



# *Dolton Park and Recreation Plan*







# ***Dolton Park and Recreation Plan***

May 2012

**Prepared for:**



**Dolton Park District**

721 Engle Street  
Dolton, Illinois 60419

**Prepared by:**



**Teska Associates, Inc.**

*Community Planning  
Development Economics  
Site Design  
Landscape Architecture*



**Barron-Chisolm Planning Corporation, Inc.**

*Site & Urban Planning  
Park District Master Plans  
Economic Development*

*(This page was intentionally left blank.)*





### ***Acknowledgements***

The Dolton Park and Recreation Plan involved input from residents, including many participants in the District's numerous recreational programs. The Dolton Park Board would like to say thank you to all who provided some of your valuable time and ideas to help us achieve our mission of providing recreational and leisure opportunities for the health and well being of the community.

### ***Dolton Park Board***

Lester L. Long, President  
Cleo Jones, Vice-President  
Allen T. Sheard, Commissioner  
Gail Towers, Commissioner  
Carnell Woodbury Sr., Commissioner  
Mark Kiel, Former Commissioner (term ended May, 2011)

### ***Consultants***

Mike Hoffman, Matt Sokolowske, and Malika Ramdas, *Teska Associates, Inc.*  
LeRoy D. Barron, *Barron-Chisolm Planning, Inc.*



*(This page was intentionally left blank.)*

# Summary

*Providing recreational and leisure opportunities for the health and well-being of the Dolton Park District community*

## Driven by community needs

The Park and Recreation Plan provides a planning process and implementation strategy for the next ten years to guide the District's recreation programming, land acquisition and development, park renovations and improvements, facility enhancements, marketing, fee structures, and use of alternative sources of funding. The planning process integrated extensive community input, including a community-wide survey, focus group interviews, and extensive Park Board and staff input.

	Acres	Play ground	Ball Field	Picnic area	Ice Skating	Volley ball	Tennis courts	Jogging/ Physical Fitness	Special Facilities
<b>Dolton Park</b> 147 <sup>th</sup> & Evers	25	🍁	🍁	🍁	🍁		🍁	🍁	🍁
<b>Blackstone Park</b> 146 <sup>th</sup> & Blackstone	5	🍁	🍁				🍁		
<b>Kandy Kane Park</b> 146 <sup>th</sup> & Minerva	2.6	🍁				🍁			
<b>Sunshine Park</b> 139 <sup>th</sup> & Kanawna	2	🍁							
<b>Meadowlane Park</b> 150 <sup>th</sup> & Meadowlane	2	🍁							
<b>Willowgreen Park</b> 152 <sup>nd</sup> & Irving	2	🍁							
<b>Triangle Park</b> 154 <sup>th</sup> & Greenwood	5	🍁	🍁				🍁		
<b>Riverfront Park</b> 158 <sup>th</sup> & Greenwood	5	🍁	🍁				🍁		
<b>Town &amp; Country Park</b> 148 <sup>th</sup> & Wentworth	5	🍁	🍁			🍁	🍁		
<b>Dolton/Riverdale</b> 138 <sup>th</sup> & Lincoln Ave.	5	🍁	🍁						

*Facilities offered by the Dolton Park District*

## Area of Focus:

- Financial and Operations Sustainability
- Funding Allocation
- Preventive Maintenance
- Partnerships and Collaboration
- Lack of DPD Indoor Facilities

### 2012-2013

Park Identification Signs  
\$160,000 budget

New Mowers, Trailer, Wood Chipper, generators  
\$40,000

### 2013-2014

Dolton Park Improvements  
\$160,000

New Van  
\$25,000

### 2014-2015

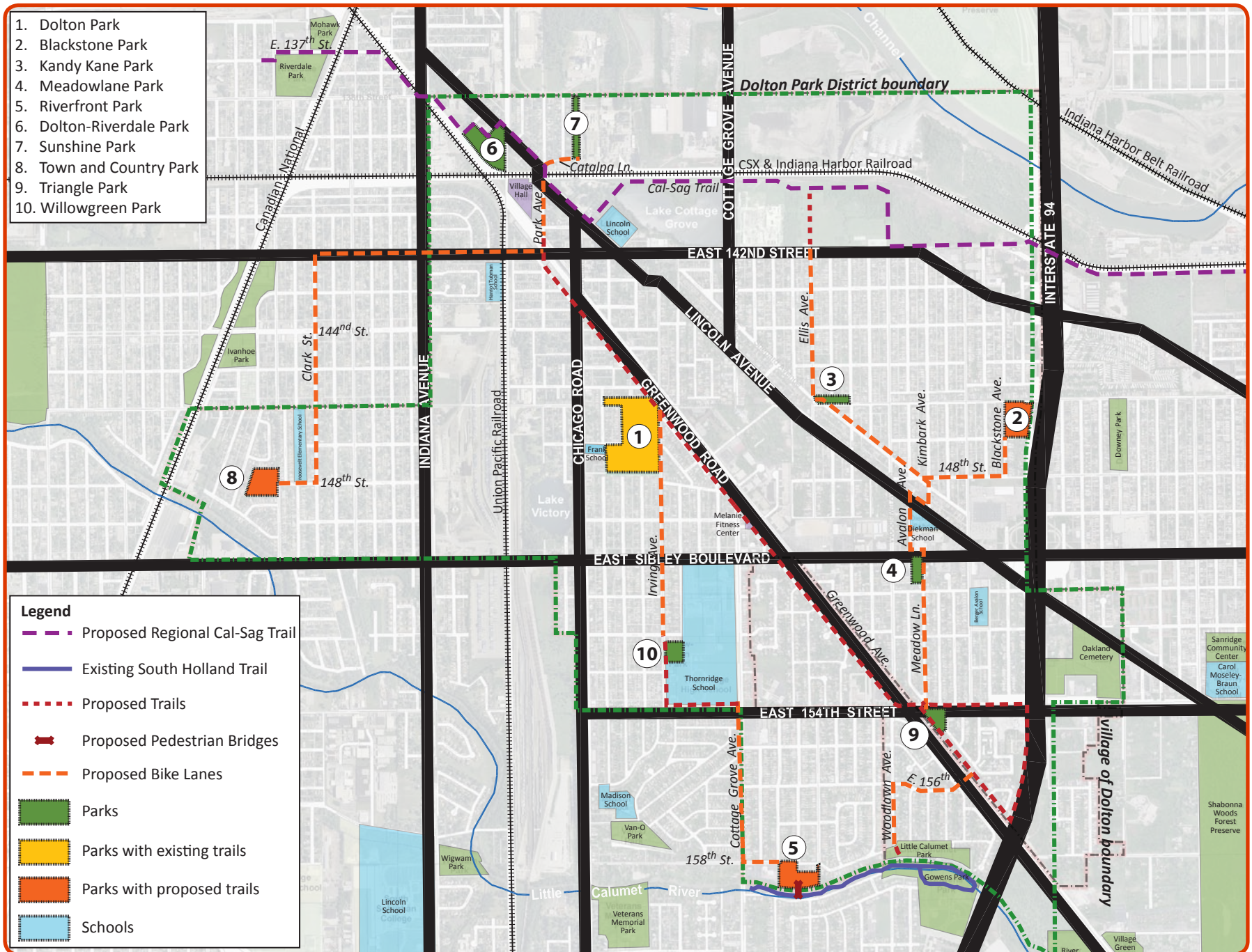
Dolton Park Improvements  
\$175,000

New Dump Truck with plow/spreader  
\$40,000

*Capital Improvement Plan*







Proposed Dolton Park District Park and Trail Plan



# Table of Contents

<b>Chapter 1: Introduction</b>	<b>1-1</b>
1.1 Purpose of this Plan	1-2
1.2 Overview of the Dolton Park District	1-2
1.3 Areas of Focus	1-4
<b>Chapter 2: Mission, Goals and Objectives</b>	<b>2-1</b>
<b>Chapter 3: Community Recreation Needs</b>	<b>3-1</b>
3.1 Standards Evaluation	3-2
3.2 Community Interviews	3-5
3.3 Community Survey	3-7
<b>Chapter 4: Programs and Services</b>	<b>4-1</b>
4.1 Dolton Park District Programs	4-2
4.2 Program Improvement Ideas	4-3
<b>Chapter 5: Park and Trails System Plan</b>	<b>5-1</b>
5.1 Acquisition Strategy	5-2
5.2 Trails Plan	5-4
5.3 Recreational Facilities Improvement Plan	5-6
<b>Chapter 6: Implementation Plan</b>	<b>6-1</b>
6.1 Park Management and Operations	6-2
6.2 Potential Funding Sources	6-3
6.3 Sponsorships	6-5
6.4 Partnership Policy	6-9
6.5 Capital Improvement Plan	6-15
<b>Appendix:</b>	<b>1</b>
A. Survey summary	3
B. Cost estimate of park improvements	15
C. Park district websites	22



# *Chapter*



## *Introduction*



# Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this Plan

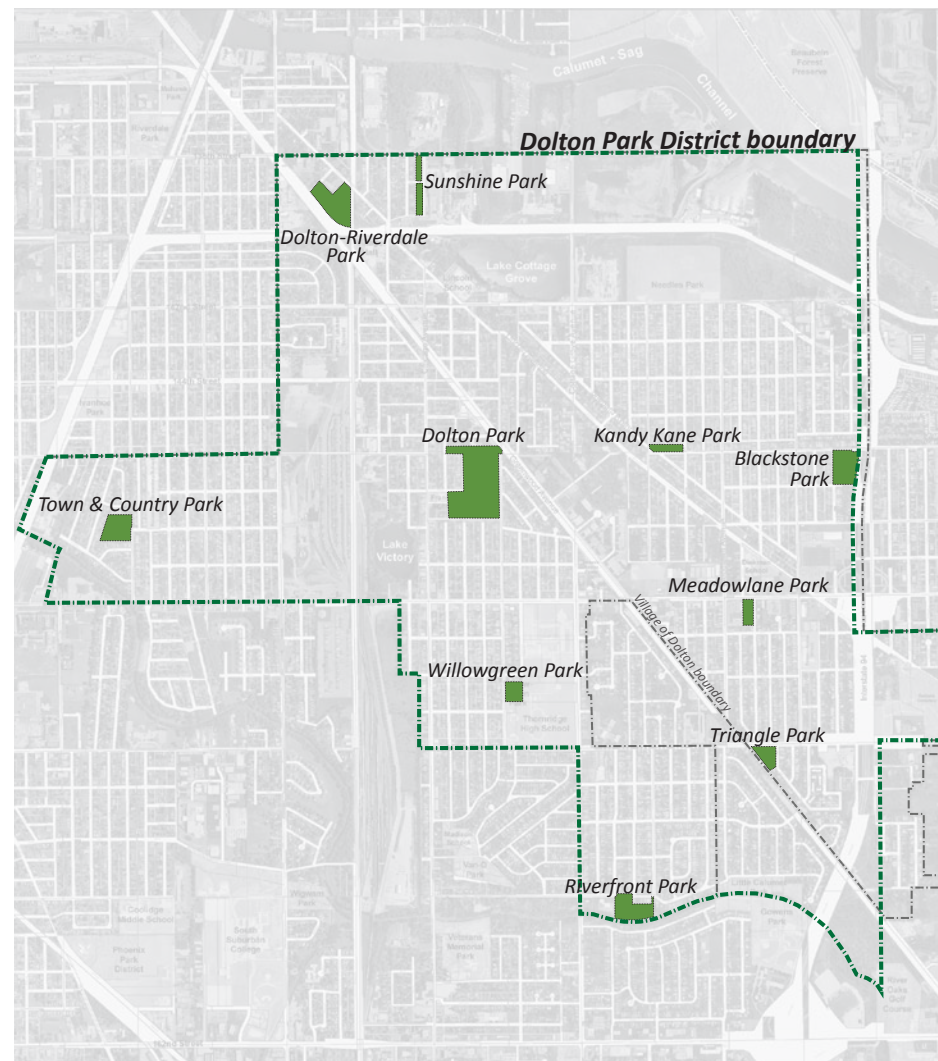
The purpose of this project is to create a Park and Recreation Plan for the Dolton Park District that includes goals, objectives, forecasted needs, and implementation strategies to help guide decisions related to providing parks, recreation and open space opportunities. The Park and Recreation Plan provides a planning process and implementation strategy for the next ten years to guide the District's recreation programming, land acquisition and development, park renovations and improvements, facility enhancements, marketing, fee structures, and use of alternative sources of funding.

## 1.2 Overview of the Dolton Park District

The Dolton Park District is located 23 miles south of Downtown Chicago in Cook County, Illinois. The Park District was incorporated in 1929. According to the 2010 Census, the District serves a population of 24,395 residents covering 4.5 square miles (this includes all the residents within the Dolton Park District boundary). This is a community that values the quality of life provided by a small town, the friendships that result from knowing their neighbors, areas to enjoy nature provided by dedicated open space, and recreation opportunities provided by their parks, facilities, and programs.

While the current boundaries of the Park District in the Village of Dolton encompass 22,585 people as per the 2010 U. S. Census, the Dolton Park District boundaries extend beyond those of the Village, serving small sections of South Holland, and parts of unincorporated Cook County with a total additional population of 1,810. The Dolton Park District is a Board-Manager form of government; comprised of a 5-member elected Board of Park Commissioners whose chief executive officer is the Executive Director of Parks and Recreation.

The District has 10 parks and facilities with around 79 acres of parkland located throughout Dolton. Most residents can find a neighborhood park within easy walking distance of their home.



**Figure 1.1: Map of the Dolton Park District showing the location of the parks**




























	Acres	Play ground	Ball Field	Picnic area	Ice Skating	Volley ball	Tennis courts	Jogging/ Physical Fitness	Special Facilities
<b>Dolton Park</b> 147 <sup>th</sup> & Evers	25								
<b>Blackstone Park</b> 146 <sup>th</sup> & Blackstone	5								
<b>Kandy Kane Park</b> 146 <sup>th</sup> & Minerva	2.6								
<b>Sunshine Park</b> 139 <sup>th</sup> & Kanawna	2								
<b>Meadowlane Park</b> 150 <sup>th</sup> & Meadowlane	2								
<b>Willowgreen Park</b> 152 <sup>nd</sup> & Irving	2								
<b>Triangle Park</b> 154 <sup>th</sup> & Greenwood	5								
<b>Riverfront Park</b> 158 <sup>th</sup> & Greenwood	5								
<b>Town &amp; Country Park</b> 148 <sup>th</sup> & Wentworth	5								
<b>Dolton/Riverdale</b> 138 <sup>th</sup> & Lincoln Ave.	5								

Table 1.1: Facilities offered by the Dolton Park District

**Note:** The Park District currently maintains the 61 acre Needles Park at 142nd and Woodlawn. The Park District and the Village have an intergovernmental agreement regarding future use of this land for economic development.



### 1.3 Areas of Focus

Based on the Needs Assessment, utilizing information gathered in stakeholder meetings, staff interviews, a survey completed by residents, inventory and analysis conducted by the consulting team, the following areas of focus were identified as high priorities for action for the Dolton Park District over the next five years:

- ***Financial and Operations Sustainability***

It was brought to light through the public input process and staff interviews that the Dolton Park District and the Dolton community have experienced some events in the past that have affected the public's perception and trust of public officials. Credibility, especially in regard to fiscal responsibility and sustainability of operations, is an area that the District will need to continue to focus on in the near future.

- ***Funding Allocation***

Residents are quite aware that the District's resources are limited and it was expressed that these funds should be carefully scrutinized and

allocated to best serve the needs of the community through maintaining and maximizing the use of existing resources and facilities.

- ***Preventative Maintenance***

Dolton Park District residents have strongly expressed, both through the interviews and the survey, the importance of allocating funding for the maintenance of existing facilities.

- ***Partnerships and Collaboration***

It is recognized that the District provides a wide variety of services and programs to the community, however; with limited resources it will become increasingly important that the District seek out partnership opportunities to use these funds efficiently and to continue to provide a high level of service for the community.

- ***Lack of Dolton Park District Indoor Facilities***

Dolton Park District has a variety and number of outdoor parks, athletic fields, and facilities. Comparatively, the District has a relatively small number of indoor programming spaces. Resident concern was expressed that in addition to the lack of indoor facilities, the future of the primary programming space used by the District is not under control of the District.

# *Chapter*



## *Missions, Goals and Objectives*

This chapter restates the existing mission and impact statements of the Dolton Park District, as well as outlines its goal and the objectives to achieve these goals.

## Mission Statement:

**To provide recreational and leisure opportunities for the health and well-being of the Dolton Park District community.**

**Impact Statement** - If the special needs of the youth are neglected today, they become the cancer on society tomorrow. Intervention through mentoring is a proven tool that puts the odds for success in the favor of at-risk youth. Young people are the future of any nation of people. Mentoring is a small but very effective and necessary investment towards the well being and security of the future of our society and nation. Invest in the future of our country, invest in mentoring.

**Goals and objectives** - Goals and objectives express, in general terms, the Park District's values and impact statements. They build upon the mission statement to guide the development of programs and facilities, and to act as the basis for the philosophy that leads the Park District. More specifically, GOALS are defined as broad value statements, and represent the desires of the Park District. OBJECTIVES are statements that represent the means by which goals can be achieved. The following is a list of goals and objectives to achieve the mission of the Park District.

### 1. Match Program Offerings to Community Demand

**Goal** To provide a wide range of recreational programs tailored to the needs of all age groups

#### Objectives

- Monitor program participation to match demand with available instructors and program space
- Conduct regular user surveys to evaluate individual classes and desire for new programs
- Capitalize on opportunities for shared programming with neighboring Park Districts and the Village of Dolton such as with the Special Recreation Services (SRS) or the Melanie Fitness Center
- Conduct periodic focus groups with teens to identify programs that would appeal to this key demographic
- Develop additional programs targeted towards girls
- Ensure that programs and facilities are self-sustaining to the greatest extent possible
- Provide flexibility in program scheduling to address a variety of lifestyles and schedules
- Target specialized programs for specialized interest groups
- Co-sponsor specialized groups and programs to efficiently broaden recreational opportunities
- Develop a recreational programming strategy for each park site
- Update the park and recreation plan on a periodic basis





## 2. Maintain Prudent Financial Stewardship

**Goal-** To carefully monitor District finances in a transparent fashion to provide accountability of tax payer funds

### **Objectives-**

- Establish a Park Foundation to raise funds for new projects and to provide program grants for families that have a financial hardship
- Seek Grants from IDNR, CDBG, and other state and federal sources to fund park improvements
- Pursue business sponsorships of community events, park district programs, and potential facility naming rights
- Follow sound accounting practices, including independent audits of all accounts
- Focus property tax revenue on basic park and recreation operations and maintenance while seeking other sources to fund major capital expenditures
- Match user fees with the cost of providing programs (instructors, insurance, materials, space, etc.)
- Provide a scholarship fund to provide user fees for those that would like to participate in District programs but lack the financial resources
- Maintain and enhance the District's capital improvement program for equipment, vehicles, and facilities
- Consider privatization of facilities, maintenance operations, service and programs if cost/benefit analysis suggests potential to reduce costs
- Review and update the Land/Cash Ordinance with the Village of Dolton
- Engage in joint purchasing with other governmental units when feasible with the goal of saving tax dollars
- Sponsor funding programs that provide revenue in lieu of tax increases
- Initiate a facility assessment program that reviews user survey results and considers neighborhood and community input to identify modifications to existing facilities necessary to meet anticipated recreation needs



## 3. Foster Sound Environmental Stewardship

**Goal-** To embrace sustainable practices to conserve energy, recycle, and protect natural environmental features

### **Objectives-**

- Strive to enhance energy efficiency of all buildings and equipment used by the Park District
- Actively promote recycling within parks and the recreation center
- Provide opportunities for environmental education, both within recreational programs and within parks where natural areas exist such as the rain garden at Dolton Park
- Consider establishment of a greenhouse to raise annuals and perennials for planting in District parks
- Explore opportunities for alternative energy on Park District properties, include wind and solar power
- Utilize innovative techniques to acquire open space/conservation easements, covenants, and land trusts to protect open space within District boundaries without Park District expenditures
- Practice soil conservation techniques and utilize appropriate landscaping to prevent erosion



- Incorporate environmental impact consideration in the design process of facilities and parks
- Plant shade trees near buildings to reduce the use of air conditioners
- Plant evergreens and shrubs along building foundations and walls as windbreaks to reduce heating and air conditioning requirements
- Design and build energy efficient buildings and purchase energy efficient appliances
- Train staff to properly handle, use, store, and dispose of hazardous materials
- Involve staff in an environmental education program and stress the need for staff input and involvement to make the program successful
- Develop a tree planting and replacement program to reforest park areas and use appropriate native and ornamental materials
- Develop and implement plans for the re-establishment and/or restoration of native grasslands and woodland ecosystems

#### 4. Ensure Park Facilities are Accessible to All Residents

**Goal-** All Dolton Park District residents should have a park within half mile of their home. In addition, all parks should be accessible to all persons, regardless of age or disability

##### **Objectives-**

- Continue to incorporate safety standards and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirement in the development, redevelopment and maintenance of facilities
- Work with the Village to create a local bike system that connects parks and other community facilities with homes, shopping, and the regional Cal-Sag Trail
- Provide all residents with access to neighborhood park facilities within ½ mile of their home
- Acquire and/or encourage acquisition of additional lands in accordance with this Park and Recreation Plan

#### 5. Get the Word Out

**Goal-** Let the residents know about programs, events, and Dolton Park District initiatives through both traditional and modern social media outlets

##### **Objectives-**

- Continually update the District's web site and Facebook page to keep residents informed of programs, activities, events, and other District initiatives
- Consider installation of a new digital sign at all Dolton Parks to promote District and community-wide activities
- Encourage Commissioners to visit neighborhood block clubs to share what is going on in the District and obtain suggestions for future efforts
- Continue to publish print brochures
- Utilize mail and telephone surveys to periodically assess community recreation trends, user preferences, and level of satisfaction with facilities, programs and services
- Utilize neighborhood meetings to receive public input regarding the planning of facilities and programs and





educate residents on all aspects of the Park District

- “Target Market” to identified groups to better meet their specific needs
- Promote the Park District through a multi-media based public information program
- Use Earth Day as a vehicle to educate the public about the Park District

### 6. Capitalize on Partnerships

**Goal-** Work closely with local government, recreational and sports organizations and other non-profit groups to provide needed services while stretching tax dollars and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of each organization

