



PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK

Park District of Oak Park
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2018-2022 Capital Improvement Plan

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HISTORY OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK

The Park District of Oak Park has had a long and proud history of acquiring and developing green space and offering recreation opportunities for the residents of Oak Park. Established in 1912, the 5 elected commissioners who made up the first Park Board purchased the land now known as Scoville Park for \$135,637. This park, designed by Jens Jensen, an internationally renowned landscape artist, remains the “Village Green” today having been placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior on November 21, 2002. It is the site of the World War I monument unveiled on November 11, 1925 in the presence of General C.G. Dawes, Vice-President of the United States.

Most of the land now owned by the Park District of Oak Park was purchased during the first two decades of the Park District’s existence. The main use of this property was for passive recreational activities. A conservatory was erected in 1929 supplying flowers for the community flower beds as well as hosting seasonal flower shows, which are still held today. The Oak Park Conservatory was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior on March 8, 2005.

In 1918 a “Small Parks Commission” was appointed by the Village Board to ensure that Oak Park children had a place to “enjoy and practice organized outdoor sports.” They became the Oak Park Playground Board in 1920 and began to levy a tax in 1921 to “equip, conduct and maintain playgrounds.” This Board went on to purchase land for playgrounds and eventually built neighborhood centers, named after prominent children’s authors, where organized recreation programs were provided. At the National Recreation Congress in October 1926, Oak Park won national recognition for programs such as the “Boys’ Playground Band”, a “Shelter House Design Contest” won by Oak Parker John S. Van Bergen, “Murals Contest”, “Junior Art Museum”, “Library on Wheels”, as well as playground landscaping and beautification. Mr. Van Bergen designed many of the neighborhood recreation centers built by the Playground Commission.

In 1939 the Park District bought the property now known as Mills Park from the Herbert Mills Family. Historic Pleasant Home, designated a historic landmark in 1972, is located on this property. In 1947 the Henry W. Austin Family donated Austin Gardens to the Park District. Sometimes referred to as “the secret garden” this beautiful park has been home to Festival Theatre since 1975, the Midwest's oldest professional theatre devoted to outdoor performances of the classics. Cheney House (now known as Cheney Mansion) was presented as gift to the Park District in 1975 although it remained the private residence of Elizabeth Cheney until her death in 1985. Cheney Mansion was designed by Charles E. White, Jr. in 1913 and boasts many handsome reception rooms, six bedrooms, seven bathrooms, and separate servants’ quarters. The two acres of beautifully-landscaped grounds also include a coach house and greenhouse.

For many years the Park District and Village Playground Commission operated side by side in serving the recreation needs of Oak Park residents when, in 1980, a new intergovernmental agreement merged the Recreation Department with the Park District. In 1990 the Park District became the sole provider of government-sponsored parks and recreation in Oak Park. At that time the Park District assumed the operation and maintenance of the Village-owned recreation centers.

The voters of Oak Park successfully passed a referendum in April 2005 providing much needed funding to “Renew Our Parks,” and provide clear stewardship of the parks and recreation service for the residents of the Village. In 2006, the Village transferred the titles of five of the seven recreation centers to the Park District and a 99 year use lease for the two remaining centers has been established due to underground water reservoirs located on these properties. Master plans have been completed for all of the parks, and major renovation projects have been completed or are in progress.

THE 2018-2022 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The 2018-2022 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is the seventh update of the original 2005-2010 CIP. The CIP is a five-year projection of planned improvements to District's parks and facilities. The CIP provides a "blueprint" for spending priorities over a five-year period. The CIP is updated annually to ensure funding is available for needed capital improvements throughout the district during the next five years. No actual expenditures are made until they are included in the annual budget, which is reviewed and approved by the Board of Commissioners. Therefore, based on updated needs and priorities, the CIP is being updated on an annual basis.

The public has had ongoing opportunities for input on capital improvements through the site master plan processes. The public is also invited to provide comment at the beginning of every Board meeting and at the annual Public Hearing held before the budget is approved, or by contacting staff and Board members throughout the year. This CIP is made available to the public on the Park District web site, www.pdop.org, along with other planning, budgeting, and capital improvement information.

PURPOSE OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Continued investment in our parks and facilities is critical to the District's mission, which states, "In partnership with the community, we enrich lives by providing meaningful experiences through programs, parks, and facilities." Developing a long-range vision for park and recreation programs and services in our community has allowed the Park District of Oak Park to continue to provide the many individual, community, economic and environmental benefits that enhance the quality of life and make our community a great place to work and play.

Capital items included in the CIP are projects that have a monetary value of at least \$5,000 with a useful life of at least three years. Examples of capital projects include construction, remodeling, purchase of parks, park fixtures, buildings, and vehicles, as well as related planning and engineering costs.

Appropriations for capital improvement items lapse at the end of the fiscal year but are re-budgeted and re-appropriated as needed until the project is completed or changed. The operating and maintenance costs for capital assets, once complete, are funded through the operating budget.

SELECTION AND ALLOCATION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

Capital projects are developed through an extensive site planning process with input from many stakeholders including the community, user groups, other government entities and partners, staff, and the Board of Commissioners. A balanced approach to improvements in the district is used that takes into consideration a) the previous schedule of when the master plan was completed, b) the last time improvements were completed at a facility, c) location of the park in the community attempting to ensure residents feel something is happening in their neighborhood geographically (south, central and north), d) grant opportunities, e) funding available compared to scope and size of project, f) staff resources, g) highest demand-greatest need determined the order of the projects, and h) scores that parks receive as part of the Park Report staff completed by staff on an annual basis.

Equipment and smaller scale capital projects may be submitted by Park District staff for review and consideration by the Executive Director and Board of Commissioners. Staff and Board meetings are held to discuss all projects, with the projects prioritized based on the District's mission, vision and values, department goals, and available funding. When requests exceed available funding in a given year, adjustments are made to scope, scheduling, or additional funding is sought. The effect of capital improvements on operating expenses is always an important consideration.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING SOURCES

The District has been improving its parks and facilities through various revenue sources; some of which include property taxes, grants, debt, and proceeds from fees and charges. Sources of revenue are identified property tax, grants, debt, or operating fund transfers from the Corporate, Recreation and/or Revenue Facilities Funds.

	2016	2017 Budget	2018 Projected	2019 Projected	2020 Projected	2021 Projected	2022 Projected
Intergovernmental	\$1,180,417	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$14,223	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Donations	\$6,228	\$150,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0	\$0
Property Tax Contribution	\$855,183	\$958,335	\$958,335	\$958,335	\$958,335	\$1,172,710	\$1,190,301
Bond Issue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Funds' Transfers	\$1,025,000	\$1,235,000	\$959,000	\$959,000	\$2,559,000	\$959,000	\$959,000
Total Revenue	\$3,081,052	\$2,743,335	\$1,942,335	\$1,942,335	\$3,542,335	\$2,131,710	\$2,149,301

Property Tax

The 2005 referendum increase of 25 cents per \$100 in equalized assessed valuation in property taxes was split between operational needs and capital projects. Annually the amount of property tax transferred to the capital projects fund is adjusted by the CPI. For instance, the CPI for the 2017 tax year is 2.1%, and the property tax for capital projects (and bond debt service used for capital projects) will stay flat at \$2,958,529.

Beginning with the 2011 tax year portions of this annual levy will be used to pay the debt service on \$30 million in bonds issued for improvements at Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex, Gymnastics and Recreation Center, and the John Hedges Administration Building. With all the bonds issued, \$2.0 million will be used annually for debt service from the property tax dedicated for capital improvements.

Property taxes are one of the primary sources of revenue for the Capital Improvement Plan. There is currently negotiations at the state level that is looking at a four-year freeze of property taxes for units of local government effective with the 2017 tax year or 2018 budget year. The 2018-2021 CIP assumes a property tax freeze occurring in 2018 and ending in 2021. In the first year of the freeze, the district would not be eligible for the approximately \$100,000 in additional taxes it would previously have been able to levy. The loss in property taxes would compound every year and over the two year period of the freeze this would equate to \$300,000.

Grants

The District has been fortunate to have received over \$4 million in grants from several sources over the last ten years. The Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has been awarded to the District for nine (9) park improvements. The OSLAD grant is available for the purpose of acquiring, developing, and/or rehabilitating lands for public outdoor recreation purposes and requires a matching contribution from the Park District. The District has identified projects for OSLAD grant submittal for each year of the CIP. The revenue from the grant has not been included in the CIP unless the grant has already been announced by the Governor of Illinois. This capital improvement plan does not include any new unawarded grant funds from these sources as the future of these grants is unknown.

Debt Issues

The Board authorized issuing \$30 million in alternative revenue source general obligation bonds for major capital improvements in the district. The source of the alternative revenue to pay the debt service on these bonds will be the portion of the 2005 tax levy referendum proceeds dedicated for capital projects.

The District issued the bonds over three years in increments of \$10 million each. The bonds were for improvements at the Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex, Gymnastics and Recreation Center, and John Hedges Administrative Center. The first of the three planned \$10 million bond issues was sold on October 20, 2011, through a competitive sale monitored by the District's financial advisor, Speer Financial. The second \$10 million bond issue was sold on March 15, 2012 through a competitive sale. The third \$10 million bond issue was sold on February 21st, 2013 through a competitive sale.

Currently the district board has no plans for future debt issuance; however that can change if a large scale capital project is necessary.

Operating Budget Transfer

Operating revenues generated mainly by non-tax sources are transferred to the capital improvement fund to accelerate the pace of capital improvements. These transfers are based on the District's fund balance policy, which in part states there to be a minimum fund balance for operational funds, with amounts over the minimum transferred to the CIP for capital improvements. In 2018, \$959,000 is budgeted to be transferred from operations

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT EXPENDITURES BY TYPE

Expenditures, or projects, are identified by location and type. Types of expenditures are specific to improvements, such as vehicle and technology improvements, studies and surveys, and or master plan improvements. Some allocations represent best estimates of what a specific item, such as a replacement fire alarm system, will cost. Such cost estimates are made based on estimates provided from the site master plans, and are updated based on current construction costs adjusted for inflation.

	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017 Projected</i>	<i>2018 Projected</i>	<i>2019 Projected</i>	<i>2020 Projected</i>	<i>2021 Projected</i>	<i>2022 Projected</i>
Debt Service	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Property Acquisition	\$7,714	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
Future Turf Replacement	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Non-site specific	\$222,519	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Vehicle/Tech/Equipment	\$188,054	\$100,000	\$125,000	\$130,000	\$85,000	\$120,000	\$100,000
Park/Master Improvements	\$3,102,251	\$2,180,000	\$1,945,000	\$915,000	\$5,125,000	\$1,550,000	\$1,050,000
RC (2011,12,13 Bonds)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
B & G / Admin (Bond)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GRC (Bond)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Expenses	\$3,520,537	\$2,630,000	\$2,220,000	\$1,195,000	\$5,360,000	\$2,020,000	\$1,500,000

Property Acquisition Reserve

This is a reserve fund for land acquisition related costs (such as appraisals, environmental testing and closing costs), which was identified as one of the community's priorities in the community attitude and interest survey. With the money set aside for a Community Recreation Center, this plan includes a three year hiatus on putting money aside for new property.

Turf Replacement Reserve

This is a reserve fund for the future replacement of the artificial turf surfaces at Irving, Julian, and Brooks Middle Schools and the Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex.

Surveys/Studies

From time to time the district undertakes large scale planning projects including the Comprehensive Master Plan and studies related to facility acquisition or development. Each park also had an individual master plan that is reviewed every 10 years.

Vehicle, Equipment, and Technology Replacement

This category includes replacement of District vans and trucks as well as the Zamboni, water trailer, wood chipper, outdoor stage, and other mobile equipment. Also this category includes technology improvements ranging from server replacements, networking equipment, and fiber line projects. See the appendix for a schedule of vehicle replacement.

Master Plan Improvements

Once site master plans have been approved, improvements based on these are labeled as master plan improvements. Generally master plan improvements are not undertaken totally in one year based on the dollar cost. However, for with successful grant applications several parks have had substantial improvements towards completion of site master plans

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND BALANCE

The District's Fund Balance Policy requires the Capital Projects Fund to not have a negative fund balance. The following chart shows the actual, estimated and projected fund balance for the Capital Projects Fund for this CIP. The Fund balance is broken into two separate sections. The Fund Balance line is the cash on hand for capital projects not including any reserves. The Fund Balance with Property Acquisition/Field Replacement includes the reserve amounts for both property acquisition and field turf replacement.

	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017 Budget</i>	<i>2018 Projected</i>	<i>2019 Projected</i>	<i>2020 Projected</i>	<i>2021 Projected</i>	<i>2022 Projected</i>
Total Revenue	\$3,081,052	\$2,743,335	\$1,942,335	\$1,942,335	\$3,542,335	\$2,131,710	\$2,149,301
Total Expenses	\$3,520,537	\$2,630,000	\$2,220,000	\$1,195,000	\$5,360,000	\$2,020,000	\$1,500,000
Net	\$ (439,486)	\$ 113,335	\$ (277,665)	\$ 747,335	\$ (1,817,665)	\$ 111,710	\$ 649,301
Fund Balance	\$ 901,335	\$ 1,014,670	\$ 1,137,005	\$ 1,884,340	\$ 66,675	\$ 178,385	\$ 827,685
Fund Balance With Property Acq/Field Replacement	\$ 1,411,318	\$ 1,824,653	\$ 1,646,988	\$ 2,494,323	\$ 776,658	\$ 1,188,368	\$ 2,137,669

PLANNED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT EXPENDITURES BY LOCATION

The following table shows expenditures by location and by year from 2018-2022

<i>2018-2022 Capital Improvement Plan by Park</i>							
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Andersen Park & Center		\$ 150,000			500,000		650,000
Austin Gardens							-
Barrie Park & Center			115,000				115,000
Carroll Park & Center					300,000		300,000
Elizabeth F. Cheney Mansion		200,000	100,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	375,000
Dole Center							-
Euclid Square Park	1,300,000						1,300,000
Field Park & Center	175,000	125,000			300,000		600,000
Fox Park & Center	320,000	105,000					425,000
Gymnastic and Recreation Center							-
John L. Hedges Admin Center							-
Lindberg Park							-
Longfellow Park & Center	85,000					500,000	585,000
Maple Park							-
Mills Park							-
Oak Park Conservatory	200,000	25,000	25,000	100,000	25,000	25,000	400,000
Pleasant Home		600,000					600,000
Rehm Park			175,000			500,000	675,000
Rehm Pool		540,000					540,000
Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex							-
Scoville Park							-
Stevenson Park & Center	115,000		400,000		400,000		915,000
Taylor Park	25,000						25,000
Wenonah Park							-
Randolph Park							-
Non Site Specific	-	200,000	100,000	5,000,000			5,300,000
Vehicles/Technology/Repairs/Nonsite	60,000	125,000	130,000	85,000	120,000	100,000	620,000
ADA/Surveys	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	300,000
Reserve for Turf Replacement	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	600,000
Reserve for Property Acquisition	200,000	-	-	-	200,000	200,000	600,000
Project Costs	\$ 2,630,000	\$ 2,220,000	\$ 1,195,000	\$ 5,360,000	\$ 2,020,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 14,925,000
Debt Service	1,997,969	2,000,194	2,002,119	1,998,744	1,998,944	1,998,644	11,996,614
Total CIP Costs	4,627,969	4,220,194	3,197,119	7,358,744	4,018,944	3,498,644	26,921,614

SCHEDULE OF SITE MASTER PLANS AND IMPROVEMENTS

The Park District sets high standards when designing and constructing park renovation projects to ensure that all parks receive needed improvements and are safe for the public to use. To maintain the highest standard, the Park District promotes and seeks competitive Requests for Proposals from qualified professional consultants, and competitive bids from qualified contractors.

Site Master Plans have been prepared at sixteen of the District's sites since beginning the master planning process in 2005. By the end of 2010 the Park District will have completed plans for 18 District parks. Implementation of plans began in 2006 with Andersen Park. Carroll Park was renovated in 2007 and improvements to Austin Gardens were also made that year. In 2008 improvements at Field Park were completed and in 2009 Fox and Longfellow Parks were renovated. Improvements at Wenonah Tot Lot , Randolph Tot Lot and construction of a new outdoor garden area at the Conservatory (in memoriam to Herbert M. Rubinstein, a long-time volunteer and supporter of the Conservatory), were all completed in 2010. The first phase of construction for Euclid Square and Maple Park started in July of 2010 and will continue into spring of 2011. The Park District relies on community involvement when planning for park improvements. Through public awareness, focus group meetings, community meetings, and online questionnaires, the planning process allows everyone in the community an opportunity to suggest what improvements are to be made to park sites and facilities. The public is also invited to provide comment at the beginning of every Board meeting and by contacting staff and Board members.

The following explains the core guidelines when planning for a major capital park improvement project:

- A Request for Proposals is released to professional consultants for professional park planning services. Consultants typically include Landscape Architects, Architects, and/or Civil Engineers.
- Once a professional consultant is selected, Park District staff will meet with the consultant to introduce and discuss general site conditions and concerns, and provide pertinent information from previous studies.
- Between two and six focus group meetings are held. Those typically invited to these meetings, depending on the park location, include Park District staff and representatives from the Park District Citizen Committee, the Village or Oak Park (administration, engineering, planning, fire, police), Oak Park School Districts, Park District sports affiliates,, business associations, universal access commission, WSSRA, FOPCON, and more.
- Three to four community meetings, in conjunction with online questionnaires, are held. During these meetings, conceptual or schematic designs are discussed and refined into a final site master plan. These meetings allow the public to have active involvement in the planning process. Park District staff meets with the consultant before and after each community meeting to ensure all suggestions or recommendations are discussed and the consultant's work is progressing to an acceptable level.
- The Park Board reviews a final site master plan for approval and adoption.
- The Park District then submits a Request for Bids to hire a qualified contractor to construct the proposed improvements. Due to the cost of certain improvements, some park projects need to be phased over time.
- The Park Board reviews the bids from a qualified contractor and approves the hiring/contracting of the contractor.
- Construction begins and is monitored by the Park District Assistant Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds

SCHEDULE OF MASTER PLANS

2005

Andersen Park
Austin Gardens
Carroll Park – Reviewed March 2014

2006

Field Park – Reviewed January 2015
Fox Park – Reviewed April 2014
Longfellow Park – Reviewed April 2014
218 Madison

2007

Maple Park – Reviewed June 2013
Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex

2008

Conservatory
Rehm Park
Taylor Park

2009

Cheney Mansion
Euclid Square Park
Randolph Park
Wenonah Park

2010

Scoville Park
Lindberg Park

2011

Stevenson Park

2013

Rehm Pool

2015

Barrie Park

Andersen Park and Center

History

Acquired in 1916, the park is named after children's author Hans Christian Andersen and includes a center originally designed by John S. Van Bergen. The center has been significantly modified over the years. The play equipment was previously renovated in 1985.

Past Improvements

The site master plan for Andersen Park was completed in January 2006, and initial improvements were completed in September 2006. These improvements included new playground equipment, splash pad, roll hill, walkways, drinking fountain, bicycle rack, security lighting, replacement fencing, woven willow dome, interpretive signage, landscaping, and decorative paved seating areas. In 2006, Andersen Center improvements were also made including roof repair and lock and door replacement. An upgrade of the local fire alarm system was completed in 2008, which replaced the circa 1965 system. The new system allows for constant fire/smoke detection and direct communication alerts to emergency agencies. Replacement park benches were installed in 2008. Center improvements in 2010, made the restrooms accessible when no staff is present, and addressed small-scale maintenance needs (e.g., painting, tuck pointing, tile replacement). In 2011, a new exterior accessible restroom was constructed for the Center.

Current Features

This small neighborhood park currently features a multi-purpose field, two age-appropriate playground areas, a splash pad, roll hill, walkways, and seating areas including chess tables, drinking fountain, bicycle rack, and restrooms in Andersen Center.

Future Improvements

The Park District completed a facility assessment during 2016. There will be both aesthetic and deferred maintenance improvements completed at Andersen Center in 2018. Final master plan improvements are scheduled for 2020 on the north end of the park. These improvements include improvements to ball field, fencings, landscape, Division St. entrances and walkways. Ball field improvements are called for in the park master plan as well as in the Heller and Heller Field Study. The entrances and walkways will improve the aesthetics of the park. Multi-purpose field improvements would include field grading, improved spectator seating, signage and bike racks.

1.3 acres at Hayes & Division



Andersen Park and Center – Continued

1.3 acres at Hayes & Division

Benefits

Capital improvements to Andersen Park will enhance the field environment, improve safety, and improve the aesthetic value of the park and facility. The walkways will also create greater accessibility to the park.

<i>Andersen Park & Center</i>	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Master Plan Review						400,000	
Building Improvement Construction			150,000	-			
Architecture/Engineering						100,000	
	-	-	150,000	-	-	500,000	-

Austin Gardens

3.64 acres at Ontario & Forest

History

Henry W. Austin, Jr. donated the land for Austin Gardens to the Park District in 1947 on the condition that it remains a public park bearing the Austin family name. The District officially received ownership of the property upon the death of Mrs. Austin in 1954. The park includes a wildflower woodland habitat first planted in 1970 by members of the League of Women Voters, as well as pathways and hundreds of trees. Since 1975, Austin Gardens has been used as a performance space by the Oak Park Festival Theatre. A Trust for Austin Gardens is held by the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation and has a value of close to \$500,000. Proceeds of the trust can be used for extraordinary maintenance and recreation activities.



Past Improvements

The site master plan for Austin Gardens was completed in 2005 and was funded through the Austin Gardens Trust. Construction of improvements began in October 2007, and included path improvements, new benches, landscaping, trash receptacles, fencing, electrical upgrades, lighting, and an irrigation system for the wildflower area. A multi-purpose environmental learning center, discovery garden and other improvements such as walkways, landscaping, and signage were completed in 2016.

Current Features

The park includes a wildflower woodland habitat first planted in 1970, by members of the League of Women Voters, as well as walkways, a drinking fountain, hundreds of trees and an area for a Festival Theatre stage. An existing storage facility is located on the south end of the park. The Environmental Learning Center provides educational opportunity for residents and will be used for day camp programs. The discovery garden is a natural habit that utilizes rainwater to help irrigate the park. The signage creates additional educational components and the mile markers will be used by walkers for fitness tracking.

