

Oak Lawn Park District Comprehensive Plan

Park Master Plan

SECTION 4

EXISTING PARKS SURVEY AND ENHANCEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

This section describes the existing features of each park within the Oak Lawn Park District, and makes suggestions on enhancements that can provide additional benefits or increase potential usage. Preceding the Parks analysis are general comments that can be applied across the District's parks as a whole and should be considered with each renovation or move towards a new Master Plan.

As in all comprehensive plans, it is recommended that for each park a Park Master Plan should be created by a competent park planner, based

upon findings of this report and follow up meetings with public and staff. However, as funding is crucially tight and it may be a period of years before every park is addressed, it is not recommended to undertake Master Plans at this time. Public opinion, recreation trends, and populations may change quickly, rendering a Master Plan out of date and out of touch with actual needs.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. All parks should be studied for potential improvements and comprehensive Master Plans commissioned prior to renovation. It is strongly encouraged to not undertake master planning efforts until renovation is imminent in order to capture the latest of trends and neighborhood needs. Ensure neighborhood participation in the park design process.
2. It is encouraged that neighborhood parks should not have competitive athletic fields – fields should be designed for pickup play and practices only.
3. The Park District should consider additional methods of providing better park policing and observation, including:
 - Neighborhood watch programs
 - More Police presence – Bicycle Patrols, etc.
 - Park patrol program
4. Reviving the 'Eagle Eye' Program, a coordinated public watch effort
5. Adopt a Park Development Standard for reference, and to ensure that items, like benches, are installed properly, with concrete footings to frost depth and at a proper, level height of 17" for the seat



6. Continually check for vandalism and markings on all surfaces of play equipment and park amenities – “tagging” should be removed immediately to prevent additional damage
7. All fencing should be reviewed and either replaced if needed or repaired. Fencing may be painted black to help it blend into surroundings.
8. New Signage for Park Names and Regulations
The Parks Department should study park name signage for quality and attractiveness, and a sense of place. Park signage programs should also include a system of regulatory signs and

recommended age groups for play areas. This will help prevent a proliferation of park signs being scattered throughout the parks. Signposts may be erected at public entrances to the parks where rules can be posted.

- a. Cost effective
- b. Uniform
- c. Multilingual
- d. Prominent location



9. Ensure that all new and current park developments are meeting the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

- a. Bench Locations and placement
- b. Transitions into playgrounds from accessible routes
- c. Playground surfacing and maintenance
- d. Providing accessible routes a minimum of 5' wide to all components of a park, and from public walks and parking areas

- 10. Standardize a playground surfacing throughout the district; wood fiber or stable rubber products recommended.
- 11. Install trash cans on permanent bases or locked to posts to prevent vandalism and tipping
- 12. Continue a program of adding perennials and landscape enhancements to parks. Provide a balance between installations and available maintenance. Utilize earth fill for land contouring and berming to add screening and visual interest to parks as they are renovated; save dollars on hauling fees
- 13. Place all asphalt paths on a seal coating program every 5 years or so, or as needed
- 14. Turf quality in many parks suitable for open space athletic use has been pointed out as low quality – turf repair, possibly including regarding and contouring schemes should be addressed for each park
- 15. To prevent residents from feeling slighted, the quality of all facilities should be the same across the District, and budgets should be allocated to work across the district in an even manner. For instance, the quality of Centennial softball fields should be carried across all the fields in the District
- 16. Specific user count surveys should be made of several sports offerings, including tennis and basketball. The Public survey showed less tennis use than expected, and stated use does not require as many courts. This may free up courts for a converted or secondary use. In some cases, courts may be removed in their entirety to provide more open space of a home for a completely new activity
- 17. Continue annual tree planting programs to help replace existing trees as they decline from age and urban conditions and encourage public appreciation of trees and their value to the environment

BAILEY'S CROSSING DOG PARK

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Surrounded by multi/single family neighborhood
- Located at western edge of Columbus Manor Park

