



GARFIELD PARK CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

Chapter VIII: Historic Park Landscape Preservation Treatment Recommendations

A. INTRODUCTION

Garfield Park embodies enduring values as a public landscape and a historic, scenic, environmental, recreational, and community resource. The affection in which the park is held cannot be manufactured or easily called into being, and is an attitude and consideration to be respected, admired, and stewarded. It is serving the people of Indianapolis today but there is considerable opportunity for park renewal.

Let us be clear, parks are intended to be beautiful and Garfield Park has lost some of its beauty over time. Conceived as naturalistic compositions of scenic beauty, these democratic grounds were to be inviting and healthful. Parks are three-dimensional works of art that change through time in a fourth dimension. When addressing historic landscapes the effects of time are apparent. Heritage Landscapes believes, from our broad experience in historic landscape planning and implementation, that doing nothing is in fact a decision to allow degradation and decline. There is no stasis in the landscape it is either improving through human intervention or getting worse due to a range of forces, including human activities, both positive and negative. Landscape planning and management is about the life of the landscape through time. Landscape planning vision and implementation and landscape management practices either serve to steward and support the quality of the property into the future or aid in its degradation.

While a number of objectives are achieved with this cultural landscape report, the two overriding purposes of this planning process are to gain a deeper understanding of the evolution and resources of Garfield Park and, springing from this understanding and the range of contemporary considerations, to provide detailed guidance for future stewardship and renewal of Garfield Park. This is the first and only plan for Garfield Park that is comprehensive, based on research, and presentation of the origins and evolution of Garfield Park to the present. These historic landscape preservation treatment recommendations respect multiple values. They are set forth in consideration of:

- Park history, evolution, and landscape character
- Park natural and cultural resources
- Current and future park use
- Current and future management and maintenance
- Park partnerships

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The initiatives outlined incorporate the overriding value of this park as an inheritance from former civic-minded citizens and public servants and as a trust to pass on to future generations. For a designated historic property our responsibility is to identify and safeguard the historic, cultural resources into the future. We can also choose to recapture elements of the historic park that have been lost or degraded. This does not imply or intend to return Garfield Park to the conditions found at a precise point in time in the past. Evolution is accepted while historic resources are safeguarded. The missions of both Indy Parks & Recreation and the Friends of Garfield Park are also addressed in these recommendations. Many initiatives have been accomplished in recent years. The hope is that all those who value Garfield Park can agree on this planning vision, work together to achieve the first priority initiatives and continue to make progress into the future.

The recommendations set forth in the chapter seek to establish a better balance between the park landscape and park facilities. Historically the park functioned as a recreational resource supporting diverse uses including passive, active, social, and educational opportunities. Today the dominant emphasis on facilities, sports, and events and the parallel degradation of the scenic landscape and path system have compromised the quality of passive park use. In particular, the loss of significant portions of the pedestrian path system and changes to the landscape that make it less scenic combined with increased traffic and parking degrading the visual environment. In recent years specific park initiatives had focused on buildings and parking lots rather than the park landscape. This focus is out of balance and the park, as a scenic, historic and recreational landscape, is degraded. Also, in recent years more facilities have been added. While they serve useful and important functions they could be better integrated into the park landscape.

The user survey demonstrates that more than 60% of Garfield Park users enjoy a range of passive uses to include walking, relaxing, and sitting on a bench. These findings are consistent with other park user surveys nationwide. Since the majority of park users are passive users, the degradation of the park landscape that serves these uses is a serious shift that requires attention and resources to correct. Overall a diversity of recreational opportunities to include passive, active, social, and educational can and should coexist in Garfield Park. To achieve this desired diversity, balance is needed. It is also important to recognize that a public landscape is a place for all people. This democratic ground may not fulfill the desires of each person or group, if those desires are exclusionary or contrary to the multiple values that must be considered. Balance and respect for the whole park landscape guides decision making.

The park history and evolution, current conditions and user opinions have been described in the previous chapters. The findings make clear that since 1895 Garfield Park has made a significant contribution to life in Indianapolis. Today it is a source of enjoyment, education, and exercise to both neighborhood and city-wide park users. Historic elements such as the Sunken Garden, the Conservatory, and the tradition of concerts in the Amphitheater are rated as the top attractions of the park on the user surveys. The survey results also emphasized the use of the park for passive recreation, with a deep appreciation of its open space, naturalness, beauty, serenity, varied landscape, and vegetation. Enjoying nature constitutes the second most frequent reason for visiting the park.

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The societal upheaval of the Great Depression years in the 1930s, and the World War II and its aftermath signaled an end to the early decades of relatively steady staffing and funding. Over the last fifty years there have been some negative changes and deterioration of the park as a result of city budgets, design approaches, uses and abuses, and multi-departmental management and maintenance decisions as well as other factors. In recent decades decisions have responded to specific needs with less consideration of a larger, long-range context. This cultural landscape report focuses on the overall park character and evolution as the frame of reference for addressing the larger issues. The study offers an opportunity to consider the quality of the park, to revive and expand uses, to deal with operational requirements, and to anticipate capital improvements and maintenance initiatives. It may also signal a reconsideration of park partnership roles and responsibilities. Decisions made in the context of long-term resource stewardship in a multi-value milieu are the target. For example, contemporary amenities can be effectively integrated into the overall character of the park landscape. As set forward in previous chapters, understanding and articulating landscape character, to include spatial organization, views, vegetation, circulation, water features, structures, and site furnishings will serve to maintain and enhance the special place that is Garfield Park.

B. EXPLORATION OF LANDSCAPE TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES

Park landscape preservation seeks to retain the historic character and features of the landscape, to mitigate negative changes and deterioration, to prevent such changes from occurring in the future, and to address the range of current and future uses and maintenance issues within this framework. Preservation is not a restrictive process. It places stewardship responsibility on identification and respect for historic character and fabric. In essence it is a matter of respect for what we have inherited.

The following recommendations for the landscape preservation treatment of Garfield Park are based on all the cultural landscape report findings, including history, existing conditions, degrees of change, significance, proposed uses, financial resources, maintenance capabilities, management structure, and partnerships. These recommendations form a holistic framework, or use and preservation philosophy, within which work on the park landscape, features, and facilities is proposed. This framework guides decision-making about interventions and provides a context for ongoing park management.

The *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes (Guidelines)* recommends four possible preservation treatments for historic landscapes: Preservation, Restoration, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction. The choice is guided by the practical and philosophical concerns of the present and future, as well as the past. The treatment must consider the real world concerns of expanded or new uses, operational requirements such as compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, safety and security, anticipated capital improvements, staffing, and maintenance costs.

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Preservation is a low intensity approach involving stabilization, repair, and replacement in-kind. Minimal change to the property is involved. It is most appropriate when many elements are intact and interpretive goals can be met within existing conditions. The overriding objective is to identify, steward, retain, and maintain the existing historic fabric.

Restoration authentically recaptures the historic condition. It requires more resources and more intensive intervention than preservation. It first preserves all historic features that remain and then intervenes to restore degraded or altered features in an authentic manner, based on documentation.

Rehabilitation emphasizes modification of the historic property to suit new, compatible uses, implemented in a manner sensitive to conditions during the period of significance. Preservation of existing historic features, character, and details is required while contemporary uses are accommodated. This is frequently the most appropriate treatment for urban public parks, as it blends respect for historic preservation and interpretation with flexibility to address contemporary recreational needs and park uses, and maintenance considerations.

Reconstruction is the most intensive treatment involving a complete re-creation of a missing historic landscape or a specific landscape unit or feature of the landscape, requiring clear, detailed documentation to construct an exact replica.

Of these four treatments, Preservation, addressing repair and stabilization, serves as the underlying approach for the other three approaches. In public parks Rehabilitation is generally the most appropriate approach in that it directs respect for historic character and features while adapting in appropriate and compatible ways to suit current and future use.

C. REHABILITATION TREATMENT

The recommended treatment for Garfield Park is Rehabilitation addressing sound stewardship of historic features while contemporary use and management are accommodated. Preservation treatment that addresses repair of historic elements is a baseline for all treatments, while restoration or reconstruction can be applied to specific park features. The overall goal is bolstering the historic landscape character while accommodating current issues and multiple values. Rehabilitation targets the repair, renewal, and steady maintenance of all natural and built elements, provides improved access and experience for all users, and focuses required levels of ongoing maintenance for an integrated approach that functions well for both daily and event use.

Garfield Park today is functional and serves a variety of community needs. The respondents to the park user survey generally view the park in positive ways. In the last two decades, attention has been strongly focused on the rehabilitation of the Sunken Gardens, the Conservatory, and the Pagoda as historic resources and symbols of a park renaissance. Park facilities have been added or upgraded to serve specific community needs. There has been a major emphasis on facility-based active recreation with the Burrello Family Center, and on facilities providing social or cultural and some educational uses such as the Amphitheater and the Arts Center.

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Park facilities, buildings, sports fields, and related functional elements like parking lots are important to fulfilling recreation needs and providing for functionalities within the park. However, unanticipated results of this focus on facilities are the separation of the facilities and their programs from each other, an overall lack of connection and coordination, a diminishing of the park scenic landscape, and less emphasis on the passive recreation experiences that serve the majority of park users. Facilities and sports fields are capital-intensive improvements that are dedicated to specific, exclusive uses and serve relatively small percentages of the park use populace. The park is a multi-value, multi-use environment and the broader park landscape beyond those areas set aside for specific uses serves multiple uses and has the capacity to absorb this diversity. A better balance of multi-use and specific use within Garfield Park is needed. This CLR report provides recommendations framing a long-term, coordinated vision of Garfield Park so that current resources, future funding, implementation, and maintenance can all be directed toward an agreed vision for the future of this valued public landscape. The vision for Garfield Park, simply stated, is to celebrate park history while fully accommodating varied uses in a vibrant, beautiful, healthy, public landscape.

