



SOUTH SERVICE AREA MASTER PLAN

MINNEAPOLIS PARK & RECREATION BOARD

This is an abbreviated version of the full master plan. It shows only some introductory material and the plans for a single park. To view the entire document, visit the project webpage. Go to minneapolisparke.org/currentprojects and click on South Service Area Master Plan



Minneapolis, Minnesota
Approved September 28th, 2016



INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are where people come together. They are the literal and figurative centers of communities—the places where people learn a new sport, gather for a festival, bring out the extended family for a weekend picnic, soak up the fleeting winter sun, stroll under the trees, throw or hit or kick or shoot a ball, and squeal with delight at new experiences like zooming down a slide or swooshing through the air on a swing. Neighborhood parks are fun, active, and necessary for mental, physical, and environmental health.

Minneapolis is home to a park system that puts 95% of people within ½ mile of a park. The neighborhood parks are a critical piece of that puzzle, something early superintendent Theodore Wirth knew when he started securing land for them and designing them in the 1910s and 1920s. The earliest visions for neighborhood parks were as squares of green within the rapidly developing city. Following the lessons from the city parks movement that gave rise to landmarks like Boston's Emerald Necklace and New York's Central Park, Minneapolis' parks were to be the city's green lungs—places of health and respite, available to all people but meant especially for those who could not otherwise access green space for recreation and relaxation.

Beginning in the late 1960s, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) built recreation centers across the city, and redesigned the neighborhood parks around them. Playgrounds, wading pools, and ball diamonds provided active recreation opportunities. Parks played baseball and football against each other, sporting their own colors and mascots and vying for city titles.

A SHIFTING CITY

Since around 2009, population growth in center cities has remained close to that of outer-ring suburbs—typically within several tenths of a percent. This reverses a decades-long trend of significantly higher growth in the suburbs than in the urban core. In fact, between 2011 and 2013, it was statistically even. Urban growth is being driven by an increase in children born to parents who are older on average than any previous generation (and who are more likely to live in the city), an increase in empty nesters moving back to the city from the suburbs, and an increase in recent immigrants who have come to the city for many reasons but who are all seeking to make a new life for themselves and their own children. Established sports and activities

continue to be played, but newer ones ranging from soccer to traditional lacrosse, skating to archery, outdoor fitness to birding and nature photography have become important.

At the same time, certain health issues have reached what can be described as epidemic proportions. Childhood obesity and diabetes have a higher occurrence than ever before. Inactivity is considered a root cause of these and other health issues among children and adults. Mental illness among children and adults is becoming more recognized as a real health concern, and afflictions such as ADHD, autism spectrum disorders, and even allergies are more in the public eye. In all these health considerations, the science is clear: access to physical activity and the outdoors has profound benefits.

And inequity still exists. Institutional biases prevent equitable access to government services for people of color and those who self-identify as other than male. City and neighborhood parks were originally conceived in the late 1800s specifically to provide an escape from dense tenement blocks for lower class working immigrants and recently freed slaves. Frederick Law



Olmsted, the landscape architect of Central Park, had been a traveling journalist critical of the racial atrocities in the antebellum south. At Central Park and other parks he wanted to create spaces where all were equal. He went so far as to use his position as Superintendent of New York Parks to cajole the wealthy into donating substantial sums to improve the health and welfare of southern blacks moving north after the Civil War. H.W.S. Cleveland & Theodore Wirth worked in Minneapolis from the same model.

In Minneapolis, the 1911 Elwell Law determined that parks would be acquired and built through assessments on the surrounding neighborhood residents—with their consent. This practice put undue burden on lower income communities and led to inequities in the distribution of early parks. In the 60s this practice was largely discontinued in favor of city-wide funding of parks, a fact that led to the widely distributed system we have today.

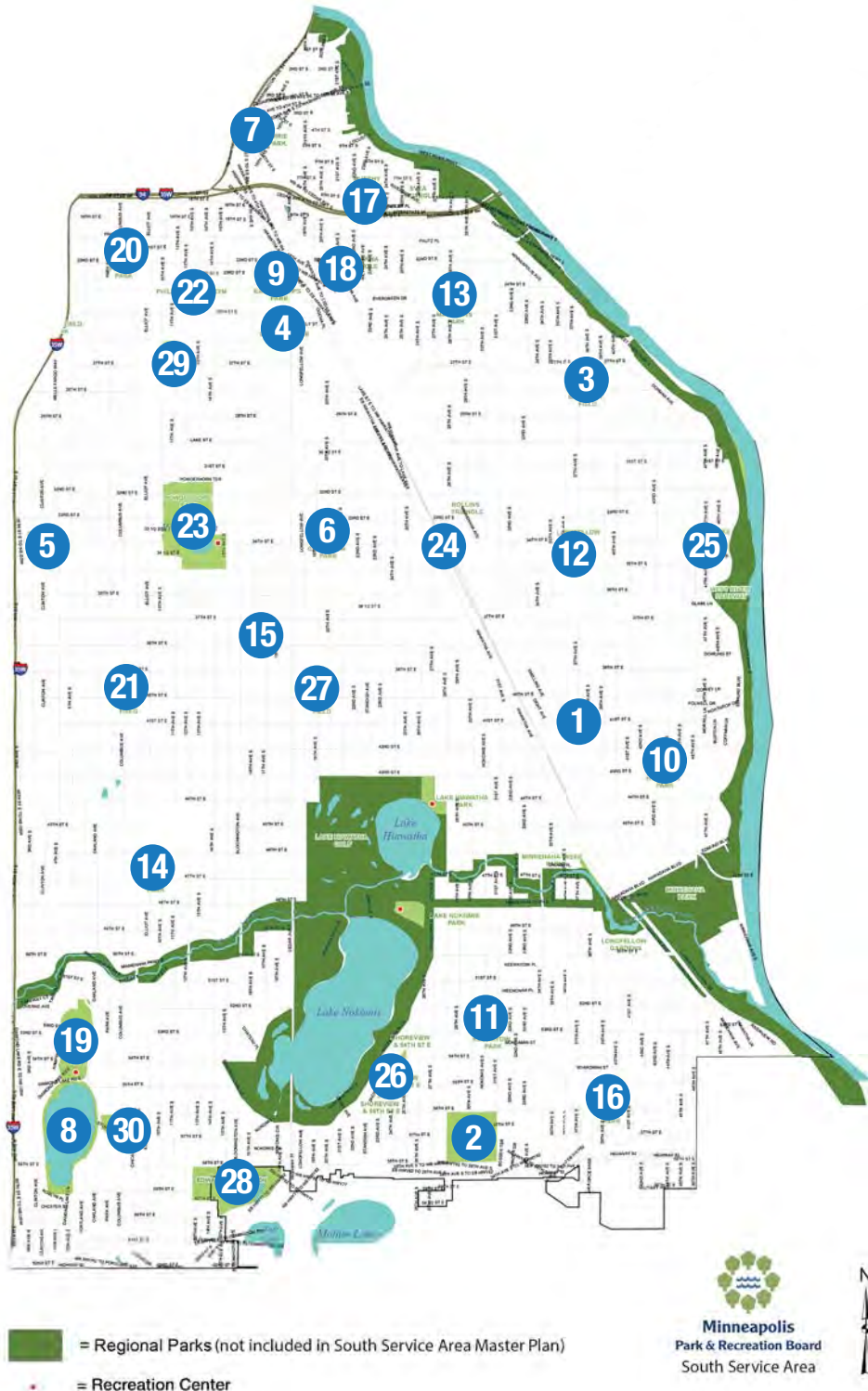
Though the historic legacy of the city parks movement is to ensure equitable access for all people, barriers still exist. Facilities for sports most likely to be played by people of color may be too few or nonexistent.

