



# THEODORE WIRTH REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN



MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD  
FEBRUARY 18, 2015

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February, 2015

**MPRB Mission**

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board shall permanently preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance its natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board exists to provide places and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community, and the environment.

Cover photo: Scott A. Schneider Photography







Figure 1. Views of Wirth Park.

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# I. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

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Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
Why Plan?  
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# Introduction

Theodore Wirth Regional Park (Wirth Park) is owned and operated by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB). Located within the cities of Minneapolis and Golden Valley, it is a jewel of the Minneapolis park system, containing diverse recreational opportunities, lakes, woodlands, prairies, a remnant tamarack bog, and views of the downtown skyline within its 720 acres. Visitors to Wirth Park enjoy multi-use trails, 18-hole and Par-3 golf courses, gardens, historic sites, picnic areas, winter recreation activities, and the nation's oldest wildflower garden. There is something for everyone to enjoy and treasure in Wirth Park.

Wirth Park is generally bound by Golden Valley Road on the north, Interstate 394 (U.S. Highway 12) on the south, Xerxes/Russell Avenues on the east, and France Avenue on the west. Two rail corridors cross the park: the Burlington Northern running north-south, and the Luce Line running east-west. The park lies about half way between Highway 100 and Interstate 94, and is just over 4 miles from downtown Minneapolis, less than a 10 minute drive (figure 4).

## Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

In 1883, MPRB was created by an act of the Minnesota State Legislature and a vote of Minneapolis residents. It is the unit of government that is responsible for governing, maintaining, and developing the Minneapolis park system. The MPRB's governance structure is unique and reflects the commitment residents have made to

parks and recreation in Minneapolis. The MPRB engages in many relationships with government agencies, non-profit organizations, and for-profit organizations to provide an outstanding and nationally-acclaimed park and recreation system (figure 2).

Today, the MPRB owns and manages over 180 park properties within and outside the Minneapolis city limits, incorporating more than 6,700 acres of land and water. The system is comprised of 75% regional parks and 25% neighborhood and community parks and makes up approximately 16% of all the land and water in Minneapolis. It receives over 18 million visits annually. In addition, MPRB owns and/or operates parkland in other cities, including Golden Valley, St. Louis Park, Robbinsdale, Hopkins, and St. Anthony.

## Why Plan?

A more robust understanding of community provides guidance and purpose. Master plans provide a process to:

1. Understand community values and apply expertise (design, ecological, historical) to those values;
2. Reflect an integrated approach to values and expertise within a vision for the future of the park; and
3. Translate the vision into a strategy for prudent, long-term investment of limited human, natural, and financial resources.

The master plan is a written and graphic document that captures current park data and analysis, communicates a plan for the park's future, and guides strategic implementation of the plan over the next 20 years. It serves as a "memory" for decision-making, by reminding future residents, park visitors, and staff of the rationale behind the vision for the park and the recommended improvements.



Figure 2. MPRB ranked first in ParkScore Index, 2013 and 2014.

# Geographic Areas

There are three geographic areas of Wirth Park - north, central, and south - that are characterized by both physical and programmatic differences throughout this master plan (Figure 3).

## North Wirth

(North of Highway 55)

The golf courses (18 Hole and Par 3) and winter recreation area occupy much of North Wirth, along with Bassett Creek and several lagoons. The “Back 40” west of the Par 3 is an oak woodland and restored prairie area. It features the Luce Line regional trail and shoreline of Twin and Sweeny Lakes. North Wirth contains the Chalet building, Par 3 building and Tool House. Recreational activities in North Wirth include golf, disc golf, hiking, archery, bird watching, volunteering, biking and off-road cycling, cross-country skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing, snowshoeing, and sledding.

## Central Wirth

(From Hwy 55 to Glenwood Avenue, including the Picnic Pavilion).

Wirth Lake and Wirth Beach house are the focus of water activities in Central Wirth. Another focal point is the Wirth Picnic Pavilion and informal outdoor picnic areas, featuring concrete and metal picnic tables built by Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers in the 1930s. Educational programs and day camps occur primarily in this Pavilion and in the J.D. Rivers’ Children’s Garden. Activities in Central Wirth include swimming, fishing, picnicking, sand volleyball, playground activities, biking, running, walking, canoeing and kayaking, fishing, bird watching, orienteering, volunteering, gardening, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and off-road cycling.

## South Wirth

(South of the Picnic Pavilion on Glenwood).

South Wirth is the center of more self-directed, nature-focused recreation, featuring the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary, the Quaking Bog, and Birch Pond. Education programs take place in many of these locations. Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden contains the Martha Crone Visitor Center. Activities in South Wirth include bird watching, plant identification, volunteering, biking and off-road cycling, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing.



Figure 3. Aerial view of Wirth Park. Internal geographic areas, adjacent cities (in black) and neighborhoods (in green) are labeled.

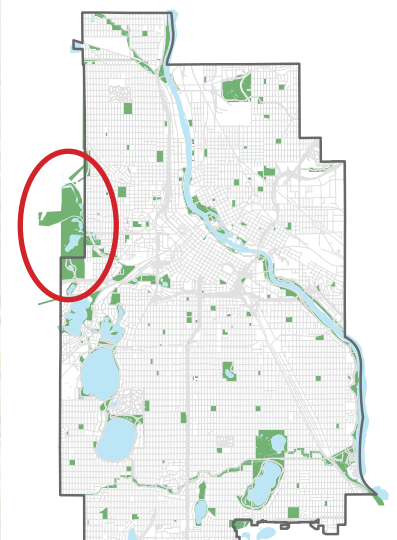


Figure 4. Wirth Park location within city of Minneapolis.



# Vision for Theodore Wirth Regional Park

Theodore Wirth Regional Park plays a significant role in the history of the MPRB. The vision for its future is deeply rooted in that history as well as mindful of the MPRB's mission as a forward-leaning steward of parks that serve a spectrum of recreational, ecological, and city-building functions.

Guided by the mission and vision themes of MPRB's 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan, this master plan outlines a broad vision forward to the year 2035 for Theodore Wirth Regional Park. It contributes to the MPRB's long tradition of permanently preserving parkland and emphasizing the connection of people to the land and to each other. Through this master plan, the MPRB aims to continue to enhance the quality of life for regional visitors and to play a significant role in shaping the character of the city of Minneapolis for generations to come.

As the result of a multi-year community planning process, this plan reflects the work of a dedicated appointed Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and input from dozens of user groups, Minneapolis and Golden Valley residents, stakeholders, consultants, and staff. It envisions protecting and enhancing Wirth as a dynamic urban and regional park destination that can be enjoyed by generations to come.

The MPRB recognizes the importance of balancing needs in the park and of focusing on equitable access for the variety of visitors. In particular, the MPRB recognizes that the racial and ethnic composition of future generations will change, and sets the expectation that



Figure 5. Downtown skyline view at Wirth Park.

a racial equity lens will be applied to the implementation of this plan (1).

The plan focuses on two key outcomes:

## **1. Wirth Park's unique natural and ecological resources will be protected and enhanced:**

- Park resources and programming will promote both mental and physical health,
- The park will provide vital opportunities to experience and learn about the natural world in an urban setting,
- The park will play an important role in supporting healthy regional ecosystems.

## **2. Wirth Park's natural resources will be a basis for recreational and visitor experiences:**

- The park's infrastructure and recreational amenities will be designed to support a balanced palette of complementary uses while preserving the ecological quality of the park,
- The park will balance responsiveness to recreational interests with a commitment to healthy natural resources,
- The park will offer safe and equitable access to accommodate a variety of local and regional users in all seasons.

The master plan builds on the original vision of Theodore Wirth and the 1980 master plan for the park. According to the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, Theodore Wirth is widely recognized as the "dean of the local parks movement in America." His intention for Wirth Park and much of the Minneapolis park system during his tenure was to increase resident access to parks and green spaces, increase the amount and size of parkland, and to beautify areas through landscape design that highlight natural features or create naturalized areas.

Wirth's early focus was on a balance of passive enjoyment of the natural and aesthetic character of the park, with active recreational uses. In much the same manner, the 1980 master plan for the park sought to "improve environmental conditions, identify and provide access to resources, and develop continuity between a variety of recreational experiences and locations." It declared that "development which creates access, continuity and identity is the primary objective for Wirth Park," and that "the motive for Wirth Park is to create an opportunity for the urban population to enjoy and appreciate abundant and thriving natural resources as an integral part of their leisure." (2).

(1) Racial Equity: the proactive reinforcement of policies, procedures and actions that produce equitable power, opportunities, treatment, impacts and outcomes for all.

(2) Long Range Improvement Plan for Theodore Wirth Park, MPRB, 1980, pg 4

# Concept Master Plan

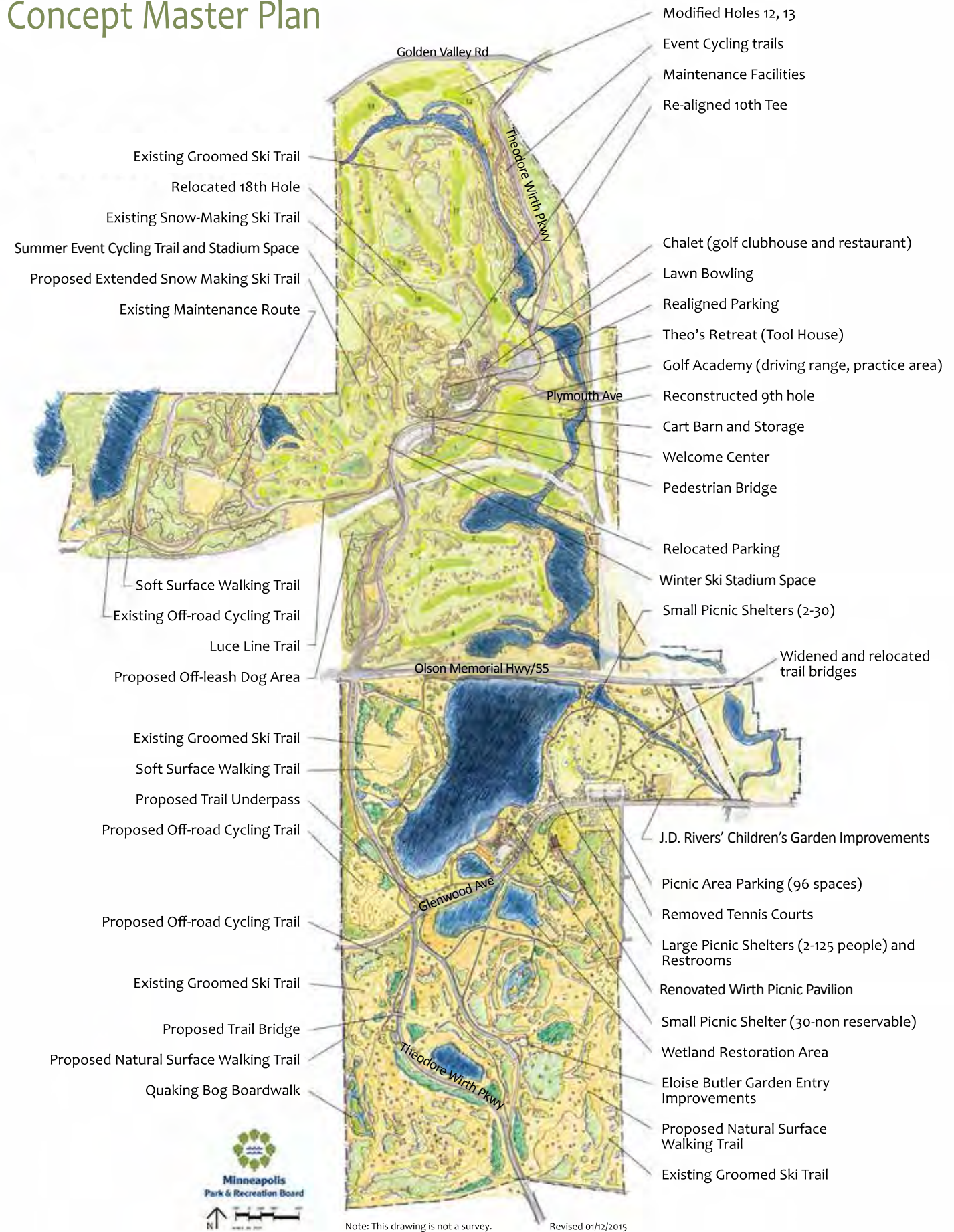


Figure 6. Concept Master Plan.



# Acknowledgements

Many people and organizations contributed their time and talent to the formation of this Master Plan over a number of years. MPRB would like to acknowledge and thank the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and the many residents, organizations, businesses, and public stakeholder groups who participated in this planning process. Public comments collected throughout the planning process are included in the appendix.

## Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

### MPRB Commissioner Appointees

George Puzak, Chair  
James Archer  
Jane Davis  
Vida Ditter  
Stephen Goltry  
Cheryl Luger  
Ed McRoberts  
Matt Moore  
Steve Pundt

John Munger  
Piotr Bednarski

### Municipal Appointees

Lynda Baker, Minneapolis  
Zach Handler, Minneapolis  
Marlin Poessehl, Minneapolis  
Damon Struyk, Golden Valley

### Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board Appointees

Evan Barnett  
Natalie Chivers  
Sikari Thompson  
Aamina Muhammad

### Neighborhood Association Appointees

Carrie Juntunen, Harrison  
Karen Soderberg, Bryn Mawr  
Joan Stauffer, Northside Residents  
Redevelopment Council

## Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

### US Army Corps of Engineers

Melissa Jenny  
Joe Yanta

### State Offices

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Melissa Doperalski, MN Department of Natural Resources  
Mark Nemeth, MN Department of Natural Resources  
Scott Pedersen, MN Department of Transportation

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Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst

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Carolyn Fackler, Permits Office  
Joe Gladke, Regional Rail (Bottineau LRT)  
Chris Sagsveen, Road and Bridge Operations  
Joel Settles, Environmental Services Director  
Ellen Sones

### Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Jim Herbert, Engineer  
Len Kramer, Engineer

### City of Golden Valley

Jeanine Clancy, Public Works Director  
Eric Eckman, Public Works Planner  
Joe Hogeboom, Planning  
Al Lundstrom, Environmental Coordinator  
Jeff Oliver, City Engineer

### City of Minneapolis

Lois Eberhart, Public Works Surface Water and Sewers  
Greg Goeke, Public Works Property Services, Energy, LEED  
Shane Morton, Traffic and Parking Services  
Steve Mosing, Traffic and Parking Services  
David Peterson, Bikeway Section  
Gayle Prest, Sustainability Director  
Bill Prince, Public Works Transportation On-street Parking

## Consultants

Sanders Wacker Bergly, Inc.  
Barr Engineering  
Leo A Daly  
Design Workshop  
Kari Haug Planning and Design, Inc.

Alta Group  
Hess Roise  
Two Pines Resource Group  
Kveberg Photo

Scott A. Schneider Photography  
Elizabeth Pezalla  
Piotr Bednarski



## Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

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Annie Young, At Large

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Andrea Salo Weber, Project Manager  
Colleen O'Dell, Park Planner/Designer  
Staff and Research Assistants of Planning, Recreation Services, Environmental Stewardship, External Relations, and Support Services

## Other Involved Agencies and Organizations

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
Bassett Creek Watershed Management  
Commission  
Cedar Lake Park Association  
City of Minneapolis  
City of Golden Valley  
Friends of The Wildflower Garden, Inc.  
Friends of Par 3  
Hennepin County

Hennepin County Regional Rail  
Authority  
Loppet Foundation  
Metropolitan Council  
Minneapolis Off-Road Cycling  
Association (MOCA)  
Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists (MORC)  
Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board  
MN Department of Natural Resources

MN Department of Transportation State  
Historic Preservation Office  
Neighborhood Associations of Bryn  
Mawr, Harrison, Near North-Willard  
Hay, and North Tyrol Hills  
Northside Residents Redevelopment  
Council  
Theodore Wirth Golf Association  
US Army Corps of Engineers



Figure 7. Wirth Lake at sunset, 2013.

# Theodore Wirth Regional Park

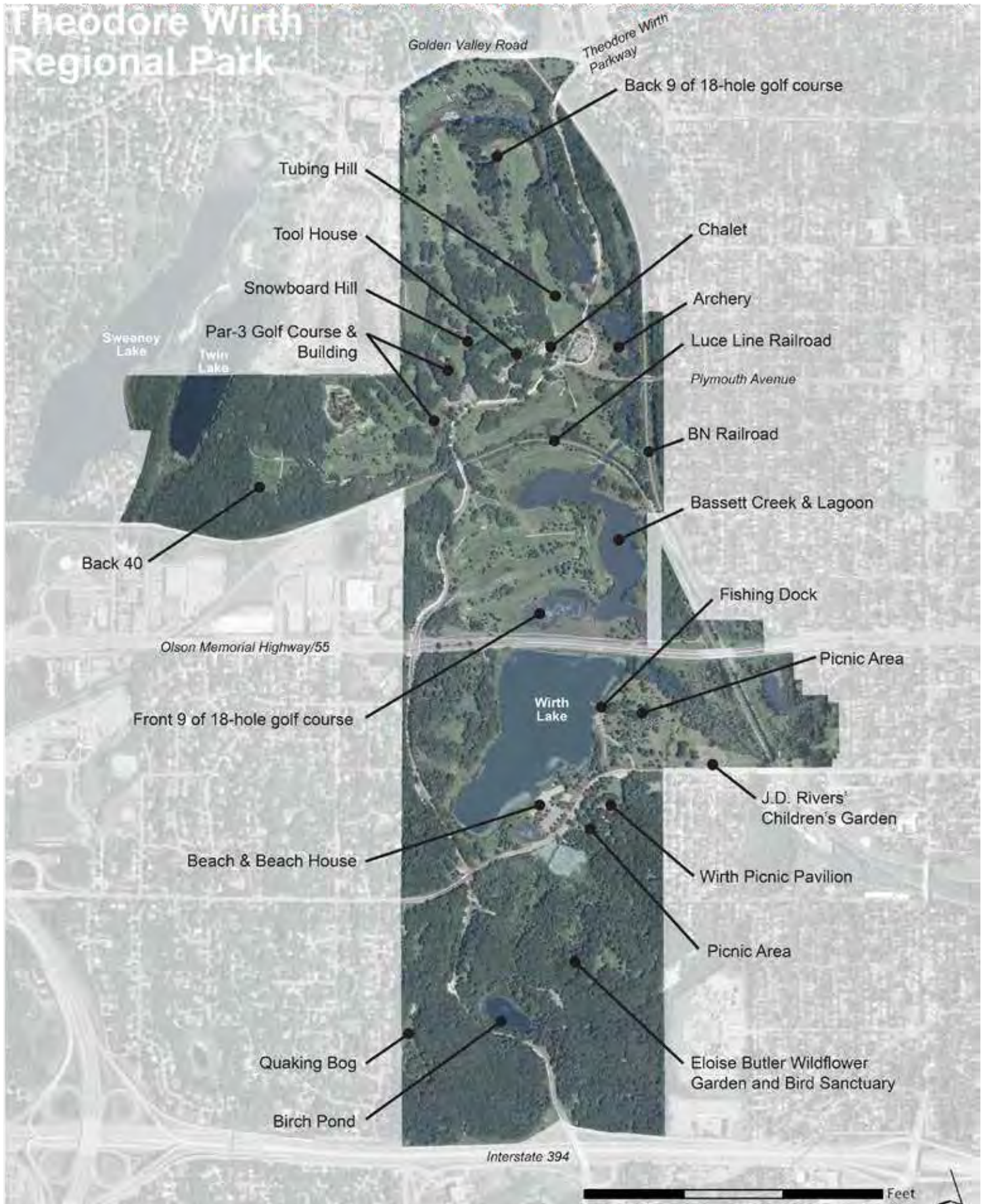


Figure 8. Existing amenities.





## II. PLANNING PROCESS

Background  
Local Framework  
Community Engagement Process



## Background

Wirth Park is part of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Regional Park System. While the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board owns and maintains the regional park, its location across two cities and at the heart of the metro area makes it an integral part of a broader metropolitan urban framework. This framework is influenced by local cities, Hennepin County, and the Metropolitan Council, and informs the design, planning, and community engagement for the park. This chapter highlights the local planning frameworks that relate to the park, past planning efforts, and the community engagement process used to develop the master plan.

## Local Framework

### Metropolitan Regional Parks System

The Metropolitan Council oversees the long range planning for the area's regional parks system and helps fund the acquisition and development of regional parks, park reserves, regional trails, and special recreation features within the 7-county metropolitan region, with the goal of protecting natural resources, and providing recreation opportunities. The MPRB is one of ten agencies that implement the regional park and trail system. While the parks and trails within the regional system are owned by the

counties or cities in which the reside, the Metropolitan Council is charged with creating a Regional Park Policy Plan that lays out the goals for the expansion and development of the system and the strategies designed to meet these goals. Overall, the policy plan is focused on growth and expansion, but any changes in usage of existing parks and trails in the system must follow the policies laid out in the plan. It also sets out requirements for regional park master plans. This master plan addresses Wirth's position in the regional system in accordance with the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

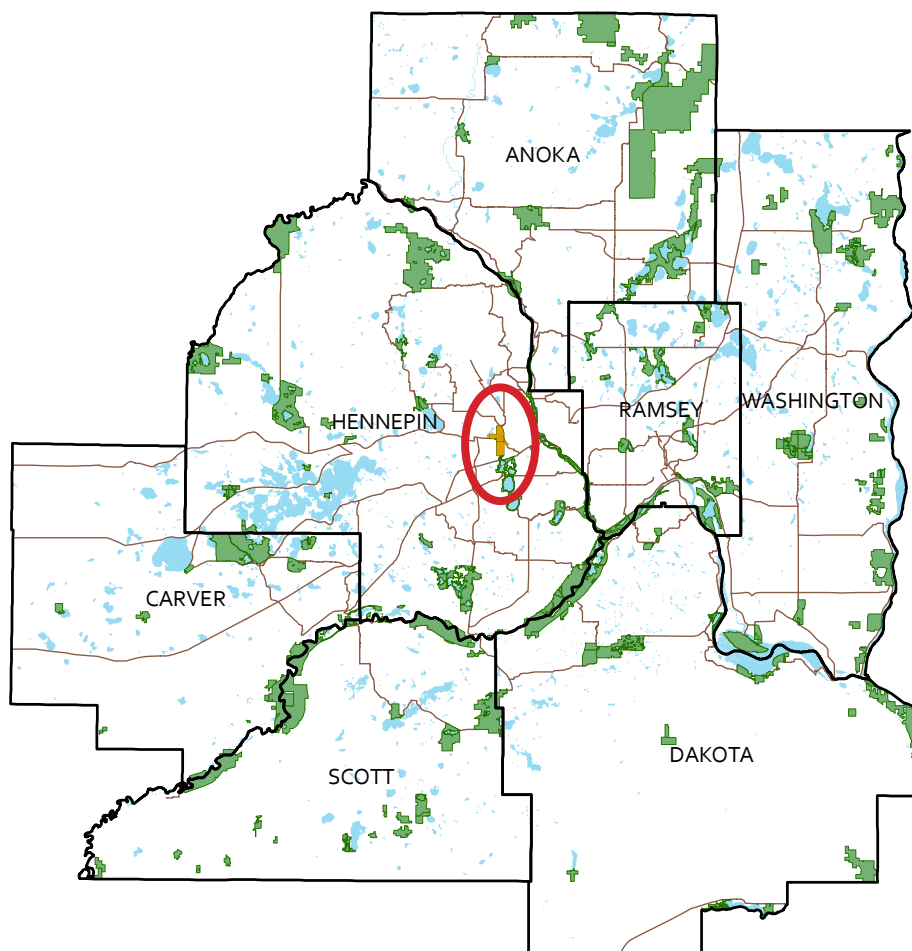


Figure 9. Wirth Park within the Metropolitan Council's regional park system.

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Table 1. Metropolitan Council regional park master plan requirements fulfilled by this plan.

Because Wirth Park is already established, the following Metropolitan Council requirements do not apply to this master plan:

Stewardship Plan
Activities, expenses and revenue prior to development for recreation
Planned non-recreation uses and disposition of revenue before development
Development Concept
Timing of amendments to an acquisition-phase master plan

Table 2. Metropolitan Council regional park master plan requirements not applicable to this plan.

## Additional Plans Referenced

Several prior planning efforts resulted in plan documents that preceded and informed this master plan, including the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2007-2020 and the previous Wirth Park Long Range Improvement Plan (1980).



Figure 10. Prior planning efforts informing this plan.

## MPRB Park System

The MPRB governs parkland within the Minneapolis park system per Chapter 16 of the Minneapolis Charter, in accordance with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Code of Ordinances, and in compliance with the respective policies for park development activities it initiates and manages within each city it owns land. The MPRB's

2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan outlines the vision, goals, and strategies for the development, programming, and operation of all MPRB parks, including Wirth. Its ordinance and policy on community engagement provide consistent direction in working and communicating with Minneapolis residents and park users in the planning and development of projects budgeted within the MPRB Capital Improvement Program.

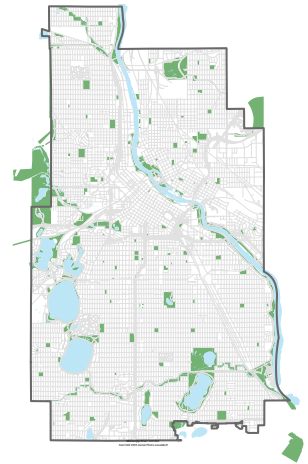


Figure 11. Minneapolis park system.

## Additional Plans that Inform the Master Plan

- The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth. 2008 update, City of Minneapolis.
- Golden Valley Comprehensive Plan 2008-2018. 2008 update, City of Golden Valley and SEH, Inc..
- Existing Conditions and Long Range Improvement Plan for Theodore Wirth Regional Park. July 1980, MPRB.
- MPRB Wirth Park Winter Recreation Master Plan. July 30, 2004, Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH).
- Golf Chalet Master Plan. Circa 2000, Partners & Sirny Architects.
- South Wirth Trails Plan. 2005, MPRB.
- Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden Management Plan. 2010, MPRB.
- Wirth Lake Area Concept Plan. 2010, Sanders, Wacker, Bergley.
- Bottineau Light Rail Transit (LRT) Planning. (In progress), Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority.
- Plans released by the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC), including:
  - BCWMC Watershed Management Plan. 2004, BCWMC.
  - BCWMC Main Stem Watershed Management Plan. 2000, BCWMC.
  - BCWMC Resource Management Plan. 2009, BCWMC.
  - DRAFT Feasibility Report for the 2012 Bassett Creek Main Stem Restoration Project, Golden Valley Road to Irving Avenue North. June 2011, Barr Engineering.

## MPRB Early Planning History of Wirth Park Area

Early planning in the park area by visionaries such as Charles Loring, William Folwell, Eloise Butler, and Theodore Wirth focused primarily on land acquisition, landform construction, planting, and parkway-building. MPRB's early planning efforts (primarily plan drawings) in the area included:

January 1907, Suggested Extension of Glenwood Park. Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks.

Undated (included in 1909 Superintendent's report), Glenwood Park and the Lake District. Unattributed.

January 1912, Suggested Extension of 8th Avenue North and Vacation of 6th Avenue North through Glenwood Park. Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks; A.C. Godward, Engineer.

January 1914, Ground Plan of Sheep Barns, Glenwood Park. Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks.

January 1914, General Plan for the Improvement of Glenwood Park. Designed by Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks; Prepared by A.C. Godward, Engineer.

January 1917, Glenwood Park, Plan for Plymouth Avenue Extension. Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks; A.C. Godward, Engineer.

January 1918, Proposed Bath House Glenwood Park. Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks; A.C. Godward, Engineer.

January 1918, Proposed Extension of Municipal Golf Course Glenwood Park. Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks; A.C. Godward, Engineer.



January 1918, Golf Shelter Glenwood Park. Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks; A.C. Godward, Engineer.  
 Undated (included in 1921 Superintendent's report), Glenwood Golf House Perspective. Magney and Tusler, Inc., Architects and Engineers.  
 January 1922, Glenwood Golf House, First Floor Plan. Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks; A.C. Godward, Engineer; Magney & Tusler Inc., Architects and Engineers.  
 January 1922, Glenwood Golf House, Second Floor Plan. Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks; A.C. Godward, Engineer; Magney & Tusler Inc., Architects and Engineers.  
 January 1922, Vicinity Plan of Glenwood Golf House. Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks; A.C. Godward, Engineer.  
 Undated (included in 1922 Superintendent's report), Location Map Showing Contemplated Acquisitions West of Glenwood Park and Sunset Hill. Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks.  
 January 1927, Lagoon Plan – Glenwood Park providing for the Excavation of Bassett's Creek Straightening and Widening Its Channel and Raising the Adjacent Swampland. Designed by Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks and Engineer; A.E. Berthe, Assistant Engineer; C.F. Gosslee, Delineator.  
 February 1929, Sketch Plan and Profile Showing Location of Suggested Artificial Water Supply for the Chain of Lakes at Brownie Lake – Glenwood Park. Designed by Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks and Engineer; A.E. Berthe, Assistant Engineer; Harold W. Lathrop, Delineator.  
 February 1930, Proposed Picnic Shelter at Glenwood Park near Glenwood Avenue. Designed by Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks and Engineer; A.E. Berthe, Assistant Engineer.  
 January 1936, Map of Projected Development of a System of Lagoons in Glenwood Park. Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks, A.E. Berthe, Park Engineer.

## Community Engagement Process

An integral part of the master planning was the community engagement process that, through the work of an appointed Community Advisory Committee (CAC), set the vision for Wirth that focused on recreational, natural, and cultural/historic resources. The community engagement process was consistent with the MPRB's past and present community engagement ordinance and policy.

### Community Advisory Committee

On October 20, 2010, the MPRB convened a 19 member CAC to accomplish the following charge:

“Prepare recommendations for the Board of Commissioners on the prioritization of improvements throughout Theodore Wirth (Regional) Park. The CAC shall consider existing plans and other park needs such as winter recreation/active sports facilities, operations facility consolidation, Wirth Chalet revitalization (including consideration of a restaurant), picnic pavilion rehabilitation, and trail and parkway upgrades. The CAC recommendations shall attract visitors to the unique historical, environmental, and recreational qualities of the park, while reducing maintenance and operating costs”.



Figure 12. Public Open House June 2, 2012.

Per the direction of the Park Board, the composition of the CAC was as follows:

Appointing Entity or Person	No. of People
President of the Board (This appointment is the chairperson)	1
Each Park Commissioner (not including president)	8
Mayor of Golden Valley	1
Bryn Mawr Neighborhood	1
Harrison Neighborhood	1
Northside Residents Redevelopment Council	1
Ward 5 Minneapolis Council Member	1
Ward 7 Minneapolis Council Member	1
Youth Coordinating Board (Youth)	3
Mayor of City of Minneapolis	1
TOTAL	19

Table 3. Information on CAC appointees.

The CAC had previously worked on a concept plan for the Wirth Lake beach area and was familiar with the park. To develop recommendations for the master plan, the committee met 20 times. This resulted in the MPRB approving the concept plan for the park and funding priorities on July 11, 2012. During the community engagement process, several methods were used to determine community needs and priorities for improvements, including:

### Community Meetings

Meetings were led by the CAC chair and provided the format by which recommendations for the master plan were developed. Each meeting included an opportunity for public comment and several meetings included interactive sessions.

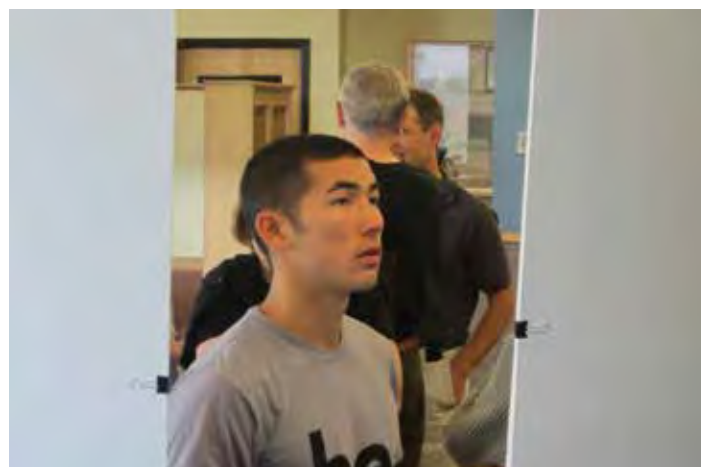


Figure 13. Public Open House June 2, 2012.

### Multi-day Design Charrette

In response to significant community controversy that had developed around seemingly conflicting potential park uses in the North Wirth/chalet area of the park, a design charrette was conducted to generate new ideas and seek solutions. The design charrette took place from Wednesday, November 2, 2011 thru Saturday November 5, 2011 and brought together a team of expert consultants on golf, trails, winter recreation, cultural, and environmental resources and site design. The CAC and public were invited to participate in multiple events during the charrette. The charrette resulted in overall concepts for trails and a layering of recreational uses as well as three concepts for the North Wirth/chalet area which included winter recreation, golf, and cycling changes. The CAC later incorporated these concepts into the approved concept plan.

### Online Survey

A survey of North Wirth users was conducted in early 2011. The survey provided good detail on the needs and interests of those interested in winter recreation and silent sports activities. It did not provide adequate information about the needs and interests of Par 3 or 18 hole golfers.

### Study Teams

Study teams also met, comprised of MPRB staff, staff of non-profit organizations, consultants, and neighborhood representatives. They analyzed options for trail development in Southwest Wirth and golf and winter recreation in North Wirth and presented their findings to the CAC.

### Focus Groups

Three focus groups were held in June of 2011 to gain a better understanding of the needs and interests of Par 3 golf users.

### Comments

Individuals submitted comments by mail and email throughout the process. Visitors to the MPRB project webpage could also follow a link to leave comments for CAC members electronically. Comments received throughout the planning process are located in the appendix of this plan.

### Public Hearing

As part of the approval process for the concept plan and CAC recommendations for the master plan, a public hearing was held on June 20, 2011.

### Comment Period and Public Hearing for Draft Master Plan

This draft master plan was available for a 60-day public comment period in late 2014 that was extended by the Board into early 2015. Following the comment period subsequent updates to the plan, the MPRB held a public hearing for the master plan on February 18, 2015.

## Technical Advisory Committee

In addition to the CAC, the MPRB engaged technical experts in the design process. These experts were members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) listed in chapter 1. The TAC met early the design process to provide comment and context into the concept plan. As necessary, MPRB staff would meet with TAC representatives for local or area jurisdictions to review and evaluate design ideas.

## Notification

News releases were issued on a regular basis regarding planned public meetings, staff action, and plans for park improvements. Copies of these releases were sent to a targeted community and public relations group contact list. Postcards were mailed to residents within three blocks of Wirth Park prior to the first public meeting, charrette, and the public hearing. A project webpage was also created on the MPRB website with regular updates on the public process, dates for events, public impact, a project timeline, news releases, reports, plans, maps, project and park history, and staff contact information.

## Design Elements and Tools

Several important themes emerged in the work of the CAC and through public comments. Based on these themes, the CAC approved a set of design elements and tools to help set a direction for their work (table 4).

No.	Design Statements	Design Elements and Tools
1	Provide a variety of activities/facilities, during all seasons, that help all park visitors experience the natural features of the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter recreation – tubing, snowboarding, skiing, ski jumping, skating, cycling (off-road, recreational, commuter), snow shoeing, winter hiking, ice rink, organized events</li> <li>• Spring, summer, fall recreation – picnicking, cycling (off-road, recreational, regional), hiking, jogging, birding, performances, swimming, fishing, gardening, stargazing, orienteering, events, dog park</li> <li>• Existing facility improvements</li> <li>• Educational programs</li> <li>• Youth and senior programming</li> <li>• Programs and facilities that easily adapt to changes in the population (numbers, age, ethnicity, etc.) of the park's service area</li> <li>• Quiet, natural settings</li> <li>• High quality facilities that are durable, long-lasting and easy to maintain</li> <li>• Features and facilities having regional significance</li> </ul>
2	Increase safety and the perception of safety for park visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting</li> <li>• Clear views to improve surveillance</li> <li>• Clear park rules</li> <li>• Wayfinding signage and mapping</li> <li>• Collaboration between enforcement agencies</li> <li>• Short emergency response times</li> <li>• Good access to remote locations</li> <li>• Increase desirable and legitimate activities -</li> <li>• more positive activity to help deter and decrease negative and undesirable activity</li> <li>• Improve access points to designated trails</li> <li>• Provide Accessible Areas/Activities map/guide</li> <li>• Audio, Tactile, Braille features as part of interpretive and wayfinding signage</li> <li>• Post and enforce parking lot hours of operation</li> <li>• Parking areas with CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design)</li> </ul>
3	Minimize conflicts between park facilities/activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No overlap of conflicting seasonal activities</li> <li>• Clear trail signage</li> <li>• Clear trail layouts</li> <li>• Clear pedestrian/bicycle/vehicle circulation</li> <li>• Trail Right of Way: provide clear hierarchy of trails (and trail movement) with signage</li> <li>• Post activities that are happening within the park</li> <li>• Protection of sensitive areas</li> </ul>
4	Improve the ease and safety of street crossings for park visitors and maintenance staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridges</li> <li>• Underpasses</li> <li>• Signs, pavement markings, electronic devices</li> <li>• Coordinate solutions with other agencies for adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions</li> </ul>
5	Encourage volunteers to participate in park programs, maintenance, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality leadership</li> <li>• Clear goals</li> <li>• Proper equipment</li> <li>• Measureable results</li> <li>• Support facilities (restrooms, shelters, meeting spaces)</li> <li>• Post and make available contact information and description of the MPRB Volunteer program and direct people to MPRB website</li> </ul>

Table 4. Design statements, elements, and tools approved by CAC members.



No.	Design Statements	Design Elements and Tools
6	Provide improved access for visitors from throughout the region and especially from north Minneapolis neighborhoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good trail, vehicular and transit system connections</li> <li>• Good signage and wayfinding</li> <li>• Bus stop at Wirth Park Beach</li> <li>• Nice Ride Bike Station(s)</li> <li>• Gateways for entry points and inside the park, example: Glenwood and Wirth Parkway</li> <li>• Improve organized access to Wirth Park from Golden Valley</li> <li>• Use media more often and more frequently to promote programs, events and the park itself, examples: outreach to neighborhoods, North Minneapolis, Golden Valley, Hennepin County and Three Rivers Park District</li> <li>• Improve ADA accessibility</li> </ul>
7	Maintain trails so they are central to the park visitor's experience and provide trail systems that are useable by all park visitors throughout the year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable trail surfaces - not all trail surfaces need to be paved, natural trail segments also appreciated year round</li> <li>• Good stormwater management</li> <li>• Good organization and layout</li> <li>• Good access</li> <li>• Safety and security</li> <li>• Good signage and wayfinding</li> <li>• Make better connections to Luce, Cedar Lake, and Kenilworth trails</li> </ul>
8	Improve parking and expand with caution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate but not excessive parking</li> <li>• Environmentally responsible parking, for example integrate canopy shade trees and stormwater management into parking lot improvements</li> <li>• Good organization and layout, i.e. apply CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) guidelines</li> <li>• Good access</li> <li>• Safety and security</li> <li>• Good signage</li> </ul>
9	Protect, enhance and maintain Wirth Park's natural resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biological survey</li> <li>• Natural resource management plan</li> <li>• Habitats managed to encourage wildlife diversity</li> <li>• Sustainable planning and design</li> <li>• Programs that help to connect visitors with nature</li> <li>• Interpretive signage</li> <li>• Environmental Education classes</li> <li>• Collaborate with other organizations such as the University of MN/Landscape Arboretum and the Audubon Society.</li> </ul>
10	Protect, enhance and maintain Wirth Park's history and make it more accessible to visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archeological assessment</li> <li>• Protect restore, rehabilitate historic facilities</li> <li>• Interpret historic features</li> <li>• Native American</li> <li>• Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of Parks</li> <li>• Brewery ruins</li> </ul>
11	Design facilities to be long lasting and easy to maintain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable materials and designs</li> <li>• Convenient maintenance facilities</li> <li>• Proper equipment for the task</li> <li>• Good access throughout the park</li> <li>• Collaboration between maintenance groups</li> <li>• Collaboration between maintenance and planning for facilities and park design</li> <li>• Have on record the finance needs for the maintenance budget</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for alternative energy such as solar for new facilities and park amenities, example solar light pole(s)</li> </ul>
12	Take care of the assets that are well-used before adding new.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoration, rehabilitation of existing facilities</li> <li>• Consider permeable surfaces for repairs and new areas of hard surface spaces</li> <li>• Maintenance and Operations plan analysis for both existing and proposed changes to operations, facilities and park design</li> <li>• Update Wirth Park Master Plan</li> </ul>

Table 4 (continued). Design statements, elements, and tools approved by CAC members.





# III. EXISTING CONDITIONS

Park Description and Inventory Summary  
Land Use  
Access  
Area Demographics



# Park Description and Inventory Summary

Size	720 acres
Visitors per year	459,800 (2013 estimate)
Date acquired	First acquisition 1889
Previous master plan	1980
Location	Cities of Minneapolis and Golden Valley
Number of buildings	10
Number of parking spaces	Approximately 315
Hours	Developed park areas (illuminated, with parkways): 6 am to midnight, undeveloped areas: 6 am to 10pm
Metropolitan Council Districts	Districts 6 and 7
Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) Districts	Districts C and D
MPRB Commissioner district(s)	MPRB District 4 (A. Tabb) and District 2 (J. Olson)
Watershed	Bassett Creek Watershed District
Recreational opportunities offered	Year-round individual and group recreation, picnicking, trail sports, rentable spaces, nature education, large events (see chapter 4)
Natural land resources	Wildflower garden and bird sanctuary, quaking bog, deciduous oak forest, coniferous forest, prairie (see chapter 6)
Water resources	Wirth Lake, Birch Pond, Bassett Creek, lagoons, Ski Jump Pond, Twin Lake, Sweeney Lake, wetlands (see chapter 6)
Cultural and historic resources	Designed and cultural landscape, historic building structures, archeological features (see chapter 5)
Proposed improvements	Trail improvements, natural resource enhancement, garden enhancements, wayfinding, picnic shelters, parking, off-leash recreation area, Chalet rehab, Welcome Center, golf course improvements, activity re-location, off-road cycling event trails, maintenance facilities and improvements, meeting space (see chapter 7)
Proposed improvements revenue sources	Capital and enterprise funding, public-private partnerships, grants, donations
Adjacent Neighborhoods	Golden Valley, Minneapolis (Willard-Hay, Harrison, Bryn Mawr)
Nearby Public Schools	Bryn Mawr Elementary, Meadowbrook Elementary, Noble Elementary, Anwatin Middle School, Perpich Center for Arts Education
Transportation	Bus and Vehicle (Grand Rounds, parkway), Bicycle and Pedestrian (paved and natural surface trails, bus stops)

Table 5. Wirth Park description and inventory.



Figure 14. Aerial of Wirth Park, 2013.



# Land Use

Wirth Park is surrounded primarily by single-family detached homes in residential neighborhoods of average urban density. Some commercial, educational, and institutional uses border it, as well as small lakes, creeks, waterbodies, and major transportation thoroughways.

## Zoning

The areas of Wirth located within Minneapolis are zoned “R1” for low-density residential and the entire park is located within a shoreland overlay zone. Within Minneapolis, parks are a permitted use within all zoning categories. In Golden Valley, the park is zoned “Institutional:Sub-District I4” which permits uses such as golf courses, parks, and playgrounds.

## Park Acquisition and Boundary

Wirth Park began in 1889 with the 64-acre acquisition of Birch Pond and Brownie Lake and land east of it up to present day Xerxes Avenue for \$100,000. The owner of the land, Thomas W. Wilson, planned to drain the area and construct houses and streets. Area residents who disagreed with his intentions petitioned the newly formed Board of Park Commissioners to purchase the land with funds assessed to park neighbors. Known as the “Saratoga Springs Acquisition,” the land supported streams, marshes, ponds, swamps, tamarack bogs, and a wide array of trees including elm, linden, ironwood, ash, aspen, oak, and birch.

Originally called Saratoga Park, in 1890 it was re-named Glenwood Park, then renamed again in 1938 to honor Theodore Wirth, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Superintendent from 1906-1936. Over the years, the

park was expanded multiple times to reach its present size of 720 acres. In the 1950s, expansion of Hwy 55 from a county road into a highway through the park changed some property lines along the north side of Wirth Lake. In the 1950s, under intense pressure from the Minneapolis City Council, the Park Board sold 30 acres of park land just

west of Brownie Lake to Prudential Life Insurance to build their headquarters. Proceeds from the sale were used to purchase the “Back 40” part of the shore of Twin Lake at the western-most part of the park. In the 1960s and 1970s the MPRB acquired small residential parcels west of Xerxes Avenue and north of Glenwood Ave.

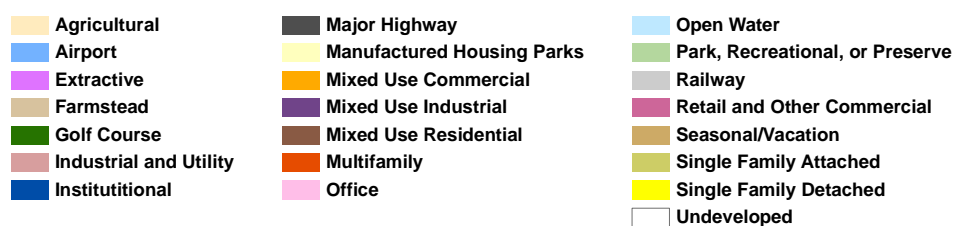
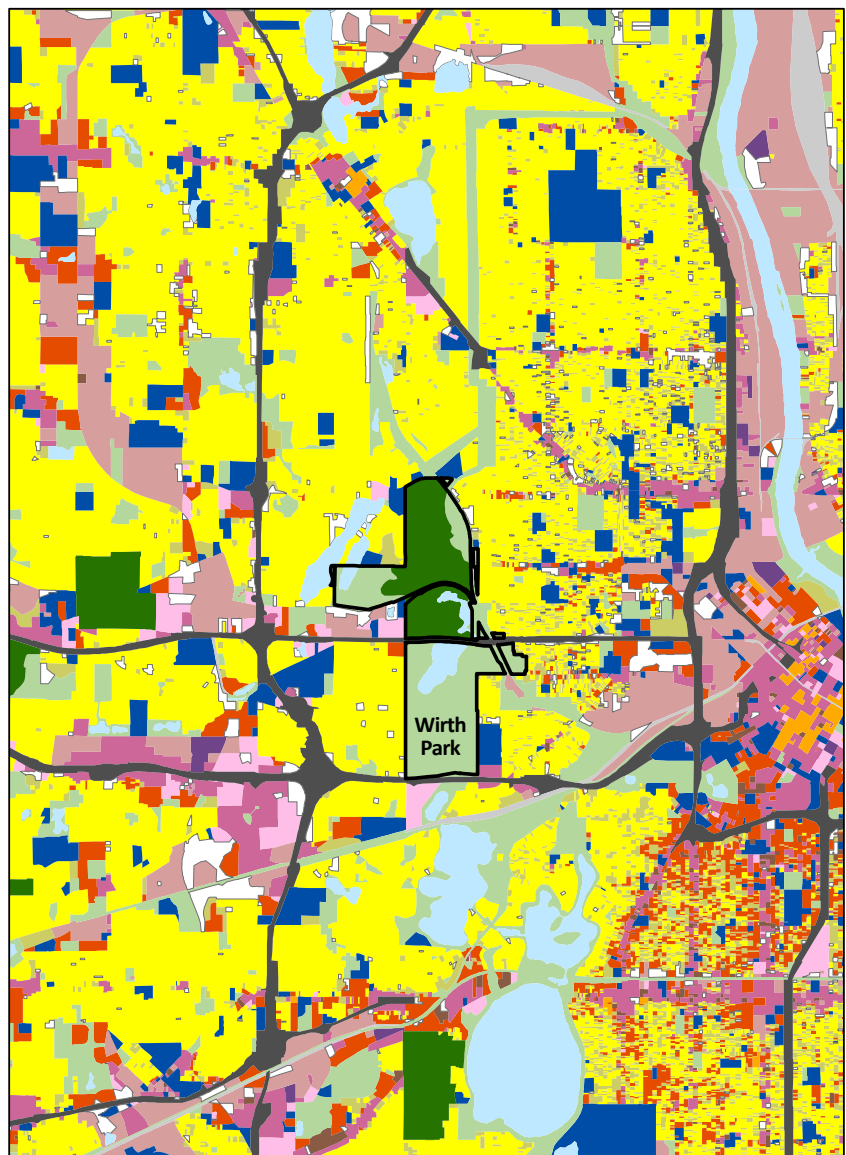


Figure 15. Generalized land use surrounding Wirth Park, 2010.

# Access

## Transportation

Visitors can access Wirth Park via the parkway, local roads, on-street bicycle routes, trails and sidewalks. It is accessible by motor vehicle from Highway 55/Olson Memorial Highway, Glenwood Avenue, Plymouth Avenue and Golden Valley Road, and has partial access from Interstate 394. Metro Transit public bus routes #755, 32, 14, and 9 serve Wirth Park including a stop at the Chalet. Several designated on-street bike lanes and off-street bike trails lead to the park including Theodore Wirth Parkway and adjacent/parallel bike paths, as well as the Luce Line Regional Trail.

## Parking

The park includes approximately 300 parking spaces (table 6). Large event organizers routinely use shuttle buses to bring patrons from nearby commercial parking lots to the park.



Figure 16. Transportation options in and around Wirth Park.



Figure 17. Paved trails at Wirth Park.

Location	Spaces	Type	Notes
Chalet	131	no-fee	6 stalls are ADA only
Chalet service bay	5	no-fee	for service/staff vehicles only
Maintenance Area	10	no fee	for maintenance/staff vehicles only
Par 3 Clubhouse	65	no fee	patron
Wirth Beach	74	no-fee	21 spaces are grass-paved, not plowed in winter
Theodore Wirth Parkway bay north of Chalet	6	no fee	on-street parking is not allowed on Wirth Pkwy outside of this bay
Eloise Butler lot	22	permit and meter	not plowed in winter
Quaking Bog lot	13	permit and meter	not plowed in winter
Wirth Lake boat launch lot	17 + 3 boats	no fee	
Glenwood streetcar shelter	15 approx.	no fee	gravel surface, not plowed
Wirth Pavilion	4	no-fee	ADA only

Table 6. Parking at Wirth Park.



# Area Demographics

Data presented in this section focuses on jurisdictional areas from which Wirth Park draws visitors, as well as on neighborhoods immediately surrounding and within a relatively easy commute distance to the park. Wirth Park's proximity to north Minneapolis provides an opportunity for the MPRB to deliver quality nature-based recreation and facilities to residents of neighborhoods that are among the most diverse in the city and have high rates of poverty. The demographic data also reveals that the neighborhoods near the park have a high percentage of households with children. The series of maps in this section display census data from a two mile radius around Wirth Park (3).

## Age, Family Households, and Rental Status

Figure 19 shows high percentages of children and young adults living near Wirth Park, and indicates a high percentage of family households nearby. The total number of renters versus home owners surrounding Wirth is fairly evenly split; however the distribution indicates renters primarily live east of the park and home owners live to the west.

## Race and Ethnicity

Communities to the northeast of Wirth Park are part of one of the most historically diverse sections of Minneapolis. Based on the 2010 Census, figure 20 shows higher percentages of the population that are

Asian, Hispanic/Latino, or African-American living to the northeast of the park compared to communities to the west and south.

## Income Distribution, Poverty, and Vehicle Ownership

Median income ranges from over \$15,000 to \$115,000 annually near the park, and is highest in communities southwest of the park (figure 21). The percent of persons in poverty is highest northeast of the park. Access to a vehicle is least prevalent east of the park. Respondents in these areas are less likely to own a vehicle and may require more transportation and transit options to access Wirth Park and its amenities.

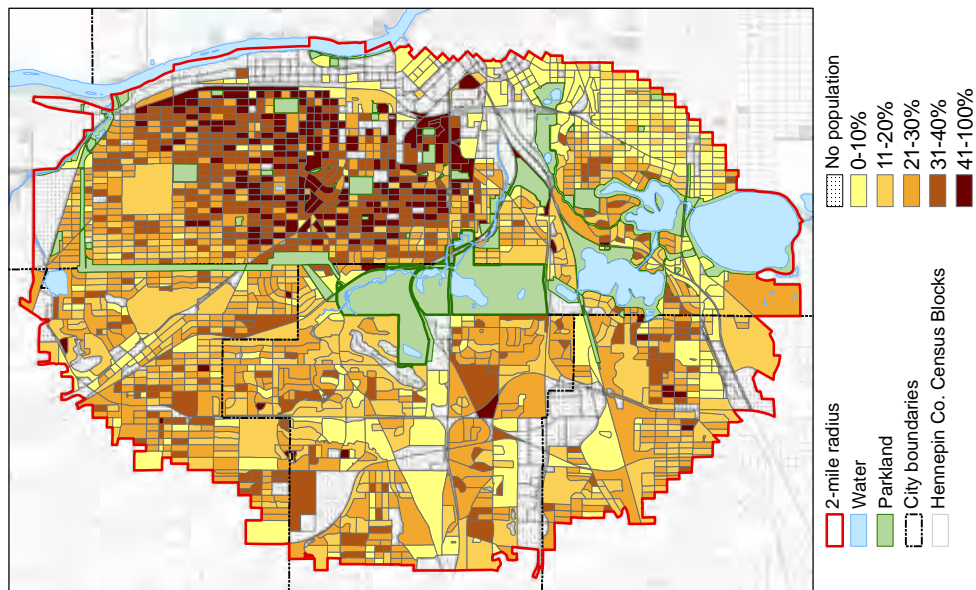


Figure 18. A collection of visitors to Minneapolis parks.

(3) Users within a two-mile radius of the park are the most likely to have multiple ways to access the park: via car, bike, bus, or walking. An average visitor could likely walk to the park if within a half mile, and bike or bus to it if within two miles.

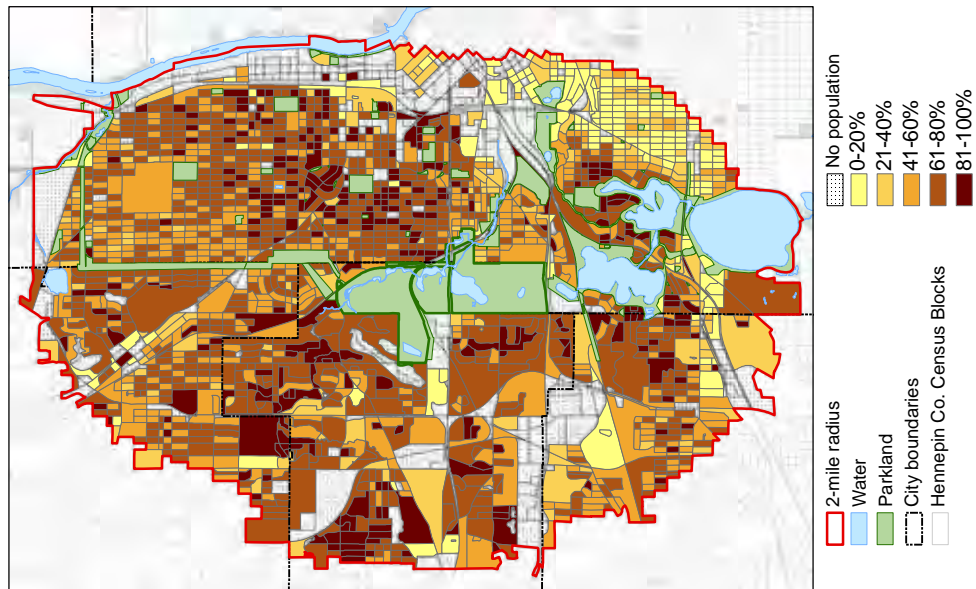
### % of Population Under 18 years old

Source: 2010 Census Summary File 1  
Table: P12



### % of Family Households

Source: 2010 Census Summary File 1  
Table: P18



### % of Home Renters

Source: 2010 Census Summary File 1  
Table: H11

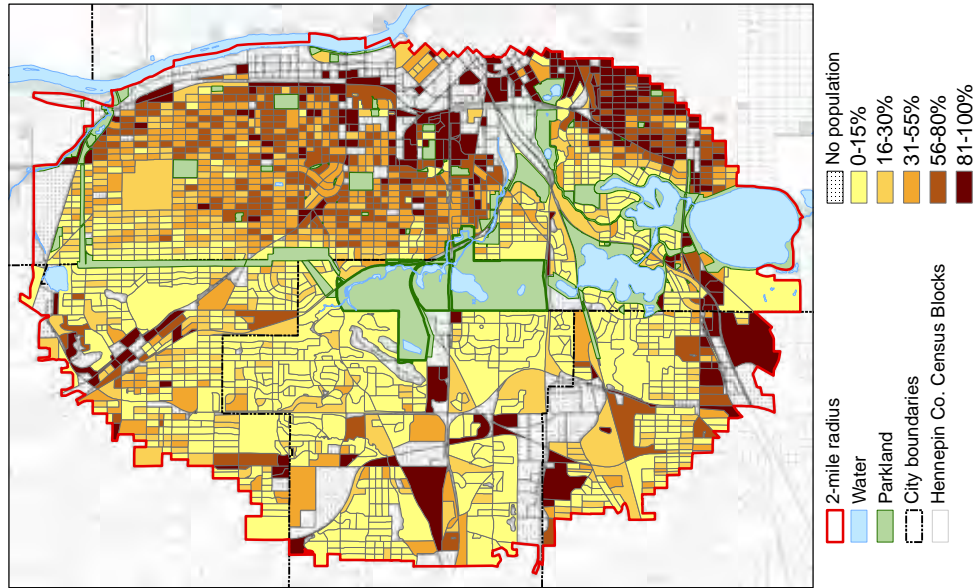
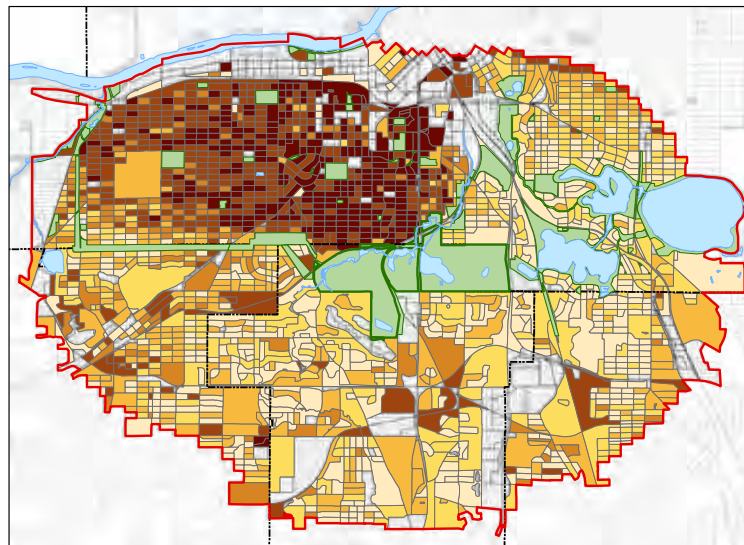


Figure 19. Maps of age, families, and renters in a 2-mile radius around Wirth Park.



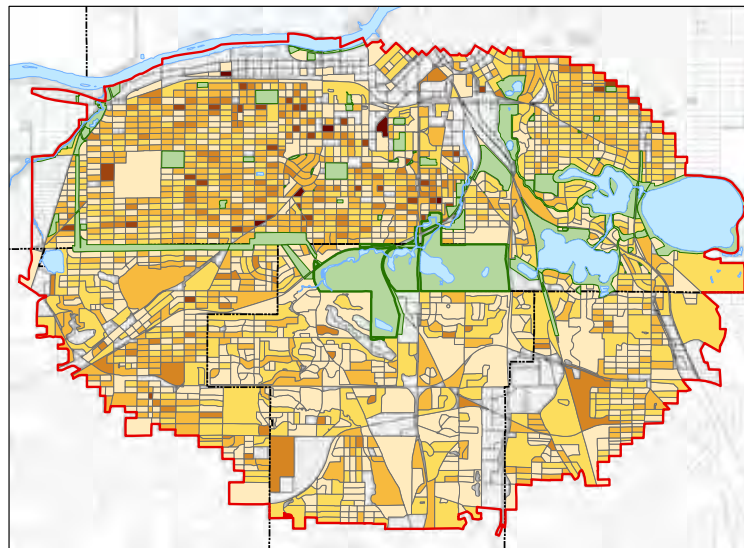
### % of Population Selecting Black or African-American

Source: 2010 Census Summary File 1  
Table: P5



### % of Population Selecting Hispanic or Latino

Source: 2010 Census Summary File 1  
Table: P5



### % of Population Asian as Primary Race

Source: 2010 Census Summary File 1  
Table: P5

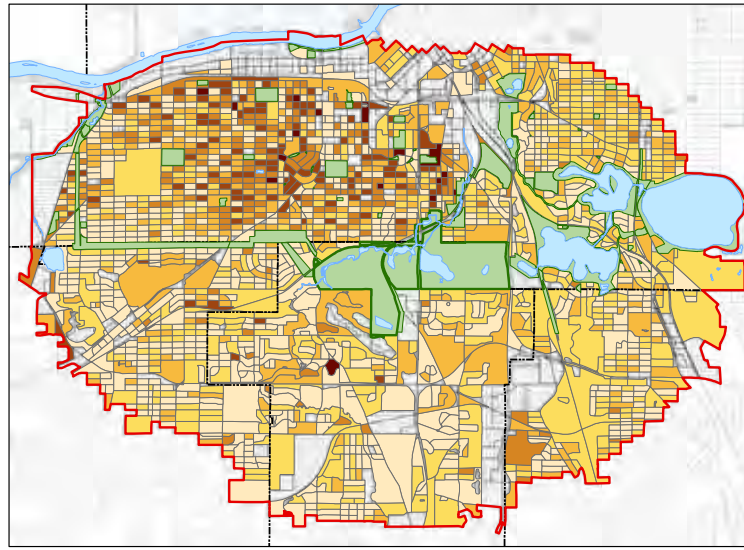


Figure 20. Maps of self-identified race/ethnicity in a 2-mile radius around Wirth Park.

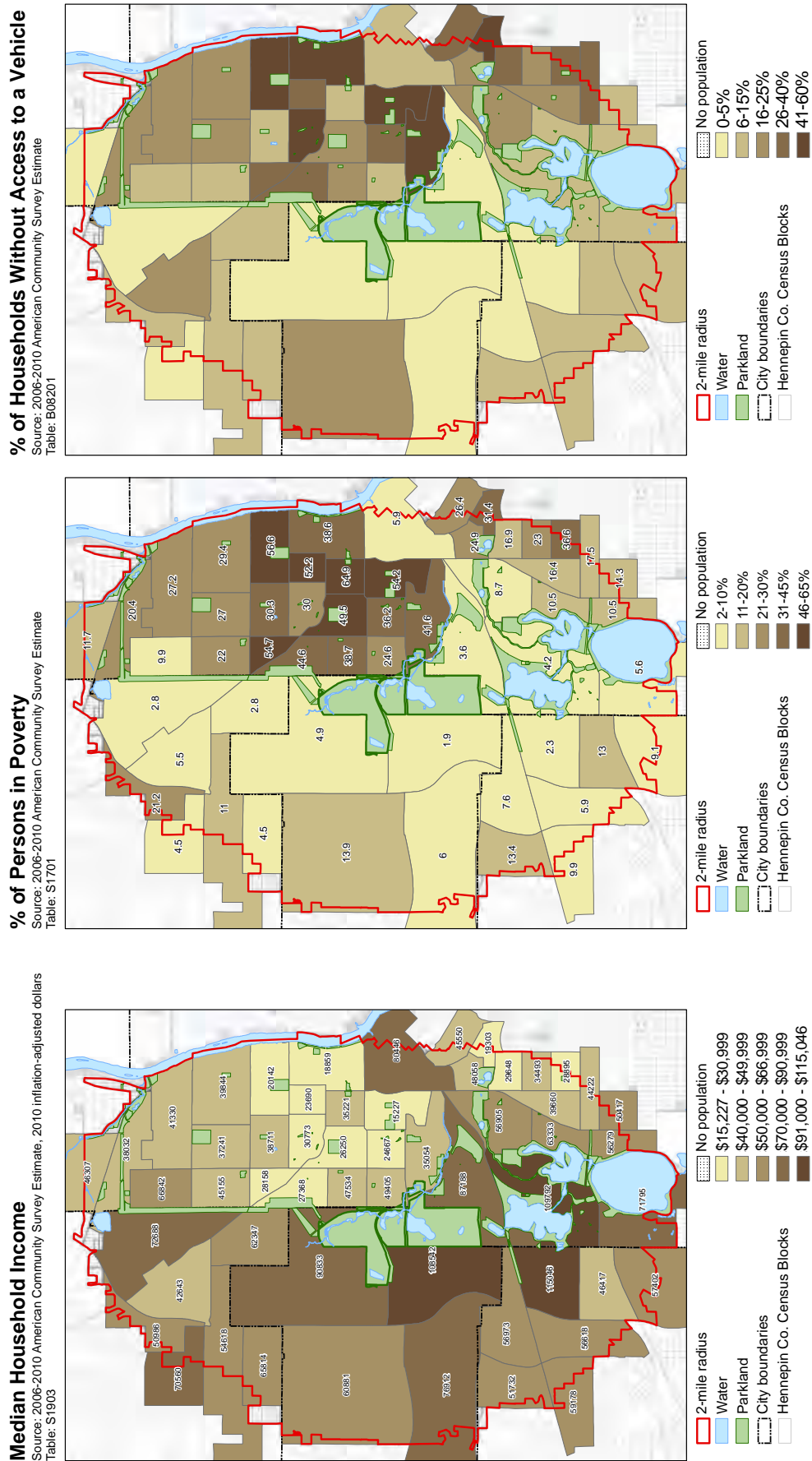


Figure 21. Maps of income, poverty, and vehicle access in a 2-mile radius around Wirth Park.





# IV. RECREATION NEEDS FORECAST

Overview  
Population Growth  
National, State, and Local Trends and Concerns  
Visitor Profile  
Recreational Resources  
Trends at Wirth Park



## Overview

As a regional park, Wirth Park provides a wide range of natural resource-related recreational opportunities. Local, state and national research continues to illustrate the importance of nature-based recreation to the quality of life and health of a population, especially in an urban setting. Americans are interested in running, trail running, cycling and mountain biking and adults are trending toward individual versus team recreation activities. Meanwhile, concerns about childhood obesity and lack of nature-based recreation grow. There is also increasing concern in the park and recreation profession that immigrant populations and communities of color are not pursuing nature-based activities in their leisure time and receiving the benefits of nature-based experiences.



Figure 22. Golfer in Wirth Park.



Figure 23. Trail user in Wirth Park.

## Population Growth

When the MPRB system of parks was first created and Wirth Park first acquired, Minneapolis was sparsely settled and primarily agricultural. Now it is a densely populated, fully urbanized city. Estimated at approximately 400,000 people in 2013 (4), the city's population is smaller than it was at its 1950s peak, even though its total number of households has increased slightly. Growth in population and density can increase the social and environmental value of park land, as it provides a refuge from bustling city life, noise, and distraction. However, growing population can also place extraordinary environmental stress on parks and the ecosystems within them. The Metro Area as a whole, Hennepin County and

the cities of Minneapolis and Golden Valley are all projected to increase in population over the next 25 years, placing greater stress on MPRB parks and trails, including those in Wirth (figure 24).

Both the increasing rate of immigration and higher birth rates among Latino, Black, and Asian populations is expected to substantially change the racial and ethnic demographic make-up of the Minneapolis-Saint Paul region, with people of color comprising 40% of the region's population by 2040 (5). Projections show that as the overall population grows, these immigrant populations and people of color will represent a larger share of the workforce and families with children. In addition, the population of seniors and older

adults will double by 2030 and is projected to grow to 21% of the region by 2040, making up almost a quarter of total population (6). The number of households is also expected to grow, with increases in seniors living alone, single adults, and couples without children.

## National, State and Local Trends and Concerns

Recreation is shaped by a number of factors, from shifting demographics to the introduction of new activities. National, state and local trends influencing recreation in Minneapolis and in Wirth Park are presented in this section.

(4) Minneapolis Community Profile, Metropolitan Council, [www.metrocouncil.org](http://www.metrocouncil.org), accessed Oct, 2014.

(5) Thrive MSP 2040, Metropolitan Council, 2014

(6) Thrive MSP 2040, Metropolitan Council, 2014



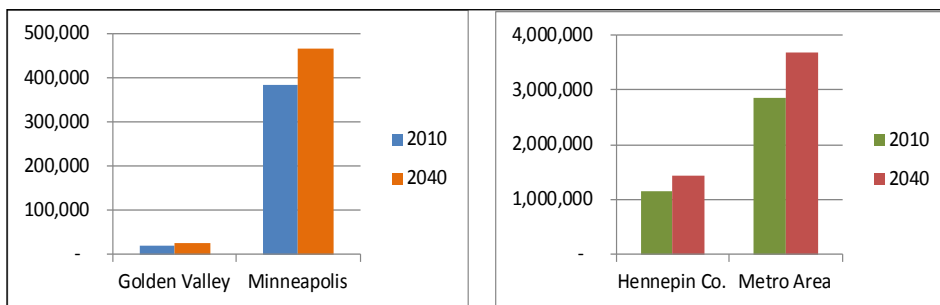


Figure 24. Population growth forecasts from 2010 to 2040.

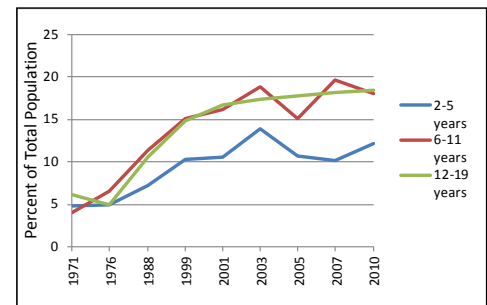


Figure 25. Obesity trends in children and adolescents from 1971 to 2010.

## 2009 Survey of Park and Recreation Organizations

A 2009 survey of park and recreation organizations by Recreation Management magazine indicated interesting trends in parks and recreation nationally:

- Increase in partnerships with local non-profit organizations, community groups, businesses, and other government agencies.
- Lower budget allocations and revenues, with a concurrent increase in use of facilities and amenities.
- Increased public awareness of skin cancer causes and prevention, increasing users' preference for parks with shelters and shade structures or tree canopy.
- Building and amenity expansion projects focus on playgrounds, restrooms, picnic shelters, natural areas and gardens, and outdoor sports courts.
- Increased reliance on volunteers to assist with programming, natural resources management, and fundraising.
- Focus on environmental / conservation issues, education, and leadership.
- Importance of holiday and special events programming, youth sports teams, day camp and summer camps, and adult sports teams.
- Number one planned future recreational offering was environmental education.

## Outdoor Foundation 2010 Participation Report

According to the Outdoor Foundation's 2010 Participation Report, American's top two favorite outdoor activities by frequency of participation were 1) running, jogging and trail running; and 2) road biking, mountain biking and BMX biking. This survey also showed that individual's participation in team sports peaks for both men and women during teenage years, then decreases. Participation in self-directed outdoor and indoor fitness activities increases with age.

## Nature Deficit Disorder

There is a growing national concern that youth in particular are losing their connection to nature. The term "nature deficit disorder," coined by author Richard Louv in *Last Child in the Woods* (2005) attributes an increase in mental and physical health challenges to inadequate time spent outdoors in contact with nature.

