



Date: July 18, 2023

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Perry Vetter, Parks and Recreation Director
Amanda Clarke, Recreation Supervisor
Rachel Finberg, Parks Planner

Subject: Approve Strachauer Park Master Plan

Information / Background:

Strachauer Park is located at 6200 Beard Avenue South. It is approximately 3.91 acres. This park was formerly named Beard Park and in 1984 the park was renamed Strachauer Park in honor of Hermann Strachauer who served on the Park Board from 1948 to 1961 and was involved in the early stages of the Edina Park system.



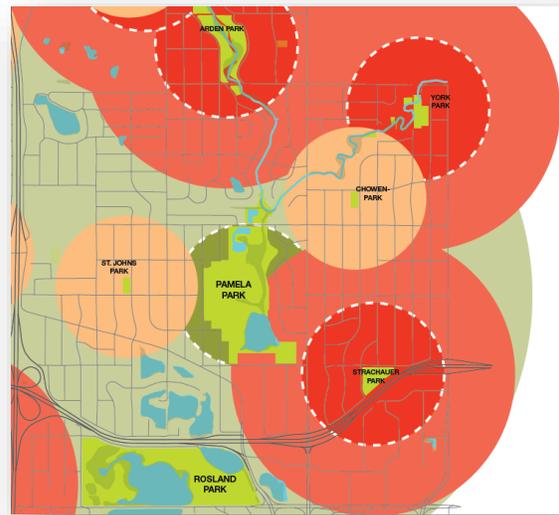
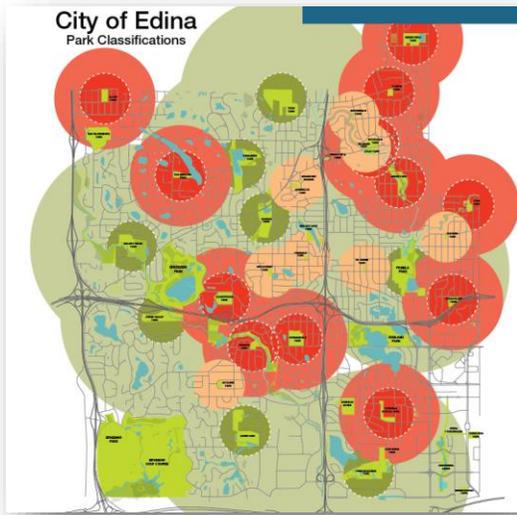
Strachauer Park was constructed in the early 1960s. At that time, it was graded and seeded and had a small portable backstop. The playground equipment was added in 1964 and a skating rink with a portable warming house was built in 1967. The permanent warming house was built in 1974 with a new hockey rink and lights. A hard surface court was added with new playground equipment in 1972. The new playground equipment was installed in 1985 and replaced in 1996. Strachauer serves as an off-leash dog park seasonally during certain warm weather months. Strachauer Park contains the following recreational land uses:

- Playground Area
- Basketball Court
- Hockey Rink and Open Ice Rink with Lights
- Multi-use sports field/open lawn space
- Park Shelter with restrooms
- Park building/warming house
- Seasonal off-leash dog area

Park Service Area

Strachauer park is located on the southern portion of the Northeast quadrant of the City of Edina. The NE quadrant contains 14 total parks with 130 total acres, which is approximately 9% of the total city park acreage in the community. Within the service area of Strachauer Park, two other city parks offer recreational pursuits at Chowen Park 1.0 acres and Pamela Park 65 acres.

Strachauer Park has a triangular shape and is bounded by 62nd St W to the north and Beard Pl on its western edge, and County Road 62 to the south and east. Access to the park is via the immediate neighborhood to the west and north via residential street system for vehicles and as a pedestrian either on limited sidewalks or street access.



Master Planning Process

The creation and adoption of a park master plan assists with guiding future improvements to reach an adopted vision for the park. Because funding typically is limited and potentially would be allocated in phases to construct certain amenities and not in one budget cycle, the master plan guides decisions in the event the plan would have to be funded incrementally.

I. Public Participation Plan

The Public Participation Plan for Strachauer Park is attached to this report. The purpose is to create a process to gather input on designs that will guide/identify investments to be made at Strachauer Park.

II. Introduction to Values Viewfinder

Introduction to Values Viewfinder

The goal of the Values Viewfinder is to incorporate City Council values in City decision-making processes. The Values Viewfinder team developed a tool to help decision-makers understand, evaluate, and communicate the impact, opportunities and trade-offs of a given decision using the lens of a) community engagement, b) health in all policies, c) race & equity and d) sustainability.



The four disciplines collectively achieve community well-being. The Values Viewfinder tool includes three sections: 1. Framing: To orient the user to common terms and to set a baseline understanding of the initiative, key stakeholders, and considerations 2. Questions: A community well-being matrix questionnaire to identify opportunities and tradeoffs. 3. Evaluation: To understand early in an initiative how to manage success and track metrics.

Purpose and Scope of this Process

The purpose of using the Values Viewfinder tool in the Strachauer Park Master Plan process is to explore future adjustments and asset investments to park infrastructure and programming in a way that considers community-wellbeing. The Values Viewfinder tool is part of this process as a tool to facilitate discussion and surface questions and ideas that may have been overlooked without its use. The Values Viewfinder tool is not being used as an additional criterion to meet in this project.

I. Neighborhood Engagement Event – Values Viewfinder process

The City of Edina’s Values Viewfinder Team led a community workshop on September 29. The purpose of using the Values Viewfinder tool in the Strachauer Park Master Plan process is to ensure that future investments to park infrastructure and programming reflect City Council Values and community-wellbeing. Attached is the Community Workshop- Values Viewfinder Memo.

Drivers

- Age of park infrastructure
- Changing demographics of neighborhood and park users
- Park uses
- Funding stream status
- Park system relationship to nearby Chowen and Pamela parks
- Changing development to south of park
- Programming needs
- Freeway impacts
- Neighborhood input

Goal

- A physical and programmatic change to Strachauer Park to meet the needs of park users.

II. Concept Plan Feedback



Based off the neighborhood engagement event feedback Confluence, working to provide landscape design services for this project, created four concepts to gather feedback. Each concept was unique in recreational amenity offering, layout and aesthetics. They were labeled Red, Blue, Green and Pink as to not give weight or order for feedback instead of labeling A, B, C, D or 1, 2, 3, 4 etc. to not bias the feedback. Those early concept are included as attachments for background information.

Concept review and feedback submittals occurred on Better Together Edina (BTE) from Dec. 1-15 and a community open house was conducted on Dec. 7. Feedback was taken from all four concepts and used to create the next version, referred to as a preferred concept.

III. Preferred concept for comment

The Preferred concept was then posted on BTE and feedback was collected until April 23. In addition to receiving open ended feedback, staff asked the question of the community, *“Do elements of this concept reflect how you envision Strachauer Park?”*

The preferred concept combined various aspects of all plans and is attached along with some rendered imagery for review. The public was asked to comment on the preferred concept on Better Together Edina. Attached to the report are comments from the public and responses from City Staff. Parks and Recreation commission were also asked to review and comment on the preferred concept at their April 11th meeting, their comments are included later in this report.

Current Amenities

- Playground Area *
- Basketball Court
- Hockey Rink and Open Ice Rink with lights *
- Multi-use sports field/open lawn space
- Park building/warming house with restrooms *
- Seasonal off-leash dog area

** These current amenities are all functionally obsolete or beyond their lifecycle and are overdue for replacement.*

Proposed Amenities

- Playground Area
- Basketball Court
- Hockey Rink and Open Ice Rink with lights
- Multi-use sports field/open lawn space
- Park building/warming house with restrooms
- Year round off-leash dog area
- Sport court games
- Open air pavilion
- Hammock grove
- Improved CR 62 sound buffering
- Picnic areas
- Internal walking paths
- Naturalized plantings
- Potential solar panels on park building roof
- Potential addition of one pickleball court

Scheduled Capital Improvements

The capital improvement program (CIP) is a policy document that reflects budgetary allocations approved by the Edina City Council. Within that document the following funding specifically for Strachauer Park was allocated prior to this planning process. The CIP is updated on a biannual basis and most recently adopted by the City Council on December 20, 2022, for the following:

- 2023: Phase I: Playground Equipment Replacement \$200,000
- 2027: Phase II: Improvements/Shelter Replacement \$1,100,000

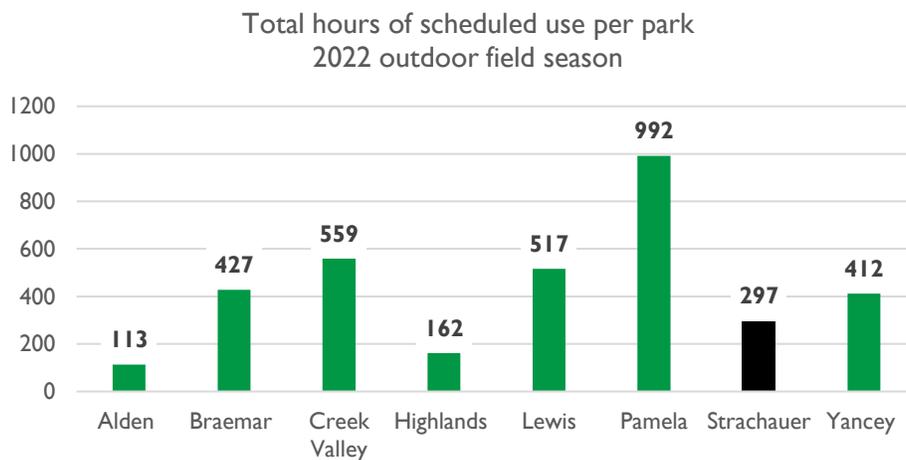
Funding has been projected and identified for phases I and II. Budgets will be updated during these phases design and implementation for community and park needs. Based our 2023 preliminary estimates Phase III would require an additional 1.6M for completion.

