



# Agenda

## Minnetonka Park Board

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center - Minnehaha Room

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1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

\_\_\_\_\_ Isabelle Stroh

\_\_\_\_\_ David Ingraham

\_\_\_\_\_ Korey Beyersdorf

\_\_\_\_\_ Ben Jacobs

\_\_\_\_\_ Ella DiLorenzo

\_\_\_\_\_ Katie Semersky

\_\_\_\_\_ Anne Hanley

\_\_\_\_\_ Chris Walick

3. Reports from Staff

4. Approval of Minutes

A) February 1, 2023

5. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda

6. Special Matters

7. Business Items

A) Skate Park Feasibility Final Study

B) Tennis court resurfacing (Junction/Linner)

C) Consideration of the 2023 Park Board Strategic 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  
Minnetonka Park Board  
Wednesday, February 1, 2023**

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Roll Call**

Park board members present: Ella DiLorenzo, Anne Hanley, David Ingraham, Ben Jacobs, Katie Semersky, Isabelle Stroh, Korey Beyersdorf and Chris Walick.

Staff members in attendance: DeeAnn Bloom, Darin Ellingson, Kathy Kline, Kelly O'Dea, Sara Woeste and Leslie Yetka.

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

**3. Reports from Staff**

Recreation Director Kelly O'Dea introduced the new park board members Ella DiLorenzo and Anne Hanley. Both introduced themselves.

O'Dea commented that an addendum was sent out earlier stating that we are moving business item 7A to the March 1 meeting because our Park and Trail Planner is sick.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Jacobs moved, Ingraham seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes of Dec. 7, 2022 and Jan. 4, 2023 as submitted. Hanley and DiLorenzo abstained. All voted "yes."  
Motion carried.

**5. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda**

There were none.

**6. Special Matters**

There were none.

**7. Business Items**

**A. Skate Park Feasibility Final Study**

This item has been moved to the March 1, 2023 Minnetonka Park Board meeting.

**B. Natural Resource Division's 2023 Outreach, Education and Engagement Plan**

Program and Outreach Coordinator Christine Petersen gave the report.

Hanley asked how the buckthorn pickup is going to work.

Petersen replied that they are still finessing the program, but they are hoping people will attend the workshop about resilient yards which is done by Metro Blooms to get a sense of what they can accomplish. If they find that buckthorn is a key problem on their site, they will need to tackle that before they can do anything else. Staff can help prioritize that by providing buckthorn pick-up so they can spend their time on replanting or reseeding rather than managing a lot of buckthorn debris.

Walick commented that he's always amazed at the outreach and natural resources does. Out of all the cities he has lived in, Minnetonka has the best outreach and care for the community. He thanked the volunteers because they do so much for the city. He questioned if the Minnetonka High School Natural Resources Club was in contact with anybody from the city.

Petersen responded that the Natural Resources Club reached out to her last year about volunteering. At that time, they were busy getting the new volunteer management system going so she connected them with the bluebird volunteers. Then in the fall, they helped with the buckthorn removal in the parks. Staff realized that they had around 60 students on their mailing list and a lot of them are involved with the Vantage program. They have also been working with Associate Planner/Sustainability Coordinator Drew Ingvalson with our GreenStep Cities program and sustainability. They've also worked with Park and Trail Project Manager Matt Kumka to learn more about natural resources and master planning. She thought all these connections with the city are happening and the club formed specifically with the mission of supporting the natural resources program.

Walick liked the videos that were mentioned because his kid's love learning things and doing the activities that go with it. Kids love watching YouTube videos and he requested making videos to aim at the younger crowd so they can get more engaged. With his kids, if he shows them a five minute video on something, they will have a lot of questions after watching it. He feels like it would be a good learning platform for that younger age.

Petersen thought that was a good tip and it's something the high school students could possibly help with. This spring, the high school students are doing storm water education for grades four and five in all of the Minnetonka and Hopkins elementary schools. In addition, the high school students are going to visit two of the six Minnetonka elementary schools to deliver an activity related to pet waste. Such as the signs that are in the parks that were done in the past. You will see more of those in the parks in both English and Spanish. The high school students are also going to create an animated video to talk about the problems of pet waste to introduce the topic.

Walick asked when the high school students will be doing this.

Petersen replied that the school visits will be in March or April.

Semersky thanked Petersen for the summary. She asked if there are any challenges in her work that the park board should be aware of.

Petersen responded that engaging new audiences is the biggest challenge and trying to provide translated material so people can see the outreach in multiple languages. If we have the opportunity to network or take advantage of any of the connections we already have in the community through the schools or other places, we can bring awareness of

this to underserved populations. She is positive that there are people out there who would be interested in volunteering or participating in some of the stuff they do with technical assistance. Staff wants to bring in as many folks as possible and they always appreciate support on that.

Hanley noticed in the Mayors Monarch Pledge that there are quite a lot of things to be done this year. She questioned if staff needed help.

Petersen explained that there are 29 action steps and they pledged for all of them this year. In 2022, we pledged for 26 action steps and they achieved that. When she first started this, the first thing she did was look at the work that was already being done on the list. In the first year, they made 11 action steps and eight of them were already being done. Making people aware of this is helpful. If you are talking to the public, you can mention that we are going above and beyond because we value monarchs, pollinators and the habitat around them. July is Monarch and Pollinator Awareness Month, which is a great time to spread the word.

Ingraham thought this was very comprehensive and applauds them on all the work they do. He questioned how they are able to track engagement for online items such as webinars and videos.

Petersen replied that they can track online engagement to an extent. An example is that they have 3,300 subscribers to the natural resources e-newsletter; their open rate went up from 30 percent on average since she started doing this to 40 percent on average this year. They can track volunteer hours, YouTube page visits, who attends resilient yard workshops, who moves onto the next step and who requests a site consultation. There are some things that she can't possibly track. An example is how many people are doing activities for Monarch and Pollinator Awareness Month. She puts these activities on tables at the libraries or puts them on Minnetonka Matters.

Ingraham wondered if buckthorn that is picked up gets handled in a way that it doesn't go back out as mulch in people's yards.

Natural Resources Manager Leslie Yetka said people are able to bring it to our drop-off sites and it gets put into our large compost pile and then it gets chipped up. We don't separate stuff out so it does potentially get put into the mulch.

Street and Park Operations Manager Darin Ellingson said the buckthorn goes into the brush and gets ground up with all the brush that gets brought into the city. Currently, there is no market for getting the brush on the ground turned into mulch. All the mulch they grind gets hauled out and gets turned into compost. Composting pyrolysis generally gets hot enough that it kills the seeds. If it does get used for mulch, it's processed and gets double ground again, then it gets sorted, sized and colored and made into the colored mulch you would buy. A lot of the small stuff like berries gets sorted out and gets made into compost. It kind of gets handled in the process.

Ingraham questioned if staff feels ok about how it's disposed of.

Ellingson replied that people could get some from the small compost pile because it doesn't get sorted. For mulch, he isn't sure how much would be in a scoop.

**8. Park Board Member Reports**

There were none.

**9. Information Items**

**Pickleball Neighborhood Meetings**

O'Dea gave the report.

**Overview of Minnetonka Dog/Leash Regulations**

O'Dea gave the report.

Ellingson explained that in the park ordinance, dogs need to be on a leash in maintained areas. Maintained areas are where there is mowing, picnic shelters, parking lots, and on our formal trails. The only place dogs can be off-leash are on unmaintained areas. In the wide open areas dogs can be off-leash but they are supposed to be under voice command. Some dogs are under voice command and the owners do a good job but there are a lot of owners that don't do a good job. Staff receives calls about dogs running up on other dogs or people walking on the trails. At the last meeting there was a question asked about what the leash rules are throughout the city and Section 9 of the city code talks about that. With the Parks, Open Space and Trail System (POST) Plan, staff received a lot of comments through Minnetonka Matters. With the master planning at Purgatory Park, staff will be getting feedback from users and they will be looking to see if there is a possibility to have an off-leash dog park. It would be a designated area for dogs to be off-leash and then dogs would be required to be leashed everywhere else. In September the city council has an item on their study session calendar to discuss the leash laws throughout the city. Depending on the outcome of the Purgatory Park Master Plan and the city council study session, they might do a regulation update and a city ordinance update for off-leash pets.

O'Dea introduced Administrative Community Service Officer and Crime Prevention Specialist DeeAnn Bloom to present what the officers see out in the parks while they are enforcing.

Officer Bloom said she has been doing this for 23 years and off-leash dogs in the parks have always been a problem. She came to the park board previously regarding this but the only people that showed up to the park board meeting were people who wanted dogs' off-leash. A big problem that officers have when they write citations for off-leash dogs is that if anybody fights the citation in front of a judge, the judge will explain that there is no definitive area for off-leash dogs and there is no physical barrier that is delineating where the off-leash area is; then the citation will get thrown out. She gave examples of incidents that happened in parks where residents and/or their dogs were approached and they were afraid of off-leashed dogs. She also gave examples of when officers and residents were disrespected by off-leash dog owners. There are good people that have their dog's off-leash but there are others that are being blatantly bold and just blowing off the officers. It's very frustrating knowing that if officers write them a ticket and they go to court that it will just be thrown out. When she came to the park board years ago, she proposed to have one park or one area that was off-leash and everywhere else be leashed because it would make it easier for them to enforce. At the time, natural resources had a big concern with having one park that was

off-leash because all the dog feces would be in that one park. However, if you walk around any of the parks, people aren't picking up their dog's waste.

O'Dea commented that we don't have park police in Minnetonka. Community Service Officers (CSO) go out and monitor the parks and there are more than 50 parks.

Bloom explained that they have two full-time CSOs and four part-time CSOs usually. Currently, they have one full-time CSO because Bloom is now off the road and two part-time CSOs. The part-time CSOs are all going to school to be officers so they have to work around their schedules and they tend to be more evening and weekend hours. In the winter, they are not really able to get into the parks in the evenings because it is dark outside. There is one part-time CSO that works every weekend and he works during the day. It's not easy for them to enforce all that many parks right now so they focus primarily on Purgatory Park, Lone Lake Park and Big Willow Park. Jidana Park is a big problem area but it is very difficult for them to enforce. They can't drive into the park so they would have to get out of their vehicles to enforce it. If they got a call while they were in the park, they would have to hurry back to their vehicle and that makes things very difficult.

DiLorenzo said a lot of this is a bit reactionary like what do you do if you see a dog that is off-leash. On the preventative side, she is trying to figure out why people do not put a leash on their dog. She wonders if they just don't want to put a leash on them, they think their dog is well behaved, or they live in an apartment and don't have space for the dog. As a dog owner herself, she usually leashes her dog and she is trying to understand why people don't leash them. She questioned if there have been any reports where people have been injured by dogs.

Bloom answered that there have been incidents. Several years ago, a lady got knocked down and broke her arm. We've also had reports of people getting bitten by off-leash dogs. There have been incidents where an unleashed dog ran up to a leashed dog and they got into a scuffle, then the leashed dog got tangled around a person and they fell and got injured. As far as why it is happening, she thinks sometimes we get people who live in an apartment and just want a place to exercise their dog. She's also talked to people that live in Eden Prairie and they charge a fee for their dog park so they bring their dog to Purgatory Park so they don't have to pay. There is a group of people that go to Purgatory Park at a certain time of day and they socialize while their dogs play but they aren't paying any attention to their dogs.

DiLorenzo questioned how many dogs are run over or hurt. She wondered if people would be more encouraged to take action if you tell them they are putting their dog in harm's way. If they're personally invested, it may help if there was a campaign saying a leash is the safest way to walk your dog.

Bloom responded that it probably would help with the leash law on the streets but probably not in the parks because it's not really an issue there. There is more of an issue with dog versus dog in the parks. Somebody mentioned they have a reactive dog, which means they could be walking them on a leash and they are well behaved but then another dog comes up to them and they will get upset. She had an incident happen like this and the off-leash dog owner told the leashed reactive dog owner that they shouldn't be allowed to go to the park. Parks aren't meant to be like that and it's hard to explain it to people who believe it should be like that.

Semersky thanked Bloom for speaking and said her stories were incredibly helpful in helping her understand the issues and the enforcement; she never thought about people challenging enforcement. She thought that data would help strengthen the fact that we need to tweak our rules. She asked if we track the data on complaints, injuries or all of the things she has been referencing.

Bloom replied that we used to have that data when we had our own police dispatch. Now, all of the animal complaints are categorized under "animal" so you don't know if it is a dead raccoon on the road or a dog bite.

Ingraham commented that the police analyst ran a report of incidents that had the keyword "leash." We average about 100 a year so about two incidents per week that relate to a leash issue. He assumes those are likely off-leash and not leashed incidents. It has been consistent for the last five years.

Semersky suspected there are many people who don't get mad enough to call the police.

Bloom explained that those are calls generated through our dispatch. She also gets a lot of calls forwarded to her from the nonemergency police phone number.

Stroh thought in terms of preventative measures, making an entire park completely leashed would probably make people more reactive on how unfair that is for them or their particular situation. She asked about putting a temporary fence around portions that are already technically off-leash at Purgatory Park and some of the other bigger parks. Then you can see how people react once there is some kind of barrier. Having this set off-leash area could give it more of a legal backing so it won't immediately get overturned if people challenge it.

Ingraham commented that in Purgatory Park, the challenge is that you would only be fencing the maintained trails. Once you step off the limestone, you are in an unmaintained area and the dogs could be off-leash as long as the owner is in the immediate vicinity and the dog is under voice control. The challenge with Purgatory Park is that you literally have to have a corral around the maintained trail.

Walick added that the city council will take it up as a broader issue because there are a lot of heated opinions on both sides about it. He questioned if these are all things they would look at and make decisions on.

O'Dea responded that the city council decided that this was a topic they wanted to discuss at a September study session. He thought the plan was to grab more data when we have the Purgatory Park Master Plan. There is a lot of data already because of the POST Plan but staff thinks the Purgatory Master Plan will help enhance that data so they can figure out where to go from there. At the study session in September, no decisions would be made but they will probably give direction on where to take this topic.

Jacobs commented that September seems a long time away and asked if that was the quickest we could do anything. This is an issue and 20 percent of people that filled out the POST Plan survey said that. It's obviously an issue and is growing.

O'Dea replied that we can think about different ways to be proactive. The only thing we have done is put up some additional signs at Purgatory Park and Jidana Park, however, he's not sure people are paying attention to those. He thinks part of the problem is that there are

people who just aren't listening to anybody. There are also some people who really don't know if they are on maintained or unmaintained areas. We've heard that comment too from people who thought they were in an off-leashed area.

Jacobs said he doesn't want to brush it under the rug since this came up 10 years ago. It sounds like it we have a cultural problem.

O'Dea explained that the city council approved their study session calendar and this topic was set for September. He is hoping that the park board can discuss it a little bit before then so they have some information.

Ingraham is a dog owner, a dog lover and he loves having a dog off-leash but because of his current dog, he understands limitations of that with certain dogs. He also is really intune to all the feedback we get whether it's from the POST Plan, Nextdoor or reports similar to what was shared today. He wondered if the city council has heard the reports that were shared today. There are uniformed city employees being disrespected abundantly at Big Willow, Jidana and Purgatory parks. He thought Purgatory Park would be a solution for the city to ultimately say there is an off-leashed area at some point. The off-leash issue is an issue everywhere but it is the worst at Purgatory Park. More people responded to this as a concern for their safety in the parks than voted for most of our council members; not by the absolute numbers but by the census aspect of it. This survey was taken a year ago and 20 percent is a big number. There is going to be a study session in September, which means a change might be made by late 2024.

Jacobs added that it is an uphill battle.

Ingraham said it ultimately comes down to the dog owners. Not only would a judge say there isn't a designated area, you would have to be an attorney to read all of the subsections within the rules about what is or isn't considered the immediate vicinity. Even that doesn't matter because it comes down to the dog owners. If they are going to mouth off to officers, just imagine how they would treat the average person walking in the park. They are going to get worse feedback and he has experienced it. If the city council hasn't heard these reports from Bloom, they should because he finds it troubling to hear that two officers were disrespected in that way.

O'Dea replied that he can contact the city manager, who is in contact with the city council. He can see if there is anything they can do with the timing or if they have other suggestions.

Hanley asked if it is in the realm of possibility that the park board could start working on finding places to have off-leash dog parks. For example, she wondered if an outdoor hockey rink was big enough for an off-leash dog park. She heard a rumor that some of the hockey rinks are going to be taken apart because it's hard to maintain all of them.

Ingraham commented that as long as people can have their dog's off-leash in parks, they will go there instead of a hockey rink because there is more space for them to run.

Hanley thought if the city council said they were going to change the rules to match all the surrounding cities and be consistent then we should provide some off-leash areas. Hockey rinks probably aren't going to be the answer but somebody has to find a place to let the dogs run around. She is one of the 20 percent that is afraid to walk in the parks because she



was attacked by a dog when she was a child so it really scares her to see dogs running around.

