



Agenda

Minnetonka Park Board

Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
Minnetonka Community Center - Minnehaha Room

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

_____ Isabelle Stroh

_____ Korey Beyersdorf

_____ TBD

_____ TBD

_____ David Ingraham

_____ Ben Jacobs

_____ Katie Semersky

_____ Chris Walick

3. Reports from Staff

4. Approval of Minutes

A) December 7, 2022

B) January 4, 2023

5. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda

6. Special Matters

7. Business Items

A) Skate Park Feasibility Final Study

B) Natural Resource Division's 2023
Outreach, Education & Engagement Plan

8. Park Board Member Reports

9. Information Items

10. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

11. Adjournment

Board Vision:

A city with outstanding parks and recreational opportunities within a valued natural environment.

Board Mission:

The mission of the Minnetonka Parks & Recreation Board is to proactively advise the city council, in ways that will:

- Protect & enhance Minnetonka's natural environment
- Promote quality recreation opportunities and facilities
- Provide a forum for citizens interested in our parks, trails, athletic fields and open space.



**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the
Minnetonka Park Board and City Council
Wednesday, December 7, 2022**

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Park Board Members Present: Korey Beyersdorf, James Durbin, Chris Gabler, David Ingraham, Ben Jacobs, Katie Semersky, Isabelle Stroh and Chris Walick.

Council Members Present: Mayor Brad Wiersum, Deb Calvert, Brian Kirk, Rebecca Schack, Kimberly Wilburn. Excused: Bradley Schaeppi, Kissy Coakley.

Staff members in attendance: Mike Funk, Moranda Dammann, Darin Ellingson, Corrine Heine, Jesse Izquierdo, Kathy Kline, Matt Kumka, Kelly O'Dea, Sara Woeste and Leslie Yetka.

Chair Gabler called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

3. Special Matters

Recreation Director Kelly O'Dea thanked everyone for attending the meeting this evening, as it was rescheduled from November. The Friends of Minnetonka Parks couldn't attend tonight due to a conflict, but they emailed all park board and council members' updates on work they have been doing in our park system. Staff really appreciated the work they have done.

4. Business Items

A. Skate Park Feasibility Update

Park and Trail Project Manager Matt Kumka gave the report.

Jacob Halsne and Jeff McMenimen from Damon Farber gave a presentation on the skate park feasibility study report. This included information on progress, background, site selection, site analysis and their next steps.

Kirk questioned since the Glen Lake option had two locations, if there would be an age difference between the two locations; similar to playgrounds having preschool and youth play areas. He asked if there would be any benefit to having an age appropriate site.

Kumka responded that what he understands about current, modern practice for skate park design is that they can support a variety of skill levels from entry level skaters all the way to older folks who grew up skating and want to get back out there. They are designed in a way that they can support a wide range of users on the same feature.

Halsne added that there could be one area that is very challenging but nearby, there could be a feature that is a lot more approachable. The Glen Lake site is a smaller parcel so there is an opportunity to have a unique difference between the two areas.

Kirk said his mind was thinking about big kids running over little kids, however, the skill aspect is important too.

Gabler asked what options four and five were.

Kumka replied that he is going to have to look at the full feasibility study to get a sense of all of the options. Halsne went through the information pretty quickly but the report gives a lot of characteristics for each site and it explains how they sort of fell out of the top three. There were a lot of discussions about how many sites they take to a concept level; ultimately they decided on those three. Kumka suggested looking at the other sites to see what their drawbacks were and what their positives were.

Durbin thought it would be interesting to see the concept of how the two skate areas would connect at Glen Lake so skaters wouldn't have to navigate through the parking lot. He asked if staff was going to demolish or suggest demolishing the Glen Lake Activity Center.

Stroh asked if the playground at Glen Lake has a lot of traffic.

Kumka replied that they will have to take a closer look at the usage numbers there. He lives nearby and doesn't see it utilized all that much. Staff wouldn't want to remove an amenity and not replace it somewhere nearby. They will have to look into relocating that playground and serving that user base.

Ingraham thought the playground is used a fair amount. It's generally used during games because you see younger kids get offloaded there.

Schack appreciated this really fascinating process, she thought the analysis was really cool and she looked forward to reading the full study. Where we have the density of development in the community is in southeast corner in Opus. Hopefully we get grants but if there's potential for park dedication fees being used for this project, she thinks we need to be sensitive to that from a location perspective.

Calvert had that same thought.

City Manager Mike Funk questioned if there have been studies or analysis on skateboard parks and how far families, young adults or children are willing to travel to skate parks. It is important that we have the connectivity with sidewalks and trails. There is also the question in terms of density on where you put it to make sure you are capturing the most amount of young folks and families as you can.

Kumka said the Minneapolis Park Board put together a wonderful skate park design study that looked at some of those questions. It depends on their age and if they are biking, if bike trails are available, or if they can safely walk to the park, etc. Kumka believes there are users that would be driven there by their parents. There is also a key demographic which is the fairly new independent teen that would be willing to jump on their bike and travel a bit of a distance to meet up with their friends and skate for a few hours. If they

have good connectivity, which our trails program is establishing, he thinks they could get kids coming from fairly far distances.

Jacobs asked what the collaboration is like with the City of Hopkins and the pavilion at Shady Oak. He also wondered what the collaboration would be like with the school.

Kumka answered that the pavilion at Shady Oak is a little confusing because we don't maintain the site and it would be trickier to coordinate. A certain drawback in terms of the coordination with Hopkins would be necessary if we were to deem that a site worth looking at closer. With the school, the key thing is that we currently maintain the ice rinks. We would have to enter into an agreement that we would be changing the use and changing our park programming to remove the ice skating rink in favor of a skateboard park. This is the first public viewing of this list of potential sites, so we would begin those conversations after this.

O'Dea said we do have a relationship with the City of Hopkins. We have a joint recreation department so we already work closely with them; he thinks they are a good partner. He thought we also have a good relationship with Hopkins School District. We've established those relationships but we would have to come to an agreement with either one of those if we were to choose those sites.

Wiersum commented that the pictures kind of point out that our current skate park is rather rudimentary and it could use some updating. He asked where they could look to see some of the latest and greatest skate parks in the region; similar to what they are intending on proposing.

Halsne thought the newest, latest and greatest in the area is the Shoreview Skate Park. That one is very nice and designed by a world-class skate park builder. He also recommended Elliot Skate Plaza in Minneapolis, which was built in recent years.

Kumka said the trend with these parks is that it's not so much a paved area where obstacles are dropped down, which is our current condition. They are doing a lot of innovation with concrete and the flowing nature of these concrete features. That way you can get long lines to skate and there are less obstacles in a flat space so people can be more artistic.

Wiersum said his takeaway was that some of those designs looked similar to snowboarding courses you would see on the X Games or the Olympics. Doing some of those moves on a skateboard would be pretty cool.

Durbin requested at the next presentation to include some details, photos and even videos of kids using these two similar skate parks. On the park board tour, they visited Eden Prairie and that was really cool. He has driven by the other skate parks but hasn't been able to stop at them. One thing he has noticed is that skateboard parks are populating when they look newer, but at Glen Lake, he has only seen one or two kids there in seven or eight years. He thought if it was newer and more modern it would be used a lot more frequently.

Kumka liked the idea of a video and seeing it in action.

Ingraham mentioned that at the last meeting, there was a possibility of taking out the equipment that is dangerous at the current site and doing a half-pipe idea. He wondered if that was still a quick fix for that site.

Kumka replied that staff has talked internally about what it would take to budget and build a temporary ramp essentially, but no decision has been made yet. We do need to revisit the safety issue out there and make sure it's at least not a hazard.

Ingraham was curious about the process because it sort of felt like they are on the road with this already. He questioned if there was a step where they kind of decide the use of those dollars relative to other possible uses; given it is a significant investment.

Gabler thought the process felt similar to the mountain bike trail, such as, a group of Minnetonka High School students presented in front of the park board. The project took a while but if you look at what the city has based on that, he thinks it's wonderful.

Wilburn was concerned with the Glen Lake site and having increased bicycle traffic coming from the south and having to cross Excelsior Blvd. She wondered what that would look like and whether we would need to have signals put in for safer crossing.

Kumka replied that staff would need to study how people would actually be getting to this site and where the safest crossings are. Between the Gold Nugget and the grocery store there is a flashed crossing. However, staff would need to study more closely where they would expect traffic to be coming from and make sure they don't have people crossing the road in improper spots. In the design phase, staff would need to study the parking, additional amenities and bathrooms to see what the impact of those sorts of things would be.

Durbin thought it felt parallel to what they did with the mountain biking project because of the excitement and feasibility in trying to see if something can work. They learned a lot about public engagement, being methodical and not rushing things knowing that public input and support are critical. He questioned if the park board has taken a vote to recommend this to city council yet. He believes this is possible and better than some ideas that have come to them but he recommends not rushing it.

Gabler spent a lot of time in Eden Prairie last year near the skate park for softball practices. He talked to some of the kids there and what impressed him was how respectful they were of the park and how much pride they took in the park. There was no garbage laying around the park or parking lot. He was impressed on how they treated it like it was their own.

Semersky explained that she regularly drives by the skate park in Eden Prairie and it is busy three seasons out of the year. It stuns her that it is a three season sport and not a one season sport.

O'Dea commented that this is in our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and we've brought that to the park board. The CIP gets presented to the park board in March or April and then it moves onto the city council. Staff has had this in there so we kind of got your blessing on approving the feasibility study. Since the 2023 CIP has been approved, some of the design has been approved too. In 2024, it is funded in our CIP in the Community Investment Fund but that doesn't mean things could change.

Walick added that one of the things mentioned in the plan was community outreach. They discovered with the mountain bike trail that community outreach was exceptionally important along with using various methods of it to get people's feedback. Make sure to give this its due diligence because people like to feel heard.

B. Park Habitat Restoration & Maintenance Plans

Natural Resources Manager Leslie Yetka and Kumka gave the report.

Schack commented that the completed work is noticeable and people have commented on it. In the matter of a very short amount of time, it is remarkable and she thinks more has been accomplished than she thought would be at this point. Schack thought the GIS feature was fantastic. The police department and community development have rolled it out and it has been very helpful for them as representatives to help folks understand what is going on. She thought this would be a wonderful application for the community to hopefully have access to.

Durbin seconded the GIS dashboard. You have to be able to show progress and if it is tooting your own horn, it is tooting your own horn. It also reduces staff having to answer a lot of questions because people can look at the data themselves in a very useable format.

Semersky asked how many parks will have restoration and management plans in the next year.

Kumka replied that staff will be tackling Purgatory Park and Hilloway Park this winter. We are trying not to overdo it and do too much.

Yetka said the current CIP does have a list by year of which parks are anticipated over the next five years. She explained that we can take this template and apply it to other parks we are working on. All of the parks where they are actively working should have a plan eventually. We want to put a lot of emphasis on the high-priority parks because they tend to be bigger and more complex. They have more people involved so they want to make sure they get this process and template correct. Then they can apply it to those bigger parks and use pieces of it on our smaller parks as they go.

Semersky added that it will be easier to replicate once you have it.

Calvert thought this approach was sensible and there was a lot of potential. It is a huge undertaking for your staff. She liked the use of technology and that staff is coming up with an actual process that is scalable and they can use elsewhere. She liked the criteria and is really excited to see what we are able to do. She's hoping this will become a template not just for us but for surrounding communities.

Calvert also mentioned that Purgatory Park has basically remnant prairie and when we talk about plant communities, we are really talking about habitat. The thing that drives her crazy in the way we talk about restoration is plant communities, but that's not what all of it is so she hopes we keep that in mind as we are doing this to raise awareness. She thinks there are species that some of the friends groups are particularly interested in making sure that we are supporting as we do this. When we are talking about reestablishing plant communities, there are some plant communities that they were happy with. She was

hoping that we can use plant communities that are truly native and will support native animal species and really create habitat that has not been able to sustain itself. We don't have the same environment that we did in pre-European settlement times so there aren't any buffalos and things to disturb the soil in the right ways, but maybe just try to recreate what we can to the best of our ability.

Calvert liked the work plan and that staff wanted to be flexible but try to stick with their basic goals. You never know what the future is going to bring and what grant monies are going to come your way.

Kirk thought it was brilliant and it was a nice presentation. He really appreciated the positive feedback received from the friends group and thought their engagement will be very important. One of the big concerns that comes up at Purgatory Park is the informal dog run that exists out there. He is curious how staff will handle things when the restoration efforts suddenly collide with current use.

Kumka explained that our process moving forward is that these restoration management plans are established for each park before we revisit the traditional master planning process. That would tackle things like active restoration or in Purgatory Park's case, a dog park. Once we have Purgatory Park's restoration and management plan set, we are going to start the master planning process. We are going to be looking at securing a consultant and doing a master planning process at Purgatory Park in 2023. That would tackle things like trails, parking, memorial benches, other human infrastructure and a dog park being a potentially controversial factor there.

Ingraham echoed the comments on the quality of the plan and just the general amount of collaboration that has been going on with natural resources and the various friends groups. He has sat in on a couple of the stewardship zoom calls and he has toured with some of the friend leaders for various parks. He thinks it's a significant improvement over the last couple of years in terms of the amount of cooperation and collaboration.

Ingraham continued that he would be remiss if he didn't also bring up the dog issue. He thinks several of you have been copied on emails from homeowners in the Purgatory Park area, one of them whom was attacked in her own home by an off-leash dog. We've talked a little bit at the park board meetings about the leash law because our current leash law is a little strange. If you read it, pets are not permitted on any developed areas, parks and trails. So if you walk your dog on-leash on a trail, based on the leash law commentary under animal control on our website you are violating that leash law. On the other hand, you can have your dog off-leash as long as it is under voice control anywhere in the city. Ingraham thought it would be a good thing to look at updating the leash law to make it more understandable. He recognizes that it's all about the dog owner and what the owner does. Ingraham is a dog owner who has his dog on a leash; if his dog is approached by an off-leashed dog, he can't respond that our leash law requires them to have their dog on a leash because of the way it is worded. One out of five responses to the POST Plan survey indicated they don't feel safe in the parks because of off-leash dogs. Also, the police department averages two calls a week for leash issues with dogs. He's not sure what the process is for updating it but he thought it was something we really should be looking at.

Wiersum thanked Ingraham for his comment and thought the leash law deserves to be looked at based on Ingraham's description. He thought Yetka and Kumka's presentation

was great and the dashboard is an outstanding tool. He has heard that we are doing a great job with the friends groups and it has been a long path but they are a real asset to our community and we are thankful they are there. Wiersum questioned if we have enough volunteers or if there are things staff could do to encourage more volunteers to get more done. He walked through Meadow Park the other day with one of the park stewards and he saw all the buckthorn that has been removed and thought it looked fantastic. When we got the POST Plan, it was troubling to him that so much of the great land that we have in Minnetonka is degraded and disturbed. We think it is beautiful but it's not really as beautiful in the way we would like it. Wiersum used to have a cabin in northern Wisconsin that had an association. Once a year, they would have a work day where they would plant trees, remove invasive species, etc. He wondered in terms of recruiting people to volunteer, if they had a Minnetonka Parks Day where literally hundreds of people came together as a community to volunteer in parks, if that would present potential recruits down the line. He wondered if staff thought they had enough volunteers or what their thoughts were on recruiting volunteers to do some of the bold things being talked about here.

Yetka said they could always use more volunteers. She would say volunteerism is up because of our friends groups. They are hosting more events that staff is helping them host in our parks. They are doing recruitments and are talking to people as they are using the parks. We have a new Minnetonka High School Environmental Club that has become active in our parks. Staff also routinely gets calls from different church groups or scouting groups who want to participate. Volunteerism as a whole is up and people are recognizing that there are opportunities. There is certainly more they can do though so having a volunteer day or having a more robust outreach effort for volunteerism is something that is definitely on their radar. Behind the scenes, they are developing some trainings so if they do get volunteers, they have trainings available for them to learn the skills they need to be successful in volunteering in our parks. They are putting in some of that groundwork to make it available to attract new volunteers. She thinks a volunteer day is great and is something they can put on their list of things to think about. Staff will certainly be continuing to try and find other ways try and recruit volunteers.

Wiersum thanked and congratulated Yetka because it is clear that the volunteerism in our parks is really working and is significant.

Yetka added that a nice feature from the dashboard is they should know the volunteer efforts, number of hours and the number of events. Those are all things that would be posted and they can see the numbers change in real time.

Kumka said the nature of the volunteerism is hopefully going to change from the buckthorn removal work to more sowing of native seed mixes or potential monitoring efforts in the parks such as: pollinator counts, bird counts, etc...

Durbin asked if we would consider having a volunteer day or weekend that is adjacent to earth day every year.

C. 2023 Projects Update

O'Dea gave the report.

Wilburn asked staff if they could look into having more accessible equipment for people with disabilities when they are looking at replacing playground equipment.

O'Dea responded that it is something they can look into and it is one of the lenses that staff looks at when replacing equipment. A group came to us a couple of years ago and asked that similar question. Now, when staff puts in new playground equipment, they make sure to look at the accessibility.

Kirk said technically ADA allows for shredded rubber but he questioned if we do poured-in-place.

Ellingson replied that we only have two parks that have poured rubber. There is a little bit of poured rubber at Sunrise Ridge Park and then with the upgrade at Meadow Park this year, we did a large poured rubber area around the 2-5 year olds play equipment. Aside from that, the wood mulch and the rubber mulches are technically considered accessible if you have a ramp to get from a sidewalk onto the fiber and it's a smooth transition. It is a little more challenging but technically it meets accessibility.

Kirk commented that it adds almost \$80,000 - \$100,000 to a project when you do poured-in-place, but he thought if we had a few of them that it may lift our accessibility.

Durbin asked if staff knew why there was so much difficulty with supply chain issues on the Ridgedale Commons project. He questioned if they didn't order in time or if they thought it didn't take as long as it did for supplies to come in. Durbin thought this was maybe a learned lesson for upcoming projects so it doesn't take as long and it can end a little bit closer to what was predicted.

O'Dea replied that they were aware of some supply chain issues but something that happened early in the project might've bumped three or four things down the line and the impact was definitely felt. An example of something else that happened was that they thought the lead time for electrical was three months and it ended up being six months. Ordering the standard ticket items were fine but the big ticket items and the unique items were backordered. As far as future projects, they will work with IT and building staff and look through plans to see if there is something they can identify early so they can get a head start on those.

Durbin thought of it as a contracting issue and suggested having penalties or rewards for finishing on time. That could motivate contractors to beat expectations or at the minimum meet expectations. He just thought of having something to push things along because this project has been in construction for way too long.

O'Dea replied that staff did not do that with his project. The scary part would be that the contractor may inflate their original price because they know that there are these issues.

Calvert mentioned in the current environment, half of the time, one of the reasons projects don't get finished is because they can't get the materials. Sometimes it isn't getting the work done and other times it's a supply chain issue that the contractor doesn't have control over. They are at the mercy of supply chain and inflation just like everybody else.

Funk commented that when you look at our plans for next year, remember that Yetka and Kumka are from a natural resources perspective and O'Dea and the recreation staff are more from the active side of it. From a budgeting standpoint, last year staff really looked into making sure that in our budgets and in our CIP, we separated out our more active costs to parks with playground equipment and some of those items compared to more of the passive side of our parks with natural resources. Before they got into the natural resources master planning, staff heard concerns about how much money the city was dedicating to more of the passive side of parks. From a budgetary standpoint, it was hard to differentiate that. Finance Director Darin Nelson looked at our CIP and he was flagging and tracking things differently so we could be more transparent in the sense of how much the city dedicates towards the active side of our parks versus the passive side. Staff now has that built in and he really appreciated all their comments in support for the upcoming work and making sure we have the dedicated funding to roll it out. All those three pieces came together last year and he thought you will see that work come to fruition.