The same is true for sports most likely to be played by women and girls. And above all, communities of color must have a voice in this new vision. The transformation of the neighborhood parks must be based on the expressed needs of all people, with particular attention to the people of color and the women that were likely excluded from the planning efforts of a half-century ago.

WHY PLAN NOW?

Minneapolis today is more diverse in terms of age, race and ethnicity, and recreational need than ever before. Minneapolis has long planned, designed, and redesigned its parks. Wirth produced dozens of park plans in the annual reports of the early part of the century. The construction of the recreation centers meant the redesign and reconstruction of the parks around them. And the 2007 Comprehensive Plan envisioned new models for service delivery in neighborhood parks. But never before has a major portion of the park system been redesigned all at once, comprehensively, with an eye to what can exist in each park and also how those parks work together.

We are a very different city than we were in the 1920s and the 1960s. It is time to rethink the neighborhood parks. It is time to set a vision for remaking them in the image of the community that surrounds them and gives them life.



PARKS INCLUDED

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Adams Triangle | 20. Peavey Field Park |
| 2. Bossen Field* | 21. Phelps Field Park |
| 3. Brackett Field | 22. Phillips Community Center |
| 4. Cedar Avenue Field* | 23. Powderhorn Park* |
| 5. Central Gym Park | 24. Rollins Triangle* |
| 6. Corcoran Park | 25. Seven Oaks Oval |
| 7. Currie Park | 26. Shoreview Triangles (3 park properties) |
| 8. Diamond Lake | 27. Sibley Park |
| 9. East Phillips Park* | 28. Solomon Park |
| 10. Hiawatha School Park | 29. Stewart Park |
| 11. Keewaydin Park | 30. Todd Park |
| 12. Longfellow Park | |
| 13. Matthews Park | |
| 14. McRae Park | |
| 15. Meridian Garden* | |
| 16. Morris Park | |
| 17. Murphy Square | |
| 18. Normanna Triangle | |
| 19. Pearl Park | |

These parks are considered as a part of the overall service area master plan but are considered special consideration parks. More on these special considerations parks can be found in chapter 4.

Figure 1.1 - Park Location Key



PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The South Service Area Master Plan (SSAMP) establishes the vision for all the neighborhood parks south of downtown and east of Interstate 35W. Figure 1.1 shows a map of the thirty-two neighborhood park properties that are included in this plan. This South Service Area Master Plan is one of five such master plans that will collectively redesign every neighborhood park.

This is a vision that will span decades. The physical transformation of the parks will happen gradually over time, project by project, like puzzle pieces fitting into place to form the overall design that is set forth in this plan. This vision will guide capital improvements to reconstruct or build new playgrounds, aquatic facilities, athletic fields, hard surface courts, and some amenities new to the neighborhood parks, like climbing walls and adult fitness areas. It will allow MPRB to leverage additional financial resources by inspiring and then directing outside philanthropy and grant funding. This vision will—like the parks themselves—bring the community together to imagine and then build the future of Minneapolis’s neighborhood parks.

On April 29, 2016, an historic agreement was reached between MPRB and the City of Minneapolis to fund neighborhood parks of Minneapolis at significantly increased levels until 2037. This agreement demonstrates the importance the Minneapolis community places on its neighborhood parks, and addresses a long-simmering need to accelerate maintenance, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of aging park assets. Instead of using this additional funding to merely put back what currently exists, the SSAMP and the other service area master plans are asking the community what it wants and then providing guidance for spending. That is the most important reason for this planning effort: **to ensure MPRB uses its increased funding on things that are important to the people.**

A community-driven park system is a well-used park system. A well-used park system can combat physical, mental, and societal ills—by bringing people together for active recreation, relaxation, companionship, or solitude. This is the next legacy moment for Minneapolis parks.



LENSES & ACTIONS

INTRODUCTION

The South Service Area Master Plan is guided by a series of **Lenses** and **Actions**.

LENSES

are the general basis for each decision contained within the SSAMP. They are the windows through which decision-making is viewed and the measures by which decisions are evaluated.

ACTIONS

are the specific items contained in the SSAMP. Actions are means of community engagement, decisions on park design, the mix of outdoor facilities, and any assurances regarding process and transparency going forward.

Actions are what the plan proposes. **Lenses** are why. **Lenses** are the intangible reasons behind the decisions in the plan (and, in fact the reasons for the plan). **Actions** are how the plan accomplishes change on the ground.



EXAMPLE

ACTION: *Reduce the number of multi-use diamonds, in order to increase acreage of multi-use field areas*

- **COMMUNITY FOCUS LENS:** This reduction reflects overall community desire for more fields, while still maintaining a variety of sports opportunities in most parks. The communities around some parks have specifically requested fields instead of diamonds, a request that is reflected in those parks.
- **RACIAL EQUITY LENS:** People of color are more likely to, and have expressed more desire to, participate in field sports (specifically soccer and football) than diamond sports. This transformation provides more space for these desired activities.
- **GENDER EQUITY LENS:** This transformation increases the amount of park space dedicated to soccer and other field sports in which women and girls are more likely to participate.
- **LIFELONG ACTIVITY LENS:** This change increases the flexibility of park space overall, allowing larger fields for adult and teen use, general open space for other all-ages programming, and larger areas for team sports increasing in popularity among non-youth, such as ultimate, rugby, flag football, and others.
- **DESIGN LENS:** This change allows greater flexibility in park design as a whole, and also removes safety concerns associated with overlapping outfields.



LENSES

The project's Community Advisory Committee made its recommendations on the basis that the six identified lenses were used in good faith by MPRB staff and consultants to design each of the 32 parks in the South Service Area and develop the service area's overall facility mix. MPRB staff will continue to use these six lenses in the implementation of this plan.

THE COMMUNITY FOCUS LENS

Consider local community need and desire, which is determined primarily by engaging with local residents and park users. Focus on local need, not area-wide equality. Reflect that need and desire in design, planning, and process decisions.

