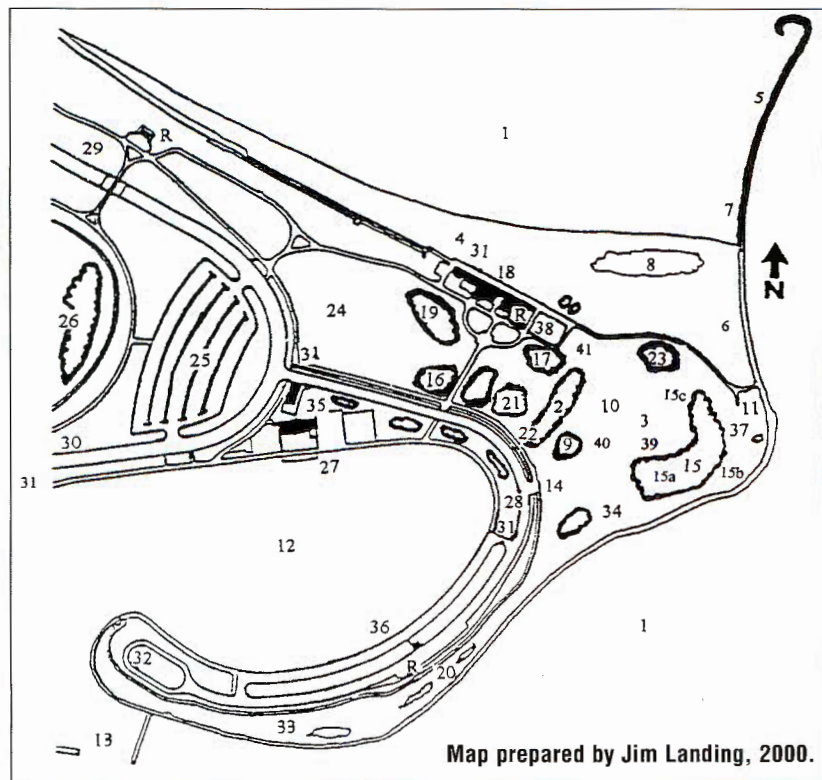


the lake to create park land was the Chicago mechanism by which Jackson Park, Burnham Park, and Lincoln Park were born. It seemed quite natural to add even more fill north of Montrose. Franklin D. Roosevelt made it all happen when he appointed Harold L. Ickes as Secretary of Interior. Ickes, a native Pennsylvanian, was a Chicago newspaper man turned lawyer. A confirmed Progressive, Ickes supported Theodore

Roosevelt when he ran on the Bull Moose ticket but later changed allegiances, and supported F.D.R. in the 1932 campaign. Both Roosevelt and Ickes were strong Chicago supporters and New Deal money began to flow quickly toward Cook County. Ickes controlled the agencies that helped reduce Depression unemployment in Chicago, the Public Works Administration (PWA), the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Civilian

Birding Map of Montrose Point, Lincoln Park, Chicago



Conservation Corps (CCC), and others. It was decided the WPA would handle the Montrose Point project, and thousands of unemployed laborers were put to work.

The Montrose Point project consisted of the creation of an additional mile of Lake Shore Drive (Montrose to Foster), Montrose Harbor and Beach House, and the Wilson Avenue Breakwater (Fishhook Breakwater), which required filling in all of Lake Michigan east of Clarendon Avenue. Work began in 1934 and it opened to the public in 1936. It was during this time that the Landing family visited my aunt, my father's sister, who lived on North Winthrop Avenue near Irving Park Road. My sister and I used to sit on her steps and listen to the PA announcer at Wrigley Field. My aunt complained of the dirt and noise of the construction project along the lake and, my father, being curious, took us all down to take a look. I figure that I was the first birder to actually visit Montrose Point, although Bill Beecher wrote an article about birding along the mud flats created by the construction work, and it appeared in the *Illinois Audubon* magazine in 1936.

When the Montrose Point project was approved, the Chicago Park District assigned a young landscape architect named Alfred G. Caldwell to prepare the landscaping plans. Caldwell had not been at the Park District very long, and this was his first major project. He had been hired by Jens Jensen, that Scandinavian landscaping genius to whom we owe Humboldt Park and Columbus Park. Caldwell's idea was to

Birding Landmarks at Montrose Point

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Lake Michigan | 21. Warbler Trees (8.5) |
| 2. The Magic Hedge (9.5 south, 6.9 north) | 22. Locust Tree (8.5) |
| 3. Montrose Point | 23. Crabapple Tree Overlook (7.3) |
| 4. Montrose Avenue Beach | 24. New soccer field |
| 5. Wilson Avenue Breakwater "The Fishhook Breakwater" | 25. Montrose Avenue parking lot |
| 6. Sea Rocket Alley | 26. Cricket Hill |
| 7. Peregrine Tower | 27. Corinthian Yacht Club |
| 8. Mount Montrose and Foredeun | 28. Montrose Harbor Drive |
| 9. Clump and Clump Annex (9.0) | 29. Simonds Avenue |
| 10. The Meadow (8.0) | 30. Montrose Avenue |
| 11. The Grassy Strip (4.5) | 31. Summer concession stands |
| 12. Montrose Avenue Harbor | 32. The turn-around |
| 13. Harbor Entrance | 33. Montrose Peninsula |
| 14. Handicapped Parking | 34. Royko's Grove (4.1) |
| 15. Perimeter plantings; 15a. horseshoe (6.2), 15b. Staghorn Sumac Groves (4.8), 15c. Gnatcatcher Hangout (5.5) | 35. Montrose Harbor Bait Shop |
| 16. Gallinule Grove (7.3) | 36. Proposed store and restaurant |
| 17. Large Copse (7.3) | 37. Baxter planting (4.5) |
| 18. Montrose Avenue Beach House | 38. Handicapped parking, sailboarding, sailing |
| 19. Beach House Copse (7.3) | 39. Murley Oaks |
| 20. Gull feeding area and parking | 40. Locust Grove (7.2) |
| | 41. Jack Pine Grove (2.9) |
| | R. Summer restrooms |