Current Park Operational Aspects

Operations for Strachauer Park currently consist of providing scheduled and routine maintenance activities in a similar fashion to much of our general park system. Staff are assigned scheduled and prioritized tasks to complete that include other park areas and are not assigned or staffed out of the park. Maintenance resources are allocated across the system and not by specific park location.

Programming for Strachauer Park currently consists of the operation of the winter skating season and operation as a warming house location. Due to the lack of facilities at the park there are limited other programming opportunities. Improved facilities would provide an opportunity to provide programs at the park if schedule and operating budget allowed.

Demand for field space is rising and will continue to rise for all sports. This outcome is based on existing data and future trends in youth demographics in Edina. The current field space at Strachauer will be optimized to best manage the impact to the neighborhood during scheduled field use. As part of the review of how this park is actively programmed secondary neighborhood impacts were identified. Those are primarily traffic and parking due to organized association use – scheduled by the city, operated by community associations - on the adjacent neighborhood. The site plays an important role in providing field needs for the park system. Approximately 9% of all rectangular field use is conducted at Strachauer Park.



There is no new field space available in Edina to relocate youth sports. While the turf area can accommodate the athletic usage, the secondary impact of traffic and parking are evident. Addressing those concerns is a priority of staff to design a field schedule structure that while using the fields could address the secondary impacts by switching user types for all sites, working collaboratively with other partners, and reviewing alternate secondary spaces. This is a larger issue than the planning process and shall be addressed as it impacts the entire park system, regardless of this park design. Efforts will continue so that the current field space at Strachauer will be scheduled to best manage the impact to the neighborhood during those periods.

Parks and Recreation Commission’s Review and Comment -April 11th, 2023

On April 11th 2023, the Parks and Recreation Commission was received a presentation on the Strachauer Master Plan process and preferred concepts. The commission was asked to review and comment on the staff report and provided concept plan materials.

The Commission asked questions regarding vehicle charging stations in the park, the location of metal poles, concerns about an increase in gentrification, the placement of the playground, and the intended

use for the permanent hockey rink. The Commission made the official comment that the idea of phasing improvements that timing is a small concern, but the plan does a nice job of investing in something that serves a broader community.

The commissioners made the following comments regarding the plan:

Chair Doscotch stated as a general concept it seems to maintain the amenities and has the right community involvement. It seems to reflect the current kind of utilization and the value that it provides to that location. He also commented that the phasing makes him a little bit uneasy and if there is a way to compress the timing it might seem like a better solution for them.

Commissioner Pfuhl commented the plan does a nice job for taking the hockey rink and the dog park situation that is currently there and investing in something that's more permanent and serves both communities. It also sounds like the process staff has gone through in making sure to address the multiple components as they put this together seems to come through assuming it is what the community is asking. She thinks also being mindful when you talk about the challenges that are there currently and trying to address those as you put it through seems reasonable. She agrees that phasing is probably going to be a challenge. She also noted that it's important as you go through the rest of the engagement process to make sure as you get into the specifics that the community continues to be aware of the timeline and they should make sure they are sharing their thoughts on that as well.

Commission Ites commented he thinks phasing perhaps would help to show momentum and thinks it would certainly keep the community involvement.

Out of Scope Feedback

In addition to the captured feedback that assisted in shaping the proposed final master plan concept, additional comments were made by participants on usage surrounding the park. The first, was related to the desire for a MNDOT soundwall along CR 62. Because of the formula used by MNDOT the stretch along Strachauer Park is not eligible. The ability to create a natural and vegetative edge within the park will alleviate some but not all concern with impacts from the highway. The second, was additional or more convenient bike and pedestrian connections to the southside of CR 62 and to France Ave to have greater access to Pamela Park and Rosland Park, among other destinations. Those desired improvements fit more with the Pedestrian and Bicycle master plan. While these amenities are not solved by the Strachauer Park master plan concept, they are important to note for future planning and discussion as other improvements are planned.

Strachauer Project Next Steps

The next steps in the Strachauer Park master plan process would be to move forward with phase I. Phase I includes \$200,000 funding for the implementation of a new playground structure located at the heart of the park. This phase would include community input and engagement for play structure design and components. Phase II funding would be available in 2027 for a new shelter building. Phase III is for the complete implementation of the remaining master plan components and would occur once a funding source has been identified. All 3 phases would include future community engagement to identify specific neighborhood and community needs as well as feedback on specific design components.

Action Requested:

The action requested is to approve the final master concept plan for Strachauer Park. Upon approval, staff would begin the engagement process for the playground replacement.

Attachments:

1. Preferred Concept Plan and renderings for Strachauer Park
2. Public Participation Plan
3. Values Viewfinder Tool Utilization: Community Meeting Report Out
4. Edina Strategic Plan Inventory Assessment Strachauer Park 2014
5. Initial Concept Plans (Red, Pink, Blue, Green)
6. Preferred Concept BTE Community Comments
7. Strachauer Park Phasing Package



