Austin Gardens Master Plan Review November 6,2024



MEET THE TEAM



Jan Arnold Executive Director



Chris Lindgren

Superintendent of Parks and Planning



Ann Marie Buczek

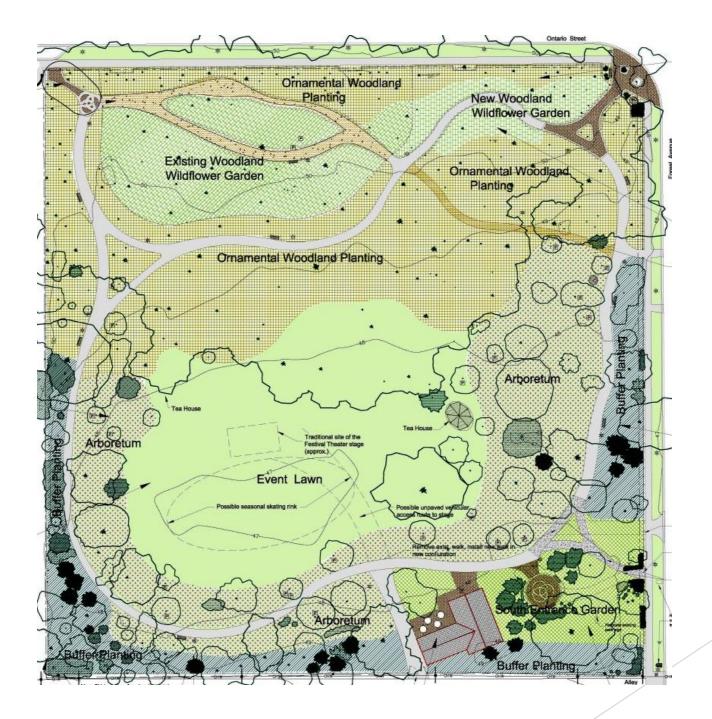
Manager of Marketing & Communications

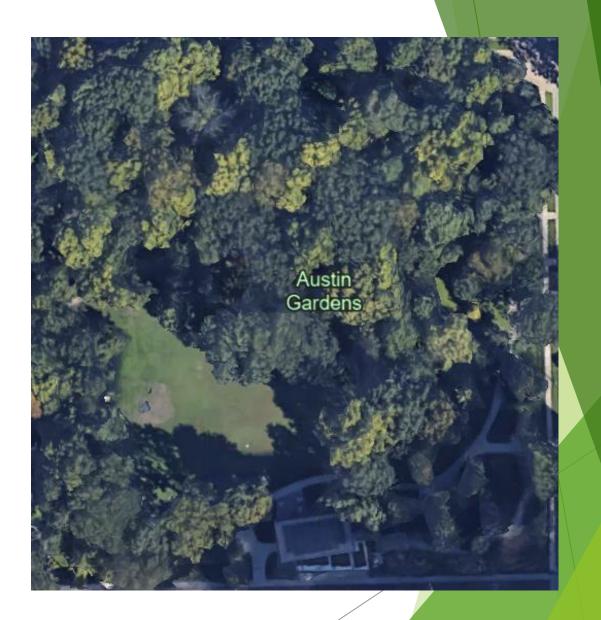




AUSTIN GARDENS: HISTORY

1947	•Henry Austin Jr. donates land to Park District of Oak Park with condition it remain a public park
1954	•Park District receives ownership with death of Mrs. Austin
1970	 Park District installed first plantings with assistance from Women League of Voters
1975	•Festival Theater begins performing in Austin Gardens
2005	•Site Master Plan Created for Austin Gardens
2016	•Master Plan revisited and AGEEC built





AUSTIN GARDENS

> URBAN FOREST
> SEATING
> WALKING LOOPS
> NATIVE PLANTINGS
> RAIN GARDENS
> FENCE IMPROVEMENTS
> DRINKING FOUNTAIN
> NATURE PLAY FEATURES

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL CENTER

Building

- Platinum LEED
- Graywater flushing
- Geo-thermal
- Solar panels
- ► Green roof
- Insulated envelope
- Triple-pane windows
- All-Electric Design

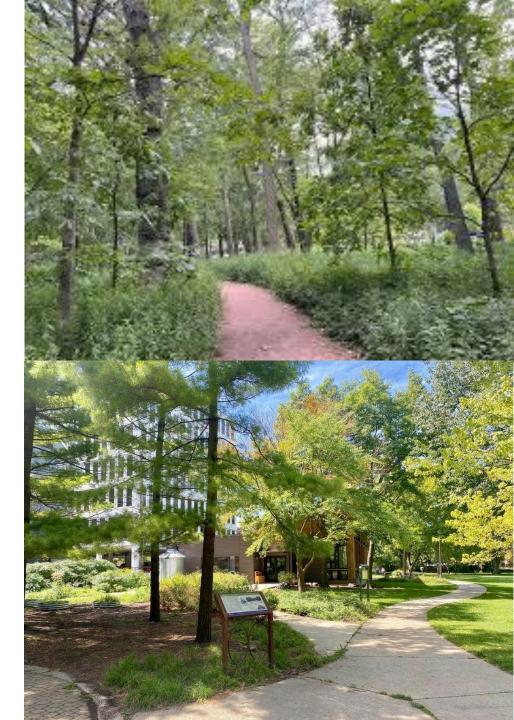






Park Qualities & Amenities

- Only green space within urban core of the Village
- Park features special use of Festival Theatre in the Summer
- Potential support for tourists visiting Historic District
- Wildflower area on north portion of site cultivated originally by volunteers; continue to improve the growing conditions
- Walking path circuit with many benches for sitting is wellused in the neighborhood
- Pedestrian lighting allows for park to be used in evenings
- Passive use of park with Nature Theme
- Unprogrammed open space great for picnics and relaxation



Park Qualities & Amenities

- Festival Theater
- Afterschool for Holmes Elementary
- Environmental Programming
 - Preschoolers
 - Families
 - Seniors
- Fitness
- Picnic Tables
- Winterfest



Recommendations from 2016 Master Plan Review

- Make entries to park more gracious by enlarging openings to park (removing fence panels) at various locations
- Increase pedestrian lighting in several locations and switch to LED energy-efficient and effective light fixtures
- Improve maintenance strategy for the native area and upgrade other ornamental shrub and groundcover plantings throughout park
- Add Interpretive signage for history and natural features
- Potential for additional art in park



How are you using the park?

Suggestions for consideration?

Any other thoughts?



THANK YOU