THE MALL

LOCATION AND HISTORY

The Mall encompasses five blocks of grass median and roadway stretching from Hennepin Avenue to Lake of the Isles. In 1911, the water channel that linked Lake of the Isles and Bde Maka Ska was first opened (now known as the lagoon). Shortly thereafter, the Park Board received a petition from The Lake District Protective Association to construct a new parkway to the lagoon, as well as petitions from others in the neighborhood who opposed a parkway. The true motivation of the Lake District Protective Association may have been to obtain the land south of the railroad tracks before industrial developments acquired it. To many people, industrial use of that land would have been incompatible with the symbols of progress and refinement that stood at either end of the boulevard - the lagoon and the new Walker Library. When the community could not agree on whether to create the parkway or not, they deferred the decision to the Park Board which almost immediately acquired the land to create a park. At the time of its acquisition in 1912 the area was called 29th Street Boulevard. Later that year, the name The Mall was selected after the unusual action by the Park Board of requesting public input in choosing a name. Park Board records indicate that the Lake Calhoun Improvement Association submitted recommendations and shortly after, the name “The Mall” was chosen.

Seven houses were sold and removed from the land before construction could begin. The double roadway that was built is noteworthy in park history because it was used to test a new method of pavement: a two-course pavement of concrete and an asphalt-concrete mix. Wirth, having hired two paving experts from Winnipeg and Chicago, deemed the pavement results such a success that the method was used on other parkways. Within the next few years however Wirth changed his mind, determining that the concrete mix was too expensive and not durable enough. It was already becoming apparent that The Mall pavement would have to be repaired.

The Mall was also the pilot site of a park engineering project in 1923 when the Minneapolis General Electric Company installed test lighting consisting of 12-foot ornamental standards with 400 candle-power incandescent lights placed 100 feet apart. Overall, Wirth determined from this pilot project that the overall operations and maintenance cost for the lights would be too costly for system-wide use.

In Wirth’s reminiscences of his first twenty-five years as park superintendent, published in the 1930 annual report, he included before and after photos of The Mall. The Mall largely disappeared from public and Park Board attention until in 1962 when the City Council requested an easement along The Mall for street and parking purposes. The Park Board approved the easement until an outcry of protest from the neighborhood forced them to rescind their action before the City Council had time to formally accept it. There have been very few changes made to The Mall since it was constructed aside from the closing of the intersection with Hennepin Avenue when the old Walker Library was replaced with a new underground library at Hennepin and Lagoon in 1981. The Library Board inquired with the Park Board...
Board about buying a piece of The Mall for the new library, but the Park Board refused. It cited its land policy, which was developed in the 1960s at a time when roads and freeways were encroaching on park property and rejected the sale of any useful park land for any reason. The Park Board repaved the roadways and replaced the lighting in 1989. In 2016 the East Isles Residents Association helped improve the park with additional landscaping, and in 2018 funding was allocated in partnership with Hennepin County to enhance the connection between The Mall and the Midtown Greenway.

Excerpted from history written by David C. Smith

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

This linear park is made up of a central grass median split into 4 sections with one-way park roads bordering it to the north and south. The Midtown Greenway runs parallel to The Mall just to the north of it. James, Irving, and Humboldt Avenues cut north-south through the park at three signed intersections. A sidewalk runs down the middle of the full length of the median. Before each intersection this sidewalk splits to create a small triangle, each one planted with a volunteer-maintained ornamental garden. An allee of mature trees runs along each side of this central sidewalk, which makes for a lovely shaded stroll. Benches along the way provide a place to sit and enjoy the park. At the east end where the park meets the Walker Library and Hennepin Ave Transit station there is a rectangular open grass area with a path, park sign, and garden. At the west end the park terminates at E Bde Maka Ska Parkway with no crosswalk to shepherd pedestrians to the regional park across the road.

Compared to the constant activity on Hennepin Avenue and the Uptown area in general, the park can feel quiet and tucked away. A few times a year, large events such as the Uptown Art Fair draw large crowds. During spring, summer, and fall, the East Isles Farmers Market utilizes the space. Large multi-unit rental buildings occupy the blocks south of The Mall, while to the north is a neighborhood of primarily single-family homes and duplexes.

While it’s possible to drive a full loop through the park, it’s more common to see the park road used for on-street parking and as a means to avoid traffic along neighboring Hennepin and Lagoon Avenues during peak hours. Additionally, the Walker Library, located in the southeast corner of the park, relies on the park road as the one-way exit from their underground parking and for access to a book drop off.

THE PROPOSED DESIGN

The Mall will retain its distinctive linear character while also responding to community environmental concerns and desires for additional open green space. There will be a gradient of active to more passive uses from east to west, reflecting the urban vibrancy of Uptown at one end and the tranquil beauty of the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park at the other. The most significant improvements will occur at each end of The Mall. The east end next to Hennepin Ave will include a gathering space with a formal central lawn framed by sitting steps, trees, plantings, and walkways. It will be bordered by a fountain, plazas with tables and chairs, and public art. A new multi-use trail connection at this eastern end will provide bicycle and pedestrian access from Hennepin Avenue to the Midtown Greenway. A balcony with benches, an informal play area, and a new railing overlooks the Greenway next to the busy transit station. Much of the design ideas for the east end come from an Uptown Mall Study completed in 2011 by Close Landscape Architecture and VIAA for Hennepin County and MPRB.

The existing portion of one-way park roads between Hennepin and Humboldt Avenues will be converted to a shared use woonerf/flexible market street. This could include permeable pavement and mountable curbs that can accommodate vehicles but are guided by urban design principles focused on pedestrians. This reconfiguration of the road enhances stormwater capture in this flood-prone area, and more seamlessly flows into the activated park space next to busy Hennepin Avenue, especially during large events. Flexible seating is added to the central median space. Existing gardens at intersections will be retained and enhanced.

Between Humboldt and Irving Avenues the park roads, gardens, and median with updated center walkway will remain much as they are today. Sidewalk will be installed where it is missing between Irving Avenue and the alleyway to the east. Community gardens or other urban agriculture between Humboldt and James Avenues will enhance the center section of The Mall. North-south through streets will not be altered by this design.

At the western end of The Mall between Irving Ave and Bde Maka Ska Boulevard the median’s central walkway will be shifted to the edge of the park south of existing boulevard trees. This allows for additional open green space in the median and an enhanced pedestrian crosswalk at the Bde Maka Ska Parkway.
To enhance the greening of this space and emphasize the gradient of more passive uses at the west end, the west-bound park road will be removed from these two blocks and replaced with forested and open green space. The east-bound park road will be removed between the alleyways so that one-way alley egress without parking can be maintained. The goal of this reconfiguration of the west end is support for a more continuous, uninterrupted green and forested space, with removal of impervious surfacing as one moves down The Mall closer to the lagoon waterway. This green space could include naturalized stormwater management best practices including native plantings under tree driplines to protect root areas, raingardens, and community gardens.

Overall, this design increases the amount of green space leading to the lakes, strives to protect tree canopy whenever possible, and enhances the pedestrian experience throughout, while supporting more active uses at the east end.

**CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS**

The Mall serves as a unique green connection between the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park and the Grand Rounds to the busy Uptown Area. Both Bde Maka Ska and Lake of the Isles are easily accessed from The Mall, as is the Midtown Greenway. Levin Triangle is a half-mile away, Mueller Park is a mile north, while Bryant Square and Painter Parks are just over a mile to the southeast.

**KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES**

Coordination with Hennepin County Libraries, the City of Minneapolis, Metro Transit, and the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority will be necessary for improvements to the east end, road reconfiguration, and cultivation of urban agriculture areas. Temporary road closures of the woonerf at the east end should be coordinated with the Library’s building and parking hours. Ongoing coordination with large events such as the Uptown Art Fair and EIRA farmers market will be necessary to design the woonerf and the addition of green space at the west end. Residential multi-unit housing adjacent to The Mall currently uses free parking on the one-way park roads, some of which will be removed. The SW Parks Plan Community Advisory Committee recommends searching for a parking solution in collaboration with the City. Continued collaboration between the Park Board and volunteer garden stewards is important to the success of gardens at The Mall’s cross street intersections.
INTRODUCTION

SERVICE AREA VISION

IMPLEMENTATION

MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

SOUTHWEST SERVICE AREA MASTER PLAN
PROPOSED DESIGN FEATURES

1. **Informal Play Area** (with option for small play spots to be incorporated along The Mall)
2. **Plaza with Plantings** (design based on proposed Hennepin County and MPRB plan)
3. **Shared Use Woonerf/Flexible Market Street** (potential temporary road closures, permeable surface, vehicles and parking accommodated but guided by urban design features focused on pedestrians)
4. **Midtown Greenway Multi-Use Trail Connection and Updated Walkway**
5. **Enhanced Naturalized Areas and Pedestrian Crossings** (stewardship gardens near north-south and east-west crossings)
6. **Community Garden/Urban Agriculture** (work with Hennepin County to explore opportunity to engage with Midtown Greenway)
7. **Native Plantings and/or Raingardens** (in collaboration with Hennepin County)
8. **Enhanced Pedestrian Crossing to Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park**
9. **Forested and Open Green Space**
10. **Relocated Path**
11. **Through-Alleys** (one-way through-alleys without parking)

EXISTING FEATURES

A. **One-Way Road Configuration** with on-street parking
Looking East

This section depicts a shared-use woonerf and flexible market street. This proposed concept would be located between Humboldt Avenue and the plaza adjacent to Hennepin Avenue. See The Mall park proposed plan for more information.
PROPOSED DESIGN FEATURES

1. INFORMAL PLAY AREA (with option for small play spots to be incorporated along The Mall)

2. PLAZA WITH PLANTINGS AND CENTRAL LAWN (design based on proposed Hennepin County and MPRB plan)

3. SHARED USE WOONERF/FLEXIBLE MARKET STREET (potential temp. road closures, permeable surface, vehicles and parking accommodated but guided by urban design features focused on pedestrians)

4. MIDTOWN GREENWAY MULTI-USE TRAIL CONNECTION AND UPDATED WALKWAY

EXISTING FEATURES

A. FLEXIBLE OPEN PLAY/MARKET AREA AND TREES
B. BOULEVARD/TREES
C. SIDEWALK

NOTE

This design originated from the Uptown Mall Study by Close / Landscape Architecture and VJAA for Hennepin County and MPRB, 2011.
**The Mall Park Process**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction</th>
<th>Planning Process</th>
<th>Service Area Vision</th>
<th>Park Plans</th>
<th>Operations and Maintenance</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1: General Input</strong>&lt;br&gt;Spring-Winter 2018</td>
<td><strong>2: Initial Concepts</strong>&lt;br&gt;Winter-Spring 2019</td>
<td><strong>3: Preferred Concept</strong>&lt;br&gt;Now</td>
<td><strong>Key elements of the concept</strong></td>
<td><strong>Implementation</strong></td>
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<td>Like trees and shade&lt;br&gt;Like flowering gardens&lt;br&gt;Interest in pollinator habitat&lt;br&gt;Interest in community gardens&lt;br&gt;Consider no-mow grass&lt;br&gt;Like quiet green space here&lt;br&gt;Needs open plaza space</td>
<td>Keep tree canopy&lt;br&gt;Support for existing gardens&lt;br&gt;Support for native plantings&lt;br&gt;Support for urban agriculture</td>
<td>Preserve and protect tree canopy&lt;br&gt;Enhanced stewardship gardens included&lt;br&gt;Native plantings/raingardens included&lt;br&gt;Community gardens and urban agriculture included&lt;br&gt;Vegetated buffer added to protect pedestrians from street traffic&lt;br&gt;Move pathway to one side to create forested green space&lt;br&gt;Flexible market street including permeable surface and plaza added</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bikes on sidewalks are a concern&lt;br&gt;Great farmers market space – expand it&lt;br&gt;Good space for events- need more!&lt;br&gt;Speeding traffic&lt;br&gt;Need better pedestrian crossings</td>
<td>Like connection to Greenway, separation of bikes from cars and peds&lt;br&gt;Like space for farmers market, events&lt;br&gt;Some concern woonerf is confusing&lt;br&gt;Support flexible street-cars, bikes, peds&lt;br&gt;Support enhanced pedestrian crossings&lt;br&gt;Concern about loss of parking&lt;br&gt;Concern for north-south &amp; alley access</td>
<td>Trail connection to Midtown Greenway&lt;br&gt;Shared use woonerf for market and events (accommodates vehicles and parking but focused on pedestrians)&lt;br&gt;Enhanced pedestrian crossings included&lt;br&gt;Direction to explore with City resident parking options nearby&lt;br&gt;North-south through streets remain open&lt;br&gt;Preserve through-alleys on west end&lt;br&gt;Plaza with amenities included near Hennepin&lt;br&gt;Keep walking path, adjust route at west end of park&lt;br&gt;Green space added to west end, plaza to east end</td>
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<td>Need usable park features, benches Interest in public art, color&lt;br&gt;Need gateway entry at Hennepin&lt;br&gt;Like walking path&lt;br&gt;Like west end quiet and east end active</td>
<td>Support for plaza at eastern end</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park Name</td>
<td>Asset Type</td>
<td>Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Mall Park</td>
<td>Play</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$1,943,378</td>
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</table>
MUeller PARK

Location and History
Located at the intersection of West 25th Street and Colfax Avenue South, Mueller Park is located in the Lowry Hill East Neighborhood, in an area known as The Wedge. This area had long been identified as a part of the City without adequate park facilities. In 1970 the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development created a “Parks in the Cities” program to encourage the development of urban parks. Minneapolis applied for grants under the new program to acquire and develop Mueller, Whittier, and Willard parks, and was the only city that applied. The Park Board acquired Mueller Park in 1973 using funds from this program and from the National Park Service. The acquisition took some time because the Park Board had adopted a new policy to try to minimize the displacement of people who lived on land targeted for parks.

The park was built in 1976 with playground equipment, a wading pool, tennis court, horseshoe pits, and a small restroom. In 1977 the park was named for Robert and Herbert Mueller, two brothers who were the resident authorities on the natural history of the neighborhood. Robert had helped to organize an Elm tree watch in the 1970s, one of the first in the state as Minneapolis prepared for the arrival of Dutch Elm disease. The Muellers were two of the few people who had a park named after them while they were still living. Until the park was officially named, it was referred to as Lowry Hill East Park after the neighborhood.

The park was redesigned and upgraded with new playground equipment in 1997. The horseshoe pits were filled in and the tennis court was replaced with a basketball court. The park was supervised by staff from Whittier Park in the mid-1990s. Additional improvements were made in 1998 with funds from the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. In 2012 a pergola was added to memorialize Allan Spear, a long term resident of the Lowry Hill East Neighborhood, for his efforts toward justice and equality for the LGBTQ+ community.

Excerpted from history written by David C. Smith

Existing Conditions and Character
The only park in the Lowry Hill East neighborhood, Mueller is located in a dense residential area. A significant amount of amenities are included in this half-block sized park. Play areas occupy the northwest corner, surrounded by trees. Next to the play areas is a small park building currently used for storage which also has a restroom. Four square and other court games are painted on the paving surrounding the building. A circular wading pool sits centered on the north side, with plantings around it. On the east side is half-court basketball and a few mature specimen trees. Tree-filled berms border the north and west edges of the park.

In the center of the park is an open concrete plaza with a few benches and game tables. The south end of the plaza curves in a semi-circle to match the curved shape of the pergola installed there in memory of Allan Spear. To the south of this is a large area of open grass, and beyond that is an even larger wooded area with picnic tables. A line of bollards separates the park from an alley and houses on the south end.
THE PROPOSED DESIGN

The pool, play areas, and pergola within Mueller will remain in their current locations. The existing restroom building is expanded to provide an indoor gathering and/or programming space, with large windows, a garage-style door, and a green roof. Surrounding the building is an expanded permeable plaza with flexible seating. A garage-style door could open onto the plaza in warm weather, enhancing both spaces. A middle-school sized full basketball court (smaller than NBA regulation size) fits in the green space to the east while preserving the existing large tree just north of it.

Open areas on the northern edge of the park are planted with pollinator gardens, on the east with raingardens, and on the west with native plantings that have nature play areas woven throughout them under the tree canopy. A small community garden located just south of the play area takes advantage of a sunny spot. South of the expanded building, an open grass play space is regraded flat to accommodate sports, games, and lounging. A new “wooded ramble” soft-surface trail moves through trees and native plantings along the south end of the park, and forms a loop around a picnic area.