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

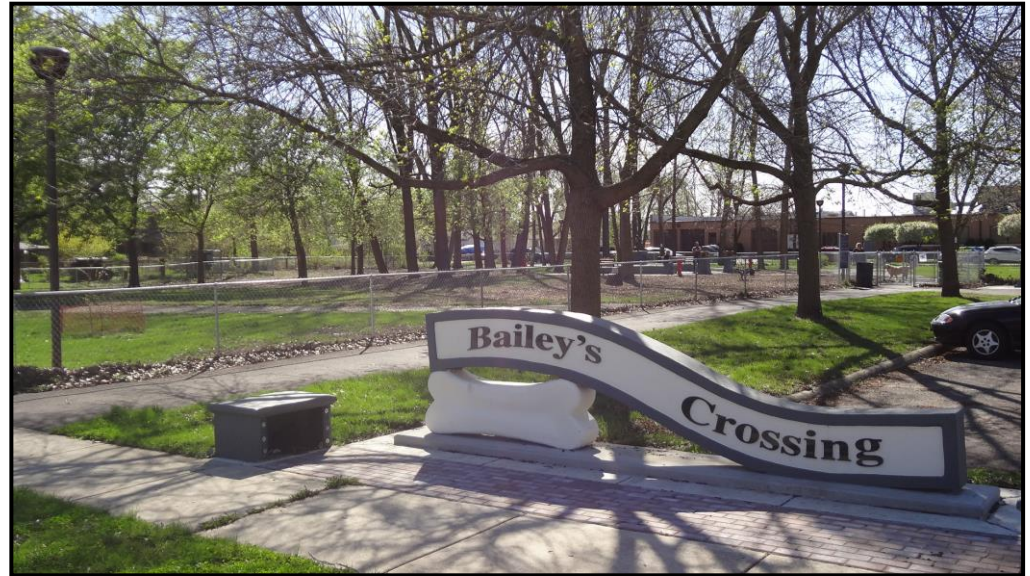
- Lovely wooded 1.8 acre site
- Perimeter fencing of entire park with double gated entry
- Unique dogbone sign at entry area
- Lighted parking lot
- Porta-potty facility
- Walking path
- Landscaped central plaza with statuary
- Accessible seating
- Drinking fountain with water basin for dogs

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

None

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- None



BRANDT

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Shared school site
- Park District maintains by agreement

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Playground
- Basketball Court
- Tike Track
- Fitness Court
- Shade Structure
- 2 Grove tables
- Drinking Fountain
- Walking Path
- 2 Baseball fields

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- None

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- None



CENTENNIAL PARK / COMMUNITY PAVILION

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Near 95th street and commercial district
- Single family homes on north, east, and west

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- 3 sand volleyball – Lighted
- Significant lighted asphalt walking pathways - new condition 2018
- In-line skating rink on old tennis courts
- 4 Baseball fields – lighted-renovated 2018
- 6 multipurpose ballfields - lighted
- 2 Playgrounds
- 1 Full basketball court
- Paved Parking and on-street parking
- Pavilion has 2 indoor gymnasiums for soccer, basketball and pickleball; walking track; fitness center and fitness rooms.
- Community swimming pool-renovated 2014
- Centrally located concessions/bathrooms facility
- Disc golf practice holes
- Native tree area
- Bio swales
- Trailside fitness stations