Jacobs said we should be proactively starting to plan. All these other cities have dog parks and some of them require a fee to use them. We could at least get ahead and start a discussion.

O'Dea responded that he will connect with the city manager to see what type of discussions they can have. Maybe there are some temporary solutions that we can try. Ultimately, we need to look at ordinances and city laws to make it clearer for people; let them know if it is an area they can or can't be in.

Walick recommended reaching out to the city council through the city manager to highlight the importance and expediency of this. A dog park has come up in the past in terms of location and existence and he hopes the council can revisit it sooner than later. Based on some of these stories, hopefully we can recommend some action. Maybe we can start by forwarding the necessity of time through the city manager.

Ellingson explained that about 11 years ago, a lot of work was done looking at establishing dog parks in several parks. They had neighborhood meetings and there was huge pushback for a dog park at any of the suggested locations. It has been over 10 years but he assumes the resistance will be about the same.

Hanley said unless there is an area that's not park.

Ellingson replied that all of those areas were looked at.

Jacobs asked if the pushback was from people that lived there and didn't want it near them.

Ellingson replied that people nearby didn't want people coming with dogs, dogs barking, dogs around their yard, and people not picking up after their dogs in the park right by their house. There was a lot of work put into trying to find a solution and it was not successful.

Ingraham commented that is why Purgatory Park would ultimately work, because it is already off-leash there. Neighbors would probably appreciate the idea of corralling the dogs.

Ellingson said it would be nice to do something fast but it would also be nice to do something coordinated between the park regulations and the city regulations. If the park board gets initiation to move that forward and approves that dogs must be leashed at all parks unless there was a designated area, there would be a big education effort. Then at a later date, if the city council approves Chapter 9 of the ordinance for citywide things it would require another big education effort. It would help if this all could be done at the same time because it would be really hard to push out two new big changes in two different ways throughout the city. It would be best if it all got aligned at the same time.

Stroh wasn't sure if the scope and expenses of this idea would make it worth it but she asked if there could be a system where dog owners could get a license to prove their dog is controlled by voice command.

Bloom replied that somebody would have to test that the dog is under voice command and it would also have to be tested under off-leash conditions with other dogs. She doesn't think that would be a feasible situation.

Ingraham said in Boulder, Colorado there is a large open area in the flatiron foothills and he thinks they still have a certification process for dogs to be off-leash. Their rule is that your dog can be off-leash only if it is under trained voice control. If another person approaches and asks for the dog to be leashed, you have to leash it until you pass. He thought the owner certified the dog, which left them open to being cited if later there was an incident in the park because they said their dog was under voice control. You can't feasibly do testing from an expense or feasibility perspective. However, he thought the way they did it was to put more stress into the idea that if you've confirmed that you can control your dog and your dog ends up being the problem, that's a serious problem.

Bloom sees that being an enforcement issue though because everybody is going to say their dog is certified. Until you have issues, then you still have all the dogs running around.

Ingraham replied in that case they actually provide a certification but to your point it is self-certified.

Walick requested that when we bring this information to the city council that we relay all these points to them. That way they are given the information that the park board has talked about and they can have a starting place to determine whether or not to move it forward.

Ingraham asked if the park board should make a motion to encourage the city council to advance it or not.

O'Dea replied that this is under information items so technically we would not. These are video recorded and some council members do look back at commission meetings. As Ellingson mentioned, it would be nice to handle it all at once. In addition to that, it would also be great if we had an off-leash option. He thinks there are actually a lot of people who are good dog owners that also want an off-leash dog area. They want to let their dogs run and they aren't comfortable doing that in our parks with our set of laws. He will make sure that our city manager is aware of our comments tonight.

Hanley asked if it is possible to get access to the 10 year old study.

Ellingson responded that it was done before he started but he will look for it.

DiLorenzo asked what the study session in September would entail.

O'Dea answered that the September meeting is a city council study session. This would be a topic at their meeting and staff would present information to them. That would include park board information and any updated information from the Purgatory Master Plan. Then they could give feedback and give staff direction.

DiLorenzo asked if there would be any possibility to get research data. She would like to believe that neighbors aren't bringing out their dogs to hurt people but she knows that people do get hurt by dogs so we need to find that peace between the two. Maybe it is going up to people with off-leash dogs and asking them to help her understand why their dog isn't on a leash. Maybe the reason is the lack of enforcement but maybe it is lack of education

and they simply don't know the rules or the areas to be in. She would like to believe people want to follow the rules but maybe she is just naïve and not noticing it.

Jacobs said that these are the rules and people can kind of do what they want. They are following the culture and accepted rules so he thinks that is why if someone else's dog is off-leash then they will have their dog off-leash too. If you go to Eden Prairie, it's accepted that the dog is on a leash and you don't see dogs' off-leash.

DiLorenzo thought that was true because she thinks they are good people but they aren't getting in trouble.

Jacobs thought the reaction was because it is accepted and you are asking them to do something that is not accepted. Then it manifests to them not listening to anyone.

Bloom thought it definitely seems that way. A lot of times she will come around a corner in her truck and people will be on the trail with their dog and she watches them hurry to put a leash on their dog. She will tell them that their dog needs to be on a leash but they pretend like they don't know. They know the rules because otherwise they wouldn't have tried to hurry and put a leash on their dog.

Ellingson said most people know the rules because they carry their leashes with them.

Bloom said the other thing that happens a lot at Purgatory Park is people will go from an off-leash area, to a trail that is a leash area and then back to an off-leash area so they don't think they need to leash their dog to get to the other point. People get mad if you tell them their dog has to be leashed on a trail and they will complain that it is only 10 yards.

Jacobs added that at the park board tour about five years ago they went to Purgatory Park. They witnessed a guy walking his dog on a leash and then took him off the leash. About five minutes later the dog came back without the owner and went towards the owner's house. They saw the owner about 10 minutes later and told him his dog went home.

O'Dea said he would talk to the city manager and staff will report back regarding the timing.

Hanley volunteered to read the study from 10 years ago if staff could find it.

## **10. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items**

O'Dea gave the report.

## **11. Adjournment**

Jacobs moved, Semersky 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 March 1, 2023**

<b>Subject:</b>	Skate Park Feasibility Final Study
<b>Park Board related goal:</b>	To provide quality athletic and recreational facilities and programs
<b>Park Board related objective:</b>	Receive and provide input and guidance on the skate park feasibility study
<b>Brief Description:</b>	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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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### Prepared For:

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### **City Staff**

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Evergreen Skateparks  
Portland, OR



# 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.

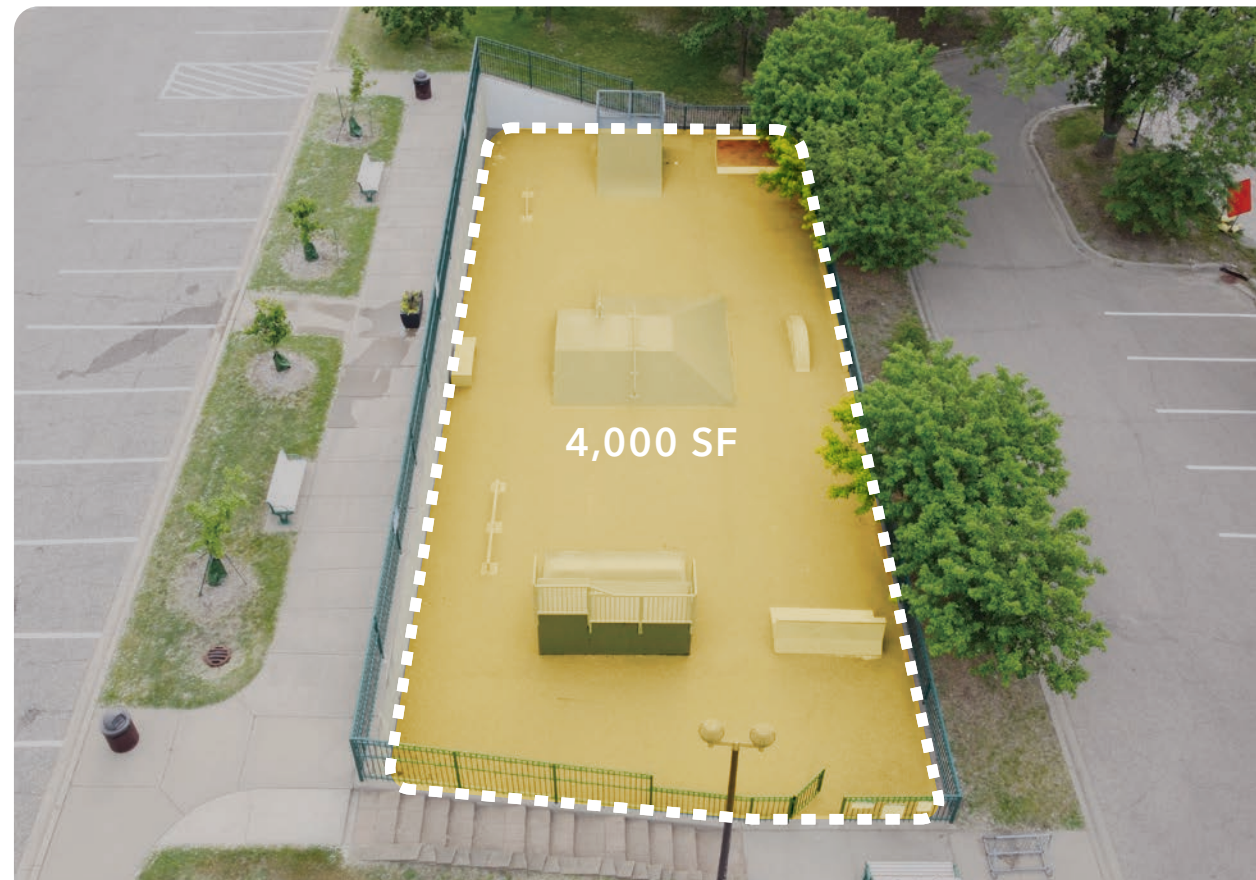
There are numerous ways to determine how much skatepark space is needed to adequately serve a population of people. Below are a few of the industry recommended methods for calculating needed skatepark space:

- > 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.**

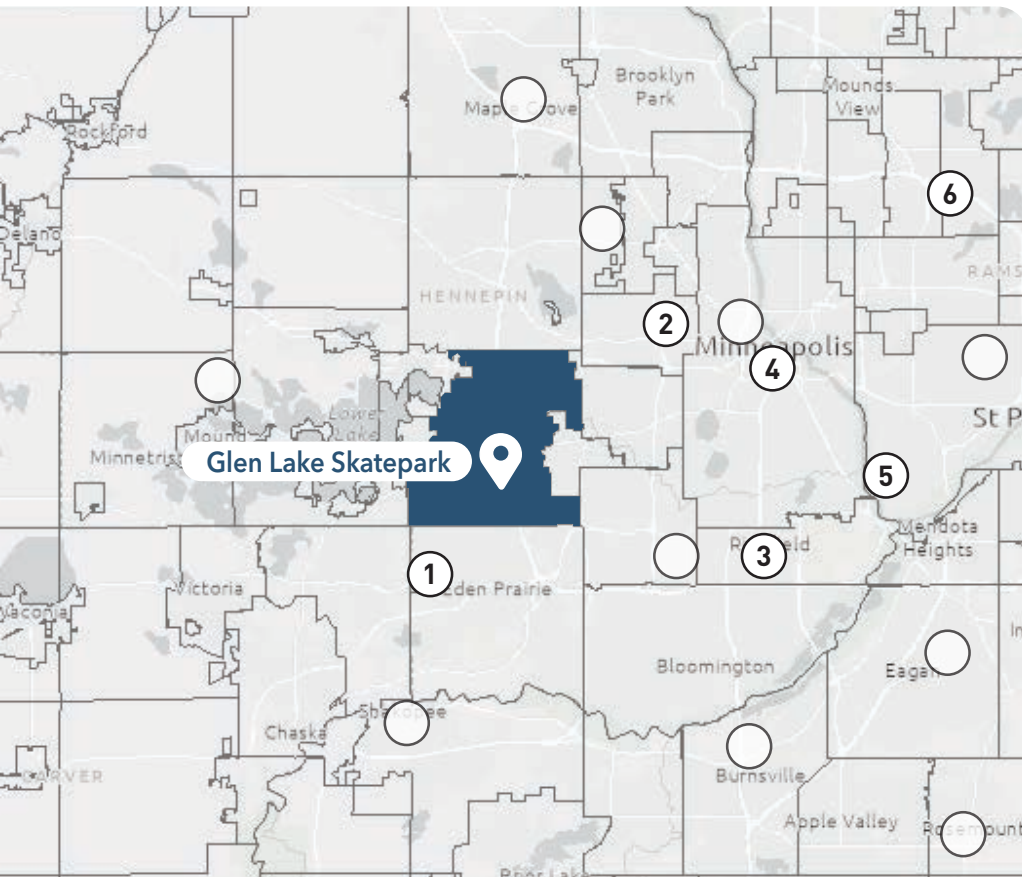
The current skatepark at the Glen Lake Activity Center is around 4,000 square feet, only meeting 20% of the communities need.

## 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](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	<b>Civic Center Fields + Play Area</b> 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ good
	<b>Glen Lake Elementary School</b> 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ no, partnership possible	✓ yes	✓ challenging
	<b>Glen Lake Park Playground</b> 14212 Excelsior Blvd	✓ yes	✓ yes* 11,000 sf	✓ great
	<b>Glen Lake Skatepark</b> 14350 Excelsior Blvd	✓ yes	✓ yes* 4,000 sf	✓ good
	<b>Gro Tonka Park</b> 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ great
	<b>McKenzie Park</b> 14950 McKenzie Blvd	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ workable
	<b>Meadow Park</b> 2725 Oakland Rd, Minnetonka	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ workable
	<b>Minnetonka Middle School East</b> 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ no, partnership possible	✓ yes	✓ great
	<b>Ridgedale Snow Storage Parcel</b> 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ no, acquisition needed	✓ yes	✓ great
	<b>Shady Oak Pavilion Area</b> 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ workable
NOT FEASIBLE	<b>The Marsh Site / Civic Center</b> 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ no, acquisition needed	✓ yes	✓ good
	<b>Minnetonka Drive Parcel</b> 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ yes	✓ yes	✗ challenging
	<b>Ridgedale iFly Parcel</b> 4801 Woodridge Rd	✓ no, acquisition needed	✗ no** 11,000 sf	✓ great
	<b>Royals Drive Parcel</b> 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
<b>ACCESSIBILITY</b>	<b>+7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
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
<b>LAND USE</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1</b>
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
<b>SAFETY</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
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
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY</b>	<b>+2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
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
<b>SUPPORTING AMENITIES</b>	<b>+2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
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
<b>OWNERSHIP</b>	<b>+2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
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
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>+21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>

