GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIES

The Guiding Principles and Strategies will guide the future of neighborhood parks in NE/SE Minneapolis. The Guiding Principles are the values of the parks in the service area and the Strategies, listed below each principle, are how the plan accomplishes the Guiding Principles.

The Principles are organized in three groups: **VALUES; DESIGN AND PLANNING;** and **FACILITIES.** The Principles and Strategies offer guidance and a touchstone for making decisions about parks in the service area.

1. **SAFETY**
Work always toward safe parks for all, including a thriving work environment and a safe space for all types of users and modes of travel.

2. **PARTNERSHIP**
Explore partnerships for funding, programming, stewardship. MPRB cannot and should not do everything on its own.

3. **EQUITY**
Work with partner agencies to minimize the possibility of displacement as parks improve. Meet underserved community needs within NE and SE by engaging communities in shaping the park designs and programs. Remove barriers to access to parks, recreation opportunities, and programming.

4. **SUSTAINABILITY**
Meet current park and recreation needs without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by balancing environmental, economic and equity concerns.

5. **ACCESSIBILITY**
Balance the park amenities across the service area and the City as a whole. Ensure that all park users have equal access to a variety of recreation and park programs, facilities, and opportunities. Ensure that parks are accessible to all abilities and interests.

6. **RESPONSIVENESS**
Anticipate and thoughtfully respond to the diverse needs of the city’s communities, continually seeking to improve park and recreation services. Emphasis will be placed on researching community needs and demographics when considering program and facility delivery. Ongoing, robust and equitable community engagement is an ongoing need in park design, maintenance and programming.

7. **WELLNESS**
Establish parks and park features that provide opportunities to improve physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing. Also work to improve any past pollution of air, soils and water in NE and SE Minneapolis.
PLANNING AND DESIGN

8. MULTIGENERATIONAL
Consider all age ranges in the design and development of parks, with particular focus on:

a. Youth voice in design, planning, and programming decisions.

b. More activities and spaces for teens / young adults.

c. Design for seniors by prioritizing accessibility, offering active, low-impact activities, as well as passive activities, especially in neighborhoods with high populations of seniors and near elder care facilities.

d. Focus on expanded playground facilities, including playgrounds and nature play facilities in neighborhoods with large concentrations of youth.

e. Develop universally accessible playgrounds, or playgrounds that are accessible to children of all abilities, in the service area.

f. In neighborhoods adjacent to a university or with high concentrations of young adults, design parks for young adult uses.

9. WELCOMING
Design park spaces and new parks to be welcoming for all. Ensure that park designs, including facilities and overall character, invite people in, are culturally inclusive and appropriate, and meet community needs for access.

a. Provide facilities for diverse cultural groups in NE and SE, including but not limited to East African and Latino populations.

b. Provide signage and wayfinding throughout that is culturally inclusive, pictorial or graphic, and ADA accessible.

c. Ensure consistent access to park amenities including restrooms and water, when available.

d. Improve lighting on courts and pathways throughout the service area.

10. IMPLEMENTABLE
Plan for the implementation of significant park enhancements with the programmatic, financial, and leadership support of community and agency partners, recognizing MPRB cannot act alone in these projects.

a. Develop Park Stewardship Agreements for plantings and park areas that are tended by community members.

b. Align park improvements with timing, funding, planning and design processes of partner agencies including the City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Public Schools, and other key agency and/or organizational partners.

c. Design spaces to be flexible so they can accommodate a wide variety of uses.

Source: The Helix. http://www.thehelix.co.uk/
11. INTEGRATE ARTS AND CULTURE
Create more opportunities for arts, music, and performance that reflect the community — both programmed and spontaneous:

a. Include performances spaces in parks throughout the service area.
b. Incorporate visual art (sculpture, painting, mosaic, etc.) wherever possible.
c. Provide platforms for local artists to share their work.
d. Integrate art into infrastructure including railings, wayfinding, rec centers, benches, plazas and more in the parks.
e. Amplify the NE Arts District through integrating arts into the infrastructure and programing at parks in the surrounding neighborhoods.
12. NEW PARKS
Seek additional parkland or private land available for public use in key locations:

a. Establish a clear strategy for completion of the Grand Rounds Missing Link through the designated Regional Trail Search Corridor.

b. Secure a new park in the Towerside Innovation District.

c. Resolve ownership and management of triangles across the service area.

d. Explore other opportunities to increase the size of current neighborhood parks.

e. Designate a search area for pocket parks, micro parks, and neighborhood parks to provide additional parks or amenities for the NE/SE Mid-City Industrial neighborhood, SE Como, and surrounding area.