Kirk thought one comment they still hear from the friends is that it takes both sides of the table when it comes to the heavy lifting.

D. Lone Lake Park Multi-Use Mountain Bike Trail Metrics

Assistant Recreation Director Sara Woeste gave the report on metrics.

Recreation Program Manager Jesse Izquierdo gave general trail updates.

Durbin thanked staff for the presentation but he thought they came to an agreement last year that they didn't need all this data collected. Their concern was that it took up too much of staff's time. He wanted to open that up for discussion because he didn't want to waste staff's time if there wasn't a requirement to do it.

Woeste mentioned that they don't usually make formal decisions at this meeting because it is more of a study session. Staff heard that feedback last year but they felt it was appropriate to do a report for at least another year. Staff will discuss whether they need to make any kind of formal recommendation on not giving this report in the future.

Durbin asked if there is a formal requirement to do this report.

Woeste explained that it was part of the approval process. Technically we would need to have some kind of action.

Durbin thought it should be an agenda item after staff discusses it so they can put a stop to it.

Wiersum remembered during the approval process, councilmember Mike Happe from Ward 3 made the comment, "nobody on the council wants to wreck the park." He then recommended taking a look at it every year to demonstrate that we are not wrecking the park with a bike trail. He thinks the report still has a role but would agree that after three or four years, it's not something that they need to continue with in as much detail.

Gabler thought what happens is that you get asked for the data when you don't have it, and you don't know when it's going to happen.

Calvert added that there are still community members who weren't happy about the trail being put in and they are still paying attention and communicating with the council. To the point that if we don't have the data, that's the data that they will ask for. They have read the agreements and they have memorized every work agreement, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). They are going to hold our feet to the fire if we don't do what we agreed to at the beginning but she totally agrees. As we get more comfortable, people will see that it is being handled responsibly. She thinks the need for this will diminish; there are probably certain data sets that we will still want to collect over time but some of this will get a little easier.

Ingraham complimented the volunteer effort. He hikes at Lone Lake Park usually three times a week and he is always impressed with how much work is put into maintaining the trail and improving the surrounding evasive species. Sometimes he comes across a limb that has fallen and it has already been taken care of by the next day. It is a great asset and all the hard work is really paying off.

Calvert noticed that our friends of mountain biking are still very engaged. She questioned how this year's volunteer hours compared to previous years. She was impressed with the number of hours the first year and thought it was almost twice as much as this year.

Woeste replied that last year we reported about a 1,000 hours of trail maintenance hours and 530 hours in restoration. However, we had construction in there and we were out there a lot.

Izquierdo reminded everyone that the three months leading up to the construction, groups were out there twice a week removing buckthorn from the corridor in order to expedite the building of the trail. When they actually built the mountain bike trail, they had volunteers out there four days a week, Monday through Thursday so it was consistent.

Calvert complimented staff on actually keeping track of which kinds of invasives are popping up and which ones are being kept at bay, such as stickseed. It was problematic but they're taking care of it. She thinks there is some value in being able to show that they were popping up and they were getting rid of it for these first few years. It's helpful for people read on page three that stickseed abundance was up but it was extensively pulled by MORC and staff.

Gabler said for the mountain bike folks, in his opinion, this is what the model of a public/private partnership should look like. He thought other communities could learn a lot by looking at how this was done.

Wiersum thanked everyone and thought the report was done well. He appreciated the opportunity to meet with the park board and the council. It's very impressive to hear how much work gets done in our parks by volunteers. As we look at amenities in our parks, only a small percentage of people use a skate park for a city of our size. However, we can't just have amenities that appeal to everyone, we want to have diverse amenities that appeal to small segments of our population because it contributes to the livability of our community. Our community survey gives us very high scores on livability. At the council meeting on Monday night, they listened to residents say that they are spending too much money, however, it is very gratifying to know that we are actually investing in our community and we are benefiting the lives of so many residents. He is proud of what we have done and thanked staff, volunteers and park board for doing a phenomenal job.

O'Dea thanked Durbin and Gabler who will be coming off the park board at the end of January. Durbin served six years and Gabler served eight years. They have been on the park board during slow and crazy times and we really appreciate your service.

5. Adjournment

Walick moved, Jacobs seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kline

Kathy Kline
Recreation Administrative Coordinator



**Minutes
Minnetonka Park Board
Wednesday, January 4, 2023**

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Park board members present: James Durbin, Chris Gabler, David Ingraham, Ben Jacobs, Katie Semersky, Isabelle Stroh. Excused: Corey Beyersdorf and Chris Walick.

Staff members in attendance: Ann Davy, Kathy Kline, Megan Mulligan, Kelly O'Dea, Sara Woeste and Leslie Yetka.

Chair Gabler called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

3. Reports from Staff

There were none.

4. Approval of Minutes

Semersky moved, Durbin seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes of Oct. 5, 2022 as submitted. Jacobs abstained. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

5. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda

John Mirocha from The Friends of Minnetonka Parks gave a presentation on work completed in 2022 and their work plan for 2023.

Gabler questioned what their organization's plan is to remain relevant over the next few years.

Mirocha replied that the community has an interest and there is a great sense of satisfaction on working in the parks. The friends did a YouTube video that is posted on their webpage and it asked people why they volunteer. Their replies were that they like to work, like working with people and they are self-motivated.

Stroh asked what their plan is on recruiting students from the surrounding high schools.

Mirocha thought the high school students contacted Natural Resources Manager Leslie Yetka with some questions and the link was made that way.

Marie Versen requested putting pickleball lines on tennis courts after they get resurfaced to make pickleball more available to beginners and families. Pickleball is the best way to get exercise without knowing it, a great way to meet new people and it's a good way to have the community come together. Some issues about Lone Lake Park is that it is always busy because it draws people in from everywhere, people end up waiting a long time for their turn, the level of play has gotten so intense and that environment makes it hard for

beginners and families to participate. The tennis courts at Junction Park are scheduled to be resurfaced soon and she suggested painting pickleball lines. The court would be around two feet short but she thought that would be great for beginners and families. People could purchase their own nets and bring them to the park. Junction Park has a parking lot that holds 10 vehicles and there are few homes that are close to the courts so she thought that would be a good place to try it.

Ingraham thought he just saw an email about public meetings for Junction Park and one other park for pickleball.

Recreation Director Kelly O'Dea responded that ironically this is in the information items tonight. Linner and Junction Parks are the two parks that have tennis courts that are scheduled for resurfacing. We are planning on having neighborhood meetings for both parks on January 24. Notices will go out to the neighborhood probably next week.

Versen wasn't aware that you will be talking about it.

O'Dea said it was very ironic that you are here tonight because we had that in the packet. Historically we haven't put pickleball courts in neighborhood parks mostly because of the noise and parking. The park board and the city council have said that staff should look into having pickleball courts at some neighborhood parks. If there is only one court, there probably won't be a lot of people there and we probably won't get some advanced players. The plan is to meet with the neighborhoods to see if there are different layouts for resurfacing the tennis courts to put in pickleball courts.

Versen said she has measured it and it will work.

O'Dea said we just have to figure out what works best in some locations because it is always nice to have multi-use facilities.

Versen said her neighbors want to play pickleball but feel as though they can't go to Lone Lake Park due to their abilities. She thought it would be fun for neighborhoods to have more pick-up games.

O'Dea said our plan is to send out notices next week to people within 500-600 feet of the park and then have a neighborhood meeting so people can discuss it.

Durbin said it is interesting to hear what you said about Lone Lake Park. We knew it was going to be popular. He thought we built the courts right at Lone Lake Park. There are noise complaints but he feels it's ok to have noise at parks. There are some silent parks and there are some parks that are going to have a lot of activity and noise. He was against creating a pickleball court that is two feet short, he suggested putting in a regulation size court.

6. Special Matters

There were none.

7. Business Items

A. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

O'Dea gave the report.

Jacobs nominated Walick.

Durbin mentioned that Walick has missed three park board meetings this year and thought they may want to consider that.

Jacobs moved, Ingraham seconded a motion to approve Walick as park board chair.
Durbin abstained. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

Ingraham moved, Semersky seconded a motion to approve Jacobs as vice-chair. Durbin abstained. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

B. Review of 2022 Farmers Market Operations

Recreation Superintendent Ann Davy gave the report.

Ingraham questioned if the produce market bucks are funded through the city.

Davy answered that they are funded through the Department of Agriculture.

Durbin thought it will be interesting to see what happens the first year of the farmers market at Ridgedale Commons. It might take a while for people to migrate to the new location but maybe you can get a different population. He wouldn't worry too much if the numbers aren't as successful as past years because they will be.

Jacobs asked if the space at Ridgedale Commons is similar to the Ice Arena parking lot.

Davy replied that we aren't really sure. Bonnie Hannah-Powers, the former manager of the farmer's market put together a layout and she thought we could get pretty close to the same amount of vendors. The one issue this year will be that vendors can't sell out of their vehicles because they can't drive into the space. That is a little bit of a hiccup and we are curious to see how well that is going to work.

Semersky questioned if they kept their extra inventory in their vehicles.

Davy responded yes. There are a couple different spaces that we could use at the new location. There is kind of the winding patio area and there is a grassy area that can kind of be overflow from the main plaza area.

Ingraham asked if the market is allowed to use any of the adjacent parking spaces next to the park.

Davy replied that vendors can't sell out of their vehicles from those spaces; it has to be done in the park.

Jacobs thought they talked about the vendors doing an exit survey last year. He questioned if we did one and if there was any information on that. He also wondered if there was a high turnover since there were 20 returning vendors and 30 new vendors.

Davy commented that staff did do a survey last year. We aren't having a high turnover and people actually seek out our market. At the winter market she heard this is kind of the place to be. We got really good feedback and she anticipates that there is still going to be a lot of interest in participating.

Gabler asked why they are moving the market to Ridgedale Commons.

Davy responded that it has always been kind of tricky having it at the ice arena parking lot. That is due to parking being an issue when there is a popular band playing during Music in the Park, the ice arena offers programs in the evenings, and people don't like walking down the hill to the market.

C. Review of 2022 Shady Oak Beach Operations

Aquatics and Inclusion Services Manager Megan Mulligan gave the report.

Durbin thought it was ingenious that the city paid for lifeguard training because you are competing with every beach and pool in the west metro. He worries that the lifeguards are now free agents so they could go anywhere. He questioned how staff planned on keeping these employees.

Mulligan answered that in order to get paid training, lifeguards had to commit to working the whole season. She also allows lifeguards to work up to 48 hours a week versus 40. A lot of places cap their summer positions at 40 hours. Returning staff get a pay increase, which is a step system so they will get a step up in pay from last year. We provide sunscreen, which is important for lifeguards. Based off staff feedback, they love working there because of the friendships they make, being able to work outside and that Shady Oak Beach is a great place. She hears that from probably 100 percent of the staff.

Durbin asked when training can start for new lifeguards. He also wondered if they do pool training first or what the training process is.

Mulligan said they do the full lifeguard certification which is about 32 hours in the pool, there is an additional waterfront certification that's an extra five to six hours and then there is Shady Oak Beach specific certification. They try to get that done in May but it's a little bit harder with school schedules. That is why the end of May and June are really important times for training. When school ends is usually the same week the beach opens and we kind of have trouble with that. Last year, Minnetonka and Hopkins schools didn't end until around June 9 so they had to train all of the new lifeguards at the end of June to get them ready for the July schedule.

Durbin added that with the unguarded hours, sometimes people don't realize that and they just drop off their kids at the beach. They might just assume that there are lifeguards there. Staff can advertise it but that doesn't mean that people are actually looking at it. Sometimes the absence of feedback doesn't mean that people don't care. Shady Oak Beach is always a cool place to go. It's a solid Minnetonka and Hopkins partnership.

Semersky asked if the operating cost was budgeted or if that was typical.

O'Dea said it is fairly typical. The cost to run that program is not a breakeven, we definitely have to spend money. This year, he thought the expenditures were a little bit

higher due to staff levels and competing with St. Louis Park and Edina. The additional expenditures could be due to paying lifeguards 16 to 17 dollars an hour.

Stroh asked what happens in August when people start leaving for college. Do you train more lifeguards for the August season?

Mulligan replied that is why we close early and don't stay open until Labor Day; all of our staff are essentially gone by mid-August. Since she has been there, they haven't really ran into the issue because they schedule the whole summer out. Everyone is aware of their schedule so there is room to kind of plan ahead if we need extra lifeguards on shift. They can work with a skeleton lifeguard staff but they would have to work a little longer hours. Since she has been here, it hasn't been an issue with people leaving the first two weeks in August. We've stayed open fully with lifeguards all the way until the end of the season.

Ingraham wondered because this is a joint Minnetonka and Hopkins program if Minnetonka absorbs the operating loss or if that is a shared loss.

O'Dea said the total budget is shared with Hopkins, two-thirds from Minnetonka and one-third from Hopkins.

Ingraham asked if this is our share of the loss for the total program.

O'Dea said yes.

Ingraham asked if the attendance numbers for 2018 and 2019 correct.

O'Dea thought that was due to our software because we've changed the way we count passes.

8. Park Board Member Reports

Gabler thanked staff for the last eight years and he doesn't think people realize how hard you work. Everything that staff brings forward and the information they received is as professional as any organization he has worked with and better than 95 percent of them. He appreciated the other members who served because it's a big commitment but it's also rewarding. Minnetonka should be proud of what we have for parks, the services and the programming we offer. It's been fun, thank you very much.

Durbin said he was told that this was the fun board and commission to serve on and it was a lot of fun. He really appreciated the work staff puts in to give them information and help them make really good decisions. Looking back at the past six years, we have done a lot of really cool things for the city. His pet peeve was recycling in the parks and he thanks Street and Park Operations Manager Darin Ellingson for doing that so he could retire from the board. Serving with other people from Minnetonka was a lot of fun and it was a great way to meet people. He is still friends with people who aren't currently on the board which he thought was really cool. Thanks for the opportunity.

O'Dea thanked both of them and appreciated their service. A couple of years ago when COVID hit, we really found out how important parks and trails were in Minnetonka. The work you do is important and he appreciates it.

Ingraham thanked Gabler and Durbin because he has learned a lot about what is going on here and appreciated their service. One of his pet peeves is this situation with dogs in our parks. The POST Plan survey showed that 20 percent of all of our residents responded they don't feel safe in the parks because of dogs. We get increasingly more negative interactions taking place probably because they are getting more use. He requested scheduling a review of our leash law ordinance. In the western suburbs, we are the only one that doesn't have a clear ordinance saying dogs must be leashed.

O'Dea commented that he has been communicating with Ingraham as well as Park and Trail Project Manager Matt Kumka who will be in charge of the Purgatory Park Master Plan. Initially staff was thinking that plan would lead into the existing conditions out there and they would hear about the issues with dogs. Ingraham's request is to maybe push this up a couple months. What we are talking about is the park ordinance, which would go through the park board and then go to the city council. He is also anticipating that we would want to have a fair amount of community engagement because this is probably somewhat of a hot topic. The question is, do we want to push this up a couple of months or do we wait for the Purgatory Park Master Plan knowing the dog issue will come up probably mid-study.

Gabler suggested tackling it sooner rather than later. He sees a lot of posts on Nextdoor about dogs at Purgatory Park.

Ingraham added that a lot of the issue is dog owners. Purgatory Park gets the most baggage but it could be in any park. Purgatory Park has a solution potentially to redirect all the dogs if we can do that and get an actual dog park. However, that wouldn't change the fact that people are still using the trails without a clear understanding of what is expected from their dog.

Gabler thought you would get a lot more buy-in if the issue was dealt with early as you are going into Master Planning. He is gathering from people that it is everywhere, not just at Purgatory Park.

Jacobs said it will take time because it's a big change.

Durbin said Ingraham gave a really good break down about this at the joint meeting. Ingraham has voiced his concern and he is going to keep it up. We historically haven't dealt with this very well for like 20 years so it's probably time we need to. There are multiple staff members that would need to be involved and it's almost bringing that kind of meeting together so they can discuss it internally.

Ingraham commented that he is looking for clarification on who would be involved. With his review of the city code, so far the only place he has found reference to dogs and dog

leashing is under park regulations. One would think the police would be part of it and enforcing it. Starting with the park board is probably the right place to start and then we can involve the police if needed.

O'Dea said the last time we reviewed the park regulations, which included issues with animals was in 2017. Every department in the city had a representative go over the regulations and they suggested changes. That was more of a clean-up and the language probably hasn't been changed in years. This would be changing one of the rules so it would be a little different than cleaning up the language. There are probably going to be a lot of dog owners who feel as though they like it the way it is and maybe are opposed to change.

Ingraham replied that it could be very loud but you would be surprised by how many dog owners will be supportive of a change to make it clear.

Assistant Recreation Director Sara Woeste questioned Ingraham if he would like a review of the ordinance and be more educated or if he wanted a decision made.

Ingraham responded that he is ready to propose that we eliminate off-leash unless it is a true off-leash designated area. Purgatory Park doesn't really fit that because the areas that they need to be leashed are adjacent to the unleashed areas. That is an unusual situation because it's not an isolated area that you can avoid. People are even letting their dogs bolt out of the back of the vehicles in the parking lots. He has gone through all the western suburban cities and there is no other city that has voice command, they all clearly designate that dogs must be leashed at all times.

Semersky asked if cities near us have designated dog parks.

Ingraham replied that not all of them have them. Edina and Eden Prairie reference that dogs have to be on a leash unless it is in a designated dog area. He doesn't believe that Excelsior has a dog park but they clearly say that you can't have an animal unleashed at any time.

Semersky thought they needed education on the topic regarding the current situation. It sounds like our scope would be focused on the park regulations or park ordinance. If there is other written language within the city, she would like to see that and go over everything together.

Durbin said when they talked about the inception of Ridgedale Commons, there was a special breakout group that had a representative from the park board, representative from the city council, city manager, assistant city manager, recreation staff and community development staff. That group just talked and started hashing everything out and he would recommend doing that. His recommendation is that the city manager should put together a monthly meeting and bring a park board member, city council member or anybody else of interest on a board to start working through this because it is going to take a year.

Ingraham responded to Woeste's question and said that he has reviewed police stats, everything on the website and what neighboring cities do. Our parks are a real treasure and if one in five residents say they don't feel safe in the parks because of dogs, to him that is a call to action. He recognizes that we can change the language but it's up the owner to follow the rules. It would at least make a statement by the city that we take this seriously and maybe he would stop getting letters forwarded to him from people with good justifying reasons to why this should be changed. He would feel good knowing that we are taking some action to move forward on something.

Woeste responded that staff does want to address this ordinance. We can either deal with this as a dog only issue in the next three months or deal with it during the Purgatory Park Master Plan in the next six months. During the Purgatory Park Master Plan, we are going to get a lot of feedback because it will go through a public process and the feedback will likely say that there is a dog issue. If the outcome is that the public wants a fenced in dog park, then we think there needs to be a change to the ordinance. That allows us to say that they are getting something but we are taking away something. The real issue is at Purgatory Park so we'll go through that process and then you can review the ordinance.

Ingraham replied that an alternative could be to have it paralleled. We could build a dog park but then also change the leash law ordinance.

Woeste said we would look at the ordinance overall.

O'Dea added that staff will bring some education about this in February. They can look at the park regulations and he believes animal control is also included. He also suggested staff talk to Kumka to see if there is a way to move the dog topic into the first part of the Purgatory Park Master Plan process. That might shift it a month or two earlier.

Ingraham thought that was a good approach. He encouraged people to scan Nextdoor and look at the dog comments. It's remarkable how most of the feedback he was reading is from dog owners; they do not want to walk their dog in a park anymore. They gave examples about how their dog was attacked in a park. The Nextdoor commentary tends to be dog owners that are trying to be in the leashed areas but they are being harassed by loose dogs.