THE RACIAL EQUITY LENS

Ensure that people of color are not disproportionately and negatively affected by decision-making. Identify areas where existing conditions create a bias against people of color and work to rectify those biases to the benefit of all people. Include people of color, including recent immigrants, in the planning and design process. Ensure that parks are welcoming to people of all races and cultures. Continue to be transparent and make available to the public any and all efforts to involve the community through direct engagement, surveys, and email. Consider formally using Racial Equity Tools where feasible.

THE GENDER EQUITY LENS

Ensure that those who self-identify as other than male are not disproportionately and negatively affected by decision-making. Ensure that those with a sexual orientation other than heterosexual are not disproportionately and negatively affected by decision-making. Identify areas where existing conditions create a bias against these populations and work to rectify those biases to the benefit of all people.

THE LIFELONG ACTIVITY LENS

Consider use by all ages and stages of life. Recognize that older youth/teens and seniors are currently underserved. Identify other shortfalls by age range and work to rectify these.

THE DESIGN LENS

Parks must be carefully planned, organized, and detailed in order to create a pleasing and comfortable environment where all people want to gather, converse, relax, play, learn, and be active. Decisions should take design quality into account and should ensure parks are physically accessible to all people.

THE ENVIRONMENT LENS

Parks have the potential to do environmental harm, and also have the potential to improve the environment for plants, animals, and people. Decisions should consider impact on the environment and should seek ways to enhance habitat, water management, and overall environmental performance.



ACTIONS

The following actions are those that apply to the SSAMP as a whole. The individual park plans themselves are also ACTIONS—for instance: the addition of a basketball-focused multi-use court at Morris Park, as shown on that park’s plan, is an ACTION.

Actions in specific parks are shown in Chapter 4 and in Appendix A.

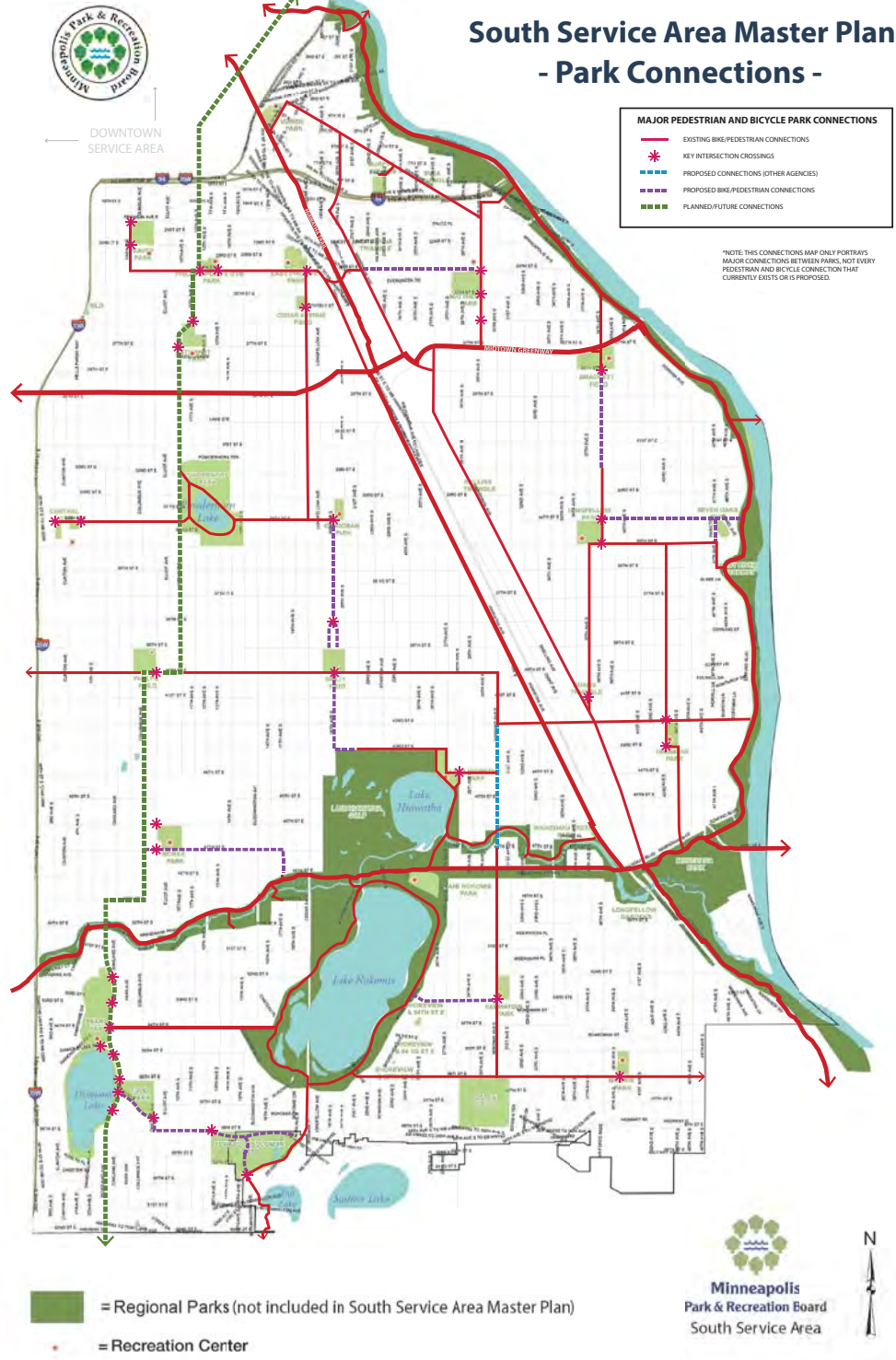
The following actions are grouped in categories for ease of understanding and numbered so they can be referenced in future documents and projects.

PROCESS AND PRODUCT

1. Ensure transparency in decision-making.
2. Follow through with implementation.
3. Undertake appropriate subsequent community engagement during capital improvement projects, per the MPRB Community Engagement Policy.
4. Ensure cohesion between SSAMP and other planning efforts, such as RecQuest.
5. Leverage lessons learned by MPRB staff and the community from the SSAMP process to improve processes for future community involvement and engagement.



