

# STRATEGIES

## Apache Park Neighborhood Plan

DRAFT | NOVEMBER 12TH, 2013



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### CONSULTANT TEAM

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# VISION STATEMENT

*The Apache Park neighborhood is a convenient, desirable, and walkable residential area in southeast Des Plaines with access to quality parks, schools, churches, jobs and transportation. The neighborhood will foster reinvestment in its homes and businesses, and improve public and private open spaces to foster public safety, recreation, and community well-being. The neighborhood offers a quiet place to live near one of the most vibrant economic centers of the Chicago region.*

The neighborhood is comprised of single-family and townhomes, parks, and a mix of commercial activities along Mannheim Road and Touhy Avenue. Its walkability, availability of Apache Park and Lake Park, and proximity to all modes of transportation make it a convenient and desirable area that attracts a mix of residents, from those who have lived in Des Plaines for generations to people from all over the world.

Through homeowners associations, relationships among neighbors, churches, and parks, the community comes together to promote a family-friendly environment from toddlers to seniors. Nearby jobs, entertainment, forest preserves, churches, shopping and regional destinations, provide a wealth of resources within close proximity to the neighborhood.

# STRATEGIES



## **STRATEGY 1: FOSTER RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNICATION AMONG RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES.**

One of the most important elements of community development is to build the civic infrastructure of the community. There are a number of strong assets, from St. Stephen Church, to Lake Park, to a high level of homeownership. Yet, without an effective means to communicate and work together toward neighborhood improvements, projects and physical improvements may not reach their full potential.

There are two key steps that can help improve community cohesion and build on neighborhood resources.

The first is the need to form a homeowners association in the multi-family area surrounding Apache Park. A homeowners association can perform a number of functions, including improving parking lots, trash collection, and landscaping. It can also serve as a first line of defense to make sure eyes are on the street and that any negative behavior such as fly dumping or loitering does not happen in both the private and public spaces surrounding the area.

## STRATEGY 1 FOSTER RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNICATION

There is a positive precedent of a homeowners association that was formed at Pine Court just two blocks to the north. Pine Court had similar problems in the past, but since founding a homeowners association it has not only been able to provide a consistent communications mechanism for all residents, but has cleaned up the common areas, made improvements over time, and beautified the area. With a courtyard layout, the residents are able to prevent problems with safety and proprietorship. Residents keep their eye on what is going on, the City of Des Plaines knows who to contact to get the word out to residents, and by pooling funds, investments are being made to improve the grounds.

The second recommendation is consideration of the formation of a neighborhood association that can champion the ideas coming out of the plan and build social cohesion and support across the neighborhood. The neighborhood association could be comprised of homeowners associations, single-family homeowners, St. Stephen's Church, and local business and property owners. The association can work to foster communication across the entire neighborhood as well as with the City of Des Plaines and the Des Plaines Park District. It can host events, maintain the phone app, a Facebook page, etc., to keep everyone in the loop on what is going on, what services are available, and sponsor events either in Apache Park, Lake Park or other local destinations.

The neighborhood association can also begin to work with the businesses that are located along the west side of Mannheim Road and the north side of Touhy. These businesses, some of which are major employers with a regional draw and others, small businesses serving local needs may be separated by fences and parking lots, but have common needs for public safety, transportation, and public services.

Figure 2: Residents attended a Public Meeting to discuss the plan.



Figure 3: Residents attended the 5th Ward meeting to discuss the plan.



## STRATEGY 2

## ENHANCE THE DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING OF APACHE PARK



Figure 4: A park analysis shows the need for more park space and programming.

**STRATEGY 2: ENHANCE THE DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING FOR APACHE PARK TO BE A RESOURCE AND SAFE SPACE FOR ALL RESIDENTS.**

There is great potential to improve the design and programming of Apache Park. The Des Plaines Park District is very interested in working with the community to make improvements that will provide a high quality, safe park for use by all local residents. The District recently installed playground equipment that has attracted families, particularly with young children.

The park is currently isolated from much of the neighborhood due to its mid-block location, and closed off access at Highland Drive and Pine Street on the west and Chestnut Street on the east.

The first consideration is understanding the role of Apache Park in the context of three local parks within walking distance of the study area.

## STRATEGY 2 **ENHANCE THE DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING OF APACHE PARK**

**Lake Park, a 76 acre park that is a regional destination.**

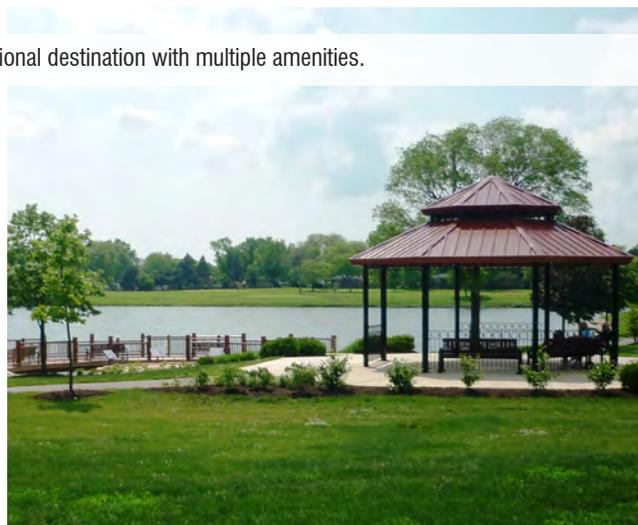
- » 18 hole, par 3 golf course with a clubhouse on Howard Avenue.
- » Lake Park Memorial Pavilion on Lee Street, home of the free summer family entertainment series, Live at the Lake; the Des Plaines Optimist Club's Free Friday Night Movies in the Park; and the entertainment at Fall Fest family festival in September.
- » Picnic tables and grills
- » Two picnic shelters
- » Walking/biking paths with plenty of benches
- » A playground with swings, slides, and plenty of equipment to climb on
- » A sand play area
- » Two sand volleyball courts
- » Open space for soccer, kite flying, frisbee, and family fun
- » Lake Park Marina, with paddle boat rentals, sailing lessons, two fishing piers/boat docks, boat storage
- » Flight 191 Memorial
- » Weather permitting in winter, there is an ice rink in the parking lot of the clubhouse for skating and hockey.

