

# Scoville Park Master Plan Update



Presentation March 21st , 2018



Scoville Park Master Plan Update - Park District of Oak Park

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# Tonight

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- Brief Review of Park District's Planning Process
- Cost of Renovations and Repairs from 2013
- Brief Review of Master Plan 2010
- A Comparison : The Park before and after Renovations
- Some Suggestions for new Elements
- Your opinions and Ideas



# Comparison 2010 and 2018

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“Make the park more open and inviting”

Major Concern of Community Members 2010

“What is Oak Park’s most lovely park? I’d say Scoville Park”.

Dan Haley, Wednesday Journal, 2018

“and newly crafted, spacious entries at Lake and Oak Park and Oak Park and Ontario, this park is open and accessible”.

Dan Haley, Wednesday Journal, 2018



# Construction Costs

- Essential Peace Memorial Restoration 2010 : \$320,000



“There is the World War 1 monument Peace Triumphant, at the summit of the crest. As profound and meaningful, as handsome and well cared for as any war remembrance a small town can boast”

Dan Haley, Wednesday Journal, 03.14.2018

And now it has an Appropriate Setting



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# Construction Costs

- Park Renovation completed 2013 : Centennial of Jensen's Design

Renovation of Park : Construction Cost \$2.2 M

Grant Awarded to PDOP \$1.6 million

Please Note:

Improvements were to be carried out in 4 Phases over many years

However the PDOP won IDNR PARC grant of \$1.6 million

As a result the work was completed in a single phase



# Grant Application and Approval

Illinois Department of Natural Resources PARC grant \$1.6 million

PDOP

Made Application. Made presentations & gathered support from local Historical Groups & Village Historic Preservation Commission.

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Researched Jensen's Original Designs

Showed How the Park Changed over Time

Showed How the New Plan Restored some of Jensen's Path System and

How the New Plan Interpreted Jensen's Design

Prepared Presentations to IDNR



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# The Scoville Park Site Master Plan – Process in 2010

Friday, March 5	Greening Advisory Committee Walk Through
March 3rd and 4th	Focus Group Meetings at Library
Wednesday, March 24th Thursday March 25th	<b>Community Meeting #1 at Library</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Questionnaire posted
Wednesday, April 21st Thursday, April 22nd	<b>Community Mtg #2 at Library</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Questionnaire posted
Monday, April 26th	C.O.W. Field Center
Tuesday, May 11th	<b>Community Mtg #3</b>
Tuesday, May 25th	<b>Community Mtg #4</b>
Thursday, June 3rd	C.O.W. at the Conservatory
Thursday, June 17th	Park Board Mtg. at Administrative Center
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Additional meetings held about Tennis Courts &amp; potential locations for the fountain</b></li></ul>	



# Scoville Park was a Close Call : 1910 Hotel Proposed on Site

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### EDITORIAL

#### THE FUTURE OF SCOVILLE PLACE

Every one who has the beauty of Oak Park at heart will be pained by the news that a business building is to be erected on Scoville place, at the northwest corner of Lake street and Oak Park avenue. We have all come to regard this site as sacred ground, dedicated to the future glory of the community, a public breathing place to be held forever inviolate as a public square and a fit setting for the public buildings upon its border, the public library, the postoffice and the Y. M. C. A.

Happily these sacred precincts are not to be invaded at this time by a very formidable structure and even that will stand on leased ground. But it is a harbinger and a warning of what we may expect to befall this beautiful site if the people of Oak Park do not wake up and take this ground over for public uses. We have been asleep long enough on the playground and park question. If we continue to drowse along we shall deserve to lose this and every other opportunity for the acquisition of public grounds.

Scoville place is needed as a beauty spot. We are not among those who consider this the best place for a park. It is not large enough for the purpose of a park. But it is needed as a little open space in the midst of the business district to furnish a proper environment for the architectural center of the village, and it can serve this end without being devoted wholly to public use. We wish to call attention to the manner in which the needs of the public can be served and still the larger part of the land be left for the ends of private enterprise.

There is now on foot a project to build a \$100,000 hotel on the north end of the Scoville property next to Ontario street. This project is expected to occupy about 125 feet of the Oak Park avenue frontage and will possibly extend thru to take in the Grove avenue frontage as well. What ought to be done is this: The hotel enterprise should be upon a large enough scale to use the entire north half of the Scoville place block, the building to be set in the midst of the spacious grounds

thus provided with the front toward the south, and the public should take over the south half of the block, cutting a street thru from Oak Park avenue to Grove avenue next to the hotel grounds, thus inclosing a fine stretch of parkway and the whole forming an adequate public square. This would give the hotel itself a beautiful setting, the equal to that of any other hotel in or about Chicago, and would insure its being made the family home of many of the best and wealthiest people of the city. With these surroundings it would be no ordinary hotel, but an elite home for both transient and permanent guests of the best class.