STRACHAUER PARK CONCEPT
EDINA, MN

BASKETBALL ○

HOCKEY RINK ○

GATHERING AREA W/
SHELTER ○



○ PICNIC AREA

FOUR SQUARE ○

BIKE STATION ○

STRACHAUER PARK CONCEPT
EDINA, MN

GATHERING AREA W/
SHELTER

DOG PARK

EXISTING WOODLAND



ENCLOSED ENTRY
VESTIBULE



KIDS SOCCER

GATHERING AREA W/
SHELTER

PLAY FEATURES

TRAILS / PATH NETWORK

HAMMOCK GROVE

SLEDDING HILL

NATURALIZED AREAS

STRACHAUER PARK CONCEPT

EDINA, MN



EXISTING WOODLAND

SLEDDING HILL

GATHERING AREA W/
SHELTER

RECREATIONAL COURT

HOCKEY RINK

OPEN SKATE/FLEX
LAWN

PICNIC AREA

NATURALIZED AREA

STRACHAUER PARK CONCEPT

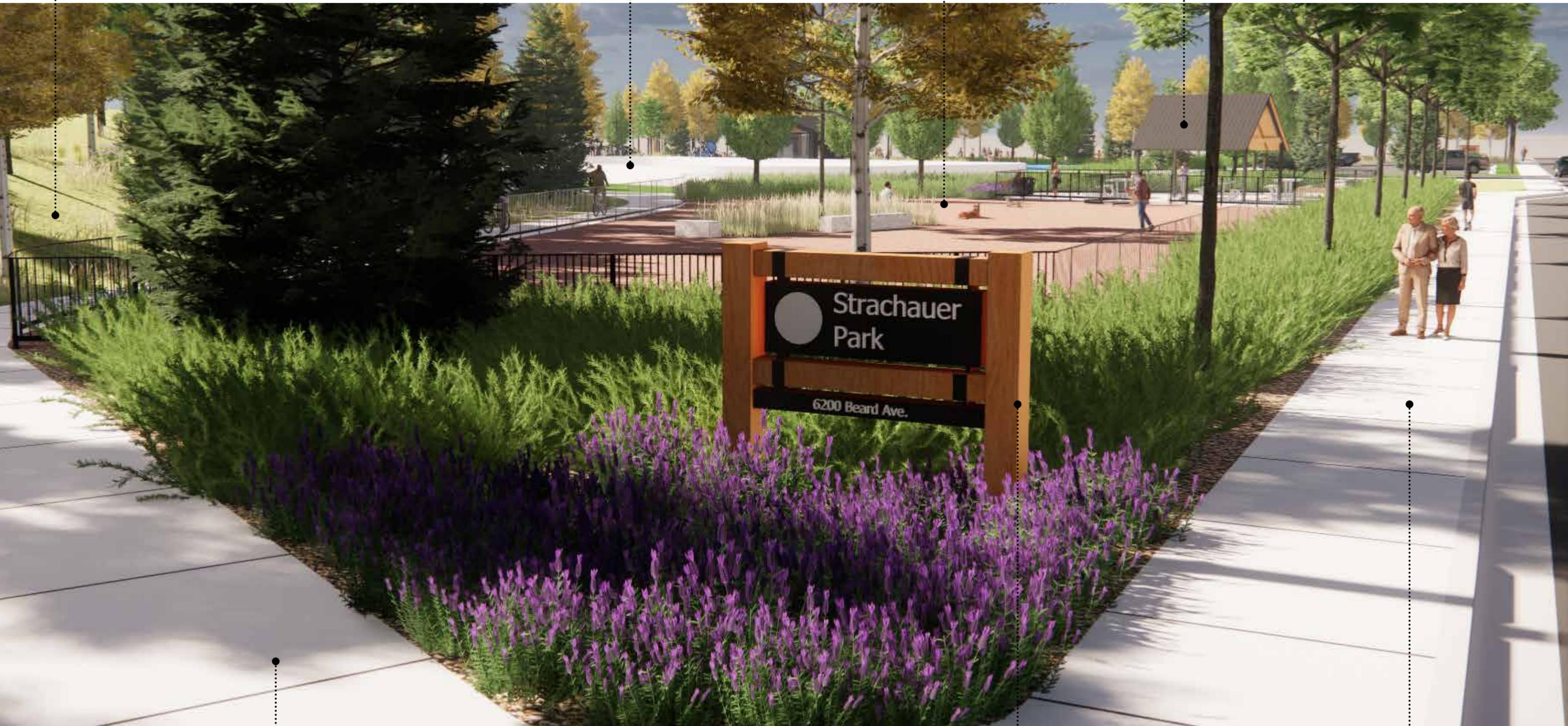
EDINA, MN

EXISTING WOODLAND

HOCKEY RINK

DOG PARK

GATHERING AREA W/
SHELTER



TRAILS / PATH NETWORK

PARK SIGN

CITY SIDEWALK

STRACHAUER PARK CONCEPT
EDINA, MN

PARKING ○

○ NATURALIZED AREA

○ RECREATIONAL COURT

○ PICNIC AREA



○ CITY SIDEWALK

TRAILS / PATH NETWORK ○

○ PARK SIGN

KIDS SOCCER ○

STRACHAUER PARK CONCEPT
EDINA, MN



PLAY FEATURE

GATHERING AREA W/
SHELTER

NET CLIMBER

HOCKEY RINK

HAMMOCK GROVE

SWINGS

BIKE STATION

ACCESSIBLE
MERRYGO ROUND

STRACHAUER PARK CONCEPT

EDINA, MN

GATHERING AREA W/
SHELTER

NET CLIMBER

ACCESSIBLE
MERRYGO ROUND



PLAY FEATURE

SWINGS

HAMMOCK GROVE

STRACHAUER PARK CONCEPT

EDINA, MN

HAMMOCK GROVE ○

SWINGS ○

○ KIDS SOCCER

○ GATHERING AREA W/
SHELTER

○ RECREATIONAL COURT



ACCESSIBLE
MERRYGO ROUND ○

NET CLIMBER ○

○ PLAY FEATURE

STRACHAUER PARK CONCEPT
EDINA, MN

HAMMOCK GROVE ○

SWINGS ○

KIDS SOCCER ○

○ GATHERING AREA W/
SHELTER



BERMED LAWN ○

ACCESSIBLE
MERRYGO ROUND ○

NET CLIMBER ○

○ PLAY FEATURE

STRACHAUER PARK CONCEPT
EDINA, MN

DOG PARK

PICNIC AREA

HOCKEY RINK

PLAY FEATURES

HAMMOCK GROVE

SLEDDING HILL



PARKING

RECREATIONAL COURT

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GATHERING AREA W/ SHELTER

KIDS SOCCER

STRACHAUER PARK CONCEPT
EDINA, MN

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OPEN SKATE/FLEX LAWN



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SLEDDING HILL

STRACHAUER PARK CONCEPT
EDINA, MN

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

STRACHAUER PARK MASTER PLANNING

PURPOSE

- Create a concept plan that will identify investments to be made at Strachauer park. Phased investment funding will most likely occur per amenity over a period of time, rather than a whole project.

DECISION TO BE MADE

- Identify amenities at the park.
- Identify where and what the investment should prioritize.
- Identify short term improvements that can be funded.

PROJECT TIMELINE

- Community Workshop w/Values View Finder Team: Sept. 29 at Public Works from 7 to 9 p.m.
- Online Conversation (Better Together) and survey input – Early to Mid-October
- Design Concepts (Internal review) – Mid October
- Initial Concept Feedback – Public Review (Better Together) – Mid October to early November
- Preferred Concept Feedback - Public Review (Better Together) – Late March to late April
- PARC Review & Comment – April Meeting
- City Council Adoption of Master Plan: TBD

STAKEHOLDERS

- Park Users
- Strachauer Neighborhood Association
- Athletic Associations that utilize the park
- Parks and Recreation Program participants
- Parks and Recreation staff
- Nearby Neighborhoods
- Edina Residents
- Parks and Recreation Commission

ROLES

RESIDENTS

Partner with the City to share ideas and recommendation. Residents are the expertise in sense of place, neighborhood feel, public attitudes, community values, desired amenities.

CONSULTANT VENDOR

Provide expertise in national best practices, land use planning, design, and public process participation.

STAFF

Provide opportunities to influence decision making by sharing expertise in programming, park maintenance and forestry aspects to a concept design.

Report all community input, views, and concern to City Council.

Report back to the community on designs made.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Advisory to the City Council

- Encourage awareness of the project within the community.
- Provide information on process and roles for residents.
- Review and recommend master plan concepts.

CITY COUNCIL

Decision-making body.

- Receives recommendation of concept and approves master plan.
- Decides funding level and source of funds.
- Consider the staff's recommendation based on public feedback/recommendations.
- Make final decision.

PARTICIPATION LEVEL

INVOLVE

- Goal: To work directly with the community to develop solutions and/or recommendations. To ensure the community's concerns and aspirations are understood and considered.
- Promise: We will work with the public to ensure input is understood in the options that are developed. We will include the public's input and advice into the outcome to the maximum extent possible.

DECISION CRITERIA

IN SCOPE

- Use a universal design, including sustainability, accessibility, equity, and programming options.

OUT OF SCOPE

- Operations of the park
- Use of the park
- Funding level and timing of the park
- Expansion of the park

DECISIONS ALREADY MADE

- This project is a strategic plan only, funding for amenities/changes will be determined later.
- CIP funding available for a playground structure in 2023-24 budget.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Role of Strachauer Park in relation to nearby Pamela Park and Chowen Park.
- Programming, park maintenance and forestry aspects to a concept design.
- Sustainability.
- Stormwater management and environmental impacts.

- Balancing user needs

LEGAL OR TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- ADA (Americans with Disability Act)
- CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission)
- IPEMA (International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association certified safety performance)
- Stormwater management
- MNDOT buffer/sound barrier (requirements set by the state)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION LEVEL: INVOLVE

TECHNIQUES

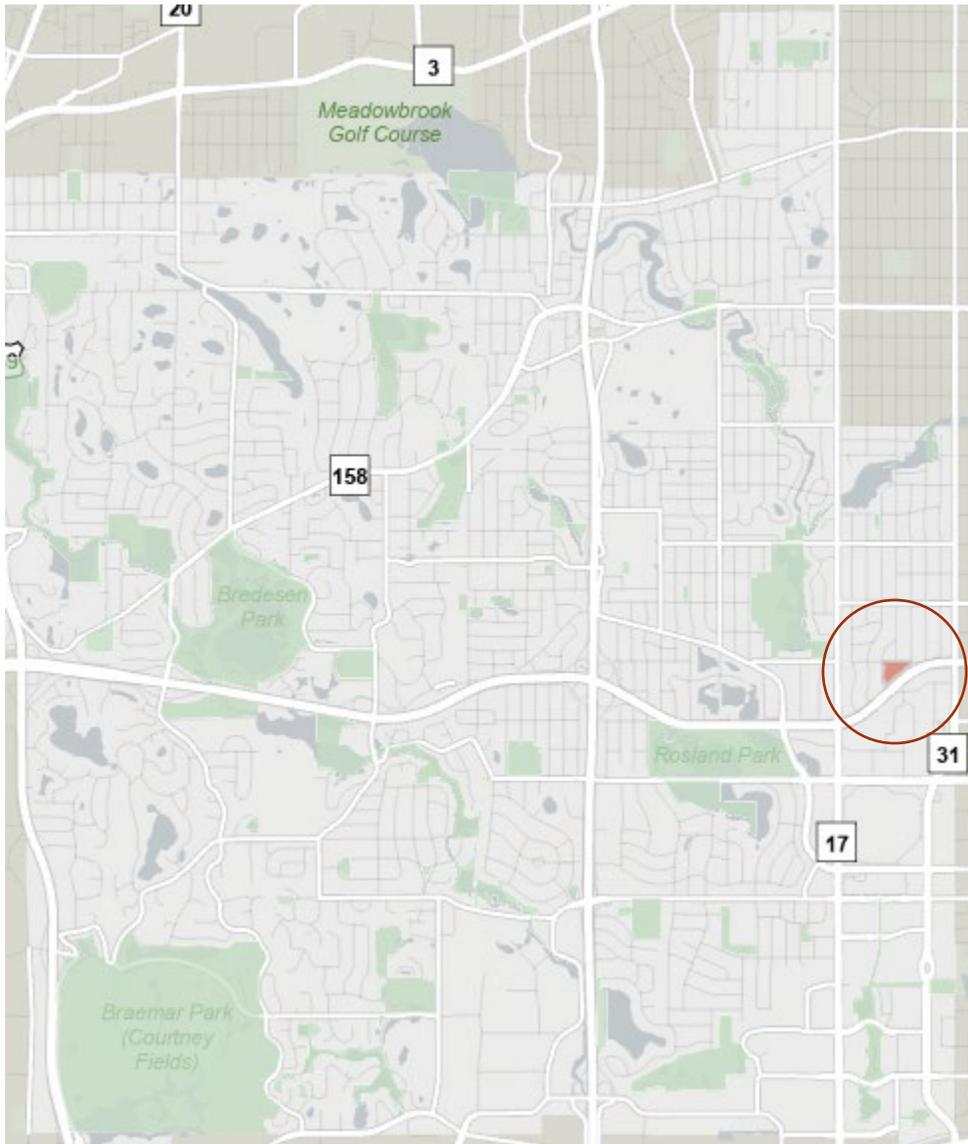
- Community Workshop
- Better Together Edina website
- Onsite signage
- Stakeholder polling
- Social media (Next Door, Facebook, Twitter)
- Online feedback collection
- Accessible alternatives to online activities

