

CLINTON FIELD PARK



LOCATION AND HISTORY

Located at 26th Street East and Clinton Avenue, Clinton Field Park is tucked away in a leafy corner of the Whittier neighborhood, just a block from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and Washburn Fair Oaks Park. Clinton Field is a park today because the Park Board agreed to demolish one of the grandest buildings they owned. Clinton Morrison donated the home and estate of his father in 1911, with the expressed hope that the land would become an art museum. At the same time William Washburn, whose estate was across the street from Morrison's, sold his own land to the Park Board, the eight acres that their home stood on and all the buildings on the property including Fair Oaks, one of the grandest mansions in the city. Following the death of Mrs. Washburn in 1915 the Park Board acquired the property, named Washburn Fair Oaks Park, demolishing the barns and greenhouses on the estate but the mansion continued to stand for several years although it was never maintained and fell into disrepair. While the building deteriorated the grounds around it became used as a playground, and neither a distressed mansion nor children's active use of the space were appreciated by the neighborhood. Eventually the mansion deteriorated so much that residents offered to give the Park Board money to buy a new playground if they would demolish the Fair Oaks mansion. The Park Board accepted the offer and began to consider sites for a new playground in the neighborhood. The mansion was demolished in 1924, but the purchase of Clinton Field was not completed until 1926, and Washburn Fair Oaks continued to operate as a playground in the interim.

This park was named for its location on Clinton Avenue, not for Clinton Morrison who set in motion the events that led to the parks acquisition. It was named Clinton Field because the original plans in 1926 were to extend the park to the west or north to make it large enough to include a playing field and a small shelter, but this never happened. It had a skating rink and warming house in its first year as a park.

The next time any improvements were done to the park was nearly thirty years later after World War II. Clinton Field was included on a list of playgrounds that needed extensive improvements, but for years did not receive funding from the Minneapolis City Council. Finally, in 1955 half the park was regraded for a small playing field and another area was paved for a basketball and volleyball court. At the same time playground equipment, a drinking fountain, and picnic tables were installed. In 2000, in response to a community request for a historical Chinese garden in Washburn Fair Oaks, both Washburn Fair Oaks and Clinton Field were master planned, however neither of those plans were acted upon.

Excerpted from history written by David C. Smith

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

Sandwiched between an I-35W soundwall and high-density housing, this small park feels secluded despite the many people living around it. A main walking path connects a small plaza on the southwest corner diagonally toward the center of the park at a slight

incline. This path ends by wrapping around a play area and exiting northwest onto Clinton Ave. To the east of this diagonal path is a small patch of asphalt with basketball hoop, an aging sand volleyball court, and two half-court basketball areas facing away from each other. The remaining eastern third of the park is open field space with fatigued turf grass. While the park is mostly level, there are steep slopes on the east and south sides, where fencing keeps park users and stray balls out of the streets below. This unfortunately creates limited sightlines from the park to the areas beyond the fence, creating potentially unsafe hiding spots and pockets of reduced visibility.

THE PROPOSED DESIGN

The play area will remain in its current location, with the addition of native plantings and trees to the west edge and a community garden to the south. Excess pavement wrapping around the play areas is removed to soften the edges and create more play space. A new paved trail runs east/west connecting the play areas to stairs leading to S 4th Ave. North of this trail a picnic shelter and picnic area with flexible seating spread out under expanded tree canopy. To address safety concerns, and increase visibility, the park is graded in three levels which step down from the high point of the picnic shelter in the northwest, to street level at the southeast corner. This will provide picnic and play area users views of the entire park and the streets beyond. The volleyball court is removed and the middle terrace level includes a new full court basketball and an open grass play space that can be used for informal sports and games. The lowest terrace includes two multi-use sport courts which can accommodate futsal and other court games. A

raingarden along the entire eastern edge will capture stormwater coming down the terrace levels.

