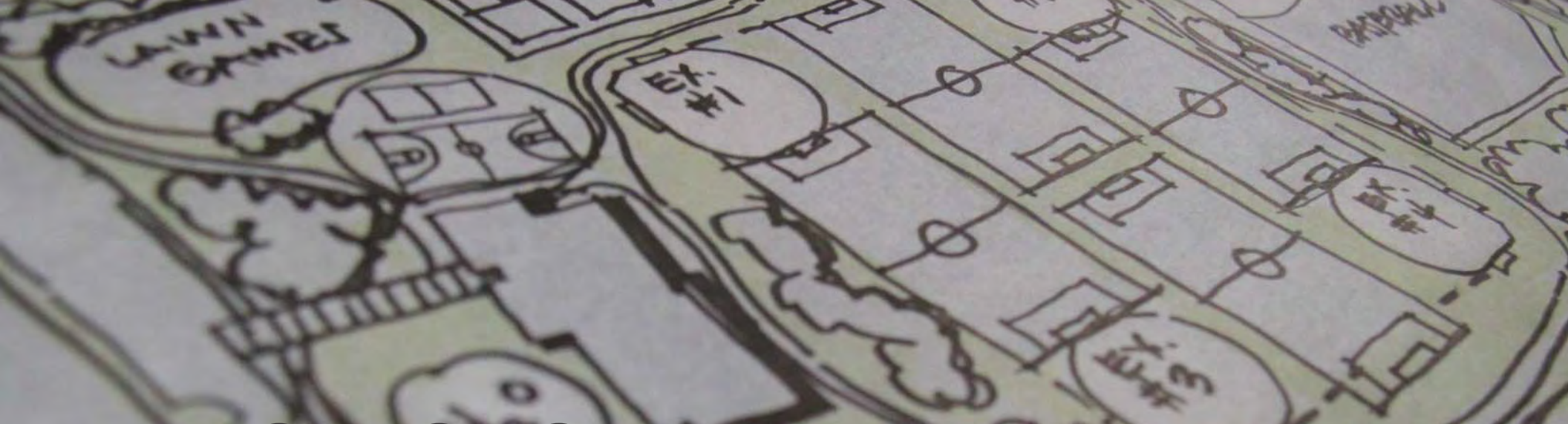


# 4 PARK PLANS



## **SECTION CONTENTS:**

- INTRODUCTION
- KEY/LEGEND
- PARK PLANS & COST ESTIMATES



# INTRODUCTION

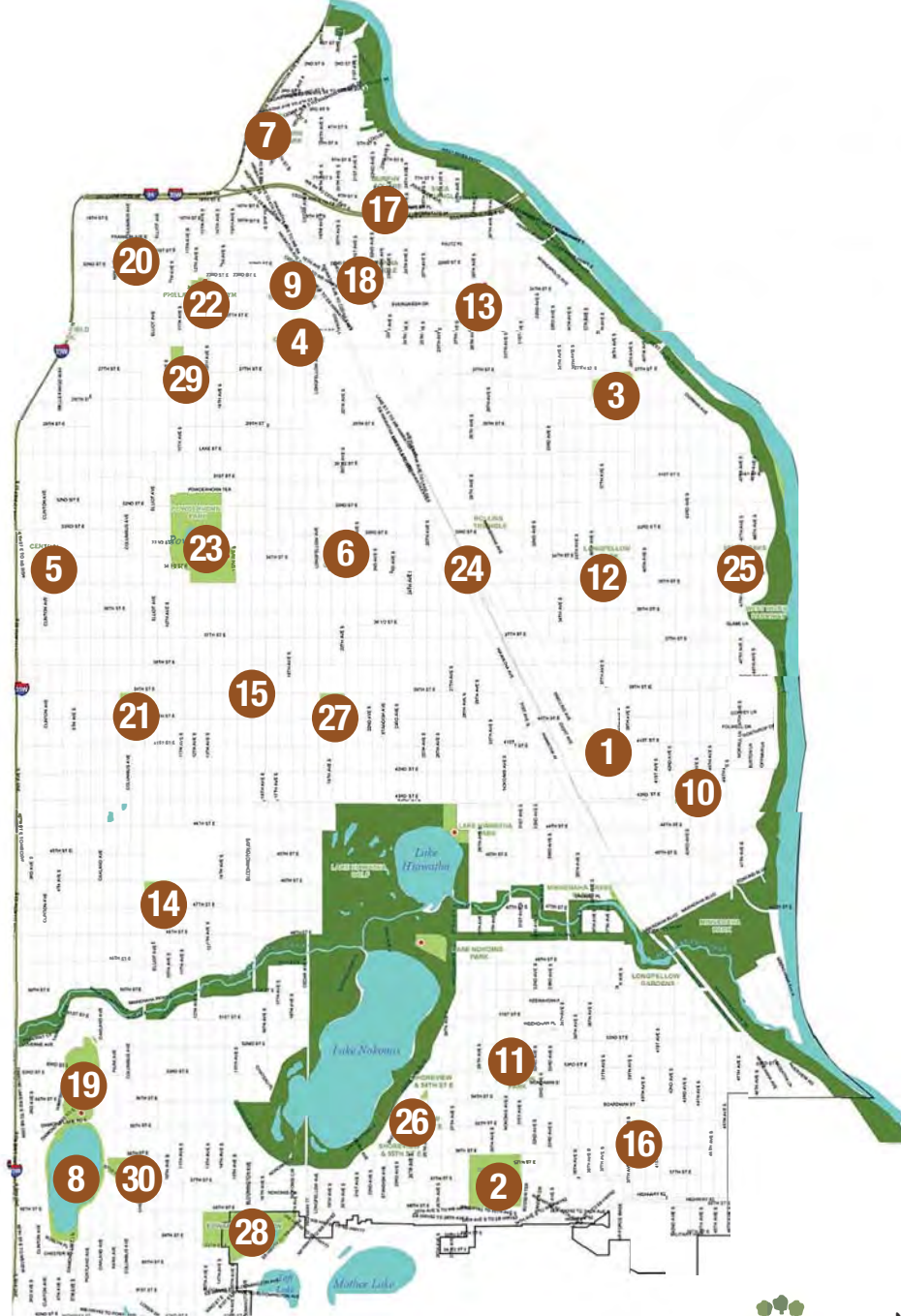
The South Service Area Master Plan creates unique new designs for 27 of the 32 neighborhood park properties in the service area (the remaining 5 are “special consideration” parks as described on the following page). Those designs appear on the following pages, arranged alphabetically. The plan for each park is displayed as a 6 or 8 page “packet” of information that includes the following:

- A description of the history and current character of the park, along with a location map.
- An aerial photograph of existing conditions at the park, for reference
- A written description of the proposed plan for the park, including some overview of public sentiment during the planning process
- The park plan drawing and key
- A matrix showing general input themes and how they led to the final design
- A cost and operations estimate (see chapter 6 for detailed information on cost estimates). The operations estimate reflects the difference between the existing operational costs and the estimated operational cost .

The neighborhood park plans are concepts. That means they do not finalize every detail in the park. Subsequent capital improvement projects will require detailed design processes, and additional community engagement will be performed at that time, per MPRB policy and ACTION 3. The park plans do not specifically locate small features in the park, like benches and signs. Instead, they are a guide to the overall layout of the park and what will be included in the park in the future.

## NOKOMIS/HIAWATHA

The parks surrounding the two recreation centers at Lakes Nokomis and Hiawatha are not included in the South Service Area Master Plan. Though they host neighborhood-type facilities, they are both officially within the boundary of Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park, for which there is an approved master plan. That Regional Park Master Plan is the guiding document for these park areas.



= Regional Parks (not included in South Service Area Master Plan)  
 = Recreation Center



Figure 4.1 - Park Location Key

## \* SPECIAL CONSIDERATION PARKS

Several park properties do not have full packets of information included in the SSAMP document at this time. The reasons for this vary by park and are described in abbreviated park packets appearing in alphabetical sequence with the other parks. Those park properties and the basic reasons for special consideration are:

- Bossen Field: recently master planned independently of the SSAMP.
- Cedar Avenue Field: insufficient community engagement prevented final design.
- East Phillips: community decision to not master plan at this time
- Meridian Garden: managed by community group
- Rollins Triangle: tiny park triangle impacted by Minnehaha Avenue reconstruction

