



**Plan Narrative**

The design of Gelatin Factory Park is guided by an emphasis on using natural elements in a way that creates a unique community attraction. Gelatin Factory Park should be a special place that attracts people because of both its physical setting and the activities it provides. The Park would facilitate a range of passive and active recreational activities, as well as community/cultural events, with facilities designed to reinforce the park's naturalistic theme. The east side of the park is more passive while the west side is more active. Gelatin Factory Park is designed to attract people of all ages. Key features of the park include:

**Smokestack Green and Garden:** The focal point of the park is the preserved smokestack, which serves to punctuate the arrival to the park from Railroad Avenue. A formal oval lawn is designed around the old smokestack, ringed by walking paths and flower gardens. Historical markers and interpretive programming will tell the story of the former Gelatin Factory. Designed as a gathering space, this feature would facilitate a range of activities year-round.

*Summer Activities:*

- strolling around the gardens
- impromptu games around the smokestack
- traditional lawn games such as croquette, bowling or bocce
- art festivals, pet shows; Easter egg hunt, etc.
- movie in the park
- small child tri-cycling

*Winter Activities:*

- ◊ ice skating/hockey/skating oval
- ◊ Christmas light displays

**Children's Play Area:** Located on the passive side of the park, four play areas are designed to facilitate small child play via interaction with natural elements.

**Recirculating Stream:** designed as a small stream through a rock outcrop, the recirculating stream allows small children to play with water in a natural but controlled environment.

**Hill Country:** a series of small hills, berms and landforms serve as natural play apparatus for small children.

**Log Stepping:** cut logs of various heights facilitate practices of small children's motor skills such as stepping, jumping and balancing.

**Tree House Village:** located on the edge of the woods, a series of tree houses connected by rope nets and bridges safely challenges children to use agility and balance to move through the village.

**Walking/Jogging Path.** The outer perimeter of the path system provides a 1/2 mile jogging/walking course through woods, hills and open park. The paths can be used for cross-country skiing in winter.

**Multi-Purpose Pavilion.** The small building opposite the Smokestack Green and Gardens facilitates group events such as yoga and Pilates, as well as functional needs such as restrooms, vending, concessions, storage, etc.

**Fitness Course.** A series of fitness/exercise stations are located along the jogging/walking path.

**Climbing/Sledding Hill.** A small 12' - 15' hill will provide interest for walkers/joggers, as well as allow for small child sledding in the winter.

**Curvilinear Park Drive.** The curving drive will: 1) create a strong sense of entry focused on the Smokestack Green; and 2) calm traffic to allow free flow of pedestrians.

**Central Park Parking.** Central Park needs more parking in the western part of the park. 25 spaces have been provided and more can be added if needed.

**GELATIN FACTORY PARK; HYBRID CONCEPT PLAN**

Village of Grayslake, Illinois

December 28, 2017

Prepared By: Camiros

NORTH   
SCALE: 1" = 40'

OBSERVATION TOWER