

Holstein Park Framework Plan

Proposed by:
Department of Planning and Development
Chicago Park District



1938

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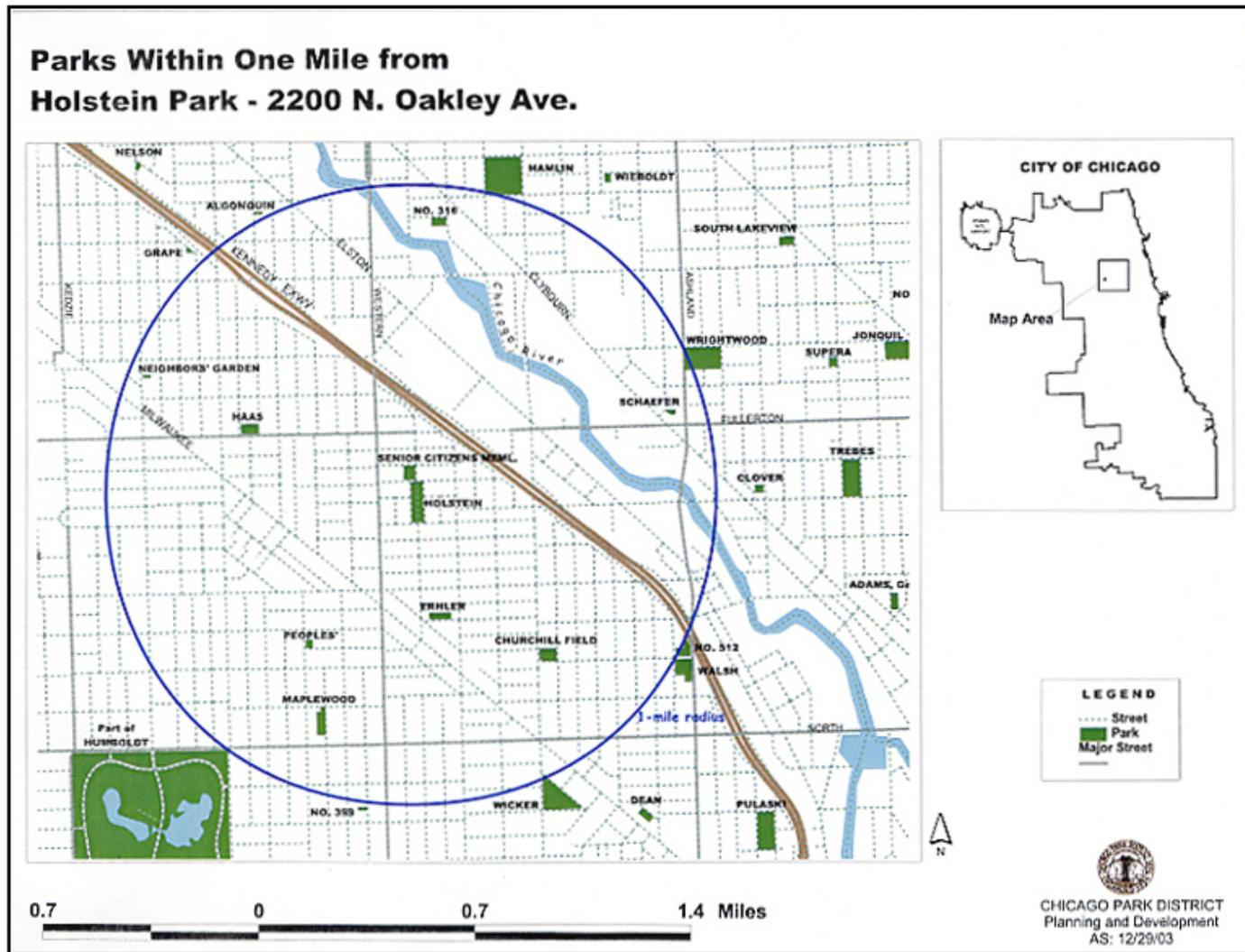
Framework Plan Purpose

The purpose of a Park 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. The plan provides a vision for improvements to the park over time and serves as a planning tool for both the community and the Park District. The plan outlines priorities and ensures that improvements are done in a coordinated and holistic manner. The plan is consulted as capital funding becomes available.



Location: Base Map

Holstein Park One Mile Radius



History

In 1854, real estate speculators Sherman, Clark, and Westmore reserved two acres of their subdivision as Holstein Park to enhance the area and its property values. The surrounding area was known as Holstein, an enclave of laborers and craftsmen from Schleswig - Holstein, now a region of Germany. Although the developers expected the city to beautify Holstein Park, it remained unimproved for more than 40 years. Finally, in 1901, the city transferred the park to the West Park System, which made initial improvements. By 1910, the West Park Commissioners had created several new neighborhood parks. These included the earliest west side fieldhouses, offering residents of the surrounding congested neighborhoods important services and programs such as public bathing, English lessons and other classes, and athletics. Efforts soon began to build fieldhouses in some of the existing small parks, including Holstein Park. A handsome brick fieldhouse, designed by Illinois state architect William Carbys Zimmermann, opened to the public in 1912.

