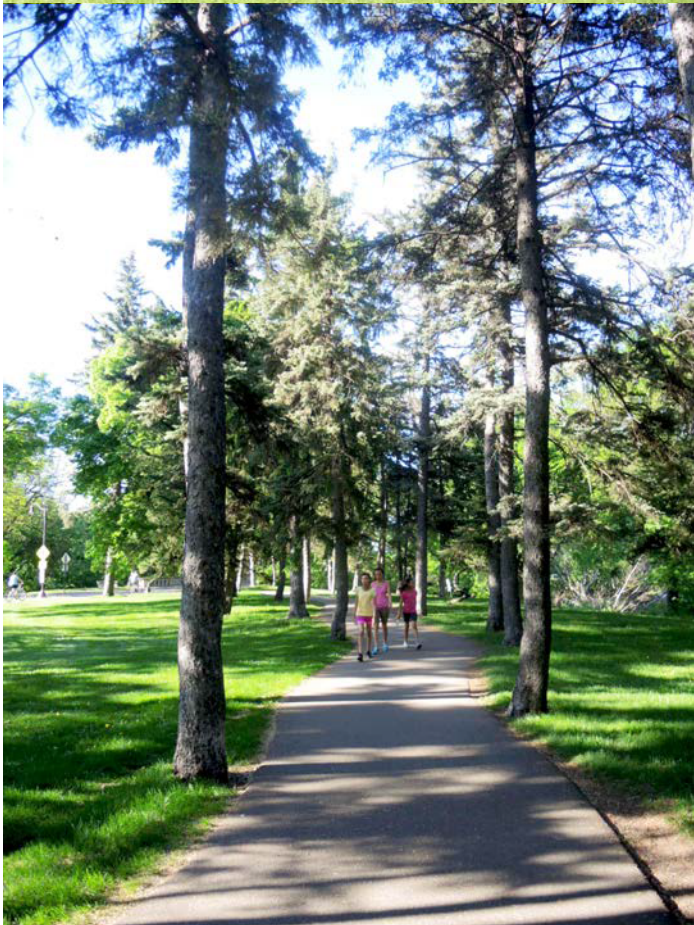


NOKOMIS-HIAWA REGIONAL PARK master plan March 2015

Amended: August 2017
February, 2022





MPRB would like to thank these people / organizations for their involvement in this plan:

The City of Minneapolis

Hennepin County

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

Neighborhood Organizations including:

The Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association | The Nokomis East Neighborhood Association
 Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association | Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group

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Images in this document are courtesy of MPRB, Friends of Lake Nokomis, and Steffanie Musich.

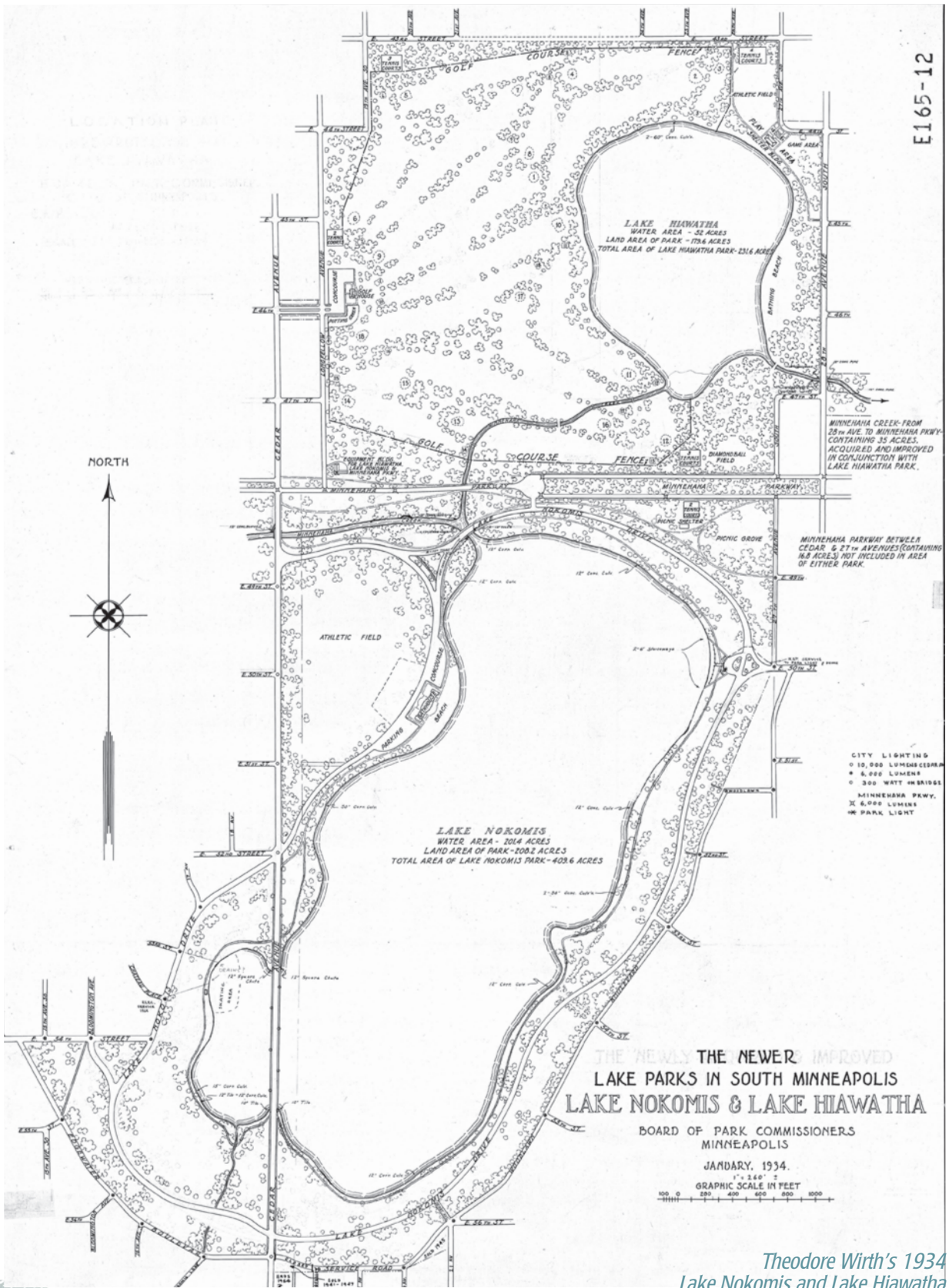
This plan was adopted by the MPRB on March 4th, 2015.





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Theodore Wirth's 1934
 Lake Nokomis and Lake Hiawatha
 Park Master Plan



SECTION 1: PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Introduction and Purpose of the Master Plan

Within the urban context of friendly neighborhoods, busy streets, and bright lights, Minneapolis Parks offer expansive havens of fresh water, lush green retreats, and miles of uninterrupted recreational trails. Bordering leafy parkways, these trails connect the places where people gather to picnic, sail, play, and escape in a truly integrated open space and recreation system.

Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park is a key link in this system. In 1914, work began to reshape Lake Amelia into what has become present-day Lake Nokomis. Land donation, acquisition, and dredging established more than 200 acres of parkland around a 200-acre lake. To the north, Lake Hiawatha – with enough surrounding land to fit a new golf course – was acquired 7 years later, and the first plan for the combined Lake Nokomis and Lake Hiawatha Park was created by Theodore Wirth in 1934.

The 1934 Plan has remained the guiding scheme outlining improvements for the two-lake park—until now. This document provides a much needed update to the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan. Today, the park encompasses approximately 660 acres of land and water, including Lake Nokomis, Lake Hiawatha, and part of Minnehaha Creek. Popular for its sailing, picnicking, beaches, and trails, it is one of the most visited parks in Minneapolis and in the seven-county metropolitan area.

The purpose of the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan is to provide a long-term vision for improvements to park facilities, recreation, landscape, trails, and shorelines. Hiawatha Golf Course, which is not considered for improvements or change within this document, was specifically excluded from the master planning process. The Master Plan otherwise studies the existing conditions of the park, assesses community needs in relation to park use, and proposes specific improvement projects. This is envisioned as a 25-year plan, with implementation in three broad timeframes: Short-term (up to 6 years), Medium-term (6-12 years), and Long-term (12 or more years). Study and development of a new master plan will be needed again in 25 years to reassess the conditions, vision, and necessary improvements of the regional park at that time.

A significant public process informed the development of this Master Plan. Additional details outlining this process are found in Section 3. The plans and recommendations included here underwent thorough review by public participants, an appointed Community Advisory Committee (CAC), the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and, finally, were adopted by the Metropolitan Council. Approval and adoption by these entities allows access to future funding for capital improvements.

REGIONAL parks SYSTEM



■ Regional Park or Reserve ■ Boat Access
■ State Land ■ Canoe, Carry-in Access
■ Federal Land ■ Off-leash Dog Area
■ Park Entrance ■ Off-leash Dog Area
— Regional Trail — State Trail

0 1 2 3 4 Miles



Map Advisory:
 This map is published for general reference purposes. Although reasonably detailed and believed to be accurate, the regional park boundaries depicted on this map are intended only to reflect the general location of the park boundaries. Park users should be aware of the actual boundaries and limits of the regional parks, reserves and trails while visiting or using those facilities. Changes to regional park boundaries may have occurred after the publication of this map.

Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Regional Parks System Map

Metropolitan Regional Parks System

The regional parks system was established in 1974 when the Metropolitan Council (Met Council) was put in charge of overseeing the acquisition and development of regional parks throughout the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area. The combined efforts of implementing agencies, counties, and special districts allow the parks to be maintained and operated with free admission for park users. Today, there are 52 parks and park reserves in a system that sees more than 47 million annual visits.

The Met Council, with assistance from the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, facilitates planning and funding for the regional parks system. Policies guiding this work support the regional goals for parks and open space, including protection of the region's water quality, implementation of best management practices, and coordination with other regional functions like housing and transportation.

The Met Council works with implementing agencies, such as the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, to realize improvements according to Met Council policies and practices. The Met Council's planning requirements help to ensure consistency throughout the region. Plan approval by the Met Council is necessary in order to receive acquisition, development, and operational funding.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) oversees parks in the City of Minneapolis. The park system receives approximately 18 million visits each year across 197 park properties. Parks range from local neighborhood play lots to large nature areas, and include the 55-mile Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway. The MPRB provides administration, planning, development, maintenance, and police protection for parks and recreational facilities in the system. Environmental, recreational and other programs and services are provided for park users of all ages and abilities.

Established in 1883, The MPRB is the governing agency responsible for improving, operating, and maintaining Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park. The nine-member Board of Commissioners is an independently elected body responsible for maintaining and developing the Minneapolis Park system to meet the needs of Minneapolis citizens. Every four years, commissioners are elected to this Board: one from each of the six park districts within the city and three that serve at-large. This unique structure allows independent decision-making so the MPRB can efficiently oversee a diverse system of land and water.

Related Planning Efforts

The Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan is not the only document influencing park development, use, and quality. Other planning efforts, governing agencies, and partnerships impact the park and its users. Examples of agencies whose work impacts this Master Plan include:

- » Minnehaha Creek Watershed District – water quality and biodiversity
- » Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – water quality and biodiversity
- » City of Minneapolis – ongoing transportation and stormwater management
- » Hennepin County – ongoing transportation and stormwater management
- » Three Rivers Park District – Intercity Regional Trail connection

Required Plan Elements:

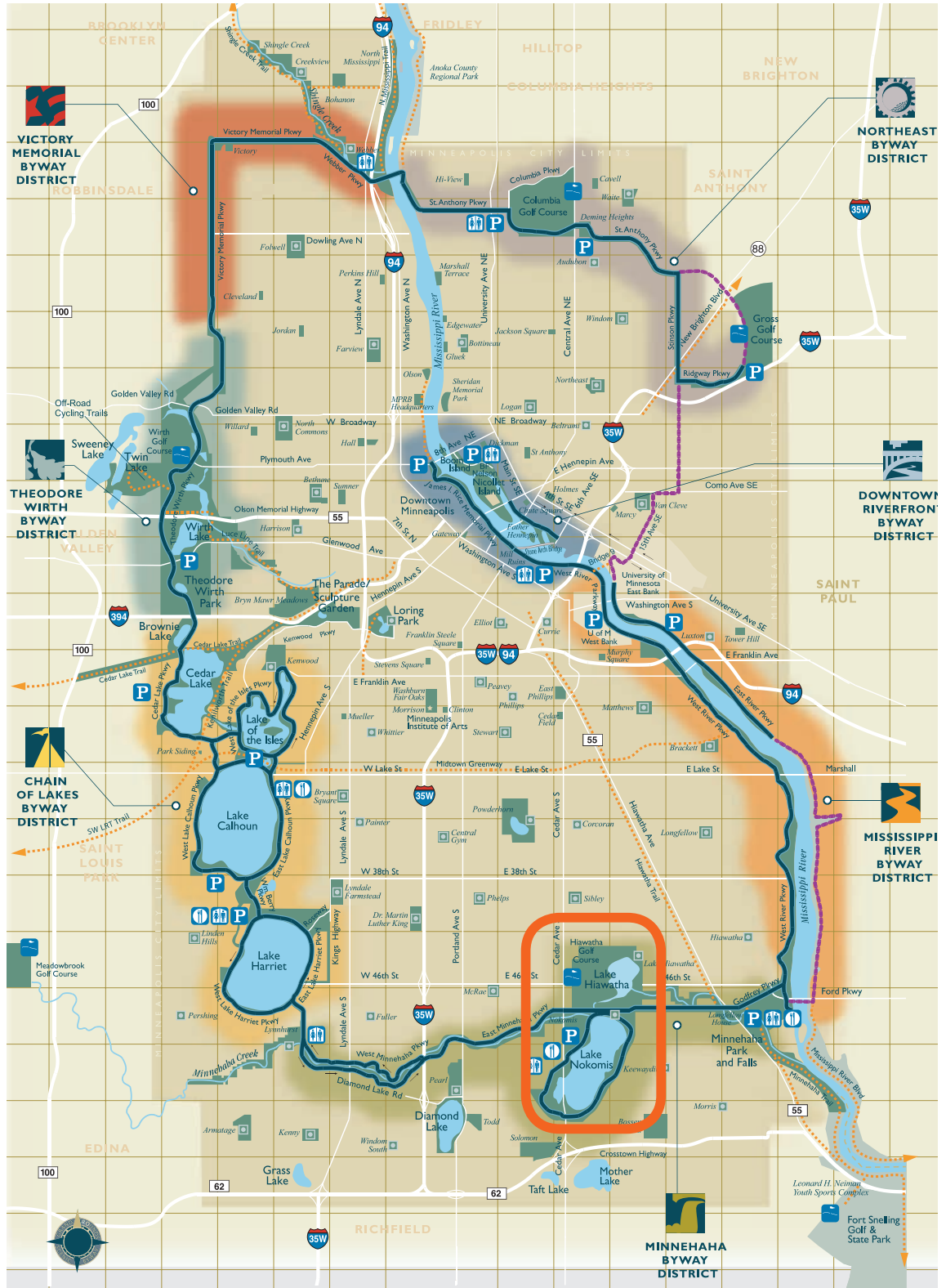
The Nokomis-Hiawatha Master Plan is consistent with Metropolitan Parks and Open Space plans and policies. Required plan elements include:

- » Boundary descriptions and a listing of properties to be acquired
- » Recreation demand forecasts
- » Natural resources management
- » Park development concept
- » Park implementation schedule
- » Development and management/operational cost projections

MPRB System-wide Plans:

The MPRB has system-wide plans in place that will affect ongoing prioritization and detailed design, development, and maintenance at Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park:

- » Skate Park Activity Plan (DRAFT- not yet adopted)
- » South Service Area Master Planning (in progress)
- » Ecological Systems Plan (in progress)
- » Pavement and Signage Plans (in progress)
- » Court Sports Facility Plan (in progress)
- » Hiawatha Recreation Center Master Plan (Approved in 1990)



Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park within the Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway



SECTION 2: PARK BACKGROUND

Park Description / Existing Conditions

Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park is one of the most visited parks in the Minneapolis Park System. It is connected to the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes to the west and to Minnehaha Park and Falls to the east by Minnehaha Creek and the adjacent parkway and trails. Because of this connection, the park is also part of the Grand Round National Scenic Byway route.

