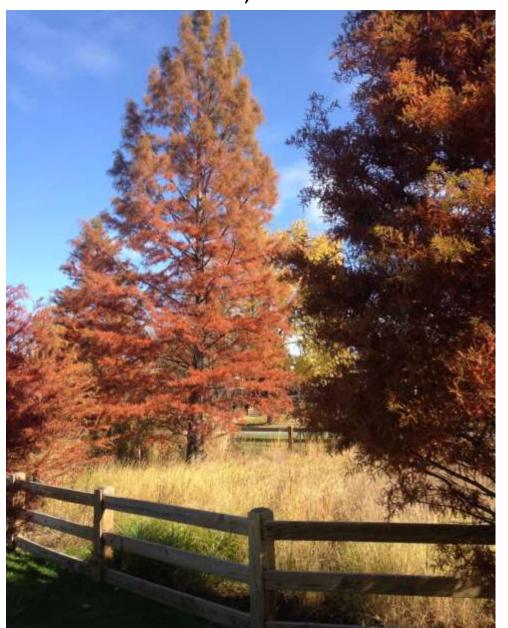


### Taylor Park Master Plan Update March 8th, 2017





### **Tonight:**

A look at the Master Plan from 2008
The "Plan" has to be flexible for changes over time

What has been added or changed since 2008?

A look at some suggestions that have been made since 2008

Discussion





# First who are we? Altamanu



- 13 Master Plans and many built projects for the PDOP, the Village and D97
- Josephine, John, and James at Altamanu are all Oak Parkers





### Taylor Park: Dominant Characteristics

Historic Design

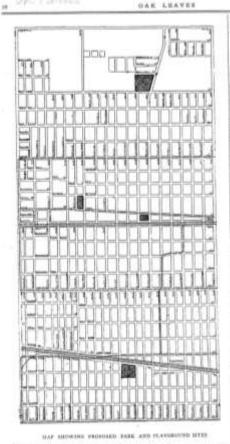
Typography/Geology

Use





### Taylor Park History



PLAYGROUND PARKS A Statement by the Candidates for Park Correlativeers-They Propose Defeite Program

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- April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1912 Permanent Park District Est.
- 1913 A tax levy provided funds
- 1914 District purchased the 12.9 acres of farmland for \$24,416 to create North Park

OF I ames OAK LEAVES 10

the result as a referencess enformment park district. [-- lid.



### Taylor Park History





- 1913, Grant Park construction begins, neo-classical style
- Oak Park the <u>Prairie Style</u> of architecture was developing
- Village retained <u>Jens Jensen</u>, "the renowned landscape artist" to design a series of parks "in his natural style".
- Jensen was a pioneer in the use of native plants.





### Taylor Park: FYI Main Issue of the Day



**Horse Versus Auto** 

There was a tax on horses. Horse lobby (stable owners, feed suppliers, tackle and crop makers, haberdashers, blacksmiths, etc.) wanted cars taxed according to their Horse Power.





#### We Became Landscape Detectives

- We researched original plans at University of Wisconsin Madison
- Overlaid aerial photos over the Plan to determine what was Historic
- Examined his Planting Plan in Detail
- Analyzed the Park to find Original Planting
- Researched Newspapers and Historic Articles





### We Became Landscape Detectives

Overlay of Original Jensen Plan Outline on today's Park



Note that park designed in expectation of Ridgeland on a Diagonal





### Ridgeland alignment was changed

Taylor Park 2008



Jensen Plan for Taylor Park







### The Park Design 1914



**Clearing for Picnics** 

Path similar location

Dense planting on Hill to isolate park from Autos

Tennis Courts later expanded

Field House shown on Plan



### Historic Design Investigation: Result

- Residents, Police and Park District appreciated the potential beauty of the shrub massing "but not suitable for today"
- Save what we could of the original
- Interpret Jensen's style for today





### Topography and Geology

### And we did so in dealing with storm water





### Taylor Park Used to be a Shoreline

It's on part of a <u>Glacial Terminal Moraine</u>, the Oak Park Spit! and the shoreline of ancient <u>Lake Chicago</u>

"a heterogeneous deposit of glacial dense "till" was apparently laid down by several successive ice sheets over Niagara Limestone."