An overall structure for park renewal is best addressed under three large topical areas:

- Operations & Maintenance: to include structure, staff, staff skills and equipment, areas of work, increasing skills and redirecting efforts, etc.
- Capital Projects: All aspects of major improvement beyond the repair and maintenance of landscape and facilities
- Visitor Uses & Services: daily and events park uses, programs, tours, self-guided interpretation, wayfinding, managing circulation, park programming coordination.

This structure provides a framework for considering the range of directions for action and advocacy on behalf of Garfield Park. It will be used in the summary section to frame the magnitude of the recommendations, and set forth some considerations on priorities.

D. OVERALL PARK LANDSCAPE TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The chapter VIII narrative is arranged in general topics and then with issues identified, opportunities enumerated and proposed approaches set forth. A series of integrated needs identified in Garfield Park are addressed herein. While proposed treatment elements do overlap to a degree, Heritage Landscapes has organized the recommendations into the following categories:

- Renewing Park Landscape Scenery
- Connecting People to the Park
- Sharing the Road, Balancing Vehicle and Pedestrian Uses
- Recapturing Park Water
- Extending Sunken Gardens Horticulture, Pools, and Habitat
- Improving Park Facilities and Features
- Enhancing Park Interpretation and Public Knowledge
- Enhancing Park-wide Coordination

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Each aspect of the recommended landscape treatment is discussed in the narrative and illustrated on the three accompanying plans entitled *Landscape Treatment Plan-LT*, *Circulation Concepts Plan-CC* and *Vegetation & Water Concepts Plan-VC*. Within each category there are specific opportunities for park renewal. Plan *Landscape Treatment Plan-LT* captures in color all the elements of the recommendations and the numeric codes are keyed to the listing of six park renewal concepts. The *Circulation Concepts Plan-CC* explores ways to achieve a better balance between people, on foot, bicycle, skateboard or roller blade, and cars. The *Vegetation & Water Concepts Plan-VC* highlights the proposed park treatments of pools and pond, and several types of vegetation to enhance park scenery and landscape experience. These plans provide a graphic reference for the recommendations presented in the following narrative, as do the photographs of other historic park projects that are included in this chapter. The narrative early in this discussion is longer, and, as issues overlap, repetition is avoided those toward the end are more succinct.

E. RENEWING PARK LANDSCAPE SCENERY

The Issue: The landscape scenery of Garfield Park has lost some of its quality and character. Currently buildings and parking lots interrupt and clutter many views over the Garfield Park landscape of trees, turf, slopes, and streams. This visual clutter makes the park seem more like the surrounding city rather than distinctly different. The historic bridges are scenic elements of the park landscape. The stream systems are also important but are not achieving their potential as scenic, recreational, and ecological resources. Vegetation and the sequence of spaces that it shapes are important elements of the natural beauty, health, and serenity of the park and in some areas these resources are compromised. People's positive response to large trees, for their presence, age, scale, the shade they provide, and their effect on health has been demonstrated in various research projects. Grand old trees are also a resource that requires two generations (about 100 years) to replace.

The Opportunity: Recapturing the quality and variety of park scenery and the experience and benefits it confers is fully feasible. The increase in scenic beauty of the park landscape can be achieved through an ongoing maintenance, repair, and minor replacement process and also through targeted capital projects.

The Proposed Approach:

- Maintain park trees and renew tree plantings
- Expand and manage interior park green spaces for landscape scenery
- Manage scenic streams and stream banks
- Shape a new version of the Lake as 'Pleasant Pond'
- Improve the landscape and views along park drives
- Replace interior parking lots with parking along the outer edge drives
- Preserve and repair historic park bridges

Park landscape scenery is a primary resource of Garfield Park that requires attention to renew. Each recommended approach to scenery enhancement is discussed in the following text.

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E1. Maintain Park Trees & Renew Tree Plantings

The detailed inventory of the 1760 park trees indicates that 774, or 45.7% require no care while the remaining 54.3% need modest to significant attention. The park has an inheritance of many fine trees with excellent examples of single specimens and groves that are about a century old. The oldest historic trees including 96 old, very large trees (36-inch or greater diameter) and 232 large trees (between 26 and 35 inches in diameter) account for 18.6% of the park tree population inventoried. A number of the user survey respondents mentioned the size and variety of trees as one of the things they liked best about the park while a large percentage of the survey respondents rated the condition of the trees as good or excellent. As noted previously, a comparison of aerial photographs shows a large decrease from the 1930s tree cover to the present and likewise *c 1930 Vegetation Plan, PP-VP* and the *Existing Conditions Vegetation Plan, EC-VP*. There has been a significant tree canopy loss in Garfield Park over the past 70 years with some loss in tree variety as well. In one of his reports George Kessler remarks that the trees of the park include a fine native beech forest. There are only a few remnant American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) or planted European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) in the park today. While native trees were on the property when the park was set aside, the planting history of the park appears to favor the introduction of exotic genera and species as well as planting of native species as recorded in Annual Reports.

A number of invasive species are present in the park today, especially along the stream banks and the railroad embankment. Mowers have damaged bark on many trees. Mulch is piled too deeply around tree trunks. On the ground there is visible evidence of extensive tree work required as indicated by the tree canopy codes in the tree survey. The majority of large trees requires pruning for long-range health and beauty. Recent park tree plantings favor relatively few tree species and do not include all large, old tree types. Based on the varied vegetation in the park today, in particular the older trees that are predominantly native species, the range of species planted into the future should expand beyond the recent palette. Using the tree inventory, a tree planting list should be developed for the park to include the native trees still present, particularly the over 26-inch caliper historic trees. Clarifying the recent palette of trees planted is also important. For example, the use of Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), a formally shaped, dense ornamental tree, is not an appropriate scenic element within the park while native downy serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*) and dogwood (*Cornus florida*), having open forms, are more appropriate.

Recently, most park trees have been planted with single, specimen-style spacing creating spatial uniformity. Traditional tree plantings remaining in the park and historic documentation indicate single grand shade trees over lawn, small groups of three or more trees, larger groves, informally spaced plantings, and riparian trees along the stream corridor. This variety of planting organization through the park artistically shapes space and defines areas of light and shade with woodlands and meadows, offers vistas providing an enjoyable variety of scenery, and makes the park unusual in the region. Planting design should be more varied in the balance of dense plantings with deep shade and strong massing, plantings with dappled shade and open massing, and areas of open space. In vertical layers of vegetation, the ground plane, understory, and canopy relationships need enhancement for the dense planting and riparian areas. Vegetation should be added to frame views, create borders and backdrops, provide habitat, prevent erosion,

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guide movement through the park, and vary the experience of the park within the designed naturalistic landscape.

Kessler wrote of the possibility of labeling plants to add botanical information for visitors to the Sunken Gardens. Expanding the idea to identifying representative trees throughout the park would satisfy curiosity and encourage a better understanding of this dimension of the landscape. Native trees and shrubs, trees that flower, and unusual specimens could be identified and used to form guided walks.

In sum, a long-range program of tree acquisition, planting, and maintenance should be put in place in order to stabilize the present population of large trees and add more tree canopy to the park. This is an investment in the beauty and value of the park landscape into the future.

E2. Expand Interior Park Green Spaces for Scenery

The historical variety of scenery for which the park was renowned has diminished gradually over the years. In several areas the addition of buildings has also impinged on scenery and sense of space. Interior green spaces could be expanded to enhance the scenic values of the park. For example, the Burrello Center, Fire Station 29, and the Shelby Branch Library could have plantings designed that allow them to be seen but to blend into the park landscape more effectively.

In the larger landscape, the historic and artistic shaping of spaces with views, groves, meadows, turf, and woodlands should be reinforced and reworked. Six interior green spaces in the park are examples of underutilized scenic potential. As seen on *Landscape Treatment Plan-LT*, there are several areas noted with the number 1 which indicates the opportunity to renew park landscape scenery. An important proposal in recapturing park green space and scenery is the redefinition of the playing fields and turf area to the west of the Arts Center and south of the Burrello Family Center. Baseball fields can be reoriented, putting the backstops at the outer edges of the area, to open the interior of the space as an expanse of green. Aligning the soccer/football field in the center of this space will maximize recreational use while securing a green center and opening the area north of the Pagoda. Organizing all the elements that break up the area around the edges and reunifying the green space in the center achieves enhanced park scenery. When sports activities are underway, the new path loop around the edges will allow for casual observation while walking, and will provide a breadth of park scenery when unpopulated.

The area between the MacAllister Amphitheater and the Pagoda playground and gardens has a level to rolling ground plane of turf shaded by clusters of grand trees and some smaller plantings. The area between to facilities could be readily captured as a pleasant place to stroll and enjoy green space simply by incorporating some graceful paths and assessing and enhancing tree plantings to provide some additional spatial definition.

