

# VICTORY PARK



## LOCATION AND HISTORY

Victory Park, located in the neighborhood for which it is named and adjacent to Victory Memorial Parkway, is one of the only Minneapolis parks that was developed before it was acquired. The first reference to the park was in 1974 when the park board approved a verbal report from representatives of the Victory neighborhood concerning development of a playground next to the Loring Elementary School. By 1976 the park board had approved a design program for the park and a year later approved schematic plans for a park, including a recreation shelter. The board also authorized a payment to the school board, but exactly what that payment covered is not clear. In addition to playground equipment, the park was provided that year with a wading pool and a basketball court. Despite that construction, the park board and school board did not sign a lease agreement for the property until 1980.

The park was significantly upgraded in 1998 with the cost divided between city bonds and Neighborhood Revitalization Program funds designated by the neighborhood.

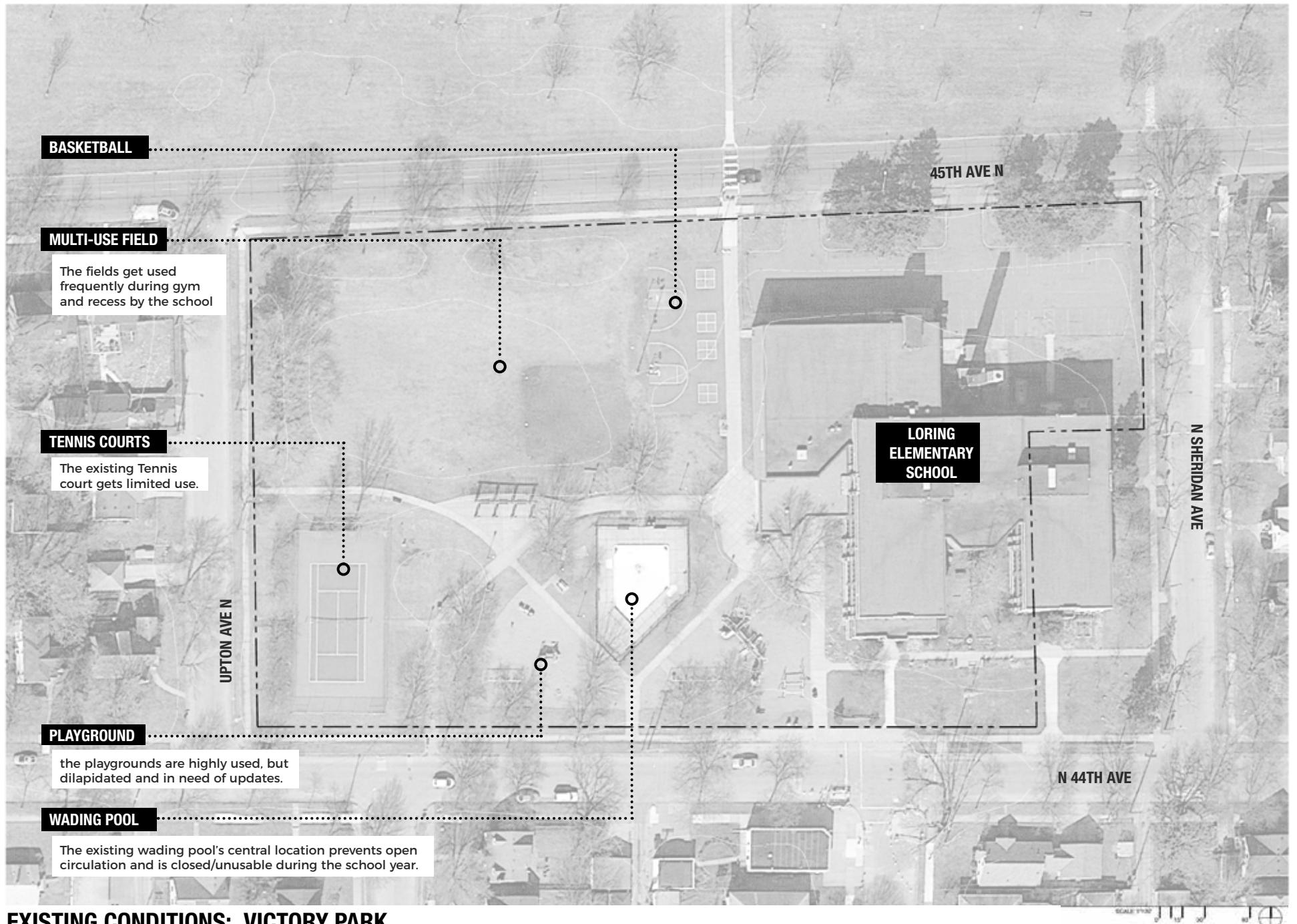
## EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