Future Improvements

No future improvements are planned

<i>Austin Gardens</i>	Actual 2016	Projected 2017	Capital Improvement Plan				
			2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Master Plan Review							
Master Plan Improvement Architecture/Engineering Building Improvement	1,123,811						
	1,123,811	-	-	-	-	-	-

Barrie Park and Center

4.22 acres at Lombard & Garfield

History

The 0.9 acre site at the southwest corner of Lombard and Garfield was acquired in 1932 and named for the children's author James Barrie. It includes a center originally designed by Arthur B. Maiworm. The adjacent 3.3 acre park was acquired in 1965 and had been the site of a manufactured gas plant from 1893-1931. Soil contamination was discovered in 1999, and remediation was undertaken through a coordinated effort by the Park District, Village of Oak Park, ComEd, and NiCor. Cleanup and restoration took place from 2001-2005. Barrie Center is located on top of a Village underground potable water tank.

Past Improvements

Improvements to Barrie Park, done through the remediation project and completed in 2005, included new ball fields and a multi-use sport field with irrigation, a sled hill, walkways, playground equipment, and patio. Near the center, improvements included a new tot lot, sport courts, and an accessible ramp. Other improvements in both locations included benches, drinking fountains, bicycle racks, landscaping and lighting. In 2006, improvements to Barrie Center included roof repair, lock and door replacement, and creation of storage spaces to secure equipment. In 2007, these center improvements were completed. In March 2008, improvements included making the restrooms ADA accessible and creating both interior and exterior access, upgrading restroom fixtures, upgrading ventilation systems, creating a customer service kiosk, replacing railings, improving common areas, and reorganizing office workspace. An upgrade of the local fire alarm system was completed in 2008 which replaced the system installed in 1965. The new system allows for constant fire/smoke detection and direct communication alerts to emergency agencies.

Current Features

Current features include restrooms at Barrie Center, a multi-purpose field, a soccer field, one baseball field, a sport courts facility (for basketball, volleyball, tennis and inline hockey), three age-appropriate playground areas (2 at Barrie Park and 1 at Barrie Center), a sled hill with a storage area for utilities and maintenance equipment built into the base, and drinking fountains. Barrie Park athletic fields are irrigated.



Barrie Park and Center – Continued

4.22 acres at Lombard & Garfield

Future Improvements

The Park District completed a facility assessment during 2016. There will be both aesthetic and deferred maintenance improvements completed at Barrie Center in 2019.

Estimated Operating Costs

The improvements will help to decrease some of the ongoing maintenance costs in the short-term.

Benefits

These improvements will help to improve the park and facility amenities and use of the park.

Barrie Park & Center	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Master Plan Improvements							
Building Improvement				115,000	-		
Architecture/Engineering							
Park Improvement							
	-	-	-	115,000	-	-	-

Carroll Park and Center

2.48 acres at Kenilworth & Fillmore

History

Acquired in 1916, the park is named after children's author Lewis Carroll and includes a center originally designed by John S. Van Bergen. The center has been significantly modified over the years. The northern part of Kenilworth Street was vacated by the Village in 1960 to expand the park and connect it to the Lincoln School grounds, creating roughly five acres of total open space.

Past Improvements

The site master plan for Carroll Park was completed in December 2005 with the cooperation of Elementary School District 97; initial improvements were completed in September 2007. These improvements included new playground equipment, a drinking fountain, walkways, landscaping, and additional security lighting. In coordination with the Village of Oak Park, the Kenilworth cul-de-sac was rotated 90 degrees to the southwest to gain more play space. In 2007 Carroll Center improvements were also made including roof repair and lock and door replacement. An upgrade of the local fire alarm system was completed in 2008 which allows for constant fire/smoke detection and direct communication alerts to emergency agencies. Two properties adjacent to Carroll Center were purchased on Kenilworth Avenue and turned into added green space for this park in 2008 and 2009. Center improvements in 2010 made the restrooms accessible when no staff is present and addressed small-scale maintenance needs (e.g., painting, tuck pointing, tile replacement). In 2014, Master plan improvements to ball field and spectator areas including west side walkways were completed to create a continuous walking path. Additionally, an education classroom area was installed east of the Recreation Center. The ball field improvements included new backstops, diamond and multi-purpose field grading, player and spectator areas improvements that include covered player benches, spectator seating, signage and bike racks



Current Features

Current features include a baseball field, a multi-purpose field, one playground, drinking fountain and restrooms in Carroll Center.

Carroll Park and Center – Continued

2.48 acres at Kenilworth & Fillmore

Future Improvements

The last portion of the Master Plan calls for the removal of the Recreation Center and the construction of a gymnasium that will attach to Lincoln School. The deconstruction, in accordance with the district’s Comprehensive Master Plan is slated for 2021.

Carroll Park & Center	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Master Plan Improvement						250,000	
Architecture/Engineering						50,000	
Building Deconstruction							
Park Improvement							
	-	-	-	-	-	300,000	-

Cheney Mansion

History

Cheney Mansion was designed in 1913 by Charles E. White, Jr. for the Sharpe family. It has six bedrooms, seven bathrooms, many reception rooms, a ballroom, coach house and greenhouse on two acres of landscaped grounds. It was purchased in 1922 by Andrew and Mary Dole and inherited by their niece, Elizabeth Cheney, who deeded it to the Park District in 1975. The Park District took ownership of the property in 1985. It was designated an Oak Park Landmark by the Village of Oak Park in 2004. Cheney Mansion is currently used for Park District programs such as cooking classes and special events, and as a rental facility for the public. The mission of Cheney Mansion is “to provide a unique venue for recreation programs, special activities and community events for the enjoyment of Oak Park residents and is a distinctive locale for private meetings and celebrations.”



Past Improvements

The boiler and external walkway pavers were replaced in 2006. Major renovations were made in 2007 in preparation for the 2007 Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society’s Designer Showcase House. Improvements included roof and gutter replacement; tuck pointing of chimney and exterior elevations; repair of the exterior stucco; and exterior painting. Interior renovations include a remodeled kitchen; replacement kitchen hood vent; fire alarm upgrade; and interior finishes to all rooms. A new wooden fence was erected on the east end of the property and the wrought iron fence surrounding the Mansion was repaired and restored. Improvements were made to the coach house to make it a better rental property and lead paint was removed from the fire escape staircase. In fall 2009, a site plan was developed for the grounds surrounding Cheney Mansion which focused on improving accessibility to the first floor. A feasibility study, to fully assess the condition of the Cheney Greenhouse, was completed in 2010. Master plan improvements began in the late fall of 2011 and concluded in spring 2012. Improvements included main entry identifying signage, main entry sidewalk improvements, an accessible walkway with improved landscaping from the main entry to the house solarium, a new south garden access walkway leading to the back patio area, and a new walkway to the north garden area. In 2013, through a generous donation the waterfall garden on the south of the property was restored. In 2014, the greenhouse was restored and made into a functional space to be used as part of rentals on the property.

Current Features

Current features include a historic home, coach house, and decorative gardens around each. The home and grounds are used for Park District programs and private rentals.

Cheney Mansion – Continued

2.20 acres at Euclid & Ontario

Future Improvements

Front entry work is slated for 2018 and 2019 to improve the safety and look of the entry. Other smaller improvements are slated for 2020 to 2022 to address needs from the Historic Property Facility Assessment.

<i>Cheney Mansion</i>	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Master Plan Review							
Master Plan Improvement							
Architecture/Engineering							
Building Improvement			200,000	100,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
	-	-	200,000	100,000	25,000	25,000	25,000

Dole Center

Village-owned building at Augusta & Cuyler

History

Dole Learning Center was built in 1926 and donated to the Village of Oak Park in 1939 by Andrew and Mary Dole, who also owned Cheney Mansion. The Village used it as a library branch for several decades and added recreational programming in the late 1970s. Dole Center underwent a major renovation in 2002 which made the building ADA accessible. In addition to the Village, the Oak Park Library and Park District occupy parts of Dole Center through an intergovernmental agreement and all three entities contribute to a sinking fund for the utility costs, janitorial services and maintenance of the building.



Past Improvements

In 2006 a partition was built on the third floor to create a sound barrier between two dance studios. In 2008, security cameras were installed to increase the safety of this facility. This cost was shared between the Park District and the Library.

Current Features

This Village-owned facility, which is also used for various Park District programs, has offices, restrooms and a drinking fountain.

Future Improvements

No further improvements are scheduled at this time.

Estimated Operating Costs

No additional operating costs are expected.

Benefits

This Center continues to benefit the District through the lease agreement with the Village which reduces maintenance costs.

<i>Dole Center</i>	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Leasehold Improvement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Euclid Square Park

2.81 acres at Fillmore & Euclid

History

Acquired in 1929, the park was originally called New South Park, or Park #9, but was subsequently named after the adjacent street.

Past Improvements

The tennis courts were replaced in 1979 and resealed in 2008. The playground equipment was replaced in 1998. The site master plan process for Euclid Square began in 2009, resulting in recommended improvements separated into three phases. Completed in spring 2011, master plan improvements focused on complete renovation of the ballfield and the southwest corner of the park. New walkways on the southern half of the park, landscaping, a bicycle rack, drinking fountain and benches are also part of this project. The Park District received a \$100,000 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant for the ballfield improvements. 2017 improvements included a continuous walking path, new playground with rubberized surface, new tennis courts and fencing, rain garden and small sled hill. The \$400,000 OSLAD Grant for this project has been reinstated by the State of Illinois

Current Features

Current features include an age-appropriate playground area, a baseball field, a multi-purpose field, four tennis courts, soccer field, and drinking fountain.

Future Improvements

No future plans are currently slated.



Euclid Square Park	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Master Plan Review							
Master Plan Improvement		1,214,000					
Architecture/Engineering		86,000					
	-	1,300,000	-	-	-	-	-

Field Park and Center

3.39 acres at Division & Woodbine

History

Acquired in 1916, the park is named after children's author Eugene Field and includes a center originally designed by John S. Van Bergen. The center has been significantly modified over the years. Woodbine Avenue between Berkshire and Division was vacated by the Village in 1960 to expand the park and connect it to the Mann School grounds, creating roughly five acres of total open space.

Past Improvements

The site master plan for Field Park was completed in May 2006 with the cooperation of School District 97. Master plan improvements began in August 2007 and were completed in April 2008. A \$399,000 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Grant partially funded these improvements, which included new playground equipment, a bocce court, splash pad, shelter, new walkways, renovated and expanded baseball and soccer fields, a new vehicular drop off near the Center, installation of an irrigation trunk, new benches, drinking fountains, bicycle racks and landscaping, including the addition of many new trees. In 2007 Field Center improvements including roof repair and lock and door replacement. An upgrade of the local fire alarm system was completed in 2008 which allows for constant fire/smoke detection and direct communication alerts to emergency agencies. Center improvements in 2010 made the restrooms accessible when no staff is present and addressed small-scale maintenance needs (e.g., painting, tuck pointing, tile replacement). In 2011, a new exterior accessible restroom was constructed for the Center. Irrigation was added in 2013 to the sports fields. In 2014, the district reviewed the master plan for Field Park and Center with the community.



Current Features

Current features include two age-appropriate playground areas, a splash pad, a bocce court, shelter, seating area with benches and chess tables, walkways, two baseball fields, a multi-purpose field, drinking fountain and restrooms in Field Center.

Future Improvements

Field Park will see improvements in 2017 in the installation of an underground cistern for the splash pad at that location. Replacement of the poured in place around the playground will occur in 2018. The deconstruction is also slated for 2021 as called for in the district's comprehensive master plan.

Estimated Operating Costs

The deconstruction of the center will lower the district's cost for utilities and ongoing maintenance.

Field Park and Center – Continued

3.39 acres at Division & Woodbine

<i>Field Park & Center</i>	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Master Plan Review							
Master Plan Improvement		175,000	125,000			250,000	
Architecture/Engineering						50,000	
		175,000	125,000	-	-	300,000	-

Fox Park and Center

1.54 acres at Oak Park & Jackson

History

Acquired in 1922, the park is named after William H. Fox, who served on the Park Board of Commissioners from 1919-1925. It includes a recreation center built in 1966.

Past Improvements

The site master plan for Fox Park was completed in January 2007. Center improvements completed in 2008 included making the restrooms ADA accessible and creating both interior and exterior access, upgrading restroom fixtures, upgrading ventilation systems, replacing railings, remodeling the kitchen and activity space, adding storage space, creating a customer service kiosk, improving common areas, and reorganizing office workspace. Master plan improvements to the north end of the park, completed in spring 2009, included new playground equipment, restored splash pad area with added accessibility, a ramp to gain access to the restrooms, a new north entranceway to the center, a walkway all the way around the center, and a renovated entryway plaza on the south side of the center with additional seating. Other improvements included benches, drinking fountains, bicycle racks, landscaping, and lighting. The “sunken area” was brought up to grade in order to accommodate these features and create accessibility. In 2011, the windows for the center were replaced. Ballfield improvements were made to the backstops, player and spectator areas, and seating during 2014. Additionally, bench seating was added to the perimeter of the park as well as irrigation was installed.



Current Features

Current features include two age-appropriate playground areas, a splash pad, baseball field, multi-purpose field, drinking fountains, seating with benches and chess tables.

Future Improvements

There will be both aesthetic and deferred maintenance improvements completed at Fox Center in 2018.

Benefits

These life safety improvements will ensure that the public can safely use the facility for years to come.

<i>Fox Park & Center</i>	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Master Plan Review							
Master Plan Improvement		285,000					
Architecture/Engineering		35,000					
Building Improvement			105,000	-			
	-	35,000	105,000	-	-	-	-

Gymnastics and Recreation Center

0.6 acres (26,505 sq. ft.) at Lake & Humphrey

History

Acquired in 2011 for \$980,000, the 25 Lake Street property was previously owned by Aldi, Inc., the grocery chain. The Park District Board approved building a gymnastics facility, which resulted in the current gymnastics center moving out of its location at 218 Madison Street in 2013.

Past Improvements

In early 2012, the existing building operated by Aldi, Inc. was demolished. Construction for the new facility started in fall 2012 and was completed in 2013.

Current Features

The new Gymnastics facility (construction started in 2012) includes expanded gym floor space and equipment, a studio room, two multi-use rooms, staff offices, restrooms, spectator viewing areas, and parking with a drop-off zone.



Future Improvements

No future improvements are slated

<i>Gymnastics and Recreation Center</i>	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Master Plan Improvement							
Architecture/Engineering							
Building Improvement							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Hedges Administration Center

0.34 acres (22,180 sq. ft.) at Madison & Harvey

History

Acquired in 1986 for \$145,000, 218 Madison was built in the 1930s and formerly housed an automobile dealership. In 2001 the building, which houses administrative offices, program registration, the buildings and grounds headquarters (including vehicle storage) and the District’s Gymnastics Center, was named after John L. Hedges, Park District Executive Director from 1980 to 2000.

Past Improvements

Renovations made from 2001 to 2006 reorganized office workspaces, converted storage space into offices, streamlined the customer service and registration area, converted lighting fixtures to energy-saving models, and replaced roof trusses in the Gymnastics Center. A Facility Improvement Study conducted in 2006 focused on improvements to the existing facilities on a short-term (1 to 3 years) basis with an emphasis on the Buildings and Grounds and Gymnastics Center. Factors considered included public and staff access, storage, staff work stations, staging and common areas. The long term Space Program evaluated the disparate functions now housed at 218 Madison and determined specific space needs for each of these functions. The Study identified needed structural repairs such as replacement of roof trusses, reconstruction of the basement ceiling, masonry repair, ventilation system replacement, and roofing replacement. The District was actively pursuing the relocation of one or all of the following: Administrative offices, the Gymnastics, and/or the Buildings & Grounds functions. In 2011, the Park District purchased the 25 Lake Street property, with the Board approving moving the gymnastics program to it. An architectural firm was hired for validating the cost of moving gymnastics to 25 Lake Street, and expanding Building and Grounds and renovating Administration at 218 Madison. In 2013, the gymnastics programs were relocated to the new Gymnastics and Recreation Center. In 2015, the district completed a redevelopment of both the buildings and grounds space as well as the administration area. These improvements provide buildings and grounds the work space needed and brings the entire building up current code.



Current Features

This facility is used for Park District administrative offices, operations, and gymnastics programs.

Future Improvements

No future improvements are slated

<i>Admin/Buildings & Grounds</i>	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Site Master Plan							
Master Plan Improvement							
Building Improvement							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Lindberg Park

13.9 acres at Marion & Le Moyne

History

Acquired in 1925, this park was originally called “Green Fields” but was subsequently named after Gustav A. Lindberg, the first Superintendent of Parks at the Park District of Oak Park. The land had previously been used as a refuse dump. In 1972 the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation established the Presidential Walk in Lindberg Park with the planting of 17 sugar maples, one for each of the 17 former Village of Oak Park Presidents. This tradition continues with a new tree planted as each village president ends their term in office. One of the ballfields is named for Merritt Lovett, a former Park Board Commissioner

Past Improvements

In the late 1990’s, the gardens were restored to their original layout as designed in the 1930’s by Mr. Lindberg. This project was a joint effort between the Garden Club of Oak Park and River Forest and the Park District of Oak Park with funding from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The original design had included water gardens and roses transplanted from gardens dismantled after Chicago’s Century of Progress World’s Fair in 1934. Other improvements completed in 2000 included remodeling the comfort station and concession stand, resurfacing the tennis courts, installing irrigation under the fields, and replacing 120 trees. The tennis courts were resealed in 2009. A site master plan for Lindberg was completed in fall 2010. Identifiable needs included adding paths on the north and east sides to complete a walkway around the park, replacing backstops and fencing, improving security lighting, renewing the comfort station, improving field drainage, and adding “health-walk” medallions around the park. In 2014 with the help of a \$400,000 OSLAD grant, the district was able to complete improvements to the sports fields, added a picnic shelter and new playground, and improved the tennis courts and walkways.

Current Features

The park features a comfort station with restrooms, an age appropriate playground area, two baseball fields, two multi-purpose fields, three tennis courts, a native prairie plant garden, and a drinking fountain. Lindberg Park athletic fields are irrigated.



Lindberg Park – Continued

13.9 acres at Marion & Le Moyne

Future Improvements

The last aspect of the Master Plan is to remove asphalt paths and replace with concrete paths. This project is currently not scheduled in the CIP.

<i>Lindberg Park</i>	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Master Plan Review							
Master Plan Improvement							
Architecture/Engineering							
Park Improvement							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Longfellow Park and Center

2.62 acres at Ridgeland & Jackson

History

Acquired in 1920, the park was named after the American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The recreation center was built in 1966 in the same style as Fox Center.

Past Improvements

The site master plan for Longfellow Park was completed in February 2007. Center improvements completed in 2008 included making the restrooms ADA accessible and creating both interior and exterior access, installing an elevator, upgrading restroom fixtures and ventilation systems, creating a viewing area for the upper level program room, creating a customer service kiosk, improving common areas, and reorganizing office workspace. In 2008 replacement of the Center's air conditioning system was also completed. In 2011, the windows were replaced in the Center.



Park master plan improvements constructed in 2008 included new accessible and creative playground equipment, a new splash pad, a ramp to gain access to the restrooms, a new north entranceway to the center and art walk, a walkway around the center, and a renovated entryway plaza on the south side of the center with additional seating. Other improvements included benches, drinking fountains, bicycle racks and landscaping and lighting. The “sunken area” north of the center was filled in and a new full-sized basketball court with spectator area was installed. The play areas were relocated from the northwest corner of the park to a more central location allowing for parental monitoring of both the playground and the ball field. Sand volleyball courts were relocated to Rehm Park. At the southeast corner of the park, a brick ballfield plaza was created and a drinking fountain and bicycle rack were added. A significant percentage of this project was funded through grant dollars. Irrigation was installed on the sports fields in 2013. In 2014, improvements were made to the ball field and spectator areas.

Current Features

Current features include two age-appropriate playground areas, a splash pad, one baseball field, one multi-purpose field, one basketball court, two tennis courts that also convert into a temporary outdoor ice rink in the winter, walkways, seating with benches and chess tables, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, and restrooms in Longfellow Center. The Center is now accessible via a new elevator on the north side of the building. An above ground cistern was installed to capture water from the splash pad and rain water and treat that for use for irrigation.

Longfellow Park and Center – Continued

2.62 acres at Ridgeland & Jackson

Future Improvements

The Park District will make improvements to the tennis courts in 2022.

Estimated Operating Costs

These updates should lower some of the costs associated with the upkeep of the courts and make them more playable

<i>Longfellow Park & Center</i>	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Building Improvments		85,000					
Master Plan Improvement	445,631						420,000
Architecture/Engineering							80,000
Park Improvement							
	-	85,000	-	-	-	-	500,000

Maple Park

6.98 acres at Harlem & Lexington

History

Acquired in 1921, the linear park was formerly railroad property. It was originally called Park #6 or Perennial Gardens for the formal plantings installed there, but was later renamed for the adjacent Maple Street. A comfort station was built in the center of the park around 1960. Renovations in the early 1980s added new landscaping and curving walkways. The playground equipment was replaced in 1998.

Past Improvements

The tennis courts were resurfaced in 2002. Ballfield backstops were renovated and safety cages were added in 2005 when the infields were realigned. Many trees have been replaced in Maple Park in recent years. The master plan was completed in November 2007. Initial master plan improvements, starting in the summer 2010 and finishing in spring 2011, included removal of the three tennis courts and one old basketball court in the center of the park. Two new lighted tennis courts were located on the south end of the park. The vacated land in the center was landscaped as an open meadow, and a new continuous walkway was created along the east side of the park to fully connect the north and south ends. An off leash dog area was installed. The district completed improvements including a new playground, climbing boulders, new picnic shelter, additional walkways to provide a continuous walking path as well as improvements to the two ball field to include new backstops, fencing, diamond and multi-purpose field grading, player and spectator areas need to be upgraded with new player benches, spectator seating, signage and bike racks in 2016. Improvements to the comfort station originally slated for 2014 will also occur in 2016.



Current Features

Current features include a comfort station with restrooms, two age-appropriate playground areas, two baseball fields, two multi-purpose fields, two lighted tennis courts, walkways, seating, drinking fountain, and bicycle racks.

Future Improvements

No future improvements are planned

Maple Park	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Master Plan Review							
Master Plan Improvement Architecture/Engineering Park Improvement		-					
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Mills Park and Pleasant Home (“John Farson House”)

History

Acquired in 1939, the historic John Farson House, known as “Pleasant Home”, is a National Historic Landmark designed in 1897 by architect George W. Maher. Outbuildings on the attendant grounds were subsequently razed and Mills Park has been maintained as open space for many years. Pleasant Home was used for decades as a community center and is now also rented out to the public for events. The Pleasant Home Foundation offices are located in the home. Additionally, since the 1960s the museum and offices of the Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest have been located in the home. The organizations provide daily tours (free on Fridays) and educational programming for the community.

