

7.0 Exhibition Place as Open Space / Festival Site / Parkland

background

- > Prime 192 acre waterfront location with approximately 45 acres of parkland, 45 acres of hard surface area, and 20 acres of roadways, and 1.3 million s.f. of indoor exhibit hall space (not presently leased on a permanent basis)- all of which would be available for festival use;
- > Complete event services (both in-ground and equipment) and event staff on-site;
- > No other equivalent site in Toronto except for Downsview which has available land but is not fully serviced for events;
- > Accessible venue transit, roadways, trains;
- > 17 buildings/structures listed or designated for heritage purposes;
- > Central location but outside downtown core so can handle large crowds without disrupting prime commercial activities;
- > Considered by City as part of the "public parkland" inventory available to meet the needs of the Parkdale community (basketball courts, open space, children's playground, Centennial Park);
- > City Secondary Plan states that: "The remade Exhibition Place will feature a significant open plaza capable of hosting large gatherings and festivals." Two of the four governing principles for the Waterfront Secondary Plan revolve around parks and open space "B. Building a Network of Spectacular Waterfront Parks and Public Spaces", and "C. Promoting a Clean and Green Environment". Mapping indicates that the western (parks) portion of Exhibition Place would remain with a "Parks and Open Space" designation while the remainder of Exhibition Place would become one of the "Regeneration Areas".

site requirements

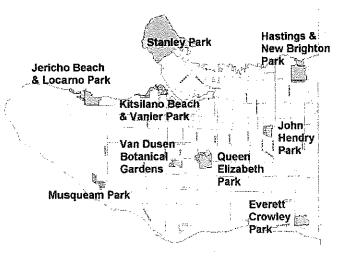
> Prime 192 acre waterfront location with approximately 45 acres of parkland, 45 acres of hard surface area, and 20 acres of roadways; altogether approx. 1.7 million s.f. of indoor space.

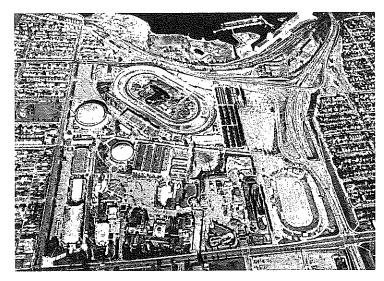
opportunities

- > Availability of indoor and outdoor event space allows City/Board to bid/attract major events such as World Youth Day;
- > "Looking available" is marketing tool combined with sales pitch to attract international events;
- > Allows for events that could not likely go anywhere else in Toronto (Molson Indy).

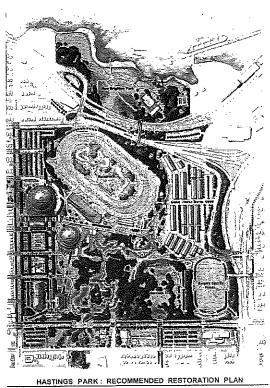
challenges

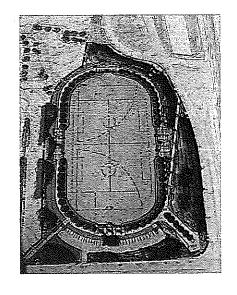
- Cost of maintaining 192 acres, buildings/structures, available event staff;
- > Will never be 100% occupied/utilized;
- > Decrease need and use as "local parkland" as City Secondary Plan is implemented.

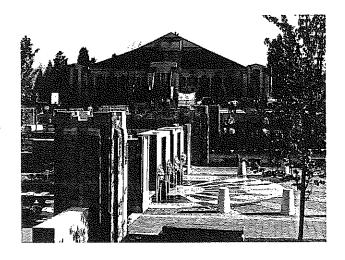


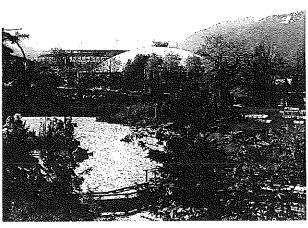


Hastings Park, Vancouver (former Pacific Exhibition Site)