13. IMPROVED CONNECTIONS
Recognize the importance of connections to and between parks:

a. Work with partners to implement safe street crossings at all parks, and especially along arterials like Broadway and Central.

b. Complete sidewalk gaps in or adjacent to parks.

c. Work with the City of Minneapolis to complete and enhance the street network as a connecting web between parks, including consideration of green streets, complete streets, trails and greenways, green alleys, and bicycle infrastructure.

d. Install wayfinding systems in each park and to recreation centers as well as system maps at neighborhood parks, to direct users to nearby amenities.

e. Connect to the Mississippi River, Regional Parks, and the RiverFirst vision.

f. Work with partners to improve transit connections to and between parks and improve bus or LRT stop amenities at or adjacent to parks.

g. Connect parks and support the vision of the Great Northern Greenway.

h. Integrate park planning efforts into regional trail planning efforts, like the Granary Corridor, led by partner agencies.

i. Enhance ecological corridor connections, especially along the parkways and river.

j. Implement the Grand Rounds Missing Link, or Bridal Veil Regional Trail, as a key trail destination.

k. Install wayfinding and interpretive markers at each park along the Grand Rounds in the Service Area.
**East of the River Parks Master Plan**

**Pedestrian Access**

**DENSEST NEARBY SIDEWALK NETWORK**
1. DEMING HEIGHTS PARK
2. HOLMES PARK
3. JACKSON SQUARE PARK
4. DICKMAN PARK
5. WASHINGTON TRIANGLE
6. WINDOM PARK
7. CAVELL PARK
8. CHUTE SQUARE PARK
9. ELWELL PARK
10. AUDUBON PARK
11. WAITE PARK
12. PIONEER TRIANGLE
13. ST ANTHONY PARK
14. BARTON TRIANGLE
15. LOGAN PARK
16. TOWER HILL PARK
17. BOTINEAU PARK
18. MARCY PARK
19. LUXTON PARK
20. VAN CLEVE PARK
21. CHERGOSKY PARK
22. BELTRAMI PARK
23. ARCHITECT TRIANGLE
24. CALEB DORR CIRCLE
25. NORTHEAST ATHLETIC FIELD PARK
26. NE ICE ARENA
27. COLUMBIA PARK / GOLF
28. HIievE PARK
29. XCEL ENERGY FIELDS / PARK

**DENSEST NEARBY BIKE ROUTE NETWORK**
1. ELWELL PARK
2. CHUTE SQUARE PARK
3. PIONEER TRIANGLE
4. HOLMES PARK
5. CALEB DORR CIRCLE
6. DICKMAN PARK
7. VAN CLEVE PARK
8. MARCY PARK
9. ARCHITECT TRIANGLE
10. ST ANTHONY PARK
11. COLUMBIA PARK / GOLF
12. DEMING HEIGHTS PARK
13. LUXTON PARK
14. CHERGOSKY PARK
15. BELTRAMI PARK
16. BOTINEAU PARK
17. WASHINGTON TRIANGLE
18. NORTHEAST ATHLETIC FIELD PARK
19. NE ICE ARENA
20. XCEL ENERGY FIELDS / PARK
21. WINDOM PARK
22. CAVELL PARK
23. TOWER HILL PARK
24. AUDUBON PARK
25. BARTON TRIANGLE
26. HIievE PARK
27. LOGAN PARK
28. WAITE PARK
29. LUXTON PARK

**FIGURE 6 | EXISTING PEDESTRIAN ACCESS BY PARK.**

**FIGURE 7 | EXISTING BICYCLE ACCESS BY PARK.**
**DENSEST NEARBY TRANSIT SERVICE**
1. Chute Square Park
2. Holmes Park
3. St Anthony Park
4. Elwell Park
5. Marcy Park
6. Jackson Square Park
7. Van Cleave Park
8. Logan Park
9. Beltrami Park
10. NE ICE Arena
11. Dickman Park
12. Luton Park
13. Windom Park
14. Bottineau Park
15. Northeast Athletic Field Park
16. Audubon Park
17. Tower Hill Park
18. Caleb Dorf Circle
19. Deming Heights Park
20. Cavel Park
21. Xcel Energy Fields / Park
22. Waite Park
23. Chergosky Park
24. Hiview Park
25. Architect Triangle
26. Columbia Park / Golf