But whether the hotel project is carried out on this scale, or at all, the public ought to have the southern part of the block. It is possible that a smaller parkway would serve the purposes of beauty. A strip of green 75 to 100 feet wide, running from Oak Park avenue to Grove avenue on the north side of Lake street, would form a very respectable public square, and with a roadway on its northern border, would be within the possibilities from a financial point of view. It is probable that from \$25,000 to \$35,000 would swing this proposition, and that is a sum that ought not to stand in the way of this worthy community when a matter of such civic importance is at stake. If we understand the statute, the town of Oak Park (not the village) has the power to spend money for park purposes and it is time that the town, or somebody in whose hands the affairs of the community have been entrusted, should get busy and make sure that at least this part of Scoville place is not gobbled up for business.

#### Gymnastic Dancing

A class for women in gymnastic, esthetic and folk dancing has been organized by the Ingram School of Dancing and will meet on Tuesday evenings under the direction of Mary Belle Ingram. Applications for membership are being received now. Those desiring to join can obtain terms and particulars on inquiry, 201 North Sixty-fourth avenue. Telephone Oak Park-8183.

Scoville was "Sacred Ground dedicated to the future glory of the community"

stand on leased ground. But it is a harbinger and a warning of what we may expect to befall this beautiful site if the people of Oak Park do not wake up and take this ground over for public uses. We have been asleep long enough on the playground and park question. If we continue to drowse along we shall deserve to lose this and every other opportunity for the acquisition of public grounds.

Submitted by Nancy Holmes

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# From 2010 Master Plan Process : Site History

Scoville Origin Point of Oak Park

2010 Site Master Plan ?

2009 Restoration of WW1 Memorial

2003 New Library opens & Grove becomes a public plaza

2002 listed on National Register of Historic Places

1980's path changes, plaza rebuilt, playground moved/rebuilt, hardscape at Plaque, and planting beds at memorial

1960's paths changed, Wright-Boch fountain relocated and restored, plaza constructed

1947 SE corner opened up and fence removed

1936 Comfort Station by R. Hotchkiss constructed

1927 Kettlestrings Plaque installed

1925 WW1 Memorial "Peace Triumphant" dedicated

1913: House is demolished and Jens Jensen begins design for a park

Jens Jensen forms "Friends of our Native Landscape"

1912: Park District Established, buys Scoville home

1908 Jensen helps found The Prairie Club

1888: Library is built

1871 James Scoville buys and subdivides land

1857: James Scoville buys land including the site

1833: Joseph Kettlestrings buys land

Oak Savanna along edge of The Oak Park Spr



1912 Park District Established  
Buys Scoville Home

# Detailed Site Examination : Especially the Jensen Plan

Overlay of Jensen Plan of 1913 over park 2010. Jensen's Paths in Orange



# Early Consensus in 2010

- Need Path along Ontario
- Fence to protect Playground but with another northern entrance
- Tot lot to be updated and remain 2-5 age group
- Improve tennis courts and lights (but how many was in question)
- Direct Access and Plaza around the Peace Memorial
- Expand meadow but keep it passive
- Path along southern edge of the meadow (Lake Street)
- Stage integrated into park
- Open up entry at Oak Park & Lake

Make park more 'open and inviting'  
but discourage hanging out in problem areas.



# Concerns after 4<sup>th</sup> Community Meeting



“Citizens at the meetings disagreed on whether to remove one of the park's lit tennis courts to expand the park's playground, as well as the eventual location of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed fountain.....

*Wednesday Journal 5/26/2010*



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# Consensus

## As a result

PDOP requested Altamanu to carry out a study numbering all tennis courts in Oak Park and determining distance from each other and how many were needed compared to national standards.

- Another community meeting was held that was heavily attended by supporters of the tennis courts. The 3 courts were restored.
- After multiple Board of the PDOP meetings the Fountain Remained at Current Location

But Most were Very Pleased with both the Process and Design

**5/26/2010**

"I think what you achieved here is a synthesis between man and nature," said **Redd Griffin**, board member of the Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park.



# SE Park Entry on Oak Park Avenue 2010



Find the Entry!!