The park has some unique offerings that make it a local gem with a regional draw. Lake Nokomis is one of only three sailing lakes in Minneapolis (Lake Harriet and Lake Calhoun are the other two). One of the most popular beaches in the system can be found on its western shore, which offers amenities that include a restaurant, as well as bicycle, canoe, and kayak rentals. Hiawatha Golf Course, just west of Lake Hiawatha, provides one of the few opportunities for public golfing within the City of Minneapolis. And because of its location, the park offers some of the best views of the Minneapolis skyline found in South Minneapolis.

Recreational opportunities are plentiful within the park, which currently maintains two supervised beaches, one unsupervised beach, two community recreation centers, a beach house, restaurant, athletic fields, sailboat buoys, a boat launch, canoe and kayak rental and storage, fishing piers, tennis, pickleball, basketball, playgrounds, picnic areas, and a multi-use trail system. Larger recreational events are hosted year-round at Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park, including the summer Monarch Festival with educational activities, fun runs, and dancing, as well as the Lifetime Fitness triathlon each July and annual pond-hockey tournament every winter.

On the quieter side, Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park is loved for its natural amenities. Recent park improvements have led to the creation of larger wetlands and additional wildlife habitat, which has contributed to the popularity of birding in the park. Nokomis-Hiawatha's well-developed network of trails offers visitors prime access to the park's lakes, creek, and wetlands, and has made passive modes of recreation like walking, running, and cycling some of the most popular ways to experience the park.





*Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park
Existing Conditions*

Location and Context

Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park comprises 660 acres of land and water located in the southeast part of Minneapolis, just north of the border with the City of Richfield. It sits roughly between Cedar Avenue on the west and 28th Avenue on the east; 43rd Street to the north and Edgewater/Woodlawn Boulevards (1 block north of 57th Street) to the south. The southwest portion of Lake Nokomis and surrounding parkland continues west of Cedar Avenue where the Cedar Avenue Bridge crosses north-south over the lake.

Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park is surrounded by residential neighborhoods of mostly single-family houses. The Standish and Ericsson Neighborhoods are located to the north and northeast and are represented by the Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association (SENA) for community involvement and civic engagement. The Keewaydin and Wenonah neighborhoods border the park to the east and southeast. Along with the Morris and Minnehaha neighborhoods, Keewaydin and Wenonah comprise the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) for the City of Minneapolis. To the west and southwest are the Hale and Diamond Lake Neighborhoods, part of the Hale-Page-Diamond Lake Community Association. While not technically bordering the park, the Northrop Neighborhood is located west of Cedar Avenue and northwest of the park. Community representation and involvement from each of these groups has been integral to the development of the Master Plan. More information about this can be found in Section 3.

The closest commercial-retail nodes are located at the intersections of Cedar Avenue and Minnehaha Parkway, 28th Avenue and 50th Street, and 28th Avenue and 42nd Street.

The area surrounding Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park is rich with recreational amenities. These include parkland along Minnehaha Creek, and neighborhood parks like Keewaydin Field and Bossen Field Park to the east, Solomon Park (undeveloped) to the southwest, Todd and Pearl Parks to the west, and the adjacent Lake Hiawatha Park (see Appendix for the plan). The park is less than one mile away from Minnehaha Park, a popular destination, and also part of the Metropolitan Regional Parks and Open Space System.

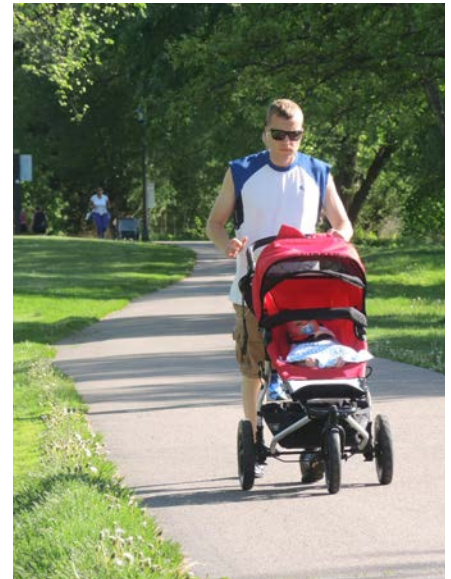
Historic Background

In the late 1800s, growing interest in the concept of a larger “lake parkway system” prompted expansion of Minneapolis parks to include two lakes and surrounding land in southeast Minneapolis. At the time, Lake Amelia was a shallow expanse of wetland, and Rice Lake, to the north, was considered a swamp. Despite their less than desirable characteristics, increasing demand for parks and for a connection to Minnehaha Falls motivated efforts to establish a new park in this area. Beginning in 1900, the Minneapolis Park Board moved to acquire property around Lake Amelia, and in 1908 secured 409 acres, including nearly 300 acres of water. At this time, suggestions were made to purchase Rice Lake as well, but this was put off in order to focus on improvements to Lake Amelia.

In 1910, Lake Amelia’s name was officially changed to Lake Nokomis, in honor of the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem “Song of Hiawatha” that made Minnehaha Falls famous (Nokomis was Hiawatha’s grandmother, and the word means “my grandmother” in Ojibwe). That same year, park superintendent Theodore Wirth presented his plan for improving Lake Nokomis. One of the most ambitious land-altering schemes in the history of Minneapolis parks, Wirth’s plan involved a large amount of dredging and grading to reshape the lake and surrounding parkland. His dramatic design reduced open water from 300 acres to 200 acres and increased the lake’s average depth.



Passive recreation at Lake Hiawatha



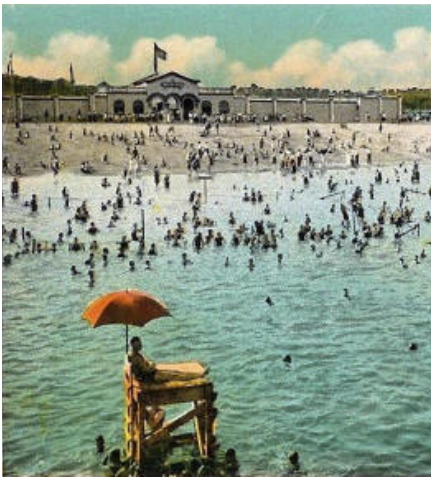
Families enjoy the trails for exercise



Lake Nokomis is one of three sailing lakes in Minneapolis



Water toboggan at Lake Nokomis



Lake Nokomis Beach post card



WPA picnic tables and benches remain

Work began in 1914 to dredge Lake Nokomis and build up the surrounding land. Dredges worked for four years to realize Wirth's vision, moving a total of 2.5 million cubic yards of earth. The fill was allowed to settle for five years before further grading and planting completed the park's transformation. A new bath house was built at the beach on the west shore. Upon its opening in 1920, Lake Nokomis immediately surpassed Lake Calhoun as the most popular beach destination in Minneapolis.

At this time, a newly introduced form of recreation began to change perceptions of how land around Rice Lake could be used. In 1916, the park board opened its first golf course at Glenwood (now Wirth) Park. It was an instant success. The course was expanded in the following years, and the Park Board began to seek locations for additional golf courses. In the 1920 annual report, Wirth suggested that a new course be laid out between Rice Lake and Cedar Avenue – an idea that was supported by the board. In 1922, the Park Board decided to acquire Minnehaha Creek's entire corridor from Rice Lake to Minnehaha Falls - including the lake and the land west of it- making Wirth's golf course concept a reality. At the same time, the city council was pushing for transformation of the 'swamp' so that people would build houses in this part of town.

Wirth submitted his first plan for Lake Hiawatha and the surrounding park in 1924, which showed the basic layout of the golf course and a playground southeast of the lake. The lake was officially renamed the following year for the hero in Longfellow's poem. By this time, the majority of Lake Nokomis' original park plan had been completed, including walkways, baseball diamonds, football fields, and a water-toboggan slide at the beach. A picnic shelter was added on the north shore, and a refectory was built to the west.

In 1929, improvement efforts could again focus on Lake Hiawatha. Dredging of the lake and construction of the golf course began. Material dredged from the lake was used to construct the terrain needed to provide interest to the golf course, which was completed in 1931. A beach and shelter were opened on the eastern shoreline in 1932. The golf clubhouse was completed in 1932, and the course was fully operational by 1934.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, very few construction and maintenance projects were completed in the parks, except those done under federal programs like the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Significant portions of the shoreline around Lake Nokomis and Lake Hiawatha were reinforced with concrete and stone walls installed by the WPA, much of which remains. The program also created new walkways, picnic areas, tennis courts, and playgrounds during this time.

It wasn't until the early 1960s that attention to park improvements reignited. Eroded areas of Lake Nokomis were reinforced, the beach was rebuilt, and the original bath house was replaced in 1967. The Nokomis Community Center was built in 1977 as part of a system-wide effort to establish recreation and community centers in Minneapolis community parks. Lake Nokomis became the first city lake park with a community center. At Lake Hiawatha, a second ball field was added north of the lake, and the recreation center was renovated.

An effort in the early 1970s brought attention to the entirety of the Grand Rounds system, including the portion of the Grand Rounds moving through Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park. Landscape architects, Eckbo, Dean, Austin & Williams (EDAW) were tasked with analyzing the parkway system to identify ways to improve capacity and safety. The effort resulted in the narrowing of many parkways and added parking bays along the roads, colored paving (red asphalt) to distinguish the parkways from city streets, new park fixtures and lighting, and new signage. At this same time, the Park

Board began constructing a separated dual trail system throughout the parks, which worked to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Most recently, the park has seen a handful of new additions. A golf learning center was added to Hiawatha Golf Course in 1999, and an accessible playground and splash pad were built at Lake Hiawatha in the 2000s. Improvements around Lake Nokomis focused on water-quality and habitat, including a series of new wetlands that treat stormwater runoff (1996) and the creation of the Nokomis Naturescape Garden (1999). A key component of the Naturescape was the transformation of the hillside north of Lake Nokomis from a monoculture of turf grass into an oak savannah featuring native grasses and forbs. Gardens located adjacent to the trails also feature native plants and are meant to show people how native species could be used in home landscaping and gardening. These gardens specifically highlight plants that are beneficial to monarch butterflies.

In 2013, the historic refectory at the main beach underwent a major facelift to transform it into a restaurant, complete with a lakeside terrace.

Reaching the Park: Transportation, Park Access, Parkways, and Transit Roads

The park is primarily accessed from the north and south by Cedar Avenue (which bisects Lake Nokomis) and from the east and west by Minnehaha Parkway (which bisects the park between the two lakes). Other north-south arterial roads providing access to the park include 28th Avenue S on the east and Bloomington Avenue S on the west. Local neighborhood streets provide east-west connections into the park. These primary routes include 50th Street S, 54th Street S on both the east and west sides of the park, and Derby Ave on the east.

Lake Nokomis is also fully circled by Nokomis Parkway, which intersects many of the neighborhood cross streets. Nearly all of the on-street parking available for park-users is located along Nokomis Parkway. A secondary “ring road” exists on the border of the park, and includes Woodlawn Boulevard and Edgewater Boulevard. These boulevards line the edge of the parkland around Lake Nokomis on the east, south, and southwest sides. Parkways are under MPRB jurisdiction and located fully within park-owned land. Ongoing maintenance of these parkways is a joint effort by the MPRB and City of Minneapolis.

Off-street parking is accommodated by several parking lots: one near the Nokomis Main Beach, one off Minnehaha Parkway near the Minnehaha Creek canoe launch, three near the Nokomis Community Center, and one at the Hiawatha Golf Clubhouse. There is currently no off-street parking located near the Lake Hiawatha Recreation Center.

Trails

Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park is connected by bicycle and pedestrian trails to the Grand Rounds regional trail system, which runs through the park along Minnehaha Creek. City sidewalks, located along nearly all Minneapolis neighborhood streets, also connect to the park’s trail system. On-street bicycle lanes on 54th Street S connect to park trails on the west side of Lake Nokomis. Bike boulevards along 17th Avenue S and 12th Avenue S provide north-south connections to the Grand Rounds where cyclists can enter Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park. Quiet neighborhood streets with less vehicle traffic also provide bike access to the park and are considered bike routes by the City of Minneapolis.

Reaching Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Using Public Transit:

Light Rail Transit (LRT) runs along Hiawatha Avenue, approximately a half-mile east of Lake Hiawatha. The LRT Blue Line connects downtown Minneapolis to the Mall of America. The closest LRT transit stations to the park are at 46th Street S and 50th Street S. Both stations are near trails along Minnehaha Creek and therefore provide nearly uninterrupted off-road bicycle and pedestrian access to the park. Bus connections can be made from 38th Street and 46th Street Stations to locations closer to the park and its amenities.

At the time of print, several city bus routes provide nearby transit access to Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park:

- » Bus Route 22 travels north-south on 28th Avenue S and accesses the Blue Line LRT at the 38th Street Transit Station
- » Bus Route 46 runs east-west along 46th Street (west of the park) and 42nd Street (north of the park)
- » Bus Route 14 runs north-south on Bloomington Avenue (west of Cedar), with some routes running on Cedar Avenue to 42nd Street and then to the 38th Street Blue Line station
- » Bus Route 133 provides limited stop service on Bloomington Avenue





Pedestrians crossing Lake Nokomis on the Cedar Avenue bridge



A flooded Minnehaha Creek

Conflicts Affecting Park Development

Cedar Avenue / Minnehaha Parkway

Of particular concern is the safety and ease of crossing Cedar Avenue on foot or by bicycle. Cedar Avenue intersects with the MPRB parkway and trail system three times: at Minnehaha Parkway, at Nokomis Parkway near 52nd Street, and at Nokomis Parkway near Edgewater Boulevard. In all cases, improvements to the trail user experience will need to be coordinated with the City and County. The Cedar/Nokomis Parkway/Edgewater area has been studied over the years by the City and County. However, MPRB has not historically been interested in participating in any solution that would place roadway uses on parkland, and this has limited other agencies' exploration of all possible solutions.

Solving the traffic issues around Cedar/Nokomis Parkway/Edgewater will be necessary to improve the park user experience in this vicinity, especially upon implementation of Three Rivers Park District's Intercity Regional Trail, which will run southward from this intersection. MPRB recognizes that any solution must be a multi-agency effort led by the City and/or County.

Minnehaha Parkway is a major road running east-west through the park. It is owned by the MPRB, however, the roadway and adjacent parkway land is outside the boundaries of Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park. It is part of the Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway and includes adjacent bicycle and pedestrian trails that link into the park's trail systems. The parkway can act as a barrier splitting Lake Nokomis from Lake Hiawatha. Parkway trail crossings require enhancement to strengthen the connections between the two sides of the park. For this reason, the master plan addresses changes to Minnehaha Parkway where they support master plan features. Ongoing management and maintenance of the parkway is typically a joint effort between the MPRB and City of Minneapolis. Changes to traffic management or markings of crossings will need additional approvals from the City.