Hastings Park

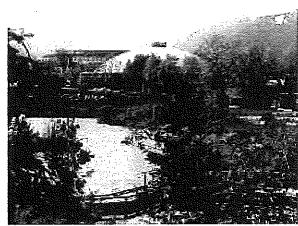
Hastings Park Homepage

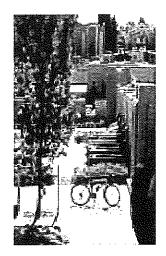
Restoration of Hastings Park

The PNE at Hastings Park

The Racetrack at Hastings Park







Hastings Park, with its 65 hectares (162 acres) of land, is destined to become the second largest park in the City of Vancouver. It is located in the northeast sector of the city in a neighbourhood called Hastings-Sunrise, and is bounded by Hastings Street, Renfrew Street, McGill Street and the Trans-Canada Highway (view Hastings Park context map).

The land was originally granted in trust to the City by the Province in 1888, with the site to be used as a public park. However, throughout most of the twentieth century, Hastings Park was home to two institutions: the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) and the horse racetrack. Over the years, the site lost its park character because of the construction of many buildings and parking lots. A 1995 aerial photo of Hastings Park shows the park before restoration began.

A <u>Restoration Plan</u> was prepared with the neighbourhood residents and approved by the City in 1997. Work began in the fall of 1997, and now two phases have been finished:

- the "sanctuary", a 4 hectare section of the park containing a lovely pond and surrounding natural landscaping, was completed in 1999;
- the <u>Italian Gardens</u>, a 2.5 hectare section that includes fountains, gargoyles, gardens, a children's playground and skateboard park, was completed in 2000.
- the Empire Fields, a 5.5 hectare section that includes sports fields in the location of the former Empire Stadium is now completed with the new fieldhouse slated for opening in Spring 2003.

The City has agreed to allow the PNE to remain at Hastings Park until December 2002.

The Restoration Plan assumed that the horse racetrack would stay at Hastings Park. Although progress has been made on the <u>agreement between the City and the racetrack</u>, the agreement has not yet been signed.

For information about the Hastings Park Restoration Plan, please contact <u>Curtis Link</u> at the Vancouver Park Board.

For information about the Pacific National Exhibition, visit the PNE's website

For information about the Hastings Park Horse Racetrack, visit the racetrack's website.

