Dogs in the Parks

Community Meeting
February 8, 2006
Oak Park Conservatory

"Shaping the Future for Man's Best Friend"



For regular plan updates, www.oakparkparks.com and select Future Plans

History of Dogs in the Parks

Dog Friendly Policies

Ongoing	Park Rules allow dogs in the parks on leash
Mid-1990's	Don't Look, Don't See off leash activity
July 2003	Temporary Off-Leash Policy at Ridgeland Common and Lindberg Parks in effect
Sept. 2003	Dog Friendly Activities Introduced (Doggie Dip, Doggie Hunt, Bark in Oak Park)
Jan. 2006	Temporary Dog Park/Dog Park Plus established at Ridgeland Common
Jan. 2006	Planning begins to identify permanent dog park(s)
Jan. 2006	Friends of Oak Park Dogs (FOOPD) group established

Working with the Community

Comprehensive Planning Process 2003-2004

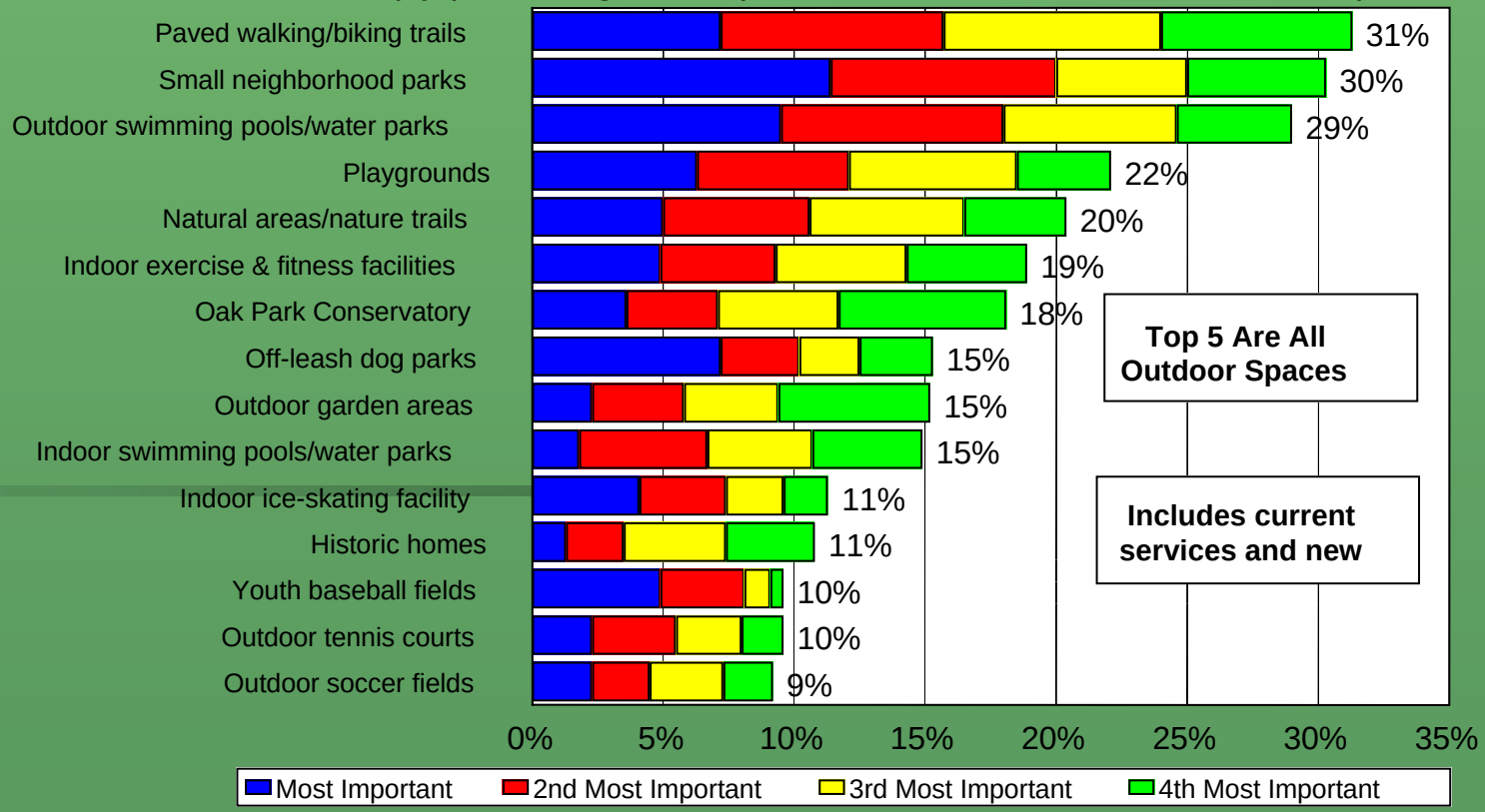


- ✓ With VOP, hired park and recreation planning consultant – Leisure Vision
- ✓ Jointly Appointed Park District Citizen Committee (PDCC) – 13 members
- ✓ Held Stakeholder interviews, focus groups & public input meetings with several hundred residents
- ✓ Mailed 3,367surveys/
  Received 829 completed responses
- ✓ Held Consensus Workshop with VOP

Understanding Community Needs, Priorities, etc.....

Survey Q. 7. Recreational Facilities that are Most Important to Respondent Households

(by percentage of respondents/four choices could be made)



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (June 2004)

Limited Open Space in Oak Park

- NRPA standard: 10 acres of park space per 1,000 residents
- With 82.29 acres of park space, Oak Park has about 1.6 acres per 1,000 residents

Park/Site Master Planning Process

2005
- Andersen
- Carroll

2006
- Dogs in Oak Park
- Field
- Fox
- Gymnastics Center
- Longfellow

2007
- Maple
- Ridgeland Common
- Taylor

2008
- Euclid Square
- Mills
- Conservatory
- Rehm

2009
- Cheney
- Randolph
- Wenonah

2010
- Lindberg
- Scoville

Dogs in Oak Park Planning Process

Feb 8	Community Meeting #1 to collect information
March 8	Community Meeting #2 to present 4 sites for consideration
March 14	Focus Group with reps from VOP and Community Organizations
April 3-14	Specific Site Meetings (Talking to neighbors)
May 3	Community Meeting #3 to present final recommendation
May 4	Presentation to Park Board at Committee of the Whole
May 18	Park Board will consider action on final plan at Regular Park Board Meeting

DOGS IN THE PARKS

A MASTER PLAN



Public Meeting February 8th 2006

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In partnership with the community,
we provide quality parks and recreation experiences
for the residents of Oak Park.

FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : PARK RIDGE





FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : PARK RIDGE





FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : PARK RIDGE



FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : BECK LAKE





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FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : BECK LAKE



FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : SKOKIE





FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : SKOKIE



FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : SKOKIE



FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : SKOKIE





FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : SKOKIE





FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : LAWRENCE





FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : LAWRENCE





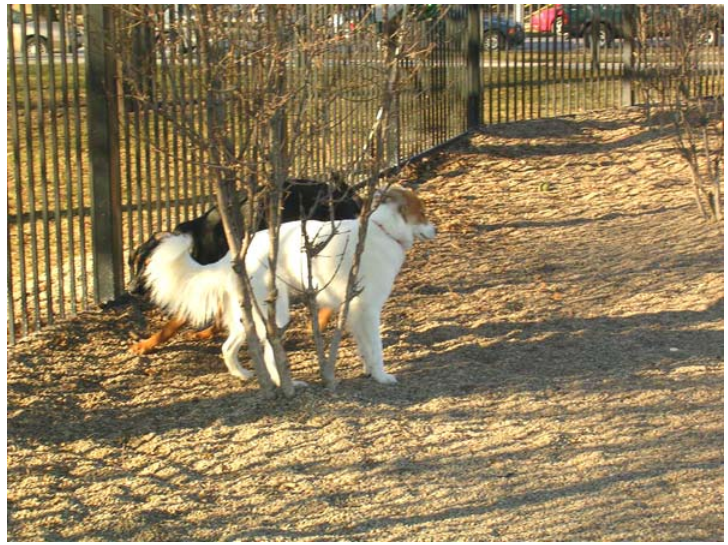
FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : LAWRENCE





FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : LAWRENCE







FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : MONTROSE BEACH





FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : MONTROSE BEACH





FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : WIGGLY FIELD





FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : WIGGLY FIELD



FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : WIGGLY FIELD





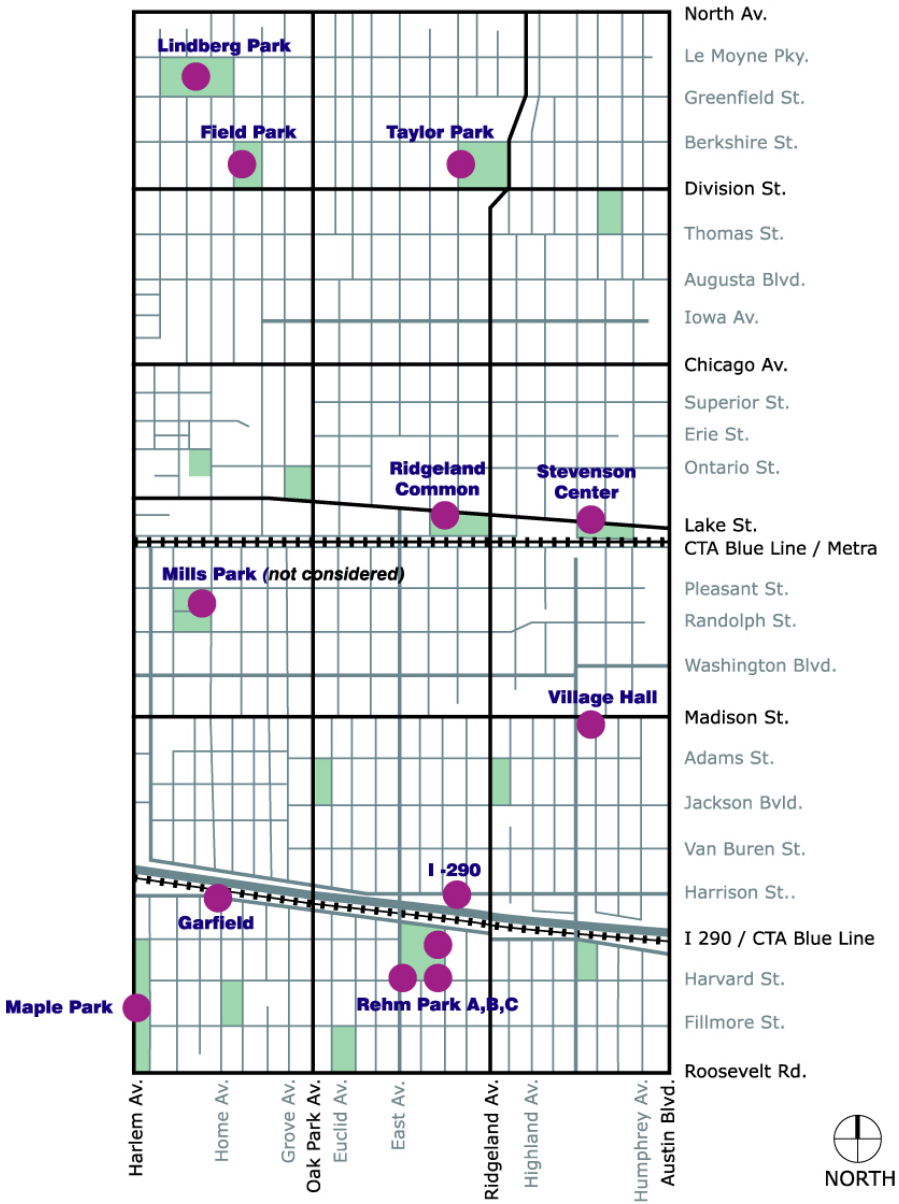
FROM THE DOG PARK TOUR : WIGGLY FIELD











POTENTIAL SITES:

Lindberg Park

Taylor Park

Field Park

Ridgeland Common

Stevenson Center

Mills Park (not considered)

Village Hall

I -290

Garfield

Rehm Park

Maple Park

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POTENTIAL SITE: **Lindberg Park**



