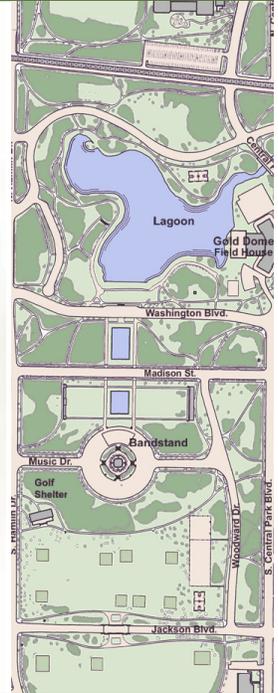


GARFIELD PARK



GARFIELD PARK

F R A M E W O R K P L A N

A PLAN FOR RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

June 26, 2002

City of Chicago

Richard M. Daley,
Mayor

**Chicago Park District
Board of Commissioners**

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Vice President

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Bob Pickens
Gerald M. Sullivan

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GARFIELD PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN



Garfield Park Conservatory



Garfield Park Bandstand



"Gold Dome" Field House

MISSION STATEMENT:

To preserve and communicate the value of Garfield Park while encouraging the park to evolve and accommodate the current and future needs of its users.

INTRODUCTION

The Garfield Park Framework Plan is a long range planning tool created by the Chicago Park District and the residents of the Garfield Park community under the guidance of a consultant team led by BauerLatoza Studio to develop a vision for the continued development and management of Garfield Park. Located on Chicago's west side, the 184-acre Garfield Park encompasses the "Gold Dome" Field House, the Garfield Park Conservatory, a historic Bandstand, Leif Ericson Elementary School, 13 ball diamonds, 4 playlots, a 13 acre lagoon, gardens, fountains, sculpture and a vast collection of mature trees. The park provides for the recreational and cultural needs of a diverse group of people in both a neighborhood and regional context.

In order to meet the needs of the park users, the Framework Plan examined the desires of the community in relation to the existing conditions of the park to establish a vision for the future use, access, amenities and visual qualities of the park. The Framework Plan attempts to realize this vision by providing guidelines and recommendations for changes to the existing conditions and by the addition of new facilities, furnishings and landscape. More importantly, the plan proposes a system to enhance the communication between the park users and The

Chicago Park District to address future needs, improvements, and management of Garfield Park.

This document provides analysis and recommendations for the park as a whole, as well as specialized recommendations for the following topics:

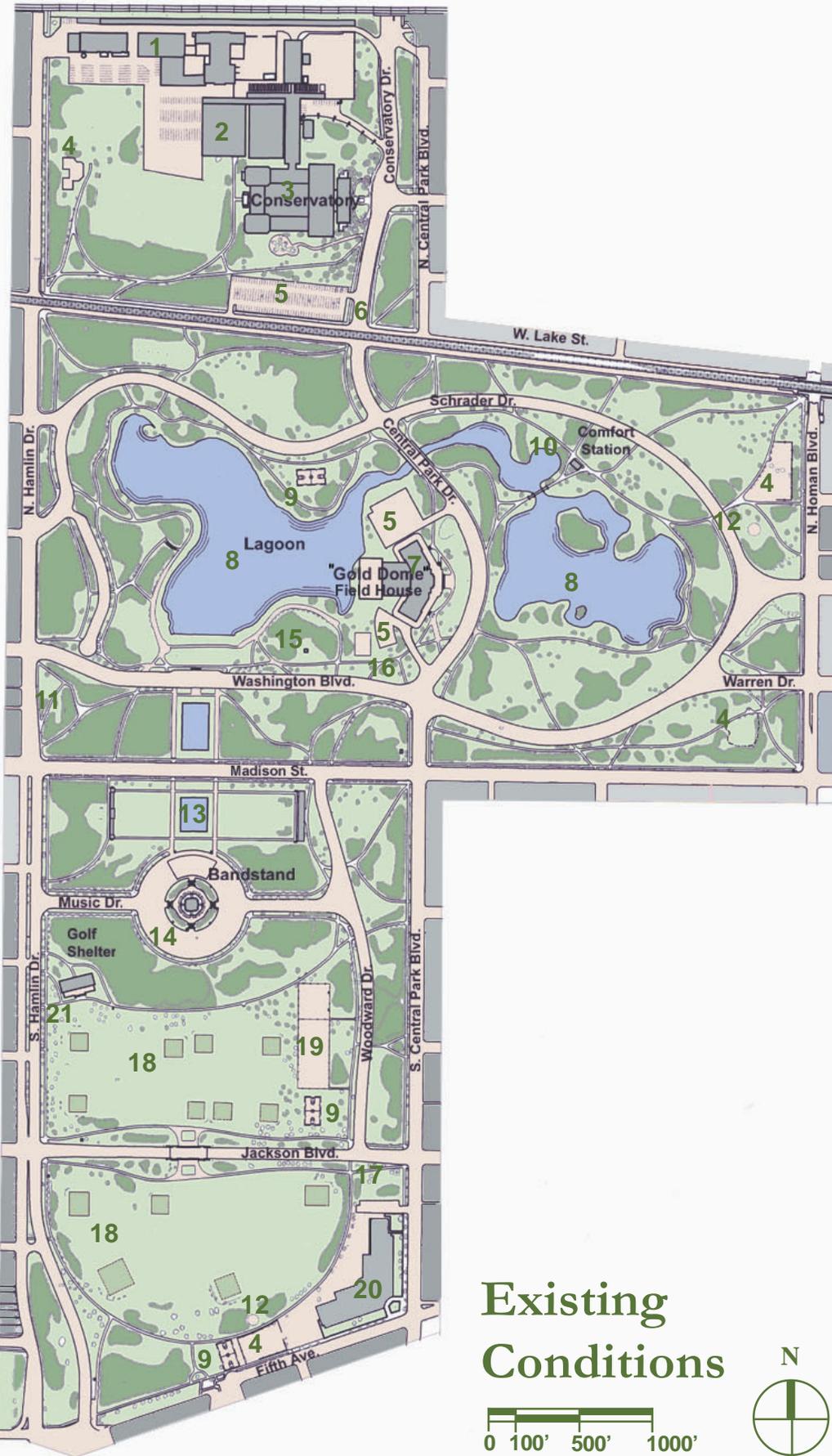
- **History**
- **Community Context**
- **Character**
- **Landscape & Ecology**
- **Architecture**
- **Activities & Programs**
- **Circulation**
- **Site Amenities & Furnishings**

For quick reference, a summary of the Framework Recommendations may be accessed in the "Garfield Park Framework Plan" section of this report.

The Garfield Park Framework Plan is a guide that should be consulted, along with public input, whenever improvements are being considered for the park.

HISTORY

In 1871, William Le Baron Jenney completed plans for a West Park System ensemble of Douglas, Humboldt, and Central Parks. For Jenney, the "father of the skyscraper," Central Park represented the 184-acre centerpiece of this ambitious plan. After the 1865 assassination of United States President James A. Garfield, this centerpiece was renamed Garfield Park.



Existing Conditions



Legend

1. Central Region maintenance Facilities
2. Propagating Houses
3. Conservatory
4. Playlot
5. Parking
6. C.T.A. El Stop
7. "Gold Dome" Field House
8. Lagoon
9. Basketball court
10. Comfort Station
11. World War II Monument
12. Spray Pool
13. Formal Gardens/ Water Court
14. Bandstand
15. Burns Statue
16. Lincoln Statue
17. World War Monument
18. Athletic Fields
19. Tennis Courts
20. Leif Ericson School
21. Golf Shelter

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GARFIELD PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN

Garfield Park owes its impressive landscapes and buildings to the genius of Prairie School architect Jens Jensen. Appointed as General Superintendent and Chief Landscape Architect in 1905, Jensen developed Garfield Park into a display of Prairie style architecture. In particular, Jensen shepherded the construction of the Garfield Park Conservatory. Jensen conceived of the Conservatory as a work of landscape under glass. Opened to the public in 1908, the form of the innovative work emulated a “great Midwestern haystack,” and the interior rooms displayed superb compositions of water, rocks, and plants.

In 1928, the West Parks Commission constructed Garfield Park’s other spectacular landmark, the “Gold Dome” Building. Intended to serve as an administrative headquarters for the Commission, notable architects Michaelson and Rognstad designed the structure. In 1934, Garfield Park joined the Chicago Park District as Chicago’s twenty-two independent park commissions merged into a single, citywide agency.

A more detailed discussion of Garfield Park’s History, and preservation recommendations are available in the appendix.

MISSION STATEMENT & VISION

Garfield Park is nationally renowned for its historic landscape and planning. Also, the park has a special cultural significance to the West Side community. Garfield Park is both a recreational and educational resource for the surrounding community and metropolitan region with the Garfield Park Conservatory recognized as an outstanding national horticultural institution.

Mission Statement

To preserve and communicate the value of the historic resource of Garfield Park while encouraging the park to evolve and accommodate the current and future needs of its users. The historic, cultural, environmental and recreational integrity of the park must be viable for future generations of park users.

Vision

The vision for Garfield Park embodied in this Framework Plan is one that unifies a multifaceted park and its amenities with very diverse uses. This vision will impact its local and regional focus by preserving the historic integrity, planning future use and growth, and maintaining significant recreational and cultural amenities. Through this vision, visitors and community members alike will experience the park as a whole. The unification would be both physical and cultural. This



is accomplished by enhanced communication and programming, as well as protecting and preserving significant elements. Additionally, park unification can occur through introducing new elements to enhance the park.

Continued community participation and involvement in the park's evolution will strengthen community ownership. Local residents will make use of all areas of the park as a result of their involvement in the design decisions to shape the use and culture of the park amenities.

Visitors from the city, nation and world will travel to Garfield Park to explore not only the historic architecture, landscape and Conservatory, but also to enjoy the local culture through performances at the Bandstand, and programs at the "Gold Dome" Field House and Conservatory.

Direction

This Framework Document begins with a series of plan recommendations followed by a discussion of the history that has shaped such a widely endeared park, and an inventory and analysis of the park needs and assets valued by its users. Following the analysis are written recommendations which support the plan, promote the protection and enhancement of Garfield Park and fulfill the described vision.

GOALS

Through interaction with the park users, Steering Committee and public input, the following Goals were established to guide the Framework recommendations:

- **Unify the different areas, functions and users of Garfield Park.**
- **Find a balance between the regional and neighborhood uses of the park.**
- **Develop Garfield Park as a West Side Cultural Campus providing artistic, cultural, recreational and educational opportunities.**
- **Promote the park with uses that are relevant to the surrounding community.**
- **Encourage economic opportunity in the park and community.**
- **Maintain a safe environment and perception within the park.**
- **Enrich the botanic experience by building upon the historic design work of the noted landscape architects and designers.**
- **Beautify the park through physical improvements.**
- **Communicate the rich history and culture of Garfield Park and the Garfield Park Community.**
- **Set in motion a collaborative process in which park improvements result from cooperation between the Chicago Park District and the public.**

PLANNING PROCESS

GARFIELD PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN

Steering Committee

Community Action Group

Joe Ann Bradley

Concerned Citizens of East Garfield Park

Luster Jackson

Greater Garfield Park Chamber of Commerce

Ernestine King

Jens Jensen Legacy Project

JoAnn Nathan

Keystone Village

Evelyn Johnson

Midwest Chicago Ave. Business Assoc.

Sonya Davis

Office of Alderman Ed Smith (24th Ward)

Leo McCord, Elaine Jackson

Resident

Sabrina Goss

West Side Cultural Arts Council

Julie Fairfax, Levette Haynes

Chicago Dept. of Environment

Juri Jones Moore

Chicago Dept. of Transportation

Luann Hamilton, Keith Privett

Chicago 11th Police Dist.

P.O. Maudessre Jointer

Garfield Park Advisory Council

Gwen O'Connor-Griffen

Charles Howlett, Perry Starks

Curlee Reed, Sr., Mattie

Simpson, James Shannon,

Robbie Jacqueline

Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance

Eden Degenova, Eunita

Rushing, Heidi Hickman,

Bryce Bandstra,

Thomas Antonio

Chicago Park District

Greg Minnifield, Clara Portis,

Cynthia Moreno, James Hobson,

Lisa Roberts, Adam Schwerner,

Art Richardson, Chris Gent,

Mitch Glass, Bryce Bandstra,

Thomas Antonio

BauerLatoza Studio

Edwards & Kelcey

Gayles & Assoc.

METHODOLOGY

To ensure that the Framework Plan recommendations represent the interests of the park users, residents, elected officials, and the Chicago Park District, the team facilitated a nine month process of public meetings, coordination with the Garfield Park Staff, Advisory Council and Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance. This process was led by a Steering Committee composed of community leaders, public agency representatives and not for profit groups.

To advance the investigation of key issues raised by the Steering Committee and the public, Ad Hoc Focus Groups were formed to explore four topics:

AD HOC COMMITTEES

1) Art and Cultural aspects of Garfield Park

2) Safety and Security needs

3) Renovation and programming of the historic Bandstand

4) Development of a new Public Garden.

Through open forum public meetings, which varied in focus from broad “visioning sessions” to focused investigations of specific issues, goals and recommended improvements were established and evaluated for inclusion in the Framework Document.



Landscape Preference Study (Green Dots = Preferred, Red Dots = Disliked)
Public Meeting #1

PUBLIC MEETING #1

The first public meeting provided an overview of the existing conditions of the park, and focused on developing objectives for the Framework Plan and identifying issues and concerns of the park users. This meeting provided an opportunity for people to participate in discussions focused on the specific areas or issues which concerned or interested them the most.

The four topics examined by discussion groups were 1) Community Relations and Context, 2) Public Garden, 3) Programming and Active Recreation, 4) Park Character and Passive Recreation. Upon reconvening, a spokesperson from each discussion group presented its findings. Key findings are summarized below.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND CONTEXT GROUP

- Garfield Park suffers from a misperception of crime which could be altered by improved lighting and increased police patrols.
- Encourage pedestrian and bicycle traffic within the park as an alternative to the increasing vehicular traffic.

PUBLIC GARDEN GROUP

- The existing Regional Maintenance Facilities on the north side of the park should be renovated to accommodate such uses as artists studios and galleries, a farmer's market or education center.
- The Conservatory must be perceived as a part of Garfield Park rather than a separate entity.
- The design of a new garden should strive to incorporate themes that express the local community.
- The garden should be designed for frequent use rather than an occasional attraction.
- Garden studies revealed that the preferred landscape style varies greatly from person to person.

PROGRAMMING & ACTIVE RECREATION GROUP

- Many of the existing facilities such as playlots, benches and comfort stations need to be repaired or replaced.
- Park activities need to be promoted in order to better inform the community of the programs available.
- Maintain the lagoon with a healthy supply/stock of fish and other marine life.



Public Meeting #2



Public Meeting #2

PLANNING PROCESS

GARFIELD PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN

- The Bandstand should be renovated and programmed with new activities.

PARK CHARACTER AND PASSIVE RECREATION

- The park should not be overprogrammed with activities. Open space should be preserved.
- Fencing and gates should be minimized to create an inviting feel in the park.
- Garfield Park should instill into its users an appreciation for the landscape that will heighten their sensitivity and concern for the park.

PUBLIC MEETING #2

This meeting began with a summary of the issues facing the park, learned from the first meeting. Participants were then asked to prioritize the issues. After determining the highest priority items (see Public Meeting #1), the focus of the meeting became seeking ways to address the key issues. In order to facilitate open dialogue about the highest priority issues, the meeting participants were divided into discussion groups which later reconvened and presented their findings to the larger group. Several of the suggestions are as follows.

- In order to successfully implement goals and promote awareness of issues relating to Garfield Park and its surroundings, community residents

should continue to participate fully within this planning process.

- New facilities and programs were suggested including a restaurant or concessions, boat rentals, horse back riding, track and field facilities.
- Requests were made for more site furnishings such as benches, drinking fountains, signage and restrooms.
- As new activities and features are added to the park, open space must be preserved to prevent the park from becoming over-programmed.
- Speed bumps, signage, definition of parking areas and narrowing of roadways at pedestrian crossings were, commonly, favored by the community as ways to address the impact of vehicular circulation within the park.
- The inherent qualities and physical attributes of Garfield Park provide opportunities for promoting the study of the environment as well as careers in nature, ecology and landscape design to surroundings schools and city residents.

SUMMARY

Garfield Park is valued by many different people, for its many diverse aspects. What became clear through this input process is an overriding desire, to unite the diverse aspects of the park, revitalize its uses, and instill pride in its users.

Garfield Park Framework Issues List

The following is a list of the goals and issues that were raised in the first Garfield Park Steering Committee and Public meetings. In order to begin resolving these issues and meeting our goals, please review the list and answer the following questions.

Park Unification Goals

Please prioritize these goals 1-4 (1 most important) and write in any new issues.

- Increase community involvement in the Park
- Increase the number of people from the surrounding community working in the Park
- Create neighborhood park maintenance groups
- Reduce vehicular traffic in the Park

Park Image & Character Issues

Please prioritize the following goals 1-5 (1 most important), and write in any new issues.

- Create an opulent appearance in Garfield Park
- Promote neighborhood art projects within Garfield Park
- Improve the landscape/planting
- Remove the fencing and gates
- Communicate the rich history of Garfield Park. Possibly with a signage program that explains the history of Garfield Park

Security Issues

Please prioritize the following issues 1-4 (1 most important) and write in any new issues.

- Increase security foot patrols
 - Determine the areas that need more lighting to promote a safe environment
 - The park currently closes at 10pm. Consider keeping it open until 11pm
 - Develop a comprehensive crime study to determine if there is a crime problem in the Park
- What time of day are security foot patrols needed the most?
 - Where in the park should lighting be increased to promote security?

FRAMEWORK PLAN

Recommendations



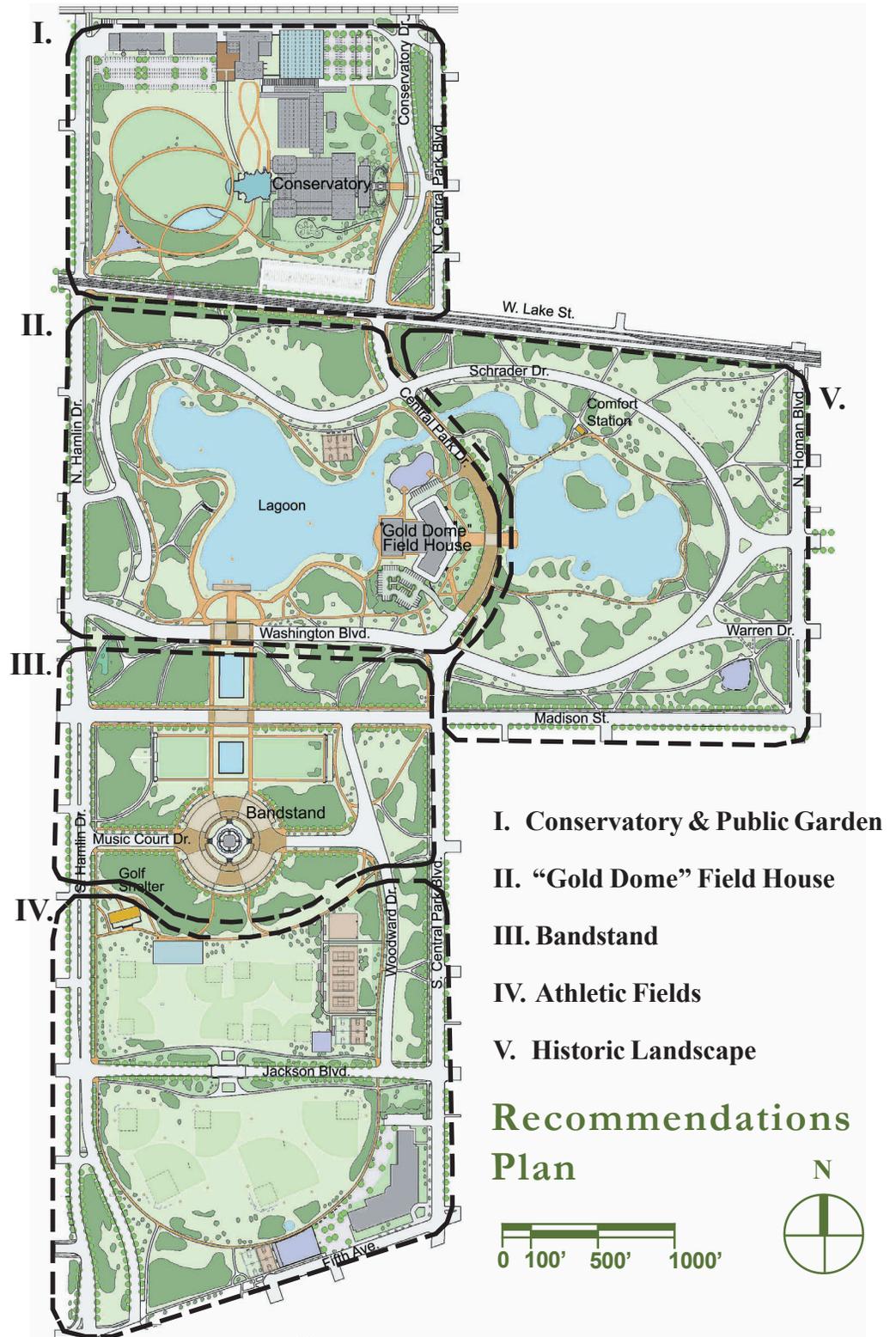
"Gold Dome" Field House
Improvement and Connection to
Lagoon



Bandstand Renovation

FRAMEWORK PLAN

Recommendations



Parkwide Recommendations

The Garfield Park Framework Plan provides a set of guidelines for future improvements to the park over time. These guidelines provide for the changing recreational and cultural needs of today's park users, while keeping in mind Garfield Park's rich landscape design and history.

General parkwide recommendations for Garfield Park are first presented below. The park is then presented in five (5) more detailed sections where site-specific recommendations are included. Following these summaries, more in-depth analysis is presented in support of the recommendations.

- **Unite Park Facilities** The Conservatory, Field House, Bandstand, and Athletic Fields each need individual improvements (discussed later), but these elements need to be joined by overlapping programs and activities between them.
- **Pedestrian Circulation** A primary pedestrian route should be developed to physically and visually link the Conservatory, New Green Line El Stop, Field House, Water Court and Bandstand. This route would be characterized by wide paths, ornamental paving, signage, planting, site furnishings, and lighting. This route should be expanded to join future park amenities such as the Market and Horticulture Education Center, Boat Shelter, and renovated Golf Shelter discussed on the following pages.
- **Lighting** Lighting should be added as needed along all pedestrian routes to meet the current Chicago Park District standards. This will increase the usage time of the park while promoting greater safety and security.
- **Enhance Park Entries** The entry points where walks and roads enter the park, should be enhanced with planting, paving, site furnishings and signage, based on the historic character, to celebrate that one is entering Garfield Park.
- **Landscape** The overall landscape character of Garfield Park should follow the original design intent of framing views and open lawn areas with a perimeter of trees and low shrubs. To restore this intent, selective pruning and tree removal needs to take place to open views. Also, new trees and low shrubs need to be added to restore the definition around lawn areas without compromising visibility and security.
- **Vehicular Circulation** Narrowing of the roadways, adding planted islands and defining parking with striping and curb bulb-outs will reduce the volume and speed of vehicular traffic through the park, creating park roads instead of thoroughfares.
- **Parkway Planting** The roads bordering Garfield Park should be planted with street trees, low shrubs, perennials and groundcovers to visually connect Garfield Park to the surrounding neighborhood.
- **Site Furnishings** In order to provide for the needs of park users, benches, litter receptacles, drinking fountains and signage in a unified design style should be added throughout the park, situated with restraint to preserve the natural landscape character.

FRAMEWORK PLAN

Recommendations

I. Conservatory & Public Garden

Home to the Garfield Park Conservatory, the north portion of Garfield Park should be developed to house additional educational, artistic and social functions. The improvements in this area include a new public garden and possible future uses for the buildings and spaces currently housing the Chicago Park District Central Region Maintenance Facilities.



1. Public Garden The new Public Garden west of the Conservatory would be built around themes of urban gardening. This garden would include a large terrace for outdoor gatherings, a water feature, paths and a variety of ornamental plant displays.

2. Reconfigure existing parking lot Install landscaped islands and striping to organize, soften and beautify parking so that it may support the Public Garden, Conservatory, Market and Horticultural Education Center.

3. Pedestrian Plaza Remove existing single story buildings and install pedestrian gathering spaces to serve art fairs or a farmer's market.

4. Market or Studios If the Regional Maintenance Facilities are relocated, these buildings could be renovated to house new uses such as artist's studios, galleries or markets.

5. Horticulture Education Center The existing stable building, which is a historic William Le Baron Jenney building, could be renovated to house a Park Education Center offering such programs as environmental education and urban gardening.

6. Propagating Greenhouses If the Regional Maintenance Facilities are relocated, new, up to date, propagating greenhouses could be constructed. Five of the existing nine propagating houses would be removed to increase the open space around the Conservatory.

7. Landscape Addition The existing propagation greenhouses could be removed and replaced as described above. This area would then be landscaped as part of the new public gardens to create visual, as well as, pedestrian connections to the new Horticulture Education Center.

8. Parking Lot In order to serve the new adaptive reuse area, a landscaped parking lot could be installed in the site of the former Regional Maintenance Yard.

9. Conservatory Drive Realignment Realignment Conservatory Drive to the east and removing the existing parking lot at the intersection with Lake Street, would allow for a larger landscaped entry and better access to the Conservatory.

10. Existing Parking Lot Removal Once the parking lot within the Regional Maintenance Facilities becomes available to provide spaces for 60 park staff members plus visitors, the existing parking lot could be removed to support the continuity of the park and restore the historic Conservatory Landscape.

11. Lake Street Parallel Parking Curb bulbouts, striping, pedestrian crosswalks and landscaping installed along Lake Street would define parallel parking areas for park users.

FRAMEWORK PLAN

Recommendations

II. “Gold Dome” Field House and West Lagoon

The “Gold Dome” Field House and the Lagoon serve as centers of activity within Garfield Park. The recommendations in this area focus on improving the use and visibility of the “Gold Dome” Field House, introducing a new boat launch facility, improving the natural and recreational opportunity of the Lagoon and providing unifying connections between these key elements.



1. Paving Improvements Curb bulb-outs, ornamental paving, and boulevard planting would define an east to west pedestrian crossing, slow vehicular traffic and deter parking in front of the Field House. The existing fence along the west side of Central Park Drive should be moved west to allow room for planting and a new walk.

2. Landscape Improvements Planting designed with sensitivity to the historic style would define the “Gold Dome” Field House as a center of pedestrian activity.

3. Path and Landscape Connection Path connections across Lake Street, and mass plantings of trees and ornamental grasses or shrubs on the north and south sides of Lake Street would help unify the park.

4. Boat Shelter A new roofed, open-air Boat Shelter should be created at the site of the former Boat House. This new structure will serve as a north terminus to the view from the historic Bandstand. It can be programmed for lagoon events, boat rentals and other environmental programs.

5. Lagoon Fishing Pads Water quality and water level should be controlled and riparian plantings should be added to the shoreline to minimize erosion damage. Within the plantings, stone or paved access areas should be created for fishing.

6. Playlot A new playlot and spray fountain would be beneficial to provide for the after school and summer youth programs housed at the Field House.

7. North Parking Lot The existing North Parking Lot should be landscaped and striped to organize parking and visually soften the lot.

8. South Parking Lot The existing South Parking Lot should be landscaped and striped, and the entry drive should be realigned farther to the north.

9. Gymnasium A rooftop terrace (either ornamental or functional) should be created over the existing Gym to improve the view from the Field House.

10. Pedestrian Paths A main pedestrian route, along the lagoon, connecting the “Gold Dome” Field House to a new Boat Shelter should be defined with wide paths, benches, lighting and possibly ornamental paving materials to create a strong connection between these two centers of activity.

11. Road Narrowing Road narrowing by moving the curb lines closer together, and pedestrian crossings added to Washington Blvd. and Schrader Dr. would reduce and slow vehicular traffic, defining these routes as park roads rather than thoroughfares.

12. McCrea Drive Shortening McCrea Drive would prevent traffic from cutting through the park to Madison Street.

13. Drive Removal Removing the northernmost access drive, which is not needed, at the west end of the park would reduce through traffic.

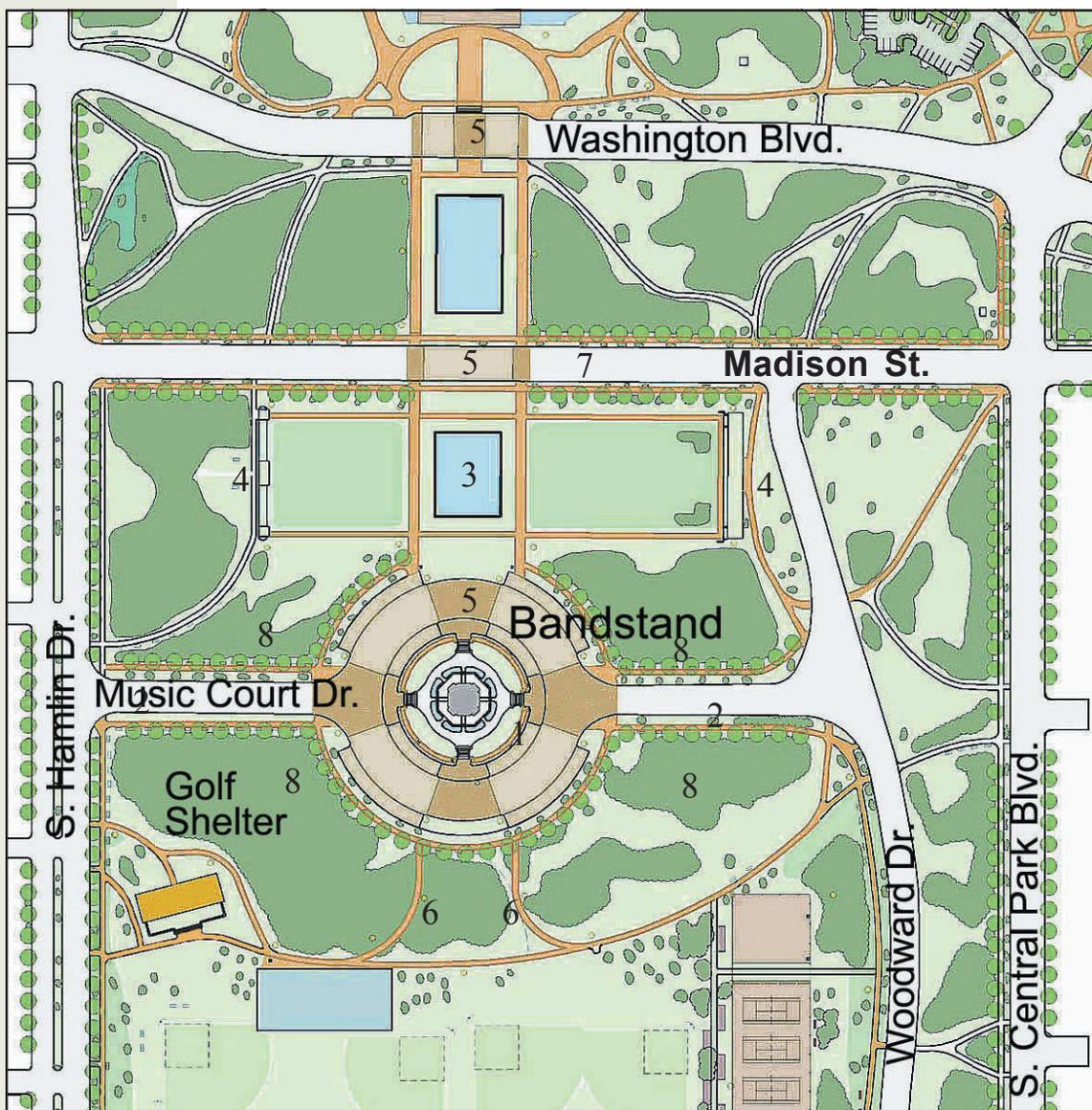
14. Monuments The existing Lincoln, Burns and WW II Monuments should be enhanced with planting, benches and lighting to strengthen their importance and provide pedestrian gathering spaces.