Semersky said it is easy to do searches in Nextdoor so it shouldn't be too hard to find.

O'Dea asked if there is anything we can do right now to help the issue out at Purgatory Park.

Semersky commented that her son had a map but he didn't know what maintained and unmaintained were. Maybe there could be a map that is easier to read and is clearer where dogs have to be leashed or unleashed.

Ingraham commented that there are portions of the park where maintained areas are right next to unmaintained areas. An example is if you were entering the park from Stadola Road

and you go over the bridge, the next quarter to a third of a mile has the maintained trail within 20 feet of the unmaintained trails. That is asking a lot of an off-leash dog in the unmaintained area not to go into the maintained area when it sees another dog there. If you ran a fence along the edge of that trail, it would at least avoid dogs bolting out of there.

Durbin asked if community service officers or other staff go out to Purgatory Park to educate people. A lot of people might not even understand that something is wrong.

O'Dea said they are out there but he doesn't know how often and how much they are educating. They struggle in certain areas because they don't know if it is maintained or not and it is a grey area. They are just trying to figure out the best approach, timing and the best way to tackle it.

9. Information Items

Winter-Spring Program Registration

Woeste gave the report.

Burwell Spooktacular

Woeste gave the report.

Neighborhood Meetings Scheduled

O'Dea discussed the neighborhood meetings under "Citizens Wishing to Discuss Something not on the Agenda."

10. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

O'Dea gave the report.

11. Adjournment

Jacobs moved, Durbin seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kline

Kathy Kline
Recreation Administrative Coordinator

**Minnetonka Park Board Item 7A
Meeting of February 1, 2023**

Subject:	Skate Park Feasibility Final Study
Park Board related goal:	To provide quality athletic and recreational facilities and programs
Park Board related objective:	Receive and provide input and guidance on the skate park feasibility study
Brief Description:	Presentation on the final Skate Park Feasibility Study

Background

In early 2021, a group of residents approached the Minnetonka Park Board inquiring about a new or updated skate park. The city currently owns one skate park, located in Glen Lake off of Excelsior Boulevard. This 20-year-old skate park is an older style skate park and is not heavily used.

The results of the 2019 Community Facility & Programming Space Study indicated an increase in participation levels for skateboarding. The recent update to the Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Plan lists a skate park as a future priority initiative. An increased interest in non-traditional sports, such as skateboarding, have occurred recently. The Minnetonka Park Board and staff have received numerous requests for updated amenities related to skate boarding, along with estimated costs. The next step in the project would be to start design of a new or renovated skate park in spring 2023, with construction beginning the following year.

Summary

To identify the most appropriate spot for a new or renovated skate park in the City, staff and consultants have performed a series of site inspections and have created a detailed site analysis process. Guided by POST Plan, and the Natural Resources Master Plan (NRMP) two levels of site selection criteria have been created. The first level of site selection for further analysis included considerations such as ownership status, overall size available, and site conditions such as topography. This led to a “feasible” ranking for 11 sites throughout the city, with some caveats. These 11 sites then moved on to a second level of site selection criteria including elements such as accessibility, surrounding land use, supporting amenities, safety, and environmental sustainability.

Through the site selection process three sites were identified for further analysis after applying a detailed scoring rubric. The sites include Glen Lake Activity Center area, the Shady Oak Pavilion area, and the Glen Lake Elementary ice skating rink area. These three sites have preliminary site layouts included in the final feasibility study.

A version of the Skate Park Feasibility Study was uploaded onto Minnetonka Matters for public feedback during the months of December and January. The results of this initial feedback will be presented as well as an overview of the final study with a recommendation to move ahead with the Glen Lake Activity site for final design. Further neighborhood level feedback will be made available at the earliest stages of site design.

Recommended Park Board Action

Receive the presentation of the Skate Park Feasibility study and recommend approval of the Glen Lake Activity Center site to the city council as the location for final site design.

Attachments

- Skate Park Feasibility Study

SKATEPARK FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT

JANUARY 26
20
23



City of Minnetonka



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CHAPTER 1

SKATEPARK DEVELOPMENT

WHAT IS A SKATEPARK?

Skateparks are unique recreational facilities that provide the action sports community a safe place to ride. These facilities serve a breadth of users that include skateboarders, BMX riders, scooter riders, roller skaters, and more.

Skateparks come in all shapes and sizes, and should be designed to fit the needs of the community and its location. For this reason, skatepark projects should both start and end with extensive public engagement and outreach.

Skateparks also function as dynamic public spaces that are both physically and socially engaging. Because skateboarding and other action sports only require yourself and a small piece of equipment, these activities are practiced by people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds. In the communal space of the skatepark, this broad range of individuals come together and bond over a shared passion for their sport.

“Skateparks encourage youth to develop healthy, active lifestyles. Research shows that skateboarding and the communities that form at skateparks help young people build connections that benefit their socio-emotional wellbeing. Skateparks are also havens of diversity, where youth of all backgrounds gather and connect through their common love of the sport.” - Tony Hawk

WHY IS THIS STUDY IMPORTANT?

While skatepark users permeate all of our communities, skateparks have historically been overlooked as a vital recreational facility needed in every park system. Other facilities like basketball courts, baseball fields, and playgrounds are treated as a given within park system planning, while skateparks almost always require strong voices and engagement from civilian advocates to make them happen.

This feasibility study is an important step in providing the Minnetonka community with the skatepark facilities that they need and deserve. In this early phase it's important to create a foundation of understanding around development best practices and terminology. This chapter will cover the most important tenants of skatepark development, many of which are sourced from the **Public Skatepark Development Guide**, the foremost resource for people working to build public skateparks. For those seeking additional information, you can find the full guide linked in the appendix.

SKATEPARK CHARACTERISTICS

While no skatepark is the same, they all have a few common ingredients that lead to their long-term success. According to the Skatepark Development Guide, skatepark projects should strive to have the following characteristics:

1. Free to Use

The skatepark has no fee, waiver, or residency requirements to visit and use.

2. Concrete

The skatepark is permanent and created using durable materials.

3. Walkable

The skatepark is near the geographic center of the community it is meant to serve

4. Made by Specialists

The skatepark is designed and built by experienced skatepark professionals.

5. Community-led

The skatepark is directed and advanced by community action.

6. Inclusive and Diverse

The skatepark encourages different kinds of users, particularly BMX and scooters, and programs, particularly learn-to-skate workshops and park clean-up days.

SKATEPARK OCCUPANCY & ACCESS

When locating a new skatepark within a community, it's important to understand the **skatepark service area**. This is defined as the geographic range that your skatepark is intended to support. In the scope of this study, our future skatepark is intended to serve the whole of Minnetonka. As of 2022, the estimated population is approximately 53,000 residents.

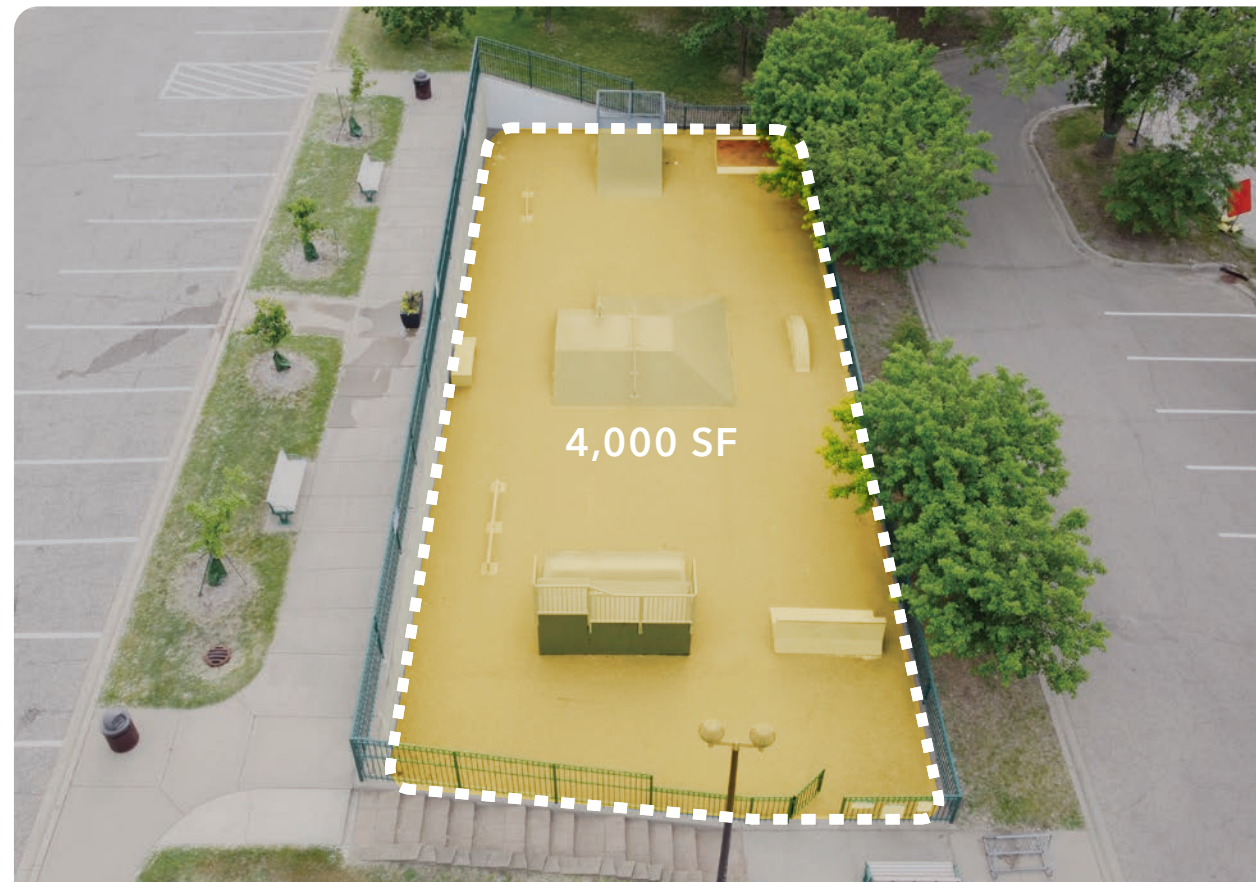
There are numerous ways to determine how much skatepark space is needed to adequately serve a population of people. Below are a few of the industry recommended methods for calculating needed skatepark space:

- > For each 25,000 residents, 10,000 square feet of skatepark space is required
- > Service area population X 0.414 = total square feet required (53,000 X 0.414 = **21,730 sf**)
- > One skatepark for every neighborhood

Skatepark service calculations show that the City of Minnetonka should have around 20,000 square feet of skatepark space.

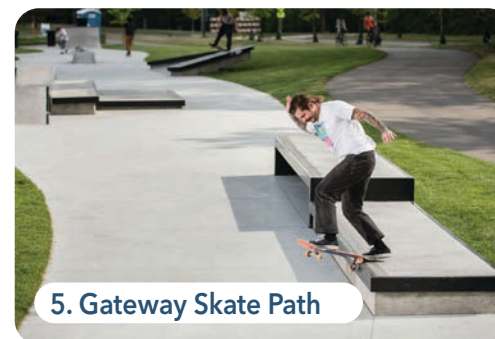
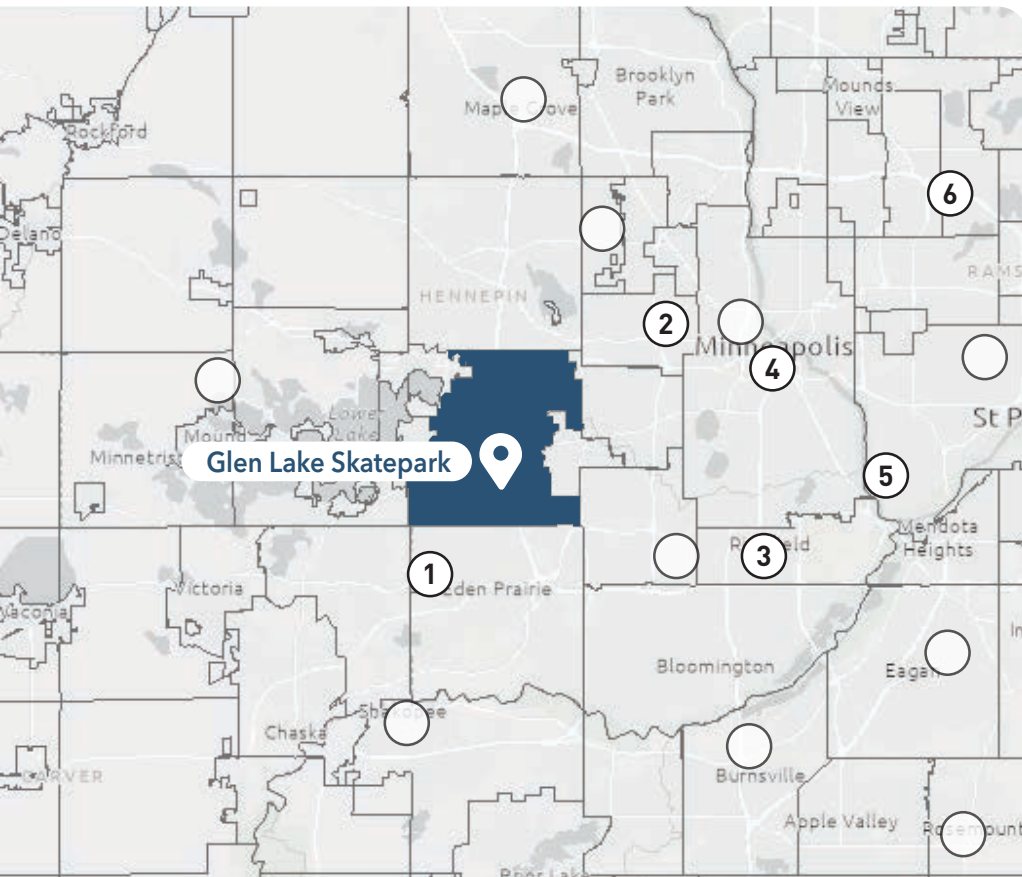
The current skatepark at the Glen Lake Activity Center is around 4,000 square feet, only meeting 20% of the communities need.

EXISTING SKATEPARK AT THE GLEN LAKE ACTIVITY CENTER



REGIONAL SKATEPARK CONTEXT

When locating a skatepark it is also important to be aware of other skateparks in the region. Seen below are the locations of cast-in-place concrete skateparks (the modern standard) within the vicinity of Minnetonka. Having an understanding of what these facilities offer in terms of size and style helps to better inform the skatepark development process. The featured skateparks shown are good examples of modern, high-quality projects for which the City of Minnetonka should aspire to create.



SKATEPARK TYPOLOGIES

There is no "official standard" for how skateparks are described, but they are most typically categorized based on their **size** and **style**. When striving to locate and build a new skatepark, knowing the basic terminology helps to get everyone on the same page when describing what they want or don't want in a new park.

In Chapter 4 of this study, certain styles will be referenced as being particularly suited to a site. While it is good to draw design inspiration for the project location, the desired style of features should be determined through community engagement efforts. When it comes to size, as covered on the previous page, the City of

Minnetonka should strive to have around 20,000 square feet of skatepark space. This means that either a **Regional Skatepark** be developed at a single location, or that **multiple skateparks of a smaller size** be considered for development. The availability of sites and the practical goals of the City will ultimately determine the final approach.

STYLE

STREET / PLAZA

Street / plaza parks are the favorite of the vast majority of skaters and they are designed to emulate and improve upon the street skating experience. Obstacles in a street plaza are styled to look like natural street terrain such as stairs, railings, planters and benches. Skaters will push off with their feet to gain momentum in a street plaza.



TRANSITION

Transition style parks are designed to emulate and improve upon the pool skating experience. Skaters in transition parks can move around without taking their feet off the board to push. Curved walls allow skaters to ride around and across space in addition to the back and forth skating you might see on a traditional half pipe. Transition parks come in an endless variety of shapes and sizes.



FLOW / HYBRID

Flow / hybrid parks combine elements of both transition parks and street plazas. In a well designed flow park a skater can pump around the parks curved walls such as quarter pipes, pump bumps and bowl corners without taking their feet off to push. They can use that speed to hit street obstacles such as stairs, railings and benches.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

There is a wealth of information about skatepark development best practices available to the public. To learn more within this realm or please utilize the following materials. Also included are resources related to skateparks in Minnesota and Skatepark plans developed by City / Park Board organizations:

Public Skatepark Development guide

Website

> <https://publicskateparkguide.org/>

Guidebook

> <https://www.skatepark.org/uploads/PSDG-PDF.pdf>

The Skatepark Project

> <https://skatepark.org/start/>

Minneapolis Skatepark Activity Plan

> https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/_asset/dknrfm/skate_park_activity_plan.pdf

Best MN Skateparks

> <https://skatethestates.com/best-skateparks-in-minnesota/>

City of Skate

> <https://cityofskate.org/>

SIZE

SKATE SPOT

< 5,000 square feet

Skate spots are the smallest building block in a community-wide system of skateparks. They can be purpose-built, built for other purposes and re-purposed and sanctioned for skateboarding, or purpose-built structures that utilize adjacent non-skateboarding structures.



NEIGHBORHOOD SKATEPARK

5,000 - 20,000 square feet

Neighborhood skateparks can adequately serve a population up to 25,000 residents. They are generally a mix of terrain styles and provide some comfort amenities. A neighborhood skatepark of average size and quality design can serve as many as 60 simultaneous users.



REGIONAL SKATEPARK

> 20,000 square feet

The regional skatepark is primarily defined by its large size and capacity to handle crowds. They are often the goal of communities looking to create an ambitious, impressive facility.



CHAPTER 2 | SITE SELECTION

AN EXTENSION OF THE PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS (POST) SYSTEM PLAN

The Skatepark Feasibility Study Report is in response to resident requests to the Park Board and an outcome of the City of Minnetonka POST System Plan. As such, a site that is feasible for skatepark development must be in-line with the POST plan's mission and guiding principles.

As it relates to the goals of this study, the POST mission and guiding principles have been built upon to create site specific and skatepark specific criteria that can be used to determine the feasibility of potential locations. Find the skatepark feasibility criteria on the following page.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Minnetonka Parks, Open Space and Trail System Plan is to be leaders in providing a welcoming, comprehensive and balanced system of high quality parks, natural areas, trails and programs for all to enjoy.

POST SYSTEM PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Reference the POST System Plan Chapters 04 and 05 for full principles



ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY



PROVIDE CONNECTIONS TO PARKS, TRAILS AND PROGRAMS



PROMOTE COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS



PROMOTE EQUITY AND INCLUSION



SUPPORT EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

SKATEPARK FEASIBILITY CRITERIA: LEVEL 1 REQUIREMENTS

What qualities make a site feasible for skatepark development? Beyond feasibility, what qualities make a site *exceptional* for skatepark development and meets the specific goals of Minnetonka?

To answer this question, the design team developed feasibility criteria to identify sites and evaluate their potential. This process builds upon the POST System Plan, utilizes skatepark development best practices, and integrates insights from city staff. The first layer of criteria, or level 1, evaluates whether a site meets the most basic requirements for development. All sites should either be owned by the City of Minnetonka, able to be acquired without significant challenges, or have a partnership opportunity with the property owner. In order to meet the amount of skatepark space required for the city's population, the site should also be large enough to support a regionally sized skatepark. Considering the available site opportunities, this study defines that range as at least 17,500 square feet of total skateboarding space. Lastly, the physical conditions of the landscape should not pose significant construction challenges or lead to an unsustainable development.

OWNERSHIP

Is the land owned by the City of Minnetonka?

- yes
- no

If no, can the property be feasibly acquired or a partnership created?

- likely
- possible
- unlikely

If unlikely, the site is not feasible.

