



Resolution 2022-269

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE HIAWATHA GOLF COURSE AREA MASTER PLAN AND ITS AMENDMENT TO THE NOKOMIS-HIAWATHA REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN, DIRECTING STAFF TO ENGAGE HIGH LEVEL PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE RELATED TO GOLF COURSE DESIGN INCLUDING LOCAL EXPERTISE RELATED TO TEACHING THE SPORT OF GOLF AND RECREATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS RAISED IN THE MASTER PLAN, AND FURTHER DIRECTING STAFF TO ENGAGE WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS AS NECESSARY TO ADVANCE THE MASTER PLAN TO ITS FULL IMPLEMENTATION

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is the steward of the Minneapolis parks;

Whereas, The MPRB was founded in 1883 by an Act of the State Legislature, and has the responsibility to design, improve, and manage parks in Minneapolis;

Whereas, The MPRB owns and operates Hiawatha Golf Course and the property is a part of the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park;

Whereas, The area of Hiawatha Golf Course was discovered to be pumping significant volumes of groundwater and is understood to be threatened by flood events;

Whereas, Following a significant flood event in 2014, the Board of Commissioners directed staff to review conditions relating to water management and to create a master plan for the Hiawatha Golf Course Area;

Whereas, MPRB has completed a community-driven master planning process for the Hiawatha Golf Course Area located within Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park sitting generally between Lake Hiawatha, Minnehaha Parkway, Longfellow Avenue, and East 43rd Street;

Whereas, The Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan (the Plan) shall be an amendment to the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan;

Whereas, The Plan pushes toward a balance of golf and other activities set in a landscape guided by water management that meets the master plan direction outlined in Resolution 2018-230 and the Community Advisory Committee priorities developed over seven CAC meetings and 10 focus group sessions between March 2018 and July 2019;

Whereas, The Plan was created in collaboration with the City of Minneapolis and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, under a memorandum of agreement between these three agencies, but was primarily led by the MPRB;



Whereas, The MPRB project team has refined the Plan document based on comments received from MPRB staff, stakeholders, and from the general public during a 45-day comment period that concluded on September 15, 2020;

Whereas, A public hearing was held on February 17, 2021 to allow additional public comment on the final Plan prior to its consideration by the Board of Commissioners;

Whereas, On April 7, 2021 Resolution 2021-136 to approve the Master Plan with amendments that included a naming of a facility, which requires six votes, failed on a vote of four to two votes;

Whereas, On July 21, 2021 Resolution 2021-249 which considered approval of the master plan was defeated by the Board of Commissioners four votes to five;

Whereas, Newly elected commissioners have expressed interest in considering a resolution to approve the Plan as originally written and presented;

Whereas, Resolution 2022-156 directing staff to organize a public hearing before the Planning Committee of the Board of Commissioners failed to gain approval;

Whereas, The Board of Commissioners have received significant direct and emailed communications from a range of constituencies following consideration of Resolution 2022-156, which communications range from advocacy for the proposed Plan to conceptual approaches for other configurations of the Hiawatha Golf Course Area;

Whereas, Should the Plan be approved by the Board of Commissioners, advocacy for the perpetuation of golf at the Hiawatha Golf Course Area suggests a need for golf course architect with experience at the highest levels of the profession and with particular experience related to managing and mitigating water issues and creating golf experiences integrated with environmental restoration and engagement of golf expertise with an orientation to teach the sport of golf to youth;

Whereas, Expertise related to the design of a golf course at the Hiawatha Golf Course Area according to the directions of the Plan, if approved, must demonstrate clear and robust experience in addressing, managing, and to the degree practicable, mitigating groundwater and stormwater concerns raised during the master planning process;

Whereas, Expertise engaged in improvements at the Hiawatha Golf Course Area, should the Plan be approved, must demonstrate clear and robust experience in resolving issues identified during the master planning process, including but not limited to habitat preservation, integration of non-golf recreation activities, lake quality enhancement including the removal of floatable and other trash conveyed by City of Minneapolis stormwater infrastructure to Lake Hiawatha, protection



of nearby homes from the intrusion of groundwater to the same degree they are protected by the current regime of pumping on Hiawatha Golf Course, and reduction in non-trash pollutant conveyance from the golf course and City of Minneapolis stormwater infrastructure to Lake Hiawatha;

