



Richard Clark Park
Framework Plan
Chicago Park District

November 2012

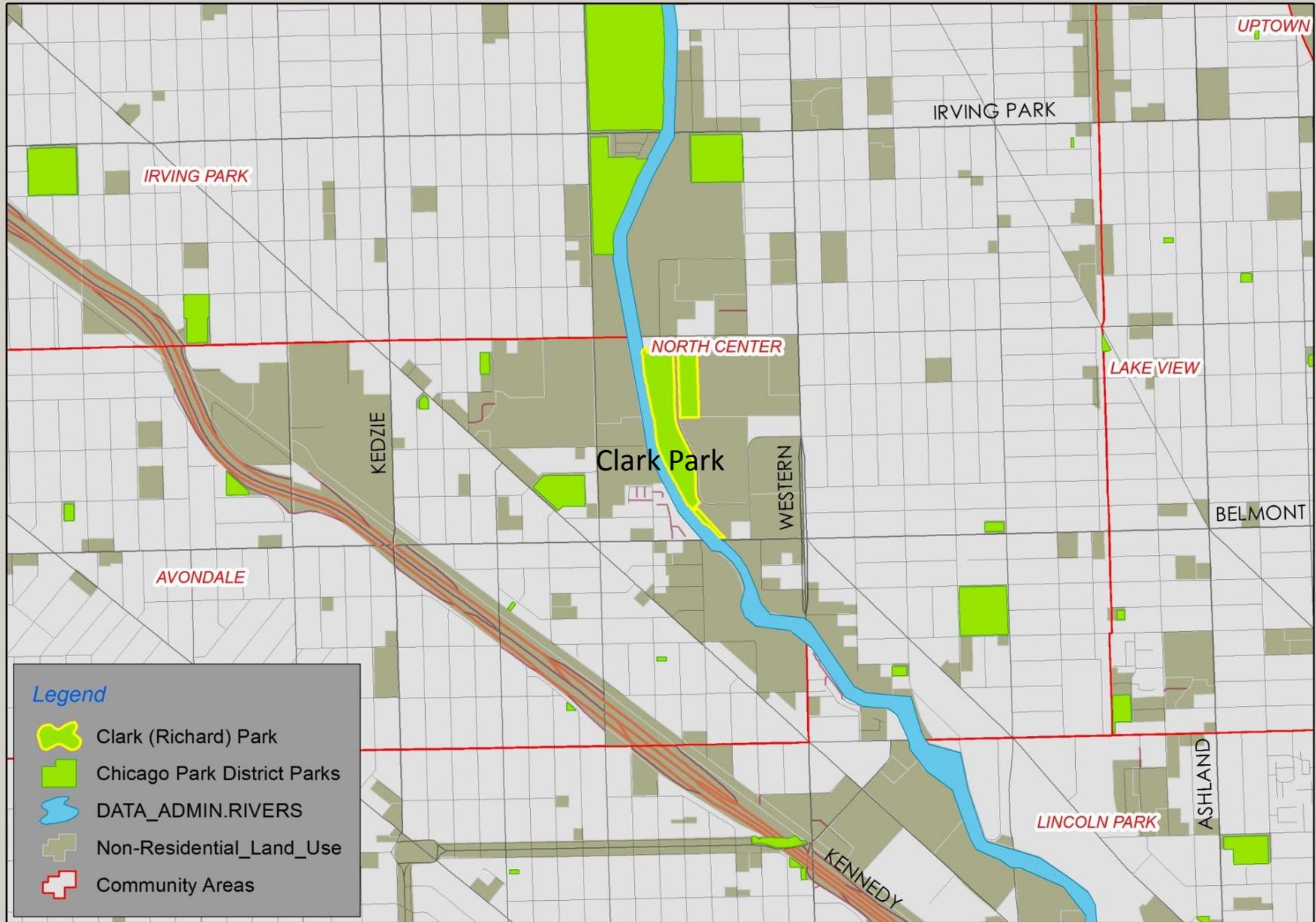