Past Improvements

Major projects from 1939 to 1990 include rebuilding of two front porch plaster medallions, restoration of one of Maher’s urns, remodeling of the restrooms, replacement of some windows, removal and replacement of front walkway and steps, and on-going exterior painting and roof repair. A comprehensive existing conditions report on the home was conducted in 2002, and subsequent restoration and repair has included rebuilding the entire roof structure and most gutter systems; restoration of the library and great hall fireplace; restoration of the front fence entry; addition of an accessible lift at the west elevation; repair of the living room fireplace, front door, sun porch door and threshold; and boiler room mold abatement. In 2005 the restoration of the front entry fence was completed with the support of the Rotary Club of Oak Park and River Forest. In spring 2009, masonry repair was completed on all four sides of the house and also the chimneys. In late 2009, the interior walls of the first floor rooms were painted to their original colors. The development of a site master plan for Mills Park began in late 2008. Identifiable needs included renovation of fencing, ADA-accessible walkways through the park, natural discovery areas, and landscaping.

Restoration of the ornamental steel fencing along the east and north sides of the park and the creation of two new entryways into the park was completed in 2011. The Park District had applied for a \$300,000 grant from the Illinois State Museum Department for the fence renovation; however the application was denied. In 2011, the boiler system and fire alarm at Pleasant Home were replaced. Master plan improvements in 2011/2012 include new entryways into the park and various walkways through the park, allowing pedestrian access to the east, west, and north sides of the park. The Park District applied for and was awarded a \$400,000 State of Illinois OSLAD grant to help fund these improvements, which complete the site master plan. Additionally in 2011 lead remediation was completed around the perimeter of the Pleasant Home. There were also improvements to the lower level restrooms in the Pleasant Home.

Current Features

The open grounds of the park surround the historic home.

4.43 acres at Pleasant & Home



Mills Park and Pleasant Home - Continued

4.43 acres at Pleasant & Home

Future Improvements

Funds are allocated in 2018 to improve the roof at the Pleasant Home. No work is slated for Mills Park during this plan.

Estimated Operating Costs

The roof at Pleasant home is reaching its useful life and the improvements will help to offset any ongoing maintenance that come with an older roof.

Benefits

The roof replacement in 2018 will help to ensure the viability of the building for years to come.

<i>Mills Park and Pleasant Home</i>	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Master Plan Review							
Master Plan Improvement							
Architecture/Engineering			100,000				
Building Improvements			500,000				
	-	-	600,000	-	-	-	-

Oak Park Conservatory

0.80 acres at Garfield & East

History

The Conservatory began as a community effort in 1914 to provide a place to house exotic plants that residents collected during their travels abroad. The present Edwardian-style glass structure, built in 1929, houses a botanical collection of more than 3,000 plants, some of which date back to the Conservatory's founding. Over the years, the building fell into neglect. In 1970, a drive to preserve this unique resource began. In 1986, the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory were incorporated to provide fundraising, educational programs, and other volunteer supports. In June of 2000 the Conservatory Center addition was opened to provide expanded space and facilities for educational programming, operations and public events. In 2004, the Oak Park Conservatory was designated an Oak Park Landmark, and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.



Past Improvements

In 2002, a major lead abatement project was completed in the Fern Room with the assistance of grants from the FOPCON and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Museum Grant Program. In 2006 and 2007, lead abatement was accomplished in the Desert Room and the East Growing House. Additional upgrades were made to the East Growing House to improve growing conditions including new mechanical vent controls, a modern heating system, a retractable shade device, environmental controls and new rolling benches for more efficient use of growing space. FOPCON provided \$12,000 in grant funds towards the cost of the shade device. Glazing work in the historical entrance was also completed. A back-up generator was installed in 2007. Exterior doors were replaced in March 2008. Improvements, similar to those in the East Growing House, were completed for the West Growing House in 2009. Improvements to the Tropical House, including lead abatement and other upgrades were completed in 2011. A site master plan for the Conservatory site was completed in 2009. Initial site master plan improvements were completed in 2011 with construction of a new outdoor garden, named in memory of Herbert M. Rubinstein, a long-time Conservatory supporter and volunteer. Significant donations were received from the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory, private donors, and the Rubenstein family to fund the garden project. In 2012, the boiler system at the Conservatory was completely replaced and the dryvit walls were repaired. In 2013 the window in the tropical room were repaired to provide a proper seal. Improvements to the Garfield entrance including a new nature playground area named after former Oak Park resident Elyse Jacobson. This work was funded heavily by the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory totaling \$210,000. Also in 2015, the north base walls of the Conservatory were redone as well as the main entrance to the Conservatory. In 2016, ventilation and heating system upgrades to the Fern and Desert Rooms are included as well as environmental automation control upgrades for the all greenhouses.

Current Features

The facility has three display rooms for the public, two growing houses, one meeting room, administrative offices for Conservatory and Friend of the Oak Park Conservatory staff, and a decorative outdoor garden.

Oak Park Conservatory - Continued

0.80 acres at Garfield & East

Future Improvements

Projects are planned in all years of the Capital Improvement Plan to address needs from the Historic Property Facilities Assessment that was completed in 2018. These projects include windows, lighting, and other smaller projects.

Estimated Operating Costs

These projects should improve the energy efficiency of the building leading to reduced energy costs for the building.

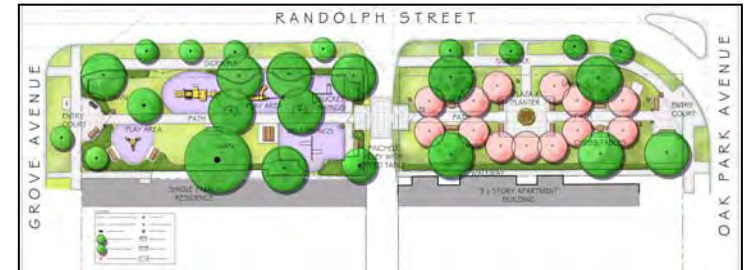
<i>Oak Park Conservatory</i>	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Master Plan Review							
Master Plan Improvement							
Architecture/Engineering							
Building Improvement	200,000		25,000	25,000	100,000	25,000	25,000
	200,000	-	25,000	25,000	100,000	25,000	25,000

Randolph Park

0.16 acres at Randolph & Grove

History

The parcel occupied by Randolph Park and the adjacent open parcel to the east at Randolph and Oak Park Avenue were acquired by Village of Oak Park in 1924. Randolph Tot Lot was conveyed to the Park District in 2006 and the property to the east was transferred in 2009, doubling the size of the park. This land and other similar strips along Randolph Street were set aside for rail stations along the “Dummy line railroad” into Chicago that was never developed. It is a small neighborhood playground for children under 8 years old with play equipment, a sand feature, berm, and water fountain.



Past Improvements

The playground equipment was last replaced in 1991. A site master plan for Randolph Park, including the land east of the alley, was completed in 2009, with \$400,000 allocated for master plan improvements in 2010. These improvements included replacement of the playground equipment, benches, and trash receptacles. The adjacent District-owned parcel to the east of the playground received improvements to create a passive area with benches, chess tables and landscaping. The alley also received upgrades to create a link between the two sides of the park. A donation was received from the adjacent apartment owner to fund the ornamental fencing and gates near their property

Current Features

Current features include one age-appropriate playground area, a passive area, seating with benches and chess tables, drinking fountain and bicycle rack.

Future Improvements

No further improvements are scheduled at this time.

<i>Randolph Park</i>	Actual 2016	Projected 2017	Capital Improvement Plan				
			2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Site Master Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Master Plan Improvement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Rehm Park and Pool

History

Acquired in 1913, Rehm Park was originally called “South Park” but was subsequently renamed after Colonel Arthur D. Rehm, a member of the Park District’s first Board of Commissioners and its second Board President. The original park was designed by Jens Jensen, although little of Jensen’s design remains. The play train has been at Rehm playground since at least 1960. An outdoor pool was constructed in 1966 and quickly became a regional destination. While remediation was taking place at Barrie Park in 2001, Rehm hosted the “Temporary Barrie Center” double-wide trailer north of the diving well.

Past Improvements

Playground equipment was replaced in 2002 as part of the Barrie Park remediation agreement with ComEd. In 1996, pool repairs included renovation of all decks and piping, creation of a zero-edge entry, addition of a wading pool and sand play, and improvements to concessions. Additional pool repairs in 1999-2000 included replacement of the sand filter equipment and lockers. Minor gutter repair was undertaken in 2006. A site master plan for Rehm Park was completed in 2008. The stairs to the platform diving boards were repaired in 2009. In 2009, two competitive play sand volleyball courts were constructed, replacing two courts previously located in Longfellow Park. In 2010, the pool filter system was replaced, and new shade structures and a burglar/fire alarm were installed. Master plan improvements started in 2011 with a total of \$250,000 allocated for improvements. Improvements included a revised play train foundation and track, a new train storage tunnel, playground surfacing, walkways, fencing and landscaping. A pool master plan is being completed in 2014.

Current Features

Current features include a pool with restrooms, two sand volleyball courts, two age-appropriate playground areas, a self-propelled play riding train, three tennis courts, a multi-purpose field, and parking lot. Improvements will be made to the bathhouse and a new play feature was added in 2013.

6.51 acres at Garfield & East



Rehm Park and Pool – Continued

6.51 acres at Garfield & East

Future Improvements

In 2018, money has been set aside at Rehm Pool for ongoing maintenance improvements are necessary to various items including gutter repairs, diving tower work, and other maintenance needs. In 2022, money has been set aside for removal of a tennis court and improvements to two others and the addition of a pavilion.

Estimated Operating Costs

The maintenance improvements are intended to help lower ongoing maintenance costs that are currently just fixing the issues in the short term.

Benefits

The improvements to Rehm Park will finish the master plan improvements for that park. Capital improvements to Rehm Park and Pool will improve the comfort and safety of patrons, streamline staff coverage, and improve the aesthetic value of the facility.

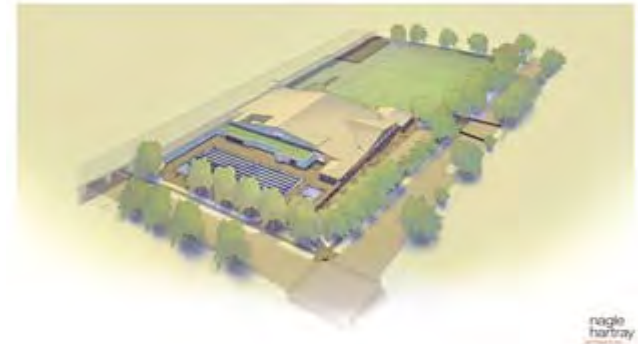
<i>Rehm Park & Pool</i>	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Master Plan Review							
Master Plan Improvement				175,000			420,000
Architecture/Engineering			108,000				80,000
Pool Improvements		-	432,000				
	-	-	540,000	175,000	-	-	500,000

Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex

6.06 acres at Ridgeland & Lake

History

Acquired in 1912 from Charles B. Scoville, the site was known as the “Old Cricket Grounds”. In 1914, the site was doubled with the acquisition of a former public service company storage yard to the west between Elmwood and Scoville. Ridgeland Common was named for the adjacent street and was designed by Jens Jensen, although little of Jensen’s design remains. In 1923, toboggan slides and a skating pond were built. In 1929, a memorial to the Spanish American War was erected at the behest of veterans and in 1936 comfort stations were built. The pool, building, and outdoor ice rink were constructed in 1962, with the pool soon used as a cooling tower for the ice rink making these two features necessarily operate in opposite seasons. A roof was built over the ice rink in 1965 and the District’s first lighted baseball fields were installed to the west of the rink which now has irrigation systems. Two basketball courts, a handball court, and sled hill were also built along the railroad tracks at this time. In 1982, the rink was fully enclosed and heated, the front entrance was moved to its current location, and the pool filters were replaced. In 2007 the ice arena was renamed after Paul Hruby, long-time hockey coach and mentor to many Oak Park skaters. In the 1980s, the east baseball field was named in recognition of Vince Dirks, long-term president of the Oak Park Youth Baseball Association at that time. The multi-purpose room is named after Fred L. Comstock, a Park Commissioner in the 1930s. Ridgeland Common is the Park District’s flagship facility.



In 2007, an Existing Conditions Study was completed, including a comprehensive physical evaluation of the site and analysis of all mechanical, structural, architectural, and civil/yard piping systems. The Study concluded that Ridgeland Common is physically and functionally obsolete, requiring extensive renovation within 5 years that would cost over \$9 million, and no longer meets the community’s modern space programming needs. In late 2007, several of the ice rink’s 242 cooling pipes failed and were repaired at a cost of nearly \$70,000, delaying the opening of the rink.

Completed in 2008, a site master planning process for Ridgeland Common, completed in 2008, established consensus on components that will be included in the redesigned Ridgeland Common Park, including a permanent dog park on the site and moving the building to the west side of the park to take advantage of the Village-owned parking garage located on OPRF High School property. The process also left the District with many unanswered questions due to the projected cost of a renovation. Out of the three site plans developed, the projected cost of the least expensive plan was \$38 million, which is not obtainable without a voter-supported referendum. This plan calls for a new facility similar in function to the current 6.06 acre park site and facility while taking into consideration today’s design standards and meeting all regulatory compliance requirements such as ADA and codes. It also corrects the currently undersized ice arena and the sled hill is removed.

Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex – Continued

6.06 acres at Ridgeland & Lake

At the August 23, 2011 Regular Park Board Meeting architects from Nagle Hartray Architecture presented two concepts to the Park Board based on community input received. One plan showed a renovated Ridgeland Common while the other proposed a new facility. Cost estimates for these plans were presented to the Park Board on October 6, 2011. The renovation plan estimated cost was \$23.5 million while the new construction was estimated at \$30 million. In October 2011, the Park Board accepted the renovation plan for Ridgeland Common. In November 2011, Nagle Hartray Architecture was hired to design the renovation for the facility. Construction improvements started early 2013 and were completed by June 2014.

Past Improvements

In 1985 the original ice refrigeration system was replaced. Major pool renovations were completed in 1996, including deck and pipe replacement, zero edge entry to the wading pool, and spray feature addition. During construction, an evaporative condenser was used for one ice rink season and still remains on the upper deck. In 2000, ADA accessible bathrooms were built, office spaces were reconfigured, and hockey locker rooms were added to reduce wear and tear on the other locker rooms. The main pool pump was replaced in 2002 and the motor was rebuilt. In 2006, a temporary dog park was created beside the train tracks adjacent to the sled hill and the parking lot and staging area west of the Hruby Ice Arena was resurfaced. In 2007, improvements to the flooring, air conditioning, storage, and paint in the Comstock Room were completed and the indoor soccer artificial turf used on the rink in the summer was replaced. Construction improvements began early 2013 and were completed in June of 2014. The Ridgeland Common project is within the District’s budget parameters and allows for the maintenance of the District’s balanced approach to capital projects.

Current Features

Current features include a pool and ice arena with restrooms, an indoor age-appropriate playground area, one lighted multi-purpose field with two baseball fields, dog park, and parking lot. In 2014, the facility began running as a year-round ice arena.

Future Improvements

No future capital improvements are expected at Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex

<i>Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex</i>	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Master Plan Review							
Master Plan Improvement							
Architecture/Engineering							
Building Improvement							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Scoville Park

3.98 acres at Oak Park & Lake

History

Acquired in 1913, Scoville Park was named after Charles B. Scoville, the previous owner of the land and an advocate for the creation of the Park District. It was the first park built after the creation of the Park District in 1912. It serves as a village green with the installation of a “Liberty” flag pole in 1915, a World War I monument dedicated by the Vice President of the United States in 1925, and bronze marker noting the location of the home of Joseph Kettlestrings, the first white settler in Oak Park. Scoville Park was originally designed by Jens Jensen and is one of the parks that retain the most of Jensen’s design. The southeast corner features a replica of a fountain originally designed by sculptor Richard Bock and architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The play equipment was last replaced in 1991. In partnership with the Village of Oak Park and the Library, Grove Avenue was vacated in 2001 and a new plaza was constructed adjacent to the park. Scoville Park was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.



Past Improvements

A bust of Percy Julian, a world-renowned chemist, humanitarian, and Oak Park resident, was installed in 2003 to celebrate his life and contributions. The tennis courts were last resurfaced in 2005 and resealed in 2008. New benches were installed in 2007. The World War I memorial was fully restored in 2009/2010 at a cost of \$320,000. The comfort station doors were replaced in 2010. A site master plan for Scoville Park was developed in 2010. Identifiable needs include renovating the southeastern entry plaza and area near the library entrance, improving the walkways and planters, creating a formal plaza area around the WWI memorial, evaluating possibilities for the performing stage, and replacing the playground equipment. Master plan improvements began in 2012 with the assistance of a Park and Recreation Activity Grant in the amount of \$1.6 million. These improvements completed the site master plan developed in 2010, which includes updated entryways, tennis courts, plantings and a permanent bandstand.

Current Features

Current features include a comfort station with restrooms, an age-appropriate playground area, three tennis courts, drinking fountain and an open space used for summer concerts and events.

Scoville Park - Continued

3.98 acres at Oak Park & Lake

Future Improvements

No improvements are scheduled at this park. A master plan review is scheduled for 2018

Scoville Park	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Master Plan Review							
Master Plan Improvement							
Architecture/Engineering							
Building Improvement							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Stevenson Park and Center

3.30 acres at Ridgeland & Humphrey

History

Stevenson Park was acquired by the Village of Oak Park in 1916 and named after author Robert Louis Stevenson. The Park District entered into a 99-year lease agreement with the Village in 2006, rather than purchasing the property outright, because the park contains two underground water reservoirs. The center was built in 1965. The second water reservoir was installed in the eastern part of the park in 2002. Other park features include a baseball diamond, multi-purpose field, and a skateboard activity area.

Past Improvements

The play centers were relocated and renovated, and fencing, lighting, and landscaping were renovated in 2003. A skate park and three half basketball courts were built on top of the new reservoir in 2004.

Improvements to the ballfield made in 2007 included improved drainage and new walkways leading to the field for improved ADA accessibility. Stevenson Center was renovated in 2007 to replace electrical and plumbing systems, replace restroom fixtures, replace lower level windows, provide functional and secure staff office areas, and improve the overall condition of this recreation center. A teen center opened in the lower level of the center in early 2008 and later closed in 2014 and replaced with a preschool play area. The District pursued but did not receive Community Development Block Grant funding in 2008. The skate park received new ramp equipment in 2009. In 2011, security cameras were installed and the windows were replaced in the Center.

Current Features

Current features include a baseball field, one multi-purpose field, two age-appropriate playground areas, a skate park, three half basketball courts, and a facility with restrooms, a teen center and a multi-purpose room for various park district programs.



Stevenson Park and Center - Continued

3.30 acres at Ridgeland & Humphrey

Future Improvements

The Park District completed a facility assessment during 2016. There will be both aesthetic and deferred maintenance improvements completed at Stevenson Center in 2017. Improvements are scheduled for 2019 to improve the playground area around Stevenson Center. In 2021, money is allocated for replacement of the sports field lights.

Estimated Operating Costs

The new playground will lower the maintenance costs for one of the district's older playgrounds. The new sports field lights will be higher efficiency and lower the costs of operation.

Stevenson Park & Center	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Master Plan Review							
Master Plan Improvement				360,000		360,000	
Architecture/Engineering				40,000		40,000	
Building Improvement		115,000	-				
	-	115,000	-	400,000	-	400,000	-

Taylor Park

11.75 acres at Ridgeland & Division

History

Acquired in 1914, Taylor Park was originally called “North Park” but was subsequently named after the first President of the Park Board of Commissioners, Henry A. Taylor. Taylor Park was designed by Jens Jensen and still retains some of Jensen’s original design. The park sits on the edge of a moraine from the remains of what was once glacial Lake Chicago.



Past Improvements

Taylor Park was identified as a potential site for a dog park during the 2006 Dog Park Site Master Plan process. The comfort station windows were replaced in 2007. The site master plan process was completed in late summer 2008. Master plan improvements, completed in 2011, include replacement/expansion of the existing playground with ADA accessible equipment; tennis courts replacement; installation of an open air shelter and new walkways in the interior of the park; and the establishment of a wetland-bioswale area to resolve drainage problems within the park site. New park landscaping was also added. In 2010, the District successfully received a State of Illinois Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$400,000 to help fund these improvements. A new drainage system was installed with a donation from AYSO in 2017. The district also extended the Fen area to help with drainage.

Current Features

The park currently features a comfort station with restrooms, six lighted tennis courts, a multi-purpose field, a soccer field, one age-appropriate playground area, a sled hill, and one group picnic area. Taylor Park is irrigated.

Future Improvements

No future improvements are planned.

Taylor Park	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Master Plan Review							
Master Plan Improvement Architecture/Engineering Park Improvements		25,000	-				
	-	25,000	-	-	-	-	-

Wenonah Park

0.12 acres at Harrison & Wenonah

History

This playground was acquired in 1962 and is named for the adjacent street.

Past Improvements

The playground equipment was last replaced in 1991. A site master plan was created in 2009. Construction of the improvements started in fall 2009 and was completed in spring 2010. Recent improvements included replacement of the playground equipment, installation of resilient rubber surfacing, new benches, walkway, drinking fountain, trash receptacle, ornamental fencing and landscaping.

Current Features

Current features include an age-appropriate playground area, seating with benches and a chess table, and a drinking fountain for people and dogs.



Future Improvements

No new improvements are expected. A master plan review is slated for 2018

Wenonah Park	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Site Master Plan	-	-					
Master Plan Improvement	-	-					
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Non Site-Specific Improvements

The Park District plans for a number of non site-specific capital expenditures. These non-site or expenditures that occur in several parks or at several facilities include urban forestry management, technology improvements, and vehicle replacement. Urban forestry, per the District's Environmental Policy, states that one of the Park District's primary goals is to manage our trees by maintaining, preserving, conserving, and improving the existing tree population in our parks. The District recognizes the immense value of its trees, which provide residents and visitors to our village with beauty, shade, cooling and enhanced air quality, as well as reduction of storm water run-off and atmospheric carbon dioxide.

District vehicles are replaced according to the schedule included in Appendix E. The schedule reflects the useful life of each vehicle and a replacement plan designed to minimize excessive maintenance costs by replacing vehicles in a timely manner. Technology and any capital equipment replacements are included in this line item.

Debt Service expense as listed is actually paid out of the Recreation Fund every year. However, in an effort to for district to be mindful of this cost we also included it in this plan.

The studies/plans/ADA line item includes a needs assessment for a future gymnasium facility and completion of the updates to park master plans. The district's policy is to review all master plans every 10 years and many of the district's master plans are reaching that age. The line also includes any smaller ADA improvements to locations that are not seeing master plan improvements.

