
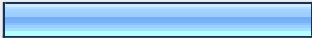
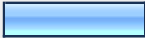





# Mills Park Site Plan

1. Counting yourself, how many people live in your household?			Response Percent	Response Count
1			22.0%	13
2			<b>33.9%</b>	20
3			15.3%	9
4			13.6%	8
5			11.9%	7
6+			3.4%	2
			<b>answered question</b>	<b>59</b>
			<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>

2. How many members of your household do you have in each age category?							
	1	2	3	4	5 or more	Response Count	
Ages 0 to 5	33.3% (3)	<b>55.6% (5)</b>	11.1% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	9	
Ages 6 to 12	<b>76.5% (13)</b>	23.5% (4)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	17	
Ages 13 to 19	<b>44.4% (4)</b>	<b>44.4% (4)</b>	11.1% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	9	
Ages 20 to 29	<b>83.3% (5)</b>	16.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	6	
Ages 30 to 39	40.0% (4)	<b>60.0% (6)</b>	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	10	
Ages 40 to 49	<b>52.2% (12)</b>	47.8% (11)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	23	
Ages 50 to 59	<b>64.3% (9)</b>	35.7% (5)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	14	
Ages 60 to 69	<b>57.1% (8)</b>	42.9% (6)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	14	
Ages 70 and up	33.3% (3)	<b>66.7% (6)</b>	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	9	
						<b>answered question</b>	<b>59</b>
						<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>

### 3. How many years have you resided in the Village of Oak Park?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Less than one year		3.4%	2
1-5 years		20.3%	12
6-10 years		18.6%	11
11-20 years		16.9%	10
<b>20+ years</b>		<b>37.3%</b>	22
Non-resident		3.4%	2
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>59</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>

### 4. How did you learn about the Mills Park Site Planning Process?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Park District seasonal brochure		5.1%	3
Park District e-newsletter		10.2%	6
Park District website		3.4%	2
Local newspaper		3.4%	2
Flyer delivered to residence		16.9%	10
Poster and/or flyer at Park District facility		16.9%	10
Cable Access Channel 6		0.0%	0
Participant in past planning processes		5.1%	3
Park District marquee at Lake & Ridgeland		0.0%	0
<b>Friend or Neighbor</b>		<b>25.4%</b>	15
Other (please specify)		13.6%	8
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>59</b>

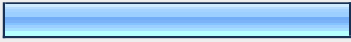

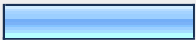

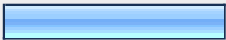
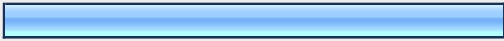


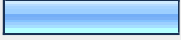
5. How often do you use Mills Park?			Response Percent	Response Count
More than once a week		32.8%	19	
Once a week		8.6%	5	
Two to three times per month		17.2%	10	
Once per month		10.3%	6	
Less than once per month		27.6%	16	
Never		3.4%	2	
			<b>answered question</b>	<b>58</b>
			<b>skipped question</b>	<b>1</b>


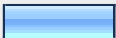
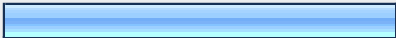

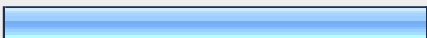
6. Character and Use of Mills Park - Please check all statements with which you agree?			Response Percent	Response Count
a.) The park is used for passive recreation and it should stay that way.		55.2%	32	
b.) The park should remain a passive park but allow for pick-up sports games.		22.4%	13	
C.) I want to see the park kept green and see a minimal amount of additions to the park.		51.7%	30	
Other comments		43.1%	25	
			<b>answered question</b>	<b>58</b>
			<b>skipped question</b>	<b>1</b>


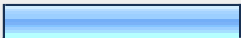
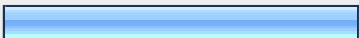

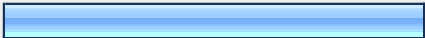
**7. Playground, Sports Leagues - Please check all statements with which you agree?**

		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
a.) The neighborhood around Mills Park has a need for a children's playground/play area.		27.6%	16
b.) The park should be mostly passive but there could be a playground.		34.5%	20
c.) The playground should have a natural feel and provide a sense of discovery.		41.4%	24
d.) This is a quiet park, leave activity to a minimum, no playground.		39.7%	23
e.) A playground would be a great addition to this park.		24.1%	14
<b>If you think there should be a playground, where should it be located in the park?</b>		48.3%	28
		<b><i>answered question</i></b>	<b>58</b>
		<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	<b>1</b>

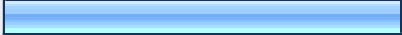
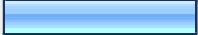




**8. Historic Template - Please check all statements with which you agree?**

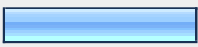
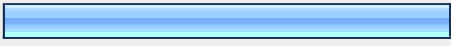
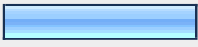
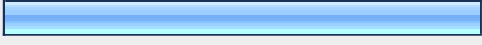

		Response Percent	Response Count
a.) The historic design for the grounds is very important to me.		37.9%	22
b.) The historic design is somewhat important to me.		19.0%	11
c.) The historic design is not very important to me.		20.7%	12
d.) A contemporary interpretation of the historic design is a good solution for the park design.		20.7%	12
e.) The park should be shared in all ways; interpret the historic design on the Home Avenue side of the park and leave the rest "natural".		24.1%	14
<b>f.) Recreating the historic fountain would be a nice amenity for the park.</b>		<b>55.2%</b>	<b>32</b>
g.) Just leave the character of the park the way it is and fix it up a little.		15.5%	9
h.) Forget the historic template and create a park with indigenous plantings.		6.9%	4
Other comments		19.0%	11
		<b><i>answered question</i></b>	<b>58</b>
		<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	<b>1</b>


