

# Closing the Gap:

## *Investing in Neighborhood Parks*



Minneapolis  
Park & Recreation Board

October 21, 2015





**Closing the Gap: Investing in Neighborhood Parks (Closing the Gap)** is an initiative of the Superintendent and Commissioners to share information with Minneapolis residents and partners about the current condition and service level of neighborhood parks, and gather information about investment priorities for replacement, operating, and maintenance of existing park assets. It looks at the impacts of the age of the system and deferred maintenance – or delaying regular upkeep past the point of repair – has had on the 157 neighborhood parks in Minneapolis. This report articulates the key findings of the engagement that has been conducted from February through October 15, 2015.

Minneapolis' neighborhood parks have the greatest number of physical assets that require greater resources to operate, maintain, and replace. To sustain the current level of physical assets in the park system the MPRB needs \$14.3 million plus inflation each year to meet capital investment needs. The MPRB currently has \$4-5 million per year to invest in these assets. The current annual capital gap is \$9.3 million plus inflation. The neighborhood parks also require annual investments to operate them to industry standards for activities such as mowing, building maintenance, tree pruning, roof repairs, and path repairs. The current operational gap is a minimum of \$3 million plus inflation per year.

A spectrum of community engagement methods and communications tools were used to share and collect information for the Closing the Gap initiative. The engagement methods were a resident phone survey, community meetings, intercept events, online and paper survey, and stakeholder meetings. The communications tools that were used for the initiative included informational materials, a webpage, and notifications (delivered by new releases, govdelivery notices, ads in local papers, and stakeholder contact lists).

## Key Findings

Much of the engagement for Closing the Gap was conducted in collaboration with RecQuest (which focuses on recreation centers) and Service Area Master Plans (which focuses on the outdoor facilities in neighborhood parks) initiatives. This allowed for a collaborative, robust engagement process. This report, however, articulates the key findings of the engagement that relates to Closing the Gap, such as ideas for funding strategies and how well the current programs, services, recreation centers, and outdoor park facilities are serving residents. Significant information was collected during this time period that is critical to the success of RecQuest and Service Area Master Plans, a complete analysis of that information will be used and reported in the respective reports for those projects. Below are the key findings as they relate to Closing the Gap.

**Funding Ideas and Strategies** Sponsorships, donations, additional vendors/concessions, and partnerships were supported across the engagement. Expressions of support, however, were typically accompanied with a desire to ensure the sponsors, donors, potential vendors, and partners are well matched to the mission and values of the Minneapolis park and recreation system. Across the engagement methods participants expressed a willingness to address the funding gap through an increase in property taxes. The support for maintaining the system was higher than the support for enhancing it. The Morris Leatherman Company indicated that responses to the resident survey revealed that judicious improvements or expansion would be seen as part of a greater "maintenance" effort.

**Programs/Services** The most common theme that emerged across the engagement methods was the support for youth programming and sports. Respondents of the resident survey and online/paper survey indicated that youth sports and programs, and police protection in parks are important. Adventure recreation, and adult programs and sports were typically least important among these respondents. Community meeting and intercept respondents expressed the need for diversity in and different types of programs. Community meeting participants also articulated a need for more programming that is customized to the demographics of a community.

**Recreation Centers** Across many of the engagement methods, participants expressed the need to make recreation centers more welcoming, comfortable, and safe. These recommendations ranged from providing working air conditioning to amenities such as coffee kiosks. In the online/paper survey and community meetings respondents provided insights into what is needed at recreation centers. Gymnasiums and fitness areas were most commonly identified in the responses to this question. Based on the responses from the community meetings, there is some variation in views for centers across the city. It appears that there is a greater desire for enhanced facilities with greater amenities in southwest, safety was a priority in north, and multi-use spaces were discussed in downtown, north, northeast/southeast and south. In some cases, participants indicated that more, better or larger facilities are needed to be able to address the variety of recreation options desired.

**Outdoor Facilities and Assets** Resident needs and perceptions of outdoor assets and facilities varied by engagement method and location of the city. In general, playgrounds, athletic fields, dog parks, ice rinks, and wading pools were considered important. A common theme that emerged across community meetings and online/paper survey respondents was the desire to introduce more natural areas, paths, nature play, gardens, and trees into neighborhood parks. The importance of restrooms, functioning drinking fountains, and/or benches was raised in each service area during community meetings.

**Maintenance and Care** The resident survey provided an overall look at the perceptions of maintenance and care of the park system. It indicated that 94% of residents think the maintenance and appearance of the park system is good or excellent. The community meetings and online/paper survey provided opportunities to learn more about which maintenance and care services might be most important. Respondents to both methods indicated that waste pickup and removal, and playground maintenance and safety were most important. These respondents also indicated that landscape care and mowing were least important.

Throughout 2015, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has been undergoing what may be the most comprehensive planning effort in its 130 year history. Minneapolis residents have been encouraged to get involved and help the MPRB with three distinct, yet deeply intertwined projects: RecQuest, Service Area Master Plans, and Closing the Gap: Investing in our Neighborhood Parks (Closing the Gap). RecQuest is the MPRB’s in-depth assessment of its recreation centers. Service Area Master Plans focuses on the future of the outdoor facilities within the parks.

Closing the Gap: Investing in Neighborhood Parks is an initiative of the Superintendent and Commissioners to share information with Minneapolis residents and partners about the current condition and service level of neighborhood parks, and gather information about investment priorities for replacement, operating, and maintenance of existing park assets. It looks at the impacts that the age of the system and deferred maintenance – or delaying regular upkeep past the point of repair – has had on the 157 neighborhood parks in Minneapolis. This report articulates the key findings of the engagement that relates to Closing the Gap, such as ideas for funding strategies and how well the current programs, services, recreation centers, and outdoor park facilities are serving residents. Significant information was collected during this time period that is critical to the success of RecQuest and Service Area Master Plans, a complete analysis of that information will be used and reported in the respective reports for those projects.

### Capital Gap

Neighborhood parks have greatest number of physical assets that require greater resources to operate, maintain, and replace. These assets range from outdoor amenities such as wading pools and playgrounds to structural and property infrastructure including recreation centers, roofs, windows, parking lots, and much more. To

sustain the current level of physical assets in the park system the MPRB needs \$14.3 million plus inflation each year. The MPRB currently has \$4-5 million per year to invest in these assets. Looking back at capital investments made from 2000 to 2015, the capital funding gap for neighborhood parks has grown to \$111 million. The current annual capital gap is \$9.3 million plus inflation.

Unless the replacement and preventative maintenance costs associated with the neighborhood park system’s infrastructure are addressed, the backlog and costs will continue to increase. Assuming the current funding levels remain constant, the capital funding gap will grow an additional \$46 million from 2016-2020 and by 2040 the capital gap will be over \$461 million.

### Park Maintenance and Care Gap

Park attendance, usage, and demand for enhanced programs and services have all been increasing on an aging park system, while at the same time budget reductions were enacted to manage funding shortfalls and rising expenses. These budget reductions have contributed to increased maintenance and care and capital funding gaps in the park system. From 2003-2012, the workforce was reduced by 136 full-time positions (23 percent); since 2013 the Park Board has been able to add 28 full-time positions back to the workforce, leaving the organization with 18% fewer full-time positions today. During that same time period, the staffing losses were coupled with reductions in park maintenance and care resources, creating significant challenges for the MPRB to keep up with the annual needs of neighborhood parks. Today, the annual maintenance and care gap for neighborhood parks is over \$3 million, with that number increasing each year due to inflationary cost increases and increased usage in Minneapolis’ neighborhood parks. (Table 1)

Table 1. Examples of Maintenance and Care Gaps in the Neighborhood Park System

Activity	Quantity	Current Service Level	Best Practice/ Desired Service Level	Additional Cost for Best Practices/Desired Service Level
Mowing	2750 acres	14-day cycle	10-day cycle	\$875,000
Trail repair	51 miles	.25 miles/year	1 mile/year	\$625,000
Roof repair	62 roofs	40-50 years	20-25 years	\$400,000
Building maintenance	978,017 sf	4,167 hours	8,500 hours	\$194,863
Tree pruning	157 parks	10 year cycle	5 year cycle	\$578,200
Plumbing start up and Shut downs	300 irrigation systems, 150 drinking fountains, 6 decorative fountains, 63 wading pools, 2 water parks	6-8 week start-up and shutdown	3-4 week start-up and shutdown	\$275,000

To reach a broad audience, a spectrum of community engagement methods and communications tools were used to share and collect information for the Closing the Gap initiative from February through October 15, 2015. The engagement methods were a resident phone survey, community meetings, intercept events, online and paper survey, and stakeholder meetings. The communications tools that were used for the initiative included informational materials, a webpage, and notifications (delivered by new releases, govdelivery notices, ads in local papers, and stakeholder contact lists).

## Engagement

Each engagement method is described below.

### Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board 2015 Residential Survey:

This survey was completed in early 2015 by the Morris Leatherman Company, a research firm located in Minneapolis (*Attachment A*). A random sample of 500 residents shared their perspectives about current and future park needs and issues. Care was taken by The Morris Leatherman Company to ensure respondents represented the demographics of the city for race and ethnicity, household type, and renter versus owner. The survey was administered by phone (land lines and cell phones). When necessary, language interpreters were engaged to help individuals complete the survey. Questions focused on perceptions of the entire park and recreation system, usage of the park and recreation system, demographic data, and perceptions of different funding strategies. The results of this survey are statistically valid and can be considered representative of the city as a whole.

**Community Meetings:** These meetings provided community members with the opportunity to learn about the neighborhood park funding gap, RecQuest, and Service Area Master Planning and to provide input into these projects. In each meeting, a presentation (*Attachment B*) provided the background for the capital and operational funding gap for the system, and citywide and park specific capital gap information about individual parks through park profiles (*Attachment C*). In total, 31 meetings were held. After the presentation, participants were asked a range of questions that focused on funding strategies and ideas, perceptions of parks and recreation centers, what does and doesn't work at parks and recreation centers, which programming and facilities are desired, and priorities for maintenance and care of the system (*Attachment D*). MPRB staff facilitated the discussions and took notes summarizing participants' responses and comments.

Prior to holding the meetings staff held a kick-off meeting for neighborhood organization staff to learn about the initiative and to gather insights about how to make the meetings most valuable to residents. Neighborhood organization staff were very helpful in providing input that shaped the content and design of the meetings and in notifying residents of the meetings.

Similar to the kick-off meeting for neighborhoods, several meetings were held for MPRB staff to learn more about the funding gap and the information that was or would be shared in the community meetings. Staff were instrumental in helping identify questions that would be asked by the community. The frequently asked questions document was created based on their questions (*Attachment E*).

This method does not produce statistically valid information; it represents qualitative, anecdotal evidence of priorities noted among community meeting respondents. It does, however, provide an interactive opportunity to delve into greater detail on questions that were asked in phone, paper or online surveys. This information, when combined with statistically valid information, provides a more robust picture of the preferences and needs of the community.

**Intercepts/Events:** Intercepts take the engagement process to community events that are already occurring and to locations where people already gather. Using posters with questions people can contribute feedback on the spot (*Attachment F*). Participants used stickers on posters to answer questions about funding strategies and maintenance priorities. These posters were typically paired with others that focused recreation centers and/or the outdoor assets of neighborhood parks (*Attachment G*). Staff was on hand to provide assistance. The posters that included translation were developed, as needed.

Intercept events were held throughout the city and, at several of the community meetings, the posters were brought out into the park to collect information from patrons that were engaged in activities within the park. In total, intercepts were conducted at 24 events, including cultural events (Falling Water Festival, Monarch Festival), neighborhood-based events and festivals (MPRB movies in the park, Luxton Summer Celebration, West Bank Block Party, Corcoran neighborhood BBQ, Central Gym Family Fun Day), and broader community celebrations (Minneapolis Urban League Family Day, Battle of the Badges cook-off, multiple Open Streets events).

Like the community meetings, this method does not produce statistically valid information; it represents the opinions and thoughts shared by those who completed an intercept versus the city as a whole. The information, however, when combined with results of other methods helps build the overall awareness and depth of knowledge about the preferences and needs of the community.

**Online and Paper Survey:** This survey was available online and by paper (*Attachment H*) through September 30, 2015. Like the resident phone survey, the questions focused on perceptions of the park and recreation system, usage of the park and recreation system, demographic data, and perceptions of different funding strategies. The survey was available on the Closing the Gap webpage, at community meetings for the initiative, and at recreation centers. Readily available throughout the city, the questionnaire provided a simple and convenient way for residents and park visitors to participate in the engagement process.

This method does not produce statistically valid information; it represents the opinions and thoughts shared by those who completed a survey versus the city as a whole. The information, however, when combined with results of other methods helps build the overall awareness and depth of knowledge about the preferences and needs of the community.

**Stakeholder Meetings:** These meetings focused on the MPRB's partners or underserved/under-represented populations. Each meeting was tailored for the needs of the organization or the MPRB's relationship with the organization, including Asian Media Access, Mujeres en Accion, Phillips Community Center tenants, YMCA, Phyllis Wheatley, and Youth Coordinating Board.

The primary focus of these meetings was to share information and identify future opportunities to gather input from the individuals the partner or stakeholder services. In a few meetings, data was collected using the same questions that were used in the community meetings. Where applicable, that data was added into the community meetings findings.

## Communications

Each communication tool is described below.

**Informational Materials:** Informational materials were developed and distributed in the public meetings, stakeholder meetings, staff meetings, and online. These materials were:

- A fact sheet about the project (*Attachment I*);
- Two budget information sheets (*Attachments J and K*);
- A frequently ask questions sheet (*Attachment E*); and
- Funding profiles for each neighborhood park with significant assets and a citywide profile of neighborhood parks (see *Attachment C* for an example).

**Webpage:** To reach residents across the city and provide consistent information about the neighborhood park funding gap staff developed a webpage that provided links to materials shared in the meetings, a link to the online survey, history about the project, information about engagement opportunities, the resident survey results, and the funding profiles that were developed for the neighborhood parks. In September, to help community members who were not able to attend a meeting where they could learn more about the initiative, a video of the presentation that was provided at each community meeting was posted on the webpage in both a long and short version.

**Notifications:** Throughout the initiative the MPRB shared key information through new releases, GovDelivery notices, ads in local papers, and stakeholder contact lists. GovDelivery is the MPRB's electronic notification software that shares information with individuals who have requested to be kept informed on topics of their choice. The stakeholder contact list was developed by our Community Outreach and Assess unit and consists of key partners or organizations within each service area of the city. Staff also identified, using ActiveNet, park patrons for each service area and sent notifications to them about how to participate.

## Participation Statistics

### Resident Survey

500 respondents

Considerations for the findings for this method:

- The findings are statistically valid.
- The findings are representative of the city as a whole.
- The respondents are geographically balanced across the city.
- The respondents reflect the race/ethnicity, household type, and rent versus owner demographics of the city.

### Community Meetings

322 attendees

Considerations for the findings for this method:

- There is a greater representation of respondents from south and southwest Minneapolis.
- The results cannot be generalized across the larger population of Minneapolis.
- The trends identified provide another data point for uncovering community priorities for the future of Minneapolis parks and recreation.
- The findings should be compared to findings from other engagement activities.

### Intercepts

24 events (participation varied, with 10-100 participants per event)

Considerations for the findings of this method:

- Service area master plan data is collected primarily within the particular service area that the intercept was held.
- RecRequest data is collected across the city.
- The tool is very successful in reaching underserved/under-represented populations and those that have minimal time to devote to engagement processes.
- The results cannot be generalized across the larger population of Minneapolis.
- The trends identified provide another data point for uncovering community priorities for the future of Minneapolis parks and recreation.
- The findings should be compared to findings from other engagement activities.

### Online/Paper Survey

354 respondents (260 online and 94 paper)

Considerations for the findings of this method:

- There is a greater representation of respondents from south and southwest Minneapolis.
- The results cannot be generalized across the larger population of Minneapolis.
- The trends identified provide another data point for uncovering community priorities for the future of Minneapolis parks and recreation.
- The findings should be compared to findings from other engagement activities.

### Stakeholder Interviews

7 meetings

Considerations for the findings of this method:

- In a few meetings, data was collected using the same questions that were used in the community meetings. Where applicable, that data was added into the community meetings findings.

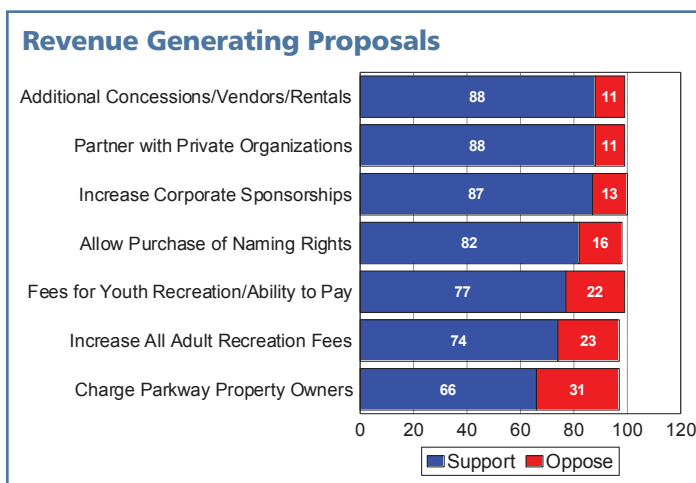
### Funding Ideas and Strategies

Sponsorships, donations, additional vendors/concessions, and partnerships were supported across the engagement for addressing the funding gap. Expressions of support, however, were typically accompanied with a desire to ensure the sponsors, donors, potential vendors, and partners are well matched to the mission and values of the Minneapolis park and recreation system. Naming rights were supported in the resident survey but were less supported in methods that are not statically valid. Across the engagement methods participants expressed a willingness to address the funding gap through an increase in property taxes. The support for maintaining the system was higher than the support for enhancing it. The Morris Leatherman Company indicated that responses to the resident survey revealed that judicious improvements or expansion would be seen as part of a greater "maintenance" effort. Increasing fees for youth or adult programs and services received the most opposition throughout the process, and suggestions to increase fees were commonly paired with the concept of providing scholarships for those that could not pay the fee. Common themes of the community meetings that were not included in the other methods were the desire to reduce the number of assets (such as golf courses), and to strategically tap into the resources within the community, and to apply technologies that make the system more efficient (such as investing in renewable energy).

#### Resident Survey Results

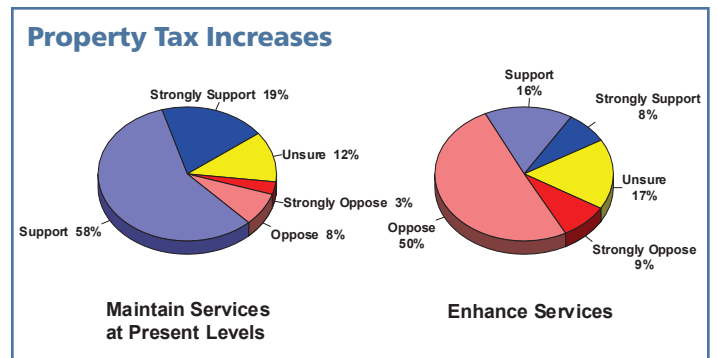
The resident survey revealed that Minneapolis residents are supportive of several revenue generating strategies including additional concessions or vendors, partnering with private organizations, corporate sponsorships, and naming rights. There was also support, but to a lesser degree, for increasing program fees for adults and youth, and assessments to property owners along parkways for parkway improvements (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Resident Survey Responses to Revenue Generating Proposals



The Morris Leatherman Company

Figure 2. Resident Survey Responses to Property Tax Increases



The Morris Leatherman Company

The survey also revealed that residents are supportive of increasing taxes to maintain the current service level provided by the MPRB. According to The Morris Leatherman Company, support for a property tax increase to maintain the park and recreation system is very high and judicious improvements or expansion would be seen as part of a greater "maintenance" effort (Figure 2).

#### Community Meeting and Intercept Results

During the community meetings, participants were asked "What ideas or funding strategies should the MPRB consider to solve the funding gap for neighborhood parks?" At seven intercept events, park patrons responded to an intercept poster that focused on preferred funding strategies. The summary of these methods are combined below and fall into five major themes. The findings provide qualitative, anecdotal evidence of priorities noted among community meeting and intercept event respondents. The community meeting and intercept event findings should be compared to findings from other engagement activities.

**Look to the state, city, and taxpayers for funding.** Community meeting respondents answered that additional funding for neighborhood parks could come through a variety of government-based channels, such as "increased city and state funding," "state bonding," and "neighborhood assessments." Additional specific funding sources included allocating any remaining funds from the City of Minneapolis' Neighborhood Revitalization Program, "lottery funds," and a greater allocation of the City of Minneapolis' budget. In all areas of the city, respondents suggested that a dedicated park referendum would be an appropriate funding approach. Those that completed the intercept posters also supported increasing property taxes.

**Seek capital from alternative sources.** Looking for funds from alternative sources was raised as a viable funding strategy across the city. Community meeting responses ranged from fundraising (memberships similar to MPR), seeking park sponsorships (from a variety of sources), grants, donations, endowments, naming rights for buildings and facilities, advertising in buildings, fields and ice rinks, and additional concessions, including lifting the ban on alcohol so

more events can take place in neighborhood parks. Respondents also mentioned raising fees for vendors and permits, and raising fees for activities and programs that are non-sustainable (but ensuring scholarships are available for those in need). While sponsorships were mentioned multiple times, respondents also noted that the sponsoring organizations need to be a good fit for MPRB. Those that completed the intercept boards for this question supported additional concessions (like Sea Salt) more than additional vending opportunities (food trucks) and didn't want additional rental opportunities (fields, rooms, canoes). Intercept respondents supported increasing adult sport and program fees.

**Look to community partners.** Partnering with a variety of community organizations was raised as a way to cut costs (schools, YMCA, YWCA, neighborhood associations, churches, professional sports teams). Options respondents identified for partnering included sharing resources, spaces, labor, and dedicated fundraising.

**Lighten the load.** Selling underused properties or facilities was raised, including Meadowbrook Golf Course. Also, before deciding to renovate or replace facilities and amenities, determine if replacement is necessary (how often it is used?). Discontinuing golf (if not profitable) and selling courses was raised.

**Be strategic and think long-term.** Suggestions included investing in renewable energy to save money in the future, increasing use of volunteers for neighborhood park maintenance, shifting from maintained park areas to natural to lessen maintenance, and creating a foundation for each neighborhood park.