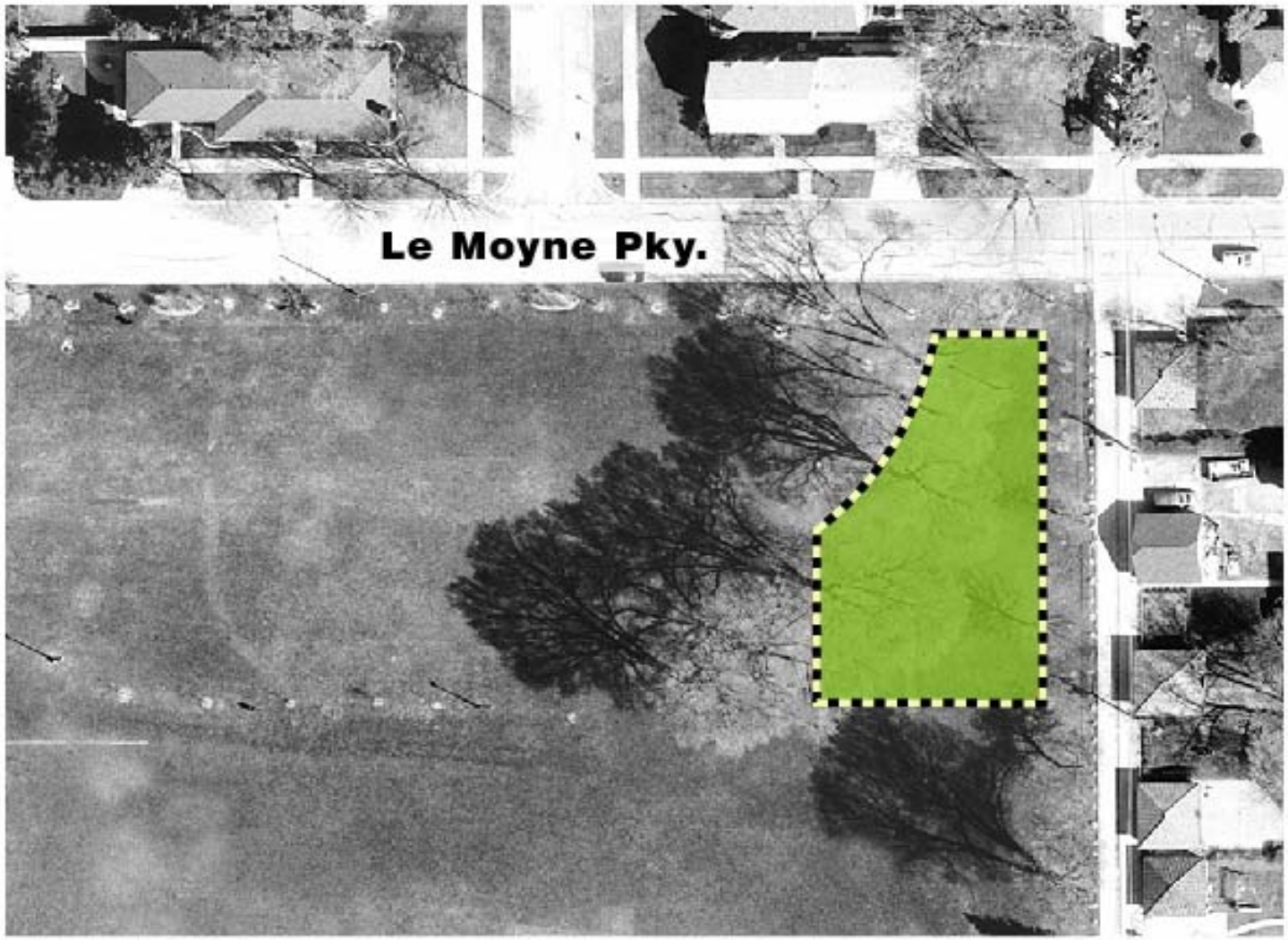
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POTENTIAL SITE: **Lindberg Park**



POTENTIAL SITE: **Lindberg Park**



View from Alley Looking Northwest



View From Le Moyne Pky. Looking Southeast

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LINDBERG PARK:
Potential Impact of Dog Park on future Master Plan of Park

Existing Park

- The park has very high quality landscape
- The park has historic significance
- No fenced off areas near potential site



Potential Recommendations of Master Plan

- Create entry at the corner of Le Moyne and the alley.
- Reinforce existing plantings and create entryway planting area
- Add continuous path system

Impact of Master Plan Recommendations on Dog Park Design

- Difficult to integrate the dog park into the mature and high quality landscape

POTENTIAL SITE: **Lindberg Park**



CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

SIZE:	10,400 sq ft. / 0.24 acres
OWNERSHIP:	Park District
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:	High
ACCESS - PARKING:	Yes, parking on 3 of the adjacent streets
ACCESS - PEDESTRIAN:	Yes, all sides
VISABILTY FROM NEIGHBORS:	High
IMPACT ON NEIGHBORHOOD:	Moderate, some parking and views from park and Le Moyne Pky.
CURRENT USE:	Existing open space, high quality.
ADJACENT FENCED OFF AREAS:	No
IMPACT ON EXISTING LANDSCAPE:	Potentially high
IMPACT ON ADJACENT USES:	Low, open ball fields to west and south
IMPACT ON OVERALL PARK DESIGN:	No relocations but site is very visible
GENERAL:	This site is small; impacts would be high on existing landscape. The park is historically significant and the site is highly visible

POTENTIAL SITE: **Taylor Park**



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POTENTIAL SITE: **Taylor Park**



POTENTIAL SITE: Taylor Park





TAYLOR PARK:
Potential Impact of Dog Park on future Master Plan of Park

Existing Park

- The park has very high quality landscape sections
- The park has historic significance
- There are existing fenced tennis courts with adjacent open space
- There is a playground close to the potential site for the dog park, however this playground will need to be replaced soon due to ware.



Potential Recommendations of Master Plan that may effect Dog Park Design

- Create "Meadow" space or "Outside Room" at the top of the hill with views over the park.
- Remove of reshape any barriers in the park to create contiguous park space
- Safe access to all elements of the park
- Reconstruct the playground

Impact of Master Plan Recommendations on Dog Park Design

- Make sure that the Dog Park is integrated into the landscape i.e. Use mounding and a landscape buffer
- The fence line should vary with the landscape, in this case a curved layout could make the most of existing plantings and minimize visual the impact
- The Dog Park fence line should be far enough away from the hill top to allow for a "Meadow" and not to impact the views over the park.

POTENTIAL SITE: **Taylor Park**



CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

SIZE:	12,750 sq ft. / 0.3 acres
OWNERSHIP:	Park District
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:	High
ACCESS - PARKING:	Yes, parking on 3 of the adjacent streets
ACCESS - PEDESTRIAN:	Yes, all sides
VISABILTY FROM NEIGHBORS:	Low
IMPACT ON NEIGHBORHOOD:	Low, some parking
CURRENT USE:	Existing open space
ADJACENT FENCED OFF AREAS:	Yes
IMPACT ON EXISTING LANDSCAPE:	Potentially high
IMPACT ON ADJACENT USES:	Playground would have to be relocated
IMPACT ON OVERALL PARK DESIGN:	Moderate. Playground would have to be relocated. Location has high quality landscape but area is small relative to the overall park.