FWPA Historical Survey of Oak Park 193

This moraine continues through Scoville Park Mills Park and on to the SW





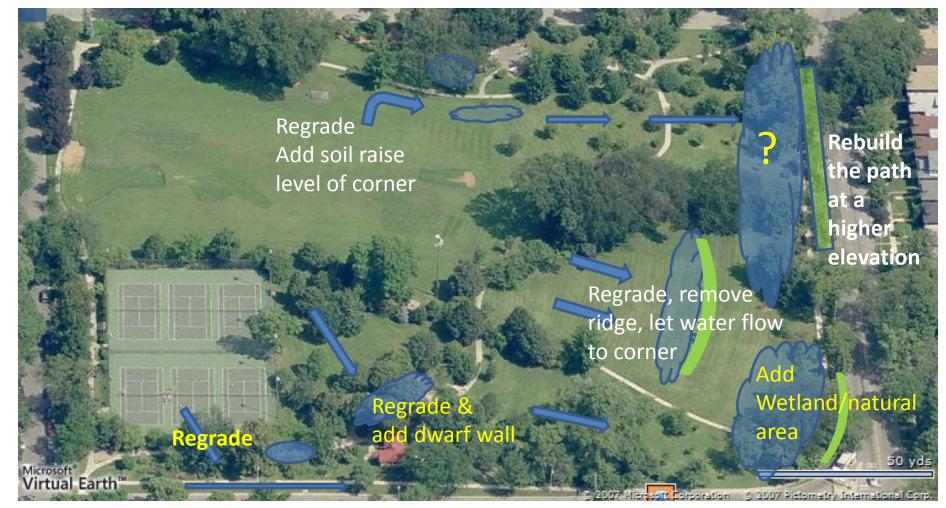
### Typology and Geology: Why Such Poor Drainage?

Ground water is trapped between clay layers, flows down hill, resulting in part of the standing water in sections of the park





### Recommended Solutions for the drainage problem 2008 Solutions since carried out in Phase 1 shown in yellow







### Taylor Park a Refresher: Why the Wetland Photos 2007











## Taylor Park a Refresher: Why the Wetland Construction 2012







# Taylor Park Site Master Plan November 2008 PDOP has spent more than \$1.28M on the park





### Taylor Park Phase 1 Design & Construction 2011/12



Seating and Pathways Playground, Mounds -**Retaining Wall & Planting** 

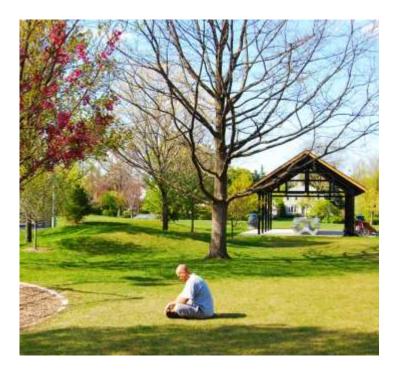
and Storage

New Expanded

Restored Restroom Building, Benches, Planting, Retaining Wall



### And Taylor Park Master Plan & Phase 1 Design





Phase 1 Design and Construction included: Tennis Courts & lighting, playground, retaining walls, new paths, drainage, wetlands, wetlands bridge and planting





### Do You Remember the Playground?



Playground was out of date, serious problems with erosion



Phase 1 Design and Construction included: Tennis Courts & lighting, playground, retaining walls, new paths, drainage, wetlands, wetlands bridge and planting