Whereas, The process of evolving conditions at the Hiawatha Golf Course property related to water management and water quality necessitates ongoing and close coordination with other jurisdictions, including but not limited to the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the City of Minneapolis; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported by the following goals and strategies in Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan: “Goal 2, Strategy 13 - Make golf courses and golf course buildings welcoming multi-use recreational and ecological facilities, Goal 6, Strategy 5 - Utilize data-driven, equitable, science-based, regional, future-facing, ecological understanding in preserving, stewarding, maintaining, and improving natural areas, enhancing habitat connectivity, and improving and managing park infrastructure, Goal 6, Strategy 8 - Implement strategies to remove and reduce trash and plastic in parks and water bodies, and Goal 9, Strategy 9 - Reimagine Enterprise Fund programs and facilities across the system based on market-driven approaches and sponsorship opportunities to offset park program and asset costs that balance ecology and recreational uses;”

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approves the Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan and its amendment to the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners directs staff to engage, in subsequent stages of advancement of the master plan toward full implementation, high level professional golf expertise with experience in managing and mitigating water issues and integrating environmental restoration in the course design, and form a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of individuals with golf expertise with a particular orientation to teaching the sport of golf to youth;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners directs staff to engage, in subsequent stages of advancement of the master plan toward full implementation, expertise addressing and resolving the recreational and environmental concerns identified in the master plan to the greatest degree practicable;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners directs staff to prepare a plan for advancing the master plan toward full implementation in collaboration with other jurisdictions, especially the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the City of Minneapolis; and

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.



TO: Planning Committee

FROM: Michael Schroeder, Assistant Superintendent, Planning

DATE: 17 August 2022

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE HIAWATHA GOLF COURSE AREA MASTER PLAN AND ITS AMENDMENT TO THE NOKOMIS-HIAWATHA REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN, DIRECTING STAFF TO ENGAGE HIGH LEVEL PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE RELATED TO GOLF COURSE DESIGN INCLUDING LOCAL EXPERTISE RELATED TO TEACHING THE SPORT OF GOLF AND RECREATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS RAISED IN THE MASTER PLAN, AND FURTHER DIRECTING STAFF TO ENGAGE WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS AS NECESSARY TO ADVANCE THE MASTER PLAN TO ITS FULL IMPLEMENTATION

BACKGROUND

This Board action considers the approval of the Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan (the Plan) and its amendment to the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan. It further directs staff to pursue other actions resulting in the highest quality golf and golf learning experiences on the property, to include expertise recognizing the full range of issues, challenges, and opportunities related to water management, integration of recreation, and environmental restoration, and to engage with other jurisdictions necessary to advance the Plan. The proposed Plan is the product intense planning, design, and engineering work since the June 2014 flood which closed half the course for several weeks and the other half for over a year. Note that the Final Plan document is not attached to this Board action due to its size. Instead, it is posted on the project webpage (<http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/hiawathamasterplan>).

During the first few weeks of 2022, some newly elected commissioners requested to learn more about the Plan and to consider its adoption. Staff have obliged commissioners with two study items which presented the water management phases of the work (to August 2017) and the master planning phase of work (August 2017 to present) on March 2 and March 23, respectively. Following the presentation of background information, Commissioners failed to approve a resolution which would have set a date for a public hearing and established a path for the Board of Commissioners to consider the Plan. Now, commissioners have approved that request through Resolution 2022-247 on August 3, 2022, which directs staff to organize a public hearing related to the Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan, along with a resolution (this resolution) to consider the plan, before the Planning Committee of the Board of Commissioners, with such hearing occurring not earlier than August 17, 2022.

A plan must be in place that addresses flooding resiliency and the longevity of the golf course. It needs a plan so it can survive another flood like the flood of 2014. This is a unique landscape for



several reasons and must be protected. In its current state, it is not flood resilient and is not ecologically sustainable; the current state puts this institution of golf at risk of forever being lost. It may be difficult to envision how such a space could be lost to natural forces, but it can.

Since the Plan was last considered by the Board of Commissioners, individuals and groups have highlighted the course's importance as a cultural feature. The property may have significance related to its landscape, which was first created by Theodore Wirth through the dredging of Rice Lake. Some have asserted its cultural significance for Black golfers. While both may factor into the evolution of the property, it must be recognized that cultural features and landscapes are being placed at risk by a changing climate, in this case one that is bringing more water to a site that sits below the elevation of the adjacent lake.

