

REVISED DRAFT Guiding Principles

5/29/2018 6/13/2018

THE FOUNDATION

- 1) Further the **sense of pride** in the north side through **high quality parks**. Ensure excellence and innovation in design, implementation, and maintenance. Recognize that doing so is a question of racial equity, because north Minneapolis is home to the most people of color by sector in the city and has the most land area covered by areas of concentrated poverty where more than 50% of the population are people of color (ACP50s).
- 2) Work always toward **safe parks** for all, through lighting, sight lines, cameras where appropriate, and increased activity.
- 3) Work always toward parks that are **welcoming for all**. Ensure that park designs, included facilities, and overall character invite people in, give them what they want, and are culturally engaging and appropriate.
- 4) Explore **partnerships** for funding, programming, stewardship. MPRB can't and shouldn't do everything on its own.
- 5) Work with partner agencies to minimize the possibility of **displacement** as parks improve. Continue to study, both locally and nationally, the effect of park development on local economic factors and the potential for displacement. Recognize that parks are a contributor to higher property values, which can be beneficial if current residents are able to stay in place. Strive to make improvements that make people want to stay.
- 6) Embrace the principles of the City of Minneapolis's **Green Zone** as they apply to parks.

PLANNING AND DESIGN

- 7) Consider **all age ranges** in the design and development of parks, with particular focus on:
 - a) Youth voice in the process; youth focus in facility development
 - b) More activities and spaces for teens/young adults, with clear intent that teens/young adults are welcome in the parks for both programmed and unprogrammed activities.
 - c) Design for seniors: accessibility, active low-impact activities, passive activities
- 8) Create more opportunities for **arts, music, and performance** that reflect the north side community—both programmed and spontaneous.
 - a) Include performances spaces in parks throughout the north side
 - b) Incorporate visual art (sculpture, painting, mosaic, etc.) wherever possible

- 9) Seek **additional parkland** or private land available for public use in key locations [reference map]
 - a) The northwestern area of the service area, west of the cemetery, where no active recreation parks currently exist
 - b) The triangle bounded by Broadway Avenue, Golden Valley Road, and Wirth Parkway, which lacks any play areas
 - c) The area north of Dowling Avenue just west of I-94, which will be served by the development of parks at the Upper Harbor Terminal and a high quality connection along Dowling.
 - d) The park connection area north of Anwatin School, to create a connection between Wirth Park and the Bassett’s Creek Valley
 - e) The Bassett’s Creek Valley corridor east of Cedar Lake Road, as the city-owned land in the area redevelops
 - f) The Lincoln School site, owned by Minneapolis Public Schools, which could provide programming opportunities but not likely ownership or management by MPRB
 - g) The large open space bounded by 61st Avenue, 62nd Avenue, 5th Street, and Lyndale Avenue, also known as Alice Rainville Park, which is owned by the City of Minneapolis and on which there should be improved coordination between MPRB and the City
 - h) Locations not identified in this plan, but which may come to light in the future as demographics and density change in the service area, with such new system additions being justified through demonstrated need and requiring amendment to this master plan
 - i) *NOTE: In response to the suggestion to include a park connection to Wirth Park at Oak Park Avenue: MPRB staff does not believe this is possible with the existence of railroad and LRT, without a pedestrian bridge at significant cost. Plymouth Avenue will have an improved connection to the park, as will the new cycle track along Highway 55. We are not recommending a commitment to this access point.*

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- 10) Recognize the importance of **connections** to and between parks:
 - a) Work with partners to implement safe street crossings at all parks,
 - b) Work with the City of Minneapolis to complete and enhance the street network as a connecting web between parks, including consideration of green streets, complete streets, trails and greenways, and bicycle infrastructure [reference connections map]
 - c) Support the implementation of the North Side Greenway, including robust community engagement and education [reference connections map]
 - d) install system maps at neighborhood parks, to direct users to nearby amenities.
 - e) Connect to the Mississippi River and the RiverFirst vision, especially at Hall’s Island, the Upper Harbor Terminal, and 26th Avenue North.
 - f) Work with partners to improve transit connections to and between parks
- 11) Recognize the importance of **the basics**: water, restrooms, benches, trails, art, etc.
- 12) Create more opportunities for **gathering**—in small groups of friends and family, as extended families, and in large community groups (reunions, family events, weddings).
 - a) Include flexible gathering plazas and courtyards in park designs
 - b) Consider moveable seating and tables