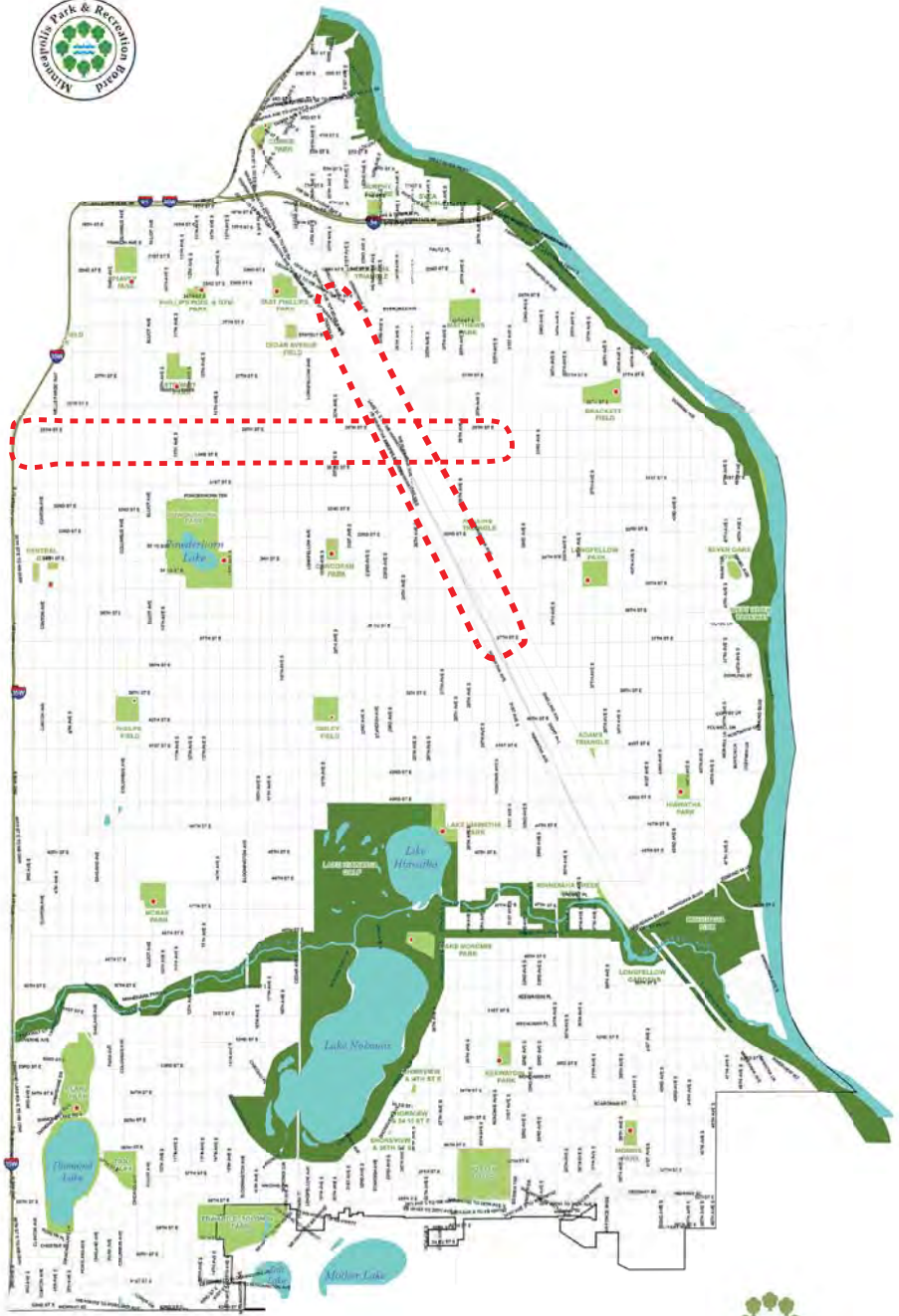
South Service Area Master Plan - Park Connections -






PLANNING AND DESIGN

6. Create an individualized park plan for each neighborhood park property in the service area.
7. Recognize that every facility cannot be in every park.
8. Work with City of Minneapolis to implement safe, accessible connections between neighborhood parks and regional parks. Figure 3.1 depicts desired pedestrian, bicycle or other connections within the SSA.
9. Improve navigational signage to emphasize linkages between parks.
10. Support implementation of the Southside Greenway, as a means of connecting several parks. Figure 3.1 represents the Southside Greenway's approximate planned route.

Figure 3.1 - Park Connections



-  = Regional Parks (Not included in the South Service Area Master Plan)
-  = MPRB Recreation Center (or other like community-focused building i.e. Pilsbury United at Currie Park)
-  = Suggested Search Areas for Additional Parkland



PLANNING AND DESIGN (CONT.)

11. Wherever parkland is adjacent to a Minneapolis Public School, make efforts to align with that school on the utilization of shared land. Where appropriate, a community volunteer panel could be convened to help engage with MPS.
12. Seek additional parkland or private land available for public use in the Midtown Greenway Corridor west of Hiawatha Avenue and in the Hiawatha Avenue Corridor in the vicinity of Lake Street. Figure 3.2 depicts key search areas identified for additional parkland.
13. Analyze and describe ongoing maintenance costs associated with park plans.
14. Include maintenance and storage facilities, as needed, in neighborhood park plans.
15. Manage and resolve land use, land ownership, lease agreement, and other site control issues, if applicable, prior to implementation of capital improvements.

Figure 3.2 - Additional Parkland Search Areas



	FACILITIES	Existing	Proposed	Diff.
OTHER	Group Shelter	1	15	14
	Stage / Bandshell	2	4	2
	Adult Fitness	1	4	3
	Walking Loop Trail	3	14	11
	Lawn/Court Games	1	4	3
	Dog Park	0	1	1
	Disc Golf	0	1	1
	Archery	0	1	1
	Skate Park	2	3	1
	Canoe/Kayak Storage	0	2	2
	Restroom/Storage Building	2	4	2
	Community Oven	0	2	2

Figure 3.3 - Proposed Facility Changes: Other Facilities

	FACILITIES	Existing	Proposed	Diff.
L	Outdoor Gathering Space	1	15	14
	Urban Agriculture Area	3	10	7

Figure 3.4 - Proposed Facility Changes: Landscape

FACILITIES

16. Provide facilities for both programmed (sports, classes) and unprogrammed (walking, play) activity in every park.
17. Provide a walking loop with seating in most parks.
18. Increase diversity of activities available in the service area, with particular attention on skateboarding, pickleball, adult fitness, archery, climbing, bicycle polo, traditional lacrosse, and large-group picnicking.
19. Designate urban agriculture sites within the service area, as an aspect of implementation of the MPRB-adopted Urban Agriculture Plan.

Note: Figures 3.3 - 3.6 and 3.10 - 3.12 appearing throughout this chapter show the total existing and the total proposed for selected SSA Facilities by category. See overall changes for all categorized facilities in figure on page 51. The total does not include regional park facilities or facilities outside the project scope.



Splash Pad



Wading Pool

FACILITIES (CONT.)

20. Aquatics:

- a. Transition from wading pool dominated system to a mix of wading pools, splash pads, and hybrid facilities, in order to provide facilities for a broader age range of youth.
- b. Focus placement of splash pads and hybrid facilities in areas of high older youth/teen use.
- c. Limit large-scale swimming opportunities in the service area to the Lake Nokomis beaches and Phillips Pool, due to high cost of implementation and operation of additional large-scale facilities.