The confluence of Bean Creek and Pleasant Run is another area proposed for scenery recapture. Plan *LT* shows the relocation of the playground and redesign of the parking lot in order to gain an expanse of green space, improve scenic quality, and enhance efficient use of the area. Across from this streamside area along Conservatory Drive is the Sledding Hill area that presents a further opportunity to enhance the scenic landscape of the park. The recently constructed path

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provides access at the base of the hill and edge and hilltop trees provide spatial definition, although buildings and traffic along the adjacent streets visually intrude on the area. This assessment of intrusion is rooted in a basic principle of naturalistic park design that directs the separation of the park from the surrounding city for an immersion in the park landscape devoid of the strong presence of the developed city surrounding the park. Additions to the path system for access to upslope areas and more edge plantings could further enhance this area as a scenic landscape within the park.

In the northwest corner of the park, a triangular shaped area defined by the railroad embankment and two streets presents a further opportunity for scenic enhancement and a prime opportunity to shift from mown turf under trees into open woodland. Shown in dark green, this area has a nearly complete tree canopy cover today. To restore this area to woodland, the first step would be to mow and place a layer of mulch on the ground plane. This would be followed by planting of shade trees of species already present in canopy gaps and understory or shade tolerant trees to enrich the planting. Herbaceous woodland plants, ferns, and wildflowers could also be added on the ground plane and encouraged to colonize. Healthy woodlands are visually open, with tree trunks and branches but not dense masses of foliage to block views. One curving path is shown to add a pleasant route through the area and encourage movement from the adjacent neighborhoods into the park through this woodland.

The final area noted with a number 1 on Plan LT is the Conservatory Gardens. To the north and south sides of the main area of the gardens small pools with aquatic plantings extended the horticultural interest of the gardens. The secondary features encouraged a longer, more varied exploration of the gardens rewarded by a more diverse display of horticulture and scenery. In addition, historic documents indicate that pools and wetlands to the southwest, and additional paths, provided an enriched aquatic and bankside environs that was a further component of the Conservatory Gardens. These additions would not only add to park landscape scenery but would serve as a platform for new tours, classes and casual enjoyment for garden visitors.

E3. Manage Scenic Streams & Stream Banks

Bean Creek and Pleasant Run pass through and join in Garfield Park. In the past these streams and their banks contributed far more to former park scenery and recreation than they do today. Managing and improving water quality in these streams extends beyond the boundaries of Garfield Park and needs to be addressed in a larger context; however, within the park streams and streambank scenery requires attention. The multiple issues of scenic and environmental quality, diverse recreational opportunity, and stormwater management must be incorporated into the treatment of the streams and streambanks with Garfield Park.

Several survey respondents noted that the condition of the streambanks as a least-liked aspect of the park. Opportunistic growth that is undesirable or invasive is present. The recent practice of periodically clearing of streambank vegetation to open water channels for high storm flows addresses functional issues of storm water movement and flood control without consideration of scenic quality and environmental value. Periodic suppression of invasive species is needed. In the Pittsburgh Regional Parks, Central Park, and also state and national parks and wilderness areas, “Weed Teams” of citizen volunteers, members of the Student Conservation Association, and corporate work crews have been organized to address the removal of invasive species along

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with other initiatives to encourage desirable vegetation. This approach could work at Garfield Park to suppress undesirable and invasive species while encouraging native species along the streambanks.

During the field inventory Heritage Landscapes located one area where woody succession of nearby park trees is taking place along the adjacent streambank. This desirable process is already underway and can be observed and encouraged elsewhere. To enjoy the scenic quality of the streambanks, abandoned historic paths that once meandered across streambanks and near the water's edge need to be reconstructed and new ones established to provide greater access. Paths can be organized to provide a limited number of water access points where slopes permit. Detailing should consider path durability in high water situations likely requiring the armoring of the streambanks with masonry work. As an example, Heritage Landscapes includes an image from Trout Pond, Seneca Park, Rochester, New York, an Olmsted-designed landscape, where a recent project rehabilitated the pond edges with a path extending to the pond edge and into an area of stone paving and boulder detailing (Figure VIII.1).

The vegetation along the streambanks seen in historic views is a mixture of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. Revegetation of the streamside slopes should be designed to provide views to the water while stabilizing slopes and enhancing wildlife habitat. On steeper or erosion-prone slopes shrubs and trees with emphasis on native plants such as black willow, sycamore, poplar and viburnum. Planting design and plant selection should be interpreted for visitor information and nature walks. Stream improvements can also offer programmatic elements for environmental education on various aspects of urban waterways to include stormwater management, habitat, and water quality.

E4. Recreate the Lake as “Pleasant Pond”

An important scenic element and source of passive, active, and social recreation was the wide, reflective water shaped at the confluence of Bean Creek and Pleasant Run. It is diminished today to a narrow watercourse. A version of this lake or pond can be recreated by widening this confluence to the extent that the present topography allows, which is shown on the *Vegetation & Water Concepts Plan-VC*. This intervention would recapture a scenic, recreational landscape in the stream valley and serve as a focus for the upgrading of the entire stream corridor. In a recent project in Schenley Park, Heritage Landscapes designed basins along a stream course to capture and slow stormwater surges, dropping sand, gravel, soil, stone and debris being carried by fast-moving flashy storm flows down the streams (See Figure VIII.2.). These basins are located along access paths so that they can be dredged out periodically as needed. Installation of similar sediment capture areas or basins upstream from the proposed Pleasant Pond widening may be effectively applied to the waterways in Garfield Park. The objective would be to shape the wide pond and upstream systems in a sustainable manner anticipating flashy, high water storm surges. A recaptured Pleasant Pond could serve scenic, ecological, recreational, educational, and functional stormwater management purposes.

Related water quality improvements will need to be addressed as use along Garfield Park streambanks increases. Necessary improvements extend beyond the park to address storm event overflows of sanitary sewer lines and related water pollution as well as non-point source pollution from abutting lands. Any work on the Garfield Park stream corridors needs to be

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carried out with full understanding of water dynamics in terms of the limits of storm flows and floodways as well as water quality. The Flood Insurance Map for Pleasant Run and Bean Creek is included for reference and shows a substantial acreage of parklands within the floodway area as defined. (See Figure VIII.3)

E5. Improve the Landscape & Views Along The Drives

The experience of driving slowly and appreciatively through the landscape is another pleasure that the park offered to a greater degree in the past than it does today. Current drives have a more utilitarian character. Their primary function is to access specific facilities in the park and end at a parking lot. There is a need to rethink the visual aspect of driving in the park. Slowing traffic, perhaps to a 20 mile per hour speed limit, and restoring the value and quality of the landscape by recapturing scenery and pleasing views from the drives would renew pleasure to the driving experience afforded by the park. The task of enhancing vehicular experience of the park landscape is fulfilled in recommendations for vegetation, spatial definition, green space recapture and parking reorganization.

E6. Replace Parking Lots with Parking Along Drives

To accommodate peak summer uses in recent years, small and large parking lots have been added throughout the park. Many of these lots are located so that views into the park are first directed through parking lots. These views are less desirable and previous discussions have indicated an overall effort to recapture scenic landscape quality. Heritage Landscapes' studies of the current parking lots and parking counts reveals that it is possible to restore parallel parking along the outer sides of park roads and maintain or slightly exceed current parking counts. The current average 30 foot road width would allow a 14-foot vehicle moving lane in one direction, an 8-foot recreation lane for joggers, bikers, fast walkers, and an 8-foot parallel parking lane. These widths would also accommodate emergency traffic. Slowing traffic and adding speed tables as crosswalks would also aid this arrangement and have a traffic calming effect.

E7. Preserve & Repair Historic Park Bridges

The bridges are character-defining structures in the Garfield Park. Their distinctive designs are recognized for historic and scenic value. This important group of park resources slows vehicular traffic and adds to the pedestrian experience. The bridges of Garfield Park require repairs under the framework of a preservation approach that retains original materials or replaces them in-kind while achieving inconspicuous structural repairs should be pursued. This approach has been successfully employed elsewhere. Heritage Landscapes was a team member in the renewal of Red Creek Bridge, Genesee Valley Park, Rochester, New York. This historic bridge rehabilitation achieved the retention of 90% of the bridge balustrade and foundation wall façades, while fully replacing the structural deck and sidewalks for higher load ratings at a cost that was less than 25% of bridge replacement (Figures VIII.4 and VII.5).

E8. Renewing Park Landscape Scenery, Summary Recommendations

- Reconsider scenic quality in area of the park.
- Reshape the green space west of the Arts Center by reorganizing the orientation of the baseball and soccer fields with backstops at the outer edges of the field.
- Reorganize parking, playground and paths at confluence of streams.
- Augment scenic qualities of Sledding Hill.

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- Add ponds to Conservatory Gardens to augment landscape variety and interest.
- Encourage woodland cover in northwest corner of park to provide landscape variety and reduce mowing.
- Inspect and repair historic bridges to retain maximum historic fabric and details.
- Incorporate the detailed tree inventory developed in this project as a baseline for ongoing tree work and tree renewal. Establish an appropriate vegetation palette for new park tree plantings based on this inventory.
- Plan for increasing plantings each year and design the plantings to enhance landscape scenery and ecological value.
- Develop an effective approach to ongoing invasive species suppression.
- Allow and encourage regeneration of desirable species.
- Redesign and replant neglected areas such as the slope east of the Garfield Arts Center and the area between the Shelby Branch Library and the Conservatory.
- Blend facilities such as the Library, Fire Station and Burrello Center more effectively into the landscape with plantings that increase the scenic value.
- Install tree identification with labels, mapped tree walks for natives, exceptional ornamentals, or members of a particular genus such as oaks.
- Interpret the benefits of trees for the environment, for the value of homes, etc.
- Restore the historic massing of shrubs and trees on the north and south shoulders framing the Sunken Gardens.
- Determine the ownership of the railroad embankment and the possibility of clean-up and replanting. Determine the presence of creosote or other potentially toxic substances. Make the railroad a partner.

F. CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE PARK

The Issue: The system of walks and paths is fragmented and partial no longer giving pedestrians the full experience of the park or making connections conveniently on foot from surrounding neighborhoods or one area of the park to another. The integrated systems of curvilinear, connected walks that allowed choices in the length of a walk, the area of the park to visit, and the type of scenery have been truncated or removed. Emphasis today is on access from parking lots to facilities, which does not serve the primary reported pedestrian activity. Leisure walking accounts for 49% of pedestrian use, while jogging or exercise walking account for 31%, dog walking for 20%, and bicycling for 19% of the users surveyed. The multiple uses of paths, walking, pushing a stroller, running, bicycling, inline skating, etc., are not well accommodated on the fragmented path system and are in conflict with vehicle traffic on park drives. Separating walkers from faster modes of moving may be important. Respondents to the survey specifically requested the ability to circumnavigate the park without going out on the perimeter streets and to have the pedestrian bridge across Bean Creek at the Sunken Garden rebuilt. Survey respondents also requested access to restrooms and more benches along the walks.

The Opportunity: The recent trail improvement has boosted park trail use and park users desire additional trails. There is an opportunity to make park pedestrian circulation a greater amenity by constructing a complete network of paths that allow and encourage walking, exercise walking, jogging, running, in-line skating and other forms of non-car movement, offering a richer park

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landscape experience. It has already been noted that an elaborate historic path system was created for the park that is missing to a great degree in the park today. As shown on *Plan-CC* park paths can be resuscitated along their historic alignments when advisable from a current and future use standpoint and with new alignments to connect park features and take advantage of park landscape passages, such as groves, waterside areas or bridges. Connecting park facilities along scenic paths is also an important objective. There is a further opportunity to make walks a destination in their own right with plant collections, didactic plantings for nature walks, butterfly attractors, and stream crossings.

The Proposed Approach:

- Expand the pedestrian path system.
- Link paths among all destinations.
- Shape paths with scenic landscape, inspired by the 1913 Kessler Plan.
- Achieve disabled access grades to the extent possible.
- Add or improve steps where needed.
- Restore a pedestrian bridge between the MacAllister Amphitheater area and the Sunken Gardens.

F1. Expand the Pedestrian Path System & Link Paths Among All Destinations.

Plan CC shows the proposed extension of the park path system with a series of orange paths connecting to the existing ones. The lack of connected paths hampers full park use and enjoyment. Pedestrian circulation through the park deserves very high priority to provide an enriched park experience and achieve a better balance with vehicle access. Current paths focus on access between parking and facilities with one main path, recently rebuilt on early path alignments, enjoying extensive use. The creation of a path network that allows and encourages walking and other forms of non-car park experience should be undertaken in sections in concert with other improvements in the target area. As paths are developed some may be planned for wider widths to serve multiple modes of movement, while others may be planned predominantly for walking. There is often a concern about the width of paths in parks. A good reference is the sizes of paths in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, designed by Olmsted and Vaux. The major paths in Prospect Park are twenty feet wide, with secondary paths at fifteen feet in width and tertiary ones at ten feet in width. Ten feet is the minimum desirable path width because it allows for two people to pass two people without falling into single file. Ten feet also provides a functional size for maintenance or emergency vehicle access. Heritage Landscapes generally specifies path construction for a full depth road base and two asphalt lifts so that all park users traffic and service traffic can be easily sustained on a durable, all weather path. Eventually a complete path system will be in place offering a larger variety of park experience and much improved access to park scenery and park facilities.

F3. Shape Paths with Scenic Landscape

Design the circulation to reflect the high percentage (63.5%) of visitors who are there to enjoy nature. Restore the historic pattern of looped and connecting paths as far as possible. These concepts enhance each other since enjoying the park landscape and scenery as well as using paths to reach park destinations were all aspects of the original path system. An important principal of naturalistic landscape design, which Kessler followed in developing the park, is to create a system of paths that provides options and loops that allow movement through the park

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landscape without taking the same path in both directions. This concept of movement through the park landscape along a path with continuously changing views also provides the perception of an extending space because there is no repetition. The 1913 Kessler Plan for Garfield Park, presented earlier in Chapter III as KP1913, shows a path pattern that is fitted gracefully into the landscape and reaches all aspects of the park landscape scenery. Its curves shape and reveal a variety of spaces linking all the areas of the park into an organic whole. This is the type of path system to be recaptured in Garfield Park.

F4. Achieve Disabled Access Grades to Extent Possible

The intent of the American Disabilities Act is to provide equal access to the diverse experiences of public places for people of all abilities. At the same time, preservation of the historic fabric and character of the park landscape is also to be achieved without significant compromise. It is rarely possible to achieve complete accessibility in the generally varied and somewhat steep topography of a park and Garfield Park is no exception. In developing the conceptual path system shown on Plan CC Heritage Landscapes sought to place part of the path system on the relatively level high ground above the stream valleys. ADA guidelines indicate that the maximum grade for paths should be 5% as a continuous grade without handrails. Ramps can be up to 8.33% for 30 feet of length but handrails are required on both sides at this steeper grade. Heritage Landscapes uses 8.33% rarely if at all in park landscapes because of the desire to avoid handrails, with the exception of access to park buildings. As the path system is laid out every effort should be made to open as much of the park experience as possible to less able individuals by conforming to the maximum ADA grades along as continuous an upland route as possible.

F5. Add & Improve Steps Where Needed

There are steps traversing steep grades in various locations in the park. Some of these require repair or reconstruction. New steps in appropriate locations could be used to provide greater access to the stream valley. The repair of steps and the construction of additional ones is a component of the path system that deserves some attention.

F6. Restore Pedestrian Bridge Connecting the Sunken Gardens & MacAllister Center

A number of survey respondents requested the restoration of the lost pedestrian connection. This is a key link in the circumnavigation of the park, and offers visibility of the water and non-car connection of facilities, which today are isolated from each other. As a part of the overall path system this pedestrian bridge connection is important to reestablish.

Connecting More People to the Park, Summary Recommendations

- Give pedestrian circulation at least as high a priority as that for vehicles.
- Design the circulation to reflect the high percentage of visitors who are there to enjoy nature.
- Restore the historic pattern of looped and connecting paths as far as possible.
- Build paths to multi-use widths possibly with a hierarchy of primary and secondary routes.
- Consider path function and appearance in materials selection to reflect the historic look and feel, but function for present uses.
- Provide distance measurements for several path loops for physical fitness users.
- Devise new path segments where needed to make the contemporary connections throughout the park.

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- Create a recreation lane loop using Pagoda, Conservatory, and Center Drive that will accommodate bicycles, inline skating, etc.
- Create paths along park streams with access to the water where possible. These are prime areas for nature interpretation.
- Create a path loop around the perimeter of the sports field for walking, jogging, spectating, enjoying the breadth of green space.
- Strengthen park path connections to surrounding neighborhoods.

G. SHARE THE ROAD, BALANCING VEHICLE & PEDESTRIAN USES

The Issue: The early concept of encouraging automobile driving, as recreation through the park is not longer viable with increases in both speed and volume of contemporary traffic. Current park vehicular movement patterns direct cars to specific park destinations and adjacent parking lots. This no longer expresses “pleasure driving” for scenic enjoyment of the park. Traffic moves at relatively high speeds along park drives. Adequate parking for events on peak days is an issue, but the existing number and size of parking lots already intrudes visually on the landscape. Survey respondents noted the large amount of asphalt in the park and requested smaller parking lots. The removal of sections of drives to deter cruising has been less successful than anticipated and has created some circulation and use problems. Park visitors also have indicated concerns about parking lots as locations of undesirable and illegal behaviors. The current path system, even with the recent renewal of a long path, affords limited opportunities for diverse pedestrian uses including walking, pushing strollers, exercise walking, jogging, bicycling, skateboarding, and in-line skating.

The Opportunity: Park circulation can be rethought to better accommodate a diversity of park uses. Heritage Landscapes has found in other park planning and implementation work, that high speed and low speed park path users are incompatible when path widths are narrow and required to support multiple uses. In Cherokee Park, Louisville and Prospect Park, Brooklyn, the testing and refinement of recreation lanes on park roads has been highly successful. The case of Cherokee Park is especially applicable to Garfield Park in that the community was skeptical of the recreational lane approach at first. The concept is easy to test using orange traffic cones and temporary signs a recreation lane can be designated in minutes. A test carried out on several consecutive weekends in Cherokee Park was very successful and a one-way vehicle pattern with one-way recreation lane was adopted. The recreation lane concept, as shown on Plan CC, should be tested in Garfield Park.

The Proposed Approach:

- Slow and calm park traffic.
- Reorganize the use of park drives.
- Develop an event circulation pattern and explore peak event use parking options.
- Rethink the current parking lots in terms of the scenic park landscape.

G1. Slow & Calm Park Traffic.

A useful approach to enhancing park use is to reduce the park speed limit to 20mph. This change will further diminish the cross-park traffic and help to make the park a unified experience.

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Adding speed tables that also function as pedestrian crosswalks for park path crossings will also slow traffic. Crosswalks increase pedestrian visibility and thereby increase safety. Wide speed tables with gentle side slopes can be snowplowed without damage.

