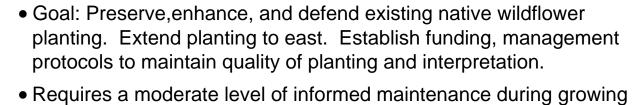
### Native Wildflower Garden





plantings.

- season: weed control, irrigation, mulching. Collaboration by volunteers and Park District to monitor condition of
- Use prescribed burns to help manage invasives.

## Existing

#### **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**

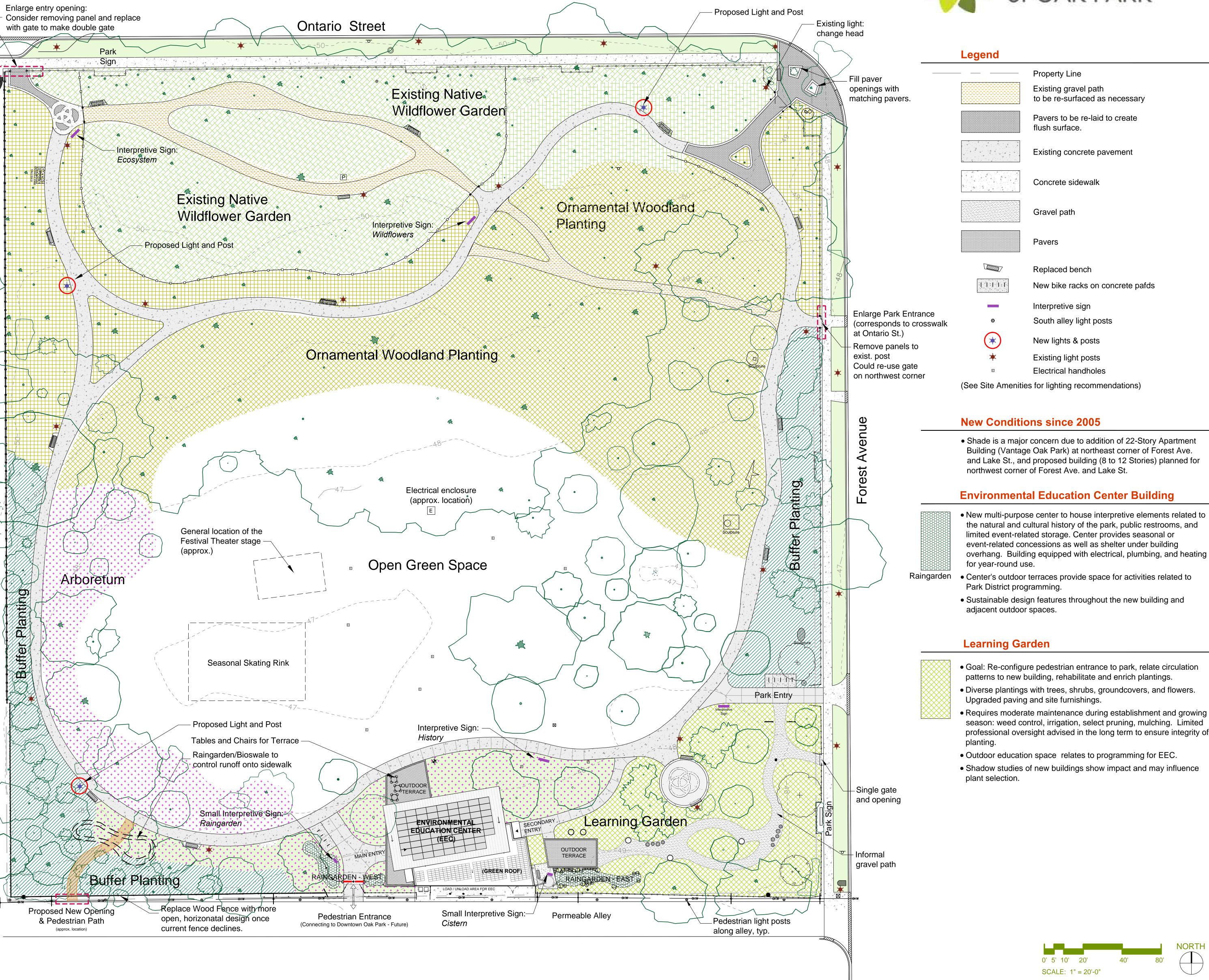
- Goal: Buffer park from effects of alley, parking lots, new buildings, and street through mixed plantings of evergreens and flowering shrubs.
- Select shrubs and understory plants for qualities of bloom, fruit, fall color, and to create plant diversity.
- Requires moderate maintenance during establishment: 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 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.

• Buffer Planting 

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# **Austin Gardens Master Plan Revisited**







to be re-surfaced as necessary

Existing concrete pavement

New bike racks on concrete pafds

• 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

• New multi-purpose center to house interpretive elements related to the natural and cultural history of the park, public restrooms, and

• Goal: Re-configure pedestrian entrance to park, relate circulation • Diverse plantings with trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and flowers.

season: weed control, irrigation, select pruning, mulching. Limited professional oversight advised in the long term to ensure integrity of

• Shadow studies of new buildings show impact and may influence