#### **Objectives-**

- Seek incorporation of this Park and Recreation Plan into the plans of the Village of Dolton and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County
- Establish regular meetings with the Village, County, School Districts, adjacent park districts and other pertinent jurisdictions to continually review common open space and recreation issues and coordinate programs, activities and facilities
- Engage in joint use efforts with other jurisdictions to effectively and efficiently meet recreation needs. Work with the Cook County Highway Department, Forest Preserve District of Cook County, the Villages of Calumet City, Dolton, South Holland, and Thornton Township Highway Department to encourage the creation of bikeways adjacent to and within selected rights-of-way
- Provide direction to public and private sectors in the acquisition and development of open space/recreational facilities. Identify opportunities for the development of community to complement the Park District’s open space and recreational facility network

### 7. Focus on Image and Customer Service

**Goal-** Ensure that all employees are focused on providing the residents with friendly and professional service

#### **Objectives-**

- Offer continued support for staff development at all levels of the organization
- Encourage and recognize employees that provide exceptional service
- Conduct on-going customer satisfaction surveys
- Develop a rewards program for employees that offer cost saving suggestions
- Maintain park facilities to a level that enhances community pride and spurs compliments for a job well done
- Respond to public questions and concerns in a polite, helpful and timely fashion
- Develop a Park and Recreation Plan summary that describes the priorities for the continuing development of the District’s park and open space system. Update the Park and Recreation Plan periodically, as appropriate, to effectively communicate current policies and priorities
- Join and participate in community service organizations. Promote the Park District’s role within the community
- Sponsor and participate in community projects



## 8. Preserve and Restore Significant Park District Cultural and Historic Resources

### Goal-

### Objectives-

- Preserve memories and historical information for future generations
- Support tourism related activities within the Village of Dolton and surrounding communities
- Coordinate with the Village of Dolton's Historical Commission to avoid the demolition of historically significant buildings within the Village
- Partner with local school districts and community colleges to jointly promote cultural and historic attractions

## 9. Use of Volunteers

**Goal-** Utilize volunteers to assist the Park District in fulfilling its mission

### Objectives-

- Establish a Dolton Park District Foundation to enhance parks, facilities and program services
- Develop relationships with sponsored, co-sponsored, and sanctioned groups to enhance recreational opportunities for Park District residents
- Develop relationships with public and private entities such as land trusts, preservation and conservation organizations to assist in open space acquisition and restoration
- Provide volunteer maintenance opportunities to service clubs, schools, block clubs, churches, fraternities, sororities, and to individual residents
- Utilize volunteers to assist with special events and selected recreation programs
- Utilize volunteers to assist in the operation of Park District facilities



***Tribute to a respected umpire, groundskeeper and volunteer*** (Source- Dolton Park District website)

## 10. Creativity/New Ideas and Technology

**Goal-** Anticipate needs and recognize trends and innovations in technology

### Objectives-

- Provide staff with continuing education and training
- Encourage Staff and Commissioners to participate in local, state, national conferences and seminars
- Continually identify and assess the latest technological advancements that may assist in park maintenance development
- Continually identify and assess computer/electronic technology that can assist in programming and management

# *Chapter*

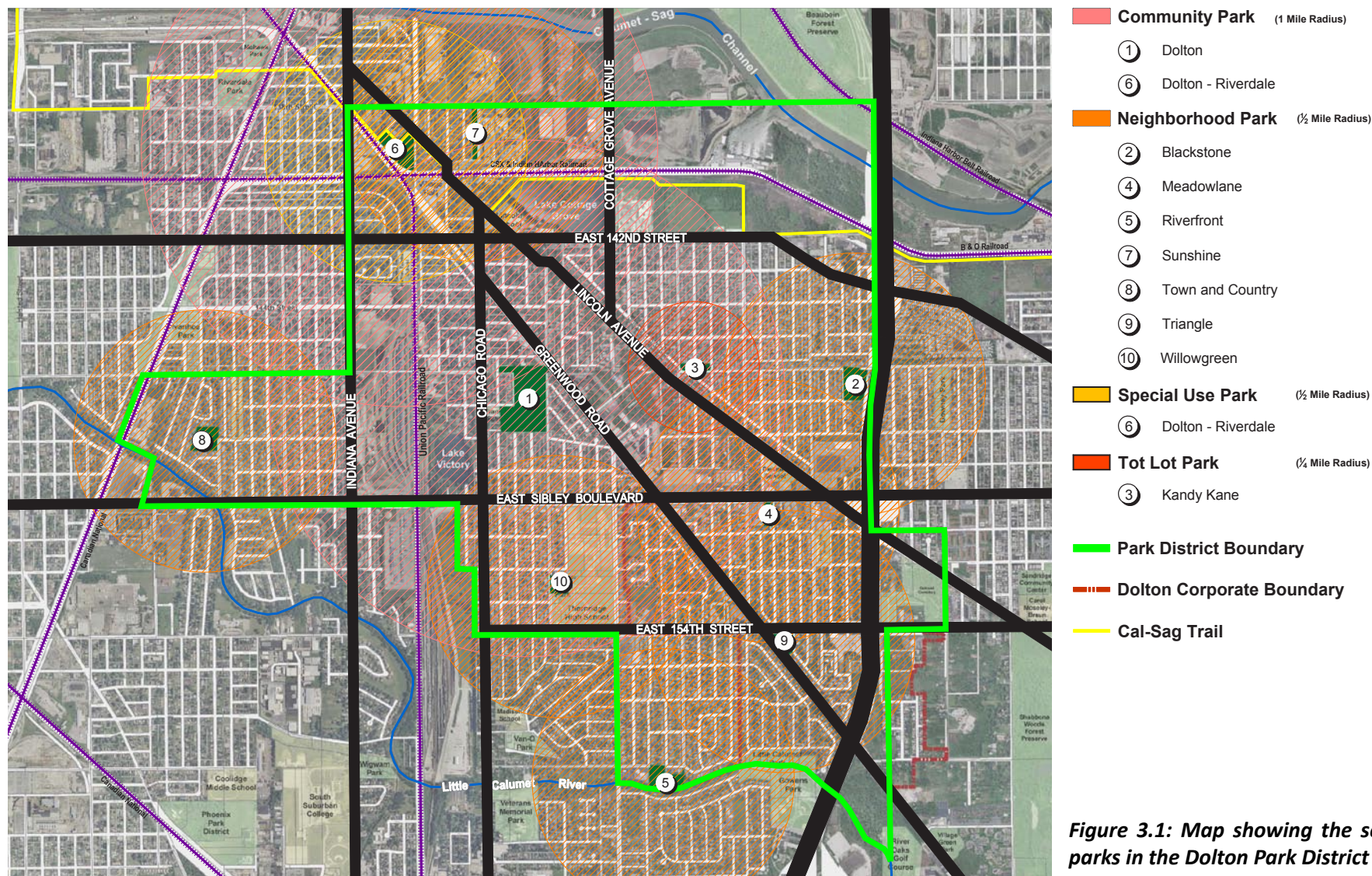


## *Community Recreational Needs*



### 3.1 Standards Evaluation

In order to plan for the acquisition of land for future parks, and the development and maintenance of existing parks, it is important to compare the existing parks to a standard or benchmark in order to understand whether there is a deficit or not. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) developed national standards for park space in 1981 which stated that 10 acres of parks were recommended per 1,000 persons. Table 3.1 compares the area of Dolton Park District to the NRPA standard for community and neighborhood parks. This shows that the District has an insufficient amount of both community and neighborhood parks.



*Figure 3.1: Map showing the service areas of parks in the Dolton Park District*

As a fully developed community, it is obviously impossible for the Dolton Park District to acquire an additional 185.4 acres of land as this table would suggest. However, it does suggest:

- It is critical to maintain existing park space, including:
  - Working with the Village of Dolton to maintain Needles Park as a recreational asset
  - A realization that reduced park space may result in increased demands on a smaller park system, thus increasing the need for durable, quality park improvements and enhanced maintenance requirements
- The Park District should explore opportunities to expand existing parks as opportunities arise. Particular focus should be on expanding opportunities for walkable neighborhood park space illustrated on the Park Service Areas map (figure 3.1). This map highlights a need for more close-to-home park space in the area bound by Greenwood Road to the west, 142nd Street to the north, and Avalon Avenue to the east, and 144th Street to the south. As homes come on the market adjacent to existing parks, the Park District should also consider acquisition to expand park space.

Parks	Acres	NRPA Standard (Ac./1,000)	Recommended Acres	Acres Surplus/Deficit
<b>Community Parks</b>				
Dolton Park	25.0			
Dolton/Riverdale Park	5.0			
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>-153</b>
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>				
Blackstone Park	5.0			
Kandy Kane Park	2.6			
Sunshine Park	2.0			
Meadowlane Park	2.0			
Willowgreen Park	2.0			
Triangle Park	5.0			
Riverfront Park	5.0			
Town & Country Park	5.0			
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>-32.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>119.6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>-185.4</b>

Notes:

1. The Park District population of 24,395 is based on the U.S. Census 2010 population estimates for the areas of Village of Dolton (22,585) and South Holland (1,810) that come within the Dolton Park District boundary.
2. Needles Park is not included in these calculations given existing agreement for redevelopment.

**Table 3.1: Park Classification and Comparison to the NRPA Standard**



The State of Illinois has developed standards for park and recreation facilities based on surveys and utilization studies. Table 3.2 lists the number of specific facilities provided per 1,000 population for 2008 in Illinois, and compares it to the Dolton Park District. This table suggests that the Dolton Park District needs more facilities especially tennis courts, soccer fields, volleyball courts, picnic areas and all types of trails.

Facility	Average Number in Illinois per 1,000 population <sup>(1)</sup>	Facilities Needed in Dolton to Match State Averages	Number in Dolton Park District	Surplus/Deficit
<b>1. Water-Based Facilities</b>				
Fishing Piers & Docks <sup>(4)</sup>	0.0408	1	0	-1
Aquatic Centers/Pools <sup>(6)</sup>	0.0282	1	1	0
Spray Grounds	0.0292	1	0	-1
<b>2. Trails</b>				
Trails (Miles)	0.1630	4	0.75	-3.23
Bike Trails (Miles)	0.1058	3	0.75	-1.83
Nature Trails (Miles)	0.0547	1	0	-1.33
<b>3. Sports Facilities</b>				
Baseball Fields	0.2552	6	5	-1
Softball Fields	0.1425	3	4	1
Basketball Courts <sup>(3)</sup>	0.2500	6	5	-1
Soccer Fields	0.1779	4	0	-4
Skate Parks	0.0163	0	0	0
Golf Course (18 holes)	0.0081	0	0	0
Golf Course (9 holes)	0.0051	0	0	0
Golf Course (disk or frisbee)	0.0080	0	0	0
Tennis Courts <sup>(5)</sup>	0.8700	21	17	-4
Volleyball Courts	0.1900	5	2	-3
<b>4. Day-Use Facilities</b>				
Picnic Shelters	0.2060	5	1	-4
Playgrounds	0.4035	10	10	0
Dog Parks	0.0074	0	0	0

**Table 3.2: Community Outdoor Recreational Facilities Inventory and Comparison to State Averages**

Notes:

1. Source: Illinois Recreational Facilities Inventory, 2008 (U.S. Census Bureau 2008 population estimate for Illinois used is 12,901,563), except Tennis & Volleyball Court Standards which are from 1994 Inventory

2. Assumes a Park District population of 24,395

3. Includes 3 courts maintained and operated by the Village of Dolton along Greenwood

4. Private fishing facilities exist at the Issac Walton League facility at Lake Victory and at a private club at Cottage Grove Lake

5. The Park District tennis courts need major renovation, total includes 8 courts at the High School

6. Includes swimming pool at Village-operated Melanie Fitness Center

## 3.2 Community Interviews

An important part of gathering input into development of this Park and Recreation Plan was a series of interviews conducted by the consultant team early in the planning process. A wide variety of residents interested in parks and recreation were interviewed, including Park Board members, staff, and representatives of key local sports organizations such as the Dolton Bears, participants in park district programs, and other community leaders such as local pastors and school district representatives. Highlights of these discussions are listed in the adjacent lists that have been divided into facilities, programs and operations. Items in **bold** were mentioned in multiple interviews.



### Facilities

- Town and Country park has been neglected, priority for improvement
- **Need to improve lighting at Dolton (Main) Park**
- Maintenance facilities need updating
  - 4 bay garage
  - New roof on west garage
- Blackstone Park needs expanded playground, new lighting, and resurfaced tennis court, pavilion
- Spray park and indoor track needed
- **Neighborhood parks should have walking trails** and a good practice diamond
- Consider trail links to future Cal-Sag Trail
- Explore a recreation center on the west side of town
- Need improved indoor facilities for banquets/events
- Dog park needed
- An additional indoor gym needed
- Need a good bowling alley



*Playground equipment at the Town & Country Park*



---

### Programs

- **Youth mentoring needed**
- A soccer program should be provided
- Have successful summer camp program (although some consider too expensive)
- Great senior program
- Programs perceived as expensive
- Jump rope competitions would be popular
- Should offer GED classes, computer skills classes, etc.
- Consider gymnastics, track and field, boxing, and return to wrestling
- Need better programing for girls
- Need free programs for 15 to 17 year olds
- Dolton Bears very successful program (500 to 600 participants)
  - 7 regular teams, 5 junior teams, 5 cheerleading teams
  - Offer tutoring, other support programs
- Consider volleyball, dodge ball and kick-ball programs
- Consider a karate program

---

### Operations

- **Need to enhance marketing of Park District programs**
  - Social media, e-mail, etc.
  - Electronic sign(s)
  - Cross-marketing with Village/other providers
- **Need to build staff moral**
- **Need to enhance image of park district in the community**
- **Need to improve overall communications both internally and externally**
- **Need to enhance park security** (lighting, work with Police Department)
- Residents need education in the value of recreation
- Consider adding vending machines at Main Park
- Need to have signs for each park
- Good working relationship with schools and special recreation association
- Relationship with Village is strained



### 3.3 Community Survey

A survey was conducted to get feedback from the community about the park facilities and programs in the Dolton Park District. The survey was made available online and also in print form. It was filled out by 354 participants (57% being male) and covered all the different age groups, with the highest number of participants in the age group of 25 to 34 years. More than half of the participants were residents of Dolton while a majority of the rest being from neighboring communities. Preferred activities identified by survey respondents include basketball, walking, jogging, running, playground facilities or gymnastics on a weekly basis.

One of the key findings with respect to use of park facilities was that the participants seemed more interested in parks with sports fields, indoor facilities, and basketball courts located close to their homes, over tennis courts. This is important for the Park District to consider before renovating existing tennis courts. Instead, they can even consider removing tennis courts that are currently under utilized or require a lot of improvement. A large percentage of participants felt that the number and type of programs offered were also inadequate, with nearly 47% requesting an increase in the number of programs and activities, especially for youth and general physical fitness. The Park District needs to continue to actively promote the availability of facilities and programs. Overall, the participants also stressed that the Park District should focus their efforts on maintaining the park grounds and providing higher quality facilities, especially indoor recreational facilities and sports fields. The following are the efforts prioritized by the survey participants for the Park District to focus on:

1. Providing youth with positive ways to fill their free time
2. Keeping the parks well-maintained
3. Providing high quality sports fields
4. Providing high quality indoor recreation facilities
5. Providing opportunities for residents to increase their physical fitness and promote healthy lifestyles
6. Hosting community events
7. Ensuring that activities are located close to every home
8. Providing trails for walking or biking
9. Ensuring that there is open green space in every neighborhood



Top recreational activities in Dolton include walking, jogging, basketball, and playgrounds. Also, of all the parks in the District, Dolton Park was the most heavily used according to the survey participants.

With respect to knowledge of park amenities and programs available, it was observed that a large percentage of both the residents and non-residents of Dolton were unaware of what the Park District had to offer, which means that the Park District needs to focus more on their outreach efforts. The survey participants appreciated the opportunity to provide feedback on the Park District. In the future, participants suggested getting in touch with the residents via block clubs and neighborhood meetings to get feedback.

(For a detailed summary of the survey, refer to appendix A.)

*(This page was intentionally left blank.)*

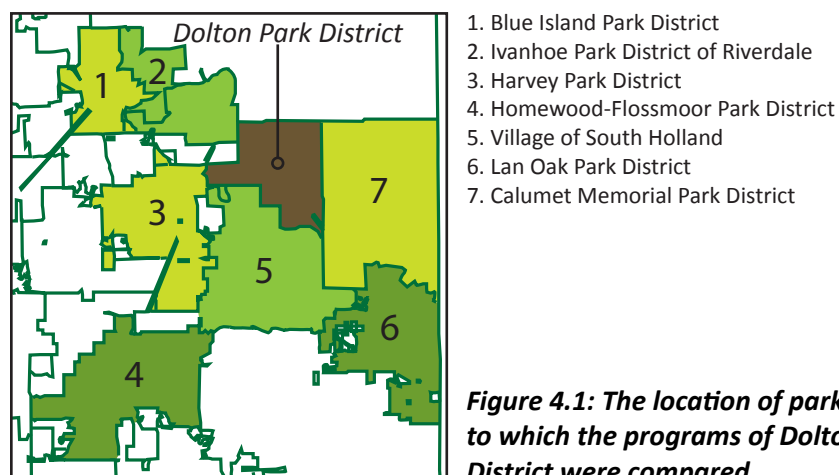
# *Chapter*



## *Programs and Services*

## 4.1 Dolton Park District Programs

The Dolton Park District offers recreational opportunities for all age groups, however it has a limited number of programs for fitness and educational purposes (listed in table 4.1). In order to evaluate the programs offered by the Dolton Park District, they were compared to the programs offered by seven other park districts in the region. These were the Ivanhoe Park District of Riverdale, Blue Island, Harvey, Homewood-Flossmoor, Lan Oak, and Calumet Memorial Park Districts, and the Village of South Holland (the location of these park districts is shown in figure 4.1). The district range is considerable in terms of size and tax base. Some, such as the Harvey Park District, offer few recreational or fitness programs. Others, such as the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District, offer a very broad spectrum of programs for District residents.



**Figure 4.1: The location of park districts to which the programs of Dolton Park District were compared**

<b>Number of Parks</b>	11
<b>Population</b>	24,395 (2010 U.S. Census data)
<b>Area of parks</b>	120 acres
<b>Ratio of park area per person</b>	4.92

### Number of different types of programs for each age group-

		<b>Recreational*</b>	<b>Fitness</b>
Pre-school	0 - 3 yrs	1	
	3 - 5 yrs	7	
	6 - 12 yrs	4	
	13 yrs	3	3
	14 yrs	4	3
Kids/Early childhood	15 yrs	4	3
	16 yrs	4	3
	17 yrs	3	3
	18 yrs+	3	4
	55 yrs+	1	
Adults			
Seniors			

\*These numbers are based on the summer programs offered, and do not include seasonal and family special events.

**Table 4.1: Number of programs provided for each age group in Dolton**

## Summary of program areas that need improvement

As per the community surveys and interviews, some of the program areas that the residents were interested in seeing expanded were programs for basketball, soccer, gymnastics, track and field, boxing, wrestling and karate, special programs on youth mentoring, programs specifically catering to girls, tutoring, GED classes, computer skills workshops, jump rope competitions and free programs for 17 to 19 year old young adults. While comparing the programs to other park districts, these areas of service were kept in mind and recommendations for program improvements were made for each age group. A summary of the areas of program improvement are listed in table 4.2. This list of potential programs identified is extensive. Clearly, the Dolton Park District is not in a financial position to immediately offer programs in all of the identified areas. However, it is recommended that the District explore programs in each of the identified areas over time as budget, staffing, and facilities permit. The implementation chapter does identify some key program areas where it is suggested that the Park District begin the process of program expansion.

## 4.2 Program Improvement Ideas

	Programs	Age groups	Comments
Pre-school activities (0 to 5 yrs)			
Educational	Sensory exercises, Color recognition, Movement skills, Hand-eye coordination	12 mnths - 3yrs	The pre-school program can include some of these programs to help the children develop their skills at early ages.
	Road safety training, social skills, math basics, languages, classes on insects, science concepts, planes, trains & automobiles	3yrs - 5yrs	
Recreational	Story time, Painting, Dancing, Music	12 mnths - 3yrs	These are additional programs that can be included in camps and pre-school activities.
	Games, cooking, science, painting, clay modeling	3yrs - 5yrs	
Kids/early childhood (6 to 12 yrs)			
Recreational	Dance, music, Wii games	6yrs - 12yrs	More art and craft related activities are required for this age group. Wii games can be used for all ages
	Arts and craft- Sewing, fashion design, American girl dolls, quilting, knitting, T-shirt painting, drawing, holiday crafts, cooking and jewelry classes, puppetry workshop	6yrs - 12yrs	These can be oriented for girls
	Art and craft- cartooning, rocket making, boat building, drawing, puppetry workshop	6yrs - 12yrs	These can be oriented for boys
	Additional summer camp activities- Dancing, soccer, tennis, double Dutch	3yrs - 14yrs	These activities can make use of the existitng tennis courts in the park district and the proposed Double Dutch court
Educational	Nature activites- Star gazing, leaf identification, insect identification	7yrs - 10yrs	Educational activites like these will help the children learn and develop an interest in different subjects
	Planes, trains & automobiles	6yrs - 8yrs	
	Global art- History, culture, geography		
	Science experiments		
	Nature pals- education on parks	9yrs & up	
Fitness	Skills- spatial reasoning, motor skills, logical deduction, math	11yrs - 13yrs	
	Yoga, zumba, running, pilates		

Table 4.1: Dolton Park District Program improvement ideas

(Continued on the next page)

	Programs	Age groups	Comments
<b>Teens/Youth (13 to 17 yrs)</b>			
Recreational	Sewing, fashion, cooking, baking	16yrs - 19yrs	Special programs for girls
	College survival skills	17yrs - 19yrs	Such programs can be offered as a seminar at a minimal or no cost to encourage more youth to attend
Sports	Camps for boxing, wrestling, soccer, tennis, Gymnastics, outdoor skills, adventure sports	13yrs - 17yrs	Additional sports programs for youth
	Softball	13yrs - 17yrs	Special programs for girls
<b>Adults (+18yrs)</b>			
Recreational	Arthritis swim by the Arthritis Foundation	18yrs & up	Programs can be co-organized with other organizations like the Arthritis Foundation to help reduce the cost of the program to the residents.
	Water colors, acrylic painting, pencil rendering, knitting, crocheting, cross stitch, community gardening, crochet, crafts, baby-sitting	18yrs & up	Such activities can be designed for both genders or ladies alone
	Adult singing, classes on DJing	18yrs & up	Catering programs based on the interests of young adults
Educational/Professional assistance	Sessions on managing personal finances, buying homes, accounting, self improvement, self help sessions and even animal communication	16yrs & up	
Fitness	Fitness classes, zumba, kickboxing,		
	Special events like a Biggest Loser competition	18yrs & up	
Wellness programs	Blood pressure screening, nutritional counseling	18yrs & up	

(Continued on the next page)

**Table 4.1: Dolton Park District Program improvement ideas (Continued)**



	Programs	Age groups	Comments
<b>Seniors</b>			
Recreational	Biweekly games and movies, picnics, opera, trips, cruises, baseball/football game trip, line dancing Scrap booking, card making, crafts	55yrs & up	
Educational	Computer basics, facebooking, brain building exercises	55yrs & up	Such sessions will help keep the seniors occupied as well as productive
	Senior seminar series, sessions on Power of Attorney, Rules of the road, Senior spelling bee competitions, nutritional counseling	62yrs & up	
Fitness/Wellness programs	Yoga, fitness classes for seniors, chair fitness, blood pressure screening Classes by the Arthritis Foundation	55yrs & up	Special fitness programs for seniors and wheel chair users is encouraged
<b>Special programs and events</b>			
Special community events	Community clean-up, bean bag & BBQ tourney, poetry, kite flying, camping, puppet control, collector's showroom, bike trek, game night	All ages	Additional events for the community to meet and interact
Awards	Fitness First awards for perfect attendance in any fitness class, Community Program Scholarship	All ages	This will help encourage attendance in the fitness classes
Friends of the Park	Dog parade, Easter egg hunt for dogs	Dogs of all ages	As the District does not have a dog park, having special events that people can take their dogs is encouraged
Special classes organized by the Red Cross	Home Alone, Babysitter's training course, Child/Infant CPR with First Aid, CPR Made Simple, Adult CPR/AED, Community disaster education	16yrs & up	Programs organized by other organizations like the Red Cross and Arthritis Foundation are encouraged for quality programs at an affordable cost

Table 4.1: Dolton Park District Program improvement ideas

### ***Special Needs***

The Dolton Park District is part of Special Recreation Services (SRS), a collaborative formed by several neighboring Park Districts to meet community needs for special recreation in a cost-effective manner. In addition to the Dolton Park District, SRS members include the Calumet Memorial Park District, the Ivanhoe Park District, Thornton & South Holland Parks and Recreation Departments, and the New Hope Center, Inc. SRS was organized to provide recreation and leisure programs for children and adults with disabilities in South Cook County. All programs are designed to meet the individual needs of each consumer. SRS programs are offered both directly through the SRS office and in conjunction with the regular programs of the above-mentioned park districts and departments. Additional information about SRS is available at their web site, <http://www.newhopecenterinc.com/srs/>

SRS has an agreement with New Hope Center to assist in the planning and provision of all programs as part of the cooperative agreement. Like the Dolton Park District, SRS has limited indoor program space. Consideration should be given to exploring joint use facilities as the District evaluates new construction projects.



