumet to the junction of the Sanitary and Ship Canal has been proposed as a trail corridor. Along one small section of this reach in the Palos Preserves, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County is currently working with a private contractor to remove the rock spoil deposited along the bank during the original construction of the canal. The value of the stone will offset its removal costs and the grading of the bank for use as a bicycle trail. If successful, the process will be used to develop a trail along the Calumet-Sag Channel from the junction of the Sanitary and Ship Canal west to the Lake Katherine Nature Center just east of Harlem Avenue (IL 43). At this point, the trail would connect with an existing trail that follows a Commonwealth Edison powerline right-of-way south to the Tinley Creek Forest Preserve, where the Forest Preserve District of Cook County has another 13 miles of bicycle trail. From Lake Katherine east, there is a conceptual plan for a Calumet Area Prairie Greenway that would tie the Palos Preserves with the lakefront, along with other forest preserve district sites and the State's William Powers Conservation Area. Near the Whistler Woods Forest Preserve, the abandoned Conrail right-of-way is slated for rail-trail conversion, and will link the waterway with a 6.5-mile trail to the Dan Ryan Woods Forest Preserve; this would eventually tie north into the city's historic boulevard system. Finally, on the east end of the reach, there are proposals for developing at least part of the closed USX South Works Steel

TABLE 4.12
Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reach 10
(See Figures 4.6 and 4.7 for site locations)

SITE NUMBER AND NAME	MUNICIPALITY/OWNERSHIP	ACCESS, FACILITIES/NOTES
176 USX site/Iroquois Landing	Chicago/private	Potential park site
177 Eggers Woods, including Eggers Grove and Wolf Lake Overlook	Chicago/FPDCC & private	250 acre picnic area, model airplane flying area, marsh
178 Wolf Lake/William Powers Conservation Area	Chicago/IL Dept. of Conservation	613 acre nature, fishing, recreational area
179 Burnham Woods, Powderhorn Lake, and Burnham Woods Golf Course	Chicago-Burnham/FPDCC	175 acre nature preserve, fishing lake, golf course
180 Hyde Lake & Wetlands	Chicago/private	40 acre proposed natural area
181 Turning Basin Wetland	Chicago/private	Proposed natural area
182 Torrence Avenue Station	Chicago/MWRD	Aeration station and public park
183 Indian Ridge Marsh	Chicago/private	165 acre proposed natural area
184 Heron Pond	Chicago/MWRD & private	50 acre proposed natural area
185 Deadstick Pond	Chicago/MWRD	80 acre proposed natural area
186 Lake Calumet	Chicago/Illinois International Port District	540 acre proposed natural and recreational area
187 Big Marsh	Chicago/Waste Management	290 acre proposed natural area
188 Railroad Prairie	Chicago/Norfolk and Western	190 acre natural area
189 Harborside International Golf Course	Chicago/Illinois International Port District	428 acre 36-hole golf course and driving range
190 Lake Calumet Beach	Chicago/Illinois International Port District	120 acre proposed natural area
191 Hegewisch Marsh	Chicago/Waste Management	140 acre proposed natural area
192 O'Brien Lock Marsh and Whitford Pond	Chicago/MWRD	120 acre proposed natural area
193 Windjammer Marina	Chicago/private	Marina
194 Sunset Harbor Marina	Chicago/private	Marina
195 Riverside Marina	Chicago/private	Marina
196 Pier 11 Marina	Chicago/private	Marina
197 Riley's Marina	Burnham/private	Marina
198 Beaubien Woods, Flatfoot Lake, and Beaubien Boating Center	Chicago/Cook County FPD	289 acre, boat access to river, picnic area, fishing lake is URP/ Chicago Rivers demonstration project
199 Altgeld Gardens Marsh	Chicago/MWRD	16 acre wetland
200 Lake Calumet Boat & Gun Club	Chicago/private	Marina
201 Maryland Boat Club	Chicago/private	Marina
202 Skipper's Marina	Chicago/private	Marina
203 Rentner Marine	Chicago/private	Marina
204 Dolton Yacht Club	Dolton/private	Marina
205 127th Street Station	Chicago/MWRD	Aeration station and public park
206 Whistler Woods Forest Preserve ¹	Chicago/Cook County FPD	Picnic area
207 Pipe O'Peace Golf Range ¹	Chicago/Cook County FPD	Golf driving range
208 Joe Louis Golf Course ¹	Chicago/Cook County FPD	Golf course
209 Calumet Boating Center ¹	Chicago/Cook County FPD	Boat access to river
210 Calumet Woods ¹	Chicago/Cook County FPD	Picnic area on Little Calumet
211 Kickapoo Woods ¹	Chicago/Cook County FPD	3 picnic groves on Little Calumet, model airplane flying area
212 Blue Island Station	Blue Island/MWRD	Aeration station and public park
213 Alsip Boat Landing	Alsip/Village of Alsip	Boat launch and park
214 Worth Station	Worth/MWRD	Aeration station and public park
215 Lake Katherine Nature Center	Palos Heights/Palos Heights Park District	113.1 acre site includes a 20 acre lake, nature center, and trails
216 Paddock Woods ¹	Sag Valley Division/Cook County FPD	Parking, trail
217 Palos Park Woods ¹	Sag Valley Division/Cook County FPD	Picnic areas, trail
218 Swallow Cliff Woods	Sag Valley Division/Cook County FPD	800 acre ecological restoration site
219 Saganashkee Slough ¹	Palos Division/Cook County FPD	Natural area, fishing
220 Teasons Woods ¹	Sag Valley Division/Cook County FPD	Picnic area, trail
221 Cap Sauers Holdings ¹	Sag Valley Division/Cook County FPD	Natural area, trail
222 Sag Quarries ¹	Sag Valley Division/Cook County FPD	Fishing

