

From: Colleen Kepler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Ringold, Jennifer B. <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [External]Comments on Kings Highway Plans

Hello Park Board -

I would like to express my extreme discontent for the plans to remove trees and add bike lanes to Kings Highway at a cost of over \$800k. Our city has so many stresses on the budget and this is a waste of valuable resources for little gain. It is irresponsible environmental stewardship to lose so many mature trees. Please stop this plan.

Colleen Kepler
[REDACTED]

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From: Laura Johansson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 10:08 AM
To: Ringold, Jennifer B. <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [External]SW Area Master Plan Comments

I have registered to speak tonight, but wanted to send in my written comments as well.

Dear Park Board Commissioners:

My name is Laura Johansson and I have lived across from Painter Park for 20 years, raised my kids there, volunteered to coach soccer and ultimate frisbee in our parks and have collaborated with closely Painter Park staff, including provided grants to Park programs when I was at the Lyndale Neighborhood Association as its community organizer in the mid-90s and its Executive Director in the late 90's/early 2000.

I am writing on behalf of many neighbors in both Lyndale and South Uptown, who have worked extensively with Commissioner Bourn and Commissioner Forney for many months to craft a compromise proposal and vet an amendment to the SW Area Master Plan for Painter Park to retain its tennis court.

Let me start by thanking the volunteers on the SW Area plan CAC. I too have served on a Park Board CAC in recent years and know the commitment and challenges of doing engagement and planning well in the midst of competing priorities. I think most community members would agree the CAC did a great job in its plans for Painter Park – with the significant exception- the proposed removal of the tennis court.

I would suggest that Painter Park, is one of your most densely used park in the system. It sits on a relatively small square block but usually has a full playground, and at any time you might see a Somali or Latino soccer game, an ultimate frisbee team practicing, basketball games, tennis and pickle ball games, families BBQing, people playing KUBB, spike ball, practicing flag twirling, skateboarding, a huge kickball league (in non-Covid times) – and that's not to mention that Lyndale School, the Blaisdell YMCA, and Hiawatha Prep all bring classes to this little park as well. I think anyone would be hard pressed to find such a rich and diverse gathering of ages, ethnicities, and people enjoying such different activities in one the SW area's smaller Park Board's smaller parks. It's what makes Painter Park so vibrant – is that great mix of folks and no one activity dominates. Instead there are activities for all.

The amendment being proposed, which I believe many people wrote in to the SW Area survey to support, agrees with the CAC recommendation – in terms of adding a skate park (with the addition of good noise mitigation), retaining the full sized basketball, but instead retaining the

tennis court (rather than removing the tennis court in order to add a second basketball court). It's a highly used tennis court. The surrounding communities supported retaining basketball at Painter Park when so many SW parks were moving towards half courts more than a decade ago. We understood the importance of keeping it and Painter's Basketball game – is known as one of the best games on the south side. But just as this community supported keeping its basketball court when so many were being removed – the community also wants to make sure we retain the tennis court for the many users of this court. I think the Commissioners that represent this area know it is well used and the addition of pickle ball means it's the only amenity for seniors at Painter Park.

I have a letter here from the Executive Director of the Blaisdell Y – stating that for their summer programs they take youth outdoors in the late afternoons and evenings to use basketball courts at Painter Park and at Lyndale School (just two blocks away). "There is always plenty of open (basketball) courts to play on; we have never had to wait. While at the park and/or school, we do play organized basketball, and run an end of the summer tournament." She goes on to write, "We would love to add more tennis to our group offerings. We were hoping you would upgrade the tennis courts to allow for safer and better play on the courts," signed Mary Britts.

Finally, Park board planning staff have stated that there are other tennis courts in the area. While this community does have other nearby basketball courts, those at Lyndale School and at the YMCA, the nearest tennis courts are 1 mile south at Lyndale Farmstead, which with just two courts there is often a waiting time. And to our north - we are the northernmost tennis courts – so anyone living north of Painter – meaning folks along Lake Street or in the Whittier neighborhood, Lowry East, Lyndale or South Uptown - you won't find any courts north of Painter until you get to Loring Park 2.5 miles away or Kenwood 2.5 miles away, or crossing the freeway to Powderhorn Park more than 2 mi away.

So thank you for considering this amendment to retain the tennis court at Painter Park. We talked at the Lyndale neighborhood meeting, with Park staff, with South Uptown residents, with neighbors wanting the skateboard park and with basketball players from the neighborhood. Many folks were in support of a compromise position that retained the tennis court, full court basketball, and added a Skate Park with noise mitigation on the northwest corner of the park. We urged folks to write into the Park survey – and if you ask staff for the numbers of folks supporting this compromise proposal to retain the tennis court – I think you will find wide-spread support.

I want to personally thank Commissioner Forney and Commissioner Bourn for their support and help in considering a reasonable compromise.

Sincerely,

Laura Johansson

Laura

Laura Johansson, MSOD, Certified ToP® Facilitator

[Johansson Consulting LLC](#)

Certified Small Business Enterprise & Woman Owned Business



[REDACTED]
"What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

Mary Oliver

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From: Beth Popalisky <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 2:20 PM

To: Ringold, Jennifer B. <[REDACTED]>

Subject: [External]SW Area Parks Master Plan

Hi Jennifer,

here are comments for the meeting tonight. I will be speaking to the King's Hwy project, but also wanted to weigh in on these other amendments.

Thank you.

Beth Popalisky

I am writing in support of amendment 20B to the plan. The cost of the proposed splashpad is 1,642,692. This is an excessive expense for an amenity that exists in other parks. The amount is only to install. To maintain this is going to be extra work for those who maintain our park and extra money. Because this amenity is redundant, I would prefer to pass on the savings to a budget shortfall.

20B Lyndale Farmstead Aquatics ·

Modify Lyndale Farmstead graphic to remove splash pad, and instead expand adjacent play areas to fill the space. ·

Revise Lyndale Farmstead narrative, cost estimates, and maintenance estimates ·

Revise overall estimates and facilities maps

2. I would also like to support amendment 20A. The current half court is used frequently and the design allows for a walking path to go into the park from Bryant, pass the 1/2 court and walk above the parking path. The current drawings show there would no longer be a path from Bryant THROUGH the park to 38th. I walk this park daily and I assure you, the walking path is used far more heavily than the basketball court. To lose this path for a redundant full court does not seem to be in the best interest of the park users. I attended many of the meetings this summer. When this was discussed in the CAC, the plan was to flip the basketball court and go into the existing parking lot. That would allow for the walking path to remain. But that is not what the current design shows. Please see included visual.