*Online and Paper Survey Results*

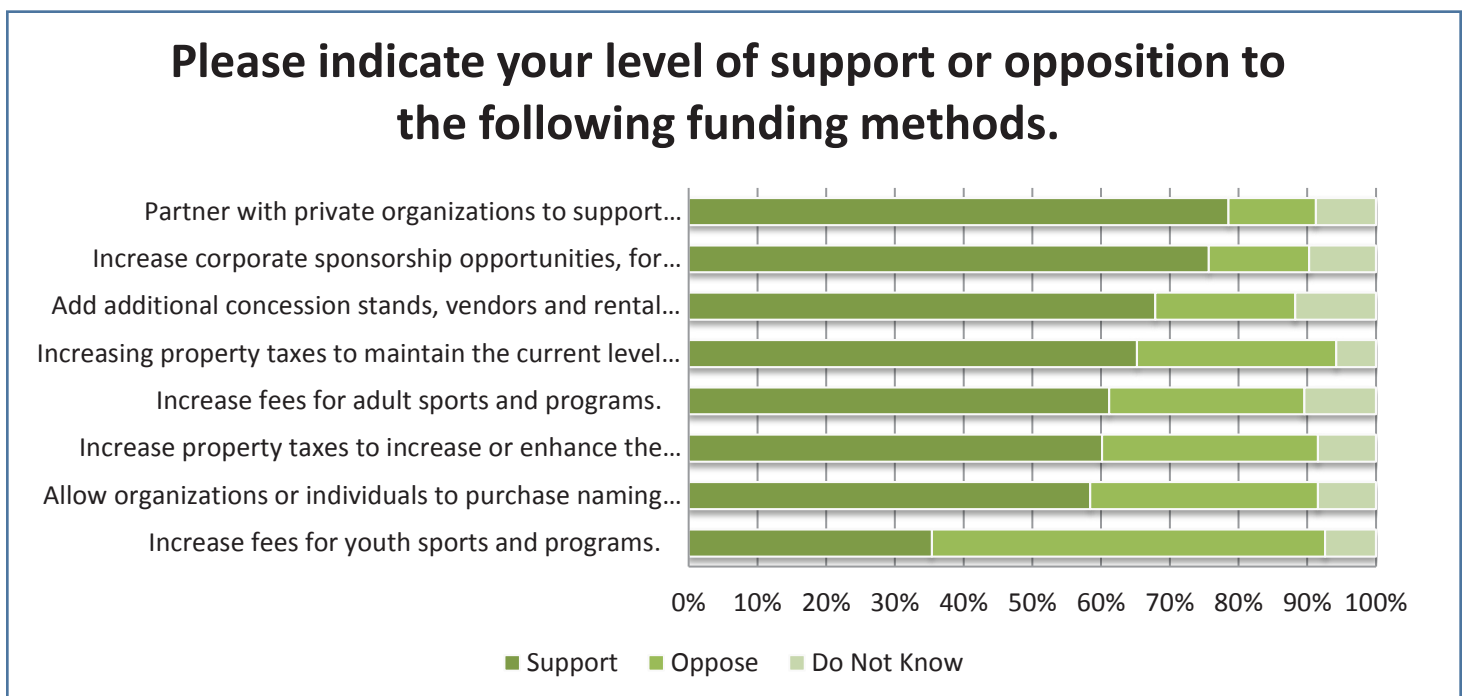
Online and paper survey respondents favor partnerships with private organizations, sponsorships, concessions/vendors/rental opportunities, and property tax increases to maintain current service levels over program fee increases (adult or youth), naming rights, and property tax increases for enhancements (see Figure 3). More specifically:

**Closing the Gap survey respondents are opposed to increasing fees for youth sports and programs.** Over half of respondents (57%) oppose increased fees for youth programs. This parallels early findings from other engagement activities.

**Closing the Gap survey respondents generally support partnerships for funding.** Corporate sponsorships, partnerships with private organizations and opportunities for concessions/vendors/rentals were among the most supported funding methods. Allowing the purchase of naming rights was the least popular of these funding methods.

**Closing the Gap survey respondents generally support an increase in property taxes.** Nearly two-thirds support an increase in property taxes to maintain (65%) or enhance (60%) the MPRB services levels.

Figure 3. Online and Paper Survey Responses to Funding Methods



### Programs/Services

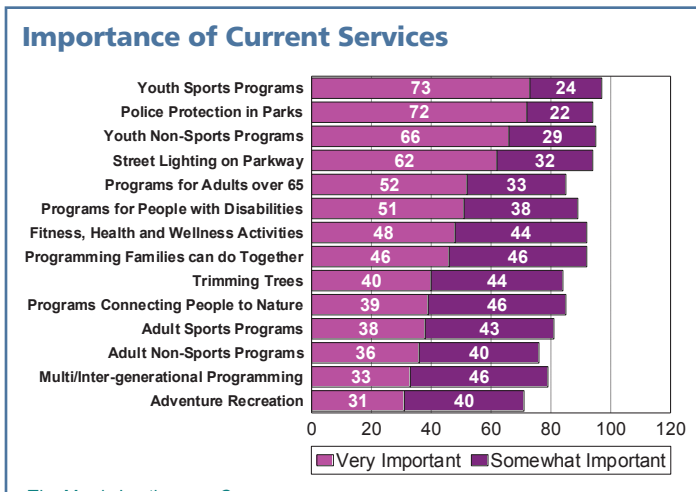
The most common theme that emerged across the engagement methods was the support for youth programming and sports. Respondents of the resident survey and online/paper survey indicated that youth sports and programs and police protection in parks are important. Adventure recreation and adult programs and sports were typically least important among these respondents.

Community meeting and intercept respondents expressed the need for diversity in and different types of programs. Community meeting participants also articulated a need for more programming that is customized to the demographics of a community. When asked what would encourage more use of recreation centers or parks, through intercepts and the online/paper survey, low cost or free programming rated the highest.

#### Resident Survey Results

The resident survey revealed that Minneapolis residents find all of the services specified in the survey were important to them and/or their household. Youth and safety services rated the highest. Those that were less important (yet still important overall) were adult services, intergenerational programming, and adventure recreation (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Resident Survey Responses to Importance of Current Services



The Morris Leatherman Company

#### Community Meeting Results

Findings from the community meetings regarding programs and services are organized by service area and citywide. Some findings reflect the opinions of a few people, while others were shared by more participants. The findings provide qualitative, anecdotal evidence of priorities noted among community meeting respondents. The community meeting findings should be compared to findings from other engagement activities. Analysis suggests that reported priorities differed among participants involved in different outreach activities (e.g., resident survey, community meetings, and intercept events).

#### Downtown

**Expanded Services.** Identified gaps in services included the need for longer hours in park buildings, lifeguards at pools, improved communication about programs and events, and racially equitable programming.

**Other Recreation Opportunities.** Participants recommended keeping in mind that downtown workers have access to recreation programs and facilities provided by others. MPRB sites should be programmed accordingly.

**Staffing Opportunities.** Participants noted the need for more staff and the potential for internships to help individuals build skills while staffing the park.

**Outdoor Programs.** Participants noted the importance of having a wide range of programming options, such as fitness classes and sports, environmental education, meditation, gardening, ice skating, group picnicking, and singing.

#### North

**Programs for All Age Groups.** In addition to recreation programs for youth and adults, participants noted the importance of social programs for populations such as seniors, families, and parents.

**Popularity of Sports.** A wide range of athletic activities were identified as important, including tennis, soccer, basketball, swimming, ice skating, skiing, and walking.

**Development Opportunities.** Participants stressed the importance of adding skill development, job training, and educational presentations to existing programs for youth, such as Nite Owlz.

**Partnerships.** Participants felt it was important to expand program offerings through partnerships with non-profits, for-profits, and other public agencies.

### Northeast/Southeast

**Recreation Programming.** Several comments indicated the importance of or need for more recreation programming opportunities, including toddler programs; childcare and out-of-school programs; health, fitness, and sports; education or lifelong-learning; and community events such as movies in the park and community sings. Both indoor and outdoor facility programs were noted. Partnerships, such as with Community Education at the University of Minnesota, were noted as ways to extend recreation opportunities in the neighborhood.

**Programs for All Age Groups.** Participants felt that programs and services should reflect the demographics of the surrounding neighborhood, including high numbers of toddlers and young children. Other respondents called out needs for programs for adults, seniors, and teen girls.

**Sports Programming.** Participants' comments about sports emphasized a desire for more flexible scheduling with expanded drop-in and weekend hours.

**Additional Hours for Youth Services.** Some comments indicated a desire for expanded facility hours and better access to recreation centers for children and youth.

### South

**Programming Focus.** Participants felt that more programs and services are needed for senior, immigrant, and middle school youth populations. More events, non-sports recreation, and activities (creative, educational, social, cultural, etc.) are needed in parks and recreation centers.

**Expanded Services.** Participants desire a variety of services, including signage, staffing, marketing, communication about programs, and coordination with program instructors.

**Coordinated Programming.** Participants desire better coordination of programs between recreation centers, greater outreach to first-generation residents, and an evaluation of the value of certain program offerings (horseshoe pits, etc.).

**Partnerships.** Participants suggested partnerships with student, school, and community groups, especially to increase programmatic options, and train new coaches.

**Costs and Fees.** Two conflicting comments were noted about costs and fees. There is a desire to keep costs low and programs affordable, while also considering ways to improve facilities for enhanced revenue generation.

**Service Improvements Needed.** Comments suggested that improvements are desired in maintenance and sports field allocation.

### Southwest

**Recreation Programs.** A desired was noted for continued, quality sports programs (especially soccer), as well as programs that respond to new trends in recreation (e.g. pickleball). Some participants supported having more staffing in recreation centers to support more fitness programming.

**Popularity of Events.** Participants expressed general enthusiasm for festivals, movies, music, and other events held in parks.

**Broader Service Provision.** Participants recognized that recreation centers are just one provider of services to residents, and should therefore seek greater efficiency by avoiding duplication.

**Expanded Hours.** Participants expressed a need for expanded hours for greater access to recreation opportunities.

**Programming Focus.** Participants felt that more programs and services are needed that reflect the ages and cultures of the surrounding community members.

### Citywide

**Customized Programs and Services.** Across the city, comments illustrated a desire to tailor services to the demographics of nearby or local residents, creating opportunities for all ages and multi-cultural groups in the community.

**Diverse Recreation Opportunities and Programs.** Comments illustrated an interest in a wide range of drop-in and organized activities and events. There is a clear interest in sports, health, and fitness, as well as a desire to balance these opportunities with social gatherings, educational programs, youth development/childcare programs, and other non-sports activities.

**Support Amenities and Services.** There is an interest in services that support a more welcoming, comfortable recreation experience. These included better maintenance, enhanced staffing, and concessions.

### Intercept Results

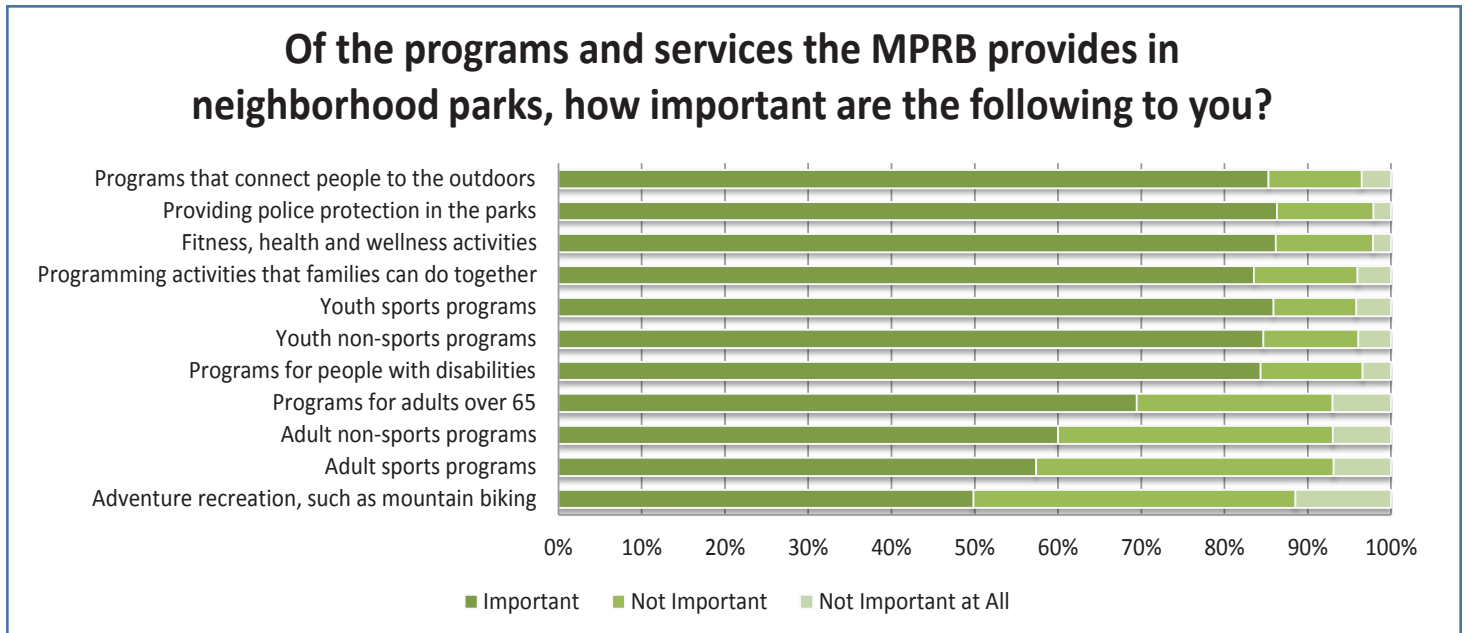
**RecQuest** Eighty one percent (81%) of the respondents to the RecQuest intercepts indicated that they or a member of their household had participated in an organized program/event in a Minneapolis park in the last two years. When asked what would encourage them to use a recreation center and park more frequently, respondents selected low-cost or free programs and different types of programs (than those that are currently offered) most frequently. Of least importance to respondents were more reservable rooms and meeting spaces, and programs closer to public transportation.

*Online and Paper Survey Results*

Online and paper survey respondents identified connecting people with the outdoors, providing police protection in parks, and fitness, health, and wellness activities as the most important program and services for neighborhood parks (Figure 5). Those programs and

services that were identified as least important were adult sports and programs, and adventure recreation. When asked what else was needed at recreation centers, the top program and service responses were to be open during convenient times, more low cost or free programs, and more programs for children. (see Figure 9, page 16).

Figure 5. Online and Paper Survey Responses to Importance of Programs and Services



Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board online and paper survey

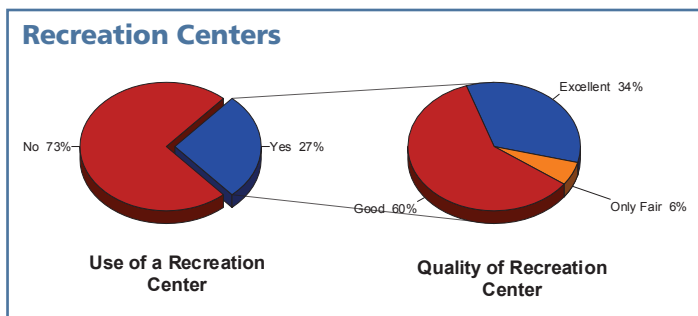
### Recreation Centers

Across many of the engagement methods, participants expressed the need to make recreation centers more welcoming, comfortable, and safe. These recommendations ranged from providing working air conditioning to amenities such as coffee kiosks. In the online/paper survey and community meetings respondents provided insights into what is needed at recreation centers. Gymnasia and fitness areas were most commonly identified in the responses to this question. Based on the responses from the community meetings, there is some variation in views for centers across the city. It appears that there is a greater desire for enhanced facilities with greater amenities in southwest, safety was a priority in north, and multi-uses spaces were discussed in downtown, north, northeast/southeast and south. In some cases, participants indicated that more, better or larger facilities are needed to be able to address the variety of recreation options desired.

#### Resident Survey Results

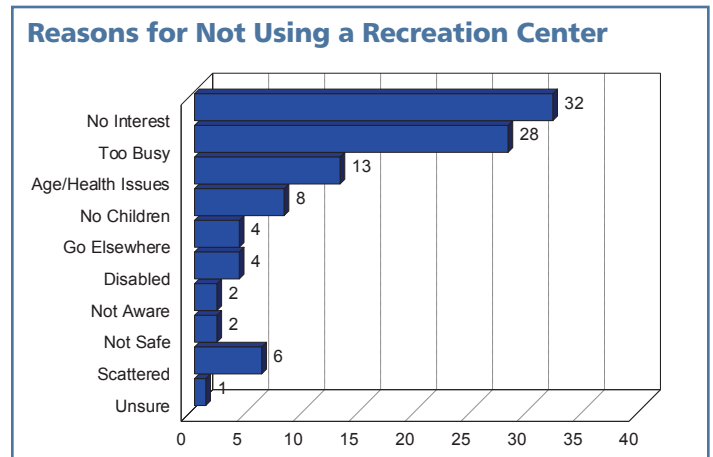
The resident survey indicated that 27% of Minneapolis residents used a recreation center in the last two years (Figure 6). Of those respondents, 93% rated the quality of the center as good or excellent. Lack of interest and being too busy were the greatest reasons for not using a recreation center (Figure 7).

Figure 6. Resident Survey Responses to Recreation Center Use and Quality



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Figure 7. Resident Survey Responses to Reasons for Not Using a Recreation Center



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#### Community Meeting Results

Findings from the community meetings regarding recreation centers are organized by service area and citywide. Some findings reflect the opinions of a few people, while others were shared by more participants. The findings provide qualitative, anecdotal evidence of priorities noted among community meeting respondents. The community meeting findings should be compared to findings from other engagement activities. Analysis suggests that reported priorities differed among participants involved in different outreach activities (e.g., resident survey, community meetings, and intercept events).

#### Downtown

**Support Amenities.** Participants appreciated and expressed the desire for more amenities that create welcoming, inviting social spaces, such as coffee shops, cafés, popcorn machines, art, and multicultural displays.

**Multi-Use Spaces.** Participants noted the benefits of a flexible space to host art exhibits, weddings, meeting rooms, offices for neighborhood organizations, and art classes.

#### North

**Recreation Spaces.** Comments indicated a desire for a sports complex or gym where they can attend recreation classes or other athletic activities.

**Community Spaces.** Comments suggested that participants desire flexible multi-use spaces that are warm and welcoming, where they can attend organized programs and meet and rent space for social, educational, and entertainment purposes.

**Safety.** Generally speaking, recreation centers are important as safe spaces for youth. Safety cameras are needed.

### Northeast/Southeast

**Insufficient Space.** Comments indicated that programs and parking/facility needs are outgrowing the available space. New, expanded multi-use centers are needed, offering a variety of spaces where people can socialize and meet.

**Improvements Needed.** In addition to space issues, participants noted a range of building updates and maintenance needs, as well as issues around lack of bathroom access and uncomfortable furniture.

### South

**Insufficient Facilities and Spaces.** Participants noted the importance of multi-use spaces, storage space, and meeting space. Comments indicated a desire for more indoor facilities to support active recreation, such as gymnasiums, pickleball and bocce courts, and play areas.

**Improvements Needed.** Participants noted shortcomings with amenities (storage, lighting, air conditioning, etc.) and facility condition, particularly gyms. A desire for 'green' facilities was noted.

### Southwest

**Recreation Center Enhancements.** There were more comments in the Southwest than any other service area around expectations for recreation center facilities. Noted needs include larger gymnasiums, fitness space, pools, attractive lobbies, more modern facilities, more flexible use spaces, meetings rooms, party rooms, attractive reservable spaces, specialized classrooms, computer labs, and improved support amenities such as air conditioning, restrooms, registration technology, audio-visual equipment, safety cameras, coffee bars, book nooks, foosball tables, storage, fireplaces, and comfortable furniture.

**Unstructured Social Spaces.** Participants noted the importance of indoor spaces where people of all ages can drop in to socialize and feel comfortable while engaging in unstructured activities.

**Accessibility.** Participants expressed a need for improved infrastructure and greater physical accessibility of indoor facilities.

**Facility Equity.** Some comments indicated that all recreation centers should have the same amenities while others prioritized the need to base amenities on the interests and character of individual neighborhoods.

**Improvements Needed.** Participants noted the need for larger centers, working air conditioning, safety updates, storage and energy efficiency, and infrastructure improvements.

**Insufficient Space.** Participants desire both indoor and outdoor facilities and equipment for active recreation, plus multi-use spaces such as classrooms, kitchens, and other rooms for social/meeting purposes.

**Facility Efficiencies.** Participants noted a need to introduce efficiencies where possible, ranging from a focus on energy to a regular review of facility use to prioritize funding, development, and improvements.

### Citywide

**Space and Place.** In commenting on recreation center spaces, many respondents noted the amenities, services, staffing, and programming options that make recreation centers safe, accessible, and desirable places to socialize and play.

**Improvements Needed.** Comments suggested that a variety of upgrades that are needed in recreation centers to ensure safety, comfort, and usability.

**Support Amenities.** There is an interest in having amenities and facilities that support a more welcoming, comfortable recreation experience. These varied from needs for air conditioning and facilities in good condition to desires for elements such as coffee kiosks, fireplace gathering space, and high-tech audiovisual equipment.

**Insufficient Space.** In some cases, more, better, or larger facilities are needed to be able to address the variety of recreation options desired.

