

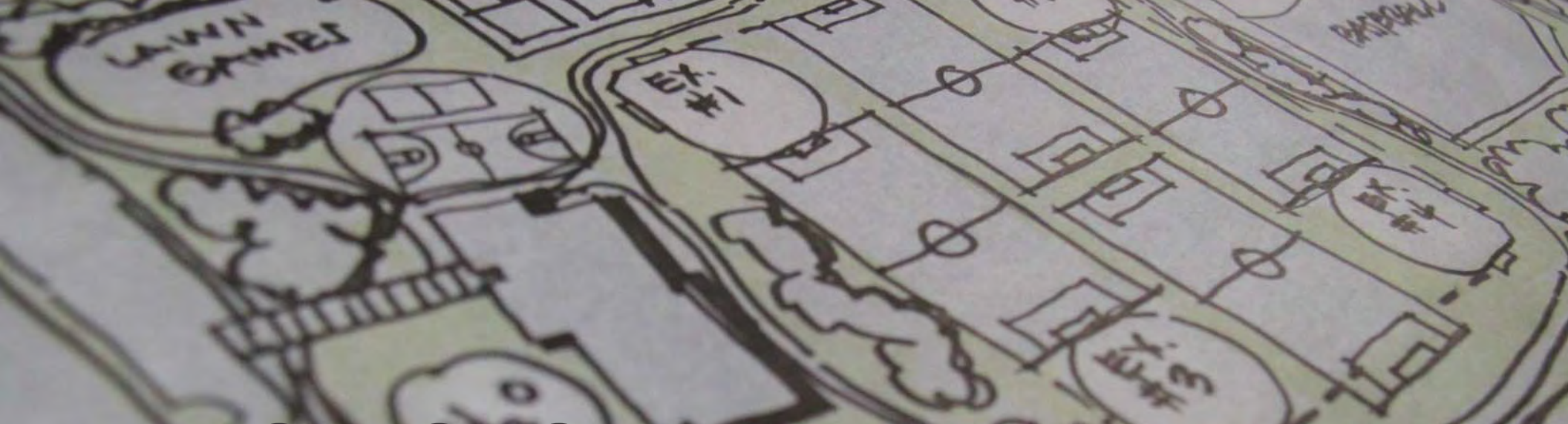
# 4 PARK PLANS



## **SECTION CONTENTS:**

- INTRODUCTION
- KEY/LEGEND
- PARK PLANS & COST ESTIMATES

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# INTRODUCTION

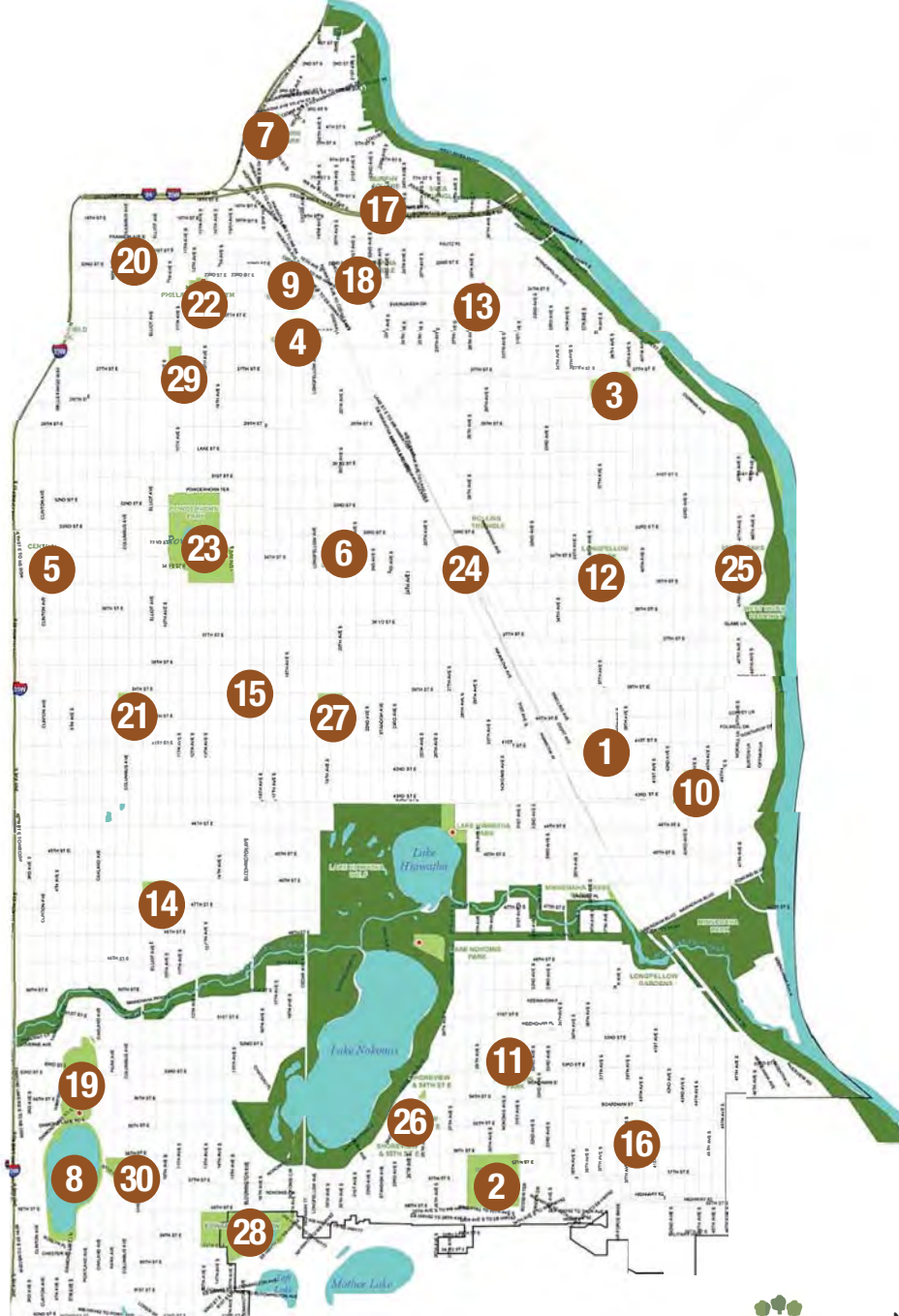
The South Service Area Master Plan creates unique new designs for 27 of the 32 neighborhood park properties in the service area (the remaining 5 are “special consideration” parks as described on the following page). Those designs appear on the following pages, arranged alphabetically. The plan for each park is displayed as a 6 or 8 page “packet” of information that includes the following:

- A description of the history and current character of the park, along with a location map.
- An aerial photograph of existing conditions at the park, for reference
- A written description of the proposed plan for the park, including some overview of public sentiment during the planning process
- The park plan drawing and key
- A matrix showing general input themes and how they led to the final design
- A cost and operations estimate (see chapter 6 for detailed information on cost estimates). The operations estimate reflects the difference between the existing operational costs and the estimated operational cost .

The neighborhood park plans are concepts. That means they do not finalize every detail in the park. Subsequent capital improvement projects will require detailed design processes, and additional community engagement will be performed at that time, per MPRB policy and ACTION 3. The park plans do not specifically locate small features in the park, like benches and signs. Instead, they are a guide to the overall layout of the park and what will be included in the park in the future.

## NOKOMIS/HIAWATHA

The parks surrounding the two recreation centers at Lakes Nokomis and Hiawatha are not included in the South Service Area Master Plan. Though they host neighborhood-type facilities, they are both officially within the boundary of Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park, for which there is an approved master plan. That Regional Park Master Plan is the guiding document for these park areas.