As recommended by the CAC, at the time of detailed design and engagement MPRB shall explore permeable pavement for use in the basketball court. Basketball court should be sized such that the plaza size is significantly maintained. In addition, MPRB should attempt to catch all stormwater run-off from park hardscape in rain gardens. Also at the time of detailed design and engagement, MPRB should explore the most appropriate way to memorialize Allan Spear in Mueller Park while balancing the other needs and uses of the park.

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Mueller Park is less than a mile from several parks including Lake of the Isles and the Grand Rounds, Levin Triangle, and The Mall. However, busy Hennepin Avenue forms a challenging barrier for access from Mueller to any parks located west of it. A half-mile to the south is a connection to the Midtown Greenway. Several parks lie approximately a mile to the east, on the other side of busy Lyndale Ave, including Whittier Park, 28th Street Tot Lot, Washburn Fair Oaks, and Clinton Field.

KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES

There are no known land use and coordination issues at Mueller Park.
MUELLER PARK - EXISTING CONDITIONS
INTRODUCTION SERVICE AREA VISION PARK PLANS IMPLEMENTATION

MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD SOUTHWEST SERVICE AREA MASTER PLAN

PROPOSED DESIGN FEATURES

1. NATURALIZED PLANTINGS (pollinator gardens)
2. NATURALIZED AREAS
3. NATURE PLAY
4. UPDATED PICNIC AREA
5. BUILDING EXPANSION (with green roof and garage door)
6. EXPANDED PERMEABLE PLAZA WITH FLEXIBLE SEATING
7. FULL-COURT BASKETBALL (1)
8. NATURALIZED PLANTINGS (rain gardens)
9. COMMUNITY GARDEN/URBAN AGRICULTURE
10. LEVEL OPEN PLAY SPACE
11. “WOODED RAMBLE” (accessible soft surface walking paths)

EXISTING FEATURES

A. WADING POOL
B. PLAY AREA
C. PARK BUILDING (restrooms and storage)
D. PERGOLA & INTERPRETIVE PLAQUE

MUELLER PARK - PROPOSED PLAN
## Mueller Park Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1: General Input</th>
<th>2: Initial Concepts</th>
<th>3: Preferred Concept</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring-Winter 2018</strong></td>
<td><strong>Winter-Spring 2019</strong></td>
<td><strong>Now</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Input themes prior to initial concepts
- Like existing pool, keep it
- Play area needs update
- Like having open space/field for informal games
- Like existing half court basketball
- Interest in urban agriculture
- Like existing pergola but space under it is wasted
- Like picnic area & grills, need more

### Input themes on initial concepts
- Divided support – pool versus splash pad
- Keep playground
- No comments
- Divided support for full versus half basketball
- Support community agriculture
- Support wooded ramble
- Add grills and picnic tables, seating

### Key elements of the concept
- Wading pool remains
- Expansion of current play area with addition of nature play areas
- Open space/field expanded and leveled
- Existing half court converted to middle-school sized full court
- Urban agriculture added to west side of park
- Pollinator gardens, raingardens, and naturalized plantings added
- Expanded plaza uses permeable paving
- Wooded ramble added
- Basketball court oriented east-west to protect existing trees
- Picnic area expanded
- Building expanded and green roof added
- Central plaza expanded for performance and event use

---

### Service Area Vision
- Aquatics
  - Like existing pool, keep it
  - Divided support – pool versus splash pad
  - Wading pool remains
- Play
  - Play area needs update
  - Keep playground
  - Expansion of current play area with addition of nature play areas
- Athletics
  - Like having open space/field for informal games
  - No comments
  - Open space/field expanded and leveled
- Courts
  - Like existing half court basketball
  - Divided support for full versus half basketball
  - Existing half court converted to middle-school sized full court
- Landscape
  - Interest in urban agriculture
  - Support community agriculture
  - Urban agriculture added to west side of park
- Other
  - Like picnic area & grills, need more
  - Add grills and picnic tables, seating
  - Picnic area expanded

---

### Implementation
- Park Plans
- Operations and Maintenance
- Introduction
- Service Area Vision
- Planning Process
- Mueller Park Process
## Cost Estimate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Asset Type</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>2020 Estimated Cost/Project</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>Mueller Park</td>
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</table>
PAINTER PARK

LOCATION AND HISTORY

Located next to Lyndale Avenue in the Lyndale neighborhood, Painter Park was originally known as Lyndale Park, or the old Lyndale School site. The land was acquired in 1976, the same year as Fuller park. It was purchased with funds the Park Board received from the Department of Transportation to compensate for land appropriated for freeways in the 1960s and 1970s. There was some debate over whether the neighborhood needed another park when Bryant Square was only a few blocks away, but the opportunity to acquire a block of open land in the heart of a residential neighborhood was too great an opportunity to pass up. In 1977 the park was officially named for Jonathan E. Painter, the first industrial arts teacher in the Minneapolis school system.

The site was redeveloped as a playground immediately after its acquisition, with athletic fields, playgrounds, tennis courts and a recreation center built in 1976. Playground and field improvements were completed in 2001, with additional landscaping added in 2002. The basketball court was resurfaced in 2015 and pickleball striping was added to the tennis courts in 2016.

Excerpted from history written by David C. Smith

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

Partly because of its location next to busy Lyndale Avenue, Painter is a lively and active park. One of the most popular features is a full basketball court with four square courts next to it. South of this is a single tennis court with pickleball striping. The northeast corner of the park contains a multi-use diamond and multi-use fields, which occupy a large portion of the park. The diamond and field space is used for youth league sports as well as adult softball and a kickball league. While the north side of the park is athletics-focused, the south side is largely play and gathering focused. A play area sits in the center between a shaded picnic area to the east and the recreation center to the west. The recreation center and its entry plaza occupy the corner on Lyndale Avenue and West 34th Street, which is otherwise a commercial node. A small parking lot along the southern edge of the park serves the recreation center. Walkways connect all areas of the southern half of the park, while a single path extends north between the courts and the field area.

THE PROPOSED DESIGN

On the north end a new skatepark activates an open area while a vegetated berm along the park’s west side acts as a barrier to keep skateboards and basketballs from entering the street. The four square courts are relocated to south of the recreation center, adjacent to new native plantings and a tree grove. This allows the basketball court to move closer to the existing tennis/pickleball, thereby maximizing space available for the new skatepark. The small parking lot is removed and replaced with a splash pad and shade structure, introducing a recreational water feature to this area, and diversifying aquatics offerings in the neighborhood. Dedicated ADA on-street parking and a drop-off zone is created on 34th St. West just south of the recreation center. The east-side picnic area is expanded with tables and grills under tree canopy, while the play area, multi-use fields, and ball
diamond remain. The northwest corner of the park has a new, welcoming entry design surrounded by native plantings. In the center of the park supporting the new active uses there is a second shaded picnic area with grills as well as a climbable boulder seating and play area.

**CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS**

Painter Park is less than a mile from several parks including Bde Maka Ska and the Grand Rounds, Lyndale Farmstead, King’s Highway, and The Mall. Only slightly farther away are 28th Street Tot Lot, Mueller, and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parks. While Central Gym Park is only a mile away, it is separated from Painter by Interstate 35W, making access challenging. Painter is located only about a half-mile south of the Midtown Greenway.

**KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES**

Construction of the splash pad at Painter would ideally be coordinated with removal of the wading pool at nearby Lyndale School Pool. Creation of an on-street ADA parking and drop-off zone would require collaboration with city departments. In order to maximize size, construction of the skate park would ideally be coordinated with relocation of basketball closer to tennis.
PAINTER PARK - EXISTING CONDITIONS

MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
SOUTHWEST SERVICE AREA MASTER PLAN

INTRODUCTION SERVICE AREA VISION PARK PLANS IMPLEMENTATION

MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD SOUTHWEST SERVICE AREA MASTER PLAN

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

FOUR SQUARE COURTS
FULL BASKETBALL COURT
TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURT
RECREATION CENTER
MULTI-USE FIELDS
PLAY AREA
PARKING LOT
MULTI-USE DIAMOND
PICNIC AREA

LYNDALE AVE S
33RD ST W
34TH ST W
GARFIELD AVE
GARFIELD AVE

N
0 30

PAINTER PARK - EXISTING CONDITIONS

MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
SOUTHWEST SERVICE AREA MASTER PLAN
INTRODUCTION

Service Area Vision

Park Plans

Implementation

MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

SOUTHWEST SERVICE AREA MASTER PLAN

PAINTER PARK - PROPOSED PLAN

PROPOSED DESIGN FEATURES

1. DEDICATED ADA ON-STREET PARKING AND DROP-OFF ZONE (work in conjunction with the City)
2. EXPANDED TREE GROVE
3. NATURALIZED AREAS
4. MULTI-SPORT COURT (with 2 four-square courts)
5. PARKING LOT REMOVED
6. SPLASH PAD WITH SHADE STRUCTURES
7. NATURALIZED PLANTINGS (perennial and pollinator plantings)
8. EXPANDED PICNIC AREA WITH GRILLS
9. VEGETATED BERM
10. TENNIS COURT W/ PICKLEBALL STRIPING (1)
11. FULL COURT BASKETBALL (1)
12. SEATING
13. CLIMBABLE BOULDER SEATING AND PLAY AREA
14. SHADED PICNIC AREA WITH GRILLS
15. SKATE PARK
16. ENHANCED ENTRY

EXISTING FEATURES

A. SEATING AREA
B. RECREATION CENTER
C. PLAY AREA
D. MULTI-USE FIELDS (1-2)
E. MULTI-USE DIAMOND (1)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1: General Input</th>
<th>2: Initial Concepts</th>
<th>3: Preferred Concept</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring-Winter 2018</td>
<td>Winter-Spring 2019</td>
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<td>Input themes on initial concepts</td>
<td>Key elements of the concept</td>
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**aquatics**
- Interest in pool or splash pad
- Prefer splash pad – less dangerous
- Need aquatics here
- Support for splash pad
- Support for removing parking, use space better
- Parking lot removed and splash pad added with shade structure

**play**
- Like existing play area
- Keep existing play area
- Play area retained and expanded with climbable boulder seating

**athletics**
- Field is used but poor quality, floods
  - Diamond used for youth leagues, adult kickball, t-ball
  - Like diamond and field configuration now
  - Diamond and field configuration remains

**courts**
- Like existing basketball – very popular
  - Need 2nd basketball court at Painter
  - Tennis court used by some as dog park
  - Need accessible spectator area
  - Need separation between basketball and 4-square
  - Support expanding basketball
  - Mixed support for tennis
  - Tennis and single basketball court retained as part of final plan adoption

**winter**
- No comments
- No comments
- No winter amenities planned for this park

**landscape**
- Need barrier to keep basketballs out of Lyndale Ave.
- Support for vegetated barrier
- Support native plantings
- Vegetated berm added along west side of park
- Need more shade near picnic areas, Interest in covered shelter
- Support for picnic & grill expansion
- Picnic areas expanded under tree canopy and near courts
- Need better picnic, seating, grills

**other**
- Interest in skate park
- Support for skate park
- Skate park added

**PAINTER PARK PROCESS**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Asset Type</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>2020 Estimated Cost/Project</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Painter Park</td>
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<td>Splash Pad with Shade Structures: includes parking lot removal</td>
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<td>Traditional Play Structure in existing container</td>
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<td>Climable Boulder Seating and Play Area</td>
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<td>Full Court Basketball (1)</td>
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<td>Naturalized Areas: includes perennial plantings and vegetated berm</td>
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THE PARADE

LOCATION AND HISTORY

In 1885 Thomas Lowry, owner of the Minneapolis Street Railway Company and an important collaborator in the development of the Minneapolis park system, was the first to propose a park to the west of Central Park (now Loring Park). His home on Lowry Hill overlooked what would become The Parade Park. The Park Board did not act on Lowry’s proposal right away, however, for the focus of the Board in its early years was to acquire park land through donation.

In early 1893 the Park Board formally agreed to buy ten acres of land around Spring Lake from Lowry, Joel Bassett, and others. The property owners agreed to pay over ten years through assessments on their remaining land in the area, so there was no net cost to the Park Board for acquisition. The original Park was known as Spring Lake Park. For a brief time, the Board considered renaming the waterbody Hiyata Lake, on the suggestion of then park commissioner William Folwell. The name “The Parade” was adopted in 1904, suggested by park commissioner John Bradstreet because the land was next to the National Guard Armory and the Guard used it as a parade ground.

In 1902, citing a need to secure more land near the central park of the city, the Park Board acquired over 44 additional acres that gave The Parade Park the basic shape we know today. Over half the land was donated by Thomas Lowry, with additional donations from William Dunwoody and Security Bank. The remaining land was purchased and assessed on nearby property. The initial grading and seeding on the new park land was paid for through donation from Lowry. Over the next couple of years, Lowry made additional donations for the development of The Parade, including an entrance to the park in the northeast corner, and the land in the southeast corner of the park, which is now the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden.

After The Parade was expanded in 1904 it received petitions from the YMCA and others to use it as a baseball field. This was at a time when the Park Board did not yet maintain any athletic fields on park property, and only a year earlier had installed the first few children’s swings in Loring Park. In 1905 the Park Board recommended establishing its first recreation park at The Parade. Theodore Wirth set aside two blocks of Parade for a football field in 1906, and petitions for the use of the park steadily grew. That year the Northwest Interscholastic Athletic Association asked for athletic fields to be built there for high schools to use. Another request was for concerts, and in 1906 the Park Board held its first concert there. Additional requests came in for tennis courts and a cricket field. In 1907 the Park Board reported that The Parade was already “one of the most useful and valuable parks” in the city. That summer five baseball fields were added and there was such a demand for the fields that the Park Board implemented a new system of permits for field use. Two baseball leagues, the Commercial League and the Flour City League, began playing their games at The Parade.
In 1913 Wirth requested that the land south of presidential campaign speech at The Parade. In the 1908 annual report, Wirth “heartily recommended” approval of the requests of the high schools, and presented his first plan for the layout of athletic facilities at The Parade, including baseball and football fields with a grandstand for spectators, and basketball courts. That summer two more baseball diamonds were added, bringing the total to seven. The fields were supposedly used every night for practices and every Saturday for games. Athletic events were not permitted in parks on Sundays at the time.

In 1910, the first citywide track meet was held at The Parade, hosting competitions from seven park playgrounds and seven school playgrounds. In 1911 the Park Board started grading the athletic fields and built four tennis courts, agreeing to contract with a private tennis club for maintenance and operation of the courts. At this time, Parade’s status as the premier athletic ground in the city because of its central location was unparalleled.

When developing the athletic fields, the Park Board faced development issues similar to those in most other parks in the city, as the park was created on low, wet land. Before the fields could be constructed the land had to be filled and the fill had to settle before it could be graded and seeded. While the fields were under construction the Park Board gave permission in 1912 for Woodrow Wilson to give a presidential campaign speech at The Parade.

In 1913 Wirth requested that the land south of the Armory be used as an ornamental garden for the Society of American Florists and Ornamental Horticulturists which was holding its national convention at the Armory. The Armory Garden with more than 20,000 plants was such a hit with florists and the public alike that it became the premier garden in the city along with the rose garden at Lake Harriet. Each year the central bed of the garden was used to spell out in flowers an important event in the city. The Park Board maintained the garden until 1967.

From the late 1910s to the 1920s many city leaders and park commissioners recommended The Parade as the site for a new auditorium and civic center, and in 1919 Wirth even proposed an “auto tourist camp” on the grounds similar to the one the Park Board later operated at Minnehaha Park. In 1923 the Park Board approved the use of the northern section of the park as a polo ground with barn and stables. In 1930 Wirth advocated for the construction of an auditorium and three years later he added a stadium to the list of facilities he believed that The Parade still needed. A plan for a stadium funded by the Public Works Administration fell through, but the Park Board added five more baseball and softball diamonds in 1931.

In 1933 the Park Board added lights and bleachers to hold 2,000 people at the park’s best baseball field and charged ten cents admission at some events to recoup costs. For the first time, night baseball games were played at The Parade. The tennis courts got an upgrade in 1934 in preparation for hosting the National Public Parks Tennis Championship. The championship required clay courts, the city had none, so the Park Board’s first clay courts were built at The Parade along with a tennis center building.

In 1949 and 1950 plans were developed and approved for a 17,000-seat football stadium, a 4,000 seat baseball stadium, and parking for 600 cars. Just after construction began the National Production Authority prohibited the construction of recreation projects in order to conserve resources for the war in Korea. However, the park received exemption because the stadium was already under construction, and it opened to the public in the fall of 1951. Later that year it hosted an NFL exhibition game between the Green Bay Packers and San Francisco 49ers. The first NFL exhibition games helped demonstrate the demand for professional football in the area, eventually helping the state land an NFL franchise in 1961. The stadium was also the home of Minneapolis high school football.

