

# Wilson Park

## Framework Plan

Proposed by:  
Chicago Park District  
Department of Planning and Development



# Table of Contents

Framework Plan Purpose.....	2
Location Maps	
Radius Map with Neighboring Parks .....	3
Aerial Map .....	4
Existing Park Layout.....	5
History.....	6
Existing Conditions.....	7
Meetings.....	12
Contributors.....	13
Concept Plan Goals.....	14
Concept Plan.....	15
Major Recommendations.....	16

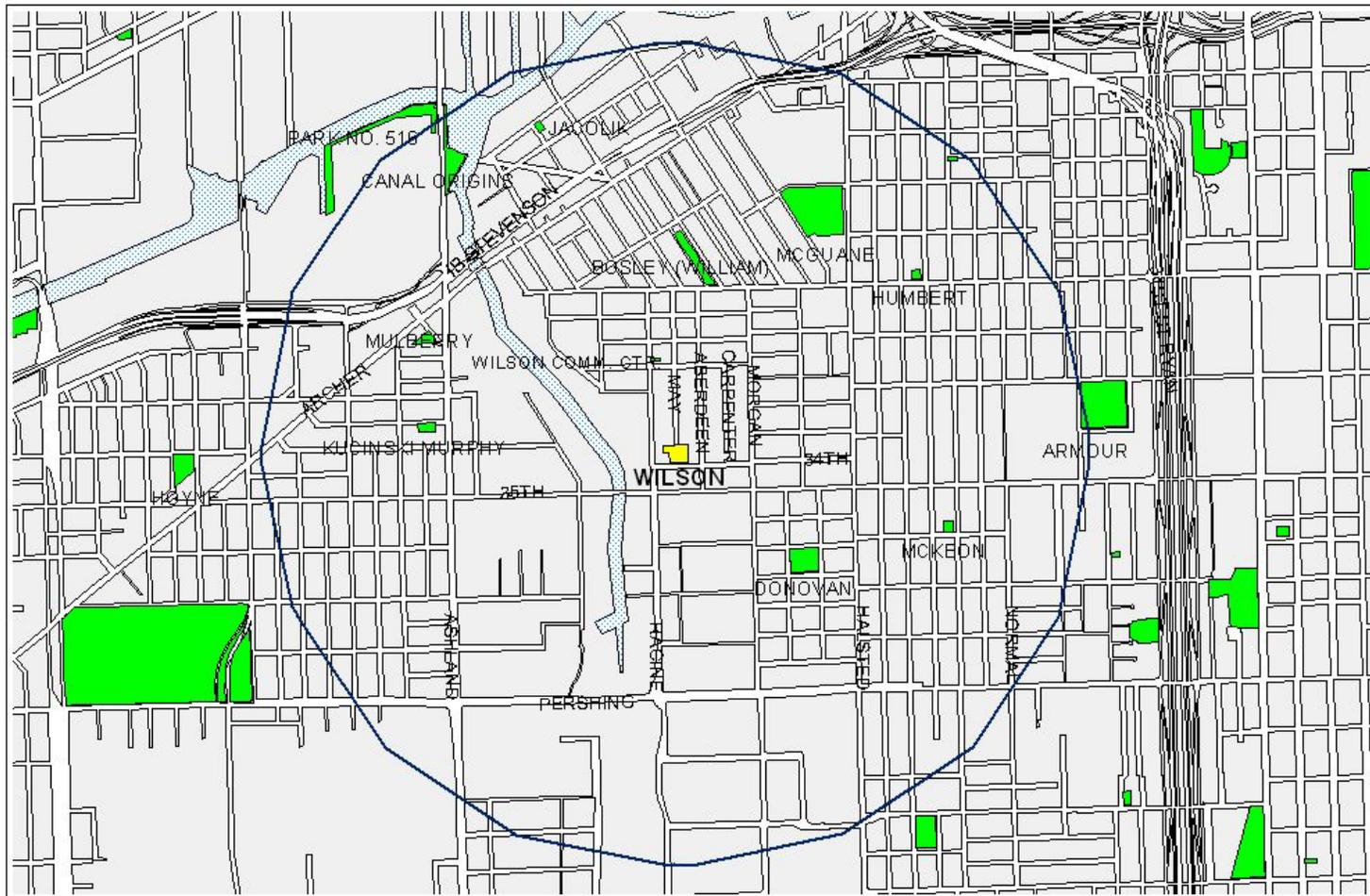
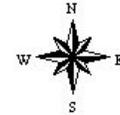
## Framework Plan Purpose

The purpose of this framework plan is to create a long-term plan for Wilson 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.

