

# Athletic Field Park

## Framework Plan

Proposed by:  
Chicago Park District  
Department of Planning and Development



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## Framework Plan Purpose

The purpose of a framework plan is to create a long-term plan for the park that responds to diverse neighborhood needs as well as the historic context of the park. It provides a vision for improvements to the park over time and serves as a planning tool for both the community and the Park District. It also outlines priorities and ensures that improvements are done in a coordinated and holistic manner. The plan is consulted as capital funding becomes available.

# Location: Aerial Map

Athletic Field Park (No. 80)  
3546 W. Addison Ave.



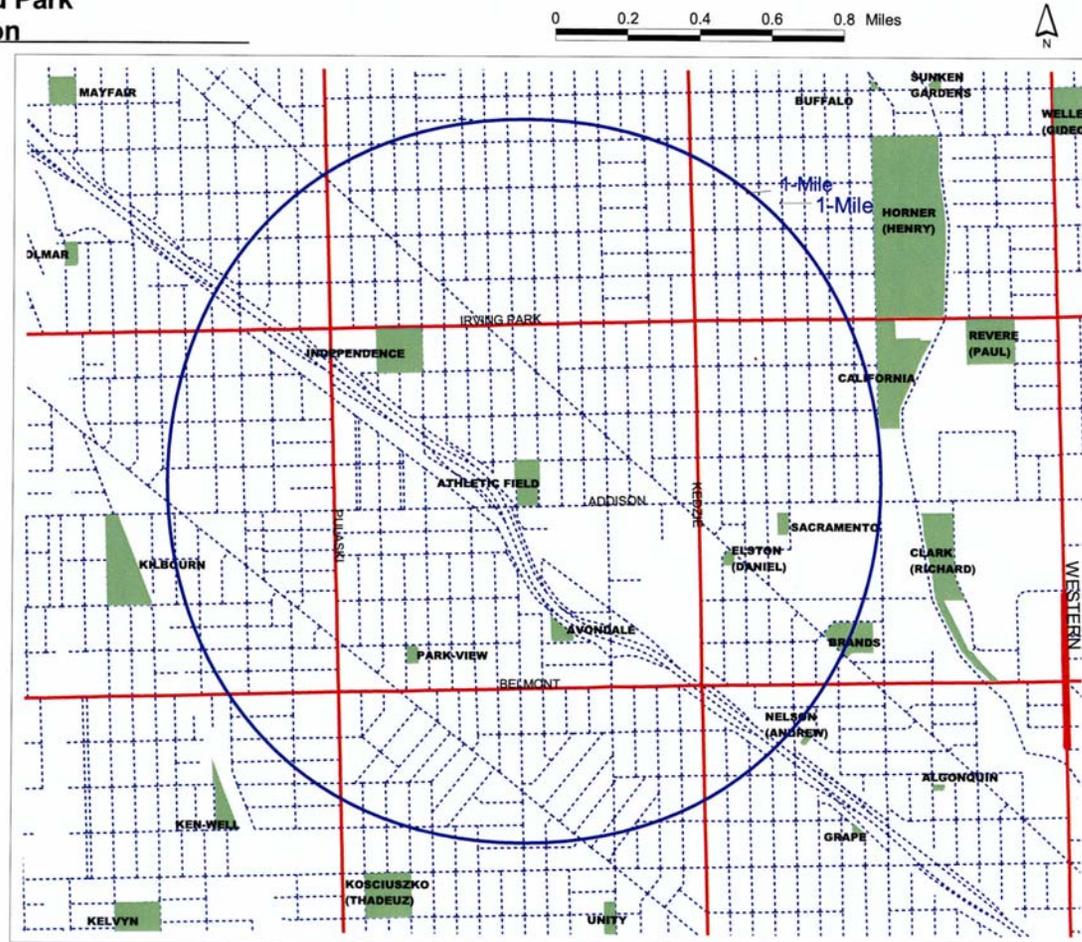
 Park



CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT  
Planning & Development  
Aerial: November 2002  
September 2, 2005 J. Taylor

# Location: One Mile Radius Map

## Parks Within 1-Mile Radius of Athletic Field Park 3546 W. Addison



CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT  
Planning & Development  
May 2005  
J. Taylor