¹ Note: The Forest Preserve District of Cook County does not break down acreage of holdings by site; approximate total area of sites 206-211 is 900 acres; the entire Sag Valley Division, encompassing sites 216-218 and 220-222 is 7,629 acres; the entire Palos Division, encompassing site 219 is 6,338 acres.
Abbreviations: FPD—Forest Preserve District; URP—Urban Resources Partnership of Chicago; MWRD—Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

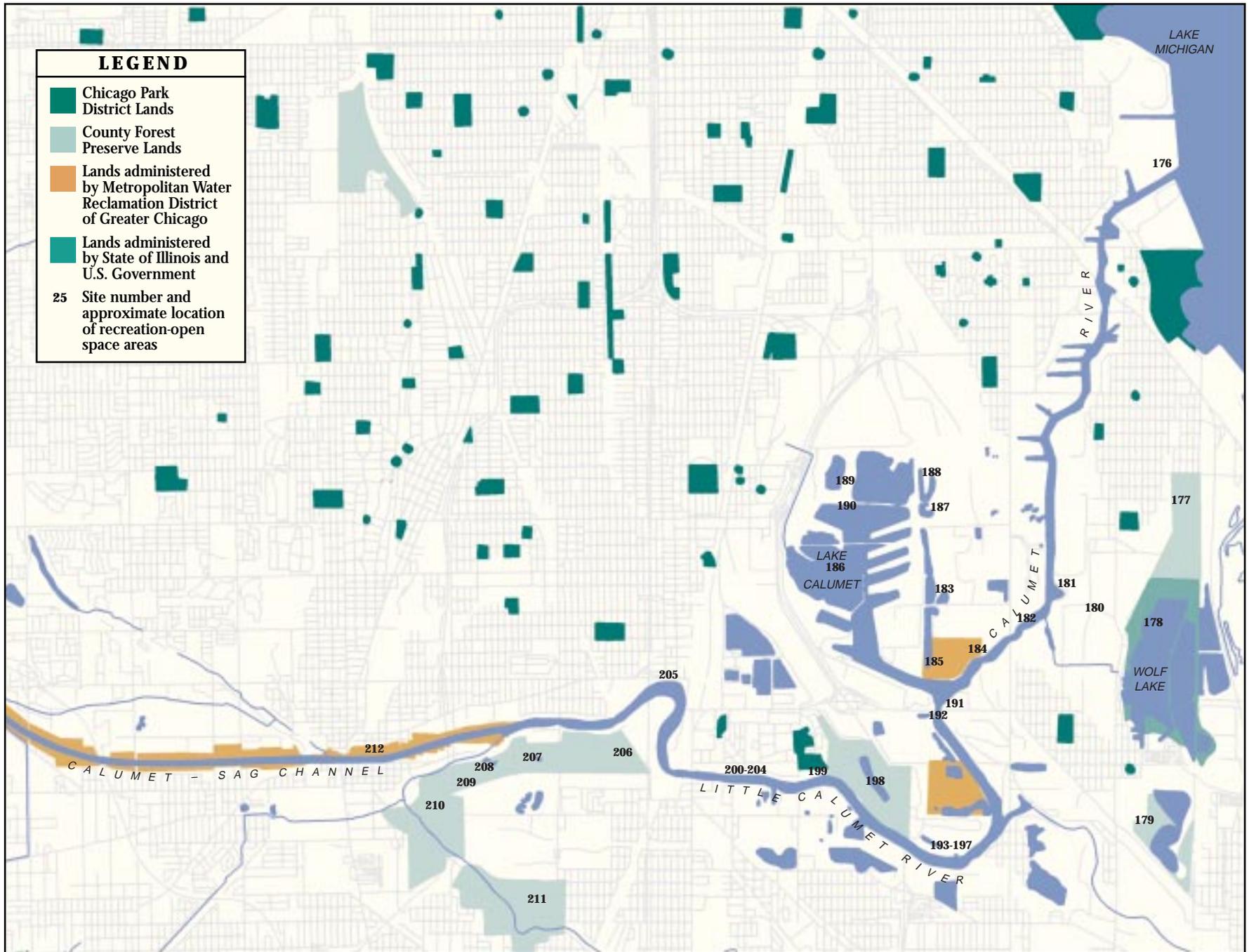


FIGURE 4.6
Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reaches 10B and 10C

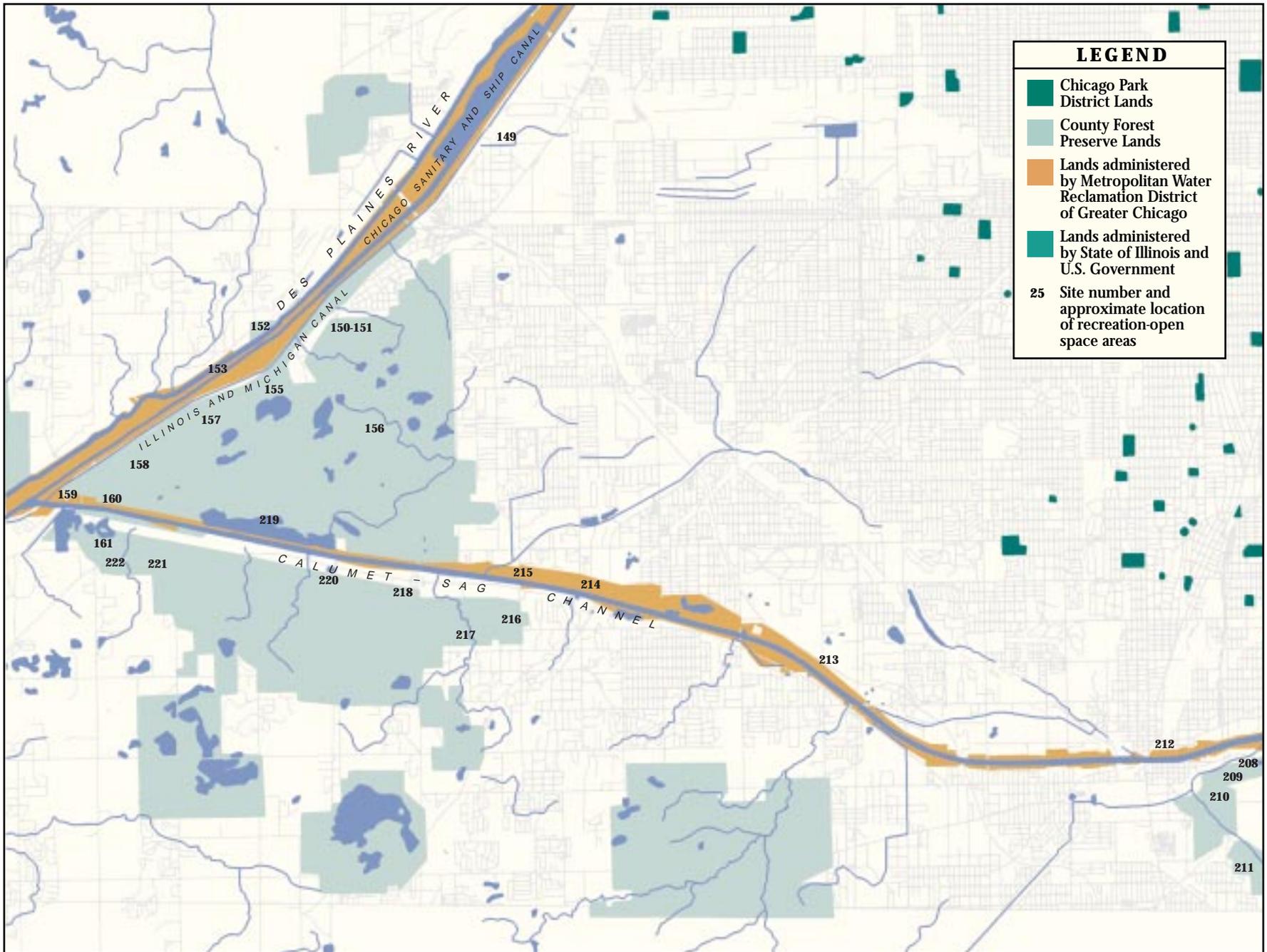


FIGURE 4.7
Current and potential recreation-open space opportunities, Reach 10A

Mill and Iroquois Landing at Calumet Harbor as a public park. This could provide an eventual tie to the existing 20-mile Chicago Lakefront Path to the north and to proposed trails linking Cook County forest preserves to the south.