20A Lyndale Farmstead Courts ·

Modify Lyndale Farmstead graphic to remove full court basketball, and instead retain existing half court. ·

Revise Lyndale Farmstead narrative, cost estimates, and maintenance estimates ·

Revise overall estimates and facilities maps

3. I support amendment 34A. I was at the meeting where the mall was discussed. There were so many people who live in the apartments nearby who chimed in. For them to lose their off-street parking would be near to impossible. Those apartments are naturally occurring affordable housing and to change the parking situation for so many seems an undue burden. I

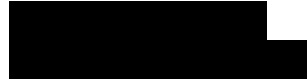
am writing in support of your constituents. The final document does not represent their voices. One would need to sift through the 510 page agenda document that you received on Friday October 2 to find their concerns before voting on October 7th. Realizing that you are part time commissioners, I understand this might be a challenge. I was at the meetings. I heard what was said. Please support this amendment.

34A The Mall Roads ·

Modify The Mall graphic to retain west-bound park road and parking ·
Revise The Mall narrative, cost estimates, and maintenance estimates ·
Revise overall estimates

Thank you.

Beth Popalisky



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From: Lisa McDonald <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 2:09 PM
To: Ringold, Jennifer B. <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Bourn, Brad <[REDACTED]>; Forney, Meg A. <[REDACTED]>; Cowgill, Jono M. <[REDACTED]>; Vetaw, Latrisha M. <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [External]SW area Plan King's Highway Bikeway

Dear Park Commissioners,

I am asking you to support amendment 15A on the Kings Highway Trails Bikeway. I testified several times at the SW CAC meetings against this bike path from 36th St. to Roselawn Road. It is disturbing that comments against this project from myself and many others were not included in the public record from those meetings. In addition staff never notified Lakewood Cemetery of this project. But told neighbors they had.

We followed up the the cemetery folks in the last month and discovered this was the first they had heard of this project immediately adjacent to their property line.

This project as proposed would result in the removal of 59 mature trees and significant tree canopy. The project is proposed to cost \$874,000. Plus there is a bike path less than two blocks away to the East and to the north. Staff indicates there are folks who want this.....no other data than that. Even the MPRB Forestry Department has written their opposition to this project.

In a time of scarce resources and environmental concerns (this project would create more pavement and hardscape we don't need. This project is an imprudent allocation of MPRB resources.

Thank you for your consideration.
Lisa McDonald

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

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From: James Peterson <[REDACTED]>
Date: October 7, 2020 at 1:22:50 PM CDT
To: "Ringold, Jennifer B." <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [External]King's Highway Bike Path

I am an avid biker, but also an advocate of maintaining our green urban forest. I understand that many trees would be in danger of being destroyed or weakened by the proposed bike path on King's Highway. Furthermore, the cost of the project is exorbitant; absolutely ludicrous in these difficult economic times. This area is served by numerous nearby bike trails and a feeder is completely unnecessary. On the many occasions where I have biked along the road, it has felt safe because it carries very little traffic.

Personally, I would leave it as is. If that isn't an option, why not designate it as a bikeway and put a 10mph limit with speed bumps on the affected blocks?

Certainly, that would be a more ecological and economically feasible solution.

Thank you for your consideration,

James Peterson

[REDACTED]

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From: David Andersen
To: Ringold, Jennifer B.
Subject: Re: [External]monies
Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 4:05:35 PM

It seems like that is a lot of improvement being done with The Mall while it is already inhabited by homeless who will be needing warmer shelter soon.

Just worry so about the homeless with winter coming.

Rosemary Andersen

On Tue, Oct 6, 2020 at 3:35 PM Ringold, Jennifer B. <[REDACTED]> wrote:

David,

Is your comment related to the SW Service Area Master Plan?

Best,

Jennifer Ringold

From: David Andersen <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 3:12 PM

To: Ringold, Jennifer B. <[REDACTED]>

Subject: [External]monies

How about putting this money into shelter for the homeless?

Rosemary Andersen

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From: Mary Pattock

To: Opentime

Cc: Cowgill, Jono M.; Forney, Meg A.; Vetaw, Latrisha M.; Brad Bourn; Meyer, Chris J.; French, Londel R.; ashassan@minneapolisparcs.org; Musich, Steffanie D.; Severson, Kale R.

Subject: [External]CIDNA comments on the Southwest Service Area Master Plan

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 1:35:55 PM

As chair of the Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA), I thank the MPRB for honoring the preferences expressed by our neighborhood regarding neighborhood parks.

Please note that we have some budget concerns, listed below.

Policy basis and expectations

The basis for our preferences is our commitment to environmental protection. *Residents of CIDNA overwhelmingly want the MPRB to protect the environment*, trees, greenspace and permeable surfaces; thus, our recommendations were to oppose overdevelopment in our neighborhood parks.

We want — and expect — the MPRB to be the fierce warrior protecting Minneapolis from urban heat island effects, because if it does not, who will? Certainly not the City, which openly admits it has developed no metrics to measure the effect of Mpls 2040 plan, and has refused to conduct an environmental study on the environmental impact of its plan — and certainly not developers.

Budget questions

We do have concerns pertaining to the budget for our neighborhood parks, however, which Claire Ruebeck will comment on during tonight's meeting, on behalf of CIDNA, including:

- Why are there large sums of money in the budgets for Park Siding Park and Alcott Park, neither of which need major overhauls?
- The St. Louis gateway concept is underfunded.
- Park Siding Park plans do not include the budgeted replacement drinking fountain budgeted.

Kings Highway

Unlike the City, the MPRB does have environmental metrics — significantly, tree canopy goals. Since trees are a first-line defense against urban heat island effect, *CIDNA opposes the creation of the new Kings Highway multi-use path* that would destroy dozens of mature trees. Although Kings Highway is not in our neighborhood, we have a significant investment in this destructive proposal as Mpls residents who are affected by the city's total tree canopy, which continues to be eroded incrementally. Please discard this reckless proposal.

Thank you for your work for our beloved city parks, and for consideration of our comments.

Mary Pattock, Chair

Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association
[REDACTED]

"Be kind. Be useful. Be fearless." ~ Barack Obama

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From: nicki mccracken

To: Ringold, Jennifer B.

Subject: [External]Comment for Southwest Parks Plan Public Hearing tomorrow

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 11:31:17 AM

Attachments: [Screen Shot 2020-10-06 at 11.19.32 AM.png](#)

Hi Jennifer,

Thanks for sending out the SW Parks Plan summary.

For the meeting tomorrow: Can you please have the Commission address the possibility of installing a water source and flood light at Lyndale Farmstead Dog Park?

Please see this petition signed by 340 Lyndale Farmstead neighbors:

[Install Water Source and Flood Light at Lyndale Farmstead Dog Park](#)

<https://www.change.org/p/minneapolis-park-and-recreation-board-water-source-and-flood-light-at-lyndale-farmstead-dog-park>

Thanks for you help. I will tune in tomorrow.

-Nicki McCracken

NICKI MCCRACKEN (sixonetwo)

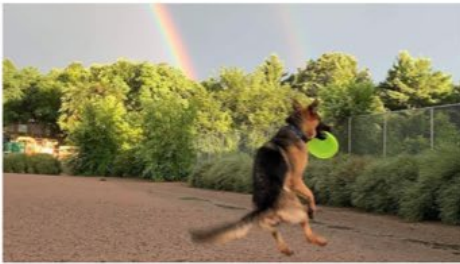
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Welcome back to Change.org! A new petition wins every hour thanks to signers like you.