## History

Created by the Irving Park District, Athletic Field Park takes its name from the recreational facilities it provides. In 1923, the district began acquiring land in the southeastern part of its community, a lovely tree-lined neighborhood of apartment buildings, bungalows, and fine homes. Clarence Hatzfeld, architect of several nearby Villa District residences as well as many north- and northwest-side park fieldhouses, designed three structures for Athletic Field Park. Constructed in 1926, these included an attractive Spanish Revival-style fieldhouse, a smaller locker and game room building, and a children's playground shelter. The three-and-a-half acre park also had an athletic field with grandstands, a junior baseball field, separate boys' and girls' playgrounds, a wading pool, a sand box, and horseshoe and tennis courts. Ironically, four years after Athletic Field Park opened, the commissioners determined that the junior baseball field was not needed, and decided to use the area for additional tennis courts.

Athletic Field Park became part of the Chicago Park District in 1934, when the Great Depression necessitated the consolidation of the city's 22 independent park agencies. In the early 1960s, the park district converted the park's locker and game room into a ceramics studio. In 1969, further improvements were made to the ceramics building, including the installation of additional kilns. Today, ceramics classes remain one of Athletic Field Park's most popular programs.

\*Historical Profile prepared by Julia Bachrach, Historian for the Chicago Park District, available on-line at [chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://chicagoparkdistrict.com)

## Existing Conditions: Buildings



Ceramics Building



Shelter and Spray Feature

## Existing Conditions: Site Amenities



Bike Rack and sandbox



Drinking Fountain and Tennis Courts



Paved area north of Ceramics Building



Light Poles

## Existing Conditions: Recreation



View to the South in the Ball Fields



View to the SW in the Ball Fields

## Existing Conditions: Entrances



## Existing Conditions: Recreation



Playground Seating



Playground



Basketball Court

## Process: Meetings

Advisory Council Meeting –April 19, 2005

Attendees:

Robert Steele, IGA  
Chris Gent, Planning Department  
Dale Grandys, Area Manager  
Luis Dieppa, Ald. Cololn Chief of Staff  
Dennis Puhr, Advisory Council President  
7 – 8 additional community residents

Community Meeting # 1: May 17, 2005

Purpose: Identify/Clarify community desires and priorities for park improvements

Attendees:

Anne Miller, CPD	Paul Levin, 35th Ward Office
Rachel Ackerman, CPD	Dennis Puhr
Robert Steele, CPD	Jose Rivera
Dale Grandys, CPD	Orlando Rivera
Shelly Shanahan	Dolores Zepeda
Lucy Gray	Bernardo Bello

Community Meeting # 2: June 21, 2005

Purpose: Share concept plan and get feedback

Attendees:

Anne Miller, CPD	Dennis Puhr
Robert Steele, CPD	Dolores Zepeda
Dale Grandys, CPD	Jose Rivera
Janet Kimsey	

## Process: Contributors

### Chicago Park District Staff

Chris Gent, Deputy Director of Planning and Development  
Anne Miller, Project Manager  
Arnold Randall, Planning Director  
Art Richardson, Region Manager  
Elizabeth Garza, Area Manager  
Alex Gomez, Park Supervisor  
Rachel Ackerman, Intern  
Robert Steele, Community Outreach Manager

## Concept Plan Goals

To create a cohesive park design that:

- Beautifies the park and increases green, open-space (by reducing paving and fencing where possible;)
- Ensures active and passive recreation opportunities for all ages;
- Better organizes park uses (ages, active, passive) and circulation/paths;
- Preserves historic features (shelter, buildings); and
- Incorporates safety design solutions (lighting, landscape site lines.)

# Rendering



W ADDISON STREET

W WAVELAND AVENUE

N DRAKE AVENUE

N CENTRAL PARK AVENUE

## Recommendations

- Reduce tennis courts from four to two and re-orient north-to-south (versus current east-west orientation)
- Relocate basketball court from west side to east side of park
- Relocate playground next to spray feature and shelter
- Upgrade water spray area
- Preserve historic shelter
- Create green lawn/landscaped space to the west of playground (remove current paved surface)
- Reduce unnecessary fencing to the south of Ceramic building
- Create green passive recreation space along Addison Street
- Improve athletic field area (turf, backstops, etc.)
- Increase accessibility throughout park (street entrances to athletic field, playground, etc.)
- Improve paths and circulation throughout park
- Enhance landscape