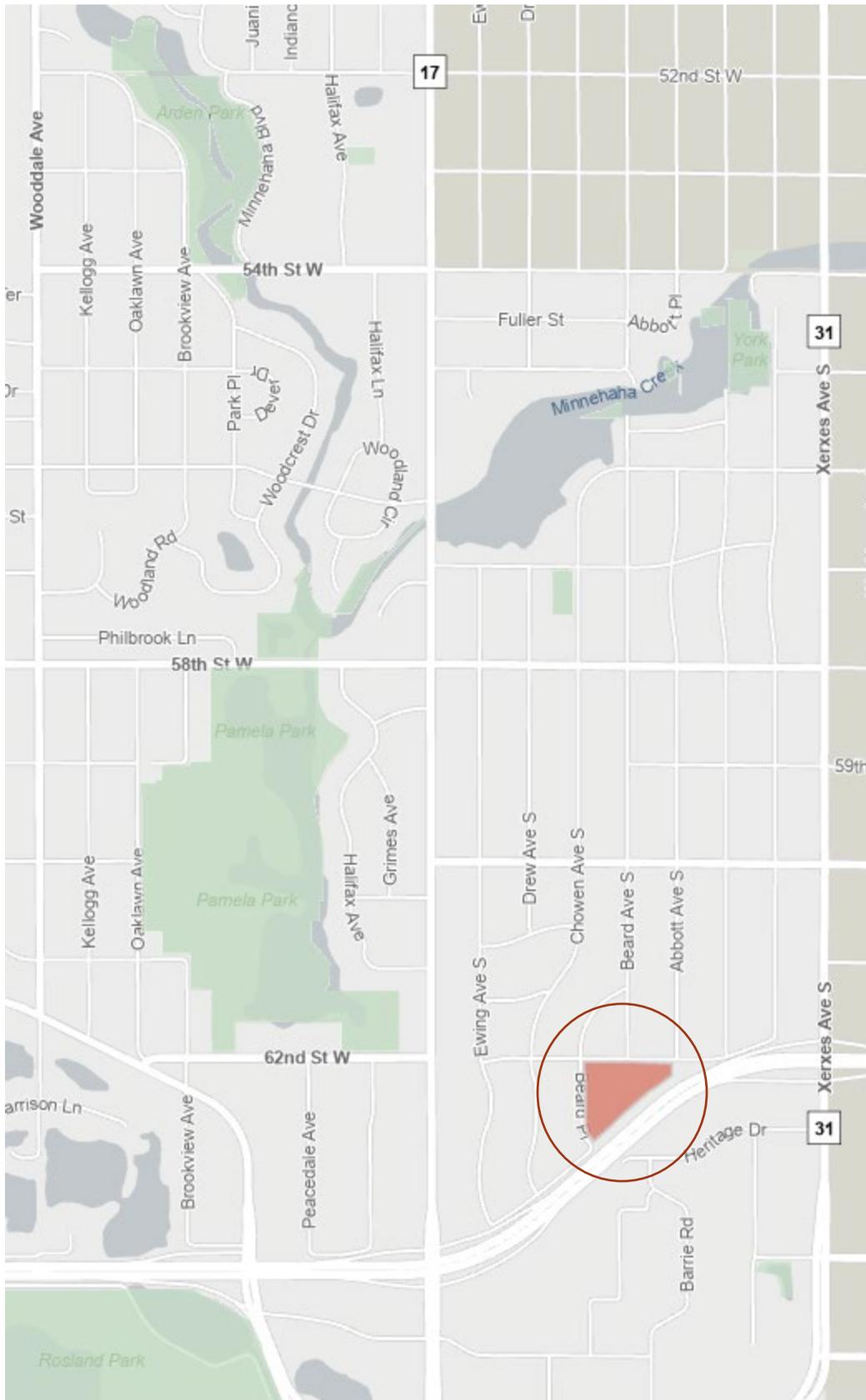
Objective	Staff will inform people of the project and process.	Community Workshop will take place.	Concept designs will be presented and the city will solicit feedback from stakeholders.	Staff will consider feedback. Staff will make a recommendation to City Council. City Council decides.	Staff will communicate the decision to the public. Staff will archive the project and process online.
Anticipated Outcomes	People know how and when to provide feedback.	People have access to information. People have the ability to provide their feedback.	People have access to information. People have the ability to provide their feedback.	People know how feedback was used. The recommended concept-level design is influenced by community values.	People know what decision was made. People can view the information, process, and decision on the BetterTogetherEdina.org

Timeline	Community Workshop: Sept. 29 at Public Works from 7 to 9 p.m.	Concept Designs: Will be presented on Better Together Edina	Concept Feedback: Online Conversation and survey input on concept Designs	Review & Recommend: Public Review, Staff Review, & PARC Review/Recommend	City Council Adoption of Strachauer Park Master Plan
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DECISION PROCESS







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Values Viewfinder

Strachauer Park Master Plan

DATE: October 13, 2022
TO: Amanda Clarke, Perry Vetter, Confluence
FROM: Values Viewfinder Team
Jeff Brown, Grace Hancock, MJ Lamon, Heidi Lee
RE: Community Meeting: Tool Utilization Report Out

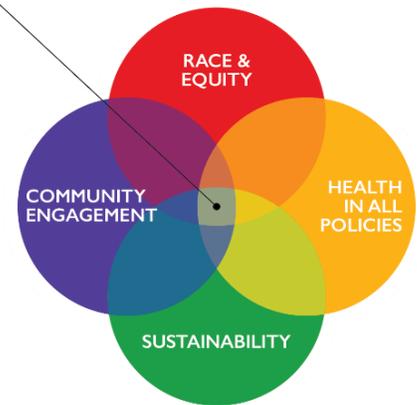
Introduction to Values Viewfinder

The goal of the Values Viewfinder is to incorporate City Council values in City decision-making processes. The Values Viewfinder team developed a tool to help decision-makers understand, evaluate, and communicate the impact, opportunities and trade-offs of a given decision using the lens of community engagement, health in all policies, race & equity and sustainability. The four disciplines collectively achieve community well-being.

The Values Viewfinder tool includes three sections:

1. Framing: To orient the user to common terms and to set a baseline understanding of the initiative, key stakeholders and considerations
2. Questions: A community well-being matrix questionnaire to identify opportunities and tradeoffs.
3. Evaluation: To understand early in an initiative how to manage success and track metrics.

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING



Purpose and Scope of this Process

The purpose of using the Values Viewfinder tool in the Strachauer Park Master Plan process is to explore future adjustments and asset investments to park infrastructure and programming in a way that considers community-wellbeing. The Values Viewfinder tool is part of this process as a tool to facilitate discussion and surface questions and ideas that may have been overlooked without its use. The Values Viewfinder tool is not being used as an additional criterion to meet in this project.

Values Viewfinder was used internally for all three sections – framing, questionnaire and evaluation. The scope of the process included understanding the inputs/drivers for the Strachauer Park Master Plan through a facilitated conversation with Parks and Recreation staff and the planning consultant, Confluence.

The questionnaire section of the tool was applied at a community workshop held on September 29, 2022. Questions are also being asked on the Strachauer Master Plan Project page of Better Together Edina.

Participants and Facilitators included: Residents of Strachauer Park neighborhood (16), Perry Vetter, Amanda Clarke, Confluence, Values Viewfinder team.

Note: Several additional staff attended the community workshop in an observation role only to learn more about applying the Values Viewfinder to community engagement opportunities.

Project Aims

At a previous internal meeting, Parks staff identified drivers and a goal behind why this decision/project must be addressed. Those included:

Drivers

- Age of park infrastructure
- Changing demographics of neighborhood and park users
- Park uses
- Funding stream status
- Park system relationship to nearby Chowen and Pamela parks
- Changing development to south of park
- Programming needs
- Freeway impacts
- Neighborhood input

Goal

- A physical and programmatic change to Strachauer Park to meet the needs of park users.

