

Spruce Park

Framework Plan

Chicago Park District
Department of Planning and Development



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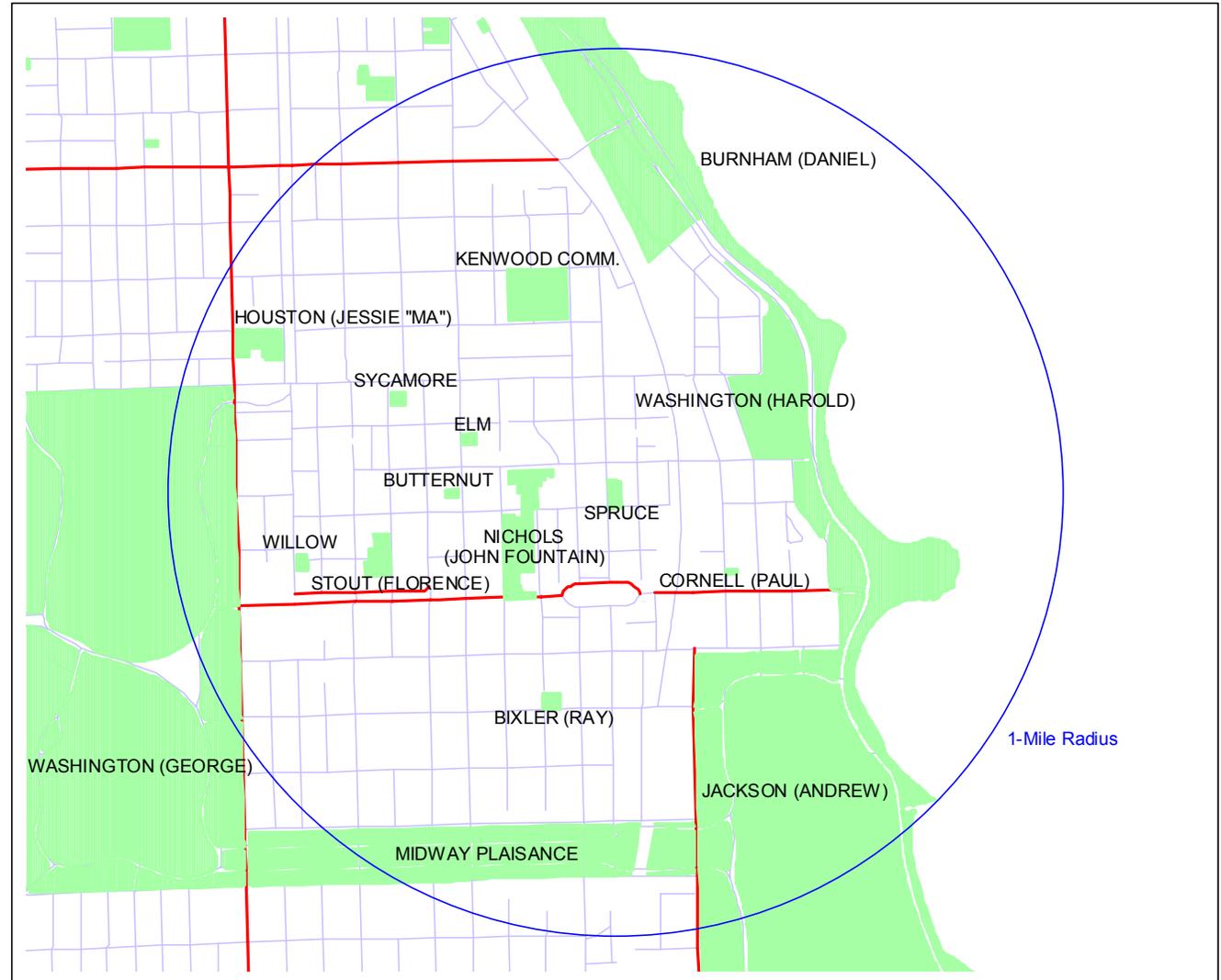
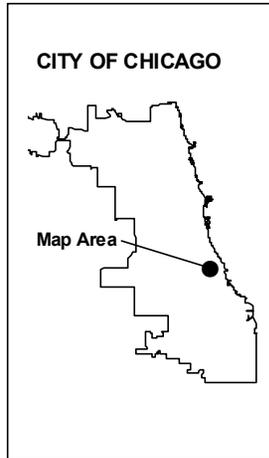
Framework Plan Purpose