Recent improvements to Lake Park have taken place at Lee Street and Howard Avenue. Features include:

- » A fishing pier
- » Picnic shelter and gazebo
- » Native plantings and sensory garden
- » Open space and family play area with bocce ball and bags courts
- » Walking / bicycling path
- » Interpretive signage
- » Water fountains and a cooling spray



Figure 5 & 6: Lake Park is a regional destination with multiple amenities.



## STRATEGY 2 **ENHANCE THE DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING OF APACHE PARK**

**Arndt Park is located just east of Mannheim Road and the Metra tracks. Some residents, particularly those at Pine Court and the northern portion of the neighborhood report using Arndt Park.**

- » A fieldhouse available for rent
- » A large playground with swings, slides, and equipment to climb on
- » Picnic tables and Grills for family gatherings
- » A water fountain
- » 4 basketball half courts
- » 2 softball/baseball fields
- » Horseshoe courts
- » Plenty of open space for soccer, frisbee, and family play
- » A fenced-in, paved area for soccer, dodge ball, or roller blading
- » Home to one of the most popular summer day camps for children ages 5-12, The Arndt Park Adventurers.



## STRATEGY 2 **ENHANCE THE DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING OF APACHE PARK**

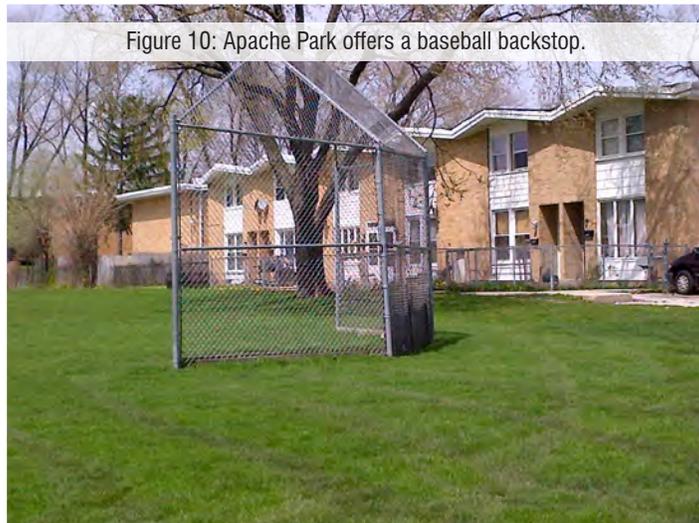
### Apache Park currently has:

- » New playground with slides, swings, and equipment to climb on. It's colorful, it's fun, and meets ADA guidelines
- » Softball/baseball backstop, two basketball half-courts, and open space for soccer and play
- » Picnic table and benches

Figure 9: A new playground was built recently for Apache Park.



Figure 10: Apache Park offers a baseball backstop.



## STRATEGY 2 **ENHANCE THE DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING OF APACHE PARK**

Improving and changing the image of Apache Park requires opening up the location for greater visibility and overcoming the following challenges:

- » A mid-block park with public frontage limited to only two sides
- » Lack of definition with multifamily buildings close to park edges, it is unclear where public property ends and private lots start
- » Lack of amenities for different age groups, especially adults and seniors
- » Lack of a focal point : Most of the green lawn feels like leftover space
- » A disconnected pedestrian system with significant sections of paths behind private buildings

