



## Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles Master Plan Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting #9

4/7/2022 6:00-8:00pm  
Zoom Online Video Call

**MPRB Staff and Consultants Present:** Emma Pachuta (Project Manager), Madeline Hudek; Maura Rockcastle (TENXTEN), Jason Naber (EOR), Erica Christenson (TENXTEN)

**CAC Members Present:** Aaron Shaffer, Adam Braun, Anna Eleria, Ben Surma, Constance Pepin, Craig Wilson, Drew McGovern, Eric Gangl, Jim Romlin, Laura Kinkead, Linda Mack, Nan Dreher, Win Rockwell (CAC Chair), James Reid (Alternate),

**CAC Members Absent:** Alice Lehman, Joshua Christensen, Lilia Theisen, Michaela West, Will Stensrud (Alternate)

**Public:** Throughout the evening approximately 31 members of the public joined the meeting

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Emma started the meeting by thanking everyone for joining the ninth Cedar-Isles Master Plan Community Advisory Committee Meeting. Emma introduced the topic for the night: Programming, Amenities and Structures. She read through the land acknowledgement and then talked about the difficulty of the online format and the hopes to go in person soon – MPRB will supply more information in the future on possible in-person formats. She then confirmed that the public would be invited to comment at the end of the meeting. Emma then reviewed the draft project timeline followed by a more detailed CAC meeting timeline outlining meetings from December 2021 through July 2022 with phases. She drew attention to the additional CAC meeting #10 and upcoming water quality subcommittee meetings (*see slides for details*).

Emma also provided a summary of community engagement from the initial concepts phase and referred to the [Summary of Feedback on Draft Initial Park Concepts](#) on the project page for more detail.

Emma then turned it over to Maura who provided an introduction to the Programming, Amenities, and Structure topics for the evening and referenced an FAQ that includes Program Goals based on Guiding Principles and program/amenity questions that have come up leading

up to this CAC meeting. The FAQ will be posted on the project page along with the other meeting materials following this meeting.

Maura then gave a high-level overview of existing and proposed amenities for each draft initial park concept. She also explained that the concepts took different approaches to adding or enhancing existing amenities and each one holds a range of ideas.

Win then clarified that the format for the discussion would include a brief presentation per topic and then a focused conversation by the CAC that he would facilitate, and public comment time would be at the end.

### **CAC DISCUSSION**

Following introductions and an overview of the evening's topics, the presentation transitioned into an overview of the first CAC discussion topic followed by a CAC discussion. This format was followed for six discussion topics: warming house on Lake of the Isles, restrooms on Lake of the Isles, possible amenities and structures for each lake, boardwalks on Lake of the Isles, and a Midtown Greenway connection to Lake of the Isles.

#### **Lake of the Isles: Warming House**

Maura started the conversation by referring to engagement feedback that overwhelmingly supported keeping the warming house on the east side of Lake of the Isles. She then shared precedent images to show examples of permanent and temporary structures to support the conversation. **Should the warming house be temporary or permanent?**

(CAC) I support temporary. The original intention for this lake was to preserve open space and with increase in density in urban spaces, open space is at a premium.

(CAC) Is there enough space where it's currently at to add a permanent structure? In the winter it blocks a path and there's a slope there.

- (Project staff) No there's not enough space in its current location

(CAC) Is that why the other location was considered

- (Project staff) yes

(CAC) I recommend a permanent structure (low structure for maintaining sight lines) and also include a restroom somewhere on the east where there's more room. Likes that side - history of the rink there. It's also an equity issue to provide easily accessible restrooms.

- (CAC) Agrees with statement about permanent structure – can find a low-slung building profile. Also have another reason for a permanent structure: bathrooms are good.
- (CAC) Distinguish between large permanent structure vs smaller, targeted restroom only building. It also needs to be near shallow water so the ice freezes well.

(CAC) I think it should be temporary. It will always conflict with sight lines, will impede the paths. There may be years where we don't have a skating season. Can we separate out the discussion for the bathrooms from this?

- (CAC) We will talk about restrooms and I assume most people will want more restrooms, but can be a separate topic
  - (CAC) Please tie the maintenance of the bathrooms to this conversation

(CAC) I support a permanent bathroom. It's an equity issue but also people don't know where to go to find things

- (CAC) Improved wayfinding will help with this.

(CAC) Is the current size of the warming house too big? Is there a way to have a temporary warming house structure that is married to a permanent restroom structure.

