SECTION 8

Accessibility
The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is committed to ensuring that park users are connected to the land and each other. To achieve this vision, the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan identified the following three strategies that are specifically related to accessibility and special needs populations:

- “Build or renew facilities to meet or exceed standards for accessibility.” (p. 25)
- “Ensure recreation opportunities are available for persons with disabilities.” (p. 18)
- “Identify and reduce physical and financial barriers to participation in programming.” (p. 18)

**MPRB ADA ACTION PLAN**

In 2018, MPRB approved the MPRB ADA Action Plan (2018-2020) to guide the MPRB ADA Transition planning. The action plan is a living document to assist all departments with tasks that range from capital planning, to rehabilitation of existing facilities, and from recreational programming to communications. The document identifies current best practices and standards, and lists a range of action-oriented tasks. As much of the park land will be new, the ATF Regional Park is an opportunity to model park planning and development that sets the stage for inclusive parks and park programming.

In developing new park elements within Above the Falls Regional Park, care will be taken to design facilities that meet requirements for the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as principles for universal accessibility. Some existing facilities do not meet ADA, such as the steps to the riverbank at Marshall Terrace Park and Sheridan Memorial Park. These will be rehabilitated to meet ADA as resources allow.

User costs, too, can be a barrier to park use for individuals or groups. Most ATF Regional Park facilities will not require a fee for public use, consistent with MPRB policy throughout its system. Amenities such as multi-use trails, community gathering spots and public water access points are generally provided free of charge. Some of the amenities proposed for Above the Falls Regional Park could require minimal user fees, for example potential boat-storage at the Scherer Bros. site, or event fees to reserve gathering spaces. MPRB offers users the option of purchasing a permit or using meters for parking, and reduced fees arrangements are available for recreational programming.