

Clark Park

Revitalization Project

University City District

Friends Of Clark Park

Draft Master Plan

April, 2001



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Introduction

CLARK PARK REVITALIZATION PLAN

Introduction: Why The Revitalization of Clark Park is Important

Recently compiled year 2000 census data has revealed an important new trend in American cities: population growth. Of the ten largest cities, all showed growth except Detroit and Philadelphia. The good news is that population loss in Philadelphia was the lowest in decades (4%) and many analysts believe that the "City of Brotherly Love" will soon reverse its population losses and begin to add residents over the next decade.

Analysts report that new immigrants are coming to our older cities and that aging baby boomers are either staying or returning to the central city. As new residents arrive and former city dwellers return, quality of life amenities provide an increasingly important reason to stay in our urban neighborhoods.

Clark Park is one of the important quality of life amenities in West Philadelphia.

If Philadelphia is to reverse the trend of losing residents, what is happening in the Clark Park neighborhood must happen in many other neighborhoods across the city. Previously, undervalued parks and green spaces have become symbols of the rebirth of our urban areas. The process underway at Clark Park conforms to the goals of Mayor John Street and his neighborhood revitalization and blight eradication program. The Clark Park Revitalization Project can be a model and inspiration to many other Philadelphia neighborhoods.

Clark Park is a primarily green oasis in University City, and has been simultaneously claimed as "mine" by an economically and racially diverse amalgamation of residents whose use of the park is as diverse as the spelling of their last names. However, they all have one thing in common: they all love Clark Park. Each day, hundreds of neighborhood residents enjoy the shade, playgrounds, basketball court, company of a neighbor (or dog), or the strangely quiet solitude of walking along its winding pathways on a cold and cloudy winter's day.

The love of Clark Park and the concern for its well-being and continued enjoyment by current and future residents is the ultimate force behind this revitalization plan. As evidenced by the well-attended public meetings throughout the revitalization plan process, there has been great interest in and much thought given to this plan by neighborhood residents and local community organizations.

Almost everyone who participated in the master plan process likes a lot about Clark Park as it exists today. A park revitalization plan, by its nature, suggests change. However, most of the recommended improvements are aimed at strengthening the most important existing attributes of the park, such as: maintaining the trees, creating more green areas and maintaining the

flexibility of spaces that accommodate the diversity of uses and users that is Clark Park. At the same time, improvements that better serve children and adults, and additions to the park that make it more "user-friendly," are also part of the plan.

No park master plan will satisfy every park user. The consultant retained for this project has been charged with analyzing existing park conditions, community needs and concerns and blending them into a plan that will create the most good for the most people. This process, by its nature, is one of compromise.

This draft plan report is one of the final steps in the community participation process. The draft plan will be reviewed and analyzed by the community. It is anticipated that revisions will be made to create the final revitalization plan.

The final plan will provide the direction for improvements to be made to the park over the next several years. The plan will also serve as a focus for grants and fund-raising activities. Funds will be sought from a wide variety of public and private sources.



HISTORY OF THE SITE

The Clark Park area has had an interesting and varied history.

In 1861 the U.S. Government started building a 4,500 bed military hospital at the corner of Clark Park near 44th Street and Baltimore Avenue. After the battle of Gettysburg, tents for the wounded were set up on the grounds bounded by 43rd and 44th streets and Baltimore and Osage Avenues. This was the largest Army hospital in the United States. Sick and wounded were

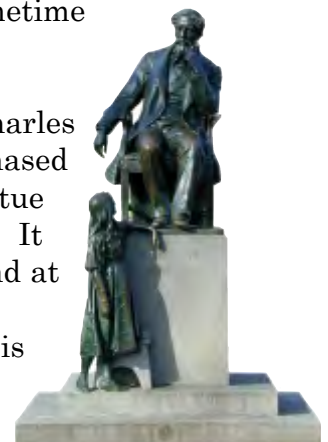
brought here from the battlefield. Some wounded were floated on rafts along the Mill Creek, which formerly ran by the site, to the hospital from a ferry landing at 42nd and the Schuylkill River. The Satterlee Hospital officially closed on August 3, 1865.

Clark Park is named for Clarence H. Clark, who was the first president of the First National Bank of Philadelphia and a founder of the Union League. He owned an estate at 42nd and Locust Streets and he owned the land that would later become Clark Park.

The land was being used as a public dumping grounds in the early 1890's. An ordinance was passed on June 8th, 1894, condemning the land bounded by 43rd and 44th streets and Baltimore and Chester Avenues. There was an assessment against the property of a few thousand dollars for the laying out of the bordering streets. Clark suggested the land be used as a park. In return for the waiver of the assessment Clark deeded the land to the city. The first portion of the Park was dedicated on January 18th, 1895. The balance of the 9.1 acre park was added in November, 1898. The deed restricts the use of the land for anything besides park purposes. It was Clark's expressed desire that the park be dedicated to children.

The Woodland Avenue trolley dates back to the 1830's. The Baltimore Ave. trolley dates back to the 1890's. The Chester Avenue trolley was installed sometime between these two periods.

In the year 1901 Clark Park became the home of a bronze, life-sized, Charles Dickens statue. The statue was placed in Clark Park after it was purchased by the Fairmount Park Art Association in 1900. Until that time the statue had spent several years in storage following a busy exposition schedule. It was displayed at the Philadelphia Art Club (1891), in London (1892), and at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The Dickens Sculpture is thought to be the only life-sized likeness of the author in the world and is described as, "appealing and touching to an extreme degree."



Dickens and Little Nell

In June, 1916, another historical monument was placed in Clark Park. A large stone memorial from Devil's Den at Gettysburg Battlefield was placed in the park to commemorate the "services of the patriotic men and women" who administered the wounded soldiers in the tents of Satterlee Hospital which also once stood nearby.

More recently, in June, 1961, \$40,000 in improvements in Clark Park was completed. The project included a basketball court, shuffleboard court, checker tables, a tot-lot, two drinking fountains and general landscaping. Since the 1961 improvement project, no major capital improvement projects have been completed except for normal repairs and the installation of new playground equipment approximately eight years ago. The Friends of Clark Park have undertaken many tree planting projects and cleanups and maintenance projects in their twenty eight year existence. An annual event organized by the University City District and Friends of Clark Park, called "The Party for the Park", raises funds for maintenance of the park. The second annual event was held in May 2001.

SOME REVITALIZATION PARTNERS

In addition to the many individuals who played an active part in the revitalization plan, there are several neighborhood organizations that participated in the formulation of the draft master plan. Participation was either as a member of the Steering Committee, by attendance at one of the four public meetings or through participation in "key person" interviews.

These groups include:

- Squirrel Hill Community Association
- Cedar Park Neighbors
- Spruce Hill Community Association
- Regent Square Neighbors
- Town Watch Network
- West Shore Community
- 45th Street Neighbors
- Woodland Avenue Reunion Committee

Six other organizations or agencies have play major organizational or funding roles in the development of the Clark Park revitalization plan.

Friends of Clark Park (FOCP), a non-profit, volunteer organization, was founded in 1973. The FOCP is dedicated to maintaining and improving Clark Park and works with the Department of Recreation to achieve those improvements. The Friends also sponsor community events in the park such as volunteer work days, education programs and donations drives. Friends of Clark Park served as a co-coordinator during the Clark Park Revitalization Project and several FOCP members participated on the project Steering Committee.

The University City District (UCD) is a non-profit cooperative partnership uniting the institutions, businesses, and communities of University City to improve the quality of life by working to make University City cleaner, safer, and more attractive. The University City District is managed by a 24-member Board of Directors representing University City's prominent institutions in education, health care, and scientific and medical research as well as representatives of University City's business and residential communities. Funding for the UCD's programs and services comes from voluntary contributions from University City businesses, institutions, and individuals. UCD was established in 1997 and provides services that enhance public space, increase public safety, assist homeowners and commercial and rental property owners, and promotes University City attractions. The UCD Director of Capitol Programs and Development served as a non-partisan co-coordinator for the Clark Park Master Plan Project.

The William Penn Foundation was founded in 1945 with a vision of "a dynamic, diverse region with meaningful opportunity." The mission of the William Penn Foundation is to "improve the quality of life in the Philadelphia region through efforts that strengthen our children's future, foster rich cultural expression, and deepen our connections to nature and community." The William Penn Foundation funded the \$55,000 grant for the Clark Park Master Plan.

University of the Sciences in Philadelphia (USP) is a private university offering degrees in health sciences, pharmaceutical sciences, and arts and sciences. The University of the Sciences in Philadelphia was incorporated in 1822 under the name of The Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and was America's first college of pharmacy. Its name was later changed in 1921 to the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. The University of the Sciences in Philadelphia participated with the Clark Park Master Plan by serving on the Project Steering Committee. They also currently lease Rosenberger Hall, located in Clark Park, from the City of Philadelphia and are required to maintain the South Section of the park.

Both the **Philadelphia Department of Recreation** and the **Philadelphia Department of Streets** have important relationships to the Clark Park Revitalization Plan. The Department of Recreation is responsible for park maintenance and improvements. The Department of Streets is responsible for maintaining the streetlights at the perimeter of the park and the lights along the interior paths.

Steering Committee / Consultant team

Twenty-two individuals make up the steering committee for the Revitalization Plan. The individuals who make up this committee were selected by each neighborhood organization and the by the University City District. Some members represent a community organization, and some are elected officials.

The steering committee members were asked to attend the steering committee meetings and to relay information back to their organizations and constituents at block meetings, civic meetings, church meetings, and through regular interaction with their neighbors. The committee members were also asked to circulate fliers informing the public about upcoming community meetings. This committee was also responsible for identifying "key persons" for interviews, in an effort to reach park user groups such as basketball players, chess aficionados, and Tai Chi enthusiasts.

A team of consultants was selected by the Steering Committee to work with the Steering Committee and area residents in developing a plan.

Simone Jaffe Collins Landscape Architecture (SJC) was selected by the Steering Committee to create the Clark Park Revitalization Plan. SJC is a woman-owned, nationally recognized landscape architecture and planning firm providing services to institutional, corporate, municipal, non-profit and private clients. Working with SJC, Eddie R. Battle Associates, Inc. will facilitate all committee sessions and will conduct all key interviews. Eddie R. Battle Associates, Inc. has been a consultant to non-profit, government agencies and community-based coalitions in West Philadelphia and throughout the region. Eddie R. Battle Associates, Inc. is a certified minority owned business enterprise.

Some of SJC's projects include the site maintenance planning for the Philadelphia Museum of Art (1995 ASLA Merit Award) and the recreation plan for Towamencin Village, Montgomery County (1996 ASLA Honor Award and 1997 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award). SJC is currently developing the Master Plan for the 3500-acre Swatara State Park near Harrisburg, PA.

The Steering Committee is as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Elizabeth Bressi-Stoppe | Vice President for Executive Affairs | University of the Sciences |
| Diane Gallagher | Director | HMS School |
| Sy Stotland | Director | District #3 Health Center |
| Carol Johnson | Representative | Squirrel Hill Community Association |
| Roger Harmon | President | Cedar Park Neighbors |
| Patricia Gillespie | Representative | Squirrel Hill Community Association |
| Scott Maits | Representative | Regent Square Civic Association |
| Marty Cabry | Representative | Town Watch Network |
| Barbara McCabe | Parks Coordinator | Department of Recreation |
| Joe Dougherty | District Supervisor, District 9 | Department of Recreation |
| Daniel DiMucci | Vice President | University City District |
| Linda Blythe | Board Member | University City District Board |
| Paul Brooks | Representative | Friends of Clark Park Board |
| Anne Kringel | Representative | Friends of Clark Park Board |
| Jannie Blackwell | Councilwoman, 3rd District | City Council |
| James Roebuck | State Representative, District 188 | |
| Anthony Williams | State Senator, District 8 | |
| Eric Goldstein | Capital Programs and Planning | University City District |
| Cynthia Roberts | President | Friends of Clark Park |
| Tracy Sampson | Representative | West Shore Community |
| Kevin Fassett | 27 th Democratic Ward | Sen. Anthony Williams |
| Bill Mitchell | Representative | 45th Street Neighbors |



Location & Access

SITE LOCATION AND ACCESS

The 9.1-acre park known as Clark Park is a triangular piece of land located between 43rd and 45th Streets and Baltimore and Woodland Avenues in Philadelphia. Chester Avenue bisects the park in an east-west direction, near the mid-point of the park. Clark Park is the largest and oldest park in University City.

Clark Park is contained within an area of West Philadelphia called University City. University City contains dense residential neighborhoods, interspersed with mixed-use blocks where commercial and retail uses occupy the first floors and residential uses are found in the upper stories. Academic and institutional uses, such as The University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, and the University Science Center occupy large portions of University City. The neighborhood is also sprinkled with historic landmarks such as the historic Woodland Cemetery.



Access to the site can be gained via foot automobile, bicycle, or trolley. The three closest SEPTA routes to Clark Park are all trolley lines. The #13 trolley travels along Chester Avenue making a stop at 49th Street. The #34 Trolley runs along Baltimore Avenue also making stops at 49th Street. The #11 and #36 trolleys run on Woodland Avenue. Located within half a mile is the #21 bus route traveling along Chestnut Street making stops at 40th Street. Also located within half a mile is the Market-Frankford subway line making stops at 40th Street.

