



*chicago park district*  
CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT



WELCOME



*to the*  
chicago park district

Welcome to the serene natural beauty of the Chicago Park District. Here, we encourage you to experience this remarkable city that is home to a breathtaking band of natural landscapes providing stunning backdrops for the most memorable special events. Whether you seek a simple garden soiree or grand gala under the stars, you can find the ideal, one-of-a-kind setting within the Chicago Park District's 7,300 acres of parkland. The possibilities are endless.

The Chicago Park District, the oldest and most extensive recreation district in the United States, oversees the city's historic parks dating back to 1841. In an effort to continually improve these natural settings, the district has successfully renovated and beautified the existing parks to reflect their original splendor.

Within the Chicago Park District's variety of unique settings—including tranquil gardens, lakefront landscapes, and grand ballrooms—you and your guests can enjoy truly customized events. Whether you seek a venue that is elegant, relaxed, historic, or traditional, you will find it in one of our magnificent locations, each specially noted for a distinct personality and appeal.

On the cover: bottom photo courtesy of Blue Plate  
To the left: © Classic Party Rentals

One of the world's largest and most celebrated fountains, this Chicago icon will dazzle guests with an impressive hourly display that shoots a cascade of water 150 feet into the air.

Dedicated to the people of Chicago in 1927 by Kate Buckingham, the fountain was designed to represent Lake Michigan with four seahorses symbolizing the four states abutting the lake: Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan.

Today this ethereal setting affords magnificent backdrops of either the city skyline or Lake Michigan. After dusk this historic spot is transformed into a mystical, moonlit wonderland, perfect for a formal black-tie gala or a lakeside cocktail reception.



© Classic Party Rentals

# buckingham fountain



BUCKINGHAM FOUNTAIN  
Congress Parkway  
and Columbus Drive  
312.742.4847

SETTINGS  
North Pavilion  
39,285 sq. ft./4,760 guests  
South Pavilion  
37,788 sq. ft./4,760 guests

© Classic Party Rentals

# jackson park



Created by the famed designers of New York's Central Park, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, Jackson Park's historic 600 acres provide an abundance of scenic natural enclaves. Best of all, the acclaimed site of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition plays host to the jewel of Chicago's south lakefront, the 63rd Street Beach House.

Perched on the sands of Lake Michigan, the open-air facility boasts grand porticos overlooking panoramic views of crystal blue waters. Choose the covered promenade with sun-drenched balconies on the second floor or either of the majestic courtyards on the ground level. This south side gem has played host to formal dining affairs, community events, and family functions.



Photo courtesy of Blue Plate

JACKSON PARK  
63<sup>rd</sup> STREET BEACH HOUSE  
6300 S. Lake Shore Drive  
312.742.4847

SETTINGS  
Promenade  
11,600 sq. ft./1,340 guests  
Fountain Courtyard  
6,825 sq. ft./680 guests  
Serenity Courtyard  
10,500 sq. ft./1,000 guests  
Entire Site  
28,925 sq. ft./3,020 guests

NORTHERLY ISLAND  
1400 S. Lynn White Drive  
312.742.4847

SETTINGS  
Visitors Center  
4,163 sq. ft./416 guests  
Tent  
1,500 sq. ft./1,000 guests  
Lawn  
600,000 sq. ft./60,000 guests



# northerly island

© Kehoe Designs

*promontory*

See this magnificent park through the eyes of renowned designer Daniel Burnham, for here you get a million-dollar view of the entire cityscape sweeping before you from this lakeside peninsula.

Home to Chicago's second World's Fair, the site now features an elegant special events venue.

Affording views of the crystal-clear skyline and surrounded by lush rolling meadows, the building's inviting french doors open onto stone verandas just steps from Lake Michigan. Inside the historic structure, exposed brick and castle-like architecture create a warm, cozy setting. The blend of this inviting indoor space with breezy open-air terraces has lured many meetings, social gatherings, and weddings to this lakeside locale.



# promontory point

PROMONTORY POINT  
5491 S. Lake Shore Drive  
312.742.4847

SETTINGS  
Field House  
1,848 sq. ft./150 guests  
Lakefront Patio  
1,340 sq. ft./120 guests  
Front Patio  
1,680 sq. ft./160 guests



This 91-acre peninsula jutting into Lake Michigan is a splendid oasis tucked away just south of the Adler Planetarium and east of Soldier Field. The natural landscape at Northerly Island features beautiful strolling paths, casual play areas, and a spectacular view of the Chicago skyline.

Long known as the best single location in Illinois for Snowy Owls, this site is also an urban sanctuary for many species of butterflies in late summer and early fall.

Today, Daniel Burnham's vision of "Paris on the Prairie" is now a reality, ready to be fully enjoyed by you and your guests at your next special event.