### *Intercept Results*

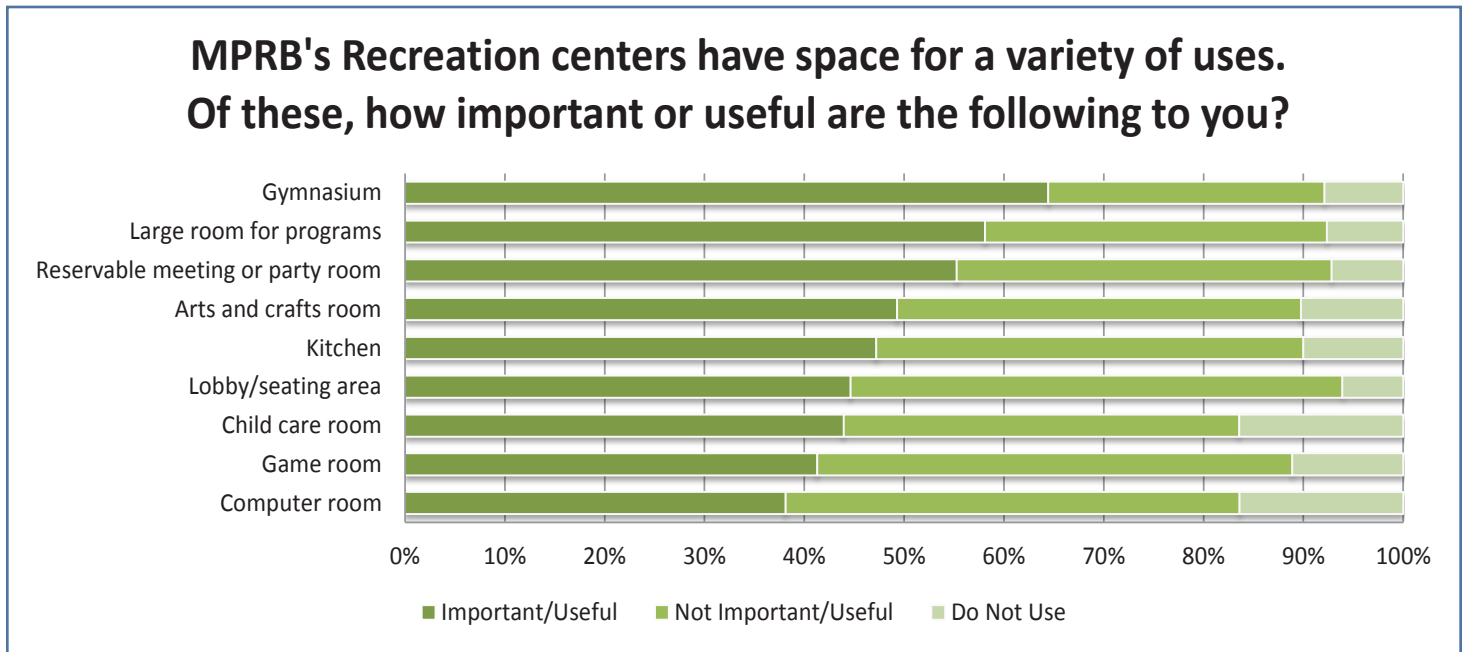
Intercept posters did not include questions about specific improvements to recreation centers.

*Online and Paper Survey Results*

Online and paper survey respondents identified gymnasias, large rooms for programs, and reservable meeting spaces as the most important spaces of recreation centers (Figure 8). The least important were lobby

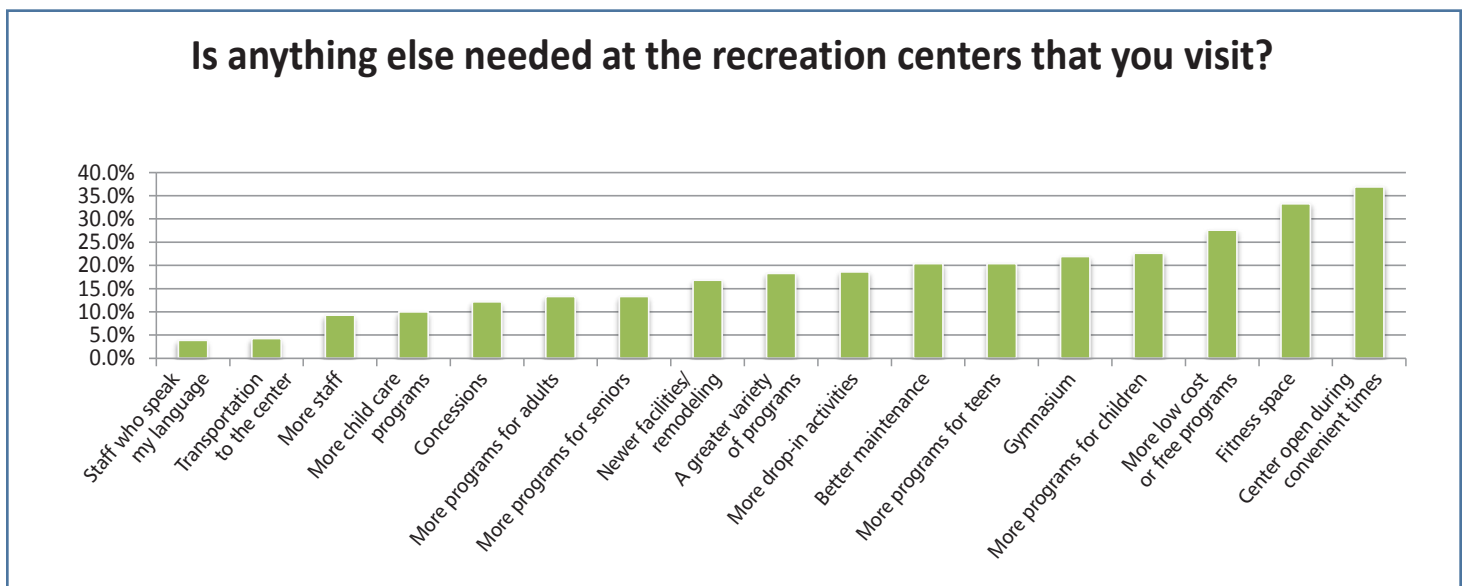
spaces and computer rooms. Respondents also indicated that the top space related needs for recreation centers they visit were fitness space and gymnasias (Figure 9).

Figure 8. Online and Paper Survey Responses Importance of Spaces in Recreation Centers



Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board online and paper survey

Figure 9. Online and Paper Survey Responses to What is Needed at Recreation Centers



Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board online and paper survey

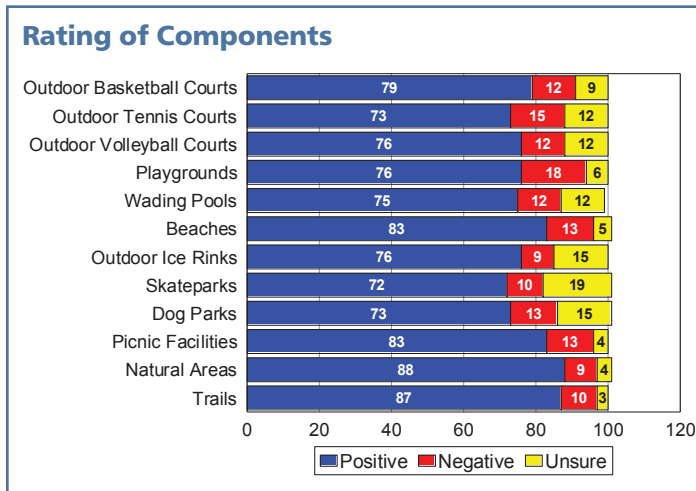
### Outdoor Facilities

Resident needs and perceptions of outdoor assets and facilities varied by engagement method and location of the city. In general, playgrounds, athletic fields, dog parks, ice rinks, and wading pools were considered important. A common theme that emerged across community meetings and online/paper survey respondents was the desire to introduce more natural areas, paths, nature play, gardens, and trees into neighborhood parks. The importance of restrooms, functioning drinking fountains, and benches was raised in each service area during community meetings.

#### Resident Survey Results

The resident survey revealed that the majority of Minneapolis residents rate neighborhood facilities positively (Figure 10), this includes basketball, ice rinks, and playgrounds. Those assets that were rated most positively included natural areas, trails, beaches, and picnic facilities. These assets are more commonly found in regional parks in Minneapolis. The largest number of negative responses were for tennis courts and playgrounds, these assets are typically found in neighborhood parks.

Figure 10. Resident Survey Responses to Satisfaction with Assets

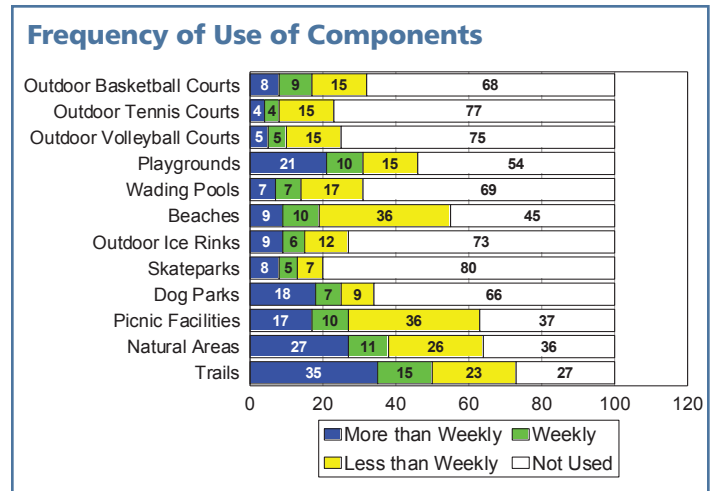


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In terms of use, the most frequently used assets are typically within regional parks (Figure 11). These include trails, natural areas, beaches, and picnic facilities. The most frequently used assets that is typically in a neighborhood park are playgrounds.

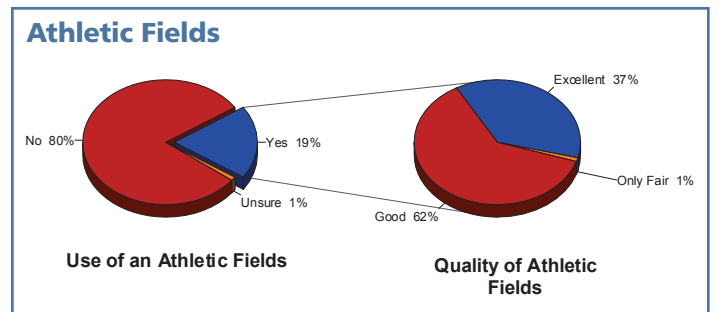
Athletic fields were discussed separately in the resident survey (Figure 12). Of the respondents, 19% used athletic fields. Of those that used them, 99% thought their quality was good or excellent.

Figure 11. Resident Survey Responses to Frequency of Use



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Figure 12. Resident Survey Responses for Athletic Field Use and Quality



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### Community Meeting Results

Findings from the community meetings regarding outdoor assets and facilities are organized by service area and citywide. Some findings reflect the opinions of a few people, while others were shared by more participants. The findings provide qualitative, anecdotal evidence of priorities noted among community meeting respondents. The community meeting findings should be compared to findings from other engagement activities. Analysis suggests that reported priorities differed among participants involved in different outreach activities (e.g., resident survey, community meetings, and intercept events).

#### Downtown

**Outdoor Recreation Facilities.** Participants noted the importance of having a wide range of facilities to be able to support activities such as fitness, environmental education, meditation, gardening, picnicking, outdoor eating, and performances.

**Improvements needed.** Walking paths and tennis courts were identified as important outdoor facilities that need improvement.

**Leisure and quiet.** Participants noted parks as places for quiet walking, sitting, and leisure.

**Art in Parks.** Art in the parks contributes to the quality of the space.

#### North

**Gathering Spaces.** Parks were identified as important places to gather for not only social and educational activities, but also for relaxation and enjoyment of nature. This included gardens, picnic areas, outdoor classroom, and natural areas.

**Safety and Security.** Participants requested a focus on park safety through policing, outdoor supervision, clear posting of rules, and creating community ownership of the parks.

**Improvements Needed.** Participants indicated a desire for more and/or better playgrounds, sports fields, and dog parks. Concern was raised about the impacts of deferred maintenance, especially on large assets like the North Commons Water Park.

#### Northeast/Southeast

**Insufficient Facilities and Spaces.** Participants conveyed that the area lacks multi-use community facilities (such as sport fields), walking paths, and ice rinks.

**Natural Areas.** Participants expressed a desire for more natural areas and trees, and amenities such as gardens.

**Support Facilities.** Available restrooms and working drinking fountains were a concern among participants.

#### South

See intercept data below for more information, as the south service area intercept posters were used to collect information about outdoor facilities and assets at the community meetings in south Minneapolis.

#### Southwest

**Outdoor Amenities and Facilities.** Participants noted the importance of outdoor amenities and facilities that support year-round recreation, including sports fields (some with lighting), sports courts (basketball and tennis), sledding, ice rinks, slack lining, wading pools/splash pads, picnic areas (tables and grills), and playgrounds.

**Unstructured Social Spaces.** Participants noted the importance of outdoor spaces where they can socialize and feel comfortable, especially where people of all ages can drop in to participate in unstructured activities.

**Nature and Gardens.** Natural areas, trees, gardens, nature play, community gardens, and open spaces were common requests for participants. There was also a sense of focusing on habitat and pollinator friendly environments.

**Support Facilities.** Available restrooms and working drinking fountains were a concern among participants.

#### Citywide

**Outdoor Amenities and Facilities.** Participants noted the importance of several outdoor amenities and facilities. Athletic fields, dog parks, ice rinks, playgrounds, trails or paths, wading pools or pools, picnic areas, and tennis courts were important across the city.

**Nature, Trees, and Gardens.** Natural areas, trees, gardens, and open spaces were common requests for participants across the city.

**Support Facilities.** Available restrooms and working drinking fountains were a concern among participants.

### Intercept Results

#### South

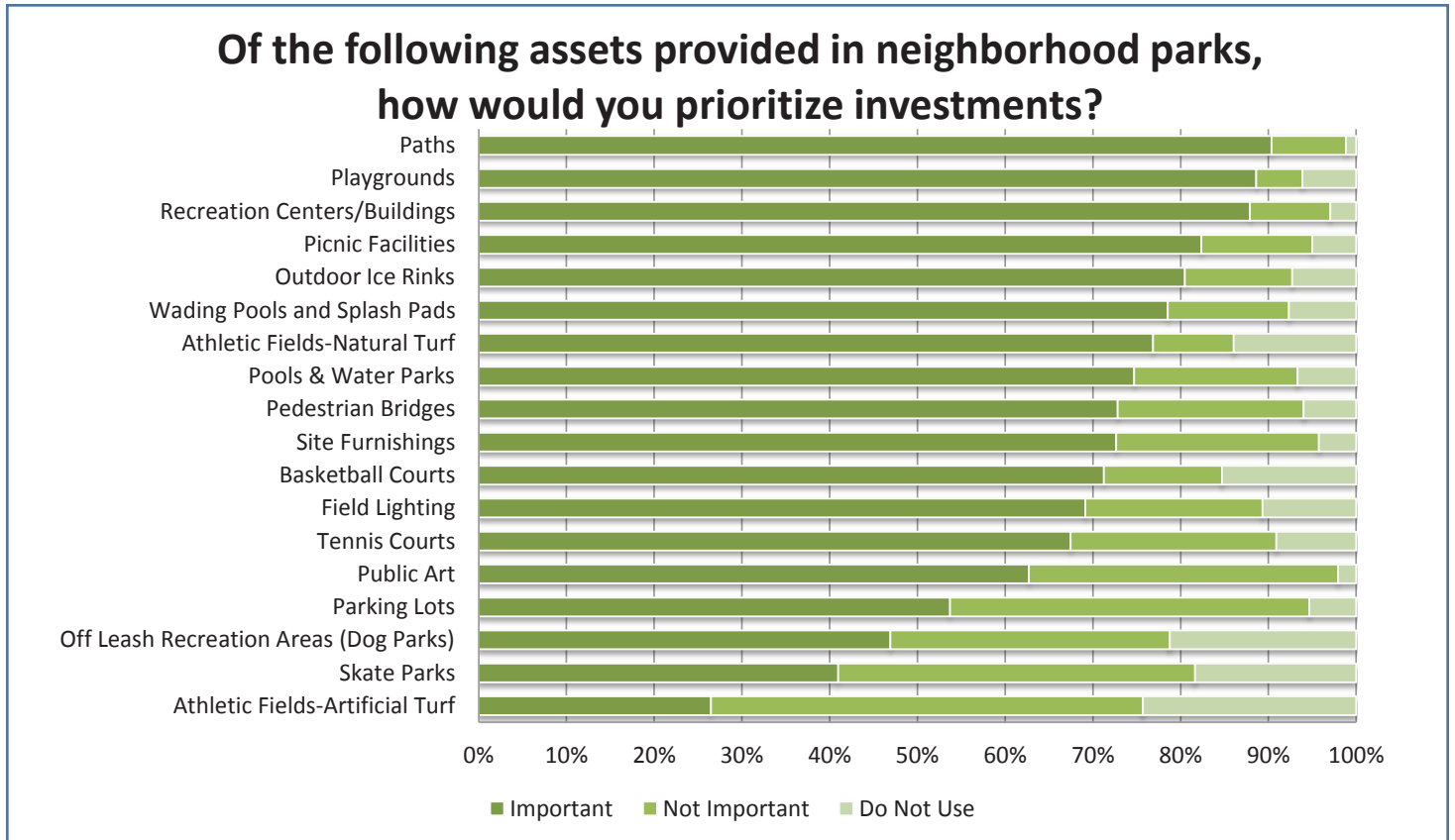
Respondents to the South Service Area intercept posters indicated the greatest preferences for existing wading pools, playgrounds, trails, and ice skating rinks. Shelter, sand volleyball, baseball, and tennis rated the lowest for existing assets. Their highest preferences for future assets included a swimming pool and vertical climbing walks. High quality diamonds and parking lots were least desired for future assets.

Online and Paper Survey Results

Respondents to the online and paper survey prioritized investments in paths, picnic facilities, recreation centers, and playgrounds the highest

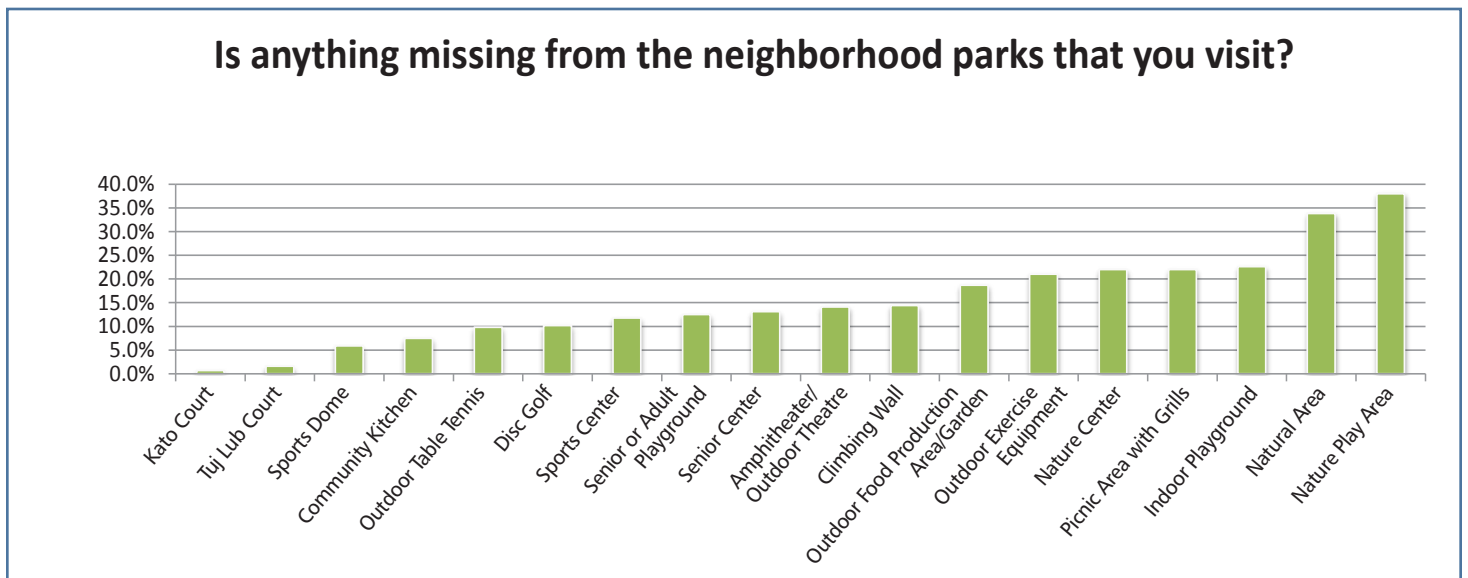
(Figure 13). They placed the lowest priority on investments in artificial turf fields. They felt nature play and natural areas were missing the most from neighborhood parks (Figure 14).

Figure 13. Online and Paper Survey Responses to Investment Priority in Assets



Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board online and paper survey

Figure 14. Online and Paper Survey Responses to Assets Missing



Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board online and paper survey

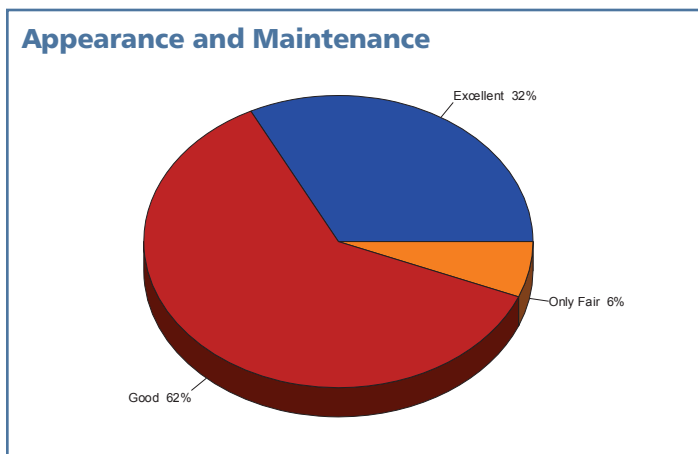
### Maintenance and Care

The resident survey provided an overall look at the perceptions of maintenance and care of the park system. It indicated that 94% of residents think the maintenance and appearance of the park system is good or excellent. The community meetings and online/paper survey provided opportunities to learn more about which maintenance and care services might be most important. Respondents to both methods indicated that waste pickup and removal, and playground maintenance and safety were most important. These respondents also indicated that landscape care and mowing were least important. In the community meetings, respondents also placed higher value on recreation center maintenance and lower value on tree care, whereas online/paper survey respondents placed higher value on pathway maintenance and less value on outdoor court maintenance.

#### Resident Survey Results

The resident survey reveals that 94% of Minneapolis residents rate the appearance and maintenance of the park system good or excellent (Figure 15).