What's new **Petition details** Comments Updates Discover

Install Water Source and Flood Light at Lyndale Farmstead Dog Park



Nathan Helgesen started this petition to Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Lyndale Farmstead Dog Park is a fixture for dog owners in South Minneapolis and the neighborhoods surrounding Lake Harriet.

One of seven off leash dog parks (OLDPs) in Minneapolis, Lyndale Farmstead is a favorite for many dogs, but is a particular draw for active, playful dogs due to its vast, unobstructed, open field footprint.

However, with little shade and no water supply, our furry friends struggle to stay cool and hydrated throughout the summer.

Many park-goers bring bottles of water in an effort to fill water bowls, but with no facilities nearby to refill, water quickly disappears on hot summer days. This, combined with limited shade, means our dogs are at an increased risk of heat exhaustion, and the alternative - limiting outdoor time - means restless pups that haven't burned off enough energy.

Additionally, winters in Minnesota mean early sunsets and a dark park. Many dog owners do not feel safe attending the park after the sun has gone down, and with sunset beginning as early as 4pm in the winter, this leaves many working people without a safe OLDLP option.

The solution we, the undersigned, are seeking is the installation of a drinking water supply line and a flood light or lights at Lyndale Farmstead Dog Park. The ideal placement of this water supply line would be the northwest corner of the park, near the concrete seating area where water bowls are currently located. The light or lights would ideally be located in such a configuration as to thoroughly illuminate at least a portion of the park, if not the park in its entirety.

Minneapolis Parks and Recreation currently collects license fees for the use of OLDPs, and provides very little maintenance or upkeep of Lyndale Farmstead Dog Park beyond weekly garbage service (for which we are grateful). We, the community that has helped finance the establishment and continued upkeep of Minneapolis OLDPs through taxes and license fees, would like to see some of those funds allocated to the installation of this drinking water supply line and flood light(s).

We also believe that these additions will add long term value to the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation system by further bolstering Lyndale Farmstead as a favorite for dog park visitors across the Twin Cities.

340 have signed. Let's get to 500!



Thanks to your support this petition has a chance at winning! We only need 160 more signatures to reach the next goal - can you help?

Take the next step!

From: Donald Willeke
To: Ringold, Jennifer B.
Subject: [External]Comment to be read at 6:45 tonight
Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 2:38:58 PM

> Dear MPRB Secretary Ringold:

>

> Please read the following comment at the public hearing at 6:45 today on the Southwest Service Area Master Plan:

>>

My name is Donald C. Willeke. As a Minneapolis Property Tax payer for 49 years, I object strongly to the plan to spend nearly \$900,000 to build four blocks of bike trails on Kong's Highway and destroying 60 mature trees in the process.

>>

Since 1974 and continuing through today, I have worked hard to help the MPRB get funding to deal with the huge losses of our urban trees to Dutch elm disease, emerald ash borer, and construction. To me it appears that killing 60 mature city trees to build only 4 blocks of bike trails at a cost of nearly \$900,000 seems to be extremely unwise, especially at a time when the MPRB budget is under great stress. That cost figure is similar in size to the MPRB's annual budget to plant thousands and thousands of badly needed street trees.

>>

The plan also removes a significant part of our vital city tree canopy at a time when the global warming crisis demands we save as many mature urban trees as possible.

>>

Please reconsider the wisdom of this proposal and remove it from the plan.

>

> Donald C. Willeke

[REDACTED]

>>>

> Sent from my iPhone

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From: John Wheaton
To: Ringold, Jennifer B.
Cc: Chris Replier
Subject: [External]Comments for Master Plan at MLK Park
Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 2:43:41 PM
Attachments: [Letter to Minneapolis Park Board re MLK Park Master Plan - Oct 7, 2020.pdf](#)

Hi Jennifer,

Below (and attached on our letterhead) are comments for inclusion in tonight's Park Board meeting. Thank you for having them read and submitted.

John Wheaton

[REDACTED]

=====

October 7, 2020

Minneapolis Park Board

2117 West River Road

Minneapolis, MN 55411

All of us at the InnerCity Tennis Foundation (ICTF) are pleased and proud to have served over 100,000 youth in Minneapolis since our inception in 1952, and we are pleased to serve many in the adult tennis community, as well. Most of our programming has occurred through our partnership with Minneapolis Parks, and we look forward to continuing to serve for many

years to come.

As a long term lessee on the grounds of **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park**, ICTF would like to offer a few comments on the proposed plan for the park:

Snow removal is a significant concern during winter months as snow accumulates in between and around the perimeter of our two air-supported domes.

- The grade on the north side of our north dome causes snow to melt toward our north grade beam, eventually causing ice dams and leakage into the facility. We respectfully request that the grade on the north side be evaluated and a solution engineered to improve the situation.

- Snow between our domes is moved to the area on the east side of the domes. The snow in this area piles up significantly and at times must be moved to the adjoining athletic fields. We ask that the configuration of this area take into consideration snow capacity and the ability to adequately navigate the area with snow-removal equipment.

- The proposed plan adds tennis and pickleball courts along the south side of our south dome. Currently, large amounts of snow are moved into this space where it remains until it melts. The proposed plan does not provide adequate space for snow removal along the south side, and we respectfully ask that this be a consideration in the proposed plan.

ICT leadership would definitely welcome the opportunity for an ongoing dialogue and partnership as the plan for the park progresses.

On behalf of the Board, staff and entire ICTF community, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Wheaton

Executive Director

--

John Wheaton
Executive Director



Reed Sweatt Family Tennis Center
4005 Nicollet Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55409-1516
www.innercitytennis.org

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October 7, 2020

Minneapolis Park Board
2117 West River Road
Minneapolis, MN 55411

All of us at the InnerCity Tennis Foundation (ICTF) are pleased and proud to have served over 100,000 youth in Minneapolis since our inception in 1952, and we are pleased to serve many in the adult tennis community, as well. Most of our programming has occurred through our partnership with Minneapolis Parks, and we look forward to continuing to serve for many years to come.

As a long term lessee on the grounds of **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park**, ICTF would like to offer a few comments on the proposed plan for the park:

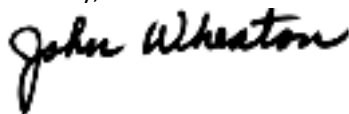
Snow removal is a significant concern during winter months as snow accumulates in between and around the perimeter of our two air-supported domes.

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ICT leadership would definitely welcome the opportunity for an ongoing dialogue and partnership as the plan for the park progresses.

On behalf of the Board, staff and entire ICTF community, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John Wheaton
Executive Director

From: [Dee Tvedt](#)

To: [Ringold, Jennifer B.](#)

Subject: [External]Comments re: Southwest Parks Plan

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 4:40:12 PM

Current public health issues and devastating, climate change-related events should weigh heavily in all planning decisions. It's 2020, and these master plans are outdated. Public green space is a highly valued necessity now, to help residents maintain physical and mental health. In densely populated areas, with small (if any) parks, the top priorities should be to retain and create more green space, and to retain and protect mature trees.