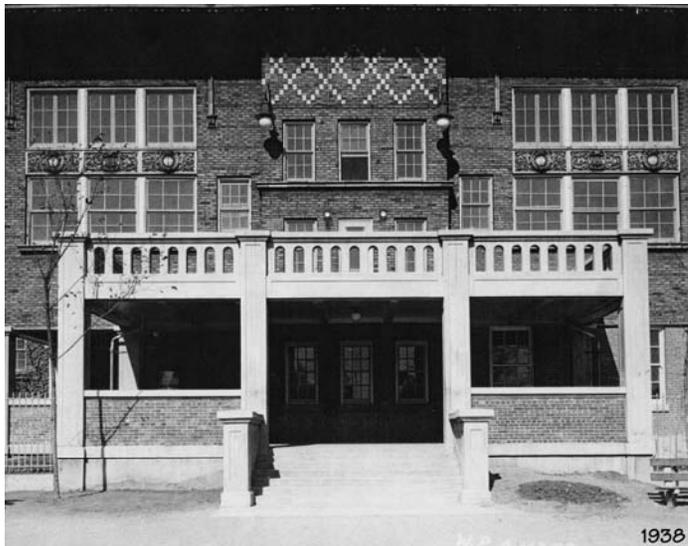
In 1917, the park commissioners enlarged Holstein Park by purchasing 16 lots north of what is now Palmer Street. Visionary designer Jens Jensen, then consulting landscape architect to the West Park Commission, conceived a plan to cooperatively operate Holstein Park with the adjacent Logan School. He hoped to combine the two properties, build a new school, a separate gymnasium, and an indoor swimming facility. He also wanted to create prairie-like playfields, council rings, an

History (continued)

outdoor theater, and school gardens. Although the commissioners began negotiating with the Board of Education, the plan was never realized. Jensen's innovative idea was ahead of its time. A recent collaboration between the City of Chicago, Chicago Park District, and Board of Education has resulted in approximately 100 campus parks throughout the city.

*Historical Profile prepared by Julia Bachrach, Historian for the Chicago Park District, available on-line at chicagoparkdistrict.com

Fieldhouse Entrance



South Park Entrance



Process

Kick-off Community Meeting: September 8, 2003

Three Focus Group Meetings:

- Programming – September 29, 2003
- Facility – October 7, 2003
- Grounds – October 20, 2003

Steering Committee Meeting: November 3, 2003

Community Meeting: December 8, 2003

Process (continued)

Chicago Park District Staff

Participants

Anne Miller (Project Manager)
Khatija Hashmy (Architect)
Bob Thompson (Senior Landscape Designer)
Chris Gent (Senior Project Manager)
Leigh Olszewski (Intern)
Elizabeth Garza (Area Manager)
Alex Zamora (Park Supervisor)

Steering Committee

Participants

Jean Alan, Supporting the Spirit, Heartland Alliance
Lisa Collings/Dale Peck, Bucktown Garden Club
Judith Diaz, Pulaski Academy
Julie Halperin, Bucktown Community Organization
Michelle Kranicke, Zephr Dance Company
Heather Lightfine, Toddler program
Maria Mariottini/Brian Mattson, Bucktown Arts Festival
Alderman Matlak & Jim Thompson, Ward Office
Patricia Muñoz, ASPIRA
Sam Muñoz, 14th Police District
Nina Rosen, Sport leagues
Mary Strong, Senior Programs
Edward Thomas, Afterschool programs
Debra Winke, Friends of Holstein Park

Neighborhood Residents

Participants

Laura April
Wendy & Mike Bernstein
Lucy Burg
Vryan Chilton
Will Cleaveland
Ann Costello
Mary Darnell
Katherine Diaz
Lucy Domino
Josephine Dziminski
Judy Feliciano
Joe Hamm
David Howell
Scott Jacobs
Laura Jensen
Steve Jensen
Joe Lake
Steve and Susan Lipe
Judith and Kevin Martin
Carol Monk
Lee Noble
Ramon Paxton
Francoise Pierre
Peter Riccio
John Riley
Chris Smeltzer
John Summy
Tiara Thomas
John Newhouse

Concept Plan Goals

The framework plan process provided insight into both Chicago Park District and community concerns with Holstein Park. Meeting agendas helped narrow down the issues into two main goals:

- Upgrade and beautify park fieldhouse and grounds
- Maintain existing park historical features and character

Major Recommendations: **Grounds**

The following recommendations are specific to the Holstein Park grounds, in order to meet the framework plan goals:

General

- Create stronger entrances throughout park with ornamental pavers
- Enhance park amenities (upgrade benches, lighting, drinking fountains)
- Add traffic calming measures at key intersections to slow traffic

Senior Citizens Memorial Park

- Upgrade landscape in Senior Citizens Park
 - Selectively thin trees to create views into park and improved conditions for tree health
 - Create seasonal interest
 - Add ornamental drinking fountain or focal point at southeast entrance
- Create linkage to Holstein Park through street pavers and curb bump out to slow traffic

Playground Area

- Redesign/redevelop playground
 - New playground equipment and rubberized surfacing
 - Maintain shady character and a grassy area
 - Add ornamental fencing

Fieldhouse Perimeter

- Create fieldhouse entry plaza (on west side of fieldhouse) with seating and plantings
- Improve entry/service area on the east side of building

