

The who, what, where, when and how of

# Neighborhood Park Planning

In Minneapolis, Minnesota



**Minneapolis**  
Park & Recreation Board



*For thousands of years, Native peoples have lived along the rivers and lakeshores of the region — including many settlements in current-day Minneapolis.*



## 1850 to 1900

Minneapolis grows quickly with European settlers and others arriving from the eastern US.

It becomes a town (1856), then a city (1867)

In the late 1800s, a group of influential citizens recognizes that protecting the area's lakes, rivers, creeks and green space is a key to the city's current and future quality of life.

In 1883, Minneapolis voters approve the Park Act. A Board of Park Commissioners independent from the City is established; it oversees land, money, and decisions related to parks, eventually becoming the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB).



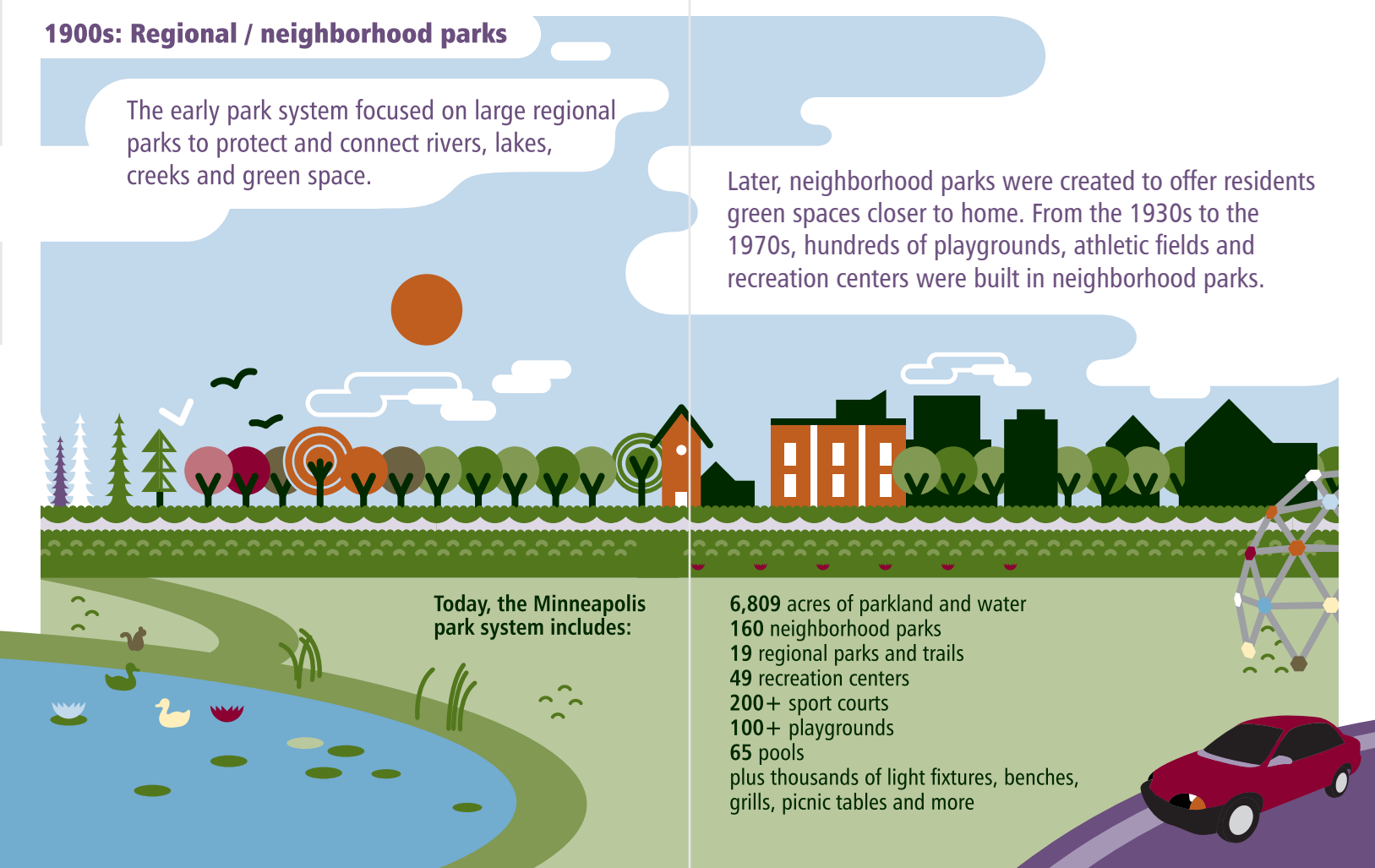
## 1900s: Regional / neighborhood parks

The early park system focused on large regional parks to protect and connect rivers, lakes, creeks and green space.

