



## MARGATE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

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4921 N. MARINE DRIVE

CHICAGO, IL

60640

September 3, 2005

Alderman Mary Ann Smith  
48<sup>th</sup> Ward  
5533 N. Broadway  
Chicago, Illinois 60640

Dear Alderman Smith:

Margate Park now has a spectacular play lot that children and their guardians visit in great numbers. We are very appreciative of your efforts in making that a reality.

We would like to request respectfully that you consider some further needs of our park. A longstanding one has been for the enlargement of the field house itself, perhaps by the addition of a second story. The members of the Council agree with me that Supervisor John Davidson and his staff do a superb job running their programs. Facilities are seriously cramped however, especially in the busy summer season.

Given that not all large infrastructure improvements can happen "over night," there are some smaller improvements to the Field House that would be very helpful to the staff. These include: adding air-conditioning to the heavily utilized gym and work-out rooms, and modifying some of the under-utilized locker space in both the women's and men's areas to provide for extra storage.

Another improvement that you made possible was the creation of our new native plants garden in the area of the old play lot. The Council and the Carmen Winona Garden Club are pleased to tell you that virtually all plants are "green and upright" in spite of the draught, and appear to be establishing their roots successfully. We have been watering religiously, stretching a hose across the street from the hydrant at Carmen and Marine.

It would be a wonderful thing if you could help us establish a watering source nearer the garden though, as many of our loyal volunteers don't have the time or strength required to manage the length of hosing (approximately 300 feet) now required. Another desired improvement would be permanent low fencing so that the garden doesn't look "ad hoc." The Park District was asked about permanent garden fencing, but they were not encouraging. They are, however, working with us to find and re-use wooden plank benches, to set up in the garden vicinity. We hold fast to the idea that the native plants garden can be the center of an attractive, quiet gathering place for the community.

Thank you for considering these requests and for balancing them with the other worthy requests that come before you.

Sincerely,

*Edward C Read*

Edward C. Read, President of the Margate Park Advisory Council