Figure 15. Resident Survey Responses to Appearance and Maintenance



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#### Community Meeting and Intercept Results

In the community meetings participants were asked to indicate which maintenance services were most important to them and/or their household in a small group discussion or to complete an intercept poster that focused on maintenance and care of the neighborhood park system. The responses were combined and tableted to create a single number for each service. For example, if 5 respondents thought that a service was not important and 11 respondents thought it was important, the resulting value for that service was 6. The higher the number, the more important the service was to participants. The combined responses (Table 2) showed that recreation center maintenance, trash/litter pick-up and removal, and playground safety and maintenance were of greatest importance to respondents. Tree care, landscape care, and mowing were least important.

Table 2. Community Meeting Responses to Importance of Maintenance and Care Services

Service	Combined Level of Importance (higher number reflects greater importance)					Total/ Citywide
	North	SWest	South	NE/SE	Down town	
Recreation Center maintenance	11	88	44	35	8	186
Playground safety and maintenance	9	61	39	53	19	181
Waste pick up and removal	11	55	35	41	9	151
Sidewalk/pathway maintenance	7	46	31	31	12	127
Sidewalk/pathway ice and snow removal	7	47	22	35	9	120
Vandalism repair and graffiti removal	7	43	27	36	6	119
Wading pool maintenance	4	40	29	30	8	111
Outdoor court maintenance	7	27	25	33	8	100
Athletic field maintenance	6	16	28	29	7	86
Mowing within parks	7	5	25	28	2	67
Landscape care within parks	1	16	18	26	3	64
Tree care within parks	1	16	20	24	1	62

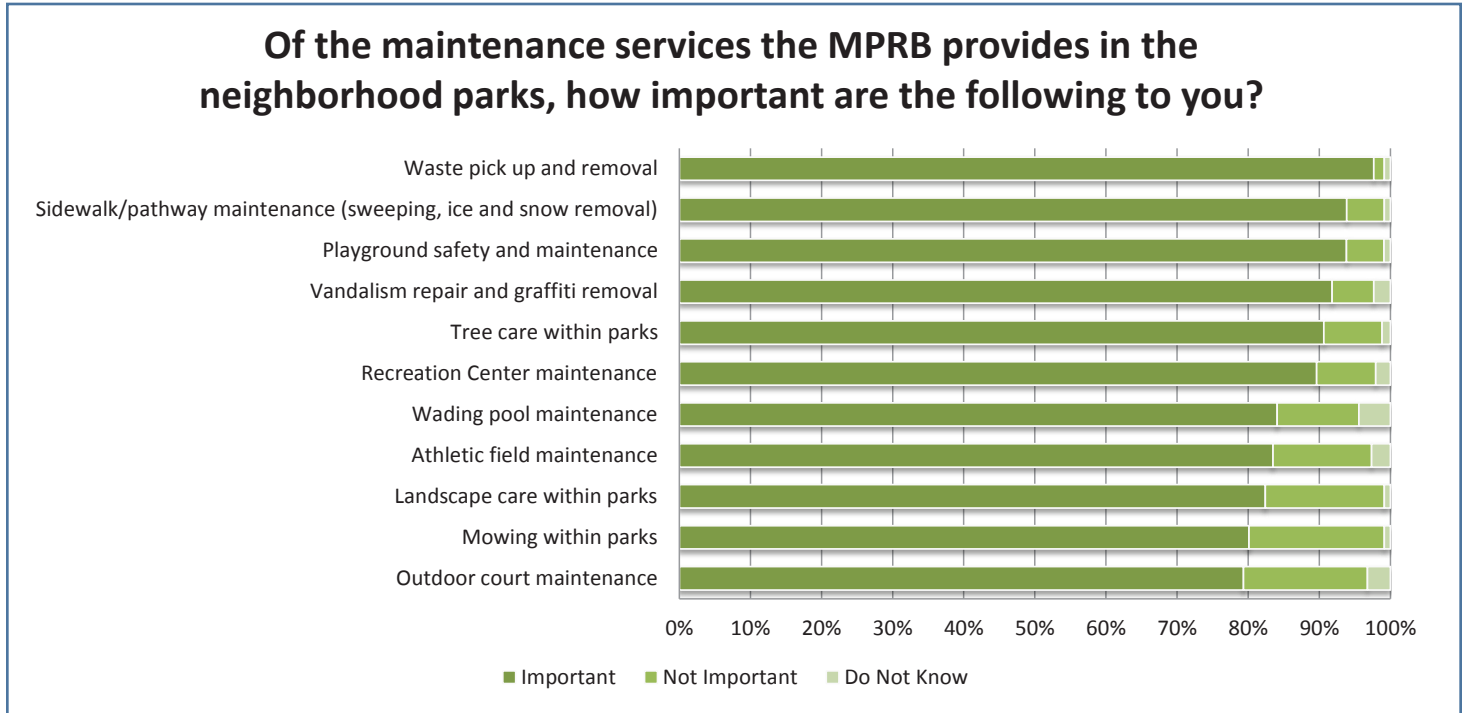
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board community meetings and intercept results

*Online and Paper Survey Results*

Respondents to the online and paper survey indicated that waste pickup and removal, playground safety and maintenance, and pathway maintenance were most important to them and/or their household.

Maintenance and care services that were least important are tennis court maintenance, landscape care within parks, and mowing within parks (Figure 16).

Figure 16. Online and Paper Survey Responses to Importance of Maintenance and Care Services



Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board online and paper survey

*We acknowledge, with gratitude, the contributions of the following staff for their work in the Closing the Gap initiative and the development of this report.*

Adam Arvidson, Director of Strategic Planning

Ginger Cannon, Community Outreach and Research Planner

Tom Johnson, Engineering Technician II

Michelle Kellogg, Community Outreach and Access Manager

Justin Long, Assistant Superintendent of Environmental Stewardship

Jayne Miller, Superintendent

Brenda Compean Morales, Urban Scholar and Bilingual Information Ambassador

Jamie Neldner, Assistant Director of Recreation Centers and Programs

Elise Niedermeier, Community Outreach and Access Coordinator

Colleen O'Dell, Project Planner/Designer

Veronica Quillien, Community Outreach and Access Coordinator

Jennifer Ringold, Deputy Superintendent

Paul Rosen, Budget and Analysis Manager

Michael Schroeder, Assistant Superintendent of Planning

Robin Smothers, Social Media and Marketing Consultant

Dawn Sommers, Director of Communications and Marketing

Athelgra Williams, Community Outreach and Access Coordinator

J. Nicholas Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation

Cordell Wiseman, Director of Community Outreach

Emily Wolfe, Recreation Administration Coordinator

We also thank the recreation center staff and environmental stewardship staff across the organization that hosted meetings at parks throughout the summer and provided critical information to develop the materials for the project.

Attachment A. The Morris Leatherman Company Survey

THE MORRIS LEATHERMAN COMPANY  
 3128 Dean Court  
 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416

City of Minneapolis  
 Park & Recreation Issues Study  
 FINAL MARCH 2015

Hello, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ with the Morris Leatherman Company, a research firm located in Minneapolis. We have been hired by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to speak with a random sample of residents about issues facing the community. This survey is being conducted because the Minneapolis Park Board and staff are interested in your opinions and suggestions about current and future park needs and issues. I want to assure you that all individual responses will be held strictly confidential; only summaries of the entire sample will be reported.

If you're not familiar with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, it operates and maintains 251 park properties totaling nearly 6,790 acres of land and water. The park system includes 49 recreation centers, playgrounds, more than 100 miles of trails, wading pools, outdoor ice rinks and much more.

- 1. Approximately how many years have you lived in Minneapolis?
  - FIVE YEARS OR LESS.....1
  - SIX TO TEN YEARS.....2
  - 11 TO 20 YEARS.....3
  - 21 TO 30 YEARS.....4
  - OVER THIRTY YEARS.....5
  - DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....6

- 2. What do you like most about the parks and opportunities for recreation within Minneapolis?
 

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- 3. What do you like least about the parks and opportunities for recreation within Minneapolis?
 

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- 4. What is your overall impression of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation System -- excellent, good, only fair or poor?
  - EXCELLENT.....1
  - GOOD.....2
  - ONLY FAIR.....3
  - POOR.....4
  - DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....5

Attachment A. The Morris Leatherman Company Survey

5. What is your overall impression of the appearance and maintenance of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation System -- excellent, good, only fair or poor?
- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| EXCELLENT.....          | 1 |
| GOOD.....               | 2 |
| ONLY FAIR.....          | 3 |
| POOR.....               | 4 |
| DON'T KNOW/REFUSED..... | 5 |

IF "ONLY FAIR" OR "POOR," ASK:

6. Why did you rate the appearance and maintenance as (only fair/poor?)

---



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The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board operates 49 recreation centers, located in neighborhood parks across Minneapolis. Keeping this in mind ...

7. Have you used a Recreation Center during the past two years for recreation purposes?
- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| YES.....                | 1 |
| NO.....                 | 2 |
| DON'T KNOW/REFUSED..... | 3 |

IF "YES," ASK:

8. Which Recreation Center do you use most often?

---

9. How often do you use a Recreation Center - daily, two to three times a week, weekly, two to three times a month, monthly or less often?
- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| DAILY.....                | 1 |
| 2 TO 3 TIMES A WEEK.....  | 2 |
| WEEKLY.....               | 3 |
| 2 TO 3 TIMES A MONTH..... | 4 |
| MONTHLY.....              | 5 |
| LESS OFTEN.....           | 6 |
| DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....   | 7 |

10. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the Recreation center - excellent, good, only fair or poor?
- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| EXCELLENT.....          | 1 |
| GOOD.....               | 2 |
| ONLY FAIR.....          | 3 |
| POOR.....               | 4 |
| DON'T KNOW/REFUSED..... | 5 |

IF "ONLY FAIR" OR "POOR," ASK:

Attachment A. The Morris Leatherman Company Survey

11. Why do you feel that way?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Park Board offers two types of programming: those held INSIDE a recreation centers such as basketball, music lessons, tumbling, pottery, yoga, preschool and those held OUTSIDE such as baseball, soccer, tennis lessons, geocaching, archery, and neighborhood festivals.

12. Do you participate in INSIDE programs at a Recreation Center? YES.....1 NO.....2 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....3

IF "YES," ASK:

13. What INSIDE programs did you participate in?

\_\_\_\_\_

14. How would you rate the INSIDE programs - excellent, good, only fair or poor? EXCELLENT.....1 GOOD.....2 ONLY FAIR.....3 POOR.....4 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....5

IF "ONLY FAIR" OR "POOR," ASK:

15. Why do you feel that way?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. Do you participate in OUTSIDE programs at a Recreation Center? YES.....1 NO.....2 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....3

IF "YES," ASK:

17. What OUTSIDE programs did you participate in?

\_\_\_\_\_

Attachment A. The Morris Leatherman Company Survey

- 18. How would you rate the OUTSIDE programs - excellent, good, only fair or poor?
  - EXCELLENT.....1
  - GOOD.....2
  - ONLY FAIR.....3
  - POOR.....4
  - DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....5

IF "ONLY FAIR" OR "POOR," ASK:

19. Why do you feel that way?

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20. What additional/other amenities or facilities would you like to see the Park Board offer its residents at the Recreation Center?

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IF "NO" IN QUESTION #7, ASK:

21. Why don't you use a Recreation Center?

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- 22. In general, do you feel existing recreation centers offered by the Park Board meet the needs of you and members of your household?
  - YES.....1
  - NO.....2
  - DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....3

Continuing....

- 23. Have you or any member of your household used a Minneapolis Park and Recreation athletic field in the last two years?
  - YES.....1
  - NO.....2
  - DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....3

IF "YES," ASK:

Attachment A. The Morris Leatherman Company Survey

24. Which sport do you or members of your household play most often on the athletic field?

Weather permitting....

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 25. How often do you or a member of your household use an athletic field - daily, two to three times a week, weekly, two to three times a month, monthly or less often? | DAILY.....1                |
|   | 2 TO 3 TIMES A WEEK.....2  |
|   | WEEKLY.....3               |
|   | 2 TO 3 TIMES A MONTH.....4 |
|   | MONTHLY.....5              |
|   | LESS OFTEN.....6           |
|   | DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....7   |
| 26. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the athletic field - excellent, good, only fair or poor?   | EXCELLENT.....1            |
|   | GOOD.....2                 |
|   | ONLY FAIR.....3            |
|   | POOR.....4                 |
|   | DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....5   |

For each of the following Minneapolis park facilities or offerings, please tell me if you or members of your household have visited or used it during the past two years. Then, for each one you or members of your household have visited or used, please tell me how often you or a member of your household use that facility - daily, two to three times a week, weekly, two to three times a month, monthly or less often?

	NOT USE	USE	USE	USE	USE	USE	DK/	
	USE	DAI	2WK	WEE	2MH	MON	LES	REF
27. Outdoor basketball courts?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
28. Outdoor tennis courts?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29. Outdoor volleyball courts?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
30. Playgrounds?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
31. Wading pools?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32. Beaches?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
33. Outdoor ice rinks?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
34. Skateparks?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
35. Dog parks?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
36. Picnic facilities?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
37. Natural areas?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
38. Trails?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

## Attachment A. The Morris Leatherman Company Survey

Now, from what you have heard or seen, please rate the park facility or offering as excellent, good, only fair or poor. If you have no opinion, just say so....

	EXC	GOO	FAI	POO	DKR
39. Outdoor basketball courts?	1	2	3	4	5
40. Outdoor tennis courts?	1	2	3	4	5
41. Outdoor volleyball courts?	1	2	3	4	5
42. Playgrounds?	1	2	3	4	5
43. Wading pools?	1	2	3	4	5
44. Beaches?	1	2	3	4	5
45. Outdoor ice rinks?	1	2	3	4	5
46. Skateparks?	1	2	3	4	5
47. Dog parks?	1	2	3	4	5
48. Picnic facilities?	1	2	3	4	5
49. Natural areas?	1	2	3	4	5
50. Trails?	1	2	3	4	5

I am going to read the list one more time. Please tell me if you or members of your household would be willing to travel to that park facility or offering. For those you are willing to travel to, please tell me if you would be willing to travel five minutes or less, 6 to 10 minutes, 11 to 15 minutes, 16 to 20 minutes or over 20 minutes?

	NO	5LS	SIX	ELE	SIX	20+	DKR
51. Outdoor basketball courts?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
52. Outdoor tennis courts?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
53. Outdoor volleyball courts?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
54. Playgrounds?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
55. Wading pools?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
56. Beaches?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
57. Outdoor ice rinks?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
58. Skateparks?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
59. Dog parks?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
60. Picnic facilities?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
61. Natural areas?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
62. Trails?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Attachment A. The Morris Leatherman Company Survey

63. Are there any other Minneapolis park facilities or offerings, you or members of your household use that I haven't listed? (IF "YES," ASK:) What would those be?

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IF PARK FACILITY OR OFFERING IS GIVEN, ASK:

64. How often you or a member of your household use that facility - daily, two to three times a week, weekly, two to three times a month, monthly or less often?
- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| DAILY.....                | 1 |
| 2 TO 3 TIMES A WEEK.....  | 2 |
| WEEKLY.....               | 3 |
| 2 TO 3 TIMES A MONTH..... | 4 |
| MONTHLY.....              | 5 |
| LESS OFTEN.....           | 6 |
| DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....   | 7 |
65. How would you rate \_\_\_\_\_ -- excellent, good, only fair or poor?
- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| EXCELLENT.....          | 1 |
| GOOD.....               | 2 |
| ONLY FAIR.....          | 3 |
| POOR.....               | 4 |
| DON'T KNOW/REFUSED..... | 5 |
66. Now, tell me if you or members of your household would be willing to travel to that park facility or offering? (IF "YES," ASK:) Would you be willing to travel five minutes or less, 6 to 10 minutes, 11 to 15 minutes, 16 to 20 minutes or over 20 minutes?
- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| NO.....                   | 1 |
| YES/5 MINUTES OR LESS.... | 2 |
| YES/6 TO 10 MINUTES.....  | 3 |
| YES/11 TO 15 MINUTES..... | 4 |
| YES/16 TO 20 MINUTES..... | 5 |
| YES/OVER 20 MINUTES.....  | 6 |
| DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....   | 7 |
67. In general, do you feel existing parks and recreation facilities offered by the Park Board meet the needs of you and members of your household?
- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| YES.....                | 1 |
| NO.....                 | 2 |
| DON'T KNOW/REFUSED..... | 3 |

IF "NO," ASK:

## Attachment A. The Morris Leatherman Company Survey

68. What do you feel is missing?

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69. Do you or members of your household currently use park and recreation facilities or participate in park and recreation programs and activities outside of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation system? (IF "YES," ASK:) What would that be?

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To what extent does each of the following considerations limit your household's use of Minneapolis public parks and trails and participation in Minneapolis recreation activities and programs - would you say it limits you a lot, somewhat, or not at all?

	ALT	SOM	NAA	DKR
70. Lack of time?	1	2	3	4
71. Lack of transportation?	1	2	3	4
72. Cost of programs and equipment?	1	2	3	4
73. Facilities are not suited to my needs?	1	2	3	4
74. Language barriers?	1	2	3	4
75. Lack of information about facilities and programs?	1	2	3	4
76. Cultural beliefs and restrictions?	1	2	3	4
77. Concern about personal safety?	1	2	3	4
78. Lack of companion - no one to do things with?	1	2	3	4
79. Don't feel welcome by other park users?	1	2	3	4
80. Don't feel welcome by park staff?	1	2	3	4
81. Facilities are not physically accessible to me?	1	2	3	4
82. Lack of interest in these facilities or programs?	1	2	3	4
83. Inconvenient hours of operation?	1	2	3	4
84. Inconvenient times of program or activities?	1	2	3	4
85. The facility doesn't offer program that interest all family members at the same time?	1	2	3	4

## Attachment A. The Morris Leatherman Company Survey

I would like to read you a list of current programs and activities provided by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. For each one, please tell me how important you think that service is to the community -- very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important. If you have no opinion about a particular service, just say so.... (ROTATE LIST)

	VRI	SMI	NTI	NAA	DKR
86. Youth sports programs?	1	2	3	4	5
87. Youth non-sports programs?	1	2	3	4	5
88. Adult sports programs?	1	2	3	4	5
89. Adult non-sports programs?	1	2	3	4	5
90. Programs that appeal to adults over 65?	1	2	3	4	5
91. Providing police protection in the parks?	1	2	3	4	5
92. Maintenance of street lighting on the parkways?	1	2	3	4	5
93. Trimming trees in the parks and along city streets?	1	2	3	4	5
94. Fitness, health and wellness activities?	1	2	3	4	5
95. Programs that connect people to nature and the outdoors?	1	2	3	4	5
96. Adventure recreation such as mountain biking?	1	2	3	4	5
97. Programs for people with disabilities?	1	2	3	4	5
98. Multi/inter-generational programming?	1	2	3	4	5
99. Programming families can do together?	1	2	3	4	5

Moving on....

I'm going to read you some PAIRS of statements. As I read each pair, tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement COMES CLOSEST to your own views -- even if neither is exactly right. (ASK AFTER INITIAL ANSWER) Do you feel strongly about that, or not?

Attachment A. The Morris Leatherman Company Survey

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 100. A) I prefer SELF-DIRECTED park and recreation activities that don't require organization, such as walking or open gym; | STATEMENT A/STRONGLY.....1 |
| OR  | STATEMENT A.....2          |
| B) I prefer ORGANIZED park and recreation activities that require organization, such sports leagues and hobby classes.      | STATEMENT B.....3          |
|   | STATEMENT B/STRONGLY.....4 |
|   | NEITHER (VOL.).....5       |
|   | DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....6   |

Weather permitting....

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 101. A) I prefer indoor park and recreation activities; | STATEMENT A/STRONGLY.....1 |
| OR  | STATEMENT A.....2          |
| B) I prefer outdoor park and recreation activities?     | STATEMENT B.....3          |
|   | STATEMENT B/STRONGLY.....4 |
|   | NEITHER (VOL.).....5       |
|   | DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....6   |

Changing topics....

The City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board are facing budget challenges. To help address these challenges, some people have suggested the Park System set fees for the use of several currently free services, increase fees for services already paid for by participants, or offer other revenue-generating services. For each of the following proposals, please tell me if you would strongly support it, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose it. If you have no opinion, just say so.... (ROTATE LIST)

	STS	SMS	SMO	STO	DKR
102. Increase all adult recreation fees so the cost of programs or services is fully paid for by the fees charged?	1	2	3	4	5
103. Impose fees for youth recreation programs and services based upon their ability to pay?	1	2	3	4	5
104. Charge property owners on city parkways in the city for the maintenance of those parkways?	1	2	3	4	5
105. Adding additional concession stands, vendors and rental opportunities?	1	2	3	4	5

## Attachment A. The Morris Leatherman Company Survey

	STS	SMS	SMO	STO	DKR
106. Partner with private organizations to support programming, for example Oregon's Kidz Love Soccer program which provides non-competitive youth soccer classes and soccer camp?	1	2	3	4	5
107. Increase corporate sponsorship opportunities to help offset the cost of programs and/or facilities, for example Minnesota Zoo's World of Birds Show, sponsored by Wings Financial?	1	2	3	4	5
108. Allow organizations or individuals to purchase naming rights for park board properties, for example the McCormick Tribune Ice Rink in Chicago's Millennium Park.	1	2	3	4	5

Now, I would like to read you some statements about Minneapolis Park and Recreation system. For each one, please tell me if you strongly agree with it, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with it. (ROTATE LIST)

	STA	SMA	SMD	STD	DKR
109. The Minneapolis Parks and Lakes are a unique and valuable asset for the city.	1	2	3	4	5
110. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation System contributes to the economy by increasing the value of properties near parks.	1	2	3	4	5
111. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation System contributes to the economy by drawing adults and families from other Metropolitan area cities to parks and facilities not offered in their own city.	1	2	3	4	5
112. I think there is a need for Minneapolis to acquire more land to preserve and develop as parks, playing fields and natural areas.	1	2	3	4	5

Attachment A. The Morris Leatherman Company Survey

	STA	SMA	SMD	STD	DKR
113. Suppose you were looking for a new home. If the costs and amenities of two homes you liked were virtually identical, closeness to a park would be an important factor in your decision between the two homes.	1	2	3	4	5
114. The Minneapolis Parks and Lakes play an important positive role in the emotional and psychological health of city residents.	1	2	3	4	5
115. The Minneapolis Parks and Lakes play a key role in the physical health and wellness of city residents.	1	2	3	4	5
116. The Minneapolis Parks play an important role in serving the public good, by offering free or low-cost recreational facilities and activities to everyone.	1	2	3	4	5

Moving on....

