

## DUSABLE PARK STEERING COMMITTEE

The Art Institute  
*Peggy Montes*

Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad,  
Chicago Chapter  
*Dr. Serge Pierre Louis*  
Bronzeville Children's Museum  
*Peggy Montes*

Chicago DuSable League  
*Bessie Neal, President*  
*Linda Wheeler*

Chicago River Rowing and Paddling Center  
*Susan Urbas*  
*Cassandra Francis*

DuSable Heritage Association  
*Dr. Marilys Ewa*

DuSable Park Project  
*Laurie Palmer*

Friends of the Chicago River  
*Marta Nelson*

Friends of DuSable  
*Haroon Rashid*

Friends of DuSable Park  
*Karen Duffy*

Friends of the Parks  
*Erma Tranter*  
*Eleanor Roemer*

Grant Park Conservancy  
*Bob O'Neill*

Grant Park Advisory Council  
*Robert Gordon, Architect*

Midwest Association of Haitian American Women  
*Dr. Mildred Olivier*

Near Eastside Association of Residents (NEAR)  
*Anna Anthony*

Streeterville Organization for Active Residents  
(SOAR)  
*Dr. Mary Lunz*  
*Brian Hopkins*

## About Friends of the Parks

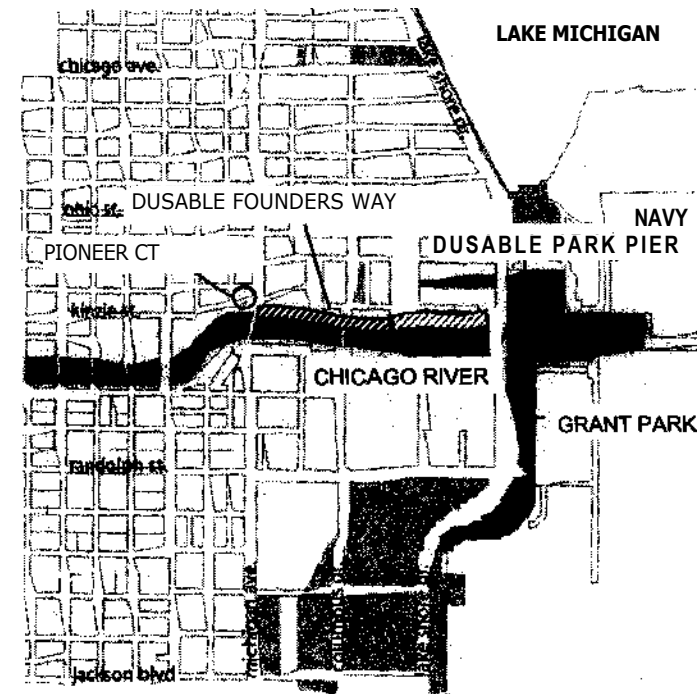
Friends of the Parks (FOTP) is a 30-year-old parks advocacy organization, dedicated to preserving, protecting, and improving Chicago's parks and forest preserves for all citizens. Since 1975, FOTP has increased private and public commitment to Chicago's parks by establishing park advisory councils, developing new parks in neighborhoods of need, renovating playgrounds, and working for expanded recreational programs for children.



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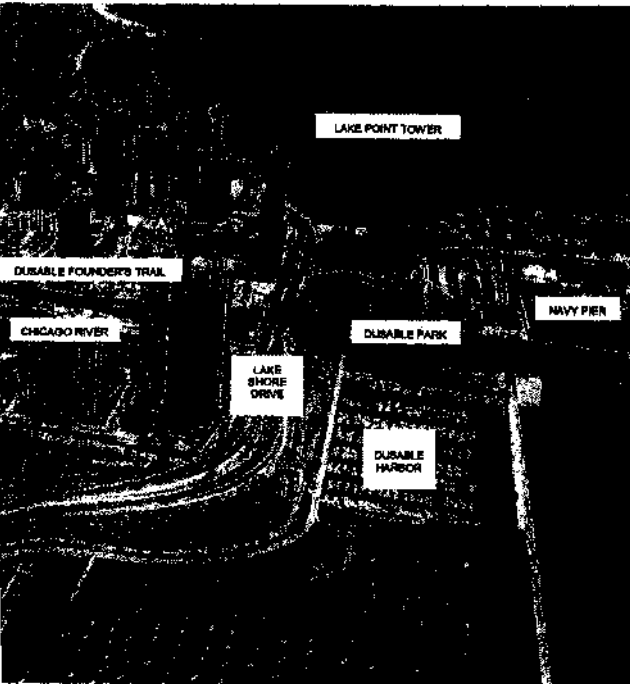
# Chicago's DuSable Park and DuSable Founder's Trail



**DUSABLE PARK**, dedicated as parkland in 1988 by the late Mayor Harold Washington, is located where the Chicago River meets Lake Michigan. Developing this park site provides an opportunity to celebrate Chicago's origins. DuSable Park is named for Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, the first non-native settler and founding father of Chicago.

