

MODIFIED* MANAGEMENT SUMMARY FROM THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL LITERATURE REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT FOR THE MINNEHAHA REGIONAL PARK – DOG PARK FENCING PROJECT

Minneapolis and Fort Snelling Unorganized Territory, Hennepin County,
Minnesota

SHPO File No. 2024-2271

106 Group Project No. 3444

SUBMITTED TO:

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
2117 West River Rd.
Minneapolis, MN 55411

SUBMITTED BY:

106 Group
550 Vandalia St.
Suite 102
Saint Paul, MN 55114

REPORT AUTHOR:

Madeleine Bray, M.A., RPA

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MODIFIED* MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

During April through June 2025, 106 Group conducted an archaeological literature review and assessment for the Minnehaha Regional Park – Dog Park Fencing Project (Project) located in Minneapolis and Fort Snelling Unorganized Territory, Hennepin County, Minnesota. Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) received a grant from the National Park Service (NPS) to construct fencing on MPRB land to enclose an existing off-leash dog area. The fencing is intended to demarcate the MPRB property boundary and prevent off-leash dogs from entering non-MPRB owned land in the areas adjacent to the Minnehaha Regional Park dog park and in the vicinity of Mni Owe Sni (Coldwater Spring). Because this project is receiving federal funding from the NPS, the Project will need to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, as well as applicable state mandates governing cultural resources such as the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act, Minnesota Historic Sites Act, and Minnesota Private Cemeteries Act.

The project area is located in Section 20, Township 28 North, Range 34 West, Fort Snelling Unincorporated Territory and Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) has been defined by NPS as the area within the proposed horizontal and vertical construction limits of the proposed new fencing. However, the study area for this literature review and assessment includes a slightly larger area that encompasses the APE, in order to provide information to guide Project decisions, allow for flexibility in construction, and inform future planning. The study area is defined as all areas within the current and proposed future dog park fencing, as well as a 20-foot (ft.) (6 meter [m]) buffer (on MPRB property) and includes approximately 18.6 acres (7.5 hectares) within the Central Lakes Deciduous (4s) archaeological region.

The archaeological investigation included a literature review and desktop assessment. The literature review consisted of a review of documentation of previously identified archaeological sites within the study area and within one mile (1.6 kilometers) of the study area, and of surveys previously conducted within the study area. Historical maps and aerial photographs were also reviewed to aid in the archaeological investigation. The desktop assessment identified whether the study area has the potential to contain unknown intact archaeological resources that may be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The literature review identified that the study area is located within the boundaries of one recorded archaeological site, 21HE0099 (Fort Snelling), which is a contributor to the NRHP-listed Fort Snelling Historic District and Fort Snelling National Historic Landmark. The study area was historically part of the US military's ca. 1820-1823 Camp Coldwater, as well as the ca. 1820-1840 Coldwater Spring civilian community near Fort Snelling. Due to the presence of archaeological resources, the relative lack of disturbance, and the proximity to the Mississippi River, Coldwater Spring, and historically-mapped features, the study area is assessed as possessing moderate to high potential for intact significant precontact and post-contact archaeological resources.

106 Group recommends that Project impacts to known archaeological features be avoided, if feasible. Because no systematic survey of the entire study area has been conducted, in order to identify additional archaeological resources, if present, 106 Group recommends a Phase I archaeological field survey be conducted in areas that will be subject to Project-related ground-disturbing activities, prior to construction.

*Please note, some information from the full Management Summary of the Archaeological Literature Review and Assessment for the Minnehaha Regional Park – Dog Park Fencing Project has been redacted from this Modified version for this document to be distributed publicly. The full report, containing confidential cultural resource information, was submitted to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board in June 2025.