Figure 2B - Level 2 Site Option Evaluation

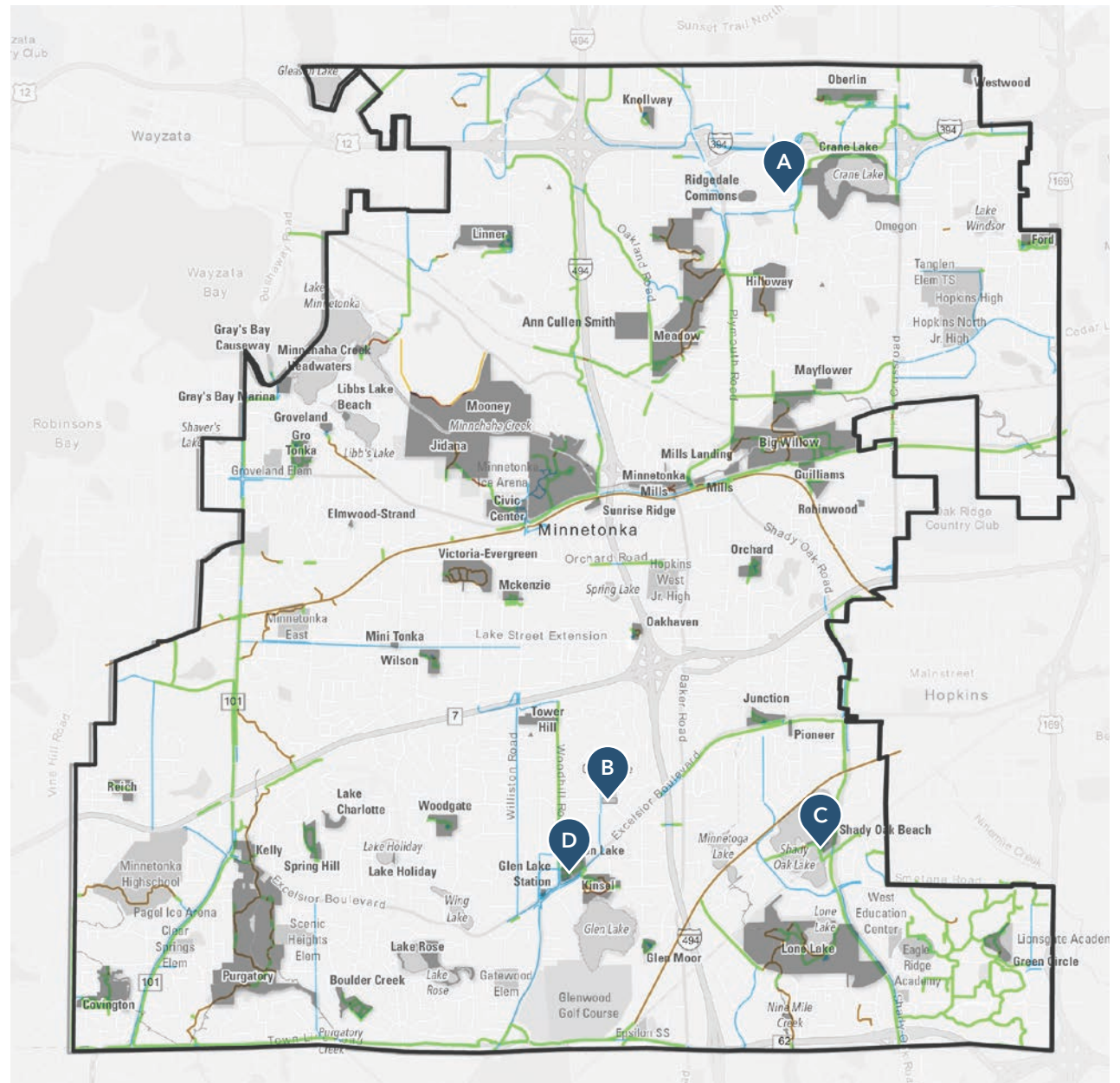
# CHAPTER 3 | SITE ANALYSIS

## 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

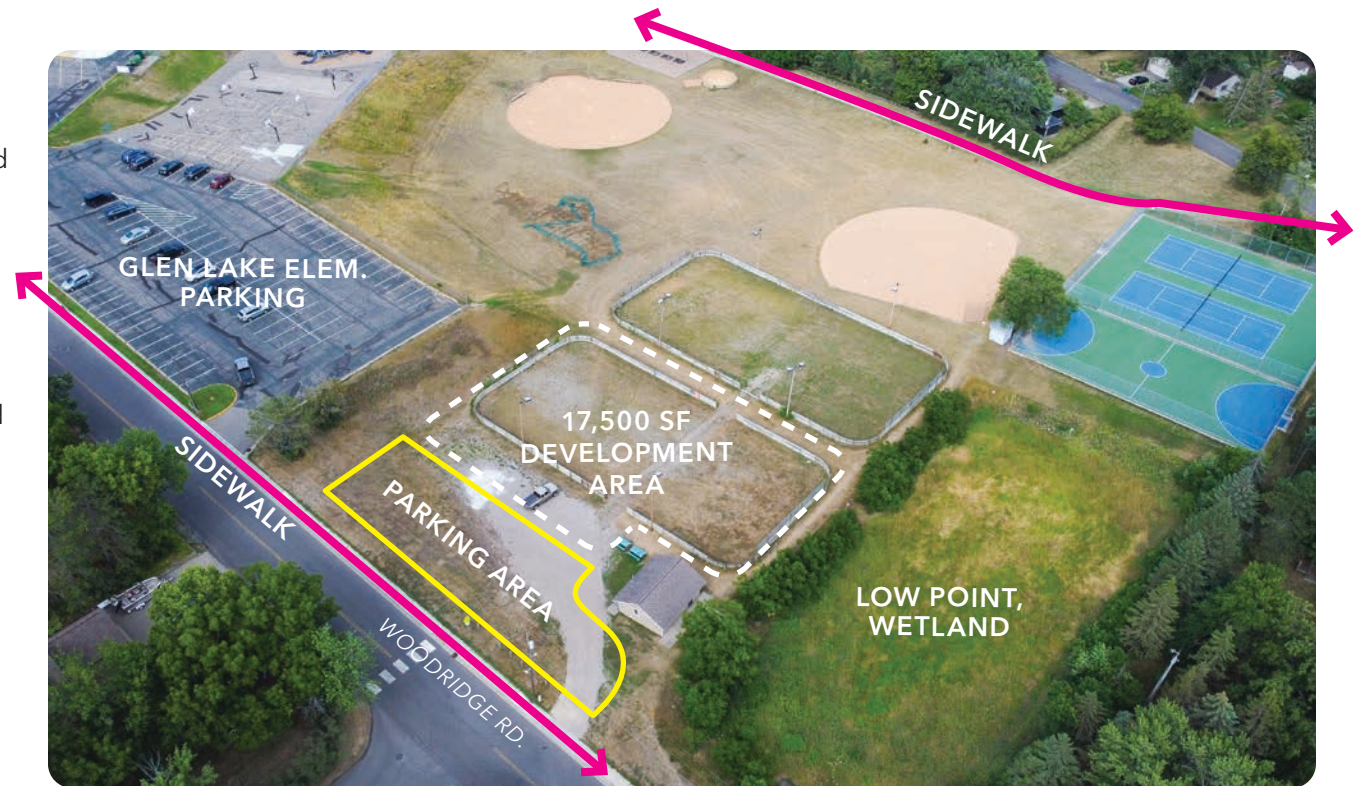
Located on Woodridge Road, this site occupies Glen Lake Elementary School property and would take the place of an existing ice rink.

### 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

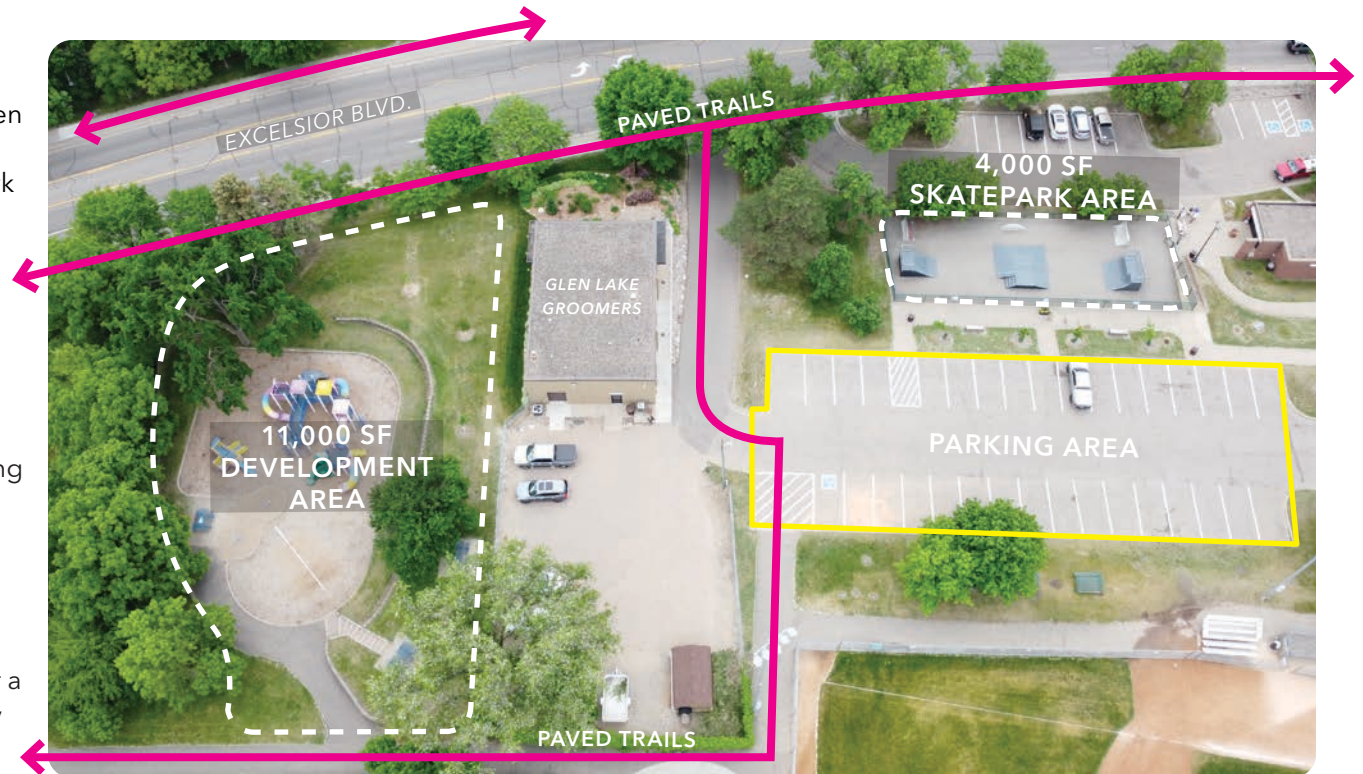
Located on Excelsior Boulevard is the existing Glen Lake Skatepark site and playground. This option would require redeveloping the existing skatepark together with the playground and surrounding area.

### 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

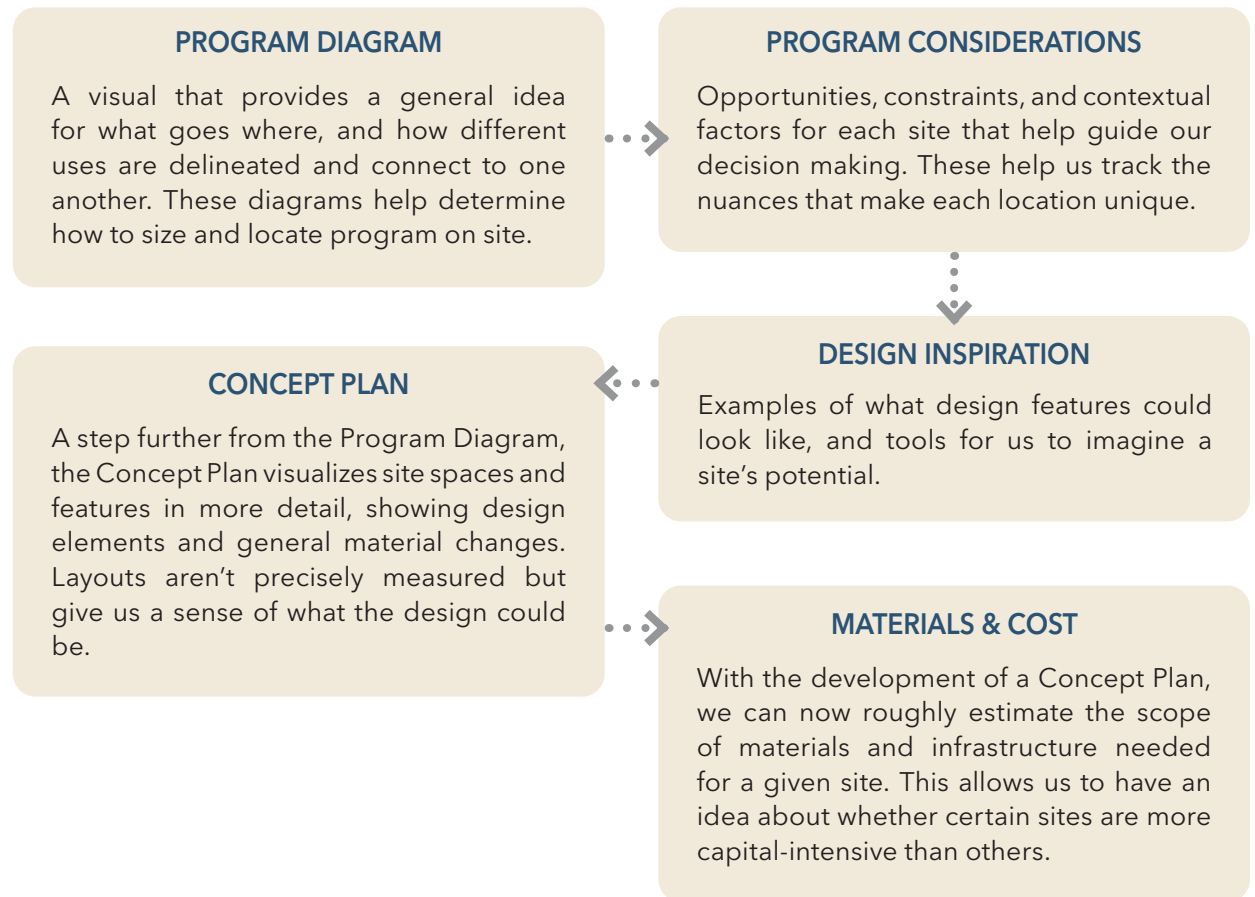
- 7/7 ACCESSIBILITY
- 1/5 LAND USE
- 4/4 SAFETY
- 2/2 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
- 1/2 SUPPORTING AMENITIES
- 0/2 OWNERSHIP