(CAC) Wants to clarify what the difference between temporary vs permanent

- (Project staff) Temporary means no infrastructure, no permanent utilities connected and then it's removed
- (CAC) If permanent, you would have to have programming and that conversation would come next

(CAC) Can't imagine how you'd use the existing box in the summer time

- (CAC) Would depend on the way it was used

(CAC) I support the idea of a temporary structure to host programs attached to permanent bathroom

(CAC) Permanent year-round bathrooms with adjacent concrete pad that could host food trucks, other seasonal activities

(CAC) Also supports temporary bathroom because they have to be seasonal

(CAC, *in chat*) What a great inspiration for the permanent facility in the bathrooms around Cedar

(CAC) Are we trying to find a reason for a permanent structure and seeking out programs? I haven't heard any support for concessions, etc

(CAC) Counted the feedback on permanent structures and tallied 41 comments that were negative. Also saw lots of comments on maintenance concerns.

### Public comments from the chat:

- I agree that warming house should be temporary. However, current structure is an eyesore. Esthetics needed.
- Agree with CAC member 100% The temporary structure is no thing of beauty, but at least it's temporary!
- Skating season is rarely longer than 6 weeks and unlikely to grow longer. Why create a permanent structure for 6 weeks and then spend time dreaming up other uses for 44 weeks we have not identified? Cost just of removing graffiti would be considerable.
- There is room further north at 22nd . You should do a cost comparison between the two options before making any decisions. If the sides of the warming house portion could be removed in the summer it could be a picnic shelter.
- A building in search of a cause? Would bathrooms operate in the cold weather? Heated?
- Public restrooms have been made available by the Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church, immediately west to the skating rink. A formalized agreement between MPRB and the church could be pursued. A renovation to the Kenwood Rec Center allowing outside access to bathrooms, even when rec center is closed
- How will a permanent building be maintained? Bathrooms cleaned etc.
- As CAC member indicates vis a vis Kenwood Rec Center toilets, maintenance of existing park system infrastructure should be prioritized over creating new facilities that the MPRB may not be able to maintain.
- Existing structure could be even more temporary if removed on Mar 1 instead of May 1.
- A permanent structure requires infrastructure and higher maintenance costs. And once built there's no going back.
- Artful and low impact way finding solutions would be a high value addition to the system. Achieving this without creating "human artifacts" littering the terrain is the challenge exemplar

### **Lake of the Isles: Restrooms**

Maura moved on to the next topic on temporary and/or permanent restrooms at Lake of the Isles. She showed some data on the number of porta potties per lake and that typically it's recommended to provide one restroom per ½ mile which would suggest 5 on Lake of the Isles.

### **Should additional port-a-potties or permanent restrooms be considered for Lake of the Isles?**

(CAC) Is there a scenario where a permanent restroom could be open year-round?

- (Project Staff) Typically stand-alone structures (like the one at South Cedar Lake Beach) are only seasonal.
- (CAC) Doesn't like porta potties but seems good solution to meet year-round needs. Also mentions the restrooms at the Kenwood Recreation Center as an option for use.

(CAC) Can we do better than porta potties for a temporary structure?

- (Project Staff) Yes there are nicer looking ones, (see [Mural board](#) for examples)

- (CAC) Can that be a part of the recommendation for the master plan
  - (Project staff) yes

(CAC) Can we use the math to assess where they should be located. Didn't know the Kenwood Recreation Center is accessible. Still need to add more - either porta potties or permanent.

- (CAC, *in chat*) I agree
- (CAC, *in chat*) Agree to the restroom point
- (CAC) Looking at that math, sounds like 2-3 more

(CAC, *in chat*) Agree that more restrooms need to be provided

(CAC) Have to consider the Kenwood Recreation center. Families know how to meet their own needs.

- (CAC) If the Rec Center had direct access from the outside that would help.
- (Project staff, *in chat*) Kenwood Rec Center does have exterior entries to its bathrooms
- (CAC, *in chat*) Kenwood Rec Ctr does have outside doors, BUT they are often not open. (And from most of Isles it's a long hike up there on the chance that the restrooms will be open.)
- (CAC, *in chat*) Signage is needed to inform people that the bathrooms are available at the Kenwood Rec Center.

(CAC) In favor of 1 –2 more bathrooms.

(CAC) Thinking more about equity feels that permanent structure will be more welcome. Signage can be a language barrier.

- (CAC) Second the opinion that we need one permanent bathroom, but also ok with nicer temporary
- (CAC, *in chat*) Great thoughts! Thank you.

