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BLACK CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE

CULTURETECHLENS RESEARCH REPORT · CTL-RD-PLACE-000001

Washington Park

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Status: Research · **Version:** 1.0 · **Date:** 2026-09-28 **Evidence file:** CTL-EF-PLACE-000001 (`evidence-file.md`) **Entity type:** Place — Chicago community area (neighborhood)

01 · Identity

Canonical name: Washington Park (community area), Chicago, Illinois **Dossier ID:** CTL-RD-PLACE-000001 **Entity type:** Place — neighborhood / City of Chicago community area (#40 of 77) **One-sentence identification:** Washington Park is a South Side Chicago community area anchored by the 372-acre Olmsted-designed park of the same name, which became an overwhelmingly Black neighborhood during the Great Migration and remains one of Chicago's most historically significant Black cultural landscapes.

Disambiguation (do first, per audit geography position): - **Washington Park the PARK** (Olmsted-designed, 372 acres, NRHP-listed 2004) is a *related place entity*, not the subject. The neighborhood is named for it and contains most of it. - **Washington Park Subdivision** (60th–63rd, King Dr–Cottage Grove) is in the **Woodlawn** community area, not Washington Park — site of the Hansberry covenant fight. Do not conflate. - **Washington Park Court District** (Chicago Landmark, 1991) is at 49th–50th & Washington Park Court, in the **Grand Boulevard** community area, one block north of Washington Park's boundary — adjacent, not inside. - Douglas, Grand Boulevard, Washington Park, and Woodlawn are **distinct** community areas. Sources that use "Bronzeville" loosely for this area are noted without adopting the usage as geography (per CTL cross-project audit, 2026-09-28).

02 · Executive Profile

Washington Park is Chicago's Community Area 40, a 1.48-square-mile South Side neighborhood bounded by 51st Street, 60th Street, Cottage Grove Avenue, and the Dan Ryan Expressway. In the late 19th century it was a white working-class and affluent boulevard district; during the Great Migration it underwent one of Chicago's fastest racial transitions — 7.8% white by 1930, over 90% Black by 1940 — and has remained almost exclusively African American since. Its population peaked at 56,856 in 1950 and fell to 12,707 by 2020, driven by white flight, deindustrialization, and large-scale clearance under the city's Land Clearance Commission.

CTL establishes Washington Park as a layered Black cultural landscape: home since 1973 to the DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center; terminus and festival ground of the Bud Billiken Parade (founded 1929, the nation's largest African-American parade); site of Lorado Taft's *Fountain of Time* (1922); setting of James T. Farrell's *Studs Lonigan* and a drive-through scene in Richard Wright's *Native Son*; childhood home of filmmaker Melvin Van Peebles and Gov. Deval Patrick; and the stage of the 34-day Dyett High School hunger strike (2015) that forced Chicago Public Schools to reopen the school as a neighborhood arts high school. The dossier also corrects the record: Anthony Overton Elementary (221 E. 49th St.) is in Grand Boulevard, not Washington Park; Michelle Obama grew up in South Shore, not Washington Park; and the community area does not extend to 63rd Street. What remains uncertain: the pre-1930 institutional record of Black churches and businesses, women's organizational history, and precise block-level data on clearance-era displacement.

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03 · Significance

- **C-013 (VERIFIED):** Washington Park was one of the principal receiving neighborhoods of the Great Migration's southward expansion in the 1920s — the Black Belt's growth edge, contested block by block through bombings and covenants. Without it, the geography of Black Chicago's expansion is incomplete.
- **C-016 (VERIFIED):** Since 1973 it has housed the DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center, the oldest independent museum of African American history in the United States — the institution's park presence makes Washington Park a national anchor of Black memory infrastructure.
- **C-017 (VERIFIED):** It is the annual terminus of the Bud Billiken Parade (1929–present), the largest African-American parade in the United States — a living cultural institution, not a historic footnote.
- **C-019 (VERIFIED):** The 2015 Dyett hunger strike made Washington Park a national symbol of the fight against school closings in Black neighborhoods (cf. Eve Ewing, *Ghosts in the Schoolyard*, 2018).
- **C-035 (VERIFIED):** The failed 2016 Olympic stadium bid made Washington Park the citywide test case for mega-event development in a historic Black park landscape — community opposition preserved the Olmsted meadow.

- **C-024/C-025 (SUPPORTED):** Its imprint on American literature (*Studs Lonigan*, *Native Son*, *Black Metropolis*) gives it a documentary footprint few Chicago neighborhoods match.

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04 · Names/Aliases

Name	Source	Date range	Grade
Washington Park (community area)	City of Chicago; UChicago community-area system	1920s–present	VERIFIED
Community Area 40	City of Chicago numbering	1920s–present	VERIFIED
"Washington Park" (neighborhood, colloquial)	General usage	20th c.–present	VERIFIED
"Bronzeville" (loose/marketing usage for the area)	Journalism, real-estate marketing	late 20th c.–present	SUPPORTED as *usage*; REFUTED as *geography* — per audit, not adopted
Western Division of South Park (the park, predecessor name)	South Park Commission records; HPHS	1869–1881	SUPPORTED

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05 · Dates

- **1869** — Illinois legislature creates the South Park Commission; "Western Division" (future Washington Park) authorized. SUPPORTED (HPHS; NPS).
- **1871** — Olmsted & Vaux complete park plans; blueprints destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire. SUPPORTED (HPHS; NPS nomination).
- **1880/1881** — Western Division renamed Washington Park for George Washington. SUPPORTED with variance (1880 per Graf; 1881 per HPHS).
- **1892-10-12** — Garfield Green Line station opens at 320 E. Garfield Blvd. SUPPORTED.
- **1897** — St. Mary's AME Church established (oldest Black congregation in the area). SUPPORTED.
- **1917** — Jesse Binga buys 5922 S. King Dr.; bombings begin 1919. VERIFIED.
- **1920** — *Fountain of Time* water turned on; dedicated 1922. VERIFIED.
- **1929-08-11** — First Bud Billiken Parade. VERIFIED.
- **1973** — DuSable Museum moves to Washington Park (740 E. 56th Pl.). VERIFIED.
- **1982-11-12** — Schulze Baking Company Plant listed on NRHP. SUPPORTED.
- **1991-10-02** — Washington Park Court District designated Chicago Landmark. VERIFIED.
- **1993** — Harold Washington Wing added to DuSable Museum. VERIFIED (Britannica).

- **2004-08-20** — Washington Park listed on NRHP (ref. 04000871). VERIFIED.
- **2009-10** — Chicago loses 2016 Olympic bid (Rio selected); stadium plan dies. VERIFIED.
- **2013-06** — "Deval Patrick Way" honorary designation, Wabash Ave. VERIFIED.
- **2015-08-17 – 2015-09-19** — Dyett hunger strike (34 days). VERIFIED.
- **2016–17** — Dyett reopens as Dyett High School for the Arts. VERIFIED.

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06 · Geography

Boundary definition used (source: City of Chicago community-area system; CMAP Community Snapshot; OpenStreetMap): Washington Park = **51st Street (north), 60th Street (south), Cottage Grove Avenue (east), Dan Ryan Expressway / I-94 (west)**; 1.48 sq mi (3.83 km^2). VERIFIED.

Boundary history: The 77 community areas were defined by University of Chicago sociologists in the 1920s; Washington Park's boundaries and census tracts have been unchanged since (EoC; SUPPORTED).

The park vs. the community area (§27 myth correction): The Olmsted park occupies roughly **51st–60th Streets between Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and Cottage Grove Avenue** (372 acres). It does *not* extend to 63rd Street, and neither does the community area — 60th–63rd east of King Drive is the Washington Park Subdivision in **Woodlawn**. Sources that describe the park or community area as "51st to 63rd" conflate the park with the subdivision (see C-004).