# CHAPTER 4 | CONCEPT DESIGN

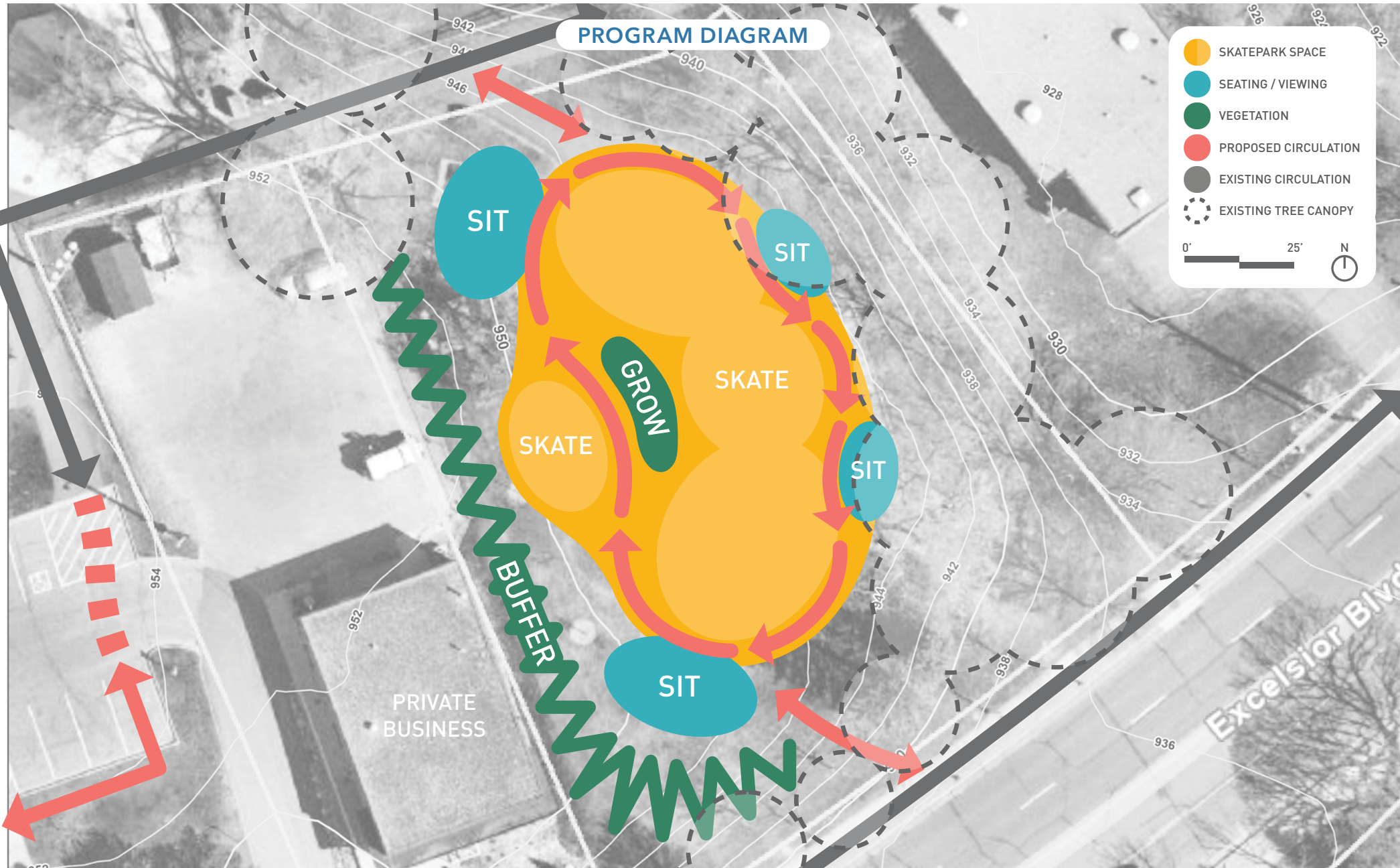
## APPROACH

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

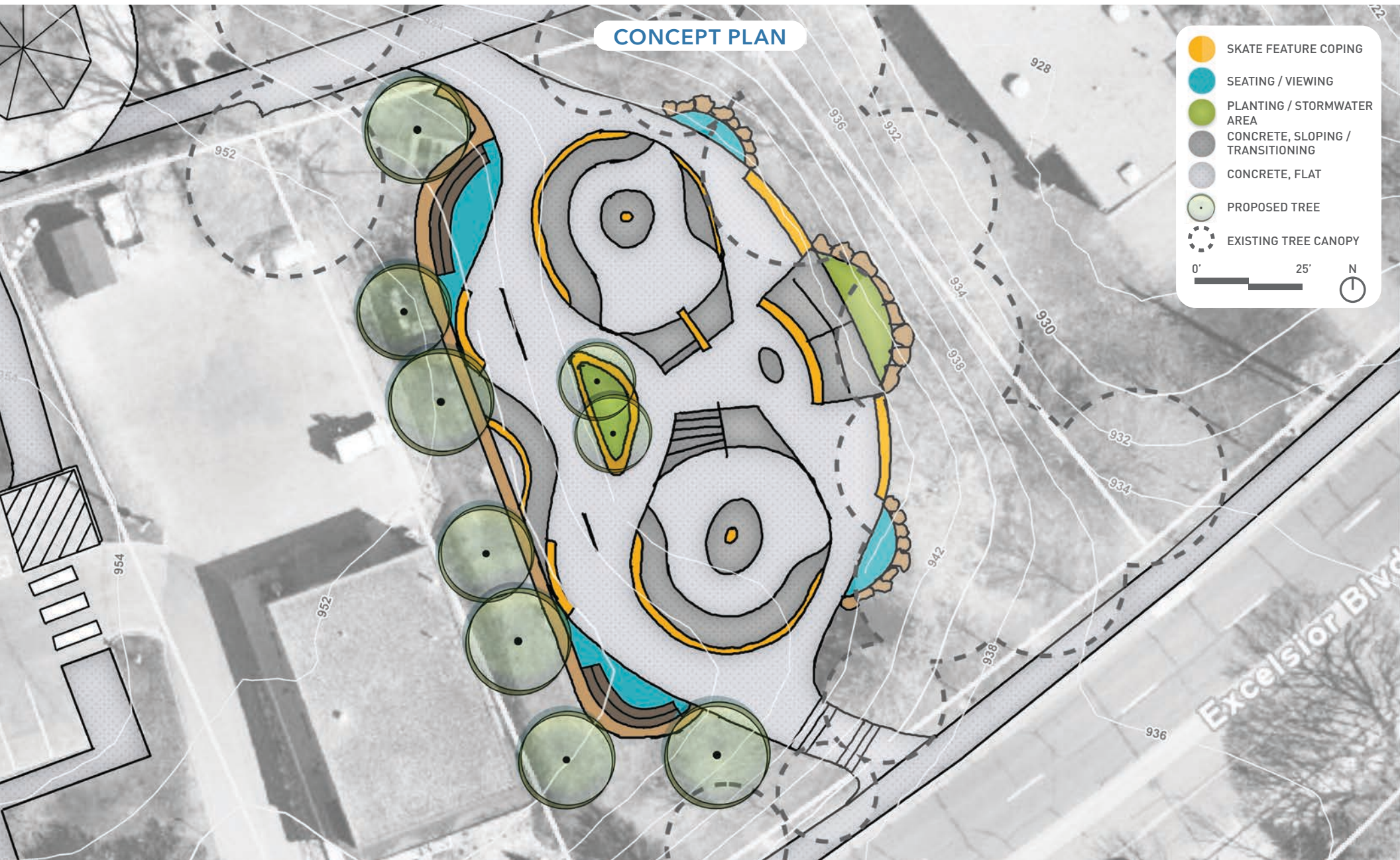
- > This location requires thoughtful pedestrian connections. Pathways should be established that bring people to the skatepark from the Excelsior Boulevard sidewalk, the ball field sidewalk, and from the parking lot above the existing skatepark.
- > Site topography at this site lends itself to creating 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**

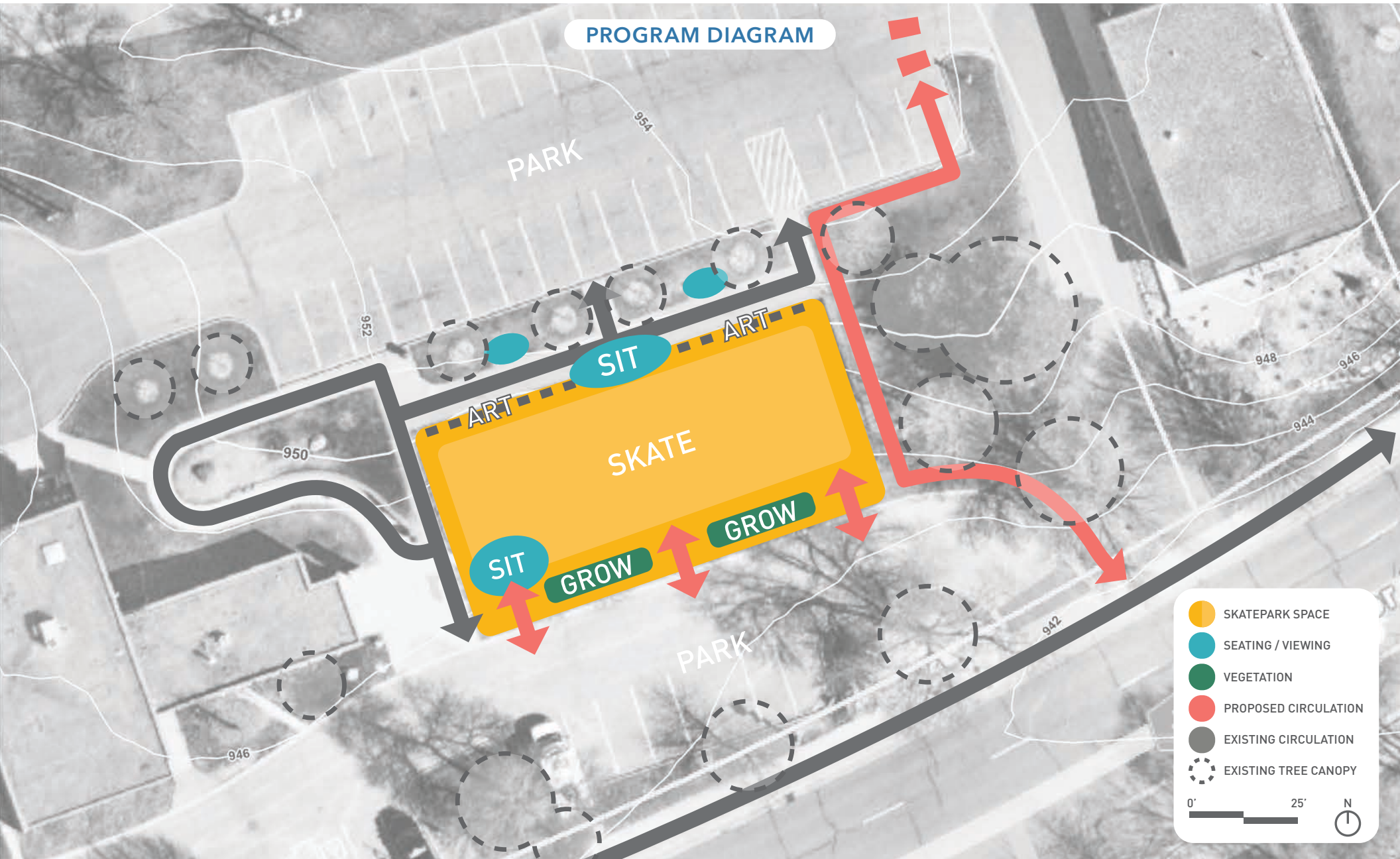
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### TOTAL PROJECT

**\$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



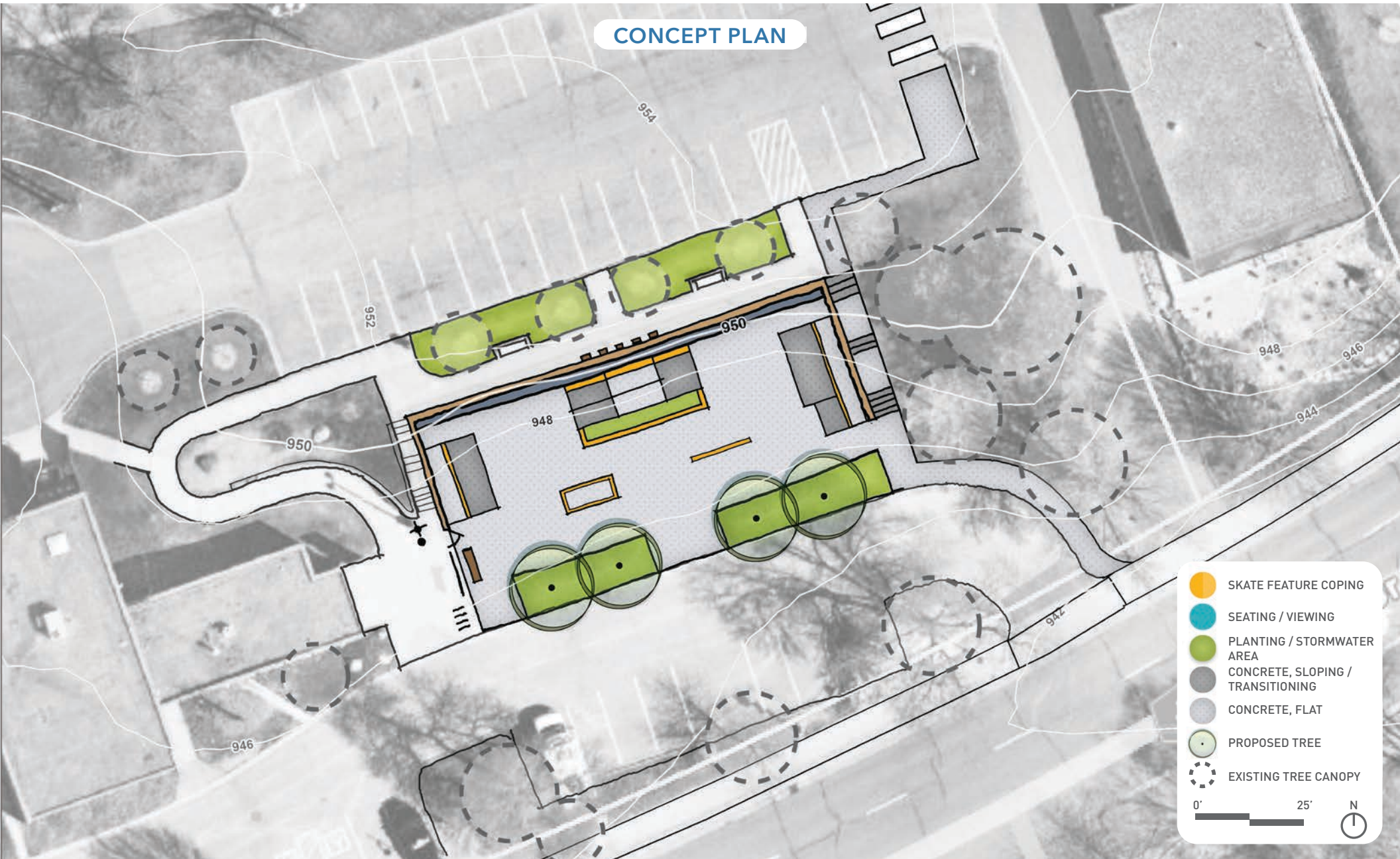
## PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS

- > 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**

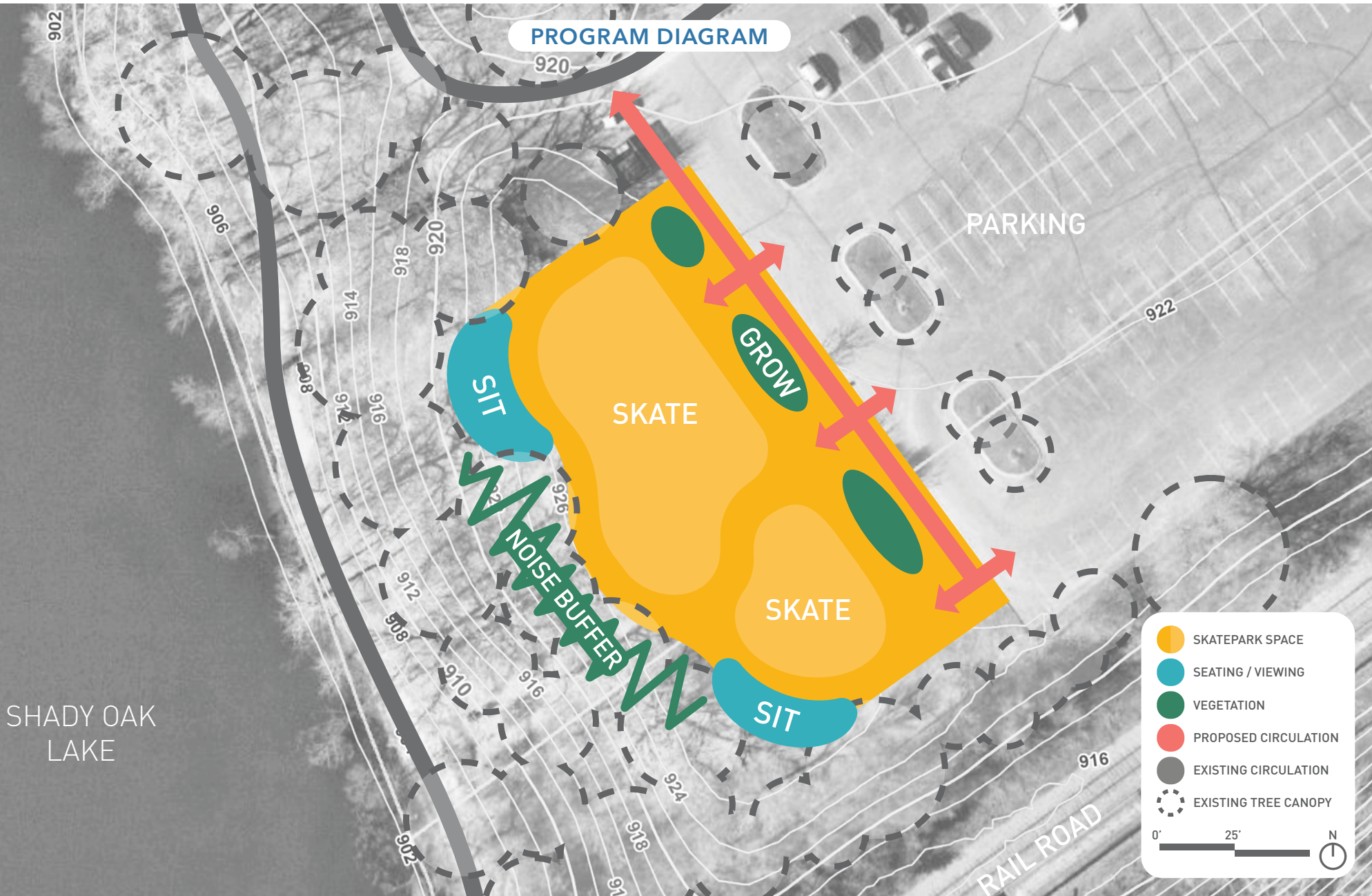
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### TOTAL PROJECT