(CAC) We can do better on the west side of the lake. Mix of permanent and temporary. Also the Kenwood Rec Center is open irregularly.

- (CAC) Added that maintenance is an issue in any comment

(CAC) Tension between aesthetic and natural areas we want to maintain. Lutheran Area Church offered their bathrooms in the chat

(CAC) Don't rely on Kenwood as the option

(CAC, *in chat*) Hi. My apologies on my microphone issues. I just received a new computer today and it looks like my microphone is not set up. IMO, I would like to see one permanent bathroom structure on Lake of the Isles that is similar to the well-designed, small footprint of

the one at East Cedar Beach that includes a water fountain. For the existing temporary restrooms, it would be nice to replace with more attractive ones.

Public comments from the chat:

- Aren't there porta-potties in Kenwood park by the tennis courts?
- Cedar Lake south restroom only open seasonally
- Why are removed in winter the porta-potties by the tennis courts?
- Agreeing with CAC member, no permanent structure, questioning maintenance, etc.
- Agree, port o potties are an eye sore.
- Do you have a lot of people who give feedback that they can't find a bathroom when walking around the lakes?
- What about water pumps and water fountains
- I've used Kenwood Rec Center restrooms many times. They have always been clean and are perfectly serviceable.
- Great idea CAC member! If I am not mistaken, Pearl Park has outside access to the bathrooms at the Rec Center.
- A better metric than per mile might be how long are the current wait times for facilities? If you monitored it, they are almost always free, even on a busy gorgeous day
- Great comments for permanent. We are a premiere park. We can do better than p o p.
- What is the advantage of a permanent restroom over temporary? Permanent aren't open year-round.
- Roll up doors would allow a permanent structure to be converted to different uses very quickly. There is no place for a "formal" picnic around the lake. On the east side the only park is the Levin Triangle. For health reasons shade should be provided. More people get skin cancer than lung cancer, I'm sure. The Kenwood Park bathrooms have outside entrances.
- Permanent restrooms that can not be used in winter are not the best use of limited funds. Better to invest in more attractive port-a-potties.
- Park bathrooms in large cities are often so badly maintained and cleaned that people are reluctant to use them and don't take their kids into them. Just saying, they need to be kept clean to be used. And that may be a budget problem, as CAC member says.
- The plumbed bathroom at Cedar Lake South Beach has no heat and is open roughly from mid-May to mid-October (excluding pandemic). The cost of such approximately 4 years ago was over \$400,000.

**Lake of the Isles: Possible Amenities and Structures**

Maura presents an overview of amenities and how the draft initial park concepts used the term "Activity Hubs". That term was used to explain a place where more than one amenity already existed (such as a canoe rack or dock) and where the team suggested adding a new amenity such as a picnic pavilion, lake deck or outdoor classroom. The intent was to consolidate existing and new amenities together, to preserve more area for ecological restoration.

Maura then explained that the new amenities were located where informal gathering currently happen and added a picnic pavilion or a lake deck. She went through each number on Concept A explaining where lake decks and picnic pavilions were proposed. And then went through Concept B which only proposed one new amenity on the west side of the lake (moving the warming house, which has already discussed). She next showed the precedent images of the types of amenities she reviewed. **What structures and amenities should be considered at Lake of the Isles?**

(CAC) Can you clarify lake deck.

- (Project staff) Explains with the pictures and clarifies that it's about getting close to the water and allowing gathering near the water and stabilizing existing areas that are eroding.
  - (CAC) The contemporary images don't fit the classic style of the park

(CAC) Don't see any support for these. People already do this. Thinks it's a solution in search of a problem.

(CAC) I have heard a lot push back on the permanent structure. Likes the democratic way of using the park. But the docks get a lot of use so think about more docks in select areas.

(CAC) Feel that there's a need for more resilient lakeshore access point because of observed erosion and heavy use.

- (CAC) Can you comment directly on the deck?
- (CAC) Not sure, but like more context-sensitive solutions (*responding to stone steps, see [Mural board](#) for images*)
- (CAC) Agree with more natural materials. Nice looking and helps with boat access

(CAC) Consider where people are coming from (cars or other) to locate access points. But also interested in accessibility – provide a dry, comfortable place to have picnic tables and benches. Low profile could work.

