

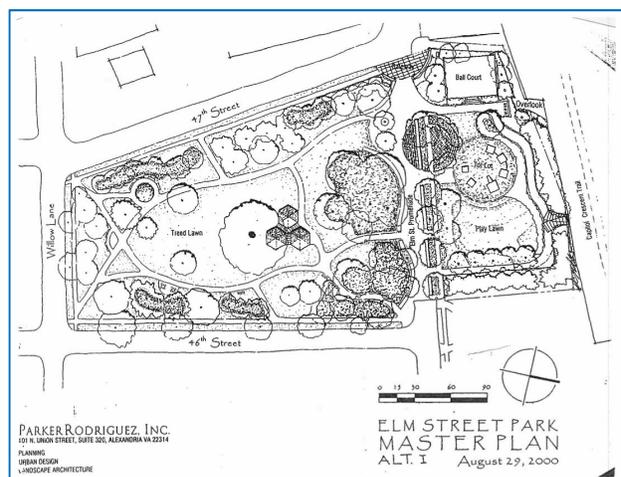
Appendix IV: Elm Street Urban Park



Elm Street Urban Park is located in downtown Bethesda, on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue, just outside of the Central Business District (CBD). The park is approximately two acres in size and was originally constructed as a park in the early 1980's. The park consists of two discreet but connected areas, referred to as the southern and northern portions, separated by a block-long section of the abandoned Elm Street road right-of-way. The former right-of-way was transformed into a tree-lined promenade with seating areas providing convenient east-west access between the CBD and the residential neighborhoods east of Wisconsin Avenue, in the Town of Chevy Chase. A direct connection to the Air Rights tunnel and the Metropolitan Branch Trail is provided by an existing trail in the park.

A park master plan was reviewed by the Planning Board in December of 2000, as part of the approval process for a Project Plan for the adjacent Air Rights Property. As part of that approval, the developer of the Air Rights property agreed to renovate the southern portion of the park. The renovation included new trails and seating areas, site furnishings, landscape plantings, and the restoration of an existing public art piece. Construction was completed in 2009.

In 2010, the Planning Board approved a Project Plan amendment for the Air Rights property for 7300 Pearl Street. As part of that approval the developer agreed to participate in a public-private partnership to renovate the northern portion of the park. The Planning Board's approval



established a list of improvements that the developer was responsible for providing. At that time these improvements totaled between \$550,000-\$600,000 and included reconstruction of the east-west promenade, providing the hardscape and infrastructure for a new state-of-the-art playground, a new bike path connection to the Metropolitan Branch Trail, walls, fencing, lighting, signage, landscape planting, utilities, design and engineering services, stormwater management, etc.

It was anticipated that the Department of Parks would construct the remaining improvements including playground equipment and resilient, rubberized surfacing, renovate the basketball court, provide shade structures, ornamental gateways, public art, a drinking fountain, and possibly reroute or underground overhead utility lines.



The Town of Chevy Chase was also committed to contributing towards the cost of the improvements.

At this time, the schedule for the renovation of the northern portion of the park is not certain as the approved development of 7300 Pearl Street, has not proceeded.