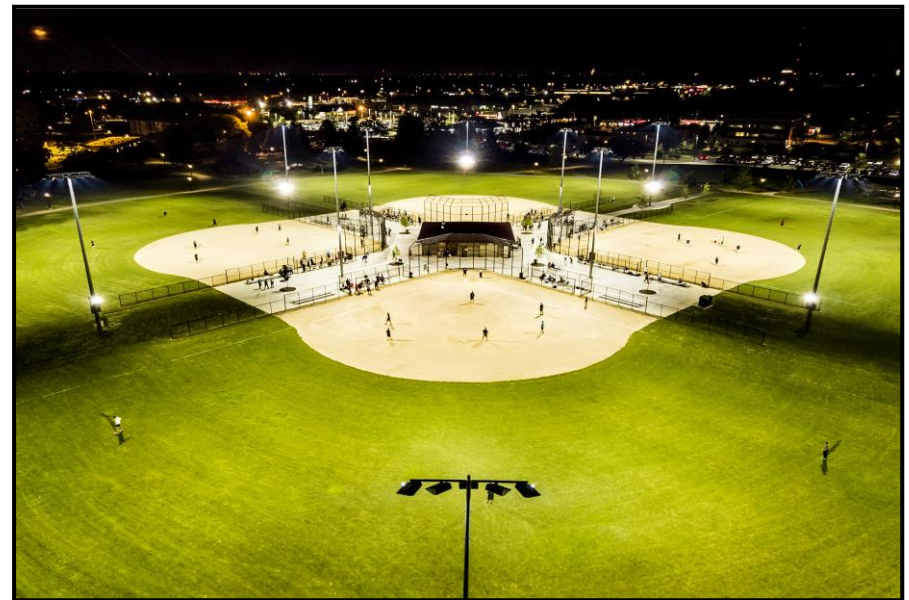
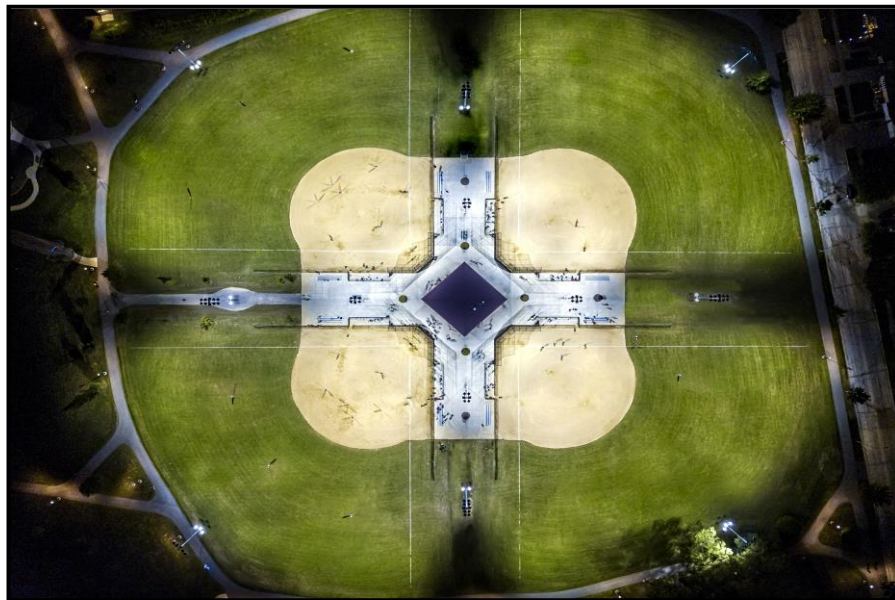
IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- None

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- East play area was replaced in 2007 ADA accessible- Improvements budgeted for 2024/25
- West playground was renovated through PARC grant in 2012 ADA accessible
- Pool slides were added in 2010. The park district secured a PARC grant through the DNR in 2011. Upgrades to Centennial pool and a splash pad were completed in 2012







CENTRAL POOL/ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- 9400 South Kenton
- Near some single family, business
- Adjacent to Administration and Ice Arena
- Good access from 95th Street
- Small site with no room for expansion

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Central Pool – one main pool with swim lanes and diving area
- Small children’s pool with slide
- New Pool Liner 2022
- New ADA Lift 2023
- Updated Men’s Locker Room 2023
- New Deck and Shade Structure 2023
- New siding 2023
- New utility infrastructure to be completed in 2023
- Combined parking with other facilities
- Administration Building for Park District
- Landscaping

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- None

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- None



OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT/CHICAGO RIDGE PRAIRIE

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Some single family, predominantly apartments
- Near Richards High School and Ridge Lawn Elementary School

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- 12.8-acre, high-quality prairie—located at 105th St. & Menard Ave.—is listed as an Illinois Nature Preserve. It is one of three gravel-based mesic prairies remaining in Illinois.
- Approximately 5 acres was illegally filled before the Park District acquired property.
- The prairie boasts several species of endangered and unusual plants and insects including Little White Lady Slipper Orchid
- Utilized by the Chicago Botanical Society, university researchers, and local school groups.



