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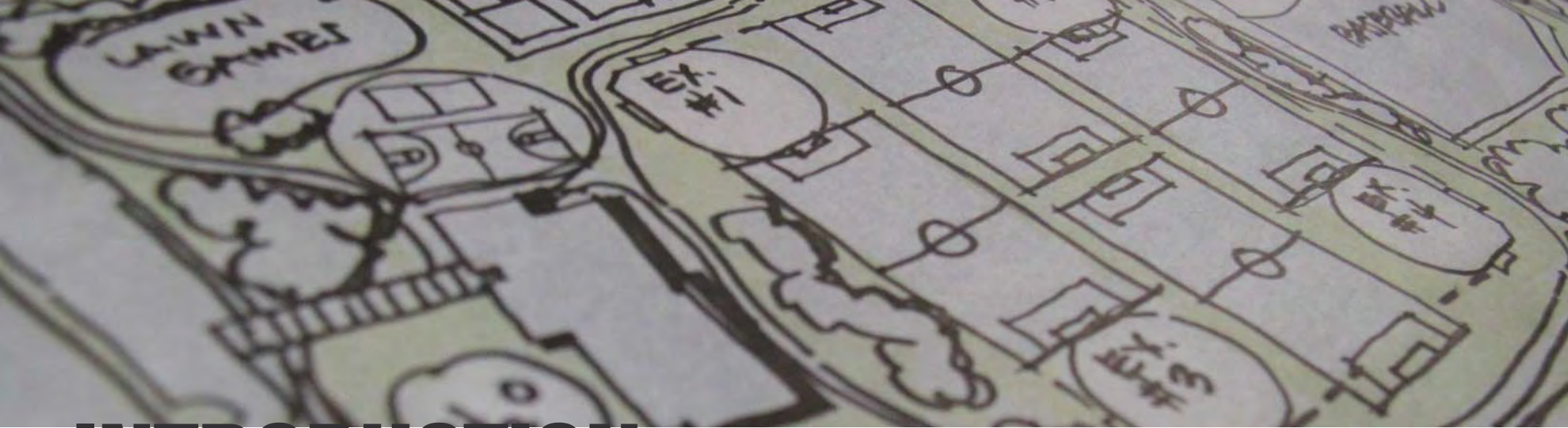
PARK PLANS



SECTION CONTENTS:

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

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INTRODUCTION

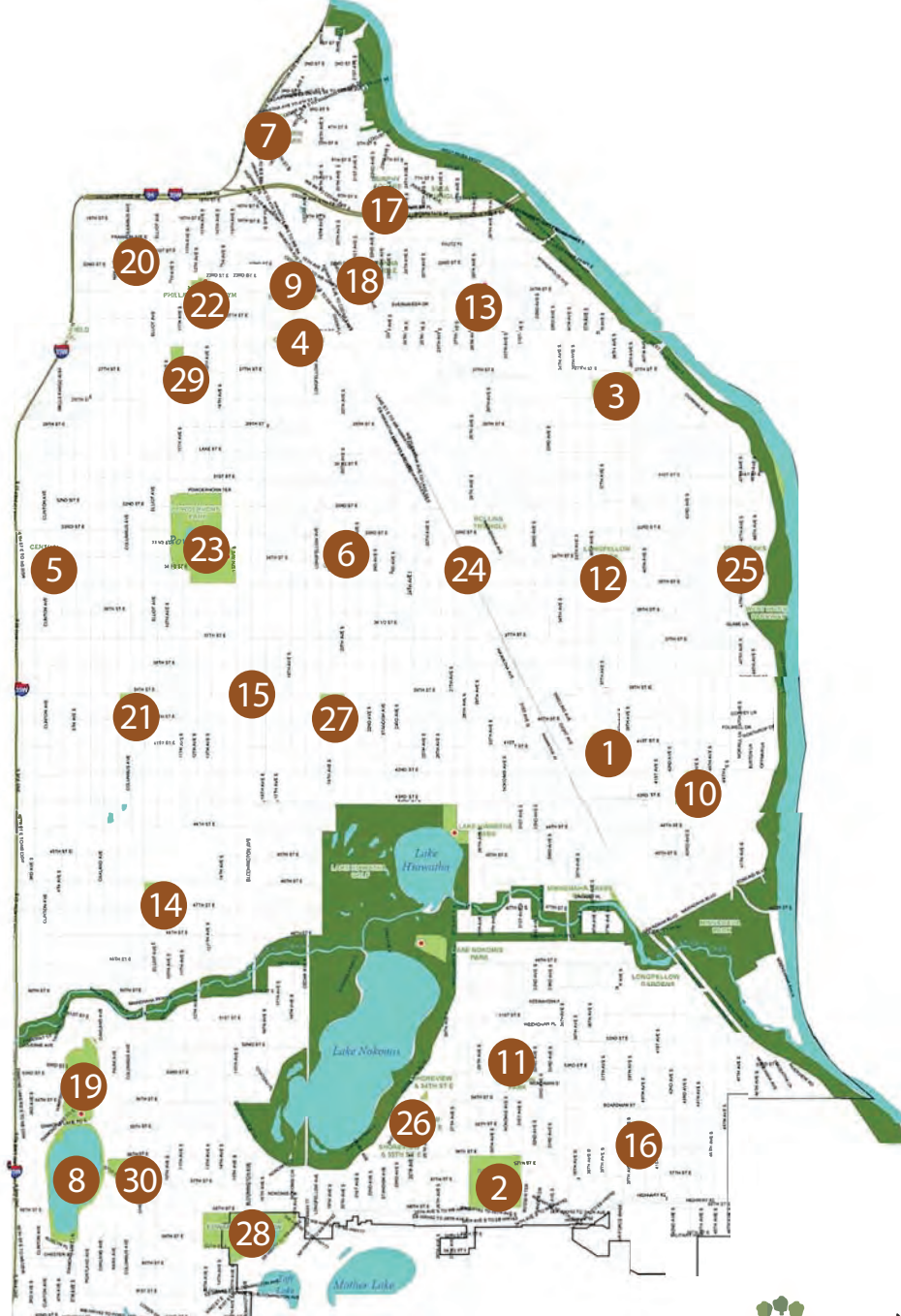
The South Service Area Master Plan creates unique new designs for 27 of the 32 neighborhood park properties in the service area (the remaining 5 are “special consideration” parks as described on the following page). Those designs appear on the following pages, arranged alphabetically. The plan for each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


Minneapolis
 Park & Recreation Board
 South Service Area



Figure 4.1 - Park Location Key

* SPECIAL CONSIDERATION PARKS

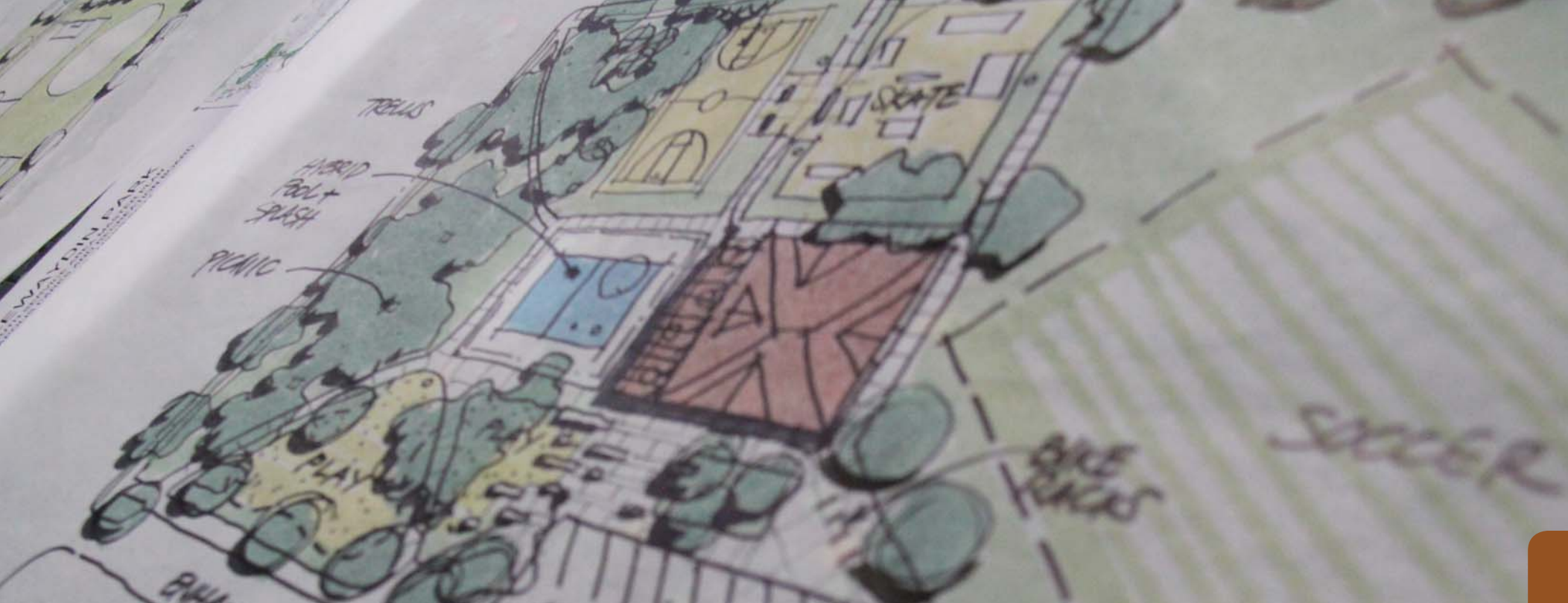
Several park properties do not have full packets of information included in the SSAMP document at this time. The reasons for this vary by park and are described in abbreviated park packets appearing in alphabetical sequence with the other parks. Those park properties and the basic reasons for special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

- Bossen Field: recently master planned independently of the SSAMP.
- 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

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Adams Triangle | 20. Peavey Field Park |
| 2. Bossen Field* | 21. Phelps Field Park |
| 3. Brackett Field | 22. Phillips Community Center |
| 4. Cedar Avenue Field | 23. Powderhorn Park |
| 5. Central Gym Park | 24. Rollins Triangle* |
| 6. Corcoran Park | 25. Seven Oaks Oval |
| 7. Currie Park | 26. Shoreview Triangles (3 park properties) |
| 8. Diamond Lake | 27. Sibley Park |
| 9. East Phillips Park* | 28. Solomon Park |
| 10. Hiawatha School Park | 29. Stewart Park |
| 11. Keewaydin Park | 30. Todd Park |
| 12. Longfellow Park | |
| 13. Matthews Park | |
| 14. McRae Park | |
| 15. Meridian Garden* | |
| 16. Morris Park | |
| 17. Murphy Square | |
| 18. Normanna Triangle | |
| 19. Pearl Park | |

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



A PARK PLAN DOES DETERMINE

- The types and locations of facilities
- The general areas of mown and naturalized landscapes and the general location of trees
- The extent and general location of pathways

A PARK PLAN DOES NOT DETERMINE

- The specific design of facilities
- The location of minor amenities such as benches, drinking fountains, and signs

EXAMPLE:

A park plan DOES determine:

- That there will be a traditional play area in a certain location in the park (as opposed to a nature play area in a different location)

A park plan DOES NOT determine:

- The exact equipment, layout, color, surfacing

Future capital projects will have their own community engagement processes at the time of implementation.

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 climbings 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

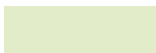
LANDSCAPE



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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ADAMS TRIANGLE



LOCATION AND HISTORY

Adams Triangle is bounded by Minnehaha Avenue, 41st Street, and 37th Avenue in the Longfellow Neighborhood. It is one of many triangles of land in various ownership created by the diagonal line of Minnehaha Avenue as it cuts through the regular South Minneapolis grid. Three of these triangles are owned by MPRB (Adams, Rollins, and Normanna), and all three have always been undeveloped, unprogrammed spaces.

Adams Triangle was purchased in 1920. In that same year MPRB made minor improvements to the property, including grading and the installation of curbs and gutters. All costs were assessed against property in the surrounding neighborhood. Adams Triangle was named in 1921 for Abraham S. Adams, a park commissioner 1893-1905 and president of the park board from 1903 to 1905.

In 2015 Minnehaha Avenue was completely reconstructed with new concrete bicycle lanes, curb bump-outs, and special paving at intersections. Though this project did not affect Adams triangle physically, it will have the effect of making Adams Triangle more accessible and visible.