## Childhood Obesity

Nationally, rates of obesity and diabetes have been on the increase, most alarmingly in children (7). The National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tracks historical growth in childhood obesity (figure 25).

The CDC lists among its community recommendations the need to improve access to outdoor recreational facilities, and to enhance infrastructure supporting walking and biking.

## Leisure Time Disparities/ Racial Equity

There is professional recreation and health-related research to support that immigrant populations and communities of color are not pursuing nature-based activities in their leisure time due to current economic and social factors. In 2014, the Metropolitan Council undertook a study focused on understanding regional park use among select communities of color (8). Participants identified their preferred outdoor recreation activities, their perceived barriers to visitation, and suggestions to enhance visitation. Findings of that study recommend park agencies develop strategies and actions to address the following:

- Increase awareness of the regional parks.
- Modify recreational programming to meet outdoor recreational activity preferences of communities of color.
- Design and manage parks to address outdoor recreational activity preferences of communities of color.

(7) NCHS Health EStat: "Prevalence of Obesity Among Children and Adolescents: United States, Trends 1963-1965 Through 2009-2010", Fryar et al.

(8) "Regional Park Use Among Select Communities of Color", Metropolitan Council, 2014

The top ranked activities for communities of color as identified by the study are: walking, playground use, and swimming or going to the lake. When asked about the concept of the word “park”, themed responses included nature, safety and security, wildlife and amenities such as playgrounds, and the opportunity to spend time with friends and family.

Study participants indicated their top barriers to visiting regional parks were:

- 1) Lack of awareness
- 2) Time
- 3) Fear/Safety Concerns
- 4) Lack of Transportation Options
- 5) Language Barriers

To address these barriers, participants suggested that park agencies increase awareness, address safety, enhance the capacity of gathering space, diversity programming, and provide more events to increase usership of the regional park system by communities of color.

## MPRB User Surveys

The MPRB and its partners periodically conduct phone surveys to understand user preferences. Surveys from 2007 and 2009 show that residents feel the MPRB is doing a good job of providing for their household’s park and recreation needs. According to residents, parks define the city and are very important to the quality of life in Minneapolis. Residents want more investment in the care and upkeep of park and recreational facilities and enhanced communication, as well as a greater connection between community needs and the services provided by the park system.

According to the 2007 phone survey, when asked to rate the importance of various amenities, Minneapolis residents rank natural areas like lakes, creeks, wetlands, woods and prairies, and boulevard/street trees highest (1).

(1) MPRB phone survey, conducted by CJ Olson for MPRB, 2007



Figure 26. 100-year anniversary party at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden.



Figure 27. Sculptures at Wirth Chalet.



Figure 28. MPRB trail user.



Figure 29. MPRB playground users.

Related amenities such as neighborhood and regional parks and trails and environmental programming also receive high rankings. Residents commonly request more trails of all types and keeping them well maintained and clean. Within the natural environment, residents indicate they enjoy walking, biking, viewing nature and picnicking. When residents were asked what park they visited most often, Wirth Park tied the Mississippi riverfront with 13% of residents polled.

Residents encourage the development of partnerships with public and private entities that further the goals of the Park Board. When considering the private

sector, they recommend partnerships with local businesses and those that do not commercialize the park system.

## Visitor Profile

### Visits to All Regional Parks and Trails

Since the mid-1980s the Metropolitan Council has produced annual use estimates for the regional park system, including Wirth, based on random sample counts of people entering a regional park or trail during the summer months. The Annual Use Estimate of



the Metropolitan Regional Parks System for 2013 states that 47,304,800 visits were made to the entire metro-wide Regional Park System that year, which is an increase of 3.2% from 2012 (table 7). In 2013, approximately 54% of all estimated visits occurred in the regional parks and trails in Minneapolis and St. Paul (9).

## Visits to MPRB Regional Parks and Trails

According to the annual use estimate of the Metropolitan Regional Parks System for 2013, MPRB's regional parks and trails receive the largest share of estimated visits at 33.8% of the overall visitation total. The MPRB regional parks and trails received an estimated 15,976,600 visits in 2013 (12,020,100 to parks and 3,956,500 to regional trails), an increase of 4.9% from 2012 to 2013. This increase is greater than the Regional Park System as a whole, which increased annual visits by 3.1% (10).

## Visits to Theodore Wirth Regional Park

Of all estimated visits made to regional parks and trails in Minneapolis in 2013, 459,800 or 2.8% were made to Wirth Park. As with the regional system and the MPRB system as a whole, the

Metropolitan Council estimates that the majority of visits to Wirth are made during summer, followed by fall and spring, then winter. Wirth is home to many special events, especially in the winter months, and hosted 19,400 people attending 20 events in 2013. Due to the increased popularity of the winter programming at several key regional parks or reserves, including Wirth Park, additional analysis may be required to determine if the winter estimate continues to be accurate.

## Demographics of Visitors

Approximately every ten years the Metropolitan Council conducts an intercept survey of park visitors. This provides additional information about the jurisdiction of origin, gender, race/ethnicity, recreation preferences and mode of transportation of summer visitors. The last survey was conducted in 2007 and is captured in 2008 Metropolitan Council Regional Parks and Trails Survey report. The data does not reflect winter activities.

## Jursidiction of Origin

Based on the 2008 Metropolitan Council Regional Parks and Trails Survey, slightly more than half of reported visits (55%) to all regional parks were "local" – made by a person who lives within the jurisdiction of the park

agency that owns or operates that park, and just over half the reported visits to the MPRB parks and trails were from people who live in Minneapolis. The graphs on page 4-6 show the origin of reported visits to the MPRB regional parks and specifically of Theodore Wirth Regional Park (11).

# Recreational Resources

People who visit Wirth Park enjoy a wide range of activities. In this section are descriptions of some of the major recreation activities.



Figure 30. Sand volleyball at Wirth Beach.

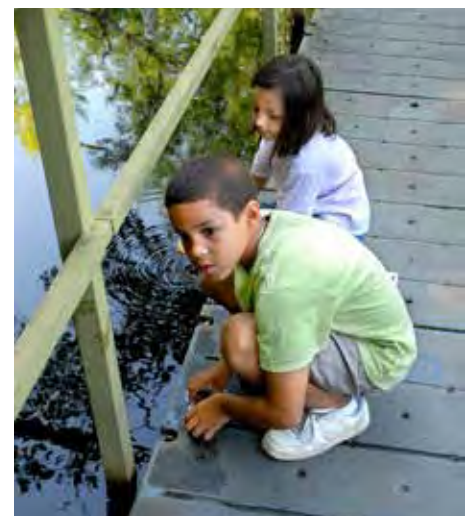


Figure 31. Students visit the Quaking Bog.

	Total Annual Estimated Visits	MPRB Annual Estimated Visits (Percent of Total Visits)	Wirth Annual Estimated Visits
2007	35,563,700	13,404,400 (37.6%)	393,800
2008	38,512,200	15,442,400 (40.1%)	380,100
2009	38,062,500	14,113,000 (37.1%)	376,700
2010	40,867,600	14,768,100 (36.1%)	372,500
2011	44,111,200	15,098,800 (34.2%)	438,800
2012	45,843,800	15,223,900 (33.2%)	385,500
2013	47,304,800	15,976,600 (33.8%)	459,800

Table 7. Annual use estimates of the Metropolitan Regional Parks System and Wirth Park from 2007 to 2013.

(9) and (10) Annual Use Estimate of the Metropolitan Regional Parks System for 2013, Metropolitan Council  
(11) Metropolitan Council Regional Parks and Trails Survey, 2008

**Where Do MPRB Visitors Come From?**

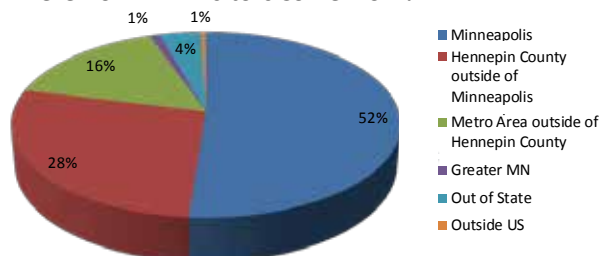


Figure 32. Metropolitan Council visitor data.  
(may not equal 100 percent due to rounding)

**Where Do Wirth Visitors Come From?**

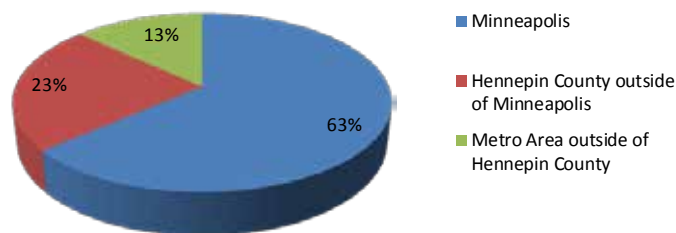


Figure 33. Metropolitan Council visitor data.  
(may not equal 100 percent due to rounding)

## Mode of Transportation to Park by Visitors

	MPRB Regional Parks and Trails Estimate	Wirth Park Responses*
Car, Truck, RV or Van	42%	90%
Walk, Run or Inline Skate	41%	3%
Bicycle	16%	3%
Other	1%	3%

Table 8. Metropolitan Council visitor data.  
(may not equal 100 percent due to rounding)

## Age of Visitors

	MPRB Regional Parks and Trails Estimate	Wirth Park Responses
12-17	1%	3%
18-24	6%	17%
25-44	32%	30%
45-64	48%	40%
65+	12%	10%
Refused	1%	n/a

Table 9. Metropolitan Council visitor data.  
(may not equal 100 percent due to rounding)

## Primary Activity of Visitors (Summer Uses)

	MPRB Regional Parks and Trails Estimate	Wirth Park Responses*
Relax	4%	30%
Picnic	2%	20%
Walk or Hike	48%	17%
Swimming	2%	17%
Fish	2%	10%
Other or refused	3%	10%
Jog or Run	14%	7%
Bike	18%	3%
Sunbathe	<1%	3%
Playground Use	1%	n/a
In-line skate	1%	n/a
Boating	<1%	n/a
Dog walking	8%	n/a

Table 10. Metropolitan Council visitor data.  
(may not equal 100 percent due to rounding)

## Race/Ethnicity

	MPRB Regional Parks and Trails Estimate	Wirth Park Responses*
White or Caucasian	89%	70%
Asian	4%	13%
Black or African-American	3%	10%
Hispanic	2%	3%
Other or declined	3%	3%

Table 11. Metropolitan Council visitor data.  
(may not equal 100 percent due to rounding)

## Gender

	MPRB Regional Parks and Trails Estimate	Wirth Park Responses*
Male	52%	50%
Female	48%	50%

Table 12. Metropolitan Council visitor data.  
(may not equal 100 percent due to rounding)

\* Note: these numbers are reflective of responses from the 2008 survey only. Sample size not large enough to draw conclusions for a full estimate of Theodore Wirth Park visitors



## Aquatics and Sand Volleyball

Demand has increased for sand volleyball following the Wirth beach improvements in 2010 and 2011. Adult sand volleyball leagues are held at four new Wirth sand volleyball courts in spring and summer session, each 10 weeks long, for 2, 4, and 6 person leagues. A total of 178 teams registered in 2013 and 222 teams in 2014.

The Wirth beach aquatics swimming area is enclosed by an arc-shaped, accessible floating boardwalk and accessible beach route. MPRB also offers swimming lessons at the new beach.

## Archery

A small, informal archery course is available across the parkway from the Chalet, next to Bassett Creek. Users bring their own equipment and targets for practice.

## Bird Watching and Nature Photography

Bird watching is popular in and around Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary (EBWG). EBWG offers public tours, special educational programs for youth, adults and families, and other group tours. The garden is designed, programmed, and maintained by staff while volunteers, particularly the Friends of the Wildflower Garden help staff the visitor shelter. The garden is open daily April 1-October 15 from 7:30 am to one hour before sunset. A variety of specialty programs are offered at EBWG including photography, medicinal plants, painting and others.

## Canoeing and Kayaking

Boat activity on Wirth is limited to non-motorized vessels (canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddle boards, water bikes, etc). The existing boat launch is closed to public trailered boats and will be removed.

## Camping

Wirth Park does not offer overnight camping. It does however offer several day camps for youth each summer.

## Cross-Country Skiing

There are up to 25 km (15 mi) of ski trails groomed for both classic and skate skiing in Wirth Park, depending on conditions. Wirth ski trails connect from North Wirth in Golden Valley all the way through the Chain of Lakes to Uptown Minneapolis. The MPRB has partnered with the Loppet Foundation to continue developing improvements to Wirth's system of ski trails, and to host major ski races and events. The MPRB has also teamed up with the Loppet Foundation and Courage Center to offer an Adaptive Cross Country Ski Program for individuals with visual impairments, or physical and/or developmental disabilities.

Levels of ski trail difficulty range from beginner to advanced. The MPRB maintains a lighted snow-making ski loop of 3.1km during the winter season. Daily or seasonal trail passes are required of all ski trail users. Ski rental and concessions are available in the Wirth Chalet building. Several special ski events are held throughout the season in Wirth Park.

## Disc Golfing

Placed alongside the Wirth Par 3 golf course, the 18 hole disc golf course features all Par 3 holes ranging from 46 to 156 yards. Tees for beginner and intermediate players are available. Players can rent golf carts and disc golf equipment from the Par 3 clubhouse. There is a Wirth disc golf league that is open to players of all abilities.

## Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary

The values of the garden include preserving native plants and plant diversity; fostering a sanctuary for people, plants, and wildlife; maintaining the legacy of Eloise Butler; connecting city residents and visitors with nature; sharing knowledge about the natural world; and nurturing the health, beauty, and integrity of the greater natural world.



Figure 34. Nature Tots program at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden.



Figure 35. Bird watching at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden.



Figure 36. Snowboarding at Wirth Park.



Figure 37. Nature photography at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden.



Figure 38. Swimming at Wirth beach.

## Environmental Programming

MPRB's Environmental Education staff coordinate and lead educational classes and tours, activities, camps, gardening, and special events in four main areas of Wirth: Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary, the Quaking Bog, the Picnic Pavilion/Wirth Lake area, and J.D. Rivers' Children's Garden.

## Fishing

Park visitors most often shore fish at Wirth Lake, particularly from the fishing pier on the east side and other locations along the shoreline. The pier is wheelchair accessible. The MN Department of Natural Resources stocks Wirth Lake with game fish. Fishing at the creek lagoon south of Hwy 55 and north of Plymouth are also popular.

## Geocaching

Geocaching utilizes global positioning system (GPS) devices or GPS-enabled smartphones to find hidden containers or geocaches. Inside are trinkets which users can take if they leave something of equal value behind. There is also a logbook to sign. With over 1 million geocaches hidden worldwide, there are a few known locations in Wirth Park, independently monitored.

## Golfing

One of the oldest designated activities in the park is golf. The 18 hole course has hosted an average of 30,500 rounds per year over the last decade, while the Par 3 course has averaged 15,000 per year (12). Total existing 18 hole yardage is 5285, while Par 3 is 1240. Wirth supports golf leagues for men, women, and seniors at both the 18 hole and Par 3 courses. Members of Wirth golf leagues also participate in weekly on-course events. MPRB offers adult and junior golf schools at Wirth. The Wirth Chalet and Par 3 buildings provide a golf shop, cart rentals and concessions.

## Off-Road Cycling

Wirth contains 7.86 miles of single track off-road cycling trail, including the Back 40 Loop, South Loop, Glenwood Spur, and new trails that opened in southwest Wirth in late 2014. The Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists group (MORC) and its local chapter, Minneapolis Off-Road Cycling Advocates (MOCA) has partnered with MPRB to design, construct, and maintain Wirth's off-road cycling trails to safe and sustainable best-practice standards. Volunteers from both organizations assist with activities. Off road cycling trails are all located west of the parkway, are defined as multi-use trails, and are also used by trail runners, hikers and snowshoers in winter.

## Orienteering

The MN Orienteering Club (MNOC) has set up three permanent orienteering courses of varying difficulty in the southern part of Wirth Park. In Wirth there is a 600 meter beginner course, a 1.8 km intermediate course, and a 3.0 km advanced course. The permanent courses start at Glenwood Avenue near the Wirth Beach parking lot. Users can purchase maps from MNOC, and can rent compasses from them. MNOC hosts special events on the course as well, where several users or teams compete.

## Cycling (Paved Trails)

An extensive trail network connects most areas of the park. The trail network links users to the Grand Rounds, the Luce Line Regional Trail, and on-street bikeway system. These trails are also used by in-line skaters, roller skiers, roller skaters, and skateboarders. Wirth bike trails are cleared of snow during the winter and shared with pedestrians.

## Picnicking

Picnicking is popular throughout Wirth, especially near Wirth Lake and the Picnic Pavilion. The Wirth Picnic

(12) MPRB golf round history data, 2014



Pavilion is a reservable space that can seat 100. Nearby are multiple picnic tables available on a first-come basis that are busy most summer weekends with large family groups and other company events. Picnic tables at Wirth Beach are located near the playground. The beach also contains accessible picnic tables located close to accessible parking spots. Additional individual picnic tables can also be found throughout Wirth Park.

## Playgrounds

The current playground, built in 2009, contains areas for children ages 2-5 and a separate area for ages 5-12. The ages 2-5 play area includes swings, sand play, a spring rocker and a boat themed play structure with ramp access to the upper level. The ages 5-12 play area is themed on the Aqua Follies stage, once located nearby on the edge of the lake. A long bench and shade structure facing the play area and looking toward the lake also recalls the bleacher seating at the Aqua Follies, a popular 1940's summer water spectacle on the shores of Wirth Lake.

## Skijoring

This activity draws a small but dedicated group of users. Skijoring is a sport where both dog and skier wear a harness and ski together, with the dog pulling from in front of the skier. Skijoring trails are available in the front 9 golf course, J.D. Rivers' Children's Garden and Wirth Lake areas. Skijoring is not allowed on other trails in Wirth because of the extra grooming maintenance required.

## Snowboarding

Wirth is home to the first snowboarding park in Minneapolis, with beginner slopes as well as advanced technical rails and jumps. This sport also benefits from the snowmaking capabilities and nighttime lighting. Both daily and seasonal passes are available, as well as

lessons, rental packages, and snowboard waxing. The snowboard park includes several types of runs at varying levels of difficulty. The snowboarding hill is located northwest of the Chalet, on the steepest slope available, with a two-rope tow.

## Snowshoeing

Snowshoeing is available on walking trails and off-road cycling trails during the winter. Snowshoe users will also be able to walk new natural surface trails. Snowshoes can be rented at the Chalet.

## Snow Tubing and Sledding

Specially-designed, easy to carry tubes are available for rent at Wirth Park, where a tow rope carries tubers to the top of the hill on the 10th fairway. Sledding is also enjoyed throughout the park.

## Trail Running

Trail running on unpaved, dirt trails is a popular activity in Wirth Park because of the park's naturalized setting and many natural surface trails including single track trails. Trail runners are compatible with mountain biking trails. They move at similar speeds and enjoy similar challenges in terrain. Volunteers help build and maintain parts of Wirth Park's trail system.

## Walking and Hiking

An extremely popular unstructured activity in Wirth is walking and hiking, including leisurely nature walks and leodog-walking. Visitors of all ages hike or walk on Wirth's paved and unpaved trails at all times of year.

## Weddings and Special Events

Weddings occur in designated locations of the park, including Wedding Hill across the parkway from the Quaking



Figure 39. Off-road cycling at Wirth Park.



Figure 40. Playground at Wirth Beach.



Figure 41. Youth horticulture program at J.D. Rivers Children's Garden.



Figure 43. Snow tubing at Wirth Park.



Figure 44. Wedding in the Wirth Chalet fireplace room.

Bog parking lot, the Chalet, and the Picnic Pavilion. Special events can be held in reservable spaces at either the Picnic Pavilion or the Chalet. The Picnic Pavilion is used for reunions, picnics, and day camps and can seat 100. Inside the Wirth Chalet a bar and grill offer food, drinks, and free wireless Internet. The Chalet's upper level/fireplace room can also be rented out for events for up to 150 guests.

### Uses Not Currently Allowed

Some uses currently not allowed in Wirth Park include horseback riding, ATV use, snowmobiling, hunting, overnight camping, and unleashed dog walking.

## Trends at Wirth Park

### Bicycling and Walking on Paved Trails

The MPRB conducted bike and pedestrian trail counts at Wirth Park and other trail locations citywide as part

of a research study with the University of Minnesota and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs (13). Research indicates that traffic volumes on trails vary seasonally, with lower usage in winter, and that weekend traffic generally exceeds weekday traffic. Peak hour traffic typically occurs in the early evening during weekdays, while hourly traffic is more even and without peaks on weekends. The trail counts at Wirth indicate that there are more trips on weekends than on weekdays during all months except May. Figure 44 depicts average adjusted daily count from January to December. Trail traffic in Wirth reaches its highest level in July and August

### Golfing

The National Golf Foundation has indicated that beginning in 2006, more golf courses closed than opened each year through 2013 (14). When revenue declines, maintenance is sometimes deferred, further reducing the ability to draw customers. In addition, cold climate courses like those in Minneapolis have only 165 playable days of golf per year, further reducing playability and profitability. MPRB is currently studying

innovative options for increasing visitation at all of its golf courses, including at Wirth Park. For example, in 2014 MPRB introduced "foot golf," a cross between soccer and golf at three golf courses. If successful it may be offered at Wirth in the future.

### Cross-Country Skiing

Over the last several years, Wirth Park winter recreational programming has increased. This is, in part, due to the work of the Loppet Foundation (formerly known as the City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation). The Foundation began by coordinating the City of Lakes Loppet, a cross-country ski race from Wirth through the Chain of Lakes to Uptown. This race has since evolved into a weekend-long, urban winter celebration, with 10,000 registered skiers and many more spectators. The Loppet Foundation has also spun off a suite of year-round race events centered on Wirth Park as well as children's programming to grow skiing, trail running, canoeing, kayaking and mountain biking.

In addition, organized ski groups use Wirth winter trails extensively.

(13) "UMN/MPRB Joint Trail Traffic Study 2011 Summary", MPRB, June 2012. A model for trail traffic volume was measured using Trail Master infrared trail monitors, installed in December, 2010 on various park properties, including Theodore Wirth Parkway. These trail monitors count each time an infrared beam is broken by a passer-by, and cannot differentiate between bikers and pedestrians. The U of MN and MPRB team did a manual validation of the trail monitors by conducting field counts, because the trail monitors generally undercount about 15% of users due to various factors. The trail traffic counts do not represent separate individual trips and are not estimated park visitation rates, but are an accurate measure to use in modeling annual trail traffic at Wirth for park management purposes.

(14) Dashboard, The National Golf Foundation, Jan 2014 and [www.golfblogger.com](http://www.golfblogger.com), accessed Oct 2014.



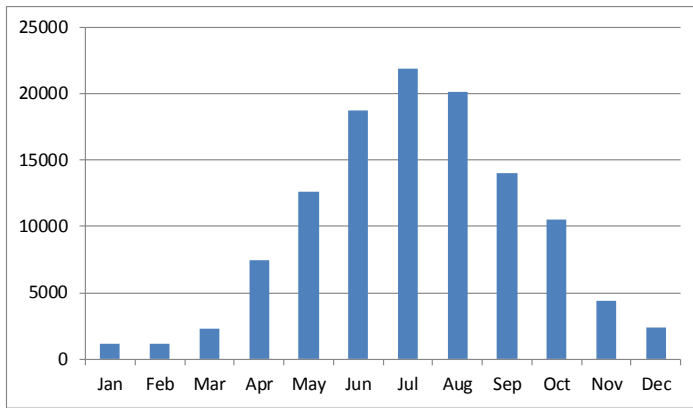


Figure 44. Average adjusted daily trail user count at Wirth Park.



Figure 45. Cross-country skiers in Wirth Park Minne-Loppet.

Loppet Nordic Racing-Winter has more than 5 different groups with over 150 participants; Loppet Ski Club recreational group has over 100 participants; Sisu (a Saint Paul-based organization that trains at Wirth) has 50 members; Minnesota Youth Ski League has 250 youth participating at Wirth (the biggest chapter in the state); and area high school ski teams have 500-800 participants a day using the snow-making trail during low-snow years (15).

### Off-Road Cycling

There is growing participation in off-road cycling in Wirth Park. Much effort has been invested in existing trails and trail planning by representatives of MOCA and MORC, and MPRB staff. With heavy support of local bike advocates, off-road cycling at Wirth has been increasing in popularity, particularly as improvements are made to trails. In addition, a new Minnesota High School League for Mountain biking began in 2012 (16). There is currently no practice location within the city. Off-road cycling trails are actually designated by MPRB as multi-use, and used on occasion by trail runners and hikers.

### Trail Running

There is increasing interest in unpaved trail running at Wirth. The Trail (Run) Loppet is a summer event with growing participation. In 2007 there were 150 runners. This has increased to 1600 participants in 2013 and is often at maximum capacity and turning away interested participants. The Tri Loppet is a paddle-trail run- mountain bike triathlon, which had 600 participants in 2013 and also drives the demand for trail running. There are several adult running clubs using Wirth, including the Loppet Run Club which has 60 participants, and the Surly Club which is at capacity filling three sessions with 50 participants per session.

### Environmental Education

Environmental education programs in the Minneapolis park system are very popular. Residents and park visitors have expressed interest in a variety of programming and day camps focused on developing outdoor recreation skills (canoeing, camping, orienteering) and education (natural resource protection, plant identification, gardening, beekeeping). Interests vary among participants; some are also interested in

nature play areas and ropes courses. The Quaking Bog, Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, Picnic Pavilion and J.D. Rivers Children's Garden are well-suited to offer educational programs for youth and adults to gain immersive, hands-on experiences in nature identification, history, gardening, nature play and natural resources protection.

### Other Trends

Several other recreation trends may already have had an impact on Wirth Park. These include the interest in off-leash recreation areas, disc golf, extreme races such as triathlons, paddle boarding, outdoor fitness classes (yoga, boot camp), activities for a range of ages, technology in parks (GPS, geocaching, QR codes) and destination restaurant venues.

(15) The Loppet Foundation, 2013

(16) Minnesota High School Cycling League, Official Project of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA)

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# V. CULTURAL RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP

Background  
Historic Significance  
Cultural Resources Inventory  
Managing Cultural Resources  
Recommendations



# Background

## Early Vision

When Theodore Wirth arrived in Minneapolis as superintendent of the park system in 1906, he was immediately drawn to the potential of the land in and surrounding the future Wirth Park (then Glenwood Park). He told the park commissioners: “If Minneapolis grows to build up the entire territory within the corporate city limits, a large park of this size and character will be needed.” Wirth later reflected: “The topographical contour and many natural attractions of those beautiful wooded hills and open country along the western city limits, as well as the possibilities offered for charming water landscape through the Bassett’s Creek Valley, impressed me as affording splendid opportunity for the development of an extensive natural park.” (17)

## Parkway and Viewsheds

An important part of the park would be a parkway that traversed it south to north. This would form a critical link in the parkway system of the Grand Rounds, which was designed to highlight “the many priceless natural and scenic attractions that were still unspoiled within the city limits.” Both Wirth and Horace Cleveland were influenced by renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, who is credited with coining the term “parkway.” Cleveland had worked with Olmsted in the 1860s and Wirth began his professional career in the United States working at Central Park in New York, Olmsted’s most prominent design. Parkway were seen as an antidote to the increasing congestion and pollution of urban areas in the nineteenth century. They were a way of “extending the benefits of nature throughout the urban fabric” by mimicking the countryside, particularly its “traditional vernacular roadways.”

Glenwood Parkway was still under construction in 1910 when the Minneapolis Tribune anticipated that it would provide a “revelation [for] most people who will pass over it for the first time when it is completed. The natural picturesque features along this driveway, winding its way in easy curves along the steep and wooded banks and along the shores of the small, land-locked lake in Glenwood Park, mounting to the heights on easy grades through finely wooded gently rolling glens will be fascinating and a source of pleasure to all who enjoy nature’s handiwork.”

The parkway has historically provided the vistas that are most associated with the park. Its layout respected the park’s assets rather than forging through them. From the south, the wooded banks west of Birch Pond were preserved by constructing the parkway with fill obtained from the vicinity, thus allowing a picturesque view of that body of water. The parkway continued along the west edge of Glenwood Lake, the park’s largest water feature. As the parkway crossed over Sixth Avenue (Highway 55), its path became curvier, allowing sweeping views of the park and beyond.

Wirth maintained an interest in preserving the park’s picturesque views and natural character design even after he retired. In 1941, for example, he was somewhat displeased about the move of the Aquatennial’s Aqua Follies from Cedar Lake to Wirth Lake. Although conceding that this was “a more satisfactory and attractive setting,” he was concerned about the intrusions of the grandstand and pool on the lake’s east shore and felt that “some modification of the layout, and especially the diving towers, should be made to tone down



Figure 46. Theodore Wirth.

the obstructive aspect of the feature and blend it into the natural landscape of lake and woodland.”

Not all of the roads through the park are under the park board’s control today, but some, such as Highway 55, also have noteworthy views into and through the park. It originally traversed Glenwood Lake (Wirth Lake) by means of a wood bridge when the park was established. By the early 1920s, traffic had become so heavy that the Board of Park Commissioners voted to remove the bridge and replace it with “a road skirting the lake along the edge of the golf links.” The traffic has continued to increase, and Highway 55 is now the busiest road through the park. Although the views from the highway were not carefully designed, like those on the parkway, they have become iconic to the drivers passing through.

(17) Quotes in this section from “Minneapolis Park System 1883-1944”, Theodore Wirth, 1946





Figure 47. Sketch club at Glenwood Park, in 1924.



Figure 48. Ski jumping in Wirth Park.



Figure 49. Glenwood baths.

## Buildings

Historic buildings are located throughout the park. Those constructed prior to 1935 were carefully sited by Wirth himself. The Chalet, which is the focal point of the golf course, became the inspiration for the buildings constructed after it in the golf course. Although the nearby Tool House is sited out of general public view and is more modest in scale, design and function, it references stylistic elements of the Chalet, thereby creating a significant relationship between the buildings and the landscape. The Chalet was already forty years old when architects Armstrong and Schlichting designed the Modernist Par 3 Golf Clubhouse, but they also referenced its design. The Par 3 Clubhouse's exterior walls of polychromatic, cut stone mimic the Chalet's first story of Saint Cloud granite, and the exposed rafter ends and shallow gable roof also play off of the Chalet's design.

In South Wirth, the design of the 1930 Picnic Pavilion, which is Spanish Colonial Revival in style, complemented the 1919 Wirth Beach House (since replaced), which users would see while using the pavilion.



Figure 50. Eloise Butler's office in the wild botanic garden.

## Landscape

In 1925, Carl Sauer introduced the term “cultural landscape” in his text *The Morphology of Landscape*. His term defines a relationship where culture is the agent, the natural area is the medium, and the cultural landscape is the result. Wirth Park contains a unique, rolling terrain developed and utilized for natural resource-related recreation. While the natural qualities of the area drew Theodore Wirth to this land, it is important to understand that much of what we now enjoy as the park has been designed and engineered to better serve aesthetic and functional needs. The natural water bodies, topography and vegetation have all been modified through great effort and expense to achieve the aesthetic qualities that are now so integral to the character of the park and considered a cultural landscape.

An indication of the amount of these changes can be seen on the natural resources soils map, figure 70 in chapter 6. This map shows major portions of the park now are considered ‘anthropogenic soils,’ which means that these areas had significant grading and are not intact native soil profiles. In fact, there is likely a greater extent of anthropogenic soils in the park than shown on this map.

## Historic Significance

Wirth Park is a contributing element of the Grand Rounds Historic District, which has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as a cultural landscape with a period of significance extending from 1884 to 1942. The nomination is still in draft form and will be considered by the Minnesota Historical Society’s State Review Board in 2015. If this designation is approved by the National Park Service, the system will be officially listed in the NRHP. The State Historic Preservation Office has also determined that Wirth Park is individually eligible for the National Register, but it has not been individually nominated and a period of significance specific to the park has not been established. Proposed projects affecting properties that are listed, or determined eligible for listing, in the NRHP are subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act if the project involves federal funds or permitting. Any work must conform to The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties to avoid having an adverse effect. NRHP designation might allow capital projects to qualify for certain types of funding.

## Cultural Resources Inventory

Cultural resources in Wirth Park have been inventoried. See Table 13 for general descriptions, dates, and significant renovation(s). The following are definitions of categories included in the inventory which relate to stewardship planning for the park.

### Cultural Landscape

According to the Secretary of the Interior, a cultural landscape is “a geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein), associated with an historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values. There are four general types of cultural landscapes, which are not mutually exclusive: historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, and ethnographic landscapes.” The park as a cultural landscape also includes archaeological and above-ground built resources, which can be categorized in the same general groups as above.



Figure 51. Wirth Chalet.



## Features

A “feature” can be the smallest element of a landscape, whether it be a designed landscape, archaeological or above ground historic [built] resource that contributes to the significance and that can be the subject of a treatment intervention. A feature is “contributing” to the historic designation if it was built during the era of significance (1884-1942) and is intact from that era. An official determination of contributing features in Wirth Park has not yet been completed as of the date of this publication. Although many features have been determined eligible for the NRHP, it is a draft and is not yet public. Features which are contributing may receive special protection after a nomination is approved. Those which are not contributing are not considered significant under the designation. The inventory identifies those that are “potentially contributing.”



Figure 52. Dog sledding in Wirth Park, in 1929.

### Above-Ground Built Features

Above-ground built features are those most commonly thought of as “historic features” such as buildings and monuments. Above-ground built features still exist in a relatively functional state, are visible, and are not ruins. They include buildings, designed outdoor spaces, engineered structures (such as bridges), monuments, site furnishings and other user amenities that create habitable spaces in the park.

### Archeological Features

Archeological features preserve evidence of human use and development of the park from times of pre-contact, through today. Periods include pre-contact, European immigrant settlement, early agriculture, urban development and early park development that consists of elements which may no longer exist above ground. Some sites have layers of resources that include both archaeological and above-ground built resources. Some also have different types of importance. Archaeology surveys may be protected data, which by law is not allowed to be released to the public in order to protect the resources involved.

### Designed Landscape Features

Theodore Wirth was well known for his great earthwork projects as parks were shaped out of raw land. Important components of the park landscape have been designed and constructed to make these spaces more suitable for park use (see sidebar for examples).

### Ethnographic Resources

Any of the above-listed features can also be identified as an ethnographic resource. In addition to being historically significant in-and-of itself, a feature that is also an ethnographic resource has cultural meaning to the people traditionally associated with it. Anthropologists work with these groups to identify and understand ethnographic resources.

**Designed Landscape Features represented some of the most iconic landscapes of the park today, such as:**

- Wirth Lake shoreline was dredged and picnic areas nearby were filled to reduce wetlands and add more usable upland areas. Sand was hauled into the shallow, muddy-bottomed lake to create its beach.
- Bassett Creek was initially a small meandering stream through the park. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Works Progress Administration (WPA) crews completed work in the area, a series of large, languid lagoons had been dredged and the adjacent floodplains filled to become the front nine holes of the golf course.
- The “Back 40” has a beautiful tall-grass prairie at its center but it is a relatively recent restoration from about 1980. Prior to park acquisition, it was farmland.
- Vegetation in the Quaking Bog has not only been actively managed, but it was also the site of an (infamous) tuberculosis camp (TB camp) where children with this communicable disease were isolated.
- The Parkway roadway and trail curves were aligned to highlight the changes in topography, and they were also planted with large groupings of evergreens (not native to the park’s oak savannah) to heighten the experience of wildness. Evergreens likely reminded Theodore Wirth of his native Switzerland. To visitors today, they may evoke the north woods of Minnesota. Regardless, they take visitors away from the city as they travel along the parkway, creating a unique and memorable visitor experience that is distinct to Wirth Park.

No.	Feature	Date	Feature Type	Potentially Contributing?	Description
1	Theodore Wirth Regional Park	1889 – 1917	Cultural Landscape	Yes (some exclusions are detailed below)	Theodore Wirth Regional Park (originally Glenwood Park) was added to the Minneapolis Park system as a way to provide park amenities for residents in the northwest areas of the city. Wirth showed particular interest in the park which reminded him of his Swiss homeland due to its topography, which is unlike much of the rest of the city.
2	Forty-fifth Parallel Boulder	1916	Above Ground Built	Yes	The pink granite boulder, located at the intersection of Wirth Parkway and Golden Valley Road, was placed in 1917 as a “point of geographical interest” to mark the Forty-fifth Parallel, the point halfway between the equator and the North Pole. The plaque was replaced in the late 1990s due to theft.
3	Great Northern Railroad Bridge	1988–1991	Above Ground Built	No	The bridge on the parkway crosses the Great Northern railroad tracks near Golden Valley Road and replaced a previous steel structure.
4	WPA Bridge (creek/ parkway)	1940	Above Ground Built	Yes	Constructed by WPA crews, the Saint Cloud granite-faced, seam-faced concrete culvert bridge which matches the Chalet exterior carries Wirth Parkway over Bassett Creek north of the Chalet.
5	Winter Recreation Area	1889, and other	Archeological, Designed Landscape	Yes	The park was a winter recreation attraction from its inception, host to sledding, ice skating and a ski club, particularly near the lake and later the Wirth Chalet. During the winter of 1923-24, the Glenwood Park ski jump hosted the Northwest Ski Tournament, the National Ski Meet, and the United States Olympic Ski trials. The ski jumps do not exist above ground, though some landscape signature shows where they were and below ground structure may exist. The run out for the jump exists on the 10th fairway.
6	Theodore Wirth Chalet and Clubhouse	1922	Above Ground Built	Yes (exterior), Partial (interior)	The focal point of Wirth Park, the Chalet’s design was based on a model of a chalet the Wirths brought home from their honeymoon in Switzerland in 1895. Designed by architects Magney and Tusler, it is faced in Saint Cloud granite. Construction on the Chalet as a golf clubhouse began in 1922 and a second story was added in 1923 and was used overtime as the residence for the golf course superintendent. Around this same time, Wirth had groups of evergreen trees planted along the parkway to lend to the feeling of a Swiss village.
7	Tool House Building	1930	Above Ground Built	Yes *	Howard H. Eads designed a tool house building to complement the Chalet’s “Swiss type of architecture.” Furnished with an office and service and repair bays, it was built to house and serve as repair and maintenance space for the entire park. It is today largely as it was built.
8	Parkway Landscape Plantings (Evergreens)	1920s - 30s	Designed Landscape	Yes	Around the time the Chalet was completed, Wirth had extensive groups of evergreen trees planted along the parkway to lend to the feeling of a Swiss village.
9	Theodore Wirth Statue Garden	2007	Above Ground Built	No	Designed to commemorate Wirth’s removal of his predecessor’s “keep off the grass” policies, the bronze sculptures situated in front of the Chalet depicts the superintendent with four playing children. The sculptures were a gift from the Minneapolis Parks Legacy Society.

Table 13. Cultural resources inventory for Wirth Park.



Figure 53. Fishing, in 1940.



Figure 54. Parkway paths.



# Location of Cultural Resources Within Wirth Park

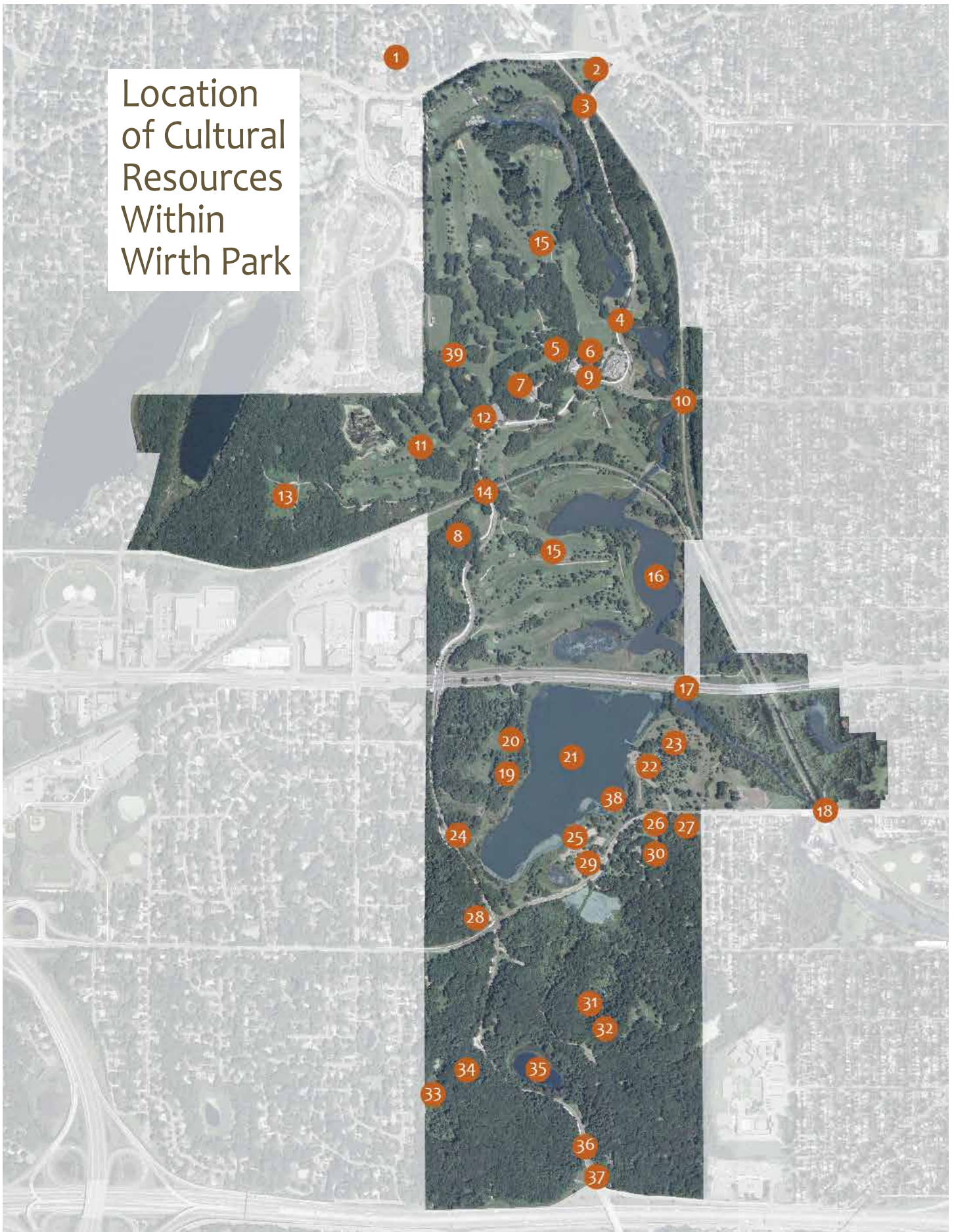


Figure 55. Cultural resource locations in Wirth Park. Numbers indicate approximate locations and correspond to items listed in Table 13.

No.	Feature	Date	Feature Type	Potentially Contributing?	Description
10	Plymouth Avenue Bridge	1930, 2006	Above Ground Built	No	The six-span, reinforced-concrete slab bridge carries Plymouth Avenue over the BNSF railroad tracks. The timber-pile bridge was replaced by a reinforced-concrete structure in 1930 which was then substantially renovated in 2006.
11	Par 3 Golf Course	1961–1962	Designed Landscape	No	Designed from a small, unused area west of the parkway, on the recently acquired “back 40”, the course was designed by Park Board landscape architect Arnold Andreassen
12	Par 3 Golf Course Clubhouse	1961–1962	Above Ground Built	No	Built in conjunction with the Par 3 golf course, the one-story, 28’ x 50’ clubhouse was designed by Minneapolis architects Armstrong and Schlichting.
13	The Back 40	1952 -56, and 1960s	Designed Landscape	No	Efforts to restore this area to a thriving prairie began in the 1980s. The site had been farm pasture prior to park acquisition in the 1950s.
14	Luce Line Bridge	1990	Above Ground Built	No	The concrete slab bridge, which carries the parkway over the Luce Line, was constructed in 1990 and replaced an earlier structure.
15	Theodore Wirth Golf Course	1916–1994	Above Ground Built, Designed Landscape	Partial	Opened with nine holes designed by Charley Erickson in 1916, Glenwood (Wirth) was the first public golf course in the park system and the city. It contained clay tees and sand greens. In 1919, it was expanded to eighteen holes. In 1935, the Bassett Creek lagoons were constructed, sediment dredged from the lagoons was used on the golf course, and the sand greens were converted to grass and irrigation was first installed with assistance from the WPA. The first two seasons it was open, rounds were free of charge and the course had a temporary warming house and one instructor. Areas of the golf course were redesigned in the 1960s and 1990s. William Clark is credited with designing the second nine holes. The 18-hole course is the oldest public course in Minnesota.
16	Bassett Creek Lagoons	1935–1937	Designed Landscape	Yes	Bassett Creek and its original wetland floodplain drew Wirth to acquire it for the park. Lagoons on the golf course were first designed and proposed in 1913 by Theodore Wirth himself to transform swampland into dry upland areas and wetland lagoons, thereby expanding potential for the park. It took years to fund and construct the lagoons. During the Great Depression in 1933 construction was funded by the U.S. Civil Works Administration. It continued in 1935 with the assistance of the Civilian Conservation Corps and National Park Service, and was completed in 1938 by the Works Progress Administration. The creek bed was widened to create a series of eight lagoons between Glenwood (Wirth) Lake and Nineteenth Avenue North (Golden Valley Road), turning 63 acres of swampland into dry golf course and naturalized lagoons.
17	State Hwy 55 Bridge	1947, 1987–1988	Above Ground Built	No	The bridge is composed of a pair of concrete box culverts, the southern ends of which are faced in limestone. Originally constructed in 1947, the bridge was altered in 1987–1988 when the north ends of the culverts were rebuilt.
18	Glenwood Avenue Bridge	1982	Above Ground Built	No	Spanning Bassett Creek, the five-span, pre-cast channel-beam structure was constructed in 1982 and replaced an earlier structure.

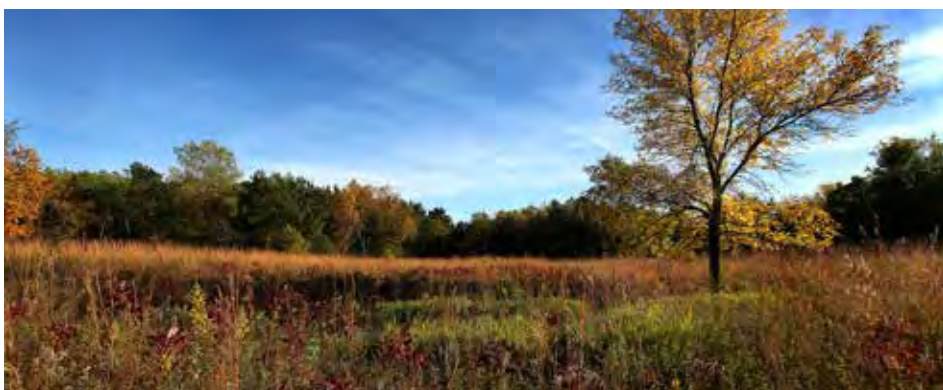


Figure 56. Back 40 restored prairie.



Figure 57. Lagoon F.



No.	Feature	Date	Feature Type	Potentially Contributing?	Description
19	Keegan/Schell Farmstead	pre- 1909	Archeological	Yes *	The Schell Farm was the original farm homestead on the west side of the lake. Several of its buildings were reused after it was purchased and used as the park board nursery. One building remains on the site, a concrete earth sheltered structure.
20	MPRB Nursery	1909-1980	Archeological, Above Ground Built, Designed Landscape	Partial	With the purchase of the old Schell Farm on the western side of Wirth Lake, a 20-acre nursery was established which provided the entire park system with trees and plants. A resident horticulturalist lived in the improved farmhouse on site. Scattered atypical trees from the nursery era can be found in the now wooded areas on the west side of the lake.
21	Theodore Wirth Lake	1909	Designed Landscape, Archeological	Partial	The largest water body in the park (38 acres) was also named after the former Superintendent, having its name changed from Keegan's Lake to Glenwood Lake in 1890, and finally to Wirth Lake in 1938. It was acquired by the Park Board in 1909 and a bathing beach was built there in 1916, with the original bath house built in 1918. Since its acquisition in 1909, the park board has undertaken extensive dredging work along the lake, with sediment used to raise and improve parkland near Glenwood Avenue. Sand was brought in from outside the park system to construct Wirth beach. Following its inaugural at Cedar Lake, the Aquatennial Festival was held at Wirth Lake from 1941-1964. The Aqua Follies – a diving extravaganza began in the second Aquatennial, and included a pool sculpted out of the Wirth Lake shoreline, diving towers, and a grandstand stadium to seat large crowds on the SE shore of the lake. The lake has been a popular picnic location since it was purchased.
22	Germania Brewery	1885-1900	Archeological	Yes *	Located east of Wirth Lake in the current picnic area. It was one of the four breweries that merged to become Grain Belt Brewing Company in 1890. It included a beer garden.
23	Finnish-American Monument	1958	Above Ground Built (ethnographic)	No	Situated on a hillside in the picnic grounds east of Wirth Lake, the monument of red Minnesota granite was placed by the local Finnish-American community to commemorate their presence in the local neighborhoods. They were also instrumental in bringing ski jumping into the park.
24	Loring Cascade	1917	Archeological, Above-Ground Built	Yes	Designed and constructed by artist Francois Scotti, the large, naturalistic outdoor sculpture originally had a waterfall cascading down concrete rocks. The Cascade was a gift to the park board from Charles Loring, first president of the Board, and was modeled on similar waterfalls Loring had seen in California. Craftsmen created boulders of steel mesh and concrete, and the area was planted with Alpine-style plantings similar to those close to the Chalet. The naturalized scene was unusual for its time, when monuments were typically formal and classical. By the end of Wirth's tenure the Cascade was in disrepair. During the 1970s, the Eckbo plan changed the height of parkway's roadbed along the west side of Wirth Lake, concealing and destroying a boulder with a plaque naming the Cascade.
25	Wirth Lake Beach	1916–2011	Designed Landscape	Partial	In its early days, it was one of the most popular beaches in the system. The beach remains but has had significant renovations between 2005 and 2013 which may reduce its significance.



Figure 58. Par 3 clubhouse.

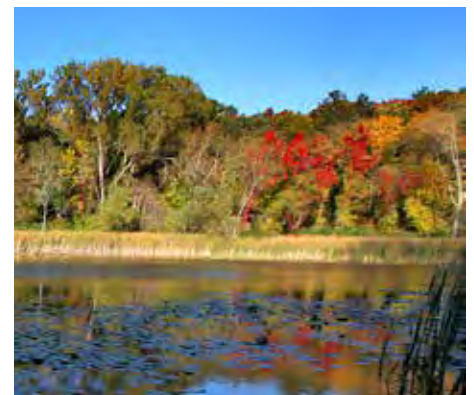


Figure 59. Wirth Lake.

No.	Feature	Date	Feature Type	Potentially Contributing?	Description
26	Heckrich Saloon	1860-1906	Archeological (ethnographic)	Yes *	Located to the east of Wirth Lake near the Germania Brewery site.
27	Glenwood Line Streetcar Shelter	1937 - present	Above Ground Built	Yes	Believed to be built by WPA crews as the terminal stop on the Glenwood Line, the open-air structure is the only extant streetcar building within the Grand Rounds.
28	Great Medicine Spring	Pre-settlement	Archeological (ethnographic)	Undetermined	Also referred to as "Big Medicine Spring." Located near the intersection of Glenwood and Theodore Wirth Parkway. Was of importance to local Dakota and Ojibwe people for its perceived healing virtues.
29	Wirth Lake Beach House	2004	Above Ground Built	No	Constructed in 2004, the current beach house is the fourth beach house at Wirth Lake and was designed to reference the nearby Wirth Picnic Pavilion.
30	Picnic Pavilion	1930	Above Ground Built	Yes	Situated at the top of a hill to overlook Wirth Lake, the Spanish Colonial Revival style picnic pavilion was designed by Harold Eads and equipped with a variety of amenities. Rehabilitation completed in 2013 followed Secretary of Interior Standards. It included rehabilitation of the restrooms and kitchen, and mechanical systems while preserving important details of the rest of the building, especially the exterior.
31	Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary	1907	Designed Landscape	Yes (garden)	Three acres of what is now the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden was first fenced in 1907, and called at the time the "Natural Botanical Garden." The now fifteen-acre site showcases plant collections of the native flora of Minnesota. Situated between Birch Pond and Wirth Lake, it is named after its first curator and one of the people who petitioned for its creation. Eloise Butler was a botany instructor in Minneapolis Public Schools who used Wirth Park as an experiential learning outdoor classroom. It was renamed after Butler in 1929 to honor her tenure and her early request to set aside part of the park for students of botany and nature-lovers. The garden also was designated as a bird sanctuary in 1969. The Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary is the oldest public wildflower garden in the US.
32	Martha E. Crone Visitors Shelter	1969-1970	Above Ground Built	No	The small, one-story, frame building was named after Martha E. Crone, the curator who succeeded Eloise Butler. It was designed by architect H.H. Livingston and funded by the Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc.
33	Quaking Bog	1907-1913	Cultural Landscape	Yes (landscape feature), No (boardwalk)	The Quaking Bog is a five acre tamarack peat bog located west of Birch Pond and near the western edge of the park. The bog is unusual this far south, and is managed by MPRB to retain bog vegetation. A floating boardwalk was installed in 1986.
34	TB Camp	1920	Archeological	Yes	Located near the Quaking Bog in the southwest area of the park, this site was the location of a Visiting Nurses Association children's rest camp used during the tuberculosis outbreak of the early 20th century. It has not been determined if resources still exist from this feature. This feature may be the "Fresh Air Camp" mentioned in a 1914 Board Report.



Figure 60. Martha E. Crone Visitors Shelter.



Figure 61. Glenwood Line Streetcar Shelter.



No.	Feature	Date	Feature Type	Potentially Contributing?	Description
35	Birch Pond	1889	Cultural Landscape	Yes	Originally known as “Devil’s Glen,” or “Devil’s Mirror” Birch Pond was included in the original land acquisition for the park. The native birches found along its edge are the source of its name. The pond water level has been supported by a well.
36	Theodore Wirth Parkway	1889–1973	Designed Landscape	Partial	The first parkway was built through the park in 1890, spearheaded by William Folwell, and inspired by Horace W. Cleveland’s 1883 proposal for a system of connected parks and parkways circling the city. The 3.5-mile-long parkway begins at Interstate 394 and winds through Wirth Park, linking the Grand Rounds park system and providing sweeping views of topography and natural features of the park. Mass evergreen tree groupings were also planted by Wirth along the parkway, enhancing the Swiss concept for the park, which is also reflected in some of the early park architecture. Segments west of Wirth Lake and between Hwy 55 and the Luce line railroad bridge and in front of the Wirth Chalet have been re-aligned during the 1970 Eckbo era redo.
37	Victory Memorial Drive Boulder	1921	Above Ground Built	Yes	The pink granite boulder and plaque marks the south end of what was the original south end of Victory Memorial Drive.
38	Aqua Folies site	1941	Archeological (ethnographic)	No	An in-lake “pool”, diving towers, and grandstand were constructed on the shore of Wirth Lake for the Aqua Follies as part of 1941 Aquatennial celebration.
39	CCC camp	1938-1945	Archeological (ethnographic)	No	The National Park Service and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed “winter barracks” in the hills west of Wirth Chalet for Company 776: a group of 225 workers in from North Dakota who constructed the park’s lagoons. It consisted of cabins and communal buildings, and was shown on an early survey.

*\* Sites identified with an asterisk were identified as likely to be eligible by consultants to MPRB during fieldwork in 2008.*



Figure 62. Wirth Picnic Pavilion.

# Managing Cultural Resources

The Secretary of the Interior established standards and guidelines for the preservation of cultural resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties offer four distinct approaches to the treatment of historic properties—preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. The Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties illustrate the practical application of each treatment. The Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes apply the treatment standards to historic cultural landscapes. The standards are series of concepts about maintaining, repairing, and replacing historic materials, as well as designing new additions or making alterations. The guidelines are advisory and offer general design and technical recommendations to assist in applying the standards to a specific property. Together, they provide a framework and guidance for decision-making about work or changes to a historic property.

**Preservation** focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time.

**Rehabilitation** acknowledges the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character.

**Restoration** reconstructs a property at a particular period of time in its history, while removing evidence of other periods.

**Reconstruction** re-creates vanished or non-surviving portions of a property for interpretive purposes.

The standards and guidelines can be applied to historic properties of all types, materials, construction, sizes, and use. They include both the exterior and the interior and extend to a property's landscape features, site, environment, as well as related new construction. A decision on the appropriate treatment should consider the integrity of the original features, the amount of historic material that survives, and the intended reuse.

# Recommendations

Based on the cultural resources research on Theodore Wirth Regional Park, it is suggested that planning and management of the park's cultural resources should concentrate on the following:

- **Primarily adopt the “rehabilitation” treatment, as defined by the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, for cultural resources within Theodore Wirth Regional Park:** Given the need to protect the cultural resources and adapt to changing park needs, the rehabilitation treatment is recommended for most resources within the park. Although rehabilitation allows alterations to Wirth Park, it is important to define areas where there are special concerns that may require a different treatment. The key to determining areas of special concern is the designated period of significance for the park.
- **Use the Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes for cultural landscapes within the park to guide redevelopment maintenance and repair of park features:** Given the



Figure 63. Wirth Beach House.



Figure 64. Wirth toolshed.



historical importance of the cultural landscapes, including vistas and other viewsheds, the guidelines will help protect the landscape that has become associated with the park over the decades.

- **Use Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties as a guide for buildings to guide design development and operations strategies:** The careful consideration that has been given to the design of the buildings in the park over time underscores the importance that Wirth and his successors placed on the visual cohesiveness of the landscape itself.
- **Incorporate interpretive themes into outdoor education programming of the regional park:** Learning about the archaeology and history of Theodore Wirth Regional Park can help deepen the park experience by fostering a connection with the past, thereby enhancing a sense of ownership for people who use the park. Themes the park's resources address include:

## Native American Settlement

Bringing to life stories and daily living experiences of native people at the site of the Great Medicine Spring can add meaning which enriches our

understanding of native cultures. Seeing the spring in an historic context and telling its story in consultation with people of local native communities honors this feature and its significance.

## Early Agriculture and Horticulture

Additional interpretation on the west side of the lake can document the Keegan/Schell Farmstead and Park Board nursery. Themes there could include the Schell Family, what the farm produced, how it was run, all of which predate the park. The park board's tree nursery that subsequently occupied the vicinity is of interest to park historians and those interested in horticulture. Also of interest is the Linde Nursery on the current picnic grounds.

## Transportation

The Glenwood streetcar line was petitioned to extend into the park by city residents eager to get out to nature. Picnicking was then a huge draw for weekend relaxation, the Wirth Lake beach added another component for leisure bathing which was also very popular. Once common, this is now the only existing streetcar shelter, and it remains in its original location, though the tracks have been removed. Streetcars

were once the lifeblood of the city and a primary force for the city development. People used them for work, but also for leisure travel. Connecting lines to Wirth Park, Lake Harriet and Lakes Minnetonka and White Bear made the Twin Cities a wonderful work/play setting.

## Industrial Archaeology

The Germania Brewery was once a mammoth brew house, sited near the lake to allow use of ice to keep product cool, yet during this expansive period for industry, it only lasted just over a decade before disappearing from view (above ground). The brewery, nearby saloon, and beer garden are a compelling story, linked to the central riverfront breweries, caves and saloons there through common ownership and industry.

## Theodore Wirth and His Impact on the Parks

Many people are not familiar with the important role that Theodore Wirth played in the development of the city's park system and his national influence on parks and recreation. It would be appropriate to interpret that legacy in the park that was named in his honor. The interpretation could provide information on several subthemes:



Figure 65. Bassett Creek at Theodore Wirth golf course.

- **Wirth and Park Design:** While contemporary landscape architects tried to duplicate the local rural landscape around cities, Wirth incorporated elements of his Swiss homeland into the landscape, such as in the Swiss chalet architecture of the golf clubhouse, which is the focal point of the park.

- **Wirth as a System-Builder:** Three years after Wirth retired as superintendent, the park board passed a resolution to change Glenwood Park's name to Theodore Wirth Park to commemorate his work on the park system. His achievements were also recognized on a national level when he was awarded the American Scenic and Historical Preservation Society's Cornelius Amory Pugsley Silver Medal. His work continues to be acknowledged by contemporary landscape architects and others.

- **Playing Favorites—Glenwood Park:** During his tenure as superintendent of parks, Wirth paid particular attention to Glenwood (Wirth) Park. The size of the park increased tenfold. Wirth imagined it as the Minneapolis equivalent to Central Park in New York. It was site of the city's and park system's first golf course and held unique places sponsored by Wirth, such as the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and the hand-dug Bassett Creek lagoons.

## Golf at Glenwood Park

Wirth Park is the “the birthplace of municipal golf in the city’s park system.” As early as 1908, the park board was examining the park as a site for “a great people’s park where riding, driving, and golf grounds free to the public may be made possible.” Established in 1916, the golf course was extremely popular and was open to more groups than private courses. In 1939, it held the first of many Minnesota Negro Open golf tournaments.

Acknowledgement of the park’s groundbreaking role in making golf available to the public, describing the evolution of the course, the Par 3 course, and related facilities are important facets of this story.

## Wirth Lake and Beach

Over the past decade, Wirth Beach has undergone numerous improvements, beginning with the construction of a new beach house in late 2004 (the third beach house, replacing a structure from 1957, which was preceded by the first beach house constructed in 1918). The area offers an opportunity to interpret the history of the nearby Aqua Follies.

## The “People’s Park”

From its earliest days, Glenwood Park was touted as a “people’s park.” Various local groups have felt a close connection to the park, evidence of this is the Finnish-American monument in the picnic grounds. German-Americans enjoyed the site of the Germania Brewery and gardens, once adjacent to the park and later incorporated into it. Jewish residents of North Minneapolis also used the park as a family gathering place.

African-Americans readily use portions of the park and it was the site of the annual Juneteenth celebration for many years. Interpretation focusing on the various groups that have used the park could tell its history through their stories. This could also encourage current park users to relate to that narrative and take a personal interest its future.



Figure 66. Loring Cascade.



Figure 67. Aqua Follies at Wirth Lake, in 1957.





# VI. NATURAL RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP

Background  
Inventory and Existing Conditions  
Natural Resource Analysis  
Recommendations



## Background

Historically, native plant communities were self-sustaining. They rejuvenated through natural disturbances such as fire, water and flood. This resulted in a plant community with patches of differing successional stages in a large scale mosaic with a diversity of habitats and species.

After European settlement began, natural disturbance regimes were reduced or stopped. People understandably put out fires threatening their homes. Larger scale landscapes were introduced with farm crops. Invasive species were introduced. Livestock grazing maintained some areas similar to savannah, but they quickly changed to forest when grazing stopped. Today, plant community rejuvenation in urban parks like Wirth requires active management. Its historic patches of different successional stages (prairie-savannah-woodland) can be managed through activities including mowing, burning, tree and weed removal.

### Park Changes Over Time

Park developments and natural processes constantly change the park. Recreational demands, maintenance practices and outside influences such as invasive species also cause change. A comparison of 1940 and 2010 air photo mosaics for the park highlights broad impacts of development on vegetation in Wirth over time (figure 68). In 1940 most of South Wirth remained oak savannah with widespread burr oaks growing above a ground layer of prairie grasses and forbs. The golf course in North Wirth was nearly treeless due to widespread grading along the creek and development of the golf course. Farming and grazing occurred in a large section of the Back 40, but the savannahs were still evident, though possibly beginning to succeed to woodland. The Park Board nursery was

bustling on the former Schell Farmstead site northwest of the lake, while the east side was still covered with a private nursery business containing greenhouses and other residential buildings. Mass conifer plantings more recently planted along the parkway were not visible in 1940.

In 2010, the Park Board and private nurseries were gone. The parkway evergreens that remained are now a clear cultural landscape pattern. The canopy in South Wirth has largely closed in and is now a mature woodland. The golf course also has dense woodland patches separating the mowed fairways. The savannah area north of the Chalet has grown in. The Back 40 area is also heavily wooded with a smaller prairie area. Lagoons have filled in with sediment and cattails. Though some of these processes are human derived and others natural, it is surprising how in just a few decades the park can visibly change so extensively while many other natural features, recreational facilities, and scenic views remain unchanged.

## Inventory and Existing Conditions

### Landform and Geologic History

The landscapes of Theodore Wirth Regional Park were shaped by the last period of glacial advance in Minnesota. During the time period stretching from 25,000 to 10,000 years ago, multiple glaciers advanced across the landscape now occupied by Wirth Park. The glaciers acted as large conveyors, moving rocks and soil toward the front of the glaciers and where they stopped, they deposited large mounds of materials called moraines. These moraines form the hills and rolling topography seen in Wirth Park today (figure 69).

As the glaciers melted, their water flowed southward, cutting channels through materials deposited in the park. Those channels are evident today in the valleys



Figure 68. Land cover changes from 1940 to 2010.



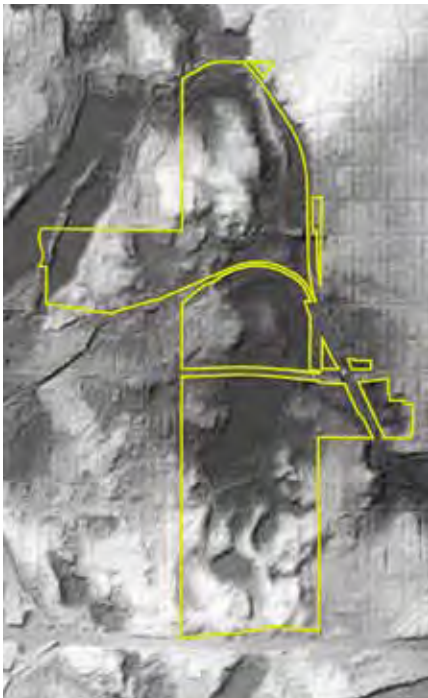


Figure 69. Geologic setting of Wirth Park.

that hold Sweeney Lake, Twin Lake, Wirth Lake, Birch Pond and the Bassett Creek Valley. Stream channels under the glaciers also deposited sand and gravel in stream beds. One of these deposits, called an esker, forms the ridge and isthmus between Twin and Sweeney Lakes. Birch Pond, the Quaking Bog and the small wetlands scattered across South Wirth and the Back 40 hold the landscape signature of ice blocks once buried in the glacial deposits, known as “kettle” depressions.

## Soils

The glacial deposits of sand and gravel, and erosion of the landscape due to the glacier formed the basis of the soils in the park. In Wirth Park, there are four major types of soils formed by glacial and other formative forces, with three found in moraines and the fourth (anthropogenic soils) being those that have been altered by human settlement or use. (figure 70). Soils in the three moraine groups are either glacial till or stream sediment in the upland areas, or depressional soils in low wet areas. Most of the soils in the park are well-drained till soils composed of sand and gravel that lead to dry conditions.

The following soil groupings can help identify an area’s development potential and determine what plant communities were originally present during the pre-settlement era.

### Well-drained soils (2 moraine till soils)

These are associated with oak openings and savannah plant communities. These soils, which are found in most of the park, are resistant to deep compaction and are well suited for many types of development, including natural surface trails, pavements and structures.

### Soils in low lying areas with high groundwater levels (moraine depressional soil)

These are found in parts of the creek valley and in pockets throughout the park from current wetlands, wet prairies and floodplains which accumulated organic deposits over time. These are hydric soils, which are sensitive to development impacts due to their high moisture content, fine particle size and ponding of water during wet periods. Direct impacts to these soils should be avoided if possible or minimized.

### Anthropogenic soils

These have been significantly altered by human use and do not fit into a native soil classification. Because human activities have changed the materials and the structure of the soils, a determination of the underlying soil type, structural



#### Legend

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Water Bodies            | Moraines - glacial stream sediment and till soils |
| Hydric Soils            | Moraines - depressional organic soils             |
| Steep Slopes >20% Slope | Moraines - glacial till soils                     |
|                         | Anthropogenic - disturbed or altered soils        |

Figure 70. Soils inventory.

qualities and development potential requires more detailed analysis. Anthropogenic soils are generally more susceptible to colonization by invasive and weedy species and have decreased function for infiltration of stormwater. Wirth Lake, Bassett Creek and other developed park areas such as the golf course are largely anthropogenic soils.

## Topography

The northeast portion of the park has steep but mostly stable, wooded slopes covered by dry oak vegetation. The southern third of the park is woodland, with the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, an oak woodland that developed from savanna.

The western side of the park has conifer plantings and ravines, with 30 feet of topographic relief, mesic oak woods, and a 5-acre tamarack swamp which is a post-glacial relic. Twin Lake is on the west end of the park and has steeply sloped banks with wide views and some erosion along trails. This western arm contains the “Back 40,” and is high in elevation on a moraine ridge with a restored prairie, open meadows, coniferous upland tress, and dry oak woods.

The lowest and flattest part of the park lies between Plymouth Ave and Hwy 55. The existing 18 hole golf course in this location was developed in 1935 using sediment dredged from Bassett Creek when the lagoons were created. Some of these areas have drainage problems.

## Land Cover Classification

The MN DNR’s Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) is a regional standard for documenting native landscapes and identifying native plant communities. The system ranks land cover according to the quality of its natural communities. Plant community quality is based on a field check by an ecologist. Wirth Park would be considered on the lower end of this type

of ranking, which is expected for a park which is relatively isolated in an urban setting.

## Water Resources

Wirth Park features many types of water resources which contribute significantly to the beauty and identity of the park. Lakes, streams, and wetlands are all prominent features. Each type of waterbody plays an important and different ecological role in the landscape. Often the perception of the quality of a waterbody is simply defined by regulatory measures of water quality alone. However, lakes of all levels of water quality still provide critical ecological function due to their habitats, nutrient cycles and complex food chains.

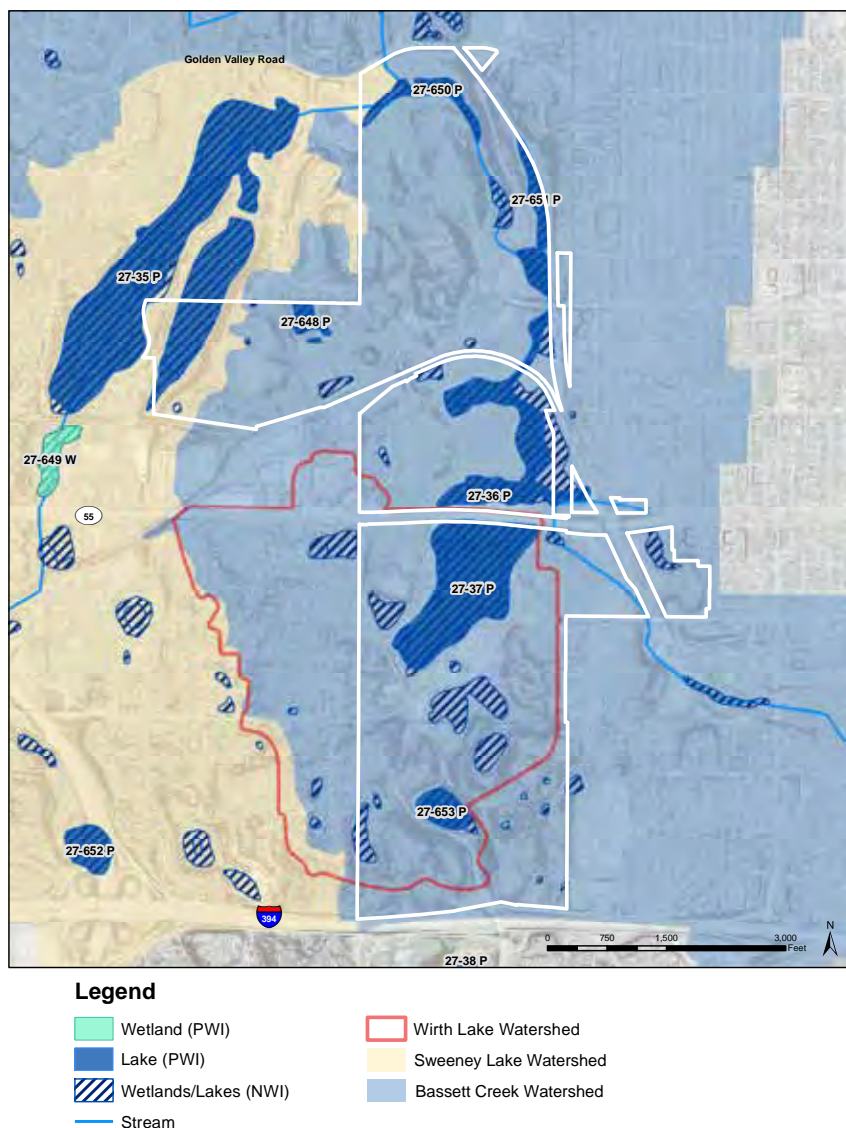


Figure 71. Public waters inventory. Source: Barr Engineering.