= Regional Parks (not included in South Service Area Master Plan)  
 = Recreation Center



Figure 4.1 - Park Location Key

## \* SPECIAL CONSIDERATION PARKS

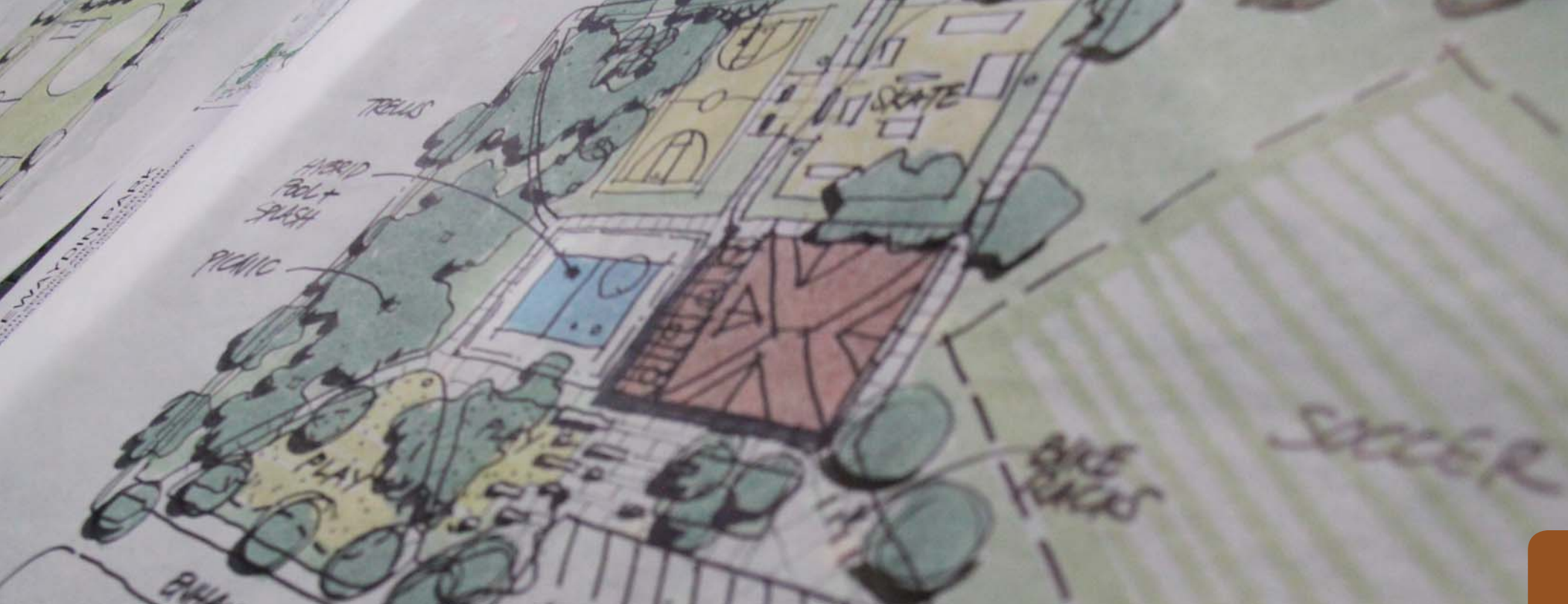
Several park properties do not have full packets of information included in the SSAMP document at this time. The reasons for this vary by park and are described in abbreviated park packets appearing in alphabetical sequence with the other parks. Those park properties and the basic reasons for special consideration are:

- Bossen Field: recently master planned independently of the SSAMP.
- Cedar Avenue Field: insufficient community engagement prevented final design.
- East Phillips: community decision to not master plan at this time
- Meridian Garden: managed by community group
- Rollins Triangle: tiny park triangle impacted by Minnehaha Avenue reconstruction

## PARKS INCLUDED

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Adams Triangle        | 20. Peavey Field Park                       |
| 2. Bossen Field*         | 21. Phelps Field Park                       |
| 3. Brackett Field        | 22. Phillips Community Center               |
| 4. Cedar Avenue Field*   | 23. Powderhorn Park                         |
| 5. Central Gym Park      | 24. Rollins Triangle*                       |
| 6. Corcoran Park         | 25. Seven Oaks Oval                         |
| 7. Currie Park           | 26. Shoreview Triangles (3 park properties) |
| 8. Diamond Lake          | 27. Sibley Park                             |
| 9. East Phillips Park*   | 28. Solomon Park                            |
| 10. Hiawatha School Park | 29. Stewart Park                            |
| 11. Keewaydin Park       | 30. Todd Park                               |
| 12. Longfellow Park      |   |
| 13. Matthews Park        |   |
| 14. McRae Park           |   |
| 15. Meridian Garden*     |   |
| 16. Morris Park          |   |
| 17. Murphy Square        |   |
| 18. Normanna Triangle    |   |
| 19. Pearl Park           |   |

\* These parks are considered as a part of the overall service area master plan but are considered "special consideration" parks.



### A PARK PLAN DOES DETERMINE

- The types and locations of facilities
- The general areas of mown and naturalized landscapes and the general location of trees
- The extent and general location of pathways

### A PARK PLAN DOES NOT DETERMINE

- The specific design of facilities
- The location of minor amenities such as benches, drinking fountains, and signs

### EXAMPLE:

#### A park plan DOES determine:

- That there will be a traditional play area in a certain location in the park (as opposed to a nature play area in a different location)

#### A park plan DOES NOT determine:

- The exact equipment, layout, color, surfacing

*Future capital projects will have their own community engagement processes at the time of implementation.*

# KEY/LEGEND

## AQUATICS

Places to play in the water  
(swimming, splash pads)

-   Wading Pool (small, shallow pool for children)
-   Indoor Swimming Pool
-   Beach Access
-   Splash Pad (water play area with sprayers and fountains, with no standing water)
-   Interactive Water Play (small stream/fountains for kids to play in)

## PLAY

Places for youth to play (swings, slides, vertical climbing walls)

-   Traditional Play Structure (swings, slides, climbers)
-   Adventure Play (place for challenging play for older youth and teens including climbing walls, zip line, obstacle course)
-   Nature play area (play area for children that encourages creative play with natural materials)

## ATHLETICS

Sports on turf fields

-   Multi-use Field (open turf that may be used for soccer or other sports)
-   Multi-use Diamond (field for baseball or softball but the outfield may be used for soccer or other sports)
-   Premier Field (High quality field for soccer or other sports, often with permanent stripes)
-   Premier Diamond (High quality field for baseball or softball, usually with a fence around the outfield)
-   Sports Dome (may be put up in winter to allow sports to be played year round)

## COURTS

Sports on hard surface courts





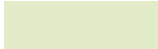

-   Tennis Court
-   Basketball Court
-   Volleyball Court
-   Multi-sport Court (court striped to allow many different sports such as pickleball, bike polo)

## WINTER USE

Places to play in winter (ice skating, sledding)

























-   Designated Sledding Hill
-   Skating Rink
-   Broomball Rink
-   Hockey Rink
-   Year-round Rink (*Hard-surface rink for hockey all year or bike polo in summer*)
-   Warming House

## LANDSCAPE

-   Outdoor Gathering Space (*Open area for community gathering/picnics*)
-   Designated Urban Agriculture Area
-  Mown Turf Grass
-  Naturalized Area (*native vegetation areas*)