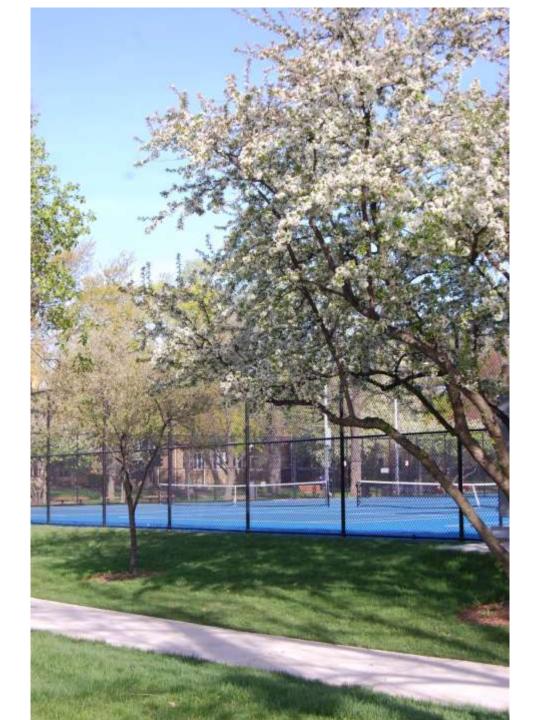




Outdated equipment, serious grade and erosion issues









### Taylor Park Since 2012

Lost Elms and Ash Trees





#### **Taylor Park Since 2012**

Picnic Grove
Some Residents asked
the PDOP to improve
sight lines into the park
for the police.

2016 PDOP cleared overgrown shrubs & invasive plant material

PDOP also reduced the number of attendees that are allowed under the permit to reduce crowd size.





## Taylor Park Since 2012 And someone decided to drive thru the Wetland









### Taylor Park Projects to be carried-out this Year

Storm water will be drained to Expanded Wetland





### Recommendation from the Master Plan 2008

### **All Carried-Out**

Keep the natural character of the park

Rehab the tennis courts and the lights

Add a shelter NE of tennis courts

Add storage for summer camps etc.

Add wetland the SE corner and expand along Ridgeland

Improve the playground and expand into the landscape

Replace the irrigation system in the field

Plant new canopy trees and understory of flowering trees

(ongoing planting historic oaks and native trees)

Improve the grading and drainage

(ongoing, in progress)

Add new pathways

(some carried out)





### **Taylor Park Today**





### Other Recommendation from the Master Plan

Redesign the Picnic Grove – interpretation of "Jensen" style &

Move it further into the park

Realign path towards Berkshire
Add a "Discovery/Natural Area" on NE side
Redesign entryways
Add a small plaza to the Comfort Station
Regrade field, raise eastern end
Add 1 light on the NE corner for kids practice on the fields