117. About what percent of the property taxes you pay goes to the operation of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation System?	LESS THAN ONE PERCENT....1
	1 TO 2 PERCENT.....2
	2 TO 4 PERCENT.....3
	5 TO 7 PERCENT.....4
	8 TO 10 PERCENT.....5
	MORE THAN 10 PERCENT.....6
	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....7

For your information, the actual percentage is about 8.0 percent of your total property taxes, or 8 cents out of every dollar?

118. Do you think all the operations of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation system are funded entirely by property taxes?	YES.....1
	NO.....2
	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....3

Attachment A. The Morris Leatherman Company Survey

119. Would you support or oppose a pro- STRONGLY SUPPORT.....1  
 perty tax increase to maintain SUPPORT.....2  
 Minneapolis Park and Recreation OPPOSE.....3  
 System infrastructure, programs STRONGLY OPPOSE.....4  
 and services at their present DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....5  
 levels? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Do  
 you feel strongly that way?

IF "OPPOSE" OR "STRONGLY OPPOSE," ASK:

120. What infrastructure, programs and services would you be  
 willing to see cut?

---



---

121. Would you support or oppose a pro- STRONGLY SUPPORT.....1  
 perty tax increase to enhance SUPPORT.....2  
 Minneapolis Park and Recreation OPPOSE.....3  
 System infrastructure, programs STRONGLY OPPOSE.....4  
 and services? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....5  
 Do you feel strongly that way?

IF "STRONGLY SUPPORT" OR "SUPPORT," ASK:

122. What Minneapolis Park and Recreation System  
 infrastructure, programs and services would you like to  
 see enhanced?

---



---

123. When you consider the property EXCELLENT.....1  
 taxes you pay and the quality of GOOD.....2  
 the infrastructure, programs and ONLY FAIR.....3  
 services provided by the Minnea- POOR.....4  
 polis Park and Recreation system, DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....5  
 how would you rate that value --  
 is it an excellent value, a good  
 value, an only fair value or a  
 poor value?

Turning to communications.....

## Attachment A. The Morris Leatherman Company Survey

124. What is your principal source of information about Minneapolis Parks and its activities? (READ LIST, #1-#8)	PARK BROCHURE/GUIDE.....01
	MPRB WEBSITE.....02
	LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD
	NEWSPAPERS.....03
	SOCIAL MEDIA.....04
	FRIENDS/FAMILY.....05
	EMAIL/GOV DELIVERY
	SUBSCRIPTION.....06
	VISITING PARK FACILITY..07
	MPS COMMUNITY ED INSERT.08
	NONE.....09
125. How would you most prefer to receive information about Minneapolis Parks and its activities -- (ROTATE) e-mail or government delivery subscription, Minneapolis Parks website, park publications and newsletters, mailings to your home, local neighborhood newspaper coverage, social media, visiting or using a park facility?	E-MAIL/GOV DELIVERY
	SUBSCRIPTION.....0
	MPRB WEBSITE.....1
	PUBLICATIONS/NEWSLTRS....2
	MAILINGS TO HOME.....3
	LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.....4
	SOCIAL MEDIA.....5
	VISITING PARK FACILITY...6
	NONE.....7
	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....8
Just a few more questions for demographics purposes....	
126. Do you own or rent your present residence?	OWN.....1
	RENT.....2
	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....3
127. Which of the following categories contains your total household income for last year - less than \$35,000, \$35,00-\$75,000, \$75,000-\$100,000 or over \$100,000?	LESS THAN \$35,000.....1
	\$35,000 TO \$75,000.....2
	\$75,000 TO \$100,000.....3
	OVER \$100,000.....4
	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....5
128. What is your age, please?	18-24.....1
	25-34.....2
	35-44.....3
	45-54.....4
	55-64.....5
	65 OR OLDER.....6
	REFUSED.....7

Attachment A. The Morris Leatherman Company Survey

129. Are you employed by a public entity, such as a government agency, state or local government or a school district, a business or corporation, own a business or are self-employed, retired, or currently not working? PUBLIC ENTITY.....1  
 BUSINESS/CORPORATION.....2  
 OWN BUSINESS/SELF-EMP.....3  
 RETIRED.....4  
 NOT WORKING.....5  
 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....6

130. Is English the main language spoken in your home? (IF "NO," ASK:) What is the main language spoken in your home?

131. Are you of Hispanic or Latin ancestry? YES.....1  
 NO.....2  
 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....3

132. Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity?

American Indian and Alaska Native.....1  
 Black or African American.....2  
 Asian.....3  
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.....4  
 White.....5  
 Two or More Races.....6  
 Other.....7  
 REFUSED.....8

IF "OTHER," ASK:

133. Please identify your race/ethnicity?

134. Are you a first or second generation immigrant to the United States? YES.....1  
 NO.....2  
 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....3

135. Zip Code 5 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your time. Good-bye.

Attachment A. The Morris Leatherman Company Survey

136. Gender MALE.....1  
FEMALE.....2

LIST: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_




Attachment B. Closing the Gap Presentation

**Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board**

## What do we know?

Closing the Gap: Investing in our Neighborhood Parks



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**Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board**

## Closing the Gap: Investing in Our Neighborhood Parks

### Long Term Sustainability of Minneapolis Park System

- ❑ 2003 – 2013, significant reductions in personnel and resources
- ❑ Over the past 3-4 years one area of focus at the Park Board has been to improve operating efficiencies and streamline our work
- ❑ Strides have been made in identifying and implementing those efficiencies
- ❑ Even so, the 10 years of reductions and the age of the system, significant challenges exist for funding the park systems operating and capital needs

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**Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board**

## Closing the Gap: Investing in Our Neighborhood Parks

### Neighborhood Parks Examples of Annual Operations & Maintenance Gaps

Activity	Quantity	Current Service Level	Best Practice/ Desired Service Level	Additional Cost Best Practices/ Desired Service Level
Mowing	2750 acres	14 day cycle	10 day cycle	\$875,000
Trail Repair	51 miles	.25 miles/yr.	1 mile/yr.	\$625,000
Roof Repair	62 roofs	40-50 years	20-25 years	\$400,000
Building Maintenance	978,017sf	4,167 hours	8,500 hours	\$194,863
Tree Pruning	157 parks	10 year cycle	5 year cycle	\$578,200
Plumbing start up/ Shut downs*	see below	6-8 week start up & shutdown	3-4 week start up & shutdown	\$275,000

\*300 irrigation systems, 150 drinking fountains, 6 decorative fountains, 63 wading pools, 2 water parks

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**Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board**

## Closing the Gap: Investing in Our Neighborhood Parks

### Capital Funding Gap

- ❑ More than \$140 million behind (neighborhood parks, golf, fleet, parkway paving and lighting and ITS)
- ❑ 80% of the gap is in neighborhood park capital
- ❑ 2000 to 2015, neighborhood parks are almost \$111 million behind
- ❑ 2016-2020, neighborhood parks capital gap grows by additional \$46 million
- ❑ 2021-2040, neighborhood parks capital gap grows an additional \$304 million

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**Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board**

## Closing the Gap: Investing in Our Neighborhood Parks

### Capital Funding Gap

- ❑ 2000-2040, total neighborhood parks capital gap of \$461 million
- ❑ \$14.3 million annually is needed to meet current neighborhood parks capital needs (2016 value)
  - Currently spending \$4-5 million annually
  - Annual funding gap of over \$9.3 million

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Attachment B. Closing the Gap Presentation

**Logan Park** 690 13th Avenue NE

Park Capital Funding Snapshot 2000-2040\*

Funding Needed 2000-2020	-	Funding Allocated 2000-2015	+	Funding Projected 2016-2020	=	Funding Gap Through 2020	Funding Gap by 2040
Total: \$3,455,394		Total: \$550,000		Total: \$0		Total: \$2,905,394	Total: \$7,342,647

Asset	Replacement Date
Athletic Field(s) - Natural Turf	2015
Basketball Court(s)	2022
Field Lighting	2001
Parking Lot(s)	2035
Path(s)	1996
Playground(s)	2022
Recreation Center	2021
Outdoor Furniture/Furnishings	1996-2033
Tennis Court(s)	2039
Wading Pool	2038

**Where Investments Have Been Made**

Allocated and projected capital by asset from 2000-2020

**Where The Gaps Are**

Capital funding gap by asset from 2000-2020

Total park capital funding balance through 2020

Total projected park capital funding balance through 2040

Each asset (bench, recreation center, playground, etc) within the park system has a lifecycle, or a period of time in which the condition of the asset allows it to be fully enjoyed by park patrons. To reach the full lifecycle of any one asset periodic improvements need to be made (replacement of roof, repair of a piece of play equipment, mechanical upgrades to a wading pool). The replacement date is the date in which the asset reaches the end of its lifecycle or useful life.

\* Funding amounts are based on Board approved 2015-2020 Capital Improvement Program, and are based on best available data to date.

**Closing the Gap: Investing in Our Neighborhood Parks**

*What Other Cities Are Facing*

- Park systems across the country are facing similar challenges
- Older park systems, like Minneapolis's system, are facing more challenges than most given the age of the infrastructures and assets
- Some cities with rich park systems have tackled this challenge, in different ways

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**Closing the Gap: Investing in Our Neighborhood Parks**

*What are We Doing to Address Funding Gap*

- In February 2015 - conducted a community survey about parks
- May to September 2015
  - Public Meetings on Neighborhood Park Conditions
  - Gather funding model and case study data from other cities
  - Hold public forum on funding model and case study data
  - Conduct additional local research
- October to December 2015
  - Board of Commissioners consider information gathered
  - By December 2015 - Board of Commissioners make decision
    - Maintain current funding level
    - Private funding
    - Referendum for additional tax revenue

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**Next 25-30 years?**

RecQuest

Service Area Master Plans

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**Next 25-30 years?**

RecQuest

Develop a comprehensive recreation center and program plan to assure that **recreation centers, programs and services** equitably align with community needs.

Service Area Master Plans

Develop master plans for each service area and park plans for individual parks that will assure the **outdoor assets** equitably align with community needs.

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**Next 25-30 years?**

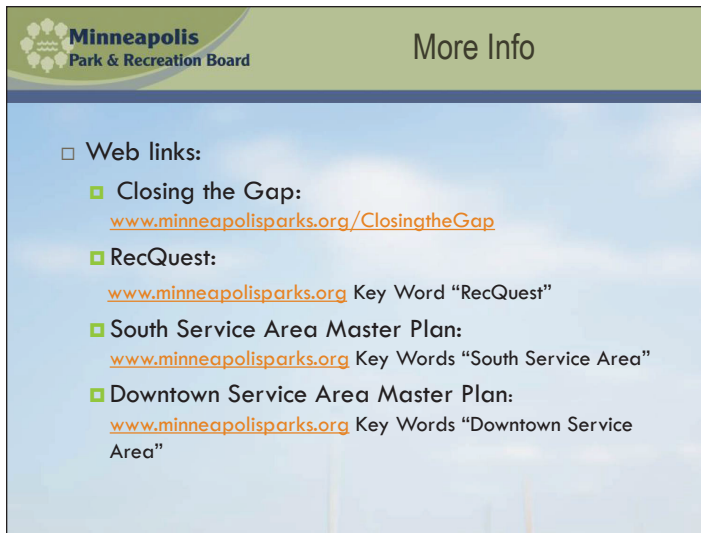
RecQuest

- Focus: Citywide**
- Outcome: Recreation center and program plan**
- Est. Completion: Spring 2016**

Service Area Master Plans

- Focus: South and Downtown (All by 2018)**
- Outcome: Service area master plan with park plan for each park**
- Est. Completion: Dec 2015/Jan 2016**

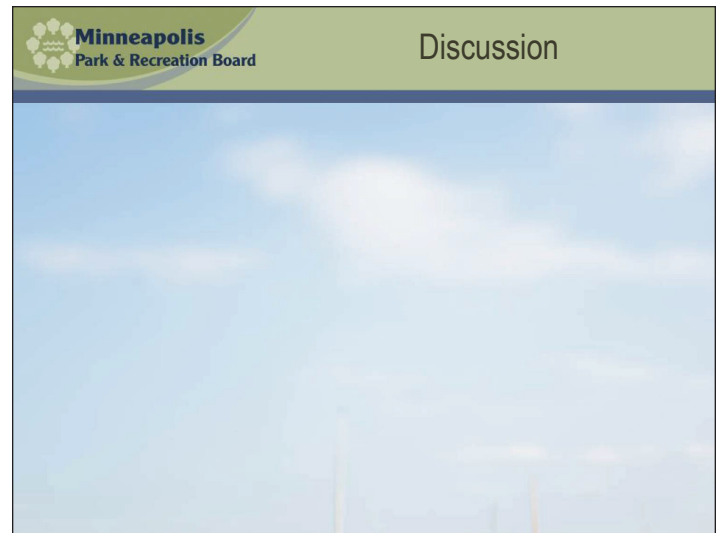
18

*Attachment B. Closing the Gap Presentation*

**Minneapolis**  
Park & Recreation Board

## More Info

- Web links:
  - Closing the Gap:  
[www.minneapolisparcs.org/ClosingtheGap](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/ClosingtheGap)
  - RecQuest:  
[www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org) Key Word "RecQuest"
  - South Service Area Master Plan:  
[www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org) Key Words "South Service Area"
  - Downtown Service Area Master Plan:  
[www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org) Key Words "Downtown Service Area"



**Minneapolis**  
Park & Recreation Board

## Discussion

Attachment C. Park Profile Example

# Logan Park

690 13th Avenue NE

## Park Capital Funding Snapshot 2000-2040\*

**Minneapolis**  
Park & Recreation Board

Funding Needed 2000-2020	-	Funding Allocated 2000-2015	+	Funding Projected 2016-2020	=	Funding Gap Through 2020	Funding Gap by 2040
Total: \$3,455,394		Total: \$550,000		Total: \$0		Total: \$2,905,394	Total: \$7,342,647

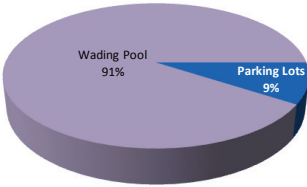
**Lifecycle and Replacement Date**

Asset	Replacement Date
Athletic Field(s) – Natural Turf	2025
Basketball Court(s)	2022
Field Lighting	2001
Parking Lot(s)	2035
Path(s)	1996
Playground(s)	2022
Recreation Center	2021
Outdoor items/site furnishing(s)	1996-2033
Tennis Court(s)	2039
Wading Pool	2038

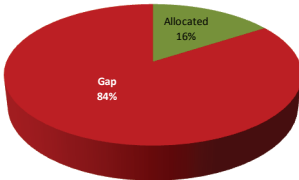
Each asset (bench, recreation center, playground, etc) within the park system has a lifecycle, or a period of time in which the condition of the asset allows it to be fully enjoyed by park patrons. To reach the full lifecycle of any one asset periodic improvements need to be made (replacement of roof, repair of a piece of play equipment, mechanical upgrades to a wading pool). The replacement date is the date in which the asset reaches the end of its lifecycle or useful life.

**Where Investments Have Been Made**

Allocated and projected capital by asset from 2000-2020

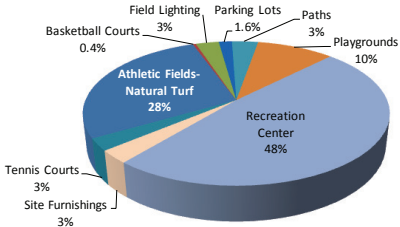


Total park capital funding balance through 2020

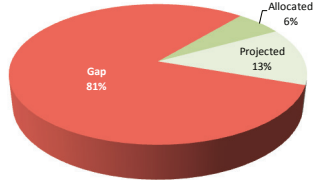


**Where The Gaps Are**

Capital funding gap by asset from 2000-2020



Total projected park capital funding balance through 2040



\* Funding amounts are based on Board-approved 2015-2020 Capital Improvement Program, and are based on best available data to date.

Attachment C. Park Profile Example



## Attachment D. Community Meeting Agenda with Small Group Questions



## Closing the Gap: Investing in Our Neighborhood Parks

### AGENDA

6 :00 pm – Sign-in

6:05 pm – Welcome/Introductions

6:10 pm – Presentation

6:45pm – Small Group Discussions at Tables

Warm-up Question: What is the most important thing we need to hear about your neighborhood park?

Question 1: What **ideas or funding strategies** should the MPRB consider to solve the funding gap for neighborhood parks?

Question 2: Of the **activities, programs and services** provided in neighborhood parks, which are most important to you and/or your household? Are there any missing? If so, which ones?

Question 3: **Recreation centers** have space for a variety of uses. Which spaces are most important or useful to you and/or your household? Is there anything missing? If so, what would you like to see at the recreation centers?

Question 4: Of the **outdoor assets and facilities** provided in neighborhood parks, which ones are most important to you and/or your household? Are there any assets missing? If so, which ones?

Question 5: When considering the **maintenance and care** of the neighborhood parks, what maintenance services are most important to you and/or your household?

8:00 pm – Adjourn

## Attachment E. Closing the Gap Frequently Asked Questions

# Closing the Gap:

## Investing in Our Neighborhood Parks



Minneapolis  
Park & Recreation Board

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Questions about How to Get Involved

#### 1. Where can I get more information about Closing the Gap?

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's (MPRB) web site includes a project page for Closing the Gap. It is at the following link: [www.minneapolisparcs.org/closingthegap](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/closingthegap).

You can sign-up for regular email updates at [www.minneapolisparcs.org/](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/) subscribe, enter your email address then select the "Closing the Gap" topic in the Planning Section.

You can also call the project hotline at 612-313-7789 or email [closingthegap@Minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:closingthegap@Minneapolisparcs.org).

#### 2. How is the MPRB going to reach out to under-represented and under-served populations, including non-English speakers, in this education process?

With the expertise of the MPRB's Community Outreach and Access staff, the MPRB will reach out and meet with underserved and underrepresented populations, including non-English speakers. To introduce the topic and opportunity, press releases and informational posters will be translated into Spanish, Hmong, and Somali. We will collaborate with communities to identify and develop additional information. If you have recommendations for groups or organizations that the MPRB should connect with, please email [closingthegap@Minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:closingthegap@Minneapolisparcs.org) or call the project hotline at 612-313-7789.

#### 3. How can I give my input if I am not able to attend a meeting?

Starting June 10, you may provide your input through an on-line survey at [www.minneapolisparcs.org/closingthegap](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/closingthegap).

Starting June 15, a paper survey will also be available at recreation centers and the MPRB HQ building (2117 West River Road N) or by calling 612-230-6400.

#### 4. It appears that the focus is only on existing park users. How is equity established if that is the focus?

To address equity, the MPRB is reaching out to all residents of Minneapolis, including those that do not traditionally use the park system. This will include providing information at several non-MPRB events in June-September and reaching out to underserved and underrepresented populations. If you have recommendations for groups or organizations that the MPRB should connect with, please call the project hotline at 612-313-7789 or email [closingthegap@Minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:closingthegap@Minneapolisparcs.org).

#### 5. How is Closing the Gap related to RecQuest and Service Area Master Plan projects?

Closing the Gap, RecQuest and Service Area Master Plans focus on the future of neighborhood parks in Minneapolis. While Closing the Gap focuses on the funding gap for neighborhood parks, RecQuest and Service Areas Master Plans are planning efforts that, with community engagement, will

define the vision for and investment in neighborhood parks for the next 25-30 years. Their individual focus is as follows:

**Closing the Gap: Investing in our Neighborhood Parks** shares information about the current condition of our neighborhood parks. After more than a decade of deferring maintenance to meet budget shortfalls, many of Minneapolis' 157 neighborhood parks are in trouble. Neighborhood parks have the greatest number of physical assets (such as wading pools, playgrounds, roofs and parking lots) that require greater resources to operate, maintain and replace. Yet, since 2000, the funds available to care for these community hubs have been significantly less than the amount needed. As a result, the funding gap for neighborhood parks has grown to more than \$110 million and if not addressed, will grow an additional \$46 million by 2020.

**RecQuest** is the MPRB's in-depth assessment of its community recreation centers designed to help guide recreation center investments for the next 25-30 years. RecQuest will not only review the physical spaces within the recreation centers themselves, but also the programs, services and activities the centers currently provide to assess if they are meeting the community's needs. RecQuest will also help identify any areas of Minneapolis where programming is not currently offered but needed.

**Service Area Master Plans** take a complete look at all outdoor park assets within the service areas of Minneapolis (Downtown, North, Northeast/Southeast, South, Southwest). Using community input, master plans set a vision for operations, management, and improvements; create improvement plans for each neighborhood park, set priorities and estimate budgets. Currently, Service Area Master Plans are underway for the Downtown and South Service Areas. Over the next five years, Service Area Master Plans will be prepared for the Southwest, North, and Northeast/Southeast Service Areas.

### Questions about Neighborhood and Regional Park Funding

#### 6. What is the difference between a neighborhood and a regional park?

The Minneapolis park system includes neighborhood and regional parks. Neighborhood parks are typically small in size, 6 blocks or less, and include assets (playgrounds, recreation centers, wading pools, athletic fields, etc.) used primarily by the neighborhood or community near it. Funding for investments in neighborhood parks is available only through local property tax revenues. Regional parks are owned, operated and maintained by the MPRB, but they are also designated as part of the Metropolitan Council System of Regional Parks and Trails. These parks are usually large in size, often over 100 acres, and contain most of the natural areas in the Minneapolis park system. These parks serve regional visitors as well as Minneapolis residents. As such, funding for investments in regional parks is through local property tax revenues, regional funding through the Metropolitan Council and state and federal funding sources.

## Attachment E. Closing the Gap Frequently Asked Questions

**7. Why doesn't the Closing the Gap discussion include regional parks?**

Unlike neighborhood parks, which almost entirely serve and are supported by Minneapolis residents, regional parks are also financially supported by regional, state and federal funding sources.

**8. How are neighborhood parks currently funded?**

Neighborhood parks are funded primarily by Minneapolis residents through property taxes. Primary funding sources for the capital improvements in neighborhood parks are Net Debt Bonds (\$2.5 million per year) and Capital Levy (\$1.5 million per year). Programs, operations and maintenance are funded by Minneapolis property taxes.