*northerly*

# columbus park refectory



COLUMBUS PARK REFECTORY  
5701 West Jackson Boulevard  
773.287.0856

#### SETTINGS

- Dining Hall  
1,664 sq. ft./150 guests
- Dining Terrace  
1,728 sq. ft./150 guests
- Dance Hall  
2,208 sq. ft./200 guests
- South Terrace  
1,312 sq. ft./120 guests
- Pavilion  
2,768 sq. ft./250 guests
- Entire Facility  
9,680 sq. ft./870 guests



Columbus Park, the masterpiece of Jens Jenson—"dean of Prairie-style landscape architecture"—was inspired by the site's natural history and topography. With two natural waterfalls, stratified stonework ledges, and abundant landscaping, the grounds afford a serene setting and an opportunity to celebrate within a Chicago landmark.

Boasting three sun-drenched porticos, the Columbus Park Refectory's Spanish-influenced architecture, arched entryways, ornate terra cotta, and grand piano set the stage for a historically inspired event. The panoramic windows of the generous-sized dance hall present stunning vistas of the sparkling lagoon. It may sound like heaven, but it's closer and includes a nine-hole golf course plus convenient free parking!

© 2006 Carr Giebelle Photography

GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY  
300 N. Central Park Avenue  
312.746.5250

#### SETTINGS

- Horticulture Hall  
4,968 sq. ft./300 guests
- Monet Garden  
500 sq. ft./250 guests
- Jensen Room  
1,728 sq. ft./150 guests
- Community Room  
1,600 sq. ft./150 guests



Photo courtesy of Blue Plate

The world-class Garfield Park Conservatory is described as a work of "landscape art under glass." Here, dense rainforest, the desert cactus, and velvety moss create an awe-inspiring organic backdrop for any special event.

Jens Jenson's 1908 conservatory is one of Chicago's premier cultural institutions. Designed to emulate the simple form of a Midwestern haystack, the structure was a significant architectural departure from its predecessors. The centerpiece of the Conservatory, the fern room, showcases some of Jenson's most beautiful stone and water elements.

Here your guests can mingle in a lush, urban oasis, enveloped in the sights and fragrances of exotic flora. Spacious rooms feature stone paths that wind through the breathtaking gardens. With separate spaces dedicated to special events, seasonal décor, and a children's garden, this destination is perfect for large sit-down dinner functions or smaller, relaxed occasions.



# garfield park conservatory



Those who built this fabulous facility understood that entertaining is a fine art. The country club interior, grandiose ballrooms, cascading chandeliers, meeting rooms, and stunning art gallery make hosting here exceptional. Nestled within a 65-acre park on Lake Michigan and offering breathtaking water views, the impressive space is an historic treasure on the South Lakefront.

The extraordinary building was designed from a vision for a club within a country setting and was inspired from a photograph of an old private club in Mexico City.

Stage a small convention, honor employees, or throw the party of a lifetime! Top this off with a nine-hole golf course, lighted tennis courts, view of the lake, 50-seat restaurant, plus free parking outside, and it's easy to see why this site is incomparable.

# south shore cultural center



**SOUTH SHORE CULTURAL CENTER**  
7059 S. Shore Drive  
773.256.0149

#### SETTINGS

- Solarium  
3,890 sq. ft.  
(includes Blue Room Prep Area)
- Blue Room Prep Area  
870 sq. ft.
- Dining Room  
5,500 sq. ft.  
(includes Prep Area and Dining Foyer)
- Prep Area  
400 sq. ft.
- Dining Foyer  
1,860 sq. ft.
- Paul Robeson Theatre  
10,368 sq. ft.
- Theater Foyer  
1,767 sq. ft.
- Music Library  
375 sq. ft.
- Oak Room  
902 sq. ft.

Several additional garden settings make an event hosted in the Chicago Park District an exercise in limitless options.

#### CANCER SURVIVOR'S GARDEN

A hidden treasure in the heart of the city and close to the lake on East Randolph Street, this gorgeous garden is truly a delight to the senses. The exclusive ambiance features an intimate corridor of lush greenery that may be tented to host your next private event.

#### NORTH & SOUTH ROSE GARDENS

Meander among the roses and delight in the natural splendor of these charming settings. Adjacent to the majestic Buckingham Fountain, the Rose Gardens are nestled within Chicago's "front yard," Grant Park. Each serene garden contains a majestic fountain, award-winning rose gardens, and plush greenery.

#### LINCOLN PARK GRANDMOTHER'S AND FORMAL GARDENS

Prefer the roar of lions and tigers to the roar of the El? Nestled just west of the Lincoln Park Zoo, the Lincoln Park Conservatory and Gardens create a peaceful and enchanting mix for your event's atmosphere. Stroll along the pathways amongst abundant vegetation, and then emerge into the expansive outdoor gardens for dinner under the stars. This versatile spot offers endless options for indoor, open-air, or tented elements at your next event.



*Cancer Survivor's Garden*



*North Rose Garden*



*Lincoln Park Formal Garden*

# gardens

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**chicago park district.**

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552 parks

32 beaches

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10 bird and wildlife sanctuaries

2 world-class conservatories



Photo courtesy of Blue Plate

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