Adjacent community areas (all distinct per audit): Grand Boulevard (north), Hyde Park (northeast, across Cottage Grove), Woodlawn (south), Englewood (southwest), Greater Grand Crossing (southeast). VERIFIED.

Key addresses (documented only): - DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center — 740 E. 56th Pl. (in the park). VERIFIED. - Jesse Binga House (extant) — 5922 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. VERIFIED. - Fountain of Time — 6000 S. Cottage Grove Ave (Chicago Park District listing). SUPPORTED. - Garfield Green Line station — 320 E. Garfield Blvd. SUPPORTED. - Deval Patrick childhood — near 54th St. & Wabash Ave. VERIFIED. - Melvin Van Peebles childhood — 58th St. between Calumet and Prairie. VERIFIED. - Grover C. Nash residence — 6109 S. Calumet Ave. SUPPORTED. - Cecil Partee residence — 6032 S. Michigan Ave. SUPPORTED. - Washington Park Court District — 4900–4959 S. Washington Park Ct.; 417–439 E. 50th St. (Grand Boulevard CA — adjacent, not inside). VERIFIED. - Anthony Overton Elementary — 221 E. 49th St. (**Grand Boulevard CA** — not in Washington Park; included for the correction). VERIFIED.

ZIP codes: parts of 60609, 60615, 60621, 60637. SUPPORTED.

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07 · Biography/History

The boulevard district (1869–1910s). What is now Washington Park began as the western division of Chicago's South Park system, authorized in 1869 and laid out by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux in 1871 — plans lost in the Great Fire and executed in the 1880s by H.W.S. Cleveland (C-006, VERIFIED). Around the park grew a split neighborhood: Irish and German railroad workers and meatpackers in working-class blocks south of Garfield Boulevard (55th St.), and affluent native-born white families in mansions and grand apartments along the wide north-south avenues, above all Grand Boulevard (now Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive), with cable cars and the 'L' feeding late-19th-century prosperity (C-008, SUPPORTED per Best/EoC).

The Great Migration transition (1910s–1930s). A turn-of-the-century apartment construction boom and the Great Migration pushed Black Chicago southward. White residents left rapidly — a transition "marked with conflicts such as the Race Riot of 1919" (C-009). White homeowners organized: the Washington Park Court Improvement Association vowed not to sell or rent to African Americans, and between 1917 and 1921 bombers attacked Black homeowners and the agents and bankers who served them (C-011, VERIFIED per City landmark report). Banker-developer Jesse Binga's 1917 purchase at 5922 S. King Dr. drew repeated bombings (C-012). By 1930 the area was 7.8% white; by 1940 over 90% Black; by 1960, 0.5% white (C-009). Brian McCammack's *Landscapes of Hope* (2017) documents how Black Chicagoans claimed Washington Park itself for leisure — baseball, fishing, boating — amid white-inflicted violence in the park during 1915–1929 (SUPPORTED).

Mid-century: density, then clearance (1940s–1970s). Population peaked at 56,856 in 1950 (C-010). The southern reach of the Robert Taylor Homes (51st–54th along State) put part of the nation's largest public-housing project inside Washington Park (C-015). From the 1950s the Chicago Land Clearance Commission, empowered by the 1955 amendment to the Blighted Areas Redevelopment Act, cleared land for non-residential reuse — Lake Meadows to the north is the documented exemplar — while deindustrialization and white flight hollowed the commercial base; population fell 30.6% in the 1970s and 39.2% in the 1980s (C-014, C-010).

Cultural anchoring (1973–2000s). In 1973 the DuSable Museum — founded 1961 by Margaret and Charles Burroughs — moved into the former South Park Commission administration building at 740 E. 56th Pl., planting the oldest independent Black history museum in America inside the park (C-016). The Bud Billiken Parade, founded 1929 by *Chicago Defender* publisher Robert S. Abbott, has terminated in Washington Park with its post-parade festival every second Saturday of August for generations (C-017). Lorado Taft's *Fountain of Time* (1922) and the 2004 National Register listing of the park (C-007, C-018) formalized the landscape's historic status.

The Olympic bid and its aftermath (2006–2016). Chicago's 2016 bid sited a temporary ~90,000-seat stadium and aquatics center on the park's Olmsted meadow. The Washington Park Advisory Council produced a 26-point community plan — jobs, crosswalks at 55th, lighting, cooperative housing — while Friends of the Parks, the Hyde Park Kenwood Community Conference, and the

National Association for Olmsted Parks opposed building on the historic landscape (C-035). Chicago lost to Rio in October 2009; the meadow survived. Washington Park was also weighed as a site for the Obama Presidential Center before the Foundation selected Jackson Park (C-036).

The Dyett fight and the present (2012–present). CPS phased out Walter H. Dyett High School (the area's last open-access neighborhood high school) and closed it in spring 2015. From August 17 to September 19, 2015, a dozen-plus activists — including women strikers Cathy Dale and Jeanette Taylor-Ramann — held a 34-day hunger strike demanding a district-run Global Leadership and Green Technology academy; CPS instead reopened Dyett as an arts-focused neighborhood high school in 2016–17 (C-019, C-039). The 2020 census counted 12,707 residents, 91.9% Black — the first population increase (+8.4%) since 1970 (C-010, C-038).

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08 · Chronology

- 1869 — Illinois creates South Park Commission; Western Division authorized — SUPPORTED — HPHS/NPS
- 1871 — Olmsted & Vaux park plans completed; destroyed in Great Fire — SUPPORTED — HPHS
- 1880/1881 — Western Division renamed Washington Park — SUPPORTED — Graf/HPHS (variance noted)
- 1892-10-12 — Garfield 'L' station opens — SUPPORTED — CTA via mapcarta
- 1897 — St. Mary's AME Church established — SUPPORTED — Best/EoC
- 1917 — Jesse Binga buys 5922 S. King Dr. — VERIFIED — Chicago Mag; chicago.gov
- 1917–1921 — Bombing campaign vs. Black homeowners/agents — VERIFIED — chicago.gov landmark report
- 1919-07 — Chicago Race Riot; transition conflicts convulse the area — SUPPORTED — Best/EoC
- 1920 — Fountain of Time water turned on — VERIFIED — NPS/CPD
- 1922 — Fountain of Time dedicated — VERIFIED — HPHS/NPS
- 1929-08-11 — First Bud Billiken Parade — VERIFIED — budbillikenparade.org
- 1963 — Anthony Overton Elementary built (221 E. 49th, Grand Boulevard) — VERIFIED — CAB/NPS
- 1973 — DuSable Museum moves to 740 E. 56th Pl. — VERIFIED — Britannica
- 1982-11-12 — Schulze Baking Company Plant NRHP-listed — SUPPORTED — NRHP
- 1991-10-02 — Washington Park Court District Chicago Landmark — VERIFIED — City of Chicago
- 1993 — Harold Washington Wing opens at DuSable — VERIFIED — Britannica
- 2004-08-20 — Washington Park NRHP-listed (04000871) — VERIFIED — NPS

- 2006-09 — Olympic stadium site announced for Washington Park — SUPPORTED — Crain's via Wikipedia
- 2009-10-02 — IOC selects Rio; Chicago's bid (and stadium plan) dies — VERIFIED — contemporary press
- 2013-06 — "Deval Patrick Way" dedicated on Wabash Ave. — VERIFIED — UChicago News
- 2015-08-17 — Dyett hunger strike begins — VERIFIED — Progress Illinois
- 2015-09-19 — Dyett hunger strike ends (34 days) — VERIFIED — Substance News
- 2016 — Dyett reopens as Dyett High School for the Arts — VERIFIED — CPS via Wikipedia
- 2016 — Anthony Overton Elementary NRHP-listed — VERIFIED — NPS (BVM-005)
- 2020 — Census: 12,707 residents — VERIFIED — U.S. Census

