

Pulaski Park Framework Plan

Proposed by:
Department of Planning and Development
Chicago Park District



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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.

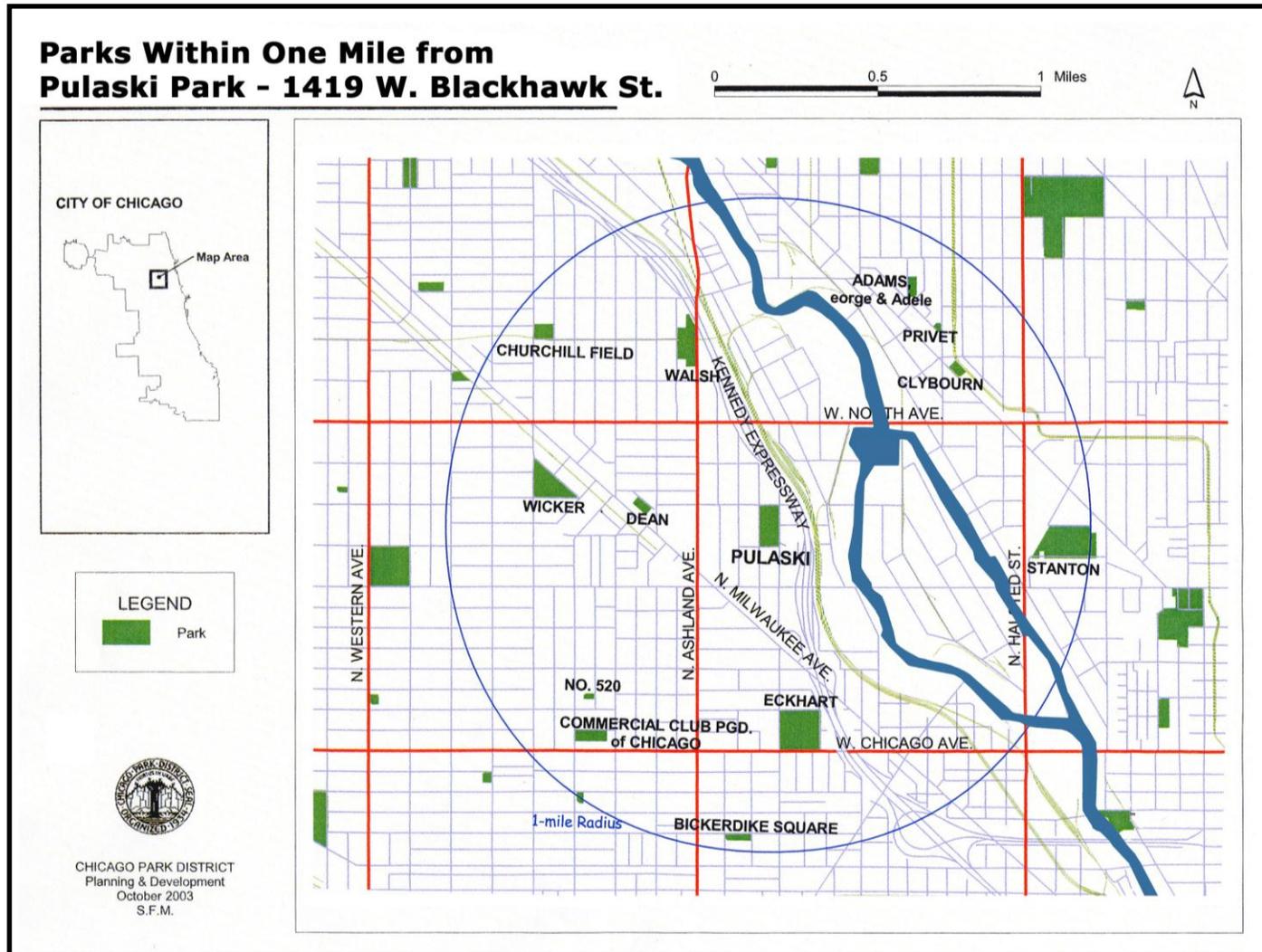
Location: Aerial Map

Pulaski Park Aerial Map



Location: Base Map

Pulaski Park One Mile Radius



Location: History

The West Park Commission created Pulaski Park in 1912, as part of an effort to expand neighborhood parks throughout the congested west side. Several years earlier, Dvorak, Eckhart, and Stanford Parks opened, providing tenement districts with breathing spaces and social services including public bathing, branch libraries, children's playgrounds, athletics, and inexpensive hot meals. Sites were soon identified for new parks including a 3.8-acre parcel in West Town, a crowded, predominantly Polish neighborhood of factories and workers' housing. To make way for the park, the West Park Commission displaced 1,200 people, demolished some buildings, and moved others to nearby locations in the neighborhood. After filling the low site, the commission began making improvements conceived by renowned landscape designer Jens Jensen.

A large fieldhouse and outdoor swimming facility were constructed in 1914. Incorporating elements such as tile roofs, half-timbering, a tower, dormers, and verandahs, architect William Carbys Zimmerman designed the three-story brick fieldhouse to emulate Eastern European architecture familiar to the immigrant community. The building's interior also includes lovely details. An impressive mural designed by James J. Gilbert and painted by his students from the Art Institute of Chicago in 1920 adorns the auditorium proscenium. A second mural, hidden in the upper tower room, portrays Polish themes. An arts and crafts class painted the work in the late 1930s.

History (continued)

Auditorium (1936)



Pulaski Library (1936)



Process

Community Meetings

A community meeting to kick-off the planning process was held on July 31, 2003.