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

For some years, community members have been interested in establishing an urban agriculture initiative at Adams Triangle, an initiative called the “Adams Grove Community Orchard.” Near the conclusion of this planning process, community members and MPRB staff planted the first 35 fruit trees on Adams Triangle. No other improvements were installed prior to adoption of the overall master plan. The trees will be cared for by community members and the fruit, when ready in several years, will be available for harvest for personal use, per MPRB Policy. A community organization plans to harvest leftover fruit for donation to local food shelves.

Other than the trees, Adams is a mown triangle of turfgrass with several large deciduous and evergreen trees. Though Minnehaha Avenue is a busy street, the triangle is a relaxing and cooling oasis occasionally used for unprogrammed recreation such as volleyball and catch.



Existing Conditions: Adams Triangle

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS





Wayfinding and connections from Adams Triangle should focus on:

- The existing City of Minneapolis bicycle/ pedestrian route on 37th Avenue that extends north to Longfellow Park
- The existing bike lanes and sidewalks recently installed and improved on Minnehaha Avenue, which connect to the Midtown Greenway and Minnehaha Park.



Proposed Plan: Adams Triangle

NEW/ ADDED

-  Outdoor Gathering Space
-  Group Shelter
-  Urban Agriculture Area
-  Community Oven

THE PROPOSED DESIGN

At the core of the new design for Adams Triangle Park is the community orchard. This feature occupies the central portion of the site. On the 37th Avenue side, an open community space features a picnic shelter, community oven, and mown turfgrass. Pathways extend through the park. The general vision is for the arcing path near the community gathering area to be paved, and the other paths winding through the orchard to have aggregate surfacing, to enhance the casual feel of a stroll through the orchard. Benches could be placed along these paths.

The orchard itself is laid out in a strict grid (this is how the trees were planted in early 2016) to facilitate maintenance between the trees and reinforce the character of the orchard.

KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ITEMS

No known land use issues exist with Adams Triangle. As part of the Minnehaha Avenue reconstruction, there may be funding available from Hennepin County Community Works to implement some features of the design, and the community around Adams has expressed interest in fundraising for the park. Both options should be explored as pathways to implementation.

PROCESSES

	1: General Input Spring-Fall 2015 <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	2: Initial Concepts Fall-Winter 2015/2016 <i>Input themes on initial concepts</i>	3: The Preferred Concept Now <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
aquatics	no comments →	no comments →	No aquatic facilities planned for this park
play	no comments →	no comments →	No formal play facilities planned for this park
athletics	no comments →	no comments →	No formal athletic facilities planned for this park
courts	no comments →	no comments →	No courts planned for this park
winter	no comments →	no comments →	No formal winter facilities planned for this park
landscape	Desire for community orchard; concepts prepared by community members →	Like urban orchard idea → Would like to see open lawn space still accommodate use by youth Flip the locations of the open lawn and orchard so the lawn faces 37th, not Minnehaha	Entire triangle designated as an urban agriculture area, with focus on a community orchard Some open lawn maintained, facing 37th Avenue
other	no comments →	Make the shelter an architectural/artistic object for neighborhood use →	Addition of group shelter and community oven

COST ESTIMATE

Asset Type	Project	2017 ESTIMATED COST/PROJECT	Implementation Sequence	Prioritization Category	Applicable SSAMP Actions
Landscape	Naturalized areas	\$ 986	stand-alone	PLANNED	26, 29
Landscape	Urban Agriculture Area, incl. utilities	\$ 49,282	stand-alone	CONDITIONAL	19
Other	Gathering Space, incl. shelter and community oven	\$ 113,348	stand-alone or with walking paths	PLANNED	16, 18
Other	Walking paths	\$ 111,705	stand-alone or with gathering space	PLANNED	16
Other	Miscl. signs, trees, furniture	\$ 22,050	stand-alone	PLANNED	9
TOTAL		\$ 297,371			

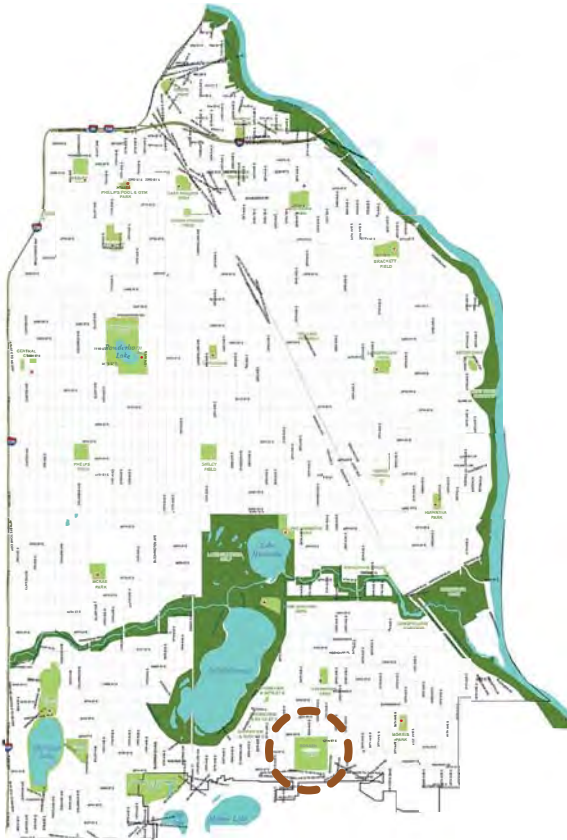
NOTE: Urban Agriculture Areas will be implemented in partnership with specific programs or community members.

OPERATIONS ESTIMATE

FACILITIES	Total Per Unit Operations Cost	△ Qty	△ Cost
Outdoor Gathering Space	\$ 10,000	1	\$ 10,000
Urban Agriculture Area	\$ 15,000	1	\$ 15,000
Group Shelter	\$ 4,000	1	\$ 4,000
Community Oven	\$ 1,500	1	\$ 1,500
Difference			\$ 30,500

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BOSSEN FIELD



ABOUT

Bossen Field Park is a “special consideration park” in the SSAMP process. This park underwent a community-focused master planning process on its own during 2015 and implementation of portions of that plan are to follow immediately afterwards. For this reason, the park was not included in park planning as part of the SSAMP.

The Bossen master plan, adopted by MPRB Commissioners in 2015 is included on the following page for reference. Community members and MPRB staff should consult the full master plan document for more information.

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Wayfinding and connections from Bossen Field Park should focus on:

- The existing City of Minneapolis bicycle/ pedestrian route on 56th Street, which connects to Morris Park and Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park
- The existing City of Minneapolis bicycle/ pedestrian route on Nokomis Avenue, which connects northward to Keewaydin Park This connection is especially important because Bossen Field will feature the nearest wading pool to Keewaydin, which does not have a planned aquatic facility in the SSAMP.

Concept C1 FLOW

COMMUNITY

STRONG COMMUNITY CORRIDOR + DESIGNATED OPEN SPACE + PLAY AREAS

ATHLETIC FIELDS

FULL SOFTBALL PINWHEEL + HALF PINWHEEL + CONCESSIONS

NE CORNER

PICNIC AREA + GARDENS + EXTREME PLAYFUL SWINGS + CASUAL SWINGS + HAMMOCKS + WINDING PATHS



THEMED GARDEN: BIRDS



THEMED GARDEN: BUTTERFLIES



CASUAL SWING GATHERING AREA



PLAYFUL, EXTREME SWINGS



PLAYFUL, EXTREME SWINGS



HAMMOCKS



MPRB Bossen Field Park

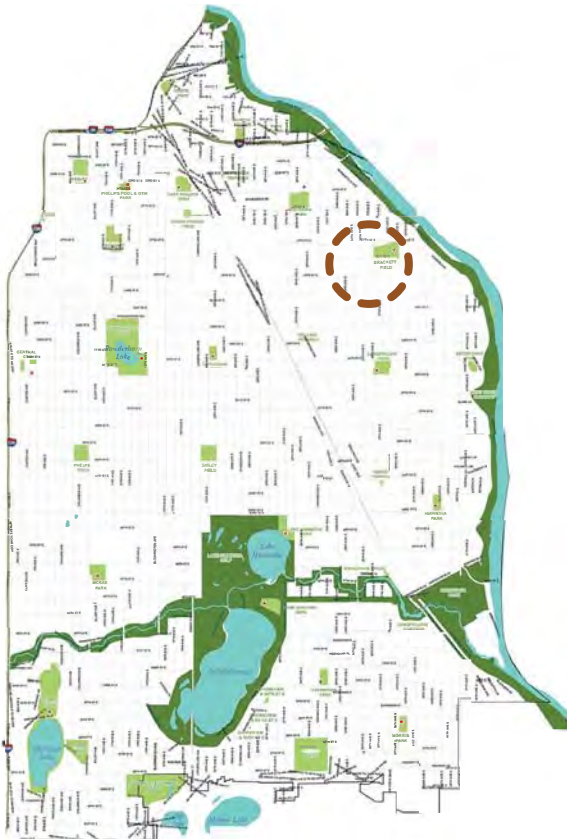
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Bossen Field "Flow" Concept Plan

BRACKETT

LOCATION AND HISTORY

Brackett Field spans three city blocks east-to-west in between the Longfellow and Cooper Neighborhoods. It is bounded by 28th Street, 36th Avenue, 39th Avenue and the Midtown Greenway. It has two distinct characters. The western 2/3 of the park is focused on sports and active use, and is wide open with trees only around the perimeter. The eastern 1/3 is a wooded enclave, with various amenities nestled under mature oaks. The elevated corridor of the Midtown Greenway provides a vegetated backdrop for the whole park.



Brackett Field was called the Short Line Playground when it was acquired in 1921, in reference to the adjacent railroad corridor. Improvements to the park began almost immediately. Park superintendent Theodore Wirth, in the 1921 annual report, proposed a plan in which, “Every foot of the twelve-acre ground is taken advantage of in some useful manner.” Brackett was one of the first neighborhood parks in the city designed from the start exclusively for active recreation with almost no landscaped open spaces. The first shelter was built in early 1924. The entire cost of the acquisition and initial improvements was assessed against neighborhood property for payment over ten years.

The park was renamed in 1923 for George A. Brackett, one of the original park commissioners appointed in the legislation that created the park board in 1883. Brackett also served as mayor, councilman, and the city’s first fire chief. He was among those who had pushed for years for the city to acquire parks and helped lead the campaign to gain approval of the park act during the referendum of 1883.

Brackett Field was first designated as a year-round recreation center in 1935. That designation was soon removed, then reinstated in 1958. In the early 1960s residents near Brackett Field began circulating petitions to support renovation of the park with assessments split 50-50 between the neighborhood and the city. With the success of the petition drive, Brackett was upgraded in 1963 to include a renovated shelter and new playground equipment that featured a jungle gym and slide in the shape of a rocket. The Brackett recreation center was expanded in 1980 with a basement renovation, along with other site improvements. That center was demolished in 1999 and replaced with a new building, designed by architect Milo Thompson.

A skate park was built at Brackett Field in 2005, taking the place of two of the four park tennis courts. The two remaining courts were resurfaced, and a new playground was installed. At that time the park also witnessed the return of the Brackett Rocket. The jungle gym and slide installed in the park in the 1960s was

converted into a park sculpture in the southwest corner of the park. A project completed in 2014 improved drainage and redesigned a path traveling through the park, making it safer for both pedestrians and cyclists.