Gardening is a booming, healthy activity, capable of helping meet residents' needs in "food deserts"; yet some neighborhoods lack sufficient public land to meet the demand for community garden opportunities. MPRB should be actively, *proactively*, acquiring vacant land, at reasonable costs, *before* developers start thinking about their potential, and thus raising acquisition costs.

Thank you.

Dee Tvedt

Stevens Square-Loring Heights

she/her/hers

E-mail usually checked by 8 p.m.: dee_tvedt@yahoo.com

For quicker response, leave a voice message: (612) 870-0148 (landline; no texts, please!)

Be safe! Be well! Be strong!

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board <mplsparksandrec@public.govdelivery.com>

To: "████████████████████" >

Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 10:46:27 AM CDT

Subject: Southwest Parks Plan posted online; public hearing is Wednesday, October 7, 6:45 pm

[Logo MPRB Header](#)

Southwest Parks Plan

Southwest Parks Plan posted online; public hearing is Wednesday, October 7, 6:45 pm

Plan includes long-term plans for 42 neighborhood parks, one regional feature, six potential parks, and four park search areas in Southwest Minneapolis

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) will hold a public hearing on the Southwest Service Area Master Plan on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020 at 6:45 pm during the regular Board of Commissioners meeting.

The Southwest Service Area Master Plan, called the Southwest Parks Plan for short, includes long-term plans for 42 neighborhood parks, one regional feature, six potential parks, and four park search areas in Southwest Minneapolis. It sets a vision for the improvement, operation and management of all neighborhood parks in Southwest Minneapolis over the next 20-30 years. The plan was created after nearly two years of community-based engagement, planning and design with individuals, neighborhood groups and community organizations throughout Southwest Minneapolis.

This is the fourth iteration of the plan. Initial concepts debuted in February 2019, revised concepts were shared in May 2019 and a draft final plan was published for public comment in February 2020. The document represents the final recommendations of the Southwest Parks Plan Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which met 16 times over 18 months. The MPRB

would like to thank the CAC for its thoughtful, impassioned dedication to the planning process. Use the links below to view and comment on the plan online.

Park Plans

Parks #-D

28th St Tot Lot
Alcott Triangle
Armatage Park
Bryant Square Park
Chowen Triangle
Clinton Field Park
Dell Park

Parks E-K

Elmwood Triangle
Fremont Park
Fuller Park
Gladstone Triangle
Kenny Park
Kenwood Park
Kenwood Parkway
Kings Highway

Parks L

Levin Triangle
Linden Hills Boulevard

Parks M-P

The Mall
Mueller Park
Linden Hills Park
Lyndale Farmstead Park
Lyndale School Pool
Lynhurst Park
Painter Park
Parade Park
Park Siding Park
Penn Model Village Park
Pershing Park

Parks R-S

Reserve Block 40 Park
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park
Rustic Lodge Triangle
Saint Louis Triangle
Smith Triangle
Stevens Square Park

Parks T-W

Thomas Lowry Park
Vineland Triangle
Washburn Fair Oaks Park
Washburn Avenue Tot Lot
Waveland Triangle
West End Triangle
Whittier Park
Windom South Park

Other Elements

Regional/Potential Parks

Loon Lake Trolley Path
East Calhoun Gateway Area
31st Street Median
West Calhoun Bus Layover
Washburn Water Tower
Garfield Lot
Linden Hills Trolley Path

Plan Details

Introduction
Planning Process
Service Area Vision
Operations and Maintenance
Implementation

Participate in the Public Hearing

The MPRB added options to submit comments for its public meetings and hearings to minimize the risk of exposure to or potential spread of COVID-19, authorized under Minn. Stat. Section 13D.02. Most Commissioners will call in and the meeting will be viewable live via webcast and TV options. Please go to the [MPRB Board Meetings website](#) for links to view live and past meetings. There are three options to submit public hearing comments:

Call In (recommended)

Interested parties may sign up to provide comment for the public hearing by phone by completing the [Public Hearing Call-In Form](#) before 12 pm on the day of the meeting. Speakers will be sent a call-in number and conference ID one hour before the meeting. Speakers can call into the meeting using the call-in number and conference ID at its the scheduled time. Speakers will enter the meeting and be placed on mute where they can listen. Speakers can watch the meeting through normal meeting broadcast. Be aware there is a 20-30 second lag between the call and the broadcast. Please turn off the broadcast sound when you are called on to speak.

Write In

Send your comments to jringold@minneapolisparcs.org by 3:30 pm on the day of the board meeting.

In Person

All individuals wishing to speak can call 612-230-6400 before 4 pm the day of the meeting to be placed on the agenda or can sign up at the Board meeting prior to the start of the public hearing. Board meetings are held at Mary Merrill MPRB Headquarters Building; 2117 West River Road, Minneapolis MN, 55411.

Next Steps

Commissioners in the Planning Committee will consider the plan after the public hearing on Oct. 7. If approved by the Planning Committee, the full Board of Commissioners will consider the plan during its next meeting, scheduled Oct. 21. Once adopted, the final park designs will be used to build improvements funded by the [20-Year Neighborhood Park Plan](#), which dedicates \$11 million annually over 20 years (2017-2036) to revitalize Minneapolis neighborhood parks.

This project does not include recreation centers or areas classified as regional parkland, which include: Bde Maka Ska Park, Beard's Plaisance, Brownie Park, Cedar Lake Park, Cedar Lake Regional Trail, Kenilworth Regional Trail, Lake Harriet Park, Lake of the Isles Park, Lyndale Park, Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail, Morrison Park (home of Minneapolis Institute of Art), Roberts Bird Sanctuary, Soo Line Community Garden and William Berry Park. The one exception is the Loon Lake Trolley Path. The plan for that park space will be amended into the Bde Maka Ska-Harriet Master Plan.

Many Southwest Minneapolis regional park spaces already have long-term plans as part of the Bde Maka Ska-Harriet Master Plan, which was [approved by MPRB Commissioners on May 3, 2017](#).

[Button Visit Project Page](#)

[About the Southwest Service Area Master Plan](#)

The Southwest Service Area Master Plan (SW Parks Plan) will create new, long-term plans for all Minneapolis neighborhood parks south of I-394 and west of I35W. The SW Parks Plan will consider how parks are operated, maintained, and improved. It will include plans for all exterior facilities - athletic fields, playgrounds, trails, etc. - but not buildings or recreation centers.

Project Manager

Colleen O'Dell

612-230-6469

codell@minneapolisparcs.org

Park Info

612-230-6400

info@minneapolisparcs.org

MN Relay System: 711

Language Interpretation

Español: 612-230-6573 |

Soomaali: 612-230-6574 |

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From: Adam Fox, MD

To: Ringold, Jennifer B.

