

CRYSTAL LAKE PARK MASTERPLAN PROGRAM

PARK-WIDE PROGRAM ELEMENTS

PATHS & TRAILS

- Provide an expanded, multi-use trail system that provides a series of loops, neighborhood access points and interpretive opportunities to promote and enhance greater connectivity.
- Differentiate hard and soft trails within CLP, and indicate the appropriate use and design standards for each.
- Provide a connected peripheral trail system that parallels all of CLP's boundary roads.
- Link the CLP trail system to area trails and destinations.

PARK ROADWAYS

Short Term

- Develop a limited park roadway system that connects key activity nodes and allows for circulation within CLP without overwhelming the park with paving.
- Connect the park roadway system to the pool/nature center area at the north end of CLP.
- Remove unneeded sections of roadway and use appropriate land/edges for enhanced shoreline treatments and trails.
- Promote a perimeter trail system around Crystal Lake Park utilizing both on/off road access from Broadway Avenue, Country Club Road, Coler Avenue, Park Street and /or other appropriate connections to provide greater connectivity to/from Crystal Lake Park, Carle campus, adjacent neighborhoods, adjacent businesses and other trail linkages in Urbana.

Longer Term

- Re-route the park roadway system as appropriate to reflect future park opportunities and needs, and use newly-available land for enhanced shoreline treatments and trails.

OVERALL CLP PARKING

- Determine appropriate/suitable parking demand level and appropriate parking supply to be provided within CLP for both short and long term needs.
- Allocate appropriate parking supply at activity nodes throughout CLP.
- Increase the use of existing nearby parking to help meet CLP overflow parking needs.
- Develop and enforce policy on whether CLP roadways and grass areas are acceptable for parking.
- Re-configure parking and access at the Lake House and Pool/Nature Center area.
- Investigate the feasibility of providing limited parking along Broadway at the east edge of CLP.

PARK AMENITIES

- Provide at least one public restroom facility to serve each "activity zone" of the park.
- Explore the feasibility of using composting toilets or other "green" techniques.
- Provide multi-use shelters, pavilions, seating and picnicking areas where appropriate throughout CLP.
- Establish/enhance rentable spaces and explore revenue-generating opportunities throughout CLP.
- Remove old playground equipment in central area of CLP.

GATEWAYS/SIGNAGE/ INTERPRETATIVE SIGNAGE

- Design and implement a comprehensive park-wide interpretative and way-finding signage system throughout CLP.
- Make CLP more visible/enhance image from the adjacent neighborhoods.
- Provide more prominent signage at major CLP entry points/perimeter.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Short and Longer Term

- Improve CLP's general ecological condition and aesthetic character, including new approaches to shoreline treatment and vegetative management and sustainable practices for all new park construction.
- Update and enhance the physical infrastructure associated with Crystal Lake and Saline Creek, and exploring "green" solutions that are more sensitive ecologically and aesthetically.
- Improve and enhance physical and visual access throughout CLP by providing an improved trail system, implementation of appropriate vegetative management plans for Crystal Lake Park/Busey Woods and/or other recommended methods.

BUILT INFRASTRUCTURE

Short and Longer Term

- Develop and implement updated lighting standards throughout the park to improve efficiency and function.
- Update park electrical service to serve daily and special event needs.
- Upgrade park water service, storm and sanitary sewers to serve current and future needs.
- Develop design standards for park roads, parking areas and trails that fulfill functional needs while recognizing site specific requirements. Implement these standards as new projects are constructed.

SPECIFIC PROGRAM ELEMENTS

BUSEY WOODS

- Expand the accessible and soft trail systems, in conjunction with an overall review of the existing trails within Busey woods.
- Include additional interpretative stations and overlooks, accessed from the expanded trail system.
- Provide a new pedestrian entry/trailhead at Bradley Avenue.
- Improve the link to Anita Purves Nature Center and interpretation of adjacent woods and Saline Creek with a new, more visible pedestrian bridge over Saline Creek.
- Provide for appropriate fencing, signage, key entryway locations, maintenance access areas, nodes/boundary markers around perimeter of Busey Woods to enhance use/image of Busey Woods.
- Remove old docks, stairs, small bridges within Busey Woods and replace with new bridges, overlooks, interpretive stations, sections of boardwalks as determined.
- Provide for a new trail system in various areas of Busey Woods to replace worn trails and improve connectivity.
- Re-evaluate water flow/drainage impacts on Busey Woods and provide for a plan to mitigate flooding/drainage impacts in an environmentally sensitive manner.

ANITA PURVES NATURE CENTER

- Assess building needs and limitations, and the market potential for additional programming and associated building expansion.
- Determine true parking needs in association with Crystal Lake Park Pool.
- Explore multi-use "green" solutions for overflow parking needs.
- Re-develop the grass area for uses supportive of the Anita Purves Nature Center/ CLP pool.
- Provide a new shelter/support facility near/adjacent to Anita Purves Nature Center, for the children's day camp.
- Relocate t-ball field to other suitable Park District location.
- Improve fire access to the north side of the building.