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

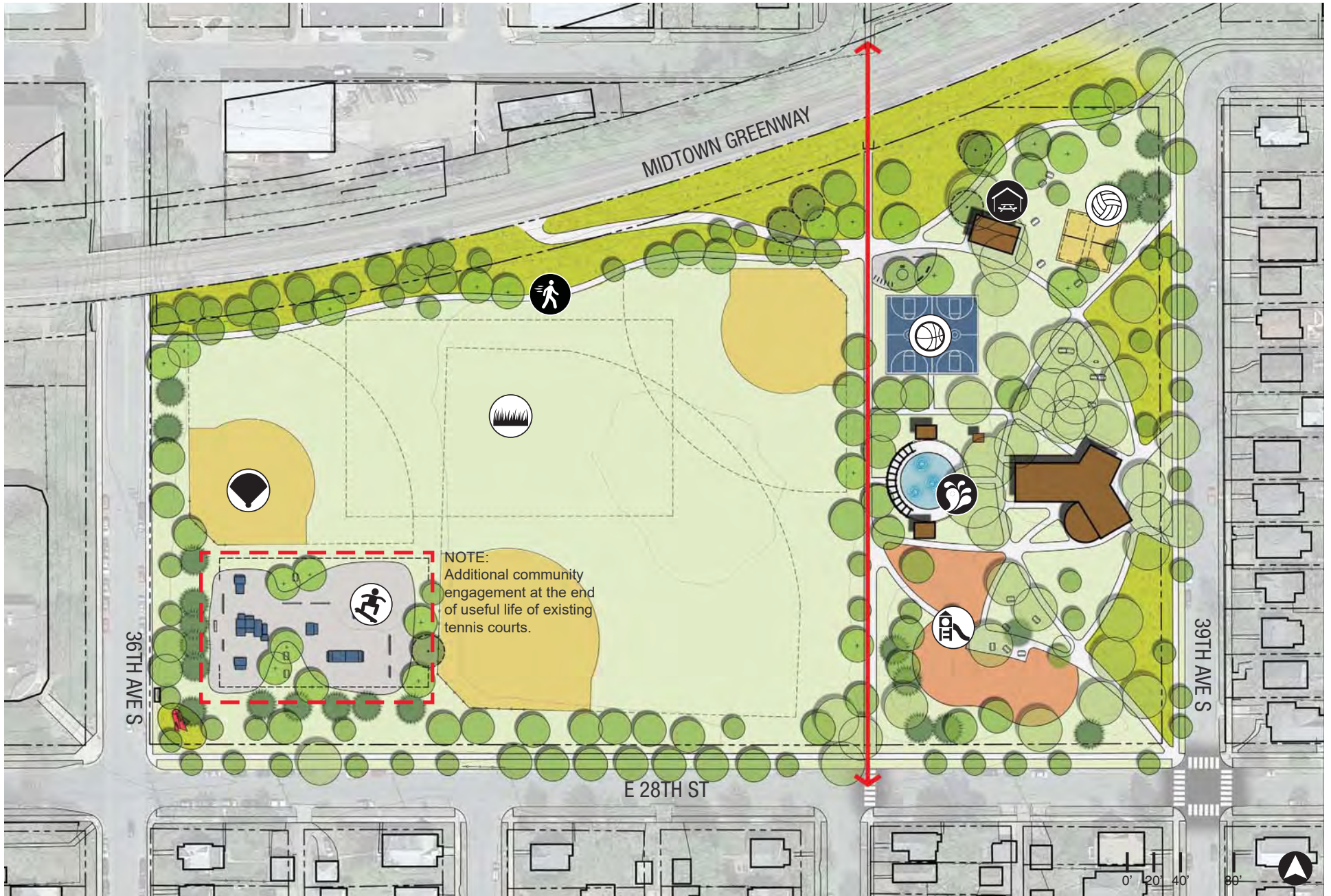
Brackett Field’s western 2/3 features five ball diamonds—one of them with a grass infield—two tennis courts, and a small skatepark with moveable equipment. On the corner near the skatepark is the Brackett Rocket, the repurposed play structure that has become an icon in the neighborhood. The location for these active athletic facilities is appropriate, particularly because the park does not front residential uses on its northern and western edges. The skate park, in particular, has been well received in this location, though the quality of the equipment and surfacing has been a concern for users. The equipment is often moved onto the tennis courts, which can damage that surface and interrupts tennis play. The ballfields are currently heavily used for adult kickball and a Latino baseball league.

North of the athletic fields is a trail connection ascending up to the Midtown Greenway. That trail connects to a north-south trail through the park, aligned on 38th Avenue and passing through a tunnel under the elevated greenway. This is one of very few bike-only connections across the elevated Greenway in this part of town.

The eastern 1/3 of the park features a mature oak canopy surrounding the red cone-roofed recreation center. Under and amongst the trees are a wading pool, play areas, two full court basketball courts, a grass volleyball court, and a picnic area and calisthenic equipment dating from the WPA era of the 1930s. The wooded, shady character of this portion of the park is extremely important to the community, and earlier designs for this park were revised to protect the oak trees. There has been some concern, however, about the uniform age of these trees, which has led to the suggestion to diversify the forest with understory plantings.



Existing Conditions: Brackett Field



Proposed Plan: Brackett Field

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Wayfinding and connections from Brackett Field should focus on:

- Access to the Midtown Greenway and amenities along its length
- The existing and proposed north-south pedestrian/bicycle route on 38th Avenue, which connects northward to the River and south to Longfellow Park. The southward connection is especially important for tennis and pickle-ball players as Longfellow has the nearest courts.
- Pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements at the intersections of 28th Street with 38th and 39th Avenues.

THE PROPOSED DESIGN

The design for Brackett Field Park makes only minimal changes, primarily in the western 2/3 of the site, where the more active uses take place. The number of ball diamonds is reduced from five to three, to increase recreational diversity, with the remaining fields arranged to minimize outfield overlap, especially with regard to the grass-infield baseball diamond. The two tennis courts are removed for an expansion of the skatepark, which would be built as a high quality facility with integral equipment. This project will not take place until the tennis courts have reached the end of their useful life. At that time a community engagement process will take place to consider uses in the southwest corner of the park, limited to a discussion whether to expand and improve the skatepark or to retain tennis courts and enhance the skatepark at its same size. The removal of the tennis courts has raised some concern among nearby residents. Though not a perfect solution for those that live very close to Brackett, the courts at Matthews Park are being retained and an additional court is being added at Longfellow Park.

Most amenities in the eastern 1/3 of the park are retained in their same general locations: basketball, playgrounds, and pathways. The wading pool is converted to a splash pad, in the interest of diversifying aquatic offerings in the service area (aquatics at Matthews and Longfellow Parks will remain wading pools). A group picnic shelter is added just north of the basketball courts, and sand or grass volleyball courts are installed in the same general location as the existing grass court. A bicycle parking “hub” is located at the terminus of the Greenway access trail. These last three amenities will be implemented with care for the existing oak woods. The woods will be preserved and enhanced over time with understory and successional plantings. The historic picnic areas and calisthenic equipment would be preserved as much as possible.

The sloped northern edge of the park and the eastern frontage on 39th Avenue are naturalized with pollinator-friendly native plants and trees. A new path extends along the base of the Greenway slope along the entire length of the park, to allow for walks through and around the park.

In all, the park will retain its current character and general arrangement, with a few amenities added, expanded, and modified to add to the park’s use and excitement. A family can come to Brackett and find options for everyone: fields for pick-up baseball, soccer, and basketball games; all-ages aquatics on the splash pad; the excitement of skateboarding; and the cool relaxing shade of the oak forest.

KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES

No known land use issues exist with Brackett Field. Coordination with the City of Minneapolis’s bikeway planning will continue to be important as 38th Street becomes an important north-south connection through and beyond the park.

UPDATE EXISTING



Traditional Play Structure



Basketball Court



Volleyball Court



Multi-use Field



Multi-use Diamond



Skate Park

NEW/ ADDED



Splash Pad



Group Shelter



Walking Loop Trail

PROCESSES

	1: General Input Spring-Fall 2015 <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	2: Initial Concepts + Public Comment Fall-Winter-Summer 2015/2016 <i>Input themes on initial and preferred</i>	3: The Preferred Concept Now <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
aquatics	Wading pool well liked →	During public comment period: Some opposition to conversion to splash pad →	Splash pad with shade structure instead of wading pool (Increases aquatic diversity in the eastern area: wading pools maintained at Matthews and Longfellow)
play	Mixed opinions on play areas, perhaps due to quality of equipment? →	no comments →	Traditional play areas in generally the same location
athletics	Multi-use diamonds well liked →	Multi-use diamonds get a lot of use, especially by kick ball leagues and a Latino baseball league. →	Removal of two multi-use diamonds to reduce field overlap and create larger multi-use field space (3 diamonds retained). Larger baseball/softball diamond retained
courts	Basketball courts well liked. → Tennis courts liked, but few comments	Basketball is very busy, could warrant two courts. → Don't remove the tennis courts, they see regular use and removing them could impact other parks.	Two full basketball courts in same general location No tennis courts planned for this park (reasoning is the need to reduce/consolidate tennis facilities overall: 3rd court added at Longfellow, 2 courts retained at Matthews) Sand volleyball courts in same general location
winter	no comments →	no comments →	No formal winter facilities planned for this park

PROCESSES CONT.

	1: General Input Spring-Fall 2015 <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	2: Initial Concepts + Public Comment Fall-Winter-Summer 2015/2016 <i>Input themes on initial and preferred</i>	3: The Preferred Concept Now <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
landscape	<p>The large oaks on the eastern end of the park are well liked, an important part of the park</p>	<p>Preserve the oaks, by not moving skatepark to that location.</p> <p>Improve diversity of oak forest by planting under canopy.</p> <p>Provide native plant areas.</p>	<p>Oak forest area preserved, with recommendation for implementing some forest succession plantings</p> <p>Addition of naturalized plantings on Greenway slope and along 39th Avenue</p>
other	<p>Skate park well liked</p> <p>Outdoor fitness area was generally liked</p>	<p>Improve the skate park where it is, both to preserve oaks and because it has less impact on neighbors where it is.</p>	<p>Skate park expanded and improved in existing location, also utilizing area vacated by tennis court</p> <p>Addition of group shelter near oak forest</p> <p>Addition of bicycle parking area near Greenway tunnel</p> <p>Addition of new trail along northern edge of park to create walking loop with seating</p>

COST ESTIMATE

Asset Type	Project	2017 ESTIMATED COST/PROJECT	Implementation Sequence	Prioritization Category	Applicable SSAMP Actions
Aquatics	Splash Pad (incl. demo of ex. wading pool)	\$ 1,404,530	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 20a
Play	Traditional Play Structures (2) in new container	\$ 698,158	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 23b, 23d
Athletics	Athletic field renovation, incl. demolition of 2 diamonds, renovation of 3 diamonds, renovation of fields	\$ 1,548,268	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 21a, 21b, 21d
Courts	Basketball Court (full size full court)	\$ 213,554	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 22a, 22b
Courts	Volleyball Court (2, sand)	\$ 114,991	stand-alone	PLANNED	16
Landscape	Naturalized areas	\$ 43,450	stand-alone or with other projects as appropriate	PLANNED	26, 29
Other	Group Picnic Shelter	\$ 90,350	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 18
Other	Skate Park Expansion incl. tennis court demolition	\$ 821,363	implementation ONLY at end of useful life of tennis courts	PLANNED	16, 18
Other	Greenway "pit stop"	\$ 50,924	stand-alone	PLANNED	8, 16
Other	Renovate and add walking paths	\$ 450,133	stand-alone or with other projects as appropriate	PLANNED	16, 17
Other	Miscl. signs, trees, furniture	\$ 82,396	with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	9, 17
TOTAL		\$ 5,518,117			

OPERATIONS ESTIMATE

FACILITIES	Total Per Unit Operations Cost	△ Qty	△ Cost
Wading Pool	\$ 15,000	-1	\$ (15,000)
Splash Pad	\$ 35,000	1	\$ 35,000
Multi-use Diamond	\$ 20,000	-2	\$ (40,000)
Tennis Court	\$ 1,500	-2	\$ (3,000)
Group Shelter	\$ 4,000	1	\$ 4,000
Walking Loop Trail	\$ 5,000	1	\$ 5,000
Difference			\$ (14,000)

CEDAR AVENUE FIELD

LOCATION AND HISTORY

Cedar Avenue Field sits on a portion of a block between Cedar and 18th Avenues in the East Phillips neighborhood. Immediately to the north is the Little Earth Residents Association (LERA) building and the Little Earth of United Tribes Community is located across Cedar Avenue to the east. Cedar Avenue serves as the primary public park for the Little Earth Community.

In the summer of 1916 MPRB received petitions from area residents for a neighborhood park. MPRB reached out to David Stewart of St. Albans, Maine, who had

previously donated land and funds to create Stewart Park farther west. In October of 1916 Stewart donated 1.89 acres of land (about one-half block) across 25th Street from the original South High School.

In response to requests for improving the land in 1919, the park board authorized spending up to \$1,000 to improve the empty ground for a small combination baseball and football field. The action came in response to several requests, including one from the coach at South High School for his teams to be able to use the field. This was part of an overall plan for the park, featured in the 1919 annual report, which included a playground for children, a small shelter and wading pool. The estimated cost of the plan was \$30,000, which would have been assessed against property owners in the area. The park is named for the street that runs alongside it.