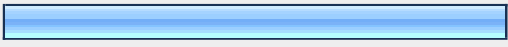
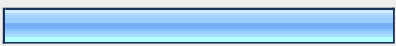
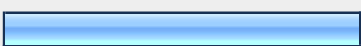
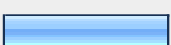
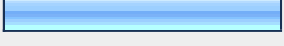
9. Seating and lighting - Please check all statements with which you agree?			Response Percent	Response Count
a.) Remove all the benches.			5.2%	3
b.) The existing benches are sufficient.			12.1%	7
c.) Some additional seating would be nice.			43.1%	25
<b>d.) Add benches and lights.</b>			<b>48.3%</b>	<b>28</b>
If benches are to be added, where would you like to see them?			46.6%	27
			<b>answered question</b>	<b>58</b>
			<b>skipped question</b>	<b>1</b>

10. Policing of the Park - Please check all statements with which you agree?			Response Percent	Response Count
a.) There are many instances of unlawful activity or improper behavior in Mills Park where the police are summoned.			14.8%	8
b.) There are some instances of unlawful activity or improper behavior in Mills Park where the police are summoned.			25.9%	14
c.) There are few instances of unlawful activity or improper behavior in Mills Park where the police are summoned.			38.9%	21
d.) Add a path that the police can use to drive through the park at night.			22.2%	12
<b>Other comments</b>			<b>46.3%</b>	<b>25</b>
			<b>answered question</b>	<b>54</b>
			<b>skipped question</b>	<b>5</b>

**11. The Fence - Please check all statements with which you agree?**

		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>a.) The historic significance of the fence is very important to me and the only changes should be to restore it.</b>		<b>43.9%</b>	<b>25</b>
b.) Enhancing the fence on the western edge of the park would add to the character of the park.		21.1%	12
c.) The fence makes the park feel like a private property. I'd like to see it opened up in some areas to provide a different feel to the park.		22.8%	13
d.) The fence on Marion is not considered of primary historic significance; to restore it would be very expensive. Remove that section and make a park entry.		29.8%	17
e.) Restore the fence but I'd like to see additional entrances to the park for better access. However, these entrances should be made in a sympathetic way to the historic design.		42.1%	24
Other comments		29.8%	17
		<b><i>answered question</i></b>	<b>57</b>
		<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	<b>2</b>

12. Flower Beds - Please check all statements with which you agree?			Response Percent	Response Count
a.) I would not like to see formal flower beds in the park.			21.1%	12
b.) I would like to see formal flower beds in the park.			49.1%	28
c.) I would be interested in volunteering to maintain those flower beds.			21.1%	12
<b>d.) A sustainable ethic should be used when designing flower beds in the park.</b>			<b>52.6%</b>	<b>30</b>
Other comments			28.1%	16
		<b>answered question</b>		<b>57</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>		<b>2</b>

13. Pathways - Please check all statements with which you agree?			Response Percent	Response Count
a.) Currently the path system is adequate.			5.4%	3
<b>b.) Currently the path system is inadequate.</b>			<b>55.4%</b>	<b>31</b>
c.) The park's path system needs to be more handicap accessible.			42.9%	24
d.) Finish the existing paths but keep paths to a minimum.			39.3%	22
e.) I would like a walking/jogging path added around the park.			17.9%	10
Other comments			30.4%	17
		<b>answered question</b>		<b>56</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>

**14. Potential Addition of a Pavilion to Pleasant Home** The Pleasant Home Foundation is a non-for-profit that needs funds to assist in maintaining and restoring the historic house. Presently functions are held in the house to raise funds but this creates wear and tear on the historic building. The foundation also erects a temporary tent for some events. There is a recommendation to add a pavilion to the west/rear of the house for events. It is hoped that this structure, the design of which is yet to be defined, could be used for events and classes. As a result, wear and tear of Pleasant Home would be reduced and it would become more museum-like while much needed revenues for the foundation would still be generated. - Please check all statements with which you agree?

		Response Percent	Response Count
a.) The pavilion should be added but it should be in a sympathetic design to the house and the park.		64.3%	36
b.) The pavilion should be added but there should be strict regulations for use regarding noise, hours and guest behavior.		37.5%	21
c.) Under no circumstances should a pavilion be added.		19.6%	11
Other comments		39.3%	22
	<b>answered question</b>		<b>56</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>

**15. Please list other Mills Park issues not addressed in this questionnaire that you are aware of? Make recommendations on how we might deal with these issues.**

	Response Count
	22
	<b>answered question</b>
	<b>22</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>
	<b>37</b>

**16. Are there any other amenities or changes you would like to see in Mills Park?**

	Response Count
	21
	<b>answered question</b>
	<b>21</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>
	<b>38</b>

## Mills Park Site Plan

### Questionnaire #1 – Final Results

#### Responses to Additional Comments & Open Ended Questions

#### 4. How did you learn about the Mills Park Site Planning Process?

- Other

1. as a docent at Pleasant Home Fri, 10/10/08 11:21 AM
2. through the historical society Fri, 10/3/08 6:21 PM
3. Pleasant Home Foundation Fri, 10/3/08 6:10 PM
4. walk thru it everyday Fri, 10/3/08 5:01 PM
5. manage Mills Park and Fountainhead apartments Fri, 10/3/08 1:38 PM
6. e-mail Fri, 10/3/08 1:09 PM
7. Pleasant Home Foundation Fri, 10/3/08 12:13 PM
8. Pleasant Home Foundation Fri, 10/3/08 9:25 AM