Subject: [External]Kenwood Park suggestions

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 4:31:09 PM

Hello,

I have lived (with my family) at [REDACTED], next door to the Kenwood Rec Center since 2001.

Suggestions:

1. It appears from the drawings that the \$112000 picnic shelter (which must be very wide and tall given the cost?) will be right in front of our house. If in fact a structure is going into the park no matter what, please consider moving it further into the park (30 + feet or so north, down the left field line of the field), away from all the busy-ness of the area. This is an area further out that is not under the canopy of the trees, that would be a better spot for it. My hopes is that there will be no electricity to it, and that it being further out will reduce the noise for the neighborhood.

2. Please do not level the ball field adjacent to W Franklin Ave. The field is used for some organized sports: kickball, t-ball and coach pitch baseball, but mostly informally. It is too small for kid pitch baseball. These levels of play do not require a level outfield. The field is beautiful as is. Please consider reallocating any money (the biggest expense of the project!) that would be used to level this field. There is an existing plan in place for fencing along W Franklin Ave to be temporary, for May and June, during the 2 month WESAC spring sport season (to stop balls from running into the street, but removed at the end of the season because fencing cuts down access). It is a short season and the area is already really busy!

There has been a lot of park board activity in this area in the past 20 years, and there are safety concerns from the increase in activity over the years! Some of these changes: Sidewalks on the park side of the street, enhanced backstop for the ball field, more playground equipment, the installation of a Nice Ride station and a (hopefully temporary) port-a-potty. Lots of activities already!

I worry about the safety of everyone, but especially kids from Kenwood and the after school

program with the busy-ness of the area. There is a heavily used crossing from the Rec Center to the park, which is used by Kenwood School students and Minneapolis Kids after school. The Kenwood Rec and school parking lot empty onto W Franklin here. City busses will be starting down W Franklin soon, when the 21st St light rail stop is completed.

In summary, the small southwest part of Kenwood park is very busy and has many amenities already (a great playground, a nice ball field for younger kids, a picnic area under a canopy of trees, a Nice Ride station, port-a-potty, green space, etc.). Adding more stuff to the immediate area will tax the park serenity, add more distraction, and reduce safety at a busy crossing for many kids and young families. Please consider moving the picnic pavilion further into the park to reduce the impact of activity, and not leveling the ballfield along W Franklin Ave which is not necessary for its size and current/intended use.

--

Adam Fox, MD
[REDACTED]

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From: Gary and Maryjo

To: Ringold, Jennifer B.

Subject: [External]King's highway bike path

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 12:13:39 PM

I believe the removal of 59 (healthy) trees goes against the MPRB directive just to have a 4 block bike path. It seems like that stretch could be one side for bikes (Dog park side) and the other for peds (cemetery side). I believe just painting lines and some signage would work. It also would be less of a budget hit with everything that is going on.

Thanks,

Maryjo Hackett

Gary Lent | Maryjo Hackett
[REDACTED]

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From: Kate Sandweiss

To: Ringold, Jennifer B.

Subject: [External]Levin Park

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 1:51:55 PM

Hi,

I'm generally very pleased with the Levin Park proposal. However, it seems very unwise and dangerous to have a pollinator garden that attracts bees right next to a picnic area given the number of people allergic to bee stings.

I was thinking maybe you could out it in the northern tip of the park, but In general, a pollinator garden in an area with so many children seems unwise.

Thanks,

Kate Sandweiss

Neighbor to park

Kate Sandweiss
Sent from a mobile device

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From: Bill Verville
To: Ringold, Jennifer B.
Subject: [External]Lyndale Farmstead full court basketball
Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 1:01:52 PM

Hello,

My name is Bill Verville. I live right across the street from Lyndale Farmstead. I just wanted to say that I oppose full court basketball set up. People already play well past curfew all summer long on the half court set up. With the parking lot right next to the court, it seems like a problem to me. There have been nights when people turn on their car lights to light up the court well after 10pm. Please reconsider keeping the half court basketball set up.

Bill Verville

[REDACTED]

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From: Sarah Warren
To: Ringold, Jennifer B.
Subject: [External]MPRB Public Hearing Parks Plan
Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 10:28:49 AM

Greetings!

I'm so excited about the proposed plans. I live in the Armatage area and my questions concern the Armatage Park plans.

1. The plans mention an enhanced pedestrian crossing at W 57th Street. Will that mean an additional traffic light? I hope so!
2. Would it be possible to propose enhancements to the public art gateway? For example, permanent fixtures for seasonal story stroll displays? I realize the plan does not determine specific design. Is there some way to be involved with this part of the plan as we move forward?

Thank you!

Sarah Warren

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

she/her/hers ([why pronouns matter](#))

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From: Paul Mueller
To: Ringold, Jennifer B.
Subject: [External]Needed increase in off-street parking.
Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 3:14:55 PM

Parks are remodeled for both current needs and future growth. The current amount of on-site parking at The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park represents the past. This project will be the most economical time to add needed parking.

Respectfully,
Paul Mueller

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From: Jon Lewis

To: Ringold, Jennifer B.

Subject: [External]Painter Park aspect of the Southwest Service Area Master Plan

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 9:42:22 AM

Please pass this along to the Commissioners for their meeting this evening. Thank you.

Greetings, Commissioners,

I am a resident of the Lyndale neighborhood and live quite near Painter Park. I am writing in support of the CAC recommendation for the redevelopment of Painter Park as part of the Southwest Service Area Master Plan, but with the following two amendments:

A. Please retain the tennis/pickleball court at Painter Park. The CAC proposal calls for the elimination of the tennis/pickleball court that currently exists and its replacement with a second basketball court. The tennis/pickleball court is used by all ages – from children learning to play to older residents. It is the only structured part of the park that is used by all ages. It has been a very important part of the neighborhood throughout the 31 years I have lived here, and I would keenly feel its loss.

B. Skate Park Noise Mitigation. It would be nice, as someone who lives close to the park, if there could be steps taken to mitigate the anticipated noise from the skate park.

I support the aspects of the plan that keep the open spaces and retain the current basketball court, as well as the removal of the parking lot and expansion of the playground area for the younger children. I just want to make sure that the needs of older residents are being met by the park as well as younger residents. Our parks are for everyone!

Thank you for your consideration.

Jon Lewis

Lyndale Neighborhood Resident

Jon Lewis



Without enthusiasm nothing great can be effected in art - Robert Schumann

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From: Grace Prince

To: Ringold, Jennifer B.

Subject: [External]Park Board meeting comment 10/7

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 11:03:40 PM

Hi my name is Grace Prince and I graduated this past spring from Washburn High School. I grew up across the street from Painter Park in Lyndale neighborhood and learned how to play tennis with my Grandma at the Painter Park tennis court. I urge you to keep the Painter Park tennis court. Living across the street from the park I'm able to witness all the different people who come to Painter for basketball, frisbee, the playground and tennis. The tennis court is used by all age groups and people of all walks of life and is used quite frequently despite its desrepair. During this spring and summer there barely were any days where someone wasn't using the tennis court. My brother, my Mom, my grandma and I have started playing pickle ball at the court and it is one of my favorite things to do at the park. Thank you for your consideration.