Without assessment, the park board could only implement the ballfield, so in 1920 the field was graded and a backstop and benches were installed, as well as a sandbox for children. Playground equipment was installed in 1921.

In 1973, the 212-unit housing development Little Earth was constructed east of Cedar Avenue and on the land occupied by the original South High School. Little Earth is the only American Indian preference project-based Section 8 rental assistance community in the United States.

Cedar Avenue Field was upgraded in 1969 with the installation of playground equipment and creation of a hard-surfaced play area. The park was renovated again in 2003 with new playground equipment, a basketball court, and landscaping improvements. The hard courts were resurfaced in 2011.

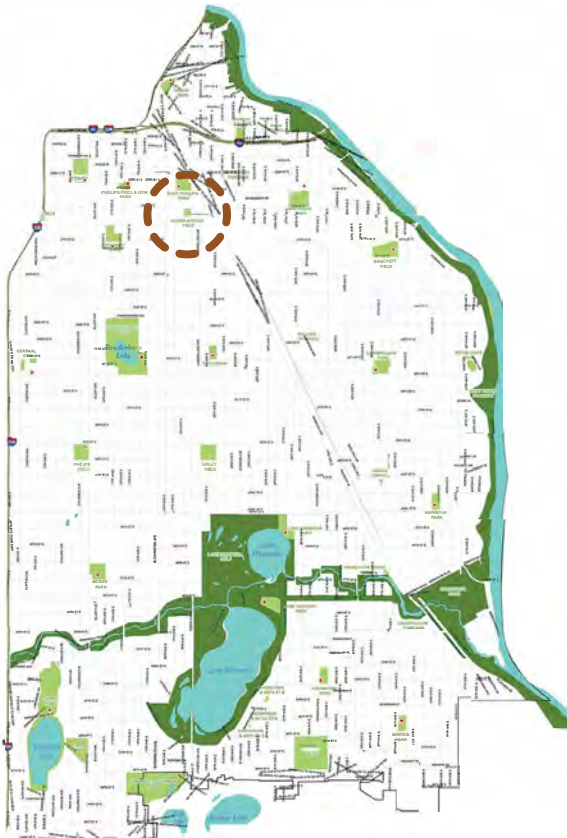
EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

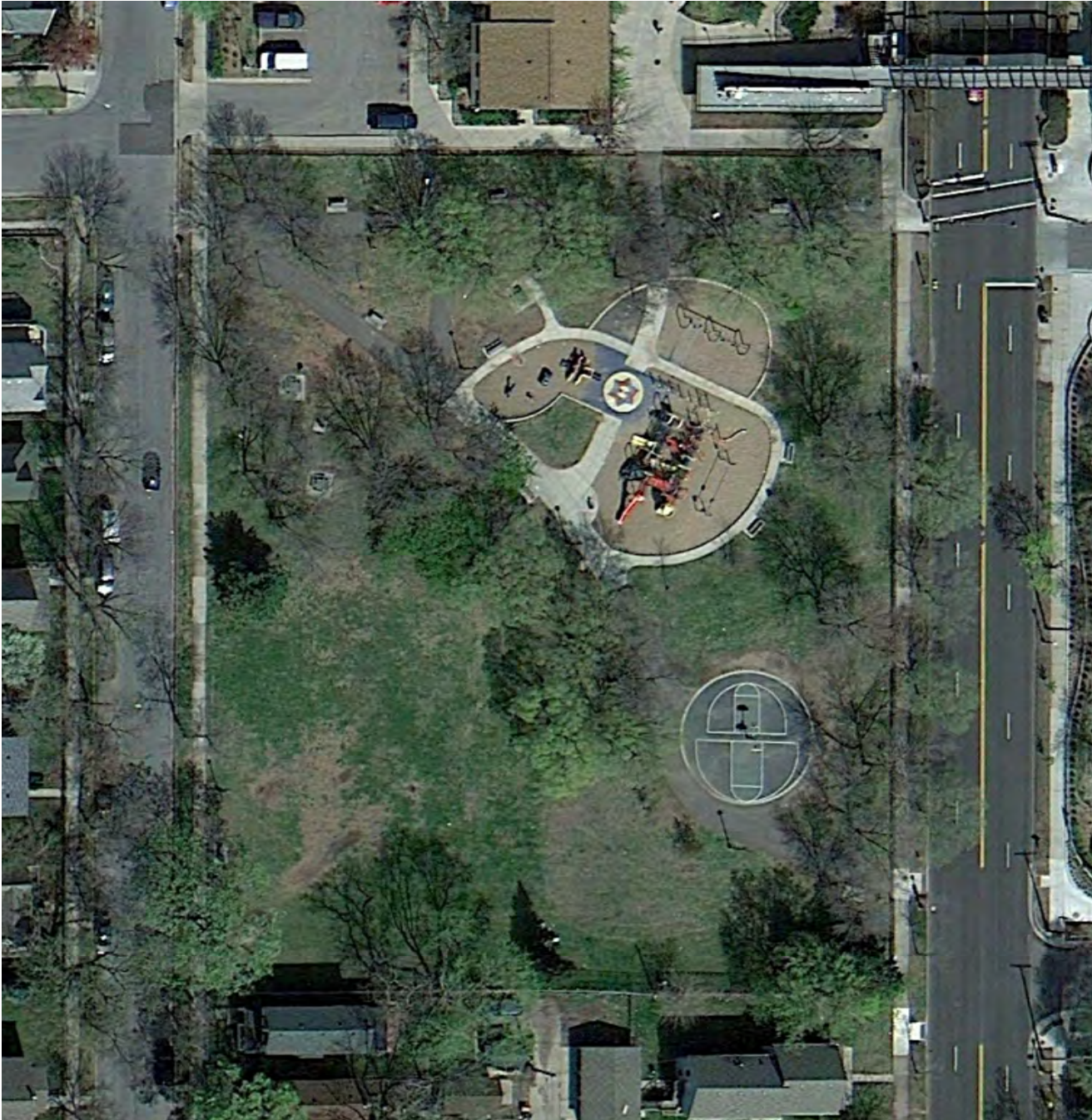
Cedar Field currently contains a play area, a basketball court with two back-to-back hoops, and an informal

open field that is used for baseball practice and other lawn activities. Pathways wander through the park, with benches and picnic tables scattered throughout. The park is protected from busy Cedar Avenue by a low berm and fence. Additional fencing along the southern edge of the park separates it from housing and an alley. Yet another fence defines the northern boundary of the park and creates a separation between the Little Earth buildings and the park. Near the northeastern corner of the park, a pedestrian bridge with switchback ramps allows pedestrians to cross over Cedar Avenue to other areas of Little Earth.

During the community engagement process for Cedar Avenue Field, safety concerns were frequently expressed. Specifically stated was the fact that the park may be serving as a “safe haven” for illegal activity. As described repeatedly by community members, the Little Earth Community, being private, can patrol for and evict trespassers anywhere—until they enter the public land of the park. An ongoing discussion about making the park more safe, potentially through involvement by Little Earth, is warranted.

Overall, the park is a shady greenspace within a dense urban community. It is only a few blocks from East Phillips Park but has a much different user group and a much different feel. Cedar Avenue Field seems more relaxed and passive than East Phillips—more casual and cool. The amenities within the park are in moderate condition, though several safety concerns were raised related to specific park assets. The community notes regular sale of illegal drugs from cars parked for extensive periods of time along 18th Avenue. Those drugs are often used immediately in the park, on the benches and tables along 18th, and paraphernalia is often disposed of in the playground sand. Children and parents regularly find needles and other materials in the playground, and currently MPRB’s maintenance staff sift the sand regularly to remove them. The benches and tables are in very poor condition and the playground surfacing should be reconsidered.





Existing Conditions: Cedar Avenue Field

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Wayfinding and connections from Cedar Avenue Field should focus on:

- The City of Minneapolis' 18th Avenue bikeway, which connects north to East Phillips Park and south to the Midtown Greenway.



Existing Conditions: Cedar Avenue Field

UPDATE EXISTING

- Traditional Play Structure
- Basketball Court
- Multi-use Diamond

NEW/ ADDED

- Outdoor Gathering Space
- Interactive Water Play
- Group Shelter
- Linear Skate Park
- Volleyball Court

THE PROPOSED DESIGN

The design for Cedar Avenue Field is meant to improve safety in the park while also bringing new and unique amenities for a larger age range of youth in the neighborhood. The playground is retained in its same general location—though refurbished at the end of its useful life. The playground area has a full resilient rubber surface (or equivalent), which will prevent the disposal of drug paraphernalia. As this is a critical concern for the community, it would be possible and recommended to replace the surfacing in the short term, even if the playground equipment itself is not immediately replaced. Another change meant to improve safety is the removal of all seating on the 18th Avenue side of the park. A new picnic area, with tables, grills, and a small open-air shelter, is located in the northeast corner of the park. This area—though closer to Cedar Avenue—will allow for the desired use of the park for picnicking, but create less of a convenient grounds for drug purchase and use. In addition, MPRB should work with the city and community to advocate for restricted parking along 18th Avenue, to prevent long-term staging of drug sale vehicles.

Overall the park features a curving path with more active uses on one side and open green space on the other. The green space accommodates a practice baseball field with backstop but can also be used for pick-up soccer, kite-flying, lawn games, gatherings, and other uses. The active side includes the playground, a new full-court basketball court (which could include multiple baskets at varying heights along the sidelines for multi-age play) and a paved volleyball court. A “skate trail” snakes along the eastern edge of the park, between the courts and the Cedar Avenue fence. This linear skate facility will attract a variety of age groups to the park and improve safety through increased activity. The trail should be hard surfaced and include a variety of banked curves, jumps, rails, and other exciting features.

At the northern end of the park, adjacent to the Little Earth buildings, the design breaks down the barrier between park and Little Earth, in order to facilitate more deliberate use of the park by youth and adults in the community. A new plaza stretches from the southern building entrance into the park. The plaza could feature large tables for games and homework, permanent ping-pong tables, large-scale chess and checkers, and other fun ideas for play. This space is meant to be very flexible, to be used for outdoor classes, kids hanging out, families having lunch together, formal ceremonies, and whatever else the community can think of. To the side of this is a small water-jet play area. This feature will help activate the plaza, provide a lovely backdrop for the park as a whole, and also offer a small scale water play zone. The jets can be turned off and the area converted to a small stage for performances, gatherings, and ceremonies. The programming of the plaza and water play spaces should be considered an open discussion with the Little Earth Community and larger neighborhood. Regular involvement in and use of the park by the immediately adjacent community will increase safety in the park and make it more fun for all users. MPRB should continue discussions with the community about management and programming of the space, for the mutual benefit of community youth and MPRB maintenance and public safety staff.

Throughout the discussions of the design concepts, the community had many suggestions and ideas related to lighting and fencing. These discussions should be continued during detailed design. Lighting in the park is important for safety reasons, and permanent cameras should be considered. Fencing along 18th Avenue is not recommended, except where necessary for the baseball diamond. Fencing along Cedar Avenue and the southern property line is retained, but the northern fencing between the park and Little Earth is removed to allow improved connectivity.

KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES

Coordination with Little Earth of United Tribes will be necessary during implementation of the northern plaza space, as it will cross the MPRB property line. Little Earth was involved in the master planning process and community members endorse this concept.

Coordination with the City of Minneapolis and advocacy from the East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC) and Little Earth will be necessary to implement parking restrictions along 18th Avenue.

