

## **Sibley Park Improvements Project**

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is working on the renovation and expansion of the playground and wading pool at Sibley Park. Aune Fernandez Landscape Architects is the consulting firm hired to design the project. The project is currently in the design phase, and the consultant team and MPRB staff are revising the preferred concept selected by the community.

**Community Engagement:** Two conceptual designs were presented at two Open House events in March 2022. These designs were displayed at the rec center for comments and feedback for two weeks. An online survey was also available for a month. The community responses received are guiding the preliminary design of the project. The revised proposal will be shared with the community for comments in the second week of May.

**Proposal:** The playground will have play structures for kids of different age groups and abilities. It will feature two ziplines, which were identified by the neighborhood children as their most desired play element. The new wading pool with a zero-depth entrance will be installed adjacent to a gathering/picnic space. The overall circulation and access to the pool and playground will be improved with new walking paths and landscaping. Other site features such as benches, picnic tables and drinking fountain will be integrated with the new site amenities.

**Project Constraints:** The assigned budget for this project was estimated for the completion of the playground and related site improvements. Due to the high construction costs of the zero-depth wading pool and its new mechanical system, its design and construction was originally scheduled for completion in a later phase of improvements. However, spatial constraints on the construction of the playground were identified during the site analysis and the demolition and construction of the pool became necessary to plan for the first phase of improvements. We are currently revising the design and evaluating the project budget to perform the construction of both facilities in this phase.

**Timeline:** We anticipate having a final design by the end of May and submitting the proposal for Park Board approval in June. Construction is planned for Spring/Summer 2023. Partial demolition and removals are likely to happen in the late Fall of 2022. We are coordinating the construction schedule with Sibley Rec Center and MPRB staff to minimize construction disturbances for park users.