## OTHER

Other types of recreation in outdoor parks

-   Group Shelter
-   Stage / Bandshell (for outdoor plays, music, or classes)
-   Adult Fitness (area with machines to work out in)
-   Walking Loop Trail (walking path that loops around the park, includes signs and seating)
-   Lawn/Court Games (small open lawn or court for games)
-   Dog Park
-   Disc Golf
-   Archery (archery course)
-   Skate Park
-   Canoe/Kayak Launch
-   Community Oven
-   Restroom/Storage Building

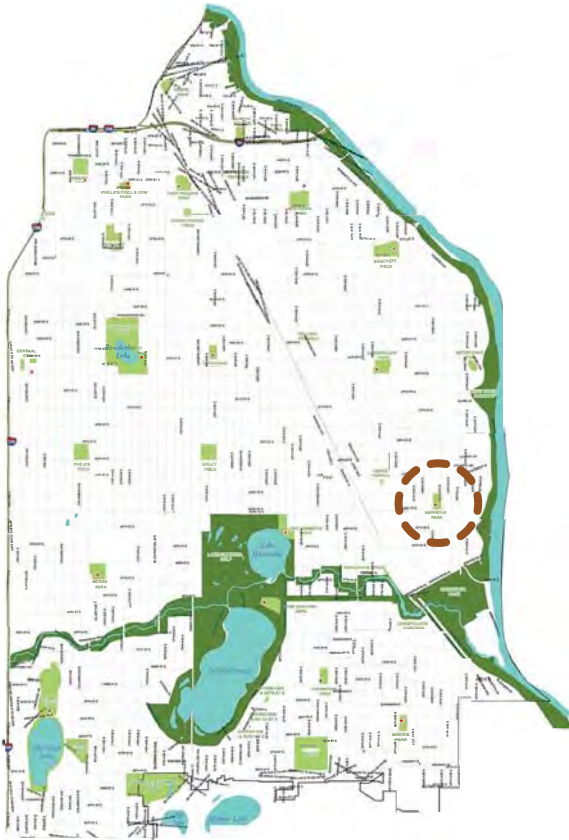
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# HIAWATHA SCHOOL

## LOCATION AND HISTORY

Hiawatha School Park (as its name suggests) is a shared site with a Minneapolis Public School. The park proper occupies the eastern half of the block bounded by 42nd Street, 44th Avenue, 43rd Street, and 42nd Avenue. Hiawatha School occupies the western half.

The park board acquired the land for a playground at Hiawatha School in 1931 when it swapped land with the school board. The park board gave up land it owned at Page School, near Minnehaha Parkway, and Hamilton School, near Glenwood-Camden (Memorial) Parkway, for the Hiawatha land.



The park was not developed beyond being graded for a skating rink until residents of the area petitioned for improvements in 1939. At that time plans were drawn up for the installation of a large skating rink, softball and baseball fields, tennis courts, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, and a small amount of playground equipment. The work was planned for the 1940 Works Progress Administration (WPA) program. The area was regraded, the fields built and the entire area seeded or sodded.

It wasn't until 1963 that more extensive facilities were provided at the park. In that year a park shelter was built, the athletic fields were enlarged and lighted, a wading pool was built, and new playground equipment was installed. The shelter was replaced with a neighborhood recreation center in 1979.

In 2000 a state-of-the-art fully accessible playground was developed on school property immediately adjacent to the park. The playground was constructed by community members as a "community-build" project, which, at the time, could not happen on parkland. So, the school provided space for the playground, which is operated by MPRB.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

The dividing line between park and school property at Hiawatha School is extremely fuzzy, which is a good thing. In fact, the very popular Rec+ after school program in the recreation center draws a daily parade of kids out the school doors, down the park pathways, and into the recreation center building.

Clustered around the recreation center are a wading pool (right at the front door), a small playground, and a small parking lot. Two tennis courts occupy the northeast corner of the park. South of the recreation center are athletic fields featuring four multi-use diamonds with field space in between.

A north-south pathway between school and recreation

center marks the general property line between the two entities. On the school side just south of the school itself is a fully accessible playground that tends to be more popular than the playground near the recreation center. This playground is open to the public and managed by MPRB. To the west of this playground is a basketball court and parking for the school.

Hiawatha School Park is typically full of school age children at almost all times, as can be expected from the close relationship with the school. MPRB and MPS have coordinated on some items throughout the years, and this park has the potential to be a demonstration of how the two entities can collaborate on programming, operations, and capital improvements.

## CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Wayfinding and connections from Hiawatha School Park should focus on:

- The existing City of Minneapolis bicycle/pedestrian route extending north on 43rd Avenue and south on 44th Avenue from the park. In the southerly direction, this route connects to Minnehaha Park. Though a full bikeway facility through the park (as shown on City maps) is not likely feasible due to the number of children that would have to cross it between park and school, extensions to the north and south would be advantageous.
- The RiverLake Greenway, which runs on 42nd Street and connects across the city, from the Chain of Lakes to the Mississippi River. This route also connects to Sibley and Phelps Parks to the west.



Existing Conditions: Hiawatha School



Proposed Plan: Hiawatha School

## THE PROPOSED DESIGN

In early designs, MPRB planners showed two options for the park: one that showed planning ONLY on MPRB land and one that expanded planning throughout the park as a whole. However, through various stages of community engagement and various iterations of the design, the proposed design makes no changes to the school portion of the property. That half of the park is shown in the plan for reference, but all facilities—large accessible play area, basketball court, and open field area—are as existing. The only change here would be the eventual removal of the degraded horseshoe pits in favor of more open field space.

Near the recreation center, the wading pool is relocated in order to create a more open, year-round entry plaza and gathering space for the building. A new wading pool replaces the tennis courts in the northeastern part of the park. A second play container between the existing play area and the new pool provides additional play opportunity and diversity. The parking lot is reconstructed in its current location. An urban agriculture area sits between the parking lot and the building entry, and will create an extension of the entry experience for the building. This area could be implemented in cooperation with the school, to provide students the opportunity to learn about agriculture and gardening.






Two multi-use diamonds are removed in favor of creating more multi-use field space for field sports, ice skating, hockey, and general play, as during school recess. The two diamonds along 44th Avenue would be retained, thereby keeping the open play space nearer the school and removing the barriers of backstops from between school and park.

Between school and park is a new outdoor classroom and gathering space. This greenspace between the two buildings is of particular interest to parents at Hiawatha School and park users, as it could provide opportunities for both outdoor instruction by school teachers and outdoor programming by recreation center staff. It could be the perfect shared space for both school and park, thereby embodying the collaboration between MPRB and MPS at this park. The integration between the school day and the park play day is seamless at Hiawatha School Park, and will be reinforced by breaking down physical barriers between the two and creating shared spaces throughout.



## KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES

The property line between MPS and MPRB is shown on the park plan, but has been largely ignored for planning purposes. Many improvements shown in the park plan will require coordination with MPS.