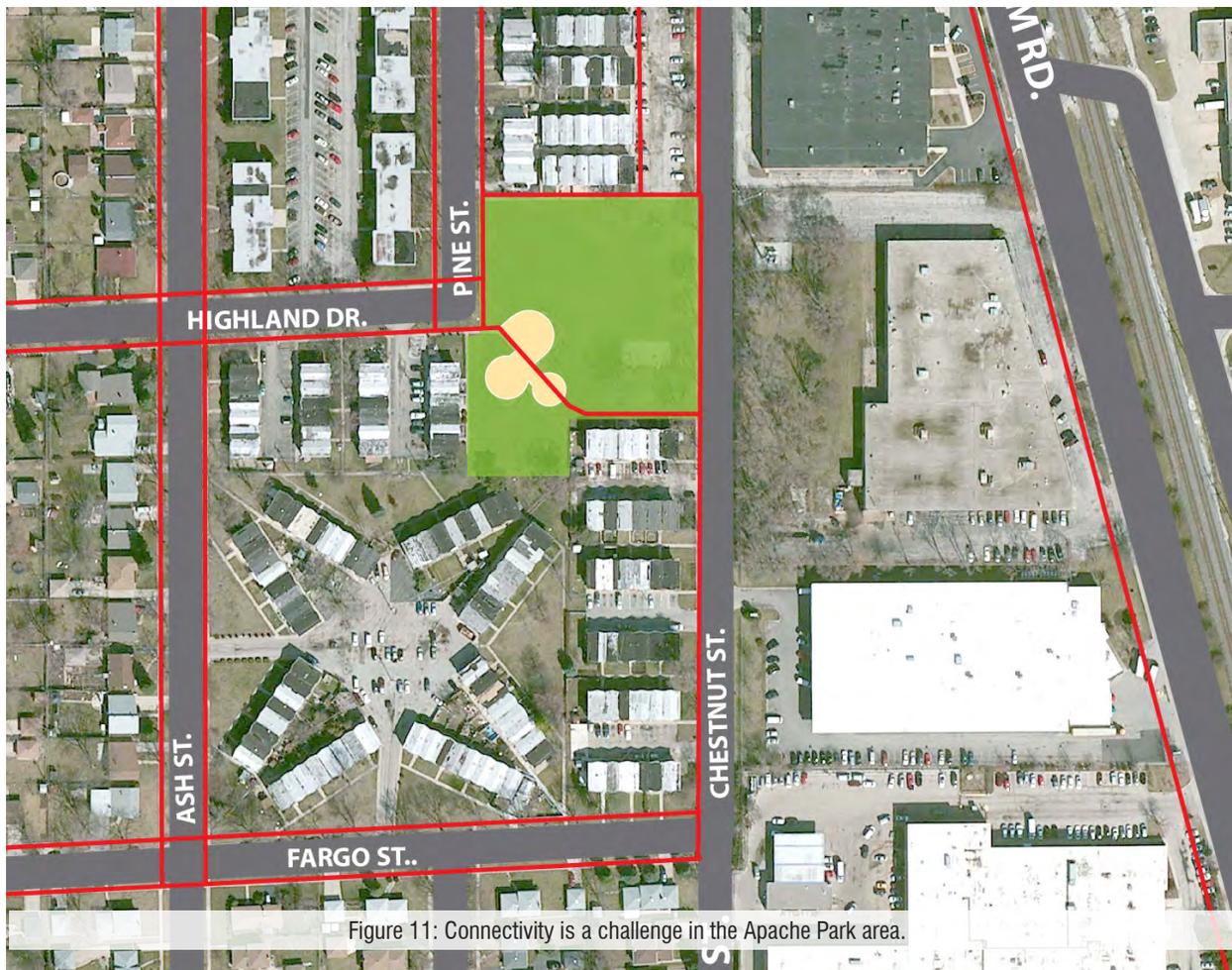


Figure 11: Connectivity is a challenge in the Apache Park area.

## STRATEGY 2 **ENHANCE THE DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING OF APACHE PARK**

As Figures 12 and 13 show, sidewalks are not currently connected. Some of these sidewalks are poorly lit, bordered by fences, and feel insecure.



A successful retooling of the park to make it a safer, more secure, and more desirable location depends on three key concepts:

- 1) Improve pedestrian movement and clear paths, following CPTED principles. Paths should be well defined, clear who is in charge of maintenance and be visible from streets and public ways.
- 2) Lighting needs to be improved, replacing harsh lighting with softer, more attractive but bright lighting to encourage positive activities and discourage negative loitering.
- 3) The space needs to be better programmed to encourage more use through more attractive landscaping, new features, and amenities that neighbors will use.

## STRATEGY 2 **ENHANCE THE DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING OF APACHE PARK**

Key elements of a new design for Apache Park include:



Figure 14: Proposed Apache Park design.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 New access road with on street parking and shared bike lane. Connects Chestnut and Pine (31'-0" WD.)</li> <li>2 Defined parking lot with perimeter landscape plantings</li> <li>3 Wide pathways encourage biking and walking between neighborhoods and Lake Park</li> <li>4 Gathering Plaza aligned with Lake Park includes the following amenities:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Vertical Lighting</li> <li>b) Sculpture</li> <li>c) Wind Turbines</li> <li>d) Native Plantings</li> <li>e) Permeable Paving</li> <li>f) Seating</li> <li>g) Water Fountain</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 Raised community gardens</li> <li>6 Adventure Play Area includes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Discover Sand Play</li> <li>b) Climbing Mound</li> <li>c) Dry Creek / Stream Bed</li> <li>d) Native Plants</li> </ul> </li> <li>7 Practice soccer field / baseball diamond</li> <li>8 Fitness trail with native plantings and landscape boulders</li> <li>9 Open play lawn</li> </ul> |
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## STRATEGY 2 **ENHANCE THE DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING OF APACHE PARK**

### Lighting and Vertical Features

One of the key design features is the introduction of a vertical element at Pine Street and Highland Drive. This feature will signify the importance of the park and create a terminus of the view for potential users coming from Lee Street or Lake Park to the west.

#### **There are two approaches for this feature:**

A lighted element that creates a focal point during the day and evening can be an innovative solution to emphasize the location and attractiveness of the park.

As Figures 15 shows, a lighted feature can be used to either express the vertical element to be seen from the eastward approach to the park as a beacon of light, or as a featured element in an interactive play environment. Dan Corson’s solar powered sculptures were inspired by “monkey cups” – quirky tropical pitcher plants whose leaf vases provide a source of water for monkeys. Beautiful, quirky and colorful, the 17-foot sculptures scattered along NW Davis Street in Portland, Oregon, are made from layers of translucent fiberglass with LEDs wrapping around a steel spine.

In Figure 16, a public plaza is shown transformed into a cultural icon celebrating holidays such as Day of the Dead. This design developed for an underutilized plaza in Chicago’s Little Village Neighborhood, was developed to attract children and families. It includes vertical elements of light along with projected images onto a play surface.

Alternatively, a vertical feature could consist of a water element (Figure 17) or a sculptural item or totem pole, building off the name of the park.



## STRATEGY 2 **ENHANCE THE DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING OF APACHE PARK**

### Garden Plots

Community gardening provides an outlet for neighbors to get to know each other, creates a sense of pride and community ownership of open space, and can improve public safety by having an outdoor presence in the park. Des Plaines has a long history of garden plots, such as the plots located east of Westgate Road adjacent to Terrace School. Users agree to maintain the plots and are limited to two plots per household due to high demand.