SIZE

Does the site allow for the development of a regional sized skatepark? (approx. 17,500sf)

- yes
- no

If no, what size skatepark would be appropriate?

- neighborhood scale (5,000 - 17,500 sf)
- skate-spot (<5,000 sf)

If the site does not allow for regional sized development, it will not be explored in-depth within this study.

SITE CONDITIONS

How well do the physical characteristics of the site support skatepark development?

Consider the following:

- > topography
- > soils and water table
- > required earthwork
- > site removals
- > access to existing storm sewer
- > significant utility conflicts

the site is...

- great
- good
- workable
- challenging
- very challenging

If the site is challenging or very challenging, it may not be feasible for development.

PRELIMINARY SITE OPTIONS:

With the level 1 criteria in mind, potential site options for skatepark development were sourced from city staff, recommendations from past community outreach, conversations with city community development staff, and through the design teams exploration of existing park land. The following sites were all visited in person to further explore their potential for development and are processed through the level 1 criteria in Figure 2A.

* Glen Lake Skatepark and the Glen Lake Park Playground, while too small on their own to meet a regional size, is considered a feasible site option if they are both developed as skatepark space. Moving forward in this study these sites will be considered together and referred to as the Glen Lake Activity Center Sites.

** The Ridgedale iFly Parcel site could make for a feasible skatepark development, but is not big enough to facilitate a regional skatepark. This site could be considered for future development of skatepark space in the city.

	SITE LOCATION	OWNERSHIP	SIZE	SITE CONDITIONS
FEASIBLE	Civic Center Fields + Play Area 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ good
	Glen Lake Elementary School 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ no, partnership possible	✓ yes	✓ challenging
	Glen Lake Park Playground 14212 Excelsior Blvd	✓ yes	✓ yes* 11,000 sf	✓ great
	Glen Lake Skatepark 14350 Excelsior Blvd	✓ yes	✓ yes* 4,000 sf	✓ good
	Gro Tonka Park 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ great
	McKenzie Park 14950 McKenzie Blvd	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ workable
	Meadow Park 2725 Oakland Rd, Minnetonka	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ workable
	Minnetonka Middle School East 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ no, partnership possible	✓ yes	✓ great
	Ridgedale Snow Storage Parcel 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ no, acquisition needed	✓ yes	✓ great
	Shady Oak Pavilion Area 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ workable
NOT FEASIBLE	The Marsh Site / Civic Center 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ no, acquisition needed	✓ yes	✓ good
	Minnetonka Drive Parcel 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ yes	✓ yes	✗ challenging
	Ridgedale iFly Parcel 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ no, acquisition needed	✗ no** 11,000 sf	✓ great
	Royals Drive Parcel 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ yes	✗ no 10,000 sf	✗ very challenging

Figure 2A - Level 1 Site Option Evaluation

SKATEPARK FEASIBILITY CRITERIA: LEVEL 2, FINDING THE BEST SITES

After meeting Level 1 requirements, potential skatepark sites are evaluated for how they meet more in-depth criteria that's specific to skatepark development in Minnetonka. Referred to as Level 2, these criteria investigate questions around site ownership, accessibility, land use context, environmental sustainability, supporting amenities, and for how they create a safe environment.

Within each of these categories are a series of questions which either give or take away points. After going through this process, sites have a quantifiable score for how their characteristics create the conditions for a great skatepark development site. In some instances, characteristics are more important than others and are given more weight. For example, having a connection to a trail receives more points than being within 0.50 miles of a major roadway. This is because a large percentage of skatepark users would more easily access the skatepark by board or bike, while vehicular access is more broadly achieved.

Each feasible site from the Level 1 criteria is processed through the Level 2 system in figure 2B on page 20.

OWNERSHIP

- +2 Is the land owned by the City of Minnetonka?
- +0 Would the land require partnership with the owner?
- 3 Would the land require an acquisition?

ACCESSIBILITY

- +2 Is the site connected to or near a paved trail?
- +2 Is the site within an 'area of need' per the POST System Plan?
- +2 Is the site centrally located in the city?
- +1 Is the site <0.50 mile from a major roadway?

LAND USE

- +2 Would development transform an otherwise underutilized parcel?
- +1 Would a skatepark feel compatible with it's surrounding land uses? In other words, does it 'fit in'.
- +1 Would development as a skatepark bring vitality / spur other investment?
- 1 Would existing park amenities need to be removed and relocation nearby is not possible?
- 1 Would a skatepark potentially disturb surrounding residences?

SAFETY

- +2 Are there additional regular activities surrounding the site?
- +1 Would the site be highly visible and easily surveilled?
- +1 Would the site feel safe for all age groups to use?
- 3 Would the site feel isolated or secluded from the public eye?

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- +1 Does the site support the development of stormwater management features?
- +1 Does the site afford other opportunities for sustainable development?
- 1 Does the site require significant tree removal or disturbance of high quality natural resources?

SUPPORTING AMENITIES

- +1 Does the site have sufficient parking?
- +1 Does the site have restrooms, water fountains, or other existing amenities?

THE BEST SITES: OPTIONS FOR ANALYSIS

Having reviewed sites through the in-depth, skatepark-specific criteria we can see which stand out as the most exceptional for development. The top four sites will be further analyzed in Chapter 3 to uncover which are most worth conceptual exploration.

	SITES FOR ANALYSIS										
	<i>possible points</i>	Glen Lake Activity Center Sites	Shady Oak Pavilion Area	Glen Lake Elementary School	Ridgedale Snow Storage Parcel	Meadow Park	The Marsh Site / Civic Center	Minnetonka Middle School East	Gro Tonka Park	Civic Center Fields + Play Area	McKenzie Park
ACCESSIBILITY	+7	5	3	7	5	4	5	5	3	5	2
Is the site connected to or near a trail?	+2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0
is the site within an 'area of need' per the POST System Plan?	+2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Is the site centrally located in the city?	+2	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	2
Is the site 0.50 miles from a major roadway?	+1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
LAND USE	+4	3	1	-1	4	2	3	0	-1	0	-1
Would development transform an otherwise underutilized parcel?	+2	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
Would a skatepark feel compatible with it's surrounding land uses? In other words, does it 'fit in'?	+1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Would development as a skatepark bring vitality / spur other investment?	+1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Would existing park amenities need to be removed and relocation nearby is not possible?	-1	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-1
Would a skatepark potentially disturb surrounding residences?	-1	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1
SAFETY	+4	4	4	4	4	0	2	2	3	0	4
Are there additional regular activities surrounding the site?	+2	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	2
Would the site be highly visible and easily surveilled?	+1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Would the site feel safe for all age groups to use?	+1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Would the site feel isolated or secluded from the public eye?	-3	0	0	0	0	-3	0	0	0	-3	0
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	+2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2
Does the site support the development of stormwater management features?	+1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Does the site afford other opportunities for sustainable development?	+1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Does the site require significant tree removal or disturbance of high quality natural resources?	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPORTING AMENITIES	+2	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Does the site have sufficient parking?	+1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
Does the site have restrooms, water fountains, or other existing amenities? □	+1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
OWNERSHIP	+2	2	2	0	-3	2	-3	0	2	2	2
Is the land owned by the City of Minnetonka?	+2	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	2
Would development require a partnership with the land owner?	+0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Would the land need to be acquired for development?	-3	0	0	0	-3	0	-3	0	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS	+21	18	14	13	13	11	10	10	10	10	10

Figure 2B - Level 2 Site Option Evaluation

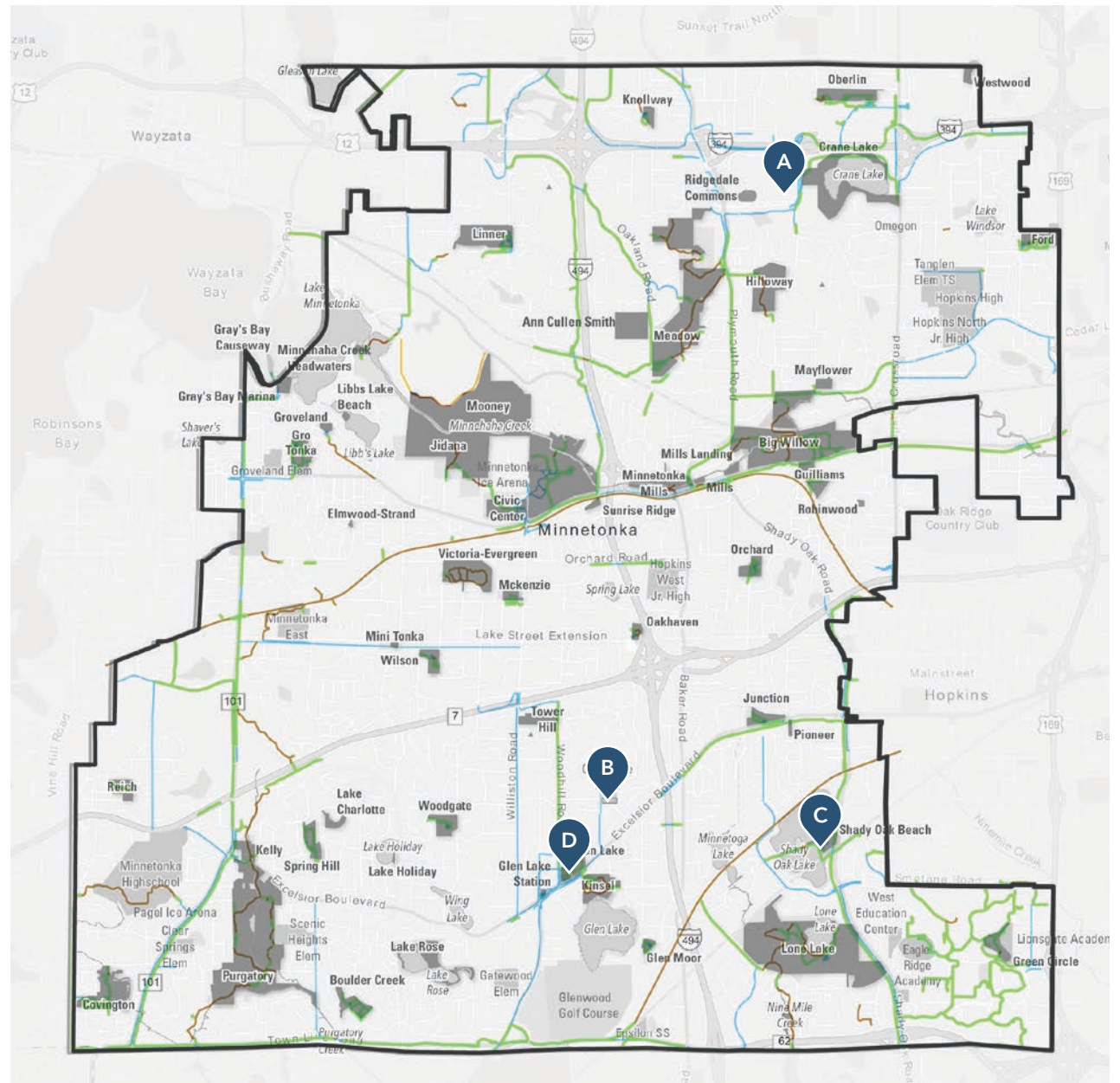
CHAPTER 3 | SITE ANALYSIS

APPROACH

The site selection process identified the locations that are most fit for skatepark development. Within this chapter, we take a closer look to investigate their specific contexts, pros and cons, and ultimately arrive at a conclusion for which are to be explored conceptually.

- A** Ridgedale Snow Storage Parcel
- B** Glen Lake Elementary School
- C** Shady Oak Beach Pavilion Area
- D** Glen Lake Activity Center Sites

-  Minnetonka Boundary
-  Trails (Asphalt)
-  Trails (Unpaved)
-  Sidewalks
-  City park



RIDGEDALE SNOW STORAGE PARCEL

Located on a Ridgedale drive, the parcel is currently owned by the Ridgedale Mall and used to store snow from its parking lot.

PROS

- > Highly accessible by trail and roadway
- > Opportunity for an 'iconic' skatepark, due to its visible location within the Ridgedale Center complex
- > Generous amount of developable space
- > Development does not displace other community-oriented uses
- > Existing parking could be utilized

CONS

- > Parcel is not city owned, acquisition would be required for development



13 FEASIBILITY CRITERIA RANKING

- 5/7 ACCESSIBILITY
- 4/5 LAND USE
- 4/4 SAFETY
- 2/2 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
- 1/2 SUPPORTING AMENITIES
- 3/2 OWNERSHIP



GLEN LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

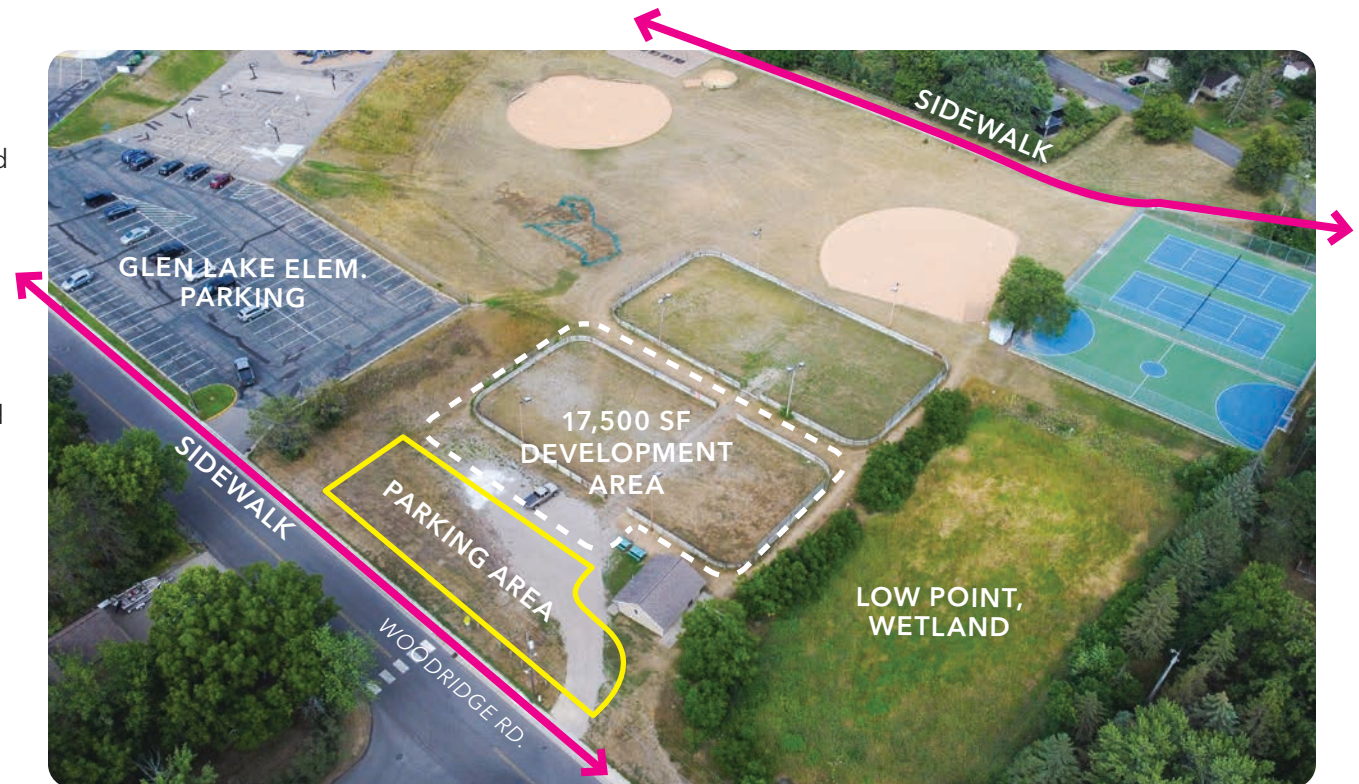
Located on Woodridge Road, this site occupies Glen Lake Elementary School property and would take the place of an existing ice rink.

PROS

- > Site is located in an 'Area of Need' per the POST System Plan pg. 105
- > Highly accessible by trail and roadway
- > Existing warming house building could be used

CONS

- > Skatepark area is not city owned, a partnership with the school would be required for development
- > An existing ice rink would need to be permanently removed or relocated
- > Use as a skatepark could potentially disturb surrounding residences



13 FEASIBILITY CRITERIA RANKING

- 7/7 ACCESSIBILITY
- 1/5 LAND USE
- 4/4 SAFETY
- 2/2 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
- 1/2 SUPPORTING AMENITIES
- 0/2 OWNERSHIP



GLEN LAKE ACTIVITY CENTER SITES

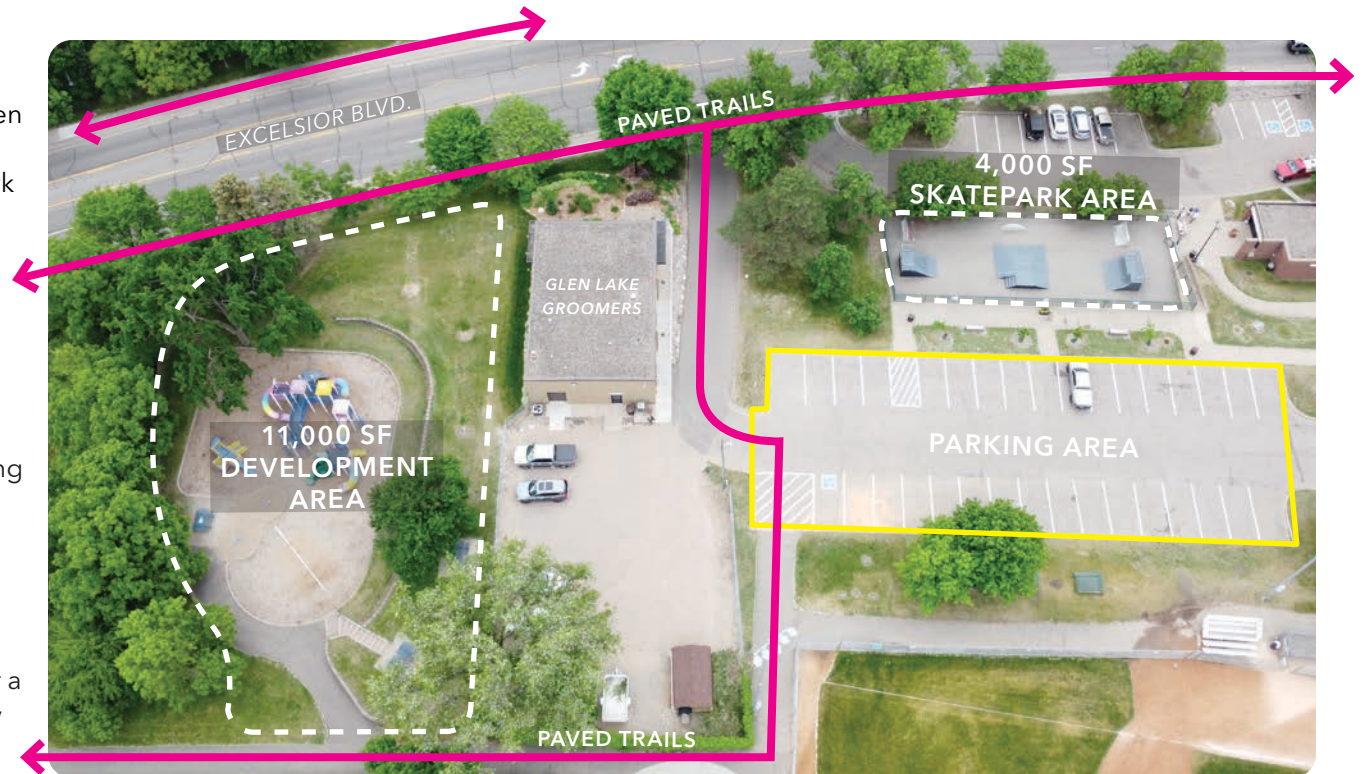
Located on Excelsior Boulevard is the existing Glen Lake Skatepark site and playground. This option would require redeveloping the existing skatepark together with the playground and surrounding area.