The purpose of a framework plan is to create a long-term plan for the Spruce 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: One Mile Radius Map

Spruce Park Parks within 1-Mile radius

0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles



CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT
Planning & Development
October 2004
S.F.M.

Aerial Map

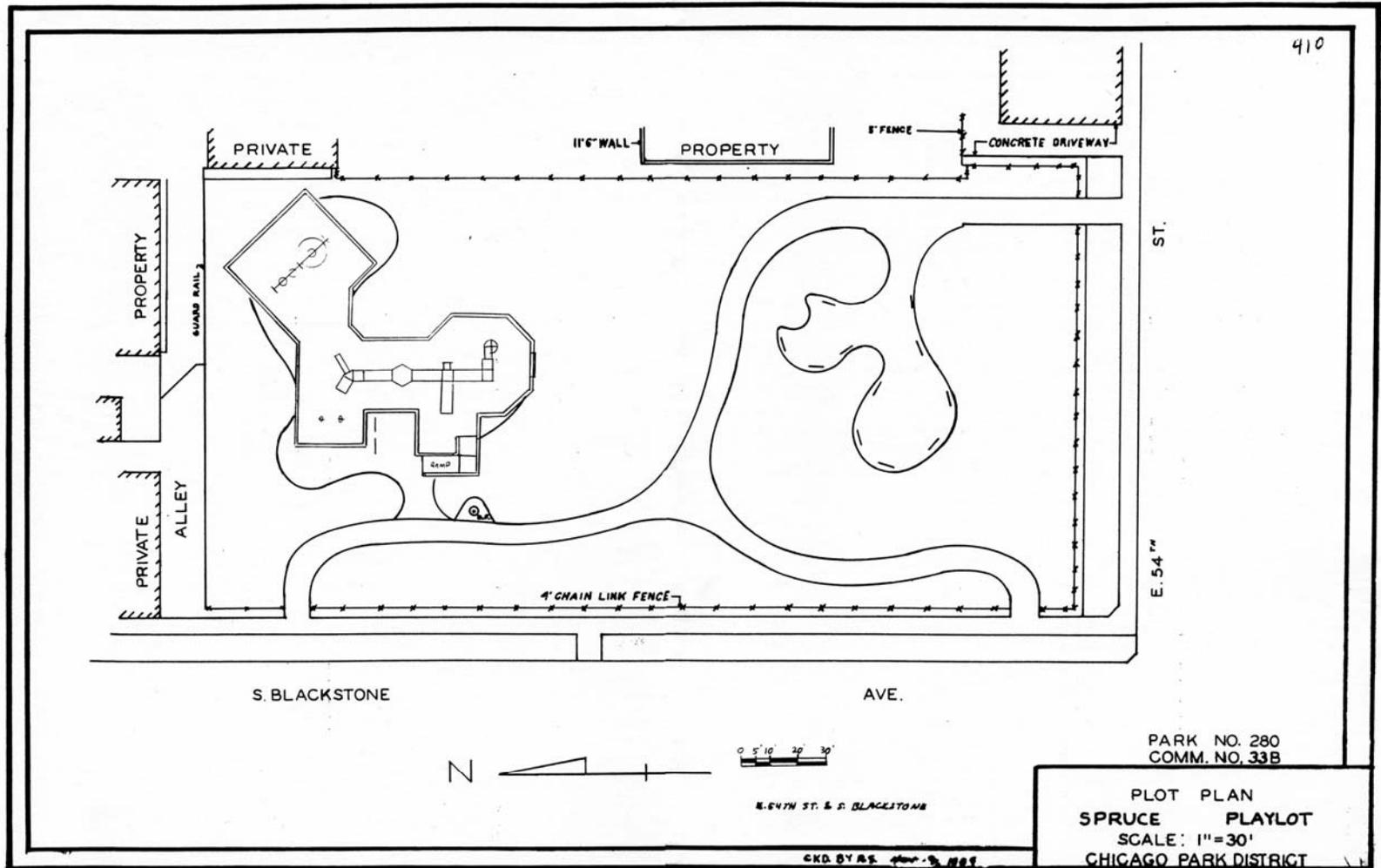
Spruce Park (#280)
5337 S. Blackstone Av.