The 3.5 acre park site is also a critical piece of Chicago's lakefront park system. The park is important to lakefront park advocates and residents in the nearby Streeterville and Near East Side neighborhoods, as well as Chicagoans desiring to commemorate Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable's contributions to Chicago and its diversity.

A public river walk connects DuSable Park with Pioneer Court on Michigan Avenue. The river esplanade, officially named as DuSable Founder's Trail, would include historic plaques and signage about Chicago's founding at the confluence of the Chicago River and Lake Michigan.



**DUSABLE PARK CHRONOLOGY**

DuSable Park is a three and a half acre undeveloped site situated where the Chicago River meets Lake Michigan. A concrete and steel seawall currently forms the boundary with the water on three sides: on the north, with Ogden Slip, a public navigable waterway; on the south, with the Chicago River; and on the east with Lake Michigan. The western boundary is Lake Shore Drive.

- 1770's Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable established a prosperous farm and trading post at the mouth of the Chicago River (now the site of the Tribune Tower).
- 1857 The DuSable Park site, then shallow coastal land, was part of the grant of 46 acres of land to Dock and Canal Company, which promoted commercial and industrial development in the area, but retained ownership of the underlying land.
- 1893 The DuSable Park site was filled in by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, possibly as part of the Chicago Dock and Canal Ship Basin Project (now known as Ogden Slip), to connect cargo boats with railroads at North Pier.
- 1906 Lindsay Light & Chemical Co. operated in the area owned by Dock and Canal Company. With its main facility at 161 E. Grand Avenue, Lindsay Light extracted thorium from monazite ore. The waste included radioactive tailings.
- 1928 The National DeSaible Memorial Society (since 1966 the Chicago DuSable League) was formed to commemorate and promote appreciation of Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable as the first colonial settler and **founding** father of Chicago.
- 1962 The Chicago Dock & Canal Company, reorganized as the Chicago Dock & Canal Trust, begins a master plan for residential and commercial development.
- 1985 This development was approved as a 40 acre planned development with three open space areas dedicated to the Chicago Park District: River Esplanade, Ogden Park, and the future park to be named by Mayor Harold Washington in 1987 for DuSable.
- 1988 Ownership of the DuSable Park site was transferred to the Chicago Park District through a quit claim deed.

- 1996 Kerr-McGee and River East L.L.C. are named as the parties responsible for investigating & cleaning up suspected radioactive contamination in Streeterville, including DuSable Park.
- 1998 The Amended Planned Development for River East Development included DuSable Park with a \$600,000 contribution from the private development corporation for construction of DuSable Park.
- 1999/00 Chicago Park District budget includes \$1,200,000 for development of DuSable Park; The B.F. Ferguson Fund of the Art Institute of Chicago commissions internationally renowned sculptor, Martin Puryear to create a commemorative sculpture for DuSable Park.
- 2000 Chicago Park District's proposal for a temporary parking lot on the DuSable Park site creates a public outcry, and the DuSable Park Coalition is formed, composed of park advocacy, community organizations, and groups desiring to commemorate DuSable.
- 2001 The Chicago Park District hires Harza Engineering to analyze seawall repair.
- 2002 Laurie Palmer, School of the Art Institute, invites DuSable Park proposals for 3 Acres on the Lake; DuSable Park Coalition with the Chicago Architecture Foundation presents an exhibit of the DuSable Park designs and hosts symposium: Hidden in Plain View.
- 2003 With support of public officials, the Chicago Park District makes significant progress to develop DuSable Park, including;
  - \* Environmental dean-up;
  - \* Establishment of the DuSable Park Steering Committee;
  - \* Formulation of concept plan for DuSable Park;
  - \* Amendment to Planned Development #368 which clarifies access issues and establishes responsibilities and schedule.
- 2004 Chicago Park District hires a design/engineering firm to complete park drawings. Ald. Natarus introduces ordinance to designate river esplanade between DuSable Park and Pioneer Court on Michigan Ave., as the DuSable Founder's Trail.
- 2005 Engineering study and park design finalized. DuSable Founder's Trail dedicated.