

# Making History



## The Forest Preserves of Cook County and the Chicago Zoological Society



1869

The idea of preserving natural areas in Cook County is first discussed.

1905, 1908, 1911

Various Illinois State laws are passed to protect local natural areas but are weakly worded or ruled unconstitutional.

1921

The Chicago Zoological Society, which would build and manage Brookfield Zoo, is chartered. This begins collaboration between the Society and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, the most comprehensive and successful public/private partnership among North American conservation organizations.



The crowds were thick on the Chicago Zoological Park's opening day.

1999

Indian Lake and the nature trail become part of Brookfield Zoo's Salt Creek Wilderness, which also includes Dragonfly Marsh.



Dragonfly Marsh is a great place to relax and enjoy nature.



As a home for many plant and animal species, the Des Plaines River (above) and Salt Creek (right) are important waterways in the Forest Preserves of Cook County. They converge just south of Brookfield Zoo.

Early 1900s

Chicago architects Jens Jensen and Dwight H. Perkins initiate a study that suggests an agency is needed to preserve natural areas.



1913

The Forest Preserve District Act of 1913 authorizes a Forest Preserve District to acquire and protect local natural areas for the benefit of the public.

1914

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County is established.

1919

Chicago socialite Edith Rockefeller McCormick donates 83 acres so that the Forest Preserve District can turn them into a modern zoo.

1927

The then-named Waterfowl Lake is excavated.



Excavating Waterfowl Lake was a grand effort. Train tracks were laid so that dirt could be transported away.

1934

The Chicago Zoological Park (Brookfield Zoo) opens.



When the Chicago Zoological Park opened, the excitement was substantial.

1972

Islands and a nature trail are added to Waterfowl Lake, which is renamed Indian Lake in honor of the area's original Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi inhabitants.



The nature trail that was added to Swan Lake (then Waterfowl Lake) in 1972 has been popular with zoo guests for its setting of serenity and contemplation of nature.

2013

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County becomes the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

2014

Indian Lake is renamed Swan Lake and the nature trail becomes the Forest Preserve Nature Trail.