To make room for the new stadium, the tennis center was transferred to Nicollet Field Park (later renamed Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park). The post-war plans had also originally included an ice arena and a basketball auditorium. More than 35 years later, an ice arena was added to The Parade. During the first years of its operation the ice arena held the annual NHL exhibition games. In addition to the regularly scheduled football and baseball games, the park hosted the World Softball Championships in 1954 and again in 1958. With the construction of the Guthrie in 1963, the Park Board received revenue from the stadium’s parking lot where many theater patrons parked.

The 1960s started an era of change for the park. In 1962 the first parts of it were lost to freeway construction, shrinking the park by a third. Land on the east side was taken for I-94, severing the connection to Loring Park, and on the north side...
more land was taken for I-394, placing a freeway a few feet from the edge of Spring Lake. Overall the park lost 21 acres of land, including seven playing fields, to the highways. In 1990 the stadium was demolished.

In 2006 a new synthetic turf field was added for soccer and football. A new baseball field was constructed to replace the loss of a field to the expansion of the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden in 2012. There were upgrades to the baseball field in 2014, including a new scoreboard paid for by Augsburg College which uses the field for home games, and a new irrigation system paid for by the Minnesota Twins Community Fund. The Ice Garden underwent an upgrade in 2015 to renovate the arena’s energy efficiency, partially through solar panel installation which provides 10-15 percent of the ice arena’s annual electrical needs.

Excerpted from history written by David C. Smith

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

This large 45.77-acre park, which includes 2.32 acres of water, is about one third open space and two thirds sports complex. The western third of the park is more naturalized and wooded, and is home to Spring Lake. Spring Lake is a severely impaired waterbody, primarily because of polluted stormwater runoff from adjacent Interstate 394. The wooded park area surrounding the lake has struggled with invasive buckthorn. A combined bicycle and pedestrian path curves around the estate side of the lake connecting trails on Kenwood Parkway to the Cedar Lake Regional Trail north of the lake. This path can also be used to access the lake’s dock located on the northeast shoreline.

East of Spring Lake is The Parade Ice Garden, one of two indoor ice arenas in the Minneapolis Park System, which is heavily used year-round. Behind the Ice Arena is a Park Board maintenance yard with storage and staff space. Many parks in the SW area are maintained out of this small location which is wedged between the building and I-394. A multi-use path runs in a narrow space between the yard and the freeway, connecting Spring Lake to Stadium Parkway. East of the ice arena is a surface parking lot which runs parallel to the building. Medians in the parking lot are home to rain gardens that manage stormwater runoff.

Stadium Parkway divides The Parade Park in half, with the lake and Ice Arena to the west and athletic facilities to the east. This road connects Dunwoody Boulevard on the north side of the park, with Kenwood Parkway on the south side, providing vehicle access to the park amenities and to homes in the Lowry Hill and Kenwood-Isles neighborhoods. East of Stadium Parkway there is a premier artificial turf athletic field, premier baseball diamond, and a large surface parking lot separating the two. These two permitted premier athletic facilities have field lights, bleachers, and scoreboards and are fenced to protect them from overuse and to facilitate rentals. Both Augsburg College and DeLasalle School use these facilities for their home games. However, the fencing can make a large part of the park appear inaccessible to the greater public, reducing a sense of welcome.

The large linear surface parking lot separating the premier field and diamond is currently being reconstructed and will have limited access on the north side. The lot is utilized year-round by users of the athletic facilities and Ice Garden, as well as visitors to the adjacent Minneapolis Sculpture Garden and the Walker Art Center. During the school year, the lot is also used by students and staff of neighboring Blake School and Dunwoody College of Technology.

THE PROPOSED DESIGN

The concept design for The Parade Park expands recreation offerings and enhances access. The existing multi-use artificial turf field is reoriented and placed inside of a new covered sports facility so it can be utilized year-round and in inclement weather. The SW Community Advisory Committee (CAC) recommends this facility be a field house rather than a dome structure, as a more energy-efficient and visually pleasing option. A field house also has the potential for windows or large doors that allow in natural light and maintain views of downtown from the field, and may even support a green roof, solar power array, or similar amenities with positive environmental benefits. Any design should strive to mitigate light pollution from the field house. CAC members and the public expressed strong interest in maximizing innovative stormwater management practices in the area to mitigate impacts from impervious surfaces and improve lake water quality.

The existing Ice Arena is expanded to include a new curling center and an additional ice sheet to
meet demand, as well as the addition of necessary maintenance space and a weight room/locker room to better serve users. The critical maintenance yard behind the building is expanded by moving the fence, and a gated entry is added for safety. A reduced amount of parking and drop off area is retained in front of the Ice Arena entrance.

The spectator experience at the premier baseball diamond is improved by covering the stadium seating and concessions area, adding picnic areas, and a community plaza and tree grove that can be used for events and pre/post game gathering. A new drop-off and entry plaza connects reconfigured parking to the ballfield area.

Stadium Parkway (and its adjacent bike trail) between Dunwoody Boulevard and Kenwood Parkway is realigned to pass between the baseball diamond and the new field house. From the intersection at Dunwoody Boulevard a short spur turns west off Stadium Parkway to travel through a “parking zone” then head south between the Ice Arena and field house, through a shared use woonerf and pedestrian crossing to connect to Kenwood Parkway. This spur is envisioned as a connecting route that passes through the ground level of what could potentially be a multi-level parking structure serving all The Parade Park amenities. The details of this parking zone will be explored and determined at the time of implementation. This decision was made in order to allow the latest in design, technology, park development, and parking best practices to be reviewed as part of a public community engagement process at the time the park is reconfigured. A solar array, green roof, additional recreation space, stormwater BMPs, and other options for the area compatible with parking can also be explored when the details of the parking zone are determined.

Spring Lake with its dock remains and access to this area is enhanced by extending the existing multi-use trail on the east all the way around the lake in a full loop. Where this trail connects under I-394 to the Cedar Lake Regional Trail, improvements to the surfacing, lighting, and wayfinding will increase comfort and safety of users. In the far western edge of the park, a new bike skills course explores part of the wooded area with sustainable mixed use soft surface trails and challenge features.

**CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS**

The Parade Park is immediately adjacent to the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden and Kenwood Parkway. By following Kenwood Parkway west, users can access both Kenwood Park as well as Lake of the Isles and the Grand Rounds. The Parade is visually separated from nearby Bryn Mawr Meadows Park and the Kenilworth and Cedar Lake Regional Trails by I-394, although the freeway is elevated and trails are able to pass beneath it. Thomas Lowry Park is less than a half-mile away but somewhat challenging to access from The Parade due to a network of curved streets and the park’s location at the top of a hill. A few blocks to the east of The Parade is Loring Park along with a connection to the Loring Greenway and on to downtown Minneapolis.

**KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES**

Expansion of the maintenance yard will require coordination with MNDOT to place fencing closer to I-394. Collaboration with the City will be important for changes to roadway configuration. The Park Board will work closely with the watershed district and regulating agencies on adjustments to impervious surface and stormwater management BMPs. Partnership with the Walker Art Center and the municipal parking division will be important as changes are made to parking lot capacity.
THE PARADE PARK- EXISTING CONDITIONS
THE PARADE PARK - PROPOSED PLAN

PROPOSED DESIGN FEATURES

1. Sustainable mixed-use soft surface bike skills course
2. Enhanced connection to Cedar Lake Regional Trail
3. Multi-use trail loop
4. Maintenance yard fence expansion
5. Weight room and/or locker room expansion
6. Gated entry to maintenance yard
7. Maintenance expansion
8. Indoor ice rink expansion
9. Curling center (6 lanes)
10. Shared use woonerf (entrance plaza to parking zone, vehicles accomodated but guided by urban design features focused on pedestrians)
11. Parking zone (see park packet text)
12. Covered premier multi-use fields (field house preferred)
13. Naturalized area (rain garden)
14. Enhanced pedestrian and bicycle crossing
15. Community gathering/event plaza + tree grove
16. Picnic areas
17. Covered stadium seating
18. Drop-off entry plaza with reconfigured parking
19. Stadium Parkway road reconfiguration