PROS

- > Highly accessible by trail and roadway and centrally located in the city
- > Sites have additional park and recreation activities surrounding it, the baseball fields being a great adjacent program
- > Site already hosts skatepark programming

CONS

- > Development displaces an existing playground
- > Two different development sites is less ideal for a regionally sized, destination skatepark, but may have some benefits for users



18 FEASIBILITY CRITERIA RANKING

- 5/7 ACCESSIBILITY
- 3/5 LAND USE
- 4/4 SAFETY
- 2/2 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
- 2/2 SUPPORTING AMENITIES
- 2/2 OWNERSHIP



SHADY OAK BEACH PAVILION AREA

This site is located at Shady Oak Beach and would redevelop the existing pavilion area on the southwest portion of the parking lot.

PROS

- > Site has additional regular activities surrounding it, the beach being a great adjacent program
- > Existing parking could be utilized
- > A skatepark would 'fit in' well in this location, and have great views overlooking the lake

CONS

- > Development requires the relocation of the existing pavilion structure which is highly used
- > While it is connected to major roadways and trails, it is not centrally located in the City
- > Park noise could travel across the lake
- > In the evenings, this location could be isolated and out of the public eye



14 FEASIBILITY CRITERIA RANKING

- 3/7 ACCESSIBILITY
- 1/5 LAND USE
- 4/4 SAFETY
- 2/2 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
- 2/2 SUPPORTING AMENITIES
- 2/2 OWNERSHIP



SITE ANALYSIS SUMMARY

RIDGEDALE SNOW STORAGE PARCEL

Located on Ridgedale Drive, this parcel is currently owned by the Ridgedale Mall and primarily used for snow storage. It's location on the perimeter of the mall would be an ideal space for a large, highly visible, and iconic destination skatepark. If pursued, it would also be the third park development along Ridgedale Drive together with the Crane Lake Park Preserve and Ridgedale Commons. While it has many other positive attributes, such as being highly accessible and having existing parking, it is not owned by the city and the current owner has not shown interest in selling the property. For that reason, **this site will not be pursued as an option for conceptual development.**

GLEN LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A part of the Glen Lake Elementary School grounds and on Woodridge Road, development of this site would replace one of the schools existing ice rinks. The key factor for developing in this location is whether an agreement can be reached between the city and school for its use as a skatepark. Despite this potential hurdle, the location's context has many benefits. Located in an 'area of need' within Minnetonka's park system, the site is easily accessed by trail, highly

visible, hosts other activities in it's vicinity, and has existing bathrooms in the warming house on site. Fairly close to single family homes, use as a skatepark could potentially disturb surrounding residences. While this could be a negative, having residents close by adds to site safety and makes it more accessible to potential users. This location warrants conceptual exploration in the following section.

GLEN LAKE ACTIVITY CENTER SITES

Located on Excelsior Boulevard is the existing Glen Lake Skatepark and Glen Lake Playground. While the sites by themselves are not large enough to create a regionally sized development, when considered together they could make for an interesting skatepark complex of reasonable size. The existing skatepark needs to be re-imagined in any case, and it's location in the city is both central and directly accessible by trail. Within it's vicinity is the Glen Lake Activity Center building, a commercial business, highly used athletic fields, and adequate parking. These conditions make the location a strong candidate for development, but having one regionally sized skateboarding space preferable to having two separate areas. Another factor to consider is that the existing playground would need to be removed and a new play-space

envisioned. With these conditions considered the Glen Lake Activity Center sites would be an attractive location for Minnetonka's new skatepark and will be explored further.

SHADY OAK BEACH PAVILION AREA

This option considers relocating the pavilion at Shady Oak Beach and using the entirety of the space southwest of the parking lot as a skatepark. At this site the beach would bring regular activity to the location in summer months and create a fun atmosphere. Also at a highpoint above the lake, the skateparks setting would create a unique experience for its users. One potential problem with this location, however, is that it could feel isolated and out of the public eye in evenings and during times that the beach is not open. Also, there is the potential for noise to travel across the lake and disturb residences. In the scope of this study, the Shady Oak Beach Pavilion site is worth further exploration in the following section.

Of all the sites considered in this study, the following have been determined most feasible for skatepark development. In the following chapter, we will explore the potential of these locations as skateparks through the creation of preliminary concept plans.

GLEN LAKE ACTIVITY CENTER SITES



18 FEASIBILITY CRITERIA RANKING

- 5/7 ACCESSIBILITY
- 3/5 LAND USE
- 4/4 SAFETY
- 2/2 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
- 2/2 SUPPORTING AMENITIES
- 2/2 OWNERSHIP

SHADY OAK BEACH PAVILION AREA



14 FEASIBILITY CRITERIA RANKING

- 3/7 ACCESSIBILITY
- 1/5 LAND USE
- 4/4 SAFETY
- 2/2 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
- 2/2 SUPPORTING AMENITIES
- 2/2 OWNERSHIP

GLEN LAKE ELEMENTARY



13 FEASIBILITY CRITERIA RANKING

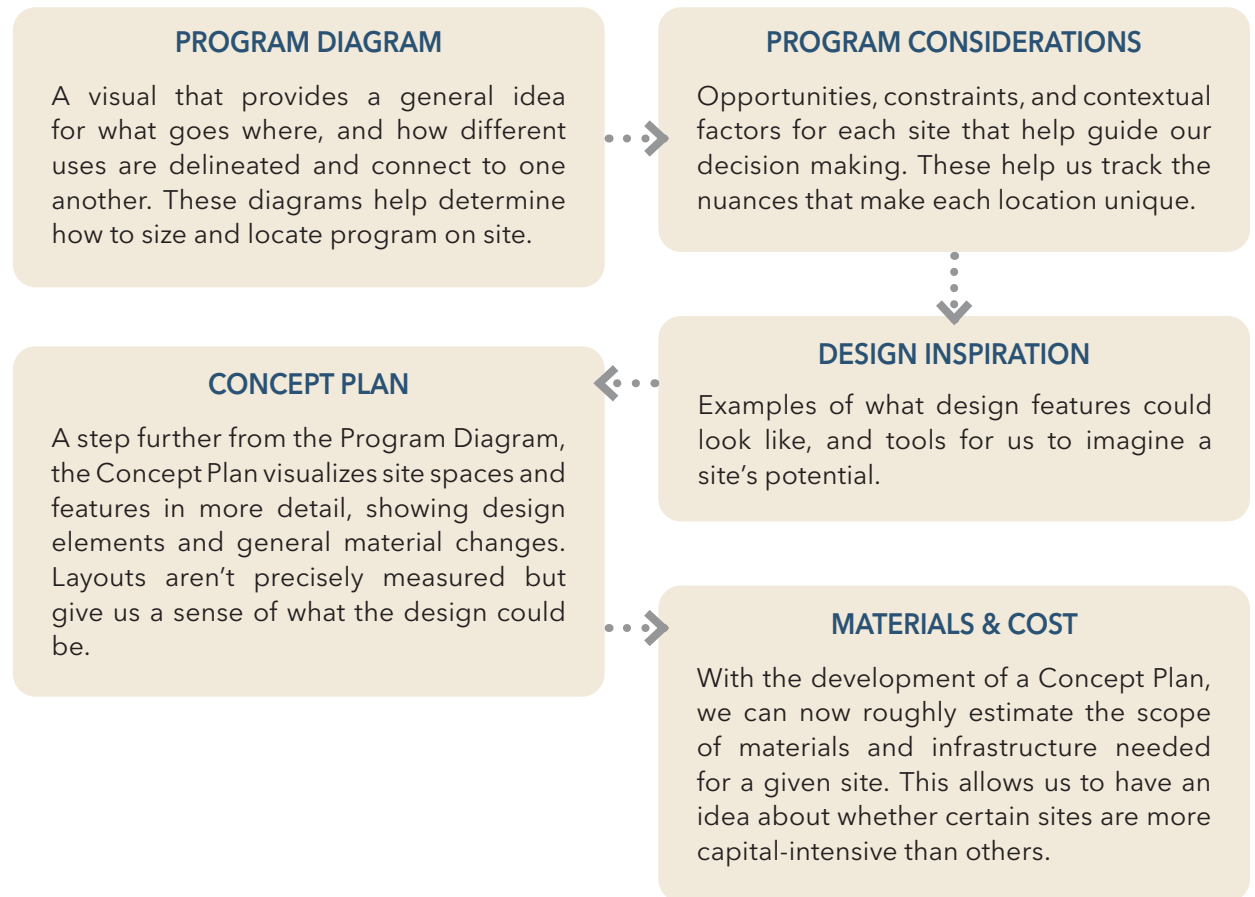
- 7/7 ACCESSIBILITY
- 1/5 LAND USE
- 4/4 SAFETY
- 2/2 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
- 1/2 SUPPORTING AMENITIES
- 0/2 OWNERSHIP

CHAPTER 4 | CONCEPT DESIGN

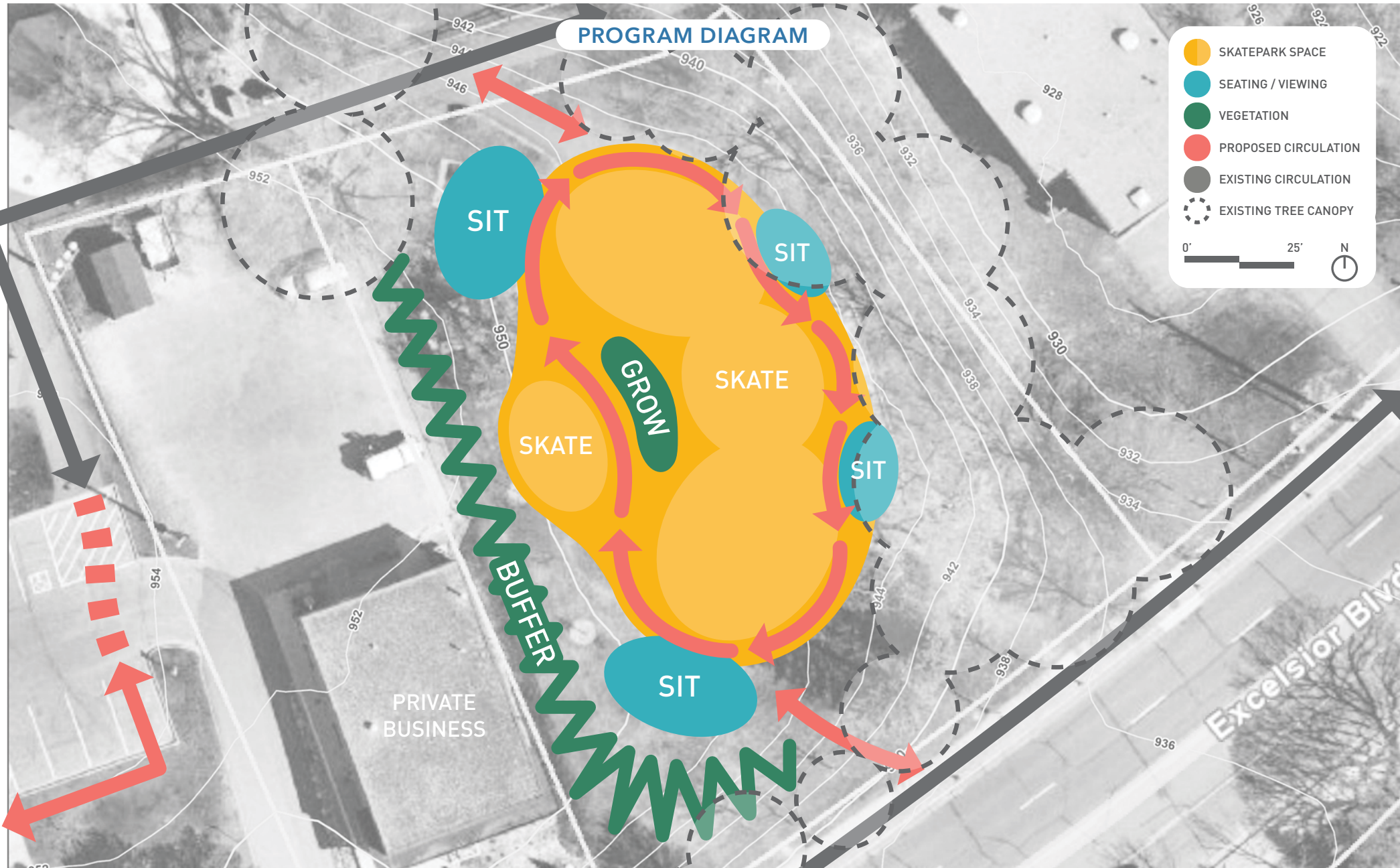
APPROACH

This chapter explores conceptual design ideas for the most feasible skatepark sites. This exploration approaches site design from a high-level, focusing on general program ideas and overall considerations for each location. **The goal is not to prescribe specific layouts or features**, but to set the stage for the next steps in Minnetonka's development process. **Final plans should be developed with input from the community** and in collaboration with a contracted skatepark designer.

For this study, each site was studied to address skatepark program elements, character, materials, and cost implications. A concept plan was developed for each site and investigated in the following ways:



GLEN LAKE ACTIVITY CENTER SITES | PLAYGROUND



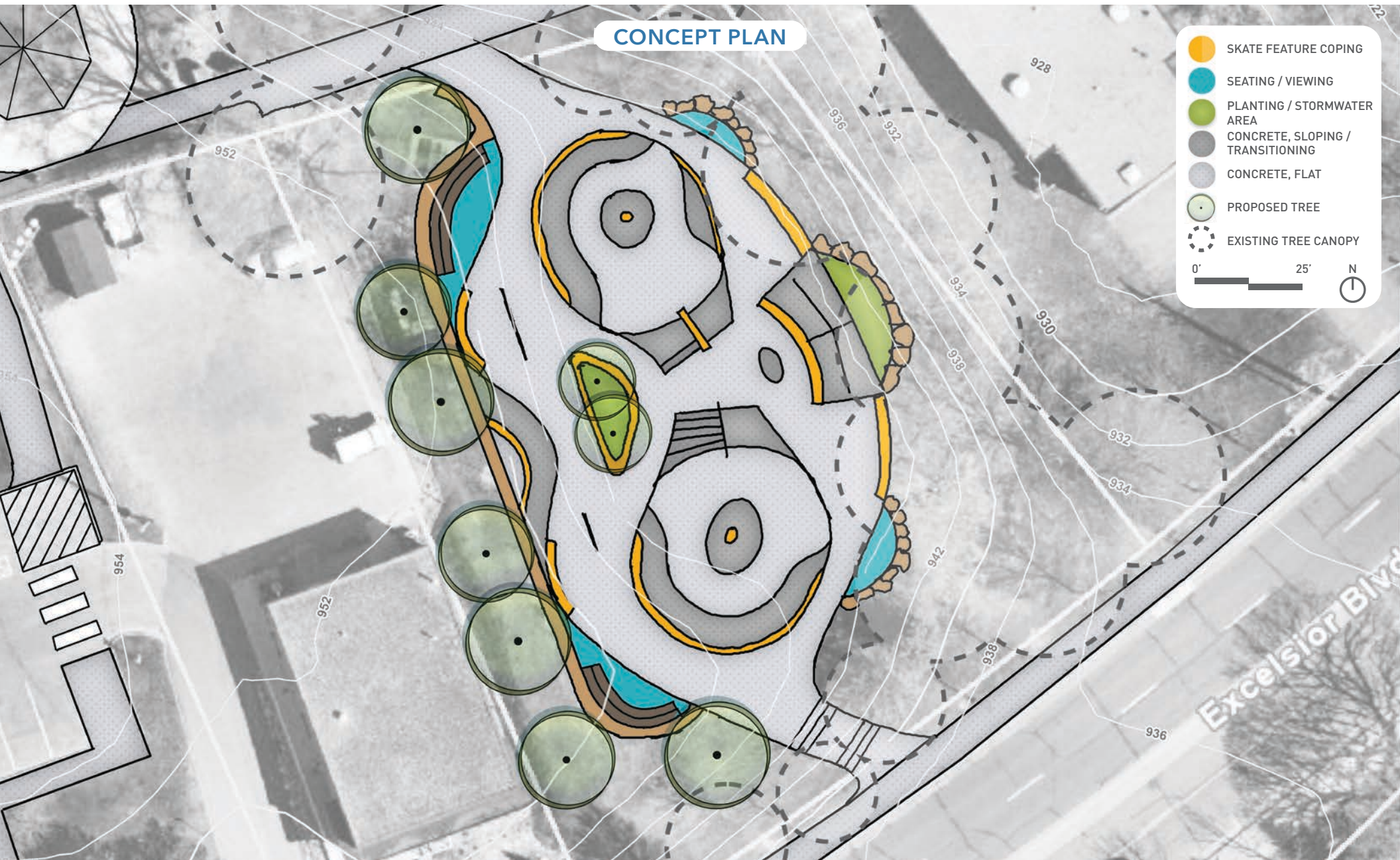
PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS

- > This location requires thoughtful pedestrian connections. Pathways should be established that bring people to the skatepark from the Excelsior Boulevard sidewalk, the ball field sidewalk, and from the parking lot above the existing skatepark.
- > Site topography at this site lends itself to creating spaces at multiple levels. Development at this site should utilize this site feature to create unique seating and rest areas.
- > Southwest of the park site is an existing business. Development here should be considerate of this use and buffer sounds and sights when possible.
- > This site has a significant existing tree canopy, and features should avoid existing root-zones when possible. In addition, the tree cover should be considered as an asset for locating seating and rest areas.
- > While any style of skatepark could be built here, the existing site characteristics may lend themselves to creating transition-style features. Creating a skate path or loop around the park's perimeter may also be a valid design approach.
- > The design and difficulty of skatepark features should work in tandem with the other skatepark location at Glen Lake. This larger area may be best suited for more challenging features.
- > Stormwater management features should be incorporated when possible.

DESIGN INSPIRATION



GLEN LAKE ACTIVITY CENTER SITES | PLAYGROUND



MATERIAL QUANTITIES (PRELIMINARY MEASUREMENTS)

Skatepark concrete - 10,800 square feet

Seating areas - 850 square feet

Planting areas - 2,800 square feet

Trees - 9

Walls - 285 linear feet

COST ESTIMATE (ROUGH ORDER OF MAGNITUDE)

\$639,000 - \$718,000

\$20,000 - \$35,000

Site removals and preparation including:

- > removal of existing structures
- > removal of existing site walls, concrete, furnishings, and fixtures
- > removal of existing trees and plantings
- > rough grading required for construction

\$594,000 - \$648,000

Proposed skatepark areas including:

- > fine grading for skatepark construction
- > skatepark concrete and features
- > areas integrated into the skatepark design, such as curbs, walls, etc.

