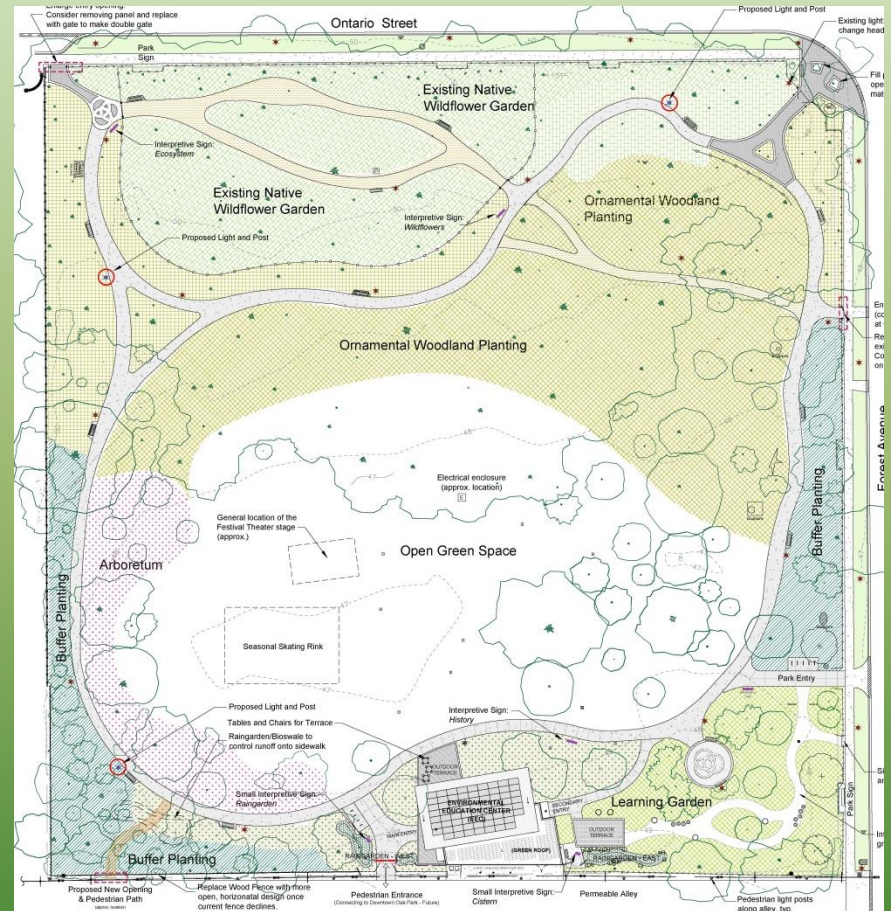




PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK

Austin Gardens Master Plan Revisited

Board of Commissioners
Committee of the Whole
March 3, 2016



CYLA Design Associates, Inc.

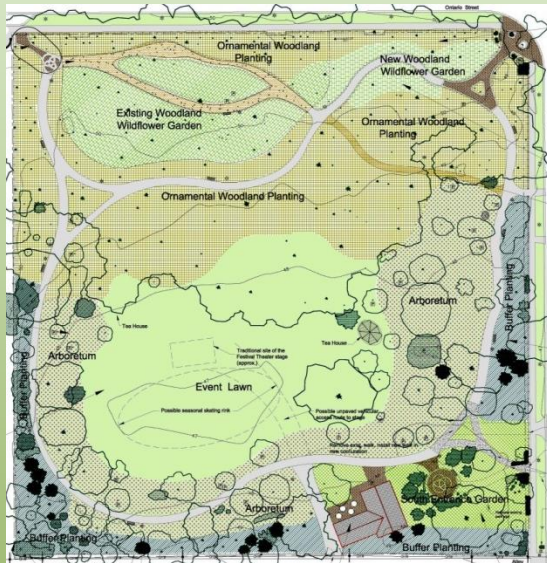




2015 Google Aerial image

Existing Conditions (2015)





2005 Master Plan for Austin Gardens

Improvements since 2005 Master Plan

- Passive use of park with emphasis on nature is intact & improved; Remains as green space within urban core of Village
- Walking path and seating upgrades
- Infrastructure improvements - power & electrical support for the events installed
- New Environmental Education Center expands capacity of park for education and interpretation of nature and sustainable design
- Learning Garden enhances interpretation for native plants and adds hands-on study for adult and children's classes
- Festival Theatre continues to produce quality theatre productions in summer
- Ice Skating available in winter months, temperatures permitting
- Outdoor seating area under shelter – *feature of new Center*
- Restrooms accessible from park – *feature of new Center*
- Interpretive signage for history of Park, wildflower areas & tree identification
- * Management plan for native areas has been established
- Alley improvement with permeable paving & new pedestrian lighting (by VOP) making it more attractive, friendly, and sustainable
- *Potential for connection to Lake Street still exists adjacent to 1010 Lake St. bldg*