### Bassett Creek Watershed

Wirth Park is located within the Bassett Creek watershed, specifically in the Bassett Creek Main Stem (downstream), Wirth Lake, and Twin Lake subwatersheds (figure 71). Bassett Creek is a tributary to the Mississippi River. The Bassett Creek watershed is slightly larger than 40 square miles and is urbanized; land use in this watershed is mainly residential mingled with industrial, commercial, institutional, and park lands. The Bassett Creek watershed is administered by the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission.

### Floodplain

Some areas of Wirth Park are located within the 100 year floodplain – most notably shoreland adjacent to Bassett Creek, the golf course lagoons, and



Twin, Sweeney, and Wirth Lakes. Low-lying areas near Bassett Creek were historically prone to severe flooding before construction of the lagoons. The park contains a structure from the Bassett Creek Flood Control Project.

### **Bassett Creek**

The main stem of this tributary creek (MN PWI #27-650 P) flows through the park to the Mississippi River. It originates at the south end of Medicine Lake in Plymouth approximately 6.5 miles to the northwest of the park and winds generally south-eastward for a 1.2-mile course before it discharges into the Mississippi River just north of downtown Minneapolis. The creek originates from deep glacial lakes. The creek segment in the park is approximately 2.5 miles in length. The park segment of the creek has been significantly altered by the creation of the lagoons, which have become a cherished landscape in themselves.

### **Sweeney Lake**

This lake (MN PWI #27-35 P) is located on the western boundary of the park. Park property includes a small segment of shoreline on the isthmus between Sweeney and Twin Lakes, which is undeveloped. The majority of Sweeney Lake shoreland is developed with single family residential homes.

### **Twin Lake**

The southern half of Twin Lake (MN PWI #27-35 P) is located within Wirth Park. The northern half of the lakeshore is residential and institutional.

### **Ski Jump Pond Golf Course Wetland**

Located west of the Par 3 golf course, this waterbody (MN PWI #27-648 P) is not actively used for recreation, due in part to its small size, steep banks and lack of trail access.

### **Lagoon C (a.k.a. Ski Jump Pond)**

This 7-acre lagoon (MN PWI #651), created under the direction of Theodore

Wirth himself, is identified in some documents as Lagoon C, and in others such as those on file with the DNR as “Ski Jump Pond.” The MPRB has documents that instead identify Ski Jump Pond as the waterbody located just east of Twin Lake in the “Back 40.”

This master plan refers to the lagoon in Bassett Creek as Lagoon C and the waterbody east of Twin Lake in the Par 3 golf course as Ski Jump Pond.

### **Wirth Lake**

This lake (MN PWI #27-37 P) is completely contained within Wirth Park. The lake is adjacent to wetlands that provide waterfowl habitat. A fishing dock has been in place on the east side of Wirth Lake for many years and is well used. Shore fishing is popular and fishing also occurs on the new boardwalk along the north shore of the lake. A permanent winter-season aeration system was installed in the lake in 2002 with the cooperation of the MN DNR. The 2012 DNR survey also recorded the presence of turtles at Wirth Lake, including painted, smooth softshell, and snapping turtles. Invasives such as Eurasian milfoil and curly leaf pondweed are present in Wirth Lake and present an ongoing maintenance problem. Milfoil is managed under DNR permits.

### **Birch Pond**

This pond (MN PWI #27-653 P) is contained within Wirth Park. It is surrounded by hills and mature trees.

### **The Quaking Bog**

The Quaking Bog is unique in that it is a remnant native plant area, home to a very old stand of tamarack trees and remarkable vegetation. A floating boardwalk allows visitors closer access to the bog itself.

### **Other Waterbodies**

Many other small kettle wetlands exist in the southeast Wirth woodland and “Back 40” woodland areas. These wetlands are typically less than 1/8 of

an acre and are fully within the park boundary. Many vernal pools are homes to birds and amphibians. Little change has occurred in these wetlands though some natural surface trails pass nearby and allow visitors views of the water.

### **Ground Water**

Wirth Park has very high groundwater levels and a number of springs, particularly surrounding Wirth Lake and near Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. Ground water in Wirth Park is high in dissolved minerals. Groundwater may also contain chloride above background levels due to the highly urban nature of surrounding land.

### **Water Quality**

Water quality is monitored regularly by the MPRB and the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC). The city of Minneapolis has also sponsored WHEP teams to monitor various wetlands in the park. Under the federal Clean Water Act, states are required to monitor and assess their waters to determine if they meet water quality standards and thereby support the beneficial uses they are intended to provide. When a water body is determined to be polluted or ‘impaired’ beyond regulatory levels it is added to the Impaired Waters List, which is monitored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Once on the Impaired Waters List, a study of the pollutants and how to decrease them, called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study is prepared. Each TMDL study includes measures and projects which are expected to reduce pollution and improve the water quality. The Local Government Agency (LGA) is typically the city the water body is in, which is responsible for implementing plans. MPRB is a single landowner in this process, though MPRB can authorize agreements with cities and watershed districts to work in

partnerships on projects involving park land.

The following park water bodies are on the MPCA Impaired Waters list: Sweeney Lake, Twin Lake, and Bassett Creek. Wirth Lake has an approved nutrient TMDL and was removed from the list. It is now on a watch list for chlorides. Others have not been monitored for the list, including: Birch Pond, Ski Jump Pond/ Golf Course Wetland, Quaking Bog, and smaller kettle ponds or depressions. It is possible to be de-listed once reduced pollutant goals are met.

MPRB has developed the Lake Aesthetic and user Recreation Index (LAURI) to help understand water quality from a recreational use perspective. This index is posted on the MPRB website. It shows whether a lake is in good condition for recreational uses, such as swimming or boating. Wirth is typically in good condition for swimming and has some of the best LAURI scores in the entire park system. Swimming beaches are monitored for E. coli weekly and results are posted on the MPRB website.

## Terrestrial Resources and Conservation Areas

### Native Plant Communities

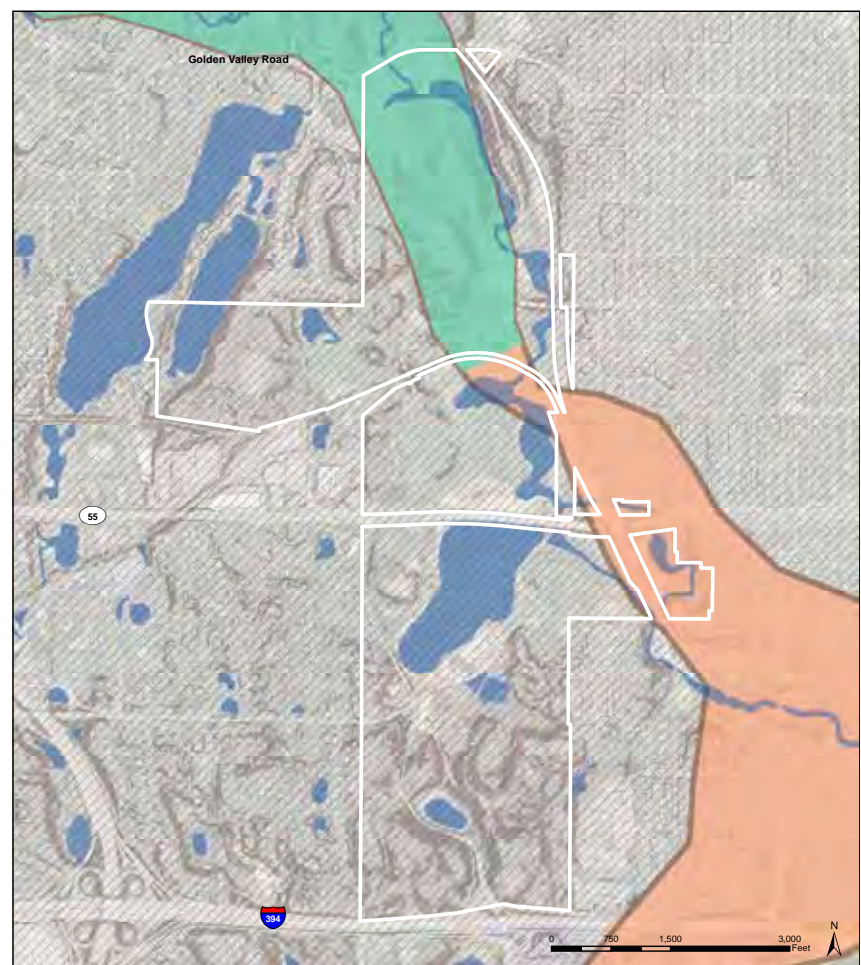
Just prior to European settlement of the metropolitan area around 1846, land surveyors gathered data on the vegetation that grew at the intersections of a one mile grid placed over the entire state as part of the Public Land Survey. These areas are published and in Minnesota are generally known as the Marschner Map. According to this resource, the dominant historic native plant community of the Wirth Park region was oak savanna (figure 72). Some remnants of the pre-settlement oak savanna are evidenced by the wide spreading canopies. Their direct descendants are the more upright oaks of the forest. Oak savanna is a fire-dependent plant community. Oak trees and prairie grasses are resilient to fire while the trees and understory

vegetation of a forest community are not. After humans began to settle and farm the area, fires were suppressed and the remaining savannas progressed into oak woodlands.

Within what are now the boundaries of Wirth Park, oak savanna once covered most of the northern and southern aspects of the site, and a band of maple-basswood forest existed in the lower elevations that fire did not reach. Wet prairie existed through an area of the park which is now a wetland, and big woods were also present. Within these large scale communities, small variations and unique communities existed. This included the tamarack bog as well as successional variations in patches ranging from prairie to forest.

Existing tree canopy cover in much of South Wirth is now 90% mature forest, and much of that is oak forest (figure 73). Many of these trees are greater than 20 inches in diameter. This canopy is estimated to be 5% open. Savanna restoration is best attempted where tree removal is needed for other purposes or when natural forces or events cause tree loss. Returning these areas to a pre-settlement mix of oak forest savanna would require significant tree removal and would likely incur large costs, which is not a realistic restoration goal.

Management of wooded 'natural' areas has occurred in the park in varying levels since the park was developed. The MPRB has also had to mount proactive and reactive efforts due to pests, diseases



#### Legend

Existing Water Bodies  
Oak Openings and Barrens

Big Woods - Hardwoods  
Wet Prairie

Figure 72. Pre-settlement vegetation.



and storms. The maple basswood forest area and tamarack swamp (Quaking Bog) are relatively unique within the oak dominated park. These pockets are well preserved and actively managed by park staff. The bog has had new tamaracks planted and the natural succession to maples has been staved off by actively removing them from the bog. Non-native invasive glossy buckthorn is also actively removed. Oak woodlands have been and are currently managed by removing common buckthorn and by removal of diseased oaks and root plowing to slow the spread of the fungal oak wilt disease.

The Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) identifies existing native plant communities throughout the

state. The natural plant communities identified in Wirth in 2011 include:

Oak Forest - The historic oak savanna has changed into oak forest because of several factors, largely due to the lack of fire to keep trees sparse.

Tamarack Swamp (Quaking Bog) - A beautiful example of a tamarack swamp exists in the southwest corner of the park. This mature stand of tamaracks and diverse understory make it high quality and highly unusual in this setting.

Maple Basswood Forest - There is a very small maple-basswood forest in and around a kettle basin south of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. The

“Do you know there is a ‘wild’ garden in Minneapolis and that it is only ten minutes ride from the heart of the city? Hidden away in a small valley surrounded by hills, this garden lies, a sequestered, unravished spot. Here in this tract of native wildness the flower lover may in a few hours view what would otherwise take days of search and travel. This bit of primeval wilderness, which has escaped the encroachment of civilization as the city has grown, is preserved in all its native wildness as a part of the city’s largest park – Glenwood [today, Theodore Wirth].”

- 1918 brochure promoting Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden



#### Legend

Conifer Plantings	Prairie
Oak Forest / Savanna	Tamarack Swamp
Managed Turf Grass	Wetlands
Second Growth Mixed Forest	Water Bodies

Figure 73. Existing plant communities.



Figure 74. EBWG trail.



Figure 75. EBWG blooms.

understory has lost its diversity, and little regeneration of sugar maples is occurring. This area developed because it was protected from pre-settlement fire within the oak forest savanna area due to steep slopes and moisture.

Prairie/Savanna – A few planted and restored prairies exist in the park (adjacent to J.D. Rivers’ Children’s Garden, former park nursery site and “Back 40”). True remnant native prairies have disappeared in Wirth as settlement, farming and park land development eliminated uncontrolled fires. In the absence of fire, trees colonized the prairies, creating oak savannas first that eventually succeeded to forest. Oak savanna is only found in the park in very localized transitions between prairies and forest.

Second Growth Mixed Forest – These are a mix of non-native and planted species. Some native trees have moved in from surrounding areas or non- native trees have been planted. They resemble no known native plant community and most have developed from areas that have been previously cleared for human use. Their understories lack diversity and are dominated by non-native invasive species.

*Evergreen Plantings* - One of the cultural landscapes, large evergreen plantings were established mostly along the parkway to enhance the winter effects of the park. These plantings also distinguish the park from some other sections of the Grand Rounds and give the park an “up north” feel which adds to the cultural perception of nature.

*Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden (EBWG)* - This naturally-arranged, cultivated botanic garden is home to over 500 plant species and over 130 resident and migratory bird species. The mission of the EBWG is to showcase native plants and birds to inspire stewardship and appreciation of the natural world.

EBWG has three distinct garden areas: woodland, wetland, and prairie. The garden is managed using four guiding principles of rhythm, vistas, unique focal points, and tempo – resulting in a dynamic naturalized environment that changes on every segment of trail. The 2010-2015 management plan for the garden focuses on fostering its unique character and addressing human-induced impacts. These impacts include the introduction of invasive species and changes in ground water dynamics.

*The “Back 40”* - The Back 40 is actually closer to 80 acres in size. This dry upland area has oak and maple-basswood forest as well as a restored native prairie and lakeshores.

*Site of Schell Farmstead and MPRB Nursery* - This site is in the northwest section of land between Wirth Lake and the Parkway south of Hwy 55. It was once extensively developed, first as the early farm settlement of the Schell family, then for several decades as a Park Board tree nursery and horticulture staff residence. When the nursery was dismantled in 1980, remaining buildings were removed with the exception of a concrete root cellar. The largely unmanaged area grew into the mixed woodland that exists today. There is a restored prairie in the upland portion of the site, but



Figure 93. Tamarack swamp.

wooded areas still bear the signature of the nursery, with unusual, non-native trees peppering the woodland, including crabapples, buckeyes, white poplar and various evergreens.

### Rare, Endangered, or Threatened Species

The MN DNR provides MPRB with rare, endangered, and threatened species information through a Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) licensure agreement. The NHIS database identifies seven potential rare, endangered, or threatened species identified inside or within 1 mile of Wirth Park, consisting of both flora and fauna (table 14). The NHIS license agreement restricts the public distribution of certain types of proprietary information identifying specific locations of rare, endangered, or threatened species. For this reason, location information is not included in the table.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Notes
Valerian	<i>Valeriana edulis</i> var. <i>cilata</i>	Threatened	vascular plant
Pugnose Shiner	<i>Notropis anogenus</i>	Special Concern	vertebrate animal
Blanding’s Turtle	<i>Emydiodea blandingii</i>	Threateneed	vertebrate animal
Hooded Warbler	<i>Setophaga citrina</i>	Special Concern	vertebrate animal
Tamarack Swamp	<i>Larix laricina</i> swamp	n/a	terrestrial community
Bullfrog	<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>	No legal status, gathering data	vertebrate animal
Dwarf Trout Lily	<i>Erythronium propullans</i>	Endangered	vascular plant

Table 14. Species identified in or near Wirth Park.



## Unique Plants

Outside of Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, a few unique or unusual plants and plant communities have been identified in the park (table 15). These areas warrant monitoring and management with protection if needed.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Wild rice	<i>Zizania aquatic</i>	Located in the wetland south of Glenwood and north of Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. Ephemeral, may have been intentionally planted.
Butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	A butternut grove is located in the north-east corner of the park. Butternut trees have been largely extirpated throughout the state by butternut canker disease ( <i>Sirococcus clavigigenti-juglandacearum</i> ). There is no known prevention for the canker disease, these trees should be monitored.
Tamarack swamp	<i>Larix laricina</i> swamp	This is an unusual community this far south in Minnesota (though not the furthest south; another has been identified in central Scott County on tribal owned land in Prior Lake). It will need continued management to slow succession.

Table 15. Unique plants in Wirth Park.

## Important Bird Habitat

Though Wirth Park's natural resources are impacted by its urban surroundings, its size and connections to water bodies create useful resting and refuge points for both resident and migratory species. The park was recently added to the Chain of Lakes Important Birding Area (IBA), an Audubon Society designation of quality bird habitats and connections. The Chain of Lakes and Wirth Park form a side channel of the Mississippi River flyway, which is a major route for global bird migration through Minneapolis. In addition, the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden was declared a bird sanctuary in

1969. EBWG currently or in the past has partnered with the Audubon Society, The Minnesota School of Botanical Art, and the nonprofit organization Bird x Bird. Volunteers and staff at the Garden do regular reporting of bird species identified in and near the garden, including a survey done in 2009 which found 130 resident and migratory bird species present.

## Impact of Invasive Species

As the Twin Cities area continues to grow, access to natural areas decreases and open space becomes increasingly fragmented. Natural areas within the Minneapolis park system are more susceptible to invasive species due to closer proximity to urbanized landscapes. Invasive species of several kinds both terrestrial and aquatic are well established in Wirth Park. Emerald Ash Borer and Dutch Elm Disease have both caused tremendous damage to wooded areas locally and nationally.

### Terrestrial Invasive Species

Invasive plants have negative impacts not only on a biological level, but also on human use and enjoyment of the park. They can be physically and financially damaging, requiring large investments of time and equipment to reduce or manage. In many cases, elimination of invasive species may not be possible once they gain a foothold in an area.

The most aggressive invasive species in the park are common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*), and garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). A dangerous and aggressive new invasive is wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), now found in two locations near Wirth Lake. Oils from this plant can in sunlight cause burns on exposed skin. Other less aggressive species include burdock (*Arctium* spp.), motherwort (*Leonurus cardiac*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), Tartarian honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), creeping Charlie (*Glechoma hederacea*) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). Some of these species are being actively managed (e.g. biocontrols for purple loosestrife), others are less active and don't require as aggressive of treatments.

### Aquatic Invasive Species

Eurasian watermilfoil is a problem in Wirth Lake. Its removal is regulated and it is routinely removed to preserve recreational uses. Within Wirth Park, reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and narrowleaved and hybrid cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) dominate parts of the lake shores, along with many wetlands and sections of creek banks. Curly-leaf pondweed is also present in Wirth Lake. Purple loosestrife can also be considered a wetland aquatic invasive species in Wirth Park.

# Natural Resource Analysis

## Ecological Sensitivity

An ecological sensitivity map was created as a tool for park designers and managers to understand which locations of the park are the most sensitive to recreational development (figure 79). Topography and soils form the base of the map. The map layers hydric soils, steep slopes (over 20% slope), wetlands and water bodies, areas of relatively high ecological quality (better plant communities), and floodplains.

Areas with colored shading or hatching have more sensitive qualities and plans must consider how to minimize impact to these areas. Areas without colored shading or hatching are more suitable for development (figure 77). The highest quality natural and ecological areas in Wirth are focused on bodies of water, and at the northwest and southern ends of the park. This is where more robust ecological communities exist. Conversely, the areas in central Wirth occupied primarily by the golf course are of lower ecological quality, due in large part to decades of disturbance and active recreational development. Ecologically sensitive areas of the park also exist on steep slopes prone to erosion.



Figure 78. Plants in the Back 40.

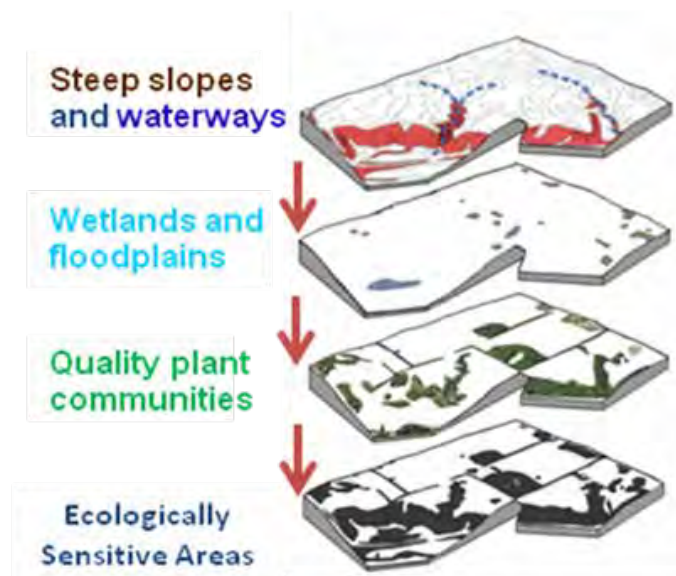


Figure 77. Conceptual diagram of the layers in an ecological sensitivity map.

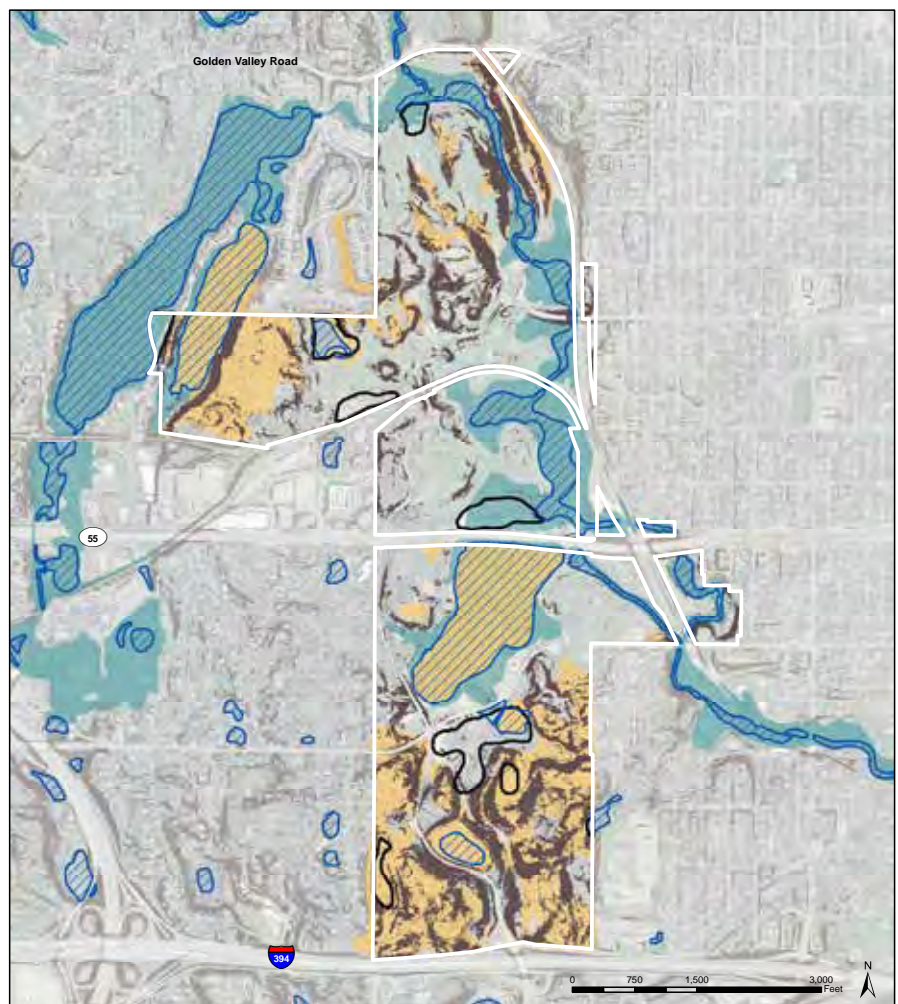


Figure 79. Ecologically sensitive areas.



# Recommendations

Based on ecological research and field review, it is suggested that the planning and management of Theodore Wirth Regional Park natural resources should concentrate on the following:

- **Strategically approach vegetation management in the park:**
  - o Maintain the highest quality ecological areas (first management priority)
  - o Maintain areas where large woody material has been removed (second management priority)
  - o Complete removals of invasive species along trail corridors and highest use areas, creating open sight lines from trails to promote safe use (eventual management priority)
  - o Use primarily native species for new vegetation and tree plantings (exception for Cultural Landscape features including evergreen tree masses)
- **Implement recommendations of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary Management Plan 2010-2015:** The management plan provides specific, relevant guidance for the maintenance and operation of the garden. Funding will be needed to fully implement the management plan.

- **Control invasive species:** There are several invasive species infestations within the park that are suggested for continued active control – including buckthorn and garlic mustard
  - o A maintenance and monitoring schedule to remove occasional re-colonizing invasive species must be developed and implemented. This will require fewer resources as time goes on and as seed banks in the soil are diminished.
  - o New invasive species, diseases and other impacts will appear in time. Management and development plans must foster conditions that favor and support diverse native communities which are more resilient than monocultures of one dominant plant.
- **Allow for new succession processes after a natural disturbance:** Disturbance regimes are an important aspect of native plant community management. When a natural disturbance that changes the plant community structure does occur, the reaction to try to replace what was lost should be checked.

- **Preserve old native trees and encourage regeneration:** The most significant part of the remnant native plant communities in Wirth Park are the trees. Scattered old oaks, some exceeding four feet in diameter with thick wide reaching branches, dot the park. Their wide-reach is a signature of savanna-grown trees.
- **Enhance the desired woodland community throughout the park with new tree plantings:** Formal, new tree plantings along roadways should not occur in areas that are already wooded and in native ground cover. Historical cultural plantings of evergreens should be supplemented with new evergreen plantings.
- **Work with BCWMO, MPCA, MN-DNR and other partners to enhance water quality throughout the park:** Several agencies are invested in protecting and enhancing the water quality of waterbodies in Wirth Park. These relationships will need to be encouraged to make significant improvements.



Figure 80. Bassett Creek.



Figure 81. Quaking Bog.

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# VII. THE PLAN

Overview  
Background  
Whole Park  
North Wirth  
Central Wirth  
South Wirth  
Design Advisory Areas  
Addressing Known Issues  
Recommendations



# Overview

The plan for Wirth Park seeks to balance varied community interests and values around park development, preservation, and restoration of both natural and cultural features. The plan is also progressive in its pursuit to weave growing recreational trends into the storied traditions of Wirth Park. Seeking this type of balance in park development can be a tenuous proposition, as experienced in the lively, multi-year community process used to formulate this particular master plan.

The features of the plan are forward-thinking, well-vetted, respectful of the natural and cultural landscape, and as a result, an intentional package of ideas that will drive future success. The plan promotes continually-improving management of natural and cultural resources. It strikes a deliberate balance of quiet and active spaces. It enhances the visitor experience by reorganizing amenities for better function and fewer conflicts. It better meets the needs of year-round recreational pursuits. And, it establishes facilities and buildings that support robust programming and operations. The master plan is guided by a number of design statements set by the Community Advisory Committee during the planning process.

1. Facilitate a variety of recreational activities for all seasons that are integrated with the Park's natural and cultural landscape.
2. Enhance real and perceived safety for park visitors.
3. Minimize conflicts between the various park facilities and activities.
4. Improve the ease and safety of street crossings.
5. Encourage in-park volunteerism.
6. Improve visitor access - both regionally and most especially from surrounding neighborhoods.
7. Establish trail systems for multiple activities as central elements of the visitor experience.

8. Improve the efficiency and convenience of parking but expand cautiously and only deliberately.
9. Protect, enhance, care for, and interpret natural and cultural resources.
10. Construct long-lasting, efficient and sustainable facilities.
11. Care for assets to maximize life expectancy.

## Background

This chapter is an illustrative and written description of existing and proposed park development. It is organized by park geography – first whole park, then North Wirth, Central Wirth, and South Wirth. Each geographic area will be described by its character and programmatic theme followed by a description of the development features envisioned for that geography of the park. This is followed by a discussion of elements that were determined in the planning process to need greater study before location or programmatic determinations could be made – called *design advisories*. The chapter also highlights how known issues are addressed in the master plan. The final section focuses on development recommendations that set the stage for chapter 9: Implementation and Management.

## Whole Park

Theodore Wirth Regional Park is a picturesque cultural and natural landscape characterized by significant woods and wetlands in the south that give way to highly-sculpted and naturalized topography of woods, meadows, and lawns to the north. The park is envisioned to contain a robust and diverse collection of park facilities that establish it as a multi-faceted recreational destination. However, Wirth Park is also an important segment in the



Figure 82. Quaking Bog.

connective tissue of parkways, trails and greenways known as the Minneapolis Grand Rounds. Features throughout the park related to the Grand Rounds are linear in nature. They are the backbone of the strongest “whole-park” programmatic themes – trails, parkway, wayfinding, and off-road trails. These features are described below.

### Parkway

The parkway through Wirth Park from the northern to southern boundary is fully developed. The parkway embodies the common design features and dimensionality of parkways in other segments of the Grand Rounds including a 25 mph speed limit, inset parking bays (where appropriate), rose-colored aggregate asphalt pavement surface, narrow drive lanes, specialty curbing, site furnishings, and decorative street lights. There are several parkway elements of note.

#### **Bassett Creek Bridge Just North of the Chalet**

Over Bassett Creek, the parkway traverses a small, stone bridge of historic significance. The bridge displays its original integrity although it will require ongoing repair and conservation.

#### **Parkway Alignment Past the Chalet**

The alignment of the parkway as it passes the Chalet has been altered in the past



# Concept Master Plan

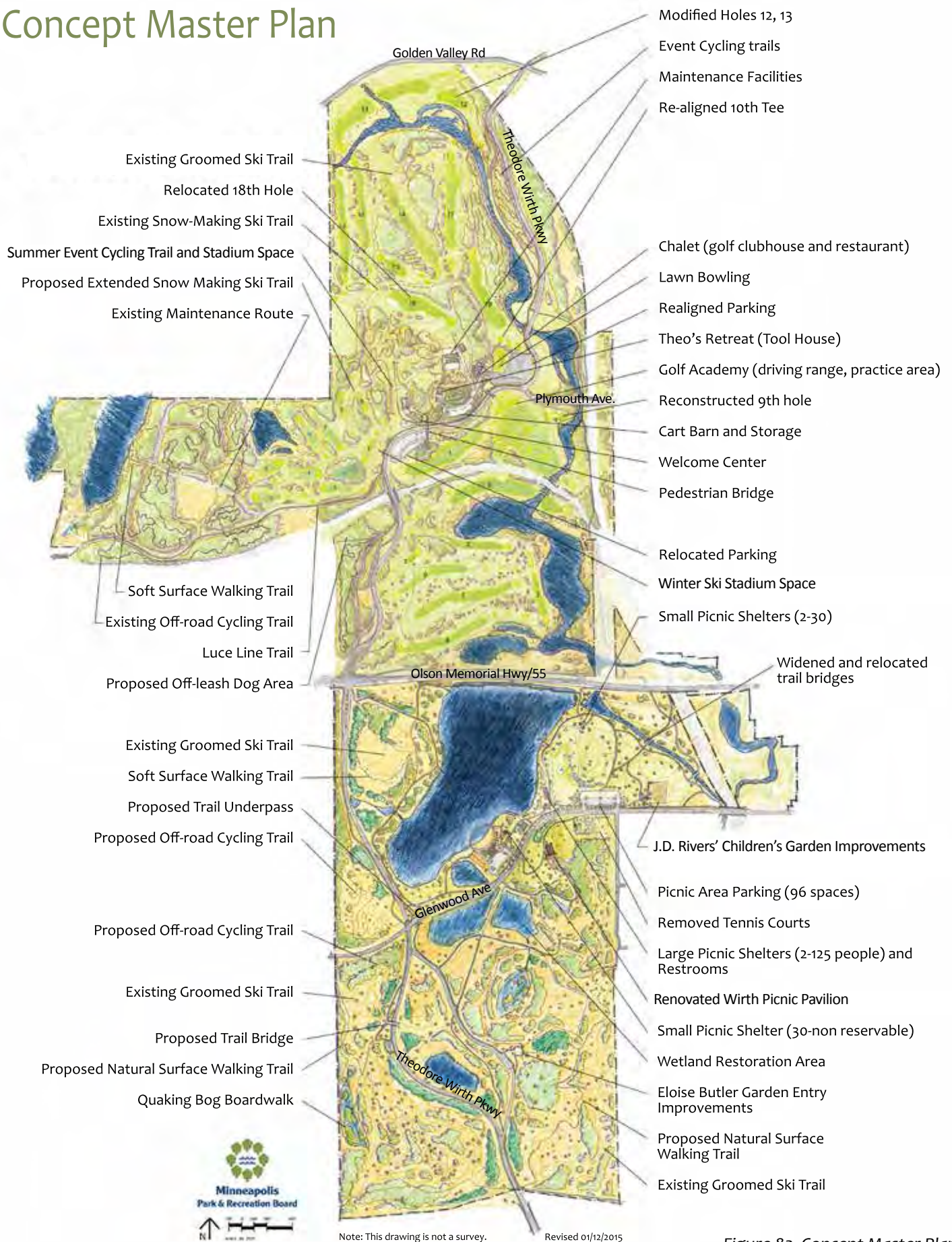


Figure 83. Concept Master Plan

25 years to better accommodate parking and safe pedestrian circulation. While the current alignment has benefits, it also has a sharp curvature, floods at times of high water and is built on poor soils. As reinvestments are made to Chalet parking, parkway alignment as well as parking access locations will also be evaluated.

### **Parkway/Glenwood Intersection**

The 4-way stop condition at the parkway intersection with Glenwood Avenue experiences relatively high rush hour vehicle traffic. This, in combination with a challenging gradient and significant pedestrian/bike crossings causes crossing conflicts and elevated accident potential. The master plan recommends creating a grade-separated pedestrian/bike/ski crossing of Glenwood Avenue. A solution that includes re-grading the intersection and constructing a pedestrian/bike/ski tunnel under Glenwood, slightly east of the intersection could address many of the concerns of the area.

### **Paved Parkway Trails**

Adjacent to the parkway is a fully developed, paved pedestrian and bicycle trail that is combined in some areas and separated in others. The master planning process revealed the need to make paved trails safe for slower speed recreation use through design and education. While the master plan does not recommend alteration of the paved trail alignment, periodic reconstruction will provide opportunities to modify the design to reduce speeds, as necessary. The trail will require routine maintenance and reconstruction.

### **Off-Road Connective Trails**

Interest in trail running/walking and off-road biking continues to grow. As a result, the Wirth master plan suggests the establishment of off-road, full-season earthen pedestrian and bike trails that

form a connective system from south to north through the park as part of the linear “whole park” experience. In South Wirth, off-road cycling trails are allowed on the west side of the parkway and the east side is reserved for pedestrian use.

An experience unique to Minneapolis is the ability to traverse the city by groomed ski trails from Wirth Park southward to the Chain of Lakes. This is a powerful identity and recreational signature for both Wirth Park and the city.

### **Wayfinding**

One of the barriers of access to Wirth Park is visitor understanding of facility locations and circulation routes. The Grand Rounds offers the backbone of a park wayfinding strategy that will enhance visitor confidence in traversing the park. Key elements of the plan relate to developing clear connections, particularly along what is described as the “learning corridor” in South and Central Wirth.

## **North Wirth**

North Wirth is characterized by a scenic landscape of rolling topography, framed meadow views and wooded hilltops. Many see this portion of the park as “natural.” However, much of it is actually highly sculpted and landscaped to establish a picturesque ideal.

The programmatic theme of North Wirth since the park’s inception over a century ago has been a mix of summer golf and winter sports including cross-country skiing, ski jumping, sledding, and ice skating. Significant community dialogue occurred in the master planning process around balancing winter and summer uses, minimizing recreational conflicts and fitting new summer activities into the predominantly golf landscape of North Wirth. The North Wirth development features are described below.

## **Golf**

Golf (including a Par 3, 9-hole course, and an 18 hole course) is the predominant land use in North Wirth. For that reason, even though golf is an enterprise within the Minneapolis park system and not a regional park activity, the golf courses are inevitably touched by proposed regional park master plan recommendations. As a result, a significant community dialogue during the master planning process focused on analyzing and balancing regional park programs with golf course impacts.

Many golf course design alternatives were prepared, analyzed and vetted by the community during the planning process to address both golf course quality/playability and accommodation of other park activities within the golf course area. The four primary recommendations that emerged from the planning process include leaving the Par 3 course in its current configuration, adding a golf academy to the mix of uses, making a minor location adjustment to the 10th tee for Chalet site enhancements, and relocating holes 17 and 18 to establish space for a trail start/finish area and winter recreation. Course modifications necessary to accomplish golf hole relocation and a golf academy will be a detailed design process with the golf community.

### **Off-Leash Recreation Area**

An off-leash recreation area is proposed for the current chipping green and adjacent woodland, which abuts private land owned by the Golden Valley Animal Humane Society. The facility’s location offers unique partnership opportunities for dog training, dog rehabilitation, and operations and maintenance.



# Theodore Wirth Regional Park Concept Master Plan

## Existing and Proposed Trails



Figure 84. Existing and proposed trails.

## Event Trails

A primary point of community dialogue during the master planning process was the proposed introduction of an event trail loop to meander through North Wirth, largely in woods and roughs adjacent to golf holes. The event trail is intended to accommodate the burgeoning sport of event off-road cycling (a MN high school league has recently formed) as well as walking and trail running events. During the planning process concerns arose about trail conflicts with golf play. It is expected that the concerns can be addressed through further design (see Design Advisory). Creation of a broad turf or savanna starting and finish area (called a stadium) for the event trail as well as cross-country skiing is a primary reason golf holes 17 and 18 are recommended to be relocated.

The roughly 5-mile event trail loop will be a combination of trail types from single-track to broader earthen trails to paved trails. Sustainable trail design techniques will be employed to minimize tree impacts, prevent erosion and reduce maintenance needs.

## Snowmaking/Lighted Cross-Country Ski Loop

A 2.3 km snowmaking and lighted ski loop currently exists on fairly hilly terrain through portions of the Par 3 and 18 hole golf courses. The master plan suggests extending the loop farther into the Par 3 and Back 40 areas on gentler terrain to establish an approximate 5-7 km total loop distance. Snowmaking needs a broad, open start and finish area (stadium) and is the reason golf holes 17 and 18 are recommended to be relocated.

## Natural Snow Cross-Country Ski Trail Network

Ski trails using natural snow in North Wirth are largely in place. Modifications to ski trails will likely continue to occur to minimize turf impacts on the golf courses, accommodate other program or facility additions, and employ sustainable trail design practices.

## Mountain Bike Loop

A popular single-track mountain bike trail loop exists in the Back 40 portion of North Wirth. The trail was constructed and is maintained largely by the mountain bike volunteer community and connects to the linear, off-road trail network that extends to the south end of the park.

## Soft Surface Trail Network

A network of soft surface pedestrian trails will be created in the same vicinity as the mountain bike loop.

## Tubing & Sledding

A tubing hill (rentable inner-tubes and towrope) is currently located on the 10th fairway of the 18 hole golf course. The master plan suggests relocating the tubing hill to the proposed Welcome Center area in order to consolidate the contact station for winter recreation and eliminate golf course damage being caused by snowmaking for the tubing hill.

In place of the current tubing hill, free sledding is proposed on the 10th fairway. Sledding does not require snowmaking so golf course impacts will be nearly eliminated. Sledding has historically been offered in this location but was displaced when the fee-based tubing hill was installed.

## Snowboarding

A snowboarding hill currently exists. Despite low use, it serves well as a teaching hill and it is well-located in proximity to the proposed Welcome Center.

## Wirth Village

(Wirth Chalet, Tool House, and Welcome Center)

The central proposal for North Wirth is the establishment of Wirth Village – the interconnection of currently unrelated existing and proposed facilities into a unified visitor experience. The proposal would create a gardenesque stroll, bike, or ski between the celebrated Wirth Chalet, an adaptively reused Tool House, and a new Welcome Center. Together, the three facilities will establish a singular destination for North Wirth and support visitor activities, varied winter and summer recreation, large and small group events, and dining options.

## Wirth Chalet

The Chalet will continue as the hub of golf in the park and will be revitalized as a 1920s period clubhouse and pro shop on the ground floor and a dining/event venue on the upper terrace level. The grounds around the Chalet will be altered to establish a landscape presence befitting the Chalet and the vision Theodore Wirth himself brought to the park. This will be accomplished by improving landscape connections to the building, modifying the parking lot to reduce its visual impact and improving circulation and adjusting the 10th tee to improve the golf holes and to provide space for a supportive recreational amenity such as lawn bowling or croquet. To support the Wirth Village vision, new landscape, trail, and promenade connections will be made to the side and rear of the Chalet leading to the Tool House.





Figure 85. Illustrative rendering of proposed tool shed (Theo's Retreat) in North Wirth.



Figure 86. Illustrative aerial view of proposed maintenance facility in North Wirth.

### Tool House (Theo's Retreat)

The architecturally-interesting, 1930 Tool House will be rehabilitated and adaptively reused as a retreat (Theo's Retreat) for meetings, small gatherings, and catered events. An outdoor terrace and small garden space is envisioned to accompany Theo's Retreat and support its uses as well as create a midpoint stopover in the village stroll (figure 85).

### Welcome Center

A signature addition to the park will be a new Welcome Center building, which will replace the current Par 3 golf clubhouse. The facility will be the primary destination for all ticketed winter recreation, summer/fall trail events, and Par 3 golf. The facility is generally anticipated to include visitor services, ski and bike shop, golf counter, food and refreshments, office/meeting spaces, and outdoor terrace. The building will be designed to accommodate large crowds of athletes and race-day spectators drawn to ski and bike events (a function not well accommodated by the Chalet).

Site improvements are critically important to the functions of the building. A broad event start and finish lawn (called a stadium) will be established adjacent to the building where spectators can watch race events. Other site improvements include relocated and expanded parking, drop-off facilities, enhanced parkway pedestrian crossings and parking lot entry, and pedestrian/ski/bike bridge over the parkway between the building and parking.

### Maintenance Facility

A new maintenance facility is envisioned slightly north of the current Tool House. Maintenance facilities for golf and winter recreation demand adequate staff facilities as well as equipment storage and machine shop. An extended driveway access past the Tool House will be necessary to support the new facility (figure 86).

## Central Wirth

Central Wirth is characterized largely by Wirth Lake, a shallow lake with recreational amenities at its southern edges and Highway 55 impacting its northern edge. Substantial investments have been made to improve lake water quality as well as refresh recreational facilities in this portion of the park over the last decade.

The programmatic theme of Central Wirth is largely self-directed recreation such as beach activities, playground use, family or group picnicking and walking. There is also a growing presence of urban agriculture and educational activities in this portion of the park that, together with nearby activities in South Wirth, form an impactful "learning corridor."

### Wirth Beach

Over the past decade, Wirth Beach has experienced significant investments including a new beach house, rehabilitated sand beach with shade structures, seating, and floating boardwalk. A themed playground, picnic facilities, sand volleyball courts, half-court basketball, reconstructed parking and stormwater treatment round out

the package of amenities surrounding the beach. Aside from a small, 30-person non-reservable space (picnic shelter with open sides), the major capital investments contemplated by the master plan at Wirth Beach are complete.

### Wirth Lake Trail Loop

A paved 1.3 mile walking trail encircling Wirth Lake was constructed in 2011. The trail includes a long boardwalk section on the north side of the lake along Highway 55. Wetland restoration and significant tree plantings complement the loop, which was hit by a tornado in the midst of construction in 2011.

### Natural Snow Cross-Country Ski Trail Network

Groomed ski trails using natural snow in Central Wirth across the lakes and picnic area. To facilitate grooming and separation of different trail activities hosted in the park, the master plan proposes two bridges over Bassett Creek. One is in the current location and the second is closer to Glenwood Avenue. It may be possible to move the existing bridge to the new site if winter ski trail grooming equipment does not need to cross it. If it is desirable to have ski

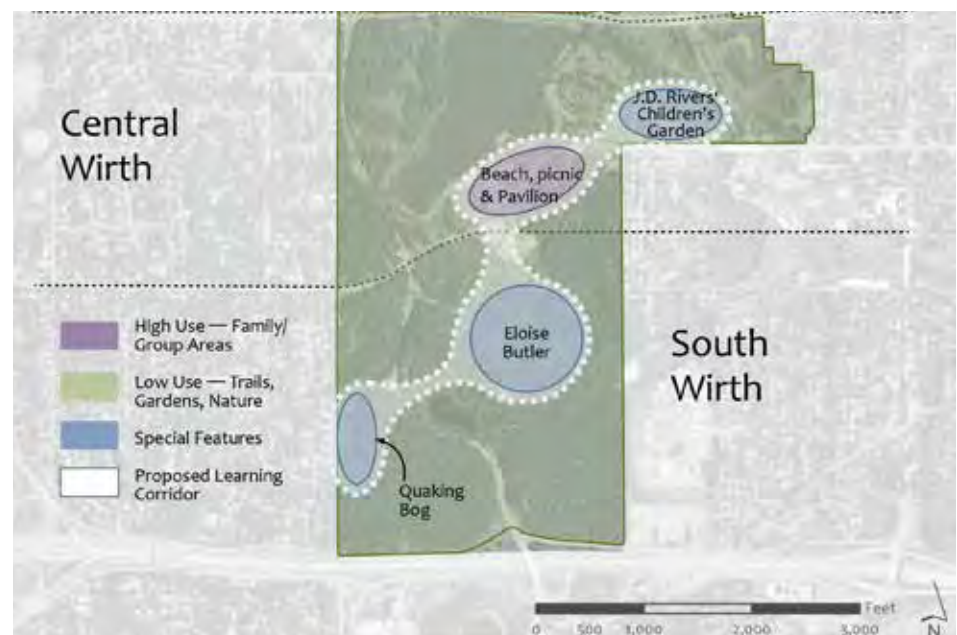


Figure 87. Learning Corridor in South and Central Wirth.



trail connections over both bridges, two new bridges would be required to accommodate grooming equipment. Modifications to ski trails will likely continue to occur to employ sustainable trail design practices.

## J.D. Rivers' Children's Garden

This garden is a focal point of the outdoor programming offered at the park. The master plan recommends improvements to enhance the success of the programming at this facility. The improvements include fencing, improved access for materials delivery, water connections, an outdoor classroom shelter, and smaller shelters for tool storage and future small seasonal livestock.

## Non-Motorized Boat Access

The boat launch has been closed for public use since 2011. Carried-in watercraft are permitted and canoe racks have been added near the fishing dock. An emergency boat access will be added on the west side of the lake, accessed from Hwy 55. Shoreline access points will stabilize popular shore fishing and lake and creek viewing areas.

## Wirth Picnic Pavilion

The Wirth Picnic Pavilion south of Glenwood on the hill overlooking the park underwent renovation in 2012-13 to become a year-round education and event facility.

## Picnic Grounds

New open-air picnic shelters are planned to improve group picnic opportunities near the lake. Two group shelters on the east side and two small shelters on the northeast side of the lake will be constructed. One non-reservable small shelter will be located near the beach and will be of open-walled construction, available on a first-come, first served basis. Further exploration of

the Germania Brewery archaeological site will resolve the final location of the large shelters (see Design Advisory Areas). The CAC desires that they be located farther from the lake if possible, but will accept a lakeside location if it better protects this resource. Parking near Glenwood and Xerxes Avenues will replace the existing boat launch road and parking. The master plan proposes a 96 bay parking lot, with 52 bays of paved parking and an additional 44 bays that can be added over time as warranted by use. If the parking was expanded to the full 96 bays, an alternative to pavement will be explored for the additional bays. The picnic area opportunities will be complemented with year-round restrooms, a small open play area and cultural resource interpretation. The picnic area will be connected to the beach area with an enhanced walk or "promenade" from the beach to the creek outlet area to encourage better connection between these spaces.

## South Wirth

South Wirth is characterized by its hilly topography, wetlands, and dense woods which feel like a secluded, forested wilderness. This plan intends to preserve and celebrate this character.

The programmatic theme of South Wirth is nature-based recreation, learning, and silent sports. Most activities are linear – ski, hiking, and bike trails with a significant investment focus on sustainable trail design and maintenance, interpretation, and wayfinding. Trail investment in this area is predominately characterized by creating a deliberate, soft surface sustainable trail system that removes unauthorized trails and replaces them with fewer, ecologically-sensitive multi-use trails. After extensive discussion, the community recommended keeping off-road cycling trails on the west side of the parkway to reduce conflicts with the established uses on the east side of the parkway.

## Learning Corridor

The learning corridor connects by trail the Quaking Bog, Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary, Wirth Picnic Pavilion and J.D. Rivers' Children's Garden (figure 87), thus connecting the main educational resources of South and Central Wirth. These trails will have special wayfinding and well-designed trails to make it easy for all groups to access the sites. Improvements between the Bog and EBWG are most in need of redesign, but will generally stay natural surface with a combination of natural and paved surface depending on the overlapping trail and maintenance uses. This section includes a new all-season bridge over the parkway that will allow park visitors to safely cross the parkway as they travel along the learning corridor and the South Wirth network of trails. The section between EBWG and the Picnic Pavilion will build on existing paths using sustainable design. The section between the Picnic Pavilion/Wirth Lake area and the J.D. Rivers' Children's Garden will follow the recommendations for Central Wirth.

## Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary

The garden is another one of the focal points of the park that support nature-based programming. Improvements to the garden will increase access, protect or enhance the garden's plants and infrastructure, provide an enhanced self-directed experience, and support potential expansions in programming. Recommended improvements include main entry access improvements (though grades throughout the garden prohibit full ADA access at this site), as well as path, bridge/boardwalk improvements and other enhancements to building and facilities (as identified in the management plan of 2010).

## Quaking Bog

The Quaking Bog is one of the hidden gems of the park and the western most terminus of the learning corridor. Visitors experience the Bog by strolling along a floating boardwalk. The learning corridor will improve access to the Bog through wayfinding and enhanced trail connections to other significant educational features of the park. The Bog needs ongoing investment to sustain its unique habitat within the urban setting and its boardwalk.

## Natural Snow Cross-Country Ski Trail Network

Ski trails using natural snow in South Wirth are largely in place. Modifications to ski trails will likely continue to occur to employ sustainable trail design practices.

## Soft Surface Trail Network

Soft surface walking trails are prolific in South Wirth. The current web of rogue trails are confusing and discourage use except by those very familiar with the area. The plan will significantly reduce these unsustainable trails and all natural surface trails, whether they are for skiing, biking, or walking will use sustainable design techniques. Trails will make clear connections between known access points to enhance navigation of the park.

# Design Advisory Areas

Design advisory areas were identified during the planning process to earmark plan elements that require more in-depth analysis than possible at a master plan level. These areas are mapped (figure 88) and described below.

## 10th Tee and Event Cycling Proximity and Protection (Design Advisory A)

The 10th tee and proposed event cycling trails do not meet recommended safety zones for golf tees. Trail protection or a modified trail alignment will be required in this area.

## Overflow Parking and Creek Protection (Design Advisory B)

Overflow parking areas proposed near the creek may require mitigation for impacts to floodplain storage and identification of potential wetland impacts.

## Maintenance Facilities Planned and Space Needs (Design Advisory C)

MPRB system-wide operations facilities planning will determine the operations staff and facility needs for the park. The master plan shows an approximate space for those needs until the facilities plan is complete.

## Snowmaking Pond (Design Advisory D, no specific location shown)

Constructing a pond in North Wirth that captures runoff and overflow well water would be a conservation-minded approach to using a sustainable water source for snowmaking. The master planning process explored possible pond locations but was unable to determine a solution.

## Tubing Hill and Ski Trail Interactions (Design Advisory E)

The plan proposes relocation of the existing tubing hill, tow-rope and snowmaking to west of the current 17th fairway, close to ski trails.

## Ski Stadium and Par 3 Golf Impacts (Design Advisory F)

The ski start and finish area (or stadium) is proposed near Par 3 golf holes 1 and 7. Concerns about how, if at all, the development of the stadium will impact on holes 1 and 7 arose during the design process. MPRB staff and the CAC do not recommend any changes to Par 3 for the stadium.

## Front 9 Golf Improvements and Creek Floodplain Storage (Design Advisory G)

The creek floodplain is regulated and any earthwork that fills the floodplain must be balanced with areas where fill is removed. Plans for front 9 golf improvements will require careful attention to ensure the capacity of the floodplain is maintained.

## Picnic Shelter, Shoreland Setback and Archeological Avoidance Area (Design Advisory H)

The Phase 2 Archeological Report for Wirth Lake recommends avoiding significant archeological resources on the east side of the lake where picnic shelters are originally proposed. Moving the shelters out of the archeological area places them in the shoreland setback for Wirth Lake. Local variances to setbacks are allowed in certain situations and would avoid seeking federal approval for impacting a resource that is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



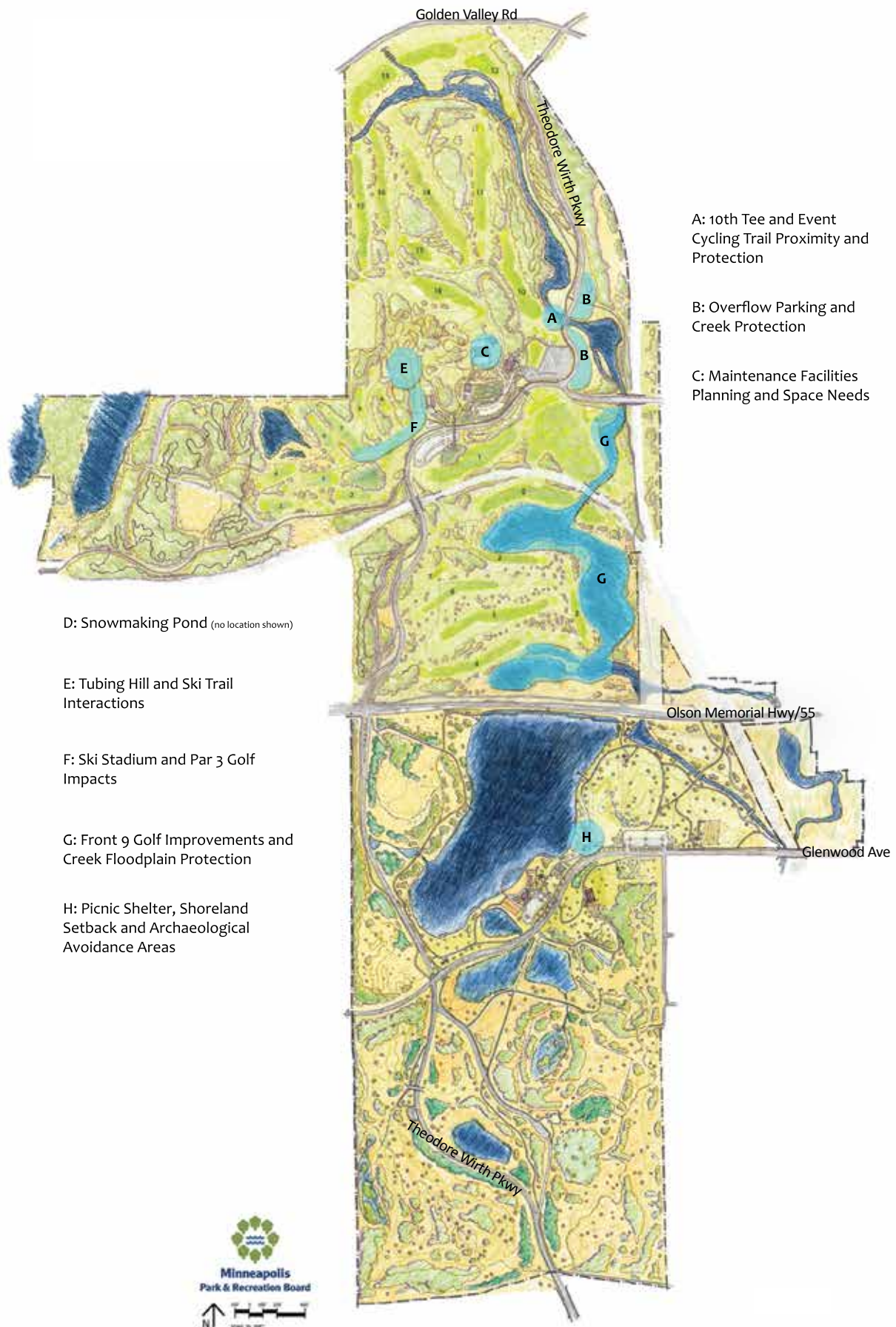


Figure 88. Design advisory areas.

# Addressing Known Issues

This master plan addresses several issues that were brought out during the planning process. The primary issues and steps toward resolving them include:

## Misuse of Designated Areas

Winter hiking and skiing at Wirth at times encounter conflict. Although not allowed, people tend to hike and walk with their dogs on ski trails in the winter because these are the only maintained, packed trails available for easy hiking. This plan proposes improving this situation by introducing a new trail type for year-round walking in South Wirth. These trails will be snow-packed in winter for walking, the first time this will be done in the MPRB system.

## Overlapping Uses

Because Wirth is used year-round, there are sometimes conflicts between uses that overlap during transitional seasons. For example, there are ski trails maintained with artificial snow that retain their snow cover and wet conditions into spring, preventing the timely preparation of these areas for golf. This is most challenging during spring and fall seasons when snow cover and golf play are in conflict because each wants to extend their season. Therefore, design modifications that separate shared areas enough to allow for congenial overlapping uses during crossover seasons are important. This master plan proposes relocating two golf holes and the tubing hill in order to lessen seasonal overlap of uses.

## Affordable Recreation

When fee based snow tubing (with special tubes and a tow rope) was moved to the 10th fairway just outside the Chalet, it displaced what had been used

by many as a free sledding hill. This disappointed members of the public who cherished affordable and free winter recreation for families at Wirth. This master plan relocates the tubing hill, tow-rope and snowmaking to west of the current 17th fairway, returning free sledding to the 10th fairway.

## Snowmaking

Ideally, a space where water can be chilled prior to snowmaking for winter recreation activities would be located within the park. Space for an appropriately-sized reservoir to chill snowmaking water is not likely to be available in the near proximity to the snowmaking loop. Several locations were evaluated by staff and none have yet been found to be adequate. This plan considers this concept within a Design Advisory Area, designated for further study.

## Snowboarding

The former downhill ski area was converted to the existing snowboard terrain park in the early 2000s. It is suitable for beginning level boarders only and does not have space to expand. Advanced boarders will have to continue to take advantage of private options at commercial ski hills.

## Parking

Overflow parking needs are acute in winter evenings during the multiple weekly high school cross-country ski practices, meets and events. Parking is also in short supply during large summertime events. For this reason, special event coordinators are required to provide shuttles to remote parking at nearby business lots. Additionally, proposed development in the park could bring increased banquet, event, and meeting use of buildings in the Chalet village area and at the renovated Picnic Pavilion, which could cause parking

shortages. A Wirth Chalet study in 2000 recommended an increase in parking spaces near the Chalet to accommodate parking in this area, or the use of shuttle buses from the Par 3 parking lot. A new parking lot is proposed for the Wirth Lake area to help support lake-centered activities such as picnicing, volleyball, playground and beach recreation.

## Conflicts Between Recreational and Natural Resources Needs

Recreational use and development and natural resource preservation are complicated to balance. During the clean-up from tornado damage in 2011-12 many neighbors and frequent park visitors expressed concerns about a loss of quiet recreation areas for walking and birding due to loss of mature tree cover. The new master plan proposes dedicated trails for quiet recreation. Walkers in all wooded sections of the park will find better trail alignments, simplified connections, clearer wayfinding and fewer conflicts with other recreational activities.

## Natural Resource Restoration and Enhancement

Natural resource restoration and enhancement is proposed in the plan and takes into consideration protection of existing topography and wetlands. Some restoration has already taken place in the wetland south of Wirth Lake, and more is proposed in the wetlands south of Glenwood, as well as vegetation enhancement and invasive species control. Restoration is limited, however, by MPRB's ability to maintain specialized restored areas over time.

## Tree Removal

In the past there has been public and staff concern expressed when mature oak trees are removed for development in the park. Oak wilt management is also being actively practiced and diseased



trees are regularly removed in the Back 40 and in South Wirth. Tree removals may be needed for some trail changes, and trail designers and MPRB Forestry staff will work to minimize removals. Several fairways on the Par 3 and a few of the back 9 holes are excessively shaded which decreases the ability to maintain acceptable turf for golf. Thinning of trees near fairways may at times be needed to maintain recreation program function.

## Neighborhood Access and Barriers

Traffic and rail corridors effectively split the park into separate areas, acting as barriers to the park when traffic is high and speeds are fast, such as on Hwy 55 and I-394. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and Luce Line rail corridors run through Harrison and Golden Valley, and steep slopes separate the neighborhoods from the park. Adjacent neighborhood access to the park varies in effectiveness. The Bryn Mawr neighborhood has more Wirth connections, including formal and informal at-grade connections, than Harrison (in Minneapolis) or North Tyrol (in Golden Valley) neighborhoods.

Public bus access to the park is extremely limited. The proposed Bottineau Transitway along the BNSF corridor has the potential to further limit connections to the park. With proper planning, transitway planning also has the potential to invest in formal access points for north Minneapolis residents. This

master plan for Wirth Park recommends strengthening several on-street and off-street trail connections and supports bus access to the park. As planning for the Bottineau Transitway continues, the Wirth Park master plan can serve as a guide for strengthening access and connections in north Minneapolis.



Figure 89. Tree removal following storm damage.



Figure 90. Bassett Creek bridge.



# Recommendations

## Whole Park

1. Diligently maintain and conserve the Bassett Creek bridge.
2. Evaluate current and historic parkway alignments in the context of any Chalet parking and access redesign.
3. Collaborate with City of Golden Valley and Hennepin County to design and implement intersection redesign and grade-separated tunnel.
4. Diligently maintain paved parkway trails to meet contemporary design standards and make trails safe for trail users of all abilities.
5. Trails:
  - a. Develop and maintain off-road, pedestrian/bike/ski trails that respect topography and are designed to meet contemporary sustainable trail standards that connect south to north through the park.
  - b. Design and build off-road cycling trails on the west side of the parkway that reduce conflicts, utilize sustainable design, and provide the most efficient route through the park from Glenwood Avenue to Brownie Lake while protecting natural resources.
6. Design and implement a comprehensive park wayfinding strategy that uses the Grand Rounds as its backbone.

## North Wirth

1. Golf:
  - a. Keep the Par 3 course in its current configuration.
  - b. Relocate golf holes 17 and 18 to accommodate cross-country ski and event trails, start/finish area (stadium) and tubing hill. Prepare a detailed plan for how to accomplish in a collaborative fashion with a golf course architect and the golf community.

- c. Adjust the location of the 10th tee to improve the golf hole and accommodate modifications to the Wirth Chalet grounds.
  - d. Continue making quality upgrades to both golf courses including tee boxes, greens, drainage, cart paths, and sand traps (clubhouse upgrades are discussed elsewhere).
  - e. Continue to explore with the golf community ways to add/consolidate elements of a golf academy including driving range, chipping green, and putting green.
2. Develop an off-leash recreation area in the area of the current golf chipping green. Phase implementation of the dog park to allow continued golf use until a golf academy replaces the need or until user demand for the chipping green is nil.
  3. Develop and maintain an event trail loop that does not conflict with golf play, respects topography and is designed to meet contemporary sustainable trail standards.

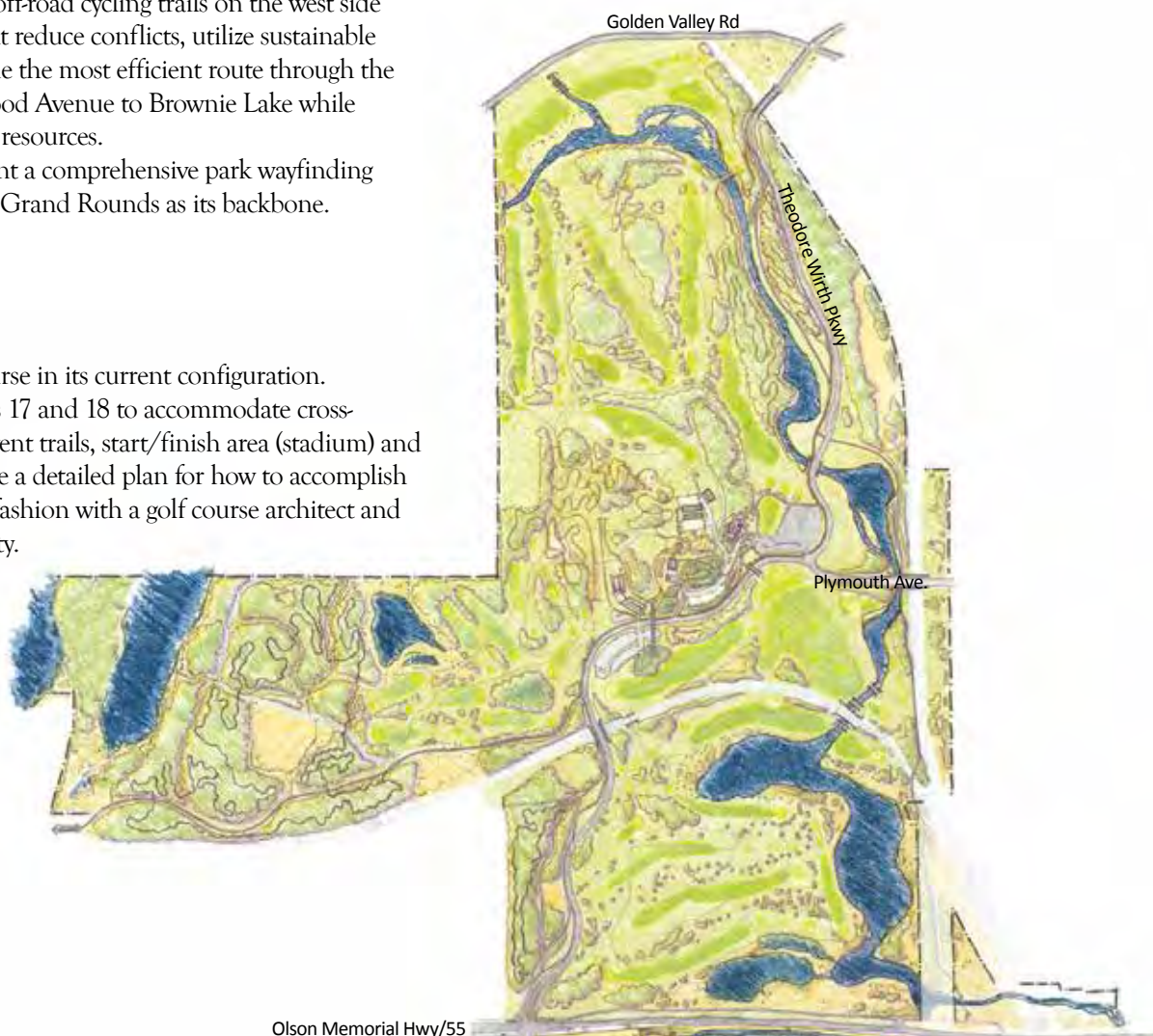


Figure 91. Concept Master Plan: North Wirth.



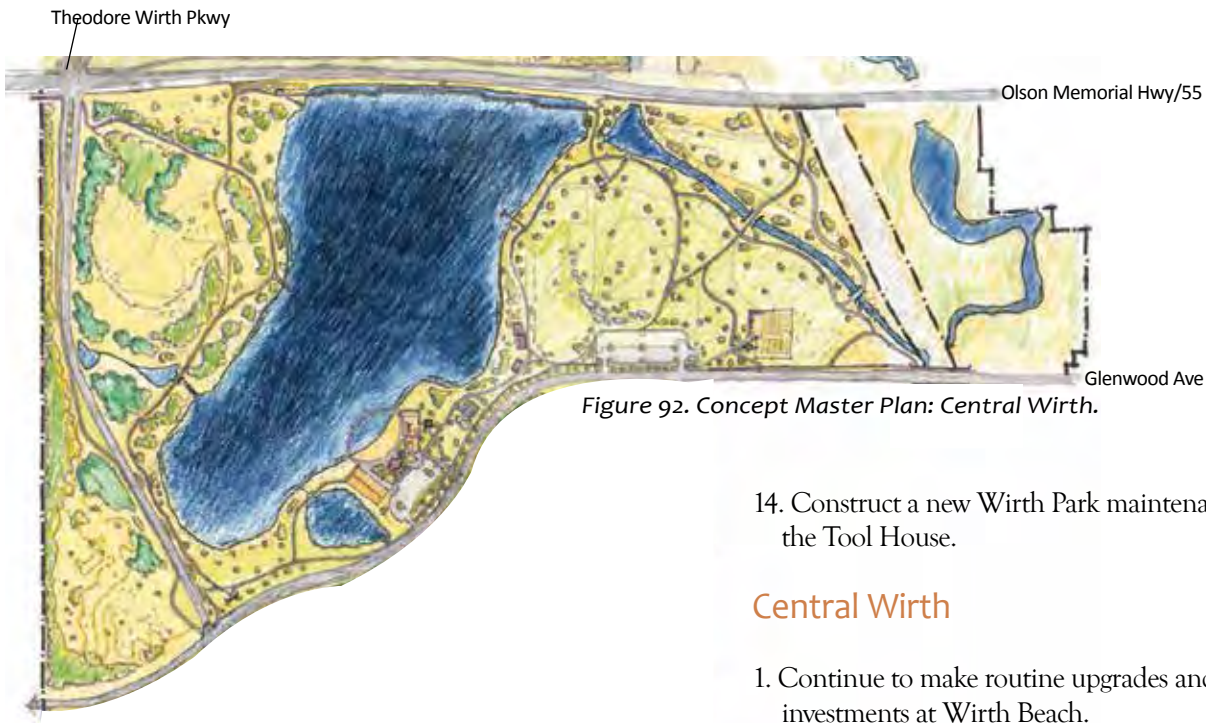


Figure 92. Concept Master Plan: Central Wirth.

