Timeline of Milestones for The Industrial City 1830-1910

1830-1840

1830  First horse-drawn buses appear in New York.
1831  First American railroad begins operation.
1832  First horse-drawn trolleys in New York.
      Artist George Catlin proposes idea of National Parks.
1833  British Factory Act provides a system for factory inspection.
1835  More than 1,098 miles of railroad in use in the US.
1839  American Charles Goodyear discovers process of vulcanization of rubber.

1840-1850

1840  More than 2,800 miles of railroad in operation in US.
1843  American social reformer Dorothea Dix reports on shocking conditions of prisons & asylums.
      First telegraph line from Washington to Baltimore.
1844  First public bath and wash houses opened in England.
      New York Sportsman's club founded to protect and preserve game for hunting.
1845  American E.B. Bigelow constructs power loom for manufacturing carpets.
1846  American John Deere constructs plow with steel moldboard.
1847  British Factory Act restricts the working day for women/children to 10 hours.
1849  New York City begins building sewers; 125 miles of lines built 1849-1873.
1850-1860

1850  London School of Mines established.
      Water-carriage sewerage introduced into US cities during the next ten years.
1851  First double-decker bus introduced in London.
1853  Vaccination against smallpox made compulsory in Britain.
      American Samuel Colt revolutionizes manufacturing of small arms.
      Chicago linked to New York by railroad.
1855  London sewers modernized after cholera outbreak; John Snow's maps inspire others to
      conduct sanitary surveys to find causes, conditions for prevalent diseases.
      Florence Nightingale introduces hygienic standards into military hospitals.
1857  Frederick Law Olmstead hired to supervise construction of Central Park in New York.
      Olmstead also designs Prospect Park in Brooklyn, Franklin Park in Boston.
1858  Year of the "Great Stink" of the Thames River in London.
1859  First oil well drilled at Titusville, PA.

1860-1870

1860  First horse-drawn tram in London.
1865  Carpet sweeper invented.
      London Metropolitan Fire Service established.
      Sanitary survey maps for New York City completed.
      First oil pipeline in Pennsylvania.
      Salvation Army founded.
1864  Yosemite Valley, CA reserved as a state park.
      George Perkin's marsh publishes "Man and Nature."
1866  First home for "destitute children" founded in London.
1869  US transcontinental railroad route completed.
      England abolishes debtor's prison.
1870-1880

1870 During this decade, many US cities build water-carriage sewerage systems, including Boston, New Haven, Cincinnati, San Francisco, Washington and Baltimore.

1871 First US Fish Commission established.
Great Fire ravages Chicago.

1872 Congress establishes Yellowstone as first National Park.

Pressure-cooking methods for canning foods introduced in US.

1875 London's main sewerage system complete.
American Forestry Association organized.

1876 "Reformatory" for juvenile offenders founded at Elmira, NY.
Alexander Graham Bell invents telephone.
Britain passes Rivers Pollution Act, forbidding the discharge of sewage into streams.

1877 Thomas Edison invents phonograph.

Frederick Law Olmstead designs Boston's Back Bay.
British Museums grant unrestricted admission to general public.
Thomas Edison develops electric light bulb.

1880-1890

1880 Most US cities set up boards of health, or health commissions during this decade.
Most cities build sewerage systems that dispose of untreated wastes in nearby rivers, streams, or lakes.
New York City streets lit by electricity.

1881 Division of Forestry created in US Department of Agriculture.

1884 London complete underground railroad (tube).
First steam turbine engine patented.
Ladies' Protective Association of New York tackles urban sanitation, refuse disposal.

1885 First electric tram in England.
Karl Benz builds a single-cylinder engine for a motor car.
New York establishes Adirondack Forest Preserve.

1886 American Federation of Labor founded.

1887 Park Act in New York City recognizes need for small parks and playgrounds.
589 waterworks systems in US.

1888 American J.B. Dunlop invents pneumatic tire.
American G. Eastman perfects "Kodak" box camera.
1890-1900

1890  Global influenza epidemic kills thousands.

1891  General Revision Act gives President power to set aside forest preserves. Yosemite National Park established.

1892  Iron and Steel workers in US strike for better working conditions. Sierra Club organized by John Muir. First successful gasoline tractor built.

1893  Chicago's World Fair inspires planners to think of comprehensive city planning. Series of typhoid epidemics occur.


1897  In cities around country, interest in municipal art and civic improvement grows.

1898  Gifford Pinchot becomes head of Division of Forestry.

1899  Refuse Act, part of Rivers and Harbors Appropriations Act, forbids water pollution. Chlorine introduced to purify drinking water supplies. Physicians argue for waste-water treatment plants. 3.5 million horses live in US cities, representing air/water pollution problems. Term “City Beautiful” coined for emerging planning ideals/ revisioning of industrial city. Numerous civic improvement associations founded around US.

1900-1910


1902  London Metropolitan Water Board established.


1906  Architect D. Burnham’s plan for Chicago completed. Pure Food and Drug Act, Meat Inspection Act passed by Congress.

1906-1910  Series of coal mine disasters in US.

1910  489,000 automobiles registered in US.