Cedar Lake – Lake of the Isles Master Plan

Summary of Feedback on Preferred Park Concept from 6/22/2022 through 8/23/2022

This document is a compilation of the feedback received between the release of the Preferred Park Concept on 6/22/2022 up through 8/23/2022. Feedback is organized by topic, then location. This document offers a summary of what has been heard to date and not a list of every individual comment. Comments that are bolded have been mentioned more than five times.

Below is a guide to the color-coding, which shows how the comments were heard:

- Items in red are from in-person engagement
- Items in black are from the online survey
- Items in purple are from other sources (email, phone, letters)
- Items in blue are from social media
- Items in orange are from multiple sources

Water Quality and Water Amenities

- Support for water quality improvements
  - General
  - Rain gardens
  - Tree trenches
  - Underground parkway treatment
  - Help to address flooding
  - Lakes need to be swimmable
- Support water quality being a top priority
- Support formalizing water access points
  - General
  - South and east sides of Cedar Lake
- Opposition to added dock at Lake of the Isles near W 27th St
- Suggestion for additional water access point
  - Southeast Lake of the Isles
  - East Cedar Lake Beach, north side
- Support for additional shoreline plants
- Support for littoral edge along southeast Cedar
- Suggestion to add shoreline plants in less used areas
- Suggestion to use only plants native for shoreline restoration
- Suggestion to take water quality improvements even further
  - Southwest Cedar Lake
  - Northwest Cedar Lake
  - Improvement at two outfalls near 27th St at Lake of the Isles
- Create settling pond at North Lake of the Isles
- Buffer strips on homeowner lawns
- Emergent vegetation along all of the shoreline
- Address littering
- Remove milfoil

- Concern about cost, aesthetics, and/or maintenance related to water quality improvements strategies
- Concern about rain gardens within the limited open space
- Concern that water plants have put a stop or made it very difficult to kayak, paddleboard, and/or swim
- Suggestion for public education related to water quality
- Concern about pollution to water bodies
  - Plastics
  - Benzene
  - Runoff from St. Louis Park

- Suggestion for East Cedar Lake Beach restoration as a priority
- Concern that existing canoe rack at East Cedar Lake Beach is unused
- Suggestion to put canoe racks at East Cedar Lake Beach closer to the water
- Concern about the process of removing water access points and how this can be accomplished
- Suggestion for a Lake Management Plan at Cedar Lake

### Circulation and Access

#### Project Areas as a Whole

- Suggestion to modify parkway roads to increase biking and walking access
  - Temporary or permanent closure
  - Narrowing roads
  - Removing parking
  - Turn two-way segments into one-ways
    - Make Dean Parkway one-way
  - Speed bumps
  - Raised intersections
  - Bump outs

- Concern and opposition to parkway road modifications
  - Closures
  - One-way for northwest Cedar Lake
  - Narrowing Cedar Lake Parkway
  - Narrowing Lake of the Isles Parkway
  - Bump outs on Lake of the Isles Parkway
  - Adding on-street bike lanes

- Concern about safety for bikers and pedestrians
  - Interactions with cars
  - E-bikes
  - Scooters
- **Shared paths in the winter**
  - Burnham Road
  - Steep hill between South Cedar Beach and Dean Parkway
  - Roads leading to East Cedar Beach
  - Cedar Lake Parkway bridge pinch point at northwest Cedar Lake
  - Congestion near northern viewing spot at Northwest Cedar Lake
  - Ewing Ave and Cedar Lake Parkway
  - Bike trails too narrow to ride with children
- **Support for wider trails**
  - Northwest Cedar Lake
  - Northeast Cedar Lake
- **Opposition to proposed pedestrian trail removals**
  - Trails in Northeast pedestrian Lake area
  - Path along Lake of the Isles bridge
- **Support for increased bike and pedestrian access**
  - Kenilworth Channel and Southeast Lake of the Isles
  - Path along Lake of the Isles bridge
- **Suggestion to do more for bike and pedestrian access**
  - Additional walkways
  - Bike connections to Greenway and neighborhoods
  - Apply Minneapolis modal priority framework
  - Improve and increase access to trails in Northeast Cedar Lake
  - Consider bike use at all amenities and access points
  - Continue proposed paved sidewalk on the south side of Lake of the Isles Parkway further north to the Kenilworth Channel
- **Suggestion for additional improved intersection crossings**
  - Sunset Boulevard near Cedar Lake South Beach
  - Basswood near Cedar Lake
  - Cedar Lake parking lot near 25th
  - W 22nd St
  - Cedar Lake Pkwy / Cedar Lake Regional Trail intersection
  - Entrance to East Cedar Beach and light rail stop
- **Support for intersection improvements**
  - General
  - Northwest Cedar Lake
  - Near the Midtown Greenway and Dean Parkway
- **Opposition to formalization of natural trails**
  - Northeast Cedar Lake
  - Generally
- **Suggestion to include boardwalk(s)**
- **Concern related to intersection improvements**
  - Opposition to any intrusive signage or flashing lights
- **Concern that circulation and access plans do not live up to MPRB/Met Council values of inviting a more diverse audience, including older adults**
- Support for formalized soft surface rather than paved trails, generally
- Satisfied with existing circulation and access
  - Keep current width of bike lanes
- Suggestion to follow the Initial Park Concept B for circulation and access
- Clarify how winter maintenance will affect paths
- Support for Circulation and Access Plans generally
- Suggestion to clarify that pedestrians have right of way when crossing bike paths, potentially through signage
- Suggestion to make paved multiuse (bike and pedestrian) paths shared with one center line instead of separated striping
- Suggestion to increase bike path speed limit to 20mph
- Suggestion to incorporate recommendations from the Dean Parkway/Cedar Parkway CAC from years past