## UPDATE EXISTING

-  Wading Pool
-  Traditional Play Structure
-  Multi-use Field
-  Multi-use Diamond
-  Basketball Court
-  Skating Rink
-  Hockey Rink

## NEW/ ADDED

-  Urban Agriculture Area
-  Outdoor Gathering Space

## OPERATIONS ESTIMATE

FACILITIES	Total Per Unit Operations Cost	△ Qty	△ Cost
Multi-use Diamond	\$ 20,000	-2	\$ (40,000)
Tennis Court	\$ 1,500	-2	\$ (3,000)
Outdoor Gathering Space	\$ 10,000	1	\$ 10,000
Urban Agriculture Area	\$ 15,000	1	\$ 15,000
<b>Difference</b>			<b>\$ (18,000)</b>

## PROCESSES

	<b>1: General Input Spring-Fall 2015</b> <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	<b>2: Initial Concepts + Public Comment</b> <b>Fall-Winter-Summer 2015/2016</b> <i>Input themes on initial and preferred concepts</i>	<b>3: The Preferred Concept</b> <b>Now</b> <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
aquatics	Mixed opinions one wading pool; desire for bigger, deeper pool →	no comments →	Wading pool relocated to area of existing tennis court (main reasoning is to move the pool from the front entry of the building)
play	Play area well liked (though this may apply to both the play area on school property and the one on park property) →	Like new play area south of building, so big and small can play together →  Various ideas about arrangement of play areas and other amenities	Traditional play area expanded in same general location near recreation building  Older-age accessible play area retained on school property
athletic	Soccer field preferred more often than baseball →	Desire to keep open play area on school property →	Removal of two multi-use diamonds to create additional multi-use field space
courts	Tennis court not often used, but is in poor condition →	Basketball should be kept away from play areas →  Various ideas about arrangement of play areas and other amenities	Basketball court retained on school property
winter	no comments →	Like having the ice rink in the park →	Skating area and hockey rink in same general location
landscap	no comments →	Urban agriculture is a good idea →  Include pollinator / native plants  Like outdoor classroom	Urban agriculture area designated just north of recreation building  Addition of outdoor classroom and naturalized areas between school and park (would require coordination with Minneapolis Public Schools)
other	no comments →	no comments →	no other facilities planned for this park

## COST ESTIMATE

Asset Type	Project	2017 ESTIMATED COST/PROJECT	Implementation Sequence	Prioritization Category	Applicable SSAMP Actions
Aquatics	Wading Pool, incl. demolition of tennis court and old pool	\$ 887,072	stand-alone	PLANNED	11, 16
Play	Traditional Play Structure in new containers near recreation center	\$ 698,158	stand-alone	PLANNED	11, 16, 23b, 23d
Play	Replace Large Accessible Play Structure in new container near school	\$ 872,698	stand-alone	CONDITIONAL	11, 16, 23b, 23d
Athletics	Athletic field renovation, incl. demolition of 2 diamonds, renovation of 2 diamonds, renovation of fields	\$ 1,162,228	stand-alone	PLANNED	11, 16, 21a, 21b, 21d
Courts	Basketball court	\$ 106,777	stand-alone	CONDITIONAL	11, 16, 18, 22b, 22c
Landscape	Urban Agriculture Area	\$ -	after wading pool	CONDITIONAL	11, 19, 22b
Landscape	Naturalized areas	\$ 4,435	with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	11, 26, 29
Landscape	Parking Lot Renovation	\$ 122,995	stand-alone	PLANNED	28
Landscape	Building entry plaza	\$ 22,120	stand-alone	PLANNED	
Other	Outdoor Classroom / Gathering Area	\$ 65,709	stand-alone	CONDITIONAL	11
Other	Renovate walking paths	\$ 156,979	with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	11, 17
Other	Miscl. signs, trees, furniture	\$ 73,718	with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	9, 11
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 4,172,888</b>			

NOTE: Implementation of the outdoor classroom depends on participation by MPS. Urban Agriculture Areas will be implemented in partnership with specific programs or community members.

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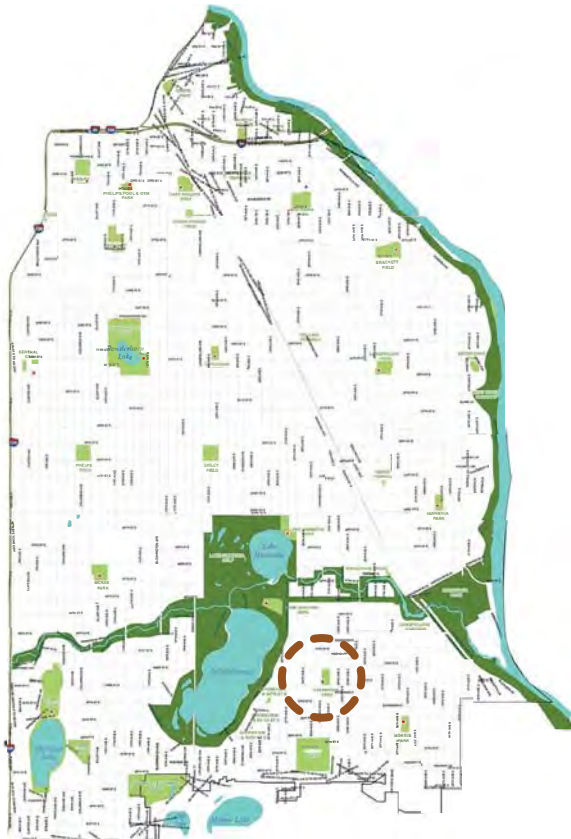
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# KEEWAYDIN

## LOCATION AND HISTORY

Keewaydin Park, like Hiawatha School Park, shares a city block with a public school. The block is bound by 52nd Street, 31st Avenue, 53rd Street, and 30th Avenue. The park sits on the eastern half, and the Lake Nokomis Community School's Keewaydin Campus sits on the western half.

Keewaydin came into being as the result of votes by the school board and park board in 1927 to cooperate on the purchase and use of a new school and playground. The school would provide a gym and shelter while the park board would develop outdoor playground and



recreation facilities. The 1928 annual report called this the first instance of close cooperation between the two boards, although earlier efforts to develop Audubon and Stewart parks also involved collaboration between the two boards. The name comes from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "The Song of Hiawatha." Keewaydin was the "Northwest Wind, the Home Wind."

The land to the east of the already built school was purchased through condemnation procedures. After the acquisition, Nokomis Avenue between the park and school was vacated. Improvements began immediately in 1928 and 1929, when 38,600 cubic yards of fill were used to create a level playing field. By the summer of 1930, the park board provided recreation instructors for the new park after playground equipment was installed and two tennis courts—with backstops—were built. In 1930 and 1931 the park board continued to haul in fill in a fight to keep the land at a level grade. Because the park was built on a former swamp, the fill kept settling. Finally in 1932, the fields were regraded and the tennis courts and a concrete wading pool were finished. In 1959 year-round recreation programming began at the park.

The park board redeveloped the park and built a recreation center there in 1971-1972. At that time the park board and school board considered making the recreation center part of the school, but ultimately decided to build a free-standing facility.

In the early 2010s, the school planned an expansion southward on the site. That would put the school's front entrance in close proximity to the existing wading pool and would require shrinking of the playground—both facilities were on school property under agreement with MPS. MPRB created a new master plan for the park that relocated park facilities onto park land. Those improvements have not yet been completed.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

Keewaydin Park has a somewhat unusual layout, when property ownership is taken into consideration. The wading pool and playground, along with the shared parking lot, actually sit on MPS property. The recreation center building is half on MPRB land and half on MPS land. East of the school on MPRB property are four multi-use diamonds with open field space between

them. This arrangement is typical of south Minneapolis parks, but at Keewaydin the diamonds are particularly tight because the park is so narrow.

South of the diamonds and above a slight rise is another open field. This used to be the location of tennis courts, which were previously removed.

Though MPRB spent considerable effort in the late 1920s filling the site for athletic fields, the park is still in a bowl below street level. On the east and north sides of the park in particular the land slopes steeply down into the park. The northern slope is somewhat heavily forested, with an understory of mostly volunteer grasses and other plants. Pathways flank the northern and western (school) side of the park.

The park is used regularly by the school for recess, and many kids participate in after school programs at the recreation center building. The school has a direct entrance into the park on its eastern side, where lower level doors allow a connection without slopes. A paved vehicle access to the building near the recreation center doubles as an area for basketball and other court games.