EXISTING FEATURES

A. Spring Lake
B. Dock
C. Multi-use trail
D. Maintenance yard
E. Ice arena
F. Parking and drop-off
G. Stormwater gardens
H. Premier diamond (1)
I. Restroom building
<table>
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<td><strong>Interest in curling, need enough lanes for tournaments</strong></td>
<td><strong>Curling added (up to 6 lanes)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Like native plantings, stormwater BMPs throughout</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Creation of a path loop around Spring Lake</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No comments</td>
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<td>No comments</td>
</tr>
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<td>No comments</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Name</td>
<td>Asset Type</td>
<td>Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Parade Park</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>Athletic Field Renovation: premier diamond and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>covered stadium seating</td>
</tr>
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<td>The Parade Park</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>Covered Premier Fields</td>
</tr>
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<td>The Parade Park</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
<td>Naturalized Areas: includes stormwater gardens</td>
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<td>The Parade Park</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Bike Skills Course</td>
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<td>The Parade Park</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Community Gathering/Event Plaza</td>
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<td>Drop Off Entry Plaza/Reconfigured Parking</td>
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<td>The Parade Park</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Ice Arena Building Expansion</td>
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<td>The Parade Park</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Maintenance Expansion</td>
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<td>The Parade Park</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Multi-Use Trail</td>
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<td>Parking Zone</td>
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<td>The Parade Park</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Renovate Restroom Building</td>
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<td>The Parade Park</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Renovate Walking Paths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Parade Park</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Shared-Use Woonerf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Parade Park</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Miscl. signs, trees, furniture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Parade Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
</tr>
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</table>
PARK SIDING PARK

LOCATION AND HISTORY

Located adjacent to the Kenilworth Regional Trail and along West 28th Street, the land Park Siding Park sits on was first mentioned in the 1915 annual Park Board report. This space was leased from Nelson Brothers Paving and Construction Company in 1916 for use as a storage and work yard as well as a paving plant for parkway construction. There was already a portable plant located on the land before this lease was negotiated and after a year of operating under the agreement, Wirth recommended in 1917 that the land be purchased. Purchase of the land from the Nelson Brothers was finalized in 1919.

The location provided retail space, storehouses, yards, and excellent railroad track facilities for off-loading supplies. When the land was eventually acquired, Wirth planned to excavate 6 feet of gravel and sand from it for use in the construction of the Grand Rounds and other planned projects, speculating that the value of these materials would offset the acquisition cost. New equipment was also housed in an old building on the property. The Park Board contracted with the railroad in 1923 to extend the storage tracks on the property.

The park was originally referred to as the Nelson Tract or Dean Boulevard Construction yard until 1925 when the name Park Siding Park was adopted due to the property’s location adjacent to the railroad track just west of Dean Boulevard. In 1926 Wirth noted that the value of the property was increasing as the location of the yard was especially useful for additional road construction on Minnehaha Parkway and the west side of Bde Maka Ska. Eventually these uses shifted elsewhere and the park was little used, except for a small piece of the property that was leased to a private citizen in 1933. By the 1950s there was very little activation of the land aside from a small playground for young children, leading to the recommendation that the property be sold. In 1971 a developer expressed interest in buying part of the property, it was advertised for sale, and the interested developer was the only bidder. They purchased 1.3 acres of the park for nearly six times the price paid by the Park Board in 1919.

In 1977 there was a proposal to rename the park Woodcarver’s Park in exchange for the donation of three 25-foot totem or heritage poles for the park. The Park Board did not accept the offer. Staff still informally referred to it as Woodcarver’s Park however, because of the woodcarving shop and school across the street. In 1997 the Park Board completely renovated the small park, winning a design award from the Committee on Urban Environment. The overhaul of the park was financed in conjunction with Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Revitalization program funds. In 2012 the neighborhood association paid for new trees, garden beds with irrigation systems, and an outdoor ping pong table. In 2013 the play areas were updated.

Excerpted from history written by David C. Smith

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

Tucked away in a secluded area with a number of apartment buildings near it, this park provides a quiet respite for the neighborhood. The park is located on a roadway that dead ends, so it doesn’t get
much vehicle traffic compared to neighboring parks. However, the park is adjacent to the popular and heavily travelled Kenilworth Regional Trail, providing easy bicycle and pedestrian access.

The park's most notable features are the extensive gardens, play areas with newer equipment, and a ping-pong table and tetherball pole (unique features in the Minneapolis park system). It also hosts open play space, picnic and seating areas, shade trees, a portable restroom and storage enclosure, and an attractive pergola flanked by flowering trees.

THE PROPOSED DESIGN

The concept plan for Park Siding Park builds upon a strong existing design by adding a few new supplemental features. The newly renovated play areas, path layout, and the stewardship gardens remain essentially as they are today. Improvements include a refurbished storage and restroom enclosure near the existing tetherball. Native plantings are added south of the pergola, while the picnic and game table area to the north of it is refurbished. On the western side of the park, flexible seating is added as well as a second ping pong table. Pollinator plantings are added along the length of the low seat wall on the north end of the park. Tree canopy is maintained. The neighborhood also expressed interest in maintaining a vegetated or berm buffer between the park and future Southwest Light Rail (SWLRT).

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Park Siding Park has adjacent access to the Kenilworth Regional Trail and the Midtown Greenway. The Park is almost equidistant from Bde Maka Ska, Cedar Lake, and Lake of the Isles, making access to the Grand Rounds very easy. The four small park triangles of the CIDNA neighborhood are close by, although located on the other side of the Kenilworth Regional Trail. The park is less than a half mile from a planned future West Lake Street SWLRT station.

KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES

Coordination with Metropolitan Council will be necessary as SWLRT is built along the west side of the park. Continued collaboration between the Park Board and volunteer garden stewards is important to the success of the park's central garden feature.
PARK SIDING PARK - EXISTING CONDITIONS
**PROPOSED DESIGN FEATURES**

1. **Naturalized planting** (pollinator garden)
2. **Updated storage and restroom enclosure**
3. **Updated picnic and game tables**
4. **Additional ping pong table (1)**
5. **Flexible seating**
6. **Naturalized area**

**EXISTING FEATURES**

A. **Seating wall**
B. **Bike racks**
C. **Naturalized area** (stewardship gardens)
D. **Play areas**
E. **Seating and drinking fountain**
F. **Open play area**
G. **Ping pong table (1)**
H. **Tetherball**
I. **Grass stage**
J. **Pergola**
# 1: General Input
**Spring-Winter 2018**
*Input themes prior to initial concepts*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aquatics</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest in splash pad</td>
<td>Not supportive of splash pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Like play area here</td>
<td>Like new playgrounds, don’t change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Like multi-age engaging play</td>
<td>Not supportive of bike park – conflicts with small children’s safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Like ping pong table</td>
<td>Support ping pong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fun variety – tetherball, ping pong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest in game tables</td>
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</table>

## 2: Initial Concepts
**Winter-Spring 2019**
*Input themes on initial concepts*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Athletics</th>
<th>Courts</th>
<th>Winter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Like open green space here</td>
<td>Preserve open play space</td>
<td>Keep tetherball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No comments</td>
<td>No comments</td>
<td>No comments</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landscape</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Like flower gardens here</td>
<td>Support gardens and plantings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest in pollinator gardens</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimize turf</td>
<td>Maintain tree canopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Like the tree canopy &amp; shade here</td>
<td>Concern berm will be removed with SWLRT construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add trees</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest in picnic shelter</td>
<td>Support picnic spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Like it as-is</td>
<td>Keep arbor/pergola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilet important here</td>
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## 3: Preferred Concept
**Now**
*Key elements of the concept*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aquatics</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No aquatics planned for this park</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play areas remain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No bike park planned for this park</td>
<td>Additional ping pong table added</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game tables to be refurbished</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Athletics</th>
<th>Courts</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Landscape</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open play area remains</td>
<td>Tetherball remains</td>
<td>No winter amenities planned for this park</td>
<td>Stewardship gardens remain</td>
<td>Picnic tables retained and refurbished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native plantings added</td>
<td>Tree canopy remains</td>
<td>Maintain berm at western edge of park</td>
<td>Flexible seating added</td>
<td>Pergola retained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Restroom enclosure retained and refurbished</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Name</td>
<td>Asset Type</td>
<td>Project</td>
<td>2020 Estimated Cost/Project</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Siding Park</td>
<td>Play</td>
<td>Traditional Play Structure in Existing Containers</td>
<td>$867,320</td>
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<td>Naturalized Areas: includes pollinator garden and stewardship gardens</td>
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<td>Ping Pong Tables: includes existing and 1 additional</td>
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<td>Park Siding Park</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Renovate Existing Pergola</td>
<td>$112,241</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Renovate Walking Paths</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$1,177,601</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
PENN MODEL VILLAGE TRIANGLE

LOCATION AND HISTORY

Penn Model Village Triangle is located at the intersection of Oliver Avenue South and West 58th Street in the Armatage neighborhood. In 1946, Penn Model Village Inc., a residential housing developer for which the park is named, proposed to donate this triangle as a park. The Park Board agreed to accept the land if it would first be curbed, graded and seeded with grass and if the developer contributed to the maintenance cost of the land for ten years. In the 1948 annual report, the Park Board’s attorney reported that the negotiations had been completed and the triangle had been acquired, however the deed for this land was not finalized until 1950. The park is sometimes known informally as “Oliver Triangle”.