ENHANCEMENTS COMPLETED IN 2014

- Interpretive trails and signs; benches and interactive signs
- Educational shelter with solar lighting, rain barrels
- Two look-out platforms over looking the prairie
- Unsuitable fill material was removed from 5 acres of prairie
- Disturbed portion of prairie was reseeded with native species
- Prescribed burns take place annually to enhance flora and fauna



COLUMBUS MANOR PARK

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- In a single family neighborhood, some smaller apartment buildings – 5 entrances to park
- Backs up to railroad tracks

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Park was renovated in 2017
- Lighted walking pathways connecting all of park
- Spray pad
- 1 full basketball court
- Baseball field
- Tot lot
- Inclusive playground with picnic shelter
- Dog park on west end (separated by street)
- Multi-generational exercise area
- Trellised landscape area

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- Drainage issues

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Potential for trail connection under railroad tracks to Mayfield Street and Stony Creek Golf / Memorial Park
- Re-grading plan to correct drainage issues





DILLON

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Single Family homes

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Park was renovated in 2018
- 1 Basketball court – half court, no lights
- Playground with zip line
- Mini spray pad
- Lighted Walking pathways in good condition
- Good turf
- Shade structure



IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- None

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Add underground water storage



EAGLE RIDGE TOT LOT

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Adjacent to Wolfe Wildlife area trail in town home development
- Tot-Lot classification

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Playground renovated in 2019
- Accessible walkway down to Wolfe Wildlife Refuge path

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- None

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Add a Park Sign on trail side



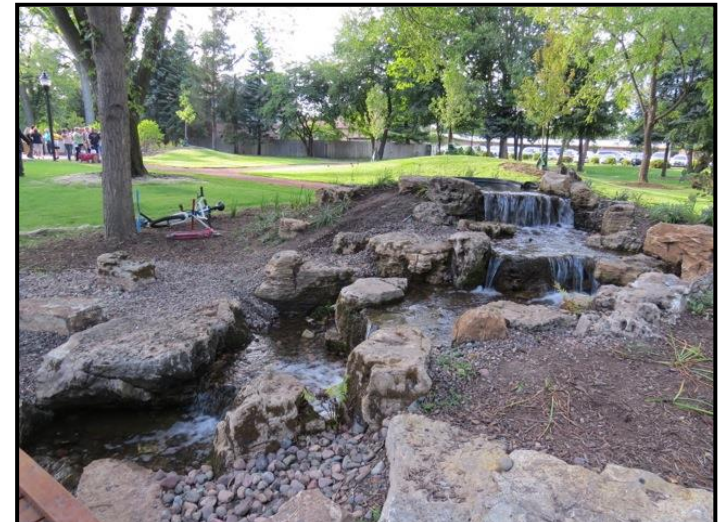
COMMISSIONER'S PARK

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Single Family Neighborhood

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Existing mature trees
- Open Space
- Acquired in 2006\renovation completed in 2014
- Parking on street
- Landscaped water feature
- Crushed granite walking path with lights
- Central plaza with trellis, art sculpture wall and memorial panels recognizing past and present Commissioners
 - Water fountain
 - Seating areas



HARKER

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Combined school site

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

Park renovated in 2019

- Ballfields – 1 (not park district)
- 1 Basketball court
- Playground with zip line
- Park Benches
- Shade structure
- Community Garden (Cooperative Effort)

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- None

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Add drinking fountain



ICE ARENA

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- 9320 South Kenton
- Near business and single family homes
- Good access from 95th Street