A community meeting to present the Framework Plan was held on February 26, 2003.

Steering Committee Meetings

Three steering committee meetings were held on: September 4, 2003 – Programming focus group
October 2, 2003 – Landscape focus group
November 6, 2003 – Facilities focus group
December 4, 2003 – Proposed Framework Plan

Chicago Park District Staff

Participants

Anne Miller (Project Manager)
Khatija Hashmy (Architect)
Michael Mark (Senior Landscape Designer)
Chris Gent (Senior Project Manager)
Leigh Olszewski (Intern)
Elizabeth Garza (Area Manager)
Mike Dalpino (Park Supervisor)

Elected Official Participants

Miguel Del Valle, State Senator, 2nd District
Cynthia Sota, State Representative, 4th District
Tina Gesiakowski, Ald. Matlak's Office, 32nd Ward
A.J. Kubinski, Ald. Flores' Office, 1st Ward

Steering Committee

Participants

Debbie Benjamin, Pulaski Park Advisory Council, PPAC
Fred Holland, Pulaski Park Neighborhood Association
Mitch Hutton, Noble Square Homeowners Association
Tina Gesiakowski, Ald. Matlak's Office
Natalie Konieczko, St. Stanislaus Kostka School
Michaelene Kozy, Senior programs, PPAC
Bryn Magnus, Free Street Theater (FS)
Gizela Rosa, Lozano Elementary School
Rep. Cynthia Sota, State Rep., 4th District
Amy Trobaugh, PPAC
Phillip Werner, Sports Leagues
Tina Wright, FS

Concept Plan Goals

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

- Upgrade and beautify park facilities and landscape
- Preserve/restore historic field house and park character

Major Recommendations: Grounds

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

General

- Add seating opportunities and restore historic lighting throughout park as appropriate
- Preserve historic perimeter fence
- Enhance southern entrance of pool house by reintroducing historic trellis (partial) and adding landscape

Playground Area

- Replace playground with new equipment, rubberized surface, enhanced landscape and amenities
- Remove spray pool to make way for expanded playground
- Upgrade lighting

Fieldhouse Area

- Redesign plaza (south of fieldhouse) with focal point in the center, pavers, garden beds and seating opportunities
- Enhance landscaping around the fieldhouse perimeter

Athletic Field Area

- Enhance athletic field area: improve turf, adjust the location of the athletic field to create room for team seating, modernize field lights
- Plant shade trees along south perimeter of field