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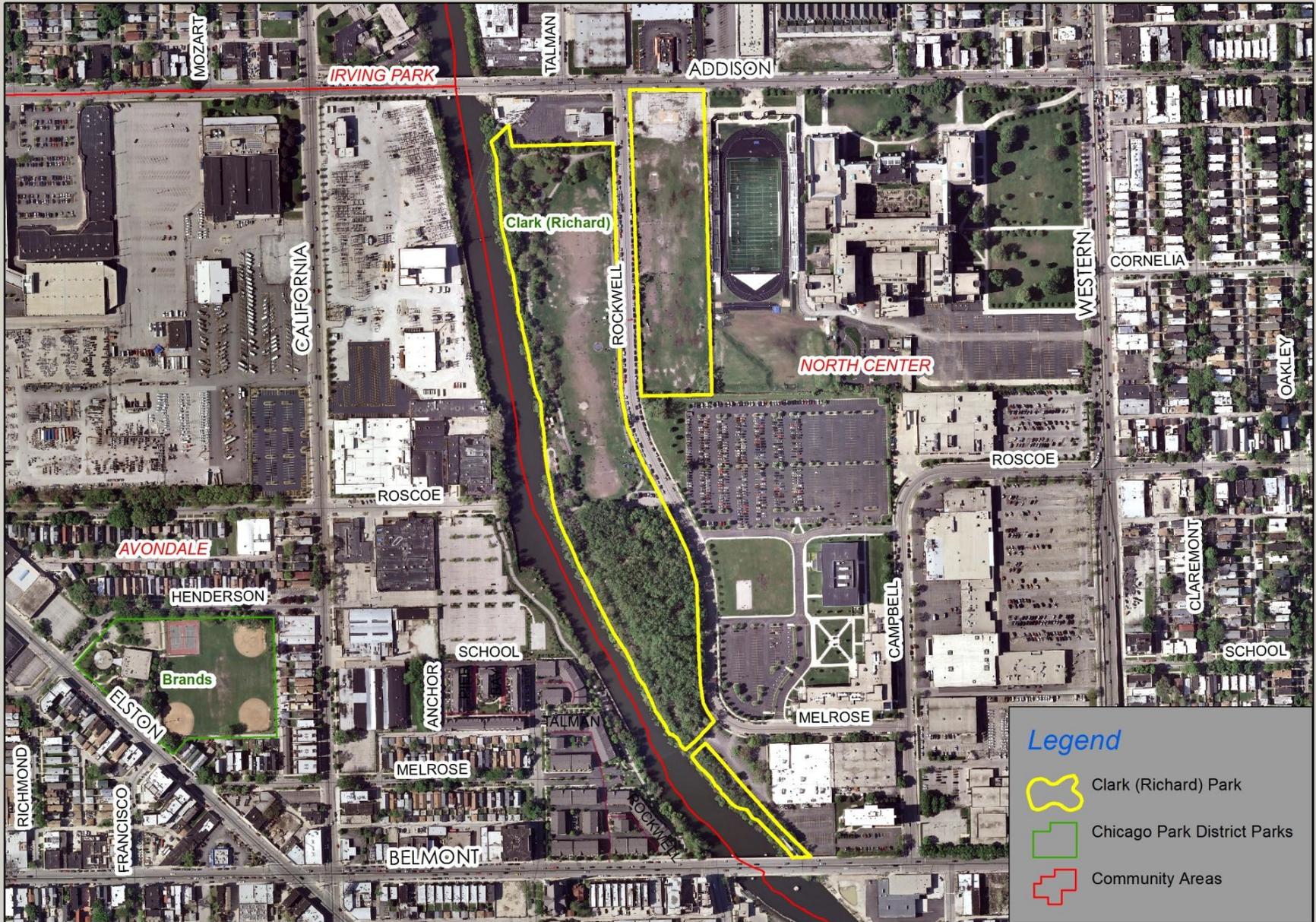
Framework Plan Purpose