The non-site specific is for projects that do not fall into an existing category in the CIP. In 2015, this was the amount the district paid for the turf surface at Julian Middle School. In 2018 and 2019, this is a set aside amount for architectural and engineering services for a Community Recreation Center. In 2020, the \$5 million set aside is for the district's portion of a community recreation center.

The plan also calls for the district to put \$200,000 in reserve on a yearly basis based on the available funding in that year. Putting this money in reserve it prepares the district for any opportunities that may arise. This plan has a hiatus of the property acquisition in 2018-2020 due to the work being done towards a Community Recreation Center. The district puts money aside for future replacements of artificial turf surfaces. The district will now have four surfaces that normally need to be replaced every 10 years. The \$100,000 per year ensures the district will have the funds available when the surfaces are due for replacement.

Non Site-Specific Improvements - Continued

<i>Non-Site Specific</i>	Actual	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Vehicle & Equip Replacement	60,000	60,000	125,000	130,000	85,000	120,000	100,000
Non-Site Specific	-	-	200,000	100,000	5,000,000	-	-
Debt Service Expense	1,997,969	1,997,969	2,000,194	2,002,119	1,998,744	1,998,944	1,998,644
Studies/Plans/ADA	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Reserved for Future Turf Replacement	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Reserved for Property Acquisition	200,000	200,000	-	-	-	200,000	200,000
	2,407,969	2,407,969	2,475,194	2,382,119	7,233,744	2,468,944	2,448,644



2014 Comprehensive Master Plan

Park District of Oak Park

December 12, 2014 - Final Draft for Park Board Approval

Executive Summary

In 2014, the Park District of Oak Park undertook a process to update its Comprehensive Master Plan to create a series of recommendations that will guide decision making and investments over the next 10 years. The last Comprehensive Master Plan, completed in 2004, provided direction that led to the much needed funding referendum, the improvement and modernization of most of the District's parks, the building of the Gymnastic & Recreation Center, and the renovation of Ridgeland Common.

Like the previous plan, this Comprehensive Master Plan will support the Mission, Vision and Values of the Park District and should serve as a living document that provides the foundation for future plans and addresses the changing needs of the Community.

Park District of Oak Park Mission Statement

In partnership with the community, we enrich lives by providing meaningful experiences through programs, parks, and facilities.

PDOP Vision Statement

We strive to exceed the needs of our diverse community with a collaborative and innovative approach

PDOP Values

Values identify the main tools that will be used to accomplish the mission and vision:

- Partnerships: We will work collaboratively with others in our community
- Responsible Leadership: We will create a high performing, engaged, and accountable organization
- Integrity: In all that we do, we will adhere to moral, honest, and ethical principles and work toward accessibility and inclusion
- Innovation: We will continuously try new methods and ideas, adapt services according to trends, and continuously improve processes in order to exceed the needs of our customers
- Sustainability: the District will endure through renewal, maintenance, stewardship and stability in all aspects of operation

Planning Process

The planning process, led by a team of consultants, started in early 2014 and began with focused community outreach and engagement, project promotion, and dialogue facilitation. At the same time, the team conducted a comprehensive inventory of parks, facilities, and programs owned or managed by the Park District, noting needs and opportunities for further study. The team's analysis was supplemented by the completion of a statistically valid community needs assessment survey. Based on the input from community dialogue, the survey results and the analysis conducted, the team developed and tested a range of master plan recommendations.

The refined list of recommendations and steps needed to implement them make up the core of the Comprehensive Master Plan. The recommendations have been organized into seven categories:

- Parks & Open Space
- Recreation Facilities & Buildings
- Programming
- Marketing
- Organization & Planning
- Administration, Maintenance & Operations
- Funding

Additionally, the recommendations have categorized based on timing as either:

- Short-term (1 to 3 Years)
- Mid-term (4 to 7 Years)
- On-going



Short-term goals will be among the first items that the Park District will focus on, following the adoption of this plan. Short-term goals include:

- **Enhance District Signage** to consistently communicate park rules and the District brand
- **Conduct a Feasibility Study for an Indoor Recreation Facility** to evaluate if a new facility can be realistically accomplished and supported by the community
- **Improve Adult Fitness Programming** to increase participation, especially among adults, who are a growing sector of the population
- **Improve Environmental Education Programming** to capitalize on existing and future District facilities and amenities and to respond to a common community value
- **Implement Recommendations from the Branding Study** to further awareness of the Park District and better communicate its brand
- **Collect, Analyze & Use Maintenance Data** to identify opportunities to efficiently maintain and improve the quality of the District's parks and facilities
- **Identify Opportunities to Engage Parks Foundation** to build capacity for accomplishing initiatives that help the District enrich livability within the community

The Park District of Oak Park is well-positioned to continue to fulfill its mission of enriching the lives of the residents of the community. However, responding to the changing needs and desires of the community requires PDOP to change as well. By following and revisiting the recommendations detailed in this plan over the next 10 year, the Park District will be able to evolve with the community, providing the high level of service that Village residents have come to expect.

Previous Plans and Reports

The Park District of Oak Park has worked diligently over the years to self-evaluate and plan for the future. The Comprehensive Plan process is not intended to re-create any previous efforts, but instead to build upon them and supplement the analysis and outputs of these efforts with current data and information. The following is a summary of the plans, studies and reports that were reviewed as part of the Comprehensive Planning Process.

2004 Comprehensive Master Plan

The previous Comprehensive Master Plan for the Park District established a baseline understanding of the District at the time and a series of recommendations for moving forward. The process included stakeholder and focus group interviews as well as an Attitude and Interest Survey. Key elements that came from this Plan included a referendum that established the Park District with a secure line of financing that provided funding for much-needed capital work. This led directly into the process of developing and implementing Master Plans for all of the parks to address deficiencies within the parks.

2005-2011 Park Master Plans

A series of plans and exhibits detailing the master plans for all parks within the District (with the exception of Barrie Park) which were completed in 2005. Many of the plans identify phasing of improvements, and all of the parks have had at least the initial phase implemented.

2010 Community Attitude & Interest Survey

An update to the Community Attitude & Interest Survey conducted as part of the 2004 Comprehensive Plan. The survey helped to evaluate progress from the 2004 Plan and to specifically identify the community's preference for repair and upgrading the existing Ridgeland Common building.

2010 Population Report

A report that analyzes age and gender distribution per Census tract in the Village based on the 2010 Census results. Generally, the demographic analysis compared to the 2000 Census shows a stable, but aging, population with a reduction in population in the 20 to 24 year old age range. It also highlights specific shifts per Census tract.

2012 Conservatory Report

A summary report for the Conservatory for 2012. The report provides an overview of expenses, revenues, visitor statistics, facility improvements and plans for the future. The Conservatory draws more than half of its visitors from outside of Oak Park.

2011/2012 Gymnastics Facility & Operations Report

A report providing background on the operations of the gymnastic program, including programs, registration, risk management, training and revenue and expenses. This report was developed prior to the transition to the Gymnastics & Recreation Center and discusses opportunities to capitalize on the new facility.

2012 Annual Programming & Participation Report

A report identifying the strengths, weaknesses and trends within Park District programs to help understand needed improvements and assist with program decision making. The report shows that revenues have grown in many of the categories. Specific programming categories, such as ice and fitness/martial arts, were impacted by changes to the facility or departure of a specialized instructor. Otherwise, the report indicates that significant management and monitoring of the programs has resulted in overall improvements.

2012-13 Rink Report

A report for the final season of the Ridgeland Common indoor ice rink prior to its closing for renovation. The report identifies decreased registration, participation and rentals, potentially due to the pending closing. However, revenue was still shown to exceed expenses.

2013 Budget

A report on the financial condition of the Park District and budget items for 2013. Major investments planned included the completion of the Gymnastics and Recreation Center, the start of construction of the new Ridgeland Common, continued technology improvements, completion of the Scoville Park renovations and increased investment in outdoor athletic fields through the hiring of a sports field manager and purchasing of new field maintenance equipment.

2013 Comprehensive Outdoor Athletic Field Development & Operation Plan

A report on the District's athletic fields and operations. Includes an assessment of all Park District and local school district athletic fields, including capacity and demand analysis. The report includes recommendations for improvements, changes in maintenance operations and useage guidelines, such as rotation of the fields and maximum use of each field.

2013 Pool Report

A report on the 2013 pool season. Due to the temporary closing of Ridgeland Common for renovation, and an abundance of cool and rainy days, registration and attendance were down from previous years. Additionally, expenses exceeded revenues for the season. The report lays out plans for changes to better meet budget goals and a transition plan for the 2014 season as Ridgeland Common reopens.

2013 Teen Center Report

A report identifying the number of visits tracked during drop-in hours at the Teen Center at Stevenson Park, leading to the recommendation that the Teen Center be closed for drop-in hours at the end of 2013.

2013 Facility Availability Study

A series of charts that detail the availability, expressed as a percentage, of all individual rooms and facilities within the Park District, as tracked for the 2013 calendar year. These charts show that many of the facilities have significant availability depending on the time of day and day of the week.

2013-15 Strategic Plan

A report that establishes the mission, vision and values of the Park District as well as strategic initiatives, goals and objectives for the three year period of 2013 to 2015. These strategic initiatives, goals and objectives are used for benchmarking and justifying budget decisions moving forward.

2014 Brand Strategy Report

A report on the brand strategy process and recommendations. This process studied the alignment of the visual identity of the Park District with the message it communicates and its mission. The study identified recommendations for the District's brand and identity, marketing mix and messaging. Specifically, it provided recommendations for new marketing messages for the overall Park District, as well as targeted messages for Ridgeland Common, Cheney Mansion and the Conservatory.

2014 Budget

A report on the financial condition of the Park District and budget items for 2014. Major investments planned included the completion of the Ridgeland Common, continued technology improvements, a comprehensive update to the District's park rules signs, increased allocation of resources to help maintain playing fields, standardization of district camps to a one-week format and full-year operation of the Gymnastics and Recreation Center.

2015-19 Capital Improvement Plan

A document identifying the five-year projection of planned capital improvements to Park District, including the planned budget and benefits related to planned expenditures.

Village & Other Plans

2012 Madison Street Corridor Plan

The Madison Street Plan developed a vision for this key east-west Village corridor. In specific, it identifies a Node at Oak Park Avenue and calls out that the Village-owned site at the northeast corner of Madison Street and Oak Park Avenue should be redeveloped as some kind of destination use, citing an athletic facility as one of the possible options.

I-290 Eisenhower Expressway Study

In addition to the District's reports and studies, the on-going planning and design process for improvements to the I-290 Eisenhower Expressway was also reviewed. As there are four District parks or facilities - Barrie Park, Rehm Park, The Conservatory and Wenonah Park - adjacent to the Eisenhower, there are significant potential impacts from modifications to the road. However, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has clearly defined that all improvements will be contained within the existing "trench" and no land acquisition will be necessary.

2014 Envision Oak Park - A Comprehensive Plan for the Oak Park Community

In 2014, the Village released its updated Comprehensive Plan to guide the Village over the next 15-20 years. The Plan divides its goals and objectives into 11 categories. There are several that specify the Park District as a key partner, including:

- Arts & Culture
- Parks, Open Space, & Environmental Features
- Environmental Sustainability

The Park District currently supports and seeks to advance many of the goals and specific objectives within these categories. However, as a Village document, it is intended that the Village take an active leadership role in moving these goals forward on a community-wide basis and in partnering with other agencies.

John L. Hedges Administrative Center

218 Madison Street

OVERALL
FACILITY GRADE

D

EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
		6	16	10	4	8



Summary

The John L. Hedges Administrative Center and maintenance facility has served the District well, but has potentially reached the end of its useful life. It was originally built as a car dealership in the 1920's. It has functional limitations with physical and structural challenges including ADA accessibility limitations, mechanical and electrical inadequacies, shortage of storage, and no on-site parking. The gymnastics program was recently moved to a new site and the former gym area is now used for storage.

FUNCTIONALITY

1. Storage space is at a premium. Wherever space allows, storage for essential items has been created. Overall, there is not enough space.
2. Space is cut up and doesn't flow well.
3. ADA audit has been completed; items are being addressed.
4. Existing elevator is small.
5. Admin office space is not adequate and spread throughout the building.
6. The size of the maintenance garage is not adequate for all needs. Most everything for the maintenance department is stored here including seed which has caused a rodent problem.

AESTHETICS

1. Fair to poor – exterior and interior design elements which were added during recent renovations are not consistent with the character of the original building and detract from the overall appearance.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Finishes are outdated.
2. Drywall surfaces don't tolerate abuse well.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. The building has been renovated multiple times and is in reasonably good condition with the exception of the roof structure over the gym and maintenance garage. Since roof insulation was added during a past renovation, snow doesn't melt as rapidly, builds up, and overstresses the roof trusses. As a corrective measure, reinforcement has been added to the trusses.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. No fire sprinkler system.
2. The open, non-compliant stair does not provide a protected means of egress.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. It was reported that the HVAC system is worn out and has exceeded its expected useful life; it's inefficient and loud. System zoning has also been an issue – there are inconsistent temperatures throughout the building.
2. Electrical capacity is limited; lighting in gym and garage are operated by the electrical panel circuit breakers.

Andersen Park

824 North Hayes Avenue

1.3 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields/ Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
81	87	80	N/A	88	100	83	87



Park History

Acquired in 1916, the park is named after children's author Hans Christian Andersen and includes a center originally designed by John S. Van Bergen. The center has been significantly modified over the years. The play equipment was previously renovated in 1985.

Evaluation Notes

The park is in good condition with some small issues. There is repair needed for storm damage of the fence along the alley on the eastern property line. The walk on the west side of the building suffers from ice issues created by snow melt from the roof re-freezing at night. Permeable paving should be considered as solution. The splash pad was noted as having unexpectedly high water usage. The field is fenced along three sides and there is some use as a de facto dog run. A secondary entrance point in the northeast corner could deter this use as well as make the park more accessible. Constructing a paved connection, from the seating area to the playground would improve the area where the lawn is worn from heavy use.

Planned Improvements

2014
2015
2016
2017
2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Bike Lane
Number of Bike Racks	1
Distance to Train Station	1.2 mi (Austin-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Austin & Division (70, 91)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.2 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	Yes
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Play Equipment for 5+ yrs

Park Structures

Community Center	Yes
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	
Other	Chess Tables



Andersen Center

824 North Hayes Avenue

OVERALL FACILITY GRADE

D

EVALUATION SCORE CARD

Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
8	16	10	2	6	42



Summary

The Andersen Park Center is located at the northeast corner of the District and is similar to the centers at Field and Carroll Parks. It was originally built in the 1920's and renovated in 1965 at which time a brick veneer was added to the exterior wall face.

If any of the centers are removed from the District's inventory, this center should receive strong consideration.

FUNCTIONALITY

1. The center operates primarily as a preschool building.

AESTHETICS

1. The exterior is acceptable.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. (The tour did not involve entering the building.)

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STUCTURE

1. The roof is in good condition.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. The stair is not compliant with current standards.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are generally in good condition and easy to manage.

SITE

1. The concrete walk/stoop behind the building has settled.

Austin Gardens

167 Forest Avenue

3.64 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields/ Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
N/A	N/A	86	78	N/A	N/A	100	86



Park History

Henry W. Austin, Jr. donated the land in 1947 on the condition that it remains a public park bearing the Austin family name. The wildflower woodland habitat was planted in 1970 by the League of Women Voters. Since 1975, Austin Gardens has been used as a performance space by the Oak Park Festival Theatre. A Trust for Austin Gardens is held by the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation.

Evaluation Notes

The overall condition of the park is high. Intense use that the lawn receives from when the theatre operates makes it hard to maintain grass in certain areas. Some settling has occurred in the paver sections of the walkway, which is scheduled to be addressed as part of the master plan implementation in 2015. Additional maintenance attention should be given to turf management within this park in the future.

Planned Improvements

2014	
2015	Environmental learning center and associated improvements
2016	
2017	
2018	

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Bicycle Boulevard
Number of Bike Racks	2
Distance to Train Station	0.4 mi (Harlem-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Forest/Ontario (305)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	
Baseball / Softball Field	
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	Yes
Playground	
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	
Notes:	n/a

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	
Pavilion	
Other	Nature Area, Public Art, Seasonal Performance Space



Elizabeth F. Cheney Mansion

220 North Euclid Avenue

OVERALL
FACILITY GRADE

B

EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
	12	32	8	8	16	76



Summary

Reminiscent of a gracious English country home, Cheney Mansion was designed in 1913 by Charles E. White, Jr., a student of Frank Lloyd Wright. This 12,000-square-foot mansion boasts many handsome reception rooms, six bedrooms, seven bathrooms, and separate servants' quarters. The two acres of beautifully landscaped grounds also include a coach house and greenhouse. These showcase gardens include a kitchen and cutting garden with an espalier fence, a woodland walk, and the great lawn for picnics. Located in the Ridgeland Historic District of Oak Park, the Mansion is used for special occasions and events such as weddings/receptions, private parties, corporate meetings and events, concerts and recitals, and memorial services. (Information provided by the PDOP website.)

FUNCTIONALITY

1. Given the historical nature and adaptation of the mansion to a public building, there are multiple deficiencies with which to deal when hosting an event.
2. The mansion is used for public functions three to four per week, and mostly in the summer.
3. There is no elevator access to the third floor, the location of the ball room. Therefore, accommodations must be made in other areas of the mansion.
4. The ball room has a relatively low ceiling.
5. Kitchen was redone in 2007.
6. It was noted that continuous refinement to the operation is necessary.
7. The greenhouse has been repurposed and an accessible toilet room was added.

AESTHETICS

1. The mansion is wonderfully preserved and provides a valuable contribution to the community.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Good condition.
2. Lead paint abatement is needed, especially in the basement.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. The roof was recently redone.
2. Masonry is in excellent condition.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. Due to the mansion's age and historical nature, there are likely several areas of concern. A detailed assessment was not conducted.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are old and require constant attention. The HVAC system needs to be replaced.
2. The existing heating system is hot water.
3. There is only central A/C on the third floor/ball room.

SITE

1. The site is a true asset to the community.

Barrie Park

127 Garfield Street

4.22 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields/ Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
83	72	90	N/A	N/A	N/A	78	81



Park History

A portion of this site was acquired in 1932 and named for the children's author James Barrie. The adjacent 3.3 acre park was acquired in 1965 and had been the site of a manufactured gas plant from 1893-1931. Soil contamination was discovered in 1999, and remediation was undertaken through a coordinated effort by the Park District, Village of Oak Park, ComEd, and NiCor.

Evaluation Notes

The playground in the southeast corner has received heavy use and may need some modifications in the future to help reduce maintenance needs. The sand play area, including a water spigot, creates challenges. Maintaining turf grass on the sled hill throughout the year has been challenging due to inappropriate use of the hill during warmer months. The fields are in good condition. The sports court, including basketball and volleyball should be evaluated as part of a Master Plan process to determine how to attract increased use. The location, the layout of courts or the surface treatment may detract from the use.

Planned Improvements

2014	
2015	Master Plan development
2016	
2017	
2018	

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Bicycle Boulevard
Number of Bike Racks	5
Distance to Train Station	0.1 mi (Austin-Blue)
Bus Stop at Site	Austin/Harvard/Arthington (91, 315)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.2 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	Yes
Tennis Court	Yes
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	Yes

Notes: 60' Baseball Field; 1/2 Basketball Court (2); 1-2 Tennis Court; Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Play Equipment for 5+ yrs

Park Structures

Community Center	Yes
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	
Other	Indoor Playground



EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
		16	28	10	9	14



Summary

The Barrie Park Center serves the District’s southeast quadrant for preschool and summer camp. It was expanded in 1965 at which time a brick veneer was added to the exterior wall face. Overall, the building is in good condition and one of the better facilities in the district dedicated to preschool and summer camp activities.

FUNCTIONALITY

- 1. The center works well as a preschool center.
- 2. Storage space is at a premium. Basement is used and outdoor storage has been created behind the building which is not very secure.

AESTHETICS

- 1. Suits the neighborhood well.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

- 1. Generally, interior finishes are in good condition.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

- 1. All components appear to be in relatively good condition.
- 2. Brick veneer has developed a stress crack. Otherwise, the building is in good condition.
- 3. Windows were recently replaced.
- 4. Basement stays fairly dry.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

- 1. The basement stair is non-compliant.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

- 1. Systems are generally in good condition and easy to manage. Air conditioning (cooling) was added in +/- 2003; the hot water boiler for heating the building is new.

SITE

- 1. An underground water reservoir is adjacent to the building with sports courts above.

Carroll Park

1125 South Kenilworth Avenue

2.68 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields/ Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
74	79	87	81	N/A	N/A	88	83



Park History

Acquired in 1916, the park is named after children's author Lewis Carroll and includes a center originally designed by John S. Van Bergen. The northern part of Kenilworth Street was vacated by the Village in 1960 to expand the park and connect it to the Lincoln School grounds, creating roughly five acres of total open space.

Evaluation Notes

This park has one diamond field that is scheduled for renovation in 2014. Both playgrounds on site receive heavy use. Some longer-term maintenance issues are related to poor and compacted soil conditions where Kenilworth Avenue used to cross the site, which leads to drainage issues and challenges maintaining turf grass. Underdrainage for the fields will help counteract these conditions.

Planned Improvements

2014 Ball field and associated improvements

2015

2016

2017

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Bicycle Boulevard
Number of Bike Racks	2
Distance to Train Station	0.6 mi (Oak Park-Blue)
Bus Stop at Site	Oak Park/Harvard (311)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.1 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: 60' Baseball Field; Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Individual Equipment; Play Equipment for 5-12 yrs located on adjacent school site

Park Structures

Community Center	Yes
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	
Other	



EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
		8	16	10	2	6



Summary

The Carroll Park Center serves the District's southwest quadrant for preschool and summer camp. It's similar to the centers at Field and Andersen Parks. It was originally built in the 1920's and expanded in 1965 at which time a brick veneer was added to the exterior wall face. Overall, the building is in fair condition, but since it is dedicated to preschool, its usefulness is extremely limited.

FUNCTIONALITY

1. The center works well as a preschool building
2. ADA audit was completed.

AESTHETICS

1. The exterior is acceptable and suits the site well.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Fair, but showing age.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STUCTURE

1. All components appear to be in good condition.
2. The roof is in good condition.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. The stair to the basement does not comply with current standards and is in poor condition.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. There is a high water table and sump pump runs constantly and needs to be replaced approximately every three years
2. Systems are generally in good condition and easy to manage.

SITE

1. The site is located adjacent to a school and playground.

Euclid Square

705 West Fillmore Avenue
2.81 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
69	81	77	N/A	N/A	N/A	98	81



Park History

Acquired in 1929, the park was originally called New South Park, or Park #9, but was subsequently named after the adjacent street.