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# SE Park Entry on Oak Park Avenue 2010



# Comments From Community Meeting in 2010

“Not very welcoming - Entryway almost hidden – Open up plaza to welcome residents,  
Provide lots of seating that can be seen from Oak Park Avenue – Needs a Floral Display”



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# Design Concept “Welcome with Open Arms”



# SE Park Entry on Oak Park Avenue After Renovation



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# Opens to Park



Entry welcomes visitors and has become a Place



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# How it is Used



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# Enhanced Aerial Showing Desire Line Oak Park to Library 2010



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# Why? Because of Mound and Wall in Front of Library



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SINCE 1982



# Other Issues : The Temporary Stage 2010



Issues: Liability due to temporary design and during erection/dismantling  
Cost of labor, Storage and Stage was to be Replaced due to Age



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# Stage became part of Path System and Design Aesthetic



Power for Stage Added. New Path Completes a Peripheral Circuit around Park.  
It also provides a Pleasant Path to Library



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# Stage became part of Path System and Design Aesthetic



“ and a sage area near Lake Street that is both a focal point when the bands are playing and invisible otherwise”.

Dan Haley, Wednesday Journal, 03.14.2018



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# Meadow was also Enlarged



Added much needed space and Path for Day in the Village



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# Stage After Renovation



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“One area that nearly everyone involved sought to change is the alcove on the park's southwest corner. The area that has been a hotspot for drug users for years and is difficult for police and other officials to see into, according to police and Park District officials”.

*Wednesday Journal 5/26/2010*



# South West Entry 2010 : Restricted Views



Mounds and Trees Obscure Corner



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# South West Entry 2010 : Small Entry





# South West Entry 2010 : Wall Blocked Views and Entry



“How do you get into this Park? Not Very Welcoming”



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# View from Other Side : Reading Area 2010



Unpleasant concrete seating and retaining walls.



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# South West Entry 2010



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# Proposed South East Entry 2010



“ Its all about the Memorial, Open Park and Provide Views to Memorial”



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# Design Comparison





# After Renovation Opens Up to Park and View of Memorial



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# Entry After Renovation Opens Up to Park and to Library



# Park separated from Library by Walls, Mounds and Planting



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# Park separated from Library by Walls, Mounds and Planting



# Desire Line From Oak Park Ave to Library 2010



People wore a path through the planting to Library



# Library Plaza : View where there used to be a Wall



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# Library Winter 2017



# Library Winter 2017

“How about that library, shining down on Scoville Park, its glass and copper façade, always a stunner” Dan Haley Wednesday Journal 03.14.18





# Library Winter 2017

“How about that library, shining down on Scoville Park, its glass and copper façade, always a stunner” Dan Haley Wednesday Journal 03.14.18



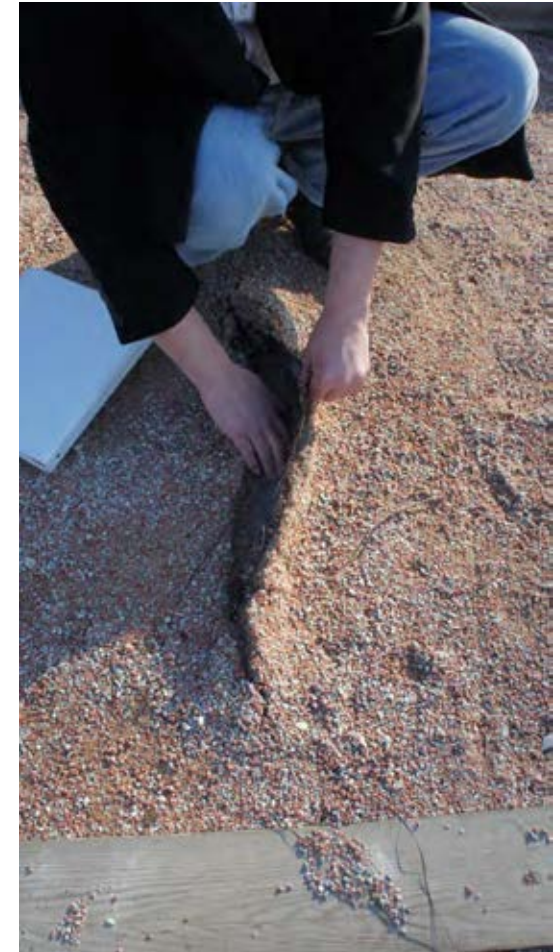
# North West Side : Playground in 2010



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# Playground in 2010 : No Fence & Surface Deterioration



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# Desire Lines, Erosion and Mud, No Protection From Street



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# New North Entry, Playground & Restrooms After Renovation



“rest stations... that work and are unlocked for the first time in decades”

Dan Haley, Wednesday Journal, 03.14.2018



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SCHOOL, COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL

# Playground is more than 3 times the size of the Old One



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# There Were Issues with the Poured - In - Place Surface



