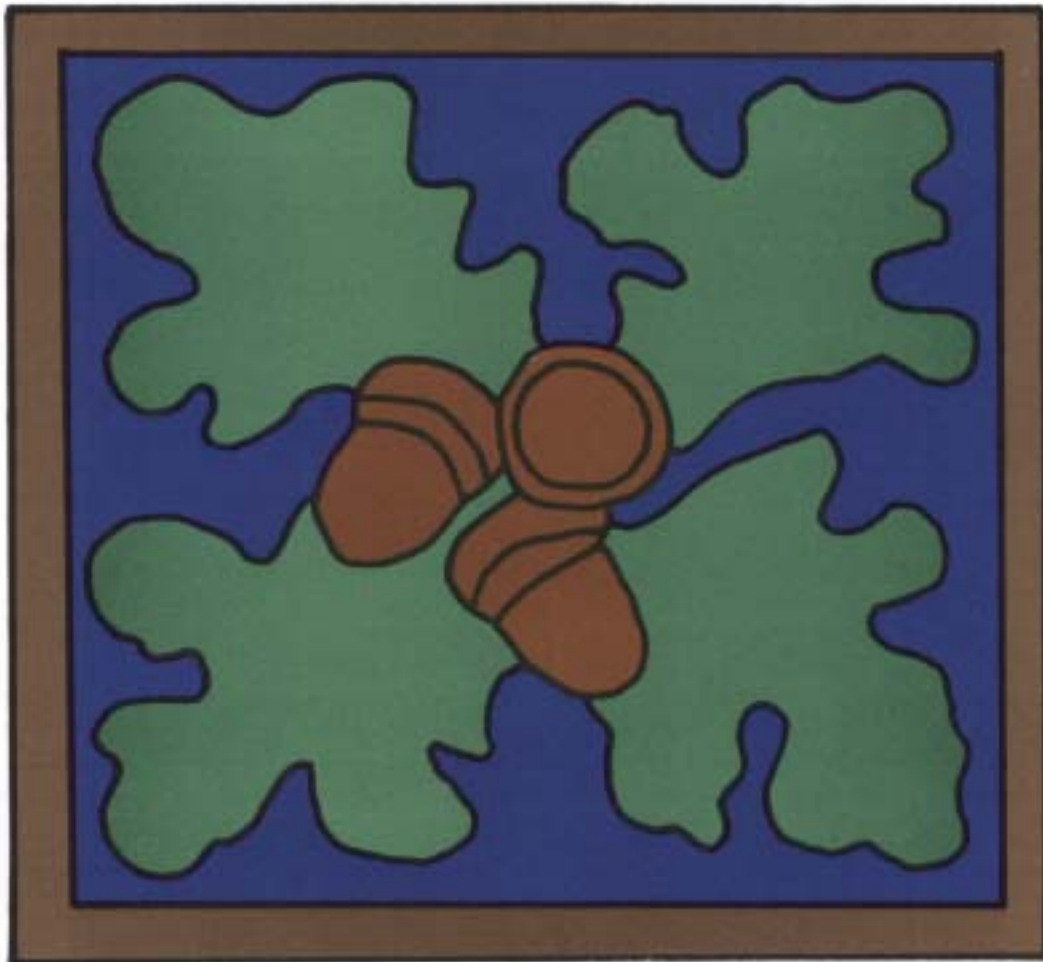


GARFIELD PARK MASTER PLAN



Detail of Decorative Tile from the Sunken Gardens

DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF PLANNING

FOR: DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
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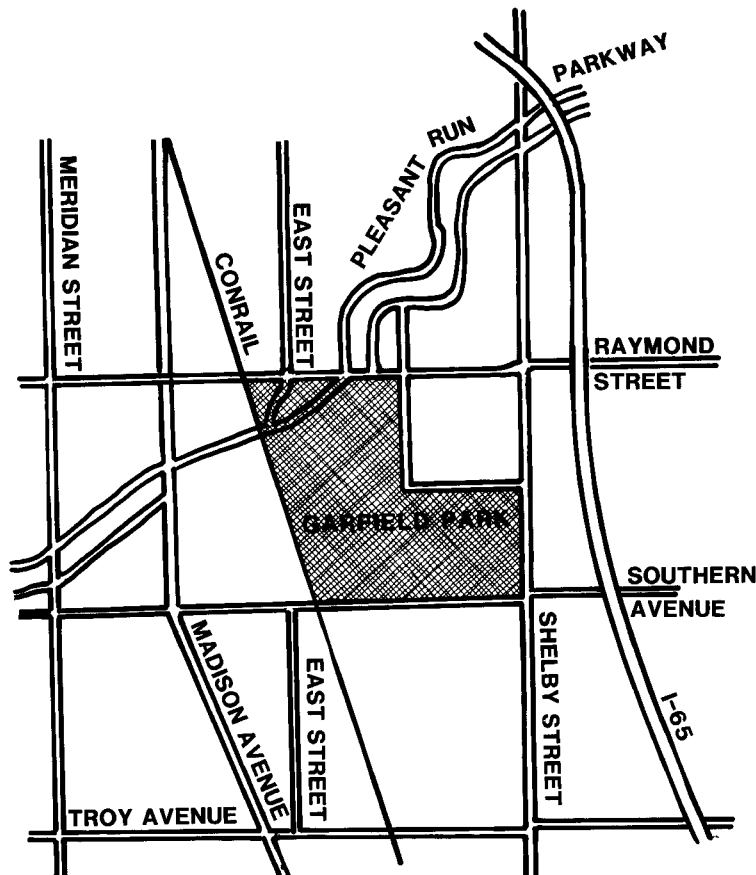
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GARFIELD PARK

Garfield Park is Indianapolis's oldest City-owned park. For decades the park was a city showcase. Today, it continues to be a popular and heavily-used park; notable for the wide variety of recreational experiences it offers.

The parks of Marion County are divided into four categories - regional, community, neighborhood and sub-neighborhood parks - each serving different populations and performing different functions. Garfield Park is a community park. Community parks typically range in size from 25 to 100 acres and serve several neighborhoods. They ideally support intensive recreational use and organized programs while also providing open space. Community parks typically contain picnic facilities and shelters, playgrounds, play courts, playfields, trails, water recreation and often a community center. Garfield Park supplies all these typical facilities plus several special amenities including the conservatory, sunken gardens and outdoor theatre.

This plan is divided into two major parts. The first part analyzes the site and its neighborhood including history, current conditions, and specific problems and opportunities. The second part provides recommendations for future development of the site.



ANALYSIS

Garfield Park is a 128.5-acre site bounded by Raymond Street, Shelby Street, Southern Avenue and the Conrail railroad, with a square bite taken out of the northeast corner.

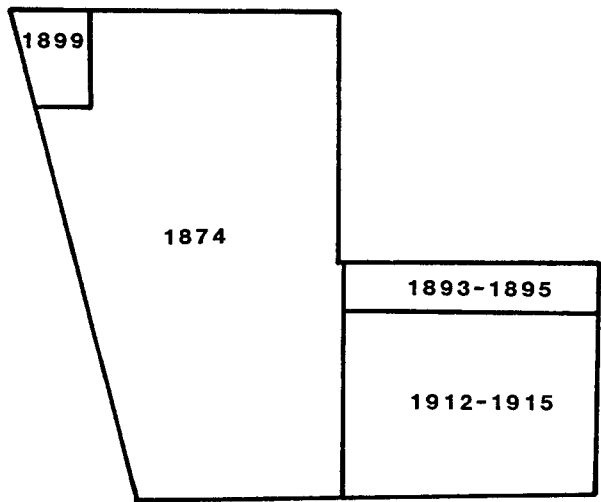
PARK HISTORY

In the 1850's the Jeffersonville and Indianapolis Railroad was constructed running south out of Indianapolis. It passed through Bradley Woods, a forested area surrounded by farmland. Today those tracks belong to Conrail and Bradley Woods is Garfield Park; with the railroad as its western boundary. The first development on the site was in 1871, when a group of promoters established a racetrack there. Called the Southern Driving Park, it was meant to rival the state fair with its own annual fair and harness racing events. Several events were held on the site, but the Panic of 1873 forced the group to sell the property. Sheriff N. R. Ruckle purchased the 98-acre tract for \$109,500 and sold it shortly thereafter to the City of Indianapolis. The city leased the site to the Indiana Trotting Association, but this group was also unsuccessful at running a racetrack, so the area became a park. Originally called Southern Park, in 1881 it was renamed immediately after the assassination of President James A. Garfield.

In the early days, Garfield Park received little use. Its location on the edge of town was remote and it did not provide many facilities. Even its existence was tenuous. In its first twenty years the City Council heard proposals to turn the park into a dairy farm (1877), a city cemetery (1882), and a factory for the Oliver Chilled Plow Works (1885). In 1878, a trade with the Indiana State Board of Agriculture was proposed. The state was to get Garfield Park in exchange for the much smaller, 36-acre State Fair Grounds at Morton Place. The proposal was rejected by the city.

It was not until 1888 that the city seriously began to make improvements to the park. In that year \$10,000 were allocated for the park, part of which was used for a bridge across Pleasant Run. In the winter of 1893-94 excavation of a pond at the confluence of Pleasant Run and Bean Creek was begun. In 1895 a streetcar line was completed that connected the park with the city, vastly improving access to the park. That same year, the Board of Park Commissioners was formed and the first superintendent, J. Clyde Power, was appointed. Prior to 1895, improvements in the park had been done with little planning, so \$10,000 was immediately required to remodel and repair what had previously been done.

During the next two decades, major park improvements were almost annual occurrences. In 1901 a bicycle path was built, in 1903 the pagoda was completed from J. Clyde Power's design, and the pond was dredged, and in 1904 greenhouse capacity was increased from 40,000 to 200,000 square feet. In 1905 monkey, bear, and small animal cages were installed, a waiting station was erected on the railway loop, brick and stone corner and entrance posts were built, and a tennis court was constructed. Improvements to the road system and expansion of the gardens were continuous throughout those years. The year 1910 saw the development of two small swimming beaches on Bean Creek, one for boys and one for girls. In 1912-1915, through a bequest of Alfred Burdsal, 25 acres were added to the park; bringing it to its present size. The original conservatory was built the next year and in 1915 the Sunken Gardens were remodeled. The new garden design was done by George Kessler and featured concrete planters, benches and the elaborate balcony that still overlooks the gardens. Fountains were added to the garden in 1917. The gardens at the park continued to expand. By 1936 the park held 20 acres of gardens including the Sunken Gardens, a rose garden and an alpine garden. In 1915 the General Lawton sculpture was moved to the park from the Marion County Courthouse. Lawton was an Indiana native who fought in the Civil War, Indian Wars and Spanish-American War. The sculpture was done by Daniel C. French and Andrew A. O'Connor and won an international prize when exhibited in 1906 in Paris. In 1920 a Grove of Remembrance was dedicated to Marion County's World War I dead. The grove is located in the northwest portion of the site. Also in 1920, the Confederate Soldiers Memorial found a home in the park, having been moved from Greenlawn Cemetery.



ACQUISITION HISTORY

In 1922, the community center was built. The concept behind its design was for it to be like a picnic shelter with sides. The building does indeed feel like a walled picnic shelter with its high ceiling and two fireplaces. The basement of the building was originally a children's playroom but was later remodeled into locker rooms. The Amphitheatre was constructed in the mid-1920's.

The pool opened in June, 1930. But for many years after that little was done to the park due to the Great Depression and World War II. The old conservatory deteriorated during this time and was demolished in 1954. The new 200 x 50 foot conservatory, built in 1955, was the first all aluminum, rigid-frame greenhouse in the nation.

The horseshoe pitching area and shelter opened in 1979. Also that year the pool was renovated. The conservatory was refurbished in 1983.

COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

The area around Garfield Park was farmland prior to the 1890's. The neighborhood developed slowly until 1895 when the new streetcar line constructed to the park provided convenient commuter service to the downtown. Residential growth continued through the 1950's. In 1951-53 Emmerich Manual High School was built on a site across the railroad tracks from the park. Other major developments in the neighborhood were the construction of the Madison Avenue Expressway in 1958 and of I-65 in 1975 and 1976.

Marion County is divided into 15 park planning districts, Garfield Park being located in District 11. The demographic data below shows that, in comparison to the county as a whole, this district is less affluent. This indicates a need for publicly-provided recreation facilities.

<u>Population by Age</u>	<u>Park District #11</u>		<u>Marion County</u>	
5 and Under	5,450	10.3%	67,973	8.8%
6-17	10,299	19.5%	148,430	18.4%
18-21	5,034	9.5%	56,388	7.4%
22-34	11,320	21.4%	180,899	23.6%
35-54	9,651	18.2%	159,198	20.8%
55 and Over	<u>11,215</u>	21.2%	<u>152,405</u>	19.9%
	52,899		765,233	

Household Annual Income

0-15,000	55.6%	31.9%
15,000-30,000	35.1%	42.2%
30,000 and Over	9.4%	25.9%

Education Level of Adults Over 25

0-11 years	49.7%	32.5%
High School Graduate	36.7%	36.8%
Some College	13.6%	30.7%

*Park District #11 includes the following census tracts: 3559, 3569, 3570, 3571, 3572, 3573, 3576, 3578, 3579, 3580, 3802, 3803, 3805.02

The neighborhood immediately adjacent to the park on the east, west and south sides has recently been the subject of a neighborhood plan. This plan characterizes the vicinity of the park as follows:

"While Marion County (particularly Center Township) experienced a population decrease between the 1970 and 1980 Censuses, the population of [the] Garfield Park/Pleasant Run [neighborhood] realized a 9% increase. The number of households residing in the neighborhood increased at twice the County rate. The white population of the area increased by 8% as compared to a decrease of 8% at the County level. Interestingly, as the "over-65" population increased at over twice the County rate, the "under-5" population also increased by 12%. County-wide, this population cohort decreased by 19%."

"The decade saw a substantial increase in Marion County rental stock of 21% (20,000 units.) Contrary to this movement toward rental properties, rental property decreased in Garfield Park/Pleasant Run mainly as the result of single family rentals being re-converted to owner-occupied status."

"In general, this neighborhood can be described as a white, middle class urban area that has retained its identity and character with little change over the past several decades. Its housing stock, although having a higher median value than that of the rest of Center Township, would be considered modest in comparison with the County as a whole with a mean average value of \$26,568 versus \$35,900 for the county and an average 5.0 rooms per unit compared with a County average of 5.2 per unit. It continues to be an attractive residential neighborhood having only one-third the vacancy rate of the County."

"The population of Garfield Park/Pleasant Run is considerably older than that of the County. As mentioned previously, the number of residents 65 years old and over increased at a rate that was more than twice that of the County between 1970 and 1980 (37% versus 16%) and two and one-half times the County rate between 1960 and 1980. With the noted increase in the "under-5" population, this growth rate [the over-65 growth rate] has probably leveled off since the 1980 Census, but it certainly remains a more mature population than Marion County as a whole."

SITE ANALYSIS

Soils

Garfield Park is underlaid by five soil types; Urban Brookston, Urban Crosby, Urban Fox, Urban Genesee, and Urban Miami. Of the five soil types, two are unsuitable for construction - Urban Brookston and Urban Genesee. The Urban Brookston soil is unsuitable due to its wetness. Fortunately only a small corner of the park has this type of soil. Urban Genesee is a floodplain soil type, so its major limitation to construction is its potential for flooding. Urban Fox is the best soil in the park for construction and recreation facilities. Urban Fox is found in parts of the northwest portion of the park. (See Appendix A).

Topography

Slopes in Garfield Park range from nearly level to over 40%. The varied topography gives Garfield Park much of its visual interest.

However steep slopes present a constraint to development. Building on slopes over 10% usually involves extraordinary measures. For play fields, even gently sloping ground can be a problem. Slopes over 10% are shown on the existing conditions map.

Streams and Bridges

Two streams flow through Garfield Park. Northwest-flowing Bean Creek empties into southwest-flowing Pleasant Run in the northwest portion of the park. Both streams are deeply cut into the landscape. The steep banks limit both physical and visual access to the streams. Access is also limited by the weedy, scrubby growth on the banks.

Historically, Pleasant Run was dammed just below the Bean Creek confluence, creating a small pond. Unfortunately the pond needed frequent dredging and was eventually abandoned. Remnants of both the dam and pond are still visible.

Water quality is a problem in both streams. Garfield Park is in an older part of the city where storm sewers and sanitary sewers were built in combination. The combined sewers overflow into the streams whenever there is a heavy rain or snowmelt. As a result, the water quality in the streams is poor. The Marion County Health and Hospital Corporation warns against any body contact with the streamwater, even when the weather has been dry and the water appears to be clear.

Pleasant Run and Bean Creek are among Garfield Park's assets. However, a major liability of the streams is their flooding potential. Much of the lower part of the park is in the 100-year floodway. Construction that would impede the flow of floodwater is not allowed in the floodway.

Within the park, Pleasant Run is crossed by two vehicular bridges and Bean Creek is crossed by three vehicular bridges and one pedestrian bridge. The park's vehicular bridges have been given sufficiency ratings by the Indianapolis Department of Transportation. Four of the five bridges have high sufficiency ratings. This means they are good, structurally sound bridges. The fifth bridge, over Pleasant Run where East Street becomes Pagoda Drive, has a low sufficiency rating. This indicates that the bridge needs replacement. New walkways were constructed on this bridge in 1988, but this did not affect the structural deficiency of the span.

The railings on the Conservatory Drive bridge over Bean Creek have recently (1988) been replaced. The design of the new railings duplicated the original design of the old railing. The deck paving and sidewalks are also newly repaired.

The railings of the other two bridges over Bean Creek are of an unusual, modified garden wall design of stone block and voids. Both bridges appear to be in good condition.

The Center Drive bridge over Pleasant Run is a highly arched span. Driving over it is a novel experience, which adds to the character of Garfield Park. The bridge is basically sound but would benefit from some repair work to its sidewalks.

Access/Traffic

Garfield Park is easily accessible from most parts of the county through the Interstate Highway system. The Raymond Street interchange of I-65 is only three blocks from the park.

Raymond Street is one of the county's primary arterial streets. Despite its narrowness, it carries more than 15,000 vehicles a day along Garfield Park's northern edge. The park has three entrances from Raymond Street -- East Street; Pleasant Run Parkway, North Drive and Pleasant Run Parkway, South Drive. To alleviate congestion on Raymond Street, the Indianapolis Department of Transportation has proposed widening the street to four lanes plus a turn lane. The street widening will require the loss of some parkland. A strip approximately 44 feet wide across the north edge of the park will be taken. The loss in this particular location will not greatly affect the park's functioning. However, the presence of a four-lane street adjacent to the park will have a major affect on the park's access, aesthetics and natural qualities. Vehicular access will be improved by the new turn lanes, but pedestrian and bicycle access will be more difficult. The wide expanse of pavement, the traffic and its noise are all at odds with the green and peaceful quality of the park. The effects of the street widening will need to be mitigated.

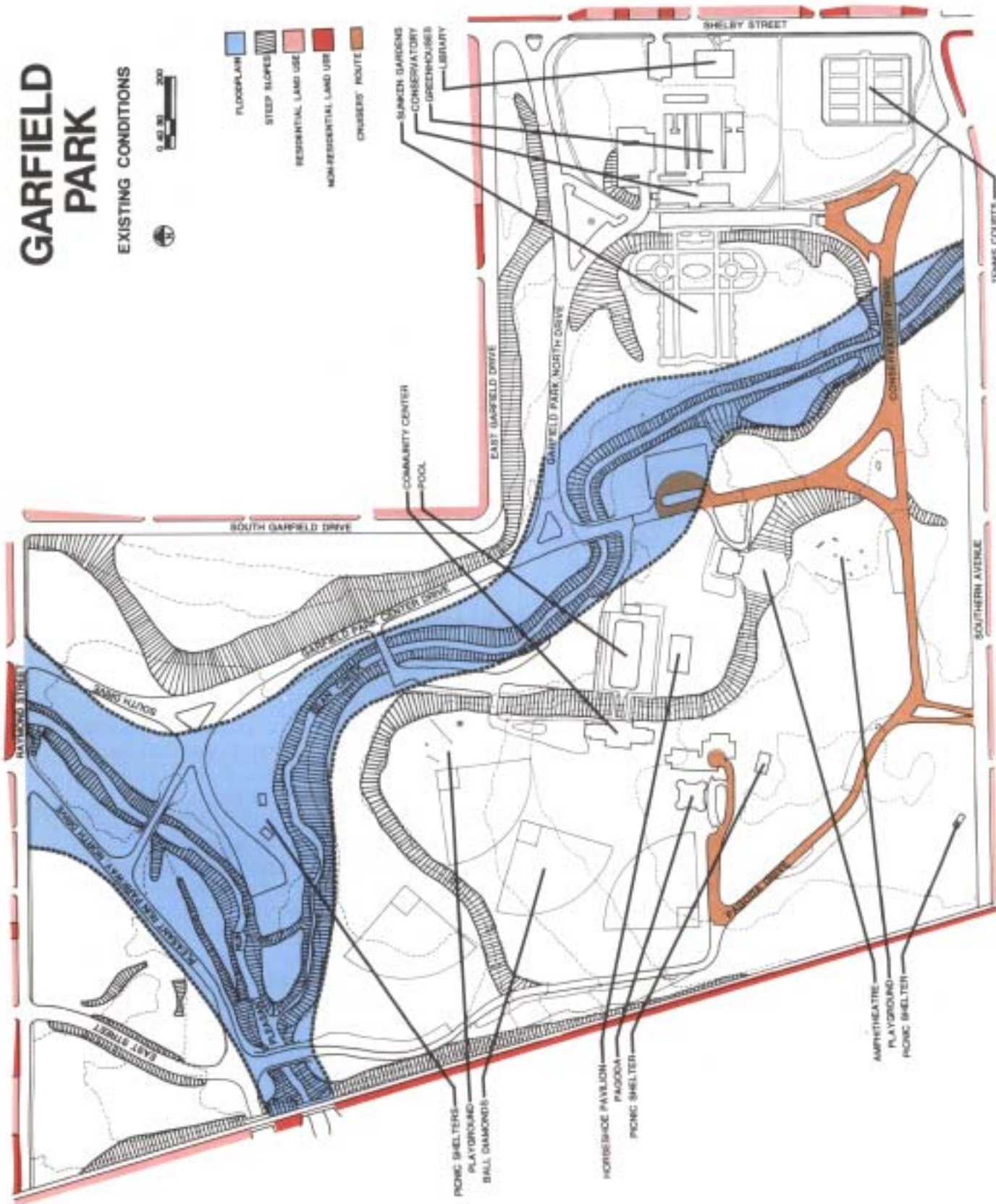
Shelby Street, along the park's east edge, and East Street, north of Raymond, are both secondary arterials. Shelby carries nearly as much traffic as Raymond. East Street handles about 5600 vehicles a day. The county Thoroughfare Plan calls for the eventual widening of Shelby Street from 40 to 48 feet.

GARFIELD PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS



- FLOODPLAIN
- STEEP SLOPES
- RESIDENTIAL LAND USE
- NON-RESIDENTIAL LAND USE
- CROSSERS' ROUTE



Future plans for East Street call for its widening from a two-lane to a four-lane divided thoroughfare from Raymond Street north to South Street. Although the widening of East Street will not occur within the park, the increased traffic will have an effect.