The planned on-road bike lane system for Philadelphia touches Clark Park. At this time an on-road bike route is on 43rd Street beginning at Baltimore Avenue heading North. Proposed bike routes are recommended by the Streets Dept. for Woodland Avenue and Baltimore Avenue. The continuation of the 43rd Street on-road bike route down to Woodland Avenue could be explored.

The current proposal for the East Coast Greenway, a bike route that will run the entire length of the eastern seaboard, passes close to Clark Park. Additionally, current plans by USP propose a new classroom facility on the south side of Woodland Avenue. This development will include bike and pedestrian access to the railroad at its southern border. Once the City is able to breach the railroad line barrier, there may be direct access to the banks of the Schuylkill River and regional connecting trails.

Scope of Work

SCOPE OF WORK

In the fall of 2000 the University City District (UCD) with Friends of Clark Park solicited proposals from consultants for the development of the Clark Park Renewal Project Revitalization Plan.

The scope of work was developed by UCD with the help of the Friends of Clark Park and, in summary, consisted of the following elements:

- **Inventory and Analysis:** Analyze existing conditions, existing park user groups and active and passive uses. Identify and document characteristics that make Clark Park unique.
- **Public Participation / Communication:** An extensive series of community meetings would be held during the work effort. Ideas are to be gathered and documented facilitating the design effort and to create a "vision for the revitalized park"
- **Key Person Interviews:** Allow for up to fifteen key person interviews. These will be conducted as one-on-one interviews that will facilitate the gathering of ideas that may not be expressed in the public forum.
- **Develop Revitalization Plan and Supporting Documents:** Based on community program recommendations, the consultant will blend the opportunities and constraints of the site into a series of park improvement options. At the conclusion of the draft plan review period, the consultant, UCD, and the Steering Committee will meet to review written comments and agree to changes for the final revitalization plan.
- **Final Revitalization Plan:** Based on agreed-to revisions to the draft plan, the final plan will be prepared. This plan will be presented at a public meeting.
- **Develop Priority Project recommendations:** The consultant will work with the Steering Committee to select one priority project for design development, further refinement, more detailed cost estimates and maintenance implications. These design development drawings will be presented at a more detailed scale and include selection of material types and preliminary details sufficient to convey design intent.

Planning Process

PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process was a comprehensive series of step-by-step meetings and work sessions that allowed the Steering Committee and consultant team to gather input and develop consensus in an organized and methodical fashion.

This process included, in chronological order:

- Gathering existing conditions data
- Gathering community input and ideas
- Reviewing community input with the Steering Committee
- Performing a detailed multi-level site analysis and reviewing this analysis with the public and committee
- Developing three conceptual functional relationship diagram options
- Reviewing design options with the public and committee and obtaining their comments
- Developing a draft master plan design diagram
- Reviewing the draft design diagram with the committee and the public and gathering their feedback
- Producing a draft report
- Reviewing the draft report with the committee and the public and obtain their comments
- Producing a final illustrative plan and final revitalization report.

Meeting schedule

- December 20, 2000: Steering Committee Meeting
- January 18, 2001: Public Meeting, Programming (85 Attendees)
- January 25: Steering Committee Meeting
- February 3: Public Meeting: Clark Park site walk and Programming (53 Attendees)
- February 27: Steering Committee Meeting
- March 1: Public Meeting: draft design review and comments (80 Attendees)
- March 8: Steering Committee Meeting
- April 5: Steering Committee Meeting
- April 19: Public Meeting: draft design review and comments (April 20 to May 16: Public Review of Draft)
- May 17: Steering Committee Meeting
- June 21: Public Meeting: final plan presentation

A complete and detailed summary of each meeting, including attendance lists, is contained in the appendix of this report.

Programming

PROGRAMMING FOR THE MASTER PLAN

The first two public meetings were used to gather input from the public and the steering committee. During meetings, as ideas were expressed, each thought was written down and posted on the wall. All of these comments were later recorded and became one of the driving forces behind the final design direction. A complete list of these ideas is contained in the appendix.

Major themes

Major themes that were identified in the two programming meetings with the public included:

- Many varied and diverse uses take place in the park
- The bowl is overused (and/or under-maintained)
- The mature park trees are admired
- Some areas of the park seem underused
- Play areas are outdated and overcrowded
- Restrooms and drinking fountains are needed
- Lighting is in poor condition, outdated, and inappropriate to the character of the park.
- Basketball court is overused and in disrepair
- Parking for Rosenberger Hall on the former Kingsessing Avenue is inappropriate.
- Chester Avenue bisects the park and is a barrier to circulation between sections of the park

Site Analysis

SITE ANALYSIS

A comprehensive site reconnaissance was performed over several days. Information was gathered and input from public and community meetings was analyzed. The site analysis included: Existing Vegetation; Use Areas; Historic and Neighborhood Context; Spatial Analysis; and Pedestrian Circulation; and Gateways. In addition to these general areas of analysis, additional information was gathered on other areas of concern such as lighting, maintenance, events, parking and site drainage.

The Circulation Analysis pointed out several things including:

- There are several entrances to the park, but none are treated as "Gateways" to the park.
- Pedestrian improvements and traffic calming devices are needed at street crossings.
- Within the park, more paths exist than are necessary.

Clark Park Revitalization Project

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Pedestrian Circulation,
Gateways, and Trolley Service



Use Area Analysis showed that:

- The plan needs to provide for a diversity and flexibility of uses
- The northern section of the park is mostly passive
- The southern section of the park is mostly active.
- There are several distinct areas of the park - each with its own character and "feel".

Clark Park Revitalization Project

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Use Areas



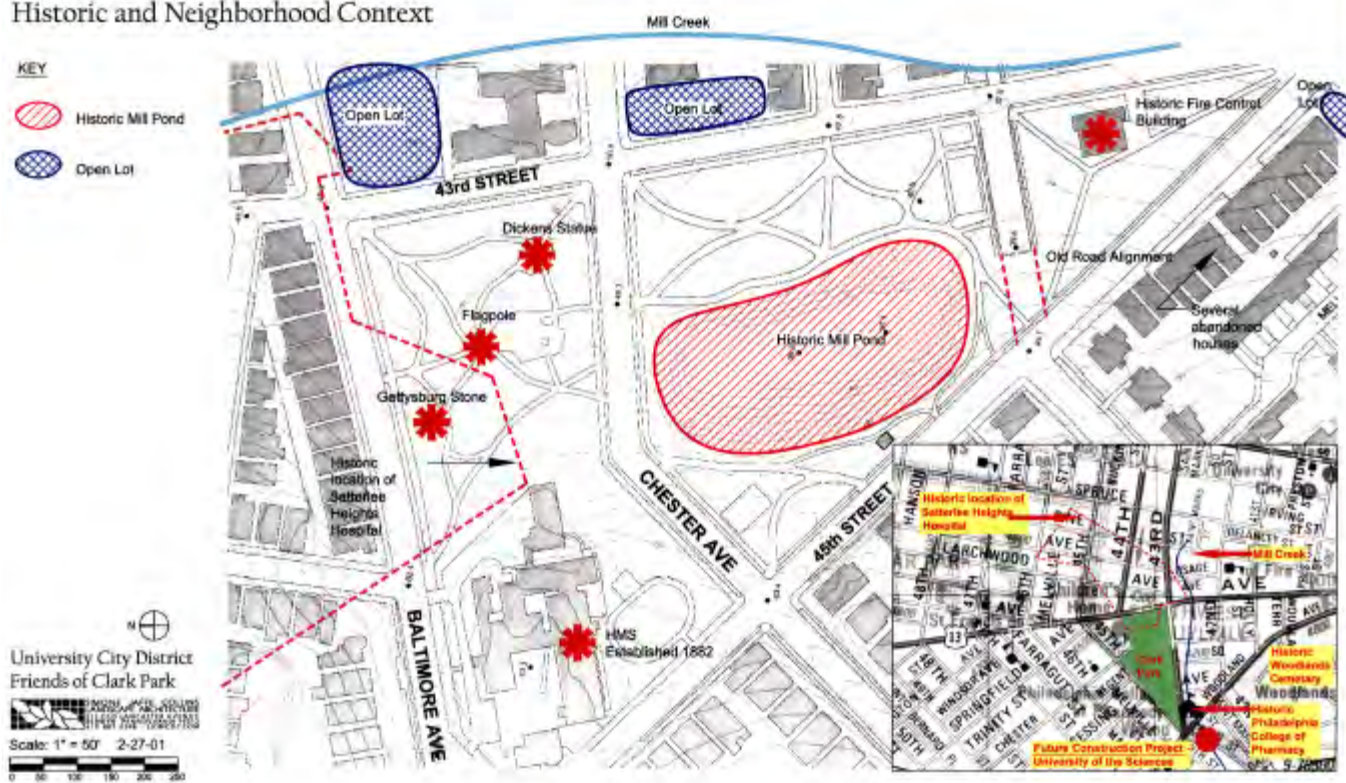
Historic and Neighborhood Context illustrated:

- The park is rich in historic context
- The Dickens Statue is a park icon
- The Gettysburg Stone commends an important but little known part of Philadelphia's history
- Residents consider Clark Park a neighborhood "jewel"

Clark Park Revitalization Project

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Historic and Neighborhood Context



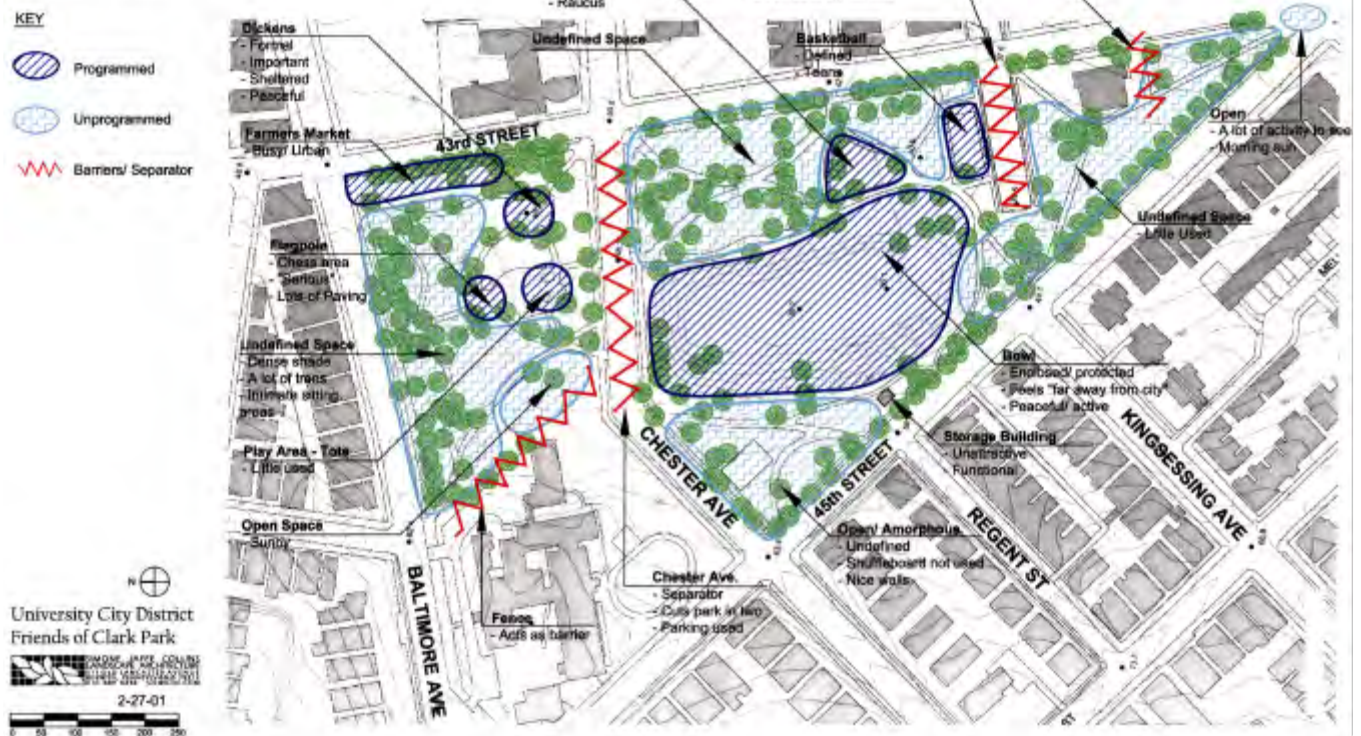
Spatial Analysis:

- Chester Avenue bisects the park and creates two distinct sections of the park.
- The northern section of the park is mostly passive
- The northern section is not organized.
- The southern section of the park is mostly active.
- USP parking disrupts the south park.