#### 6. Character and Use of Mills Park – Comments

1. Needs a playground for young children since it is very close to a very dense part of Oak Park. Fri, 10/10/08 5:11 PM
2. small playground Fri, 10/10/08 3:48 PM
3. kept green without soccer fields/pick-up sports but other activities for neighbors to interact - fountain, playground, paths, benches, picnic area. Thu, 10/9/08 4:46 PM
4. I'd be ok with casual frisbee or games of catch, but not fields, organized sports Thu, 10/9/08 4:35 PM
5. The park should be useful to the public, including homeless people and youth, within the law. Wed, 10/8/08 8:52 PM
6. Everyone, even homeless folks, get to use the park Wed, 10/8/08 8:52 PM
7. It's a haven for bums Wed, 10/8/08 10:25 AM
8. Mills Park is a haven for homeless people, who drink alcohol, litter, and disrupt residents with heckling and panhandling. After witnessing a bum peeing, my son was followed back to our home by the bum and is now scared to use the park by himself despite living across the street from it. Wed, 10/8/08 10:06 AM
9. I want to see the park used. I see the fence as the largest barrier, both physically and psychologically, to the park's use. Wed, 10/8/08 10:02 AM
10. trim mature trees more often to prevent storm damage; retain and secure trash bins for depositing dog-waste; we walk our dog there twice daily. Sat, 10/4/08 12:21 PM

**11.** don't mess with simplicity Fri, 10/3/08 6:15 PM

**12.** this is a quiet resident area, the park has always been trouble with gangs hanging out on the benches and smoking whatever, storing it in trees, and when the police are called they run.. since the bench has been removed we have had fewer problems, however the noise level from the tented parties and traffic is unbearable to my tenants of approximately 200... Fri, 10/3/08 1:38 PM

**13.** I would like to see more refurbishment of Pleasant Home. Fri, 10/3/08 1:35 PM

**14.** The park is actually very well used by people relaxing and the elderly residents as compared to other OPRF parks. Pleasant Home should be the centerpiece of an historic landscape. Thu, 10/2/08 11:04 PM

**15.** I wouldn't mind a small playground for children a little older than the tot lot, providing seniors' walk way won't be obstructed. I also think that anything we can do in terms of keeping green and helping to preserve natural species of plants and animals would be a good thing. Keeping these things around and available for children, teens and adults can only increase their caring for the environment. Thu, 10/2/08 10:10 PM

**16.** Good place for sand volleyball courts in Oak Park Tue, 9/30/08 2:07 PM

**17.** A natural garden running throughtout/pathways & Benches Mon, 9/29/08 12:22 PM

**18.** I live next door and am enjoying the park as it is. Mon, 9/29/08 11:33 AM

**19.** Using the western section from Pleasant south to stand of trees Tue, 9/23/08 9:58 PM

**20.** I'd like to suggest an outdoor chess pavilion Tue, 9/23/08 9:33 PM

**21.** Needs some more lighting. Tue, 9/23/08 7:43 PM

**22.** I raised 3 children living across from the park and never felt the need for a playground there. We used the tot lot on Randolph for that. The kids used Mills Park for more creative play. Current little ones can too. Tue, 9/23/08 7:08 PM

**23.** adding historic gardens and concrete paths Tue, 9/23/08 3:29 PM

**24.** OP has too great of needs to keep completely passive Tue, 9/23/08 10:29 AM

**25.** How about a climbing wall? or a pool... Sat, 9/20/08 1:53 PM

7. Playground, Sports Leagues - If you think there should be a playground, where should it be located in the park?

**1.**SW corner of park away from Historic home Fri, 10/10/08 5:11 PM

**2.**in an area that can easily be seen from the street so that police can monitor it after hours. Fri, 10/10/08 3:48 PM

**3.**toward Marion street where it will not seem out of place with the house and where police can easily see it from the street. That location also will help people to see that this is a public park and is near the least amount of residences too. Thu, 10/9/08 4:46 PM

**4.**There are ball fields ~ 2 blocks away at Brooks & a playground an block past that at grove/randolph, why would we need a playground? It might totally change the feel of the

park unless there was some way to segregate the playground far from Pleasant Home & the main entrance. Thu, 10/9/08 4:35 PM

**5.** Near the Pleasant Home. Perhaps along the north boundary on Pleasant St Wed, 10/8/08 8:52 PM

**6.** nearest to Pleasant Home Wed, 10/8/08 8:52 PM

**7.** no preference, just somewhere open, easy to get to with paths leading to it. Wed, 10/8/08 10:25 AM

**8.** close to pleasant home, in the center of the park. SECURITY NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED FIRST THOUGH!!!! Wed, 10/8/08 10:06 AM

**9.** Near the south lot line Tue, 10/7/08 3:21 PM

**10.** Marion Street Mon, 10/6/08 8:11 PM

**11.** along Marion Fri, 10/3/08 6:21 PM

**12.** I like to watch the unstructured, self-motivated activities of children, parents & children & people singly or in groups, using the space spontaneously Fri, 10/3/08 6:15 PM

**13.** southwest corner - not just a tot lot, kids to 10 years Fri, 10/3/08 6:10 PM

**14.** I do not want a playground at all, If you wish to have one please direct it on home street west of the mansion not close to our apartment buildings, Why don't you use the mansion or activities like classes for the children in the area which would bring in revenue. Fri, 10/3/08 1:38 PM

**15.** The far southwest corner Fri, 10/3/08 10:45 AM

**16.** Near to the Tower - away from the house. Thu, 10/2/08 11:04 PM

**17.** Along Marion Thu, 10/2/08 10:10 PM

**18.** SW corner Mon, 9/29/08 12:22 PM

**19.** Tucked into one of the corners, so that it doesn't intrude on the green space. Fri, 9/26/08 4:56 PM

**20.** on the west side, near Marion Wed, 9/24/08 12:31 PM

**21.** In the area near the YMCA Wed, 9/24/08 8:12 AM

**22.** SW corner near Maple as discussed Tue, 9/23/08 9:58 PM

**23.** Far away from Mills Park Tower-I don't want noise as I live and sleep over the park. Tue, 9/23/08 8:47 PM

**24.** SW corner Tue, 9/23/08 8:43 PM

**25.** Southwest corner Tue, 9/23/08 3:42 PM

**26.** in a quiet corner away from the Pleasant Home Tue, 9/23/08 3:29 PM

**27.** Love the idea near Mills tower, this seems to be a good fit. From our neighborhood meeting, the residents there also seem to support this idea. Sat, 9/20/08 11:33 AM