G2. Reorganize the Use of Park Drives

Plan CC shows an approach to reorganizing park drives. A few drives need to remain two-way but others can shift to one-way allowing for sharing of the road surface. An existing 22' pavement width would accommodate a 14' moving lane and an 8' recreation lane on the left side for bikes, runners, and inline skating. The 30-foot pavement width of many park roads accommodates moving and recreation lanes as well as an 8' parking lane. Test one-way vehicle traffic in park interior. On one-way sections test the designation of an 8-foot recreation loop for joggers, bicycles, in-line skaters, etc. By shifting parking to parallel at the sides of the drives, restore the historical practice of parking along the roads. This would add more parking than is currently available, and distribute it more evenly through the park. Slowing traffic would make this feasible. Additionally, parking along a street has a traffic calming effect and reduces speed.

The circulation pattern shown on Plan CC creates a one-way pattern around the interior of the park using Conservatory Drive, Pagoda Drive, and Center Drive. This inhibits through traffic, allows more parking and a recreational lane, and improves traffic flow on peak event days. The extension of East Drive into the park, and the section of Pleasant Run Parkway from the fire station to Raymond Street would remain two-way.

G3. Develop an Event Circulation Pattern

Heritage Landscapes is committed to constructing park facilities for everyday and regular levels of use while finding creative ways to accommodate highest peak uses. In every historic park there are high peak uses that exceed vehicle-parking capacity. Indy Parks & Recreation is already managing event traffic in some ways. We noted that during Sledding Hill activity the drive below the hill was restricted and during Christmas lighting the access was prescribed. An approach worthy of testing is shown on Plan CC. IT indicates one-way drive patterns, and a recreation lane. During peak events the recreation lane could be used for additional parking. In addition, as the park empties out after an event, staff-directed exit traffic could use park paths for limited times. The temporary opening of Center Drive to in and out flows at peak events may aid in reducing event traffic congestion and is one component worthy of testing. Examples of successful use of the above principles in comparable parks are Cherokee Park in Louisville, Kentucky, and Prospect Park in Brooklyn.

G4. Rethink Current Parking Lots

The overall goal of enhancing park landscape scenery is at odds with the current location and distribution of parking lots throughout the park. As paving and curbs fail seriously consider removing small parking lots from the interior park landscape before carrying out extensive and costly repairs. Remaining large lots, such as the relatively new one at the Burrello Center, should be assessed for landscape enhancement by possibly adding additional tree islands or increasing the breadth of landscape space and grove plantings along the park drive. The large gravel area paved area north of the Arts Center should be reduced to two handicapped spaces and service and drop-off turnaround with all other parking in the existing parking area below. The Pleasant Run playground parking area can be redesigned for more efficient parking with reduced paving.

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While overall parking capacity is an issue, Heritage Landscapes recommends the sizing of parking capacity to meet the needs of average high use days rather than extreme peak use which usually occur a small number of days each year. In addition plan CC shows the suggestion that parallel parking along park drives, to the outer side of the drive, can afford considerable parking count while drives width remain as existing and interior lots are removed. Parallel parking is more scenically acceptable as the cars are in single files and on the opposite side of the park drive from the broader park landscape and views over the park.

H. RECAPTURING PARK WATER

The Issue: In the historic photographs the appearance of the park around the streams is inviting. The dimension of natural water, with its aesthetic and recreational aspects, is largely lost in the park today. The lake no longer exists. Some of the water surface of Pleasant Run and much of Bean Creek is obscured by vegetation. There is little access to water, and little variety of water types such as pools and falls, riffles or meanders. Recreational pursuits (wading, fishing, playing on stepping stones, catching tadpoles) that added to the park experience are gone. There is a paucity of natural habitat and far less tree cover than formerly. Additional pools at the Conservatory Garden have been lost to time. The fountains have been inactive for protracted periods and they are also vital to the park.

Indy Parks & Recreation indicates that water pollution is a problem in both Bean Creek and Pleasant Run. This issue of water quality extends the problem of water recreation beyond the boundaries of Garfield Park.

The Opportunity: It is possible to regain a large, lost dimension of the park appearance and activity with the water features and their historic, scenic and recreational aspects. The draw of water has always been clear and deep. The Sunken Gardens are lifeless without the fountains at play.

The Proposed Approach:

- Recapture the water landscapes of Garfield Park for scenery and recreation.
- Work with City and County departments and abutting land owners to improve water quality in Bean Creek and Pleasant Run.

H1. Recapture the Water Landscapes of Garfield Park for Scenery & Recreation

Explore the possibility of recreating the a widened water area like the former lake to the extent that the present topography allows, along with the wider pool areas upstream as the old Pleasant Run Parkway lagoons. This would constitute a recapture of a landscape that was enjoyed for its recreational pursuits, and for its scenic value. The new ‘Pleasant Pond’ could serve scenic, ecological, recreational, and stormwater control purposes.

In order to consider the widening if the confluence of the streams into “Pleasant Pond” the stream dynamics need to be studied. The somewhat unclear historic record indicates that sediment was carried to the confluence and filled the wide pond area. The management of sediment upstream from the widening would need to be solved. Heritage Landscapes recently

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worked with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and the Pittsburgh Department of Public Works to reshape a degraded stream in Schenley Park creating two upstream sediment basins so that in the future a rich wetland can be recreated below these basins. A similar type of thinking would be needed for pond recapture.

Restore the streams to view with long term, regular vegetation management by suppressing invasive species, encouraging native trees while considering the framing and defining of views to and across the water. In some areas the slopes will permit mown grass to the stream banks. On steeper or erosion-prone slopes shrub and tree planting with emphasis on native plants such as willow, poplar, sycamore, basswood, dogwood and viburnum would create contrast, control erosion, provide habitat, and could be broadly interpreted for park programs and self-guided walks. Cleaning up litter regularly might be done by a rotation of volunteers, youth groups or school classes combined with a nature-interpretive field trip.

Reconstruct pools, riffles, meanders and basins for water quality and enhanced habitat. Restore some of the variety of water movement to the stream courses by replacing former “boulder” dams. The object is to create better stream health, habitat, and response to stormwater surges as well as visual and auditory pleasure.

Reconstruct streamside pools as rich wetlands. Add to the variety of plant and nature experience for nature walks, teacher resources, and ecological and environmental self-education in the functions of wetlands. The pools also absorb storm water surges and slow release of the water.

Create pedestrian circulation along water edges with access to the water, and with handicap accessibility wherever practicable. Consider high water events in developing construction details for streambank access.

Maintain the repair and use of the historic bridges as elements of recreation near water with water views and as scenic structures reflected in the water. The bridges are a vital element in the distinctive character of Garfield Park. They equal the Pagoda and the Sunken Gardens in making visible the richness of design in the historic period of the park.

H2. Work to Improve Water Quality in Bean Creek and Pleasant Run

The larger problem of low water quality and water pollution extends beyond the boundaries of Garfield Park. There is a need to work with City and County departments and abutting landowners to improve water quality in Bean Creek and Pleasant Run. Both point source and non-point source pollution are causing the degraded water quality. As the flood zone map, included as Figure VIII.3, indicates, high storm flows can inundate parklands bringing polluted water from sanitary overflows.

There are several areas of action that can be pursued in addressing improved water quality. The degradation of water quality occurs from both point source and non-point source pollution. An early step would be to research and obtain all relevant water quality reports and information about any current or pending plans to address water quality problems. Testing the water in both Bean Creek and Pleasant Run with some regularity may be useful to gain additional data. The ecoli counts indicate upstream waste disposal from combined sewer overflow in storm events.

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There are also potentially non-point source pollutants entering along stream corridor, possibly from residential lawn chemicals or adjacent industrial users. The process of upgrading stream water quality begins with more information and once well informed an advocacy process that addresses the identification, control, and elimination of pollutants over the long term to address water quality upgrading beyond the park boundaries so that water reaching to park is healthier.

Within the park water quality and the enjoyment of the streams are related. The stability of slopes on all park streambanks is important both for scenic quality and for ecological health. In many areas of the park areas of coarse rip-rap inhibit both bank replanting with native species and control of invasive species. Bioengineering approaches to stream banks include the planting of water tolerant native shrubs like dogwood, willow and elderberry. One approach to the enrichment of streambank plantings is the cutting of branches from existing desirable plants like those noted and the planting of these live wood stakes in spring or fall. Park staff or volunteers could carry out this type of live staking, stream bank clean-up and invasive species removals.

This narrative lays out the elements of water quality improvement both beyond Garfield Park and within the park. Improving water quality in these streams so that park users can actually play in the water will require considerable focus and advocacy that proceeds over a number of years. It is a worthy undertaking and should be pursued.

I. EXTEND SUNKEN GARDENS HORTICULTURE, POOLS & HABITAT

The Issue: The Sunken Gardens are the premier visitor area in Garfield Park. Their richness has diminished over the years with the reduction of their size, complexity and diversity. Some current drainage problems also contribute to a less than fully thriving condition.

The Opportunity: Gardens can be restored to the size, pattern and texture that complement the proportions of the spaces and their intricacy. The research process for this report revealed images and records of former aquatic pools, an area of water habitat and horticulture to the southwest and a rock garden along the streambank to the west. All of these features are worthy of consideration for recapture. The drainage problems of the low-lying soils within the Sunken Gardens can also be addressed.