**SPARSEST NEARBY TRANSIT SERVICE**

---

**FIGURE 8 | EXISTING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACCESS BY PARK.**

**FIGURE 9 | PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLIST CRASHES IN 2017.**

---

**EAST OF THE RIVER PARK MASTER PLAN**

---

**MINNEAPOLIS PARK & RECREATION BOARD**

---

**TOOLE DESIGN GROUP**

---

**PLANNING PROCESS**

---

**SERVICE AREA VISION**

---

**PARK PLANS**

---

**OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

---

**IMPLEMENTATION**

---
FIGURE 10 | PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS BY PARK.
14. COMMUNICATE AND ENGAGE
Clearly communicate around park access, programs and decision making to diverse users.

a. Provide clear communications regarding access to restrooms and other park amenities.

b. Provide improved wayfinding for all parks in NE and SE Minneapolis

c. Provide multiple points of information sharing to the community about park programming and projects.

d. Provide multiple points of engagement for community to provide input on park programming.

e. Take diverse language groups of park users into account.

f. Engage community in decisions about parks whenever possible.

15. FOSTER GATHERING
Create more opportunities for gathering in small groups of friends and family, as well as extended families and in large community groups.

a. Include flexible gathering plazas and courtyards in park designs.

b. Balance the ability for groups to reserve spaces and drop-in users of the parks.

c. Make larger park gathering spaces available to all user groups.

d. Develop both more intimate and larger performance spaces. Support the existing neighborhood and park events.
16. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Improve park environments, enhance ecological function, and reduce environmental impact through:

a. Inclusion of natural areas in most parks to both reduce acreage of mown turf and to increase habitat and pollinator friendly spaces.

b. Develop effective management strategies for natural areas including stormwater BMPs, pollinator gardens and native landscapes.

c. Explore sustainable construction techniques and materials, even if initial cost may be higher, to improve environmental performance.

d. Explore alternative energy production, such as solar electric or heating, geothermal heating/cooling, or district energy systems.

e. Seek out opportunities for stormwater capture and management in partnership with the watershed district, including working to tie into district stormwater systems when possible.

f. Increase the tree canopy and diversity in NE and SE parks and street network by protecting the existing canopy and planting new trees to reduce the gaps in tree canopy.

g. Look for opportunities to improve the air and water quality of the parks near industry or freeways and highways.

h. Create stormwater BMPs at parks that have been identified as effective stormwater treatment locations in the 1NE Watershed in collaboration with the City and watershed district, such as Columbia Park and Golf Course.

i. Plan in concert with other green spaces in the area including but not limited to railroads, City of Minneapolis owned land and right of way, the University of Minnesota open spaces, and other neighboring cities’ property.

j. Knit parklands and green space together and maximize larger patches of natural areas through the service area to enhance ecological function and connect to the Mississippi River and flyway.

k. Encourage Park Stewardship Agreements to maintain and improve ecologically healthy spaces.

17. SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

Ensure materials used in park construction are strong, durable, environmentally responsible, easy to maintain, and safe, especially when used by children and seniors.

DATA SOURCES: Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board - Forestry, 2017; 2015 Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Urban Tree Canopy Assessment

U.S. FOREST SERVICE RECOMMENDS A 40-60% CANOPY COVER FOR URBAN AREAS WITHIN FORESTED STATES. TARGET OF 40% WAS SELECTED FOR TARGET.
DESIGNING FOR OUR CHANGING CLIMATE

TEMPERATURE:
Minnesota has seen rising temperatures over the last century that are projected to increase in coming years. This may lead to increased frequency and intensity of severe heat events and fewer days below freezing. This increase has serious implications for human and ecological health. For parks, the changing temperatures will also shift recreational options.

PRECIPITATION:
Annual precipitation is projected to increase in coming years, as is the number and intensity of severe rainstorms. Each of these factors will increase risk of flooding and stress on the City’s existing stormwater infrastructure.

