

Jefferson (Thomas) 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

0 50 100 150 200 Feet



Location: One Mile Radius Map

0 0.5 1 Miles



LEGEND

 Park



Location: Rendering



History

Jefferson Park is one of many playgrounds established by the City of Chicago at the close of World War II. By 1950, the Bureau of Parks and Recreation had developed this playlot on Board of Education-owned property in the under-served Pilsen neighborhood. The bureau soon added a basketball court to the original sandbox, spraypool, playground equipment, and softball diamond. In 1959, the city transferred management of the site to the Chicago Park District, which redeveloped the property and added a comfort station in 1980. The following year, the district expanded the park, purchasing two adjacent vacant lots at the urging of The Pilsen Housing and Business Alliance, the alderman, and other community residents. The Board of Education transferred the remainder of the property to the park district in 1982. In 2003 the Park District acquired the site to the North East of the park. Jefferson Park was expanded by nearly half an acre.

Jefferson Park takes the name of the adjacent street, once the city's western boundary. For years, Pilsen's Jefferson Park was one of three Chicago parks so named. (One has since been renamed Mark Skinner Park, the other, Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park.) All three honored Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), third president of the United States. Among the nation's most revered statesmen, Jefferson was also an architect, educator, inventor, and agriculturalist.

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

Existing Conditions: Jefferson Street



Sidewalk at acquired site



Sidewalk at acquired site



Sidewalk on east side of site

Existing Conditions: Recreation



Baseball Field



Baseball Field



View west toward old basketball court



Playlot



Unused space on SW side of park



West entrance



Looking north on Desplaines



View looking east toward park

Park Playlot Community Meeting – Tuesday, October 19, 2004

Attendees:

Robert Steele, IGA
Arnold Randall, Director of Planning and Development
Chris Gent, Asst. Deputy Director of Planning and Development
Art Richardson, Region Manager
Marilyn Morales, Area Manager
Alex Zamora, Park Supervisor
Jean Vondriska, Resident
Lynn, Resident

Community Meeting # 1: January 11, 2005

Purpose: Identify/Clarify community desires for park improvements

Attendees:

Anne Miller-CPD	Jean Vondriska	Laura Salazal
Rachel Ackerman-CPD	Judy Hughes	Michell Hallagher
Elizabeth Garza- CPD	Shelly Reis	Katrina Walker
Robert Steele- CPD	Gabriella Seal	Sandy & Benny Hernandez
Maria Gonzalez	Michaile L. Brooks	Roberto Lara
Steve Gilligan	Brian Mackenzil	Martha S. Veiez
Gary Garale	Auelina Bravo	Lisa Mata
Anow Avole	Stephanie Platz	Angel Archer

Process: Meetings

Community Meeting # 2: February 15, 2005

Purpose: Share concept plan and get feedback

Community Meeting #3: July 19, 2005

Purpose: Approve final park concept plan

Attendees:

Anne Miller-CPD

Elizabeth Garza- CPD

Chula Ortiz-CPD

Robert Steele-CPD

Alderman Danny Soliz

Jean Vondriska

Rob Savage

Sandy Hernandez

Miles Gillott

Rond Landeen

Lisa Mata

Kevin Bachman

Hector Jimenez

Process: Contributors

Chicago Park District Staff

Anne Miller, Project Manager

Rachel Ackerman, Intern

Robert Steele, Community Outreach Manager

Chris Gent, Deputy Director of Planning and Development

Arnold Randall, Director of Planning and Development

Art Richardson, Region Manager

Elizabeth Garza, Area Manager

Alex Zamora, Former Park Supervisor

Chula Ortiz, Park Supervisor

Community Residents (see names from community meetings)

Framework Plan Goals

Beautify park and enhance recreational opportunities for people of all ages.

Major Recommendations

- Expand multi-use athletic field space
- Enhance landscape
- Improve lighting
- Improve accessibility
- Rehab existing restrooms
- Add walking/running path
- Develop new playground
- Add a spray feature
- Create landscaped area for seniors with seating
- Enhance programming