Cedar Avenue runs north-south along the western edge of Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park and bridges over the southwest portion of Lake Nokomis. The major arterial roadway presents a significant barrier to bicycle and pedestrian crossings, introduces high-speed vehicle traffic to the area, and presents challenges to water quality through stormwater runoff. Management and maintenance of the road is under joint jurisdiction with the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County. Any changes or improvements that impact the roadway require coordination with these two implementing agencies.

Water Related Issues Beyond the Park

Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park is significantly influenced by water-related issues outside of its boundaries. In particular, these issues are related to upstream activities along Minnehaha Creek. Water quality in the creek is directly impacted by stormwater management within the watershed. Initiatives to improve water quality outside of the park will be coordinated and implemented by its governing body, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD), as well as the City of Minneapolis.



SECTION 3: NEEDS ASSESSMENT & DEMAND

Long-term visioning for the park was identified through a needs assessment process involving public participation through community engagement strategies, including open houses and an online questionnaire, and meetings with technical staff and partnering agencies. The assessment informed the concept development and resulted in recommendations for this Master Plan.

Trends

Demographic

The seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area is currently experiencing flat to modest population growth. Overall, the population is aging, as baby-boomers reach senior citizen status (over 65 years). The metro area is also showing an increase in ethnic and racial diversity.

The last major census (2000-2010) indicates that the neighborhoods immediately adjacent to the park are experiencing modest population declines and a decrease in the 65+ age group. The area continues to attract young families with children and is also increasing in ethnic and racial diversity.

Recreation

Consciousness about health and fitness is an increasing trend, as society becomes more focused on being active. However, time constraints impede the ability to dedicate time for separate exercise, and many are turning to active transportation modes, such as biking and walking to stay fit. This has influenced the trend toward more individual and informal recreation activities such as walking, cycling, running, and yoga.

Conventional, organized group and team sports such as baseball are currently seeing flat to modest growth, while non-traditional recreation such as skateboarding, rock climbing, rugby, lacrosse, ultimate, disc golf, and pickleball are rising in popularity. Though there is desire for more durable, high-quality outdoor recreational facilities, fields, and courts, these increasingly need to accommodate multi-purpose uses.



Cross-country skiing is a popular winter activity



"Desire line" of runners along Cedar Ave



Sand volleyball is proposed as an added new amenity at Lake Nokomis

There is growing demand for more social gathering places and event spaces, as well as rising interest in nature and wildlife-oriented activities, such as birding, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

Visitor Demand

According to the Metropolitan Council's 2013 Visitation Estimates, Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park receives 1.5 million visits annually. Modest growth in visitation is expected over the life of this Master Plan due to the influx of young families in neighborhoods surrounding the park, implementation of improvement projects to park amenities, and the addition of several new park facilities.

According to the most recent Met Council use data, visitation to all regional parks has grown. MPRB regional parks have continued to draw a significant percentage of visits. In 2013, 33.8% of visits to Metropolitan Regional Parks were within the MPRB system. The percentage is holding steady as visitation numbers continue to rise.

Overall MPRB System Visits:

Visits per year (in 1,000s)	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Mpls Park & Rec. Board Regional Parks	13,404	15,442	14,113	14,768	15,098	15,224	15,977
Percentage of total visitation to all regional parks	40.6 %	40.1 %	37.1 %	36.1 %	34.3 %	33.2%	33.8%

Metropolitan Council 2013 Regional Parks Use Estimate

Comparison of 2012 and 2013 Regional Park Visitation:

Agency	2012 (1,000s)	2013 (1,000s)	# Change (1,000s)	% Change
Minneapolis	15,224	15,977	752.7	4.9%

Metropolitan Council 2013 Regional Parks Use Estimate

Use of urban recreational trails both within, and linking to Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park is projected to increase; a trend consistent with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources report, *Ten Year Forecasts—Of Minnesota Adult Outdoor Recreation Activities 2004-2014*, which states that trail activities such as walking, hiking, and bicycling will remain steady or increase over this time period.

Planning Process

Community Engagement

The planning process employed multi-faceted community engagement methods to gather input from a variety of groups. A Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) was established at the beginning of the process. Elected officials and Nokomis-Hiawatha area neighborhood organizations were asked to appoint members to the committee. A total of 19 people comprised the group, which met seven times over 4 ½ months to discuss planning concepts, explore alternatives, and provide Master Plan recommendations to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Members of the public were invited to attend and participate in CAC meetings which included in their agendas a designated time for public comment. Public attendance at CAC meetings was typically around 20 people. Two community open houses hosted at the Nokomis Community Center also provided opportunities for public input. These open houses introduced the process of master planning and allowed community members to suggest, react to, and comment on proposed improvements for the park. Around 60 people were in attendance at each of the open houses.

Early in the process, an online questionnaire was made available to assess the needs of community participants. More than 900 people responded, and the results shaped the concept alternatives developed for review, along with the subsequent recommendations for the master plan.

Ongoing project information and updates about the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan were made available on the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board website. Gov-delivery and social media also played important roles in keeping the community abreast of the process and opportunities for input. In particular, the four neighborhood organizations near the lake, the non-profit Friends of Lake Nokomis, and the District 5 MPRB Commissioner utilized social media and in-park face-to-face discussions to spread the word about the plan.

In addition to public and community input, the plan has benefitted from the efforts of key staff at the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board who work directly on activities, programming, events, safety, and operations and maintenance of the park on a regular basis. Their input was largely gained through project advisory committee (PAC) meetings and one-on-one meetings with park planning staff.

Several technically-oriented meetings were also held to focus planning around specific issues, such as water quality, transportation, and recreation. Staff from other implementing agencies participated in these meetings and offered continued coordination throughout the planning process, including the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. The City of Minneapolis Public Works and Engineering also attended the second Community Open House that addressed proposals for transportation and roadway changes in and near the park.

Formal Public and Governmental Review

The master plan goes through a review and approvals process, a formal public process, and governmental board action. Initial Master Plan recommendations were developed and reviewed through regular meetings of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). This 19-member committee evaluated the needs assessment and concept alternatives presented by MPRB staff and project consultants. The set of recommendations included here is the result of decisions made with the CAC.



The Charge of the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park CAC:

- » Become knowledgeable about the project and its scope
- » Understand and represent the park and recreation needs of the community and park visitors
- » Act as community liaisons for the project
- » Participate in public CAC meetings
- » Advise MPRB staff and consultants throughout the planning process
- » Recommend to the Board of Commissioners a preferred plan, budget, and, if warranted, phasing strategy



Comments from a community open house



Participants at the first community open house



A consistently wet area of the park is considered for transition to a permanent stormwater treatment feature



Flooding of trails is a common problem

Before adoption, Master Plans go through a formal approval process with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB). This process is initiated by a 45-day public comment period that begins when the document is made available for community members to review. During this time, a formal review is requested from other implementing agencies as well. Input received about the document is considered for revision at the end of the comment period. The final document is then presented to the MPRB in a public hearing where community members are welcome to bring forward ideas, comments, and concerns about the Master Plan. MPRB members vote to approve the document, or require further revision.

Once the MPRB adopts the Plan, the document becomes the acting plan for guiding improvements for the park. To qualify for regional parks funding, the master plan must also be approved by the Metropolitan Council. After receiving Met Council approval, it serves as a plan for regional park improvements and development, and opens the opportunity for related funding.

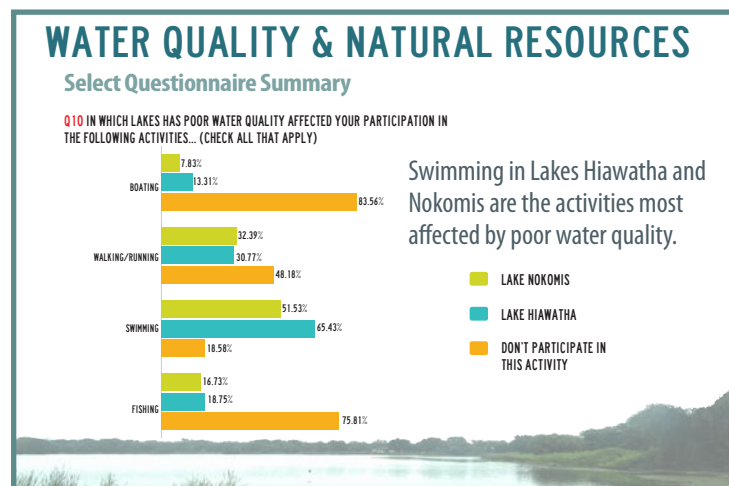
Needs Assessment Summary

Understanding the needs of park users and neighborhood residents is an essential part of the early master planning process. The needs assessment for Nokomis-Hiawatha was initiated through the CAC, where small groups of CAC and community members worked together to identify issues, conflicts, and current successes within the park. An online questionnaire polling respondents about recreation, trail use, and water quality followed this. Further input from the Project Advisory Committee, community meetings, technical staff, and in-depth site study supplemented the needs assessment. The maps on the following pages were used early in the process to reflect the ideas and input received.

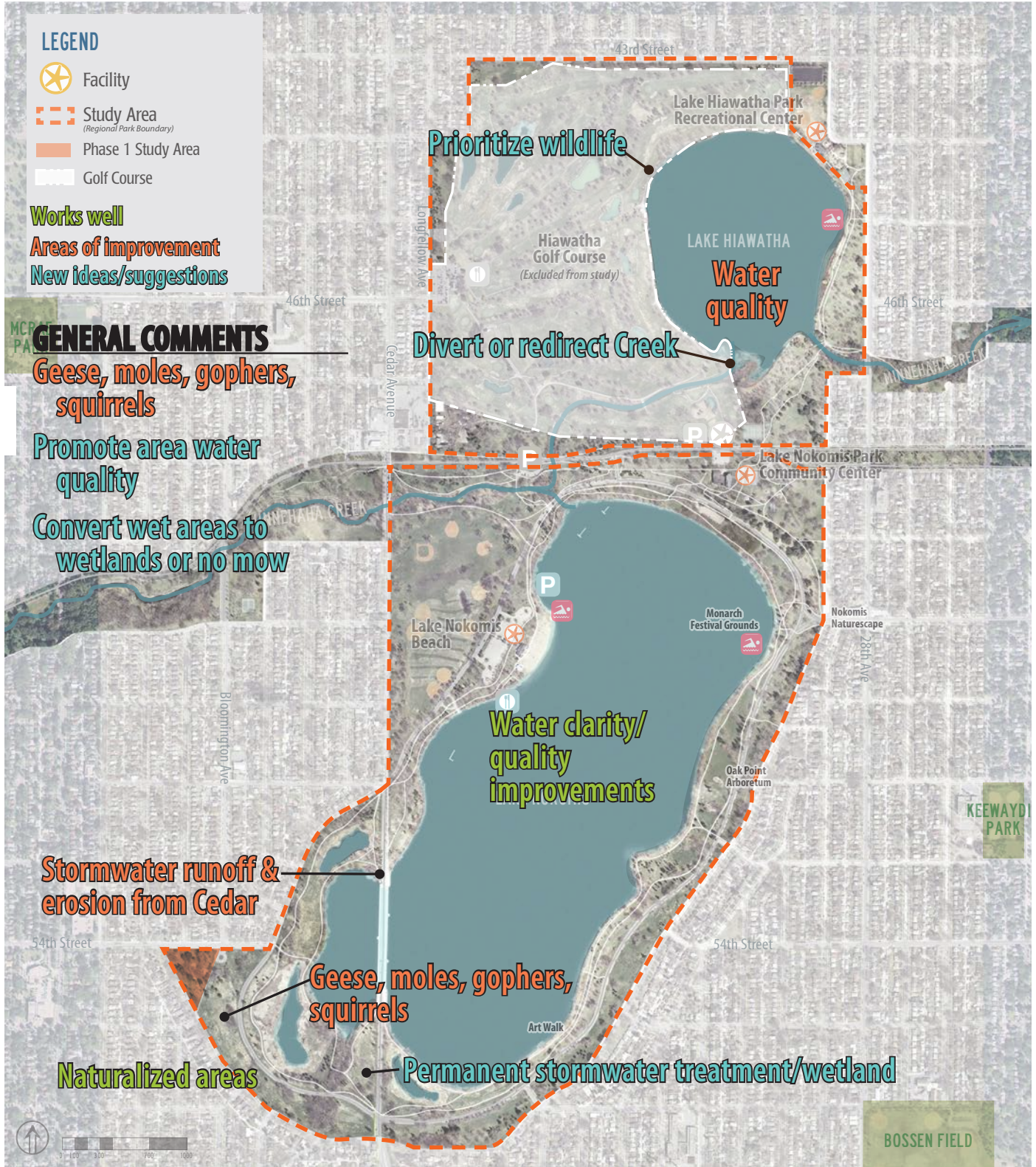
Natural Resources

The addition of stormwater treatment features, like the constructed wetlands on the south side of Lake Nokomis, have resulted in a noticeable improvement in water clarity in recent years. While this serves as a recognizable success of natural resource efforts in the park, water quality remains one of the highest concerns among park users. Stormwater runoff from Cedar Avenue and surrounding neighborhood streets is a contributing factor to this broader problem.

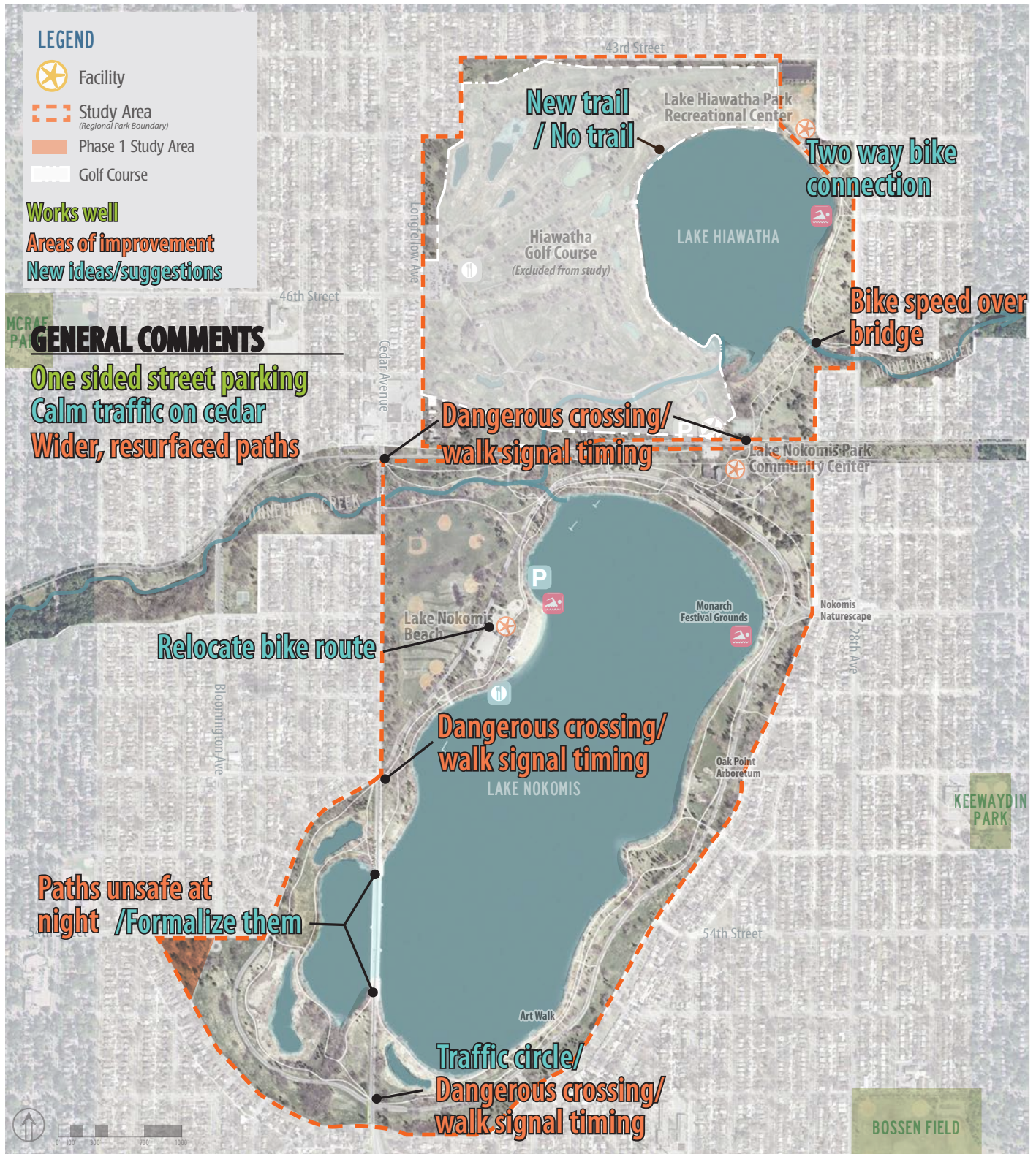
To address this, the community identified needs that include additional permanent stormwater treatment areas and wetlands, and replacing turf with native plantings and wildlife habitat.