CRYSTAL LAKE PARK POOL

- Provide for an improved outdoor pool facility as community-wide water recreation attraction.
- Enhance outdoor pool facility with complimentary features (incl. water play elements, destination playground, sand play area, outdoor pavilions, other rentable spaces and/or other appropriate features) to expand revenue potential.
- Consolidate all CLP water play features in pool area.
- Upgrade support facilities and infrastructure, in particular the bath house building and supporting infrastructure.
- Utilize the adjacent hillside for uses supportive of the CLP pool and the Anita Purves Nature Center.
- Improve lighting, signage, access, parking and drop-off.
- Provide new sanitary sewer lines for the pool, connecting into City sewer service.

COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS

Short Term

- Improve the visual quality of the existing fence line through landscaping and other aesthetic treatments in the park.
- Hold discussions about possible expanded UPD use of facilities.
- Improve the security between the fairgrounds and CLP.
- Initiate discussions with adjacent/interested parties on potential cooperative efforts to include future land uses, right of ways, access, comprehensive trail systems, etc. to enhance the CLP master plan.

Longer Term

- Adjust and improve the aesthetics of the physical and programmatic interface between the Fairgrounds property and CLP, maximizing shared programming opportunities.

CRYSTAL LAKE / SALINE CREEK

- Improve the ecological condition and aesthetic character of the Crystal Lake, including shoreline treatment, vegetative management and the integration of additional programmable space such as accessible fishing platforms, promenade with interpretive overlooks and pedestrian bridges.
- Update the physical infrastructure associated with Crystal Lake, including piping and control structures, and explore "green" solutions that are more sensitive ecologically and aesthetically.
- Improve physical and visual access to Crystal Lake through an improved trail system and selective removal of invasive understory vegetation.
- Improve the ecological condition and aesthetic character of the southeast island, including shoreline treatment, vegetative management, integration of environmental art and/or wildlife habitat feature (such as a rookery) as a park gateway element.
- Collaborate with the Drainage District to improve the ecological condition and aesthetic quality of Saline Creek, recognizing the creek's function as a regional drainage element.
- Consider relocating the children's day camp from the north woods and relocating the teen camp.

FRANKLIN STREET/901 FACILITY – PLANNING AND OPERATIONS

Immediate Term

- Determine and implement 901 facility efficiency and life safety improvements.
- Develop a facility plan for the phased conversion the 901 facility into a CLP-specific support facility.

Short Term

- The Urbana Park District should get out of the property management business in CLP.
- Acquire Franklin Street properties as they become available and convert them immediately into Park District use.
- Implement short term of a neighborhood park, including flexible turf areas, trails, shade/shelter and special features such as a neighborhood-scale playground.
- Utilize 901 to provide public amenities such as public restrooms, parking and Park District personnel who can provide supervision for adjacent parkland.
- Develop incremental plan for expanded neighborhood park.
- Implement a phased process for relocating and developing a new Planning and Operations facility at a suitable location within Urbana.

Longer Term

- Complete the acquisition of Franklin Street properties as they become available.
- Implement plan for expanded neighborhood park as property is acquired.
- Complete the relocation of district-wide operations & maintenance to a suitable location in Urbana.

BROADWAY AVENUE ("SHELBY") PARKING LOT

- Continue to utilize as daily and overflow CLP parking
- Explore potential of leasing to commercial development as revenue-generator

LAKE HOUSE

Short Term

- Increase the marketing effort for staging private events in the Lake House.
- Consider the market feasibility of expanded lake house-area programming, including remodeling or expansion of the building and the surrounding deck, pavilions, other options for boat rental and concessions, and other potentially rentable space.
- Consider adding a lake edge boardwalk that would link to the park entry at Park & Broadway.
- Increase visibility from the upper level of the park and reconfigure parking and trails as needed to improve public access and use.
- Determine true parking needs in association with the surrounding park area.
- Consider relocation of the teen camp from the Lake House to another area of the park or to other Park District locations.
- Install new vegetation on surrounding hillsides to control erosion and improve aesthetics.
- Replace aging wood retaining walls with more durable and attractive materials consistent with building and site aesthetics.

Longer Term

- Renovate or expand the Lake House and reconfigure the surrounding site to accommodate the conclusions of the above feasibility consideration.
- Reconfigure the parking to support the Lake House renovation or expansion, as appropriate.

SOUTHERN PARK EDGE

- Maintain and enhance the historic park character while improving links to University Avenue and Downtown.
- Provide comprehensive interpretive signage highlighting the ecological features of the southeast island and other features in CLP.
- Better utilize the Cannonball Hill area for larger public gatherings, improving function, access and aesthetics.
- Explore the potential for shared use of the southwest parking lots at Fairview Ave