### ***Melanie Fitness Center***

The Village of Dolton operates the Melanie Fitness Center at 14900 Greenwood Road. This facility offers an indoor pool, a weight room and exercise equipment, personal training, and fitness classes. The facility is conveniently accessible to Park District residents, is open to the general public, and charges a monthly membership fee.



# *Chapter*



## *Park and Trail System Plan*

This chapter focuses on the physical facilities provided by the Dolton Park District. The Acquisition Strategy identifies opportunities to acquire additional park lands to better meet community needs. The trail plan identifies an opportunity to create a District-wide network of paths that can connect parks, homes, and other community facilities while linking residents to an expanding network of regional trails. Finally, the Recreational Facilities Plan examines each park in the Dolton Park system, providing specific recommendations for enhancement.

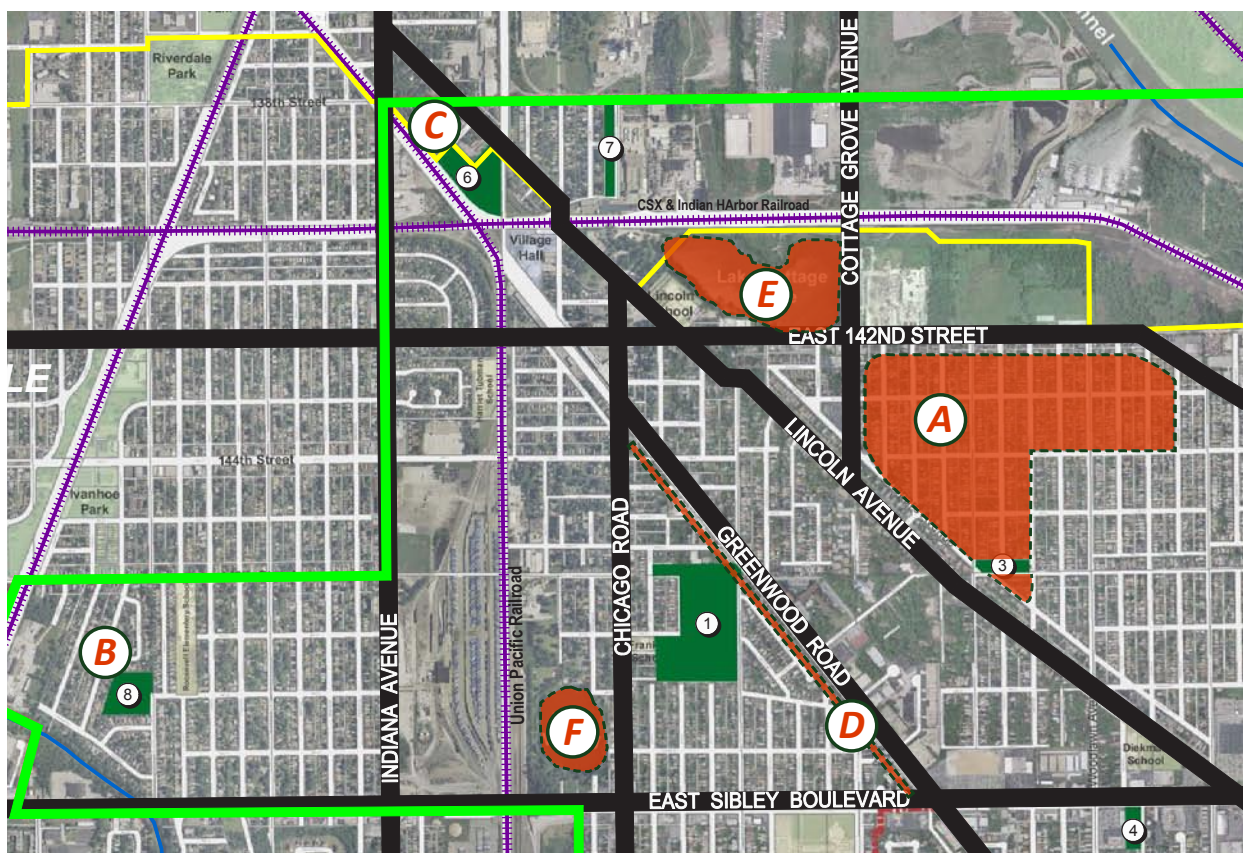
## 5.1 Acquisition Strategy

As noted in Chapter 1, parks in Dolton are generally well distributed throughout the community. Compared to national standards, the District has far fewer acres than desired. However, as Dolton is fully-developed, community opportunities for additional park acquisition are very limited. Land that can protect natural resources; provide additional access to the Calumet River corridor or provide important linear linkages for bicycle and pedestrian trails are important to the vitality of the community served by the Dolton Park District.

Given these parameters, the acquisition strategy for the Dolton Park District focuses on the following areas.

1. Provide geographic coverage of the District with appropriately scaled parks and open space to meet the current and projected population areas within the District. Specifically, as property becomes available, acquire a tot-lot/small neighborhood park or expand Kandy Kane Park in Area A on the attached map. If a new site is acquired, it should include a minimum of 20,000 square feet.
2. Expand existing facilities to enhance access to natural areas and provide access to additional sports fields. Specifically:
  - i) As property becomes available, expand Town and Country Park for enhanced opportunities on the west side of the Park District (B on the attached map).
  - ii) As property becomes available, expand Dolton-Riverdale Park for enhanced recreational opportunities and ball field expansion along the planned Cal-Sag Trail (C on the attached map).
3. Create linear park properties to provide more contiguous trails throughout the District. One good opportunity for this type of facility would be along Greenwood Road between Sibley Boulevard and Chicago Road (D on the attached map).
4. Protect natural resources, including forested areas, scenic open space and appropriate waterfront properties. Ideally, property along the Calumet-Sag Channel would be acquired. However, the isolated nature of these areas, cut-off by railroads and the interstate within the District make this a difficult proposition. Another opportunity would be to work with the owners of the existing lakes within the community to acquire those properties should they ever become available for sale (E1 and E2 on the attached map).

It will be important for the Park District to take a pro-active approach to land acquisition that focuses on forming agreements with property owners prior to the property being offered for sale. This approach will allow the District to potentially remove the competitive factors involved should the District be required to bid against developers, a scenario that would result in higher land prices.



- A. Consider a future neighborhood park or expansion of Kandy Kane Park
- B. Possible expansion of Town and Country Park
- C. Possible expansion of Dolton-Riverdale Park
- D. Potential greenway
- E. Potential public access to Lake Cottage Grove
- F. Potential public access to Lake Victory

**Figure 5.1: Map showing the location of the areas considered in the acquisition strategy (Left)**

**Figure 5.2: Greenway potential along Greenwood Ave (Below)**



## Land-Cash Ordinance Land Acquisition

Many growing communities have used a land-cash ordinance to acquire new park space. With such a provision in the municipal code, developers are required to dedicate land or provide the cash equivalent within new residential subdivisions. However, since the Village of Dolton does not have such an ordinance and the Village is primarily built-out, this is not really a viable option for the Dolton Park District.

## Stormwater Management Areas

Stormwater management areas created as a part of a redevelopment will be considered for inclusion as Park District property if they are developed in a manner that makes them a viable resource for the District. Detention areas should be sized to accommodate open space for athletic play with under drainage systems that allow the bottom surface to dry out. Retention areas should be developed with natural prairie and wetland edge plantings to encourage ecological diversity.



## 5.2 Trails Plan

Walking paths, bike paths, and dedicated bike lanes are important resources to provide opportunities to support healthy lifestyles. The walking path at Dolton Park has been extremely popular with residents. The community survey also highlighted the popularity of walking as an important form of recreation. Historically, Dolton has not had an overall plan to develop an interconnected bike trail system linking key community facilities, homes, and shopping opportunities. Such a system could potentially reduce roadway congestion by providing an alternative means of transportation. Even if the transportation benefit does not materialize, the recreational benefit is substantial.

The timing of creation of a community-wide trail system is also advantageous due to the planning and future implementation of the Cal-Sag Trail. This trail will pass through Dolton, providing an important regional trail connection from Lemont to the west to Burnham on the east. Completion of the trail is anticipated by the end of 2014. This trail will provide a local link between two of the Park District's existing parks, Dolton-Riverdale and Needles Park. In fact, it is intended that Needles Park will serve as a key access point to the trail based on its convenient accessibility off the Bishop Ford Freeway. The Needles Park (sketch on page 5-18) illustrates a conceptual layout for the trail through the park, including support facilities such as bike racks, car parking, drinking fountains, and restrooms.

The map on the following page shows the proposed trail system for the Dolton Park District. Goals for this system include:

- 1. *Safety-first.*** All proposed routes have been selected to minimize conflicts between trail users and vehicular traffic. Ideally, all trails would be dedicated paths separating pedestrians/bicyclists from automobile traffic. Such paths are proposed within existing parks, along the Cal-Sag Trail, and along Greenwood Road. However, given the developed nature of Dolton such dedicated trails are not always possible. In many cases, development of bike routes and or creation of dedicated bike lanes on existing streets will be needed to implement a more complete system that provides needed community connectivity.
- 2. *Regional linkages.*** Providing linkages to the regional trail system, particularly the Cal-Sag Trail and existing paths in South Holland to the south.
- 3. *Looped systems.*** Providing clear trail loops through the community for enhanced recreational opportunities. These loops will include:
  - a. Shorter routes within existing parks such as the existing walking path in Dolton Park and proposed paths in Blackstone Park, Needles Park, Riverfront Park, Dolton-Riverdale Park and Town and Country Park.
  - b. Larger loops throughout Dolton for biking and jogging enthusiasts.
- 4. *Intergovernmental Cooperation.*** Cooperation between the Dolton Park District and at least four local governmental entities will be needed to implement the proposed trail system.
  - a. **Village of Dolton.** The District will need to work closely with the Village of Dolton for the benefit of all community residents. Cooperation will particularly be needed to plan and implement the on-street bike routes suggested. Where right-of-way and pavement permits, dedicated bike lanes are preferred.



- b. **Village of South Holland.** South Holland currently has a nice trail on the south side of the Little Calumet River. The plan illustrated for Riverfront Park suggests the idea of developing a pedestrian/bike bridge over the river to link to this existing trail. This connection will allow for a stronger connection between communities, providing South Holland residents with a safer route to eventually connect to the Cal-Sag Trail through Dolton and providing Dolton residents to additional recreational facilities offered along the river in South Holland.
- c. **Village of Riverdale.** Given the boundaries of the Dolton Park District west of the Union Pacific Railroad, combined with extensive auto and truck traffic along both Indiana Avenue and 144th Street, the proposed trail plan extends a bike route from Town and Country Park north into Riverdale along Clark Street then east along 142nd Street. The Dolton Park District will also need to work closely with the Village of Riverdale to provide for this on-street bike route.
- d. **Cal-Sag Trail Coalition.** The Dolton Park District has been, and should continue to be, an active participant in planning and design of this important regional trail involving Cook County and the various municipalities and Park Districts along the trail.

### 5.3 Recreational Facilities Improvement Plan

A detailed field inventory and site inspection was completed for each of the Dolton Park Districts facilities. Each park was evaluated, with improvements identified that would enhance both safety and the overall provision of recreational opportunities within the community. On page 5-10 to 5-32, a map of each park is provided along with several photographs of existing park conditions. On each map, suggested improvements are illustrated in red. Cost estimates for all suggested improvements are provided in appendix B. In addition, the following signage program and park equipment options are suggested.

#### Signage Program

One improvement that is lacking in most of Dolton's parks are signs to identify the facility. Currently, only the main Dolton Park and Needles Park have signs. From the community survey and in discussions with residents, it was clear that many people are not aware of the resources and facilities available through the Park District. A sign program within the parks can help to make residents aware of Park District offerings, while helping to establish a unique and positive identity.

Two types of identification signs are proposed within the Park District. Individual park plans indicate the appropriate sign type for each location. These sign types include:

- **Type 1 – Park Identification Signs** – These signs are low, monument style signs with a well landscaped base. These signs will announce the name of the park, and type to the Dolton Park District logo and brand.
- **Type 2 – Community Information Signs** – These signs are taller monument signs that incorporate an electronic changeable message board. This type of sign would be appropriate in larger community parks such as Dolton Park and Needles Park. It would also be appropriate within parks with high traffic counts such as along the Bishop Ford Freeway within Blackstone Park or along Sibley Boulevard within Meadowlane Park. The design also incorporates identification for both the individual park and the overall DPD. Space is also provided within the lower portion of the sign for sponsorship identification.



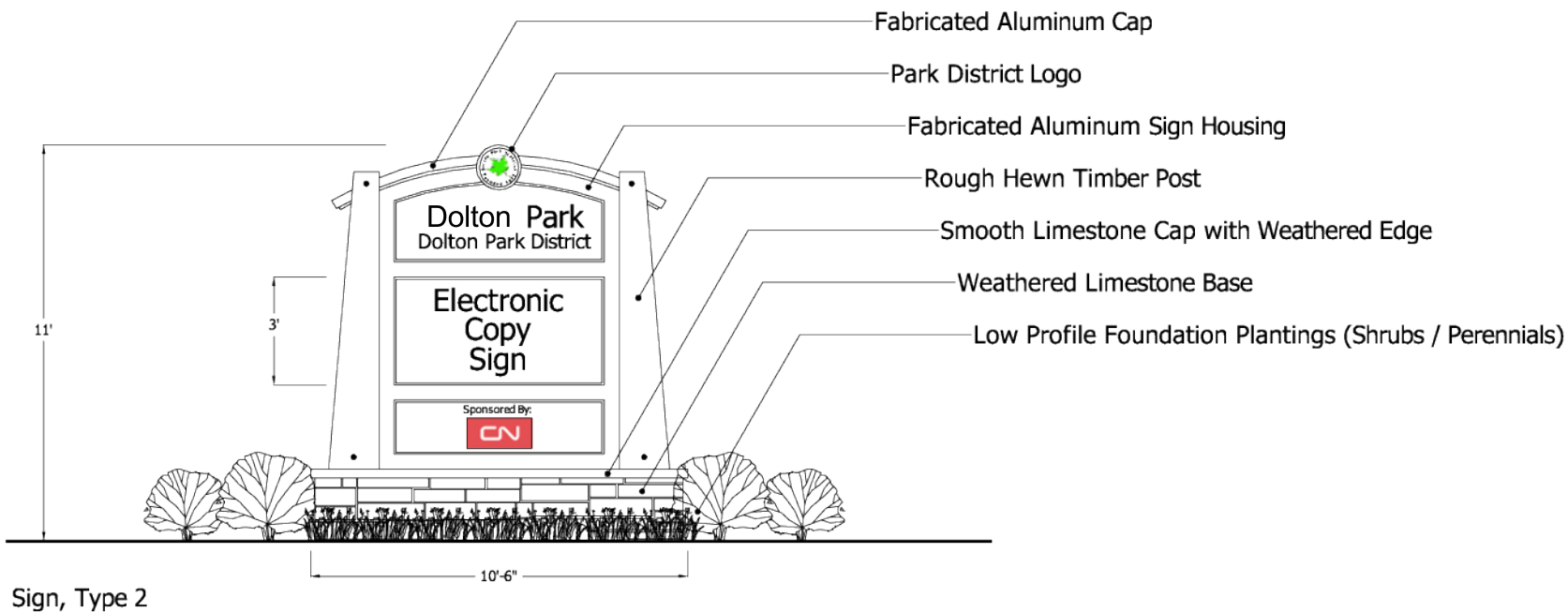
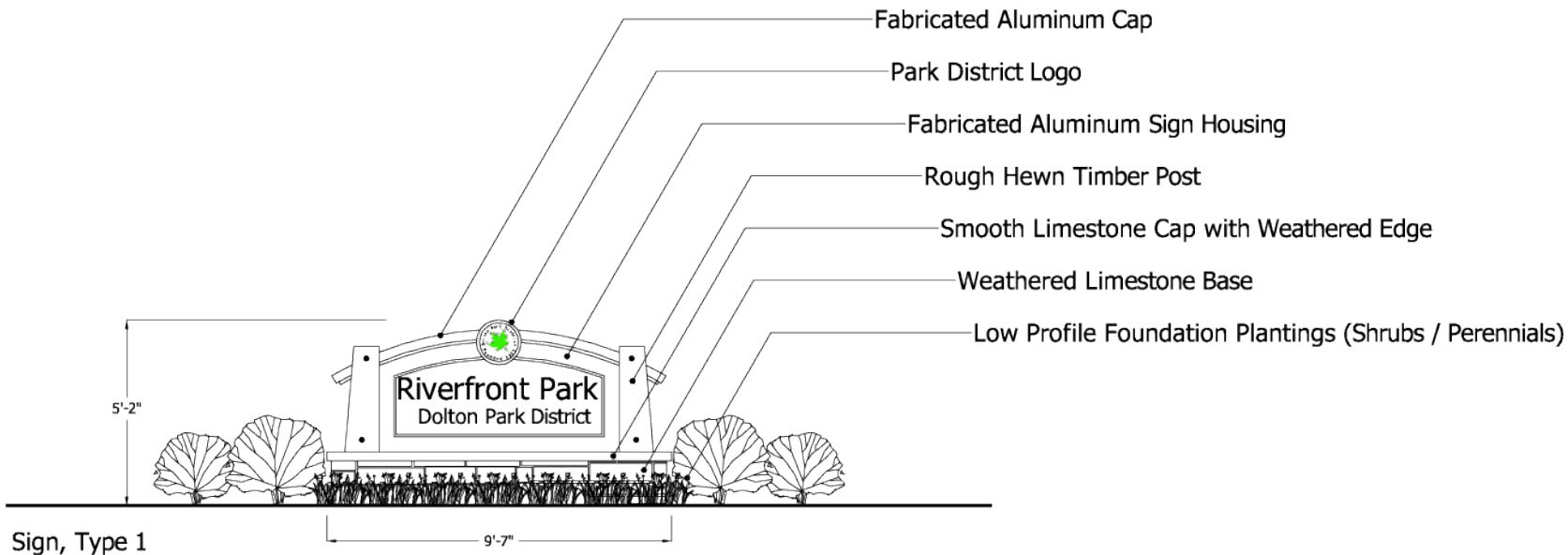


Figure 5.4: Signage details for Sign Type 1 and Type 2

5 FEET

## Park equipment and improvement examples

Along with effective signage, improvements to park equipment and facilities are also suggested on pages 5-10 to 5-32. The following pictures illustrate these improvements.

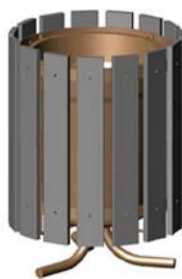
### AMENITIES



Picnic grill



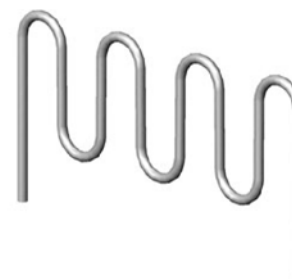
Picnic table



Garbage can  
mount in place



Park Bench  
Pressure treated pine mount in place



Bike Rack  
7" length, bolt in place

### STRUCTURES



Shelter, Type I - Open air structure,  
picnic tables and trail access



Shelter, Type II - Enclosed structure  
with concessions, restrooms and  
trail access

### ATHLETICS



Baseball backstop



Sand Volleyball court  
Sand fill, posts and nets



PLAYGROUNDS



Concrete border, 6" wide



Mulch surface, 6" depth



Age Appropriate signs  
2-5 years and 5-12 years



Swingset, 4 swing bay



Fitness trail equipment



2-5 Year play equipment



5-12 Year play equipment



Splash park

WALKING TRAILS



5' wide asphalt walking path used for  
fitness trail, access throughout park



Steel frame and wood surface  
pedestrian bridge



## Dolton Park

**Dolton Park** is a **Community Park** located on Engle Street and Irving Avenue. The park's approximate **24 acres** includes space for all types of activities, Park District Administration building and abuts Franklin Elementary School.