Natural Resources & Water Quality Input Summary



Circulation & Connectivity Quality Input Summary



Circulation & Connectivity

The topic of circulation and connectivity within the park raised more issues and concerns than positive commentary. Locations where multi-modal traffic causes conflicts were the primary concern. Bicycle and pedestrian crossings of Cedar Avenue and Minnehaha Parkway were identified as the most dangerous and one of the biggest issues to address with circulation planning. In the case of the Cedar Avenue crossings, especially the southernmost Cedar/Nokomis Parkway/Edgewater intersections, residents cited traffic speed and frequency as a prime driver of feelings of insecurity and inconvenience. In order to improve the park user experience in this area, it will be necessary to address some transportation concerns. Such a project must be led by the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County, but must also involve the MPRB. The community has expressed the need and desire to have MPRB involvement in a comprehensive traffic solution, so that the city and county can consider all possible options.

Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park's trail network is certainly one of the highest-valued amenities in the park. Despite the need for surfacing improvements and redesign of conflict areas, many favorable comments were made about the park's trails throughout the needs assessment process.



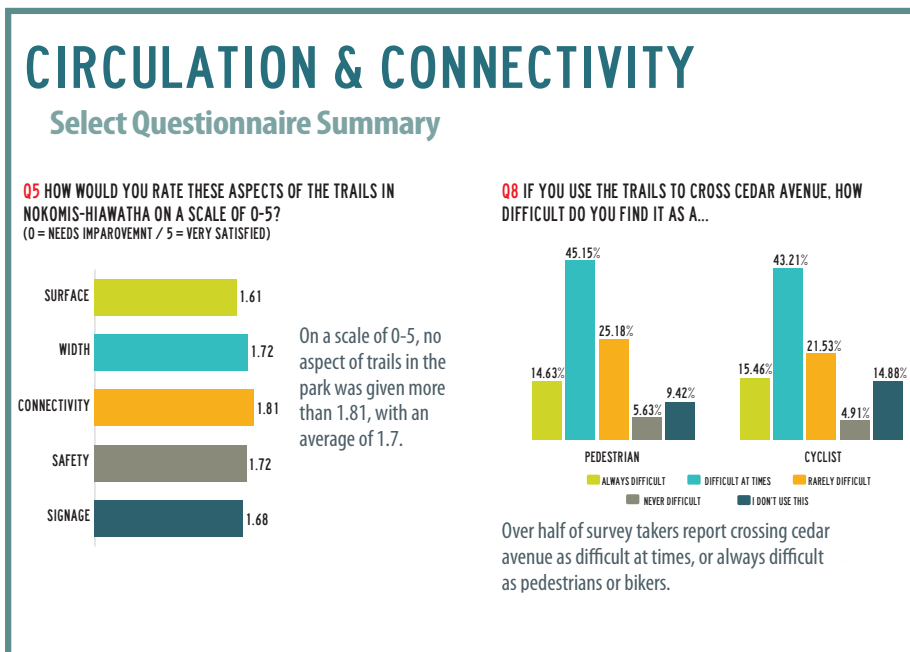
New crossings will consider marking of dual trail systems



Separate bike and pedestrian trails are appreciated by users for the safety and enjoyment of the trail system



Locations of needed trails are often apparent where park users travel through grass





Pickleball gives tennis courts another use and is rising in popularity



Park users identified the need for more portable restrooms throughout the park



Users desire a safe and enjoyable environment for running and walking

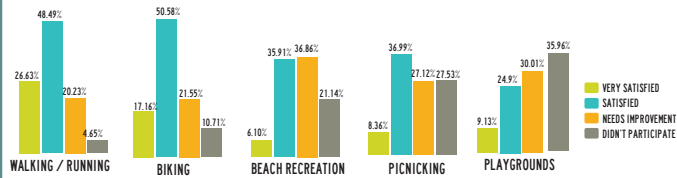
Recreation

Overall, recreation in the park is seen as a success; however, the need for bathroom facilities and drinking water to better support recreational uses was identified as one of the greatest desires during the needs assessment process. Other suggestions included adding more pickleball courts, canoe launches, sand volleyball, a skate park, and cross-country ski trail access.

RECREATION

Select Questionnaire Summary

Q2 IN WHAT ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN THE LAST YEAR AND HOW SATISFIED WERE YOU?



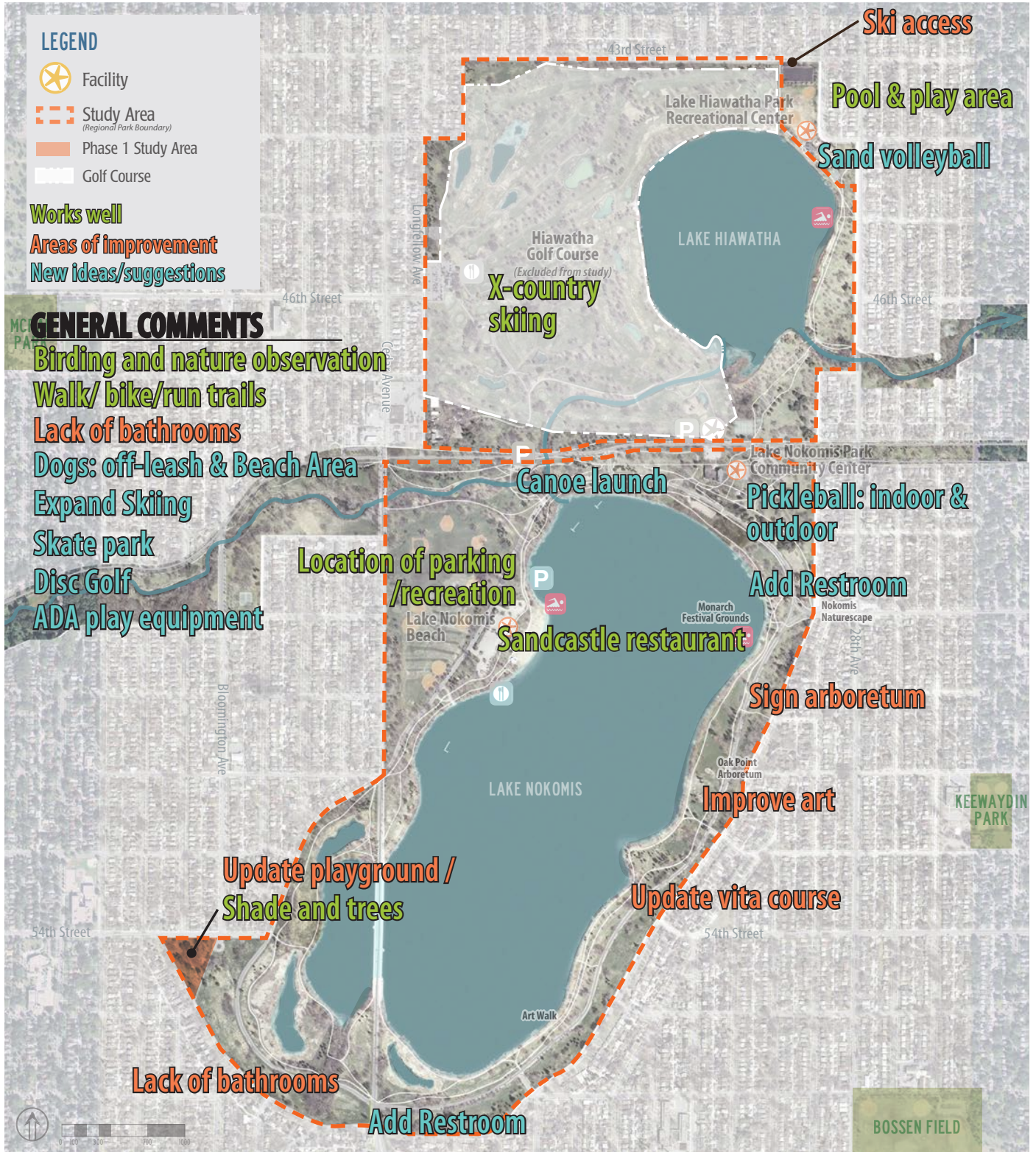
Walking/running, biking, beach use, and picnicking are used by more than 3/4 of all respondents.

Q2 IN WHAT OTHER ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN THE LAST YEAR?

There is a high amount of interest in improving opportunities for skateboarding, pickleball, and birding.



Recreation Input Summary





View across Lake Hiawatha of the Minneapolis skyline





SECTION 4: PARK DEVELOPMENT

Park Vision

The fundamental philosophy of this Master Plan is to maintain Nokomis-Hiawatha’s status as a premier regional park by enhancing the existing well-loved amenities and adding select new features. The Park will continue to offer a range of recreation activities located primarily within three identified focus areas, rather than scattering active uses throughout the park. The remaining parkland will be used for more natural amenities, passive recreation, and trail use. Several actions are needed in order to achieve this vision, including redevelopment of existing buildings, improvements to trails and shorelines, restoration and addition of habitat, and new construction of identified amenities.

The Master Plan organizes goals and recommendations for project development into three categories:

1. Natural Resources

This category addresses the function and quality of water bodies (lakes, creek, wetlands) and both managed and naturalized uplands to provide an integrated system for supporting wildlife habitat, landscape, and horticultural amenities in the park.

2. Circulation and Connectivity

This category addresses the movement of bicycles, pedestrians, and vehicles through and within the park, including how these systems connect to the broader community.

3. Recreation

This category addresses both active and passive recreation within the park, including identified “activity centers” where most recreation facilities are located. (Note: trail-based uses are included in Circulation and Connectivity.)

A vision for each category of the plan was established with input from park users, community members, and staff. The resulting goals support implementation of the overarching vision. These visions and goals guided preparation and evaluation of concept alternatives for key areas during the park master planning process. They will continue to guide the park’s role, character, and function as the Master Plan is executed over time.

NOKOMIS-HIAWATHA REGIONAL PARK VISION:

Natural Resources

Improve the natural setting and quality of the park.

Circulation & Connectivity

Offer premier trail experiences that knit the park together.

Recreation

Continue to ensure quality recreation for everyone by enhancing existing amenities and adding key new facilities.

Unfold to see the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan

NOKOMIS-HIAWATHA REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN

Key Features

- A** Picnic Area
- B** Beach
- C** ADA water access
- D** Parking
- E** Play Lawn
- F** Fishing Pier
- G** Enhanced Crossings
- H** Restrooms & Drinking Fountains
- I** Improved Sidewalk Access

Landscape Key

- Regional Park Boundary
- Building
- Bike Path
- Multi-use Path
- Pedestrian Path
- Naturalized Shoreline/
Wet Meadow
- Stormwater Feature
- Restored Habitat
(savanna, prairie, meadow)



Area of continued coordination with City and County for ongoing study of transportation and safety solutions

NATURAL RESOURCES

Vision: Improve the natural setting and quality of the park

Natural Resources within Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park include all aspects of implementing and maintaining the landscape, vegetation, habitat, and water body improvements within the park. The needs assessment process identified several key concerns related to the park's natural resources, including water quality of the lakes and creek, stormwater management, and functional habitat. The goals below address these concerns and support the overall vision for improving the natural setting and quality of the park.

Natural Landscape

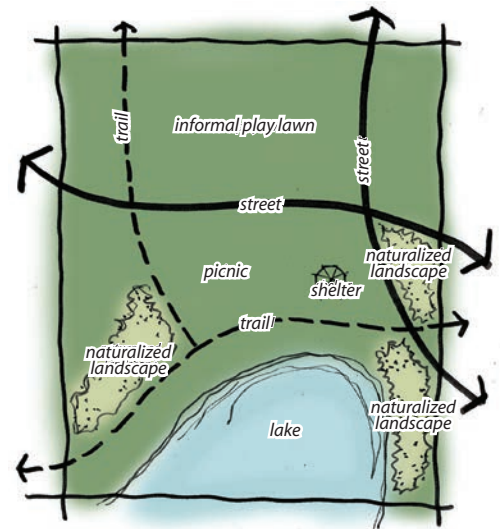
During the planning process, a broad landscape design methodology was presented for discussion, and put two design styles in comparison:

1. A Campus Style that maintains the park primarily as mowed turf, with designated areas of naturalized landscape inserted within it. These naturalized areas— rain gardens, wetlands, or other plantings— could contribute to wildlife habitat and stormwater management.
2. A Naturalized Style that maintains the park primarily as native/ naturalized landscape in the form of savanna, meadow, prairie, woodland, and wetlands, with designated areas of managed turf inserted within it. The naturalized landscape would contribute in greater significance to improved wildlife habitat and stormwater management.

Community input and feedback through the CAC indicates a strong preference for implementing the Naturalized Style, as long as ample areas of managed turf used for passive recreation, informal play, and picnicking are designated sufficiently throughout the park. Similarly, trail access needs to be maintained across the landscape where many people currently cut across open lawns to reach the trail systems. Finally, security was mentioned as a concern regarding more native plantings, and ongoing maintenance will need to address areas of limited sight lines as more of the park becomes naturalized.

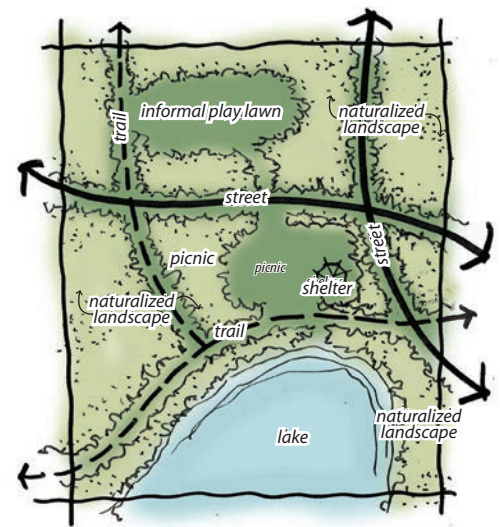
Increasing the amount of naturalized vegetation within the park can accomplish several objectives, including improved stormwater management and water quality. The intent of this Master Plan is not to naturalize the entire park, but rather, to increase the amount of naturalized landscape around strategic locations of open lawn and unprogrammed turf areas. The resulting scenario would achieve approximately 50% of naturalized parkland, leaving the remaining 50% as managed turf or active recreational uses. The naturalized landscape envisioned comprises restoration of areas for mesic prairie, savanna and meadow, utilizing appropriate native plants and grasses; it does not entail leaving non-native turf grass to grow without mowing.