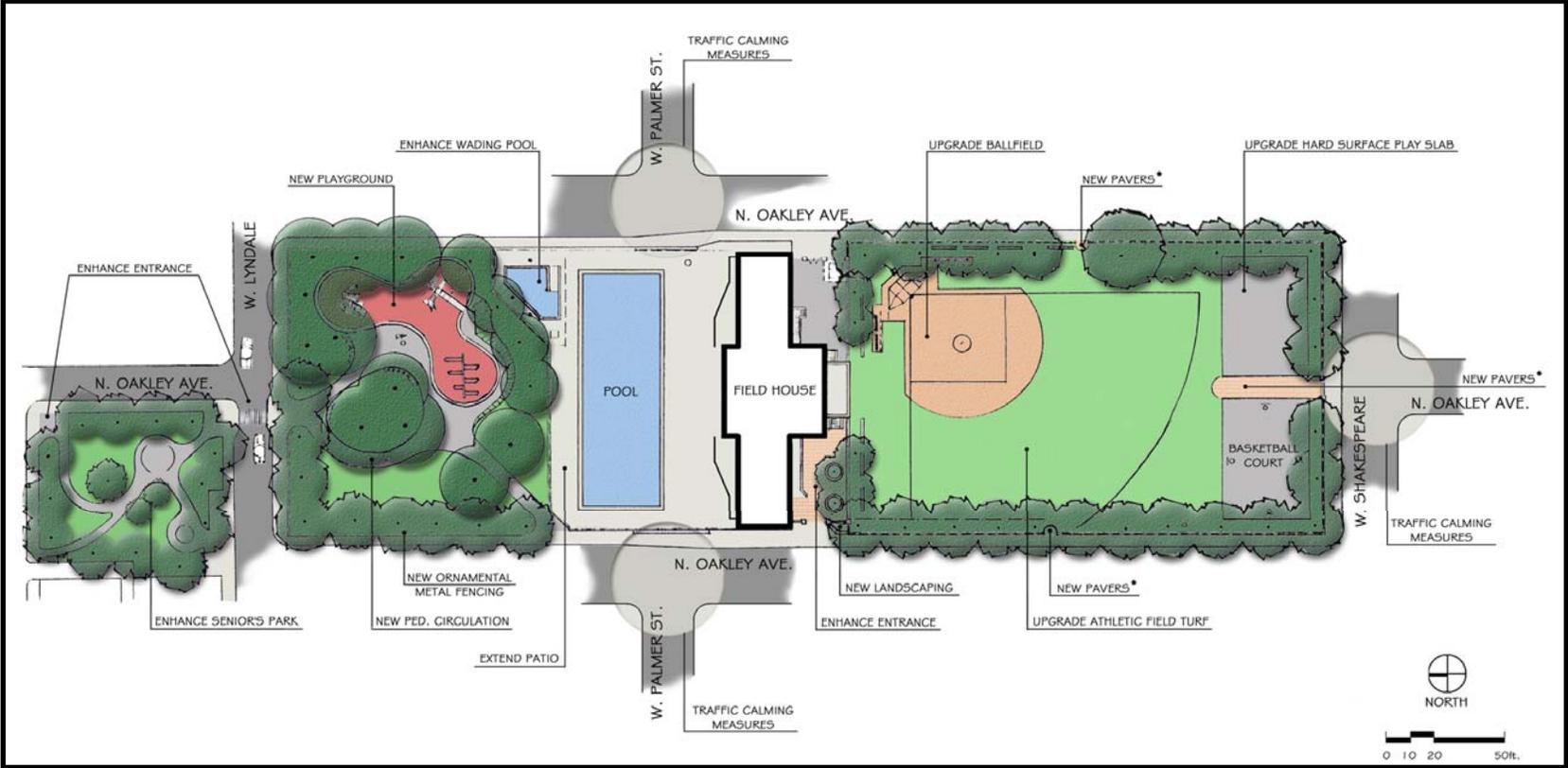
Grounds (continued)

Athletic Field Area

- Improve athletic field with new backstop and upgraded turf
- Reinforce rows of existing trees
- Upgrade multi-purpose hard play surface in south and add four-square and hopscotch graphics
- Upgrade basketball court

Grounds: Site Rendering

Proposed Improvements



Grounds: Existing/Proposed

Wading pool



Existing



Proposed



Proposed



Proposed

Playground



Existing



Proposed

Plaza

Proposed



Existing/Proposed (continued)

Proposed



Senior Citizens Park Fountain



Existing



Existing

Grounds: Standards

Bench



Light Post



Trash Receptacle

Major Recommendations: Facility

The following recommendations are specific to the Holstein Park facilities, in order to meet the framework plan goals:

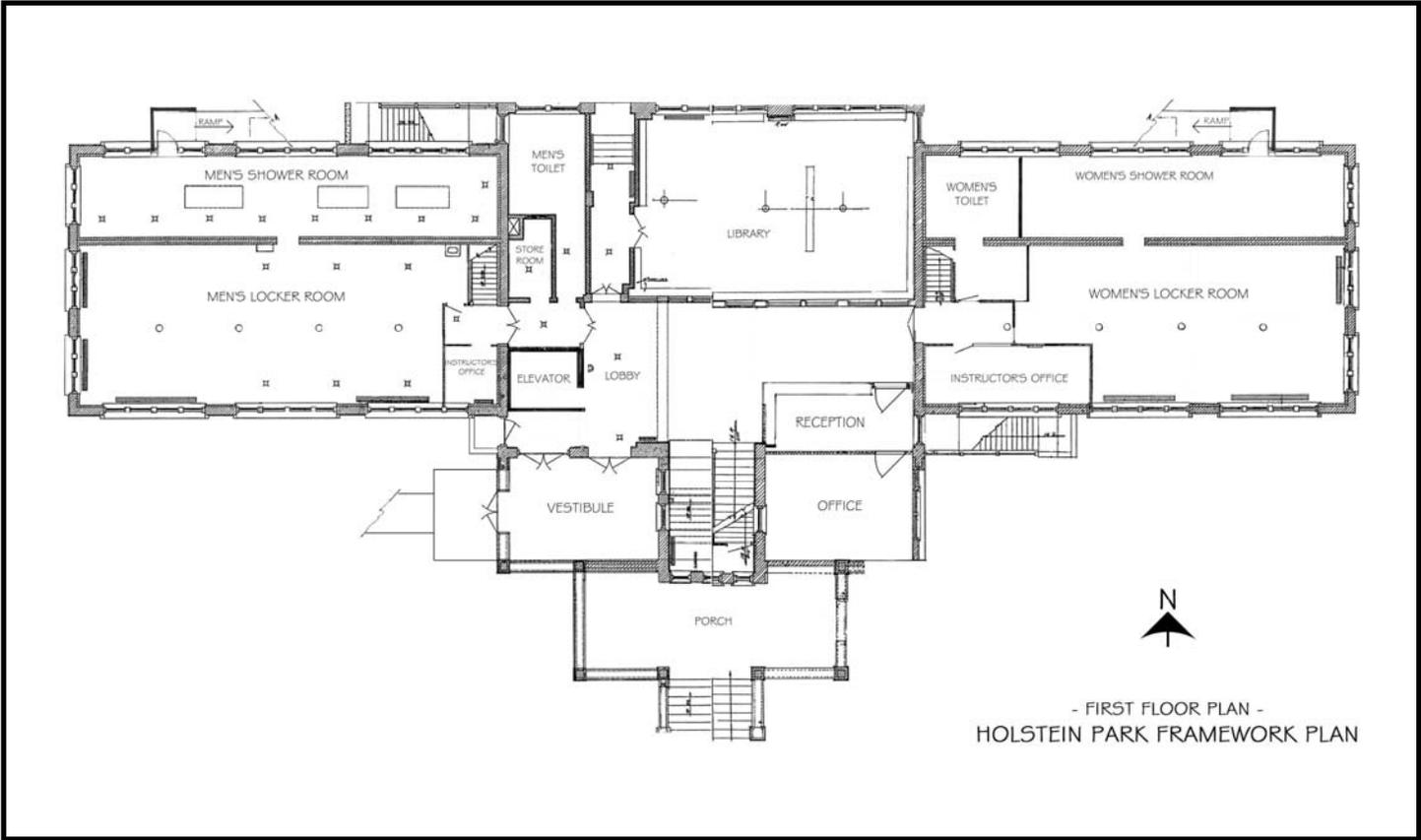
Fieldhouse

- Upgrade fieldhouse
 - New tile roof
 - Mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems
 - Interior (walls, ceiling, floors, amenities)
 - ADA compliance
- Restore historic main entrance through porch
- Improve layout of office and reception area
- Upgrade locker/toilet rooms
- Reconfigure locker room layouts to create additional multi-purpose rooms
- Enhance auditorium appearance and upgrade theater sound system and lighting

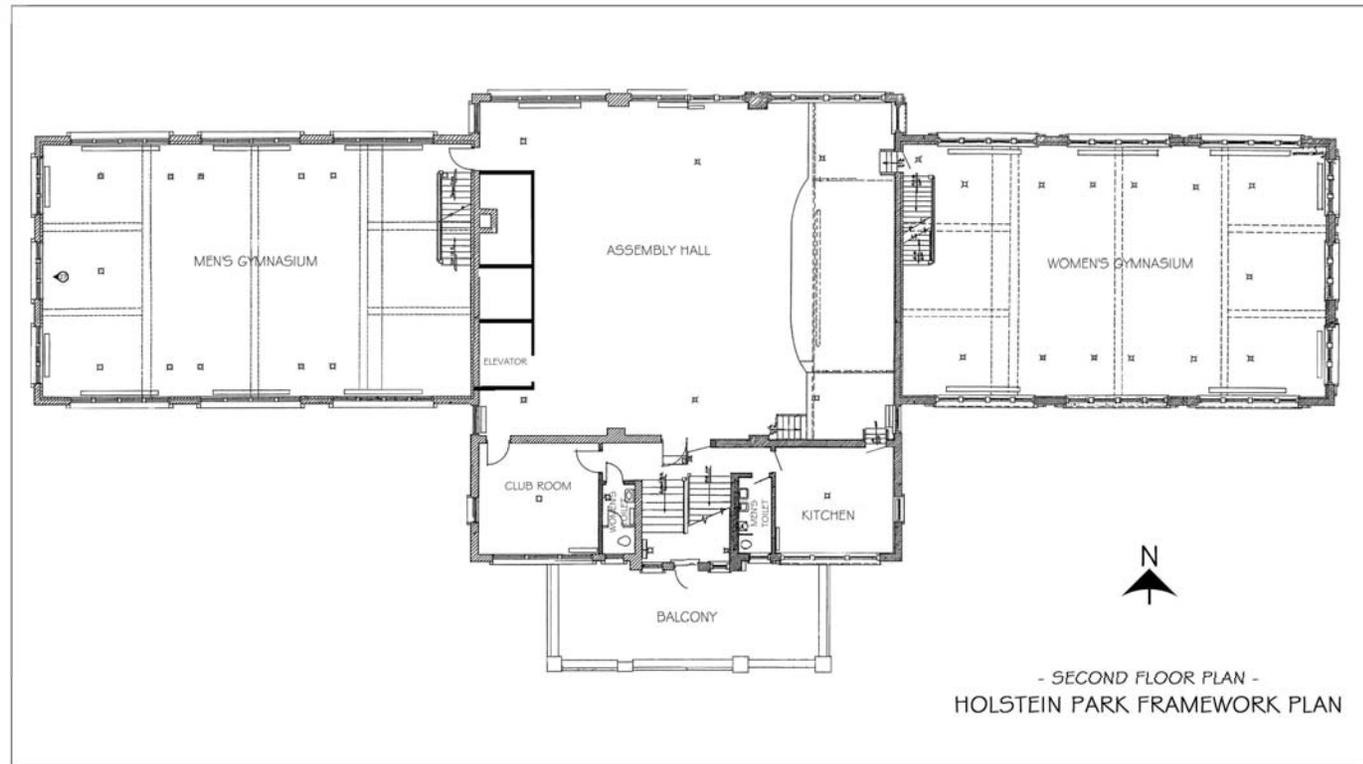
Pool Area

- Upgrade wading pool and add spray features
- Expand north pool deck
- Consolidate entrance to pool area from the fieldhouse and remove side street entrances to men and women's locker rooms (which will remain as exits only)