4. Establish a 5-7 km snowmaking/lighted cross-country ski loop using water conservation practices and high-efficiency lighting.
5. Maintain and continue to improve premier cross-country ski trails that meet contemporary sustainable trail standards and minimize conflicts with other park uses.
6. Maintain and continue to improve premier mountain bike trails that meet contemporary sustainable trail standards and minimize conflicts with other park uses.
7. Develop and maintain a soft-surface trail network in the Back 40 that respects topography and is designed to meet contemporary sustainable trail standards.
8. Construct a tubing hill in the area of the proposed Welcome Center and reintroduce free sledding to the current tubing hill on the 10th fairway of the golf course.
9. Continue to make routine upgrades and maintenance to the current snowboarding hill as long as user demand meets minimal thresholds.
10. Create a gardenesque trail and walkway connection between the Wirth Chalet, Tool House, and Welcome Center.
11. Wirth Chalet:
  - a. Rehabilitate the interiors of the Wirth Chalet to recall the structure's architectural essence and support envisioned uses.
  - b. Rehabilitate the grounds in the foreground of the Wirth Chalet including redesigned parking, circulation, landscaping, adjustment of the 10th tee, and addition of a small, lawn-based recreational feature.
12. Rehabilitate the Tool House and surrounding landscape for adaptive reuse as a small-venue event and gathering facility.
13. Replace the current Par 3 Clubhouse with a new Welcome Center building and supportive site improvements.

14. Construct a new Wirth Park maintenance facility north of the Tool House.

### Central Wirth

1. Continue to make routine upgrades and maintenance investments at Wirth Beach.
2. Construct a small, 30 person, non-reservable picnic shelter to augment existing amenities at Wirth Beach.
3. Continue to make routine upgrades and maintenance investments in the Wirth Lake trail loop.
4. Provide two trail bridges over Bassett Creek that serve multiple trail types and can support maintenance equipment for winter trail activities.
5. Maintain and continue to improve premier cross-country ski trails that meet contemporary sustainable trail standards and minimize conflicts with other park uses.
6. Make improvements to support more robust program development, including fencing, improving access for materials delivery, water connections, an outdoor classroom shelter and small shelters for tool storage and future small seasonal livestock.
7. Construct shoreline access points that stabilize the shoreline, allow for non-motorized boat access, support shore fishing, and provide picturesque lake and creek views.
8. Make routine upgrades and maintenance investments to return the character of the Picnic Pavilion.
9. Picnic Grounds:
  - a. Further explore the Germania Brewery site, resolve the final location of the picnic shelters on the east side of the lake, then construct shelters.
  - b. Construct smaller shelters on northeast side of the lake.
  - c. Replace existing boat launch and parking with a 52 bay parking lot near Glenwood and Xerxes. Continue to evaluate parking needs to determine if additional bays need to be added.
  - d. Construct facilities that will support the picnic area – restroom, open play area, and cultural resource interpretation of the area.
  - e. Construct enhanced walk or “promenade” from the beach to the creek outlet.

## South Wirth

1. Learning Corridor:
  - a. Enhance and reconstruct, as necessary, the trail connections between the Bog and Wirth Picnic Pavilion/Wirth Lake.
  - b. Create a seamless wayfinding system for the learning corridor through Central and South Wirth.
  - c. Construct a bridge that is suitable for summer and winter use over the parkway between the Bog and the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. Ensure the bridge can accommodate winter ski trail grooming equipment.
2. Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary:
  - a. Expand the existing waterline to allow for development and maintenance of plant collections.
  - b. Improve entrance and access paths with a more graceful and accessible path from the parking lot to the front gate of the garden.
  - c. Replace wetland bridges to ensure safety and improve access.
  - d. Adjust trail alignments and cross-sections to provide protection against erosion and rogue trails.
  - e. Replace building roofs to protect the existing infrastructure.
  - f. Restore shelter fireplace to allow it to function as a heat source for the building (completed in 2014).
  - g. Develop and implement a wetland restoration plan that improves the health of the aquatic system.

3. Quaking Bog: Maintain and continue to improve the unique habitat of the Quaking Bog and its boardwalk.
4. Maintain and continue to improve premier cross-country ski trails that meet contemporary sustainable trail standards and minimize conflicts with other park uses.
5. Re-align soft-surface trails to reduce conflicts between users and remove rogue unsustainable trails as outlined in the master plan.

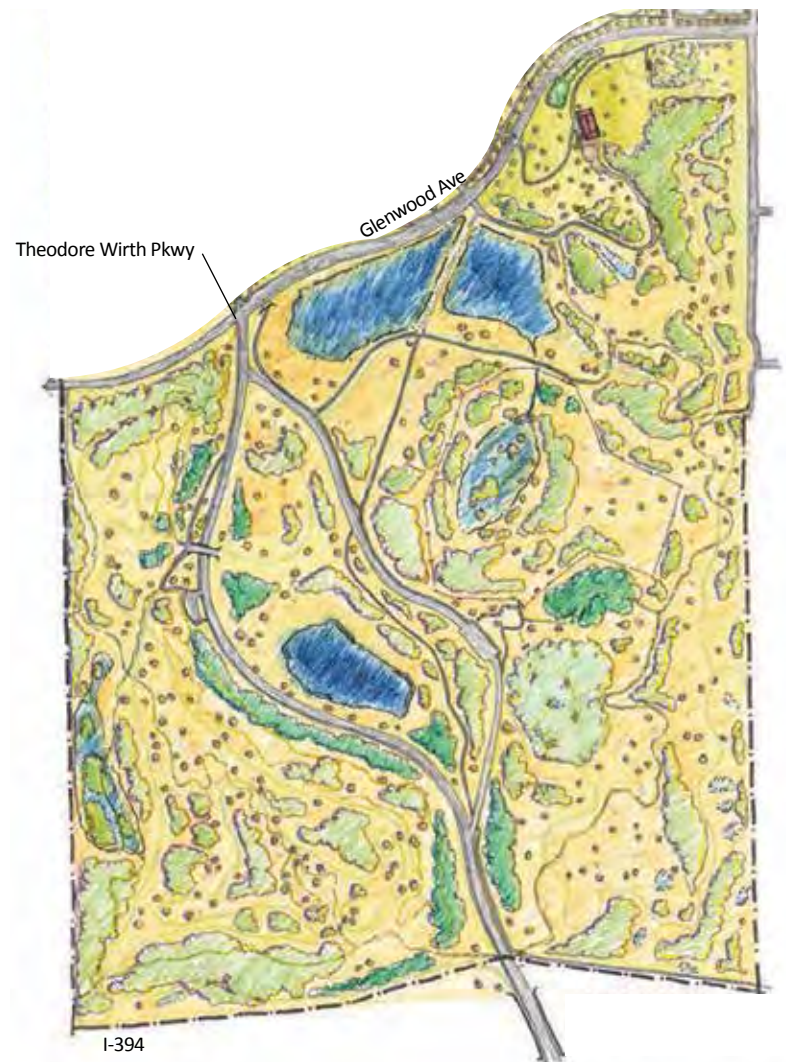


Figure 93. Concept Master Plan: South Wirth.





# VIII. BOUNDARY AND ACQUISITION

Overview  
Park Boundary and Acquisition Possibilities



# Overview

This chapter addresses park boundary and acquisition possibilities for Theodore Wirth Regional Park. The purpose of this chapter is to identify and discuss any changes in the park boundary, needs for acquisition or new steward partnerships, and to document steward partnership agreements.

Key	Type	PID	Acres
1-a	Potential Acquisition	19-029-24-11-0003	2.36
1-b	Potential Acquisition	20-029-24-22-0006	9.86
1-c	Other Parcels	20-029-24-13-0045	3.43
1-d	Potential Acquisition	20-029-24-42-0003	2.29
1-e	Potential Acquisition	20-029-24-42-0005	0.78
1-f	Other Parcels	20-029-24-21-0001	2.02
2-a	Potential Acquisition	20-029-24-44-0072	7.01
2-b	Other Parcels	20-029-24-13-0002	2.92
2-c	Other Parcels	20-029-24-21-0004	3.35
3	Stewardship Partnership	17-029-24-34-0009	12.59
4	Stewardship Partnership	17-029-24-33-0001	

## Park Boundary and Acquisition Possibilities

Table 16. Park boundary and acquisition possibilities.

Theodore Wirth Regional Park is largely established with very little, if any, future acquisition anticipated. There are several inholdings related to current and previous rail operations that the MPRB will continue to monitor for availability.

There are three important terms used in this section that warrant definition:

1. **Inholding** is a property within the designated regional park boundary but still in private ownership. When this section refers to inholdings, it is discussing privately owned lands in the current regional park boundary, not any boundary changes proposed by this master plan.
2. **Stewardship partnership** lands are outside the suggested boundary expansion but have a significant impact on the quality of the natural resources for visitor experience within the park. The master plan suggests close coordination with owners of these lands to enhance conservation and stewardship practices and recreational use management in order to lessen negative environmental and recreational impacts on the park.

3. **Other parcels** are currently planned for Bottineau LRT. These are labeled on the map to indicate that the MPRB will continue to monitor should they become available for uses other than freight or transit in the future. If these were to become available for acquisition, the MPRB would consider a future Theodore Wirth Regional Park Master Plan amendment.

If acquisition was contemplated for inholding parcels, they would be investigated for contamination. If contaminated, clean-up would need to be addressed before the land was purchased or accepted.

1. Inholding #1 – Canadian Pacific Railway – Luce Line – potential acquisition if/when rail is no longer used.
2. Inholding #2 – BNSF Railway Corridor along east side of the park – potential acquisition if/when rail is no longer used.

3. Steward Partnership Parcel #1 – BNSF. License in place along active freight rail.

4. Steward Partnership Parcel #2 – Part of the park used by City of Golden Valley. Agreement is in place to allow for water reservoir maintenance and monitoring well.

Costs for acquisition of the inholdings other than those labeled “other parcels” would be based on a future fair market value appraisal, made at the time of acquisition should these parcels become available.



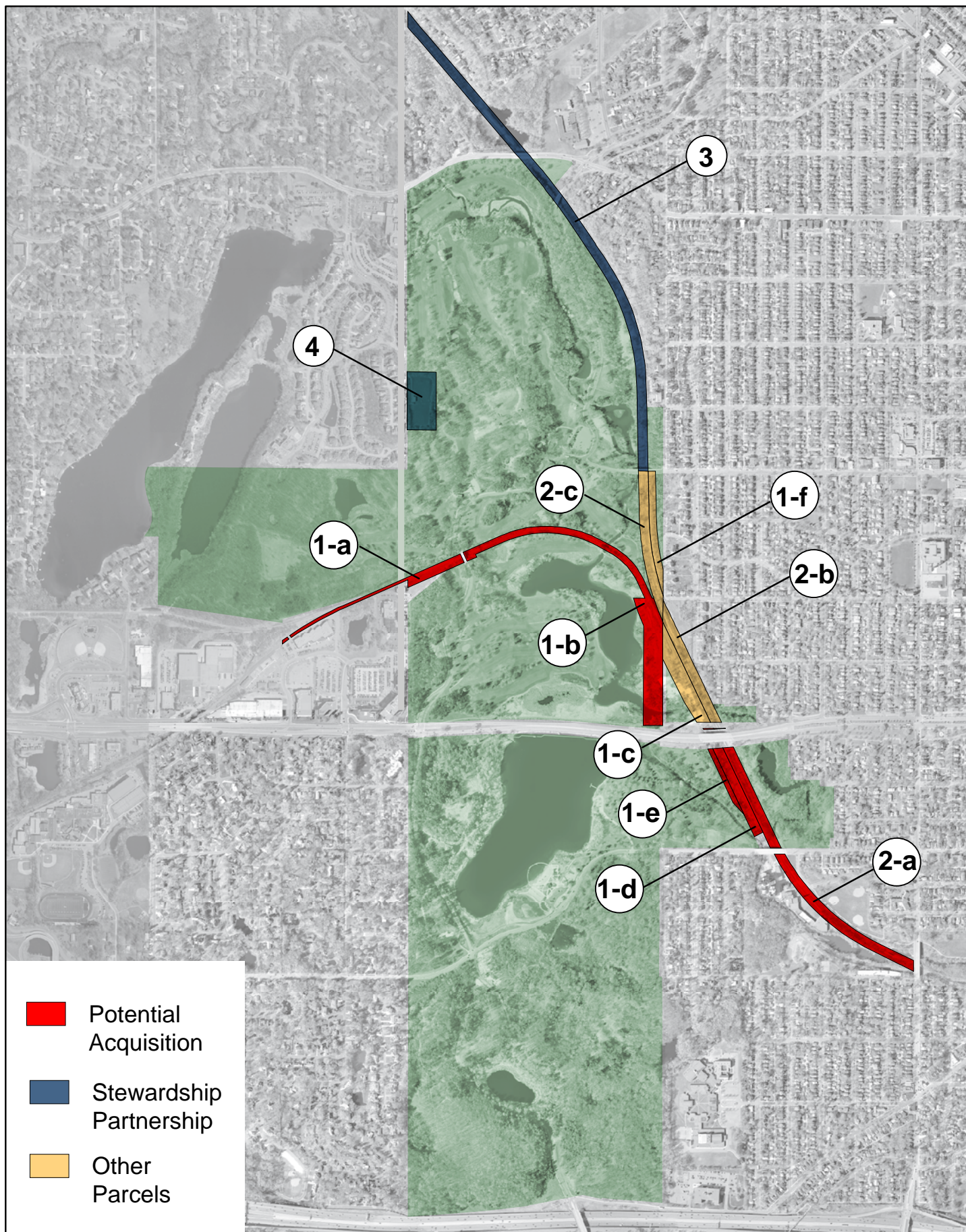


Figure 94. Park boundary and acquisition possibilities.

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# IX. IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT

Overview  
Operations and Maintenance  
Implementation  
Public Awareness



# Overview

This master plan represents a long-term vision and plan for allocating resources at Theodore Wirth Regional Park. The extent to which the overall plan is realized depends on the level of funding received through traditional sources, public-private partnerships, and donations. This chapter focuses on the implementation plan and management of the park, including an overview of staff resources, review of pertinent ordinances, and suggested phasing and estimated costs for improvements.

## Operations and Maintenance

### Staffing

Wirth Park is operated and maintained by professional recreation, environmental stewardship (Asset Management, Forestry and Environmental Management) and Public Safety staff. Services and maintenance staffing levels increase as needed and as funding permits through the employment of seasonal staff. MPRB Park Police provide public safety services. Environmental Stewardship staff provide maintenance of golf, winter recreation, trees, habitat, general park areas, and environmental programming. Customer Service staff manage permits and reservations throughout most of the park. Aquatics, golf and winter recreation is managed through the Recreation Division. Several groups, such as Friends of Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, Loppet Foundation and Minneapolis Off-Road Cycling Advocates, provide resources and volunteer hours that supplement the operation of the park.

### Ordinances Affecting the Site

The MPRB Code of Ordinances addresses the use of MPRB parkland, park hours, enforcement, construction,

permitting, community engagement, environmental protection, and more.

The MPRB Ordinances are part of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Minneapolis. A searchable ordinance database can be accessed from the MPRB's web site ([www.minneapolisparks.org](http://www.minneapolisparks.org)). Rules and regulations are also posted, as needed, throughout the MPRB properties and facilities. Posted information includes park hours, permitted and prohibited activities, fees and who to contact in case of emergency.

In addition, Titles 16-23 of the City of Minneapolis Code of Ordinances also may impact Wirth Park on certain occasions. These address streets and sidewalks, traffic, sewers, zoning, land subdivision, and heritage preservation.

Chapter 11 of the Golden Valley City Code of Ordinances addresses land use regulation and zoning, with Section 11.65 pertaining to shoreland management. Staff will continue to coordinate information with Golden Valley agency staff when implementing projects in that city.

### Public Safety

Public safety is a priority for staff of all divisions at MPRB. The ways in which Minneapolis parks are designed, constructed, programmed, and managed impact public safety and contribute to a positive experience for park users. The Minneapolis Park Police Department is a law enforcement agency whose role is to protect park users as well as park property under the jurisdiction of the MPRB. The department's responsibility is to provide assistance to the public and gain their cooperation and compliance with established rules, regulations, and laws.

The department consists of sworn officers, park patrol agents, and support staff. Sworn officers in the State of Minnesota have the authority to arrest

and detain criminal offenders and enforce a variety of traffic laws. Park Patrol agents are non-sworn, seasonal employees who work in uniform in the parks. Their duties include general patrol of the park system, as well as parking enforcement, mountain bike patrol, administrative tickets and staffing the station desk. Park Police Officers strive to be proactive and use a variety of alternative patrol techniques that include bicycle, motorcycle and four-wheel ATV patrols.

Minneapolis and Golden Valley Police Departments also respond to emergency calls within Theodore Wirth Regional Park. MPRB Park Police will occasionally conduct joint meetings with Golden Valley Police to address areas of special concern in the park.

### Park Maintenance Activities

The MPRB recognizes that maintenance is a investment with a high return. provides routine maintenance as identified below for general areas of the park, as funding permits:

- Cleaning the Picnic Pavilion, picnic area, and Wirth Beach House, this includes basic tasks such as cleaning toilets and sinks, mopping floors, wiping down counters, washing walls and other duties.
- Empty garbage and recycling cans, pick up garbage where people congregate, clean debris from the water's edge and remove weeds.
- Address issues with lighting or plumbing in cooperation with MPRB trades personnel.
- Mow developed areas, except for golf courses, on a 10 day schedule and to blow debris off paths weekly.
- Conduct storm damage tree maintenance, Dutch elm, oak wilt and other diseased tree removal.
- Plant and prune trees as needed or specified within the master plan.

### Golf

Golf course areas in Wirth Park are managed and maintained primarily



by Golf Course Operations and Maintenance staff. MPRB maximizes open course days so golf often opens in April and closes in October, meaning on occasion golf maintenance activities can overlap with ski preparation activities. The MPRB provides routine maintenance as identified below for golf, as funding permits:

- Complete trash and recycling removal.
- Maintain turf, including equipment maintenance, fertilization, aerification, seeding, sodding, top dressing, mowing, and pest control, basic tree trimming, bunker maintenance, irrigation system maintenance, hazard maintenance, buckthorn removal, and golf tee service.
- Cut and maintain the short grass on greens, fairways and tees daily; and the long grass on roughs, hazards and out-of-play areas 2-3 times a week except in the fall when leaves begin to drop.
- Blow leaves off short grass into the long grass. Other activities occur as needed or when time allows.

### Winter Recreation Area

The Winter Recreation Area in Wirth Park is managed and maintained primarily by a special team of Operations staff. The MPRB will provide routine maintenance as identified below for winter recreation, as funding permits:

- Make snow for cross-country ski trails, snowboarding and tubing.
- Maintain and repair cross-country ski trail lights.
- Groom ski trails.
- Relocate snow to connect trails beneath bridges or other covered areas.
- Trim trees and maintain ski trail lights as needed and as time permits.
- Maintain snow guns and other equipment as needed and as time permits.

### Paved Trails

Paved trails are checked periodically by maintenance staff, cracks are filled and minor holes patched. The bicycle trail that parallels Theodore Wirth Parkway

is plowed in the winter and becomes a combined bicycle and pedestrian path. The Luce Line Regional Trail is not plowed to accommodate the alignment of cross-country ski trails.

### Soft Surface Trails

New soft surface trail alignments are designed with appropriate grades and cross slopes to ensure year round sustainability. Informal trails and trails with unsustainable design are closed and restored to native communities.

MPRB partners with Minneapolis Off-Road Cycling Advocates (MOCA) to sustainably design, build, and maintain Wirth's off-road cycling trails to minimize erosion and land disturbance, and to address maintenance issues when they do occur. MOCA members do trail building and maintenance weekly.

The Loppet Foundation recruits volunteers for seasonal trail maintenance events in spring and fall for running and ski trails. They also participate in some improvement work including trail alignment modifications, erosion control and tree planting.

### Energy Management and Conservation Plans

Wirth Park contains historic and older facilities. As these facilities are rehabilitated, current energy codes will be met and energy-efficient materials will be added whenever possible while respecting and preserving the original building construction.

### Solid Waste Recycling

MPRB operations staff collect and properly dispose of solid waste, recycling, and organic waste every day of the year within every property owned and managed by the MPRB. As Wirth Park develops according to the direction of the master plan, waste management plans, procedures, and staffing levels will be modified to keep Wirth Park clean and safe for the enjoyment of park visitors.



Figure 95. Wirth Pavilion.



Figure 96. Hand water pump.



Figure 97. Wirth trail and parkway.

## Invasives to Manage at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden:

Buckthorn  
Creeping Charlie  
Garlic mustard



Figure 98. Buckthorn.



Figure 99. Creeping charlie.



Figure 101. Garlic mustard.

## Natural Areas and Water Resources Management

The Environmental Stewardship Division (asset management, forestry and environmental management) of MPRB is responsible for care, maintenance and programming of MPRB's special natural areas and water resources. MPRB will provide ongoing and routine maintenance, enhancement, and restoration as identified below for natural areas, as funding permits:

- Invasive removal, vegetation surveys, water quality monitoring, and erosion protection at Wirth Lake, Birch Pond, and Twin Lake.
- Invasive removal, prescribed burns, vegetation surveys, and erosion protection at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary, the Quaking Bog and the "Back 40" prairies.

As per the Metropolitan Council 2030 Regional Park Policy Plan and in keeping with best practices for natural and water resource management and protection, the MPRB will consult with natural resource professionals during the detailed design and construction of projects. Impacts to the resources will first be avoided, and if avoidance is not possible, impacts will be minimized. If minimization is not possible, mitigation will occur.

### Natural Area Resources

Lakes, streams, creeks, wetlands, and other water bodies are especially affected by flooding, shoreline erosion, and other storm water impacts. New invasive species, diseases, regulations, and the effects of pollution and climate change will require increased commitment and financial investment in managing the park system's natural resources. Maintenance approaches to natural resources will need to remain flexible in an area as naturally diverse as Wirth.

### Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary

Environmental Stewardship near term priorities in the woodland include creating pocket plantings in highly visible areas along the trails of wooded areas; developing native vine collection; and planting native canopy trees. In the wetland, priorities include a feasibility study on hydrology of the wetland; expanding pocket plantings; and reestablishing stream and Mallard Pool maintenance. In the upland prairie priorities include creating a high-diversity wet meadow/prairie in the low-lying, moist prairie bowl; adding diversity to the upland garden plant collection; and removing tree and shrub seedlings and saplings. Staff will also focus on increasing the health and diversity of the core native plant collections.

Completed priorities for garden infrastructure maintenance include adding two more water lines to the woodland garden; updating plant ID labels; replacing roofs and missing timber edges; restoring the fireplace; adding directional signs; planning and funding a bridge replacement project; developing an erosion control strategy for trails on slopes; and upgrading the self-guided interpretive system.

In wildlife management, priorities include establishing relationships with bird-focused organizations and researchers; enhancing habitat by adding diversity of plants; working with the MN Breeding Bird Atlas; hosting a MN bio-Blitz for intensive 24-hour on-trail observation work; maintaining fences to keep deer out; developing a plan to remove feral animals; and researching the presence and impact of non-native earthworms in the forest. For garden performance, plans are to conduct a plant survey every five years and to do a garden visitor survey every five years.

### Quaking Bog

A significant restoration was done in the Bog in the mid-1990's which included installation of a boardwalk and bridge, development of a guidebook,



removal of buckthorn, and the planting of native bog plants such as pitcher plant and tamarack trees. In 2009 staff again worked intensively on buckthorn removal areas in the sphagnum portion of the Bog. In 2012 Conservation Corps Minnesota and MPRB summer youth employment program staff and youth removed buckthorn from the main access trail to the Bog.

Management of the Bog is unlike that for garden and forests, due to the sensitive ecological system. It is also unlike that for bogs in rural areas of the state, because of the pressures of urban invasive species and the high level of human use of the area. Tamarack bogs by nature succeed to wetlands over time, as is beginning to happen with the appearance of red maple and birch in the Bog which staff work to remove.

### Water Resources

MPRB and local government agencies (Bassett Creek Water Management Commission (BCWMC), City of Minneapolis and Golden Valley) are responsible for monitoring and protecting water resources and are actively involved in multiple monitoring and improvement projects to improve water resources.

#### Water Quality Monitoring

The MPRB monitors lakes, streams, and stormwater flows for contaminants and other water quality indicators. Staff test for alkalinity, chloride, chlorophyll-a, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, E.coli, hardness, pH, phytoplankton, secchi transparency, silica, temperature, TKN, NOx, TP, SRP, TN, and zooplankton.

In 2004 MPRB worked with Barr Engineering to develop the Lake Aesthetic and User Recreation Index (LAURI), a measurement with makes it easier for members of the public to understand conditions affecting their lakes. In 2009 LAURI was revised to have five indices: public health (E.coli

measured at public swimming beaches), water quality (water clarity/Secchi depth), habitat quality (aquatic plant and fish diversity), recreational access (availability and ease of public access), and aesthetic considerations (color and odor of water, garbage and debris).

LAURI results are presented in the MPRB Annual Water Resources Report and additional information is available on the MPRB website. Wirth’s 2013 LAURI results ranked “excellent” for four indices, and “good” for one (figure 102).

Water Quality staff monitor water quality from April through October. There is one April and one October sampling session. From May through September monitoring is twice per month. Additionally, once each winter, staff test water quality and oxygen levels by drilling through lake ice.

The Wirth Golf Course participates in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary program and Water Quality staff assist in the golf course certification by monitoring three wetland sites at the golf course. Three sites are monitored at Wirth once a year: Bassett Creek inlet at the northern border of the park, Bassett Creek outlet at the SE



Figure 102. LAURI index for Wirth Lake.

edge where the creek meets Hwy 55, and within the Par 3 wetland. Golf staff and Wetland Health Evaluation Project (WHEP) volunteers monitor for physical parameters, chemical parameters, and a visual survey of aquatic and wetland vegetation.

The Bassett Creek Water Management Commission (BCWMC ) operates the Bassett Creek watershed outlet monitoring program (WOMP) station in cooperation with the Metropolitan Council and the BCWMC. The BCWMC gathers data to build the rating curve for the station. The MCES laboratory analyzes all collected samples and maintains, repairs, and coordinates larger aspects of the station.



Figure 103. Wirth Lagoon.

The BCWMC collects biotic info on the Bassett Creek main stem and tributaries in the eastern half of Wirth Park every 2-4 years. The BCWMC also does biota sampling of invertebrate, and reports on an Audubon survey done in the Wirth golf course area, including lagoons.

MPRB also does wetland monitoring through WHEP, periodic aquatic plant monitoring, and beach quality testing.

#### Stormwater Monitoring

The MPRB monitors storm sewers within Minneapolis to comply with the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit (NPDES). The purpose of this monitoring is to characterize the impacts of stormwater discharges to receiving waters and review the effectiveness of treatment best management practices (BMPs). Monitoring partners have included Minneapolis Public Works, Metro Blooms, the Metropolitan Council Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program and the BCWMC.

New outlets were installed in Wirth in 1978 and 1996 and subsequently, fewer high water flow events backed up water

from Bassett Creek into the lake. In 2012 a new outlet control structure was installed where Wirth Lake flows into Bassett Creek to prevent creek water from entering Wirth Lake.

## **Invasive Species Management**

### **Terrestrial Invasive Species Removal and Disease Prevention**

MPRB staff conduct a number of invasive species removal and disease prevention activities in Wirth Park. Volunteers help with invasive species removal as well as planting projects. As funding permits, the MPRB conducts the following:

- An annual tree health survey, with a more intensive survey specific to oak wilt. In addition, Forestry works with the EBWG Curator to identify diseased trees and to develop an associated management and removal strategy each year in EBWG.
- Extensive invasive species eradication efforts in woodland, bog and wetland for buckthorn, garlic mustard, dame's

rocket, reed canary grass, honeysuckle, white mulberry, Japanese barberry, and poison ivy.

### **Aquatic Invasive Species**

MPRB staff conduct a number of aquatic invasive species removal activities in Wirth Park. As funding permits, the MPRB conducts the following:

- AIS inspections of watercraft before launching any trailered boat in Minneapolis boat launches.
- Manual harvesting to control the growth of milfoil. Recent improvements at Wirth Beach included installation of a floating boardwalk at the beach, which prevents a mechanical harvester from accessing the beach area. Subsequently, in 2012 MPRB began a program for manual milfoil harvesting in this area, using scuba divers to remove plant material by hand.
- Manage milfoil with mechanical measures, and purple loosestrife with mechanical and bio-control measures.



Figure 104. MPRB Emerald Ash Borer outreach program.



Figure 105. Lake water quality monitoring by MPRB Water Resources staff.



# Implementation

This master plan is intended to be a long term, 20-year vision for Wirth Park. Significant efforts will be needed in subsequent years to identify new funding sources and donors to achieve master plan goals. Strategic use of volunteers and partners will also be needed.

## Estimated Development Costs

The estimated development costs for the plan total \$15-21million based on 2012 estimates recommended by the CAC on June 12, 2012 (table 17).

## Phasing

This plan requires phased implementation. The Community Advisory Committee determined a priority project list that can serve as a phasing structure. The prioritization is broken into two categories: Traditional Public Funding and Public – Private Partnership/Donor funding. The numbers associated with each priority, such as “A-8,” refer to the items listed in the estimated development costs table (table 17).

### First Priority with Traditional Public Funding:

- North Wirth: A-8, Walking trail improvements
- North Wirth: A-9, Natural Resource Management
- North Wirth: A-13, Dog Park
- Central Wirth: B-1, Lake Area Picnic Shelters and Parking
- Central Wirth: B-2, Lake Area Trail Improvements and Features
- Central Wirth: B-3, JD Rivers’ Garden Enhancements
- Central Wirth: B-4, Natural Resource Management
- South Wirth: C-2, Trail Improvements
- South Wirth: C-3, Eloise Butler Improvements
- South Wirth: C-4, Natural Resource Management
- Whole Park: C-1, Wayfinding

### First Priority with Public-Private Partnership Donor Funding:

- A-3, Chalet Rehab and Site Improvements
- A-5, Welcome Center
- A-4 Welcome Center Parking
- A-11, Back 9 Golf Course Modifications (package)
- A-6, Re-located Tubing Hill
- A-7, Cycling Event Trails
- A-10, Ski Trail Improvements

#### CAC-Recommended Development Plan Estimated Costs

Packaged Elements		Capital Budget
Theo's Retreat and Maintenance Facilities		
A-1	Park Maintenance Facilities-(new garage/office, yard, access drive)	\$1,750,080
A-2	Theo's Retreat (rehabilitated Tool House for meeting/event facility)	\$1,436,400
A-1a	Golf Maintenance Facilities (cart barn, yard and portion of maint office/shop)	\$971,700
Subtotal		\$4,158,180
Chalet and Welcome Center for Par-3 Golf, Winter Rec, Event Trail, Trails		
A-3	Chalet Rehab and Site Improvements (18-hole clubhouse, restaurant lease, parking, landscaping)	\$1,451,400
A-5	Welcome Center (Par-3 clubhouse, Winter Rec, Event Trail, Trails)	\$4,932,300
A-4	Welcome Center Parking (135 stalls)	\$1,011,675
Subtotal		\$7,395,375
Back 9 of 18-hole Golf Course, Event Trail and Winter Recreation Facilities		
A-6	Re-located tubing hill (near 17th fairway)	\$150,060
A-7	Cycling Event Trails (events & individual use)	\$78,720
A-10	Ski Trail Improvements	\$584,250
A-11	Back-9 Golf Course Modifications	\$1,534,120
Subtotal		\$2,347,150
Front 9 of 18-hole Golf Course with Driving Range		
A-12	Front 9 Golf Course Modification & Driving Range	\$2,299,270
Subtotal		\$2,299,270
		Capital Budget
North Wirth		
A-8	Walking Trail Improvements (upaved in Twin Lake area, paved along Bassett)	\$565,800
A-9	Natural Resource Management	\$184,500
A-13	Dog Park	\$51,660
Subtotal		\$801,960
Central Wirth		
B-1	Lake Area Shelters and Parking (1 - 250 cap w/restrooms, 2 - 30 cap, gazebo)	\$1,316,100
B-2	Lake Area Trail improvements and Features	\$399,750
B-3	JD Rivers Garden Enhancements	\$239,850
B-4	Natural Resource Management	\$116,850
Subtotal		\$2,072,550
South Wirth		
C-2	Trail Improvements	\$894,173
C-3	Eloise Butler Improvements (trails, build maint, habitat)	\$669,087
C-4	Natural Resource Management	\$307,500
Subtotal		\$1,870,760
Whole Park		
C-1	Wayfinding (full park)	\$86,100
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET		\$21,031,345

Table 17. Development plan estimated costs.

Project	Priority	Funding Source	Capital Budget
A-8 Walking Trail Improvements	First	Traditional Public Funding	\$565,800
A-9 Natural Resource Management	First	Traditional Public Funding	\$184,500
A-13 Dog Park	First	Traditional Public Funding	\$51,660
B-1 Lake Area Picnic Shelters and Parking	First	Traditional Public Funding	\$1,316,100
B-2 Lake Area Trail Improvements and Features	First	Traditional Public Funding	\$399,750
B-3 JD Rivers' Garden Enhancements	First	Traditional Public Funding	\$239,850
B-4 Natural Resource Management	First	Traditional Public Funding	\$116,850
C-2 Trail Improvements	First	Traditional Public Funding	\$894,173
C-3 Eloise Butler Improvements	First	Traditional Public Funding	\$669,087
C-4 Natural Resource Management	First	Traditional Public Funding	\$307,500
C-1 Wayfinding	First	Traditional Public Funding	\$86,100
A-3 Chalet Rehab and Site Improvements	First	Public-Private Partnership and Donor Funding	\$1,451,400
A-4 Welcome Center	First	Public-Private Partnership and Donor Funding	\$1,011,675
A-5 Welcome Center Parking	First	Public-Private Partnership and Donor Funding	\$4,932,300
A-11 Back 9 Golf Course Modifications	First	Public-Private Partnership and Donor Funding	\$1,534,120
A-6 Relocated Tubing Hill	First	Public-Private Partnership and Donor Funding	\$150,060
A-7 Cycling Event Trails	First	Public-Private Partnership and Donor Funding	\$78,720
A-10 Ski Trail Improvements	First	Public-Private Partnership and Donor Funding	\$584,250
A-1 Park Maintenance Facilities	Second	Traditional Public Funding	\$1,750,080
A-1a Golf Course Maintenance Facilities	Second	Public-Private Partnership and Donor Funding	\$971,700
A-2 Theo's Retreat	Third	Either Funding Source	\$1,436,400
A-12 Front 9 Golf Improvements	Fourth	Either Funding Source	\$2,299,270

Table 18. Development plan organized by priority.

## Second Priority with Traditional Public Funding

(but not excluding private funding if available):

- Park Maintenance Facilities (A-1)

## Second Priority with Public-Private Partnership and Donor Funding

(but not excluding private funding if available):

- Golf Course Maintenance (A-1a)

## Third Priority with Either Funding Source

- Theo's Retreat (A-2)

## Fourth Priority with Either Funding Source

- Front 9 Golf Improvements (A-12)

## Materials

Staff teams led by planning seek input from operations and other staff as needed to make decisions on materials based on the CAC feedback as well as MPRB policies and initiatives. Sustainability and energy efficiency are priorities in MPRB's Comprehensive Plan that could affect materials choices. In general, materials chosen will be of durable quality, appropriate for a public setting, and aesthetically complementary to existing park surroundings and historic buildings and landscapes.

## Capital Costs of Natural Resources Projects

As shown in the estimated development cost table, capital costs for natural resource-based projects are estimated at \$608,850. These numbers reflect per-acre restoration and limited management of native plantings, but are not divided into detailed projects. It is anticipated that natural resource enhancement will occur as a part of many different projects within the Park, particularly as sustainable trail development is established in North and South Wirth.



## Operating Costs

### Maintenance

Wirth Park is currently maintained and operated by the MPRB. Therefore, equipment and staffing resources required to maintain and operate the year-round park are included, as funding permits, within the existing MPRB budget. Many of the recommended improvements such as the reconfiguring of South Wirth trails are projected to address persistent design issues which place pressure on maintenance funding sources. A few amenities are expected to increase operating costs and revenue opportunities – such as the Welcome Center, Wirth Pavilion, and Theo’s Retreat.

As implementation 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 are typically funded and maintained in collaboration with partners, such as City of Minneapolis and Bassett Creek Watershed District.

### Natural Resources

The natural resources within Wirth Park are currently being maintained by the MPRB. However, the urban location of these resources makes them increasingly difficult to maintain. The development plan recommends improvements to natural resources, Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, JD Rivers’ Children’s Garden and soft surface trails. These investments will help restore and protect these valuable resources. The MPRB will continue to seek additional dedicated funding to augment the equipment and staff resources it devotes to maintaining the natural resources of the park.

### Public Safety

Wirth Park is currently patrolled by MPRB Park Police. A need to increase the patrols based on the development plan for the park is not anticipated.

## Development Funding Sources

The Metropolitan Council and State of Minnesota provide funding for acquisition, development and redevelopment projects through the Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The development and redevelopment proposed in this master plan may be funded through the Regional Parks CIP. Additionally, donations, federal funding, local and state grants, and other funding sources will be explored. Improvements to the golf courses will be funded through non-Metropolitan Council funds unless they also benefit approved regional park activities. In these cases, MPRB staff will work with Metropolitan Council staff to determine cost sharing levels.

## Operations, Maintenance, and Public Safety Funding Sources

Annual operating, maintenance, and public safety costs are funded through the MPRB’s General Fund budget. The primary source of funding is Minneapolis property tax with some revenue received from the State of Minnesota as part of the Operations and Maintenance Fund allocations from the Metropolitan Council. Facilities that are shared by the MPRB’s golf operations at the park, are also supported by the MPRB’s Enterprise Fund or general fund.

All operating, maintenance and public safety costs and associated staff/equipment are subject to annual operating budget development that is administered by the MPRB’s Superintendent and approved by the Board of Commissioners.



Figure 106. Accessible boardwalk at Wirth Beach.

## Other Revenue

Additional revenues in Wirth are generated by enterprise operations, youth and adult recreation programs, parking fees and passes, and special events.

Enterprise Revenue (Golf and Winter Recreation)

- Golf rounds (18-hole and Par 3)
- Food and beverage revenue at the Chalet and Par 3
- Golf lessons
- Golf pro shop sales
- Equipment rental for snowboarding, XC skiing, snowshoeing
- Snowboarding, XC skiing lessons
- Lift tickets and passes for snowboarding, tubing, XC skiing
- Event rental fees (Chalet Fireplace Room, Pub Room and Wirth Pavilion)
- Donations from friends groups, partners and stakeholder groups

General Fund Revenue

- Events
- Youth day camps
- Recreational and educational programs for adult and youth
- Donations from friends groups, partners and stakeholder groups
- Misc. sales (vending).

## Public Services Needed to Support the Plan

Because of Wirth's location within an urban area, no additional public services such as water or sewer are needed.

Proposed construction projects and trail construction can utilize existing road and infrastructure networks. Stormwater will be treated onsite or diverted into city stormwater systems as designed. Lighting will be connected to existing electrical networks. New building facilities will access existing sanitary sewer and freshwater connections.

Because this master plan reflects changes to an established park, only limited impacts to public services will be necessary to complete the improvements. The plan does not change any major thoroughfares or public rights of way with the exception of two proposed trail bridges crossing the parkway at the Bog and Welcome Center.

## Accessibility

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the MPRB will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

MPRB will, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in MPRB programs. MPRB will also make information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments whenever possible. MPRB will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities.

## Affordability

Many self-directed activities in Wirth can be practiced free of charge, most notably hiking and biking, off-road cycling, swimming, bird-watching, wildflower walks, nature tours, photography, archery, and others. Many of these activities do require specialized equipment, and the MPRB is continuing to establish partnerships with organizations that help youth access equipment. MPRB staff at JD Rivers' Children's Garden provide low and no-cost gardening instruction to area children.

Though golf and winter activities in Wirth often require a fee (with some limited free dates), a number of affordable or free activity options such as Minneapolis First Tee golf program, camps, field trips, ski and mountain bike instruction are offered through MPRB's partnership with the Loppet Foundation and other funding partners.

## Permitting

Each project in the master plan will require technical consideration by staff, consultants, and governing and permitting agencies. Depending on the project, one or more of the following may need to be contacted for permits:

- City of Minneapolis
- City of Golden Valley
- Hennepin County
- State of Minnesota Department of Transportation
- State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- State Historic Preservation Office

## Public Awareness

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has public relations, marketing and media-related tools, such as websites and social media, event planning and promotional materials to promote its regional parks. These tools will be used to continue to create awareness of the services that are available at Wirth Park. In addition, the MPRB will utilize its website and govdelivery to provide interested public and stakeholders with regular updates on the progress of the plan.





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## CHAPTER 6 – NATURAL RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP

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# Appendix C. Public Comment Summary - Whole Park Planning Process

Public comments collected during the Wirth Park master plan planning process before the release of a draft plan on October 15, 2014 can be grouped into 19 general categories. A complete list of public comments is available on the MPRB website project page for Wirth Park Improvements (visit [www.minneapolisparcs.org/currentprojects](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/currentprojects) and select “Theodore Wirth Regional Park Improvements.”

## Theodore Wirth Regional Park

Comments Collected During Master Planning Process

Comment Theme	Number of occurrences
Archery	12
Beach	12
Disc Golf	36
Dog Park	36
Funding	11
Golf	205
Hiking Trails	26
Invasive Species	18
Maintenance	67
Miscellaneous	169
Mountain Biking/BMX	419
Nature	170
Parking	44
Playground	8
Safety	71
Silent Sports Misc.	222
Skiing	264
Trails Misc.	120
Trees	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1924</b>

**President**

Liz Wielinski, District 1

**Vice President**

Scott Vreeland, District 3

**Commissioners**

Brad Bourn, District 6  
John Erwin, At Large  
Meg Forney, At Large  
Steffanie Musich, District 5  
Jon Olson, District 2  
Anita Tabb, District 4  
M. Annie Young, At Large

**Superintendent**

Jayne Miller

**Secretary to the Board**

Jennifer Ringold

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February, 2015

**MPRB Mission**

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board shall permanently preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance its natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board exists to provide places and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community, and the environment.





	Theme	Theme Impact	Response
1	Opposed to golf in Wirth Park, generally	High Impact	Would require a fundamental change to the park as a whole. No action taken.
2	Opposition to including more activities in Wirth	High impact	Would require a fundamental change to the park as a whole. No action taken.
3	Opposition to off-road cycling in Wirth	High Impact	Would require a fundamental change to the park as a whole. No action taken.
4	Opposition to redesigning park to focus on large events	High impact	Would require a fundamental change to the park as a whole. No action taken.
5	Opposition to special interest influence on park design	High Impact	General statements, unclear what specific action commenter suggests in relation to plan. No action taken.
6	Opposition to Wirth as a location for beginner ski trails	High impact	Would require a fundamental change to the park as a whole. No action taken.
7	Suggestion about Park Board mission	High Impact	Would require a change to MPRB policy, outside scope of master plan. No action taken.
8	Suggestion to maintain existing facilities before building new	High Impact	Would require a fundamental change in approach to park planning. No action taken.
9	Suggestion to move Wirth winter recreation out of the enterprise fund	High impact	Would require a change to MPRB policy, outside scope of master plan. No action taken.
10	Suggestion to reinvent Wirth as winter sports mecca	High impact	Would require a fundamental change to the park as a whole. No action taken.
11	Support for uses that are currently not allowed	High impact	Would require a change to MPRB policy, outside scope of master plan. No action taken.
12	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact	Text changes made where appropriate throughout the document.
13	Suggests clarification around equity considerations	Low Impact	Language added on pg 1-4 regarding expanded approach to equity. Staff felt it was important to retain existing language about applying a racial equity lens to implementation.
14	Suggests clarification around funding and implementation considerations	Low Impact	Specific project cost and timetable estimates infeasible for 20-year master plan, staff intention is to calculate project-specific information during future detailed design development for individual projects.
15	Suggests clarification around golf course considerations	Low Impact	Language added about course architect and course history on page 5-8. Language about hole yardage added on page 4-8. Several suggestions already covered by existing plan language, or request information that is beyond the scope of the master plan.
16	Suggests clarification around LRT considerations	Low Impact	Staff have refrained from expanding LRT discussion in the plan, as the CAC did not have an opportunity to review Bottineau line and new community engagement would be necessary. The MPRB has not approved formal actions regarding Bottineau LRT to date.
17	Suggests clarification around natural areas and wildlife considerations	Low Impact	Language added about invasive species present in the park on page 6-9. Several suggestions already covered by existing plan language, or request information that is beyond the scope of the master plan.
18	Suggests clarification around operations and maintenance considerations	Low Impact	Language added about investment implications of maintenance on pg 9-2.
19	Suggests clarification around trail considerations	Low impact	Language added about MN Off-Road Cyclists on pg 1-7 and 4-8.
20	Suggests clarification around winter recreation considerations	Low impact	Language added about snowshoeing on page 4-9. Several suggestions already covered by existing plan language.
21	Concern about off-road cycling impacts on natural areas	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations and would effectively eliminate a new use proposed in the park. Board would need to amend the concept plan.
22	Concern about overlapping golf and winter activity uses	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations and would effectively eliminate several new uses proposed in the park. Board would need to amend the concept plan to prioritize one use over another rather than attempt to balance uses.

	Theme	Theme Impact	Response
23	Concern about overlapping warm season recreation uses	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations and would effectively eliminate several new uses proposed in the park. Board would need to amend the plan to limit shared trails to just one use, focus resources on signage and enforcement. This was also a concern of the CAC and the goal is to reduce overlap where possible.
24	Concern about overlapping winter recreation uses	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations and would effectively eliminate several new uses proposed in the park. Board would need to amend the plan. This was also a concern of the CAC and the goal is to reduce overlap where possible.
25	Concern about safety on shared use trails, generally	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations and would effectively eliminate several new uses proposed in the park. Board would need to amend the plan. Would require future study of trail materials. In general the plan attempts to reduce or propose compatible overlap.
26	Concern plan doesn't provide enough parking	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations. Board would need to amend the plan. This was heavily discussed by the CAC and will need to be continually monitored as improvements are implemented.
27	Opposition to amount or size of picnic shelters as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations. Board would need to amend the plan. This was heavily discussed through the CAC process and the resulting plan was determined to be the best approach to balance the different perspectives on this topic.
28	Opposition to cultural resource management as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations. Board would need to amend the plan.
29	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations and would effectively eliminate several new uses proposed in the park. Board would need to amend the plan.
30	Opposition to how LRT is presented in the plan	Moderate Impact	Staff have refrained from expanding LRT discussion in the plan, as the CAC did not have an opportunity to review Bottineau line and new community engagement would be necessary.
31	Opposition to maintenance facility at Glenwood & Xerxes	Moderate Impact	No facility is proposed at this location in the plan. No action taken.
32	Opposition to moving golf holes to accommodate winter activities	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations and would effectively eliminate several new uses proposed in the park. Board would need to amend the plan.
33	Opposition to parking as shown in the plan, generally	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations. Board would need to amend the plan.
34	Opposition to parking at Glenwood & Xerxes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations. Board would need to amend the plan.
35	Opposition to parking near Par 3/Welcome Center as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations. Board would need to amend the plan.
36	Opposition to picnic shelters on lakeshore	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations. Board would need to amend the plan.
37	Opposition to placing public amenities near residential areas	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations. Board would need to amend the plan.
38	Opposition to removal of archery range	Moderate impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations. Board would need to amend the plan.
39	Opposition to removing parking near fishing dock as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations. Board would need to amend the plan.
40	Opposition to trail improvements as presented in the plan	Moderate impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations and would effectively eliminate several new uses proposed in the park. Board would need to amend the plan.
41	Suggestion or concern about funding priorities	Moderate Impact	Language added regarding restrooms on pg 7-9. Several suggestions would go against numerous CAC recommendations and would effectively eliminate several new uses proposed in the park. Board would need to amend the plan.
42	Suggestion to add a recreation area for seniors	Moderate impact	Language added to possible future trends on pg 4-11.



	Theme	Theme Impact	Response
43	Suggestion to add or expand a specific recreation amenity	Moderate impact	Several suggestions are outside the scope of regional park amenities or capital and operations capacity. Board would need to amend the plan.
44	Suggestion to add or expand off-road cycling trails, specifically	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations. Board would need to amend the plan.
45	Suggestion to add or expand trails	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations. Board would need to amend the plan.
46	Suggestion to add or modify a trail connection	Moderate Impact	Would go against CAC and staff recommendations. Board would need to amend the plan.
47	Suggestion to develop parking for LRT stations	Moderate Impact	Would be inconsistent with regional park policy established by the Metropolitan Council, and would go against CAC and staff recommendations. Board would need to amend the plan.
48	Concern about inadequate funding for elements in the plan	No Impact (future)	Comments will be documented and included in future funding efforts
49	Statement or concern about equity in implementation	No impact (future)	Comments will be documented and included in future implementation efforts
50	Statement or concern about future planning and design processes	No Impact (future)	Comments will be documented and included in future planning and design processes
51	Suggestion about future LRT design or design process	No Impact (future)	Comments will be documented and included in future LRT design processes
52	Suggestion or concern about golf course design	No Impact (future)	Comments will be documented and included in future golf course design efforts
53	Suggestion or concern about golf course operations and management	No Impact (future)	Comments will be documented and included in future golf course operations and management efforts
54	Suggestion or concern about historic and cultural resources	No Impact (future)	Comments will be documented and included in future design efforts around historic and cultural resources
55	Suggestion or concern about lighting	No Impact (future)	Comments will be documented and included in future lighting efforts
56	Suggestion or concern about parking as presented in the plan	No impact (future)	Comments will be documented and included in future parking efforts
57	Suggestion or concern about signage and wayfinding	No Impact (future)	Comments will be documented and included in future signage and wayfinding efforts
58	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)	Comments will be documented and included in future Welcome Center design efforts
59	Concern about impacts of current construction	No impact (scope)	Comments will be provided to appropriate MPRB staff
60	Opposition to spending golf revenue on non-golf projects	No impact (scope)	Comments will be provided to appropriate MPRB staff
61	Suggestion about future partnerships	No impact (scope)	Comments will be provided to appropriate MPRB recreation and youth programming staff
62	Suggestion or concern about communications	No impact (scope)	Comments will be provided to appropriate MPRB communications and marketing staff
63	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)	Comments will be provided to appropriate MPRB operations and maintenance staff
64	Suggestion or concern about customer service	No impact (scope)	Comments will be provided to appropriate MPRB customer service staff
65	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)	Comments will be provided to appropriate MPRB operations and maintenance staff
66	Suggestion or concern about permit and fee process	No impact (scope)	Comments will be provided to appropriate MPRB permitting staff
67	Suggestion or concern about safety and enforcement	No impact (scope)	Comments will be provided to appropriate MPRB safety and security staff
68	Suggestion to alter roads and signals	No impact (scope)	Comments will be provided to appropriate Hennepin County and MN DOT staff
69	Suggestion, concern or support for elements or agencies outside of Wirth park	No impact (scope)	Comments will be provided to appropriate agency staff
70	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)	Comments will be provided to appropriate MPRB staff
71	Appreciation for Wirth Park, generally	No impact (statement)	General statements. No action taken.
72	Concern park will become overcrowded as more people learn about it	No impact (statement)	General statements. No action taken.
73	Opposition to building structures for looks rather than function	No impact (statement)	General statements. No action taken.
74	Statement about equity	No impact (statement)	General statements. No action taken.
75	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)	General statements. No action taken.
76	Statement about natural resources and wildlife in Wirth, generally	No impact (statement)	General statements. No action taken.

	Theme	Theme Impact	Response
77	Statement about off-leash recreation area	No impact (statement)	General statements. No action taken.
78	Statement about off-road cycling, generally	No impact (statement)	General statements. No action taken.
79	Statement about operations and maintenance	No impact (statement)	General statements. No action taken.
80	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)	General statements. No action taken.
81	Statement of support for comments of Theodore Wirth Golf Association	No impact (statement)	General statements. No action taken.
82	Statement or concern about plan, generally	No impact (statement)	General statements. No action taken.
83	Statement or concern about planning process	No impact (statement)	General statements. No action taken.
84	Statement or concern about skiing, generally	No impact (statement)	General statements. No action taken.
85	Statement or concern about special interest influence on park design	No impact (statement)	General statements. No action taken.
86	Statement or concern about trails, generally	No impact (statement)	General statements. No action taken.
87	Statement or concern about winter recreation	No impact (statement)	General statements. No action taken.
88	Statement or concern that plan favors skiers over golfers	No impact (statement)	General statements. No action taken.
89	Support for Adventure and Welcome Center as shown in plan	No Impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
90	Support for concessions as shown in the plan	No impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
91	Support for enhancement of park's ability to host events as shown in the plan	No impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
92	Support for funding and implementing the plan	No impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
93	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
94	Support for lighting as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
95	Support for Loppet Partnership in Wirth	No impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
96	Support for multiple activities in Wirth, generally	No impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
97	Support for natural area preservation and improvement	No impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
98	Support for off-leash recreation area as shown in the plan	No impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
99	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
100	Support for parking as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
101	Support for picnic area as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
102	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
103	Support for plan vision to balance various activities and needs	No impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
104	Support for renovation of the Chalet and lawn bowling area as shown in the plan	No impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
105	Support for separating golf and ski uses as shown in the plan	No impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
106	Support for ski trails and related improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
107	Support for trail improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.
108	Support for winter recreation improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)	Supportive statements. No action taken.



Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
18b. Opposed to existence of golf course in Wirth Park	Opposed to golf in Wirth Park, generally	High Impact
66f. Opposition to spending so much money on golf, feeling that Minneapolis doesn't need so much golf capacity	Opposed to golf in Wirth Park, generally	High Impact
37a. Concern that woods of South and Central Wirth are being converted from natural areas to seasonal, special interest activity areas with wide ski trails, and are pushing out wildlife	Opposition to including more activities in Wirth	High impact
37g. Suggestion to restore South and Central woods to natural areas with free recreation rather than focus on seasonal recreational activities	Opposition to including more activities in Wirth	High impact
41c. Concern plan elements will erode natural beauty of the park by filling natural areas with active events such as mountain biking, BMX, skiing, golfing	Opposition to including more activities in Wirth	High impact
41d. Concern that recommendation to include more activities in Wirth is counter to what most residents want, espeically aging populations who's primary activity is walking	Opposition to including more activities in Wirth	High impact
41e. Concern that limited natural resources are being forever removed from the park	Opposition to including more activities in Wirth	High impact
128d. Concern that peace of woods in South/Central Wirth is threatened by off road cycling and related trail use	Opposition to off-road cycling in Wirth	High Impact
54k. Suggestion to move new mountain bike trails to Farview Park to use hills, space, and parking there	Opposition to off-road cycling in Wirth	High Impact
128r. Opposition to redesigning park to focus on need of large events because they are temporary, negatively impact the at-ease recreational nature of the park, and miss the broad vision of the park	Opposition to redesigning park to focus on large events	High impact
25c. Concern that terrain in Wirth too hilly for beginning skiers	Opposition to Wirth as a location for beginner ski trails	High impact
12e. Suggestion to clarify core mission of MPRB to focus on safety and resonsible use and management of parks	Suggestion about Park Board mission	High Impact
9d. Concern that maintenance should be core to park mission	Suggestion about Park Board mission	High Impact
26b. Suggestion to maintain existing facilities before building new	Suggestion to maintain existing facilities before building new	High Impact
39b. Concern that Wirth Winter Recreation has histoircally lost revenue and suggestion that it does not belong in the enterprise fund	Suggestion to move Wirth winter recreation out of the enterprise fund	High impact
51d. Supports reinventing Wirth as winter sports mecca	Suggestion to reinvent Wirth as winter sports mecca	High impact
101d. Suggestion to allow winter cycling/fat tire biking on groomed cross country ski trails	Support for uses that are currently not allowed	High impact
125f. Suggestion to allow off-leash dog walking in South Wirth woods to reduce isolation and increase safety	Support for uses that are currently not allowed	High impact
114d. Suggestion to clarify meaning of regional park and how it serves a wider community and more stakeholders than a neighborhood park	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
114e. Suggestion to add missing table reference number on page 5-4 under Cultural Resources Inventory	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
114g. Suggestion to add "T" to second sentence under Natural snow cross country ski trail network on page 7-8	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
156a. Numbers on North Wirth Plan Recommendation map do not match those in text	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
160b. Suggestion to indicate when trail construction east of Wirth between Hwy 55 and Golden Valley Road will begin	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low Impact
34a. Suggestion to include Aamina Muhammad and John Munger in CAC acknowledgements and Piortr Bednarski, Nordic Ski Professional with Go! Training on consultants list	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact

Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
34c. Suggestion to clarify how plan overall addresses nature deficit disorder and childhood obesity	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
34g. Suggestion to provide summary of recent ActiveNet reservation data for Wirth	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
34h. Suggestion to describe how Wirth fits into the MPRB system and regional park system, including distance to similar resources	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low Impact
34i. Suggestion to include a list of all special events held at Wirth in an year, showing how park is used	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
43a. Font in plan too decorative and difficult to read, suggestion to change it	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
49f. Suggestion that the hole shown in picture on page 5-13 is actually hole 12.	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4aa. Suggestion on page 9-2 under "Park Maintenance Activities" bullet 5 change "disease" to "diseased"	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4b. Suggestion on page 1-2 replace "a semi –autonomous" with “the” to read “the unit of government”	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4bb. Suggestion throughout plan - replace "figure x" or "figure xxx" with appropriate figure numbers.	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4c.Suggestion on page 1-2 remove "The City of Minneapolis is a primary partner" and start sentence at "The MPRB engages"	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4d. Suggestion on page 1-2 indicate what land MPRB owns in Fridley and add Hopkins to the list (for Meadowbrook golf course)	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4e. Suggestion on page 1-5 map to clarify if labels for "event cycling trail and stadium", "summer stadium (grass)" and "winter stadium" are the same facility, remove duplication and title "summer/winter open stadium area"	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4f. Suggestion on page 1-6 to add John Munger and Piotr Bednarski as appointed CAC members	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4g. Suggestion on page 1-7 change spelling to "Meg Forney"	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4h. Suggestion on page 2-6 to edit/reconsider word choice in "The CAC and public participated in multiple events during the charrette to participate"	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4i.Suggestion on page 2-7 figure 20 row 3 edit/reword/remove question in parentheses	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4j. Suggestion on page 2-8 figure 20 row 6 change "neighborhood “ to "neighborhoods" to match preceding maps	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4k. Suggestion on page 4-2 change "larger share of the families with children and workforce" to “larger share of the workforce and families with children.”	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4l. Suggestion on page 4-2 change "2040, making almost a quarter of total population" to "2040, making up almost"	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4m. Suggestion on page 4-3 fix typo in "colo4 (8)"	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4n. Suggestion on page 4-9 remove hyphen from "re-servable"	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4o. Suggestion on page 5-6 row 9 change "of the grass to "off the grass"	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4q. Suggestion on page 5-14 remove "of" from "Wirth Beach has undergone numerous of improvements"	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4r. Suggestion on page 6-6 in paragraph on impaired waters, capitalize letter "L" in "Chain of lakes"	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4s. Suggestion on page 6-9 under "Impact of Invasive Species" two invasive species are mentioned, but three are listed as disease vectors - make consistent	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4t. Suggestion on page 7-2 point #6 add a space between "both" and "regional"	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact



Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
4u. Suggestion on page 7-3 make same changes to map in figure 100 as those suggested in comment summary 4e	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4v. Suggestion on page 7-8 under "Natural Snow Cross-Country Ski Trail Network" reword sentence after "largely-in-place" for better clarity	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4w. Suggestion on page 7-9 under "JD Rivers Children's Garden" change "future small livestock" to "future small seasonal livestock"	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4y. Suggestion on page 7-15 under "Central Wirth" point 6 change "future small livestock" to "future small seasonal livestock"	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
4z. Suggestion on page 9-2 under "Park Maintenance Activities" bullet 4 change "expect" to "except", and remove "in" before "on a 10 day schedule"	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
92e Opposition to use of word "stadium" to describe an open space, it creates confusion, suggestion to change it	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low Impact
98e. Suggstion to clarify that Silent Sports Center is the same as Welcome Center	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low impact
9f. Suggestion to clarify if ski trails and housing facilities are core to MPRB's vision for Wirth	Plan text, graphic, layout edits	Low Impact
115m. Suggestion that plan include a commitment to study a design that places more ski trails off existing golf fairways	Suggestion or concern about golf course design	Low Impact
114b. Suggestion to remove word "racial" from racial equity discussion on page 1-4, and refer instead to less limiting discussion of equity for all park users	Suggests clarification around equity considerations	Low Impact
34b. Suggestion to expand equity discussion throughout plan, including adding details such as activities available, plans for expansion, fee waivers for swimming lessons, number of residents served and participating in activities and plans for expanding this, ski-lending service	Suggests clarification around equity considerations	Low impact
34j. Suggestion to include revenue plan that corresponds to CAC's \$21 million capital improvement budget, outlining how improvements will be funded	Suggests clarification around funding and implementation considerations	Low Impact
34k. Suggestion to outline how much funding the golf courses need and in what time frame	Suggests clarification around funding and implementation considerations	Low Impact
34l. Suggestion to indicate if planned snowmaking and lighting at both Three Rivers and Hyland parks will impact demand and revenue at Wirth	Suggests clarification around funding and implementation considerations	Low impact
34m. Suggestion to provide a schedule for the 20-25 year implementation plan	Suggests clarification around funding and implementation considerations	Low Impact
34n. Suggestion to indicate if Wirth Park has a budget	Suggests clarification around funding and implementation considerations	Low Impact
34o. Suggestion to indicate by how much the Pavilion, Welcome Center and Theo's Retreat will increase operating costs of the park	Suggests clarification around funding and implementation considerations	Low Impact
34t. Suggestion that detailed financial plans for enterprise activities be included	Suggests clarification around funding and implementation considerations	Low Impact
36c. Suggestion to include a cost estimate plan for the recommended improvements and linking it to a matrix of funding sources and projects	Suggests clarification around funding and implementation considerations	Low Impact
36d. Suggestion to include an implementation, funding, and construction timetable	Suggests clarification around funding and implementation considerations	Low Impact
39a. Suggestion to include financial history of Wirth Winter Recreation operations and the cost of expanding ski trails in the plan	Suggests clarification around funding and implementation considerations	Low Impact

Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
9e. Suggestion on page 93 (chapter 9-pg 7) to clarify public-private-nonprofit partnership funding resources, roles, and timelines, especially for Loppet Foundation	Suggests clarification around funding and implementation considerations	Low Impact
115j. Suggestion that plan include acknowledgement that ski trials and winter activities have an adverse impact on golf holes	Suggests clarification around golf course considerations	Low Impact
117a. Suggestion to clarify if there are flood plain issues with modifying or moving holes on the front nine	Suggests clarification around golf course considerations	Low impact
126a. Suggestion to provide projected and total yardages of new holes on front nine.	Suggests clarification around golf course considerations	Low impact
126c. Suggestion to clarify if most changes to golf course involve tee boxes and greens switching places	Suggests clarification around golf course considerations	Low impact
34d. Concern that description of golf on pg 4-10 is negative and suggests that course will be closed. Suggestion to reference local conditions rather than national study here.	Suggests clarification around golf course considerations	Low impact
49d. Suggestion on page 5-8, item 15 that Wiliam Clark is the architect of the golf course, not Charley Erickson	Suggests clarification around golf course considerations	Low impact
49e. Opposition to statement on page 4-10 that golf maintenance was deferred due to declining golf revenues. Suggestion instead that maintenance was deferred because course profits were used for non-golf activities and projects	Suggests clarification around golf course considerations	Low Impact
49g. Suggestion on page 5-14 that the 18 hole course is the oldest public course in Minnesota and 2nd oldest public course west of the Mississippi.	Suggests clarification around golf course considerations	Low impact
49h. Statement that "The Bronze" golf tournament, a very important African American golf tournament, began at the Wirth 18 hole golf course.	Suggests clarification around golf course considerations	Low impact
49i. Concern that the historic significance of the 18 hole golf course is overlooked in the plan	Suggests clarification around golf course considerations	Low Impact
49r. Concern that the plan underemphasizes environmental impacts of a Golf Academy	Suggests clarification around golf course considerations	Low Impact
4x. Suggestion on page 7-10 under "Front 9 Golf Improvements (Design Advisory F)" include language about preserving amenities of historical significance (per table on pg 58, row 15 listing partial significance in front 9 area)	Suggests clarification around golf course considerations	Low Impact
73a. Suggestion to clarify if Par 3 course will not change, Welcome Center is larger, and Loppet Foundation will work in Chalet	Suggests clarification around golf course considerations	Low Impact
52a. Concern that the proposed Blue Line LRT extension and its benefits to access are not discussed adequately in the plan, particularly chapter 7	Suggests clarification around LRT considerations	Low Impact
52b. Suggestion on page 7-2 to mention LRT in goal of improving visitor access	Suggests clarification around LRT considerations	Low Impact
52c. Suggestion on page 7-12 to mention LRT access together with skiing and a shuttle as a way to decrease parking at Chalet for major events	Suggests clarification around LRT considerations	Low Impact
52d. Suggestion to remove sentence on pg 7-13 "The proposed Bottineau Transitway along the BNSF corridor has the potential to further limit connections to the park" because illegal crossing of the tracks is rare. Rather, pedestrians access the park at roadway intersections	Suggests clarification around LRT considerations	Low Impact
114l. Suggestion that CAC discussed invasive species control recommendations for Central Wirth, please include them in the plan on page 7-15	Suggests clarification around natural areas and wildlife considerations	Low impact
50g. Suggestion to add South Wirth recommendation for Wildlife and Habitat Preservation, to maintain and respect park for wildlife as well as people	Suggests clarification around natural areas and wildlife considerations	Low Impact



Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
56a. Suggestion to include mention of Hidden Lake headwaters area in the plan, and the cattails, ancient oaks, and wildlife found there	Suggests clarification around natural areas and wildlife considerations	Low Impact
114k. Suggestion to have plan address the environmental impacts of trail maintenance equipment	Suggests clarification around operations and maintenance considerations	Low Impact
41l. Suggestion to acknowledge need for maintenance of improvements such as picnic tables, restrooms, benches, tables, throughout the plan	Suggests clarification around operations and maintenance considerations	Low Impact
114j. Opposition to using term "natural snow trails" when they are groomed with mechanical equipment that is noisy and invasive to park users	Suggests clarification around trail considerations	Low impact
133c. Concern that plan doesn't address obstacles to bike commuting both east-west and north south: poor access, heavy use, cyclist speeds, unsafe traffic and intersections, winter safety	Suggests clarification around trail considerations	Low impact
134a. Suggestion to mention MORC in addition to MOCA and to clarify roles of each group in Wirth	Suggests clarification around trail considerations	Low impact
1c. Suggestion to mention MORC in discussions of off-road cycling trails	Suggests clarification around trail considerations	Low impact
50d. Suggestion to review and clarify strategy for trails in western South Wirth on pg 7-16	Suggests clarification around trail considerations	Low impact
13a. Suggestion to add goal to plan to improve and grow winter activities in the park	Suggests clarification around winter recreation considerations	Low Impact
34s. Concern that winter recreation plan is not environmentally and financially sustainable, and potential financial losses not outlined in plan	Suggests clarification around winter recreation considerations	Low impact
62d. Suggestion that plan emphasize the current high levels of use of ski trails in winter by hundreds of high school teams, and associated bus traffic	Suggests clarification around winter recreation considerations	Low impact
70a. Suggestion to clarify if snowshoeing will take place on soft surface walking trails or elsewhere.	Suggests clarification around winter recreation considerations	Low impact
128f. Concern that off road trails are wider than previous rogue trails which had smaller footprint	Concern about off-road cycling impacts on natural areas	Moderate Impact
12a. Concern about impact of mountain biking trails and construction of them on appearance and management of natural areas, especially SW corner of Glenwood and parkway	Concern about off-road cycling impacts on natural areas	Moderate Impact
37c. Concern that mountain bike trails are causing erosion	Concern about off-road cycling impacts on natural areas	Moderate Impact
42e. Opposition to new off-road trail through Bog, feels it's intrusive to the environment and overbuilt.	Concern about off-road cycling impacts on natural areas	Moderate Impact
7d. Opposition to single track off-road cycling trails in Quaking Bog area, feels they impact beauty, peace, environment of area	Concern about off-road cycling impacts on natural areas	Moderate Impact
115b. Statement that Wirth golf turf is adversely affected by expansion of winter activities, especially snow making and ski trail grooming	Concern about overlapping golf and winter activity uses	Moderate Impact
115i. Suggestion that plan should address conflicting uses between golf and winter activities	Concern about overlapping golf and winter activity uses	Moderate Impact
119f. Suggestion that new ski stadium construction not interfere with seasonal operations of Par 3	Concern about overlapping golf and winter activity uses	Moderate Impact
30i. Support for improvements to winter recreation in a way that also benefits golf infrastructure	Concern about overlapping golf and winter activity uses	Moderate Impact
49c. Support for fully separating golf and winter activities to enhance both activities, and increase golf revenue by reducing impacts on course condition and opening date	Concern about overlapping golf and winter activity uses	Moderate Impact
74c. Statement that heavy skiing will prolong use of golf course by skiers in spring	Concern about overlapping golf and winter activity uses	Moderate Impact
77e. Concern that Welcome Center project management team favors ski stadium placement across most of the Par 3 1st hole, so that ski trail grooming and snowmaking would impact the hole, running against MPRB policy to minimize impact of winter activities on golf holes.	Concern about overlapping golf and winter activity uses	Moderate Impact

Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
113a. Concern about loss of safe pedestrian and jogging trails in area around Quaking Bog due to off road cycling in the area	Concern about overlapping warm season recreation uses	Moderate Impact
113d. Concern that separation of walkers and cyclists has not happened in Wirth	Concern about overlapping warm season recreation uses	Moderate Impact
12c. Concern that cyclists move too fast on shared use trails which makes trails unsafe for walkers	Concern about overlapping warm season recreation uses	Moderate Impact
50d. Concern about implementation of current off-road biking trails, particularly unclear south entry point from 394, and safety where walking and bike trails cross	Concern about overlapping warm season recreation uses	Moderate Impact
54h. Statement that parking is already a problem for both courses, especially when rental events cause bikers to occupy spots used by golfers	Concern about overlapping warm season recreation uses	Moderate Impact
5c. Concern that cyclists and skiers move too fast which makes trails unsafe for walkers	Concern about overlapping warm season recreation uses	Moderate Impact
5d. Concern that cyclists and skiers use trails they shouldn't in Wirth Park, limiting options for safe trail walking	Concern about overlapping warm season recreation uses	Moderate Impact
114h. Concern that page 7-10 Natural snow cross country ski trail network paragraph doesn't address conflicting uses adequately	Concern about overlapping winter recreation uses	Moderate Impact
50a. Concern about winter trail user conflicts between walkers, snow shoers, trail runners, dogs, and skijorers (reference page 7-10)	Concern about overlapping winter recreation uses	Moderate Impact
5e. Concern that paved walking trails become ski trails in winter that aren't open to walkers	Concern about overlapping winter recreation uses	Moderate Impact
5f. Support for finding a way for skiers, walkers and cyclists to co-exist in Wirth Park	Concern about overlapping winter recreation uses	Moderate Impact
70b. Statement that it is difficult to find places to snowshoe in Wirth that don't cross ski trails	Concern about overlapping winter recreation uses	Moderate Impact
128c. Concern off-road trails will not be understood or perceived as shared use	Concern about safety on shared use trails, generally	Moderate Impact
128e. Concern that off-road trail construction materials are not suitable for walkers and joggers and do not appear natural or sustainable	Concern about safety on shared use trails, generally	Moderate Impact
25j. Concern about overcrowding at new mountain bike trails	Concern about safety on shared use trails, generally	Moderate Impact
139a. Concern LRT will increase parking congestion	Concern plan doesn't provide enough parking	Moderate Impact
145g. Suggestion that Chalet parking may not be enough for LRT users	Concern plan doesn't provide enough parking	Moderate Impact
160j. Concern plan doesn't provide enough parking, especially near the Chalet	Concern plan doesn't provide enough parking	Moderate Impact
29a. Suggestion that expansion of park activities should include parking solutions	Concern plan doesn't provide enough parking	Moderate Impact
38k. Suggestion to increase parking stalls at beach so total number is higher than before renovation	Concern plan doesn't provide enough parking	Moderate Impact
81e. Concern that parking may be inadequate for influx of new users	Concern plan doesn't provide enough parking	Moderate Impact
146b. Opposition to size/amount of picnic shelters and areas	Opposition to amount or size of picnic shelters as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
158a. Suggestion to reduce size of picnic shelters	Opposition to amount or size of picnic shelters as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
4p. Opposition to interpreting Wirth's legacy in Wirth Park (page 5-13), prefers to do so at the Historic Theodore Wirth House (Superintendent's residence)	Opposition to cultural resource management as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
35b. Opposes moving 10th tee away from current position by Chalet to closer to parking lot, street, and sidewalk, thereby removing informal golf practice area	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
35c. Opposes moving 10th tee in order to build lawn bowling green without a market study	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact



Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
35d. Opposes Golf Academy in area of current hole 1 because there is not enough room there, it would impact a natural protected area, be in conflict with a bicycle trail, about a rail line, potentially conflict with the proposed LRT station, and may remove very old trees	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
35e. Concerns about proposed 9th hole including reduction of total course par to 71, inadequate fairway on the 200 yard stretch requiring that golfers carry tee shots, and seasonal fluctuations in creek volumes	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
40b. Support for golf course as it is	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
45b. Opposition to making any changes to golf course	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
46b. Opposition to removing or altering 17th and 12th holes	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
46e. Opposition to changing Wirth golf course	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
47a. Concern that plan does little to enhance the 18 hole golf course	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
49o. Suggestion to leave 10th hole as-is and instead alter parking area to north of chalet and move lawn bowling to clubhouse area	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
49p. Opposition to Golf Academy due to need to redesign the front 9 and resulting environmental impacts including removal of old trees and need to carry over protected land and marsh	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
51e. Opposes change to back nine, because golf drives revenue at Wirth, more than skiing	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
51g. Suggestion to update and advertise the golf course and improve its conditions rather than change it	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
54b. Opposed to splitting hole 12 into two holes, instead changes should have same feel and flow as other holes	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
54c. Concern that Welcome Center, skiing and biking facilities will be enhanced by plan while golf facilities will be negatively impacted	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
55c. Support for retaining chipping green rather than turning it into a dog park	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
55d. Concern that chipping green is all that is left of historic hole #8, from the original second nine holes of Wirth golf course built in 1919, and should be preserved	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
75a. Concern that parking and ski stadium recommendations will negatively impact Par 3	Opposition to golf course changes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
154a. Opposition to statement in plan that LRT will hinder access to Wirth for North Minneapolis residents, belief it will improve it	Opposition to how LRT is presented in the plan	Moderate Impact
144a. Opposition to maintenance building at Glenwood and Xerxes	Opposition to maintenance facility at Glenwood & Xerxes	Moderate Impact
112c. Opposition to any changes that alter golf holes by more than 10-20 yards in order to accommodate winter activities	Opposition to moving golf holes to accommodate winter activities	Moderate Impact
120b. Concern that golfers' desire to maintain course design and open season will be compromised in final plan	Opposition to moving golf holes to accommodate winter activities	Moderate Impact
120h. Support for ski stadium going around existing Par 3 holes, not moving holes	Opposition to moving golf holes to accommodate winter activities	Moderate Impact
49l. Opposition to changes to golf course configuration to accommodate additional winter uses	Opposition to moving golf holes to accommodate winter activities	Moderate Impact
51k. Support for skiing and biking around existing holes, rather than changing the holes	Opposition to moving golf holes to accommodate winter activities	Moderate Impact
75b. Statement that golfers were assured Par 3 would not be changed, but expansion of ski stadium jeopardizes that	Opposition to moving golf holes to accommodate winter activities	Moderate Impact
76b. Concern that Par 3 will be changed to accommodate winter activities	Opposition to moving golf holes to accommodate winter activities	Moderate Impact

Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
146a. Opposition to planned parking in South Wirth	Opposition to parking as shown in the plan, generally	Moderate Impact
54e. Concern that parking will be a problem with the plan recommendations	Opposition to parking as shown in the plan, generally	Moderate Impact
128p. Suggestion to rotate or move parking deeper into park, and/or to install automatic audio alert monitors to prevent picnic disruption to adjacent residential neighborhoods	Opposition to parking at Glenwood & Xerxes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
131b. Concern about parking lot at Glenwood and Xerxes because of unsafe vehicle speeds, unsafe crossings, driver inattention, and blind spots.	Opposition to parking at Glenwood & Xerxes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
150a. Opposes parking lot at Glenwood and Xerxes and suggests moving it away from houses	Opposition to parking at Glenwood & Xerxes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
150b. Suggestion that boat dock parking lot be enlarged and maintained rather than add a new lot at Glenwood and Xerxes.	Opposition to parking at Glenwood & Xerxes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
153b. Opposes parking lot at Glenwood and Xerxes	Opposition to parking at Glenwood & Xerxes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
153e. Suggestion that instead of spending funds on parking lot at Glenwood and Xerxes, spend it on expanding lot at Beach House	Opposition to parking at Glenwood & Xerxes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
153g. Suggestion that the Board reconsider parking needs to ensure money is spent wisely, that parking at Glenwood and Xerxes really address the issues, and that overall park serenity is maintained	Opposition to parking at Glenwood & Xerxes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
159a. Opposes parking lot at Glenwood and Xerxes	Opposition to parking at Glenwood & Xerxes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
38a. Concern that proposed parking at Glenwood & Xerxes contradicts plan itself	Opposition to parking at Glenwood & Xerxes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
38e. Opposes parking lot at corner of Glenwood and Xerxes because it conflicts with design statements #2, 4, 6, and 8 on page 7-2.	Opposition to parking at Glenwood & Xerxes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
38f. Concern about safety impacts of speeding traffic and blind curves on turning vehicles and pedestrians if parking lot added at Glenwood and Xerxes, particularly if it includes two entrances off Glenwood	Opposition to parking at Glenwood & Xerxes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
38g. Concern that proposed parking lot at Glenwood and Xerxes is too far away from picnic and other use areas	Opposition to parking at Glenwood & Xerxes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
38h. Suggestion that rather than add a parking lot at Glenwood and Xerxes, instead expand parking lots by fishing doc, beach, and near streetcar shelter.	Opposition to parking at Glenwood & Xerxes as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
24e. Opposes parking lot at Welcome Center	Opposition to parking near Par 3/Welcome Center as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
54f. Suggestion to move the road so all parking will be placed to the north of the parkway, making it safer for drivers and cyclists	Opposition to parking near Par 3/Welcome Center as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
75d. Suggestion to consider parking that enables easy access to Par 3	Opposition to parking near Par 3/Welcome Center as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
128l. Opposition to locating picnic shelters near Wirth Lake because of overcrowding at parking lots and impacts on residential neighbors and safety	Opposition to picnic shelters on lakeshore	Moderate Impact
157a. Opposes buildings on lake shore	Opposition to picnic shelters on lakeshore	Moderate Impact
41g. Opposition to putting any building structures or shelters on the Wirth lakeshore	Opposition to picnic shelters on lakeshore	Moderate Impact
41h. Opposition to the idea that the CAC supported a possible lakeside location for picnic shelters, feels it may have been an imposed decision	Opposition to picnic shelters on lakeshore	Moderate Impact
41i. Concern that placing shelters close to the lake will be unsightly and create problems with litter in the lake	Opposition to picnic shelters on lakeshore	Moderate Impact
128o. Support for keeping picnic areas and associated noise and traffic contained within park and out of adjacent residential neighborhoods	Opposition to placing public amenities near residential areas	Moderate Impact



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11b. Suggestion to move archery range to more remote area not adjacent to residential	Opposition to placing public amenities near residential areas	Moderate Impact
38j. Statement that public amenities need not be near residential areas, because of lights, noise, traffic	Opposition to placing public amenities near residential areas	Moderate Impact
121b. Opposition to elimination of Wirth archery range	Opposition to removal of archery range	Moderate impact
153f. Suggestion to keep boat launch parking lot open and better maintain road leading to it	Opposition to removing parking near fishing dock as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
38l. Concern that parking at fishing dock will be removed	Opposition to removing parking near fishing dock as shown in the plan	Moderate Impact
128h. Concern that elimination of "rogue" trails is a disservice, confusing, and unsustainable	Opposition to trail improvements as presented in the plan	Moderate Impact
152c. Opposes bikes and fat tire Loppet in SE Wirth	Opposition to trail improvements as presented in the plan	Moderate Impact
160e. Support for paved bike trails instead of natural surface trails	Opposition to trail improvements as presented in the plan	Moderate Impact
54i. Suggestion to move new mountain bike trails to in-between Par 3 course and Twin Lake, with races starting and ending at Welcome Center trail alongside existing path	Opposition to trail improvements as presented in the plan	Moderate Impact
70c. Suggestion to dedicate an area in South Wirth to hiking and snowshoeing only	Opposition to trail improvements as presented in the plan	Moderate impact
12d. Suggestion to focus funding on those activities and parts of parks used by the most people	Suggestion or concern about funding priorities	Moderate Impact
131g. Concern about spending money on permanent restrooms if they will only be open limited hours, and suggestion to save money by using port-a-potties instead	Suggestion or concern about funding priorities	Moderate Impact
133j. Suggestion to expedite the proposed tunnel	Suggestion or concern about funding priorities	Moderate Impact
136b. Opposition to spending funds on new restrooms near Wirth boat launch if they will only be open limited times, resulting in addition of portable outhouses	Suggestion or concern about funding priorities	Moderate Impact
30r. Suggesteion to move maintenance facilities up to a higher priority level	Suggestion or concern about funding priorities	Moderate Impact
9c. Concern about adding the phrase "as funding permits" to goals in plan, especially routine maintenance	Suggestion or concern about funding priorities	Moderate Impact
130c. Suggestion to add senior area with workout equipment and/or classes, outdoor activities	Suggestion to add a recreation area for seniors	Moderate impact
33e. Suggestion to add a senior workout station like those found in Europe, but not near noisy playground	Suggestion to add a recreation area for seniors	Moderate impact
121a. Support for improved archery facilities	Suggestion to add or expand a specific recreation amenity	Moderate impact
135b. Support for expanding basketball court by Wirth Beach and adding soccer goals to the court blacktop	Suggestion to add or expand a specific recreation amenity	Moderate impact
135c. Support for mini soccer field where tennis courts once were at Glenwood and Xerxes	Suggestion to add or expand a specific recreation amenity	Moderate impact
21a. Suggests improving and increasing disc golf facilities	Suggestion to add or expand a specific recreation amenity	Moderate impact
61a. Suggestion to incorporate outdoor ice skating facilities into the plan	Suggestion to add or expand a specific recreation amenity	Moderate impact
69h. Suggestion for even larger than proposed off leash recreation area anywhere in park	Suggestion to add or expand a specific recreation amenity	Moderate Impact
91b. Suggestion to have mountain bike rentals out of Chalet in summer time, fat tire bike rentals in wintertime	Suggestion to add or expand a specific recreation amenity	Moderate impact
101b. Suggestion to add more off road cycling and hiking trails	Suggestion to add or expand off-road cycling trails, specifically	Moderate Impact
107b. Suggestion to build more off road trails	Suggestion to add or expand off-road cycling trails, specifically	Moderate Impact
108b. Suggestion to build more off road trails	Suggestion to add or expand off-road cycling trails, specifically	Moderate Impact
109b. Suggestion to build more off road trails	Suggestion to add or expand off-road cycling trails, specifically	Moderate Impact
110a. Suggestion to expand off road cycle trails to more of South Wirth and area behind Eloise Butler Wildflower garden, an unfulfilled original goal of commentor	Suggestion to add or expand off-road cycling trails, specifically	Moderate Impact
110f. Suggestion to build more off road trails	Suggestion to add or expand off-road cycling trails, specifically	Moderate Impact
1e. Suggestion to create winter cycling trails on undertulized frozen land and water to reduce both environmental impact and conflict with other activities	Suggestion to add or expand off-road cycling trails, specifically	Moderate Impact

Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
23a. Suggestion to expand mountain bike trails in Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden area	Suggestion to add or expand off-road cycling trails, specifically	Moderate Impact
27a. Suggestion to add mountain bike trails west of Anwatin school.	Suggestion to add or expand off-road cycling trails, specifically	Moderate Impact
71a. Suggestion to extend off road cycling trails behind Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and behind Quaking bog, build in a natural/twisty/technical style, not BMX flow style employed in recently built trails	Suggestion to add or expand off-road cycling trails, specifically	Moderate Impact
80a. Suggestion to include more areas where fat bikes are allowed in winter, such as in Luce Line area	Suggestion to add or expand off-road cycling trails, specifically	Moderate Impact
94b. Suggestion to create even more off road cycling trails in park	Suggestion to add or expand off-road cycling trails, specifically	Moderate Impact
95c. Support for off road cycle trails and suggestion to build more	Suggestion to add or expand off-road cycling trails, specifically	Moderate Impact
104a. Suggestion for Mary Hills and Sochacki parks to share natural trail and off road cycle trails with Wirth	Suggestion to add or expand trails	Moderate Impact
125b. Concern that smaller trails for classic skiers are being replaced by wide trails for fast skiers and suggestion to create a slower ski experience winding through woods.	Suggestion to add or expand trails	Moderate Impact
128q. Suggestion to add mixed use trail from Wirth Lake to proposed Penn Avenue LRT station	Suggestion to add or expand trails	Moderate Impact
133d. Concern that pathways for bike commuters are inadequate north of Hwy 55	Suggestion to add or expand trails	Moderate Impact
133e. Opposition to restricting trail speeds on pathways north of Hwy 55 without providing alternative path for bike commuters who feel the parkway is unsafe	Suggestion to add or expand trails	Moderate Impact
133f. Suggestion to enable bike commuting through enactment of 10-20 mph speed limits on one-way trails throughout park	Suggestion to add or expand trails	Moderate Impact
133l. Suggestion to extend Luce Line for bike commuting and skiing or add plowed trail adjacent to it	Suggestion to add or expand trails	Moderate Impact
19b. Suggests adding paved trail on north side of Hwy 55 and connecting to Wirth Lake	Suggestion to add or expand trails	Moderate Impact
25b. Concern that snowmaking ski loop and lighting are deficient for rapidly growing sport of nordic skiing	Suggestion to add or expand trails	Moderate Impact
28c. Suggestion to add narrow classic-ski only trails in wooded areas, and/or allow classic skiing on off road bicycling trails	Suggestion to add or expand trails	Moderate Impact
56b. Suggestion to add soft surface walking trails to Hidden Lake area and a bridge across the watershed headwaters for walkers and backcountry skiers	Suggestion to add or expand trails	Moderate Impact
104b. Suggestion for tunnel or other access across Golden Valley Road to connect Mary Hills and Sochacki trail systems	Suggestion to add or modify a trail connection	Moderate Impact
114m. Statement that there was not strong CAC consensus for bridge construction in South Wirth, recommendation that non-bridge options be considered, and that any new bridge support both ski trail grooming equipment and non skier pedestrian traffic in winter	Suggestion to add or modify a trail connection	Moderate Impact
160f. Suggests moving or modifying tunnel at Glenwood and parkway to the west to serve both cyclists and skiers and adding trail connection	Suggestion to add or modify a trail connection	Moderate Impact
19a. Suggests adding connection from Willard Hay to South Wirth	Suggestion to add or modify a trail connection	Moderate Impact
19d. Suggests adding sidewalk connection on south side of Hwy 55 to Wirth Lake trail	Suggestion to add or modify a trail connection	Moderate Impact
64b. Suggestion to provide access across Glenwood to ski trails from Bassett Creek Park	Suggestion to add or modify a trail connection	Moderate Impact
64c. Suggestion to install traffic calming or bridge on Glenwood to support events like Trail Loppet	Suggestion to add or modify a trail connection	Moderate Impact
141a. Suggestion that MPRB and Bottineau rail collaborate to develop parking	Suggestion to develop parking for LRT stations	Moderate Impact
29b. Suggestion to include parking for LRT stations that also serves park	Suggestion to develop parking for LRT stations	Moderate Impact
20c. Concern about LRT environmental impacts on Bassett Creek watershed	Concern about future LRT design or design process	No Impact (future)



Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
119d. Statement that planning process emphasized that Par 3 operations funding and resources would remain the same as in the past	Concern about inadequate funding for elements in the plan	No Impact (future)
25n. Concern about lack of revenue for maintenance	Concern about inadequate funding for elements in the plan	No Impact (future)
34q. Statement that winter recreation at Wirth is losing \$500,000 a year before the proposed expansion of amenities	Concern about inadequate funding for elements in the plan	No Impact (future)
35g. Statement that MPRB can't afford extravagant projects	Concern about inadequate funding for elements in the plan	No Impact (future)
39c. Statement that MPRB cannot afford to expand ski trails at Wirth	Concern about inadequate funding for elements in the plan	No Impact (future)
42c. Concern that plan gets funded	Concern about inadequate funding for elements in the plan	No Impact (future)
34p. Concern that Loppet Foundation's proposed budget plan for Welcome Center does not generate enough revenue to support it	Concern about inadequate funding for elements in the plan	No Impact (future)
7b. Concern that funding will be secured in future	Concern about inadequate funding for elements in the plan	No Impact (future)
24a. Statement that North Minneapolis often overlooked in plan implementation	Statement or concern about equity in implementation	No impact (future)
120f. Support for continued discussion about ski stadium area and involvement of golfers in design process	Statement or concern about future planning and design processes	No Impact (future)
122d. Support for designs that reduce crime and increase sense of safety, especially on trails and in hidden areas	Statement or concern about future planning and design processes	No Impact (future)
128k. Suggestion that rogue trails be considered publically desired future trail locations during trail design process	Statement or concern about future planning and design processes	No Impact (future)
138b. Suggestion for more opportunities for input on MPRB LRT positions	Statement or concern about future planning and design processes	No Impact (future)
42f. Concern about future projects without broad public oversight that exceed their scope.	Statement or concern about future planning and design processes	No Impact (future)
74b. Suggestion to hold another meeting with golfers for input/understanding	Statement or concern about future planning and design processes	No Impact (future)
74h. Support for additional meeting to communicate final plan decisions to golfers	Statement or concern about future planning and design processes	No Impact (future)
7c. Concern that there should be public oversight and input on all phases of planning process.	Statement or concern about future planning and design processes	No Impact (future)
24b. Suggestion to add neighborhood access points across LRT Blue Line	Suggestion about future LRT design or design process	No Impact (future)
24f. Suggestion to add LRT station at NE Corner of Plymouth	Suggestion about future LRT design or design process	No Impact (future)
24g. Concern that architectural style of Plymouth LRT station should match Chalet	Suggestion about future LRT design or design process	No Impact (future)
115c. Suggestion that a better plan be created to mitigate damage to golf turf by winter activities	Suggestion or concern about golf course design	No Impact (future)
126b. Support for challenging design aspects in new holes to accommodate players and attract tournaments to increase revenue	Suggestion or concern about golf course design	No Impact (future)
49n. Concern on pages 7-4, 7-10 and 7-14 that moving 10th tee increases potential errant ball conflicts for parkway users and cyclists	Suggestion or concern about golf course design	No Impact (future)
49s. Concern that the proposed 9th hole cannot legally be built because of lack of space due to proximity to Basset Creek	Suggestion or concern about golf course design	No Impact (future)
49t. Concern that proposed changes to 2nd hole require a green to be built in a floodplain area	Suggestion or concern about golf course design	No Impact (future)
49u. Concern that proposed 9th hole conflicts with Plymouth Blue Line LRT station	Suggestion or concern about golf course design	No Impact (future)

Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
54l. Suggestion for revision of the Back 9: 1) new 11 (par 4) tee behind the 10th green playing across to the existing nursery green. (That will take steep hill out of play on the right side); 2) new 12 (par 3) tee to the north of the nursery green playing to the existing 11th green; 3) new 18th hole starts behind the old 13th green playing to a new green north of the old 18th green. (That could give hold similar in feel to the existing 17th hold which is a signature hold to the back 9.)	Suggestion or concern about golf course design	No Impact (future)
54m. Suggestion that if 17th hole is changed, add a 200 yard driving range in the area to generate revenue.	Suggestion or concern about golf course design	No Impact (future)
54n. Suggestion to use old 18th hold for a free pitching, chipping, and sand shot practice area	Suggestion or concern about golf course design	No Impact (future)
58a. Sugesetion to rename Par 3 as "The First Tee Par 3 Learning Center at Theo Wirth"	Suggestion or concern about golf course design	No Impact (future)
77c. Concern that Welcome Center project managemnet team favors parking lot on east side of parkway without a bridge due to lack of funding,which will require golfers walk or drive cards across parkway which seems unsafe	Suggestion or concern about golf course design	No Impact (future)
112b. Concern that Par 3 needs investment to reverse its deterioration	Suggestion or concern about golf course operations and management	No Impact (future)
115a. Statement that golf turf on courses throughout MPRB is in bad condition as a result of multiple factors, attributable to not re-investing golf revenues back into golf operations	Suggestion or concern about golf course operations and management	No Impact (future)
115f. Concern that MPRB golf course staff maintenance practices including not crossing tees or greens, trails not crossing fairways, ideal frequency of grooming, and location of snow making are not written standards and that current trails on Par 3 do not comply, thereby impairing some holes	Suggestion or concern about golf course operations and management	No Impact (future)
115k. Suggestion that plan include standards regarding placement of winter activities in golf areas and the frequency and techniques of maintenance (especially important if winter maintenance is managed by the Loppet Foundation)	Suggestion or concern about golf course operations and management	No Impact (future)
115l. Suggestion that plan include a commitment to study best operations and maintenance practices to mitigate damage to the golf courses from winter activities	Suggestion or concern about golf course operations and management	No Impact (future)
118c. Statement that Par 3 needs maintenance, especially worn turf	Suggestion or concern about golf course operations and management	No Impact (future)
49k. Suggestion that Grand Rounds historic designation should also apply to the 18 hole golf course	Suggestion or concern about golf course operations and management	No Impact (future)
49m. Suggestion to seek historic designation for the Chalet and golf course, and offer by Theodore Wirth Golf Association to lead this effort	Suggestion or concern about golf course operations and management	No Impact (future)
58c. Suggestion that First Tee staff should have a say in running the golf course	Suggestion or concern about golf course operations and management	No Impact (future)
58d. Suggestion that each golf hole get a new tee sign reflecting core values and life skills taught at First Tee	Suggestion or concern about golf course operations and management	No Impact (future)
58e. Opposition to Loppet Foundation staff collecting golf fees, working behind golf counter, or deciding golf course programing	Suggestion or concern about golf course operations and management	No Impact (future)
69f. Support for providing affordable golf	Suggestion or concern about golf course operations and management	No Impact (future)
127c. Suggestion to restore Medicine Springs, add signage, and include more information on it in the plan	Suggestion or concern about historic and cultural resources	No Impact (future)
11c. Concern that excessive lighting, expecially at ski trails and tubing hill, interferes with nighttime activities, sleeping, and residential uses	Suggestion or concern about lighting	No Impact (future)
11d. Suggestion to use direction-oriented lighting systems in park	Suggestion or concern about lighting	No Impact (future)
130b. Suggestion to increase lighting south of Glenwood and along Cedar Lake Parkway to improve safety	Suggestion or concern about lighting	No Impact (future)



Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
33b. Suggestion to improve lighting for pedestrians and cyclists between Wayzata Blvd frontage road and Glenwood.	Suggestion or concern about lighting	No Impact (future)
36b. Suggestion to include comprehensive area lighting plan scheme	Suggestion or concern about lighting	No Impact (future)
38i. Suggestion to intelligently design lighting at parking lots so it is not too bright, wasteful, or detracts from night sky, perhaps by installing motion detectors	Suggestion or concern about lighting	No Impact (future)
3b. Concern about brightness of lights at proposed Wirth Beach parking lot	Suggestion or concern about lighting	No Impact (future)
3c. Suggestion for motion-detector lights or auto gate lock after hours at proposed Wirth Beach parking lot.	Suggestion or concern about lighting	No Impact (future)
131c. Suggestion to do traffic study of Glenwood and Xerxes	Suggestion or concern about parking as presented in the plan	No impact (future)
131d. Suggestion to install traffic control for safety at Glenwood and Xerxes if parking lot built there	Suggestion or concern about parking as presented in the plan	No impact (future)
131e. Suggestion to collaborate with agency partners to prioritize traffic safety at new Glenwood and Xerxes parking lot	Suggestion or concern about parking as presented in the plan	No impact (future)
38m. Suggestion that impacts on traffic of having parking lot entrances on Glenwood be further researched	Suggestion or concern about parking as presented in the plan	No impact (future)
113b. Concern that pedestrian trail entrances to Quaking bog aren't well marked, while mountain bike trails are	Suggestion or concern about signage and wayfinding	No Impact (future)
113c. Suggestion to add signage to Quaking Bog and Brownie Lake areas indicating trails that are for pedestrians only, not off-road cycling	Suggestion or concern about signage and wayfinding	No Impact (future)
114i. Suggestion to create communications plan to help all parties understand how to share trails	Suggestion or concern about signage and wayfinding	No Impact (future)
123d. Suggestion to provide adequate signage for all trails	Suggestion or concern about signage and wayfinding	No Impact (future)
127b. Suggestion to install better signage at Quaking Bog	Suggestion or concern about signage and wayfinding	No Impact (future)
127d. Suggestion to add signage to historic areas such as Native American, brewery, and farm sites	Suggestion or concern about signage and wayfinding	No Impact (future)
128g. Suggestion to install clear signage on shared use soft surface trails indicating their mixed use	Suggestion or concern about signage and wayfinding	No Impact (future)
128j. Suggestion to add clear signage to "rogue" trails indicating their elimination and the location of preferred sanctioned trail	Suggestion or concern about signage and wayfinding	No Impact (future)
133h. Suggestion to improve bike signage at Glenwood and Parkway	Suggestion or concern about signage and wayfinding	No Impact (future)
142a. Support for signed trail connections from the Luce Line bike trail to the Hidden Lakes area	Suggestion or concern about signage and wayfinding	No Impact (future)
33d. Suggestion to put signage with maps on interior trails south of Glenwood and leading to Quaking Bog	Suggestion or concern about signage and wayfinding	No Impact (future)
37e. Support for extensive wayfinding signage to prevent conflicts on trails	Suggestion or concern about signage and wayfinding	No Impact (future)
50c. Suggestion to educate public on shared trail locations, use, and rules year-round	Suggestion or concern about signage and wayfinding	No Impact (future)
50e. Suggestion to add more wayfinding signage	Suggestion or concern about signage and wayfinding	No Impact (future)
9h. Concern that trail modifications and sustainable trail design practices will delay installation of wayfinding signage on trails	Suggestion or concern about signage and wayfinding	No Impact (future)
9i. Concern that current lack of ski trail wayfinding signage is not welcoming for beginning skiers	Suggestion or concern about signage and wayfinding	No Impact (future)
9j. Appreciation for trail maps and wayfinding sandwich board signs	Suggestion or concern about signage and wayfinding	No Impact (future)
115h. Statement that both golfers and skiers will be represented on Welcome Center project teams	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)
119e. Statement that planning process indicated golfers would be involved in Welcome Center design committee	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)

Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
119e. Statement that planning process indicated construction of Welcome Center would not interfere with Par 3 operations, such that new parking lot, bridge, and building would open before current ones are closed	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)
120d. Concern Welcome Center planning process may impact current configuration of Par 3	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)
14a. Concern the current and future work of Welcome Center design team and committee will impact Par 3 golf course layout, against recommendation of CAC for master plan process.	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)
14c. Concern that Welcome Center, ski stadium and winter activities will be constructed outside of previous map of approximate Welcome Center area	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)
14d. Statement that golfers agreed to changes to 18 hole course layout to accommodate Welcome Center within a defined area	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)
14e. Statement of earlier understanding that Par 3 could operate out of existing building without interruption during construction of Welcome Center	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)
14f. Suggestion to create new designs for Welcome Center that don't have impact on Par 3 course.	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)
16c. Support for Par 3 remaining open during Welcome Center construction	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)
17a. Statement that golfers aren't represented on Welcome Center and trail design committee	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)
17b. Statement that staff should be ashamed of plan process	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)
24d. Suggestion to connect Welcome Center to transit and Chalet area	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)
77a. Concern that planning for Welcome Center is occurring at same time as that for Wirth master plan, and master plan comment period closes before Welcome Center planning is finished	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)
77b. Concern that no golfers are on Welcome Center project management team and their input not considered	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)
77d. Concern that size of Welcome Center area has increased over that presented in concept plan, and what is used by skiers now	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)
77f. Concern that Welcome Center planning will recommend changing golf holes and statement that this is an insult to golfers	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)
77h. Concern that Welcome Center project management team believes winter activities are more important than golf	Suggestion or concern about Welcome Center design or design process	No Impact (future)
128i. Concern that elimination of "rogue" trails has been poorly executed and managed with lack of signage, unsafe obstacles, and no clear pattern	Concern about impacts of current construction	No impact (scope)
12b. Concern about debris removal and maintenance during and after construction of off-road cycling trails	Concern about impacts of current construction	No impact (scope)
3e. Opposition to unnecessary paving over green areas at Wirth Beach parking lot	Concern about impacts of current construction	No impact (scope)
35f. Concern that golf revenues have been used for non-golf purposes, and suggestion that MPRB re-focus revenues on maintenance and renovation of golf courses	Opposition to spending golf revenue on non-golf projects	No impact (scope)
46c. Suggestion to spend golf course revenues on improvements to and maintenance of the golf course, including fixing the watering system and installing cart paths	Opposition to spending golf revenue on non-golf projects	No impact (scope)
47b. Plan to increase revenue and participation at Wirth golf course will have little impact unless revenues are reinvested in improving and maintaining the course	Opposition to spending golf revenue on non-golf projects	No impact (scope)
47c. Opposition to spending golf course revenue on non-golf projects	Opposition to spending golf revenue on non-golf projects	No impact (scope)



Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
25k. Suggestion to control overcrowding at mountain bike trails through education in partnership with schools	Suggestion about future partnerships	No impact (scope)
125e. Suggestion to promote walking and jogging in South Wirth woods to reduce isolation and increase safety	Suggestion or concern about communications	No impact (scope)
137a. Concern that Park Board is not communicating its activities well	Suggestion or concern about communications	No impact (scope)
64d. Suggestion to better market the park to North Loop and downtown residents, many of whom are runners, bikers, and skiers	Suggestion or concern about communications	No impact (scope)
136a. Concern that new Wirth Lake Beach House restrooms are rarely open during the day so portable outhouses have been permanently installed	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
13b. Concern that needs of winter recreation users aren't being met, especially for snow making, regular grooming, and start of season readiness	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
13d. Statement that lack of snowmaking and grooming is sending users elsewhere	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
13f. Concern that snowboarding hill is not open or maintained	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
13h. Concern that winter activities other than Loppet and high school ski events do not receive the same season-long attention and care	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
145d. Concern that snowmaking begins late in the season	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
160d. Concern that trees to the NW of the intersection of trail and Hwy 55 are not doing well.	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
160g. Concerned about maintenance of Chalet exterior	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
160h. Concern that parkway potholes have not been patched	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
19c. Concern about maintenance and permanence of trails in tornado zone	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
25d. Concern that ski trails are not open early enough, losing revenue and opportunity to meet needs of skiers	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
25h. Statement that chalet is not suitable for winter activities, is dangerously slippery and icy	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
26a. Concern about lack of ski grooming and snowmaking	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
41j. Concern that the installation of the boardwalk in Wirth Lake has led to excess litter in the lake	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
57a. Concern about condition of path on east side of Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and suggestion to remove old sign there and inform neighbors when change has been made	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
5i. Concern that new rules and permitting processes restrict equal access to Wirth Pavilion by diverse racial groups	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
78b. Statement that park is overdue for sprucing up	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
86n. Concern that lack of lines in Chalet parking lot make it inefficient	Suggestion or concern about current operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
25l. Concern that ski passes and tickets are difficult to buy	Suggestion or concern about customer service	No impact (scope)
101c. Suggestion to have a consistent method for grooming off road cycle trails in winter	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
10e. Suggestion for more snow guns to open snowmaking ski loop earlier	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
114f. Suggestion to clarify a more sustainable maintenance plan for mountain bike trails than reliance on a volunteer group on page 7-6	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
119c. Statement that planning process indicated Par 3 facilities would continue to be managed by MPRB staff	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
124b. Suggestion to have more areas for dogs and owners to drink water	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)

Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
125c. Suggestion to plow Quaking Bog lot in winter to facilitate quick lunch hour skiing, reduce unsafe crossings at parkway, and retain short ski loop	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
131f. Suggestion that new restroom shelters at Wirth lake be open to the public more hours as existing restrooms are very limited	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
13c. Suggestion for training of, or change in, winter recreation personnel	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
13e. Suggestion to advertise and open sledding hill in time for school winter break	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
143a. Support for more lighting and grooming on walkways	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
145c. Suggestion that winter recreation hire staff with ski expertise because ski offerings are not good	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
151a. Support for opening ski trails, snowboard and tubing areas earlier in the season like Three Rivers Park District does	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
152a. Opposes Loppet Foundation managing Wirth Park	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
152b. Supports repairing picnic tables	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
152e. Suggestion to plow walking paths in winter around Wirth Lake and across Basset Creek	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
155a. Support for J.D. River's Children's Garden agreement to put roses on the path	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
155b. Suggestion to move martin house so it is less visible	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
160c. Suggestion to add a culvert under the trail at the NE corner of Lagoon E where the swamp drains in because it is under water	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
160i. Suggestion to clarify if woodchips are still available to the public and where they are located	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
28a. Suggestion for improved snowmaking and ski trail grooming	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
60c. Concern that maintenance of ski trails wont keep pace with investments in Welcome Center and trail improvements	Suggestion or concern about future operations and management activities	No impact (scope)
128t. Suggestion to offer reduced rate ski passes if bought for both MPRB and Three Rivers Park District	Suggestion or concern about permit and fee process	No impact (scope)
62h. Suggestion that non-Minneapolis school users of Wirth ski trails pay a user fee	Suggestion or concern about permit and fee process	No impact (scope)
62i. Statement that skiers would be happy to pay for good snowmaking, ski venue, and trail system	Suggestion or concern about permit and fee process	No impact (scope)
112d. Suggestion to increase Par 3 revenues 5% by charging 10-round ticket holders for their rounds by actually punching the 10-round ticket	Suggestion or concern about safety and enforcement	No impact (scope)
122b. Concern that Wirth is perceived to be and/or is actually unsafe due to crime	Suggestion or concern about safety and enforcement	No impact (scope)
122c. Statement that commentor's family has stopped visiting Wirth because of concerns about crime and safety	Suggestion or concern about safety and enforcement	No impact (scope)
124a. Support for a family- and walker-friendly park, meaning enforcement against cruising stops in parking lots	Suggestion or concern about safety and enforcement	No impact (scope)
125d. Concern about safety of trails in South Wirth woods due to suspicious activity.	Suggestion or concern about safety and enforcement	No impact (scope)
128m. Concern that current users of picnic areas play music too loud	Suggestion or concern about safety and enforcement	No impact (scope)
128n. Concern that current users of picnic areas leave trash, hot coals, and turf damage behind	Suggestion or concern about safety and enforcement	No impact (scope)
132a. Concern about unleashed dog walking on trails and danger this poses to walkers and cyclists	Suggestion or concern about safety and enforcement	No impact (scope)
132b. Suggestion that off leash recreation area have strict enforcement of leash laws in surrounding areas and visible signage	Suggestion or concern about safety and enforcement	No impact (scope)



Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
133m. Suggestion to discourage vehicles from using the parkway for high speed commuter traffic, possibly by closing the parkway to vehicles during rush hour	Suggestion or concern about safety and enforcement	No impact (scope)
25m. Concern that use of ski passes and tickets is not enforced, resulting in lost revenue for park	Suggestion or concern about safety and enforcement	No impact (scope)
33c. Suggestion to add emergency phone by the bog, mid-way between Wayzata Blvd frontage road and Glenwood	Suggestion or concern about safety and enforcement	No impact (scope)
37d. Concern that mountain bikers are using trails and areas that are off-limits to them	Suggestion or concern about safety and enforcement	No impact (scope)
54g. Concern that existing Par 3 parking lot intersection is unsafe, with cyclists moving at fast speeds and cars unable to see them	Suggestion or concern about safety and enforcement	No impact (scope)
63d. Concern about dog walkers using ski trails in South Wirth	Suggestion or concern about safety and enforcement	No impact (scope)
86o. Concern about park safety and past use of Bog area as cruising spot	Suggestion or concern about safety and enforcement	No impact (scope)
133i. Suggestion to narrow the eastbound lane of Glenwood west of the parkway to prevent cars from using the bike path as a right turn lane, and to paint crosswalks	Suggestion to alter roads and signals	No impact (scope)
133k. Suggestion to improve signal functioning at Hwy 55 and parkway, and to build an overpass	Suggestion to alter roads and signals	No impact (scope)
145f. Support for LRT station at Wirth park	Suggestion, concern or support for elements or agencies outside of Wirth park	No impact (scope)
150c. Suggestion to allow parking on Glenwood Avenue	Suggestion, concern or support for elements or agencies outside of Wirth park	No impact (scope)
153d. Suggestion that instead of spending funds on parking lot at Glenwood and Xerxes, spend it on allowing parking on Glenwood	Suggestion, concern or support for elements or agencies outside of Wirth park	No impact (scope)
160a. Suggestion to change state bike maps to accurately reflect Luce Line trail	Suggestion, concern or support for elements or agencies outside of Wirth park	No impact (scope)
160k. Suggestion to clarify that if LRT stops are added at Golden Valley Road or Plymouth, will parking will be added	Suggestion, concern or support for elements or agencies outside of Wirth park	No impact (scope)
20b. Statement that investments need to be made to improve water quality in Basset Creek watershed	Suggestion, concern or support for elements or agencies outside of Wirth park	No impact (scope)
31a. Suggestion to sell land to the Park Board	Suggestion, concern or support for elements or agencies outside of Wirth park	No impact (scope)
79b. Support for more off-road trails in metro area	Suggestion, concern or support for elements or agencies outside of Wirth park	No impact (scope)
81c. Support for expanded mountain bike trails in other areas of Minneapolis	Suggestion, concern or support for elements or agencies outside of Wirth park	No impact (scope)
82b. Suggestion to build Brownie off-road cycling trail not as wide as those built recently in Wirth, to increase challenge level	Suggestion, concern or support for elements or agencies outside of Wirth park	No impact (scope)
82c. Suggestion to use Brownie trail funds to create crossing over Hwy 55	Suggestion, concern or support for elements or agencies outside of Wirth park	No impact (scope)
8a. Offer to sell property adjacent to Wirth Park to Park Board	Suggestion, concern or support for elements or agencies outside of Wirth park	No impact (scope)
90a. Appreciation for improvements at Brownie Lake	Suggestion, concern or support for elements or agencies outside of Wirth park	No impact (scope)
101a. Appreciation for staff vision and support of Wirth	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)
118a. Appreciation for staff work	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)
123a. Appreciation for focus of attention on Wirth as North Minneapolis resident	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)
123f. Appreciation for staff work making Wirth a great space	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)
125g. Appreciation for city and staff efforts on parks	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)
128a. Appreciation for hard work of staff on plan	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)
128v. Appreciation for staff efforts for whole park	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)
160l. Appreciation for staff assistance with plan comments	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)

Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
32a. Appreciation for great job on maintenance of ski trails	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)
32b. Statement that ski trails at Hiawatha were better than ever this year	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)
3a. Appreciation for staff work	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)
4a. Appreciation for staff work and comment opportunity	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)
5k. Appreciation for staff help and planning	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)
66b. Statement that Wirth has been in bad shape for a long time, but is turning around	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)
69j. Appreciation for staff work	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)
78d. Appreciation for great work done by staff	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)
90d. Appreciation of staff, partners and volunteers for their work	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)
9a. Appreciation for MPRB's work to maintain Wirth Park	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)
9k. Appreciation for staff work on plan	Appreciation for MPRB staff and their work, generally	No impact (statement)
5a. Appreciation for Wirth Park in general and the use and care of it	Appreciation for Wirth Park, generally	No impact (statement)
5j. Appreciation for use, sharing, and restoration of park woods	Appreciation for Wirth Park, generally	No impact (statement)
68a. Statement of pride in Minneapolis park system and Theodore Wirth Park, which illustrate commitment to public and outdoor spaces	Appreciation for Wirth Park, generally	No impact (statement)
69a. Appreciation of park and desire to move to live next to Wirth park	Appreciation for Wirth Park, generally	No impact (statement)
95b. Appreciation for having a nice park right in the city	Appreciation for Wirth Park, generally	No impact (statement)
86c. Concern that park will become overcrowded as more people learn about it	Concern park will become overcrowded as more people learn about it	No impact (statement)
131h. Suggestion to build structures to primarily be used by people in the park, not ones that make the park look good to outsiders	Opposition to building structures for looks rather than function	No impact (statement)
114c. Statement that equity for all users was a major consideration of the CAC	Statement about equity	No impact (statement)
112a. Statement that Par 3 serves a wide variety of golfers and contributes revenue to MPRB	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
115d. Statement that many golfers are also skiers and support both activities	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
115g. Statement that Loppet Foundation reached out to golfers to communicate trail plans and ultimately made some trail modifications suggested by golfers	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
115n. Statement that golfers could be flexible about small changes to some golf holes to avoid the duplicate use of land if the plan has no significant negative impact on golf revenues and separate funds are raised specifically for this project	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
116a. Statement that commenter is new to golf and Par 3 is a good course for beginners, with appropriate level of challenge	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
116b. Statement that location of Par 3 is conducive to spur-of-the-moment sessions	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
116c. Appreciation for the woods and natural feeling of the Par 3	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
116d. Statement that wildlife are observed at Par 3 including deer and coyote	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
116e. Appreciation that Par 3 golf staff and fellow players are friendly and helpful	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
118b. Appreciation for Par 3 course length, time required to play, wooded surroundings, wildlife, schedule, and diversity of players	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)



Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
119a. Statement that Friends of the Wirth Par 3 participated in CAC meetings and provided input on approved concept plan for Wirth recommending to keep the Par 3 course in its current configuration	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
34e. Statement that Par 3 is consistently profitable and serves high school golfers	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
34f. Statement that consultant felt that with maintenance Wirth's 18-hole golf course could be profitable again	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
40a. Statement that golf course is a good place to relax, connect with nature, be competitive and create memories	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
45a. Statement that golf rounds will go up as economy improves, while other sports that are currently popular will not last	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
46a. Statement that Wirth golf course is an absolute treasure and one of the commentor's favorites	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
49a. Statement that Theodore Wirth Golf Association has been active since 1920, has taken part in the CAC process, and remain involved in golf course projects	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
49b. Statement that golf and winter recreation have coexisted in Wirth for 90 years	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
49q. Statement that CAC was supplied with UofM studies demonstrating negative environmental impacts of the proposed Golf Academy	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
51f. Statement that Wirth golf course is the jewel of Park Board system	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
51h. Statement that Tiger Woods thought Wirth hole 12 was one of the great holes he played	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
51i. Statement that hole 17 was featured in Golf Magazine in the 1960s	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
51j. Appreciation that hole 18 is an iconic finishing hole with its steep green	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
58b. Statement that First Tee Minneapolis has fundraised \$42,000 and collected \$56,000 in fees in 2014	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
58f. Statement that First Tee Minneapolis will need facilities like Par 3 course to serve growing demand for golf instruction in future	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
76a. Statement that Par 3 golf fits commentor's age, skill and schedule	Statement about golf, generally	No impact (statement)
10g. Statement that commentor enjoys Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden	Statement about natural resources and wildlife in Wirth, generally	No impact (statement)
37b. Statement that buckthorn removal has been the only success of Wirth reforestation plan	Statement about natural resources and wildlife in Wirth, generally	No impact (statement)
41f. Statement that Theodore Wirth himself wanted to preserve the naturalness of the park	Statement about natural resources and wildlife in Wirth, generally	No impact (statement)
42d. Concern that unique environment of Wirth is respected	Statement about natural resources and wildlife in Wirth, generally	No impact (statement)
50h. Statement that commentor has seen in Wirth: deer (including large bucks), great horned owls, red foxes, wild turkeys, and groundhogs	Statement about natural resources and wildlife in Wirth, generally	No impact (statement)
55b. Statement that if chipping green area is added to proposed dog park, it creates second-largest dog park in Minneapolis	Statement about off-leash recreation area	No impact (statement)
103b. Statement that earlier off road cycling trails in Wirth were constantly used and new trails were much needed	Statement about off-road cycling, generally	No impact (statement)
103d. Statement that off road cycling is enjoyed by a diverse group of users	Statement about off-road cycling, generally	No impact (statement)
110b. Statement that commentor was an original steward for off road cycle trail project	Statement about off-road cycling, generally	No impact (statement)
110c. Statement that off road cyclists outnumber skiers at Wirth	Statement about off-road cycling, generally	No impact (statement)
110d. Statement that off road cycling is a year round sport that benefits a high school league with over 600 members	Statement about off-road cycling, generally	No impact (statement)

Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
110e. Statement that footprint of off road cycle trails is smaller than that of golf and skiing	Statement about off-road cycling, generally	No impact (statement)
66d. Statement that mountain bike groups have shown to be good stewards of the land	Statement about off-road cycling, generally	No impact (statement)
69c. Statement that new mountain bike section in South Wirth may be best in the metro area	Statement about off-road cycling, generally	No impact (statement)
71b. Statement that ski trails dominate South Wirth, so adding off-road cycling trails will have litte/less impact comparatively	Statement about off-road cycling, generally	No impact (statement)
95a. Statement that commenter is glad to have volunteered clearing new off road cycling trails in South Wirth.	Statement about off-road cycling, generally	No impact (statement)
97b. Statement that cyclilng continues to grow in popularity in our area	Statement about off-road cycling, generally	No impact (statement)
97c. Statement that friends in Denver are jealous of Wirth new off road cycle trails	Statement about off-road cycling, generally	No impact (statement)
145b. Statement that management, staffing, and operations are as crucial as infrastructure improvements	Statement about operations and maintenance	No impact (statement)
30q. Statement that staff need and deserve high-quality maintenance facilities	Statement about operations and maintenance	No impact (statement)
10b. Statement that the commenter visits Wirth most in winter for ski trails	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
125a. Statement that commentor skis in Wirth in winter	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
128b. Statement that commentor uses Wirth for walking, hiking, jogging, snowshoeing, skiing, kayaking, biking and of road cycling	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
128u. Statement that commentor chose residence to be close to park, LRT, and development potential.	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
133a. Statement that commentor visits Wirth daily as a bike commuter	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
13g. Statement that users from outside Minneapolis are not interested in skiing at Wirth Park	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
153a. Statement that commentor lives close to Glenwood and Xerxes	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
153c. Statement that parking congestion at picnic area not created by skiers but by users of Wirth Beach area	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
28b. Statement that commenter skis, trains, races, tours with kids, and exercises dog in Wirth park	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
42b. Statement that commenter skis, hikes, and bikes in Wirth Park	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
46d. Statement that commenter grew up near Wirth Park	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
50f. Statement that commenter is a resident, trail runner, cross country skier, and mountain biker	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
51a. Statement that commenter's friends from NY and Chicago think Wirth is a highlight of the Twin Cities	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
51b. Statement that commentor is a skier and golfer	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
51c. Statement that commentor remembers taking lessons from Selmer Swenson and other US Olympians	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
5b. Statement that commenter and neighbors walk in Wirth Park often, sometimes with dogs	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
5h. Statement that racial composition of users of Wirth Beach changes from day to evening	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
62g. Statement that most high school ski teams using Wirth are not Minneapolis schools	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
63a. Statement that commenter purchases Wirth ski pass and enjoys skiing in Wirth	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
67b. Statement that commentor attended many CAC meetings	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
89a. Statement that commenter is both golfer and Nordic skier	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
98b. Statement that commenter is skier, cyclist, hiker and enjoys nature	Statement about park users, generally	No impact (statement)
35a. Support for comments posted by Theodore Wirth Golf Association	Statement of support for comments of Theodore Wirth Golf Association	No impact (statement)
44a. Supports position of Theodore Wirth Golf Association	Statement of support for comments of Theodore Wirth Golf Association	No impact (statement)
48a. Support for comments provided by Theodore Wirth Golf Association submitted by Paul Kieffer	Statement of support for comments of Theodore Wirth Golf Association	No impact (statement)
120e. Statement that the ski stadium area is a design advisory area	Statement or concern about plan, generally	No impact (statement)



Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
133b. Concern that park could do better and attract more visitors	Statement or concern about plan, generally	No impact (statement)
41b. Concern plan will forever change the park not for the better	Statement or concern about plan, generally	No impact (statement)
88e. Statement that investment in quality exercise experiences has great return for health	Statement or concern about plan, generally	No impact (statement)
9b. Statement that MPRB's mission aligns with that of the Loppet Foundation	Statement or concern about plan, generally	No impact (statement)
115e. Concern that Golf Convergence report did not seek advice from MPRB golf course staff on current maintenance practice or standards	Statement or concern about planning process	No impact (statement)
138a. Appreciation for plan open house	Statement or concern about planning process	No impact (statement)
30s. Appreciation for opportunity to comment and citizen involvement in planning process	Statement or concern about planning process	No impact (statement)
38b. Appreciation for comment opportunity and the difficulty of decision-making when serving competing interests	Statement or concern about planning process	No impact (statement)
53a. Concern that off-road trails built north and south of Glenwood were built prior to plan approval	Statement or concern about planning process	No impact (statement)
54a. Suggestion that a planning and comment event should have been held at the golf course in June, and not doing so indicates lack of interest in golfer input	Statement or concern about planning process	No impact (statement)
54d. Statement that acreage is limited in Wirth, so all sports should be considered equally	Statement or concern about planning process	No impact (statement)
74f. Concern that decisions are made without golfer input	Statement or concern about planning process	No impact (statement)
74g. Concern that plan process has gone one 3 years without completion	Statement or concern about planning process	No impact (statement)
75e. Concern that no golfers are on the planning committee	Statement or concern about planning process	No impact (statement)
7a. Statement of regret that open house was difficult to get to	Statement or concern about planning process	No impact (statement)
89c. Statement that Par 3 is important to North Minneapolis and suggestion that staff should strive to understand this	Statement or concern about planning process	No impact (statement)
89e. Statement that ski season is 4 months while golf season is 8 months so golf input should be weighed heavily in recommendations for Par 3 area	Statement or concern about planning process	No impact (statement)
145e. Statement that Wirth is an embarrassment in the ski community	Statement or concern about skiing, generally	No impact (statement)
62e. Statement that Wirth ski area is large enough to accommodate hundreds of users at once unless there is a race event.	Statement or concern about skiing, generally	No impact (statement)
66e. Statement that skiing is low impact and growing in popularity	Statement or concern about skiing, generally	No impact (statement)
86e. Statement that Wirth is best place to ski in metro area	Statement or concern about skiing, generally	No impact (statement)
86h. Statement that ski trails and ski events keep residents healthy and happy, draw tourism, increase livability, and create an attractive amenity that draws talent to keep the region competitive	Statement or concern about skiing, generally	No impact (statement)
9g. Statement that the Mpls Convention Center proudly displays photos ski activities at Wirth	Statement or concern about skiing, generally	No impact (statement)
128s. Concern that influence of special interests and funding organizations on park design will overshadow legacy uses and mixed uses	Statement or concern about special interest influence on park design	No impact (statement)
37f. Concern that MPRB is focusing away from "parks for all" towards special interest sports with high financial barriers to entry including broomball, ski trails, and off-road bike trails	Statement or concern about special interest influence on park design	No impact (statement)
105a. Appreciation for impressive trails	Statement or concern about trails, generally	No impact (statement)
10h. Statement that commentor enjoys biking paved trails on the Grand Rounds Wirth Park section	Statement or concern about trails, generally	No impact (statement)

Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
133g. Statement that supporting bike commuting in Wirth would promote healthy outdoor activity, reduce traffic congestion, and provide recreation	Statement or concern about trails, generally	No impact (statement)
50b. Statement that discussions of permitted uses on the trail have led to hostility	Statement or concern about trails, generally	No impact (statement)
5g. Concern that conflicting uses on shared trails causes yelling, intimidation, and confrontation	Statement or concern about trails, generally	No impact (statement)
34r. Statement that unpredictable weather and snow cover is a problem for winter recreation	Statement or concern about winter recreation	No impact (statement)
74a. Concern that draft master plan has changed from approved concept plan, in favor of skiers over golfers	Statement or concern that plan favors skiers over golfers	No impact (statement)
10c. Support for Welcome Center	Support for Adventure and Welcome Center as shown in plan	No Impact (support)
123b. Support for Welcome Center	Support for Adventure and Welcome Center as shown in plan	No Impact (support)
18c. Supports plan for Welcome Center	Support for Adventure and Welcome Center as shown in plan	No Impact (support)
25g. Support for Welcome Center with rentals, food	Support for Adventure and Welcome Center as shown in plan	No Impact (support)
30c. Support for Welcome Center	Support for Adventure and Welcome Center as shown in plan	No Impact (support)
60b. Appreciation for plan recommendations related to silent sports (Welcome Center)	Support for Adventure and Welcome Center as shown in plan	No Impact (support)
62f. Support for Welcome Center and safety it provides athletes and spectators in cold winter months	Support for Adventure and Welcome Center as shown in plan	No Impact (support)
65d. Support for the creation of Wirth Village and Welcome Center	Support for Adventure and Welcome Center as shown in plan	No Impact (support)
67d. Support for silent sports center [Welcome Center]	Support for Adventure and Welcome Center as shown in plan	No Impact (support)
86j. Support for Welcome Center	Support for Adventure and Welcome Center as shown in plan	No Impact (support)
98f. Support for Welcome Center	Support for Adventure and Welcome Center as shown in plan	No Impact (support)
122e. Suggestion that adding concessions equal to quality of Chain of Lakes' would attract people and reduce crime	Support for concessions as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
145a. Support for chalet/restaurant plan	Support for concessions as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
24c. Support for Chalet restaurant	Support for concessions as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
30k. Support for large, high-profile events at Wirth, such as high school races, Loppet events, and Junior Olympics for the recognition and benefits they bring	Support for enhancement of park's ability to host events as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
30l. Support for large, high-profile events at Wirth for the expanded public engagement and health offerings they provide Minneapolis residents, especially from the Northside	Support for enhancement of park's ability to host events as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
88b. Support for ehancement of park's ability to host outdoor recreation events and day to day activities for all ages and abilities	Support for enhancement of park's ability to host events as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
123e. Support for renewed investment in Wirth as North Minneapolis'es premier park	Support for funding and implementing the plan	No impact (support)
147b. Supports funding for maintenance	Support for funding and implementing the plan	No impact (support)
30j. Support for investment in Wirth to support ongoing and new activities	Support for funding and implementing the plan	No impact (support)
30n. Supports first priorities for public and public-private partnership, donor funding	Support for funding and implementing the plan	No impact (support)
41k. Support for funding ongoing maintenance in park	Support for funding and implementing the plan	No impact (support)
67e. Suggestion to prioritize funding to realize vision in the plan overall	Support for funding and implementing the plan	No impact (support)
86r. Support for funding and implementing plan vision	Support for funding and implementing the plan	No impact (support)
87b. Suggestion that to realize the master plan the Park Board should take over the finances	Support for funding and implementing the plan	No impact (support)
88g. Suggestion to follow plan approval with appropriate funding into the future, and appreciation for funding support	Support for funding and implementing the plan	No impact (support)



Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
98g. Support for full funding of plan priorities	Support for funding and implementing the plan	No impact (support)
116f. Opposition to taking away Par 3 course	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
118d. Support for continued support of Par 3 by MPRB	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
119b. Statement that CAC recognized importance of Par 3 to park system	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
120c. Statement that golfers consider approved CAC recommendation to keep Par 3 in current configuration as a commitment by staff and commissioners	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
120g. Opposition to changes to 1st and 7th holes of Par 3 course.	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
14b. Opposition to changes to Par 3 golf layout	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
15a. Supports making few or no changes to Par 3 course	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
15b. Statement that master plan indicates no changes to Par 3 course	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
16a. Support for minimal changes to Par 3 course	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
16b. Statement that master plan indicates no changes to Par 3 course	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
22a. Supports existence of outstanding public golf course in Wirth Park	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
55a. Support for phasing in dog park outlined on page 80 [7-14] North Wirth recommendation #2 as a temporary reprieve for practice chipping green	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
74d. Support for no changes to Par 3 or fairways	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
74e. Statement that design for holes on back side of 18-hole course had been approved	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
75c. Support for no changes to Par 3	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
76c. Support for saving the Par 3 fine little course	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
77g. Statement that golfers and Friends of Wirth Par 3 had secured a mandate in Master Plan to have no changes to Par 3	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
89b. Support for preserving Par 3 as amenity to Minneapolis	Support for golf course concept as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
25f. Support for lighting improvements	Support for lighting as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
18d. Supports Loppet Foundation partnership in Wirth Park	Support for Loppet Partnership in Wirth	No impact (support)
30o. Supports partnership with Loppet Foundation	Support for Loppet Partnership in Wirth	No impact (support)
30p. Statement that partnership with Loppet Foundation is key to engaging people of color in active recreation	Support for Loppet Partnership in Wirth	No impact (support)
86f. Statement that Loppet Foundation has done a lot to foster skiing in Wirth	Support for Loppet Partnership in Wirth	No impact (support)
86g. Support for continued partnership with Loppet Foundation	Support for Loppet Partnership in Wirth	No impact (support)
87a. Support for skiing, biking, hiking in Wirth	Support for multiple activities in Wirth, generally	No impact (support)
147a. Support for naturalized areas and passive uses	Support for natural area preservation and improvement	No impact (support)
30m. Supports improvements to Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Quaking Bog area	Support for natural area preservation and improvement	No impact (support)
38d. Appreciation for efforts to preserve the park as a place to escape	Support for natural area preservation and improvement	No impact (support)
62b. Support for environmental plans to preserve Wirth green space	Support for natural area preservation and improvement	No impact (support)
65b. Support for off leash dog park	Support for off-leash recreation area as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
69g. Support for off leash recreation area	Support for off-leash recreation area as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
6a. Support for dog park	Support for off-leash recreation area as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
72a. Support for off leash recreation area	Support for off-leash recreation area as shown in the plan	No impact (support)

Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
86m. Support off leash recreation area	Support for off-leash recreation area as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
98c. Support for off leash recreation area	Support for off-leash recreation area as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
100a. Appreciation of new off road cycling trails and intention to visit from outside the city more often to use them	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
100b. Support for building more off road cycling trails, Welcome Center and holding more events in Wirth	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
102a. Appreciation for new off road cycling trails and volunteers who maintain them	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
103a. Appreciation for new off road cycling trails and location within city	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
103c. Support continued expansion of off road cycling trails in Wirth	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
105b. Appreciation for new off road trails,how they flow well, and how quickly the new system was built	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
106a. Appreciation for new off road trails and the hundreds of people it drew recently	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
107a. Appreciation for new off road trails	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
108a. Appreciation for new off road trails	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
109a. Appreciation for new off road trails	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
10i. Support for off-road cycling trails	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
111a. Appreciation for the off road trails	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
1d. Support for winter cycling in general	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
25i. Support for new mountain bike trails	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
27b. Appreciation for new mountain bike trails and allocation of resources to them	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
2c. Support for mountain biking in Wirth Park	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
69b. Support for new mountain bike trails and how they have made legitimate urban mountain biking a reality	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
78c. Appreciation for new off road cycling trails and great work done to create them	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
79a. Appreaciation for new off road cycling trails	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
81a. Appreciation for the new mountain bike trails, especially the SW section	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
82a. Appreciation for new mountain bike trails	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
83a. Support for more off road cycling trails at Wirth	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
83b. Appreciation for off-road cycling trails so close to the city and raritiy for this nationwide	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
84a. Appreciation for new off road cycling trails	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
84b. Support for building more off road cycling trails	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
85a. Support for more mountain bike and snow bike trails	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
86l. Support for expansion of mountain bike trails, especially in Bog and competition stadium areas	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
90b. Appreciation for new mountain bike trails and abilitiy for daughter and friends to use one of the finest urban trail systems in the country	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
91a. Appreciation for new mountain bike trails and the unique opportunity to have them close to the city	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
92b. Appreciation for recognition of recreation that needs special facilities like off road cyclling and skiing, and for planning for these activities in future of park	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
92c. Support for expanded and improved off-road trails that accommodate more users and improve access	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
92d. Support accomodating growing needs of high school mountain bike league	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)



Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
93a. Appreciation for new off road cycling trails and the work MORC volunteers have done on the trails	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
94a. Appreciation for the new mountain bike trails south of Glendale, and staff work	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
97a. Appreciation for new off road cycle trails making Wirth a premier mountain bike destination in Twin Cities and a reason to be proud	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
99a. Appreciation of expansion of off road cycling trails and its health benefits	Support for off-road cycling and related events and facilities in Wirth	No Impact (support)
140a. Support for additional parking	Support for parking as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
30g. Support for parking and pedestrian improvements related to event trail loop	Support for parking as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
3d. Support for small parking lot at Wirth Beach initially, flexing to larger if needed	Support for parking as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
123c. Support for picnic shelters in Wirth Beach area	Support for picnic area as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
10a. Support for plan's balance of competing interests	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
10j. Appreciation for plan overall	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
114a. Appreciation for plan overall and opportunity to comment	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
11a. Appreciation for plan overall	Support for plan overall, generally	No Impact (support)
120a. Appreciation that plan is consistent with CAC recommendations	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
122a. Appreciation for work invested in plan	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
127a. Support for plan overall	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
129. Support for plan overall	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
131a. Appreciation for plan and vision overall	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
135a. Appreciation for plan overall	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
13i. Appreciation for potential of Wirth Park winter activities	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
149a. Support in general or for plan overall	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
1a. Statement that plan reflects CAC recommendations	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
1b. Support for plan vision	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
1f. Support for plan goals of preservation and improvements to Wirth Park	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
25a. Supports plan overall	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
2d. Statement that plan is consistent with commentors' goals for Wirth Park	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
30b. Support for plan overall	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
30t. Appreciation for plan product overall	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
33a. Support for thoroughness of plan	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
36a. Support for plan overall and coverage of large issues worked on by CAC	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
38c. Appreciation that the plan fulfills commentor's desire for the park to remain a natural park	Support for plan overall, generally	No Impact (support)
41a. Appreciation to have a plan for Wirth	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
42a. Support for majority of plan	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
60a. Appreciation for plan overall	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
61b. Appreciation for plan overall and further development of park	Support for plan overall, generally	No Impact (support)
62a. Appreciation for thoughtfulness of plan overall	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
65a. Appreciation for thoughtful recommendations and plan overall	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)

Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
66a. Appreciation for plan and all who participated	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
66c. Support for adapting Wirth to todays users and their activities	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
66g. Support for the plan overall	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
67a. Support for plan overall	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
68b. Statement that the plan is exciting and implementation will continue a strong legacy positioning Minneapolis as a great city	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
69d. Support for changes proposed in the plan	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
69i. Support for overall plan	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
78a. Support for plan overall	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
81d. Appreciation for plan update to whole park	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
86a. Appreciation for plan and vision overall	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
86b. Statement that Wirth is a great amenity for entire region, and the plan will improve it even more	Support for plan overall, generally	No Impact (support)
86q. Appreciation for overall park vision	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
88a. Support for vision of the plan and for approval by the Park Board	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
88f. Appreciation for master plan as step forward in the right direction for the park	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
90c. Appreciation for MPRB leadership in ample use of park lands	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
92a. Support for master plan overall	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
98a. Appreciation for the exciting new plan	Support for plan overall, generally	No impact (support)
30a. Statement that plan balances needs of a variety of users	Support for plan vision to balance various activities and needs	No impact (support)
67c. Appreciation for vision that balances needs of many stakeholders	Support for plan vision to balance various activities and needs	No impact (support)
86p. Appreciation that plan is thought out and balances many competing interests	Support for plan vision to balance various activities and needs	No impact (support)
88d. Appreaciation for plan's balance of activities, including skiing, golf, walking, cycling, sledding, and paddling	Support for plan vision to balance various activities and needs	No impact (support)
130a. Support for lawn bowling	Support for renovation of the Chalet and lawn bowling area as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
65c. Support for renovation of the Chalet	Support for renovation of the Chalet and lawn bowling area as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
65e. Support for the addition of lawn bowling courts	Support for renovation of the Chalet and lawn bowling area as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
62c. Support for plan to accommodate seasonal overlap of multiple activities, including moving golf greens to better accommodate skiing, extend golf season, and open ski stadium for December races	Support for separating golf and ski uses as shown in the plan	No Impact (support)
63c. Support to better separate walking and ski trails in South Wirth	Support for separating golf and ski uses as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
63e. Support for separating golf holes from snowmaking loop to extend ski season	Support for separating golf and ski uses as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
69e. Support for moving golf holes to extend activity seasons	Support for separating golf and ski uses as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
10d. Support for expansion of snowmaking ski loop	Support for ski trails and related improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
149b. Suggestion to improve condition of and increase amount of snowmaking ski trails	Support for ski trails and related improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
23b. Supports cross country ski trail improvements and extensions in Wirth	Support for ski trails and related improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
23c. Suggests improving condition and increasing amount of snow-making ski trails	Support for ski trails and related improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
25e. Support for snow making loop expansion	Support for ski trails and related improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
2a. Support for cross country skiing in Wirth Park	Support for ski trails and related improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)



Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)	Theme	Theme Impact
30d. Support for improving snowmaking and lighting for ski trail	Support for ski trails and related improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
30e. Support for improved natural ski trails throughout the park	Support for ski trails and related improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
30h. Support for above-ground water storage for snowmaking and identification of a pond site	Support for ski trails and related improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
63b. Support plans to increase snowmaking loop	Support for ski trails and related improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
64a. Supports increased snow making trails for Nordic skiing, to retain revenue	Support for ski trails and related improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
86d. Support for skiing enhancements	Support for ski trails and related improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
86i. Support for snowmaking and lighted ski trail loop	Support for ski trails and related improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
88c. Support for ski infrastructure improvements	Support for ski trails and related improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
89d. Support for changes to Wirth winter sports, espeically Nordic ski trail system	Support for ski trails and related improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
95d. Support for ski trails and suggestion to build more	Support for ski trails and related improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
98d. Support for expanded snowmaking and lighted ski loop	Support for ski trails and related improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
152d. Supports better trail building techniques	Support for trail improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
18a. Supports enhancing non-motorized activities in park	Support for trail improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
20a. Support for plan's improvements to alternative recreation such as biking and skiing	Support for trail improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
2b. Support for unpaved trail running in Wirth Park	Support for trail improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
30f. Support for event trail loop	Support for trail improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
65f. Support for any and all trail improvements, especially for communter/road bikes	Support for trail improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
81b. Appreciation for reconstructed walking trail in SW Wirth and cleanup of the area	Support for trail improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
86k. Support for new bridges and underpasses for trails	Support for trail improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
93b. Support for next stages of the trail system	Support for trail improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
10f. Support for retaining sledding hill	Support for winter recreation improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
139b. Appreciate tubing hill returning to free	Support for winter recreation improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)
148a. Support for free/no-fee sledding and tubing hill	Support for winter recreation improvements as shown in the plan	No impact (support)

Method	Submittal Date	Name	Comment	Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)
s	01/09/2015	Matt Moore	<p>Greetings Park Board Commissioners and Staff. I have reviewed the draft Master Plan and I must say that it fully reflects the discussions and recommendations of the Citizen's Advisory Committee, on which I was proud to serve. You have created a vision for Wirth Park that is steeped in its long history, but forward looking and progressive. I think this is an exciting time for the park and I am looking forward to seeing the proposed changes unfold in the years to come. I do have a few suggestions for the draft Plan. As you know I am a past president of MOCA, and I greatly appreciate your acknowledgment of our group's ongoing contributions to the off-road cycling trails. I was recently elected as Vice President of the Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists (MORC), the other partner on these projects and a signatory to the MOU for these trails. It would therefore be appropriate to mention MORC in discussions of the off-road cycling trails on pages 11 and 89. On Page 19 there is a brief mention of winter cycling. The growth in popularity of this recreational activity is astounding, even to someone who works in the bicycle industry. The reason is the recent innovation of "fat bikes" with larger tires that are suitable for use on snow covered trails. This is now the fastest growing sales category in the bike industry and there are predictions that this type of bicycle will soon supplant mountain bikes, as they can be used year-round even in northern tier states. And because riding fat bikes is relatively easy, and exceedingly fun. This development could not have been foreseen during the CAC process, but it may be an extremely popular activity in Minnesota in a very short time. Land managers, including the DNR, are beginning to recognize this and starting to create winter riding trails to accommodate the desire for places to ride. The number of race and ride events for fat bikes has exploded, and a bike race was very successfully added to the City of Lakes Loppet event two years ago. The race limit of 200 riders will surely fill up this year. Winter riding can be done on existing trail systems, and also on areas that are unused or underutilized in the winter and not suitable for bikes in the warmer months. When the ground is frozen and covered with snow, it is relatively easy to create a seasonal fat bike trail without risk of damage to turf or the environment. For example, one could envision a fat bike trail system utilizing the Chain of Lakes, or at particular lakes, that could be created with minimal grooming (only after a heavy snow, otherwise the bikes create the trail) and temporary placement of directional signage. Creating such a trail would channel the growing number of users into areas where they are wanted and away from areas where they are not (such as groomed ski trails). It would also promote use of our park system in a way that other cities have not yet discovered. I appreciate your efforts to preserve and improve Wirth Park, and your consideration of these comments. Matt Moore Vice President, MORC Secretary and Board Member, MOCA General Counsel Quality Bicycle Products, Inc</p>	1a. Statement that plan reflects CAC recommendations
				1b. Support for plan vision
				1c. Suggestion to mention MORC in discussions of off-road cycling trails
				1d. Support for winter cycling in general
				1e. Suggestion to create winter cycling trails on undertulized frozen land and water to reduce both environmental impact and conflict with other activities
				1f. Support for plan goals of preservation and improvements to Wirth Park
s	01/09/2015	not provided	<p>I support making Theodore Wirth park a destination for cross county skiing, unpaved trail running, and mountain biking. This plan is consistent with that goal.</p>	2a. Support for cross country skiing in Wirth Park
				2b. Support for unpaved trail running in Wirth Park
				2c. Support for mountain biking in Wirth Park
				2d. Statement that plan is consistent with commentors' goals for Wirth Park

Method	Submittal Date	Name	Comment	Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)
s	01/09/2015	Dolly Petro	Great job, thanks for the hard work. One comment I would like to make regarding the parking lot proposed along Glenwood Avenue. I would ask for your consideration in the lighting of this lot. There are a number of homes across the street from the proposed lot, and based on how bright the lights at the Wirth Beach parking lot are, this would be quite intrusive on these homes. Could options be explored such as motion-detector lights or gate closer for afterhours (similar to Lake Calhoun)? Appreciated is the considering to start the lot out small with the ability to expand if the need presents itself. Judging from the need over the past 2 years, there are only a very few times during the year when a huge lot would be needed (mostly for the large Loppet events). I would hate to have the inviting green expanse of this area be sacrificed for an infrequent need.	3a. Appreciation for staff work
				3b. Concern about brightness of lights at proposed Wirth Beach parking lot
				3c. Suggestion for motion-detector lights or auto gate lock after hours at proposed Wirth Beach parking lot.
				3d. Support for small parking lot at Wirth Beach initially, flexing to larger if needed
				3e. Opposition to unnecessary paving over green areas at Wirth Beach parking lot



Method	Submittal Date	Name	Comment	Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)
s	01/09/2015	Commissioner Liz Wielinski (District 1)	Thank you staff for your many hours of hard work creating the draft master plan. I appreciate the opportunity to comment before the Wirth Master Plan comes before the board for final approval. Page Comment 1-2 a semi –autonomous.....suggest replace with “the” to read “ the unit of government “ 1-2 The City of Minneapolis is a primary partner.....suggest removal and start the sentence at The MPRB engages..... 1-2 What parkland do we own and operate in Fridley? Is it just the part of the ST Anthony Parkway trail that loops up to get on the north side of the Camden Bridge? And isn’t Meadowbrook in Hopkins too? 1-5 map mentions Proposed event cycling trail and stadium in the column on the left and event cycling summer stadium (grass) in the column on the right. Are these the same thing and if yes, does it need to be labeled twice? Also if this is also the Winter Stadium listed in the right hand column can’t this be combined as the Summer/Winter open stadium area? 1-6 I think that both John Munger and Piotr Bednarski served as appointed CAC members at one point but they are not on the list. 1-7 Meg FORNEY needs to be spelled correctly 2-6 The CAC and public participated in multiple events during the charrette to participate. Could we make this sentence flow a bit better....a little too much participating? 2 7 Figure 20 section 3....should that ? remain after the word acceptable? 2-8 Figure 20 section 6 ... should it read “especially from north Minneapolis neighborhoods “ since we show multiple neighborhoods in preceding maps? 4-2 these immigrant populations and people of color will represent a larger share of the families with children and workforce. Would this flow better if families with children and workforce were to switch places and read “these immigrant populations and people of color will represent a larger share of the workforce and families with children.” In the next bit right after 2040, should it be making up or becoming instead of just making? 4-3 colo4 (8) I am pretty sure that 4 is supposed to be an r. 4-9 re-servable does this need the hyphen? 5-6 last box of table...need to fix so it reads Keep OFF the grass 5-13 While the park is named for Theodore Wirth I believe it would be more appropriate to interpret his legacy at the home that was built to bring him to Minneapolis...The Historic Theodore Wirth House (Superintendent’s residence) 5-14 Section on Wirth Lake and Beach...drop the word OF in the first sentence 6-6 Paragraph on impaired waters, L in Chain of lakes should be capitalized 6-9 Impact of invasive species...you list 3 insect disease vectors and then refer to two well-known...is this intentional? 7-2 need a space between both and regional in point #6 7-3 same issues with the map here as in chapter 1 7-8 Natural Snow Cross-country Ski Trail Network...sentence falls apart after largely-in-place 7-9 Future small livestock, after the MPRB attempt with chickens I would add the word seasonal between small and livestock 7-10 Front (Design Advisory F) includes language about floodplain, but not preserving historical significance (there is partial significance per earlier tables) 7-15 point 6 again refer to the livestock as seasonal 9-2 Park Maintenance Activities bullet point 5 except, not expect for Golf Course and drop the in before the on a 10 day schedule bullet point 6 should be diseased tree removal (There are various spots throughout where diagram number holders have been put in but not attributed to a certain # and are shown as x or xxx and those will hopefully be corrected in the final draft) Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.	4a. Appreciation for staff work and comment opportunity
				4b. Suggestion on page 1-2 replace "a semi –autonomous" with “the” to read “the unit of government“
				4c.Suggestion on page 1-2 remove "The City of Minneapolis is a primary partner" and start sentence at "The MPRB engages"
				4d. Suggestion on page 1-2 indicate what land MPRB owns in Fridley and add Hopkins to the list (for Meadowbrook golf course)
				4e. Suggestion on page 1-5 map to clarify if labels for "event cycling trail and stadium", "summer stadium (grass)" and "winter stadium" are the same facility, remove duplication and title "summer/winter open stadium area"
				4f. Suggestion on page 1-6 to add John Munger and Piotr Bednarski as appointed CAC members
				4g. Suggestion on page 1-7 change spelling to "Meg Forney"

Method	Submittal Date	Name	Comment	Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)
				4h. Suggestion on page 2-6 to edit/reconsider word choice in "The CAC and public participated in multiple events during the charrette to participate"
				4i.Suggestion on page 2-7 figure 20 row 3 edit/reword/remove question in parentheses
				4j. Suggestion on page 2-8 figure 20 row 6 change "neighborhood " to "neighborhoods" to match preceding maps
				4k. Suggestion on page 4-2 change "larger share of the families with children and workforce" to "larger share of the workforce and families with children."
				4l. Suggestion on page 4-2 change "2040, making almost a quarter of total population" to "2040, making up almost"
				4m. Suggestion on page 4-3 fix typo in "colo4 (8)"
				4n. Suggestion on page 4-9 remove hyphen from "re-servable"
				4o. Suggestion on page 5-6 row 9 change "of the grass to "off the grass"
				4p. Opposition to interpreting Wirth's legacy in Wirth Park (page 5-13), prefers to do so at the Historic Theodore Wirth House (Superintendent's residence)
				4q. Suggestion on page 5-14 remove "of" from "Wirth Beach has undergone numerous of improvements"
				4r. Suggestion on page 6-6 in paragraph on impaired waters, capitalize letter "L" in "Chain of lakes"
				4s. Suggestion on page 6-9 under "Impact of Invasive Species" two invasive species are mentioned, but three are listed as disease vectors - make consistent
				4t. Suggestion on page 7-2 point #6 add a space between "both" and "regional"
				4u. Suggestion on page 7-3 make same changes to map in figure 100 as those suggested in comment summary 4e
				4v. Suggestion on page 7-8 under "Natural Snow Cross-Country Ski Trail Network" reword sentence after "largely-in-place" for better clarity
				4w. Suggestion on page 7-9 under "JD Rivers Children's Garden" change "future small livestock" to "future small seasonal livestock"
				4x. Suggestion on page 7-10 under "Front 9 Golf Improvements (Design Advisory F)" include language about preserving amenities of historical significance (per table on pg 58, row 15 listing partial significance in front 9 area)
				4y. Suggestion on page 7-15 under "Central Wirth" point 6 change "future small livestock" to "future small seasonal livestock"
				4z. Suggestion on page 9-2 under "Park Maintenance Activities" bullet 4 change "expect" to "except", and remove "in" before "on a 10 day schedule"
				4aa. Suggestion on page 9-2 under "Park Maintenance Activities" bullet 5 change "disease" to "diseased"
				4bb. Suggestion throughout plan - replace "figure x" or "figure xxx" with appropriate figure numbers.

