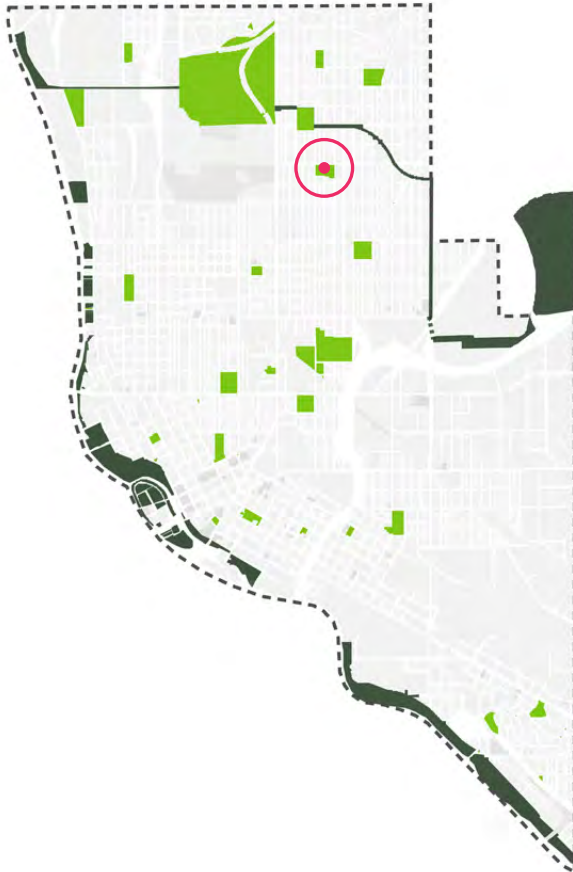


AUDUBON PARK



LOCATION AND HISTORY

Located in the northeast quadrant of the Service Area in the Audubon neighborhood, this 6-acre park is set into a residential neighborhood. The first five acres for Audubon Park were purchased in 1910 and Pierce Street through the park was closed. The park was expanded slightly in 1912 by an added four-tenths of an acre. In 1914, the Park Board closed Buchanan Street between the park and Thomas Lowry School as part of park superintendent Theodore Wirth's plans, presented in 1915 and again in 1918, to create a playground from the school extending into the park. A playground apparatus was provided to the park in 1921.

Financed by city bonds and property assessments in 1959, Audubon got new playground equipment, a wading pool, and ball fields. Construction of a shelter building was completed in 1960, resulting in "a new modern playground" where the "formerly hilly terrain made its value as a playground somewhat limited," according to the 1960 annual report. When looking at the steep grades in the park today, it is hard to imagine the park when those slopes were steeper. The terrain of the park makes it one of the most interesting neighborhood parks in the city—and provides a great sledding hill.

The park that had waited so long for a shelter building was upgraded near the end of the 1970s during the recreation-center building boom in Minneapolis parks. The current recreation center was dedicated in 1979. New playground equipment was added to the park in 1997 in part through neighborhood commitment of Neighborhood Revitalization Program funds. Native plants and shrubs were planted on the hillside in the park in 2011.

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

Audubon includes open space, sports facilities, and a recreation center. It is a park with rolling topography, large open turf fields, and a mature tree canopy. A single ball diamond is underused because many nearby neighborhood parks accommodate diamond sports. There are regular requests for soccer, and some use of the field by the diamond for soccer, which has resulted in low quality turf in the multiuse field area. The park is a popular destination in the winter months for sledding. The park topography and heavily wooded area is a natural refuge from the surrounding neighborhood.