FRAMEWORK PLAN

Recommendations

III. Bandstand and Water Court

In order to upgrade the Bandstand and Water Court into primary pedestrian destinations in Garfield Park, these features should be restored to accommodate new programs, and invite renewed use during both planned performances and informal gatherings.



1. Bandstand The Bandstand and surrounding landscape should be restored to its original conditions with the slight adjustment of replacing some of the expansive vehicular pavement around it with pedestrian walks and low landscaping. The existing trees that crowd the Bandstand and create an uninviting barrier should be removed. In addition, the area would be closed to vehicular traffic during planned events, and eventually, may be closed entirely to vehicles. These improvements will define the area as a location for performances or planned events and reinforce the Bandstand area as a pedestrian rather than vehicular destination.

2. Music Court Drive Parkway plantings and site furnishings should be added to Music Court Drive in order to slow traffic and emphasize the ceremonial approach to the Bandstand.

3. Water Court The Water Court should be enhanced with landscaping, lighting, benches, wider paths and possibly ornamental paving to connect its various elements, emphasize its north to south axis, define it as a pedestrian destination and return it to its historic design.

4. Pedestrian Entry A new path and entry planting should be installed at the Trellis structures located east and west of the Water Court to highlight the entries to this court to people entering the park from the surrounding neighborhood.

5. Ornamental Paving Paving added to Madison Street and Washington Blvd. within the Water Court area would visually connect the two pools and strengthen the north-south axis from the Bandstand to the new Boat Shelter.

6. Pedestrian Connections New pedestrian connections should be added south of the Bandstand to connect it to the Golf Shelter and Athletic Fields.

7. Madison Street Reducing the width of Madison Street would help to slow traffic through the park while providing easier pedestrian crossing and a visual connection of the parklands north and south of the street.

8. Tree Canopy The tree canopy needs to be thinned in order to open up views of the Bandstand from the surrounding park areas such as the “Gold Dome” Field House and Lagoon to the north, and the Golf Shelter and Athletic Fields to the south.

FRAMEWORK PLAN

Recommendations

IV. Athletic Fields & Golf Shelter

The south end of the park provides active recreation in the form of ballfields, basketball and tennis courts and play equipment. It also exhibits a character of large, passive open lawn areas surrounded by tree-lined paths. The recommendations in this area work toward improving recreation as well as establishing new entries and a new center of activity at the Golf Shelter. These improvements will rejuvenate this portion of the park which often feels distant from the other portions of Garfield Park.



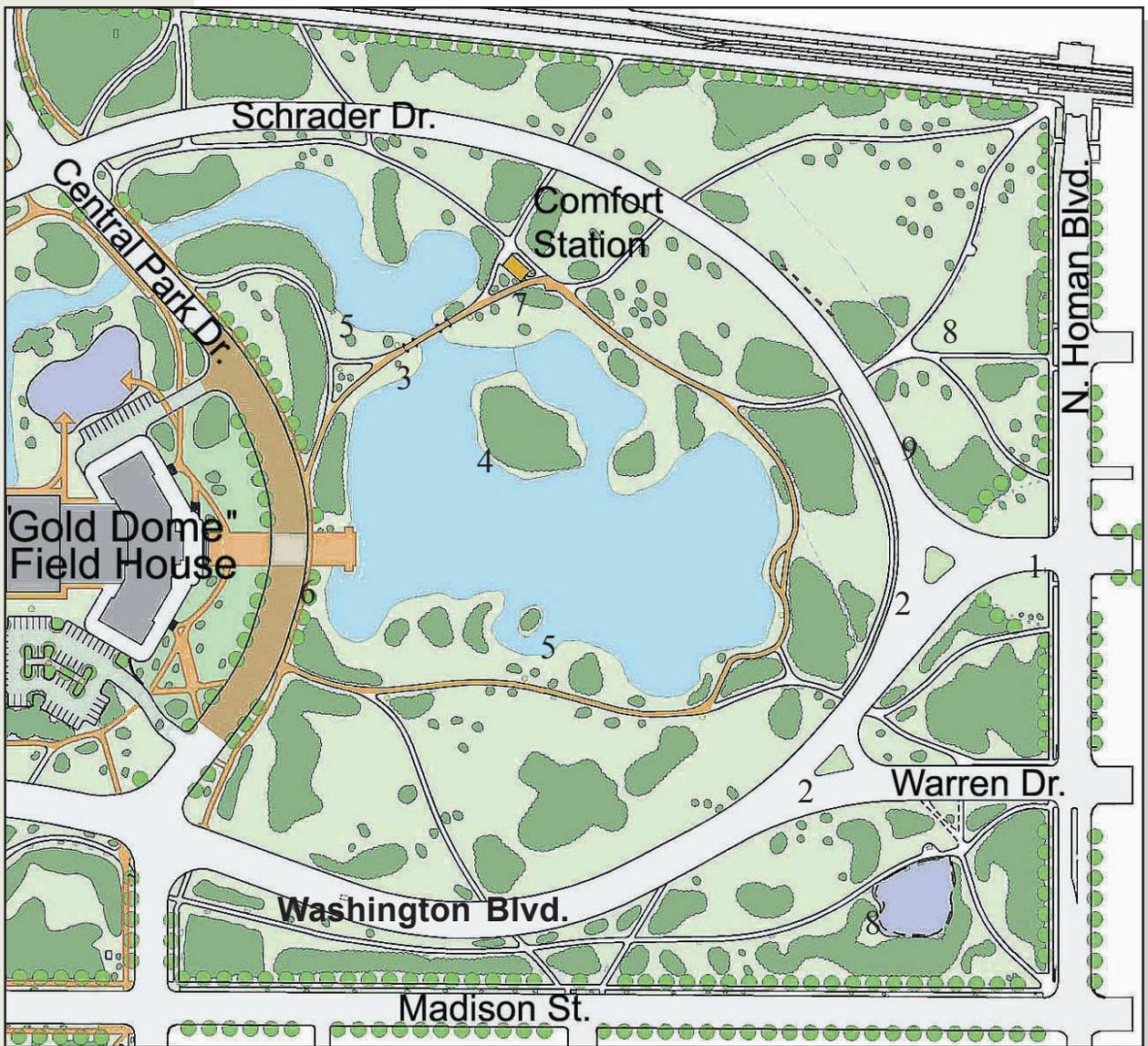
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- 1. Golf Shelter** The Golf Shelter which currently houses restroom facilities should be renovated to house concessions and perhaps, a Chicago Park District office which could service the Athletic Fields. The increased activity at this building would improve safety and security in this area. Concessions could be introduced in a simple manner such as food carts, then developed into a permanent facility. The addition of landscaping and restoring the historic trellis would emphasize the building as a pedestrian gathering point for the Athletic Fields.
 - 2. Ice Skating Rink** In order to accommodate the existing hockey program and to activate the south end of the park in winter, a new ice skating rink could be located near the Golf Shelter.
 - 3. Athletic Fields** The Athletic Fields which receive intensive use, should remain and be maintained. Lighting and bleachers should continue to be introduced to several of the fields in order to allow night use. The perimeter of this area should be enhanced with shade trees, benches, lighting and drinking fountains.
 - 4. Tennis & Basketball Courts** The Tennis & Basketball Courts should remain. Benches and a drinking fountain should be added to this area.
 - 5. New Playlot** A new playlot should be added near the Tennis Courts in order to provide a center of activity for users of varying ages. This playlot will also provide active space for Providence St. Mel School located across Central Park Ave.
 - 6. Leif Ericson Parking** Ornamental fencing and landscape should replace the chain-link fence around the parking lot, and screening should enclose the dumpsters.
 - 7. WW Monument** The WW Monument should be repaired and landscaped in order to highlight its historic significance and to announce this corner as an entry to the park.
 - 8. Leif Ericson School Plaza** In order to better communicate the school as a visual entry to Garfield Park, the landscape around the school should be improved, and the stark asphalt paving northwest of the school should be softened with a landscaped plaza for student assembly and outdoor learning.
 - 9. Spray Fountain** The existing spray pool should be updated with new paving, planting and benches to renew interest and use.
 - 10. Playlot and Basketball Court** These features should be replaced in the same general area, but moved farther north away from the existing street and near the existing spray pool.
 - 11. Paths** In order to improve this area for track and field practices, the paths should be well maintained, measured loops and straight sections should be developed with distance markers.
 - 12. South Perimeter** In order to define the park and define an entry from the surrounding housing, the South Perimeter of the park should be enhanced with planting and furnishings.
 - 13. Boulevard** As a primary entry to the park from I-290, the Boulevard along Hamlin Drive should welcome motorists with signage and planting identifying Garfield Park.
 - 14. Historic Signage** Historic signage should be added to announce the park at the intersection of Jackson and Central Park Blvd.

FRAMEWORK PLAN

Recommendations

V. Historic East Lagoon

The area surrounding the East Lagoon is the oldest and most historically intact section of Garfield Park. Providing some of the best passive spaces and memorable views in Garfield Park, the recommendations in this area work to restore this model of historic landscape design and mitigate the impact of threats to the landscape character.



1. Washington Blvd. Entry The existing remnants of the Washington Blvd. Entry should be restored to its original condition with repairs to the existing Zimmerman Arbor, bollards and chains and the addition of planting to identify this area as a gateway to the park.

2. Landscape Islands Traffic channeling islands installed at the park entries from Washington Blvd. and Warren Drive would soften the expanse of pavement, slow traffic and increase safety by directing traffic. Narrowing roadways, combined with pedestrian crossings added to Washington Blvd. and Schrader Dr. would reduce and slow vehicular traffic, defining these routes as park roads rather than thoroughfares.

3. Bridge As a remaining historic site feature, the existing bridge should be maintained in its original condition. Groundcover and low shrub plantings should be added around the bridge to recreate the historic landscape intent while minimizing maintenance and security issues.

4. Island As a feature of the historic landscape, the island plantings should be rejuvenated to remove dead plants and replace the dense undergrowth with low shrubs and groundcover.

5. Lagoon and Fishing Pads Water quality and water level should be controlled and riparian plantings should be added to the shoreline to minimize erosion damage. Within the plantings, stone or paved access areas should be created for fishing, and the lagoon should be stocked with fish.

6. Pedestrian Crossing & Overlook Paving improvements in front of the “Gold Dome” Field House provide a pedestrian connection to the lagoon. A new paved Overlook at the lagoon edge would provide a starting point for the existing path system around the lagoon.

7. Comfort Station The existing Comfort Station should be renovated and opened with vandal resistant fixtures and finishes.

8. Playlots The existing playlot should be replaced with a more contemporary design providing ADA accessibility and activities for a range of different ages. The new playlots should be easily accessed from the surrounding neighborhood, but should be fenced and moved farther from the street than the existing ones. The playlot at Lake and Homan should be removed and replaced with a new one near the “Gold Dome” Field House. Planting should be incorporated into the remaining playlot in order to soften its impact on the historic landscape character.

9. Spray Pool If the existing playlot at Lake and Homan is removed and replaced near the “Gold Dome” Field House, the spraypool should be also. The new spray pool should be updated with paving, planting and benches to renew interest and join it to the new playlot.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Inventory and Analysis

Key Community and Context Issues Raised During the Planning Process:

1. Improve safety and security
2. Develop Garfield Park as an economic stimulus
3. Develop the culture and heritage of Garfield Park as an attraction for inviting people to the community while also enhancing the local and regional appeal of the park.



Madison Street looking west of Garfield Park



Hamlin Blvd. looking north

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

Today, Garfield Park is situated amongst two predominantly residential communities (East Garfield Park and West Garfield Park) located on Chicago's West Side. Small commercial districts line the major east/west streets, such as Lake and Madison, as in other areas of the city. Nevertheless, the area's large residential base provides a constant user group for the park as well as several institutions such as churches, schools and community centers, which may benefit from the park.

The neighborhoods surrounding the park are filled with active families and individuals, as evidenced by the large number of local community groups (see appendix). Many of the individuals involved in the Framework planning process emphasized the importance of the public recreation, culture and community pride made possible by the park's location.

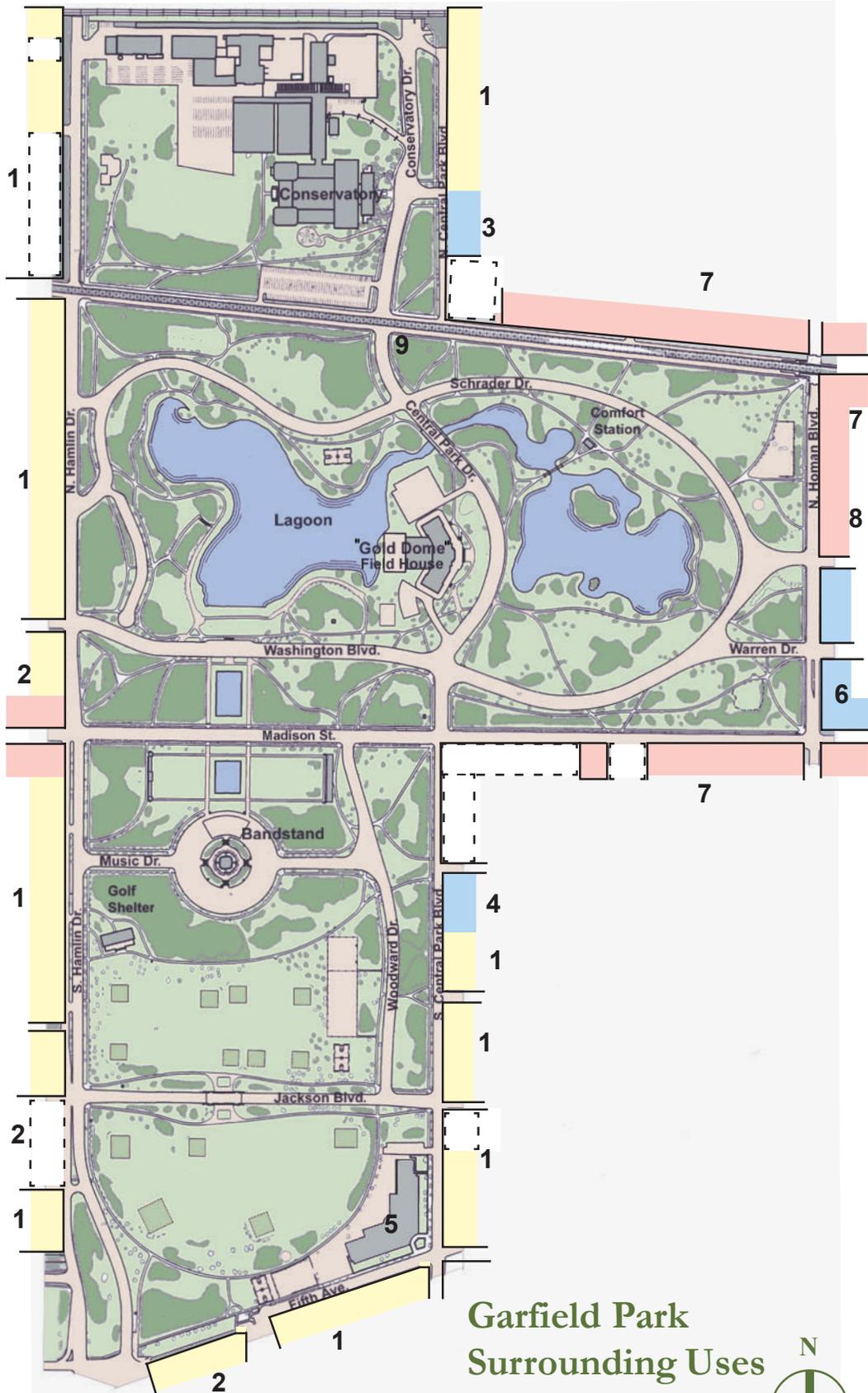
- The East and West Garfield Park communities are filled with life-long residents who take pride in their culture, heritage, and the added amenity of the park's close proximity to their neighborhood. This pride should continue to be fostered within younger generations and communicated to visitors welcoming them to the community.

- In order to connect Garfield Park to the individuals, groups and community centers that define the neighborhood, both physical changes (such as pedestrian links to the community), as well as programming and use changes (such as local schools using the park as an educational resource) must continue to be encouraged beyond the park boundaries.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Through input from the community members and the involvement of the Chicago Police Department in the planning process, real and perceived crime problems in Garfield Park and the surrounding community were identified.

- Perceptions of high crime coupled with limited visibility and lighting found in some areas of the park and community, undermine visitors' feelings of safety and security within Garfield Park.



Legend:

- 1 Residential (Single Family & Low Rise)
- 2 Residential (Mid & High Rise)
- 3 Lucy Flowers Elementary
- 4 Providence St. Mel
- 5 Leif Ericson
- 6 YMCA
- 7 Neighborhood Commercial
- 8 Gas Station
- 9 CTA Green Line El Stop

Land Use

- Civic (School, Church, Community Center)
- Commercial (Small Business)
- Residential (Single Family, Low to Mid Rise unless otherwise noted)
- Vacant Property

Garfield Park Surrounding Uses



COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Inventory and Analysis



Lake Street adjacent to Garfield Park



Existing Comfort Station (Closed due to vandalism)



Existing activity around Bandstand

- Review of the Chicago’s Alternative Policing Strategy web pages revealed that although violent crime occurs in the neighborhood, few crimes take place in the park.

- Public nuisances, such as drug activity, loitering, vandalism and prostitution, occur in secluded areas within the park. Examples of such spaces are the comfort stations, the densely planted areas around the Bandstand, the west end of the lagoon, and along McCrea Drive.

- Garfield Park is currently open for access until 10:00 pm and patrolled by police during the open hours. One item widely requested by park users is an increased police presence in Garfield Park.

ASSETS AND INITIATIVES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

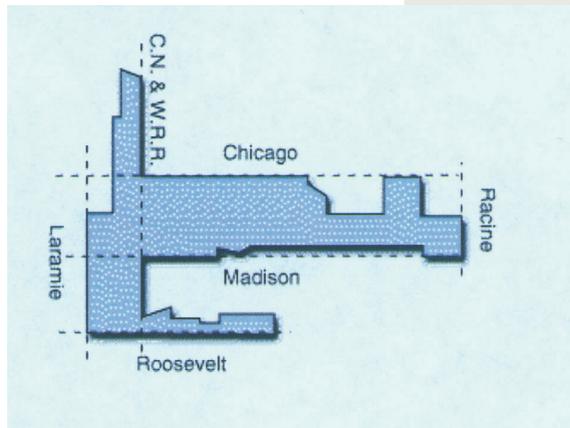
Previous planning studies have indicated that the adjacent Garfield Park neighborhoods should continue to be developed as a residential community with retail corridors and institutions to serve the residents.

- New residential housing has recently been developed adjacent to the west boundary of the park. Currently, several new mixed income residential developments are being planned for the communities surrounding the park through the federal HOPE VI-grant initiative.

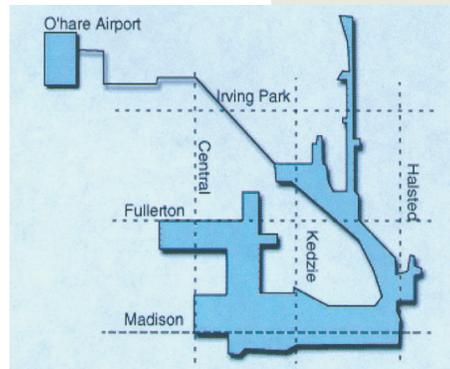
- The City of Chicago has established two (2) Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) districts within specially-designated geographic boundaries south of Garfield Park. Through these TIFs, the City of Chicago can offer financial incentives to stimulate economic activity and revitalize business corridors around Garfield Park. *The Roosevelt-Homan TIF* lies in an area bound by Fillmore at the north, Roosevelt at the south, Central Park at the west and Troy at the east. The other, *The Homan and Arthington TIF* is bound by Polk at the north, Fillmore at the south, Kedzie at the east and Independence at the west.

- Garfield Park also falls within the West Cluster Empowerment Zone and Chicago's Enterprise Zone 4. These federally funded programs offer financial incentives to business owners to stimulate growth.

- As new stores and restaurants open, visitors to Garfield Park will be drawn to support local businesses.



Empowerment Zone Surrounding Garfield Park



Enterprise Zone Surrounding Garfield Park

PARK CHARACTER

Recommendations

CHARACTER RECOMMENDATIONS

The overall character of Garfield Park will be improved by the consistent planning, design, and development guidelines recommended in this document. Recommendations must consider the character of the park and be sensitive to the landscape, architectural and cultural history of the park and its current and future users. The following recommendations outline specific improvements that would benefit the character of the entire park.



View of Lagoon and Swan House taken in 1908



Conservatory approach from Fulton

VIEWS AND VISTAS

Garfield Park's special landscape and architectural features should be empathized and visually linked throughout the park. This can be implemented by:

- Landscape Design including opening up vistas, the creation of land forms, the selection and maintenance of plant materials and, the location of landscape materials in relation to the landscape or building features.
- Providing accent lighting.
- Creating an appropriate approach to the feature whether by foot or car.

- Creating vistas into the park at neighborhood entries.
- Developing a sign program to strengthen the sense of place.

OPEN SPACE

Many of the views and vistas discussed above are created by the open space throughout the park.

- Provide protection of open space, being careful not to over-program. The open space in the park provides a relief from urban life.

PASSIVE SPACE

Strengthen the passive space areas throughout the park by improving the landscape plantings and features including:

- Enhancing park landscaping by increasing the density and variety of plantings.
- Improving the lagoon edge.
- Adding site and accent lighting.
- Including educational elements to explain the historic, cultural and ecological interpretation of the park.
- Providing additional benches.

ACTIVE SPACE

Strengthen the active space areas throughout the park by:

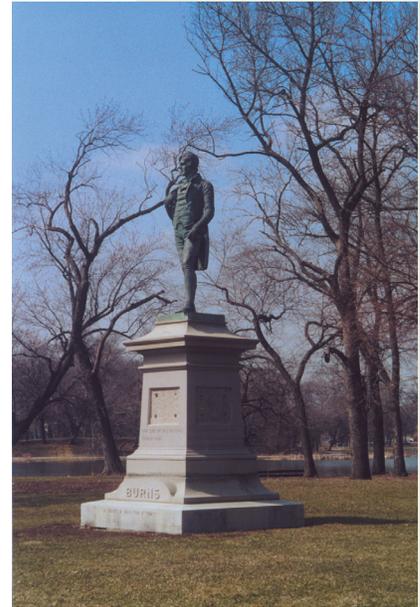
- Continuing communication with the community and park user to understand the changing active recreational programmatic needs.
- Adding site and accent lighting.
- Enhancing park landscaping to define active areas and connect visually to adjacent facilities and features.
- Improving the Bandstand area to become an active, programmed park feature.

LANDSCAPE

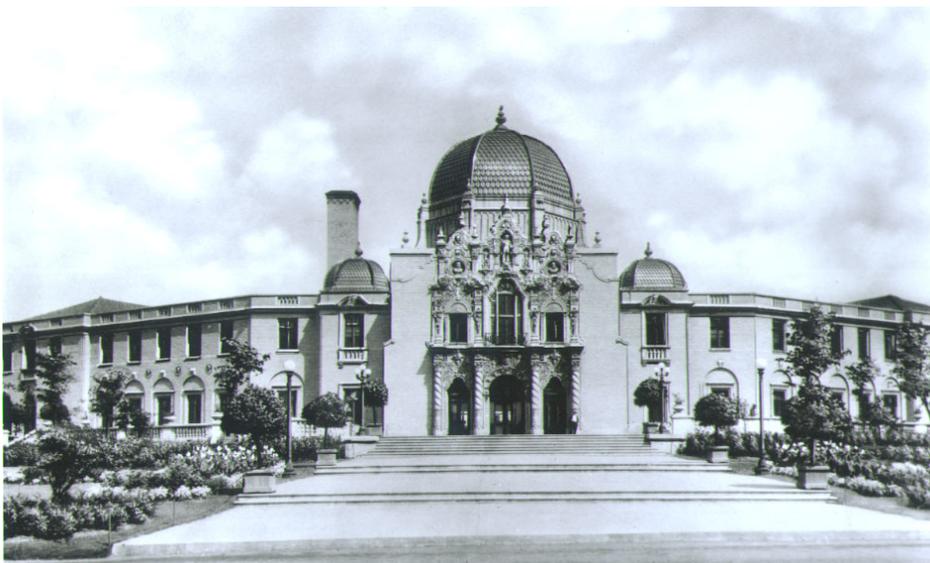
The landscape character should reinforce the uses (passive, active, open space) of the park as defined in the Landscape and Ecology Recommendation section of this report.

ARCHITECTURE

The buildings throughout the park provide a strong architectural character and context. Recommendations for the buildings and their adjacent landscape and site features are defined in the Architectural Recommendations section of this report.



Robert Burns Statue



Historic "Gold Dome" with gardens

PARK CHARACTER

Recommendations

SITE CHARACTER RECOMMENDATIONS GOAL:

To attain a sense of place throughout the park, providing a consistency of design and treatment while allowing for a variety of experiences.

NOISE AND TRAFFIC

Although the CTA El station physically divides the park and creates tremendous noise, it is a major transportation link within the City of Chicago and the region as a whole. Celebrate and partner with the CTA. Publicize direct CTA access to the park from the entire region. Encourage visitors to see and use the entire park by advertising on the CTA trains.

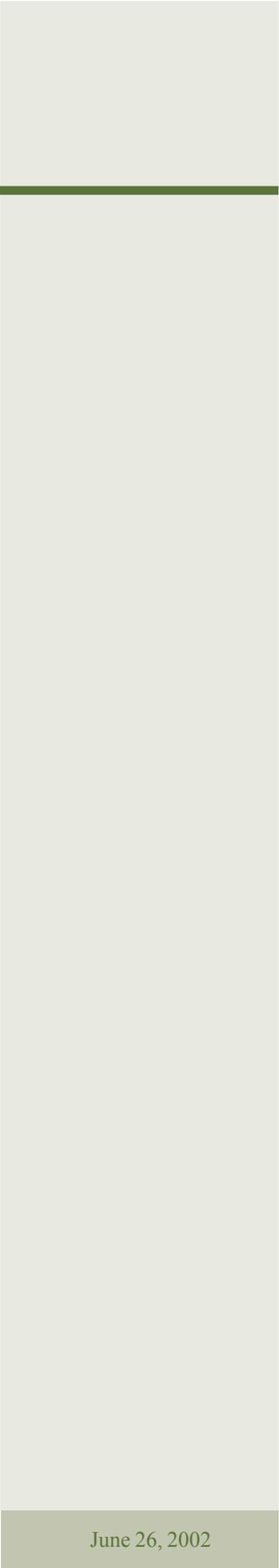
Vehicular traffic and pedestrian circulation recommendations which affect the park's character are defined in the Circulation Recommendation section of this report.

PARK UNITY

To provide a consistent character throughout Garfield Park, its vast array of amenities and uses must be joined together. The primary destinations, the Field House, Conservatory, Bandstand, Lagoon and Athletic Fields must be joined by path connections, and by views and overlapping uses. These elements can be highlighted with lighting, signage and through a language of similar site furnishings. When events are planned at one destination in the park, complimentary activities can be promoted and run simultaneously at other locations within Garfield Park.



New CTA Green Line Station on Lake Street



LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGY

Inventory & Analysis

HISTORY AND RECENT IMPROVEMENTS



Existing Tree and Lawn Character



Historic Formal Gardens



Monet Garden

As discussed in the History Section later in this report, a number of designers contributed to Garfield Park's planting design. William Le Baron Jenney sculpted the romantic landscape at the east end of the park. Another designer, Oscar Dubuis, began emphasizing native vegetation in the park's plant scheme. Finally, Jens Jensen celebrated the openness of the Midwestern prairie by surrounding the park's open lawn areas with masses of native deciduous shade trees accented by understory ornamental trees and shrubs. It was Jensen who also introduced Victorian Gardens in key gathering areas of Garfield Park.

The present day park appears as a combination of the different

designers' visions, with sections of Garfield Park devoted to the three different landscape design styles:

- **Romantic picturesque**
- **Midwestern Prairie style**
- **Victorian formal garden.**

- Over the years, the historic intent of open lawn areas framed by masses of deciduous shade and ornamental trees have been diminished by removals and random replanting.

- Understory shrub planting, which once gave the park its original lush appearance, has been removed, diminishing the variety of views and enclosure of the lawn spaces.