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# Need for a Path Along Ontario in 2010



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# 2010 and After Renovation



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# North East Corner in 2010



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# North East Corner After Renovation



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# Added Bump Out to Reduce Crossing Distance



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# Restoration of the Memorial : “Heart of the Park”

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The World War I Memorial

Designed by Oak Park sculptor Gilbert P. Riswold in 1921

Fabricated by American Art Bronze Foundry in Chicago

Dedicated on November 11, 1925



# Restoration of the Memorial



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# Restoration of the Memorial



Conservation by Sculpture & Objects Studio, Forest Park, IL



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# Comparison : Restored Monument Unveiled Nov. 7, 2010



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# Approach to the Monument Before Renovation



No Direct Link Between Meadow & Memorial. R R Ties acted as Barriers



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# R R Ties were falling Apart



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# New Plaza Design Interpreted Jensen's Original Design

Jensen had a proto-council ring at Scoville, it became one of his signature design elements



“We can interpret this element and design an urban plaza for today”  
Community Meeting 2010

# Laid Out Various Potential Spaces On Site



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# Before Renovation of Memorial & Peace Plaza



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# After Renovation



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# How It Is Used



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# How It is Used



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# Flower Beds were Popular in 2010



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# Some Residents Think There Should Be More Flowers



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# Construction of Peace Plaza



Major Trees Protected by Root Pruning & Root Aeration Matting



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# Future Projects : Potential Restoration of the Fountain

Scoville Park Fountain or the Horse Show Fountain  
Wright in collaboration & sculptor Richard Bock  
Originally installed on Lake Street in 1903  
Close to the center line of the park  
Deteriorated over time and demolished  
Replica installed 1969  
Commemorating Wright's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday



# Fountain 1903



Note: Houses on Lake Street



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# Fountain 1909 on Lake Street



Note: Scoville House on Hill, Fence Around the Park and Older Lower Elevation of Lake Street



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# Fountain 1940



Note: Scoville House Gone, Elevation of Lake Street  
& Metal Bands Holding the Fountain Together



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# Current Condition



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# Wright Design?



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# Potential Additions to Park



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# Potential Additions to Park : Consider a Park within a Park



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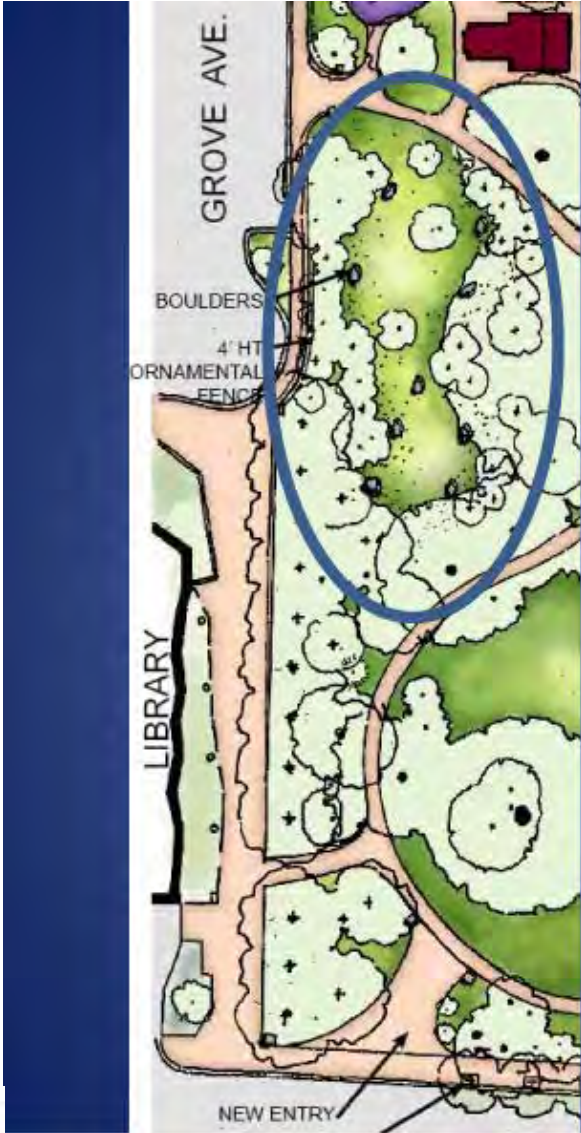
# Potential Additions to Park



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# Potential Additions to Park



## Examples of Boulders

Frank Lloyd Wright



Oak Park History



Pages on Rocks



Ernest Hemingway



# Design Comparison Before and After Improvements



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# Your Comments



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