Victory Park, which exists on land leased from the Minneapolis Public Schools, does feel inextricably connected to the school. Recess takes place in the park, which is active with schoolchildren during the day and with neighborhood families

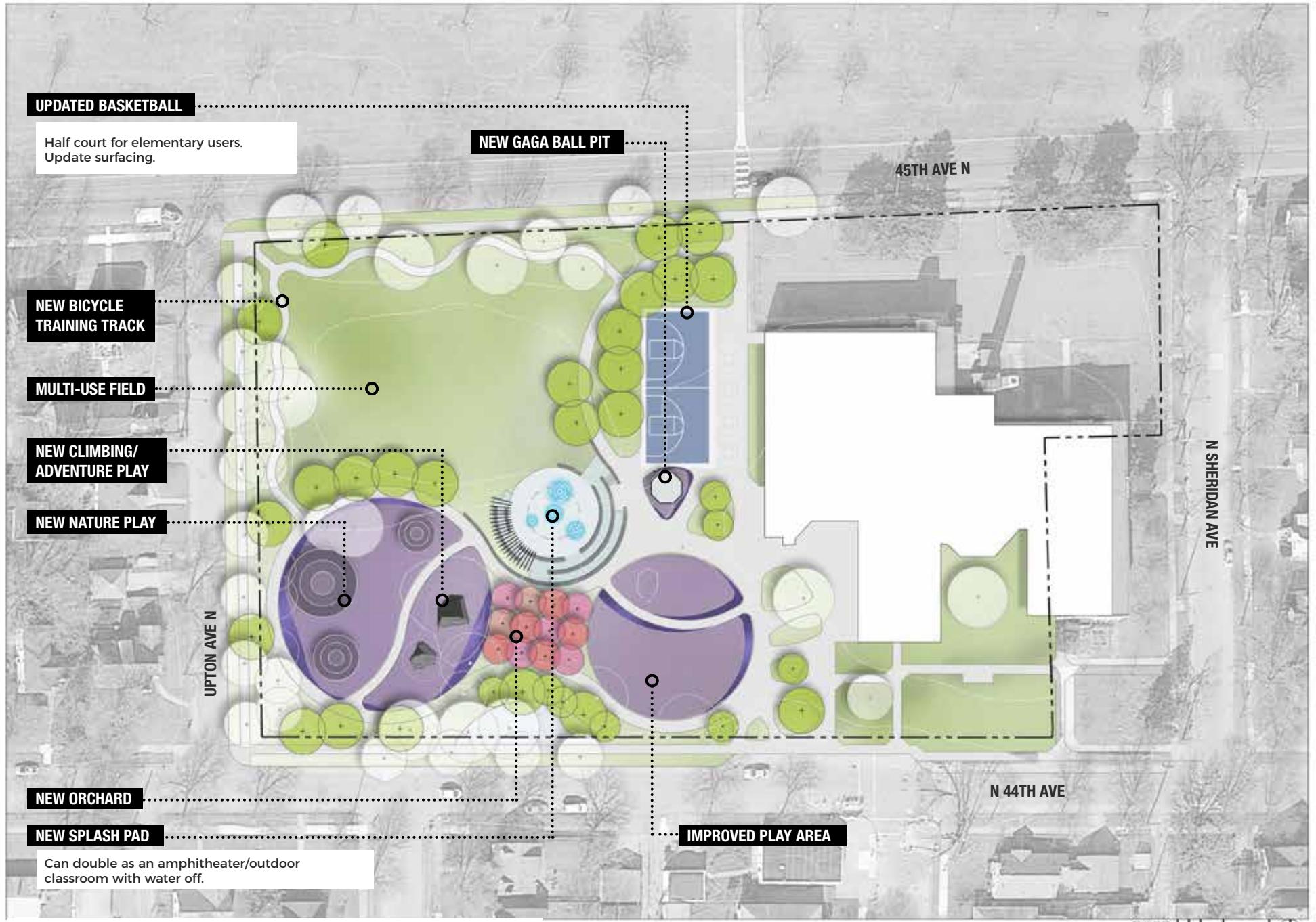
in the evening. It is a small park, occupying just half the block on which the school sits. Nearest the school along the southern edge of the park are a pair of play areas and a wading pool. A single tennis court sits in the southwestern corner of the park. The northern half of the park is occupied by a multi-use field that is sunken slightly below the rest of the park. Undulating berms surround the field and an arbor/picnic shelter sits between the field and play areas. East of the field and near the school is a paved area that features a pair of basketball courts and several four-square courts.