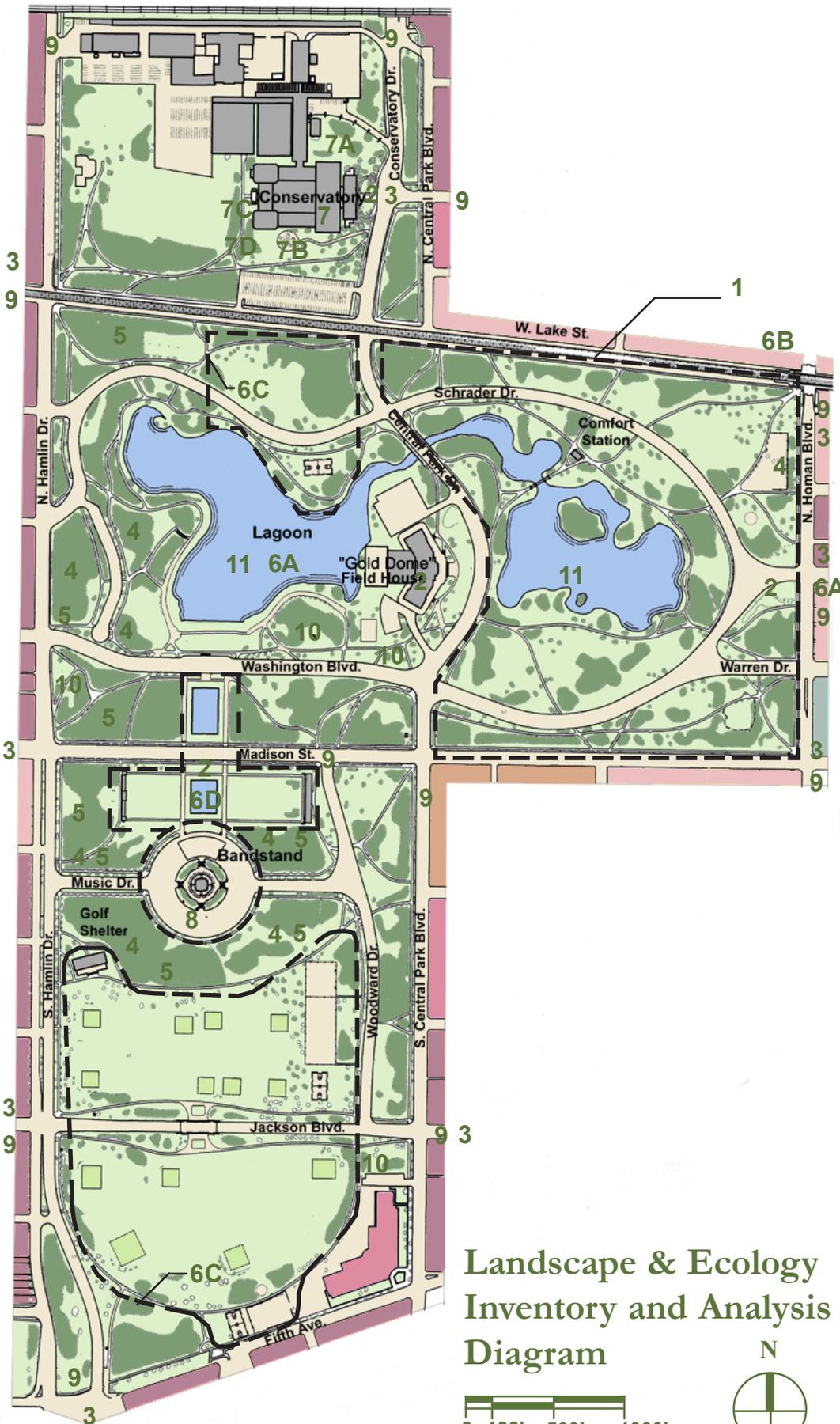
- The current landscape character and the lagoon, which is a major landmark and major contributing factor to the landscape, are degraded by neglect, damage, and litter.



Historic Lagoon Edge Character

Legend

1. Historic romantic landscape
2. Historic garden locations
3. Boulevard opportunities
4. Areas of dense tree canopy.
5. Lawn areas significantly thinned by shading
6. Existing landscape treatments
 - A - Natural
 - B - Romantic
 - C - Recreational
 - D - Formal
7. Conservatory Grounds:
 - A - Monet
 - B - Sensory
 - C - Urban Demonstration Garden
 - D - Labyrinth
8. Bandstand & Water Court gardens need improvement of scale and access
9. Park entries needing landscape improvements.
10. Existing sculpture needing better integration with landscape improvements.
11. Lagoon edges suffer from erosion and foot traffic.



Landscape & Ecology
Inventory and Analysis
Diagram



LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGY

Inventory & Analysis



Damaged Tree



Urban Demonstration Garden



Existing Bandstand Condition

- The east side of Garfield Park remains the most intact example of the 1880-1930 romantic landscape style. It represents the cumulative efforts of William Le Baron Jenney, Oscar Dubuis, and Jens Jensen.

- Victorian-era gardens and floral displays that once highlighted the Bandstand, “Gold Dome” Field House (the former Administration Building), Golf Shelter, and park entries have been removed. In recent years floral gardens have been reintroduced in the new Monet Garden, the Water Court, and a new Urban Demonstration garden by the Conservatory Alliance.

- Historically, ornamental plantings in the Victorian style existed at the following locations:

- Washington Blvd. Entry
- The “Gold Dome” Field House
- The Bandstand & Water Court.

TREE CANOPY

The existing trees in Garfield Park provide scale, shade and separation of uses within the park. The existing shade tree canopy is composed primarily of Ash, Maple, Linden and Hackberry with occasional Catalpa, Oak, Walnut and Tree of Heaven. The understory or ornamental trees are primarily Downey or Cockspur Hawthorn with a few Crabapples.

- The majority of the shade and ornamental trees are maturing and exhibiting dead wood. An ongoing tree evaluation, pruning, removal and replacement program for the park is needed.

- The first step of this program, the creation of a tree inventory which indicates species, size and condition has been completed. This inventory should be consulted when determining tree replacements.

- Many of the trees in the park suffer from trunk damage or are misshaped affecting their health. Much of the damage can be attributed to close trimming and charcoal dumping at the base of the trees.

TOPOGRAPHY

Garfield Park’s original designers sculpted the land to slope toward the lagoon, and otherwise left the natural flatness as the predominant landform.

- The gently rolling hills located near the lagoon and the Bandstand, create interest and variety. Although the ground rises at most ten feet, the change suffices to increase interest in the user’s experience. The hills, or mounds, break the park spaces into smaller areas. The hills surrounding the Bandstand open up in front of the Water Court, suggesting a progression of movement from one space to the next. The

topography also aids in minimizing vehicular noise, as is the case at Jackson Boulevard.

LAWN

The lawn on the athletic fields is kept in good condition, but lawns suffer from compaction, shading, and vehicle damage in other areas of the park. Visible tire treads show that vehicles are passing on the parkway, damaging the grass. Specifically, this occurs along the heavy-traffic volume commercial streets such as Lake, Homan and Madison.

- The existing dense tree canopy has shaded and thinned the lawn in many areas.

ECOSYSTEMS AND HABITAT

In addition to extensive planting, animals in the park provide for an added layer of interest. The park is home to a number of varying wildlife species, including the grey squirrel, rock dove, canada goose, mallard, redwing blackbird, common grackle, eastern starling, barn swallow, rough-winged swallow, and killdeer. A number of other species visit the park, including the red-breasted merganser, american coot, wood duck, ring-necked ducks, grebes, swallows, phoebes, and sparrows. Historically viewed as a wetland habitat for wildlife, the lagoon plays a large role in inviting birds to the park, and a majority of birds sighted in the park are water fowl. The lagoon also attracts a number of human visitors. Fishing along the lagoon edges is a popular pastime.



Shaded Lawn



Lawn Damage along the Hamlin/Lake intersection



Canada Geese



Lagoon Island

LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGY

Inventory & Analysis

LAGOON



Lagoon Edge Treatment



Lagoon Edge Erosion

- The reeds and cattails along the edge of the lagoon and many of the existing trees provide birds with food and shelter. These plantings should be enhanced with additional native species.

- The park's landscape of trees and lawn provides limited shelter, which in turn limits the number of small mammals within the park.

- The lagoon's two small islands provide birds with sanctuaries within the park. The birds nesting on these islands are close enough to the shore to allow people to view them, yet removed enough to discourage human visitors. The islands are in need of restoration to thin understory and invasive plantings.

- As part of Lake Michigan's bird migratory path, Garfield Park has an opportunity to become a destination for migrating birds if food and habitat are provided.

- The lagoon edge has a number of different treatments, including lawn, shrubs and trees, and reeds, rushes, and cattails that creep into the lagoon. The lawn edges are easier to keep free from trash than the edges with unmown grass and other plantings, which tend to look overgrown. The lawn edges also allow easy

access for fishers, but overuse of the edges has caused erosion, and repeated foot traffic has created muddy strips along the lagoon edge.

- The fountain in the eastern portion of the lagoon aids in the circulation of the water and discourages algae growth. However, many areas of the lagoon are not well aerated, resulting in algae growth.

- The lagoon has only one overflow discharge, located on the north shore of the east lagoon. Erosion damage and reports of flooding in the gymnasium on the lagoon shore, indicate that this single overflow may not be adequate for the lagoon maintenance.

- As a watershed for surrounding roads and parkland, the purity of the lagoon faces certain threats, including receiving sedimentation from the plantings and receiving salt, oil, and gasoline runoff from the roads and particularly the parking at the "Gold Dome" Field House. The purity of the lagoon should continue to be monitored as part of an ongoing maintenance program.

BOULEVARDS & STREET PLANTING

Garfield Park's location along the planted boulevards of Hamlin and Central Park are assets that tie the park to the neighborhood. In addition, many east-west directional streets lead directly to strong views of the park including the "Gold Dome" at the terminus of Washington Boulevard, and the Conservatory at the terminus of West Fulton Boulevard.

- Although a limited amount of street tree planting currently exists along Hamlin and Central Park, the street planting does not indicate the significance of Garfield Park as a destination on the boulevard system.
- Limited street tree planting exists on the east to west streets such as Lake, Washington, Madison and Jackson which

terminate at, or pass through Garfield Park. These streets provide an opportunity to expand the planting character of the park into the neighborhood.

- The residents around the park have expressed an interest in developing a streetscape planting to define the community of Garfield Park.

LANDSCAPE TREATMENTS

Existing landscape treatments in the park can be categorized under broad headings:

Natural - riparian lagoon edge

Romantic- slightly rolling hills, expanses of open lawn surrounded by large deciduous trees

Recreational- designated baseball fields

Formal garden- perennial and annual beds around the Water Court, gardens near the Conservatory.



Parkway along Hamlin Drive



Water Court Garden

ARCHITECTURE

Building Inventory and Analysis



Decorative terra cotta entrance



South elevation of the Field House

“GOLD DOME” FIELD HOUSE

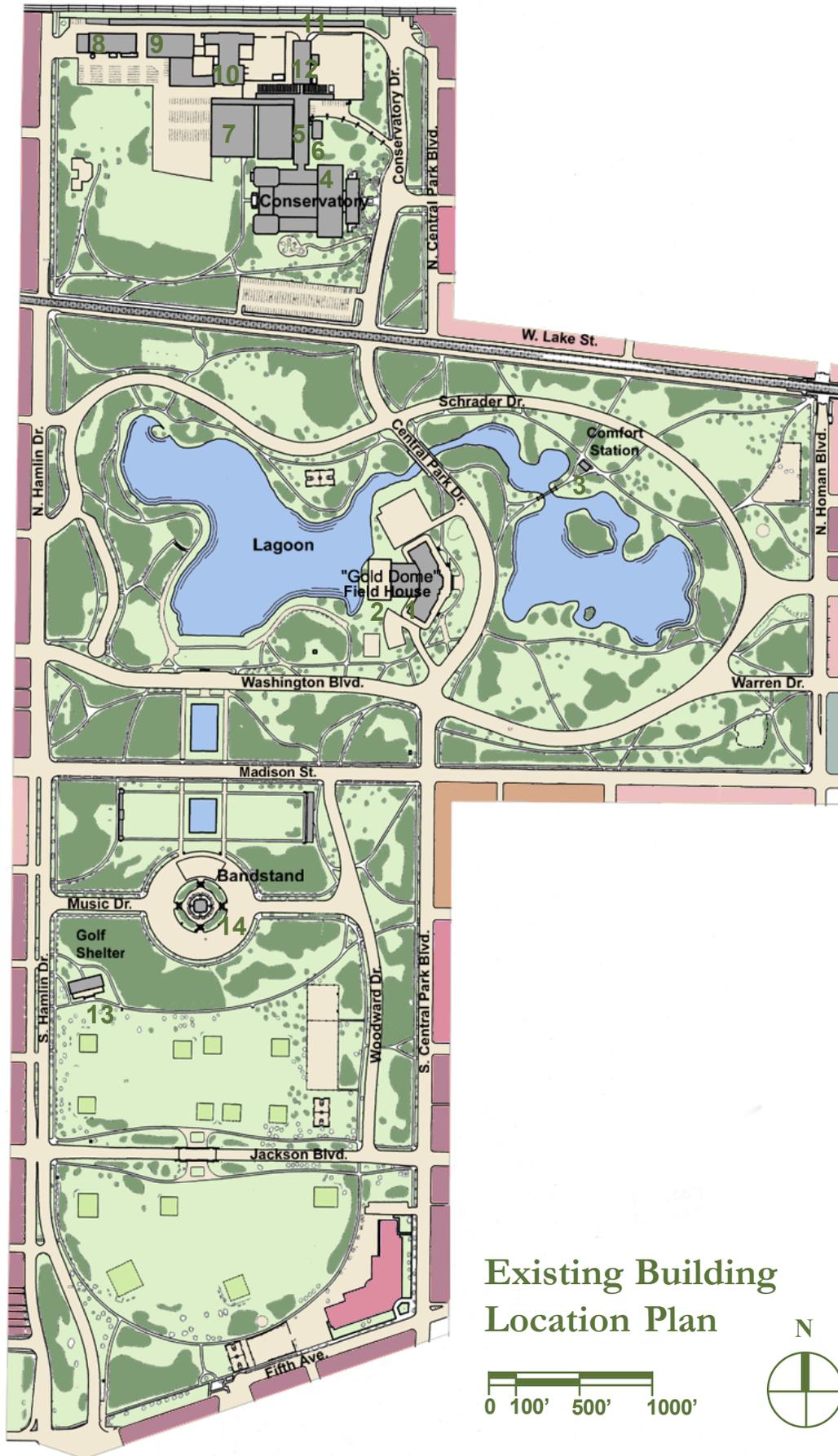
Located on Central Park Drive, between Lake and Washington Streets is the Garfield Park Field House known as the “Gold Dome”. This building was built in 1928 originally as the headquarters for the West Chicago Park Commission. It was designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style by Michaelsen and Rognstad, who designed several buildings within the park during this time period. The building is a focal point in Garfield Park due in part to its prominent gold-leafed octagonal dome, its elaborately detailed terra cotta entrance and its buff brick exterior in a Flemish bond pattern.

Today, the building serves as a Field House and community center. Additionally, it contains the Chicago Park District Central Region office, the Peace Museum and the Park Kids Program.

- The building is generally in good condition, but some areas are in need of maintenance and/or repair.
- The lower level is reported to have water damage, poor ventilation and outdated electrical systems.
- The rotunda area is reported to experience water entry under the doors at the terrace level.
- There is a large amount of unused space within the Field House which could be utilized for additional programming needs.
- The building does not currently meet the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Phone and computer service should be monitored as programming continues to grow.



Main elevation of the Field House



Legend

1. "Gold Dome" Field House
2. Gymnasium Addition
3. Comfort Station
4. Conservatory
5. Horticulture Hall
6. Conservatory Administration Building
7. Propagating Houses
8. Powerhouse
9. Warehouse and Shop Building
10. Stable Building
11. Shed Structure
12. Office Building
13. Golf Shelter
14. Bandstand

Existing Building Location Plan



ARCHITECTURE

Building Inventory and Analysis



Field House gymnasium addition



View from the Field House rotunda

- Public input indicated that the community would like to see the facility repaired and additional programming developed. Some suggestions included additional after school activities, senior programs, a library, a wood shop, an outdoor recreation space and relocating the boxing program to the lower level.

FIELD HOUSE GYMNASIUM

In 1983, an addition was built on the rear of the “Gold Dome” Field House, adjacent to the lagoon, to house a gymnasium. An outdoor pool was included as part of this project. This gym is heavily used by numerous basketball leagues and a popular late night basketball program.

- An attempt was made to architecturally blend the addition with the “Gold Dome” Field House through exterior material selection. The exterior of the addition is stucco, which is a material on the lower level of the “Gold Dome” Field House. The stucco color of the addition does not match the Field House. A soldier course of buff brick is carried around the perimeter of the addition at the height of the Field House terrace deck, where its exterior material changes from the stucco to buff brick.
- The size and massing of the addition has blocked views out

to the lagoon from the “Gold Dome” rotunda. The current view is of the rooftop of the addition.

- The building has continuing water infiltration problems due to its close proximity to the lagoon and lack of a backup sump system. The gym floor has been replaced four times since 1984 due to water damage.

BANDSTAND

Located in the middle of Music Court Drive between Hamlin Avenue and Central Park Drive is the Bandstand. It was designed by Joseph L. Silsbee and built in 1896. Its unique copper-clad octagonal dome sits on eight columns defining the terrace space where musicians performed for outdoor concerts. Below the terrace, at ground level, is the marble base of the structure that originally housed a dressing room, tool room and storage. The top perimeter of the marble base is inlaid with square panels of decorative mosaic tiles which, can also be seen in the arches above the doorways. The Bandstand is currently not used and its windows and doors at its base are boarded up.

- In 1926 a concrete platform was added over a portion of the paved drive for dancing but it was removed ten years later.

- The building exterior is currently in fair condition and requires maintenance and repair.

- The building needs to be reviewed for compliance to current codes before it is reactivated for use.

GOLF SHELTER

Located southwest of the Bandstand, adjacent to Hamlin Avenue is the Golf Shelter. Built in 1907, it is a Prairie style stucco building with a low hipped roof that overhangs an open central terrace which is flanked on both sides by enclosed spaces. It originally functioned to serve a golf course which opened in 1908. Currently, the west half of the building has functioning restrooms, which are only open when staffed by the Park District. The east half of the building is currently being used for storage.



Golf Shelter



The Bandstand is located within Music Court Drive



View of the Bandstand terrace and decorative dome



Bandstand marble base with mosaic tiles

ARCHITECTURE

Building Inventory and Analysis



Comfort station

- The exterior of the building is generally in good condition and the restrooms have recently been renovated. The east half of the building would require review for compliance to current codes should another function replace the storage use.

COMFORT STATION

The comfort station is located on the east side of Central Park Drive, adjacent to the east lagoon. Built approximately in 1907, it is a brick structure with a distinctive overhanging hipped roof. It is currently not in use and is boarded up.

- In order for the building to be used, maintenance and repairs are required and it must be brought into compliance with current codes.



Conservatory with Palm House beyond

- The public input process indicated that the community desires additional secure and clean restrooms within the park.

CONSERVATORY

The Garfield Park Conservatory is one of the most prominent buildings in Garfield Park. It was built in 1907 by a design team consisting of Hitchings & Co., from New York, specializing in the design of greenhouses and conservatories, and the Chicago based architectural firm of Schmidt, Garden & Martin. Jens Jensen, the West Chicago Park Commission's General Superintendent and Chief Landscape Architect provided the design concept and input for the building and was responsible for the design of the interior walks and plantings.



Conservatory interior: Fern Room

The Conservatory is comprised of eight rooms or houses; the Palm House, the Fern Room, the Aroid House, the Show House, the Desert House, the Children's Garden and the Sweet House. Horticulture Hall, which will be discussed later, was the last house to be added in 1927. From the exterior of the building, each separate roof form encloses each landscape room. These glass and steel roof forms were designed to resemble a series of hay mounds that were commonly seen throughout the fields in the Midwest landscape. The glass and steel forms rise from a low concrete foundation wall, about four feet above grade, that was originally thought to be finished with a decorative exposed aggregate stucco. Operable awning windows around the building's perimeter allow for ventilation.

- In 1995 the Chicago Park District hired Eifler & Associates to analyze the Conservatory. They produced the Long Range Plan for Garfield Park Conservatory. This plan included the Conservatory's history, an assessment of the existing conditions, an energy analysis and, programming and rehabilitation recommendations.

- In 1998 Booth Hansen Associates created the Garfield Park North Campus Framework Plan for the Chicago Park District. The scope of the Framework Plan extended from Lake Street on the south to the northern boundary of the park between Central Park Avenue

and Hamlin Avenue. The Plan focuses on the future organization of the Conservatory Campus including the creation of open vistas to the Conservatory and Horticulture Hall and the creation of new landscape and gardens.

- A new east entry addition was built in 1998 and designed by Booth Hansen Associates. It replaced the "modern", non-historic entry vestibule that was built in 1957 to 1958, when the original entry was demolished. The new entry vestibule houses public restrooms, a coat check and meeting rooms.

- A project is underway to reconstruct the roof of the Palm House, the eastern most room of the Conservatory. New glazing will replace the non-historic fiberglass sheathing that was added when it was reconstructed in 1957 to 1958. The fiberglass sheathing is not only non-historic, but also has problems transmitting light and has been re-sheathed twice since it was added. Construction of this project is scheduled to start in 2003.

- A recent project has converted the coat check room in the east entry addition to an information booth where master gardeners offer advice and information on various plants.

- An attached brick structure at the northwest corner of the Conservatory, off of the Aroid



Conservatory "Haystack" roofs



Conservatory awning windows

ARCHITECTURE

Building Inventory and Analysis



West entry to Conservatory
gray structure in foreground,
brick structure in background



1998 entry addition



Horticulture Hall



Conservatory Administration Building

House, is an Electrical Substation that serves the Conservatory. According to the Long Range Plan by Eifler & Associates, the building contains live-front high voltage equipment that does not meet current code. It is an appendage to the Conservatory with its exterior of reddish-brown brick that not only obstructs exterior views to the Aroid House, but destroyed the original fabric of the building when it was constructed.

Awning windows were removed from the west end of the Aroid house in order to accommodate this new structure and the same reddish-brown brick was used to infill those windows.

- The gray structure at the west end of the Conservatory originally was an entrance vestibule that was flanked on either side by a men's and women's restroom. The restrooms have since gone into disrepair and the structure now houses the upgraded heating system for the Conservatory. The exterior of this building is in need of restoration, with its faded and failing gray stucco. However, this exterior material is consistent with that of the base of the main Conservatory structure. The structure is not used as a public entrance, and if it is to be used once again for this function, its present state will not contribute to a sense of arrival to such a prominent building as the Conservatory.

HORTICULTURE HALL

Attached to the north side of the Conservatory is Horticulture Hall which opened between 1927-28. It was designed by the firm of Michaelsen & Rognstad, who designed several other buildings within Garfield Park. Its function is to house temporary displays. The building is currently in good condition.

- The building was renovated in 1999 by Eifler & Associates. The entire roof structure was redesigned to replace the non-historic fiberglass sheathing that was added in 1963. The new roof is no longer completely glazed.

CONSERVATORY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

The Conservatory Administration Building is linked to Horticulture Hall on its north elevation. It was built in 1939 and houses offices for the Conservatory directors and staff.

- Its box shape, low-sloped roof with parapet walls and buff-colored glazed brick exterior does not work contextually with any of the architectural features of the Conservatory or Horticulture Hall.

- The building obstructs the exterior views of Horticulture Hall from Conservatory Drive.

- Issues expressed by the park staff that should be examined include, water entering the men's restroom, leaking windows, poor heating and wiring.

PROPAGATING HOUSES

Situated directly to the west of Horticulture Hall are the propagating houses where plants are cultivated. There have been numerous Propagating Houses built and replaced over the years.

- The Propagating Houses are in poor condition, especially the existing exterior glazing.
- The ventilation, heating, propagating racks, and watering systems are outdated, but functioning.
- The 1998 Booth Hansen North Campus Framework Plan shows the Propagating Houses relocated to the north of Horticulture Hall.

POWERHOUSE

The Powerhouse is located in the Central Region Service Yards off of Hamlin Avenue. It was built in 1896 and designed by Joseph L. Silsbee. This brick structure has a steep-sloped gable roof of clay tiles and Flemish Revival style stepped gable dormers. It still functions to serve power to Garfield Park, Douglas Park and Humboldt Park.

- The exterior of the building is in fair condition and requires maintenance and repair.

WAREHOUSE & SHOP BUILDING

Located in the Central Region Service Yards, west of the Stable Building, is the Warehouse and Shop Building. It was built in 1928 and designed by Michaelson and Rognstad in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. It is a three story building with a buff-colored brick and terra cotta exterior. Not much has changed on the building over the years. It currently functions as the regional maintenance garage and storage facility.

- The building is currently in fair condition and requires maintenance and repair.
- The building needs to be reviewed for compliance to current codes should its function change.
- The possibility of the regional offices and shops relocating out of Garfield Park was discussed during the public input process. If the regional maintenance should move to a different location, the community would like the facility reused for programs such as an education center, restaurant, farmer's market or artist's studios. They would like programs that could offer employment for people within the surrounding communities.



Propagating Houses



Powerhouse



Warehouse and Shop building

ARCHITECTURE

Building Inventory and Analysis



Stable Building functions as a garage

STABLE BUILDING

Located in the Central Region Service Yards, north of the Conservatory, is the Stable Building. Designed by William Le Baron Jenney and built in 1890, this building is architecturally significant to Garfield Park. It is a brick building with a steep-sloped roof topped with two cupolas. Numerous additions that were built prior to 1940 surround the original building and block its visibility from the north and west. It currently functions as the regional maintenance garage and storage facility.

- The building currently is in fair condition and requires maintenance and repair.
- The building needs to be reviewed for compliance to current codes should its function change.

- The 1998 Booth Hansen North Campus Framework Plan recommends that the storage additions on the west side and one small addition on the east side of the Stable Building be removed.
- The possibility of the Central Region service shops relocating out of Garfield Park was discussed during the public input process. If they should move to a different location, the community would like the facility to be reused for programs that could offer employment for people within the surrounding communities such as an education center or restaurant.



Stable Building, south elevation

SHED STRUCTURE

The shed structure stretches almost the entire block of the Conservatory grounds on its north border at the Central Region Service Yards. It was built in 1906 and its modest design of a singular brick structure with intermediate support walls and a low slope roof served its purpose for its original function, to park wagons.

- In 1912 its function changed to workshops.
- In 1923 wood doors were added to the south elevation to enclose the structure.
- The roof systems were recently replaced.
- The structure is in fair condition and requires maintenance and repair.
- The structure needs to be reviewed for compliance to current codes should its function change.
- As discussed under the Stable Building, if the Central Region service shops should move to a different location, this facility could also be used for programs that could offer employment for people within the surrounding communities such as a farmer's market or artist's studios.

NORTH BUILDING

There is a building just north of Horticulture Hall that houses staff offices and a break room. This former garage also contains storage, coolers, and a boiler room. It is a nondescript, concrete masonry unit structure with a low-sloped roof. The multi-functional building is currently in good condition.

- The 1998 Booth Hansen North Campus Framework Plan shows this building being removed to accommodate the relocated propagating houses.



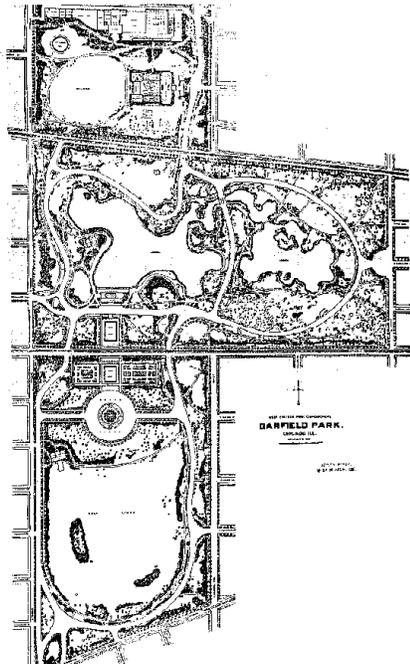
Shed structure



North Building for Conservatory staff

CIRCULATION

Inventory and Analysis



1912 Plan



New wheelchair-accessible El Station

EXISTING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Garfield Park was planned in 1871, when foot and horse traffic were the dominant modes of transportation. A 6.1-mile pedestrian loop path system led to popular activities of the time, such as gardens, lagoons, and recreational fields. In its early years, Garfield Park had a conscious separation of pedestrian and other traffic.

The transportation infrastructure and means of access have undergone modifications throughout the park's 120-year history. In the 21st Century, the automobile evolved as the dominant mode of transportation. Roads through Garfield Park were redesigned to move high volumes of automobile traffic as quickly as possible. However, the automobile infrastructure has now become an impediment to pedestrian access and circulation throughout the park.

- Traffic volumes have grown such that arterial streets such as Washington Boulevard (which was originally an internal park roadway), Madison, Central Park, and Jackson Boulevard move high volumes of cars during peak traffic periods. They serve to divide the park and hinder movement inside the park via walking or bicycling.

- Internal streets, such as Woodward, McCrea, Music Court, and Schrader were once promenades, but now function primarily for parking and accessing recreational activities.

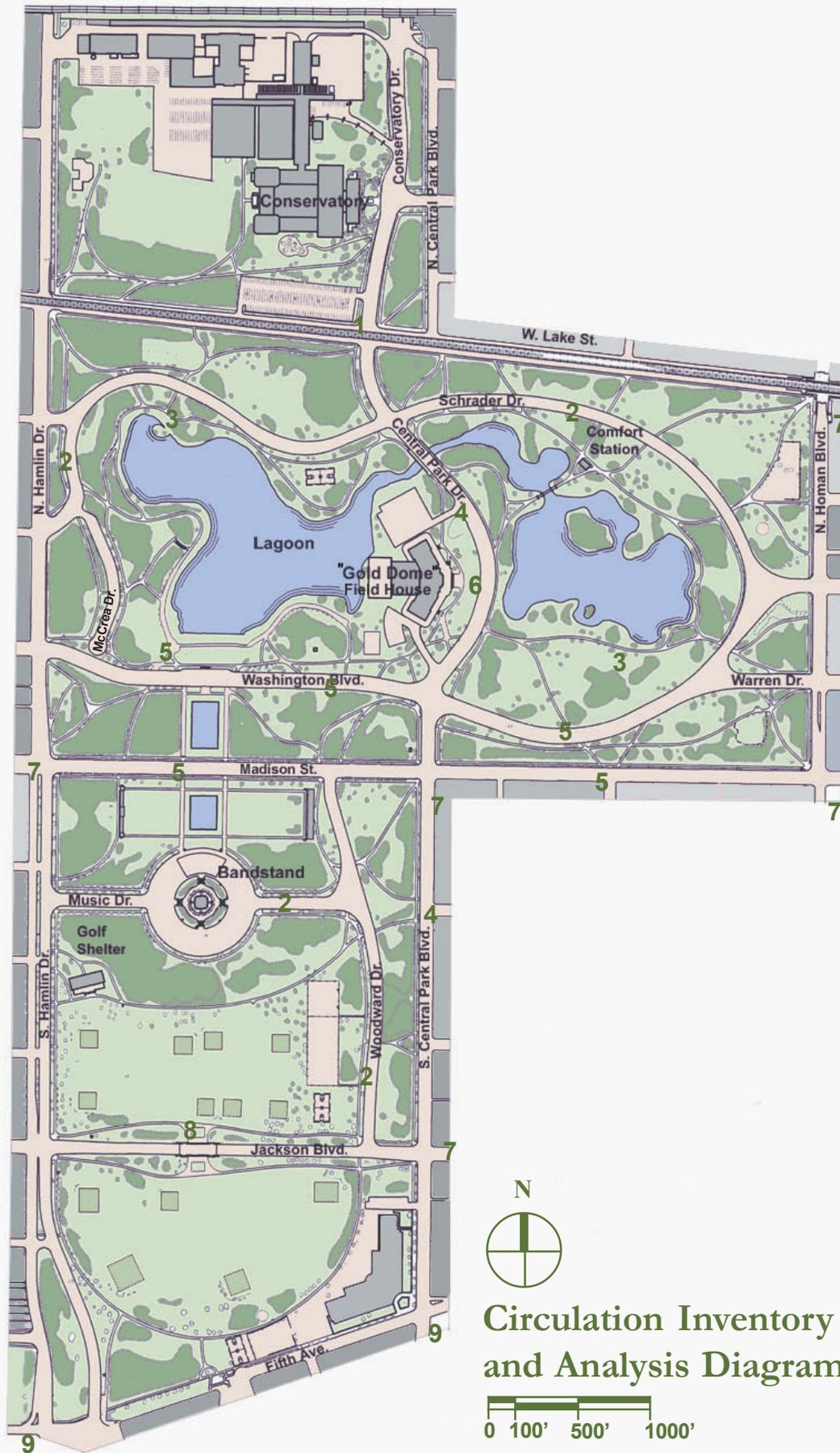
- Garfield Park is served by public transportation via a new El station at Central Park and Lake Street, which opened in August 2001. CTA buses serve the park's perimeter with access until midnight on the Homan line (north/south) and the Jackson line (east/west). 24 hour bus access is provided by the Madison line running East to West.