Evaluation Notes

The northern portion, including the playground and tennis courts, is in need of upgrades. The playground equipment is dated and the edge treatment around the playground detracts from its overall character. The tennis court surfacing is showing wear and the fence enclosing the tennis court is in poor condition. Additionally, there is a significant lack of bike racks and challenges to circulation around the tennis courts, specifically on the east side along Wesley Avenue.

Planned Improvements

2014	
2015	
2016	
2017	Improvements to playground, sport courts, walking path and other elements
2018	

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	N/A
Number of Bike Racks	1
Distance to Train Station	0.3 mi (Oak Park-Blue)
Bus Stop at Site	Roosevelt/Euclid (305)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	Yes
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: 60' Baseball Field; Tennis Court (4); Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Individual Equipment

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	
Pavilion	
Other	



Oak Park Conservatory

615 Garfield Street

OVERALL FACILITY GRADE

B

EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
	16	28	14	9	18	85



Summary

Owned and operated by the Park District of Oak Park, the Conservatory is one of the top three historical sites in Oak Park drawing up to 30,000 visitors annually. Staff and volunteers grow 20,000 bedding plants from seeds and cuttings annually that are planted at 90 public parks and sites throughout the village.

The Conservatory has an active support group, the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory whose mission is to promote interest in the Oak Park Conservatory, offer educational and recreational opportunities and support projects that benefit the Oak Park Conservatory.

FUNCTIONALITY

1. The entry and adjacent spaces flow well.
2. The meeting room and outside patio / garden area at the west end provide ample and accessible space.
3. Being an older structure, the greenhouse has some challenges, especially with regard to ADA accessibility.
4. Aside from the greenhouse structure, the building is relatively new and modern, and functions well for its intended use.

AESTHETICS

1. The structure in total is in keeping with the surrounding character of the community and makes a strong architectural contribution.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Generally, in good to very good condition.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. The older part of the greenhouse structure needs work. There are struggles with keeping the interior warm in very cold conditions. The glass and framing provides very little thermal resistance.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. None reported.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. The systems appear to be in good condition. As noted, however, the hot water heating system struggles to keep the interior of the greenhouse warm during cold months.

SITE

1. The site is tight and struggles to support the needs of the conservatory.

Field Park

935 Woodbine Avenue
3.39 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields/ Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
75	88	67	84	88	85	95	82



Park History

Acquired in 1916, the park is named after children's author Eugene Field and includes a center originally designed by John S. Van Bergen. The center has been significantly modified over the years. Woodbine Avenue between Berkshire and Division was vacated by the Village in 1960 to expand the park and connect it to the Mann School grounds, creating roughly five acres of total open space.

Evaluation Notes

The two diamond fields have recently been renovated. However, there were drainage issues noticed that caused a significant amount of infield mix to wash-out into the adjacent dug-outs and seating areas. The path in the southwest corner of the park by the natural landscape area is impacted by drainage issues as well where standing water and muddy puddles were noted on more than one visit. The path system on the south side of the park has several pinch points that make snow clearing challenging. The paved area around the building may be well served by permeable pavers to help with issues created by the lack of gutters on the building. At the time of the visit, the bocce court was unplayable and in need of maintenance if it receives enough use to be preserved.

Planned Improvements

2014
2015
2016
2017
2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Bicycle Boulevard
Number of Bike Racks	3
Distance to Train Station	1.4 mi (Harlem-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Oak Park/Division (311)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	Yes
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: 60' Baseball Field (2); Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Play Equipment for 5+ yrs; Individual Play Equipment; Bocce Court

Park Structures

Community Center	Yes
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	Yes
Other	Native Plant Garden, Chess Tables; Picnic Area



EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
	8	16	10	2	6	42



Summary

The Field Park Center is located centrally in the park and is similar to the centers at Anderson and Carroll Parks. It was originally built in the 1920's and renovated in 1965 at which time a brick veneer was added to the exterior wall face. It was reported that the overall condition of the building is poor; "it looks better than it really is".

If any of the centers are removed from the District's inventory, serious thought should be given to eliminating this facility.

FUNCTIONALITY

1. The center operates primarily as a preschool building.
2. ADA audit was completed.

AESTHETICS

1. The exterior is acceptable.
2. The interior is worn.
3. The exposed sheet metal duct for A/C doesn't suit the interior.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Fair.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. A portion of the preschool floor is a concrete slab on grade and is deteriorating.
2. High water on site causes continuous water seepage problems in the basement.
3. The roof is in good condition.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. The stair is not compliant with current standards.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are generally in good condition and easy to manage.

SITE

1. The site is located adjacent to a school and playground.

Fox Park

624 South Oak Park Avenue

1.54 acres

OVERALL PARK GRADE



EVALUATION SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
67	87	99	74	76	50	80	77



Park History

Acquired in 1922, the park is named after William H. Fox, who served on the Park Board of Commissioners from 1919-1925. It includes a recreation center built in 1966.

Evaluation Notes

Renovations to the playground and splash pad made in 2009 were a large improvement over previous conditions. There are some maintenance issues related to the sand play area, the drinking fountain and landscape areas around the playground. The largest maintenance challenge is related to the south side of the building. There is severe deterioration of the entry ramp on the south side of the building, along with the retaining wall visible from the basement windows. These issues may be related to the quality of the construction, and have been exacerbated by stormwater run-off from the roof and freeze-thaw cycles. The Park District should budget for extensive repairs to address this issue in the near future.

Planned Improvements

2014	Ball field and associated improvements
2015	
2016	
2017	Safety improvements to stairway and foundation
2018	

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Shared Lane
Number of Bike Racks	3
Distance to Train Station	0.5 mi (Oak Park-Blue)
Bus Stop at Site	Flag Stop (311)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	Yes
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: 60' Baseball Field; Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Play Equipment for 5+ yrs; Individual Play Equipment

Park Structures

Community Center	Yes
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	
Other	Chess Tables



EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
	12	28	10	7	12	69



Summary

The Fox Park Center is a small neighborhood facility used for general programming, rentals and summer camps. It, along with the Longfellow Center (same design), was built in 1965. Overall, the building is in good condition. However, major work will be required to replace a deteriorating retaining wall adjacent to the entrance. In addition to two general purpose rooms, there are 2 supervisor offices and exterior access to rest rooms.

FUNCTIONALITY

1. The center works well.
2. ADA audit was completed; items are being addressed.

AESTHETICS

1. Good.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Good, however, VCT floor tile in the general purpose rooms does not last very long.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. The building is structurally sound and in good condition.
2. The first floor structure is poured concrete.
3. Roofing is 8 years old and in good condition.
4. Windows have been replaced with thermally insulated units and are in excellent condition.
5. Basement stays fairly dry; however, the roof drains into the area well next to the building. Accordingly, it is mandatory to keep the area drains clean.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. The open, non-compliant stair does not provide a protected means of egress.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are generally in good condition and easy to manage.
2. Hot water heat functions well.

SITE

1. Concrete retaining wall adjacent to the entry ramp is deteriorating severely.

Lindberg Park

On Greenfield Between
Marion & Woodbine
13.9 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields/ Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
56	82	79	84	N/A	80	95	80



Park History

Acquired in 1925, this park was named after Gustav A. Lindberg, the first Superintendent of Parks at the Park District of Oak Park. In 1972 the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation established the Presidential Walk with the planting of 17 sugar maples, one for each of the 17 former Village of Oak Park Presidents. This tradition continues with a new tree planted as each village president ends their term in office.

Evaluation Notes

Lindberg Park is the largest open space in the District, it is home to the two largest baseball fields. It also features tennis courts and a wildflower garden. The park is in generally good condition, and the areas in most need of improvement are scheduled for improvements. These include the baseball fields and the tennis courts. The condition of the fields themselves is very good likely due to irrigation, however, the dugouts and bleachers are very dated. The tennis courts and associated fences are aged and worn and need replacement or significant repair. There is limited support for bicyclists at this park and additional racks should be installed throughout.

Planned Improvements

2014 Improvements to sports fields, tennis, playground, picnic shelter and paths

2015

2016

2017

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Bicycle Boulevard
Number of Bike Racks	4
Distance to Train Station	1.7 mi (Harlem-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Harlem & Greenfield (90, 305, 307, 318)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.1 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	Yes
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: 90' Baseball Field (2); Tennis Court (3); Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs

Park Structures

Community Center	Yes
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	
Other	Nature Area



Lindberg Park Comfort Station

LeMoynes Parkway at Forest Avenue

OVERALL
FACILITY GRADE

A

EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
	18	36	14	9	18	95



Summary

The Lindberg Park Building is an attractive and functional facility built in 1990. It includes multiple toilet rooms, storage, mechanical, and concession service space. Its character and appearance provides an aesthetic contribution to the community.

FUNCTIONALITY

1. There are multiple unisex toilet rooms and a concession service room.
2. A storage room for youth baseball is also included.
3. The mechanical room houses the park's irrigation system.
4. The low roof attracts climbers.

AESTHETICS

1. Rich in character.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Good condition.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. No issues reported.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. None reported.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are in reasonably good condition.

SITE

1. No issues reported.

Longfellow Park

610 South Ridgeland Avenue

2.62 acres

OVERALL PARK GRADE



EVALUATION SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields/ Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
72	81	73	N/A	N/A	85	82	79



Park History

Acquired in 1920, the park was named after the American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The recreation center was built in 1966 in the same style as Fox Center.

Evaluation Notes

Renovations to the playground and splash pad made in 2009 were a large improvement over previous conditions. However, there are some maintenance issues related to the proximity of the sand play area and the splash pad. The sidewalk on the east side of the building has settled significantly creating tripping hazards, though it appears repairs are in the works. The largest maintenance challenge is related to the south side of the building. There is severe deterioration of the entry ramp on the south side of the building, along with the retaining wall visible from the basement windows. These issues may be related to the quality of the construction, and have been exacerbated by stormwater run-off from the roof and freeze-thaw cycles. The Park District should budget for extensive repairs to address this issue in the near future.

Planned Improvements

2014 Ball field and associated improvements

2015

2016 Safety improvements to stairway and foundation

2017

2018 Tennis courts and associated improvements

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Bike Lane
Number of Bike Racks	4
Distance to Train Station	0.8 mi (Oak Park-Blue)
Bus Stop at Site	Flag Stop (315)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	Yes
Tennis Court	Yes
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	Yes
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	Yes
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: 60' Baseball Field; Full Basketball Court; Timer-Controlled Lighted Tennis Courts; Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Play Equipment for 5+ yrs; Individual Play Equipment

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	
Other	



EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
	12	28	10	7	12	69



Summary

The Longfellow Park Center is a small neighborhood facility used for general programming, rentals and summer camps. It, along with the Fox Center (same design), was built in 1965. Overall, the building is in good condition. However, major work will be required to replace a deteriorating retaining wall adjacent to the entrance. In addition to two general purpose rooms, there are 2 supervisor offices and exterior access to rest rooms.

FUNCTIONALITY

1. The center works well.
2. ADA audit was completed; items are being addressed.
3. Elevator was added 5 years ago.

AESTHETICS

1. Good.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Good, however, VCT floor tile in the general purpose rooms does not last very long.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. The building is structurally sound and in good condition.
2. The first floor structure is poured concrete.
3. Roofing is 8 years old and in good condition.
4. Windows have been replaced with thermally insulated units and are in excellent condition.
5. Basement stays fairly dry; however, the roof drains into the area well next to the building. Accordingly, it is mandatory to keep the area drains clean.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. The open, non-compliant stair does not provide a protected means of egress.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are generally in good condition and easy to manage.
2. Hot water heat functions well.

SITE

1. Concrete retaining wall adjacent to the entry ramp is deteriorating severely.

Maple Park

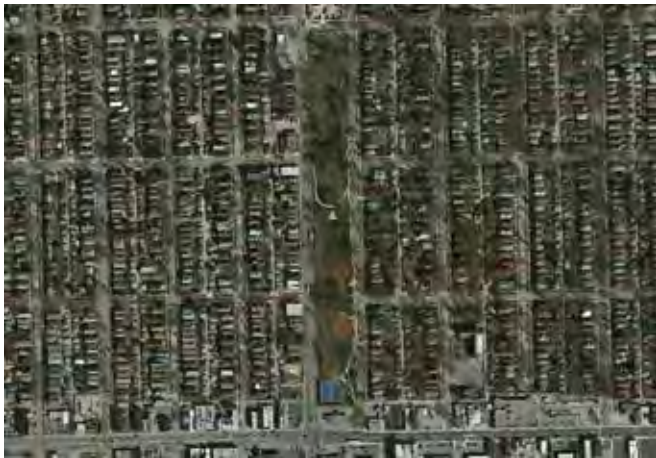
1105 South Maple Avenue at
Harlem Avenue
6.98 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields/ Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
77	70	94	85	N/A	68	92	81



Park History

Acquired in 1921, the linear park was formerly railroad property. It was originally called Park #6 or Perennial Gardens for the formal plantings installed there, but was later renamed for the adjacent Maple Street. A comfort station was built in the center of the park around 1960. Renovations in the early 1980s added new landscaping and curving walkways. The playground equipment was replaced in 1998.

Evaluation Notes

Several renovations were completed in 2011, including relocated and improved tennis courts at the south end, an off-leash dog park at the north end, and a continuous path system. The condition of the remaining amenities are keeping the overall park score low, but are planned to be addressed in the coming years. The frontage along Harlem Avenue creates a challenging condition. One long range consideration for the park would be to create a more protected condition for the sidewalk along Harlem and potentially bring it inbound of any perimeter fence.

Planned Improvements

2014	
2015	Comfort station improvements
2016	Improvements to playground, ball fields and new picnic shelter
2017	
2018	

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	N/A
Number of Bike Racks	2
Distance to Train Station	0.6 mi (Harlem-Forest Park-Blue)
Bus Stop at Site	Flag Stop (307)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	Yes
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	Yes
Sled Hill	

Notes: Multi-purpose Field (2); 60' Baseball Field (2); Tennis Court w/ Button-Controlled Lighted Court and Hit Boards (2); Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Play Equipment for 5+ yrs

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	
Other	



Maple Park Comfort Station

1105 South Maple Avenue

OVERALL
FACILITY GRADE

B

EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
	16	28	16	7	14	81



Summary

The Maple Park Building, built in the 1960's, provides support for the park. It houses two toilet rooms, and two storage rooms. Although its age is about 50 years, its character and appearance still suit the park.

FUNCTIONALITY

1. There are two toilet rooms.
2. Due to the low roof, it attracts climbers.

AESTHETICS

1. Acceptable.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Average.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. The roof is about 8 years old.
2. The roof structure is precast concrete.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. None reported.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are in reasonably good condition.

SITE

1. No issues reported.

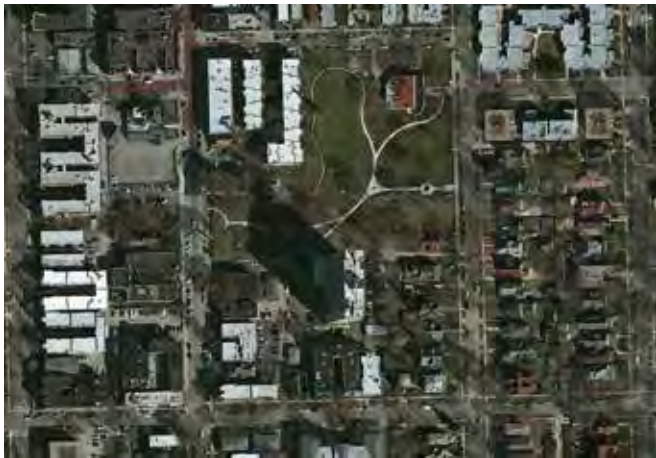
Mills Park

217 South Home Avenue
4.43 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Athletic Fields/ Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
	N/A	N/A	92	84	N/A	N/A	83	87



Park History

Acquired in 1939, the historic John Farson House, known as "Pleasant Home", is a National Historic Landmark designed in 1897 by architect George W. Maher. Outbuildings on the attendant grounds were subsequently razed and Mills Park has been maintained as open space for many years.

Evaluation Notes

Mills Park is located in the western central part of the Village, just south of the downtown and within the Pleasant District. It is also the location of the historic Pleasant Home. The park is in very good shape, having undergone Master Plan improvements in 2011/2012. There are some areas of the limestone path that have washed out and should be addressed. Additionally, the removed wrought iron fence is being stockpiled along the southern boundary of the site. This should be addressed either through reuse, recycling, disposal or off-site storage.

Planned Improvements

2014
2015
2016
2017
2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Bicycle Boulevard
Number of Bike Racks	4
Distance to Train Station	0.2 mi (Harlem-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Harlem/Pleasant/Franklin (305, 307, 318)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.2 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field
Baseball / Softball Field
Basketball Court
Tennis Court
Sand Volleyball Court
Outdoor Ice Rink
Playground
Splash Pad
Outdoor Pool
Skate Park
Dog Park
Sled Hill
Notes: n/a

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	
Pavilion	
Other	Nature Area



Pleasant Home

217 South Home Avenue

OVERALL FACILITY GRADE



EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
	8	16	6	8	16	54



Summary

Designed in 1897 by noted Prairie Style architect George W. Maher for investment banker and philanthropist John W. Farson, Pleasant Home is one of the earliest and most distinguished examples of the Prairie School of Architecture.

After John Farson's death in 1910, the estate was purchased by Herbert Mills, owner of Mills Novelty Company, which manufactured coin operated gambling and music machinery in Chicago. The Mills family sold the home and its five-acre grounds to the Park District of Oak Park in 1939, to create Mills Park. It is now a National Historic Landmark.

The park and its mansion have had various community uses. In 1970, The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest moved into a bedroom on the second floor and today the organization leases all of the second and third floors from the Park District of Oak Park. However, the Historical Society will be moving to a new location.

The overall rating score for this building is impacted most by the roof repairs scheduled for 2017.

FUNCTIONALITY

1. Given the historical nature and adaptation of the mansion to a public building, there are limitations with which to deal when hosting an event.
2. There is no elevator access in the structure. However, there is a chair lift from grade to the main level.
3. The mansion is used for rentals, public functions, summer social events, and art programs.
4. Once the Historical Society moves out, space will be repurposed; potentially into exhibit space.

AESTHETICS

1. The mansion is wonderfully preserved and provides a valuable contribution to the community.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Very good condition.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. It was reported that the roof tile roof needs to be replaced.
2. The summer dining porch was recently renovated; windows were added.
3. Masonry is in excellent condition.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. Due to the mansions age and historic nature, there are likely several areas of concern. A detailed assessment was not conducted.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. The existing heating system is hot water.
2. There is no central A/C system; only window units.

SITE

1. The site is a true asset to the community.

Randolph Park

300 South Grove Avenue

0.32 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields/ Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
N/A	81	92	75	87	N/A	100	86



Park History

The parcels were acquired by Village of Oak Park in 1924. Randolph Park was conveyed to the Park District by quit-claim deed in 2006 and the property to the east was transferred in 2009, doubling the size of the park. This land and other similar strips along Randolph Street were set aside for rail stations along the "Dummy line railroad" into Chicago that was never developed.

Evaluation Notes

It is divided into two separate sections by a public alley, with the west half being used for playground equipment and the east half as a passive seating area. The park is in generally good condition, but due to the small enclosed area it receives intense use and has some maintenance issues. The landscape, including bermed lawn areas, receive heavy foot traffic and are hard to maintain. The District should consider other treatments, including synthetic turf, as solutions if the issues cannot be overcome with maintenance. The bench in the northwest corner seemed disconnected and encouraged traffic on some of the heavily worn lawn and landscape areas. This bench should be considered for relocation in the future.

Planned Improvements

2014
2015
2016
2017
2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	N/A
Number of Bike Racks	1
Distance to Train Station	0.4 mi (Oak Park-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Flag Stop (311)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	
Baseball / Softball Field	
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: Chess Tables (2); Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Individual Play Equipment

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	
Pavilion	
Other	Chess Tables



Rehm Park

515 Garfield Street at
East Avenue
6.51 acres

OVERALL PARK GRADE



EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
	68	85	80	N/A	N/A	N/A	86	79



Park History

Acquired in 1913, Rehm Park was named after Colonel Arthur D. Rehm, a member of the Park District's first Board of Commissioners and its second Board President. The original park was designed by Jens Jensen, although little of Jensen's design remains. An outdoor pool was constructed in 1966 and quickly became a regional destination.

Evaluation Notes

Several characteristics make for heavy use of this park, including the proximity to the pool, the unique character of the playground, the self-propelled play trains, and the sand volleyball courts. The tennis courts are scheduled for improvements in 2018, which will help improve the athletic space score, as will continued turf grass maintenance. Opportunities should be explored to better integrate the open lawn at the southwest corner of the site into the rest of the park or address other District-wide needs.

Planned Improvements

2014

2015 General improvements and repairs

2016 New pool play feature

2017

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	46
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Shared Lane
Number of Bike Racks	15
Distance to Train Station	0.1 mi (Oak Park-Blue)
Bus Stop at Site	Ridgeland/Garfield (315)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.1 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	Yes
Sand Volleyball Court	Yes
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	Yes
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: Tennis Court (3); Volleyball Court (2);

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	
Pavilion	
Other	Chess Table; Trains (Hand-Powered)



Ridgeland Common

415 Lake Street at
Ridgeland Avenue
6.06 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

A

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields/ Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
98	N/A	86	N/A	N/A	N/A	96	93



Park History

Ridgeland Common was named for the adjacent street and was designed by Jens Jensen, although little of Jensen's design remains. The pool, building, and outdoor ice rink were constructed in 1962. Ridgeland Common is the Park District's flagship facility.

Evaluation Notes

Ridgeland Common is centrally located in the District. Having recently reopened after significant renovations, including the installation of synthetic turf fields, the park is in excellent condition. The score is brought down due to issues with the perimeter sidewalk within the public rights-of-way on the Lake Street and Scoville Avenue sides of the park. It appears that the Village is planning repairs, though the parkways should be reviewed in the future as there may be drainage issues that will not be resolved though repair to the sidewalk.

Planned Improvements

2014
2015
2016
2017
2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	27
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Bike Lane
Number of Bike Racks	36
Distance to Train Station	0.2 mi (Ridgeland-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Flag Stop (86, 309, 313, 315)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	Yes
Skate Park	
Dog Park	Yes
Sled Hill	Yes

Notes: 60' Baseball Field (2)

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	
Other	Program Registration



Taylor Park

400 West Division Street at
Ridgeland Avenue
11.75 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields/ Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
78	86	92	88	75	72	81	82



Park History

Acquired in 1914, Taylor Park was originally called “North Park” but was subsequently named after the first President of the Park Board of Commissioners, Henry A. Taylor. Taylor Park was designed by Jens Jensen and still retains some of Jensen’s original design. The park sits on the edge of a moraine from the remains of what was once glacial Lake Chicago.