**\$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.

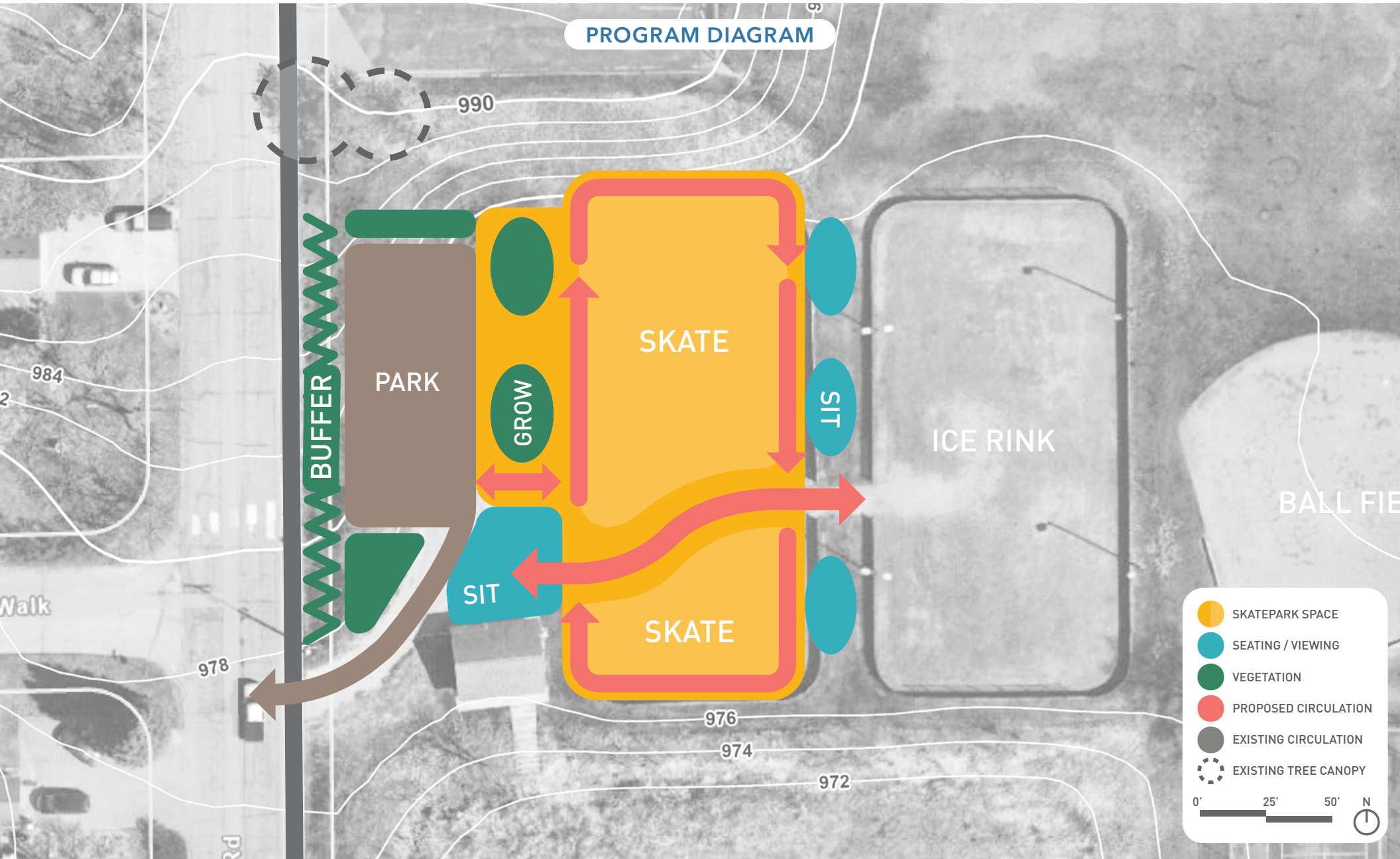
**\$40,000 - \$50,000**

**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.

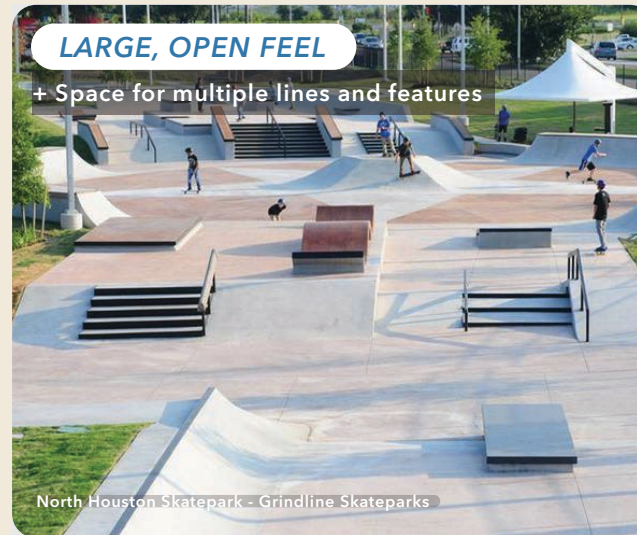
# GLEN LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



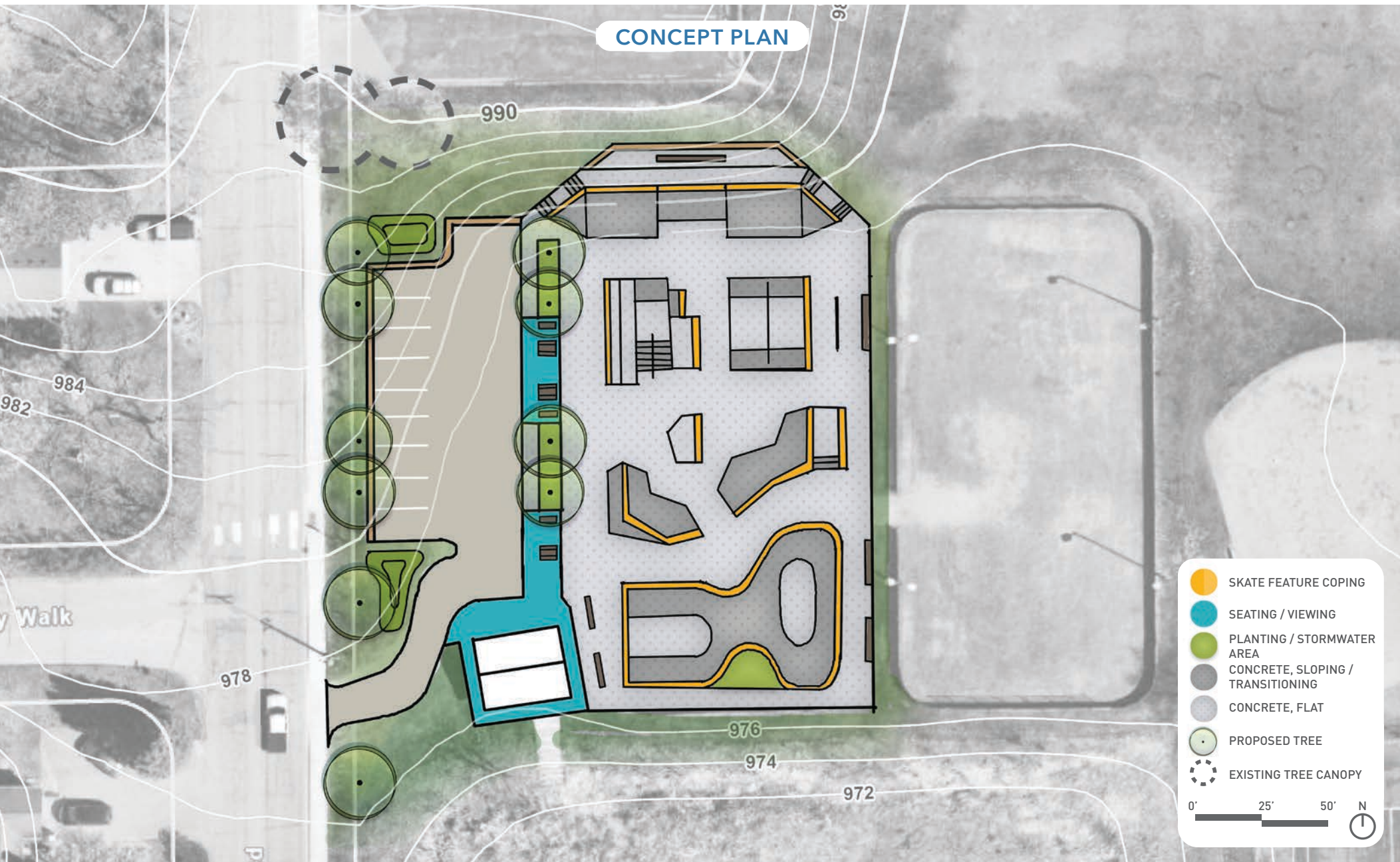
## DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

- > 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.

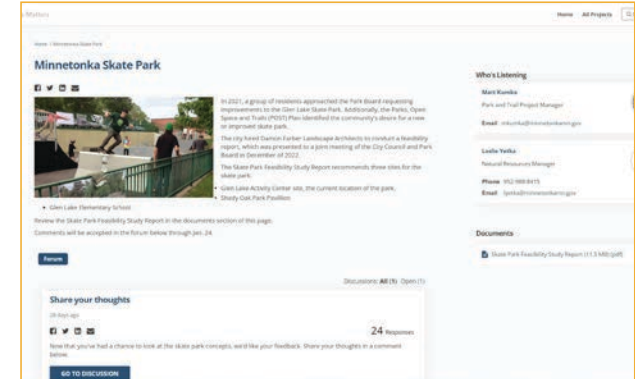
Our family and neighbors support this in every way! We like the existing Glen Lake location and the idea of a smaller and bigger skatepark with different features and styles. We have gone to the existing Glen Lake location here and there but the features are so small and limited. A new skatepark is a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

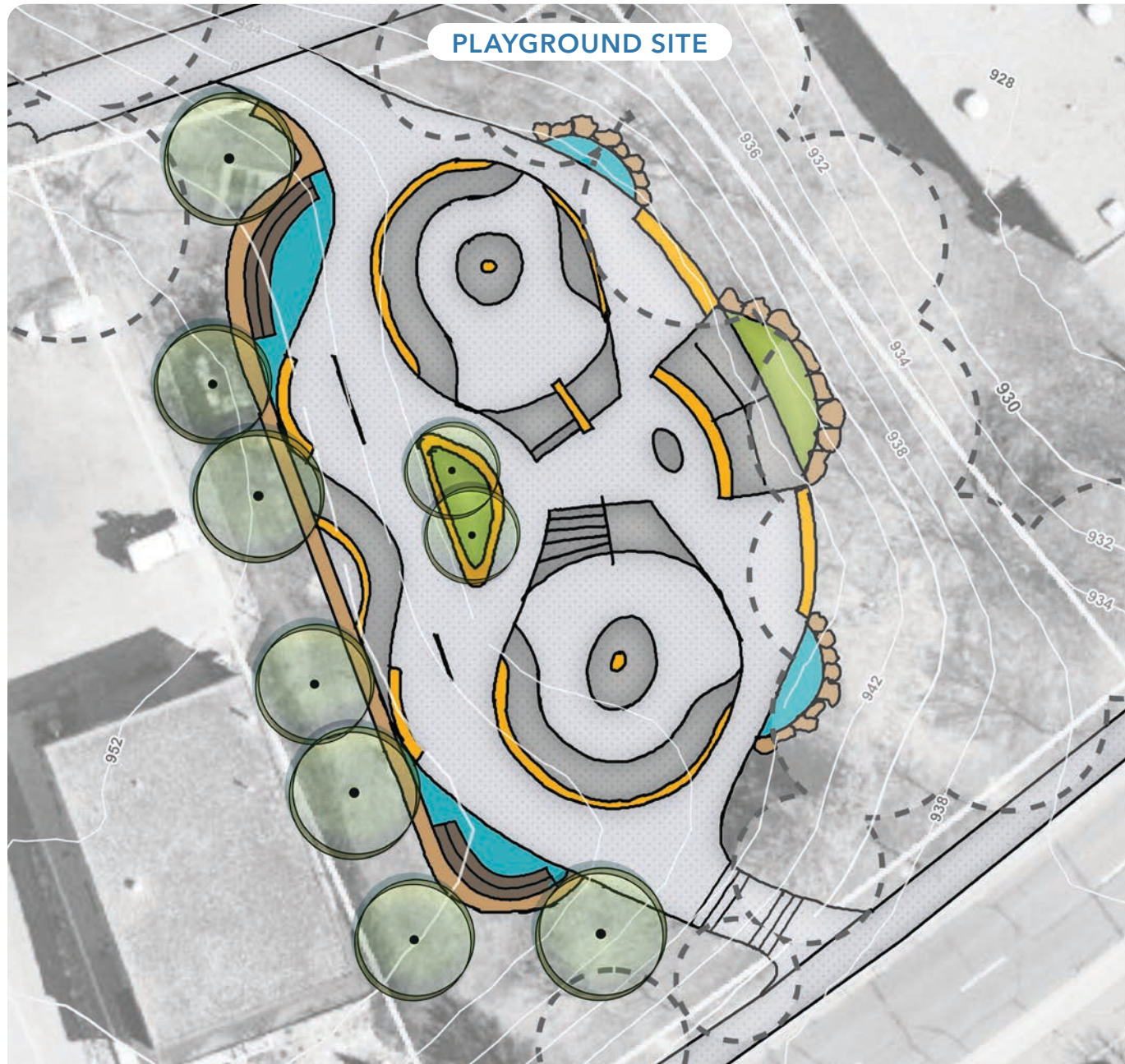
Note: This is a summary of comments. For all of the comments, see the Appendix.

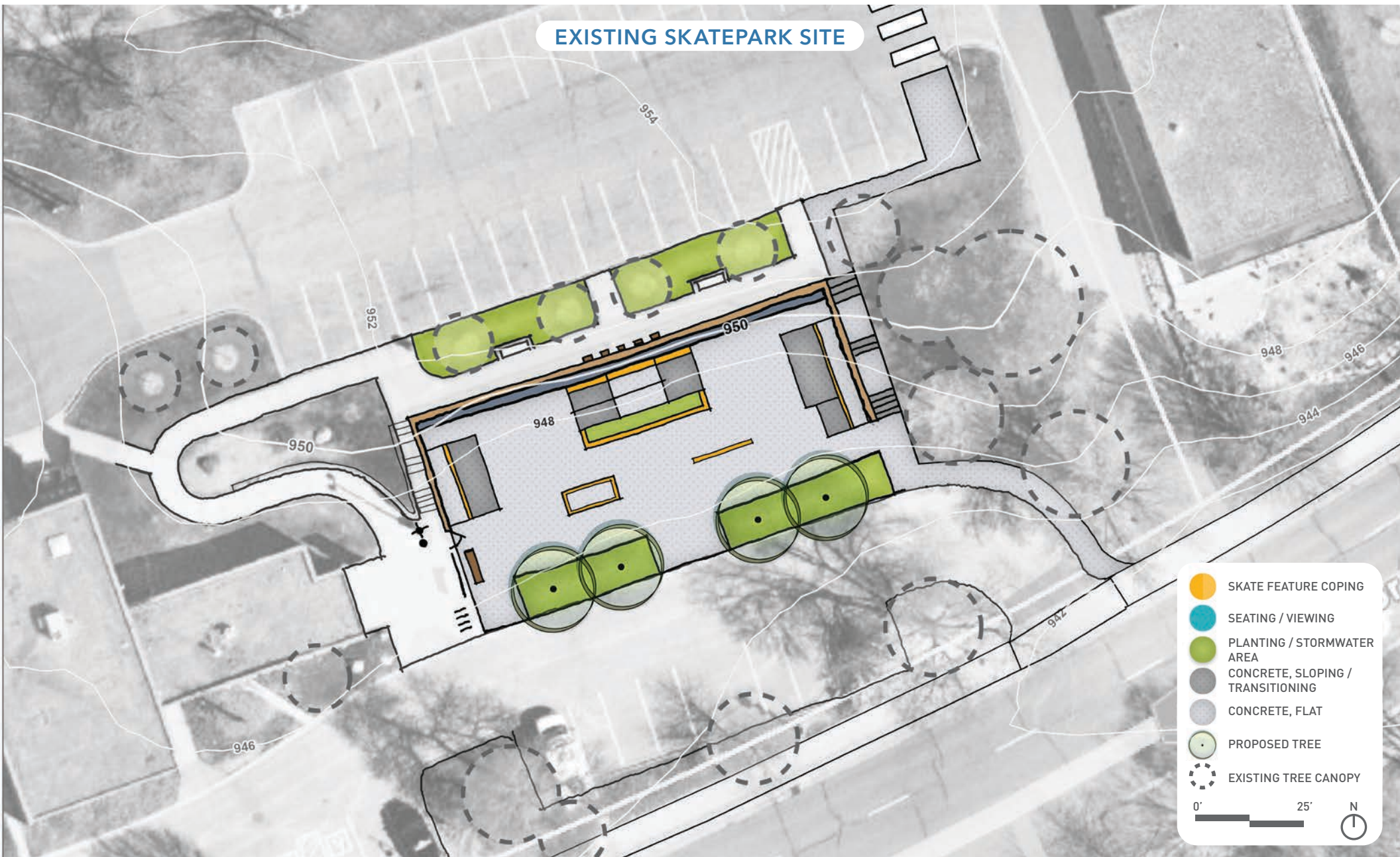


## FEASIBILITY CONCLUSION

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 March 1, 2023**

<b>Subject:</b>	Tennis Court Resurfacing – Linner Park and Junction Park
<b>Park Board related goal:</b>	To provide quality athletic and recreational facilities and programs
<b>Park Board related objective:</b>	Receive and provide input and guidance on the inclusion of pickleball at the existing Linner and Junction Tennis Courts
<b>Brief Description:</b>	Presentation on the background of pickleball demand, the current needed upgrades to these courts and the process and public comments received

### **Background**

The sport of pickleball continues to grow in popularity in Minnetonka and despite the construction of dedicated pickleball courts at Lone Lake Park in recent years, demand remains high. The recent update to the Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Plan lists the assessment of sites throughout the City for the potential inclusion of pickleball courts as a priority initiative. The Minnetonka Park Board and staff have received numerous requests for updated amenities related pickleball.