\$25,000 - \$35,000

Proposed landscape areas including:

- > hardscape elements, such as standard concrete, pavers, stairs, handrails, and
- > softscape elements, such as trees, shrubs, and perennial plantings
- > fixtures and furnishings such as benches and trash receptacles
- > parking areas
- > stormwater management features

PLAYGROUND SITE

\$639,000 - \$718,000

+

EXISTING SKATEPARK SITE

\$250,000 - \$284,000

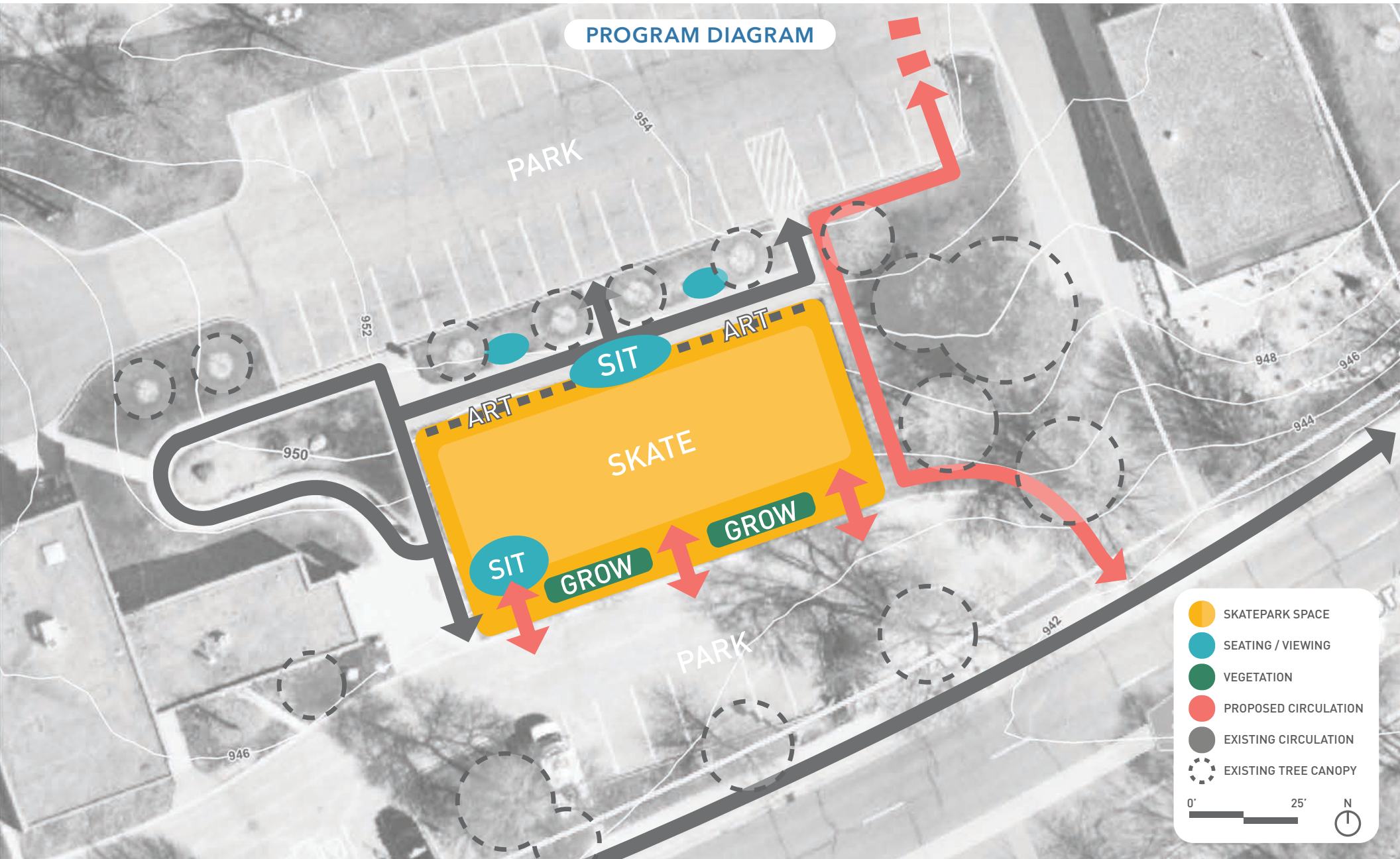
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TOTAL PROJECT

\$889,000 - \$1,002,000

* All cost estimate information is to get a general sense of construction costs. Not all site elements and infrastructure are quantified, and fees for design and engineering services are not included.

4 GLEN LAKE ACTIVITY CENTER SITES | SKATEPARK



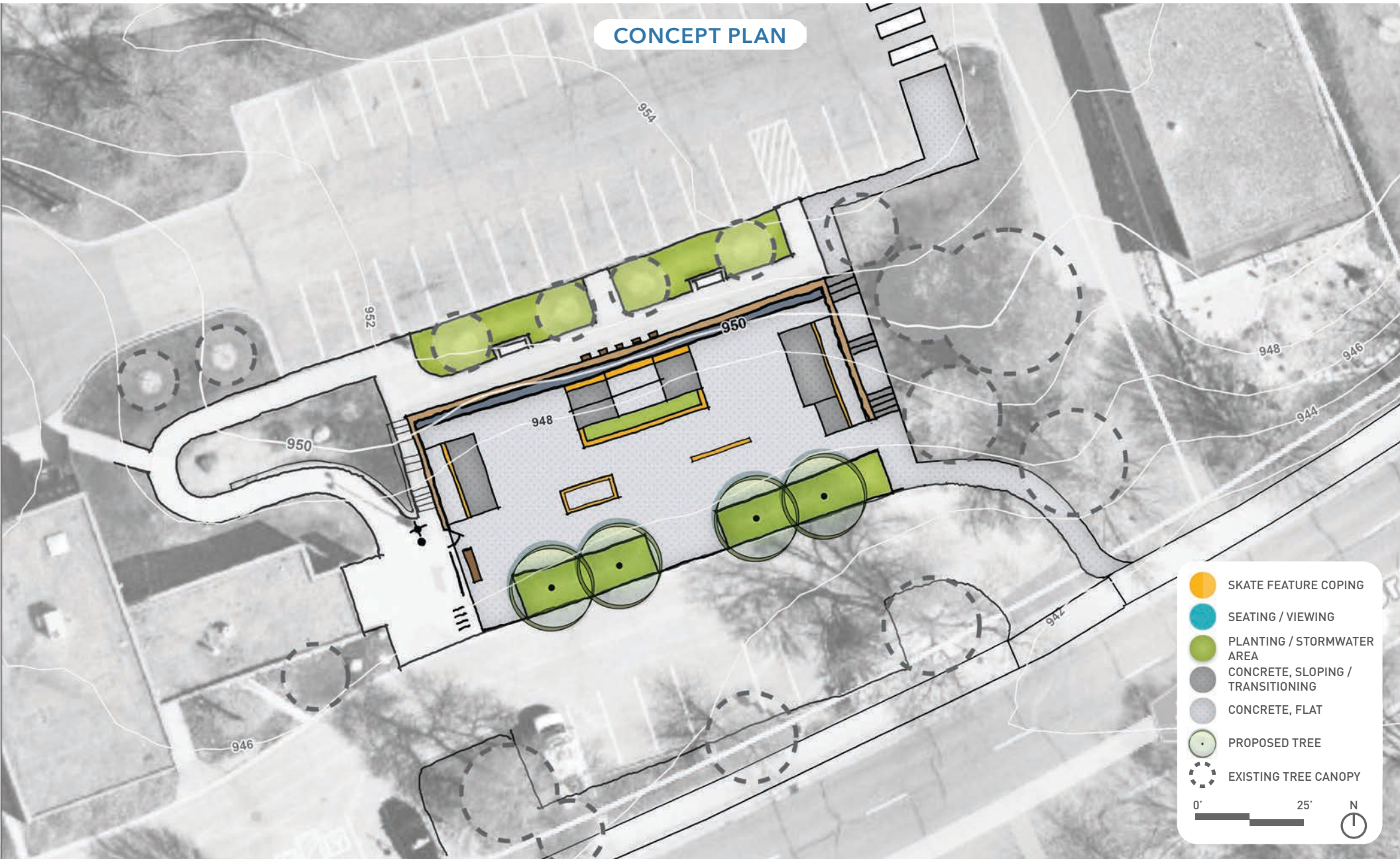
PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS

- > The skateboard-themed mural on the existing site wall should be protected and integrated into the new skatepark design.
- > The developable space is a smaller, rectangular footprint. Because of this, a plaza / back-and-forth skatepark style may be most successful.
- > The design and difficulty of skatepark features should work in tandem with the other skatepark location at Glen Lake. This smaller area may be best suited for standard features and flat-ground spaces.
- > The existing fence portion that separates the skateboarding area and the parking lot should be removed. This will create a more open feel which is important with smaller skatepark
- > Pedestrian circulation should be considered around the entirety of the skatepark, and a stronger connection made to the Excelsior Boulevard sidewalk.
- > The grade change between the skatepark and the parking area above creates a unique opportunity for spectators. This site characteristic should be taken advantage of with special seating areas.
- > Stormwater management features should be incorporated when possible, with the space between the skatepark and parking lot being a great location.

DESIGN INSPIRATION



4 GLEN LAKE ACTIVITY CENTER SITES | SKATEPARK



MATERIAL QUANTITIES (PRELIMINARY MEASUREMENTS)

Skatepark concrete - 4,200 square feet

Standard concrete - 1,242 square feet

Seating areas - 130 square feet

Planting areas - 770 square feet

Trees - 4

COST ESTIMATE (ROUGH ORDER OF MAGNITUDE)

\$250,000 - \$284,000

\$10,000 - \$20,000

Site removals and preparation including:

- > removal of existing structures
- > removal of existing site walls, concrete, furnishings, and fixtures
- > removal of existing trees and plantings
- > rough grading required for construction

\$231,000 - \$252,000

Proposed skatepark areas including:

- > fine grading for skatepark construction
- > skatepark concrete and features
- > areas integrated into the skatepark design, such as curbs, walls, etc.

\$9,000 - \$12,000

Proposed landscape areas including:

- > hardscape elements, such as standard concrete, pavers, stairs, handrails, and
- > softscape elements, such as trees, shrubs, and perennial plantings
- > fixtures and furnishings such as benches and trash receptacles
- > parking areas
- > stormwater management features

PLAYGROUND SITE

\$639,000 - \$718,000

+

EXISTING SKATEPARK SITE

\$250,000 - \$284,000

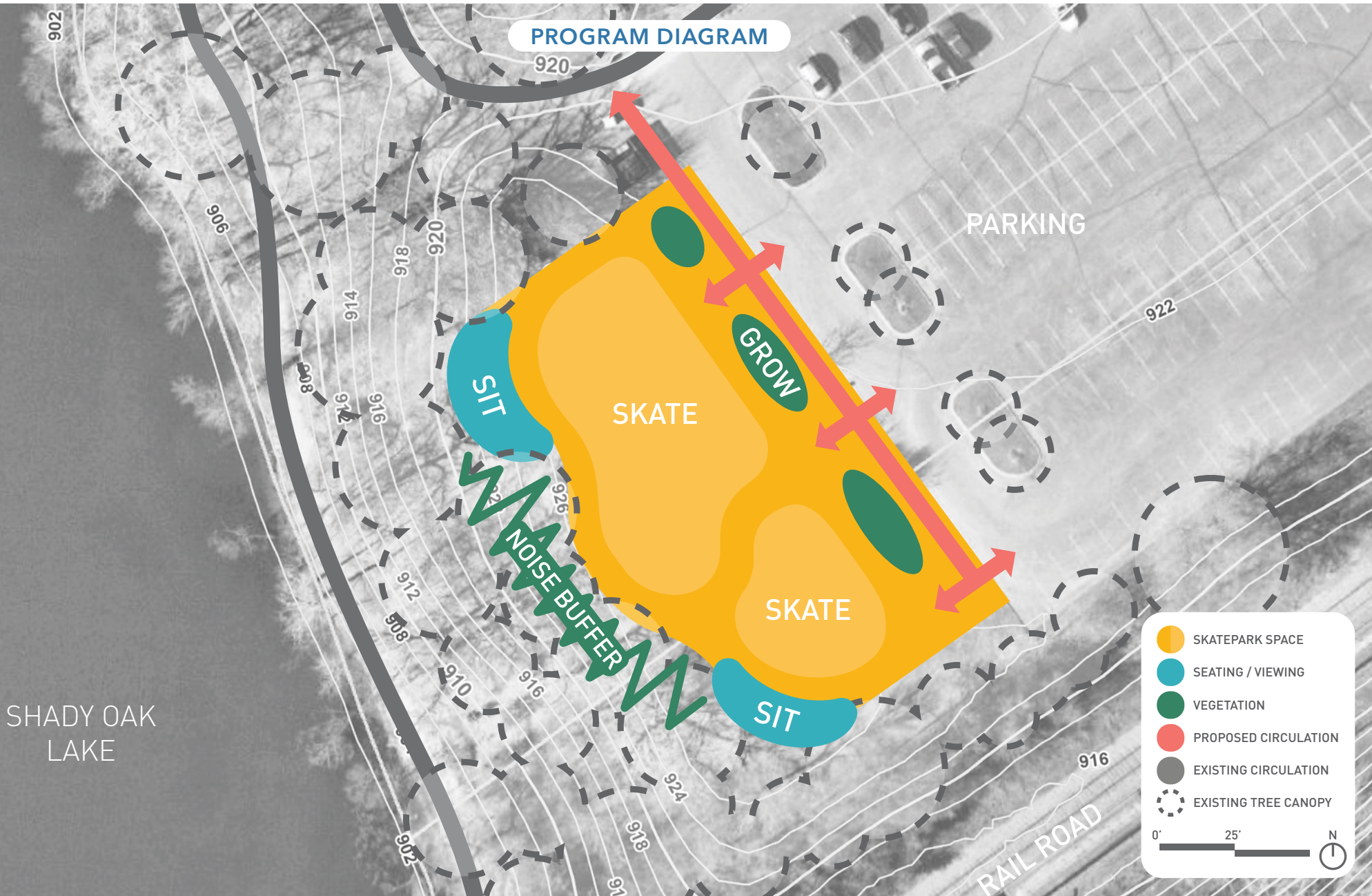
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TOTAL PROJECT

\$889,000 - \$1,002,000

* All cost estimate information is to get a general sense of construction costs. Not all site elements and infrastructure are quantified, and fees for design and engineering services are not included.

SHADY OAK PAVILION AREA



PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS

- > This site has a significant existing tree canopy, and features should avoid root-zones when possible. In addition, the tree cover should be considered as an asset for locating seating and rest areas.
- > Positioned adjacent to Shady Oak Lake and up on a hill, the skatepark design should take advantage of these views when locating seating and rest areas. There is potential for a significant group seating area and overlook.
- > While the site should embrace views over the lake, vegetation should be enhanced to buffer noise in certain areas.
- > This site does not suggest any particular style of skate features, and could host a breadth of features to meet the wants of the skatepark community.
- > Located directly next to the parking lot, the skatepark design should consider the multiple ways in which people will approach it. Pedestrian access from several points could be beneficial, and the parking lot's design may warrant adding a drop-off zone.
- > With its location adjacent to a water body, stormwater management best practices should be used to capture pollutants.

DESIGN INSPIRATION



SHADY OAK PAVILION AREA



MATERIAL QUANTITIES (PRELIMINARY MEASUREMENTS)

Skatepark concrete - 15,200 square feet

Seating areas - 1,500 square feet

Planting areas - 6,800 square feet

Trees - 6

COST ESTIMATE (ROUGH ORDER OF MAGNITUDE)

\$901,000 - \$1,002,000

\$25,000 - \$40,000

Site removals and preparation including:

- > removal of existing structures
- > removal of existing site walls, concrete, furnishings, and fixtures
- > removal of existing trees and plantings
- > rough grading required for construction

\$836,000 - \$912,000

Proposed skatepark areas including:

- > fine grading for skatepark construction
- > skatepark concrete and features
- > areas integrated into the skatepark design, such as curbs, walls, etc.

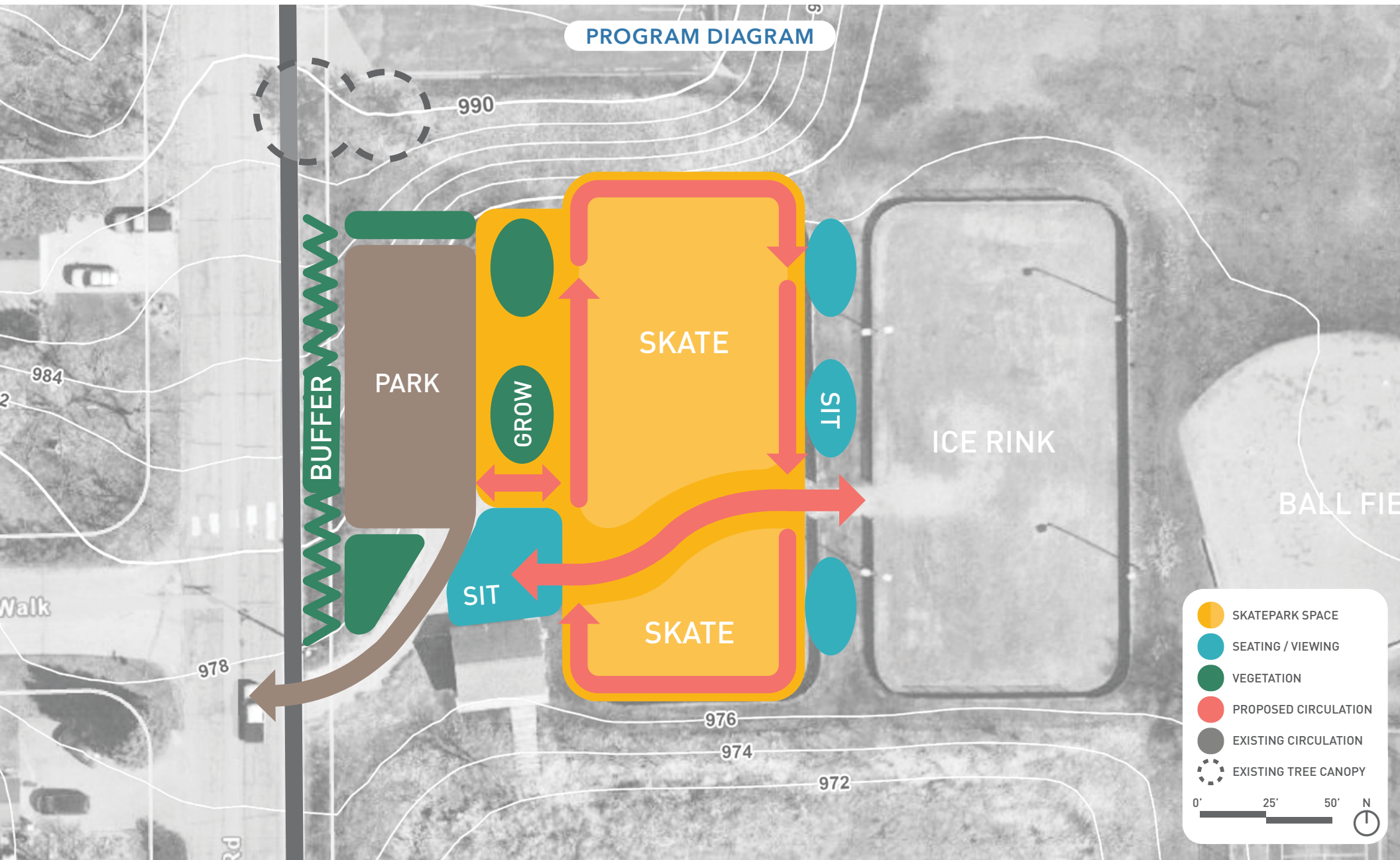
\$40,000 - \$50,000

Proposed landscape areas including:

- > hardscape elements, such as standard concrete, pavers, stairs, handrails, and
- > softscape elements, such as trees, shrubs, and perennial plantings
- > fixtures and furnishings such as benches and trash receptacles
- > parking areas
- > stormwater management features

* All cost estimate information is to get a general sense of construction costs. Not all site elements and infrastructure are quantified, and fees for design and engineering services are not included.