In order to enhance Garfield Park horticulture endowed gardener positions should be considered. For example, the funding for the Ravine Garden, reconstructed at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, considered both capital project costs (approximately \$900,000) and garden care staff and materials annual expenses endowment (approximately \$1.6 million) to insure the future of the garden. Discussions with colleagues indicate that zone gardener positions in the New York Parks have been endowed for \$700,000 to \$1.1 million in recent years. This concept of endowment budgets for staff and materials is important to consider as enhancements to the park landscape, that will require care beyond that which is available today, are planned.

The Proposed Approach:

- Improve drainage and soils in the Sunken Garden and restore the center beds.
- Reconstruct the lily pools.

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- Recreate the Bean Creek inlet area.
- Replant the rock shrub gardens.

II. Improve Drainage & Soils in the Sunken Garden & Restore Center Beds

A comparison of Figure V.7 and V.8 shows the proportions and detailed richness of the original design of the Gardens has been simplified and diminished in the Sunken Gardens. See also Figures II.16, II.19, and II.20. The center beds would add to the display and visitor enjoyment. The problem with the soils appears to be both drainage and soil composition. Mineral soil contains sand and gravel, silt and clay with humus materials making up some percentage of the composition. The Sunken Garden soils appear to be too high in percentages of silt and humus and therefore inhibit drainage. Added to this is the fact that the garden beds are lower than the surrounding areas and therefore receive additional drainage runoff. Subsoils may also be heavy in silts and/or clay inhibiting percolation. Surface topsoil and subsoil testing should be undertaken. The soil composition should be amended and surface topography reshaped, based on test results, to improve drainage while supporting fertile garden growth.

I2. Reconstruct Lily Pools

The lily pools were a pair of kidney-shaped ornamental pools on the south side of the Sunken Gardens, seen in Figure II.20, and a larger curved pool on the north side, shown on period plan PP1940 in Chapter II, that added ornamental aquatic plants to the variety of floral display the Sunken Gardens offered. Today they could display the latest cultivars for increasingly popular home water gardening. The Sunken Gardens perimeter fence would be expanded and relocated include these areas.

I3. Recreate the Inlet from Bean Creek

At the south end of the Sunken Gardens an area of wetland habitat and horticulture once existed with the inflow/outflow from the streams creating an island. This area could be valuable ecologically and educationally, increasing the variety of habitat. The survey response requested more teaching resources; and the Garden Superintendent in 1915, as the Sunken Gardens were being installed, suggested in the Annual Report the creation of a water garden on Bean Creek to expand the variety of planting.

I4. Replant the Rock Garden Area

Considerable areas on both sides of Bean Creek were alpine/rock gardens in the late 1930s and early 1940s. These gardens increased the variety of floral display and kept the banks open for views to and from the Sunken Gardens. These concepts of horticultural interest along the streambanks could be reintroduced using shrubs and dwarf conifers with rocks for a similar effect but lower maintenance. In this area and other specific garden areas would permit more intensely cultivated gardens.

J. IMPROVING OTHER PARK FEATURES & FACILITIES

The Issue: Noted by survey respondents as an issue, available bathroom facilities are lacking since building patrons, rather than general park users use those within buildings. As found today, for a variety of reasons, design objectives and maintenance staff capabilities have left some park

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facilities and features in a less than optimal condition.

The Opportunity: Restroom services and enhanced features and facilities within Garfield Park can be provided to achieve multiple objectives.

The Proposed Approach:

- Adding Accessible Restrooms.
- Conserving park monuments and memorials.

J1. Adding Accessible Restrooms

Park users restrooms are suggested in addition to the improved fields at Playfield Meadow. The area is an activity hub and a modest service building that fits into the park aesthetics is recommended. Improving the landscape, paths, plantings and playing fields near the Arts Center would support multiple uses use can be combined with an improved sense of scenic greenspace by shifting the backstops to the perimeters of the space, and retaining green outfields; positioning fields without overlap; improving the play field drainage; providing a loop path around edges; integrating spectating at the fields with landforms and benches; and providing restrooms, possibly combined with equipment storage and a modest concession facility. The meadow area in Genesee Valley Park was the object of a substantial upgrade in the 1990s.

A small restroom building was an important addition. This building was developed with a single door for each bathroom space with a unisex, handicapped accessible layout (Figure VIII.6). The facility has been well received and, the smaller, individual room layout has deterred the usual vandalism that plagues larger restrooms. This model was also recommended by Heritage Landscapes and put in place at the Shawnee baseball field complex. There it was integrated with a concession, scoreboard and league changing/locker room. It has also been well received.

J2. Conserving Park Monuments & Memorials

Several of the memorials around the park need conservation and repair. In particular the Grove of Remembrance needs tree replacement, labels, and a suitable sign replacement. One of the memorial boulders in the grove has lost its plaque, and the memorial to the War Mothers needs refurbishing. The Lucius Swift and A. Feeny memorials need repair and the Confederate War Prisoners Memorial needs cleaning. These are possible individual projects for civic groups to advance under the guidance of the FOGP and Indy Parks and Recreation.

K. ENHANCING PARK INTERPRETATION & PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

The Issue: Greater understanding of Garfield Park, repeated positive experiences, and more levels of knowledge will all aid in increasing individual respect and community commitment.

The Opportunity: Despite the notable variety of programs in the park today, few address the park as a resource. Heritage Landscapes has worked with other historic parks aiding in the development of a variety of park interpretation, school programs and continuing education programs. Successful concepts address this breadth of opportunity to incorporate additional interpretive information and programs at Garfield Park.

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The Proposed Approach:

Drawing on our work elsewhere, Heritage Landscapes recommends the considerations of several directions:

- Focus on educating users about the multiple dimensions of Garfield Park.
- Expand park education topics and venues
 - Pre-park history
 - Park history
 - Geology
 - Natural history
 - Ecology
 - Woody and native plants
 - Park birds, insects, mammals, and reptiles, habitats
 - Citizenship, Philanthropy, Democracy, Shared Public Resources
- Develop park walking tours/brochures on multiple topics.
- Provide park topic lectures and special tours.
- Consider park plant and tree labeling for information access by park users.
- Provide trail markers for distance on paths.

The opportunities are quite considerable and educational and interpretive information can be applied, once developed, in a series of directions. These directions could include park-based school group local history, science, ecology lesson plans, habitat and wildlife explorations, historic park design guided tours, and other such options for enrichment. Existing programs are sound and very useful. However, there is an opportunity for a richer palette of offerings and therefore the engagement of more people in enjoyment of and appreciation for Garfield Park.

L. ENHANCING PARK-WIDE COORDINATION

The Issue: Fragmentation in decision-making between entities, over time, and at many levels appears to be the subtext for some issues the park faces, and for the deterioration in its historic fabric. There are multiple departments within Indy Parks & Recreation, the Friends of Garfield Park and other groups and entities addressing various aspects of Garfield Park. These facilities within Garfield Park are each managed with a degree of independence and a lack of integrated communication. Often specific managing and partnering entities and facilities staffs act autonomously. At another level this fragmentation appears in individual, unrelated decisions about design elements such as lighting and benches, planning for adequate and convenient restrooms, or path connections throughout the park. The Conservatory, MacAllister Center, and the Burrello Center facilities also act as autonomous entities in programming and events. At the visitor level this caused survey respondents to request more and wider advance publicity for events in the park, and publicity at the park itself during events. This is a matter of communication and coordination.

The Opportunity: It is possible to create greater value from efforts for the park, and knowledge of the events in the park by developing better communication and coordination between the facilities in the park, between the park and the public, and between the agencies. There could be park-wide events offering a varied selection of activities with all the facilities participating.

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Alternatively the activities and events could be related but phased to prevent overburdening the system. Publicity could be expanded and coordinated. Capital projects and maintenance involving multiple agencies could be accomplished more efficiently and in keeping with the contextual treatment philosophy proposed in this Report. On the level of site furnishings and amenities decisions should also be made in the overall context of the park.

The Proposed Approach:

- Consider appointing a coordinator or point-person to link and promote communication between the facilities.
- Annually during the winter months coordinate the proposed activities and events calendar of all the facilities, park-wide for programs and events, consider conflicts and extreme peak uses in reorganizing to phase and distribute attendance.
- Coordinate and expand the publicity for all park activities and events.
- Create a park oversight committee to assist with coordination between Indy Parks and Recreation the Department of Public Works, and the Friends of Garfield Park and others such as the Shelby Branch Library to address the coordination of ongoing park renewal.
- Work to insure that design decisions at every level are made in the context of the agreed vision for the park, taking into consideration the history, character, and overall direction for the park.