DEFINITIONS:

Splash Pad

There are currently no splash pads in the SSA

Key Features:

- No standing water
- Size and shape can vary
- Users tend to be from multiple age groups

Wading Pool

There are 17 Wading pools in the SSA. This type of aquatics is typical for Minneapolis Parks.

Key Features:

- 0' entry-2' max depth
- 30'x50' typical size
- Users tend to be younger

	FACILITIES	Existing	Proposed	Diff.
AQUATICS	Indoor Swimming Pool	1	1	0
	Wading Pool	17	12	-5
	Splash Pad	1	4	3
	Interactive Water Play	0	1	1
	Beach Access	0	0	0
	TOTAL WATER ACCESS		19	18

Figure 3.5 - Proposed Facility Changes: Aquatics



DEFINITIONS:

Multi-use Field: open field spaces intended for use by athletics and other formal or informal gatherings/games. These are typical for most Minneapolis parks and many times overlap with multi-use diamonds.

Multi-use Diamond: the infield (dirt surface) with moderate maintenance levels and little built infrastructure. The outfield typically overlaps with multi-use fields.

Premier Field: field spaces intended for use by athletics. They require a higher level of maintenance and can include further build-out of infrastructure including enclosed fences, bleachers and benches. The surface type is not specified, however it is most likely to be artificial turf. Premier natural turf fields require periodic closure for resting.

Premier Diamond: an enclosed space intended for the use of baseball or softball. They require a higher level of maintenance and can include further build-out of infrastructure including bleachers, benches, dugouts, and scoreboards. The surface type is not specified, however it is of high quality.

Indoor Sports Dome: a bubble-like structure used to enclose a premier field space in winter. There are no sports domes within Minneapolis Parks.

FACILITIES (CONT.)

21. Athletic fields:

- a. Reduce the number of multi-use diamonds, in order to increase acreage of multi-use field areas*.
- b. Improve overall quality of multi-use fields and diamonds, through soil conditioning, irrigation, and other methods.
- c. Increase the number of premier fields (for soccer, football, lacrosse, etc), especially in areas currently underserved by this facility type.
- d. Improve availability of fields through new construction or transformation from one field type to another.
- e. Implement an indoor sports facility in the service area.
- f. Ensure that safe, non-toxic materials are used in the construction of any premier fields or play area surfacing in the parks.

	FACILITIES	Existing	Proposed	Diff.
ATHLETICS	Premier Diamond	10	11	1
	Premier Field	4	6	2
	Multi-use Diamond	45	28	-17
	Sports Dome	0	1	1

Figure 3.6 - Proposed Facility Changes: Athletics

NOTE: Multi-use fields were not quantified into the matrix because of the complexity in definition and varying size.

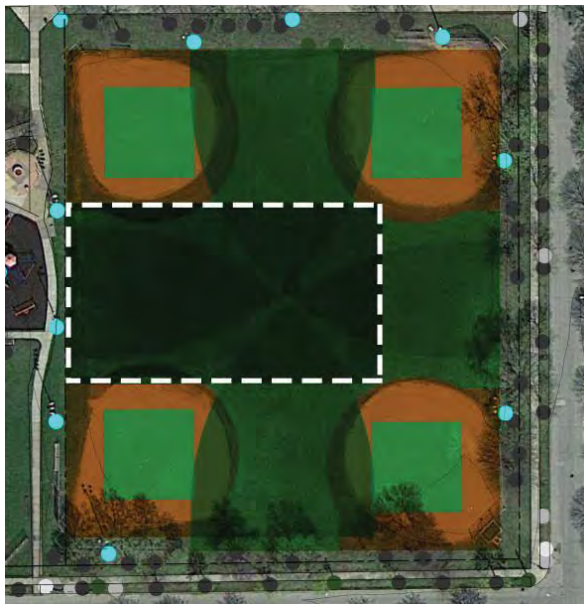


Figure 3.7 - Typical Current Field Arrangement

TYPICAL CURRENT ARRANGEMENT:

4 multi-use diamonds + multi-use field

- multi-use diamonds cannot be used concurrently with older age groups due to overlapping outfields.
- due to all the infields, limited field space is provided for other sports

COMMON PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT:

2 multi-use diamonds, + larger multi-use field

- creates more space for multi-use fields
- allows for more flexibility in field striping to meet age group demand
- still provides diamonds for youth leagues

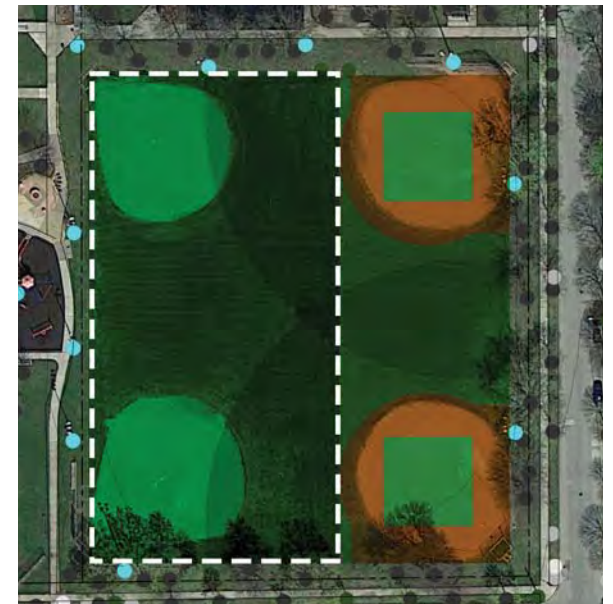


Figure 3.8 - Common Proposed Field Arrangement

* The Trend Analysis, Utilization Analysis and Community Engagement support the change from premier and multi-use **diamonds** to premier and multi-use **fields**. These documents can all be found within Appendices C, D and E.