Clark Park Revitalization Project

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Spatial Analysis



Clark Park Revitalization Project

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Existing Vegetation



Vegetation

The vegetation analysis showed that there are 305 existing trees growing in Clark Park. Many of the existing trees are a monoculture (same species) and are at the same stage of maturity. A certified arborist performed a preliminary Tree Survey as a part of this analysis. This preliminary assessment examined current health conditions of existing trees in the park to identify immediate serious structural weaknesses. Tree species, tree age, relative growth rate, structural branch and trunk characteristics and existing growing conditions are considered in the tree evaluation. This initial assessment followed Hazard Tree Evaluation Standards as sanctioned by the International Society of Arboriculture and the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers. The evaluation was performed to assess the potential of likely and significant tree failures and prioritize the need for abatement.

An additional assessment was conducted for trees that had little or no horticultural value. This ranking involved trees with one or more of the following characteristics: extremely poor health, major insect infestations, severely deformed crowns, undesirable species type, and inappropriate location.

The majority of the existing trees in this park are reaching their mature heights. At this stage in their life cycle, their growth rates will diminish. As a result, these trees will recover more slowly from the stress conditions typical in urban environments. Trees in urban environments have shorter life spans than their counterparts located in better growing conditions; this is due to the intense use of the park and soil compaction.

Further arboricultural assessment should be conducted to develop a tree care program of proper pruning, fertilization, soil improvements and tree replacement to protect and sustain the tree resources in this park.



Understory

There are a few areas where old hedges remain but are in extremely poor condition. A few areas of ground cover plantings survive near the Dickens Statue and near the Farmers Market due to protection by low wrought iron fencing or walls.

Lawns

One of the biggest horticultural challenges in Clark Park is the establishment and maintenance of turf grasses to create green lawns. Lawns in Clark Park have proven to be the most flexible use areas, playing host to picnics, free play, Frisbee, volleyball, lounging, special events and, in the bowl, organized sport team play.

Many factors present challenges to lawn establishment and maintenance. The many trees in the park have literally thousands of miles of fibrous surface roots, most within twelve inches of the surface. These tree roots are in direct competition with turf grasses for water, nutrients and air. In some locations, intense shade makes growing lawns a nearly impossible task, even with shade tolerant turf seed mixes. The park's intense use and the soil compaction from foot (and paw) traffic has compacted the soil to rock-hard consistency in some locations. The compacted soils absorb less water than more porous soils, adding to loss of moisture to the grasses. Last but not least, maintenance, being expensive, has not been able to keep pace with the wear and tear experienced by these living plants.

The lawn area of the bowl with its intense sports team use, presents its own set of special problems. In addition to almost all of those mentioned above (there are only a few trees in the bowl) the bowl suffers from inadequate drainage.

Use Areas

In general, the park can be described in three sections: North Park , the Main Park and the South Park. The general conclusions of the Use Areas analysis were that there were many uses that need to be accommodated and that most of the areas of the park accommodated more than one use and most often many varied uses.

North Park

The North Park is presently the result of a good design gone bad. Years of well intentioned but little planned improvements have taken what once appears to be a stately park layout and created redundant and unnecessary walkways, oversized areas of pavement, and turned important historic artifacts into objects with little site context or prominence. The wonderful mature trees ties north park together and reinforce the minimally defined sub-spaces in this section of the park. Volleyball games often occur on the open lawn areas in North Park. The Dickens Statue, flagpole plaza area, tot lot and to a lesser degree, Gettysburg Stone all compete for prominence, all to the detriment of the other.

Dickens Statue

The only statue of world famous author Charles Dickens is easy to miss as one strolls or drives by Clark Park. Relegated to an insignificant side space off a minor city side street, the importance of this statue is de-emphasized by this location. While the statue is simply but effectively lit at night, its present location is not nearly in keeping with its unique nature or interesting origins.

Flagpole area

A gathering spot for chess enthusiasts, the flagpole is the meeting spot for many. While ill suited for comfortable chess games, it is located in this relatively serene section of the park and maintains this nearly "historic" long term use. The flagpole is in disrepair and does not appear to be a high priority for retention or repair. Drumming, and events such as the Mayfair, are also held in this area.

Gettysburg Stone

When the Gettysburg Stone was placed in Clark Park in 1916, the world was a more relaxed and slower place. The stone was located in this place of honor, near the location of the tents that fifty years previous housed the wounded, dying and the dead. Today, few in the neighborhood and few in the City know the significant history of Satterlee Hospital and its role in Civil War. The Stone's current location is lower than the adjacent Baltimore Avenue. The current location is not in keeping with the significance of this memorial tribute and it is difficult to see except if one is directly adjacent to it.

Tot Lot

The design of the tot lot is an anachronism from the 1960 improvement project. It does not meet any present day safety standards and, although well built, it should be removed and a larger and more challenging and interesting tot facility should be built in the park.

Farmers' Market

The location of the Farmers Market functions well, owing to the activity and "buzz" of the street and direct access to parking and loading and unloading from vehicles.

Dog Use in Clark Park

Current use of the park by dogs is widespread and an issue of great concern and controversy. Many dog owners bring their animals to the bowl to run their dogs off leash. While many owners clean up their dog's waste, many do not. The consultants have seen as many as twenty five dogs running off leash in the bowl at one time.

Park users have a wide range of opinions regarding dog use of the park. Some people who do not visit the park express fear of the dogs as a reason. Interviews with school administrators reflect concerns over child safety from the dogs themselves and health concerns from dog waste as a reason for not bringing children to the park and / or avoiding activities on the lawn. Many people, both dog owners not, expressed the opinion that they had no adverse reaction to dogs running off leash in the park and many people, both dog owners and not, did express adverse reaction to dogs running off leash in the park.

During the master plan process, there were anecdotal stories of dog biting incidents. However, there is no hard documentation that was brought to the consultants' attention during the project.

Existing city ordinances require that all dogs be kept on a leash and that dog waste be cleaned up. Many dog owners disregard these existing laws and there is currently no enforcement of these laws. The apparent lack of community complaints to the city has maintained the status quo of illegal dog use of the park.

UC Dog is a community advocacy organization of dog owners that has been working in the University City area advocating a fenced dog park(s) where dog owners can safely and legally let their dogs run off leash. The group is well organized and until recently had obtained use of a vacant lot in the University City area as a dog park. That lot recently ceased to function as a dog park due to re-development.

UC Dog members have attended the Clark Park Revitalization Plan meetings and advocated that a dog park be included in the revitalization plans. An open lawn area in the north park that is approximately 15,000 square feet in size, on the western border with HMS School, has been suggested by many as the best location for a dog park.

There appears to be no clear consensus from the community that a dog park should or should not be included in the park. There are, however, some facts that are clear and highly relevant to this discussion.

- Current off-leash dog use of the park is illegal.
- Failure to clean up dog waste in the park is illegal
- The current use of the park by dogs is likely to continue unless a tragic incident or other event occurs which forces the community and the city to enforce existing laws.

There appear to be two very clear-cut options regarding dog use in Clark Park.

1. Do nothing and take responsibility for the consequences. Short of an accident or injury (due to a bite or health problem) the status quo will remain, however, it is clear that some potential park users are not using the park due to the presence of dogs.
2. Create a fenced dog park in Clark Park. However, the creation of the physical dog park alone will not assure use by dog owners. Community education, enforcement of existing laws by the City and peer pressure from law-abiding dog owners and advocacy from all park neighborhood civic organizations is the only way that a dog park will be successful and unlawful use of the park by some dog owners will be eliminated.

This master plan process is an excellent time to resolve this issue and for neighborhood organizations to take a policy stand on dog use in the park. Whichever option the community elects to pursue, the consultant team strongly recommends that existing city laws be followed and enforced.

Main Park

The Main Park is the site of most of the active use of the park. Basketball, soccer, play, picnics, hanging out, strolling and most dog use happen here. Many events also occur in the main section of the park. The many stately trees help tie the various segments in the Main Park together.

Chester Avenue

Chester Avenue bisects the park and create a barrier to uses between sections. It also carries vehicular traffic, trolley traffic and accommodates a large number of parked cars on weekdays. At the existing mid-block crossing location, the existing catch basin flood, a problem that needs resolution from the Department of Streets.

The "Bowl"

The bowl is the mostly filled in location of a former pond that was fed by the Mill Creek, which now runs beneath the park and city in a culvert. The bowl is used by the many children who participate in the youth soccer program run by the Friends of Clark Park. Adults also play here. This is also the primary area for illegal running of dogs in the park, and unfortunately, an area for the deposition of dog waste.

The drainage of the bowl is inadequate, as are the grades to move surface water to the one surface catch basin that is located there.

The lawn surface receives incredibly heavy use and through the combination of soil compaction, minimal maintenance and inadequate drainage, is in horrible condition.

The bowl's embankments are a favorite place for sledding in winter.

Storage Building

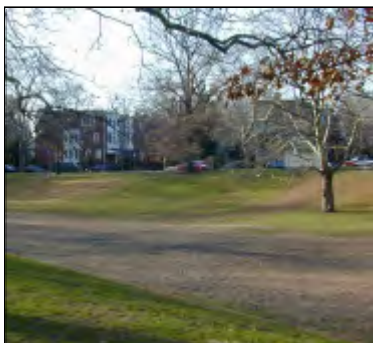
The existing storage building, located on the western edge of the bowl near 45th Street, is, if not attractive, functional. It presently stores soccer equipment and tools for park maintenance.

Shuffleboard Court

The former shuffleboard court, enclosed by handsome stone walls, is not used for shuffleboard. Informal gatherings and cook-outs, Tai Chi practice, and other informal activities occur here. The court and walls should be retained and the area enhanced for continued similar uses.

Playground

The existing playground is too small and too constrained within the otherwise attractive stone walls. The mature trees create a nice, enclosed, protected feeling. The playground spaces, however, are constrained by the required fall safety zones around each piece of play equipment and the stone walls. Additionally, access to the area does not conform to the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act.



The "Bowl"



Storage Building



Shuffleboard Court

Basketball Court

The basketball court, constructed in 1961, is one of the most prized and highly used facilities in the park. The paving is in terrible condition and must be replaced. If it were replaced in its present location, the court surface would require total reconstruction.

South Park

The South Park is the least used section of the park. While it is less active, less frequent uses include tot soccer and picnicking. The dividing line between the Main Park and the South Park is the Kingsessing Street parking area. This parking area divides the park and interrupts the continuous flow of open, flexible space.

Kingsessing Parking Area

Recently renovated Rosenberger Hall creates an academic link between the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia and the park. USP has a twenty-nine year lease of the building and currently uses the Kingsessing Street parking lot, as an adjunct to that lease.

The intersection of Woodland Avenue with 43rd Street is proposed by the Philadelphia Department of Streets to be reconfigured. That reconfiguration, to narrow 43rd Street at Woodland, is shown on the master plan. This change will increase the available space for a plaza at this intersection.

Lighting

Existing lighting in the park is inadequate, unattractive, in poor condition and in need of frequent repair. Installed in the 1950's, this fixtures have reached the limits of their useful life and should be replaced.

Obtaining information as to which city agency is responsible for the lighting has been difficult. It appears that the Streets Department is responsible for maintaining the lights in the park due to an old agreement with the Department of Recreation, although neither agency seems totally clear on this arrangement.



Playground



Basketball Court



Kingsessing Parking Area

Both agencies agree, however, that the lighting system is in need of replacement and each agency has encouraged the consultants to make the best recommendation for the park. After that point, each agency will sort out with the community, who is responsible for which aspect of the lighting.

It is clear, however, that all street lighting (not in the park) is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Streets. The Department has a policy that no pedestrian scale light fixtures can be installed on city streets and be maintained by the Department.

Opinion Survey

Fifteen hundred copies of an opinion survey were circulated through the community. One hundred fifty completed questionnaires were returned and the responses were summarized. These results were considered during the design phase of the project.

The top five suggestions for Clark Park were summarized as:

- 1.Improve maintenance, trash pickup
- 2.Create a dog park
- 3.Improve Landscaping
- 4.Additional Police/Safety (full-time)
- 5.Repair Equipment/Sidewalks

The top five problems in Clark Park were summarized as:

- 1.Lack of maintenance- trash
- 2.Loose dogs and dog poop
- 3.Lack of maintenance- physical
- 4.Safety
- 5.Drunk/Homeless/Drugs/Loitering

The top five positive aspects at Clark Park were:

- 1.General park environment
- 2.Open Space
- 3.Variety of activities / people
- 4.Community interaction
- 5.Space for children / playground

The survey form and detailed results are contained in the appendix.

Key Person Interviews

KEY PERSON INTERVIEWS

Introduction

The Clark Park Revitalization Plan included fifteen key person interviews as part of its scope of service. The facilitator's goal was to gather useful information (through the interview process) that will help fashion the park revitalization process and plan. The interviews are private meetings and away from the public forum. This enables some to better express their concerns, ideas and suggestions. Most interviews were conducted "one-to-one" while a few had others present during the interview. Steering Committee members supplied the list of persons to be interviewed. The list was later refined, and the first interview was conducted on February 3, 2001.

Two interviews remain open: Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell and State Senator Vincent Hughes. Councilwoman Blackwell sent two representatives to the April 5, 2001 Steering Committee meeting. Senator Hughes has confirmed an interview for April 17, 2001. Both lawmakers received interview questionnaires.