This situation is not unique to Hiawatha Golf Course. Throughout the U.S. and the world, cultural landscapes are at risk to climate change. The National Mall and its Tidal Basin are at risk of flooding; the historic Tiber Creek once meandered through vast wetlands on the way to the Potomac and is now buried under Constitution Avenue. It is a landscape that is on the National Register of Historic Places and climate change has put it at risk of ruin. Recognizing this, the National Trust for Historic Preservation recently added the Tidal Basin to its list of National Treasures and they, along with the National Park Service and the Trust for the National Mall, created the National Mall Tidal Basin Ideas Lab. The project commissioned five landscape architectural design teams to create plans to save the sinking basin. The plans ranged from modest to sweeping. None suggested leaving it as-is. A scenario one of the landscape architects describes is the decision to "create entropy or create the inevitability of flooding, decline, and decay."

The Tidal Basin example suggests the need for action in the face of a changing climate. While Hiawatha Golf Course is not the cultural icon of the Tidal Basin, the Plan takes steps to perpetuate an important recreational feature while accommodating recent and projected increases in rainfall. Hiawatha Golf Course would change under the Plan, but like the studies for the future of the Tidal Basin, it strives for balance relative to the environment and recreation.

A 9-hole golf course, one that is oriented to and complemented by golf learning opportunities can be a welcoming space to all people while honoring early Black golf heroes. The Plan accomplishes this by creating a 9-hole course that is not intimidating to new users or users who may think they don't belong. A proactive and equitable approach to seeking new youth and underserved community members can be accomplished. The new users can arguably be better taught the game on a course designed to accommodate teaching of the sport. A 9-hole course allows young or novice golfers to learn the sport, but it should be expected that the course will be appealing to veteran golfers expecting a greater challenge.



Introduction to the Document

The Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan is a written and graphic document that sets a vision for all the parklands associated with the areas north, west, and south of Lake Hiawatha. It includes approximately 150-acres of parkland generally between Longfellow Avenue, Minnehaha Parkway, East 43rd Street, and Lake Hiawatha. The Plan was created in collaboration between the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), the City of Minneapolis (City), and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD), as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding between these agencies. Though MPRB staff were the primary project leads and the project followed MPRB community engagement standards and policies, the collaboration between these agencies will ensure activities in the golf course area and activities outside MPRB property are aligned toward continued improvement of the park, creek, and neighborhood going forward.

Master Planning Background

The original master planning process began during the Winter of 2014/15 after the catastrophic flood in June 2014. It was apparent the golf course required flood resiliency improvements to reduce risk of revenue loss due to down time and costly damages. After the first two meetings in January and February 2015, draft concepts were being prepared by MPRB staff and a golf course architect. This process was interrupted when new groundwater data received by the City of Minneapolis was given to the MPRB which indicated high levels of groundwater pumping at the golf course. A meeting presenting the new groundwater data was held in September 2015, and the master planning effort was put on hold. Between September 2015 and Summer 2017, the MPRB embarked on a detailed groundwater assessment and developed several ground water alternatives. Water Management Alternative B was recommended by MPRB staff, the City, and MCWD, and Resolution 2017-243 was approved by the Board of Commissioners on August 9, 2017 and further clarified by the Board in on October 4, 2017. Staff was directed to create a master plan for the golf course property using that water management solution.

In March 2018, the master planning effort began again, following the water management solution directed by the Board of Commissioners. Near the beginning of the master planning process, some members of a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) requested that the design team look at an 18-hole option. Given the increase in the anticipated water footprint within the area and the directive from the Board of Commissioners to achieve a flood-resilient design, the engineers, landscape architects, and golf course architect determined that an 18-hole golf course was not possible. However, by providing 9 holes, the MPRB would be able to perpetuate golf on the property and in South Minneapolis. Allowing for a course that aligns with the water management strategy that restores ecological function, offers a means of reducing trash inflow to Lake Hiawatha, protects nearby homes through groundwater pumping to the same degree they are protected by current pumping, promotes recreational diversity, increases park access for all visitors, and reduces pumping of groundwater became the basis for work on the master plan.