Valued Park Features

(as voiced in public meeting & survey/neighbor responses during Jan/Feb 2016)

- Passive-use park with nature theme and diversity of tree & plant species
- Native wildflower area on north with meandering paths
- Walking path circuit and many benches
- Special uses: Festival Theatre in summer and Ice-Skating & Winter Fest in winter
- Expansion of nature-themed programming at new Center and Learning Garden
- Pedestrian lighting allows for park use in evenings
- Proximity to Downtown Oak Park & FLW Historic District



Current Project : Environmental Education Center & Learning Garden

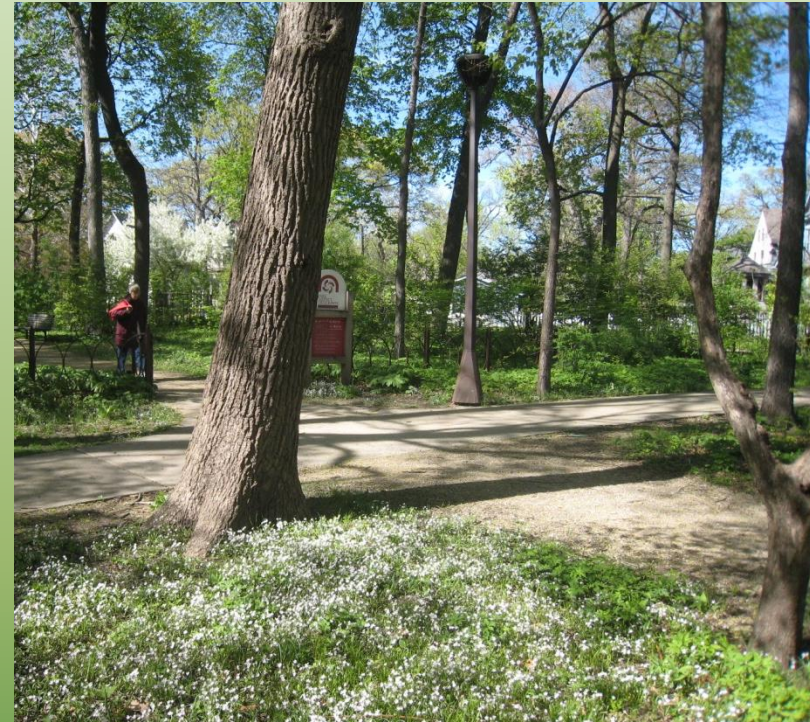
Open: Summer 2016

- Center's compact footprint and exterior materials are respectful of park setting
- Solar panels on roof supply power to offset costs
- Rain harvesting for toilet flushing & irrigation
- LEED Platinum sustainable design features as examples of homeowner-scale improvements
- Geo-thermal supply for mechanical systems
- Main assembly room and classroom for programming, plus storage for theater
- Washrooms accessible from exterior for use by park patrons
- Sheltered seating area under roof
- Rain Garden absorbs storm runoff
- Additional bike racks in key locations
- Park entry from new pedestrian-friendly alley with potential connection to Lake Street