Southern Avenue, located along the park's south edge, is also a major street that collects a large proportion of neighborhood traffic. South Garfield Drive and East Garfield Drive are both lightly traveled neighborhood streets.

Historically, Garfield Park had an extensive sidewalk system. On the north end of the park many of the sidewalks have disappeared, although traces remain in the turf. On the other hand, in various places around the park, paths have been worn through the grass where sidewalks are needed but don't exist.

Garfield Park's road system was constructed in the era of horses and buggies. Most of the system was laid out with long, gracefully flowing curves and wide Y-intersections. Unfortunately this style of layout does not work as well for the auto as it did for the horse and carriage. This became apparent as early as the 1920's as auto traffic eclipsed travel by horse. The Y-intersections are now hazardous and disconcerting to motorists. Many of the roads divide and isolate portions of the park rather than uniting the park.

Historically the road system in the park resembled a figure "8" with its large west loop and smaller east loop. The loops became increasingly used as an informal racetrack. To alleviate this dangerous and inappropriate activity, two segments of road were closed.

Two park roads carry a significant amount of non-park-related traffic. Pleasant Run Parkway North Drive is heavily used as a connector between Madison Avenue and Raymond Street. East Street, one of the city's arterials, also runs through the park. The intersection of Pleasant Run Parkway, North Drive and East Street occurs at the west entrance of the park. This busy, signalized junction is unattractive as an entry to the park with its lack of sidewalks and deteriorating bridges. South of the intersection, East Street becomes Pagoda Drive. For the first 1000 feet south of Pleasant Run, Pagoda Drive runs along the softball fields. On the drive's east side is a gravel parking area defined by bollards; on the west side is a long, undefined gravel and dirt parking area that is unattractive and minimally functional. Other problems with this parking area are erosion and dust. Gravel parking areas are a problem throughout the park. Pagoda Drive makes a sharp turn and immediately intersects Pagoda Driveway, the road that serves the Pagoda picnic shelter and the Community Center parking lot. The sharp turn at the intersection is awkward and hazardous. Pagoda Drive's connection with Southern Avenue is the park's major south entry.

Traffic flow at this entry is awkward due to the sharp angle at which it intersects the entry drive and also to its position on a shallow S-curve. The entry consists of two narrow one-way lanes divided by a strip of grass and a steel guard rail. A trio of historic concrete and brick posts mark the entry. Unfortunately, one of the posts is no longer intact with two-thirds of its structure missing. The damaged post and the steel guard rail detract from the quality of the entry.

Pagoda Driveway provides access to the Community Center and the Pagoda from Pagoda Drive. The parking along Pagoda Driveway is unmarked and thus unclear to motorists. It deadends into the Community Center parking lot. This lot is wide enough to be used as a cul-de-sac. Before the parking lot was installed, Pagoda Driveway ended in a loop on the south side of the Pagoda. When the parking was built, the portion of the loop nearest the Pagoda was blocked off. This has left an unused and unsightly piece of pavement adjacent to the Pagoda.

Pleasant Run Parkway, South Drive enters the park from Raymond Street. It divides an open, grassy area, crosses Garfield Park Center Drive and dead ends in a parking lot. The parking lot serves two rustic, dirt floor picnic shelters. The lot is paved, but unmarked and atypically shaped so it does not function as well as it could. The portion of the drive between Raymond Street and Center Drive is blocked off each winter because it cuts across the runout area of a popular sledding hill.

Pleasant Run Parkway, North Drive parallels the northwest bank of Pleasant Run continuously from Bluff Road to Prospect Avenue. In the park, North Drive cuts across the northwest corner and intersects Raymond at an acute angle.

The northern portion of the park is not used as heavily as the rest of the park. Fewer facilities exist in the area. Also, the streams and busy roads cut it off from the main body of the park.

The pool/community center/amphitheatre area is the geographic heart of the park. This area is also the most intense center of activity. Because this area attracts a lot of people, access and parking are major issues. Access to the theatre is primarily on Center Drive. A one-lane, paved drop-off lane loops off Center Drive to the east side of the theatre and the entry gate. A gravel service drive runs from the drop-off drive to a parking area on the theatre's west side. Center Drive has been blocked off just north of the theatre. The pavement is extant so Center Drive could possibly be reopened. A large parking area between Center Drive and Bean Creek serves the parking needs of the amphitheatre.

Access to the community center is from both the north and south. Access from the north is from the road that goes by the pool.

This short piece of road has a steep hill and a sharp curve. It degenerates into a formless gravel lot as it nears the building. Access from the south is on Pagoda Driveway, which also serves the Pagoda picnic shelter. Pagoda Driveway ends in a parking lot which serves both the community center and the picnic shelter.

A large paved parking lot exists to the north of the pool. The lot does not function as well as it could because it is unstriped, unusually shaped, and has a road running through it. The road through the parking lot parallels the southwest bank of Bean Creek. It connects to Center Drive at both its north and south ends. Although this lot is adjacent to the pool, the pool entry is through the front of the community center; a long uphill walk from the parking area.

Garfield Park Center Drive begins at Pleasant Run Parkway, North Drive, crosses Pleasant Run, then Bean Creek, passes by the theatre and ends in a Y-intersection with Conservatory Drive. It provided north-south passage through the center of the park until the early 1980's. At that time it was barricaded off just south of the Bean Creek bridge. This was done to discourage people from using the park as a place to cruise their cars. The barricade proved to be effective, however its appearance does not add to the park's aesthetics.

Conservatory Drive runs along the park's south edge. It is a popular see-and-be-seen area for people in cars. Gravel and dirt parking areas line the drive's western half. Conservatory Drive curves out of the park near the intersection of Southern Avenue and Shelby Street.

Garfield Park, North Drive connects Center Drive and Shelby Street. North Drive is the only entry to the park from Shelby Street. The entrance is a very small Y-intersection very close to the Shelby Street/East Garfield Drive intersection. The entrance is both confusing and awkward. The triangle formed by the Y is not large enough to have much aesthetic impact.

Plaza Drive ran between the Conservatory and the Sunken Gardens, but has now been blocked off creating a plaza. Its wide Y-intersections with North Drive and Conservatory Drive are now parking areas. The lay-out of the two parking areas are different. The north Y retains the sweep of the historic road alignment. The lay-out of the south Y destroyed the historic lines of the road. Although the Y partially remains in its physical form; perceptually, its spirit is gone. Additionally the Y-intersections do not naturally make convenient parking areas, and the south Y does not drain well.

Conservatory/Greenhouses/Plaza

There have been greenhouses in Garfield Park since 1895 and a conservatory since 1916. The current conservatory is divided into three main sections: a large display area, a smaller meeting area and a combined entry and gift shop.

The display area features a winding path through tropical vegetation, a desert area and a separate room with a waterfall. The desert area is in the original entry which was centered on the western front of the building overlooking the Sunken Garden.

The meeting area will comfortably seat one-hundred people. It features a gazebo and tropical plantings around the perimeter and is popular for weddings and other gatherings. The area is glass-walled and glass-roofed and can become uncomfortably warm in the summer, limiting its use.

The entry/gift shop is a recent addition to the north end of the Conservatory. It is glass-walled but not glass-roofed.

The justification for the construction of the original conservatory was "to provide citizens with a center for self-education as well as a place to experience great beauty". This is still its primary function and goal. To meet its goal the Conservatory offers a variety of programs and an annual series of flower shows.

The greenhouses are attached to the Conservatory on the east side of the display space. Where the two buildings meet are a set of restrooms, a workspace and a meeting area. A fire in May of 1987 destroyed the conservatory office. Proposed new offices and a conference room would be attached to the greenhouses. The greenhouses are numbered north to south, one through six. Greenhouses 1, 2, and 6 are currently unused. Greenhouse 3 is used for production of plants and greenhouses 4 and 5 have been converted to storage. An old quonset hut behind the greenhouses is scheduled for demolition.

The plaza was created when Plaza Drive was blocked to vehicular use. 'Plaza' is a rather grand name for the space as it now exists. It consists of the old asphalt street paving with a pair of concrete flower planters. The plaza does however provide a transition area between the Conservatory and the Sunken Gardens.

Sunken Gardens

The Sunken Gardens are situated between Bean Creek and the Conservatory. Their space is defined by long curving berms on the north and south. A row of honeylocusts runs along the top of each berm. The west edge of the gardens is defined by a group of large evergreen trees and the east edge is defined by the Conservatory, plaza and overlook.

The overlook, designed by George Kessler and constructed in 1915, is the head of the gardens. It is the obvious starting point for a walk through the gardens. The overlook is built on three levels. Two flights of steps run from the upper plaza elevation to the lower garden elevation.

The middle balcony elevation is reached from the plaza by three sets of stairs separated by large elliptical planters. The overlook also features fourteen Bedford stone planter bowls. The overlook is in relatively good condition.

The Sunken Gardens strongly resembled the classic ground plan of a medieval cathedral with a nave, aisles, transept and crossing laid out symmetrically. The main axis runs east-west, the secondary axis runs north-south. The gardens' three fountains lay on the secondary axis with the largest fountain at the crossing of the two axes. The fountains were installed in 1917 and at that time were the largest group of display fountains in the nation. The fountains are lit by colored lights. The fountains have unfortunately been frequently vandalized. Repair is difficult due to the age of the fountains and the difficulty of obtaining replacement parts. Another problem with the fountains is the prominence and unsightliness of their control box. The large silver box sits next to the main fountain. The box is screened from the west by a grouping of arborvitae, unfortunately these plants draw attention to the control box from the other three directions.

The garden walks are tan brick laid in a herringbone pattern bordered by shallow concrete gutters. The mortar between the bricks has deteriorated and many of the bricks are displaced. Originally planters and benches were placed throughout the gardens. They were constructed of concrete with terracotta tile inserts with an oakleaf and acorn pattern. The benches were destroyed by vandals and were removed. Many of the planters are in a deteriorated condition.

Plantings in the Sunken Gardens include annuals, perennials, turf and small ornamental trees.

Major master planning issues concerning the Sunken Gardens are the problem of vandalism and the need to respect its historic and aesthetic qualities.

Community Center

The community center sits atop a steep slope, overlooking the pool and Bean Creek. Architecturally it features a large central block with smaller wings to the north and south. A wide porch runs along the west face of the central block. The building is entered through the porch. On the interior, the two wings are mainly used for office space. The central block is one large, high-ceilinged room. It is used for basketball and volleyball, but is not regulation size for either sport. The basement is used as the pool bathhouse. The community center has a run-down and shabby appearance and does not meet the recreation needs of the community. Facility needs that the community center should be meeting include a gymnasium with regulation size basketball and volleyball courts, lockerrooms, a kitchen, and multi-purpose rooms for youth, senior citizens and cultural groups and programs. Inadequate parking and vehicular access are also problems affecting the community center.

Amphitheatre

The amphitheatre performs a valuable function in Garfield Park by providing a stage for theatrical and concert productions. The amphitheatre is not an amenity just for the south side of the city. Its service area extends throughout the county and beyond. Unfortunately the amphitheatre is barely adequate for its uses. The slope of the seating is too shallow. People seated in the back have difficulty seeing over people sitting in front of them. The public restrooms are non-functional and the backstage facilities are spartan and overcrowded.

Outdoor Sports

A variety of outdoor sports facilities are available in Garfield Park: tennis courts, horseshoe pits, ball diamonds, a football field and the outdoor pool.

Eight tennis courts are located in the southeast corner of the park. Although the courts are distant from the park's other sport facilities, this does not appear to be a problem. The location is highly visible from both Shelby Street and Southern Avenue. This provides the court users with a sense of security and it dissuades vandals. Although the courts are well-used, they appear to adequately satisfy the need. Inadequate parking and drainage are problems affecting the tennis courts.