Excerpted from history written by David C. Smith

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

This triangle is 0.16 acres, flat, relatively open, and covered with turf grass. A few trees are spaced throughout as well as electric and telephone poles. There are no formal access points to the triangle, but all the surrounding streets have sidewalks. The space offers a small neighborhood gathering spot, however with no paths or crossings to connect it to adjacent sidewalks, access can be limited.

THE PROPOSED DESIGN

The design of Penn Model Village Triangle focuses on enhanced pedestrian safety and usability. A new sidewalk on the southern edge of the triangle connects pedestrians to redesigned “T” road intersections where Oliver Ave splits and meets West 58th Street. Curbed turf grass bump-outs help to create the intersections and provide shorter distances for pedestrians to cross at enhanced crossings. Public art at each of the southern corners visually anchors the space and creates a neighborhood gateway. The northern most corner hosts native plantings which are flanked on each side by an orchard of fruit and nut trees. The center of the park remains open for gathering with the addition of flexible seating.

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Less than a block from the triangle along West 58th Street is Armatage Park, while in the opposite direction a half mile away is Kenny Park. Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail and the Grand Rounds are just under a mile to the north.

KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES

Collaboration with the City of Minneapolis will be required for the construction of bump outs and enhanced pedestrian crossings.
INTRODUCTION

SERVICE AREA VISION

PARK PLANS

IMPLEMENTATION

MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

SOUTHWEST SERVICE AREA MASTER PLAN

PENN MODEL VILLAGE TRIANGLE - EXISTING CONDITIONS
PROPOSED DESIGN FEATURES

1. ART GATEWAYS
2. INFORMAL GATHERING AREA WITH FLEXIBLE SEATING
3. INTERSECTION BUMP OUTS
4. SIDEWALK
5. ENHANCED PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS
6. ORCHARD & NATURALIZED AREAS
### PENN MODEL VILLAGE TRIANGLE PROCESS

#### INTRODUCTION SERVICE AREA VISION PARK PLANS IMPLEMENTATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1: General Input</th>
<th>2: Initial Concepts</th>
<th>3: Preferred Concept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring-Winter 2018</strong></td>
<td><strong>Winter-Spring 2019</strong></td>
<td><strong>Now</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input themes prior to initial concepts</td>
<td>Input themes on initial concepts</td>
<td>Key elements of the concept</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>aquatics</strong></th>
<th><strong>play</strong></th>
<th><strong>athletics</strong></th>
<th><strong>courts</strong></th>
<th><strong>winter</strong></th>
<th><strong>landscape</strong></th>
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<td>No comments</td>
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<td>No comments</td>
<td>No comments</td>
<td>No winter amenities planned for this triangle</td>
<td>No comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interested in open play space</td>
<td>Don’t overcrowd the space</td>
<td>Center of triangle remains open grass</td>
<td>No comments</td>
<td>No comments</td>
<td>Informal gathering area retained with flexible seating added</td>
<td>Need to slow down traffic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Needs infrastructure for play or picnics</td>
<td>No comments</td>
<td>No athletics planned for this triangle</td>
<td>No comments</td>
<td>No comments</td>
<td>Native plantings added</td>
<td>Support slowing traffic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No comments</td>
<td>No comments</td>
<td>No courts planned for this triangle</td>
<td>No comments</td>
<td>No comments</td>
<td>Sidewalk added</td>
<td>Park too small for movie screen</td>
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<tr>
<td>No comments</td>
<td>No comments</td>
<td>No winter amenities planned for this triangle</td>
<td>No comments</td>
<td>No comments</td>
<td>Orchard added</td>
<td>Support public art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is a nice green space</td>
<td>Support native plantings</td>
<td>Support slowing traffic</td>
<td>Support slowing traffic</td>
<td>Support slowing traffic</td>
<td>Intersection bump outs and enhanced pedestrian crossings added</td>
<td>Intersection bump outs and enhanced pedestrian crossings added</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could be a neighborhood center</td>
<td>Support native plantings</td>
<td>Support slowing traffic</td>
<td>Support slowing traffic</td>
<td>Support slowing traffic</td>
<td>Open grass area retained, flexible seating added</td>
<td>Open grass area retained, flexible seating added</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community gathering space</td>
<td>Support native plantings</td>
<td>Support slowing traffic</td>
<td>Support slowing traffic</td>
<td>Support slowing traffic</td>
<td>Public art added</td>
<td>Public art added</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest in community garden</td>
<td>Support native plantings</td>
<td>Support slowing traffic</td>
<td>Support slowing traffic</td>
<td>Support slowing traffic</td>
<td>Public art added</td>
<td>Public art added</td>
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<td>Split support for urban agriculture</td>
<td>Support native plantings</td>
<td>Support slowing traffic</td>
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<td>Public art added</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Asset Type</td>
<td>Project</td>
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<td>Notes</td>
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<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penn Model Village Triangle</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
<td>Naturalized Areas</td>
<td>$ 5,170</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Penn Model Village Triangle</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
<td>Orchard</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>Implemented through annual forestry planting plan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penn Model Village Triangle</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Art Gateways</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>Implemented in collaboration with City and non-profit groups</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penn Model Village Triangle</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Intersection Bumpouts</td>
<td>$ 102,038</td>
<td>Implemented in collaboration with City</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penn Model Village Triangle</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Sidewalk</td>
<td>$ 43,590</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penn Model Village Triangle</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Misc. signs, trees, furniture</td>
<td>$ 15,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penn Model Village Triangle</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 165,798</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PERSHING FIELD PARK

LOCATION AND HISTORY

Pershing Field Park consists of 10 acres located at West 48th Street and Chowen Avenue South. The Robert Fulton Community Club requested the name Pershing to honor General John J. “Blackjack” Pershing, commander of American forces in World War I. The land was designated for purchase and the name formally adopted in 1922.

In his 1925 annual report Theodore Wirth presented a plan for the park’s future development, noting that there was no community pressure for improvement of the park, and that before the land could be developed it would have to be drained and filled. This was consistent with other land acquisitions of the time, as most land available for purchase was unsuitable for housing because of flooding and drainage issues. Pershing Field Park was at the time a peat swamp overgrown with willow brush. The Park Board drained it, then laid six inches of clay and six inches of loam soil over the entirety of the park.

Following preparation of the site, a field house was built on the west edge of the field, streets were curbed, and athletic fields were graded and leveled. Sidewalks were added along with six concrete tennis courts, a wading pool, walkways, lighting, irrigation, and playground equipment. The field was dedicated on Armistice Day, November 11, 1931. Once the park had opened the Park Board received an unusual request from a rifle club which asked to use the shelter’s basement for target practice. The Park Board denied this request saying that “no practical or feasible” arrangement could be made.

The School Board had plans to build a new Alexander Bell High School next door to the park, however those plans were eventually abandoned and that land instead became the track and football field for nearby Southwest High School, opening in 1940.

The Southwest Activities Council (SWAC), which included both Linden Hills and Pershing Field Parks, was organized in the early 1950s. It became a model for other sports councils that were created to help Minneapolis parks organize volunteers, raise money, purchase equipment and uniforms, hire officials, and issue awards for playground activities, which were mostly boys sports at the time.

In 1954 the building was remodeled to accommodate a warming house in the basement so that the first-floor rooms could be used for community activities in the winter. The playground equipment and wading pool were also relocated. With these improvements Pershing Field Park became one of the Park Board’s few full-time year-round recreation centers in 1958.