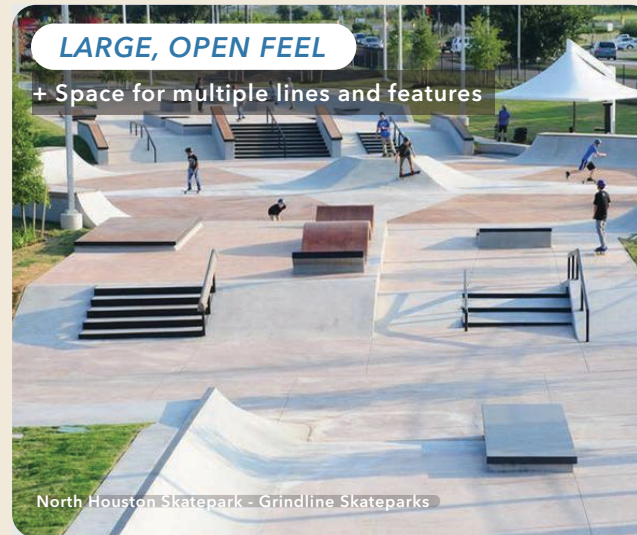
GLEN LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



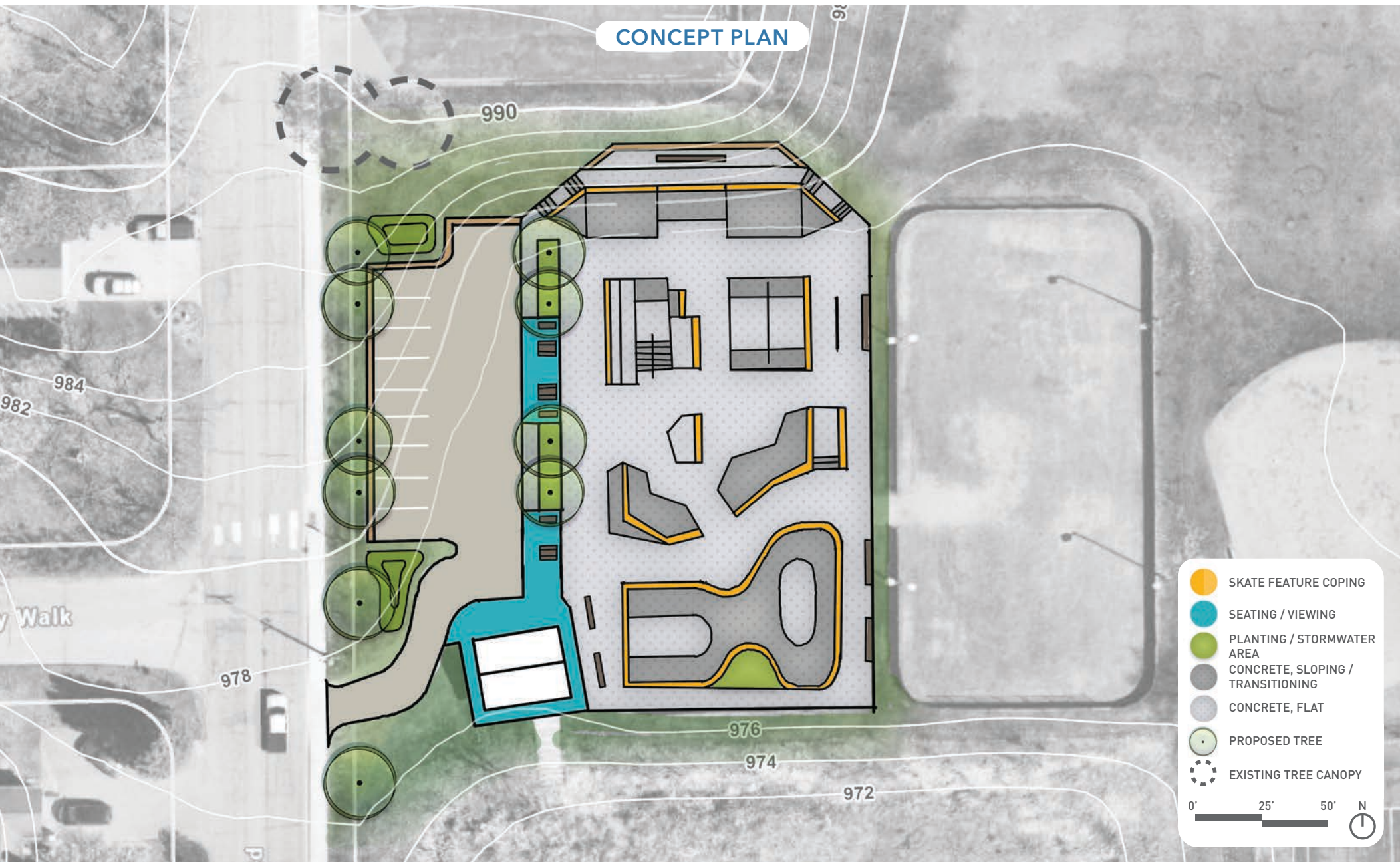
DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

- > Currently an ice rink, this site has a large and open feel. As such, the opportunities are endless for what skatepark features could come to life here. With these conditions there should be multiple styles and lines for park users to choose from.
- > With the open nature of the site there is also a greater opportunity to integrate planting and stormwater management areas. Skatepark design should consider and integrate these where deemed appropriate.
- > With an existing ice rink to the east of this site, plans for development should consider access to this area from the warming house during the winter. In addition, skatepark seating areas and amenities should consider how their design can positively impact the ice rink.
- > The existing parking lot does not provide adequate stalls for this use. The parking area should be re-done to meet the skateparks needs.
- > The existing site topography at the North end of the site should be utilized if possible. This could be done with seating areas and / or a starter ramp.
- > The skatepark and parking area should be buffered from the residential area to the West when possible.

PRECEDENT IMAGERY



GLEN LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



MATERIAL QUANTITIES (PRELIMINARY MEASUREMENTS)

Skatepark concrete - 17,200 square feet

Parking area - 5,500 square feet

Seating areas - 1,400 square feet

Planting areas - 2,900 square feet

Trees - 10

Walls - 220 linear feet

COST ESTIMATE (ROUGH ORDER OF MAGNITUDE)

\$1,051,000 - \$1,172,000

\$25,000 - \$30,000

Site removals and preparation including:

- > removal of existing structures
- > removal of existing site walls, concrete, furnishings, and fixtures
- > removal of existing trees and plantings
- > rough grading required for construction

\$946,000 - \$1,032,000

Proposed skatepark areas including:

- > fine grading for skatepark construction
- > skatepark concrete and features
- > areas integrated into the skatepark design, such as curbs, walls, etc.

\$80,000 - \$110,000

Proposed landscape areas including:

- > hardscape elements, such as standard concrete, pavers, stairs, handrails, and
- > softscape elements, such as trees, shrubs, and perennial plantings
- > fixtures and furnishings such as benches and trash receptacles
- > parking areas
- > stormwater management features

* All cost estimate information is to get a general sense of construction costs. Not all site elements and infrastructure are quantified, and fees for design and engineering services are not included.

CHAPTER 5 | RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMUNITY INPUT SUMMARY

As part of the Minnetonka Matters website, the community was given the opportunity to provide feedback on skate park concepts and receive project information. Below is a summary of comments received between December 2022 and January 2023. There were 24 respondents in total. More than 91% of respondents supported a new skate park in Minnetonka. The majority of respondent who specified a specific skate park concept or location in their comments preferred the Glen Lake Activity Center Sites.

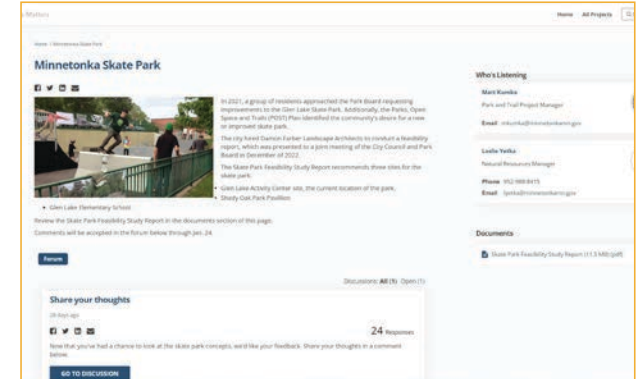
Our family and neighbors support this in every way! We like the existing Glen Lake location and the idea of a smaller and bigger skatepark with different features and styles. We have gone to the existing Glen Lake location here and there but the features are so small and limited. A new skatepark is a great way to support the community and different types of sports.

I love the idea of it being at the current location, as it is easily seen by others and promotes the sport. It also allows two areas for beginners and more seasoned riders.

I'm so excited! I can't wait to finally have a fun place to skate with my friends!

90%
of respondents who
identified a specific
skate park location
preferred Glen Lake

91%
of respondents
support a new skate
park in Minnetonka



Minnetonka Matters website

www.minnetonkamatters.com/minnetonka-skate-park

An updated skate park is just what our neighborhood needs. Current location is a perfect spot and I look forward to taking my family there for years to come.

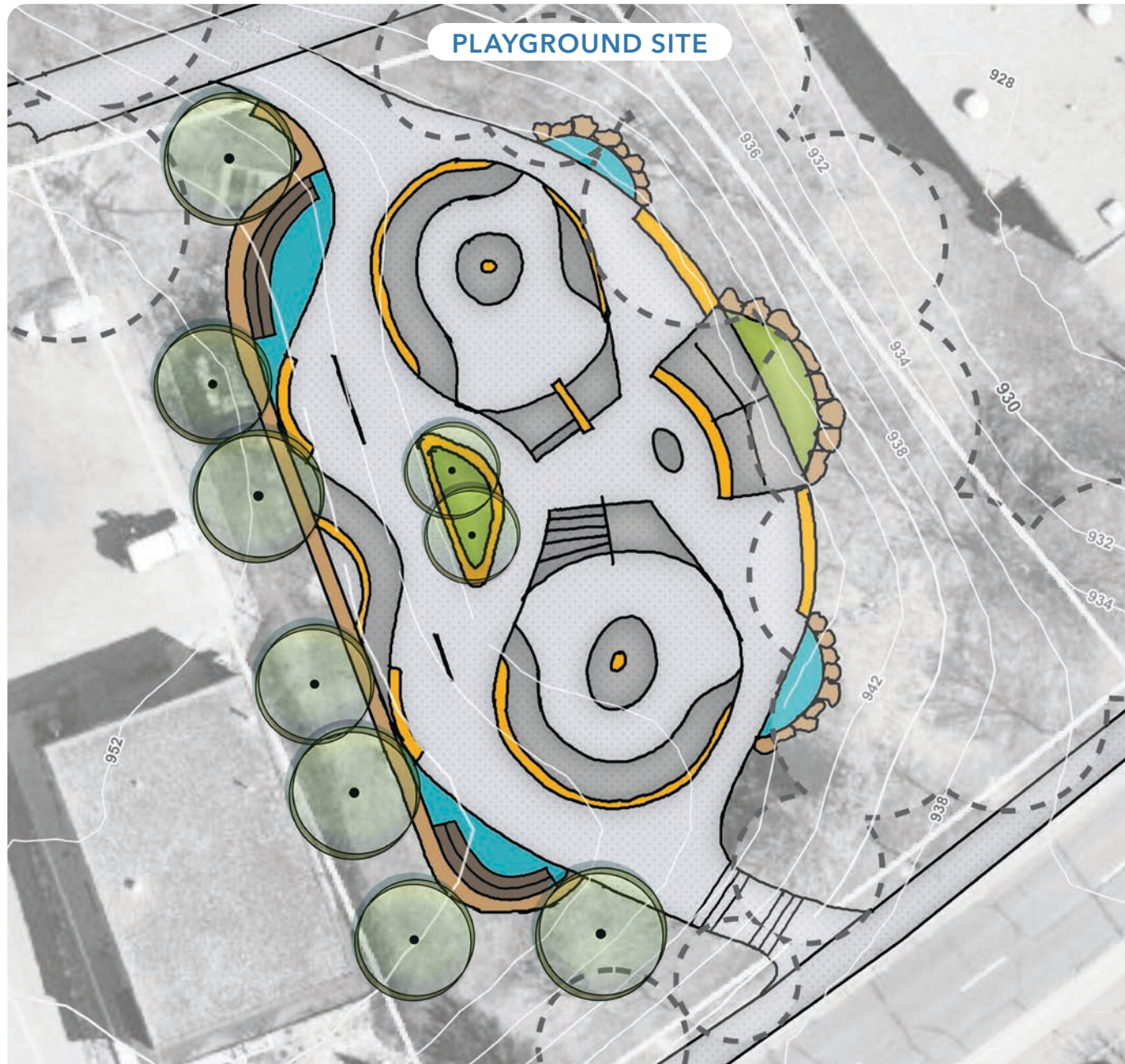
We want a skate park! The current location would be great place to put it. But make it bigger for lots of kids to utilize at one time. It is a wonderful large muscle activity for kids/adults who are not into traditional team sports.

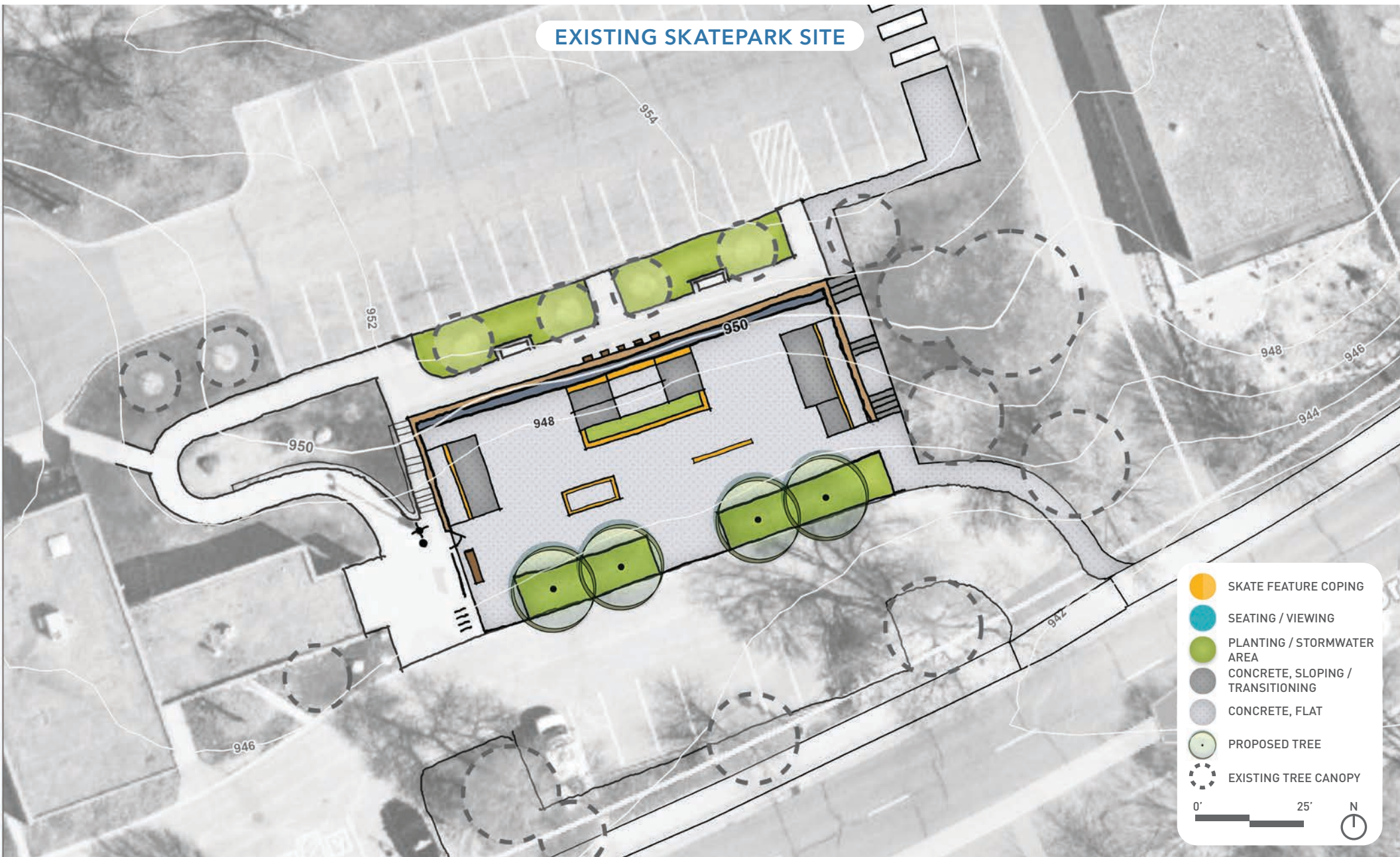
Note: This is a summary of comments. For all of the comments, see the Appendix.

FEASIBILITY CONCLUSION

The feasibility study process has identified various sites with the potential to become great skateparks. When reviewing the results of the feasibility ranking process and considering the community input, the **Glen Lake Activity Center Sites have shown to be the most feasible for skatepark development.** With this selection, both the Playground site and the Existing Skatepark site should be envisioned and constructed at the same time to maximize the square footage of skatepark space available to the community.

An important caveat to this selection, is that the total square footage of skatepark area falls short of what is recommended for the population of Minnetonka, and doesn't meet what is classified as a regionally sized skatepark. Because of this, it is recommended that the City of Minnetonka seek to build additional skateparks of different sizes and styles in the future.





**Minnetonka Park Board Item 7B
Meeting of February 1, 2023**

Subject:	Natural Resources Division's 2023 Outreach, Education and Engagement Plan
Park Board related goal:	To Protect Natural Resources and Open Spaces
Brief Description:	Review the Natural Resources Division's outreach, education and engagement plan

Background

The Minnetonka Park Board has adopted goals and objectives that pertain to natural resources. These include creating awareness of our natural environment and supporting educational strategies.

The Park Board reviews topics and approves projects related to natural resources. These include the stewardship plan and restoration activities undertaken in the park system, updates on volunteer activities, emerald ash borer preparedness and reforestation of public land, water resource monitoring and protection initiatives on public land and review of outreach and education programs relating to natural resources.

Summary

Attached is a review of natural resources outreach, education and engagement work in 2022 and plans for 2023. It describes ongoing and new education, outreach and engagement efforts, such as publications, multimedia offerings, trainings and initiatives (many conducted with partner organizations), and technical assistance.

Staff use the *Minnetonka Memo* and electronic newsletter system as primary outreach tools. The e-bulletin currently reaches approximately 3,400 subscribers, and the average engagement rate increased to 40 percent (from 30 percent in prior years). Social media is used to promote events and engage residents on seasonal themes. Highway billboards inform passing motorists about broad goals for natural resource protection.

Ten interpretive panels will be installed at Lone Lake Park in 2023. Staff are creating storymaps and other multimedia offerings to educate and engage volunteers and the general public. Workshops and trainings have been increased; many use hybrid formats that appeal to participants and some include technical assistance. Outreach and engagement of youth and other new or underrepresented audiences are also a priority.

Recommended Park Board Action

Provide feedback to staff regarding the programmed items included in this report.

Attachments:

1. Natural Resource Education and Outreach Plan for 2023
2. Natural Resource Outreach Examples



NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Outreach, Education & Engagement Plan, 2023

The Natural Resources division works to inform and engage residents and other stakeholders about key environmental issues, increase their connection to the natural world, and empower them to take action.