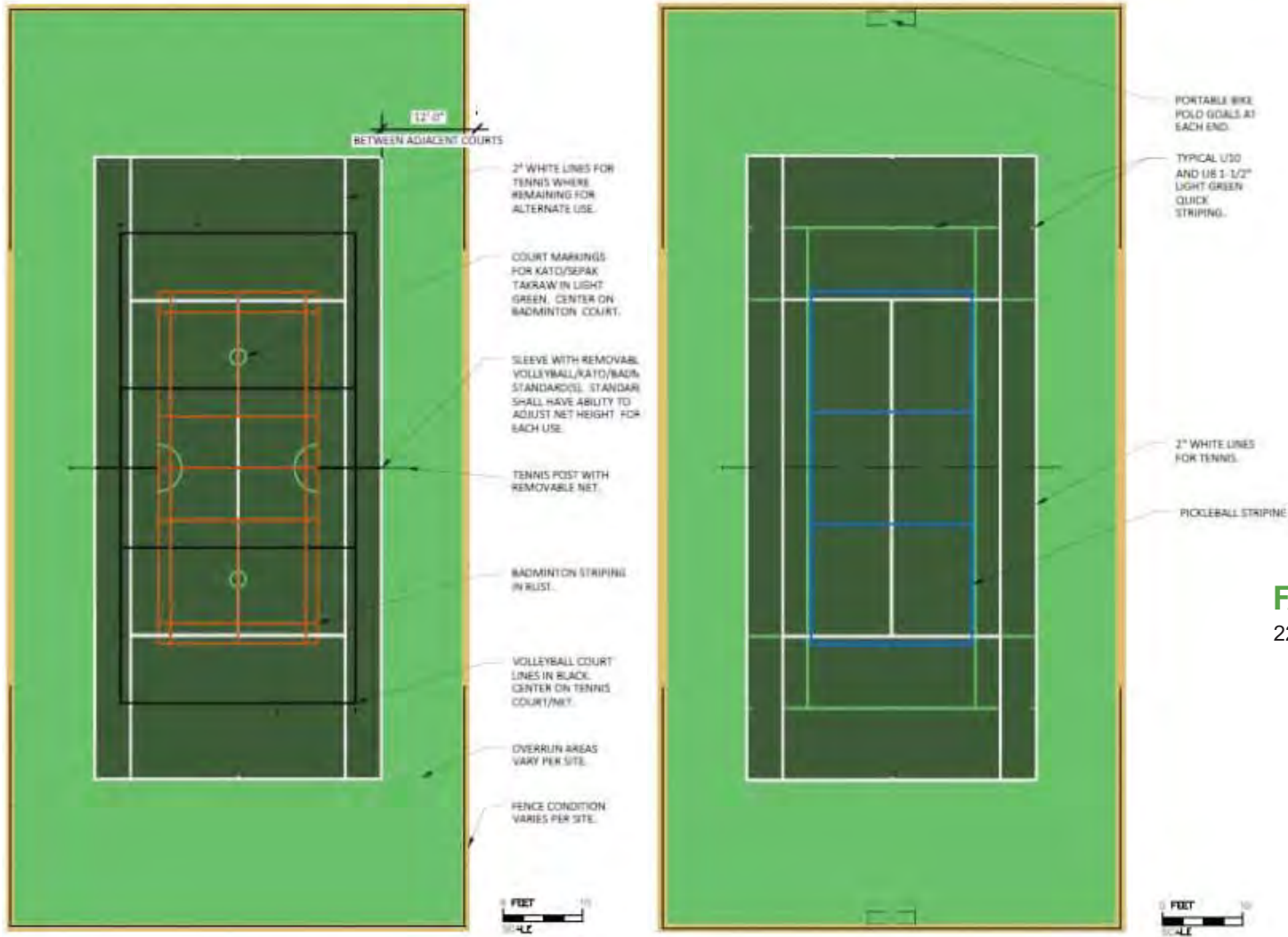


Figure 3.9 - Options for Multi-use Court Striping

FACILITIES (CONT.)

22. Courts:

- a. Continue commitment to basketball, especially full-court, throughout the service area.
- b. Decommission single and double banks of tennis courts, in favor of other amenities.
- c. Implement multi-use courts with striping for tennis, pickleball, and volleyball where appropriate (see figure 3.9)

FACILITIES		Existing	Proposed	Diff.
COURTS	Tennis Court	23	12	-11
	Full Court Basketball	13	21	8
	Half Court Basketball	15	16	1
	Volleyball	4	7	3
	Multi-Sport Court	0	6	6

Figure 3.10 - Proposed Facility Changes: Courts



Traditional Playground



Adventure Play



Nature Play

FACILITIES (CONT.)

23. Play:

- Increase diversity of play opportunities to include adventure and nature play.
- Provide play opportunities at every park, though not necessarily with traditional manufactured play structures.
- Seek partnership to provide indoor play.
- Ensure that play equipment is chosen with a consideration for user safety and equipment longevity.

DEFINITIONS:

Traditional Playground
Typical for Minneapolis Parks

Key Features:

- Manufactured and built to meet commercial standards
- Separate designs for two age groups (2-5 and 5-12)
- Recent designs focus on sensory stimulation for ages 2-5 and physical challenges for ages 5-12.

Adventure Play
None in the SSA

Key Features:

- Areas that offer challenges such as vertical climbing/ bouldering walls, obstacle courses or zip lines
- Usually targeted for older children and teens

Nature Play
None in the SSA

Key Features:

- Provides a creative and sensory rich experience in a setting with natural materials.
- Designs are intended to change throughout the season and over time.

	FACILITIES	Existing	Proposed	Diff.
PLAY	Traditional Play Structure	28	26	-2
	Nature Play	2	5	3
	Adventure/Climbing Play	0	2	2
	TOTAL PLAY AREAS	30	33	3

Figure 3.11 - Proposed Facility Changes: Play



	FACILITIES	Existing	Proposed	Diff.
WINTER	Designated Sledding Hill	3	3	0
	Skating Rink	7	8	1
	Hockey Rink	5	5	0
	Broomball Rink	3	3	0
	Year-Round Rink	1	1	0
	Warming House	0	1	1

Figure 3.12 - Proposed Facility Changes: Winter Recreation

FACILITIES (CONT.)