**Lake of the Isles**

- **Suggestion for two-way bike path all the way around Lake of the Isles**
  - Widen and/or separate existing path without modifying parkway road
- **Opposition to proposed two-way bike path segments**
- **Support for proposed two-way bike segments**
- **Support for southern two-way bike segment only**
- **Suggestion to extend north two-way bike segment to connect to 21st St and light rail stop**
- **Suggestions related to two-way bike path segments**
  - Strong signage
  - Wider trails
- **Concerns related to two-way bike path segments**
  - Congestion
  - Safety and communication in transition zones
  - Too tight on the bridges
- **Suggestion and support for an on-street bike lane rather than the two-way segments**
- **Concern about an on-street bike lane**
  - Opposition to any physical barriers in the road
  - Unsafe for bikers
- **Concern and opposition to idea of two-way bike path all the way around Lake of the Isles**
- **Support for northern two-way bike segment**
- **Suggestion to improve Lake of the Isles Pkwy and Bde Maka Ska Pkwy intersection differently**
  - Widening bike lanes
  - Making the pass under the bridge one way bike
  - Add a bike/ped roundabout
  - Keep existing planting area in the middle of the road segments
- **Suggestion to add an access point to the dog park closer to the Midtown Greenway**
  - Overlook landing area on Midtown Greenway at connection
- **Suggestion to move the pedestrian path to the east side of the dog park**
Cedar Lake

- **Suggestion for a connection along the southeast shore of Cedar Lake**
- **Concern about a path along the southeast shore**
- **Concern about a fence separating public and private land on the southeast shore of Cedar Lake**
- **Suggestion to address circulation at Northwest Cedar Lake differently**
  - One-way for Cedar Lake Parkway
  - Closure of Cedar Lake Parkway
  - Revisit boardwalk to address safety concerns near the “Section B” line
  - Section C doesn’t do enough.
  - For Section B, make the upper path one-way for bikes to provide more space
  - Add tar or boardwalk adjacent to existing trails
  - Make the shared use path wider (Section B)
  - Keep the road and paths as is and add better signage
  - Keep Section B Existing
  - Keep the goat path intact
- **Opposition to any use of Northeast trails by mountain bikes**
- **Suggestion to add a paved trail among the soft surface trails at Northeast Cedar Lake**
- **Support for formalized, soft-surface Northeast trails**
  - Suggestion to add low wooden fences
  - Minimize access in natural areas
- **Concern about paved paths at Northeast Cedar Lake**
- **Suggestion to maximize public water access to all of the shoreline**
  - Remove private access
  - Permanent or temporary bridge across Kenilworth Channel
- **Concern and opposition to the possibility of a boardwalk at Northwest Cedar Lake**
- **Concern that the Park Board inaccurately measured the paths/road at Northwest Cedar Lake**
- **Support for Section B proposal at Northwest Cedar Lake**
- **Suggestion to narrow and better manage the soft surface path around Cedar Lake Point**
- **Suggestion to facilitate both pedestrian and bike use of Northeast Cedar trails**
  - Designate separate paths
- **Concern about safety when running alone on the northeast trails**
- **Suggestion for a paved path from the road to East Cedar Beach**
  - For use by maintenance and patrol vehicles only
- **Concern about adding a parking lot at East Cedar Beach**
- **Suggestion to address parking at East Cedar Beach without sacrificing natural areas**
  - On-street turnaround spot
  - Parking lot
- **Suggestion to improve online navigation and wayfinding to East Cedar Beach**
- **Suggestion to leave existing Douglas/Bryn Mawr light rail station path in its current state**

