

Vogelei Park, located in an established central area of the Village of Hoffman Estates, is one of our large community parks. With access from heavily-traveled Illinois Route 72, but set back from the road for a peaceful environment, the current park includes a 5-12 playground, a small splash pad and a trail system, with parking for 40 cars. This historic property is also home to the Vogelei House which was recently renovated and currently houses a branch of the Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA) PURSUIT Program, providing educational and recreational programming for adults with special needs. This program location serves residents from a wide area of the northwest suburbs, including Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg and Barrington.

With NWSRA at the Vogelei Park location, as well as a dire need in this area for an inclusive park site that invites individuals of all abilities to enjoy multiple activities, we are proposing a major revitalization of Vogelei Park to not only serve NWSRA but also the entire community. This project supports our mission and will provide free outdoor recreation and wellness activities for all individuals, both well-bodied and those with special needs.

The proposed all-inclusive park site ensures that those with special needs who live in the northwest suburbs of Chicago can access a variety of unique recreational opportunities, contributing to their quality of life. These individuals will have an opportunity to engage in physical activities such as bocce ball, bank shots sports, multi-golf (disc golf, foot golf, and park golf), fishing and walking, as well as enjoying the all-inclusive playground and splash pad. Educational and occupational opportunities will be available through horticulture (in a proposed greenhouse), an outdoor nature classroom and a sensory garden.

The park will provide access for people of all abilities to come together to share their interests and develop new skills. The satisfaction of shared learning and accomplishments in a recreational setting can enhance the lives of everyone in the community, and provide positive physical and emotional experiences that are otherwise inaccessible for some.

Being a community park, Vogelei Park serves all of Hoffman Estates and its 52,530 residents, as well as some neighboring Chicago suburbs. Hoffman Estates has a population density of 2,474 people per square mile. The community's ethnic makeup is more than 50 percent minority, comprised of 48.3% white, 26.5% Asian, 18.34% Hispanic, 3.93% Black or African American, 0.216% American Indian, and 2.714% other. The median household income is \$96,274.

As expressed through a public residential meeting, the community is most enthusiastic about our proposed all-inclusive playground and splash pad that will feature a main structure that is accessible for all, including wheelchair accommodation. The playground will also be equipped with regular swings, ADA swings, tandem swings, arch swings, a roxall see saw, inclusive whirl, musical equipment and standalone features for the 2-to-5 year old age group. The area between the playground and the splash pad will include a play panel sensory maze along with a shelter and picnic tables. The splash pad will offer a Hula Hoop, Aqua Juggle and Spinny Squirt, three above ground features, as well as twelve ground sprays.

Outside of these features, in another area of the property we are proposing a three-hole multi-golf course, the first of its kind in the area. This short course incorporates three types of golf that individuals of all abilities can enjoy, disc golf, foot golf and park golf. A non-exclusionary Bank Shorts Sports Court and ADA accessible Bocce Ball courts will add to the multiple activities that will make this park one for individuals of all ages and abilities.

The current 1/3-mile walking paths will be extended to 0.45 miles of accessible walking/biking paths, equipped with bike repair stations and dog-friendly drinking fountains. The plan supports conservation efforts by including a renovation to the existing pond's shoreline with planned bird and butterfly habitats, as well as replacement of the pond aerator fountain with a new solar-powered fountain. Adjacent to the

pond, plans include a sensory garden and an outdoor nature classroom, consisting of natural wood benches and a serene view overlooking the pond. The northwest corner of the site will have a diverse population of trees planted in a tree nursery, accompanied by our new greenhouse that will be programmed to teach residents about nature and horticulture. Plantings in both the nursery and greenhouse will provide the district new and replacement landscaping in parks throughout the community.

The Vogelei project will be completed by both in-house staff and outside contractors and will be financed through our general fund. We do not anticipate any factors that would delay or interfere with the completion of this project. Advanced planning included a residential meeting held at the park location and extensive input from NWSRA, as well as district committee and board meetings to go over conceptual designs and to review feedback and suggestions from the residents. The Park Board of Commissioners has approved the project plans as well as a Resolution for Authorization.

Vogelei Park is located in the center of the village, found at the northwest corner of two major thoroughfares, Routes 72 and 58, approximately three miles west of Interstate 290. Vogelei Park previously received assistance through OSLAD Project OS 041294 that was awarded in 2003 and closed in June 2008, with a grant amount of \$400,000.