



- Native Wildflower Garden**
- Goal: Preserve, enhance, and defend existing native wildflower planting. Extend planting to east. Establish funding, management protocols to maintain quality of planting and interpretation.
  - Requires a moderate level of informed maintenance during growing season: weed control, irrigation, mulching.
  - Collaboration by volunteers and Park District to monitor condition of plantings.
  - Use prescribed burns to help manage invasives.
- Ornamental Woodland Planting**
- Goal: create a native woodland/savanna planting. Manage planting to create a diverse, self-sustaining "layered" planting - overstory, understory, shrubs, and ground-level vegetation.
  - Requires moderate maintenance during establishment: weed control, irrigation, select pruning, mulching. Professional oversight advised in the long term to ensure integrity of planting.
  - Use a native plant palette, though selected adapted plants might be retained.
  - Monitor and remove invasive plants, i.e., Norway Maples, woody and herbaceous weeds by digging and herbiciding.
  - Use prescribed burns to help manage invasives.
  - Add understory planting according to master planting plan.
  - Select plant species to support birds and other beneficial wildlife.
- Arboretum**
- Goal: Include majority of commemorative trees. Improve arrangement of trees; limit new commemorative trees.
  - Remove declining/inferior trees/shrubs. Organize plantings according to master planting plan by transplanting smaller trees. Add trees and shrubs according to master planting plan.
  - Requires moderate maintenance during establishment: weed control, irrigation, select pruning, mulching. Professional oversight advised in the long term to ensure integrity of planting.
- Open Green Space**
- Goal: Preserve large open grassy lawn for events.
  - Improve quality of turf to withstand heavy usage during theater and art fair events. Over-seed thin or bare areas as necessary to improve turf density. Maintain clear cultivated turf edge.
  - Utilize low area for ice skating.
  - Requires moderate maintenance during growing season: mowing, fertilization, weed control, irrigation. Professional oversight advised in the long term to ensure integrity of turf.
- Buffer Planting**
- Goal: Buffer park from effects of alley, parking lots, new buildings, and street through mixed plantings of evergreens and flowering shrubs.
  - Select shrubs and understory plants for qualities of bloom, fruit, fall color, and to create plant diversity.
  - Requires moderate maintenance during establishment: weed control, irrigation, select pruning, mulching. Professional oversight advised in the long term to ensure integrity of planting.
- Site Amenities & Features**
- Install additional area lighting along path. Change heads to LED fixtures on existing units to reduce unpleasant glare and save energy.
  - Enlarge fence openings at key entrances to create more welcoming environment.
  - Staff to revisit removal of additional fencing two years after the entrances are widened.
  - Open additional entrance on southwest, after further study of park usage.
  - Maintain supplemental irrigation system to support native wildflower area.
  - Improved alley with permeable paving has been installed by V.O.P.
  - Pedestrian lights in alley added by V.O.P.

- Legend**
- Property Line
  - Existing gravel path to be re-surfaced as necessary
  - Pavers to be re-laid to create flush surface.
  - Existing concrete pavement
  - Concrete sidewalk
  - Gravel path
  - Pavers
  - Replaced bench
  - New bike racks on concrete pads
  - Interpretive sign
  - South alley light posts
  - New lights & posts
  - Existing light posts
  - Electrical handholes
- (See Site Amenities for lighting recommendations)

- New Conditions since 2005**
- Shade is a major concern due to addition of 22-Story Apartment Building (Vantage Oak Park) at northeast corner of Forest Ave. and Lake St., and proposed building (8 to 12 Stories) planned for northwest corner of Forest Ave. and Lake St.
- Environmental Education Center Building**
- New multi-purpose center to house interpretive elements related to the natural and cultural history of the park, public restrooms, and limited event-related storage. Center provides seasonal or event-related concessions as well as shelter under building overhang. Building equipped with electrical, plumbing, and heating for year-round use.
  - Center's outdoor terraces provide space for activities related to Park District programming.
  - Sustainable design features throughout the new building and adjacent outdoor spaces.

- Learning Garden**
- Goal: Re-configure pedestrian entrance to park, relate circulation patterns to new building, rehabilitate and enrich plantings.
  - Diverse plantings with trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and flowers. Upgraded paving and site furnishings.
  - Requires moderate maintenance during establishment and growing season: weed control, irrigation, select pruning, mulching. Limited professional oversight advised in the long term to ensure integrity of planting.
  - Outdoor education space relates to programming for EEC.
  - Shadow studies of new buildings show impact and may influence plant selection.