Method	Submittal Date	Name	Comment	Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)
s	01/09/2015	Leni Erickson	Hi, We love the Theordore Wirth Park System, we feel blessed to have it, use is respectfully, and see it cared for and now updated. I have lived my life in on the backside of Eloise Bulter Wild Flower Gardens, in north Bryn Mawr. We are a neighborhood that inhabits the parks daily and often multiple times, as there are many self employed residents. Walks are good for us. And we often have dogs, and are respectful with them. What has happen for us walkers is this: In the summer, bikers travel through the asphalt paths we are to share at blasting speeds that frankly scare the daylights out of walkers. They seem to be either speed bikers with amazing gear, or, fat tire trekkers that course almost as fast. We feel intimidated, and are often yelled at to get out of the way. Gone is the time of the causal walk. All the woods is now a shared speedway. Then in winter, most of the asphalt walking paths have become ski trails....wide ski trails...that are plowed daily. And we get yelled at again to "Get off our paths!!!" The safe places for walkers has been very, very, very limited in all the Theordore Wirth and Bassetts Creek Parks. You may feel that the bikers are riding on these well groomed trails you make, but take a survey. They are NOT just on those paths...they are everywhere there are paths now. And the skiers. I am a lifetime cross-country skier. I believe we can all co-exist. But the skiers come now not from the area. They are most often speed skiers, training, competing. And these paths, which should be availabe to walkers also. But they are not. We get edged off and have no place to go. People get frustrated, on both sides, which leads to yelling...not good. One more thing: BeautifulTheordore Wirth Beach. This is probably the only inner city beach.During the day it is multiracial, and picnicing is multiracial, great! Then every evening it is all white people playing volleyball. No Asian nets. No multiracial games. Why? I am "white" and I feel "we" have yet taken over another piece of land that was shared by all. The new restrictions and rules for renting even the Theordore Wirth Pavillion are off limits mostly, to non whites. Too bad. Its been a multiracial meeting places for decades. Please help us untangle this new mess. I speak for many concerned residents in Bryn Mawr who will give voice to similar views. Thank you for asking, thank you for listening. We are all fortunate to have these woods. We are all fortunate to share them and learn to coexist peacefully. We are grateful to have them used and restored. We are grateful for your help, and, planning. Thank you for listening.	5a. Appreciation for Wirth Park in general and the use and care of it
				5b. Statement that commenter and neighbors walk in Wirth Park often, sometimes with dogs
				5c. Concern that cyclists and skiers move too fast which makes trails unsafe for walkers
				5d. Concern that cyclists and skiiers use trails they shouldn't in Wirth Park, limiting options for safe trail walking
				5e. Concern that paved walking trails become ski trails in winter that aren't open to walkers
				5f. Support for finding a way for skiers, walkers and cyclists to co-exist in Wirth Park
				5g. Concern that conflicting uses on shared trails causes yelling, intimidation, and confrontation
				5h. Statement that racial composition of users of Wirth Beach changes from day to evening
				5i. Concern that new rules and permitting processes restrict equal access to Wirth Pavilion by diverse racial groups
				5j. Appreciation for use, sharing, and restoration of park woods
				5k. Appreciation for staff help and planning
s	01/09/2015	Barb Lutz	Please build the dog park! It is much needed and is the least expensive part of the Master Plan.	6a. Support for dog park



Method	Submittal Date	Name	Comment	Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)
s	01/08/2015	Thomas Anderson	To all of you it concerns, It is with regrets that I not attend the meeting tonight, as it would be too hard to get there. I hope funding will be found on the way. My biggest hope is that there will be oversight by the public on and during each phase and openness to input. I have expressed in the past how I thought the single track through the Bog was given too much latitude and exceeds what might be respectful to the beauty and peace, of that environment. please keep Me in the loop. Long time and regular park user	7a. Statement of regret that open house was difficult to get to
				7b. Concern that funding will be secured in future
				7c. Concern that there should be public oversight and input on all phases of planning process.
				7d. Opposition to single track off-road cycling trails in Quaking Bog area, feels they impact beauty, peace, environment of area
s	01/08/2015	John E. Parker, Coldwell Banker Burnet	I represent the owner of several parcels of land in Bryn Mawr that lie adjacent to and east of Theodore Wirth park and immediately north of the Anwatin School property. This owner is open to selling these parcels to the Park Board, if there is interest. Please contact me for additional information, parcel maps, addresses, etc.	8a. Offer to sell property adjacent to Wirth Park to Park Board
s	01/08/2015	Mary McKelvey	After reading this Master Plan - I am so proud of the work that MPRB has done over the decades to maintain Wirth Park as a treasure in our city! I also am gladdened to know how well the Mission Statement of the MPRB aligns with the Mission of the non-profit Loppet Foundation . " MPRB exists to provide places and recreational opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate and engage in activities that promote health and well-being, community and environment." I am concerned about the Master Plan adding the phrase "as funding permits" to most of the goals in the plan. Especially "Routine Maintenance" as funding permits. That seems core to park mission. I see on page 93, there is a list of funding priorities. As someone who is interested in the non-profit/public partnership to make these wonderful priorities come to fruition, I would like more public clarity as to exactly what the Loppet Foundation's financial role will be, and what public measures will be taken to make decisions on funding priorities. Are ski trails and housing facilities CORE to the MPRBs mission in Wirth Park? It's not completely clear from the Master Plan. It certainly seems so in other public venues such as the MInneapolis Convention Center, which proudly displays several photos of Wirth ski activities. Please clarify to the public with more explanation of public resources toward the project, and be clear on when you will invite the investments of non-profits. Another phrase that concerns me is that most mentions of trails include the phrase"Modifications...will continue to employ sustainable trail design practices". Does that mean that the courses will change, therefore delaying the goal of Wayfaring signs? The ski trails assume that the skiers know their way around and how long it will take to ski each loop - not very welcoming for beginners unfamiliar to the park. I see some maps are starting to be available and sandwich boards which is an improvement. I'm looking forward to the hearing tonight. Thank you for your work thus far.	9a. Appreciation for MPRB's work to maintain Wirth Park
				9b. Statement that MPRB's mission aligns with that of the Loppet Foundation
				9c. Concern about adding the phrase "as funding permits" to goals in plan, especially routine maintenance
				9d. Concern that maintenance should be core to park mission
				9e. Suggestion on page 93 (chapter 9-pg 7) to clarify public-private-nonprofit partnership funding resources, roles, and timelines, especially for Loppet Foundation
				9f. Suggestion to clarify if ski trails and housing facilities are core to MPRB's vision for Wirth
				9g. Statement that the Mpls Convention Center proudly displays photos ski activities at Wirth

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				9h. Concern that trail modifications and sustainable trail design practices will delay installation of wayfinding signage on trails
				9i. Concern that current lack of ski trail wayfinding signage is not welcoming for beginning skiers
				9j. Appreciation for trail maps and wayfinding sandwich board signs
				9k. Appreciation for staff work on plan
s	01/07/2015	Jeanine Kelley & Mike Love	We think the Wirth Park master plan does a good job of balancing all of the competing interests at the park. The majority our my visits are in the winter on the ski trails, so we are especially pleased with the proposed new Welcome Center & possible expansion of the snowmaking loop. We'd also like to see more snow guns sometime in the future as the snow making loop seems to be taking extra time to complete this season. Our nieces love the sledding hill too, so we're glad that will remain. In addition to winter, we like to spend time at the wildflower garden & on the paved paths when biking the grand rounds. The mountain biking trails sound fun too & we hope to try them out someday. I'm sure the young people love them. Thanks for the great plan.	10a. Support for plan's balance of competing interests
				10b. Statement that the commenter visits Wirth most in winter for ski trails
				10c. Support for Welcome Center
				10d. Support for expansion of snowmaking ski loop
				10e. Suggestion for more snow guns to open snowmaking ski loop earlier
				10f. Support for retaining sledding hill
				10g. Statement that commentor enjoys Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden
				10h. Statement that commentor enjoys biking paved trails on the Grand Rounds Wirth Park section
				10i. Support for off-road cycling trails
				10j. Appreciation for plan overall
s	01/05/2015	david richfield	Sorry that my comments are late. The plan looks pretty good from my perspective as a park user. I just have a couple of issues that I want you to think about. These comments are from the perspective of an adjacent residential neighbor of the park. Archery. The archery range is not in a good location relative to surrounding residential areas. Twice arrows have landed in my garden. Perhaps a more remote area separated from residences is preferable for safety and liability reasons. The policeman who investigated confirmed that the direction of the arrow was from the park and he said that by far the wirth park archery range is closest to residences. Lighting. I am all for people feeling safe. However, randomly lighting up the earth interferes with other activities like sky watching, nighttime wildlife viewing and sleeping. The lighting of the ski trails and tubing hill also light up the entire adjacent residential community. Perhaps future use of directional oriented lighting systems could be considered. Thanks.	11a. Appreciation for plan overall
				11b. Suggestion to move archery range to more remote area not adjacent to residential
				11c. Concern that excessive lighting, expecially at ski trails and tubing hill, interferes with nighttime activities, sleeping, and residential uses
				11d. Suggestion to use direction-oriented lighting systems in park

Method	Submittal Date	Name	Comment	Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)
s	01/04/2015	Judy Galbraith	Dear Ms. O'Dell and the Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board: I am very disturbed at the destruction going on in the woodlands of Theo Wirth related to the building of off road biking trails. I've lived in this area for more than 25 years, and it's upsetting to see that the woods aren't being maintained. Instead of replanting after storms such as tornados, and clearing away dead trees, removing invasive species, and other forms of responsible woodland management, so-called surface trails are being created resulting in the appearance of strip mining in the woods. Further, when trees have been cleared for the bike trails, the debris has just been piled up in heaps which is not only an eyesore & fire hazard, but it lessens the ability of humans and certain wildlife to navigate the woods (e.g. deer, wild turkeys, fox, etc.). The SW corner of Glenwood and Theo Wirth is a prime example. In addition, many bike trail users seem oblivious about staying on the bike trails and off the walking/jogging trails, and no amount of signage will change that. When you're off road biking, you're not reading signs. On three occasions this fall I've had to grab my dogs and jump out of the way of bikers on walking trails who were going fast and were seemingly "blind" to hikers. What is really incomprehensible is that it's a very small minority of the population who have the athletic ability to use these off road trails safely. I know, because when I was younger I did off road biking. It would seem to me that the majority of the Park & Recreation's attention and budget should focus and fund those aspects of the parks used by the most people, as well as having a focus on safety, respect for the parks, and responsible woodlands management. I hope to attend the meeting on Thursday night, Jan. 8th, but wanted to put my comments and concerns in writing for the record. I look forward to your response.	12a. Concern about impact of mountain biking trails and construction of them on appearance and management of natural areas, especially SW corner of Glenwood and parkway
				12b. Concern about debris removal and maintenance during and after construction of off-road cycling trails
				12c. Concern that cyclists move too fast on shared use trails which makes trails unsafe for walkers
				12d. Suggestion to focus funding on those activities and parts of parks used by the most people
				12e. Suggestion to clarify core mission of MPRB to focus on safety and resonsible use and management of parks



Method	Submittal Date	Name	Comment	Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)
s	01/04/2015	Kurt Taken-Holtze	<p>Dear Park board I strongly think we need to add something into the Master Plan that we want to improve winter activities at wirth park. The people that are running the park seem to be very confused on what people want in the winter, to the point that most skiers, tubers and snow boarders go elsewhere. Elm creek and Hyland are usually where people in the cities go. The snow making and groomings need big improvements. If wirth could hire qualified personnel that know how to make snow and groom on a regular basis then more people will come to the park. Personally my wife and I moved about 6 blocks from the chalet this summer. I love to ski. The snow making and grooming have been so bad that i have to drive 20 minutes to go to hyland or elm creek when I would much rather ski at wirth but the conditions have been too bad. The sledding hill is a joke. It's hardly ever open. No one at Wirth seems to understand that it should be open when winter break starts for children. It opened this friday the 1st of January. The sledding hill needs to be open and advertised that it is open. Im not talking about commercials or anything. Im talking about it being open so much that when people drive by it they see it up and running. I looked at the snowboard part of the current master plan draft. I haven't seen a snow boarder at wirth in over 2 years. I know kids would go but wirth doesn't set it up anymore. People end up going to elm creek. Wirth has a great area for it but again the people running it seem to not put any energy into it. It would be great if snow boarding was brought back to Wirth. I would love to see winter activities grow at wirth park but until the park changes this is not going to happen. The organization of wirth is so bad that it is driving skiers away form the park. I want to see skiers flock to the park. It would be great if wirth was so good that people from the suburbs would come and buy passes, not laugh when i ask if they want to come to wirth and ski. The better wirth's winter activities get the more people and money will come. I do want to clarify that I am not talking about the loppet or high school skiing. Those seem to get all the attention. Why can't Wirth be in great shape all winter long for every skier and winter sport enthusiast? I love the potential of wirth and want to see it improve and be a great place for everyone. Thank you</p>	13a. Suggestion to add goal to plan to improve and grow winter activties in the park
				13b. Concern that needs of winter recreation users aren't being met, especially for snow making, regular grooming, and start of season readiness
				13c. Suggestion for training of, or change in, winter recreation personnel
				13d. Statement that lack of snowmaking and grooming is sending users elsewhere
				13e. Suggestion to advertise and open sledding hill in time for school winter break
				13f. Concern that snowboarding hill is not open or maintained
				13g. Statement that users from outside Minneapolis are not interested in skiing at Wirth Park
				13h. Concern that winter activities other than Loppet and high school ski events do not receive the same season-long attention and care
				13i. Appreciation for potential of Wirth Park winter activities

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s	01/03/2015	Robert Dwyer	Golfers are concerned about the current work of the Adventure Welcome Center (AWC) Design Team and Committee. Although the Master Plan is not yet final this preliminary work is going ahead. We understand the necessity of going ahead with this work. However in our view the proposed designs should be consistent with the work of the Theodore Wirth Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC). These Committee recommendations were also passed by the full board and are an essential part of the Draft Master Plan. The provisions of these documents are in part a result of Par 3 golfers having worked hard since early 2011 to ensure that no design changes would occur to the course as a result of the work on the new AWC building, ski stadium, or the other Winter Activity areas. As a result of these efforts the CAC Concept Plan and the Draft Master Plan indicate that there will be no design changes to the Par 3. Unfortunately the designs reviewed so far by the Design Committee (which includes golfers)all have some new negative impact on the Par 3 course including in some cases the redesign of some holes. Some of these designs place the new, very much larger, ski stadium ON the golf holes. Further, some designs place other winter activity features, even the AWC building outside the Welcome Center Area thereby impacting areas of the Par 3 course. The Welcome Center area was identified during the CAC process and is referred to in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MPRB and the Loppet Foundation. During the CAC process and the development of the Master Plan golfers were told the building, the ski stadium and the other winter activities could be contained within this Welcome Center area. The map showing the approximate limits of this area is well know to those who participated in the process since 2011. It should be remembered that Wirth 18 hole course golfers agreed to eliminating two historic holes, and substituting two new holes, so that the Loppet Foundation would have sufficient room for their new facilities in this Welcome Center area. Containing the new construction within this area, and other areas not affecting the Par 3 course, was a basis for MPRB Planning to assure us that the Par 3 would be able to continue operations in their current building until the new building was ready to conduct course operations. There is still time to come up with designs that are consistent with the CAC recommendations, the Master Plan, and the MOU. But it will require a new effort by the Design Team and Committee. The starting point needs to be some new alternative designs that do NOT have any additional NEW impact on the Par 3 course.	14a. Concern the current and future work of Welcome Center design team and committee will impact Par 3 golf course layout, against recommendation of CAC for master plan process.
				14b. Opposition to changes to Par 3 golf layout
				14c. Concern that Welcome Center, ski stadium and winter activities will be constructed outside of previous map of approximate Welcome Center area
				14d. Statement that golfers agreed to changes to 18 hole course layout to accommodate Welcome Center within a defined area
				14e. Statement of earlier understanding that Par 3 could operate out of existing building without interruption during construction of Welcome Center
				14f. Suggestion to create new designs for Welcome Center that don't have impact on Par 3 course.
s	01/02/2015	Javan Larson	I stand behind making no or very little changes to the Wirth Par Three Golf Course. As a long time golfer and also a long time cross country skier, I support and enjoy both activities! Yet, I do not see that there should be a negative impact on the golf course. According to the master plan there should not be changes and I DO NOT want changes made that negatively effect the golf course. Thank you for consideration of my point of view.	15a. Supports making few or no changes to Par 3 course
				15b. Statement that master plan indicates no changes to Par 3 course
s	01/02/2015	Diane Bundlie	I golf the par 3 course in the summer and XC Wirth park in the winter. I would like to see minimal impact on the par 3 course and would like it to remain open during construction. The Master Plan called for "no changes to the Par 3". Also, the AWC design and construction was supposed to occur in such a way as to enable the Par 3 to continue to operate without interruption. Please Asher to these recommendations when making your plans.	16a. Support for minimal changes to Par 3 course
				16b. Statement that master plan indicates no changes to Par 3 course

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				16c. Support for Par 3 remaining open during Welcome Center construction
s	01/02/2015	Terence Montry	No golfers on the design committe for the ski building and trails is short sited. One way to get what you want without interference. I am not surprised by that. How much does the skiing generate? I suppose that doesn't matter, you have already decided without golfers input. Typical politics, you should be ashamed!!! Respectfully,	17a. Statement that golfers aren't represented on Welcome Center and trail design committee
				17b. Statement that staff should be ashamed of plan process
s	12/29/2014	Taylor Fay	I hope that we can find a way in Minneapolis to enhance access to activities like walking, cross-country skiing, biking (including mountain biking) and other activities that don't require motorized vehicles. While I understand that many residents of our city want access to golf, I think that the amount of land this requires, the cost to entry, and the environmental degradation caused by fertilizers, I think that our city should gradually reduce the number of golf courses, perhaps starting at Theodore Wirth. I support the Loppet Foundation plan for the "Silent Sports Center," and I think that our city parks system should partner with them. Thanks for reading!	18a. Supports enhancing non-motorized activities in park
				18b. Opposed to existence of golf course in Wirth Park
				18c. Supports plan for Welcome Center
				18d. Supports Loppet Foundation partnership in Wirth Park
s	12/22/2014	Brian Anderson	Need a connection to the park to the southern section of the Willard Hay neighborhood. No connection from South of Plymouth to Highway 55. At Highway 55 you have to cross 6 lanes of traffic at uncontrolled intersections to get to the sidewalk on the South side of 55. Please consider an addition of paved trail on the north side of 55 from Thomas Ave to the bridge over the rail road and then connecting to the bike/walk path so that we can access Wirth Lake without having to cross traffic. On walks, I've noticed the trails through the Tornado Zone, North of 55, east of the golf course, are not being kept up. Does that mean the trails are no longer for use? A lost amenity for the neighborhood? Consider connecting the sidewalk on the southside of 55 to the new trail at the edge of the lake where the walking bridge is. The sidewalk next to 55 ends and then nothing. Currently it a treacherous, heavily used, trench down a slope. Why wasn't this connected originally?	19a. Suggests adding connection from Willard Hay to South Wirth
				19b. Suggests adding paved trail on north side of Hwy 55 and connecting to Wirth Lake
				19c. Concern about maintenance and permanence of trails in tornado zone
				19d. Suggests adding sidewalk connection on south side of Hwy 55 to Wirth Lake trail
s	12/22/2014	Dennis Frett	The Theodore Wirth Regional Park Master Plan includes a lot to be praised wrt improvements for alternative recreation (biking, skiing, etc.). I find one glaring concern however. There is a major contradiction in the words I read about how much attention will be paid to activities that improve the quality of the watersheds in the park, namely the Basset Creek system. I've read in many places where there is work and investment to be made in making sure the Basset Creek watershed is improved as it's had severe impacts to water quality in the path. If the city considers the water quality in the Basset Creek watershed a major concern (and I agree we should), then why on earth is it pushing so hard to route the light rail extension to the NW suburbs RIGHT THROUGH the basset creek watershed. Major conflict in goals in my opinion. The light rail system will have major environmental impacts to Basset Creek watershed for many reasons and this Master plan completely ignores it.	20a. Support for plan's improvements to alternative recreation such as biking and skiing
				20b. Statement that investments need to be made to improve water quality in Basset Creek watershed
				20c. Concern about LRT environmental impacts on Bassett Creek watershed



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s	12/19/2014	Garrett Larson	Please support and increase the disc golf options offered, the current course while decent, doesn't take full advantage of the land, and is not really worth paying the requested rate for. Improving the course will allow people to more fully test their skills, and increase the number of players.	21a. Suggests improving and increasing disc golf facilities
s	12/19/2014	not provided	Yes, Wirth is a multi-use park. However please be careful to preserve its function as an outstanding public golf course.	22a. Supports existence of outstanding public golf course in Wirth Park
s	12/19/2014	Stephen Bullard	I would love to see an expansion of the mountain bike trail in the Butler area and other areas of Wirth park where there is great terrain. I also support improvements and extensions of the cross country ski trail. I am a huge user of both these resources and love to see the youth of the city outside and exercising instead of staring at their phones, (that goes for adults also). I would also like to see expansion of the snow making trails for cross country skiing.	23a. Suggestion to expand mountain bike trails in Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden area
				23b. Supports cross country ski trail improvements and extensions in Wirth
				23c. Suggests improving condition and increasing amount of snow-making ski trails
s	12/19/2014	Alissa D.Luepke Pier, AIA	Please consider emphasizing and addressing the following comments as they relate to the north Wirth components of the plan. North Minneapolis is often overlooked in the implementation of grand visions such as this. As this is the last amenity that we have not been cut off from (the Mississippi River, downtown....) yet (a fence will go in when the LRT is built...and I wish the Park Board would really push for a stop on the NE corner of Plymouth...it would just make sense if you want it to be a destination park for the entire metro area, as well as push for added access points into the park for north Minneapolis residents, as it will cut us off from Theo Wirth.) 1.) YES - we would like an eating establishment at the Chalet after they restore it! (Finally, north gets a park amenity like Sea Salt or Tin Fish in their parks!) PLEASE - give us some of the amenities that other areas of the city enjoy! 2.) The new welcome center is to be located nowhere near current bus stops NOR near the proposed LRT stops. This seems short sighted. While the idea of creating a "Wirth Village" seems intriguing, it will only work if they can make the new "Welcome Center" feel connected and easily accessible on foot from where these currently are (near the Chalet.) So, they need to make that access and circulation a priority. If the Welcome Center does not feel "connected" to the Chalet in a village sort of way, it will forever be a mark on the	24a. Statement that North Minneapolis often overlooked in plan implementation
				24b. Suggestion to add neighborhood access points across LRT Blue Line
				24c. Support for Chalet restaurant
				24d. Suggestion to connect Welcome Center to transit and Chalet area
				24e. Opposes parking lot at Welcome Center
				24f. Suggestion to add LRT station at NE Corner of Plymouth
				24g. Concern that architectural style of Plymouth LRT station should match Chalet

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s	12/19/2014	not provided	I strongly support the plan. A couple of points to highlight for me are: 1. Nordic skiing. Rapidly growing - a lot of demand. The current snow making loop and lighting is deficient. The terrain is too hilly for beginners. the light is poor. the commitment to the trails is lacking - this year is a good example with Elm Creek and Highland up and running weeks before Wirth - thousands of skiers have been using those trails - and paying a fee. A real lost opportunity for Wirth and a failure to meet the demands of so many skiers. I am pleased to see in the plan a commitment to expand the snow making loop, improve the lights, and establish a indoor facility suitable for rentals, food, events, etc. 2. Welcome center - really important. I love the chalet but it is not suited for winter activities - in fact it is downright dangerous. Access is slippery and icy. 3. The mountain bike trails are a very nice addition. I have enjoyed them very much. I have had some concerns about over crowding and wonder if there is a way work with local schools and teams to educate them and perhaps control the volume of users to prevent overcrowding that can be troublesome to other users and possibly harmful to the trails. I have been on the trails at the same time as large teams/training groups and have had a hard time getting by - the nature of single track biking does not lend itself well to overcrowding. 4. Ticketing. The current system is very user unfriendly. It is hard to purchase passes. Once bought, there is poor enforcement so many just don't bother. This is an important source of revenue for the park. There should be a big effort to make it easy to get passes and to enforce it so the park can have some revenue to help with the costs of trail maintenance.	25a. Supports plan overall
				25b. Concern that snowmaking ski loop and lighting are deficient for rapidly growing sport of nordic skiing
				25c. Concern that terrain in Wirth too hilly for beginning skiers
				25d. Concern that ski trails are not open early enough, losing revenue and opportunity to meet needs of skiers
				25e. Support for snow making loop expansion
				25f. Support for lighting improvements
				25g. Support for Welcome Center with rentals, food
				25h. Statement that chalet is not suitable for winter activities, is dangerously slippery and icy
				25i. Support for new mountain bike trails
				25j. Concern about overcrowding at new mountain bike trails
				25k. Suggestion to control overcrowding at mountain bike trails through education in partnership with schools
				25l. Concern that ski passes and tickets are difficult to buy
				25m. Concern that use of ski passes and tickets is not enforced, resulting in lost revenue for park
				25n. Concern about lack of revenue for maintenance
s	12/19/2014	not provided	Why build a new activity if Wirth Park won't groom natural snow or make snow???	26a. Concern about lack of ski grooming and snowmaking
				26b. Suggestion to maintain existing facilities before building new
s	12/18/2014	Scott Wissink	I live just east of Anwatin school and would love to see mtn bike trails added to the park just west of the school (east of TW Parkway). Have not had a chance to check out the new mtn bike trail but it looks awesome. TW is my main place to ride and I appreciate the resources allocated to the mtn bike trail system!!	27a. Suggestion to add mountain bike trails west of Anwatin school.
				27b. Appreciation for new mountain bike trails and allocation of resources to them

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s	12/18/2014	Craig Stolen	I would like to express my support for improved snow making and trail grooming within Theodore Wirth. I live in the North Metro and because of the lack of options in my area I often visit the park to ski . I come to train, race, tour with my kids, and exercise my dog. The trails are great but could be improved with better grooming and enhanced snow making. I would also suggest you consider the addition of classic only ski trails. The feeling one gets on a narrow wooed classic only track is much different than on the street sized skate ski trail. Dedicated classic ski trails are disappearing and the seasonal use of the off road bike trails for classic skiing could be a welcome option.	28a. Suggestion for improved snowmaking and ski trail grooming
				28b. Statement that commenter skis, trains, races, tours with kids, and exercises dog in Wirth park
				28c. Suggestion to add narrow classic-ski only trails in wooded areas, and/or allow classic skiing on off road bicycling trails
s	12/18/2014	not provided	It seems to me that any expansion of park activities and services will mean the parking situation needs to be addressed. If the parking is to be re-imagined I would hope it could include parking for the LRT Blue line extension and kill 2 birds with one stone.	29a. Suggestion that expansion of park activities should include parking solutions
				29b. Suggestion to include parking for LRT stations that also serves park
s	12/16/2014	George Boody and Ann Risch	The Master Plan for Theodore With Park is a well crafted plan that balances the recreational needs of many different users, x-country skiers, mountain bikers, golfers, wildlife watchers and those seeking contemplative opportunities. We wholeheartedly support this plan, especially provisions to add a Welcome Center in North Wirth, improve the snowmaking and lighting for a 5-7 km x-country ski loop using water conservation practices and high-efficiency lighting and continuing to improve natural ski trails throughout North, Central and South Wirth. The event trail loop is a needed component of the Welcome Center along with related parking and pedestrian improvements. Above ground water storage is a critical need for the winter recreation snowmaking to function well and efficiently. We urge you to move forward by identifying a pond site. These improvements along with changes to tubing and snowboarding hills and re-starting the free sledding hill will require relocating golf holes 17 and 18 and adaptations on 10th tee. Golfers have had a long history at Wirth park and these improvements can and should be done in a way that benefits the golf infrastructure. Wirth Park needs reinvestment to serve ongoing and new interests that have emerged in the last decades, such as x-country skii trails and competitive racing venues. High school ski races, citizen events such as the City of Lakes Loppet and top flight events such as Junior Olympics bring tremendous recognition and benefits to the Minneapolis Park system, the City of Minneapolis and surrounding communities. These improvements provide an opportunity for expanded engagement of children and adults from North Minneapolis and other parts of the city in life-long out-of-doors activities that improve health and wellbeing. We also support improvements to the wonderful resources such as Eloise Butler Wildlife Garden and the Bog area. We agree with the first priorities for public funding and public-private partnership donor funding. The partnership with the Loppet Foundation is key to moving the welcome center and skiing-related improvements forward and engaging people of color in winter and summer forms of active recreation. The Park Board staff need and deserve high quality maintenance facilities for golf and ski equipment. This might be moved up to a higher priority level. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments and congratulations on the excellent product of an extensive planning process that included significant citizen involvement.	30a. Statement that plan balances needs of a variety of users
				30b. Support for plan overall
				30c. Support for Welcome Center
				30d. Support for improving snowmaking and lighting for ski trail
				30e. Support for improved natural ski trails throughout the park
				30f. Support for event trail loop



Method	Submittal Date	Name	Comment	Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)
				30g. Support for parking and pedestrian improvements related to event trail loop
				30h. Support for above-ground water storage for snowmaking and identification of a pond site
				30i. Support for improvements to winter recreation in a way that also benefits golf infrastructure
				30j. Support for investment in Wirth to support ongoing and new activities
				30k. Support for large, high-profile events at Wirth, such as high school races, Loppet events, and Junior Olympics for the recognition and benefits they bring
				30l. Support for large, high-profile events at Wirth for the expanded public engagement and health offerings they provide Minneapolis residents, especially from the Northside
				30m. Supports improvements to Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Quaking Bog area
				30n. Supports first priorities for public and public-private partnership, donor funding
				30o. Supports partnership with Loppet Foundation
				30p. Statement that partnership with Loppet Foundation is key to engaging people of color in active recreation
				30q. Statement that staff need and deserve high-quality maintenance facilities
				30r. Suggesetion to move maintenance facilities up to a higher priority level
				30s. Appreciation for opportunity to comment and citizen involvement in planning process
				30t. Appreciation for plan product overall
s	12/16/2014	John Parker CBBurnet Realty	We have land for sale that butts up to worth park south of the intersection of Chestnut and Xerxes. We also have land for sale that butts up to forest owned by the school board. It is south of the intersection of Chestnut and Vincent If the park board wishes to purchase either, or both of these, Please contact me at 612-925-8285. Thank you, John Parker Coldwell Banker Burnet Realty	31a. Suggestion to sell land to the Park Board
s	12/15/2014	not provided	Just a quick message to say how glad I was to see that the Park Board operations people will continue to maintain the ski trails. They do a great job and are to be commended. I mostly ski at Hiawatha and this past winter the trails were the best ever. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK !	32a. Appreciation for great job on maintenance of ski trails
				32b. Statement that ski trails at Hiawatha were better than ever this year
s	12/15/2014	not provided	Plan looks very thorough. Please improve lighting for pedestrians/bicyclists between Wayzata Blvd. north frontage road and Glenwood. It is so dark and scary there in the fall and it is a long distance. An emergency phone mid-way might be a thought by the bog. Another idea is to sign the interior trails better with a map or two. I have walked them many times and still get lost trying to get to the Tamarack Bog. Please include an elder workout station. I am too young for grandkids to take to playground but might enjoy stretching and that type of thing in a young senior-dedicated area. Most of the parks in the system might benefit from some of those things they have in Europe. But not near the noisy kid playground.	33a. Support for thoroughness of plan
				33b. Suggestion to improve lighting for pedestrians and cyclists between Wayzata Blvd frontage road and Glenwood.

Method	Submittal Date	Name	Comment	Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)
				33c. Suggestion to add emergency phone by the bog, mid-way between Wayzata Blvd frontage road and Glenwood
				33d. Suggestion to put signage with maps on interior trails south of Glenwood and leading to Quaking Bog
				33e. Suggestion to add a senior workout station like those found in Europe, but not near noisy playground
s	12/15/2014	Shawne FitzGerald	<p>[part 1 of 2]</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Wirth Master Plan. Recognition. I noticed that names of two CAC Members were not included: Aamina Muhammad and John Munger. There could be others. A consultants from the charette was not included: Piortr Bednarski, Nordic Ski Professional, Go! Training. Finally, the North Wirth Advisory Committee members were not recognized. Equity. The issue of equity was mentioned in one sentence and a related Metropolitan Council study was discussed. Otherwise the issue does not seem to be integrated throughout the plan. This is surprising given the very low income population on the Minneapolis side of the park. What activities are already available? Does the MPRB plan to expand this? Does the MPRB provide fee waivers for swimming lessons? If so, how many residents are served at Wirth each year? Will the MPRB provide a ski-lending service as it provides free sleds, skates and fishing poles in other locations? How many nearby children participate in gardening or golf programs? Is there a plan to expand this? Reliance on internet-based outreach methods seems unlikely to reach low-income neighbors and many children. More detail on the equity component is needed. Children. Studies on nature deficit disorder and childhood obesity were briefly discussed. It's not clear how the remainder of the plan addresses these problems. I was surprised to see in one survey that only 3% of park visitors were ages 12-17. Golfing. The description on page 4-10 is very pessimistic and leads the reader to consider that the golf courses could be closed. Instead of national studies, the summary might reflect local conditions. As far as I know, the Par 3 is consistently profitable and it serves Minneapolis high school golfers and that, with improved maintenance, the golf consultant was optimistic that Wirth 18 would again be profitable. Recreational Activities in general. Does the MPRB have data from the ActiveNet or other reservation systems? A summary for a recent year might be included. The plan doesn't clearly describe how Wirth fits into the MPRB system or the regional park system. How far away are similar resources? Special Events, Community Events. The plan refers to several of these. A list of all events for a recent year, showing how the park is used, would be a welcome addition. Projected Financial Statements. The CAC's \$21,000,000 capital improvement budget is included but the plan lacks a corresponding revenue plan. How will the MPRB pay for this? Also, since the CAC met, a golf consultant studied the golf courses. How much to the Wirth golf courses need and in what time frame? Since the CAC met, Three Rivers has expanded snowmaking and lighting at Hyland and Ramsey County is considering snowmaking at Battle Creek. Will these have an effect on demand and revenue at Wirth? This is a 20 year plan - what is the schedule so far? Operating costs. Does this park have a park budget?</p>	34a. Suggestion to include Aamina Muhammad and John Munger in CAC acknowledgements and Piortr Bednarski, Nordic Ski Professional wiht Go! Training on consultants list

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s	12/15/2014	Shawne FitzGerald	[part 2 of 2] The plan notes that the Pavilion, the Welcome Center and Theo's Retreat will increase operating costs. By how much? The only plan released to the public, so far, for the Welcome Center was created by the Loppet - even by replacing civil servants with volunteers, this plan called for a 34% increase over historical winter recreation revenues. That proposed budget barely broke even and cash flow was negative most of the year. Winter Recreation was supposed to be a money maker - and it's losing \$500,000+ a year before the planned expansion at Wirth. As I write this, it is raining on December 15th, lawns are greening and there is not a speck of snow in sight. According to MPRB budget reports, weather is a problem for winter recreation every year: too much snow, a December thaw, too little snow. I was hoping that this plan would set forth a winter recreation plan that is both environmentally and financially sustainable - at least for Wirth. I am disappointed that it does not. Before the MPRB invests millions more in this unsustainable model, Minneapolis residents are entitled to know what the financial losses at Wirth could be. Detailed plans for enterprise activities at Wirth need to be included in this master plan. Thanks for reading. The rest of plan looks great! Thanks for pulling it together.	34b. Suggestion to expand equity discussion throughout plan, including adding details such as activities available, plans for expansion, fee waivers for swimming lessons, number of residents served and participating in activities and plans for expanding this, ski-lending service
				34c. Suggestion to clarify how plan overall addresses nature deficit disorder and childhood obesity
				34d. Concern that description of golf on pg 4-10 is negative and suggests that course will be closed. Suggestion to reference local conditions rather than national study here.
				34e. Statement that Par 3 is consistently profitable and serves high school golfers
				34f. Statement that consultant felt that with maintenance Wirth's 18-hole golf course could be profitable again
				34g. Suggestion to provide summary of recent ActiveNet reservation data for Wirth
				34h. Suggestion to describe how Wirth fits into the MPRB system and regional park system, including distance to similar resources
				34i. Suggestion to include a list of all special events held at Wirth in an year, showing how park is used
				34j. Suggestion to include revenue plan that corresponds to CAC's \$21 million capital improvement budget, outlining how improvements will be funded
				34k. Suggestion to outline how much funding the golf courses need and in what time frame
				34l. Suggestion to indicate if planned snowmaking and lighting at both Three Rivers and Hyland parks will impact demand and revenue at Wirth
				34m. Suggestion to provide a schedule for the 20-25 year implementation plan
				34n. Suggestion to indicate if Wirth Park has a budget
				34o. Suggestion to indicate by how much the Pavilion, Welcome Center and Theo's Retreat will increase operating costs of the park
				34p. Concern that Loppet Foundation's proposed budget plan for Welcome Center does not generate enough revenue to support it
				34q. Statement that winter recreation at Wirth is losing \$500,000 a year before the proposed expansion of amenities



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				34r. Statement that unpredictable weather and snow cover is a problem for winter recreation
				34s. Concern that winter recreation plan is not environmentally and financially sustainable, and potential financial losses not outlined in plan
				34t. Suggestion that detailed financial plans for enterprise activities be included
s	12/15/2014	Robert Dwyer	I am writing in support of the comment posted by the Theodore Wirth Golf Association. There are a number of important points in that message about various changes to the 18 hole course. Moving the 10th tee away from its featured position in front of the Chalet is highly objectionable. As the Association pointed out the new tee would be closer to the parking lot and to street and sidewalk traffic on the parkway. The move would also take away the informal practice area that golfers are using now. Making such a move in order to add lawn bowling, an activity for which there has been no market study, would be a waste of precious funds. But the main issue is the installation of a "Golf Academy" in the area of the current 1st hole. All golfers would like a driving range and a variety of practice options at their golf course. Such facilities exist at Columbia and to a lesser extant at Hiawatha and Gross. But there is no available room for facilities of this size at Wirth. This Academy as shown in the Master Plan would sit in the middle of a natural protected area, would require the replacement of some of that natural area.would eliminate or conflict with and existing bicycle trail, would abut and existing rail line, would potentially conflict with a proposed transit way rail station, and would require the removal of several trees that look to be over 100 years old. The plan includes a new 9th hole which would be a par 3 hole, reducing par on the course to 71. But the worse thing about this hole is it would be a 200 yard par 3 with little or no fairway between the tee and the green. The golfer would have to carry his/her tee shot the entire length to a green protected by marsh or a creek. Some of the year that creek would become a pond. There is a reason there is no golf hole in that location now. Ninety percent of golfers would not like this hole. They may even simply avoid it. Beyond that there is the question of cost. Since much of the accumulated balance of the golf revenues have been used for other purposes over the last several years it should be obvious that we can not afford extravagant projects like this. We need to focus our resources on improved maintenance and renovation of our golf courses, and not on flashy features.	35a. Support for comments posted by Theodore Wirth Golf Association
				35b. Opposes moving 10th tee away from current position by Chalet to closer to parking lot, street, and sidewalk, thereby removing informal golf practice area
				35c. Opposes moving 10th tee in order to build lawn bowling green without a market study
				35d. Opposes Golf Academy in area of current hole 1 because there is not enough room there, it would impact a natural protected area, be in conflict with a bicycle trail, abut a rail line, potentially conflict with the proposed LRT station, and may remove very old trees
				35e. Concerns about proposed 9th hole including reduction of total course par to 71, inadequate fairway on the 200 yard stretch requiring that golfers carry tee shots, and seasonal fluctuations in creek volumes
				35f. Concern that golf revenues have been used for non-golf purposes, and suggestion that MPRB re-focus revenues on maintenance and renovation of golf courses
				35g. Statement that MPRB can't afford extravagant projects

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s	12/15/2014	Stephen GOLTRY	A. Overall a comprehensive master plan which covers most of large issues we worked on in our CAC time frame. B. This may have been mentioned, if not do include : A comprehensive area lighting plan scheme. i.e: parkway, parking lots, steps to public buildings, architectural lighting , and way finding lighting. Very useful in the winter recreation months. C. Cost estimate plan for the recommended improvements? Needed. Now a great report of history, resources, and past, current and future uses. D. Once that is identified; link the costs to a matrix of what funding sources, ( public, private, government, non-profit gifting, private gifts, etc. ) and to project being funded and implemented. E. Establish an implementation and funding and construction time table so the public and these park users know when these future uses and featurew will come alive! - end -	36a. Support for plan overall and coverage of large issues worked on by CAC
				36b. Suggestion to include comprehensive area lighting plan scheme
				36c. Suggestion to include a cost estimate plan for the recommended improvements and linking it to a matrix of funding sources and projects
				36d. Suggestion to include an implementation, funding, and construction timetable
s	12/15/2014	Martin Wolfe	As a year-round user/patron of Wirth Woods since 1991, it's disappointing that the South and Central Wirth Woods are now being converted from a gem of a natural area (especially so being 2 miles from downtown) into an area that has been systematically carved up for special interest and limited seasonal uses. Wildlife that was once fairly abundant has all but vacated the area, and 1-2 person wide walking trails have been replaced or usurped by ski-race trails that you could drive a city utility truck through. Buckthorn removal has been the only positive to come out of the "reforestation" plan in my opinion. I am certainly no forestry or land management authority, but after 23+ years of walking in these woods, it is clear that erosion is an issue that has been caused or accelerated by the changes that have been made in recent years. In just the few weeks since the natural buffer area between Wirth Parkway and the pre-existing South Wirth Woods trails were converted for off-road biking, I have witnessed bikers in areas that are either clearly marked as 'No Biking' areas or in areas that have historically been year-round walking trails-in some cases with obvious disregard. After a walk this morning (Sunday 12/14/14), it was apparent that an extensive and sophisticated set of signage for trail/usage designation is going to be required to avoid conflict and/or potentially dangerous situations with multiple use trails in such close proximity and intersecting at several points. The most disappointing aspect of this change in use for these areas is that MPRB is moving away from a 'Parks for All' mentality, and toward accommodating special interests that not all residents can either access or afford. Examples in recent history: turning hockey and open skating rinks into broomball rinks (which make MPRB money); adding ski trails into S. and Central Wirth Woods (which make MPRB money and which require expensive gear and thus eliminate a good portion of the nearby resident population); and now the off-road bike trails - which also cater to residents who can afford fairly expensive gear. I'd rather see MPRB focus on restoring at least the South and Central areas with more of a focus on nature and free park access and not on seasonal recreational activities that exclude those who cannot afford the permit fees or associated gear. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Plan.	37a. Concern that woods of South and Central Wirth are being converted from natural areas to seasonal, special interest activity areas with wide ski trails, and are pushing out wildlife
				37b. Statement that buckthorn removal has been the only success of Wirth reforestation plan
				37c. Concern that mountain bike trails are causing erosion
				37d. Concern that mountain bikers are using trails and areas that are off-limits to them
				37e. Support for extensive wayfinding signage to prevent conflicts on trails
				37f. Concern that MPRB is focusing away from "parks for all" towards special interest sports with high financial barriers to entry including broomball, ski trails, and off-road bike trails

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				37g. Suggestion to restore South and Central woods to natural areas with free recreation rather than focus on seasonal recreational activities
s	12/15/2014	Cheri Petro	<p>[part 1 of 2]</p> <p>I am writing to provide my comments on the Theodore Wirth Regional Park Master Plan, and specifically my concern that some aspects of contemplated changes are contrary to the Plan. I hope there is still time to change them. I thank you for the opportunity to provide my input. I appreciate the difficulty the Park Board faces in making decisions on long range plans like this. So many competing interests all focused on the same 720 acres- it is impossible to please everyone. Thank for your efforts in preserving what is a jewel, not only for Minneapolis, but for the whole region. I am happy that the Master Plan does what I would like most to see for Wirth- It keeps the park as a park. While allowing for all sorts of recreational opportunities, it maintains its primary identity as a place where we can all get a break from the pace of the rest of life. This leads to my concern- a proposed 96 space parking area at the corner of Glenwood and Xerxes. It really does not fit into the plan, for a number of reasons. First, it does not meet the design statements listed on page 7-2 of the plan. #8, to expand parking cautiously and deliberately, does not describe a 96 space lot, which is much larger than anything else in the area. Second, the location conflicts with design statement #2 as well. Traffic coming from the east goes over the crest of a hill (therefore limiting sight distance just before) and many cars are speeding as they come down the hill. To have folks turning into a parking lot at that spot invites accident. Similarly, traffic coming from the west has to negotiate an ‘S’ curve, and would have limited time to stop for someone turning into the lot. Third, the location does not appear to serve the population it is intended to (design statement #6). If this lot is for the picnickers to the north of Glenwood, then it is too far away. You cannot even see the picnic area from the proposed location, and there is no obvious, direct route to get there. But if it is for the picnic area south of Glenwood, then it is even worse- we would be asking families to cross a busy street (perhaps lugging a cooler, basket and a bunch of kids toys) in a tight traffic area, which is a real safety concern (design statements #2 and 4). While you are probably not looking for alternative suggestions here, parking near the fishing dock could be expanded (rather than eliminated) for north of Glenwood and by the picnic area and streetcar shelter for those south of Glenwood. Finally, to keep the park a park, lighting should be intelligently designed, wherever parking is established. The new lot at the beach house has extremely bright lights that are on all night.</p>	38a. Concern that proposed parking at Glenwood & Xerexes contradicts plan itself



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s	12/15/2014	Cheri Petro	[part 2 of 2] That seems wasteful, and detracts from the natural beauty of the night sky in Wirth. Thank you again for the chance to comment. I would be happy to respond to any questions at my number, listed below. General • Large park, why does anything really public need to be near residential? Lights, noise, traffic • Picnic shelters are or will be located – at beach area, near fishing dock, and area grassy up from the lakeshore between those 2 areas Parking Spaces • Currently there are 74 parking spaces at the beach (52 paved and 21 grass). Why wasn’t this parking increased instead of being decreased from the 106 spots what existed prior to the renovation of the lot? • The lot on Glenwood and Xerxes would be 96 spaces (52 paved and supposedly added first with grass or alternative being added as warranted by use). This is still far from the hub of activity (beach, picnicking, pavilion. • There are 15 existing parking spots at the streetcar shelter (downhill from the pavilion) • There are 17 +3 boat parking spots existing at the fishing area now, but this will be taken away? Why take that away only to rip up and pave another lot farther away? Why not enlarge the beach & fishing parking lots which are both closer to the picnic areas proposed. Lights • Based on the lights erected at the beach, they are extremely bright and burn all night. Already have the street light that shines in 2 bedrooms at corner house and living areas of house up Glenwood. • Recommendation - Lights on motion detector Traffic & Safety • From the rendering it looks like there are to be 2 entrances/exits to the lot. One Glenwood & Xerxes and one further west. During the CAC meetings there was a lot of discussion and concern regarding traffic but nothing was every resolved. Has this been further researched? • Westbound – Drivers come from the crest of a blind hill and many are going way above the speed limit down the hill and would never be able to stop quick enough to avoid accidents upon seeing pedestrians or turning cars. • Eastbound – Drivers come from a blind curve and although probably not going too fast at that point, would still never be able to stop for peds or turning cars as the entrance to the lot would be really soon	38b. Appreciation for comment opportunity and the difficulty of decision-making when serving competing interests
				38c. Appreciation that the plan fulfills commentor's desire for the park to remain a natural park
				38d. Appreciation for efforts to preserve the park as a place to escape
				38e. Opposes parking lot at corner of Glenwood and Xerxes because it conflicts with design statements #2, 4, 6, and 8 on page 7-2.
				38f. Concern about safety impacts of speeding traffic and blind curves on turning vehicles and pedestrians if parking lot added at Glenwood and Xerxes, particularly if it includes two entrances off Glenwood
				38g. Concern that proposed parking lot at Glenwood and Xerxes is too far away from picnic and other use areas
				38h. Suggestion that rather than add a parking lot at Glenwood and Xerxes, instead expand parking lots by fishing doc, beach, and near streetcar shelter.
				38i. Suggestion to intelligently design lighting at parking lots so it is not too bright, wasteful, or detracts from night sky, perhaps by installing motion detectors
				38j. Statement that public amenities need not be near residential areas, because of lights, noise, traffic
				38k. Suggestion to increase parking stalls at beach so total number is higher than before rennovation
				38l. Concern that parking at fishing dock will be removed
				38m. Suggestion that impacts on traffic of having parking lot entrances on Glenwood be further researched

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s	12/15/2014	not provided	<p>A recommendation to extend snow-making trails for skiing on Par 3 and Back 40 areas can be found on page 72 of the Wirth Park Draft Master Plan. Never mentioned in the Plan is the financial history of the Wirth Winter operations and the financial implications of the cost of expanding snow-making trails for cross country skiing. MPRB audited financial statements show a Wirth Winter cumulative loss of (\$1,144,380) for the seven year period of 2004 through 2010. These are the numbers for 2011 through 2015:   YEAR</p> <table><tr><td>REVENUE</td><td>EXPENSES</td><td>INCOME(LOSS)</td><td>2011</td><td>\$185,798</td><td>\$452,342</td><td>(\$266,544)</td><td>2012</td><td>188,422</td></tr><tr><td>437,715</td><td>(249,293)</td><td>2013</td><td>250,346</td><td>592,134</td><td>(341,788)</td><td>Cumulative Total Loss for</td><td>2004 through</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2013</td><td>(\$2,002,005)</td><td>*2014</td><td>240,531</td><td>593,800</td><td>(353,269)</td><td>**2015</td><td>336,173</td><td>854,860</td></tr></table> <p>(518,687)   (* - projected year-end from 2014 Third Quarter Report)   (** - 2015 Budget for Winter Rec.) As you can see the annual loss is increasing and in 2015 expenses increase by 44% from 2014. Beginning in 2012 the entire Wirth Winter Rec. operation became part of the enterprise budget. Previously only snow tubing was part of the enterprise budget. The enterprise fund is intended for activities which usually generate enough revenue to cover their expenses. It is clear that Wirth Winter Rec. does not belong in the enterprise fund (except for tubing). The large operating losses from Winter Recreation are beginning to impair the ability of the enterprise fund to pay for the increasing amount of annual MPRB bond interest expenses. This raises the obvious question of CAN THE MPRB AFFORD TO EXPAND SKI TRAILS? With the tight financial situation which the Park Board is in the answer appears to be NO.</p>	REVENUE	EXPENSES	INCOME(LOSS)	2011	\$185,798	\$452,342	(\$266,544)	2012	188,422	437,715	(249,293)	2013	250,346	592,134	(341,788)	Cumulative Total Loss for	2004 through		2013	(\$2,002,005)	*2014	240,531	593,800	(353,269)	**2015	336,173	854,860	39a. Suggestion to include financial history of Wirth Winter Recreation operations and the cost of expanding ski trails in the plan
REVENUE	EXPENSES	INCOME(LOSS)	2011	\$185,798	\$452,342	(\$266,544)	2012	188,422																							
437,715	(249,293)	2013	250,346	592,134	(341,788)	Cumulative Total Loss for	2004 through																								
2013	(\$2,002,005)	*2014	240,531	593,800	(353,269)	**2015	336,173	854,860																							
				39b. Concern that Wirth Winter Recreation has hisotircally lost revenue and suggestion that it does not belong in the enterprise fund																											
				39c. Statement that MPRB cannot afford to expand ski trails at Wirth																											
s	12/14/2014	Charlie Wolfe	<p>I began playing golf the summer before this one, following my Freshman year of highscool, within a week of the first time I played, I was hooked. I played Theordore Wirth probably 6 times a week that summer, and this summer as well. The course has become a place for me to connect with nature, relax, and release some of my competitive spirit. I have had some great memories, playing my Dad in skins games, or playing with my grandpa in late November, sleet and snow falling as we walked off the last hole, but maybe my best memories have come when I played alone, just me and the course, watching as the leaves change on the great old trees, watching as the grass comes to life in the spring, and dies in the fall, watching as the deer fatten and temperatures increase. Both the 18 hole course and par 3 courses are my favorite places on Earth, they are where I feel closest to nature, and to God. I can't understand why you would want to alter them or change them, there is enough modern stuff in the world, it is cool to have a little character, a little something different. The master plan calls for the cutting down of some old trees, this saddens me and I hope it can be changed. This being said, the better upkeep that is called for in the plan is fine with me, I have lost any balls in mud two feet off the fairway, and have missed quite a few putts, I like to think, because of the inconsistencies in the greens. But all in all it is a wonderful course and the only thing that it needs is a little TLC.</p>	40a. Statement that golf course is a good place to relax, connect with nature, be competitive and create memories																											
				40b. Support for golf course as it is																											

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s	12/14/2014	not provided	Overall it is positive to have a blueprint for Wirth Park. However there are some aspects of this plan that will forever change this park, and in my opinion not for the better From MPRB own survey of the residents: “Residents want more investment in the care and upkeep of park and recreational facilities and enhanced communication, as well as a greater connection between community needs and the services provided by the park system. According to the 2007 phone survey, when asked to rate the importance of various amenities, Minneapolis residents rank natural areas like lakes, creeks, wetlands, woods and prairies, and boulevard/street trees highest (1).” Yet throughout the master plan, it takes great steps to erode the natural beauty of the park. It leaves very little natural area to be in nature without active events occurring at the same time (mountain biking, BMX biking, skiing, golfing, etc.). The direction to offer many different activities in one location is opposite of what the majority of residents are requesting. There are many more citizens in Minneapolis (and will continue to be with the baby boomers) that will walk as an activity than bike or ski. Yet the master plan is catering to a subset of the city. Once areas are modified for uses such as parking lots and trails, there is no going back. We have forever removed natural resources that are very limited within the city limits. Additionally Mr. Wirth, according to this document, was concerned about the natural setting of Wirth Park. “Wirth maintained an interest in preserving the park’s picturesque views and design even after he retired. In 1941, for example, he was somewhat displeased about the move of the Aquatennial’s Aqua Follies from Cedar Lake to Wirth Lake.” It feels inappropriate to consider for any reason to put any structures on the lakeshore. “Two group shelters on the east side and two small shelters on the northeast side of the lake will be constructed. Further exploration of the Germania Brewery archaeological site will resolve the final location of the large shelters (see Design advisory Areas). The (CAC) desires they be located farther from the lake if possible, but will accept a lakeside location if it better protects this resource.” As an active attendee at the CAC sessions, I never heard the CAC suggest this as a solution; they may have been forced into it. It would be a travesty to have this built on the lakeshore. Not only would it be unsightly, it would cause a lot of litter issues in the lake. Ever since the boardwalk has been installed, there is much more litter in the lake. Lastly, Wirth Park is in dire need of funding for on-going maintenance. Throughout the CAC process and even the master plan, there was limited acknowledgment of the need to fund the upkeep for whatever park improvements are made. Today the park has many amenities in poor condition. There is no mention in the Master Plan for upkeep of this such as picnic tables, restrooms, benches, tables, etc. If this is not included, the park will be in the same situation in 20-30 years.	41a. Appreciation to have a plan for Wirth
				41b. Concern plan will forever change the park not for the better
				41c. Concern plan elements will erode natural beauty of the park by filling natural areas with active events such as mountain biking, BMX, skiing, golfing
				41d. Concern that recommendation to include more activities in Wirth is counter to what most residents want, espeically aging populations who's primary activity is walking
				41e. Concern that limited natural resources are being forever removed from the park
				41f. Statement that Theodore Wirth himself wanted to preserve the naturalness of the park
				41g. Opposition to putting any building structures or shelters on the Wirth lakeshore
				41h. Opposition to the idea that the CAC supported a possible lakeside location for picnic shelters, feels it may have been an imposed decision
				41i. Concern that placing shelters close to the lake will be unsightly and create problems with litter in the lake



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				41j. Concern that the installation of the boardwalk in Wirth Lake has led to excess litter in the lake
				41k. Support for funding ongoing maintenance in park
				41l. Suggestion to acknowledge need for maintenance of improvements such as picnic tables, restrooms, benches, tables, throughout the plan
s	12/14/2014	Tom Anderson	Dear planners, I have looked over the and most of it seems good. I have been actively using Wirth Park many times a week since 1971. I ski,hike,and bike in the park. We need to see that a lot of this gets funded and that the unique environment is respected. My largest concern is that for instance, the new off road bike trail through the Bog seems to have exceeded what people were led to believe would be built. I for one am not happy with it, as I feel it's too intrusive to the unique environment and I feel the builders were given too much latitude. I would hate to see more examples of runaway projects without broad public oversight. Sincerely,	42a. Support for majority of plan
				42b. Statement that commenter skis, hikes, and bikes in Wirth Park
				42c. Concern that plan gets funded
				42d. Concern that unique environment of Wirth is respected
				42e. Opposition to new off-road trail through Bog, feels it's intrusive to the environment and overbuilt.
				42f. Concern about future projects without broad public oversight that exceed their scope.
s	12/14/2014	not provided	I have a passing interest in the Wirth Park plan so when I received it by email I opened it to take a look, but quickly gave up on it. The font is so difficult to read that it actually started giving me a headache after just a minute or two of scanning the document. A decorative font like that is completely inappropriate for such a long document. This may seem like an insignificant detail, but it has already made me question the judgment of the team. I sincerely hope that you will consult someone experienced with design principles to select a more legible font for the final version of the document.	43a. Font in plan too decorative and difficult to read, suggestion to change it
s	12/14/2014	Art green	I am a long time resident and user of Theodore golf course.i strongly agree with the position put forth by the Theodore Wirth golf association. I. Am not a member of that group but I encourage you to consider their comments seriously.	44a. Supports position of Theodore Wirth Golf Association
s	12/14/2014	Bob Johnson	With the economy on the mend golf will also improve and rounds will come back to a plus factor. All the faze sports will not last.Do not mess with the golf course.	45a. Statement that golf rounds will go up as economy improves, while other sports that are currently popular will not last
				45b. Opposition to making any changes to golf course
s	12/14/2014	James Gorney	Stop the land grab! Wirth golf course is a absolute treasure. I have played golf all over the country and Wirth is one of my favorite layouts.To take away the 17th hole as it is now, or to drastically alter the design of the 12th hole would be a crime. Spend golf course money on the golf course and see how much better shape the course would be in. Fix the watering system so we can grow grass. Install cart paths to protect the grass we have grown. Imagine riding down the golf course, a smooth cart path is what you are running on. You are not at Wirth, because they dont have cart paths. Protect the course and improve it. I grew up at 16th and Girard N. Please dont change my home course. Sincerely, Jim Gorney 2715 Thomas ave S Mpls, MN	46a. Statement that Wirth golf course is an absolute treasure and one of the commentor's favorites
				46b. Opposition to removing or altering 17th and 12th holes
				46c. Suggestion to spend golf course revenues on improvements to and maintenance of the golf course, including fixing the watering system and installing cart paths
				46d. Statement that commenter grew up near Wirth Park
				46e. Opposition to changing Wirth golf course

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s	12/14/2014	Rick Sandretto	As the Master Plan is designed right now, I truly think it does little to enhance the 18 hole golf course. With the idea of increasing revenue and participation, the design and operational plan for the course does little unless most of the revenue collected is put back into golf. Taking money from golf revenue and putting it into other Park Board Projects does little to enhance the quality of the golf experience.	47a. Concern that plan does little to enhance the 18 hole golf course
				47b. Plan to increase revenue and participation at Wirth golf course will have little impact unless revenues are reinvested in improving and maintaining the course
				47c. Opposition to spending golf course revenue on non-golf projects
s	12/14/2014	Ronald Hunter	As a long time golfer of Minneapolis golf courses, I firmly agree with the comments provided by the Theodore Wirth Golf Association (submitted by Paul Kieffer).	48a. Support for comments provided by Theodore Wirth Golf Association submitted by Paul Kieffer
s	12/14/2014	Paul V. Kieffer	[part 1 of 2] Please use this version. December 13, 2014. Theodore Wirth Master Plan Public Comment from: Paul V. Kieffer on behalf of the Theodore Wirth Golf Association. The Theodore Wirth Golf Association has been active and involved in the 18 hole golf course since 1920. We have taken part in the Citizens Advisory Committee process and remain involved as projects begin in and around the course. Golf and winter programs have co-existed in the park for over 90 years. Nothing has changed. The change in the park by fully separating golf and winter will enhance both programs and enable golf operations to get back on a more solid profitable footing due to reduced impacts from winter programs delaying both opening and the condition of the course. Increased profit at the golf course benefits the entire Park Board System. We offer the following comments on the Master Plan: 1.Charley Erickson did not design the course. page 5-8, item 15. William Clark is the architect of the course based on extensive research done for the book “Fields to Fairway” by Rick Shefchick. Clark also designed the original course at Columbia, Gross, Oak Ridge Country Club, and Brookview. 2. Maintenance deferred due to declining golf. page 4-10. We respectfully assert the maintenance was deferred because profits from the course were diverted to other Park Board needs. The Golf Convergence report obtained by the Park Board demonstrates the divergence of the funds 3. The hole shown in the picture is actually Hole 12. page 5-13 4.The historic nature of the course. page 5-14 The 18 hole course is the oldest public course in Minnesota and 2nd oldest public and 2nd oldest public course west of the Mississippi. A course in Des Moines is older. Further, “The Bronze” golf tournament, a very important African American golf tournament, began at the Wirth 18 hole golf course. We further believe the historic nature of the course is overlooked in the Master Plan.	49a. Statement that Theodore Wirth Golf Association has been active since 1920, has taken part in the CAC process, and remain involved in golf course projects

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s	12/14/2014	Paul V. Kieffer	[part 2 of 2] The purpose behind Grand Rounds historic designation is to preserve an historic asset. We believe the same should apply to the 18 hole course such that changes to accommodate winter additional uses should leave in place as much of the design of the course as laid out under the direction of Theodore Wirth. Finally, historic designation should be sought for the chalet and the course, given the rich history of the course. Our association would be honored to lead such an effort. 5. Moving the 10th tee. page 7-4, 7-10, 7-14 Moving 10th tee moves it closer, not further, from problems, impacting parkway and bikers by errant golf shots. It is not a small change in its effect. Leaving the 10th hole as is and changing the parking area to the north of the chalet will solve alternative use requirements in a more effective way. Lawn bowling can take place by the clubhouse with no additional golf course remodel costs. 6. The Golf Academy page 7-4 The proposed Golf Academy has major environmental impact due to need to redesign the front 9. We have supplied the studies done by the University of Minnesota to the CAC demonstrating the impact. We respectfully believe the report under emphasizes the environmental effects of a golf academy. It would entail redoing the front nine while causing significant environmental impact. No room exists to legally build the proposed 9th hole due to Basset Creek. Additional changes to the 2nd hole also require a green to be built in a flood plain area. If built, the 9th hole would require a significant carry over protected land to a green mostly surrounded by marsh. The hole would also require the removal of several very large and very old trees. It appears that the location of the 9th hole would also conflict with the location of the Bottineau Transitway station if that is placed at Plymouth and the parkway as planned. The Theodore Wirth Golf Association thanks you for the opportunity to provide the comments.	49b. Statement that golf and winter recreaetion have coexisted in Wirth for 90 years
				49c. Support for fully separating golf and winter activities to enhance both activities, and increase golf revenue by reducing impacts on course condition and opening date
				49d. Suggestion on page 5-8, item 15 that Wiliam Clark is the architect of the golf course, not Charley Erickson
				49e. Opposition to statement on page 4-10 that golf maintenance was deferred due to declining golf revenues. Suggestion instead that maintenance was deferred because course profits were used for non-golf activities and projects
				49f. Suggestion that the hole shown in picture on page 5-13 is actually hole 12.
				49g. Suggestion on page 5-14 that the 18 hole course is the oldest public course in Minnesota and 2nd oldest public course west of the Mississippi.
				49h. Statement that“The Bronze” golf tournament, a very important African American golf tournament, began at the Wirth 18 hole golf course.
				49i. Concern that the historic significance of the 18 hole golf course is overlooked in the plan
				49k. Suggestion that Grand Rounds historic designation should also apply to the 18 hole golf course
				49l. Opposition to changes to golf course configuration to accommodate additional winter uses
				49m. Suggestion to seek historic designation for the Chalet and golf course, and offer by Theodore Wirth Golf Association to lead this effort