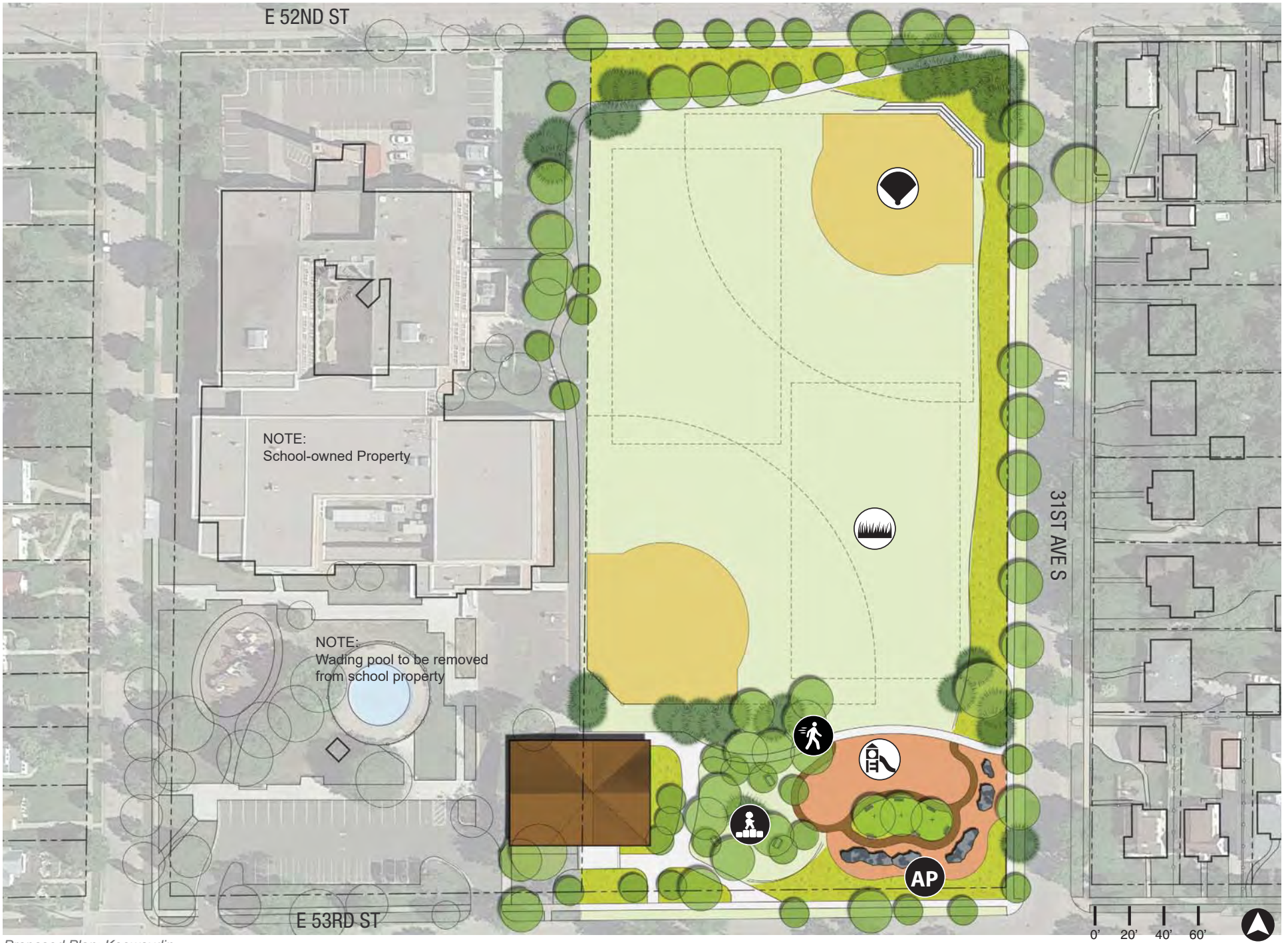
## CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Wayfinding and connections from Keewaydin Park should focus on:

- The existing City of Minneapolis bicycle/pedestrian route Nokomis Avenue, including an enhanced connection through the park, to connect to Minnehaha Parkway to the north and Bossen Field to the south. The southward connection is important as Bossen will have the nearest wading pool to Keewaydin.
- A proposed pedestrian and/or bicycle route running on 53rd Street west to Lake Nokomis. This connection is important for access to the 50th Street Beach.



Existing Conditions: Keewaydin



Proposed Plan: Keewaydin

## THE PROPOSED DESIGN

The Keewaydin Park plan draws on but modifies—through additional community engagement—a 2011 master plan prepared when the school expanded. That master plan called for all MPRB facilities to be moved off school property and onto the green space east of the recreation building (the building itself would remain). In addition, the plan called for reduction of the multi-use diamonds from four to two, to allow for greater flexibility in athletic use.

The Keewaydin Park plan developed as part of SSAMP makes the same changes to the athletic fields, positioning the two remaining diamonds on opposite corners, instead of on one side, as in many parks, due to the small size of Keewaydin. The slopes around the fields would be naturalized with pollinator-friendly plants, and new and refurbished pathways create a walking loop (with city sidewalks) around most of the park.

The entire grassy area east of the recreation building will become a play area with multiple options for multiple ages. All three play types will occur here: a smaller traditional play area in the center, a nature play area to the west under the trees, and an adventure play zone to the east made up of a vertical climbing/bouldering wall. This would be the first climbing facility in the MPRB system. It will be designed to be used either unsupervised or as part of MPRB programming.

There will be no aquatic facility in this park. The existing wading pool and playground in front of the school will be removed and the land returned to MPS use.

The addition of a varied and unique play environment will make Keewaydin a special park sure to draw users of all ages to try their hands at bouldering or experiment creatively with logs and stones.

## KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES

Ongoing coordination with MPS is necessary, as some pathways and half the recreation center building sit on MPS property. MPRB should ensure the agreement with MPS is up to date prior to major capital improvements associated with play areas.

## UPDATE EXISTING



Traditional Play Structure



Multi-use Field



Multi-use Diamond

## NEW/ ADDED



Adventure Play



Nature play area



Walking Loop Trail

## PROCESSES

	<b>1: General Input</b> <b>Spring-Fall 2015</b> <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	<b>2: Initial Concepts</b> <b>Fall-Winter 2015/2016</b> <i>Input themes on initial concepts</i>	<b>3: The Preferred Concept</b> <b>Now</b> <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
aquatics	no comments →	Wading pool not necessary, due to proximity of Lake Nokomis and other parks →	No aquatic facilities planned for this park
play	no comments →	Many comments in support of climbing/bouldering wall →	Addition of multi-faceted play area east of recreation center, to include traditional play elements, a nature play area, and a climbing/bouldering wall
athletics	no comments →	Very few comments with clear stances →	Removal of two multi-use diamonds to create more multi-use field space (NOTE: this recommendation is included in the previous master plan for the park)
courts	no comments →	Concern about removing basketball court (NOTE: court is on school property) →	No court facilities planned for this park (basketball and court games area exist on school property)
winter	no comments →	no comments →	No formal winter facilities planned for this park
landscape	no comments →	no comments →	Addition of naturalized areas on park slopes and near play area and recreation center
other	no comments →	no comments →	Addition of paths to create walking loop around park

