3

SERVICE AREA & VISION

SECTION CONTENTS:

- LENSES & ACTIONS
- SSA CHANGES
- ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS
INTRODUCTION
The South Service Area Master Plan is guided by a series of Lenses and Actions.

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

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

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

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

- **COMMUNITY FOCUS LENS:** This reduction reflects overall community desire for more fields, while still maintaining a variety of sports opportunities in most parks. The communities around some parks have specifically requested fields instead of diamonds, a request that is reflected in those parks.

- **RACIAL EQUITY LENS:** People of color are more likely to, and have expressed more desire to, participate in field sports (specifically soccer and football) than diamond sports. This transformation provides more space for these desired activities.

- **GENDER EQUITY LENS:** This transformation increases the amount of park space dedicated to soccer and other field sports in which women and girls are more likely to participate.

- **LIFELONG ACTIVITY LENS:** This change increases the flexibility of park space overall, allowing larger fields for adult and teen use, general open space for other all-ages programming, and larger areas for team sports increasing in popularity among non-youth, such as ultimate, rugby, flag football, and others.

- **DESIGN LENS:** This change allows greater flexibility in park design as a whole, and also removes safety concerns associated with overlapping outfields.
LENSES

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

THE COMMUNITY FOCUS LENSEX

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

THE RACIAL EQUITY LENSEX

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

THE GENDER EQUITY LENSEX

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

THE LIFELONG ACTIVITY LENSEX

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

THE DESIGN LENSEX

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

THE ENVIRONMENT LENSEX

Parks have the potential to do environmental harm, and also have the potential to improve the environment for plants, animals, and people. Decisions should consider impact on the environment and should seek ways to enhance habitat, water management, and overall environmental performance.
The following actions are those that apply to the SSAMP as a whole. The individual park plans themselves are also ACTIONS—for instance: the addition of a basketball-focused multi-use court at Morris Park, as shown on that park’s plan, is an ACTION.

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

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

**PROCESS AND PRODUCT**

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

6. Create an individualized park plan for each neighborhood park property in the service area.

7. Recognize that every facility cannot be in every park.

8. Work with City of Minneapolis to implement safe, accessible connections between neighborhood parks and regional parks. Figure 3.1 depicts desired pedestrian, bicycle or other connections within the SSA.

9. Improve navigational signage to emphasize linkages between parks.

10. Support implementation of the Southside Greenway, as a means of connecting several parks. Figure 3.1 represents the Southside Greenway’s approximate planned route.
PLANNING AND DESIGN (CONT.)

11. Wherever parkland is adjacent to a Minneapolis Public School, make efforts to align with that school on the utilization of shared land. Where appropriate, a community volunteer panel could be convened to help engage with MPS.

12. Seek additional parkland or private land available for public use in the Midtown Greenway Corridor west of Hiawatha Avenue and in the Hiawatha Avenue Corridor in the vicinity of Lake Street. Figure 3.2 depicts key search areas identified for additional parkland.

13. Analyze and describe ongoing maintenance costs associated with park plans.

14. Include maintenance and storage facilities, as needed, in neighborhood park plans.

15. Manage and resolve land use, land ownership, lease agreement, and other site control issues, if applicable, prior to implementation of capital improvements.

Figure 3.2 - Additional Parkland Search Areas
16. Provide facilities for both programmed (sports, classes) and unprogrammed (walking, play) activity in every park.

17. Provide a walking loop with seating in most parks.

18. Increase diversity of activities available in the service area, with particular attention on skateboarding, pickleball, adult fitness, archery, climbing, bicycle polo, traditional lacrosse, and large-group picnicking.

19. Designate urban agriculture sites within the service area, as an aspect of implementation of the MPRB-adopted Urban Agriculture Plan.

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

20. **Aquatics:**
   
a. Transition from wading pool dominated system to a mix of wading pools, splash pads, and hybrid facilities, in order to provide facilities for a broader age range of youth.

b. Focus placement of splash pads and hybrid facilities in areas of high older youth/teen use.

c. Limit large-scale swimming opportunities in the service area to the Lake Nokomis beaches and Phillips Pool, due to high cost of implementation and operation of additional large-scale facilities.