Methodology

The interviews focused on four questions in reference to Clark Park:

- What is your major concern or interest?
- What improvements do you want?
- What don't you want?
- What are your closing recommendations?

Each interviewee is free to elaborate upon the questions and expand their comments to additional areas. The following summary observations are prepared, based on the interviewee's interests and comments. Some voiced opinions in multiple categories.

Analysis

The interviews divided themselves into four categories

- 1-Special uses in the park
- 2-Professional affiliation to Clark Park
- 3-Community diversity in and around the park
- 4-Political representation of Clark Park

Special uses of the park have nine areas of interest

- 1-Basketball
- 2-Dog park
- 3-May Fair and Dickens Party
- 4-Woodland Avenue Reunion
- 5-West African community life
- 6-Chess
- 7-Music and art festivals
- 8-Children from Wilson School
- 9-Tai Chi

All of the interviewees in this category want the revitalization plan to accommodate and support their particular use or activity in the park. Beyond this, safety and park security in general is the major concern. The use of park lighting to deter possible crime is strongly suggested. Also important are additional trash receptacles, restroom facilities, drinking fountains and general park maintenance (cleaning).

Professional affiliation has three major areas of interest:

- 1-Safety and security
- 2-Park maintenance
- 3-Urban park planning

The best way to fight potential crime is for more residents to use the park, and communicate among themselves and law enforcement officials. Two maintenance workers are needed in the park. They must have proper equipment (rakes, saws, shovels, etc.) to perform their job. Park improvements will require funding from philanthropic organizations, friends groups and governmental sources in addition to the City of Philadelphia.

Park lighting is a shared responsibility of the City's departments of Recreation and Streets. Clark Park is a good urban park.

Community diversity - Some interviewees mentioned that African American areas adjacent to Woodland Avenue and west of the park have not received adequate information about the revitalization process and plan. Others perceive Whites as directly benefiting from the planning while African American communities are excluded. Better communication and inclusion of the African American communities are needed.

Political representation - Pennsylvania State Representation from District 188 James Roebuck has been a very active member of the Steering Committee. Of the three other elected officials, only Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown has interviewed to date. She urges the Steering Committee to apply for the Festival and Philadelphia Activities Fund grants. Future park funding needs the support of the District Councilwoman, elected state and federal representatives.

Conclusion - Key Person Interviews

As a group, the interviews reveal Clark Park is perceived as a multi-user park with a wide range of activities. Interviewees do not anticipate dramatic changes to the park. The various uses of the park should be accommodated in the revitalization plan. Safety and park security are high priorities along with maintenance, drinking fountains and restroom facilities.

The African American community must become more involved in the revitalization process. Any park improvements must not rely on the City of Philadelphia alone for funding. Friends groups and supporters along with political support are critical for future funding.

KEY PERSON INTERVIEW LIST

(Please refer to the appendix for complete interview notes)

Mike Africa (1)
Linda Amsterdam
Bob Behr
Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell
Police Lt. Fred Carbonara
Allen Diggs
Drissa (2)
Gail Edmonds (3)
State Senator Vincent Hughes
Eric Iffrig (4)
Sam Le Pera (5)
Glenn Moyer
Rie (6)
Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown
Patricia Spady (7)

(1) Mike Africa is also known as Michael Davis. This was clarified at a later date by the Steering Committee. He was interviewed twice: once in reference to basketball play in the park and the other interview concerned park maintenance.

(2) Drissa was interviewed as a member of the West African community that uses the park. "Tony at the African shop on Baltimore Avenue" was the original contact reference.

(3) Gail Edmonds was interviewed as a member of Wilson School.

(4) Eric Iffrig was referred by the office of Commissioner Victor Richards, City of Philadelphia Department of Recreation. Commissioner Richards was the original interview.

(5) Sam Le Pera's interview is considered part of the Iffrig interview.

(6) Rie spoke on behalf of Naomi Segal, the original interview.

(7) Patricia Spady interview is to be considered part of the Edmonds interview.

Design Alternatives

DESIGN ALTERNATIVES

Based on survey results and input received from the first two public meetings, several conclusions were drawn as to the preferred design direction for the revitalization plan. The design direction presented at Public Meeting #3 was:

- Maintain the existing character of the park
- Accommodate a wide number of users by creating flexible areas that can accommodate a variety of uses
- Maintain overall tree cover and plan for tree replacement
- Add understory plantings
- Reconfigure paths to eliminate redundancies while providing access
- Incorporate Best Management Practices (BMP's)
- Incorporate small plaza spaces where possible
- Locate bathroom facilities in the park
- Emphasize park gateways
- Continue to accommodate events (Farmers Market, Dickens birthday party, music festival, May fair, puppet festival)
- Options should work if Chester Avenue remains open or closes
- Maintain and expand sitting areas
- Ultimately remove parking from interior of the park
- Explore circulation and parking alternatives for 43rd Street
- Design with maintenance in mind

Based on this design direction, three functional relationships diagrams were prepared that explored design options for the park.

All three functional relationships diagrams maintained the primary attributes of the park while exploring how improvements might be best added. All three options suggested the following common elements:

- Consolidation of a central civic plaza in the north section of the park.
- Relocation of the tot lot function from the northern section of the park in close proximity to the large playground in the main section of the park.
- One-way north traffic on 43rd street between Woodland and Chester to simplify vehicular circulation and create safer pedestrian crossing into the park from the east.
- Creation of a major gateway / plaza at Woodland Avenue.
- Eventual elimination of parking in the park.
- A total of two basketball courts in the park.

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- Retention and improvement to the Farmers' Market area.
 - Relocation of both The Gettysburg Stone and Dickens Statue to create a setting of greater importance and prominence for both important monuments.
 - Restrooms.
 - Expansion / consolidation of lawn areas wherever possible.
 - While necessary drainage and lawn restoration improvements should be made to "the bowl", it should retain its present character.

Functional Relationship Diagram - Option A

Option A proposes:

- Relocation of the Gettysburg Stone to the new civic plaza in the northern section of the park.
- The relocation of two basketball courts near Chester Avenue.
- Relocation of the play area near along 43rd Street toward Chester Avenue.
- Adaptive reuse of the existing walled tot lot into a sitting garden with understory plantings.
- Restroom building located just above "the bowl", approximately on alignment with Regents Square.
- Creation of a plaza from 43rd Street on the former alignment of Kingsessing Avenue with the relocated Dickens Statue at its terminus.

Discussion of Option A at Public Meeting #3 included the following:

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Functional Relationship diagram - Option A



- Concern over the relocation of Dickens out of the north park.
- Suggestion that if the proposed Kingsessing Ave. Plaza is retained, it be an opportunity for new art work.
- Concern about relocation of the Gettysburg Stone / and agreement that it should have a more prominent location.
- Concern about the number of trees that would be lost due to the proposed location of the basketball courts.
- Concern over the noise from the basketball courts and playgrounds.
- General concern over the loss of any existing trees.
- Concern over who will supervise and maintain the proposed restrooms.
- General agreement that the tot lot and playground areas, while remaining separate, should be adjacent.
- Suggestion that the Gettysburg Stone and the Dickens Statue should be more visible from the street.

Functional Relationship Diagram - Option B

Option B proposes:

- Relocation of both the Gettysburg Stone and the Dickens Statue to the new civic plaza in the northern section of the park.
- The relocation of two basketball courts to the southern section of the park, just south of Rosenberger Hall.
- Maintain the existing location of the playground with expansion of it to the south
- Restroom building located on the Kingsessing Avenue alignment, with a plaza area between it and 43rd Street
- Creation of a plaza from 43rd Street on the former alignment of Kingsessing Avenue with the relocated Dickens Statue at its terminus.

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Functional Relationship Diagram - Option B



In addition to some of the same concerns expressed about Option A, discussion of Option B at Public Meeting #3 included the following:

- Concern over the relocation of the Dickens Statue and Gettysburg Stone into the new central civic space in that they would "compete" with each other for prominence. .
- Generally positive reaction to the location of the restrooms near Rosenberger Hall, due to a perceived measure of security available from the presence of USP security forces.
- Concern about noise generated from the basketball courts and the effect on the Rosenberger Hall classrooms and 45th street residences that would face the courts.

Functional Relationship Diagram - Option C

Option C proposes:

- Relocation of both the Gettysburg Stone and the Dickens Statue to the new civic plaza in the northern section of the park.
- The relocation of two basketball courts to the southern section of the park, just south of Rosenberger Hall.
- Maintain the existing location of the play with expansion of it to the north.
- Restroom building located on 43rd Street, opposite Regents Square.
- Creation of a green space on the former alignment of Kingsessing Avenue and location of the present basketball court.

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Functional Relationship Diagram - Option C



In addition to some of the same concerns expressed about Option A & B, discussion of Option C at Public Meeting #3 included the following:

- Concern over the relocation of the Dickens Statue and Gettysburg Stone into the new central civic space in that they would "compete" with each other for prominence. .
- Generally negative reaction to the location of the restrooms on 43rd Street opposite Regents Square. Suggestion that the open view from Regents Square into the park be maintained for security purposes.
- Concern about noise generated from the basketball courts and the effect on the Rosenberger Hall classrooms and 45th street residences that would face the courts.

General consensus from the March 1 Public Meeting and the February 22 Steering Committee meeting was that Functional Relationship Diagram A, while still requiring substantial revision and redesign, was the functional relationships diagram that had the best general arrangement of elements.

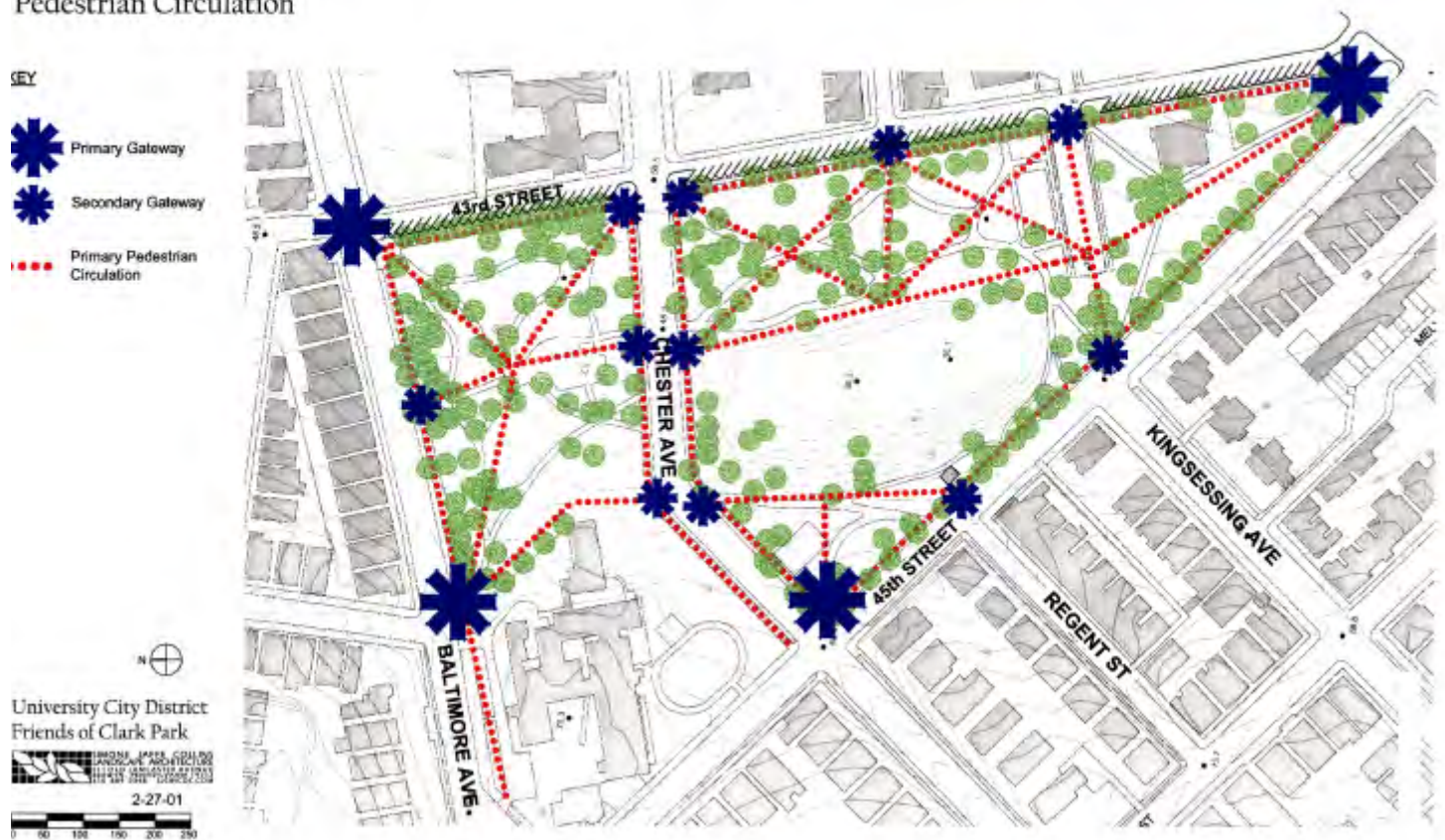
Pedestrian Circulation Patterns

As an additional design / analysis tool, an idealized Pedestrian Circulation Plan (dated 2-27-01) was prepared that illustrated that the park pedestrian circulation system in straight lines. Current circulation is arranged either in a radial pattern (north park) or in a grid pattern with "x" crossings (south park). This basic layout is functional and generally "works". However, the analysis of the current pathways revealed that there are path duplications and unnecessary walkways, especially in the north park.