A senior program in collaboration with Waite Park offers neighborhood and area seniors with activities and gathering times, while an after school program brings primary school age children to the site on a daily basis. The small parking lot is helpful in proximity to the recreation center for pick up and drop off, but many users access the playground and other amenities on foot from the surrounding neighborhood. The neighborhood has expressed interest in urban agriculture at the park. The tennis courts have been underutilized for years for tennis, but other ad hoc uses such as a community installed skateboard ramp have been installed in the courts to make use of the hard surface. Audubon has also been a site of continued partnership with the University of Minnesota Bee Lab in Phase II of a research project that examined flowering lawns and their impacts on bee diversity and abundance. The first component of Phase II planted additional flowering species into existing areas containing Dutch white clover. The second found overwhelming support for flowering lawns and the presence of bees in Minneapolis parks through visitor intercept surveys conducted by graduate students. The path network is in need of updates from

an accessibility perspective, and there is a potential to improve park access through additional circulation options from the surrounding neighborhood.

THE PROPOSED DESIGN

The design of this heavily used neighborhood park seeks to balance expanded natural areas, improved circulation, and diverse active recreation options. The existing topography is used to separate conflicting uses such as the dog park, play areas, sledding hill, and picnic areas. Existing recreation options including the basketball court, multiuse field, and playground are maintained. New recreation opportunities including a disc golf course and multiuse courts are added. The community was in support of an urban agriculture zone, and the siting of a fruit tree orchard was a result of community interest.

A picnic pavilion is proposed adjacent to the multi-use field, nestled along the edge of the fruit orchard or urban agriculture zone. The pavilion would provide a space for larger gatherings at the edge of the field to support groups, teams, and family gatherings. A secondary pavilion and picnic area are proposed in the wooded area near the top of the slope to accommodate families and groups that prefer to be in the wooded area near the playground.

This park is also a preferred site for a universally designed playground location in the service area. Transit stops and accessible entrances should be maximized to facilitate access to the playground. A universally designed playground includes features that allow all users to play and interact on ALL equipment, regardless of ability. A splash pad is included in addition to the

wading pool to provide a diversity of universally-accessible water play features. The arrival sequence from the parking lot to the recreation center and playground would be made ADA accessible and will foster sense of welcome for all, regardless of ability.

A nature play circuit is added to the wooded slope to encourage play along the slope and build off the popular bouldering feature currently in the park. The nature play elements could be boulders or stumps situated along the path for spontaneous play or climbing.

A disc golf course was proposed by a community member and received strong support during community input. They are placed in a sequence that minimizes conflict with the proposed path structure and to shelter the trees in the park from being impacted by the frisbees.

An off-leash dog park is added for people that like to run their dogs at Audubon. Having a formal, enclosed dog area will safely keep the dogs separated from the playground and other recreational and athletic features.

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Safer connections across the neighboring streets at the NE and NW corners of the park and improved entrances for park users are suggested for park access.

KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES

Through the 1 NE Watershed Study, it was identified that the surrounding neighborhood needs improvements to its stormwater management, and the park could offer a potential site for stormwater capture or treatment. MPRB is open to future coordination and will design new park features to capture all stormwater on site.



- PLAYGROUND
- PICNIC AREA
- RECREATION CENTER
- BASKETBALL COURT
- SLEDDING HILL
- MULTIUSE FIELD
- TENNIS COURTS
- MULTIUSE DIAMOND

