Capital Improvements

**Capital Improvement Plan**

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is the District’s comprehensive multi-year plan for land acquisition and park development, new building construction, building and facility management, park site improvements, and technology and major equipment. The CIP outlines the projects that are expected to take place over the next five years. Capital projects typically have costs of over $10,000, have a life expectancy of at least 5 years, and may result in the creation of a capital asset.

The Capital Improvement Plan is a dynamic and evolving guide for spending over a five year period. The CIP outlines spending priorities and expected schedules and is formed to allow for adjustment over the five year period. The CIP allows for flexibility, for instance, if actual project expenses are above (or below) projected budgets in the CIP, as new outside funding is granted for specific projects or programs, or as new district priorities develop. The CIP is published annually to reflect the growth of the Plan each year.

**Capital Improvement Plan Process**

Throughout the year, the Park District compiles requests for capital improvements from numerous sources. External requests generally come from annual budget hearings, letters, emails, website inquiries, legislators, advisory councils, board meetings, community groups, city agencies, new laws, unfunded mandates, and other similar sources. Internal requests are typically derived from park inspections, facility assessments, the work order system, framework plans, policy initiatives, strategic objectives, and needs identified by recreation, culture, service, planning, construction, and maintenance departments.

The requests are bundled into programs and sub-programs that reflect a shared project type. Establishing programs and sub-programs help us to compare similar projects. Projects that are primarily paving work, for example, are organized first into a program called "site improvements" and second into a sub-program called "paving".

Once the requests are organized, an internal working group investigates, analyzes, and weighs each request. This group includes representatives from the departments responsible for implementing the capital plan: planning and development, capital construction, facility maintenance, natural resources, green initiatives, information technology, budget, and the office of the chief operating officer. Investigations occur throughout the year. From request compilation to prioritization, internal review spans approximately six months.
Capital Improvements

The working group’s first step is investigation. Each capital request is investigated to determine the scope, estimated cost, and comparative need for the project. This investigation is combined with research into the source, context, prior assessments, and institutional knowledge of the park and its facilities.

After investigation and research, the working group weighs projects against others in the same sub-program. This analysis takes into consideration the following typologies: projects that are urgent, high-priority that should be undertaken if possible; high-priority projects that should be done if funding becomes available; worthwhile projects to be considered if funding becomes available; and desirable, but not essential, low-priority projects. To understand the continuum of need, an "urgent, high-priority" request might be repairing a broken water main; a "desirable, but not essential" request might be a new floral garden. Part of this process also includes examining the distribution of past and proposed projects and funds across the District relative to the geographic, legislative, and demographic characteristics of the City.

The total estimated cost of the Capital Plan and its individual projects must be within the anticipated available funds. This places limits on the number of projects that can be addressed in a given year. The working group’s Capital Plan recommendation to the General Superintendent must stay within the financial constraints.

The five year term of the District’s Plan allows the District to maintain long term fiscal health, lend stability to capital investment planning, meet longer term goals and objectives, establish meaningful timelines for projects, and make clear to the public the District's future investment intentions.

Once a year, the Capital Improvement Plan is published and made available to the public. Current and prior year plans can be located on our website:

http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/departments/operations/capital-improvement-plan

The Garfield Park Conservatory completed final restoration in 2015 after a hail storm severely damaged the historic building in 2011. This revitalization allowed for the installation of Solarise, a light and sculpture art exhibit that uses the Conservatory itself as its canvas.
Capital Improvements

Capital Improvement Funding Sources

**General Obligation Bond:** Historically, the District issues approximately $30-$40 million annually in G.O. Bonds for capital improvements. In 2015, the Board of Commissioners approved $40 million in bond funding for capital projects. For the years 2016 to 2020, it is estimated that $162.5 million in general obligation bonds will be issued to fund capital improvement projects.

**Special Recreation Assessment Bond:** In 2008, the Board of Commissioners approved a bond issuance of $25 million to leverage the Special Recreation Assessment levy (SRA), a part of the District’s annual property tax. This SRA levy assessment has typically been $6 million annually and is divided between programming and capital improvements to make District facilities more open and accessible. Proceeds from the levy support the debt service for this bond. This funding is expected to be fully expended by end of year 2016.