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Clinton Field is only a block away from Washburn Fair Oaks, and an easy walk of several blocks to either Stevens Square Park to the north or the 28th Street Tot Lot to the south. Whittier Park is just under a mile to the west. Equally close are Peavey Field and Stewart Parks to the east, however I-35W prevents easy direct access, offering only occasional pedestrian and bike crossings. Lake of the Isles and the Grand Rounds are two miles directly west, most easily accessed via the off-road trails of the Midtown Greenway which can be accessed less than a mile south of Clinton Field.

KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES

Clinton Field Park shares a border with residential neighbors and future park improvements should be coordinated.



MULTI-SPORT COURT

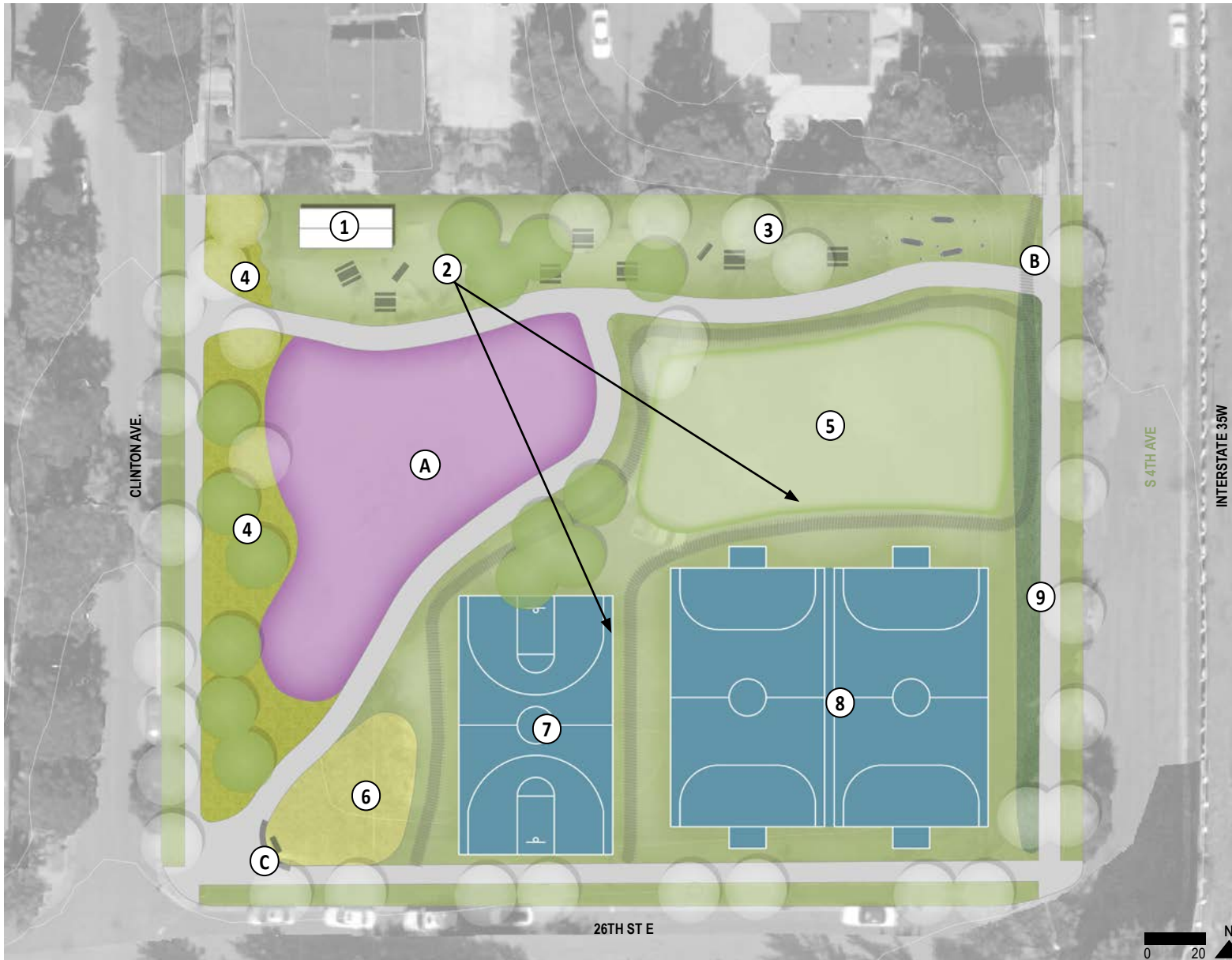
PLAY AREAS

OPEN PLAYFIELD

VOLLEYBALL COURT

HALF COURT BASKETBALL

CLINTON FIELD PARK - EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROPOSED DESIGN FEATURES

1. PICNIC SHELTER
2. TERRACED LEVELS (*to allow views from the shelter down to the street*)
3. PICNIC AREA WITH FLEXIBLE SEATING
4. NATURALIZED AREAS
5. OPEN PLAY SPACE
6. COMMUNITY GARDEN/URBAN AGRICULTURE ZONE
7. FULL COURT BASKETBALL (1)
8. MULTI-USE SPORT COURTS (2)
9. NATURALIZED PLANTING (*raingarden*)

NOTE:

PARK IS RE-GRADED INTO 3 LEVELS, FROM SHELTER AT HIGHEST TO SPORT COURTS AT LOWEST. ALLOWS REMOVAL OF EXISTING BORDER FENCING.

EXISTING FEATURES

- A. PLAY AREA
- B. STAIRWAY
- C. ENTRY PLAZA WITH SEAT WALL AND PARK SIGN

CLINTON FIELD PARK - PROPOSED PLAN

	1: General Input Spring-Winter 2018 <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	2: Initial Concepts Winter-Spring 2019 <i>Input themes on initial concepts</i>	3: Preferred Concept Now <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
aquatics	No comments	No comments	No aquatics planned for this park
play	Existing play area too sparse/simple Play area gets used	No comments	Play area remains, is expanded
athletics	Interest in open play space/field	Support open play space/field	Open play space/field retained