CONTEXT OF CIRCULATION SYSTEM

The predominate direction of travel for automobiles is east west movements – to and from downtown Chicago and the western suburbs. Hence, the majority of traffic passes through the park during peak travel times on Jackson, Madison, and Washington.

- The arterial streets, such as Madison, Jackson, Central Park, and Washington, are four-lane undivided roads that offer few park-like qualities.

- Few signs direct drivers to park destinations. The arterial streets' primary objective is to move people through the park, not into its destinations.



CIRCULATION

Inventory and Analysis



Washington Boulevard at the entrance to the park (looking east). Note the wide expanse of pavement and uncontrolled traffic movements.

- These roads are relatively wide and offer interruptions only at Central Park to slow automobile drivers down.
- Bike lanes and bike routes along the boulevard system lead to the Field House and connect to other regional parks.
- Approximately one block south of the park lies the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290). There are entrance and exit ramps at Hamlin / Independence Boulevard and east of Homan which guide visitors toward the park, but additional signage is needed to direct motorists to park destinations after leaving the interstate.

STREET SYSTEM

Garfield Park is divided into four sections by the following east-west thoroughfares:

- **Lake Street**
- **Washington Boulevard**
- **Madison Street**
- **Jackson Boulevard.**

- Washington and Warren Boulevards, one-way paired streets east of the park, once functioned as the major east-west arterials from the Loop to the western suburbs before the development of the expressway.

- Washington and Madison run nearly side-by-side for the length of the park. Each

roadway contains four lanes of traffic. Both of these streets have traffic delays at Hamlin because of the commercial center located to the west, and because Washington and Madison are reduced from two to four lanes.

- Lake Street & the Green Line El act as a visual and physical barrier, causing the Conservatory to ‘feel’ disconnected from the remainder of Garfield Park.

- Jackson Boulevard provides less of a barrier than the other east-west streets. An underpass connects the baseball / softball playing fields on either side of the roadway.

There are three north-south streets serving the park:

- **Homan Blvd.**
- **Hamlin Dr.**
- **Central Park Blvd.**

- Central Park forms a portion of the east border of the park (south of Madison) and bisects the lagoon. Central Park was once an internal street and now is an indirect access point for the expressway.

- Homan forms the eastern boundary of the Park north of Madison. It provides limited access to the Eisenhower Expressway.

- The park’s internal streets are Schrader, Music Court, Woodward and McCrea. These streets are configured to deter

through traffic, although some traffic uses internal streets such as Schrader and McCrea to avoid the intersection of Washington and Hamlin.

- On-street parking is permitted (but not marked) on both sides of all internal streets, even at points of pedestrian path crossings. This can create poor site lines and conflict.
- The pavement condition of these streets is generally quite deteriorated and curbs are crumbling or low (they appear low as a result of many layers of asphalt from street resurfacings). This has affected the streets' ability to properly drain. Drainage is a particular problem in the Music Court.
- The low curbs do not act as barriers to prevent autos from parking on the grass or driving to fishing locations. A common parking practice is to pull the right wheels over the curb and park the right half of the vehicle on the grass (despite the wide internal street width). Because the drainage is so poor, storm water accumulates behind the curb and the errant parking causes significant rutting behind the curb.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The park is served by the CTA El trains. The Green Line El station at Central Park is new and accessible to people with disabilities, and centrally

located between the Conservatory and the Field House. The Blue Line El runs in the median of the Eisenhower Expressway, and stops at Kedzie and Pulaski, both several blocks east and west.

- Buses link the park from all four compass directions, and bus stops are marked on way finding maps.
- Two bus routes pass through the park on east-west routes. Route 20 travels on Madison Street between Michigan and Austin, providing service at all hours. There are bus stops at Homan, Central Park, and Hamlin.
- Route 126 travels on Jackson Boulevard between Jackson from Michigan to Austin, providing service until midnight.
- Route 82 travels on Homan / Kimball with stops at Madison, Jackson, and Lake Street. The route travels between 31st and Lawndale to Kedzie and Devon, with service until midnight,



On-street Parking on Woodward. Parking is permitted on both sides of the street.



Underpass under Jackson Boulevard. Connecting walking paths and playing fields.

CIRCULATION

Inventory and Analysis

connecting with El trains on the Brown Line and Blue Line.

A METRA commuter train service has a stop at Kedzie, between Carroll and Franklin. The station is located approximately four blocks northeast of Garfield Park.

- Southwest lagoon area (dirt and deteriorated path)
- Washington, between Central Park & Hamlin (dead end sidewalks)
- Hamlin, between Washington & Lake (narrow sidewalks, no setback, misaligned curb cuts, obstructions).



Existing Asphalt Path Condition



Intersection of Central Park and Madison. Wide streets with turn lanes facilitate flow of traffic through the park.

PEDESTRIAN PATHS & SIDEWALKS

The pedestrian circulatory system consists of two different types of paths: sidewalks that parallel streets, and internal walking paths.

The sidewalks are generally a continuation from sidewalks in adjacent neighborhoods. Internal paths lead from sidewalks and offer passive recreation and meandering courses to internal park destinations such as the Bandstand, play lots, or playing fields.

- There are many areas where sidewalks are in poor conditions and have obstacles such as manholes, drains, poles, or no setback from the street. Sidewalks are constructed with concrete.
- Internal paths are generally constructed of asphalt and are in poorer condition than sidewalks.
- Areas of special concern include:
 - Homan & Lake (deteriorated sidewalks)

PEDESTRIAN INTERSECTIONS & STREET CROSSINGS

Locations where pedestrians typically cross streets in Garfield Park are classified by location into three distinct categories: internal streets, arterial street, and mid-block crossings. The conditions within these classifications are generally similar and described below.

- Internal streets: Very few internal streets have curbcuts and / or crosswalks. Schrader, McCrea, Woodward, and Music Court, where sidewalks or pedestrian paths meet the sidewalks, are missing curbcuts or crosswalks. At street intersections, the streets are overly wide and there are no traffic controls or striping, making it difficult for pedestrians to cross safely.
- Arterial street crossings: Intersections generally have curb cuts and crosswalks. However, crosswalks are frequently faded and curbcuts deteriorated. Many intersections have pedestrian signals.

- Mid-block arterial crossings typically do not have curbcuts, although there is frequently a painted crosswalk. Fast moving automobiles do not yield and make crossing difficult.

- Areas of special concern include:

- Washington & Warren mid-block crossings (no curbcuts, fast moving traffic)
- Hamlin & Lake (curbcuts, sidewalk, & crosswalk all deteriorated)
- Hamlin Boulevard (no cut-through on refuge islands)
- Crossing Central Park at the Field House (cars typically double park to unload passengers and site lines are poor).

- The parking for the Field House meets this ratio, but the Conservatory does not.

- Accessible parking is not properly marked or striped at the Field House.

- There is no accessible route to the Field House. All pedestrian paths lack curb cuts.

- Wheelchair access to the Conservatory appears excellent.

- Along the perimeter of the park, most walks have curb cuts, although some are in poor condition.

- No pedestrian crossings on internal streets have curb cuts.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) set standards to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal access to public facilities. Among other standards, the ADA states that parking stalls need to be 16 feet wide – sufficient to park a car and provide wheelchair maneuverability in an access aisle. One accessible parking stall needs to be designated for every 25 parking stalls. Accessible parking should be located on the shortest path to the entrance and on an accessible route.



Pedestrian path crossing of Schrader Drive. Note the poor pavement and curb conditions.

CIRCULATION

Inventory and Analysis

BIKEWAY SYSTEMS

Chicago has developed a comprehensive system of shared-use paths, bicycle lanes, and recommended on-street routes. Included in this network is the Boulevard Bike Route, which follows the boulevard streets and passes through Garfield Park via Hamlin, Washington and Central Park. In addition, the City has designated the following roadways as bike routes:

- Within the vicinity of Garfield Park, Central Park has striped bike lanes from I-290 to Lake Street. Central Park is a designated bike route for several miles north and south of Garfield Park.
- Washington westbound is a bike route east and west of Garfield Park and Warren is a designated eastbound route east of Garfield.

According to CDOT, the City of Chicago intends to stripe bike lanes on Washington & Warren Boulevards from Michigan Avenue west to Laramie Avenue. Most of this area has three traffic lanes and two parking lanes — sufficient space to stripe bicycle lanes. However, the section of Washington through the park will be deferred until the deteriorated pavement can be adequately repaired.

BICYCLE AMENITIES

Bicycle racks allow cyclists to ride to destinations, lock their bicycle, and conduct their business or recreation. It enables bicycles to be used as a form of transportation for local errands or other trips.

- There are bike racks located at all four of the playgrounds, near the ball fields, and at the Field House.
- Bicycle racks are missing from other common destinations such as the Conservatory, Music Court and basketball courts.
- Drinking fountains are located near most playgrounds and across from the Field House and Conservatory. They are located along the recommended bicycle routes. They are adequate to serve bicyclists' needs, but if fountains are to be added, they should be located near playing fields — either centrally located to the softball fields or near basketball courts.



Curb and path leading to access ramp at the "Gold Dome" Field House. No curb cut.

WAY FINDING

The Chicago Park District is upgrading way-finding and signage in all their parks.

Garfield Park has new signs in the wheat and plum color scheme. There are five types of identified way-finding.

- **Single-post pedestrian way-finding maps.** These maps label all destinations and public transportation links. There are three of these 2' x 4' way-finding maps located on pathways near park entrances.

- **Double-post way-finding kiosks.** There are two way-finding kiosks with 4' x 4' maps mounted on two posts with bulletin boards and other information located near the intersection of Madison and Central Park and near the Conservatory. They are difficult to notice because the map faces away from pedestrian movements on nearby sidewalks.

- **Directional Arrows.** Directional arrows are located near sidewalks and paths. They have symbols or descriptions for various destinations within the park.

- **Automobile directional arrows.** Located mostly near parking lots, a single pole sign with directional arrows guides drivers to parking lots and major destinations. They are located on Hamlin near I-290, at the Field House, at the Conserva-

tory, on Woodward & Jackson, and at the east entrance to the park on Washington Boulevard. More, and larger directional signs are needed.

- **Boulevard Kiosks.** As part of a city-wide effort to recognize and promote Chicago's grand boulevard system, the city has created extensive signage identifying the historic boulevard system. This system is also part of the City's bicycle route, and interpretive way-finding kiosks are located throughout its route. There is a boulevard kiosk on Hamlin near I-290 and a second across from the Conservatory.

- There are relatively few entrance signs or directional signs for automobiles. There is signage on Washington and Homan as autos enter the park and signage directing automobiles towards parking lots. All other signage is pedestrian-oriented.



Bike lane on Central Park



Way-finding kiosk near the Conservatory



Entrance and directional way-finding at the east entrance to the park on Washington Boulevard

SITE FURNISHINGS

Inventory and Analysis



Historic "Globe" Light



Historic "Acorn" Light



Existing "Goose-neck" Light



Existing "Globe" Light on Jackson St. Pedestrian Underpass



Existing "Acorn" Light on Fluted Post



Existing "Cobra-head" Light

INTRODUCTION

Site furnishings are important to both the visual character and pedestrian experience of Garfield Park. The current palette includes very few of the original furnishings, and although recent additions such as the the new lighting at the Conservatory and Bandstand are sympathetic to the original design intent, many furnishings, such as the "cobra-head" street lights detract from the park's intended character.

LIGHTING

Historically, the most frequently used light fixture in pedestrian areas of Garfield Park was a fluted post supporting a single, or multiple glass globes. These fixtures are believed to have existed throughout the park, as evidenced by record photos of the Field House, footbridge and park paths. Variations of this fixture which included an "acorn" shaped light instead of the globe once existed near the Bandstand and Water Court.

- Lighting of vehicular areas, and possibly some pedestrian areas of the park was originally accomplished with arched "goose-neck" fixtures illuminated by a single globe.

- Much of the current lighting is sympathetic to the original designs. The existing "acorn" fixtures on black fluted posts and the black "goose-neck" fixtures near the Conservatory, Field House and Bandstand reflect the original style of the park. In addition, the "globe" fixtures with concrete posts on the Jackson Street underpass are appropriate in character.

- The existing light fixture most out of character, is the "cobra-head" light attached to either a steel or concrete post. These fixtures occur along both drives and pedestrian paths throughout the park.

BENCHES

A review of aerial surveys and historic photos indicates that the quantity of benches in Garfield Park has been significantly reduced over time. Historically, benches were densely located at gathering areas such as the Boathouse and along paths, particularly along the lagoon.

- Most of the historic benches appear to have been metal framed, with wooden slat seats and backs. In addition to these, a few Prairie style concrete benches were added to the Water Court area during Jensen's tenure at Garfield Park.
- Most of the historic benches have been replaced by a concrete framed bench with wood seats and backs, or a picnic table of similar components. These seating options do not reflect the historically intended park character, and because of their large flat surfaces, are often uncomfortable.
- In the Water Court area, the historic Prairie style concrete benches still remain, but are in need of cleaning and minor repairs.
- Overall, the quantity of benches throughout the park is sparse and should be increased.

SIGNAGE

Signage in the Chicago Park District's current wheat and plum color scheme is present at a few of the key locations such as the Field House and Conservatory.

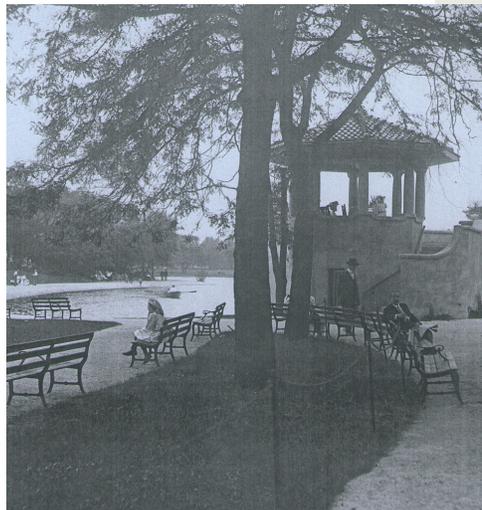
- Additional signage is needed to identify other key destinations, and to provide historical and cultural descriptions about the park.
- Although the color scheme of the signage helps to identify Garfield Park as a part of Chicago's park system, the signs and their bare steel posts supporting these signs seem out of character.
- The recent addition of banners to Garfield Park has been beneficial in unifying the park and promoting its diverse programs and amenities.



Existing Banner



Existing Bench



Historic Benches

SITE FURNISHINGS

Inventory and Analysis



Existing Signs - Wheat and Plum color scheme



Existing Ornamental Fence around Conservatory parking

FENCING

Black, ornamental metal fences are currently located in front of the Field House and around the Conservatory parking and Monet Garden. Fences are necessary for security and separation of pedestrians from vehicles in gathering areas such as playlots and the Field House entry. However, the perception felt by many is that these fenced areas are uninviting and restricted.

- Chainlink fence surrounds the Leif Ericson School parking lot, and although it is necessary for the security of the vehicles and safety of the students, it is utilitarian and visually detracting from the surrounding park.

WASTE RECEPTACLES

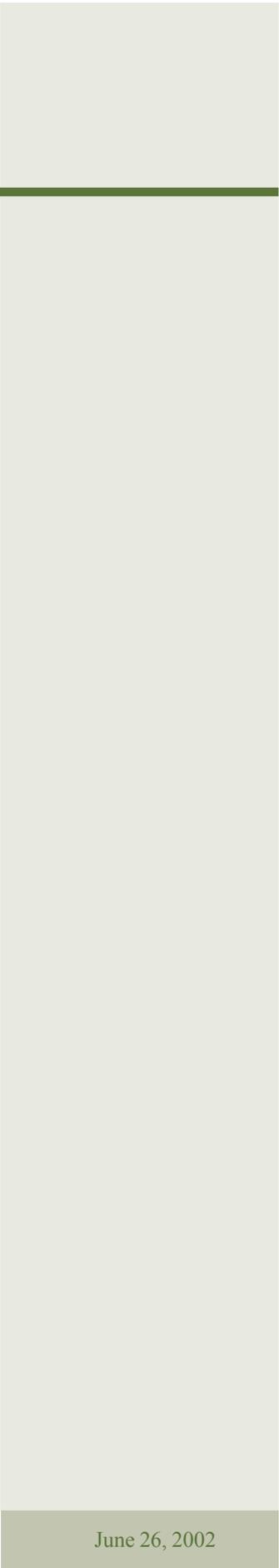
Currently, most of the waste receptacles in Garfield Park consist of steel 55 gallon drums. Though located in many of the primary gathering areas of the park, these furnishings do not communicate the desired park character.

DRINKING FOUNTAINS

There are four drinking fountains in the park at the following locations:

- Southwest corner of the park
- Northwest corner of the park
- Near the northwest end of the Lagoon
- Near the playlot at Lake & Homan.

- Due to changes in the locations of recreation facilities over the years, most of these fountains are no longer convenient to users of the playlots and athletic courts and fields.
- The concrete bases of these fountains are durable, but do not contribute to the park character.



ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

Inventory and Analysis

EXISTING ACTIVITIES

Garfield Park has an extensive list of existing programs including active sports, cultural and recreational programs and special programs occurring throughout the year.

Current Sports and Cultural Programs include:

- Wrestling
- Martial Arts
- Basketball Leagues (all ages)
- Little League Baseball
- Adult Softball League
- Volleyball
- Track & Field
- Boxing
- Tumbling
- Ping Pong
- Basketball-Late Night
- Basketball (18-26 years)
- Cubs Care Baseball
- Swimming
- Football
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Aerobics
- In-line Skating
- Roller Hockey
- Fishing
- Arts and Crafts
- Dance.

These active sports and cultural programs are predominately located in or adjacent to the “Gold Dome” Field House or on the playing fields and courts in the north section of the park.



Basketball Courts



Recreational Fishing

The **Conservatory** offers classes and workshops, community gardening, and special exhibits and events. Recently, the exhibit of work by glass artist Dale Chihuly has brought countless visitors and city-wide recognition to the Conservatory. Some of the programs and classes currently offered include:

- Adult Garden Workshops
- County Fair
- Seasonal Flower Shows
- School and Group Visits
- Group and Adult Tours
- Elizabeth Morse Genius Children’s Garden Activities & Discovery Area
- After School Programs
- High School Docent Program
- Horticulture Therapy Programs
- Chocolate Festival.

The park also provides a location for **Special Programs**. Many of these activities and festivals bring new users to the park, increasing the number and diversity of users.

A partial list of special programs and events include:

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration
- Earth Day Cleanup
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Toys for Tots
- Summer Camp
- Teen Club
- Halloween Party
- Adventure Camp
- Christmas Party

- Urban Campers
- Park Kids
- Summerfest
- Sport Camp
- Senior & Junior Citizens of the Year
- Teen Dances
- Advisory Council
- Peace Museum Leadership Program
- Talent Show
- Park Showcase
- Meetings (Police Department 11th District.)
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Thanksgiving Day Dinner
- New Years' Celebration.
- Paddle Boats
- Educational Programs
- Cultural and Performance Programs
- Increased Track and Field Equipment
- Prevention of flooding at gymnasium for Late Night Basketball (see section on Architecture Inventory and Analysis).

PROGRAMMING NEEDS

Additional programming interests at this time include the following:

- Increased space for the Boxing program
- Gymnastics
- Wood Shop
- Library in the Park
- Catch and Release Fishing Tournaments



Historic recreational lagoon use



Baseball/Softball Field

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Recommendations

INTRODUCTION

In order to further Garfield Park's relationship to its community, the park must continue to be developed into a place that residents feel safe and welcome. The park must provide cultural and recreational opportunities that are desired by its users in order to instill a sense of community ownership. To be fully integrated into its context, Garfield Park must be surrounded by an active and inhabited urban edge of residents, businesses and civic centers.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Enhancing the safety and security within Garfield Park will dramatically reduce the potential for crime and/or public nuisances. Actions such as removing overgrowth and brush will eliminate hidden areas as well as enhance the park's attractiveness. Similarly, a continuous monitoring and patrol effort will contribute to the creation of a safe atmosphere within Garfield Park.

- As further discussed in the Landscape & Ecology section, existing trees should be thinned in the areas surrounding the Bandstand, Fountain Court and McCrea Drive to provide better visibility into these areas, discouraging criminal and inappropriate behavior.

- Police patrols should be increased within the park where possible.

- Citizen involvement in the existing C.A.P.S. Community Policing effort should be encouraged through advertisement of meetings and involvement with the Advisory Council.

- Areas of Garfield Park such as the Bandstand can be programmed with concerts, festivals, markets and performances to encourage positive park uses and discourage criminal uses.

- Currently, closed comfort stations should be reactivated and monitored to increase the number of clean and safe public restrooms facilities within the park.

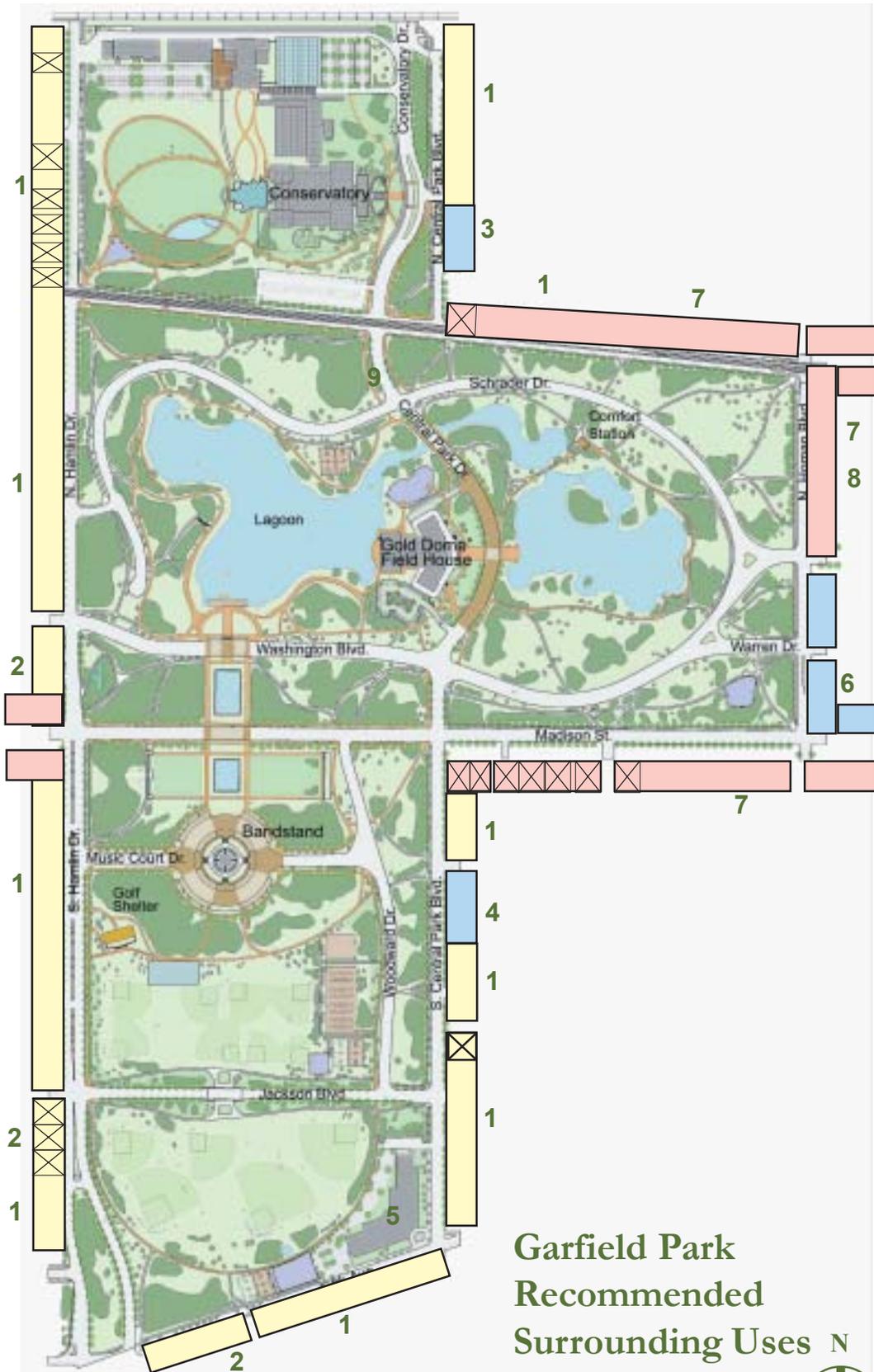
- The Golf Shelter at the south end of the park should be activated with vendors or concessions to help monitor the security of the area.

- Comfort stations that are not staffed should be developed to be vandal proof, small and simple in design to minimize loitering, vandalism and illicit activity.

- A sense of public ownership of the park must be instilled through continued development and promotion of programmed

Key Community and Context Issues Raised During the Planning Process:

1. Encourage economic opportunity in Garfield Park
2. Create a safe environment
3. Promote local culture & heritage



Existing Amenities

- 1 Residential (Single Family & Low Rise)
- 2 Residential (Mid & High Rise)
- 3 Lucy Flowers High School
- 4 Providence St. Mel School
- 5 Leif Ericson School
- 6 YMCA
- 7 Neighborhood Commercial
- 8 Gas Station
- 9 CTA Green Line El Stop

Recommended Uses of Property Adjacent to Park

- Civic (School, Church, Community Center)
- Commercial (Small Business)
- Residential (Single Family, Low to Mid Rise unless otherwise noted)
- Infill Construction (New)

Garfield Park Recommended Surrounding Uses



COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Recommendations

activities and public influence on design decisions in order to encourage monitoring and reporting of inappropriate activity.

- The recent lighting improvements within the park should continue in order to increase lighting along pedestrian routes. Lighting need not be installed along every walk, but should be provided along major pedestrian routes, at entries to the park and at key destinations or amenities. Refer to the Site Furnishings section of the report for additional lighting information.

- The park grounds and various facilities should remain open until 10:00 p.m. allowing public access to programmed activities. If staffed, the Field House can remain open later. Garfield Park can be patrolled throughout the day (24-hour period).

In addition to reducing the actual occurrence of crime, the recommendations listed above can help change the perception of the park as being unsafe.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES SURROUNDING & WITHIN GARFIELD PARK

In an effort to improve the quality of life within the Garfield Park Community, the park can provide a stimulus of economic activity in three ways.

- 1. The park can serve as an attraction to bring people to the neighborhood who will patronize local shops and restaurants.**

- 2. Concessions or sales can take place within the park.**

- 3. The park can provide employment opportunities.**

- Continuing to program activities in Garfield Park such as Conservatory events, performances or festivals at the Bandstand and sporting events at the Athletic Fields will attract visitors who will patronize restaurants and shops in the surrounding neighborhood.

- Concession sales can be provided at the South Comfort Station near the Athletic Fields, and near the Conservatory. These concessions could be introduced as simple food carts then, over time, be developed into small cafes and eventually restaurants as interest grows.

- Opportunities for retail sales can be provided through continuing and adding to the programmed festivals such as the existing farmer’s market and Summerfest West that take place in Garfield Park.

- Artists and performers should be encouraged to display their work and perform at the Garfield Park Field House, Conservatory, Bandstand and future artist’s market and Education Center at the north side of the park discussed in the Recommendations section of this report.

- Increasingly, residents have expressed a desire for establishing a farmer’s market within Garfield Park. Community residents and the public can sell and/or purchase fresh produce, grown within the park, at this local outdoor market. This market could take place near the Conservatory, and eventually become part of the future artist’s market proposed north of the Conservatory.

- Through programs such as Green Corp. young people could be employed to work and improve the landscape and facilities of Garfield Park.

- Benefits of the Empowerment Zone, Enterprise Zone and Tax Incremental Financing Zone should be used to attract businesses to the area around Garfield Park.

Federal Empowerment zone benefits include:

- Wage Credits
- Property tax deductions
- Tax exempt bond financing
- Employer wage credits for hiring “at risk youth.”

Enterprise Zone benefits include:

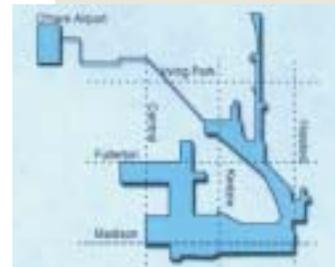
- Sales tax exemptions
- Property tax exemptions
- Financial assistance
- Real estate tax exemptions
- Investment tax credits
- State jobs creation credits
- Utility tax exemptions.

Tax Incremental Financing

Allows tax revenue to be reinvested in developing the designated zone.

LAND USE & ACQUISITION

In the planning process, the possibility of acquiring vacant property to expand Garfield Park was discussed. However, the consensus was that improvements should be focused within the existing park boundaries, and the surrounding vacant property is better suited to residential or commercial development. Although this report is not meant to represent a planning study of the entire community, the ideal vision for Garfield Park is one in which the park is surrounded by a continuous edge of residential, institutional and commercial uses.



Enterprise Zone



Empowerment Zone

Economic Opportunities

1. Garfield Park is an asset to attract businesses and residents to the community.
2. Concessions & sales can take place within the park.
3. Garfield Park can provide employment opportunities.

