



PROPOSED PLAN: NORTH COMMONS PARK

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Minneapolis park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is considering major improvements at North Commons Park that could bring expanded and enhanced recreation, community gathering, arts and media, and event options to north Minneapolis. Understandably, however, the community has expressed concern that if something new and exciting is built, it will attract outside interest and become less available to the north side community.

These guiding principles are meant as reminders and encouragements that when this facility is built, community use is at the forefront. Decision-making around programming, operations, maintenance, and staffing of this facility should keep the community at the center.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION

1. Seek partnerships in all aspects of implementation, including funding, operations, and programming.
2. Ensure that agreements with partners do not unduly limit community access to the facility.
3. Coordinate with City of Minneapolis on redevelopment of the block east of the YMCA as a mixed-use development that could include district parking available to park users.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

4. Design of all facilities should be welcoming to the north side community and create the feeling that local neighbors are welcome in these spaces. Local artists, designers, and craftspeople could contribute to making the design welcoming.
5. Minimize tree removal, especially of significant overstory trees, through careful design and detailing.
6. Protect trees during construction, to ensure they are not negatively impacted by construction activities, in consultation with MPRB's Forestry Department.
7. Replace any trees removed as a result of construction with an equivalent or greater caliper inch total of trees, in coordination with MPRB's Forestry Department.
8. Consult with the north side community and residents around the park on schematic and detailed design of park elements.
9. Seek to minimize visual impact of facilities on nearby homes through vegetation, depressing facilities down into the earth, and/or high quality façade design.
10. Reduce or eliminate community impact by constructing replacement facilities prior to decommissioning older facilities, or by creating partnerships to provide space for these activities. This is especially true for baseball and for the recreation center itself.

PROGRAMMING AND ACCESS

11. Facilities should prioritize access by the north side community.
12. Access to facilities should be affordable to north side residents.
13. Decisions around access, hours, and fees should be made through a community-engaged process, in consultation with park users and potential park users.
14. Programming should be tailored to what people want to do in the park.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

15. Maintenance and program staffing should be adequate to operate this larger facility and the site around it, and should be determined through careful analysis of real staffing needs.
16. Repairs should be undertaken quickly, to ensure the park does not enter the "vicious cycle" of neglect, which can then invite further damage and vandalism.
17. Facility leadership and staff should reflect the north side community, in all its racial and cultural diversity.



Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board
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We would like your input!

Fill out the survey using the following link or QR code:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/NorthCommonsSurvey



Contact for more information:

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Visit the project webpage and sign up for email updates at:
www.minneapolisparcs.org/northcommons