courts	Interest in futsal court Interest in multi-sport court Existing half-court basketball gets used Interest in full-court basketball Existing volleyball not used	Support for multi-sport courts, futsal Support for full court basketball over two half courts	Multi-sport courts added that can also support futsal Half basketball courts replaced with full court Volleyball removed
winter	No comments	No comments	No winter activities planned for this park
landscape	Interest in urban agriculture Interest in pollinator gardens	Soil too compacted for urban agriculture Support naturalized areas	Community garden/ urban agriculture zone added Native plantings and raingarden added
other	Interest in covered shelter/pavilion Interest in better picnic area Needs better activity pattern Safety/crime concerns along 4 th Ave – need better sightlines	Support for shelter Support tiered regrading concept	Addition of a picnic shelter in the Northwest quadrant—with terraced views to allow view from shelter to the street. Picnic area to the east of the shelter, with flexible seating. Located at the highest graded level for optimal views. Existing border fencing removed Path gap is filled connecting Clinton Ave to S 4 th Ave Park is re-graded into 3 levels, improving activity separation and removing visual barrier to S 4 th Ave

CLINTON FIELD PARK PROCESS

Park Name	Asset Type	Project	2020 Estimated Cost/Project	Notes
Clinton Field Park	Play	Traditional Play Structure in Existing Containers	\$ 867,320	
Clinton Field Park	Courts	Basketball Court - Full (1): includes regrading of the middle tier	\$ 179,076	
Clinton Field Park	Courts	Multi-Use Sport Courts (2): includes regrading of the lowest tier	\$ 285,195	
Clinton Field Park	Landscape	Naturalized Areas: includes raingarden	\$ 9,419	
Clinton Field Park	Landscape	Community Garden/Urban Agriculture Zone	\$ 61,223	Urban Agriculture Areas will be implemented in partnership with specific programs or community members. Estimate includes water service
Clinton Field Park	Other	Picnic Shelter	\$ 112,241	
Clinton Field Park	Other	Renovate Walking Paths	\$ 122,347	
Clinton Field Park	Other	Miscl. signs, trees, furniture	\$ 32,736	
Clinton Field Park		TOTAL	\$ 1,669,557	

COST ESTIMATE