*CAC chair invites Jason (from EOR) to comment. Jason responds that he appreciates and agrees with the input on access points*

(CAC) Agrees with low profile, natural access points - help to prevent erosion. Wants to ask about temporary pavilion and minimal picnic benches

(CAC) Supports low profile access points but also wants to think of them as small gathering areas.

(CAC, *in chat*) The idea to use Kenwood includes year-round open access regardless of whether the whole rec center is open. I'd like to keep this idea alive so that this existing building is available as an option.

(CAC) Sees pretty strong opposition to activity hubs in community engagement. Also sees parks as legacy spaces, before we endorse infrastructure and increase of operating costs.

- (CAC, *in chat*) I agree 100%.
- (CAC, *in chat*) Very well said
- (CAC, *in chat*) I agree. Lower-profile stone entry points, however, shouldn't require maintenance once put in, and would have the effect of protecting the shoreline (and perhaps enhancing water quality by reducing erosion).

(CAC) Is there consensus about limited access points and nothing more?

- (CAC) I'm in favor of adding more low profile access points.
  - *Several CAC members agrees*
- (CAC) Don't agree with more access points, would rather improve the ones that exist that are harming shoreline.

#### Public comments from the chat:

- None.
- How about moving the skating rink and building a permanent shelter on the south side of isles where more parking is available, and the area isn't so close to homes.
- I'm curious why the spots along the lake that you identify as popular picnic spots need more amenities to make them more popular.
- Thank you for speaking for the masses instead of simply expressing individual opinions of the CAC.
- Agree with CAC member
- Lake decks and relationship with water on Isles. What is purpose? Swimming? Fishing? Small children falling into water? Decks make no sense. A solution in search of a problem. Totally agree with CAC member.
- So well said, that's the very definition of "natural!" The violin player sitting on one of those rock outcroppings at sunset! Organic, not "built"
- A guiding design principle used for Cedar Lake South Beach was to keep the shoreline clear of structure to not undermine the natural aspects and long views
- What is proposed for people who fish? Folks fish from the retaining wall at the point and from the south shore of Isles. Also from the Kenilworth Lagoon and from the west side previous railroad bridge. Most of the people I've seen were not white.
- Love the resilient discussion.
- CAC member raises a good point about usage. What is the carrying capacity of this parkland? Resilient lake shore is a good goal. The Chain of Lakes is second only to the Mall of America for "visits"
- Do we really want to encourage people to actually get into the lake?
- Thank you for not considering anything like the big dock jutting out. As someone who pulls many big bags of garbage out of the lake every year, those will quickly become

cesspools of trapped garbage that will be very difficult to extract. And like trap animals/disturb their entry points and natural patterns

- If water quality is a stated priority — What is the effect on water quality of putting in each of these “amenities”?
  - Agree with CAC members. And attendee. So many of these wooden structures are attractive, but they seem better suited to the High Line than LOI. Is that the vision?
- people sit on the grass/weeds/turf to picnic because there are no picnic facilities at the lake
- CAC member. Nicely stated. Well thought out.
  - Agree totally!
  - Well said!!
  - Me too!
  - Thanks. Good points.
  - Agree!
  - Well said.
  - Couldn't agree more with CAC member's comments. Well said!
  - I also agree with what CAC member just said. Also another CAC member. The lakes are the amenity, the trees are the amenity. Let's not destroy them.
  - Agree with CAC members
  - Very well said CAC members. The parks and lake are the amenity. And the plan should guard against creating amenities that are a struggle to afford in the long run.
  - Completely agree with the above comments.
- Old folks like me and persons with mobility limitations don't sit on the ground for picnics. How about a few picnic tables for us?
- Quoting Angie Erdrich, unused land is not wasted land.
- access is tricky on lakes where the water quality is very poor and has killed many animals the past few years
- CAC member, the park board just completed water works on the river for 22 million dollars--the park boards current budget is per capita #1 in the nation by far and in relation to city budgets is #5 behind the city of rochester!
- The lake/natural environment is the amenity. YES. Minimalism, restoration and preservation should be #1 priority.
- There are many picnic tables at Cedar Lake. “Side tables” could be coupled with the moveable benches at LOI to support LOI picnics not happening on a picnic blanket
  - I like that idea. I love those benches.

### **Cedar Lake: Possible Amenities and Structures**

Maura explained the differences between the amenities proposed in each draft initial park concept at Cedar Lake and that they both suggested new amenities at East Cedar Lake Beach.

