Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

Resolution 2017-371

Resolution Approving the Skate Park Activity Plan

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 has completed a community-driven planning process for skate park activities and facilities city-wide including the 6 existing skate parks at Armatage, Bottineau, Brackett, Creekview, Elliot, and Morris Parks;

Whereas, The Skate Park Activity Plan (SPAP) sets an overarching vision for skate parks the city including potential new skate parks;

Whereas, SPAP will guide the development, rehabilitation, and operation of skate parks over the next 20-30 years and will also guide capital expenditures under the 20-Year Neighborhood Park Plan for funding (NPP-20);

Whereas, SPAP is based on extensive community engagement over the course of several years;

Whereas, The MPRB project team has refined the Draft SPAP document based on comments received from MPRB staff and from the general public during a comment period that concluded on November 5, 2017;

Whereas, A public hearing has been scheduled to allow additional public comment on the final Activity Plan;

Whereas, The final SPAP document represents a community-supported, equitable, and sustainable vision for skate park development throughout the city; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported by the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan, which envisions “Recreation that inspires personal growth, healthy lifestyles, and a sense of community,” “Dynamic parks that shape city character and meet diverse community needs,” and “A safe place to play;”

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approve the Skate Park Activity Plan; and

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

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TO: Planning Committee

FROM: Michael Schroeder,

DATE: January 3, 2018

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving the Skate Park Activity Plan

BACKGROUND

This Board action considers approval of the Skate Park Activity Plan (SPAP), a 20-year roadmap for providing quality support to the local skate park community and encouraging skating among new generations of park users. Note that the Final SPAP document is not attached to this board action due to its file size. Instead it will be posted on the project page in concert with the public release of the Board agenda (www.minneapolisparks.org/currentprojects then click Skate Park Activity Plan).

SPAP is a written and graphic document that sets a vision for developing skate parks throughout the city, including improvements to MPRB's six existing skate parks at Armatage, Bottineau, Brackett, Creekview, Elliot, and Morris parks.

It has three goals:

- Increase the number, variety and distribution of skate parks in Minneapolis
- Address policy barriers to high-quality skate park experiences
- Improve the overall skate park experience through design, operations, partnerships, and safety measures

It also provides context and analysis to help inform future decision-making regarding skate park opportunities within Minneapolis and the Minneapolis park system. This includes:

- Snapshots of each of the six existing skate parks in Minneapolis, including park-specific suggestions for improvement
- Overview of possible and in-progress skate parks in Minneapolis
- General skate park trends, opportunities and challenges
- Precedents and examples set by other cities across the world
- Summary of public feedback received since 2013

SPAP makes it possible for staff, elected officials, and the public to understand the long-term vision for skate parks in the city, including those yet to be created.

The SPAP planning process has unfolded over several years starting with initial meetings of

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skaters and staff held in 2013. It has included public meetings, open houses, interviews, focus groups, a survey, and direct outreach.

Activity Plan Overview

The SPAP document is exploration of skate park activities in the city, presented in nine sections:

- Why a Skate Park Activity Plan? provides an overview of the document, its vision, and projected outcomes.
- Skateboarding Overview provides a quick primer on the demographics, benefits, techniques, types, and safety of skateboarding.
- Skate Parks Overview outlines materials, sizes, trends, and challenges of great skate parks.
- Precedents gives snapshots of successful, admired, and noteworthy skate parks throughout the country and internationally.
- Skating in Minneapolis describes the thriving local skate community and provides a map of existing metro skate parks
- Current State of MPRB Skate Parks takes a look at what works and what could be improved at the 6 existing skate parks in Armatage, Bottineau, Brackett, Creekview, Elliot, and Morris parks.
- Community Engagement outlines the project's public outreach efforts and summarizes 1339 survey responses.
- Goals and Strategies outlines three goals and their related strategies to improve and support skate parks in Minneapolis. It also includes a funding discussion and guidelines for design and construction, contractor selection, operations, and maintenance.
- Appendix includes the Community Engagement Plan, outreach material examples, and key take-aways from public feedback.

Process for Tabulating Public Comment

An open public comment period on the Draft Skate Park Activity Plan document ended on November 5, 2017. Since then staff has been tabulating public comment and considering it in light of the multi-year community-engaged planning process to date.

During the public comment period, the Draft SPAP document was made available to the public on-line, at MPRB headquarters, at each recreation center that has a public skate park, and at partner organizations throughout Minneapolis. Respondents were requested to comment via on-line survey, printed survey at the recreation centers, or by contacting the project manager directly by e-mail, phone, or regular mail.