Grounds: Site Rendering

Proposed Improvements



Grounds: Existing Conditions

Playground & New Shelter Roof 2003



Playground



Entry Landscape



Grounds: Standards

Bench



Light Post



Trash Receptacle

Major Recommendations: Facility

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

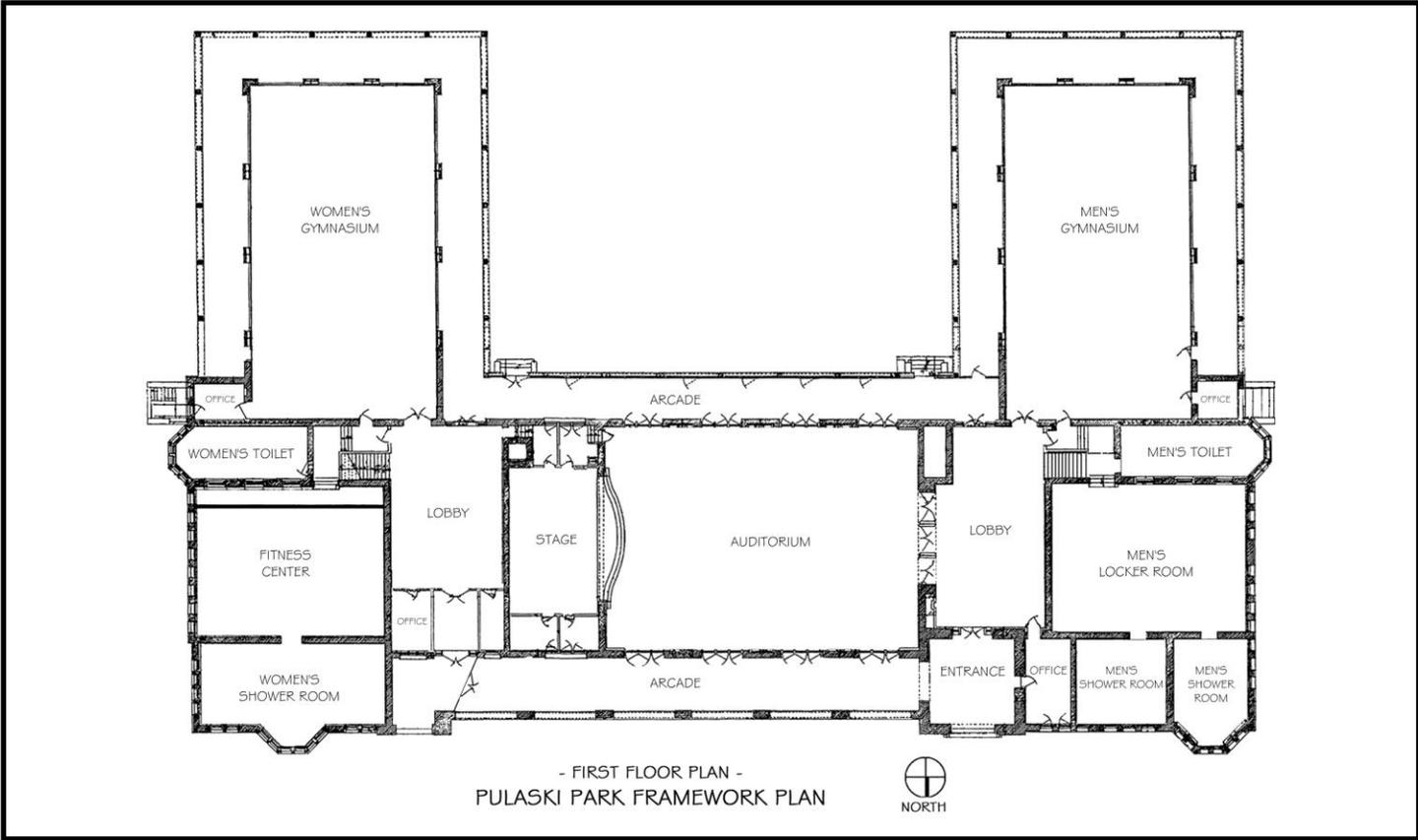
Fieldhouse

- Upgrade fieldhouse
 - Building envelope (structural, masonry, windows/doors)
 - Mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems
 - Interior (walls, ceiling, floors, amenities)
 - ADA compliance
- 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

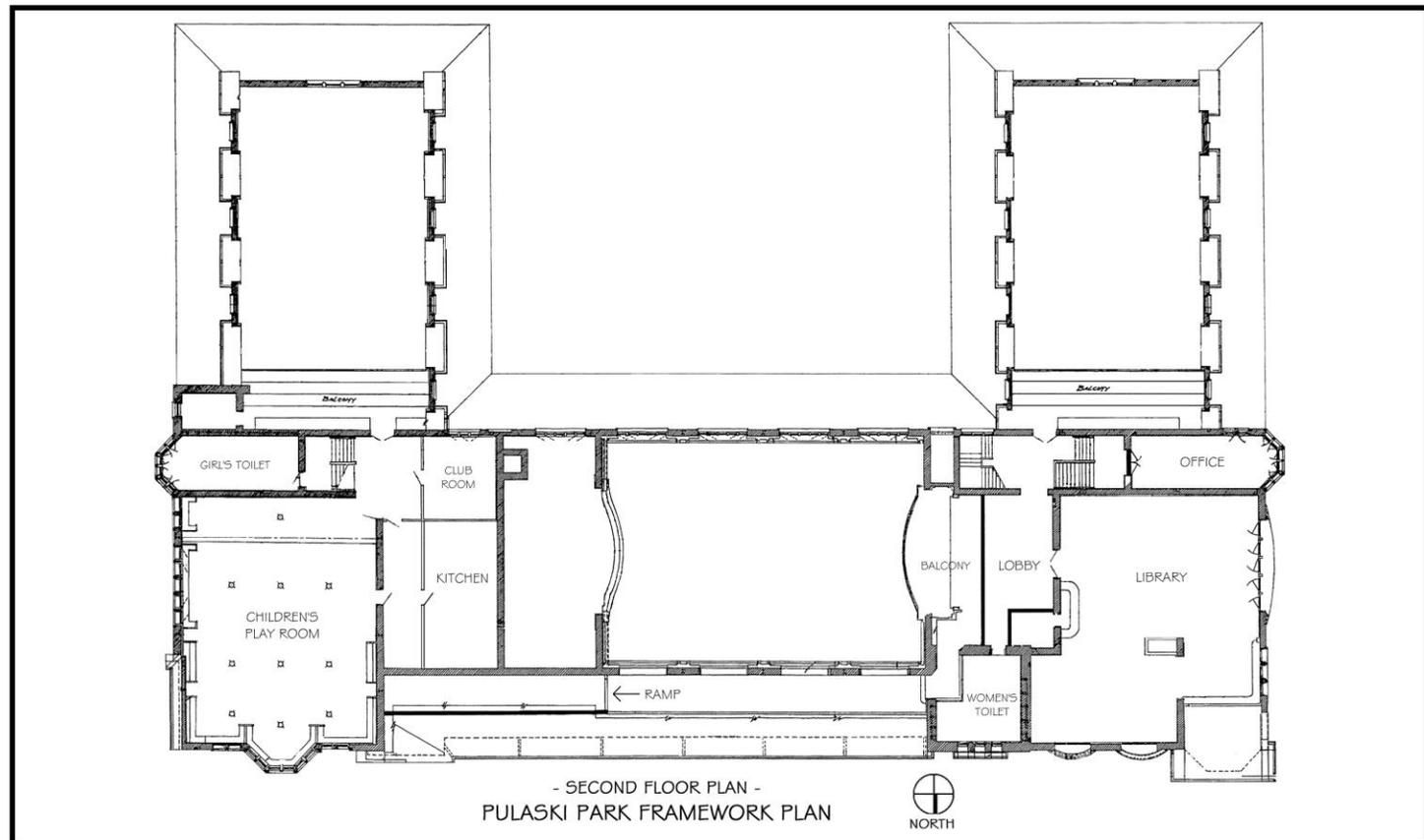
Pool House

- Consolidate men and women's entrance on the south
- Improve layout of office, pool storage, and men's and women's locker rooms
- Relocate landscape operations
- Evaluate potential uses for east side of building and develop as appropriate

