



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.



Rehm Park & the Oak Park Conservatory

The site planning process for Rehm Park and the exterior of the Oak Park Conservatory began in earnest in mid-July with 4 focus groups. Since that time four community meetings were held and 3 questionnaires were posted online to collect additional public input. The park planners from Thompson Dyke & Associates utilized this feedback along with the results from the 2004 community survey to develop numerous alternate site concepts and eventually draft site plan recommendations for both facilities. Expanded garden areas on the East and West sides of the Conservatory and an improved front exterior are some of the improvements included in the Conservatory Plan. Sand volleyball courts, expanded parking, additional pathways and landscaping and an improved playground are some features of the Rehm Park Plan. At the time this brochure went to print, the Park Board had discussed the final recommendations at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on November 6 and were considering acceptance of these plans at the Regular Park Board Meeting on November 13. For a planning process update, please visit www.oakparkparks.com and select Future Plans and Current Projects.

Mills Park Site Plan

The Mills Park site planning process has reached its halfway point at the time of print. Focus groups and two community meetings have been held and an online questionnaire was available to collect initial public input. Considerations in the planning process include use of the park, the historic template, pathways and landscaping, children's play area, lighting and seating, fencing, security, and the possible addition of a pavilion on the west side of Pleasant Home by the Pleasant Home Foundation. A third community meeting was held on November 12 and a fourth and final meeting is planned for December 3. For an update on the Mills Park plan, please visit www.oakparkparks.com and select Future Plans and Current Projects.

Future Plans

In 2009, site plans are slated to be developed for Euclid Square Park, Randolph Tot Lot and the exterior of Cheney Mansion. These projects are identified as part of the Park District's updated Capital Improvement Plan which can be viewed at www.oakparkparks.com by selecting Breaking News.

Maple Park is scheduled for major renovation in 2009. A grant application for \$400,000 has been submitted to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for this project. You are invited to view the Maple Park Site Plan at www.oakparkparks.com and select Future Plans and Current Projects. Neighbors around Wenonah Tot Lot will be contacted in the new year as improvements are considered and implemented.

Fox Park Renovation Project

Major improvements are underway at the north end of Fox Park as part of the phase 1 implementation of the Fox Park Site Plan. When completed the entire north area will be to grade and new creative play areas will be installed for ages 2 to 5 and ages 5 to 12 featuring rubber surfacing for improved accessibility. The whale water feature is being restored, a sand play area added and accessibility to the restrooms is being improved. A new brick paver plaza south of the center is also part of this renovation. Originally it was projected that this renovation would be substantially completed by the end of November. Due to weather and unforeseen conditions, the pouring of the rubberized surface has been postponed until the spring. Completion of this project and the re-opening of the north end of Fox Park is now anticipated by May 1.

Longfellow Park Improvements

Longfellow Park is getting a whole new look. The playground area once located to the north of Longfellow Center is being moved to the east of the facility and expanded to include a restored and improved water play area, a sand play area and new creative play areas featuring a rubberized surface for improved accessibility. The north end of the park is being brought to grade and will feature a full-court basketball court and an entry plaza leading to a new elevator for improved facility accessibility. Additionally, restrooms are being made accessible from the outside. The south side of Longfellow Park will feature a redeveloped plaza area and athletic fields as well as new landscaping, bike racks and water fountains. The pathways from the east, west, and north sides of the park leading to the new entryway and elevator on the north side of Longfellow Center are projected to be completed by December 1. Restroom accessibility improvements will also be completed by December. The remaining renovations were originally slated to be substantially completed in late November however this date has been pushed back to the spring due to the weather and other unforeseen conditions.

A significant portion of this project is being funded through grants. Our thanks to the Good Heart Work Smart Foundation for a \$235,000 grant in support of this project, to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for over \$100,000 in grant monies as part of the Access to Recreation initiative and to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for \$400,000 as part of the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Program. The District is also thankful for a \$2,000 grant from the CVS Foundation for the Longfellow Renovation Project.

Ridgeland Common Update

Watch for more information as the Park District heads back to the drawing board regarding the future of Ridgeland Common. After an exhaustive community planning process, Park Board members are reassessing plan options and financial scenarios in consideration of the best method to replace Ridgeland Common within the reasonable financial means of our community.

Our Sincere Thanks

The Park District of Oak Park would like to thank Fenwick High School and Dominican University for partnering with the Park District to complete recent tennis court improvements. Courts were resurfaced at Scoville, Euclid Square and Lindberg Parks, and minor improvements were made at Taylor and Rehm Parks. Our sincere thanks to Fenwick High School and Dominican University for your support!