Ten horseshoe pits are located between the pool and the amphitheatre. They are covered with a large 64 x 122 foot structure that resembles a picnic shelter. The horseshoe pits are poorly located. They are situated very close to the amphitheatre. The clang of horseshoes is disrupting to performances on the stage. Also the horseshoe pits are only 30 feet from sunbathing decks at the pool. The close proximity of sunbathing and horseshoe pitching is uncomfortable..

The pool is adjacent to the east side of the community center. Bathhouse facilities are in the community center basement. The bathhouse facilities are in poor condition, as well as being dark, dank and gloomy. Entry to the bathhouse and, subsequently, to the pool is from the west side of the community center. This entrance location is remote from the pool parking area and is confusing to first-time users. The pool is metal-lined, surrounded by a concrete deck and enclosed by chain-link fencing. Problems with leaking and in the filter room have hampered smooth operation. Adjacent to the main pool is a children's wading pool. The pool area is served by a small concession stand. Interest in expanding the pool facilities has been expressed. Some of the suggested changes are providing handicapped accessibility, underwater lighting for night swimming, expanded concession area, water slide, and landscaped sitting area.

Four ball diamonds are located in the park in the open area west of the community center and extending north to Bean Creek.

The ball diamond closest to Bean Creek is lit for evening play, unfortunately the lights are an outdated system.

The football field overlaps the ball diamonds. Parking for the ball diamonds and football field is inadequate.

A need exists in the Garfield Park community for various types of outdoor sport facilities that the park does not currently provide. These needs have been demonstrated by requests to staff and input at public meetings. Examples include jogging, fitness, walking and bicycle trails, a basketball court, and volleyball courts.

Parts of the park are used informally for sports and play. The open area just north of the library and the lawn area east of Pleasant Run Parkway, South Drive are two popular areas for open play. The hill sloping down to Pleasant Run Parkway, South Drive and Garfield Park Center Drive is used for sledding. Pleasant Run Parkway, South Drive hampers the area's use for both sledding and open play.

Picnicking occurs informally throughout the park. Picnic tables and two picnic shelters are provided in the southwest quarter of the park. One of these picnic shelters resembles a railroad waiting station and indeed may have been a railway station. Its current structural condition is poor. Although the Pagoda is separated from the picnic area by Pagoda Driveway, it is frequently used for picnics. Its condition deteriorated greatly over the years. At one point it was declared unsafe. It has since been extensively repaired, however further repairs need to be made. Two small picnic shelters are located near the confluence of Pleasant Run and Bean Creek. Picnic facilities are rather limited given the size of the park.

The park has two playgrounds; one north of the community center, the other south of the amphitheater. The playgrounds are well-used and would benefit from additional pieces of equipment.

Security

Public parks were originally conceived as havens from city congestion and its attendant indignities and crime. Parks were to be friendly, secure places where people could rest and recreate. The value of city parks today is still the same. Crime and congestion in a park is a perversion of those values. People will not use a park if they do not feel reasonably safe there.

Four main problems detract from the feeling of safety that Garfield Park should have:

- 1.) Vandalism
- 2.) Hot-rodding/cruising
- 3.) Homosexual activity
- 4.) Drug dealing

1.) Vandalism. Vandalism is a problem throughout the park, but is especially bad in the Sunken Gardens and around the Conservatory and greenhouses. Benches in the gardens have been destroyed and the fountains, lights, walks and planters have all been repeatedly damaged. The closing of the drive in front of the Conservatory greatly reduced vandalism to the Conservatory. However the backs of the greenhouses are still prone to damage. The backs of the greenhouses are secluded and unlit so vandals are able to operate unseen.

2.) Hot-rodding/Cruising. Garfield Park has long been a popular place for teen-agers and young adults to cruise in their cars, to stop and meet and to play their radios loud. On a small scale, none of this would be disruptive. However the huge numbers of cruisers have caused so much congestion that it rivals downtown at rush hour. The problem had, at one time, affected the entire park, but the closing of Plaza Drive and Center Drive to through traffic eased the problem substantially on the park's northside. However the cruising is now concentrated on the south side of the park. On warm evenings the traffic in the park is a continual parade. Both the main park entrance on Southern Avenue and the intersection at the pagoda become nearly impassible. Parked cars line the streets, creating parking areas where none existed before. Clouds of dust are kicked up from the unpaved parking areas. Mothers are discouraged from bringing their children to the playground by the continual traffic that flows in front of it. The design of the park's roads contribute to the cruising problem. The Y's at the south end of the Conservatory and at the Confederate Memorial provide convenient places for cruisers to loop around and continue their parade. The wide parking lots at the Pagoda and the Bean Creek footbridge are also handy loops.

3.) Homosexual activity. Garfield Park has developed a reputation as an area where gay men can go to meet. Although this does no harm to others, it does make the general public uneasy and wary and detracts from the "family atmosphere" of the park. This activity seems to be concentrated in two locations. One location is a gravel parking area along the railroad tracks, across from the ball diamonds. The other location is a secluded area along Bean Creek near Conservatory Drive. The form of the land in this spot resembles half a bowl. The sides of the bowl are densely vegetated with shrubs and trees, in fact this area was once the alpine garden. The topography effectively screens this area from the west and partially screens it from the north and south. Brushy vegetation along Bean Creek screens it from the east and south. The attraction of this area is its seclusion.

4.) Drug Dealing. This may be more of a perceptual problem than an actual problem. However, when dealing with the public's sense of security, perception is as important as reality. The location most often identified with this activity is the same secluded area along Bean Creek mentioned in the last section.

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

As part of the master planning process, public input was gathered at several stages. First, a public workshop was held to gather general concerns and ideas about the park. Then committees were formed to look at specific issues. With this input, preliminary plans were drawn up and reviewed by the public. From this, the master plan recommendations were developed.

The goal of the master plan is to address the park's problems while respecting the park's assets.

Streams and Bridges

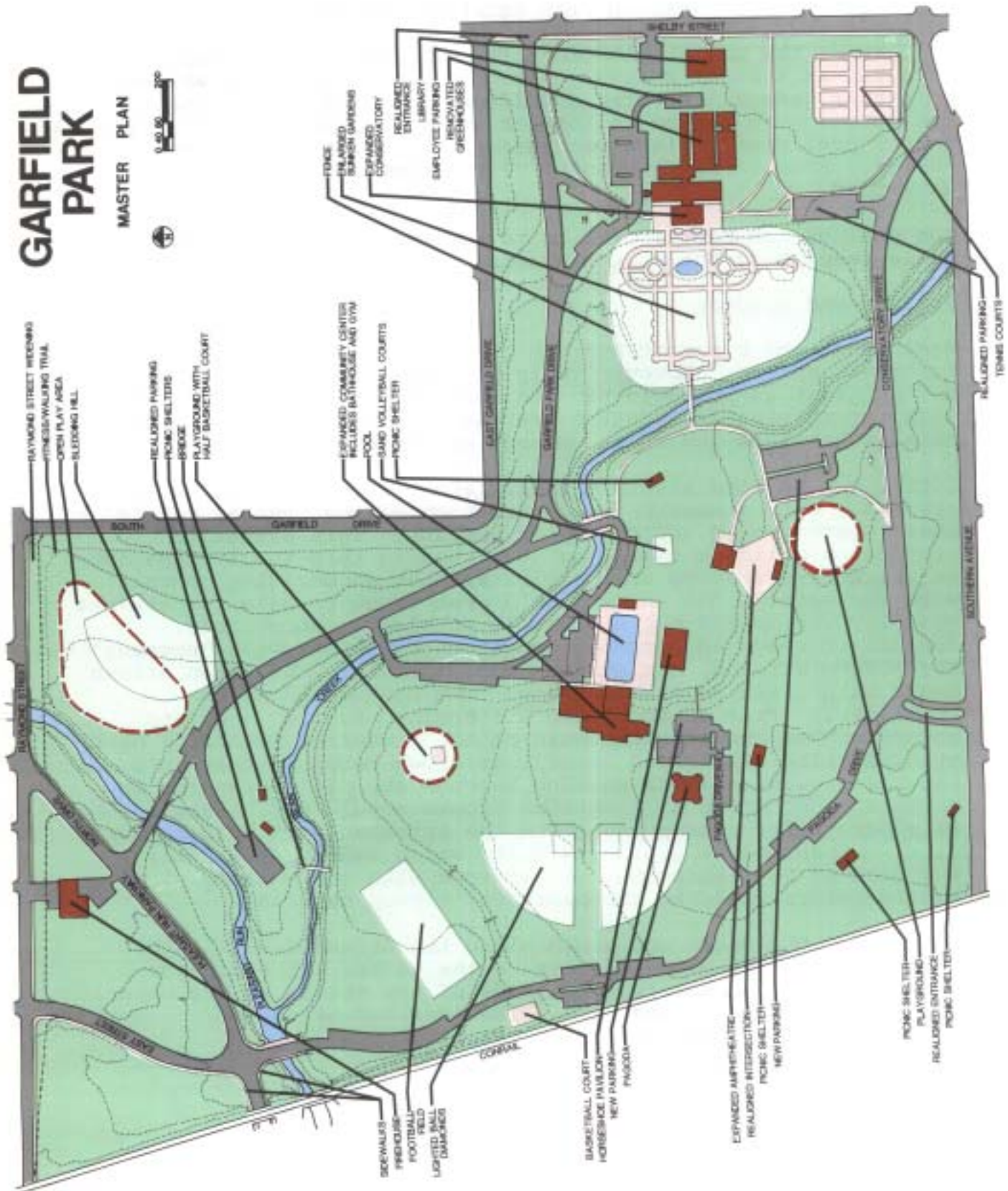
Bean Creek and Pleasant Run are two of Garfield Park's most important assets. However their positive impact on the park is not as great as it could be. As mentioned earlier, problems with the streams include the poor water quality, erosion, their role as barriers and their unkempt condition.

Little can be done within the park about water quality in the streams. Only a massive reconstruction of the central city's sewer system would improve water quality. This situation provides a delicate balancing act: how to turn the streams into an attractive feature of the park without encouraging contact with the water. The answer would seem to be to make the streams visually accessible but not easily physically accessible. Control of weeds and scrubby growth on the banks will "uncover" the hidden streams, making them more visible. The steep stream banks help limit physical access. The banks need to be stabilized. From an aesthetic standpoint, turf or a ground cover such as crown vetch would be the preferred method of bank stabilization. An added benefit of crown vetch is that it's tangled growth inhibits walking through it. If riprapping is necessary, concrete or limestone blocks should not be used. Use of concrete for riprapping gives the appearance of being a dump site. Limestone is glaringly white which makes it visually dominant in the landscape. River rock with its variety of subtle colors would be the preferred riprap material.

Control of the weeds and brush along the streambanks will do more than provide visual access to the water. It will also provide visual access from one side of the stream to the other. This will help unify the site. The addition of another footbridge will also help unify the site.

GARFIELD PARK MASTER PLAN

MASTER PLAN



RAYMOND STREET WIDENING
FITNESS/WALKING TRAIL
OPEN PLAY AREA
SLEDDING HILL
REALIGNED PARKING
PICNIC SHELTERS
BRIDGE
PLAYGROUND WITH
HALF BASKETBALL COURT

EXPANDED COMMUNITY CENTER
INCLUDES BATHHOUSE AND GYM
POOL
SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS
PICNIC SHELTER

FENCE
ENLARGED
SUNSPEN GARDENS
EXPANDED
CONSERVATORY
REALIGNED
ENTRANCE
LIBRARY
EMPLOYEE PARKING
REMOVED
GREENHOUSES

SCORPUS
FIREHOUSE
FOOTBALL
FIELD
LIFTED BALL
DAMAGED

BASKETBALL COURT
HORSESHOE PAVILION
NEW PARKING
PAGODA

EXPANDED AMPHITHEATRE
REALIGNED INTERSECTION
PICNIC SHELTER
NEW PARKING

PICNIC SHELTER
PLAYGROUND
REALIGNED ENTRANCE
PICNIC SHELTER

REALIGNED PARKING
TENNIS COURTS

The proposed location for the new footbridge will link the picnic area north of Bean Creek with the playfields to the south of the stream.