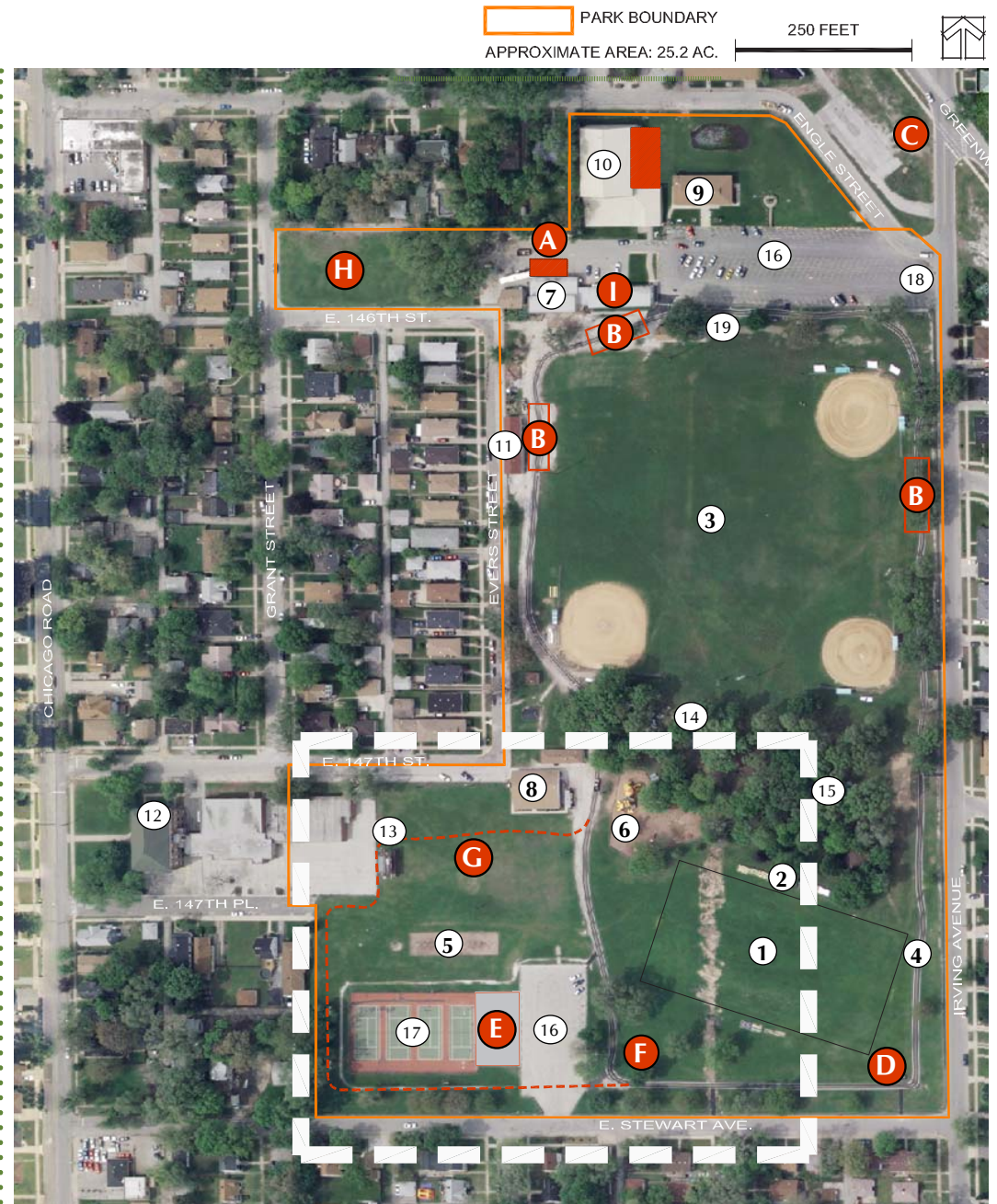
*Resurface field*



*Resurface and add new drainage system*



*Expand fitness trail*





## Dolton Park

### Existing site conditions & proposed enhancements:

1. Athletic field ..... Poor surface condition, benches and bleachers falling apart, area is not accessible by a walkable path  
**Resurface field**
2. Football tower ..... Fair to poor condition, facade and foundation improvements may be necessary  
**New observation tower**
3. Baseball fields ..... (3) fields, fair to poor condition, backstops and dug-outs are in poor condition, area is not accessible by a walkable path  
**Resurface and new drainage system**
4. Fitness trail ..... 3,200 linear feet of trail, good condition
5. Swing and teeter totters ..... Good to fair equipment condition, missing swing seats, surface material is bumpy or missing, area is not accessible by a walkable path
6. Playground ..... Good to fair equipment condition, surface material is bumpy or missing, area is not accessible by a walkable path
7. Maintenance & football office building
8. Field house **New field house building**
9. Administration building  
**Expand building**
10. William "Bill" Shaw Recreation Center  
**Expand to add new gym**
11. Football equipment building
12. Franklin elementary school
13. Stage ..... Fair condition
14. Table and grill area ..... Fair to poor condition (grills, tables), eating area- not accessible by a walkable path
15. Pavillion ..... Fair condition, area is not accessible by a walkable path
16. Parking area ..... Approximately 200 parking spaces, good condition  
**New lights**
17. Tennis courts/Practice wall ..... (4) courts, surface is in poor condition  
**Resurface**
18. Entry sign
19. Drinking fountains  
**Replace with new drinking fountains**

### Proposed site work:

- A** New 4 bay garage
- B** Regrade and pave portions of asphalt path to address drainage issues
- C** New sign, type 2
- D** New sign, type 1
- E** Convert basketball court to parking lot (completed)
- F** New picnic pavilion with lighting
- G** Expanded fitness trail and splash park
- H** Community garden
- I** New Daycare Building

**Resurface swing area**



**Repair and maintain equipment**



**Resurface tennis courts**



# Dolton Park

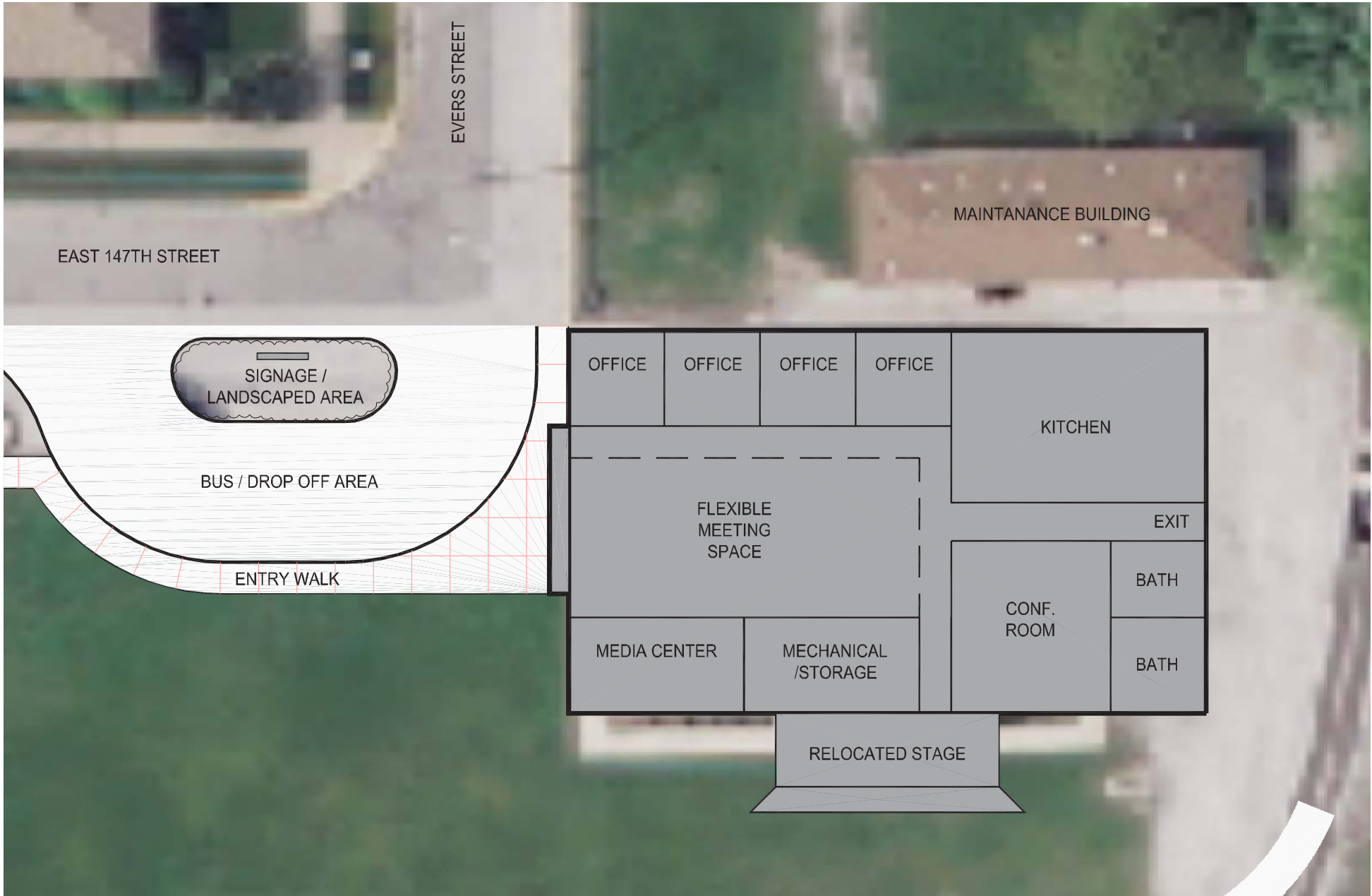
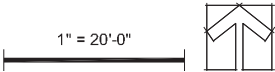
## Southern area enlarged plan





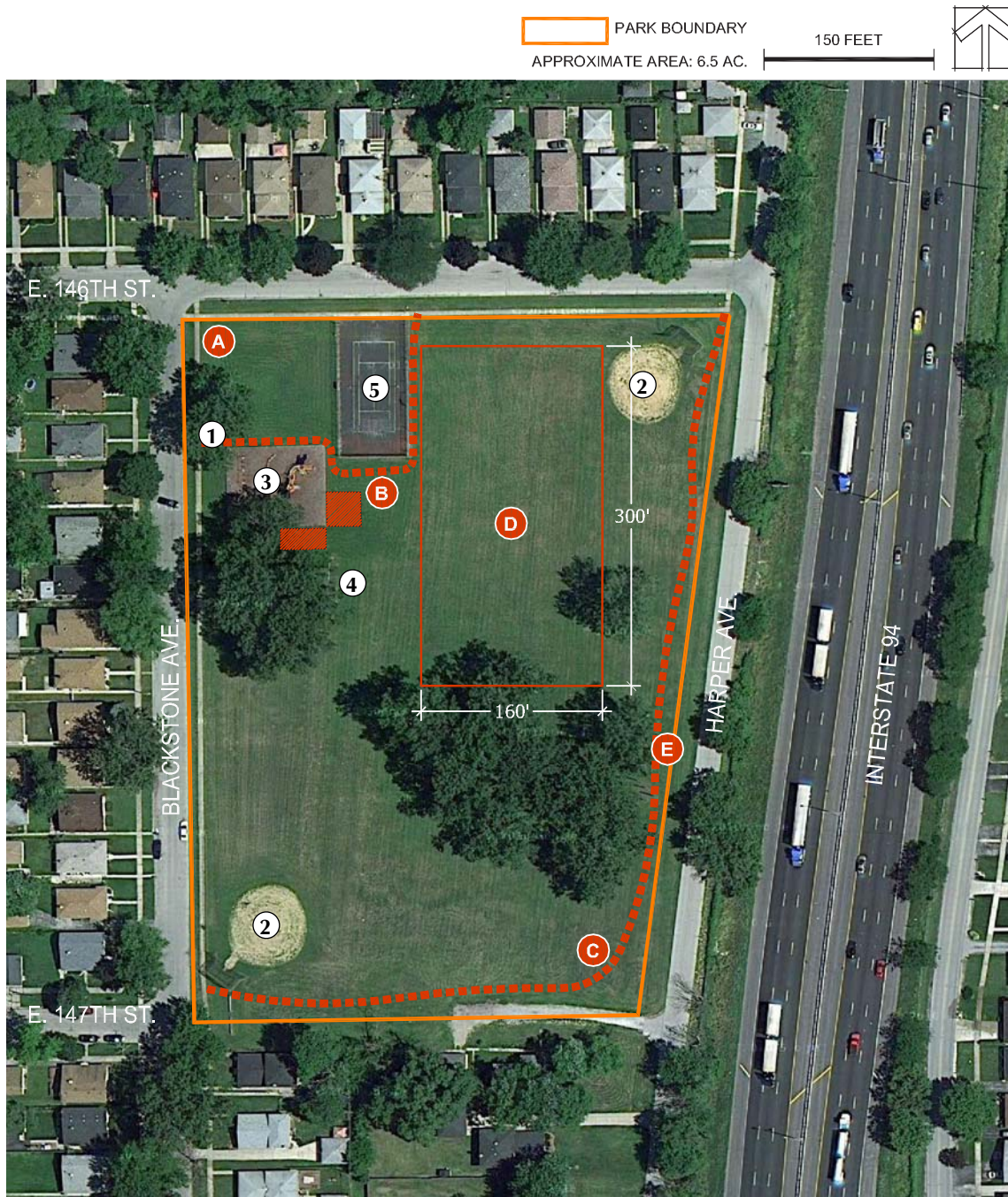
Dolton Park

Field House expansion plan





# Blackstone Park



**Blackstone Park** is a **Neighborhood Park** located on Blackstone Avenue between East 146<sup>th</sup> and 147<sup>th</sup> Street. The park's approximate **6.5 acres** includes space for various activities and open space.

## Existing site conditions & proposed enhancements:

- ① Bike rack
- ② Baseball fields ..... Fair to poor condition, not maintained, backstops and dugout in poor condition  
**Resurface and add new drainage system**
- ③ Playground ..... Surface in poor condition, basketball hoops missing  
**Extend area**
- ④ Swings ..... Missing swing seats, surface and border non-existent  
**Add new swings**
- ⑤ Tennis court/Practice wall ..... Surface in poor condition  
**Resurface**

## Proposed site work:

- A New sign, Type 1
- B New shelter, Type 1
- C New fitness trail and exercise station (1/4 mile)
- D New athletic field
- E Highway sign



## Blackstone Park



*Expand park area for new swings*



*Resurface field and add new drainage system*



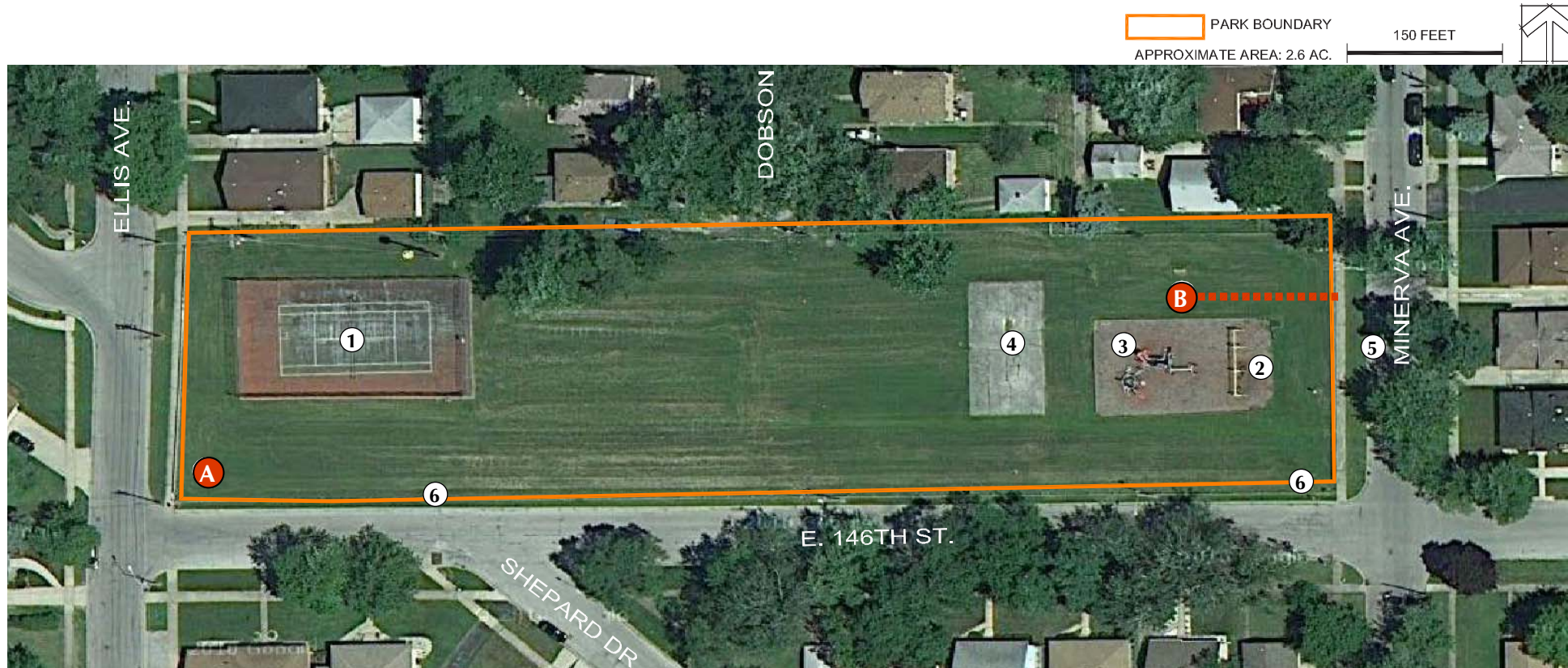
*Resurface tennis courts*



*Extend area of playground*



## Kandy Kane Park



**Kandy Kane Park** is a **Tot Park** located at Ellis Avenue and East 146<sup>th</sup> Street. The park is **2.6 acres** with various park amenities.

### Existing site conditions & proposed enhancements:

- ① Tennis court ..... Bad condition  
**Remove tennis court, convert to sand volleyball court**
- ② Swing set ..... Missing swing seats, surface in poor condition
- ③ Playground ..... Fair condition  
**New border**
- ④ Basketball court ..... Poor condition  
**Resurface, convert to Double Dutch area**
- ⑤ On-street parking
- ⑥ Perimeter guard rail

### Proposed site work:

- A New sign, Type 1**
- B Shelter, Type 1 and walking trail access**



## Kandy Kane Park



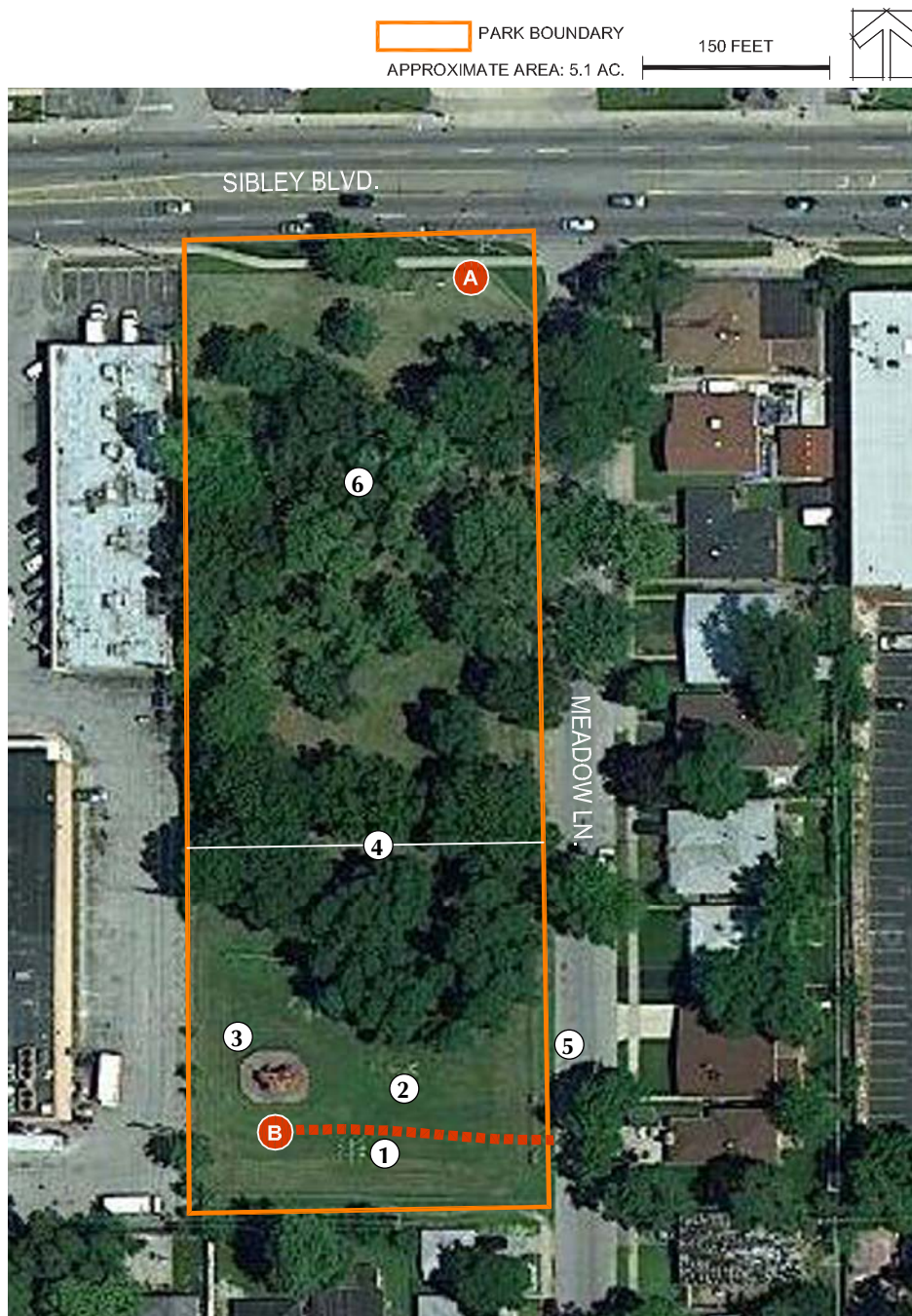
*Resurface and  
convert to Double  
Dutch area*



*Remove tennis courts  
and replace with a  
sand volleyball court*



## Meadowlane Park



**Meadowlane Park** is a **Neighborhood Park** located on Sibley Boulevard on the West side of Meadow Lane. The park's approximate **5.1 acres** includes a small area of open space and playground and a historic, 80 year old cemetery site.