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				49n. Concern on pages 7-4, 7-10 and 7-14 that moving 10th tee increases potential errant ball conflicts for parkway users and cyclists
				49o. Suggestion to leave 10th hole as-is and instead alter parking area to north of chalet and move lawn bowling to clubhouse area
				49p. Opposition to Golf Academy due to need to redesign the front 9 and resulting environmental impacts including removal of old trees and need to carry over protected land and marsh
				49q. Statement that CAC was supplied with UofM studies demonstrating negative environmental impacts of the proposed Golf Academy
				49r. Concern that the plan underemphasizes environmental impacts of a Golf Academy
				49s. Concern that the proposed 9th hole cannot legally be built because of lack of space due to proximity to Basset Creek
				49t. Concern that proposed changes to 2nd hole require a green to be built in a floodplain area
				49u. Concern that proposed 9th hole conflicts with Plymouth Blue Line LRT station
s	12/13/2014	Genevieve Johnson	P. 7-10: Misuse of Winter Trails: In addition to people walking and snow shoeing on groomed ski trails there are trail runner (some with dogs) and skijoring conflicts. Last year on the west side of South Wirth I encountered Skijoring on multiple occasions. I was run off the narrow trail on one occasion while trying to pass a Skijorer; when I mentioned that I did not think this was permitted use in this portion of the park I was met with hostility. PLEASE educate the public and provide signage to let people know what uses are permitted where during all seasons. P. 7-16 South Wirth Recommendations 4, 5: Review/clarify strategy for the west side of the South Wirth trails. As a 23 resident of Bryn Mawr, and frequent year-round visitor to the South Wirth trials, I am concerned about the implementation of the off-road biking trails this Fall. The south entry point from 394 is unclear (bike trail access only so far). Also foot and bike trails crisscross and I want to be sure there this area is safe and park users respect the boundaries. Some temporary signage was added late in the Fall but a lot more needs to be done. [Note that I am a trail runner and cross country skier primarily, but also a mountain biker.] P. 7-16: Recommendation NOT listed for South Wirth (east or west side), Wildlife and Habitat Preservation: Again, as a long time neighbor and visitor, I have frequently encountered deer (including large bucks), great horned owls, red foxes, wild turkeys, and groundhogs. Let's maintain and respect this gem of a park that is about more than just people.	50a. Concern about winter trail user conflicts between walkers, snow shoers, trail runners, dogs, and skijorers (reference page 7-10)
				50b. Statement that discussions of permitted uses on the trail have led to hostilitiy
				50c. Suggestion to educate public on shared trail locations, use, and rules year-round
				50d. Concern about implementation of current off-road biking trails, particularly unclear south entry point from 394, and safety where walking and bike trails cross
				50d. Suggestion to review and clarify strategy for trails in western South Wirth on pg 7-16
				50e. Suggestion to add more wayfinding signage
				50f. Statement that commenter is a resident, trail runner, cross country skier, and mountain biker

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				50g. Suggestion to add South Wirth recommendation for Wildlife and Habitat Preservation, to maintain and respect park for wildlife as well as people
				50h. Statement that commentor has seen in Wirth: deer (including large bucks), great horned owls, red foxes, wild turkeys, and groundhogs
s	12/13/2014	Patrick Johnson	Dear Park and Rec, I am a 60 year old male who has enjoyed the skiing, golf and other facilities of the park and I have espoused the same to friends and especially those who have relocated here. My friends from NY and Chicago think it is a highlight of the Twin Cities. I am an avid cross country skier and an avid golfer. I remember Selmer Swensen and many of my friends and me to a small extent took lessons and some of those guys were US Olympians. I reviewed the plan and most is fine except the change to the back nine. Although I agree with the continuing use and reinventing of Wirth as a Winter sports mecca, Golf is the revenue driver. Despite the consultants report, which pilloried suggestions that Wirth would host some tournament, and then came up with some outrageous figures for rehabilitation, the course is indeed the jewel of the park board system. (Actually, I have played the course with some national amateurs who think that) Clearly, the consultants heard the same comments. Don't mess with it for a sport that brings little revenue. If you are a golfer who appreciates classic design like Ben Crenshaw, you wouldn't change it. Rather, massage it and advertise it. By the way, do you know that Tiger Woods thought that 12 was one of the great holes he played? Or that 17 was featured in Golf magazine in the 60s? Or that 18 is one of the iconic finishing holes with its steep green? Don't change the golf course, just improve conditions. We can ski and run and bike around these holes. We can't recreate them when they are gone.	51a. Statement that commenter's friends from NY and Chicago think Wirth is a highlight of the Twin Cities
				51b. Statement that commentor is a skier and golfer
				51c. Statement that commentor remembers taking lessons from Selmer Swenson and other US Olympians
				51d. Supports reinventing Wirth as winter sports mecca
				51e. Opposes change to back nine, because golf drives revenue at Wirth, more than skiing
				51f. Statement that Wirth golf course is the jewel of Park Board system
				51g. Suggestion to update and advertise the golf course and improve its conditions rather than change it
				51h. Statement that Tiger Woods thought Wirth hole 12 was one of the great holes he played
				51i. Statement that hole 17 was featured in Golf Magazine in the 1960s
				51j. Appreciation that hole 18 is an iconic finishing hole with its steep green
				51k. Support for skiing and biking around existing holes, rather than changing the holes

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s	12/13/2014	Richard Adair	In Section 7, the proposed Bottineau Transitway is given relatively short shrift. Extending the Blue Line LRT along the BNSF tracks at the east edge of the park could have major benefits to access, and I would suggest stating this more clearly in the following sections. 7-2 Improving visitor access is listed as a goal but access via LRT for neighborhoods other than North Mpls in not mentioned. 7-12 Increased parking at the chalet for major events like the Loppet. Skiers could take LRT to the Golden Valley Rd station (assuming this is selected, as seems likely) and ski to the chalet along the west bank of Bassett's Creek if the gate on the golf course is opened for this purpose. Or, shuttles could take them to the chalet along Wirth Parkway. 7-13 "The proposed Bottineau Transitway along the BNSF corridor has the potential to further limit connections to the park". Please strike this sentence. Illegal crossing of the active BNSF tracks (where the proposed LRT line would go) doesn't occur very often (I know this area well) because of the steep banks, as mentioned. Rather, pedestrians from North Mpls access the park via Golden Valley Rd, Plymouth, Hwy 55, and Glenwood; the LRT line would not change this at all. t think the larger potential is to increase ways to get to the park. This sentence is misleading and could be misconstrued by a few people who oppose LRT for other reasons.	52a. Concern that the proposed Blue Line LRT extension and its benefits to access are not discussed adequately in the plan, particulary chapter 7
				52b. Suggestion on page 7-2 to mention LRT in goal of improving visitor access
				52c. Suggestion on page 7-12 to mention LRT access together with skiing and a shuttle as a way to decrease parking at Chalet for major events
				52d. Suggestion to remove sentence on pg 7-13 ""The proposed Bottineau Transitway along the BNSF corridor has the potential to further limit connections to the park" because illegal crossing of the tracks is rare. Rather, pedestrians access the park at roadway intersections
s	12/12/2014	T. Grant	I'm sorry I just got time to review the master plan. According to the color key on the drawing, there are proposed off road bike trails to the north and south of Glenwood at TWP. Extensive trails were cut into the woods on the north side at least a year ago, and additional trail appears to have been built parallel to Glenwood on the south side this year. Was this done prior to plan approval? Thanks	53a. Concern that off-road trails built north and south of Glenwood were built prior to plan approval



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s	12/11/2014	Virginia Rootes	My plan ideas and comments about the Master Plan: 1.The Master Plan and comment time frame should have been at the golf course in June it seems that golfers input is not really wanted? Or at the very least to be ignored? 2.I am not in favor of splitting the existing 12th hole into 2 holes. It would ruin a very good par 5 hole and give you 2 holes of a band-aid appeal. Any change should be for holes that blend into the existing course with the same playing feel and flow of the other holes. 3.It seems that the Welcome Center, cross country skiing, and biking are to be state of the art while chopping up a historic golf course to be replaced with some crap and that is not what golfers want. There is only a certain amount of acreage to work with so it needs to be changed wisely and for all sports to be considered equally. 4.Parking will be a problem and safety issue the road should be moved in order to have all parking on the north side of the Parkway. That corner is already a problem in that cars cannot see the bikers coming and that bikers even though it says to slow down on the path they ignore that and there have been many near collisions. That will increase with the Welcome Center in that location having more pedestrian traffic. Parking is already a problem for both golf courses especially when there is a rental event and bikers taking parking from golfers. 5.Mountain biking trails should be constructed behind the Par 3 Course going back to the lake. (Races could start and end at the Welcome Center with the trail alongside existing path that goes out to the back area). As an alternate idea why not have the Mountain Biking (which is not revenue generating) moved to Farview Park down on Lyndale Avenue. That is a large park with the high point that would offer all types of terrain for the mountain bike trails. There is already a facility and parking and would better utilize the Park System. 6.My ideas for revision of the Back 9: -New 11 (par 4) tee behind the 10th green playing across to the existing nursery green. (That will take the steep hill out of play on the right side which many carts go out of control and end up in the creek of very close to it) -New 12 (par 3) tee to the north of the nursery green playing to the existing 11th green. -New 18th hole starts behind the old 13th green playing to a new green north of the old 18th green. That could give hold similar in feel to the existing 17th hold which is a signature hold to the back 9. 7. If losing the existing 17th hole golfer should get a driving range on the area lost would which approx. 200 yards long and generate revenue. Also, the then old 18th hold should be used for a free pitching, chipping, and sand shot practice area.	54a. Suggestion that a planning and comment event should have been held at the golf course in June, and not doing so indicates lack of interest in golfer input
				54b. Opposed to splitting hole 12 into two holes, instead changes should have same feel and flow as other holes
				54c. Concern that Welcome Center, skiing and biking facilities will be enhanced by plan while golf facilities will be negatively impacted
				54d. Statement that acreage is limited in Wirth, so all sports should be considered equally
				54e. Concern that parking will be a problem with the plan recommendations
				54f. Suggestion to move the road so all parking will be placed to the north of the parkway, making it safer for drivers and cyclists
				54g. Concern that existing Par 3 parking lot intersection is unsafe, with cyclists moving at fast speeds and cars unable to see them
				54h. Statement that parking is already a problem for both courses , especially when rental events cause bikers to occupy spots used by golfers
				54i. Suggestion to move new mountain bike trails to in-between Par 3 course and Twin Lake, with races starting and ending at Welcome Center trail alongside existing path
				54k. Suggestion to move new mountain bike trails to Farview Park to use hills, space, and parking there

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				54l. Suggestion for revision of the Back 9: 1) new 11 (par 4) tee behind the 10th green playing across to the existing nursery green. (That will take steep hill out of play on the right side); 2) new 12 (par 3) tee to the north of the nursery green playing to the existing 11th green; 3) new 18th hole starts behind the old 13th green playing to a new green north of the old 18th green. (That could give hold similar in feel to the existing 17th hold which is a signature hold to the back 9.)
				54m. Suggestion that if 17th hole is changed, add a 200 yard driving range in the area to generate revenue.
				54n. Suggestion to use old 18th hold for a free pitching, chipping, and sand shot practice area
s	12/11/2014	not provided	This comment concerns the proposed dog park located in the area of the practice chipping green and extending west to the Humane Society. On page 80 of the Wirth Plan it states "Phase implementation of the dog park to allow continued golf use until a golf academy replaces the need or until user demand for the chipping green is nil." GOLFERS SUPPORT THIS TEMPORARY REPRIEVE FOR THE PRACTICE CHIPPING GREEN. There are two good reasons why the proposed dog park should not have included the chipping green. The justification given by Park Board planners for eliminating the chipping green is that the dog park would not be large enough unless the chipping green is included. It is quite clear that the 4/26/2011 CAC meeting materials show that the combination of area B and B2 results in an area that contains 133,478 square feet which is 3.06 acres (which does not include the chipping green). This is a larger dog park than all but one of the seven existing dog parks in Minneapolis. Another important reason to save the chipping green is that it is part of the historic hole #8 which was part of the second nine holes of Wirth Golf Course built in 1919 (originally named Glenwood Golf Course). Historic hole #8 was in use until a parkway realignment in the 1970's eliminated the #8 tee area. The chipping green is all that is left of historic hole #8 and it should be preserved as a practice area.	55a. Support for phasing in dog park outlined on page 80 [7-14] North Wirth recommendation #2 as a temporary reprieve for practice chipping green
				55b. Statement that if chipping green area is added to proposed dog park, it creates second-largest dog park in Minneapolis
				55c. Support for retaining chipping green rather than turning it into a dog park
				55d. Concern that chipping green is all that is left of historic hole #8, from the original second nine holes of Wirth golf course built in 1919, and should be preserved
s	12/09/2014	Jonathan Burris	I note from my fairly brief review of the draft plan and its recommendations concerning "North Wirth" that there is no mention of the parkland south and west of Hidden Lake. The "headwaters" of that lake's watershed flow from the south through a cattail marsh into the lake, and the western land area is a ridge between Sweeney Lake and Hidden Lake and is covered with many ancient oaks. It is presently "utilized" by deer and wild turkeys on trails they've "constructed", other wildlife and very few humans. I suggest that the "soft surface" walking trails (which are great as far as they go!) should be designed to include greater accessibility to that area for humans on foot and "backcountry classic" x-country skis (ie. no ski trail grooming required). A simple "corduroy" bridge, or materials such as those used in "The Quaking Bog", could be employed to cross the watershed wetland which effectively blocks walking access to the ridge on the West side of Hidden Lake.	56a. Suggestion to include mention of Hidden Lake headwaters area in the plan, and the cattails, ancient oaks, and wildlife found there
				56b. Suggestion to add soft surface walking trails to Hidden Lake area and a bridge across the watershed headwaters for walkers and backcountry skiers

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s	12/09/2014	Lisa Goodman	I am concerned about the condition of the path to the park off of Xerxes Ave south, on the east side of the Wildflower garden. The path is quickly falling apart, those who are not able walkers have a hard time using it in good weather. There is a very old sign up from 2006 talking about old issues that is visual blight and needs to come down. How will issues in this location be addressed in the master plan and how will immediate neighbors be informed of the changes?	57a. Concern about condition of path on east side of Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and suggestion to remove old sign there and inform neighbors when change has been made
s	12/09/2014	Michael Hinton	Please remember The First Tee Minneapolis into the par 3 facility. The First Tee has fundraised over \$42,000 this year and had over \$56,000 in participation fees paid throughout four facilities (even with the flooding and closing of two facilities). The par 3 course at Theo Wirth should be called The First Tee Par 3 Learning Center at Theo Wirth and our staff should have a say in running the golf course. Each hole should get a new tee sign to reflect the 9 core values of the First Tee and our life skills that we teach in all programming (respect, confidence, sportsmanship, courtesy etc). The Loppet foundation should not be collecting golf fees, having their employees working the golf counter, or dictating golf course programming. The First Tee Minneapolis is on track to reach over 15,000 kids in 2015 (schools, parks and golf courses), and will need facilities like the par 3 course to run programming and serve the high demand for golf going forward. <a href="http://www.TheFirstTeeMinneapolis.org">www.TheFirstTeeMinneapolis.org</a>	58a. Suggestesetion to rename Par 3 as "The First Tee Par 3 Learning Center at Theo Wirth"
				58b. Statement that First Tee Minneapolis has fundraised \$42,000 and collected \$56,000 in fees in 2014
				58c. Suggestion that First Tee staff should have a say in running the golf course
				58d. Suggestion that each golf hole get a new tee sign reflecting core values and life skills taught at First Tee
				58e. Opposition to Loppet Foundation staff collecting golf fees, working behind golf counter, or deciding golf course proگرامing
				58f. Statement that First Tee Minneapolis will need facilities like Par 3 course to serve growing demand for golf instruction in future
s	12/09/2014	Craig Ringsven	Love it! Vert excited about these plans...especially considering we live close to the park and enjoy skiing, trail running, mountain biking. Thank you so much for catering so well to the silent sports! My only comment of concern is that the quality of x-c grooming won't match up to the millions of dollars being invested into the welcome center, trail improvements etc. Seems like Wirth has been lagging behind others in terms of quality of grooming, opening dates etc.	60a. Appreciation for plan overall
				60b. Appreciation for plan recommendations related to silent sports (Welcome Center)
				60c. Concern that maintenance of ski trails wont keep pace with investments in Welcome Center and trail improvements
s	12/09/2014	Elisabeth Hoff	I thought I read something in the proposal about outdoor ice skating facilities, but I did not see it on the plan. I think it would be fantastic to incorporate this activity. On the whole, I love the proposal and am excited to see the further development of this wonderful park.	61a. Suggestion to incorporate outdoor ice skating facilities into the plan
				61b. Appreciation for plan overall and further development of park



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s	12/09/2014	Michelle Coady	<p>This is a wonderfully thoughtful plan. I am most pleased with the environmental plans to preserve this green space. I am also pleased that there is a plan to deal with seasonal overlap of land used for venues. This includes the new plan to move golf greens to better accommodate the snow making needs for cross country skiing, while preserving need to also extend the golf season. This will especially help to get the stadium area ready for early Dec. Ski races. One area related to current usage that was understated is the dramatic use of Cross Country ski trails and venues on a daily basis in the winter. Every day the cross country ski trails are used by 4-12 high school teams. This starts roughly Dec. 1 through Feb. 12th, from 2:30-6:30 daily. Daily use includes significant bus traffic and many 100s of high school skiers and their coaches, plus many other recreational to professional skiers. Every evening, non-high school clubs and teams meet at Wirth to use the lit and non-lit trails too. The current assessment didn't convey the actual daily use and the level of daily use. Thankfully, the trail system is huge so within an hour of bus arrival the high school skiers are spread out over the full trail system, unless there is a race. On race days there are truly remarkable crowds, over crowding of the buildings and parking lots. The new buildings designed to accommodate these crowds during frigid winter conditions is a wonderful addition to meet the winter needs, including the safety of athletes and spectators. In addition, most of the high school ski team using Wirth are NOT Minneapolis schools. If the tax base to support Wirth is mostly from Minneapolis residents, and non-city schools do not pay a higher use fee; this may be a financial consideration to ponder as Wirth has the best ski terrain and venue for meets and practice in the whole metro area. All skiers would be happy to pay for a good snow-making, a competitive race venue and the great trail system at Wirth.</p>	62a. Appreciation for thoughtfulness of plan overall
				62b. Support for environmental plans to preserve Wirth green space
				62c. Support for plan to accommodate seasonal overlap of multiple activities, including moving golf greens to better accommodate skiing, extend golf season, and open ski stadium for December races
				62d. Suggestion that plan emphasize the current high levels of use of ski trails in winter by hundreds of high school teams, and associated bus traffic
				62e. Statement that Wirth ski area is large enough to accommodate hundreds of users at once unless there is a race event.
				62f. Support for Welcome Center and safety it provides athletes and spectators in cold winter months
				62g. Statement that most high school ski teams using Wirth are not Minneapolis schools
				62h. Suggestion that non-Minneapolis school users of Wirth ski trails pay a user fee
				62i. Statement that skiers would be happy to pay for good snowmaking, ski venue, and trail system
s	12/09/2014	Kurt Waananen	<p>I have purchased a season cross country ski ticket for the past few years and really enjoy skiing in Wirth Park. I fully support the plans to increase the snow making loop to 5-7 km, and also like the plans to create better separation of walking and ski trails in the southern part of the park. It is somewhat rare to have good snow conditions for skiing the central and southern trails, and it is really discouraging to meet people walking dogs that damage the trails for skiing. The separation of golf holes from the manmade snow loop also makes a lot of sense so extension of the ski season into March and April can be enjoyed.</p>	63a. Statement that commenter purchases Wirth ski pass and enjoys skiing in Wirth
				63b. Support plans to increase snowmaking loop
				63c. Support to better separate walking and ski trails in South Wirth
				63d. Concern about dog walkers using ski trails in South Wirth

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				63e. Support for separating golf holes from snowmaking loop to extend ski season
s	12/09/2014	k l anderson	Would like to see increased snow making trails for Nordic Skiing. Loppet members often end up at Hyland and this is a source of lost revenue for TW. Would like to see access to ski trails from Bassetts Creek Park- selfishly- I can ski across the park but have to take my skis off to get over Glenwood. Also events such as the Trail Loppet could be better served with traffic calming on Glenwwod or with a bridge over Glenwood. TW is a wonderful city resource that few know about-- what about marketing to the new north loop and downtown communities of active urban people moving into the city? There are many runners, bikers, and skiers among this new demographic.	64a. Supports increased snow making trails for Nordic skiing, to retain revenue
				64b. Suggestion to provide access across Glenwood to ski trails from Bassetts Creek Park
				64c. Suggestion to install traffic calming or bridge on Glenwood to support events like Trail Loppet
				64d. Suggestion to better market the park to North Loop and downtown residents, many of whom are runners, bikers, and skiers
s	12/09/2014	Kirk Ballard	Read through the plan yesterday and was very impressed with the thoughtful recommendations. We are in support of all plans, particularly those for North Wirth, but especially excited about: 1) The addition of an off leash dog park 2) The renovation of the chalet 3) The creation of Wirth Village and a new Welcome Center 4) The addition of lawn bowling courts 5) Any, and all, trail improvements but especially those for commuter and road bikes Thank you!	65a. Appreciation for thoughtful recommendations and plan overall
				65b. Support for off leash dog park
				65c. Support for renovation of the Chalet
				65d. Support for the creation of Wirth Village and Welcome Center
				65e. Support for the addition of lawn bowling courts
				65f. Support for any and all trail improvements, especially for communter/road bikes
s	12/09/2014	Steve Eberly	What a great plan my hat is off to all those who participated in this extensive work. Wirth Park has been in bad shape for far too long, I can already see evidence of the renaissance. I am in general agreement with the direction of the plan to adapt the park for todays users. The mountain bike groups have been shown to be good stewards of the land and cross country skiing is low impact and clearly on the upswing. I have to say that when looking at the expenditures I'm surprised at continuing to spend so much capital dollars on golf. Does the city of Minneapolis really need so much golf capacity, when other cities are closing courses? That's a real question in my mind. Again, overall as a Minneapolis resident I'm in support of the plan.	66a. Appreciation for plan and all who participated
				66b. Statement that Wirth has been in bad shape for a long time, but is turning around
				66c. Support for adapting Wirth to todays users and their activities
				66d. Statement that mountain bike groups have shown to be good stewards of the land
				66e. Statement that skiing is low impact and growing In popularity
				66f. Opposition to spending so much money on golf, feeling that Minneapolis doesn't need so much golf capacity
				66g. Support for the plan overall

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s	12/09/2014	Brian Milavitz	I support the DRAFT Theodore Wirth Regional Park Master Plan. I sat through many meetings of the Community Advisory Committee and the park board as this plan was developed. I applaud the effort that was made to create a vision that takes into account the needs and desires of many stakeholders. Creation of the silent sports center to provide active recreational opportunities for youth and adults in the community is a key asset of the plan. I strongly encourage the board to prioritize securing funding to realize the vision put forth in the Master Plan.	67a. Support for plan overall
				67b. Statement that commentor attended many CAC meeting
				67c. Appreciation for vision that balances needs of many stakeholders
				67d. Support for silent sports center [Welcome Center]
				67e. Suggestion to prioritize funding to realize vision in the plan overall
s	12/09/2014	Mary Schneider	We absolutely love and cherish the Minneapolis park system and are especially proud of Theodore Wirth. Our parks are treasures and illustrate our city's commitment to public and outdoor spaces. The proposed master plan is very exciting, and its implementation will continue a strong legacy that positions Minneapolis as one of our country's great cities.	68a. Statement of pride in Minneapolis park system and Theodore Wirth Park, which illustrate commitment to public and outdoor spaces
				68b. Statement that the plan is exciting and implementation will continue a strong legacy positioning Minneapolis as a great city
s	12/08/2014	Dan Engelhart	I love Theodore Wirth Park- I live in Northeast Minneapolis and have often thought about moving to North to be right near Wirth Park. I am very much in support of the new mountain biking trails that have been added the last two years. There are now four sections of off road mountain biking in Wirth Park and makes legitimate urban mountain biking a reality. The newest section in South Wirth is a real gem and perhaps the best of the entire metro for mountain biking. Many of the other proposed changes make a lot of sense to me. I am in full support of moving golf holes and golfing ( I do not golf, yet feel having affordable golfing is worthy of consideration) to enable the extension of seasons as mentioned in the plan. Lastly I am in major support of the off leash dog area and would even encourage as large of an off leash area in the woods as possible or anywhere in Wirth Park. It can only help add to the Park. Great overall plan. Thank you for your work!	69a. Appreciation of park and desire to move to live next to Wirth park
				69b. Support for new mountain bike trails and how they have made legitimate urban mountain biking a reality
				69c. Statement that new mountain bike section in South Wirth may be best in the metro area
				69d. Support for changes proposed in the plan
				69e. Support for moving golf holes to extend activity seasons
				69f. Support for providing affordable golf
				69g. Support for off leash recreation area
				69h. Suggestion for even larger than proposed off leash recreation area anywhere in park
				69i. Support for overall plan
				69j. Appreciation for staff work
s	12/08/2014	Barbara Klaas	I wonder where the snow shoeing will take place? Can the soft walking trails be used for that? I know that many people like to walk/hike and snow shoe in Wirth Park. Yet, the layout of cross country ski trails makes finding places to hike or snow shoe without walking or crossing cross country ski trails difficult. One are of South Wirth, either near the Quaking Bog or around Eloise Butler needs to be dedicated to hiking and snow shoeing.	70a. Suggestion to clarify if snowshoeing will take place on soft surface walking trails or elsewhere.
				70b. Statement that it is difficult to find places to snowshoe in Wirth that don't cross ski trails
				70c. Suggestion to dedicate an area in South Wirth to hiking and snowshoeing only



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s	12/08/2014	not provided	The off road cycling trails should be extended to the area behind Eloise Butler and also the area just east of the quaking bog. The ski trails dominate the area, and cycling trails would be of little consequence in relation. The trails should be built with a lean toward natural/twisty/technical as opposed to the BMX flow style that has been built the past year.	71a. Suggestion to extend off road cycling trails behind Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and behind Quaking bog, built in a natural/twisty/technical style, not BMX flow style employed in recently built trails
				71b. Statement that ski trails dominate South Wirth, so adding off-road cycling trails will have litte/less impact comparatively
s	12/08/2014	not provided	I love the idea of adding an off leash dog area!	72a. Support for off leash recreation area
s	12/05/2014	Rick S.	I thought according to the Master Plan, the Par 3 Course would stay In tact. Unless I read the plan wrong it appears the Welcome Center is larger and the Loppet Foundation would be working the building. Please correct me if I'm in error. Thanks.	73a.Suggestion to clarify if Par 3 course will not change, Welcome Center is larger, and Loppet Foundation will work in Chalet
s	12/05/2014	Edward Manderville	Why is the plan that was accepted with the golfers being changed It seems all the changes are to please the skiers. If another meeting is required to get an understanding with the golfers i am for it. It has been proven that heavy skiing will prolong usage of the golf course in the spring of the year. It was our understanding that the par 3 would not be touched that also included the fairways. It was also my understanding that the design for the holes on the back side of the big course had been approved. Again decisions are being made without golfer input. This process have been going on for three years and it is a shame it has not been completed. I am willing to attend any more meetings to get an understanding of what is the final decision. Thank You.	74a. Concern that draft master plan has changed from approved concept plan, in favor of skiiers over golfers
				74b. Suggestion to hold another meeting with golfers for input/understanding
				74c. Statement that heavy skiing will prolong use of golf course by skiers in spring
				74d. Support for no changes to Par 3 or fairways
				74e. Statement that design for holes on back side of 18-hole course had been approved
				74f. Concern that decisions are made without golfer input
				74g. Concern that plan process has gone one 3 years without completion
				74h. Support for addiitonal meeting to communicate final plan decisions to golfers
s	12/05/2014	mary keithahn	I am extremely concerned that considerations regarding parking and a cross country ski stadium will severely impact the par 3 golf course. We have had assurances that the design of the par 3 course would remain unchanged. With apparent expansion of the size of the ski stadium this assurance seems to be in jeopardy. I strongly urge that the commissioners stick to their agreement that the par three course not be changed and parking that enables easy access to the course be considered. It is a concer to me that no golfers are on the planning committee,	75a. Concern that parking and ski stadium recommendations will negatively impact Par 3
				75b. Statement that golfers were assured Par 3 would not be changed, but expansion of ski stadium jeopardizes that
				75c. Support for no changes to Par 3
				75d. Suggestion to consider parking that enables easy access to Par 3
				75e. Concern that no golfers are on the planning committee
s	12/05/2014	Joe and Sharon Walbran	We are active 3 par golfers at Theodore Wirth. It fits our age, skill and schedules. We know the integrity of this small jewel of a course was promised. Now I learn that the first of the 9 holes is to be sacrificed to winter activities. C,mon, there is a lot of land out there. Do the right thing. Save that fine little course.	76a. Statement that Par 3 golf fits commentor's age, skill and schedule
				76b. Concern that Par 3 will be changed to accommodate winter activities
				76c. Support for saving the Par 3 fine little course

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s	12/05/2014	Robert Dwyer	<p>[part 1 of 2]</p> <p>Although the comment period for the Theodore Wirth Master Plan is still going on there are already meetings occurring regarding the design of the Adventure Welcome Center and surrounding area. A Project Management Team consisting of MPRB personnel and representatives from the Loppet Foundation will make the decisions on what goes forward as part of the Master Plan. There are no representatives from any golfer organization on this Project Management Team. There is a Project Advisory Committee which will gather feedback from park user representatives and report back to the Project Management Team. At the first meeting of this Committee some ideas and assumption of the consultants were discussed. There were some surprises. Apparently the Project Management Team, without any discussion with golfers or other non-represented users, favors a parking lot on the east side of the parkway, but with no bridge. The bridge is thought to be undesirable due to high cost and lack of funding. This would leave golfers having to walk, or drive carts, back and forth across the parkway. This seems clearly unsafe. The consultants also provided maps showing alternative locations for the new Ski Stadium (start/finish area)which had also already been discussed at the Project Management Team. The first thing you notice is that the "required" size of these areas seems to have grown significantly when compared to renditions prepared during the 2012 CAC process. They appear to be 5 to 6 times the size of the start/finish area that is being used now. No independent information has been provided which justifies features of this size. BUT THE BIG PROBLEM is that Project Management Team favors either of two options which would run the Ski Stadium across all or virtually all of the Par 3 1st hole. This would mean snow making and grooming across this entire area. Either of these two options would lead over time to the effective destruction of that hole. These options run directly against current MPRB policy aimed at minimizing the impact and placement of winter activities on golf course holes.</p>	77a. Concern that planning for Welcome Center is occuring at same time as that for Wirth master plan, and master plan comment period closes before Welcome Center planning is finished
s	12/05/2014	Robert Dwyer	<p>[part 2 of 2]</p> <p>Obviously the Project Management Team decided on these options as favorites without any input from golfers. Recognizing that these first two options would not be acceptable to golfers the MPRB staff has told us that they will be scheduling another meeting of the committee. As we understand it they plan to present at that meeting another alternative that is intended to solve the 1st hole vs ski stadium issue. They have said that this alternative will involve changes to a golf hole (or holes). This,of course, is also a BIG PROBLEM since the mandate we secured as part of the Master Plan was that there would be no changes to the Par 3 course. The Friends of the Theodore Wirth Par 3 intend to stick with that NO CHANGE policy. Being confronted with these options which are directly opposed to what we have previously worked for, and gained, comes as an insult to many of our golfers. Note that a third option which leaves the 1st hole unaffected was shown but was already rejected by the Project Management Team because it was not good for the snowboarding and tubing activities. It appears that the Team believes that these winter activities are more important than golf. Meetings for this design process input will last through May or later. BUT the comment period on the Theodore Wirth Master Plan ends this December 15th. So golfers have limited time and opportunity to make our concerns known. Robert Dwyer Friends of the Theodore Wirth Par 3</p>	77b. Concern that no golfers are on Welcome Center project management team and their input not considered
				77c. Concern that Welcome Center project managemnet team favors parking lot on east side of parkway without a bridge due to lack of funding,which will require golfers walk or drive cards across parkway which seems unsafe
				77d. Concern that size of Welcome Center area has increased over that presented in concept plan, and what is used by skiers now
				77e. Concern that Welcome Center project management team favors ski stadium placement across most of the Par 3 1st hole, so that ski trail grooming and snowmaking would impact the hole, running against MPRB policy to minimze impact of winter activities on golf holes.

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				77f. Concern that Welcome Center planning will recommend changing golf holes and statement that this is an insult to golfers
				77g. Statement that golfers and Friends of Wirth Par 3 had secured a mandate in Master Plan to have no changes to Par 3
				77h. Concern that Welcome Center project management team believes winter activities are more important than golf
s	12/04/2014	not provided	I am excited for plans discussed in the current Theo Wirth draft master plan. It's time this wonderful park received a little love and sprucing up. I, myself, have been very excited in discovering the off-road bike trails this year. They are wonderful. The Park Board and the volunteer organizations that have been creating these great trails have done a magnificent job. They have given me more reason to enjoy this great park and I have been spreading the word. Please keep up the great work!	78a. Support for plan overall
				78b. Statement that park is overdue for sprucing up
				78c. Appreciation for new off road cycling trails and great work done to create them
				78d. Appreciation for great work done by staff
s	12/03/2014	Andrew Pavlik	I's just like to note that the Mountain Bike trails and the new additions at Theo Wirth this year are awesome and I would like to see more off-road trials in the metro area.	79a. Appreaciation for new off road cycling trails
				79b. Support for more off-road trails in metro area
s	12/03/2014	not provided	I would like to see some areas near the ski trails groomed for fatbikes on the golf course or at least have more areas where fatbikes are allowed in winter. I would like to continue to be able to use the Luce Line for transportation in winter but could do it if there was an area that parralleled the ski trail where it was allowed.	80a. Suggestion to include more areas where fat bikes are allowed in winter, such as in Luce Line area
s	12/03/2014	Charles Chenvert	I am excited to see expansion of the single track mountain trails in the park. Especially the new southwest section. The new mountain bike trail is great as is the restructured walking trail and the general cleanup of the area. I hope there is a contunued expansion of Mountain bike trail in other area of Mpls. It's good to see update to the whole park. The nly problem I see is that there may be limited parking for all the new users.	81a. Appreciation for the new mountain bike trails, especially the SW section
				81b. Appreciation for reconstructed walking trail in SW Wirth and cleanup of the area
				81c. Support for expanded mountain bike trails in other areas of Minneapolis
				81d. Appreciation for plan update to whole park
				81e. Concern that parking may be inadequate for influx of new users
s	12/03/2014	not provided	The new Mountain bike trails are a nice addition. Would still like to see Brownie trail left as a tougher challenge than what the new stuff is. The new stuff is very wide trail and would be less challeging if built that wide. Would like to have a better way to cross hwy 55. Use Brownie trail money on that.	82a. Appreciation for new mountain bike trails
				82b. Suggestion to build Brownie off-road cycling trail not as wide as those built recently in Wirth, to increase challenge level
				82c. Suggestion to use Brownie trail funds to create crossing over Hwy 55
s	12/03/2014	not provided	The more off road bike trails at Theo, the better! It is such a great resource to have such a nice park with off road cycling available so close to the city. Nationwide, this is a huge plus!	83a. Support for more off road cycling trails at Wirth
				83b. Appreciation for off-road cycling trails so close to the city and raritiy for this nationwide
s	12/03/2014	Dave	Love all of the new mountain bike trails you have added the past 2 summers. Would love to see additional trails added.	84a. Appreciation for new off road cycling trails
				84b. Support for building more off road cycling trails



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s	12/03/2014	robert Williams	More mountain bike and snow bike trails!	85a. Support for more mountain bike and snow bike trails
s	12/03/2014	Craig Helmstetter	I just read through the plan and am really excited about the vision laid out in it! Wirth Park is a great amenity for the entire region, it has been improving over the past several years, and this plan will improve it even further. My only fear is that the park will become too crowded as more people learn about it. I specifically would like to indicate my support for the enhancements to the cross-country skiing that are included in the plan. Wirth is one of the best - quite possibly the best -- places to go cross country skiing in the entire metro. The Loppet Foundation has done a lot to foster cross country skiing in the park and I would encourage a continued strong partnership between the park board and the Loppet Foundation. The cross-country skiing trails and associated events truly go beyond the concept of how to best keep local residents happy and healthy; they are becoming draw for tourism and make a notable contribution to the livability of this cold region, and its attractiveness to both visitors and the talent pool that the region needs to attract and retain in order to remain competitive. I am supportive of the additional snow-making & lighted ski trails outlined in the plan. I am supportive of the proposed new visitors center, and the proposed new bridges and under passes that will allow park users to avoid road crossings. I also occasionally use the existing mountain bike trails, and am excited about the expansion of those trails, including the new trails in the bog area, and the proposed new competition area. I also think the off-leash dog park will be a nice addition. My main complaints with the park currently are: (1) parking at the chalet, which seems to be addressed by the plan (mainly that the lines -- or lack thereof -- make the resulting pattern of parking seem very inefficient), and (2) safety, specifically that at times in the past it has appeared that the bog area was used as a "cruising" spot. I am not sure if these safety concerns still exist. Congratulations on what looks to be a well thought out plan that balances many competing interests. I am sure specific points of contention remain, but the larger vision looks great upon my first read. I hope that the MPRB and others will be able to find to secure the resources necessary to successfully implement the ambitious vision laid out in this plan.	86a. Appreciation for plan and vision overall
				86b. Statement that Wirth is a great amenity for entire region, and the plan will improve it even more
				86c. Concern that park will become overcrowded as more people learn about it
				86d. Support for skiing enhancements
				86e. Statement that Wirth is best place to ski in metro area
				86f. Statement that Loppet Foundation has done a lot to foster skiing in Wirth
				86g. Support for continued partnership with Loppet Foundation
				86h. Statement that ski trails and ski events keep residents healthy and happy, draw tourism, increase livability, and create an attractive amenity that draws talent to keep the region competitive
				86i. Support for snowmaking and lighted ski trail loop
				86j. Support for Welcome Center
				86k. Support for new bridges and underpasses for trails
				86l. Support for expansion of mountain bike trails, especially in Bog and competition stadium areas
				86m. Support off leash recreation area
				86n. Concern that lack of lines in Chalet parking lot make it inefficient
				86o. Concern about park safety and past use of Bog area as cruising spot
				86p. Appreciation that plan is thought out and balances many competing interests
				86q. Appreciation for overall park vision

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				86r. Support for funding and implementing plan vision
s	12/03/2014	Dick Seelye	I strongly encourage the use of Wirth for cross country skiing, biking, hiking, etc. To realize the master plan the Park Board should take over the finances.	87a. Support for skiing, biking, hiking in Wirth
				87b. Suggestion that to realize the master plan the Park Board should take over the finances
s	12/03/2014	The Shorter Family	My family and I believe that the T. Wirth Master Plan is an excellent vision for the future of area residents and visitors alike. We strongly support approval by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. We are particularly supportive of the elements that will greatly enhance the ability of the greater Minneapolis metro area to host quality active outdoor recreation events and day-to-day activities for all ages and abilities. As we are all (4 person family) avid cross-country skiers, we are very pleased to see inclusion of critical infrastructure and improvements on behalf of cross-country skiing. But we are also very happy to see the balance that has been struck for other activities such as golf, walking, cycling, sledding, and paddling that we also enjoy on an annual basis. There is no greater return on investment that our cities, state, and nation can make in the health and well-being of all ages than access to quality exercise experiences. We believe this Master Plan is a fantastic step forward in the right direction. Following up approval of the Master Plan with appropriate levels of funding into the future would be vital step two. Your support is appreciated now and in the future!	88a. Support for vision of the plan and for approval by the Park Board
				88b. Support for ehancement of park's ability to host outdoor recreation events and day to day activities for all ages and abilities
				88c. Support for ski infrastructure improvements
				88d. Appreaciation for plan's balance of activities, including skiing, golf, walking, cycling, sledding, and paddling
				88e. Statement that investment in quality exercise experiences has great return for health
				88f. Appreciation for master plan as step forward in the right direction for the park
				88g. Suggestion to follow plan approval with appropriate funding into the future, and appreciation for funding support
s	11/30/2014	Rick Cousins	As both a golfer and a Nordic skier, I would like to comment about proposed changes to the Wirth Golf Course, especially the Par 3: Please consider that it's imperative to preserve one of the few amenities that the City of Minneapolis offers the community. I believe that you folks should bend over backwards to understand what the Wirth Par 3 means to North Minneapolis. Bring you clubs down some afternoon this summer. Plunk down your modest green fee at the desk--it's first come first served. You may delight in nature so close to our downtown, and enjoy chasing a little white ball around with some friends, or you may make a new friend or two joining in with others. Now as much as I have welcomed the changes to Wirth for the Winter sports, especially the great Nordic system that has developed, I remember when skiing there that the winter is about four months, and the golf season in this latitude is around 8 months. For this reason, the ski community should weigh the Wirth Par 3 golf community's rights heavily as the ski community swings their political driver down the first fairway of the Wirth Par 3.	89a. Statement that commenter is both golfer and Nordic skier
				89b. Support for preserving Par 3 as amenity to Minneapolis
				89c. Statement that Par 3 is important to North Minneapolis and suggestion that staff should strive to understand this
				89d. Support for changes to Wirth winter sports, espeically Nordic ski trail system

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				89e. Statement that ski season is 4 months while golf season is 8 months so golf input should be weighed heavily in recommendations for Par 3 area
s	11/20/2014	Gray Moon	As a homeowner in the Uptown area for 18 years, I have spent a lot of time enjoying Theodore Wirth Park. The new improvements on Brownie Lake and especially to the southwest Wirth mountain bike trails, are a dream come true! Once again Minneapolis shows leadership with the thoughtful use of our ample park lands. Big thank you to the Park Board, MOCA, MORC and all the staff/volunteers who made this happen! My daughter and her friends will now be able to hone there mtb skills on one of the finest urban trail systems in the country! Well played.	90a. Appreciation for improvements at Brownie Lake
				90b. Appreciation for new mountain bike trails and abilitiy for daughter and friends to use one of the finest urban trail systems in the country
				90c. Appreciation for MPRB leadership in ample use of park lands
				90d. Appreciation of staff, partners and volunteers for their work
s	11/19/2014	Todd Hunter	The new mtn bike trails south of Glenwood are absolutely amazing addition to the system of trails in place. It is such a unique opportunity to hit fun, creative, and challenging mtn bike trails so close to the heart of the city. Suggestions- mtn bike rentals from ski chalet in summer? Fat bike rental in winter?	91a. Appreciation for new mountain bike trails and the unique opportunity to have them close to the city
				91b. Suggestion to have mountain bike rentals out of Chalet in summer time, fat tire bike rentals in wintertime
s	11/19/2014	Carl Lindor	I am very pleased with the Master Plan put forth by MPRB. I especially appreciate the recognition of growing needs for outdoor recreation, particularly those that require specially designed/maintained facilities such as off-road cycling and cross-country skiing. Thank you for including these popular activities in the plans for future development within the Theodore Wirth park. In particular, the expanded and improved offroad trails for biking accomodate more users and generally improve access. As noted in the Master Plan, the formation and growth of the MN High School Cycling League is an indication that demand for trail-riding opportunity within the city will be strong and growing for many years to come. The expansion of trails at Theo Wirth is hopefully just one small step toward the MPRB addressing this need across the city. One other comment about the Master Plan. I found the use of the word "stadium" used to describe an open space to be misleading and off-putting. Although the meaning of these features was clarified later within the report, it probably creates unnecessary confusion. It would be preferable that these open spaces be called something that is more easily identified for what it is than "stadium", which obviously has a popular definition that is not meant to apply in this instance.	92a. Support for master plan overall
				92b. Appreciation for recognition of recreation that needs special facilities like off road cyclcling and skiing, and for planning for these activities in future of park
				92c. Support for expanded and improved off-road trails that accommodate more users and improve access
				92d. Support accomodating growing needs of high school mountain bike league
				92e Opposition to use of word "stadium" to describe an open space, it creates confusion, suggestion to change it
s	11/19/2014	Porter Million	Just wanted to say Thank You to the MPRB and the Minnesota Off Road Cyclists for all the new trails at Theo. They have been a great addition to the park! The MORC Theo crew has been doing a fantastic job on the trails. The fact that they are all volunteers, is incredible I look forward to the next stages of the trail system. Thanks. Porter	93a. Appreciation for new off road cycling trails and the work MORC volunteers have done on the trails
				93b. Support for next stages of the trail system
s	11/19/2014	Andrew Pavlik	I just wanted to say how thrilled I am with the Singletrack mountain bike trails, particularly the new section south if Glendale. I would love to see even more trails for off road mounting biking in Theo. Thanks for all that you do.	94a. Appreciation for the new mountain bike trails south of Glendale, and staff work



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				94b. Suggestion to create even more off road cycling trails in park
s	11/19/2014	Steven P. Kenny	I recently spent a number of days and evenings helping clear the new trails at South Wirth. Now that they are open, I am so glad I participated, donated and volunteered. I also helped with the first official mtn bike trails many years ago. I love having such a nice park right in the city. I like the purpose built mtn bike trails and I also use the cross country ski trails in the winter. More of either of these wonderful trails would be greatly appreciated. Thanks sPk Steven P. Kenny	95a. Statement that commenter is glad to have volunteered clearing new off road cycling trails in South Wirth.
				95b. Appreciation for having a nice park right in the city
				95c. Support for off road cycle trails and suggestion to build more
				95d. Support for ski trails and suggestion to build more
s	11/16/2014	Paul Cassleman	Thank you for expanding the mountain bike trail system at Theo Wirth! The expansion makes Theo Wirth one of the premier mtb destinations in the Twin Cities. One more reason I'm incredibly proud to call Minneapolis home. Cycling continues to grow in popularity among Minneapolis and Minnesota residents. Mountain bike facilities reflect a responsive, citizen conscious mentality at the Minneapolis Parks Board. Keep it coming - my friends in Denver are getting jealous. Thank you!	97a. Appreciation for new off road cycle trails making Wirth a premier mountain bike destination in Twin Cities and a reason to be proud
				97b. Statement that cyclilng continues to grow in popularity in our area
				97c. Statement that friends in Denver are jealous of Wirth new off road cycle trails
s	11/14/2014	Lisa Genis	I have been an avid user of Wirth Park for over 40 years- cross country skiing, cycling, hiking and just enjoying nature. It is exciting to see this new plan for the park. Here are my comments: 1. HOORAY for an off-leash dog park! 2. Ditto for the proposed expanded lighted/snow making X-C ski loop. 3. I thought there was to be a "Silent Sports" Center, but did not see it in the plan. This would be a wonderful addition tho the park. 4. I encourage the Park Board to FULLY fund the plan.	98a. Appreciation for the exciting new plan
				98b. Statement that commenter is skier, cyclist, hiker and enjoys nature
				98c. Support for off leash recreation area
				98d. Support for expanded snowmaking and lighted ski loop
				98e. Suggstion to clarify that Silent Sports Center is the same as Welcome Center
				98f. Support for Welcome Center
				98g. Support for full funding of plan priorities
s	11/14/2014	not provided	Thank you for your efforts to expand Mountain Biking. The more of that the healthier I'll be!	99a. Appreciation of expansion of off road cycling trails and its health benefits
s	11/13/2014	Paul Thorsgaard	I have been mtn biking for many years at Theo Wirth Park. I have always enjoyed it, but don't get there too often, since it is a distance from my home in Cottage Grove Mn. But, now that you have added two new trails over the past year, I will be coming to Theo Wirth to mtn bike more frequently. And, if you build even more trails, and event centers and have mtn biking events at Theo Wirth, I will be coming to the area even more. I love the new trail that just opened up this month. Thank you!	100a. Appreciation of new off road cycling trails and intention to visit from outside the city more often to use them
				100b. Support for building more off road cycling trails, Welcome Center and holding more events in Wirth
s	11/13/2014	Jason Winslow	Thank you for your continued vision and support of this great park. Please add more off road cycling and hiking trails. Please have a consistent method for grooming off road cycling trails in the winter. Please allow winter cycling (fat biking) on the groomed cross country ski trails. Thank you.	101a. Appreciation for staff vision and support of Wirth
				101b. Suggestion to add more off road cycling and hiking trails
				101c. Suggstion to have a conistent method for grooming off road cycle trails in winter

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				101d. Suggestion to allow winter cycling/fat tire biking on groomed cross country ski trails
s	11/13/2014	Nate	Thank you for the new section and all the mountain bike trails in Theo Wirth Park. It is very apparent how many people love these areas of the park and are willing to maintain them on their own time. Thanks again	102a. Appreciation for new off road cycling trails and volunteers who maintain them
s	11/13/2014	not provided	The new mountain biking trails added to Theo are fantastic. This is a great addition for biker who want to continue to live within the city. The existing trails are constantly used, and the added space was much needed. Continued expansion the Theo mountain bike trail system is highly support and will be used and enjoyed by a diverse set of citizens.	103a. Appreciation for new off road cycling trails and location within city
				103b. Statement that earlier off road cycling trails in Wirth were constantly used and new trails were much needed
				103c. Support continued expansion of off road cycling trails in Wirth
				103d. Statement that off road cycling is enjoyed by a diverse group of users
s	11/13/2014	Steve Stobbs	It would be terrific if the park system on the other side of Golden Valley Road--Mary Hills and Sochacki--could share some natural (esp. Single track/off road bicycling) trail systems with Theo. One thing that would make this infinitely safer is a tunnel or other access across Golden Valley Road.	104a. Suggestion for Mary Hills and Sochacki parks to share natural trail and off road cycle trails with Wirth
				104b. Suggestiton for tunnel or other access across Golden Valley Road to connect Mary Hills and Sochacki trail systems
s	11/13/2014	Tim Kufahl	It's rare for a large metropolitan city to have such amazing access to the outdoors and I'm proud to have such impressive trails here in Minneapolis. The new section of Theo flows great - reminds me of riding the Phil's Trail in Bend, Oregon. Also, much kudos to the trail committee and workers for how quickly the new system was built. Impressive all around.	105a. Appreciation for impressive trails
				105b. Appreciation for new off road trails,how they flow well, and how quickly the new system was built
s	11/13/2014	William Hoeg	The new mountain bike trail north of 394 and south of 55 has been a wonderful addition. this past Sunday there were 100's of folks there, including kids, families, older folks (including me) and pretty much all other demographics. Thank you	106a. Appreciation for new off road trails and the hundreds of people it drew recently
s	11/13/2014	not provided	I love the new mountain bike trails in south Wirth park and would love to see more.	107a. Appreciation for new off road trails
				107b. Suggestion to build more off road trails
s	11/13/2014	Jon McLaughlin	Thanks so much for the new trails this fall! They are spectacular! Hopefully more can be built and enjoyed in the near future!	108a. Appreciation for new off road trails
				108b. Suggestion to build more off road trails
s	11/13/2014	Tom Hillstrom	I love the new mountain bike trails. I cant believe how popular the trails are. Please keep building more. Thank You. Tom Hillstrom	109a. Appreciation for new off road trails
				109b. Suggestion to build more off road trails
s	11/13/2014	William O'Reilly	I would like to see expansion of the off-road cycling trails to include the area behind Eloise Butler and more of the South Wirth area where the new construction took place. These areas are actually the best terrain for trails such as these. As the original steward for the project, his was a dream of mine when the project originally started, and I am disappointed that these areas have been neglected for this purpose. Off-road cycling is a huge asset to the residents and the Park system, even more than CX skiing by sheer numbers. It is a year round sport that benefits the newly formed HS league (over 600 members in two years). The actual footprint of single track trails is minimal when compared to the area used for golf and CX skiing for example. Please consider expanding the trails to the areas in the future. Thank you, Bill	110a. Suggestion to expand off road cycle trails to more of South Wirth and area behind Eloise Butler Wildflower garden, an unfulfilled original goal of commentor
				110b. Statement that commentor was an original steward for off road cycle trail project
				110c. Statement that off road cyclists outnumber skiers at Wirth

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				110d. Statement that off road cycling is a year round sport that benefits a high school league with over 600 memebers
				110e. Statement that footprint of off road cycle trails is smaller than that of golf and skiing
				110f. Suggestion to build more off road trails
s	11/13/2014	Matt pekuri	Love the MTB trails and the new loops. Thank you for such excellent trails in the heart of the city!	111a. Appreciation for the off road trails
s	11/07/2014	Frank Freedman	The Wirth Par 3 golf course serves a wide variety of golfers and contributes revenue to the Park System. It does need investment to reverse its deterioration. Any major changes that alter any hole by more than 10-20 yards to accomodate winter activities would be detrimental. It is very likely that a minor policy change would bring in still more revenue from Wirth Par 3 golfers. I estimate that revenues would be at least 5% higher, if the attendents actually charged 10-round ticket holders for their "first (and sometimes a subsequent) round. The current practice for some attendents is not the charge (punch the 10-round ticket) for these rounds.	112a. Statement that Par 3 serves a wide variety of golfers and contributes revenue to MPRB
				112b. Concern that Par 3 needs investment to reverse its deterioration
				112c. Opposition to any changes that alter golf holes by more than 10-20 yards in order to accommodate winter activities
				112d. Suggestion to increase Par 3 revenues 5% by charging 10-round ticket holders for their rounds by actually punching the 10-round ticket
s	11/07/2014	Cynthia Cattell	I am very concerned about the loss of safe pedestrian and jogging trails in the area around the quaking bog. There are currently no maps or pedestrian trails marked at any of the usual entrances to this area by pedestrians (corner of Wirth Parkway and Glenwood, Quaking Bog parking lot, 394 and Wirth Parkway, or Wayazata Blvd and Parkview Terrace). In contrast, the new mountain bike trails are very well-marked. There is no signage indicating that specific trails are for pedestrian use only. The only map I found was near the entrance to Quaking Bog itself, but to get to that map I had to traverse a number of bike trail. It is VERY unsafe as the mountain bikers clearly feel this is their area and pedestrians or joggers must watch out. They do not ever yield to walkers. You must put clearly marked pedestrian trails and maps so that pedestrians know where they can safely walk. There is a similar problem with the new trails at Brownie Lake. Again there are no trails marked as pedestrian only. I had thought one of the main points of these 'improvements' was separating walkers and bikers. This has not happened.	113a. Concern about loss of safe pedestrian and jogging trails in area around Quaking Bog due to off road cycling in the area
				113b. Concern that pedestrian trail entrances to Quaking bog aren't well marked, while mountain bike trails are
				113c. Suggestion to add signage to Quaking Bog and Brownie Lake areas indicating trails that are for pedestrians only, not off-road cycling
				113d. Concern that separation of walkers and cyclists has not happened in Wirth



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s	11/07/2014	Karen Soderberg	Thank you for preparing this master plan and providing the opportunity to comment. As a member of the CAC for this project I think the plan almost completely reflects our work and decisions. I have a few comments for your consideration: Page1-4: I think the reference to “racial equity” is too limiting for this plan. The concept of equity is very important, but attaching “racial” to the concept excludes other known disparities such as ethnicity, country of origin, and disability (among others). Equity is a very important topic and was a major consideration for me and my efforts on this committee, in which I intended to support all park users. Regional park (referenced in a couple of places): When I talk about this concept I realize that many people do not understand that a regional park is serving a very broad community. Rather, they see Wirth Park as a Minneapolis park. I would like to see some language added to help establish this perspective that the park serves a larger community and that some of the recommendations reflect the needs of all stakeholders. Page 5-4, first paragraph under Cultural Resources Inventory. A table number is missing. Mountain bike trails, specifically the section on Mountain bike loop on page 7-6. The plan refers to a volunteer group maintaining these trails. I’m not sure that’s a realistic sustainable plan looking 20 years out and would like to know what the plan will be if the volunteer efforts diminish or disappear. Page 7-8, Second sentence under Natural snow cross-country ski trail network: missing a “T” to start the sentence. Page 7-10, Natural snow cross-country ski trail network: I’m not sure this is addressing the conflict between skiers and walkers during the winter. The ski trails change over time, which is fine, but they often intersect or overlap with walking trails. Many people are fine with this, but there are definitely tensions between skiers and walkers. I think there needs to be a communications plan to help all parties understand how to share the trails. I also am not sure I agree with the label of “natural snow” trails when they are groomed with mechanical equipment that is pretty invasive to park users when trail grooming is underway. The noise carries a long distance in the winter and emissions linger when there isn’t a breeze. So perhaps the plan recommendations can address the environmental impact of the trail maintenance equipment. Page 7-15, Central Wirth: We specifically discussed recommendations for invasive species control. This is a significant issue around Bassetts Creek and I would like to have it included in the plan recommendations. Page 7-16, South Wirth item 1c: I do not recall strong consensus in our meetings that we recommend this bridge construction, largely due to the high cost for limited benefit. I did point out in the meetings that, if it were constructed, it be capable of handling not only ski trail grooming equipment but also non-skier pedestrian traffic during winter. We did agree that crossing the parkway at this point is not friendly for pedestrians, but that non-bridge options be considered.	114a. Appreciation for plan overall and opportunity to comment
				114b. Suggestion to remove word "racial" from racial equity discussion on page 1-4, and refer instead to less limiting discussion of equity for all park users
				114c. Statement that equity for all users was a major consideration of the CAC
				114d. Suggestion to clarify meaning of regional park and how it serves a wider community and more stakeholders than a neighborhood park
				114e. Suggestion to add missing table reference number on page 5-4 under Cultural Resources Inventory
				114f. Suggestion to clarify a more sustainable maintenance plan for mountain bike trails than reliance on a volunteer group on page 7-6
				114g. Suggestion to add "T" to second sentence under Natural snow cross country ski trail network on page 7-8
				114h. Concern that page 7-10 Natural snow cross country ski trail network paragraph doesn't address conflicting uses adequately
				114i. Suggestion to create communications plan to help all parites understand how to share trails

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				114j. Opposition to using term "natural snow trails" when they are groomed with mechanical equipment that is noisy and invasive to park users
				114k. Suggestion to have plan address the environmental impacts of trail maintenance equipment
				114l. Suggestion that CAC discussed invasive species control recommendations for Central Wirth, please include them in the plan on page 7-15
				114m. Statement that there was not strong CAC consensus for bridge construction in South Wirth, recommendation that non-bridge options be considered, and that any new bridge support both ski trail grooming equipment and non skier pedestrian traffic in winter
s	11/06/2014	Robert Dwyer	<p>The condition of the turf on tees, fairways and greens at the Theodore Wirth Par 3 is adversely affected by a number of factors: Weather, poor drainage, an inadequate irrigation system, trees and brush blocking air circulation, too much shade on greens and tees, etc. The sad result should not be attributed to the staff responsible for managing and performing the course maintenance. A recent report from the consultant Golf Convergence made it clear that this is the result of the failure of the MPRB to re-invest the revenues from golf operations back into the courses. Both the Par 3 and the 18 hole courses at Wirth, as well as the other MPRB courses, have been affected. But at Theodore Wirth in particular the courses are adversely affected by another factor. Ground, and therefore the turf, already under stress, has been adversely affected by the expansion of winter activities, especially by the snow making and the grooming of ski trails. Golfers do not object to the winter programs. Many are also winter activity participants. But there is an obvious need for a better plan to mitigate this damage. However, the recent report from Golf Convergence indicated that advice was not sought by the MPRB on the practice of or standards for conducting winter activities on a golf course. MPRB Recreation staff has established certain practices for ski trail placement and maintenance: No crossing of tees or greens; trails should cross, not run the length of, fairways; ideal frequency of grooming; requirement for and placement of snow making. But these practices are not established as written standards. And the current configuration of trails on the Par 3 does not fully comply with these practices. Some holes are seriously impaired. Recently, since the fall of 2013, the Loppet Foundation has reached out to Par 3 golfers to establish better communication about their trail plans for the coming ski season. Last fall they made some small trail adjustments at the suggestion of the Friends of the Theodore Wirth Par 3. Both Loppet representatives and golfers will be represented on teams or committees which will address some of these issues in the area of the new Adventure Welcome Center. However, work on the Theodore Wirth Regional Master Plan and the continuing work on the MPRB Golf Study by the Recreation Department both need to address golf/winter activity issues. The final draft of the Master Plan should include:</p> <p>1. An acknowledgement by all parties that winter activities (including ski trails) have an adverse impact on golf holes</p> <p>2. A written set of standards to be followed regarding the placement of winter activities and the frequency and techniques of maintenance. (This is especially important if the MPRB plans to turn over winter maintenance to the Loppet Foundation)</p> <p>3. A commitment to study the practices followed at other golf courses and park systems to determine if we can find better solutions for operations and maintenance, for both winter and summer, to mitigate the damage to the golf courses from winter activities.</p> <p>4. A commitment to a study to determine whether a better plan could be developed that places more ski trails off fairways. (Golfers could be flexible about small changes to some golf holes to avoid the duplicate use of land if the plan has no significant negative impact on golf revenues and separate funds are raised specifically for this project)</p>	115a. Statement that golf turf on courses throughout MPRB is in bad condition as a result of multiple factors, attributable to not re-investing golf revenues back into golf operations
				115b. Statement that Wirth golf turf is adversely affected by expansion of winter activities, especially snow making and ski trail grooming

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				115c. Suggestion that a better plan be created to mitigate damage to golf turf by winter activities
				115d. Statement that many golfers are also skiers and support both activities
				115e. Concern that Golf Convergence report did not seek advice from MPRB golf course staff on current maintenance practice or standards
				115f. Concern that MPRB golf course staff maintenance practices including not crossing tees or greens, trails not crossing fairways, ideal frequency of grooming, and location of snow making are not written standards and that current trails on Par 3 do not comply, thereby impairing some holes
				115g. Statement that Loppet Foundation reached out to golfers to communicate trail plans and ultimately made some trail modifications suggested by golfers
				115h. Statement that both golfers and skiers will be represented on Welcome Center project teams
				115i. Suggestion that plan should address conflicting uses between golf and winter activities
				115j. Suggestion that plan include acknowledgement that ski trials and winter activities have an adverse impact on golf holes
				115k. Suggestion that plan include standards regarding placement of winter activities in golf areas and the frequency and techniques of maintenance (especially important if winter maintenance is managed by the Loppet Foundation)
				115l. Suggestion that plan include a commitment to study best operations and maintenance practices to mitigate damage to the golf courses from winter activities
				115m. Suggestion that plan include a commitment to study a design that places more ski trails off existing golf fairways
				115n. Statement that golfers could be flexible about small changes to some golf holes to avoid the duplicate use of land if the plan has no significant negative impact on golf revenues and separate funds are raised specifically for this project
s	11/03/2014	Sharon Walbran	I am a newbie to the sport of golf and the Theodore Wirth Par 3 course has provided just the right place to practice my skills. Living just over the border in St. Louis Park, the location of the Wirth Par 3 course is perfect for a spur-of-the-moment golf session. I love the fact that it is surrounded by woods and feels like you are not in the city. The course presents enough of a challenge for me but not too much. My husband and I use it regularly and have enjoyed seeing wildlife, deer and coyote, roaming the fairways and greens. The people who manage the clubhouse are friendly and fun and have on several occasions gone back out on the course to locate a missing article of clothing or club cover for us. Other golfers we have met were friendly and gracious. Don't take this wonderful course away. We plan to enjoy it each season.	116a. Statement that commenter is new to golf and Par 3 is a good course for beginners, with appropriate level of challenge
				116b. Statement that location of Par 3 is conducive to spur-of-the-moment sessions
				116c. Appreciation for the woods and natural feeling of the Par 3
				116d. Statement that wildlife are observed at Par 3 including deer and coyote



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				116e. Appreciation that Par 3 golf staff and fellow players are friendly and helpful
				116f. Opposition to taking away Par 3 course
s	11/03/2014	Rick	Regarding the Master Plan for the changes to the front nine of the large course. My understanding was that were flood plain issues re routing or changing holes. Please clarify.	117a. Suggestion to clarify if there are flood plain issues with modifying or moving holes on the front nine
s	11/03/2014	Joe Walbran	Thank you for your work on this. My wife and I are active early 70's golfers. We love the par 3 course for its length, the time needed to play, and woodsy terrain, deer and coyote [yes indeed]. Sharon has a heavy schedule of teaching computer applications. I have projects demanding time. The par 3 is a perfect fit. The course does need more care. Some patches are well worn. Aside: I am an older white guy, I have met a lot of likeable black guys on the par 3. And a lot of hard driving young guys, and middle aged couples having fun, together, like us. This in itself is fun for me. I know this seems naive or plainspoken, but it is true that a retired person who just sees neighbors may not have a full enough social scope. Anyhow, I get the impression that par 3 golf fits the schedule of a lot of people who are happy to be there. This is the best par 3 layout I have played. Please continue to support it.	118a. Appreciation for staff work
				118b. Appreciation for Par 3 course length, time required to play, wooded surroundings, wildlife, schedule, and diversity of players
				118c. Statement that Par 3 needs maintenance, especially worn turf
				118d. Support for continued support of Par 3 by MPRB
s	11/03/2014	Robert Dwyer	Representatives of the Friends of the Theodore Wirth Par 3 participated in months of meetings and discussions of the Wirth Citizens Advisory Committee. The results are seen in the committee's Concept Plan which was accepted by the Board and is now included, as previously passed, in the draft of the Theodore Wirth Regional Master Plan. In its simplest form those results are express in the staff recommendation to "Keep the par-3 course... (and)... in its current configuration". By taking this position the Citizens Advisory Committee and the MPRB Planning staff have recognized the unique importance of, and the contribution made by, the Par 3 to the MPRB golf system and the park system as a whole. There were other important related decisions that also came through that process. A clear statement was made that the Par 3, and the Par 3 facilities within the new Adventure Welcome Center, would continue to be managed by MPRB staff. There was also an emphasis on the part of the MPRB that the Par 3 golf operations would continue to be run with at least the same commitment of financing and resources as in the past. Finally, Par 3 golfer representation would be present on a key committee during the process followed for the development (design) of the new building and related features. During this period another vital understanding was reached with the Planning Department. The construction of the new Adventure Welcome Center and related area would be done in a manner so as not to interfere with the normal seasonal operations of the Par 3. This means that the new parking lot and bridge would be completed before the current parking lot is closed, and, the Par 3 operations out of the new building will be operational before the current Par 3 club house is demolished. This principle should also apply to the development of the new "Ski Stadium". The stadium, whatever the extend of landscaping required, should be accomplished without having to shut down the Par 3. Par 3 golfers will be watching carefully to ensure that none of these previous agreements are weakened during the remainder of the Master Plan process.	119a. Statement that Friends of the Wirth Par 3 participated in CAC meetings and provided input on approved concept plan for Wirth recommending to keep the Par 3 course in its current configuration
				119b. Statement that CAC recognized importance of Par 3 to park system
				119c. Statement that planning process indicated Par 3 facilities would continue to be managed by MPRB staff
				119d. Statement that planning process emphasized that Par 3 operations funding and resources would remain the same as in past
				119e. Statement that planning process indicated golfers would be involved in Welcome Center design committee

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				119e. Statement that planning process indicated construction of Welcome Center would not interfere with Par 3 operations, such that new parking lot, bridge, and building would open before current ones are closed
				119f. Suggestion that new ski stadium construction not interfere with seasonal operations of Par 3
s	10/29/2014	Robert Dwyer	Reading the Theo. Wirth Master Plan document I, as well as other Wirth Par 3 golfers, am pleased to see that the plan is consistent with what was passed by the Wirth Citizen's Advisory Committee. Golfers, having spent most of 2011-12 working hard to ensure that the course would not be closed or re-designed out of existence, do not want to see their efforts compromised in the final approval of the Master Plan. The draft of the Master Plan clearly states the CAC conclusion and the staff recommendation to "Keep the par-3 course in its current configuration." We regard this as a commitment by the MPRB staff and commissioners. Even so, occasionally language will creep in that attempts to equivocate about this promise. We want to make it clear that we will in particular be watching closely the coming Adventure Welcome Center design process. The Master Plan still lists the "Ski Stadium" as a design advisory item, meaning that the MPRB still expects some significant discussion to occur before the final design is determined. Discussion is a good thing and Par 3 golfers expect to participate vigorously in the design process. But we do not expect that we need to again defend against destructive changes to the 1st and 7th holes of the course. The "Ski Stadium" must be designed to go around these holes, not through them, and, "Keeping the par-3 course in its current configuration" means: Not moving the holes!	120a. Appreciation that plan is consistent with CAC recommendations
				120b. Concern that golfer's desire to maintain course deisgn and open season will be compromised in final plan
				120c. Statement that golfers consider approved CAC recommendation to keep Par 3 in current configuration as a commitment by staff and commissioners
				120d. Concern Welcome Center planning process may impact current configuration of Par 3
				120e. Statement that the ski stadium area is a design advisory area
				120f. Support for continued discussion about ski stadium area and invovement of golfers in design process
				120g. Opposition to changes to 1st and 7th holes of Par 3 course.
				120h. Support for ski stadium going around exisitng Par 3 holes, not moving holes
s	10/23/2014	Stephen Olson	I would like to see improved facilities for archery not the elimination of it.	121a. Support for improved archery facilities
				121b. Opposition to elimination of Wirth archery range

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s	10/21/2014	not provided	The work that went into the plan is impressive. My main concern is with usability and user's experience. There is a perception and a reality that Wirth Park is dangerous. The reality is that in the last 35 years that I've lived in Bryn Mawr, there were at least two dead bodies found at the lake. The victims were either killed in the park or the park was thought to be a good place to dump the bodies. In addition, more of the crime in Bryn Mawr occurs in the area north of 394, and the north side of Mpls. is a high crime area. No one wants crime to move into Wirth Park. Both these higher crime neighborhoods are close to Wirth Park though. There are wonderful paths I'd like to hike, and even hike into Eloise Butler, but I don't because this perception that the park is unsafe has stuck with me. My walking partner shares it and we don't choose to walk on Wirth trails even though they must be beautiful. 20-40 years ago our family x-co skied, went to the beach occasionally, snow tubed, and my husband played golf. But we have stopped using the park. So, whatever it takes, please design it to reduce crime and create a place that feels safe, on the trails and in hidden spots especially. Also no one wants their car broken into either. If you have a food concession of the quality of the other lakes (Harriet, Calhoun, Nikomis), that would bring people in for short and long stays; and numbers help to reduce crime.	122a. Appreciation for work invested in plan
				122b. Concern that Wirth is percieved to be and/or is actually unsafe due to crime
				122c. Statement that commentor's family has stopped visiting Wirth because of concerns about crime and safety
				122d. Support for designs that reduce crime and increase sense of safety, especially on trails and in hidden areas
				122e. Suggestion that adding concessions equal to quality of Chain of Lakes' would attract people and reduce crime
s	10/20/2014	not provided	I am a North Minneapolis resident. As such, I am excited that the Park Board has focused renewed on attention on Theodore Wirth Park. I am especially excited about the Silent Sports Center ideas for the Northern section of the park and I really like the idea of the picnic shelters in the Wirth Beach area. I would love to see adequate signage in the park for walking, hiking, running and ski trails. The park has been in a delapidated condition for years and I look forward to renewed healthy investment in Wirth Park so that North Minneapolis' "Central Park" can rival the Chain of Lakes as a place to commune with nature in the shadow of downtown Minneapolis. Thank you for putting the work in to make Theodore Wirth Park a great space!	123a. Appreciation for focus of attention on Wirth as North Minneapolis resident
				123b. Support for Welcome Center
				123c. Support for picnic shelters in Wirth Beach area
				123d. Suggestion to provide adequate signage for all trails
				123e. Support for renewed investment in Wirth as North Minneapolis'es premier park
				123f. Appreciation for staff work making Wirth a great space
s	10/20/2014	sheree bochenek	Please make sure this area is "family friendly" Make sure the" gay" car stops are ended. It is uncomfortable to walk my dog around the the parked cars that are cruising..... make it more friendly for walkers. could there be more areas for my dog to drink and i can collect clean water for myself? I live i this area and love it.	124a. Support for a family- and walker-friendly park, meaning enforcement against cruising stops in parking lots
				124b. Suggestion to have more areas for dogs and owners to drink water



