18. Community Park West (Map N)

Site number: N-2
Overall size: 94.67 acres
Ownership: Public-Glenview Park District
Subwatershed: Des Plaines River

Mapped Land Cover on Site:

Wet/Wet-Mesic Forest/ Prairie (7.09 acres): Tree and shrub dominated depressional area of green ash, buckthorn, cottonwood, gray dogwood; understory dominated by native sedges and rushes.

Prairie (5.34 acres): Degraded remnants located south of wet/wet-mesic forest and far southern tip of site; dominated by stiff goldenrod, invading gray dogwood, sunflowers, and asters.

Turf (30.50 acres): Mowed turf grass associated with ball fields and other common areas.


Turf grass ball fields.

Developed (18.83 acres): Roads, parking, concession areas, ball courts. Southern end contains maintenance roads, landscape stockpiles, soil mounds, *etc.*

Wet-Bottom Detention (8.50 acres): Six naturalized wet-bottom detention basins associated with new development; four protecting stormwater runoff to two sedge meadow/wet prairie remnant areas.

Sedge Meadow/Wet Prairie (4.64 acres): Two small remnant areas dominated by tussock sedge and located adjacent to ball fields; protected from stormwater runoff by four naturalized wet-bottom detention basins.

Old Field (19.77 acres): Large area on western portion of site dominated by cool-season, non-native grasses, clover, and Shasta daisy.


Remnant sedge meadow.

Existing Ecological Conditions: Community Park West is owned by the Glenview Park District and located west of the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. The site is isolated from other parks and significant greenways, but does abut the AON Office complex (Site N-1) to the north which contains significant open space including a wet-bottom detention basin on the western edge. Large portions of the park are composed of turf grass ball fields that are constructed among existing remnant natural communities such as wet prairie/sedge meadow and degraded remnant mesic prairie. Naturalized wet-bottom detention

basins are in place to store and treat stormwater runoff to the two remnant sedge meadows. A large old field area dominates the western half of the site. This area abuts remnant prairie to the northeast, ball fields to the southeast, and a maintenance area to the south. The remnant prairie is degraded and being invaded by gray dogwood which gradually becomes more dominant to the north, and eventually becomes a young wet/wet-mesic forest with a degraded wet prairie understory. The developed maintenance area to the south consists of stockpiled soil, mulch, and other materials. Just south of this maintenance area lies a naturalized wet-bottom detention area dominated by common reed and a highly degraded prairie remnant.


Naturalized wet-bottom detention basin.


Degraded prairie remnant.

Restoration and Management Recommendations: Community Park West is among the most diverse sites in terms of developed areas situated between existent remnant natural communities. This presents excellent opportunities for natural area restoration, enhancement, and maintenance.

Wet-Bottom Detention Basins: Generally, the naturalized wet-bottom detention basins are dominated by native vegetation on the side-slopes, but are dominated by aggressive weedy and invasive species such as cattail and common reed in the emergent areas. The basins would benefit from removal of these species from the emergent zone and re-planting with native species.

Sedge Meadow/Wet Prairie: These areas are dominated by native species; however, controlled burns should be implemented to control the spread of existing shrubs (dogwood and buckthorn), cattails, and common reed. Of particular importance are two disabled level spreader perforated pipes outletting from two naturalized basins into the sedge meadows. These pipes should be re-attached as soon as possible to avoid disruption of the hydrology supporting these plant communities.


Disabled level spreader in sedge meadow.

Prairie: The prairie remnant located east of the old field area appears to be managed. AES noted evidence that gray dogwood was being removed either physically or by implementing controlled burns. Continued removal of gray dogwood and supplemental seeding are recommended.

Young wet-mesic forest.

Wet/Wet-Mesic Forest/Prairie:
A rather abrupt transition exists between the prairie remnant and the wet-mesic forest to the north. Based on the existing understory, it appears that the wet-mesic forest may have been wet prairie/sedge meadow prior to being engulfed by green ash, buckthorn, cottonwood, and gray dogwood. Recommended restoration for this area includes gradual removal of all woody growth, followed by supplemental seeding and management to maintain a wet prairie environment.

Old Field: The old field area abuts the prairie remnant and wet-mesic forest to the west, and presents an excellent opportunity to restore a mesic prairie of considerable size. A prairie restoration in this area could attract rare grassland birds, especially if the prairie could be extended north onto the AON property. Expansion of restoration efforts in this area will need to be balanced with the Village's need for more active recreational space (*e.g.* soccer fields).