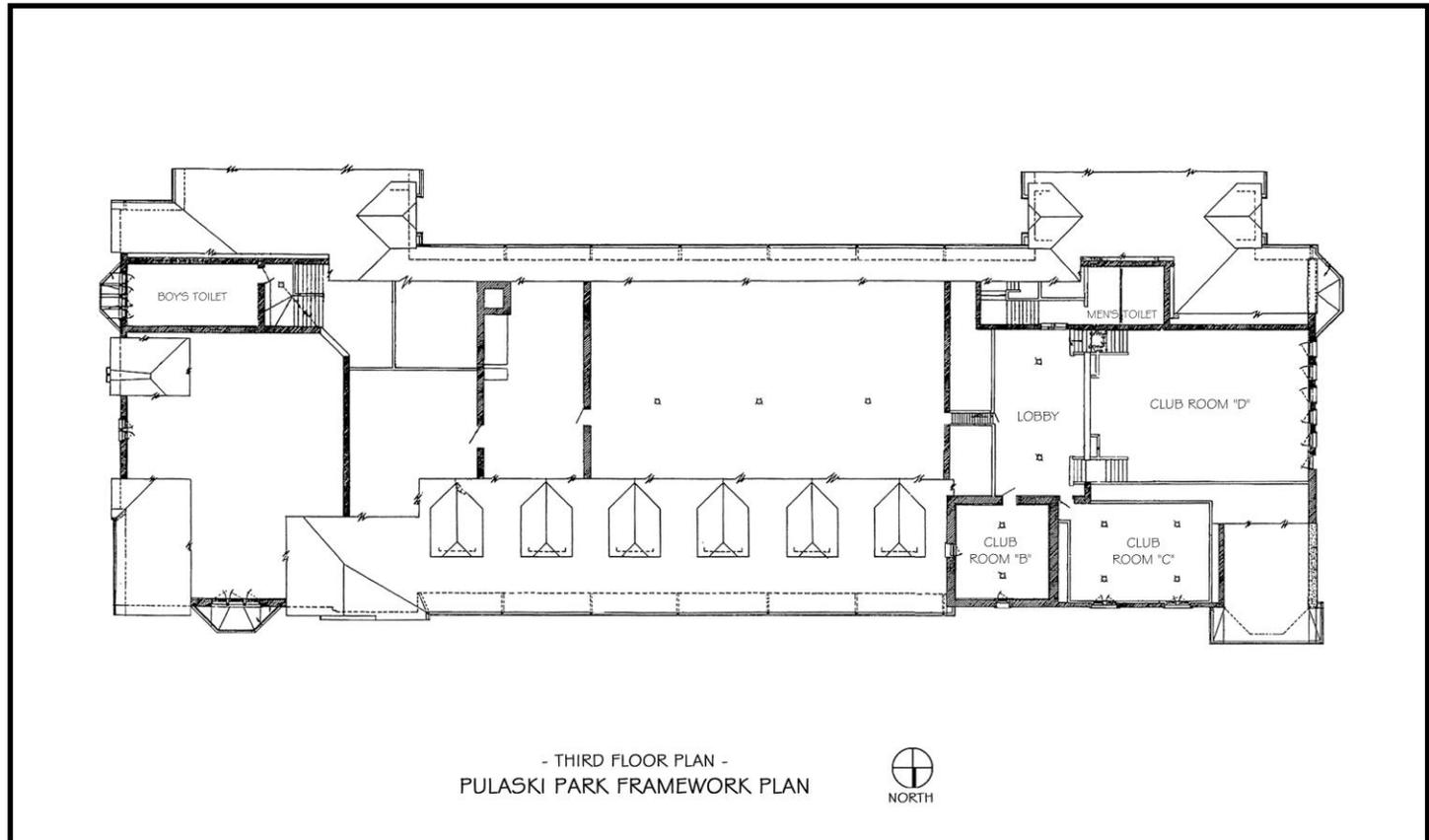
Facility: Existing Floor Plans



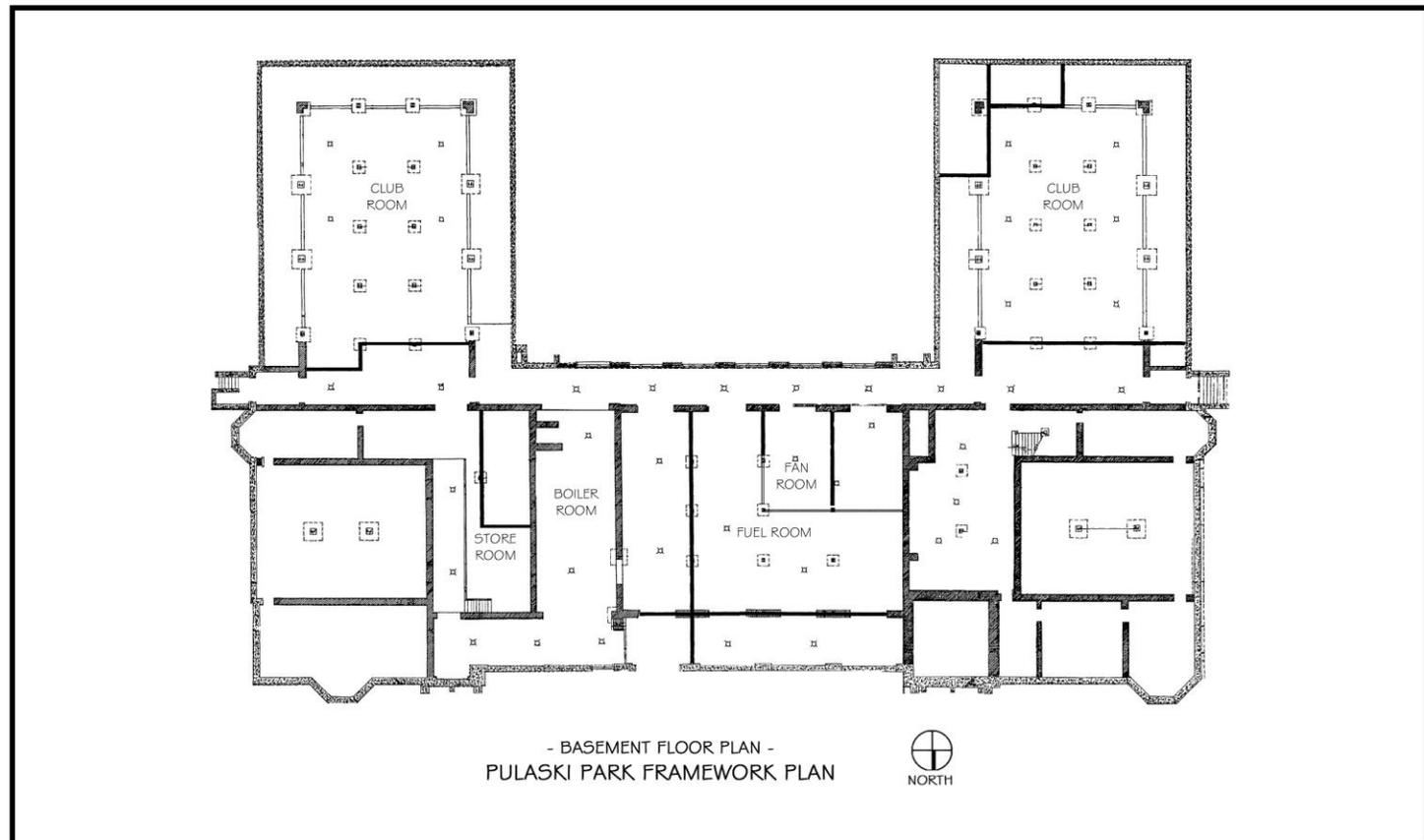