The water resource effects of increasing naturalized vegetation in the park have been analyzed for the percentage of park area to be converted from turf grass to native understory plant communities (restored habitat). The following analysis is specific to landcover conversion only and does not take into account the effect of other stormwater best management practices (BMPs) that are likely be sited within naturalized landscape.



"CAMPUS STYLE"

A campus style park features open, mown lawns and patches of plantings that shape space and draw the eye to different views. This type of park requires a lot of mowing, but less intensive planting maintenance. Due to its open layout, spaces are highly flexible and can accommodate a variety of uses; however, there is little habitat value to this type of park.



"NATURAL STYLE"

A natural style park features lawns, open spaces, and clearings tucked into a matrix of vegetation. Gathering areas may be surrounded by grassland or prairie, overlooking wetlands, or wooded. This type of park is composed of native habitats that require specific maintenance; however, mowing is less necessary. Care must be taken to counter natural areas with enough open space to accommodate flexible play. This type of park offers more habitat value than a campus style park.

Nutrient Loading:

Increased nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) loading in lakes leads to degraded water quality and ecosystem health. Reducing the amount of nutrient loading improves water quality and habitat conditions. Requirements that limit the amount of nutrients allowed in water bodies are called Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) goals.



Wildflowers at Lake Nokomis

Naturalized Landscapes and Best Management Practices:

- » Rain Gardens
- » Wet Detention Ponds
- » Shoreline Restoration
- » Constructed Wetlands
- » Meadow
- » Savanna
- » Prairie



Existing wetlands at Lake Nokomis

Test Scenario	% Natural Cover	Volume Reduction		N-load Reduction (see sidebar)	
		acre-ft/year	%	lbs/year	%
X	4%	-	-	-	-
P1	10%	2	0.3%	33	6%
P2	25%	8	1.1%	118	22%
P3	50%	17	2.4%	259	48%
P4	75%	26	3.7%	401	74%
P5	90%	31	4.4%	486	90%

Given the small relative area (in relation to watershed area) and subtle difference in stormwater runoff coefficients between turf grass with trees and naturalized landscape with trees, the water resource effects are modest, but beneficial. The estimated hydrologic cycle changes can be seen in Figure 1 which illustrates steadily higher infiltration and lower runoff rates as naturalized landscape percentage increases.

Water quality improvements to nutrient levels, as measured in Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), are apparent but limited. Put in context, the annual 0.6 pound reduction in Total Phosphorus estimated for a 50% natural cover conversion (see Figure 2) is less than 1% of the annual Total Phosphorus load reduction goal for Lake Nokomis.

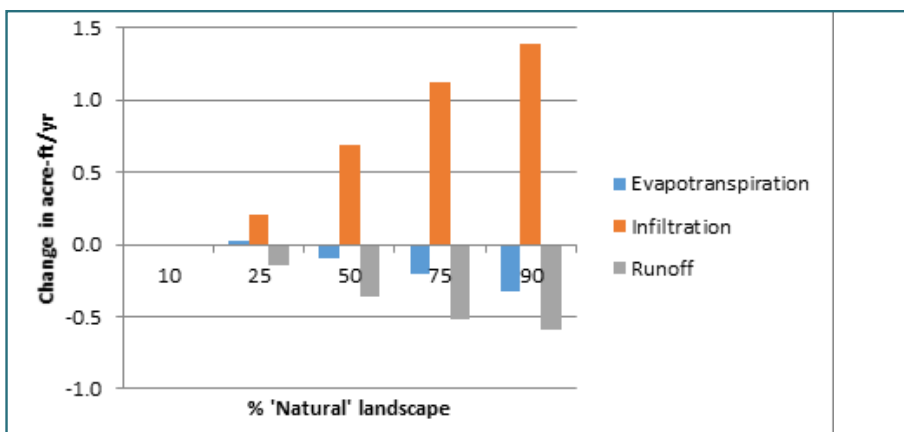


Figure 1 – Estimated annual water cycle change associated with landcover conversion.

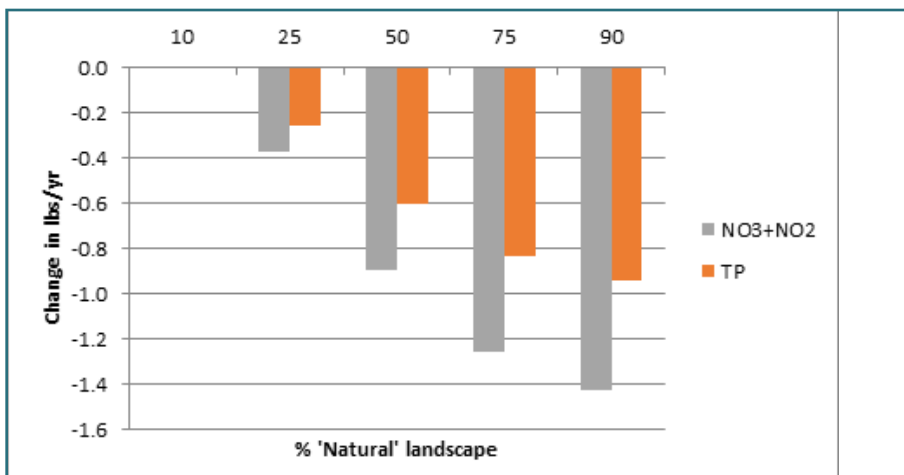


Figure 2 – Estimated annual reduction in Nitrate & Nitrite (NO₃+NO₂) as well as Total Phosphorus (TP) to Lake Nokomis & Lake Hiawatha for the range of landcover conversions discussed

While TMDL goals are one way to monitor water quality, they do not account for bacteria levels. At Lake Hiawatha, beach closures due to E. coli levels have impacted swimming and other recreation in past years. While creating naturalized shoreline buffers will not wholly eliminate geese from using the lakes, limiting their ability to gather along the shoreline is likely to help reduce their impacts on water quality.

Though increasing the amount of naturalized plantings will have a small impact on water quality in the lakes, the associated habitat improvements will have an immense impact on the park's wildlife. Native plants not only attract pollinators, but also other insects, birds, and small mammals, forming the basis of a food chain that supports Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park's own ecosystem. Most of our native insects need native plants to survive – they simply do not recognize non-native plant species as food. They evolved to feed on only a few kinds of plants, and it takes thousands of years for them to adapt to new food sources. To foster a healthy food chain and support pollinators, we need to offer plants that insects recognize and landscapes that can be used as habitat.

Water Quality

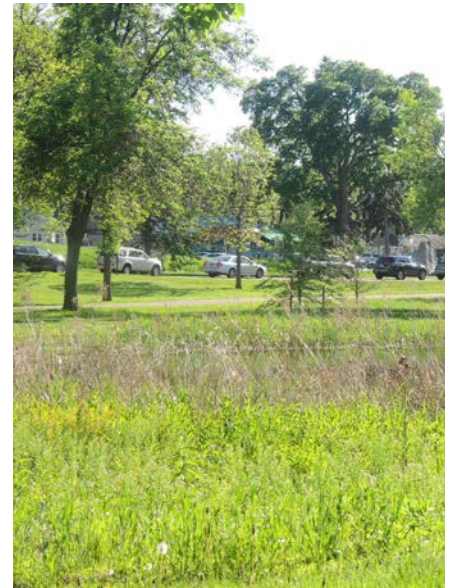
While the Master Plan addresses water quality strategies that can be implemented within the park, the importance of managing stormwater throughout the watershed cannot be overlooked. Water quality is one aspect of natural resources that is greatly impacted by actions and activities occurring throughout the broader landscape.

The Park is within the Minnehaha Creek Watershed, which includes Minnehaha Creek, the city stormwater sewer system, and surface stormwater runoff. Certain kinds of urban development increase the volume and rate of stormwater runoff and the occurrence of litter and other pollutants in our lakes. Impacts to water quality higher up in the watershed influence the quality of water entering the lakes. Lake Hiawatha is especially vulnerable as Minnehaha Creek directly provides the majority of its pollutant load.

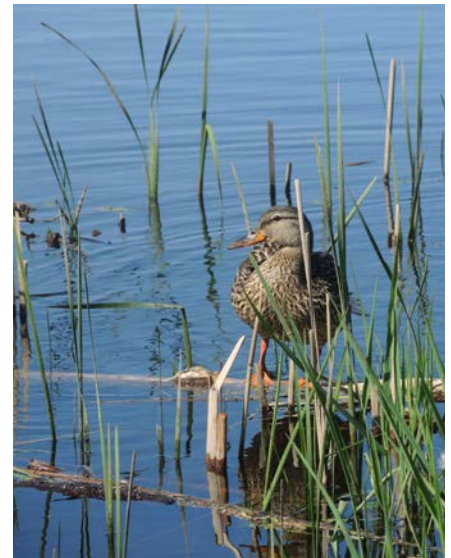
Recent and ongoing water quality improvement efforts in Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park include:

- » Study of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Lakes Hiawatha and Nokomis
- » Extensive and ongoing water quality monitoring (by MPRB)
- » Bluewater Partnership for stormwater treatment
- » Bio-manipulation Program (by MCWD) to increase biodiversity of lake species in Lake Nokomis
- » Monitoring for aquatic invasive species (zebra mussels)
- » Best Management Practices (BMPs) for establishing and maintaining wetland habitat and treating stormwater
- » Ongoing shoreline restoration study

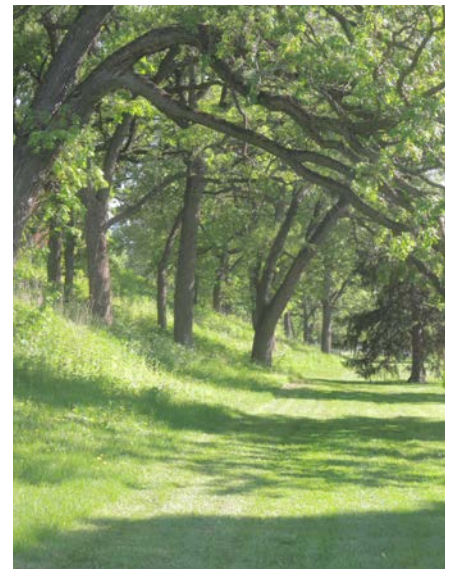
A technical memo prepared by Emmons & Olivier Resources (see Appendix) concludes that combining localized BMPs with stormwater treatment throughout the watershed will prove the most effective and practical strategy for reducing pollutant loads in the lakes. Although this Plan designates about 100 acres for naturalization and stormwater treatment, high water tables, poorly-drained soils, and insufficient topography will reduce the actual area of parkland suitable for BMPs. Fortunately, there are numerous opportunities to incorporate stormwater features in the greater watershed, and when implemented together, a significant portion, if not all, of Lake Nokomis' TMDL goals could be achieved. Comprehensive stormwater management provides several additional benefits, including groundwater recharge, reduced flooding, and increased habitat.



Native grasses



Wildlife



Large mature trees



Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park from above



Fishing pier at Lake Hiawatha



Landscape of the park

Master Plan Natural Resource Goals:

Natural Landscape

1. Increase the amount of naturalized landscape in the park with areas of restored wetland, prairie, meadow, and savanna. These naturalized areas will work to increase beneficial vegetation around water bodies, stabilize shorelines, and improve wildlife habitat for birds, pollinators, and fish. Areas of naturalized landscape will be actively managed and planted with select native species appropriate for the location and conditions of the specific site. The natural plantings will be utilized as best management practices (BMPs)— strategies that improve functional habitat and water quality— and care will be taken to maintain their appearance and height to retain views of the lake and promote a safe and attractive park environment. Naturalized landscape will be implemented gradually as maintenance ability and funding allow.

Water Quality

2. Increase the number of wetlands in the park to enhance stormwater treatment.
3. Implement additional best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater management, by:
 - » Identifying stormwater management opportunities that serve multiple functions and thrive in a variety of hydrologic conditions
 - » Managing pollution from Canadian geese and dogs
 - » Exploring solutions to reduce trash in Lake Hiawatha via Minnehaha Creek
4. Support ongoing efforts to improve water quality, including TMDL projects, biomanipulation, and water quality monitoring.

Master Plan Natural Resource Recommendations:

The Natural Resources Framework Plan identifies locations of restored habitat, managed turf, and wetlands, illustrating the following recommendations for park improvements:

1. Maintain active recreation primarily in existing activity areas.
2. Limit turfgrass to identified turf areas managed for picnicking, unprogrammed uses, and passive or informal recreation.
3. Create naturalized landscape opportunities:
 - » Along shorelines
 - » Outside active zones
 - » In low-lying areas
 - » Integrated with stormwater systems
 - » Within the lakes
4. Transition gradually from approximately 10% to 50% restored landscape.
5. Study and manage the effects of non-native carp in the lakes.



Natural Resources Framework Plan



Bicycle Trails



Trails in poor condition



The park typically provides separate trails for bike and pedestrian traffic

CIRCULATION AND CONNECTIVITY

Vision: Offer premier trail experiences that knit the park together.

Circulation and Connectivity within Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park addresses the movement of pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles through the park as well as access into and out of the park. The needs assessment process identified the crossing of busy roadways as the greatest circulation concern, particularly along Cedar Avenue and Minnehaha Parkway. Additional study identified locations where conflicts between pedestrians and bikes, or bikes and vehicles posed particular danger. The goals below address these concerns and support the overall vision for improving circulation and connectivity within and around the park.

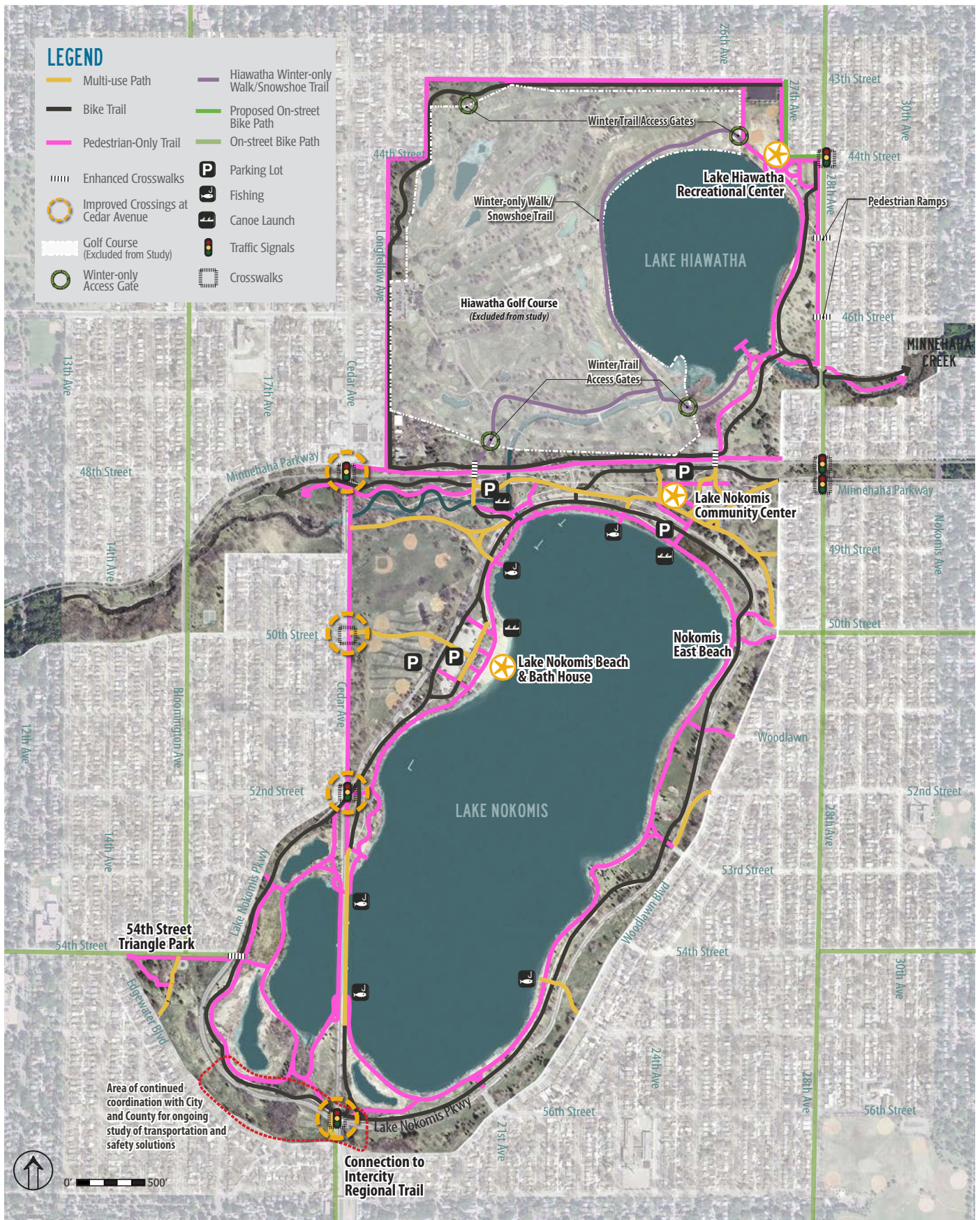
Master Plan Circulation and Connectivity Goals:

Circulation

1. Improve the loop trail experience with consistent pavement, additional trails where needed, and clear signage.
2. Reconstruct trails at locations where bicycles, pedestrians, and/or vehicles pose identified traffic conflicts.
3. Provide options for bicycle traffic to safely navigate through or around recreational Activity Centers (see page 36).
4. Enhance winter trail use by adding seasonal access gates for cross-country skiing and winter walking.

