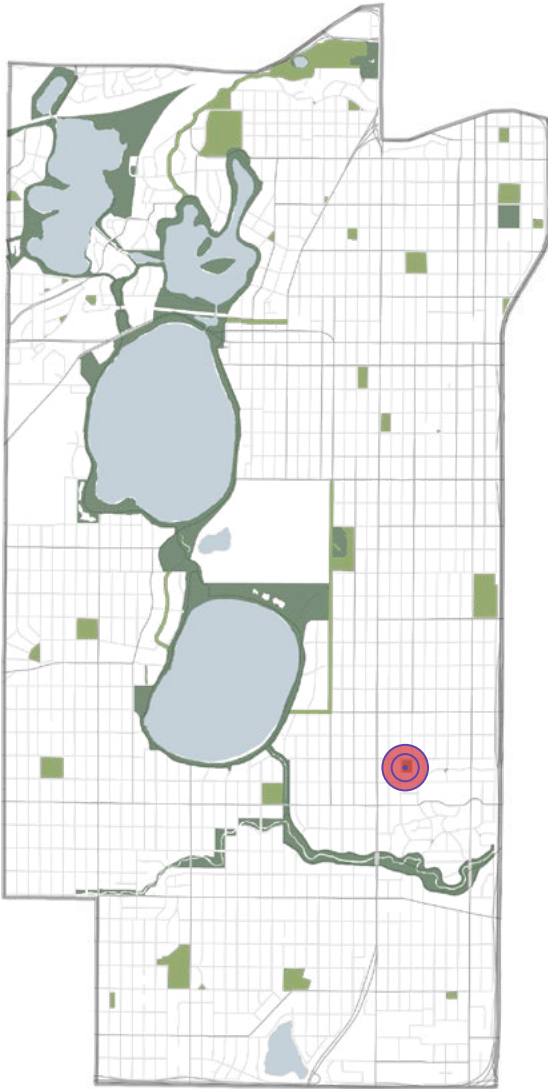


FULLER PARK



LOCATION AND HISTORY

Fuller Park is located at West 48th Street and South Grand Avenue in the Tangletown neighborhood. Margret Fuller School, built in 1896, occupied the site until 1974. When the Park Board acquired the land in 1976 the name Fuller Park was officially adopted. Margaret Fuller was a writer and women’s rights activist in the mid-1800s. She was the first female book reviewer, foreign correspondent and editor of the New York Tribune. Her book, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*, published in 1845, is often considered the first major feminist book in the United States.

Neighborhood residents tried unsuccessfully to petition the Park Board to acquire land for a playground in the area starting in 1915. In 1917 the Park Board agreed, and Superintendent Theodore Wirth drew up ambitious plans including tennis courts, a recreation shelter, a playground, and an assembly stage. However, his plan required the use of some land that the School Board still owned. The Park Board referred the plan to a joint committee for further consideration, and the plan was never mentioned again. The only reference in historical records is a note in 1920 from James Shearer, the park board’s attorney: “Margaret Fuller School playground proceedings to acquire, abandoned”.

When the school was demolished in the 1970s, the Park Board was eager to acquire the site in

order to fill a gap in playground coverage of the city. The land was paid for with funds collected from the Department of Transportation after it took over other parkland to build freeways. Park improvements began in 1975 and included walkways, landscaping, a wading pool, playground, and a new recreation center. Because of the small size and varied topography of the park, Fuller Recreation Center is two stories tall – a rarity in Minneapolis parks.

The park was renovated and new equipment installed in 1992. A basketball court was added in 2005, the wading pool was upgraded for safety in 2008, the interior of the recreation center was improved in 2010, and the playground was updated again in 2015. Recently, additional upgrades have been made to the interior of the recreation center.

Excerpted from history written by David C. Smith and <http://american literature.com>

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

Fuller sits on the northern half of a city block within the Tangletown neighborhood. The park is primarily surrounded by single-family homes except for the northeast corner which is part of a small neighborhood commercial node.

The park itself is mostly level except around the edges. The perimeter sidewalks on the north and east slope down considerably, requiring steps.

The lowest point in the park is a mixed grass and concrete plaza in front of the recreation center's northeast entrance. A second entrance on the opposite side of the building facing the interior of the park is considerably higher. This separation of levels gives the recreation center the feel of a residential "walk-out" with separate front and back yards that have no visual connection. Flower gardens line the perimeter of the recreation center on both levels.

THE PROPOSED DESIGN

In this small park every square foot is utilized, so this design aims to streamline uses and activate additional space where possible. Given the availability of on-street parking, the parking lot is removed and that space is repurposed as a multi-use gathering space and entry plaza with flexible seating, public art, and games. Adjacent to this is a new covered picnic shelter with tables nearby. Accessible parking and a drop-off zone are dedicated on-street with a ramp to the building's west entry plaza. This ramp incorporates seating and natural plantings. To the west of this space, one half court basketball is replaced with a larger multi-sport court that includes two basketball hoops with half-court striping. To the east of the recreation center on its lowest level, an urban agriculture area fills open spaces leading to the building entrance. The existing pool and shade structures are updated along with the adjacent picnic and gathering area. The current play area

remains, and an additional adventure play area is added on the southern slope underneath tree canopy. A large swath of mown grass in the southwest corner of the park is converted to native plantings, while the adjacent sledding area is retained. Paths around the multi-use field are realigned to provide more field space and the natural turf and subsurface soil are upgraded to improve field playability and drainage.