## PARKS INCLUDED

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adams Triangle</li> <li>2. Bossen Field*</li> <li>3. Brackett Field</li> <li>4. Cedar Avenue Field*</li> <li>5. Central Gym Park</li> <li>6. Corcoran Park</li> <li>7. Currie Park</li> <li>8. Diamond Lake</li> <li>9. East Phillips Park*</li> <li>10. Hiawatha School Park</li> <li>11. Keewaydin Park</li> <li>12. Longfellow Park</li> <li>13. Matthews Park</li> <li>14. McRae Park</li> <li>15. Meridian Garden*</li> <li>16. Morris Park</li> <li>17. Murphy Square</li> <li>18. Normanna Triangle</li> <li>19. Pearl Park</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20. Peavey Field Park</li> <li>21. Phelps Field Park</li> <li>22. Phillips Community Center</li> <li>23. Powderhorn Park</li> <li>24. Rollins Triangle*</li> <li>25. Seven Oaks Oval</li> <li>26. Shoreview Triangles (3 park properties)</li> <li>27. Sibley Park</li> <li>28. Solomon Park</li> <li>29. Stewart Park</li> <li>30. Todd Park</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

\* These parks are considered as a part of the overall service area master plan but are considered "special consideration" parks.

# KEY/LEGEND

## AQUATICS

*Places to play in the water (swimming, splash pads)*

-   Wading Pool (*small, shallow pool for children*)
-   Indoor Swimming Pool
-   Beach Access
-   Splash Pad (*water play area with sprayers and fountains, with no standing water*)
-   Interactive Water Play (*small stream/fountains for kids to play in*)

## PLAY

*Places for youth to play (swings, slides, vertical climbing walls)*

-   Traditional Play Structure (*swings, slides, climbers*)
-   Adventure Play (*place for challenging play for older youth and teens including climbing walls, zip line, obstacle course*)
-   Nature play area (*play area for children that encourages creative play with natural materials*)









## ATHLETICS

*Sports on turf fields*

-   Multi-use Field (*open turf that may be used for soccer or other sports*)
-   Multi-use Diamond (*field for baseball or softball but the outfield may be used for soccer or other sports*)
-   Premier Field (*High quality field for soccer or other sports, often with permanent stripes*)
-   Premier Diamond (*High quality field for baseball or softball, usually with a fence around the outfield*)
-   Sports Dome (*may be put up in winter to allow sports to be played year round*)

## COURTS

*Sports on hard surface courts*





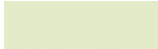

-   Tennis Court
-   Basketball Court
-   Volleyball Court
-   Multi-sport Court (*court striped to allow many different sports such as pickleball, bike polo*)

## WINTER USE

Places to play in winter (ice skating, sledding)

























-   Designated Sledding Hill
-   Skating Rink
-   Broomball Rink
-   Hockey Rink
-   Year-round Rink (*Hard-surface rink for hockey all year or bike polo in summer*)
-   Warming House

## LANDSCAPE

-   Outdoor Gathering Space (*Open area for community gathering/picnics*)
-   Designated Urban Agriculture Area
-  Mown Turf Grass
-  Naturalized Area (*native vegetation areas,*

## OTHER

Other types of recreation in outdoor parks

-   Group Shelter
-   Stage / Bandshell (for outdoor plays, music, or classes)
-   Adult Fitness (area with machines to work out in)
-   Walking Loop Trail (walking path that loops around the park, includes signs and seating)
-   Lawn/Court Games (small open lawn or court for games)
-   Dog Park
-   Disc Golf
-   Archery (archery course)
-   Skate Park
-   Canoe/Kayak Launch
-   Community Oven
-   Restroom/Storage Building

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# MCRAE

## LOCATION AND HISTORY

McRae Park occupies most of a large block bounded by 46th Street, 47th Street, Chicago Avenue, and the Hope Street for Runaway and Homeless Youth. The busy streets on the north and west make this a prominently situated park just north of Minnehaha Creek. Unlike many parks, it is not surrounded by neighborhoods, but rather the semi-commercial avenues of Chicago and 46th, the forested campus of the Children's Home, and the large St. Mary's Cemetery across 46th to the north.

The land for McRae Park was obtained partly through purchase by condemnation and partly from the state



of Minnesota. A 1944 study of the city's park needs recommended that two playground parks be added to this southern section of the city, but no sites were available or affordable at the time. In 1946, however, a neighborhood group, the Shenandoah Playground Association, asked the park board to consider a site at 46th and Elliot for a park. Several parcels of land were on the state's tax-forfeiture list. The park board asked the state to withhold those lots from its land sale and added to them by purchasing adjoining land.

