



A Message from the Director

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PARK SYSTEM CHANGES ARE COMING

While we are all working to adjust to the many impacts the COVID-19 has had on our lives, we want to give you an update on our progress on implementation of the Park Bond projects. We made great progress on project planning over the winter and we are still planning to advance a few of the projects that are ready to put out to bid in this competitive construction climate.

We are, however, sensitive to the fact that many members of our community have been financially affected by the pandemic and have therefore delayed a few of the projects that have not started as of yet.

Here is a brief update on the projects we plan to move forward on over the next year:

Putting your park bond dollars to work!

Three neighborhood parks have been identified for redevelopment as part of the 2018 Park Bond Referendum and, over the last six months, we have engaged stakeholder groups and neighborhoods to get feedback as we move from concept design to the design development stage. Based on this feedback, much has changed since the Park System Plan process.

TIMELINE: The three neighborhood park redevelopment projects will likely go out to bid in November 2020 with construction to take place Spring – Fall 2021 and grand opening the summer of 2022.

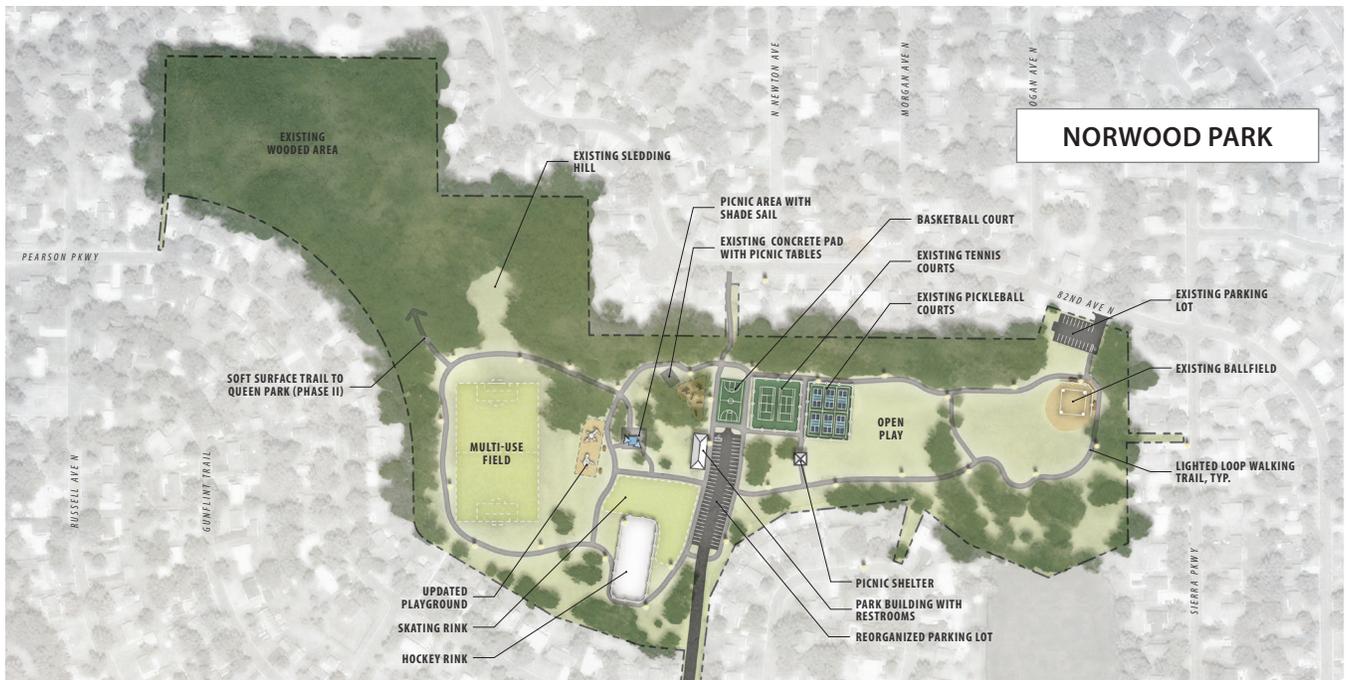
Hartkopf Park – The updated Master Plan for the park includes creating multi-purpose green space in the location of the two existing ball fields (with an official cricket field), adding parking to the east end of the park, adding two restroom building(s), a nature play area and basketball courts, enhanced picnicking facilities and installing trail lighting for year-round use of loop trails within the park.