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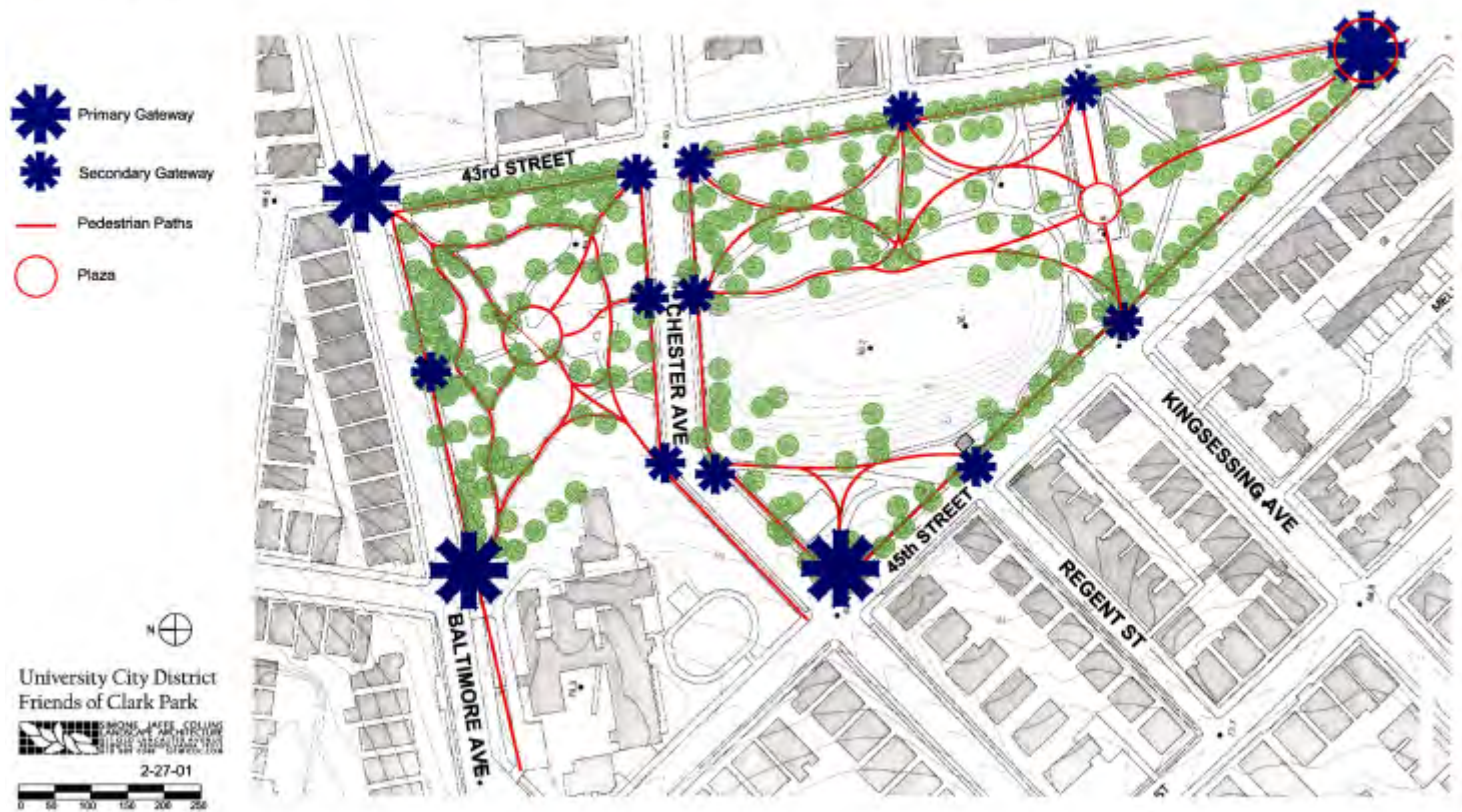
Pedestrian Circulation



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Path Location



One of the most pleasing aesthetic aspects of Clark Park is the gently curving walkways that contribute to the romantic "feel" of the park. To illustrate how the basic straight walkway layout described above can be adapted to a realistic layout, the Path Location Plan (dated 2-27-01) was prepared. This plan shows a reduction in the total walk coverage and it simplifies circulation in the park while creating larger and more usable areas of green space. This plan was used as a general guide in preparing later pathway layouts.

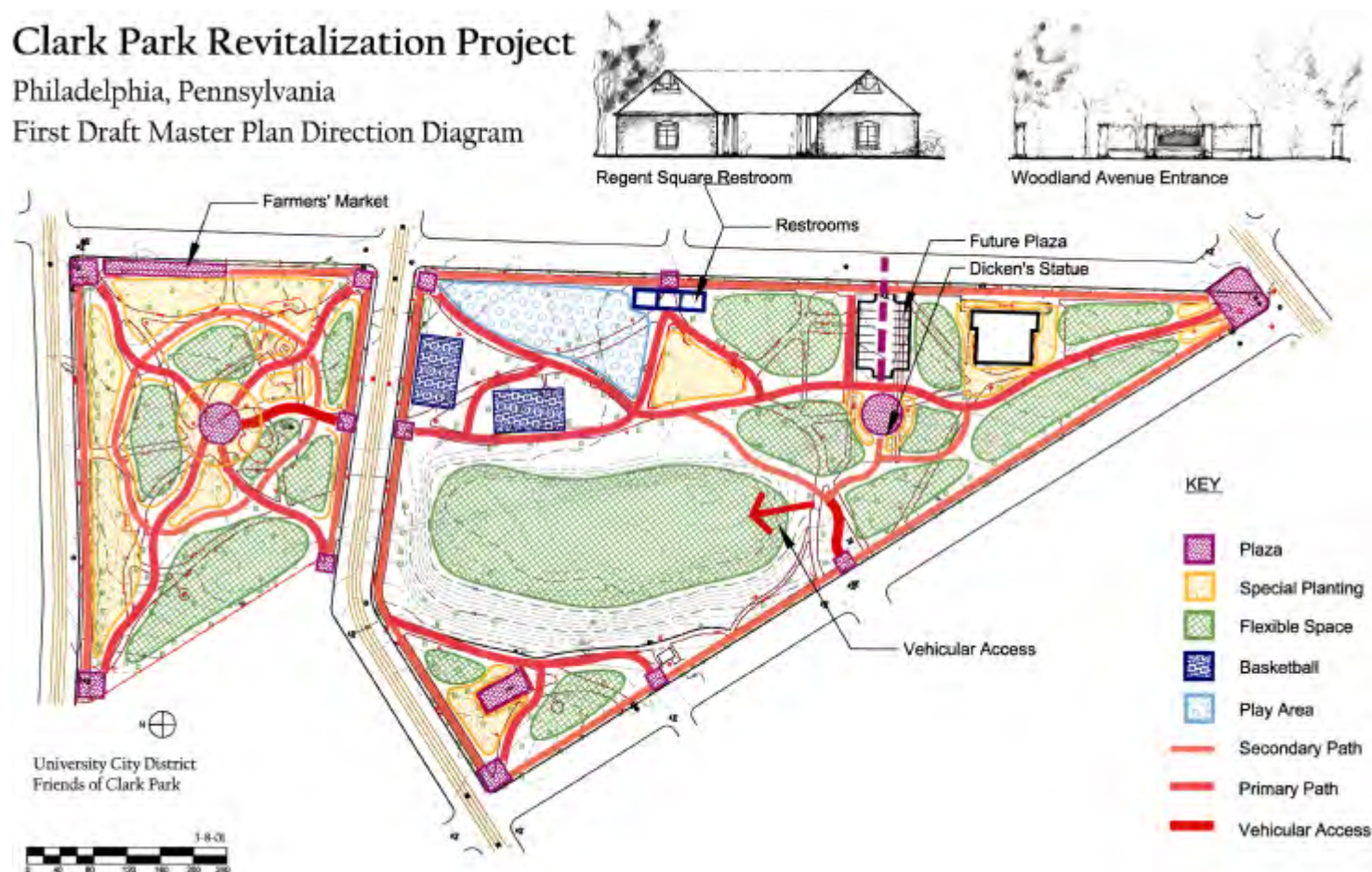
Following public meeting #3, a Master Plan Direction diagram (date 3-8-01) was prepared for review by the Steering Committee at the committee meeting of March 8. Based on discussion by the Steering Committee, the following suggested changes were discussed.

- Keep Dickens Statue in the North Park, in the proposed Central Plaza
- Explore moving the proposed basket ball courts closer to 43rd Street to minimize the loss of existing trees.
- Relocate the proposed restrooms away from Regents Square and 43rd Street toward the bowl, between the proposed play areas and basketball courts.
- Reduce the extent of "special planting" areas shown on the plan.
- Relocate the Gettysburg Stone to a prominent location on Baltimore Avenue so that this memorial is visible from trolleys and automobiles and create greater visibility to this important memorial. Request that the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission erect a marker commemorating both the stone and the Satterlee Hospital site.

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First Draft Master Plan Direction Diagram



A subsequent Master Plan Direction diagram (date 3-29-01) was prepared for the April 5 Steering Committee meeting. This diagram suggested:

- Locate basketball courts closer to 43rd Street in order to require the removal of fewer trees.
- Reuse of the existing play area as the tot area and expand the new play area to the south along 43rd Street.
- Locate restrooms between basketball and play areas, midway between 43rd Street and "the bowl".
- Relocate the Gettysburg Stone to the edge of the park along Baltimore Avenue.
- Relocate Dickens Statue in the central civic plaza in north park.
- Stabilized turf access path into "the bowl" for maintenance and special events access.
- Kingsessing Plaza is an opportunity for new sculpture.
- Re-align walkways to create more and larger areas of lawn.

Comments voiced by the Steering Committee regarding the 3-29-01 plan included:

- General agreement on the direction of the plan.
- Concern over the relocation of the Gettysburg Stone in regard to its "historic" placement in 1916.
- Suggestions that the existing straight walkway from Woodland Avenue be "curved" to be more sympathetic to overall park character.
- Concern over the noise from basketball and playgrounds and the potential effect on Regents Square residents.

The consultants then proceeded to finalize the design for the illustrative Draft Master Plan that was presented on April 19, 2001 at Public Meeting #4.

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Draft Master Plan Direction Diagram



Draft Master Plan

The draft master plan was based on the Master Plan Direction Diagram dated 3-29-01 and on the comments at the April 5 Steering Committee Meeting, as well as on all of the previous comments from all those who participated in the programming and design process.

It is anticipated that based on comments received during the thirty day draft master plan review period, additional changes will be made to the draft plan in order to arrive at the final master plan.

The master plan will be described on an element-by-element basis.