In 2018, the Board of Commissioners again further clarified their position on the direction which the master planning effort and CAC process would follow by approving resolution 2018-230:

- Pursuing a reduced-pumping scenario as conceptualized in [Water Management] Alternative B;
- At a minimum, providing a flood-resilient and ecologically-driven 9-hole configuration for a golf course; and
- Reflecting appropriate methods to recognize the role of Hiawatha Golf Course and the history of Black golfers in the Minneapolis park system.

Master Plan Document Overview

The Plan was developed through a comprehensive public engagement process spanning over two years, including guidance from the CAC which developed a vision and guiding principles and prioritized plan element recommendations for the site. The master planning process provided an opportunity to develop a plan that re-imagines the Hiawatha Golf Course area as a place that not only celebrates the rich welcoming history at the golf course but creates a space that celebrates nature in an urban setting, welcomes the larger community, and reconnects this land with the surrounding neighborhoods, Lake Hiawatha, and the larger regional park.

The Plan pursues a balance of golf and other activities set in a landscape guided by water management. It necessarily bends toward ecology in its aspirations, recognizing that restoration of natural processes—which were significantly altered by the MPRB’s dredging of Rice Lake to create the golf course—are a goal greater than those supporting human activities on the site.

With ecology as the yardstick, choices are made that favor preservation, conservation, and restoration rather than expanding past acts of disturbance and creating new development. While many uses are described, the restoration of sustainable water patterns and recreation, balanced in a new ecologically-driven landscape, form the higher-order goals inherent in the plan.

The Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan document reflects the Board’s direction outlined in Resolution 2018-230 and the prioritized plan element recommendations of an appointed Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which met seven times and also participated in 10 focus group sessions.

Founded on the project’s vision and guiding principles, CAC’s prioritized design elements recommendation, focus-session input, community survey input, and input from our collaborating partners, the recommended Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan includes:

- Relocating an improved and reduced pumping strategy at the site to protect nearby low basements from groundwater intrusion to the same degree they are protected today.
- Reutilizing pumped water for a variety of potential uses (e.g. irrigation, snowmaking, facility heating/cooling).



- Improving water management at the site while providing opportunities to address flooding in the watershed to the north.
- Improving water quality in Lake Hiawatha and Minnehaha Creek.
- Creating a destination golf facility focused on learning the sport and increasing opportunities for new players, including a 9-hole golf course, driving range, and practice facilities.
- Celebrating the history of Black golfers at the course and supporting and providing an introduction to golf for people of color.
- Expanding access to the site with bicycle and pedestrian trails, a re-envisioned clubhouse area that welcomes the larger community, and other new community gathering spaces.
- Restoring ecological function through the creation of wetlands, riparian and shoreline restorations, upland prairie restoration, and protecting existing wildlife habitat.
- Creating a South Minneapolis winter recreation destination complementary to North Minneapolis's Theodore Wirth Park.
- Developing nine experiences that tell the cultural and natural history through permanent elements and infrastructure, as well as through art, performance, community events, and ephemeral experiences, including:
 - a. Stormwater Terrace
 - b. Pumping as a Resource
 - c. All are Welcome
 - d. A Place to Learn
 - e. Island Respite
 - f. Telling our Story
 - g. A Connection to Water
 - h. Urban Nature
 - i. Celebrating Minnehaha Creek

The Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan document follows the requirements for regional park master plans set forth by the Metropolitan Council, and has 6 sections, an informative Executive Summary, and several appendices that are foundational to it:

Executive Summary – Brief three-page overview of the project hitting the key points and recommendations.

Section 1: Planning Overview - Provides an overview of the document, its purpose, and the context in which it was created.

Section 2: Planning Influences and Framework – Provides the site's history, existing conditions, trends and needs assessment, demographics, and visitor demand.

Section 3: Community Engagement – Includes insight into the CAC effort, focus group sessions, public input surveys, and other opportunities for input.



Section 4: Plan Development – This is the heart of the document. It explains the master planning commitments and goals, the master plan design alternatives, and the recommended master plan design.

Section 5: Operations and Maintenance – Includes stewardship of the property, operations and maintenance costs, partnerships, public services, accessibility, ordinances, and public awareness.

Section 6: Implementation – Includes project cost, project phasing, regulatory considerations and permitting, and funding sources and strategies.

Process for Tabulating Public Comment

A Draft Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan document was presented to the Board of Commissioners on September 2, 2020 during an open public comment period, which ended on September 15, 2020. Since that date, staff has been tabulating public comments and considering them in light of the two-year community-engaged planning process to date. During the public comment period, the Draft Plan document was made available to the public on-line and printed copies were available at the Hiawatha Golf Course Clubhouse and upon request.

