

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.

Access for All - Longfellow Park Grand Re-Opening Sa, May 30 @ 10am

Improving accessibility in all Park District parks and facilities has been a key consideration as site plans are developed and park renovation projects are completed. Since 2005 considerable strides have been made to improve restroom accessibility, construct walks and pathways that meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards, and upgrade play center surfacing to elevate access. Accessible picnic tables, water fountains, and splash pads are being installed and accessibility to ballfields is being addressed.

The Longfellow Park Renovation Project, with support from the Good Heart Work Smart Foundation, the Kellogg Foundation Access to Recreation Grant, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources OSLAD Grant Program, focuses on significant accessibility improvements throughout the park and center. An elevator will allow access to the lower level regardless of age or ability; the basketball court will be at grade making it accessible to all; the play apparatus and splash pad exceed ADA requirements and anyone can traverse the park from north to south once these improvements are completed in May. **You are invited to the Longfellow Park Grand Re-opening Celebration on Saturday, May 30 at 10am to enjoy these significant improvements.**

Emerald Ash Borer

In July 2008, state and local officials confirmed the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an extremely destructive pest specifically affecting Ash trees. The Park District's newly organized Greening Advisory Committee is drafting a recommendation to address this serious issue. Basically this recommendation states that once EAB is confirmed by a certified arborist, the tree will be removed within 10 days, following industry standards, to minimize further spreading. Neighboring trees will be visually-inspected every 90 days. This recommendation is in alignment with the Village of Oak Park Citizen Advisory Board and Forestry Commission. The Park District acknowledges that the best overall defense against EAB and other future invasive insects and diseases is to plant a diverse range of trees.

Euclid Square Park Site Plan Next on the Agenda

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, May 12 when the second community meeting for the Euclid Square Park Site Plan will take place at the Oak Park Conservatory at 7pm. Community input is vital in developing a site plan as we determine future park improvements. Draft concepts of new park amenities will be presented and discussed at this meeting. To view focus group notes and learn more about this planning process, please visit www.oakparkparks.com and select Future Plans and Current Projects.

Fox Park Renovation

By the time you read this, improvements to Fox Park should be near completion. New park amenities include creative play areas for ages 2 to 5 years and 5 to 12 years with accessible resilient surfaces and a new sand play area. The splash pad will be operating from Memorial Day to Labor Day from 10am to 8pm. Restrooms have also been made accessible from the exterior. Additional park improvements include a bike rack, benches, drinking fountain and new landscaping. We invite you to stop by and check out the new Fox Park play area.

Rehm Park Site Plan Phase 1

Work has begun to construct two sand volleyball courts with under drainage at Rehm Park. Additional walks, pathway lighting, shrubs and plants, trees, benches, a bike rack and a garden area near East Avenue are also part of this improvement project. The installation of lights for the volleyball courts has been postponed due to budget constraints. Project completion is anticipated by the end of May.

Join the GREEN TEAM

If you are interested in helping to care for a local park, we need you for the Park District Green Team, an initiative of the Park District's newly organized Greening Advisory Committee. Green Team members, under the guidance of volunteer park stewards, will donate a few hours per month to monitor and maintain biodiverse areas, monitor trees, remove invasive species from naturalized areas and help ensure green operations on all of our park lands while improving the overall quality of our parks. Interested steward candidates should have a working knowledge of or interest in horticultural practices which might include gardening, prairie restoration and perennial plant and tree care. For more details contact Henrietta Yardley at 708.725.2450 or henriettay@oakparkparks.com. Applications are available at www.oakparkparks.com.



FOR OUR PARKS. FOR OUR PLANET.

Oak Park Conservatory

Continuous infrastructure improvements is a strategic theme for the Park District and the Oak Park Conservatory is an excellent example of this initiative. Several significant improvements have been made to this Oak Park institution over the past 7 years and another improvement project is slated to begin soon. Lead abatement, painting and environmental control improvements will be completed in the West Growing House beginning in May. This work will not affect visitors to the Conservatory which is open Mondays from 2 to 4pm and Tuesdays through Sundays from 10am to 4pm.

ABOUT THIS BROCHURE

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