Concept A suggested mobile structures/amenities at East Cedar Lake Beach, where Concept B suggested permanent structures/amenities. Concept A also suggested a picnic pavilion at the southern peninsula, near the existing boat launch and dock. The structures proposed for East Cedar Lake Beach include the following: a stage, outdoor classroom, restroom, and rental kiosk. Maura then refers to the precedent images and explains that they are organized on a spectrum of more informal/temporary on the left to formal/permanent on the right. **What opportunities and challenges does the CAC feel are important for East Cedar Beach?**

Maura then turned it over to Emma to share a summary of feedback from a focus group discussion with neighbors and long-time volunteers at East Cedar Lake Beach. For the summary, Emma showed a map that documented features along with a list of themes and strategies (see the [Mural board](#) for details). She then asks a CAC member that was present to review their impressions.

The CAC member who was in attendance said many people didn't want to change much. Protect things that people have worked hard on. There were more comments on circulation and how to make the path hierarchy clear to prevent bikes from certain paths. Also noted that the community members in attendance didn't like the current location of the canoe rack.

(CAC, *in chat*) It's important to note that the people who run the School Forest spoke out very strongly against an outdoor classroom or any structures at Cedar Lake.

(CAC) take this plan and move it forward- likes this whole package on the map

(CAC) Community group said the porta potties were fine. Think we should add signage at lightrail to educate people. Also noted concerns that the community said the access from the Kenilworth channel will affect the beach.

- (CAC) Reiterates signage is important
- (CAC) Agrees signage is important and temporary porta potties. Also appreciative of the volunteers and their work on buckthorn removal. But also says parking is an issue – wants to talk more on that.
  - (Project staff) Thanks, we will be discussing parking at the next meeting

(Project staff) Before we move onto the next topic, can the CAC discuss the picnic pavilion at the southern peninsula, near the existing boat launch and dock?

- (CAC) There are more needs for existing amenities maintenance
- (CAC) Doesn't see any support for pavilion
  - (CAC) Disagrees, sees demand for people all the time. Experienced the demand personally
- (CAC) Seeing support for decks to access the water, may be different than larger structure, but another dock
- (CAC) Minimize human artifacts. Historic reflection of what it was.

- (CAC, *in chat*) We use many of the benches around the western side of Cedar. I support keeping those or enhancing them.

Public comments from the chat:

- "Permanent" restrooms that are not year-round make no sense and are far more expensive than porta-potties. South Cedar Beach has a Permanent restroom that is open less than six-months a year.
- The most important structure at Cedar Lake is access around the lake with a decent hard path that can be accessed by all--including mobility challenged people
- What has MPRB environmental stewardship indicated on adding boat storage/rentals? Based on past conversations with the staff, there is little opportunity for placement given the land terrain and shoreline.
- Keep the canoe rack there--it just indicates some activity there--not in the way of anything
- Do you want people getting off light rail to have a 'feel' like Cedar has OR feel like rental area at Bde Maka Ska?
- The current canoe rack location is where public performance at the lakes edge had been programmed. Desire is to pull canoe rack back from the lakes edge to minimize "human artifacts"
- People removed buckthorn in these areas to make them more accessible to people and eliminate the invasive species
- There is a definiteneee
- Being involved with the volunteer removing the invasives, the invasives are being removed to provide opportunity for native plantings and to expand a natural areas plan.
- Signage and wayfinding is a fine idea but needs to be done tastefully, in a minimalist way. Not like the map kiosk at the north end of LOI. Also please please beef up the maps on the website as a way to help people plan in advance.
- Artful and low impact way finding solutions would be high value addition to the system. Achieving this without creating "human artifacts" littering the terrain is the challenge exemplar
- The Cedar Lake Park Association has always advocated minimizing human artifacts in Cedar Lake Park
- There are several picnic tables along Cedar Lake. They are often unused.
- At Cedar south point, there are already about 6 picnic table (and a few grills). There is seating up the hill that many do not know of. In addition there are about 3 more benches on the western section of Cedar South point.
- The large existing seasonal dock in that area rarely has more than one or 2 people on it
- Please do not ruin up this beautiful natural spot with structures!
- Moveable benches could be a good addition in strategic places.