**Harbor Bond:** In 2008, the District issued an alternative bond to fund the harbor expansion program which includes upgrades to our existing harbors and the construction of a new harbor at 31st Street (opened in 2012). In 2016-2020, these funds will be used for improvements to our nine existing harbors along the Chicago Lakefront.

**Parking Garage Lease Revenue:** In 2006, the Board of Commissioners approved the transfer of three downtown parking garages to the City of Chicago. The City of Chicago then entered into a 99-year lease of the garages, resulting in $347.8 million in proceeds for the District. $122 million of these proceeds were reserved for capital improvements to neighborhood parks. In addition, $35 million was reserved to replace the public park located on the roof of the parking garages. In 2012, the public park was completely removed in order to complete required parking garage roof renovations. In 2013, construction started to build a new park at this location. Sections of the new Maggie Daley Park opened to the public in 2014 with final completion in 2015.

Top: In 2015, an underutilized room was converted into a new teen center at Carver Park in partnership with Coca Cola and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

Middle: Also a grant through NRPA, an educational garden was installed at Skinner Park opening new program opportunities for both kids and adults.

Bottom: Major restoration work is underway at the Jackson Park Lagoon with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Project 120. To ensure these projects like these are a success, volunteers are essential partners in the planning, development and ongoing stewardship of Chicago parks.
**Capital Improvements**

**Outside Funding:** Federal, State of Illinois, City of Chicago, and private grants and donations are essential to the success of many capital projects. Nearly half of the capital plan is funded with outside partners. Outside funding has been especially important in the development of new park lands, construction of new field houses, installation of new artificial turf fields, and renovation of playgrounds.

The section “Grants, Donations, and Sponsorships” has more detail on the District’s outside funding sources and uses.

**Capital Improvement Funding Uses**

The following categories and subcategories describe the District’s groupings for various projects:

- **Acquisition and Development**
  - Acquisition of Property
  - New Construction
  - Park Development
  - Planning

- **Facility Rehabilitation**
  - Major Rehabilitation
  - Minor Rehabilitation
  - HVAC and Energy Efficiency
  - Windows and Doors
  - Roof
  - Concrete, Masonry, Structural
  - Sculpture and Monument
  - Swimming Pool
  - Fitness Center

- **Site Improvements**
  - Athletic Field
  - Playground
  - Spray Pool
  - Courts
  - Fencing
  - Paving
  - Lighting
  - Lighting
  - Site Improvement
  - Landscape

- **Technology, Vehicles and Equipment**

![2016-2020 Expected Outside Funding by Source](chart1)

**2016-2020 Expected Outside Funding by Source**

- City Grant Funds
- State Grant Funds - Confirmed
- State Grant Funds - Suspended
- Federal Grant Funds
- Private Grants and Donations

![2016-2020 Total Funding by Program](chart2)

**2016-2020 Total Funding by Program**

- Acquisition and Development
- Facility Rehabilitation
- Site Improvements
- Technology, Vehicles & Equipment

1 Designates the expected year outside funding will be expended, not, not necessarily the year of grant award. (Many grants allow for spending over multi-year periods). Totals do not include joint grants or in-kind donations.
2016-2020 Capital Improvement Plan

Planning for the 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Program is underway. Expected sources for the 5-year program include $162.5 million in new G.O. Bond and $91.3 million in confirmed outside funding. In addition to these sources, we are hopeful that another $39.9 million of grants suspended by the State of Illinois in 2015 will be released for additional priority projects in the 2016-2020 CIP. Until the State grant funding is released, the priority projects tied to those funds are on hold.

The Capital Improvement Program is a living document, and additional outside funding is expected to be identified and committed for projects from 2016-2020. The Chicago Park District continues to actively seek additional outside grants, donations, and sponsorships for the 2016-2020 CIP.

Major investments in the 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Plan include new park developments, new community centers, artificial turf soccer/football and soft/baseball fields, natural areas and park development in the Calumet Area, major historic facility restorations, and the Chicago Plays! Program. Highlights on these initiatives are provided in the following pages:

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### 2016 - 2020 CAPITAL FUNDING SUMMARY

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<td>$ -</td>
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*Outside funding expected as of fall 2015, additional commitments are expected.*
Capital Improvements

Capital Project Highlights

As possible in our built urban environment, the Chicago Park District strives to acquire and develop new quality parkland around our City. These projects are major investments that require strong financial and community partnerships.