POTENTIAL SITE: **Field Park**



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POTENTIAL SITE: **Field Park**



POTENTIAL SITE: Field Park



View Looking West





View Looking Northwest

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FIELD CENTER & PARK:
Potential Impact of Dog Park on Future Master Plan of Park

Existing Park

- The park is heavily used
- Boundary fence on 2 sides of site
- Berm on south side hides part of the site from park



Potential Recommendations of Master Plan that may effect Dog Park Design

- Add decorative boundary fence
- Reinforce existing plantings and create entryway planting area
- Add continuous path system

Impact of Master Plan Recommendations on Dog Park Design

- Low impact on potential master plan recommendations as the site is small and partially hidden from view
- The path system could avoid this area
- Though we were informed that the site is not used, on the two days we visited the park in January the site was used by children.

POTENTIAL SITE: Field Park



CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

SIZE:	4750 sq ft. / 0 .11 acres
OWNERSHIP:	Park District
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:	Park is low, the building has historic significance
ACCESS - PARKING:	Yes, parking on 2 adjacent streets and use of school lot on off hours
ACCESS - PEDESTRIAN:	Yes
VISABILTY FROM NEIGHBORS:	Low, could be buffered by planting
IMPACT ON NEIGHBORHOOD:	Low
CURRENT USE:	Existing open space
ADJACENT FENCED OFF AREAS:	Boundary fence only, site open 2 sides
IMPACT ON EXISTING LANDSCAPE:	Moderate impact on the park as a whole but high on the site itself
IMPACT ON ADJACENT USES:	Low, berm would hide most of the site from view
IMPACT ON OVERALL PARK DESIGN:	Moderate to low
GENERAL:	This site is extremely small and could only be considered as a local dog run. The potential for erosion is high from overuse. Though we were informed that the site is not used on the 2 visits we made children were playing on or near the site. The School Board may not agree to a Dog Park on a shared facility.

POTENTIAL SITE: **Ridgeland Common**



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POTENTIAL SITE: **Ridgeland Common**



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DOGS IN THE PARKS

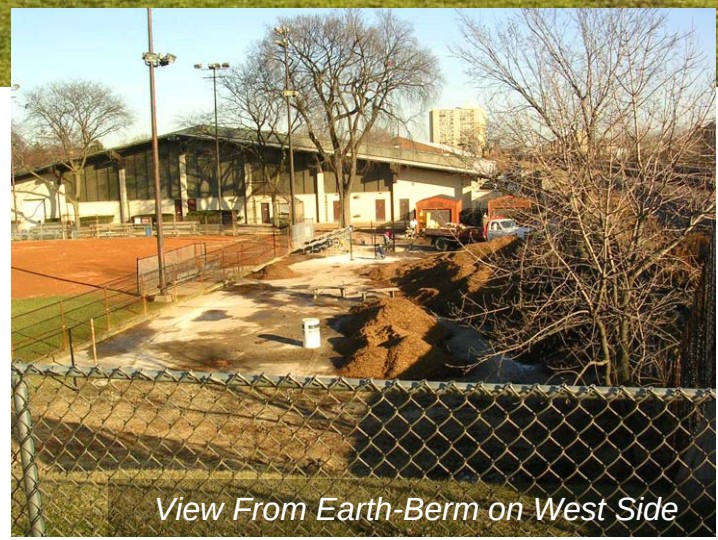
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POTENTIAL SITE: Ridgeland Common


View From Northwest


View From West


View From Earth-Berm on West Side

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RIDGELAND COMMON:
Potential Impact of Dog Park on future Master Plan of Park

Existing Park

- The park is heavily used
- Site is visible to public from North Side only.