VEGETATION

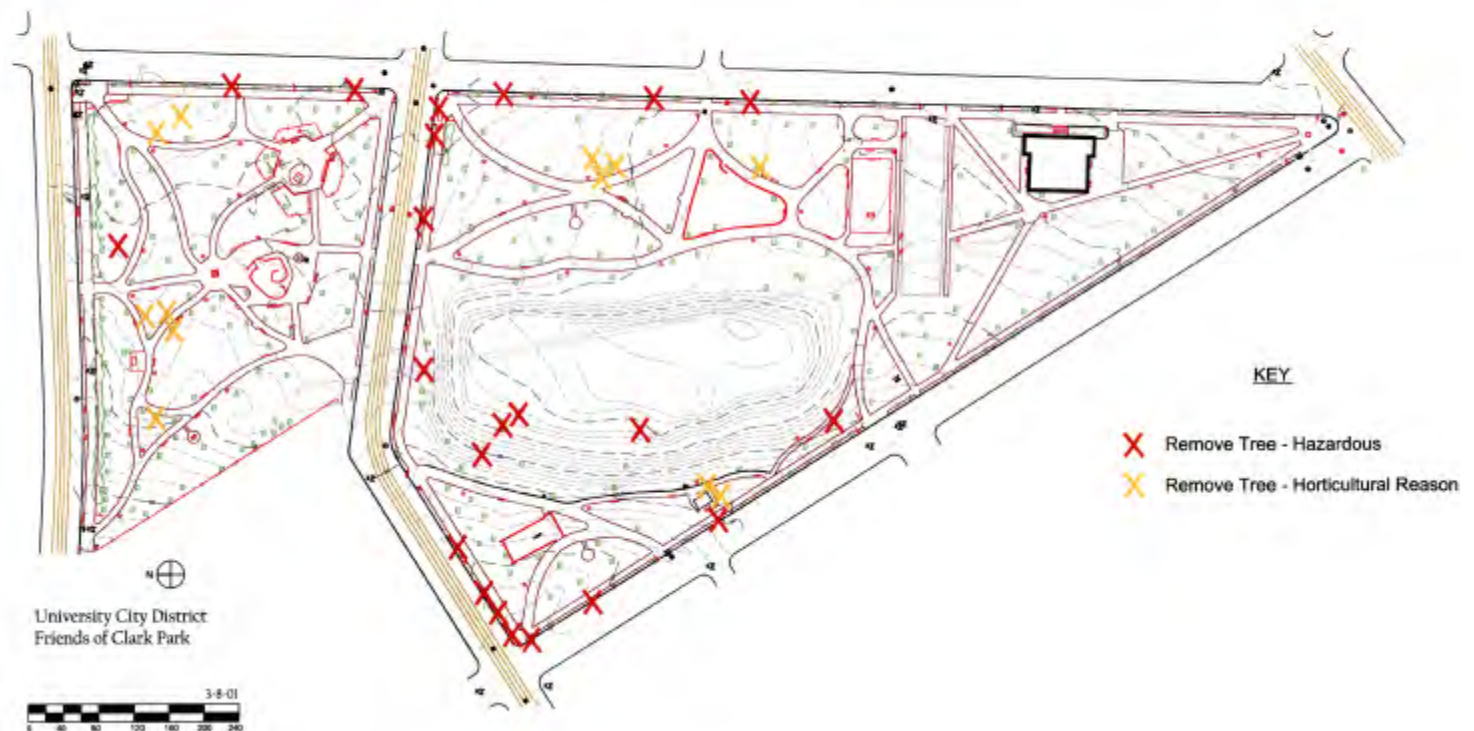
Trees

As outlined in the analysis section of this report, existing trees were given a preliminary evaluation by a certified arborist. That preliminary review determined that 22 trees should be removed for safety reasons and that 12 trees should be removed due to horticultural problems or limitations.

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Tree Assessment Diagram



The draft master plan recommends the planting of 64 shade trees or flowering trees in various sections of the park for a net plan gain of 30 trees in the park. Trees are one of the elements most beloved in the park. Tree maintenance is recommended to be one of the highest priorities in the Clark Park Revitalization Plan.

The master plan recommends a more detailed arboricultural analysis that is beyond the scope of this study. It should be performed to more exactly determine the conditions of trees and those that need removal and/or major pruning. The plan estimates that all of the 271 remaining trees in the park need some pruning and costs are estimated for this purpose. Additionally, costs are allowed for fertilization and mulching of each existing tree in the park.

Future work should include a long term (ten-year minimum) removal and replacement program for trees. A special fund established solely for this purpose should be considered.

Understory

Understory is defined as small flowering trees, shrubs or ground covers that live under the canopies of the large shade trees. As shown in the analysis, Clark Park is virtually devoid of understory except where shrubs and groundcovers are mechanically protected. This occurs at the Dickens Statue area, where shrubs are guarded by low fencing and at a few other locations in the park.

The master plan proposed several areas of shrub and understory plantings, primarily in the north section of the park. These will be protected by durable, low wrought iron fencing, that is in keeping with the historic nature of the park.

Several areas of understory are also proposed in other sections of the park, many at park entrance points, similarly protected by new wrought iron fencing.

In addition to enhancing the appearance of the park through flower, color, and texture, the mulched understory plantings will reduce areas that are walked upon, and can reduce the amount of soil and root compaction and help direct rainwater back into the soil. This simple but effective Best Management Practice (BMP) can also have a positive effect on adjacent trees and have some beneficial effect on reducing storm water runoff from the park.

Lawn

As noted in the analysis section of this report, establishing and maintaining lawns in Clark Park is very challenging.

All lawn areas of the park need to undergo intense horticultural "therapy" that would include aeration, soil amendments and fertilization, seeding, and continued maintenance. It is also important to determine where not to plant turf grass, in areas where conditions are too adverse for a successful lawn, it would be better to plant with understory vegetation.

Additionally, better control of pedestrian circulation patterns, through the use of understory plantings and low fencing, will reduce soil compaction and lawn wear in some areas of the park.

Pedestrian circulation / pathways

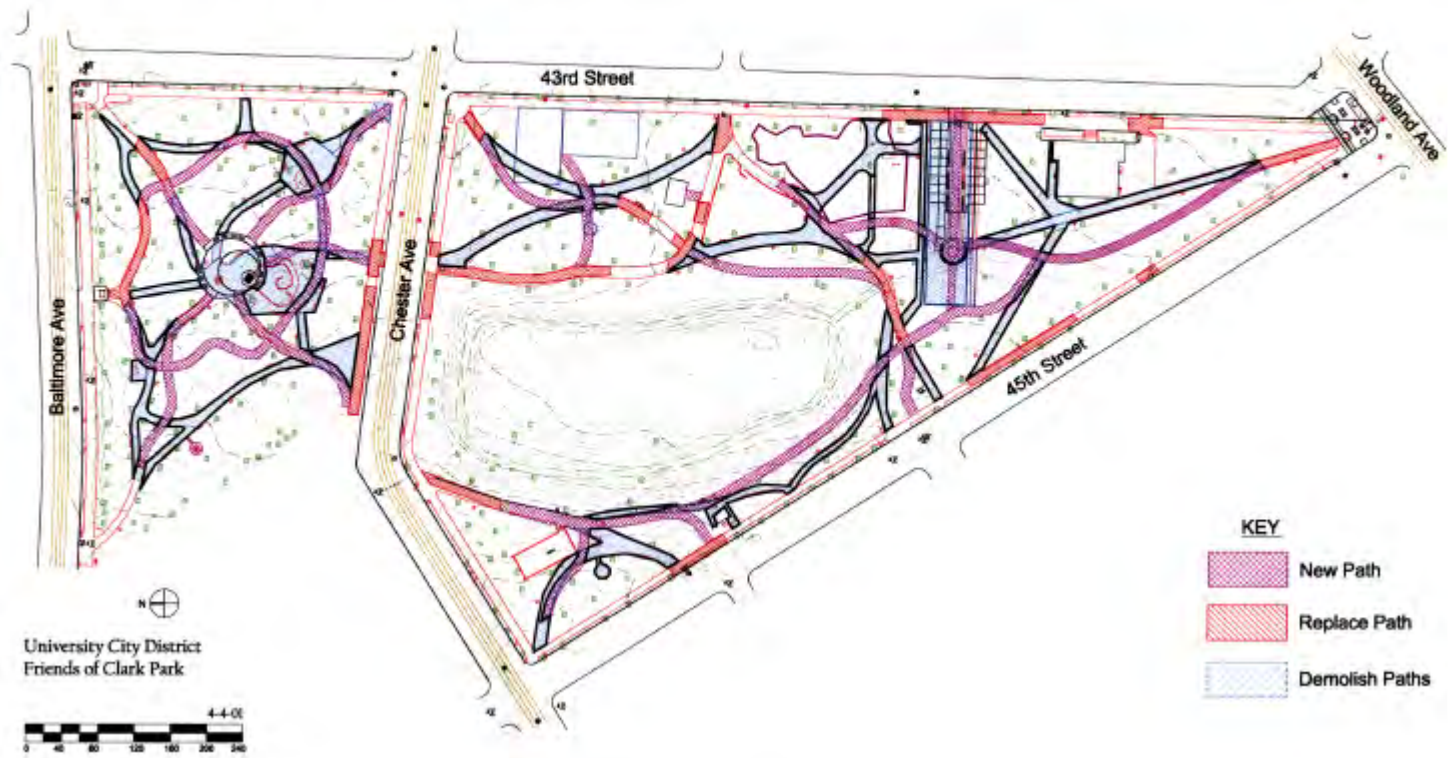
As noted in the analysis section of this master plan report, existing pathways were examined for their condition and redundant and unnecessary pathways have been recommended for removal. The pathway diagram illustrates existing pathways to be removed, pathways to be resurfaced and new pathways.

The elimination of redundant and unnecessary pathways will increase the amount of green or porous area of the park allowing rainwater to percolate into the soil at a slightly greater rate. This simple BMP will help to keep the park "healthy". Approximately 9000 S.F. of new green (not paved) area is added to the park compared with existing conditions.

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Path Demolition, Replacement and New Locations



The widths of walkways should also be carefully considered during construction documentation. Vehicular access points for event set-up and maintenance should be wide enough to easily accommodate vehicles. These access points include:

- Mid block at Chester Avenue to the proposed central plaza
- Mid block at 45th Street to the bowl stabilized turf access area
- Kingsessing Plaza

Concrete is recommend as the material of choice for new pathways and pathways to be resurfaced. While asphalt was considered for its lower cost and relative visually recessive appearance, concrete is most appropriate for the park's context and historic nature. If possible, colored concrete should be considered for use if large enough areas are being constructed at one time. A light gray tint to the concrete add minimally to cost and eliminates the glare and new "look" associated with new concrete. This gray tinted concrete will also blend better with older pavements in Clark Park. A diagram that illustrates walkways to be removed, walkways to be re-surfaced and new walkways is illustrated in this document.

Lighting

Since the existing lighting system in Clark Park is over forty years old, subject to frequent repair, leaves gaps in lighting the park which creates safety concerns, and the fixtures are inappropriate to the park's character, a new lighting system is recommended.

Although it is premature to choose the exact lighting fixture for the park at the master plan stage, a classic, stately type light fixture would be the most appropriate. Light color should be white, in the form of metal halide lamps. High-pressure sodium lamps, which cast an eerie yellow light, should be avoided.

Special lighting for the Dickens Statue, Gettysburg Stone, future sculpture at the South Plaza and future sculpture/ water spray feature for Kingsessing Plaza should also be included in lighting plans.

New service connections will also need to be made and metering may also necessary. It will be important to establish operational and maintenance responsibility for the new lighting to avoid the existing situation where there is confusion as to who is responsible for the lighting.

Since lighting may not be installed in phase one construction for the park, provisions should be made for installing blank conduit that will later accept lighting wiring. For example, conduit may be installed easily and relatively inexpensively at the same time as walk reconstruction or lawn renovation.

Electric Hook-ups

Electric hook-ups in lockable boxes, are suggested in several locations. One location is in the North Section of the park for the Farmers Market. Another would be located in the "Bowl" to influence the location of the portable stage used for events in the park. The remaining hook-ups would be at the South Plaza, the North Plaza and the Kingessing Street Plaza.

NORTH PARK

Improvements to the North Park are aimed at maintaining and reinforcing the existing stately character of this area.



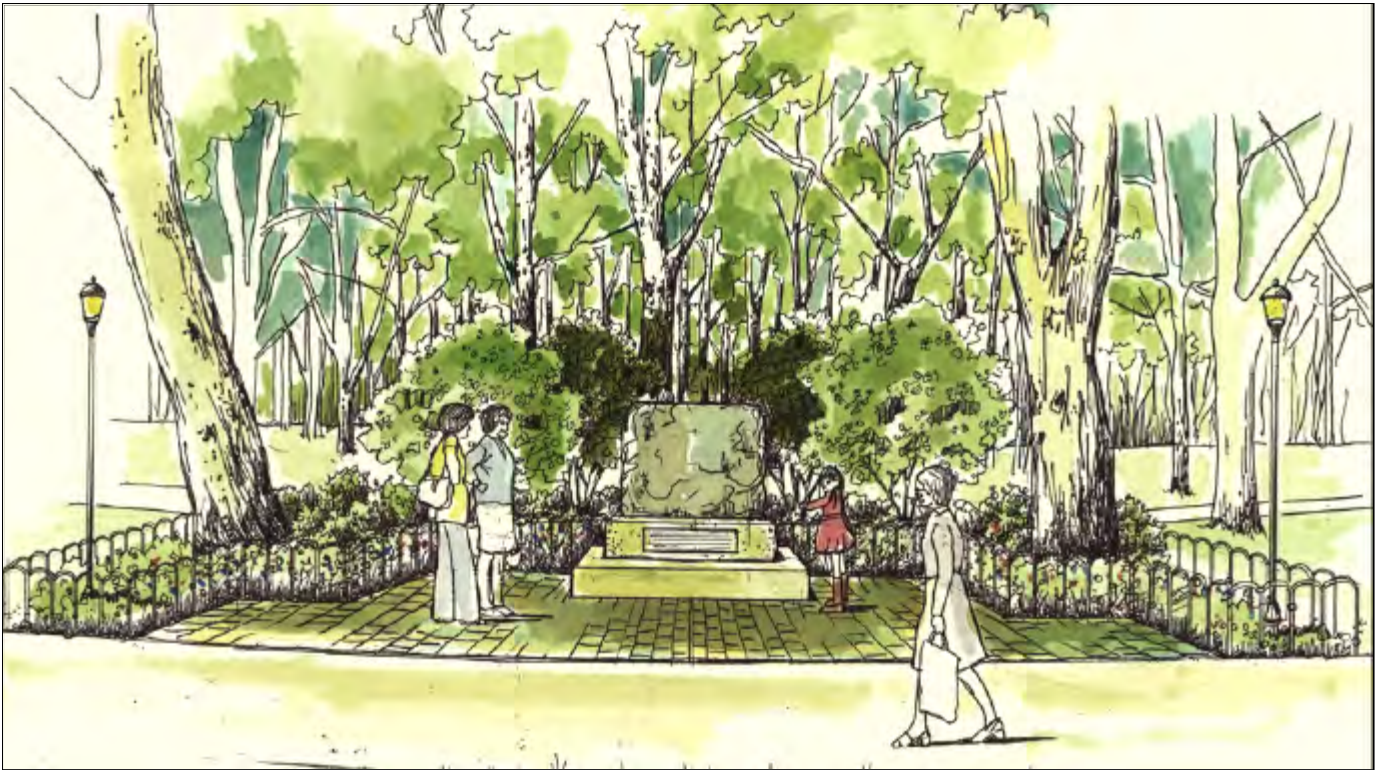


Major renovation for the north park includes the creation of a central civic plaza, relocation of the Dickens Statue to this more prominent plaza location, consolidation of the pathway system for safety, to eliminate redundancies and to create more usable green spaces, the addition of many benches and game tables, additional trees, understory plantings with protective fencing, and the relocation of the Gettysburg Stone to a more prominent location on the edge of the park near Baltimore Avenue.