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From: Steven Shedivy

To: Ringold, Jennifer B.; O'Dell, Colleen

Cc: Info

Subject: [External]Park Plans - Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the world, across all age demographics

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 9:09:05 AM

I am a concerned and active resident living in Linden Hills, in between Linden Hills Park and Waveland Triangle. So I'm intimately familiar with both of those parks, but my comments really apply across most parks and the City of Minneapolis in general.

Do you know what Pickleball is? By every reliable research and sports-related source, **pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the world . . . and across all age demographics, including 68% of all of its players over the age of 60 years** (i.e., baby boomers, which just happens to be the largest growing age demographic group). And yet there is no proof that the City of Minneapolis park leadership has any clue of it's impending growth explosion. Correct me if I'm wrong (as I don't see it across all of the proposed park plans), but I'm not aware of a single pickleball court in the city of Minneapolis. **We need pickleball courts!**

U.S. cities with the **most pickleball** courts per 100,000 residents are Seattle (1.4), **St. Paul (1.2)**, Madison, Wisconsin (1.0), and Virginia Beach (0.8). Somehow, our neighboring St. Paul has seen the trend and is ahead of the growth curve--**Minneapolis should follow their lead, and ultimately overtake St. Paul in supporting pickleball in our neighborhoods.**

I do a lot of biking throughout Minneapolis and I see a lot of unused and dilapidated tennis courts throughout the city--Waveland Triangle is a perfect example, with only 1 of 2 tennis nets even up and in place over the past two years, and plant growth

coming up through the cracks in the playing surface, making it virtually impossible to play on and utilize. The Lake Nokomis area has at least two dual-tennis court areas that also are not even playable. **At minimum, these unused and unusable tennis courts would be excellent opportunities to put in pickleball courts there, and become popular areas for citizens to utilize and populate.**

According to a 2018 report, **more than 3 million players play pickleball** in the United States and that number has been **growing by more than 10 percent each year** over the past decade. In another way to emphasize it, pickleball has had a **650 percent increase** in numbers over the last six years, according to USA **Pickleball** Association (Apr. 21, 2019; USAPA).

Pickleball is fun, a great workout, and almost anyone can pick it up quickly and it requires very little skill to get involved. Also, from the city's expense and ongoing maintenance standpoint, it's also relatively simple to install and **super inexpensive to maintain.**

You'll see 80-year olds, 8-year olds and everyone in between playing pickleball! Since such a diverse range of people can play, pickleball is one of the most social recreational activities around. Hopping into a random game is a common practice in pickleball and makes for some very fun matches, and getting to meet new people. Pickleball is a great way to get active and exercise without killing your body or your time. Since it's less intense than other sports, injuries are much less common as well.

Why is it Growing?

It's FUN!!!

Offers a parallel sport for tennis players

Shorter learning curve than other racquet/paddle sports

Less physical impact on the body

Can be played both recreationally and competitively

Dramatic increase in places available to play---oops, apparently not in the city of Minneapolis!

I play pickleball regularly several times each week, along with other groups of friends. **Where do we play? In all of the surrounding suburbs**, which all have really nice new multiple-court (i.e., usually a minimum of 6 courts) pickleball facilities---including St. Louis Park, Edina, Richfield, Golden Valley, Eden Prairie and Minnetonka! But we'd prefer to play in our own community and neighborhoods . . . **we need pickleball courts in Minneapolis!!**

I have provided input to the Park Board in the past regarding the tremendous growth and trends in pickleball, but continue to see no awareness or acknowledgement of this fast-growing recreational activity in the U.S. **Minneapolis Parks has done a tremendous job of addressing more and improved bike trails--** providing more convenient trails to Minneapolis citizens as well as attracting more suburbanites to the city to enjoy Minneapolis' beauty and recreational attributes. **Pickleball represents a similar opportunity to keep Minneapolitans satisfied in their local neighborhoods and to attract others into the city--to spend their time and money in Minneapolis.**

I would look forward to continued discussion on this subject and would gladly participate in any opportunity to be involved in the development of pickleball in the City of Minneapolis. Thanks.

Steve Shedivy

"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." --Albert Einstein

"You may live in the world as it is, but you can still work to create the world as it should be." --Barack Obama

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From: Greg Berkhof

To: Ringold, Jennifer B.

Subject: [External]Public Hearing 10/7/20 - Pershing Park

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 11:35:42 AM

I've lived a block from this park for almost 20 years and enjoy this park every day of the year (no matter the weather).

I have sent in my comments several times about this redesign, but it doesn't appear my comments were chosen to be displayed on the plan.

I'd like to know how decisions were made on what to keep/what to update or replace.

1. I have never seen the batting cages being used. The inside of the cage is not kept up, netting is torn, etc...Why keep this batting cage?

2. I'm not sure what the additional multi-use court is for? Why not make it a basketball court so there are two? I don't see what this will be used for. Just an court with no nets, rims is just a waste of space.

3. Pitching mounds?? What on earth are these for? The two softball/baseball fields do not currently have "mounds". The kids that play tee ball or baseball on these fields do not require extra pitching mounds to warm up. It makes no sense to add these.

4. The pool. The existing pool is very adequate. Why would you spend \$2m to redo this?

5. WHERE'S THE FENCED IN AREA FOR OUR DOGS??? I know I am not the only one to request a fenced in area for our dogs to play off leash. If you don't want the tennis courts to serve this purpose, you should consider adding a fenced in area. I've suggested previously placing such area where your proposed pitching mounds are located. A second area would be along Chown Ave. between the tennis courts and sidewalk. The grass there is already mostly weeds and the trees would provide shade for the dogs/people. PLEASE consider adding a small fenced in area for our off leash dogs. With the pandemic there are so many more people with dogs now than there were prior and they need a safe place to run. Very inexpensive and if it's made into an actual dog park the city can even make money off the necessary licenses.

Thanks for hearing me out.

Greg Berkhof

[REDACTED]

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From: lori lickteig
To: Ringold, Jennifer B.
Subject: [External]Reserve block 40
Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 11:19:15 AM



Hi-

My name is Lori Lickteig and I live on the park. I've sent comments which have not made it into the plan comment sections.

This lovely park has a very significant flooding problem that needs to be resolved before we put any money into other upgrades. Please address this problem before someone is hurt and before this situation causes irreparable damage to the infrastructure and existing equipment.

Thank you

Lori Lickteig

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From: Karen Virnig
To: Ringold, Jennifer B.

Subject: [External]SW Park Plan, Kong's Highway

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 2:55:40 PM

I am writing to oppose the plan to put in a bike way between 36th Street and the Rose Garden Park. The number of mature trees which would be taken down is huge (59 I believe in the 4 blocks) and the environment will be impacted. The amount of money this project would cost (\$874,000) will impact the Park budget. There are many other projects we should be looking at. There is a bike street just 2 blocks over which certainly can be used. And off 38th Street one can cut through the Park and bike to the corner of the Rose Garden Park. This project does not meet environmental standards and the cost is appalling. Please vote this down!