Maggie Daley Park

A new innovative and environmentally sustainable park opened in 2015 on the rooftop above the East Monroe Parking Garage in Grant Park. Immediately a major attraction for local families and visitors alike, the 25-acre Maggie Daley Park provides varied opportunities for passive and active recreation including an ice skating ribbon, 40-ft high climbing wall, 3-acre play garden, event space, and new tennis courts. Construction on the park started in 2012, and sections of the park opened to the public in 2014. The total project was complete in 2015.

The 606 (Bloomingdale Trail and Park)

Consistent with the Logan Square Open Space Plan, the elevated 2.65 mile Bloomingdale Park and Trail opened in 2015 to provide new recreation and transportation access on the near northwest side of Chicago. Combined with this linear trail project are 13 acres of new ground level community parks that provide additional new open space and access to the elevated multi-use trail. Access parks are located at Julia De Burgos Park (Albany Ave. and Whipple St.), Park 567 (Milwaukee Ave. and Leavitt St.), Churchill Field Park (1825 N. Damen Ave.), and Park 512 – Walsh Park Expansion (1800 N. Ashland St.).

The 606 started construction in 2013. The park system opened to the public in 2015, and additional landscaping and artwork on the trail will continue through 2016.

Left: At the western endpoint of the trail is an elevated observatory. This image is from opening day of the trail.
Capital Improvements

Northerly Island

Once the site of the Chicago Century of Progress Exposition (1933-1934) and later Meigs Field Airport (1948-2003), Northerly Island is now revisioned as natural open space for habitat restoration and eco-recreation. Sections of the park opened to the public in 2015 with final completion in 2017.

West Ridge Nature Center and La Villita Park

Left: The new Park 568 West Ridge Nature Center provides 20.5 acres of nature preserve with trails, a pond, and site improvements. This project is funded through a combination of Federal grants, City Tax Increment Financing (TIF), and Chicago Park District funds.

Right: The new park development in Little Village converts 22 acres of vacant, old industrial property into a dynamic community park. The new park provides two artificial turf fields, two natural grass fields, basketball courts, a skate park, a playground, a comfort station, and other site amenities. This project was funded in partnership with the State of Illinois, the City of Chicago, and private grants.
Capital Improvements

New Community Centers

Left (above): Completed in 2015, the Beverly and Morgan Park Sports Complex is a new gymnastics center and ice rink at Park 577 funded through a partnership with the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago.

Right (above): Currently under construction, the QUAD Communities Arts, Recreation and Health Center is a new 32,500 square foot facility including a full sized gymnasium, indoor pool, art and education club rooms, a fitness center, and performance spaces. Located in Ellis Park, the $17.5 Million construction is funded by the Chicago Housing Authority, City Tax Increment Financing, and New Market Tax Credits.

Left and Right: Instead of building a complete new building, major modifications to an existing facility can be significantly less expensive while still meeting the needs of the community. In 2015, building expansions were completed at Lowe Park and Moore Park providing new interior gymnasium space at each. Pictured here is the Moore Park expansion.

In the 2016-2020 Plan, the District will continue to seek partnerships to provide new recreational centers in our neighborhoods. Typically ranging from $7 million to $20 million each to construct, these new field houses and cultural centers require strong community and financial partnerships to succeed.
Artificial turf fields are widely popular in our Chicago parks. These fields expand programming opportunities by allowing play regardless of season or previous wet weather. The District currently operates over forty (40) artificial turf multipurpose athletic fields throughout Chicago neighborhoods. Another ten (10) new turf and turf renovation projects are planned in the 2016-2020 CIP. Included in the plan are both new multi-use soccer/football turf fields as well as soft/baseball turf fields. In addition, in communities where soccer is in high demand and existing tennis courts are underutilized, courts can be converted to junior artificial turf fields. New courts conversions at Palmer Park and Rainey Park are expected to be complete in 2016.

Left (above): In partnership with Chicago Cubs Charities, the Wood Family Foundation, Chicago Public Schools, and the City of Chicago, the new Kerry Wood Cubs Field opened in 2015 in Clark Park. Adjacent to this new baseball turf field is a separate soccer/football artificial turf field. Shown here, Kerry Wood throws out the first pitch.

