

Jonquil Park

Framework Plan

May 8, 2007



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 Jonquil Park that responds to diverse neighborhood needs.

The Framework 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 also outlines priorities and ensures that improvements are done in a coordinated and holistic manner.

The Plan is consulted as capital funding becomes available.



Contributors

- Chicago Park District
 - Beth Tomlins, Project Manager
 - Matt Marino, Region Manager
 - Vicky Colla, Area Manager
 - Kara Donaldson, Park Supervisor
 - Robert Steele, Community Outreach Manager

- Jonquil Park Advisory Council
 - Alex Burke
 - Dan Fowler
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- Additional Contributors
 - Wrightwood Neighbors Association
 - Senator John Cullerton
 - Representative John Fritchey
 - Alderman Ted Matlak
 - Alderman Vi Daley
 - Parkways Foundation
 - Friends of the Parks
 - Lakeshore Athletic Club
 - Chicago Special Events Management



Process – Public Meetings/ Surveys

- **SURVEYS**

- August 27-28, 2005 Whole Foods Flavor Festival
 - Initial information gathering
 - 135 Completed Surveys
- August 26-27, 2006 Whole Foods Flavor Festival
 - Comment on suggested park priorities
 - ~50 Completed Surveys

- **MEETINGS**

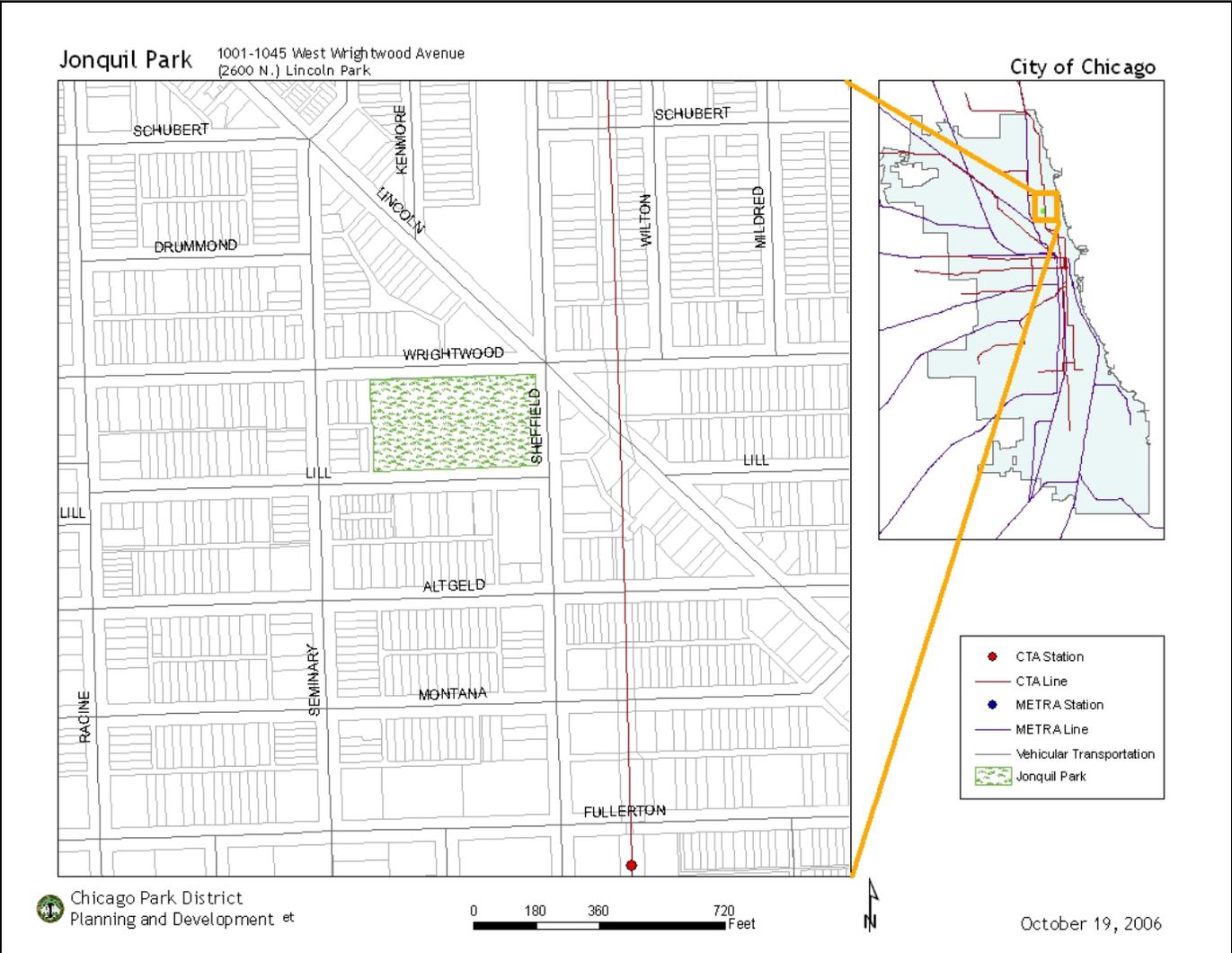
- Fall 2005 Initial Discussions with Chicago Park District
- August 8, 2006 Planning Meeting with CPD Planning and Development
- August 9, 2006 Planning/Maintenance Meeting with CPD Region
- August 18, 2006 Maintenance Meeting with CPD
- October 19, 2006 Draft Framework Plan Community Meeting
- February 2, 2007 Final Framework Plan Community Meeting

