

Taylor Park
Focus Group Meeting # 3
Creative Play, Passive Space, Sports
Meeting held at the Hedges Administrative Center
218 W. Madison St
Oak Park, IL 60302

March 13th, 2008

General

- Important park for the community
i.e. sledding, joggers, bikers, strollers, walkers, wonderful community feeling
- Drainage issues/ topography eliminates big sections of park and also makes it more interesting
- Very natural looking and we should keep that
- *How about Skate spots/dots for teenagers?*
- *Create a skate circuit through Oak Park with a spot/dot or two in each park*
- *With new building, could we use old one for storage or concession stand for x-country skiing?*

Dog Park

- If water didn't collect, lower area would be great for dogs
- A lot of people use now to exercise dogs already
- Dogs at tot lot and at soccer games are not a good idea
- Well maybe a dog park should go on NE side
- There has to be enough distance between tennis and dogs to retrieve balls
- Users of the tot lot don't want dogs
- Soccer and tot lot people want a walkway connection through that area
- If the play center moves North, those issues lessen
- If tot lot moved, there will be a little more space for the dog park
- The dog park could be landscaped
- What materials could be used for the Dog Park-What might it be?
- In Berkeley, CA they have a mix of separate areas with crushed stone, concrete and wood chips
- What would appeal to the community at Taylor?
- Lindberg might have underused spaces (i.e. tennis) that could be used for something else and then free up other spaces

Soccer Field/Meadow

- How many soccer fields in Oak Park?
- This is the only dedicated soccer field
 - Lindberg
 - Longfellow
 - Barrie
 - Field
 - Fox UA Field
 - Carroll-6-7 yrs old
- Artificial fields- not sure this is the place for it. A fence would not be aesthetically appropriate
- There are never enough practice fields; could we light the fields?
- The tennis courts need to be redone. The lighting is in poor shape. Maybe we can add one light to the NE corner for early evening practice until 6pm, not for games.
- Rotate soccer due to wear at goals. The field is rotated. There is just too much use.
- If re-grade and add drainage, we won't need to shift field
- The soccer field is currently 50x100
- Would be good to push 60x110 (can get 60 now, 110 difficult)
- Soccer-Most important field (as is Lindberg). Condition so poor, gives home team advantage with grade changes
- If we can make 60x110, better
- Teenagers joy ride and leave tire ruts, has happened a lot.
- Make the curb on Elmwood higher and stop access to field.
- Artificial turf would be great but take away from aesthetics of park.
- Need for smaller practice soccer fields, perhaps at lower end of park. It is used part time now. Even 35x50 fields for kids practice would be good.
- Touch soccer games at lower end of park
- Also used for T-ball practice at lower end
- Adding lights onto existing tennis poles for soccer would also help dog park users

Tennis

- It is the largest tennis facility in the park district, hosts players, tournaments and competitions.
- They need to be redone, lighting upgraded, some lights stay on all night and some are linked together
- The dog park should not be near the tennis courts. There needs to be more space between tennis and the dogs.
- How about a shelter for tennis groups with info and bathrooms
- We need a building to store tennis supplies, integrate with tennis courts and provide viewing for tennis and soccer and for shade
- A center point for active side of park
- Tear down the comfort station building (like Austin Gardens); low on historical value side of things
- Rotating the tennis courts into an E-W line would affect the dog park and comfort station.
- Quality of lights at tennis courts are not good for night games
- USTA gives grants for more than 4 courts
- Tennis was (is) very heavily used all weekend. There are fights over use
- As a tennis player, less important to have 2 doors per court

Planting

- Make a wetland at the eastern side of the park/lower end with a floating boardwalk to cross it?
- The planter in the NW corner is a solid concrete bowl and prevents drainage. Good for plants that like the wet. We should remove it.
- Natural plantings-integrate
- Need source of water for new plantings
- Add natural areas along division and Berkshire where there is good sun
- Keep the arching tree over sign? (Arborist says that this ash grew in this form and is fine)
- Brick pad at SW corner should come out. It is a weed trap.
- Hope we don't have to remove trees, be careful about trees.
- *Entrances to park would be used for native plantings.*

Security

- Roller skaters, kids on bikes and skateboarders come down the hill along the path towards Ridgeland
- How about a skate dot for them in a different area

- Pickup games on the lower area are a safety issue

Ridgeland Alignment

- Straightening Ridgeland? Ahhhhhhhhh – no way
- It would cut a park section off