OPERATIONS ESTIMATE

FACILITIES	Total Per Unit Operations Cost	△ Qty	△ Cost
Interactive Water Play	\$ 15,000	1	\$ 15,000
Half Court Basketball	\$ 1,000	-2	\$ (2,000)
Full Court Basketball	\$ 1,500	1	\$ 1,500
Outdoor Gathering Space	\$ 10,000	1	\$ 10,000
Group Shelter	\$ 4,000	1	\$ 4,000
Skate Park	\$ 7,500	1	\$ 7,500
Difference			\$ 36,000

PROCESSES

	1: General Input Fall-Winter 2016 <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	2: Initial Concepts Winter-Spring 2017 <i>Input themes on initial concepts</i>	3: The Preferred Concept Now <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
aquatics	Want a water feature in the park: a pool or splash pad →	Like water-jet plaza →	Addition of water-jet plaza as flexible play space
play	Play equipment isn't very nice and needs renovation → Sand surface is a major safety problem: drug paraphernalia is often hidden in the sand	Prefer play area in same general location, not nearer to 18th Avenue → Strongly support playground with all resilient surfacing	Traditional play area renovated in generally the same location as existing Commitment to playground with resilient surfacing, for safety reasons
athletics	Open field space is important, for baseball practice and general play →	Real need expressed for baseball practice field, about same size as today →	Multi-use, grass-infield baseball field renovated in generally the same location as existing, with improved backstop and fencing
courts	Basketball very important in the park → Volleyball would be nice	Like full court basketball → Hard-court volleyball will be used	Replacement of small half-court basketball with full-court, in same general location as existing Addition of hard-court volleyball
winter	no comments →	no comments →	No formal winter facilities planned for this park

PROCESSES (CONTINUED)

	1: General Input Fall-Winter 2016 <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	2: Initial Concepts Winter-Spring 2017 <i>Input themes on initial concepts</i>	3: The Preferred Concept Now <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
landscape	no comments specific to Cedar; many comments want more natural areas in parks	no comments specific to Cedar; many comments want more natural areas in parks	Naturalized landscape on Cedar Avenue side of park
other	<p>Safety at the park is a major concern, consider additional lighting, earlier park closure, more activity to bring people in</p> <p>Concern about lack of connection between park and Little Earth community</p> <p>18th Avenue frontage is a major concern: the area attracts crime and drug use</p> <p>Concern that park is a "safe haven" for perpetrators of crime, because it can't be managed the same way as the rest of Little Earth</p>	<p>Suggest enhanced lighting and cameras</p> <p>Like plaza space reaching north to LERA building</p> <p>Prefer removal of seating and other activities from 18th Avenue side, as opposed to increasing activity there with play area</p> <p>Some desire to retain picnicking on 18th Avenue side, or return it in the future</p> <p>Suggestion to restrict parking along 18th Avenue</p>	<p>Though not included at the level of the concept plan, enhanced security should be considered in operations discussions</p> <p>Addition of northern plaza space including gathering areas, games, and seating</p> <p>Tables and grills relocated to eastern side of park</p> <p>Addition of a group picnic shelter</p> <p>Recommendation to work with city to restrict parking on 18th Avenue</p> <p>Recommendation continued coordination between Little Earth and MPRB on programming and activation of the park</p>

COST ESTIMATE

Asset Type	Project	2017 ESTIMATED COST	Implementation Sequence	Prioritization Category	Applicable SSAMP Actions
Aquatics	Water Plaza including pavement and programmable jets	\$ 328,545	stand-alone (requires some walk renovation)	PLANNED	16, 20a
Play	Traditional Play Structure in same general location, all resilient surfacing	\$ 872,698	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 23b, 23d
Athletics	Athletic field renovation including turf renovation and backstop	\$ 386,040	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 21b
Courts	Basketball Court: full court	\$ 106,777	stand-alone (requires some walk renovation)	PLANNED	16, 22a
Courts	Volleyball Court: paved	\$ 65,709	stand-alone	PLANNED	16
Landscape	Naturalized areas within park	\$ 6,571	with skate trail	PLANNED	26, 29
Other	Outdoor gathering space : plaza with tables and activities	\$ 249,694	stand-alone	PLANNED	16
Other	Skate Trail: linear skate park	\$ 246,409	with or after basketball	PLANNED	16, 18
Other	Group picnic shelter	\$ 90,350	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 18
Other	Renovate walking paths	\$ 82,793	with other projects	PLANNED	16
Other	Miscl. signs, trees, furniture	\$ 15,604	with other projects	PLANNED	9
TOTAL		\$ 2,385,481			

CENTRAL GYM

LOCATION AND HISTORY

Central Gym Park shares a large block of public land with Richard R. Green Central Park School, operated by Minneapolis Public Schools. The park and school are bounded by 34th Street, 35th Street, 3rd Avenue and 4th Avenue. The MPRB operates the indoor gym, which is connected to the school, and also the northern half of the block, where the majority of the park amenities are.

The park board's involvement in the Central Gym property began after Central High School closed in 1982. The park board had acquired an option to develop a park on the site if the school were ever to close as a part of an exchange of land with the school board at Shingle Creek elementary school in 1957.

In 1987 the park board agreed to convert the gym of the former high school for park use. The gym had been built only 11 years earlier. The rest of the school, which was built in 1922, was demolished.

For several years the park board had wanted to establish a park in the neighborhood, but the neighborhood was opposed to having homes razed for a park. The closing of the high school presented the park board with a way to offer recreation services in the neighborhood without removing houses. The gym was dedicated as a park facility in October 1988. A totlot playground was created outside the gym in 1989.

The park board officially named the property Central Park in June 1991. It was the second property in the city to have that name. From 1883 to 1890, today's Loring Park was named Central Park.

Eventually, however, the park board did purchase the land containing homes along 3rd Avenue South to create an outdoor park as well. The land was purchased in 1998 and 1999. The park board installed a softball field, soccer field and tennis courts.

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

The main park space is arranged in a broad oval, with various amenities arranged within and just outside it. Three different play areas, a wading pool, restroom building, grassy seating area, two hard court games areas, and a picnic area occupy this space. To the west of this oval is a baseball field and open green space. A tennis court is located just south of the sports field. The shape of the wading pool is unique, with scalloped corners. A new temporary greenhouse operated by a community group occupies one of the green spaces within the oval.

Much of the land in this park is owned by MPS and managed by MPRB. Two additional small playgrounds—one on either end of the main school wing—are fenced off from the park and are not managed by MPRB. These were installed to serve previous uses in the school and are underutilized now.

Because of the presence of the school, the park gets heavy use during the school year and also in summer during out-of-school programs. The age range at the school is pre-K to 5th grade.

Overall, the park feels fairly open and has a lot of hard surfacing. Few mature, high quality trees exist in the park. Adding to the open feel is the fact that the surrounding streets also do not have many street trees. The large oval around which most amenities are arranged is an interesting layout, but may be getting in the way of the park's functionality.

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Wayfinding and connections from Central Gym Park should focus on:

- The City of Minneapolis's bicycle and pedestrian route on 34th Street, which connects to Powderhorn Park and Corcoran Park.





Existing Conditions: Central Gym



Proposed Plan: Central Gym

THE PROPOSED DESIGN

The design for Central Gym Park eliminates the geometry of the large oval in favor of expanding green space. Instead of the oval, only the main central spine is retained, with the wading pool reconstructed in the same location, and the restroom building remaining in place. South of the restroom building is a new gathering lawn, with a stage at the northern end (the stage can use the restroom building as a backdrop). This gathering lawn can be used for park programming and by the school for events, assemblies, and classes. To the east of the main spine are the play areas, in two separate containers. Separation of younger- and older-age play areas is important to the school, as it allows more peaceful recreation areas for students with special needs. Path connections to 4th Avenue are maintained but revised.

East of the play areas along the frontage of 4th Street are two new amenities. In the northeast corner of the park is a designated urban agriculture area. The SSAMP does not prescribe what exactly will happen in such areas, but sets them aside for further discussion with partners. If the temporary greenhouse is successful, it is possible it could be moved to this location. This corner is currently an open area with few trees and good sun exposure. To the south of the urban agriculture area is a new skate park. Existing pathways in this area are revised to provide space for the skate park. Nestled under existing trees, this skatepark is the first such area anywhere near this part of town.

The area around and immediately adjacent to the school, around the courts area, and around the skatepark is naturalized with native pollinator-friendly plantings.

West of the central spine is a large multi-purpose athletic field. The baseball diamond is removed (it is not heavily used and not significantly desired by the community), as well as portions of the oval, to achieve a near full adult sized soccer field, several youth fields, or

general open space for school recess, pick-up games, kite-flying, etc. The tennis court is repurposed as a multi-use court with a focus on bike polo. Bike polo was recently played on the tennis court at Corcoran, which fell into disrepair. The local club is interested in a central location and this tennis court is not often used. This facility could still function for tennis, pickleball, or volleyball with removable standards. A half-court basketball court sits beside the multi-use court.

A new group picnic shelter is located between the athletic field and courts. This shelter will serve large groups gathering for a day of organized or pick-up sports on the field or could serve as an official area for bike polo tournaments. Between the school kids, community members, and sports enthusiasts, Central Gym Park will be a flurry of activity—with more green space, less pavement, and exciting new amenities.

KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES

Central Gym Park has a complex land use situation that will require coordination with Minneapolis Public Schools on any capital improvements. The western edge of the park is owned by MPRB but the rest is leased from MPS. An agreement with MPS covers management and maintenance of the property but does not address capital improvements.

UPDATE EXISTING



Wading Pool



Traditional Play Structure



Multi-use Field



Stage / Bandshell



Restroom/Storage Building

NEW/ ADDED



Outdoor Gathering Space



Group Shelter



Multi-sport Court



Urban Agriculture Area



Basketball Court



Skate Park

PROCESSES

	1: General Input Spring-Fall 2015 <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	2: Initial / Preferred Concepts Fall-Winter 2015/2016 <i>Input themes on initial concepts</i>	3: The Preferred Concept Now <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
aquatics	pool with sprayer very much used and desired →	no comments →	Wading pool in same general location
play	would be used more if equipment was in better condition →	no comments →	Traditional play areas relocated to eastern side of central green and wading pool
athletics	soccer field is small but gets a lot of use →	no comments →	Multi-use diamond removed to create larger multi-use field space. Reorganization of pathways and hard surface west of the central green and wading pool expands multi-use field to adult size.
courts	want full-size outdoor basketball Would like to play roller hockey →	Not sure volleyball is important here Want ability to host large bike polo tournaments. Like using tennis court for this plus year-round rink Tennis is never used here →	Tennis court repurposed as multi-use court, with potential for permanent bike polo boards (no new year-round rinks will be built in the service area; a periodic specific tournament use could be accommodated on a larger bank of high quality tennis courts) Addition of half-basketball court
winter	no comments →	no comments →	No formal winter facilities planned for this park
landscape	urban agriculture and pollinator garden desired →	Urban agriculture would be a better option at northeast corner →	Urban agriculture area designated in northeastern portion of park
other	want skate park → would like shady picnic area archery and/or vertical climbing would be good	Provide walking loop around park →	Walking loop accommodated on existing paths and sidewalks Addition of group shelter near multi-use field and multi-use court Addition of skate park on eastern edge of park

COST ESTIMATE

Asset Type	Project	2017 ESTIMATED COST/PROJECT	Implementation Sequence	Prioritization Category	Applicable SSAMP Actions
Aquatics	Renovate Wading Pool in same location	\$ 739,226	stand-alone	PLANNED	11, 16
Play	Traditional Play Structures (2): one in existing container, one in new	\$ 698,158	before/with athletic fields	PLANNED	11, 16, 23b, 23d
Athletics	Athletic field renovation, incl. demolition of 1 diamond, demolition of hard surface areas, demolition of play containers	\$ 390,147	after/with play areas	PLANNED	11, 16, 20a, 20b, 20d
Courts	Basketball Court (half court)	\$ 65,709	stand-alone	PLANNED	11, 16, 22a
Courts	Resurfacing and Re-striping of tennis court as multi-use (bike polo) court	\$ 164,273	stand-alone	PLANNED	11, 16, 18, 22b
Landscape	Naturalized areas within park	\$ 2,053	with other projects	PLANNED	11, 26
Landscape	Urban Agriculture Area	\$ -	stand-alone	CONDITIONAL	11, 16, 19
Other	Outdoor gathering space	\$ 58,522	stand-alone	PLANNED	11, 16
Other	Skate Park	\$ 410,681	stand-alone	PLANNED	11, 16, 18
Other	Group picnic shelter	\$ 90,350	stand-alone, but ideally with athletic field	PLANNED	11, 16, 18
Other	Renovate walking paths	\$ 242,466	with other projects	PLANNED	11, 16, 17
Other	Miscl. signs, trees, furniture	\$ 49,013	with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	9, 17
n/a	Modify agreement with Minneapolis Public Schools to address capital improvements on leased property	\$ -	before any capital improvementtr	PLANNED	11
TOTAL		\$ 2,910,599			

NOTE: Urban Agriculture Areas will be implemented in partnership with specific programs or community members.