PRIORITIES & THEMES

- **Community resilience**

Strategies that increase our individual and collective ability to prepare for, recover from and thrive after challenges posed by climate change and other sources of environmental stress

- **Stormwater management and water quality protection**

Reducing runoff by limiting irrigation and employing best practices to increase infiltration, recapture and reuse; mitigate the impacts of water pollutants (road salt, pet waste, sediment, organic waste and more) and illicit discharge on surface water and groundwater

- **Water efficiency**

Promoting mindful use of water, primarily outdoors through technology and behaviors but also indoors and from indirect sources such as food production and manufacturing

- **Tree diversity, planting and protection**

Emphasizing the benefits of trees—ecological, environmental, economic and aesthetic—and how to enhance those values on public and private property, especially where canopy cover is low

- **Diverse, resilient habitat and ecological function**

Using diverse, native and resilient plants (often in place of turf or invasive species) to provide food and habitat for beneficial insects that pollinate plants, control pests, and support the food web including songbirds and other wildlife

- **Soil health and condition**

Revealing the intersections between soil and water quality, plant health and diversity, and other aspects of a highly functional home landscape and natural environment

- **Invasive species identification, control and prevention**

Early identification and control of non-native plants and other species that become invasive, causing environmental and economic damage and sometimes impacting human health

- **Diversity, equity and inclusion**

Working to provide all Minnetonkans access to the information, resources, strategies and opportunities they need to build resilience and enjoy our natural areas

AUDIENCES & PARTNERS

- Residents
- Visitors
- Businesses and workers
- City staff
- Partner organizations

- Watershed districts
- Clean Water MN
- State and county agencies
- Ridgedale & Minnetonka libraries
- MetroBlooms & Blue Thumb

Building relationships with:

- Youth and educators
- Underrepresented populations

STRATEGIES & PRODUCTS

• Publications & other outreach

- **Minnetonka Memo**—monthly articles, event notices, [annual four-page pullout section](#)
- **Thrive**—occasional articles with a business focus
- **E-bulletin**—monthly Natural Resources mailing has ~3,400 subscribers and ~40 percent engagement rate (a significant increase over previous years)
- **Handouts**—series of one- to two-page fliers addressing common resident concerns and questions
- **Social media**—used for promotion of NR events, programs and seasonal themes
- **Highway billboards**—15 seasonal messages run on eight billboards citywide

• Education and engagement

◦ Video, multimedia and campaigns

2023: Community Forest Campaign (running on Earth Day, Arbor Day, and the first three weeks of Minnesota Arbor Month)

◦ Interpretive signage

2022: Signage sets were completed and installed at Westwood Park (1 panel) and Glen Lake Park (1 panel)

2023: a 10-panel set for Lone Lake Park will be installed this year

◦ Initiatives, programs and events

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) outreach, education and public engagement related to stormwater reduction, pollution prevention and water efficiency. Includes:

- Workshops and webinars, including “Resilient Yards” and “Building Healthy Soils”
- Publications focused on identification and prevention of water pollutants and illicit discharges, best practices and behavior change, and the stacked benefits of reducing stormwater runoff
- Initiatives: pet waste reduction campaign; partner programs including Adopt-a-Drain (with Clean Water MN) and Citizen Salt Watch (with watershed districts), Smart Salting training for contractors and property managers (through Minnesota Pollution Control Agency), elementary school stormwater education (delivered by Bolton & Menck, with extension activities from students in Minnetonka High School’s Natural Resources Club)

Increasing resilience and healthy habitat on private property

- Workshops, publications and multimedia that educate and empower residents to take action on their property and in the community
- Technical assistance, including site consultations, buckthorn pick-up and rebate funding for plant purchases
- Annual online native plant sale with discount for Minnetonka residents
- [Mayors’ Monarch Pledge](#) (ongoing since 2017), including the [Miles for Monarchs](#) wellness challenge and [Monarch and Pollinator Awareness Month](#) activities throughout July

Education Collaborative—sharing resources, identifying shared goals and offering resources or expertise to Minnetonka and Hopkins school districts

◦ Volunteer program

2022: Established a new volunteer management system (including onboarding and orientation, tracking, program evaluation and acknowledgement). Volunteer participation included ~40 “stewards” (lead volunteers) in multiple groups and more than 175 participants, who served approximately 2,800 hours.

2023: Developing and delivering materials for volunteer training about invasive species control and ecological systems (which will also be promoted to the general public)



NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Outreach, Education & Engagement

Work Samples

PUBLICATIONS & OUTREACH



Email and Text Subscriptions

Natural Resources update: Landscaping for water quality

City of Minnetonka sent this bulletin at 08/31/2022 01:00 PM CDT



Next time it rains, watch how water interacts with the landscape. When rain falls on planted and natural areas, it soaks into the soil – exactly where it's needed to help plants grow and to recharge groundwater supplies. Water that lands on

Smart Salting

Winter presents a particular challenge to keeping parking lots and sidewalks safe for customers, clients and staff.

But using too much road salt creates problems, too. Over time, salt cracks sidewalks and parking lots. It corrodes buildings and vehicles, damages soils and roadside plants, and contaminates water bodies.

That's why the City of Minnetonka promotes Smart Salting certification for businesses, property managers and others who

Pledge to be salt smart



1. Shovel
Clear walkways before snow turns to ice. Apply salt only if needed.



2. Select
Salt doesn't melt ice below 15°F. Use sand for traction when it's too cold or a different de-icer.



3. Scatter

Save the soil

The words "soil" and "dirt" are often used interchangeably, but there's a world of difference between them.

Soil is a complex ecosystem that supports much of life on Earth. **Dirt**, by contrast, is made of loose soil particles moved by wind, water or other forces. Think of it this way: You garden in the soil. You sweep dirt from the floor.

Digging deeper

Healthy soil is a rich, layered mix of ingredients, including water, gases, minerals, dead plants and other organic material. A stunning variety of living creatures – from microbes and fungi to insects, snails and worms – break down the organic material, releasing nutrients for reuse by living plants and animals. Like a sponge, healthy soil can hold, filter and release fresh water. Soil also stores carbon, reducing its harmful effects on the climate.

Build it up!

Human activities can damage the soil or preserve and build it. Here are a few tips to protect this valuable resource:

1. Avoid excess road salt, which can limit plants' ability to absorb water and nutrients they need to grow.
2. Don't leave soil bare, especially on slopes or near water. Exposed soil erodes easily, polluting the air and local waterways. Trees, wildflowers and other plants help to hold the soil in place.



3. Add organic compost to feed the whole soil ecosystem (rather than fertilizer, which only feeds plants), and mulch to help soil retain moisture

Buckthorn is Invasive
Learn how to control it.
minnetonkamn.gov

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



~2,800 hours in 2022 x \$29.95 per hour = \$83,860 annual value of volunteer participation

INTERPRETIVE SIGN LAYOUT

Marvelous Monarchs

YOUR YARD CAN BECOME A HAVEN FOR THESE BUTTERFLIES, AND HELP PREVENT THEIR DECLINE



POLLINATORS are animals that feed on nectar or pollen. As they flutter and float between flowers, monarchs and other pollinators help plants reproduce.

Adult monarch butterflies visit many kinds of plants, but they especially need native nectar plants that provide lots of nutrients and energy.

- Coneflower
- Blazing star
- Boneset
- Goldenrod
- Asters



ON A MISSION A female monarch must lay her eggs on milkweed plants. Why milkweed? It's the monarch's host plant - the only food her caterpillars can eat.

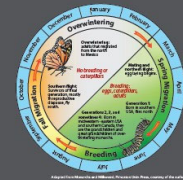
Every yard needs some milkweed! Fourteen species are native to Minnesota including:

- Common milkweed
- Swamp milkweed
- Butterfly milkweed
- Whorled milkweed
- Showy milkweed



FLY, FLY, FLY Cool autumn weather and shorter days cause milkweed to die back. Monarchs stop breeding and begin to migrate south. A monarch hatched in Lone Lake Park will fly at least 2,100 miles, reaching the mountains of central Mexico by early November.

Millions of monarchs huddle together through the winter, like a soft orange blanket over the oyamel fir trees.



AND BACK AGAIN Early spring warmth prompts monarchs to fly. They move north toward Texas and the Gulf states, where milkweed plants are already sprouting.

Adult butterflies die after producing eggs - but their offspring grow up quickly and continue the journey north. Monarchs typically reach Minnesota by early June. To keep your yard healthy for pollinators, limit the use of pesticides.

NATURAL RESOURCES
RESILIENT YARDS
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM




THESE ARE YOUR FIRST STEPS TOWARD A RESILIENT YARD...

- Register for the Resilient Yards workshop, delivered by bluemthumb.org.
- Watch all the Resilient Yards learning modules—or as many as you can—before the virtual workshop on April 7. (Blue Thumb will mail a link to this content after you register.) This takes about an hour in total, and you can revisit the modules through August 31.
- Do the recommended site assessment activities (provided at the end of Module 3) in preparation for the workshop.
- Attend the April 7 workshop to learn more about resilient yards, ask questions, and get expert feedback on your site assessment and design ideas.

NOW YOU'RE ELIGIBLE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE!

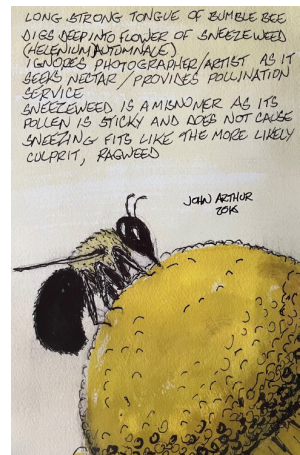
If you plan to pursue resilient plantings in 2022, contact Minnetonka's Natural Resources division (see below) to request the following resources:

- A FREE site consultation with an expert from MetroBlooms Design+Build**
 → Have you had a site consultation through another organization or program? Contact us to see if you meet the criteria for our technical assistance program.
- Rebate funding on your purchase of eligible plants and/or seed mixes used in your resilient plantings in 2022**
 → Receive up to \$150 per Minnetonka household, for plants and seed mixes installed in 2022 (based on recommendations from your site consultation).
 → Read the packet carefully for information about which types of plants are eligible for rebate.
 → You can purchase through the city's online native plant sale (offered May 1 through mid-September—contact staff to request a discount code) or choose your own vendor.
 → Be sure to track your progress! Keep all documentation and receipts, and take photos of your installations (before and after, at minimum).
- Submit your rebate application and all supporting information by November 15, 2022.

Staff contact:
 Christine Petersen
 Natural Resources Engagement Coordinator | City of Minnetonka
 952-988-8442 or cpetersen@minnetonkamn.gov

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

MAYORS' MONARCH PLEDGE



**Minnetonka Park Board Item 9
Meeting of February 1, 2023**

Subject:	Information Items
Park Board related goal:	N/A
Park Board related objective:	N/A
Brief Description:	The following are informational items and developments that have occurred since the last park board meeting.

Pickleball Neighborhood Meetings

City staff held a neighborhood meeting on January 25th for residents to learn more about the resurfacing of the tennis courts at Linner and Junction Parks. The possibilities for court retrofit include some combination of pickleball courts and tennis courts, becoming entirely pickleball courts, or remaining tennis only. Residents within 500 feet of both parks were invited to this joint meeting to learn about the timeline, court options, and provide feedback to staff. The feedback will be summarized and presented by staff at the March 1st Park Board meeting.

Overview of Minnetonka Dog/Leash Regulations

At the January 4, 2023 meeting of the Minnetonka Park Board, Park Board members asked staff to provide information related to current ordinances pertaining to dogs and off-leash dog restrictions due to an increase in dog related public feedback. Public engagement received during the development of the Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Plan, along with periodic communications with staff and city leaders, and social media communications among residents in the community (e.g. NextDoor) have highlighted concerns related to off-leash dogs and public safety in parks and other open space areas of the city. In fact, the POST Plan public engagement survey conducted in 2021 determined that off-leash dogs were the primary reason keeping people from visiting parks, and creating unwelcome and unsafe conditions within the parks.

City of Minnetonka park regulations generally allow people to have their dogs off a leash and under voice command in large portions of city parks, which means that off-leash dogs can be found in most parks at any given time of the day. Purgatory Park in particular has a high occurrence of off-leash dogs, and has become known as a somewhat informal and unofficial dog park in the community. It is recognized that there are benefits with the social interactions people and their pets have related to dogs congregating and roaming free, however the downsides include unsafe and unwelcome conditions, conflicts with park users, and impacts to natural areas and habitat restoration activities that take place in our parks.

Chapter 9 of the city code regarding public safety addresses dogs and generally allows dogs to be off-leash if they are under voice command. Chapter 11 of the city code regarding park regulations also addresses dogs and generally allows for off-leash dogs in unimproved or unmaintained areas. Language for both ordinance sections is included, below.

A review of city regulations for ten comparable cities (size, demographics) indicates that Minnetonka’s allowance for off-leash dogs in non-designated off-leash areas is unique. To date, the city does not have an official, posted and regulated off-leash dog park.

Comparable Cities	Requires a Leash*	Allows Leash or Voice Command
Brooklyn Park	X	
Burnsville	X	
Eagan	X	
Eden Prairie	X	
Edina	X	
Lakeville	X	
Maple Grove	X	
Minnetonka		X
Plymouth	X	
St. Louis Park	X	
Woodbury	X	

** Unless in designated off-leash area*

It is recognized that there is ambiguity in the ordinance language relative to off-leash dogs, which leads to ongoing challenges with enforcement. The police department receives a lot of calls about issues with off-leash dogs approaching people on the trails, in the parking lots and in other places where they should not be off-leash. Enforcement has consistently been an issue due to the fact that, per the ordinance language, most parks have areas that require a leash (improved trails, maintained turf, athletic fields and parking lots) mixed in with areas that technically don’t require a leash (unimproved and unmaintained areas). Citations that are taken to court are almost always thrown out by the judge because of the wording of the ordinances and the fact that there is no physical barrier dividing the off- and on-leash areas.

The POST Plan and the 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan approved by the Park Board and City Council identify park master planning as a high priority strategy for maintaining and enhancing parks in the community. Starting in 2023, city staff will be initiating a park master planning effort for Purgatory Park, which will address off-leash dogs and the potential for creating an official, designated off-leash dog area. The City Council has also scheduled a study session related to off-leash dogs in parks and other public areas in September, 2023. Staff feel the Purgatory Park master planning effort, which will include robust public engagement regarding community needs and amenities for the park, will help inform the Park Board and council discussion on this topic.

Please find a copy of current dog-related city ordinances below.

Minnetonka, Minnesota Code of Ordinances

Chapter 9 – Public Safety ([Section 925.085. Prohibitions.](#))

1. An owner must not cause or permit his/her dog to run at large within the city limits, including within a public park, except as otherwise allowed by this code. Being "at large" means being off the property of the person owning, harboring or keeping the dog and not: (a) at heel beside a person having custody of it and obedient to that person's command; (b) within a private motor vehicle of a person owning, harboring or keeping the animal; or (c) controlled by a leash not exceeding six feet in length. For purposes of clause (a) of this subdivision, the person must be able to demonstrate that the dog will respond to the person's voice or nonverbal command on the first command given.
2. An owner must not cause or permit his/her dog to be on a public beach or school grounds, even if under restraint, except for dogs that have been specially trained and certified to perform tasks to assist people, such as handicapped assistance, police canine duties, or search and rescue.
3. A person must not abandon an animal within the city.
4. A person must not keep, own, harbor or otherwise possess a public nuisance animal, which is one that:
 - a. is maintained in a manner that violates section 925.080(2);
 - b. by virtue of number or types of animals maintained, is offensive or dangerous to the public health, safety or welfare; or
 - c. has been the subject of a violation of this chapter more than two times in a 24-month period.
5. A person must not own, keep, or have in his/her possession an animal that unreasonably causes annoyance or disturbance to another person by frequent howling, yelping, barking, or other kinds of noise. The phrase "unreasonably causes annoyance or disturbance" includes the creation of noise by an animal which can be heard by any person, including an animal control officer or a law enforcement officer, from a location outside of the unit, building or premises where the animal is being kept and which animal noise occurs repeatedly over at least a five-minute period of time with one minute or less lapse of time between each animal noise during the five-minute period. The noise described in this paragraph is not a violation if the defendant can affirmatively prove that the noise occurred due to harassment or injury to the animal from someone or something other than the owner or keeper of the animal, or due to a trespass upon the property where the animal was located. When there has been a violation of this paragraph, the enforcing officer has the discretion to issue or to not issue a citation, based on the officer's good judgment and the circumstances of the situation.
6. A person must not permit an animal under his/her care, custody or control to damage another person's lawn, garden or other property.
7. A person must not injure, harass, or interfere with a police canine in the lawful performance of its duties, or attempt, permit or cause the same.

8. An owner of an animal must not fail to restrain the animal from inflicting or attempting to inflict bodily injury on a person at any place or on a domestic animal off the owner's property, except in the circumstances specified in section 925.005(10), paragraphs d, e, and f.
9. A person, except police officers in the lawful performance of their duties using a police canine, must not cause or encourage an animal to engage in unprovoked attacks upon human beings or domestic animals.
10. A person must not own, possess, harbor, or train an animal for the purpose of fighting with other animals.
11. A person must not permit an animal under his/her care, custody or control to defecate on public or private property without permission of the property owner, unless the person immediately cleans up and disposes of the animal's feces in a sanitary manner. A person who has custody or control of an animal on property that the person does not own or occupy must have in his/her immediate possession suitable equipment for picking up and removing the animal's feces in a sanitary manner. The person must dispose of the feces in appropriate waste containers, at a location owned or occupied by the person, or at a location where the person has been given permission to do so. The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to a blind person accompanied by a service dog or a person physically unable to clean up after a dog, and does not apply to a person in control of a dog involved in official police or rescue activities.

Chapter 11 – Streets, Parks, and other Public Property ([Section 1135.020. General Rules.](#))

The following rules apply in and on all park facilities.

Animals

1. Except as allowed in this subdivision, a person may not transport any animal to or be accompanied by any animal at any park.
 - a. Domestic animals are allowed in the following areas only, subject to the restrictions in this subdivision:
 - (1) improved trails;
 - (2) maintained turf areas other than athletic fields;
 - (3) unimproved and unmaintained areas; and
 - (4) parking lots as necessary to transport the animal to and from the park areas specified above.
 - b. At all times while present in the park, a domestic animal must be accompanied by a competent person in the immediate vicinity of the animal, who is responsible for the animal.
 - c. When on improved trails, maintained turf areas other than athletic fields, or parking lots, domestic animals must be either kept in a secure container from which the animal cannot escape or must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet in length. Tethering animals is not permitted.

d. Unless otherwise signed, dogs may be off-leash within areas of a park that are unimproved and unmaintained, provided the following conditions are met:

- (1) the person responsible for the dog must maintain sight of the dog at all times;
- (2) the maximum number of dogs that any person may accompany off-leash at any time is two;
- (3) the person must be able to demonstrate that the dog will respond to the person's voice command on the first command given.

e. No person may allow a domestic animal under his or her responsibility to disturb, harass, or interfere with any park visitor, a park visitor's property or a park employee.

f. A person may not have custody or control of any domestic animal in a park without possessing an appropriate device for cleaning up the animal's feces and disposing of the feces in a sanitary manner.

g. Paragraphs a. and b. above do not apply to service animals as defined by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, or to law enforcement animals.

2. Wild animals including birds may not be fed, except pursuant to a city sponsored program.

3. Wild animals may not be killed, trapped, pursued, caught, or removed, except when necessary to protect the immediate safety of a person or domestic animal. This prohibition does not apply to a law enforcement officer, or other person authorized by the director, who is performing official duties.

**Minnetonka Park Board Item 10
Meeting of February 1, 2023**

Upcoming 6-Month Meeting Schedule				
Day	Date	Meeting Type	Agenda Business Items	Special Notes
Wed	3/1/23	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Resources annual report • Tennis court resurfacing (Junction/Linner) • 2023 Park Board Strategic Plan 	
Wed	4/5/23	Regular	•	No meeting
Wed	5/3/23	Regular	• Review of outdoor ice rinks	
Wed	6/7/23	Regular	• 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)	
Wed	7/5/23	Regular	•	No meeting
Wed	8/2/23	Regular	•	No meeting

Other meetings and activities to note:

Day	Date	Description	Special Notes
Sun	2/5/23	Kids Fest	Hopkins Pavilion (new location)
Sat	2/11/23	Winter Farmers Market	Minnetonka Community Center

Items to be scheduled:

Climate Action & Adaptation Plan