0 90 180 270 360 Feet



CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT
Planning & Development
Aerial: November 2002
S.F.M.

Existing Plot Plan



History

The Chicago Park District developed this park in 1963, as part of the Hyde Park-Kenwood Urban Renewal Project. The park district officially named the site Spruce Park in 1973. The park was one of a number of properties named for trees and plants at this time. Spruce trees are sharp-needed evergreens that can grow to heights of 20 to 100 feet. Seven of 40 species worldwide are native to North America. In the U.S. and Canada, spruces are planted in large numbers for reforestation projects and as Christmas trees. The blue spruce, native to the central Rocky Mountains and cultivated widely elsewhere, can live to be 600 to 800 years old.



Spruce Park 1964

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

Process: Meetings

Kick Off Meeting
April 13, 2005

Framework Plan Meeting
June 8, 2005

Final Community Meeting
June 12, 2006

Process: Contributors

Chicago Park District Staff

Bob Foster, Project Manager
Robert Steele, Community Outreach Manager
AJ Jackson, Area Manager
Heather Kelly, Nichols Park Supervisor

Spruce Park Advisory Council

Sharon Brinkman
Sach Diwan
Sarah Diwan
Dorothy Horton
Liz Steggmann
Dina Weinstein

Existing Conditions

Entries

- Wood chips
- Garbage Cans (Moveable)
- Garden plots on South side (planters)

Perimeter

- Garden on South side
- Fence set back with shrubs (chain link)
- Parkway trees (not continuous)
- Dumpsters along North end

Walks

- Sidewalks in good condition
- Interior walks broken and cracked

Plaza

- Questionable usages
- Garbage cans
- Benches

Playground

- Mulch
- Missing apparatus
- Large trees

Landscaping

- Small mounds
- Large Trees
- Grass
- Gardens at south end

Signage

- Three park signs
- One kiosk

Lighting

- Concrete poles
- Working cobra head fixture

Existing Conditions Playground



Playground



Swings northeast of playground

Existing Conditions Exterior



Northwest entry



Southwest entry and south boarder garden



Looking south along west side of park



North boarder of park

Existing Conditions Interior of park



Existing plaza paving



Pathway and plaza



Former location of public art



Trees and lighting

Concept Plan Goals

1. Improve park and utilities to CPD standards
2. Upgrade playground
3. Encourage children to use the park
4. Improved security
5. Replace existing lighting
6. Control dogs in park
7. Enhance landscaping
8. Improve park circulation and layout
9. Encourages regular visits from the community
10. Improvements should be environmentally friendly

Major Recommendations

1. New age appropriate soft surface playground relocated to center of park
2. Ongoing public participation in park programming
3. Upgrade lighting inside the park to Park District standards
4. Incorporate Public art into the park
5. Add ornamental fencing around perimeter
6. Permanent garbage cans at park entrances
7. Park District to work with police to enforce park rules and regulations
8. Relocate and repair walkways in the park
9. New benches that do not encourage sleeping
10. Keep community garden on south border of park
11. Performance space