### Existing site conditions & proposed enhancements:

- ① Teeters ..... Equipment, surface and border in poor condition
- ② Swings ..... Missing swing seats
- ③ Playground ..... Surface, border and equipment in poor condition
- New play area and border**
- ④ Fencing along cemetery ..... Poor chain link fence appearance
- ⑤ On-street parking ..... No signage present
- ⑥ Cemetery

### Proposed site work:

- A** New sign, Type 1
- B** New shelter, Type 1
- C** New fitness trail and exercise station (1/4 mile)
- D** New athletic field
- E** Highway sign



## Meadowlane Park

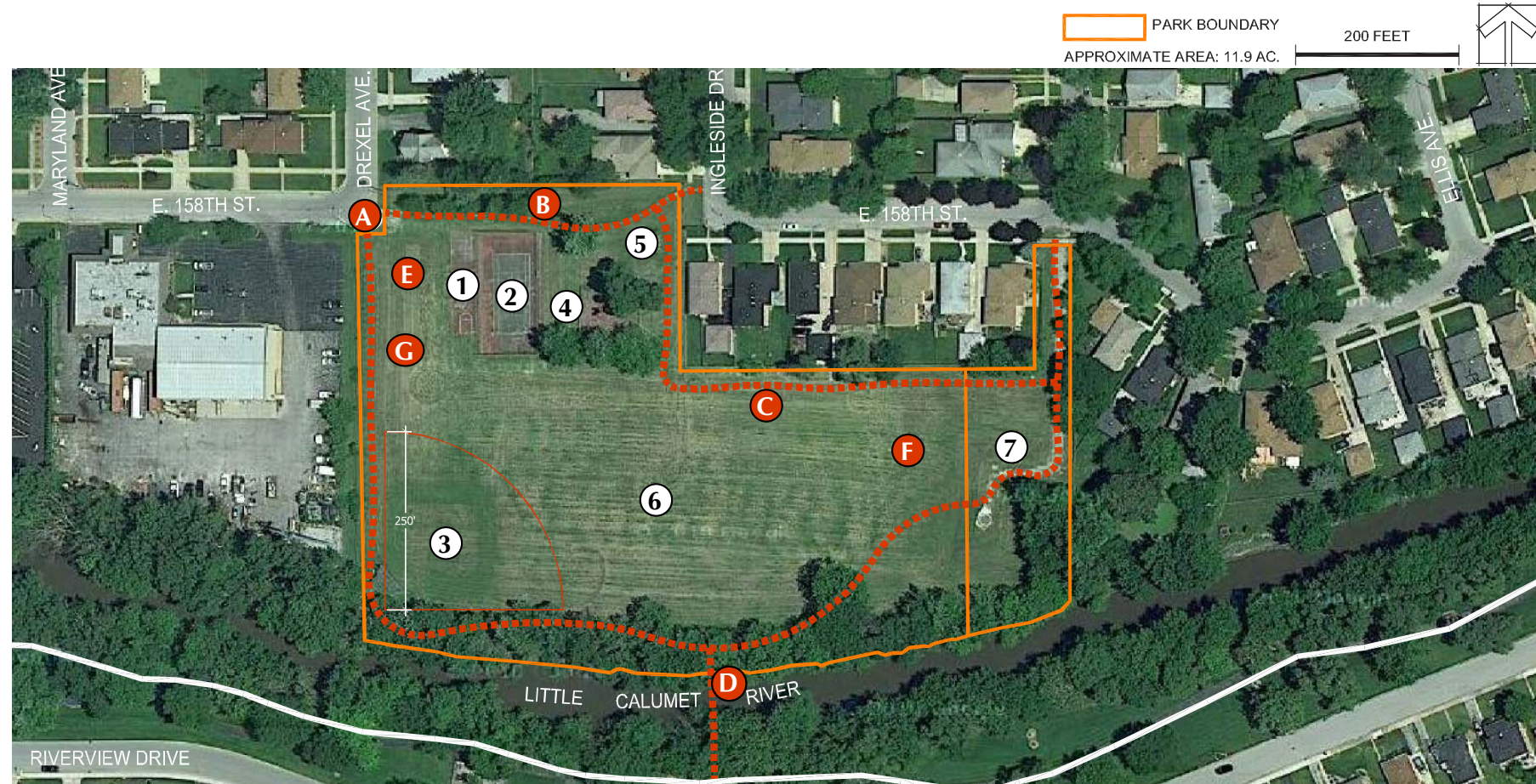


**3**  
*New playground*

**2**



# Riverfront Park



**Riverfront Park** is a **Neighborhood Park** located between East 158<sup>th</sup> Street and Little Calumet River. The park is **11.9 acres** with various park amenities, activities and plenty of open space.

## Existing site conditions & proposed enhancements:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>① Basketball court ..... Poor surface condition<br/><b>Remove court, replace with seeded lawn</b></p> <p>② Tennis court ..... Poor surface condition<br/><b>Resurface</b></p> <p>③ Baseball field ..... Poor surface condition, overgrown, not in use<br/><b>Resurface, new backstop</b></p> | <p>④ Playground ..... Fair equipment condition, border and surface in poor condition<br/><b>New border</b></p> <p>⑤ Swing ..... Missing swing seats, border and surface in poor condition<br/><b>Relocate within playground</b></p> <p>⑥ Open field ..... Great condition</p> <p>⑦ Cal-Sag drop shaft ..... Fair to poor condition, unknown usage</p> |
|---|---|



## Riverfront Park

### Proposed site work:

- A** New sign, Type 1
- B** New shelter, Type 1
- C** New fitness trail (3,150 linear feet)
- D** Trail bridge, connection to South Holland trail
- E** New Parking Lot (approximately 28 stalls, based on an average of 320 sf per stall which includes travel/circulation aisles)
- F** Sledding Hill
- G** Teen play equipment



**5** Provide access and add a fitness trail



**4**



**5**

**5** Provide access throughout park & fitness trail



**1**

**1** Remove basketball court & resurface tennis court



**1**

**1** Remove basketball court



**7**

**7** Provide access throughout park & fitness trail



## Dolton-Riverdale Park



PARK BOUNDARY  
APPROXIMATE AREA: 6.0 AC.

250 FEET



**Dolton Riverdale Park** is a **Special Use Park** located between Lincoln Avenue and the Railroad, South of East 138<sup>th</sup> Street. The park's approximate **6 acres** include various athletic activities and shelters.

### Existing site conditions & proposed enhancements:

- |                                 |   |               |   |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------|---|
| ① Baseball fields               | Fair to poor condition, not maintained, backstops and dugout in poor condition    | ⑤ Playground  | Equipment, surface and border in poor condition           |
| ② Batting cages                 | Equipment, concrete base and fence in poor condition, overgrown inside and around | ⑥ Parking lot | Approximately 40 spaces, gravel surface in poor condition |
| ③ Maintenance/bathroom building | Poor Structural condition, graffiti on outer walls                                |               |   |
| ④ Concessions building          | Poor Structural condition, graffiti on outer walls                                |               |   |



## Dolton-Riverdale Park

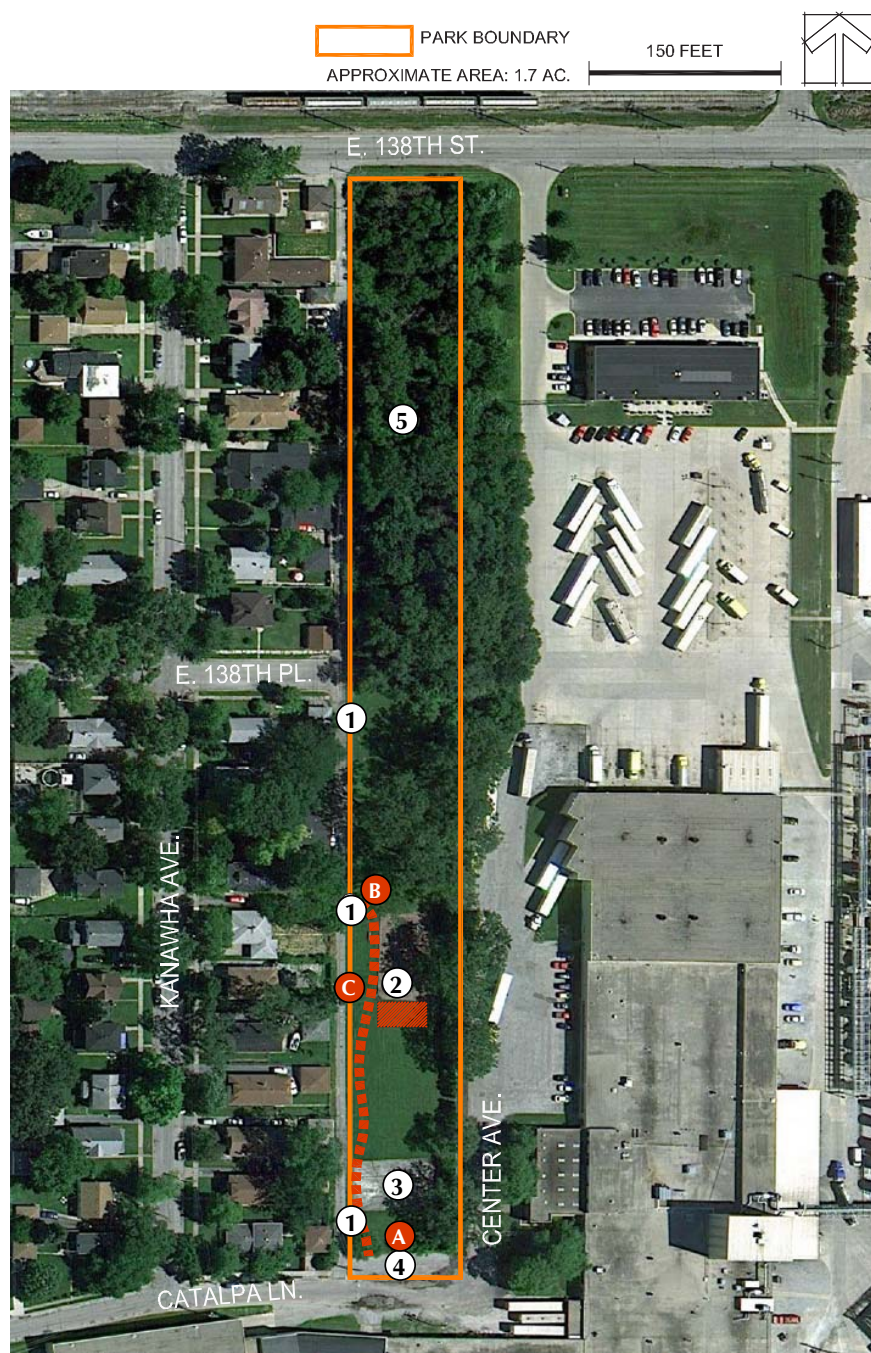
### Proposed site work:

- A** Removal of all existing site features
- B** New sign, Type 1
- C** New shelter, Type 1 and 2
- D** Baseball fields
- E** Access trails
- F** Playground
- G** Parking lots (92 stalls)
- H** New railroad right of way/Security fence/Wall
- I** Cal-Sag trail
- J** Explore potential of grade separated crossing





## Sunshine Park



**Sunshine Park** is a **Neighborhood Park** located just North of Catalpa Lane East of Kanawha Avenue. The park is **2 acres**, a narrow strip of land made up of about half vegetation and half playground and athletic area.

### Existing site conditions & *proposed enhancements*:

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| ① Park entries .....          | Chain link fence surrounds entire park, openings in the fence are the entries to the park, no signage or lighting |
| ② Playground and swings ..... | Equipment, surface and border in poor condition, missing swing seats  |
| ③ Basketball courts .....     | Surface in poor condition, basketball hoops missing   |
| ④ Parking area .....          | 8 spaces, parking along road  |
| ⑤ Vegetated area .....        | Overgrown area, chain link fence surrounding, unused  |
- Expand and upgrade**  
**Resurface and convert to parking**  
**Clear out weeds and brush**

### Proposed site work:

- A** New sign, Type 1
- B** New shelter, Type 1 and walking trail access
- C** New fence and entry gates



## Sunshine Park



4

*Provide access throughout park from parking area*



3

*Resurface basketball court*



2

*Expand playground*

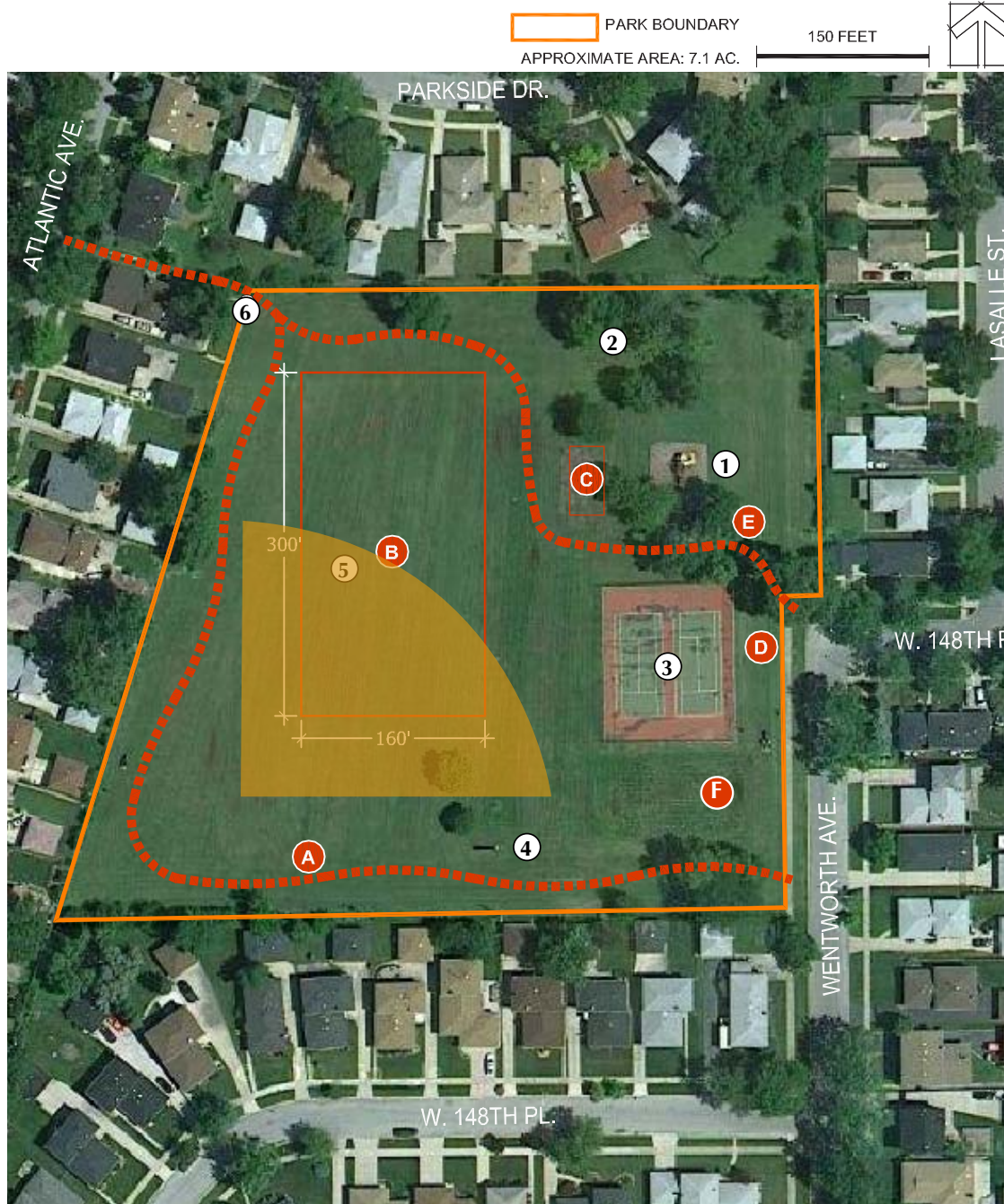


2

*Provide access to playground*



## Town and Country Park



**Town and Country Park** is a **Neighborhood Park** located at the corner of Wentworth Avenue and West 148<sup>th</sup> Place. The park is approximately **7 acres** including a large open space area and various park amenities.

### Existing site conditions & proposed enhancements:

- ① Playground ..... Equipment, surface and border in poor condition  
**Expand playground and add new border**
- ② Swings ..... Equipment, surface and border in poor condition, missing swing seats  
**Relocate to expanded playground**
- ③ Tennis courts ..... Surface in poor condition  
**Resurface**
- ④ Slide ..... Antique slide in good standing condition  
**Relocate to playground area**
- ⑤ Open field ..... Nicely maintained grass field
- ⑥ Access opening from Atlantic Avenue ..... Grass surface trail from the sidewalk to the park

### Proposed site work:

- A Fitness trail and exercise station (1,850 linear feet)**
- B Athletic field**
- C Sand volleyball court**
- D New sign, Type 1**
- E New shelter, Type 1**
- F New Parking (approximately 55 stalls, based on an average of 320 sf per stall which includes travel/circulation aisles)**



## Town and Country Park



*Resurface tennis courts*

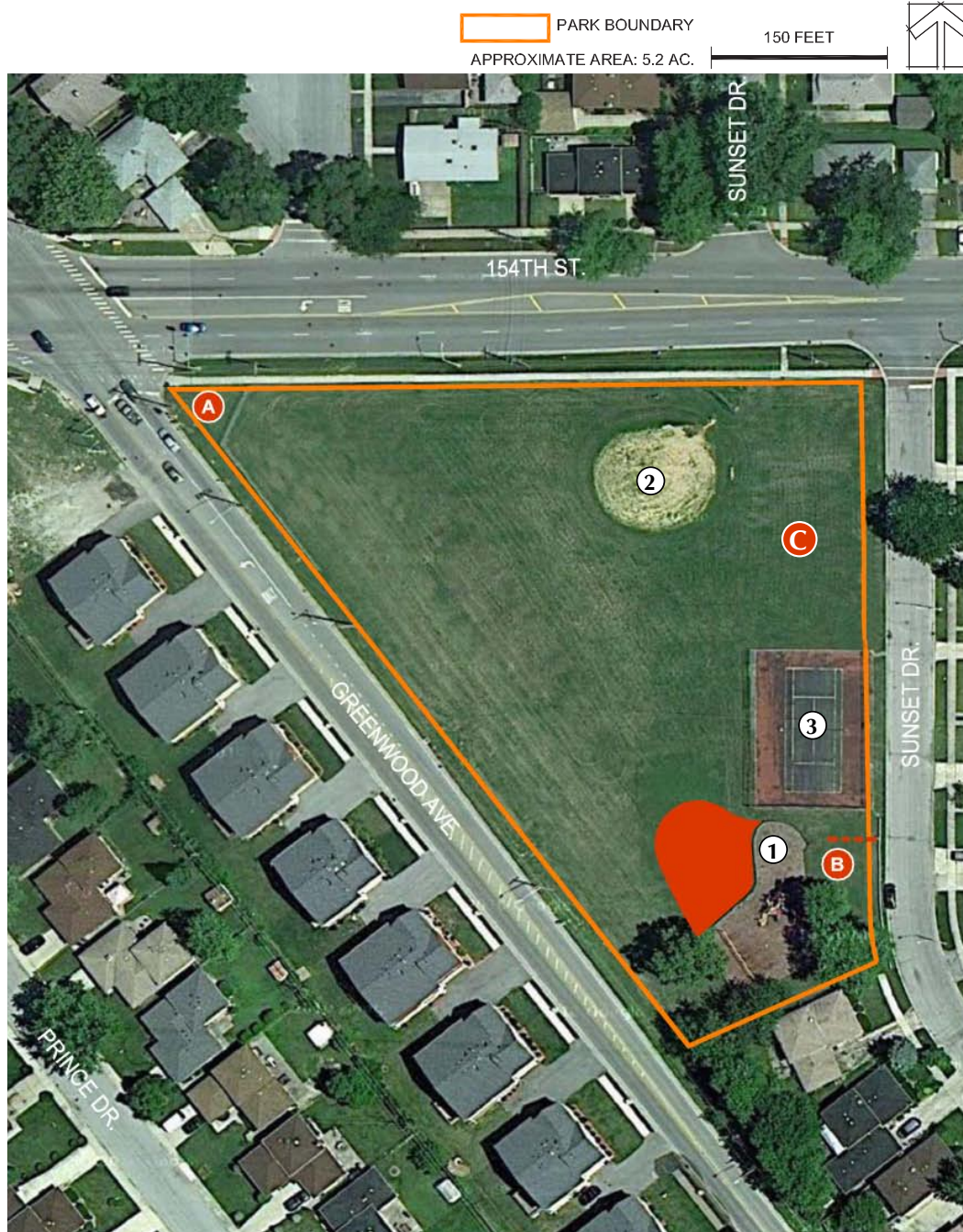
*Relocate slide to playground*

*Resurface for multi-use athletic fields*

*Provide access to Atlantic Avenue and add fitness trail*



# Triangle Park



**Triangle Park** is a **Neighborhood Park** on the East side of Greenwood Avenue and the south side of 154<sup>th</sup> Street. The park is approximately **5 acres** including a large open space area and various park amenities.

## Existing site conditions & proposed enhancements:

- ① Playground and swings ..... Equipment, surface and border in poor condition, missing swing seats  
**Expand, add new border**
- ② Baseball field ..... Backstops, dugouts and field in poor condition  
**Resurface, add new backstop and higher fences**
- ③ Tennis court ..... Surface in poor condition  
**Resurface**

## Proposed site work:

- A** New sign, Type 1
- B** New shelter, Type II and walking trail access
- C** New parking lot (approximately 50 stalls, based on an average of 320 sf per stall which includes travel/circulation aisles)



## Triangle Park



1

*Expand playground*



2

*Resurface and install new backstop*



3

*Resurface tennis courts*



1

*Install new shelter and provide access*



# Willowgreen Park



**Willowgreen Park** is a **Neighborhood Park** located on the east side of Irving Avenue just West of the Thornridge High School Property. The **1 acre** park includes open space and a playground.