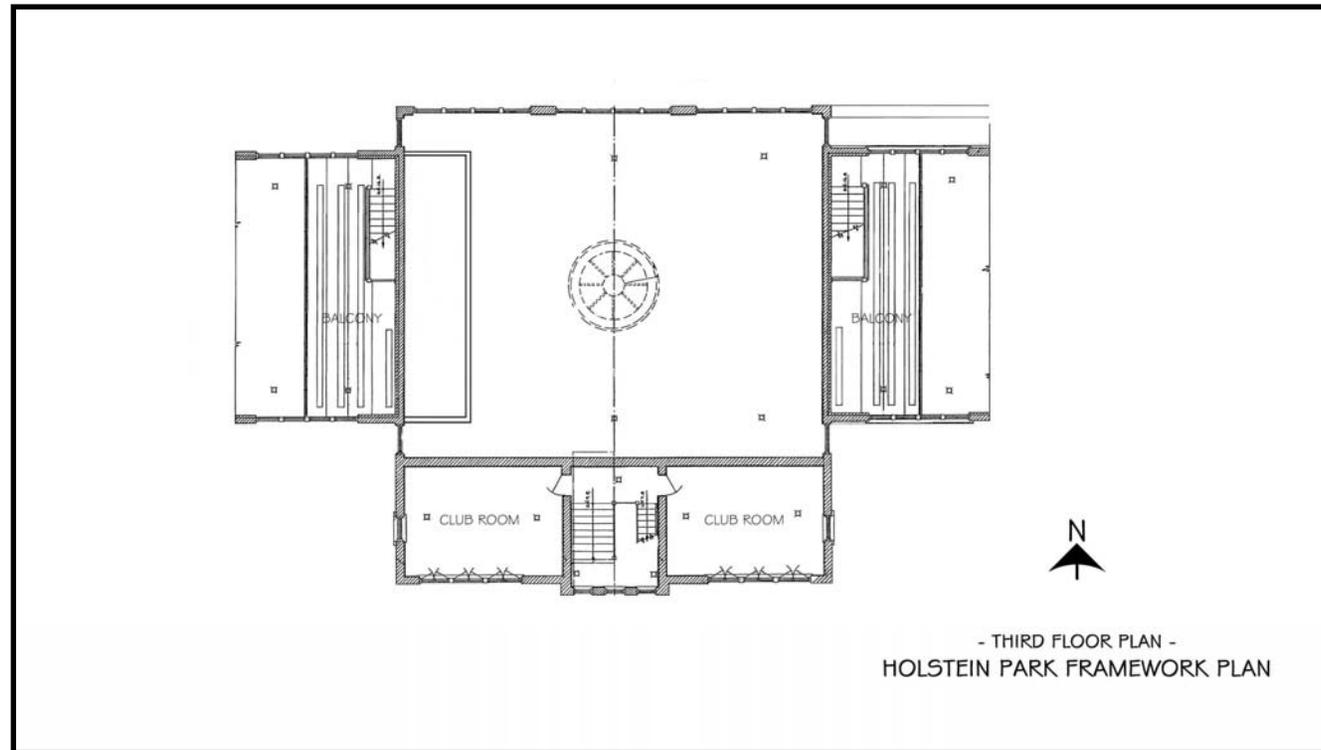
Facility: Existing Floor Plans



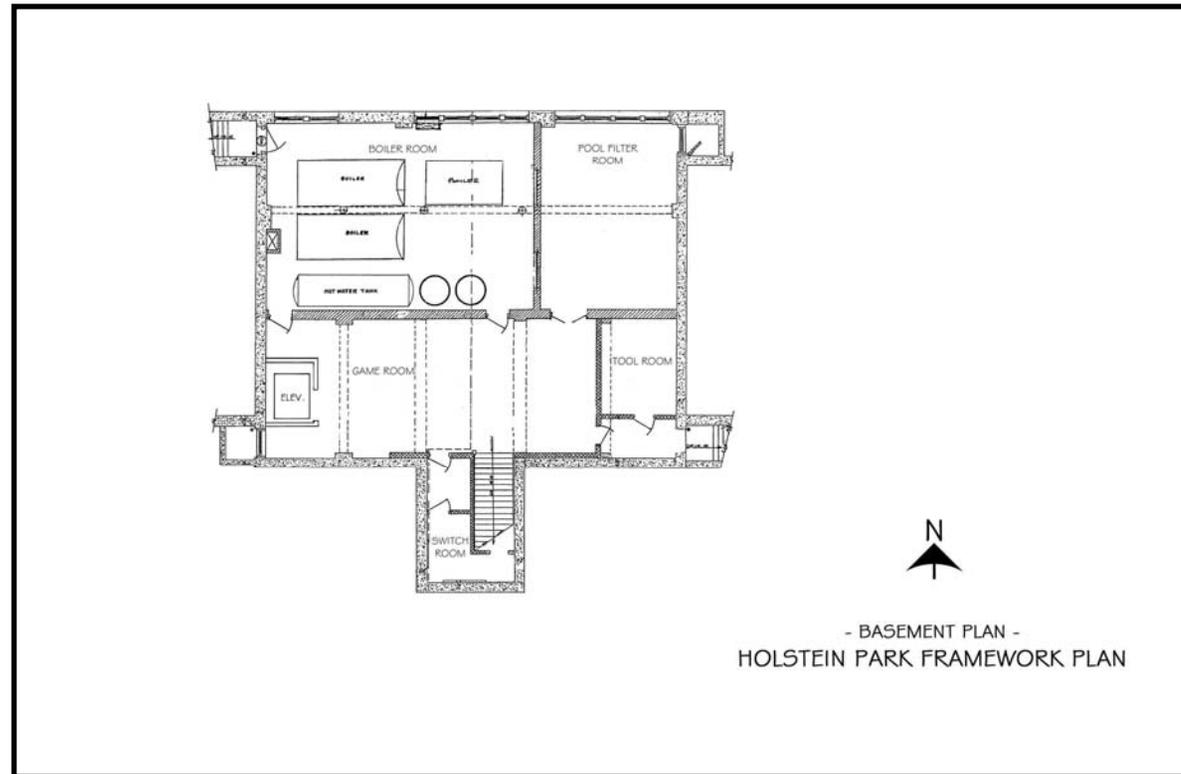
Existing Floor Plans (continued)