- in terms of cedar lake park assoc. minimising human artifacts--why would we want to attract humans to this area?
  - Humans are not human artifacts - signage, structures and other constructs that deter from the natural area are the artifacts.
- Cedar Lake South Point is ripe for further enhancement as a natural area, supporting bird watching and fishing, expanding the littoral edge. The existing parking supports varying ability access. MPRB
  - Agree. Do the consultants or the park board consider enhancements of natural features as actual enhancements?
- The benches are scattered and heavy. Meals are more enjoyable if you can talk with the people you are eating with and its difficult with to do this if you are all lined up. It's also difficult to pass food around. Eating off side tables would be like eating off TV trays., Encourage more use of the west side of Cedar Lake. It has parking and is immediately accessible to adjacent St. Louis Park neighborhoods, North side residents would have easy access via Wirth Parkway. South point would be good location for a picnic pavilion in the upper area, far from the lake.
- Do we not have parks that serve as active parks — bike and canoe rentals, water access, kiosks, and other amenities, and there are more natural parks where we relate to water and nature without guidance. Do all parks have to be developed?

### **CAC 8 Revisit: Boardwalks**

Maura provided an overview of the proposed boardwalks on Lake of the Isles. In Concept A, two sections of boardwalks were proposed on Lake of the Isles to replace two segments of the lower pedestrian trails to allow for an expanded littoral edge and ecological restoration, as well as to replace sections of the pedestrian trail that experience flooding. She then referred to engagement feedback that had concerns over the meandering shape and length of the boardwalks and stated that project team would align them with the existing walkway, if the group wanted to pursue boardwalks for the preferred concept. The lengths of the boardwalk sections could also be reduced.

She also quickly explained why the boardwalks proposed in Concept B on Cedar Lake were being shown. Even though this was already discussed (*boardwalks on Cedar Lake*), provided a quick reminder there was one proposed to alleviate the narrow trail conditions on the northwest edge that does not provide adequate space for bikes and pedestrians. The other proposed on the southeast edge was proposed to provide formal access where it doesn't currently exist while also expanding the littoral edge.

She also showed precedent images to clarify that there are different types of boardwalks.

### **Should there be boardwalks at Lake of the Isles?**

(CAC) No boardwalks at Lake of the Isles. Doesn't see the need – expensive to install and maintain and walls off access in winter. No historic precedent for it.

- (CAC) Agree that they are not necessary on Isles. Provides clutter – already hard to maintain the bituminous paths.
- (CAC) Agree
- (CAC) Agree but remove double roadway on the north near Franklin and the Parkway and get that land back to move the paths out of the flood zone.

(CAC) Does the boardwalk have a significant impact on water quality?

- (Project Staff) Water quality subcommittee will help answer this.
- (CAC) if no water quality benefit, then no boardwalks

(CAC) Were there historic boardwalks there? But they also fragment habitat.

(CAC, *in chat*) Love CAC member's point, "...planning without real costs isn't planning"

- (CAC, *in chat*) I agree too and hope that the next design iteration will include estimates for maintenance costs over time, beyond construction costs.

(CAC) There is consensus on the north arm to not do boardwalks.

- (Project staff) Clarified that the boardwalks are also a response to flooding and something will need to be proposed in the master plan to change the grading and the paths to deal with that.

#### Public comments from the chat:

- boardwalks, because we want to compete with new jersey? Do the animals we're disrupting have a voice?
- There is a definite need for an asphalt path connecting Cedar Lake to 21st St and the Light Rail and also continuing all along the east side so everyone can enjoy its natural beauty. Families with strollers, seniors and others with disabilities, and other folks who can't walk on unstable services. Let's not limit this access to those that are able to walk on non-asphalt services. Should be equal access to all.
- Lake of the isles needs good paths and a "commons" area for people to meet, interact, socialize, and just people watch--like bde refractory area or bandshell at harriet, or sandcastle at nokomis
- Board walks coupled with an expanded littoral edge would drastically restrict usage of the water and the would eliminate adjoining parkland. Second, all of the new vegetation and boardwalks would be a radical (even arrogant) departure from a 100-year-old design.
- Board walks should be added to Cedar Lake and a walking bridge in areas on the east side where public property is limited. This is only on one small stretch. The board walks can link up to asphalt paths and an elevated bridge over the channel. Still, equal access to all.
  - support this chat on boardwalks

- Lake of Isles already has a boardwalk--a concrete one on the nw corridor that is about 30 feet from the island at isles--it's beautiful!
- So how can a boardwalk on Cedar be justified as far as cost/maintenance/blocking off shore/ disrupting sight line from water like kayak and canoes. Currently deer / blue herons etc use shore line S.E. Cedar?
- Habitat is an excuse to eliminate any enhancements to cedar—Isles
  - LOI is not bde make ska or Harriet.
- Agree with CAC members.
- How long is the flooding season?
- Flooding can be address with underground swales for water harvest

### **CAC 8 Revisit: Midtown Greenway Connection to Lake of the Isles**

Maura provided an overview of the new proposed connection to the Midtown Greenway from Lake of the Isles. It was included tonight because it was not covered in the last CAC meeting which focused on circulation and access.