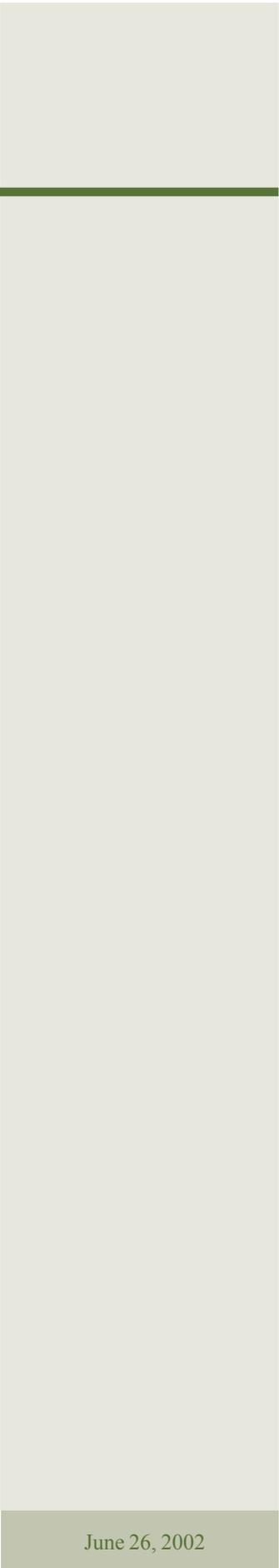
COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Recommendations

- As park use continues to grow, new retail development should be encouraged along Madison Ave. and Lake Street adjacent to the park.
- The large vacant lot in the southeast corner of the Madison and Central Park intersection, with its close proximity to many park amenities would be suitable for a civic or cultural institution.
- New single family and mid rise housing should be encouraged to infill the vacant property at Hamlin Boulevard adjacent to the southern edge of the park.
- All new housing and commercial development should be sympathetic to the existing early 1900's architecture of the community, and maintain the existing setbacks.
- Area civic institutions are encouraged to capitalize on Garfield Park's environmental and cultural themes. For instance, the use of Lucy Flowers School may change in the future. If this happens, an Urban Horticulture Center, artist in residence program or other park related uses should be incorporated.

PROMOTING GARFIELD PARK'S CULTURAL HISTORY AS A REGIONAL ATTRACTION

In order to attract visitors to the park, Garfield Park should continue to promote the culture and history of Chicago's West Side. This neighborhood, like so many others in Chicago, has served both wealthy and working class people of various ethnic backgrounds. The current population surrounding Garfield Park recognizes the many African-American artists and business leaders working within the community. Moreover, residents would like to use the park to showcase or highlight cultural activities and contributions. One theme, for instance, suggested redeveloping portions of Garfield Park into a West Side Cultural Campus. This theme incorporates the varying roles of the park as a place that provides recreation, education, culture and social interaction. This theme has been strengthened by the recent addition of the Peace Museum and the Alvin Ailey Dance Troupe to Garfield Park, and the partnership between the park and the West Side Cultural Arts Council. These types of relationships should be continued in the development and reuse of park facilities.



PARK CHARACTER

Recommendations

CHARACTER RECOMMENDATIONS

The overall character of Garfield Park will be improved by the consistent planning, design, and development guidelines recommended in this document. Recommendations must consider the character of the park and be sensitive to the landscape, architectural and cultural history of the park and its current and future users. The following recommendations outline specific improvements that would benefit the character of the entire park.



View of Lagoon and Swan House taken in 1908



Conservatory approach from Fulton

VIEWS AND VISTAS

Garfield Park's special landscape and architectural features should be empathized and visually linked throughout the park. This can be implemented by:

- Landscape Design including opening up vistas, the creation of land forms, the selection and maintenance of plant materials and, the location of landscape materials in relation to the landscape or building features.
- Providing accent lighting.
- Creating an appropriate approach to the feature whether by foot or car.

- Creating vistas into the park at neighborhood entries.
- Developing a sign program to strengthen the sense of place.

OPEN SPACE

Many of the views and vistas discussed above are created by the open space throughout the park.

- Provide protection of open space, being careful not to over-program. The open space in the park provides a relief from urban life.

PASSIVE SPACE

Strengthen the passive space areas throughout the park by improving the landscape plantings and features including:

- Enhancing park landscaping by increasing the density and variety of plantings.
- Improving the lagoon edge.
- Adding site and accent lighting.
- Including educational elements to explain the historic, cultural and ecological interpretation of the park.
- Providing additional benches.

ACTIVE SPACE

Strengthen the active space areas throughout the park by:

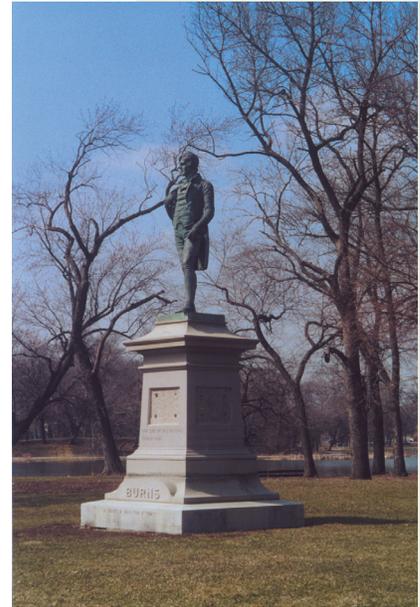
- Continuing communication with the community and park user to understand the changing active recreational programmatic needs.
- Adding site and accent lighting.
- Enhancing park landscaping to define active areas and connect visually to adjacent facilities and features.
- Improving the Bandstand area to become an active, programmed park feature.

LANDSCAPE

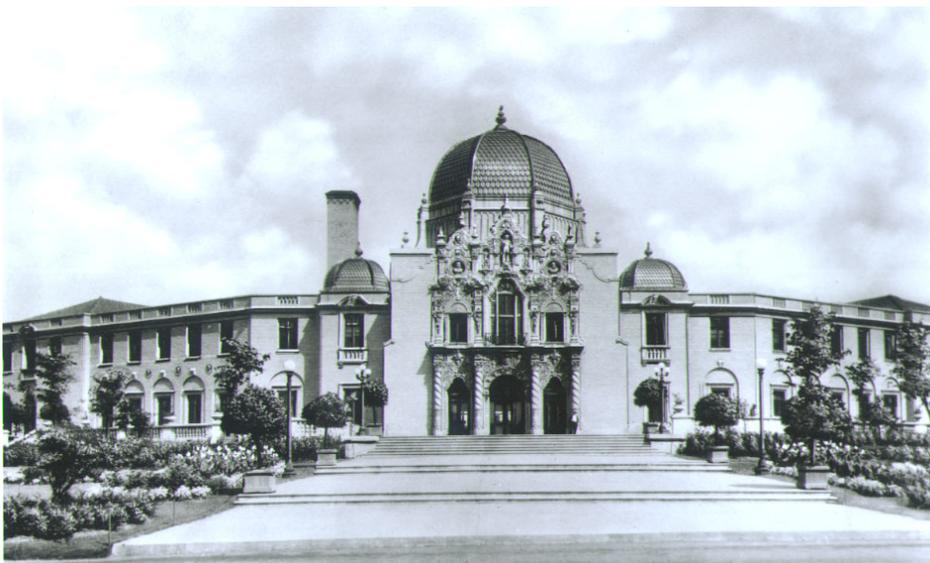
The landscape character should reinforce the uses (passive, active, open space) of the park as defined in the Landscape and Ecology Recommendation section of this report.

ARCHITECTURE

The buildings throughout the park provide a strong architectural character and context. Recommendations for the buildings and their adjacent landscape and site features are defined in the Architectural Recommendations section of this report.



Robert Burns Statue



Historic "Gold Dome" with gardens

PARK CHARACTER

Recommendations

SITE CHARACTER RECOMMENDATIONS GOAL:

To attain a sense of place throughout the park, providing a consistency of design and treatment while allowing for a variety of experiences.

NOISE AND TRAFFIC

Although the CTA El station physically divides the park and creates tremendous noise, it is a major transportation link within the City of Chicago and the region as a whole. Celebrate and partner with the CTA. Publicize direct CTA access to the park from the entire region. Encourage visitors to see and use the entire park by advertising on the CTA trains.

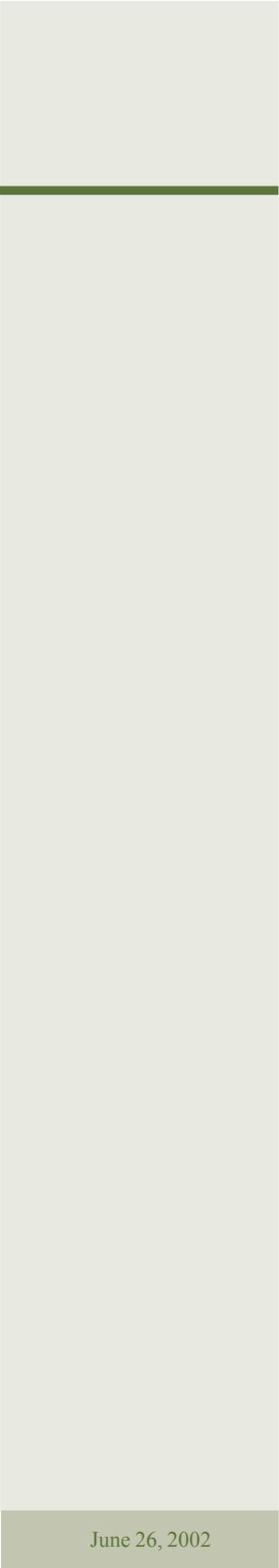
Vehicular traffic and pedestrian circulation recommendations which affect the park's character are defined in the Circulation Recommendation section of this report.

PARK UNITY

To provide a consistent character throughout Garfield Park, its vast array of amenities and uses must be joined together. The primary destinations, the Field House, Conservatory, Bandstand, Lagoon and Athletic Fields must be joined by path connections, and by views and overlapping uses. These elements can be highlighted with lighting, signage and through a language of similar site furnishings. When events are planned at one destination in the park, complimentary activities can be promoted and run simultaneously at other locations within Garfield Park.



New CTA Green Line Station on Lake Street



LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGY

Recommendations



Historic Washington Boulevard Entry

INTRODUCTION

The landscape of Garfield Park should communicate the diverse historic styles espoused by its various designers. However, as the use of the park and the contextual factors which differ from historic times change (such as security concerns and the impact of the auto), the landscape design of the park must be adapted.

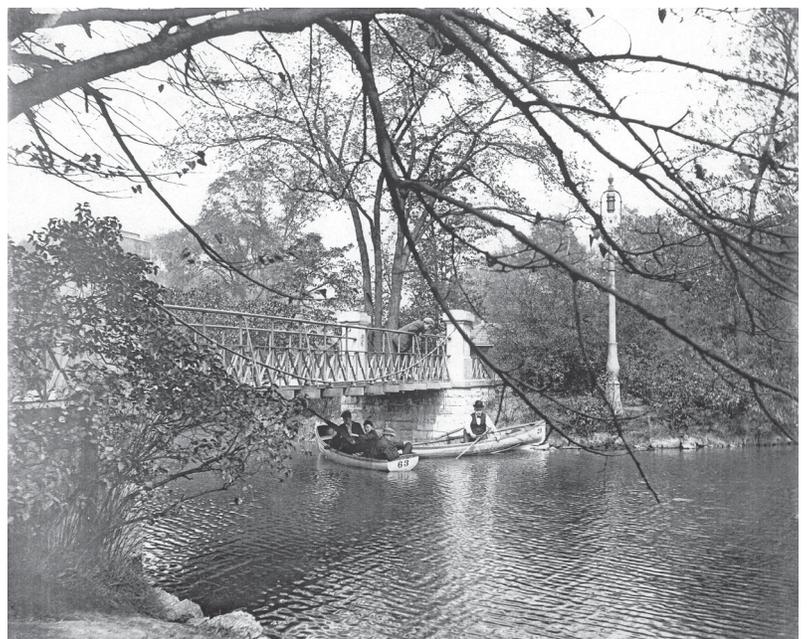
The planting design should display a variety of both natural and developed landscapes, and should communicate past design themes as well as current.

The following are several broad, park-wide recommendations, followed by focused recommendations for specific areas of Garfield Park.

HISTORIC CONTENT

The landscape in several areas of Garfield Park holds a high degree of historical significance and should be preserved or recreated. In order to communicate the design styles of three historically significant designers, Garfield Park should be treated as a laboratory of American landscape design.

- The landscape east of Central Park Blvd. holds the highest level of historic integrity within



Historic Lagoon Photograph

the park and should be preserved and restored in keeping with Jenney and Dubuis' Romantic Design intent of the 1880s to 1930s.

- The Bandstand and Fountain Court landscape should be developed or recreated to reflect the Victorian Era Gardens created by Jens Jensen.
- The historic entry to Garfield Park from Washington Boulevard should be recreated based on Jensen's design.
- The landscape around the Conservatory need not be a recreation, but should respect the design aesthetic of Jens Jensen.
- Design and maintenance improvements in the areas defined above should be based on historic plans and reports.
- New landscape treatments should be created at entry points to the park. Although historically these gardens may not have existed, emphasizing entry points with planting follows the intent of the park's three historic designers. For more information, refer to the Recommendations for Preservation of Historically Significant Aspects of Garfield Park.
- The landscape in areas not defined as part of the Conservatory landscape, or preservation or re-creations, such as the new entries, should be sympathetic to the historic intent by emphasizing native plant species.

GROUND PLANE

Healthy lawn areas must be identified and preserved to meet the community's desire for passive recreation spaces. However, the thinning of the lawn due to shading must be addressed by ongoing maintenance of both the trees and lawn, and by replacing lawn with other groundcover treatments.

- In areas where lawn exists, but is thin, the tree canopy should be pruned to allow better light penetration, and the lawn should be overseeded with a shade tolerant grass seed mix.
- Where pruning the tree canopy and overseeding will not re-establish lawn, the lawn should be removed and either herbaceous groundcover or wood chip mulch beds should be created.
- Groundcover beds should be designed to enhance the character of the particular area of the park. Beds should be arranged around the perimeter of a lawn area to enhance Jensen's intent of defining lawn areas by surrounding them with plant massings.
- Because herbaceous groundcovers and lawn compete with trees for nutrients and water, where tree health is questionable, or where pedestrian activity is high, wood chip mulch beds should be created under trees.



Sample of Recommended Groundcover Treatment



Sample of Recommended Trees Framing Open Lawn Areas

LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGY

Recommendations

TREE CANOPY

- The existing tree canopy should be thinned in order to improve views within the park, such as increasing visibility of the Bandstand from surrounding areas, and increasing views of the “Gold Dome” Field House from the Conservatory grounds. The tree canopy should also be thinned to improve visibility and lighting along paths, and to allow views into the park from surrounding areas.

- A limited diversity of tree species exists in the park. The existing spring and fall tree planting should continue and focus on:

- Increase diversity, focusing on deciduous natives (see appendix).

- Provide habitat for birds and wildlife.

- Replace trees anticipated to be part of long term tree loss.

- Enhance the intended landscape character of the varying areas of the park. Trees should be planted to define a perimeter around open lawn areas, emphasize circulation routes and separate active from passive recreation areas.

- Mulch rings or plant beds should be installed and maintained at the base of each tree in order to minimize damage from lawn mowers and trimmers.

- Educational programs and signage should be implemented to make use of the trees as a learning opportunity for park visitors. These programs will extend the educational quality of the Conservatory into all areas of the park.



Historic photograph of a pergola at the Fountain Court

SECURITY

Any additional plantings in the park should be cognizant of the rules of safety- low shrubs and groundcover should be used to create enclosure without restricting views or posing a risk of hiding elements. A landscape maintenance program should include an annual inspection of trees near lampposts, performed at night, and trimming to improve lighting.

- The maintenance plan for the park should indicate the character for the various areas of the park while specifying pruning techniques to promote visibility while encouraging natural plant form and habit.

LANDSCAPE TREATMENTS

- Garfield Park has an opportunity to function as an arboretum, teaching about native plants, landscape design and urban horticulture which would help the mission of connecting the park and Conservatory.

CONSERVATORY PLANTING

- To the south of the Conservatory are the existing Sensory Garden, Labyrinth, and the Urban Demonstration Garden. These gardens need to be joined together into a comprehensive design which acknowledges the scale of the Conservatory.

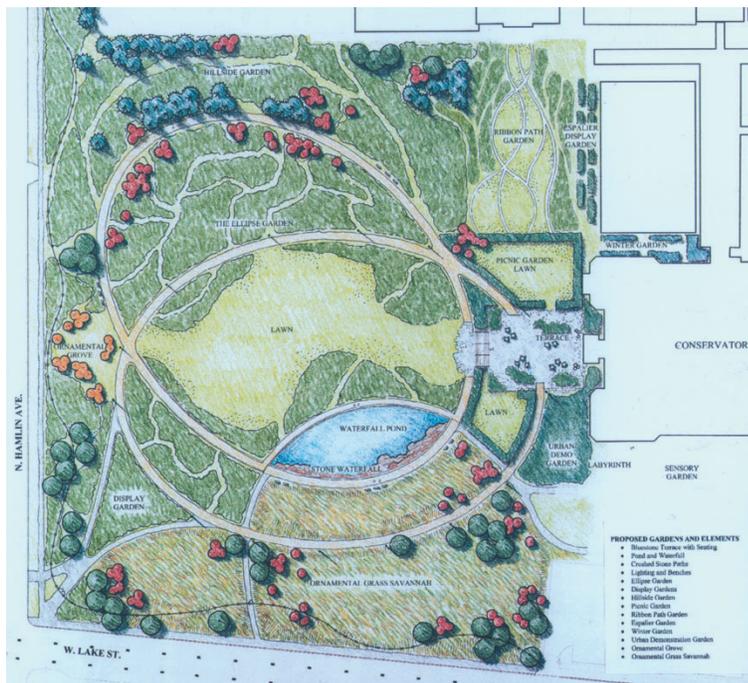


Conservatory planting

COMMUNITY INPUT

The public meeting process identified a desire for the landscape design to:

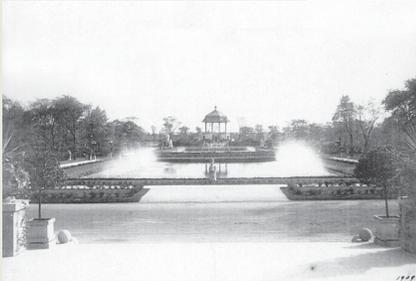
- Improve the existing landscapes
- Provide horticultural education
- Install planting to unify the park.



Plan of the Public Garden

LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGY

Recommendations



Historic Fountain Court photograph

The open space around the Conservatory should be developed with gardens and landscape which:

- Respect the scale of the Conservatory by maintaining open views of the structure preserving the original “hay-stack in a field” design intent.
- Present the gardens and landscape as open and inviting, minimizing fencing except as a design element.
- Extend the lushly planted interior of the Conservatory out into the park, emphasizing that Garfield Park as a whole (not just the Conservatory) is a place to experience and enjoy plants.
- Emphasize Garfield Park as “the place to learn about urban gardening in Chicago.” It should demonstrate techniques for landscaping an urban lot, for growing fruit and vegetables and should demonstrate the variety of plants available in the Midwest.
- The theme of landscape education should extend beyond the immediate Conservatory grounds, treating the entire park as an arboretum and environmental learning center.
- Create a sense of entry to the Conservatory grounds from the west side of the park. Incorporate a terrace or other paved area within the landscape west of the Conservatory to serve as a gathering point.

- Expand the Landscape on the east side of the Conservatory into the parkway across from Conservatory Drive.

- Provide an opportunity for a future link from the landscape west of the Conservatory to the buildings being considered for adaptive re-use along the north end of the site.

- As a short term improvement, install planting to separate the maintenance yard areas from public areas of the park.

PARK ENTRIES

Where the numerous roads and walks enter Garfield Park from the surrounding city, landscape treatments should communicate to the motorist, cyclist and pedestrian that they are entering a unique park environment.

- Restore the entry landscape where Washington Boulevard enters the east side of Garfield Park to the historic design, adapting as needed to comply with other recommendations of the Framework.

- Develop landscape treatments to highlight major and minor vehicle and pedestrian entries to the park.

- Increase landscape treatments on the North, South and West perimeters of the park to create a sense of entry. (Currently, these areas feel like “backdoor” entries).

- Plant entries so that they are appropriately scaled to both motorists and pedestrians.

- Scale landscape treatment at entries to preserve safe visibility at intersections.

- Develop planted islands within the roadway where Washington and Warren Blvds. meet Schrader Drive, and at the entries to Music Court Drive to communicate that these roads are park drives, not thoroughfares.

ACTIVE RECREATION AREAS

- Frame and define open, flat lawn areas with trees to separate uses and provide shade.

- Provide high quality lawn maintenance to repair damage from intensive use in these areas.

LEIF ERICSON SCHOOL

- The school on Central Park Blvd. should be planted to indicate an entry to the park.

- Existing chain-link fences should be replaced with ornamental fence, and dumpster areas near the school should be screened from view.

- The existing paved plaza west of the school could be renovated into an outdoor learning environment with trees for shade and other plants for

environmental learning.

ROMANTIC/PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE

- Restore the landscape in the east portion of the park to the historic design, adjusting to accommodate guidelines outlined by this report.

- Emphasize picturesque character and passive mood of space by framing views of the lagoon and open lawn areas with masses of shade trees accented with groups of ornamental trees.

- Highlight key site features such as the artwork, the lagoon edge, path intersections and the pedestrian bridge with shrubs, groundcovers and perennials implemented in accordance with the other guidelines of this report.



Recreational Landscape



Historic "Romantic" Landscape

LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGY

Recommendations

BOULEVARD & NEIGHBORHOOD PLANTING

In order to better identify the Garfield Park community, its history and cultural heritage, the park can serve as a precedent, extending a planting character and design language into the neighborhood unifying the region, instilling pride in its residents, and identify it as a unique destination.

- Extend parkway tree planting into the surrounding neighborhood.
- Develop parkway planting with groundcovers, shrubs, perennials, annuals and/or container plantings to create a unique, identifiable character within the neighborhood of Garfield Park.



Historic Bandstand Landscape



Proposed Bandstand Improvements

- Extend the horticultural mission of the Conservatory into the community by assisting with greening vacant lots.

- Encourage interested community members to develop programs to promote residential landscaping, such as the existing Green Spirit award given to the best community garden. These programs will unify and highlight the Garfield Park neighborhood.

- As the landscape character of Garfield Park expands into the surrounding neighborhood, the environmental and landscape theme will establish connections between the park and other surrounding “green” facilities such as the new Chicago Center for Green Technology at 445 N. Sacramento. This “green industry” theme should become a precedent for the redevelopment of Chicago’s west side. Landscape and environmental companies should be encouraged to occupy available industrial space in the neighborhood. Other businesses should be encouraged to landscape and promote their green aspects.

BANDSTAND & WATER COURT

The landscape around the Bandstand and Water Court should identify this area as a gathering point for the south side of the park. This area should also be developed to communicate the rich landscape history of Garfield Park.

- Recreate the Bandstand and Water Court landscape to the historic landscape design, adjusting the design if necessary to comply with other guidelines in this report, and for ease of maintenance.

- Use the flower beds in the Water Court area and in the Conservatory Gardens as places to experiment and build interest in a variety of plants.

- Remove some pavement and increase the amount of greenspace immediately around the Bandstand, while preserving enough paved area for programmed activities.

- Prune or remove trees in order to increase visibility of the Bandstand from the south side of the park. Particularly increase views from the recreation fields to the south and lagoon to the north.

- Install low planting to minimize views of passing vehicles on Madison Street, but still allow motorists occasional views of the Bandstand.

The Bandstand area will become pedestrian friendly through the addition of:

- **Lighting**
- **Movable Benches**
- **Walks around the Bandstand**
- **Notch outs for parking and festival tents.**

GOLDDOME FIELDHOUSE

- Develop the landscape using a planting style adapted from the historic design to highlight the Field House as a center of activity.

- Planting design should cross Central Park Boulevard to create a visual connection to the lagoon area.

- Install planting to soften the parking areas and to create a transition from the developed landscape of the Field House to the natural landscape of the lagoon edge.



Proposed "Gold Dome" Landscape

LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGY

Recommendations



Sample of Recommended Lagoon Planting



Sample Lagoon Access in Humboldt Park



Sample of Recommended Lagoon Planting

LAGOON

To preserve and enhance the lagoon's aesthetic, educational and recreational benefits, the edge planting must be developed and access to the water edge must be provided in a controlled manner.

- Increase the diversity of plant species along the lagoon edge, introducing low plants to preserve views of the lagoon.
- Minimize lawn along the water edge for ease of maintenance.
- Provide pedestrian access points created with paving, stones or piers where paths direct access to the lagoon, and at desired fishing locations. Access locations should be designed with a natural, romantic aesthetic, except east of the "Gold Dome" Field House where a paved overlook is recommended.
- Locate access points to capitalize on views across the lagoon, and to preserve views of the lagoon from surrounding park areas.
- Increase aeration and circulation of the water, particularly at the channel connecting the east and west lagoon in order to control aquatic vegetation.
- Stabilize the water level of the lagoon by maintaining the existing discharge point to minimize soil erosion along the lagoon banks.
- Stock gamefish in the lagoon, and periodically sample and review the fish population.
- Because the lagoon is shallow, oxygen levels should be periodically checked, openings in the ice should be provided if necessary to prevent winter kill of fish populations.
- Plant natural grasses, sedges and reeds along lagoon edges adjacent to lawns and areas frequented by people to discourage geese from accessing the lawn from the lagoon.
- Select plant species for the lagoon edge which provide habitat and food for birds and wildlife.

-
- Redirect surface drainage from vehicular use areas away from the lagoon to minimize the entry of salt and oil into the lagoon.

PARK ROAD LANDSCAPE

- Planted islands are recommended for the centers of Washington Boulevard, Music Court Drive, and Schrader Drive within the park boundaries. This will designate the road as a park drive rather than a thoroughfare.
- Unified planting of groundcovers, low shrubs, native looking grasses or wildflowers in large masses are recommended for both sides of Lake Street, Madison Blvd. and Jackson Blvd. This planting will allow the park to bridge these roads and separate the roads from the lawn spaces within the park.
- Install planting in the parkway and in new curb bulb-outs along Lake Street to define parallel parking as available to park users.

ART IN THE LANDSCAPE

- To establish visual focal points in the landscape, the existing artworks should be enhanced with planting, and new artwork could be added to the park.

- Around existing sculpture and monuments, planting, paving and site furnishing selections should be based on historic design intent as evidenced in historic photographs or plans.

- New sculpture and artwork should be sited within landscape areas of the park which have not been designated as historically significant re-creations (see Recommendations for Preservation of Historically Significant Aspects).

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH

- Capitalizing on the diverse landscape cultures within Garfield Park, trial gardens can be created to test and evaluate plants for use in an urban setting.

ARCHITECTURE

Building Recommendations



Decorative terra cotta entrance



The gold dome emphasizes the Field House as a focal point in Garfield Park



Rear elevation of the Field House

INTRODUCTION

Garfield Park’s architecture contributes to the park’s status as an important asset to the City of Chicago and its surrounding communities. The numerous facilities have the potential to provide the park and park users with many, if not all, of its space requirements. Many of the buildings are distinctive architecturally, and their location within the park allows for the open space and horticulture to coexist with the built environment. As is typical with older historic structures, they require scheduled maintenance and repair. The buildings must be updated to comply with current codes, accessibility requirements and the ongoing programmatic changes of the park’s users.

The most densely built section of Garfield Park is the area north and west of the Conservatory. Most of the buildings are currently used by the Central Region for service and maintenance. If the Central Region facilities relocate out of Garfield Park, the opportunity to reorganize, renovate and create adaptive reuses for many of these structures exists. A campus can be created with open space and historic structures which could become a great amenity for the park and the community.

“GOLD DOME” FIELD HOUSE

The Field House with its central location and landmark “Gold Dome” can be a fully utilized facility. The adjacent attached gymnasium should be coordinated with the Field House



Field House Improvement and Connection to Lagoon

architecturally, programmatically and for future planning. It is recommended that the parking areas be softened with plant materials and become a visual asset to the park.

- The Field House should first be made watertight. The points of water entry should be evaluated and addressed. After the building is watertight then damages to the interior as a result of the water should be repaired.

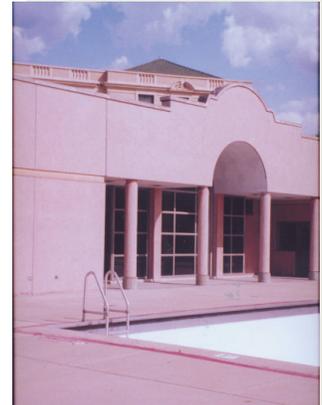
- Although the Field House has an elevator that connects the lower level, it needs to be made accessible to all floors for persons with disabilities. The design should incorporate the historic importance of the building while complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- The Field House should be evaluated for expanding its programming in order to utilize all of its spaces. As part of this evaluation, technology issues such as phone and computer lines should be reviewed.

FIELD HOUSE GYMNASIUM

The Gymnasium addition to the “Gold Dome” Field House requires both short term and long term plans for improvement as noted below:

- Address the problems regarding water entry into the Gymnasium. This will require both study of the building and the lagoon.
- The exterior of the Gymnasium and the lower level of the Field House should be painted so that they are more architecturally contextual and complimentary to the brick facade of the “Gold Dome” building.



Field House gymnasium addition



View from the Field House rotunda



The Bandstand is located within Music Court Drive

ARCHITECTURE

Building Recommendations



View of the Bandstand terrace and decorative dome



Golf shelter



Marble base with mosaic tiles

BANDSTAND

The restoration of the bandstand and the resumption of its use for concerts and dances is a recommendation with high priority. The Bandstand architectural work and programming can be the catalyst for a revitalization of this area of the park.

- The Bandstand should receive exterior renovation, including new doors and windows to match original configurations.
- The Bandstand should function again for concerts and dances and the interior should provide the necessary programmatic requirements to serve the performers, such as new dressing rooms and restrooms. Compliance to current codes, accessibility and mechanical, electrical and plumbing impacts should be reviewed along with the new programming.
- More greenspace and pedestrian paving should be added around the Bandstand along with additional lighting. Reduction of the existing hardscape at the Music Court Drive is recommended to create a more pedestrian friendly environment. This area and the surrounding Music Court Drive are further discussed in other sections.

GOLF SHELTER

The unoccupied east half of the Golf Shelter should be evaluated to house a concession stand and possibly a Chicago Park District staff office. The concession stand could serve the ball fields as well as the revitalized Bandstand area. The staff office would provide security at this end of Garfield Park and the restrooms in this building should remain open during the peak park operating hours. Compliance to current codes, accessibility and mechanical, electrical and plumbing impacts should be reviewed along with the new programming.

- The public input process indicated that the community would like to see this building serve as an anchor for a variety of current and new activities in the immediate area. Specifically, a concession vendor could be located in the east half of the building to provide needed services to the park users. This presence would provide the needed activity to the area which would assist in securing the area and building. Until a vendor is in place, the public would like the restroom facilities to be monitored and opened for public use.

COMFORT STATION

Garfield Park is in need of more restrooms, therefore this historic comfort station should be utilized and be put back in service.

- The Comfort Station needs to have a complete exterior and interior renovation. Its exterior should be evaluated for tuckpointing and repair and its interior should have new men's and women's restrooms that are compliant to current codes and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Comfort Station should be open during park hours so security issues should be addressed. Additional lighting should be installed for the non-daylight hours and park staff should make regular rounds throughout the day.