OPERATIONS ESTIMATE

FACILITIES	Total Per Unit Operations Cost	△ Qty	△ Cost
Multi-use Diamond	\$ 20,000	-1	\$ (20,000)
Tennis Court	\$ 1,500	-1	\$ (1,500)
Half Court Basketball	\$ 1,000	1	\$ 1,000
Multi-Sport Court	\$ 1,500	1	\$ 1,500
Outdoor Gathering Space	\$ 10,000	1	\$ 10,000
Urban Agriculture Area	\$ 15,000	1	\$ 15,000
Group Shelter	\$ 4,000	1	\$ 4,000
Skate Park	\$ 7,500	1	\$ 7,500
Difference			\$ 17,500

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CORCORAN

LOCATION AND HISTORY

Corcoran Park is a single block bounded by 33rd Street, 34th Street, 19th Avenue, and 20th Avenue. The neighborhood takes its name from the park, which is a small but classic neighborhood oasis.

The land for Corcoran Park was acquired from the Minneapolis School Board in 1976. The park was one of three former school sites acquired by the park board in the mid-1970s. The park was in a neighborhood that had been designated in 1944 as one that needed more recreation facilities. The final four parcels of land needed for the park were condemned in 1977.



Development of the property began in 1977 when a recreation shelter was built along with playgrounds, tennis courts, and horseshoe pits. The new park was completed and dedicated in 1979.

The park was named for Corcoran School, which had previously occupied the site. The school was named for William Wilson Corcoran, a banker, philanthropist, and collector of American art, who founded the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington D.C.

A fire severely damaged the Corcoran Park recreation center in 1998, but it was brought back into service in three months.

Improvements were made to the park in 2000, when a new totlot was built. Volleyball standards were placed on the existing tennis court and the little-used horseshoe pits were removed. The following year Corcoran became one of the first five recreation centers in the city to have a computer lab installed.

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

Corcoran Park has a lot of assets packed into its small extents. Two play areas and a wading pool sit to the north of the recreation center building. A tennis court in a significant state of disrepair flanks 19th Avenue. The northern half of the park is home to a baseball diamond and an open sports field. The field, however, is not graded flat, which restricts its use for scheduled games. A small parking lot occupies the southeastern corner of the park, with accesses from both 34th and 20th.

One of the most notable and best loved features of Corcoran Park is its tree canopy. Especially in the area south of the building, the trees provide an almost unbroken canopy over the park. The wading pool and playgrounds are shady and the park is beautiful in all seasons because of these trees.

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Wayfinding and connections from Corcoran Park should focus on:

- The existing City of Minneapolis bicycle/pedestrian route on 34th Street, which connects west to Powderhorn Park.
- A proposed pedestrian and/or bicycle route running south on 19th Avenue to Sibley Park. This is especially important for diamond sports programs at Corcoran, as Sibley will retain diamonds.



Existing Conditions: Corcoran



Proposed Plan: Corcoran

THE PROPOSED DESIGN

The design for Corcoran Park can be viewed as a simplification of the park leading to even more green space throughout. The play areas and wading pool are reconstructed in their existing locations, as they work well together and with the building as a hub of activity. The parking lot is removed in favor of a designated urban agriculture area. To achieve universal accessibility with this change, the plan calls for two ADA-accessible on-street parking spaces and a new ADA-accessible path linking them to the building's front door. Several additional paths in the park allow easy access to its various amenities. All building access pathways would pass directly through or alongside the urban agriculture area. This will demonstrate to park visitors the community's commitment to environmental sustainability.

The multi-use diamond and the tennis court are removed in order to create a field space useable for various sports, including youth soccer and traditional lacrosse, which is currently played in the park. This area will be graded flat and improved. It will also be available for general recreation: tossing a Frisbee or football, flying a kite, lounging on the lawn.

Between the new field and the wading pool is a new three-season building that can serve as a group picnic shelter or a stage for performances. When configured as a stage, spectators can either gather between the stage and pool or out on the multi-use field, depending on the size of the gathering. Just east of the stage/shelter is a new area for lawn games. Though it has not yet been determined exactly what game courts will be built here, some possibilities include a bocce court, shuffleboard court, or lawn bowling lanes.

Another urban agriculture area is designated along 19th Avenue. The SSAMP does not prescribe what exactly will happen in such areas, but sets them aside for further discussion with partners. The entire outer ring of the park on the west, south, and east sides will be naturalized with pollinator-friendly perennials, shrubs, and understory trees. Walking through Corcoran Park will be at times a serene ramble through gardens and native landscapes, at times a gleeful splash or climb or toss—all in just one city block.

KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES

No known land use issues exist with Corcoran Park.

UPDATE EXISTING



Wading Pool



Traditional Play Structure



Multi-use Field

NEW/ ADDED



Group Shelter



Stage / Bandshell



Urban Agriculture Area



Outdoor Gathering Space



Lawn/Court Games

PROCESSES

	1: General Input Spring-Fall 2015 <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	2: Initial /Preferred Concepts Fall-Winter 2015/2016 <i>Input themes on initial concepts</i>	3: The Preferred Concept Now <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
aquatics	Wading pool well loved, but needs improvement →	no comments →	Wading pool with shade structure in same general location
play	Play areas well liked, but needs improvement, more challenge for older kids →	no comments →	Traditional play areas in same general location
athletics	Mixed use fields not well liked More of a soccer neighborhood than a baseball one →	Preference for open space, rather than year-round rink →	Removal of multi-use diamond to create larger multi-use field space
courts	Tennis court is in poor shape. Replace, remove, or change to basketball. →	Desire for bike polo on year round rink →	No court planned for this park (existing court location will become expansion of multi-use field space)
winter	no comments →	Some concern with year-round rink in this small park →	No formal winter facilities planned for this park
landscape	More natural areas →	Would like naturalized green space and pollinator friendly plants Would like to see space for urban agriculture, but concern about location south of building Consider removing parking lot entirely and replacing with urban ag venue →	Addition of naturalized areas at edges of park and near building Removal of parking lot; and coordination with City to designate accessible on-street parking on 20th Avenue Urban agriculture area designated along eastern and western edges of park
other	Like walking paths →	Like picnic shelter but make sure it doesn't attract problems Have the shelter double as a stage / small performance space Would like to see lawn games area →	Addition of group shelter/performance space and outdoor gathering space between play areas and multi-use field. Addition of lawn games area east of shelter

COST ESTIMATE

Asset Type	Project	2017 ESTIMATED COST/PROJECT	Implementation Sequence	Prioritization Category	Applicable SSAMP Actions
Aquatics	Renovate Wading Pool in same location	\$ 739,226	stand-alone	PLANNED	16
Play	Traditional Play Structures (2) in existing containers	\$ 698,158	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 23b, 23d
Athletics	Athletic field renovation, incl. demolition of 1 diamond and tennis court	\$ 195,074	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 18, 21a, 21b, 21d, 22b
Landscape	Urban Agriculture Areas: existing parking lot and 19th Avenue	\$ 39,163	stand-alone	CONTINGENT	16, 19
Landscape	Naturalized areas within park	\$ 33,761	stand-alone	PLANNED	25, 26, 29
Other	Lawn games (allowance for 1 shuffleboard and 1 bocce: final games to be determined)	\$ 73,923	stand-alone	PLANNED	16
Other	Group picnic shelter/stage, incl. necessary pathways	\$ 117,356	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 18
Other	Renovate walking paths	\$ 186,219	with other projects	PLANNED	16, 17
Other	Miscl. signs, trees, furniture	\$ 44,120	with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	9, 17
TOTAL		\$ 2,127,000			

OPERATIONS ESTIMATE

FACILITIES	Total Per Unit Operations Cost	△ Qty	△ Cost
Multi-use Diamond	\$ 20,000	-1	\$ (20,000)
Tennis Court	\$ 1,500	-1	\$ (1,500)
Outdoor Gathering Space	\$ 10,000	1	\$ 10,000
Urban Agriculture Area	\$ 15,000	1	\$ 15,000
Group Shelter	\$ 4,000	1	\$ 4,000
Stage / Bandshell	\$ 1,500	1	\$ 1,500
Lawn/Court Games	\$ 5,000	1	\$ 5,000
Difference			\$ 14,000

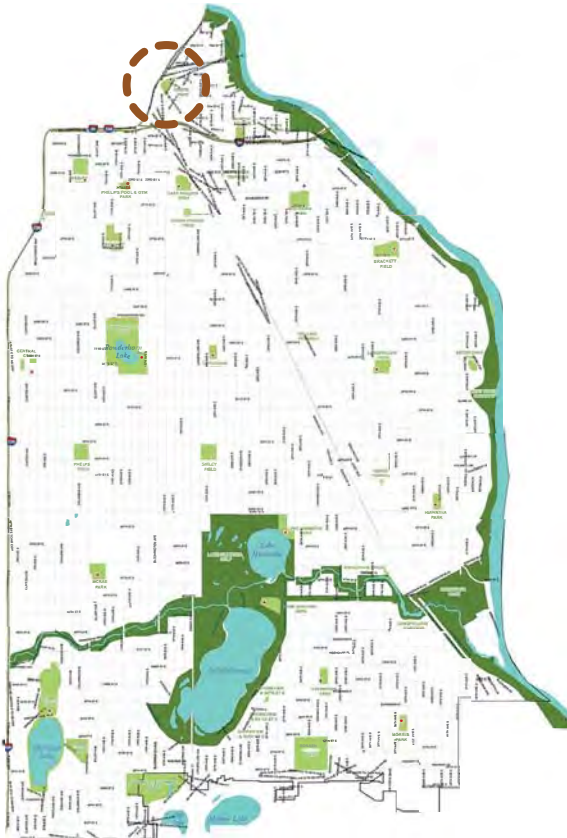
NOTE: Urban Agriculture Areas will be implemented in partnership with specific programs or community members. Cost includes parking lot demolition, soil restoration, and accessibility to building.

CURRIE

LOCATION AND HISTORY

Currie Park occupies a trapezoid of land sandwiched between two light rail lines, I-35W, and 15th Avenue. The park is one of the very few green spaces in the highest density neighborhood in Minneapolis outside of downtown.

The idea of a playground in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood is far older than the playground itself. In 1919 the park board considered purchasing two lots for playgrounds in the area, but the neighborhood was evenly divided for and against acquiring the land and charging the cost to area property owners through



assessments. A mention of the park in 1932 included renewal of a lease of land by MPRB, a lease that was renewed again in 1939. Due to the economic realities of the Great Depression, the only improvements in the park system at that time were being made with the help of federal work relief programs (even recreation supervisors were paid by federal programs).

In 1939 Park Board president Francis Gross mentioned the Sixth Ward playground issue specifically. He was concerned that area residents had been denied a park for so long, but also worried that MPRB would not be able to maintain what it built. Nevertheless, in the next year the park board equipped the park with a small skating rink, a softball field, a few swings, a sandbox, and a small tool and office building. All the work was done by federal work relief crews. The success of the new playground led the park board to purchase the 1.2-acre lot in 1941. It was one of the few land purchases by the park board in the 1930s. Other than some additional grading and fencing for the park in 1946, the park board spent no additional money on improving the park.

The construction of freeways beside the park in the 1960s did not require land to be taken from the park, but those freeways effectively severed the park from neighborhoods to the west. The next major development at the little park was the explosion of population in the area with the construction of Cedar Square, a high-rise apartment complex across the street from the park in the 1970s. In 1975, the Minneapolis housing authority sought the park board's help in expanding and improving what was then referred to as Cedar Square West Neighborhood Park and offered to use redevelopment funds to expand the park. The housing authority gave the park board an additional 1.5 acres of land to expand the park in 1976. Under that agreement a shelter was built in the park and playground and athletic facilities were improved. The park was named

for Edward A. Currie in 1977. Currie was the director of the Pillsbury Settlement House that had existed next to the new park land for many years.

In 1992 the park expanded again when Pillsbury United Communities, the social service agency that grew out of the Pillsbury Settlement House, built a community center adjacent to the park. The agency deeded the building and the land it occupied to the park board, but retained operating control of the facility. It named the center for Brian Coyle who had been a city council member from 1983 until his death in 1991.

The playground at the park was updated, along with other improvements, in 2003-2004. In 2011, artificial turf was installed on the soccer fields, making them playable and maintainable for much more of the year.

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

Today Currie Park includes the land acquired over the years plus a piece of Minnesota department of Transportation right-of-way that is home to a tennis court perched atop a wall beside I-35W. The Brian Coyle Center occupies the eastern portion of the park. The area fronting 15th Avenue is home to play areas, a wading pool, a restroom building, and some open picnic areas. Between the play area and the tennis court is a youth-sized artificial turf soccer field. Paths wind through the green spaces between the other amenities.