## Existing site conditions & proposed enhancements:

- ① Playground ..... Equipment, surface and border in poor condition  
**Expand and add a new border**
- ② Swings ..... Equipment, surface and border in poor condition, missing swing seats

## Proposed site work:

- A** New sign, Type 1
- B** New shelter, Type 1
- C** Double Dutch Court
- D** Parking area
- E** Community garden



Examples of a community gardens

# *Chapter*



# *Implementation Plan*

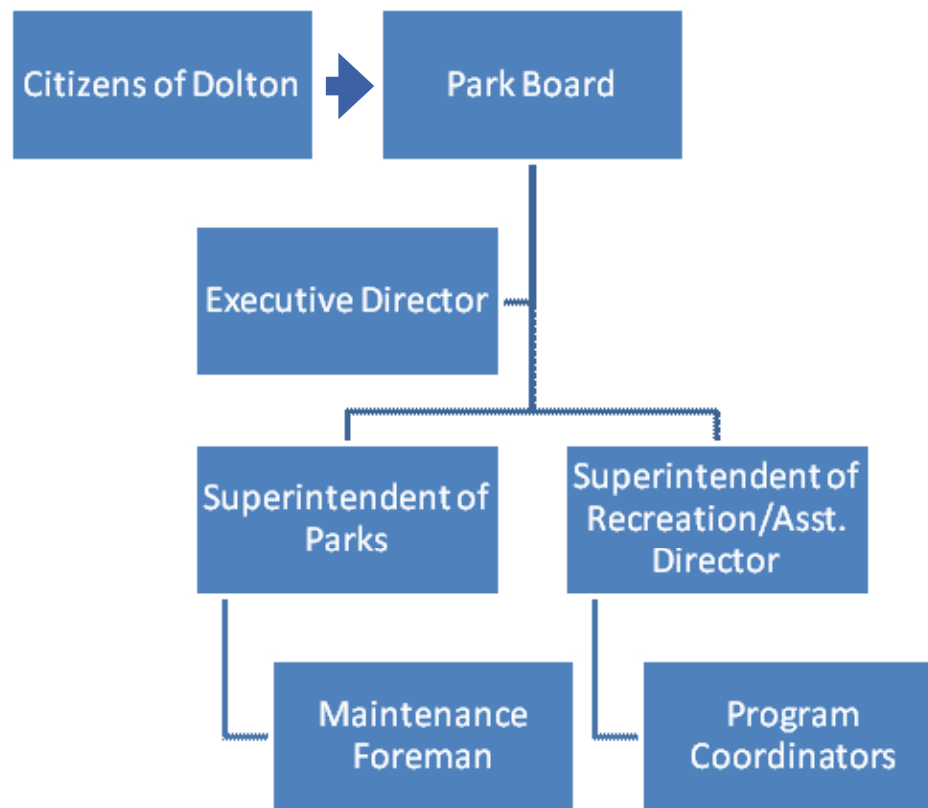
The development of the Park and Recreation Plan involved a detailed analysis of the Dolton Park District (DPD) system and an assessment of park and recreation needs. As might be expected, the cost of meeting these needs exceeds the District's existing financial capacity. The District will have to use a combination of traditional and alternative funding mechanisms in order to achieve its short term and long term park and facility goals. This chapter identifies the cost of capital and non-capital park and recreation projects. In addition, it suggests a number of funding sources which might be used to finance the park and facility improvements identified in this Plan.

## 6.1 Park Management and Operations

Day-to-day operations of the Dolton Park District (DPD) are managed by the Executive Director under the direction of the Park Board. The Board is ultimately responsible for activities of the DPD, and is appropriately elected by residents. The following diagram illustrates the general management structure of the DPD. Many additional professionals support these management functions, including administrative staff, park maintenance workers, and recreational program instructors.

This overall management structure should serve the Park District well into the future. Any staff expansions would be driven by the need for staff to offer additional programs, or the need for additional maintenance personnel if additional park land or facilities were developed. The structure assumes that the DPD will contract out park design services. An alternative would be to retain an in-house designer, but given limited funding available for park improvements at the present time it appears more cost effective to contract for those services. Another clear personnel need is the expertise to seek funding through grants and other sources. It is anticipated that the Executive Director and the Assistant Director would be actively involved in this activity. Some contractual assistance may also be appropriate in this area to provide needed expertise with specific grant programs and processes.

Both park district administration and maintenance operations are based at the main Dolton Park. This location provides an excellent central location with easy access to all areas of the community. Unfortunately, a visit to either the administrative offices or the maintenance facilities will confirm that space at both facilities is at a premium. Included in the sketch





for improvements to Dolton Park is expansion of both the administrative building and an additional 4 bay garage to accommodate a repair shop and indoor storage space for maintenance operations. Fortunately, space is adequate to accommodate both expansions when funds become available.

The DPD currently has an inventory of all major equipment and facilities (both maintenance equipment and park improvements). While the park and recreation plan focuses on maintaining and updating physical facilities, it will also be important for the DPD to update and replace aging equipment to avoid excessive maintenance costs. The Park Superintendent currently has a good inventory of existing equipment, and has established a desired replacement schedule for the next 5 years. However, funding for the acquisition of new equipment will need to be budgeted each year based on available resources. It is also important to note that older equipment that is replaced can often be sold to generate some revenue to offset the cost of the new acquisition.

## 6.2 Potential Funding Sources

The following are funding sources that are commonly used for financing park and facility improvements.

### ***General Fund***

This is the District's primary source for operating revenue and comes primarily from taxes levied on property within the District boundary. Since park improvements must compete with other District operations for these funds, this can be an unstable source.

### ***Development Impact Fees***

Development Impact Fees are paid by residential developers to offset the cost of additional park and facility needs created by their developments. The revenue from these fees can be used to purchase land or improve existing parks. Impact fees can be used for land acquisition or development,

but not for maintenance or upgrade of existing facilities. Given that Dolton is nearly fully developed, this is not likely to be a source of new funding for the Park District.

### ***General Obligation Bond***

These are voter-approved bonds with the assessment placed on real property for a specified period of time (usually 15-20 years). The money can only be used for capital improvements, not maintenance. Major disadvantages of this funding option are the high approval requirement and the high interest costs.

### ***Park Foundations***

Many communities with Park Districts also have a separate private parks foundation that provides funding for park and recreation improvements. This type of foundation is typically a non-profit, 501C3, and has an independent board to oversee fundraising and expenditures. Such a foundation would can be particularly helpful in raising funds for a particular park improvement that is desired by the community.

### ***Revenue Bonds***

These bonds are sold and paid from the revenue produced from the operation of a facility. For example, golf courses or ice skating rinks are sometimes funded through revenue bonds. Some recreational facilities that charge membership fees can also be funded through revenue bonds.

### ***Donations***

The donations of labor, land, or cash by service agencies, private groups or individuals are a popular way to raise money for specific projects.

### ***Exchange of Property***

If the District has an excess piece of property with some development value it could be traded for a private piece of property more suitable for park use. However, no excess property was identified in the park analysis.

### Joint Public/Private Partnership

The concept of public/private partnerships has become increasingly popular for park and recreation agencies. The basic approach is for a DPD to enter into a working agreement with a private corporation to help fund, build, and/or operate a public facility. Generally, the three primary incentives that a DPD can offer are a free site, tax advantages, and access to the facility. While the DPD may have to give up certain responsibilities or control, it is one way of obtaining public facilities at a lower cost. Golf courses, ice skating rinks, and recreation centers are all examples of facilities that have been developed under a public/private partnership in some communities.

### Public Land Trusts:

Private land trusts such as the Trust for Public Land, Inc. and the Nature Conservancy will acquire and hold land for eventual acquisition by a DPD.

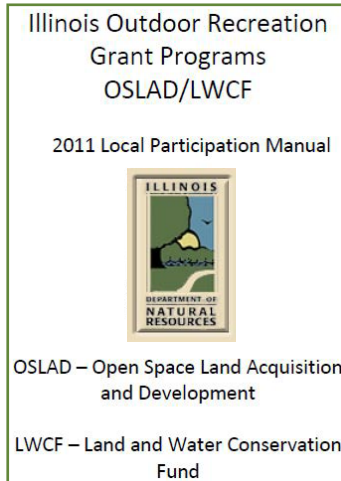
### Government Grant Programs

There are Federal, State, and local governmental grant programs for park and recreation projects, such as:

- **Community Facility Grants** administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development. This agency provides grants to assist in the development of essential community facilities. Grant funds can be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and community and public services.
- **Community Development Block Grant** program administered by the Cook County Department of Planning and Development. This grant program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to, the construction or reconstruction of streets, neighborhood centers, recreation facilities, and other public works, demolition, rehabilitation of public and private buildings
- The **Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act (PARC)** was created by Public Act 096-0820 to provide grants to be disbursed by

the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to eligible local governments for park and recreation unit construction projects. Park or recreation unit construction project means the acquisition, development, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvements, architectural planning, and installation of capital facilities consisting, but not limited to, buildings, structures, and land for park and recreation purposes and open spaces and natural areas. The PARC program is funded through the Build Illinois Bond Fund. Future grants may or may not be available depending on future bond issues by the state. Disadvantaged districts like Dolton are eligible for 90% funding, up to 2.5 million dollars in the PARC program.

- The **Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Program** is a state-financed grant program that provides funding assistance to local government agencies for acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space. Projects vary from small neighborhood parks or tot lots to large community and county parks and nature areas. The state program is financed by a percentage of the state's Real Estate Transfer Tax. This program offers a 50/50 match up to \$750,000 for acquisition projects and \$400,000 for development projects. Applications are due by July 1st each year. In Illinois, the Federal **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** is combined with OSLAD funding within the same grant application process.
- The **Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP)** This program is administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation. Project eligible for funding as part of pedestrian/bicycle projects or as stand-alone projects are: bikeways (lane, path, route and trail), pedestrian/bicycle structures, crossing rivers, railroads and roads, pedestrian crossings bikeway connections through local communities, bicycle lockers/racks at transit stations, crossing warning lights, pedestrian



modifications to existing signals.

- **Urban Forestry Grants.** There are several grant programs that provide money for urban forestry projects. One is funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration and provides grants to purchase and plant trees. This program sometimes funds urban street tree planting programs.
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW):** USFW may provide technical assistance and administer funding for projects that enhance water quality, including debris removal, flood mitigation, and enhancements to water crossings.
- **Private Grants and Foundations:** Private grants and foundations provide money for a wide range of projects. They are sometimes difficult to find and equally difficult to secure because of the open competition. They usually fund unique projects or projects of extreme need.

## 6.3 Sponsorships

The following guidelines in this Sponsorship Policy have been specifically designed for the Dolton Park District. Five basic assumptions regarding this policy are:

- Encouraging the development of partnerships for the benefit of the District, its citizens, and potential partners. Sponsorships are one type of partnership and one avenue of procurement for alternative funding resources.
- Guidelines are offered in this policy to delineate primarily which types of sponsors and approval levels are currently acceptable for the Dolton Park District.
- Sponsorships are clearly defined and are different from advertisements. Advertisements are one type of benefit that may be offered to a sponsor in exchange for cash or in-kind sponsorship.

### Sponsorship Policy

In an effort to utilize and maximize the community's resources, it is in the best interest of the Dolton Park District to create and enhance relationship-based sponsorships. This may be accomplished by providing local, regional, and national commercial businesses and non-profit groups a method for becoming involved with the opportunities provided by the District. The Park District delivers quality, life-enriching activities to the community. This translates into exceptional visibility for sponsors





and supporters. It is the goal of the District to create relationships and partnerships with sponsors for the financial benefit of the District.

### ***Sponsorships vs. Donations***

It is important to note that there is a difference between a sponsorship and a donation. Basically, sponsorships are cash or in-kind products and services offered by sponsors with the clear expectation that an obligation is created. The recipient is obliged to return something of value to the sponsor. The value is typically public recognition and publicity or advertising highlighting the contribution of the sponsor and/or the sponsor's name, logo, message, products or services. The sponsor usually has clear marketing objectives that they are trying to achieve, including but not limited to the ability to drive sales directly based on the sponsorship, and/or quite often, the right to be the exclusive sponsor for a particular program or event.

The arrangement is typically consummated by a letter of agreement or contractual arrangement that details the particulars of the exchange.

In contrast, a donation comes with no restrictions on how the money or in-kind resources are used. This policy specifically addresses sponsorships, the agreements for the procurement of the resources and the benefits provided in return for securing those resources. Since donations or gifts come with no restrictions or expected benefits for the donor, a policy is generally not needed.

### ***Guidelines for Acceptable Sponsorships***

Sponsors should be businesses, non-profit groups, or individuals that promote mutually beneficial relationships for the Parks District. All potentially sponsored properties (facilities, events or programs) should be reviewed in terms of creating synergistic working relationships with regards to benefits, community contributions, knowledge, and political sensitivity. All sponsored properties should promote the goals and mission of the Dolton Park District.

### ***Sponsorship Selection Criteria***

The first major criterion is the appropriate relationship of a sponsorship to the Park District's Mission and Goals. While objective analysis is ideal, the appropriateness of a relationship may sometimes be necessarily subjective. This policy addresses this necessity by including approval levels from various levels of management staff and elected officials to help assist with decisions involving larger amounts and benefits for sponsorship.

The following questions are the major guiding components of this policy and should be addressed prior to soliciting potential sponsors:

- Is the sponsorship reasonably related to the purpose of the facility or programs as exemplified by the Mission Statement and Goals of the District?
- Will the sponsorship help generate more revenue and/or less cost per participant than the District can provide without it?
- What are the real costs, including staff time, for procuring the amount of cash or in-kind resources that come with the generation of the sponsorship?

Sponsorships which shall NOT be considered are those which:

- Promote environmental, work, or other practices that, if they took place in the DPD, would violate U.S. or state law (i.e., dumping of hazardous waste, exploitation of child labor, etc.), or promote drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, or that constitute violations of law.
- Duplicate or mimic the identity or programs of the Park District
- Exploit participants or staff members of the District.
- Offer benefits which may violate other accepted policies or the Village of Dolton Sign Code.

### ***Sponsorship Plan and Approval Levels***

Each project or program that involves solicitation of sponsors should, PRIOR to procurement, create a sponsorship plan specific to that project or program that is in line with the sponsorship levels noted below. This

plan needs to be approved by the Executive Director, and in accordance to DPD Partnership, Sponsorship and Sign Code policies. In addition, each sponsorship will need separate approval if they exceed pre-specified limits.

The Approval Levels are outlined as follows:

1. **Under \$10,000** - The agreement needs approval of the Executive Director.
2. **Over \$10,000** - The Agreement needs approval of the Executive Director and Park District Board of Commissioners.

### ***No Non-Commercial Forum is Permitted***

This criterion deals with the commercial character of a sponsorship message. The DPD intends to create a limited forum, focused on advertisements incidental to commercial sponsorships of District facilities and programs. While non-commercial community organizations or individuals may wish to sponsor District activities or facilities for various reasons, no non-commercial speech is permitted in the limited forum created by this policy:

Advertisements incidental to commercial sponsorship must primarily propose a commercial transaction, either directly, through the text, or indirectly, through the association of the sponsor's name with the commercial transaction of purchasing the commercial goods or services which the sponsor sells.

The reasons for this portion of the Policy include:

- The desirability of avoiding non-commercial proselytizing of a “captive audience” of event spectators and participants;
- The constitutional prohibition on any view-point related decisions about permitted advertising coupled with the danger that the Agency would be associated with advertising anyway; The desire of the Agency to maximize income from sponsorship, weighed against the likelihood that commercial sponsors would be dissuaded from using the same forum commonly used by persons wishing to communicate

noncommercial messages, some of which could be offensive to the public;

- The desire of the Agency to maintain a position of neutrality on political and religious issues;
- In the case of religious advertising and political advertising, specific concerns about the danger of “excessive entanglement” with religion (and resultant constitutional violations) and the danger of election campaign law violations, respectively.

### ***Additional Guidelines for Sponsorship Implementation***

1. **Equitable Offerings** - It is important that all sponsorships of equal levels across divisions within Park District yield the same value of benefits for potential sponsors.
2. **Sponsorship Contact Database** - A designated staff person or representative of the Park District will keep an updated list of all current sponsors, sponsored activities, and contacts related to sponsorship. For staff below Director Level, access to the database will be limited to printouts of listings of names of sponsors and their sponsored events. This limited access will provide information to help limit duplicated solicitations, and will also protect existing sponsor relationships, while allowing the evaluation of future sponsorships to occur at a management level. If a potential sponsor is already listed, staff should not pursue a sponsorship without researching the sponsor's history. The purpose of maintaining the database include:
  - a. Limit duplicate solicitations of one sponsor
  - b. Allow management to make decisions based on most appropriate solicitations and levels of benefits offered Plan
  - c. Keep a current list of all District supporters and contacts
  - d. Help provide leads for new sponsorships, if appropriate
3. **Sponsorship Committee** - A committee consisting of the Executive Director, District Attorney and one (1) Board member shall meet 12 times per year to review the database, exchange current contract samples, and recommend adjusting benefit levels and policy as needed. Changes shall not take effect before approval by the Executive Director.

### ***Levels of Sponsorship Tiers and Benefits***

The following tiers are presented as a guideline for types of benefits that may be presented as opportunities for potential sponsors. Each sponsorship will most likely need to be individually negotiated. One purpose for these guidelines is to create equity in exchanges across sponsorship arrangements. While for the sake of ease the examples given for levels are based on amount of sponsorship requested, the level of approval needed from Agency staff is really based on the amount of benefits exchanged for the resources. The levels of approval are necessary because the costs and values for different levels of benefits may vary, depending on the sponsorship. It is important to note that these values may be very different. Sponsors typically will not offer to contribute resources that cost them more than the value of resources that they will gain and, typically, seek at least a 2-1 return on their investment. Likewise, the Agency should not pursue sponsorships unless the total value the Agency receives is greater than the Agency's real costs.

A hierarchy of Sponsors for events, programs, or facilities with more than one sponsor is listed below from the highest level to the lowest. Not all levels will necessarily be used in each Sponsorship Plan.

#### ***Hierarchy of Sponsorship Levels (highest to lowest)***

1. Park District-Wide Sponsor
2. Facility/Park Title or Primary Sponsor
3. Event/Program Title or Primary Sponsor
4. Presenting Sponsor (Facility, Event or Program)
5. Facility/Park Sponsor
6. Program/Event Sponsor
7. Media Sponsor
8. Official Supplier

This hierarchy will help decide the amounts to ask various sponsors for, and determine what levels of benefits to provide. It is important to build flexibility and choice into each level so that sponsors can have the ability

to choose options that will best fit their objectives. It is recommended that each project create a project-specific Sponsorship Plan for approval in advance of sponsorship procurement, based on the benefits available and the values specific to the project.



## 6.4 Partnership Policy

### Purpose

This policy is designed to guide the process for the Dolton Park District in their desire to partner with other private, non-profit, or other governmental entities for the development, design, construction, and operation of recreational or related facilities and/or program partnerships that may occur on DPD property. Dolton Park District would like to identify for-profit, non-profit, and governmental entities that are interested in proposing to partner with the DPD to develop recreational and related facilities and/or programs. A major component in exploring any potential partnership will be to identify additional collaborating partners that may help provide

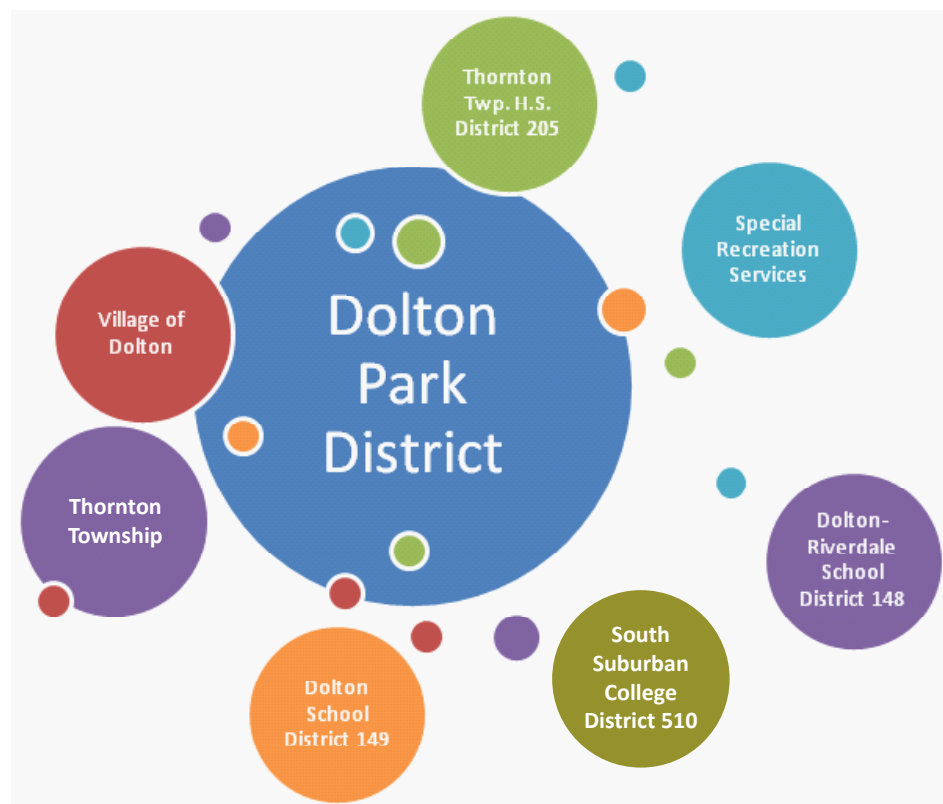


Figure 6.1: Partnership opportunity diagram

a synergistic working relationship in terms of resources, community contributions, knowledge, and political sensitivity. These partnerships should be mutually beneficial for all proposing partners including the DPD, as well as for the citizens of the community.

### Background and Assumptions

Partnerships are being used across the nation by governmental agencies in order to utilize additional resources for their community's benefit. Examples of partnerships abound and encompass a broad spectrum of agreements and implementation. The most commonly described partnership is between a public and a private entity, but partnerships also occur between public entities and non-profit organizations and/or other governmental agencies. An example of an existing partnership is the relationship between the DPD and Special Recreation Services.

### Partnership Definition

For purposes of this document and policy, a proposed partnership is defined as:

"An identified idea or concept involving the Dolton Park District and for-profit, non-profit, and/or governmental entities, outlining the application of combined resources to develop facilities, programs, and/or amenities for the DPD and its citizens."

A partnership is a cooperative venture between two or more parties with a common goal, who combine complementary resources to establish a mutual direction or complete a mutually beneficial project. Partnerships can be facility-based or program-specific. The main goal for the Dolton Park District partnerships is enhancing public offerings to meet the mission and goals of the DPD. The Dolton Park District is interested in promoting partnerships which involve cooperation among many partners, bringing resources together to accomplish goals in a synergistic manner. Proposals that incorporate such collaborative efforts will receive priority status.