Right (above): A 2015 artificial turf restoration project at Marquette Park was funded by the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation and Under Armour. The field is a unique design allowing for both soccer/football and soft/baseball play.

Below: A new full sized artificial turf football/soccer field and regulation ⅜ mile 8-lane rubber surface track was completed in 2015 in Lindblom Park. Other new turf fields in 2015 were opened at La Villita Park and Kelly Park.
Natural Areas and Calumet Development

The Chicago Park District manages 65 natural areas throughout the City, consisting of over 1,400 acres and representing more than 17% of total park acreage. Under the leadership of Mayor Rahm Emanuel, the amount of natural areas has doubled in Chicago, increasing over 700 acres since 2011. By the end of the Mayor’s second term, our goal is to have 2,000 acres of natural areas district-wide in the City of Chicago.

Our Natural Area program is dedicated to the cultivation and enrichment of ecological diversity and to restoring the connection between people and nature. Natural Area habitats include prairie, wetland, woodland, dunes, lagoons, and native gardens. Natural areas can be found throughout Chicago’s parks, ranging in size from 0.25 acres to 250 acres.

The Calumet Area offers a rare opportunity to expand natural areas within the City borders. The Park District has acquired or leased over 650 acres of the Millennium Reserve since 2011. In the next five years, the District will initiate planning and development efforts to activate these properties and open them to the public. The Calumet Area is primarily old industrial properties being reclaimed as park and open space. Development of these park sites will focus on habitat protection and creation, passive uses such as fishing and bird watching, and eco-recreation such as hiking, biking, and canoeing.

Top: A concept rendering of the 278 acre Park 564 “Big Marsh” shows hemi-marsh and habitat restoration, multi-use trails, a tree top adventure course, a bike park, and new park access and utilities. This park development is in construction and is expected to be open to the public by Fall 2016.

Bottom: Van Vlissingen Priarie is a new 141 acre park in the South Deering Community Area. Connected to the adjacent neighborhood, this park will offer wetland and habitat restoration and nature play adventure areas for kids of all ages. The project is in design and expected to be open to the public in 2017.
Two-thirds of our capital dollars are dedicated to maintaining our existing assets including our historic field houses and auxiliary buildings. These facilities are anchors in our neighborhoods providing recreational, social, educational, and community opportunities. Through a partnership with the State of Illinois, over $25 Million is dedicated to historic renovations in the 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Plan. Unfortunately, the State funding for this important program is currently suspended. Once the State of Illinois releases these grant funds, the important restoration work on these community treasures can continue.

Left (above): The 1889 Union Park Field House was beautifully restored in 2015 through $2 million in City Increment Financing (TIF) funds. The restoration included new roof, windows and doors, and a new modernized HVAC system for improved energy management.

Left (middle): Major improvements to the 1906 South Shore Cultural Center have completed design and are ready for construction once the State grant funding is released. Building improvements include promenade restoration, interior rehab, and electrical upgrades.

Left (below): The Calumet Field House is a Chicago Landmark building located in the East Side Community Area. In 2015, over $2.6 million was invested in building roof, drainage and envelope improvements to ensure this building will remain an anchor for community programs in the area.
Capital Improvements

Chicago Plays! Program

The Chicago Plays! playground equipment replacement program remains a major initiative in the 2016-2020 Park District Capital Improvement Plan. Our District commitment is to renovate 300 of our oldest playgrounds over a five year period. From 2013-2015, 244 playgrounds were completed, with the balance to be complete in 2016-2017. With 300 locations District-Wide, the Chicago Plays! Program will impact every neighborhood in Chicago.


Left (below): Mayor Rahm Emmanuel celebrated the 225th Chicago Plays! opening with local kids and families at Rainbow Beach Park.


Right (below): In partnership with Chicago Cubs Charities and Openlands, a new playground opened in 2015 at Margaret Donahue Park.
Grants, Donations, Sponsorships

Grants, Donations and Sponsorships

Partnerships are vital to the District’s operations. Even through the current difficult economy, the Park District has been able to count on generous private donations, corporate sponsorships, and grants from Federal, State of Illinois, City of Chicago, and local organizations. These one-time revenue sources help alleviate the District’s expenses for capital projects and operating programs. By receiving outside funding, the District can distribute resources to the Chicago community in greater amounts.

