Oak Park Conservatory
Master Plan Update
Wednesday October 4th 2017
Tonight:

Timeline of Improvements

A look at the Master Plan from 2008

What has been added or changed since 2008

Discussion on How to Go Forward
Area Context: Parks & Schools

- Rehm Park
- Longfellow Park & Longfellow School
- Fox Park
- Maple Park
- Wenonah Play Lot
- Carroll Park & Lincoln School
- Euclid Park
- Conservatory
- Irving Elementary School
- Barrie Center & Park

Oak Park Conservatory Master Plan Update
Site Context
Timeline

1929  The Edwardian-style glass structure was built
      Over the years the building fell into neglect.

1970  Citizens led a successful drive to preserve the Conservatory

2000  Conservatory Center was opened with expanded space and facilities and public events.

2005  Named to the National Register of Historic Places

2008  PDOP carried out a public master planning process

2011  Rubinstein Memorial Garden was opened.

2015  Elsie Jacobsen Discovery Garden and East Avenue Bioswale opened. New setting and Entry for the front of the Conservatory
Recommendations for West Side

- Bike Racks: Yes
- Entrance Drop-off: Yes
- Fence and Gateway: Yes
- Sculpture/Water Feature: Yes
- Special Exhibit Gardens: Yes
- Carriage Walk: No
- Patio with Stone Paving: Yes
- Trellis: Yes
- Vacated Alley: No
Vacated Alley? Discuss Later

- Gain Space
- Potential of Expansion
West Side 2017  Very Successful Rubenstein Garden
Recommendations for North Side

- Add Planting and Sign (Yes)
- ADA Ramp - Entrance Plaza (Yes)
- Flag Pole and Kiosk (Yes)
- Increase Sidewalk Width (Yes)
- 18” Brick Retaining Wall (No)
- Native shrub plantings (Yes)
- Special Paving and Sign (Sign yes Paving No)
Do you remember how it looked?
Design from 2013

Design for new entryway & ramps, and the reuse of Stone Pier Finials
Design 2013

North Side Landscape
Conservatory Landscape, Oak Park, IL
North Side 2017
But there are still Issues to be Addressed
Recommendations for East Side

- Specialty Paving
- Entrance Drop-off
- Rain Garden
- New Path
- Evergreen Plantings
Redesign & the Elsie Jacobsen Discovery Garden
Do you remember what it was like?
Garden 2015
Vision Statement for the East Avenue Garden

A Garden for Learning (for all ages)
• Words: natural, get close to nature, take care of nature, appreciate nature
• Extend the Conservatory experience (the “fourth show room”)
• Establish a connection between the visitor and the natural world
• Exhibit good plants for our climate/part shade, ease of maintenance, special plants
• Encourage visitors to visit the Conservatory by creating an intriguing garden
• Feature plants to be sold at the Plant Sale
• Garden composting, rain garden and other resource management systems
• Accentuate the change of seasons.

A Peaceful Retreat (for all ages but most significant for adults)
• Words: relaxing, welcoming, safe, enclosure, nature, tranquil, a place to stay
• Noise abatement
• Shade
• A barrier to separate garden from street and create a “garden room”
• Places to sit, picnic and read; scaled for both adults and children
• Passive enjoyment of nature
• Access from the street for people needing a period of peace and quiet
• Focal point – visual and aural (water fountain) to concentrate attention

A Discovery Place (emphasis on children with their families)
• Words: interactive, playful, explore, surprises, discovery
• Fun features: water play, rotating displays, whimsical things
• A meandering path that leads to discoveries and surprises, special nooks
• Active involvement such as things to touch, manipulate
• Interact with nature
• Child-scale construction
• Fencing to secure children from traffic, wandering away etc.
• Reentry to Conservatory through Desert Room (access to bathrooms, water etc.)
• Coordinate play experience with Rehm Park which has lots of climbing structures

Site considerations for all three
• Protect elm roots
• Keep spruce for shade
• Move plants away from open greenhouse windows to discourage pests
• Plantings for ease of maintenance: irrigation system
• Protection from people/animal damage
• Security for potential access door from Desert Room
• Noise from Eisenhower
• Protection from traffic on East Avenue
• Create views through the windows into the greenhouse structures
• Comfort-shade, places to sit
LIGHT

WATER

AIR

EARTH

FOUR ZONES

Flowering Plants/ Exotics

Aquatic Plants

Xeriscape Plants

Forest/ Woods

Subdividing lines from conservatory architecture
Conservatory Landscape, Oak Park, IL

East Garden
Conservatory Landscape, Oak Park, IL

East Garden Landscape Plan
East Garden
Conservatory Landscape, Oak Park, IL
Bioswale
Altamanu Involvement

- Redesign of setting for Conservatory
- New entryways
- New Discovery Garden and Rain Garden/Bioswale

Project Duration: 11 months

Design beginning date: September 2014

Construction completion: August 2015

Construction cost: $370,000
## Expenditures since 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Fin Tube Replacement</td>
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<td>Building Repairs</td>
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### 2013
- **Boilers** $18,590.00
- **Architecture** $2,915.62
- **2012 Boilers** $131,221.75
- **Basewall** $13,380.00

### 2011
- **Tropic Room** $16,029.01
- **Bamboo Flour** $10,580.00
- **Security Cameras** $9,460.00
- **Signage** $11,444.00
- **Garden Project** $176,121.20

### 2010
- **Tropic Room** $279,737.22
- **Garden** $165,480.82

**Total $1,551,948.00**
Long Term Expansion?
Long Term Expansion?
Long Term Expansion?
Discussion