

PDOP Development Grants Surpass \$1 Million Mark

The Park District of Oak Park is pleased to announce it has been awarded a \$400,000 Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) matching grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for the re-development of Taylor Park. *"This funding offers welcome testimony to the creative -- yet fundamentally sound, responsible and responsive -- character of the master plan itself, and to the reputation of the Park District of Oak Park as an agency well-equipped to implement it,"* said Dick McKinlay, Park District Citizen Committee Member. Read the details in the Board President letter on page 3!

Park Renewal Projects



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.

A Future Plan for Scoville Park

The development of a site plan for Scoville Park will be initiated in March with focus group meetings followed by community meetings and online questionnaires to collect citizen input. This historic park, deemed our "Village Green," was originally designed by noted landscape architect Jens Jensen. Look for information about this planning process at www.oakparkparks.com and select Future Plans and Current Projects.

Future Plans for Cheney Mansion

With the input from many residents who attended focus groups and community meetings in the fall of 2009, a site plan has been developed and accepted by the Park Board for the grounds surrounding Cheney Mansion. This planning process focused on improving accessibility to the Mansion entrance and around the grounds. To view the site plan visit www.oakparkparks.com and select Future Plans and Current Projects, then Cheney Mansion in the left column.

Wenonah Tot Lot Renovation

Look for the completion of the Wenonah Tot Lot renovation project by the end of May 2010. New features will include innovative playground equipment and interpretive signage based on an automotive theme and new ornamental fencing, benches, game tables and landscaping.

Rubinstein Memorial Garden

Shortly after the annual Scented Plants and Herb Sale at the Oak Park Conservatory in early May construction will commence on the Rubinstein Memorial Garden. Located directly south of the Rubinstein Room on the west side of the Conservatory Center, this new garden will include a patio, new fencing, a water feature and, of course, many new and beautiful plantings. This inviting area will be open to the public during Conservatory hours unless a private rental is scheduled. Thank you to the Rubinstein Family and the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory for their generous gifts to make this garden a reality.

Scoville Park Memorial Restoration and Rededication

It is anticipated that work will be completed this spring to repair the stairs surrounding the Scoville Park Memorial and renovation to this historic structure will be completed in time for a re-dedication ceremony on Memorial Day, May 31, 2010.

To compliment the restoration of the World War I War Memorial a group of private citizens are compiling a collection of memorabilia from Oak Park World War I veterans to be used in an exhibit. This group is also looking for names and contact information of relatives of Oak Park World War I veterans. For more information regarding this effort, please contact Ed Avis at edavis@scovillememorial.com.

A New Look for Randolph Tot Lot

Improvements to Randolph Tot Lot, including new playground equipment, landscaping and pathways, are scheduled to begin in March with completion expected in July 2010. Randolph Tot Lot doubled in sized recently with the transfer to the Park District from the Village of the property east of the alley bordering Randolph and Oak Park Avenue. This area will be developed into a passive park site with benches, chess tables, pathways and new landscaping.

Upcoming Projects

Park redevelopment projects at Euclid Square Park and Maple Park are tentatively scheduled to begin in July. For more details please refer to your summer program guide to be delivered in early May.

Rehm Pool Filter

The 10 year old Rehm Pool sand filter will be replaced this winter/spring with a state of the art regenerative media filter system as part of the Park District's Capital Improvement Plan. The new system will provide much improved water quality and the Park District anticipates a significant decrease in water consumption and reduced energy costs and chemical consumption throughout the summer season due to this environmentally-friendly filter system.

Check out the Improved Ridgeland Common Dog Park

The Park District has closed the Ridgeland Common Dog Park through March 8 to replace the wood chip surfacing with crushed granite to improve drainage, complete fence improvements and install a new controlled access system. Purchase your dog permit today and enjoy this revitalized facility.