### Picnic Grove From Community Meeting 2008

Last Meeting We Agreed to Redesign the Picnic Grove



#### Picnic Grove From 2008

Last meeting you liked the idea of an interpretation of Jensen's Council Ring



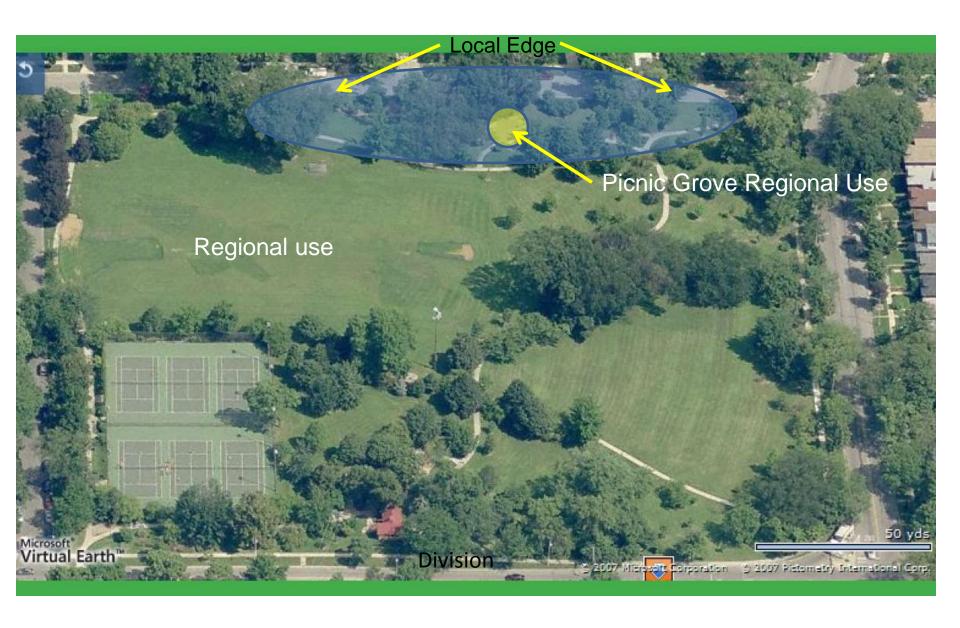
Council Ring

But you had concerns with Safety and Use after Dark because of......

### "Nefarious Activities"

2008 Continued

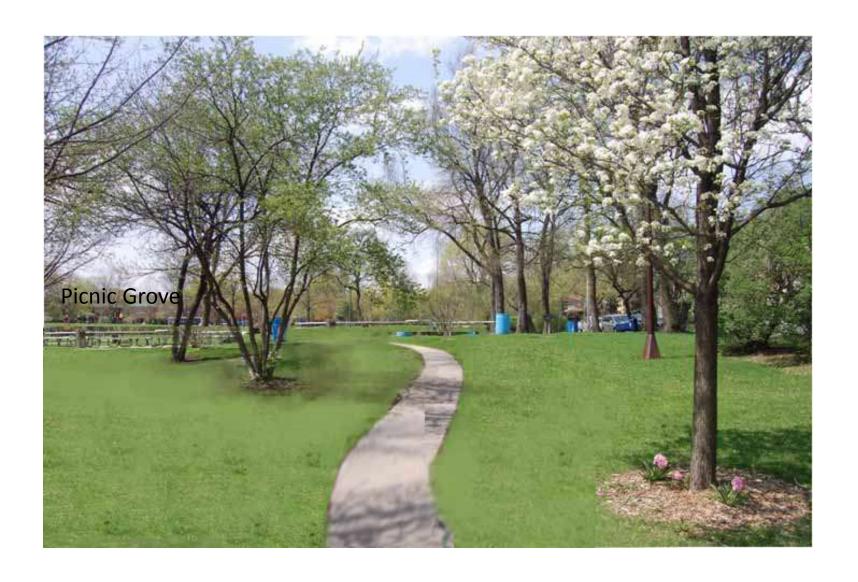
Part of Local Edge with Parking, Low Light Levels & Lots of Vegetative Cover



Space to change Path
Picnic Grove could move into the park and path could move towards the
street



Path closer to street becomes more visible, unfortunately remove some shrubs



Path moved into the open green space and flowering trees added Limb up the trees





#### Its about safety

Path is closer to street and views into the park are opened up
Prune and limb up trees

Request more street lights on street

#### **Existing Conditions**



# Picnic Grove rebuilt close to where it is today but path moves closer to Berkshire





# Taylor Park Site Master Plan November 2008 Picnic Grove New Location







## Taylor Park Site Master Plan November 2008 Woodland/Natural Play/Discovery in NE Corner







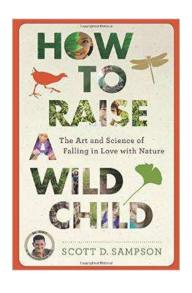
### Other Recommendation from the Master Plan Add a natural "Discovery Area" on NE side

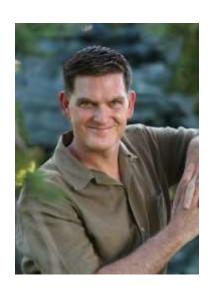
National Recreation and Park Association calls for the following for young people:

- Spontaneous outdoor play
- Connecting young people to the outdoors and nature
- "And to the community"



#### "For young children, it's mostly about unstructured play."







Today Scott Sampson of Dinosaur Train and Curator at Denver Museum of Nature

"Research shows that free play is critical for brain growth, body growth, and emotional growth. The outdoors provides this multisensory smorgasbord of opportunities to engage, not just on a computer screen, but through sight, sound, touch, and smell."