**28.** near marion street Fri, 9/19/08 11:28 PM

## 8. Historic Template – Other comments

- 1.** The park should better represent the fact that it is the only recreational space for the densest part of oak park. It should provide more recreational activities for families and those who live nearby NOT just the people who think it is their private backyard. Thu, 10/9/08 4:46 PM
- 2.** I don't really know what the historic design for this park is. Was it ever implemented or just a plan? Are we talking about restoring something that once existed? It might be nice to have some strolling paths, right now it's not really conducive to stroll through this park, but it is nice to have a large green space in the area. Thu, 10/9/08 4:35 PM
- 3.** don't mess with simplicity Fri, 10/3/08 6:15 PM
- 4.** Leave the design and appropriate plantings to the experts, to best interpret the grounds around the home and other areas of the park. Fri, 10/3/08 10:45 AM
- 5.** Let's restore the fence. Sell one "shield" at a time for naming rights. I've done the math and it would be a great fundraiser. Thu, 10/2/08 11:04 PM
- 6.** Drought resistant, native plants which will support wildlife would be a good lense to interpret the historic design. Thu, 10/2/08 10:10 PM
- 7.** trees & plantings representing settlement Oak Park & Prairie style home Mon, 9/29/08 12:22 PM
- 8.** How about incorporating the Prairie Style architecture into the playground structures? A topiary maze like at Morton Arboretum? Fri, 9/26/08 4:56 PM
- 9.** Architect Julie's rendering is excellent ! Opening in fense on Home ave leading to fountain Tue, 9/23/08 9:58 PM
- 10.** a little more activity in park would be good, seems too qt now Tue, 9/23/08 3:29 PM
- 11.** if you are going to put in a fountain, why not a modern, cool, interesting design that invites children to play Sat, 9/20/08 1:53 PM

9. Seating and lighting – If benches are to be added, where would you like to see them?

- 1.** Center of park along a path Fri, 10/10/08 5:11 PM
- 2.** various places along paths - nice places to meet neighbors or watch your kids play Fri, 10/10/08 3:48 PM
- 3.** by Marion street Thu, 10/9/08 4:46 PM
- 4.** Everyone can't sit on the ground, benches would be nice. It's right next to a senior apartment building, yet I wonder how many of them can use this park since there's no paths & limited seating available. If the concern is folks sleeping on the benches, add arm rests in the middle like they do at airports Thu, 10/9/08 4:35 PM

5. near the playground Wed, 10/8/08 8:52 PM
6. in places that make sense. right now there is no logic to where they are. Wed, 10/8/08 10:25 AM
7. There needs to be an actual path through the park, not a dirt rut. There also needs to be lighting and regular police patrols. Wed, 10/8/08 10:06 AM
8. Near the paths Tue, 10/7/08 3:21 PM
9. All over! Mon, 10/6/08 8:11 PM
10. Throughout Mon, 10/6/08 7:32 PM
11. fountain area, playground area Fri, 10/3/08 6:10 PM
12. Old fashioned lights would be nice along walking path. Fri, 10/3/08 5:57 PM
13. if you add lights the apartment buildings would have the lights shine into them Fri, 10/3/08 1:38 PM
14. along unobstructed paths through the park Fri, 10/3/08 1:09 PM
15. West and north Fri, 10/3/08 8:19 AM
16. In well lit areas and close to the streets. Thu, 10/2/08 11:04 PM
17. I don't have a strong personal feeling about benches and think that the Mills Tower population would have a more valuable opinion on this, but I do think that directional lighting (that won't bother neighbors) and that may be motion sensitive would be a good idea. Thu, 10/2/08 10:10 PM
18. additional benches on pathways along natural gardens Mon, 9/29/08 12:22 PM
19. add a few close to mills tower for the seniors Thu, 9/25/08 7:18 AM
20. around the fountain, along paths Wed, 9/24/08 12:31 PM
21. Throughout the park. Wed, 9/24/08 8:12 AM
22. around the fountain Tue, 9/23/08 9:58 PM
23. near trees for shade Tue, 9/23/08 8:47 PM
24. adjacent to lanes where police could patrol Tue, 9/23/08 8:43 PM
25. benches must have a bar so no body can lie down on them Tue, 9/23/08 3:29 PM
26. Near the proposed playground area, not sure where else, but open to ideas Sat, 9/20/08 11:33 AM
27. throughout the park, no specific location Fri, 9/19/08 11:28 PM