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Indoor Ice Rink
- Seating for 1,100
- Meeting rooms
- Parking, combined with Administration and Central Pool
- Rentals and parties
- Mechanical systems replaced in 2012-2014
- Flat roofs replaced 2017
- Shingled roofs replaced in 2019
- New exterior paint
- Updated interior paint

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- Continue programming to drive revenue stream

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- None



JOHNSTON CENTER

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- 9400 South Oak Park Avenue (across from Pavilion)
- Part of Centennial Park

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Small multipurpose building
- Small parking area

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- None

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Interior finishes updates
- Façade updates
- Bathroom updates



KEELER PARK

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Adjacent to School District Building
- Apartments to the east, Hospital to the west
- Rectangular shape

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Playground equipment replaced 2016
- 2 picnic tables
- 6' Asphalt Path around perimeter
- Good turf
- Small baseball field
- Sun shade sail
- Baseball field players and spectator areas updated with concrete
- New monument signage wall
- Expanded size of baseball field to include 70ft bases

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- None

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Enhance pathways, use shade to advantage for sitting areas
- Need drinking fountain?
- Possible site for permanent soccer field



LAKE SHORE PARK / LITTLE WHITE BUILDING

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Lake Shore Drive/9400 54th Ave
- Park is located along a natural drainage channel that runs through the Park
- Village owned pond/drainage channel

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- 2 lighted tennis courts
- 1 half-basketball court
- Playground with Evos play equipment. Second playground for 2 to 5 year olds ADA accessible
- Mature trees and landscape
- Fishing is encouraged, and aeration fountains are in place.
- Park has 2 buildings, Dream Center and Little White Building, used for Special Recreation programs
- StoryWalk along pathway
- Accessible pathways to playgrounds

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- None

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Add a pathway at corner of parking lot
- Accessible pathways to playgrounds added in 2009
- Provide a sheltered overlook to creek, family picnic shelter



LAWN MANOR

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Single family neighborhood
- Changing neighborhood with knock downs
- Combined site with elementary school

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Playground, swing sets
- Spray pad
- 1 Pickleball and 2 tennis courts
- 1 Sand volleyball court
- Fitness Court
- Lighted, accessible pathway
- Picnic shelter
- 2 drinking fountains
- 2 Baseball fields
- 2 backstops on baseball fields
- 2 Tennis Courts with old lights (non-operational)

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- None

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- None



LEWANDOWSKI

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Single family neighborhood
- Backs up to commercial shopping center and chain link fence
- Long, rectangular shape

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

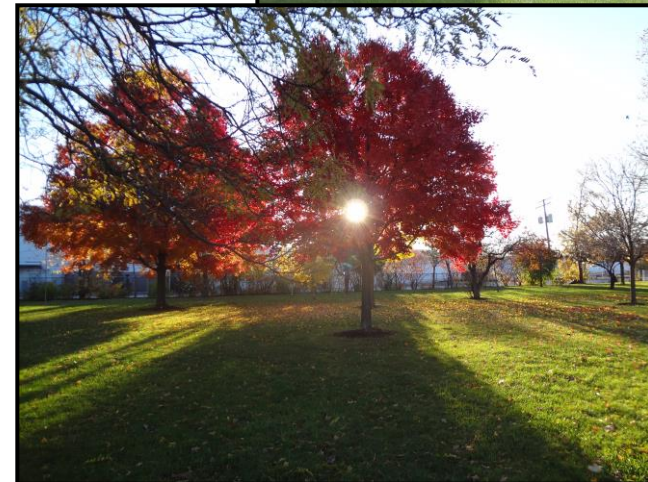
- Tree arboretum, but no educational features
- 2 benches
- Narrow, disconnected pathways
- Street parking

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- No public access – sidewalk stubs at 88th St.
- Poor 3-4' wide walk @ South end-budgeted for updates 2023
- Interior walks not designed for interpretive use, not accessible-budgeted for updates 2023