Evaluation Notes

Updates to the tennis courts and playground have raised the overall quality of this park. Areas in most need of improvement, such as the seating area with outdoor grills along the park’s northern edge, are identified as future phases of improvements in the park’s master plan. The athletic field suffers from some drainage issues, due to the high water table in this part of the Village. Underdrainage may be the only permanent solution and should be considered in the future. The rain garden feature in the southeast corner has started to establish and will require specialized maintenance to be successful. Overflow for this feature should be revisited, as stormwater quantity appears to exceed the design expectations for some storm events. The overflow channel may need to be modified and lined with rock to accommodate storm conditions.

Planned Improvements

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Bike Lane
Number of Bike Racks	4
Distance to Train Station	1.1 mi (Ridgeland-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Flag Stop (86)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	Yes
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	Yes
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	Yes

Notes: Tennis Court with Manual Button-Controlled Lighted Court and Hit Boards (6); Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Play Equipment for 5+ yrs; Chess Tables (4)

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	Yes
Other	Chess Tables; Nature Area; Picnic Area



Scoville Park

800 West Lake Street at
Oak Park Avenue
3.98 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields/ Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
98	99	81	74	N/A	84	92	87



Park History

Acquired in 1913, Scoville Park was named after Charles B. Scoville, the previous owner of the land and an advocate for the creation of the Park District. Scoville Park was originally designed by Jens Jensen and retains the much of Jensen's design. Grove Avenue was vacated in 2001 and a new plaza was constructed adjacent to the park. Scoville Park was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.

Evaluation Notes

The recent renovations and restoration of the World War I Memorial have elevated the quality of the park. One of the few issues facing the park relates to drainage in the large open field. The creation of a new path at the bottom of the hill has impacted drainage patterns and created an area that is often wet. This could be resolved through the addition of an underdrain or other small adjustments. The addition of a permanent stage has opened some less desirable views out to Lake Street and created a steeper hill at the front of the stage where it is hard to maintain grass. Along Grove at the northwest corner of the park, the light poles and parking meters are staggered in a way that clutters the sidewalk and makes snow removal challenging. The Park District should coordinate with the Village to resolve this issue by relocating the meters.

Planned Improvements

2014
2015
2016
2017
2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Shared Lane
Number of Bike Racks	12
Distance to Train Station	0.2 mi (Oak Park-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Flag Stop (309, 311, 313)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	
Baseball / Softball Field	
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	Yes
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: Tennis Court with Manual Button-Controlled Lighed Court and Hit Boards (3);
Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	
Other	Nature Area



Scoville & Taylor Park Comfort Stations

OVERALL
FACILITY GRADE



EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
	18	36	14	9	18	95

800 West Lake Street &
400 West Division Street



Summary

The Scoville Park and Taylor Park Restroom facilities are generous amenities for the public and there is a high level of expectation to make them available for use. Their character and appearance provide a positive aesthetic contribution to the community. Photos of the Scoville Park facility are included.

FUNCTIONALITY

1. There are dedicated toilet rooms for men and women, and a third unisex toilet room meeting ADA requirements. Each building also includes a small storage room.
2. Due to the low roofs, they attract climbers.

AESTHETICS

1. Rich in character.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Good condition.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. No issues reported.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. None reported

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are in reasonably good condition.
2. The water and electrical systems are new.

SITE

1. No issues reported.

Stevenson Park

49 West Lake Street

3.3 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE



EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields/ Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
70	66	66	75	N/A	N/A	78	71



Park History

Stevenson Park was acquired by the Village of Oak Park in 1916 and named after author Robert Louis Stevenson. The Park District entered into a 99-year lease agreement with the Village in 2006, rather than purchasing the property outright, because the park contains two underground water reservoirs.

Evaluation Notes

The park provides the only skateboard park for the District and one of three basketball facilities. The majority of the park is located above underground reservoirs that create a large grade change from the adjacent sidewalk. This has led to some run-off issues along the sidewalk. The athletic fields benefit from having lighting, which is a key reason why the field is slated to be converted to synthetic. Planned improvements to the fields and playground will help improve the overall quality and appearance of the park. Maintenance opportunities include addressing settling of the concrete path at the entrance to the courts, surface treatments for the skate park and courts and treating the access drive with a different material that will not suffer from wash-out. Potential enhancements include additional bike parking, improved ADA access into the park, public bathrooms and modifications to the skate park to allow for BMX bikes.

Planned Improvements

2014
2015 Synthetic turf ball field, lighting and path improvements
2016
2017
2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Shared Lane
Number of Bike Racks	3
Distance to Train Station	0.2 mi (Austin-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Flag Stop (309, 313)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	Yes
Tennis Court	
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	Yes
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: 60' Baseball Field; 1/2 Basketball Court (3); Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Play Equipment for 5+ yrs; Individual Play Equipment

Park Structures

Community Center	Yes
Public Restrooms	
Pavilion	
Other	



EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
	10	28	10	5	8	61



Summary

The Stevenson Park Center, built in 1965, is a small neighborhood facility used for general programming, rentals and summer camps. Overall, the building appears to be in good condition, but outdated aesthetically. In addition to two general purpose rooms, there are 2 supervisor offices.

Significant improvements needed, including the additional of an elevator, addressing ADA issues and providing public restrooms accessible from the exterior of the building. However, given the age and condition of the building and its proximity to newer District facilities, these types of long-term investments do not appear to make financial sense. Future planning should consider the removal of this building.

FUNCTIONALITY

1. The Center does not comply with ADA accessibility standards. With no elevator access, the second floor is not accessible.
2. This Center is not used as much as other centers, mainly due to parking issues and its location near Ridgeland Common.
3. The lower level provides good space for the Teen Center.

AESTHETICS

1. Generally, the building's design is out dated.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Good condition.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. It was reported that the flat roof leaks.
2. Windows have been replaced with thermally insulated units and are in excellent condition.
3. The masonry appears to be in good condition, but its appearance is dated.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. The open, non-compliant stair does not provide a protected means of egress.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are generally in reasonably good condition, but maintaining consistent temperature throughout the building is difficult.

SITE

1. An underground water reservoir is adjacent to the building.
2. Its location in the District is not as desirable as other locations due to its proximity to the train tracks and Lake Street.

Wenonah Park

844 Wenonah Avenue

0.12 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields/ Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
N/A	90	N/A	74	N/A	N/A	97	85



Park History

This playground was acquired in 1962 and is named for the adjacent street.

Evaluation Notes

The park benefits from being close to the pedestrian bridge that crosses the Eisenhower, approximately in line with Home Avenue. The park is in generally good condition, but similar to the Randolph Park, the small enclosed area and intense use and has created some maintenance issues. The landscaped and lawn areas within the fenced portion of the site receive heavy foot traffic and are hard to maintain. The District should consider other treatments, including synthetic turf, as solutions if the issues cannot be overcome with maintenance. Additionally, the sand play area at this site creates maintenance issues as the sand tends to migrate within the park.

Planned Improvements

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	N/A
Number of Bike Racks	1
Distance to Train Station	0.7 mi (Harlem-Forest Park-Blue)
Bus Stop at Site	Harlem/Jackson (307)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.3 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	
Baseball / Softball Field	
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: Chess Tables (2); Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Individual Equipment

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	
Pavilion	
Other	Chess Tables



LEGEND

\$ less than \$100,000
 \$\$ \$100,000 to \$1,000,000
 \$\$\$ greater than \$1,000,000

Recommendation	Page	Timeframe	Responsible Parties and Partners (Project Lead in BOLD)	Funding Sources	Cost Level	Actions/Key Tasks	Target Completion
ALIGN PARK MASTER PLANS WITH DISTRICT LEVEL OF SERVICE	138	On-Going	Executive Director Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Recreation Superintendent Finance Director Marketing and Communication Director	Capital Projects Fund Corporate Fund Grants	\$\$	Evaluate opportunities for additions/changes during Master Plan updates Incorporate changes into CIP Implement changes	On-going
INCORPORATE BATTING CAGES INTO FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS	139	On-Going	Executive Director Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Recreation Superintendent Finance Director Marketing and Communication Director	Capital Projects Fund Corporate Fund Grants	\$	Identify and evaluate potential batting cage locations Test locations with community during associated Master Plan updates Incorporate planned additional batting cages into CIP Implement additional batting cages	On-going
CONDUCT FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY	140	Short-Term (1-3 Years)	Executive Director Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Finance Director Recreation Superintendent Marketing and Communication Director Project Manager	Capital Projects Fund	\$ - \$\$\$	Identify if indoor pool or other elements should be incorporated into feasibility study Identify budget for study and budget funds Prepare RFP for feasibility study Select consultant and conduct feasibility study Identify potential program opportunities facility would allow Communicate the decision to the public	2016
ASSESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDOOR POOL	141	Mid-Term (4-7 Years)	Executive Director Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Revenue Facilities Superintendent Recreation Superintendent Finance Director	Capital Projects Fund Revenue Facilities Fund	\$ - \$\$\$	Continue to track D200 progress and keep communication open Identify other public & private agencies in community for potential partnerships Include indoor pool in recreation feasibility study if D200 opportunities do not exist Make decision based on results and budget in CIP if appropriate	2019
CONTINUE TO MANAGE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES	142	On-Going	Executive Director Recreation Superintendent	Recreation Administration Fund	\$	Identify additional opportunities for use of spaces/facilities Update and refine agreements with existing partners as needed Identify funding partnerships with user groups	On-going
CONTINUE TO MANAGE HISTORIC RESOURCES OWNED BY THE DISTRICT	142	On-Going	Executive Director Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Conservatory Manager Cheney Mansion Supervisor Pleasant Home Foundation Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory	Capital Projects Fund Museum Fund Corporate Fund Cheney Mansion Fund	\$\$	Continue to build and refine partnerships with foundations and friends groups Continue to budget for on-going maintenance and improvements Explore and pursue additional funding and grant opportunities Fund and conduct training services to build partner capacity and skills	On-going
PROGRAMMING							
INCREASE PARTICIPATION LEVELS WITHIN THE DISTRICT	143	On-Going	Executive Director Recreation Superintendent Revenue Facilities Superintendent Conservatory Manager Marketing and Communications Director	Corporate Fund Revenue Facilities Fund Recreation Fund	\$	Evaluate programs lifecycles and participation levels on annual basis Modify program offerings to increase participation levels Advertise and promotes new program offerings Conduct in-person and online survey on an annual basis to evaluate progress Use 5 years Needs Assessment update as statistically valid survey to track progress	On-going
IMPROVE ADULT FITNESS PROGRAMMING	144	Short-Term (1 to 3 Years)	Executive Director Recreation Superintendent Revenue Facilities Superintendent Finance Director Communication and Marketing Director	Recreation Fund Communications & Marketing Fund Recreation Administration Fund	\$	Identify potential changes to delivery of service Test and implement changes Retire or reposition programs near the end of their lifecycle Conduct additional targeted surveys to identify program specific community needs/priorities Introduce new or repositioned programs to address identified needs/priorities Conduct and track program lifecycles on an annual basis Marketing efforts to target user groups	2015
IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMING	144	Short-Term (1 to 3 Years)	Executive Director Conservatory Manager Recreation Superintendent Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory	Corporate Fund Recreation Fund Grants	\$	Identify potential environmental programs that can be paired with specific District facilities Conduct additional targeted surveys to identify program specific community desires Introduce new programs to address identified needs/priorities Conduct and track program lifecycles on an annual basis Use GAC to assist in ideas and marketing options to get the word out on our new programs. Partner with D97 and D200 and local colleges for program offerings	2016

LEGEND

\$ less than \$100,000
 \$\$ \$100,000 to \$1,000,000
 \$\$\$ greater than \$1,000,000

Recommendation	Page	Timeframe	Responsible Parties and Partners (Project Lead in BOLD)	Funding Sources	Cost Level	Actions/Key Tasks	Target Completion
CREATE & SUPPORT CONTINUED CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES	145	On-Going	Executive Director Recreation Superintendent Arts Advisory Committee Oak Park Area Arts Council	Corporate Fund Recreation Administration Fund	\$	Participate in current Oak Park Cultural Plan development process Coordinate with other local agencies Evaluate opportunities to continue/expand concerts and theater in parks Integrate Art into Parks (see previous recommendation)	On-going
MARKETING							
IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BRANDING STUDY	146	Short-Term (1 to 3 Years)	Executive Director Marketing and Communications Director Finance Director	Corporate Fund	\$\$	Refresh Logo Develop Brand Standards Guide Develop similar looks for revenue centers Develop a photography calendar Adjust and tune the focus of marketing materials and messaging Ensure messaging reflects unique attributes of PDOP: Convenience, Variety, Affordability, Quality Conduct a branding study/survey in 5 to 10 years	2017
ORGANIZATION & PLANNING							
CONTINUE TO UPDATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) ANNUALLY	147	On-Going	Executive Director Finance		\$	Monitor outcomes of Master Plan updates Monitor feedback from maintenance analysis, park ambassador outreach and other sources Evaluate priorities, issues and opportunities and modify CIP accordingly	On-going
COMMUNICATE COLLABORATION & ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS	148	On-Going	Executive Director Marketing and Communications Director Recreation Superintendent	Corporate Fund	\$	Update list of collaboration efforts on an annual basis Identify opportunities (annual report, website, program brochure) to communicate efforts Implement communications on a regular basis Use VOP's FYI to highlight	On-going
UPDATE NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN FIVE YEARS	148	Mid-Term (4-7 Years)	Executive Director Marketing and Communications Director	Corporate Fund Capital Projects Fund	\$	Identify additional information goals of updated assessment Select consultant to write and administer survey Review, evaluate and communicate results Make changes/improvements as appropriate	2019
ADMINISTRATION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS							
ADVANCE PARK AMBASSADOR PROGRAM	149	On-Going	Executive Director Revenue Facilities Superintendent Recreation Superintendent	Corporate Fund	\$	Identify opportunities to collect additional data at parks without centers Work with park ambassadors to collect additional information Develop process for regularly evaluating and sharing input Provide additional training on software to increase functionality Incorporate a continuous improvement model	On-going
EVALUATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO FURTHER SUSTAINABILITY WITHIN DISTRICT	149	On-Going	Executive Director Buildings & Grounds	Buildings & Grounds Fund Facilities Fund	\$	Develop policy for evaluating cost recovery on sustainable upgrades to capital projects Identify potential target projects or sustainable goals Integrate sustainable practices where appropriate opportunities arise Monitor and track impacts - communicate and market successes	On-going
CONDUCT FURTHER ANALYSIS & USE OF MAINTENANCE FEEDBACK	150	Short-Term (1 to 3 Years)	Executive Director Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Finance Director Revenue Facilities Superintendent	Corporate Fund Revenue Facilities Fund	\$	Continue to track work orders Continue to evaluate open spaces on a regular basis Develop tool for evaluating facilities on a regular basis Implement process for analysis of information collected and development of recommendations	2015
FUNDING							
MANAGE REVENUE GROWTH	151	Mid-Term (4-7 Years)	Executive Director Finance Director Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Revenue Facilities Superintendent Recreation Superintendent	Recreation Administration Fund Revenue Facilities Fund	\$	Conduct and track program lifecycles on an annual basis Continue to track and analyze use of facilities Establish cost recovery goals for programs or program areas Develop full cost accounting for each program or class Implement changes based on lifecycle, use, and cost recovery analysis Meet tax/earned revenue ratio goal of 50/50	2020
IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE PARKS FOUNDATION	151	Short-Term (1 to 3 Years)	Executive Director Parks Foundation of Oak Park Finance Director Buildings & Grounds Superintendent	Donations	\$	Participate in the development of the Foundation's Master Plan Identify key opportunities for Foundation to support District goals Establish key giving areas for Foundation to approve	2016



**PARK
DISTRICT
OF OAK PARK**

2014 Community Recreation Survey Findings

August 2014

Prepared By:



www.publicresearchgroup.com

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Executive Summary

Introduction

Public Research Group conducted a Community Recreational Needs Survey during the summer of 2014. The purpose of the survey was to assist in establishing priorities for future capital improvements, programs and services within the Park District of Oak Park. This information is to be used by an independent consultant team in the development of Comprehensive Master Plan for the Park District of Oak Park in late 2014. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout Oak Park. The consultant worked comprehensively with Park District staff, the elected officials and the Comprehensive Master Plan team in the development of the survey questionnaire.

The survey data was collected from three primary sources: mail, email, and telephone surveys. The goal was to obtain a total of at least 1,000 survey responses. This goal was far exceeded with a total of 2,268 responses received, combining the data gathering methodologies into one data set. Statistically, a sample of 2,268 households provides a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5% at a 95% confidence level that findings are representative of the sentiments of the residents of Oak Park.

Major Survey Findings

The survey contained a series of questions that were designed to measure behavior as well as perceptions by residents of Oak Park surrounding the Park District of Oak Park. Furthermore, there were several opportunities for participants to provide specific comments from “open end” questions.

- Overall Satisfaction with the Park District

89.5% respondents said they were satisfied and only 10.5% said they were not, suggesting that respondents were overall overwhelmingly satisfied with Park District.

- Ways Respondents Learn about the Park District

The Park District seasonal program guide garners the highest percentage of respondents, with 82.3% of all survey respondents saying they learn about the Park District through the program guide. The Park District website was second at 52.4% while the friends and neighbors were third with 37.9%. The Illinois average for website use in this capacity is less than 30%.

- Quality of Programs (Benchmark)

91.3% respondents said the programs were either excellent or good while only 0.8% said the program quality was poor. The excellent category was at 40.8% which is slightly higher than the Illinois average of 37%.

- Participation in Park District Programs

The most highly participated program was community wide special events at 57.7%, followed by youth sports/leagues at 26.0% and then youth aquatics/swim lessons at 24.5%.

- Most Important Programs

The top four ranked activities in terms of importance were community wide special events at 10.2%, adult fitness programs at 5.1%, youth sports/leagues at 4.8% and youth aquatic programs at 4.7%.

- Visited a park in the last 12 months

93.9% of the survey respondents said they or a member of their household had visited a park during the past year which is a very high percentage of park usage as the Illinois average is less than 80%.

2014 Survey Findings

- Condition of the Parks

44.3% of the survey respondents said park conditions were excellent, 46.0% said they were good, 8.8% said fair, and 0.9% said poor. The findings suggest that community members who overwhelmingly visit the parks also think they are in very good shape.

- Visitation of Park District facilities in the last 12 months

The highest percentage of use by the public is the Conservatory, where 63.7% of those responding said they used that facility. A total of 58.0% of those responding said they used the Rehm Outdoor Pool, with historic properties at 44.4%, neighborhood community centers at 43.6% and the Gymnastics & Recreation Center at 38.4%.

- Condition of the Facilities

The physical condition ratings are generally good, but some are better than others. The Conservatory got high ratings, with 49.9% of respondents saying its physical condition was excellent and 45.3% saying it was good. The highest ratings were for the Gymnastics & Recreation Center, with 75.3% of respondents reporting its condition was excellent and 23.4% reporting it was good. This facility would be expected to gather high marks as it is a brand new facility. Other facilities were respectable but not quite as high.

- Park District Impact on Health

The survey data shows that only 13.6% said that the Park District makes no difference in the health of respondents or their family members and 22.9% said it makes little difference. A total of 63.5% of respondents said the Park District helps them maintain a healthy lifestyle or has actually improved their health.

- Level of Support for Building a New Indoor Multi-Use Facility

The survey data shows that 59.7% thought the Park District should build such a facility. If the survey respondent answered yes to this question, a follow up question was asked if they would be willing to support a \$2 per month tax increase to pay for it. The data shows of the 59.7% that supported building the facility, only 25% said they would support a tax increase, 8.1% opposed it, 15% were unsure and 51.9% didn't answer.

- Level of Support for Building a New Indoor Swimming Pool

The survey data shows that 60.3% thought the Park District should build such a facility. If the survey respondent answered yes to this question, a follow up question was asked if they would be willing to support a \$4 per month tax increase to pay for it. The data shows of the 60.3% that supported building the facility, only 24% said they would support a tax increase, 9.5% opposed it, 14.4% were unsure and 52.1% didn't answer.

- Level of Satisfaction with Website

The survey data shows that 91.2% were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the websites general information. Comparatively, 87.5% of those responding were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the website's park and facility information and 86.6% with the website's program information. Lower levels of satisfaction were attributed to the website's online program registration, where 73.8% were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied, and lowest levels of satisfaction were attributed to its ease of navigation.

- Use of Parks & Recreation Facilities

The most used facilities were outdoor swimming pools at 67.0%, playgrounds at 64.6%, gardens/natural areas at 56.9%, and walking paths at 54.6%.

- Most Important New Parks & Facilities

The top four ranked new parks & facilities in terms of importance were indoor swimming pools at 58.7%, of those responding said they were needed, followed by indoor walking/running tracks at 56.0%, indoor fitness/exercise facilities at 53.8%, and art facilities at 30.7%.

Survey Conclusions

- Overall satisfaction with the Park District is high.
- Programs are the main reason for not being satisfied.
- The Park District helps maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- The program guide still heavily used followed by the website.
- Website improvements should focus on ease of navigation and on-line registration.
- Program quality and participation scored high.
- Community special events, youth sports/leagues and youth aquatics/swim lessons are used and in demand.
- Adult programming should be a focus as it is an area that the Park District does not meet the need of the community.
- Parks and facilities are heavily visited and used.
- The Community does not factor community center location in selecting programs in which to participate.
- Outdoor swimming pools, playgrounds, gardens/nature areas are important facilities to the community.
- Indoor swimming pool, indoor running/walking track and indoor fitness/exercise facilities are the most needed.
- Good level of support for a multi-use facility but a small portion of the supporters is willing to pay a tax increase to build and operate it.
- Good level of support for an indoor pool but a small portion of the supporters is willing to pay a tax increase to build and operate it.



2015 PARK REPORT CARD



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WHY GRADE OUR PARKS?

Although our programs and facilities are highly valued and important parts of our service offerings, park lands will always be the most popular and most visible attributes to the Oak Park community. In the 2014 Oak Park Community Attitude & Interest Survey, 93.9% of respondents indicated that they or a member of their household had visited a park during the past year, which is much higher than the Illinois average of under 80%.

This Park Report Card is an effort to objectively and quantitatively measure the quality of park infrastructure and maintenance in order to ensure the highest level of service possible for the residents of Oak Park. As with other Park District performance measurement initiatives, the Park Report Card allows the Park District of Oak Park to:

- communicate priorities internally among employees, as well as externally to the Board of Commissioners, citizen committees, and the public,
- learn how the Park District's present state compares to past performance and future goals,
- measure the impact of park infrastructure investments and park maintenance efforts,
- demonstrate progress towards meeting our mission, goals, and objectives,
- provide direction for allocation of funds, staff, and other resources, and
- offer transparency and accountability to the public.



