Transforming North Commons Park

Combating Health and Wealth Disparities

A major project is underway in North Commons Park, which will expand the community center to include the park system’s first field house and completely rebuild the aging water park. MPRB aims to reduce historic disparities in health and wealth in the surrounding community through these once-in-a-generation investments, as well as working with the community to expand programming.

**North Commons Community**

The North Commons Community is majority people of color

- 3 of 4 residents are people of color
- Population under 18 years of age
  - 12% more youth under 18 than all of Minneapolis
- People with a disability
  - 5% more residents with a disability

**All Minneapolis Residents**

- Population under 18 years of age
  - 10% more residents under 18
- People with a disability
  - 11% more residents with a disability

On average, residents in the North Commons area have **less income** and **more health issues** than all Minneapolis residents.

**Median Household Income**

- North Commons: $48,181
- All Minneapolis: $70,634

**Disposable Income**

- North Commons: $41,012
- All Minneapolis: $56,902

**Life Span**

- North Commons: 74.2
- All Minneapolis: 80.3

**Childhood Obesity**

- North Commons: 28.2%
- All Minneapolis: 12.1%

**Asthma Hospitalizations**

- North Commons: 157.6 (Age Adjusted Rate per 10,000)
- All Minneapolis: 31.2

**COPD* Hospitalizations**

- North Commons: 28.2%
- All Minneapolis: 12.1%

**Per Capita Income**

- North Commons: $21,295
- All Minneapolis: $47,687

**Households receiving food stamps/SNAP**

- North Commons: 11%
- All Minneapolis: 5%

*North Commons Community = residents within a 10-minute walk from North Commons Park (parts of 55411, 55412 zip codes)

*See reverse for data sources
Building Wealth
Maximize dollars invested in North Minneapolis businesses and residents

- **Constructing and operating** North Commons facilities with local businesses and residents
- **Job opportunities** at completed facilities, through ongoing outreach at North Commons and MPRB’s youth employment initiative
- **Concessions business** to serve food/drink at the community center and water park
- **Public art opportunities** outside and inside North Commons facilities - $200K from Minneapolis Art in Public Places program; additional funds from project budget
- **Job & career programming** in improved facilities: fairs, training, youth focus, multi-generational

Improving Health
Residents of all ages access opportunities to improve health through increased activity and fitness opportunities, classes, and information

- **Field house** expands facilities from one to four independent gyms to increase health/fitness programming
- **Walking Track** for year-round low impact fitness
- **Fitness Center** based on community desires, with limited barriers to access
- **Health/Wellness Suite** dedicated to meditation, counseling, and intervention
- **Teaching Kitchen** for new/expanded cooking classes and culinary basics
- **Water Park** includes lap pool, water play for all ages, swimming lessons

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Proposed Architectural Renderings

New Field House  
New Wellness Suite  
New Water Park Activity Area

www.minneapolisparks.org/northcommons

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Data Sources
Minnesota Department of Health ¹  Minnesota WIC Program ¹ US Census, American Community Survey, Minnesota Hospital Association