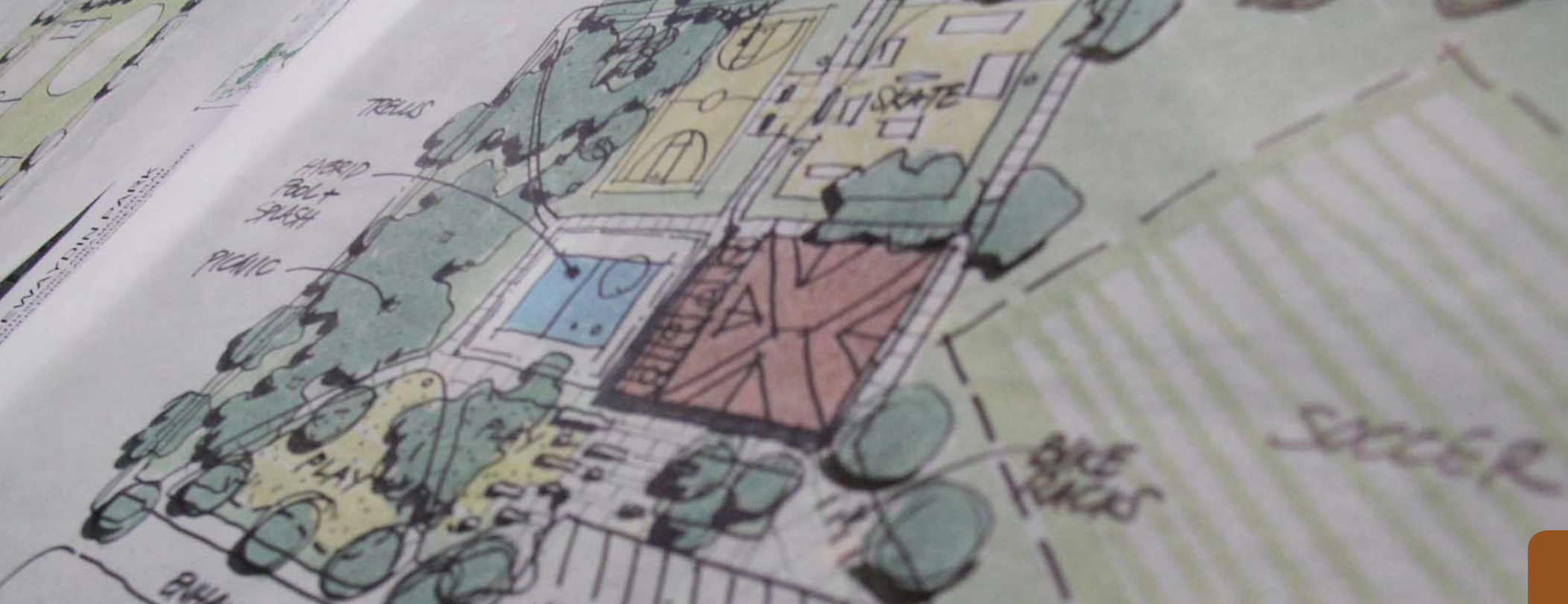
24. Increase winter recreation opportunities in areas currently underserved, namely the northern portion of the service area.



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

25. Protect and enhance existing natural areas.
26. Provide some natural areas (pollinator gardens, rain gardens, forested areas) in most parks.
27. Explore use of sustainable construction methods and materials, even if initial and ongoing cost may be higher, in order to improve environmental performance in the long run.
28. Consider the construction of sustainable parking lots: those that manage their own storm water.
29. Reduce overall acreage of mown turfgrass.

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A PARK PLAN DOES DETERMINE

- The types and locations of facilities
- The general areas of mown and naturalized landscapes and the general location of trees
- The extent and general location of pathways

A PARK PLAN DOES NOT DETERMINE

- The specific design of facilities
- The location of minor amenities such as benches, drinking fountains, and signs

EXAMPLE:

A park plan DOES determine:

- That there will be a traditional play area in a certain location in the park (as opposed to a nature play area in a different location)

A park plan DOES NOT determine:

- The exact equipment, layout, color, surfacing

Future capital projects will have their own community engagement processes at the time of implementation.

KEY/LEGEND

AQUATICS

Places to play in the water
(swimming, splash pads)

- 

Wading Pool (small, shallow pool for children)
- 

Indoor Swimming Pool
- 

Beach Access
- 

Splash Pad (water play area with sprayers and fountains, with no standing water)
- 

Interactive Water Play (small stream/fountains for kids to play in)

PLAY

Places for youth to play (swings, slides, vertical climbing walls)

- 

Traditional Play Structure (swings, slides, climbers)
- 

Adventure Play (place for challenging play for older youth and teens including climbing walls, zip line, obstacle course)
- 

Nature play area (play area for children that encourages creative play with natural materials)

ATHLETICS

Sports on turf fields

- 

Multi-use Field (open turf that may be used for soccer or other sports)
- 

Multi-use Diamond field for baseball or softball but the outfield may be used for soccer or other sports)
- 









Premier Field (High quality field for soccer or other sports, often with permanent stripes)
- 

Premier Diamond (High quality field for baseball or softball, usually with a fence around the outfield)
- 

Sports Dome (may be put up in winter to allow sports to be played year round)

COURTS

Sports on hard surface courts





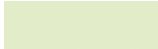

- 

Tennis Court
- 

Basketball Court
- 

Volleyball Court
- 

Multi-sport Court (court striped to allow many different sports such as pickleball, bike polo)

WINTER USE

Places to play in winter (ice skating, sledding)

























-   Designated Sledding Hill
-   Skating Rink
-   Broomball Rink
-   Hockey Rink
-   Year-round Rink (*Hard-surface rink for hockey all year or bike polo in summer*)
-   Warming House

LANDSCAPE

-   Outdoor Gathering Space (*Open area for community gathering/picnics*)
-   Designated Urban Agriculture Area
-  Mown Turf Grass
-  Naturalized Area (*native vegetation areas,*

OTHER

Other types of recreation in outdoor parks

-   Group Shelter
-   Stage / Bandshell (for outdoor plays, music, or classes)
-   Adult Fitness (area with machines to work out in)
-   Walking Loop Trail (walking path that loops around the park, includes signs and seating)
-   Lawn/Court Games (small open lawn or court for games)
-   Dog Park
-   Disc Golf
-   Archery (archery course)
-   Skate Park
-   Canoe/Kayak Launch
-   Community Oven
-   Restroom/Storage Building

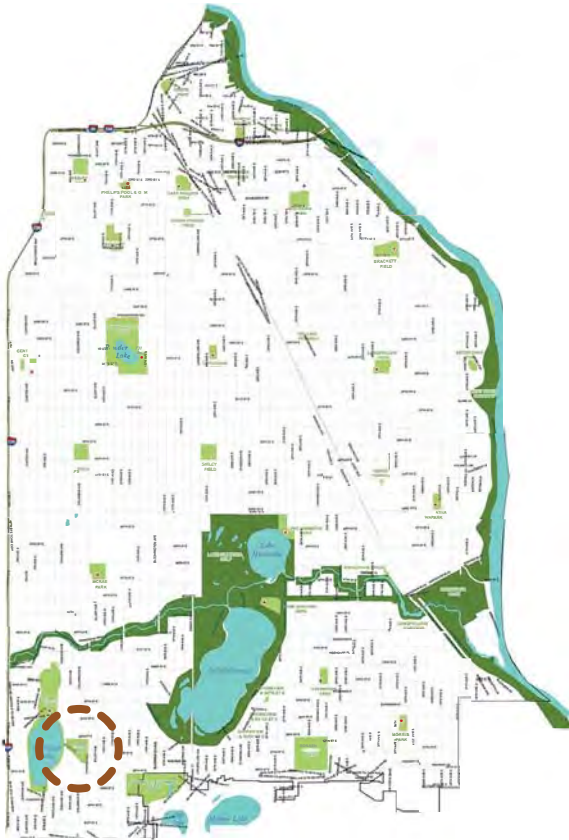
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TODD

LOCATION AND HISTORY

Todd Park sits between Chicago Avenue and Diamond Lake south of 56th Street. Its southern boundary is the curving 57th Street.