This section of the background explains how the public comments were tabulated and analyzed. Tabulation and analysis followed four basic steps:

1. MPRB staff read the words of each **commenter**, no matter how it was received (a “commenter” is an individual who chose to respond to the Draft Master Plan).
2. Commenters’ sentiments were put into a spreadsheet, with each separate **comment** having its own line (a “comment” is a single sentiment on a single aspect of the plan). A particular commenter may have more than one comment. For instance, a commenter may, in a single response, raise concerns about one item, support another, and oppose a third. These three comments would be tabulated separately.
3. MPRB staff grouped comments into **themes**. Each theme has a particular stance on a particular aspect of the plan. Each theme has been given a unique identification number.
4. Each theme was assigned one of 4 **categories**, which defines its impact on the Master Plan. The categories are:
 - a. Low Impact: Draft plan can be modified to provide additional background or clarification without a change to the Board’s direction outlined in Resolution 2018-230 and/or the prioritized plan element recommendations of the CAC.
 - b. Moderate Impact: Addressing the theme would require a change to the Board’s direction outlined in Resolution 2018-230 and/or the prioritized plan element recommendations of the CAC but would not fundamentally alter the plan.
 - c. High Impact: Addressing the theme would fundamentally change the underpinnings of the plan, likely requiring additional community engagement.



- d. No Impact: Themes that require no change to the plan, because they either support an aspect of the plan, refer to future detailed design, ask a question, relate to other planning projects, or are outside the scope of the project.

MPRB staff has generated a response to each comment theme. These are tabulated in one of the attached matrices, which are described in the following section.

Public Comment Summary

Public comments are included with this action in several attachments:

- The **Comment Theme Summary** (*Attachment A*) is a list of all 463 public comment themes, their categories, and a brief description of how the theme has been or could be addressed in the final Plan. This file is sorted by theme impact level.
- The **Public Comment Log** (*Attachment B*) is a list of all 1181 public comments—as summarized by MPRB staff—with survey/email date, methods of transmittal, survey unique survey number, subject area, comment type, the comment itself, the theme, and the theme impact on the Plan.
- The **Comment Files** (*Attachments C and D*) are compilations of the full un-edited text of the public surveys and emails received during the comment period.

To examine a particular theme and the exact comments that led to it, use the following process. For purposes of explanation, theme DP-111 (Support for Trash Mitigation Infrastructure) was selected as an example:

1. In the Comment Theme Summary (*Attachment A*), find theme DP-111 in the “Theme ID #” column. Note there are 12 comments associated with this theme.
2. In the Public Comment Log (*Attachment B*), find “Support for Trash Mitigation Infrastructure”. Themes are alphabetical by theme impact. Note that there are 12 lines in this matrix with this theme. In the “Comment” column are the actual comments.
3. Note input method associated with the comments and the unique survey number, or in the case of comments received by email note the commenters initials.
4. Open the Comment File for the on-line surveys (*Attachment C*) or emails (*Attachment D*) and scroll to the responses to read the unedited comment text.

Of the 1181 comments, 127 (9.3%) were supportive of some aspect of the plan, as compared to 55 (4.7%) in opposition, however many comments not counted as supportive or opposed suggested either the removal of golf from the site altogether or insisted 18-holes be kept.

Of the 463 total themes, 329 (71%) have a category of “No Impact.” Several “Low Impact” themes led to plan modifications that are included in the final Plan document under consideration. No “High Impact” themes were entertained. “Moderate Impact” themes are explained in the following section.



It is important to note here that MPRB staff did not consider public comments to be votes on aspects of the plan. Comments were grouped into themes and each theme was considered—even if the theme had just one single comment. In fact, 301 themes (64%) were single-comment themes.

Draft Plan Modification

The final Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan under consideration has taken extensive comment into account. It has not, however, changed significantly from its draft form. Substantive changes to the plan (anything beyond grammatical or minor clarifying remarks), brief answers to questions, and other responses are tabulated in the Theme Summary (*Attachment A* in the “Staff Response” column).