Existing Floor Plans



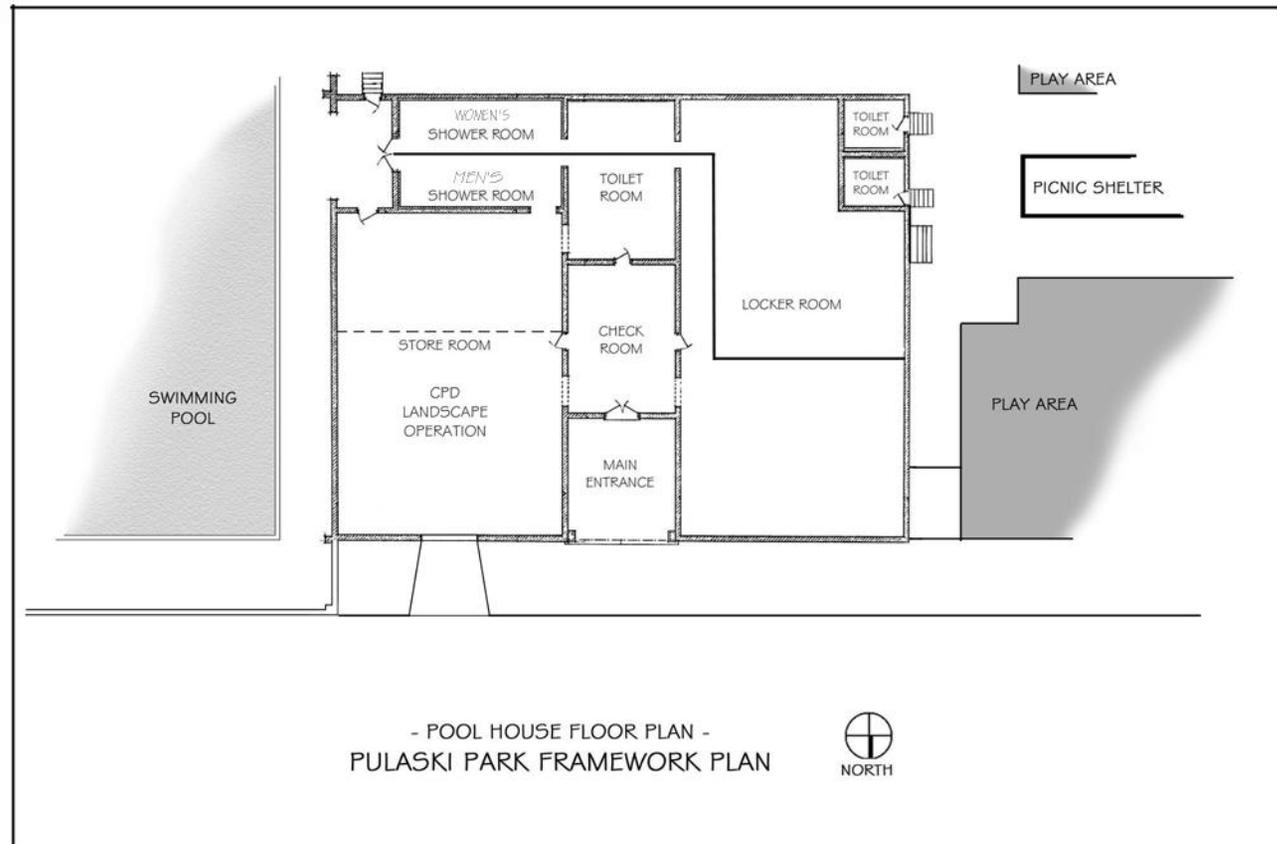
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