Community gardening can build on the varied ethnic make-up of the neighborhood from South Asian to Latino to Eastern European and offer a chance to share resources, learn about each other's cultures, and serve as a foundation for community building.

Gardening can also bring together multiple generations from seniors to young adults to families with children. An organized program can include harvest festivals and holiday events building off the garden and other activities in the park.

There is also potential for a green house or hoop house to provide year-round gardening opportunities.



Figure 20: A green house can provide year-round gardening.



## STRATEGY 3

## STABILIZE AND IMPROVE HOUSING STOCK



### STRATEGY 3: STABILIZE AND IMPROVE HOUSING STOCK.

**The Apache Park Neighborhood consists of several types of housing stock.**

Most of the residential area is composed of single-family housing on single lots, particularly in the northern and western sections of the neighborhood. The key issues facing these homes are the availability of parking, lighting along side streets, and safe crossings at major streets such as Mannheim Road.

There are three multifamily complexes in the neighborhood that break up the traditional street grid. In all three cases, townhomes do not have clear fronts and backs. Yards are small and storage area is limited. Parking spaces are not necessarily adjacent to units. Garbage dumpsters need adequate space and screening.

## STRATEGY 3 STABILIZE AND IMPROVE HOUSING STOCK

### Multifamily Area to the North of Apache Park

The multifamily area to the north of Apache park between Pine Street and Chestnut Street currently has blank side walls that face the street, poorly maintained parking lots, and obstructive locations for the dumpsters right at parking lot entrances.

By setting back the parking spaces from the street (along Chestnut), a new multi-use path and green space can be created that provides a buffer between parking and the street. New landscaping and lighting along the blank walls will create a more attractive environment.



- 1 Repaved and restriped parking area yields 95 spaces, 9 more than existing
- 2 New bike trail, lighting and landscaping along westside of Chestnut Street

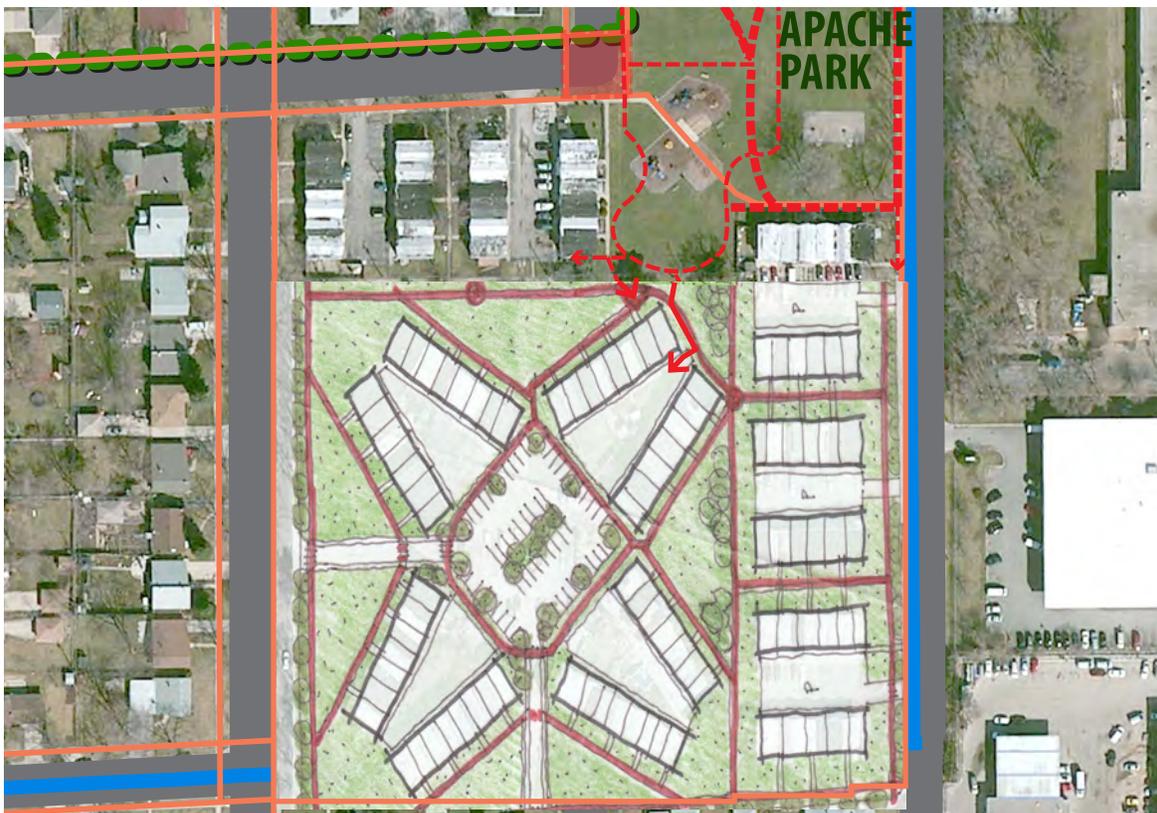
## STRATEGY 3 **STABILIZE AND IMPROVE HOUSING STOCK**

### Multifamily Area to the South of Apache Park

There are a number of possibilities to the area commonly known as the “Star.” Currently, the layout of the parking and dumpsters creates a possible public safety hazard as emergency vehicles would have difficulty navigating the narrow passages.

1. Parking needs to be reorganized and located clear of emergency vehicle access. Landscaping can be added to help define these areas and provide some screening.
2. Sidewalks need to be extended toward Apache Park and improved with lighting. The City should work with landowners to install a sidewalk that provides seamless connections.

Similar to the drawings shown previously, private spaces can be improved through a coordinated effort of a homeowners association and participation of property owners to make the complex more inviting and secure.



### STRATEGY 3 STABILIZE AND IMPROVE HOUSING STOCK



Figure 24: Multifamily Area to the North of Prospect.