The purpose of this framework plan is to create a long-term plan for Richard Clark 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 referenced as capital funding becomes available.

Location Map



Aerial Map



0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet



Park History

Richard Clark Park comprises nearly twenty acres of green space along the east bank of the Chicago River in the North Center Community Area. The park's athletic fields and bike trails sit on land once occupied by the fondly-remembered Riverview Amusement Park. Riverview was created in 1904 on the site of a former German hunting preserve. For a time it was the world's largest amusement park, with a massive roller coaster, double Ferris wheel, tunnel of love, water slide, parachute drop, and carnival games of skill and chance, among many other things. After the amusement park's demolition in 1967, the City of Chicago purchased more than three acres of the Riverview site. The Chicago Park District transformed the site into parkland in 1979. The park grew by another six acres in 1988 when the park district began leasing additional land along the river from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. Today Clark Park consists of 19.56 acres. In 1986, the park was officially designated Richard Clark Park in honor of a Chicago police officer killed in the line of duty. Richard Clark (1938-1986) was an 18-year police veteran and member of the nearby Belmont Tactical Unit at the time of his death. Clark was shot and mortally wounded on April 3, 1986, while attempting to rescue a victim wounded by a gunman who had barricaded himself in his north side apartment.

Framework Plan Process: Meetings & Contributors

Dates

June ,2012 Kick Off Meeting at Revere Park
August 21, 2012 Framework Plan Review at Revere Park
September 18, 2012 Framework Plan Review at Revere Park
November 20, 2012 Framework Plan Approval at Revere Park

Clark Park Advisory Council

Bill Donahue
Bill Barnes
Mary Jo Guglielmo
Richard Costello
Howard Luecke III
Rose Wehner
Jack Donahue
Carla Serantoni

Clark Park Patrons

Rick Blair
Josh Converse
Kayce Bayer
Jeff Daube
Katherine Sheedy
Cary Owens
Candace Goodwin
Rebecca Novak
Liam Durnan
Joseph McCay

Simon Randolph
Kim Rice
Ryan Chew
Matt VanAcker
Brad Hack
Joril Kvamme
Al Dargiel
Nancy Cervantes
Dominic Vasquez
Kelly Jensen

Chicago Park District

Bob Foster, Sr. Project Manager
Greg Czajkowski, Revere Park Supervisor

Alderman Pawar's Office

Existing Park Conditions

Perimeter

- Chicago River on the west and Lane Tech High School & DeVry on the east
- Private Property to the north and Belmont on south.

Walkways / Trails

- Trails need patching and river bank erosion is encroaching on Riverfront Trail

Site Lines

- Park has good site lines along Rockwell and the river

Landscaping

- Grass is in poor condition
- Former garden along river is to be relocated
- Weedy trees along the river and in dirt bike area
- East of Rockwell needs to be developed

Buildings

- Fieldhouse and Boathouse are under construction
- Baseball stadium under construction

Lighting

- Park District lighting along Riverfront Trail. City lighting along Rockwell

River

- Severe bank erosion is several areas
- The park is a stop on the Chicago River Water Trail
- Invasive and weedy trees along the river banks
- Homeless people camp under Belmont Bridge

Existing Park Images



Carp caught on the Riverbank



Paddling on the Chicago River



Viewing south from the Riverfront Trail along the river

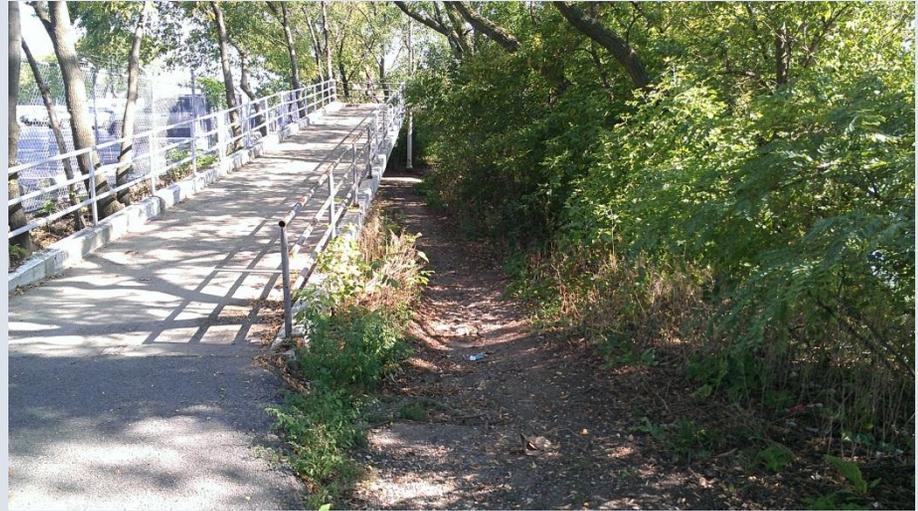


Former boat launch and garden in spring

Existing Park Images



Fall colors along the Riverfront Trail



Ramp leading southward from Clark Park to Belmont Avenue



Catching air on the dirt trails



Step banks and eroded shoreline

Existing Park Images



Undeveloped property east of Rockwell



Existing concession truck



MWRD vent and access



North view of west athletic field

Planned Improvements

1. Chicago Park District boat house facility with fieldhouse
2. Park District, Public Schools & Chicago Cubs baseball stadium
3. Richard Clark memorial
4. Connect Clark to California Park with Addison underpass and bridge across the Chicago River. Work being done by CDOT.
5. Relocation of river front garden