## 10. Policing of the Park – Other comments

1. Enforcement of areas is lacking. A web cam should be provided for Police Fri, 10/10/08 5:11 PM

- 2.** The police should patrol on ATV's, which would not require a path or paved surface. Such vehicles are used in Chicago, even in the Loop, which allow greater access and mobility for law protection. Fri, 10/10/08 12:51 PM
- 3.** More activities, more openness and neighbors will feel this is their park and will help to police it. More People the better! Thu, 10/9/08 4:46 PM
- 4.** I don't recall reading about any policing/unlawful activity issues concerning Mills Park in the local paper. Thu, 10/9/08 4:35 PM
- 5.** Police use path is fine if OPPD feels the need. Otherwise, I don't care. Wed, 10/8/08 8:52 PM
- 6.** The park is DANGEROUS at night. Get rid of the fences as they limit escape routes if someone is threatened. Wed, 10/8/08 10:06 AM
- 7.** more night time policing needed; alcohol and possibly drugs have been seen in use; something needed to prevent Front Porch of Farson House from becoming a teen hang-out after dark; improve/extend park lighting and have more police checks on foot. Sat, 10/4/08 12:21 PM
- 8.** I have no personal knowledge of problems or misuse Fri, 10/3/08 6:15 PM
- 9.** the park could use better patrol, but a path for vehicles would be unsightly Fri, 10/3/08 1:38 PM
- 10.** I am unaware about unlawful activity or improper behavior Fri, 10/3/08 1:09 PM
- 11.** I'm mostly concerned about damage to our treasure Pleasant Home. The police can drive through the park if they suspect illegal behavior and foot patrols are a good thing. Thu, 10/2/08 11:04 PM
- 12.** We'd need to hear from the police on this, I think that they can drive through now, from Pleasant to Marion or Marion Place. Thu, 10/2/08 10:10 PM
- 13.** No path for cars...we should all have to get off our @\$\$ and walk through the park. Tue, 9/30/08 2:07 PM
- 14.** There should documentation on these instances Mon, 9/29/08 12:22 PM
- 15.** I don't really know much about the level of criminal activity in Mills Park, but I would think that if more people start coming to the park, the safer it will be. Fri, 9/26/08 4:56 PM
- 16.** Regular police patrols thru the park would be a valuable deterrent to misbehavior and illegal activities. Thu, 9/25/08 3:47 PM
- 17.** I don't live close enough to have knowledge of any of this activity Wed, 9/24/08 12:31 PM
- 18.** No need to 'drive'! Tue, 9/23/08 9:58 PM
- 19.** All public parks have to deal with some degree of unwanted activity. Deal with it. Tue, 9/23/08 9:33 PM
- 20.** add the path for police to drive through if majority of residents desire it Tue, 9/23/08 8:47 PM

- 21.** Police path would be nice but how would you the park district keep other vehicles out? Tue, 9/23/08 7:43 PM
- 22.** Policing should be greatly increased - once folks know the police visit often, illegal & disturbing activity would decrease. Tue, 9/23/08 3:42 PM
- 23.** i am not sure though sometimes kids hang out for sure Tue, 9/23/08 3:29 PM
- 24.** The police can't get out of their cars?? please... Sat, 9/20/08 1:53 PM
- 25.** This seemed to be a hot topic of conversation at our neighborhood meeting also. There is no questions that this park needs to be policed more by the police, as well as neighbors be proactive also. Sat, 9/20/08 11:33 AM

## 11. The Fence – Other Comments

- 1.** Historic is important, but access to handicap and strollers for tourism is also important for revenue generation Fri, 10/10/08 5:11 PM
- 2.** open up the park! Fri, 10/10/08 3:48 PM
- 3.** The fence along Marion should not be removed. The entrance on Marion should be restored and the easement bought out from the garage owner. The entrance on Marion should be aligned with a surfaced path to Home Avenue, where an entry is opened on Pleasant that is sympathetic to the historic design. Such an opening/entrance should be identical to the entrance at Pleasant Home near the corner on Home Avenue. This clean line from Marion to Home would be aligned with the fountain and gardens of the original design. The clean lines would be consistent with the Italianate character of the original design. There is no need for any other surfaced paths in the park, and no need to tear any fencing down. Just because the Marion Street fence was a few years after the Pleasant Home fence does not mean that it is not historically significant. And, the additional fencing in Park District storage should be used to complete the area near Mills Tower and along the north side of what is now the easement. Additionally, the fencing should be continued in a design compatible to both the Pleasant Home fence along the wall on the west side adjoining the apartment complex. In sum, the entirety of Mills Park should be fenced as it was in earlier designs, with the one section of brick wall recreated on the southeastern side of the park. In sum, we should restore the parameter of the Mills Park to that of the first quarter of the 20th century. Fri, 10/10/08 12:51 PM
- 4.** if the playground were put by Marion Street there should be a small fence around it otherwise Marion should be open and inviting as the park should be a place for neighbors to meet each other. Thu, 10/9/08 4:46 PM
- 5.** fences shouldn't be used to limit access to a public park but the enhance the experience & look of the park Thu, 10/9/08 4:35 PM
- 6.** The fence works at cross purposes to the park feeling open, inviting & public. Trying to preserve the look and feel of a private estate is a contradiction for a public amenity. The fence should come down, or at a minimum, have numerous openings (at all corners and midway along each boundary line. Wed, 10/8/08 8:52 PM

- 7.** I don't like the fence. It gives a trapped feeling. Only one entrance makes me feel like I couldn't get in/out or help my son if something were to happen. Wed, 10/8/08 10:25 AM
- 8.** The fence needs to be removed in many places. It prevents casual access and creates security issues. Wed, 10/8/08 10:06 AM
- 9.** I'd prefer park to be maintained as a contained, open space Fri, 10/3/08 6:15 PM
- 10.** Home Avenue entrance - far south/east end without disturbing fence get easement from property owner Fri, 10/3/08 6:10 PM
- 11.** Fence needed along the Mills Park Apartments south side... Fri, 10/3/08 1:38 PM
- 12.** I realize this is contradictory but I would like to see openings on all four corners and please leave as much historic restored fabric as possible. The fence is amazingly important as an early application of steel and it is gorgeous. The only reason people would remove it is because of neglect. It is integral and remarkable and should be protected as a landmark, in itself. Thu, 10/2/08 11:04 PM
- 13.** I like the fence and it does not make me feel like it is private property, but it may be that if it is opened up on Marion that there will be less of a hidden feeling for the n'er-dowells. Thu, 10/2/08 10:10 PM
- 14.** I viewed architect Julie's rendering-proposal, EXCELLENT! Tue, 9/23/08 9:58 PM
- 15.** Leave fences as they are--no additions or changes Tue, 9/23/08 8:47 PM
- 16.** The fence makes the park look like a cemetery, really don't care for the fence. Tue, 9/23/08 7:43 PM
- 17.** YOU can access the park from all 4 sides--why do we need more entrances? Sat, 9/20/08 1:53 PM