Plans to develop the park into a playground and athletic fields were completed in 1953, as were special assessment procedures to bill area property owners for the costs of developing the park. Construction of the park began in late 1954 and was completed in 1956. The new park had baseball, softball, and football fields, a hard-surface area for basketball and volleyball, two tennis courts, a concrete wading pool, a small playground shelter and warming house, playground equipment, sidewalks, and picnic tables. The park was named in 1955 for Alexander A. McRae, a banker who served as a park commissioner for 18 years and was the board's president 1919-1921. He died during his second stint on the park board in 1944 at age 74.

New playground equipment was installed at McRae in 1969 at the beginning of a cycle of major improvements to park facilities throughout the city in the 1970s. Seven years later, the original small park shelter was expanded into a recreation center. A new play area for small children was added in 1996, and in 1998 a permanent hard-surface skating rink was constructed that permits year-round skating, in winter on blades and in summer on wheels.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

As a fairly recent addition to the Minneapolis park system, McRae Park today is not much different than it was after its original implementation. It features three multi-use diamonds and a year-round rink (ice in winter, paved in summer) on its four main corners, with a

football field—complete with goalposts—in the center. Near the recreation center are two playgrounds and a wading pool, with a picnic area and sand volleyball court just to the east. A small parking lot is accessible from 47th Street on the southern edge of the park.

The southwest corner of the McRae block is occupied by several commercial businesses, this land having never been purchased by MPRB. North of these businesses along Chicago Avenue are horseshoe courts, a full court basketball court, a hard-court volleyball court, two tennis courts, and a half-court tennis bang-board.

The fringes of the sports areas are pleasantly shaded by large conifer and deciduous trees, but few walking paths allow for accessible strolls through the park.

McRae Park has been known for its year-round sports programs. In winter, two broomball rinks are erected here in addition to the permanent hockey rink. In summer softball, football, and soccer use the fields most nights and weekend days. A capital improvement project underway at the time of the SSAMP process is improving the multi-use fields with new soil, grass, irrigation, and improved drainage.

## CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Wayfinding and connections from McRae Park should focus on:

- The Southside Greenway, which is planned to run one block west of the park on Columbus Avenue. An obvious connection to this proposed City of Minneapolis facility would connect McRae to Minnehaha Creek, Pearl Park, Phelps Field, and Powderhorn Park.
- A proposed pedestrian and/or bicycle route along 47th Street eastward to Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park and to Minnehaha Creek via 17th Avenue.



Existing Conditions: McRae





Proposed Plan: McRae

## THE PROPOSED DESIGN

The design for McRae Park recognizes the community desire for an active, sports-oriented park with improved amenities. The plan follows the capital project’s recommendation for an improved multi-use field in the center of the park (with removal of the football goalposts), and relocation of broomball rinks off that field in the winter. The SSAMP plan also reduces the number of multi-use diamonds from three to two, on the northwest and southeast corners, to allow more space for broomball and other field sports.

The parking lot is extended eastward to nearly double its size, to accommodate the sports use and the fact that parking along Chicago and 46th is sometimes unavailable (unlike in other parks where on-street parking is easy to come by). To accommodate this move, the wading pool and play areas are relocated slightly, to the northeast of the proposed lot extension. A picnic area and sand volleyball court are retained at the southeastern-most edge of the park. The parking lot, upon its expansion, should consider sustainable construction methods and stormwater management, per the recommendations in this plan.

The court sports area along Chicago Avenue is modified. The horseshoe, hard volleyball, and tennis bang-board courts are eliminated in favor of two full-court basketball courts and several shoot-hoops of varying heights, to allow for play by younger children or

general basketball practice. The two tennis courts are reconstructed as multi-use courts focusing on tennis, pickleball, and volleyball.

Naturalized areas with pollinator-friendly plantings trace the outer edges of the park, while new pathways allow for walking loops around the park and improved accessible connections to surrounding streets.

McRae Park has a lot of sporting activities packed in, and this active focus will continue in the future. In addition to football, baseball, basketball, soccer, hockey, broomball, and other sports, McRae visitors will now be able to stroll around the park from activity to activity—even finding more safe places to park when they come.

## KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES









There are no known land use or coordination issues with McRae Park.