The central plaza is intended to function on a daily basis as a comfortable sitting area with both benches and game tables to accommodate the park's many chess players. The game tables have been grouped to accommodate the chess playing community. A ring of small flowering trees helps to reduce the scale of the plaza while keeping it wide open in order to accommodate park events. A drinking fountain is located at the central plaza.

Dickens Statue

The Dickens Statue has been relocated to the central plaza to create a more majestic and prominent location for this unique and important work of art. While the historic significance of the statue's current location, installed in 1901 is noteworthy, it is suggested to be less significant than the work itself. The statue was not designed for this space or any specific location. Its 1901 placement does not retain the importance of place that it might have held at that time. The intent of relocation is to re-establish a prominent location in the park for this marvelous icon.



Gettysburg Stone

As noted in the analysis section of this report, the Gettysburg stone commemorates the important location of the Satterlee Hospital which treated thousands of union soldiers during the American Civil War. This history is little known, perhaps due to the stone's understated location. While the significance of the stone's location, placed in 1916 is noted, this location is not in keeping with the stone's significance. Moving the stone by a distance of 25 feet to the edge of the park facing Baltimore Avenue is recommended to create a location of prominence for this important historical memorial. Also, a request should be made that the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission to erect a commemorative sign noting both the stone and the Satterlee Hospital site. It also may be appropriate to locate a flagpole adjacent to the stone.

Tot lot

The tot lot is proposed for relocation to the central portion of the park and appears greatly expanded.

Dog Park

The lack of enforcement of existing city laws regarding dogs in the park, as discussed in the analysis section of this report, presents an opportunity for the community to deal with this important issue at this juncture in the master plan process. This issue effects a great number of park users and has stirred great feeling and emotions among those concerned about dog use of the park.

As noted in the analysis section of this report, the consultants recommend enforcement of existing laws related to dog use of the park.

A cost estimate for the installation of a dog park location in the north park that is approximately 20,000 square feet in size surrounded by attractive wrought iron fencing is included in this report. Improvements to the site would include new catch basins, gravel base with mulch surface to ensure good drainage.

The consultant strongly recommends that the existing laws concerning dogs in the park be enforced, with or without a fenced dog park. The consultants suggests that each neighborhood organization reach a policy decision on whether or not existing laws should be followed and enforced.

If enforcement and compliance with existing laws becomes the status quo, a decision on whether or not to build a dog park becomes a simpler community decision on which to reach consensus. The consultants suggest that a dog park could function well in the location indicated on the master plan.

Farmers' Market

The farmers' market area will be retained in its present location with expansions to the paved area. Dry laid unit pavers (brick or concrete) are recommended between the exiting sidewalk and the curb. It is also recommended to add six feet in width of unit pavers from the existing sidewalk toward the park, to allow for more room for farmers' market activities. Existing trees will not be compromised. A hose bib in a locked box is also recommended to allow easy cleaning of the pavement. Electrical access is also recommended for this area. Accommodations for securing tent canopies may also be considered when this area is designed for construction.

MAIN PARK

The Bowl

Due to the heavy use of the bowl, drainage improvements and complete renovation of the lawn playing surface is recommended. Four surface catch basins will be located to more quickly capture rainwater and allow the field to dry more quickly. These catch basins will tie into an existing storm sewer line under the bowl. The field will be graded with a crown, to drain from the center along the long dimension to either side. Minor grading adjustments will be made to create a slightly larger playing area and to incorporate drainage improvements. A stabilized turf surface will be created around the bottom perimeter of the bowl to allow vehicular access for maintenance vehicles and to facilitate events. This stabilized turf is a subsurface of eight inches thick 2a modified gravel, covered by six inches of soil and turf, that will minimize rutting from vehicle tires. The cost estimates include sod for the bowl to minimize waiting time from construction to use of the bowl lawn.



Storage Building

The existing storage building located along 45th Street should be renovated and be used for park maintenance equipment and sports equipment storage.

Shuffleboard Plaza

As noted in the analysis section, the former shuffleboard court and its attractive walls are used as an informal gathering space. Plan improvements include plantings around the plaza to enhance it and the addition of a metal arbor at the plaza's northern end. This arbor is an opportunity for the work of a fine artist, perhaps interpreting an aspect of the neighborhood or park. This is a possible opportunity for the Fairmount Park Art Association's involvement.



Basketball

The existing undersized, basketball court is in poor condition and must be replaced. Many locations were examined for relocation of this important park function. Two courts have been suggested since the existing one court is heavily used and there are usually other players waiting to play. The Draft Master Plan suggests that two courts be located along 43rd Street.

When parking is removed from the former Kingsessing Street area, a new plaza area will be built here to enhance this section of the park and to create a better linkage with the USP campus. Retaining the existing court in its present location did not work well with the design intent of Kingsessing Plaza.

The steering committee felt that, if possible, the basketball courts should be located close to the street so that visual contact will be maintained from the street. Additionally, the committee was very concerned to minimize the loss of trees from construction of the basketball courts. Several locations in this general area were examined. Noise generated from balls and players and the effect of that noise is a concern for all possible courts locations.

With this location, the greatest noise affect presently is toward the residences on Regents Square. The basketball court placement is on a more acute angle from Regents Square than is the existing court. The corner building on Regent Square will be more of a barrier from court noise when compared to the existing court location.



However, noise is still a concern, one that is always present for those residents who live near to any park. While nearby residents are able to enjoy the benefits of being close to a park, they are also exposed to the negative consequences of park activity.

The basketball courts are proposed to be contained on three sides by six foot tall wrought iron fencing.

Playgrounds

The draft master plan proposes that the tot lot be relocated to the existing location of the current playground, within the handsome stone walls. The tot lot is designed to accommodate tots up to 2 years old. Low height and low mobility play apparatus make this area much more accommodating to young children, (than for older children) since safety zones around the less expansive equipment are smaller. Benches and plantings can also be incorporated into this area, providing a pleasant area for young children and caregivers alike.

New openings should be made through the walls into the tot lot area to meet universal accessibility requirements.

The playground area is proposed adjacent to and to the south of the tot lot, along 43rd Street. This playground will be larger than the exiting facility and be able to accommodate a greater variety of play activities and equipment. The playground is intended to accommodate the locations of existing trees in order to maintain the vitality of these trees. Impervious poured-in-place safety surfacing is required in all playgrounds.

The actual design of this playground (and that of the tot lot) will be completed at the time of construction documentation. The equipment should be both durable and challenging while adhering to the standards of the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Restrooms

The addition of restrooms is a necessary amenity for Clark Park. Public urination is a problem at the park, and it is due to the utter lack of restrooms. The cost of new restrooms is high, but the cost of maintaining and security of restrooms is even greater over the life of the building. Neighbors are skeptical about the ability to maintain restrooms and keep them safe. However, the park being within the UCD and the fact that there is an adjacent security presence at USP, create a situation where park restrooms can succeed.

All urban communities, including the Clark Park neighborhood, have become accustomed to the idea that public restrooms are not longer a possibility. In addition to their obvious necessary function, the ability for a community to provide safe and clean public facilities should also be a symbol of what urban neighborhoods can and should do toward controlling their own destiny and well-being.

SOUTH PARK

Kingsessing Avenue Parking / Plaza

The University of the Sciences in Philadelphia currently uses the former Kingsessing Avenue for parking as an adjunct to its lease agreement for its use of Rosenberger Hall. USP may be able to eventually eliminate its need for this parking as it expands its campus facilities. In the short term, a twenty-car parking lot will be reconfigured by USP on the site. This lot will be shorter than the existing paving area and will allow more green space.

When USP is able to remove parking from this area, Kingsessing Plaza can be constructed.

On a daily basis, Kingsessing Plaza will function as a passive sitting area. The long, wide walkway will have a formal character as an acknowledgement and visual and functional link to the USP campus. The plaza will terminate in a new sculpture that may also double as a spray fountain for summer time fun.

Benches, game tables and a formal planting of small trees will line each side of the broad walkway.

The passive nature of the south park will remain essentially the same. The long straight walkway from Woodland Avenue to Rosenberger Hall will be changed to a curvilinear walk to be more sympathetic to other walkways in the park. Existing mature trees will be retained and long-term replacements should be anticipated.



South Plaza

The prominence and use of the southern most tip of the park will change in the next few years. USP is planning to build a major new classroom facility directly across from the park on Woodland Avenue. Student pedestrian traffic will increase along Woodland Avenue and the South Plaza area becomes an ideal area to develop a pedestrian space and gateway to the park. Additionally, the Philadelphia Department of Streets is planning to narrow 43rd Street at the intersection with Woodland Avenue to make this intersection safer. This narrowing is reflected on the draft master plan.

The South Plaza is planned with seating, plantings, entry wall and columns to the park and is recommended as a location for a major piece of sculpture. The "Vessel Trellis" as suggested by the Fairmount Park Art Association in their "Proposal for New Landmarks Program" publication is a possibility. Other works of art may also be appropriate. The exact piece of art can be determined at a later date.





SURROUNDING STREETS

43rd Street

The existing thirty-two foot wide cartway presently accommodates two way traffic with parallel parking on both sides.

It is possible to make 43rd Street one way north between Woodland and Chester. This would simplify and make the Woodland and 43rd Street intersection safer. Crossing 43rd Street from USP or from Regents Square would also be made safer. Diagonal (60 degree) parking could be accommodated on the park side and a five foot wide bike lane could be accommodated on the east side of the cartway. A eleven foot travel lane would be available.

Access to Regents Square would only be from the west, and Regents Square would become one way. Resident reaction to this proposal should be gauged regarding this suggestion before approaching the Philadelphia Department of Streets with a formal proposal for discussion.

Assuming two way circulation is maintained on 43rd Street between Chester Avenue and Baltimore Avenue, there would not be room for continuation of a bike lane unless modifications to the cartway were made or parallel parking on one side of the street was eliminated. A detail for a "bump-in" along the west side of 43rd street is shown in this report. This would allow a bike lane on the east side of the street while maintaining two way traffic.

Chester Avenue

Chester Avenue, between 45th and 43rd Streets, is identified in the analysis as a barrier between the two sections of park. If Chester Avenue was closed and converted to park land, it would add approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre to the park. While this additional green space would be a welcome addition to the park, and make use between the two sections of the park safer, is recognized that the closing of a section of street is a complex and multi-year undertaking. It should be noted that the Chester Avenue alignment was not judged to prime area for specific park facilities. If closed, the road would become green space.

Based upon input received during the master plan process, it certainly seems possible that the physical obstacles to closing Chester Avenue could be overcome. These include rerouting the Chester Avenue trolley route, rerouting vehicular traffic and maintaining access to HMS School. Alternatively, automobile traffic could be eliminated while trolley traffic only is maintained on Chester Avenue. However, overcoming the notion of changing circulation routes and various neighborhood repercussions are often more difficult to overcome than the physical design obstacles. .

This plan recommends that the closing of Chester Avenue be pursued as a long-range goal for the park. It should not, however, become an obstacle to accomplishing the many other park improvements recommended in this plan. If the community wishes to pursue the closing of Chester Avenue, it will require widespread and united community support.

Pedestrian Crossings

There was widespread concern throughout the master plan design process to create safer crossings into Clark Park. As a result, a number of "bump-outs" or expanded sidewalk areas built into the parking lane are shown on the master plan, to shorten the cartway distance pedestrians must cross to the park. These cost for these bump-outs are itemized in the cost estimate.