## COST ESTIMATE

Asset Type	Project	2017 ESTIMATED COST/PROJECT	Implementation Sequence	Prioritization Category	Applicable SSAMP Actions
Play	<b>Play Area:</b> small traditional structure and climbing wall in new containers, including demolition of existing wading pool	\$ 1,256,685	stand-alone	FUNDED	7, 11, 16, 18, 23a, 23b, 23d
Play	<b>Nature Play area</b>	\$ 349,079	stand-alone	PLANNED	11, 16, 23a, 23b,
Athletics	<b>Athletic field renovation,</b> incl. demolition of 2 diamonds, renovation of 2 diamonds, renovation of 2 fields	\$ 1,162,228	stand-alone	PLANNED	11, 16, 21a, 21b, 21d
Landscape	<b>Naturalized areas</b>	\$ 23,409	stand-alone or with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	11, 25, 26, 29
Other	<b>Renovate walking paths</b>	\$ 106,843	stand-alone or with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	11, 16, 17
Other	<b>Miscl. signs, trees, furniture</b>	\$ 57,827	with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	9
n/a	<b>Update agreement with MPS related to capital improvement</b>	\$ -	before major capital improvement	PLANNED	11
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 2,956,070</b>			

## OPERATIONS ESTIMATE

FACILITIES	Total Per Unit Operations Cost	△ Qty	△ Cost
Wading Pool	\$ 15,000	-1	\$ (15,000)
Nature Play	\$ 7,500	1	\$ 7,500
Adventure/Climbing Play	\$ 7,500	1	\$ 7,500
Multi-use Diamond	\$ 20,000	-2	\$ (40,000)
Full Court Basketball	\$ 1,500	-1	\$ (1,500)
Walking Loop Trail	\$ 5,000	1	\$ 5,000
<b>Difference</b>			<b>\$ (36,500)</b>

# LONGFELLOW

## LOCATION AND HISTORY

The park board has owned two different parks called Longfellow Field. The first, located near Minnehaha Avenue and 28th Street, was purchased for in 1911. In 1912 park superintendent Theodore Wirth wrote that it was one of the most active playfields in the city. But despite the park's popularity and its accessibility by street car, it was sold in 1917. The Minneapolis Steel and Machinery Company, which was located east of the park, asked the park board in late 1917 to name its price for the land. Within a month the deal was done. The park board explained that it made the deal because the area was no longer suitable for a park because of the growth of manufacturing businesses in the area. As



part of the resolution to sell the park, the board included its intention to find a “more suitable area” for a park and playground nearby in south Minneapolis.

Less than two weeks after the sale of the first Longfellow Field was completed, the board designated land for a second Longfellow Field, the three blocks from 35th to 38th Avenues South between East 34th and East 35th Streets. Appraisers were immediately appointed to determine the value of the new site for purchase by condemnation. In 1918 the board chose to defer purchase of the westerly block (the only one with houses on it in this thinly settled area of the city), and reached agreement with the single owner of the two blocks where the park now stands.

The park is unofficially named for Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, an American poet who wrote “The Song of Hiawatha” in 1854. The poem made Minnehaha Falls famous around the world, although Longfellow had never visited the falls. The current Longfellow Field was never officially named after it was acquired in 1918.

The 1918 annual report of the board includes park superintendent Theodore Wirth’s initial plan for the park, which proposed a field house that formed the back of a grandstand overlooking a combined football and baseball field and track. In December 1920 Wirth submitted a revised plan for a small wood-frame shelter in the park, which he admitted was not much more than a toilet building. In 1929, Wirth submitted another new plan for the park. Gone were his visions of a field house. Instead he recommended a “standard” shelter to replace the wood building, which he called “entirely inadequate.” Although Wirth’s plan was revised in 1930, after input from the neighborhood, to include croquet and basketball courts and eliminate the running track, neither of the plans were ever implemented. The Great Depression put an end to those plans and the temporary shelter built in 1921 was not replaced until the 1960s.

The wood shelter at Longfellow was one of few improvements in neighborhood parks in that era that

wasn’t paid for through property assessments. Because of the profit on the sale of the original Longfellow Field in 1917, the board bought the new land and paid for all improvements with those funds. The neighborhood around Longfellow Field is one of the only ones in the city that did not pay for its neighborhood park through property assessments. That changed in 1961 when the park board approved splitting the cost between bonds and assessments to renovate the field and replace the old wood shelter. By 1963 the whole park was rebuilt, with new playground equipment, new tennis courts, enlarged athletic areas, and a “modern” brick building.

The modern brick building at Longfellow was one of the first new recreation centers built in the 1960s, and was the showcase recreation building in the city before the building boom in recreation and community centers in parks in the 1970s. A new community center with a gym was begun in 1975. Several playground renovations were carried out in 1990.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

Longfellow Park’s recreation center building is located in the southwestern corner of the park. A small parking lot takes access from 35th Street. The building sits slightly above the athletic fields to the east, and this high ground extends north and wraps to the east along 34th Street. This difference in elevation between the fields and the other uses creates a pleasant separation in the park, which is made even nicer by a meandering pathway and mature trees.

A paved plaza extends out from the building and ends in a grassy area studded with picnic tables. North of this are play areas and a wading pool, all arranged like circles hole-punched out of a concrete plaza. North of the wading pool is a forested picnic area. In the northeast corner of the park are two tennis courts, a half-tennis bang-board, and two half-court basketball courts. The athletic field area features four multi-use diamonds with field space in between.

The park manages to be very active while also providing places of respite under the trees. Most of the spectating areas for the sports fields are nestled under large conifers and deciduous trees. The arrangement of the amenities in the park is elegant and provides easy connections between sports, play, and relaxation.



Existing Conditions: Longfellow



Proposed Plan: Longfellow

## CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Wayfinding and connections from Longfellow Park should focus on:

- A partially existing partially planned City of Minneapolis bicycle/pedestrian route on 38th Avenue heading north, which connects north to Brackett Field. This connection is important for Brackett, as that park will no longer have tennis courts.
- The existing City of Minneapolis pedestrian/ bicycle route on 37th Avenue heading south, which connects to Adams Triangle and the bike route on Minnehaha Avenue to Minnehaha Park.
- The existing City of Minneapolis pedestrian/ bicycle route heading east on 35th Street to the Mississippi River Parkway.

## THE PROPOSED DESIGN

The design for Longfellow Park strives to keep the general arrangement and elegance of the park while providing space for expanded and new facilities. The multi-use diamonds are reduced from four to two, as in many SSA parks, to allow for greater flexibility in sports scheduling and greater diversity of use. Arranging the diamonds along the eastern edge of the park allows for a larger winter skating and hockey area in very close proximity to the building. New seating steps on the east side of the building take advantage of the slight slope downward to provide spectating space for winter and summer sports.

The high ground on the western and northern edges of the park is preserved and is home to many of the same amenities. The building plaza is enhanced to create an indoor-outdoor space in concert with the community room. This could become an excellent venue for parties, graduations, concerts, and events. Two play areas and a wading pool sit in their same general locations, but stretch farther to the north, to allow more space for play features. An adult fitness area is also

shown in this vicinity, to allow parents to exercise while their children play. A picnic area remains under the trees at the northwestern corner of the park.

The courts area is expanded and revised, with the addition of a 3rd tennis court (any of these could also be striped for pickleball and/or volleyball) and a full-size basketball court. A small seating plaza between these two court areas provides rest and waiting space. Because this park's basketball use seems to be mainly among younger ages, the hoops here could be adjustable to allow for more of a shoot-around game, as well as the full-court game.

Additional pathways will allow for walking loops around the park. Areas between facilities on the northern and western edges of the park will be naturalized with pollinator-friendly plants. Longfellow Park will feel much as it does today, with active uses throughout and small corners of respite and relaxation tucked under the lush tree canopy. New facilities, however, will make the park even more fun.

## KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES

No known land use issues exist with Longfellow Park.

