



Facility Feature: Taylor Park



Taylor Park, purchased by the Park District in 1912, was originally called "North Park." Designed by renowned landscape architect Jens Jensen in 1914, the name of the park was later changed in honor of Commissioner Henry A. Taylor. At 11.75 acres, Taylor Park is the District's second largest park admired by residents for its natural feel. Current park features include the ever-popular sledding hill and walking paths, a comfort station/restroom, tot lot, soccer field, 6 tennis courts and the Park District's only permitted picnic area with a grill and picnic tables.

A unique feature of Taylor Park is its ridge which, in ancient times, was actually the shoreline of Lake Chicago. This ridge encouraged early settlement of Oak Park in 1837. Did you know that a continental divide is located in Taylor Park? Before the reversal of the Chicago River in 1900, half of the water falling on this line would flow west to the Des Plaines River and onward to the Mississippi and eventually the Gulf of Mexico. The other half would flow east to the Chicago River and on to the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean. Now all water flows to the Gulf of Mexico.

A site master plan was developed for Taylor Park in early 2008. Community meetings were well attended and the Park District received a great deal of public input through online questionnaires as well. The final site plan accepted by the Park Board includes a new playground featuring a children's adventure area. A shelter will be added near the tennis courts and a fen will be located in the southeast corner of the park. (A fen is a type of wetland fed by surface and/or groundwater.) The northeast corner of the park will be transformed into a woodland environment. Renovations to the picnic grove, pathways, tennis courts and soccer field are also part of this plan. The Park District will apply for an Illinois Department of Natural Resources Matching Grant for the first phase of this project which is slated for 2010.

View the Taylor Park Site Plan online by visiting oakparkparks.com and selecting Future Plans and Current Projects.

Sponsorship Opportunities with the Park District of Oak Park

From big to small, there's a sponsorship that will fit you!

For generations, the Park District of Oak Park has provided quality parks and recreation experiences for residents and visitors of all ages. The Park District offers a variety of opportunities to sponsor popular programs and special events, including our Annual Frank Lloyd Wright Races! When you partner with the Park District of Oak Park, you are associating your brand or product with healthy, fun and engaging activities for the entire community. Sponsorships are a great way to give back to the community while receiving promotional recognition. You can choose different levels of sponsorship to meet your promotional goals and financial needs - we will work with you to develop a mutually beneficial sponsorship package.

For general sponsorship information, please contact Joanna Skubish, Sponsorship Coordinator, at (708) 725-2039 or joannas@oakparkparks.com.



Dominican University, a proud multi-year sponsor of the Park District of Oak Park's Frank Lloyd Wright Races, had about 80 of their students and faculty members participate in the Races as the Domin-ICAN Team this past October. Pictured here are many of those participants, including Donna Carroll, President of Dominican University, along with Gary Balling, the Park District of Oak Park's Executive Director (in white).