## 12. Flower Beds – Other comments

- 1.** native plants please! Wed, 10/8/08 10:25 AM
- 2.** A letter was attached to the survey regarding concern over abandoning restoration efforts, opposition to the tent, and encouragement to address the safety and security concerns voiced by neighbors. Fri, 10/3/08 6:21 PM
- 3.** don't mess with simplicity Fri, 10/3/08 6:15 PM
- 4.** especially historic planting area in front and parkway Fri, 10/3/08 6:10 PM
- 5.** Flower beds should not be added unless Park District can commit to maintenance. Fri, 10/3/08 5:28 PM
- 6.** very subtle flower beds Fri, 10/3/08 5:01 PM
- 7.** I like the formal bed in front of Pleasant Home and it should be retained. Fri, 10/3/08 1:35 PM
- 8.** Perhaps flower beds could be "enabling" so folks in wheelchairs would be encouraged to volunteer to keep them up? Fri, 10/3/08 1:09 PM

**9.** I think that the flower beds in front of Pleasant Home are sufficient but could be improved. Fri, 10/3/08 10:45 AM

**10.** Refer to historic precedent Fri, 10/3/08 9:25 AM

**11.** Flower beds that follow an historic plan - even to mark out the footprints of the original structures would be wonderful. I would volunteer at least four hours per week to weed and water. Thu, 10/2/08 11:04 PM

**12.** I would love to see flower beds similar to those at Cheney, based on historical plans if possible Wed, 9/24/08 12:31 PM

### 13. Pathways – Other Comments

**1.** Paths around the park for jogging, but away from residential (reasonable distance) would be nice with low-impact lighting going toward the path and center of park to reduce neighbor impact. Fri, 10/10/08 5:11 PM

**2.** The path system should be made to connect the original entrance from Marion Street to an entrance directly across on Home Avenue, with a connection to Mills Tower. There should not be any diagonal paths, regardless of so-called "desire lines." The only paved, with a texture and appearance similar to concrete from the Farson era, paths should be the connection from Marion to Home and the connection from Mills Tower to the Marion/Home path. Further, the Mills Tower connection should be a 90 degree angle from the Marion/Home path. Fri, 10/10/08 12:51 PM

**3.** I like the full path system that was described at the meeting. Thu, 10/9/08 4:46 PM

**4.** Paths should connect all corner gates. Compare usage at Austin Gardens. Wed, 10/8/08 8:52 PM

**5.** there needs to be a path at each entrance, there needs to be more entrances, and the paths need to somehow lead to the new playground, with mixed direct and indirect pathways. Wed, 10/8/08 10:25 AM

**6.** The path system is woefully inadequate. The path is a muddy rut for most of the year. Wed, 10/8/08 10:06 AM

**7.** The paths have fallen into disrepair. Fix the existing ones Tue, 10/7/08 3:21 PM

**8.** Would NOT like a walking/jogging path. Fri, 10/3/08 5:28 PM

**9.** should coincide with new entry ways Fri, 10/3/08 5:01 PM

**10.** Paths that are accessible, near enabled flower beds and not too intrusive with benches would be ideal Fri, 10/3/08 1:09 PM

**11.** Following the historic plan and adding diagonal wood chip paths should suffice. Thu, 10/2/08 11:04 PM

**12.** incorporate winding pathways Mon, 9/29/08 12:22 PM

**13.** The formal walkway rendering shown was excellent Tue, 9/23/08 9:58 PM

**14.**The current paths are not appropriate for the formal appearance of the property Tue, 9/23/08 9:33 PM

**15.**I walk through to Mills Tower to vote and have to walk through the mud. There used to be a paved path that ran to Mills PARK and it should be restored. Tue, 9/23/08 7:08 PM

**16.**the path should also be for bicyclists Sat, 9/20/08 1:53 PM

**17.**It would be nice to see a more structured path layout, as opposed to the desire lines that have been made. I also agree the park should be more handicap accessible, this also benefits strollers and family use. Sat, 9/20/08 11:33 AM

14. Potential Addition of a Pavilion to Pleasant Home The Pleasant Home Foundation is a non-for-profit that needs funds to assist in maintaining and restoring the historic house. Presently functions are held in the house to raise funds but this creates wear and tear on the historic building. The foundation also erects a temporary tent for some events. There is a recommendation to add a pavilion to the west/rear of the house for events. It is hoped that this structure, the design of which is yet to be defined, could be used for events and classes. As a result, wear and tear of Pleasant Home would be reduced and it would become more museum-like while much needed revenues for the foundation would still be generated. - Please check all statements with which you agree?

