

Friends of the Parks wants to convince us that we should complete Daniel Burnham's plan designed in the early 1900's and fill in the lake with debris to form islands. The Chicago shoreline would sadly be much different today if Burnham's plan had been completed. Daniel Burnham could not envision the decades of progress that were to follow. He did not envision the love that people would have of the water to swim, fish, water ski, sail, and simply enjoy the sand and surf with their families. With man made islands blocking the flow of water our vast array of beautiful beaches on the north side would not exist. More specifically, in our area on the south side there would be no beaches for swimming at 12<sup>th</sup> Street, 31<sup>st</sup> Street, 57<sup>th</sup> Street, and 63<sup>rd</sup> Street. Once they started with Burnham's plan they might have extended it south of 66<sup>th</sup> Street. If that had happened it is possible that there would have been no beaches for swimming at the South Shore Cultural Center, the private beaches between 71<sup>st</sup> Street and 75<sup>th</sup> Street, and Rainbow Park. There never has been swimming in lagoons, such as Lincoln Park, Washington Park, or Jackson Park. It would have been the same with lagoons formed by islands. Burnham's Islands would have extended in some cases more than a thousand feet from the present shoreline. The water on the lake side of the man made islands would have been too deep and treacherous to allow public swimming areas.

Daniel Burnham was a product of the Victorian Age. Women in his world did not normally participate in swimming or any other sport activities. A woman who went to the beach to swim was completely clothed as if she were attending a formal affair. It was not a pleasant experience for her to go into the water being fully clothed. Burnham had no vision of people owning boats for the fun of being on the water. There were no provisions for harboring personal water craft or providing launching ramps for people to put their boats in the water. This was not foreseen. In Burnham's day anybody who wanted to go out on the lake went to a commercial dock, paid a nickel or a dime to a commercial boat owner, and waited until the commercial boat owner thought he had enough tickets sold to go out on the lake. Then he took the people out to feel the lake breezes on the open water, turned around, and headed back to the commercial dock.

If the Burnham islands had been completed, the only recourse that the people of Chicago would have had for swimming safely in clean water would have been to build public swimming pools such as has been done in other cities. Maybe this is what Friends of the Parks thinks is a great solution, to follow Burnham's plan to fill in the lake and then suggest that we build swimming pools to replace the destroyed beaches.

There is no city on our Great Lakes or oceans that would take private or public beaches, fill them in with debris, and create a nonsensical situation such as prevails in the minds of these people. Friends of the Parks would not do this to their own homes or property.

Robert G. Mican  
2565 East 72<sup>nd</sup> place  
Chicago, IL 60649-2727  
(773)721-7816  
rgmican@earthlink.net