

Gordon Park

Revitalization Plan by Rielly Heintz

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge in Milwaukee that we are on traditional Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk and Menominee homeland along the southwest shores of Michigami, North America's largest system of freshwater lakes, where the Milwaukee, Menominee and Kinnickinnic rivers meet and the people of Wisconsin's sovereign Anishinaabe, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Oneida and Mohican nations remain present.

Land acknowledgement provided by Electa Quinney Institute

Milwaukee Greenway Master Plan

The River Revitalization Foundation already does a great job handling invasives in this area and the success of this plan relies on their continued efforts.

There are a number of organizations that are working together to improve the Milwaukee River, including Milwaukee County Parks, the Urban Ecology Center, MMSD and many, many others. Thank you for your efforts.

Community Engagement

This site is important to me because I am directly involved in the surrounding neighborhood. This park is a central hub in the artist neighborhood of Riverwest in Milwaukee. I think if the community were to engage with the future possibilities of this site, we could build a more welcoming area for all to enjoy.

Restoration acknowledges damage, makes it visible, and attempts repair.

It is not about where to be, but how to act.

-Wild by Design, Laura J. Martin

Gordon Park

Highly public area bordered by the streets and many footpaths including the paved trail that exists where the Beerline Railway is to be.



History

The Wisconsin Lakes Ice House sat on top of the bluff until, in **1911** there was a fire that burned down the 5 story building, tumbling debris down the steep incline into the river.



The foundation
of the building
is still evident in
the site



photo: Carl Swanson

River Swimming

There was a swimming area constructed in 1909 along the river which served until the late 1930's

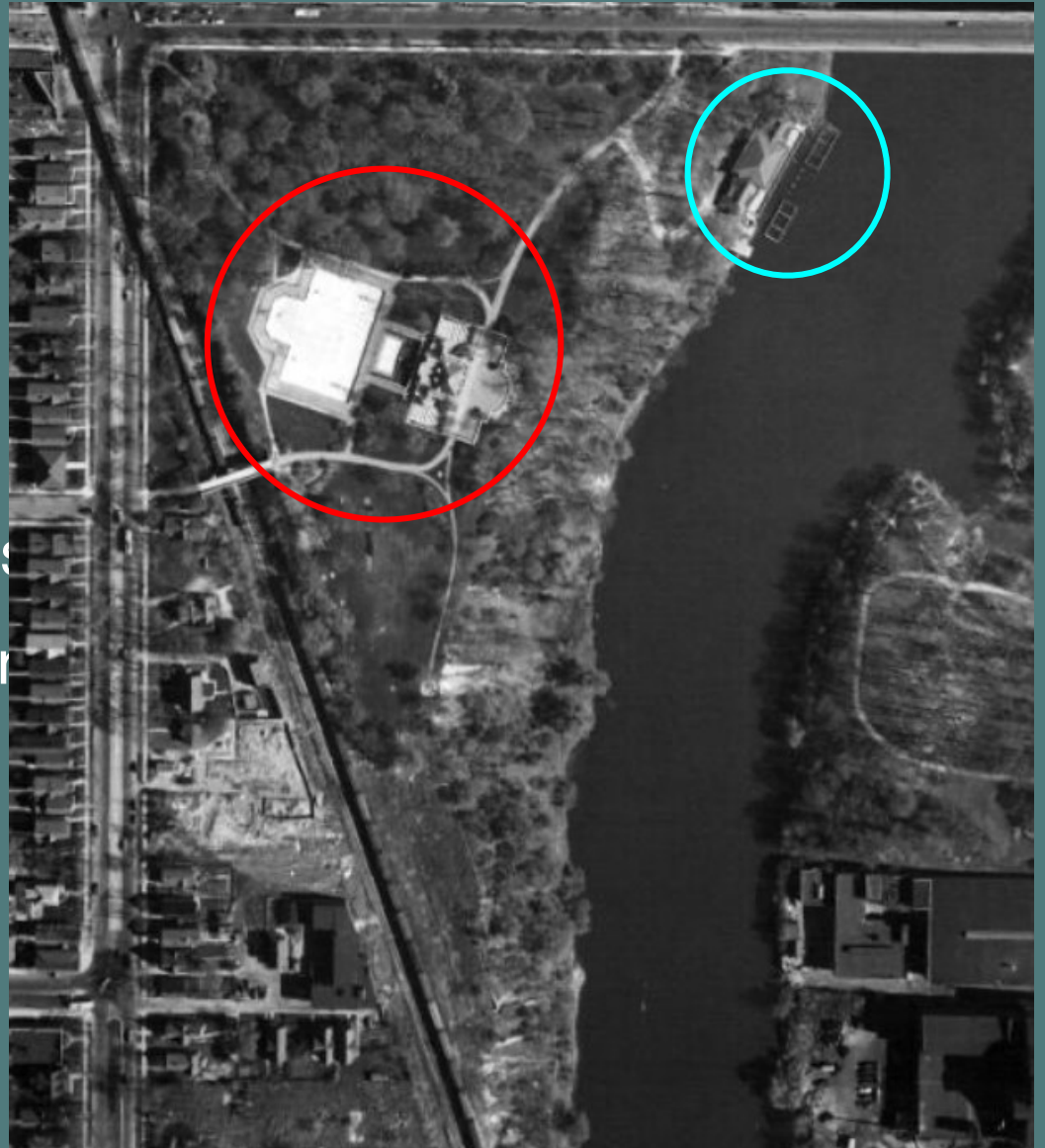
Postcard collection of Carl Swanson



Pool

WPA funds provided a pool on top of the bluff until it was tore down in the late 90's and in the early 2000's the current facilities were installed.

