



Southwest Service Area Master Plan
CAC #15 (September 17, 2019) Hopes and Concerns
Post-it Note Exercise Feedback on Revised Concepts.

This document is a compilation of the public feedback received during the Southwest Service Area Community Advisory Committee Meeting #15, held at Whittier Community Center on September 17, 2019. Feedback was collected through an exercise using post it notes, which were organized by sentiment (hopes or concerns).

Please note that this document offers a summary of what was collected and is not necessarily a list of every individual comment provided. The views, thoughts, and opinions expressed in the text belong solely to those members of the public who submitted them and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

The Mall

Hopes

- Hopes that The Mall is left the way it is, I don't care if that means park space is used to subsidize parking, so what!
- Hope that the Mall will be a people centric space with activities (volleyball and basketball courts)
 - Parks should be for people not for cars [Echoed in 1 additional comment]
 - Hope for a safer, more pleasant pedestrian environment
- Less Parking
 - Hope that the CAC will be brave enough to support parking and road removal on The Mall, with reasonable access for park service vehicles.
 - I hope the CAC keeps the Park Board mission and goals in mind. Healthy recreation and environment. Cars and parking aren't part of it.
 - I hope parks lose parking because we need less parking and car infrastructure in the face of impending climate breakdown
 - Walk The Mall every day, it is way too car oriented today. Parks should not be for cars.
- More nature for The Mall, less concrete and cars
 - A full green corridor with fewer cars
 - Preserve the green space, it is an amenity. People can set up badminton and other games to play, unprogrammed green space can be activated.
- Increased connectivity between uptown and the Chain of Lakes which feels disjointed right now [Echoed in 1 additional comment]
- Hopes that adding activity centers will help liven the area

Concerns

- Concerns that there were radical changes made to the design at the end of the process.
- Concerned that parking is being thought of as a primary use of parkland [Echoed in 1 additional comment]
 - Concerned that if the proposed changes are challenged The Mall will stay a glorified parking lot; there are more assets that can be added than parking
- Concerned with the lack of active space in this area
- Concerned with any remaining parking; would encourage pilot of NO parking on The Mall.
- Concerned with the prevailing assumption that everyone has and wants a car.
- Concerned about elimination of pedestrian walkways, especially walkways used by broad demographics. The Greenway is not suitable for walking.
- Concerned that the Park Board is short of funding to maintain parks. Why spend a lot of money on a controversial project?
- Concerned about volleyball. Even the courts on Bde Maka Ska West aren't used regularly. It shouldn't be a priority.

Fields, Diamonds, Ice Balance

Hopes

- Hope for a second premier diamond in Kenny, Armatage, Pershing or Linden Hills to accommodate Southwest baseball. Could be temporary fencing [Echoed in 2 additional comments; also mentioned this need is present because Southwest High School has three baseball teams]
 - 2 full 90' baseball diamonds for high school use
 - 2 convertible 60-75' baseball fields for MYBA
- Hope to reconsider Pershing Park as Southwest High School's home diamond.
 - Hope that Southwest High School gets baseball diamonds to play on near the school [Echoed in 2 additional comments]
- Hope to improve/increase access to softball diamonds particularly for Southwest High School
 - Hope for equitable facilities for girls' fast pitch for MPRB teams, High Schools, Middle Schools and community based travel teams
- Hope that the Park Board will provide Southwest High school with proper baseball and softball fields for its sports teams
- Hope there will be yet another field/diamond subcommittee meeting with stakeholders [Echoed in 2 additional comments]
- Hope the final field/diamond plans include seating, cages, and concessions
- Hope we can create a field/diamond balance that is a new vision instead of the same.
- Hope to improve maintenance for existing facilities

- Hope for nice baseball fields with full sized 390' fences
- Hope to offer as many options for fields/diamonds balance as possible.
- Artificial turf should be avoided if prohibitive to outdoor ice rinks
- Hope to retain the small multi-use diamonds at Armatage to support youth programming which would be lost to a premier diamond
- Hoping we can figure out where to have a large baseball complex even if not at Kenny, Armatage, Linden Hills or Pershing. Diamonds should be in a pinwheel formation.

Concerns

- Ice is only viable for 3 weeks a year yet it takes away from summer sports for many weeks because it needs to melt
- Linden Hills: A premier softball diamond needs to be paired with a second diamond at the site for Varsity and JV games. They play at the same time and use the same bus. The second diamond could be multi-use. [Echoed in 1 additional comment]
- I am concerned with less baseball diamonds, individual park directors will choke off access to community based travel organizations [Echoed in 1 additional comment]
 - Concerned that this does not allow for multiple sports to succeed.
 - Concerned that the Park Board is ignoring the needs of Minneapolis Baseball players.
 - Concern that soccer's needs are being prioritized over baseball [Echoed in 1 additional comment]
 - Concerned that fewer baseball diamonds would be bad because there are already so few high quality diamonds to play on
 - Baseball participation is on the rise. The plans propose to go from 10 existing fields between Kenny Park and Armatage Park to 4. Not sustainable with increased baseball participation. [Echoed in 1 additional comment]
- Concerned that there is a lack of committee knowledge of what amenities are typically found at premier baseball diamonds.
- Concerned that Southwest High School does not have a dedicated baseball field. Right now they practice at Linden Hills or Armatage. We NEED a baseball diamond to keep our team competitive.
- Armatage Park: Concerned with any plan to reduce diamonds, especially without any plans to compensate for any losses in other park spaces in Southwest Minneapolis. Suburban communities are investing in diamond spaces. Minneapolis Millers need this space.
 - We need better diamonds in Minneapolis period. I don't mind decreasing the number of diamonds, but if we're doing so we need to upgrade the remaining fields.

Potential Parks and Trails

- A park is needed in the West Calhoun Neighborhood!

Mueller Park

Hopes

- Basketball courts at Mueller are one of the largest draws to people and youth of color in our neighborhood. As it stands, a single half court is inadequate to demand. No brainer that this needs to be enhanced. The plans with the full basketball court were better.
 - Full court basketball! [Echoed in 1 additional comment]
 - Support the most popular youth sport (basketball) and the younger demographics of the neighborhood
- Reorient the different features to not waste space in this design (putting the circular features by one another i.e. the pergola and wading pool)

Other Comments

Hopes

- That further input to the Painter Park plan can be taken on board by the CAC. Revised plan be improved with further discussion
- Talk about Painter Park.

Concerns

- The Parks Comprehensive Plan emphasizes that parks are for ALL residents (and as a tool to draw visitors!) Parks are not exclusively for a specific neighborhood and I am concerned that is an audience sentiment. [Echoed in 1 additional comment]
 - Will only listen to property owners that live close to parks and not those who are using the parks
 - The public commenters are not representative of many demographics of the City of Minneapolis (specifically race and age)
 - Concern that Neighborhood Associations are equally unrepresentative of neighborhood members. Should not be seen as a representative voice.
- Concern that people are forming their opinions based on outdated information
- Feels like decisions are already made
- Concerned that we aren't putting climate breakdown at the front and center of our park planning
- Waiting for implementation of the Southwest Service Area Master Plan may mean Stevens Square will lose its own remaining community garden as of next year to highly likely development. If the MPRB won't consider acquiring it until there is a known threat, it will be too late. We know this from past experience. The CAC should advocate for action in that area NOW.