AUDUBON PARK
EXISTING CONDITIONS

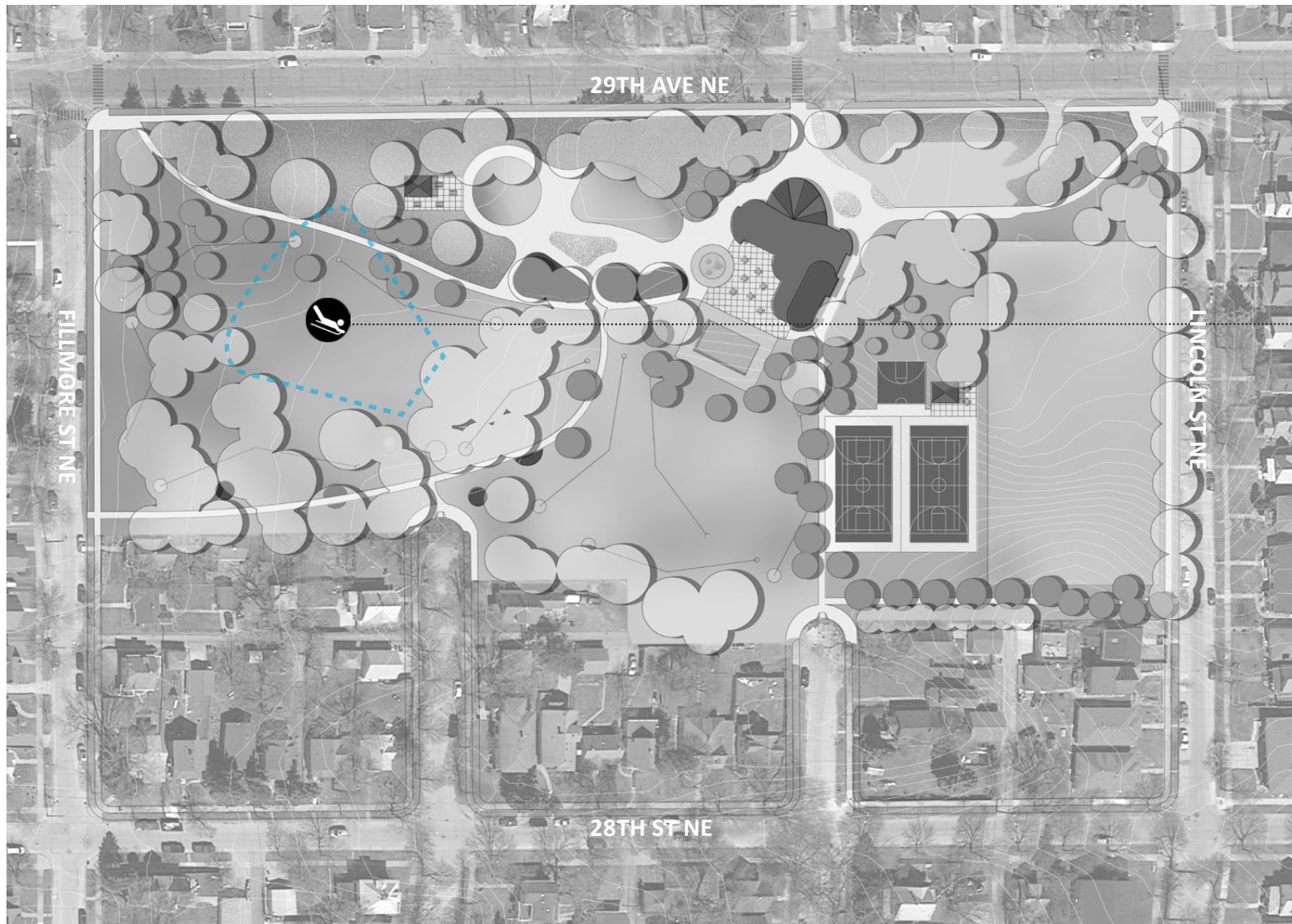




- DOG PARK WITH STORMWATER TREATMENT FEATURE
- IMPROVED CROSSINGS
- NATURAL AREA: PRAIRIE
- IMPROVED PARK ENTRANCES
- PICNIC PAVILION AND PLAZA
- UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND
- NATURAL AREA: FLOWER GARDEN
- SPLASH PAD
- IMPROVED MULTIUSE PLAZA
- RECREATION CENTER
- NATURE PLAY CIRCUIT
- RELOCATED WADING POOL
- ORCHARD
- RELOCATED 1/2 COURT BASKETBALL
- PICNIC PAVILION AND PLAZA
- MULTIUSE FIELD
- MULTI COURT AREA (TENNIS, BASKETBALL, PICKLEBALL, BIKE POLO)
- WALKING TRAILS
- NEW DISC GOLF COURSE
- NATURE PLAY CIRCUIT