M. SUMMARY RECOMMENDED APPROACH & INITIAL PRIORITIES

This chapter culminates the Garfield Park Cultural Landscape Report. The narrative draws on each element of the research, evolution, current conditions, tree inventory, public meetings, communications with Friends of Garfield Park and Indy Parks & Recreation and others. The vision set forth in this detailed narrative is a long-range one. The range of elements to be addressed in Garfield Park include aspects of:

- Capital Projects: All aspects of major improvement beyond the repair and maintenance of landscape and facilities
- Operations & Maintenance: to include structure, staff, staff skills and equipment, and areas of work focus, increased skills and efforts toward tasks not currently addressed
- Visitor Uses & Services: daily and events park uses, programs, tours, self-guided interpretation, wayfinding, managing circulation, park programming coordination

Capital Projects: The physical restoration and rehabilitation recommendations could span a twenty-year period with yearly capital project activity. In terms of operations and maintenance added attention to woodland, tree canopy renewal and tree care, streambank stability and park habitat in areas of woodlands, groves, stream banks and meadows has been pointed out to enhance both scenic and ecological quality. These efforts should be undertaken annually with progress targets mapped out, budgets secured and incremental progress leading toward specific goals. An early initiative in the capital project realm is the upgrading of the entire park landscape adjacent to the Arts Center as the rehabilitation of the building is completed. The elements of this project are shown on *Plan LT* and include:

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- Construct loop path around the green space
- Improve field and path drainage as these project proceed
- Renew playing fields for greater use, reduced conflicts and a reunification of the interior green space, use the smallest possible backstops and field support structures, use turf infields and constructed baselines rather than skinned infields so that the playing fields blend into the green surrounds
- Augment tree plantings at perimeter to form tree groves and provide some shade for the loop path
- Remove parking lot along park drive
- Reorganize and decrease the size and uses of the parking lot to the north of the Arts Center
- Stabilize, improve drainage and plant the steep bank to the east of the Arts Center
- Add park user restroom with modest field play support space and concession

A second project initiative is extension of the path system to follow on the recent path renewal work. *Plan CT* shows a complete path network and path segments that link to the recently constructed path should be added. The selection of which one should be done first is really a matter of available funding and community desires.

A third project initiative is overall park tree canopy enhancement. The detailed inventory provided in this project is the starting point for identifying areas to increase plantings. The references for this work are the 1930s Period Plan, *PP 1930s*, and the species listing and discussion of the older species in the park, such as beech, sycamore and several types of oak. 1767 park trees are listed in the tree inventory in Appendix C and these tree numbers are linked to the AutoCAD base map developed on this project. Of those trees nearly seventy are stumps or depressions from lost trees, which could be replaced in an early planting initiative. An alternate approach to planting could be an area focus. For example, the space between the MacAllister Center, Arts Center and Pagoda could be addressed with both the construction of the recommended path and the augmenting of trees plantings.

A fourth near term project for consideration is the replacement of the pedestrian bridge that provides a linkage between the Sunken Gardens and the MacAllister Center. This important element for park destination connections needs to be reconstructed. The lack of this bridge prevents pedestrians from moving easily and pleasantly from the Conservatory and Sunken Gardens from all the parklands and features to the west and north.

Maintenance & Operations: Particular priorities for enhanced maintenance Garfield Park include increased attention to the recapture of Bean Creek and Pleasant Run stream corridors in the near term with a sequential approach for slope stabilization and enhanced plantings for improved scenic quality and habitat. Any portion of the stream corridors can be a starting point for this type of multi-objective enhancement. Another area of maintenance activity that could receive greater attention is the general care of park trees, which should be pursued on an annual basis. Heritage Landscapes recommends that the trees given a C and D condition rating be given appropriate care in the near term. There is one area recommended to shift toward woodland canopy and away from frequent mowing. This work could be started with a final close mowing mowing of a selected zone and the installation of a 3-4 inch deep mulch layer, tapering to 1 inch

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of mulch at the base of the existing trees. If the selected area has canopy gaps, trees that will tolerate a partial shade regime should be planted to fill these gaps. The objective for the woodland is to achieve a fully closed canopy cover over time.

Visitor Uses & Services: A strong recommendation in terms of park programs is the long-term expansion and enrichment park information in several subject areas as noted above and to provide access to this wealth of park learning opportunities through several avenues. If FOGP and other park friends work with local teachers, schools and the Shelby Branch Library each year targeting one or two areas of enriched park information, over a period of five years a whole new wealth of materials will be available. A good starting point would be an illustrated Garfield Park history and civics lesson focusing on:

- Park origins, pre-park farm and beech woods
- Kessler design, shaping of scenic beauty by humans hands and nature
- Park evolution and range of park uses
- Importance of parks as shared places, democratic grounds
- Value of park advocacy and citizen action
- Recent park renewal
- Planning for the future

The materials for this suggested curriculum can be found in this cultural landscape report, the documents gathered to create it and the civic works and commitment of the FOGP.

In closing, the overall vision of the cultural landscape report and treatment plan seeks to balance the full array of current and future uses with the irreplaceable cultural and natural resources that is Garfield Park. As framed in these recommendations, Rehabilitation of Garfield Park will respect park history, landscape character and diverse recreation. The intent is to guide decision-making about the future of the park directing toward holistic values, multiple uses and coordinated management. The recommendations set forth a comprehensive framework, within which specific projects, partnership initiatives, staff initiative and volunteer undertaking can be planned, carried out and promoted. These recommendations will also serve to spark a renaissance of park landscape scenery and beauty. Specific projects, decisions and continuing management of the park would best proceed within this framework. The rehabilitation treatment should enhance the existing uses of the park and expand them where appropriate. It will lead to an upgrading of all aspects of the park landscape and the quality of park use experiences.

It is obvious from the user surveys, public meetings and stakeholder discussions that Garfield Park is much widely respected and valued. Nonetheless they are observant of its problems. In 1913 George Kessler wrote of Garfield Park, in his Annual Report, Report of the Landscape Architect, that “the population is one that responds to good improvement, and as the citizens have given evidence of their thorough enjoyment of the properties already there, with this improvement they will have a distinctive feature of the entire system...” Effort and funding expended on the park will generate public response and appreciation. It will add to the satisfaction of all who use it, and to the reputation of the city that had the foresight to purchase the Bradley Woods.

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Figure VIII.1 Stone reinforced pond edge with boulder seating at Trout Pond, F.L. Olmsted-designed Seneca Park, Rochester, NY, project for Monroe County Parks, by EDR, PC with Heritage Landscapes and Charles E. Beveridge. (SP-Trout-Pond-stone-edge.jpg, HL, 1998)



Figure VIII.2 Basin constructed in degraded Phipps Run stream channel, Schenley Park, Pittsburgh, by DPW crews under direction of Pittsburgh parks Conservancy and Heritage Landscapes. (SP-PhippsRunBasin.jpg HL, 2004.)

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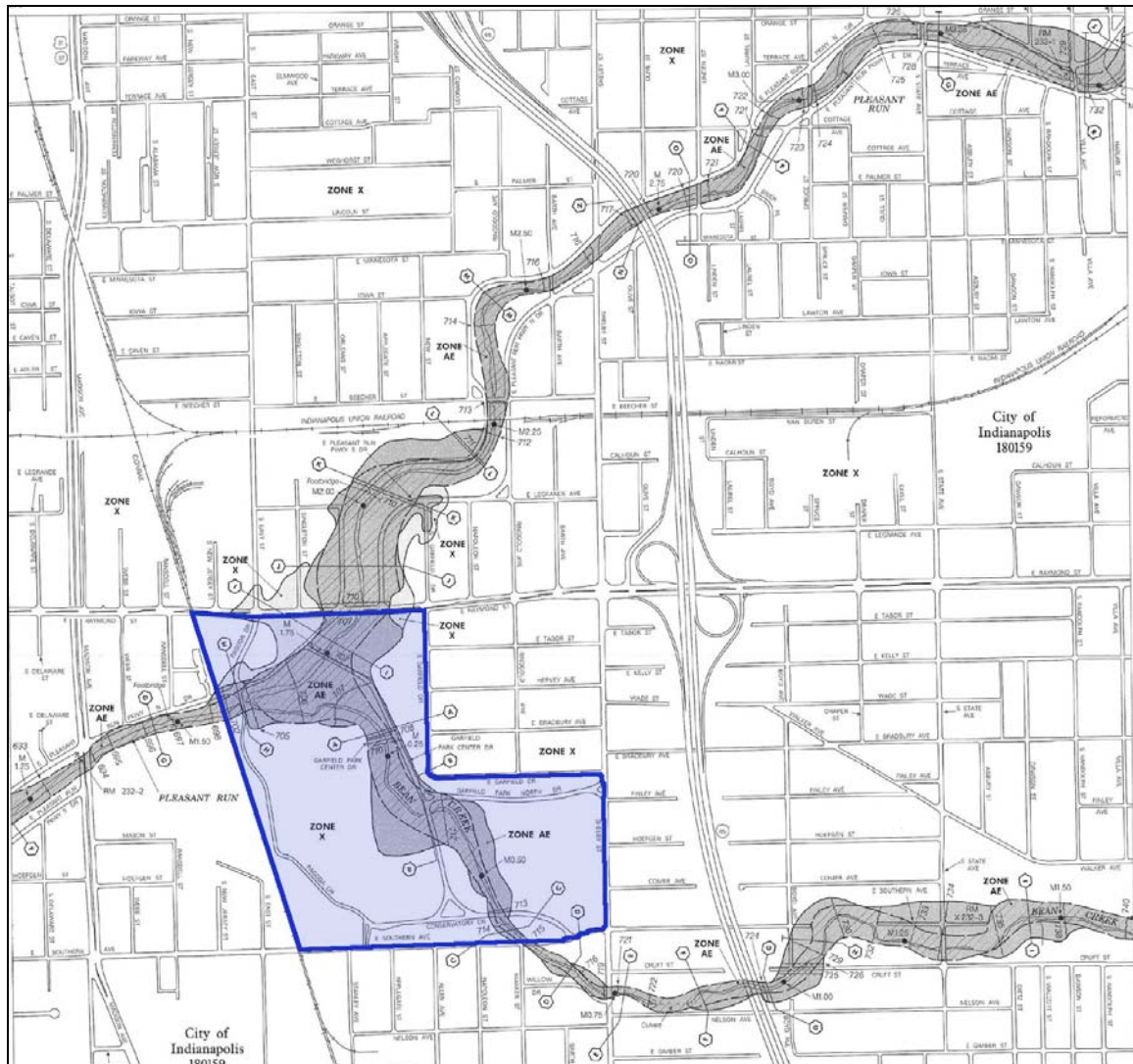


Figure VIII.3 Portion of Flood Insurance Rate Map, Marion County, Indiana, with the park boundary outlined in blue and parkland toned light blue. Map shows the flood limits along Pleasant Run and Bean Creek as they extend through Garfield Park. The gray shaded areas delimit the 100-year flood inundation zones that cover substantial parkland acreage beyond the stream channels. (GP-Flood-Map-park.jpg, provided by Ken Boyce, FOGP.)