CONSERVATORY

The Conservatory is one of the many highlights of Garfield Park. Continued renovation, restoration and improvements are recommended for this facility.

- The brick Electrical Sub-Station building at the north-west corner of the Conservatory, off of the Aroid House, should be relocated to a less prominent location on the site. The Conservatory can then be restored to its original design through the removal of the brick infill at the Aroid House and replacement with awning windows to match the original historic windows.



Comfort station



Electrical sub-station and former entrance vestibule at west elevation



Conservatory interior: Fern Room

ARCHITECTURE

Building Recommendations



1998 entry addition



Conservatory main (east) entry



Conservatory awning windows



Conservatory glass "haystack" roofs

- The west Entrance Vestibule, currently used to house the heating systems, should return to its original use as an entrance. The exterior stucco should be repaired and restored, along with the concrete base of the Conservatory. The exterior should also be integrated into a new terrace that will serve as a transition between the new Public Gardens and the Conservatory. The interior should be renovated to open up space to accommodate a lobby and several programming functions such as new restrooms, a lecture space, or a cafe. If a cafe were to be added, seating could be expanded to the terrace in the warm months. The new programming may require the structure to be enlarged and it must be evaluated for compliance to current codes, accessibility and mechanical, electrical and plumbing impacts.

- The main east entry of the Conservatory should be reprogrammed to accommodate a gift shop. The current meeting rooms could be relocated to another building in the vacated Central Region Service Yards, or one of the rooms could remain for community or staff meetings.

- A new urban demonstration garden is currently being built immediately west of the Conservatory. The garden should continue to be connected to the Conservatory and the community. An outdoor terrace, which is also being built, will provide an ideal setting for special events.

HORTICULTURE HALL

Horticulture Hall has recently been renovated. As discussed in the following section, the long range planning includes keeping the four Propagating Houses to the east and removal, and replacement elsewhere, of the other four Propagating Houses and the Administration Building. The removal of these buildings would open up vistas to Horticulture Hall while providing improved facilities.

- The area near Horticulture Hall previously occupied by the Propagating Houses and Administration Building should be landscaped as part of the new Public Garden.

PROPAGATING HOUSES

The four Propagating Houses to the east should remain and be renovated to include a door to Horticulture Hall for public access. The other Propagating Houses to the west should be removed and replaced with new ones with contemporary temperature, watering and storage facilities. The new Propagating Houses should be in a location at the north end of the site.

- A community greenhouse should be planned into the design of the existing, publicly accessible Propagating Houses.

CONSERVATORY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

It is recommended that the Conservatory Administration Building be removed and the facilities be relocated to the rehabilitated Warehouse and Shop Building if the Central Region Service Yards are relocated and their buildings vacated. The removal of the Conservatory Administration Building will open up vistas to Horticulture Hall and the area should be landscaped with gardens.

POWERHOUSE

The Powerhouse is an important historic building in the park and is still used for its original function to serve power to Garfield Park, Douglas Park and Humboldt Park, therefore this function should not change.

- The Chicago Park District is currently evaluating the possibility of removing Douglas Park from this service and providing it with independent service. This is recommended in order to provide additional electrical service to support future programming at Garfield Park.
- The building should be maintained regularly and its exterior should be evaluated for restoration or renovation.



Powerhouse



Horticulture Hall



Conservatory Administration Building



Propagating Houses



Warehouse and Shop building

ARCHITECTURE

Building Recommendations



Stable building, south elevation



Stable building functions as a garage



Shed structure



North Office building for Conservatory staff

WAREHOUSE & SHOP BUILDING

The Warehouse and Shop Building has historical significance and should remain. It needs to be evaluated for exterior restoration.

The Central Region Service Yards should be relocated to open up the Shop Building for programming that will contribute to the Conservatory, Garfield Park and the surrounding community. Programming that should be considered includes staff offices, artist's studios and Conservatory storage. Compliance to current codes, accessibility and mechanical, electrical and plumbing impacts should be reviewed along with the new programming.

STABLE BUILDING

The Stable Building has historical significance and should remain. It needs to be evaluated for exterior restoration. The surrounding single story, historically insignificant buildings should be removed in order to open up vistas to this building.

- If the Central Region Service Yards should be relocated, and this building becomes available, programming should be evaluated and could include a restaurant, education center with a lecture hall and classrooms and staff offices. Compliance to current codes, accessi-

bility and mechanical, electrical and plumbing impacts should be reviewed along with the new programming.

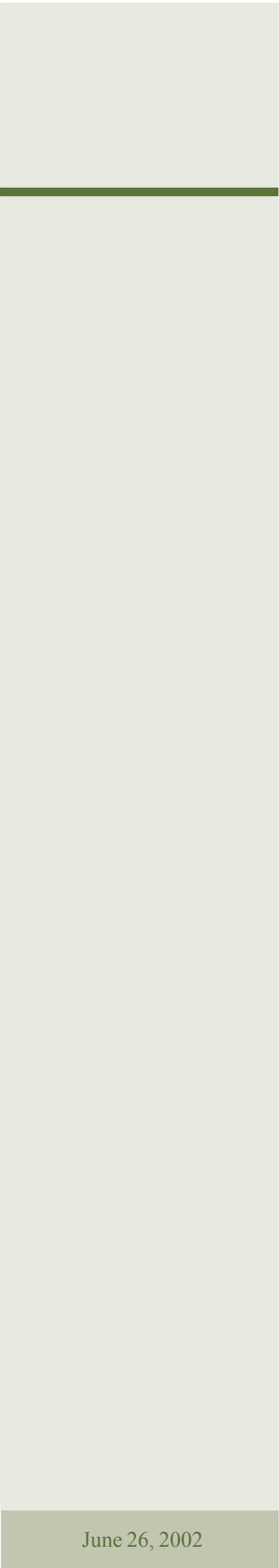
SHED STRUCTURE

The shed structure has historical significance and should remain. It needs to be evaluated for exterior restoration.

- If this building becomes available through the relocation of the Central Region Service Yards, programming could include artist's spaces, farmer's markets, flower stalls and Conservatory storage. Compliance to current codes, accessibility and mechanical, electrical and plumbing impacts should be reviewed along with the new programming.

NORTH OFFICE BUILDING

As earlier indicated, the North Office Building serves a variety of purposes from storage to auxiliary office spaces. Nevertheless, this building has no historical significance. It can be removed to provide space for the relocation of the Propagating Houses. The staff offices can either be moved into the Warehouse and Shop Building and/or the Stable Building.



CIRCULATION

Recommendations

INTRODUCTION

The goals of the transportation analysis are:

- Create a more pedestrian friendly park
- Reduce conflicts between automobiles
- Enable local residents to use alternative transportation (bicycling or walking) to access the park.

These goals can be accomplished through reducing traffic speeds, creating safer traffic movements, and reducing conflicts at pedestrian crossing points.

STREET RECOMMENDATIONS

Many changes can be suggested for the roadways in Garfield Park, from basic to radical. The most basic approach, and to reflect several public forum observations, is for the City and Park District to consider certain short-term steps that will reduce traffic speed and improve the park atmosphere. Enforcement of traffic laws such as speeding, yielding to pedestrians, loitering, and parking rules will effectively change behaviors which will contribute to the safety of park visitors. Operational steps to reduce conflicts and make traffic movements more safe in the park, are the

cornerstone for further improvements to the park to ensure a safer and more inviting environment.

WASHINGTON BOULEVARD

Stripe all pedestrian crossings and provide signs to warn drivers.

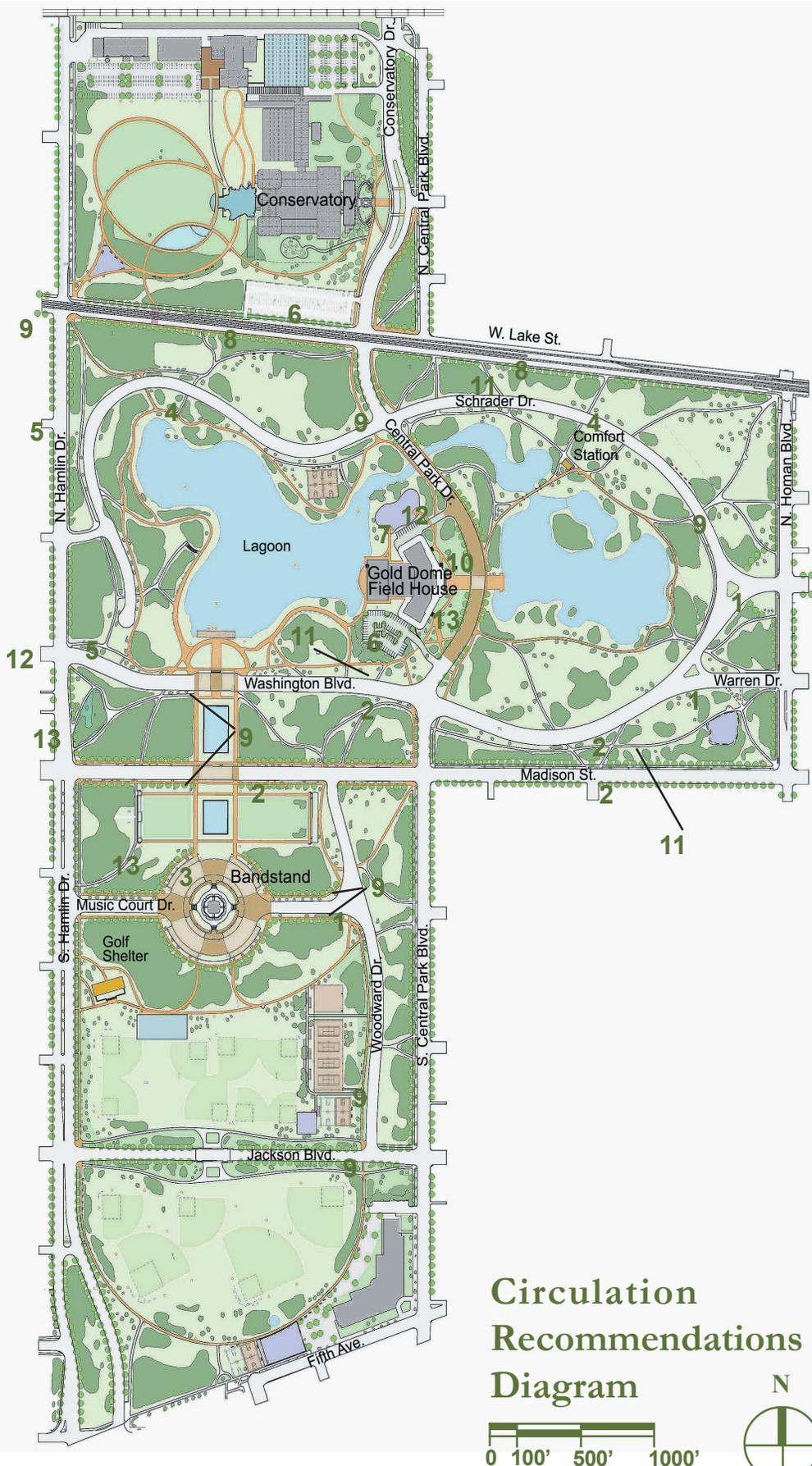
- Restore Washington (and Central Park) Boulevards to their historic 1912 configuration. Restoring the 1912 alignment would reduce through traffic and speeds in the park, thereby serving to minimize the primary factors that currently bisect the park.

- The proposed configuration would consist of two traffic lanes and two bike lanes, thereby restoring some parkland and reducing the “footprint” of the roadway.

- Restoring the park entrances would make Washington appear less like the expressway it currently resembles. The entrance presently is far too open and invites cars into the park and encourages speeding. Reducing the opening expanse and channeling traffic will provide for more safe and predictable automobile movements and will assist pedestrians to cross the street. This will also allow the removal of the unsightly metal guardrail.

Legend

1. Traffic calming at intersections
2. Washington & Madison traffic calming
3. Music Court Improvements
4. Internal street scarifying, curbs, & parking restrictions
5. McCrea modifications (reducing access)
6. Parking lot removal
7. Parking lot improvement
8. Lake St. parking improvements
9. Pedestrian street crossing improvements
10. Fieldhouse/Central Park improvements
11. Pedestrian path Improvements
12. Way-finding
13. Bike rack and/or drinking fountain



Circulation Recommendations Diagram

0 100' 500' 1000'



CIRCULATION

Recommendations



Washington Boulevard at the East entrance. Traffic calming should be employed to narrow the pavement and to slow traffic.



Pedestrian crossing the street in front of the "Gold Dome" Field House. Note the two foot wide sidewalk, poor site lines, and a crosswalk that does not lead to the Field House entrance.

- Reconfigure the intersection of Warren Boulevard to reduce the expanse of asphalt and increase the landscaped area.
- Recreating the park entrance at Washington Blvd, reducing the number of traffic lanes and speeds will discourage through traffic and potentially shift that traffic to other intentionally "through" streets such as Madison.

MADISON STREET

Madison has the highest number of automobile accidents of any street in the area, with the most accidents at Central Park, followed by Hamlin.

- Absent of an in-depth study of the accident occurrences, it appears that adding a separate turn phase for left turns may address some of these accidents.

CENTRAL PARK AVENUE

Central Park Avenue, despite having lower traffic volumes than Hamlin and Homan, has twice as many car and pedestrian accidents. The speed of traffic as well as the curvilinear alignment and the restricted sight distance all contribute to these problems. Several improvements are proposed for public safety.

- The parking lot on the south side of the Field House is too close to the intersection and should be reviewed for necessity and, if possible, removed. It is located too close to the intersection for safe in/out movements.
- One option to remove through traffic from the park and reduce speeds on Central Park is to restore the 1912 configuration and remove the connection of Central Park between Madison and Washington. In its 1912 configuration, Central Park terminated at Madison and then picked up again north of Washington. Woodward crossed over Madison and connected to Washington. (See map). Thus, the entrance to the park from the south was from Woodward. When Central Park was punched through between Madison and Washington, it became a much more attractive north-south thoroughfare.

- Remove parking in front of the Field House in order to improve sight lines on this curved section of roadway. Enforce no parking in front of the Field House, but allow a drop-off lane or unloading lane.

- Create a crosswalk in line with the main entrance to the Field House leading to a new lagoon overlook to emphasize this area for pedestrians.

INTERNAL STREETS

- The internal streets have been repeatedly paved over, reducing the drainage capacity and deteriorating the curbs. Most, if not all, streets need to have the excess pavement removed by scarifying (grinding off) the excess pavement to restore the gutter function.

- Shorten McCrea cul-de-sac. This section is needlessly long and apparently encourages lazy drivers to drive over the curb to Washington Street and onto pedestrian paths. Shortening the cul-de-sac and adding landscaping will provide barriers to prevent these movements.

- Eliminate the south entrance onto Hamlin from McCrea. This would reduce traffic passing through the park and reduce internal traffic speeds.

- Replace deteriorated curbs where necessary to restore drainage and to prevent parking on the grass.

- Install a channeling island at Woodward and Music Court. The intersection is needlessly wide and lacks traffic controls such as stop signs. Curb cuts and crosswalks should also be provided.

The following are options for Music Court:

- Close Music Court Drive to vehicular traffic during programmed events at the Bandstand

- Widen the sidewalk and landscaping along Music Court Drive (reducing vehicular pavement around the Bandstand). Restore drainage on the remaining paved area.



Schrader Drive. Curbs are completely deteriorated, and the site lacks drainage.



Music Court. Notice the wide pavement width and poor drainage.

CIRCULATION

Recommendations

PARKING LOTS & ON-STREET PARKING

- Insure that existing and planned parking areas meet ADA requirements, including the provision of an accessible path from all parking areas to the facilities.
- Stripe parking along Lake Street and install curb bulb-outs at path/sidewalk crossings.
- Install “No Parking” signs on internal streets, to insure that street parking does not block path intersections or limit vision at other intersections.
- Relocate Conservatory parking facilities to the area currently occupied by the old Park District buildings, converting the abandoned parking area into green space and gardens.

PEDESTRIAN PATHS AND SIDE-WALKS

There are three objectives for modifying the pedestrian infrastructure:

- To allow pedestrians to move from the neighborhoods into the park
- To improve passive recreation in the park
- To move visitors safely through the park across internal and external intersections.

INTERNAL STREET CROSSINGS

Where pedestrian paths and sidewalks intersect with internal streets, there are few, if any, safety provisions for pedestrians. The first priority should be to install curb cuts throughout the park, so that walkways are accessible to all park users. Curb cuts should be aligned with marked crosswalks, providing a visual signal to drivers that pedestrians may be present. When curb cuts are installed, parking is restricted at this point and path intersections become more visible.

For internal street path crossings, the following are recommended options:

- Curb cuts
- Pedestrian striping
- Curb bulb-outs.

ARTERIAL STREET CROSSINGS

Street crossings at arterial intersections generally pose a problem to pedestrians because of high traffic volumes and unpredictable traffic movements. General design measures to improve safety include:

- Bold striped crosswalks
- Pedestrian signals with call buttons
- Light cycle timing which allows sufficient time for pedestrians to cross
- Islands of refuge, if possible, to break up the distance that must be crossed in a single light cycle.

Around Garfield Park, pedestrian overpasses are not justified due to low pedestrian volumes, and their negative impact on park character.

FIELD HOUSE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS

In front of the Field House, it is very difficult to cross the street, and the sidewalk on the west side is only two feet wide. Several design solutions which will improve safety include: (Some of this discussion is also covered under suggestions for Central Park).

- Curb bulb-outs on both sides of the street in line with the main entrance to the Field House
- Removal of the west parking lane, widening the sidewalk and greenspace
- Curb cuts on both sides of the street
- Painted crosswalk or ornamental paving in front of the Field House
- Pedestrian crossing signs or signals.

PATH ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

There are several areas where paths lead to the street and there are no corresponding paths on the opposite side of the street. These path stubs should be removed for safety purposes.



New pedestrian crossing of Schrader near Central Park Blvd. Note the textured pavement, curb cuts, and painted crosswalk.

CIRCULATION

Recommendations

ADA RECOMMENDATIONS

The Americans with Disabilities Act is a federal law that promotes equal access to facilities for people with disabilities. Garfield Park currently has many ADA deficiencies. These include lack of curb cuts, lack of access to the Field House, and inadequate parking facilities. Improving these deficiencies has been described elsewhere in the study recommendations.

- All activities in Garfield Park should be accessible to people with disabilities. This includes sports and recreational activities.
- Most of the Conservatory is accessible; however, ADA access needs to be created to the Fern Room.
- The Field House and all of its programs are inaccessible and in violation of the ADA, due to a lack of curb cuts. Curb cuts should be added to paths accessing the Field House, including the passenger unloading zone in front of the building.
- An accessible fishing pier or platform is recommended for the lagoon.
- Playing fields, such as tennis courts and basketball courts, should have an accessible route.

BIKEWAY SYSTEMS

The two goals for improving bikeway systems are to encourage people to come to the park using bicycles as a form of transportation and, according to public interest, to create an internal loop path for recreational purposes.

Typical bicycle improvement projects include installing:

- An internal bikeway loop path around the park perimeter (ensuring adequate roadway crossings)
- Bicycle racks at basketball courts and the Conservatory
- Curb cuts (many of the same cuts described for pedestrians)
- Crosswalk striping (many the same as pedestrians).

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The community and Park District could work with the CTA to enhance the Garfield Park El stop with artworks, planting, historic photos or written histories to reflect the character and history of the park.

Additional bus shelters could be constructed or existing ones could be replaced, which reflect the parks historic architecture but not restrict user safety.

WAY-FINDING SIGNAGE

Way finding will improve visitors ability to orient themselves within the park and locate facilities. The following way finding improvements are recommended:

- There is no pedestrian way-finding south of Madison Avenue. Add maps near Music Court Drive and at the west entrance near Washington or Madison.
- The Field House is a focal point of the park, yet offers no direction for park destinations. Add a double-post way-finding kiosk or map near the Field House.
- Add directional arrows for pedestrians near the west entrance to the park and Music Court Drive. Guide pedestrians to safe crossing points of Madison and Washington towards the Field House and Conservatory.
- Automobile directional signs and entrance signs are lacking from the west and south entrances to the park. Add signage along Central Park Ave. and Hamlin near I-290 and at the park entrances from Washington and Madison.

SITE FURNISHINGS

Recommendations



Double "Acorn" Light
on Fluted Post



"Goose-neck" Light



"Globe" Light on Concrete Post

INTRODUCTION

In order to increase user comfort and develop the character of Garfield Park, site furnishings should be selected to communicate the historic language of the park, while making use of durable, vandal resistant materials.

LIGHTING

Lighting should be installed along pedestrian routes, at park entries and at centers of activity such as the Bandstand and new Public Garden.

- In order to continue developing the language of the park, new vehicular and pedestrian light fixtures should be one of the following styles:
 - "Acorn" on fluted or concrete post
 - "Goose-neck" fixture
 - "Globe" on fluted or concrete post.
- The existing "cobra-head" fixtures along park roads should be replaced with "goose-neck" fixtures.
- Lighting should be installed at the Athletic Fields in order to allow night usage. These fixtures should provide adequate sports lighting, but be sensitive to the design style of the fixtures described above.

BENCHES

New seating should be installed along paths, at the main activity centers of the park and to provide spectator viewing near athletic facilities.

Areas where new benches should be installed:

- Paths along the lagoon
- The new Public Garden
- The Field House Entry
- The Bandstand Area
- The Water Court
- Paths near the Athletic Courts and Fields.

- The recommended bench style reflects the historic character by incorporating ornamental metal frames with recycled timber seats and backs.
- Picnic tables, styled similarly to the benches should be installed in passive areas of the park, in both sunny and shaded areas.
- The historic concrete Prairie style benches in the Water Court should be repaired and preserved.



SITE FURNISHINGS

Recommendations



Vehicular Way-Finding Signage should reflect character of the Boulevard Signage



Garfield Park Banner



Recommended Bench (back and seat to be either metal or wood simulated recycled plastic)

SIGNAGE

To help unify Garfield Park, wayfinding and informational signage should continue to be added.

- In order to blend the existing wheat and plum colored Chicago Park District signage format into Garfield park, posts should be developed in black fluted metal to compliment the other site furnishings.
- Pedestrian wayfinding signage should be in the existing map format which identifies the viewer's location and the main park destinations.
- Vehicular wayfinding signage should provide directional arrows to main park sites and be in a style to compliment the existing Boulevard signage.
- Banners should continue to be installed along park roads to advertise events.

WASTE RECEPTACLES

The existing steel drum waste receptacles should be removed from Garfield Park, and be replaced with a black metal receptacle with a locking lid.

- Trash receptacles should be located near seating and picnic areas, and designated charcoal canisters should be included in picnic areas.



Recommended Trash Receptacle

FENCING

Fencing use should be limited in Garfield Park due to a lack of historic precedent and the impression of restricted access that many people have expressed in response to existing fencing.

Fencing should be used to separate pedestrian and vehicular areas, such as at the Field House and Conservatory parking lots, to enclose Playlots, and as a designed landscape feature.

New fencing installed in Garfield Park should be black ornamental metal fence to match the existing, or be designed to accent specific landscape elements, such as in the Public Garden.

DRINKING FOUNTAINS

Drinking fountains should be installed near all of the primary recreational and gathering areas of Garfield Park. The fountains should be styled to reflect the character of Garfield Park, while being ADA compliant and vandal resistant.

Drinking fountains are needed at the playlots, tennis and basketball courts, athletic fields, the new Public Garden at the Conservatory, comfort stations and at the Bandstand.



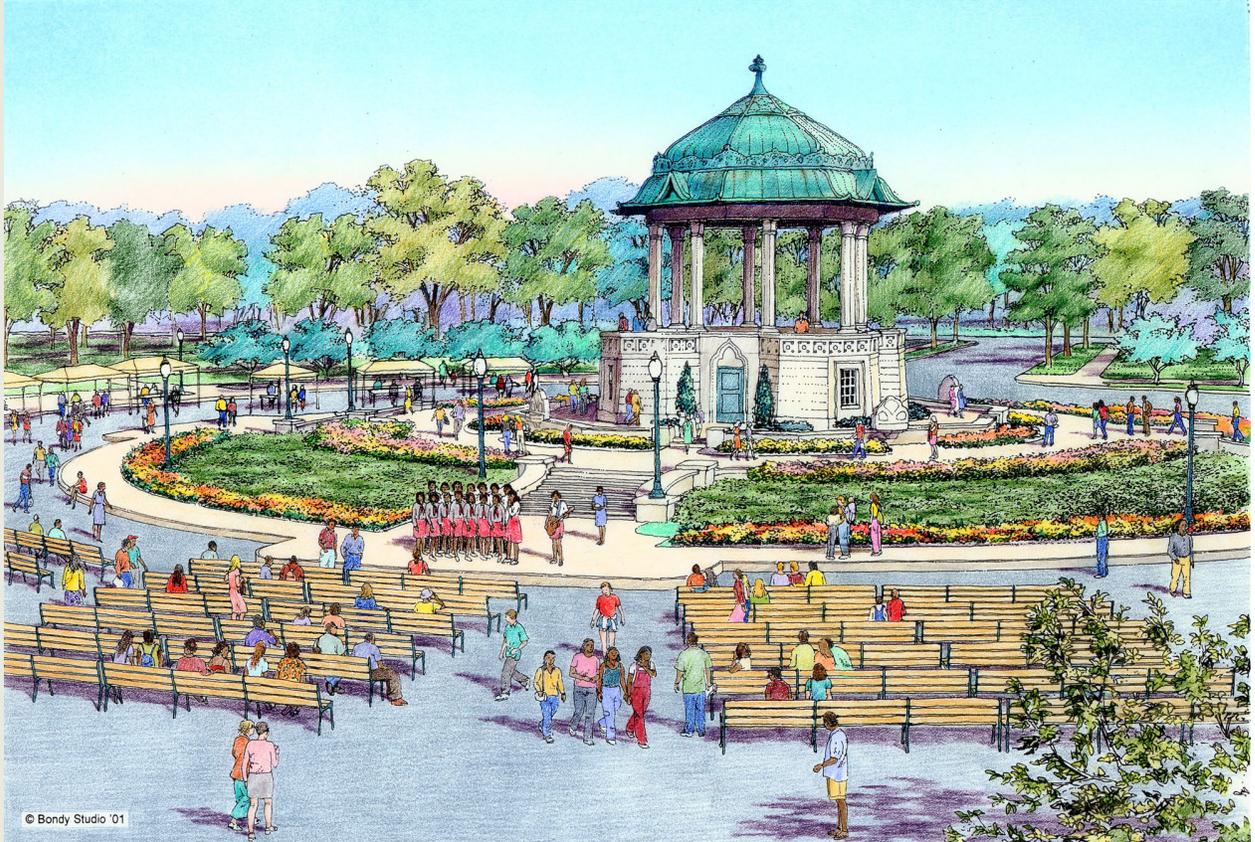
Recommended Drinking Fountain



Recommended Drinking Fountain

ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

Recommendations



Bandstand Improvement and Re-programming

INTRODUCTION

Garfield Park currently has numerous Programs and Special Events. These Programs and Events should continue to be evaluated and monitored annually by the Park District and the Advisory Council to keep in touch with the constantly evolving needs and desires of the park user. These evaluations and recommendations should take into account the current and future needs of the community as well as the staffing capacity of the CPD.

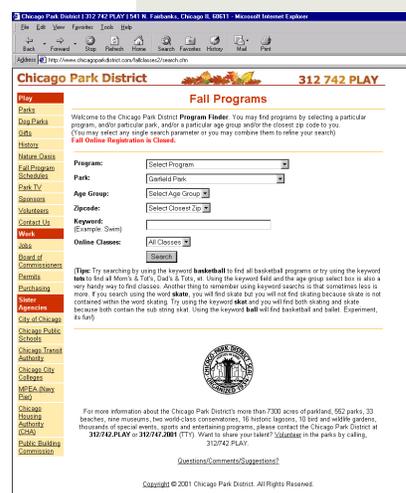
PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

- Capitalize on existing programs through increased participation, marketing and facilities as warranted.
- Promote **Sponsorship Programs** with the Bulls, Black Hawks, Cubs, museums, performing arts companies and other organizations.
- Develop performances and special events at the Bandstand.
- Develop an open air event space and public gardens at the Conservatory.
- Capitalize on the success of the recent Chihuly exhibit at the Conservatory by promoting additional art projects bringing people not only to the Conservatory, but to the entire park.

- Provide Concession(s) at the Golf Shelter Comfort Station which will serve to activate the area.
- Develop educational programs focusing on the park's history, ecology, plant and animal life.
- Develop fishing programs and increase the stock of fish.
- Develop a rental paddle boat program and related lagoon events.
- Add informational and educational signage to the lagoon.
- Increase **Horticultural Educational** programs and facilities at the Conservatory.
- Develop Market Studios for the arts, culture, galleries and farmer's and/or artist's markets.
- Increase evening activities to further enliven the park, including movies in the park, concerts and performances, educational programs and senior and family programs.
- Increase public awareness of events and programs at the park.
- Increase publicity with local newspapers and communication systems, schools, churches and organizations to "spread the word" about new or existing programs to an increased audience.



Dance program
Courtesy of Chicago Park District web page



Chicago Park District Web Site

CONCLUSION

Recommendations

GARFIELD PARK UNIFICATION

Garfield Park has numerous facilities providing a diversity of interests to its users. The various areas of the park are separated by both physical elements (roads and the CTA elevated transit line) as well as the wide variety of social interests of the people using the park (park users vary in age, interest in active vs. passive recreation, view of the park as a neighborhood vs. regional park etc). Because of the physical as well as social barriers, the park is seen by many as several separate entities.

Although the following analysis does not represent all view points, the two major activity centers of Garfield Park seem to function as separate entities. The Conservatory is seen by

many as a regional destination/ attraction drawing most of its users from outside the neighborhood. On the contrary, the “Gold Dome” Field House and the surrounding lagoons, Bandstand and Athletic Fields are viewed as local or neighborhood recreational facilities.

Through the process of fulfilling the objectives defined in the public meetings, steps can be taken to transcend the barriers of Garfield Park, celebrate its diversity of users and uses, and unify them into one Park Community.

The process of unifying Garfield Park includes three main components:

- 1) Sharing and capitalizing on the diverse uses offered within the park
 - 2) Unifying the design language of the park and creating physical connections between its various elements
 - 3) Programming activities to provide opportunities for the people who use the park to meet and interact with one another.
- The existing Park Kids and summer camp programs which are based in the “Gold Dome” Field House can make use of the Conservatory as an educational opportunity.
 - Conversely, the “Gold Dome” Field House can be a location for horticulture study and gardens.

METHODS OF UNIFYING GARFIELD PARK:

1. Sharing and Capitalizing on the diverse uses offered within the park.
2. Unifying the design language of the park and creating physical connections between its various elements.
3. Programming activities to provide opportunities for the people who use the park to meet and interact with one another.