Partnerships can accomplish tasks with limited resources, respond to compelling issues, encourage cooperative interaction and conflict

resolution, involve outside interests, and serve as an education and outreach tool. Partnerships broaden ownership in various projects and increase public support for community recreation goals. Partners often have flexibility to obtain and invest resources/dollars on products or activities where a Park District or a municipal government may be limited.

Partnerships can take the form of (1) cash gifts and donor programs, (2) improved access to alternative funding, (3) property investments, (4) charitable trust funds, (5) labor, (6) materials, (7) equipment, (8) sponsorships, (9) technical skills and/or management skills, and other forms of value. The effective use of volunteers also can figure significantly into developing partnerships. Some partnerships involve active decision making, while in others, certain partners take a more passive role. The following shows the types of possible partnerships discussed in this policy.

### **Possible Types of Active Partnerships**

The Dolton Park District is interested in promoting collaborative partnerships among multiple community organizations. Types of agreements for proposed “active” partnerships may include leases, contracts, sponsorship agreements, marketing agreements, management agreements, joint-use agreements, inter-governmental agreements, or a combination of these. An innovative and mutually beneficial partnership that does not fit into any of the following categories may also be considered. Proposed partnerships will be considered for facility, service, operations, and/or program development including associated needs, such as parking, paving, fencing, drainage systems, signage, outdoor restrooms, lighting, utility infrastructure, etc.

The following examples are provided only to illustrate possible types of partnerships. They are not necessarily examples that would be approved and/or implemented.

#### **Examples of Public/Private Partnerships**

- A private business seeing the need for more/different community fitness and wellness activities wants to build a facility on DPD land,

negotiate a management contract, provide the needed programs, and make a profit.

- A private group interested in environmental conservation obtains a grant from a foundation to build an educational kiosk, providing all materials and labor, and needs a spot in which to place it.
- Several neighboring businesses see the need for a place for their employees to work out during the work day. They group together to fund initial facilities and an operating subsidy and give the facility to the DPD to operate for additional public users.

#### **Examples of Public/Non-Profit Partnerships**

- A group of participants for a particular sport or hobby sees a need for more playing space and forms a non-profit entity to raise funds for a facility for their priority use that is open to the public during other hours.
- A non-profit baseball association needs fields for community programs and wants to obtain grants for the building of the fields. They would get priority use of the fields, which would be open for the DPD to schedule use during other times.
- A museum funds and constructs a new building, dedicating some space and time for community meetings and paying a portion of revenues to the DPD to lease the land.

#### **Examples of Public/Public Partnerships**

- Two governmental public safety agencies see the need for more physical training space for their employees. They jointly build a gym adjacent to DPD facilities to share for their training during the day. The gyms would be open for the DPD to schedule for other users at night.
- A school district sees the need for a climbing wall for their athletes. The district funds the wall and subsidizes operating costs, and the DPD manages and maintains the wall to provide public use during off hours.
- A university needs meeting rooms. They fund a multi-use building on DPD land that can be used for DPD community programs at night.

## Limited-Decision Making Partnerships: Donor, Volunteer, and Granting Programs

While this policy focuses on the parameters for more active types of partnerships, the DPD is interested in, and will be happy to discuss, a proposal for any of these types of partnerships, and may create specific plans for such in the future.

## Benefits of Partnerships with Dolton Park District

The DPD expects that any proposed partnership will have benefits for all involved parties. Some general expected benefits are:

### ***Benefits for the DPD and the Community:***

- Merging of resources to create a higher level of service and facility availability for community members.
- Making alternative funding sources available for public community amenities.
- Tapping into the dynamic and entrepreneurial traits of private industry.
- Delivering services and facilities more efficiently by allowing for collaborative business solutions to public organizational challenges.
- Meeting the needs of specific groups of users through the availability of land for development and community use.

### ***Benefits for the Partners:***

- Land and/or facility availability at a subsidized level for specific facility and/or program needs.
- Sharing of the risk with an established stable governmental entity.
- Becoming part of a larger network of support for management and promotion of facilities and programs.
- Availability of professional DPD recreation and planning experts to maximize the facilities and programs that may result
- Availability of DPD staff to help streamline the planning and operational efforts.

## The Partnering Process

The steps for the creation of a partnership with the Dolton Park District are as follows:

1. ***Preliminary Proposal.*** The proposing partner takes the first step to propose partnering with the DPD. To help in reviewing both the partnerships proposed, and the project to be developed in partnership, the DPD asks for a Preliminary Proposal according to a specific format as outlined in Part Two - Proposed Partnership Outline Format.
2. ***Initial Proposal Review.*** If initial review of a Preliminary Proposal yields interest and appears to be mutually beneficial based on the DPD Mission and Goals, and the Selection Criteria, and DPD staff or appointed representative will be assigned to work with potential partners.
3. ***Refinement.*** The DPD representative is available to answer questions related to the creation of an initial proposal, and after initial interest has been indicated, will work with the proposing partner to create a checklist of what actions need to take place next. Each project will have distinctive planning, design, review, and support issues. The DPD representative will facilitate the process of determining how the partnership will address these issues.
4. ***Evaluate Need for Request for Proposal (RFP).*** An additional focus at this point will be determining whether this project is appropriate for additional collaborative partnering, and whether this project should prompt the DPD to seek an RFP from competing/ collaborating organizations. In order to reduce concerns of unfair private competition, if a proposed project involves partnering with a private “for-profit” entity and a dollar amount greater than \$5,000, and the DPD has not already undergone a public process for solicitation of that particular type of partnership, the DPD will request partnership proposals from other interested private entities for identical and/or complementary facilities, programs or services. A selection of appropriate partners will be part of the process.



**5. Formal Proposal.** For most projects, a formal proposal from the partners for their desired development project will need to be presented for the DPD's official development review processes and approvals. Depending on project complexity and anticipated benefits, responsibilities for all action points are negotiable, within the framework established by law, to assure the most efficient and mutually beneficial outcome. Some projects may require that all technical and professional expertise and staff resources come from outside the DPD's staff, while some projects may proceed most efficiently if the DPD contributes staff resources to the partnership. The partnership must cover the costs the partnership incurs, regardless of how the partnered project is staffed, and reflect those costs in its project proposal and budget. The proposal for the partnered project should also discuss how staffing and expertise will be provided, and what documents will be produced.

**6. Formal Agreement.** Specific partnership agreements appropriate to the project will be drafted jointly. There is no specifically prescribed format for partnership agreements, which may take any of several forms depending on what will accomplish the desired relationships among partners. Proposed partnership agreements might include oversight of the development of the partnership, concept plans and project master plans, environmental assessments, architectural designs, development and design review, project management, and construction documents, inspections, contracting, monitoring, etc. Provision to fund the costs and for reimbursing the DPD for its costs incurred in creating the partnership, facilitating the project's passage through the Development Review Processes, and completing the required documents should be considered. The agreements may be in the form of:

- a. Lease Agreements
- b. Management and/or Operating Agreements
- c. Maintenance Agreements
- d. Intergovernmental Agreements
- e. Or a combination of these and/or other appropriate agreements

**7. Approval.** If approved the partnership begins. The DPD is committed to upholding its responsibilities to partners from the initiation through the continuation of a partnership. Evaluation will be an integral component of all partnerships. The agreements should outline who is responsible for evaluation, the types of measures used, and details on what will occur should the evaluations reveal partners are not meeting their partnership obligations.

## The Partnership Evaluation Process

All partnerships with the Dolton Park District should be in accord with the DPD's mission and goals. In addition, the following should be given appropriate consideration:

**1. Costs for the Proposal Approval Process.** For most proposed partnerships, there will be considerable staff time spent on the review and approval process once a project passes the initial review stage. This time includes discussions with proposing partners, exploration of synergistic partnering opportunities, possible RFP processes, facilitation of the approval process, and assistance in writing and negotiating agreements, contracting, etc. There may also be costs for construction and planning documents, design work, and related needs and development review processes mandated by DPD ordinances. Successful partnerships will take these costs into account and may plan for DPD recovery of some or all of these costs within the proposal framework. Some of these costs could be reimbursed through a negotiated agreement once operations begin, considered as construction expenses or covered through some other creative means.

**2. Land Use and/or Site Improvements** - Some proposed partnerships may include facility and/or land use. Necessary site improvements cannot be automatically assumed. Costs and responsibility for these improvements should be considered in any proposal. Some of the general and usual needs for public facilities that may not be included as DPD contributions and may need to be negotiated for a project

include:

- a. Facilities or non-existent infrastructure construction
- b. Outdoor restrooms
- c. Water fountains
- d. Roads or street improvements
- e. Complementary uses of the site
- f. Maintenance to specified standards
- g. Staffing
- h. Parking
- i. Utility improvements (phone, cable, storm drainage, electricity, water, gas, sewer, etc.)
- j. Snow removal
- k. Custodial services
- l. Lighting
- m. Trash removal

**3. Need** - The nature of provision of public services determines that certain activities will have a higher need than others. Some activities serve a relatively small number of users and have a high facility cost. Others serve a large number of users and are widely available from the private sector because they are profitable. The determination of need for facilities and programs is an ongoing discussion in public provision of programs and amenities. The project will be evaluated based on how the project fulfills a public need. Proposals should specifically explain how if they propose to be made available with a subsidy, as would be the case if a partnership is made through the dedication of public land or facilities as a lower than market value.

**4. Funding** - Only when a partnership proposal demonstrates high unmet needs and high benefits for DPD citizens will the DPD consider contributing resources at a below market value to a project. The DPD recommends that proposing partners consider sources of potential funding. The more successful partnerships will have funding secured in advance. In most cases, proposing partners should consider funding and cash flow for initial capital development, staffing, and ongoing operation and maintenance. For partners, especially small

private user groups, non-profit groups, and governmental agencies, limited cash resources may be a limiting factor in the proposal. It may be a necessity for partners to utilize alternative funding sources for resources to complete a proposed project. Getting alternative funding often demands creativity, ingenuity, and persistence. All plans for using alternative funding should be clearly identified. The DPD has an established sponsorship policy, and partnered projects will be expected to adhere to the policy. This includes the necessity of having an Approved Sponsorship Plan in place prior to procurement of sponsorships for a Partnered Project.

**5. Additional Guiding Questions** – The following questions should be addressed in the proposal and in deliberation by the DPD:

- a. How does the project align with the Mission Statement and Goals?
- b. How does the proposed facility fit into the Park and Recreation Plan?
- c. How does the facility/program meet the needs of DPD residents?
- d. How will the project generate more revenue and/or less cost per participant than the DPD can provide with its own staff or facilities?
- e. What are the alternatives that currently exist to serve the users identified in this project?
- f. How much of the existing need is now being met within the DPD borders and within adjacent Agencies?
- g. What is the number and demographic profile of participants who will be served?
- h. How can the proposing partner assure the DPD of the long-term stability of the proposed partnership, both for operations and for maintenance standards?
- i. How will the partnered project meet Americans with Disabilities Act and EEOC requirements?
- j. How will the organization offer programs at reasonable and competitive costs for participants?
- k. What are the overall benefits for both the DPD and the proposing partners?

## Proposed Partnership Outline Format

### 1. *Description of Proposing Organization:*

- a. Name of organization
- b. Purpose of organization
- c. Years in existence
- d. Services provided
- e. Contact names, mailing address
- f. Member/user/customer profiles
- g. Physical address, phone, fax, e-mail
- h. Accomplishments
- i. Legal status (corporation, 501(C)3, etc.)

### 2. *Summary of Proposal (100 words or less)*

### 3. *Benefits to the Partnering Organization*

- a. Why is your organization interested in partnering with the Dolton Park District?
- b. Please individually list and discuss the benefits (monetary and non-monetary) for your organization.

### 4. *Benefits to the Dolton Park District* - Please individually list and discuss the benefits (monetary and non-monetary) for the Dolton Park District and residents of the DPD.

### 5. *Details* - The following guiding questions help address details that can help outline the benefits of a possible partnership. The explanation should include what the organization proposes to provide and what is requested of the Dolton Park District. The application should also include initial plans for the concept, operations, projected costs and revenues, staffing, and/or any scheduling or maintenance needs, etc.

#### *a. Meeting the Needs of our Community:*

- i. In your experience, how does the project align with the DPD goals?
- ii. How does the proposed program or facility meet a need for DPD residents?
- iii. Who will be the users? What is the projected number and profile of participants who will be served?

- iv. What alternatives currently exist to serve the users identified in this project?
- v. How much of the existing need is now being met? What is the availability of similar programs elsewhere in the community?
- vi. Will the programs provide opportunities for entry-level, intermediate, and/or expert skill levels?

#### *b. The Financial Aspect:*

- i. Can the project generate more revenue and/or less cost per participant than the DPD can provide with its own staff or facilities?
- ii. Will your organization offer programs at reasonable and competitive costs for participants? What are the anticipated prices for participants?
- iii. What resources are expected to come from the Dolton Park District?
- iv. Will there be a monetary benefit for the DPD, and if so, how and how much?

#### *c. Logistics:*

- i. How much space do you need? What type of space?
- ii. What is your proposed timeline?
- iii. What are your projected hours of operations?
- iv. What are your initial staffing projections?
- v. Are there any mutually-beneficial cooperative marketing benefits?
- vi. What types of insurance will be needed and who will be responsible for acquiring and paying premiums on the policies?
- vii. What is your organization's experience in providing this type of facility/program?
- viii. How will your organization meet Americans with Disabilities Act and EEO requirements?

#### *d. Agreements and Evaluation:*

- i. How, by whom, and at what intervals should the project be evaluated?



- ii. How can you assure the DPD of long-term stability of your organization?
- iii. What types and length of agreements should be used for this project?
- iv. What types of “exit strategies” should we include?
- v. What should be done if the project does not meet the conditions of the original agreements?

### 6.5 Capital Improvement Plan

As with most local governments, capital improvement funds are limited and needs are great. If funds were available today, it would take over \$7.5 million dollars to make all of the improvements listed within the Park and Trail System Plan Chapter. This total does not include any design or engineering services. Also, it does not include funds for park acquisition. Appendix A details these estimated costs in 2011 dollars. Funds should also be reserved for maintenance equipment, major building repair and maintenance, and other capital items.

This significant funding gap highlights the need to promote partnerships, seek grants, and pursue other creative solutions to fund enhancements to the park system.

The following 5 year capital improvement program is an attempt to prioritize capital items within the Dolton Park District. The Dolton Park District has an annual budget of approximately \$1.2 million dollars as of 2011. For budgeting purposes, we have assumed 10% of this total, or \$120,000 of this total budget would be available for capital improvements. In addition, we have assumed that the District will be successful in obtaining grants, sponsorships, etc., to double the park improvement portion of this total capital allocation. Combined, this will result in \$200,000 a year in total capital improvement funds each year.

The priorities identified below are based primarily on the following factors:

- Community need based on the resident survey, demographics, and key person interviews
- Community access – with a desire to provide enhanced facilities throughout the Park District

For each park improvement below, only a total is listed. It is recommended that the Park District contract with a qualified park planner, conduct meetings with local neighbors, and prioritize items noted within this Park and Recreation Plan to identify and design specific improvements in each park. A few items not noted below but which are definitely part of the

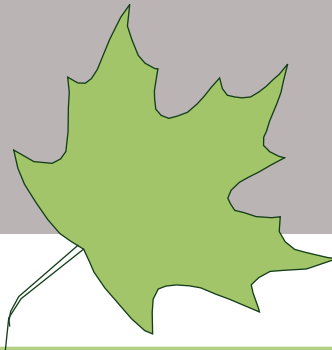


Figure 6.2 : Capital improvement plan

District's capital improvement program include:

- Dolton-Riverdale Park – the Park District is negotiating with the Union Pacific Railroad to permit the railroad to acquire a portion of the park. In return, the Park District would receive funding to renovate the park.
- Major building repairs—an assessment of needed major improvements to park district structures was not available. However, a reserve of between \$10,000 and \$50,000 per year is recommended to fund future needs for roofing, HVAC system repair, etc.

# *Appendix*





*(This page was intentionally left blank.)*






## Dolton Park District Survey



**1. Where should the Dolton Park District focus our efforts? Please rate each of the following roles (check 1-5 for each statement):**

	1. Not at all Important	2. Not Very Important	3. Neutral/ Not Sure	4. Somewhat Important	5. Very Important	Response Count
Providing opportunities for residents to increase their physical fitness and promote healthy lifestyles	1.7% (6)	2.0% (7)	5.4% (19)	17.1% (60)	<b>73.8% (259)</b>	351
Keeping Parks well-maintained	0.9% (3)	0.9% (3)	2.6% (9)	9.2% (32)	<b>86.5% (302)</b>	349
Ensuring there is open green space in every neighborhood	0.9% (3)	3.8% (13)	9.8% (34)	22.3% (77)	<b>63.3% (219)</b>	346
Hosting community events	0.9% (3)	2.6% (9)	8.3% (29)	22.5% (79)	<b>65.8% (231)</b>	351
Providing trails for walking or biking	1.7% (6)	1.7% (6)	8.3% (29)	24.6% (86)	<b>63.6% (222)</b>	349
Providing youth with positive ways to fill their free time	0.9% (3)	1.4% (5)	1.7% (6)	8.6% (30)	<b>87.3% (303)</b>	347
Ensuring that activities are located close to every home	1.1% (4)	0.9% (3)	8.8% (31)	24.2% (85)	<b>65.0% (228)</b>	351
Providing high quality indoor recreational facilities	1.1% (4)	1.1% (4)	4.0% (14)	18.5% (65)	<b>75.2% (264)</b>	351
Providing high quality sports fields	1.4% (5)	1.7% (6)	4.3% (15)	17.2% (60)	<b>75.4% (263)</b>	349
<b>answered question</b>						<b>352</b>

## 2. How would you rate your satisfaction with the maintenance of the parks near your home?

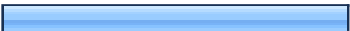






		Response Percent	Response Count
Very satisfied		32.9%	112
<b>Somewhat satisfied</b>		<b>34.1%</b>	<b>116</b>
Neutral		20.3%	69
Somewhat unsatisfied		7.4%	25
Very unsatisfied		5.3%	18
answered question			<b>340</b>
skipped question			<b>14</b>



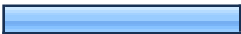

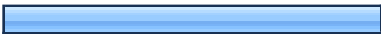
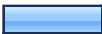


### 3. How often do you use the following types of open spaces or parks (please check one frequency box for each statement)?

	Twice a month or more	Once a month	Once or twice a year	Never	Response Count
A park near your home (regardless of size)	<b>55.8% (187)</b>	18.5% (62)	17.0% (57)	8.7% (29)	335
Park with sports fields	<b>55.7% (182)</b>	18.3% (60)	13.8% (45)	12.2% (40)	327
Park with basketball courts	<b>42.3% (88)</b>	21.6% (45)	17.3% (36)	18.8% (39)	208
Park with tennis courts	31.2% (64)	20.0% (41)	12.2% (25)	<b>36.6% (75)</b>	205
Greenways, natural areas, woods, trails	<b>33.0% (106)</b>	13.1% (42)	24.6% (79)	29.3% (94)	321
Parks with indoor facilities (e.g., recreation center)	<b>51.2% (165)</b>	21.1% (68)	15.8% (51)	11.8% (38)	322
answered question					<b>339</b>
skipped question					<b>15</b>

#### 4. If you seldom use or do not use parks in Dolton, what are your reasons?






		Response Percent	Response Count
Don't know what's available		29.9%	66
Poorly maintained		19.0%	42
Lack of features I want to use		19.9%	44
Too far away; too difficult to get to		19.0%	42
Do not have transportation		7.7%	17
Safety Concerns		20.4%	45
Too crowded		5.4%	12
	Other (please specify)		67
answered question			221
skipped question			133

### 5. How would you rate the recreation activities and programs provided by the Dolton Park District?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent. There are many opportunities to do all or most of the recreation activities I enjoy.		20.1%	68
Very Good. There are several opportunities to do many of the recreation activities I enjoy.		26.0%	88
<b>Satisfactory. There are some opportunities to do the recreation activities I enjoy.</b>		<b>32.2%</b>	<b>109</b>
Not very good. There are a few opportunities to do the recreation activities I enjoy.		8.3%	28
Totally inadequate. There are no opportunities to do any of the recreation activities I enjoy.		0.6%	2
Not sure. I don't know what is offered.		13.0%	44
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>339</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>15</b>



**6. Identify your top two priorities for improving open space, parks and recreation in Dolton. (Please check two).**

		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Protect additional land for open space or parks		25.1%	84
Add new recreation facilities in existing parks		44.3%	148
Expand the trail network		12.0%	40
Improve maintenance of existing parks and facilities		27.2%	91
<b>Offer more programs and activities</b>		<b>46.7%</b>	<b>156</b>
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>334</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>20</b>








**7. Which activities have you done in the past 2 years? For each activity you participate in, please check the box that most closely represents how often you participate in each activity.**

	Several Times a Week	Once per Week	Less than once/month	A few times a year	Never	Response Count
Baseball/softball	15.7% (39)	13.7% (34)	16.9% (42)	<b>33.9% (84)</b>	19.8% (49)	248
Basketball	<b>37.1% (99)</b>	15.7% (42)	11.6% (31)	20.6% (55)	15.0% (40)	267
Bicycling	20.6% (45)	9.2% (20)	16.5% (36)	22.9% (50)	<b>30.7% (67)</b>	218
Dog Walking	23.2% (47)	6.9% (14)	10.8% (22)	17.7% (36)	<b>41.4% (84)</b>	203
Festivals, Fairs	11.5% (28)	6.2% (15)	16.0% (39)	<b>45.7% (111)</b>	20.6% (50)	243
Fishing	9.7% (18)	4.8% (9)	9.7% (18)	24.7% (46)	<b>51.1% (95)</b>	186
Gardening	7.1% (13)	12.1% (22)	7.7% (14)	19.8% (36)	<b>53.3% (97)</b>	182
Golf	10.9% (20)	3.8% (7)	9.8% (18)	25.5% (47)	<b>50.0% (92)</b>	184
Gymnasium Activities	<b>29.6% (71)</b>	14.6% (35)	9.6% (23)	24.2% (58)	22.1% (53)	240
Jogging/Running	<b>31.5% (84)</b>	20.6% (55)	12.0% (32)	21.3% (57)	14.6% (39)	267
Picnicking	11.8% (28)	9.3% (22)	17.3% (41)	<b>37.6% (89)</b>	24.1% (57)	237
Playground (visit/play)	<b>31.2% (81)</b>	18.8% (49)	12.7% (33)	22.7% (59)	14.6% (38)	260
Skateboarding	7.1% (12)	4.1% (7)	8.8% (15)	14.1% (24)	<b>65.9% (112)</b>	170
Soccer	5.6% (10)	7.9% (14)	11.9% (21)	18.1% (32)	<b>56.5% (100)</b>	177
Swimming (pool)	15.9% (34)	11.7% (25)	9.3% (20)	28.0% (60)	<b>35.0% (75)</b>	214
Tennis	10.9% (20)	7.6% (14)	9.8% (18)	20.1% (37)	<b>51.6% (95)</b>	184

Volunteer Activities	23.5% (56)	9.7% (23)	15.1% (36)	<b>29.4% (70)</b>	22.3% (53)	238
Walking for Pleasure	<b>41.3% (116)</b>	13.2% (37)	11.0% (31)	22.8% (64)	11.7% (33)	281
Volleyball	15.4% (30)	6.2% (12)	12.3% (24)	21.0% (41)	<b>45.1% (88)</b>	195
Other (Please note activity and frequency)						20

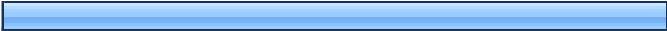
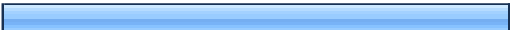
<b>answered question</b>	<b>324</b>
<b>skipped question</b>	<b>30</b>

## 8. What is your age?



		Response Percent	Response Count
17 or less		8.8%	30
18-24		21.8%	74
<b>25-34</b>		<b>25.7%</b>	<b>87</b>
35-44		18.6%	63
45-54		15.0%	51
55-64		7.4%	25
65+		2.7%	9
<b>answered question</b>			<b>339</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>15</b>







## 9. Male or Female?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Male		56.9%	190
Female		43.1%	144
answered question			334
skipped question			20

## 10. Are you of Hispanic or Latin ancestry?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		2.8%	9
No		97.2%	315
answered question			324
skipped question			30

### 11. Do you live or work in Dolton? (Please check all that apply)





		Response Percent	Response Count
I live in Dolton.		56.8%	183
I work in Dolton.		9.6%	31
I attend high school in Dolton.		9.9%	32
I live in a neighboring community.		34.8%	112
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>322</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>32</b>

## 12. Check the box next to the park nearest your home:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Dolton Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	41.5%	122
Blackstone Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	7.5%	22
Kandy Kane Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.8%	20
Meadowlane Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.7%	11
Needles Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	12.9%	38
Riverfront Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	4.8%	14
Dolton-Riverdale Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	9.5%	28
Sunshine Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	1.4%	4
Town and Country Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	1.7%	5
Triangle Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.8%	20
Willowgreen Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.4%	10
answered question			294
skipped question			60



### 13. How can the Park District improve communication with residents? (choose all that apply)

		Response Percent	Response Count
E-mail notifications		39.6%	126
Facebook		39.3%	125
Internet/website		36.5%	116
Outreach to block clubs and neighborhood organizations		64.2%	204
	Other (please specify)		27
answered question			318
skipped question			36

### 14. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about open space, parks and recreation in the Dolton Park District?