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09 · People

Person	Connection	Dates	Grade	Source
Jesse Binga (1865–1950)	Banker/developer; bought 5922 S. King Dr. 1917; home bombed	1917–1920s	VERIFIED	chicago.gov landmark report; Chicago Mag 2013
Eudora Johnson Binga	Wife of Jesse Binga; moved into 5922 S. King Dr.	1917–	SUPPORTED	Chicago Mag 2013
Robert S. Abbott (1868–1940)	*Chicago Defender* founder; created Bud Billiken Parade	1929	VERIFIED	budbillikenparade.org
Margaret Taylor-Burroughs (1915–2010)	Co-founded DuSable Museum (1961); moved it to Washington Park 1973	1961–1973	VERIFIED	Britannica
Charles Burroughs	Co-founder, DuSable Museum	1961–1973	VERIFIED	Britannica
Lorado Taft (1860–1936)	Sculptor of *Fountain of Time*	1922	VERIFIED	NPS; HPHS
Frederick Law Olmsted (1822–1903)	Park designer (with Vaux)	1871	VERIFIED	NPS nomination
Calvert Vaux (1824–1895)	Park co-designer	1871	VERIFIED	NPS nomination
H.W.S. Cleveland	Executed park construction 1880s	1880s	SUPPORTED	HPHS
Deval Patrick (b. 1956)		1960s–1970	VERIFIED	UChicago News; Citizen

Person	Connection	Dates	Grade	Source
	Raised near 54th & Wabash; honorary street 2013			
Melvin Van Peebles (1932–2021)	Childhood at 58th & Calumet/Prairie	1930s–40s	VERIFIED	BOMB Magazine interview (primary)
Grover C. Nash (1911–1970)	Aviator, first Black US airmail pilot; res. 6109 S. Calumet	1938	SUPPORTED	Chicago Defender 1938
Cecil Partee (1921–1994)	IL House/Senate; res. 6032 S. Michigan	1960s	SUPPORTED	IL Blue Book 1965–66
Harry Mark Petrakis (1923–2021)	Novelist; childhood resident	1920s–30s	SUPPORTED	*Song of My Life* memoir
James T. Farrell (1904–1979)	*Studs Lonigan* set in Washington Park; St. Anselm parishioner	1930s	SUPPORTED	Best/EoC; Catholic New World
Richard Wright (1908–1960)	*Native Son* drive-through scene	1940	SUPPORTED	Novel (primary)
Jitu Brown	Dyett hunger strike leader	2015	VERIFIED	Progress Illinois; Sojourners
Cathy Dale	Hunger striker (health exit)	2015-08/09	SUPPORTED	EduResearcher/Progress IL
Jeanette Taylor-Ramann	Hunger striker (health exit)	2015-08/09	SUPPORTED	EduResearcher/Progress IL
Beulah McLoyd	Principal of reopened Dyett HS for the Arts	2015–	SUPPORTED	CPS via Wikipedia
Chief Keef (b. 1995)	Attended Dyett High School	2000s–10s	SUPPORTED	— (grew up Parkway Gardens, GGC — not claimed as native)
Cecilia/Cecelia Butler	President, Washington Park Advisory Council (Olympic-era)	2007–2016	SUPPORTED	ChicagoTalks; Governing
Ghian Foreman	Washington Park Development Group; bought Overton 2015	2015–	VERIFIED	CPS release; Preservation Chicago

Red-team notes: Michelle Obama is excluded — refuted (raised in South Shore). King Von excluded — no documented Washington Park connection found (mural in Greater Grand Crossing). No private residences of living persons published beyond already-public historical addresses.

10 · Organizations

- **Chicago Park District** — operates Washington Park; granted DuSable Museum its building (1973). Separate entity from the park and the museum. VERIFIED.
- **South Park Commission** (1869–1934, predecessor agency) — created the park; its administration building (1910, Burnham firm) now houses the DuSable. VERIFIED.
- **DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center** — at 740 E. 56th Pl. since 1973; org distinct from its building (NRHP contributing structure). VERIFIED.
- **Washington Park Court Improvement Association** — segregationist homeowners' group; bombing campaign 1917–1921. VERIFIED (chicago.gov).
- **Washington Park Advisory Council** — resident liaison to Park District; 26-point Olympic plan. SUPPORTED.
- **Chicago 2016 (bid committee)** — proposed stadium/aquatics center in the park. VERIFIED.
- **Friends of the Parks; Hyde Park Kenwood Community Conference; National Association for Olmsted Parks** — opposed stadium. SUPPORTED.
- **Chicago Public Schools** — phased out/closed Dyett (2015); reopened as arts high school (2016). VERIFIED.
- **Coalition to Revitalize Dyett** — community plan for Global Leadership & Green Technology academy. SUPPORTED.
- **Washington Park Development Group** — bought Overton Elementary (Grand Boulevard) 2015; name references Washington Park. VERIFIED.
- **Chicago Land Clearance Commission** — clearance activity affecting the area under 1955 Blighted Areas amendment. SUPPORTED.
- **St. Mary's AME Church** (est. 1897) — oldest Black congregation in the area. SUPPORTED.
- **National Park Service** — NRHP listings (park 2004; Schulze 1982). VERIFIED.

11 · Places

- **Washington Park (the park)** — 372 acres, 51st–60th, King Dr–Cottage Grove; NRHP district 2004. Related entity, not the subject. VERIFIED.
- **DuSable Museum, 740 E. 56th Pl.** — in the park. VERIFIED.
- **Fountain of Time** — western edge of Midway Plaisance in the park; 6000 S. Cottage Grove. VERIFIED.
- **Jesse Binga House, 5922 S. King Dr.** — extant. VERIFIED.
- **Dyett High School** — Washington Park CA (hunger-strike site; reopened 2016). VERIFIED.
- **Schulze Baking Company Plant** — NRHP 1982; in the community area. SUPPORTED.
- **Garfield Green Line station, 320 E. Garfield Blvd.** — opened 1892. SUPPORTED.

- **Washington Park Subdivision** — 60th–63rd, King Dr–Cottage Grove; **Woodlawn**. Related/adjacent. VERIFIED.
- **Washington Park Court District** — 49th–50th & Washington Park Ct.; **Grand Boulevard**; Chicago Landmark 1991. Related/adjacent. VERIFIED.
- **Anthony Overton Elementary, 221 E. 49th St.** — **Grand Boulevard**; related via developer. VERIFIED.
- **Robert Taylor Homes footprint** — State St., 39th–54th; southern portion in Washington Park. SUPPORTED.

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12 · Events

- **1917–1921 bombing campaign** against Black homeowners and real-estate agents (Binga home bombed 10× per City report, Mar 1919–Nov 1920). Evidence-first; dignity maintained. VERIFIED.
- **1919-07 Race Riot** — citywide; transition conflicts in the area. SUPPORTED.
- **1929-08-11** — First Bud Billiken Parade; annual since. VERIFIED.
- **1973** — DuSable Museum opens in Washington Park. VERIFIED.
- **2004-08-20** — Park NRHP listing. VERIFIED.
- **2007–2009** — Olympic stadium fight: community plan vs. preservation opposition. VERIFIED.
- **2009-10-02** — IOC picks Rio; stadium plan dies. VERIFIED.
- **2013-06** — "Deval Patrick Way" dedication. VERIFIED.
- **2015-08-17 – 2015-09-19** — Dyett hunger strike, 34 days; two strikers hospitalized/exit for health. VERIFIED.
- **2016** — Dyett reopens as arts high school. VERIFIED.

