

## Phase I and II Wirth Beach Improvements

Phase I and II improvements are also rooted in the **1980 plan**. A citizen advisory committee, convened in 2002, further refined plans for the beach area, and a schematic plan was approved in 2003. Renovation of the beach house was completed in 2005.

In preparation for Phase II, the 2003 plan was updated to reflect current and new uses of the site as well as the influence of the 2007 MPRB Comprehensive Plan. **The updated plan** was presented to the public at an informational open house July 6, 2009.

Construction of Phase II began in 2009 and includes a new playground, relocated volleyball courts, a half basketball court, trails, a concrete terrace overlooking the beach, and a floating boardwalk to mark the perimeter of the swimming area.



Postcard of Aqua Follies pool.  
Courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

Volleyball courts are being relocated to the west side of the beach house building, preserving the current four sand courts. The volleyball courts represent the most significant change to the schematic plan, which would have reduced the number of sand volleyball courts to two. This plan change reflects the

The design for the playground for the older children is inspired by the Aqua Follies, an Aquatennial synchronized swimming event staged at Wirth lake annually from the 1940s to 1964. The play area for the younger children will have a **boat-themed structure**. The playground will be where the volleyball courts were located.



strong usage of the sand volleyball courts, which have gained in popularity as a result of the 2008 summer Olympics and programmed league play.

A concrete terrace will overlook the beach on the volleyball side of the building. The building edges will be softened by removing some of the attached walkways and replacing them with lawn and planting beds. A new half basketball court will offer variety for family gatherings on the east edge of the site. Picnic areas and re-aligned trails are also planned.

The trail submerged by an expanding wetland will be brought closer to the lake and cross the wetland outlet via a bridge. Finally, a 400-foot long floating boardwalk will circle the swimming area. It will allow strolling as well as access to the water, like the floating platforms of years past.