



Park/Facility Spotlight: Mills Park



Austin Gardens is described as the “Hidden Garden” and the Oak Park Conservatory is known as Oak Park’s “Hidden Gem.” If there was a phrase to describe Mills Park, it would probably be Oak Park’s “Best Kept Secret.”

Mills Park was shaped in the late 1800s when John Farson commissioned George W. Maher to design and build Historic Pleasant Home, now a National Landmark, located in the northeast corner of the property. Mr. Farson purchased many of the residences around Pleasant Home so that he could have a sprawling parcel of land where he eventually built a fountain, conservatory and horse stables, all of which no longer exist on the property. Pleasant Home and Mills Park were sold to the Park District by the family of its second owner, Herbert Mills, in 1939. Mills Park is named in his honor.

Nestled behind a 12 foot high steel fence bordering a residential area to the east and south, the Marion Street Business District to the west, and Pleasant

Home to the north, Mills Park is not one of the Park District’s most visited (or visible) facilities. In fact, many residents don’t know it’s a public park. One of only two Park District parks without a playground, athletic field or other active recreation feature, (Austin Gardens being the other park) Mills Park is perfect for picnics, a game of Frisbee, or just sitting under one of its big trees to read, relax and enjoy the beauty of nature. You can check out the 200-year old oak tree on the western edge of the park or the amazing 3’ round hackberry yards away.

In December 2008 the Park District completed a 4-month long park planning process for Mills Park. You can read about it on page 5 or, for more in-depth information, visit www.oakparkparks.com and select Future Plans & Current Projects.

When you are looking for a place to discover nature “urban-style” or a place to retreat and reflect, we invite you to visit Mills Park. SSSHHH, it’s a secret!

Sponsorship Opportunities

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!

Opportunities include:

- **Day in our Village Rehm Park Carnival** (June 2009) - Entertainment and Activity Sponsors
- **Scoville Park Summer Concert Series** (Summer 2009)
- **Banner Placement** at the Paul Hurby Ice Arena at Ridgeland Common (Year Round)
- **Advertising within the Park District Program Guide** (Year Round)
- **33rd Annual Frank Lloyd Wright Races** (October 2009) - Gold, Silver, Goody Bag Sponsors and in-kind donations

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.

New at the Park District: Apply Online !

The Park District employs 50 full-time employees, and 200 part-time year-round instructors & employees. The Park District of Oak Park is proud to be the largest employer of area youth by hiring approximately 200 summer seasonal employees every year. Park District job opportunities build character, strengthen leadership skills, and create a sense of community pride. Our employees have the opportunity to work outdoors, with people and in a variety of sports and activities. A position with the Park District is a great opportunity to explore your talents and potential in a fun team-oriented atmosphere (while making money in the process).

The Park District of Oak Park strictly adheres to an online job application process. If you are interested in applying for employment, you must complete the online job application available at www.oakparkparks.com - select “Jobs,” and then click on “Start an application for employment.”

Visit www.oakparkparks.com and click on “Jobs” today!