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Figure VIII.4 Rehabilitated Red Creek Bridge, reinforced concrete bridge project for Olmsted Brothers designed Erie Canal system bridge, Genesee Valley Park, for Monroe County Parks, Clark Patterson Engineers, Heritage Landscapes preservation consultant. (GVP-red-creek-bridge.jpg, HL, 1997)

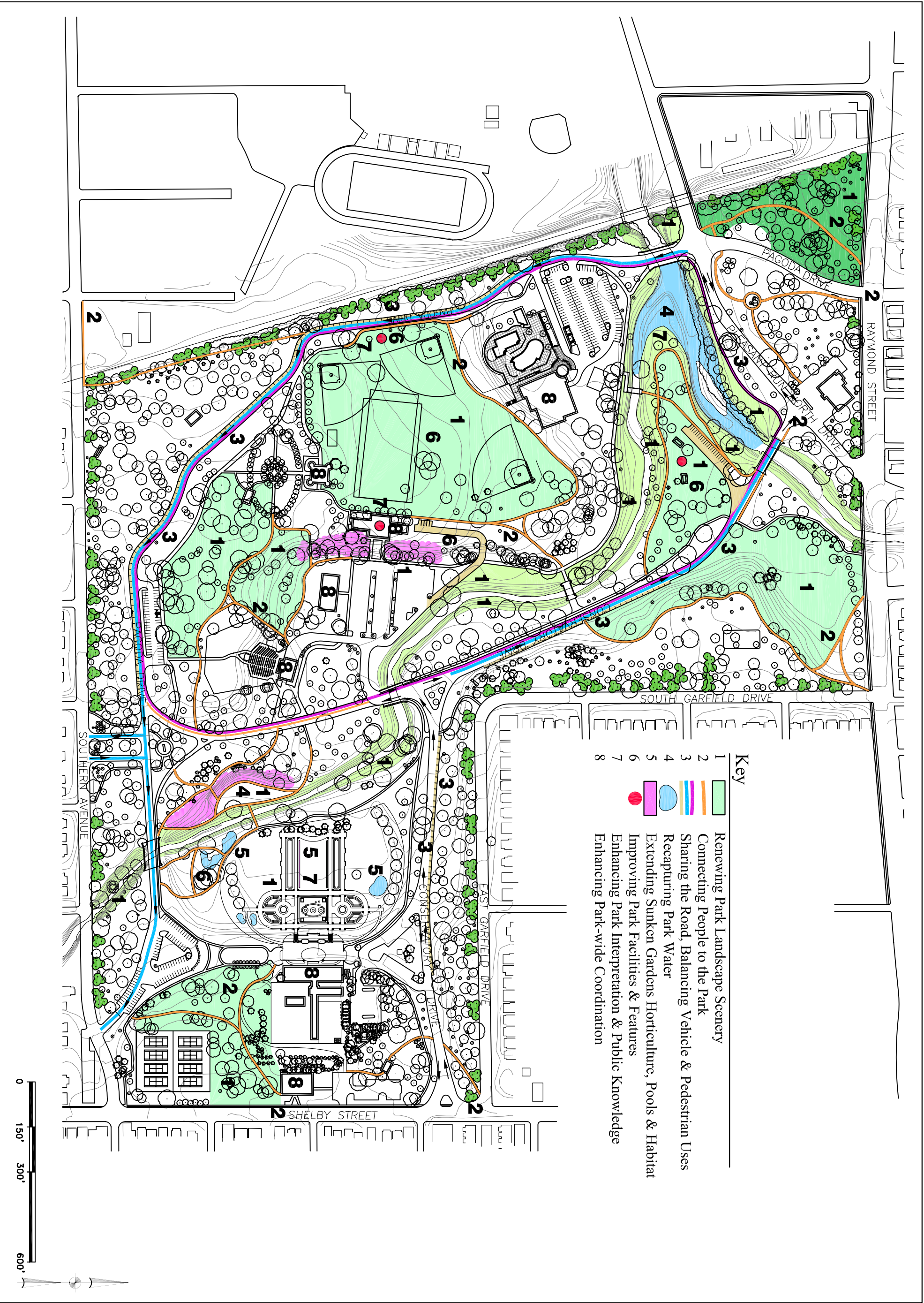


Figure VIII.5 New deck for increased load and original repaired balustrade on Red Creek Bridge, Genesee Valley Park, for Monroe County Parks, Clark Patterson Engineers, Heritage Landscapes preservation consultant. (GVP-red-creek-bridge-deck.jpg, HL, 1997)

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Figure VIII.6 Rehabilitated Picnic Grove with new bathroom structure to the right, Genesee Valley Park, for Monroe County Parks, Clark Patterson Moissen, Heritage Landscapes preservation consultant. (GVP-PicnicGrove-Bathroom.jpg, HL, 1999)



Garfield Park

Cultural Landscape Report

Indianapolis, Indiana

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Indianapolis, IN 46203

in cooperation with

Indy Parks & Recreation
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Landscape Architect:
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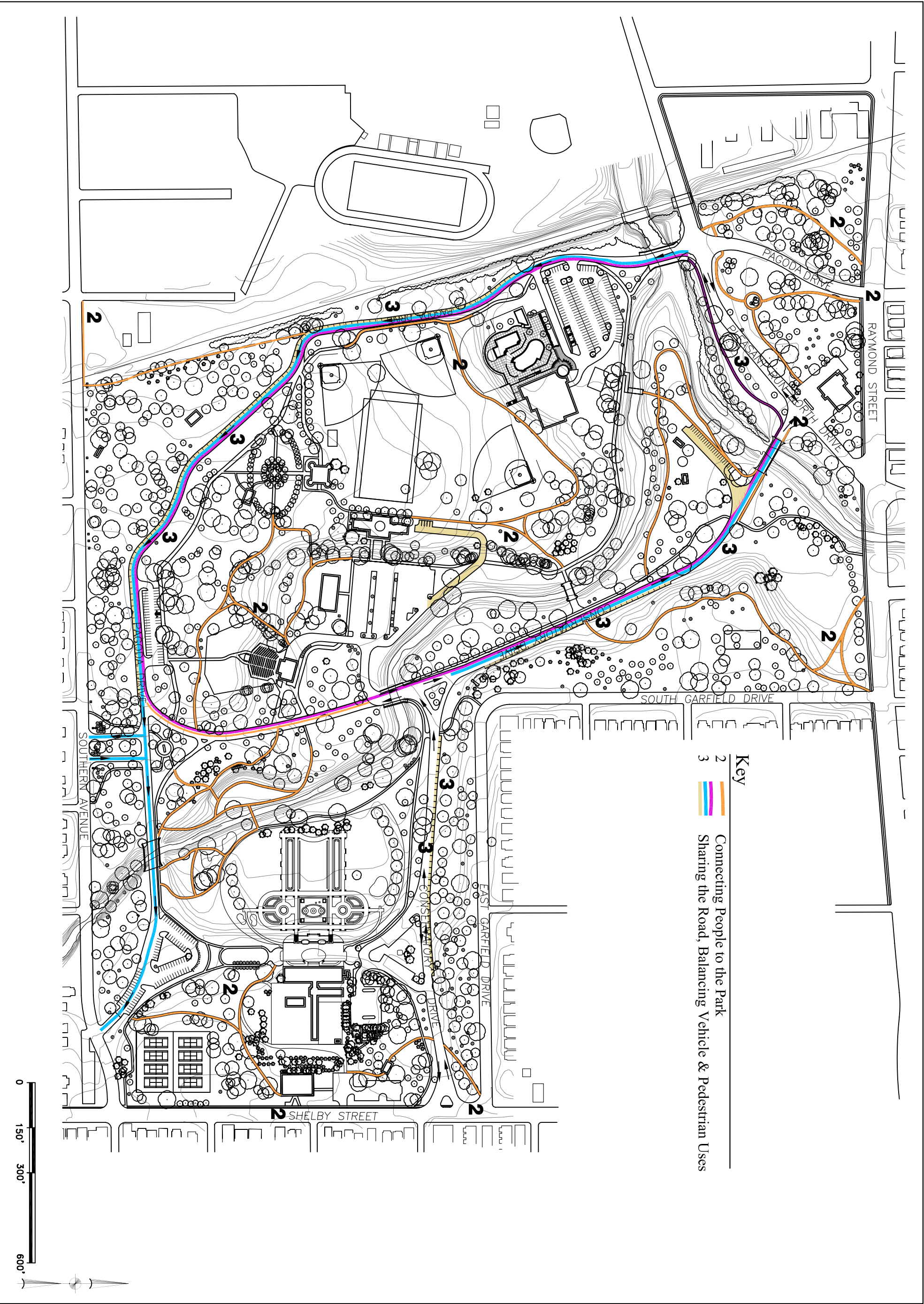
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