Residents of Pine Court have expressed the desire for additional parking. Since parking space is limited in Pine Court's parking lot, solutions could include creating additional parking spaces outside of the lot.

- 1 Angled parking along Pine Street and Everett Avenue to replace existing parallel parking spaces. Net gain is only 8 spaces, so this is not an effective solution.
- 2 Allow use of the new parking lot south of Prospect Avenue.

### STRATEGY 3 **STABILIZE AND IMPROVE HOUSING STOCK**

A clearer sense of fronts and backs and cleaning up the small private spaces can enhance the development. This will need the cooperative effort of individual property owners and tenants. Through workshops and gardening events, small changes can make a big difference.

Figure 25: Townhomes located south of Apache Park can use a clear sense of front and back.



Figure 26: Townhomes located north of Apache Park can use small private spaces.



## STRATEGY 3 STABILIZE AND IMPROVE HOUSING STOCK

### Trash Collection

One of the major issues facing these multifamily areas is the location and collection of trash. The concerns noted by residents include fly dumping of non-residents, residents who do not dispose of trash properly, and landscape companies that deposit yard waste in the dumpsters or open areas. There are several solutions that are possible.

The City of Des Plaines is currently negotiating a citywide contract with a private waste hauler for single-family properties. The Apache Park Neighborhood multifamily areas could attach onto this contract to potentially save money, while making improvements. This would also be a good opportunity to improve the location and screening of the dumpsters. The examples of photos below show a wide range of commercial products available that provide screening of dumpsters and opportunities for recycling and composting that can reduce the problems reported by local residents.

Figure 27: Residents are concerned over the appropriate disposal of trash.



Figure 28: Opportunities for recycling can reduce problems.



## STRATEGY 3 **STABILIZE AND IMPROVE HOUSING STOCK**

### **Housing Improvement Fund**

The City can also consider creating a Housing Improvement Fund to incentivize property owners to invest in their properties. This incentive may be needed because the benefit to one property owner of making repairs may have limited returns if it is a one-off investment, but if a large number of property owners start to improve, the benefits will accumulate.

The fund can be structured as a portion of eligible expenses that are consistent with the public good. For example, the City of Elgin's Residential Rehabilitation Program provides funds to encourage and assist property owners in maintaining and improving the exterior of their homes and neighborhood. The program provides up to \$10,000 or \$15,000 for income-eligible households. The program also covers lead paint hazard reduction, accessibility modifications, and emergency repairs.

The City can also look for grant opportunities through Cook County, the State of Illinois or HUD to provide funds for housing rehabilitation and foreclosure mitigation. The newly forming Cook County Land Bank, for example, is developing guidelines for acquisition of properties in suburban Cook County that meet local plans and strategies.

## STRATEGY 4 DESIGN OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACES



Figure 29: Pine Court's parking lot is a good example of CPTED, it is well-defined and lit.

### STRATEGY 4: IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACES.

**A review of the study area identified a number of locations where improvements can be made based on CPTED principles.**

Maintenance: There are a number of locations in the neighborhood where improvements to maintenance of private yards and open spaces can dramatically improve the sense of safety and security in the area. In some cases, the issue may be due to overlapping ownership of easements making it unclear who is responsible for maintaining the property. Part of this effort can be organized through a homeowners association or other means of gathering property owners and tenants together to sort through who is responsible for maintaining outdoor spaces – whether they are yards, sidewalks or parking areas. Pine Court, for example, has made significant improvements over time that can be emulated in other multi-family areas of the neighborhood.

## STRATEGY 4 DESIGN OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACES

**Natural Access Control:** Sidewalks and open spaces need clear sense of ownership and maintenance, and in some cases, need to be connected and completed. The City of Des Plaines should work with property owners and the potential for a homeowners association in the southeast portion of the neighborhood to map out who is responsible for what sidewalks, any repairs that are needed, and connections that need to be made. Strategy 6 of this plan shows a mark-up of locations where sidewalks and parking areas can be improved and connections made clearer.

**Territorial Reinforcement:** Related to natural access control, territorial reinforcement relates to clearly defining spaces such as through the use of low shrubbery or low, attractive fences. The purpose is to define spaces to improve a sense of place and a sense of security, without creating obstructions or a loss of a line of plain sight. A low, wrought iron fence around Apache Park could help set a signal of the importance of the space. Any fencing should be very easy to see through and of a high quality of material so that remains attractive over time. Lighting can also be used in a sensitive manner to define spaces within open areas.

**Surveillance:** “Eyes on the street” is an essential ingredient to improve public safety and a sense of security. Several “blind” areas such as the area along Chestnut Street from Everett Avenue to Fargo Avenue, particularly at the cul-de-sac at the southern portion, can be improved through proper lighting, clearing of brush, and improvements to the sidewalk. The southern end in particular needs to be cleared of brush with new fencing installed. Cameras may be considered for this area as well.

**Pedestrian Crossings:** There are a number of locations in which pedestrian crossings need to be improved, particularly at the crossing of the neighborhood’s residential streets with the surrounding major arterials. Striped crossings are needed at Lee Street and Touhy as well as Mannheim and Touhy. Improvements can be made for the pedestrian crossing at Prospect Avenue and Mannheim, the only signalized crossing on the east side of the study area. A crossing is also needed to connect the St. Stephen’s Church area northward across Mannheim to the residential area at the northern portion of the study area. Improved crossings are also needed at the intersection of Lee St. and Mannheim and at Lee Street and Howard Avenue.

**Bicycle Routes and Paths:** As will be discussed in Strategy 6, a new bike route and striping is needed for the route between Lake Park on the west, across Highland Avenue eastward, through Apache Park and north up Chestnut Street and east at Prospect Avenue toward Arndt Park.