**1.**Use tents. Maybe put a nice paver "porch" area that it could sit on top of with more permanent anchors for a better/more durable tent. Fri, 10/10/08 5:11 PM

**2.**No objection to using some park land for the PH Foundation to build a pavilion on, but it should not be the Park District's issue to preserve the Home or ensure the foundation's solvency. Wed, 10/8/08 8:52 PM

**3.**Keep using the temporary tent. Wed, 10/8/08 8:52 PM

**4.**A pavilion would be another haven for bums, and would also be a haven for teenagers - any sort of pavilion needs to have restricted/locked entrance or it is just going to be a hangout for loitering Wed, 10/8/08 10:25 AM

**5.**A pavilion would help reduce wear and tear on the house itself. Tue, 10/7/08 3:21 PM

**6.**There are enough rec centers in town--classes! Mon, 10/6/08 8:11 PM

**7.**Reference to separate note Fri, 10/3/08 6:21 PM

**8.**I do like the tent on occasions Fri, 10/3/08 6:15 PM

**9.**regulations are already in place and enforced Fri, 10/3/08 6:10 PM

**10.**with the tented parties that have already been held the noise level is unbearable and would not meet the code of decibels of noise disturbances. We are totally against this proposal. Arthur Goldner & Associates as agents for Kushner Management, and Mr. Mel Kushner who has always been an important supporter of Mills Park Fri, 10/3/08 1:38 PM

**11.**tent Fri, 10/3/08 9:25 AM

**12.**This would be a great revenue boost and cost/revenue projections would be advisable. Pleasant Home should move more toward a true museum environment. It's importance in the history of American residential architecture should be celebrated. Would it be possible to create an open pavilion with removable panels for events? I do worry that anything we could currently afford would be a mass that detracts from the house. Thu, 10/2/08 11:04 PM

**13.**I don't think that the Pavillion will pay for itself, and don't think that it is an ecologically feasible proposal. I'd want to hear the percent usage of Cheney mansion and other OP owned buildings, first. Thu, 10/2/08 10:10 PM

**14.**IF a pavilion has to be built, it should be of a sympathetic design, and strict rules about noise, hours, and behavior should be made and ENFORCED with substantial punitive monetary penalties Thu, 9/25/08 3:47 PM

**15.**I think it would be nice if a pavillion was added that the exterior be made to look like the old stables that were on the property. Thu, 9/25/08 7:18 AM

**16.**Mills Park/Pleasant Home are enormous assets to the Village. The Park District and Village are stewards of this magnificent property. It should be maintained at the highest level and that requires money. A pavilion providing a site for weddings, parties, events, classes (art, music, theatre) would provide a revenue stream to help maintain the property in an appropriate manner. Tue, 9/23/08 9:33 PM

**17.**There is already too much noise from temporary tent Tue, 9/23/08 8:47 PM

**18.**I believe the pavilion takes away from the characteristics of the home. Tue, 9/23/08 7:43 PM

**19.**I understand that the structure will be donated. IF so, I do not object to its erection. I do object to taxpayer dollars being used to erect it. Tue, 9/23/08 7:08 PM

**20.**add historic coach house, instead Tue, 9/23/08 3:29 PM

**21.**that is a great idea! Tue, 9/23/08 3:29 PM

**22.**My husband and I completely support the idea of a pavillion addition. We live along Home Avenue and always enjoy when there are public events in the home. To us that is what that beautiful house is for - to be open and available to the public. The house seems to come to life when there are events there, which I believe is what great old homes are meant for! Sat, 9/20/08 11:33 AM

15. Please list other Mills Park issues not addressed in this questionnaire that you are aware of? Make recommendations on how we might deal with these issues.

**1.**Notification via email to other outside iif immediate area would be nice since they have to pay for the park also. Fri, 10/10/08 5:11 PM

**2.**We do not currently use the park and I'd like that to change. Fri, 10/10/08 3:48 PM

**3.**The historic character of Mills Park lies not only in Pleasant Home, but also the idea of a quiet retreat, an idyll in the midst of the bustling composition called Oak Park. Mills Park beckons and tempts you to take your shoes off and walk in the grass. To lay down and watch the clouds or stars. It may accomodate simple play in its meadow-like fields, but it is more conducive to quiet reading and discourse. In short, it is Bloomsbury with its garden squares, not Coram's Fields with its football pitches and playgrounds. Oak Park has many parks with playgrounds, baseball diamonds, soccer and football. Austin Gardens has paved walkways into nature. There is no reason that Oak Park cannot have one bucolic retreat for its citizens who seek a bit of quietude now and then again, and walks upon the cooling lawn. If there is to be a children's area, by all means add a maze of bushes (i.e., a composition of hedges) or the like in the quadrant on the southwest side near Marion Street. It would make the "desire line" impossible, as the hedgerows of the maze would thwart any crossing. The maze would have the natural feel that many seek, as well as the sense of discovery in child's play often sought by Oak Park parents. There should be a seating area just off of Mills Tower designed for senior use. Another fountain and flowers would be ideal. This area should be fenced and locked at dusk. The area is open to all citizens of Oak Park, but due to the congregation of revelers imbibing illegal substances and making noise after dark, it should be closed to all citizens upon dusk. Some may argue that this favors the use by seniors. But, it would treat all citizens equally in regard to access, which is more than can be said about playgrounds. There is an ordinance against the use of tot lots by older people. The small, protected area adjacent to Mills Tower would be open to all, and closed to all on an equal opportunity basis. Fri, 10/10/08 12:51 PM

**4.** Dogs running free and people not picking up after them - this is not conducive to bringing your kids to an open park. More activities and more people using the park might make people treat this park better. Thu, 10/9/08 4:46 PM

**5.**keep sidewalks cleaner,and front entrance especially.this is the first impression visitors see, and it is often not swept, and picked. Wed, 10/8/08 1:30 PM

**6.** Currently, everything about the park, except the big trees and grassy areas, are terrible. Don't make it worse. The park doesn't need excess spending of taxpayers money for frivolous things like, ahem, heated sidewalks. So use the taxpayers money wisely! Please improve this park! I feel like I pay to maintain it for homeless people who pee in the park and scare my son! Wed, 10/8/08 10:25 AM

**7.**First and foremost, fix the security issues by getting rid of the fence, adding lighting, and get the miscreants OUT of the park. I pay FAR too much in property taxes in Oak Park already, and to have a beautiful park across the street from my home that my son is scared to use because of dangerous bums is completely unacceptable. Wed, 10/8/08 10:06 AM