**9. How is acquisition or purchase of new park land funded?**

Acquisition or purchase of new park land typically occurs within the regional park system and is funded primarily by regional park dollars (Parks and Trails Legacy Funds, Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund) and watershed funding (Mississippi Watershed Management Organization) and, to less extent, MPRB general funds.

**10. Why is the MPRB buying more park land if it can't take care of the land and assets it currently is responsible for?**

The MPRB is buying property consistent with the Above the Falls Regional Park Master Plan. This plan envisions public land on both sides of the Mississippi River between Plymouth Avenue and North Mississippi Regional Park. This is bringing critical regional parks and natural areas to north and northeast Minneapolis, a portion of the city that, historically, has not had the same investment in the acquisition and development of regional parks as other areas in Minneapolis. The acquisition of park land along the Mississippi River is continuing and completing the park system legacy of providing public park land along bodies of water within Minneapolis.

**11. Why doesn't the MPRB remove assets from parks?**

The MPRB removes assets if the asset falls into disrepair and it doesn't have the funding to repair or improve the asset to make it safe and accessible for public use. To date, the MPRB has not had to remove many assets. However, most of the major assets within the neighborhood park system, such as recreation centers, athletic fields and wading pools, are reaching the end of their lifecycles. Without adequate funding, the MPRB will need to work with residents to determine which assets will be removed.

**12. How many neighborhood parks are there in the Minneapolis park and recreation system?**

The Minneapolis park system includes 251 properties and 157 of them are neighborhood parks.

**13. Why is funding of the neighborhood parks important for the community?**

The results of a 2015 survey of Minneapolis residents demonstrate that Minneapolis residents believe that the Minneapolis parks and lakes are unique and valuable assets for the city (95%). Survey results further articulated that Minneapolis residents believe parks and lakes play an important positive role in the emotional and psychological health of city residents (89%) and physical health and wellness of city residents (91%). The survey results also indicated that residents believe the park system contributes to the economy by increasing the value of properties near parks

(90%). Finally, residents indicated that they believe Minneapolis parks play an important role in serving the public good, by offering free or low-cost recreational assets and activities to everyone (91%).

**14. What does it take to maintain our neighborhood parks? What level of maintenance are we able to provide today? What should the level of maintenance be?**

Below are examples of typical maintenance activities that the MPRB conducts in the park system. The table provides information about the current level of service and the desired level of service based on industry best practices.

Activity	Quantity	Current Service Level	Best Practice/Desired Service Level	Additional Cost for Best Practices/Desired Service Level
Mowing	2750 acres	14-day cycle	10-day cycle	\$875,000
Trail repair	51 miles	.25 miles/year	1 mile/year	\$625,000
Roof repair	62 roofs	40-50 years	20-25 years	\$400,000
Building maintenance	978,017 sf	4,167 hours	8,500 hours	\$194,863

**Questions about the Funding Impacts****15. What happens if the MPRB doesn't get more funding?**

If the MPRB does not get additional funding for neighborhood parks, it will need to work with residents to determine which assets, services and programs will be reduced or removed. These decisions will need to consider several factors, including facility condition, trends in park and recreation, equity of asset and program delivery across the system, and operation and maintenance needs.

**16. What happens if the MPRB gets more funding?**

If the MPRB gets additional funding, it will develop and approve a new budget to reflect the increase in funding. While exact expenditures will depend on the intended use of the funding, the MPRB would seek to accelerate its implementation of capital improvements as guided by RecQest and park master plans. These plans will consider several factors including facility condition, trends in park and recreation, equity of asset and program delivery across the system, and operation and maintenance needs. Depending on the intended purpose of the funding, the MPRB may also enhance services, programs, operations and maintenance in several areas related to neighborhood parks.

**17. Will the need for more staff to design and construct improvements, and operate, program and maintain the neighborhood park system be included in the discussion?**

Yes, the discussion of funding needs will include consideration of impacts to staffing to design and construct improvements, and operate, program and maintain the neighborhood park system.

**18. Will the funding needed to maintain and operate the parks and assets in the parks be included in the discussion?**

Yes, the discussion will include consideration of the funding needed to maintain and operate the parks and assets in the parks.

## Attachment E. Closing the Gap Frequently Asked Questions

**19. Will my taxes increase?**

The level of tax increase will be dependent on the level of funding that the MPRB decides to request. In 2015 dollars, every 1% increase in property taxes generates \$517,748 in revenue. A 1% increase in property tax is equivalent to a \$2 increase in property taxes for the median home valued at \$181,500.

**20. Would an increase in funding for the MPRB take away from other tax supported services like police, fire, waste removal, etc.?**

The Board of Estimate and Taxation sets the levy limits for the MPRB and the City of Minneapolis separately. Police, fire, waste removal and other city services are impacted by changes in the levy limit set for the City of Minneapolis. A levy limit change for MPRB does not impact the services provided by the City of Minneapolis.

**21. Would an increase in funding result in lower general fund support from the City to the MPRB?**

It is important that if increased funding is made available to the MPRB that current funding from the City of Minneapolis remains at the same level. The MPRB will work to ensure that current funding levels from the City of Minneapolis to the MPRB remain, at minimum, at same current level.

**Questions about the Closing the Gap Handouts and Calculations****22. Are ice rinks included in the numbers in the Closing the Gap handouts?**

Indoor and outdoor rinks are not included in the numbers. The indoor rinks (Parade and NE Ice Arena) are not tax supported assets. The outdoor rinks are infrastructure that is placed over existing fields to provide a seasonal program. The warming rooms that serve the outdoor rinks are included in the replacement value of the recreation center and the impact to the athletic fields as a result of ice making are considered in the expected lifecycle of the athletic fields.

**23. Are golf courses included in the numbers in the Closing the Gap handouts?**

Golf courses are not included in the numbers, as they are not tax supported assets.

**24. Are parkways and parkway lighting included in the numbers in the Closing the Gap handouts?**

Parkways and parkway lighting are not included in the numbers. Parkway and parkway lighting are primarily located within the regional park system and are part of a service redesign agreement between the City of Minneapolis and MPRB. As part of the agreement, the City of Minneapolis is responsible for funding the reconstruction and repaving of the parkway system and parkway lighting. The MPRB supports the City's work by allocating regional and some local funding to help accelerate the improvement of the parkways and parkway lighting.

**25. Do the numbers in the Closing the Gap handouts include new projects or assets?**

New projects or assets are those that are not currently provided within the park system. This is in contrast to the renovation or replacement of existing assets. The numbers are based on the replacement of existing assets within the park system. RecQuest and service area master plans will provide

guidance on the changes in assets that will be required to meet the next generation of park users. Changes may include the replacement of an existing asset with a new type of asset or the addition of a new asset into the system. These planning processes will provide information about how asset changes will impact the funding gap.

**26. Do the numbers include the cost of operating and maintaining the parks?**

The numbers include the capital funding needed to replace the existing assets within the park system as well as the funding needed to close the gap between existing operations and maintenance levels and recommended levels based on park and recreation best practices.

**27. What are the average lifecycles that were used for the assets in the neighborhood parks?**

Within each park there are several assets, such as a playground, recreation center, paths, sidewalk, wading pools, etc. Each of these assets has a lifecycle or useful life for which it can be expected to provide good quality service to park visitors. This lifecycle is based primarily on the materials from which it is built. Below are the average lifecycles of the most common assets within the neighborhood park system.

Asset Type	Life Cycle (in years)
Athletic Fields-Artificial Turf	15
Athletic Fields-Natural Turf	15
Basketball Courts	25
Field Lighting	30
Off Leash Recreation Area	15
Parking Lots	25
Paths	25
Pedestrian Bridges	75
Playgrounds	25
Pools & Water Parks	30
Public Art	15
Recreation Centers/Buildings	50
Site Furnishings	25
Skate Parks	25
Tennis Courts	25
Wading Pools	25



**Minneapolis**  
**Park & Recreation Board**

[www.minneapolisparks.org](http://www.minneapolisparks.org)

Attachment F. Closing the Gap Posters



## Closing the Gap: Investing in Our Neighborhood Parks

**5. Of the maintenance services the MPRB provides in the neighborhood parks, how important are the following to you?** Please indicate the importance for each service with a dot.

Service	Not Important at All	Not Too Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
Playground safety and maintenance				
Waste pick up and removal				
Vandalism repair and graffiti removal				
Athletic field maintenance				
Outdoor court maintenance (ex. basketball, tennis)				
Recreation Center maintenance (ex. Roof repairs; tables, chairs and other equipment in buildings; general building repairs)				
Wading pool maintenance				
Sidewalk/pathway maintenance				
Sidewalk/pathway ice and snow removal				
Mowing within parks				
Landscape care within parks				
Tree care within parks				

## Attachment F. Closing the Gap Posters



## Closing the Gap: Investing in Our Neighborhood Parks

Please tell us how you want us to take care of the park  
 Por favor, díganos cómo desea que cuidemos de los parques

	Service Servicio	Not Important No es Importante	Important Importante
1	Keep playground in good condition Mantener los juegos en buen estado		
2	Playground safety Seguridad en los juegos		
3	Garbage pick up Recolección de basura		
4	Repair damage properties Reparar el daño a las propiedades		
5	Remove grafitti (drawings/writing) on properties Remover dibujos/ palabras en las propiedades		
6	Keep athletic field in good condition Mantener el campo deportivo en buenas condiciones		
7	Keep basketball, tennis court in good condition Mantener el área de baloncesto y pista de tenis en buen estado		
8	Keep Recreation Center in good condition (ex. roof, tables, chairs) Mantener el Centro de Recreación en buenas condiciones (ej. El techo, mesas, sillas)		
9	Keep pool in good condition Mantener la alberca en buenas condiciones		
10	Keep walkway in good condition Mantener la banqueta en buenas condiciones		
11	Remove snow from walkway Remover nieve de la banqueta		
12	Cut grass Cortar el pasto		
13	Trim the trees Recortar los arboles		



## Closing the Gap: Investing in Our Neighborhood Parks

Please tell us if you would support/want the following

Por favor díganos si usted desea apoyar/quiere lo siguiente

	Yes Si	No No
<p><b>1. Do you know about property taxes?</b>  <b>¿Sabe usted acerca de los impuestos de propiedad?</b></p>		
<p>a. Would you support the increase of property taxes to offer MPRB programs (ex: art, sports, etc.)                      ¿Apoyaría el aumento de impuestos a la propiedad para ofrecer programas en los parques de Minneapolis (por ejemplo: arte, deporte, etc.)?</p>		
<p>b. Would you support the increase of property taxes to make MPRB programs better                      ¿Apoyaría el aumento de impuestos a la propiedad para mejorar los programas en los parques de Minneapolis (MPRB) ?</p>		
<p>c. Would you support the increase of property taxes to offer MPRB services (ex: summer lunch, computer lab, Rec+/Daycare etc.)?                      ¿Apoyaría el aumento de impuestos a la propiedad para ofrecer servicios en los parques de Minneapolis (MPRB) (ej.: almuerzo en el verano, computación, Rec + / guardería para niños , etc. ) ?</p>		
<p>d. Would you support the increase of property taxes to make MPRB services better                      ¿Apoyaría el aumento de impuestos a la propiedad para mejorar los servicios de los parques de Minneapolis (MPRB)</p>		
<p><b>2. Do you participate in adult sports?</b>  <b>¿Usted participa en deportes para adultos?</b></p>		
<p>a. Would you support the increase of fees to support adult sports (ex: basketball, volleyball, soccer)                      ¿Apoyaría el aumento de cuotas para apoyar los deportes para adultos (por ejemplo: baloncesto, voleibol, fútbol)</p>		

Attachment F. Closing the Gap Posters



### Closing the Gap: Investing in Our Neighborhood Parks

<p><b>3. Do you participate in adult programs?</b>                  ¿Usted participa en deportes para adultos?</p> <p>a. Would you support the increase of fees to support adult programs (ex: Zumba, pottery, walking, etc.)</p> <p>¿Apoyaría el aumento de cuotas para apoyar programas para adultos (por ejemplo: Zumba, cerámica, caminar, etc.)</p>		
<p><b>4. Would you want additional concession stands like Sea Salt, Sand Castle in our parks?</b>                  ¿Te gustaría concesiones adicionales como el restaurante “Sea Salt” y “Sand Castle” en nuestros parques?</p> <p>Would you want additional vending opportunities like food trucks?                  ¿Te gustaría que hubiera oportunidades de venta adicionales como camiones de comida?</p>		
<p><b>5. Have you rented a room, field, canoes or picnic tables in the parks?</b>                  ¿Ha alquilado un cuarto, campo, canoas o mesas de picnic en los parques?</p> <p>a. Would you want additional rental opportunities?                  ¿Te gustaría tener oportunidades adicionales para alquilar?</p>		

Attachment G. Posters for RecQuest



# WELCOME! SOODHAWOW! ¡BIENVENIDO!



The **Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board** is taking a close look at the recreation programs and facilities they provide.

**RecQuest** will consider community priorities to determine how the MPRB can tailor its recreation centers and programs to best serve residents now and in the future.

**Please use stickers to answer our questions.**

Visit [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org) and <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us> to find out more, or scan this QR code to go directly to the project page.



Golaha **Minneapolis Park & Recreation** waxay si dhaw u eegayaan barnaamijyada iyo goobaha madadaalada ay bixiyaan.

**RecQuest** waxay tixgelin doonta mudnaanta beesha si loo qeexo sida ay MPRB u waafajin karto xarumaheeda iyo barnaamijyada madadaalada si fiicnaan loogu adeego degganayaasha hadda iyo mustaqvalkaba.

**Fadlan isticmaal istikarka jawaabista s’uaalaha.**

Booqo [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org) iyo <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us> helista in badan ama iskangaree summadan QR oo toos u tag bogga mashruuca.



**La Junta de Parques y Recreación** está observando en detalle los programas e instalaciones recreativas que ofrece.

**RecQuest** considerará las prioridades de la comunidad para determinar cómo La Junta puede modificar sus centros y programas recreativos para beneficio de los residentes en el futuro.

**Por favor, utilice etiquetas para responder.**

Visite [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org) y <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us> para saber más, o escanee este código QR para ir directamente a la página web del proyecto.



## Attachment G. Posters for RecQuest



How often do you use our recreation center facilities?

Intee jeer ayaad isticmaashaa xarunteena madadaalada?

¿Cada cuánto utiliza nuestros centros de recreación?

Have you or your family visited a Minneapolis recreation center in the last two years?

Ma adiga ama qoyskaagu booqateen xarun madadaalo Minneapolis labadii sanno ee u danbeeyey?

¿Ha visitado usted o su familia un centro recreativo en Minneapolis en los últimos 2 años?

Yes  
Haa  
Si

No  
Maya  
No

Have you or your family participated in an organized program or event at a Minneapolis park in the last two years?

Adiga ama qoyskaagu ma ka qaybgasheen barnaamij ama xaflad lagu abaabulay jardiino kutaal Minneapolis labadii bilood ee ugu danbeeyey?

¿Ha participado usted o su familia en algún programa o evento organizado en un parque de Minneapolis en los últimos 2 años?

Yes  
Haa  
Si

No  
Maya  
No

## Attachment G. Posters for RecQuest



**RECQUEST**

Community's Vision.  
Tomorrow's Recreation.

What would encourage you to use Minneapolis recreation centers and parks more frequently? *Choose two (2)*

Maxaa kugu dhiirigelin kara isticmaalka xarumaha madadaalada iyo jardiinooyinka Minneapolis inaad in badan tagto? *Dooro laba (2)*

¿Qué te animaría a utilizar los centros recreativos de Minneapolis con mayor frecuencia? *Escoja dos (2)*

Staff who speak my language  
Shaqaale ku hadla luqaddayda  
Personal que hable mi idioma

Low-cost/free programs  
Barnaamijyo bilaasha/qiimo hoose  
Programas de bajo costo

Different types of programs  
Barnaamijyo noocyo kala duwan  
Diferentes tipos de programas

Facility improvements  
Hagaajinta goobta  
Mejoras en las instalaciones

Programs at more convenient days or times  
Barnaamijyo maalmo ama waqtiyo habboon  
Programas en horarios más convenientes

More reservable rooms/meeting space  
Qolal dheeraad ah/meelaha shirarka  
Más espacio reservable/de reunión

Programs closer to my home  
Barnaamijyo udhaw gurigayga  
Programas más cerca de mi hogar

Programs closer to public transportation  
Barnaamijyo udhaw gaadiidka dadweynaha  
Programas más cercanos al transporte público

Other (use sticky note)  
Kale (isticmaal istiikarka xusuusta)  
Otro (utilice una nota adhesiva)

I don't know  
Ma garanayo  
No se

Attachment G. Posters for RecQuest



Community's Vision.  
Tomorrow's Recreation.

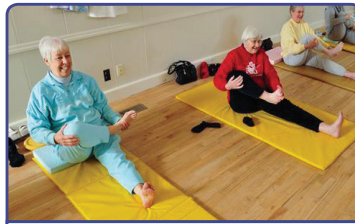
Which benefits of Minneapolis recreation centers and programs are most important to you? *Choose two (2)*

Waa maxay faa'iidada kuugu muhiimsan ee xarumaha iyo barnaamijyada madadaalada Minneapolis? *Dooro laba (2)*

¿Cuáles de los beneficios de los centros y programas de recreación de Minneapolis son más importantes para usted? *Escoja dos (2)*



Provide places to hang out  
Bixinta meelo lagu nastowww  
Provee lugares de ocio



Improve health, wellness, and fitness  
Kobcinta caafimaadka, ladnaanta, iyo fayogabka  
Mejora la salud, el bienestar y el cuerpo



Provide opportunities to be part of a team  
Bixinta fursado ka qayb ahaan kooxayaareed  
Provee oportunidades para ser parte de un equipo



Support youth development  
Taageerista koboco dhalinta  
Apoya el desarrollo juvenil



Provide services or support to people in need  
Bixinta adeegyo ama taageero dadka baahan  
Provee servicios de apoyo a personas con necesidades



Strengthen families and neighborhoods  
Xoojinta qoysaska iyo xaafadaha  
Fortalece familias y vecindarios



Provide reservable meeting space  
Bixinta meelo lagu shiro  
Provee un espacio reservable para reuniones



Support public safety  
Taageerista badbaadada beesha  
Apoya la seguridad pública



Attract residents and businesses to area  
Usoojiidista jiidda deganayaal iyo ganacsiyo  
Atrae residentes y negocios al área

Other (use sticky note)  
Kale (isticmaal istikarka xusuusta)  
Otro (utilice una etiqueta adhesiva)

Attachment G. Posters for RecQuest



**What do you like about the Minneapolis recreation centers and programs?**

*Choose one (1)*

**Maxaad ka jeceshahay xarumaha iyo barnaamijyada Minneapolis?**

*Dooro hal (1)*

**¿Qué le gusta sobre los programas y centros recreativos de Minneapolis?**

*Escoja uno (1)*

Interesting programs  
Barnaamijyo xiiso leh  
Programas interesantes



Convenient days and times  
Maalmo iyo waqtiyo habboon  
Días y horarios convenientes



Convenient locations  
Goobo habboon  
Ubicaciones convenientes



Low-cost programs  
Barnaamijyo qiime hoose  
Programas de bajo costo



Friendly staff  
Shaqaaale furfuran  
Personal amigable



Other (Use sticky note)  
Kale (Isticmaal istikarka xusuusta)  
Otro (utilice una nota adhesiva)

I don't know  
Ma garanayo  
No se

## Attachment G. Posters for Downtown Service Area Master Plan

# WELCOME!



## What do you think?

The **Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board** is taking a close look at the condition of our downtown parks as well as our internal operations: how parks are maintained; what fields, courts, and other amenities are being used and how much; what all that use costs; and where we might consider new parks. Once complete, the **Downtown Service Area Master Plan** will help guide future investments to make the most of Downtown Minneapolis' recreation opportunities, and is a part of a larger effort to prepare master plans for all five service areas of Minneapolis (South, Downtown, Southwest, North, and Northeast) over the next five years. This project is **in partnership with the City of Minneapolis' Downtown Public Realm Framework Plan**, which will guide future improvements to the Downtown Minneapolis experience.

Visit [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org) to find out more, or scan the following QR code with your smartphone to go directly to the project page.

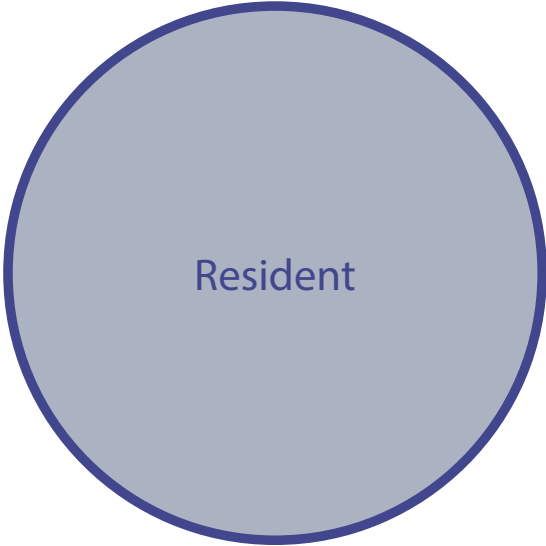
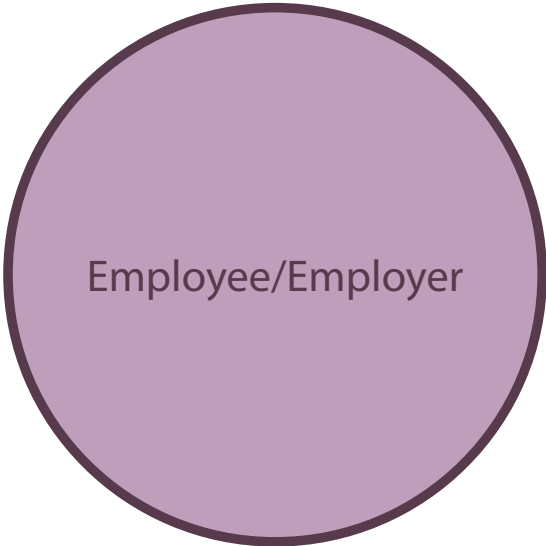
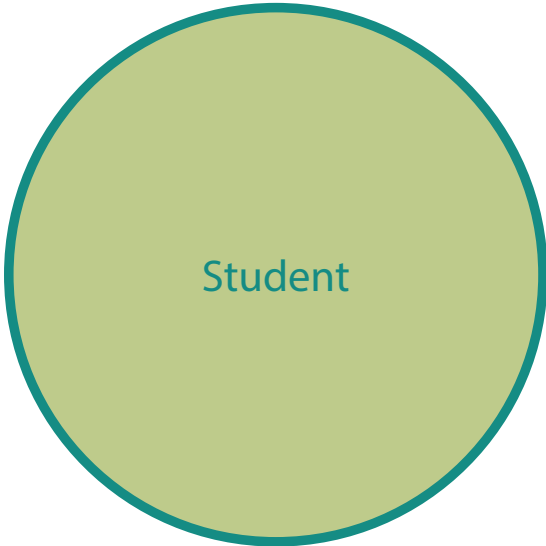
Scan this QR code!