The park system in Oak Park may be small in size compared to national averages, but is vital to the community and environment.

Using The Information in this Report

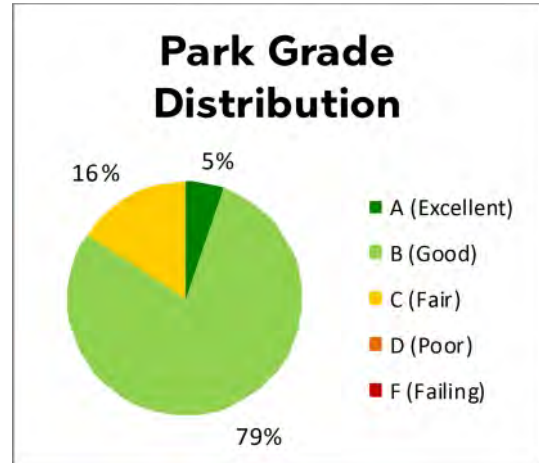
The Park Report Card is intended to help the Park District of Oak Park advance its strategic initiative, “Maintaining and Improving our Infrastructure.” The overall system grade is included as key metric in the Park District’s performance measurement program. Additionally, the information contained in this report should help guide, along with other Park District plans and research and community feedback, the following:

- Capital Improvement Plans,
- Park Master Plans, and
- Park maintenance standards and procedures

FINDINGS

Overall Results

In the second year of this report, again Park District parks generally fared well, with the majority of parks (84%) receiving a rating of “Good” or higher and an overall system score of a “B” at 85 out of 100. This overall system score is an increase of 2 points from the prior year. Three parks received a score of “Fair.” Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex received the highest score with a 94 and Maple Park and Stevenson Park received the lowest scores with 78 each, a difference of 16 points. This variance from the highest-rated to lowest-rated park shrank by 5 points from 2014. Appendix A lists the overall scores for each individual park.



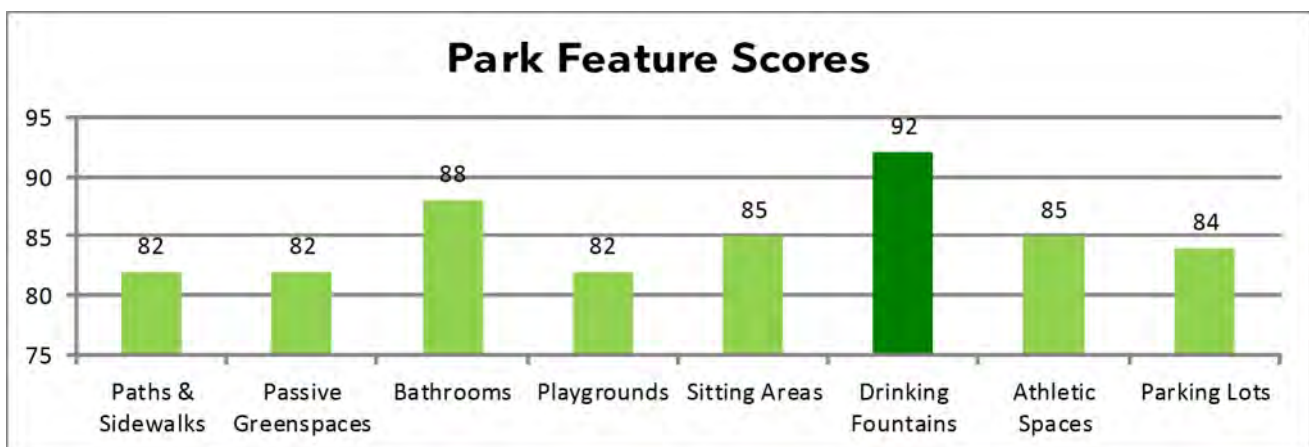
The majority of parks received a B (Good). One parks received an A (Excellent) and 3 parks were given a C (Fair). No parks received a Poor or Failing score in 2015.

Geographical Analysis

Geographically-speaking, the quality of the parks seems fairly distributed throughout the community. Each quadrant of the community has one of the Top 4 highest-rated parks and all four quadrants and likewise the four lowest-rated parks are spread out between the four quadrants as well. In fact, the highest rated park (Ridgeland Common), is only blocks away from one of the lowest rated parks (Stevenson Park) which demonstrates that all sections of the community receive a fair amount of capital improvement dollars and maintenance and operations attention. Appendix B displays park grades by location.

Park Feature Analysis

As the overall park scores would indicate, the majority of individual park features also scored well on average throughout the community. Seven of the eight areas received a “B” (Good) rating. The one area that experienced a decline from the prior year was Paths & Sidewalks, which is the park feature that Oak Park residents value most. This is was due to continued issues with bare spots and weeds near sidewalks (thought to be due to damage during snow removal) and a noticeable increase in garbage near cans waiting for pick-up.



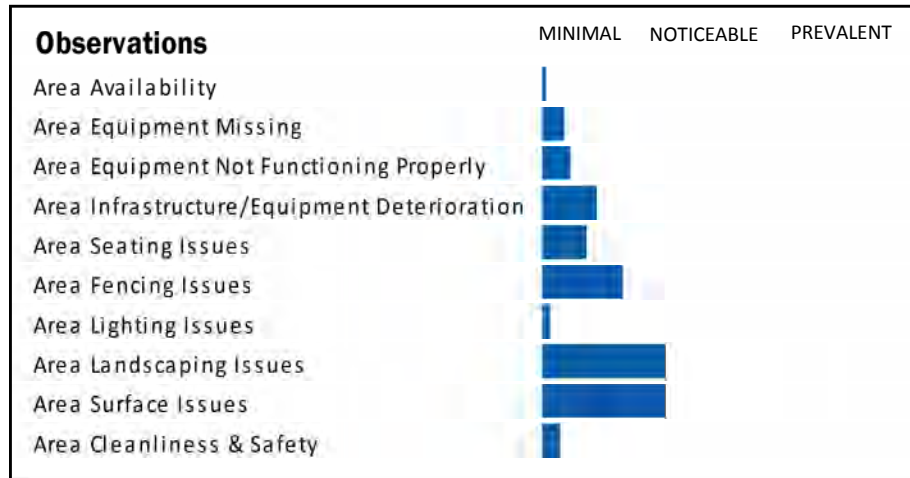
Overall, most areas scored well, including Paths & Sidewalks and Passive Greenspaces, two areas important to Oak Park residents. Each area scored the same or higher in 2015 as it did in 2014, except for Paths & Sidewalks, which experienced a slight dip, but still received an overall “Good” score.

FINDINGS

The areas that saw the largest increase were Parking Lots and Athletic Spaces. The Parking Lot score benefitted from the addition of the new Ridgeland Common parking lot in the overall scores. Continued improvements to athletic field maintenance as well as the installation of new fencing and other features at athletic fields in several of the parks in late 2014 resulted in an increase in this area of 12 points overall. More information about how each Park Feature was rated is included later in this report.

Issues Observed

When issues were found at any park feature, the surveyor was asked to document the extent or impact of the problem. In most cases, minimal issues were found, including in the area of cleanliness and safety and lighting which received excellent scores. Additionally, overall, park amenities were generally found to be open and available to the public as scheduled. The most common issue found was with landscaping (plant beds, trees, etc.) and park surfaces.



Very few issues were found with availability of amenities or with cleanliness or safety issues. The most common issues observed were related to fencing and landscaping in

Conclusions

Overall, again this year the Park District and the residents of Oak Park should be proud of the progress made in its parks in recent years. The majority of parks were rated as “Good,” which demonstrated that while they are being used and experiencing some wear and tear, the capital improvements and park maintenance invested have resulted in an overall quality park system.

With an increase of 2 points over last year, the overall park system score met the desired goal of 85/100. In order to maintain this score, Park District staff should review the information in this report to make improvements to the infrastructure and maintenance of parks receiving a “C” as well as continued efforts towards improving landscaping, including plant beds and tree maintenance. Additionally, with the heavy use that the parks receive, it is important to continue to review and address surface issues. A more specific list of recommendations based on park evaluation results is included later in the report.

It should be noted that maintaining all parks at the “A” level may require significant capital investments (those parks receiving the highest scores were generally those which have also been most recently renovated) and on-going maintenance to bring them up to and keep them at this level. In a community where approximately 80 acres of parkland is expected to serve over 50,000 residents, this may not be practical.

PATHS & SIDEWALKS

All walking and biking paths and sidewalks in and immediately around a park, as well as adjacent fencing, seating, lighting, and landscaping

B-

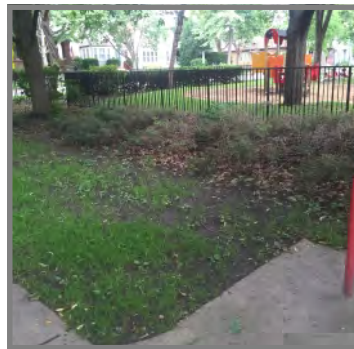
Overall, Park District paths and sidewalks received a score of “Good,” although the score dipped slightly from the prior year. Structurally, the paths and sidewalks were in good shape, although in some parks, concrete steps and ramps were deteriorating. In most cases, an appropriate number of bike racks, benches, and trash receptacles were present, although it was very apparent that trash removal operations had changed from the prior year which had a negative impact. Other common issues found were usually related to the amenities adjacent to the paths or the landscaping. Additionally, surface issues were observed, including sand, mud, and dirt that had migrated onto the paths, as well as frequent damage to the turf next to paths from winter snow removal which have now led to a very noticeable amount of weeds.



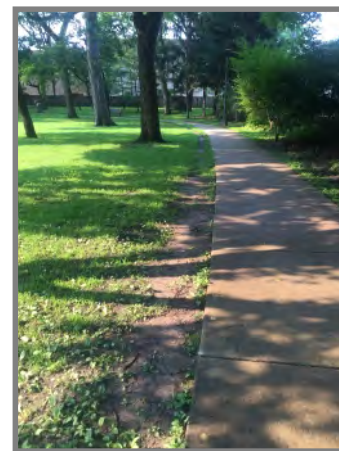
Overall, Park District walkways were in “Good” condition. (Euclid Square Park)

Paths Scores

Andersen Park	79
Austin Gardens	80
Barrie Park	80
Carroll Park	80
Cheney Mansion	89
Euclid Square	83
Field Park	86
Fox Park	87
Lindberg Park	83
Longfellow Park	80
Maple Park	77
Mills Park	88
Randolph Park	87
Rehm Park	72
Ridgeland Common	88
Scoville Park	85
Stevenson Park	67
Taylor Park	81
Wenonah Park	N/A
System Average	82



Although improvements to landscaping overall were found, some landscaped areas near walkways still suffered from a lack of maintenance. (Rehm Park)



Damage from the snow removal process continues to be an issue with paths & sidewalks. (Lindberg Park)

Observations



PASSIVE GREENSPACE

B-

All passive green spaces in a park and accompanying fencing, seating, lighting, landscaping, and other equipment

Overall, Park District passive green spaces received a score of “Good.” In most cases, an appropriate number of bike racks, benches, and trash receptacles were present and few issues with deterioration with those items were found. Few litter or safety problems were observed. Green spaces in parks dedicated solely to passive activities generally fared better than smaller passive spaces in multi-use parks adjacent to high-traffic areas. The most common issues found in these parks included worn-out grass with bare spots and some weed issues, as well as landscaping issues caused by poor maintenance or the high volume of use.



Overall, Park District green spaces were in “Good” condition. (Maple Park)

Park Scores

Andersen Park	N/A
Austin Gardens	85
Barrie Park	N/A
Carroll Park	80
Cheney Mansion	90
Euclid Square	86
Field Park	70
Fox Park	N/A
Lindberg Park	79
Longfellow Park	100
Maple Park	81
Mills Park	81
Randolph Park	N/A
Rehm Park	93
Ridgeland Common	N/A
Scoville Park	87
Stevenson Park	72
Taylor Park	78
Wenonah Park	N/A
System Average	82



Cheney Mansion grounds were added to the Park Report Card this year and received high marks for greenspaces.



Green space scores were slightly affected by on-going tree maintenance needs at some locations. (Taylor Park)

Observations



BATHROOMS

B+

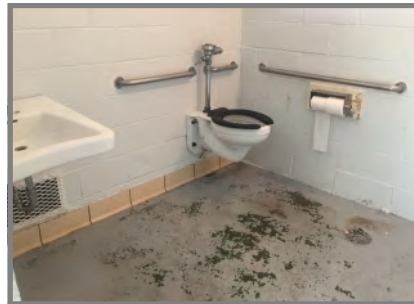
All public restrooms open to park visitors on a daily basis and accompanying equipment

Overall, Park District park bathrooms received a score of “Good.” Structurally, most bathrooms were in good condition, and were free of any cleanliness or safety problems. Bathrooms, which are opened and closed daily by Park District staff, were found open as expected 100% of the time. At parks where the bathrooms were attached to community center, the bathrooms were in generally good condition (having been most recently updated), but those at parks with stand-alone comfort stations are showing wear. The most common issues at the bathrooms were missing supplies and minor equipment.

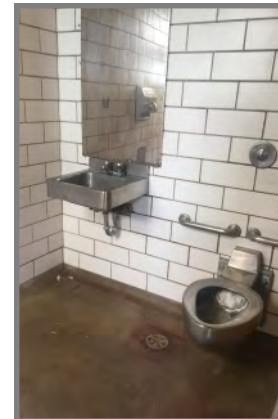


Overall, Park District bathrooms were in “Good” condition. Generally, bathrooms attached to community centers were in better condition than stand-alone facilities. For the 2nd year in a row, Andersen Park’s bathroom received a

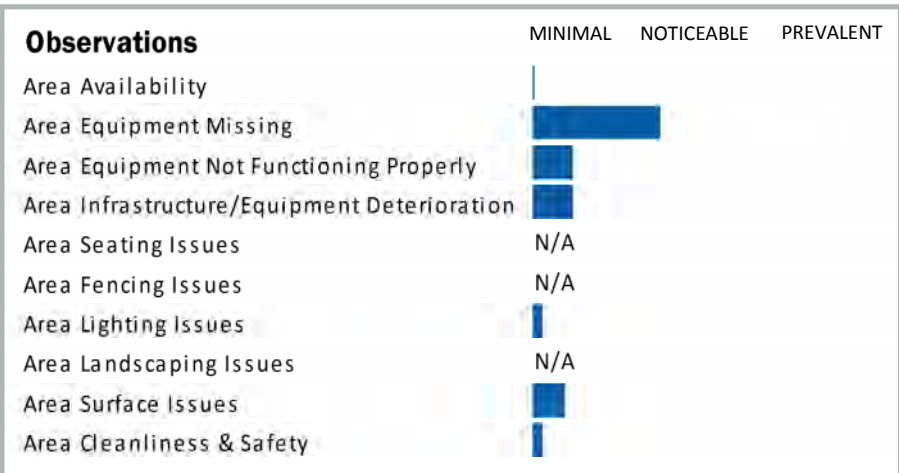
Park Scores	
Andersen Park	100
Austin Gardens	N/A
Barrie Park	N/A
Carroll Park	99
Cheney Mansion	N/A
Euclid Square	N/A
Field Park	96
Fox Park	94
Lindberg Park	85
Longfellow Park	93
Maple Park	64
Mills Park	N/A
Randolph Park	N/A
Rehm Park	N/A
Ridgeland Common	96
Scoville Park	87
Stevenson Park	91
Taylor Park	79
Wenonah Park	N/A
System Average	88



Except for a few exceptions, restrooms were generally clean, but some were showing wear & tear and missing supplies including soap dispensers and mirrors. (Maple Park)



Puddles of water were often found in comfort stations, sometimes from leaks and sometimes from cleaning (Taylor Park)



PLAYGROUNDS

All playgrounds and splash pads in a park and accompanying fencing, seating, lighting, landscaping, and other play equipment

B-

Overall, Park District playgrounds received a score of “Good.” Rarely was any playground equipment missing and in almost all cases, everything was functioning properly. Most playgrounds are showing slight signs of deterioration from use including chipped or peeling paint and some rust. Weeds were a common issue near many playgrounds as was surface issues, including low levels of sand and/or woodchip and frequent worn or bare spots in nearby turf. Migrated sand from sand play areas continues to be an issue, but this was found less often than in the prior year.



Overall, Park District playgrounds were in “Good” condition. (Field Park)



Poured in place surfaces at several playgrounds are starting to show wear. (Scoville Park)



Issues were found with maintaining landscaping and turf near playgrounds. (Wenonah Park)

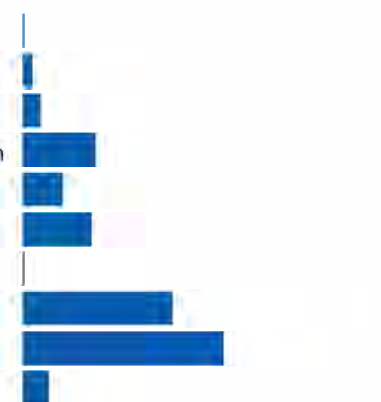
Park Scores

Andersen Park	80
Austin Gardens	N/A
Barrie Park	80
Carroll Park	82
Cheney Mansion	N/A
Euclid Square	82
Field Park	85
Fox Park	91
Lindberg Park	98
Longfellow Park	79
Maple Park	71
Mills Park	N/A
Randolph Park	77
Rehm Park	85
Ridgeland Common	N/A
Scoville Park	74
Stevenson Park	75
Taylor Park	88
Wenonah Park	90
System Average	82

Observations

- Area Availability
- Area Equipment Missing
- Area Equipment Not Functioning Properly
- Area Infrastructure/Equipment Deterioration
- Area Seating Issues
- Area Fencing Issues
- Area Lighting Issues
- Area Landscaping Issues
- Area Surface Issues
- Area Cleanliness & Safety

MINIMAL NOTICEABLE PREVALENT



SITTING AREAS

B

All designated sitting areas in a park and accompanying fencing, seating, lighting, landscaping, and other equipment

Overall, Park District sitting areas received a score of “Good.” No equipment was missing except for a trash receptacle at one site and all equipment was functioning properly. Sitting areas with shelters were in generally good condition and the only equipment problems were the grills at the Taylor Park patio. Some minor deterioration was found with some of the picnic tables, although many of the notable issues at the Taylor Park patio were addressed from the previous year. Issues with noticeable weeds and bare spots lowered landscaping and surface scores. Cleanliness was affected slightly by heavier amounts of leaves and dirt and some minor litter issues. No safety issues were discovered.



Overall, Park District sitting areas were in “Good” condition. (Field Park)

Park Scores

Andersen Park	87
Austin Gardens	N/A
Barrie Park	N/A
Carroll Park	N/A
Cheney Mansion	N/A
Euclid Square	N/A
Field Park	90
Fox Park	78
Lindberg Park	95
Longfellow Park	N/A
Maple Park	N/A
Mills Park	N/A
Randolph Park	85
Rehm Park	N/A
Ridgeland Common	N/A
Scoville Park	N/A
Stevenson Park	N/A
Taylor Park	82
Wenonah Park	N/A
System Average	87



Most tables and benches were in good condition with minor wear and tear. (Randolph Park)



Fox Park’s patio scored the lowest of all of the seating areas with a score of “Fair.”

Observations



DRINKING FOUNTAINS

All individual drinking fountains in a park

A-

Overall, Park District drinking fountains were rated “Excellent” and received the highest area score in the park system for the second year in a row. When issues were found, they were usually related to functionality of the fountains, including leaks and water pressure either being too high or too low to use easily. Another issue was clogged basins, often by sand and other debris from nearby playgrounds. It should be noted that these issues were found much less often than the prior year.



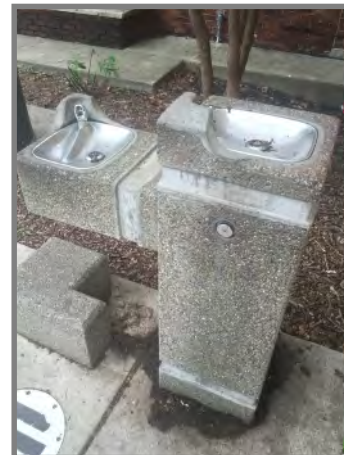
Overall, Park District drinking fountains were in “Excellent” condition which is a large improvement over the prior year’s score. (Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex)

Park Scores

Andersen Park	97
Austin Gardens	N/A
Barrie Park	90
Carroll Park	80
Cheney Mansion	N/A
Euclid Square	100
Field Park	95
Fox Park	79
Lindberg Park	97
Longfellow Park	95
Maple Park	96
Mills Park	82
Randolph Park	93
Rehm Park	70
Ridgeland Common	100
Scoville Park	89
Stevenson Park	89
Taylor Park	94
Wenonah Park	96
System Average	92



Issues with clogged fountains improved from last year, but were still an issue at some parks. (Barrie Park)



Most drinking fountains functioned as expected, but did show signs of leaking at the base of the fountain. (Longfellow Park)

Observations

	MINIMAL	NOTICEABLE	PREVALENT
Area Availability	100%	0%	0%
Area Equipment Missing	0%	0%	0%
Area Equipment Not Functioning Properly	0%	10%	90%
Area Infrastructure/Equipment Deterioration	0%	10%	90%
Area Seating Issues	100%	0%	0%
Area Fencing Issues	100%	0%	0%
Area Lighting Issues	100%	0%	0%
Area Landscaping Issues	100%	0%	0%
Area Surface Issues	0%	10%	90%
Area Cleanliness & Safety	100%	0%	0%

ATHLETIC SPACES

All athletic courts and fields in a park and accompanying fencing and backstops, player and spectator seating, lighting, and landscaping

B

Park District athletic spaces saw a tremendous increase in quality from the previous year's rating of "Fair" to the current year's rating of "Good." Increased efforts towards athletic field maintenance paid off and the capital improvements to replace the baseball diamond fencing, bleachers, etc. at several parks resulted in noticeable improvements. Equipment, including nets, was rarely missing. Some functionality issues discovered with court nets and poles, but otherwise most equipment operated as expected, although were often showing signs of deterioration. Despite the capital improvements mentioned above, the largest issues found were with fencing and surfaces again this year.