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Needs interpretive path system
- Tree coding and educational component to increase public appreciation
- Needs master plan for education purposes
- Add perennial and shrub beds to help screen fencing, improve arboretum offerings
- Add gathering shelter, locate educational materials
- Add pathway lighting
- Involve local garden groups, volunteer organizations, Girl Scouts, etc.
- Install slats in chain link fence



LITTLE WOLFE PLAYGROUND

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Surrounded by single family neighborhood
- Centered along Stony Creek Watershed

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- New nature themed play equipment ADA accessible 2011
- New accessible walking path (lighted)
- Basketball court (lighted)
- Pergola
- ADA drinking fountain with dog water basin feature
- Attractive entry off of Laramie Ave.
- Nature themed seating
- Interpretive signage
- Bridge connection to Wildlife Refuge
- Nice shaded areas around playground

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

None

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Pickleball courts
- Nature trail between Stony Creek and rear of residential houses linking wooded area to the north



MCVICKERS

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Single Family neighborhood
- Located just off 95th street commercial district

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Small tot Playground
- Paved Parkway
- New sign

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- Park very small – ‘Tot Lot’ category
- Equipment replaced in 2009

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Monitor potential land purchases to increase size
- Improve landscaping and picnic opportunities for foot traffic off 95th Street



MEMORIAL

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Good access from 103rd Street
- Adjacent to high density housing, and catholic school (has an additional 3 ballfields, playground, soccer field, 2 full court basketball, 2 half basketball)

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Rocket ship themed playground with strap swings and tot swings
- Interactive, electronic Neos game center
- Family picnic shelter 24'x 36'
- Accessible paved pathways connecting to Golf Course and dedicated bike trail
- Accessible bathrooms with drinking fountain
- Two baggo courts
- Fitness equipment along path
- Triple half court basketball with sitting area
- Three tennis courts
- Interactive spray pad with separate tot area and shaded seating
- Pond with accessible floating pier
- Fishing outcroppings located around pond
- Year-round aerator
- Pond is stocked annually-Catch and Release
- Parking lot and street parking
- Native plantings around pond

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- None





MENARD CENTER

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Single family neighborhood

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Nice building
- No outdoor facilities
- Parking Lot on north side
- Dog obedience programs, judo and karate classes
- Kitchen
- Available for rental of small special events

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- Building needs to blend better into neighborhood
- Interior finishes.

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Replace façade siding
- Replace roof



OAK MEADOWS

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Single family homes in changing neighborhood
- Knock downs beginning across the street

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Newer themed playground ages 2-5 and 5-12 in shredded rubber Safety surface
- Full basketball court
- Baseball field for pick up games
- Asphalt pathways with good connections
- Drinking fountain
- Bike rack
- Mature trees and good turf

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- Benches not accessible
- Replace path

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Update play equipment



OAKVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Near apartments and single family homes

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Fenced in Tot lot with rubber surface
- Little Free Library cooperative
- Cultural Arts building and Theatre
- Pre-School and Recreation Center
- Special Recreation programming
- Open turf area
- ADA accessible T-ball / Special Olympic field / Soccer field
- New theatre sign on 111th St
- New building signage

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- None

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Provide shade shelter(s) for players and family



PHILLIPS PARK

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Corner lot in single family neighborhood

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Park renovated 2015
- 5 to 12 playground
- Nice trees
- Walking path connecting through park
- On street parking
- Drinking fountain
- Spray pad
- Family gathering area

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- None

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- None



RACQUET, FITNESS AND GYMNASTICS CENTER

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- 10444 South Central Avenue
- Single family neighborhood
- Evidence of rehabbing / knock downs
- Good access from Central Avenue

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- 5 Tennis Courts/ 1 pickle ball court
- 3 Racquetball/Wallyball Courts
- Fitness Room
- Gymnastics Center
- 2 Indoor batting cageS
- Party room rental
- Rentals
- Parking
- Steamroom in men's locker room
- New building sign