	Response Count
	81
answered question	81
skipped question	273

## Appendix B: Cost estimate for park improvements

The following is a summary of the cost estimates for park improvements.

<b>DOLTON PARK</b>				
<b>Park Facilities Enhancement Cost Estimate</b>				<b>\$2,199,266</b>
ITEM	QTY	UNIT	TOTAL UNIT COST (incl. materials, freight & labor )	EXTENDED COST
<b>REMOVAL OF EXISTING BUILDINGS</b>				
Field House Removal	4,627	S.F.	\$15	\$69,405
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
New Gym Field House	4,750	S.F.	\$100	\$475,000
4 Bay Maintenance Garage	1,800	S.F.	\$100	\$180,000
<b>LANDSCAPING</b>				
Trees, Shrubs, Lawn and Restoration Areas	1	L.S.	\$75,000	\$75,000
<b>ACCESS SIDEWALK</b>				
Concrete Paving for New Building	1,150	S.F.	\$10	\$11,500
<b>BUS DROP OFF AREA</b>				
Clearing and Excavation	2,200	S.F.	\$5	\$11,000
Curb & Gutter	1,800	L.F.	\$18	\$32,400
Asphalt Roadway	2,200	S.F.	\$22	\$48,400
Light Pole	6	EA.	\$8,500	\$51,000
<b>FOOTBALL FIELD SHELTER</b>				
Observation Tower, Bathrooms & Concessions Building	1	L.S.	\$800,000	\$800,000
Trash Receptacle	1	EA.	\$800	\$800

ITEM	QTY	UNIT	TOTAL UNIT COST (incl. materials, freight & labor )	EXTENDED COST
<b>ACCESS SIDEWALK</b>				
Asphalt Trail	5,875	S.F.	\$12	\$70,500
<b>SIGN</b>				
Type 2 Sign	1	EA.	\$45,000	\$45,000
Landscaping	1	L.S.	\$4,500	\$4,500
<b>PLAYGROUND &amp; SWINGS</b>				
Concrete Border	890	L.F.	\$18	\$16,020
Ground Covering-Mulch- 6" Depth	148	C.Y.	\$60	\$8,880
<b>WATER FOUNTAIN</b>				
Remove & Install Water Fountain	2	EA.	\$6,500	\$13,000
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$1,912,405</b>
<b>15% Contingency</b>				<b>\$286,861</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$2,199,266</b>

**BLACKSTONE PARK****Park Facilities Enhancement Cost Estimate****\$403,288**

ITEM	QTY	UNIT	TOTAL UNIT COST (incl. materials, freight & labor )	EXTENDED COST
<b>BASEBALL FIELDS</b>				<b>\$38,650</b>
Resurface & Seeding	2,500	S.Y.	\$3	\$6,250
Backstop	2	EA.	\$4,500	\$9,000
Fencing	1,200	L.F.	\$12	\$14,400
Clay Infield	900	S.Y.	\$10	\$9,000
<b>NEW PLAYGROUND</b>				<b>\$17,280</b>
Play Structure	1	EA.	\$15,000	\$15,000
Concrete Curb, 6" wd	80	L.F.	\$18	\$1,440
Ground Covering-Mulch- 6" Depth	14	C.Y.	\$60	\$840
<b>NEW SWINGS</b>				<b>\$27,180</b>
Swing Structure	2	EA.	\$12,000	\$24,000
Concrete Curb, 6" wd	120	L.F.	\$18	\$2,160
Ground Covering-Mulch- 6" Depth	17	C.Y.	\$60	\$1,020
<b>RESURFACE TENNIS COURT</b>				<b>\$37,500</b>
Asphalt Overlayment & Painting	7,500	S.F.	\$5	\$37,500
<b>SIGN</b>				<b>\$77,000</b>
Type 1 Sign	1	EA.	\$25,000	\$25,000
Landscaping	1	L.S.	\$2,500	\$2,500
Type 2 Sign	1	EA.	\$45,000	\$45,000
Landscaping	1	L.S.	\$4,500	\$4,500

ITEM	QTY	UNIT	TOTAL UNIT COST (incl. materials, freight & labor )	EXTENDED COST
<b>SHELTER</b>				<b>\$54,000</b>
Type 1 Shelter	1	EA.	\$50,000	\$50,000
Bench	2	EA.	\$1,200	\$2,400
Trash Receptacle	2	EA.	\$800	\$1,600
<b>FITNESS TRAIL</b>				<b>\$77,700</b>
Asphalt Trail	6,475	S.F.	\$12	\$77,700
<b>ATHLETIC FIELD</b>				<b>\$21,375</b>
Resurfacing & Seeding	1,750	S.Y.	\$3	\$4,375
Soccer Goals	2	EA.	\$1,500	\$3,000
Football Field Goals	2	EA.	\$2,000	\$4,000
Team Benches, 15' Length	2	EA.	\$2,500	\$5,000
Bleachers, 3-Row, 15' Length	2	EA.	\$2,500	\$5,000
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$350,685</b>
<b>15% Contingency</b>				<b>\$52,603</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$403,288</b>



KANDY KANE PARK				
Park Facilities Enhancement Cost Estimate				\$218,040
ITEM	QTY	UNIT	TOTAL UNIT COST (incl. materials, freight & labor )	EXTENDED COST
<b>TENNIS TO SAND VOLLEYBALL CONVERSION</b>				<b>\$45,900</b>
Paving Removal	27,000	S.F.	\$2	\$40,500
Sand Court	1,800	S.F.	\$3	\$5,400
<b>BASKETBALL COURT TO DOUBLE DUTCH AREA</b>				<b>\$54,000</b>
Asphalt Overlayment (2" depth) & Striping	9,000	S.F.	\$6	\$54,000
<b>SIGN</b>				<b>\$27,500</b>
Type 1 Sign	1	EA.	\$25,000	\$25,000
Landscaping	1	L.S.	\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>SHELTER</b>				<b>\$62,200</b>
Type 1 Shelter	1	EA.	\$50,000	\$50,000
Bench	2	EA.	\$1,200	\$2,400
Asphalt Trail Access	750	S.F.	\$12	\$9,000
Trash Receptacle	1	EA.	\$800	\$800
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$189,600</b>
<b>15% Contingency</b>				<b>\$28,440</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$218,040</b>

MEADOWLANE PARK				
Park Facilities Enhancement Cost Estimate				\$162,288
ITEM	QTY	UNIT	TOTAL UNIT COST (incl. materials, freight & labor )	EXTENDED COST
<b>NEW PLAYGROUND</b>				<b>\$26,420</b>
Remove Existing Playground	1	L.S.	\$5,000	\$5,000
Play Structure	1	EA.	\$15,000	\$15,000
Concrete Curb, 6" wd	200	L.F.	\$18	\$3,600
Ground Covering-Mulch- 6" Depth	47	C.Y.	\$60	\$2,820
<b>SIGN</b>				<b>\$49,500</b>
Type 2 Sign	1	EA.	\$45,000	\$45,000
Landscaping for Type 2 Sign	1	L.S.	\$4,500	\$4,500
<b>SHELTER</b>				<b>\$65,200</b>
Type 1 Shelter	1	EA.	\$50,000	\$50,000
Bench	2	EA.	\$1,200	\$2,400
Asphalt Trail Access	1,000	S.F.	\$12	\$12,000
Trash Receptacle	1	EA.	\$800	\$800
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$141,120</b>
<b>15% Contingency</b>				<b>\$21,168</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$162,288</b>

RIVERFRONT PARK				
Park Facilities Enhancement Cost Estimate				\$746,626
ITEM	QTY	UNIT	TOTAL UNIT COST (incl. materials, freight & labor)	EXTENDED COST
<b>BASKETBALL COURT</b>				<b>\$7,500</b>
Removal	5,000	S.F.	\$2	\$7,500
<b>TENNIS COURT</b>				<b>\$90,000</b>
Asphalt Overlayment & Striping at Existing Tennis Court	15,000	S.F.	\$6	\$90,000
<b>BASEBALL FIELD</b>				<b>\$18,450</b>
Resurface & Seeding	900	S.Y.	\$3	\$2,250
Backstop	1	EA.	\$4,500	\$4,500
Fencing	600	L.F.	\$12	\$7,200
Clay Infield	450	S.Y.	\$10	\$4,500
<b>SIGN</b>				<b>\$27,500</b>
Type 1 Sign	1	EA.	\$25,000	\$25,000
Landscaping for Type 2 Sign	1	L.S.	\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>SHELTER</b>				<b>\$55,000</b>
Type 1 Shelter	1	N/A	\$50,000	\$50,000
Bench	2	EA.	\$1,200	\$2,400
Asphalt Paving Access, 5' Width	150	L.F.	\$12	\$1,800
Trash Receptacle	1	EA.	\$800	\$800
<b>FITNESS TRAIL</b>				<b>\$189,000</b>
Asphalt Trail	15,750	S.F.	\$12	\$189,000
<b>TRAIL BRIDGE</b>				<b>\$250,000</b>
Steel Frame and Wood Surface Bridge	1	L.F.	\$250,000	\$250,000
<b>PLAYGROUND &amp; SWINGS</b>				<b>\$11,790</b>
Concrete Curb, 6" wd	375	L.F.	\$18	\$6,750
Ground Covering-Mulch- 6" Depth	84	C.Y.	\$60	\$5,040
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$649,240</b>
<b>15% Contingency</b>				<b>\$97,386</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$746,626</b>

DOLTON-RIVERDALE PARK				
Park Facilities Enhancement Cost Estimate				\$1,992,649
ITEM	QTY	UNIT	TOTAL UNIT COST (incl. materials, freight & labor )	EXTENDED COST
<b>REMOVAL OF EXISTING PARK</b>				<b>\$25,000</b>
Demolition	1	L.S.	\$25,000	\$25,000
<b>SITE WORK</b>				<b>\$75,000</b>
Earthwork and Grading	1	L.S.	\$75,000	\$75,000
<b>SIGN</b>				<b>\$27,500</b>
Type 1 Sign	1	EA.	\$25,000	\$25,000
Landscaping	1	L.S.	\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>SHELTER</b>				<b>\$321,000</b>
Type 1 Shelter	1	EA.	\$50,000	\$50,000
Bench	2	EA.	\$1,200	\$2,400
Water Fountain	2	EA.	\$6,500	\$13,000
Type 2 Shelter	1	EA.	\$225,000	\$225,000
Bench	4	EA.	\$1,200	\$4,800
Asphalt Trail	1,050	S.F.	\$12	\$12,600
Grill	3	EA.	\$500	\$1,500
Landscaping	1	L.S.	\$8,500	\$8,500
Trash Receptacle	4	EA.	\$800	\$3,200
<b>BASEBALL FIELDS (3)</b>				<b>\$156,650</b>
Resurface & Seeding	2,700	S.Y.	\$3	\$6,750
Backstop	3	EA.	\$4,500	\$13,500
Fencing	1,800	L.F.	\$12	\$21,600
Clay Infield	1,350	S.Y.	\$8	\$10,800
Lights	4	EA.	\$26,000	\$104,000
<b>FITNESS TRAIL</b>				<b>\$87,000</b>
Asphalt Trail	7,250	L.F.	\$12	\$87,000
<b>PLAYGROUND &amp; SWINGS</b>				<b>\$39,588</b>
New Swings	1	EA.	\$12,000	\$12,000
New Play Structure	1	EA.	\$15,000	\$15,000
Concrete Curb, 6" wd	316	L.F.	\$18	\$5,688
Ground Covering-Mulch- 6" Depth	115	C.Y.	\$60	\$6,900

<b>PARKING LOT</b>				<b>\$1,001,000</b>
New Paving, Curb & Gutter	1	L.S.	\$950,000	\$950,000
Light Pole	6	EA.	\$8,500	\$51,000
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$1,732,738</b>
<b>15% Contingency</b>				<b>\$259,911</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$1,992,649</b>

SUNSHINE PARK				
Park Facilities Enhancement Cost Estimate				\$227,759
ITEM	QTY	UNIT	TOTAL UNIT COST (incl. materials, freight & labor )	EXTENDED COST
<b>PLAYGROUND &amp; SWINGS</b>				<b>\$9,151</b>
New Swings	1	EA.	\$12,000	\$1
Concrete Curb, 6" wd	275	L.F.	\$18	\$4,950
Ground Covering-Mulch- 6" Depth	70	C.Y.	\$60	\$4,200
<b>BASKETBALL COURT</b>				<b>\$54,000</b>
Asphalt Overlayment & Striping at Basketball Court	9,000	S.F.	\$6	\$54,000
<b>VEGETATED AREA</b>				<b>\$4,500</b>
Clear Out Weeds & Brush	1	L.S.	\$4,500	\$4,500
<b>SIGN</b>				<b>\$49,500</b>
Type 2 Sign	1	EA.	\$45,000	\$45,000
Landscaping	1	L.S.	\$4,500	\$4,500
<b>SHELTER</b>				<b>\$71,200</b>
Type 1 Shelter	1	EA.	\$50,000	\$50,000
Bench	2	EA.	\$1,200	\$2,400
Asphalt Trail Access	1,500	S.F.	\$12	\$18,000
Trash Receptacle	1	EA.	\$800	\$800
<b>FENCE</b>				<b>\$9,700</b>
New Fence	725	L.F.	\$12	\$8,700
Entry Gate	2	EA.	\$500	\$1,000
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$198,051</b>
<b>15% Contingency</b>				<b>\$29,708</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$227,759</b>

TOWN AND COUNTRY PARK				
Park Facilities Enhancement Cost Estimate				\$378,957
ITEM	QTY	UNIT	TOTAL UNIT COST (incl. materials, freight & labor )	EXTENDED COST
<b>TENNIS COURT</b>				<b>\$90,000</b>
Asphalt Overlayment & Striping at Tennis Court	15,000	S.F.	\$6	\$90,000
<b>FITNESS TRAIL</b>				<b>\$111,000</b>
Asphalt Trail	9,250	S.F.	\$12	\$111,000
<b>ATHLETIC FIELD</b>				<b>\$17,000</b>
Soccer Goals	2	EA.	\$1,500	\$3,000
Football Field Goals	2	EA.	\$2,000	\$4,000
Team Benches, 15' Length	2	EA.	\$2,500	\$5,000
Bleachers, 3-Row, 15' Length	2	EA.	\$2,500	\$5,000
<b>SAND VOLLEYBALL COURT</b>				<b>\$18,900</b>
Grass Removal	27,000	S.F.	\$1	\$13,500
Sand Court	1,800	S.F.	\$3	\$5,400
<b>SIGN</b>				<b>\$27,500</b>
Type 1 Sign	1	L.S.	\$25,000	\$25,000
Landscaping	1	L.S.	\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>SHELTER</b>				<b>\$53,200</b>
Type 1 Shelter	1	EA.	\$50,000	\$50,000
Bench	2	EA.	\$1,200	\$2,400
Trash Receptacle	1	EA.	\$800	\$800
<b>PLAYGROUND &amp; SWINGS</b>				<b>\$11,928</b>
Concrete Curb, 6" wd	306	L.F.	\$18	\$5,508
Ground Covering-Mulch- 6" Depth	107	C.Y.	\$60	\$6,420
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$329,528</b>
<b>15% Contingency</b>				<b>\$49,429</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$378,957</b>



TRIANGLE PARK				
Park Facilities Enhancement Cost Estimate				\$361,767
ITEM	QTY	UNIT	TOTAL UNIT COST (incl. materials, freight & labor )	EXTENDED COST
<b>PLAYGROUND &amp; SWINGS</b>				<b>\$40,530</b>
New Play Structure	1	EA.	\$15,000	\$15,000
Concrete Curb, 6" wd	645	L.F.	\$18	\$11,610
Ground Covering-Mulch- 6" Depth	232	C.Y.	\$60	\$13,920
<b>BASEBALL FIELDS</b>				<b>\$13,950</b>
Resurface & Seeding	900	S.Y.	\$3	\$2,250
Backstop	1	EA.	\$4,500	\$4,500
Fencing	400	L.F.	\$12	\$4,800
Clay Infield	300	S.Y.	\$8	\$2,400
<b>TENNIS COURT</b>				<b>\$90,000</b>
Asphalt Overlayment & Striping at Tennis Court	15,000	S.F.	\$6	\$90,000
<b>SIGN</b>				<b>\$27,500</b>
Type 1 Sign	1	EA.	\$25,000	\$25,000
Landscaping	1	L.S.	\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>SHELTER</b>				<b>\$55,600</b>
Type 1 Shelter	1	EA.	\$50,000	\$50,000
Bench	2	EA.	\$1,200	\$2,400
Asphalt Trail Access	200	S.F.	\$12	\$2,400
Trash Receptacle	1	EA.	\$800	\$800
<b>BASKETBALL COURT</b>				<b>\$87,000</b>
Asphalt Paving & Painting at Proposed New Basketball Court	7,250	S.F.	\$12	\$87,000
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$314,580</b>
<b>15% Contingency</b>				<b>\$47,187</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$361,767</b>

WILLOWGREEN PARK				
Park Facilities Enhancement Cost Estimate				\$1,512,222
ITEM	QTY	UNIT	TOTAL UNIT COST (incl. materials, freight & labor )	EXTENDED COST
<b>PLAYGROUND &amp; SWINGS</b>				<b>\$29,220</b>
New Play Structure	1	EA.	\$15,000	\$15,000
Concrete Curb, 6" wd	450	L.F.	\$18	\$8,100
Ground Covering-Mulch- 6" Depth	102	C.Y.	\$60	\$6,120
<b>SIGN</b>				<b>\$27,500</b>
Type 1 Sign	1	EA.	\$25,000	\$25,000
Landscaping	1	L.S.	\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>SHELTER</b>				<b>\$54,400</b>
Type 1 Shelter	1	EA.	\$50,000	\$50,000
Bench	2	EA.	\$1,200	\$2,400
Asphalt Paving Access, 5' Width	100	S.F.	\$12	\$1,200
Trash Receptacle	1	EA.	\$800	\$800
<b>DOUBLE DUTCH COURT</b>				<b>\$10,800</b>
Asphalt Paving & Painting at Proposed New Court	900	S.F.	\$12	\$10,800
<b>ON-STREET PARKING AREA</b>				<b>\$63,556</b>
Curb & Pavement Removals	3,200	S.F.	\$4	\$11,200
Curb & Gutter	242	LF	\$18	\$4,356
Asphalt Pavement	3,200	S.F.	\$15	\$48,000
<b>SPLASH PARK</b>				<b>\$500,000</b>
New Construction of Splash Park	1	L.S.	\$500,000	\$500,000
<b>FITNESS TRAIL</b>				<b>\$621,000</b>
Asphalt Trail	51,750	S.F.	\$12	\$621,000
<b>LANDSCAPING</b>				<b>\$8,500</b>
Buffer & Entry Landscaping	1	L.S.	\$8,500	\$8,500
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$1,314,976</b>
<b>15% Contingency</b>				<b>\$197,246</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$1,512,222</b>

## Appendix C: Neighboring park district website information

---

**Ivanhoe Park District of Riverdale** - <http://www.ivanhoepark.com/>

**Calumet Memorial Park District** - <http://www.calumetmemorialparkdistrict.com/parks.php?c=2>

**Lan-Oak Park District** - <http://www.lanoakparkdistrict.org/index.htm>

**Blue Island Park District** - <http://blueislandparks.org/parks/>

**Homewood-Flossmoor Park District** - <http://www.hfparks.com/Parks/default.aspx>

**Harvey Park District** - [http://www.cityofharvey.org/site2/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=66&Itemid=78](http://www.cityofharvey.org/site2/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=66&Itemid=78)

**Village of South Holland Parks** - <http://www.southholland.org/index.php?page=Parks>