

BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY CAMPUS

(k-8 arts joint use/ art magnet school)

RETHINKING AN URBAN SCHOOLS RELATIONSHIP TO ITS COMMUNITY

Elizabeth Manser // Thesis // Prof. Gerry Gast // 6.2013





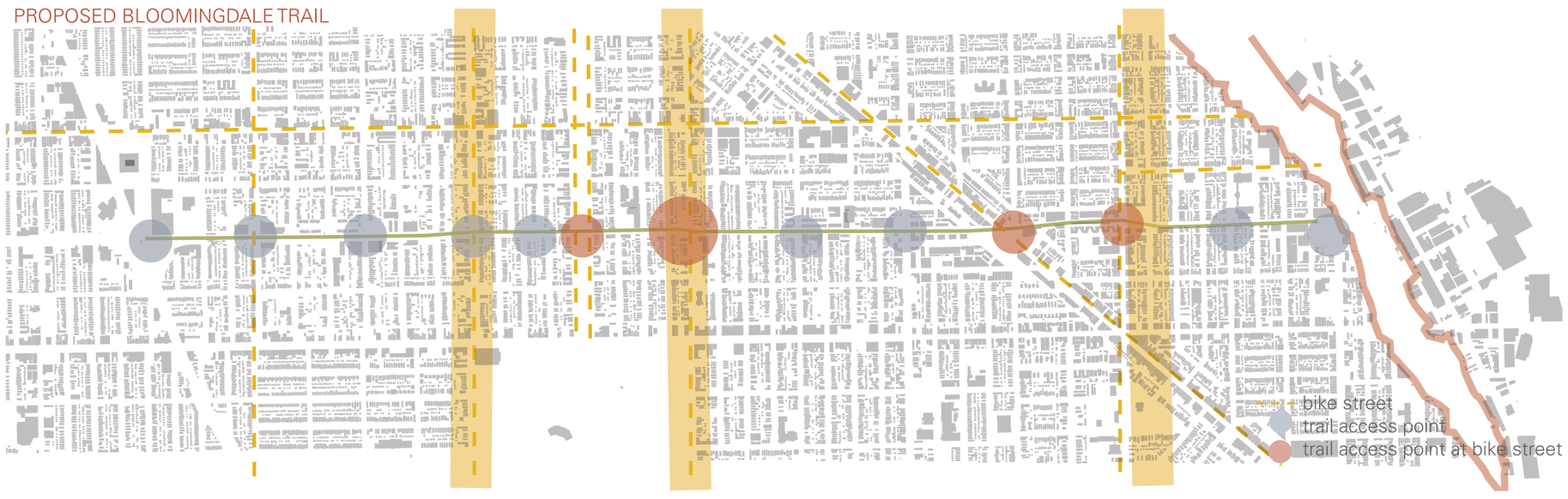



PAST CHICAGO MAYOR RICHARD DALEY:

'Chicago is known for its beautiful lake front, its dramatic skyline, and its outstanding architecture. But Chicago is much more than that. It is a city of neighborhoods. Much of my work as mayor consists of using the tools of government to create the conditions that can lead to healthy, livable, thriving communities. So how does government help building stronger neighborhoods? You start by building what I call community anchors: schools, libraries, parks and police and fire stations. The most important anchor, by far, is the school.'

(the third teacher)

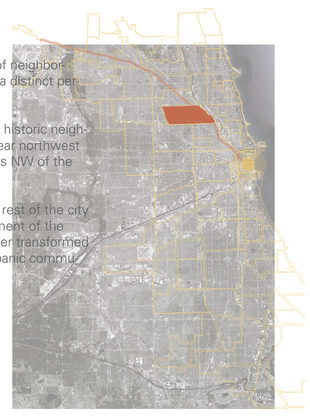
PROPOSED BLOOMINGDALE TRAIL



LOCATION:
Chicago is a city of neighborhoods, each with a distinct personality.

Logan Square is a historic neighborhood on the near northwest side, about 5 miles NW of the "Loop"

Severed from the rest of the city with the development of the 1-90 corridor, it later transformed into a vibrant Hispanic community.





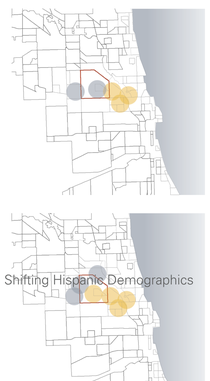






CLIENT:
The neighborhood is in the midst of a wave of gentrification. The steep rent increases and condo conversions are pricing its current residents out.

Simultaneously, the public school enrollments are dropping as the newer residents send students to private schools. One of the goals of this project is community stabilization through a new public school model that envelopes the neighborhood community, and the city as a whole. The project works in tandem with Chicago Public Schools and the Logan Square Parent Engagement Institute - a program designed to encourage interaction between parents, the community, and the school.

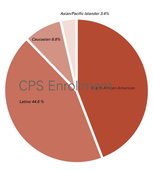


SCHOOLS:
Chicago Public Schools is a gigantic institution of over 280 schools.

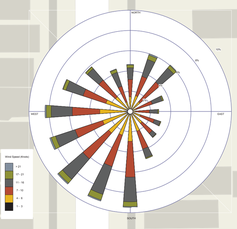
CPS is one of the most segregated school districts with a high drop out rate.

Chicago Public Schools are currently in the midst of closing 50 schools. This brings to question the current school model, and the opportunity to create a more diverse and sustainable model for community schools.





CORTLAND STREET
MOZART ST
CALIFORNIA AVE
FAIRFIELD AVE
WABANSIA AVE




Potential vista from trail lookout

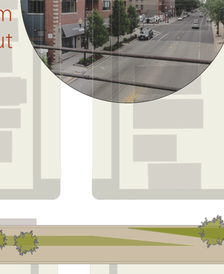
SITE:
Chicago's Motto is "Urbs in Horto" - meaning "City in a Garden". When the motto was adopted in 1837, a plan was adopted for a system of parks which would beautify and connect the quickly growing city.

Olmstead designed these parks to be lined on either side with large boulevards, and would encircle the whole city.

The new Bloomingdale Trail will serve as a horizontal addition to this greenspace

Elevated urban greenspace

Trail wall graffiti


Charter computer science high school

PATTERN LANGUAGE:
Logan Square is a surprisingly dense, low rise neighborhood. In fact, the neighborhood has one of the lowest percentages of greenspace in the city. Small alleys with ancillary structures create a fine grained fabric to fit in to.

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