The replacement of the East Street bridge over Pleasant Run is recommended due to its low sufficiency rating. Any work on this or any park bridge needs to respect the character of the park. Repairs to existing bridges should reflect their original designs both in detailing and in overall design. A new bridge should have pedestrian walkways on both sides and should allow motorists to view the stream. Visual access to nature is one of the main reasons why cities provide parks. This point needs to be remembered when designing park features including bridges.

The widening of Raymond Street will have a strong impact on Garfield Park. The most obvious impact will be the loss of a 44 foot wide strip across the north edge of the park. This loss of park to pavement can be partially offset by removing pavement to create more usable park space. The abandonment and removal of Pleasant Run Parkway, South Drive from Raymond Street to Garfield Park Center Drive is recommended. As mentioned previously this stretch of street divides an open play area and sledding area. It also has an awkward or dangerous intersection at each end and is redundant with Pleasant Run Parkway, North Drive. A large number of access points makes any park more difficult to make secure. Eliminating this entrance will improve the security situation somewhat.

The widening of Raymond Street will also increase traffic and traffic noise along the park's northern edge. To mitigate the noise, substantial planting is suggested along the street. Evergreens are the most effective plants for deadening noise. However, evergreens also effectively block views, so they should be planted in clusters rather than rows. Views into the park would also be blocked by shrubs, so their use should not be extensive. Fine textured shade and ornamental trees are recommended for the most extensive planting.

One modification is proposed for the park's Shelby Street frontage. The park entrance should be changed from a Y-intersection to a straight T-intersection. The entrance sign at this location should include mention of the conservatory because this is the main entry for conservatory patrons. Two park entries are located along Southern Avenue. The east Southern Avenue entrance works well now and no modifications are proposed for it. The west Southern Avenue entrance does not function as well and modifications to it are suggested. The short entry road should be realigned to meet both Southern Avenue and Pagoda Drive at 90 degree angles. The guard rail should be removed. The traffic control function of the guard rail could be achieved by curbing or berming. If berming is used, care should be taken so that it does not interfere with sight triangles. The historic concrete and brick posts should be rebuilt. Lighting along Southern Avenue should be improved.

As noted earlier, Garfield Park's interior road system does not function well. It was not designed for the automobile, it has many awkward and confusing intersections and it has become a parade route for cruisers. To alleviate these problems several road realignments, pavement removals, and new parking areas are recommended as follows.

Pleasant Run Parkway North Drive would remain as it now exists with the addition of a sidewalk along its southern edge. East Street, from Raymond Street to Pleasant Run Parkway North Drive should also remain as it now exists, but with the addition of a sidewalk along its west edge. This sidewalk should connect with the sidewalk on the north side of Pleasant Run Parkway outside the park. As mentioned earlier, the East Street Bridge should be replaced. East Street becomes Pagoda Drive at this point. The gravel parking area immediately south of the bridge should be paved. This and all parking areas with on-street, perpendicular parking should be deep enough to allow maneuvering outside the driving lanes. Additional on-street perpendicular parking is proposed to serve the playfields as shown on the master plan map. The parking areas along Pagoda Drive in the picnic area should be paved. Additional parking on the northern side of the road is suggested. Widening Pagoda Drive to provide a bicycle lane is also recommended.

A number of changes are proposed for Pagoda Driveway. The street's alignment should be curved to the south to form a new intersection with Pagoda Drive at a 90 degree angle. Paved on-street perpendicular parking should be provided along Pagoda Driveway. The parking lot at the end of Pagoda Driveway should be re-configured to eliminate the cul-de-sac and increase the amount of parking. The remnant of the old loop in front of the Pagoda should be removed. Pavement should not encroach within 25 feet of the Pagoda. This provides the structure with a proper setting.

All parking along the south side of Conservatory Drive should be removed. Curbing or bollards should be installed to restrict parking on the grass. The purpose of this is to alleviate some of the congestion caused by the cruisers. The gravel parking on the northside of Conservancy Drive should be expanded and paved. The Y-shaped parking area serving the tennis courts and conservatory should be replaced with a standard single entry parking lot. The number of spaces could be slightly increased. The change in the parking lot shape would eliminate a major loop on the cruising route. When built, the new northern end of the parking area should be kept to the south of the south circular walkway of the Sunken Gardens. Parked cars should not visually encroach on the Sunken Gardens.

Several changes are proposed for Garfield Park Center Drive. On-street perpendicular parking is proposed to serve the large open play area created by the removal of Pleasant Run South Drive. Most of Center Drive south of the Bean Creek bridge is proposed to be removed.

The parking lot that serves the amphitheatre should be moved to a location nearer Conservatory Drive. This creates a new open space in the park, provides better police and citizen surveillance of the lot and closes a section of the cruising route. The number of spaces in the lot should be increased to better accommodate the needs of the amphitheatre. A service drive from the parking to the amphitheatre will be necessary under this plan. The west leg of Y-intersection of Center Drive and Conservatory Drive should be removed. This creates a single entry into the parking area, eliminates a loop in the cruising route and retains the historic sweep of the east leg of the intersection.

The removal of the west leg of the intersection also removes the formal, symmetrical setting that the "Y" provides to the Confederate Soldiers Monument. This can be mitigated by installing a wide sidewalk to balance the entry east leg. The sidewalk should follow the historic line of the removed street. The new arrangement will allow people to walk up to the monument without having to cross traffic.

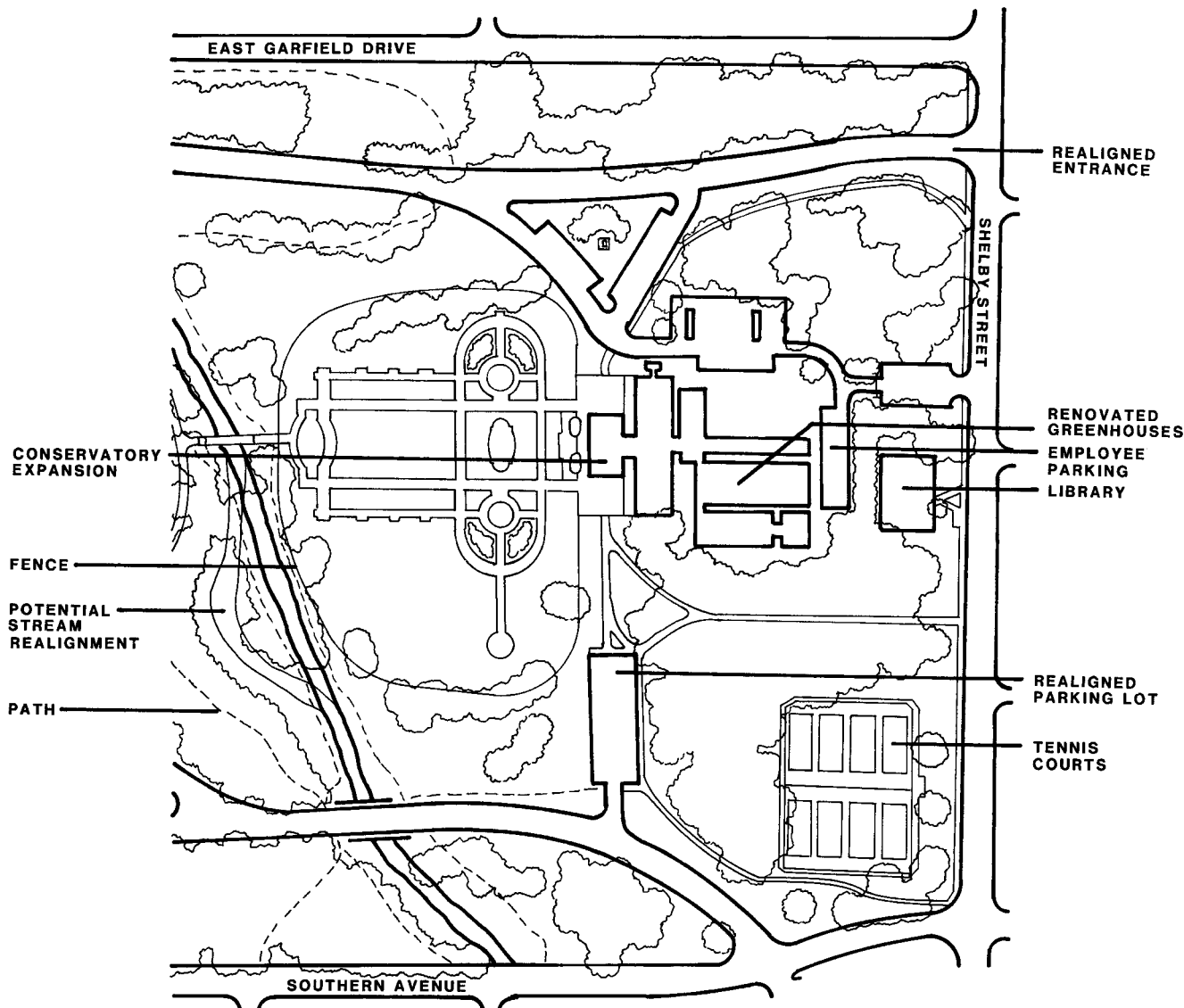
Curbing is needed to control erosion along the north sides of Garfield Park, North Drive and a portion of Garfield Park, Center Drive. With the removal of much of Garfield Park, Center Drive, it and Garfield Park, North Drive become one street, which is labeled Garfield Park Drive on the Master Plan drawing.

The parking lot that serves the pool should be striped and the existing landscape island should be enlarged and curbed. This will better direct parking and traffic flow and will make the area more attractive.

Conservatory/Greenhouse/Plaza

Expansion of the Conservatory is proposed by this plan. The expansion would go both west onto the plaza with new construction and east into the greenhouses with renovation.

The present conservatory is divided into 14 bays plus the later entry/giftshop addition to the north. The new addition is proposed to be centered on the main portion of the existing building and the entry relocated to the center of the expansion. The new entry would provide a strong link to the Sunken Gardens much as the original 1955 entry did. The present entry could be retained as an emergency or handicapped access or turned into additional giftshop space. The new addition, being a transition between conservatory and Sunken Garden, as well as an entry, should be a plant display space. Space for uses other than plant display should occur elsewhere in the Conservatory/Greenhouse complex. The new addition should be no longer than 6 bays so that it does not interfere with the use and the proportions of the overlook.



MASTER PLAN
 DETAIL OF EASTERN PORTION OF PARK

Portions of the idle greenhouses could be converted into meeting, classroom, and storage space. At least one room should be large enough for wedding receptions. Parking for the Conservatory is now adequate. If more parking is needed in the future, employee parking could be moved behind the greenhouses. This would open up more spaces for public use in the main conservatory lot. The employee lot might be used jointly with the library staff. A gated drive between the library parking lot and the conservatory parking lot would ease problems that buses encounter in the library parking lot.

The plaza will be divided into two smaller portions by the expansion of the conservatory. The two new small plazas could be used as quiet sitting areas. The plazas should be repaved with a surface and pattern compatible with the Conservatory and Sunken Gardens such as brick or stone. Asphalt or exposed aggregate concrete would not be appropriate. Planters and the plants in them should be of a character similar to those in the Sunken Gardens.

