



Transportation routes stimulated rapid growth in Washington Park during the latter part of the 19th century. The “L” train reached beyond 55th Street by 1892. The area was transformed into a largely African-American neighborhood as early as 1930. Washington Park’s racial transition was rapid and punctuated with violence. Along with the Grant Boulevard community, the neighborhood became a hotbed of racial tension during the Race Riot of 1919.

Since the early 1950s, due in part to the initiatives of the Chicago Land Clearance Commission which allowed authorities who acquired land by condemnation to redevelop it for non-residential uses, the population of the community has declined from nearly 57,000 in 1950 to 14,146 in 2000. As the 20th century drew to a close, nearly half of Washington Park residents lived below the poverty level.

## Demographic Data

- Total Population: 10,680
- Median Age: 25

## Ethnic Demographic

- African American: 97%
- Hispanic: 0.9%
- White: 0.7%
- Asian: 0.1%

## Economic Profile

- Owner Occupied: 19.7%
- Renter Occupied: 80.3%
- Median Household Income: \$20,623
- Average People per Household: 2.7

## Education Statistics

- No High School: 10%
- High School: 53%
- Associate’s Degree: 11%
- Bachelor’s Degree: 18%
- Graduate Degree: 8%

## FUN FACTS

### 2016 SUMMER OLYMPICS

The park was the proposed site of the Olympic stadium in the city’s bid to house the

### “NATIVE SON”

The novel by Richard Wright takes part partially in the community.

### MUSEUM

The DuSable Museum of African American History—one of the largest African American museums in the country—is located in the area.

### FOUNTAIN OF TIME

The park hosts Lorado Taft’s sculpture which is the world’s earliest concrete finished art work.

### CONSERVATORY

From 1897 - 1930s, the park was home to a large conservatory, but it was torn down during the Great Depression due to limited resources.