# Radius Map with Neighboring Parks



## WILSON PARK One Mile Radius Map

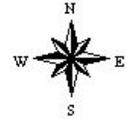


Planning & Development: B. Foster 3-22-2005

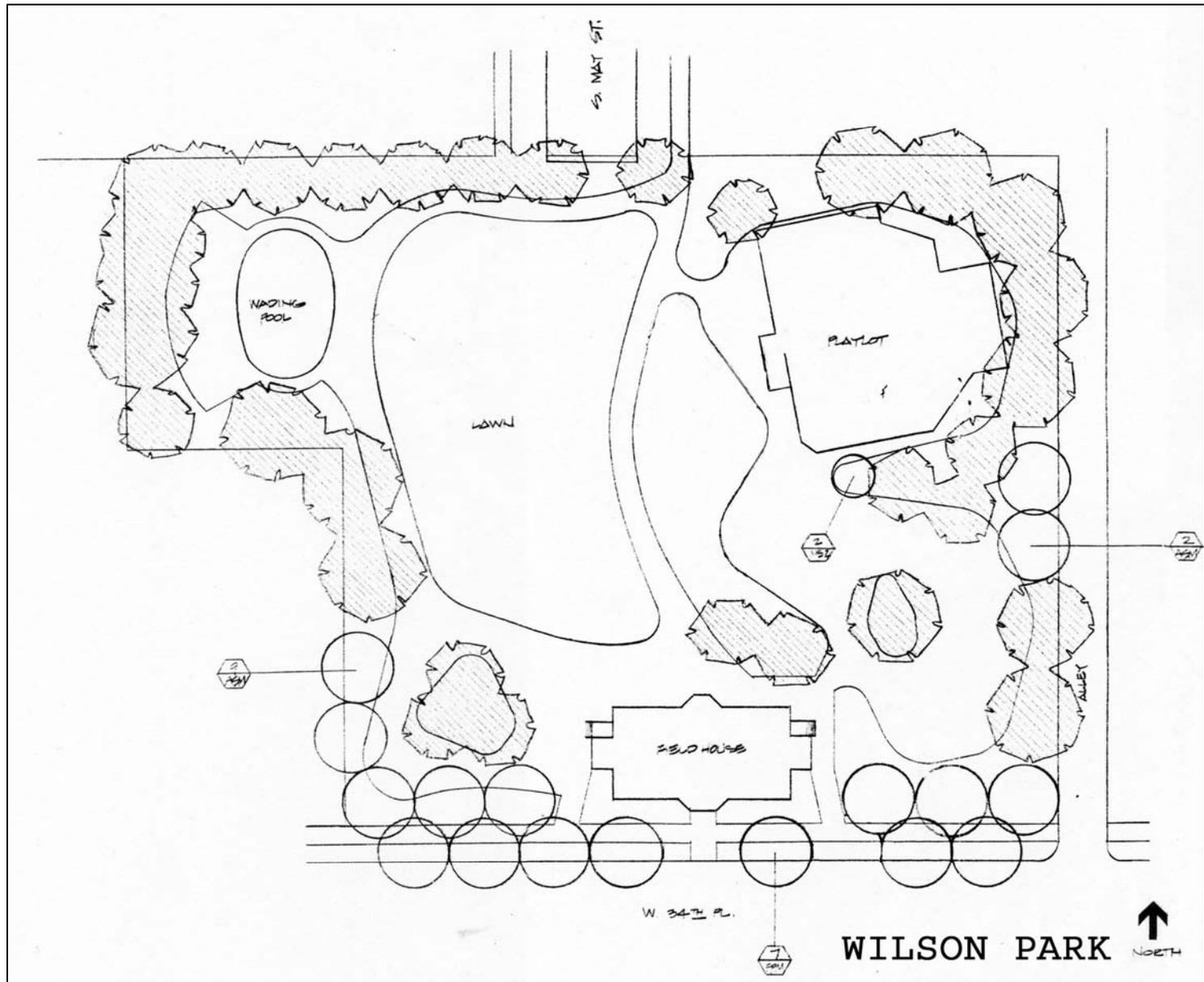
0 1 Miles



# WILSON PARK - AERIAL



# Existing Park Layout



## History

In 1930, the City of Chicago purchased 1.6 acres in the Bridgeport neighborhood using Playground Bond funds. Improvements began immediately, and the park soon had a large new fieldhouse. In 1933, the City Council named the new park Wilson Playground in honor of Bridgeport Alderman John P. Wilson (1893-1968). Nearby Wilson Community Center is also named for Alderman Wilson. Wilson served on the City Council from 1925 to 1929, acting as Chairman of council's Committee on Recreation from 1931 to 1933. In 1933, Wilson was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Public Works, a position he held until 1967. The city's Bureau of Parks and Recreation managed the playground until 1959, when it transferred the property to the Chicago Park District. In 1999, the park district officially designated the park John P. Wilson Park to differentiate it from a second Wilson Park on the city's northwest side.

---

\*Historical Profile prepared by Julia Bachrach, Historian for the Chicago Park District, available on-line at [chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://chicagoparkdistrict.com)

## Existing Conditions: Field house



Front of Building



Front of Building



Back of Building



Building Interior



Recreation Area



Leaking Area in Ceiling

## Existing Conditions: Playground



Cars Parked Close to Playground



Playground Area



North End of Playground



Swings

## Existing Conditions: Recreation



Soccer Field



Spray Pool



Spray Pool



Spray Pool Utilities



Passive Area

## Existing Conditions: Amenities



Light



Fire Hydrant



Bench



Drinking Fountain



Park Sign

## Existing Conditions: Miscellaneous



Parking Area in Park



Loading Door into Field house

## Process: Meetings

### **Kick Off Meeting**

- April 11, 2005

This meeting was held to introduce the framework planning process to the advisory council. The meeting included a visioning session where the advisory council supplied ideas for future improvements to the park.