Sunken Gardens

A major problem in the Sunken Gardens is vandalism. To relieve the problem, fencing of the Sunken Gardens is proposed. The fence should be decorative as well as secure. A metal fence with the appearance of wrought iron is suggested. Brick posts with concrete details like those found elsewhere in the park could be used at corners and at intervals all along the fence. The fence should be placed to the outside of the berms so that a secluded place between the outside of the fence and the berms is not created. The fence should connect to the Conservatory, so that the plaza and lookout, as well as the gardens, are enclosed. Wide gates are suggested at both ends of the plaza and at the west end of the gardens' main axis. A new portion of garden walk is proposed to serve the west entry. The Bean Creek footbridge should be moved to extend the axis across the stream and into the park.

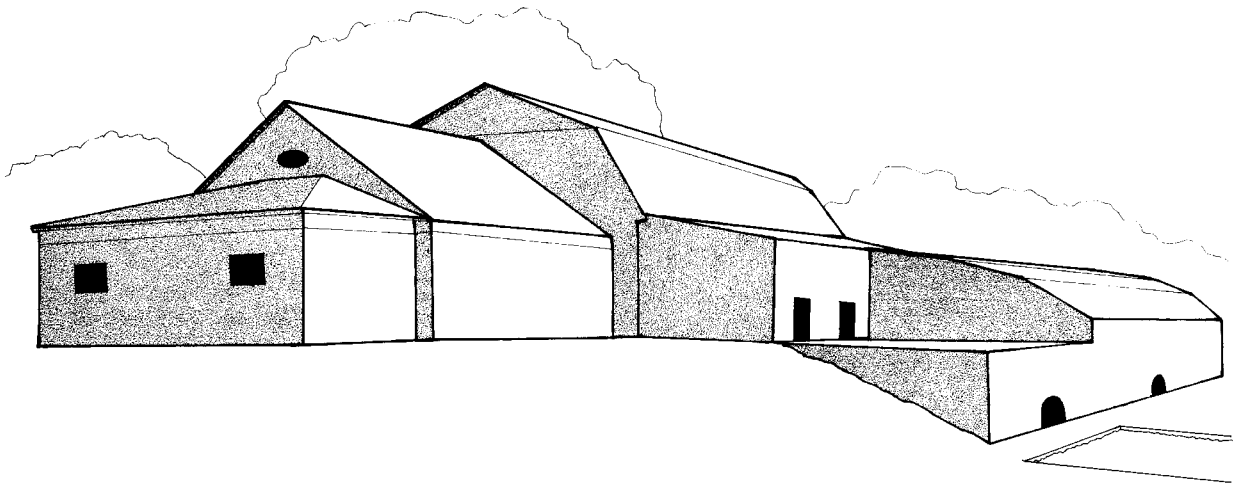
Once a fence is in place, improvements to the gardens could be made. These improvements should include restoring the fountains, urns, walks and benches with reasonable historic accuracy. The fountain control box should be located out of sight.

The berms enclosing the Sunken Gardens are not symmetrically placed in relation to the main garden axis. This means that when the Gardens are fenced, there will be a wide turf space to the south of the Gardens within the fence. This space could be used for some type of specialty garden. Suggestions from the public include a rose garden, herb garden, wildflower garden or a garden for the handicapped. If a new garden is planted, there should be a strong separation between it and the existing Gardens, so that the integrity of the Garden's formal layout is not diminished.

Community Center

Major expansion of the community center is proposed. Included in the proposed expansion are a gym, locker rooms, kitchen and meeting rooms. The expansion could be built into the bank between the community center and the pool. This location offers several advantages. It utilizes an area that is currently unusable and is rather shabby in appearance. It would provide a lower level entrance and thus easy access from the lower parking lot. It respects the architectural integrity of the present building. It also provides the opportunity for a patio overlooking the pool. The current community center could be remodeled for office, storage and meeting space. Office and storage space for the Shakespeare Festival should be considered. The fireplaces in the mainroom of the community center could be uncovered and put back into working condition.

Parking for the community center would be on the reconfigured lots south of the building and north of the pool. The gravel lot north of the building should be removed and the area revegetated.



Proposed Expansion of Community Center

Amphitheatre

A preliminary study by the firm of Urban Amenities/Architecture for the Indianapolis Shakespeare Festival addresses many of the amphitheatre's problems. The seating and stage are proposed to be re-done to provide better sight lines. A small building behind the seating is proposed. In this new building would be ticket sales, a concession, public restrooms and sound and light controls. The backstage would be remodeled to provide additional dressing room and storage space.

Outdoor Sports

The tennis courts will remain as they are at present. Although, as mentioned earlier, parking will be improved.

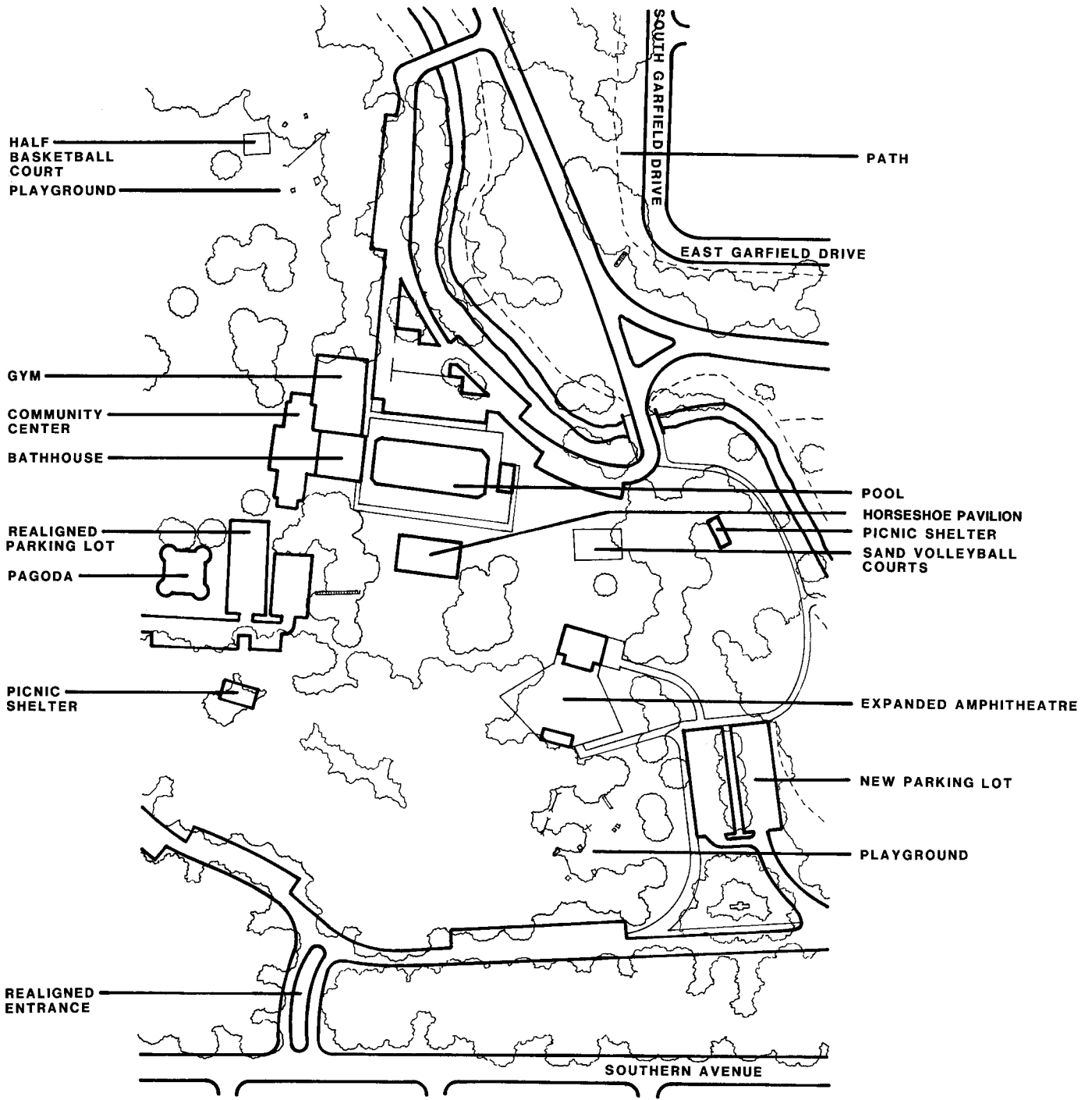
The present location of the horseshoe pavillion is a poor one. Relocation of the pits and pavillion would be an appropriate solution. However, many horseshoe players have a strong emotional tie to the current site. Moving the horseshoe facility at this time would be disruptive to that affection. Several modifications should be made to the pavillion to somewhat moderate its effect on neighboring facilities. To partially deaden noise, the low fence surrounding the pavillion should be replaced on the south and east sides by a solid wall. Soil should then be bermed up against the wall. Some type of screen should be erected to limit vision from the horseshoe pits to the sunning area next to the pool. The screen should not continuously shade the sunning area or so heavily block the horseshoe area that it cannot be surveilled. Enclosure or enlargement of the pavillion is inappropriate. This facility is already too large for its space, so it should not be made larger. Enclosing the pits would take away the public nature of the facility. People who were not horseshoe club members would not feel welcome in the facility and many people would not feel safe in such an enclosure. Enclosure would also provide the seclusion that is seen as a problem elsewhere in the park.

Without the removal of the horseshoe pavilion, pool facilities cannot be expanded. If the horseshoe pavillion is relocated, improvements should include handicapped accessibility to the water, an improved concession area, landscaped sitting area and possibly a small water slide. Structural problems such as excessive leaking need to be solved promptly.

The ball diamonds will be reduced in number from four to two. Both diamonds will be lit, which will extend their usage. The reduction in number and new lighting better approximates the need for diamonds in the park. It also eliminates the overlap of the football field and the diamonds.

The diamonds are sited to provide a wide lawn and buffer for the Community Center and Pagoda. New recreation facilities are proposed for Garfield Park. These include trails, basketball courts and volleyball courts.

People's attraction to water makes the streams the logical backbone of a trail system. Soft surface walking paths along the streams would link most of the park's main activity areas. Paths from other parts of the park or from outside the park would hook into the trails along the streams.



MASTER PLAN
 DETAIL OF CENTER PORTION OF PARK

A fitness trail is proposed to loop around the northern portion of the park. The trailhead could be located at the parking area proposed on the north side of Center Drive near the Pleasant Run bridge.

An existing signed bicycle route runs through Garfield Park along Pleasant Run Parkway, North Drive. A loop through the park could be added to this. The proposed loop would start at the East Street bridge and head south on a bicycle lane created by widening Pagoda Drive. The loop would turn east onto Conservatory Drive and proceed to the Confederate Memorial. There, it would head north, pass the amphitheatre parking lot, and swing down along Bean Creek before crossing the bridge and heading west on Center Drive. Crossing the Pleasant Run bridge, it would hook back into the signed route along Pleasant Run Parkway.

Two basketball courts are proposed for the park. One is a half court for youngsters placed in the playground north of the Community Center. The other is a full court placed between Pagoda Drive and the Conrail tracks. This location was selected because it is highly visible from Pagoda Drive, but not highly visible from anyone's home. Thus the court can be surveilled from passing cars, but does not intrude on anyone's view from their home.

A pair of sand volleyball courts are proposed for the open area between the pool, amphitheatre and Bean Creek.

Two new picnic shelters are proposed. One is proposed in the main picnic area in the southwest part of the park. The other would overlook Bean Creek in the open area created by the removal of the present amphitheatre parking lot. Repairs to both the Pagoda and the Railroad Station picnic shelters are recommended.

The two playgrounds will remain as they are presently sited. New equipment would improve both play areas.

Security

Four main issues were identified in the analysis section as security problems. The following sections describe how these issues have been handled.

1.) Vandalism. Fencing of the Sunken Gardens and the back of the greenhouses will protect the areas most sensitive to vandalism.

