

## G.2 Park Staff Advisory Committee

A Staff Advisory Committee recommends procedures, interprets Board policy, facilitates communications between the Board and other committees, and provides professional recommendations.

## G.3 Technical Advisory Committee

This committee is made up of staff drawn from other public agencies which are affected by or involved in the proposed project. It is intended to provide professional recommendations and facilitate interagency communication.

## G.4 Citizens' Advisory Committees

These may take the form of a:

### Citywide Comprehensive Committee

Such a committee will be involved with the preparation of a comprehensive plan or guideline for major elements of the Park System. Its makeup should represent citywide interests, and it should maintain a broad, historical perspective in interpreting the relationship between a comprehensive plan and its implementation in specific instances.

### Regional, Citywide, Parkway, or Neighborhood Advisory Committee

Such a committee is designed to represent specific or local concerns related to specific facility improvement and to identify specific needs relating to usage.

## G.5 Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners

The Commissioners set priorities for facility improvement, receive and approve plans, conduct hearings, and make final decisions in case of disputes.

## **Fl. Policy on Parkway Development and Roadway Management**

The parkway system is intended to:

## (VII. BOARD SYSTEM/MASTER PLANNING POLICIES - continued)

1. Provide access to park lands,
2. Act as a citywide linear greenspace and trail system, and
3. Provide a **continuous** system of pleasant biking and driving routes.

## DISCUSSION

1. In the redevelopment and management of parkway roads, five principles shall be followed:
  - a. The roads should cause minimum disturbance to the primary use potential of the land while considering service and security access.
  - b. The roads should support appropriate use of the land.
  - c. Crossing of major activity areas or conservation areas by parkway roads should be minimized.
  - d. In moderately active areas, roads should be located to minimize damage to the environment and maximize land use potential.
  - e. Duplicate roads shall be eliminated.
2. The parkways shall be designed and maintained with the following guidelines:
  - a. Roadways shall have a distinctive character, possibly including a distinctive color and curbing.
  - b. Roads shall have a minimum width necessary to accommodate one moving lane of traffic for one-way roads and one moving lane of traffic in each direction for two-way roads. Lane widths shall be no greater than required for safety, and narrow lane widths shall be preferred as a traffic-calming measure. Road width and design may accommodate faster bicyclists within the main flow of traffic and/or on visually separated bicycle lanes.
  - c. Where resident parking is necessary, it should be provided in the safest possible manner.

- d. When possible, separate pedestrian and bike paths shall be provided.
  - e. The most active use, which is typically the parkway road, shall be located the farthest away from the ~~natural amenity (stream, lake, river)~~.
  - f. As much as possible, plantings, signage, furniture, and lighting shall be designed as an integral part of each project.
  - g. Lighting in conservation areas should generally be restricted to parkway lighting. In other areas, provision for lighting should consider safety, aesthetics, minimization of light spillover, and the assurance of sufficient ongoing operating funding.
3. There will be no curb cuts on parkways unless no other access is available. In industrial areas, curb cuts will be assessed on an individual basis. (Ordinance)
  4. No outdoor advertisements or billboards are allowed on the parkway system. To reduce visual clutter, other signage, both within parks and on parkways, shall be kept at the minimum level necessary for safety and adequate information.
  5. There are reduced speed limits on all parkways, and appropriate design measures shall be used to encourage reduced speeds and increased safety.

#### I. Policy on Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Vehicular Traffic

The policy of the MPRB is that separate facilities for bicycle, pedestrian, and vehicular traffic should be created as facilities are constructed. These facilities should involve some form of physical separation, either horizontal or vertical, as appropriate. Fast bicyclists shall be permitted on roadways, either within the main flow of vehicular traffic or within visually-separated bicycle lanes.

#### J. Plaques on Buildings or Grounds

1. Plaques affixed to any MPRB building may include the names of the Mayor, Council Members, Commissioners,

**A. THE POLICY OF THE MPRB IS TO HELP PRESERVE A HEALTHY GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT.**

**DISCUSSION**

The increasing number, complexity and interconnectedness of environmental problems facing the MPRB, the city and the world, has made it necessary for the MPRB to codify its unwritten environmental policy so it is better able to meet its own environmental management needs, and fulfill its responsibility to take a leadership role in environmental protection and education.

The MPRB, recognizing the importance of the natural environment of the city to the well-being of city residents, has acted to protect and preserve the natural environment of the Park System and urban forest since the MPRB's inception in 1883.

This environmental policy is intended to enhance the quality of life of all Minneapolis residents in perpetuity by providing positive, personally significant recreational opportunities and access to natural areas in an ecologically sound and sustainable manner, and to protect and maintain a healthy, natural environment in Minneapolis.

**B. THE POLICY OF THE MPRB IS TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF AIR, LAND, WATER, AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK SYSTEM AND THE URBAN FOREST.**

**DISCUSSION**

In applying this policy, the MPRB applies the following guidelines:

- B.1 Incorporate protection and conservation of the natural environment in the design and operation of park areas and facilities.