Both Linner and Junction Parks have existing tennis courts that are in need of resurfacing to correct cracking and deteriorated coatings. These improvements are currently budgeted and scheduled for 2023. Staff recently conducted a public feedback process to ascertain the demand for pickleball or the opposition to the courts' use being changed or augmented at these two locations. The residents around each park were invited to provide feedback to staff and/or attend an Open House event on January 25, 2023. Several options were presented ranging from total conversion of the courts to pickleball to simply resurfacing and reinstalling tennis only.

### **Summary**

Staff received a total of 25 unique comments or feedback from engaged residents, via phone call, email, and attendance at the Open House. In summary, a total of 16 residents opposed any addition of pickleball, citing concerns such as noise, increased traffic, and loss of tennis courts. Nine comments were received that preferred a hybrid pickleball/tennis court option.

<u>Public Feedback Summary</u>		
<u>Linner and Junction Park Pickleball Courts - Public Feedback Summary</u>		
01-Mar-23	<u>Linner</u>	<u>Junction</u>
	In Favor	In Favor
Option 1 - Courts Remain Tennis	4	12
Option 2 - Convert Tennis to Pickleball		
Option 3 - Add pickleball lines to existing tennis courts, players play on tennis nets	2	7
Option 4 - Add pickleball lines to existing tennis courts, players bring own net		
Option 5 - Add pickleball lines to one side, two courts, remaining tennis court remains		

**Recommended Park Board Action**

Staff recommends resurfacing the existing tennis courts and reinstalling tennis only. Should the Park Board choose to include pickleball, staff would recommend to add pickleball lines to one court utilizing the tennis net, and restrict hours of use to 9 am to 6 pm. This option would lessen noise impacts to neighboring homes in the mornings and evenings and would limit use by large groups avoiding traffic and parking issues for the neighborhoods while still offering an amenity for the surrounding neighborhood park users. Staff will continue to review all potential sites throughout the City for the future inclusion of pickleball as upgrades are completed or as directed by the Park Board.

**Attachment**

1. Email feedback regarding tennis court resurfacing

## Matt Kumka

---

**From:** Michael Lasser [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 10:25 AM  
**To:** Matt Kumka  
**Cc:** Jessica Lasser  
**Subject:** Hi Matt...Linner Park...

Hi Matt,

We are residents of Minnetonka at 1905 Linner Road. We are writing to express our view about the tennis courts at Linner Park.

We are regular tennis players at these courts. We love walking down the block to be able to play tennis at the park. It brings us great joy. We find it to be one of our favorite aspects of living in this community.

We also understand the growing popularity of pickleball and would be in favor of having the courts serve both sports in a hybrid fashion.

We won't be able to attend the meeting this coming Wednesday. So, we wanted to express our views.

Thanks,

Michael and Jessica Lasser

## Matt Kumka

---

**From:** Matt Kumka  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 10:12 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: pickle ball courts and Junction Park

Hi Allison,

Thank you so much for the feedback. I have noted your preference and will include it in the final decision making process. Please let me know if you have any other questions or thoughts.

Take care.



**Matt Kumka** | He/Him/His  
Park and Trail Project Manager  
City of Minnetonka | [minnetonkamn.gov](http://minnetonkamn.gov)  
Office: 952-988-8444 | Main: 952-988-8400

**From:** [minnetonkamn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:minnetonkamn@minnetonkamn.gov) <[minnetonkamn@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:minnetonkamn@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 9:58 AM  
**To:** Mike Kuno <[mkuno@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:mkuno@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** pickle ball courts and Junction Park

Message submitted from the <City of Minnetonka, MN> website.

**Site Visitor Name:** Allison Goulson  
**Site Visitor Email:** [REDACTED]

We received the notice about repairing the tennis courts at Junction Park. We think the most logical use would be for tennis and pickle ball to coexist. The tennis courts are used frequently, and pickle ball is so popular that incorporating both would make the most sense to us.

Thank you. Allison

## Matt Kumka

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**From:** Lauren Borcharding [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:14 PM  
**To:** Matt Kumka; Darin Ellingson  
**Cc:** Robert Borcharding  
**Subject:** Linner Park Pickle Pall Concerns

Hi Matt and Darin –

I hope this message finds you well. My husband I weren't able to attend the meeting held to discuss the tennis courts and potential new pickleball courts wanting to get added because our children had sport activities and my husband is traveling out of state for work.

I wanted to send a note and share our concerns with transforming the tennis courts into pickleball courts. We understand the popularity of it, but have many concerns for our little neighborhood.

1. Our household:
  - a. Our address is 1934 Linner Rd. Wayzata MN. Our property line is Linner Park with the tennis courts right next to our house, and outside our living room, dining room and bedroom. We would be impacted *directly* and the most because of the location of our house to the courts.
  - b. We have 6 year old (Cecilia) and 4 year old (Mabel), as do the neighbors residing at 1935 Linner Rd.
2. Safety
  - a. There is limited parking at Linner Park on the top side near the kids playground (max 4 or 5 spots) and at the bottom near the large field (max 5-6 spots). People would want to park on the street, would drive around looking for spots, unable to find them and cause tons of concerns for the safety of individuals in who walk, bike and all the children playing in the neighborhood.
  - b. The park is on a corner. Many, many, many people do not stop at the stop sign right next to our house. The past residents in this neighborhood petitioned for a speed hump or bump *continuously* and were turned down. With added cars driving through our neighborhood – hunting and wanting to find a pickleball court, this would create a ton of added concerns for the children and walkers. People drive so fast through our neighborhood and don't respect the speed limits – again, with all the potential added traffic, we have HUGE concerns.
  - c. Our driveway is less than 50 feet from this street sign and our children, like most, want to play in the front yard. Again, with ALL the extra cars, this would not be safe for them or our dog. They ride their bikes, throw balls, chase our dog, ride their scooters, etc. IF we wanted to live on a busy street, we would have chosen one, but we didn't. We picked this neighborhood because people who drive through it, live here. They aren't hunting for a major pickleball court.
  - d. We have no sidewalks *at all* in our neighborhood. People are constantly walking throughout the year, but as you could imagine, during the warmer days in Minnesota, the streets are flooded. There are many twists and turns and people, again, do not drive safely, at all. Therefore, the added traffic would create more concerns than ever.
  - e. During the warmer days, many large road bike groups make their way through our neighborhood and again, with added cars driving through + walkers, this is concern.
  - f. The pickleball courts are next to a children's playground. The potential for more adults to roam by a playground gives me pause as well.
  - g. Would cops begin to patrol the neighborhood more? Would we want that?
3. Noise

- a. We have both played pickleball and know how much louder the ball is when it hits the paddle. Our bedroom faces the tennis courts and we would be impacted directly by the sound – the ball / paddle, individuals screaming, yelling, arguing, etc. We are both active individuals and respect a great game and passion for a sport, but when we want to sleep and have peace in quiet, which our neighborhood currently has, would be completely disrupted.

With the amount of children and senior citizens that reside in our neighborhood + very, very limited parking + no sidewalks + noise + proximity to many houses, there are too many concerns and risks that we have that make this a potential. We strongly urge you to consider what it would be like to have your whole life disrupted because of the added complexities of all the new traffic and humans that would turn our lives upside down. If we wanted to live in a major city, with tons of noise, cars and people, we would but we chose to raise our children in the suburbs where we can feel comfortable with them riding their bikes to a friends house and not be concerned about tons of cars driving around and random strangers that aren't our neighbors.

Please listen to the people who would be directly impacted, like our family. When I explained the situation to Cecilia our 6 year old, she even said how many more cars would drive by our house mom? She also asked if it would be really loud all the time? If a child can pick up the potential safety issues and disruption to our lives, adults and city representatives should as well.

As for the tennis courts, yes, they do need a face lift and yes, people scream and yell, but the foot traffic is limited compared to what we would experience with pickleball. It's night and day different. The basketball court also needs a facelift, the court is all torn apart. The playground is old and outdated as well – it would be great for city managers to focus on those as well because those are what drew us to Linner neighborhood and also need to be remodeled. Can we focus on supporting the resources the current city tax payers in this neighborhood have at their fingertips and not throw something entirely new that would create chaos into our lives?

In the end, I ask that you listen, respect the families that chose to call Linner their forever neighborhood and how this would create a very huge safety issue and terribly disrupt our lives.

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to chat over the phone if that is preferred or if you would like more feedback from the family directly impacted by this potential change. I do hope someone does reach out and interviews us and takes our feedback seriously. Again, thank you.

**Lauren Borcharding**  
Vice President



[www.aon.com](http://www.aon.com)

**Out of Office:**

Aon Holidays: February 20

**Aon**

5600 West 83<sup>rd</sup> Street  
8200 Tower, Suite 1100  
Minneapolis, MN 55437

**Mailing Address**

MSC# 17704, PO Box 1447 | Lincolnshire, IL 60069

MN License #40497982



## Matt Kumka

---

**From:** Matt Kumka  
**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2023 9:28 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Yes to Linner Park Pickle courts

Thank you so much for your feedback.

There are a myriad of options for layout so we'll have to await the general consensus of the resident that provide feedback. I understand your thoughts about a court in the lower field, but at this point we are simply looking at restriping, net placements, and potentially some fencing upgrades at the courts current foot print. In the future the Park Board may allocate additional budget for bigger, brand new courts but time will tell. I appreciate your comment regarding fundraising as well, the appetite for this growing sport is not going away, and another Lone Lake style facility may be in our future somewhere.

Stay tuned to the Park Board website or feel free to contact me for any updates as we get feedback and hear our direction from leadership.

Have a great weekend!



**Matt Kumka** | He/Him/His  
Park and Trail Project Manager  
City of Minnetonka | [minnetonkamn.gov](http://minnetonkamn.gov)  
Office: 952-988-8444 | Main: 952-988-8400

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**From:** jheiring@comcast.net [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2023 9:21 AM  
**To:** Matt Kumka <mkumka@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Yes to Linner Park Pickle courts

I live across from Linner Park and would love to see Pickleball courts added! I play tennis and pickleball and the ideal set up is dedicated courts for each so you don't have to be moving portable nets for pickle onto the court and the balls are more contained. I don't know if it is possible to make one court be tennis and the other court 2 pickle courts and put a half fence between. It may be too tight. I do see people playing tennis often so not sure the neighborhood would want no tennis courts but there are courts at Meadow park close by.

If there anyway to put pickleball courts in the lower field and keep tennis on the top part of the park this would be the ideal set up. No houses close to the lower field for noise concerns from pickleball, more parking and a covered gazebo for players waiting to play are already on the lower field. The field is never used for games like soccer ( I have lived here 25+ years) just people playing with their dogs or playing catch so there would still be half the field for that.

I will be out of town for the meeting but I will eagerly await the decision. If fundraising for the lower park pickleball court installation is an option I would help with that too.

Sincerely, Jessica and Paul Heiring

## Matt Kumka

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**From:** carole Dechaine [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:32 AM  
**To:** Matt Kumka; Darin Ellingson  
**Cc:** Carole Ann Dechaine  
**Subject:** Pickleball Court NOISE NOT WANTED. PEACE AND QUIET IS WHAT WE PAY TAXES FOR.

Matt & Darin:

**park** | pärk | noun1 a large public green area in a town, used for recreation: *a walk around the park*. • *US* a large area of land kept in its natural state for public recreational use. • a large enclosed piece of ground, typically with woodland and pasture, attached to a large country house: *the house is set in its own park*. • (also wildlife park) a large enclosed area of land used to accommodate wild animals in captivity: *penguin chicks are reared regularly at the park* | *a panda cub is drawing the crowds at a wildlife park*. • *North American* a stadium or enclosed area used for sports. • *US* (in the western US) a broad, flat, mostly open area in a mountainous region.

Just received the January 6th notification proposed pickleball courts in Junction and Linner Parks.

Have you watched this video below on the noise neighbors have to endure when a pickleball court is around a quiet nature loving neighborhood?

Watch this video below and please present a video that clearly shows the noise level so we have a clear picture of what we can expect so it is fairly presented.

<https://youtu.be/vdri9QuT3Vg>

Do you really think our neighborhoods can stand any more noise?  
We need a noise study done in this area in the spring or summer.

We have constant 24 / 7 noise from 494 on east side and can barely stand it. The last 10 years, changing the highway pavement and also not adding adequate sound barrier walls on over passes on the East side has created *excessive noise levels*. We welcome the city to conduct a noise study to monitor the constant roars and **put our tax dollars towards alleviating the astounding increased noise levels** from county road 3.

Why isn't this noisy pickle ball being placed in the Williston Fitness Center (which is a FITNESS CENTER thus named) or "The Marsh" the city has purchased? There are tennis courts there which can withstand noise and not BOTHER the neighborhood. It is our understanding by reading the: Minnetonka Memo publication the city is making an effort to increase foot traffic at this facility. Read: Find your niche at Williston.

**We all need peace and quiet, not yet another layer of noise.**

Please consider partnering up with local schools who have grounds already in place for football, soccer and baseball fields in place that allow for increased noise and artificial lights.

Property values go down next to schools, because of the noise and artificial lights. Do you think for one minute the park is a sporting activity center? It's named PARK. We observe nature and expect and want to find quiet solitude in a park.

**We have already endured the city profiling our southeast side**

for the ugly cell towers and notice these same towers are not in place on the opposite side of Minnetonka. As well as light rail construction noise we have had thrust upon us.

**WE ARE SO APPALLED AT THE CITY PROPOSING TO HIJACK OUR QUIET SPACES TO OBSERVE NATURE.**

Can we fly a drone in a park and can we chip golf balls in this park? If the answer is no, why not?? Is it noise? Is it safety? Please do advise. We would love a place to chip balls and hit golf balls into a net but understand this is a park. We accept that our sports activity belong in the appropriate setting.

Why does the city decide a pickle ball considered a high level noise sport is ok but not fly a drone or hit golf balls? **Who decides which sporting activity is allowed in a park versus a fitness center?**

We will be at the meeting to discuss the noise and unwanted construction and the plan which discourages nature sounds to flourish; let alone consider the opinions of the people who pay taxes to live here.

This pickle ball court **does not belong in Junction park.**

How would you like our neighborhood to show up on your street some summer afternoon while your trying to have a outside barbecue with your family and broadcast pickle ball court game sounds for you to endure? Would you be OK with a park on your street with pickle ball in play?

We understand there are 6 courts at Lone Lake that are VERY NOISY when in use.

We all need peace and quiet, (a PARK) not yet another layer of

noise in a residential neighborhood! Put the pickle ball courts on school grounds where it belongs! Help the next generation enjoy this sporting activity in the appropriate setting and keep the property values from dropping where we live.

Carole and Daryl Dechaine



4708 Merilee Drive

Minnetonka, MN 55343

## Matt Kumka

---

**From:** Matt Kumka  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 12, 2023 12:55 PM  
**To:** 'Gregory Johnston'  
**Cc:** Darin Ellingson  
**Subject:** RE: Linner Park Pickleball

Hi Greg,

Message received and noted. I will put you on the list of interested residents.

Stay tuned for future updates and thanks for your time.



Matt Kumka | He/Him/His  
Park and Trail Project Manager  
City of Minnetonka | [minnetonkamn.gov](http://minnetonkamn.gov)  
Office: 952-988-8444 | Main: 952-988-8400

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**From:** Gregory Johnston [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 12, 2023 9:45 AM  
**To:** Matt Kumka <mkumka@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Cc:** Darin Ellingson <dellingson@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Linner Park Pickleball

Gentleman,

I own and reside at the property located at 1925 Deer Hill Ct. which is located approximately 2 blocks from Linner Park. I will not be able to attend the neighborhood meeting on January 25 but would like to be kept informed on the possible addition of a pickleball court to Linner Park. I am in favor of such an addition. Thank you.

Greg Johnston

**Gregory E. Johnston**  
Johnston Law Office  
8301 Creekside Circle, Suite 101  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### NOTICE – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The information in this e-mail communication and any attachments is privileged and strictly confidential. It is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended

## Matt Kumka

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**From:** Marie Versen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2023 3:36 PM  
**To:** Korey Beyersdorf; James Durbin; Chris Gabler; David Ingraham; Ben Jacobs; Katie Semersky; Christopher Walick; Matt Kumka  
**Subject:** Re: Please consider dual use tennis/pickleball for Junction Park renovation in 2023  
**Attachments:** PastedGraphic-1.tiff

Hi Park Board:

Me again. Marie Versen. (I spoke at the January Park Board Meeting.)