**8.**Too many dogs. Ban them ! Tue, 10/7/08 3:21 PM

**9.**Parking for staff and volunteers (docents) off driveway within area Fri, 10/3/08 6:10 PM

**10.**I've not understood why all of the Parks in Oak Park still have the unsightly blue trash cans. Can't the Park District improve this aspect of all of the parks? Fri, 10/3/08 10:45 AM

**11.**1.) Form a private endowment for Pleasant Home 2.) Develop it's identity as a writing and literary center. We have tremendous authors and literary heritage in Oak Park and there is no branded "center" - other than the OPPL. This could reinforce a positive identity and attract foundation funding. It's a low impact usage for a house museum. 3.) A daily census of visitors would be easy to do and would be very revealing. 4.) More motion sensitive lighting. 5.) Consolidate signage - historic and otherwise - through the guidance of a professional graphic wayfinding designer. In other words - get rid of or consolidate all the little signs into one larger, more effective sign. 6.) Invite the neighbors over. Use the village's resident database and purchased lists and knock on doors to get the thousand or so residents on the edge to understand the site. 6.) Develop an outdoor yoga program. 7.) More temporary sculpture and art installations, please. Thu, 10/2/08 11:04 PM

**12.**Any plantings, stairs, terraces need to be installed in a way that they are either not skateboardable or would not be harmed by use with skateboards. Thu, 10/2/08 10:10 PM

**13.**Maintain trash containers for collection of animal refuse and other trash. Thu, 10/2/08 9:28 AM

**14.**Since there is alleged spillover of illegal activity from immediate neighborhood into the park, Village Board should be represented at the meetings. Mon, 9/29/08 12:22 PM

**15.**I attended the first planning session, and though I think the moderator did a very good job, I would just caution you to make sure the next session doesn't get too involved in the social aspects of crime and homelessness. I think they are important issues that need to be addressed, but I don't think they should dictate or direct the park planning process. Wed, 9/24/08 12:31 PM

**16.**The first issue is to determine what the property should be used for and proceed from there. Tue, 9/23/08 9:33 PM

**17.**Please allow homeless people to use the park as much as anyone else as long as they don't use alcohol or drugs or create disturbance Tue, 9/23/08 8:47 PM

**18.**This past Sunday late at night I did notice large groups of individuals loitering in the park. Seem to be homeless people drinking, this needs to stop and more police presents. Tue, 9/23/08 7:43 PM

**19.**So many residents with dogs use the park that it would be nice to have an area set aside for dogs to be off-leash (such as the northwest corner); add stands to provide biodegradable poop bags; add low fountains for dogs to get drinking water. Tue, 9/23/08 3:42 PM

**20.**Sand volleyball players need a place to play. Tue, 9/23/08 10:29 AM

**21.**remove stumps remove wood chips Fri, 9/19/08 11:28 PM

**22.** Poor policing of people who use Mills Park for events and create a disturbance in the neighborhood, ie. Home Ave. or Pleasant St. Fri, 9/19/08 8:01 PM

23. Are there any other amenities or changes you would like to see in Mills Park?

**1.** Emergency Phones on each side (east & west) of the park. Fri, 10/10/08 5:11 PM

**2.** a pond would be nice if a fountain is not possible. Fri, 10/10/08 3:48 PM

**3.** Wooden folding chairs for use anywhere in the park. The chairs can be gathered at dusk, as the park closes. Cement benches should only be placed around the fountain and gardens, a la the benches on the Home Avenue side. Fri, 10/10/08 12:51 PM

**4.** Open and inviting but with HOURS posted and dogs under control. Thu, 10/9/08 4:46 PM

**5.** Drinking fountains. Washrooms. Wed, 10/8/08 8:52 PM

**6.** drinking fountains, wash rooms Wed, 10/8/08 8:52 PM

**7.** Perhaps a special event, outside sponsored by the park, for the purpose of raising funds for the Farson/Mills historic mansion Wed, 10/8/08 1:30 PM

**8.** GET RID OF THE FENCE, ADD JOGGING AND WALKING PATHS, ADD LIGHTING. Wed, 10/8/08 10:06 AM

**9.** No need to try to replicate the historic use and look of the park. This is the 21st century. Tue, 10/7/08 3:21 PM

**10.** Better (more attractive) signage around Pleasant Home -- and use the park planning efforts to also engage individuals in restoring this wonderful landmark. Fri, 10/3/08 10:45 AM

**11.** We should all realize what a privilege it is to have such a wonderful place. Thu, 10/2/08 11:04 PM

**12.** Additional trees, primarily Oak- this is Oak Park. Mon, 9/29/08 12:22 PM

**13.** is there any thought about bring back the horse shoe pits that where once in the park? Thu, 9/25/08 7:18 AM

**14.** formal lighting structures in harmony with fountain, benches and walks. Important to keep output low-moderate Tue, 9/23/08 9:58 PM

**15.** An outdoor chess pavilion. Tue, 9/23/08 9:33 PM

**16.** It is too muddy after rains or snow around benches by Mills Park Tower Tue, 9/23/08 8:47 PM

**17.** Like the idea of events which subsidizes income for Pleasant Home. The Tents are a great idea. Tue, 9/23/08 7:43 PM

**18.** More lighting; police call box(es). Tue, 9/23/08 3:42 PM

**19.** Add sand volleyball Tue, 9/23/08 10:29 AM

**20.** A climbing wall would be wonderful. A fun, interactive fountain that kids can play in would also be great. If you can't do a climbing wall, at least something for kids to climb on--maybe some public art?? Something cool, not like the giant tumor they put in Austin Gardens... Sat, 9/20/08 1:53 PM

**21.** nicer garbage cans Fri, 9/19/08 11:28 PM