Natural and Cultural Resource-Based Recreation and Education: The Lake Calumet area holds some of the greatest opportunities for increasing nature recreation and education in the corridor. The many marshes in the area provide good habitat for birds and other wildlife, and are frequented by birders, especially during spring and fall migrations. The Calumet Ecological Park Association, Audubon, and other local environmental groups host regular outings to the Lake Calumet area.

Many nature recreation and education opportunities in the Palos Preserves have already been mentioned in the description for Reaches 8 and 9. It should be stressed that the marshes and sloughs alongside the Cal-Sag Channel in Palos are some of the most important in the metropolitan area. Boaters on the Calumet-Sag can observe birds and other wildlife, especially near the Saganashkee Slough. In 1994, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, The Nature Conservancy, and other public and private organizations began a major ecological restoration demonstration project at the 800-acre Swallow Cliff Woods Forest Preserve just south of the Calumet-Sag Channel. This project is being used as a model for ecosystem management of some 68,000 acres of district lands, and has received national attention. In addition to Camp Sagawau and Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Centers, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County also operates the Sand Ridge Nature Center just south of the corridor in the suburb of South Holland. The Lake Katherine Nature Center is well used by residents and school groups from the Palos area. The center hosts seasonal nature appreciation festivals, school tours, and other programs, and has more than 100 volunteers who, among other things, engage in tree planting, prairie restoration, and bird habitat improvement.

Finally, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's five SEPA Stations located along the reach offer opportunities for visitors to learn about water quality improvement. The design of the Torrence Avenue Station incorporates a 6-acre heron rookery into the site.

Other Recreation: Forest Preserve District of Cook County sites near this reach offer picnicking and a range of passive and active recreational activities, including the Joe Louis "The Champ" Golf Course and the Pipe-O-Peace Driving Range. The new Harborside International Golf Course on the north end of Lake Calumet exemplifies the potential for reclaiming old industrial sites in the Chicago River corridor for recreation. Completed in 1997, this hilly, treeless, former municipal landfill provides 36 of the most unique and challenging holes in the country. Several other golf courses and country clubs are located near the corridor, although none are directly on the waterway. The Water Reclamation District's five SEPA facilities each have public parks associated with them, designed mainly for passive use.

PART IV ISSUES RELATED TO KEY RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

RECREATIONAL BOATING

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In its key location as a bridge between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River drainage basins, Chicago has long had important ties to waterways. American Indians used the Chicago Portage as a major trading route for many generations, and in the years following its 1673 exploration by Marquette and Jolliet, the route became central to the development of the western frontier. The building of the Illinois & Michigan Canal, development of the Chicago and Calumet River Harbors, and subsequent additions and improvements to waterways in the Chicago River corridor secured Chicago's place as the link between markets in the east and resources to the north and west.

With water a focus of the city's livelihood, it is no wonder that many Chicagoans also look to water as a recreational resource. As early as the 1850s, boating became a way for the city's elite to enjoy Lake Michigan. Yacht and canoe clubs were popular along the lakeshore by the turn of the century, and a rowing club used their shells on Lake Calumet as early as the 1880s. For the working class, recreational boating during this time was confined primarily to excursion boats on Lake Michigan and to canoe and rowboat rentals on ponds in the city's larger parks. Beginning in the 1920s and increasing after World War II, private boats came within financial reach of a larger group of people. Marinas sprung up along the Calumet River, and motorboats and sailboats used the protected cover of the river for mooring and the lake for leisure. The North and South Branches also became the sites for several boat yards, where boat owners who moored at lake marinas docked their boats for winter storage. Further north on the Skokie River, the massive public works project in the 1930s that developed the Skokie Lagoons also expanded boating opportunities, and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County established a canoe livery for rentals. Thus, with a few exceptions, recreational boating in Chicago focused on Lake Michigan and area lakes and ponds. Like the industry surrounding it, the Chicago River waterways served the utilitarian needs of recreational boaters.

The 1950s and '60s saw the first real birth of interest in the use of area rivers for recreation. As a scout leader in the early '50s, Ralph Frese began building canvas canoes to introduce his troop to nature exploration. Interest grew among area scouts, and when fiberglass became commercially accessible, Frese's Chicagoland Canoe Base began selling canoes and canoe kits. His annual sponsored trips introduced scout leaders to area rivers, including the North Branch, which in turn became nearby destinations for troop outings. Area canoeists were attracted to the Des Plaines River, leading to the estab-