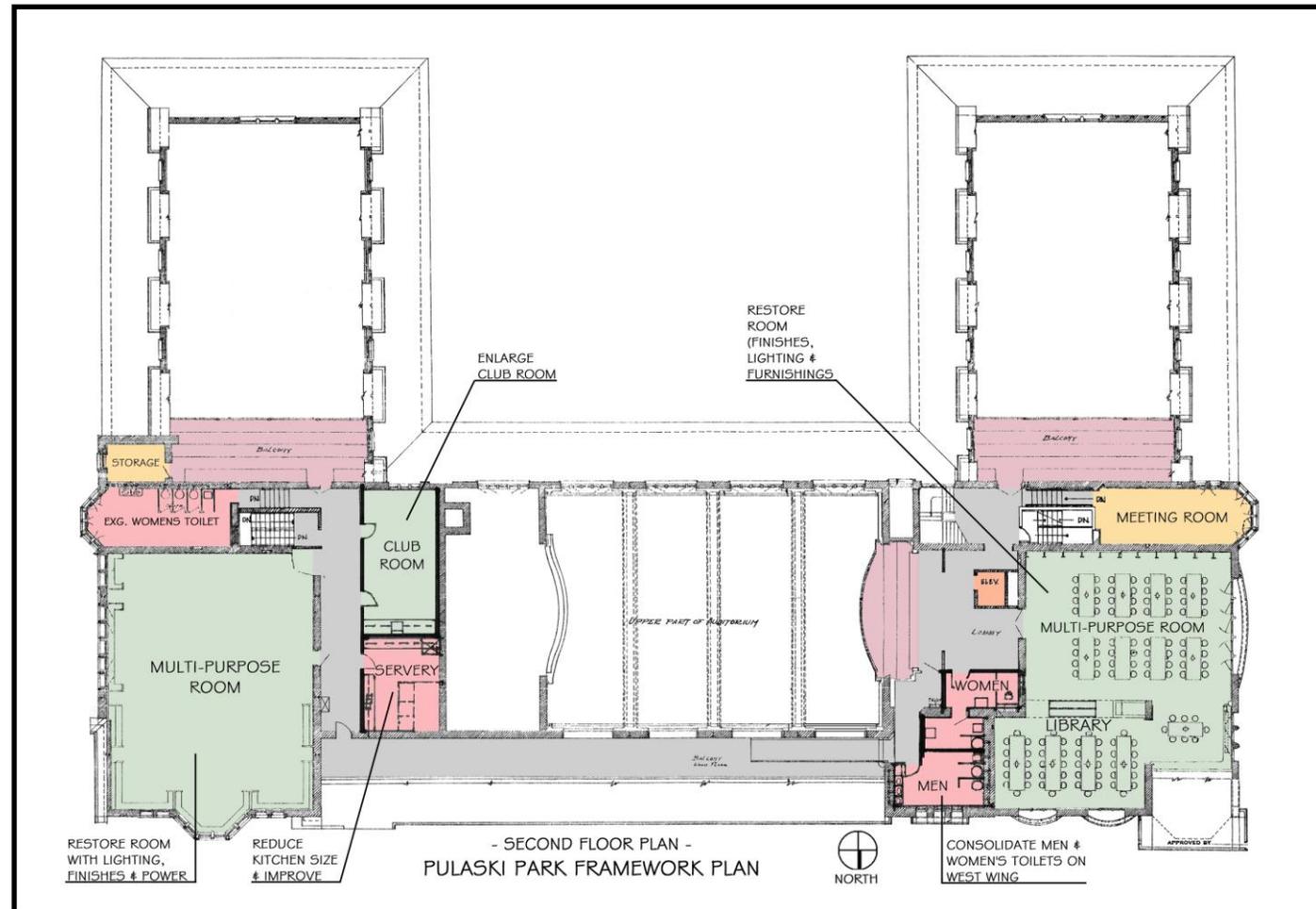
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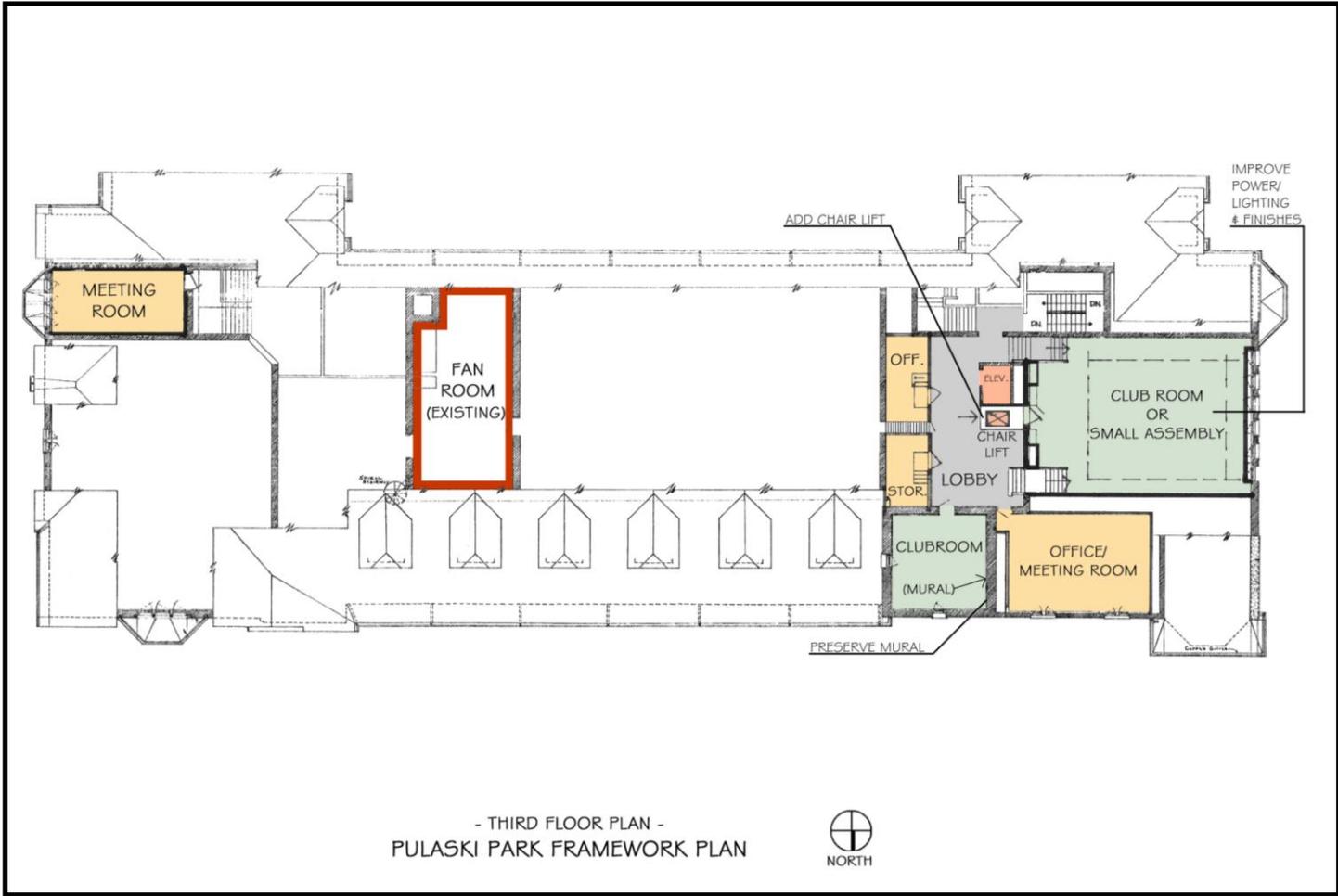
