

# South Chicago





Once a separate community, South Chicago began as a series of scattered Native American settlements before becoming a village. First occupied by a chief named Askhum, considered 'lord' of the vast Callimink (Calumet) Valley and leader of the Pottawatomie people. They and other Native peoples used South Chicago and the shallow Calumet River area as portages, for seasonal settlements, hunting and fishing thousands of years before White settlers arrived in the "New World".

A working-class neighborhood that has been defined by the steel mills that were so dominant in the area throughout most of the 1900s. The mills have since closed, but the famous bridge, as well as the Calumet Fisheries seafood stand, are two things that continue to draw people to this portion of South Chicago.

#### **BESSEMER PARK**

The Bessemer Park Nature and Wildlife Garden is among Chicago's 23 notes natural "preserves" of native fauna and wildlife habitat.

### STONY ISLAND

Andrew Davis' directing debut *Stony Island* was shot in 1977, conceived as a love letter to the South Chicago neighborhood where he grew up.

### **Population Demographics**

Total Population: 29,021

Median Age: 35.1

• Black: 76.5%

Hispanic or Latinx: 20.4%

Asian: 0.4%

• White: 2.2%

## **Economic Profile**

• Owner Occupied: 29.1%

• Renter Occupied: 45.5%

Median Household Income: \$32,845

#### **Education Statistics**

No Highschool: 18.8%

• Highschool: 35.4%

Associate's Degree: 7.4%

Bachelor's Degree: 10.3%

• Graduate Degree: 4.8%

### OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

The oldest parish founded by Mexicans in the City of Chicago as the early Mexican communities were not welcomed in other churches in the area.