Using the Tool with the Community: Section 2 Questions

After receiving information on the background on the project and what a master plan is, the Values Viewfinder team led the participants in utilizing the Questions section of the tool. The focus was on how this physical and programmatic change to the park will relate to community well-being. This process asked community members in small groups to consider and think about these general questions:

1. **Benefits: What** are the potential positive benefits/access opportunities created by this action?
Who will benefit?
2. **Access: How** will this create easier access or be more welcoming and inclusive?
3. **Barriers: What** are the potential barriers created by this action?
4. **Impacts: Who** is most impacted by this project? What is the intended impact? Are there any unintended consequences?
5. **How** can this project help advance Budget Values? What adjustments can we make to advance the Budget Values?

The second step asked community members discuss the following specific questions, and write their answers down to share with the larger group:

Health in all Policies	Community Engagement	Race & Equity	Sustainability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can this decision be used to impact the health of Edina residents? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Mental Social/Connection Community Does this decision have significant public health consequences? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the participation create a foundation of trust? How will relationships between the city and the community advance? How will residents be able to engage with this project (during the process or after completion)? Who is most impacted by this decision? Are people informed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does this decision provide beneficial access and resource to underserved groups? Does this decision increase or decrease disparities? What is the desired impact and how will it affect different groups of people? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will the natural or built environment contribute to Edina sustainability goals. How can this initiative build community resilience to climate change? How will this action reduce the natural environment, and the community's, ability to withstand climate change?

Findings from utilizing the tool

The following findings were identified and suggested for the concept design for the park's master plan. The goal is to develop a master plan for the neighborhood park that achieves the most benefits and access and reduces the barriers and impacts.

Health-in-All-Policies	Community Engagement	Race & Equity	Sustainability
<p>Amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pickleball/Tennis Stage Splash Pad Community Garden Water Fountain Exercise Equipment <p>Potential Tree Losses</p> <p>Suggest rubber fill instead of pebbles</p> <p>Install sound wall/berm</p> <p>Stop signs/speed bumps for traffic safety</p> <p>Bike/wheeled parking and walking paths</p>	<p>Amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pet dog resources Pickleball/Tennis Roller-skating Silent Disco Lawn Games Community Garden Connected Sitting Areas East Side usable all year <p>Structures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bigger warming house/community space Build Stage Splash Pad <p>Wayfinding and Welcoming Signage</p> <p>Balance parking between neighborhood and youth sports</p> <p>Parking and Traffic Safety concerns</p> <p>Nature focused art and education installations</p>	<p>Amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-generational Lawn Games Stage Pickleball/Tennis Community Garden Water Fountain <p>Structures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Splash Pad Warming House/Community Space revamp <p>Accessible playground & senior considerations</p> <p>Parking and traffic safety concerns</p> <p>Noise reduction – more plantings</p> <p>Educational material around park</p>	<p>Build sound wall/green barrier</p> <p>Pollinator garden</p> <p>Low maintenance plantings</p> <p>East side is underused and floods</p> <p>Improved Park may be magnet for more users</p> <p>Maintain sidewalk connectivity</p> <p>Build stage</p> <p>Promote walking/biking/rolling</p> <p>Nature education around plant life</p>

Conclusion- Stacked Benefits vs Trades-Offs

One key result of this tool exercise is to identify overlapping opportunities and tradeoffs between these values.

Through conversation, workshop attendees highlighted the following overlapping opportunities:

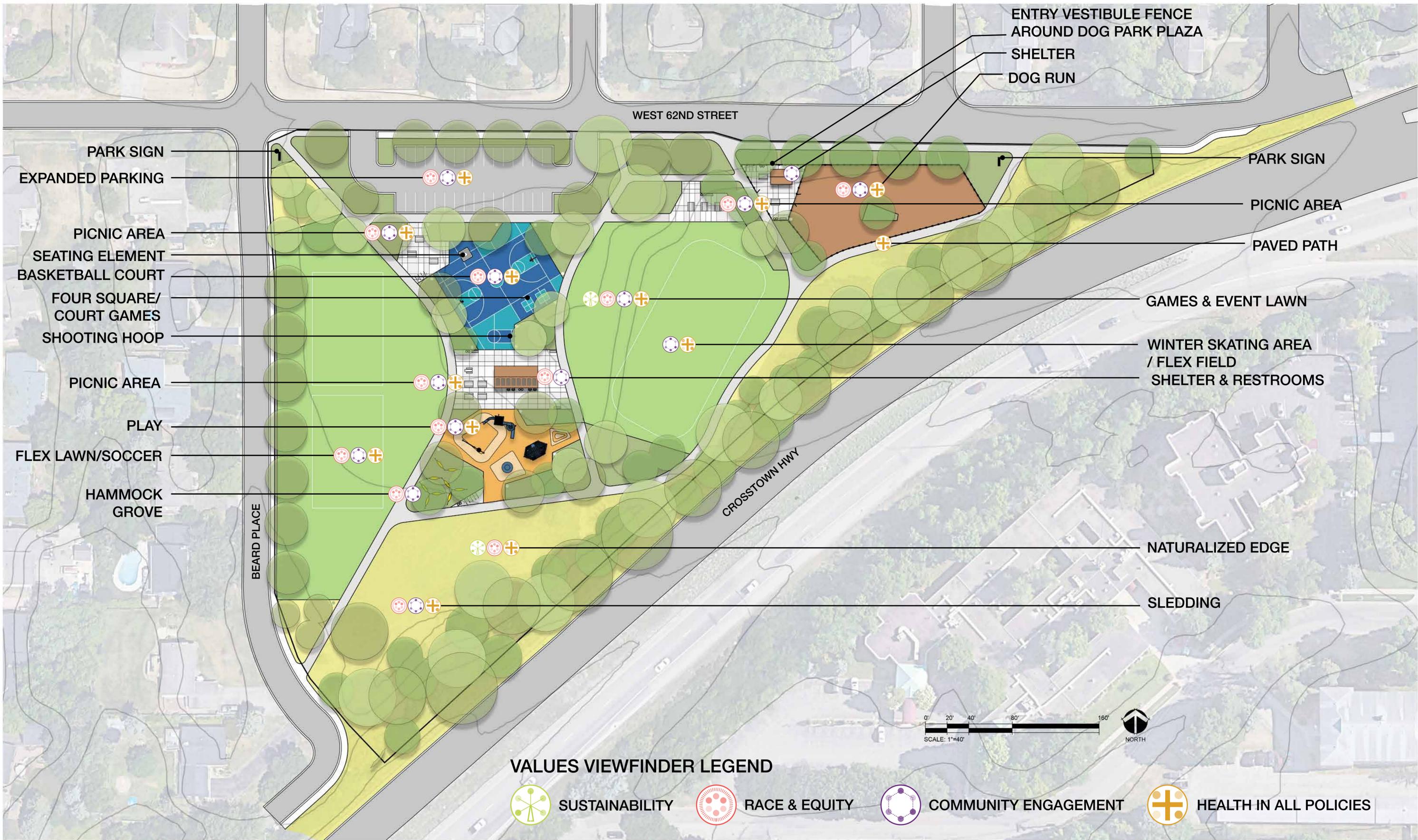
- From the perspective of community members, the Strachauer Park Master Plan has the stacked opportunity of providing **noise insulation and increasing trees** and green infrastructure on site. Community members asked for a sound wall, which could be potentially constructed with trees and tall shrubs (values optimized: Health in all policies, Sustainability)
- From the perspective of community members, the Strachauer Park Master Plan has the stacked opportunity of **providing a welcoming common space that meets community needs**. (Values optimized: Race and Equity, Community Engagement)
- From the perspective of community members, the Strachauer Park Master Plan has the stacked opportunity of **improving accessibility for more users** through accessible pathway materials, wayfinding, and seating (bench, bleachers) around youth amenities (playground/basketball court) for seniors to encourage **multi-generational connection**. (Values optimized: Health in all policies, Community engagement, Race and Equity)
- Community members identified that **increased nature focused art and nature education installations** could improve community engagement, race and equity and sustainability outcomes. (Values optimized: Community engagement, Race and Equity, Sustainability)

The workshop attendees also identified potential tradeoffs:

- There is a tradeoff between the **type and number of amenities requested and amount of space in the park**. More uses mean less green space, higher traffic, and parking needs. More uses can benefit more users and help a diversity of users feel welcome. (Tradeoff between values: Sustainability and health in all policies trade off with engagement and race and equity)
- From the perspective of community members, the Strachauer Park Master Plan includes a potential tradeoff: the Master Plan could improve the east side of the park, which community members mentioned was underused and prone to flooding. Improvements could **expand space to accommodate park users but may reduce natural environmental features** such as stormwater retention space. (Tradeoff between values: Sustainability trade off with engagement).

In conclusion, this process identified the top opportunities to maximize the expression of City values in the Strachauer Park Master Plan from workshop attendees' perspectives. This tool's findings lay the foundation for guiding decision making for Strachauer Parks Master Plan project, and how to incorporate community well-being throughout.