- Through signage or brochures, Conservatory visitors can be directed to other areas of the park beyond the Conservatory to view and study plant life and ecology. The lagoon edges provide an opportunity to display wetland plant communities. The Water Court provides varietal gardens. The mature trees of Garfield Park make an excellent urban arboretum.

- Although many roads bisect Garfield Park, traffic calming measures coupled with paths, signage, streetscape furnishings and planting can create connections between the various areas of the park.

- Continued development of programmed activities at Garfield Park such as exhibits at the Peace Museum which is housed in the “Gold Dome” Field House, concerts at the Bandstand, tours highlighting the history and culture of the park led by local community members would all welcome visitors to the park and provide interaction opportunities.

- Overlapping or combining the publications and event calendars produced by The Chicago Park District, the “Gold Dome” Field House and the Garfield Park Conservatory will promote Garfield Park as a whole.

You are invited to attend a

Community Meeting

to discuss

Proposed Improvements to Garfield Park

Proposed improvements to be discussed include:

- Road narrowing and landscape improvements in the Bandstand area
- Playground and spray fountain renovation
- Selection of new benches

hosted by

The Garfield Park Advisory Council
and
The Chicago Park District

Wednesday April 10, 2002
From 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at
Garfield Park Gold Dome Fieldhouse
100 N. Central Park Ave. Chicago, Illinois

All ages are welcome. Please join us at this meeting, and please invite others by including this invitation in your organization's calendar or bulletin board, and by informing others



Sample Advisory Council Meeting Announcement

CONCLUSION

Recommendations

COMMUNITY AND PARK DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

One way to enhance and promote Garfield Park is to continue a strong partnership between the Chicago Park District and the community to facilitate discussions regarding future changes and management of Garfield Park. This relationship should be based on open and frequent communication between the CPD and the public. The communication process may be enhanced through the existing Garfield Park Advisory Council.

The Advisory Council was established as a way for the public to voice input and desires for the park. Currently, the Advisory Council conducts periodic meetings which are attended by concerned citizens and a Chicago Park District Area Manager. The council makes requests for improvements and receives input from the CPD regarding improvements being made to Garfield Park. This relationship will be strengthened through the following steps.

- Promote the Advisory Council monthly meetings by displaying flyers within the park and surrounding community. The announcements should indicate the time and location of the Advisory Council meetings, and include brief descriptions of topics to be discussed at these meetings.

- The Council meetings should continue to be an open-discussion forum attended by representatives from The Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance and Chicago Park District Central Region Office.

- Meeting announcements should be distributed to organizations in the Garfield Park area in order to reach a wide spectrum of park users, both locally and regionally.

- The Mission Statement and Objectives defined in this Framework Report should be reviewed and adopted by the Advisory Council (revised as necessary), as principles to guide the Advisory Council. The Mission and Objectives should be reviewed annually and revised to meet the changing needs of the community.

- At the Advisory Council Meetings, large park improvements (such as the addition or removal of a park facility), should be reviewed for input.

CONCLUSION

In order to fulfill the Mission Statement for Garfield Park,

“To preserve and communicate the value of the historic resource of Garfield Park, while encouraging the park to evolve and accommodate the current and future needs of its users, The historic, cultural, environmental and recreational integrity of the park must be viable for future generations of park users.”

this Framework planning process has recommended ways to expand on communications between the diverse park users while proposing improvements that will convey the richness of the historic and present culture of Garfield Park.

Through the interaction between the Public, the Chicago Park District, and the BauerLatoza Studio design team, the recommendation to historically renovate the Bandstand and Water Court along with the landscape and entry at the east portion of the park allows Garfield Park to become a model of historic urban park design.

The recommendations for pedestrian crossings, street narrowing, and ornamental pavings, help Garfield Park adapt to the impact of vehicular traffic.

The renovation with new uses proposed for the artist’s market and Education Center, Public Garden, Boat Launch and Golf Shelter indicate that the recreational and cultural needs of the park’s users are constantly evolving.

As the evolution of Garfield Park continues, new recreational and cultural needs and desires will be presented. In order to protect the aspects of the park that are valued by so many diverse people, the community of park users must continue to participate in the decision making process through the means previously discussed.

Using this communication process, the Garfield Park Framework Plan should be continually referenced.



HISTORY

GARFIELD PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN

GARFIELD PARK HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Just four miles west of bustling downtown Chicago, is Garfield Park, a 184-acre tapestry of lagoons, winding paths, trees and lawn, monuments, recreational facilities, conservatory, gardens, and the monumental “Gold Dome” building. The creation of this remarkable site began in 1869, and its evolution continued for many subsequent years. The park was shaped by some of the nation’s most important architects, landscape architects, and artists, most notably including William Le Baron Jenney and Jens Jensen. The following narrative history of Garfield Park is meant to foster respect for the significant historic elements of the park, and to insure that this vital historic resource will be protected for future generations of Chicagoans.

CHICAGO’S PARK MOVEMENT: 1849-1870

When the City of Chicago officially incorporated in 1837, the nascent local government adopted the motto “Urbs in Horto,” a Latin phrase meaning “City in a Garden.” During the City’s early history, however, the motto was not very fitting, as there were few green spaces or policies to promote park development. In 1849, a real estate developer and city

booster, John S. Wright suggested an ambitious scheme of park development that would benefit all of Chicago. He asserted:

“I foresee a time, not a very distant, when Chicago will need for its fast increasing population a park or parks in each division. Of these parks I have a vision. They are improved and connected with a wide avenue, extending to and along the lake shore on the north and the south, and surrounding the city with a magnificent chain of parks and parkways that have not their equal in the world.”¹

Although Wright’s concept was not realized right away, fears about the city’s health and sanitary conditions in the 1850s and 1860s helped inspire a parks movement in Chicago. Citizens throughout the City rallied to convert the “Chicago Cemetery,” a lakefront burial ground that was causing the spread of cholera, small pox, and other diseases. This effort led to the transformation of cemetery land into Lincoln Park, and brought attention to the need for a whole system of new parks.

An article published in the *Chicago Times* on September 15, 1866 promoted Wright’s earlier scheme for parks and boulevards that would extend along the City’s boundaries. Groups of prominent citizens on the North, South, and West sides drafted legislation to

realize this ambitious idea. In 1869, the State of Illinois approved three separate acts of legislation establishing the Lincoln, South and West Park Commissions. Although the three park commissions operated independently, their overall goal was to create a unified park and boulevard system that would encircle Chicago.

FORMATION OF THE WEST PARK SYSTEM: 1869-1870

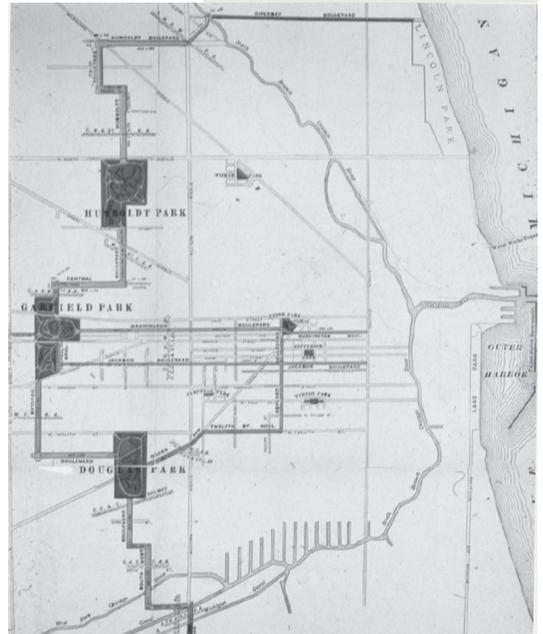
On March 23, 1869, West Siders approved the West Chicago Parks bill establishing a seven-member Board of Commissioners that would create three parks, each ranging from 100 to 200 acres in size, with inter-linking boulevards. The bill did not charter specific locations. “In the hopes of capitalizing on speculative interest in park location and gaining donations of park land from developers, the commissioners advertised ten possible locations for the parks in July 1869.”² A final plan, selected in November, designated the specific sites for what were then considered North, Central, and South Parks. These were later renamed Humboldt, Garfield, and Douglas Parks.

The West Park Commissioners selected William Le Baron Jenney to design their park system. An architect, engineer, landscape designer, and educator, Jenney is best known

today for his contributions to the development of the skyscraper. He studied civil engineering at Harvard University and the Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufacturers in Paris. As an engineering officer during the Civil War, Jenney met Frederick Law Olmsted, who served as director of the US Sanitary Commission at that time. Having designed New York’s Central Park in 1858, Olmsted went on to become the nation’s most prolific and influential landscape designer of the Nineteenth Century. In 1868, when Olmsted laid out the town of Riverside, Illinois, he hired Jenney to design several buildings for the seminal planned community. The following year, the West Park Commission informally consulted with Jenney (who was then in partnership with Schermerhorn) on design considerations for the new park system. In 1870, William Le Baron Jenney was appointed as the West Park Commission’s official architect and engineer.

A PARK AND BOULEVARD ENSEMBLE

The West Park System’s three large landscapes were designed as an ensemble. Jenney’s plans, completed in 1871, incorporated features characteristic of Olmsted’s work such as picturesque lagoons, winding paths, open meadows, and lushly planted areas. In fact, Jenney turned to Olmsted for advice on designing the west



West Park System's park and boulevard ensemble



West Park System's park and boulevard ensemble

HISTORY

GARFIELD PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN

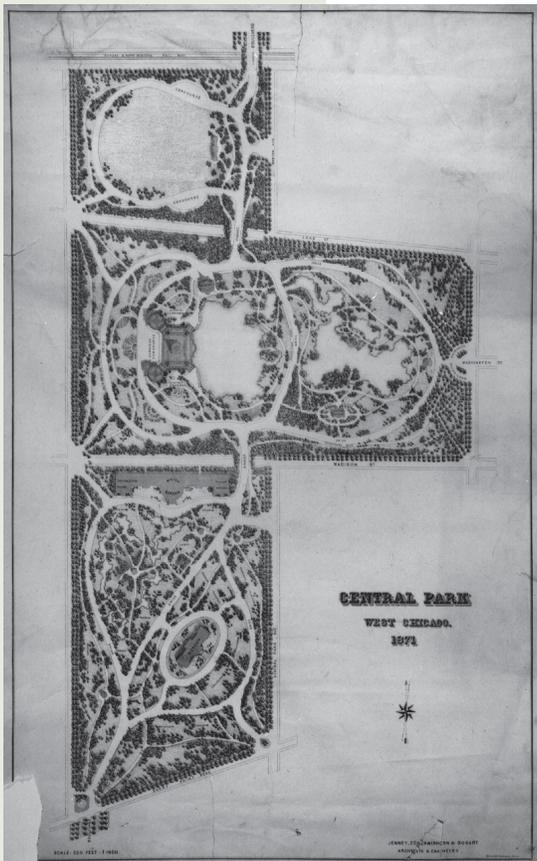
parcs, and Olmsted responded with “a highly instructive letter” of advice.³ In addition to Olmsted’s influence, the three plans also included references to the French landscapes that had impressed Jenney as a student in Paris, such as formal esplanades, ellipses, terraces, pavilions, and monumental buildings. The stately, formal boulevard designs were especially reminiscent of Parisian boulevards.

Realizing the grand vision for the three sites proved to be challenging due to difficult nature conditions. According to Jenney, the unimproved sites did not present “a single suggestion for the design of the future park,” and “lacked a single tree worthy of preservation.”⁴ Jenney’s engineering expertise helped him contend with the swampy and dreary conditions of the sites. For instance, he included a large lagoon in all three park plans not only to provide beautiful scenery, but also to function as reservoirs, addressing drainage problems in marshy areas.

JENNEY’S PLAN FOR CENTRAL PARK

Previously known as Central Park, Garfield Park was the centerpiece and premier site of the entire West Park System. The 184-acre property was unlike the other two park sites due to its configuration. Extending from the Northwest Railroad tracks at the north to

Barry Point Road (now Fifth Avenue) at the south, the western side of the park is a straight line extending along Hamlin Boulevard. The eastern boundary shifts, however, beginning at Central Park Boulevard, on the north and south sides of the park, and extending east to Homan Avenue between Lake and Madison Streets. Jenney was not pleased with the fact that these parallel east-west streets would cut through the park. “He first proposed that Lake and Madison Streets be isolated by low retaining walls so as to be steep on the inward sides and gently sloped on the park sides.”⁵ He also suggested that the street embankments “be densely planted with shrubs and double rows of trees, a technique that he used throughout the system.”⁶ Jenney envisioned the northern section of the park as the simplest and most informal part of the landscape. Edged by winding paths, circuit drive, and naturalistic planting the center was intended as a meadow with “well kept, close cut, velvety green lawn.”⁷ The middle and largest section of the park presented an ornate design with a large romantic lagoon configure in two parts with a peninsula and bridge at Central Park Boulevard. This area was meant to include a large exotic music stand and terrace, as well as smaller rustic structures including a playhouse, and a monumental tower aligned with Washington Boulevard that would serve as a memorial to George Washington. Just east



William LeBaron Jenney's Plan for Central (Garfield) Park 1871

of this site, Jenney designed a formal elliptical entranceway at Washington Boulevard. Jenney's plan for the southern section of the park included a tightly organized system of paths winding around various features including a conservatory, a natural history museum, a dairy, deer paddocks, zoological and botanical gardens.

EARLY IMPROVEMENTS: 1871-1880

Despite Jenney's grand vision, and Central Park's prominence in the system, the West Park Commissioners did not have sufficient funds to construct the park all at once. Jenney recommended that they initially improve the eastern 40 acres at the center section the park. Jenney viewed this as the experimental park due to its significance to the system and the challenges posed by the natural site, which he considered the "first battle ground."⁸

Dredging, grading, and construction commenced in 1871, and this first 40-acre section was opened in 1874. Among these improvements were the elliptical entrance at Washington Boulevard, paths, plantings, the eastern circuit drive, and eastern part of the lagoon with two islands and boat landings, and bridges including a suspension bridge (later rebuilt in the 1930s). The finished area also had two large



Washington Blvd. Entry

fountains, rustic furnishings, a children's play cottage, and separate comfort stations for men and women.

Throngs of people attended the park's official opening in August of 1874, and the site's popularity continued to grow. Six boats on the park's lagoon attracted more than 10,000 patrons in 1876. Extra boats were added the following year.

MONUMENT TO THE GREAT FIRE

Shortly after the Chicago Fire of October 8-10, 1871, the West Park Commissioners instructed William Le Baron Jenney to design a memorial to the "great calamity" for installation in Garfield Park. They suggested that the memorial should incorporate relics from the ruins of the fire. The site previously designated for the Washington Memorial Tower was selected

HISTORY

GARFIELD PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN



for the monument to the Great Fire. Although a large public ceremony was held in honor of the proposed memorial in October of 1872, and a foundation was later laid, the memorial was never fully realized. The partially executed monument was removed from the park in 1883.

FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS: 1880-1890

In the early 1880s, the commissioners began focusing on improving the area just west of the finished park, between Lake and Madison Streets. By this time, Oscar F. Dubuis, who had previously worked under Jenney, served as the West Park System's Engineer. Carrying out Jenney's overall intent, he created a peninsula, extended the lagoon to the west, and installed a rockery at the artesian well that fed the lagoon. Little is known about Dubuis apart from his later involvement in the naturalistic design of parks and boulevards in Peoria, Illinois. It appears, however, that in this early Chicago work, he began to consider the natural characteristics of the Midwestern landscape. In 1882, he warned against creating any dramatic hills in Garfield Park, suggesting that it is "obviously impossible to produce in the vicinity of Chicago" topography that would have the impact of mountain scenery.⁹ At the same time, Dubuis recommended the planting of masses of wild

shrubbery near the lagoon. In 1888, the commissioners suggested the creation of a garden that would include only trees, shrubs, and vines that grow wild in this climate, however, there is no indication that this idea was ever realized.

By the late 1880s, an interest in exotic plants and forms began influencing the development of the West Parks. Between 1886 and 1888, a small conservatory was constructed in each of the three parks. Garfield Park's conservatory was the most ornate. Designed by architects Fromann and Jepsen, the building had two wings flanking an octagonal domed exotic house in the center. Fanciful gardens surrounded the glass structure. During the 1890s, several showy Victorian gardens were planted in Garfield Park. These included a garden folly emulating Fort Dearborn, Chicago's historic federal military installation.



Bandstand

A fascination with exotic architecture was expressed through several Victorian buildings. A Jenney-designed Chinese pagoda structure sheathed what would have been a mundane electrical station and water-pumping facility built in 1893. In 1896, architect Joseph Lyman Silsbee designed two exotic buildings for Garfield Park—a Flemish Revival style power house and a Saracenic (Arabian) style octagonal bandstand.

CORRUPTION IN THE WEST PARK SYSTEM: 1890'S

By the late 1890s, the West Park System had become mired by political graft. As corrupt commissioners focused on their own political and monetary advancement, the parks deteriorated. An unusual addition to Garfield Park at this time was a double-ring racetrack. In 1875, a group of neighborhood residents had been allowed to create a dirt racetrack in what was then an unfinished area just south of Madison Street. Although there were some complaints about gambling and “disreputable and disorderly crowds,”¹⁰ the commissioners decided to remove the privately-operated track to replace it with a concrete track under their management in 1896. The new track had an outer ring for bicycles and an inner ring for

horses. This was removed in 1906, the same year that horse racing was prohibited in every state except Kentucky.

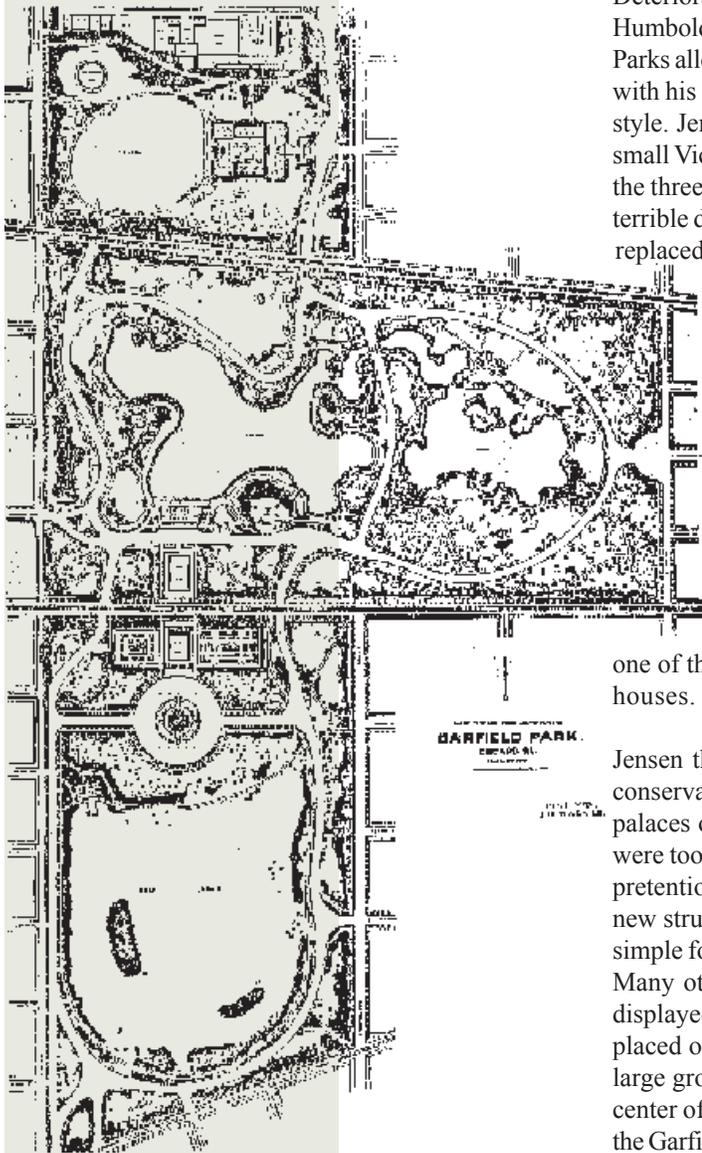
An honest and conscientious West Park Commission employee at this time was a Danish immigrant named Jens Jensen (1860- 1951). Having begun as a laborer in the mid 1880s, Jensen was soon promoted to foreman. Noting that many of the formal gardens composed of exotic plants did not thrive, in 1888, he journeyed to the countryside and gathered an array of wildflowers, which were then generally considered weeds. Jensen transplanted the wildflowers into a small corner of Union Park, creating the *American Garden*, which soon gained popularity in the neighborhood. Jensen continued working his way up the system and was appointed as superintendent of Humboldt Park in 1895. As the park commission became increasingly entrenched in politics, he attempted to fight against the corruption. Because of these efforts, the dishonest park board ousted Jensen in 1900.

REFORM & OPPORTUNITY: 1900'S

In 1905, a new reform-minded governor, Charles S. Deneen, dismissed the whole West Park Board of Commissioners and appointed a progressive and honest board. The newly-appointed board

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president, Bernard A. Eckhart, selected Jensen as chief landscape architect and general superintendent of the entire West Park System. When Jensen returned, he found the parks in terrible condition. Deteriorating features in Humboldt, Garfield, and Douglas Parks allowed him to experiment with his evolving naturalistic style. Jensen demolished the small Victorian conservatories in the three parks, all suffering terrible deterioration. He replaced them with a larger,

centrally located Garfield Park Conservatory. Designed in conjunction with Hitchings & Co., a New York engineering company that specialized in green houses, the new Garfield Park Conservatory was

one of the world's largest glass houses.

Jensen thought that most conservatories resembled palaces or chateaus which were too fanciful and pretentious. In contrast his new structure emulated the simple form of a haystack. Many other conservatories displayed plants in pots placed on pedestals or in large groupings in the center of a room. Within the Garfield Park Conservatory, however, Jensen designed interior rooms to look like outdoor landscapes. Jensen placed

plants directly in the ground and framed views by keeping the center of each room open, with a fountain or a naturalistic pond as the centerpiece. He also hid exposed pipes and mechanical systems by tucking them behind beautiful walls of stratified stonework. Unlike the mounds of Volcanic stone used in Victorian conservatories, Jensen's horizontal stonework resembled the bluffs and outcroppings found along rivers in the Midwest. So unusual was Jensen's approach, the Garfield Park Conservatory was considered revolutionary when it opened to the public in 1908.

In addition to dilapidated structures, the parks also had severely deteriorated landscapes when Jensen inherited them. Garfield Park's landscape was particularly degraded due to smoke damage from nearby factories. Jensen asserted that the need to replant gave him the "opportunity of trying out on a large scale this idea of employing indigenous stock."¹¹ He explained that "all of the new shrubbery and trees that we planted were native, and wherever replacements were needed in the older areas these were largely made with indigenous material."¹² At the south end of the park, Jensen

removed the old racetrack, replacing it with a broad horizontal meadow edged by masses of native plants. This became the first public golf course of Chicago's West Side. A nationally renowned golf course designer, Tom Bendelow, helped Jensen minimize the visual impact of the required fairways and greens to create a symbolic prairie meadow. A beautiful Prairie style stucco locker and bathroom building was constructed at the northwest end of the golf course.

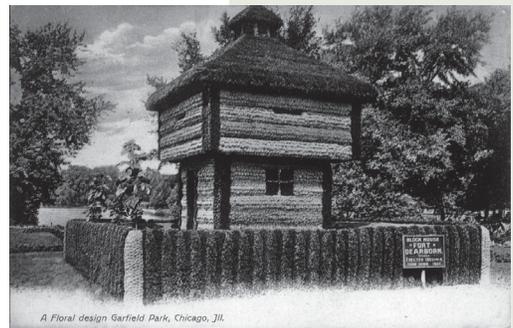
In addition to the naturalistic and Prairie style features added to Garfield Park during this period, Jensen also created a formal garden adjacent to the existing bandstand. Although this was a conventional garden in terms of its cross-axial layout and use of some exotic flowers, it deviated from tradition by including Prairie style pergolas, and some beds were edged with native grasses. The garden included rectangular water courts that produced a misty spray. On axis with the two water courts, at the north end of the garden was a 1907 Prairie style refectory and boathouse designed by architect William Carby Zimmerman (which is no longer extant).

PROGRESSIVE
PROGRAMS &
EVENTS:
1909-1920

In addition to his interest in creating beautiful scenery, Jensen was deeply concerned about people's experiences in the landscape and he fostered programs and events celebrating art and nature. In 1909, Jensen organized an outdoor art exhibit in Garfield Park that was jointly sponsored by the West Park Commission, Municipal Art League and the Art Institute of Chicago. The exhibit explored the idea of appropriate landscape settings for various works of art. Plaster model versions of sculptures from the World's Columbian Exposition were exhibited, with monumental works placed in formal settings and humanistic pieces sited in more naturalistic landscapes. A similar exhibit held in Humboldt Park the prior year included a pair of bulls by sculptor Daniel Chester French. A pair of bison sculptures by Edward Kemeys were exhibited in the 1909 Garfield Park exhibit. Interestingly, in 1915, both sets



Ice Skating on the Garfield Park Lagoon



Floral Display of Fort Dearborn in Garfield Park



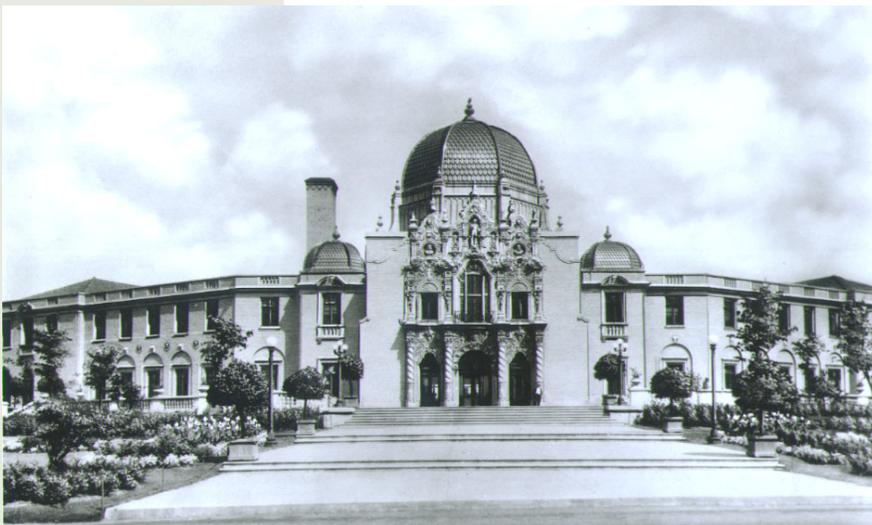
Garfield Park Conservatory

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of animal sculptures were cast in bronze, but the locations were switched. The bison were installed in the Humboldt Park Rose Garden and the bulls were placed at the entryway to the Garfield Park formal garden, near the Water Court.

In 1910, Jensen shifted his role from superintendent to consulting landscape architect. Although this limited his responsibilities, he continued to have a tremendous influence on the programming efforts of the West Park Commission. In June of 1915, the commission sponsored a festival celebrating the summer solstice. At this prodigious event, 1,400 children in costumes celebrating the four seasons paraded through an audience of 25,000.



POLITICAL WINDS SHIFT AGAIN: 1920's

In 1920, Governor Frank Lowden removed all seven members of the West Park Commission Board from office. With this dramatic upheaval, Jensen lost political support once again. He severed his ties with the West Park System for the final time. Jensen's private practice was thriving, however, as he had dozens of commissions designing parks, school campuses, hospital grounds, resorts, and residential properties. Jensen's clients included many successful businessmen such as Henry and Edsel Ford, Harold Florsheim, and Ogden Armour.

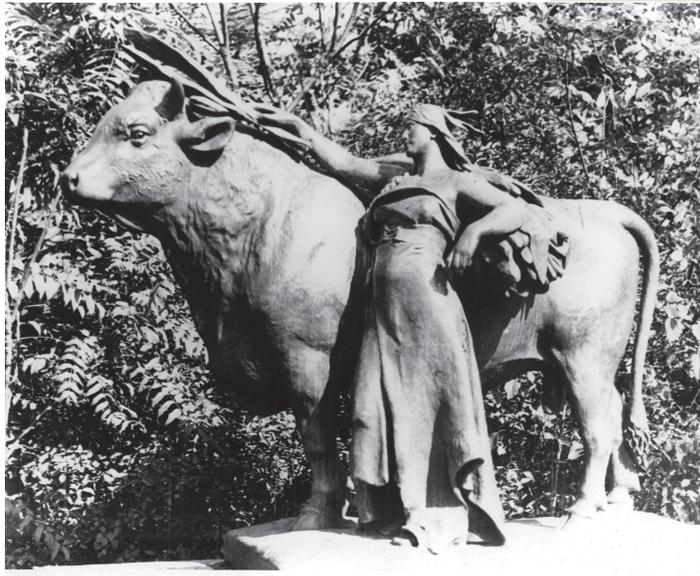
MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS OF THE 1920'S

As the nation experienced a prosperous and decadent period during the late 1920s, the West Park Commission began planning a number of improvements to the parks, especially focusing on ornate and fanciful buildings. A \$10 million bond issue was approved in 1927, making possible numerous construction projects. There were several new buildings added to Garfield Park at this time. These included a new warehouse and shop building, a Roque building (no longer extant), and the West Park Administration Building, known commonly as the "Gold

Dome” Building. The firm of Michaelson and Rognstad designed all of these structures. All three were executed in the Spanish Revival style. The Administration Building was most ornate and ostentatious of the new structures. In addition to its impressive gold dome, it includes ornate terra cotta and marble details, plasterwork, bas-relief panels, and vibrant terrazzo floors. It provided offices for the commissioners and staff, the West Park police department, as well as a boat landing, skating room, and concession area on the basement level.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT:

By the early 1930s, there were 22 independent park commissions operating simultaneously in Chicago. The Great Depression rendered all of these public agencies financially insolvent. For years, there had been discussion about the inefficiency of having so many local park districts. In an unprecedented attempt to access funding through President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal, all 22 of the separate park systems were consolidated into the Chicago Park District in 1934. The “Gold Dome Building” was soon converted into a long-needed field house as there was no need



Bull Sculpture by Daniel Chester French for a separate administration building in Garfield Park.

Between 1935 and 1941, the newly consolidated Chicago Park District received more than \$84 million in funds through the Works Progress Administration (WPA). As the new agency inherited numerous park facilities and landscapes in various states of completion and disrepair, a significant portion of the WPA monies allowed a flurry of construction and improvement projects. Some of the funding also helped to provide an array of athletic, recreational, and cultural programs. Nearly all of the park programs and construction projects were conceived, planned, and executed by Chicago Park District staff members. While this was a remarkable period for Chicago’s parks, pressure to build quickly and a focus on modernization and convenience brought about

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GARFIELD PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN

some work that had a negative impact on the park. For instance, one project funded by the WPA, was the expansion of Jackson Boulevard through Garfield Park. This severely altered the south meadow and brought additional noise and traffic into a heavily trafficked park.