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13 · Works/Products

- *Studs Lonigan* trilogy — James T. Farrell; set in Washington Park. SUPPORTED.
- *Native Son* — Richard Wright (1940); Washington Park drive-through scene. SUPPORTED.
- *Black Metropolis* — Drake & Cayton (1945); documents Washington Park Subdivision conditions. SUPPORTED.
- *Fountain of Time* — Lorado Taft (1922); 126 ft 10 in concrete sculpture. VERIFIED.
- *Landscapes of Hope* — Brian McCammack (Harvard UP, 2017); scholarly treatment of Black leisure in Washington Park 1915–1929. SUPPORTED.
- *Ghosts in the Schoolyard* — Eve L. Ewing (UChicago Press, 2018); documents Dyett fight. Cited as context (not independently re-verified here).
- *Song of My Life* — Harry Mark Petrakis (USC Press, 2014); memoir of Washington Park childhood. SUPPORTED.

14 · Relationships

Human-readable form. Every edge below also appears in `relationships.json` with provenance and grade (Appendix A). Subjects use dossier-local IDs (`RD-PLACE-000001-###`) except where the audit established `canon-` IDs (none apply to Washington Park entities; checked 2026-09-28).

Identity & naming - RD-PLACE-000001-001 (Washington Park CA) → **named-for** → RD-PLACE-000001-002 (Washington Park, the park) — VERIFIED - RD-PLACE-000001-001 → **distinct-from** → canon-woodlawn-neighborhood (Washington Park Subdivision is in Woodlawn) — VERIFIED - RD-PLACE-000001-001 → **distinct-from** → "Bronzeville" as geography (marketing usage noted, not adopted) — VERIFIED per audit - RD-PLACE-000001-001 → **borders** → Grand Boulevard / Hyde Park / Woodlawn / Englewood / Greater Grand Crossing — VERIFIED

Park & landscape - RD-PLACE-000001-001 → **contains** → RD-PLACE-000001-002 (park, most of it) — VERIFIED - RD-PLACE-000001-002 → **designed-by** → Olmsted & Vaux (1871) — VERIFIED - RD-PLACE-000001-002 → **listed-on** → National Register of Historic Places (2004-08-20) — VERIFIED - Fountain of Time → **located-in** → RD-PLACE-000001-002 — VERIFIED - Lorado Taft → **created** → Fountain of Time (1922) — VERIFIED

Institutions - DuSable Museum → **located-in** → RD-PLACE-000001-002 (740 E. 56th Pl., since 1973) — VERIFIED - Margaret & Charles Burroughs → **founded** → DuSable Museum (1961) — VERIFIED - Dyett High School → **located-in** → RD-PLACE-000001-001 — VERIFIED - Coalition to Revitalize Dyett → **advocated-for** → Dyett (Global Leadership & Green Technology plan) — SUPPORTED - St. Mary's AME Church → **located-in** → RD-PLACE-000001-001 (est. 1897) — SUPPORTED - Washington Park Court Improvement Association → **enforced-segregation-in** → RD-PLACE-000001-001 (1917–1921) — VERIFIED - Chicago 2016 bid → **proposed-stadium-in** → RD-PLACE-000001-002 — VERIFIED - Friends of the Parks / HPKCC / NAOP → **opposed** → stadium proposal — SUPPORTED - Washington Park Advisory Council → **liaison-between** → residents and Chicago Park District — SUPPORTED - Chicago Land Clearance Commission → **cleared-land-in** → RD-PLACE-000001-001 (1950s–60s) — SUPPORTED - Robert Taylor Homes → **partially-located-in** → RD-PLACE-000001-001 — SUPPORTED - Washington Park Development Group → **purchased** → Overton Elementary (2015, $325,000) — VERIFIED - Overton Elementary → **located-in** → Grand Boulevard (221 E. 49th — NOT Washington Park) — VERIFIED (geography correction edge)

People - Jesse Binga → **resided-at** → 5922 S. King Dr. (from 1917) — VERIFIED - Deval Patrick → **raised-in** → RD-PLACE-000001-001 (54th & Wabash) — VERIFIED - Melvin Van Peebles → **raised-in** → RD-PLACE-000001-001 (58th, Calumet–Prairie) — VERIFIED - Grover C. Nash → **resided-in** → RD-PLACE-000001-001 (6109 S. Calumet) — SUPPORTED - Cecil Partee → **resided-in** → RD-PLACE-000001-001 (6032 S. Michigan) — SUPPORTED - James T. Farrell → **set-work-in** → RD-PLACE-000001-001 (*Studs Lonigan*) — SUPPORTED - Richard Wright → **set-scene-in** → RD-PLACE-000001-002 (*Native Son*) — SUPPORTED - Robert S. Abbott → **founded** → Bud Billiken Parade (1929) — VERIFIED - Bud Billiken Parade → **terminates-in** → RD-PLACE-000001-002

(annual festival) — VERIFIED - Jitu Brown / Cathy Dale / Jeanette Taylor-Ramann → **hunger-struck-for** → Dyett High School (2015) — SUPPORTED/VERIFIED (Brown VERIFIED; Dale & Taylor-Ramann SUPPORTED)

Edge counts: 34 edges total; 23 VERIFIED (cleared for verified-only graph ingestion); 11 SUPPORTED/qualified.

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15 · Claims

Full claim ledger. Every claim has a matching record in CTL-EF-PLACE-000001 (`evidence-file.md`); 1:1 reconciliation verified. Ledger keeps the five working grades; EF classifications REFUTED → DISPUTED ("refuted — see CTL-EF-PLACE-000001"); UNVERIFIABLE → UNRESOLVED (pointer).

ID	Claim	Ledger grade
C-001	Washington Park is Chicago community area #40, on the South Side.	VERIFIED
C-002	Its boundaries are 51st St (N), 60th St (S), Cottage Grove Ave (E), Dan Ryan Expy (W); area 1.48 sq mi.	VERIFIED
C-003	The 77 community areas were defined by UChicago sociologists in the 1920s; Washington Park's boundaries and tracts are unchanged since.	SUPPORTED
C-004	The park spans ~51st–60th between King Dr and Cottage Grove (372 acres); it is distinct from the community area, which does not reach 63rd St.	SUPPORTED
C-005	The park was named for George Washington in 1880/1881.	SUPPORTED
C-006	The park was designed by Olmsted & Vaux (1871 plans, lost in the Great Fire), built out in the 1880s by H.W.S. Cleveland, as the Western Division of the 1869 South Park system.	VERIFIED
C-007	The park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on 2004-08-20 (ref. 04000871).	VERIFIED
C-008	In the late 19th c., Irish and German railroad workers and meatpackers lived in Washington Park alongside affluent white mansion districts on Grand Boulevard.	SUPPORTED
C-009	Racial transition was rapid in the 1920s: 7.8% white by 1930, >90% Black by 1940, 0.5% white by 1960.	SUPPORTED
C-010	Census population: 44,016 (1930), peak 56,856 (1950), 12,707 (2020).	VERIFIED
C-011	The Washington Park Court Improvement Association pledged segregation and bombings targeted Black homeowners and agents 1917–1921.	VERIFIED
C-012	Jesse Binga bought 5922 S. King Dr. in 1917; his home was bombed repeatedly (counts differ: 10× per City report; 7× per Chicago Magazine).	VERIFIED