2.) Hot-rodding/Cruising. Elimination of the turnaround points in the cruising route should make the park less desirable for

that activity. The impact of cruising on the park should be reduced by the elimination of parking on the south side of Conservatory Drive, paving of the parking areas and the realignment of the Southern Avenue entrance and the Pagoda Drive/Pagoda Driveway intersection.

3.&4.) Homosexual activity/Drug dealing. By restructuring the areas in the park where these activities occur, it is hoped the activities will move to locations outside the park.

The large gravel parking area next to the railroad tracks should be eliminated. The lower end should be bollarded and revegetated. The upper end will be replaced by the basketball court and small paved parking lot.

A solution for the secluded area on Bean Creek is to cut down the brush along the banks of the stream. This opens the area to surveillance from the Sunken Gardens and Conservatory Drive. A possible physical solution would be to create a new channel for Bean Creek at the base of the steep slope. This removes the secluded area entirely and creates more space for the Sunken Gardens.

CONCLUSION

The process undertaken to develop this master plan involved a variety of people with a variety of interests and concerns. Their involvement in the process has helped ensure that Garfield Park is doing its part to meet the recreation needs of the neighborhood, the community and the City.

So that Garfield Park may continue to be responsive to the needs of its users, this master plan should be frequently reviewed and periodically updated.

PLEASANT RUN PARKWAY

The headwaters of Pleasant Run are in central Warren Township. The stream flows southwesterly through Pleasant Run Golf Course, Ellenberger Park, Christian Park and Garfield Park before emptying into the White River near Southern Avenue.

The idea of a parkway along Pleasant Run dates back to at least 1909. In that year landscape architect George Kessler presented the "Report of Landscape Architect to the Board of Park Commissioners". In this plan, Kessler called for a system of parks and parkways that "should bring within the easy reach of every portion of a community the pleasant enjoyment of open air spaces for rest and recreation, and form pleasant and attractive means of communication from one part of the community to another".

Parkways along the White River and the town's other major streams were a primary part of Kessler's plan. He described his concept of parkways to the commissioners as follows:

"Let me explain at the outset that parkways of this nature do not primarily form merely driveways from one portion of the city to another, although their continuity for this purpose is important, but, at variance with the popular idea of the boulevard, they do form a chain of parks or a continuous park which is by its nature brought to the doors of all sections of the community. By obtaining here and there open spaces of considerable extent in addition to the space required for roadways and walks, you will provide a continuous series of small parks and playgrounds which will become very valuable and pleasurable to the neighborhoods in their immediate vicinity. Where such parkways, as they will in your case, follow the lines of picturesque streams, an additional interest is presented, both in preserving the picturesque nature of the scenery and in the use of the streams for boating and bathing purposes."

On November 18, 1910 the Board of Park Commissioners adopted a resolution for the acquisition of a parkway along both banks of Pleasant Run from Shelby Street to Beecher Street. By the end of 1911, much of the land had been obtained and work on the parkway began. Eighteen houses, a shop, and the Barth Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church were moved or demolished to make way for the park. The Department of Public Parks annual report for 1912 noted the progress on Pleasant Run Parkway.

"The construction of a roadway and parkway on the north side of Pleasant Run and between Beecher and Shelby streets, under contract with the Marion County Construction Company, was completed and accepted in September. This improvement is the most notable made during the summer from the point of actual change in conditions. This consisted of gravel roadway, grading of slopes, building of embankment by dredging and building of lawns and gravel walks. A double row of pin oaks has been set out and the lawns seeded.

About three thousand dollars was spent on the opposite side of the stream in a similar improvement between the same streets. This improvement is as yet incomplete, but will be completed early in the spring [of 1913]."

The portion of Pleasant Run Parkway focused on in this plan is from Linden Street downstream under Interstate 65, through Garfield Park, past Manual High School and ending near Holy Cross Cemetery where Southern Avenue dead-ends. The parkway appears to extend from Southern Avenue to Bluff Road, however this section is actually in private ownership.

The Department of Parks and Recreation owns the land on both sides of Pleasant Run from Linden Street to Southern Avenue. The one exception is the south side of the stream as it flows by Manual High School. This section is owned by Indianapolis Public Schools.

One of the major purposes for the establishment of Pleasant Run Parkway was to create a ribbon of blue water and green vegetation through the urban landscape. It offered respite to people on foot and in cars.

Today people driving along the parkway have views of the stream in only a few segments. Views of other portions of the stream are blocked by vegetation or the sharp angle of steep banks. The view-blocking vegetation in most areas is a brushy tangle of locust, mulberry, tree-of-heaven, catalpa, willow, cottonwood and other riparian species. Annual and perennial weeds block the view in other places.

Between Beecher Avenue and LeGrand Avenue the ground rises on the southeast side of Pleasant Run. This rise restricts the view of motorists going south from Pleasant Run, South Drive onto Ringgold Street.

Accommodations for pedestrians are sparse along Pleasant Run. The only sidewalk to parallel the stream is an one-block length between Shelby and Olive Streets on the South Drive. Sidewalks cross the stream at each vehicular bridge. Pedestrian-only bridges cross the creek at Manual High School, near Le Grande Avenue, near Pennsylvania Street and at Barth Avenue, where the vehicular bridge has been blocked off to traffic and now is a handicapped accessible pedestrian bridge.

No off-street path for bicycling exists along Pleasant Run. However, the drives that parallel the stream are not heavily traveled for most of their length and have been signed as bike routes.

The Pleasant Run Parkway Drives are curbed in some places and not curbed in others. Where there are no curbs, cars can pull off the street onto the grass. In some places, the grass has been killed and the parkland has been cut into ruts by cars pulling onto the lawn. A portion of the parkway has been paved

for a parking lot. Located across from the Garfield Park United Church of Christ, it is most heavily used by churchgoers on Sunday mornings. It is lightly used at other times. In the middle of the parking lot is a basketball goal. Its location can be a hazard to unsuspecting motorists.

At the downstream end of the parkway is Emhardt Stadium. It sits in a triangle formed by Southern Avenue and Pleasant Run Parkway, South Drive. The stadium consists of a pair of ball diamonds leased to the Garfield Y Little League. The larger of the two diamonds is a regulation size Little League field. The smaller diamond is used for Pee Wee League. Other facilities at the field include two concrete block buildings with restrooms and a concession, two concrete block dugouts, and bleachers. The bleachers occupy a narrow space between the diamonds and the street.

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

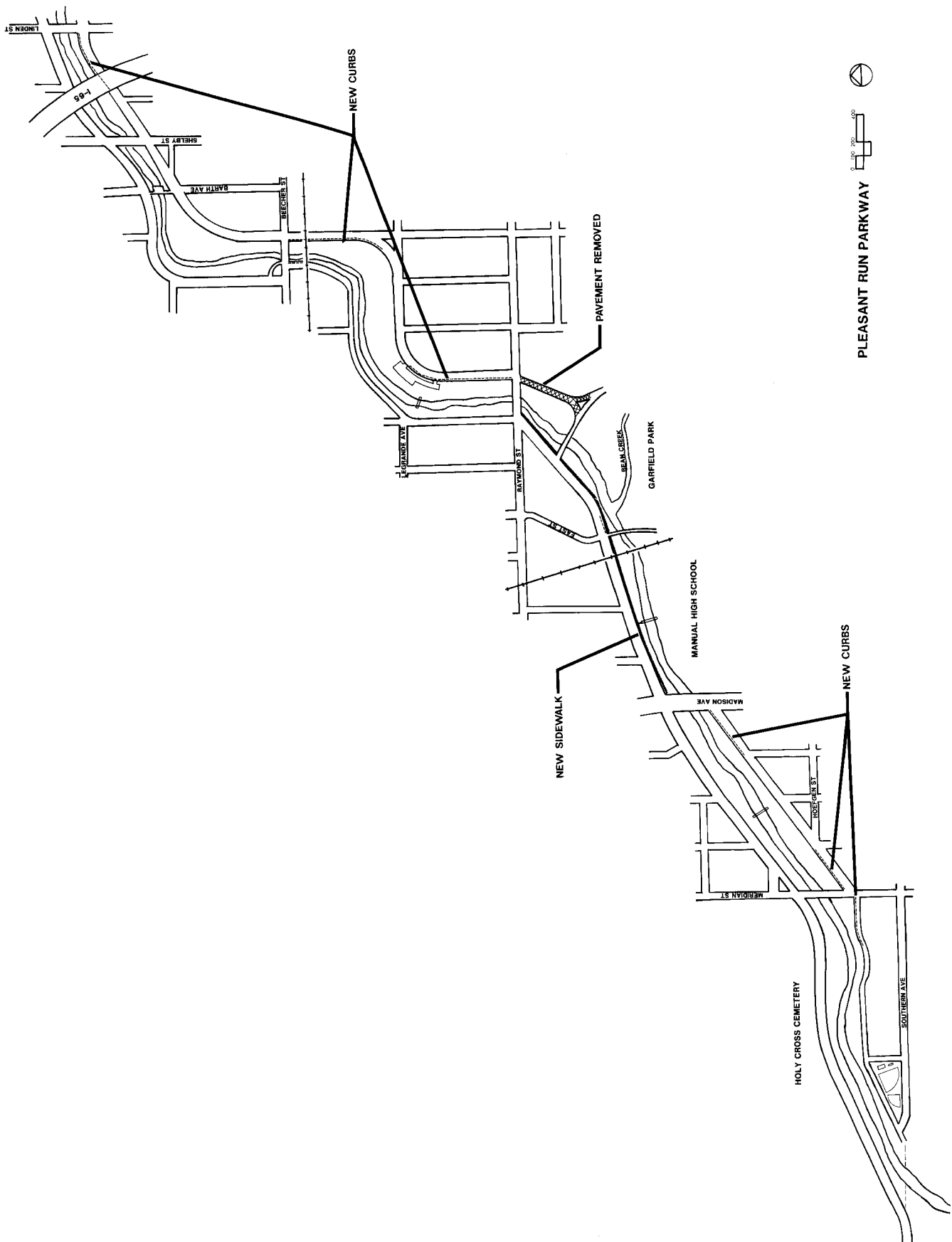
The tangle of brush lining the banks of Pleasant Run needs to be selectively cleared and maintained. More than anything else, this will improve the quality of the parkway.

Curbing is proposed as shown on the plan. The affected areas will be those where driving or parking on the parkway has been a problem. Sidewalks are proposed for the section of North Drive between Raymond and Madison. This area has the greatest pedestrian demand because it is a walking route to Manual High School. Other areas of the parkway do not show a significant need for sidewalks.

Protection of the areas along Pleasant Run from Southern Avenue to Bluff Road is strongly recommended. The owners of this area now maintain the area as though it were part of the parkway.

This may not always be the case in the future. To secure this area for the people of Indianapolis, an easement should be acquired or outright purchase should be made.

From Bluff Road to its confluence with the White River, Pleasant Run flows through an industrial area and a landfill. If this land became available at a reasonable price, acquisition should be considered. Purchase of the portion of the stream would provide a potentially valuable link between the parkway and White River.