In 1959 estimated attendance at Pershing Field programs was greater than any of the other year-round recreation centers in Minneapolis.

In 1976 the original recreation center was demolished, and the present recreation center was completed the following year. In 2002, the athletic fields were regraded and resurfaced, and new playground equipment was installed. In 2008 the four remaining tennis courts and basketball were resurfaced in partnership with with Save Our Courts, an organization originally created to update the tennis courts at Kenwood Park. The recreation center
was upgraded in 2010 with the goal of increasing energy efficiency and in 2011, the playing fields were further improved with the addition of an irrigation system. In 2015 shade structures were added to the wading pool. In 2018 the Linden Hills Neighborhood Council installed replacement bike racks and new bike fix-it stations in Pershing Field as well as Linden Hills and Lake Harriet Parks.

*Excerpted from history written by David C. Smith*

**EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER**

Pershing Field has most of its amenities grouped at the park’s edges, with a large, wide open space in the middle. The Southwest High School stadium and bleachers located just to the east creates a low barrier that defines the eastern edge of the park. The remaining three sides are surrounded by single-family housing.

In the northwest corner of the park is a wading pool and play areas. Next to this is the recreation center, with entrances on the west and northeast. A single bocce ball court sits south of the recreation center. A parking lot with one-way access runs along the park’s northern edge. In the northeast corner is a semi-wooded area with shaded picnic tables.

Two multi-use diamonds and multi-use field spaces occupy about two thirds of the park. Located west of this are four tennis courts and a full basketball court. The fields and diamonds are heavily used for park youth programming such as soccer, baseball and softball practice, and T-ball. An extra area of open grass field in the southeast corner is sometimes used for football practices and informal games. The basketball and tennis courts are popular facilities for both community and school use.

Walking paths separate different activity areas throughout the park. Mature trees shade the park perimeter and some of the activity areas. Low grass berms along the park edges help to create a buffer between play and the street. It is not uncommon to see students from nearby Lake Harriet Community School and Southwest High School here during the school year. With all of the sports and activity options, this is a well-used park with youth and adults of all ages, year-round.

**THE PROPOSED DESIGN**

The design team approached Pershing Field Park not only as an individual site, but also as part of a four-park interconnected group with a strong focus on athletics, primarily field and diamond sports. The four parks are Armatage, Kenny, Pershing Field, and Linden Hills. Of the four, Pershing will host both field and diamond sports facilities, which are popular in this area for youth sports programming. From a design and programming perspective, this park will balance recreation opportunities well with nearby Linden Hills Park.

At Pershing Field, the existing diamonds and fields will remain, along with the existing batting cages. New pitching mounds will be added. Updated play areas will remain in the same location and will be separated by a new splash pad with shade structures which replaces the wading pool at the end of its lifecycle. An improved community gathering/event plaza bridges the space between the play area and the recreation center entrance. New pollinator plantings beautify this entrance and several other spots near the building.

The picnic area next to the entrance is enhanced, as is the picnic area in the semi-wooded space to the east of the parking lot. This area is further enhanced with a bike fix-it station and adult exercise equipment. Tennis remains in its existing location, while the full-court basketball surfacing is expanded to include a new adjacent multi-use court.

To help alleviate flooding in the surrounding neighborhoods, an underground stormwater storage cistern will be installed beneath the field space at Pershing Field through a cooperative effort with the City of Minneapolis. The water can be temporarily stored and then safely released, or could be used for irrigation. Pershing Field is one of two parks in the southwest service area to provide this stormwater benefit – the other being Lynnhurst Park.

**CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS**

Pershing Field Park is located only a half mile from Lake Harriet and the Grand Rounds. Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail is one mile to the south, Waveland Triangle and Linden Hills Park are one mile north, and Lynnhurst is just over a mile to the east.

**KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES**

Coordination with Southwest High School will be important to continue and expand shared use of both park and adjacent stadium facilities.
PERSHING FIELD PARK - EXISTING CONDITIONS
MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

SOUTHWEST SERVICE AREA MASTER PLAN

PERSHING FIELD PARK - PROPOSED PLAN

PROPOSED DESIGN FEATURES

1. UPDATED PLAY AREAS
2. SPLASH PAD & SHADE STRUCTURES
3. COMMUNITY GATHERING/ EVENT PLAZA
4. NATURALIZED PLANTINGS (pollinator gardens)
5. UPDATED PICNIC AREAS
6. MULTI-USE COURT (1)
7. RELOCATED FULL COURT BASKETBALL (1)
8. UNDERGROUND STORMWATER STORAGE (in collaboration with City)
9. PITCHING MOUNDS (2)

EXISTING FEATURES

A. RECREATION CENTER
B. PARKING LOT
C. TENNIS COURTS (4)
D. MULTI-USE FIELDS (2-3)
E. MULTI-USE DIAMONDS (2)
F. BATTING CAGES (2)
### 1: General Input
**Spring-Winter 2018**
*Input themes prior to initial concepts*

- **Aquatics**
  - Pool is nice here
- **Play**
  - Needs more shade
  - Play needs updating
- **Athletics**
  - Fields in poor shape
  - Youth sports important here for little kids
  - Like soccer here
  - Like diamonds here
- **Courts**
  - Tennis courts good here
  - Bocce court here rarely used
  - Like basketball here
- **Winter**
  - Interest in ice skating
- **Landscape**
  - Needs more greening
  - Flooding concerns
- **Other**
  - Need places to sit and gather
  - Need space for older kids/teens
  - Need a gym at Pershing or Linden Hills

### 2: Initial Concepts
**Winter-Spring 2019**
*Input themes on initial concepts*

- **Aquatics**
  - Split support pool versus splash pad
- **Play**
  - Support nature play
  - Like playground in current location
- **Athletics**
  - Support multi-use diamonds for younger kids
  - Split support for premier diamond
  - Prefer multi-use space
- **Courts**
  - Keep tennis
  - Remove bocce or enhance it
  - Bocce used for annual Special Olympics
  - Support basketball
- **Landscape**
  - Support native plantings
  - Address flooding
- **Other**
  - Support for expanded picnic and “hang out” area
  - Mixed support for skate park/pump track

### 3: Preferred Concept
**Now**
*Key elements of the concept*

- **Aquatics**
  - Splash pad with shade structures replaces current wading pool
- **Play**
  - Shade structures added nearby
  - Play expanded in the same location
- **Athletics**
  - Multi-use diamonds and fields retained and improved
  - Batting cages retained
  - Pitching mounds added
- **Courts**
  - Tennis courts remain
  - Accessible bocce relocated to nearby Linden Hills Park
  - Full court basketball retained
  - Multi-sport court added
- **Landscape**
  - Pollinator plantings added
  - Underground stormwater storage added
- **Other**
  - Community gathering and event plaza added
  - Picnic areas expanded
  - Skate park/pump track park not planned for this park
  - Gym expansion planned for Linden Hills Park
## COST ESTIMATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Asset Type</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>2020 Estimated Cost/Project</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pershing Field Park</td>
<td>Aquatics</td>
<td>Splash Pad with Shade Structures</td>
<td>$1,724,436</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pershing Field Park</td>
<td>Play</td>
<td>Traditional Play Structure in New Containers</td>
<td>$867,320</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pershing Field Park</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>Athletic Field Renovation: two multi-use diamonds and multi-use field space, two pitching mounds, and two batting cages</td>
<td>$1,812,188</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pershing Field Park</td>
<td>Courts</td>
<td>Basketball Court - Full (1) and Multi-Use Sport Court (1)</td>
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<td>Pershing Field Park</td>
<td>Courts</td>
<td>Renovate Existing Tennis Courts (4)</td>
<td>$530,596</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pershing Field Park</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
<td>Naturalized Areas: includes pollinator gardens</td>
<td>$47,459</td>
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<td>Pershing Field Park</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Adult Fitness Stations</td>
<td>$123,327</td>
<td>Recommendation from the SW Harriet Flood Study. Implemented in collaboration with City</td>
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<td>Pershing Field Park</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Community Gathering/Event Plaza</td>
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<td>Pershing Field Park</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Renovate Existing Parking Lot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pershing Field Park</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
<td>Underground Stormwater Storage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pershing Field Park</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Misc. signs, trees, furniture</td>
<td>$58,922</td>
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**TOTAL** $5,951,136