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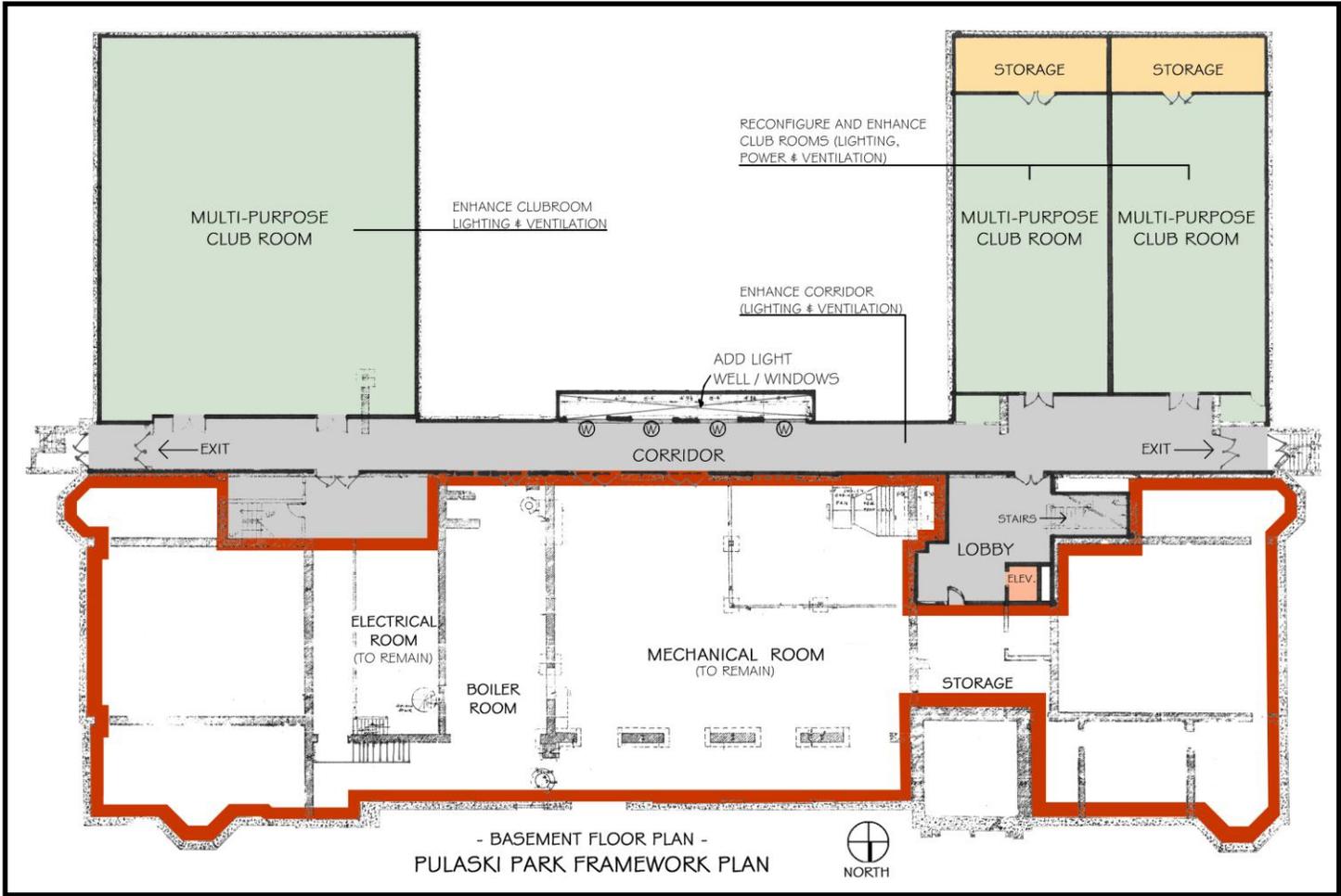
Proposed Floor Plans (continued)