The following items warrant some discussion here, because they represent either the most discussed items or most impactful items during the comment period:

- **Keep 18 Holes of Golf:** There are several iterations of this sentiment including investing in the 18-hole course, keeping pumping at current rates and keeping the 18-hole course, keeping an 18-hole course because the pandemic drove increased rounds in 2020 (38,929 rounds in 2020, about the same as 2010, but still 20% less than the late 1990s and early 2000s), and keeping the 18-hole course because it is the best way to honor the course’s history of welcoming people of color.
- **Removal of Golf Altogether:** Though not as frequently commented on as keeping all 18 holes, there are sentiments that suggest the removal of golf altogether from the site. Most comments state environmental concerns as the reason for the removal.

Both items are “High Impact” themes because they contradict the Board’s direction stated in Resolution 2018-230:

- 18-holes of golf will not physically fit into the site while following Resolution 2018-130’s requirement: Pursue a reduced-pumping scenario as conceptualized in [Water Management] Alternative B.
- Removal of the golf course altogether contradicts Resolution 2018-230’s requirement: At a minimum, providing a flood-resilient and ecologically driven 9-hole configuration for a golf course.

To address those themes that would have Moderate Impact on the plan (those that would require a change to the Board’s direction outlined in Resolution 2018-230 and/or the prioritized plan element recommendations of the CAC, but not substantially modify the overall plan), MPRB staff has compiled a list of general amendments that could be made to the Plan by the MPRB Commissioners. MPRB staff has not incorporated these themes into the final Master Plan, because staff contradiction of the Board’s direction outlined in Resolution 2018-230 and/or the prioritized plan element recommendations of the CAC, based solely on the public



comment period would be generally counter to the goals of the CAC process and Board direction.

The **Moderate Impact Amendments** document (*Attachment E*) includes the basic language and graphic changes that would be required to modify the plan. Eleven unique amendments are included as a menu of options for the Board of Commissioners. The Amendments are referenced in the Comment Theme Summary. Should the Board approve any of these amendments, it may still concurrently approve the Master Plan as a whole. MPRB Planning staff will modify the plan before the final document is posted on-line and in project files.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval, the Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan will be concurrently amended to the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan and will become the policy guidance for all implementation projects in this park area, including those by other agencies, namely the City of Minneapolis and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. Individual implementation projects will still involve community engagement per MPRB's Community Engagement Policy.

Also, upon approval, the Plan will be submitted to the Metropolitan Council for approval. This is a necessary step to allow any state or regional funding to be used in this area and to permit users to be counted in the annual regional visitor counts.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS

February 4, 2015	Resolution 2015-121: Resolution to Approve the Master Plan for Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park
October 7, 2015	Resolution 2015-322: Resolution Approving a Professional Services Agreement with Barr Engineering Company to Provide Professional Consulting Services for an Assessment of Hydrologic Conditions at Hiawatha Golf Course for a Fee Not to Exceed \$104,610.00 and Authorizing Staff to Separately Engage a Peer Review Consultant to Evaluate Barr's Work as it Proceeds for a Fee Not to Exceed \$10,000.00
November 2, 2016	Resolution 2016-309: Resolution Approving Amendment #1 to Professional Services Agreement #C-40703 with Barr Engineering Company for an Assessment of Hydrologic Conditions at Hiawatha Golf Course in the Amount of \$53,864.42 for a New Contract Total of \$158,474.42
March 15, 2017	Resolution 2017-145: Resolution Approving a Professional Services Agreement with Barr Engineering Company for Engineering and Design Consulting Services for the Hiawatha Golf Course Area



Alternatives Assessment for Pumping of Groundwater and Stormwater for a Fee Not to Exceed \$179,460