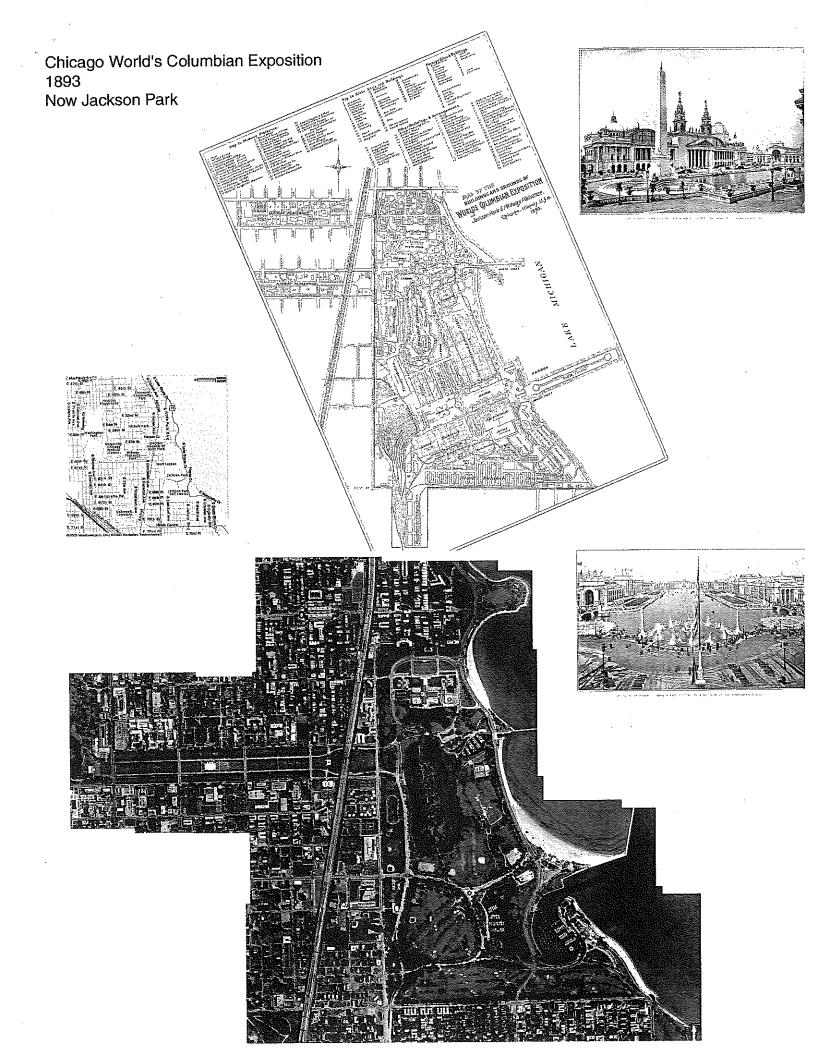
CHICAGO

The "I Will" spirit of Chicago was notably illustrated by the World's Columbian Exposition. Designed to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus, it was also to bring attention to the enterprise and ingenuity of Chicagoans and the phenomenal growth of their city. New York was a strong contender for the location of the exposition but Chicago's energy and determination eventually secured the vote of Congress in favor of that city.

Under the general supervision of Daniel H. Burnham, Jackson Park, then little more than a swamp, was transformed into a fabulous White City of classic buildings, statues and fountains. The beautiful Palace of Fine Arts won much acclaim and today it houses the Museum of Science and Industry. (The building was reduced to its original steel skeleton and brick walls and then reconstructed in permanent stone.)

The Exposition opened May 1, 1893, ran for six months and attracted 27,539,000 visitors--almost half of the total number of people then living in the United States.

http://www.chipublib.org/004chicago/timeline/columbianx.html



1933-34 A Century of Progress

A Century of Progress was organized as an Illinois not-for-profit corporation in January of 1928, having for its charter purpose the holding of a World's Fair in Chicago in 1933.

The site selected was the land and water areas under the jurisdiction of South Park commissioners lying along and adjacent to the shore of Lake Michigan, between 12th and 39th streets.

The theme of the exposition was to be the progress of civilization during the century of Chicago's corporate existence. Rufus C. Dawes was selected president of the Board of Trustees and Lenox R. Lohr the general manager.

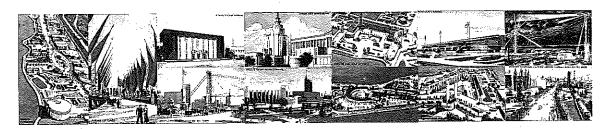
The fair was opened on May 27, 1933, when the lights were turned on with energy from the rays of the star Arcturus. The rays were focused on photo-electric cells in a series of astronomical observatories and then transformed into electrical energy which was transmitted to Chicago.