Location



Location

map



Location

park history

Jonquil Park (Park No. 1270)

In 1969, the Chicago Park District began leasing this property, a former storage area for salt and snow removal equipment, from the Chicago Transit Authority. In 1981, the park district doubled the park's size to more than two acres, purchasing the CTA land and acquiring additional property. Park facilities now include a baseball field, volleyball court, and tennis courts. The park district officially designated this site Jonquil Park in the mid-1970s, when a number of properties were named for plants and trees. The jonquil, a spring-blooming bulb that produces yellow or white flowers, is a type of Narcissus. According to Greek mythology, the vain Narcissus was so taken with his own reflection in a pond that the gods turned him into a flower.

Jonquil Park features a bronze sculpture created in 1988 by internationally-known artist Richard Hunt, whose studio lies across the street in a converted street car barn. Inspiration for Hunt's *Eagle Columns* came from a Vachel Lindsay poem about Illinois governor John Peter Altgeld (1847-1902), an early proponent of neighborhood playgrounds, who once lived nearby. Funds raised in the surrounding Lincoln Park community, together with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, paid for the sculpture.

Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions

2006 Aerial



Existing Conditions

- Playground
- Ball Field
- Opeka Garden
- Tennis Courts
- Volleyball Court
- Game Table Circle
- Miscellaneous
 - Landscaping/Signage
 - Drinking Fountain/Lighting
 - Electrical boxes/Art