Karen Virnig
[REDACTED]

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From: Paul Forsline

To: Ringold, Jennifer B.

Subject: [External]SW Parks Plan Public Hearing - 6:45pm 10/7

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 1:31:42 PM

Planning Committee Chair Meyer, Vice Chair Forney, Commissioners and Superintendent Bangoura,

City of Skate would like to express our support for the four new skateboard spaces included in the Southwest Service Area Master Plan - Armatage Skatepark, Painter Skatepark, Smith Triangle Skate Spot, and the 28th St. DIY Community Skatepark.

These four spaces, along with the already approved skatepark within the regional park at Bde Maka Ska, will serve all Minneapolis residents with a variety of skateboard spaces and easier access to this equity activity.

Along with all the positive public comments for skateparks and skateboarding within the SW plan, the MPRB Skate Park Activity Plan competed in 2018, included 1300+ comments with many requests for skate-spaces accessible to the denser populated areas of SW Minneapolis. Thank you to MPRB staff and commissioners for your time and energy on this SW plan, along with all the completed citywide Service Area Master Plans.

City of Skate, in partnership with MPRB, looks forward to moving our planned skateboard spaces into the build process for our world recognized park system, our youth and our communities.

Paul Forsline, City of Skate

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From: Jennifer Abbey

To: Ringold, Jennifer B.

Subject: [External]SW Service Area Master Plan Public Comment

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 10:57:58 AM

Dear MPRB Commissioners,

I live in Whittier and am an active member of the Whittier International Elementary School community. I'd like to ask you to adopt the final design for Whittier Park as proposed for **two reasons:**

1) I was part of a coalition of neighbors last year to have the CAC strike the idea of astroturfing our beloved natural grass multi-purpose field. The final design states, "No artificial turf at this park" and I wholeheartedly support this due to **numerous** ecological and

health related concerns.

2) I support replacing the small wading pool with an accessible splash pad. Both Mueller Park and Bryant Square Park offer wading pools **not** on public school grounds and are just 0.5 miles and 0.8 miles from Whittier, respectively. A splash pad can be used into the evening in early summer and late fall when school is in session, whereas the current pool cannot. And because the splash pad will not require fencing, it will increase the playable area for the 500+ students who use the park for recess nine months of the year and my neighbors who use the park year-round.

Thank you in advance for approving the final Whittier Park design as proposed, and thank you to all of the MPRB staff for their hard work over the course of the entire Southwest Parks Plan.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Abbey

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From: Jan Halvorson
To: Ringold, Jennifer B.
Subject: [External]SW Service Project: The Mall; Board Meeting 10/7/2020
Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 10:47:52 PM

My name is Jan Halvorson and I live at 2886 James Ave S in Uptown Mpls., a block south of The Mall. Regarding the current plan for The Mall, I am aggravated with the future parking, traffic and safety issues it will create.

Under this plan, parking availability for the local residents near The Mall will lessen or mostly disappear; not to mention there will be more confusion in traffic in a densely-trafficked residential area. There's never parking spaces for visitors now, so that would remain and be a bigger problem.

Because of the current, increased street crime in our area, due to the failures of the City Council and Mayor, residents that will be parking well away from their residences will be at risk for criminal activity, both when they leave and return. Who will answer for that, if not you?

I am angry at the indifference shown to the tax-paying residents regarding the crime, and now, this Board will create more of the same. Your ridiculous decision to allow homeless people on the Mall (housing is not a part of the Board's pervue) brings with it potential crime and health implications.

I don't know who you are actually pandering to, but I'm confident it's not the residents. Perhaps this is a clever way to move into the "no cars" plan in Europe? Keep in mind, we left Europe in the first place. Get ready if this goes forward as is; you will create havoc in our area and that you will pay for next election, I guarantee. Thank you for your time. -Jan Halvorson

[External] This email originated from outside of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Pat Dalton
To: Ringold, Jennifer B.
Subject: [External]SW area park plan - dearth of pickleball courts.
Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 2:39:40 PM

I would really like to see some dedicated pickle ball courts in the SW corner of the area (currently only planned in northern section - Kennwood and East-central section - MLK park). I know a number of people in this area end up driving to Richfield or Edina to play. If you can't dedicate them at least stripe more of the rebuilt tennis courts in this area for dual use. You are rebuilding the 4 courts at 52nd and Newton but none will be striped for pickleball - what a waste!

Pat Dalton
[REDACTED]

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From: Jared Mountain
To: Ringold, Jennifer B.
Cc: Patrick Smith
Subject: [External]Southwest Baseball and Softball Statement to be read tonight
Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 3:00:21 PM
Attachments: Southwest Baseball and Softball Points of Emphasis.docx

Hello,

Please see attached and read tonight at the meeting. It is under 300 words I have also included it below. Please let me know if you need anything else.

SWHS diamond fields are the worst in Minneapolis.

SWHS prefers to play at Pershing and not have to rely on busses for games and practices which are currently being cut by our district

We have 3 teams and need 3 fields for practices. Now under the CAC recommendation, there's only one 'non premier' field in SW area.

Our lower level teams do not practice with the mound nor do any of our fields have any the premier qualifications **not one** field in the SW has a permanent baseball nor softball fence. We would be very pleased with even seasonal fencing if it meant getting a quality field(s).

CAC recommending Kenney to have artificial turf and be striped for field sports only (took out of first two plans). Dave Wicker (MPS athletics) wrote that multi-use facilities make the most sense with many local areas already doing that.

It was argued that Artificial turf fields would be harmed by baseball. Field sports do way more harm, go look at any current field & compare.

At CAC meetings they talked about there will be Premier fields but the CAC did not know what a 'Premier field' meant beyond there would be 'more maintenance'

Premier fields have the following in Mpls: fix dugouts with covers, fences, scoreboard, bullpen practice mounds, batting cages. They are Premier because they offer more and there is fee; current plan does not have this

Current CAC plan will make Softball and Baseball in SW area worse than it is today.

The Twins are willing and able to help us fund very nice facilities for softball and baseball for very little cost for the parks

The Original plans and revised plans included something for field and diamond sports, why not now?

Thank You,

Jared Mountain-Southwest Baseball

Thank you for your time,

Jared Mountain

Head Baseball Coach

Minneapolis Southwest High School
[REDACTED]

Swbaseball.org twitter: @coachmountain

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The original plans and revised plans included something for field and diamond sports, why not now?

Thank You,

Jared Mountain-Southwest Baseball

From: [Angela Reed](#)

To: [Ringold, Jennifer B.](#)

Subject: [External]Southwest Parks Master Plan Comment- Request to Read at meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 10:38:49 PM

I would like to submit the following comment to be read at the MPRB board meeting in regards to the SouthWest Park Master Plan and specifically in regards to the proposed basketball courts at Painter Park. Painter Park should include two basketball courts. Throughout the work by MPRB staff, community engagement and CAC engagement two basketball courts were the preferred option for this park and recommended by the CAC as the preferred plan for Painter Park.

