

MPRB

**Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan
Southwest Service Area Master Plan
Monday June 17th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Lynnhurst Recreation Center**

Lynnhurst Subcommittee #1 Notes

Meeting Purpose: To discuss the Lynnhurst Focus Area, which is common to two simultaneous master planning efforts. The Subcommittee will provide guidance to the design team on the preferred concepts for this area, as a first step in making its recommendation to the two separate project CACs.

Note: The Lynnhurst Subcommittee is comprised of members of the Southwest Service Area and Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail CACs. Those CACs are comprised of community members, and those CACs appointed the members of this subcommittee. The goal is to reach a consensus design that both CACs will recommend along with the remainder of their respective projects. This subcommittee does not make the final recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the concept during the meeting.

Subcommittee Members Present:

Anj Petsch (SW CAC), Jana Griffin (SW CAC), Jenel Farrell (SW CAC), Lesley Lydell (Minnehaha Creek CAC), Mary McKelvey (Minnehaha Creek CAC), Michael Jishke (Minnehaha Creek CAC), Patrick Smith (SW CAC), Paul Ragazzino (SW CAC), Ryan Seibold (Minnehaha Creek CAC)

Approximately 77 members of the public attended the meeting.

MPRB/Consultant Team Present:

Adam Arvidon (MPRB), Madeline Hudek (MPRB), Bryan Harjes (Consultant – HKGi), Nikki Schlepp (Consultant – SRF)

1. Planning Process Overview

- **MPRB staff provided an update on the status of the planning processes and the role of the Subcommittee.**
- **Acknowledgement of online comments received to-date**
- **Additional neighborhood meeting was held**

2. Background

MPRB staff provided a background on the preferred design concept, including discussion of the following:

- Overview of engagement that led to preferred concept
- Overview of preferred concept
 - 50th & Minnehaha Intersection – get the building to the same side as the park, not have to cross the street
 - Flood prone – expand area for floodplain and naturalized areas
 - Tributary is in a tunnel – daylight for ecological benefit
 - SW Harriet Flood Study Recommendations – look for areas in parkland (under athletic fields) public streets
 - Field and diamond balance – consider the mix of fields in southwest (Kenny Armatage), existing program can be accommodated based on conversations with Lynnhurst staff
 - Water quality – enhancements to the creek & tributary
 - Parkway Road – major intersection issues at both 50th and Parkway intersections
- Overview of public and CAC comment on preferred concept

3. Discussion of Preferred Concept

A free form discussion was facilitated among the subcommittee members to answer questions and provide guidance to the design team. The discussion will generally followed these steps:

- Check-in with each Subcommittee member on specific “likes” and “areas for discussion”
- Comments from the general public (limited to about 10 minutes)
- Discussion among the Subcommittee

Notes from the CAC Discussion:

- Question why we would move the community center
 - Pros:
 - More fields, gymnasium
 - Concerns:
 - Parking is reduced?
 - No pool or splash pad
 - Separate play areas
 - Bridge limit access to parking at Burroughs?
 - Height of bridge/new roadway
 - Burrough’s drop-off and pick-up area: will this function?
 - What are the diamond dimensions?
- What is the appropriate diversity of aquatics, considering the broader mix with other Southwest area parks?
- Question: What does the school think of this?
 - Concern over loss of parking/parking lot function
 - Edge of creek and proximity to play areas
 - More fields are better!
- Question: Can we define the area of the flood boundary?
- The west side of the park is disconnected with the removal of the existing roadway bridge
- Pros of concept:
 - Creek daylighting

- Creekside play
- **Questions/concerns:**
 - Could the rec center be moved closer to the roadway?
 - Can hockey and open skate be closer together?
- **Pros of concept:**
 - Environmental balance, more restored landscape, connecting/daylighting creek between Minnehaha and Lake Harriet
- **Concerns about bridge:**
 - Bridge makes crossing safer, but what does it look like? Is it too high? Will there be retaining or free-standing walls?
- **Need to label the building components/program**
- **Like the daylighting of the creek and bridge/trail underpass**
- **Like the daylighting of the creek, concerned about edge relationship at the school**
- **Tributary needs a name**
- **Concerns over visibility with traffic at Burroughs**
- **Concerns over the loss of a splash pad**
- **Like the bridge, daylighting of the creek**
- **Idea: move the building closer to the road?**
- **Like traffic calming at the school**
- **Like naturalized landscape**

Notes from Public Comments:

- **Girard intersection is an issue**
- **Prefer continuous roadway**
- **Question of timing**
 - **MPP20, City of Minneapolis, Watershed District funding sources**
 - **Lynnhurst has playground funding?**
 - **Regional Parks dollars?**
- **740 kids at Burroughs, outdoor PE is at Lynnhurst park. Need to maintain and develop more park amenities, fields and school activities, as much park area as possible**
- **Concern over narrow bridge, loss of parking, constant width for bridge to maintain turn lanes**
- **Creek access? Can we put it on the tributary? Lower volumes on the tributary.**
- **How does this align with the 2040 Plan?**
 - **Creates more space for natural areas, but has to balance recreation**
- **How high is the bridge? Walls?**
- **Bike bridge design: approach runs are long**
- **Cost? Increase in property taxes?**
 - **Outside funding will be leveraged, so don't short change the vision for the park.**
- **Where will everyone park?**
- **Over 1000 kids under the age of 10 in the Lynnhurst neighborhood. The play space has been reduced—consider making this larger.**

Areas of agreement:

- **Daylight the creek**
- **Fields with hockey**

Items to re-visit with next design iteration:

- Arrangement of core facilities south of the fields (Rec center, tennis, basketball, open play areas)
- Size of playground
- Need for two full-size basketball courts?
- Less aggressive meander for tributary
- Splash pad, wading pool, overall question of aquatics distribution in SW area
- Re-connect west side of parkway

Items to research:

- Bridge/trail underpass design and/or precedent images
- School functions / drop-off and pick-up area
- Hydrology of tributary (flow, bounce, water quality)
- Maintenance questions with natural landscapes

4. Next Steps

- A site tour will be facilitated by Adam Arvidson, MPRB, on Saturday, June 22nd, to discuss concepts in-person, on-site. The tour is planned as follows:
 - 9am Lynnhurst Recreation Center
 - 10am Nicollet Avenue Bridge
 - 11am Portland Avenue at The Bunny
- The Lynnhurst Subcommittee will meet again on June 25th (5-6 pm at Fuller Recreation Center) to formulate a recommendation for both CACs to consider. *[NOTE: if the subcommittee does not make a recommendation at this time, another meeting may be scheduled.]*
- Southwest CAC #10 on June 25 will continue discussion of southwest parks.
- Minnehaha Creek CAC #7 on June 27th will continue discussion of Minnehaha Creek.