Areas of Focus



Existing Conditions

playground



Existing Conditions

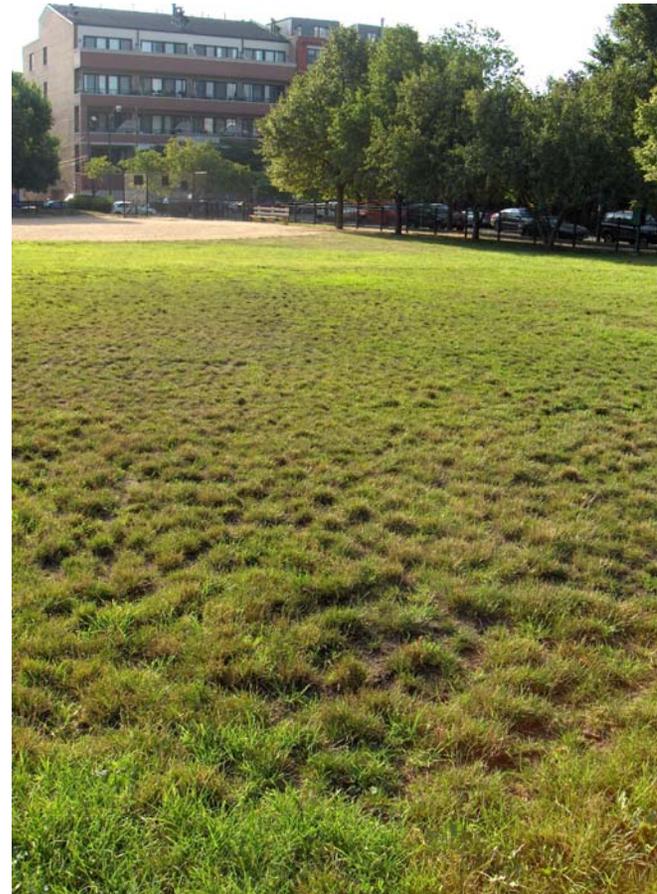
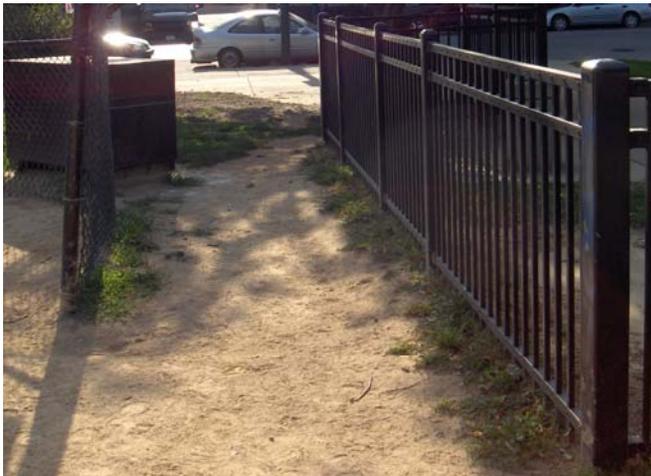
playground

- ❑ Good use by community residents; high demand for location
- ❑ Older playground with timber walls and wood chips
- ❑ Equipment in need of repair/replacement
- ❑ Seating could be better designed for parents watching kids
- ❑ Awkward empty spaces between timber walls and fencing
- ❑ Unused space south of playground between playground and park perimeter fencing
- ❑ Heavily shaded and dark, even during daytime
- ❑ Landscaping needs maintenance
- ❑ Hangout for older kids and homeless people
- ❑ No nearby drinking fountain



Existing Conditions

ball field



Existing Conditions

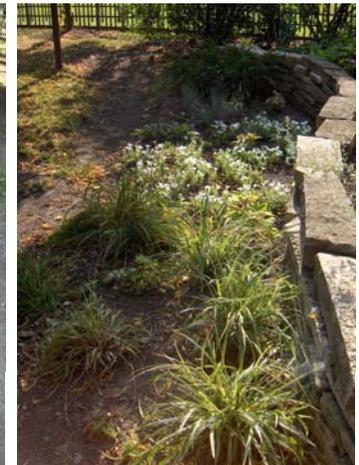
ball field

- ❑ Ball field heavily used by sports leagues and community
- ❑ Outfield heavily used by community for other recreation
 - e.g. picnics, frisbee, sunbathing
- ❑ Infield size is larger than regulation
- ❑ Infield mix causes dust nuisance to nearby residents
- ❑ Infield and outfield collect water in wet weather
- ❑ Infield and sidelines become mud in wet weather
- ❑ Smaller backstop allows foul balls into adjacent streets
- ❑ Sidelines have minimal seating for ball field users



