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August 26, 2025

The Park District of Franklin Park has purchased the property at 2920 Maple Street, furthering our mission to increase public green space, support sustainability initiatives, and create educational opportunities for our community. The house, built in 1882, and property were the longtime residence of the Draper family, including Hiram Draper, the third Village President of Franklin Park.

In December 2024, the Park District received a \$255,000 Open Space Land Acquisition Development (OSLAD) grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The nearly 1-acre site includes a two-story home built in 1882, predating the Village's incorporation, along with two detached garages. The district plans to keep the house and two-story garage for storage. The surrounding grounds will be used as a public garden to promote sustainability and community engagement through gardening. The site is planned for complete redevelopment in 3-5 years while still maintaining a passive park atmosphere. Renovation plans include a walking path with fitness stations, community gardens, public gardens including decorative, pollinator and native plantings, a children's exploration play area, picnic shelter, an arbor with game tables, and a greenhouse.

We're excited to grow this unique space into a vibrant community destination that honors the past while planting seeds for a sustainable future. Stay tuned for updates at fpparks.org & our social media channels.

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