Attachment G. Posters for Downtown Service Area Master Plan

# What is your relationship with Downtown Minneapolis?

Choose all that apply:



*Attachment G. Posters for Downtown Service Area Master Plan*

## What brings you downtown to have fun, play or enjoy yourself?

*Select the two (2) responses that are most important:*

Already here for work, school or home

Attending a sports event

Attending a cultural or performing arts event

I like the energy and variety of things to do

Unique locations and experiences

Attachment G. Posters for Downtown Service Area Master Plan

# What would you like to see happening in parks and public spaces downtown?

Select the two (2) responses that are most important:



Resting or people watching



Outdoor eating



Fitness classes or organized activities



Playing games (chess, bocce, hacky sack, Scrabble)



Learning about art, history or culture



Markets or vending



Festivals and events



Seeing or making art, dance or music



Winter activities

Other  
(Write in your response)

Attachment G. Posters for Downtown Service Area Master Plan

# How long would you travel to a favorite park or activity downtown?

Select one (1) response:

Less than 2 minutes

2-10 minutes

10-15 minutes

15-30 minutes

More than 30 minutes

Attachment G. Posters for Downtown Service Area Master Plan

# When are you most likely to visit a park or spend time outdoors downtown?

Select the two (2) responses that are most likely:



Attachment G. Posters for Downtown Service Area Master Plan

What activity/activities would you like to see added to downtown’s parks and public spaces?

*Write your answer on a post-it note:*



Place your answers here!

Attachment G. Posters for South Service Area Master Plan

¿Cómo podemos mejorar nuestros parques en...

**How can we improve our parks in...**

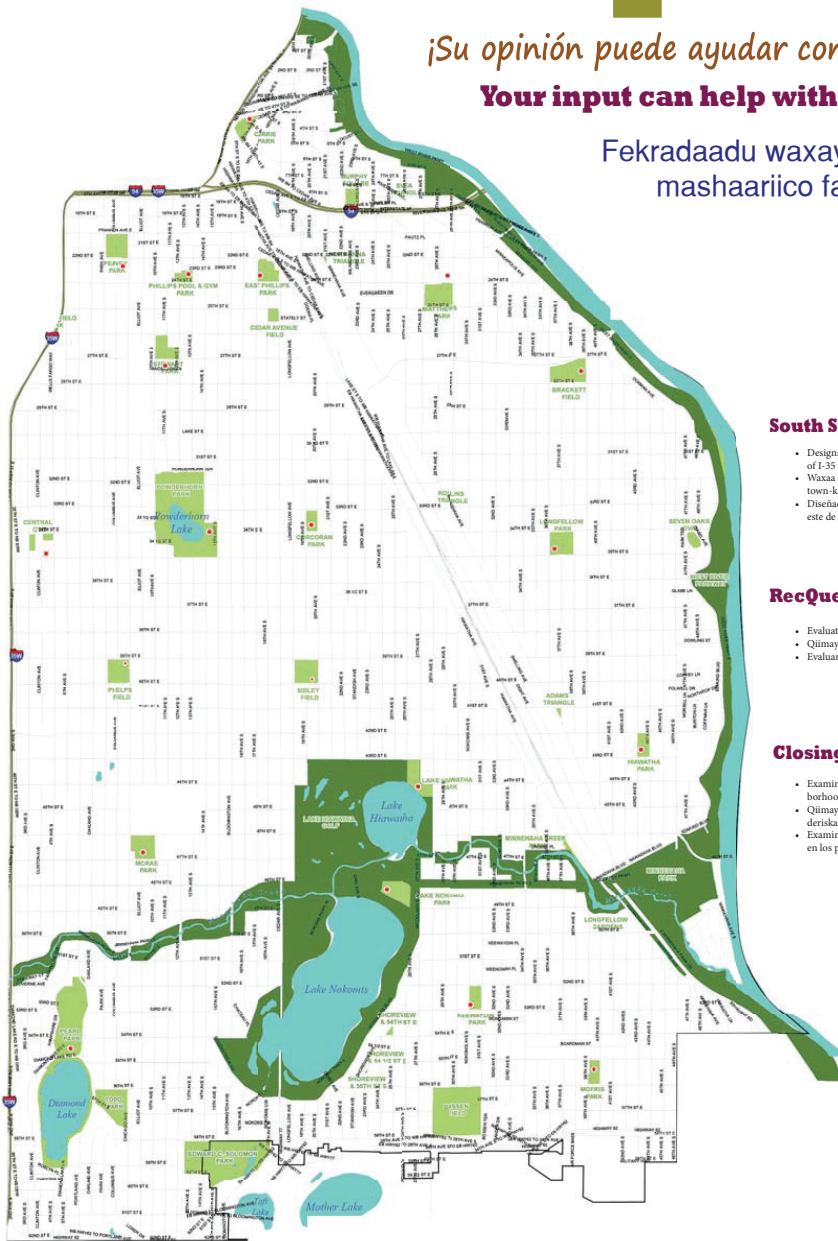
Sidee u hagaajinaa Park-yada...

# Minneapolis?

¡Su opinión puede ayudar con varios proyectos!

**Your input can help with several projects!**

Fekradaadu waxay caawinaysaa  
mashaariico faro badan!



**South Service Area Masterplan:**

- Designs for neighborhood parks south of downtown and east of I-35
- Waxaa qaabiynta Park-yada dariska la ah koonfurta downtown-ka iyo bariga wadada I-35
- Diseñado para parques de vecindarios al sur del centro y al este de I-35

**RecQuest:**

- Evaluating our recreation centers and programming
- Qiimaynta xarumaha raaxada iyo barnaamijeynta
- Evaluando nuestros centros de recreación y la programación

**Closing the Gap:**

- Examining the current conditions and service levels in neighborhood parks
- Qiimaynta xaaladaha hada iyo heerka adeega ee Park-yada deriska
- Examinando las condiciones actuales y los niveles de servicio en los parques de los vecindarios

Scan to take a Survey:



**Project Manager**  
Adam Arvidson  
Phone: 612-230-6470  
Email: aarvidson@minneapolisparcs.org

Teléfono: 612-230-6573 Español  
Correo Electrónico: preguntas@minneapolisparcs.org  
Telefoon: 612-230-6574 Soomaali  
Email: suu@minneapolisparcs.org

Attachment G. Posters for South Service Area Master Plan

Scan to take a Survey:



Wixii warbiin Soomaali ah ee ku saabsan dib u habaynta, fadlan wac 612-230-6574. Para más información en Español sobre el progreso del proyecto, por favor de llamar al 612-230-6574.

What else would you like to see at Your Park? Place 5 dots on the photos you like the best below.

Maxee kale ayaad u baahantahay inaad ku aragtid Park-kaaga? Kudhig shan calaamadood sawirida aad aad u jeceshahay ee hoose

¿Qué más le gustaría ver en su parque? Coloque 5 puntos en las fotos que más te gusten abajo.



Attachment G. Posters for South Service Area Master Plan

Scan to take a Survey:

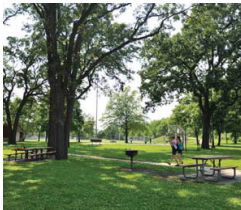


Wixii warbixin Soomaali ahi ee ku saabsan dib u habaynta, fadlan wac 612-230-6574  
Para más información en Español sobre el progreso del proyecto, por favor de llamar al 612-230-6574.

**What types of facilities do you and your family use currently? Place dots on the images below. Leave us comments on how we can improve your experience.**

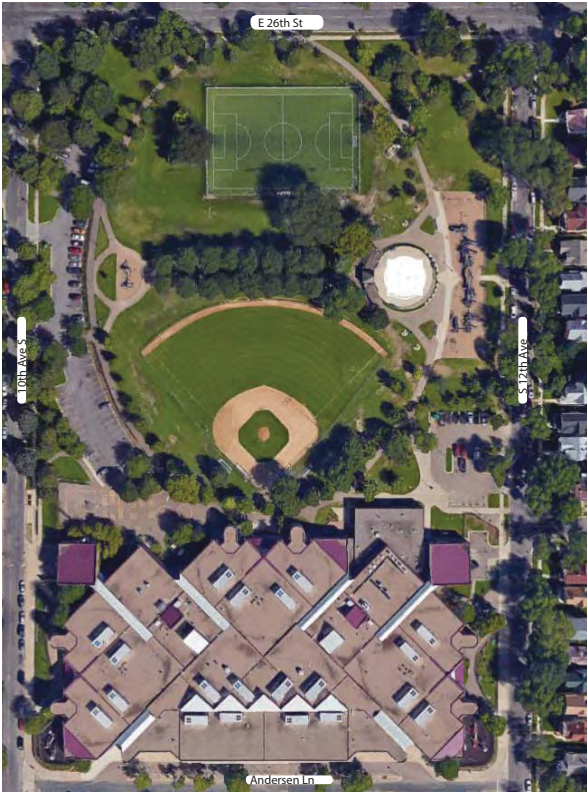
Goobo nooc ee ah ayaa adiga iyo qoyskaagu hada isticmaasaan? Fadlan ku dhig calaamad sawirada hoose. Noo dhaaf aragtidaada sidii aan u hagaajin lahayn waayo-aragnimadada




¿Qué tipos de instalaciones usted y su familia utiliza actualmente? Coloque los puntos en las imágenes abajo. Por favor deje comentarios sobre cómo podemos mejorar su experiencia.

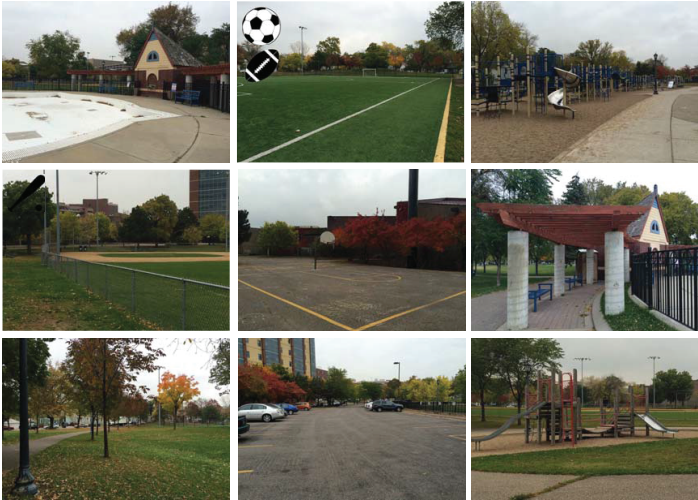


Attachment G. Posters for South Service Area Master Plan

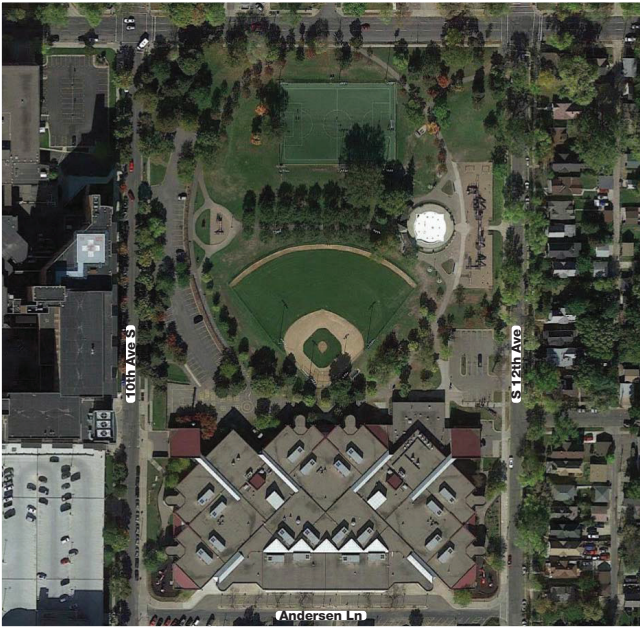
 STEWART PARK



-  *Coloque puntos verdes en las áreas del parque y las imágenes que más te gusten.*  
**Place green dots on the park areas and images you like the most.**  
 Kudhig calaamado cagaaran meelaha Park-ka iyo sawirada aad aad u jeceshahay
  
- Coloque puntos rojos en las áreas del parque y las imágenes que necesitan mejorar.*  
 **Place red dots on the park areas and images that need improvement.**  
 Kudhig calaamado cas meelaha Park-ka iyo sawirada u baahan in la hagaajiy



Attachment G. Posters for South Service Area Master Plan



*¿Cómo podemos mejorar Stewart Park?*

**How can we improve Stewart Park?**

Sideebaan hannaanka Beerta Raaxada  
Stewart kor kuugu qaadi karnaa?



Attachment G. Posters for South Service Area Master Plan

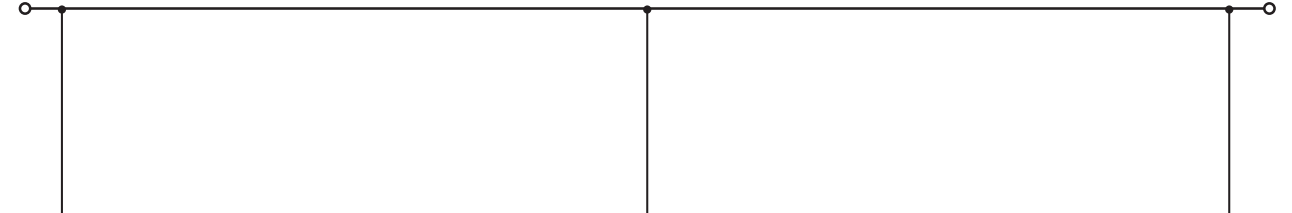
1: Landscape Style



Should parks be all natural, or all turf, or somewhere in between? Place a dot to show the type of park you prefer.

Park-yadu ma inay noqdaan gabi ahaan dabiici, ama cows ama wax u dhexeeya baa? Ku dhig calaamad tusaysa nooca park-ka aad doorbidaysa

En tu opinión los parques deben ser todo natural, o todo hecho de césped (campo artificial), o en algún lugar en el medio? Coloque un punto para mostrar el tipo de parque que usted prefiere.



**100%**  
Native or Natural Areas  
Meelo dabiici ah  
Plantas Nativas o Areas Naturales



50% Native or Natural Areas / 50% Turf Fields and Open Space  
50% Meelo dabiici ah / 50% Goobo cows ah iyo banana furan  
50% Plantas Nativas o Areas Naturales / 50% Campos de Césped (campo artificial) y Espacio Abierto

**100%**  
Turf Fields and Open Space  
Goobo cows ah iyo banana furan  
Campos de Césped (campo artificial) y Espacio Abierto



Attachment G. Posters for South Service Area Master Plan

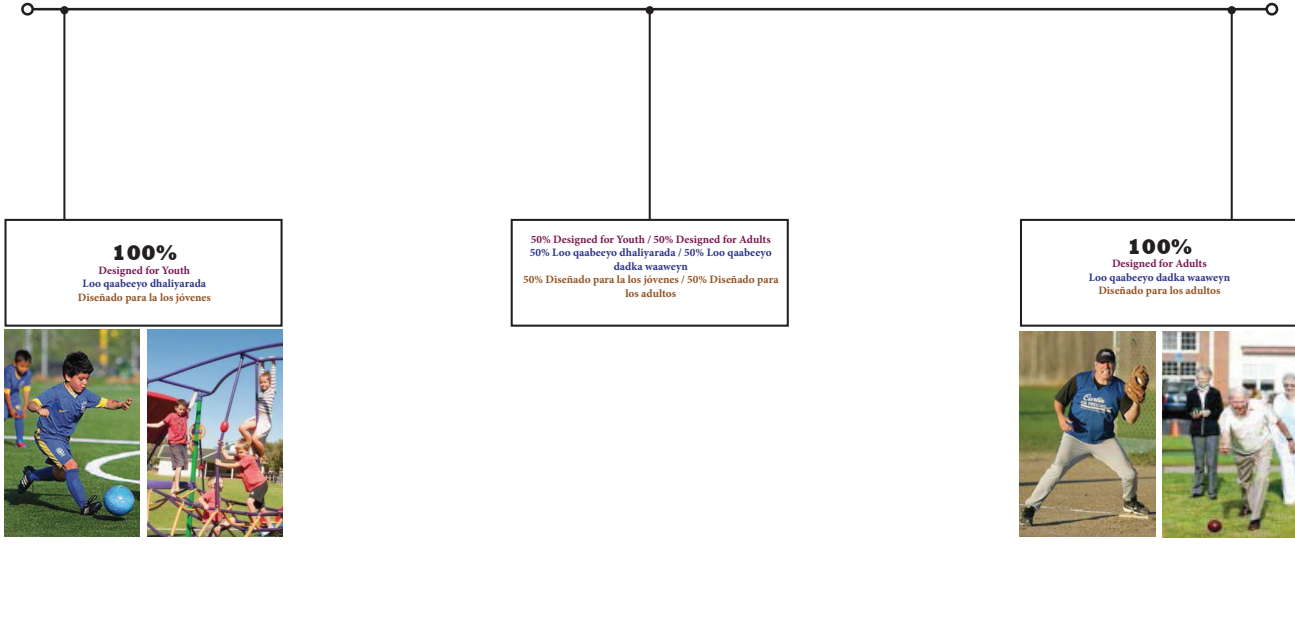
2: Youth and Adult



How much of our parks should offer facilities for youth and how much should they offer facilities for adults? Place a dot to show the type of park you prefer.

Intee in le'eg ayaa Park-yadeena loogu tala galaa xarumo dhalinyarada ah iyo side loogu habeyyaa xarumo dadka waaweyn.

¿Cuántos de nuestros parques deben ofrecer facilidades para los jóvenes y cuántos deben ofrecer facilidades para adultos? Coloque un punto para mostrar el tipo de parque que usted prefiere.



Attachment G. Posters for South Service Area Master Plan

3: Environment



**Should we build parks that are more environmentally sustainable, even if it costs more? Place a dot to show how much we should spend money on sustainability.**  
Miyay tahay inaan dhisno Park-yo ah kuwo waara waqti dheer xitaa hadii ay lacag badan ku baxayso? Ku dhig calaamad tusaysa sida aan ugu bixino lacag waaritaanka Park-yada  
*¿Debemos construir parques que son ambientalmente más sostenibles, aunque cuesten más? Coloque un punto para mostrar cuánto debemos gastar en la sostenibilidad.*



No sustainability - low construction cost  
Maya waaritaan - Kharash dhisme oo aad u hooseeya  
No sostenibilidad - sin costo



High sustainability - high construction cost  
Waaritaan heer sare ah - Kharash dhisme oo aad u sareeya  
Alta sostenibilidad - alto costo



Attachment G. Posters for South Service Area Master Plan

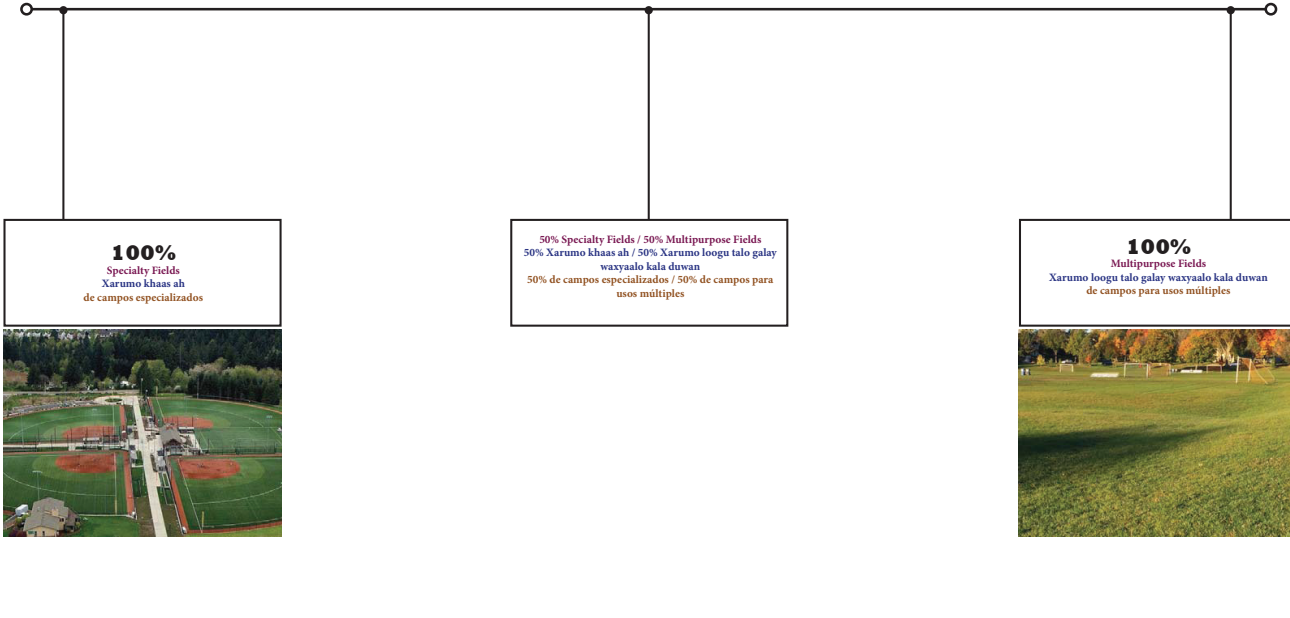
4: Athletic Facilities



Should parks have all specialty fields that are made for one kind of sport, or all multipurpose fields, or somewhere in between? Place a dot to show the type of park you prefer.