Existing Conditions

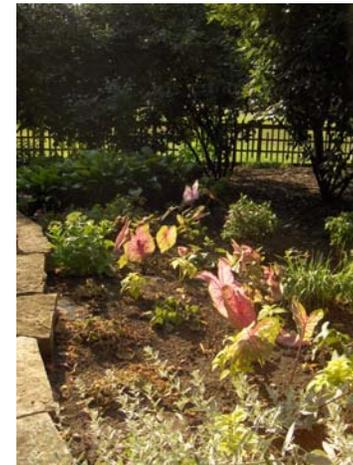
opeka garden



Existing Conditions

opeka garden

- ❑ Large site dedicated to passive garden
- ❑ Original donation from Opeka Family
- ❑ Landscaping needs maintenance, pruning and new planting
- ❑ Garden needs water access
- ❑ Stone wall needs repair
- ❑ Wood fencing is dark and uninviting
- ❑ Garden lacks seating
- ❑ Site has low usage
- ❑ Some community members let dogs within garden because garden is fully fenced/enclosed



Existing Conditions

courts



Existing Conditions

courts

- ❑ Tennis Courts
 - Courts are well used
 - Court surface in good condition, minor repairs possible
 - Without lighting, residents can only use during daylight hours

- ❑ Volleyball Court
 - Unused for volleyball purpose
 - Adapted for other community uses; e.g. toddler bike riding



Existing Conditions

game table circle



Existing Conditions

game table circle

- ❑ Seating area is well used by community
- ❑ Seating area is well used by homeless people
- ❑ Tables need maintenance
 - Checkerboard painting on surfaces faded
 - Some tables with chipped edges
- ❑ Area lacks developed focal point; art work or landscaping



Existing Conditions

miscellaneous



Existing Conditions

miscellaneous

- ❑ North-south pathway though park is dark, especially in evenings
- ❑ Overall park landscaping needs minor maintenance
- ❑ Drinking fountain needs cleaning, possible repair
- ❑ Park sculpture components need maintenance; opportunity exists for additional artwork throughout park
- ❑ Park lacks space at SE entrance for community postings/information board
- ❑ Southeast entrance lacks special interest



Recommendations



Recommendations

playground

- **New Playground**
 - Demolish existing and install new playground
 - Playground components to include:
 - Rubber soft surfacing
 - New play equipment for both 2-5 age and 5-12 age
 - Spray feature
 - Art elements
 - Redesign to remove awkward spaces, improve seating, and increase visibility from sidewalk entrance
- **Thin/remove Existing Landscaping**
 - Increase light and air
 - Re-landscape with heartier materials
- **Consider increasing playground size**
 - Expand south to park perimeter fencing
 - Potential expansion north into Opeka Garden
 - Potential expansion north to tennis courts
- **Additional Elements**
 - Gates on fencing
 - Additional lighting as necessary
 - Picnic seating
 - Drinking fountain



Recommendations

ball field

- **Improve Drainage**
 - Regrade ballfield, infield and outfield, to reduce pooling of water
- **Improve Irrigation**
 - Maintain existing system
- **Reduce Dirt**
 - Downsize infield to regulation size
 - Consider adding sprinklers to infield irrigation to decrease dust
 - Consider adding hose bib for community access to spray infield to reduce dust
 - Reapply soil mix to infield
 - Reseed sideline sections as necessary
 - Add soft surfacing or mulch to trail sections
- **Fencing**
 - Consider Increasing Size of Backstop
 - Positive: reduce balls going into street
 - Negative: could encourage fast baseball play
 - Consider taller outfield fence in front of playground
- **Seating**
 - Consider adding more seating to sidelines
 - Determine if space available



Recommendations

opeka garden

- **History**
 - Research history of garden; redesign/enhance according to historical template as necessary
- **Landscaping**
 - Replace with heartier plant types
 - Shrubs, bulbs
 - Ornamental grasses, ground covers
 - Choose plantings that provide interest in all seasons
- **Maintenance**
 - Install water source
 - Community involvement
 - Annuals/Perennials
- **Site Features**
 - Replace fence
 - Increase light and air
 - Make more inviting
 - Provide multiple entrances and do not add gates to discourage dog usage
 - Add seating
 - Add lighting if necessary