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 Activity Plan).
2. Commenters' sentiments were put into a spreadsheet, with each separate **comment**

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having its own line (a "comment" is a single sentiment on a single aspect of the plan). A specific 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 specific stance on a specific aspect of the plan. Some themes consider the SPAP in entirety, while many reference specific parks. Specific-park themes have that park named. Some examples of themes include: "suggestion to include public art", "support for sustainable skate parks", and "opposition to skate stoppers". Each theme has been given a unique identification number. That number's first two digits reflect the park in question (see the park listing on the document for park numbers) or are "00" for general, or citywide comments.
4. Each theme was assigned one of four **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 a SC recommendation.
    b. Moderate Impact: Addressing the theme would require a change to a SC recommendation, 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 or planning projects, are simple statements, 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 **Theme Summary** (Attachment A) is a list of all public comment themes, their categories, and a brief description of how the theme has been or could be addressed in the final SPAP. This file is sorted by theme ID number, which reflects the park in question and the impact level.
- The **Public Comment Log** (Attachment B) is a list of all public comments—as summarized by MPRB staff—with commenter IDs, themes and theme ID numbers, and dates of transmittal. This file is sorted by theme, then by comment method, then by commenter. The summaries were generated by MPRB staff.
- The **Comment File** (Attachment C) is a compilation of the full un-edited text of public comments.

To examine a specific theme and the exact comments that led to it, use the following process:

1. In the Theme Summary (Attachment A), find a specific theme in the "Theme ID#"

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column. Note how many comments are associated with this theme.

2. In the Public Comment Log (Attachment B), find that same theme in the "Theme ID#" column. Note that there may be multiple lines in this matrix with this theme ID number. In the "Comment Summary" column are more specific descriptions of the actual comments.
3. Note the commenter number associated with the associated comments and their survey response numbers.
4. Open the Comment File for the on-line survey (Attachment C) and go to the relevant survey numbers to read the unedited texts.

Some themes have a category of "no impact", and several themes led to plan modifications that are included in the final SPAP document under consideration. 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. Several themes were single-comment themes.

Draft Plan Modification

The final SPAP under consideration has focused on all the extensive comments. It has not, however, changed fundamentally from its draft form. Many of the comments received were supportive of the plan. Substantive changes to the plan (anything beyond grammatical or minor clarifying remarks) are tabulated in Attachment A: Theme Summary (in the "Response" column).

To address those themes that would have **Moderate Impact** on the plan (those that would require a change staff feels might go against the overall engagement around the plan, but not substantially modify the overall plan), MPRB staff has compiled a list of general SPAP amendments that could be made by the MPRB Commissioners. Therefore, the **Moderate Impact Amendments** document (Attachment D) provides the basic language and/or map changes that would be required to modify the plan according to several themes. The Amendments are referenced in the Comment Theme Summary. Should the Board approve any of these amendments, it may still approve the Activity Plan entirely. MPRB Planning staff will modify the plan before the final document is posted on-line and in project files.

RECOMMENDATION

MPRB staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners approve the Skate Park Activity Plan.

This action supports the 2007-2020 MPRB Comprehensive Plan through Vision 2, 3 and 4:

Vision Theme 2: Recreation that inspires personal growth, healthy lifestyles, and a sense of community

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Goal: Residents, visitors, and workers enjoy opportunities to improve health and fitness.
Goal: People connect through parks and recreation.
Goal: Parks provide a center for community living.

Vision Theme 3: Dynamic parks that shape city character and meet diverse community needs

Goal: Parks shape and evolving city.
Goal: Park facility renewal and development respects history and focuses on sustainability, accessibility, flexibility, and beauty.

Vision Theme 4: A safe place to play, celebrate, contemplate, and recreate

Goal: Residents, park visitors, and staff make safe choices in the parks.
Goal: Parks are safe and welcoming by design.

HISTORY:

11/29/17 **Planning Committee** **ADOPTED**

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A-Skate Comment Theme Summary (PDF)
- Attachment B-Skate Public Comment Log (PDF)
- Attachment C-Skate Online Survey (PDF)
- Attachment D-Skate Park ID Numbers (PDF)
- Attachment E-Skate Moderate Impact Amendments (PDF)

Prepared By: Colleen O'Dell,, Strategic Planning
Review:
Cindy Anderson Completed 11/17/2017 11:24 AM
Adam Arvidson Completed 11/17/2017 12:04 PM
Michael Schroeder Completed 11/17/2017 6:20 PM
Jayne Miller Completed 11/19/2017 7:05 PM
Planning Committee Completed 11/29/2017 5:40 PM
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Pending 01/03/2018 5:00 PM