**POTENTIAL PARKS AND TRAILS**

**SOUTHWEST SERVICE AREA MASTER PLAN**

1) **East Calhoun Gateway Area**
   Staff recommend the current configuration be maintained; that text be amended to the Bde Maka Ska-Harriet Master Plan calling for the existing art to remain until the end of its useful lifespan.

2) **31st Street Median**
3) **West Calhoun Bus Layover**
4) **Washburn Water Tower**
   Staff explored these three proposed parks and determined there is interest, however a more robust collaboration with agencies and stakeholders would be needed to fully evaluate park potential and feasibility. Stakeholders range from City planning/transportation/water to Metro Transit to neighborhood groups and business owners. For these proposals, many of the following criteria would need to be met in order for MPRB to consider ownership or operation:
   - Provide recreational/leisure uses
   - Provide off-road bike and pedestrian connections to other parks/trails in the MPRB system
   - Provide environmental benefits (stormwater infiltration/storage, habitat)
   - Provide ample and equitable public access, including hours of operation, removal of barriers, and ADA accessibility
   - Have a level of maintenance compatible with MPRB current and planned capabilities, and/or consider partnerships with businesses or others for enhanced services
   - Fulfill a demonstrated need in the MPRB park system network, particularly in neighborhoods of underinvestment
   - Explore additional partnerships for providing public services for recreation, events, gardens, public art, safety, operations, etc.
   - Address parking needs of area businesses

5) **Garfield Lot**
   In addition to the bulleted criteria above, staff have the following recommendations for Garfield Lot.
   The LynLake Business Association is interested in partnering with MPRB, the City, and the Midtown Greenway Coalition to convert this municipally owned parking lot into a public green space. Staff explored how this parcel might become a public park and determined a more robust future collaborative design process would be required, involving multiple stakeholders considering urban design approaches to parking, circulation, and public access. Staff generally support the principles identified by a focus group of community and business leaders gathered in 2018 for the LynLake Design Workshop:
   - Build on Neighborhood Identity (what works for LynLake, wayfinding & signage, learn from past mistakes)
   - More accessibility and inclusion (to all types of people, affordable, safe)
   - Encourage connection (within the district, Greenway as a focal point, with other people)

In order for MPRB to consider owning and/or operating the parcel, the following criteria should also be carefully considered:
   - Explore additional partnerships for providing public services for recreation, events, gardens, public art, safety, operations, etc.

6) **Linden Hills Trolley Path**
   In addition to the bulleted criteria above, staff have the following recommendations for the Linden Hills Trolley Path. Community members are interested in partnering with MPRB, the City, and area businesses and land owners to convert this former trolley path into a connected trail and public space. The western section is owned by the City and has been partially enhanced. The more narrow eastern section comprises parcels owned or controlled by multiple entities. Staff explored how this area might become a public park/trail and determined that a more robust future collaborative design process would be required, including a district-wide parking solution and a multi-party agreement. Staff generally support the connectivity goals identified by community leaders which a fully connected trail might provide. In order for MPRB to consider owning and/or operating the path, the following criteria should also be carefully considered:
   - Coalition-led urban design plan
   - District parking solution

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**Park Search Areas**
In addition to the potential parks listed above, staff recommend pursuing the following park search areas:

A) Search area for a park and/or tot lot in the West Calhoun neighborhood area, which has an increasing youth population and limited access to tot lots due to traffic and transit barriers.

B) Search area for additional park space in the Stevens Square/Whittier/Lowry Hill East neighborhoods area which has an increasing density of rental properties without yards, resulting in limited access to green space and water.

C) Search area for additional park space in the Windom neighborhood area which has limited access due to traffic barriers.