EFFECTS OF POLLUTION:
Increased heat in the atmosphere amplifies the negative effects of pollution and makes pollution removal more difficult. This is has serious implications for environment as well as human health as many diseases including asthma, heart disease, and mental health are associated with pollution levels.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, 2016.
18. **FEASIBILITY**

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

a. Address feasibility in the plan to implement the Grand Rounds Missing Link and other proposed park spaces.

b. Develop park spaces that can be managed sustainably, effectively, and efficiently.

19. **SCHOOL SUPPORT**

a. Wherever parkland is adjacent to a Minneapolis Public School, make efforts to align with that school on the utilization of shared land.

b. Align implementation efforts with the Safe Routes to School planning by the City and public schools.

c. Maintain clear public access to all park amenities adjacent to schools.

**FIGURE 13 | SCHOOLS ADJACENT TO PARKS**
20. **URBAN AGRICULTURE ZONES**
Consider parks as a vehicle for equitable food access in Minneapolis.

a. Expand and manage fruit tree planting throughout service area.

b. Designate community garden sites and other urban agriculture opportunities, as an aspect of implementation of the MPRB-adopted Urban Agriculture Plan.

c. Prioritize local small businesses and vendors.

d. Beware of conflicting park uses with the introduction of Urban Agriculture Zones.

e. Work in partnership with neighborhood groups or other organizations on urban agriculture efforts, including not creating new community gardens in parks when there are existing community gardens located nearby.

21. **GROW AQUATICS**

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

b. Continue to seek out partnership opportunities to create a deep water pool in the service area.

c. Work with partners to improve public access to non-MPRB aquatic facilities and provide additional programming for swimming education opportunities.

d. Improve NE Water Park by building new bathrooms, storage, and staff facilities.
FIGURE 14 | EXISTING COMMUNITY FOOD RESOURCES
Image 17 | View of proposed urban agriculture zone at Dickman Park.
NATIONAL TRENDS IN PARKS & RECREATION

48.6% of Americans report participating in at least 1 outdoor activity

FITNESS SPORTS AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES HAVE SEEN A STEADY RISE IN POPULARITY OVER THE PAST DECADE WHILE THERE HAS BEEN A DECLINE IN PARTICIPATION IN TEAM SPORTS.

PARKS SHOULD EXPAND FLEXIBLE OUTDOOR SPACES TO ACCOMMODATE THE DIVERSIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES AND BETTER SUPPORT INDIVIDUALIZED USE.

64% of people participate in fitness sports
49% of people participate in outdoor sports
34% of people participate in individual sports

* 22.9% of people participate in team sports

SOURCE: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY COUNCIL, 2018 PARTICIPATION REPORT. THE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY COUNCIL’S ANNUAL STUDY TRACKING SPORTS, FITNESS, AND RECREATION PARTICIPATION IN THE US.
22. **DIVERSIFY ATHLETIC FIELDS**
   a. Improve overall quality of multiuse fields and diamonds, through soil conditioning, irrigation, and other methods.
   b. Balance the amount of ball diamonds across the system with other athletic fields and space needs, by decreasing the number of ball diamonds.
   c. Ensure that safe, non-toxic materials are used in the construction of fields in the parks. Distinguish between pesticides and herbicides.
   d. Expand and enhance indoor fields and rinks within the service area.
   e. Create an artificial turf multiuse field in the service area.
   f. Maintain or introduce a track in the Service Area.

23. **EXPAND COURTS**
   a. Continue and expand commitment to basketball, especially full-court, throughout the service area. Create half courts adjacent to full courts or smaller courts for younger players.
   b. Implement new or retrofit existing courts to include new types of use on multiuse courts such as pickleball or bike polo.
   c. Focus tennis investment in targeted areas with larger banks of courts for improved maintenance and expanded league play opportunities.
24. **INNOVATE PLAY AND OTHER FACILITIES**
   
a. Increase diversity of play opportunities to include adventure and nature play.

b. Implement skate/BMX parks within the service area, following the guidance of the adopted Skate Park Activity Plan.

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

d. Increase number of dog parks, and work to provide small and large dog parks, in the service area while addressing the challenge that some cultural groups do not want to recreate or be near dogs in parks.

e. Work in partnership to develop a venue for Roller Derby.

f. Create a universally accessible playground in the service area.

g. Create flexible facilities that can accommodate sports like cricket, bike polo, lacrosse, and ecuavolley.