Potential Recommendations of Master Plan

- Add decorative boundary fence
- Add continuous path system

Impact of Master Plan Recommendations on Dog Park Design

- Add decorative boundary fence
- Add continuous path system



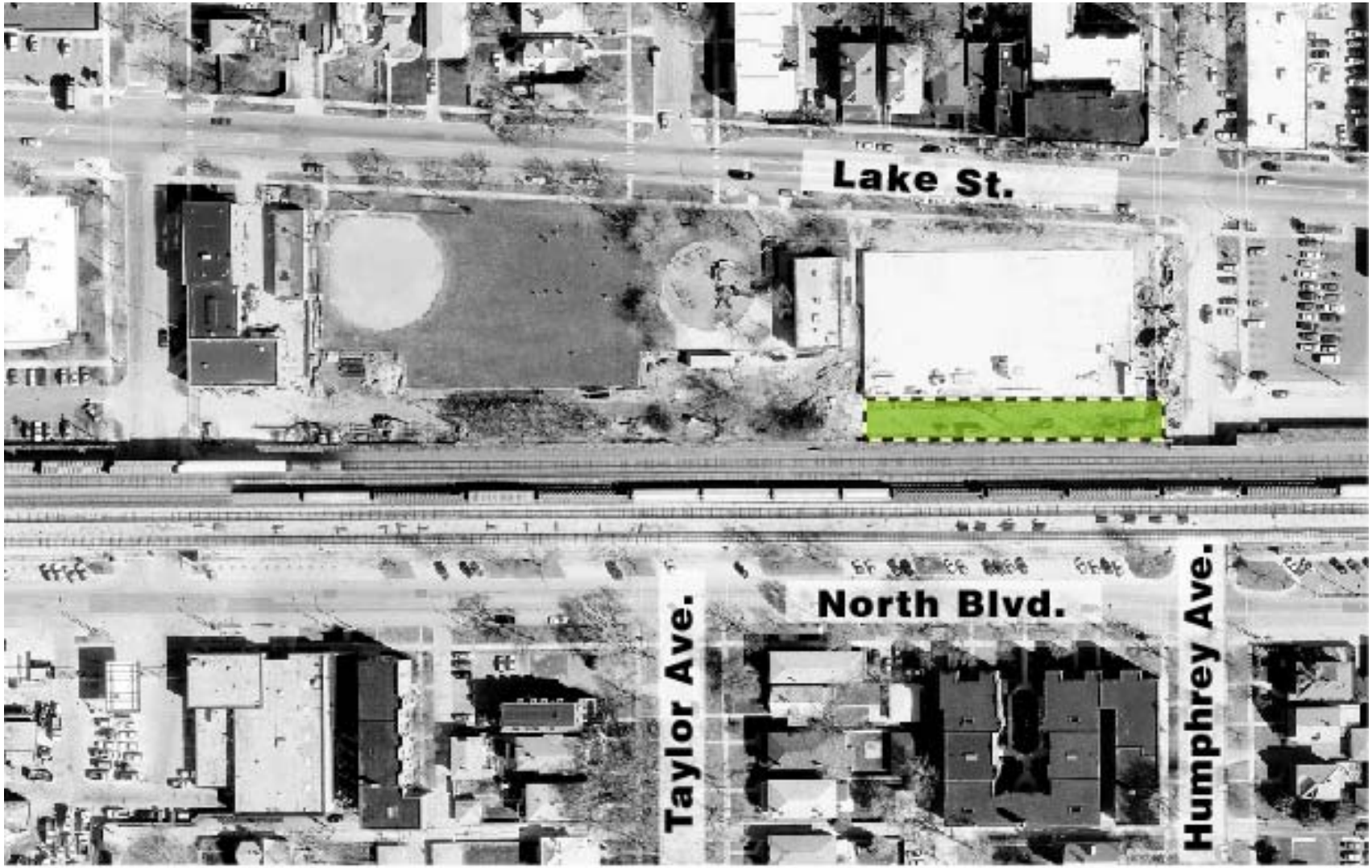
POTENTIAL SITE: **Ridgeland Common**



CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

SIZE:	12,000 sq ft. / 0.275acres
OWNERSHIP:	Park District
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:	Low
ACCESS - PARKING:	Yes, along Lake Street
ACCESS - PEDESTRIAN:	Yes
VISABILTY FROM NEIGHBORS:	Low, at back of site
IMPACT ON NEIGHBORHOOD:	Low
CURRENT USE:	Existing yard with concrete pavement
ADJACENT FENCED OFF AREAS:	Berm on west side, retaining wall for elevated train on South, building on East only North side facing park.
IMPACT ON EXISTING LANDSCAPE:	Low, berm would hide most of the site from view
IMPACT ON ADJACENT USES:	Low
IMPACT ON OVERALL PARK DESIGN:	Low
GENERAL:	This site is limited in size but seems to be functioning well at present.

POTENTIAL SITE: **Stevenson Center**



POTENTIAL SITE: **Stevenson Center**



POTENTIAL SITE: Stevenson Center



View Looking East from Stevenson Park



View Looking West from Humphrey Ave.



View Looking East from Lombard Ave.



View Looking Northeast from Stevenson Park

STEVENSON CENTER:
Potential Impact of Dog Park on Future Master Plan of Park



Existing Park

- Not high quality landscape in this areas of park
- Low historic significance
- Has fenced off areas and walls adjacent

Potential Recommendations of Master Plan that may effect Dog Park Design

- Create formal entry at the corner on East side.
- Reinforce existing plantings and create entryway planting area
- Add continuous path system

Impact of Master Plan Recommendations on Dog Park Design

- This site is long and narrow. It does not lend itself to formal recreation. It is not the most used entry point and is hidden from Lake Street by the Skate Park. The site could be used as a Dog Park without undue impact on the park. The PD would still require truck access through the site but this could be accommodated.

POTENTIAL SITE: **Stevenson Center**



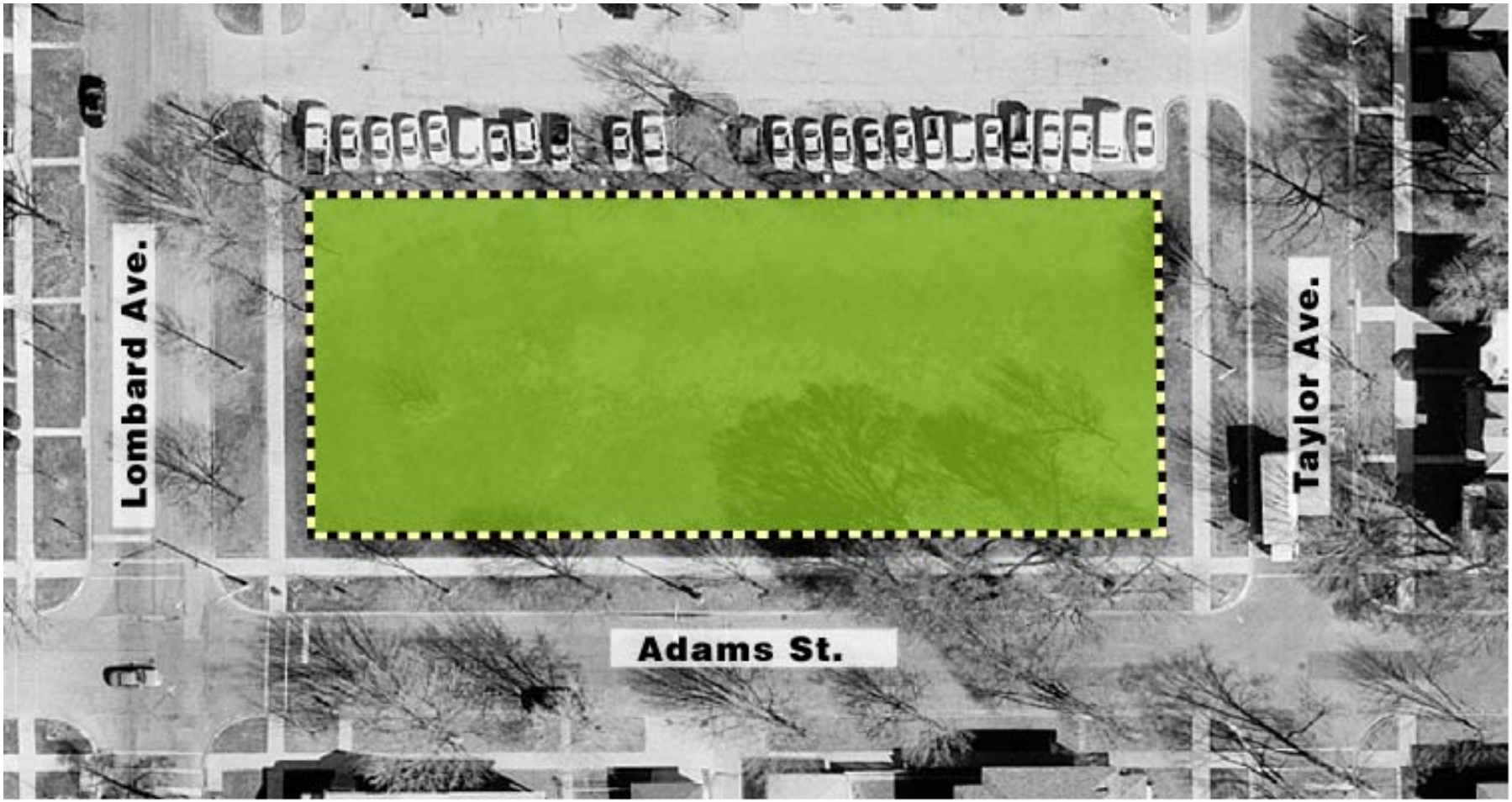
CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

SIZE:	**10,000 sq ft / 0.23 acres**
OWNERSHIP:	Park District
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:	Low
ACCESS - PARKING:	Yes, parking on 3 of the adjacent streets
ACCESS - PEDESTRIAN:	Yes, 3 sides but access my be from one side only
VISABILTY FROM NEIGHBORS:	Low
IMPACT ON NEIGHBORHOOD:	Low the site is only visible from East
CURRENT USE:	Existing open space, low quality. Area is used by PD trucks to access site
ADJACENT FENCED OFF AREAS:	Yes skate Park to the North and retaining wall of elevated train to South
IMPACT ON EXISTING LANDSCAPE:	Low as long as site is kept back from play grounds to the West
IMPACT ON ADJACENT USES:	Low
IMPACT ON OVERALL PARK DESIGN:	Low
GENERAL:	This site is has great potential for a Dog Park. It is not very visible and is underutilized.