**Focus Area B: Kenilworth Channel and Lake of the Isles Connection**

- **Support for the trail connections along Kenilworth Channel**
- **Suggestion for paved path(s) through entire Kenilworth Channel**
- On both sides of the Channel
  - Two-way bike path that continues all the way to Cedar Lake
- **Opposition to trail connections through the entire Channel**
  - Suggestion that pedestrian path stop at the Kenilworth Trail
  - Suggestion that pedestrian path stop at Burnham Bridge
  - Suggestion that bike connection stop before the Channel and before Kenilworth Place, along Lake of the Isles Parkway
- **Support for ADA paved path from Kenilworth Trail to proposed trails**
- Concern about bike connection to Kenilworth Trail—steep grade, nearby private property should be respected, and want coordination with the current work on the SWLRT
- **Opposition to two-way bike trail connection**

### Amenities and Proposed Land Acquisition

- **Suggestion for permanent bathrooms**
  - Year-round use
  - East Cedar Lake Beach
  - Lake of the Isles
  - Cedar Lake Point Beach
  - North Lake of the Isles
  - Changing room near beach
- **Support for more/improved restrooms**
- **Support for temporary restrooms only**
- **Suggestion for improved restroom maintenance**
  - Cleaners
  - Available year round
  - For temporary restrooms, better screen them from view
- **Indifferent to restrooms as proposed**
- **Opposition to restrooms**
  - At Lake of the Isles
- **Suggestion to remove existing restroom at north Lake of the Isles**
- **Support for picnic areas**
- **Suggestion to expand picnic areas**
- **Suggestion to remove concrete picnic pads**
  - At East Cedar Beach
  - Once kiosk is relocated at north Lake of the Isles
- **Opposition to proposed picnic area at Cedar Lake**
- **Suggestion to relocate proposed picnic area at north Lake of the Isles to the southern side, near canoe racks**
- **Support for enhanced welcome entry points**
- **Suggestion for additional enhanced welcome entry point at W 21st St and Cedar Lake Parkway**
- **Suggestion for additional signage**
  - Generally and at East Cedar Beach
  - Nature and natural resource restoration/preservation projects
- Indigenous history
- Evolution of the beach and lakes
- Education
- Marking trails
- One-way to two-way advanced signage

- Opposition to signage at Lake of the Isles
- Suggestion to remove unnecessary signage
- Suggestion for additional amenities
  - Picnic shelters
    - South Lake of the Isles
    - East Cedar Lake Beach
    - North Lake of the Isles
  - Programmable spaces (ex: outdoor classroom, space for food trucks)
  - Skate park
  - Bike skills course
  - Dog park
    - Cedar Lake
  - Play area
    - Cedar Lake
  - Public art
  - Gathering space at Lake of the Isles
  - Permanent building(s)
  - Small food and drink stand
  - Waterslides into the lake
  - Enhance mound at northeast Cedar Lake
  - Canoe/kayak/paddleboard racks at existing and new water access spots
  - Bike or scooter rental
  - Volleyball court
    - East Cedar Beach

- Suggestion to additional site furnishings
  - Bike parking & stations with pumps
  - Benches
  - Electrical hookup
  - Drinking fountains
  - Lifeguard stand
  - Benches and rest stops along the trails
  - Lighting along the trails and paths, for pedestrians

- Concern about programming, amenity, and signage impacts on aesthetics, views, wildlife, and/or the landscape
- Concern and opposition to permanent structures
  - East Cedar Lake Beach
  - Lake of the Isles
- Suggestion to add more programming and events
  - Yoga at Lake of the Isles
- Suggestion related to detailed design of picnic tables, benches, and lighting
- Opposition to adding new amenities
  o At Cedar Lake
  o At South Cedar Point
  o At Lake of the Isles
- Support for not having a boat rental at Cedar Lake
- Opposition to land acquisition (the “remnant lands” near Kenwood Corridor)
- Support for land acquisition (remnant lands near Kenwood Corridor)
- Support for land acquisition along Channel to complete the pedestrian connection
- Suggestion for a dog-friendly beach
- Support for formal concert area at East Cedar Lake Beach
- Opposition to formal concert and event areas at East Cedar Lake Beach
- Pleased that proposed amenities are based around existing uses for East Cedar Lake Beach
- Concern about more amenities, what is proposed is enough
  o Concern about potential coffee vendor
- Concern about maintenance at Cedar Point Beach
- Suggestion to combine storage shed structure with structure that houses portapotties at East Cedar Beach
- Suggestion to merge concert and event space at East Cedar Beach
- Opposition to viewing areas