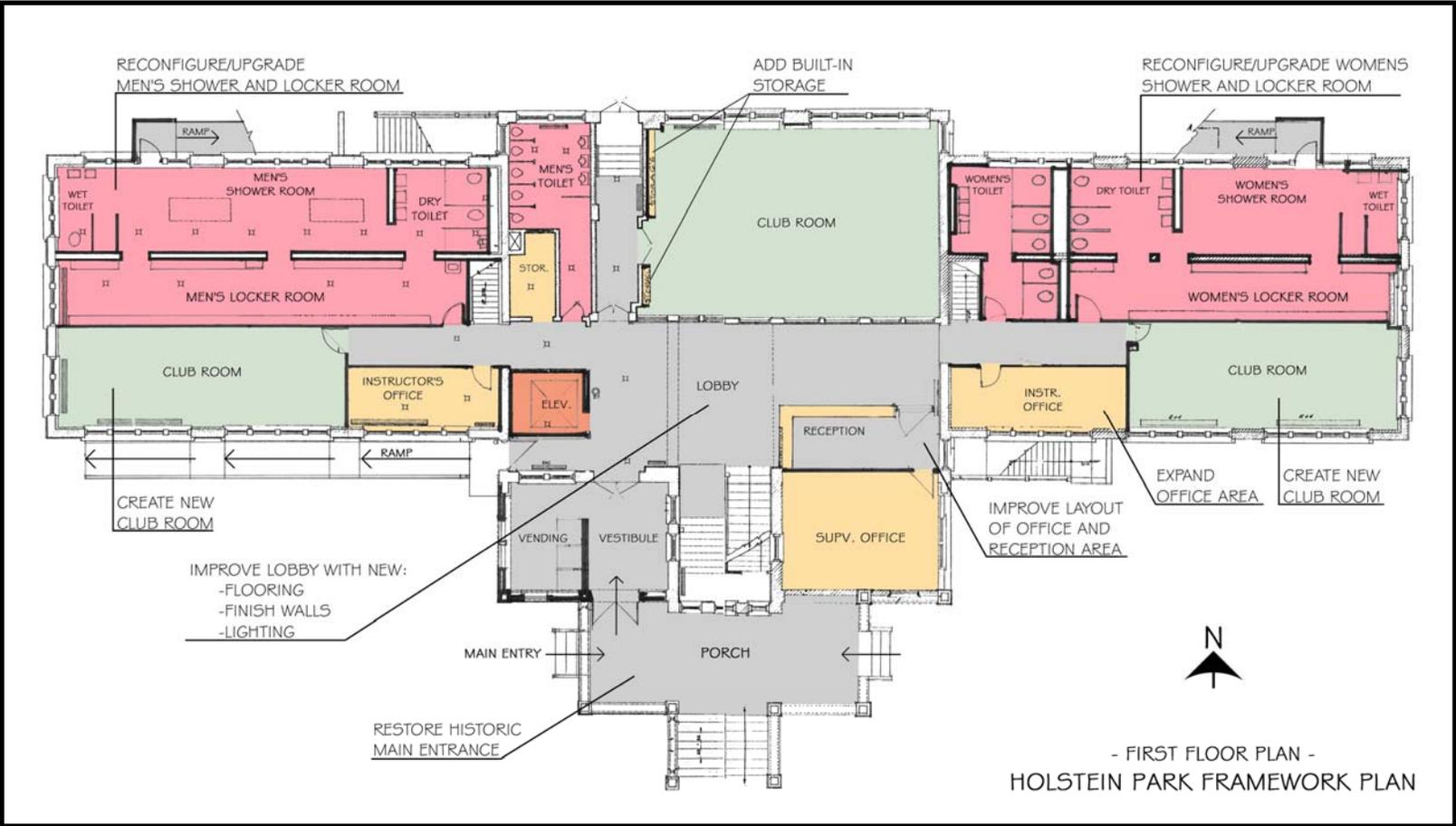
Existing Floor Plans (continued)