Lakeland Park – Upgrades to the existing recreation building are almost complete, which includes updating restrooms, meeting/art program space, new flooring and updated exterior siding and rock face. Additional park improvements will include adding community gardens, two basketball courts, connecting a trail from the north end to the Crystal Lake Regional Trail, improving multi-purpose green space and newly upgraded parking lot and playground.



Norwood Park – The updated Master Plan includes adding a park building with restrooms to support neighborhood youth summer day camps, pickleball activity, basketball court, replacement of the shelter that was removed, creating multi-purpose field space, a nature play area and creating neighborhood connections and loop trails within the park.



PARK BUILDING ADDITIONS

We will be expanding park buildings at Willowstone and Northwoods, which are day camp sites. We anticipate construction on these buildings to occur in the Fall of 2020 and to be completed in May 2021.

SHELTER KITCHEN ADDITIONS

The 2017 Park System Plan indicated the need to add kitchens to the large shelters at River and Central parks. The kitchens will include stainless steel counters, sink and refrigerator. These are not intended to be food preparation kitchens. Kitchen additions construction is planned for Summer and Fall of 2020.

TRAILS, WAYFINDING, LIGHTING

Connecting gaps in our trail system, creating more loop trails within existing parks, adding directional signage to help navigate the trail system and lighting for certain trails that allows for use during times when daylight is short was a priority identified by the community through the Park System Plan process. Loop trails and lighting will be incorporated into the redevelopment plans for River, Hartkopf, Lakeland and Norwood parks. Development of a City-wide Wayfinding Plan will be necessary before implementation.

HOMETOWN BALLFIELD

Phased enhancement to the Noble Sports Park baseball field will begin in the Fall of 2020 and 2021. Enhancements will include rebuilding of the mound and home plate area, bullpens, and batting cages; phase II construction will include dugouts, grandstands, concessions and restrooms. Full implementation of this project will be dependent on grant funding.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Implementation of the recently-adopted priorities of the Natural Resource Management Plan will begin in 2020. Priority enhancements over the next couple of years will include: Village Creek areas, River Park, and natural restoration within the redevelopment parks of Hartkopf and Norwood.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTER PLANNING

The plan is to improve the front entry, customer service desk and public bathrooms, in order to enhance the customer experience. Other areas to be incorporated into the improvements include:

Senior Center— Increased dedicated space for senior programming and adult fitness space.

Teen Center— The addition of a teen center in the City will be at a location yet to be determined.

OTHER PARK PROJECTS

Mississippi Gateway Regional Park/ Environmental Nature Area



The Mississippi Gateway Regional Park and Environmental Nature Area (ENA) joint master plan was completed by the City of Brooklyn Park and Three Rivers Park District. Phase 1 construction of the parking lots and trail connections from the Dam that connects Anoka County to the Hennepin County side of the Dam and Rush Creek Regional Trail on the west side of the road was completed in 2019. Phase II of the construction will take place in 2020 and include development of trails that lead from the upper section of the park to the Rivers edge and trails along the River as shown in the construction scope map above. Phase III of the Plan will include development of the Brooklyn Park side of the ENA park including expansion of the off-leash dog area, archery range, addition of two picnic shelters, restroom facilities and expanded parking area is planned for construction in 2021. This phased development and the timing for full implementation of the phased development is contingent on a State Bonding Request of \$8.5 million to be considered in the 2020 legislative session. For more information visit: www.threeriversparks.org/index.php/page/mississippi-gateway-regional-park-master-plan-development

REDEVELOPMENT OF RIVER PARK PLANNED FOR SPRING OF 2020

After extensive community engagement, a Master Plan for River Park has been approved by City Council and the design and development phases of the project have begun. Park improvements include storm water treatment, shoreline stabilization, trail lighting, parking lot improvements, river overlook, canoe/kayak launch, nature play areas and shore fishing nodes. Construction began the week of May 18, with a grand reopening in summer of 2021. There will be limited access while River Park is under construction. Shelter rentals will be unavailable until further notice. The boat launch and paddle-share program will be accessible other than a few days during the construction season.



NATURE PLAY AREAS



RIVER OVERLOOK



NEW KAYAK ACCESS



**CHECK THE CITY WEBSITE
OFTEN FOR UPDATES:**
www.brooklynpark.org/parkbond