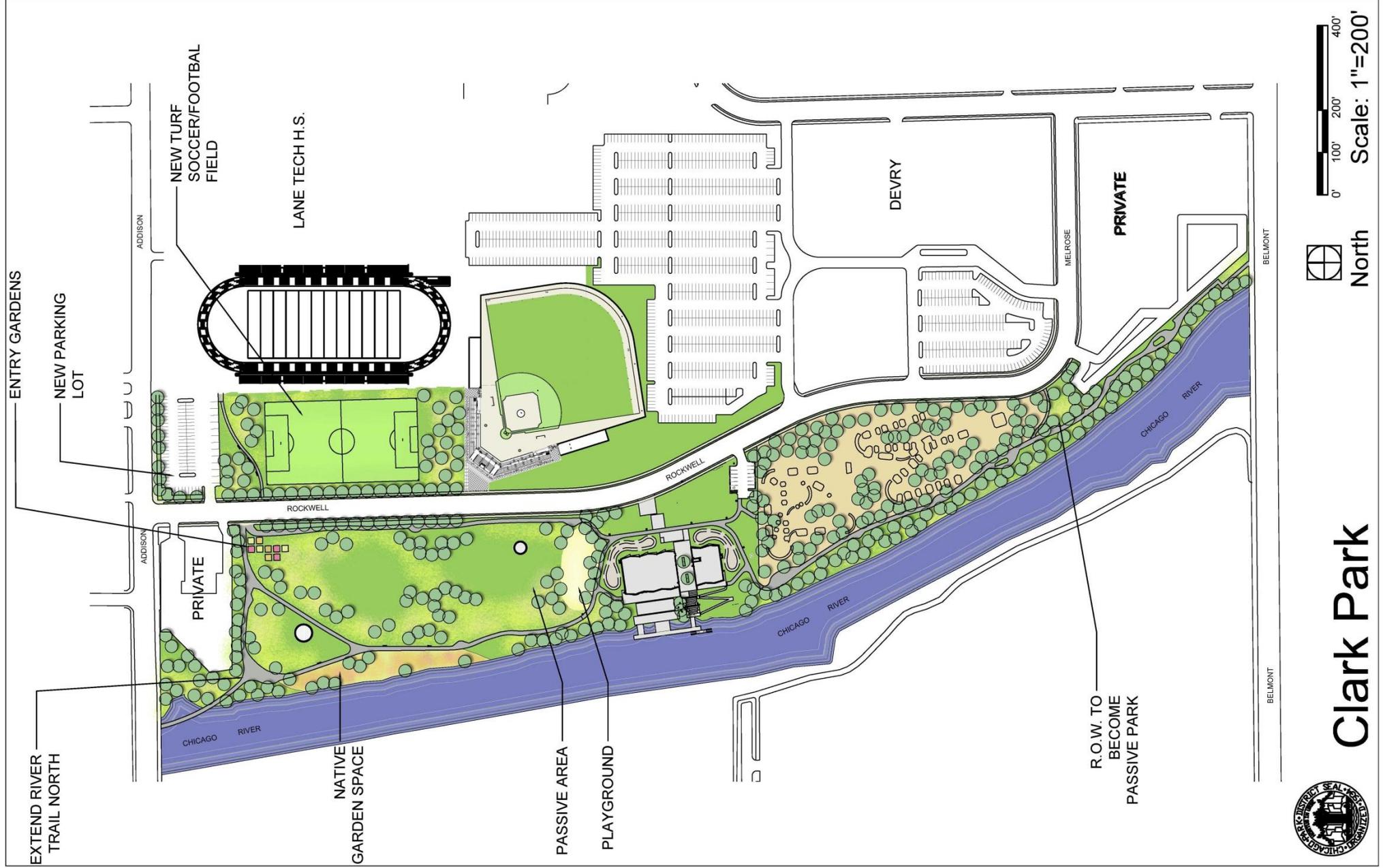
Framework Plan Goals

1. Create a cohesive park atmosphere
2. Improve park walkway and trail circulation
3. Increase programming and staffing
4. Enhance landscaping
5. Create use zones in the park by activity
6. Improvements should be environmentally friendly

Major Recommendations

1. Move active multi purpose athletic fields east of Rockwell
2. Large multipurpose field to be artificial turf and 360' x 210' if space allows
3. West of Rockwell to become passive recreation
4. Create new garden areas west of Rockwell
5. New Playground near fieldhouse / boat house
6. Lease Melrose Right of Way from City for park purposes
7. Create additional parking on property east of Rockwell
8. Landscaping should use native species where ever possible
9. Park District and advisory council to work together on programming
10. Move food concession to an aesthetically pleasing location
11. Remove and replace dead trees in woods as needed
12. New drinking fountains and lawn hydrants
13. Parking study
14. Create loading zone near boat launch
15. Align park walkways and future trail connection to Horner Park
16. Add bike racks

Concept Plan



Clark Park