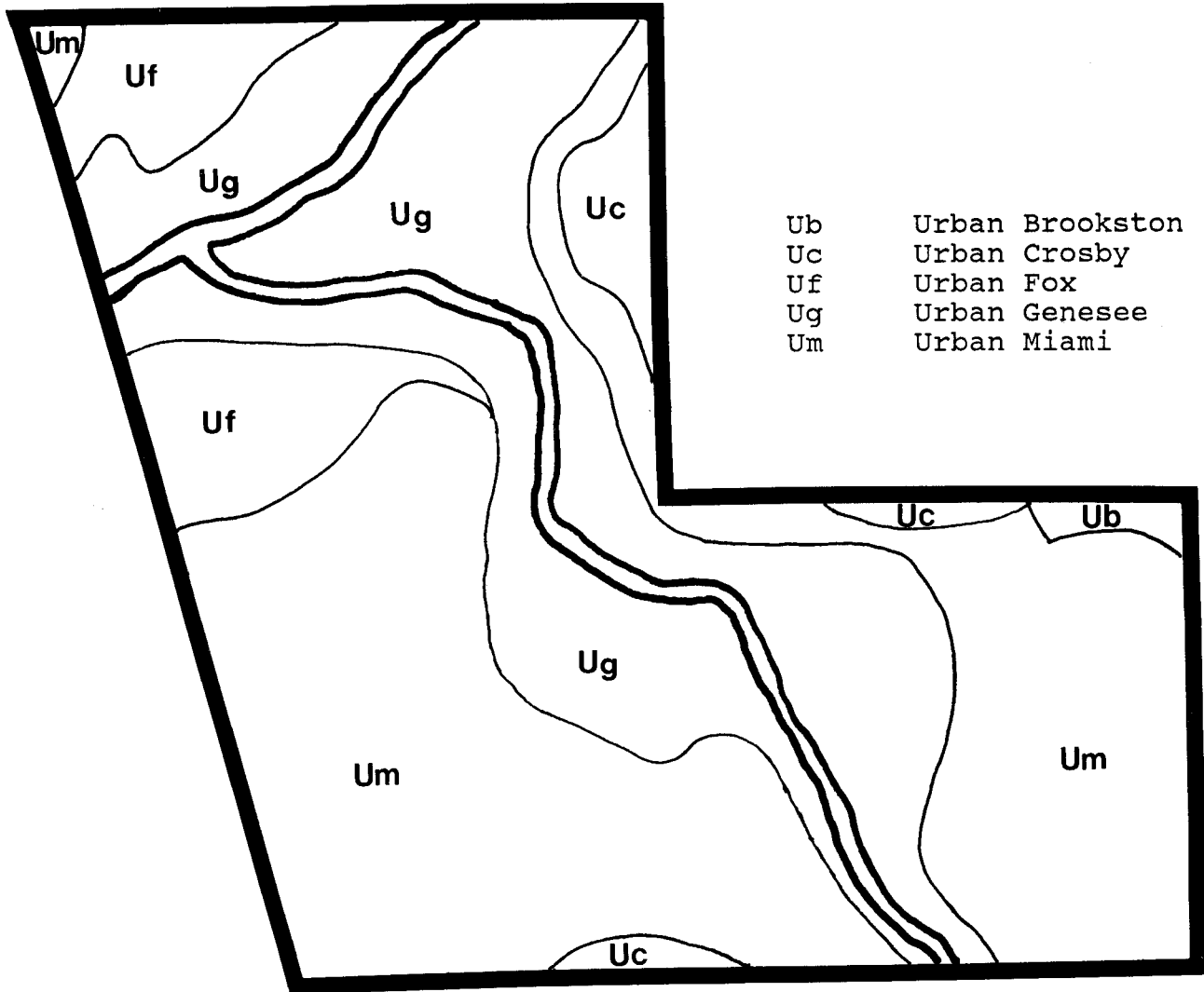
PLEASANT RUN PARKWAY

Fire Station #29

Shortly after completion of this plan, the need arose to replace Fire Station #29, which is currently located in the 2300 block of South Shelby Street. The decision was made to close the old firehouse and construct a new station in Garfield Park. The proposed location fronts on Raymond Street between East Street and Pleasant Run Parkway, North Drive. Although this location obviously cuts down on the amount of passive, open space in the park, it does not effect other aspects of the plan. The fire station should be built to an appropriate scale for the park and neighborhood and should be constructed of appropriate materials. The new firehouse should also be well landscaped. A fire practice area in the park is not appropriate.

Garfield Park is a valuable part of the heritage of Indianapolis. Its open space and facilities continue to be an important part of the city's life. Any further loss of parkland to non-park uses should not be considered.

APPENDIX A - SOILS



Ub Urban Brookston
 Uc Urban Crosby
 Uf Urban Fox
 Ug Urban Genesee
 Um Urban Miami

	Limitations for:				
	<u>Buildings</u>	<u>Streets</u>	<u>Picnic Areas</u>	<u>Playgrounds</u>	<u>Paths</u>
Ub	Severe (1)	Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe
Uc	Moderate	Severe (2)	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Uf	Slight	Moderate	Slight	Slight	Slight
Ug	Severe (3)	Severe	Moderate	Severe	Moderate
Um	Moderate	Severe	Slight	Moderate	Slight

- (1) Limitation due to wetness
- (2) Limitation due to frost action
- (3) Limitation due to flooding

APPENDIX B - Area Recreation Facilities

Park Facilities

TYPE - NEIGH = Neighborhood
 SUBNEIGH = Sub-Neighborhood
AMPI = Amphitheater
SWPO = Swimming Pool - Outdoor
SPOOL = Spray Pool
TRO = Trails other than bicycle,
 horse or fitness trails (in mi)
FIT = Fitness Trail
IBK = Indoor Basketball Court
OBK = Outdoor Basketball Court
SOF = Softball Diamond
BAS = Baseball Diamond
LTEN = Lighted Tennis Court
TEN = Unlighted Tennis Court
FOOT = Football Field
VOLL = Volleyball Court
HOR = Horseshoe Court
SOC = Soccer Field
CTR = Recreation Center
PLAY = Playground
PIC = Picnic Area
NATURE = Nature Study Facility
CNCS = Concession

Other Recreation Facilities

OWNER - P = public
 PR = private
 SP = semi-public
SWP = Swimming Pool
TRO = Trails Other than bicycle, horse
 or fitness trails (in miles)
FIT = Fitness Trail
IBK = Indoor Basketball Court
OBK = Outdoor Basketball Court
BAS = Baseball Diamond
SOF = Softball Diamond
LTEN = Lighted Tennis Court
TEN = Unlighted Tennis Court
TRK = Track
FOOT = Football Field
RAQ = Racquetball Court
VOLL = Volleyball Court
SHU = Shuffleboard Court
HOR = Horseshoe Court
SOC = Soccer Field
CTR = Recreation Center
PLAY = Playground
PIC = Picnic Area
BIL = Billiard Tables
GYM = Gymnastics Facility
KAR = Karate Facility
ACC = Access - UR = Unrestricted
 SR = Semi-restricted
 F = Fee

Park Facilities

NAME	ADDRESS	TYPE	ACREAGE	AMPI	SWPO	SPOOL	TRO	FIT	IBK	OBK	SOF	BAS	LITEN	TEN	FOOT	VOLL	HOR	SOC	CTR	PLAY	PIC	MAT	CNCS	
SANDORF PARK	2020 DAWSON STREET	NEIGH	9.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BETHEL PARK	2945 EAST MINNESOTA STREET	NEIGH	15.46	0	1	1	4	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
SOUTHSIDE PARK	1941 EAST HANNA AVENUE	NEIGH	8.14	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
HOT SHOT TOT LOT	ELM & GROVE	SUBNEIGH	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
KELLY PARK	1200 SOUTH MERIDIAN	SUBNEIGH	1.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
ORANGE PARK	1201 SOUTH MADISON	SUBNEIGH	1.0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
SEXTON PARK	CAVEN & BEECHER	SUBNEIGH	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Other Recreation Facilities

NAME	ADDRESS	OWNER	SWP	TRO	FIT	IBK	OBK	BAS	SOF	LITEN	TEN	TRK	FOOT	RAQ	VOLL	SHU	HOR	SOC	CTR	PLAY	PIC	BIL	GYM	KAR	ACC
SCHOOL NO. 18	1001 EAST PALMER	P	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	UR
SCHOOL NO. 19	2020 DAWSON STREET	P	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	UR
SCHOOL NO. 28 JUNIOR HIGH	510 LAUREL STREET	P	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	UR
SCHOOL NO. 31	307 LINCOLN STREET	P	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	UR
SCHOOL NO. 34	1410 WADE STREET	P	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	UR
SCHOOL NO. 35	209 EAST RAYMOND STREET	P	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	UR
SCHOOL NO. 39	801 SOUTH STATE AVENUE	P	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	UR
SCHOOL NO. 64	2710 BETHEL AVENUE	P	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	UR
SCHOOL NO. 72	1202 EAST TROY AVENUE	P	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	UR
BAPTIST ACADEMY	2565 VILLA AVENUE	PR	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	F
CALVARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL	902 FLETCHER AVENUE	PR	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	F
EMERICH MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL	2405 SOUTH MADISON AVENUE	P	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	F
LUTHERAN MEMORIAL SCHOOL	1326 ORANGE STREET	PR	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	F
WHITE TIGER KARATE SCHOOL	2201 SOUTH MERIDIAN	PR	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	F
FOUNTAIN SQUARE GIRLS CLUB	1135 SOUTH SPRUCE STREET	SP	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	UR
KEENAN STAHL BOYS CLUB	1949 EAST TROY STREET	SP	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	UR
CONCORD CENTER	1310 SOUTH MERIDIAN	SP	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	SR
SOUTHEAST MULTI-SERVICE CENTER	901 SHELBY STREET	SP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	SR

GENERAL RESOLUTION NO. 105, 1989

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

CONSOLIDATED CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE CONSOLIDATED CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS THAT:

The agreement by and between the Department of Parks and Recreation of the City of Indianapolis and DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT in the amount of N/A calling for MASTER PLAN FOR GARFIELD PARK

The form of which is to be approved by the Department Attorney, be and is hereby APPROVED.

FURTHER, RESOLVED, that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation is hereby authorized and directed to execute such agreement for and in behalf of the Department.

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONSOLIDATED CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

By: Franz Arthur Strong
Franz Arthur Strong, Chairman

Richard Lahn
Richard Lahn

Archie Mabon
Archie Mabon

Milton Booth
Milton Booth

Charles Kendall
Charles Kendall

Margaret A. Arew
Assistant Corporation Counsel

Deborah S. Hamilton
Deborah S. Hamilton, Secretary

10/5/89
Date

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA

DOCKET NO. 89-CPS-R-2

RESOLUTION 89-CPS-R-2, AMENDING A SEGMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE OR MASTER PLAN OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, GARFIELD PARK MASTER PLAN.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Metropolitan Development Commission of Marion County, Indiana, that, pursuant to I.C. 36-7-4, the Metropolitan Development Commission of Marion County, Indiana, hereby amends the COMPREHENSIVE OR MASTER PLAN FOR MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, by the adoption of the GARFIELD PARK MASTER PLAN, which is attached hereto, incorporated herein by same as an AMENDMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE OR MASTER PLAN OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Metropolitan Development Commission certify copies of this RESOLUTION 89-CPS-R-2, AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE OR MASTER PLAN OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, GARFIELD PARK MASTER PLAN.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of the Department of Metropolitan Development is directed to mail or deliver certified copies of this RESOLUTION 89-CPS-R-2, upon final adoption, as an AMENDMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE OR MASTER PLAN OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, to the legislative authorities of all incorporated cities and towns in Marion County, Indiana, the Mayor of the City of Indianapolis, the City-County Council of Indianapolis and Marion County, and the Board of Commissioners of Marion County, Indiana. The Director shall also file one (1) copy of the Resolution in the office of the Recorder of Marion County.

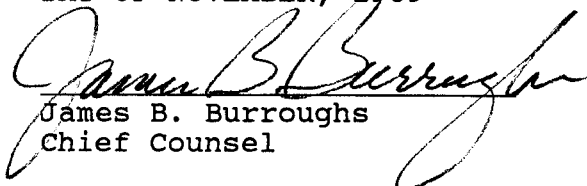


Presiding Officer
Metropolitan Development Commission



Secretary
Metropolitan Development Commission

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM
AND ADEQUACY THIS 1st
DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1989



James B. Burroughs
Chief Counsel



GARFIELD PARK MASTER PLAN

1989

MAYOR William H. Hudnut, III

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