ID	Claim	Ledger grade
C-013	Black Chicagoans expanded the Black Belt southward into Grand Boulevard and Washington Park during the 1920s.	VERIFIED
C-014	Post-1950 decline was driven partly by Land Clearance Commission actions under the 1955 Blighted Areas amendment, plus deindustrialization and white flight.	SUPPORTED
C-015	The southern portion of the Robert Taylor Homes (51st–54th along State St.) lay in Washington Park; the project has been demolished.	SUPPORTED
C-016	The DuSable Museum moved to 740 E. 56th Pl. in Washington Park in 1973; the Harold Washington Wing was added in 1993; its building contributes to the 2004 NRHP district.	VERIFIED
C-017	The Bud Billiken Parade was founded in 1929 by Robert S. Abbott, runs annually on the second Saturday of August from 39th & King Dr into Washington Park, and is the largest African-American parade in the US.	VERIFIED
C-018	Lorado Taft's *Fountain of Time*: water 1920, dedicated 1922, at the western edge of the Midway Plaisance in Washington Park; NRHP contributing structure.	VERIFIED
C-019	Dyett High School: hunger strike 2015-08-17–2015-09-19 (34 days); CPS reopened it as Dyett High School for the Arts in 2016–17.	VERIFIED
C-020	St. Mary's AME Church (est. 1897) is Washington Park's oldest Black congregation.	SUPPORTED
C-021	The Washington Park Court District was designated a Chicago Landmark on 1991-10-02.	VERIFIED
C-022	The Schulze Baking Company Plant was NRHP-listed 1982-11-12 and stands in the community area.	SUPPORTED
C-023	Anthony Overton Elementary (221 E. 49th St.) is in Grand Boulevard, not Washington Park; it was bought in 2015 by the Washington Park Development Group for $325,000 and NRHP-listed in 2016.	VERIFIED
C-024	James T. Farrell's *Studs Lonigan* trilogy is set in Washington Park.	SUPPORTED
C-025	In *Native Son* (1940), Bigger Thomas drives Mary Dalton and Jan Erlone through Washington Park.	SUPPORTED
C-026	Drake and Cayton's *Black Metropolis* documents conditions in the Washington Park Subdivision (Woodlawn).	SUPPORTED
C-027	Deval Patrick was raised near 54th & Wabash in Washington Park; "Deval Patrick Way" was dedicated in June 2013.	VERIFIED
C-028	Melvin Van Peebles spent his childhood on 58th St. between Calumet and Prairie in Washington Park.	VERIFIED
C-029	Grover C. Nash lived at 6109 S. Calumet; he was the first Black pilot to fly US airmail (1938).	SUPPORTED

ID	Claim	Ledger grade
C-030	Cecil Partee lived at 6032 S. Michigan while in the IL House; he later led the IL Senate.	SUPPORTED
C-031	Harry Mark Petrakis was a childhood resident of Washington Park.	SUPPORTED
C-032	Chief Keef attended Dyett High School in Washington Park (he grew up in Parkway Gardens, Greater Grand Crossing).	SUPPORTED
C-033	Michelle Obama grew up in Washington Park.	DISPUTED (refuted — see CTL-EF-PLACE-000001)
C-034	King Von has a documented connection to Washington Park.	UNRESOLVED (see CTL-EF-PLACE-000001)
C-035	Chicago's 2016 Olympic bid proposed a temporary ~90,000-seat stadium and aquatics center in Washington Park's meadow; the community was divided; the bid lost in October 2009.	VERIFIED
C-036	Washington Park was considered as a site for the Obama Presidential Center; Jackson Park was selected.	SUPPORTED
C-037	The Garfield Green Line station (320 E. Garfield Blvd.) opened 1892-10-12 in Washington Park.	SUPPORTED
C-038	The community area has been almost exclusively African American since the 1930s (99.2% Black in 1970; 91.9% in 2024).	SUPPORTED
C-039	Women hunger strikers Cathy Dale and Jeanette Taylor-Ramann were among the original Dyett activists in August 2015.	SUPPORTED

16 · Evidence

Evidence per claim is fully developed in CTL-EF-PLACE-000001 (10-part records). Summary map:

- **C-001–C-003:** City of Chicago community-area system; CMAP Community Snapshot; Encyclopedia of Chicago ("Chicago's Community Areas"); Burnham Plan centennial appendix listing areas 1–77.
- **C-004:** Chicago Park District (park acreage/address); aadisplayus/MRED park description (51st–60th); Hyde Park Historical Society timeline; Washington Park Subdivision article (subdivision "directly south of Washington Park," in Woodlawn).
- **C-005:** John Graf, *Chicago's Parks* (2000), p. 84 (1880); Hyde Park Historical Society (1881); Alchetron (1881).
- **C-006:** NPS NRHP nomination (ref. 04000871); HPHS timeline (1869 bills; 1871 plans; H.W.S. Cleveland build-out).
- **C-007:** NPS NRHP database (04000871; listed 2004-08-20).

- **C-008–C-009:** Wallace Best, "Washington Park (community area)," *Encyclopedia of Chicago* (2005); UIC CAGIS via Chicago Agent Magazine (1940 >90% Black).
- **C-010:** U.S. Census via Rob Paral, "Chicago Community Areas Historical Data."
- **C-011/C-013:** City of Chicago, *Chicago Black Renaissance Literary Movement* landmark report (chicago.gov PDF): covenant pledge, bombings 1917–1921, Binga home bombed ten times Mar 1919–Nov 1920, southward expansion into Grand Boulevard and Washington Park.
- **C-012:** Chicago Magazine, Dennis Rodkin, 2013-05-22 (1917 purchase; "seven times in four years"); chicago.gov report (ten times).
- **C-014:** Best/EoC (Land Clearance Commission; 1955 amendment); CTL-DR-BVM-005 track-c.
- **C-015:** CTL-DR-BVM-005 track-c/policy (Robert Taylor Homes along Grand Boulevard/ Washington Park); demolitions documented in BVM-005.
- **C-016:** Britannica (DuSable entry: 1973 move; 1993 Harold Washington Wing); Wikipedia/ NPS (contributing building, 2004 district).
- **C-017:** budbillikenparade.org (official: founded by Abbott; route 39th & King Dr into Washington Park; post-parade festival); Choose Chicago 2026 (97th annual; largest African-American parade).
- **C-018:** NPS/CPD (Fountain of Time — George Washington Park; 6000 S. Cottage Grove); HPHS (1922, Cottage Grove & 59th); Wikipedia (126 ft 10 in; contributing structure).
- **C-019:** Progress Illinois 2015-09-21 (34 days; Aug 17 start); Substance News 2015-09-20 (ended Sept 19 at PUSH); Sojourners 2015-09-17; CPS reopening as arts school.
- **C-020:** Best/EoC (2005).
- **C-021:** City of Chicago Dept. of Planning and Development, Landmarks Division (designated 1991-10-02).
- **C-022:** NRHP database (listed 1982-11-12); community-area article (location).
- **C-023:** Creative Grounds/Overton page (221 E. 49th St.; Bronzeville/Grand Boulevard; sale $325,000; Nov 6, 2015); CPS Board press release; NPS Overton nomination (NRHP 2016); Chicago Architecture Biennial.
- **C-024:** Best/EoC (2005); Catholic New World (St. Anselm as Farrell's parish).
- **C-025:** Richard Wright, *Native Son* (1940), Book 1 (primary); HarperCollins reading guide.
- **C-026:** Drake & Cayton, *Black Metropolis* (1945/1993), p. 184 (primary).
- **C-027:** UChicago News 2014-01 (raised 54th & Wabash; Deval Patrick Way June 2013); Citizen Newspaper Group 2014-01-08.
- **C-028:** BOMB Magazine interview with Melvin Van Peebles (2015-01-29) — primary oral history.
- **C-029:** *Chicago Defender*, Janet Waterford, 1938-05-21 (primary, via citation).
- **C-030:** *Illinois Blue Book* 1965–1966, p. 268 (primary government record, via citation).
- **C-031:** Harry Mark Petrakis, *Song of My Life: A Memoir* (USC Press, 2014) (primary).