## "But you have to let your kids get messy."











Curving Paths, Mounds, Lots of Trees, Keep Fallen Trees, add Boulders



#### Discovery Area: What is it?





**Coonley School** 

Mills Park

The Discovery Area will be a bright, welcoming area, sized for young children, where they can explore and interact with the world around them. It is comprised of natural materials: mounds, nooks, wooden steppers, seats/tables, boulders and logs to climb, and tree trunks that will slowly decompose introducing children to the transformational force of entropy.



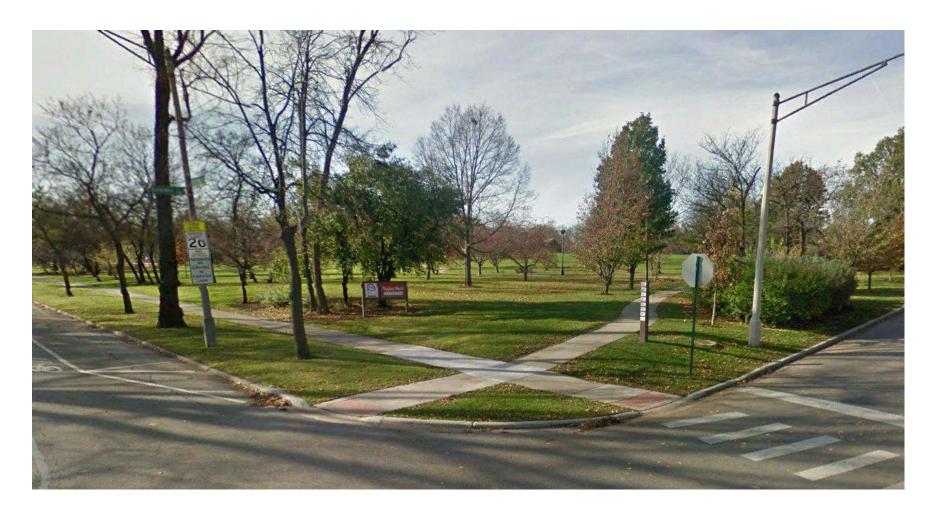
# Taylor Park Site Master Plan November 2008 Redesign Entryways: SE





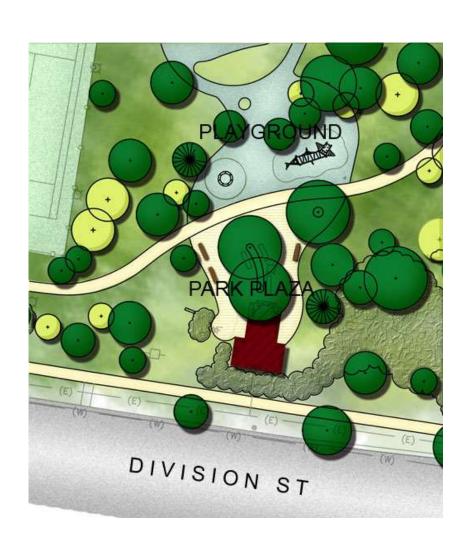


# Taylor Park Site Master Plan November 2008 Redesign Entryways: NE





## From 2008 Add a small plaza to the Comfort Station





#### Other Recommendation from the Master Plan

Redesign the Picnic Grove – interpretation of "Jensen" style
 &
 Move it further into the park

- Realign path towards Berkshire
- Add a natural "Discovery Area" on NE side
- Redesign entryways
- Add a small plaza to the Comfort Station

Regrade field, raise eastern end (New Irrigation Added)
Add 1 light on the NE corner for kids practice on the fields





### Taylor Park Today: Discussion