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s	10/19/2014	not provided	I am a Bryn Mawr resident and frequently use Wirth Park primarily in the Winter for cross country skiing. I do miss the days when we had smaller trails for traditional skiers, as right now everytrail feels like a highway for fast skiers... Could some trails be designated for slower skiers that prefer a "winding through the woods experience" rather than a "fast workout" experience? Also, we used to be able to park by the Quaking Bog for a fast ski at lunch hour. Now the loop has to be longer as there's only parking at the beach. Also it is dangerous to cross and inconvenient to take the skies out and put them back on in order to cross Wirth Pkway to the trails there. Why not plow that parking lot in the winter? Walking alone in those woods when it is not winter feels dangerous... I've encountered suspicious activity which feels unsafe to visitors. The woods are wonderful, and walking and jogging there should be encouraged in order to have more pedestrian traffic and less isolation. Maybe even make it a place where owners of friendly pets can let their dogs off the leash so that it gets used more and feels safer. Thanks for working and maintaining our parks. I really value the cities' effort on this.	125a. Statement that commentor skis in Wirth in winter
				125b. Concern that smaller trails for classic skiers are being replaced by wide trails for fast skiers and suggetion to create a slower ski experience winding through woods.
				125c. Suggestion to plow Quaking Bog lot in winter to facilitate quick lunch hour skiing, reduce unsafe crossings at parkway, and retain short ski loop
				125d. Concern about safety of trails in South Wirth woods due to suspicious activity.
				125e. Suggestion to promote walking and jogging in South Wirth woods to reduce isolation and increase safety
				125f. Suggestion to allow off-leash dog walking in South Wirth woods to reduce isolation and increase safety
				125g. Appreciation for city and staff efforts on parks
s	10/18/2014	not provided	After the re-design/changes to the front nine, what are going to be the projected yardages of the new holes and the new total yardage of the new nine? Are there plans for any additional strategic sand bunkers or other challenging design aspects of any hole to accommodate players, attract any MGA/MPGA ,Local PGA Tournaments/ other Events that help with additional revenue streams? Or, except for a few current holes, are the tee boxes and greens just going to basically switch places?	126a. Suggestion to provide projected and total yardages of new holes on front nine.
				126b. Support for challenging design aspects in new holes to accommodate players and attract tournaments to increase revenue
				126c. Suggestion to clarify if most changes to golf course involve tee boxes and greens switching places
s	10/17/2014	not provided	Great job! I would love better signage at Quaking Bog. Also restore Medicine Springs (could not find the information about that in the master plan) or make the sign read historical spot or former location. Spent time trying to look for a spring that is not there. Would like signage around Native American points of interest and the brewery and farm areas.	127a. Support for plan overall
				127b. Suggestion to install better signage at Quaking Bog
				127c. Suggestion to restore Medicine Springs, add signage, and include more information on it in the plan
				127d. Suggestion to add signage to historic areas such as Native American, brewery, and farm sites

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s	10/16/2014	not provided	<p>[part 1 of 3]</p> <p>Hello, After Reviewing the plan, I'd like to provide a few comments. First of all, thank you for the hard work on developing such a plan. All of these efforts are greatly appreciated. I'm a nearby resident who makes use largely of the Central and Southern portion of the park. I engage largely in silent sports - walking, hiking, jogging, snowshoeing, skiing, kayaking, biking, and occasionally off road biking (though I have an old and technically insufficient mountain bicycle for the existing trail designs). The following comments are in the context of concern about further development of the Central and Southern portions of the park: 1. I fear the development of off-road bike trails in the southwest will not be used as -- nor perceived to be -- mixed use trail. I also fear for the peace of the woods in that area. Until recently, I used these areas for trail jogging and hiking (and snowshoe in winter), and their currently transitioning state has deprived me of park trail that I used to use and enjoy quite often. The changes to the trail that include boulders, steeply banked turns, and other obstacles neither appear sustainable or naturally occurring, and definitely don't feel tailored toward mixed use. The trail width has increased severalfold (reducing the intimate woods feel of that portion of the park), and these trails -- where previous "rogue trails" used to be -- only seem like they'd more negatively impact the park than the skinny earthen footpaths that were in place prior. One can say they meet "sustainable standards", but a skinny footpath surely has a lower impact than the monstrous upheaval of earth and roots that is underway. Once in place, I fear the mountain bikers will claim that trail as their own, and the disruption will drive away previous use. I would like to underscore the need for these trails to be clearly labeled as mixed use for their entire lifespan - or until they are unearthed and restored to low impact, foot traffic only trails. Being buzzed by groups of mountain bikers will still be a fact of life going forward, but at least it will provide fair representation in a dispute (or hopefully dispute will never happen!). 2. I applaud the growth/maturation/restoration of foot traffic paths in the central and south portions of the park, but the elimination of the "rogue trails" is a disservice and a danger to existing use. For one, elimination of "rogue paths" is not being done in a well marked or safe manner. I love spending time in the woods and it's a great stress reliever -- but when that's what I'm going out and seeking -- there's nothing more disconcerting than trail changes without any clearly marked indicators. Current elimination of these trails feels like a very passive aggressive approach to trail management (is trail management happening or is this some individual out there doing whatever they want in the woods?).</p>	128a. Appreciation for hard work of staff on plan

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s	10/16/2014	not provided	<p>[part 2 of 3]</p> <p>I've run on trails where "someone" has repeatedly placed obstructions (wood/branch debris) on the previously existing trail with no signage or any other indication as to why. I've turned a corner and tripped/fallen head over heels onto the ground -- thankful I didn't break my neck from one obstruction! This is unsafe and absolutely unacceptable. "Rogue trails" can't be expected to be abandoned if they are unidentified as "rogue", and performing this sort of "trail management" is liable to result in an injury lawsuit. I would think more people would comply to abandoning "rogue trails" if they were both assigned as "rogue" status and also accompanied with a close up of alternative paths (or planned future paths) near the trail so dubbed "rogue". Without any indicators, I (and no doubt others) will continue to use whatever footpaths are in existence as _legitimate_ footpaths. In addition, these "rogue paths" probably exist because someone at some point fulfilled desired trail access by making a path (or maybe by following a naturally occurring deer path). Any development should take "rogue paths" as strong consideration and positive input into future use. They exist for a purpose, and taking something of purpose away without providing a new something that fulfills that purpose is a recipe for doubling environmental damage. 3. Relocating the picnic area near Wirth Lake is a concern. Current parking is clearly an issue - with weekend parking going up and down Glenwood near Wirth Lake. I live very close to this location, and I'm concerned the traffic patterns will only get worse closer to the residential area near the proposed parking zone. The proposed parking zone is so close to the residential area, that I'm pretty sure people will start to fill the residential streetside parking as the picnic parking lot fills up. Also, it's currently not uncommon practice for picnic goers to open up their car doors and blast their car stereo for listening pleasure whilst they picnic. I've gone walking on Sunday nights where picnickers have trafficked over the weekend and been appalled at the state of the park after the wave of traffic has passed. Not only are trash cans overflowing and trash debris strewn about (plastic bottles, glass bottles, tin foil, ice cream melted on the sidewalks, bones from grilled meat, etc.), but there are live coals on the ground near grilling locations and rut marks in the turf where SUVs have pulled up and made their own parking! While growing the picnic area should help reduce the concentration of trash (resulting in overflowing bins), I'm concerned that the disruptive nature of these large weekend gatherings will backfill into nearby residential. I strongly urge containment efforts of keeping the picnic traffic within the park (including noise pollution). Rotating the proposed parking so that it goes further into the park -- or putting it further into the park -- would be one step in making an effort to contain the picnic traffic. Installing automatic audio alert monitors may also be a great way to reduce audio disturbance.</p>	128b. Statement that commentor uses Wirth for walking, hiking, jogging, snowshoeing, skiing, kayaking, biking and of road cycling



Method	Submittal Date	Name	Comment	Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)
s	10/16/2014	not provided	[part 3 of 3] 4. A mixed use pathway routing from Wirth Lake to the Penn Ave/Hwy 55 light rail station would be appreciated. Right now, there are only "rogue paths" that go from Wirth Lake to the proposed Penn Ave light rail station. Providing a path aside/near Hwy 55 and connecting to the Wirth paved trails would be a great bike/walk access service for this new use case. 5. A caution in making developments based on event traffic: Please temper the Event Based influence that has been intruding the park. While it's great to see trail race events at all times of the year, these are paid events that are very brief in duration. To incorporate design changes to the park solely to satisfy the needs of these events is to miss the broader vision of the park. In addition, large paid events in a public park can reduce the at-ease recreational nature of the space. I say this because I fear that large dollar influencers like The Loppet Foundation or the MORC/MOCA can overshadow and skew the legacy and mixed uses. 6. It would be nice if the Three Rivers Parks/Minneapolis would offer some sort of reduced rate for ski passes if one buys a pass for both. I often would like to share the Wirth trails with my non-Minneapolis friends, and they often scoff at the prospect of paying separate "In the City" charges. I have no problem paying for both sets of passes, but it would be a nice gesture that says, "We know you like skiing, and we know you like variety. We Parks understand your plight. We also get along with each other and encourage this area usage pattern." I live near the park, and I've chosen my residence both because of this park, the upcoming light rail access, and the proximity to an area that will benefit from redevelopment. Please take the above comments as concern and constructive input to future development of the park. I appreciate your continued efforts to make this Gem shine!	128c. Concern off-road trails will not be understood or perceived as shared use
				128d. Concern that peace of woods in South/Central Wirth is threatened by off road cycling and related trail use
				128e. Concern that off road trail construction materials are not suitable for walkers and joggers and do not appear natural or sustainable
				128f. Concern that off road trails are wider than previous rogue trails which had smaller footprint
				128g. Suggestion to install clear signage on shared use soft surface trails indicating their mixed use
				128h. Concern that elimination of "rogue" trails is a disservice, confusing, and unsustainable
				128i. Concern that elimination of "rogue" trails has been poorly executed and managed with lack of signage, unsafe obstacles, and no clear pattern
				128j. Suggestion to add clear signage to "rogue" trails indicating their elimination and the location of preferred sanctioned trail
				128k. Suggestion that rogue trails be considered publically desired future trail locations during trail design process
				128l. Opposition to locating picnic shelters near Wirth Lake because of overcrowding at parking lots and impacts on residential neighbors and safety
				128m. Concern that current users of picnic areas play music too loud
				128n. Concern that current users of picnic areas leave trash, hot coals, and turf damage behind
				128o. Support for keeping picnic areas and associated noise and traffic contained within park and out of adjacent residential neighborhoods

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				128p. Suggestion to rotate or move parking deeper into park, and/or to install automatic audio alert monitors to prevent picnic disruption to adjacent residential neighborhoods
				128q. Suggestion to add mixed us trail from Wirth Lake to proposed Penn Avenue LRT station
				128r. Opposition to redesigning park to focus on need of large events because they are temporary, negatively impact the at-ease recreational nature of the park, and miss the broad vision of the park
				128s. Concern that influence of special interests and funding organizations on park design will overshadow legacy uses and mixed uses
s				128t. Suggestion to offer reduced rate ski passes if bought for both MPRB and Three Rivers Park District
				128u. Statement that commentor chose residence to be close to park, LRT, and development potential.
				128v. Appreciation for staff efforts for whole park
s	10/16/2014	Kevin Thompson	Reviewed the master plan, like it. Thanks!	129. Support for plan overall
s	10/16/2014	not provided	I like the lawn bowling idea. I think that highly directional safety lighting should be beefed up in the areas south of Glenwood and along Cedar Lake Parkway. Very scary to walk down there at dusk in fall and spring. Also, add some kind of elder equipment, well away from the kid equipment. Maybe create a senior area to gather with classes and outdoor activities.	130a. Support for lawn bowling
				130b. Suggestion to increase lighting south of Glenwood and along Cedar Lake Parkway to improve safety
				130c. Suggestion to add senior area with workout equipment and/or classes, outdoor activities

Method	Submittal Date	Name	Comment	Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)
s	10/16/2014	Chuck Larson	Let me start by congratulating you on putting together a good document that not only highlights the vision for Wirth Park, but is also informative. I learned a lot about the area I call home. Two items of concern: Traffic & Access 1. Traffic: I am all for creating a public space for all citizens to enjoy. However, when you create this space PLEASE keep in mind the safety of the people using the space. Have you traveled on Glenwood Avenue via car or bus? Neither mode of transportation travels at the posted speed limit. AND the designated crosswalks on Glenwood Avenue within the Central Wirth area are NOT well marked, NOR are they acknowledged by the people driving through this area. And, the area you have designated for the additional "picnic area parking (96 spaces)", although a perfect location both from construction point & providing access to areas you want to improve, is a) at the bottom of a hill (heading west on Glenwood Ave) and b) at a blind spot (heading east on Glenwood Ave). Traffic will need to be controlled at this intersection to provide safe access in / out of the parking lot AND for pedestrians to cross Glenwood Avenue to access the beautiful Pavilion on the hill. I ask you to do your own traffic study of this area. Yes, it will mean discussions with all parties (Minneapolis, Golden Valley, Hennepin County, MNDot, ..... ) but PLEASE keep the safety in the front of your minds. 2. Access: Once again, THANKS for moving toward creating a space for all citizens! Adding "Large Picnic Shelters (2-125) and Restrooms" off Glenwood & Xerxes will help create a wonderful space. Here is my ask: can the bathrooms be open to the public? The current restrooms in the beach house are only open when you have a lifeguard on duty. VERY LIMITED. You use the park for many special events 365/days year and truck in porta-potties. Why can't the public restrooms be available during these and other events? And if they can't be open, why spend the funds to build more restrooms? Spend A LOT less money to put up shelters for porta potties -- like the one off the existing parking lot near the beach house. Save the money and use it on another project. Build items/structures that can and will be used by the people accessing the park. Not structures that make the park look good to outside interests. Thanks for listening.	131a. Appreciation for plan and vision overall
				131b. Concern about parking lot at Glenwood and Xerxes because of unsafe vehicle speeds, unsafe crossings, driver inattention, and blind spots.
				131c. Suggestion to do traffic study of Glenwood and Xerxes
				131d. Suggestion to install traffic control for safety at Glenwood and Xerxes if parking lot built there
				131e. Suggestion to collaborate with agency partners to prioritize traffic safety at new Glenwood and Xerxes parking lot
				131f. Suggestion that new restroom shelters at Wirth lake be open to the public more hours as existing restrooms are very limited
				131g. Concern about spending money on permanent restrooms if they will only be open limited hours, and suggestion to save money by using port-a-potties instead
				131h. Suggestion to build structures to primarily be used by people in the park, not ones that make the park look good to outsiders
s	10/16/2014	not provided	One important thing that was missed in the "misuse of designated areas" section is the current trend for people to walk dogs without leashes on the trails. This poses a danger to the dogs and other trail users, especially cyclists who can easily be knocked over by a normally well-behaved, but currently excited or startled dog. I am certain that this is a known issue, as I have reported it multiple times in and near the park. Since an off-leash dog park is being proposed, that needs to explicitly come with increased enforcement of leash laws in surrounding areas, and highly visible signage to indicate such. This is for everyone's safety (including the dogs) and enjoyment of the park space.	132a. Concern about unleashed dog walking on trails and danger this poses to walkers and cyclists
				132b. Suggestion that off leash recreation area have strict enforcement of leash laws in surrounding areas and visible signage



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s	10/16/2014	Ted Cochran	<p>[part 1 of 2]</p> <p>I commute by bicycle through Wirth every day, all year. It's in the middle of my 10 mile route from South Minneapolis to Golden Valley. I see a lot of the same faces every morning and evening, doing the same thing, but not nearly as many as I see south of Wirth Park. The park is beautiful, and I love it, but it could be so much better. The plan does not appear to address the potential for Wirth as a major commuting route for cyclists, and the current obstacles that prevent it from achieving that potential. There is a reason the cycling traffic is mostly recreational in Wirth--Wirth is a huge obstacle to East-West commuting (Minneapolis to Golden Valley or vice versa) AND North-South commuting (South Minneapolis to North Minneapolis and Robbinsdale, or vice versa). Going east-west, there are only three possible routes: --Luce Line, which can only be accessed via speed-restricted park paths or the parkways themselves, heavily traveled during rush hour by speeding commuters trying to take short cuts from 100 to downtown, and which is closed in the winter, leaving only --Glenwood, which has the Breck School/Highway 100 overpass deathtrap (they have police directing traffic there and they _still_ have accidents), or --The shoulder of highway 55 (which is interrupted by turn lanes and merge lanes). No wonder there are relatively few commuters despite major employers like Honeywell, General Mills, and North Memorial Hospital nearby, to day nothing of downtown Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, and Golden Valley. Wlrth is also a chokepoint for North-South commuters: The only way through is via the parkway, which has issues because of the Glenwood/Wirth parkway intersection ("conflicts" are recognized in the study, but in fact the intersection is quite dangerous for northbound commuters due to eastbound Glenwood car traffic turning right without stopping or looking) and the Highway 55/Wirth Parkway 3-minute traffic signal which does not default to "walk" unless a beg-button is pushed. Three minutes is an interminable wait for a light, and I see pedestrians and cyclists jaywalking because of it.</p>	133a. Statement that commentor visits Wirth daily as a bike commuter
s	10/16/2014	Ted Cochran	<p>[part 2 of 2]</p> <p>I also agree that the pathways are inadequate north of Highway 55. The report appears to suggest solving the inadequate pathway problem by further restricting speeds on the existing pathways without providing an alternative for cyclists. More and more cars are using Wirth as an alternative to Highway 100 and I-394 during rush hour. The speed limits are often ignored (The recent mill and repave work exacerbated this issue), and the road is not engineered to share bicycle and automobile traffic, so only the hardest of commuters use that option. To enable bicycle commuting to thrive, we need 10-20 mph routes, north and south, east and west, year around. One in each direction. Right now the summer isn't too bad, as long as folks are courteous on the paths. As you note, they sometimes aren't. In summary, the park, as beautiful as it is, is an obstacle for cycling commuters, especially in the winter. It's like the Great Wall of Wirth on the western edge of Minneapolis. We should recognize the role the park could play in promoting healthy outdoor activity, reducing traffic congestion, and providing recreation to commuting cyclists. I suggest: --Flixing the Glenwood intersection, immediately with improved signage, by narrowing the eastbound lane of Glenwood west of Wirth parkway to prevent cars from using the bike path on Glenwood as a right turn lane, and by painting obvious cycle &amp; pedestrian crosswalks, and in the long run by expediting the proposed tunnel. Right turning vehicles there do not expect bicycle traffic from the path on the right, and they don't look for it. --Fixing the Highway 55 intersection with improved signal functioning in the short term, and ultimately a cycle/pedestrian overpass. -- Supplementing Luce Line with either a parallel paved path through the park that is plowed, or an extension of the existing Luce Line route that is east of Wirth parkway to continue westward along the north side of 55 all the way to Schaper park in Golden Valley, thus allowing the existing Luce Line to be used for skiing in winter. The most expensive part--the Hwy 55 bridge over the railroad tracks in Golden Valley--already has room on both sides of 55, so it would be relatively inexpensive. --Discouraging through commuter traffic on Wirth parkway, especially from 55 to 100 by all available means. It's a park, not a race track. I would support extreme measures up to and including closing the parkway to through traffic during rush hour!</p>	133b. Concern that park could do better and attract more visitors

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				133c. Concern that plan doesn't address obstacles to bike commuting both east-west and north south: poor access, heavy use, cyclist speeds, unsafe traffic and intersections, winter safety
				133d. Concern that pathways for bike commuters are inadequate north of Hwy 55
				133e. Opposition to restricting trail speeds on pathways north of Hwy 55 without providing alternative path for bike commuters who feel the parkway is unsafe
				133f. Suggestion to enable bike commuting through enactment of 10-20 mph speed limits on one-way trails throughout park
				133g. Statement that supporting bike commuting in Wirth would promote healthy outdoor activity, reduce traffic congestion, and provide recreation
				133h. Suggestion to improve bike signage at Glenwood and Parkway
				133i. Suggestion to narrow the eastbound lane of Glenwood west of the parkway to prevent cars from using the bike path as a right turn lane, and to paint crosswalks
				133j. Suggestion to expedite the proposed tunnel
				133k. Suggestion to improve signal functioning at Hwy 55 and parkway, and to build an overpass
				133l. Suggestion to extend Luce Line for bike commuting and skiing or add plowed trail adjacent to it
				133m. Suggestion to discourage vehicles from using the parkway for high speed commuter traffic, possibly by closing the parkway to vehicles during rush hour
s	10/16/2014	Brandon Charboneau	There is not a mention of the Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists in sections dedicated to maintenance of trails, and soft trails specifically. The Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists (MORC) is the local non-profit that provides training and tools for volunteers for the mountain bike trails, and is a sub-chapter of the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA). There is a mention of MOCA who is the advocacy group for developing off-road riding opportunities within Minneapolis, and is a supporting member of MORC. My suggestions is to clarify each of the groups and roles respectively throughout the document.	134a. Suggestion to mention MORC in addition to MOCA and to clarify roles of each group in Wirth
s	10/16/2014	Dan Steinberg	In reading through the draft, I found that everything looks nice. I was disapointed in no plans to expand the basketball court by the beach. I would like to see a soccer goals put on the blacktop along with the hoop. Would like to see a 'mini-soccer field' where the tennis courts once were.	135a. Appreciation for plan overall
				135b. Support for expanding basketball court by Wirth Beach and adding soccer goals to the court blacktop
				135c. Support for mini soccer field where tennis courts once were at Glenwood and Xerxes
s	10/15/2014	Philip Spoehr	The Wirth Lake Beach House has been nicely renovated and has full bathroom facilities, but it is rarely open. Instead there are portable outhouses permanently installed. I feel as a taxpayer and resident that these facilities should be open during the day. Your future plans appear to include more restrooms to be built at another picnic site near the existing boat landing. I do not support spending money to build more restrooms if they will not be accessible to the public. I suppose once the restrooms are built there will be permanent portable outhouses placed there as well.	136a. Concern that new Wirth Lake Beach House restrooms are rarely open during the day so portable outhouses have been permanently installed

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				136b. Opposition to spending funds on new restrooms near Wirth boat launch if they will only be open limited times, resulting in addition of portable outhouses
o	01/08/2015	not provided	The P.Bd needs to do better communication re its activities.	137a. Concern that Park Board is not communicating its activities well
o	01/08/2015	not provided	Thank you for having this. I would like more chances for public input into the P. Brd's LRT positions.	138a. Appreciation for plan open house
				138b. Suggestion for more opportunities for input on MPRB LRT positions
o	01/08/2015	not provided	If the light rail is allowed to run through the park parking of cars will become a major problem. Love the hill going back to free.	139a. Concern LRT will increase parking congestion
				139b. Appreciate tubing hill returning to free
o	01/08/2015	not provided	While I agree the park is not for parking cars- there does need to be some additional parking for those not directly adjacent to the park.	140a. Support for additional parking
o	01/08/2015	not provided	How can the Park Board and the Bottineau rail work together to help develop parking for all that want to enjoy the area?	141a. Suggestion that MPRB and Bottineau rail collaborate to develop parking
o	01/08/2015	not provided	I would like to see signed trail connections from the Luce Line bike trail to the Hidden Lakes area.	142a. Support for signed trail connections from the Luce Line bike trail to the Hidden Lakes area
o	01/08/2015	not provided	Would like to see more lightning and grooming on walkaways. Thank you.	143a. Support for more lighting and grooming on walkways
o	01/08/2015	not provided	I hear a maintenance building may be reconcidord on Xerxes and Glenwood where the tennis courts are. I live there an am very concerned if this were the be reconsiderd. The serinity of that corner needs to be preserved.	144a. Opposition to maintenance building at Glenwood and Xerxes
o	01/08/2015	not provided	Love the chalet/restaurant plan. Management and staffing and operations are as crucial as the infrastructure. Please have someone with skiing expertise on staff because Wirth's ski offerings are abysmal compared to the 3 rivers park district. It's frustrating that snow making doesn't start as soon as possible. I know it has limitations and a different mechanism from Elm Creek, but it could be done earlier and more frequently. Its frustrating that mid-January there's only a 1k ski loop. I live near and love Wirth but i rarely end up going there for a good ski. I go elsewhere. Other skiers laugh when I ask about meeting to ski at Wirth. Wirth is a bit of an embarassment in the ski community. We need someone who knows all winter recreation needs- especially skiers. Also excited for an LRT stop there. Hopefully chalet can serve those riders and all of Wirth makes the LRT stop a destination stop. Thanks for reading.	145a. Support for chalet/restaurant plan
				145b. Statement that management, staffing, and operations are as crucial as infrastructure improvements
				145c. Suggestion that winter recreation hire staff with ski expertise because ski offerings are not good
				145d. Concern that snowmaking begins late in the season
				145e. Statement that Wirth is an embarassment in the ski community
				145f. Support for LRT station at Wirth park
o	01/08/2015	not provided	Find a different solution for the parking to support SOUTH Wirth. Reduce shelter/picnic areas.	145g. Suggestion that Chalet parking may not be enough for LRT users
				146a. Opposition to planned parking in South Wirth
				146b. Opposition to size/amount of picnic shelters and areas
o	01/08/2015	not provided	Provide natural area for the community. Leave it more up to passive usage. Provide funding for on-going maintenance for any new developments, or it will look like it does today in 30 years.	147a. Support for naturalized areas and passive uses
				147b. Supports funding for maintenance
o	01/08/2015	not provided	Park virtually inaccessable to community youth and families during winter month. Fees charged for sliding downhill- don't allow improvements to shut the community out.	148a. Support for free/no-fee sledding and tubing hill
o	01/08/2015	not provided	The plan looks great. Currently the frustration is the condition of the ski trails. It's already mid Jan and there is only a 1km loop to ski on. I live nearby but still have to drive to Hyland to ski a 5km.	149a. Support in general or for plan overall



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				149b. Suggestion to improve condition of and increase amount of snow-making ski trails
o	01/08/2015	not provided	I live on Xerxes Ave N and Glenwood. I oppose the parking lot planned for the picnic area. When the Wirth beach lot is full people park on Glenwood because it is close to volleyball. I would prefer that the parking lot by the dock be maintained rather than add additional parking that will be underutilized. Suggestings on back-- Make the dock/boat launch area a larger parking one. Allow parking on Glenwood. Move proposed lot away from houses.	150a. Opposes parking lot at Glenwood and Xerxes and suggests moving it away from houses
				150b. Suggestion that boat dock parking lot be enlarged and maintained rather than add a new lot at Glenwood and Xerxes.
				150c. Suggestion to allow parking on Glenwood Avenue
o	01/08/2015	not provided	Please add to master plan: something about better management for winter activities. Wirth park need to open up ski trails sooner. Snowboard area and tubing area would be great too. If 3 rivers can do this we should be able to too.	151a. Support for opening ski trails, snowboard and tubing areas earlier in the season like Three Rivers Park District does
o	01/08/2015	not provided	Stop Loppet from managing Wirth Park. Repair picnic tables. Keep SE Wirth bike free. No fat tire loppet in any area of SE Wirth. Better trail building techniques. Plow walking paths in winter around Wirth Lake and across Bass Creek.	152a. Opposes Loppet Foundation managing Wirth Park
				152b. Supports repairing picnic tables
				152c. Opposes bikes and fat tire Loppet in SE Wirth
				152d. Supports better trail building techniques
				152e. Suggestion to plow walking paths in winter around Wirth Lake and across Basset Creek
o	01/08/2015	Niels Kerkhof	I live close to the Xerxes Glenwood intersection. My front yard is the park, I'm one of the few residents with a home right on the park. I drive by Wirth beach at least twice a day. I experience traffic and witness parking daily. My home value and living quality is defined by the serenity of the park. I want to raise a public comment against the deployment of additional parking at Xerxes/Glenwood for the following reasons: Parking congestion needs are not driving by cross country skiers or other parking visitors. They are driving by the Wirth beach house. Especially in the summer there is not enough capacity and cars illegally park down Glenwood. Even though people can legally park on Xerxes or at the boating dock, they don't. They don't because it is the equivalent of several blocks of walking to reach the beach house. Tax dollars should not be spent to put a larger parking in and remove the boat launch parking. Less dollars can be spend to allow parking on Glenwood, and enlarge the current Wirth beach park where parking issues are present and activities take place. I also ask that the current boat launch parking lot is not being removed, and instead the road leading to it is being better maintained. As a resident that will directly be impacted by the new parking lot, I urge the board to reconsider parking needs to ensure the money is spent wisely, the parking in that location will really address the issues, and the overall park's serenity is maintained. Thank you.	153a. Statement that commentor lives close to Glenwood and Xerxes
				153b. Opposes parking lot at Glenwood and Xerxes
				153c. Statement that parking congestion at picnic area not created by skiers but by users of Wirth Beach area
				153d. Suggestion that instead of spending funds on parking lot at Glenwood and Xerxes, spend it on allowing parking on Glenwood
				153e. Suggestion that instead of spending funds on parking lot at Glenwood and Xerxes, spend it on expanding lot at Beach House
				153f. Suggestion to keep boat launch parking lot open and better maintain road leading to it
				153g. Suggestion that the Board reconsider parking needs to ensure money is spent wisely,that parking at Glenwood and Xerxes really address the issues, and that overall park serenity is maintained

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o	01/08/2015	not provided	Bottineau LRT will improve access to Wirth for N Mpls residents, not hinder it as stated in Master Plan draft.	154a. Opposition to statement in plan that LRT will hinder access to Wirth for North Minneapolis residents, belief it will improve it
o	01/08/2015	not provided	JDR agreement- roses at path, move mart in house, less visible	155a. Support for J.D. River's Children's Garden agreement to put roses on the path
				155b. Suggestion to move martin house so it is less visible
o	01/08/2015	not provided	Numbers on North Wirth Plan Recommendation map DO NOT correspond to the numbers of the recommendation text	156a. Numbers on North Wirth Plan Recommendation map do not match those in text
o	01/08/2015	not provided	Do not put buildings on lake shore or blocking lake view. (Central/South Recommendations)	157a. Opposes buildings on lake shore
o	01/08/2015	not provided	Reduce size of shelters (Central/South Recommendations)	158a. Suggestion to reduce size of picnic shelters
o	01/08/2015	not provided	Eliminate parking lot at Xerxes (Central/South Recommendations)	159a. Opposes parking lot at Glenwood and Xerxes
e	12/11/2014	John Fitze	<p>1. Luce Line trail continues from the west side of Wirth eastward to Cedar Lake trail, but state map doesn’t show this section even though there are physical signs on the trail. State map shows that the Luce Line trail ends where it meets the parkway. The state maps online at Luceline.com show the trail only from Vicksberg Ln to the west. Three Rivers Park District, Luce Line Regional Trail online shows the trail to Theo Wirth and to the west. Trail Link describes the trail to the cedar lake trail. #2 The trail from hwy 55 actually ends just north of the stone bridge near the Chalet, where it joins the grand rounds.</p> <p>2. The trail on the east side of Wirth between Hwy 55 and Golden Valley Road is in poor shape, disintegrated asphalt, mud. Labeled as “needs construction” in the draft plan. When might construction happen? A culvert may be needed under the trail at the NE corner of lagoon E where the swamp drains in – its under water. The trees to the NW of the intersection of this trail and Hwy 55 are not doing well. Prefer paved trail because currently a street/trail biker, not a mountain biker.</p> <p>3. The plan calls for a tunnel at Glenwood and the parkway, on the east side of the intersection. Could it be moved to the west side of the intersection, since the bike trail is already there and it is also a dangerous intersection for cyclists, not just skiers? If it remains on the east side, could a bike trail connection be made to it?</p> <p>4. The exterior of the Chalet recently looked like it had salt running down the front of the stone.</p> <p>5. The parkway from Hwy 55 heading north to Memorial Parkway was repaved recently but only in sections. In the areas that weren’t repaved, the old asphalt is in bad shape, with potholes that weren’t patched.</p> <p>6. Are woodchips still available for the public, and if so are they now in a centralized location?</p> <p>7. It seems that the plan doesn’t provide enough parking, especially near the chalet.</p> <p>8. If Bottineau LRT has a stop at Plymouth, will there be parking added? If there is a stop at Golden Valley Road, are there plans to put parking on the triangle of park land to the SW of Golden Valley Road and the parkway?</p> <p>Everything you wrote about my comments look accurate. I appreciate your help in getting my comments into the Plan. Thank You. John</p>	160a. Suggestion to change state bike maps to accurately reflect Luce Line trail
				160b. Suggestion to indicate when trail construction east of Wirth between Hwy 55 and Golden Valley Road will begin
				160c. Suggestion to add a culvert under the trail at the NE corner of Lagoon E where the swamp drains in because it is under water
				160d. Concern that trees to the NW of the intersection of trail and Hwy 55 are not doing well.
				160e. Support for paved bike trails instead of natural surface trails
				160f. Suggests moving or modifying tunnel at Glenwood and parkway to the west to serve both cyclists and skiers and adding trail connection
				160g. Concerned about maintenance of Chalet exterior

Method	Submittal Date	Name	Comment	Comment Summaries Related to Plan (support, opposition, concern, appreciation, suggestion, statement)
				160h. Concern that parkway potholes have not been patched
				160i. Suggestion to clarify if woodchips are still available to the public and where they are located
				160j. Concern plan doesn't provide enough parking, especially near the Chalet
				160k. Suggestion to clarify that if LRT stops are added at Golden Valley Road or Plymouth, will parking will be added
				160l. Appreciation for staff assistance with plan comments



Name Submitted	Comment Number	Submittal Date	Method
Alissa D.Luepke Pier, AIA	24	12/19/2014	survey
Andrew Pavlik	94	11/19/2014	survey
Andrew Pavlik	79	12/03/2014	survey
Art Green	44	12/14/2014	survey
Barb Lutz	6	01/09/2015	survey
Barbara Klaas	70	12/08/2014	survey
Bob Johnson	45	12/14/2014	survey
Brandon Charboneau	134	10/16/2014	survey
Brian Anderson	19	12/22/2014	survey
Brian Milavitz	67	12/09/2014	survey
Carl Lindor	92	11/19/2014	survey
Charles Chenvert	81	12/03/2014	survey
Charlie Wolfe	40	12/14/2014	survey
Cheri Petro	38	12/15/2014	survey
Chuck Larson	131	10/16/2014	survey
Commissioner Liz Wielinski (District 1)	4	01/09/2015	survey
Craig Ringsven	60	12/09/2014	survey
Craig Helmstetter	86	12/03/2014	survey
Craig Stolen	28	12/18/2014	survey
Cynthia Cattell	113	11/07/2014	survey
Dan Engelhart	69	12/08/2014	survey
Dan Steinberg	135	10/16/2014	survey
Dave	84	12/03/2014	survey
David Richfield	11	01/05/2015	survey
Dennis Frett	20	12/22/2014	survey
Diane Bundlie	16	01/02/2015	survey
Dick Seelye	87	12/03/2014	survey
Dolly Petro	3	01/09/2015	survey
Edward Manderville	74	12/05/2014	survey
Elisabeth Hoff	61	12/09/2014	survey
Frank Freedman	112	11/07/2014	survey
Garrett Larson	21	12/19/2014	survey

Name Submitted	Comment Number	Submittal Date	Method
Genevieve Johnson	50	12/13/2014	survey
George Boody and Ann Risch	30	12/16/2014	survey
Gray Moon	90	11/20/2014	survey
James Gorney	46	12/14/2014	survey
Jason Winslow	101	11/13/2014	survey
Javan Larson	15	01/02/2015	survey
Jeanine Kelley & Mike Love	10	01/07/2015	survey
Joe and Sharon Walbran	76	12/05/2014	survey
Joe Walbran	118	11/03/2014	survey
John E. Parker, Coldwell Banker Burnet	8	01/08/2015	survey
John Fitze	160	12/11/2014	email
John Parker, CBBurnet Realty	31	12/16/2014	survey
Jon McLaughlin	108	11/13/2014	survey
Jonathan Burris	56	12/09/2014	survey
Judy Galbraith	12	01/04/2015	survey
K L Anderson	64	12/09/2014	survey
Karen Soderberg	114	11/07/2014	survey
Kevin Thompson	129	10/16/2014	survey
Kirk Ballard	65	12/09/2014	survey
Kurt Taken-Holtze	13	01/04/2015	survey
Kurt Waananen	63	12/09/2014	survey
Leni Erickson	5	01/09/2015	survey
Lisa Genis	98	11/14/2014	survey
Lisa Goodman	57	12/09/2014	survey
Martin Wolfe	37	12/15/2014	survey
Mary Keithahn	75	12/05/2014	survey
Mary McKelvey	9	01/08/2015	survey
Mary Schneider	68	12/09/2014	survey
Matt Moore	1	01/09/2015	survey
Matt Pekuri	111	11/13/2014	survey
Michael Hinton	58	12/09/2014	survey

Name Submitted	Comment Number	Submittal Date	Method
Michelle Coady	62	12/09/2014	survey
Nate	102	11/13/2014	survey
Niels Kerkhof	153	01/08/2015	open house
not provided	2	01/09/2015	survey
not provided	22	12/19/2014	survey
not provided	25	12/19/2014	survey
not provided	26	12/19/2014	survey
not provided	29	12/18/2014	survey
not provided	32	12/15/2014	survey
not provided	33	12/15/2014	survey
not provided	39	12/15/2014	survey
not provided	41	12/14/2014	survey
not provided	43	12/14/2014	survey
not provided	55	12/11/2014	survey
not provided	71	12/08/2014	survey
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not provided	78	12/04/2014	survey
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not provided	83	12/03/2014	survey
not provided	99	11/14/2014	survey
not provided	103	11/13/2014	survey
not provided	107	11/13/2014	survey
not provided	122	10/21/2014	survey
not provided	123	10/20/2014	survey
not provided	125	10/19/2014	survey
not provided	126	10/18/2014	survey
not provided	127	10/17/2014	survey
not provided	128	10/16/2014	survey
not provided	130	10/16/2014	survey
not provided	132	10/16/2014	survey
not provided	137	01/08/2015	open house
not provided	138	01/08/2015	open house

Name	Comment Number	Submittal Date	Method
not provided	139	01/08/2015	open house
not provided	140	01/08/2015	open house
not provided	141	01/08/2015	open house
not provided	142	01/08/2015	open house
not provided	143	01/08/2015	open house
not provided	144	01/08/2015	open house
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not provided	156	01/08/2015	open house
not provided	157	01/08/2015	open house
not provided	158	01/08/2015	open house
not provided	159	01/08/2015	open house
Patrick Johnson	51	12/13/2014	survey
Paul Cassleman	97	11/16/2014	survey
Paul Thorsgaard	100	11/13/2014	survey
Paul V. Kieffer	49	12/14/2014	survey
Philip Spoehr	136	10/15/2014	survey
Porter Million	93	11/19/2014	survey
Richard Adair	52	12/13/2014	survey
Rick	117	11/03/2014	survey
Rick Cousins	89	11/30/2014	survey
Rick S.	73	12/05/2014	survey
Rick Sandretto	47	12/14/2014	survey

Name	Comment Number	Submittal Date	Method
Robert Dwyer	120	10/29/2014	survey
Robert Dwyer	119	11/03/2014	survey
Robert Dwyer	115	11/06/2014	survey
Robert Dwyer	77	12/05/2014	survey
Robert Dwyer	35	12/15/2014	survey
Robert Dwyer	14	01/03/2015	survey
Robert Williams	85	12/03/2014	survey
Ronald Hunter	48	12/14/2014	survey
Scott Wissink	27	12/18/2014	survey
Sharon Walbran	116	11/03/2014	survey
Shawne FitzGerald	34	12/15/2014	survey
Sheree Bochenek	124	10/20/2014	survey
Stephen Bullard	23	12/19/2014	survey
Stephen Goltry	36	12/15/2014	survey
Stephen Olson	121	10/23/2014	survey
Steve Eberly	66	12/09/2014	survey
Steve Stobbs	104	11/13/2014	survey
Steven P. Kenny	95	11/19/2014	survey
T. Grant	53	12/12/2014	survey
Taylor Fay	18	12/29/2014	survey
Ted Cochran	133	10/16/2014	survey
Terence Montry	17	01/02/2015	survey
The Shorter Family	88	12/03/2014	survey
Thomas Anderson	7	01/08/2015	survey
Tim Kufahl	105	11/13/2014	survey
Todd Hunter	91	11/19/2014	survey
Tom Anderson	42	12/14/2014	survey
Tom Hiillstrom	109	11/13/2014	survey
Virginia Rootes	54	12/11/2014	survey
William Hoeg	106	11/13/2014	survey
William O'Reilly	110	11/13/2014	survey



**Minneapolis**  
*City of Lakes*

**Community Planning &  
Economic Development**

105 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South – Suite 200  
Minneapolis MN 55401-2534

Office 612-673-5095  
Fax 612-673-5100  
TTY 612-673-5154

January 8, 2015

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
2117 West River Road North  
Minneapolis, MN 55411  
attn: Colleen O'Dell, Strategic Planning

RE: Theodore Wirth Regional Park Plan Master Plan

Dear Ms. O'Dell:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Theodore Wirth Regional Park Master Plan. I am commenting on behalf of the City of Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development Department – Long Range Planning Division.

- The master plan maps (pages 1-5, 7-3, 7-5, 7-11, 7-14, 7-15, and 7-16) are difficult to read and would benefit from the addition of street names.
- It would be helpful if the map on page 1-8 had all of the major features listed on it that are mentioned in the plan, so people could know where those features are located. An example is that the Bassett Creek Bridge is mentioned in the recommendations, but it is difficult to find where it is located in the park on any of the maps.
- The plan has very little mention of the proposed Bottineau (Blue Line extension) LRT and station area planning (and the Wirth Park Forum) other than a comment on pages 7-12 and 7-13 referencing park connections. We agree that the issue of connecting the park to north Minneapolis is an important issue and would recommend that the plan provide more guidance on these issues to help inform the station area planning. If we want to be able to have pedestrian connections or even pedestrian bridges it would be helpful if the plan would provide guidance to inform those decisions as they relate to the LRT line and stations.

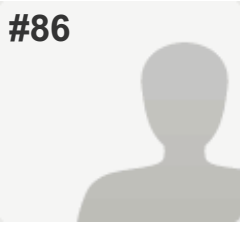
Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jim Voll, AICP, LEED-AP  
Principal City Planner  
City of Minneapolis  
Community Planning and Economic Development  
Long Range Planning Division  
(612) 673-3887  
[james.voll@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:james.voll@minneapolismn.gov)



#86



**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)

**Started:** Thursday, December 11, 2014 1:25:17 PM

**Last Modified:** Thursday, December 11, 2014 2:08:39 PM

**Time Spent:** 00:43:22

**IP Address:** 156.142.6.35

**PAGE 1**

**Q1: Please insert the information you would like to share in the box below.**

The City would appreciate if the MPRB continues to inform and coordinate all planning and construction activities and projects with the City of Golden Valley and its staff.

MPRB must also coordinate with the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission on all projects and activities requiring review by the Commission. All projects must be designed and constructed in accordance with the policies of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Plan.

City staff is curious about the plans for the off-leash dog park area adjacent to the Animal Humane Society in Golden Valley. We request that we be notified of any plans as they move forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**Q2: Please include your contact information if you would like to receive future emails or mailings on this project.**

Name:	golden valley engineering
Address:	7800 golden valley road
City/Town:	golden valley
State:	MN
ZIP:	55427
Email Address:	eeckman@goldenvalleymn.gov



December 15, 2014

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
attn: Colleen O'Dell  
2117 West River Road North  
Minneapolis, MN 55411

RE: Public Comments – Theodore Wirth Park Draft Master Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on the Theodore Wirth Park (TWP) Draft Master Plan. Staff would like to acknowledge and thank the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) for considering and incorporating our comments submitted during the draft review process. We have prepared the following high level comments:

The Bottineau/Metro Blue Line Extension Light Rail Project is now steadily moving towards becoming a long term asset to the region, and more specifically in this case, to Wirth Park. With the park Master Plan still in draft review, we would like to suggest including references to how the park might best utilize the LRT station designs to maximize general park accessibility and greatly improve non-motorized access to the park.

Although the plan briefly mentions connectivity to the surrounding community, it could go farther to address the issue, perhaps by identifying potential improvements outside the park that would improve access and connectivity.

There is a mention in the plan of the need for expanded vehicle parking. Much like the 46<sup>th</sup> Street and 50<sup>th</sup> Street Stations on the existing Metro Blue Line LRT, the planned Plymouth Avenue and Golden Valley Road LRT Stations will offer both high quality connections to the park and the potential to minimize the need to use park land for additional parking space. We suggest that this option should be noted in the draft plan.

The plan should also consider the parkway and its trail connections in the Golden Valley Road LRT station area. Integration of the TWP plan elements with the Three Rivers Park District Bassett Creek trail will develop better north-south trail connectivity with the Mary Hills Nature Area, Rice Lake Natural Area and Sochacki Park, and improve the concept for a northern gateway to TWP. Similarly, the potential for intersection improvements along Golden Valley Road (including a roundabout concept) and the potential nexus of multiple trails and trailhead amenities in the LRT station area at Golden

Valley Road are important considerations with potential implications on TWP Master Plan recommendations.

We appreciate seeing the plan references to obesity, active living and “nature deficit disorder.” The park’s unique and high-quality resources offer great opportunities for nature-based physical activity. This project has the possibility to greatly expand access to the numerous activities TWP has to offer. These not only offer health benefits, but also enrich the quality of life in our region.

We hope the MPRB will continue to participate in the planning efforts for the Metro Blue Line Extension LRT project and associated station area planning. The Metro Blue Line Extension project may need to mitigate some impacts which could potentially be done in a way which would also achieve some of the goals identified in the Master Plan. By working together we are more likely to achieve our common goals. Let’s continue to collaborate in a positive way to maximize the benefits achieved by these projects.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Jaeger", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Jaeger  
Manager, Environmental Policy



**From:** [Youngquist, Jan](#)  
**To:** [O'Dell, Colleen](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Theodore Wirth Regional Park Master Plan Draft Comment Period Extended Through January 9, 2015.  
Public Open House Scheduled for January 8.  
**Date:** Saturday, January 10, 2015 2:26:47 PM

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Hi Colleen-

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed your vacation and got some time to relax--much deserved (and needed, I'm sure).

Thanks for sending us the draft master plan. Please note that this does not constitute official review of the plan; Council staff conducted a courtesy review to identify potential issues that should be addressed before you bring the plan to your Board, most notably, any impacts to the Council's four systems (transportation, aviation, wastewater, and regional parks). A more detailed review will be conducted once the master plan is officially sent to the Metropolitan Council.

With regard to the Council's systems, the Park Boundary and Acquisition Possibilities section of the master plan (page 8-2 and 8-3) presents a potential impact on the regional transportation system, specifically the Bottineau LRT (BLRT) project. Four inholdings identified in the master plan are parcels that are planned for the BLRT corridor. Please remove the inholdings identified as 1c, 1f, 2b and 2c from the master plan. If these parcels become available for uses other than freight or transit in the future, a master plan amendment could be considered by the Council. Please add the estimated acquisition costs for the remaining inholdings.

Page 4-6: Please note that the 2008 Metropolitan Council Regional Parks and Trail Survey was designed to gather information to be representative at a regional and implementing agency scale. The sample size was not large enough to draw conclusions for an individual regional park. The information specific to Theodore Wirth Regional Park shown on this page reflect the individuals surveyed, but are not representative of the total park visitor demographics.

Page 7-8: The description for Wirth Beach states that "Aside from a small, 30-person non-reservable space, the major capital investments contemplated by the master plan at Wirth Beach are complete." The master plan should provide more detail regarding what a "30-person non-reservable space" entails and its general location in the park.

Page 9-7 and 9-8: Figure 124 includes the estimated development costs for the master plan, and additional information is provided regarding priority phasing by funding source. Please provide a table that depicts the phasing lists by priority, funding source, and estimated costs.

Page 9-8: Please include the existing operations and maintenance costs for the regional park (not including the golf course) as well as the estimated increase in O&M costs associated with the proposed development.

Page 10-3: This page references a website project page where the public comments can be viewed. Please include a hyperlink or a web address for these comments.

Please note that the master plan must be presented to affected local units of government (City of Minneapolis and Golden Valley) for comment, and the master plan must address their concerns prior to submitting the plan to the Council.

Thanks again for the opportunity to see the draft master plan. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you need more information.

Thanks-  
Jan

Jan Youngquist, AICP

Manager | Regional Parks and Natural Resources

651-602-1029

**From:** [Haworth, Brooke \(DNR\)](#)  
**To:** [O'Dell, Colleen](#)  
**Subject:** Theodore Wirth Draft Regional Plan - DNR comments  
**Date:** Friday, January 09, 2015 9:56:44 AM  
**Attachments:** [Blanding's Turtle factsheet.pdf](#)  
[wildlife-friendly-erosion-control.pdf](#)  
[turtles\\_and\\_roadways.pdf](#)

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Ms. O'Dell,

The Minnesota DNR has reviewed the Theodore Wirth Regional Park Draft Master Plan, specifically Chapters VI – VIII. We find that these chapters deal comprehensively with the landscape context and land use history that have influenced the plant communities and waters of park lands. They also appropriately address vegetation and water management issues and strategies.

However, there are two areas that could use more attention in this document, and we offer the following comments for your consideration.

- 1) The management of invasive species is referenced throughout the document as a challenge of this urban park. The construction of additional foot and bike trails through park lands will create new corridors vulnerable to the spread of invasive species, and increased traffic will accelerate spread and introduction to new areas. Please consider these recommendations during the design and construction phases:
  - The value of canopy tree retention was referenced in the document. This will be especially important along new wooded trail corridors. Canopy openings created along trails allow more light to reach exposed soils, encouraging the proliferation of invasives already present.
  - Strict attention to construction BMPs (such as rapid soil stabilization and re-seeding, equipment cleaning, and winter seasonal work) will be very important during construction.
  - BWSR-approved native seed mixes should be used, with seeding to take place as soon as possible following project completion, in all appropriate trail margins.
  - We encourage you to improve public awareness regarding human transport of weed seed by providing informational signage and cleaning stations at all trail heads.
- 2) The Plan does not address wildlife and nongame species as a specific management concern. We have the following recommendations regarding wildlife:
  - Bike traffic is a frequent cause of mortality to small nongame species. We encourage you to improve public awareness of the potential for wildlife encounters with cautionary signage at all trail heads.
  - The Blanding's turtle is listed among the rare species within or near the Park. We encourage you to make all contractors working on trails aware of the potential to encounter this state-threatened species. If turtles are encountered during construction, they should be moved by hand out of harm's way. Please see the attached factsheet that should be distributed to contractors.
  - We request the use of wildlife friendly erosion control materials (natural materials, non-

plastic, non-welded) on all Park projects. Traditional erosion control mesh is known to cause injury and may be fatal to wildlife, particularly reptiles and amphibians. In addition, mowing over plastic mesh causes fragmentation that can enter waters and wetlands, entangling aquatic species.

- If water or wetland drawdowns are considered as management practices for aquatic invasive species, we request that you contact regional DNR nongame staff for seasonal timing recommendations. Traditional practices suggest drawdowns in the winter to kill invasive plants and consolidate sediments. However, this practice has very high collateral damage throughout the aquatic community, and therefore is not recommended in natural park areas.
- In the design of new parking and road areas, please consider surmountable curbs and horizontal storm sewers that help herpetofauna negotiate roadways. Please see attached factsheet. If you would like more information on wildlife friendly designs, please contact area DNR nongame staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document. Please contact me if you have any questions.

*Brooke Haworth*

Environmental Assessment Ecologist, Central Region

MnDNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources

1200 Warner Road, St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-259-5755

Email: [Brooke.haworth@state.mn.us](mailto:Brooke.haworth@state.mn.us)



## Wildlife-friendly Erosion Control

Wildlife entanglement in, and death from, plastic netting and other man-made plastic materials has been documented in birds (Johnson, 1990; Fuller-Perrine and Tobin, 1993), fish (Johnson, 1990), mammals (Derraik, 2002), and reptiles (Barton and Kinkead, 2005; Kapfer and Paloski, 2011). Unfortunately, the use of these materials for erosion control continues in many cases, often without consideration for wildlife impact. This plastic netting is frequently used for erosion control during construction and landscape projects and can negatively impact terrestrial and aquatic wildlife populations as well as snag in maintenance machinery, resulting in costly repairs and delays. However, erosion-control materials that are wildlife friendly do exist and are sold by several large companies. Below are a few key considerations before starting a project.

### Know Your Options

- Remember to consult with local natural resource agencies (DNR, USFWS, etc.) before starting a project. They can help you identify sensitive areas and rare species.
- When erosion control is necessary, select products with biodegradable netting (natural fiber, biodegradable polyesters, etc.).
- DO NOT use products that require UV-light to biodegrade (also called “photodegradable”) as they do not biodegrade properly when shaded by vegetation.
- Use netting with rectangular-shaped mesh (not square mesh).
- Use netting with flexible (non-welded) mesh.



Woven 100% natural fiber erosion-control materials being utilized along a central Minnesota stream. ©MN DNR, Nick Proulx

### Know the Landscape

- It is especially important to use wildlife-friendly erosion control around:
  - Areas with threatened or endangered species.
  - Wetlands, rivers, lakes, and other watercourses.
  - Habitat-transition zones (prairie – woodland edges, rocky outcrop – woodland edges, steep rocky slopes, etc.).
- Use erosion mesh wisely; not all areas with disturbed ground necessitate its use. Do not use plastic mesh unless it is specifically required. Other erosion-control options exist (open weave textile (OWT), rolled erosion control products (RECPs) with woven, natural fiber netting).



Fish trapped and killed by welded-plastic square erosion-control mesh improperly placed along a small central Minnesota stream. Photo courtesy of Ben Lowe.

## Protect Wildlife

- Avoid photodegradable erosion-control materials where possible.
- Use only biodegradable materials (typically made from natural fibers), preferably those that will biodegrade under a variety of conditions.
- The cost of erosion-control material that is wildlife friendly is often comparable to conventional plastic netting.



Plains Gartersnake trapped and killed by welded-plastic square erosion-control mesh placed along a newly installed cement culvert in southern Minnesota. ©MN DNR, Carol Hall

## Literature Referenced

Barton, C. and K. Kinkead. 2005. Do erosion control and snakes mesh? Soil and Water Conservation Society 60:33A-35A.

Derraik, J.G.B. 2002. The pollution of the marine environment by plastic debris: a review. Marine Pollution Bulletin 44:842-852.

Fuller-Perrine, L.D., and M.E. Tobin. 1993. A method for applying and removing bird-exclusion netting in commercial vineyards. Wildlife Society Bulletin 21:47-51.

Johnson, S.W. 1990. Distribution, abundance, and source of entanglement debris and other plastics on Alaskan beaches, 1982-1988. Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Marine Debris 331-348.

Kapfer, J.M., and R.A. Paloski. 2011. On the threat to snakes of mesh deployed for erosion control and wildlife exclusion. Herpetological Conservation and Biology 6:1-9.



A small vole that was strangled and killed by plastic erosion-control material with welded and square mesh. Photo taken in southern Minnesota and provided courtesy of Tom Jessen.







# Roadways and Turtles

## Solutions for Safety



©Peter Leete

This year conservation groups around the country are partnering to raise awareness of the plight of turtles. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has joined in this effort. There are many threats to turtles; roads are just one of the obstacles that they encounter.

This flyer offers some practical ideas on how road authorities can minimize the negative impacts of roads on turtles and other wildlife. They are recommendations and a call to action; not requirements. Minnesota's "Toward Zero Deaths" effort has made tremendous progress in saving human lives. The science of Road Ecology challenges us further to provide safe passage for wildlife and reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.

The following suggestions will also help safeguard water quality, increase road safety, and may also save you time and money. Incorporating just one recommendation into your road program may be enough to improve turtle conservation in your area. It is possible to balance habitat and transportation safety issues through cooperation, collaboration and coordination.

### Roadside Maintenance

- Gravel shoulders and inslopes near lakes and wetlands are favorable nesting sites for some turtle species. Whenever possible, avoid or minimize grading road shoulders near lakes and wetlands from mid-May to August; this will increase the chance of a successful hatch.





- Turtles which are in imminent danger should be moved, by hand, out of harm's way. Turtles which are not in imminent danger should be left undisturbed.
- Spot mow or spot spray invasive species rather than broadcast spray pesticides on roadsides.
- Roadside mowing should be done as infrequently as possible.
- Brush removal should occur in the fall through early spring.
- Temporary turtle crossing signs can be installed to increase public awareness, reduce road kills, and increase road safety.
- Systematic record keeping of turtle mortality on Minnesota roads does not exist. You can help by identifying where turtles are found (dead or alive). Contact your DNR Nongame Wildlife Specialist for technical assistance. <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/index.html>

## Road Design

- New road alignments should avoid bisecting wetlands. When they do, crossings should be bridged.
- On existing roads, where there are turtle hot spots, fencing should be considered to prevent turtles from attempting to cross them. Fencing should lead

turtles to a nearby culvert or bridge. This is more important on roads with higher average daily traffic, than on low volume roads.

- Maintenance people are often knowledgeable about the likelihood of wildlife on roads; involve them in planning reconstruction projects or new road projects.
- Traditional curb and gutter should be avoided (see Curb and Gutter section).
- Roads should be kept to minimum standards on widths and lanes (this reduces road kills by slowing traffic and reducing the distance turtles need to cross).



**Turtles, snakes, ducklings and other wildlife can get tangled in welded plastic mesh. Use woven or unwelded mesh instead.**

**A likely turtle hot spot is where a road bisects a wetland or waterway.**



**Level passage benches make bridge inspection easier and benefit wildlife.**



## Construction

- Silt fencing should be set up to keep turtles out of construction areas during the nesting season. This is often required in areas of known threatened or endangered species in order to prevent nesting within the work area. This fencing should be removed when the area is no longer undergoing active construction.
- Avoid using erosion control products that are made with welded plastic mesh or webbing. Turtles, and other wildlife, can become entangled in the mesh. Products with woven or unwelded material allow flexibility of the openings and can be utilized.
- Use biodegradable material in all components of erosion control blanket and biologs (fiber rolls) that are to be left on site as part of final stabilization.

## Passage Structures

- In Minnesota, turtles use rivers and streams as travel corridors as well as for core habitat. Most, if not all turtles can pass under bridges while in the water, however there are typical designs that can aid other species movement along our waterways. Incorporating a passage bench into riprap design is a cost effective solution. See Chap. 1 pg. 16 at the link: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt\\_section/pwpermits/gp\\_2004\\_0001\\_manual.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/pwpermits/gp_2004_0001_manual.html)
- Existing structures may only need small modifications such as filling in riprap with gravel so turtles and other wildlife can pass safely.

- Exclusion fencing to prevent turtles from reaching the roadway may be the best option in areas where turtles have been known to cause traffic problems.
- Culverts between wetland areas, or between wetlands and nesting areas, should be sized accordingly, with a minimum diameter of 36 inches for dry culverts and bankfull width in diameter for culverts on perennially flowing waters. A flat-bottomed or arched culvert with the shortest possible length is preferred.

## Fencing

- For permanent fencing, standard Mn/DOT right-of-way chain-link fencing installed tight to the ground is adequate to guide turtles toward underpasses.
- It is critical that the fence endposts fit tightly to abutments or railings.
- The fences are most successful if they do not deflect turtle movements by more than 60 degrees.
- Methods to allow animals off the roadway also need to be incorporated into wildlife exclusion methods.
- For seasonal or temporary situations, standard erosion control is adequate.





## Curb and Gutter

- Areas near lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands (typical turtle habitat) should have rural shoulders and vegetated swale road ditches, not typical curb and gutter stormwater systems. If a curb and gutter stormwater system must be installed, curbs that turtles can traverse should be used (Type D or Type S curb).
- Traditional curb and gutter can inadvertently trap turtles within the road and also directs small mammals and reptiles into the storm sewer, often with fatal results.
- Where traditional curb and gutter is to be installed, a design without the side box inlet gives the animals a better chance of moving past the storm sewer as they search for an exit route.
- If a type D or S type curb is not desired, install a few feet of it on either side of the storm water drain to allow animals to exit prior to the storm sewer drop structure.

- Stormwater ponds that discharge to natural areas should not have outlets that block turtle movement.

## For More Information

This information is from the *Best Practices for Meeting DNR General Public Water Permit* by Peter Leete, Transportation Hydrologist with the DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources. The complete manual with additional information can be found at: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt\\_section/pwpermits/gp\\_2004\\_0001\\_manual.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/pwpermits/gp_2004_0001_manual.html)

And from The *DNR Environmental Review Fact Sheet* Series: Blanding's Turtle: [http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural\\_resources/animals/reptiles\\_amphibians/turtles/blandings\\_turtle/factsheet.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/animals/reptiles_amphibians/turtles/blandings_turtle/factsheet.pdf)

For additional information on Minnesota's turtles, see the poster *Protect Our Turtles*.



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# CAUTION



## BLANDING'S TURTLES MAY BE ENCOUNTERED IN THIS AREA

The unique and rare Blanding's turtle has been found in this area. Blanding's turtles are state-listed as Threatened and are protected under Minnesota Statute 84.095, Protection of Threatened and Endangered Species. Please be careful of turtles on roads and in construction sites. For additional information on turtles, or to report a Blanding's turtle sighting, contact the DNR Nongame Specialist nearest you: Bemidji (218-308-2641); Grand Rapids (218-327-4518); New Ulm (507-359-6033); Rochester (507-280-5070); or St. Paul (651-259-5764).

**DESCRIPTION:** The Blanding's turtle is a medium to large turtle (5 to 10 inches) with a black or dark blue, dome-shaped shell with muted yellow spots and bars. The bottom of the shell is hinged across the front third, enabling the turtle to pull the front edge of the lower shell firmly against the top shell to provide additional protection when threatened. The head, legs, and tail are dark brown or blue-gray with small dots of light brown or yellow. A distinctive field mark is the bright yellow chin and neck.

**BLANDING'S TURTLES DO NOT MAKE GOOD PETS  
IT IS ILLEGAL TO KEEP THIS THREATENED SPECIES IN CAPTIVITY**

**Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species of Minnesota**

**Blanding's Turtle**  
**(*Emydoidea blandingii*)**

Minnesota Status: Threatened  
Federal Status: none

State Rank<sup>1</sup>: S2  
Global Rank<sup>1</sup>: G4

---

**HABITAT USE**

Blanding's turtles need both wetland and upland habitats to complete their life cycle. The types of wetlands used include ponds, marshes, shrub swamps, bogs, and ditches and streams with slow-moving water. In Minnesota, Blanding's turtles are primarily marsh and pond inhabitants. Calm, shallow water bodies (Type 1-3 wetlands) with mud bottoms and abundant aquatic vegetation (e.g., cattails, water lilies) are preferred, and extensive marshes bordering rivers provide excellent habitat. Small temporary wetlands (those that dry up in the late summer or fall) are frequently used in spring and summer -- these fishless pools are amphibian and invertebrate breeding habitat, which provides an important food source for Blanding's turtles. Also, the warmer water of these shallower areas probably aids in the development of eggs within the female turtle. Nesting occurs in open (grassy or brushy) sandy uplands, often some distance from water bodies. Frequently, nesting occurs in traditional nesting grounds on undeveloped land. Blanding's turtles have also been known to nest successfully on residential property (especially in low density housing situations), and to utilize disturbed areas such as farm fields, gardens, under power lines, and road shoulders (especially of dirt roads). Although Blanding's turtles may travel through woodlots during their seasonal movements, shady areas (including forests and lawns with shade trees) are not used for nesting. Wetlands with deeper water are needed in times of drought, and during the winter. Blanding's turtles overwinter in the muddy bottoms of deeper marshes and ponds, or other water bodies where they are protected from freezing.

**LIFE HISTORY**

Individuals emerge from overwintering and begin basking in late March or early April on warm, sunny days. The increase in body temperature which occurs during basking is necessary for egg development within the female turtle. Nesting in Minnesota typically occurs during June, and females are most active in late afternoon and at dusk. Nesting can occur as much as a mile from wetlands. The nest is dug by the female in an open sandy area and 6-15 eggs are laid. The female turtle returns to the marsh within 24 hours of laying eggs. After a development period of approximately two months, hatchlings leave the nest from mid-August through early-October. Nesting females and hatchlings are often at risk of being killed while crossing roads between wetlands and nesting areas. In addition to movements associated with nesting, all ages and both sexes move between wetlands from April through November. These movements peak in June and July and again in September and October as turtles move to and from overwintering sites. In late autumn (typically November), Blanding's turtles bury themselves in the substrate (the mud at the bottom) of deeper wetlands to overwinter.

**IMPACTS / THREATS / CAUSES OF DECLINE**

- loss of wetland habitat through drainage or flooding (converting wetlands into ponds or lakes)
- loss of upland habitat through development or conversion to agriculture
- human disturbance, including collection for the pet trade\* and road kills during seasonal movements
- increase in predator populations (skunks, raccoons, etc.) which prey on nests and young

\*It is illegal to possess this threatened species.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AVOIDING AND MINIMIZING IMPACTS

These recommendations apply to typical construction projects and general land use within Blanding's turtle habitat, and are provided to help local governments, developers, contractors, and homeowners minimize or avoid detrimental impacts to Blanding's turtle populations. **List 1** describes minimum measures which we recommend to prevent harm to Blanding's turtles during construction or other work within Blanding's turtle habitat. **List 2** contains recommendations which offer even greater protection for Blanding's turtles populations; this list should be used *in addition to the first list* in areas which are known to be of state-wide importance to Blanding's turtles (contact the DNR's Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program if you wish to determine if your project or home is in one of these areas), or in any other area where greater protection for Blanding's turtles is desired.

List 1. Recommendations for all areas inhabited by Blanding's turtles.	List 2. Additional recommendations for areas known to be of state-wide importance to Blanding's turtles.
GENERAL	
A flyer with an illustration of a Blanding's turtle should be given to all contractors working in the area. Homeowners should also be informed of the presence of Blanding's turtles in the area.	Turtle crossing signs can be installed adjacent to road-crossing areas used by Blanding's turtles to increase public awareness and reduce road kills.
Turtles which are in imminent danger should be moved, by hand, out of harms way. Turtles which are not in imminent danger should be left undisturbed.	Workers in the area should be aware that Blanding's turtles nest in June, generally after 4pm, and should be advised to minimize disturbance if turtles are seen.
If a Blanding's turtle nests in your yard, do not disturb the nest.	If you would like to provide more protection for a Blanding's turtle nest on your property, see "Protecting Blanding's Turtle Nests" on page 3 of this fact sheet.
Silt fencing should be set up to keep turtles out of construction areas. It is <u>critical</u> that silt fencing be removed after the area has been revegetated.	Construction in potential nesting areas should be limited to the period between September 15 and June 1 (this is the time when activity of adults and hatchlings in upland areas is at a minimum).
WETLANDS	
Small, vegetated temporary wetlands (Types 2 & 3) should not be dredged, deepened, filled, or converted to storm water retention basins (these wetlands provide important habitat during spring and summer).	Shallow portions of wetlands should not be disturbed during prime basking time (mid morning to mid- afternoon in May and June). A wide buffer should be left along the shore to minimize human activity near wetlands (basking Blanding's turtles are more easily disturbed than other turtle species).
Wetlands should be protected from pollution; use of fertilizers and pesticides should be avoided, and run-off from lawns and streets should be controlled. Erosion should be prevented to keep sediment from reaching wetlands and lakes.	Wetlands should be protected from road, lawn, and other chemical run-off by a vegetated buffer strip at least 50' wide. This area should be left unmowed and in a natural condition.
ROADS	
Roads should be kept to minimum standards on widths and lanes (this reduces road kills by slowing traffic and reducing the distance turtles need to cross).	Tunnels should be considered in areas with concentrations of turtle crossings (more than 10 turtles per year per 100 meters of road), and in areas of lower density if the level of road use would make a safe crossing impossible for turtles. Contact your DNR Regional Nongame Specialist for further information on wildlife tunnels.
Roads should be ditched, not curbed or below grade. If curbs must be used, 4 inch high curbs at a 3:1 slope are preferred (Blanding's turtles have great difficulty climbing traditional curbs; curbs and below grade roads trap turtles on the road and can cause road kills).	Roads should be ditched, not curbed or below grade.



ROADS cont.	
Culverts between wetland areas, or between wetland areas and nesting areas, should be 36 inches or greater in diameter, and elliptical or flat-bottomed.	Road placement should avoid separating wetlands from adjacent upland nesting sites, or these roads should be fenced to prevent turtles from attempting to cross them (contact your DNR Nongame Specialist for details).
Wetland crossings should be bridged, or include raised roadways with culverts which are 36 in or greater in diameter and flat-bottomed or elliptical (raised roadways discourage turtles from leaving the wetland to bask on roads).	Road placement should avoid bisecting wetlands, or these roads should be fenced to prevent turtles from attempting to cross them (contact your DNR Nongame Specialist for details). This is especially important for roads with more than 2 lanes.
Culverts under roads crossing streams should be oversized (at least twice as wide as the normal width of open water) and flat-bottomed or elliptical.	Roads crossing streams should be bridged.
UTILITIES	
Utility access and maintenance roads should be kept to a minimum (this reduces road-kill potential).	
Because trenches can trap turtles, trenches should be checked for turtles prior to being backfilled and the sites should be returned to original grade.	
LANDSCAPING AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	
Terrain should be left with as much natural contour as possible.	As much natural landscape as possible should be preserved (installation of sod or wood chips, paving, and planting of trees within nesting habitat can make that habitat unusable to nesting Blanding's turtles).
Graded areas should be revegetated with native grasses and forbs (some non-natives form dense patches through which it is difficult for turtles to travel).	Open space should include some areas at higher elevations for nesting. These areas should be retained in native vegetation, and should be connected to wetlands by a wide corridor of native vegetation.
Vegetation management in infrequently mowed areas -- such as in ditches, along utility access roads, and under power lines -- should be done mechanically (chemicals should not be used). Work should occur fall through spring (after October 1 <sup>st</sup> and before June 1 <sup>st</sup> ).	Ditches and utility access roads should not be mowed or managed through use of chemicals. If vegetation management is required, it should be done mechanically, as infrequently as possible, and fall through spring (mowing can kill turtles present during mowing, and makes it easier for predators to locate turtles crossing roads).

**Protecting Blanding's Turtle Nests:** Most predation on turtle nests occurs within 48 hours after the eggs are laid. After this time, the scent is gone from the nest and it is more difficult for predators to locate the nest. Nests more than a week old probably do not need additional protection, unless they are in a particularly vulnerable spot, such as a yard where pets may disturb the nest. Turtle nests can be protected from predators and other disturbance by covering them with a piece of wire fencing (such as chicken wire), secured to the ground with stakes or rocks. The piece of fencing should measure at least 2 ft. x 2 ft., and should be of medium sized mesh (openings should be about 2 in. x 2 in.). It is **very important** that the fencing be **removed before August 1<sup>st</sup>** so the young turtles can escape from the nest when they hatch!

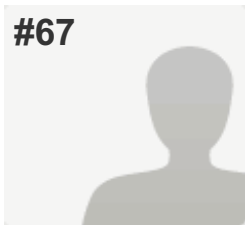
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#67



**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)

**Started:** Monday, December 08, 2014 6:48:28 AM

**Last Modified:** Monday, December 08, 2014 6:51:35 AM

**Time Spent:** 00:03:06

**IP Address:** 156.98.4.11

PAGE 1

**Q1: Please insert the information you would like to share in the box below.**

After reviewing the report, there are no potential impacts identified on state highway routes on TH 55 and I-394.

**Q2: Please include your contact information if you would like to receive future emails or mailings on this project.**

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