Currie Park is both isolated and well connected. A light rail station is just a block away, and the Hiawatha Trail passes along the western boundary of the park. The neighborhood to the south and east of the park has a very high population density, and a high population of recent immigrants, most notably from eastern Africa. The park is therefore heavily used, despite its relatively small size.



Existing Conditions: Currie



Proposed Plan: Currie

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Wayfinding and connections from Currie Park should focus on:

- The existing Hiawatha Trail, which is the easiest non-motorized way to travel downtown and to East Phillips Park.
- The existing City of Minneapolis pedestrian/ bicycle route on 15th Avenue and Riverside Avenue, which is a spine through the neighborhood.

THE PROPOSED DESIGN

Currie Park will see significant changes as a result of the SSAMP. As is fitting for a park in a dense urban environment, Currie will maximize recreational space year-round. The major change that drives the redesign of the rest of the park is the construction of side-by-side youth soccer fields that can be enclosed in the winter under an inflatable dome. This will allow for year-round play in an area with few indoor opportunities (and no MPRB recreation center). A tennis court and half-court basketball court would also be able to be enclosed under the dome, and another full-court basketball court in the vicinity will allow for summer play.

All these sports facilities are relocated to the western edge of the park, away from the Brian Coyle Center. Nearer the center are new play areas and a splash pad to replace the existing wading pool. Instead of the existing restroom building, a new building will be constructed that can serve both as a restroom and a vestibule for the sports dome in winter. Just north of this is a picnic area with a group shelter. This area will allow for prime sports viewing in summer and will allow families to gather for picnics with easy access to all park amenities.

New trails connect to the Hiawatha Trail and through the park. An urban agriculture area is designated behind the Brian Coyle Center, which has interest in programming that space. The new Currie Park recognizes the unique place of this small piece of land in an extremely dense neighborhood. The park will become a year-round destination for children and families to play and gather.

KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ITEMS

The northernmost section of the park is owned by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. MPRB currently operates the tennis court under a lease with the state agency. Any further improvements would have to be approved by MnDOT, or the land would have to be acquired by MPRB. The latter should be considered, to ensure stability of the MPRB investment in the sports dome, because it will be large. Discussions with MnDOT should commence as soon as possible.

The Brian Coyle Center is owned by MPRB but operated by Pillsbury United Communities. PUC has been instrumental in helping engage with the community around the SSAMP, and discussions about the lease of the building are ongoing. MPRB should continue to work closely with PUC on building and park improvements.

UPDATE EXISTING



Traditional Play Structure



Basketball Court



Premier Field



Tennis Court



Walking Loop Trail

NEW/ ADDED



Restroom/Storage Building



Outdoor Gathering Space



Sports Dome



Urban Agriculture Area



Splash Pad



Group Shelter

PROCESSES

	1: General Input Spring-Fall 2015 <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	2: Initial / Preferred Concepts Fall-Winter 2015/2016 <i>Input themes on initial concepts</i>	3: The Preferred Concept Now <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
aquatics	Pool could be larger and more exciting →	Like splash pad instead of pool →	Splash pad instead of wading pool; location changed to allow for other amenities
play	no comments →	no comments →	Traditional play area located near splash pad
athletics	Lots of people play soccer, both on the field and in the tennis court area →	Support for larger soccer field and indoor sports dome Several references to track and field	Addition of one youth-sized premier field for a total of two youth fields (or one larger field); location changed to fit within park. NOTE: a portion of these fields would be on land owned by MnDOT--coordination necessary Possible addition of winter sports dome over premier fields and multi-use court. Group shelter/restroom building serves as entrance to dome.
courts	Improve condition of tennis court; court used heavily by elderly Asian population Basketball is very important in this park; current court is very poor quality and too small Basketball shouldn't be so near the building →	Tennis court is needed, but only one Improve basketball court, possibly add another →	Addition of full-court basketball court near the sports dome; and half-court basketball court in area that can be enclosed in the dome Addition of tennis court within dome area, to replace existing tennis court on MnDOT land.
winter	no comments →	no comments →	No formal winter facilities planned for this park (except possible sports dome).

PROCESSES CONT.

	1: General Input Spring-Fall 2015 <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	2: Initial / Preferred Concepts Fall-Winter 2015/2016 <i>Input themes on initial concepts</i>	3: The Preferred Concept Now <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
landscape	Urban agriculture desired Space desired for outdoor prayer	Like urban agriculture	Addition of urban agriculture area on the northern side of the building. Addition of outdoor gathering spaces throughout park Naturalized landscape along Hiawatha Bicycle Trail on western edge of park
other	More restroom space Walking trails are important, with seating, especially useful for elders	Need a wide walking track, so youth and elders can both use it Adult fitness area is important Put a skate park on MnDOT land near the park Restroom and shelter buildings are important	Addition of more pathways to create walking loops through park and improved connection to the Hiawatha Bicycle Trail Addition of group shelter / restroom buildings near the play areas and soccer field; can be used as the entrance to a possible winter sports dome

OPERATIONS ESTIMATE

FACILITIES	Total Per Unit Operations Cost	△ Qty	△ Cost
Wading Pool	\$ 15,000	-1	\$ (15,000)
Splash Pad	\$ 35,000	1	\$ 35,000
Sports Dome	\$ 80,000	1	\$ 80,000
Half Court Basketball	\$ 1,000	1	\$ 1,000
Outdoor Gathering Space	\$ 10,000	1	\$ 10,000
Group Shelter	\$ 4,000	1	\$ 4,000
Difference			\$ 115,000

COST ESTIMATE

Asset Type	Project	2017 ESTIMATED COST/PROJECT	Implementation Sequence	Prioritization Category	Applicable SSAMP Actions
Aquatics	Splash Pad in new location	\$ 1,314,180	before/with playgrounds (note: will be extremely close to existing building)	PLANNED	16, 20a, 20b
Play	Traditional Play Structures (2) in new containers	\$ 698,158	after/with splash pad (note: will be extremely close to existing building)	PLANNED	16, 23b, 23d
Athletics	Athletic field renovation, incl. demolition of 1 artificial turf field and tennis court, new premier fields	\$ 1,642,725	after/with playgrounds	PLANNED	16, 21c, 21d, 21f
Courts	Basketball Court (1 full, 1 half)	\$ 172,486	full court stand-alone, half-court after/with playgrounds	PLANNED	16, 22a
Courts	Tennis Court	\$ 106,777	before /with sports dome	PLANNED	16
Landscape	Urban Agriculture Area	\$ -	stand-alone	CONDITIONAL	19
Landscape	Naturalized areas	\$ 23,146	stand alone or with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	26, 29
Landscape	Parking Lot Renovation	\$ 209,014	stand-alone	PLANNED	28
Landscape	Gathering Plaza near building	\$ 177,414	with splash pad and/or playground	PLANNED	16
Other	Group picnic shelter	\$ 90,350	after fields	PLANNED	16, 18
Other	Sports Dome, incl. new restroom/storage building and demolition of existing building	\$ 2,234,106	after/with fields, tennis, half-court basketball	PLANNED	14, 21e
Other	Renovate walking paths	\$ 266,857	with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	16
TOTAL		\$ 7,002,499			

NOTE: Urban Agriculture Areas will be implemented in partnership with specific programs or community members.

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DIAMOND LAKE

LOCATION AND HISTORY

Diamond Lake Park is a natural oasis in far southern Minneapolis, located immediately west of Portland Avenue and south of Diamond Lake Road. The park includes the lake itself and a narrow strip of land surrounding it. On its western and southern sides the park is adjacent to residential backyards, while on the northern and eastern sides it is flanked by roadways. The lake is extremely shallow and emergent vegetation becomes quite thick in the summer.

Diamond Lake was first mentioned in park board documents in late 1923, when the park board received a proposal from Clarke's Diamond Lake Realty to donate

land around Pearl Lake and a portion of the shores of Diamond Lake for park purposes. The donation of 16.4 acres was accepted in 1925. With the annexation of a portion of Richfield across southern Minneapolis in 1926, all of Diamond Lake came within city limits. The 1927 annual report of the park board mentioned the intention to acquire an additional 116 acres around Pearl Lake and Diamond Lake. The report noted that all but 21 acres of that land were swamp and lowland. Park superintendent Theodore Wirth's plan was to fill Pearl Lake and dredge Diamond Lake to create a beach on the north shore. Wirth compared the plan to what had been done at Lake Nokomis where a lake with well-defined shores was created from considerably swampy land. Wirth's plans were tabled because of the Great Depression.

Still, in one of its largest depression-era acquisitions, MPRB purchased 72 acres around and including the lakes in 1936. In 1938 the board completed its ownership of the north shore of Diamond Lake with the purchase of four lots. The board also reported that it was finalizing acquisition of the remaining southern shore of the lake by donation.

In the 1938 annual report park superintendent Christian Bossen presented ambitious plans for the development of the lake, including making the lake smaller and deeper, with an average depth of 17 feet, in order to generate the 890,000 yards of fill needed to develop the shore parks. The plan would have created two parking lots, four tennis courts, baseball fields, a playground, and a toilet building. The board debated constructing a park road along the west shore of the lake, but decided against it. Financing, however, became an issue again and the project was abandoned just a year later—the same year the park board finally completed acquisition of the entire lake bed.

In its 1945 “post-war progress” list of projects that required funding, one of the largest single proposed expenditures (behind only paving Lake Harriet Boulevard) was improving the Diamond Lake and Pearl Lake properties. But in the post-war years the park board would get funding for very few projects on

its wish list. Diamond Lake was destined to remain an unimproved wetland and lake. (Lake Harriet Boulevard wasn't paved either.)

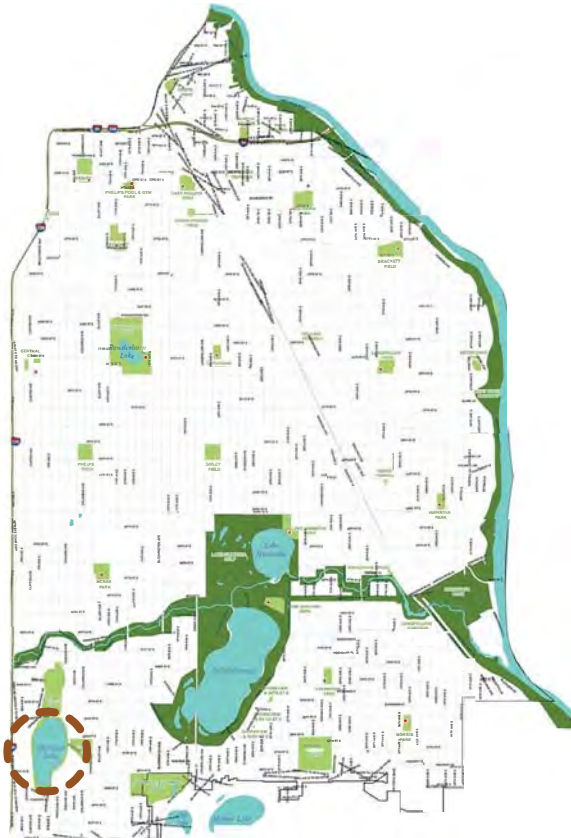
The change in how those areas were viewed is suggested by a 1977 agreement by the park board that it would take responsibility for coordinating a joint effort by the city, county, and state to restore Diamond Lake to its “desirable wildlife habitat condition” through the interception and removal of particulate matter flowing into the lake. A new wildlife habitat improvement plan was implemented in 1991.

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

Today, Diamond Lake Park remains a mostly unimproved natural area (in contrast, of course, to its neighbor Pearl Park, which is a fully developed recreation area). A small fishing and canoe/kayak launching dock reaches into the lake from its northeastern corner—though not far enough to launch boats during the summer. A natural surface trail runs from near that dock along the eastern side of the lake as far as the Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, while a parallel sidewalk/trail runs adjacent Portland Avenue. The western and southern edges of the lake are unimproved and inaccessible.

Diamond Lake is a receiving water for runoff from I-35W. Most runoff enters the lake through a large pipe under 58th Street, and this has created a sediment delta in the lake at the terminus of the pipe. The community around the lake, through an advocacy group the Friends of Diamond Lake, has also expressed concern about pollution and overnutrification of the lake via this pipe.

Diamond Lake is considered unique among Minneapolis lakes, specifically because it was never able to be developed like Nokomis, Hiawatha, or Isles were. What Wirth and Bossen saw as a swamp to be improved is seen today as an important wildlife refuge and nature area.