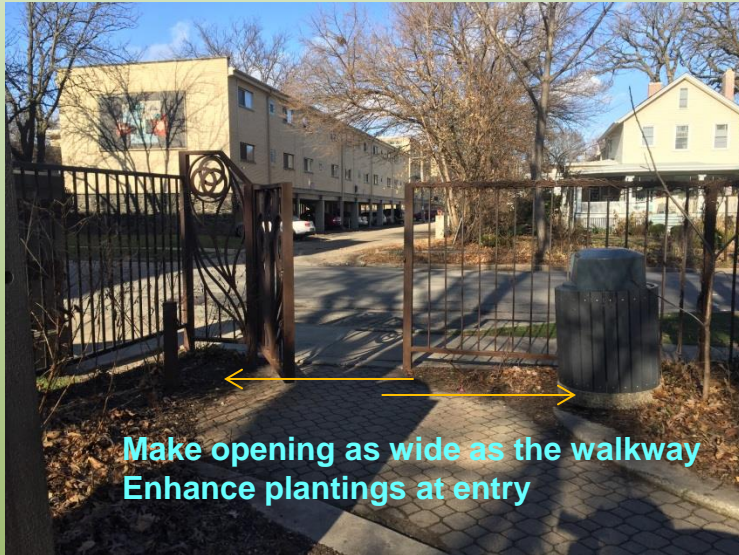


Recommendations for 2016 Master Plan

- Continue maintenance strategy for the native area on north portion and upgrade other ornamental shrub and groundcover plantings throughout park to increase plant diversity and support birds and wildlife
- Make northwest and east entries more gracious by enlarging openings at key locations. Re-use and/or replace existing decorative gates. Add southwest entrance for pedestrians after evaluation of park usage
- Protect sunlight access in park for plants and human health and diminish negative shade impact of new building at 1000 Lake Street (northwest corner Lake & Forest)
- Upgrade pedestrian lighting with night-sky friendly, LED energy-efficient and effective light fixtures
- Repair paving at northeast entry at street corner
- Add bike parking as needed
- Consider potential for additional art in park



More Gracious and Welcoming Entries



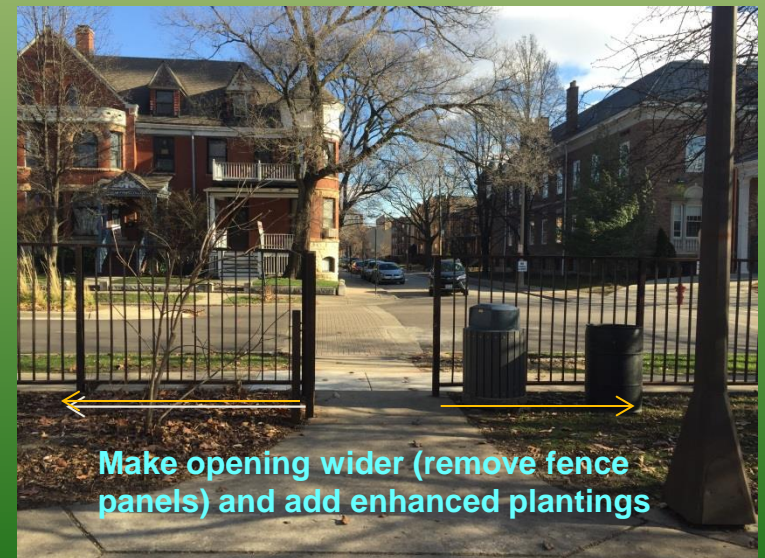
Park entry at northwest corner - Ontario from inside park



Park entry from Ontario St.