A PERIOD OF DECLINE: 1950-1960



As Chicago's west side began to decline in the 1950s, the park also suffered. The park district's focus shifted away from landscape and facilities management to athletics as the nation became increasingly concerned with fitness. In the early 1960s, the Chicago Park District allowed the Board of Education to build a number of new schools in parks to help accommodate a growing Baby Boom population. In Garfield Park, the result was the construction of Leif Ericson School on the southeast corner of the landscape. Although the advisability of giving up green space for school buildings was later questioned, Leif Ericson School was built without any major impact to the park or its historic landscape. Garfield Park continued to deteriorate between the 1960s and the 1980s. The historic Refectory Building was destroyed by fire in early 1981. During this period, the park was subject to excessive vandalism.

In the mid 1980s, one of the bronze bull statues (previously discussed) that flanked the entry to the formal garden was stolen, and the other was severely damaged. (Fortunately, the remaining sculpture was put into storage and the pair is now being replicated) Although attempts were made to improve the park, such as the 1984 gym and swimming pool addition to the Field House, these projects do not display the level of design embodied in previous works.

NEW INITIATIVES

Recent efforts have begun to bring improvements to Garfield Park and encouragement to the people who live in the surrounding community. The park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993. Since that time, a number of improvements have upgraded the quality of the park's landscape and facilities and its overall appearance. The "Gold Dome" Building, an icon in the neighborhood, once terribly damaged by water infiltration has had significant restoration work, and is currently receiving additional repairs. Similarly the Garfield Park Conservatory is benefiting from millions of dollars of improvements and the creation of the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, a non-profit organization devoted to education and programming for the facility. The park lagoon has undergone extensive

rehabilitation, the landscape has had new plantings, and historic light fixtures were replicated and installed throughout. Other improvements have focused on the suspension bridge, Golf Shelter Building, and several sculptures in the park.

Despite all of this work, Garfield Park needs further improvements. This framework plan provides an opportunity to analyze existing problems in the park, its conditions, and its programming. It is an opportunity to bring the community and park professionals together to create a vision for Garfield Park. This initiative can help protect and preserve the park while also allowing it to achieve its full potential for the 21st century.

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¹⁰ West Chicago Park Commission, *Twenty-Third Annual Report of the West Chicago Park Commissioners*, Chicago: 1892, 12.

¹¹ Jensen, Jens as told to Ragna Bergliott Eskil, “Natural Parks and Gardens,” *The Saturday Evening Post*, v.20, no. 36, 8 March 1930, 19.

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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Recommendations for Preservation of Historically Significant Aspects of Garfield Park



Prairie style Golf Shelter



Open meadow surrounded by trees



Border plantings around open space



Jenney's "romantic" park style

INTRODUCTION

As one of the original large parks of the Chicago West Park District organized in 1869, Garfield Park contains a rich layering of history. This section describes some of the remaining landscape features associated with the various designers involved with the park - Jenney and Dubuis from the late 1800s and Jensen from the early 1900s and provides recommendations for preserving that heritage for the future.

SOUTH END OF THE PARK

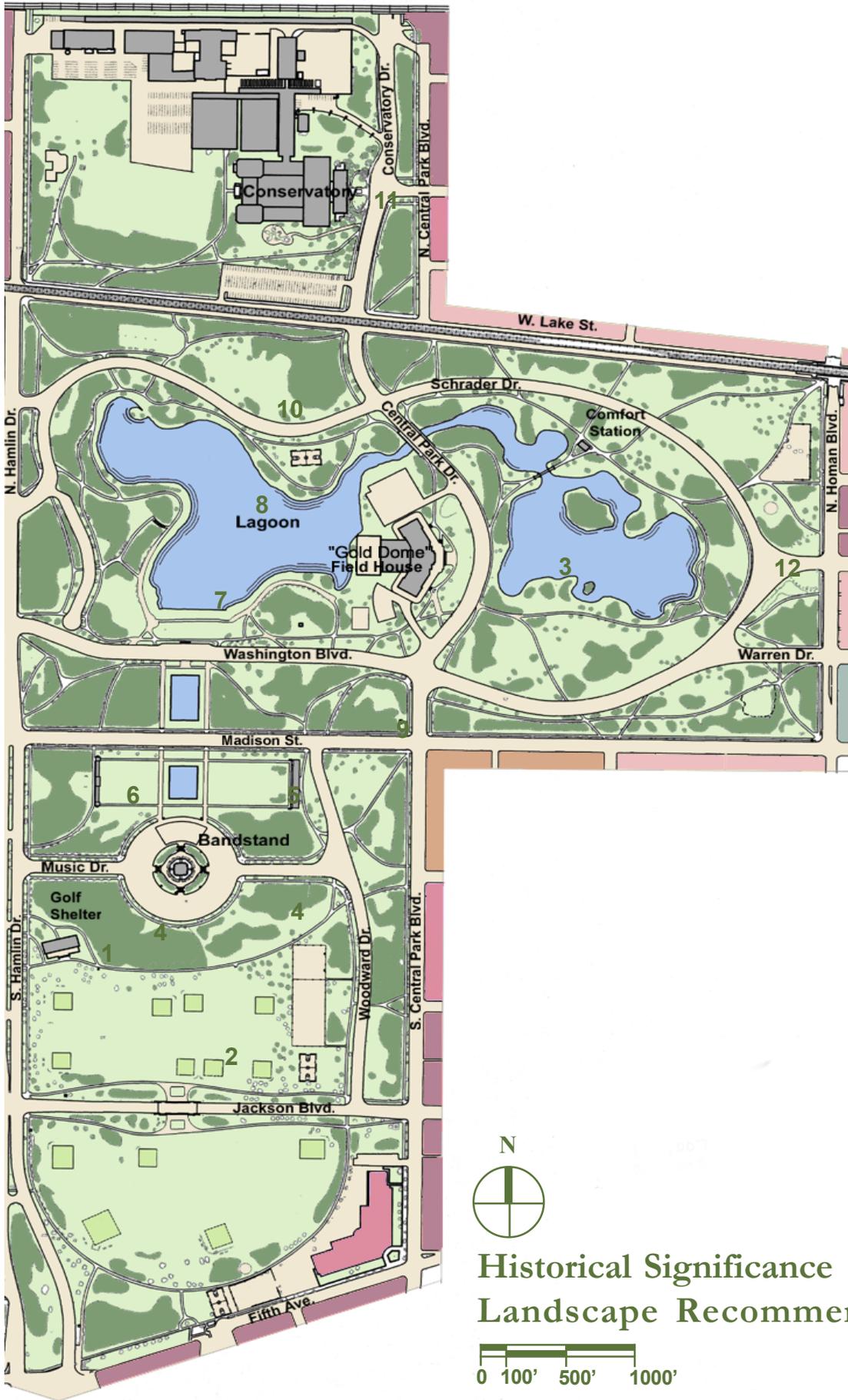
The primary historical features that survive in the south end of the park are the Prairie style Golf Structure and the open meadow spaces, remnants of

the golf course created during Jensen's association with Garfield Park in the early 1900s. Today the open meadows are filled with ball fields. The trees around the edges of this space are critical to maintaining a sense of enclosure, separating the interior of the park from the surrounding traffic and defining the park landscape from the surrounding neighborhoods. On the south side of this zone, the Leif Ericson Elementary School and the senior housing buildings were built on the edge of the meadow. Overall priorities for this zone should include:

- Maintain and enhance the border plantings around the edge of this large open space.
- Find new uses for the historic Prairie style Golf Structure such as concessions, and rehabilitate the building and install appropriate plantings around it.
- Provide better transitions to Leif Ericson Elementary School and to the senior housing on the southern edge of this space.

EAST END OF THE PARK

This area of the park best exemplifies Jenney's and Dubuis "romantic" park style, and preservation efforts should focus on the lagoon and the plantings around it to enhance bird habitat while reducing the excessive goose population.



- ## Legend
1. Golf Shelter
 2. Open meadow surrounded by trees
 3. Restore native planting around lagoon to enhance bird population and reduce excessive goose population
 4. Planting around the Bandstand
 5. Restore the Trellis structure and the Prairie style concrete bench at the Formal Garden
 6. Former location of Buffalo Sculptures
 7. Previous Refectory location
 8. Plantings to enhance views across the lagoon, existing large existing colonies of invasive species at the lagoon edge
 9. Lincoln, the Rail Splitter
 10. El tracks visible in the park
 11. Conservatory entrance
 12. Washington Boulevard entry on the east side of the park



Historical Significance Landscape Recommendations



HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Recommendations for Preservation of Historically Significant Aspects of Garfield Park



Excessive geese population



Dense plantings along the lagoon edge



Visibility issues around the Bandstand

There is a long tradition of planting native trees for nature education that began in the early period of the park's history. In the *Nineteenth Annual Report of the West Chicago Park Commissioners* in 1889, during Oscar Dubuis' association with the parks, President Harvey L. Thompson noted that plans had been

“prepared and adopted for the improvement of that part of Garfield Park lying north of Lake Street to be planted with every variety of tree growing wild in this latitude, including oaks, maple, basswood, wild cherry, and especially all nut bearing trees which shall be labeled with popular and scientific names placed on the same,

giving young people an opportunity of becoming familiar with the large variety of trees and shrubbery growing in this climate.”

Along the water's edge, denser plantings of wetland plants, grasses, shrubs and trees should help in reducing the use of the lawn area by geese. Care should be taken in locating plantings to avoid blocking views or creating hiding places.

BANDSTAND

From its early history, the Bandstand, designed by Joseph Lyman Silsbee, was the center of many park celebrations and activities. Today's parking lot



Road and alley of trees focusing views on the Bandstand

and the dominance of auto-related activities discourage other uses of this zone. While the dense plantings of littleleaf linden at the edges of the parking lot and along the roads leading to the Bandstand and Boat House site were one of the real jewels of the formal Prairie style early in Jensen’s career. Each of the three large Jensen parks—Douglas, Humboldt, and Garfield—has its own interpretations of these kinds of spaces. While the basic outline and fabric of the historic garden remains, it is missing some of the details and accents that provided its art and craft or Prairie style character and separated this zone from more naturalistic portions of the park. Important historic Prairie style features that remain include:

Recommendations:

- Improve visibility through tree removal and pruning into the zone around the Bandstand and increase lighting to enhance a greater variety of activities.
- Encourage pedestrian use of this zone by installing interesting plantings that could tie this zone to the floral beds of the Water Garden to the north. Plants chosen for the beds immediately around the Bandstand should reflect the exotic style of the structure and a Victorian fascination with unusual plants.

WATER COURT

The extensive Water Court and formal garden beds between the Bandstand and the Refectory/ Boat House site were one of the real jewels of the formal Prairie style early in Jensen’s career. Each of the three large Jensen parks—Douglas, Humboldt, and Garfield—has its own interpretations of these kinds of spaces. While the basic outline and fabric of the historic garden remains, it is missing some of the details and accents that provided its art and craft or Prairie style character and separated this zone from more naturalistic portions of the park. Important historic Prairie style features that remain include:

- The Trellis Structures
- Prairie style Concrete Benches.

These should be carefully preserved. Those features missing that would greatly enhance the Prairie style character of this zone include:

- Graceful planters at key corners of the garden
- The Bull Sculptures at the west entrance court. (These may be installed at the Conservatory).



Trellis structure at the Formal Garden



Trellis structure at the Formal Garden



Prairie style Concrete Bench



Pedestal at the west entrance court that once held a Bull Sculpture

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Recommendations for Preservation of Historically Significant Aspects of Garfield Park



Views across the lagoon



Large colonies of invasive plant species at the lagoon

LAGOON & “GOLD DOME” BUILDING AREA

The lagoon and the spaces around it provide the best example of Jensen’s naturalistic design in the park. Bordered by layers of wetland grasses and flowers with occasional masses of trees and shrubs, views across the lagoon and around its various bays gave the impression of a much larger space while also providing habitat for a variety of water-fowl and other birds. While some of these features remain, there seems to be an overall loss of diversity in vegetation and domination by weedy and invasive wetland plants.

Strategies for restoring historic character in the lagoon area include:

- Avoid tall growth at the water’s edge by reducing the large colonies of weedy invasives such as narrow leaved cattail, reed canary grass, phragmites, purple loosestrife, etc.
- Shape the vegetation at the edge of the lagoon to enhance depth of views with shorter native wetland, rushes, and flowers at the water’s edge and occasional backing by native shrubs (red osier dogwood, buttonbush, etc.).
- Rehabilitate shrub and tree plantings around the lagoon to enframe long views that

disappear around the bend of the lagoon or into a mass of trees or shrubs in the distance.

Around the lagoon are remnants of some of the smaller outdoor room-like spaces so common in Jensen’s designs. These “rooms” continue to provide quiet places for park visitors to picnic in small family groups or simply to escape the crowds and enjoy the shade or a particular view. In this zone are also found several of the important park sculptures, including Charles Mulligan’s “Lincoln, The Rail Splitter”. These settings likely once had a greater density of shrubs around the borders of the space to provide a backdrop for the sculptures.

Recommendations include:

- Enhance the pattern of bays and peninsulas of tree and shrub masses in the area around the lagoon to accentuate small “room-like” spaces, especially around sculpture sites.
- Emphasize layers of vegetation here—large trees that enframe views, hawthorns and other small trees that help to define spaces or accent “turning points” of larger spaces, and masses of shrubs in places where they can be used without creating hiding places.

The Byzantine/Rococo “Gold Dome” Building dramatically changed the quiet/naturalistic character of the lagoon. For many it is probably the most dramatic structure in the park

and certainly serves the center for many organized park activities.

- Select and accentuate dramatic views of the “Gold Dome” Building from key points around the lagoon, using vegetation to enframe the view.
- Select other points where the naturalistic character dominates and use vegetation to screen views of the “Gold Dome” Field House.

The construction of the elevated rail tracks above Lake Street also greatly changed this part of the park, creating a physical barrier between the main portion of the park and the Conservatory area north of West Lake. Fortunately, during the summer, larger trees help to partially screen the tracks from certain areas of the park, but the noise of the trains and traffic below is a constant reminder of its presence.

- Continue to promote some larger trees near the El tracks to help screen and separate them from the rest of the park.

FORMER BOATHOUSE AND REFECTORY AREA

Addressing the Boat House/ Refectory site is significant to connect the lagoon to the Water Court and gardens as well as to provide a platform for increased use of the lagoon. There are a number of temporary things that might be done here:

- Install temporary structures or artwork as a focal point for the view from the Bandstand and bring attention back to this zone of the park. The style of temporary structures/sculpture might vary, but if a permanent structure is rebuilt, it should at least reflect the horizontality of the original Boat House and be in scale with the panels created by the fountain basins and walkways at their perimeter.
- Create celebrations to bring activities back to this zone. These could be arts and cultural events which reflect the community, or relate to some of the programs during Jensen’s period—namely his experimental sculpture show of 1909 and the “Pageant of the Year and Play Festival” in 1915.
- Restore boating to the lagoon. This would certainly help to make this area a hub of activities once again.



Lincoln, the Rail Splitter



Lagoon edge



Tree plantings around the lagoon

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Recommendations for Preservation of Historically Significant Aspects of Garfield Park



El tracks visible in the park



Conservatory entrance

CONSERVATORY AREA

The Garfield Park Conservatory has long been seen as one of the most enduring features of Jensen's design association with the West Parks. While much attention has been given to preserving and restoring the integrity of the historic gardens and features inside the building, much historic fabric has been lost in the spaces surrounding the Conservatory. The original entrance area of Jensen's period featured a more stately geometric court with a rectangular pool reminiscent of the Water Court area of the park.

A key part of the Conservatory zone is the overall character of North Central Park Boulevard. The wide median was likely intended to have stately trees as a transition from the adjoining neighborhood into the park. Some of the current trees may date from the Jensen period, but it is likely many trees and perhaps masses of shrubs have been lost.

Recommendations for this zone include:

- Remove current plantings and stonework from the front of the Conservatory and replace them with plantings more appropriate to Jensen's period.

- Encourage large stately trees along Central Park Boulevard.

- Continue to use a mixture of plantings to enhance the park walkways and screen parking areas.

ENTRIES

Perhaps one of the most important features at all of the edges of the park were the points where the park walkways met the outside edges. At the major corners, Jensen would have carefully stepped back the layers of vegetation with larger trees grading down to understory trees to shrubs or herbaceous plants nearer the walk. Today, this same pattern may not feel safe to many park users. Perhaps careful attention to large overstory trees stepping down to understory trees with attractive, but easily maintained ground layer plantings would provide a greater sense of arrival.

Recommendations:

- Accentuate entrance walks by stepping down from larger trees to understory trees with groundcover plantings.
- Avoid dense plantings of shrubs at entrances except where security or visibility is not an issue.
- In some areas, accentuate entries by use of transitions in paving and/or simple planters and signage.

Three of the entry points where structures were clearly used to define entries included the arched arbors by William Carbys Zimmerman at the Washington Boulevard entry on the east side of the park, the entry court to the Water Court, and the entry plaza for the Conservatory (mentioned previously). New design at these three areas should address the historic character of these as entries to the park, perhaps considering reconstruction of the missing features.

Acknowledge each of these important entrances through reconstruction or some level of enhancement and interpretation.

WALKWAYS / ROADS

While the walkways around the borders of the park were typically parallel to the roads, inside the park, the walks followed sinuous curves, and most roads did the same. Jensen delighted in creating a sequence of light and shady areas along walkways, largely keeping walks or drives mostly in the shade with views into adjoining meadows or across water bodies. Vegetation was used to create enclosures or gateways from one outdoor room to the next or to enframe special views.

- When restoring walks, enhance contrast between curving walkways inside the park and walks parallel to roads at park borders.

- Use plantings to create a sequence of sun and shadow along these walks and to define “gateways” from one space to the next.

JENSEN’S LANDSCAPE

Garfield Park represents key elements of Jens Jensen’s landscape design theory:

- Differentiate between the parks’ interior and exterior through planting, so that planting at the street edge is more regularly spaced, and planting towards the interior is more naturalistic.
- Emphasize the flat Prairie landscape and accentuate the breadth of outdoor spaces by framing views and open lawn areas with tree massing.
- Emphasize native plants in naturalistic areas of the park and use a variety of plants in formal garden beds.
- Avoid evergreen plantings, plants with unnaturally-colored leaves, and topiary.

For a detailed discussion of planting recommendations, refer to the Landscape and Ecology Recommendations section.



Washington Boulevard entry on the east side of the park

APPENDIX

GARFIELD PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN

APPENDIX

GARFIELD PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN

Chicago Park District

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Public Meeting

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Sumi Balamohan
Bandstra, Bryce
Bonnie J. Banks
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Alpha Brutan
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Kassandra Cosby
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PARTICIPANTS

Credits

The following is a list of participants consisting of concerned citizens, community organizations, civic groups, public agencies, institutions, professional consultants, and elected officials whom worked on the development of the Garfield Park Framework Plan.

APPENDIX

GARFIELD PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN

QUESTIONNAIRE

Summary of Prioritization Based on 26 Respondents

The following is a list of the goals and issues that were raised in the first Garfield Park Steering Committee and Public meetings. In order to begin resolving these issues and meeting our goals, please review the list and answer the following questions.

• *Bullet denotes a comment written in by a respondent.*

Park Unification Goals:

Please prioritize these goals 1-4 (1 most important) and write in any new issues.

- 1__ Increase community involvement in the Park
- 2__ Increase the number of people from the surrounding community working in the Park
- 3__ Create neighborhood park maintenance groups
- 4__ Reduce vehicular traffic in the Park

Park Image & Character Issues:

Please prioritize the following goals 1-5 (1 most important), and write in any new issues.

- 3__ Create an opulent appearance in Garfield Park
 - 1__ Promote neighborhood art projects within Garfield Park
 - 4__ Improve the landscape/planting
 - 5__ Remove the fencing and gates
 - 2__ Communicate the rich history of Garfield Park. Possibly with a signage program that explains the history of Garfield Park
- *Create greater awareness of those wonderful positive things that are already in existence.*

Security Issues:

Please prioritize the following issues 1-4 (1 most important) and write in any new issues.

- 1__ Increase security foot patrols
- 2__ Determine the areas that need more lighting to promote a safe environment
- 4__ The park currently closes at 10pm. Consider keeping it open until 11pm
- 3__ Develop a comprehensive crime study to determine if there is a crime problem in the Park

What time of day are security foot patrols needed the most?

- *Do not appear needed.*
- *Night*

- *8 pm to 12:30*
- *5 pm to 2 am*
- *Consider bike patrols*
- *Open to close*
- *Evening to night*
- *6pm to close*
- *Afternoon when children are present*
- *In the pm*
- *Evening*
- *8 pm to close*
- *night*
- *at night*

Where in the park should lighting be increased to promote security?

- *Where indicated by a meter*
- *All around*
- *Everywhere*
- *All over*
- *Along Lake Street, at Maypole and Hamline*
- *Playgrounds, entry and exit ways*
- *Throughout*
- *Schrader Drive*
- *Areas that are farthest from the street*
- *Dark places*

Activity & Program Suggestions:

Please prioritize the following activities 1-13 (1 most important) and write in any new activities or programs that you would like to see in Garfield Park.

- 3__ Develop more cultural activities
- 2__ Develop more after school activities (Involve Bulls and Black Hawks with youth groups in the park.)
- 1__ Develop programs for seniors
- 7__ Provide gardening and environmental education
- 5__ Create a newsletter to explain park programs
- 12__ Avoid over-programming the

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GARFIELD PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN

QUESTIONNAIRE

Summary of Prioritization Based on 26 Respondents

The following is a list of the goals and issues that were raised in the first Garfield Park Steering Committee and Public meetings. In order to begin resolving these issues and meeting our goals, please review the list and answer the following questions.

• *Bullet denotes a comment written in by a respondent.*

- Park with activities
- 4 Plan concerts at the band shell
- 8 Allow ice skating at the band shell
- 10 tie Create catch and release fishing tournaments
- 6 Create a farmer's market
- 11 Provide horseshoe pits
- 10 tie Provide track & field facilities
- 9 Attract a new museum or cultural facility
- *A new nature museum similar to that in Lincoln Park, situated opposite the new el station.*
- *Zoological exhibits*
- *Ice and in-line skating*
- *Develop a marketing plan*
- *3 Lake street bus stop return*
- *Transportation for school programs*

Existing Facility Improvement Recommendations:

Please prioritize these issues from 1 to 8, (1 most important).

- 1 Improve the Field House
- 3 Repair damage to the pool
- 6 Restore the band shell
- 5 Clean the lagoons
- 2 Repair or replace playlots
- 8 Stock the lagoons with fish
- 7 Repair Washington Blvd
- 4 Address ADA (handicap accessibility) issues
- *Improve Conservatory and gardens*

New Facility Recommendations:

Please prioritize these facilities 1-20 (1 most important), and write in any other facilities and locations for facilities that you would like to see added to the park.

- 4 Concessions areas or restaurant
- 3 Additional Bus Stops
- 5 New Play Ground
- 2 Improve Lighting
- 18 Beach
- 10 Water fountains
- 8 Wellness Center
- 13 Parking

- 16 Paddle boats in lagoon
- 1 New restrooms
- 15 tie Shuttle through park
- 7 Garden spaces for community use
- 12 Tennis courts
- 9 Restaurant
- 19 Comfort stations
- 14 Pedestrian overpass at Washington and Madison
- 15 tie Studio space for artists
- 6 Picnic areas
- 11 Bike lanes and racks
- 17 Arboretum
- *Paddle boats may conflict with fishing*
- *Arboretum a nice compliment to existing facilities*
- *Ice Hockey*
- *Ice and In-line skating*
- *Basketball Court*

Conservatory Improvement Issues:

Please prioritize these issues 1-15 (1 most important), and write in any other issues that affect the Conservatory.

- 4 Make the Conservatory into a part of the park - don't design independently.
- 8 tie Install new landscape in the parking lots
- 10 Reconfigure the parking lots to allow for more garden space
- 6 Landscape the CTA stop
- 5 Introduce a Café or restaurant
- 7 Create more concessions areas
- 2 tie Create art and studio fairs
- 3 Provide conservatory and gardening education for the community
- 1 Create a safe atmosphere
- 9 tie Develop gardens with an afrocentric design theme to reflect community
- 2 tie Outreach to community and create more awareness of the Conservatory
- 162 Remove storage and maintenance buildings
- 9 tie Reuse storage and maintenance

APPENDIX

GARFIELD PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN

PLANT LIST

The following is a list of trees found in Garfield Park and a recommended list of plant species to be added.

Trees currently present in Garfield Park

Acer ginnala	Amur Maple
Acer platanoides	Norway Maple
Acer rubrum	Red Maple
Acer saccharinum	Silver Maple
Acer saccharum	Sugar Maple
Aesculus hippocastanum	Horse Chestnut
Ailanthus altissima	Tree of Heaven
Catalpa speciosa	Catalpa
Celtis occidentalis	Hackberry
Cercis canadensis	Redbud
Cornus mas	Corneliancherry Dogwood
Crataegus crusgalli	Cockspur Hawthorn
Crataegus marshallii	Parsley Hawthorn
Crataegus mollis	Downy Hawthorn
Crataegus phaenopyrum	Washington Hawthorn
Fraxinus americana	White Ash
Fraxinus pennsylvanica	Green Ash
Ginkgo biloba	Ginkgo
Gleditsia triacanthos	Honey Locust
Gymnocladus dioicus	Kentucky Coffee Tree
Juglans nigra	Black Walnut
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweetgum
Malus sp.	Crabapple species
Morus alba	Mulberry
Picea abies	Norway Spruce
Platanus occidentalis	Sycamore
Populus alba	White Poplar
Populus deltoides	Cottonwood
Prunus americana	Wild Plum
Prunus virginiana	Common Chokecherry
Rhamnus cathartica	Common Buckthorn
Quercus acutissima	Sawtooth Oak
Quercus alba	White Oak
Quercus bicolor	Swamp White Oak
Quercus rubra	Red Oak
Robinia pseudoacacia	Black Locust
Salix alba	Weeping Willow
Syringa x chinensis	Chinese Lilac
Tilia americana	American Linden
Ulmus americana	American Elm
Ulmus pumila	Siberian Elm

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GARFIELD PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN

PLANT LIST

Trees Recommended for Garfield Park

Acer nigrum	Black Maple
Amelanchier canadensis	Serviceberry
Asimina triloba	Paw Paw
Carya cordiformis	Bitternut Hickory
Carya laciniosa	Kingnut Hickory
Carya ovata	Shagbark Hickory
Carpinus caroliniana	Blue Beech
Cornus alternifolia	Pagoda Dogwood
Cornus racemosa	Gray Dogwood
Corylus americana	Hazelnut
Ostrya virginiana	Ironwood
Quercus coccinea	Scarlet Oak
Quercus imbricaria	Shingle Oak
Quercus macrocarpa	Burr Oak
Quercus muhlenbergii	Chiquapin Oak
Quercus palustris	Pin Oak

Shrubs Recommended for Garfield Park

Aronia melanocarpa	Black Chokeberry
Clethra alnifolia	Summersweet Clethra
Corylus americana	American Filbert
Fothergilla gardenii	Dwarf Fothergilla
Hamamelis virginiana	Witch Hazel
Hydrangea arborescens	Wild Hydrangea
Ilex verticillata	Winterberry
Physcarpus opulifolius	Ninebark
Rhus aromatica	Fragrant Sumac
Rhus typhina	Staghorn Sumac
Salix discolor	Pussy Willow
Sambucus canadensis	Elderberry
Viburnum lentago	Nannyberry
Viburnum prunifolium	Black Haw
Viburnum trilobum	High-bush Cranberry

Perennials and Grasses Recommended for Garfield Park

Allium canadense	Wild Garlic
Allium cernuum	Nodding Wild Onion
Andropogon scoparius	Little Bluestem
Anemone canadensis	Meadow Anemone
Anemone cylindrica	Thimbleweed
Aquilegia canadensis	Wild Columbine
Arenaria stricta	Stiff Sandwort
Arisaema triphyllum	Jack In The Pulpit
Asarum canadense	Wild Ginger

The plant lists on the following pages are not intended as all-inclusive references for replanting the park. They are provided as suggestions for types of plants to be added to the existing varieties to maintain and enhance the park's intended landscape character.

APPENDIX

GARFIELD PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN

PLANT LIST

Native perennials and grasses are not proposed with the intention of being installed as an actual prairie or wetland habitat, but instead as defined beds featuring native plants.

Perennials and Grasses Recommended for Garfield Park, Continued

Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly Weed
Aster azureus	Sky-blue Aster
Aster ericoides	Heath Aster
Bidens coronata	Bur Marigold
Coreopsis sp.	Coreopsis
Desmodium canadense	Showy Tick Trefoil
Dodecatheon meadia	Shooting Star
Elymus canadensis	Canada Wild Rye
Euphorbia corollata	Euphorbia corollata
Fragaria virginiana	Wild Strawberry
Galium boreale	Northern Bedstraw
Gentiana crinita	Fringed Gentian
Helianthus divaricatus	Woodland Sunflower
Helianthus occidentalis	Western Sunflower
Hypoxis hirsuta	Yellow Stargrass
Iris cristata	Crested Iris
Lespedeza capitata	Round-Headed Bush Clover
Liatris aspera	Rough Blazing Star
Lupinus perennis occidentalis	Wild Lupine
Oenothera biennis	Common Evening Primrose
Pedicularis canadensis	Wood Betony
Phlox stolonifera	Woodland Phlox
Potentilla arguta	Prairie Cinquefoil
Ratibida pinnata	Yellow Coneflower
Rudbeckia hirta	Black-Eyed Susan
Silphium integrifolium	Rosinweed
Smilacina stellata	Starry Solomon's Seal
Trillium grandiflorum	Trillium
Tradescantia ohioensis	Spiderwort

Migratory Bird Perennials and Grasses Recommended for Garfield Park

Asclepius incarnata	Swamp Milkweed
Asclepias syriaca	Common Milkweed
Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly Weed
Asclepias verticillata	Whorled Milkweed
Bouteloua curtipendula	Side-Oats Gramma
Elymus virginicus	Virginia Wild Rye
Elymus canadensis	Nodding Wild Rye
Helianthus mollis	Downy Sunflower
Monarda fistulosa	Wild Bergamot
Rudbeckia laciniata	Green-headed Coneflower
Rudbeckia subtomentosa	Sweet Black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia triloba	Brown-eyed Susan
Silphium intergrifolium	Rosin Weed
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian Grass

APPENDIX

GARFIELD PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN

Migratory Bird Shrubs Recommended for Garfield Park

Amelanchier laevis	Allegheny Shadblow
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush
Cornus stolonifera	Red-osier Dogwood
Lindera benzoin	Spicebush
Rhus copallina	Shining Sumac
Rhus glabra	Smooth Sumac
Vaccinium corymbosum	Highbush Blueberry

PLANT LIST

APPENDIX

GARFIELD PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN

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The following is a list of documents and other materials referenced in and for the development of the Garfield Park Framework Plan.

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Chicago Park District Plan Archives.

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GARFIELD PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN

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Diagrams

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