Connectivity

5. Enhance connections to the surrounding neighborhoods.
6. Improve Cedar Avenue crossings for pedestrians and bicyclists.
7. Improve Minnehaha Parkway crossings for pedestrians and bicyclists.
8. Establish a southern gateway to the Grand Rounds to work with the addition of the Intercity Regional Trail.



Circulation & Connectivity Framework Plan



Enhanced crosswalks have wider crossing space with markings for separate trails



Separate walking and biking trails

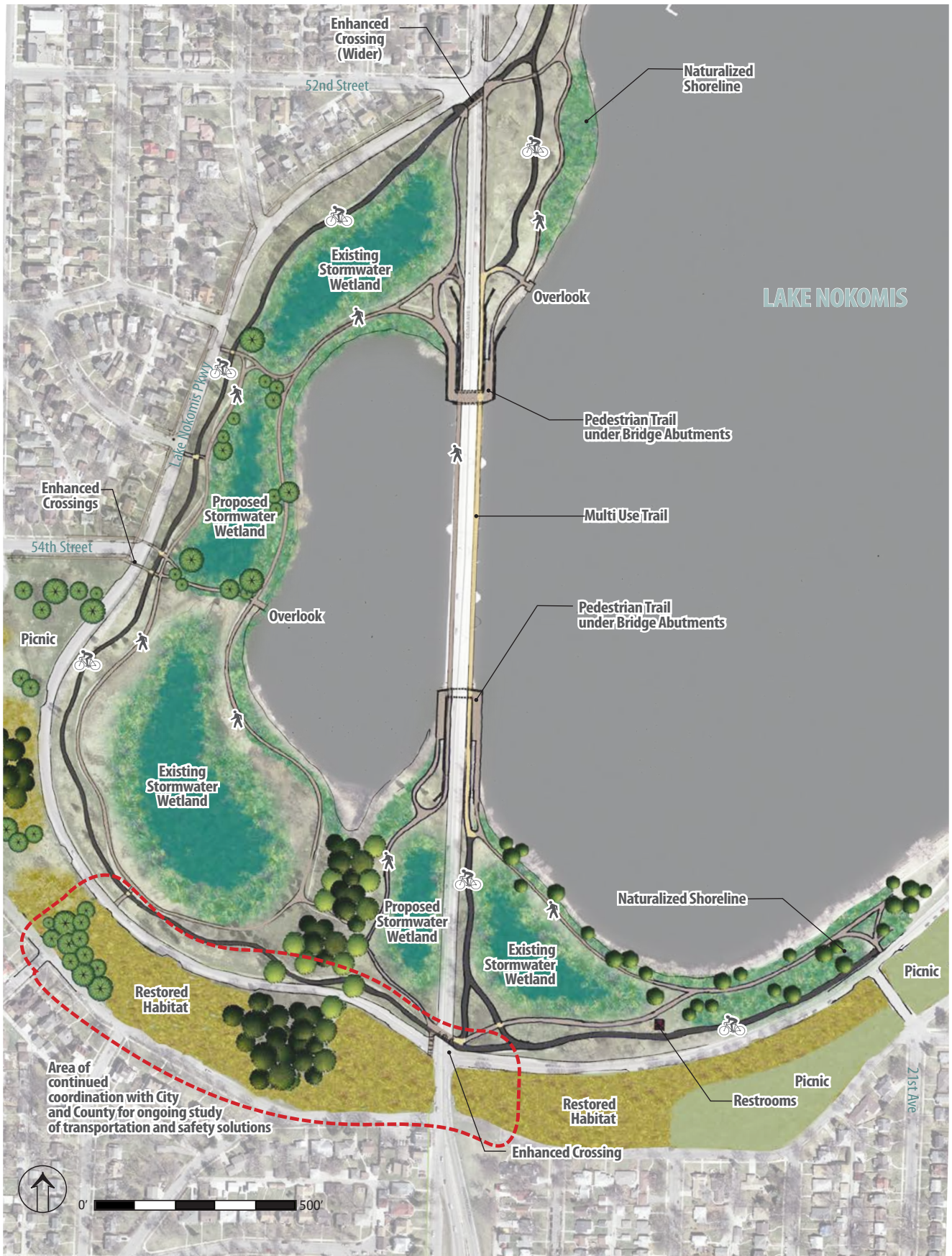


A bridge across Minnehaha Creek narrows the separation between bike and pedestrian traffic

Master Plan Circulation and Connectivity Recommendations:

The Circulation and Connectivity Framework Plan identifies trail routes, locations for enhanced crossings, and opportunities for improved roadway connections, which can be seen in the following recommendations for park improvements:

1. Add or improve trail connections between neighborhoods and the park through additional trails, accessibility improvements, and street crossing enhancements.
 - a. Improved pavement and signage
 - b. Dedicated bicycle and pedestrian paths over Cedar Avenue Bridge
 - c. Bicycle bypass around Nokomis Main Beach and Nokomis Community Center Activity Centers
 - d. Limit informal trails that destabilize soils
2. Southwest “Lagoon” Area Trails
 - a. Add “outer lagoon” walking loop with walking trail parallel to existing bicycle trail near Nokomis Parkway
 - b. Add trail access to Cedar Avenue Bridge at north and south sides
3. Lake Hiawatha Trails
 - a. Reroute the bicycle path around Lake Hiawatha Recreation Area to follow the outside of the play fields and playground connecting to an on-street bike route along 27th Avenue on the east side of Lake Hiawatha
 - b. Add a complete bicycle and pedestrian trail system around the perimeter of Hiawatha Golf Course
 - c. Add a seasonal walking trail on the west side of Lake Hiawatha, accessible only when golfing is not in season
 - d. Connect bicycle and pedestrian trails under the 28th Avenue bridge along Minnehaha Creek
 - e. Add additional seasonal access gates to cross-country trails within Hiawatha Golf Course
 - f. Build a new pedestrian bridge across Minnehaha Creek to fully separate trails at the southeast corner of Lake Hiawatha
4. Roadway Crossings
 - a. Improve Cedar Avenue crossings for bicycles and pedestrians
 - b. Improve Parkway crossing near Nokomis Community Center
 - c. Add crossing of Minnehaha Parkway near existing parking lot
5. Transportation and Traffic
 - a. MPRB shall remain involved in ongoing City- and/or County-led study and improvement of transportation and safety around the Cedar Avenue / Nokomis Parkway / Edgewater Boulevard intersections. Involvement may include assistance with community engagement, access to land for information gathering, continued planning collaboration, and, if warranted, making land available for implementation of a solution that results from careful study, community engagement, and analysis of the positive impact on the park experience.



Circulation & Connectivity Vignette -- Southwest Lake Nokomis



Passive recreation in the park



Athletic fields are popular for softball



The park is popular for triathlon events

RECREATION

Vision: Continue to ensure quality recreation for everyone by enhancing existing amenities and adding key new facilities.

Recreation continues to be the primary draw for visitors at all Minneapolis Parks, and Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park is no exception. The community identifies the trails, athletic fields, and beaches as some of the park's most important features. The biggest concerns with recreation in the park have to do with the lack of restrooms and drinking water available. Other concerns center on the improvement of particular facilities, including the beach house, vita course, and some of the playground equipment.

Master Plan Recreation Goals:

1. Continue to provide a high-quality regional-scale recreation experience.
2. Meet neighborhood recreation needs.
3. Continue to provide multiple scales of community gathering.
4. Add select new facilities in areas that support active uses.

Master Plan Recreation Recommendations – Park-wide:

The Recreation Framework Plan identifies locations for additional restrooms and drinking water, and pinpoints system-wide improvements, resulting in the following recommendations for park-wide recreation:

1. Focus recreation in existing Activity Centers (see following pages).
2. Expand and improve the number of dedicated and informal picnic areas throughout the park.
3. Add more portable restrooms, especially in the south and east sides of Lake Nokomis.
4. Refurbish the vitacourse.
5. Enhance the arboretum with signage and events.
6. Remove the Art Walk and related signage.
7. Redevelop play area at 54th Street Triangle Park with nature themed equipment and play space.



Recreation Framework Plan

Master Plan Recreation Recommendations – Activity Centers:

Specific recreation recommendations are addressed within each of three identified Activity Centers, which benefited from individual, focused study during the planning process. These Activity Centers target the three amenity buildings and facilities currently in the park, and are existing locations for focused recreational uses and programs. They include:

- » Nokomis Main Beach and Athletic Fields
- » Nokomis Community Center and East Beach
- » Lake Hiawatha Recreation Area



Nokomis Main Beach



Historic WPA playground equipment at Nokomis Community Center



Swimming at the East Beach on Lake Nokomis



Activity Center Key Map

Preferred Concept Nokomis Athletic Field Layout



Nokomis Main Beach and Athletic Fields Activity Center Plan

Nokomis Main Beach and Athletic Fields

Main Beach Activity Center Plan

The Nokomis Main Beach and Athletic Fields Activity Center Plan illustrates the following recommendations to enhance the use, access, circulation, and amenities for recreation in this location. Master plan recommendations for this area include:

1. Maintain a cluster of smaller buildings at the main beach.
2. Renovate or redevelop the beach house building.
3. Add more picnic pavilions.
4. Expand the beach's swimmable area to the north and add shade structures.
5. Reconfigure and expand the existing parking lot to add approximately 30 spaces and include methods to manage and clean stormwater.
6. Add ADA accessible water access at the north side of beach.
7. Add sand volleyball south of the parking lot.
8. Move the existing boat storage away from this Activity Center and relocate it below the hill near the Nokomis Community Center.
9. Regrade and reconstruct the Athletic Field with six ball diamonds and a large multi-use open space.
10. Add a new parking lot with approximately 60 spaces west of Nokomis Parkway, ensuring this new lot includes stormwater management BMPs.
11. Add a new bike path between the reconfigured parking lot and Nokomis Parkway to bypass the Nokomis Main Beach area; enhance the trail crossings (with signage and markings) of the parking lot access drives to increase bike visibility and safety.
12. Establish a slow-speed shared trail (with signage and markings) for bike and pedestrian use between the reconfigured existing parking lot and the beach house, and add more bike parking at the beach.
13. Relocate the boat rentals and related concessions to the north side of beach.



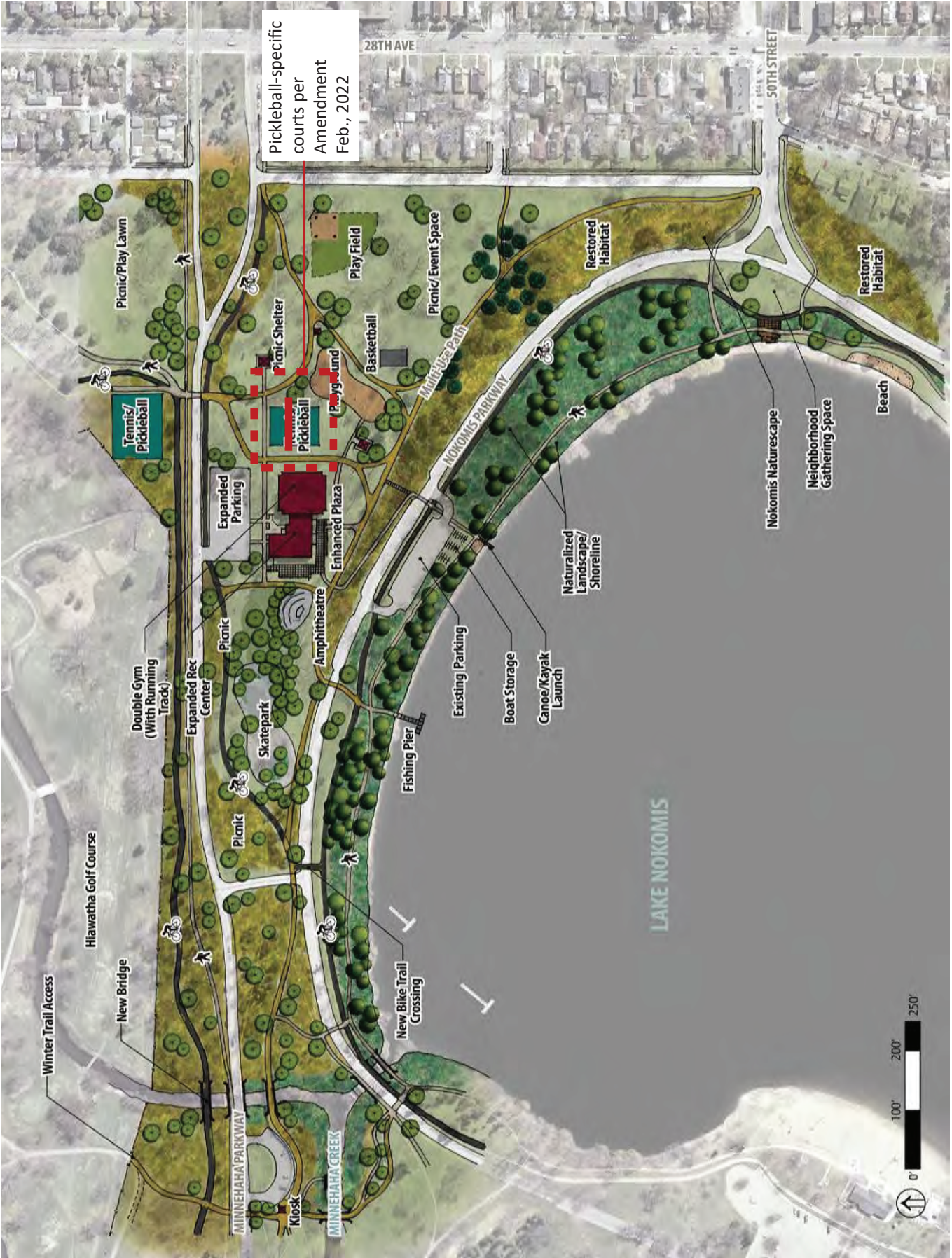
Sandcastle lakeside restaurant



Existing playground at the Main Beach



Swimming at the Main Beach



Nokomis Community Center and East Beach Activity Center Plan

Nokomis Community Center and East Beach

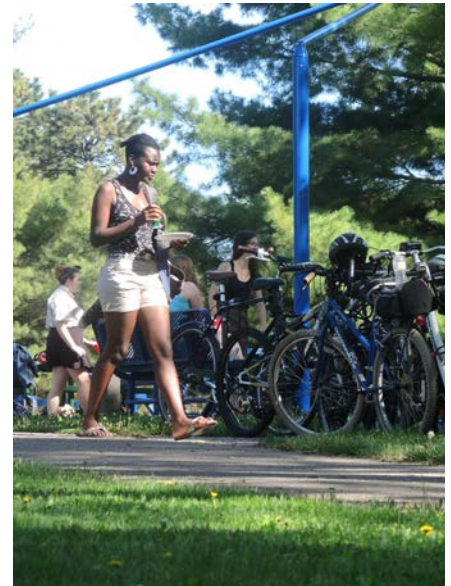
The Nokomis Community Center and East Beach Plan illustrates the following recommendations to enhance the use, access, circulation, and amenities for recreation in this location. Master Plan recommendations for this area include:

Upper Hillside

1. Expand the Community Center building to add a double gym and meeting rooms, and a larger plaza at the southwest corner of the building. The new building should meet improved environmental performance standards.
2. Add a small amphitheater to accommodate approximately 150 people.
3. Build a skate park integrated within the landscape that includes stormwater management.
4. SEE BELOW, per Amendment, February, 2022
5. Reconfigure pedestrian and bicycle trails within this activity area to reduce pedestrian/bicycle/vehicle conflicts.
6. Extend the bike trail on the south side of Minnehaha Parkway east to connect with Woodlawn Boulevard.
7. Remove the existing parking lot to the east of the tennis courts and convert to a picnic area.
8. Expand the existing parking lot to replace parking spaces lost by removal of the east parking lot (no net loss of existing parking availability). New construction should incorporate stormwater management and landscaping designed to minimize the visual impact of the larger parking lot.
9. Maintain an open lawn with a small backstop for pickup field games.
10. Relocate the event and gathering space from along the lake to the top of the hill near the playground.
11. Update the playground equipment.
12. Keep historic picnic grounds in place.

Lower Lakeside

13. Add a formal canoe and kayak launch near the existing lakeside parking lot.
14. Relocate community boat storage for canoes and kayaks from the Main Beach area to a new canoe launch location.
15. Establish a neighborhood gathering area at the 50th Street park entrance, with possible seating and stairs down to the water's edge.
 - 4a. Resurface tennis courts north of Minnehaha Parkway and retain for tennis.
 - 4b. Replace tennis courts south of Minnehaha Parkway with pickleball-specific courts.



Neighborhood gathering

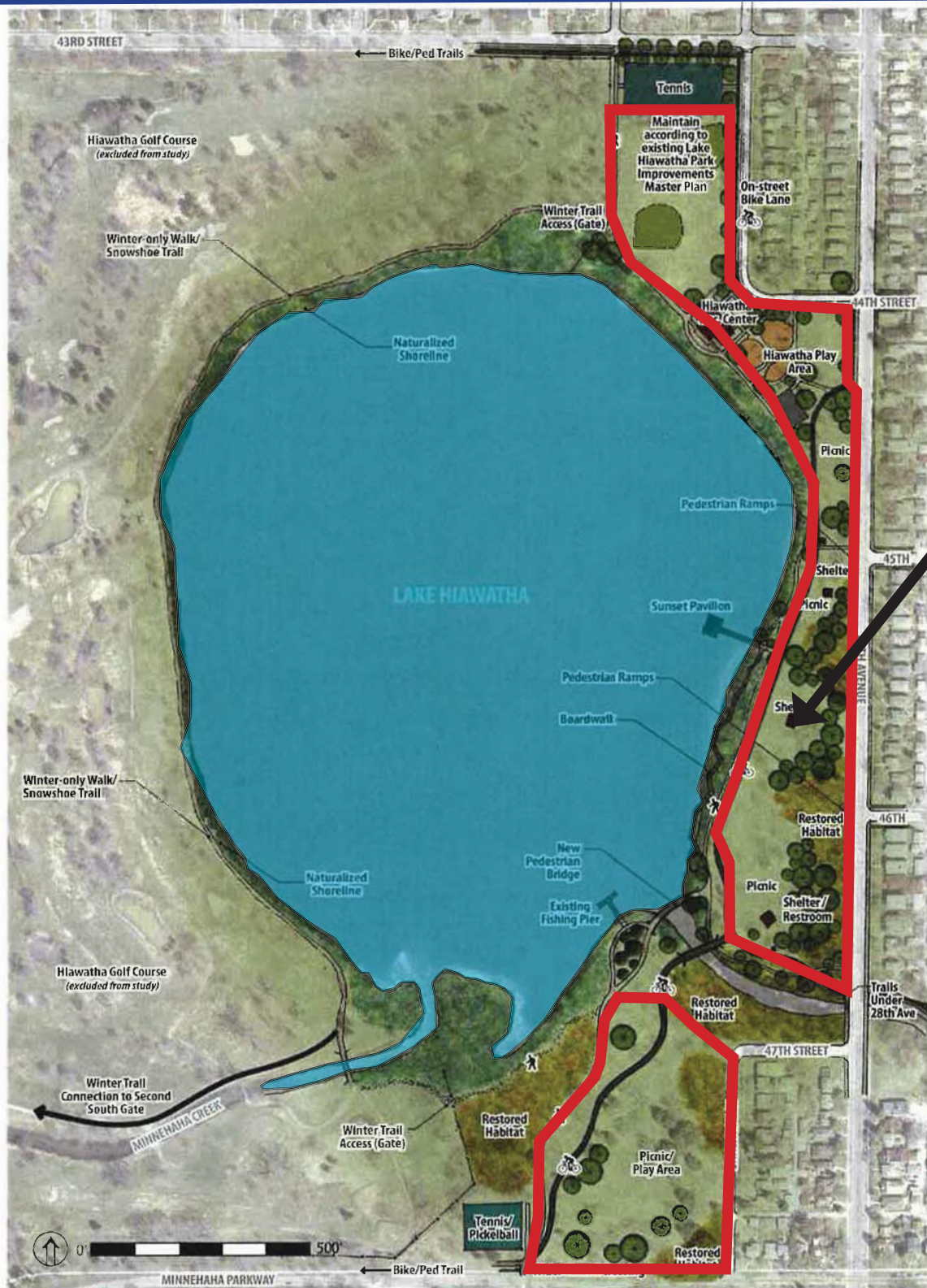


Existing historic picnic ground



The lakes are popular for many activities

Designated Urban Agriculture/Habitat Area



proposed area
designated for
urban agriculture/
habitat

Lake Hiawatha Activity Center Plan

Lake Hiawatha

The Lake Hiawatha Activity Center Plan illustrates the following recommendations to enhance the use, access, circulation, and amenities for recreation in this location. The recreational uses currently existing in and around the Hiawatha Recreation Center are managed under a separate plan (included in the Appendix) and are therefore not included in the recommendations listed here. Outside of this area, the Master Plan recommendations for Lake Hiawatha include:

1. Reconfigure trails at the existing Minnehaha Creek Bridge.
2. Connect bike trails with on-street city bike routes.
3. Install additional gates for cross-country skiing access through the golf course.
4. Add bike and pedestrian trails under the 28th Avenue Bridge when that bridge is reconstructed.
5. Maintain the existing picnic areas and add picnic shelters.
6. Add a trail system around the perimeter of the golf course.
7. Divert the bike path around the recreation center area.
8. Add a winter-only walking/snowshoe trail around the west side of Lake Hiawatha.
9. Add a new bridge for pedestrians over the creek in the southeast part of the lake.
10. Replace the Lake Hiawatha Beach with a naturalized shoreline, boardwalk, and a sunset pavilion.
11. Add a designated canoe/kayak launch and storage racks near the lakeshore.
12. Add curb-cuts for trail access across from 45th and 46th Streets on the east side of Lake Hiawatha.
13. Plant fruit and nut trees for human harvest and provide community education within designated urban agriculture area along the East side of Lake Hiawatha. This recommendation does not provide for any use of the urban agriculture area for individual garden plot.



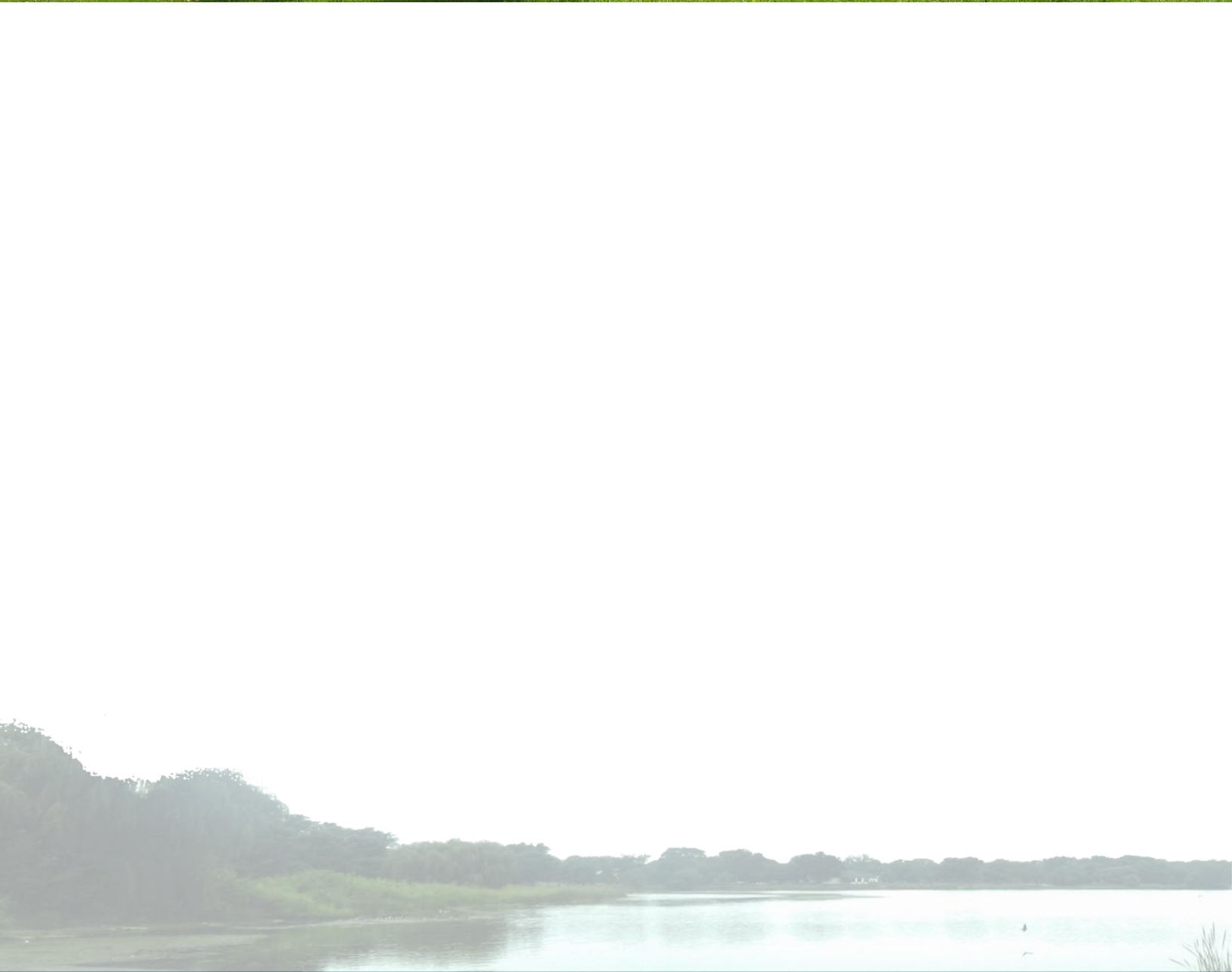
Lake Hiawatha



Hiawatha Recreation Center



Wading pool at Hiawatha Recreation Center





SECTION 5: OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT

Operations Overview

Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park is operated and managed by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) which budgets funds to operate and maintain the park. The MPRB provides park maintenance and oversight for facility operations, recreation, and educational programs. Staffing levels are increased in the summer, and as needed through the employment of seasonal staff. City of Minneapolis and MPRB police officers provide public safety services. Natural resources management services, including water resources and forestry/horticulture, and natural area management, are provided by the MPRB. Some natural areas within the park are cooperatively managed by the MPRB and other agencies (City of Minneapolis and MCWD) and by volunteer groups. Other operational and support services to the park include administrative services, marketing and communication, revenue handling and finance, human resources, planning and development, and research.

Operations & Management of Natural Areas

Historically, naturalized landscape areas have not constituted significant land area in traditional urban parks like Nokomis-Hiawatha, creating maintenance regimes primarily comprised of mowing large expanses of lawn. The habitat, water quality, and aesthetic improvements offered by the introduction of more naturalized landscape areas require a shift in landscape management. Maintenance workers may need, for example, plant identification training to learn how to properly manage natural areas. As restored landscapes become more common, the skills required for their proper stewardship will be increasingly in demand.

While it may require additional skills of MPRB workers (or additional contract management), natural area management can be targeted to very specific periods, making the overall time spent managing naturalized landscapes similar to or less than traditional maintenance efforts. Prairie, meadow, and savanna plantings are drought tolerant and need only to be mowed a few times per growing season. Proper timing of maintenance prevents weed species from seeding and unwanted woody species from establishing. In addition to mowing, mulch replenishment and monthly inspections for the removal of common weeds are the primary management tasks. Developing a written management plan that prescribes specific protocol for care of parkland is suggested as additional planting and construction of green infrastructure occurs. Managing and preventing the spread of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species should be included in such a plan, as invasives like zebra mussels are of particular concern to water quality and recreation in the lakes. Specialized management activities, like controlled burns or targeted invasive removal, may be contracted as needed. Ideally, contracted maintenance will be performed in conjunction with the management of nearby MPRB sites that require similar maintenance.



Maps of the park system help wayfinding



The park is a great place for family picnics



Swings at the Nokomis Main Beach

Boundaries, Acquisition, and Conflicts

Boundaries and Acquisition

The long-term vision for Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park is to maintain the park with its current boundaries both north and south of Minnehaha Parkway. There are no plans to acquire additional land or alter park ownership at the time of this Master Plan.

Conflicts

Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park exists within the context of Minneapolis neighborhoods with a mixture of uses. Generally, the Regional Park is compatible with and, in many cases, a benefit to existing uses. The proposed Regional Park boundary was developed largely as urban development in south Minneapolis was growing during the early 1900s. Care is taken in park development to ensure separation between park users and private property through either physical space or landscape features. Land-use conflicts within the Regional Park arise primarily from safety issues related to vehicle traffic and roadway crossings of Cedar Avenue and Minnehaha Parkway.

Ordinances

The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) has adopted a set of ordinances which define the rules and regulations for Minneapolis Parks in order to provide for the safe and peaceful use of the parks and corresponding facilities; for the educational and recreational benefits and enjoyment of the public; for the protection and preservation of the property, facilities, and natural resources; and for the safety and general welfare of the public.