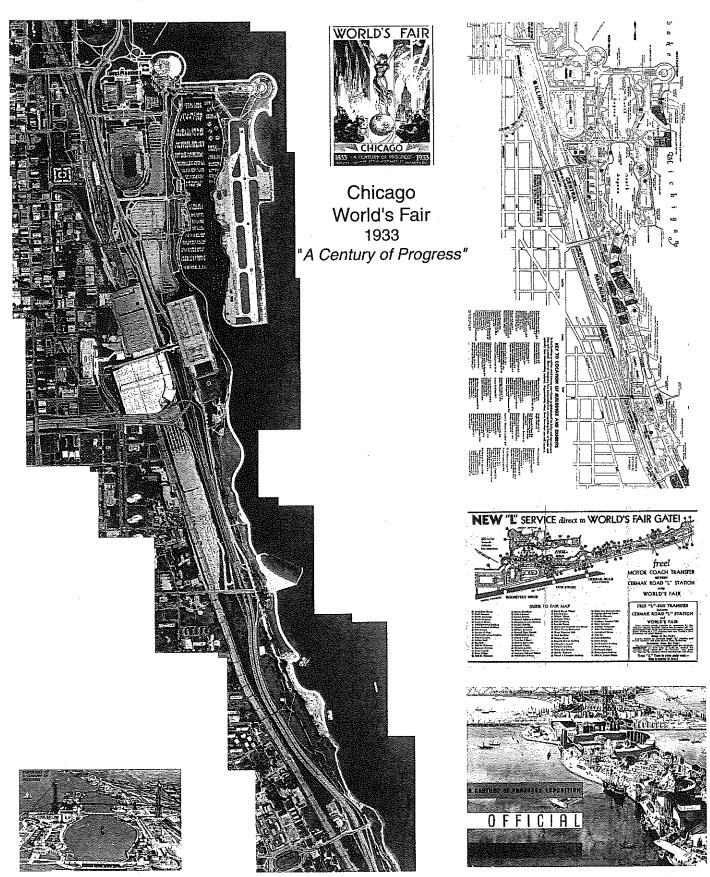
A Century of Progress drew 39,000,000 visitors (it was repeated in 1934) and for the first time in American history an international fair paid for itself. This fair presented many new ideas in the use of lighting and color but did not have the architectural influence of the World's Columbian Exposition.

http://www.chipublib.org/004chicago/timeline/centuryprog.html

Located south of the Navy Pier in Chicago, the site of A Century of Progress had 424 acres of lakeshore and was within walking distance of Chicago's downtown. The Fair Grounds comprised of two man-made lagoons and Northerly Island.

http://www.futurliner.com/fair.htm





MAP INDEX

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE AREAS (1) (3)

REGENERATION AREAS (3)

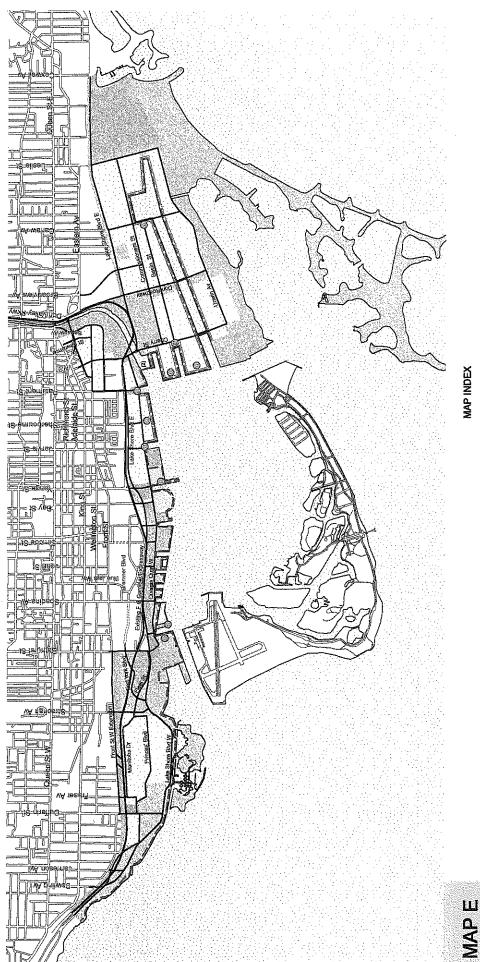
CENTRAL WATERFRONT SECONDARY PLAN

EXISTING USE AREAS (3)

PUBLIC PROMENADE (DOCKWALL / WATER'S EDGE)

INNER HARBOUR SPECIAL PLACES

LAND USE PLAN



MAP INDEX

SPACE AREAS (1)(3)

REGENERATION AREAS (3)

EXISTING USE AREAS (3)

FOOT OF YONGE SPECIAL STUDY AREA

PUBLIC PROMENADE (DOCKWALL / WATER'S EDGE)

INNER HARBOUR SPECIAL PLACES

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CENTRAL WATERFRONT SECONDARY PLAN LAND USE PLAN