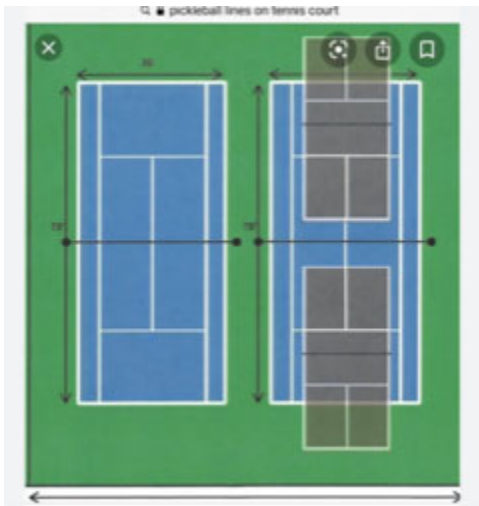
I understand that the Junction Park neighborhood met and some of them weren't too thrilled with the idea of pickleball in their neighborhood.

I get that. I'd like to have my own personal park across the street from my house that nobody went to too.

So the question is, "what is the purpose of neighborhood parks?"

Are they there for peace and quiet and walking your dog? Or are they there for the community to exercise?

I'll be traveling in March and April so I thought I'd follow up with **FINAL** email and reiterate my thoughts that I believe the best plan to maximize park usage and minimize noise is to keep the tennis courts but put lines in for pickleball and let people bring their own nets. That would allow beginners to have a place to play but not attract the masses.



I'll leave you guys alone now and hope you make the right choice.

Oh yeah. For my next project, I decided to ride my new ebike all of Minnetonka's 50 parks this summer. I've lived in Minnetonka for 37 years and have only been to a few of them. Maybe I'll report back and tell you what I find.

Keep up the good work,

Marie Versen  
[REDACTED]

On Jan 4, 2023, at 12:55 PM, Marie Versen <[REDACTED]> wrote:

<PastedGraphic-1.tiff><IMG\_4453.jpeg>

On Sep 27, 2022, at 3:00 PM, Marie Versen <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I'm out of town for the October Park Board meeting but this is what I'd like to propose to the Park Board. I hope I can make it to the December meeting.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America. And it's not going away.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/carlieporterfield/2022/07/26/heres-why-pickleball-the-fastest-growing-sport-in-america-is-bill-gates-favorite-game/?sh=4c6a427753a7>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/03/well/move/pickleball-popular-sport.html>

<https://www.npr.org/2022/02/19/1081257674/americas-fastest-growing-sport-pickleball>

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/pickleball-equipment-millennials-on-the-rise-11661351307>

On recent weekday mornings I've seen up to 32 people waiting to play with another 32 players filling up the 8 courts. Evenings and weekends can be the same.

While Lone Lake Park is somewhat of a Mecca for the avid player, this really discourages family and novices.

My idea is to put pickleball lines on the neighborhood tennis courts scheduled for renovation so families could bring their own nets and play locally without competing for court time with the intense competitive players.

Junction Park would be an ideal place to test this model out because of the busy road (Excelsior Blvd.), adjacent woodland, and the very few houses nearby. It has enough parking for one tennis court and two pickleball courts. Two courts wouldn't be any noisier than busy Excelsior Blvd or the many leaf blowers that are out in force during the summer.

I've measured the courts Junction Park (57.5 feet/per side instead of 60) and the layout below this should work. Many of us have our own pickleball nets from the "great pickleball court shut-down" during Covid. The limited number of courts and double-line situation would keep it from coming a pickleball center. Below is a photo of converted court in northern Wisconsin.

<PastedGraphic-1.tiff><IMG\_4453.jpeg>

I'd love to chat with any of you about this plan. It has been suggested that the neighbors (there are very few) be polled about this change. I have no clue about how to do that but since it would just involve painting a couple extra lines, would that really be necessary?



My cell is [REDACTED]. Call me. Let's chat!

Marie Versen

## Matt Kumka

---

**From:** Anne Hable [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:38 AM  
**To:** Matt Kumka  
**Subject:** Linner Park Tennis Courts

Good Morning Matt,

Our family lives directly across the street from the Linner Park tennis courts and while I will be attending the meeting tonight, I wanted to express our strong support for keeping tennis courts in place at Linner Park.

The Linner Park Tennis courts have played a pretty significant part in our warm-weather months for the past 6 years since we moved to Meeting Street. Our 13-year-old son first gained an interest in tennis after playing across the street and to date, tennis is one of the only sports that our son has truly connected with as he faces some challenges that make a lot of sports difficult. While he plays tennis through Williston all winter, the courts across the street are where he gets regular exercise and we connect often as a family after dinner on spring nights and early summer mornings to play and talk. We have loved those courts, weeds, cracks, and all! I have to say, it would be pretty devastating to lose the tennis courts altogether. While we certainly understand the growing popularity of pickleball (we even own pickleball rackets), we would really hate to see tennis go away entirely to yield to the pickleball trend and feel like it would be a great loss to our neighborhood park. Our hope is that if adding pickleball is the direction chosen, at least one court might remain for tennis to support the youth in our neighborhood learning to love the sport of tennis.

Thank you for your time, including the neighborhood in this decision, and considering the impact on current court users.

Sincerely,  
Anne Hable  
[REDACTED]

## Matt Kumka

---

**From:** Andy Lee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2023 4:11 PM  
**To:** Matt Kumka; dellinson@minnetonkamn.gov  
**Subject:** Pickle ball Courts at Junction Park - voting against

Hello Matt and Darin,

My neighbors made me aware of the proposal to turn the tennis courts at Junction park into Pickleball courts. I will do my best to attend the meeting Wednesday, but myself and my wife are voting against the change.

The current courts are in need of a repair as is, and with two courts do a nice job of limiting the current traffic in and out of our neighborhood while getting proper use. In addition to, there are many families in this neighborhood with small children. Many of these families walk to junction park to use. There are already enough cars who come through on occasion at a high rate of speed, and the thought of having people coming in / out at that rate raises alarms in my mind in addition to the small road that exist between Baker and Excelsoir generating more traffic, noise and garbage.

There are enough courts in Hopkins that are solely dedicated to this purpose and makes it a destination that has enough parking and is not in a neighborhood.

I understand that there is surging demand for it, but those people don't live in this neighborhood and what makes this neighborhood is the quietness of it.

Andy Lee  
Briarwood Terrace

Sent from my iPad

## **Matt Kumka**

---

**From:** Jared Greenbaum [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:49 AM  
**To:** Matt Kumka  
**Cc:** Julie Price  
**Subject:** Pickleball Courts - Junction and Linner Parks

Hello Matt,

Our family lives at 1708 Pondview Terrace in the Linner Park neighborhood. We will not be able to attend the meeting scheduled for this evening, but would like to offer an opinion on the work being proposed for the existing tennis courts. My family plays a lot of tennis but have always felt that the Linner Park courts were in such a poor state that they were basically unusable. We are excited to hear that they are scheduled for repair. Our preference would be for them to remain as tennis courts and would love to see more than the two that are currently there. While our preference would be for them to only be tennis courts, we are not opposed to accommodating pickleball. If additional courts could be added for pickleball, that would be great, but see no issue with pickleball lines being added to the tennis courts.

Thank you for your time and the attention you are giving to our community. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if there is any need.

Best regards,  
Jared and Julie Greenbaum

## Matt Kumka

---

**From:** Marie Versen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 7:39 AM  
**To:** Matt Kumka  
**Subject:** Re: Junction Park Neighborhood

Thanks for the update Matt. I had hoped to attend this meeting but had a previously planned vacation. Lucky me is at pickleball camp in Turks and Caicos.

I think you know my input. 1) Pickleball in a neighborhood park would be great for beginners who are intimidated by Lone Lake intensity and availability. 2) Beginners in one or two courts don't make as much noise as the multi court complex or even a bouncing basketball. 3) Even just painting lines so people can bring their own nets is better than nothing.

Thanks for considering my request.

Marie Versen

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 11, 2023, at 11:13 AM, Matt Kumka <mkumka@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

>

> Hi Marie,

>

> You should be receiving a letter in the mail with an invite to the open house but I've also included it attached to this email. You aren't within the adjacent 500 ft areas of these two parks but I understand you're very interested so I was sure to include you.

>

> Please give me a call with any questions or concerns.

>

> The open house is on:

> Wednesday, Jan. 25, 5:30 p.m.

> Minnetonka Public Works

> 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.

>

> Matt Kumka | He/Him/His

> Park and Trail Project Manager

> City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

> Office: 952-988-8444 | Main: 952-988-8400

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Darin Ellingson <dellingson@minnetonkamn.gov>

> Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:37 AM

> To: Matt Kumka <mkumka@minnetonkamn.gov>

> Cc: Kathy Kline <kkline@minnetonkamn.gov>

> Subject: FW: Junction Park Neighborhood

>

> Matt,

>  
> Will you reply to Marie to confirm the pickleball meeting info with her?  
>  
> Thanks  
>  
> Darin Ellingson, P.E. | Street & Park Operations Manager City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov  
> Office: 952-988-8414 | Cell: 612-328-3799  
>  
>  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Kathy Kline <kkline@minnetonkamn.gov>  
> Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:31 AM  
> To: Darin Ellingson <dellingson@minnetonkamn.gov>  
> Subject: FW: Junction Park Neighborhood  
>  
> Darin,  
>  
> This person spoke at the park board meeting last week about wanting to put in pickleball lines at neighborhood parks. I think Kelly mentioned that there will be neighborhood meetings about this. Do you know if this has been set up?  
>  
> Kathy Kline | Recreation Administrative Coordinator City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov  
> Office: 952-939-8203 | Direct: 952-939-8350  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Marie Versen [REDACTED]  
> Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:27 AM  
> To: Kathy Kline <kkline@minnetonkamn.gov>  
> Subject: Junction Park Neighborhood  
>  
> Hi Kathy:  
> I went to the park board meeting last week and was told that there would be a meeting to discuss the possibility of Junction Park Pickleball on January 17. Can you tell me if this is confirmed and the time. Is it at 5:30 or 6:30? I understand that it is in the lunchroom at the city works building?  
>  
> Thanks, Marie Versen  
> <Newsletter-Linner Pickleball.pdf>

**Minnetonka Park Board Item 7C  
Meeting of March 1, 2023**

<b>Subject:</b>	Consideration of the 2023 Park Board Strategic Plan
<b>Park Board related goal:</b>	Enhance Long-Term Park Board Development
<b>Park Board related objective:</b>	Annually assess the park board strategic plan
<b>Brief Description:</b>	The park board will review park board strategic plan mission, vision, goals and objectives in place for 2023 and implement desired changes for 2023.

### **Background**

In 2001, the park board worked with an independent consultant to establish a process for developing and annually refining a strategic plan. As a result of this endeavor, board members developed goals, objectives and specific action steps designed to meet the board's mission and vision developed earlier in the process.

Attached is a draft of the 2023 Park Board Strategic Plan. The park board will review this document and provide direction to staff regarding any desired changes. Staff will take recommendations and present the final plan at the March meeting for approval.

### **Discussion Points**

- Does the park board desire any additional changes to the 2023 Vision or Mission statements?
- Does the park board desire any changes to the Strategic Plan's goals and objectives for 2023?

**Recommended Park Board Action:** Review the attached strategic plan and provide staff with any desired changes for 2023.

### **Attachments**

1. 2023 Strategic Plan – Draft
2. City of Minnetonka's Strategic Priorities and Key Strategies

**Minnetonka Park & Recreation Board**  
**2023~~2~~ Strategic Plan - DRAFT**

**Vision for Minnetonka Park and Recreational Facilities**

An inclusive city with outstanding parks and recreational opportunities within a healthy natural environment.

**The Mission of the Minnetonka Park & Recreation Board is to proactively advise the City Council, in ways that will:**

- Protect and enhance Minnetonka’s natural environment
- Promote quality inclusive recreation opportunities and facilities to meet the needs of all
- Provide a forum for public engagement regarding our parks, trails, athletic facilities and open space

**Goals and Objectives (order does not reflect priority)**

**Goal                    To protect natural resources and open space**

- Objective 1: Provide feedback to assist staff in decision-making regarding open space
- Objective 2: Continue to review and comment on the implementation of the natural resources stewardship program
- Objective 3: Review and provide feedback on strategies and funding to enhance natural resources & open space
- Objective 4: Promote the city’s efforts of protecting and enhancing the community’s natural resources by creating awareness and supporting educational opportunities
- Objective 5: Provide guidance in balancing the protection of natural resources with providing quality recreational opportunities and facilities

**Goal                    To renew and maintain parks and trails**

- Objective 1: Participate in the park & trail projects process and make recommendations to the city council
- Objective 2: Conduct an annual review of park dedication fees
- Objective 3: Identify areas of the city that are deficient of adequate park or trail amenities
- Objective 4: Review the city’s Trail Improvement Plan and consider trail projects that will encourage outdoor recreation and improve mobility in the community
- Objective 5: Review conditions of park facilities, fields and amenities to inform park investment plan projects and priorities
- Objective 6: Review and provide feedback on updated wayfinding and park signage
- Objective ~~7~~<sup>8</sup>: Review ~~conditions of city trails to inform trail rehabilitation and priorities~~[park rules and ordinances as needed](#)
- [Objective 8: Review and provide feedback on the Purgatory Park Master Plan](#)

**Goal                    To provide quality athletic and recreational facilities and programs**

- Objective 1: Perform an annual review of the Gray’s Bay Marina operations plan
- Objective 2: Anticipate, review and respond to community needs not previously identified
- Objective 3: Review policies related to the operation and management of park facilities to determine if changes are needed. ~~Continue to provide safe accommodations following Covid guidelines~~
- Objective 4: Ensure that park amenities, recreational facilities and programs address future community needs and changing demographics
- Objective 5: Conduct a review of the athletic field fee schedule developed for 202~~3~~<sup>2</sup> and make recommended adjustments for 202~~4~~<sup>3</sup>
- Objective 6: Offer a full range of programs for people of all ages, ability levels, and economic and cultural backgrounds ensuring all have the opportunity to participate
- Objective 7: Responsibly maintain our parks, trails and recreational facilities, while fairly balancing user fees with general community support



Objective 8: Receive and provide input and guidance on the skate park [feasibility study design](#)

Goal **Enhance long-term Park Board development**

Objective 1: Review and recommend Capital Improvements Program for 20243-20287 related to parks, trails & open space

Objective 2: Increase community and city council awareness of park board projects through the online project page and community outreach

Objective 3: Encourage board member involvement in annual park board and city related activities such as the farmers market

~~Objective 4: Approve the updated Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) plan and provide guidance on implementation~~

Objective 45: Continue to explore new ideas and strive to build community for those who work, live and play in Minnetonka

Objective 56: Actively explore and enhance partnerships/engagement opportunities with other agencies including the City of Hopkins

Objective 67: Annually assess the park board strategic plan

~~Objective 8: Review and update the 'Guidelines for Funding Special Projects' document~~

## Who we are



### VISION STATEMENT

Minnetonka is an inclusive community committed to excellence where all residents, workers and visitors are welcome in a beautiful, sustainable place, supported by quality, dependable city services.

### MISSION STATEMENT

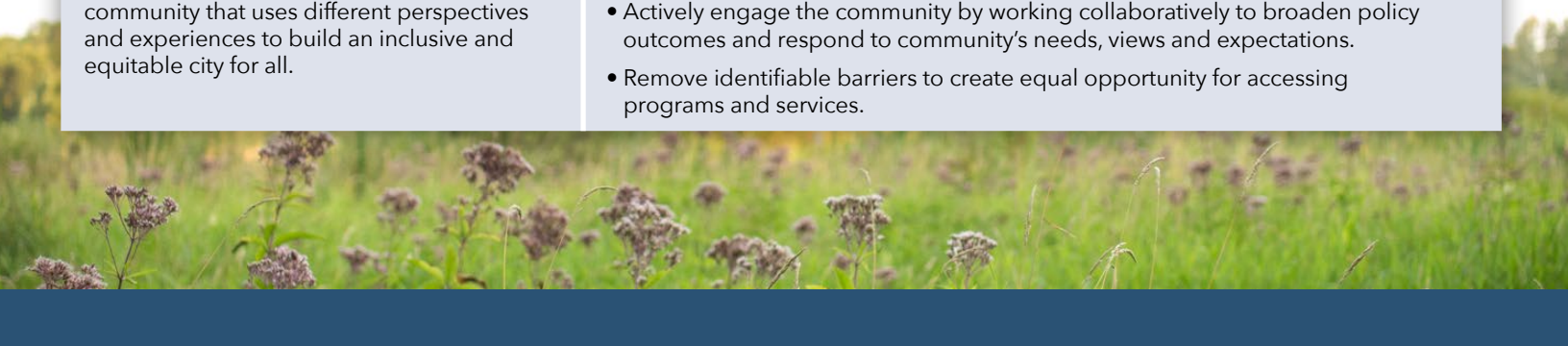
Provide **quality public services**, while striving to preserve and enhance the distinctive character to make Minnetonka a **special place for everyone**.



### OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- We earnestly commit to a **beautiful, sustainable and healthy environment** as a vital part of a stable, prosperous and thriving community.
- We responsibly deliver **excellent public services** and **provide affordable opportunities** to ensure access to all we serve.
- We ethically uphold **community trust** through proactive, inclusive public engagement, transparent communications, and the careful stewardship of our financial, natural, and capital assets.
- We nimbly **lead our city into the future** by anticipating community needs, pursuing service innovation and adoption of new technologies, and forging collaborative partnerships with all sectors of society.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	KEY STRATEGIES
<p><b>Financial Strength and Operational Excellence</b></p> <p>Maintain a long-term positive financial position by balancing revenues and expenditures for operations, debt management and capital investments. Provide innovative, responsive, quality city services at a level that reflects community values and is supported by available resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the city's AAA bond rating.</li> <li>• Develop an annual budget that meets community needs and is in alignment with the strategic plan and financial policies.</li> <li>• Provide excellent, meaningful programs and amenities to serve and enhance our community.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Safe and Healthy Community</b></p> <p>Develop programs, policies and procedures that enhance the community's well-being and partner with the community to provide engagement opportunities and build trust. Sustain focus on prevention programs, education, hazard mitigation and rapid emergency response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and adapt to public safety service models that support evolving changes in service delivery expectations.</li> <li>• Identify safety strategies and practices that promote positive quality of life for all.</li> <li>• Collaboratively review current integrated police and fire policy and training protocols and implement appropriate changes.</li> <li>• Provide a full range of recreational programs, services and amenities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sustainability and Natural Environment</b></p> <p>Support long-term and short-term initiatives that lead to the protection and enhancement of our unique and natural environment while mitigating climate change impacts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carefully balance growth and development with preservation efforts that protect the highly valued water and woodland resources of our community.</li> <li>• Develop and implement long-term plans to mitigate threats to water quality, ecosystems, urban forests and the unique natural character of Minnetonka.</li> <li>• Take an active role in promoting energy and water conservation, sustainable operations and infrastructure, recycling and environmental stewardship.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Livable and Well-Planned Development</b></p> <p>Balance community-wide interests and respect Minnetonka's unique neighborhoods while continuing community reinvestment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement programs and policies to diversify housing and increase affordable housing options.</li> <li>• Support business retention and expansion and attract new businesses.</li> <li>• Manage and promote the Opus area as a unique mix of uses and increased development reinvestment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Infrastructure and Asset Management</b></p> <p>Provide safe, efficient, sustainable, cost-effective and well-maintained infrastructure and transportation systems. Build, maintain and manage capital assets to preserve long-term investment and ensure reliable services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide and preserve a quality local street and trail system.</li> <li>• Ensure connectivity through increased access to local and regional means of transportation (new mobility options).</li> <li>• Develop an annual capital improvement plan that supports the sustainable maintenance and replacement of assets.</li> <li>• Expand and maintain a trail system to improve safe connectivity and walkability throughout the community.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Inclusiveness</b></p> <p>Create a community that is engaged, tolerant and compassionate about everyone. Embrace and respect diversity, and create a community that uses different perspectives and experiences to build an inclusive and equitable city for all.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement inclusive recruiting, application, hiring and retention practices to attract excellent, qualified and diverse candidates from all backgrounds.</li> <li>• Foster an inclusive boards and commissions recruitment and appointment process to increase diversity.</li> <li>• Actively engage the community by working collaboratively to broaden policy outcomes and respond to community's needs, views and expectations.</li> <li>• Remove identifiable barriers to create equal opportunity for accessing programs and services.</li> </ul>

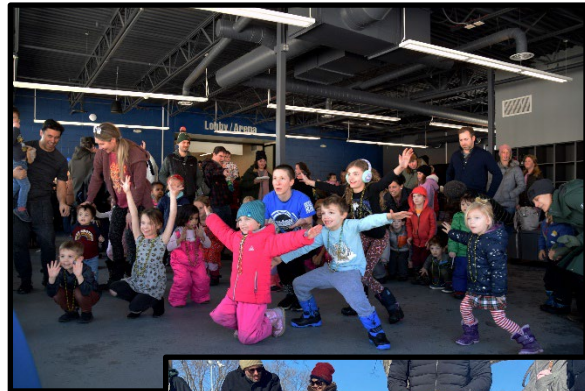


**Minnetonka Park Board Item 9  
Meeting of March 1, 2023**

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

**Kids' Fest**

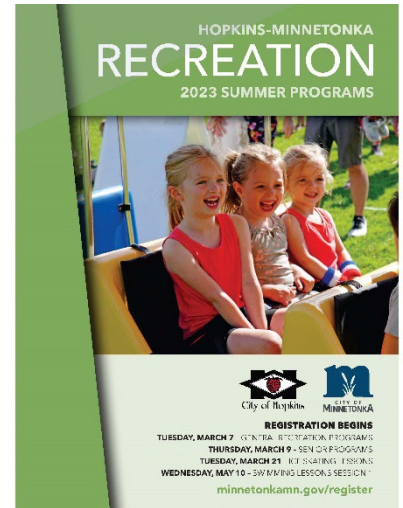
Kids' Fest took place on Sunday, February 5 from 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. and was held at the Hopkins Pavilion for the first time. An estimated 2,500 people enjoyed indoor and outdoor activities including face painting, arts and crafts, a dance DJ, dog sled rides, kicksledding, horse-drawn carriage rides and more. The beautiful weather resulted in the large attendance number which was on par with past record attendance for this event.



**Recreation Services 2023 Summer Brochure**

The Recreation Services summer brochure is posted online and has been mailed to all Hopkins and Minnetonka residents. Registration begins at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, March 7 for general recreation programs, Thursday, March 9 for senior programs and Tuesday, March 21 for ice skating lessons.

This brochure is the largest publication of the year for the recreation department and the only brochure that is mailed to residents. The summer brochure features registration for health & fitness classes, tennis programs, the Park Adventures playground program, day camps, golf, ice skating lessons, youth and teen programs, aquatics programs, adult activities and leagues, facility reservations, senior programs, Inclusion Services, youth fall soccer and much more.



**2022 Natural Resources Annual Update**

The Natural Resources Division of Public Works has nine full-time staff responsible for activities related to a variety of areas. The following annual update highlights staff accomplishments for 2022:

**Habitat Restoration Activities**

Over 310 acres of city land in parks and natural areas are actively being managed, with the goal of developing healthy ecosystems. Notable items include:

- The Natural Resources Master Plan, adopted in December 2021, is guiding habitat restoration and management priorities. The first individual park restoration and maintenance plan was developed in 2022 for Purgatory Park. It will serve as a model for subsequent parks.
- Annual buckthorn, garlic mustard and noxious weed control activities continues throughout the city in prioritized parks and restoration areas by contractors, the institutional work crew, staff and volunteers. Buckthorn and garlic work workshops continue to draw new attendees, on-going for more than 16 years. Volunteer opportunities were held in the spring, summer and fall to control invasive species, collect and spread seed, plant native species and install fencing.



- Contracted restoration work at the Cullen Nature Preserve began in 2022. This work is following five years of volunteer habitat restoration in collaboration with the Friends of Cullen Nature Preserve.
  - Substantial removals of invasive and non-desirable plant species was completed. The site is now being managed for invasive re-sprouts, and a prescribed burn and seeding of native plants are scheduled for 2023.
  - Grants received for expedited restoration would not have been possible without extensive work by and collaboration with the Friends of Cullen Nature Preserve
    - Hennepin Co. Good Steward Grant (\$25,000)
    - MN DNR Conservation Partners Legacy grant, site wide restoration (\$45,000)
    - MN DNR Conservation Partners Legacy grant, wetland buffer restoration (\$25,000)
- Between July and October, restoration staff responded to noxious weed complaints and worked to control many noxious and problem species including thistle, poison ivy and Japanese knotweed.

### **Water Resource Protection**

- The city applied for and received the new state municipal stormwater (MS4) permit. Compliance with the permit will continue to improve stormwater management and water quality of community ponds, lakes, and creeks. The permit requires the city to take actions in the areas of:
  - Education and outreach
  - Public involvement
  - Illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE)
  - Development and construction oversight
  - Post-construction stormwater management
  - Operations good housekeeping practices
- Annual release of insects for biological control of wetland invasive species purple loosestrife has occurred since 2006. Beetle populations fluctuate with environmental conditions and release sites adjust accordingly. Thirteen sites have been photo documented for the past seven years. In 2022, staff collected beetles from a restored prairie in Eden Prairie and released beetles at Jidana and Tower hill parks. Staff has collaborated periodically with Eden Prairie staff as time permits since 2008.
- The city obtained a grant through the Metropolitan Council to develop a rebate program for smart irrigation controllers. The intent is to conserve groundwater resources by reducing outdoor irrigation during summer months when demand is high. Staff reached out to numerous homeowners' associations to offer irrigation audits. One association participated. Numerous households applied for rebates to install WaterSense-certified smart controllers and/or sprinkler heads. In 2022, the rebate program expanded to indoor water efficient devices.

### **Development Review, Inspection and Compliance**

- Staff reviewed 258 permits including 43 new homes, 22 pools, 5 grading permits (including the TH169 Regional Trail), and 10 commercial permits (Chabad Center; Minnetonka Station; Shady

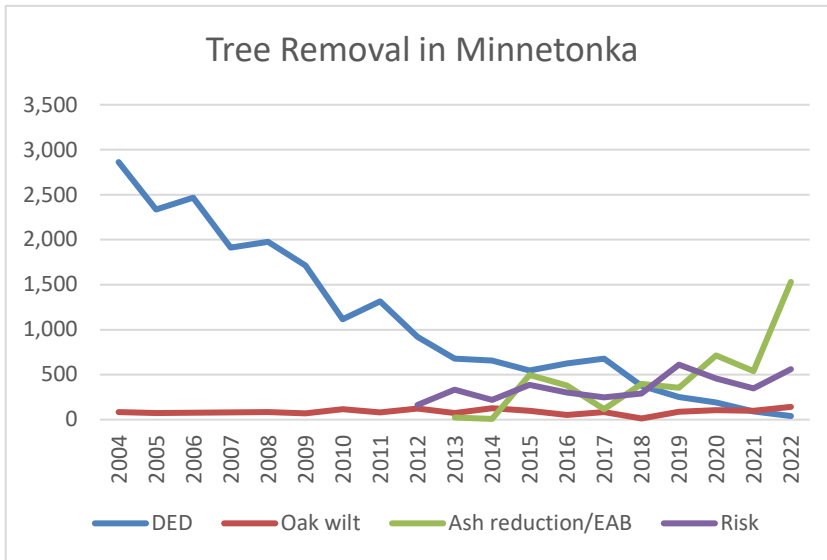
Oak Apartments, Dick’s Sporting Goods; HS Vantage Momentum Building; Holiday Gas Station; Taco Bell; Mr. Carwash; Grace Church; Walser Nissan).

- Conservation easements were acquired over wetland buffer and tree preservation areas on 1 site, totaling approximately 0.39 acres.
- Staff reviewed 23 wetland delineations and had around 230 responses to requests for information about wetlands.

**Forestry Activities**

- Minnetonka’s annual tree sale has sold about 19,000 young trees since 2007, increasing the diversity and resilience of the community forest. In 2022, 486 buyers purchased 1,281 trees and shrubs of 15 different species.
- In 2022, 207 young trees of 36 different species were planted Minnetonka’s parks to improve species diversity of our community forest and increase resilience to climate change.
- Forestry staff completed another Healthy Canopy grant through Hennepin County, to replant trees in Westwood Park. These trees will offset the loss of ash trees due to emerald ash borer (EAB) and will increase the biodiversity and climate resiliency of the forest in this neighborhood. Planting took place in the fall and was completed with volunteers from the Minnesota chapter of the Society of American Foresters.
- The rate of Dutch elm disease in Minnetonka continues to drop but we unfortunately did see a slight increase in oak wilt disease. In regards to the city’s emerald ash borer infestation, we saw an increase in infested trees, which we anticipate these numbers to grow exponentially in the next couple of years. The city continued to work with property owners to pre-emptively remove ash trees in the right of way. Overall, tree removal in 2022 consisted of:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Location</u>		
		<u>Public</u>	<u>Right of way</u>	<u>Private</u>
Dutch elm disease	40	8	3	29
Oak wilt disease	142	14	1	127
EAB	1531	837	464	230
Risk	561	0	561	0



- For the second year staff milled logs into lumber for the city’s Wood Utilization Program. Logs that would otherwise be chipped for mulch are salvaged from the city’s brush site for milling. The lumber from these logs was used to construct the city’s first gravel bed nursery. Mayor Wiersum donated a bench that was constructed by Street’s staff, as well as, additional pieces of lumber to the League of Minnesota Cities office for display.
- The city’s second Climate Impact Corpsmember completed their work term; this is a program administered through AmeriCorp. This member completed tree surveys and inventories and helped to organize a successful volunteer event at Oberlin Park. This was the first event of its kind for Forestry, where volunteers helped to install mulch rings around all of the trees in the maintained areas of the park. The same volunteers also assisted Restoration staff to control invasive species around the wetland that was hidden from view because of these invasives plants.

### Outreach, Education and Engagement Activities

- Minnetonka continued its pollinator protection efforts through habitat restoration and protection, multifaceted public outreach efforts and events, partnership with other agencies, and long-range planning for sustainable practices on city properties. As part of participating in the Mayors’ Monarch Pledge (MMP) in 2022:
  - This was the city’s sixth year as a pledge participant. Of 173 signatories in 2022, Minnetonka was among just four cities in North America to achieve Monarch Champion status by completing more than 24 of the 29 possible action steps.
  - Educational articles, activities and resources were posted to the city’s engagement platform, Minnetonka Matters, for the sixth-annual Monarch and Pollinator Awareness Month, and in-person events allowed staff to interact with residents about pollinator protection.



- Staff provided numerous education and engagement opportunities, including:
  - Promoted the MN Pollution Control Agency’s smart-salting training to businesses, associations and other groups
  - Developed a rain garden and shoreline buffer workshop with watershed districts
  - Offered a health and wellness program, Miles for Monarchs, to city staff and residents
  - Facilitated elementary-school stormwater education through a contractor
  - Sponsored two workshops through Blue Thumb – Planting for Pollinators, and Turf Alternatives – to help residents add habitat and resilience on private property
  - Tabled and hosted at Farmers Market, covering water quality protection, tree protection, soil health, and pollinators
  - Engaged children and families at Spooktacular
  - Spoke to corporate groups and the Senior Center about pollinator habitat, water efficiency, and “Earth Day everyday” actions
  
- The city continued its partnership with Hamline University and local watershed districts to promote Adopt-a-Drain, which encourages residents to clean local storm drains to reduce pollutants in runoff. Since 2019, 142 participants have adopted 317 storm drains across Minnetonka’s four watershed districts. These volunteers collected 963 pounds of organic waste, sediment and other debris in 2022.
  
- A technical assistance program was offered to residents seeking to add resilient habitat in their yards. Components included educational workshops and learning modules, a native plant sale, site consultations and a rebate program.
  
- A volunteer management system was put in place to more efficiently onboard volunteers, track impact, communicate, and conduct program evaluation. Approximately 200 Natural Resources volunteers – including more than 40 trained stewards (lead volunteers) who collectively completed more than 2,950 service hours in 27 city parks and outlots.
  
- A plan for new interpretive signage at Lone Lake Park was written, signage standards and templates were developed, and several interpretive panels were designed for installation in spring 2023
  
- New partnerships were established with Hennepin County Library and Minnetonka High School
  
- Outreach covered topics related to stormwater reduction and surface water protection, soil health, water efficiency, tree diversity and preservation, planning for EAB and other pests and diseases, habitat restoration, invasive species management, pollinator and wildlife protection, community resilience, NR events, and more:
  - Monthly articles in the Minnetonka Memo newsletter
  - Monthly e-bulletins reaching more than 3,300 readers, with an average of 40 percent engagement
  - Electronic highway billboards that changed approximately bimonthly

Social media promoting events and seasonal themes

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

<b>Upcoming 6-Month Meeting Schedule</b>				
<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Agenda Business Items</b>	<b>Special Notes</b>
<b>Wed</b>	4/5/23	Regular	•	No meeting
<b>Wed</b>	5/3/23	Regular	• Review of outdoor ice rinks	
<b>Wed</b>	6/7/23	Regular	• 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)	
<b>Wed</b>	7/5/23	Regular	•	No meeting
<b>Wed</b>	8/2/23	Regular	•	
<b>Wed</b>	9/6/23	Regular	• Joint Study Session w/Council & Tour	5:30 pm start

**Other meetings and activities to note:**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Special Notes</b>
<b>Friday</b>	3/3/23	Light Up the Night Dance	

**Items to be scheduled:**

**Climate Action & Adaptation Plan**