## THE PROPOSED DESIGN

The design of Victory Park will increase usability primarily for children and especially for the school. The tennis court is removed in favor of expanded play areas, the westernmost featuring adventure and nature elements like climbing boulders or earth mounds. A splash pad replaces the wading pool, to allow greater flexibility with aquatic play and outdoor spaces. Typically, pools are not operational when school is in session due to safety and supervision concerns. A splash pad, however, can remain in operation during the school year but be turned off during the school day, allowing neighborhood kids to play in the water on those hot September afternoons. In addition, when turned off, the splash pad can double as an outdoor classroom or community gathering space.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS: VICTORY PARK



## PROPOSED PLAN: VICTORY PARK

The multi-use field and basketball courts are retained as they are, and a “ga-ga pit” is added. The kids will love it! A small orchard provides shade and fresh food between the playgrounds. Around the perimeter of the park and weaving between the various play areas and splash pad elements is a bike playground loop. This paved trail features many curves, small hills, and other fun elements. Loring Elementary School has an excellent bike program and many kids ride bikes around the park during recess. This feature gives them more room to play and a less congested route.

Victory Park is a kids’ space, especially because of the adjacent school. The design ensures that it will be an even more fun and exciting kids’ space in the future.

## CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Victory Park is immediately adjacent to the Grand Rounds at Victory Parkway.

## KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES

Because the land is leased, any improvements will require coordination with Minneapolis Public Schools.

## COST ESTIMATE

Asset Type	Project	2019 ESTIMATED COST/PROJECT
Aquatics	Splash pad, incl. demolition of existing wading pool	\$ 1,518,699
Play	Traditional Play Structure and Adventure Play in new containers	\$ 1,210,213
Athletics	Multi-use Field renovation	\$ 180,346
Courts	Basketball Court (2 half courts)	\$ 151,870
Other	Renovate walking paths	\$ 569,512
Other	Gaga Ball Pit	\$ 75,935
Other	Miscl. signs, trees, furniture	\$ 74,132
<b>TOTAL</b>		\$ 3,780,707

## OPERATIONS ESTIMATE

VICTORY			
FACILITIES	Total Per Unit Operations Cost	△ Qty	△ Cost
Wading Pool	\$ 15,000	-1	\$ (15,000)
Splash Pad	\$ 35,000	1	\$ 35,000
Adventure/Climbing Play	\$ 7,500	1	\$ 7,500
Tennis Court	\$ 1,500	-1	\$ (1,500)
Gaga Pit	\$ 1,000	1	\$ 1,000
Bicycle Facility/Training Track	\$ 5,000	1	\$ 5,000
Amphitheater	\$ 1,500	1	\$ 1,500
Urban Agriculture	\$ 15,000	1	\$ 15,000
<b>Difference</b>			\$ 48,500

## PROCESSES

	<b>1: General Input Spring-Fall 2017</b> <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	<b>2: Initial Concepts Winter 2018</b> <i>Input themes on initial concepts</i>	<b>3: The Preferred Concept Now</b> <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
aquatics	Desire more interactive pool with fountains and zero depth entry	Comments split between wading pool and splash pad	New combination splash pad/amphitheater/outdoor classroom in same general location as wading pool
play	Mixed opinions on playground	Support for nature/adventure play area	Improved traditional play areas relocated to provide more space for school entry New adventure play area in general location of tennis court
athletics	Need for multi-use field in better condition	Limited comments on fields	Improved multi-use field
courts	Like basketball court, but want higher hoops Tennis courts not well used or liked	Mixed opinions on full- or half-court basketball Few comments on tennis, and no expressed concern about removal	Retain 2 half-court basketball Remove tennis court in favor of expanded adventure play area and bike loop
winter	no comments	no comments	No winter activities planned for this park
landscape	Keep the schoolyard garden and orchard	Preserve the landscaped berm around park	Natural areas included around edges of park New orchard designed around new amenities
other	Suggestion for skateboard and BMX bike park	Support for bike loop Include something unique for this park	New bike loop / bike playground New gaga ball pit