A copy of the ordinances may be obtained from the MPRB web site (www.MinneapolisParks.org). Rules and regulations are also posted throughout Minneapolis Parks properties and facilities. Posted information includes park hours, permitted and prohibited activities, fees, maps of the park and/or trail, and whom to contact in case of an emergency. MPRB officers, along with City of Minneapolis police, regularly patrol all property and trails on foot, horse, bicycle and by motor vehicle. When necessary, ordinances may be enforced via citations.

The City of Minneapolis handles construction permitting and zoning where development is proposed on the property. Any development that may impact stormwater runoff and water quality triggers the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to use its permitting authority as well.

Public Awareness

The urban context of Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park will help in making the public aware of park development as it progresses. As with other parks and facilities throughout its system, MPRB will publicize and promote Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park through a variety of established channels, including its website, publications, community newspapers, and other media. Grand openings, press releases, and integration of parks with school and recreational programs will also expand awareness. Within Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park, trails will be signed, and existing MPRB system maps will be updated as progress is made in extending trails within Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park.

Public Services

Infrastructure

Most of the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan can be developed without extensive investment in non-recreational public infrastructure, services, and utilities. Within its fully-developed urban context, there are sufficient electricity, gas, water, and sewer services to implement the vision.

Coordination with the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County will be ongoing to address transportation infrastructure needs for crossing improvements made to Cedar Avenue or Minnehaha Parkway, or other vehicle circulation affecting the park.

Stormwater Management

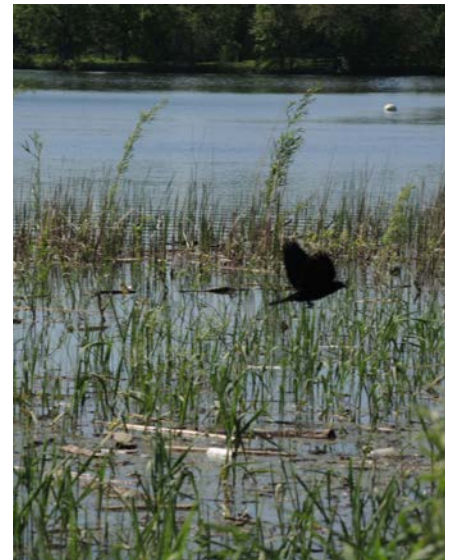
Stormwater improvements, as they apply to the Master Plan area, are largely anticipated to occur as part of redevelopment projects, such as the expansion of existing or construction of new parking lots, the location of new wetlands, or the addition of native landscapes. These types of projects will be implemented by the MPRB in partnership with other organizations, such as the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) and the City of Minneapolis. Stormwater management upstream of the Master Plan area is essential to continued water quality improvements in Lakes Nokomis and Hiawatha, as not all issues can be addressed via best management practices (BMPs) within the park.

Recognizing that stormwater management technology is constantly evolving, the Nokomis-Hiawatha Master Plan does not identify specific features, but rather, provides a set of principles to guide the development of stormwater management infrastructure. These principles include:

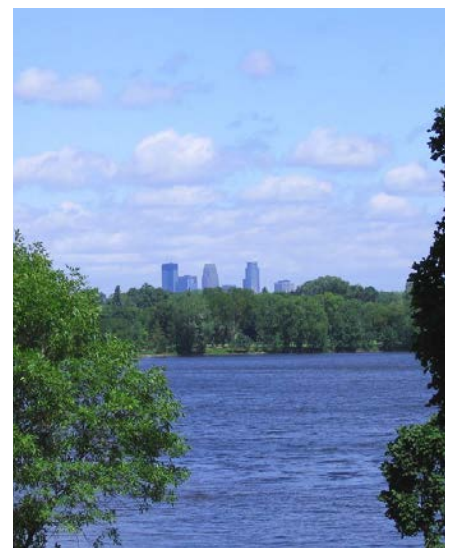
- » Pursuing a range of stormwater BMPs in new development, including vegetated swales, rain gardens, wetlands, impervious surface reduction, underground treatment structures, green roofs, and others
- » Exploring ways to attractively integrate stormwater-management features into the public realm, as managing stormwater upstream of water bodies is the most effective method
- » Supporting retrofits of existing sites to bring them more into compliance with stormwater BMPs, including the addition of green roofs, reduction of impervious surface cover, and other strategies
- » Considering partnerships and coordination between private development, other agencies, and parks to maximize the efficiency of stormwater systems, explore shared solutions, and increase the greening of the public realm
- » Coordinating the provision of stormwater management facilities and open space to provide public realm connectivity and preserve scenic views



People enjoy swimming in the lake



Shoreline plantings provide habitat



View of downtown Minneapolis through the trees



The master plan proposes a fully ADA accessible pathway to the lake.



Accessible walkway at Wirth Beach



Stairs help users access park trails

Historic Resources

Much of the original vision set forth for the park in the early 20th century has endured. This master plan works to honor Theodore Wirth's original plan by retaining much of the park's arrangement of parkways, shoreline, trails, and activity areas. While early buildings and structures have long been removed or altered, this master plan recognizes the extensive efforts of the federal programs of the 1930s and the work they did to establish the park's aesthetic. By retaining original walkway alignments, highlighting key features from the era— such as the Nokomis picnic grounds— and making an effort to preserve or interpret WPA materials, the integrity of the park's heritage will be maintained.

Accessibility

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board continues to be committed to ensuring that park users are connected to the land and each other. To achieve this vision, the *2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan* identified the following three strategies that are specifically related to accessibility and special needs populations:

- » Build or renew facilities to meet or exceed standards for accessibility (pg. 27)
- » Ensure recreation opportunities are available for persons with disabilities (pg. 20)
- » Identify and reduce physical and financial barriers to participation in programming (pg. 20)

In developing new park elements within Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park, care will be taken to design facilities that meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as principles for universal accessibility. Some existing facilities that do not meet ADA requirements include steps at some trail access points. These will be rehabilitated to meet ADA standards as resources allow.

Cost can also be a barrier for park and recreation use. Most park facilities will not require a fee for public use, as is consistent with MPRB policy throughout its system. Amenities such as multi-use trails, community gathering places, and public water access points are generally provided free of charge. Some of the amenities proposed for Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park could have minimal associated user fees, for example, boat-storage at Lake Hiawatha, or rental fees for large gathering spaces or picnic pavilions. Users generally have the option of purchasing a permit or using meters for parking. Reduced fee arrangements are available for recreational programming.



SECTION 6: IMPLEMENTATION

Priorities and Estimated Costs

In order to execute the goals for Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park, the Master Plan includes a list of park improvement projects for implementation over time. These projects relate to the recommendations outlined in Section 4 of this document and work to achieve the overall vision for the park. The table on the following page lists the projects and identifies each in relation to the Framework Plans or Activity Center Plans described within the Master Plan.

Each project is also given a preferred prioritization for implementation. Decisions about prioritization were made with recommendations from the CAC and MPRB staff. Issues taken into consideration during the decision process include identified needs, community desires, coordinating implementing agencies, and capital cost estimates. Prioritization categories include:

- » **Ongoing** = Implementation of these projects will continue each year as money is available for capital improvements and ongoing operations and management.
- » **Short** = These projects are planned for implementation within 6 years of the Master Plan's approval. Some of the projects in this category are identified as "major capital" projects, which require additional funding outside of annual capital funding in order for short-term implementation.
- » **Medium** = These projects are planned for implementation 6 to 12 years from the Master Plan's approval.
- » **Long** = These projects are planned for implementation more than 12 years after the Master Plan's approval.
- » **Dependent** = These projects require significant coordination, approvals, and funding from other agencies, such as the City of Minneapolis or Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. Implementation can only occur as a joint-project with the relevant partnering agency(ies). Cost estimates reflect expenditures expected for the MPRB only.

The total estimated cost for each project is calculated using previously known construction costs, example bids, and other similar example projects. All costs are completed in 2015 dollars and are subject to change. Several varying factors, including design and construction plans, may alter costs as the timing for implementation nears.

Unfold to see Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Priorities & Cost Estimate Table

Improvement Project	Framework/Activity Area	Preferred Prioritization	Total Cost	Cost Notes
Repair degraded paths	Circulation	ONGOING	\$675,000	Assumes resurfacing and repair of existing trails and bridge reconstruction on south side of the lagoon
Conversion of lawn to habitat	Natural Resources	ONGOING	\$2,800,000	Costs dependent on grades, soil conditions, and type of habitat
Naturalized shorelines	Natural Resources	ONGOING	\$880,000	3000ft Hiawatha; 5800ft Nokomis
Additional drinking fountains	Recreation	ONGOING	\$185,000	Costs dependent on location and distance from water source
Additional restroom enclosures	Recreation	ONGOING	\$15,000	Includes enclosure only; portable restrooms cost excluded; installation by MPRB
Improved picnic grounds and additional shelters	Recreation	ONGOING	\$350,000	Assumes traditional shelters
Additional gates for winter access to golf course	Circulation	SHORT	\$24,000	Assumes installation by MPRB
Additional neighborhood connections	Circulation	SHORT	\$104,000	Includes bike connection from Community Center to Woodlawn, connections at 52nd and 55th Streets, and sidewalk at 54th Street Triangle Park, from 50th to Main Beach
Seasonal trail around Lake Hiawatha	Circulation	SHORT	\$5,000	To cover signage and marking; gate access cost in separate line-item
Removal of Art Walk	Recreation	SHORT	\$5,000	Removal of signs and restoration of landscape
Enhance the arboretum with signage	Recreation	SHORT	\$5,000	Plant tags and identification signage
Canoe/kayak launch and boat storage relocated to north end of lake	Nokomis Community Center	SHORT	\$5,000	Include relocation of boat storage; labor by MPRB
Revise trails to reduce ped/bike/vehicle conflict	Nokomis Community Center	SHORT	\$70,000	Trail removal and landscape restoration (700ft) and new trail construction (1400ft)
Accessible water access at Nokomis main beach	Nokomis Main Beach	SHORT	\$12,500	Trail construction and dewatering
Provide shade on and near Nokomis main beach	Nokomis Main Beach	SHORT	\$30,000	Assumes canvas single post structure; Cost with installation
Revised ped/bike trail routing to Cedar Avenue bridge	Cedar Avenue Crossings	SHORT	\$80,000	Includes new trail access to bridge only
Pedestrian-only loop around Lake Nokomis lagoon	Circulation	SHORT	\$92,000	New trail construction
Reconfigure trails to reduce conflicts at creek bridge	Lake Hiawatha	SHORT	\$28,000	Trail reconstruction only
New ped-only bridge over Minnehaha Creek	Lake Hiawatha	SHORT: major capital	\$300,000	Dependent on design and construction
Enhanced crossings of Cedar Ave at Nokomis/Edgewater, Nokomis/52nd Street, 50th Street, Minnehaha Parkway	Cedar Avenue Crossings	SHORT: major capital	\$200,000	Includes reconstruction of trail approaches to intersections, curb cut revision, sign relocation and striping
New playground near Nokomis Community Center	Nokomis Community Center	SHORT: major capital	\$250,000	Dependent on size and design
Ped/bike trails around Hiawatha golf course	Circulation	SHORT: major capital	\$785,000	Dual trail system: 1.6 miles of 10ft bike trail, 3400ft of 8ft ped trail; and 900ft on-street bike path along 27th Ave; new bridge over creek; Assumes coordination with City of Mpls
Expand Nokomis main beach to north and relocate rental vendor	Nokomis Main Beach	SHORT: major capital	\$150,000	Includes added sand, markings, and signage
Refurbished vita-course	Recreation	SHORT: major capital	\$150,000	Cost for 15 stations with installation
Convert overflow parking to picnic area	Nokomis Community Center	MEDIUM	\$180,000	Removal and restoration
Expand Nokomis Center parking lot	Nokomis Community Center	MEDIUM	\$100,000	Replace number of stalls at overflow parking
New amphitheater	Nokomis Community Center	MEDIUM	\$500,000	Assumes open stage and seating
New skate park	Nokomis Community Center	MEDIUM	\$500,000	Concrete design integrated with landscape
Add 3 sand volleyball courts near Nokomis Main Beach	Nokomis Main Beach	MEDIUM	\$30,000	New court construction
Add parking west of Nokomis Parkway near athletic fields	Nokomis Main Beach	MEDIUM	\$120,000	To include stormwater management
Reconfigure existing parking at Nokomis main beach	Nokomis Main Beach	MEDIUM	\$60,000	To include stormwater management
Revise pathway system near Nokomis main beach	Nokomis Main Beach	MEDIUM	\$90,000	Trail reconstruction
Upgrade and revise arrangement of athletic fields	Nokomis Main Beach	MEDIUM	\$2,000,000	Maximum Cost; Dependent on field configuration and design
Replacement of Hiawatha beach with nature, boardwalk, pavilion, and new boat launch	Lake Hiawatha	LONG	\$600,000	860ft boardwalk; new pavilion; beach removal; canoe launch
New beach house at Nokomis main beach	Nokomis Main Beach	LONG	\$4,000,000	Maximum Cost; dependent on building design, construction plans, and timing.
Dedicated bikeway on Cedar Bridge	Cedar Avenue Crossings	DEPENDENT	\$25,000	Include striping of existing trail on bridge
Pedestrian paths under Cedar Bridge	Cedar Avenue Crossings	DEPENDENT	\$84,000	Assumes trail foundations built with new bridge and structures by others
Ped/bike trails under 28th Avenue	Lake Hiawatha	DEPENDENT	\$25,000	Dependent on City of Minneapolis bridge replacement project; assume built with bridge and structures by others
Re-meander Minnehaha Creek	Natural Resources	DEPENDENT	\$170,000	Dependent on involvement and funding from Minnehaha Creek Watershed District; costs for collaborative habitat restoration
Expand Nokomis Community Center building	Nokomis Community Center	DEPENDENT	\$3,000,000	Maximum Cost; Dependent on full building design and construction plans
Upgraded tennis/pickleball courts	Nokomis Community Center	DEPENDENT	\$50,000	Assumes resurfacing, striping, and nets
Total			\$18,735,500	<i>(Maximum cost estimate)</i>

NOTE: Estimates based on 2014 Dollars; costs are subject to change as project plans and designs are finalized at time of implementation
NOTE: "Dependent" projects rely on coordination with other agencies for implementation.

Estimated Operations and Maintenance Costs

Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park is maintained and operated by the MPRB. The existing MPRB budget therefore supplies equipment and staffing resources required to maintain and operate the park year-round. Annual operations, maintenance, and public safety costs are funded through the MPRB's budget and Metropolitan Council's operations and maintenance funds, as funding allows. The budget is administered by the MPRB's Superintendent and approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Some of the recommended improvements, such as reconstruction of trails, will reduce some of the maintenance costs in the near-term for ongoing repairs. Other improvements, such as the significant increase in naturalized plantings, will require a revision in maintenance regimes that are not currently staffed. As implementation of these plantings is realized over time, alterations to staffing and funding will be considered in order to accommodate the maintenance of newer features. Concerns about invasive species, both aquatic and terrestrial, could lead to increased costs for prevention, removal, and/or management. Some park improvements, especially those addressing stormwater, are typically funded and maintained in collaboration with partners, such as City of Minneapolis and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

Funding Sources

Development of Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park involves a number of partners. Partners already contributing to native plantings, park development, and water quality improvements include the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis, and citizen volunteers.

The estimated costs shown reflect the cost to MPRB if no outside funding is available. Projects within Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park are likely to be implemented with a variety of funding sources, both MPRB and outside. MPRB will actively seek grants, collaborative funding agreements, donations, volunteer projects, and multi-agency projects to reduce the total cost to the MPRB. This Master Plan sets forth an aggressive vision for the park over the next 25 years and opens doors to a greater variety of funding options. Implementation will require continued community advocacy and outside money.



Wading in the water at Lake Hiawatha