- B.2 Protect and manage unique and fragile ecosystems so that they continue to contribute positively to the Park System and City of Minneapolis.
- B.3 Identify and eliminate external threats to the health of the Park System's environments.
- B.4 Ensure that all Board actions benefit the environmental health of the entire Park System and the City of Minneapolis.
- B.5 Preserve the biological integrity of ecosystems existing within the Park System.
- B.6 Incorporate sound environmental principles in all policy development, system and facility planning, management practices, maintenance standards, and delivery of programs and services.
- B.7 Provide by our actions a model of responsible environmental stewardship.
- B.8 Use the MPRB's representation on other governmental bodies to promote the development and implementation of policies and programs through cooperative efforts that will maintain and improve environmental quality.
- B.9 Develop and implement integrated pest management for the MPRB golf courses that are environmentally sound.
- B.10 Prevent the movement of soil from construction sites to lakes, streams, wetlands, or stormwater conveyance systems.
- B.11 Ensure that erosion and sedimentation control plans are prepared and implemented for each activity which exposes soils to the erosive action of wind and water. Erosion and sedimentation control planning will be incorporated into site plan development.
- B.12 Develop and implement integrated waste management practices that minimize the amount of

waste generated, and use environmentally sound disposal methods.

- 12.a Reduce the amount and types of material entering the waste stream.
- 12.b Promote efficient usage of material.
- 12.c Use the best disposal methods.
- 12.d Create greater environmental awareness in MPRB employees and park users.

**C. THE POLICY OF THE MPRB IS TO PROVIDE PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, CULTURE, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING OF AND RESPECT FOR THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.**

The MPRB complies with this policy by applying the following guidelines:

- C.1 Educate all citizens to use the Park System in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner.
- C.2 Provide opportunities for people to experience the urban environment in a positive and personally significant way.
- C.3 Use the Park System's natural and human resources to provide opportunities for people to better understand their connections with the natural environment.

Park land should be held in perpetuity and additional lands acquired for present and future generations when in accordance with Board plans.

DISCUSSION

On occasion, individuals, institutions and organizations, both public and private, have expressed interest in obtaining or divesting MPRB lands for other purposes, including roadways, cellular phone towers, power transmission lines, waste disposal, sewers, signs, billboards and buildings.

The Board anticipates that similar requests for such non-park uses of Minneapolis park lands will increase as competition for land increases in the City. In addition, more intensive development of lands surrounding the MPRB property will increasingly impact park resources including water quality, and general biotic conditions. Finally, the impacts of noise, odor, and other disruptions are likely to increase. To meet these challenges, the MPRB is proactively working with a variety of public agencies and private interests to avoid or mitigate adverse developmental impact on MPRB land and water resources.

When another public body attempts to acquire park lands through the power of eminent domain, the Board shall direct its staff to make an exhaustive and comprehensive study, analysis and recommendation of the resultant effects on the entire Park System. If the Board, as a result thereof, determines the affected area is essential to the Park System, it shall work cooperatively with such agency to suggest alternate courses of action whereby taking of park land can be averted. And if the condemning authority persists in its determination to take park land, the Board shall determine whether statutory authority exists for such taking, and if not, the Board shall take whatever action is necessary to resist the taking of its property.

A. Encroachments on Park Lands.

The Board strongly opposes diversion of park property by any individual, institution or organization, public or private, for any purpose other than that for which the

lands were acquired. Where proposed diversions of park property appear to be in the best interest of the Park System or where all other alternatives have been exhausted, and only under these conditions, requests will be taken under consideration by the Board on an individual basis.

In those instances where the Board determines that encroachment on park property may be necessary, easements or permits will be granted which include the following requirements:

- A.1 To the greatest extent possible, intrusion will be limited to the periphery of park property, must be unobtrusive in nature, and must minimize the amount of damage to the landscape.
- A.2 Restoration of any physical or natural property removed or damaged, or equivalent monetary compensation shall be provided.
- A.3 Compensation shall reflect the impact of the intrusion on aesthetic and recreational values of park land.

B. Interim Uses.

The MPRB will only lease its lands or permit their use for purposes consistent with the objectives of the MPRB. Interim uses may be approved by the Board if it is determined that the use contributes substantially toward the system's short-term or long-range goals. The Board will require compensation for land or facilities leased, and for any park services rendered, consistent with other benefits of the use of MPRB system.

C. Divestiture of Land.

In cases where the Board determines that certain lands are no longer appropriate for inclusion in the system, they may, by resolution and with the concurrence of the District Court and other agencies as required, divest such land. The preferred method is by public sale; however, other methods, such as land exchanges or negotiated sale,

may be considered if they provide greater benefit to the MPRB.

**D. Disposal of Wastes.**

The Board will not allow the depositing of landfill or burying of any waste material, which, in the opinion of the Board, results in harm to the public health and safety, natural resources, or in any way be deemed deleterious to the Park System. The Board shall adopt a Waste Disposal Position Statement which will define waste materials and identify acceptable uses of organic materials in park property.