POTENTIAL SITE: **Village Hall**



POTENTIAL SITE: **Village Hall**



POTENTIAL SITE: Village Hall



View Looking Northeast From Corner of Adams and Lombard

POTENTIAL SITE: **Village Hall**



CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

SIZE:	**25,600 sq ft. / 0.6 acres**
OWNERSHIP:	Village
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:	Low
ACCESS - PARKING:	Yes, parking on 3 of the adjacent streets and in Village Hall lot
ACCESS - PEDESTRIAN:	Yes, all sides
VISABILTY FROM NEIGHBORS:	Very High
IMPACT ON NEIGHBORHOOD:	High, site is used by neighborhood and is very visible.
CURRENT USE:	Existing open space, moderate to high quality. Used by neighborhood
ADJACENT FENCED OFF AREAS:	No, parking lot to North, streets on other sides
IMPACT ON EXISTING LANDSCAPE:	Potentially high
IMPACT ON ADJACENT USES:	Low impact on parking lot to North, boundary could be planted, but the site is very visible from neighborhood and it would have a high visual impact.
IMPACT ON OVERALL PARK DESIGN:	The site is not officially a park.
GENERAL:	Impact on the neighborhood would be high but this site is probably going to be redeveloped by the Village at some time in the future. A Dog Park would therefore probably be a temporary use.

POTENTIAL SITE: **Harrison St. at I-290**



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DOGS IN THE PARKS

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POTENTIAL SITE: **Harrison St. at I-290**



POTENTIAL SITE: **Harrison St. at I-290**



View Looking Northeast From East Avenue Overpass

POTENTIAL SITE: **Harrison St. at I-290**



CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

SIZE:	**10,000 sq ft / 0.23 acres**
OWNERSHIP:	State of Illinois IDOT
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:	Not significant
ACCESS - PARKING:	Yes. IDOT has two underutilized parking lots; one East and one West of the building. There is also parking on Harrison.
ACCESS - PEDESTRIAN:	Yes, there are existing gates on Harrison
VISABILTY FROM NEIGHBORS:	Low, the site is hidden from the neighborhood by walls, fences and the slope of the site. The site is very visible from I-290 but could be masked by plantings.
IMPACT ON NEIGHBORHOOD:	Low
CURRENT USE:	Unused open space
ADJACENT FENCED OFF AREAS:	Yes
IMPACT ON EXISTING LANDSCAPE:	Low
IMPACT ON ADJACENT USES:	Low if landscape buffer provided to reduce visual impact on I-290
IMPACT ON OVERALL PARK DESIGN:	This is not a park. The land is owned by IDOT and is part of a potential expansion of I-290.
GENERAL:	This is a large site with adjacent parking. It is in a central location and is not part of any local or regional park. However, as it is State land and potentially part of any expansion of I-290. It is unlikely that IDOT would agree to allow it to be used as a Dog Park.

POTENTIAL SITE: **Garfield**



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POTENTIAL SITE: **Garfield**



POTENTIAL SITE: Garfield

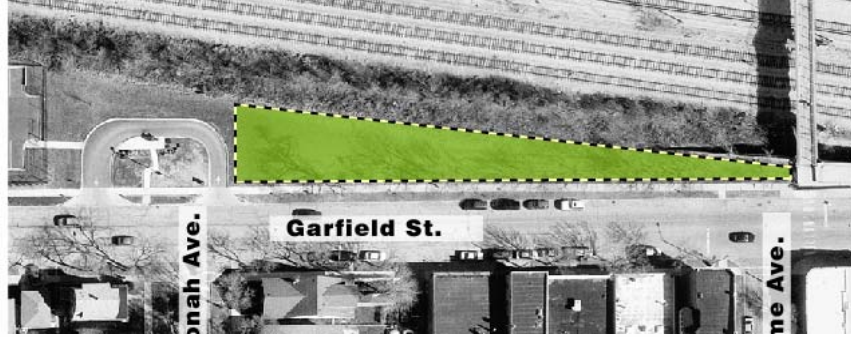


View Looking East



View Looking Southeast

POTENTIAL SITE: Garfield



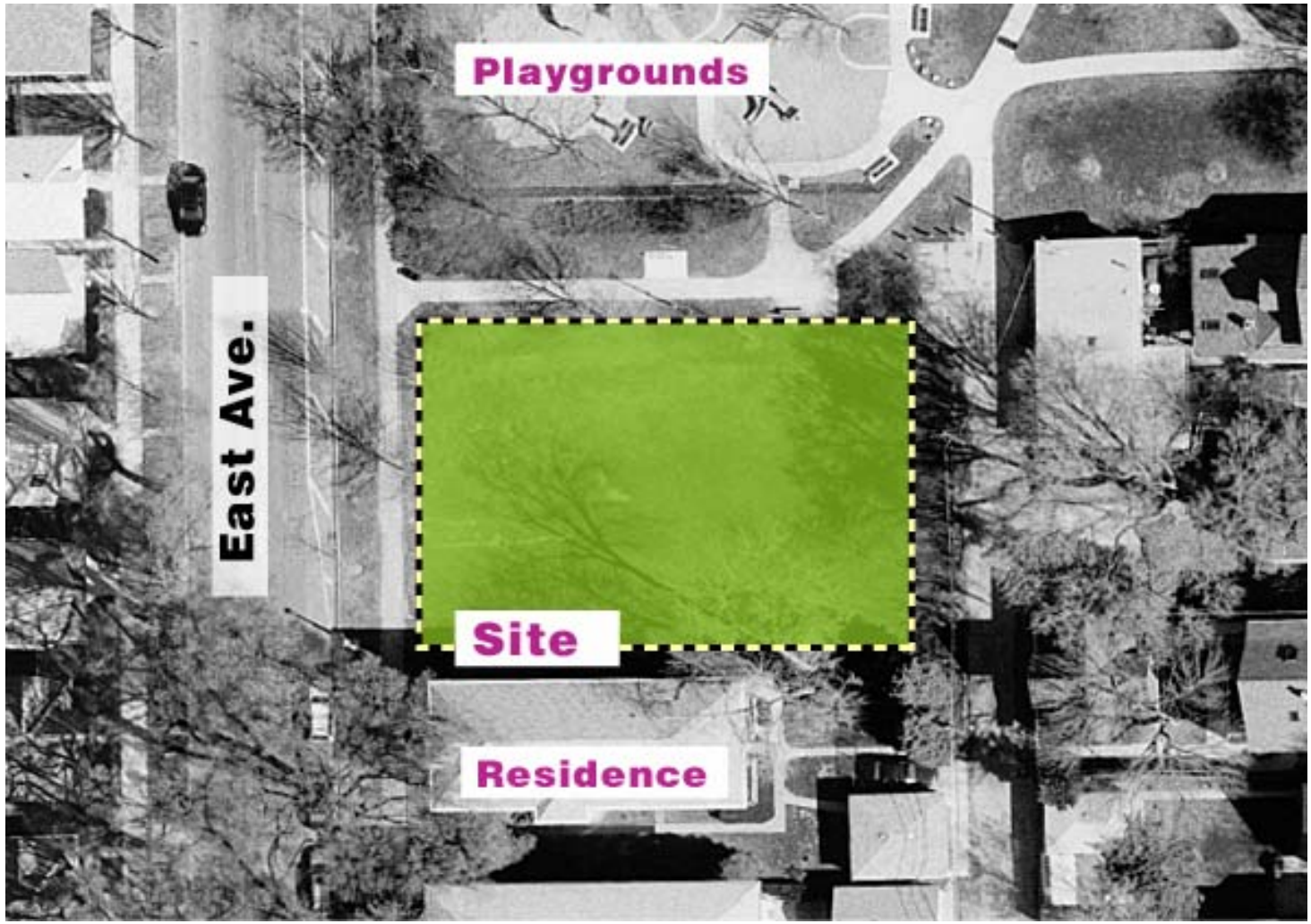
CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