# STRATEGY 4 DESIGN OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACES

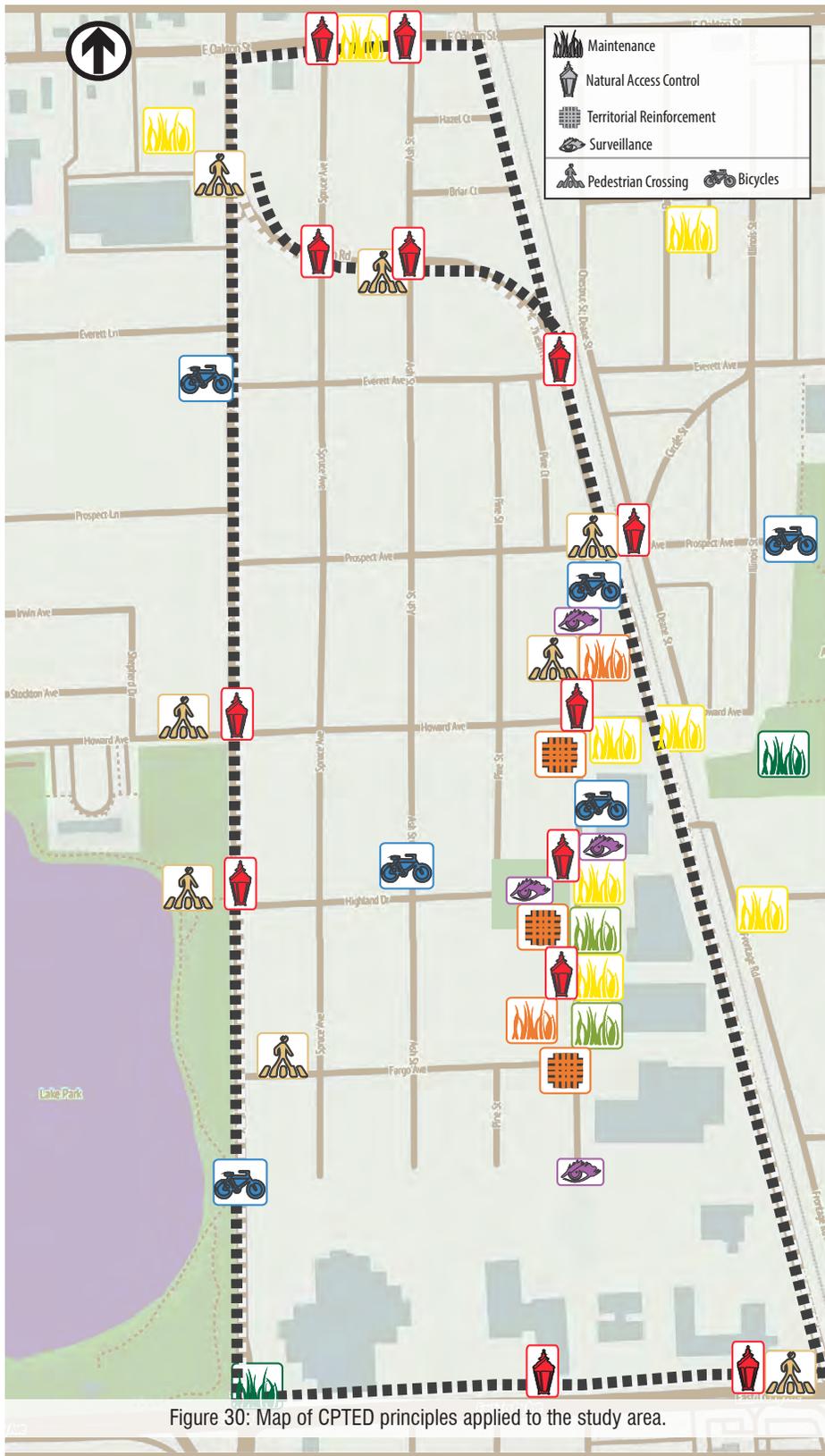


Figure 30: Map of CPTED principles applied to the study area.

## STRATEGY 4 DESIGN OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACES

### Gateway Plaza

The intersection at Prospect Avenue between Chestnut Street and Mannheim Road is an important visual entry to the neighborhood. A long vacant parcel is not large enough for a new development, but can be repurposed into a new Gateway Plaza. The plaza could include a kiosk such as a coffee stand or ice cream store, or simply be used as a public amenity with a seating area.

Critical to this area is the need for additional parking. The southwest corner of Prospect Avenue and Chestnut Street has a vacant parcel that could be acquired and converted into neighborhood parking.

Code enforcement is needed for businesses further south on the block that currently have an overflow of parking of vehicles they are working on. These vehicles should not be stored on public streets. The City could work with the business to relocate to a larger site in Des Plaines that has adequate space to store all vehicles.

If this is the case, the full block (north of the city's water tower) could be rehabilitated or replaced with a new commercial development that would have strong visibility to the high traffic volume along Mannheim and serve the retail needs of the neighborhood.



Figure 31: Gateway Plaza at Prospect & Mannheim.