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PARK SIGN
 EXPANDED PARKING
 PICNIC AREA
 SEATING ELEMENT
 BASKETBALL COURT
 FOUR SQUARE/
 COURT GAMES
 SHOOTING HOOP
 PICNIC AREA
 PLAY
 FLEX LAWN/SOCCER
 HAMMOCK
 GROVE

ENTRY VESTIBULE FENCE
 AROUND DOG PARK PLAZA
 SHELTER
 DOG RUN

PARK SIGN
 PICNIC AREA
 PAVED PATH
 GAMES & EVENT LAWN
 WINTER SKATING AREA
 / FLEX FIELD
 SHELTER & RESTROOMS

NATURALIZED EDGE
 SLEDDING

VALUES VIEWFINDER LEGEND

- 

SUSTAINABILITY
- 

RACE & EQUITY
- 

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- 

HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES



STRACHAUER PARK

Date completed: 10/28/2014

1. SITE LOCATION:

6200 Beard Avenue South

2. GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION:

Size: **3.91 Acres**

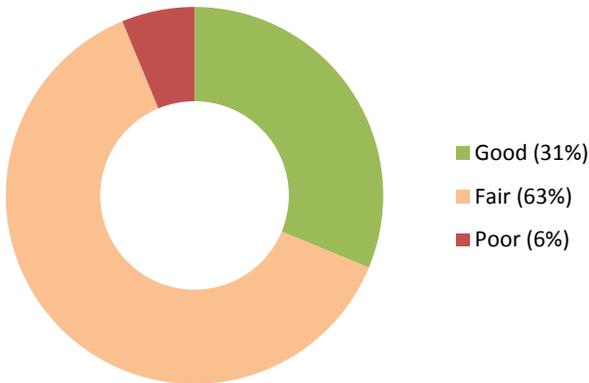
Classification: **Neighborhood Park**

This park was formerly named Beard Park. In 1984 the park was renamed Strachauer Park in honor of Hermann Strachauer who served on the Park Board from 1948 to 1961 and was involved in the early stages of the Edina park system. Mr. Strachauer was instrumental in putting together the original survey of the city parks system and helped secure the 1957 \$800,000 bond issue to purchase the 450 acres of the Hays farm property for Braemar Park and to build the city's municipal pool. Strachauer Park was constructed in the early 1960s. At that time it was graded and seeded and had a small portable backstop. The playground equipment was added in 1964 and a skating rink with a portable warming house was built in 1967. The permanent warming house was built in 1974 with a new hockey rink and lights. A hard surface court was added with new playground equipment in 1972. The hockey rink was discontinued in 1983. The new playground equipment was



installed in 1985 and replaced in 1996. Strachauer serves as an off-leash dog park during certain months.

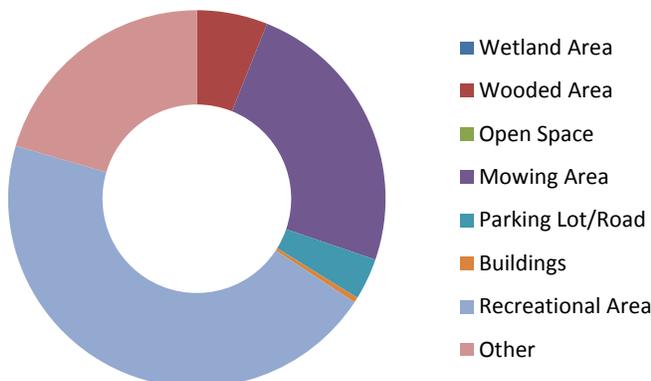
3. CONDITION:



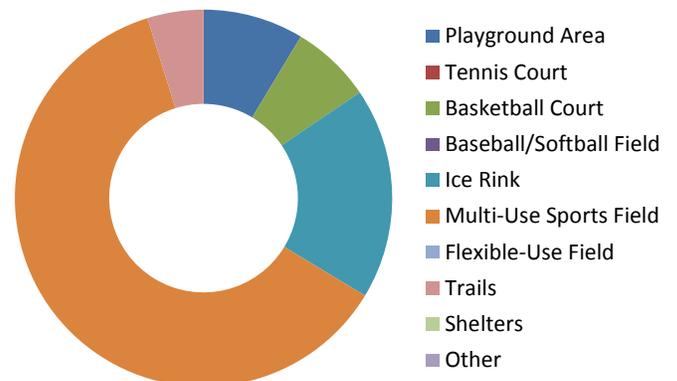
4. ACCESSIBILITY & IDENTITY:

Park Access:	Parking:
● Public Road	● Off Street
□ Community Trail Access	□ On Street
● Handicap	
□ Public Transportation	
Identity:	
● Entry Signage	
□ Informational Signage	
□ Historic Elements/Markers	
□ Public Art / Unique Features	

5. OVERALL LAND USE:



6. RECREATIONAL LAND USE:



7. AMENITIES AND CONDITION:

Amenity	/	Description	/	G/F/P*	Amenity	/	Description	/	G/F/P*
Parking (1 ADA / 17 stalls)	/	Asphalt	/	F	Multi-Use Sports Field	/	30y x 50y (1)	/	F
Building	/	Community Park	/	P	Bench	/	Fixed Wood	/	G
Play Area	/	Gravel	/	G	Bench	/	Fixed Wood	/	F
Play Equipment	/	Playground	/	G	Picnic Table	/	Metal	/	F
Play Equipment	/	Playground	/	F	Waste Receptacle	/	Med. Plastic (3)	/	F
Play Equipment	/	Swing Set	/	G	Recycling Receptacle	/	Med. Metal	/	G
Play Equipment	/	Spring Chairs (4)	/	F	Lighting	/	Flood (6)	/	F
Basketball Court	/	Concrete	/	F	Sign	/	Entry Sign	/	G
Hockey Rink	/	Grass	/	G	Sign	/	Entry Sign	/	P
Ice Rink (temporary)	/	.5 acres	/	F	Path	/	5' Concrete	/	G
Multi-Use Sports Field	/	40y x 60y (2)	/	G					

8. STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Strengths:

Sports fields, connection to greater park system, accessible play features.

Opportunities:

Connection to greater park system, trail connection, walking paths, shelter, drinking fountain, grills, bike rack.

9. PHOTOS



Soccer fields dominate the park with two full size fields.



The play area is located in the center of the park.



The basketball court sits just north of the play area.



The Community Park building is in need of replacement or repair.

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- EXPANDED PARKING
- DOG RUN / PLAY
- WINTER SKATE / STORMWATER
- PLAY
- PICKLEBALL COURTS
- PLAZA / BUILDING / TOUCH POINT
- FLEX LAWN
- BASKETBALL COURT
- ADULT FITNESS
- LAWN / HAMMOCK GROVE
- FUTSAL COURT
- NATURALIZED EDGE

Values Viewfinder Application to Plan

- Expanded Parking - health in all policies, community engagement race and equity
- Dog Run - health and all policies, community engagement, race and equity
- Building/Warming House - community engagement, race and equity
- Winter Skating area - health in all policies, community engagement
- Games and Event Lawn - health in all policies, community engagement, race and equity, sustainability
- Courts - health in all policies, community engagement, race and equity
- Play Area - health in all policies, community engagement, race and equity
- Adult Fitness - health in all policies, community engagement, race and equity
- Flex Lawns - health in all policies, community engagement, race and equity
- Naturalized edge - health in all policies, race and equity, sustainability
- Hammock Grove - community engagement, race and equity

BLUE CONCEPT

Initial concepts used for first phase of feedback—
Do not use for comments during this phase—
For reference only.



- EXPANDED PARKING
- PLAZA / BUILDING
- WINTER SKATING / STORMWATER
- GAMES/EVENT LAWN W/TOUCH POINT
- PICKLEBALL COURTS
- BASKETBALL COURT
- PLAY
- FLEX LAWN
- NATURALIZED EDGE

Values Viewfinder Application to Plan

- Expanded Parking - health in all policies, community engagement race and equity
- Building/Warming House - community engagement, race and equity
- Winter Skating/Stormwater area - sustainability, health in all policies, community engagement
- Games and Event Lawn - health in all policies, community engagement, race and equity, sustainability
- Courts - health in all policies, community engagement, race and equity
- Play Area - health in all policies, community engagement, race and equity
- Flex Lawns - health in all policies, community engagement, race and equity
- Naturalized edge - health in all policies, race and equity, sustainability

RED CONCEPT



GREEN CONCEPT

Initial concepts used for first phase of feedback—
 Do not use for comments during this phase—
 For reference only.