Miyay tahay in Park-yada loo qaabeeyo xeedooyin loogu talo galay hal ciyaar oo kaliya, ama xarumo ciyaaro kaladuwan ah ama wax u dhexeeya? Ku dhig calaamada tusaysa nooca Park-ka aad rabto

Los parques deben tener campos de especialidad que se hacen para un tipo de deporte, o todos los campos deben tener usos múltiples, o en algún lugar en el medio? Coloque un punto para mostrar el tipo de parque que usted prefiere.



Attachment H. Closing the Gap Survey (online/paper)



## Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Closing the Gap Survey

Help plan for the future of the neighborhood parks in Minneapolis! The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) invites you to **take 15 minutes** to complete the following survey. Your responses will help us understand how residents and park visitors prioritize investments in neighborhood parks, and the community's park and recreation needs. Please take to complete the following survey by **September 30, 2015**. The survey is also available at [www.minneapolisparcs.org/ClosingtheGap](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/ClosingtheGap).

**Before you start, here is a description of a neighborhood park**

The Minneapolis park system includes neighborhood and regional parks. Neighborhood parks are typically small in size, 6 blocks or less, and include assets (playgrounds, recreation centers, wading pools, athletic fields, etc.) used primarily by the neighborhood or community near it. Funding for investments in neighborhood parks is available only through local property tax revenues. Regional parks are owned, operated and maintained by the MPRB, but they are also designated as part of the Metropolitan Council System of Regional Parks and Trails. These parks are usually large in size, often over 100 acres, and contain most of the natural areas in the Minneapolis park system. These parks serve people that live in our region as well as Minneapolis residents. As such, funding for investments in regional parks is provided through local property tax revenues, as well as by the Metropolitan Council and state and federal funding sources.

1. Of the following assets provided in neighborhood parks, how would you prioritize investments? (Circle one: 1=Not important at all; 2 Not important; 3=Somewhat important; 4=Very important)

	Not Important at All	2	3	Very Important	Do Not Use
Athletic Fields-Artificial Turf	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Athletic Fields-Natural Turf	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball Courts	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Field Lighting	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Off Leash Recreation Areas (Dog Parks)	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor Ice Rinks	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Parking Lots	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Paths	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Pedestrian Bridges	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Picnic Facilities	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Playgrounds	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Pools & Water Parks	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Public Art	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation Centers/Buildings	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Site Furnishings	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Skate Parks	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Tennis Courts	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Wading Pools and Splash Pads	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>

2. Is anything missing from the neighborhood parks that you visit? Please consider the following assets and **select three** that you most want to see in the parks.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Play Area                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Area                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Food Production Area/Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Area with Grills     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Center                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Playground           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Center                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Kitchen           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Center                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuj Lub Court               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Exercise Equipment          | <input type="checkbox"/> Kato Court                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amphitheater/Outdoor Theatre        | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Table Tennis        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior or Adult Playground          | <input type="checkbox"/> No other assets             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climbing Wall                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Please specify _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disc Golf                           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Dome                         |  |

-over-

Attachment H. Closing the Gap Survey (online/paper)

3. Of the maintenance services the MPRB provides in the neighborhood parks, how important are the following to you? (Circle one: 1=Not important at all; 2 Not important; 3=Somewhat important; 4=Very important)

	Not Important at All			Very Important	Do Not Know
	1	2	3	4	
Playground safety and maintenance	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Waste pick up and removal	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Vandalism repair and graffiti removal	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Athletic field maintenance	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor court maintenance (ex. basketball, tennis)	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation Center maintenance (ex. Roof repairs)	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Wading Pool maintenance	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Sidewalk/pathway maintenance	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Sidewalk/pathway ice and snow removal	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Mowing within parks	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Landscape care within parks	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Tree care within parks	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>

4. Of the programs and services the MPRB provides in neighborhood parks, how important are the following to you? (Circle one: 1=Not important at all; 2 Not important; 3=Somewhat important; 4=Very important)

	Not Important at All			Very Important	Do Not Use/Participate
	1	2	3	4	
Youth sports programs	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Youth non-sports programs	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Adult sports programs	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Adult non-sports programs	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Programs that appeal to adults over 65	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Providing police protection in the parks	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Fitness, health and wellness activities	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Programs that connect people to the outdoors	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Adventure recreation, such as mountain biking	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Programs for people with disabilities	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Programming activities that families can do together	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>

5. What programs and services are missing, or would you like to see offered in the neighborhood parks?

6. MPRB's recreation centers have space for a variety of uses. Of these, how important or useful are the following to you? (Circle one: 1=Not important/useful at all; 2 Not too important/useful; 3=Somewhat important/useful; 4=Very important/useful)

	Not Important at All			Very Important	Do Not Use
	1	2	3	4	
Reservable meeting or party room	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Kitchen	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Child care room	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Arts and crafts room	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Gymnasium	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Computer room	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Large room for programs	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Game room	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>
Lobby/seating area	1	2	3	4	<input type="radio"/>

Attachment H. Closing the Gap Survey (online/paper)

7. Is anything else needed at the recreation centers that you visit? Please consider the following items and **select three** that you most want to see in the parks.

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gymnasium                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Center open at more convenient days or times | <input type="checkbox"/> More programs for children  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness space                  | <input type="checkbox"/> More staff                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> More programs for teens     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concessions                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff who speak my language                  | <input type="checkbox"/> More programs for adults    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More drop-in activities        | <input type="checkbox"/> Better maintenance                           | <input type="checkbox"/> More programs for seniors   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A greater variety of programs  | <input type="checkbox"/> Newer facilities/remodeling                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Please specify _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More low cost or free programs | <input type="checkbox"/> More child care programs                     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation to the center   |   |  |

8. Please indicate your level of support or opposition to the following funding methods. (Circle one: 1=Strongly Oppose; 2 Oppose; 3=Support; 4=Strongly Support)

	Strongly Oppose			Strongly Support	Do Not Know
a. Increasing property taxes to maintain the current level of service, programs or assets provided by the MPRB.	1	2	3	4	○
b. Increase property taxes to increase or enhance the current level of service, programs or assets provided by the MPRB.	1	2	3	4	○
c. <u>Increase fees for adult sports and programs.</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>○</u>
d. Increase fees for youth sports and programs.	1	2	3	4	○
e. Add additional concession stands, vendors and rental opportunities.	1	2	3	4	○
f. Partner with private organizations to support programming.	1	2	3	4	○
g. Increase corporate sponsorship opportunities, for example the Minnesota Zoo's World of Birds Show, <u>sponsored by Wings Financial.</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>○</u>
h. Allow organizations or individuals to purchase naming rights, for example the McCormick Tribune Ice Rink in Chicago's Millennium Park.	1	2	3	4	○

-over-

Attachment H. Closing the Gap Survey (online/paper)

**Please tell us about you and/or your household**

9. Which neighborhood park(s) do you and/or members of your household visit most often?

10. How often do you or does a member of your household use these assets in the neighborhood parks?

	Daily	2-3 Times a Week	Weekly	2-3 Times a Month	Monthly	Less Often
Athletic Fields-Artificial Turf	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Athletic Fields-Natural Turf	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Field Lighting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Off Leash Rec. Areas/Dog Parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor Ice Rinks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parking Lots	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paths	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pedestrian Bridges	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnic Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pools & Water Parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Art	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation Centers/Buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Site Furnishings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skate Parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tennis Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wading Pools and Splash Pads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. What is your home zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

12. How did you hear about this planning effort? (Please select all that apply)

- Neighborhood meeting
- Email
- Friend or neighbor
- Newsletter or newspaper
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Which household type best represents your household?

- Household with children under 18
- Household without children
- Individual living alone
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for completing this survey by September 30, 2015!**

Please send to: MPRB Closing the Gap; Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board; 2117 West River Road; Minneapolis, MN 55411

## Attachment I. Closing the Gap Fact Sheet

# Closing the Gap:

## Investing in Our Neighborhood Parks



Minneapolis  
Park & Recreation Board

An initiative of the Superintendent and Commissioners to share information with Minneapolis residents and partners about the current condition and service level of neighborhood parks, and gather information about investment priorities for replacement, operating and maintenance of existing park assets.

### Challenge: Taking Care of What We Have

- Neighborhood parks have greatest number of physical assets that require greater resources to operate, maintain and replace failing assets
- Park Board lacks sufficient resources to properly maintain, repair and replace all of its existing assets and provide public services at the current level
- Annual operating and maintenance budgets for neighborhood parks are behind by over \$2 million just for mowing, trail repair, roof repairs and building maintenance
- From 2003-2012, the workforce was reduced by 136 full-time positions (23 percent); since 2013 Park Board has recovered 8 percent of the previously lost positions
- Park Board currently invests \$4 - \$5 million annually in neighborhood infrastructure replacement and improvements; however, current level of park assets requires \$14.3 million and this funding gap will increase annually with inflation
- From 2000-2015, the funding gap for repairing and replacing aging and failing neighborhood park assets has grown to \$111 million
- Unless the replacement and preventative maintenance costs associated with the park system's infrastructure are addressed, the backlog and costs will continue to increase, and the funding gap will grow an additional \$46 million from 2016-2020
- Challenge not unique to Minneapolis; issue being faced by urban park systems throughout country



### Proactive Steps: Addressing Funding Gap & Long Term Sustainability

- 2012-2014 Improvements in operating efficiencies results in annual savings of \$2.3 million
- 2015 McKnight Foundation grant to engage urban park leaders throughout country to learn what they are doing to address this challenge in their cities, and to engage Minneapolis residents and stakeholders in developing a plan to address funding challenges
- Educate residents on neighborhood park conditions and survey them on funding gap solutions

### Community Information Sharing

- Public meetings held throughout the city with residents, key stakeholders and partners.
  - Multiple meetings in each quadrant of city; meetings scheduled 15-30 days in advance:
    - **June** – North Minneapolis; **June/July** – Southwest Minneapolis; **July/August** – South Minneapolis; **August/September** – Northeast/Southeast Minneapolis; **September** – Citywide
  - Schedule at [www.minneapolisparcs.org/closingthegap](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/closingthegap)
  - To request a meeting modification in order to participate, contact Emily Wolfe at [ewolfe@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:ewolfe@minneapolisparcs.org) or 612-230-6415 in advance of the meeting
- Fact sheets, survey and park profile sheets available online and in recreation centers:
  - Survey to assess community funding priorities for replacement, operating and maintenance of existing neighborhood park assets
  - Park profile sheets show existing funding gaps (profiles for parks with most assets produced first and available according to meeting schedule; profiles of remaining parks available in September)

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARK fast facts

157	Neighborhood parks
6 million	Estimated annual neighborhood park visits
9,000	Activities (programs, events, etc) offered annually
<b>ASSETS INCLUDE:</b>	
7	Athletic fields – artificial turf
390	Athletic fields – natural turf multipurpose
64	Basketball courts
49	Buildings – Recreation centers
48	Buildings – Non-recreation centers
48	Parking lots
112	Playgrounds
121	Tennis courts
63	Wading pools
2	Water parks

Numbers reflect current records and may change. Neighborhood Park operations, maintenance and replacement of existing assets funded through property taxes. For every dollar residents pay in property taxes, eight cents goes to Park Board.

Fast Facts do not include data about **Regional Parks** that annually serve more than 21 million visitors from throughout the metro region and are eligible for state, regional and federal funding for park improvements.

### Timeline and Next Steps

- May - October: Community information meetings and survey
- Fall - Winter: Report to Board with decision by Board by December 2015

### For More Information

- Subscribe to receive updates and meeting notices at [www.minneapolisparcs.org/subscribe](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/subscribe) then select the "Closing the Gap" topic in the "Planning" section
- Email [closingthegap@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:closingthegap@minneapolisparcs.org) or call the hotline, 612-313-7789

## Attachment J. Budget Sheet I

# Closing the Gap

## 2015 BUDGET



Minneapolis  
Park & Recreation Board



### Revenues

Property Taxes	\$	50,994,300
Enterprise	\$	9,304,955
Capital Projects	\$	8,951,000
Local Government Aid	\$	9,133,360
Other Revenue	\$	9,558,847
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>87,942,462</b>

### Expenditures

#### Superintendent's Office

Superintendent's Office	\$	992,499
Board of Commissioners	\$	645,077
Communications and Marketing	\$	674,388
Park Police	\$	5,371,294

#### Deputy Superintendent's Office

Community Outreach	\$	1,347,706
Customer Service	\$	1,605,800
Finance	\$	917,613
Human Resources	\$	885,670

#### Environmental Stewardship

Asset Management	\$	18,557,903
Environmental Management	\$	6,940,091
Forestry	\$	10,502,270

#### Planning Services

Design and Project Management	\$	1,418,915
Strategic Planning	\$	794,270

#### Recreation Services

Athletic Programs and Aquatics	\$	2,639,835
Recreation Centers and Programs	\$	9,579,510
Youth Development	\$	3,323,350
Golf, Ice and Winter Programs	\$	6,531,465

#### Other

Capital Projects	\$	11,462,000
City Management Fee, Contributions and Other	\$	2,288,329
Debt Service	\$	1,213,537

<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>87,691,522</b>
---------------------------	-----------	-------------------

### Capital Program Overview

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's 2015 Capital Improvement Program includes improvements for regional and neighborhood parks.

#### Funding Sources

Capital improvements in the Minneapolis Park system are funded by several sources. Each source has specific funding requirements and limitations. The funding sources below are categorized by those used to fund neighborhood parks and regional parks.

#### Projected Neighborhood Park Funding Source

Net Debt Bonds	\$	2,500,000
Pay as You Go – Capital Levy	\$	1,500,000
Pay as You Go – Additional	\$	1,030,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,030,000</b>

#### Projected Regional Park Funding Source

Metropolitan Council/Regional Parks	\$	1,810,000
Parks and Trails – Legacy	\$	3,246,000
Lottery in Lieu	\$	1,395,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,450,000</b>

### For More Information

- [www.minneapolisparcs.org/closingthegap](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/closingthegap)
- [www.minneapolisparcs.org/budget](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/budget)
- [closingthegap@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:closingthegap@minneapolisparcs.org)
- Call the hotline, 612-313-7789

Attachment J. Budget Sheet I

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW



**Superintendent's Office**

**Leadership, vision, direction** The Superintendent's Office is responsible for the executive management of the highly diverse services and operations of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The Superintendent provides leadership and vision, implements Board policy, and crafts strategic and financial planning objectives. The Superintendent serves as an ambassador to the community and to other governmental agencies. The Superintendent's Office oversees communications and marketing; community outreach; and park safety and security.

**Communications:** 72,355 email subscribers, 2.2 million annual website visits  
**Community Policing:** 9,200 calls for service, 5,600 visits to rec centers, 400 special events

**Deputy Superintendent's Office**

**Supporting organization service delivery** The Deputy Superintendent's Office provides support to the Superintendent and Board of Commissioners. The Deputy Superintendent provides strategic focus and leads performance management efforts. The Deputy Superintendent's Office oversees community outreach; customer service; finance; human resources; information technologies; and risk management.

**MPRB event participants:** 104,000 attended events, 85,500 listened to concerts, 31,583 watched movies  
**Permits processed:** 8,500 parking, 7,387 dog park, 1,054 picnic, 260 photo, 180 wedding, 170 event permits  
**Technology increases:** 10 Terabytes disc space storage, 40 Megabytes faster connection to City

**Environmental Stewardship**

**Caring for the system** Environmental Stewardship provides expertise for the care and maintenance of the park system. The division oversees the maintenance of the Minneapolis Park system's physical infrastructure; equipment and fleet; natural areas and water resources; forestry; volunteer coordination; and environmental education.

**Miles of city streets arborists plant and maintain trees:** 1,100  
**Acres mowed or maintained:** 3,597  
**AIS boat inspections:** 8,800  
**Participants:** 15,000 Neighborhood Naturalist participants, 70,000 Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden visitors

**Planning Services**

**Developing the system** Planning Services provides expertise to lead, advise and guide the development and redevelopment of the Minneapolis Park system. The division oversees park system research and analysis, community engagement for park planning and design, park master planning, real estate services, design and engineering, physical development and redevelopment, and construction permitting.

**Renovations Completed or Underway:** four playgrounds, three athletic fields, two wading pools, one recreation center, 3.5 miles of trail repaved, 4.5 miles parkway resurfaced  
**Park Plans Completed or Underway:** five master plans, three activity plans, two service area plans

**Recreation Services**

**Providing visitor activities** Recreation Services provides expertise to lead, provide and create affordable recreational, cultural, educational, and leisure opportunities to benefit and enhance the lives of all Minneapolis residents. The division oversees recreation facility operations, including recreation centers, golf courses, aquatic facilities and beaches, ice arenas, cross-country skiing venues, and Wirth Winter Recreation Complex; recreation, education, and interpretive programming; and athletic fields and complexes.

**Sport team participants:** 6,910 youth, 28,900 adults  
**Non-sport recreation center class participants:** 208,481  
**Golf rounds played:** 95,000  
**Cross-Country Ski Passes sold:** 4,500  
**Rec Plus locations:** 19  
**Athletic facility rental permits issued:** 200 permits to 150 organizations, for 6,000 games



MPRB employees: 486 full-time, 1,288 temporary

Numbers current as of December 2014

Attachment K. Budget Sheet II

# Closing the Gap

## 2015 BUDGET




### Park Board Operating Budget (General Fund)

The Park Board Operating Budget provides resources to fund programs and services to maintain neighborhood parks, natural resources and the urban forest and provide recreational opportunities and park safety. The 2015 Revenue and Expenditure budget is \$68.2 million.

#### Operating Budget Revenues (General Fund)

##### Property Tax

The Park Board levies a set dollar amount of property taxes each year that is collected from property owners in the City based on the type and value of their property.

##### Local Government Aid

LGA is funding from the State of Minnesota that cities across the state, including Minneapolis, receive. The City of Minneapolis then transfers a portion of its LGA to the Park Board.

##### Fees, Fines and Other Revenue

These revenues include items such as recreation center program fees, adult sports, grants, donations, off-leash permits, parking and traffic citations, etc.

#### Operating Budget Expenditures (General Fund)

##### Wages and Fringe

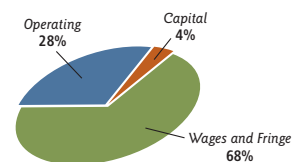
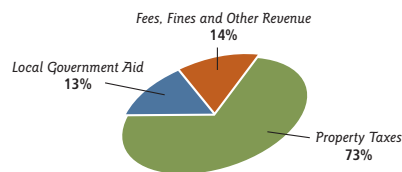
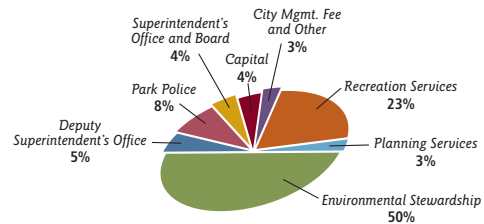
The majority of Park Board operating expenditures support full and part-time staff wages and fringe benefits.

##### Operating

These expenditures include equipment, utilities, contracts and supplies.

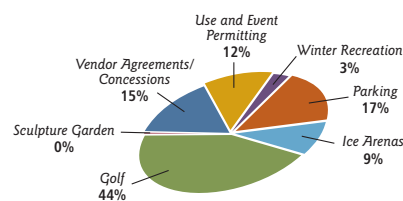
##### Capital

The operating budget transfers funds to capital projects for neighborhood park rehabilitation and improvements.



### Park Board Enterprise Fund

The Park Board Enterprise Fund includes business-type activities that are fully supported by revenue from the business activities. Profits from the Enterprise Fund activities are used for capital rehabilitation, construction, improvements or debt service. The 2015 revenue budget is \$9.3 million and expense budget \$9.1 million



### Tree Preservation and Reforestation Fund

The Tree Preservation and Reforestation Fund accounts for a special property tax levy to address threats to the urban forest due to Emerald Ash Borer and tree loss due to storms. The amount of the tax levy in 2015 is \$1.5 million, which supports the removal of 5,000 ash trees and planting of replacement trees in 2015.

Attachment K. Budget Sheet II



**Pressures on Park Board Operating Budget and Capital Funding**

The Park Board has set a target of transferring \$5 million annually from the operating budget to fund neighborhood park capital improvements. Due to rising operating expenses and service delivery demands this target has not been reached. In 2015 \$2.5 million will be transferred from the operating budget to fund neighborhood park capital improvements.

**Revenue Pressures**

**Local Government Aid**

Local Government Aid (LGA) has been an unpredictable funding source. State budget deficits resulted in substantial reductions of local government aid between 2008 and 2011. Actions taken by the State to balance the State budget from 2008 through 2011, resulted in a loss of \$8.5 million in certified state aids to the MPRB General Fund. MPRB LGA funding stabilized in 2012, with the certified amount substantially lower than past years.

**Property Tax**

Park Board Commissioners set an annual tax levy weighing Park Board’s funding needs with citizen’s desires for services and ability to pay, and economic conditions. Over the last ten years the average increase in the Park Board property tax levy was 3.7 percent.

**Rising Costs**

Over the last ten years Park Board health insurance premiums have increased 68%, energy costs 38% and pension contribution rates 25%. Over this period inflation has only increased by 18%. These costs in excess of inflation have directly reduced the amount of funding available for programs and services.

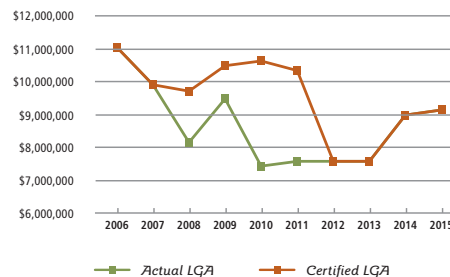
**Operational Gaps**

Park attendance, usage, and demand for enhanced programs and services have all been increasing, while at the same time budget reductions were enacted to manage funding shortfalls and rising expenses. These budget reductions have contributed to increased operational and capital funding gaps in the Park system.

From 2003-2012, the workforce was reduced by 136 full-time positions (23 percent); since 2013 the Park Board has been able to add 28 full-time positions back to the workforce.

Below are examples of operational gaps in the park system:

Activity	Quantity	Current Service Level	Best Practice/ Desired Service Level	Additional Cost for Best Practices/Desired Service Level
Mowing	2750 acres	14-day cycle	10-day cycle	\$875,000
Trail repair	51 miles	.25 miles/year	1 mile/year	\$625,000
Roof repair	62 roofs	40-50 years	20-25 years	\$400,000
Building maintenance	978,017 sf	4,167 hours	8,500 hours	\$194,863







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