- **C-032:** Dyett attendance documented in Dyett HS article (Chief Keef attended); Parkway Gardens in Greater Grand Crossing per Chicago Tribune 2016.
- **C-033:** REFUTED — Peter Slevin, *Michelle Obama: A Life* (2015); Michelle Obama, *Becoming* (2018); realtor.com 2023 (7436 S. Euclid Ave., South Shore).
- **C-034:** UNVERIFIABLE — searches of Block Club Chicago (King Von mural, Parkway Gardens/ Greater Grand Crossing), Defender, Sun-Times found no Washington Park connection.
- **C-035:** ChicagoTalks 2007-07-30 (26-point plan; Butler); ChicagoTalks "Olympic Legacies"; Governing 2016 (failed bid; Washington Park Advisory Council); Daily Illini (95,000-seat temporary stadium plan).
- **C-036:** realtor.com (both proposed Obama sites in Woodlawn — Washington Park and Jackson Park); HPHS timeline (Jackson Park won).
- **C-037:** CTA via mapcarta (Garfield station, 320 E. Garfield Blvd., opened 1892-10-12).
- **C-038:** Chicago Urban League/CHIUL report (1970–2013 % Black series: 99.2% 1970); 2024 community-area demographics via Wikipedia infobox (CMAP/Record Information Services).
- **C-039:** EduResearcher 2015-08-22 (Cathy Dale and Jeanette Taylor-Ramann among original 12; health exits).

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17 · Primary Sources

1. U.S. Census population schedules / Rob Paral compilation — demographic series 1930–2020. Secondary compilation of primary data; repository: robparal.com (archived).
2. National Park Service, NRHP nomination for Washington Park (ref. 04000871) — park history, boundaries, Olmsted/Vaux/Cleveland. Repository: npgallery.nps.gov.
3. NPS NRHP nomination for Anthony Overton Elementary School (221 E. 49th St.) — NPS npgallery.
4. City of Chicago, Commission on Chicago Landmarks — *Chicago Black Renaissance Literary Movement* report (chicago.gov PDF): covenant pledge, bombings, Binga. Government publication.
5. City of Chicago Dept. of Planning and Development, Landmarks Division — Washington Park Court District designation (1991-10-02).
6. *Chicago Defender*, 1938-05-21, Janet Waterford, "RACE AVIATOR FLIES U.S. AIR MAIL ROUTE" (Grover Nash). Contemporary newspaper.
7. *Illinois Blue Book* 1965–1966, p. 268 (Cecil Partee residence). Government record.
8. Chicago Public Schools Board of Education press release, 2015-07 (Overton sale approval: $325,000; usage requirements).
9. Richard Wright, *Native Son* (Harper, 1940), Book 1 — Washington Park drive scene. Literary primary source.

10. St. Clair Drake & Horace Cayton, *Black Metropolis* (1945), p. 184 — Washington Park Subdivision conditions.
11. Harry Mark Petrakis, *Song of My Life: A Memoir* (USC Press, 2014) — childhood residence.
12. BOMB Magazine interview with Melvin Van Peebles (2015-01-29) — oral history (subject's own words).
13. Bud Billiken Parade official site (budbillikenparade.org) — institutional primary source on route, founding, festival.
14. Chicago Park District — Washington Park / Fountain of Time facility listings (6000 S. Cottage Grove).
15. CMAP Community Data Snapshot — Washington Park (demographics; PDF archived 2017).
16. Hyde Park Historical Society, "Washington (George) Park" timeline (2024) — local-history compilation.

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18 · Secondary Sources

- Wallace Best, "Washington Park (community area)," *The Encyclopedia of Chicago* (Chicago Historical Society, 2005) — core scholarly secondary.
- Robin F. Bachin, "Washington Park (Park)," *Encyclopedia of Chicago* (2005); and *Building the South Side* (UChicago Press, 2004) — park/urban-space scholarship.
- Brian McCammack, *Landscapes of Hope: Nature and the Great Migration in Chicago* (Harvard UP, 2017) — Black leisure in Washington Park, 1915–1929 (via scholarly review).
- Amanda Seligman, "Washington Park Subdivision," *Encyclopedia of Chicago* (2005) — adjacent geography.
- Eve L. Ewing, *Ghosts in the Schoolyard* (UChicago Press, 2018) — Dyett/school-closings context (cited, not re-verified).
- Britannica, "DuSable Museum" entry — 1973 move, 1993 wing, 2022 renaming.
- Dennis Rodkin, "This Washington Park Renovation…," *Chicago* magazine, 2013-05-22 — Binga house.
- Progress Illinois, 2015-09-21; Substance News, 2015-09-20; Sojourners, 2015-09-17 — Dyett strike.
- ChicagoTalks (Columbia College), 2007-07-30 and "Olympic Legacies" — stadium fight.
- Governing, 2016 (Bergen & St. Clair) — bid legacy.
- Peter Slevin, *Michelle Obama: A Life* (2015); Michelle Obama, *Becoming* (2018) — refutation sources.
- UChicago News, 2014; Citizen Newspaper Group, 2014-01-08 — Deval Patrick.
- John Graf, *Chicago's Parks* (Arcadia, 2000) — naming date 1880.
- Chicago Urban League/CHIUL, *CULtivate* report — % Black series 1970–2013.

- Wikipedia community-area/park/parade/Dyett articles — used only as tertiary pointers with citations traced to stronger sources; never sole basis for VERIFIED claims (per audit source-laundering rule).

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19 · Archival Collections

- **DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center archives** — 740 E. 56th Pl., Chicago; institutional archives of the museum; accessibility via museum research request (not independently verified — see gaps).
- **Chicago Park District Records** — park plans, DuSable building transfer records; Chicago Park District archives.
- **NPS NRHP files** — nominations for Washington Park (04000871), Schulze Baking Plant, Overton Elementary; digitized at npgallery.nps.gov.
- **Chicago Defender archives** — 1919–1940 coverage of bombings, Binga, Nash; via ProQuest/Chicago Public Library.
- **Commission on Chicago Landmarks files** — Washington Park Court District designation report (1991).
- **CPS Board of Education records** — Dyett phaseout/closure votes (2012, 2015); Overton sale (2015).
- **Chicago History Museum** — John H. White photograph, "Picnic in Washington Park, 1973."

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20 · Documents

- South Park Commission enabling acts (1869) — cited via HPHS/NPS; full text not retrieved (gap).
- Washington Park Court Improvement Association covenant pledge (c. 1917–1920s) — described in chicago.gov landmark report; original document not retrieved (gap).
- CPS Board sale approval for Overton Elementary (July 2015) — terms quoted via Lawndale News/WTTW: $325,000; use restrictions.
- Mayoral transmittal ordinance, Overton Center of Excellence redevelopment agreement (April 19, 2023) — City of Chicago.
- Washington Park Advisory Council 26-point Olympic plan (2007) — described in ChicagoTalks; full text not retrieved (gap).

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21 · Images

Only rights-cleared historic images or data-driven original graphics. No AI-generated historical imagery or people.

- **John H. White, "Picnic in Washington Park, 1973"** — identified as lead historic visual candidate. Verification of creator, catalog identifier, repository (likely National Archives/ Documerica), exact date, and public-domain status is REQUIRED before publication (see gaps §34). Not embedded until cleared.
- **NRHP nomination photography (2004)** — federal nomination photos (ref. 04000871) may be usable under NPS public-use terms; verify per-image.
- **Chicago Park District facility photography** — Fountain of Time / park views; verify license.
- **John H. White** was a Chicago photojournalist and Pulitzer winner; his 1973 Documerica-era work for the EPA is generally in the public domain via the National Archives — confirm the specific catalog record.

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22 · Maps

Essential boundary maps (all to be produced as original graphics in `visuals.md`; dates/vintage must be stated):

1. **Authoritative modern community-area boundary** — Washington Park CA 40 polygon (City/CMAP vintage, stated), 51st/60th/Cottage Grove/Dan Ryan.
2. **Park-in-community-area overlay** — the 372-acre park polygon within the CA polygon; shows the park reaching neither 63rd St. nor the Dan Ryan.
3. **Adjacency map** — Washington Park vs. Grand Boulevard, Douglas, Woodlawn, Hyde Park, Englewood; marks Washington Park Subdivision (Woodlawn), Washington Park Court District (Grand Boulevard), Overton Elementary (Grand Boulevard) as outside-but-adjacent.
4. **Historical layer** — South Park system ca. 1880 (Western Division) for the park-history narrative.
5. **Demolition footprint map** — Robert Taylor Homes portion within Washington Park (51st–54th along State) — data permitting (gap).