I understand that some residents who live around the park have organized after the 18 month long process to argue against the inclusion of two basketball courts into the plan. The park board and park board commissioners must not allow those who have the political connections to come in after the fact and change a plan against the will of those using the park, the CAC and those who engaged and commented on the park during

the design process.

The inclusion and removal of basketball courts has been a topic weighted in racial prejudice over the last 40 years. MPRB commissioners should recognize the history within the Minneapolis Parks system of removing basketball courts and other facilities used by BIPOC residents and break the cycle of 'white washing' parks at the request of well connected people looking to shape the use of the parks in their image and exclude others. The current court is the most used feature of the park. The single court can not meet the demand at the park. The addition of another basketball court is the correct decision to meet the demand for basketball at this park and work to overcome a history of excluding and removing features that BIPOC residents use.

Angela Reed

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Steven and Lorna Williams

To: Ringold, Jennifer B.

Subject: [External]Southwest Parks Master Plan, Public Comment

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 11:51:58 AM

To: Jennifer Ringold, Park Board secretary

From: Lorna Williams, [REDACTED]

The short answer to "Should the Park Board approve the Southwest Park Master Plan?" Is NO!

Our Minneapolis Park system has been rated #1 in the nation for the past several years by the nonprofit Trust for Public Lands. Its parks DO NOT require an absurdly disruptive, destructive, expensive, unpopular remake. STOP cutting down healthy trees, catering to special interest groups, such as pickle-ballers, speed bikers, dirt bikers, etc. Parks are for people, calm places of refuge and recreation.

Money Magazine in "Best Places To Live in the U.S." (2018-19) named Lynnhurst in Minneapolis as #46 because "Minneapolis has one of the best park systems in the nation, and is surrounded by stunning rivers and lakes. Long distance bikers take advantage of 15 miles of scenic trails that circle Lake Harriet and connect to four other lakes in the area. In the summer, residents stroll the scenic pedestrian walking paths, swim at Lake Harriet South Beach, and during the FREEZING winter, they turn to ice fishing, hockey, and snowshoeing." They continue, but you get the idea. NO mention is made of any need to hijack that valuable park space for speed biking, dirt bikes, or a boat launch on peaceful Minnehaha Creek. The Minnehaha Parkway is for ALL citizens of all ages, not a speed bikers haven, and has been a calm traffic link to St. Paul and the Mississippi River longer than most can remember. Leave it that way.

Children's needs should be priority, not traffic, whether the kids come from the neighborhood or attend Burroughs School from all over the city. Toddlers and small children who play in the park and in the splash pool are not nuisances to be tossed into a Lake Harriet drainage ditch that runs between Lake Harriet and Minnehaha Creek. Swimming in that "feature" is unhealthy and dangerous, to say the least. Sports fields all over the city should remain play areas, programmed for youngsters, their surfaces natural, not covered with cancer-causing turf, etc. Kids should be the main focus of the park system. They DO NOT NEED park building funds and areas devoted to sedentary computer labs. Our libraries are geared for that sort of educational activity and have professional staffs. Clean up and update current buildings on a park scale, not huge new structures that require more tree cutting. Keep skating rinks, etc. INSTALL hand-washing stations and remodeled lavatories, shiny and clean, all over the city's

park system. Focus on kids and their activities.

I attended at least six master plan meetings and was appalled by Adam's dismissive, disrespectful attitude, by his refusal to provide simple hand-held mics so the panel and public could hear each other. His I-Know-Best process and the resulting plan is a waste of public lands and money. Take care of the parks, don't destroy them.

Thank you.

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From: [Chandra Lalla](#)

To: [Ringold, Jennifer B.](#)

Subject: [External]Southwest Parks Plan comments

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 2:20:23 PM

Hi,

I support the full court basketball at Mueller Park thanks for considering the actual demographics of the neighborhood with the proposed plan.

General comment on all concepts in all parks that expand on space for basketball courts, adds basketball. or removes parking for other activities/sports I completely support.

For The Mall I'd like to see all parking removed, if any remains it should be paid parking with meters. I support anything that makes this space less a glorified parking lot and more into an actual public park for residents to use.

Thank you,

Chandra

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From: [chadron harkin](#)

To: [Ringold, Jennifer B.](#)

Subject: [External]Thomas Lowry Park comments for meeting today

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 9:11:04 AM

Attachments: [ATT00001.txt](#)

Just wanted to send a quick note and picture (attached) about how Thomas Lowry Park has benefitted us and our neighbors.

We moved across the street on 7/17/20 and were immediately drawn to the park, its wellmaintained

landscape, and the large amount of people that enjoy it. We have already met 30+ neighbors and their dogs through access to the park. We even attended our first volunteer maintenance last month.

Are son Joe has a rare genetic disorder and dogs are a calming tool. He visits the park at least three times a day to say hi and walk the neighbor's dogs. In a few months he has become well known in the park and is having a birthday party there this Saturday with all the dogs. Our 4 year-old daughter actually rode her first hill in the park without training wheels.

Thank you for the continued attention and resources allocated towards Thomas Lowry Park.

As a family and good neighbor we will continue to do our part to keep it well maintained and a benefit to the community.

Regards,

Chad Harkin

From: Chad Harkin <charkin@robertscommunities.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 7:57 AM
To: chadron harkin <chadronharkin12@msn.com>
Subject: IMG_1365.jpeg

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From: Robert Kean
To: Ringold, Jennifer B.
Subject: [External]comment on SW parks plan - Loon lake trolley path
Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 11:06:03 AM

Jennifer,

I looked over the South West Park plan documents today. Overall, the plans look good and will be an improvement over the existing state.

I'm pleased to see the inclusion of the Loon Lake Trolley Path in the plan. I live in the neighborhood and do enjoy walking the path from time to time. One additional thing I would like to see in the plan is some type of steps added to the path terminus at 36th street. The hill is fairly steep there, making the path subject to erosion as well as making it potentially hazardous to walk in wet weather. The steps could be something informal like natural stone or treated lumber.

Thanks,
Robert Kean

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: Ringold, Jennifer B.
Cc: Meyer, Chris J.; Sievert, Ralph C.
Subject: [External]public comments on the Southwest Service Area Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 2:56:39 PM

Dear MPRB Secretary Ringold,

Please enter this message into the public comment record for the hearing today at 6:45 pm regarding the Southwest Service Area Master Plan.

As Chair of the Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission, I would like to go on record opposing the proposed destruction of 60 mature trees along King's Highway. While I understand the value of bicycle lanes, a plan for them which destroys so many large public trees is not acceptable. These trees provide outstanding multiple benefits to the community and city. Removal of so many healthy trees goes against Minneapolis Park and Recreation board policy.

Thank you for providing the opportunity for public comment on this.

Sincerely,
Peggy Booth

[REDACTED]

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