The recommended spacing on exits from the Midtown Greenway are every .25 and .35 of a mile and the existing exits between Lake of the Isles Parkway and Dean Parkway are just over a half-mile. Adding this connection would improve access to those coming from the west along the Greenway. Maura also commented that the existing connections need work as well and improvements for those will be made as part of the preferred plan. **Should there be a new connection from the Midtown Greenway to Lake of the Isles?**

(CAC) Concerned about the wetland and wants the group to look at alternatives.

(CAC) Walked this recently, makes no sense to do a trail in this location. Least impact area is the east of the small dog part area but acknowledges this may be too close to the existing one.

(CAC) This proposal also interrupts a play field that is heavily used. Do not support this.

(CAC) Shared some ideas for improving the intersection of the existing greenway exit. Also brings up moving the parkway to get more space for people in the park closer to the water.

(CAC) This space is working for recreation and doesn't believe that those distances for access apply here. This is parkland. Agrees with improving the access on the east.

(CAC) How much of that field is used. Would this access point activate this area?

- (CAC) This field gets lots of use and I see lots of comments in the chat that say that as well.
- (CAC, *in chat*) The field is also used a lot for beach volleyball for adults
- (Project staff) The existing field is being retained in both concepts.

(CAC) It would destroy the landscape from a grading perspective. Strongly opposed. Why aren't we discussing maintenance on what we already have?

- (CAC, *in chat*) I agree with CAC member to eliminate the access point through the woods and wetland. We need to protect and expand wetlands. A third access point on that stretch would damage the landscape and be extremely expensive to build and maintain.
  - 100% with CAC members.
- (CAC) Please consider the alternative location identified above IF this needs to be connected.

Public comments from the chat:

- NO!! Improve the existing connections.
- How does that proposed connection affect soccer fields there?
- Not sure about new connections, but certainly re-engineering the existing connection - very dangerous as it is now.
- The existing lawn at south LOI there is highly utilized by youth soccer, bike polo, and other
- Please do not disrupt trees and wetland in this area with unneeded infrastructure.
- The 1997 MPRB plan for this area considered the concept of "overuse." Is that still a concept? Is there is such a thing as overuse? What would constitute it? For example, would access to all points from every angle by every means of transportation promote "overuse"?
- Please establish a tree canopy coverage goal as part of this master plan. The city is failing to meet targets and many trees have been removed between LOI and Cedar
- You can never get all to agree on anything, CAC member ;-)
- The idea that we should not favor enhancements to cedar/isles due to budget constraints of park board overlooks met council funding and state funding for regional parks. There is more concern about making regional parks attractive for diverse populations and ada seniors considerations
- that lawn is used frequently. often competition for users - volley ball, soccer, etc
- the sports field gets massive use in the summer
- Soccer field is in constant use.
- There is value to green open space not actively used, but still enjoyed.
- Agree with CAC member—fix the current connections.
- I've noticed, unofficially, that the people using that field are often people of color and immigrants. (Judging on the language I hear spoken.) If we are to be more welcoming to a wider population, it's ironic that we'll take away this field.
- What CAC member is saying!
  - Spot on, CAC member.

- Again so well said. And as a biker who loves getting on and off the midtown greenway, we have 2 great options, 1 east and 1 west. There is no access problem to be solved here
- YES! CAC member's point about maintenance of what we have. So important and yet overlooked over the 30 years I've lived here.
- Excellent point on the bridges, CAC member!
- Thank you CAC member.
- Yes, CAC member! The master plan need to take short term capital expense and long term maintenance. Wise choices need to be made that preserve the lakes and environmet.
- Same
- Each lake has a unique personality and makes a distinct contribution to the cities. Harriet, LOI and Maka Ska have very accessible paths. Cedar Lake does not need to replicate what those other lakes provide.
- Cedar Lake personality can continue to be less active. More nature.
- More fill to cure flooding. The fill put in 20 plus years ago settled a little more than expected. Use the portion of the parkway south of 28th (the brick portion) or the alley to the west for access. There is access to the greenway from Thomas. There is a light at Lake Street . It could take some of the bike and ped traffic off Dean Parkway and Lake Street,
- When is there going to be public comment?
  - (Project Staff) Public comment will follow the closing comments right now... We will make sure to give 15 minutes even though we are starting a little late
- I don't understand how we can build all this stuff when the MPRB doesn't have money to take out invasive, maintain Harriet Pavillion etc. It's like building an addition to a house that the owner already can't afford to maintain.
  - And yes to attendee.
- yes, why we should make a path accessible to mobility challenged ada seniors etc. only able bodied people should be able to access this area!
- The suggestion to run a path along the Kenilworth Channel goes against the current live retaining bank installation that is nearing completion. Planners indicated on the front of that project that there not adequate MPRB land. Adding a board walk in that area would further narrow the channel for summer and winter access.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT TIME AND THANK YOU**