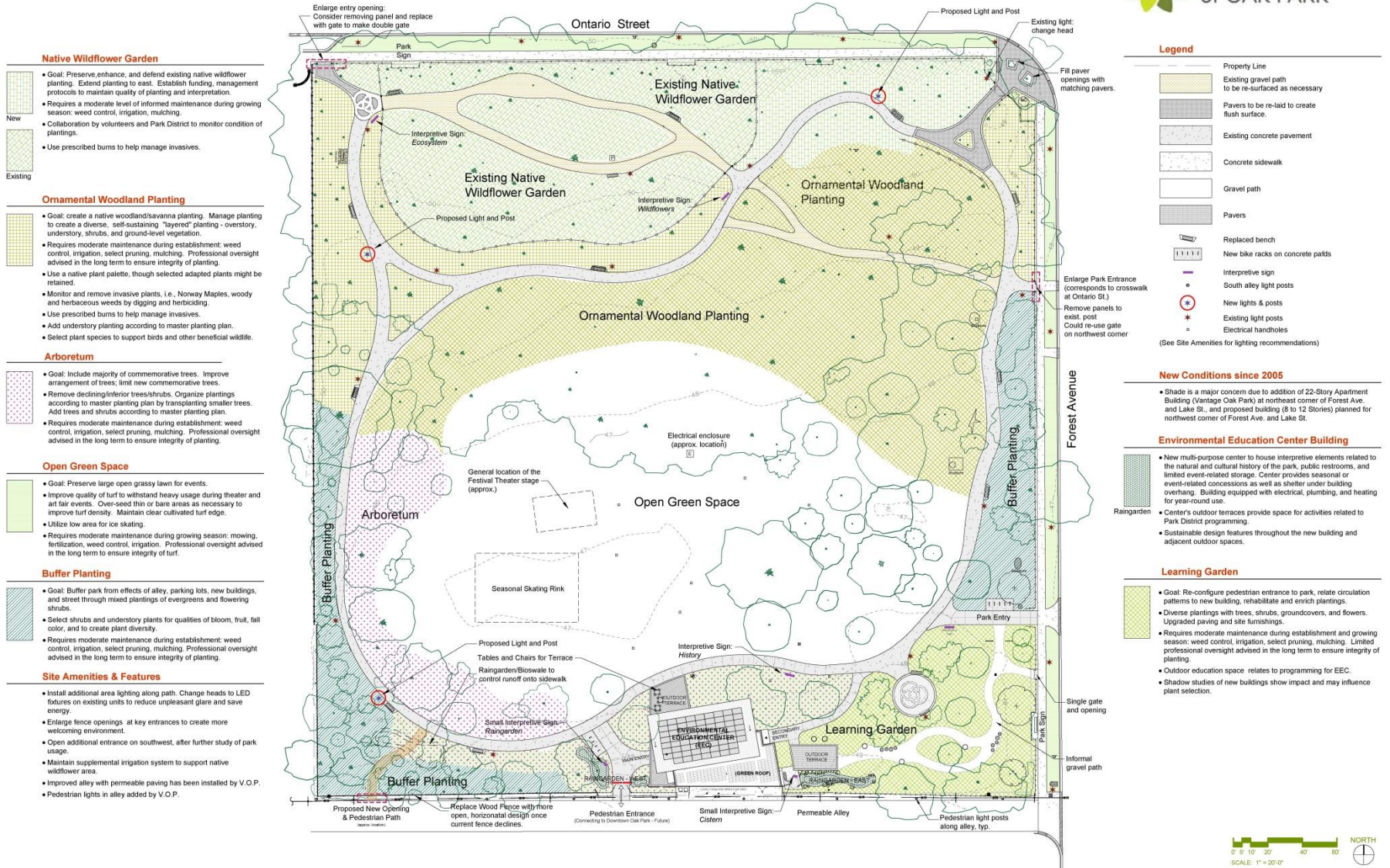


Make new entry from alley and path through under-used southwest corner



Park entry at Ontario from inside park





Austin Gardens Master Plan Revisited

Thank you!

Visit us on the web at www.pdop.org and
www.cyladesign.com



Shadow studies: impact of height of proposed Lake & Forest Bldg. at Northwest Corner

- Longer periods of shadow in spring delay spring thaw on southern portion of site and shorten growing season
- 125 foot building on 1000 Lake Street increases impact of spring thaw period
- Greater shadows during colder season morning hours when patrons use the park

(EEC was designed with assumption of 20-story Vantage Oak Park building and max. 80 foot bldg. heights, per zoning, along Lake St.)

IMPACT OF BUILDING AT 80 FOOT HEIGHT



December 21 10 am



April 15 & September 15 10 am



April 15 & September 15 12 pm



June 21 8 am

IMPACT OF BUILDING AT 125 FOOT HEIGHT



December 21 10 am



April 15 & September 15 10 am



April 15 & September 15 12 pm

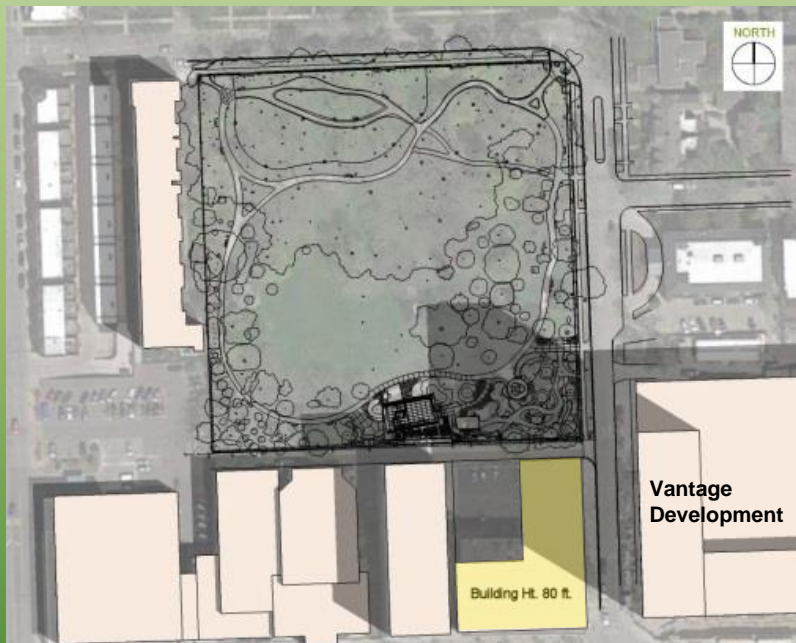


June 21 8 am



Shadow studies: impact of height of proposed Lake & Forest Bldg. at Northwest Corner Enlarged Plans

April 15 & September 15 10 am



At 80 feet, proposed building would not shade Center at key times of year and would allow solar panels to function as planned.



At 125 feet, proposed building would shade Center at key times of year and would limit function of solar panels on roof.