- 1 New plaza with seating, lighting and landscape
- 2 Small food stand or gazebo
- 3 New parking lot on vacant site (approximately 27 spaces)

## STRATEGY 5 IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

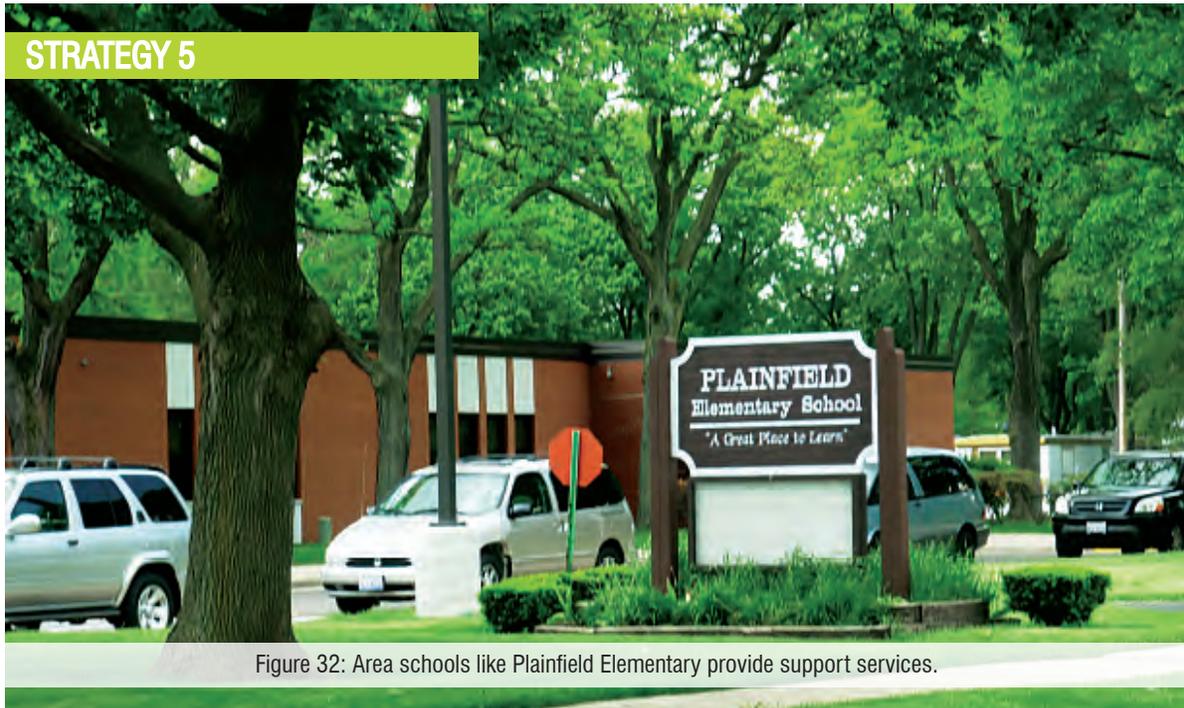


Figure 32: Area schools like Plainfield Elementary provide support services.

### STRATEGY 5: IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND USE OF OPEN SPACES TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY WELL-BEING.

The three primary community anchors of the neighborhood form a loose triangle of activity centers.

At the north, St. Stephen's Church and Our Lady of Destiny School are strong community anchors, providing an array of programming and serve the neighborhood as well as the larger Des Plaines community. To the west, Lake Park is a regional destination from picnics to fishing to golf to play areas. To the east, Apache Park is an underutilized asset that needs new life and vitality that will attract positive activities, pride of place, and a safe, smaller community park.

In addition, the public schools for local residents are major centers of activity and connection for local families including Plainfield School, South Elementary School, Algonquin Middle School, and Maine West High School. A wide range of support services are provided through the schools, such as the bilingual classrooms of K-3 at Plainfield School, and educational programming and anti-gang programs in the schools.

## STRATEGY 5 IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

A coordinated effort between District 62, the Des Plaines Park District, and City of Des Plaines can help provide the types of activities and programs that are needed by families and provide opportunities for children, particularly in elementary through middle school prior to problems associated with negative behaviors.

A homeowners association and/or neighborhood association can be critical partners in working with the schools, city and park district to identify activities and programs that will have a positive impact on youth.

Through interviews and neighborhood meetings, a variety of issues were identified by local residents, from the financial strain felt by adults trying to support their families, to the lack of knowledge of some parents, to negative influences that have come into the area that are due to larger societal issues.

### St. Stephen's Church

The St. Stephen's Church block provides an excellent opportunity to build upon an existing neighborhood strength. The block includes the church, Our Lady of Destiny School and a number of houses owned and used by the church for offices. A campus plan for the block can be developed that better meets the needs of the church and school, and provides amenities for the neighborhood as well.

Currently, the parking lot is used to serve the school during the week and the church during services and special events. During school days, the children play in the parking lot rather than having a dedicated outdoor space. Improvements can be made to the underutilized green spaces (1 and 2), as well as the parking lot area to create defined play spaces, improved landscaping, and sufficient parking. The northern portion of the block composed of two former homes and out-buildings can also be better utilized.



The physical improvements recommended in this plan will help improve the outdoor environment, opening up view corridors, cleaning up sidewalks, installing more lighting, etc. But without a concerted effort across multiple organizations, these spaces may not be activated and some youth may remain disconnected.

## STRATEGY 6 IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY



Figure 34: The Apache Park neighborhood is in close proximity to major centers such as Downtown Des Plaines.

### STRATEGY 6: IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSETS AND SURROUNDING AREAS

The Apache Park Neighborhood is well located proximate to all modes of transit and excellent vehicle access to I 90 and major arterials. The area's walkability integrity, however, is compromised by a double row of barriers at the eastern edge (Chestnut and Mannheim), and along the south by Touhy Avenue and large expanses of parking lots.

Improvements for bicycles and pedestrians can help bridge these divides.