Aerial Photo 1951



Floodplain Formation

With the removal of the North dam downstream, the floodplain took shape in the river, adding a large portion of floodplain to

Aerial Photo 2000



Invasive plants

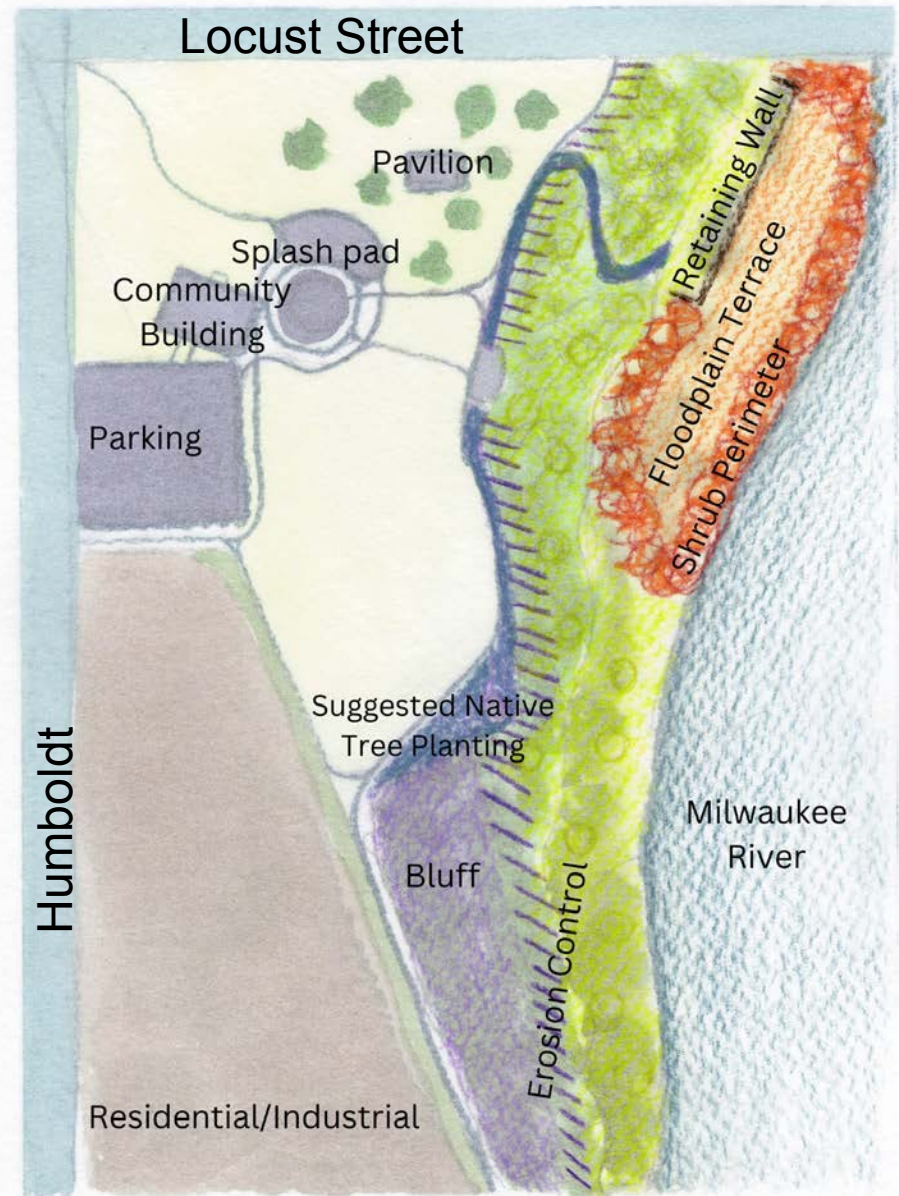
Because of the recent formation of the floodplain, invasive plants have taken hold

Photo: Dan Collins



Ideas for Improvement

My suggestions for the floodplain terrace is to tarp/smother Reed Canary Grass, Thistle, Phragmites and Burdock that are dominating currently. after smothering, we would plant natives that might thrive in this kind of environment.



Moving towards

After several years of prepping and planting native sedges, grasses, and other species that will add to habitat diversity, we could cut and plant into the terrace from nearby willow trees.

DNR, example of healthy Shrub-Carr Community.

Photo: Joshua G. Cohen



Native Trees

Another major improvement I would make to this park is to add native fruit and nut trees.

I think the addition of Hazelnut, Wild or American Plum, and Serviceberry would help improve habitat for humans and animals.

Aerial Photo 2005



You don't have to use gold

to put yourself back together

glue is just fine.

-Rielly Heintz