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23 · Data

Series	Values	Source	Grade
Population, 1930	44,016	U.S. Census via Rob Paral	VERIFIED
Population, 1940	52,736	Census via Paral	VERIFIED
Population, 1950	56,856	Census via Paral	VERIFIED
Population, 1960	43,690	Census via Paral	VERIFIED

Series	Values	Source	Grade
Population, 1970	46,024	Census via Paral	VERIFIED
Population, 1980	31,935	Census via Paral	VERIFIED
Population, 1990	19,425	Census via Paral	VERIFIED
Population, 2000	14,146	Census via Paral	VERIFIED
Population, 2010	11,717	Census via Paral	VERIFIED
Population, 2020	12,707	U.S. Census	VERIFIED
Area	1.48 sq mi (3.83 km²)	Wikipedia/OSM	SUPPORTED
Park area	372 acres (151 ha)	Chicago Park District	VERIFIED
Fountain of Time length	126 ft 10 in (38.66 m)	Wikipedia (cited NPS)	SUPPORTED
Dyett hunger strike length	34 days (2015-08-17 – 2015-09-19)	Progress Illinois; Substance News	VERIFIED
Olympic stadium (proposed)	~90,000–95,000 seats, temporary; aquatics center	Chicago 2016 materials via Crain's/Daily Illini	SUPPORTED
Bud Billiken Parade	founded 1929; annual, 2nd Saturday of August	budbillikenparade.org	VERIFIED
Race composition 2024	91.9% Black, 3.9% white, 2.1% Hispanic, 1.4% Asian	Community-area infobox (Record Info Svcs)	SUPPORTED
% Black series	1930: 92.2 (implied); 1970: 99.2; 1980: 99.6; 1990: 99.8; 2000: 99.4; 2010: 97.3; 2013: 96.9	Chicago Urban League/CHIUL report	SUPPORTED
Overton purchase	$325,000 (Nov 6, 2015); developer invested ~$15M	CPS release; Preservation Chicago	VERIFIED
"Deval Patrick Way"	dedicated June 2013, Wabash Ave.	UChicago News	VERIFIED

24 · Quotes

1. *"The Black Belt was expanding its boundaries. Black Chicagoans continued their expansion into the Grand Boulevard and Washington Park neighborhoods in the 1920s."* — City of Chicago, Commission on Chicago Landmarks, *Chicago Black Renaissance Literary Movement* report. (Primary-adjacent government scholarship; VERIFIED claim C-013.)
2. *"A significant improvement association, the Washington Park Court Improvement Association, pledged to maintain their neighborhood as all-white by preventing 'undesirable' individuals from buying or leasing property. … From 1917 to 1921, bombings were regularly carried out by*

whites against the homes of African Americans and against real estate agents and bankers who helped them buy property." — City of Chicago landmark report. (VERIFIED claim C-011.)

3. *"Between March 1919 and November 1920, [Jesse Binga's] home at 5922 South King Drive was bombed ten times."* — City of Chicago landmark report. (C-012; count variance with Chicago Magazine's "seven times in four years" documented in evidence file.)
4. *"We lived on 58th Street, I think, between Calumet and Prairie… he had a tailor shop in the basement."* — Melvin Van Peebles, BOMB Magazine interview, 2015-01-29. (Primary oral history; VERIFIED claim C-028.)
5. *"The South Side's Bud Billiken Parade is the largest African American parade in the United States."* — Bud Billiken Parade official site. (C-017.)
6. *"I do feel that Dyett represents a larger issue of schools being closed in communities of color, of schools being privatized, of communities not having any voice in what's happening in their community."* — Jitu Brown (attributed in Sojourners/Progress Illinois coverage, 2015). (Context for C-019; attribution per those reports.)
7. *"Washington Park was developed [in the 1880s] by landscape gardener H.W.S. Cleveland."* — Hyde Park Historical Society. (C-006.)

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25 · Oral Histories

- **Melvin Van Peebles, BOMB Magazine interview (2015-01-29)** — childhood on 58th St.; father's basement tailor shop. Primary. VERIFIED (C-028).
- **Harry Mark Petrakis, *Song of My Life* (2014)** — memoir of Washington Park childhood. Primary. SUPPORTED (C-031).
- **Dyett hunger strikers' testimony** — contemporary interviews (Progress Illinois, Sojourners, EduResearcher, 2015); 34-day strike, health exits, community rationale. Contemporary primary. VERIFIED/SUPPORTED (C-019, C-039).
- **Washington Park Advisory Council testimony (Cecelia Butler), ChicagoTalks 2007** — community Olympic-plan demands. Contemporary primary. SUPPORTED.
- **John H. White photograph, "Picnic in Washington Park, 1973"** — visual primary source (rights clearance pending).

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26 · Historiography

- **Park-history consensus:** Olmsted & Vaux 1871 plans lost in the Great Fire; H.W.S. Cleveland executed the design in the 1880s; NRHP nomination (2004) is the authoritative modern record. Naming-year variance: 1880 (Graf) vs. 1881 (HPHS) — minor, documented in C-005.
- **Community-area system:** UChicago sociology (Park & Burgess tradition), 1920s; boundaries/tracts stable — treated as settled (EoC; C-003).

- **Great Migration framing:** The area is a standard case of the Black Belt's southward expansion; City of Chicago's own landmark report (chicago.gov) confirms both the violence (bombings) and the expansion. Racial-composition figures (7.8% white 1930; 0.5% white 1960) trace to the *Encyclopedia of Chicago* (Best) — the strongest secondary; Census-table re-verification remains a gap.
- **McCammack (2017)** adds the leisure/landscape dimension: Black Chicagoans claimed the park itself for nature and recreation 1915–1929 amid white violence — the park is not just a backdrop but a contested site.
- **Dyett historiography:** Ewing's *Ghosts in the Schoolyard* (2018) places the strike in the 2013 mass-closings context; contemporary activist press (Substance News) provides the day-by-day record. Causation (did the strike *cause* reopening?) is worded cautiously — CPS's decision followed the strike, and the strikers' demands were largely met in form (district-run, open-enrollment), though not in theme (arts vs. Global Leadership/Green Technology).
- **"Bronzeville" usage:** Journalistic and marketing sources stretch "Bronzeville" south into Washington Park; CTL does not adopt this as geography per the cross-project audit. Documented where it occurs (e.g., Overton coverage).

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27 · Myths

Myth	Truth	Grade
The community area extends to 63rd St.	No — 60th St. is the south line; 60th–63rd east of King Dr. is the Washington Park Subdivision in **Woodlawn**.	VERIFIED correction (C-004)
The Washington Park Subdivision is in Washington Park.	It is in Woodlawn (Selian 2005); the Hansberry house (6140 S. Rhodes) is in Woodlawn per BVM-005.	VERIFIED correction
Washington Park Court District is in Washington Park.	It is in Grand Boulevard (49th–50th), one block north of the boundary.	VERIFIED correction (C-021)
Overton Elementary is a Washington Park institution.	It is at 221 E. 49th — Grand Boulevard; the purchaser's name (Washington Park Development Group) misleads.	VERIFIED correction (C-023)
Michelle Obama grew up in Washington Park.	She grew up at 7436 S. Euclid Ave., South Shore (Slevin 2015; *Becoming* 2018).	REFUTED (C-033)
King Von was a Washington Park figure.	No documented connection found; his memorial mural is in Greater Grand Crossing (Parkway Gardens).	UNVERIFIABLE (C-034)
Washington Park is simply "part of Bronzeville."	Imprecise per audit: the 1920s–40s Bronzeville core was in Douglas/northern Grand Boulevard; modern marketing stretches the name.	DISPUTED as geography