AUDUBON PARK





SLEDDING HILL

AUDUBON PARK

AUDUBON DESIGN MATRIX

	General Input August 2017-May 2018	Design Responses (May 2018)	Initial Concepts Input (July-August 2018)	Preferred Concept (September 2018)
Ecology	Interest in expanding natural areas in the park.	Proposed additional natural areas throughout the park.	Interest in maintaining the natural feel of the park.	Natural areas including flower gardens, woodland, and bee lawn added throughout the park.
Play	Request to update and expand play options in the park.	Proposed expanded play area and nature play.	Current playground is outdated. Request to add nature play.	Preferred concept includes a nature play circuit and renovated play area. Park selected as location for universal accessible playground.
Wayfinding and Circulation	Request to improve crossings, pathways, and entrances into the park. Improve connections within the park and improve ADA accessibility.	Proposed improved crossings, new pathway connections into the adjacent neighborhoods, and developed entrances.	No comment.	Preferred concept includes improvement to entrances, pathways, and crossings.
Gathering	Request to increase the amount of group gathering space.	Proposed new picnic pavilions and picnic areas.	Not enough seating throughout the park.	Preferred concept includes expanded plaza areas, new picnic pavilions, and increased seating.
Aquatic	Request to add a splash pad and renovate the wading pool.	Proposed wading pool renovation and splash pad.	Request to keep wading pool	New wading pool and splash pad to meet of ADA accessible play users.
Fields	Multiuse field is heavily used.	Maintained existing field.	No comment.	Maintained existing field.
Courts	Tennis courts are in very poor condition but there would be interest in tennis if the courts were in good condition. Basketball is heavily used.	Proposed renovating the tennis courts.	Request for tennis courts and to expand basketball courts.	Preferred plan proposes multisport courts to host tennis, basketball, bike polo, pop up skate, and pickleball. An additional half court basketball was added following public review of the Master Plan draft document.
Diamonds	Diamond is not used, request to remove.	Proposed removing the diamond.	No comment.	Preferred concept does not include a diamond.
Winter	This is a major destination for sledding.	Maintain sledding hill.	No comment.	Sledding is maintained.
Other	Interest in food related programing.	Proposed orchard.	Interest in orchard but concern over placement.	Orchard is kept but moved to a less active area of the park.
	Interest in adding disc golf to park.	Proposed a disc golf course.	Strong support for disc golf.	Disc golf is included in preferred concept.
	Interest in dog park.	Proposed a dog park.	Strong support for dog park.	The dog park was initially included as an plan ammendment to the Master Plan document. The ammendment was approved and included in the final park plan.

PROPOSED AMENITY COST ESTIMATE

Asset Type	Project	2019 ESTIMATED COST/PROJECT
Aquatics	Wading Pool, incl. demolition of existing wading pool and relocation	\$ 854,268
Aquatics	Small Splash Pad , shared pump house	\$ 759,350
Play	Nature Play Circuit	\$ 569,512
Play	ADA Accessible Playground	\$ 1,233,943
Athletics	Athletic Field renovation: 1 multi-use field space	\$ 360,691
Courts	MultiSport Court (2), 1/2 Court Basketball	\$ 370,183
Landscape	Naturalized areas	\$ 48,040
Landscape	Existing parking lot renovation	\$ 156,337
Landscape	Urban Agriculture Area (orchard)	\$ 28,911
Courts	Disc Golf	\$ 170,854
Other	Group picnic shelters: new shelter near sports fields	\$ 208,821
Other	Renovate walking paths	\$ 804,911
Other	Off-leash dog park with stormwater feature	\$ 36,139
Other	Miscl. signs, trees, furniture	\$ 111,316
TOTAL		\$ 5,713,277

PROPOSED OPERATIONS ESTIMATE

Amenity	Total Per Unit Operations Cost	Δ Qty	Δ Cost
Nature Play Circuit	\$ 7,500.00	1	\$ 7,500.00
Multit-use-Diamond	\$ 20,000.00	-1	\$ (20,000.00)
Group Shelter	\$ 4,000.00	2	\$ 8,000.00
Plaza	\$ 10,000.00	1	\$ 10,000.00
Splash Pad	\$ 35,000.00	1	\$ 35,000.00
Disc Golf	\$ 1,500.00	1	\$ 1,500.00
		Difference	\$ 42,000.00