Outside operating grants, donations, and sponsorships fund innovative programs including Night Out in the Parks, Special Olympics, and summer camp scholarships. Capital grants and donations fund projects including new parks and field houses, historic facility renovations, and new natural areas and playgrounds. In the past five years, the District has been successful in obtaining an average of nearly $35 million per year in outside funding toward District priorities. As of fall 2015, $34.6 million in outside funding has been awarded this year with additional grant awards expected by year end.

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* As of October 2015, additional grants may be awarded by year end. Date represents year of grant award, not necessarily the year in which the grant is expended. Totals do not include joint grants or in-kind donations.

In 2015, the major governmental contributors to the Chicago Park District were the U.S. Department of Agriculture funding the Summer Food Program ($2 million) and the City of Chicago ($4.4 million). Also in 2015, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) provided $17.8 million in new capital grants for projects district-wide. However, these DCEO grant funds were suspended by the State of Illinois in Spring 2015 and are currently not authorized for spending. Once the State of Illinois releases the grant suspensions, work can proceed on these important capital projects.

In addition to governmental funds, generous private funding of $10.3 million in 2015 was vital to sustaining our District programs and capital priorities. Included is a listing of major private grants and donations to the Park District in 2015. The District continually and actively seeks outside funding partnerships.
Grants, Donations, Sponsorships

2015 Major Private Grants, Donations, and Sponsorships

$1,000,000 and Above

Aon Corporation
Art Institute of Chicago
Chicago Community Trust
Chicago Cubs Charities
Trust for Public Land

$500,000 - $999,999

Coca-Cola Company
Openlands
Special Children’s Charities
Turner Construction Company
Wood Family Foundation

$100,000 - $499,999

Airbnb, Inc.
Bank of America
Bears Care
Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation
CBS Radio
Cubs Care
Exelon
Fields, Inc.
North Park University
IMC Financial Markets
Pritzker Foundation
Sprint
Take the Field Foundation
The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
Tommy Bahama
Under Armour

$10,000 - $99,999

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
Anonymous
Barbara Mayers
Beatrice C. Mayer Charitable Account
Chicago White Sox Charities
Digital Youth Network
Chicago Blackhawks
ComEd
Goudy Park Advisory Council
Home Depot
Jewel-Osco
Matt Spiegel
Grants, Donations, Sponsorships

Max Schiff Fund
Naomi’s Fund
National Recreation and Park Association
One Chicago Fund
Pritzker Traubert Family Foundation
Robert and Diane Levy
The Chicago White Sox Community Foundation
The Hershey Company
The Monarch Fund
The North Face
Turbo Appeal

1 Designates the funding is in total or part through the Chicago Parks Foundation, our 501c3 philanthropic partner.
2 Designates the funding is in total or part an in-kind contribution. Investment made directly by an organization other than the Park District to the benefit of Park District operations or property.

2016 Grants, Donations, and Sponsorships

The 2016 operating program and the 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Plan continue to rely heavily on outside sources to fund District priorities. Current outside funding for the next five years totals $131 million, with additional funding awards expected. Major sources of outside funds include private fundraising for large park developments including the Jackson Park Lagoon and Habitat Restoration and Park 564 “Big Marsh”. City Tax Increment Financing provides a major source of funding for capital park development and facility projects throughout the District. Finally, we are hopeful the State of Illinois will release nearly $40 Million in suspended outside grant funds for new building constructions, new park developments, and major historic facility renovations.

2016-2020 Expected Outside Funding by Source
$131 Million

3 Designates the expected year outside funding will be expended, not, not necessarily the year of grant award. (Many grants allow for spending over multi-year periods). Totals do not include joint grants or in-kind donations.
City of Chicago
Rahm Emanuel, Mayor

Board of Commissioners
Bryan Traubert, President
Avis LaVelle, Vice President
   Erika R. Allen
   Donald J. Edwards
   Tim King
   M. Laird Koldyke
   Juan Salgado

General Superintendent & CEO
   Michael P. Kelly

For more information about your Chicago Park District visit
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com or call (312) 742-PLAY (7529) or (312) 747-2001 (TTY).

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