Emma transitioned the conversation to public comment time and explained that it was a time for community members to make comments related to the master plan. Emma also asked folks to write 'yes' or their name in the chat box if they wanted to share feedback verbally. Folks could also write feedback in the chat box during this time (recorded below).

- (Public) For the same reasons stated about Lake of the Isles (sight lines, access, maintenance). There are deer fox, coyote, blue herons that would be disrupted by a boardwalk so a boardwalk on Cedar will be same problem.
- (Public) Reiterate my chat comments, minimize human artifact. This is a topic that comes up with the Cedar Lake Park Association. Doesn't mean eliminate them - Keith Prussing and I talked about a larger amenity at 21st and Upton. Nice archway that says "Welcome to Cedar Lake Park". That could be considered as part of an amenity.
- (Public) I'm waiting for part of discussion where all these amenities are measured against water quality. People are using the lakes by the millions. People are not complaining that they can't get to the lakes. Would like to see MPRB to focus on what they have and not destroying the environment.
- (Public *in chat*) Thank you all for spending so much time and thought on this important project.
- (Public *in chat*) I support additional restrooms and improved existing facilities at both Isles and Cedar. Many residents do. There is absolutely a demand for them and this is an accessibility/equity issue for all people in our city. I support formalized picnic structures and amenities (low impact) at already busy areas — human activity wears down grass, plants and other natural elements. Formalizing these areas is about protecting the park and not about attracting excessive usage, as CAC members suggest. I support additional access points to the water on both lakes. Yes — we should absolutely facilitate safer and additional water access in our public parks. I support improving the existing Greenway access point onto Isles. I'd also like to thank MPRB and the design team for their hard work and preparing these options. I see a real effort to respond to the desires of ALL residents, and not just CAC members who would like to see no change, improvement, growth or response to current park usage in their 'backyard' park.
- (Public *in chat*) well said!
- (Public) I'm going to go back to Lake of the Isles and warming house. I'm going to reference an article in the Star Tribune "Fixers uppers abound locally". Ice skating rinks are picturesque but marred by bad warming house. How about staging a design competition for designing a better warming house.
- (Public *in chat*) Is there a MPRB boardwalk in good repair other than at Eloise Butler? (That one was paid for by the Friends..)
- (Public *in chat*) Funds available from Met Council and State can well be put to improved storm water management and natural areas. This would be a great value add coming from this master plan. An artful design competition for way finding solutions would be fab.
- (Public) This is a hard one for me - I value progress and accessibility but also cherish Lake of the Isles and pastoral and wild part of it in the middle of the city. Live a couple blocks from the lake – support minimally invasive updates: like a cupola. Don't know why it's

necessary, though. If there are issues of accessibility would like for them to be made clearer.

- (Public) CAC member had very consistent response about we shouldn't do this because of costs. MPRB just completed a very expensive Water Works Project and Ground Rounds Missing Link that cost millions of dollars. If we support that project how can we say we can't invest in this project.
- (Public *in chat*) I support making people aware of the historical/indigenous context of these lakes. So it's ironic that the proposals are to build more modern structures on those lakes instead of honoring their past.
- (Public *in chat*) I honestly don't understand how making the lakes less natural is somehow related to diversity. Are we saying that some groups are less likely to prefer natural areas?
- (Public *in chat*) The waterworks bldg referenced was private funding and now has a monetized business to support operations.
- (Public *in chat*) To understand accessibility a bit, consider if you would feel comfortable going to North Commons Park , Wirth Beach, or north side parks

Emma concluded public comment time and thanked everyone for joining the meeting. *Public comment went to the very end of the meeting. Emma's contact information is outlined on the last slide of the presentation.*