## UPDATE EXISTING



Wading Pool



Traditional Play Structure



Outdoor Gathering Space



Basketball Court



Tennis Court



Multi-use Field



Multi-use Diamond



Skating Rink



Hockey Rink

## NEW/ ADDED



Adult Fitness



Walking Loop Trail



Tennis Court

## PROCESSES

	<b>1: General Input</b> <b>Spring-Fall 2015</b> <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	<b>2: Initial Concepts</b> <b>Fall-Winter 2015/2016</b> <i>Input themes on initial concepts</i>	<b>3: The Preferred Concept</b> <b>Now</b> <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
aquatic	Wading pool needs to be bigger and deeper →	no comments →	Wading pool with shade structure in generally the same location
play	Playground very well liked (but needs new equipment). Could be expanded. →	Concern that the play area seems smaller than it is today →	Traditional play areas reconstructed in vicinity of wading pool, but the same size
athletics	Multi-use fields tend to be more important than diamonds →	Add premier field for soccer →	Removal of two multi-use diamonds to create larger multi-use field space. Hillside seating provided near multi-use field
courts	Tennis courts heavily used here Full court basketball is needed, but hoops are heavily used →	Much concern about location of basketball court near building; prefer open access. Concern basketball court is taking space from the play areas Consider multi-use on one or more tennis courts (for pickleball) →	Addition of one tennis court to existing tennis area. Multi-use striping on one or more courts Replacement of half-court basketball with one full-court on northern edge of park
winter	Ice rink is heavily used →	Integrate ice rink into landscape better, maybe with stepped seating →	Ice rinks installed over multi-use field, as existing. Larger area of multi-use fields allows greater flexibility and size of ice sheet. Hillside seating provided

## PROCESSES CONT.

	<b>1: General Input</b> <b>Spring-Fall 2015</b> <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	<b>2: Initial Concepts</b> <b>Fall-Winter 2015/2016</b> <i>Input themes on initial concepts</i>	<b>3: The Preferred Concept</b> <b>Now</b> <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
landscape	More natural areas desired	Requests for urban agriculture in this park  Maintain good tree cover/shade  Add native plants and landscaping; fewer mown areas	Addition of naturalized areas along western edge of park  Tree canopy preserved and enhanced throughout western section of park  Urban agriculture area not provided in this park (a principal site is nearby at Adams Triangle)
other	Walking paths in the park well-liked  Grills and picnic area is heavily used	Like adult fitness near kids' play area  Consider lawn games, like bocce or bean bag toss	Adult fitness provided near play area  Improved gathering space between building and play areas; better connection between building and outdoors

## OPERATIONS ESTIMATE

FACILITIES	Total Per Unit Operations Cost	△ Qty	△ Cost
Multi-use Diamond	\$ 20,000	-2	\$ (40,000)
Tennis Court	\$ 1,500	1	\$ 1,500
Full Court Basketball	\$ 1,500	1	\$ 1,500
Half Court Basketball	\$ 1,000	-1	\$ (1,000)
Adult Fitness	\$ 2,500	1	\$ 2,500
Walking Loop Trail	\$ 5,000	1	\$ 5,000
Difference			\$ (30,500)

## COST ESTIMATE

Asset Type	Project	2017 ESTIMATED COST/PROJECT	Implementation Sequence	Prioritization Category	Applicable SSAMP Actions
Aquatics	Wading Pool, incl. existing pool demolition	\$ 763,867	stand-alone	PLANNED	16
Play	Traditional Play Structures (2) in new container	\$ 698,158	stand-alone	FUNDED	16, 23b, 23d
Athletics	Athletic field renovation, incl. demolition of 2 diamonds, renovation of 2 diamonds, renovation of fields	\$ 1,396,316	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 21a, 21b, 21d
Courts	Tennis Court (3)	\$ 320,331	with basketball court, ideally with gathering space	PLANNED	16, 18, 22c
Courts	Basketball Court	\$ 106,777	with tennis court, ideally with gathering space	PLANNED	16, 22a
Landscape	Naturalized areas	\$ 45,175	stand-alone or with other projects, as applicable	PLANNED	26, 29
Landscape	Parking Lot Renovation	\$ 147,572	stand-alone	PLANNED	28
Other	Gathering Space/Plazas near building and near courts	\$ 381,112	stand-alone, ideally courts gathering area with courts	PLANNED	16
Other	Adult Fitness	\$ 66,839	after/with play areas	PLANNED	16, 18
Other	Renovate walking paths	\$ 451,618	with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	16, 17
Other	Miscl. signs, trees, furniture	\$ 86,422	with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	9, 17
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 4,464,188</b>			

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# MATTHEWS

## LOCATION AND HISTORY

Matthews Park, along with the public Seward Montessori School, sits on an L-shaped piece of land generally bounded by 24th Street, 29th Avenue, 25th Street, and 27th Avenue. It sits in the center of the Seward Neighborhood.

The early history of Matthews Park is connected to that of Longfellow Park. When recreation director Clifford Booth noted in 1910 that he wanted to build a playground in the “southern section of the city between Powderhorn and Riverside playgrounds,” the result was Longfellow Field, located at Minnehaha Avenue and East 28th Street. This popular park, however, was sold in 1917 to a manufacturing company, and land for a new Longfellow Field, the one that still exists today, was purchased a little over a mile to the south and east. Thereby area of the city that Booth thought most needed a new playground no longer had one. The neighborhood would wait nearly fifty years to get another.

The campaign for another playground in the Seward neighborhood began in January 1958 when the PTA at Seward School requested a hearing by the park board on creating a playground to serve the school's area. The park board requested bond funds for Seward Park in its 1959 and directed park staff to make a joint study of the area with the school board. Despite more petitions from the neighborhood in the next two years, bonds for the new park were not forthcoming. But in 1961, even in the absence of bond funding, the park board designated two city blocks for acquisition. In August and September of 1961 the first seven lots for the park were purchased. Over the next two years several additional lots were purchased for the park using an unanticipated source of funds: money paid to the park board by the state department of transportation for park land it had taken for constructing freeways through the city. By the end of 1963 the park board had acquired a little less than three acres of land, one lot at a time. Houses existed on most lots.

In 1963 the park board removed the houses on its new land, filled the basements, graded the land to prepare for a skating rink that winter, and erected a portable warming house. While small acquisitions for the park continued over the next couple years, the bulk of the land to round out the park was acquired in 1967 with federal funds through the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Open Space program.

The development of Matthews Park followed a new model of combining a park, school, and social agency at one location. In 1966, the park board adopted a formal policy for its role in those partnerships, which was influenced by the new superintendent of parks, Robert Ruhe, who believed that recreation and leisure pursuits should be an integral part of neighborhood life. The social agency that partnered with the park board and school board at Matthews Park was Pillsbury Waite Neighborhood Services.

In 1969 construction was completed on a recreation center attached to what is now Seward Montessori School. Also completed that year were a volleyball court, basketball court, tennis courts, playing fields and a wading pool. The park also included a unique feature in an otherwise flat section of the city, a man-made hill in the southwest corner of the park that separated the park from businesses to the southwest. The hill is very popular for winter sledding.

The park was named for Charles E. Matthews in 1969. Matthews was a neighborhood resident who had been active in the community, in particular campaigning for the park. Until the park was officially named it was referred to as Seward Park after the elementary school adjacent to the park and the neighborhood in which it is located. The school was named for William Seward, a former United States Senator from New York, who became secretary of state in Abraham Lincoln's cabinet.

The recreation center was renovated in 1993 and additional improvements to the playgrounds and playing fields were made over the next two years. In 2010 the playground was upgraded to improve accessibility.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

Though a property line between the school and

park runs through the center of the wading pool and playgrounds as an extension of 24th Street, it is important to think of the site as a single park. The recreation center sits on the far northern edge, attached to the school building. A courtyard/plaza with trees and degraded turfgrass stretches south to where the wading pool and two play areas sit. The main square of the park is immediately south of the pool and a pathway connecting 24th Street.