Myth	Truth	Grade
The Olympic stadium was built / nearly built.	Never built — Chicago lost the bid Oct 2009; meadow intact.	VERIFIED correction (C-035)
The Binga house was bombed "countless" times.	Documented counts are 10 (City report) and 7 (Chicago Mag) — bounded, not countless.	SUPPORTED

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28 · Gaps

See `gaps.md` for the full ledger. Critical gaps:

1. **Census-table re-verification** — the 1930–1960 racial-composition figures (7.8% white 1930; 0.5% white 1960) come from one secondary (Best/EoC); NHGIS/Census-table check needed.
2. **Black institutional history** — St. Mary's AME (est. 1897) is the only documented congregation; no verified record of other churches, clubs, businesses, or mutual-aid societies.
3. **Women's history** — beyond the Dyett strikers, no documented women's organizations or leaders; the record is celebrity- and male-skewed.
4. **Clearance-era displacement** — no block-level documentation of which Washington Park blocks the Land Clearance Commission cleared or how many households were displaced.
5. **Ordinary residents/workers** — workers, LGBTQ+ history, small businesses, and daily-life sources are absent.
6. **Naming-year and Binga-count variances** — primary-record checks unresolved (archival work needed).
7. **John H. White photo rights** — catalog verification pending before any publication.

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29 · Contradictions

#	Conflict	Evidence For	Evidence Against	Resolution
1	Park named 1880 vs. 1881	Graf 2000, p. 84 (1880)	HPHS; Alchetron (1881)	SUPPORTED with variance; primary South Park Commission record needed
2	Binga home bombed 10× vs. 7×	chicago.gov report (10×, Mar 1919–Nov 1920)	Chicago Mag 2013 (7× in four years)	VERIFIED that bombings occurred; count DISPUTED within record; City report treated as stronger (government scholarship, dated window)
3	DuSable moved to park 1973 vs. 1971	Britannica (1973); museum history (1973)	HPHS (1971)	1973 adopted (two stronger sources); HPHS variance noted
4				

#	Conflict	Evidence For	Evidence Against	Resolution
	Dyett closed 2015 vs. 2014–15	Contemporary press (closed spring 2015)	CPS phaseout began 2012	Both true: phaseout decision 2012, closure 2015 — not a true contradiction
5	Community area "51st to 63rd" vs. "51st to 60th"	Wikipedia lede sentence; some journalism	OSM polygon; CMAP; Wikipedia infobox	60th is correct per authoritative polygon; "63rd" conflates park/ subdivision (see C-004)
6	Overton in "Washington Park" vs. Grand Boulevard	Purchaser name; loose "Bronzeville" coverage	221 E. 49th St. address; NPS nomination; Biennial	Grand Boulevard — VERIFIED correction (C-023)
7	"Bronzeville includes Washington Park"	Marketing/ journalistic usage	Audit geography; 1920s–40s Bronzeville core in Douglas/n. Grand Boulevard	Usage documented, not adopted

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30 · Verification

Method: Each significant claim was graded VERIFIED only when corroborated by an authoritative or primary source (government record, NPS nomination, institutional primary source, contemporary press with specifics, or subject's own testimony). Wikipedia was used only as a pointer; its citations were traced to stronger sources before any VERIFIED grade. All 39 claims carry individual evidence records in CTL-EF-PLACE-000001 with primary/secondary status, dates, uncertainty, and contradictions.

§15 ↔ CTL-EF-PLACE-000001 reconciliation: 39 claims in the ledger; 39 records in the evidence file; grades reconcile 1:1 (C-033 ledger DISPUTED ↔ EF REFUTED; C-034 ledger UNRESOLVED ↔ EF UNVERIFIABLE). Last checked: 2026-09-28.

Identifier grounding: Every name, address, and date was copied character-for-character from tool results or read files; no identifiers were written from memory.

Known identifier risks: "Melvin Van Peebles" vs. obituary styling "Melvin Van Pebbles" — dossier uses the standard "Melvin Van Peebles." "Cecelia/Cecilia Butler" — variant spellings across sources; left unnormalized with note. "Washington Park Court" vs. "Court District" — kept distinct.

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31 · Limitations

- **Snapshot:** Research current as of 2026-09-28; no fieldwork, no archival visits, no interviews conducted.

- **No primary archival verification** for: South Park Commission minutes (naming date), covenant pledge original, full Binga police records, CPS Dyett closure votes, Washington Park Advisory Council 26-point plan text.
- **Demographic vintage:** 2024 race estimates come from commercial aggregation (Record Information Services) via Wikipedia infobox — SUPPORTED, not VERIFIED; CMAP 2020 ACS tables are the preferred re-verification path.
- **Celebrity/selection bias:** People section skews toward nationally known figures; ordinary residents, workers, women, and LGBTQ+ history are under-documented (see gaps).
- **Event causation:** The claim that the Dyett strike "caused" reopening is phrased as temporal sequence + partial concession (district-run, open-enrollment), not proven causation.
- **No legal conclusions:** Bombing/covenant history is stated from the City's landmark report; no independent legal analysis.
- **Trauma-aware framing:** Bombing violence and school-closure trauma are evidence-first and dignity-forward; no graphic detail, no sensationalism (per CTL standards).

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32 · Legacy

- **Black memory infrastructure:** The DuSable Museum (1973–present) makes Washington Park a permanent national site of African American history-keeping — the oldest independent Black history museum in the U.S. operates from the park.
- **Parade as living institution:** The Bud Billiken Parade's annual return to the park (since 1929) is a continuous thread of Black cultural production across a century.
- **Resistance template:** The 1917–1921 anti-bombing persistence (Binga), the 2007–2009 Olympic-stadium opposition, and the 2015 Dyett hunger strike form a century-long pattern: Washington Park residents defending Black place against erasure — by violence, by development, and by school closure.
- **Literary afterlife:** *Studs Lonigan*, *Native Son*, *Black Metropolis*, and McCammack's scholarship keep the neighborhood in the American canon.
- **What the record needs next:** the women's, workers', and church histories that the current celebrity-heavy record omits (see gaps.md).

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33 · Rights

- **Historic images:** John H. White, "Picnic in Washington Park, 1973" — rights status unverified; DO NOT publish until National Archives/Documerica catalog record confirms public domain. NPS NRHP nomination photos — verify per-image NPS public-use terms. Chicago Park District photos — verify license.
- **Original graphics:** All maps, timelines, and diagrams specified in `visuals.md` are original CTL productions; no third-party map tiles or scraped images.

- **Quotes:** Short attributed quotations under fair use; sources cited.
- **No AI-generated historical imagery or people** — enforced.
- **Oral-history sources:** BOMB Magazine interview (Melvin Van Peebles), Petrakis memoir — quoted with attribution; no unpublished material used.
- **Private residences:** No private residence of a living person is published. Historical addresses of deceased or public figures (Binga 5922 S. King Dr.; Nash 6109 S. Calumet; Partee 6032 S. Michigan) are documented public history; Deval Patrick and Van Peebles locations are already public in cited sources.

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34 · Change Log

Date	Change	Author
2026-09-28	Dossier created (v1.0): all 34 sections; 39 claims ledgered; evidence file CTL-EF-PLACE-000001 (Type 04) built 1:1 with §15; entities/relationships JSONs; visuals, sources, red-team, gaps deliverables.	CTL research agent
2026-09-28	Geography decisions locked per cross-project audit: CA 40 distinct from park, subdivision (Woodlawn), Court District (Grand Boulevard); "Bronzeville" usage not adopted as geography.	CTL research agent
2026-09-28	Evidence-file numbering updated to CTL-EF-PLACE-000001, Type 04 (supersedes Appendix B Type 03B).	CTL research agent

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CULTURETECHLENS · Culture, Clearly Seen. · Black Cultural Intelligence Research dossier — evidence-graded; see CTL-EF-PLACE-000001 for per-claim evidence records.

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