- GATHER PLAY
- WINTER SKATING / STORMWATER
- GAMES / EVENT LAWN WITH TOUCH POINT
- PLAZA / BUILDING
- FLEX LAWN
- BASKETBALL COURT
- FLEX LAWN
- PICKLEBALL COURTS
- SLEDDING
- NATURALIZED EDGE



PINK CONCEPT

Preferred Concept Feedback from Better Together Edina			
Ideas			
Date of contribution	Community Comment Title	Community Comment Feedback	Staff Comments
Mar 23 04:50:33 pm	Pickleball	What happened to the pickleball courts?	Pickleball courts are an option to be added or modified for this concept. Final details on all hard court amenities would be considered once funding for phase 3 becomes available/scheduled.
Mar 23 06:19:29 pm	Please put back the sledding hill, water feature, and walking path!	What happened to the water feature, the sledding hill, the walking paths and the pickle ball courts? Everything interesting in the prior round of concepts seems to be missing.	The wetland/ponding area has been removed due to the lack of feasibility in that area. Sledding hill remains the same. Pickleball courts will be considered once funding for phase 3 becomes available.
Mar 23 06:50:10 pm	Great concept!	As someone who uses the park weekly with my 3 kids, this is a great concept! We love the soccer fields for both ESA organized and neighborhood-kid organized games. The four square is a very welcome addition to the basketball court and the covered picnic space is great! From the drawing it looks like the playground area is a bit limited in what is offered but other than that this is a great plan! The sledding hill is also lovely but it looks like it goes right into trees?	Feedback has been received. The sledding hill would be located off to the side of the berm where there are no trees.
Mar 23 08:12:37 pm	Would love to see more play activities for younger kids and barriers for highway noise and sight	Great work on incorporating lots of ideas. Would love to see more spaces for families with young children to play and explore (both nature play and equipment). I also wish there was more of a natural or structural barrier between the highway and the park. Thanks for your hard work on this!	Feedback has been received.
Mar 24 02:27:45 am	Nice Redesign!	Great to see the dog run, walking paths, sledding hill/natural edge, hockey rink, and multiple courts incorporated into one design! Thoughtful additions: double gate/shelter in the dog run, more parking spots (21), new trees; a second park sign on east side. Given the limited space and potential to dry out it's nice to see that a water feature was not incorporated. Sound wall would also be great, is that out of scope / would require MNDOT?	Feedback has been received. The sound wall is out of scope of this Park Master Plan project and the requirements for a soundwall are set by MNDOT.
Mar 24 06:42:14 am	Rain Garden Water Feature	The east end of the park is low and often muddy and unusable. A quiet water feature and natural environment could be a delight.	Feedback has been received.
Mar 23 06:45:07 am	Competition Soccer Fields yes or no?	Are the youth soccer fields still included? The community responses overwhelmingly requested that they be removed but it seems they may have reappeared?	The flex lawns in the designs are viewed as multi-use space and would still allow for athletic activities such as soccer, football, lacrosse or any sport that is played on a grass field. Strachauer Park like all parks play a role in our entire City Park System as well as provide recreational opportunities for the local neighborhood.
Mar 24 06:49:24 am	Screening the freeway	If the park is to actually be a social gathering place it needs to be screened from the noise of the freeway. Some screening is shown in the form of the sledding hill and plantings but the east end is unprotected.	Feedback has been received.
Mar 24 09:30:55 am	Dog Park Section	Have the dog park area extended to have a small area for small dogs and larger area for larger dogs.	Feedback received. The dog area will be reviewed as funding for phase 3 becomes available.
Mar 24 09:45:04 am	Reconsider adding Pickleball	To have an option for all age groups, please reconsider, adding back Pickleball to the design.	Feedback received. Pickleball courts will be considered once funding for phase 3 becomes available.
Mar 23 09:47:57 am	Great integration of four original concepts and neighbor feedback	This design successfully integrates many ideas from the concepts we saw last fall. And while getting everything that everyone wants isn't likely, it seems like this concept addresses a lot of what neighbors asked for. Specifically, I appreciate the orientation of the playground, picnic, gathering space/shelter, and court areas — making them central in the park and keeping them away from the streets. I love having paths to help connect features within the park and can see paths being used by people of all ages for walking, biking/scooting. I think there is potential to include some adult fitness equipment along the walking paths around the park, especially over on the eastern side. With regard to the gathering space/shelter, I like the indoor/outdoor connection. It's hard to tell the size of the indoor space. I'd like to know more about the amenities will it have and how many people will it be able to accommodate for a small/medium size get-together. I presume that the building design and materials will align with goals of the City's Climate Action Plan and think discreet signage/QR codes that call attention to these features as well as the native plantings around the park could be nice and educational. To further enhance community-building, it would be nice to have a free little library (maybe one for books and one for equipment like balls and skates) and bulletin board area for sharing community news/resources. Placement of the playground looks great though I think the specific equipment and layout needs some further discussion to ensure it's accessible for young children as well as older kiddos. I'd love to see a sun-shaded little stage with dramatic play prompts in the playground spot — perhaps in the corner by the hammock grove. As others have noted, I like using a sledding hill to help with sound barrier to the Hwy 62 though definitely want to make sure safety is addressed so that it's oriented away from the street and there is a sturdy barrier so people can't accidentally go out to the highway. Also, plantings need to extend to the far eastern end of the park where the neighborhood currently has no buffer to the highway. Ultimately, I would really like to see the City work more forcefully with MNDOT on getting a sound wall.	Feedback has been received. To answer the question about the gathering space/shelter, that portion of the project will be designed in greater detail as funding Phase 2 of the project approaches. Currently, funding is allocated for a new building in 2027.
Mar 26 08:37:51 am	Great Update!	Excited for this refresh for the park. We have an infant on home who will love the play area. Including restrooms near the play area is a great addition to allow us to spend more time at the park.	Feedback has been received.
Mar 30 06:32:41 pm	Is use of the park from outside its immediate neighborhood encouraged?	Building awareness	City parks are used by people from all over the community and surrounding areas.
Mar 30 06:39:15 pm	Many people in the northern Southdale neighborhood (which is high density) could use the park if they knew it existed.	Promote an open house of the neighborhood once the project is done to households living within 10 minutes of the park, including the Southdale neighborhood, which doesn't have a park - unless the idea is to reserve it for immediate neighbors.	Feedback has been received.
Apr 03 07:44:55 am	Fantastic update	This update does a great job of integrating and addressing some of our neighborhood concerns. I really like the central location of the parks amenities, and use of the shelter to separate the playground and basketball courts. It's hard to tell from the plans, but I hope the gathering space / shelter will be able to be used as a warming house in the winter.	Feedback has been received.
Apr 03 08:11:07 am	More shade	Adding more shade around the play area would lead to more use from us. On days when it's really hot we'll often choose other parks that have more shade because the playground equipment gets hot and the kids can't play as long.	Feedback has been received.
Apr 03 05:40:10 pm	Pickleball and Toddler Play	I'd love to see the basketball/4 square area swapped for pickleball courts. There is already a basketball court at the Chownen park playground so I'd love to have another option close by. For the playground area, would love to see options for both bigger kids and toddlers. Was there any consideration for a splash pad type space for young kids?	Feedback has been received. Pickleball courts are an option to be added or modified for this concept. Final details on all hard court amenities would be considered once funding for phase 3 becomes available/scheduled. Splash pad was not in consideration for the site due to code requirements and scale of amenity.
Apr 10 09:11:23 am	Love the latest concept!	Would really like to see the rocks at the playground replaced with rubber surfacing (like at Pamela Park) over at least one of the picnic areas for shade. Would be great to see specific plans around the playground equipment as well. Very exciting!	Feedback has been received.
Apr 11 04:22:45 pm	Great Update	This is a great update from the original array of plans put forth. Thanks!	Feedback has been received.
Apr 16 01:13:53 pm	Great but a couple suggestions	Please bring back the pickleball court!! Love the new dog run area with the vestibule entry, especially since it is right next to the street. Agree a small dog area would be nice but I think the year-round dog park with vestibule entry is most important.	Feedback has been received. Pickleball courts will be considered once funding for phase 3 becomes available.
Apr 16 08:41:04 pm	Sidewalk from Xenex to 62nd?	This is very likely out of scope for this project, but it'd be really great if residents who visit the park from the Southdale neighborhood could access the park without having to go all the way north to 60th street. Is there any way the city could squeeze pedestrian access between the residential homes and the MN 62 westbound entrance ramp at Xenex?	Feedback has been received. The Engineering Department is aware of this request and will continue to keep pedestrian access in mind as they talk with MNDot or as they review potential grant funding opportunities.
Apr 18 09:02:24 am	I really agree with the decision to include bathrooms. I wonder if there are places for shade in the park. I can't tell.		Feedback has been received. The building will have bathrooms.
Mar 24 03:48:22 am	Comment response to "Please put back the sledding hill, water feature, and walking paths!"	Oops - I was looking at the concept on my phone (computer was on the Fritz) and couldn't read everything. I'm very happy to see the sledding hill and walking path! I don't see the water feature, though, and wish that had been included.	Feedback has been received.
Mar 26 08:35:25 am	Comment response to "Screening the freeway"	I agree with adding noise screening to minimize freeway sound spillover into the park.	Feedback has been received. The sound wall is out of scope of this Park Master Plan project and the requirements for a soundwall are set by MNDOT.
Mar 26 12:27:24 pm	Comment response to "Great Update!"	Yes to a restroom! We use the current one at least every other park visit with our 3 kids! :)	Feedback has been received. The building will have bathrooms.
Apr 06 05:03:13 am	Comment response to "Is use of the park from outside its immediate neighborhood encouraged?"	While our family frequents Strachauer Park because we can walk to it, we have also played at and enjoyed the amenities of several other neighborhood parks around Edina. Parks are for everyone!	Feedback has been received.
Apr 06 05:07:44 am	Comment response to "More shade"	I think this is an important consideration especially as new trees are established.	Feedback has been received.
Apr 17 11:31:39 am	Comment response to "Sidewalk from Xenex to 62nd?"	I've wondered about this as well. From what I can tell there isn't any space to do this, but I'm glad to see the question raised. Another option could be to build a pedestrian bridge over Highway 62.	Feedback has been received. The Engineering Department is aware of this request and will continue to keep pedestrian access in mind as they talk with MNDot or as they review potential grant funding opportunities.