SIZE:	**12,500 sq ft** / **0.29 acres** usable space, an expensive retaining wall would be necessary to use the full site
OWNERSHIP:	Private - Cost to purchase - site is for sale
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:	Not significant
ACCESS - PARKING:	Yes. There is parking on Garfield but it would be shared with local businesses and residents. There is parking on residential streets near by.
ACCESS - PEDESTRIAN:	Yes
VISABILTY FROM NEIGHBORS:	Low, if landscape buffer provided
IMPACT ON NEIGHBORHOOD:	Low, some parking on local streets
CURRENT USE:	Existing Open Space
ADJACENT FENCED OFF AREAS:	Yes
IMPACT ON EXISTING LANDSCAPE:	Low, not a high quality landscape
IMPACT ON ADJACENT USES:	Low, the site is bounded by I-290, a pedestrian bridge across I-290 and a drop-off/turnaround for the Post Office
IMPACT ON OVERALL PARK DESIGN:	N/A Not a public park. The site is not very visible.
GENERAL:	This site is in a good location for public access; it can be masked by planting from the neighborhood; it is adjacent to the Animal Care League. The drawbacks are the cost of purchase and the need for a retaining wall if the full site is to be used.

POTENTIAL SITE: **Rehm Park**



POTENTIAL SITE: **Rehm Park *AREA A***



POTENTIAL SITE: **Rehm Park *AREA A***



CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

SIZE:	**AREA A - 9,000 sq ft. / 0.2 acres**
OWNERSHIP:	Park District
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:	Not highly significant, the site is not part of the original park
ACCESS - PARKING:	Yes. Parking along East Ave.
ACCESS - PEDESTRIAN:	Yes
VISABILTY FROM NEIGHBORS:	Very high
IMPACT ON NEIGHBORHOOD:	Very High. The site is bounded by a residence to the South and it is close to a playground to the North
CURRENT USE:	Open park space
ADJACENT FENCED OFF AREAS:	Yes
IMPACT ON EXISTING LANDSCAPE:	High existing landscape of moderate to good quality
IMPACT ON ADJACENT USES:	Moderate
IMPACT ON OVERALL PARK DESIGN:	Potentially high. This area could be incorporated into the park design by altering paths and adding planting.
GENERAL:	This site is small, in a prominent location and close to residences and a playground

POTENTIAL SITE: **Rehm Park *AREA B & C***



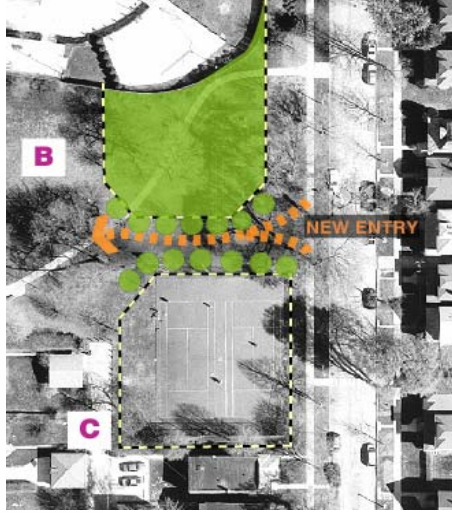
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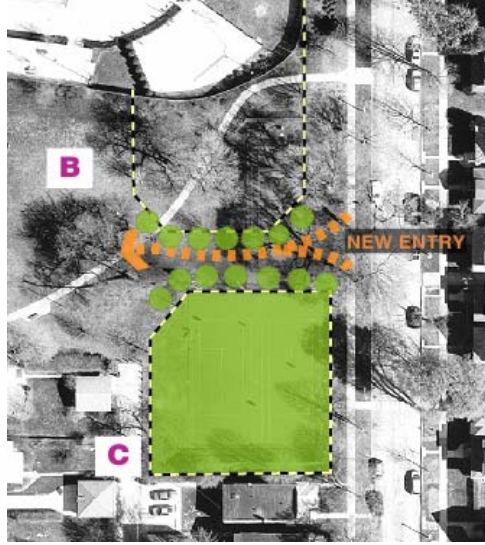
POTENTIAL SITE: **Rehm Park *AREA B***



CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

SIZE:	**AREA B - 9,150 sq ft. / 0.21 acres**
OWNERSHIP:	Park District
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:	Low to Moderate - area has changed by construction of the Tennis Courts
ACCESS - PARKING:	Yes parking along street
ACCESS - PEDESTRIAN:	Yes
VISABILTY FROM NEIGHBORS:	Moderate to high visual impact but could be reduced by setting the fence back from the edge of the park and using a planted buffer
IMPACT ON NEIGHBORHOOD:	Moderate if fence is set back and area planted
CURRENT USE:	Open park space and a Tennis Court
ADJACENT FENCED OFF AREAS:	Yes, the site backs up to the fence of the pool on the North side and there are Tennis Courts to the South
IMPACT ON EXISTING LANDSCAPE:	Mixed - the replacement of the existing tennis court could be an improvement but the existing landscape is of good quality and it would be impacted
IMPACT ON ADJACENT USES:	Moderate, there is a fence of the Pool to the North and tennis courts to the South
IMPACT ON OVERALL PARK DESIGN:	Potentially high. A tennis court would be removed and an area with mature landscape would be incorporated into the Dog Park.
GENERAL:	Impacts could be minimized by designing a new park entry; setting the fences back from the street and the new paths and creating a heavily planted entryway

POTENTIAL SITE: **Rehm Park *AREA C***



CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

SIZE:	**AREA C - 11,200 sq ft. / 0.25 acres**
OWNERSHIP:	Park District
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:	Low - area has changed by construction of the Tennis Courts and the expansion of the park
ACCESS - PARKING:	Yes parking along street
ACCESS - PEDESTRIAN:	Yes
VISABILTY FROM NEIGHBORS:	Moderate to high visual impact from the street edge but could be reduced by setting the fence back and using a planted buffer. High visual impact from residence to the south
IMPACT ON NEIGHBORHOOD:	Visual impact could be Moderate if fence is set back and area planted
CURRENT USE:	Open park space and Two Tennis Courts
ADJACENT FENCED OFF AREAS:	The site is currently fenced off but it backs up against a residence
IMPACT ON EXISTING LANDSCAPE:	Low
IMPACT ON ADJACENT USES:	High, residence to the South
IMPACT ON OVERALL PARK DESIGN:	Potentially high. Two tennis courts would be removed.
GENERAL:	Impacts could be minimized by setting the fences back from the street and the new paths and creating a heavily planted entryway

POTENTIAL SITE: **Maple Park**



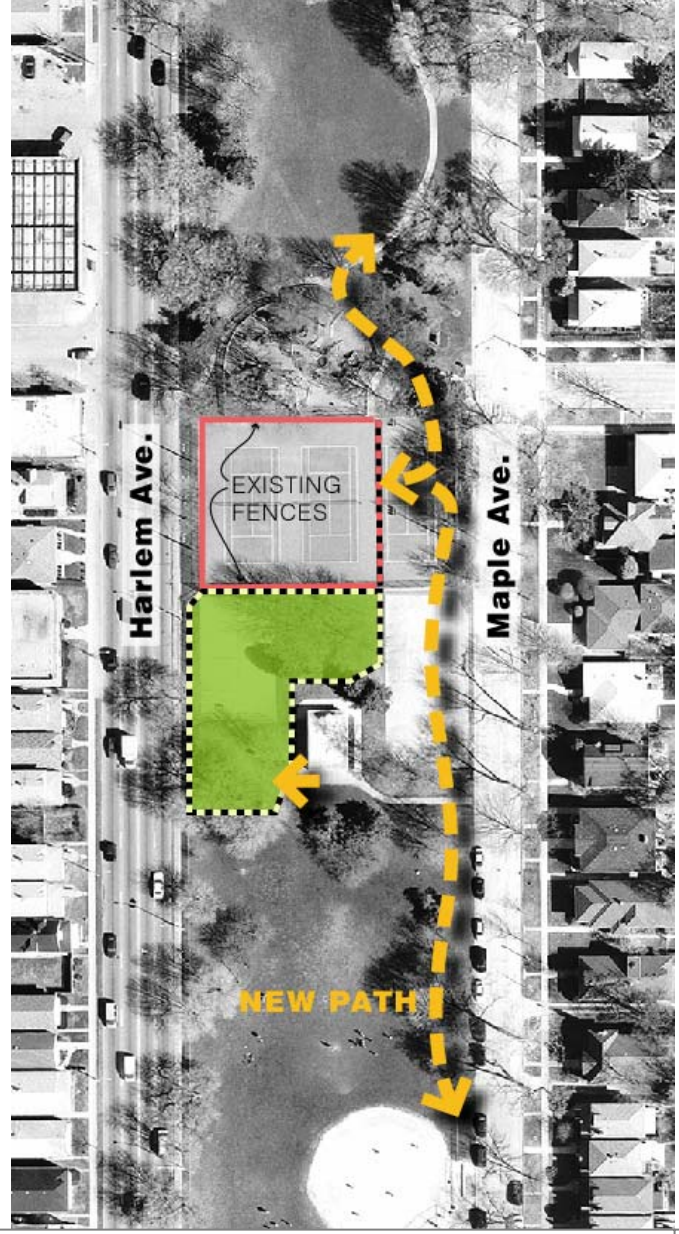
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DOGS IN THE PARKS

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POTENTIAL SITE: **Maple Park**



PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK

DOGS IN THE PARKS

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POTENTIAL SITE: Maple Park



View From Maple Ave. Looking West



View Looking South

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POTENTIAL SITE: **Maple Park**

MAPLE PARK: Potential Impact of Dog Park on future Master Plan of Park

Existing Park

- The park has very high quality landscape areas but it is divided into two sections by fences
- There is no continuous path system
- The edge along Harlem is uninviting due to traffic

Potential Recommendations of Master Plan that may effect Dog Park Design

- Join all sections of the park together
- Create a continuous path system through the park
- Reinforce the "Local Edge" with plantings and path system
- Safe access to all elements of the park including public restrooms

Impact of Master Plan Recommendations on Dog Park Design

- Make more use of the "Harlem Edge" rather than "Local Edge" to minimize impact on neighbors
- Make sure that the Dog Park is integrated into the landscape i.e.
  - Use mounding and evergreen plantings
  - The fence line should vary with the landscape
- Provide safe well lit access to restrooms



POTENTIAL SITE: **Maple Park**

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

SIZE:	17,300 sq ft. / 0.4 acres
OWNERSHIP:	Park District
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:	Not highly significant as basketball and tennis courts added
ACCESS - PARKING:	Yes. No parking on Harlem or Roosevelt but parking on Maple
ACCESS - PEDESTRIAN:	Yes
VISABILTY FROM NEIGHBORS:	Low, if landscape buffer provided
IMPACT ON NEIGHBORHOOD:	Low, some parking on Maple
CURRENT USE:	Existing Basket Ball courts not used
ADJACENT FENCED OFF AREAS:	Yes
IMPACT ON EXISTING LANDSCAPE:	Low if landscape buffer provided
IMPACT ON ADJACENT USES:	Low as long as safe access is provided to restrooms
IMPACT ON OVERALL PARK DESIGN:	Low, as long as other improvements are carried out: Removal of one tennis court, completing the path system and adding plantings would probably be recommended in the master plan