Natural Resources Restoration

- Support for natural resources recommendations in preferred park concept
- Supportive of natural resource restoration being a top priority
- Suggestion to make improvements to enhance habitat connectivity
- Suggestion to add more trees
  o Generally
  o East Cedar Beach
- Support for preservation of trees
  o Cottonwood strategies at East Cedar Beach
  o Dean Parkway
- Concern that contractors can cut down trees even if they’ve been designated to be preserved
- Opposition to reducing open lawn space
  o At Lake of the Isles
  o On the west side of Cedar
  o Dean Parkway
- Suggestion to add lawn at East Cedar Beach for yoga, meditation, and other programming
- Suggestion to take restoration even further
  o Reduce lawn space
  o Add more native plantings
  o At Lake of the Isles particularly
- Suggestion for more volunteer support
- Suggestion that more money go to maintenance
- Protect the few natural areas that we have
- Concern about buckthorn
- Opposition to mesic oak forest restoration around Point Beach, would rather see a slightly larger beach area with a prairie, a few scattered burr oaks, and pedestrian paths
- Support for specific restoration areas
  - Around Point Beach
  - Enhanced prairie
- Suggestion for a Natural Resources Management Plan for Cedar Lake
- Concern about pathogens and pests that affect trees
- Suggestion to increase Park Board staff specialized in ecological restoration
- Suggestion that the plan acknowledge existing pollinator gardens currently maintained by volunteers
- Opposition to type of restoration
  - Restoration type gestures to something the land never was, e.g. oak savannah
  - Concern that mesic oak forest would involve removing cottonwoods
- Appreciation for volunteer work
- Suggestion to preserve wild and open areas

**Winter Amenities**

- General support for winter amenities
- Except for skating ribbon, lukewarm about winter amenities
- Support for ice skating ribbon
- Suggestion to extend skating ribbon across Lake of the Isles, through Kenilworth Channel, and around Cedar Lake
- Suggestion for a permanent warming house
- Suggestion for coffee vendor at permanent warming house
- Support for updated warming house
- Suggestion for improved trails and grooming of ski trails
- Happy with how the trails are groomed now
- Suggestion to remove warming house and relocate the ice skating rink to Bde Maka Ska

**General**

- Support for the preferred park concept
- Opposition to preferred park concept
  - Liked previous plans more than this version
  - Would prefer a more minimal approach
- Support for East Cedar Beach focus area
- Concern plan is not representative of regional perspectives
  - Heavily favors CAC or adjacent neighbor opinions rather than regional audience
  - Does not accommodate a diverse group of visitors and ADA accessibility
  - Support MPRB efforts to pay community members from diverse and accessibility communities for feedback
Families not represented at meetings

- **Suggestion to prioritize maintenance**
  - Avoid relying on volunteers
  - More trash pickup

- **Concern about master plan process**
  - Suggestion that more data gathering occur on circulation and access
  - New amendments are coming too late

- **Concern regarding impacts to the park on the east side of Cedar Lake from the Southwest Lightrail**
  - Traffic and parking
  - Busier
  - Crime
  - Trash
  - Maintenance
  - Ruin area

- **Plan doesn’t accommodate increased visitors from light rail**

- **Support for Preferred Park Concept’s minimal approach**
  - Suggestion to make accessibility a priority
    - Improve inaccessible amenities

- **With increased usage from the Southwest Lightrail, prioritize funding to account for more use**

- **Concern about increasing maintenance burden**

- **Suggestion to continue to work with the Native community and prioritize their needs and desires**

- **Suggestion to meter parking areas**

- **Appreciate that Park Board’s responsiveness to public input and neighbors’ input**

- **Concern about outside funding and outside groups outweighing neighbors’ input**
  - “Bike lobby”

- **Concern about funding going to these improvements rather than other parks, especially in NE Minneapolis**

- **Suggestion for the Park Board to use a video format in gathering feedback, and accept video feedback, to reach young people**

- **Concern that the Park Board is too focused on social justice**

- **Suggested text edits to preferred park concept**
  - Modify title for zone 3
  - Mark all ADA accessible amenities with the orange circle, including docks and bathrooms
  - Existing portapotty near Newton Ave that is not shown
  - Add a separate symbol to explicitly designate fishing areas and consider these separate from boat launches
  - Volunteer buckthorn removal areas extend further than what is shown on the Community Initiatives and Stewardship and other initiatives are not fully captured
  - On Winter Amenities map, existing trail grooming is somewhat inaccurate and does not include decks
  - The rain garden on pages 15 and 17 are in slightly different locations
- Include MPRB-designated no mow zones
- Suggestion to note mud pit at East Cedar Beach in designs
- Southwest Cedar should be designated as “Proposed Prairie/Pollinator Planting” rather than “Existing Land Cover, No Change” to reflect ongoing volunteer work