25. **ENCOURAGE PARK USE YEAR-ROUND**

Increase opportunities for year-round activity.

a. Expand indoor sports venues.

b. Support opportunities for skating and sledding.

c. Implement one refrigerated hockey rink in the service area.

d. Develop a sports dome and/or artificial turf in the Service Area.

e. Build new or expanded gyms at Waite and Bottineau attached to the recreation centers.
Image 18 | Winter view of Windom Park ice skating rink and proposed park features.
FIGURE 15 | FIELD AND DIAMOND FACILITIES BY PARK

MULTIUSE FIELD
Open field that allows for various field sports including soccer, lacrosse, football, and frisbee

MULTIUSE DIAMOND
Field for baseball or softball but the outfield may be used for soccer or other sports

PREMIER DIAMOND
High quality field for baseball or softball, usually only accessible by teams for games.

SPORTS DOME
Flexible sports field/s and/or courts that has a permanent dome to allow for all season play.

KEY
- MULTIUSE FIELD
- PREMIER FIELD
- MULTIUSE DIAMOND
- PREMIER DIAMOND
- SPORTS DOME
- TOTAL PROPOSED
- REMOVED FACILITY TYPE
- DECOMMISSIONED FACILITY TYPE
- NEW FACILITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Existing Count</th>
<th>Proposed Count</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multiuse Field</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>+5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiuse Diamond</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier Diamond</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Dome</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIELD FACILITY EXAMPLES

SPORTS DOME

PREMIER FIELD

MULTIUSE FIELD

MULTIUSE DIAMOND
**Image 19** | Summer view of Windom Park multi-use diamond and proposed park features.
The common types of play facilities have greatly diversified over the past few decades with improved inclusion for all users and an embrace of new types of play.

Currently, the service area contains 19 traditional playgrounds. These playgrounds are of composed prefigured playground equipment - slides, swings, steps - that can be arranged to fit a given space. This type of equipment is usually used by children and can be limiting for those with physical disabilities.

In diversifying the type of play facilities, more user groups - including those of all ages and physical abilities - can be better served and our neighborhood parks become more playful and physically active spaces.
PLAY FACILITY EXAMPLES

- **MULTIGENERATIONAL PLAY EQUIPMENT**
  - Play equipment includes features that would be of interest to users of all ages. This could include permanent fitness equipment or open play elements like rope courses.

- **ADVENTURE PLAY**
  - Play areas that support open and self-regulating forms of play. The equipment tends to be less structured and encourages active exploration of space, building, climbing, and cooperation. Features could include balancing platforms, movable blocks, or climbing walls.

- **NATURE PLAY**
  - Unstructured outdoor play spaces that encourage connection to natural systems through play. These spaces include natural features such as logs, small streams, or boulders for users to interact with. Supports self-regulation and interaction with natural materials.

- **ADA ACCESSIBLE PLAY EQUIPMENT**
  - Playground equipment and surfacing that is fully accessible to and designed for people with disabilities. In addition to physical accessibility, the design includes features that heighten the play experience of the user through use of specific colors, shapes, and sounds.
With the expansion in the types of play and sport common in public spaces, there has been an increased interest in adventure sports. Adventure sports are those activities that include elevated risk and skill building. Examples include rock climbing walls, skate parks, and bike parks. These features also tend to be popular among teens, young adults, and adult park users - groups that have historically been underserved in traditional play facilities. Currently the service area contains 1 skate park.

Expansion in the adventure park facilities may expand the park’s user groups, better serve teen and young adult users, and develop parks into adventure play destinations.
ADVENTURE PLAY FACILITY EXAMPLES

ROPES COURSE
A series of high and low rope elements that challenge the users’ balance and build strength. High elements can be set into trees or use poles for support. Often used for cooperative play.

SKATE PARK
Play area designed for skateboarding, BMX bike, or skating. Usually contains a series of obstacles or challenges to build the skaters’ skills.

BIKE PARK
A recreational space designed for skateboarding, BMX bike, or skating. Like a skate park, it usually contains a series of obstacles or challenges - including jumps or different types of surfacing - to build the bikers’ skills.

CLIMBING OR BOULDERING WALL
An artificially constructed wall that has a series of grips and ledges for users to climb.

ROLLER SKATING TRACK
A flat track with concrete surfacing for roller skating. Can be used as a training space for roller derby or other in-line skating sports.