## STRATEGY 6 **IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY**

### **Bike Route**

There is currently a little-noticed bike route along Chestnut Street from Prospect Avenue to Fargo Street and west to Lake Park. This route should be slightly adjusted to traverse westward from Chestnut Street through Apache Park and west to Lake Park along Highland Drive. This will increase activity in the park and reinforce the connection between the two parks. Improvements would be needed along Chestnut Street for either striping of a bike lane or the creation of a multi-use path on the west side of the street between Prospect Avenue and Highland Drive. Elements of the bike route can include:

1. Bike and pedestrian crossing signals to allow safe crossing of Mannheim Road to Arndt Park
2. Bike route signs at Chestnut Street and Prospect Avenue
3. Proposed new bike trail along west side of Chestnut Street
4. Proposed bike trail through Apache Park
5. New bike trail along Highland Drive
6. Bike and pedestrian crossing signals to allow safe crossing of Lee Street to Lake Park

### **Pedestrian Paths**

While the residential blocks of the neighborhood were based initially on a common street grid, there are “broken teeth” that need better connections.

1. New pedestrian paths through Apache Park
2. New and improved paths in multifamily parking lot to north
3. Improved paths in multifamily area
4. Bike and pedestrian crossing signals to allow safe crossing of Lee Street to Lake Park
5. Bike and pedestrian crossing signals to allow safe crossing of Mannheim Road to Arndt Park

# STRATEGY 6 IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY



Figure 35: A safe bike route through Apache Park (connecting Arndt Park to Lake Park).

# STRATEGY 6 IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY

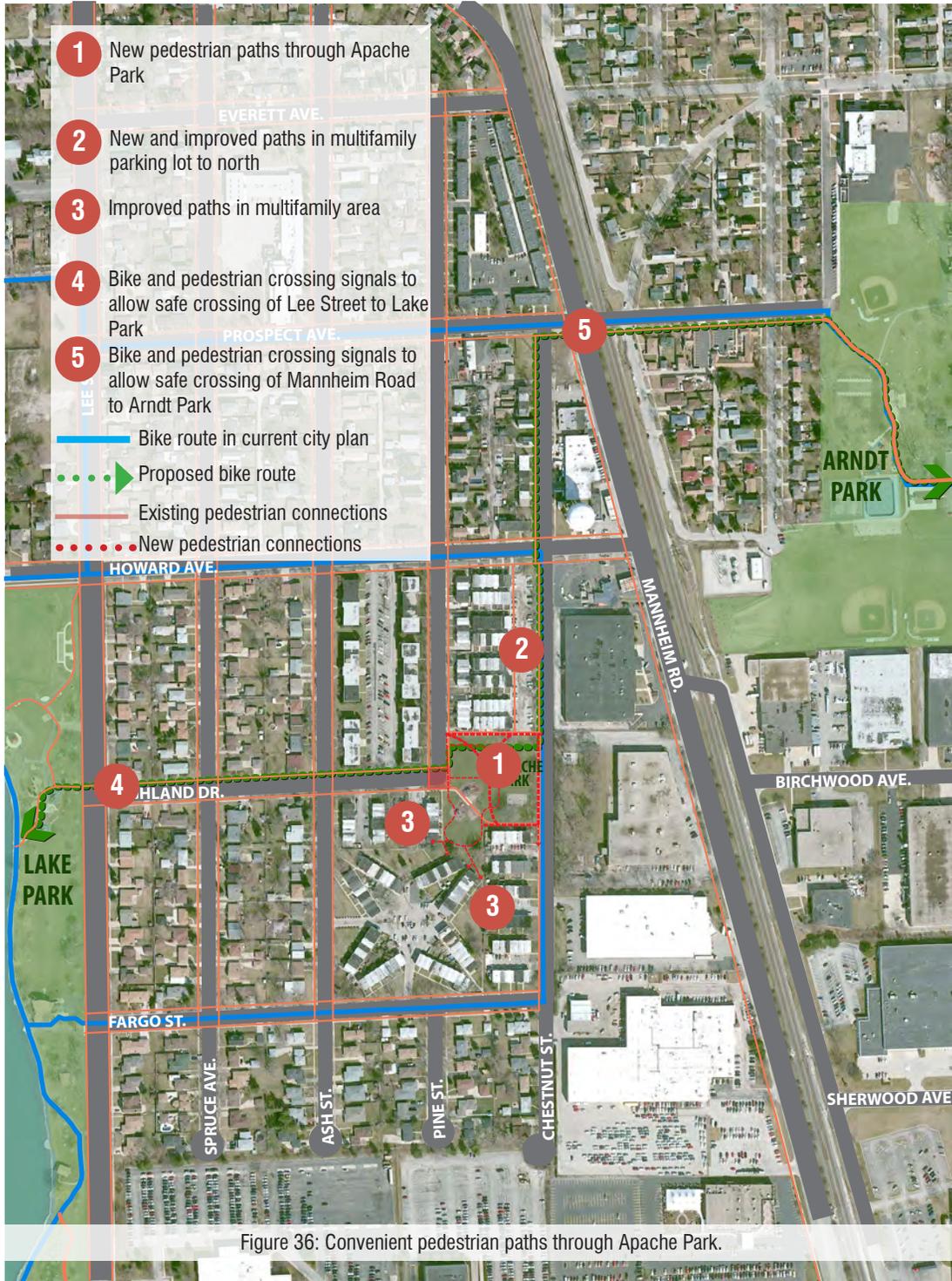


Figure 36: Convenient pedestrian paths through Apache Park.

## STRATEGY 6 IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY

### Potential for New Road Connection

As discussed in Strategy 2 above, there is a possibility for a new, narrow road at the northern end of Apache Park to connect Pine Street and Chestnut Street. This road could potentially be extended east to Mannheim Road, providing better access to the neighborhood, and improved visibility to Apache Park. A direct connection would provide a major improvement to pedestrians who now have to walk up to Howard Avenue to reach points to the east or south.



- 1 New narrow treelined street along northern edge of park to create a better definition of the park. The street also provides a real address for the multifamily to the north.
- 2 Long term, there is potential to extend the street east to Mannheim Road, providing better access to the overall neighborhood.