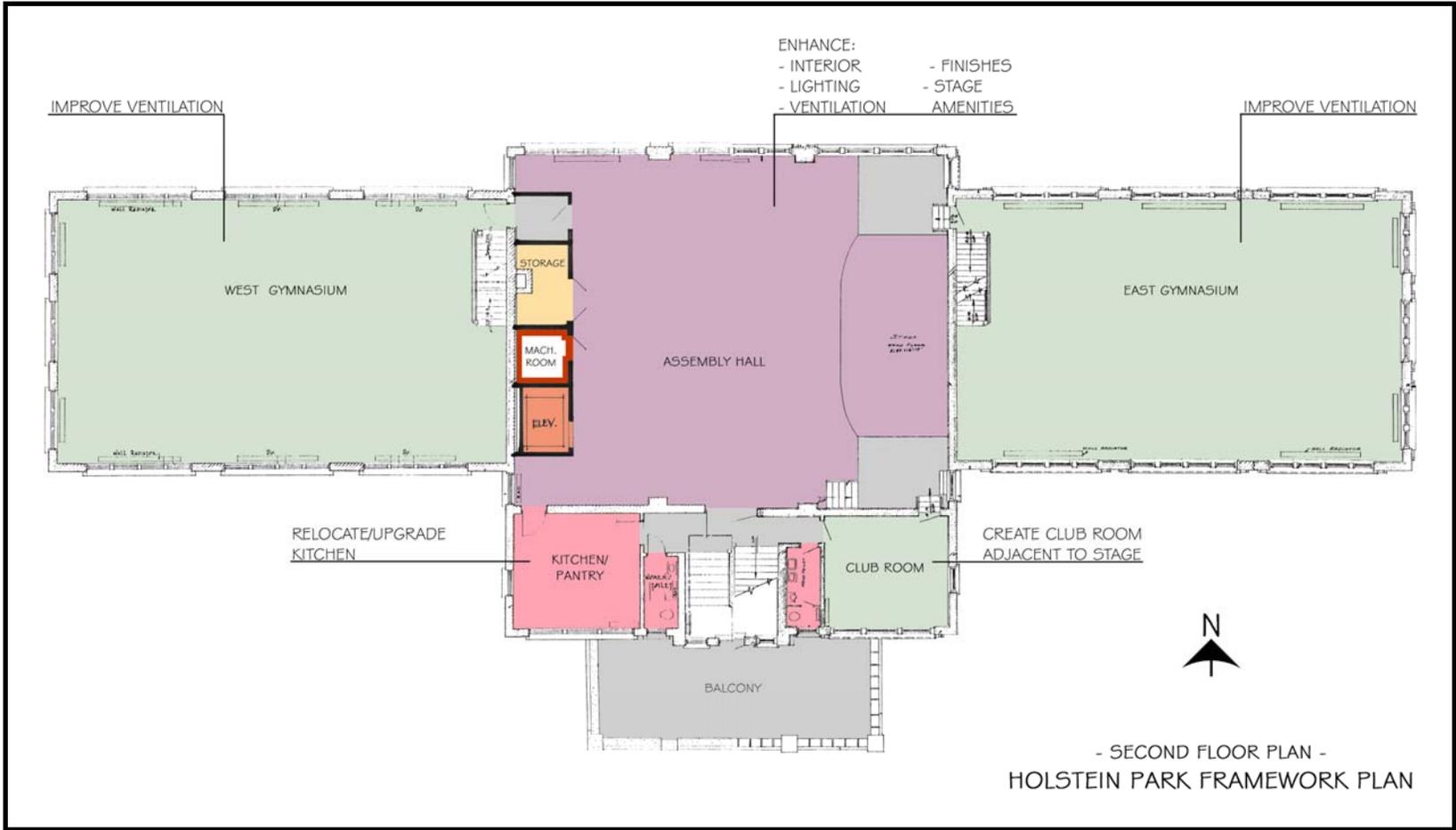
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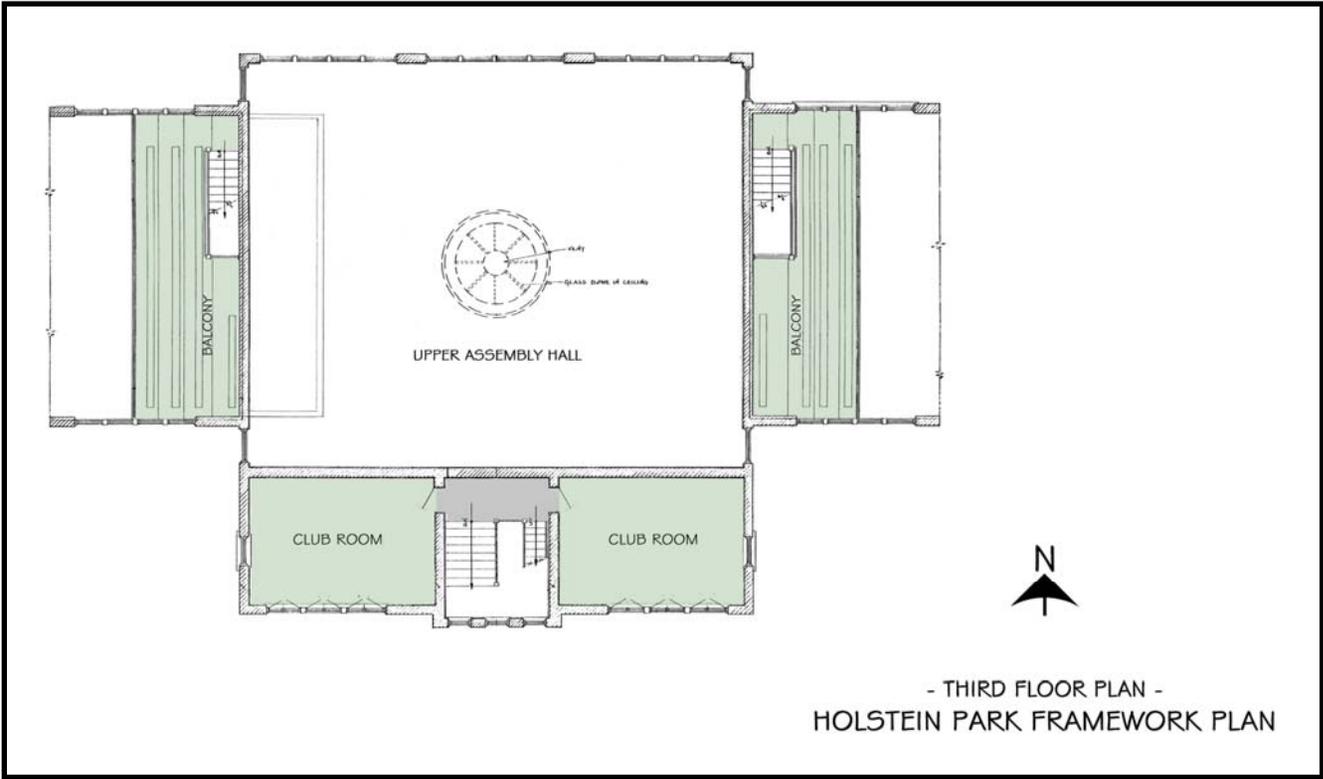
Facility: Proposed Floor Plans