The park was dedicated in the plat of the area, which was filed in 1938, but it was not officially accepted by the park board until ten years later. A lengthy discussion of Pearl Lake and Diamond Lake in the 1938 annual report notes the dedication of the land as park and refers to it as the “east swamp:” thirteen acres of land that was twelve feet below the grade of the streets surrounding it. In the plan presented for the entire Pearl



Lake-Diamond Lake area in 1938, park superintendent Christian Bossen wrote that the plan was to fill the swamp, but due to “poor foundation conditions,” no permanent structures could be built there. Instead it would be a play area.

Park superintendent Charles Doell didn’t mince words in his 1948 annual report when he described what was to become Todd Park. He noted the board’s acquisition of “13.24 acres of swamp.” His lack of enthusiasm for the property may have been justified given that the park board already owned the wetland and lake across Portland Avenue (Diamond Lake) and more wetland north of that (Pearl Park) which was still referred to in park documents of the time as Pearl Lake. Doell probably figured he already had enough swamp to manage—the park board had been attempting to fill Pearl Lake since 1937—and he had little money to do anything with any of it.

Starting in 1958 the park board began doing what it could at Todd. Using fill generated by street widening in the area, it managed to fill the half-block along Chicago Avenue between 56th and 57th streets. It wasn’t until 1963 that the park board received city bond funding to finish improvements at Todd Park. Those improvements consisted only of creating playing fields. A major investment in recreation facilities and a recreation center was still planned for nearby Pearl Park at that time.

The park was named for George Todd, a park commissioner from 1957 to 1963. The park board broke from accepted practice and named the park for a living person. Todd was ill with cancer at the time the park was named for him. He died a few months later. Before it was named for Todd, the park was commonly referred to as East Diamond Lake Park.

The playing fields at Todd Park were renovated in 1991.

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

Todd Park today is at street level. It is home to three multi-use diamonds and one baseball diamond with a mound and grass infield. Multi-use field space exists between the diamonds. Along 57th Street is a pleasant walkway through a linear grove of trees. The walkway ends near Chicago Avenue at a playground and two tennis courts.

For some time, there has been a portable shipping container positioned on the park along Chicago Avenue, which is used to store equipment. A MetroTransit bus layover station cuts into the park on the corner of Chicago and 56th Street.

The park is open and heavily programmed for sports of all kinds. In some ways it is an extension of Pearl Park, as many sports programs run out of that recreation center play at Todd. Because of its size, Todd can accommodate older age groups in both diamond and field sports.

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Wayfinding and connections from Todd Park should focus on:

- Improved crossings of Portland Avenue at 56th and 57th Streets, to provide pedestrian and bicycle connections to Diamond Lake and Pearl Parks.
- A proposed pedestrian and/or bicycle route to the southeast along Chicago and 58th Streets to connect to Solomon Park.



Existing Conditions: Todd



Proposed Plan: Todd

THE PROPOSED DESIGN

Todd Park continues primarily as a sports venue. Three of the existing diamonds (2 multi-use and one baseball) remain in their current locations, while the westernmost diamond is transformed into a premier diamond sized and fenced specifically for girls softball. There is no venue like this in Minneapolis, and it is highly desired by the community, especially in terms of working to improve gender equity in sports facilities.

The pleasant wooded walk is maintained and improved with some mounding and naturalized plantings to further separate it from the active sports venues. The play area is retained in its existing location. At the far southeastern corner of the park, full-court and half-court basketball courts replace the tennis courts.

Immediately adjacent to the basketball courts and play area is a new restroom and storage building, meant to provide a comfort station in this recreation center-less park, and also eliminate the need for the shipping container for equipment storage.

Overall, the design for Todd Park improves the active recreational experience with dedicated facilities and improved storage.

KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES

No known land use issues exist at Todd Park.

UPDATE EXISTING



Traditional Play Structure



Multi-use Field



Multi-use Diamond



Basketball Court

NEW/ ADDED



Premier Diamond



Restroom/Storage Building



Basketball Court

PROCESSES

	1: General Input Spring-Fall 2015 <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	2: Initial / Preferred Concepts Fall-Winter 2015/2016 <i>Input themes on initial concepts</i>	3: The Preferred Concept Now <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
aquatics	no comments →	no comments →	No aquatic facilities planned for this park
play	Bigger, better playground →		Traditional play areas in same general location
athletics	Need fenced softball diamond, better diamond quality overall →	Need regulation girls softball field in NW corner See lots of soccer practice and flag football. Not so much baseball Significant advocacy for diamonds in this park; 4 possible here without outfield overlap	Retention of three multi-use diamonds, the northeastern one having a mound and 90-foot basepaths Transformation of one multi-use diamond into a fenced diamond for girls softball.
courts	Restripe tennis courts for pickleball →	Mixed response to tennis/pickleball → Concern about basketball near play Desire for basketball in the park	Transformation of tennis court into 1 full-court and 1 half-court basketball
winter	no comments →	no comments →	No formal winter facilities planned for this park
landscape	Add fruit trees or community garden; more hills on park edge. →	no comments →	Addition of naturalized landscape along southwest edge of park
other	no comments →	Restroom / storage building → Mixed response to pump track and skate park Like the trail around the park Better pedestrian connections across Portland to Diamond Lake	Addition of restroom and storage building in southeast corner of park. Addition of trails to create walking loop around park Enhanced crossings of Portland to Diamond Lake Park

COST ESTIMATE

Asset Type	Project	2017 ESTIMATED COST/PROJECT	Implementation Sequence	Prioritization Category	Applicable SSAMP Actions
Play	Traditional play areas (2) in same location	\$ 698,158	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 23b, 23d
Athletics	Athletic fields: renovation of 3 multiuse diamonds, addition of one premier diamond, and renovation of multi-use fields	\$ 2,636,574	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 21b, 21c, 21d, 21f
Courts	Basketball Court, incl. demolition of tennis court	\$ 172,486	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 22a, 22b
Landscape	Naturalized areas	\$ 45,175	stand-alone or with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	26, 29
Other	Restroom and Storage Building	\$ 1,335,864	stand-alone	PLANNED	14
Other	Renovate walking paths	\$ 133,205	stand-alone or with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	16, 17
Other	Miscl. signs, trees, furniture	\$ 58,815	with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	9, 17
TOTAL		\$ 5,080,277			

OPERATIONS ESTIMATE

FACILITIES	Total Per Unit Operations Cost	△ Qty	△ Cost
Premier Diamond	\$ 25,000	1	\$ 25,000
Multi-use Diamond	\$ 20,000	-1	\$ (20,000)
Tennis Court	\$ 1,500	-2	\$ (3,000)
Full Court Basketball	\$ 1,500	1	\$ 1,500
Restroom/Storage Building	\$ 20,000	1	\$ 20,000
Difference			\$ 23,500