

GARDEN CONSERVANCY AIDS RESTORATION OF JENSEN GARDEN IN CHICAGO

After over a century of use and visitation, a historic Chicago garden completed in 1908 is in need of a makeover. Nestled in the city's Humboldt Park, the Jensen Formal Garden was designed by Jens Jensen, an influential American landscape architect who helped popularize the use of native plants.



Plans are underway to renovate the Jensen Formal Garden at Humboldt Park in Chicago.

Its circular design included flower beds filled with richly colored annuals and perennials. Created in the period when urban areas were becoming densely populated, it was intended to enrich the lives of those without gardens of their own. But over time the garden's infrastructure and plantings have slowly deteriorated.

To give the garden the attention it needs, the Chicago Park District and Chicago Parks Foundation have partnered with the Garden Conservancy, a national non-profit organization dedicated to preserving historically and culturally significant gardens. The plan is to replace or renovate the garden's pergolas, walls, and walkways. While emulating Jensen's original planting plan, annuals will be replaced with herbaceous perennials and grasses that offer wildlife habitat and interesting features in all seasons. The garden renovation also will include installation of new paths to make it accessible for persons with disabilities, along with new urns, benches, and a rehabilitated reflection pool. 