Overall, Park District athletic spaces were in "Good" condition. (Fox Park)

Park Scores

Andersen Park	72
Austin Gardens	N/A
Barrie Park	87
Carroll Park	97
Cheney Mansion	N/A
Euclid Square	72
Field Park	79
Fox Park	91
Lindberg Park	89
Longfellow Park	87
Maple Park	83
Mills Park	N/A
Randolph Park	N/A
Rehm Park	80
Ridgeland Common	95
Scoville Park	93
Stevenson Park	77
Taylor Park	80
Wenonah Park	N/A
System Average	85



Although some bare patches still remain, overall turf surface quality improved from the prior year. (Rehm Park)

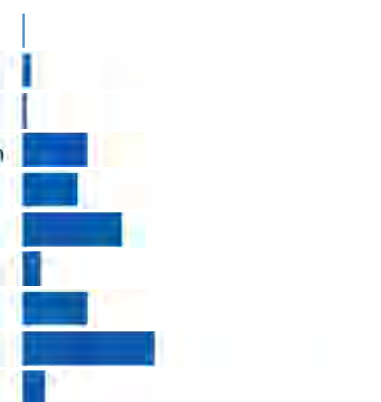


Despite turf and diamond surface improvements, other surface issues still exist, including migrating infield materials and deteriorating court surfaces. (Field Park)

Observations

- Area Availability
- Area Equipment Missing
- Area Equipment Not Functioning Properly
- Area Infrastructure/Equipment Deterioration
- Area Seating Issues
- Area Fencing Issues
- Area Lighting Issues
- Area Landscaping Issues
- Area Surface Issues
- Area Cleanliness & Safety

MINIMAL NOTICEABLE PREVALENT



PARKING LOTS

B

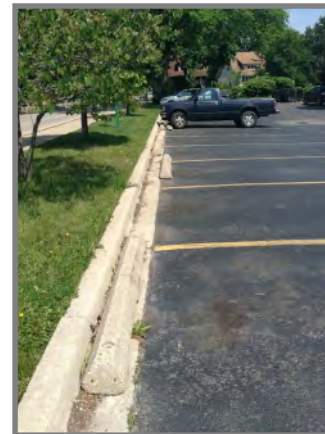
All designated parking lots in a park and accompanying equipment, fencing, lighting, and landscaping

Overall, Park District athletic courts and fields received a score of “Good.” Although parking lots play a minor role in a visit to a park, for users they can be both the first and last impression a park receives. Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex’s parking lot is still quite new with few issues. Rhem Park parking lot had several issues with bumper stops, which included many missing and deteriorating bumpers, which lowered parking lot scores, as did missing signs and issues with weeds and empty tree pits/tree rings.



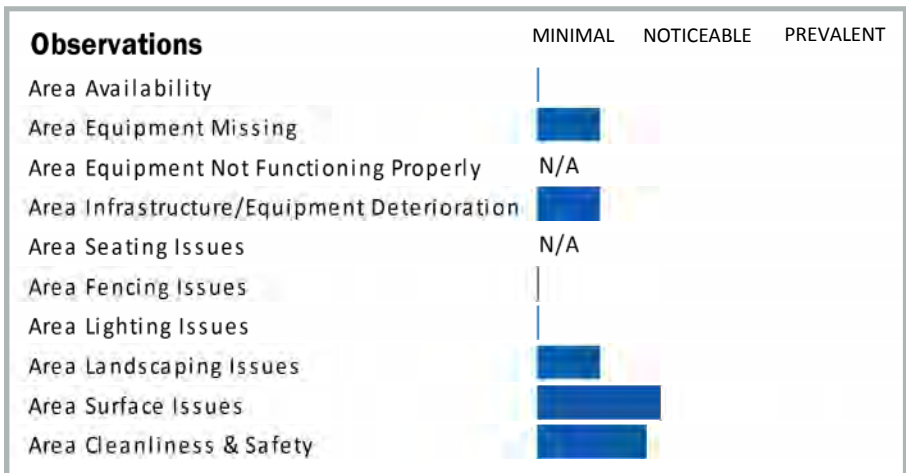
Overall, Park District parking lots were in “Good” condition. (Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex)

Park Scores	
Andersen Park	N/A
Austin Gardens	N/A
Barrie Park	N/A
Carroll Park	N/A
Cheney Mansion	N/A
Euclid Square	N/A
Field Park	N/A
Fox Park	N/A
Lindberg Park	N/A
Longfellow Park	N/A
Maple Park	N/A
Mills Park	N/A
Randolph Park	N/A
Rehm Park	77
Ridgeland Common	91
Scoville Park	N/A
Stevenson Park	N/A
Taylor Park	N/A
Wenonah Park	N/A
System Average	84



Bumpers were often broken and were missing from many parking spots. (Rehm Park)

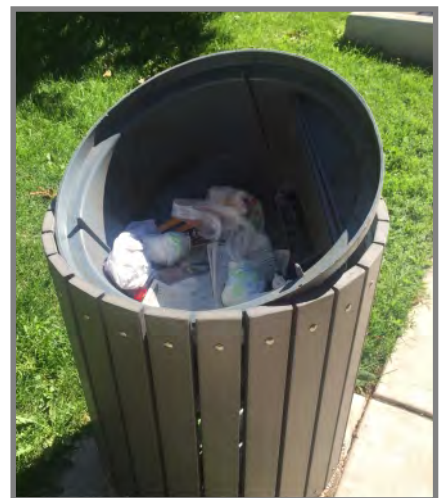
Some signage was missing, although the poles were still in place. (Rehm Park)



RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the data collected, the following improvements will have the greatest impact on improving future park scores. Although it will not be possible or practical to incorporate all of these improvements immediately, they should be reviewed when setting maintenance standards and reviewing capital improvement plans. However, it's important that any improvements chosen are incorporated with current maintenance and capital improvement efforts without eliminating others, otherwise the Park District may see improved scores in one area while allowing a decline in another.

- Evaluate future capital improvement plans for the Maple, Rehm, and Stevenson Parks which all received a score of “Fair” to ensure that improvements address the issues covered in this report where possible.
- Continue to address landscaping & weed issues. Frequent problems were observed in many parks with weeds, untrimmed bushes, and empty tree pits and tree rings, and empty plant beds.
- Re-evaluate the location of plant beds and shrubs adjacent to high-traffic areas, especially playgrounds and athletic fields. Both the plants and turf were often in poor condition.
- Investigate ways to mitigate the frequent damage done to turf alongside sidewalks during snow removal and repair previous damage. Sidewalk edges continued to be muddy, uneven, and unsightly in many areas, and while less of this was found than in previous years, this was only because weeds had sprung up in the adjacent bare patches, which lead to similar poor surface scores (and aesthetics).
- The remaining asphalt walkways in the park system often have cracks and uneven surfaces, which should be addressed in future capital improvements.
- Complete an inventory of equipment in the bathrooms located in comfort stations to ensure that all locations have a soap dispenser, paper towel dispenser/hand dryer, trash can, and mirror.
- Re-evaluate the changes to trash pick-up from the previous year's operations. It was evident that trash was not being picked up on as frequent of a basis and the gap from when a can was emptied to when the trash was removed from the park was noticeable and caused issues.
- Increase efforts to mitigate the impact of the sand play areas on the cleanliness of playgrounds and functionality of nearby drinking fountains through more frequent clean-up of playground surfaces, public education, and/or re-evaluating whether or not to include them in future master plans due to the continued issues they caused.
- Paint, repair, and/or replace athletic fields and courts fencing and/or backstops at several locations. At the locations where this work was completed after last year's Report Card, the impact of the improvements was noticeable. The parks receiving the lowest scores in this area include Andersen Park, Euclid Square, Ridgeland Common, and Maple Park.



A new issue that was found this year was with trash removal. Often, trash can lids were found flipped over at trash cans waiting for pick-up and sat empty for long enough that they often accumulated water from rain and/or garbage from park users.

METHODOLOGY

Parks Included

Park Report Card results include all Park District of Oak Park owned and leased park properties and features contained within them with the following exceptions:

- 1) Park properties that have not been developed for public use,
- 2) Parks and/or features closed for capital improvements throughout the survey period,
- 3) Facilities on a park site, except for public bathrooms available to park users, and
- 4) Unique or limited access park features, such as dog parks, Rehm trains, seasonal ice rinks, etc.

Features Types

Eight park feature types were chosen to represent features commonly found in Park District of Oak Park parks., including:

- 1) Athletic Fields & Courts
- 2) Playgrounds
- 3) Paths & Sidewalks
- 4) Passive Green Spaces
- 5) Seating Areas
- 6) Bathrooms
- 7) Drinking Fountains
- 8) Parking Lots

Survey Tool

A custom survey tool was developed to rate each park feature in the following evaluation areas:

- 1) Availability to Public
- 2) Functionality & Maintenance
- 3) Surface Quality
- 4) Cleanliness & Safety

The tool was developed for a tablet which allowed surveyors to collect and store the results and photos electronically and eliminated the need for paper compilation.

Data Collection

Survey work for this report card took place between May and August 2015, Tuesday-Friday. In the field, surveyors completed evaluations for each feature contained within a given park on two separate visits (except as noted earlier in the criteria for “Parks Included”) whenever defined boundaries could be determined. For example, if a park had two water fountains, two feature evaluations were completed each visit. Likewise, a separate feature evaluation was completed for each men’s and women’s bathrooms. However, some exceptions included:

- 1) Generally, baseball diamonds were evaluated based only the infield, fencing, and bleachers as the outfield usually overlapped with a designated soccer field.
- 2) Groups of athletic courts, playgrounds or other features that shared fencing, benches, or other amenities were evaluated together as one feature.

Scoring Methods

The evaluation tool produces an overall score on a scale of 0 to 100 for each individual feature on each visit using relative weights assigned for each evaluation area. For example, a safety issue discovered would negatively impact an individual park feature score more heavily than a minor maintenance issue, such as chipped paint.

Individual features that were unavailable to the public without explanation, i.e. a locked bathroom or athletic court or a water fountain that was not turned on, were automatically given a “0” for that visit. All individual park feature scores for all visits throughout the surveying period are then averaged together with other park features of the same feature type to give a specific park an average feature type score. For example, if a park contains a baseball diamond,

METHODOLOGY

soccer field, and a tennis court, the scores for each of those individual athletic spaces are averaged together to create an overall park athletic spaces score.

These overall feature type scores are then combined, using a second set of relative weights, to give the overall park itself a score and final grade.

<u>Scores</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Condition</u>
100-97	A+	Excellent
96-93	A	Excellent
92-90	A-	Excellent
89-87	B+	Good
86-83	B	Good
82-80	B-	Good
79-77	C+	Fair
76-73	C	Fair
72-70	C-	Fair
69-67	D+	Poor
66-63	D	Poor
62-60	D-	Poor
59 & below	F	Failing

Scores are calculated to ensure that no individual feature area or park is penalized because it lacked any given feature such as seating or functional equipment.

Both evaluation area weights and park feature type weights were created based on feedback collected from a survey of community members to determine what was most important to park user satisfaction. These weights

ensure that the score is a true and accurate reflection of how an Oak Park user would rate a park based on what is most important to them.

These weights were verified through initial testing of the survey tool, where evaluators were asked to review a park and provide their own estimate of the letter grade based on findings prior to learning the score assigned to an area through the survey tool.

APPENDIX A

AVERAGE
PARK SCORE

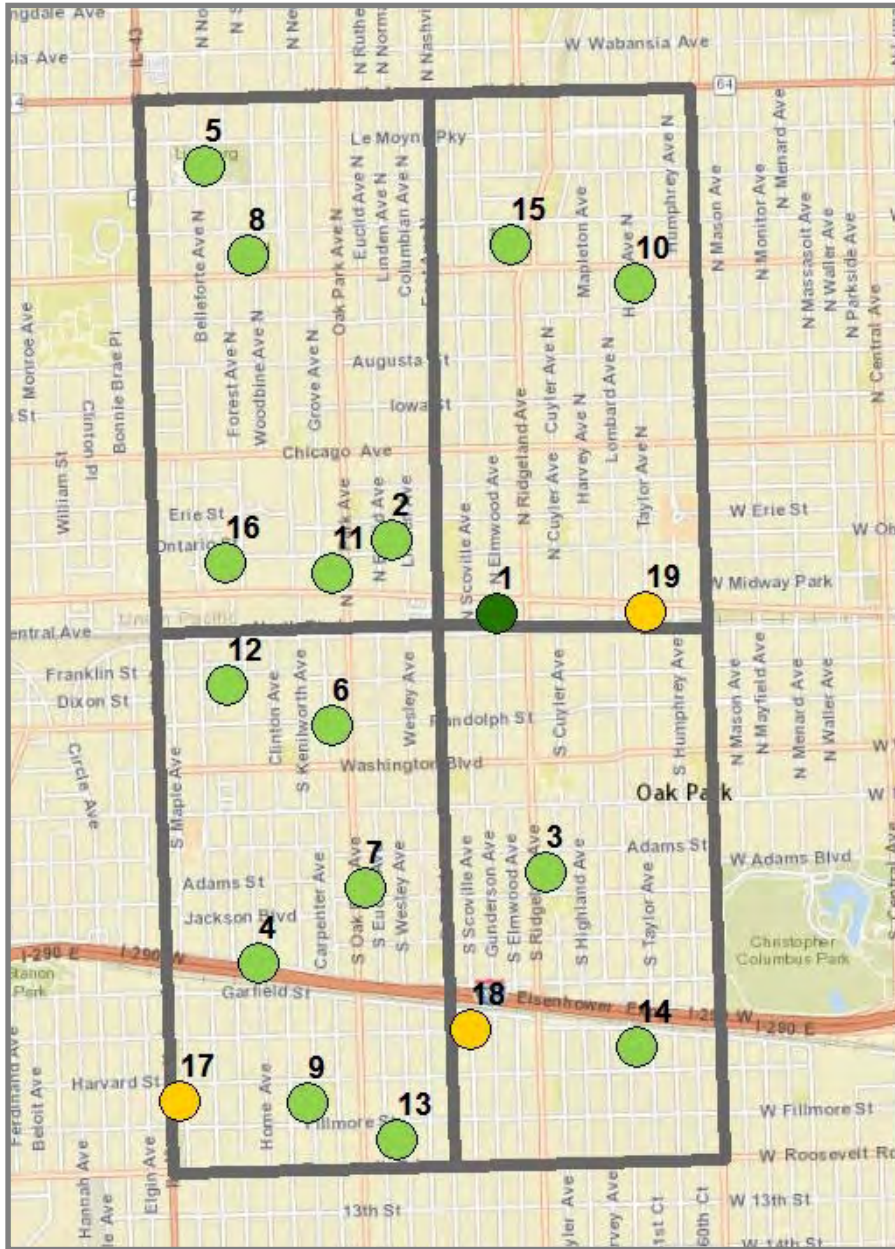
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OVERALL PARK SCORES

Rank	Park	Overall Score	Paths & Sidewalks	Passive Greenspace	Bathrooms	Playgrounds	Sitting Areas	Drinking Fountains	Athletic Spaces	Parking Lots
1	Ridgeland Common	94	88	N/A	96	N/A	N/A	100	95	91
2	Cheney Mansion	89	89	90	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	Longfellow Park	89	80	100	93	79	N/A	95	87	N/A
2	Wenonah Park	89	N/A	N/A	N/A	82	N/A	96	N/A	N/A
5	Lindberg Park	88	83	79	85	98	95	97	89	N/A
6	Randolph Park	87	93	N/A	N/A	77	85	93	N/A	N/A
6	Fox Park	87	87	N/A	94	91	78	79	91	N/A
8	Field Park	86	86	70	96	85	90	95	79	N/A
8	Carroll Park	86	80	80	99	82	N/A	80	97	N/A
8	Andersen Park	86	79	N/A	100	80	87	97	72	N/A
11	Scoville Park	85	85	87	87	74	N/A	89	93	N/A
12	Mills Park	84	88	81	N/A	N/A	N/A	82	N/A	N/A
12	Euclid Square	84	83	86	N/A	82	N/A	100	72	N/A
12	Barrie Park	84	80	N/A	N/A	80	N/A	90	87	N/A
15	Taylor Park	83	81	78	79	88	82	94	80	N/A
15	Austin Gardens	83	80	85	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
17	Maple Park	78	77	81	64	71	N/A	96	83	N/A
17	Rehm Park	78	72	93	N/A	73	N/A	70	80	77
17	Stevenson Park	78	67	72	91	75	N/A	89	77	N/A
Average Score		85								

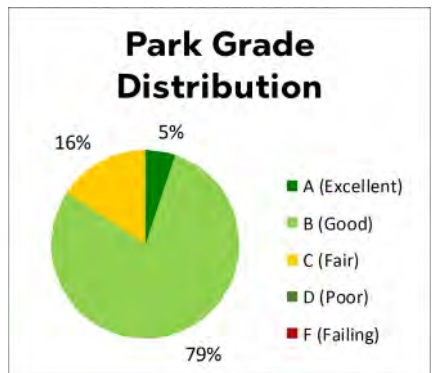
APPENDIX B

PARK GRADES BY LOCATION



Parks

1. Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex
2. Cheney Mansion
3. Longfellow Park
4. Wenonah Park
5. Lindberg Park
6. Randolph Park
7. Fox Park
8. Field Park
9. Carroll Park
10. Andersen Park
11. Scoville Park
12. Mills Park
13. Euclid Square Park
14. Barrie Park
15. Taylor Park
16. Austin Gardens
17. Maple Park
18. Rehm Park
19. Stevenson Park



Oak Park Planning Guidelines for Public Recreational Facilities

Population of Oak Park
 2004 52524
 2013 52104

	2004 Data Used to Develop Standards					Board Approved Oak Park Standards per 1000 in Population	Current Results			
	Total in Oak Park	Total in Oak Park (per 1000 in Population)	Average in Benchmark Communities (per 1000 in Population)	Priority in Oak Park Citizen Survey (out of 29)	Oak Park Citizen Priorities Compared to National Average		Total in Oak Park	Total Needed to Meet Oak Park Standards (Based on Current Population)	Deficit/Surplus	Change in Past 10 Years
Total Park & Facility Area¹ (in acres)	92.52	1.587	7.268	-	-	2.000	95.15	104.21	-9.06	3%
Parks (in acres)										
Neighborhood parks ¹	31.93	0.608	2.464	2	-2%	0.750	33.94	39.08	-5.14	6%
Community parks	57.25	1.090	2.335	-	-	1.200	57.25	62.52	-5.27	0%
Outdoor Active Facilities										
Swimming pools	2	0.038	0.031	3	+11%	0.038	2	1.98	0.02	0%
Tennis courts	26	0.495	0.338	14	+3%	0.381	23	19.85	3.15	-12%
Basketball courts (half courts) ²	9	0.171	0.224	20	equal	0.228	7	11.88	-4.88	-22%
Skateboard areas	0	0.000	0.015	24	-1%	0.019	1	0.99	0.01	100%
Ice skating and hockey (seasonal)	3	0.057	0.066	25	-2%	0.057	3	2.97	0.03	0%
Inline hockey/floor hockey rink	0.50	0.000	0.004	29	-2%	0.010	0.50	0.49	0.01	0%
Fitness trails (in miles)	0.00	0.000	0.049	-	-	0.076	0.00	4.00	-4.00	0%
Cross country ski trails (in miles)	0.00	0.000	0.148	-	-	0.038	0.00	2.00	-2.00	0%
On-Street Bikeways/Bikelanes ³ (in miles)	0.00	0.000	0.091	-	-	0.067	4.50	3.60	0.90	100%
Outdoor Sports Fields										
Softball/Youth baseball diamonds ¹	21	0.400	0.401	13	equal	0.381	19	19.85	-0.85	-10%
Baseball diamonds (90 ft.)	2	0.038	0.047	13	equal	0.076	2	3.96	-1.96	0%
Multi-purpose/Youth soccer fields ¹	22	0.419	0.183	15	equal	0.446	23	23.24	-0.24	5%
Soccer fields (regulation)	1	0.038	0.120	15	equal	0.095	4	4.95	-0.92	292%
Outdoor Passive Facilities										
Playgrounds ¹	25	0.475	0.465	4	-2%	0.457	25	23.81	1.19	0%
Spray pads	2	0.038	0.015	3	+11%	0.038	4	1.98	2.02	100%
Off-leash dog parks	0	0.000	0.011	8	+5%	0.038	2	1.98	0.02	100%
Garden/natural areas (in acres)	5.42	0.103	0.001	9	+5%	0.120	5.80	6.25	-0.45	7%
Picnic shelters/areas	5	0.095	0.237	19	-15%	0.171	8	8.91	-0.91	60%
Walking/biking paths (in miles)	1.23	0.023	0.046	1	-10%	0.268	6.09	13.96	-7.87	395%
Indoor Active Facilities										
Multipurpose rooms ²	15	0.286	0.037	16	-4%	0.286	16	14.90	1.10	7%
Gymnasiums ²	3.40	0.076	0.029	18	-2%	0.076	3.16	3.96	-0.80	-7%
Exercise and fitness rooms	1	0.000	0.022	6	equal	0.057	1	2.97	-1.97	0%
Ice skating and hockey	1	0.019	0.005	11	+5%	0.038	1	1.98	-0.98	0%
Swimming pools/waterparks ²	0	0.000	0.004	10	-1%	0.038	0.10	1.98	-1.88	100%
Soccer fields (seasonal)	1	0.000	0.004	26	-3%	0.019	1	0.99	0.08	7%
Gymnastics center (in sq ft)	7600	144.7	0.015	27	-	289.4	18670	15078.4	3591.6	146%
Indoor Passive Facilities										
Historic homes	2	0.038	0.015	12	+2%	0.038	2	1.98	0.02	0%
Nature/Environmental centers	1	0.019	0.004	7	-	0.019	1	0.99	0.01	0%
Fine arts facilities	1	0.000	0.004	17	-2%	0.019	1	0.99	0.01	0%
Facilities for seniors	0	0.000	0.005	21	-4%	0.038	0	1.98	-1.98	0%
Facilities for teens	0	0.000	0.004	22	-1%	0.038	1	1.98	-0.98	100%

Future Additions/Subtractions Included in CIP

\$200,000/year set aside to purchase property that may become available in the future

1 court to be removed from Rehm Park in 2018

"Health walk" components to be added at Lindberg Park in 2015

Additional shelters to be built in Lindberg Park in 2014 and Maple Park in 2016
 Additional paths will be added in Lindberg and Carroll Parks in 2014, Stevenson Park in 2015, and Maple Park in 2016

An additional room will be added at Ridgeland Common in 2014

Ice rink size will be expanded at Ridgeland Common in 2014

Environmental Center to be built in Austin Gardens in 2015

NOTES:

¹ Because they are generally open to the public and available for use by the Park District and its affiliates, District 97 fields and playgrounds are included in this count.

² Because access to non-Park District owned facilities is sometimes limited, they are only included in counts when specifically available to the Park District/public unless otherwise noted. Each of these count is based on average annual availability (with any numbers less than "1" meaning partial availability to the Park District).

³ Managed by the Village of Oak Park