

21. Riverside Park (Map Q)

Site number: Q-3

Ownership: Public-Glenview Park District

Overall size: 3.37 acres

Subwatershed: West Fork of North Branch of the Chicago River

Mapped Land Cover on Site:

Unassociated Woody Growth (1.50 acres):

Tree-dominated streambank of box elder, American elm, hackberry, and sugar or Norway maple.

Turf (1.35 acres): Turf grass understory with scattered ornamental trees and shrubs.

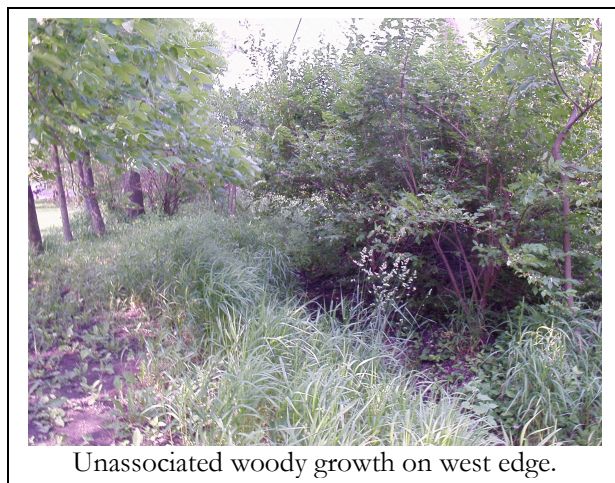
Emergent/Marsh (0.10 acre): Wooded wetland/marsh and tree-lined ditch.

Stream/River/Ditch (0.01 acre): West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River.



Developed (0.41 acre): Playground equipment and hardscape ball courts.

Existing Ecological Conditions: Riverside Park is found along approximately 600 linear feet of the west bank of the West Fork, south of Glenview Road and east of Waukegan Road. The recreational park is isolated and nestled behind an industrial site and residential neighborhood and is probably frequented by those residents. Multiuse turf grass fields, playground, and recreational courts occupy the site internally. A small wetland and ditch, which may be ephemeral and/or intermittent, carries water along the northern edge of the site to the east towards the West Fork. Hardwoods and evergreens decorate the turf fields. Invasive and fast-growing trees and shrubs dominate the streambank and line the wetland and ditch to the north. Native species appear to have been planted at one time between the ditch and a utility right-of-way.



Restoration and Management Recommendations: Riverside Park would benefit from an improved streambank buffer through control of invasive species including buckthorn, honeysuckle, box elder, white mulberry, Norway maple, and garlic mustard. An opened canopy along the streambank would improve light conditions for native understory plant establishment in place of garlic mustard and cool-season grasses. The site is large enough to accommodate streambank restoration, an online sedimentation basin, or offline stormwater storage. However, certain recreational uses of the park would have to be impacted to maximize water quality improvements