COSTS:

Phasing:

Draft Master Plan Cost Estimate Summary - In order of Recommended Priority

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Tree Maintenance and Removal | \$ 126,535.00 |
| Dog Park | \$ 138,759.00 |
| The Bowl | \$ 128,310.00 |
| Farmers Market | \$ 39,950.00 |
| Lighting | \$ 357,907.50 |
| Sidewalks | \$ 243,986.03 |
| Park Entrances / Bump Outs | \$ 151,840.14 |
| South Plaza | \$ 274,985.00 |
| North Plaza | \$ 396,140.00 |
| Gettysburg Stone Area | \$ 28,297.60 |
| Former Shuffleboard Area | \$ 31,995.00 |
| Play Areas / Courts / Rest Rooms | \$ 449,275.91 |
| Kingsessing Plaza | \$ 176,694.81 |
| Sub Total | \$ 2,544,675.99 |
| Mobilization | \$ 25,000.00 |
| Contingency | \$ 256,967.60 |
| Final Design and Construction Documents | \$ 200,000.00 |
| Total | \$ 3,026,644.00 |

The complete detailed cost estimate is continued in the Appendix.

IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES

The recommended priorities for improvements are grouped according to the cost estimate categories. Since these categories are generally based on either location in the park (i.e. "the bowl") or on park wide improvement categories (lighting or sidewalks) there is construction overlap in the priority categories.

Priority recommendations were made based on a combination of factors and value judgments by the consultants. These include:

- Importance to the community
- Safety
- Logical sequencing of construction improvements
- Quality of existing facilities that new construction will replace
- Magnitude of cost
- Importance to overall park use

Additionally, it should be noted that there are priorities within each grouping of improvements. For example, in the Play Areas / Courts / Rest Rooms category:

1. New basketball courts are the highest priority due to the poor and unsafe condition of the existing court and its high level of use
2. New Playgrounds are the next highest priority
3. Restrooms are the lowest priority in this category, due to high cost and maintenance and supervision consideration.

Additionally, construction scheduling will depend on the success of funding.

Recommended priorities for construction funding are as follows:

- 1.Tree Maintenance and Removal.** The park's mature trees are clearly one of the defining elements of Clark Park and are greatly valued by the community. Tree maintenance costs as outlined can be completed over several years. However, since tree maintenance is an annual expenditure, it is recommended that a separate budget fund be established for this purpose.
- 2.Dog Park.** The Community must make a decision on how to proceed on this issue. Maintaining the status quo (and not demanding enforcement of existing laws) is one option; enforcement of dog laws is a second option; enforcement of dog laws and building a dog park is the third option. If the community decides to build the dog park with enforcement of existing laws, it will have a positive effect on other areas of the park including on the condition of the bowl.
- 3.The Bowl.** Heavy and nearly year-round use of this area demand that it be a high priority. Additionally, it is relatively isolated from other areas of the park and it can be improved without disruption to other functions in the park.
- 4.Farmers' Market.** Improvements to facilitate operations of this successful undertaking are relatively inexpensive and provide an important service to the community.
- 5.Sidewalks and Lighting.** These expensive, park-wide improvements relate to safety and one of the most important activities in the park - strolling, walking, etc. Walk relocation and reconstruction will also help delineate spaces in the park, provide settings for understory plantings and settings for sitting. In actual construction sequencing, construction of the walks and lighting may occur in one area of the park at a time.

6.Park Entrances / Bump outs. These improvements will make walking to the park and crossing the surrounding roads safer. They will also enhance the entrances to the park and note Clark Park as a special place. The Streets Department may be able to offer assistance with these improvements.

7.South Plaza. Construction of a major new classroom facility on Woodland Avenue by USP will make this entrance to the park a much more important gateway to Clark Park. The South Plaza improvements are intended to encourage more use of the southern section of the park and create linkages to the USP campus.

8.North Plaza / Gettysburg Stone Area. While the north park area is in need of major renovation, it can function in its present condition, until funding becomes available.

9.Former Shuffleboard Area. This area can continue to function as is for the present time. Since most improvements to this area are plant materials, this project may be a good candidate for installation as a community project.

10.Kingssessing Plaza. The development of this plaza is dependent on the removal of USP parking in the park. This may take several years to accomplish. An intermediate step is the reduction (and shortening) of the existing lot to accommodate only 20 cars, and returning the western end of the parking lot to turf. These costs are not included in the cost estimate since it is anticipated that USP would complete these improvements as part of its existing lease agreement with the city.

FUNDING STRATEGY

The Clark Park Master Plan creates a vision for a Revitalized Clark Park. As this plan is implemented, a renewed park will have positive economic and social effects throughout the neighborhood. These benefits will have benefits to the local economy far beyond the investment made for rehabilitation.

Clark Park has the potential to be a new model for public / private cooperation in the revitalization of Philadelphia's neighborhoods. This plan is not only a weapon against blight, it is economic development, it is drug prevention, it is crime prevention, and the park provides a neutral town green where neighbors who might not otherwise know each other meet and form lasting bonds in the community.

The Clark Park community has an organizational structure and several fully engaged partners. These partners have already created funding to complete the master plan and provide funding for improved maintenance.

The park's existing partners have the ability to leverage existing commitments and funds with other private and public sector funding.

Armed with this plan's new vision for Clark Park, there are several agencies and funding sources that should be aggressively pursued.

Department of Recreation / City of Philadelphia

This city agency is ultimately responsible for the upkeep, maintenance and renovation of the park. Unfortunately, the Department of Recreation is under-funded and has a limited ability to internally fund major improvements. However, this agency has been very successful in recent years in engaging the private sector in assisting to renovate Department of Recreation sites. The Department's capable staff have been valuable participants in the master plan process and fully support the goals of this plan.

The commitment necessary to rebuild Clark Park will take both an extraordinary commitment from Department funding and an extraordinary commitment from Councilwomen Blackwell to help to direct some of Philadelphia's annual state funding towards this model project. As a model project the Clark Park Revitalization Plan has the potential to also win support from leaders in other city council districts. It is a model for engaging the community, businesses and foundations in a cooperative, successful and highly visible effort to affect positive change and reinvestment in all Philadelphia neighborhoods.

KEYstone Community Grant Program

This state program is funded by an annual dedicated percentage of the statewide real estate transfer tax. Funding from the program is dedicated toward recreation and cultural programs. This program is administered by the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC) and by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

Philadelphia receives an annual allocation from this program. Typically, the allocation is divided between the Department of Recreation and the Fairmount Park Commission for capital improvement projects. This state allocation must be equally matched by City funds. Allocations are typically in the range of \$300,00 to \$400,000 for each city agency. With the required city match, KEYstone funding can make a substantial contribution toward total Clark Park revitalization costs.

The Clark Park Master Plan has been completed to comply with the procedures and guidelines of the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, in order to qualify for this funding.

DCED Community Revitalization Funds

The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Community Revitalization Fund is a State program that supports local initiatives that improve the stability of communities and enhance local economies. The grant program covers a wide range of eligible uses including: acquisition of land, buildings, and right-of-ways; recreation projects; programs and developments that build capacity of the local community and relevant local organizations to better serve the needs of the community, and other reasonable and necessary expenses related to community-based activities.

The Renovation of Clark Park is an excellent candidate for these funds. Large grant amounts range from \$100,000 up to \$300,000 and do not require a match, however commitments from other funding sources can only help an application. The support of the district's State Senator, Anthony Williams and State Representative, James Roebuck, is critical to successfully obtaining funding through this program.

PA Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC)

As previously mentioned, PHMC distributes a portion of KEYstone funding for projects relevant to its mission. The competition in this program is considerable for relatively small grant awards. However, Clark Park possesses at least two attributes in which PHMC should be keenly interested: the Dicken's Statue and the Gettysburg Stone. The Statue is unique in the world and the stone is unique in Philadelphia. It may be possible to obtain funds for the movement, new placement, interpretation and conservation of these important historic icons.

Legislative Funding

State and federal elected officials can often include items into legislation for worthy projects in their districts. Clearly identifying reasonable needs is a key to securing this type of funding. The economic weight of the University City District may be a persuasive tool in making the revitalization of Clark Park a priority. As previously mentioned, the economic and social benefits of a renewed park will have long term benefits in the community that far outweigh renovation costs. A conversation between City officials, community leaders and legislators may be the way to begin this process. This funding should be targeted toward capital improvements.

Fairmount Park Art Association (FPAA)

FPAA may be interested in assisting with several elements of the plan revolving around works of art.

The proposed South Plaza includes the suggestion that the proposed sculpture "Vessel Trellis" as suggested by FPAA in their "New Landmarks Program" be considered for this plaza. The proposed Kingessing Plaza also contains a recommendation for a sculpture at its western terminus along with smaller "Vessel Trellises" along a formal alley.

The New Landmarks program also suggested a piece call "Crows Nest" which may be appropriate at some location in the park. The renovation of the Shuffleboard Plaza includes the suggested for a art / trellis at its northern end. The relocation of the Dicken's Stature may be of interest to FPAA, and there may be other locations for works of art not considered by the master plan.

FPAA may have the ability to attract private art donors to support new art work in the Clark Park. FPAA should be formally invited by the community to participate in this plan and to become a partner in this process.

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society / Philadelphia Green (PHS/PG)

PHP/PG has an extensive program of "greening" in Philadelphia that ranges from community gardening to street tree tending to helping to raise funds and being advocates for projects such as the Philadelphia Museum of Art Landscape Renovation, the Penn's Landing rehabilitation and the 26th Street Gateway beautification.

Through its programs, membership, horticultural library, and shows, PG motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through its greening program.

Through its community greening efforts, PG works with organizations in low and moderate-income neighborhoods on open space planning, revitalization of neighborhood parks, creation of gardens and planting blocks with street trees. The goal of Philadelphia Green's Parks Revitalization Project is to reclaim inner city parks as hubs of community activity and sources of neighborhood pride. Seeking to develop viable self-sustained, local-based organizations and volunteer "Friends" groups to serve as park stewards, Philadelphia Green provides training in organization-building and works with groups to implement improvement projects.

Through the Public Landscapes Program, PG began an initiative in 1987 to rehabilitate and maintain key landscapes that had declined throughout the city. This program has helped revitalize Philadelphia's green spaces and enliven the city for its residents and tourists.

Philadelphia Green's Outreach program teaches both adults and children the value of horticulture and the positive impact and benefits that a healthy environment makes on a community. PG connects with people where they live and invites them through horticulture to participate in the continued well-being of their neighborhoods.

The horticultural aspects of the Clark Park Master plan are substantial and PHS/PG may be able to offer assistance with both funding and training / engagement of community volunteers to take on both plant installation and maintenance projects.

Department of Streets / City of Philadelphia

The apparent responsibility of the Department of Streets for park lighting should be explored to determine if funds for new lighting may be available through that agency. Additionally, the park master plan recommends several changes to curb lines and the creation of pedestrian "bump-outs" to create safer pedestrian crossing into the park. The Department of Streets should be engaged in a conversation on how it might be of assistance with these improvements.

Pennsylvania "Growing Greener" Initiative

The "Growing Greener" Program was signed into law by Governor Tom Ridge on December 15, 1999. Over the next five years the Growing Greener Program will issue nearly \$650 million for programs that preserve farmland, protect open space, reduce maintenance in state parks, clean up abandoned mines, restore watersheds, and provide new and upgraded water and sewer systems.

While the first few rounds of these funds have been allocated primarily to projects in more "natural" settings in suburban and rural communities, a strong case can be made to provide funds for projects that integrate Best Management Practices into urban watersheds.

Private Foundations

The William Penn Foundation has already shown a strong commitment to the Clark Park Revitalization Project through the funding of this master plan study. It is anticipated that their commitment to this project will continue.

However, other foundations may also be interested in participating in the implementation of this project. UCD and other community leaders and city officials should pursue connections and leads in the foundation community for this worthwhile project.

Corporate Sponsorships

Opportunities for corporate sponsorships abound at Clark Park. Playgrounds, Plazas, pavements, restrooms, and almost any park improvement lends itself for corporate sponsorship. Given the organization structure of UCD and the Friends of Clark Park, there are many ways to tastefully acknowledge these important sponsorships. The present "Party in the Park" that raises funds for park maintenance is an excellent example of the high level of commitment that exists in the community.

Individual Sponsorships

Benches, trees, and many other park elements lend themselves to smaller, individual contributions for improvements to the park. These individual contributions, in addition to funding improvements, help vest local contributors in the park continued well being.

Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program

The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program grants for economically distressed urban cities. The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program was established in November 1978, authorizing \$725 million to provide matching grants and technical assistance to economically distressed urban communities. The purpose of the program was to provide direct Federal assistance to urban localities for rehabilitation of critically needed recreation facilities. The law also encouraged systematic local planning and commitment to continuing operation and maintenance of recreation programs, sites, and facilities. Only cities and urban counties meeting established criteria are eligible for assistance.

Three types of grants have been available through the UPARR program - Rehabilitation, Innovation, and Planning. Rehabilitation grants provide capital funding to renovate or redesign existing close-to-home recreation facilities. Innovation grants usually involve more modest amounts of funding aimed at supporting specific activities that either increase recreation programs or improve the efficiency of the local government to operate existing programs. Planning grants provided funds for the development of a Recovery Action Program plan.

FISCAL YEAR 2001

The National Park Service was appropriated \$28.9 million for FY 2001. A grant round will be announced in the Federal Register. The announcement will provide information on eligibility requirements and application procedures.

Appendix