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Fuller is within walking distance of Rustic Lodge Triangle which is proposed to have play features such as climbable boulder seating. It is only a mile east of Lake Harriet and Minnehaha Parkway which will connect it to Lynnhurst Park and the Grand Rounds. Approximately one mile north is Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park.

KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES

Because Fuller abuts several residential lots, future construction on the southern edge should be communicated and coordinated with neighboring land owners. The recreation center's NE entrance faces the neighborhood commercial node at W 48th Street and Grand Avenue South so the Park Board could collaborate with business on beautification, safety, or streetscape improvement efforts.



- PARKING LOT
- RECREATION CENTER
- MULTI-USE / HALF COURT BASKETBALL
- MULTI-USE FIELD
- WADING POOL
- PICNIC AREA
- PLAY AREAS
- SLEDDING HILL

FULLER PARK - EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROPOSED DESIGN FEATURES

1. MULTI-USE SPORT COURT (with 2 half-court basketball hoops)
2. DEDICATED ADA ON-STREET PARKING & DROP-OFF ZONE (work in conjunction with City)
3. ACCESSIBLE RAMP WITH INTEGRATED SEATING AND PLANTINGS
4. ENTRY PLAZA WITH FLEXIBLE SEATING, PUBLIC ART, AND GAMES (parking lot removed)
5. PICNIC SHELTER
6. PICNIC AREA
7. UPDATED MULTI-USE FIELD
8. UPDATED WADING POOL WITH SHADE STRUCTURES
9. UPDATED PICNIC AND GATHERING PLAZA
10. RENOVATED PLAY AREA
11. ADVENTURE PLAY AREA
12. NATURALIZED AREA
13. URBAN AGRICULTURE ZONE

EXISTING FEATURES

- A. RECREATION CENTER
- B. ENTRY PLAZA
- C. SLEDDING HILL

FULLER 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	Like pool, needs more shade Interest in splash pad	Keep pool, needs updates	Updated wading pool with shade structures retained in same location
play	Like play area Interest in climbing wall Interest in nature play	Keep existing play Support for adventure play Split support for all-wheel play area	Play area remains New adventure play area added
athletics	Field needs repair, better drainage	Keep field Split support for artificial turf	Upgraded multi-use field in same location
courts	Like basketball court, needs updating Would like full basketball court Want multi-use courts	Support expanding basketball Support sport court	Existing half court reconfigured into multi-use sport court with 2 basketball hoops
winter	Like sledding hill Interest in ice skating	Keep sledding area Don't want compaction of field Split support for skating loop	Sledding hill remains No ice skating planned for this park
landscape	Would like more beautification	Support gardens, native plantings Support for urban agriculture	Naturalized areas and plantings added Urban agriculture zone added
other	Like picnic area and tables, need new Interest in picnic shelter Remove parking lot & make it usable space Interest in public art Like wheelchair accessibility here Interest in bike skills park	Picnic area needs refresh Support for shelter Split support for removing parking lot Park too small for bike skills area	New picnic area added Existing picnic area and gathering plaza updated Picnic shelter added Parking removed and replaced with entry plaza with flexible seating and public art Dedicated on-street ADA parking and drop off zone with accessible ramp added No bike skills area planned for this park

FULLER PARK PROCESS

Park Name	Asset Type	Project	2020 Estimated Cost/Project		Notes
			\$		
Fuller Park	Aquatics	Renovate Existing Wading Pool with Shade Structures	\$	1,010,172	
Fuller Park	Athletics	Renovated Multi-Use Field Space	\$	155,097	
Fuller Park	Play	Traditional Play Structure in New Containers	\$	867,320	
Fuller Park	Play	Adventure Play Area	\$	867,320	
Fuller Park	Courts	Multi-Use Sport Courts (2): includes 2 basketball hoops	\$	163,260	
Fuller Park	Landscape	Urban Agriculture Zone	\$	61,223	Urban Agriculture Areas will be implemented in partnership with specific programs or community members. Estimate includes water service
Fuller Park	Landscape	Naturalized areas	\$	9,255	
Fuller Park	Other	Entry Plaza with Flexible Seating, Public Art, and Games: includes parking lot removal	\$	106,307	Public art implemented in collaboration with City and non-profit groups
Fuller Park	Other	Renovated Entry Plaza, northeast corner	\$	10,138	
Fuller Park	Other	Renovated Picnic and Gathering Plaza	\$	26,889	
Fuller Park	Other	Picnic Shelter	\$	112,241	
Fuller Park	Other	Renovate Walking Paths: includes accessible ramp with integrated seating	\$	256,057	
Fuller Park	Other	Miscl. signs, trees, furniture	\$	72,906	
Fuller Park TOTAL			\$	3,718,185	

COST ESTIMATE