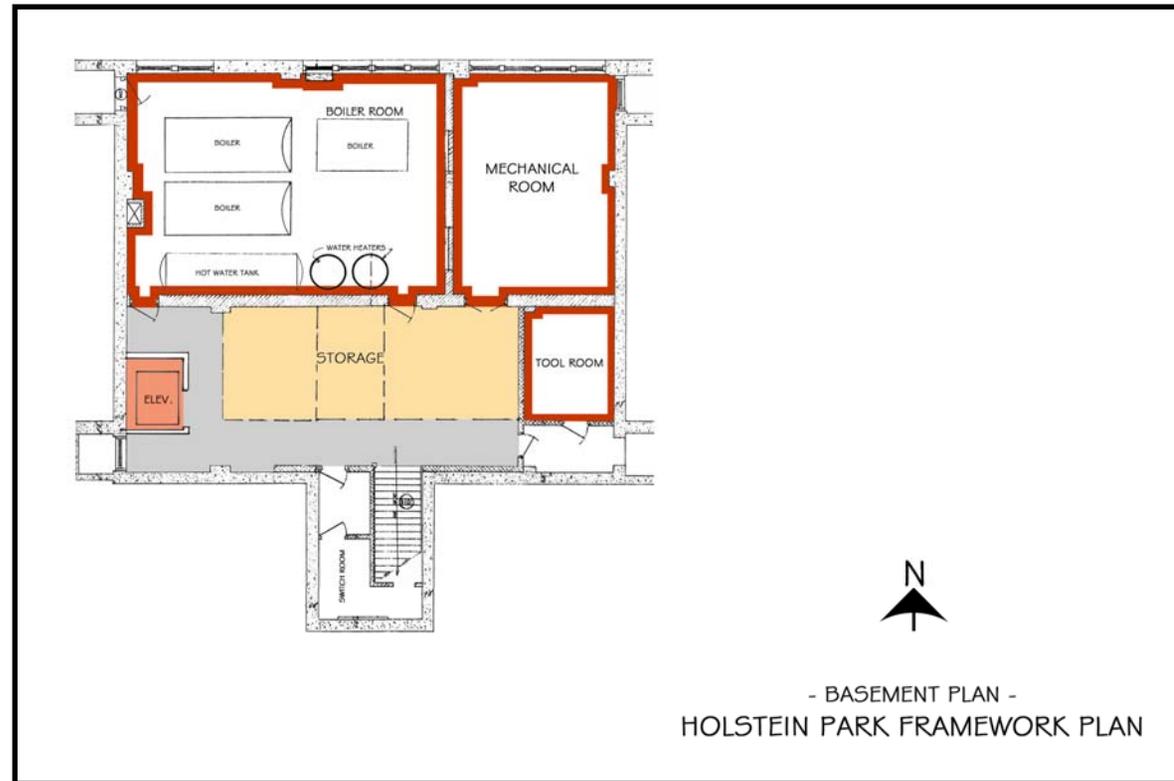
Proposed Floor Plans (continued)



Proposed Floor Plans (continued)



Proposed Floor Plans (continued)



Facility: Existing Conditions

Club Room – 1st floor



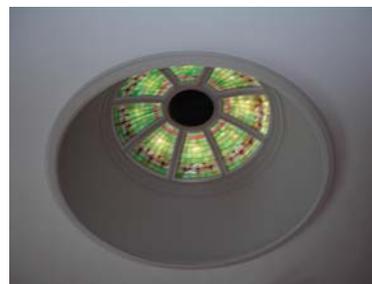
Auditorium



Women's Locker Room



Auditorium Dome



Lobby



Facility: Upgrades

Auditorium Lighting



Lobby Lighting



1st Floor Club Room Lighting



Priorities

Facilities

1. **Exterior Envelope**
 - Repairs to windows and doors
 - New clay tile roof (optional) or repair existing roof

2. **Interior**
 - Life Safety
 - ADA compliance
 - Lobby/Entry upgrades
 - Locker Rooms/Club Rooms

Grounds

1. **Playground**

2. **Entry Plaza**

3. **Enhance park amenities**