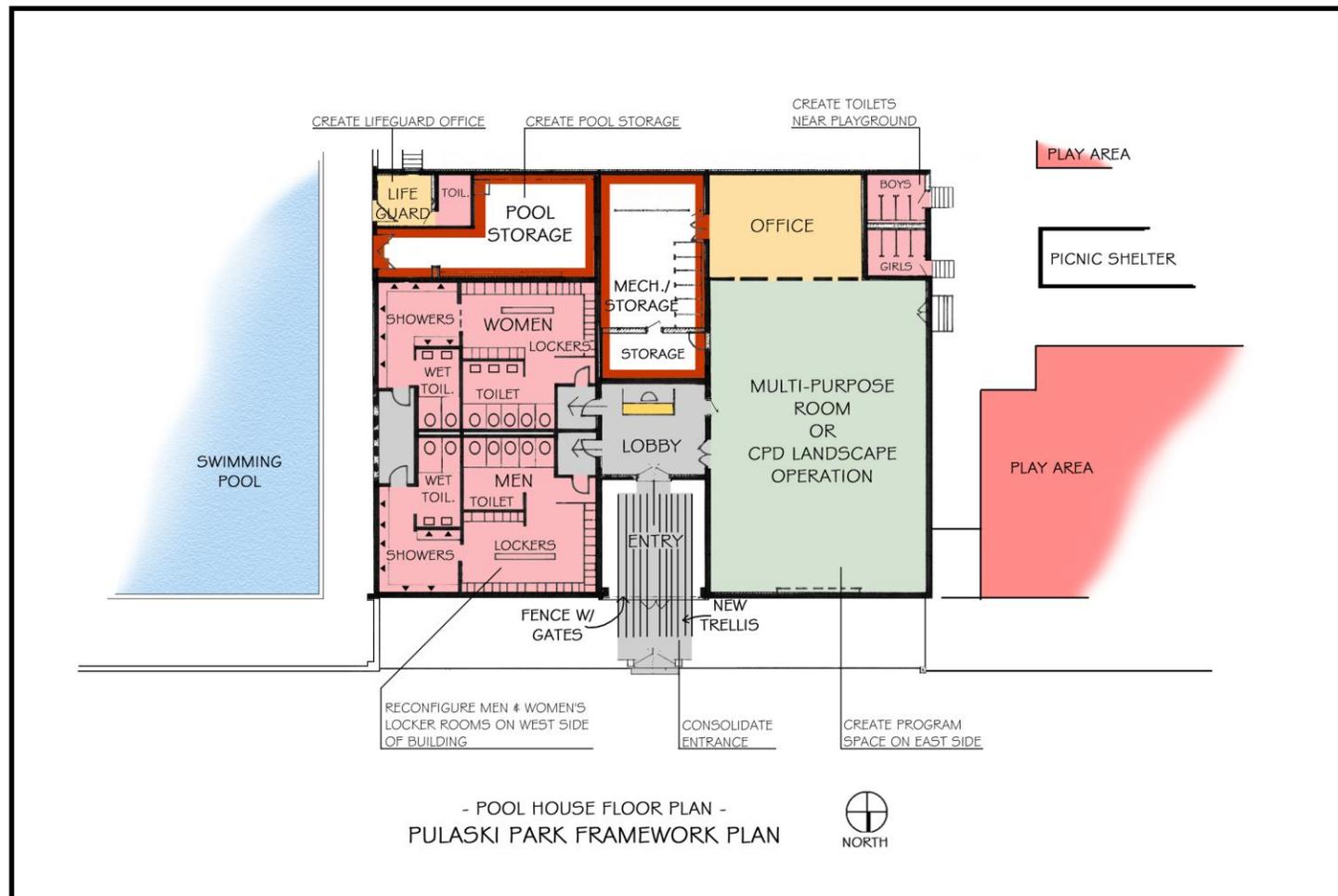
Proposed Floor Plans (continued)



Proposed Floor Plans (continued)



Proposed Floor Plans (continued)



Facility: Existing Conditions

Courtyard & New Roof Completed 2003



West Courtyard Veranda



Mural – 3rd Floor North



West Lobby

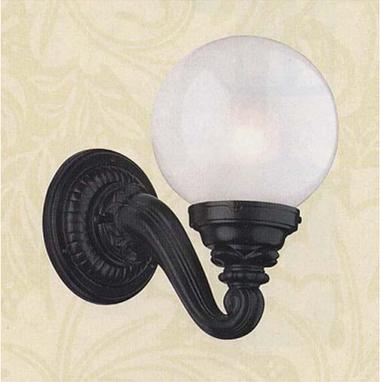


Fieldhouse Exterior



Facility: Upgrades

Outside Light



Corridor Light



Library Light



Auditorium Light



Priorities

Facilities

1. **Exterior Envelope**
 - Repair and tuck pointing
 - Window restoration

2. **Interior**
 - Life safety issues
 - ADA compliance
 - New locker rooms
 - Lobby and Auditorium
 - Toilet Rooms

3. **Pool House**
 - Renovation

Grounds

1. **Playground**

2. **Plaza and landscaping**

3. **Athletic field**