ADVENTURE COURSE
Play areas that support open and self-regulating forms of play. There are various types of equipment but all encourage active exploration of space, building, climbing, and cooperation.
The parks in this service area are important resources for winter recreation. All existing winter facilities and site features including ice rinks, sledding hills, and ski trails were maintained in this plan. However, with the changing climate and increased number of freeze-thaw cycles projected through the winter months, it is important to add refrigerated ice rinks to support future winter recreation and consolidate resources. Refrigerated ice rinks allow for longer seasons of play and can be used for roller derby, artificial turf fields, or as other community events during non-winter months.

Several parks located throughout the service area will be developed as winter destinations to support winter activities. These are defined by the concentration of winter facilities including warming houses, trails, sledding hills, and rinks.

**FIGURE 18 | WINTER FACILITIES BY PARK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Ice Rink</th>
<th>Refrigerated Ice Rink</th>
<th>Refrigerated Ice Track</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAPELL</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLUMBIA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUDUBON</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WINDOM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOGAN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST. ANTHONY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAN CLEVE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The existing count is 6, the proposed count is 6, and the change is 0 for Ice Rink. The existing count is 0, the proposed count is 1, and the change is 1 for Refrigerated Ice Rink. The existing count is 0, the proposed count is 1, and the change is 1 for Refrigerated Ice Track.
REFRIGERATED ICE TRACK

SLEDDING

ICE RINK (SEASONAL FLOODING)

REFRIGERATED ICE RINK (FOUR SEASON USE)

Refrigerated ice rinks help regulate and improve ice conditions and allow for longer seasons of play, especially during changing climate conditions. These facilities can be covered, and can include permanent glass backboards and spectator seating.
Wading pools have long served as central summer facilities throughout the service area. This plan expands the water based facilities to include splash pads and wading pools with splash features that may attract a wider age range of users.

**WADING POOL**
A shallow pool - no more than 2’ at maximum depth. Usually standing water but water jet splash elements can be added to expand the experiential qualities of the pools. New wading pools must have one end of the pool be zero-entry (0’ depth) to meet ADA requirements. Users tend to be younger.

**SPLASH PAD**
A series of water jets and interactive water features set into the ground. There is no standing water. Users tend to be from multiple age groups.

---

### FIGURE 19 | WATER FACILITIES BY PARK

![Map of water facilities in parks](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Existing Count</th>
<th>Proposed Count</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wading Pool</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splash Pad</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>+3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Park (spray, lawn, and slide features)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WATER FACILITY EXAMPLES

WADING POOL (CURRENT DESIGN)

WATER PARK

LAP POOL

WADING POOL WITH SPLASH FEATURES

SPLASH PAD
Parks can play a central role in community gathering from family reunions to art festivals to protests. Gathering spaces, particularly areas for larger groups and performances, are currently lacking within the service area. This plan proposes several types of gathering spaces that would support various size of groups and types of activities.

**SOCIAL SEATING**
A seating area that supports a larger group of people and encourages mingling, people watching, and/or audience seating. Examples include terraced seats, seat walls, or pop-up lawn chairs.

**FLEXIBLE FIELD**
An open lawn area that is not used for organized sports that can support large group gatherings and/or performances.

**GROUP SHELTER**
A covered shelter with protected seating and/or picnic tables.

**PLAZA**
An open, flexible paved area with seating and/or tables.

### KEY
- NEW, ADDITIONAL, OR EXPANDED FACILITY
- NUMBER ADDED IF EXISTING
- GROUP SHELTER
- SOCIAL SEATING
- PLAZA
- FLEXIBLE FIELD/EVENT LAWN

### FIGURE 20 | GATHERING FACILITIES BY PARK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Existing Count</th>
<th>Proposed Count</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Shelter</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>+17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Seating</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>+6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plaza</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>+15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexible Field/Event Lawn</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>+4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GATHERING FACILITY EXAMPLES

- SOCIAL SEATING
- FLEXIBLE FIELD/EVENT LAWN
- PLAZA
- GROUP SHELTER

EAST OF THE RIVER PARK MASTER PLAN
Tennis and basketball courts are highly used and desired park amenities in this service area. In addition to these current uses, court spaces can also be used for bike polo and pickleball. Courts have relatively high maintenance requirements, and as such, courts were proposed to maximize potential uses by introducing multi sport courts where possible. To meet maintenance standards, there has been an effort to bank in groups of four.