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**DEFINITIONS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Splash Pad</th>
<th>Wading Pool</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are currently no splash pads in the SSA.</td>
<td>There are 17 Wading pools in the SSA. This type of aquatics is typical for Minneapolis Parks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Features:**

- No standing water
- Size and shape can vary
- Users tend to be from multiple age groups
- 0’ entry-2’ max depth
- 30’x50’ typical size
- Users tend to be younger

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### FACILITY CHANGES: AQUATICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACILITIES</th>
<th>Existing</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
<th>Diff.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Swimming Pool</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wading Pool</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splash Pad</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interactive Water Play</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beach Access</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL WATER ACCESS</strong></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 3.5 - Proposed Facility Changes: Aquatics*
**DEFINITIONS:**

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

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

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

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

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

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**FACILITIES (CONT.)**

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

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACILITIES</th>
<th>Existing</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
<th>Diff.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Premier Diamond</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier Field</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-use Diamond</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Dome</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Figure 3.6 - Proposed Facility Changes: Athletics

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

4 multi-use diamonds + multi-use field

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

**COMMON PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT:**

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

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

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

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

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**Figure 3.10 - Proposed Facility Changes: Courts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACILITIES</th>
<th>Existing</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
<th>Diff.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Court</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Court Basket</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Court Basket</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Sport Court</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 3.9 - Options for Multi-use Court Striping**
FACILITIES (CONT.)

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

DEFINITIONS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional Playground</th>
<th>Adventure Play</th>
<th>Nature Play</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Typical for Minneapolis Parks</td>
<td>None in the SSA</td>
<td>None in the SSA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Features:**

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

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

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

### FACILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACILITIES</th>
<th>Existing</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
<th>Diff.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Play Structure</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Play</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventure/Climbing Play</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PLAY AREAS</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3.11 - Proposed Facility Changes: Play
Increase winter recreation opportunities in areas currently underserved, namely the northern portion of the service area.

**FACILITIES (CONT.)**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACILITIES</th>
<th>Existing</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
<th>Diff.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Designated Sledding Hill</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skating Rink</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey Rink</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broomball Rink</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year-Round Rink</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warming House</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 3.12 - Proposed Facility Changes: Winter Recreation*
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

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

## Existing and Proposed Facilities

Figure 3.13 and 3.14 show all proposed changes made throughout the service area.

**Note:** Existing facilities at East Phillips and Cedar Avenue Field are included in both the existing and proposed columns. Master plans for these parks will come at a later date. The proposed facilities in the Board-adopted master plan for Bossen Field are included in both the existing and proposed columns.

### Figure 3.13 - Proposed Facility Changes
ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

THE FOLLOWING CAC RECOMMENDATIONS REFER TO MPRB POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND PRACTICES THAT ARE OUTSIDE THE SPECIFIC SCOPE OF THE SSAMP:

- Apply an **ECONOMIC EQUITY LENS** when considering fees to use parks. Consider local community needs and a community’s ability to cover any rental fees associated with park amenities. Focus on local need and not area wide ability to pay. The Board should continue its practice of assessing the rental fee levels during their annual budget process with this lens.

- When planning access to the park facilities, a higher weight should be given to the community over rental audiences. Facility use time should be protected for community access.

- The Park Board Commissioners should consider creating a general **COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD** to assist with the interconnections between the different initiatives happening under the jurisdiction of the Park Board.
ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

THE FOLLOWING CAC RECOMMENDATIONS ARE MEANT TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR FUTURE PROJECTS AND ARE BASED ON LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE SSAMP PROJECT:

• All CACs should begin with a Racial Equity 101 training designed to create a baseline understanding of the history of Race in Minneapolis and the imperative for Racial Equity. (A prerequisite for this is a clear mission statement and framework for Racial Equity from the MPRB as a whole.)
• All CACs should begin with a Park Board 101 designed to give CAC and community members a functional understanding of how the Park Board operates.
• Quarterly commissioner self-assessments of CAC process.
• All CAC meetings should have childcare available to CAC members and community members to facilitate the participation of working mothers, fathers, and caregivers.
• Explore the option of different meeting times and locations.
• CAC meetings should include nourishing food for CAC and community members
• Those CAC members interested in a Racial Equity Sub-Committee could do some community engagement in the Service Area over the summer, potentially in collaboration with the Rec Quest Racial Equity Sub-Committee, to inform more constituents about the plan and how to hook into implementation activities/other park initiatives. This can happen in an extended 90 day comment period and should be funded by the MPRB.
• Request feedback from SSAMP CAC members who fell away from the process and other community members, in order to generate a list of recommendations for moving forward in the other service areas to make the process more equitable.

NOTE: a Racial Equity Sub-Committee was not established by the CAC during its formal meetings
NOTE: A 90-day comment period was not recommended by the CAC
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