The eastern half of the main square is home to two multi-use diamonds with field space in between. This area is also popular for winter skating. The western half is more wooded, and features another small play area, several meandering paths, two tennis courts, a sand volleyball court, and a full-court and two half-court basketball courts. The southwestern corner of the park is home to the large sledding hill, which also serves as a pleasant landform on which to relax in other seasons.

The park is active at all times, mainly because of the connection to the school. The Seward Neighborhood in general and the school specifically are home to many people of color, predominantly of East African descent. All the courts and fields are often used simultaneously, with the sledding hill “run-out” area often used for pick-up soccer and other games.

## CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Wayfinding and connections from Matthews Park should focus on:

- The proposed bicycle/pedestrian connection along 24th Street to the east and west. Though it would pass directly through the “neck” of the park, a calmed pathway would be appropriate here. To the east, this route connects to the Mississippi River. To the west it crosses Hiawatha Avenue on a pedestrian bridge and then connects to East Phillips Park and Phillips Community Center
- The existing City of Minneapolis bicycle/pedestrian route on 29th Avenue, which connects south to the Midtown Greenway and north to Riverside Avenue and the Mississippi River.



Existing Conditions: Matthews



## THE PROPOSED DESIGN

Matthews Park is not significantly changed, but several modifications reinforce recent and current projects and improve year-round use. The wading pool and two nearby play areas are reconstructed in their same locations. Just to the south of these amenities, a wider, calmed bicycle and pedestrian pathway allows non-motorized traffic on 24th Street to cross the park and continue on.

In the athletics area, just one of the two multi-use diamonds remains—the southerly one—in order to allow more space for open field games and field sports, as well as winter recreation. The vibrant skating program at Matthews is enhanced by the addition of a permanent



warming house / picnic shelter on the edge of the fields. This new type of building would serve as a warming house in winter, then its removable walls would be taken down so it can be an open-air picnic shelter in the summer.










The basketball courts, volleyball courts, and small play area are as they are today, while the tennis courts would become multi-use courts, focused on tennis and pickleball. A new small nature play area nestles into the forest near the southern edge of the park. Some new paths allow for walking loops throughout the park, while some slopes of the hillside and most of the southern edge of the park is naturalized with pollinator-friendly plants.

Matthews Park works pretty well as it is today, so the proposed design makes some limited additions and enhancements, but leaves it mainly unchanged. The wooded character of the park, now reaching full maturity, is preserved throughout. The park will continue to welcome neighborhood residents and school children for a wide variety of activities in all seasons.






## KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ITEMS

As portions of the park are owned by MPS and jointly operated by MPRB, ongoing coordination in any implementation projects will be necessary. This is mainly true of any improvements to the wading pool, two of the playgrounds, and the recreation center building itself, all of which sit entirely or partially on school property.

## UPDATE EXISTING

-  Wading Pool
-  Traditional Play Structure
-  Basketball Court
-  Multi-use Field
-  Multi-use Diamond
-  Skating Rink
-  Hockey Rink
-  Broomball Rink
-  Designated Sledding Hill

## NEW/ ADDED

-  Multi-sport Court
-  Walking Loop Trail
-  Warming House
-  Group Shelter
-  Nature play area

## PROCESSES

	<b>1: General Input</b> <b>Spring-Fall 2015</b> <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	<b>2: Initial Concepts</b> <b>Fall-Winter 2015/2016</b> <i>Input themes on initial concepts</i>	<b>3: The Preferred Concept</b> <b>Now</b> <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
aquatics	Wading pool needs improvement: bigger and deeper →	no comments →	Wading pool in same general location
play	Play areas need improvement; improve equipment, drainage, maintenance, etc. →	Like addition of nature play →	Three traditional play areas in same general locations Addition of nature play area in south of park
athletics	Mixed opinions on multi-use diamonds →	no comments →	Removal of one multi-use diamond to create additional multi-use field space
courts	Tennis courts heavily used → Basketball courts heavily used	Support keeping tennis here; mixed opinions on multi-sport striping → Consider basketball for kids	Basketball courts in same general arrangement and location (one full-court, two half-courts) Multi-use courts (tennis, pickleball, volleyball) in same general location as existing tennis courts Sand volleyball court in same general location
winter	no comments →	Keep ice skating and hockey here → Like permanent warming house / picnic shelter Encourage use of ad hoc ski loop around ball fields	Broomball, hockey, and skating rinks in northern end of multi-use fields Sledding hill in current location Addition of permanent warming house able to convert to picnic shelter in summer

## PROCESSES CONT.

	<b>1: General Input</b> <b>Spring-Fall 2015</b> <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	<b>2: Initial Concepts</b> <b>Fall-Winter 2015/2016</b> <i>Input themes on initial concepts</i>	<b>3: The Preferred Concept</b> <b>Now</b> <i>Key elements of the concept</i>		
landscape	Open space is important in park Consider additional natural plantings and rain gardens Introduce areas for growing local food	➔	Include native plants for insects, pollinators, and birds	➔	Addition of naturalized areas mainly in southern portion of park
other	Desire for more and improvement of existing walking/biking paths, including bike way crossing park to link 24th Street More picnic areas, include pavilion	➔	Provide safe connection through park at 24th Street Support for the picnic pavilion within the park, not on top of the hill	➔	Additional trails to create walking loops around park, including safe led/bike route across the park to connect 24th Street

## OPERATIONS ESTIMATE

FACILITIES	Total Per Unit Operations Cost	△ Qty	△ Cost
Nature Play	\$ 7,500	1	\$ 7,500
Multi-use Diamond	\$ 20,000	-1	\$ (20,000)
Tennis Court	\$ 1,500	-2	\$ (3,000)
Multi-Sport Court	\$ 1,500	2	\$ 3,000
Warming House	\$ 5,000	1	\$ 5,000
Group Shelter	\$ 4,000	1	\$ 4,000
Walking Loop Trail	\$ 5,000	1	\$ 5,000
Difference			\$ 1,500

## COST ESTIMATE

Asset Type	Project	2017 ESTIMATED COST/PROJECT	Implementation Sequence	Prioritization Category	Applicable SSAMP Actions
Aquatics	Renovate Wading Pool in same location	\$ 739,226	stand-alone	FUNDED	11, 16
Play	Traditional Play Structures (2) near wading pool	\$ 698,158	stand-alone	FUNDED	11, 16, 23b, 23d
Play	Traditional Play Structure near courts	\$ 349,079	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 23b, 23d
Play	Nature Play	\$ 349,079	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 23a, 23b, 23d
Athletics	Athletic field renovation, incl. demolition of 1 diamond, renovation of 1 diamonds, renovation of fields	\$ 776,188	stand-alone	PLANNED	11, 16, 21a, 21b, 21d
Courts	Basketball Court (1 full court, 2 half court)	\$ 238,195	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 22a
Courts	Multi-sport Court (2)	\$ 106,777	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 22c
Courts	Volleyball Court (1 sand)	\$ 57,495	stand-alone	PLANNED	16
Landscape	Naturalized areas	\$ 73,923	stand-alone or with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	25, 26, 29
Other	Picnic Shelter/Warming House	\$ 108,420	with/after sports fields	PLANNED	16, 18, 24
Other	Renovate walking paths	\$ 470,910	with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	16, 17
Other	Miscl. signs, trees, furniture	\$ 92,115	with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	9, 17
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 4,059,565</b>			

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