Existing Conditions: Diamond Lake

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Wayfinding and connections from Diamond Lake Park should focus on:

- Enhanced crossings of Diamond Lake Road and Portland Avenue to provide improved connection to Pearl Park, just to the north, and Todd Park, just to the east
- Pedestrian and bicycle interconnections between the trio of parks in this area, which could function as one large park facility: Pearl, Todd, Diamond Lake
- Support for implementation of the proposed Southside Greenway, which would run along Portland Avenue and connect numerous south side parks

THE PROPOSED DESIGN

The design for Diamond Lake Park increases accessibility to the lake without compromising its natural character. The dock and launch on the northeastern corner is extended farther out into the lake, and a new ADA-accessible pathway connects that feature to an enhanced crossing of Diamond Lake Road at Portland Avenue. Canoe and kayak storage racks are positioned adjacent to the pathway. These would be reservable for community members or could be used for MPRB programming. Also on the north side of the lake, a new overlook adjacent to Diamond Lake Road provides a grand view across the length of the lake. An enhanced crossing of Diamond Lake Road in this location will improve the connection to Pearl Park.

Along the eastern side of the lake, the natural surface trail is maintained and a new over-water boardwalk extends from roughly 56th Street south to near the Diamond Lake Lutheran Church. This boardwalk would be fully accessible, including accessible routes down into the park at either end. Two “nodes” along the boardwalk offer places to stop and enjoy the view and wildlife, or for naturalist programming and classes. This

item garnered much discussion during the planning process. Exploration of a trail all the way around the lake raised issues with adjacent homeowners but also intrigued many residents excited for additional access to the lake. In the end, it was decided to propose a more modest plan, for a variety of reasons including environmental impact, limited available land and difficult on-the-ground conditions on the western and southern edges of the lake, and cost.

The remainder of the improvements are not meant to enhance public access, but rather to improve the environment of the lake. The naturalized areas around the lake are enhanced and improved. Two major stormwater management improvements are made. A natural stormwater facility on the southern end of the lake captures runoff from Diamond Lake Lane. Improvements at the end of 58th Street include removal of the sediment delta and exploration of a pre filtration system for stormwater. Though space in this location is limited, an innovative stormwater management option here could improve the health of the lake.

In making its recommendation, the community prioritized creation of a lake management plan above any physical improvements. This reinforces the current community desire for Diamond Lake to remain a natural oasis in the city—but one with some enhancements to public access. With this plan Diamond Lake will function even better as a habitat area, and will also invite more people to enjoy this urban wildlife refuge.

NEW / ADDED



Walking Loop Trail



Canoe/Kayak Launch



Outdoor Gathering Space

KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES

Coordination with the City of Minneapolis and the Minnesota Department of Transportation will be necessary for any stormwater management improvements.

The Southside Greenway is a community-driven City of Minneapolis project. Through the SSAMP, MPRB supports this effort, and is interested in helping facilitate implementation of the project, though it will be led by the City.

Property boundaries along the western side of the lake and, to a lesser degree the southern, are not entirely clear nor agreed-upon. Though no improvements are planned for parkland in these areas, it is still important to have a common understanding of property ownership in these areas. This will become especially important with any improvements associated with habitat enhancement or stormwater management improvements.

PROCESSES

	1: General Input Spring-Fall 2015 <i>Input themes prior to initial concepts</i>	2: Initial / Preferred Concepts Fall-Winter 2015/2016 <i>Input themes on initial concepts</i>	3: The Preferred Concept Now <i>Key elements of the concept</i>
aquatics	no comments →	no comments →	No aquatic facilities planned for this park
play	no comments →	no comments →	No formal play areas planned for this park
athletics	no comments →	no comments →	No athletic facilities planned for this park
courts	no comments →	no comments →	No courts planned for this park
winter	no comments →	Could the natural surface trail be a snowshoe trail in winter? →	No formal winter facilities planned for this park (snowshoeing and skiing are permitted on lake and trails)
landscape	Improve environmental health of lake → More native plants Remove sediment build-up	Think of this as a nature sanctuary → Improve water quality Control invasive species	Addition of natural storm water management area on south side of lake Naturalized areas around lake retained and enhanced Lake management plan prioritized above physical improvements to park
other	Improve paths: make more visible and better maintained → Extend path around lake Add another dock	Do not extend paths around lake, due to safety and environmental concerns → Some support for path around lake, as equitable solution and for better hiking experience Add canoe/kayak access and storage	Addition of over-lake boardwalk with resting/viewing areas on east side of lake, to create a walking loop on that side without going around lake, with enhanced roadway crossings to Todd Park Addition of an elevated viewpoint and gathering area on the north side of the lake, with enhanced roadway crossings to Pearl Park Extension and improvement of northern dock, and addition of canoe/kayak storage racks nearby

COST ESTIMATE

Asset Type	Project	2017 ESTIMATED COST/PROJECT	Implementation Sequence	Prioritization Category	Applicable SSAMP Actions
n/a	Prepare lake management plan	\$ 82,136	stand-alone	PLANNED	25
Landscape	Natural area restoration and enhancement	\$ 966,021	after lake management plan	PLANNED	25, 26
Landscape	58th Street Stormwater Management	\$ -	stand-alone	CONDITIONAL	25
Landscape	Diamond Lake Lane Stormwater Management	\$ -	stand-alone	CONDITIONAL	25
Other	Fishing/Kayak Dock, racks, and pathway	\$ 90,678	stand-alone	PLANNED	16
Other	Natural surface trails	\$ 11,499	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 17
Other	Boardwalk	\$ 328,545	stand-alone	PLANNED	16, 17
Other	Viewpoint / Overlook	\$ 98,564	stand-alone	PLANNED	16
Other	Improved crossings of Portland and Diamond Lake Road	\$ -	stand-alone	CONDITIONAL	8, 10
Other	Miscl. signs, trees, furniture	\$ 33,075	with other projects, as appropriate	PLANNED	9, 10
TOTAL		\$ 1,519,840			

OPERATIONS ESTIMATE

FACILITIES	Total Per Unit Operations Cost	△ Qty	△ Cost
Outdoor Gathering Space	\$ 10,000	1	\$ 10,000
Walking Loop Trail	\$ 5,000	1	\$ 5,000
Canoe/Kayak Storage	\$ 5,000	1	\$ 5,000
Difference			\$ 20,000

NOTE: The City of Minneapolis and MnDOT must take lead on improvements of the 58th Street outfall, improvements near Diamond Lake Lane and any improvements to water quality. Improved crossings requires coordination with City of Minneapolis.

EAST PHILLIPS

ABOUT

East Phillips Park is considered a “special case” in the SSAMP process. No park plan has yet been created for this park. Because this park recently underwent a master planning process that concluded in 2010 with implementation of many facilities in the park, it was considered by the community to be too soon to master plan it again.

Therefore, no master plan is included in the SSAMP. Instead, a full master plan for the park will be performed at which time the first major asset in the park needs replacement. This is expected to be the artificial turf soccer fields around 2020. Normally, such a replacement would be done in the same location and at the same general size. At East Phillips, however, replacement of that asset will trigger a community-engaged master plan to create a new vision for the entire park. That plan will then be amended into the SSAMP (see Chapter 6: Amending this Plan). The implementation checklist therefore includes only planning and land use related items—no physical construction.

LOCATION AND HISTORY

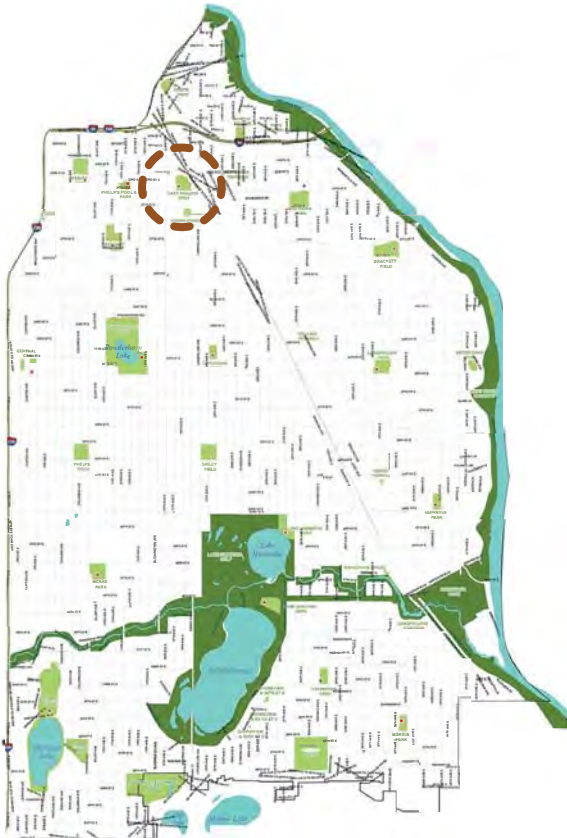
East Phillips Park is an active park in the neighborhood that shares its name. It sits adjacent to Highway 55/Hiawatha Avenue and is bounded by 22nd Street, 17th Avenue, and 24th Street. The Phillips name (for both neighborhood and park) comes from the Phillips School, which was in turn named for abolitionist orator Wendell Phillips.

The park was acquired from the Minneapolis Community Development Agency (MCDA) in 1977, making it a relatively recent acquisition in the Minneapolis park system. The land became available after the MCDA decided not to develop the site for housing. Development of the park began in 1978 with construction of playing fields, playgrounds, and a

wading pool, as well as general landscaping. A shelter was built in the park in 1979. Additional improvements continued into 1981 with the construction of tennis courts and additional paths.

At the time the land was acquired the Police Athletic Council used a concrete block building on the site. The park board leased that building to the American Indian Movement when MPRB acquired the land. In 2006 the building was demolished due to structural deterioration.

In 2007, the state legislature approved funds for a new community center in the park. Ground was broken for the new center in late 2009 and the center was substantially completed in 2010. The 14,000-square foot center includes a gym, teen center, computer room, kitchen, and multi-purpose rooms. Also in 2010 artificial turf soccer fields and a premier baseball diamond were built. The outdoor hard courts were resurfaced in 2011. The major overhaul of the park met several underground issues, namely contaminated soil, which was piled up and capped in the northwestern corner of the park, and a major gas line, which runs under the center of the park and governed the location of the building.



EXISTING CONDITIONS AND CHARACTER

The current facilities in the park are the result of extensive community advocacy and engagement, particularly by the neighborhood organization. The recreation center building stretches along the western edge of the park with all the active amenities lying between it and Hiawatha Avenue. Playgrounds and a wading pool sit near the building, flanked by rain gardens to treat stormwater running from hard surfaces. A complex of basketball courts (including some on former tennis courts) is located in the southeastern corner. Two youth-size artificial turf soccer fields occupy the center of the park, while a premier fenced baseball diamond sits to the north.

East Phillips Park serves a racially and economically diverse population, with especially frequent use by Latino and East African people. The soccer fields are particularly popular with these groups and also with other renters, making them the most reserved single facility in the entire SSA. This, in fact, has raised concerns in the community—not just at East Phillips but throughout the SSA—about community access to premier fields. The SSAMP CAC made specific additional recommendations on this topic (see Chapter 3: Additional Recommendations).

The park today is active and lively. It draws large sports leagues and numerous kids for outdoor play and open gym time. Considering the conditions of the site and its late acquisition into the park system, it is remarkable what the community and MPRB were able to do at East Phillips.

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS

Wayfinding and connections from East Phillips should focus on:

- The short one-block connection to Cedar Avenue Field, to ensure that facilities not available at Cedar Avenue Field due to its small size can be accessible to the community at East Phillips
- The existing City of Minneapolis pedestrian/ bicycle route on 24th Street, which connects to the west to Phillips Community Center and Pool, and to the east across Hiawatha Avenue to Matthews Park.

KNOWN LAND USE AND COORDINATION ISSUES

A gas line easement runs under East Phillips Park, north-south roughly in the center of the park. The gas easement has strict requirements for construction, landscaping, and structure footings. Any improvements to the park must be done according to the terms of the easement.

When the land for East Phillips was transferred to MPRB in the mid-1970s, several streets and alleys were vacated. One small portion of the former 18th Avenue right-of-way on the far northern end of the park was never vacated. The baseball field currently sits on a portion of this land. MPRB should clear this ownership issue for reasons of due diligence.