- 13) Improve the parks' **environments** and reduce environmental impact through:
 - a) Inclusion of natural areas in most parks to both reduce acreage of mown turf and increase habitat
 - b) Implementation of an ornamental garden in the service area
 - c) Exploration of the use of sustainable construction techniques and materials, even if initial cost may be higher, in order to improve environmental performance in the long run.
 - d) Exploration of alternative energy production, such as solar electric or heating, or geothermal heating/cooling.
 - e) Construction of sustainable parking lots: those that manage their own stormwater.
- 14) Ensure **materials used in park construction** are strong, durable, easy to maintain, and safe, especially when used by children and seniors.
- 15) Design spaces to be **flexible**, so they can accommodate a wide variety of uses
- 16) Manage and resolve land use, land ownership, lease agreement, and other **site control issues**, if applicable, prior to implementation of capital improvements.
- 17) Wherever parkland is adjacent to a **Minneapolis Public School**, make efforts to align with that school on the utilization of shared land.

FACILITIES

- 18) Implement **significant park enhancements**—with the programmatic, financial, and leadership support of community and agency partners—at four key parks, recognizing MPRB cannot act alone in these projects, as they are beyond the scale of the organization's budget:
 - a) A commercial restaurant/coffee shop opportunity and possible recreation center expansion at **Creekview Recreation Center**, to serve as a regional trail hub and gathering space, with a possible interim strategy to create a food truck plaza.
 - b) An expansion of **Cleveland Park** in collaboration with the City of Minneapolis, to achieve Penn Avenue frontage, and re-envision the Penn and Lowry intersection, along with significant re-organization of the park.
 - c) A major multi-purpose indoor sports and recreation venue occupying the northern portion of **North Commons Park**, to include an enlarged arts and recreation building, premier field with winter sports dome, and relocated and enhanced waterpark.
 - d) An all-weather conservatory-like building in **Bryn Mawr Meadows** that would include indoor play areas, basketball court, winter warming room functions, and gathering spaces amongst gardens.
- 19) Consider parks as one vehicle for **equitable food access** in Minneapolis.
 - a) Expand fruit tree planting throughout service area
 - b) Designate community garden sites and other urban agriculture opportunities, as an aspect of implementation of the MPRB-adopted Urban Agriculture Plan.
 - c) Implement food truck parking areas and space for pop-up restaurants

20) **Aquatics:**

- a) Transition from a wading pool dominated system to a mix of wading pools, splash pads, and hybrid facilities, in order to provide facilities for a broader range of youth.
- b) Limit large-scale swimming opportunities in the service area to the Wirth Beach, Webber Natural Swimming Pool, and North Commons Waterpark, due to high cost of implementation and operation of additional large-scale facilities.
- c) Work with partners to improve public access to non-MPRB aquatic facilities, such as at Olson Middle School and the Broadway YMCA.
- d) With community and agency partners, re-envision the North Commons Waterpark as a year-round facility (open air in summer, enclosed in winter) that provides a wider variety of aquatic options for everyone from beginning to competitive swimmers, and consider appropriate fee structure during implementation of this new facility.

21) **Athletic Fields:**

- a) Improve overall quality of multi-use fields and diamonds, through soil conditioning, irrigation, and other methods.
- b) Increase the number of premier fields (for soccer, football, lacrosse, etc.) in the service area.
- c) With community and agency partners, implement an indoor sports facility at North Commons Park
- d) Ensure that safe, non-toxic materials are used in the construction of any premier fields in the parks.

22) **Courts:**

- a) Continue and expand commitment to basketball, especially full-court, throughout the service area.
- b) Implement new types of use-specific courts where appropriate, such as for pickleball and sepak takraw.
- c) Focus tennis investment in targeted areas with larger banks of courts.

23) **Play and Other Facilities:**

- a) Increase diversity of play opportunities to include adventure and nature play
- b) Implement skate/BMX parks within the service area, following the guidance of the adopted Skate Park Activity Plan
- c) Implement bike playgrounds and mountain bike trails throughout the service area
- d) Provide a walking loop with seating in most parks.
- e) [Implement a universally designed playground in the service area](#)

24) Increase opportunities for **year-round activity**. Few winter options exist in the north service area.

- a) Expand indoor sports venues
- b) Expand opportunities for skating and sledding
- c) Implement one refrigerated hockey rink in the service area

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