Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

Resolution 2021-274

Resolution Approving the Concept Plan for Van Cleve Park Playground Improvements

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

Whereas, The MPRB owns and operates Van Cleve Park;

Whereas, The Board of Commissioners approved the East of the River Parks Master Plan at the March 27, 2019 Board Meeting, which included the Master Plan for Van Cleve Park;

Whereas, The MPRB has allocated NPP20 funds for playground improvements at Van Cleve Park;

Whereas, The Board of Commissioners desires broad, equitable, and representative stakeholder involvement in decision-making when constructing or redeveloping park facilities;

Whereas, The Community Engagement Plan developed for this project was followed by consulting with the community for their ideas and input regarding the development of the park improvements concept, with discussions including input gained through stakeholder meetings, on-site engagement and an online survey;

Whereas, Engagement of the community has resulted in the creation of a concept plan for site and playground improvements at Van Cleve Park aligned with its Master Plan;

Whereas, The concept design meets all applicable current minimum standards for accessibility as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act and incorporates universal accessibility design principles for the play equipment, as well as conforms to voluntary and nationally recognized playground safety standards; 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” and “Dynamic parks shape city character and meet diverse community needs;”

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approves the playground concept plan for Van Cleve Park; 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.

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TO: Planning Committee

FROM: Michael Schroeder,

DATE: August 18, 2021

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving the Concept Plan for Van Cleve Park Playground Improvements

BACKGROUND

This resolution considers approval for the playground concept plan for Van Cleve Park (*Attachment A*). The concept plan resulted from engagement of the community and close review of the Master Plan for Van Cleve Park as demonstrated in the East of the River Parks Master Plan.

Van Cleve Park is located north of Dinkytown near the University of Minnesota Campus on Como Avenue SE and 15th Avenue SE, serving numerous students and an incredibly diverse set of users from the nearby public housing development and other residential areas surrounding the park. This 9-acre park includes sports facilities, a recreation center, a wading pool, and play spaces. There is a small native garden by the Accord Sculpture maintained by the community through a Park Stewardship Agreement. Van Cleve is one of the oldest parks in the city and is a great example of the vision of the Minneapolis system.

In early 2019, the Board approved the East of the River Parks Master Plan which included a master plan for Van Cleve Park. The master plan envisions Van Cleve park as a major community gathering place, a play and recreation destination for all age groups. The renovation of the existing play containers is the subject of this concept plan approval.

Community engagement around the playground concept included email blasts, signage in the park, an online survey, and a presentation to the Southeast Como Improvement Association Board (SECIA). Overall, over 100 community members provided input on the Van Cleve Park Playground Improvements project through MPRB community engagement options provided.

In addition, SECIA has conducted community engagement to get feedback about community priorities for improvements at Van Cleve Park and the use of unallocated Park Dedication funds. SECIA has issued a letter of support *(Attachment B)* for the expenditure of Park Dedication funds at Van Cleve Park. This letter references recommendations for providing a nature playground, sand volleyball courts, an ADA accessible new west entrance, and an emphasis for lighting to the south path. Lighting considerations will be brought to the Board of Commissioners at a future date.

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The theme for the playground concept plan focuses on imaginative and adventure play, upper body strength, age separation, and the retention of existing functioning swing sets.

FUNDING/COST SUMMARY

Sources		**$306,000.00**
2020 COVID CIP NPP20	$306,000.00	
Uses (Soft Costs)		**$51,000**
Surveying, Admin. & Staff Time, Community Engagement, Contingencies, and Other Miscellaneous Fees	$51,000	
Lighting Improvements (for future consideration by the Board of Commissioners)	TBD	
Balance Available for Construction		**$255,000**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the playground concept plan for Van Cleve Park.

This action is supported by the following vision and goal statements in the 2007-2020 MPRB Comprehensive Plan:

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

Goal: People play, learn, and develop a greater capacity to enjoy life.

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.

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

Goal: Parks shape an evolving city.

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

HISTORY:

08/04/21	**Planning Committee**	**ADOPTED**

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A - Van Cleve Park Concept Plan (PDF)
- Attachment B - Van Cleve Letter of Support (PDF)

Prepared By: Carol HejlStone,, Design and Project Management
Review:

Cindy Anderson	Completed	07/21/2021 4:58 PM
Cliff Swenson	Completed	07/22/2021 4:02 PM
Michael Schroeder	Completed	07/23/2021 8:18 AM
Jennifer Ringold	Completed	07/26/2021 12:31 PM
Al Bangoura	Completed	07/27/2021 8:40 AM
Planning Committee	Completed	08/04/2021 5:40 PM
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Pending	08/18/2021 5:00 PM