**MULTI SPORT COURT**
Courts are striped for multiple court sports that could include pickleball, tennis, basketball, bike polo, and/or volleyball.

**PICKLEBALL**
Pickleball is a paddle sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis. Pickleball has become increasingly popular over the past decade and there are currently no courts in the service area. Existing or new tennis courts can be striped for both sports.
COURT FACILITY EXAMPLES

**BASKETBALL**

**MULTI SPORT COURT**: Courts that are striped for multiple sports which can include basketball, tennis, pickleball, and/or volleyball. Usually fenced.

**TENNIS**

**PICKLEBALL AND TENNIS**: Courts are striped for both tennis and pickleball.

**ART SURFACING FOR COURTS**: While the striping for a specific sport must be follow specific guidelines, the color and patterning of the court surface can be designed as public art. Not only does this add to the beauty of the park but it can also act as a canvas for community expression to develop a unique sense of place.
This plan wishes to diversify and expand the natural areas within the parks to improve habitat, support the existing infrastructure including mature tree canopy and stormwater management, and enhance the park users’ experience. Expansion of natural areas in parks reduces the total acreage of mown turf and thus reduces the pollution and resources associated with high maintenance turf areas.
**EXISTING**

**TURF LAWN**: Traditional mown grass areas. Typical in recreation facilities and fields.

**BEE LAWN**: Grass and perennial plant mix that supports pollinator populations. It is usually short height and requires less mowing than traditional turf varieties.

**PRAIRIE PLANTINGS**: Grass and perennial plant mixes that are ecologically appropriate to the area. Often are beneficial to stormwater control and habitat formation.

**WOODLAND UNDERSTORY PLANTINGS**: Shade tolerant plant mixes that are ecologically appropriate to the area. Often are beneficial for erosion control and habitat formation.

**STEWARDSHIP GARDEN**: Garden is maintained by community members participating in the Park Stewards Program through MPRB.

**FLOWER GARDEN**: Predominantly floral, formal garden beds maintained by the MPRB.

**NATURAL AREA EXAMPLES**
Image 20 | View of proposed restored Lake Sandy at Columbia Park.
STORMWATER FEATURE EXAMPLES

NEWLY INSTALLED STORMWATER INFILTRATION AREA IN EXISTING PARK

STORMWATER INFILTRATION GARDEN ADJACENT TO PARKING AND SIDEWALKS

SUBSURFACE STORMWATER STORAGE
FIGURE 23 | DOG PARK

Dog parks are growing in popularity, particularly in urban environments, around the United States. The service area currently contains a single dog park. The plan looks to enhance this much loved existing dog park to include separate play areas for large and small dogs. Two smaller dog parks have been proposed at the request of the surrounding neighborhoods.
EXISTING

Fenced in area with wood chip surfacing, benches, and tree canopy.

WASTE RECEPTACLES: To support good waste disposal practices, waste receptacles and bags should be available for users.

NATURAL AREA EXAMPLES

SEPARATE LARGE AND SMALL DOG AREAS: When the space allows, off-leash dog parks should have separate play areas for dogs under 20lbs and dogs over 20lbs for safety.

WATER: Water should be available for dog and human users.

DUAL-GATE ENTRANCE: A dual gate allows a dog owner to bring a dog into a confined space on-leash, where the dog can be unleashed before entry to the dog park.

AGILITY FEATURES: Small site features that encourage dogs to jump, climb, and chase can be beneficial to play and exercise.
OTHER RECOMMENDED PARK FEATURES

SOCIAL SWINGS: Seating options that encourage gathering, lounging, and socialization.

ART AS A SITE FEATURE: All site features are an opportunity to include art in parks and create a unique character for the parks.

BICYCLE MAINTENANCE STATION: Bicycle maintenance stations include air pumps and small hand tools for repairs on the go.

POP-UP GATHERING: Park plans include flexible spaces to allow for spontaneous gathering and relaxation.

PEDESTRIAN SCALE LIGHTING: Lighting is a vital component of any public space. Pedestrian scale lighting improves the safety of the park while creating a pleasant ambience.

WAYFINDING: Signs, informational kiosks, maps, and amenity plaques are key to allow for easy use and navigation of the park and its adjacent resources (e.g., public transit lines) for all users.