

# Contents

**Acknowledgments** ix

**Introduction** 3

WILLIAM C. BARNETT

## **PART I. WHERE PRAIRIE MEETS LAKE** 15

**1. Native Peoples in the Tallgrass Prairies of Illinois** 17

ROBERT MORRISSEY

**2. Cholera and the Evolution of Early Chicago** 26

ANN DURKIN KEATING AND KATHLEEN A. BROSNAN

**3. Animals at Work in Industrializing Chicago** 38

KATHERINE MACICA

## **PART II. A FRESHWATER CITY** 49

**4. An Inland Sea? Coming to Terms with Lake Michigan in  
Nineteenth-Century Chicago** 51

THEODORE J. KARAMANSKI

**5. Cleansing Chicago: Environmental Control and the Reversal of  
the Chicago River** 64

MATTHEW CORPOLONGO

**6. Too Much Water: Coping with Climate Change and Suburban  
Sprawl in a Flood-Prone Environment** 78

HAROLD L. PLATT

**7. Water, Oil, and Fish: The Chicago River as a Technological  
Matrix of Place** 91

DANIEL MACFARLANE AND LYNNE HEASLEY

**PART III. THE NATURE OF WORKING-CLASS  
CHICAGOANS 108**

- 8. May Day: The Green Vision of Chicago's Gilded Age  
Anarchists 110**

COLIN FISHER

- 9. Black Migrant Foodways in the "Hog Butcher for the  
World" 125**

BRIAN MCCAMMACK

- 10. "No Cheerful Patches of Green": Mexican Community and  
the Industrial Environment on the Far Southeast Side of  
Chicago 137**

MICHAEL INNIS-JIMÉNEZ

- 11. Work Relief Labor in the Cook County Forest Preserves,  
1931-1942 150**

NATALIE BUMP VENA

**A CARTOGRAPHIC INTERLUDE 165**

- 12. Maps and Chicago's Environmental History 175**

PETER NEKOLA AND JAMES R. AKERMAN

**PART IV. MANAGING (OR NOT) URBAN-INDUSTRIAL  
COMPLEXITY 189**

- 13. Blood on the Tracks: Accidental Death and the Built  
Environment 191**

JOSHUA A. T. SALZMANN

- 14. Air and Water Pollution in the Urban-Industrial Nexus:  
Chicago, 1840s-1970s 203**

STEVEN H. COREY

15. **Chicago's Wastelands: Refuse Disposal and Urban Growth, 1840–1990** 221

CRAIG E. COLTEN

16. **Mrs. Block Beautiful: African American Women and the Birth of the Urban Conservation Movement in Chicago, 1917–1954** 240

SYLVIA HOOD WASHINGTON

**PART V. REENVISIONING THE LAKE  
AND PRAIRIE 254**

17. **May Theilgaard Watts and the Origins of the Illinois Prairie Path** 256

WILLIAM C. BARNETT

18. **“Hard-Nosed Professionals”: Gordon Sherman, Businessmen for the Public Interest, and Environmentalism in 1970s Chicago** 269

ROBERT GIOIELLI

19. **The Calumet Region: A Line in the Sand** 286

MARK BOUMAN

Notes 301

Contributors 383

Index 385