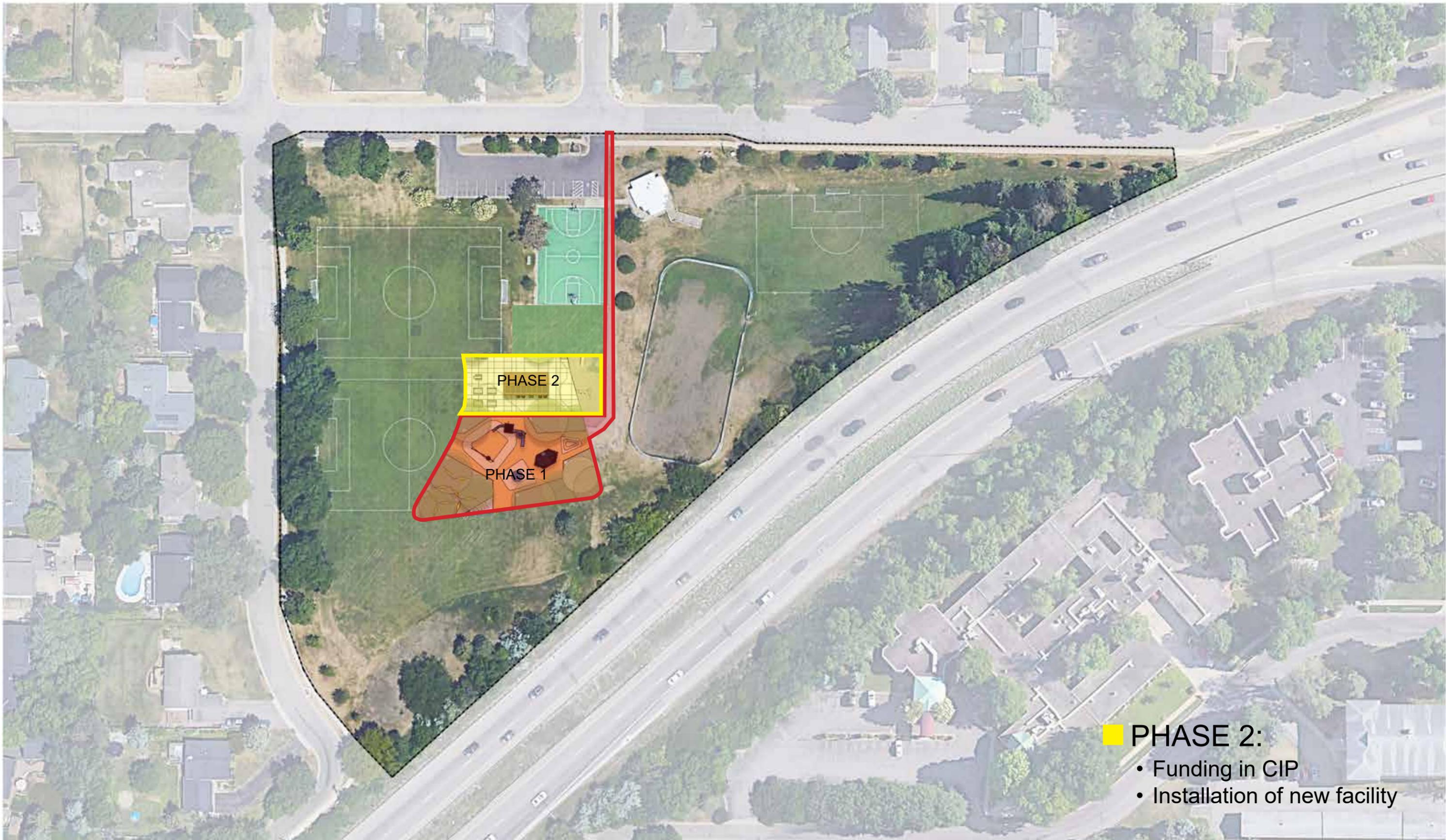
EXISTING
PLAYGROUND TO
BE REMOVED

PHASE 1

■ PHASE 1:

- Funding Identified
- Removal of existing playground & border
- Installation of new playground & border
- Existing access pathway along east side of basketball court to remain

STRACHAUER PARK - PHASE 1
EDINA, MN



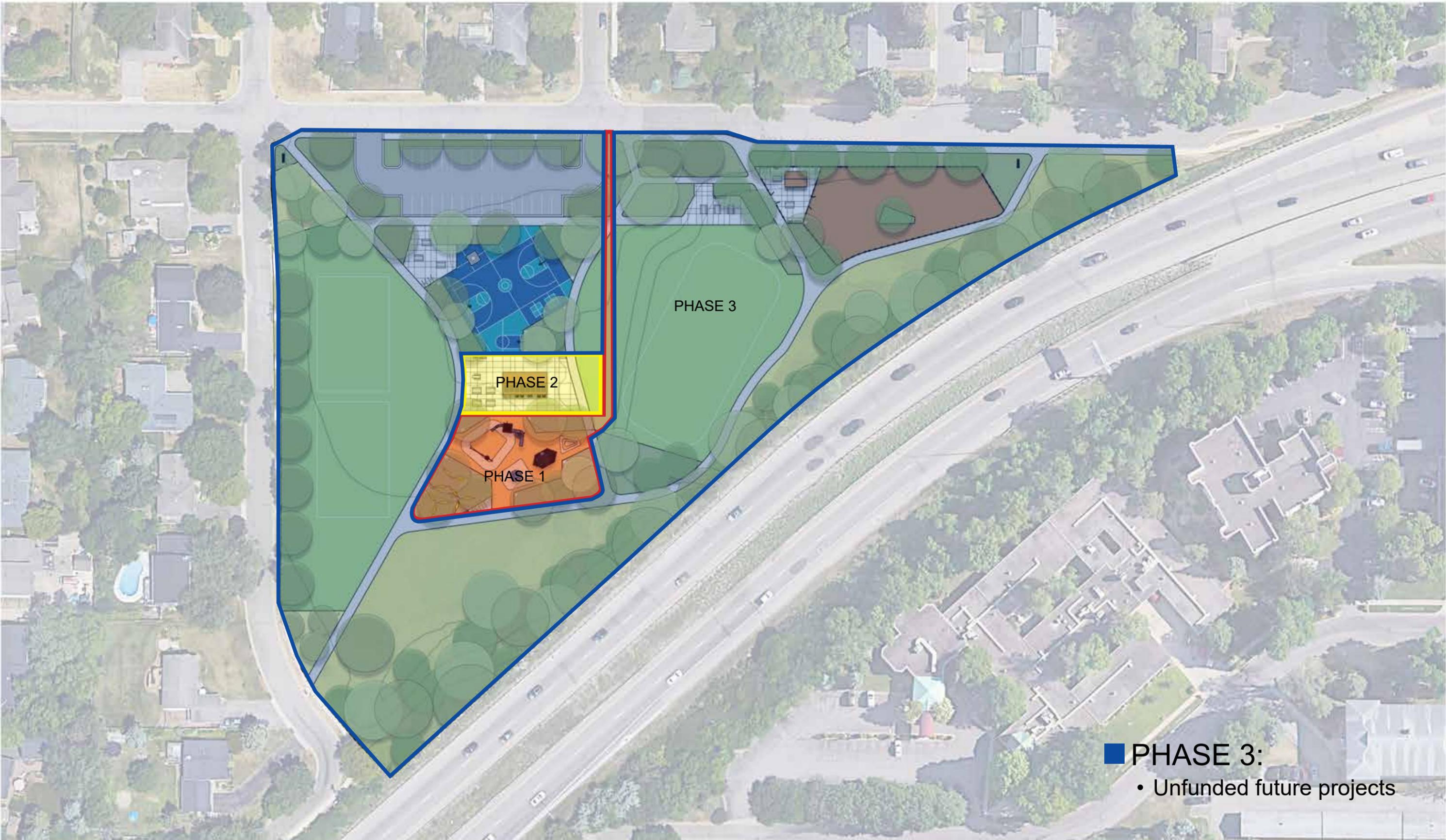
PHASE 2

PHASE 1

- PHASE 2:
- Funding in CIP
- Installation of new facility

STRACHAUER PARK - PHASE 2

EDINA, MN



■ PHASE 3:
• Unfunded future projects

STRACHAUER PARK - PHASE 3
EDINA, MN