Later, neighborhood parks were created to offer residents green spaces closer to home. From the 1930s to the 1970s, hundreds of playgrounds, athletic fields and recreation centers were built in neighborhood parks.

Today, the Minneapolis park system includes:

- 6,809 acres of parkland and water
- 160 neighborhood parks
- 19 regional parks and trails
- 49 recreation centers
- 200+ sport courts
- 100+ playgrounds
- 65 pools
- plus thousands of light fixtures, benches, grills, picnic tables and more



## Planning for the Future

Since 2014, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has been working with communities throughout the city to create master plans for all neighborhood parks—a first in the history of the park system.



## Why Master Plans?

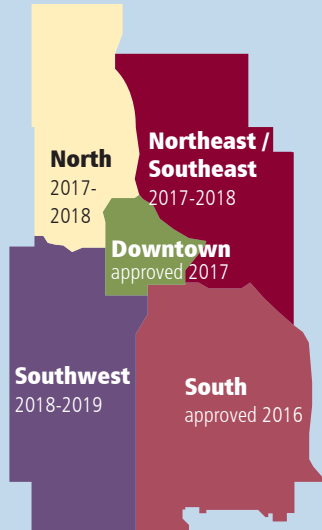
They make sure that today's parks reflect the needs and desires of current residents. Our city looks very different than it did in the 1900s!

They guide decision-making well into the future, so that great parks remain an essential part of livable, safe, and vibrant neighborhoods.

They serve as a tool. By laying out a long-term vision for a park or an entire area, master plans can help with advocacy and encourage outside investment.



## How Do Master Plans Work?

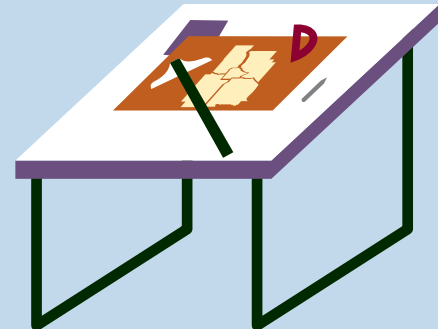


**Each geographic “service area” in the city gets a master plan for all of its neighborhood parks.**

## Through 2019, MPRB is working with local communities in each service area to:

- Create a vision for the service area as a whole
  - Inventory what is in each park (outside of recreation centers)
- Determine and prioritize needs for change or improvement in each park
- Guide funding and prioritize major projects for each park

And speaking of funding ...



## Getting and Spending



**Approved in 2016, the 20-Year  
Neighborhood Park Plan (NPP20) is  
an historic agreement between the  
MPRB and the City of Minneapolis that:**

**provides \$11 million in additional funds  
annually, through 2036**

and

**helps address racial and economic equity  
across 160 neighborhood parks.**

NPP20 funds are dedicated to increasing  
maintenance in these parks and repairing and  
replacing old, outdated playgrounds, athletic fields,  
sports courts, wading pools and other assets.



## **Using funds wisely – and equitably – across the neighborhood park system**

**Over the 20 years of NPP20, all neighborhood parks will receive major investments. An equitable funding system evaluates and ranks neighborhood parks to prioritize where and how funds are spent.**

### **The system includes seven criteria:**

- 1 - racially concentrated areas of poverty
- 2 - population density
- 3 - youth population
- 4 - neighborhood safety
- 5 - condition of park assets
- 6 - age of park assets
- 7 - historic investment



## How can you get involved?



### Share your thoughts

What's working in your neighborhood parks?  
What are your big (and not-so-big) dreams for these  
places?

### Talk with MPRB staff

- At community events
- At Community Advisory Committee meetings
- Find us in the parks talking with park users
- Email us at [planning@minneapolisiparks.org](mailto:planning@minneapolisiparks.org)
- Call us at 612-230-6472

### Spread the word

Share this info with others in your  
community, whether or not they currently use the parks.

### Get info online

[www.minneapolisiparks.org/masterplans](http://www.minneapolisiparks.org/masterplans)



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