Recommendations

tennis courts

- **Ensure Courts Maintained**
 - Work closely with CPD to maintain court surface and equipment as necessary
- **Consider Accommodating for Night Play**
 - Potential to add lighting; needs community consensus
- **Consider Additional Courts**
 - Consider adding new court in place of existing volleyball area, needs community consensus



Recommendations

volleyball court

- **Short Term: Reinvent Site**
 - Paint play on surface
 - Bike lanes
 - Hopscotch/4-square
 - Open area for temporary community art
 - Display space
 - Community art painted on surface
 - Performance site
- **Long Term: Consider Removal**
 - Potential to keep as green open site
 - Potential for new use of site



Recommendations

game table circle

Pending available funding:

- **Enhance Existing Attraction**

- Redesign Elements
 - Replace existing pavers with artistic paving/donor pavers
 - Add sculpture as center focus
 - Add mosaics to seat wall
 - Enhance site with landscaping
 - Coordinate with Opeka Garden
- Maintain Tables
 - Repaint game tables
 - Replace broken if possible

- **Complete Redesign**

- Retain Use as Seating Area
- New Elements
 - Replace seating with new style
 - Potential to add picnic tables
 - Design seating to discourage sleeping
 - Add sculpture or fountain as center focus
 - New hardscape/paving design
 - New landscaping
 - Coordinate with Opeka Garden



Recommendations

miscellaneous

- **Landscaping**
 - Thin trees/possible removal in shaded areas
 - Consider redesign of landscaping along Sheffield
 - Reseed park where necessary
 - Investigate heartier grass alternatives
- **Signage**
 - Install new signage/review park rules
 - Install additional kiosk to SE entrance
- **Drinking Fountain**
 - Repair or replace existing fountain
 - Consider moving inside park fence
 - Install new fountain at playground
 - To include hose bib so community can maintain additional landscaping
- **Lighting**
 - Add lighting to path from playground to tennis courts
- **Art**
 - Commission works for key sites (SE entrance/game table circle)
 - Maintain Richard Hunt sculptures and prohibit skateboarding on artwork
- **Miscellaneous**
 - Add electrical boxes and improve electrical access to playground and near tennis courts
 - Consider removing curb and parking spot along Lill Street for better maintenance vehicle access



Suggested Priority I/Priority II

- **Priority I**
 - **New Playground**
 - Including play equipment, spray features, new fencing, seating, drinking fountain, lighting, landscaping
 - **Opeka Garden**
 - Including fencing, landscaping, water source
 - **Game Table Circle**
 - Redesign/reconstruct
 - **Miscellaneous**
 - Install new signage and kiosks
 - Repair existing drinking fountain
 - Add electrical boxes to playground and near tennis courts
 - Reseed around park
 - Install lighting along pathway between playground and game table area

- **Priority II**
 - **Ball Field**
 - Regrade field, add spritzers/hose bib, remix soil, soft surface on trails
 - Investigate if additional benches can be installed
 - Consider installing longer backstop (needs community consensus)
 - **Courts**
 - Consider installing lighting for night play (needs community consensus)
 - Reinvent volleyball court site: consider surface painting (needs community consensus)
 - Resurface/replace equipment as necessary

 - **Miscellaneous**
 - Art – commission for key sites, SE entrance and game table area



Next Steps

- Finalize Framework Plan, Spring 2007
 - Obtain initial consensus of Priorities
 - IN PROCESS

- *Determination of Available Funding, Winter 2006/2007*
 - COMPLETED

- Advertise for Design Architect/Engineer
 - IN PROCESS

- Phase I Design/Construction
 - Design, Spring/Summer 2007
 - Construction, Fall/Winter 2007 – Spring/Summer 2008

- Phase II Fundraising, 2007+



Jonquil Park Framework Plan