- July 12, 2017 Resolution 2017-233: Resolution Approving Amendment #1 to the Master Plan for Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park to Include a Concept Design for the Nokomis Athletic Fields and Designate an Urban Agriculture Area on the East Side of Lake Hiawatha
- July 19, 2017 Resolution 2017-234: Resolution Directing Staff to Apply for a Groundwater Appropriations Permit from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Conforming to a Reduced Groundwater Pumping Scenario and Further Directing Staff to Organize a Process of Amending the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan to Accommodate Changes to the Hiawatha Golf Course Property Made Necessary by the Reduced Groundwater Pumping Scenario
- November 15, 2017 Resolution 2017-355: Resolution Authorizing the Formation and Charge of an Appointed Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for the Master Plan for Hiawatha Golf Course, a Part of Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park
- March 21, 2018 Resolution 2018-149: Resolution Modifying the Composition of an Appointed Community Advisory Committee for the Master Plan for Hiawatha Golf Course, a Part of Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park, to Allow for Representation of the Dakota Community through One Appointment to be Made by the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors
- June 6, 2018 Resolution 2018-214: Resolution Approving a Professional Services Agreement with Barr Engineering Company, Inc. for Master Planning and Professional Engineering Consulting Services for the Master Planning of Aligned Use and Water Management at Hiawatha Golf Course, a Part of Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park for a Fee Not to Exceed \$175,000.00
- July 11, 2018 Discussion Item: Discussion Regarding a Request of the Hiawatha Golf Course Property Master Plan Project's Community Advisory Committee to Consider Revising Resolution 2017-243 to Allow for the "Exploration of All Uses Related to a Reduced Pumping Scenario and for All Uses Related to a Circumstance that Would Perpetuate the Current Pumping Situation"



March 4, 2020	Resolution 2020-140: Resolution Approving Amendment #1 to Professional Services Agreement C-44261 with Barr Engineering, Inc. Related to Master Planning and Professional Engineering Consulting Services for the Master Planning of Aligned Use and Water Management at Hiawatha Golf Course, a Part of Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park in the Amount of \$45,000.00 for a New Contract Total of \$220,000.00
July 15, 2020	Resolution 2020-264: Resolution Authorizing Minimum Forty-Five (45) Day Public Review and Comment Period Beginning July 31, 2020, for the Draft Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan, an Amendment to the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan
September 2, 2020	Discussion Item: Discussion Item for the Draft Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan Update
February 17, 2021	Resolution 2021-136: Resolution Approving the Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan and Its Amendment to the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan
July 21, 2021	Resolution 2021-249: Resolution Approving the Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan and Its Amendment to the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan
March 2, 2022	Discussion Item: Hiawatha Golf Course - Water Management Alternatives Assessment
April 6, 2022	Resolution 2022-156: Resolution Authorizing the Plan Proposed in Resolution 2021-249 Related to the Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan Come Before the Board and Directing Staff to Organize a Public Hearing Before the Planning Committee of the Board of Commissioners on April 20, 2022
April 6, 2022	Discussion Item: Alternative Plan for Hiawatha Golf Course Area
August 3, 2022	Resolution 2022-247: Resolution Directing Staff to Organize a Public Hearing Related to the Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan Before the Planning Committee of the Board of Commissioners, with Such Hearing Occurring Not Earlier Than August 17, 2022



RECOMMENDATION

MPRB staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners approves the Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan and its amendment to the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan. Staff further recommends that the Board of Commissioners directs staff to engage, in subsequent stages of advancement of the master plan toward full implementation, high level professional golf expertise with experience in managing and mitigating water issues and integrating environmental restoration in the course design, form a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of individuals with golf expertise with a particular orientation to teaching the sport of golf to youth, and bringing the perspectives and insights of youth golfers to the golf course design process. Staff further recommends that the Board of Commissioners directs staff to engage, in subsequent stages of advancement of the master plan toward full implementation, expertise addressing and resolving the recreational and environmental concerns identified in the master plan to the greatest degree practicable. Finally, staff further recommends that the Board of Commissioners directs staff to prepare a plan for advancing the master plan toward full implementation in collaboration with other jurisdictions, especially the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the City of Minneapolis.

This action item supports the following goals and strategies in Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036:

Goal:

02. Steward a continuum of nature and recreation

06. Strengthen ecological connections

06. Strengthen ecological connections

09. Operate a financially sustainable enterprise

Strategy:

13. Make golf courses and golf course buildings welcoming multi-use recreational and ecological facilities.

05. Utilize data-driven, equitable, science-based, regional, future-facing, ecological understanding in preserving, stewarding, maintaining, and improving natural areas, enhancing habitat connectivity, and improving and managing park infrastructure.

08. Implement strategies to remove and reduce trash and plastic in parks and water bodies.

09. Reimagine Enterprise Fund programs and facilities across the system based on market-driven approaches and sponsorship opportunities to offset park program and asset costs that balance ecology and recreational uses.

Attachments:

1. Attachment A - Comment Theme Summary



2. Attachment B - Public Comment Log
3. Attachment C - Comment Files - Surveys
4. Attachment D - Comment Files - Emails
5. Attachment E - Moderate Impact Amendments

Jbr 8.17.2022