During the planning process, some community members suggested that MPRB should complete the square and acquire the properties on the southwestern corner. This was not adopted into the final plan, however, as acquisition priorities lie elsewhere and the park design was able to incorporate most desires into its existing extents.




## OPERATION ESTIMATE

FACILITIES	Total Per Unit Operations Cost	△ Qty	△ Cost
Tennis Court	\$ 1,500	-2	\$ (3,000)
Full Court Basketball	\$ 1,500	2	\$ 3,000
Half Court Basketball	\$ 1,000	4	\$ 4,000
Volleyball	\$ 1,500	-1	\$ (1,500)
Multi-Sport Court	\$ 1,500	2	\$ 3,000
Walking Loop Trail	\$ 5,000	1	\$ 5,000
<b>Difference</b>			<b>\$ 10,500</b>

## UPDATE EXISTING

-  Traditional Play Structure
-  Wading Pool
-  Volleyball Court
-  Basketball Court
-  Broomball Rink
-  Year-round Rink
-  Multi-use Field
-  Multi-use Diamond

## NEW/ ADDED

-  Multi-sport Court
-  Basketball Court
-  Walking Loop Trail

## PROCESSES

	<b>1: General Input</b> <b>Spring-Fall 2015</b> <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	<b>2: Initial Concepts</b> <b>Fall-Winter 2015/2016</b> <i>Input themes on initial concepts</i>	<b>3: The Preferred Concept</b> <b>Now</b> <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
aquatics	Wading pool generally disliked →	Provide shade at pool →	Splash pad with shade structure instead of wading pool, closer to fields than existing, to allow room for expanded parking
play	Play equipment is in poor condition →	no comments →	Traditional play equipment relocated closer to fields than existing, to allow room for expanded parking
athletics	Multi-use diamonds generally disliked; field quality is seen as poor overall →	no comments →	Removal of one multi-use diamond to create larger multi-use field space and to prevent overlap with broomball rink
courts	Tennis courts are well used Basketball courts need improvement, but this use is desired in the park →	Basketball, tennis both popular Sand volleyball is heavily used by Latino population →	Tennis courts retained in same number and location Replacement of basketball and horseshoe area with two full-court basketball, four shoot hoops at varying heights, and seating area under shade for courts area Sand volleyball court retained in same general location, near picnic area in southeast corner
winter	Hockey and broomball rinks are heavily used in this park →	no comments →	Permanent ice rink retained in same location. Two broomball rinks relocated to eliminate overlap with football field
landscape	no comments specific to McRae; many comments want more natural areas in parks →	no comments specific to McRae; many comments want more natural areas in parks →	Addition of naturalized areas around perimeters of park
other	no comments →	Like expanded parking Need on-site storage for sports and maintenance equipment Provide picnic area →	Parking expanded to the east Addition of walking trails throughout the park Enhanced picnic area near play area in southeast corner of park

## COST ESTIMATE

Asset Type	Project	2017 ESTIMATED COST/PROJECT	Implementation Sequence	Prioritization Category	Applicable SSAMP Actions
Aquatics	Wading Pool, incl. playground demolition and existing pool demolition	\$ 911,712	before parking lot, after/with playground	PLANNED	16
Play	Traditional Play Structures (2) in new container	\$ 698,158	before wading pool	FUNDED	16, 23b, 23d
Athletics	Athletic field renovation, incl. demolition of 1 diamond, renovation of 2 diamonds, renovation of fields	\$ 1,162,228	stand-alone	FUNDED/PLANNED	16, 21a, 21b, 21d
Courts	Multi-use Court (2)	\$ 213,554	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 18, 22c
Courts	Basketball Court (2) + shoot hoops	\$ 344,972	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 22a
Courts	Volleyball Court	\$ 57,495	before/with playground	PLANNED	16
Winter	Hockey/Inline Skate Rink	\$ 246,409	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 18
Landscape	Naturalized areas	\$ 42,136	stand-alone or with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	26, 29
Landscape	Parking Lot Renovation and expansion	\$ 331,899	after/with wading pool and playgrounds	PLANNED	28
Other	Gathering Space/Plazas near building and near courts	\$ 133,882	with associated projects	PLANNED	16
Other	Renovate walking paths	\$ 174,786	with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	16, 17
Other	Miscl. signs, trees, furniture	\$ 77,873	with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	9, 10, 17
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 4,395,104</b>			

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