### **Framework Plan Meetings**

- July 11, 2005
- October 3, 2005
- November 7, 2005

Based upon the input from previous advisory council meetings, the Park District developed concept plans for the council to review. The final concept plan was approved by the advisory council.

### **Community Meeting**

- TBD

## Process: Contributors

### Chicago Park District Staff

Bob Foster, Project Manager  
Art Richardson, Region Manager  
Robert Steele, Community Outreach Manager  
Gina Arredia, Park Supervisor  
Patrick Townsend, Area Manager  
Shawn Slaymon, Planning & Development

### Wilson Park Advisory Council

Tom Jung  
Lauren Rhone  
Janalle Reese  
Nancy Ahlert  
Jessica Brandenburg  
Martha Jungenberg  
Pat Siolkowski  
Paul R.T. Johnson Jr.  
Lee Weinman  
Joe Walsh  
Jessica Garcia

## Concept Plan Goals

1. Improve play areas to CPD standards
2. More greenspace – less pavement
3. No parking of vehicles in the park
4. Improve seating opportunities
5. Move and reduce size of spray pool
6. Keep the park pre-teen orientated
7. Add garden area
8. Improve exterior lighting to improve safety
9. Fieldhouse Improvements to maximize programming
10. Irrigation
11. Reduce litter in park
12. Improve and increase programming for children
13. Find place for dog park in community – not in the park
14. New shade trees



## Major Recommendations

- New age appropriate soft surface playground
- Increase playing field areas by realigning interior walkways
- Remove parking from inside the park
- New soft surface spraypool next to playground area
- Create seating areas with benches near playground and garden area at south west section of the park
- Replace existing exterior lights with acorn lights
- Fieldhouse improvements
  - Dividable interior for increased programming
  - Upgrade bathrooms
  - Upgrade lighting
  - Repair roof
  - Determine if outside door leading to basement is necessary
- Improve utilities
- Garbage cans to be placed at park entrances
- Additional tree plantings throughout park
- Create garden area in south west portion of park with nature trail
- Add berming to northeast area of park
- New ADA drinking fountain
- Repair paved areas where necessary