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- Enhance sidewalk crossing from Richards High School
- Address roofing needs

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- None



SHUBERT

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Single family neighborhood
Evidence of rehabbing / knock downs

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- New themed playground completed in 2010
- ADA accessible seating
- Mature Cottonwood trees
- ½ of park is unused green space
- 10' chain link along backside of entire park
- New street sidewalk in good shape
- Parking on street
- Property on west end is in private ownership
- New accessible path and sign/entry area added in 2010

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- Cottonwood trees declining – poor condition

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Build pathway to and around green space
- Acquire property on west end



STONY CREEK GOLF COURSE

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- 5860 W. 103rd
- Multiple family neighborhood / apartments

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- 18 Holes along natural areas and creek
- Driving Range
- Miniature Golf carpet updated 2022
- Pro Shop
- Parking
- Clubhouse, Banquet facilities, rentals
- Gazebo
- Indoor golf simulators



IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- Cost reduction efforts



RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- 'Green' improvements to course, golf maintenance barn - water re-use for washing, rainwater.
- Change golf carts to electric from gasoline, reducing emissions
- Potential for bike path connection along Stony Creek to Columbus Manor Park
- Study pedestrian connections from neighborhood
- Permanent washrooms on the course in-lieu of porta-potties



SULLIVAN PARK

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Single family neighborhood

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Separate Play areas for ages 2 - 5 & 5 - 12 Olds
- Excellent trees
- 8' Perimeter Pathways, asphalt
- 2 Ballfields with dugouts
- Drinking Fountain in SW corner
- 2 tennis courts with curb and lights
- ADA accessible play areas added in 2010
- Sand volley ball court added in 2010
- 18'x18' picnic shelter
- Spray pad and fountain added in 2010
- New entry area added to corner of 99th and Kostner
- Walking path lighting in woodland flower area
- Biggo Swing
- Perimeter walking path

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- None

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- None



WILLIAMS PLACE PARK

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Single family neighborhood

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Ballfield with arch backstop
- Good turf and open play space
- Nice trees on East side / Half
- Parking on street

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- None

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- As park is only 2 blocks from Sullivan, do not duplicate park amenities
- Needs new park sign
- Add Horticultural beds for beautification – get local groups involved
- Accessibility to ballfield and new improvements
- Add perimeter benches
- Improve drainage



WOLFE WILDLIFE REFUGE

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Surrounded by single family neighborhood
- Centered along Stony Creek Watershed

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- New accessible playground with strap swings and tot swings
- Observation deck
- Paved bike\walking trails through refuge, lighted
- Featured pond areas
- Family picnic shelter
- Good parking
- Bridge connections to neighborhood
- Shaded picnic tables
- Access to Eagle Ridge Tot Lot
- Mini spray area
- Dogs are allowed on leash
- Dog waste stations
- Drinking fountain
- Porta potty unit
- Path connection to Marianno’s shopping center
- Native plantings

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Add a few trees to play area, more sitting areas along path and by parking
- History and Interpretive signs
- Replace bridge decks, seal or stain pond overlook deck
- Repair drainage issues along path
- Dredge pond areas
- Path upgrades
- Light upgrades
- Observation deck repairs/replacement



WORTHBROOK

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Near single family, apartments & busy road, mixed use

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- One large 5 to 12 play area with swings
- 32 parking spots
- Community skate park
- 2 Ballfields with backstops, overlay soccer
- 2 Basketball backstops
- Walking path
- Fitness equipment
- 2 picnic shelters
- Sand volleyball

IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- Park renovation completed in 2013

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- None.





MAINTENANCE FACILITY

PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- 5501 W. 110th St.
- Industrial area
- Located in far southern part of park district

EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

- Outside parking and storage yard
- Shop areas designated for carpentry, plumbing, vehicle mechanics, electrician and playground construction
- Maintenance administrative offices
- Vehicle and equipment bays
- Access to 111th St. and Central Ave.
- New roofs 2019/2020

RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Replace Roof top units as needed