



Shaping the Future of Our Parks

For more information on any of the projects listed below, please visit oakparkparks.com and select Future Plans and Current Projects. Park master plans, community meeting and focus group meeting notes, park concepts, future playground apparatus and more are just a mouse click away.

Planning for the Future of Taylor Park

A final concept recommendation with two alternate park features was presented at the fourth and final Taylor Park Site Plan Community Meeting on Monday, June 2. This recommendation depicts either a wooded environment or a dog park in the northeast corner of the park. Other park amenities featured in the plan include a new playground, picnic grove, and shelter, renovated soccer field and tennis courts as well as the development of a fen in the southeast corner of the park. (A fen is a type of wetland fed by surface and/or groundwater.) At press time, this site plan recommendation was slated to be discussed at the Park Board Committee of the Whole Meeting on Thursday, July 10. The Park Board is tentatively scheduled to take action on this plan at the Regular Park Board Meeting on Thursday, July 17. To view information about the Taylor Park Site planning process, visit www.oakparkparks.com and select Future Plans & Current Projects then select Taylor Park in the left column.

Grab Your Hard Hats

The Park District is beginning two park renovation projects in early August. Major improvements will be made at Longfellow Park and Center and on the north end of Fox Park beginning on August 4.

Fox Park Renovations

Phase one of the Fox Park Site Plan, accepted by the Park Board of Commissioners in January 2007, will commence in early August with major improvements to the north end of Fox Park. Improvements include new creative play areas for ages 2 to 5 years and 5 to 12 years and a restored water play area with the ever-popular whale water feature. The current sunken area which currently features play apparatus will be filled in to bring the entire area to grade. New swings, improved restroom accessibility and landscaping are also part of the Fox Park Project. Construction will begin in early August and is expected to be substantially completed by late November. During construction, the space north of Fox Center will be closed to the public. For more information regarding the Fox Park Site Planning process and the renovation project, please visit www.oakparkparks.com and select "Future Plans and Current Projects."

Help Us Develop a Site Plan for Rehm Park & the Oak Park Conservatory

The planning process is underway to develop a site plan for Rehm Park and the exterior of the Oak Park Conservatory. A community meeting was held on Tuesday, July 22 to begin to collect public input regarding future park renewal. You are invited to attend the next community meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 19 at 7pm at the Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield Street, where draft concepts will be presented and further public input will be collected. In the meantime, you are encouraged to complete an online questionnaire regarding your thoughts on the future of Rehm Park and the land surrounding the Conservatory. You can access the questionnaire at www.oakparkparks.com. Please mark your calendar for the third community meeting planned for Tuesday, September 23 at 7pm at the Conservatory and, if needed, a fourth and final community meeting to be held on Thursday, October 7 at 7pm at the Conservatory. For more information regarding this planning process, please visit www.oakparkparks.com and select Future Plans & Current Projects.

Major Improvements Scheduled for Longfellow Park

As part of the Longfellow Park Site Plan implementation beginning this August, Longfellow Park will undergo major renovation to improve and expand recreation facilities and heighten accessibility throughout the park. Accessible creative play areas featuring a synthetic, slip-resistant surface will be installed for ages 2-5 and 5-12. Other new park features include an expanded universally accessible water play area adjacent to the playground, unique playground elements, and an elevated-to-grade full court basketball court with spectator seating. An elevator and lobby area will be installed in Longfellow Center and the restrooms will become ADA accessible. At the south end of the park, the ballfield/soccer field area will be redeveloped and a brick plaza with seating and bike racks will be added in the southeast corner.

A significant percentage of this project is being funded through grants. The Park District would like to thank the Good Heart Work Smart Foundation for a \$235,000 grant for the Longfellow Center and Park Project. The Park District, in partnership with the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation, secured a \$220,000 Access to Recreation grant sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. (Information regarding the establishment of an endowment, made possible through the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, to support future accessibility projects is included in the center of this publication.) Over \$100,000 of these grant monies will be used for the Longfellow Park Renovation Project. The Park District has also been awarded a \$400,000 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Grant for Longfellow Park as part of the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Program.



The Field Park Grand Re-opening Celebration was a huge success as residents gathered to check out the many new park amenities including the creative play areas, sports fields, shelter and bocce ball court.