

CARLE PARK – MASTER PLAN

PROGRAM STATEMENT

(Revised 10.6.8)

PARK MASTER PLAN GOALS:

- ❑ Create a new master plan for Carle Park that will allow for phased implementation of the plan;
- ❑ Promote Carle Park as a community gathering space to allow visitors to connect with neighbors/other visitors, recreate together and learn about/experience nature;
- ❑ Protect and/or enhance existing urban forest, historical features, sculpture and garden areas in the park;
- ❑ Promote changes in the park to encourage more active use; Respect the natural beauty of the urban forest and other open areas in the park;
- ❑ Provide most needed/necessary neighborhood park services and amenities according to UPD finances;
- ❑ Retain positive park characteristics; Seek innovative opportunities to discourage any negative park impacts;
- ❑ Adhere to Urbana Park District park classification and design guidelines as described in the UPD Strategic Plan;
- ❑ Promote environmentally sensitive design standards and “green” construction materials in overall park redevelopment as available and appropriate;

OBJECTIVES:

- ❑ Playground/Play Features
 - Design and construct a neighborhood park playground to serve at least two (2) specific age groups: 2 years – 6 years and 7 years – 12 years (typical age classifications in playground design standards); Consideration should also be given to provide play areas/features for teens (13-18) as need allows
 - Physically separate play features by age classifications to enhance play experience and protect smaller children
 - Design and construct accessible and safe play features according to “play industry” guidelines/standards
 - Provide appropriate play area surfacing as necessary
 - Provide accessible routes that connect all play features/play areas/play surfaces/park features as warranted

- Provide nearby adjacent seating/viewing areas for adult supervision for maximum visibility and security
 - Design play features that enhance and promote the characteristics of Carle Park
 - Provide play features that both challenge and satisfy the variety of play experiences to promote healthy child development and social interaction
 - Promote the use of environmentally friendly (“green”) playground construction materials as permitted
- Paths and Trails
 - Provide universal access and connectivity to key park features
 - Refer to the Urbana Bicycle Master Plan to provide key links and access to other approved trail routes
 - Provide a “Safe Routes” link to Urbana schools (consider access to Urbana High School, Urbana Middle School, Leal Elementary School)
 - Consider use of “green” paving materials when/where appropriate
 - Allow for/rely on access on turf areas for the majority of park access
- Parking
 - Limit parking to current on-road parking plan as directed by City of Urbana
- Park Lighting
 - Provide night/security lighting in the Pavilion according to Urbana Park District park standards
 - Promote the use of LEED standards in pavilion lighting
 - Rely on existing/future street lighting for night lighting/security in the park area
- Park Amenities/Built Infrastructure
 - Provide benches as appropriate throughout park as dictated by use, need and adjacent park amenities; Accessible seating wall is available in the Miller Garden;
 - Provide picnic area(s) including picnic tables, benches, trash receptacles, recycling containers, bicycle facilities, etc. as needed according to master plan layout/design and highest needs; Locate picnic tables, trash receptacles, recycling containers, etc. adjacent to playground areas for maximum use; Picnic tables will be located on existing turf
 - Allow for necessary utility ROW/access areas as part of neighborhood park function; Limit any future utility infrastructure to established ROW zones; Avoid future encroachments
 - Consider adding other addition park features as needed/deemed appropriate

- Green Infrastructure
 - Enhance, protect and maintain all trees in Carle Park according to International Society of Arboriculture tree care standards as UPD funding allows
 - Prepare a “Carle Park – Landscape Management Plan” to assist with the management of all landscape elements
 - Enhance and improve Miller Garden to retain formal characteristics and attractive planting designs
 - Promote the Hickman Tree Walk as a community educational, recreational, cultural and natural resource
 - Maintain attractive park boundaries and corridors next to adjacent property owners

- Historical Features
 - Celebrate and interpret the historical aspects and integrity of Carle Park as one of the earliest parks in Urbana
 - Retain and enhance formal axis from Urbana High School and the Carle Park Pavilion
 - Promote and enhance “Lincoln the Lawyer” sculpture by Lorado Taft as a signature park feature in Carle Park
 - Restore and secure the park Pavilion to enhance the structure and reduce/limit vandalism
 - Prepare a “Carle Park – Historic Features” report to assist with planning for improvements to historical features at the park

- Athletic Fields
 - Coordinate all Urbana Park District athletic programs located at Carle Park to minimize damage/over use of park turf areas
 - Relocate recreation programs in the future to other appropriate Urbana Park District program sites in order to promote consolidated use of fields/courts for maximum use of resources/efficiency based on Strategic Plan Core Services – Youth Athletics

- Park Security
 - Encourage and promote establishment of “Neighborhood Watch” program to help protect park/park area
 - Continue coordination of UPD park policing efforts as warranted
 - Communicate park policing efforts with Carle Park Neighborhood, Urbana Park District, City of Urbana – Police Department and Urbana School District – School Resource Officer to improve, reduce and/or eliminate negative park behaviors

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